Geodesic Algorithm for Unitary Gate Design with Time-Independent Hamiltonians [1]

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The primitive quantum gates of quantum computing platforms usually involve only one or two qubits and simple Hamiltonians. Our aim is to take advantage of the more complex Hamiltonians available in experimental platforms to design larger multi-qubit gates. Finding these restricted Hamiltonians that generate desired quantum gates is numerically challenging. Existing methods of stochastic gradient descent, differential evolution, or variational quantum algorithms have been attempted [2], but have limited success for larger gates.

We offer a solution to the problem of generating multi-qubit gates from time-independent Hamiltonians through the lens of differential geometry of the Lie group structure of quantum gates. Some geometric techniques have previously been crucial for understanding quantum circuit complexity [3]. Our algorithm utilises geodesic information and gradients on the group manifold to rapidly converge to an accurate solution. At each optimisation step, we update the Hamiltonian coupling strengths such that the resulting unitary is closer to the target unitary gate. This can be achieved by updating the couplings such that they follow (as closely as possible) the geodesic curve towards the target. In the paper [1], we formalize this comparison and demonstrate how the geodesic can be generated by updating Hamiltonian coupling strengths in time-independent Hamiltonians.

We demonstrate the algorithms efficiency by comparison to gradient descent techniques for the generation of Toffoli and Fredkin gates. Furthermore, we use the algorithm to generate previously unavailable weight-k parity checks with up to 6 qubits, which are necessary for a wide array of quantum error correcting codes. We find that our geodesic algorithm is significantly more efficient than gradient descent algorithms for finding a restricted generating Hamiltonian of a desired unitary gate. Larger, more complex quantum gates can therefore be implemented directly. Not only could this lead to less noisy gates, but it could also reduce the total time to run a circuit on the hardware. This is crucial for NISQ applications where we have a limited coherence time and gives the significant advantage of increasing the clock speed for fault-tolerant quantum computation.

References

[1] D. Lewis et al. arXiv:2401.05973 (2024)
[2] L. Innocenti, L. Banchi, et al., New J. Phys. 22 065001 (2020)
[3] M. A. Nielsen et al., Science 311 1133 (2006)

Figures

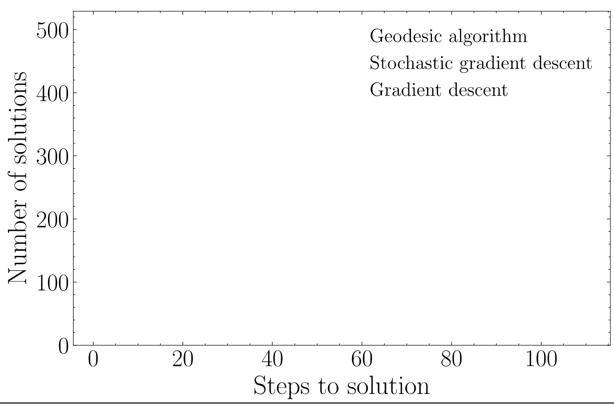

Figure 1: Comparison of number of steps to find Hamiltonian couplings for Toffoli gate for 1000 instances. Our geodesic algorithm significantly outperforms gradient descent methods.