1 / 29

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

Anurag Anshu

Harvard University

October 31, 2024

Upcoming section

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)

[Learning Gibbs state](#page-26-0)

[Shallow quantum states](#page-39-0)

[Tensor network states](#page-50-0)

3 / 29

 299

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In the beginning...

Nature and Nature's laws,

3 / 29

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3 / 29

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4 / 29

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The physical corner of Hilbert space

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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.
- 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.

General quantum state learning problem

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

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)
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5 / 29

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

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)
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5 / 29

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- Quantum measurements that only correlate a few qubits?

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[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)
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Physical quantum states

• When C_n = the set of all quantum states, each quantum state is specified by $\approx 2^{2n}$ parameters. The sample complexity of learning an unknown general quantum state scales as $\approx 2^{2n}$ ([O'Donnell, Wright 2016], [Haah, Harrow, Ji, Wu, Yu, 2016]).

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6 / 29

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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.

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).

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)

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Quantum many-body systems

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- The local nature of interactions also forces that elementary quantum gates act locally.

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)
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Widely studied quantum many-body systems

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

$$
\rho_\beta(\mu)=\frac{e^{-\beta H(\mu)}}{Z_\beta(\mu)}.
$$

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

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

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Our plan

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

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	- They capture all three range in our understanding: fairly well understood, mildly well understood, very unclear.

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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.

Upcoming section

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)

[Learning Gibbs state](#page-26-0)

[Shallow quantum states](#page-39-0)

[Tensor network states](#page-50-0)

Learning unknown Hamiltonian from Gibbs state

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12 / 29

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Main open question

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

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\mathcal{O}\left(\mathrm{poly}\log(m)\cdot \exp(O(\beta))\cdot \mathrm{poly}\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)?
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Highly desirable to perform 'local measurements' - only entangle a few neighbouring qubits.

12 / 29

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The known lower bound is

$$
\Omega\left(\log(m)\cdot\exp(O(\beta))\cdot\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2}\right).
$$

Polynomial sample complexity

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

13 / 29

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Polynomial sample complexity

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- (A., Arunachalam, Kuwahara, Soleimanifar 2020) non-negligible changes in local data force the Hamiltonians to be different. A $O(\mathrm{poly}(n)e^{\mathrm{poly}(\beta)}/\varepsilon^2)$ 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): $O({\rm poly}(n)e^{e^{{\rm poly}(\beta)}}/\varepsilon^2)$ sample and time complexity.
- Entangling measurements act on $e^{poly(\beta)}$ qubits.
- Recent improvement: $e^{poly(\beta)} \to poly(\beta)$.
- New locality property of the imaginary time evolution operator $e^{\beta H}Ae^{-\beta H}$.
- Sum-of-squares techniques play a crucial role.

- • 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).

16 / 29

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Open directions

• Improving $poly(n)$ sample complexity to $polylog n$ sample complexity.

Open directions

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

Upcoming section

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)

[Learning Gibbs state](#page-26-0)

[Shallow quantum states](#page-39-0)

[Tensor network states](#page-50-0)

Learning shallow quantum states

 $\bullet\,$ Quantum states of the form $\ket{\psi_{\textit{U}}} = \textit{U}\ket{0^n}$, where \textit{U} is a quantum circuit of depth t , have emerged as important ansatz in approximating low energy quantum states.

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

19 / 29

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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 $\psi_{U'} \stackrel{\varepsilon}{\approx} \psi_U$.

19 / 29

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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 $\psi_{U',i}$ $\overset{\varepsilon/n}{\approx} \psi_{\boldsymbol{U},\boldsymbol{i}},$ then $\psi_{\boldsymbol{U}'} \overset{\varepsilon}{\approx} \psi_{\boldsymbol{U}}.$
- Thus, sample complexity is $2^{O(t)} \frac{n^2}{c^2}$ $\frac{n^2}{\varepsilon^2}$.

20 / 29

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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.

21 / 29

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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.

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?

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0) **[Learning Gibbs state](#page-26-0)** [Shallow quantum states](#page-39-0) **[Tensor network states](#page-50-0)**

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Upcoming section

[Motivation and goals](#page-1-0)

[Learning Gibbs state](#page-26-0)

[Shallow quantum states](#page-39-0)

[Tensor network states](#page-50-0)

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Learning tensor network states

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25 / 29

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Are tensor network states locally learnable?

• Consider the CAT states:

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|CAT_{\pm}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0...0\rangle \pm |1...1\rangle).
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• 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.

Learning Matrix Product States

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

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- Measurements efficient, but acted globally.
- Does not work for general tensor netwo[rks](#page-56-0).

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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).

28 / 29

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- 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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- 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, .

29 / 29

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- Thanks for your attention!