

# Quantum Machine Learning

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Recent progress implies that a crossover between machine learning and quantum information processing benefits both fields. Traditional machine learning has dramatically improved the benchmarking and control of experimental quantum computing systems, including adaptive quantum phase estimation and designing quantum computing gates. On the other hand, quantum mechanics offers tantalizing prospects to enhance machine learning, ranging from reduced computational complexity to improved generalization performance. The most notable examples include quantum enhanced algorithms for principal component analysis, quantum support vector machines, and quantum Boltzmann machines. Progress has been rapid, fostered by demonstrations of midsized quantum optimizers which are predicted to soon outperform their classical counterparts. Further, we are witnessing the emergence of a physical theory pinpointing the fundamental and natural limitations of learning. Here we survey the cutting edge of this merger and list several open problems.

Machine learning has fundamentally changed the way humans interact with and relate to data. Applications range from self-driving cars to intelligent agents capable of exceeding the best humans at *Jeopardy* and *Go*. These applications exhibit large data sets and push current algorithms and computational resources to their limit. Information is fundamentally governed by the laws of physics. The laws are quantum mechanical at the scales of present day information processing technology, in contrast to the more familiar ‘classical’ physics at the human scale. The interface of quantum physics and machine learning naturally goes both ways: machine learning algorithms find application in understanding and controlling quantum systems and, on the other hand, quantum computational devices promise enhancement of the performance of machine learning algorithms for problems beyond the reach of classical computing.

Machine learning is rapidly being employed for the benchmarking, control, and harnessing of quantum effects [1–9]. State-of-the art quantum experiments in op-

tical or solid state systems have recently reached sizes where optimization methods face unprecedented data-intensive landscapes. In addition, machine learning was employed in a variety of related fields, e.g. the discovery of the Higgs Boson [10], molecular energy prediction trained using databases of known energy spectra [11] and gravitational wave detection [12]. In the computing realm, this progress allows experimental breakthroughs which probe the threshold of producing the first practical quantum computer [13], which in turn enables quantum enhanced versions of these very same learning algorithms.

Quantum information has shown promising algorithmic developments leading to quantum speedups of computational problems such as prime number factoring and searching an unstructured database. The underlying algorithmic toolbox allows extensions to problems relevant for machine learning and artificial intelligence. Recently, it was shown that quantum mechanics offers physical resources to enhance machine learning with quantum algorithms [14–21]. Quantum-enhanced versions of classical machine learning algorithms include least-squares fitting, support vector machines, principal component analysis, and deep learning. Challenges that have to be addressed in this emerging field is the input of classical data into the quantum device, the efficient processing of the data, and subsequent readout of classically relevant information.

Beyond quantum algorithms for machine learning, there has been progress in developing a physics based the-

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ory pinpointing the fundamental and natural limitations of learning, quantum enhanced learning algorithms and the employment of learning algorithms to better control and harness these same quantum effects [14–21]. Quantum information theory sets the stage to understand how fundamental laws of nature impact the ability of physical agents to learn. The cutting edge of the intersection of machine learning and quantum physics is reviewed here. We explain how the above areas interact and we list several open problems that are of contemporary research interest.

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### I. CLASSICAL LEARNING IN QUANTUM SYSTEMS

Recent decades have seen a concerted effort to design, develop, benchmark, and control systems operating in a quantum regime. Such systems range from condensed phase systems such as Bose-Einstein condensates, quantum clocks, and quantum computers in optical, solid-state, and other environments. For quantum computers, the goal is to achieve ‘quantum supremacy’ when a quantum computer outperforms a conventional computer for a particular problem. Classical learning algorithms were recently employed for several building blocks needed in such a quantum computational device. This is particularly timely as the data size of these problems now makes exhaustive and greedy approaches either impossible or at best, highly non-optimal. Quantum computing gates can be optimized using machine learning and evolutionary algorithms. In addition, analyzing the data output from measurement of even small quantum devices benefits from modern data-processing algorithms.

*a. Learning about quantum systems.* Experimental quantum systems must be characterized and benchmarked under laboratory conditions in order for them to be controlled. A tantamount task is then to find a model (a.k.a. effective) Hamiltonian of the system and to determine properties of the present noise sources. By computing likelihood functions in an adaptation of Bayesian inference, Wiebe et al. [22–25] found that quantum Hamiltonian learning can be performed using realistic resources such as depolarizing noise. Wiebe et al. [24]

further provides empirical evidence that their learning algorithm will find an approximation that is maximally close to the true model when facing cases where the hypothetical model lacks terms present in the actual one. This suggests that even imperfect quantum resources may be valuable when applying learning methods to characterize quantum systems.

Sasaki et al. [1, 26] pioneered the approach framing the classification of unknown quantum states as a form of supervised learning. The authors considered semiclassical and fully coherent quantum strategies, proving that the latter is optimal [1, 26]. Bisio et al. [2] considered learning a unitary transformation from a finite number of examples. The best strategy for learning a unitary involves a double optimization that requires both an optimal input state—akin to active learning in the classical theory of statistical learning—and an optimal measurement, thus this protocol is incoherent and enables induction in the classical sense [2]. In a separate study, Bisio et al. [3] derived a learning algorithm for arbitrary von Neumann measurements such that, differently from the learning of unitary gates, the optimal algorithm for learning of quantum measurements was not able to be parallelized, and required quantum memory for the storage of quantum information [3].

The authors in [4] also devised a quantum learning machine for binary classification of qubit states that does not require/in no need of a quantum memory. The required classical memory was found to grow only logarithmically with the number of training qubits [4]. The binary discrimination problem was considered in [5] specifically for the case of coherent states of light. They found that a global measurement, performed jointly over the signal and the training set, enhances identification rates compared to learning strategies based on first estimating the unknown amplitude by means of Gaussian measurements on the training set, followed by an adaptive discrimination procedure on the signal [5].

Concept drift is an essential problem in machine learning: it refers to shifts in the distribution that is being sampled and learned [27]. A similar problem in quantum mechanics is detecting the change point, that is, identifying when a source changes its output quantum state(s). The work of [9] constructs strategies for measuring the particles individually and provides an answer as soon as a new particle is emitted by the source, replicating the overall scheme of online learning. The authors also show that these strategies underperform the optimal strategy, which is a global measurement. Sasaki et al. [1, 26] pioneered this approach by framing the classification of unknown quantum states as a form of supervised learning. The authors considered semiclassical and fully coherent quantum strategies, proving that the latter is optimal [1, 26]. Learning the ‘community structure’ of quantum states and walks was considered in [28] by means of maximizing modularity with hierarchical clustering.

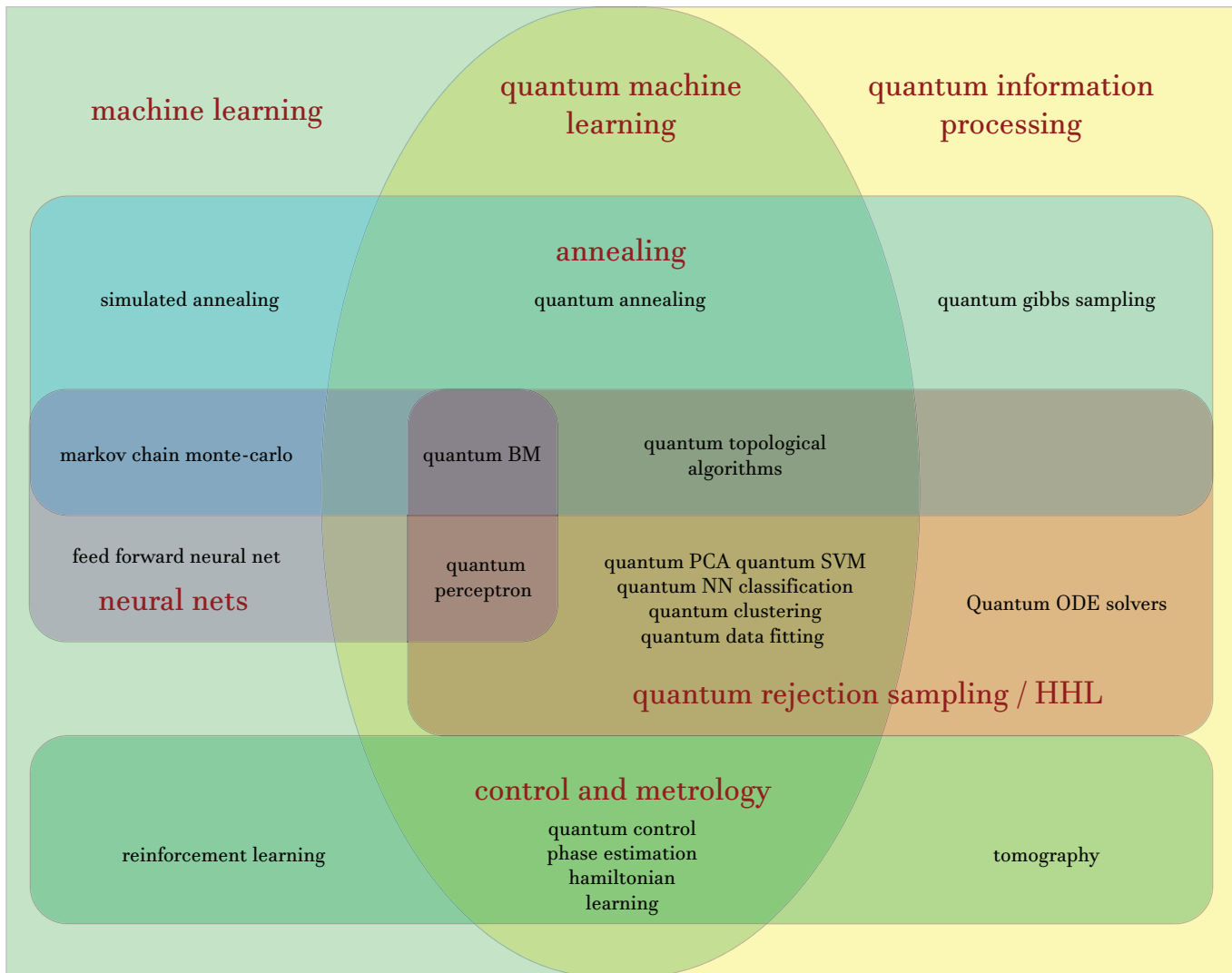


FIG. 1. Conceptual depiction of mutual crossovers between quantum and traditional machine learning.

*b. Controlling quantum systems* Learning methods have also seen ample success in developing control sequences to optimize interferometric ‘quantum phase estimation’ which is a key quantum algorithmic building block [29, 30] that appears in quantum simulation algorithms and elsewhere [31], used as a key component in [32] in a proposal for a quantum perceptron. Having employed heuristic global optimization algorithms, Hentschel and Sanders [29] optimized many-particle adaptive quantum metrology in a reinforcement learning scenario. Later Lovett et al. [30] extended their procedure to several challenges including phase estimation and coined quantum walks. Palittapongarnpim et al. [33] optimized this latter approach by orders of magnitude while also improving on noise tolerance and robustness.

A similar heuristic methodology has been developed to create quantum gates (a challenge for several decades

in the development of quantum computation and information science) [34–37]. In the presence of noise and by adapting a differential evolution scheme, Zahedinejad, Ghosh and Sanders [34] considered nearest-neighbor-coupled superconducting artificial atoms and employed supervised learning, resulting in gate fidelity above 99.9% and hence reaching an accepted threshold for fault-tolerant quantum computing. In a separate study [35], Zahedinejad, Ghosh and Sanders developed a quantum-control procedure to construct a single-shot Toffoli gate (a crucial building block of a universal quantum computer), again reaching gate fidelity above 99.9%. Using an alternative approach, Banchi, Pancotti and Bose [36] also realized a Toffoli gate without time-dependent control using the natural dynamics of a quantum network. Las et al. [38] used genetic algorithms to reduce digital and experimental errors in quantum gates. The authors [38] added ancillary qubits to design a modular gate

made out of imperfect gates, so that their fidelity is interestingly greater than the fidelity of any of the constituent gates. To realize quantum gates, memories and protocols, contemporary methods to develop dynamical decoupling sequences (a leading method to protect quantum states from decoherence) can also be surpassed using recurrent neural networks—see for instance August and Ni [39].

Common to these approaches in quantum gate design is that they work in a supervised learning setting, in contrast to the quantum adaptive phase estimation which is closer to control theory and uses reinforcement learning. One can also exploit reinforcement learning in gate-based quantum systems. For instance, Tiersch, Ganahl and Briegel [40] laid out a path for adaptive controllers based on intelligent agents for quantum information tasks, illustrating how to adapt to measurement directions while corresponding to an external stray field of unknown magnitude in a fixed direction can be overcome—which they then applied to a measurement-based algorithm for Grover’s search [40]. Mavadia et al. also used a reinforcement learning scheme to predict and compensate for qubit decoherence [41].

Other quantum algorithms directly involve ideas from machine learning in their basic operation. Most notably, the iterative phase estimation algorithm uses concepts from machine learning to infer eigenvalues of a given unitary operator. These techniques allow the algorithm to be run using fewer qubits and also using far less experimental time than previous methods. This approach, originally proposed by Kitaev, was further refined by Higgins, Berry et al [42, 43] who explored the use of adaptive methods to optimally learn the unknown eigenphase. Such use of adaptive policies to learn and infer eigenphases was pioneered by Hentschell and Sanders [29]. Wiebe and Granade provided efficient alternative methods to policy based phase estimation methods by using a form of adaptive Bayesian inference, itself based on assumed density filtering [44]. These works illustrate that the process of data extraction from quantum algorithms can be meaningfully influenced by ideas from machine learning.

Future applications of supervised machine learning to tackle noise, tailor gates and develop core quantum information processing building blocks is a direction of tantamount importance. Reinforcement learning in quantum control should also be further explored—see Rosi et al. [45] for a prime example. Furthermore, quantum walks—representing an established model that captures essential physics behind many natural and synthetic phenomena, and proven to provide a universal model of quantum computation—were briefly touched upon here [28, 30]. To date however, comparatively little work [28, 30, 46] has been done towards a merger with machine learning, providing an interesting avenue of open problems for future research.

*c. Learning properties of quantum and statistical physics.* Classical machine learning has recently unveiled properties of quantum and related statistical

systems, such as critical points of phase transitions [47] or expectation values of observables [48], and can be employed in other related simulation tasks [38, 49] leading to applications in several fields facing many-body problems.

Making use of Google’s deep-learning ‘TensorFlow’ library [50], Carrasquilla and Melko [47] developed a learning procedure capable of determining the current phase of matter of a quantum system. The work is based on a standard feed-forward neural network (for proposals that realize neural networks in quantum dots, see [51, 52]), and showed that it can be trained to detect multiple types of order parameters directly from raw state configurations sampled with Monte Carlo methods. Interestingly this particular network in the work [47] is not aware of the model Hamiltonian which generated the data, or the length of the interactions. This analysis outputs non-trivial results for a large variety of models, ranging from the classical Ising model to Coulomb phases and topological phases [47].

A simple recurrent neural network, a so-called Boltzmann machine, is able to faithfully reproduce expectation values by creating a large set of configurations via Monte Carlo sampling from the partition function of an Ising Hamiltonian at different temperatures [48]. Those configurations are then used to train, test and validate the Boltzmann machine. Once the learning has converged, characteristic physical properties—such as energy, magnetization and specific heat—are computed. Near the transition point, one appears to experience more difficult learning when the associated number of neurons in the network are required to achieve the same level of precision [48].

Choosing a Boltzmann machine with hidden variables as an ansatz for the wave function, Carleo and Troyer [49] address the many-body problem—central to physics, materials science and chemistry—through a search method for a lowest-energy state. Such a function is then trained via a pseudo-gradient descent algorithm originally designed for Monte Carlo simulations in chemistry. Furthermore Carleo and Troyer [49] challenged their result, comparing it against tensor network algorithms (see Section II 0 g) in both one and two dimensions, and concluding that their own method systematically improves the best known variational states for 2D finite lattice systems. Deng et al. [53] extend this idea to topological states with long-range entanglement, showing analytically that a topological ground state can be represented *exactly* by a *short-range* Restricted Boltzmann Machine.

## II. QUANTUM ENHANCED LEARNING

Quantum mechanics can enhance machine learning in two different ways. First, a quantum computational device could perform machine learning algorithms for problems beyond the reach of classical computers. We discuss recent developments in quantum techniques for big data, adiabatic optimization, and Gibbs sampling. Sec-

ond, techniques developed in quantum theory can improve machine learning algorithms. In this context, we discuss tensor networks, renormalization, and Bayesian networks.

*d. Quantum techniques for big data.* Extremely large data sets have become widespread and regularly analysed to reveal patterns, trends, and associations, ranging from many areas of physical sciences to human behavior and economics. As quantum physics offers certain enhancements in the storage and processing of information, a clear research track is to develop and tailor these quantum methods to apply to problems when facing ‘big data’ sets [14, 15, 18–20, 48, 49, 54–59].

A quantum speedup is characterized in several different ways. One characterization is by the query complexity, that is the number of queries to the information storage medium for the classical or quantum algorithm, respectively. The storage medium can be more abstractly considered to be an oracle and the algorithmic speedup is relative to that oracle [60]. Another way of characterizing performance is the gate complexity, counting the number of elementary gates, say single and two qubit gates, required to obtain the desired results. Many recent quantum algorithms for machine learning rely on two main types of speedups. First, amplitude amplification is commonly used to quadratically reduce the number of samples needed in sampling algorithms. Specifically, if  $N$  samples would be required on average in a sampling algorithm then amplitude amplification can be used to reduce this to  $O(\sqrt{N})$  samples on average. Grover search problem is a well known example of amplitude amplification, and so such quadratic speedups are often called “Grover-like”. Second, other types of speedups are related to prime number factoring and finding eigenvalues and eigenvectors of large matrices. This speedup is enabled by quantum phase estimation, quantum Fourier transform, and quantum simulation methods. In many cases, the number of quantum gates is proportional to  $O(\log N)$  for preparing a quantum state encoding eigenvalues of an  $N \times N$  matrix and the associated eigenstates, while classically  $O(N)$  operations are required to find eigenvalues and eigenvectors.

Early work by Ventura and Martinez [61] applied quantum computing to training associative memories that built on discrete Grover’s search. Their modification allows storing only a few patterns in a superposition, and the retrieval protocol receives the most similar ones to a given new instance. Grover’s search can be used for discrete optimization, and Anguita et al. [62] applied this variant to train support vector machines. Their idea was later generalized to create building blocks of learning algorithms using Grover’s search [54, 63]. Common to these approaches is discretization of the search space to achieve a quadratic speedup over classical counterparts. By a similar technique, [64] proves rigorous bounds on the learning capacity of a quantum perceptron.

Harrow, Hassidim and Lloyd [14] provided a quantum algorithm to solve linear systems (in which given a ma-

trix  $A$  and a vector  $b$ , one is faced with finding a vector  $x$  such that  $Ax = b$ ). Matrix inversion represents a commonly employed subroutine in data science and learning algorithms. In their variant of the problem [14], one does not need to know the solution  $x$  itself, but rather an approximation of the expectation value of some operator associated with  $x$ . They recovered an exponential improvement over the best known classical algorithms when  $A$  is sparse and ‘well conditioned’ [14]. By developing a state preparation routine that can initialize generic states, Clader, Jacobs and Sprouse [15] show how elementary ancilla measurements can be used to calculate quantities of interest, and hence integrate a quantum-compatible preconditioner which expands the number of problems that can achieve exponential speedup over classical linear system solvers for constant precision solutions. They further demonstrated that their algorithm can be used to compute the electromagnetic scattering cross section of an arbitrary target exponentially faster than the best known classical algorithm [15]. Building on these linear systems results, a quantum algorithm discovered by Wiebe, Braun and Lloyd efficiently determines the quality of a least-squares fit over an exponentially large data set [16]. They further suggest that in many cases their algorithms can also efficiently find a concise function that approximates the data to be fitted and bound the approximation error [16], particularly when the data is sparse. Wang [65] uses singular value decomposition for the same purpose, replacing sparsity by a low-rank condition employing the quantum principal component analysis of Lloyd et al. [20]. Keeping the same assumption, Schuld et al. [66] developed a protocol for predicting labels for new points in regression.

A quantum algorithm for the support vector machine based on matrix inversion was provided by Rebentrost, Mohseni and Lloyd [18]. Relying on a least-squares formulation of the support vector machine, this algorithm was shown to have run time logarithmic in the number of features and training examples for both training of the classifier, and the classification of new data. In cases when classical sampling algorithms terminate in polynomial time, an exponential quantum speed-up in queries to the training data can be achieved. Central to their quantum algorithm [18] is a non-sparse matrix exponentiation technique for efficient matrix inversion of the training data inner-product (kernel) matrix.

Returning to the problem of supervised vs. unsupervised learning, Lloyd, Mohseni and Rebentrost [17] discovered quantum machine learning algorithms for cluster assignment and cluster finding—providing a polynomial speedup over sampling based classical methods for  $k$ -means clustering [17, 19].

Finding nearest-neighbors is an association problem faced in data-analysis—some of these classical methods have been applied to determine the so called community structure of quantum transport problems [28]. Finding nearest-neighbors on a quantum computer was addressed with a quantum algorithm discovered by Wiebe, Kapoor

and Svore in [19]. Central to the algorithm are several subroutines for computing distance metrics such as the inner product and Euclidean distance. Careful analysis revealed that even in the worst case, the quantum algorithms offer polynomial reductions in query complexity over classical sampling based methods.

In [20], Lloyd, Mohseni and Rebentrost devised a quantum algorithm for principal component analysis of an unknown low-rank density matrix. The main idea is to take multiple copies of a possibly unknown density matrix and apply it as a Hamiltonian to another quantum state. As in quantum tomography, such a density matrix can be prepared from an arbitrary quantum process not necessarily involving QRAM. This allows large eigenvalues and corresponding eigenvectors of the density matrix to be computed. If constant precision is required, this method can accomplish the task by using exponentially fewer accesses to the training data than any existing classical algorithm. In an oracular (or QRAM) setting, this effort was later extended to the singular value decomposition of non-sparse low-rank and non-positive matrices, and applied to the Procrustes problem of finding the best orthogonal matrix mapping one matrix into another [67]. Moreover, if class labels are also available, linear discriminant analysis is more advantageous than principal component analysis. Cong and Duan [68] adapted the quantum algorithm for solving linear equations [14] to achieve an exponential reduction in the number of queries made to the data for this task as well. These scenarios are special cases of manifold learning algorithms, where it is assumed that the data points lie on some high-dimensional manifold. Principal component analysis and singular value decomposition ensure a global optimum, but often one is more interested in the topology of the data instances, such as connected components and voids. Lloyd, Garnerone and Zanardi [55] designed quantum algorithms for the approximation of Betti numbers from the combinatorial Laplacian for a type of topological manifold learning known as persistent homology. Their algorithm provided an exponential speedup for computing constant precision approximations to Betti numbers relative to the current best known classical algorithms. Dridi and Alghassi [69] also use quantum annealing for homology computation. While the empirical results of their algorithm look encouraging, more work is needed to assess whether their approach truly can give an exponential speedup.

Quantum mechanics was also shown in [6] to provide a speed-up for reinforcement learning. A large class of learning agents was introduced, for which a quadratic boost in learning efficiency over their classical analogues was recovered [6]. Development of learning agents in quantum environments was further considered in [7, 8]. In [7] classical agents were ‘upgraded’ to their quantum counterparts by a nested process of adding coherent control, where the focus was on implementation in ion traps. Further, in [8] the authors analyze the types of classically specified environments which allow for quan-

tum enhancements in learning. They conclude that if the agent has quantum resources while the environment is classical, the only improvements can be in terms of computational complexity, and they show scenarios for a quadratic speedup by Grover-like protocols [8].

A challenge facing the application of many of these methods for big data is the fact that the training set of classical data must be loaded into the quantum computer, a step that can dominate the cost of the algorithm in some cases [70]. This issue does not, however, occur if the data are provided via an efficient quantum subroutine or a pre-trained generative model. The alternative solution is to load the data into a QRAM, which is a low depth circuit for accessing data in quantum superposition. Work is ongoing to engineer inexpensive QRAMs in both existing [71] and fault-tolerant hardware [72], as well as benchmarking the performance of QRAM enabled algorithms against massively parallel classical machine learning algorithms.

*e. Adiabatic quantum optimization.* Adiabatic quantum computing relies on the idea of embedding a problem instance into a physical system, such that the system’s lowest energy configuration stores the problem instance solution [73]. Recent experimental progress has resulted in annealers with hundreds of spins [74]—detailed further in Section III.

These annealers make use of a logical Ising model, providing an immediate connection to Hopfield neural networks [75], as well as many other models phrased in terms of energy minimization of the Ising model. Indeed, at the heart of many learning algorithms is a constrained optimization problem, which can be restated as an energy minimization problem of an Ising model.

Adiabatic quantum optimization relies on a physical process to estimate the ground state energy of the Ising model—resembling the widely used global optimization heuristic that exploits both thermal fluctuations and quantum tunneling to find the global energy minimum of a system—see figure 2 A. In other words, given a discrete nonconvex optimization problem, we are able to find the global optimum as long as we meet the criteria of the adiabatic theorem that drives the physical process [76]. Adding non-commuting (so called,  $xx$ ) interactions to the Ising model is known to render it universal [77] for adiabatic quantum computation—yet programming this universal model and understanding its connection to machine learning is an open problem.

Denchev et al. developed robust, regularized boosting algorithms using quantum annealing [78, 79]. Dulny III and Kim [80] used a similar methodology in a range of tasks, including natural language processing and testing for linear separability, whereas Pudenz and Lidar [81] applied it to anomaly detection. Learning the structure of a probabilistic graphical model, for instance that of a Bayesian network, is a notoriously hard task: O’Gorman et al. [82] address this difficulty by quantum annealing. They map the posterior-probability scoring function on graphs to the Ising model:  $n$  random variables map to

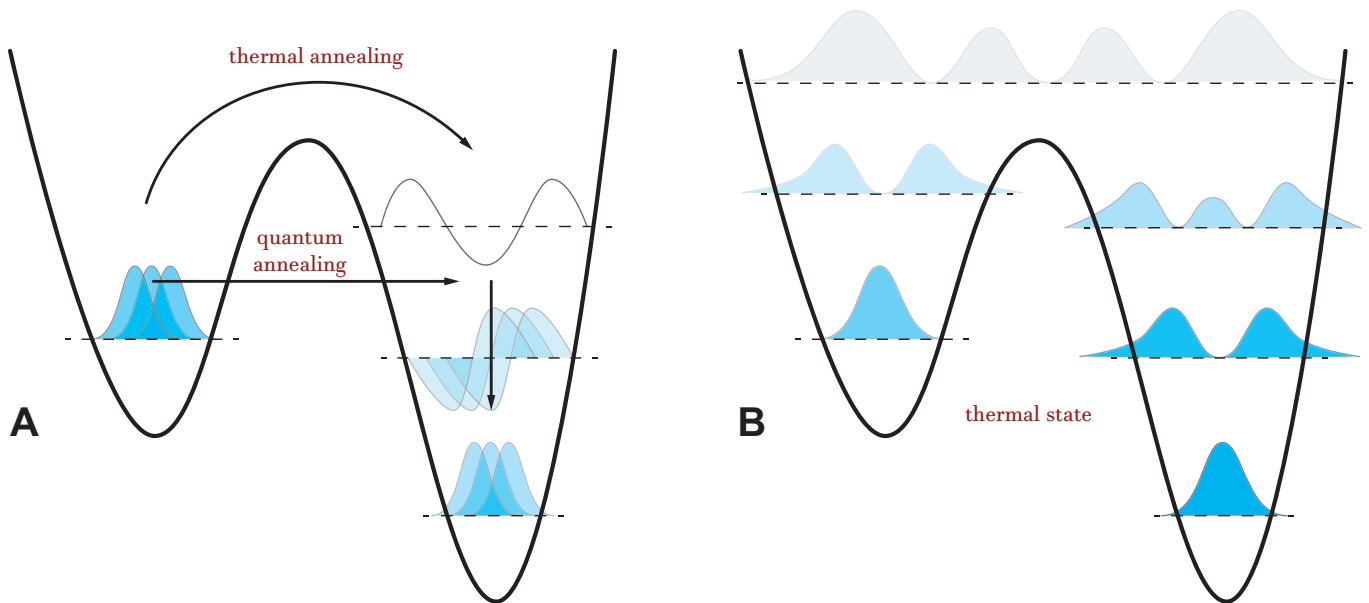


FIG. 2. **A quantum state tunnels when approaching a resonance point before decoherence induces thermalization.** **A.** A quantum state must traverse a local minimum in thermal annealing whereas a coherent quantum state can tunnel when brought close to resonance. **B.** Coherent effects decay through interaction with an environment, resulting in a probability distribution in occupancy of a systems energy levels following a Gibbs distribution.

$\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  qubits.

Limited connectivity in current quantum annealers is a recurrent problem in developing quantum optimization algorithms. Zaribafiyani et. al [83] devised a generic, efficient graph-minor embedding methods to address this issue. Following a similar line of thought, Diridi and Alghassi [69] designed a quantum annealing algorithm for manifold learning, more specifically, for the computation of homology of a large set of data points (see also Section II 0 d). Benedetti et al. [84] in turn developed an embedding of arbitrary pairwise connectivity to train a maximum entropy model with at most quadratic number of qubits required to represent the nodes of the original graph.

*f. Gibbs sampling.* Current quantum annealing technology is seldom guaranteed to provide the global optimum. Instead, the energy levels after repeated steps of annealing approximately follow a Gibbs distribution—see figure 2 B. Addressing the correct embedding on the connectivity graph and estimating the temperature can be used for training Boltzmann machines [85, 86]. Such machines appear in several variants in this review [48, 49, 58, 85–89], and are simple generative neural networks consisting of hidden and visible nodes. Typically, classical methods focus on training restricted Boltzmann machines that only have connectivity between the adjacent layers of hidden and visible units but not within a layer. Deep belief networks, extensively used in speech and image recognition, can be formed by stacking many restricted Boltzmann machines. Exact training of Boltzmann machines requires Gibbs sampling, but given the computational complexity thereof, a heuristic algorithm

called contrastive divergence can be employed. While such contrastive divergence often suffices for machine learning, it can fail to converge to the solution provided by exact training and also it cannot be used directly to efficiently train non-restricted Boltzmann machines. Quantum Gibbs sampling replaces this heuristic.

Wiebe et al. [88] developed a Gibbs state preparation and sampling protocol, also with the objective of training deep belief networks. They achieve polynomial improvements in computational complexity relative to its classical analogue, and in some cases superpolynomial speedups relative to contrastive divergence training. Furthermore, their state preparation procedure is not specific to any topology for Boltzmann machines, which allows deep networks that are not stacked restricted Boltzmann machines to be accurately trained. Further advances in Gibbs state preparation methods [89] open the door to improved methods for training other graph topologies, such as Markov logic networks [90].

Taking these ideas further, Amin et al. [58] suggest an approach based on quantum Boltzmann distribution of a transverse-field Ising Hamiltonian as the fundamental model for the data. While modest advantages are seen for small networks, more work is needed to understand the power that such quantum models possess.

*g. Learning tensor networks and renormalization.* Tensor networks have taken a central role in modern quantum physics due to their ease of use as a graphical language to describe and pictorially reason about quantum circuits and protocols, renormalization, and numerical tensor contraction and simulation algorithms. These tensor network algorithms are known to efficiently

represent the low-energy wave function for a vast family of Hamiltonians and they offer a means to efficiently simulate classes of quantum circuits. At the core of the algorithms we find something roughly similar to principle component analysis, yet in the case of quantum systems singular value decomposition is applied recursively to factor stationary states, and often sequentially repeated when modeling time-dependence. Accordingly, various geometrical constructions have been shown to offer advantages when compressing the data required to represent different classes of quantum states—see figure 1. These methods apply well to certain classical systems and problems—for instance, to counting—and can readily be merged with machine learning techniques to generally enhance their applicability [91–94].

Anandkumar et al. [92] considers parameter estimation for a wide class of latent variable models—including Gaussian mixture models, hidden Markov models, and Latent Dirichlet Allocation—which exploit a certain tensor network structure found in their low-order observable moments.

The aforementioned latent variable models are shallow in the sense that there are not many layers of parameters to be identified—deep learning architectures are the direct opposite of this way of thinking. Mehta and Schwab [93] merges ideas of mapping from the variational renormalization group, first introduced by Kadanoff [95], and deep learning models based on restricted Boltzmann machines so that the results indicate that deep learning algorithms might be viewed as employing a generalized renormalization group-like scheme to learn relevant features from data. Also considering data analysis, [94] relies on the matrix product state (MPS) decomposition as a computational tool to likewise extract features of multidimensional data.

Probabilistic graphical models (see the next section) can also form a hierarchical model akin to a deep learning architecture. [91] compared ideas behind the renormalization group—of which certain tensor network methods represent the modern incarnation—and such models. The multiscale entanglement renormalization ansatz (MERA network) was converted into a learning algorithm based on a hierarchical Bayesian model. Under the assumption that the distribution to be learned is fully characterized by local correlations, this algorithm [91] does not require sampling.

*h. Causality and Bayesian Networks.* Probabilistic graphical models—including Bayesian networks and Markov networks, and their special topological variants such as hidden Markov models, Ising models, and Kalman filters—offer compactness of representation, capturing the sparsity structure of the model and independence conditions among correlations. The graph structure of these encompasses the qualitative properties of the distribution. While causation does not directly appear in the representation, the edge structure of the graph indicates influence, opening the door to applications which rely on determining causation of a given ef-

fect.

In the absence of specific graph topologies, two challenges are addressed: (i) structure and weight learning from correlations, and (ii) inference based on the structure and partial observation (a.k.a. clamping) of nodes. The first problem is akin to the training phase of other machine learning approaches. The second phase is about applying the learned model. The computational complexity is typically negligible of this second phase in other forms of learning, but for Bayesian and Markov networks, this probabilistic inference is  $\#P$ -hard.

The starting point is correlations—this is already problematic if we study quantum correlations which may not have a definite causal order [96], as it has been experimentally probed [97]. Furthermore, intuition of cause and effect fails with quantum correlations, making causal discovery a challenge [98]. In classical Bayesian networks, the  $d$ -separation theorem clearly validates whether a given set of correlations can match a given directed graph structure. Progress has been made on the quantum generalization of the  $d$ -separation theorem [56, 99], but the fully general case is still an open issue.

To solve the first phase of learning such a model, an adiabatic quantum optimization method was introduced to learn the structure of a classical Bayesian network [82]. In this case, all correlations are classical.

For probabilistic inference, an early effort used complex-valued probability amplitudes [100]. The problems above were bypassed by requiring that the amplitudes factorize according to classical conditions, restricting the case to pure states. Leifer and Poulin developed an inexact belief propagation protocol for mixed states [101].

If we restrict the topology, learning weights and probabilistic inference can be polynomial or even linear in the classical sense/case. This is the case with hidden Markov models. Monràs and Winter [57] consider the situation where the hidden variables are quantum, and ask whether there is a quantum instrument that could reproduce the observable dynamics. Cholewa et al. [102] assume a series of classical observations with underlying quantum dynamics, and generalize known classical algorithms for training hidden Markov networks.

### III. QUANTUM LEARNING EXPERIMENTS

Quantum learning algorithms have been realized in a host of experimental systems and cover a range of applications. Brunner et al. used photonics to demonstrate simultaneous spoken digit and speaker recognition and chaotic time-series prediction at data rates beyond a gigabyte per second [103]. They were able to identify all digits with very low classification errors and perform chaotic time-series prediction with 10% error. Using photonics, a classifier was realized in [104] which worked on up to eight-dimensional vectors. Facing a nonlinear photonic delay system [105], classically employed methods of gra-



dient descent with backpropagation through time were employed on a model of the system to optimize input encoding. Physical experiments obtained show that the input encodings result in significantly better performance than the common reservoir computing approach [105]. Also in nonlinear photonics [106], demonstrated an all-optical linear classifier capable of learning the classification boundary iteratively from training data through a feedback rule. Lau et al. [21] proposed building blocks for learning algorithms in continuous-variable quantum systems with a matching photonic implementation, but experiments to test this are lying still ahead.

Neural networks have been realized using liquid state nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR), by Hopfield neural networks with simulated adiabatic quantum computation to recover basic pattern recognition tasks [107]. Handwriting recognition was also explored by an NMR test bench in [108], enabling the recognition of standard character fonts from a set with two candidates and hence realizing a ‘quantum support vector machine’.

Defaulting on a chain of trapped ions, [109] simulated a neural network with induced long range interactions. The storage capacity of such a network was possible to control by changing the external trapping potential.

Quantum annealing for machine learning by superconducting systems is lead by the technology developed by D-Wave Systems. An early demonstration focused on regularized boosting with a nonconvex objective function in a classification task [110]. The optimization problem was discretized and mapped to a quadratic unconstrained binary problem. Subsequent work developed this idea of discretization and mapping [78, 79, 82, 111]. Since the quantum annealer suffers from a number of implementation issues that deviate from the underlying theory, in general it cannot be guaranteed that by the end of the annealing process one will be able to read out the ground state. The distribution of readouts of the final state approximates a Gibbs distribution. This opened the way to training Boltzmann machines [58, 85–87].

#### IV. FRONTIERS IN QUANTUM MACHINE LEARNING

Quantum computers can outperform classical ones in some machine learning tasks, but the full scope of their power is unknown. Aïmeur et al. [112] asked what we could expect by various combinations of quantum and classical data and objectives, and there are a few results in terms of complexity bounds for quantum machine learning [113–115]. Servedio and Gortler [113] establish a polynomial relationship between the number of quantum versus classical queries required for certain classes of learning problems [113]. Their work implies that, while the sampling complexity of broad classes of quantum and classical machine learning algorithms are polynomially equivalent, their computational complexities need not be. This idea was also confirmed by Arunachalam and de

Wolf [115], where it was found that quantum and classical sample complexity are equal up to constant factors in both the probably approximately correct vs. agnostic models. Arunachalam and de Wolf’s results imply that, when restricted to sample complexity, the classical and quantum cases are equal up to constant factors. Despite these differences, the ability of quantum computers to expediently search for the most informative samples can (in some cases) polynomially improve the expected number of samples necessary to learn a concept [64]. Thus characterizing the statistical efficiency of quantum machine learning algorithms remains an open problem.

Another aspect of learning theory, model complexity is central to establishing bounds on generalization performance. Monràs et al. [114] prove that a supervised inductive learning protocol always splits into a training and testing phase, even with quantum resources, and thus establishes the theoretical foundations for defining model complexity. In a similar vein, Wiebe and Granade [116] ask whether a logarithmically small quantum system can learn at all in the sense of Bayesian updates, and their answer is affirmative if the system has access to classical memory but can be negative otherwise. This is because information stored in a quantum posterior distribution cannot be extracted without destroying the information that it spent so long learning. This indicates that properties of quantum mechanics, such as the no-cloning theorem, challenge us to think more broadly what it means for a quantum system to learn about its surroundings.

A clear current use of machine learning in quantum physics builds on the dramatic success these techniques have had in learning to control experimental quantum systems [24, 29, 30, 34–36, 39–41, 117, 118]. On the other hand, a viable contemporary approach to quantum enhanced machine learning is running a quantum annealer, built for example from artificial flux-based qubits [74] as a subroutine to solve optimization problems. This offers an advantage inasmuch as problems can be stated in terms of objective functions which can then be minimized remotely, with the further advantage that mid-size versions of the technology are already available [74]. Although quantum optimizers have seen dramatic increases in scalability (at the time of this writing  $\sim 2000$  manufactured spins are available on a single chip), quantum supremacy—in which a quantum device outperforms any existing classical device for a comparable algorithmic task—has not yet been achieved.

Quantum computers, however, are thought to cross the quantum supremacy threshold and offer dramatic runtime reductions for several classes of problems that can be used as subroutines in machine learning methods [14, 15, 18–20, 48, 49, 54–58]. Yet at the same time, certain powerful and central ideas in the theory of machine learning—such as neural computing [119], quantum generalizations of Bayesian networks [56] and quantum causal models [99]—seem to necessitate an increased effort to understand several fundamental questions attached to their quantum mechanical generaliza-

tions [56, 57, 96, 99].

From the papers and research directions reviewed here, we see that machine learning and quantum computing became intertwined on many different levels: quantum control using classical reinforcement learning, learning unitaries with optimal strategies, and speedup in various learning algorithms are notable examples. This leads to a frontier where both quantum computing and machine intelligence will co-evolve, and they will become enabling technologies for each other.

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