# The power and limitations of learning quantum dynamics incoherently

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## Learning quantum dynamics



NV centers

Quantum dynamics described by unitary evolution





Ultracold atoms



Superconducting qubits

# Quantum compiling *in the wild*

• Most popular scenario: variational quantum compiling



Generally assumes a lot of knowledge about U

*U* can be:

- implemented on a Q. computer (e.g., QFT),
- simulated classically (e.g., short-time Hamiltonian simulation)

#### We want to compress the implementation.

 $\circ\,$  But what about learning totally unknown dynamics?

Assumes powerful interaction with system





What can be done *incoherently*?  
**Step 1:** 
$$|\psi\rangle - U - \swarrow$$
 **Step 2:**  $|\psi\rangle - V(\theta) - \bigtriangledown$ 

• We investigate conditions that allow to *simulate* coherent learning, and their limitations

#### **Deep measurements**



Power: Can simulate coherent learning for efficiently representable V(θ).
Limitations: Not computationally efficient

#### **Shallow measurements**



**Power:** Can simulate coherent learning for **shallow**  $V(\theta)$ .

**Limitations:** Needs **exponentially** many measurements to learn  $\mathcal{O}(n)$ -depth U.

# What can be done *coherently*?

### **Out-of-distribution generalization**

Local costs



## Deep measurements: *power*

• Can simulate the coherent setting for **efficiently representable**  $V(\theta)$ .



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## Deep measurements: *power*

• Can simulate the coherent setting for **efficiently representable**  $V(\theta)$ .



## Deep measurements: *power*

## **Simulating coherent** learning

 $\mathcal{O}\left(T\log\frac{T}{\varepsilon}\varepsilon^{-2}\right)$  measurements of  $U|\psi_i\rangle$ estimate  $|\langle \psi_i | UV^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) | \psi_i \rangle|^2$ 

$$\Rightarrow \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}(NT\varepsilon^{-2}) \text{ meas. to estimate } \widetilde{\mathcal{C}_{2}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \\= 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{N} |\langle \psi_{i} | UV^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) | \psi_{i} \rangle|^{2}$$

## **Generalization from few** training samples

Expected erroron global Haar

Training error on local Haar

 $C_{1}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = 1 - \frac{1}{d^{2}} \left| \operatorname{Tr} \left[ UV^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right] \right|^{2}$  $C_{2}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = 1 - \mathbb{E}_{|\psi\rangle \sim Haar^{\otimes n}} \left[ \left| \langle \psi | UV^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) | \psi \rangle \right|^{2} \right]$ 



Generalization gap

(& brute-force search 🤣)

Any poly(n)-sized unitary U can be learned within Hilbert-Schmidt error  $\varepsilon$ 

using

 $\left(\frac{poly(n)}{4}\right)$  calls to U.

[4] Caro*et al.*, Nat. Comm. (2022) [1] Caro*et al.*, Nat. Comm. (2023)

## Deep measurements: *limitations*

- Deep flaw of **Clifford/global** classical shadows:  $|\langle \psi | U^{\dagger} | \phi \rangle|^2 \longrightarrow \text{Tr}[\hat{\rho} | \phi \rangle \langle \phi |]$ 
  - sample-complexity efficient but **computationally hard**



## Shallow measurements: *power*

• Can simulate coherent learning for **shallow**  $V(\theta)$ .

• Combination of **3 results** 



## Shallow measurements: *power*

## Simulating coherent learning

## Generalization from few training samples

(& brute-force search 🤣)

&



Any log(n)-depth (1D) unitary U can be learned within Hilbert-Schmidt error  $\varepsilon$  using  $\tilde{O}\left(\frac{poly(n)}{\varepsilon^4}\right)$  calls to U.

## Shallow measurements: *limitations*

• Need **exponentially** many measurements to learn  $\mathcal{O}(n)$  depth unitaries.

 $|\psi_1\rangle$ 

 $|\psi_2\rangle$ 

 $\psi_n$ 



# Experimental demonstration (shallow meas.)



 $\begin{aligned} & \text{Transverse-Field Ising Model} \\ & H_{\text{Ising}} = \sum_{i=0}^{14} Z_i Z_{i+1} + \sum_{i=0}^{15} \alpha_i X_i \\ & \alpha_i \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 0.5) \\ & \text{ibmq_kolkata} \end{aligned}$ 

*U*: Trotterization for time  $\Delta t = 0.1$ 

Pauli shadows of 2 training states  $\{U|\psi_i\}_{i=0}^{1}$ 

 $V(\theta)$ : variational Trotter-circuit

# Conclusions & Outlook

• We investigate conditions that allow to *simulate* coherent learning, and their limitations

#### **Deep measurements**



**Power:** Works for **efficiently representable** unitaries.

Limitations: Not computationally efficient

- Rigorous limitations of deep measurements setting?
  - **Pseudo-random** unitaries: efficiently representable but computationally undistinguishable from Haar random
- $\circ$  Can we go beyond  $O(\log(n))$  depth with shallow measurements? (Approximate locality)

#### **Shallow measurements**



Power: Works for **shallow** unitaries.

**Limitations:** Needs **exponentially** many measurements to learn O(n)-depth U.



# Specialthanks



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