Title: Channel Expressivity Measures

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Abstract:

The dynamics of closed quantum systems undergoing unitary processes has been well studied, leading to notions of measures for the expressive power of parameterized quantum circuits, relative to the unique, maximally expressive, average behaviour of ensembles of unitaries. Such unitary expressivity measures have further been linked to concentration phenomena known as barren plateaus. However, existing quantum hardware are not isolated from their noisy environment, and such non-unitary dynamics must therefore be described by more general trace-preserving operations. To account for hardware noise, we propose several, non-unique measures of expressivity for quantum channels and study their properties, highlighting how average non-unitary channels differ from average unitary channels. In the limit of large composite system and environments, average noisy quantum channels are shown to be maximally globally depolarizing, with next-leading-order non-unital perturbative behaviour. Furthermore, we rigorously prove that highly-expressive parameterized quantum channels will suffer from barren plateaus, thus generalizing explanations of noise-induced phenomena. This work is based on forthcoming work with Diego Martin, Zoe Holmes, and Marco Cerezo, in affiliation with Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Channel Expressivity Measures

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Quantum Tasks Of Interest

Ultimately, we want to do something *useful* with our quantum devices

- $\bullet~Quantum~algorithms$ i.e) Factoring numbers
- \bullet $\textit{Optimization}$ problems i.e) Travelling Salesman Problem

• *Compilation* tasks i.e) Form operators U given native gates $\{V\}$

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- $\bullet\; \; Simulate$ quantum systems i.e) Complicated molecules and chemical reactions
- Machine learning functions i.e) Classification, Regression, Generative

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 $G_{\mathbf{v}}$

What Are Parameterized Quantum Systems?

Tasks of Interest: Unitary Compilation, State Preparation

[1] Holmes, Z. et al., PRX Quantum 3, 010313 (2022)

- Expressivity and trainability of *unitary ansatze* are well understood
- How does an ansatz compare to a *maximally expressive* reference ansatz?
- How do generalized expressivity measures for channels depend on:
	- Noise induced phenomena
	- Underlying (parameterized) unitary evolution
	- \bullet Coupling with the environment

Expressivity Measures

• Let an *ensemble* of channels $\Lambda \sim \Sigma$ over a space H of dimension d have an average behaviour defined by the t -order $twirl$

$$
\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}^{(t)} = \int_{\Sigma} d\Lambda \; \Lambda^{\otimes t} \tag{1}
$$

 \bullet This allows us to define an *expressivity* measure between ensembles

$$
\mathcal{E}_{\Sigma\Sigma'}^{(t)2} = \|\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}^{(t)} - \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma'}^{(t)}\|^2 \sim \|\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}^{(t)}\|^2 - \|\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma'}^{(t)}\|^2 + \cdots
$$
 (2)

 \bullet Twirls are crucially *trace-preserving*, with *ensemble-dependent* expansions

$$
\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma}^{(t)}(\cdot) = \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{tr}(\cdot) \\ \frac{d^{t}}{d^{t}} I \\ \text{Depolarizing} \end{array}\right] + \left[\begin{array}{c} \Delta_{\Sigma}^{(t)}(\cdot) \\ \text{Deviations} \\ \text{Deviations} \end{array}\right]
$$
(3)

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$$
\mathcal{E}_{\Sigma}^{(t)} = \underbrace{\|\Delta_{\Sigma}^{(t)}\|}_{\text{Deviations}} \tag{4}
$$

$$
_{\rm 4/9}
$$

Reference Ensembles

Channels present several choices for reference ensembles

• $Haar \sim$ Unitary Haar measure (uniformly random unitaries)

$$
\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{Haar}}}^{(t)}(\rho) = \int_{\mathcal{U}(d_{\mathcal{H}})} U^{\otimes t} \rho^{\otimes t} U^{\otimes t} \n\tag{5}
$$

• $cHaar \sim$ Stinespring Unitary Haar measure (random channels) [2]

$$
\mathcal{T}^{(t)}_{\Sigma_{\text{char}}(\rho)}(\rho) = \text{tr}_{\mathcal{E}} \left(\int_{\mathcal{U}(d_{\mathcal{H}}d_{\mathcal{E}})} dU \ U^{\otimes t} \ \rho^{\otimes t} \otimes \ \nu_{\mathcal{E}}^{\otimes t} \ U^{\otimes t} \right) \tag{6}
$$

[2] Kukulski, R. et al., J. Math. Phys. 62, 062201 (2021) $5/9$

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$$

• Depolarizing \sim Maximally Depolarizing (single channel)

$$
\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{Depolarize}}}^{(t)}(\rho) = \frac{\text{tr}\left(\rho^{\otimes t}\right)}{d_{\mathcal{H}}^t} I^{\otimes t} \tag{7}
$$

$$
_{5/9}
$$

Behaviour of Random Quantum Channels

The *t*-order Haar, cHaar, Depolarize ensembles are related by

$$
\lim_{d_{\mathcal{E}} \to 1} \left(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{char}}}^{(t)} \right) \to \left(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{Haar}}}^{(t)} \right) \lim_{\substack{d_{\mathcal{H}} \to \infty \\ d_{\mathcal{E}}} } \left(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{char}}}^{(t)} \right) \to \left(\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{Depolarize}}}^{(t)} \right) \tag{8}
$$

$$
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$$

Behaviour of Random Quantum Channels

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$$
\lim_{d_{\mathcal{E}} \to 1} \boxed{\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{char}}}^{(t)}} \to \boxed{\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{Haar}}}^{(t)}} \quad \lim_{d_{\mathcal{H}} \to \infty} \boxed{\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{char}}}^{(t)}} \to \boxed{\mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{Depolarize}}}^{(t)}}
$$
(8)

The k-concatenated, t-order cHaar ensemble is *depolarizing* and *non-unital* [3]

$$
\lim_{\substack{d_{\mathcal{H}} \\ d_{\mathcal{E}}} \to \infty} \mathcal{T}_{\Sigma_{\text{chaar}}}^{(t)k}(\rho) = \left[\frac{\text{tr}\left(\rho^{\otimes t}\right)}{\frac{d_{\mathcal{H}}^t}{D_{\text{epolarize}}}} \right] + \left[\underbrace{O\left(\frac{1}{d_{\mathcal{H}}^2 d_{\mathcal{E}}}\right)}_{\text{Non-Unital}} \sum_{P \neq I^{\otimes t}} P_{\text{p}} \right] \tag{9}
$$

[3] Bai, J. et al., Quantum Information Processing 23 , 1-18 (2024) 6/9

Relationships between Noise and Expressivity

 ${\cal N}$

 \mathcal{U}

 $\mathcal U$

 ${\cal N}$

 \boldsymbol{k}

 $7/9$

Analytical *expressivities* for k layers of specific channel *ansatze*

$$
\Lambda_{\mathcal{U}\gamma}^{(k)}(\rho) = (\mathcal{N}_{\gamma} \circ \mathcal{U})^{k}(\rho) = \frac{\text{tr}(\rho)}{d} I + \Delta_{\gamma}^{(k)}(\rho)
$$
(10)

 ${\cal N}$

 \mathcal{U}

 \overline{d}

Relationships between Noise and Expressivity

Haar Random Unitaries + Fixed Unital Pauli Noise: Increases Expressivity

$$
\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{U}\gamma}^{(t,k)} = O\left((1-\gamma)^{2k}\right) \tag{11}
$$

Relationships between Noise and Expressivity

Haar Random Unitaries + Fixed Non-Unital Pauli Noise: Decreases Expressivity

$$
\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{U}\gamma\eta}^{(t,k)} = O\left(\eta\right) \tag{12}
$$

Expressivity versus Trainability

• Ensemble-dependent functions F may concentrate $p(|\mathcal{F} - \mu_{\mathcal{F}}| \geq \epsilon) \leq \sigma_{\mathcal{F}}^2/\epsilon^2$ (with *caveats* on ensembles, locality, norms, ...)

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- Objectives and gradients $\boxed{\mathcal{L} = \text{tr}(O\Lambda(\rho)) \to \partial \mathcal{L}}$ variances may decay [1]

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- Objectives and gradients $\mathcal{L} = \text{tr}(O\Lambda(\rho)) \to \partial \mathcal{L}$ variances may decay

$$
\sigma_{\mathcal{L}}^2, \sigma_{\partial \mathcal{L}}^2 \sim O\left(\frac{1}{\text{poly}(d_{\mathcal{H}}, d_{\mathcal{E}})}\right) \|\rho\|_2^2 \|\mathcal{O}\|_2^2 + O\left(\frac{1}{\text{poly}(d_{\mathcal{H}}, d_{\mathcal{E}})}\right) \|\rho\|_p^2 \|\mathcal{O}\|_q^2 \mathcal{E}_{\Sigma\Sigma'}^{(2|p)}\left(13\right)
$$

Operational Meaning of Channel Expressivity Measures

- *Noise induced* phenomena are actually channel *expressivity* phenomena!
- Channel expressivity is more subtly related to usefulness or capability
- Are there relationships between channel expressivity and their simulability? [4]

[4] Mele, A. et al., arXiv:2403.13927 (2024)