

CUDA-Q - tensornet-mps backend

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Outline

- 1 Introduction
 - Kicker
 - What you'll be learning
 - TNs and quantumsimulation
- 2 Theory
 - Foundations and Preliminaries
 - Entanglement and maximal bond dimension
 - Expectation of a prepared state
 - Sampling with TN based quantumsimulation
- 3 Exercise session
- 4 Literature

Tensor networks and quantum computing - a cat-and-mouse game?

- *"Scientists Say They Used Classical Computers to Outperform Google's Sycamore QC" - Quantum Insider*
- *We argue that an ideal simulation of the same task can be performed on a classical system in 2.5 days and with far greater fidelity. - Edwin Pednault, John Gunnels, and Jay Gambetta (IBM).*
- *In our 2019 paper, we said that classical algorithms would improve. [...] We don't think this classical approach can keep up with quantum circuits in 2022 and beyond. - Sergio Boixo, (Google Quantum AI)*

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What you'll be learning in this section

- Entanglement and maximal bond dimension
- How can we calculate expectation of a state with TNs?
- How can we simulate shots with TNs?
- Acceleration and use cases of TN-based quantum simulation
→ *Practical session*
- **Goal:** Give you a more nuanced understanding for what TN backends are capable of and what their boundaries are.

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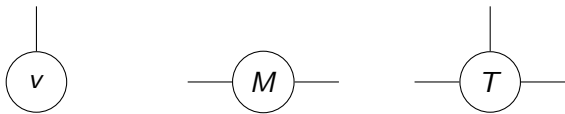
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Memory demand of statevector simulation

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{2^n} \alpha_i |i\rangle, \text{ (n-qubit quantum state)}$$

- Single precision: 4 byte for real- and 4 byte for complex part of α_i
- $\Rightarrow 2^n \times 8$ byte memory-footprint for n qubits.
- $n = 31$ qubits:
$$2^{31} \times 8 \approx 17 \text{ GiB}$$
- $n = 32$ qubits:
$$2^{32} \times 8 \approx 34 \text{ GiB}$$
- $n = 33$ qubits:
$$2^{33} \times 8 \approx 64 \text{ GiB}$$

Tensornetwork notation



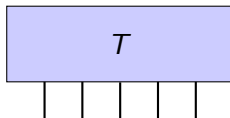
Tensor contraction



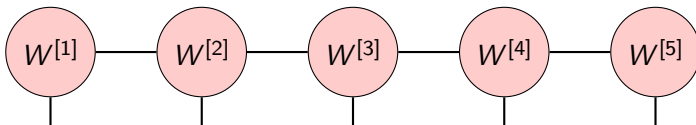
Einstein summation notation

$$C_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^N A_{ik} B_{kj} = A_{ik} B_{kj}$$

Quantum states as tensors



- $|\psi\rangle = T_{i_1, \dots, i_n} |i_1 \dots i_n\rangle$; $i_j \in \mathbb{F}_2^{\otimes n}$; $T_{i_1 \dots i_n} \in \mathbb{C}$



- $|\psi\rangle = T_{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_5} |\sigma_1 \dots \sigma_5\rangle =$
 $\sum_{\vec{\alpha}, \vec{\sigma}} W_{\sigma_1 \alpha_1}^{[1]} W_{\sigma_2 \alpha_2}^{[2]} W_{\sigma_3 \alpha_3}^{[3]} W_{\sigma_4 \alpha_4}^{[4]} W_{\sigma_5 \alpha_5}^{[5]} |\sigma\rangle$

How tensor networks can help us in quantum simulation

Matrix SVD (graphical tensor notation)

$$\text{---} \bigcirc C \text{---} = \text{---} \bigcirc U \text{---} \bigcirc D \text{---} \bigcirc V^\dagger \text{---}$$

Explicit notation

- $C = \begin{pmatrix} C_{00} & C_{01} \\ C_{10} & C_{11} \end{pmatrix}$
 $= \begin{pmatrix} u_{00} & u_{10} \\ u_{01} & u_{11} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_0 & \\ & D_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{00} & v_{10} \\ v_{01} & v_{11} \end{pmatrix}^\dagger$
- $\begin{pmatrix} u_{00} \\ u_{01} \end{pmatrix} D_0 \begin{pmatrix} v_{00} \\ v_{01} \end{pmatrix}^\dagger$ is the best approximation of C in Frobenius-norm assuming $D_0 \dots D_1$ and rows/columns of U, V are ordered from biggest to smallest.

How tensor networks can help us in quantum simulation

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_{00} & \cdots & u_{0,99} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_{99,0} & \cdots & u_{99,99} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_0 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & D_{99} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{00} & \cdots & v_{0,99} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{99,0} & \cdots & v_{99,99} \end{pmatrix}^\dagger$$

Original image

Compressed (50 largest singular values remain)



Delete rows/columns corresponding to 50 smallest singular values.

How can tensor networks help us in quantum simulation

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_{00} & \cdots & u_{0,99} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_{99,0} & \cdots & u_{99,99} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_0 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & D_{99} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{00} & \cdots & v_{0,99} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{99,0} & \cdots & v_{99,99} \end{pmatrix}^\dagger$$

Original image



Compressed (10 largest singular values remain)



Delete rows/columns corresponding to 90 smallest singular values.

How can tensor networks help us in quantum simulation

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_{0,0} & \cdots & u_{0,99} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ u_{99,0} & \cdots & u_{99,99} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} D_0 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & D_{99} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{0,0} & \cdots & v_{0,99} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ v_{99,0} & \cdots & v_{99,99} \end{pmatrix}^\dagger$$

Original image



Compressed (95 smallest singular values remain)

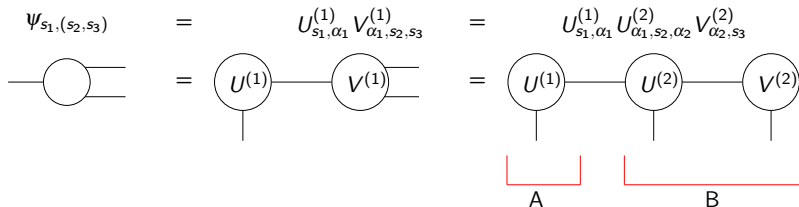


Delete rows/columns corresponding to 5 largest singular values.

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Entanglement and maximal bond dimension

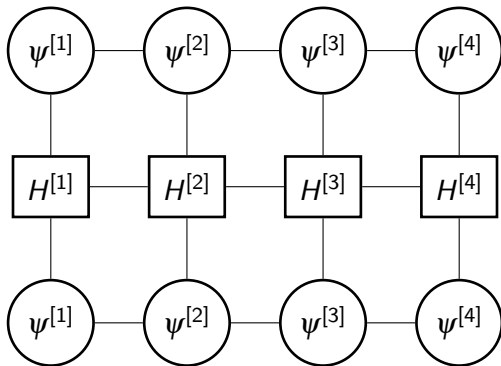


- **Schmidt-Decomposition** $|\psi\rangle = \sum_{\vec{\sigma}} T_{\vec{\sigma}} |\vec{\sigma}\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^r s_i |\vec{\delta}_i\rangle |\vec{\gamma}_i\rangle$
- **Entanglement entropy** $S_{A/B} = - \sum_{i=1}^r s_i^2 \ln(s_i^2)$, maximal for $s_i = r^{-\frac{1}{2}} \forall i \in [r]$ [Del; Nie]

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Expectation in tensornetwork-backends



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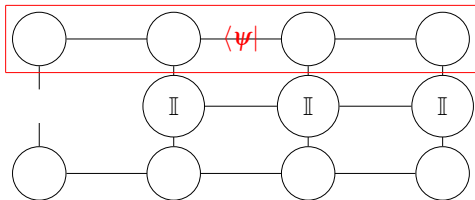
Sampling in tensor network-backends

- Probability for projective measurements for measuring an eigenvalue m associated to a projector P_m : $p(m) = \langle \psi | P_m | \psi \rangle$
- Chain rule of probability

$$p(s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots, s_N) = p(s_1) p(s_2 | s_1) \cdots p(s_N | s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{N-1}).$$

- Step 1)

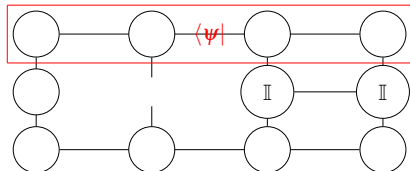
$$p(s_1) = \langle \psi | s_1 \rangle \langle s_1 | \bigotimes_{i=2}^{n-1} \mathbb{I} | \psi \rangle =$$



Sampling in tensornetwork-backends

- Step 2) Sample s_1 according to the probability distribution function obtained in Step 1)
- Step 3)

$$p(s_2|s_1) = \langle \psi | s_1 \rangle \langle s_1 | \otimes | s_2 \rangle \langle s_2 | \otimes \mathbb{I} | \psi \rangle =$$



Sampling in tensornetwork-backends

- **Take-home message:** For every shot, we need to do some tensornetwork contractions.
- This scaling with shot-number makes tensornet simulations of shots consistently underperform in a scope where statevector simulators are still viable [SMP25].

Literature I

- [Del] J. von Delft. *Tensor Networks for Many-Body Physics 2023*. Lecture Notes.
- [Nie] M. Nielsen. *Quantum Computing and Quantum Information*.
- [SMP25] G. Schieffer, S. Markidis and I. Peng. *Harnessing CUDA-Q's MPS for Tensor Network Simulations of Large-Scale Quantum Circuits*. 27 January 2025. arXiv: 2501.15939 [quant-ph]. URL: <http://arxiv.org/abs/2501.15939> (urlseen 09/01/2026). prepublished.