
COE 466 Quantum Architecture and Algorithms

Lecture 25
Variational Quantum Algorithms II

References:

Introduction to Variational Quantum Algorithms

[“https://arxiv.org/pdf/2402.15879”](https://arxiv.org/pdf/2402.15879)

<https://qiskit.org/textbook/ch-applications/vqe-molecules.html>

<https://qiskit.org/textbook/ch-applications/qaoa.html>



Combinatorial Optimization Problems

COP is a family of problems that involve finding an optimal set objects

$$\max_{x \in S} C(x)$$

x is the solution
 $C(x)$ is the cost of solution
 S is the set of all solutions

In general, $C(x)$ can look like

$$c(x) = \sum_{Q, \bar{Q} \in [n]} w_{Q, \bar{Q}} \prod_{i \in Q} x_i \prod_{i \in \bar{Q}} (1 - x_i)$$

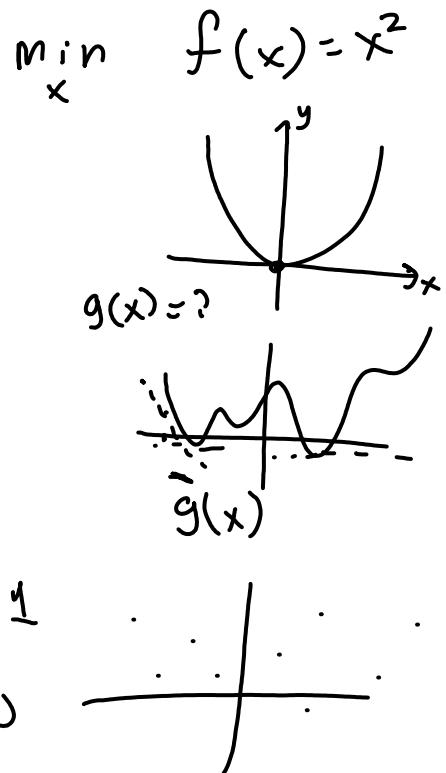
Q is set of items assigned value 1
 \bar{Q} , , , , , , 0

min or max $C(x)$

$$\min \equiv -\max$$

find using QAOA

$$C(x_{\min}) \leq C(x^*) \leq \alpha C(x_{\max})$$
$$C(x_{\max}) > C(x) \quad \alpha = 1, 2, \dots$$



Combinatorial Optimization Problems

- Example: MAX-CUT problem

A graph $G = \{V, E\}$
 V is set of vertices
 E is set of edges

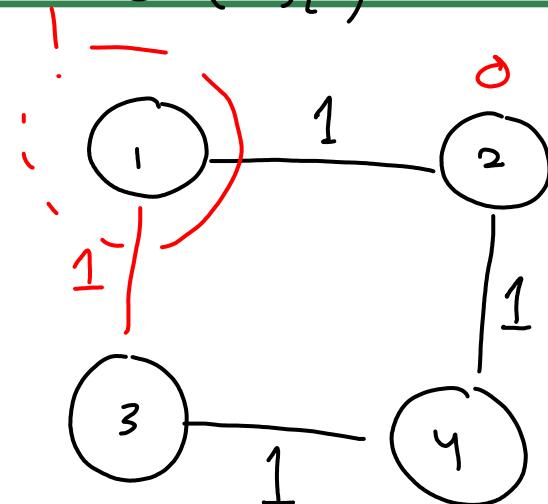
w_{ij} : weight on edge i, j

MAX-CUT

$$\max C(x) = \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^n w_{ij} x_i (1 - x_j)$$
$$x_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

$= 4$

$$G = \{V, E\}$$



$$\begin{aligned}w_{12} &= 1 \\w_{13} &= 1 \\w_{24} &= 1 \\w_{34} &= 1\end{aligned}\quad \left. \begin{array}{l}\{1\}, \{2, 3, 4\} \\ \{2\}, \{1, 3, 4\} \\ \{3\}, \{1, 2, 4\} \\ \{4\}, \{1, 2, 3\}\end{array} \right\} 8$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l}4 \\ 8 \\ \{1, 4\}, \{2, 3\}\end{array} \right\} 2$$

~~log~~²

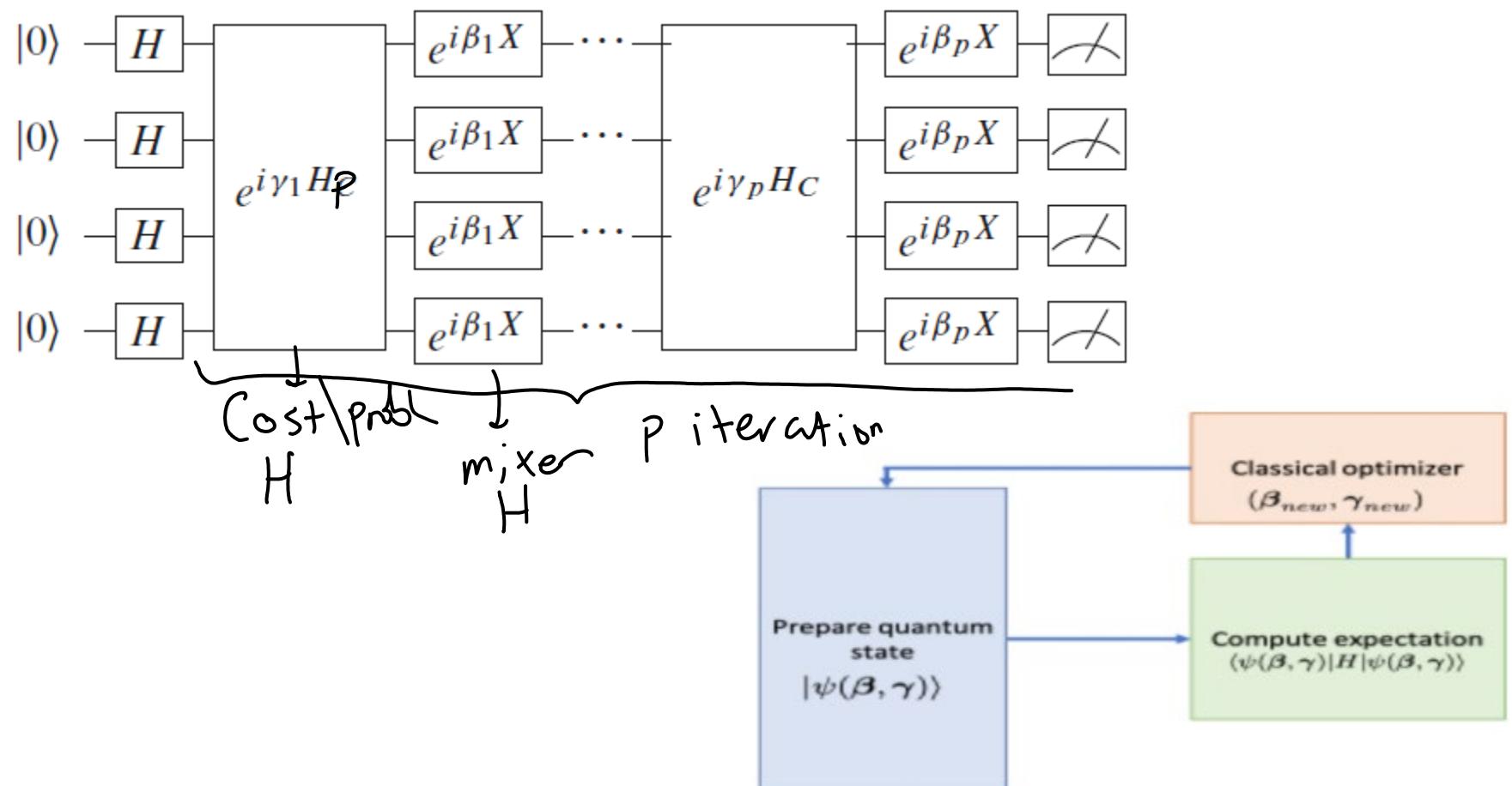
Quantum Approximation Optimization Algorithm (QAOA)

- QAOA is a VQA that finds approximate solution^{to} the COP by using a variational circuit parametrized by $U(\beta, \gamma)$ to prepare a quantum state $|\Psi(\beta, \gamma)\rangle$
- The goal is to find $\beta \& \gamma$ s.t. $|\Psi(\beta, \gamma)\rangle$ encodes the solution
- $U(\beta) = e^{-i\beta H_B}$, H_B is mix Hamiltonian
- $U(\gamma) = e^{-i\gamma H_P}$, H_P is the problem Ham



• Algorithms

What is
 H_p ?



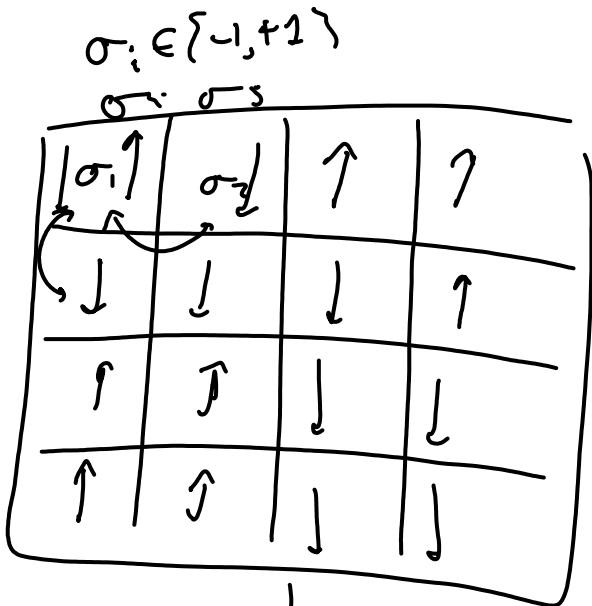
$n=4$

$$H_B = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_z^{(i)} = (X_0 \otimes I_1 \otimes I_2 \otimes I_3) + (X_1) + (X_2) + (X_3) \longrightarrow \text{standard}$$

$$H_P = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j \in E} (I - \sigma_z^{(i)} \sigma_z^{(j)})$$



Ising Model



G₀ ground state

min \downarrow

$$H = - \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} J \sigma_i \sigma_j - \sum_j h \sigma_i$$

J is the state-state interaction
h is external field

$$c(x) = \sum_{i,j \in E} x_i (1-x_j)$$

$$x_i = \frac{1-z_i}{2}$$

$$c(z) = \sum_{i,j \in E} \frac{1}{2} (1-z_i z_j)$$

$Z_i = \pm 1$
$X_i \in \{0,1\}$
$X_i = \frac{1-Z_i}{2}$
$Z_i = -1, X_i = 0$
$Z_i = 1, X_i = 1$