# Divide-and-conquer method for approximating output probabilities of geometrically-local, shallow-depth quantum circuits

Nolan J. Coble, Matthew Coudron

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#### Problem statement

Let C be a geometrically-local shallow-depth quantum circuit acting on n qubits.

**Goal:** Compute

$$\Pr\left[\text{measuring } x \text{ after preparing } C \left| 0^{\otimes n} \right\rangle \right] \pm \epsilon = \left| \langle x | C \left| 0^{\otimes n} \right\rangle \right|^2 \pm \epsilon.$$
(1)

- What is the classical complexity of computing  $|\langle x| C | 0^{\otimes n} \rangle|^2$  to within additive error  $\epsilon$ ?
- In the worst-case, i.e. guaranteed run-time/error for all such circuits, and arbitrary 2-qubit gates.

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# **1D** geometrically-local



■ Notation: (1) input to circuits will be on the bottom, (2) outputs will be on top.

- Shallow-depth:  $d = O(\log n)$ .
- Classical matrix-product state algorithms are able to solve this problem efficiently and with inverse polynomial error.
- Note: Not restricted to brickwork architecture.

#### 2D geometrically-local

 $|\langle x_1x_2\ldots x_n|C|0^{\otimes n}\rangle|^2$ 



- Grid of  $\sqrt{n} \times \sqrt{n}$  qubits.
- [BGM20] give a polynomial time classical algorithm to solve this case for inverse polynomial error.<sup>1</sup>
- Unclear how to extend the result of [BGM20] to 3 dimensions without an exponential blow-up.

<sup>1</sup>Sergey Bravyi, David Gosset, and Ramis Movassagh, arXiv:1909.11485

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#### **3D geometrically-local**

$$|\langle x_1x_2\dots x_n|C|0^{\otimes n}\rangle|^2$$



Cube of  $n^{1/3} \times n^{1/3} \times n^{1/3}$  qubits.

Our result gives a quasi-polynomial time classical algorithm for this case.

### **Relation to sampling problems**

- Sampling: output a bitstring  $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$  according to the probability distribution  $p(x) = |\langle x | C | 0^{\otimes n} \rangle|^2$ .
- Estimating output probabilities: Compute  $|\langle x| C | 0^{\otimes n} \rangle|^2 \pm \epsilon$ .

<sup>2</sup>Ramis Movassagh, arXiv:1909.06210

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- Estimating output probabilities: Compute  $|\langle x| C | 0^{\otimes n} \rangle|^2 \pm \epsilon$ .

- [Mov20] In the worst case, #P-hard when  $\epsilon \le 2^{-n^2} \Longrightarrow$  can only hope to solve this when  $\epsilon \gg 2^{-n^2}$ .<sup>2</sup>
- For random circuits  $|\langle x| C |0^{\otimes n} \rangle|^2 \sim 2^{-n}$ .
- In this work  $|\langle x| C |0^{\otimes n} \rangle|^2 \ge 1/\mathsf{poly}(n) \Longrightarrow \mathsf{circuit}$  must have some special properties.

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#### Why should we care about this error?



- Relevant for classically simulating some hybrid quantum algorithms.
- Geometrically-local quantum circuit combined with classical post-processing.

#### Why should we care about this error?



Such classical algorithms can simulate:

$$P_{classical} = \mathsf{AND}: \left| \langle 0^{\otimes n} | X^{\otimes n} C | 0^{\otimes n} \rangle \right|^2 \pm \epsilon, P_{classical} = \mathsf{OR}: 1 - \left| \langle 0^{\otimes n} | C | 0^{\otimes n} \rangle \right|^2 \pm \epsilon.$$

$$P_{classical} = \mathsf{XOR}: \left| \langle 0^{\otimes n} | C Z^{\otimes n} C^{\dagger} | 0^{\otimes n} \rangle \right|^2 \pm \epsilon.$$

#### Note

• Only need to solve the problem for  $|\langle 0^{\otimes n} | C | 0^{\otimes n} \rangle|^2 \pm \epsilon$  since

$$\left| \left\langle x \right| C \left| 0^{\otimes n} \right\rangle \right|^2 = \left| \left\langle 0^{\otimes n} \right| \left( \bigotimes_i X^{x_i} \right) C \left| 0^{\otimes n} \right\rangle \right|^2 \tag{2}$$

and  $(\bigotimes_i X_i)C$  is still geometrically-local, shallow-depth.

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#### Notes:

- The algorithm has a divide-and-conquer structure.
- Base-case will contain circuits in one fewer dimension.
- Not explicitly giving the algorithm, just a single divide-and-conquer step.

#### **Preliminaries**

#### Lightcone



- Let *A* be a geometrically-local subset of the qubits.
- Lightcone of A will mean the gates in the lightcone or the qubits in the lightcone.

#### **Reverse lightcone**



### **Motivation behind lightcones**



If *C* is geometrically-local and shallow-depth, and |A| is poly-logarithmic, then the [reverse] lightcone of *A* is only poly-logarithmically wide.



A slice consists of three regions B, M, F. With appropriate widths, L and R can be lightcone-separated from M.



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Subcircuits of C:

- $\blacksquare$   $C_{B\cup M\cup F}$ : gates in the reverse lightcone of M;  $C_L, C_R$  are the remaining gates.
- **Property:**  $C = C_L \circ C_R \circ C_{B \cup M \cup F}$ . The order is important!



■  $C_{wrap}$ : gates in the lightcone of  $B \cup M \cup F$  that are not in  $C_{B \cup M \cup F}$ .

$$\bullet C'_L \equiv C^{\dagger}_{L-Wrap} \circ C_L.$$

 $C'_{R} \equiv C^{\dagger}_{R-Wrap} \circ C_{R}.$ 

# Schmidt approximation

#### Definition

- Let  $|\psi\rangle_{B\cup F} \equiv \langle 0_M | C_{B\cup M\cup F} | 0_{B\cup M\cup F} \rangle$ .
  - Note that,  $\langle 0_{ALL} | C_{L\cup R} | 0_{L\cup R} \rangle \otimes | \psi \rangle_{B\cup F} = \langle 0_{ALL} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle.$

 $|0_{ALL}\rangle$  will refer to the all zero state on the unmeasured qubits.

#### Schmidt approximation

Let  $|\psi\rangle_{B\cup F} \approx \sum_i \lambda_i |v_i\rangle_B \otimes |w_i\rangle_F$  be the Schmidt decomposition of  $|\psi\rangle_{B\cup F}$ . Then

$$\langle 0_{ALL} | C_{L\cup R} | 0_{L\cup R} \rangle \otimes | \psi \rangle_{B\cup F} \approx \sum_{i=1}^{p(n)} \lambda_i \langle 0_{ALL} | C_{L\cup R} | 0_{L\cup R} \rangle \otimes | v_i \rangle_B \otimes | w_i \rangle_F$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^{p(n)} \lambda_i \Big( \langle 0_{L\cup B} | C_L | 0 \rangle_L \otimes | v_i \rangle_B \Big) \Big( \langle 0_{F\cup R} | C_R | 0_R \rangle \otimes | w_i \rangle_F \Big).$$

$$(3)$$

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$$(3)$$

Notes:

- How could we construct  $\lambda_i, |v_i\rangle_B, |w_i\rangle_F$  with geometrically-local, shallow-depth quantum circuits?
- Why should this state have most of its weight on a few Schmidt-coefficients?
- We do not solve the problem via the above equations.

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- 4 At a single slice:  $C = C_{L,i} \circ C_{i,R} \circ C_{B_i \cup M_i \cup F_i}$ .
- 5 At two slices:  $C = C_{L,i} \circ C_{i,j} \circ C_{j,R} \circ C_{B_i \cup M_i \cup F_i} \circ C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}$



 $\{K_i\}$ 

#### **Heavy slices**

Many of the slices have large leading Schmidt coefficients:

#### Lemma

Suppose  $|\langle 0_{ALL} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle|^2 \ge 1/\text{poly}(n)$ . In every interval of length  $\log^7(n)$ , there are at least  $\log(n)$  slices satisfying:

$$\lambda_1 \ge 1 - \frac{1}{\log^4 n}.$$

(5)

- The set of slices that satisfying Equation (5) will be denoted as  $K_{heavy} \subset \{K_i\}$ .
- We will typically consider  $\Delta$  heavy slices from an interval of width  $\log^7(n)$ .

#### **Block-encoding**

For slices in  $K_{heavy}$ , we can produce the projectors onto the leading Schmidt coefficients  $(|w_1\rangle \langle w_1|_{F_i}, |v_1\rangle \langle v_1|_{B_i})$  via geometrically-local, shallow-depth quantum circuits.

#### **Block-encoding**

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#### Lemma (Lemma 53 of [GSLW19])

For any constant integer K > 0, the following is a geometrically-local quantum circuit which gives a block encoding for  $\rho_F^K \equiv \operatorname{tr}_B(|\psi\rangle \langle \psi|_{B \cup F})^K$ , and has depth  $O(dK^2)$ :

$$V_{\rho_F^k} = \prod_{i=1}^k \left( C_{B_i \cup M_i' \cup F_i'}^{\dagger} \otimes I_{M_i \cup F} \right) \cdot \left( I_{B_i} \otimes SWAP_{M_i \cup F, M_i' \cup F_i'} \right) \left( C_{B_i \cup M_i' \cup F_i'} \otimes I_{M_i \cup F} \right).$$

In other words,

$$\rho_F^K = \left( \langle 0 |_{\mathcal{B}_k \cup \mathcal{M}'_k \cup \mathcal{F}'_k \cup \mathcal{M}_k} \otimes I_F \right) V_{\rho_F^k} \left( |0 \rangle_{\mathcal{B}_k \cup \mathcal{M}'_k \cup \mathcal{F}'_k \cup \mathcal{M}_k} \otimes I_F \right)$$

where  $\mathcal{B}_k = B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \cdots \cup B_k$ ,  $\mathcal{M}'_k = M'_1 \cup M'_2 \cup \cdots \cup M'_k$ , etc.

**Takeaway:**  $V_{\rho_F^k}$  is a geometrically-local, shallow-depth circuit which produces  $\rho_F^K$  after post-selection.

#### **Projector lemma**

Define:

$$P_{F_{i}}^{K} \equiv \frac{1}{\lambda_{1}^{K}} \left\langle 0^{B_{i},M_{i},F_{i}^{1},\dots F_{i}^{k}} \middle| V_{P_{F_{i}}^{k}} \middle| 0^{B_{i},M_{i},F_{i}^{1},\dots F_{i}^{k}} \right\rangle$$
(6)

and

$$P_{B_{i}}^{K} \equiv \frac{1}{\lambda_{1}^{K}} \left\langle 0^{F_{i},M_{i},B_{i}^{1},\dots,B_{i}^{K}} \middle| V_{P_{B_{i}}^{k}} \middle| 0^{F_{i},M_{i},B_{i}^{1},\dots,B_{i}^{K}} \right\rangle$$
(7)

#### Lemma

For any  $K_i \in K_{heavy}$ ,

$$\|P_{F_{i}}^{K} - |w_{1}\rangle \langle w_{1}|_{F_{i}} \|_{1} \leq \frac{1}{\mathsf{poly}(n)}$$
(8)
and
$$\|P_{B_{i}}^{K} - |v_{1}\rangle \langle v_{1}|_{B_{i}} \|_{1} \leq \frac{1}{\mathsf{poly}(n)}$$
(9)

**Note:** In this case, K is the number of times the block-encoded circuit is going to be applied. The effect of K is hidden in this lemma.

#### **Projector lemma**

#### Definition

$$\Pi_{F_i}^K \equiv C_{Wrap_i} P_{F_i}^K C_{Wrap_i}^{\dagger}$$

For a single i, consider

$$\Pi_{F_i}^K C = \Pi_{F_i}^K (C_{L,i} \circ C_{i,R} \circ C_{B_i \cup M_i \cup F_i}).$$

$$(11)$$

(10)

What does this do?







 $\Pi_{F_i}^K C = C_{L,i} \circ C_{i,R} \circ P_{F_i}^K C_{B_i \cup M_i \cup F_i}$
Linear combination lemma

# **Linear Combination Lemma**

#### Definition

Let  $\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta]) \setminus \emptyset$  where  $[\Delta] = \{1, \dots, \Delta\}$ . Define

$$\Psi_{\sigma} \rangle = \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} \Pi_{F_j}^K \bigotimes_{i \in [\Delta]} \langle 0_{M_i} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle.$$

(12)

# **Linear Combination Lemma**

#### Definition

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(12)

#### Lemma

Consider a set  $K_{heavy}$  of heavy slices. Then, for any subset of  $\Delta$  slices,  $\{K_i\}_{i \in [\Delta]} \subseteq K_{heavy}$ :

$$\left\|\sum_{\sigma\in\mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} |\Psi_{\sigma}\rangle \langle \Psi_{\sigma}|\right\| = \left\||\Psi_{\emptyset}\rangle \langle \Psi_{\emptyset}| - \sum_{\sigma\in\mathcal{P}([\Delta])\setminus\emptyset} (-1)^{|\sigma|+1} |\Psi_{\sigma}\rangle \langle \Psi_{\sigma}|\right\| \le 1/\mathsf{poly}(n)$$
(13)

Note:  $\langle 0_{ALL} | \Psi_{\emptyset} \rangle \langle \Psi_{\emptyset} | 0_{ALL} \rangle = \langle 0_{ALL} | \bigotimes_{i \in [\Delta]} \langle 0_{M_i} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle \langle 0_{ALL} | C^{\dagger} \bigotimes_{i \in [\Delta]} \langle 0_{M_i} | 0_{ALL} \rangle = | \langle 0_{ALL} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle |^2$ 

We will use the notation  $\rho[A] = A |0_{ALL}\rangle \langle 0_{ALL}| A^{\dagger}$ . Note that  $\rho[BA] = B\rho[A]B^{\dagger}$ . With this

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} |\Psi_{\sigma}\rangle \langle \Psi_{\sigma}| \right\| = \left\| \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho \left[ \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} \Pi_{F_{j}}^{K} \bigotimes_{i \in [\Delta]} \langle 0_{M_{i}}| C \right] \right\|.$$
(14)

We first consider the above without post-selection

$$\left\|\sum_{\sigma\in\mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho\left[\bigotimes_{j\in\sigma} \Pi_{F_j}^K C\right]\right\|.$$
(15)

Recall:

for 
$$\sigma = \{i\}$$
:  $C = C_{L,j} \circ C_{j,R} \circ C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}$  (16)  
for  $\sigma = \{i, j\}$ :  $C = C_{L,i} \circ C_{i,j} \circ C_{j,R} \circ C_{B_i \cup M_i \cup F_i} \circ C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}$  (17)

$$\left\| \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho \left[ \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} \Pi_{F_j}^K C \right] \right\| =$$

$$\left\| \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho \left[ \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} \Pi_{F_j}^K \left( C_{L,\sigma_1} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in [|\sigma|-1]} C_{\sigma_j,\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{|\sigma|},R} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j} \right) \right] \right\|$$
(18)
(19)

For a single  $i \in \sigma \subseteq [\Delta]$ , recall the following:

$$\Pi_{F_i}^K(C_{L,i} \circ C_{i,R} \circ C_{B_i \cup M_i \cup F_i}) = C_{L,i} \circ C_{i,R} \circ P_{F_i}^K C_{B_i \cup M_i \cup F_i}$$
(20)

With this, we have

$$\left\|\sum_{\sigma\in\mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho \left[\bigotimes_{j\in\sigma} \Pi_{F_{j}}^{K} \left( C_{L,\sigma_{1}} \circ \bigotimes_{j\in[|\sigma|-1]} C_{\sigma_{j},\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{|\sigma|},R} \circ \bigotimes_{j\in\sigma} C_{B_{j}\cup M_{j}\cup F_{j}} \right) \right] \right\| =$$
(21)
$$\left\|\sum_{\sigma\in\mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho \left[ C_{L,\sigma_{1}} \circ \bigotimes_{j\in[|\sigma|-1]} C_{\sigma_{j},\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{|\sigma|},R} \circ \bigotimes_{j\in\sigma} P_{F_{j}}^{K} C_{B_{j}\cup M_{j}\cup F_{j}} \right] \right\|$$
(22)

Consider if  $\Delta = 2$ . Our previous equation becomes:

$$\left\| \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho \left[ C_{L,\sigma_{1}} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in [|\sigma|-1]} C_{\sigma_{j},\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{|\sigma|},R} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} P_{F_{j}}^{K} C_{B_{j} \cup M_{j} \cup F_{j}} \right] \right\| =$$
(23)  
$$\left\| \rho[C]$$
(24)  
$$-\rho \left[ C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,R} \circ P_{F_{1}}^{K} C_{B_{1} \cup M_{1} \cup F_{1}} \right)$$
(25)  
$$-\rho \left[ C_{L,2} \circ C_{2,R} \circ P_{F_{2}}^{K} C_{B_{2} \cup M_{2} \cup F_{2}} \right]$$
(26)  
$$+\rho \left[ C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \circ P_{F_{1}}^{K} C_{B_{1} \cup M_{1} \cup F_{1}} \circ P_{F_{2}}^{K} C_{B_{2} \cup M_{2} \cup F_{2}} \right] \right\|$$
(27)

(28)

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Consider if  $\Delta = 2$ . Our previous equation becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \left\| \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho \left[ C_{L,\sigma_{1}} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in [|\sigma|-1]} C_{\sigma_{j},\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{|\sigma|},R} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} P_{F_{j}}^{K} C_{B_{j} \cup M_{j} \cup F_{j}} \right] \right\| = (23) \\ \left\| \rho[C] \\ -\rho \left[ C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,R} \circ P_{F_{1}}^{K} C_{B_{1} \cup M_{1} \cup F_{1}} \right) \\ -\rho \left[ C_{L,2} \circ C_{2,R} \circ P_{F_{2}}^{K} C_{B_{2} \cup M_{2} \cup F_{2}} \right] \\ +\rho \left[ C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \circ P_{F_{1}}^{K} C_{B_{1} \cup M_{1} \cup F_{1}} \circ P_{F_{2}}^{K} C_{B_{2} \cup M_{2} \cup F_{2}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Expanding the circuit in each:

$$\rho[C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \circ C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2}]$$
(29)

(28)

$$-\rho \left[ C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \circ P_{F_1}^K C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right]$$
(30)

$$-\rho \left[ C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \circ C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ P_{F_2}^K C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right]$$
(31)

$$+\rho \left[ C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \circ P_{F_1}^K C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ P_{F_2}^K C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right]$$
(32)

$$\left\| \left( C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \right) \circ \left( \rho [C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2}] - \rho \left[ P_{F_1}^K C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right] - \rho \left[ C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ P_{F_2}^K C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right] + \rho \left[ P_{F_1}^K C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ P_{F_2}^K C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right] \right) \circ \left( C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \right)^{\dagger} \right\|$$

$$\left\| \left( C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \right) \circ \left( \rho [C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2}] - \rho \left[ P_{F_1}^K C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right] - \rho \left[ C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ P_{F_2}^K C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right] + \rho \left[ P_{F_1}^K C_{B_1 \cup M_1 \cup F_1} \circ P_{F_2}^K C_{B_2 \cup M_2 \cup F_2} \right] \right) \circ \left( C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \right)^{\dagger} \right|$$

Can rewrite as a tensor product:

$$\left\| \left( C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \right) \circ \bigotimes_{j \in \{1,2\}} \left( \rho[C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}] - \rho[P_{F_j}^K C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}] \right) \circ \left( C_{L,1} \circ C_{1,2} \circ C_{2,R} \right)^{\dagger} \right\|$$
(33)

In general, we have:

$$= \left\| \left( C_{L,1} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in [\Delta-1]} C_{\sigma_j,\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{\Delta},R} \right) \circ \bigotimes_{j \in [\Delta]} \left( \rho[C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}] - \rho[P_{F_j}^K C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}] \right)$$
(34)  
 
$$\circ \left( C_{L,1} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in [\Delta-1]} C_{\sigma_j,\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{\Delta},R} \right)^{\dagger} \right\|.$$
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$$\circ \left( C_{L,1} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in [\Delta-1]} C_{\sigma_j,\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{\Delta},R} \right)^{\dagger} \right\|.$$
(35)

Since  $(C_{L,1} \circ \bigotimes_{j \in [\Delta-1]} C_{\sigma_j,\sigma_{j+1}} \circ C_{\sigma_{\Delta},R})$  is unitary:

$$= \prod_{j \in \Delta} \left\| \rho[C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}] - \rho[P_{F_j}^K C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}] \right\|$$
(36)

To sum-up to this point:

$$\left\| \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta])} (-1)^{|\sigma|} \rho \left[ \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} \Pi_{F_j}^K C \right] \right\| = \prod_{j \in \Delta} \left\| \rho [C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}] - \rho [P_{F_j}^K C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}] \right\|.$$
(37)

Since  $P_{F_i}^K$ ,  $\Pi_{F_j}^K$  act trivially on  $M_j$ , the previous work holds even under post-selection on  $M_j$ :

$$\left\|\sum_{\sigma\in\mathcal{P}([\Delta])}(-1)^{|\sigma|}\rho\left[\left(\otimes_{j\in\sigma}\Pi_{F_{j}}^{K}\left\langle 0_{M_{j}}\right|\right)C\right]\right\|=\prod_{j\in[\Delta]}\left\|\rho\left[\left\langle 0_{M_{j}}\right|C_{B_{j}\cup M_{j}\cup F_{j}}\right]-\rho\left[P_{F_{j}}^{K}\left\langle 0_{M_{j}}\right|C_{B_{j}\cup M_{j}\cup F_{j}}\right]\right\|$$
(38)

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(38)

Each term in the above product can be bounded as:

$$\left\|\rho\left[\left\langle 0_{M_{j}}\right|C_{B_{j}\cup M_{j}\cup F_{j}}\right]-\rho\left[P_{F_{j}}^{K}\left\langle 0_{M_{j}}\right|C_{B_{j}\cup M_{j}\cup F_{j}}\right]\right\|\leq\frac{1}{\log^{4}n}$$
(39)

Ultimately,

$$\left\|\sum_{\sigma\in\mathcal{P}([\Delta])}(-1)^{|\sigma|} |\Psi_{\sigma}\rangle\langle\Psi_{\sigma}|\right\| = \left\|\sum_{\sigma\in\mathcal{P}([\Delta])}(-1)^{|\sigma|}\rho\left[\bigotimes_{j\in\sigma}\Pi_{F_{j}}^{K}\bigotimes_{i\in[\Delta]}\langle0_{M_{i}}|C\right]\right\|$$
(40)
$$=\prod_{j\in[\Delta]}\left\|\rho\left[\langle0_{M_{j}}|C_{B_{j}\cup M_{j}\cup F_{j}}\right] - \rho\left[P_{F_{j}}^{K}\langle0_{M_{j}}|C_{B_{j}\cup M_{j}\cup F_{j}}\right]\right\|$$
(41)
$$\leq (\frac{1}{\log^{4}n})^{\Delta} \leq 1/\mathsf{poly}(n),$$
(42)

when  $\Delta = \log n$ .

Note: we can find  $\log n$  slices in each region of size  $\log^7 n$ .

We have:

$$\left\| \left| \left\langle 0_{ALL} \right| C \left| 0_{ALL} \right\rangle \right|^2 - \sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta]) \setminus \emptyset} (-1)^{|\sigma|+1} \left\langle 0_{ALL} \right| \Psi_{\sigma} \right\rangle \left\langle \Psi_{\sigma} | 0_{ALL} \right\rangle \right\| \le 1/\mathsf{poly}(n), \tag{43}$$

But,  $|\Psi_{\sigma}\rangle = \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} \prod_{F_j}^K \bigotimes_{i \in [\Delta]} \langle 0_{M_i} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle$  are produced by circuits acting on all n qubits.

 $\text{Recall: } |\Psi_{\sigma}\rangle = \bigotimes_{j \in \sigma} \Pi_{F_{j}}^{K} \bigotimes_{i \in [\Delta]} \langle 0_{M_{i}} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle.$ 

#### Lemma

Each  $|\Omega_j\rangle = \prod_{F_i}^K \langle 0_{M_i} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle$  is close to a product state across the cut  $B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j$ .

$$\left|\left|\Omega_{j}\right\rangle\left\langle\Omega_{j}\right|-1/\lambda_{1}^{j}\sigma_{L_{j}}\otimes\sigma_{R_{j}}\right\|\leq\frac{1}{\log^{4}n}$$
(44)

The state  $\sigma_{L_j}$  (resp.  $\sigma_{R_j}$ ) is defined using  $C_{B_j \cup M_j \cup F_j}$ ,  $P_{F_j}^K$  (resp.  $P_{B_j}^K$ ), and  $C_{L,j}$  (resp.  $C_{j,R}$ ).

Given 1D geometrically-local, depth-*d* quantum circuit *C* on *n* qubits, we wish to approximate  $|\langle 0_{ALL} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle|^2$  via

$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta]) \setminus \emptyset} (-1)^{|\sigma|+1} \langle 0_{ALL} | \Psi_{\sigma} \rangle \langle \Psi_{\sigma} | 0_{ALL} \rangle.$$
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$$\sum_{\sigma \in \mathcal{P}([\Delta]) \setminus \emptyset} (-1)^{|\sigma|+1} \langle 0_{ALL} | \Psi_{\sigma} \rangle \langle \Psi_{\sigma} | 0_{ALL} \rangle.$$
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Given  $\Delta$  heavy slices from a region of  $\log^7 n$  qubits, we can construct  $O(\Delta^2)$  new quantum circuits  $\Gamma_\ell$ :

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- The remaining  $O(\Delta^2)$  act on at most  $\log^7 n$  qubits.
- The quantities  $|\langle 0_{ALL} | \Gamma_{\ell} | 0_{ALL} \rangle|^2$  can be used to approximate Equation (45).

# **Extending to 3D circuits**

C is a 3D geometrically-local shallow quantum circuit on  $n^{1/3} \times n^{1/3} \times n^{1/3}$  qubits. We will perform division along a single dimension of the cube. Choose  $\Omega(n^{1/3})$  slices from along this dimension.

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- **1** Find  $\Delta$  heavy slices from the middle  $\log^7 n$  of the cube.
- **2** Construct  $O(\Delta^2)$  new quantum circuits  $\Gamma_{\ell}$ .
- **3** Recursively approximate  $|\langle 0_{ALL} | \Gamma_{\ell} | 0_{ALL} \rangle|^2$  for the  $\Delta$  circuits with width  $\leq \frac{3}{4}n^{1/3}$ .



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- **4** Use the algorithm from [BGM20] to approximate  $|\langle 0_{ALL} | \Gamma_{\ell} | 0_{ALL} \rangle|^2$  for the remaining circuits.
- **5** Combine solutions to approximate  $|\langle 0_{ALL} | C | 0_{ALL} \rangle|^2$ .



■ Algorithm has many parameters: depth of recursion, power of the block-encoding *K*, width of region to look for heavy slices, number of slices, etc.

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- We saw each of these parameters show up in the approximation error (approximating the original quantity with a weighted sum of new problems, approximating these new problems with smaller problems). They also show up in the run-time analysis.
- Parameters can be chosen so that run-time is quasi-polynomial:

$$T(n) = 2^{d^3 \cdot \mathsf{polylog}(n)}.$$
(46)

and error is inverse polynomial,  $f(n) \leq 1/\text{poly}(n)$ .

Recursive run-time and error analyses/full algorithm description can be found in the paper.

# **Open problems**

- Improve to polynomial run-time.
- Recursively approximate output probabilities of any D-dimensional geometrically-local circuit.
- Consider circuits that are low-depth but not necessarily geometrically local.
- Estimate output bit of low-depth quantum circuit combined with classical post-processing.



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