

Problem 26: Grover’s algorithm with multiple marked elements.

Consider the Grover search problem of finding x_0 such that $f(x_0) = 1$ for a given function $f : \{0, N-1\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$. In the lecture, we derived Grover’s algorithm which finds x_0 given that it is unique. In this problem, we will derive a generalization of Grover’s algorithm which allows to tackle the search problem in the case where there are $K > 1$ solutions x to the equation $f(x) = 1$. The goal is to find one x with $f(x) = 1$ with high probability.

The oracle is constructed the same way as before, i.e., it acts as

$$O_f = \mathbb{I} - 2 \sum_{x:f(x)=1} |x\rangle\langle x| .$$

The algorithm proceeds the same way as before, namely, by starting in the state $|\omega\rangle$ (given in the lecture), repeatedly applying Grover iterations $G = -O_\omega O_f$ (with O_ω as in the lecture), and finally measuring in the computational basis.

1. Show that O_f can be obtained from $U_f : |x\rangle|y\rangle \mapsto |x\rangle|y \oplus f(x)\rangle$.
2. Show that the Grover iteration G leaves the space $\mathcal{S} = \text{span}(|\omega\rangle, |x_0\rangle)$ invariant, where $|\omega\rangle$ is as in the lecture, and

$$|x_0\rangle \propto \sum_{x:f(x)=1} |x\rangle .$$

3. What is the action of G on a state in \mathcal{S} ?
4. For a given number of solutions K , how many times do we have to apply G to get a good overlap with $|x_0\rangle$? What result will we get when measuring in the computational basis?
5. Compare this to the scaling of the classical algorithm (i.e. trying random x until a solution is found).

Problem 27: Quantum counting.

Consider the same setting and notation as in Problem 26. Here, we will use a combination of Grover iterations G and phase estimation (Problem 25 on Sheet #9) to estimate (“count”) the number K of solutions up to some error δK . Our goal will be to understand how the accuracy δK scales with the number Q of queries to f (or U_f).

1. First, determine the scaling δK for classical counting: Since we assume that f is a black-box function, the best we can classically do is to sample Q random values x_i , $i = 1, \dots, Q$, compute $f(x_i)$, and use this to estimate K . What is the error δK as a function of Q (and K, N)?
2. We will now construct a quantum algorithm for estimating K . First, determine the eigenvalues $e^{i\theta_k}$, $k = 1, 2$, of G restricted to the subspace \mathcal{S} . (This is most easily done by observing that G is a rotation by an angle 2ϕ with $\sin \phi = \sqrt{K/N}$ – cf. Problem 26 – in this two-dimensional space.)
3. Now assume we are given one of the corresponding eigenvectors $|\theta_k\rangle$. We can now use the phase estimation algorithm to determine the phase $\theta_k/2\pi$ corresponding this eigenvector up to some number d of digits. What is the number of queries to O_f required for that? What is the resulting accuracy of θ_k ? (You can assume that the phase estimation is exact, i.e. neglect the additional error arising from the fact that $\theta_k/2\pi$ does not stop after d digits.)

4. From θ_k , we can estimate K . What is the error δK as a function of Q (and K, N)?
5. Show that this algorithm can be adapted to work also if we cannot prepare the state $|\theta_k\rangle$, but rather start in some other easy-to-prepare state in the subspace \mathcal{S} .

Problem 28: Fast Fourier transform.

In this problem, we will use the expression

$$\hat{\mathcal{F}} : |j_1, \dots, j_n\rangle \mapsto \frac{1}{2^{n/2}} (|0\rangle + e^{2\pi i 0 \cdot j_n} |1\rangle) \otimes (|0\rangle + e^{2\pi i 0 \cdot j_{n-1} j_n} |1\rangle) \otimes \dots \otimes (|0\rangle + e^{2\pi i 0 \cdot j_1 j_2 \dots j_n} |1\rangle) \quad (1)$$

for the quantum Fourier transform $\hat{\mathcal{F}}$ derived in the lecture to construct an algorithm for the classical Fourier transformation on vectors of length $N = 2^n$ which scales as $O(2^n n) = O(N \log N)$ – the fast Fourier transformation (FFT) – as opposed to the naive $O(N^2)$ scaling.

Recall that the classical Fourier transformation $\mathcal{F} : \mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$ acts as $\mathcal{F} : (x_0, \dots, x_{N-1}) \mapsto (y_0, \dots, y_{N-1})$, where

$$y_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} e^{2\pi i j k / N} x_j . \quad (2)$$

1. Show that performing the classical Fourier transformation by directly carrying out the sum in Eq. (2) requires $O(N^2)$ elementary operations.
2. As shown in the lecture, $\hat{\mathcal{F}}$ maps $\sum_j x_j |j\rangle$ to $\sum_k y_k |k\rangle$. Use this, combined with Eq. (1), to derive an explicit expression for y_k in terms of the x_j in the spirit of Eq. (1).
3. The resulting expression for y_k as a function of the x_j should contain a sum over j_1, \dots, j_n . Show that this sum can be carried out bit by bit. (What should happen is that in each step, the “input” x_j is transformed to a vector where one j_i disappears due to the sum, and instead a dependency on one of the k_ℓ appears.)
4. What is the number of elementary operations required for each of these transformations? What is the total computational cost of the algorithm?