

Strengths and Weaknesses of Quantum Machine Learning

Srinivasan Arunachalam



- **Grand goal:** enable AI systems to improve themselves

Machine learning

- **Grand goal:** enable AI systems to improve themselves
- **Practical goal:** learn “something” from given data

Machine learning

- **Grand goal:** enable AI systems to improve themselves
- **Practical goal:** learn “something” from given data
- **Recent success:** deep learning is extremely good at

Machine learning

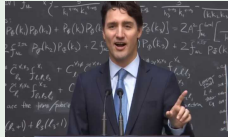
- **Grand goal:** enable AI systems to improve themselves
- **Practical goal:** learn “something” from given data
- **Recent success:** deep learning is extremely good at image recognition, natural language processing

- **Grand goal:** enable AI systems to improve themselves
- **Practical goal:** learn “something” from given data
- **Recent success:** deep learning is extremely good at image recognition, natural language processing, even the game of Go



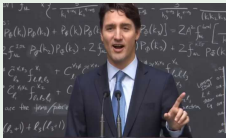
Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

YouTube: “Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau schools reporter”



Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

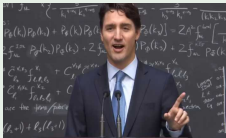
YouTube: “Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau schools reporter”



- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

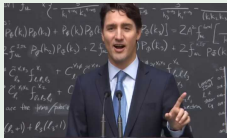
YouTube: “Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau schools reporter”



- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Superposition**: **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

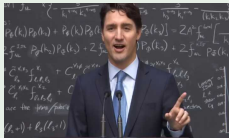
YouTube: “Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau schools reporter”



- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Superposition:** **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*
- Example: $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}}|1\rangle$

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

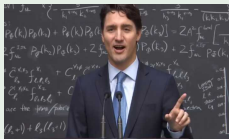
YouTube: “Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau schools reporter”



- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Superposition**: **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*
- Example: $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}}|1\rangle$
- **Measurement** of $|\psi\rangle$: “probability of outcome = amplitude²”

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

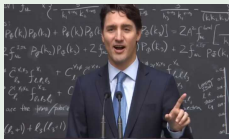
YouTube: “Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau schools reporter”



- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Superposition**: **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*
- Example: $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}}|1\rangle$
- **Measurement** of $|\psi\rangle$: “probability of outcome = amplitude²”
 - Obtain $|0\rangle$ with probability 1/6. $|\psi\rangle$ is lost

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

YouTube: “Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau schools reporter”



- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Superposition**: **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*
- Example: $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}}|1\rangle$
- **Measurement** of $|\psi\rangle$: “probability of outcome = amplitude²”
 - Obtain $|0\rangle$ with probability $1/6$. $|\psi\rangle$ is lost
 - Obtain $|1\rangle$ with probability $5/6$. $|\psi\rangle$ is lost

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*
- Example: $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}}|1\rangle$
- **Measurement** of $|\psi\rangle$: Obtain $|0\rangle$ w.p. 1/6, $|1\rangle$ w.p. 5/6. $|\psi\rangle$ is lost

What can quantum computing do for machine learning?

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*
- Example: $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}}|1\rangle$
- **Measurement** of $|\psi\rangle$: Obtain $|0\rangle$ w.p. 1/6, $|1\rangle$ w.p. 5/6. $|\psi\rangle$ is lost

What can quantum computing do for machine learning?

- The learner may be quantum

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*
- Example: $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}}|1\rangle$
- **Measurement** of $|\psi\rangle$: Obtain $|0\rangle$ w.p. 1/6, $|1\rangle$ w.p. 5/6. $|\psi\rangle$ is lost

What can quantum computing do for machine learning?

- The learner may be quantum
- The data can also be quantum

Quantum computing: 2 minute crash course

- Classically, a bit can be either 0 *or* 1
- **Qubit** can be 0 *and* 1, each with an *amplitude*
- Example: $|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}|0\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{5}{6}}|1\rangle$
- **Measurement** of $|\psi\rangle$: Obtain $|0\rangle$ w.p. 1/6, $|1\rangle$ w.p. 5/6. $|\psi\rangle$ is lost

What can quantum computing do for machine learning?

- The learner may be quantum
- The data can also be quantum
- Some examples are known of reduction in time complexity:
 - k -means clustering
 - principal component analysis
 - perceptron learning
 - recommendation systems

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- **Target Concept c** : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- Target Concept c : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- Distribution $D : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- **Target Concept c** : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- **Distribution D** : $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)
- **Labeled example** for $c \in \mathcal{C}$: $(x, c(x))$ where $x \sim D$

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- **Target Concept c** : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- **Distribution D** : $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)
- **Labeled example** for $c \in \mathcal{C}$: $(x, c(x))$ where $x \sim D$

\mathcal{C}



c

target
concept



Learner is trying to learn c

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- **Target Concept c** : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- **Distribution D** : $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)
- **Labeled example** for $c \in \mathcal{C}$: $(x, c(x))$ where $x \sim D$

\mathcal{C}



c
target
concept

$x_1 \sim D$



$(x_1, c(x_1))$



Learner is trying to learn c

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- **Target Concept c** : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- **Distribution D** : $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)
- **Labeled example** for $c \in \mathcal{C}$: $(x, c(x))$ where $x \sim D$

\mathcal{C}



c
target
concept

$x_1 \sim D \longrightarrow (x_1, c(x_1))$

$x_2 \sim D \longrightarrow (x_2, c(x_2))$

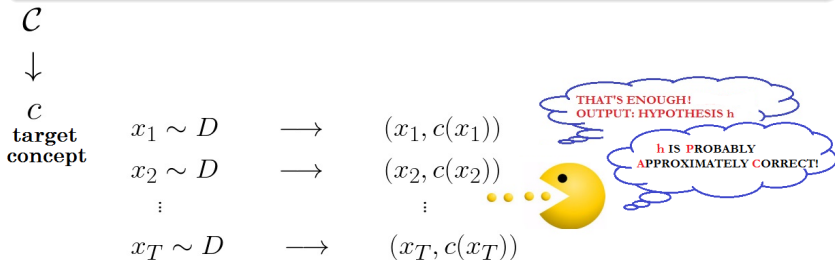


Learner is trying to learn c

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- **Target Concept c** : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- **Distribution D** : $\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)
- **Labeled example** for $c \in \mathcal{C}$: $(x, c(x))$ where $x \sim D$



Learner is trying to learn c

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- Target Concept c : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- Distribution $D : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)
- **Labeled example** for $c \in \mathcal{C}$: $(x, c(x))$ where $x \sim D$

Goal of a PAC learner

Using i.i.d. labeled examples, learner for \mathcal{C} should output hypothesis h that is *Probably Approximately Correct*, i.e.,

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- Target Concept c : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- Distribution $D : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)
- **Labeled example** for $c \in \mathcal{C}$: $(x, c(x))$ where $x \sim D$

Goal of a PAC learner

Using i.i.d. labeled examples, learner for \mathcal{C} should output hypothesis h that is **Probably Approximately Correct**, i.e.,

*for every D , for every $c \in \mathcal{C}$, with **high probability**, the hypothesis h should **approximately** look like c*

Probably Approximately Correct (PAC) learning

Basic definitions

- **Concept class \mathcal{C}** : collection of Boolean functions on n bits (**Known**)
- Target Concept c : some function $c \in \mathcal{C}$ (**Unknown**)
- Distribution $D : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow [0, 1]$ (**Unknown**)
- **Labeled example** for $c \in \mathcal{C}$: $(x, c(x))$ where $x \sim D$

Goal of a PAC learner

Using i.i.d. labeled examples, learner for \mathcal{C} should output hypothesis h that is **Probably Approximately Correct**, i.e.,

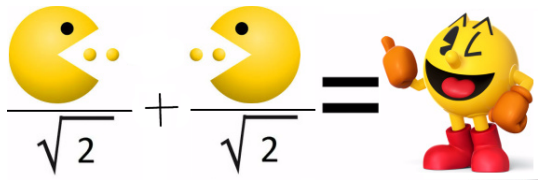
*for every D , for every $c \in \mathcal{C}$, with **high probability**, the hypothesis h should **approximately** look like c*

Complexity measure: *Sample complexity*

Minimum number of examples seen by the optimal PAC learner for \mathcal{C}

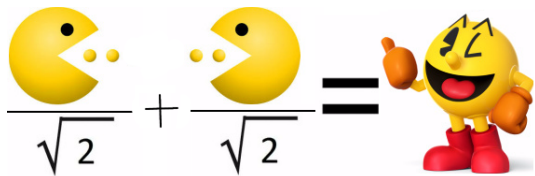
Quantum PAC learning

- Learner is quantum:



Quantum PAC learning

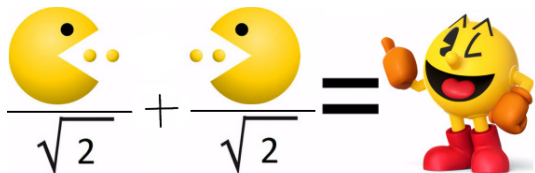
- **Lerner is quantum:**



- **Data is quantum:** Quantum example is a **superposition**

$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} \sqrt{D(x)} |x, c(x)\rangle$$

- **Lerner is quantum:**

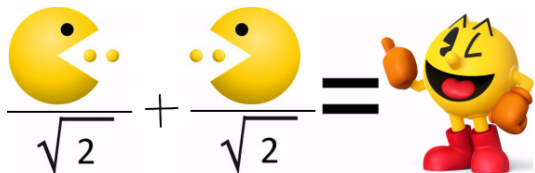


- **Data is quantum:** Quantum example is a **superposition**

$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} \sqrt{D(x)} |x, c(x)\rangle$$

Measuring this state gives a $(x, c(x))$ with probability $D(x)$,

- **Lerner is quantum:**



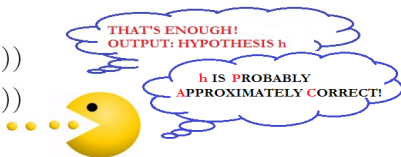
- **Data is quantum:** Quantum example is a **superposition**

$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} \sqrt{D(x)} |x, c(x)\rangle$$

Measuring this state gives a $(x, c(x))$ with probability $D(x)$, so quantum examples are **at least as powerful** as classical

Quantum PAC learning

$$\begin{aligned}x_1 &\sim D && \longrightarrow && (x_1, c(x_1)) \\x_2 &\sim D && \longrightarrow && (x_2, c(x_2)) \\&\vdots && && \vdots \\x_T &\sim D && \longrightarrow && (x_T, c(x_T))\end{aligned}$$



$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} \sqrt{D(x)} |x, c(x)\rangle$$

$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} \sqrt{D(x)} |x, c(x)\rangle$$

⋮

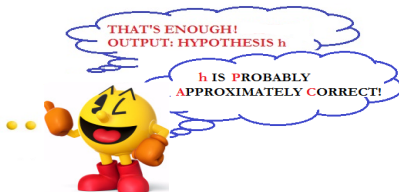
$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} \sqrt{D(x)} |x, c(x)\rangle$$

→

→

⋮

→



Question

Fewer **quantum examples** suffice for a **quantum learner** in the PAC model?

Does quantum provide an advantage for PAC learning?

Vapnik and Chervonenkis (VC) dimension

Combinatorial parameter that can be defined for every concept class \mathcal{C}

Does quantum provide an advantage for PAC learning?

Vapnik and Chervonenkis (VC) dimension

Combinatorial parameter that can be defined for every concept class \mathcal{C}

Classical bounds

VC dimension characterizes classical sample complexity

Does quantum provide an advantage for PAC learning?

Vapnik and Chervonenkis (VC) dimension

Combinatorial parameter that can be defined for every concept class \mathcal{C}

Classical bounds

VC dimension characterizes classical sample complexity

Quantum bounds [Arunachalam, de Wolf'16]

VC dimension **characterizes** *quantum* sample complexity

Does quantum provide an advantage for PAC learning?

Vapnik and Chervonenkis (VC) dimension

Combinatorial parameter that can be defined for every concept class \mathcal{C}

Classical bounds

VC dimension characterizes classical sample complexity

Quantum bounds [Arunachalam, de Wolf'16]

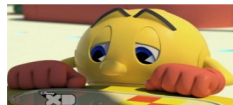
VC dimension **characterizes** *quantum* sample complexity

Classical sample complexity = Quantum sample complexity

Conclusion and future work



Classical PAC
Sample complexity
=
Quantum PAC
Sample complexity



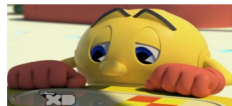
Take home

Quantum examples **do not** provide an advantage for PAC learning

Conclusion and future work



Classical PAC
Sample complexity
=
Quantum PAC
Sample complexity



Take home

Quantum examples **do not** provide an advantage for PAC learning

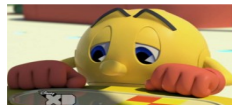
Future work

Quantum machine learning is still young! Don't have convincing examples where quantum significantly improve machine learning.

Conclusion and future work



Classical PAC
Sample complexity
=
Quantum PAC
Sample complexity



Take home

Quantum examples **do not** provide an advantage for PAC learning

Future work

Quantum machine learning is still young! Don't have convincing examples where quantum significantly improve machine learning.

Our goal is to find examples where quantum speeds up classical learning.