

Tensor train optimization of parameterized quantum circuits

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Significant progress towards stable operation of multi-qubit quantum systems with relatively short decoherence times allows nowadays to address simple optimization tasks [1–4]. The wider use of these noisy intermediate-scale quantum processors is hampered by the noise inevitably present in quantum gates, which severely limits the possible depth of a quantum circuit. The problem can nevertheless be partially relaxed in the approach of variational quantum computing, widely accepted as the most viable way to achieve quantum supremacy [5, 6].

As a rule, in most variational quantum algorithms, with the variational quantum eigensolver (VQE) being the most notable example, one looks for the ground state of a given interacting quantum system [7]. In this case, a quantum processor is used to prepare a family of probe states as implemented by a parametrized quantum circuit, as well as to estimate the energy for that family of state representing thus a multi-parameter cost function. By virtue of standard optimization methods on a classical computer one minimizes the cost function to determine the optimal parameters of the quantum circuit that approximate the ground state of a given Hamiltonian. The main advantage of this methodology is in the fact that one does not need to design a deep quantum circuit [8–10].

It is believed that derivative-free methodology to optimization to be more noise-resilient, including but not limited to Nelder–Mead algorithm and Powell’s conjugate direction method. We herein propose a derivative-free optimization technique based on tensor train optimizer (TTOpt) [11]. Particularly, we are to make use of the transverse field Ising model (TFIM) with open boundary conditions as the VQE algorithm in this case faces the convergence issues when utilizing shallow circuits [12]. In our analysis, we rely on the use of both

the hardware efficient ansatz (HEA) [9] and the Hamiltonian variational ansatz (HVA) [12]. We also address the effect of the depolarizing error channel that represents a completely positive trace-preserving map and transforms a given quantum state into the linear combination of this state and maximally mixed state.

Our numerical findings are shown in Fig.1 for TFIM of $n = 4, 6,$ and 8 qubits. A close inspection of Fig.1a reveals that the HVA optimization with Broyden–Fletcher–Goldfarb–Shanno algorithm (BFGS) steadily improves with the circuit depth L providing a proper approximation to the ground state starting from $L = 4–8$ layers. However, for extremely shallow circuits down to $L = 2$ layers, it is not robust to random initialization of variational parameters. As opposed, the TTOpt outperforms the BFGS optimizer for $L = 2–4$ layers. In the presence of the depolarizing noise specified the BFGS optimizer completely fails in achieving convergence. On the contrary, the results of TTOpt do not change much with noise providing a reasonable accuracy in comparison to the BFGS optimizer. Thus, the TTOpt seems to be noise-resilient at least for the case of shallow circuits. Finally, if we switch to the HEA-type ansatz the results of TTOpt are even more impressive as illustrated in Fig.1b. The TTOpt outperforms the BFGS optimizer in the range of $L = 1–3$ layers for both pure and noisy simulations. Meanwhile, the larger number of qubits to be involved the deeper circuits have to be utilized, making TTOpt more computationally demanding.

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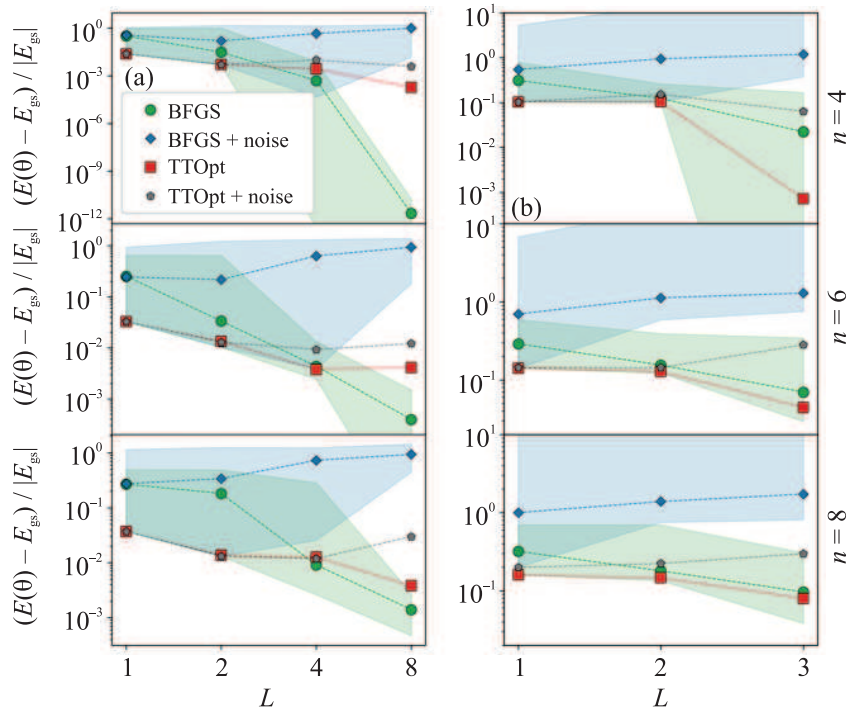


Fig. 1. (Color online) Optimized cost function for TFIM $E(\theta)$ relative to its exact ground-state energy E_{gs} plotted versus the ansatz depth L , where the optimization is performed as based on the BFGS and TTOpt optimizers. The VQE simulations are implemented for TFIM of $n = 4, 6$, and 8 qubits under open boundary conditions with: (a) – HVA and (b) – HEA being used as variational quantum circuits. The BFGS results are averaged over 100 random initial guesses for the variational parameters θ . The green and blue shaded areas depict the standard deviation of the optimized values for $E(\theta)$. The results with noise are obtained by applying the depolarizing quantum channel for one- and two-qubit gates in quantum circuits, with the depolarizing parameter being equal to 0.005

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