





Quantum Walks in Discrete and Continuous Time

Frederick W. Strauch Department of Physics Williams College



NIST Physics Laboratory





National Institute of Standards and Technology Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Outline

- Quantum Walks
 - DTQW & CTQW
- Quantum Algorithms
 - Searching, Mixing, Hitting, & Graph Traversal
- Connecting the quantum walks
 - Relativistic Limits & Other Approaches
- Applications Present and Future
 - Algorithms, Implementations, Quantum State Transfer

Classical Random Walk

- Consider a process in which a particle can move either left or right, in one dimension, based on an internal state (coin).
- Before each step, the coin is flipped.
- This generates a stochastic process, governed by the following equations for the probability:



$$p_R(n,t+1) = \frac{1}{2} p_R(n-1,t) + \frac{1}{2} p_L(n-1,t)$$
$$p_L(n,t+1) = \frac{1}{2} p_L(n+1,t) + \frac{1}{2} p_R(n+1,t)$$

Quantum Random Walk

- Change probabilities to probability amplitudes.
- Change coin flip to unitary transformation.
- E.g. Hadamard Walk:



$$\psi_{R}(n,t+1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\psi_{R}(n-1,t) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\psi_{L}(n-1,t)$$
$$\psi_{L}(n,t+1) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\psi_{R}(n+1,t) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\psi_{L}(n+1,t)$$

Aharonov, Davidovich, and Zagury (1993)

Interference!

Quantum Walk vs. Classical Walk

QW Probabilities

CW Probabilities

1	0	11	0	4	0	4	0	11	0	1	/32	1	0	5	0	10	0	10	0	5	0	1
0	1	0	6	0	2	0	6	0	1	0	/16	0	1	0	4	0	6	0	4	0	1	0
00) ()	1	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	/8	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	1	0	0
<u>3</u> 0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	/4	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	/2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	/1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Space

$$\psi_R(n,t=0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\delta_{n,0}$$
$$\psi_L(n,t=0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}i\delta_{n,0}$$

$$p_R(n,t=0) = \frac{1}{2}\delta_{n,0}$$
$$p_L(n,t=0) = \frac{1}{2}\delta_{n,0}$$

Ensures symmetric dynamics

Quantum Interference = Quadratic Speed-up



Interesting Probability Distribution constant for -T/ $\sqrt{2} < x < T/\sqrt{2}$ Wave equation w/ Dispersion (Knight, Roldan, & Sipe 2003)

DTQWs on General Graphs

Discrete-Time Quantum Walk

Use *d*-dimensional coin operator **C** for vertices of degree *d*

Conditional shift operator **S**, depends on each vertex $S|c,v\rangle = |c,w(c,v)\rangle$

w(c,v) = vertex connected to v along edge c

Other definitions possible



Unitary Mapping: $U = S(C \otimes I)$ $|\Psi(T)\rangle = U^T |\Psi(0)\rangle$

DTQWs on General Graphs

Discrete-Time Quantum Walk

Use *d*-dimensional coin operator **C** for vertices of degree *d*

Conditional shift operator **S**, depends on each vertex $S|c,v\rangle = |c,w(c,v)\rangle$

w(c,v) = vertex connected to valong edge c



Diffusion on General Graphs

Use Laplacian matrix for graph

L = A – D A = adjacency matrix D = degree matrix

$$D_{i,i} = d_i, \ d_i = \text{degree of vertex } i$$
$$A_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (i,j) \text{ are connected} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$



 $D_{i,i} = 3 \quad \forall i$ $A_{1,2} = A_{1,9} = A_{1,18} = 1$

Diffusion on General Graphs

Use Laplacian matrix for graph

L = A – D A = adjacency matrix D = degree matrix



$$p = \text{probability vector}$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^{|G|} p_j = 1 \qquad \frac{dp}{dt} = Lp \qquad p(t) = e^{Lt} p(0)$$

CTQW on General Graphs

Continuous-Time Quantum Walk

Use Laplacian matrix as Hamiltonian: H = A - DSometimes H=A

$$\Psi = \left\{ \psi_1, \psi_2, \cdots, \psi_{|G|} \right\}$$

= state vector (probability amplitudes)

$$\sum_{j=1}^{|G|} |\psi_j|^2 = 1 \qquad i \frac{d\Psi}{dt} = H\Psi \quad \Psi(t) = e^{-iHt} \Psi(0)$$

DTQW vs CTQW

One-dimensional Line



Jacobi polynomial Airy, Bessel fxn approximations **Bessel** function

Dynamics can be very similar!

Outline

- Quantum Walks
 - DTQW & CTQW
- Quantum Algorithms
 - Search, Mixing, Hitting, & Graph Traversal
- Connecting the quantum walks
 - Relativistic Limits & Other Approaches
- Applications Present and Future
 - Algorithms, Implementations, Quantum State Transfer

Quantum Walk Search **Grover Search**

Let *w* be the marked vertex



= item of interest in database

= uniform superposition

$$U = e^{i\pi|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|} e^{i\pi|w\rangle\langle\psi|}$$

Inversion about average

Oracle



Similar results by **CTQW** on complete graph





QW Local Search



Authors	Graph	Walk	Time
Farhi & Gutmann (1998)	Complete	CTQW	N ^{1/2}
Shenvi, Kempe, & Whaley (2003)	Hypercube	DTQW by coin	N ^{1/2}
Aaronson & Ambainis (2003)	D-dim Lattice	DTQW by coin	N ^{1/2} (log N) ^{3/2} D=2 N ^{1/2} D≥3
Childs & Goldstone (2003)	D-dim Lattice	CTQW	N D=2 N ^{5/6} D=3 N ^{1/2} log N D=4 N ^{1/2} D>4
Ambainis, Kempe, & Rivosh (2004)	D-dim Lattice	DTQW by coin	N ^{1/2} log N D=2 N ^{1/2} D≥3
Childs & Goldstone (2004)	D-dim Lattice	CTQW + Spin	N ^{1/2} log N D=2 N ^{1/2} D≥3
Magniez, Nayak, Roland, & Santha (2007)	D-dim Lattice	DTQW by reflection	$N^{1/2}$ (log N) ^{1/2} D=2 N ^{1/2} D ≥3

Mixing on Quantum Walks Mixing time = time when probability is essentially uniform over graph

Quantum walks mix faster (often quadratically) than classical walks---and decoherence helps!

Kendon & Tregenna (2003)



Moore & Russell (2001)

$$P_{v}(t) = \left| \left\langle v \left| e^{-iHt} \right| a \right\rangle \right|^{2} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2^{d}} \text{ at time } \omega t = \pi/4_{16}$$

Hitting on Quantum Walks

Hitting time = time when probability is large (>I/log|G|)



Quantum walks hit **exponentially faster** than random walks on glued trees and hypercube graphs

(One-shot hitting time; others have been studied by Kempe, Kendon, and Brun)

Hypercube Quantum Walk

- Each vertex of the ddimensional hypercube can be encoded by a set of *d* bits (E.g. x = x₁x₂x₃x₄).
- Hamiltonian (~Adjacency Matrix) simply flips each bit!

$$H = \omega \sum_{j=1}^{d} \sigma_x^{(j)}$$

Wavefunction evolves simply:

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = \left(e^{-i\omega t\sigma_x}\right)^{\otimes d} |\Psi(0)\rangle$$

At time
$$T = \frac{\pi}{2\omega}$$
 all bits flip!



Exponential Speedup:

Quantum states propagate from corner to corner in time independent of the hypercube dimension **d**!

Not a computational speedup

Glued Trees Quantum Walk



QW on graph of size ~ 2^d can be represented by walk on line with 2d+1 sites

QW hits in time ~ 2d+1, while RW takes time ~ 2^d

Childs et al. (2001)

Graph Traversal Problem



Problem: Starting from the entrance (green), find the exit (red).
Resources: Local queries of an oracle.

•Classical Running Time: polynomial in N (number of nodes)

Graph Traversal Problem



Problem: Starting from the entrance (green), find the exit (red).
Resources: Local queries of an oracle (unitary operator).
Quantum Running Time: polynomial in *log N*.

Graph Traversal Problem



Exponential Algorithmic Speedup by Quantum Walk! Childs (2003)

Reduction leads to QW on line with a defect

Significant amplitude is transmitted through!

Outline

- Quantum Walks
 - DTQW & CTQW
- Quantum Algorithms
 - Search, Mixing, Hitting, & Graph Traversal
- Connecting the quantum walks
 - Relativistic Limits & Other Approaches
- Applications Present and Future
 - Algorithms, Implementations, Quantum State Transfer

Connecting QWs

DTQW (Discrete-Time QW)

 $\psi_{R}(n,t+1) = \cos\theta\psi_{R}(n-1,t) - i\sin\theta\psi_{L}(n-1,t)$ $\psi_{L}(n,t+1) = \cos\theta\psi_{L}(n+1,t) - i\sin\theta\psi_{R}(n+1,t)$ $\theta = \text{coin rotation angle}$ CTQW (Continuous-Time QW) $i\partial_{t}\psi(n,t) = -\gamma \left[\psi(n-1,t) - 2\psi(n,t) + \psi(n+1,t)\right]$

- Can one get one from the other?
- What physics drives these walks?

Feynman Path Integral

• DTQW = Feynman's Checkerboard





• Feynman's Checkboard = Dirac Equation $i\hbar\partial_t \Psi = (-i\hbar c \vec{\alpha} \cdot \nabla + \beta mc^2)\Psi$ D. Meyer (1996)



Feynman's Proof

Geometry of Dirac Equ. 1 demension Free particles: Let . . a. - Squ. of Sum of control each pats ting, starting sight for Pathy ery ray at light usbriety Contrabute it factor for sach reverses and factor e & Sadar the 4.(P) = 10 0 + 10 0 K + + FU M ・キー(モーキレ・共長、) -++ 品/-+- いた。 · + + + + + + (1/21) - - e 5 + J, (2000) + 6 815 " Jo (Vas) = Jo / Sta-m. To check : " . it is automation of an o & (\$ \$ 1000) - 6 & [455 \$ 1000)] The factor a post harment by an integrating grand from the the state To (Now) = - & To (1000) - it to with to + & line to Wit. House if that to to , x=x, this to (x, t) and the issues, then at to , x. $\begin{array}{c} y_{1}t \\ (x_{1},t_{2}) \\ (x_{1}) \end{array} = i \left(\begin{array}{c} J_{0} \left(\sqrt{p_{1}} - p_{1} - x_{1} \right)^{-} \right) \\ \begin{array}{c} f_{0} \left(x_{2}, t_{2} \right) \\ f_{0} \\ (x_{1}) \end{array} \right) \\ \end{array}$ * 1.5., to) = - { (1. - 2. + 2. - 2) J. (1 -) * (1. +) de + f = (1. - 2. + 2) * (2. +) de

Figure 8 from "Feynman and the visualization of space-time processes", Silvan S. Schweber, Rev. Mod. Phys. **58**, 499 (1986).

Feynman's Proof

Free particles set all	fatt countries, starting sight from 0, how a is + (ic) - MN + NO) - E The	- is Jolton of Contrabut	Dirac Equ. 1 dennes Equ. of Sum of control , is going at light relovity is factor for sach rea	each fath
.A. +_(1)= -	$ \begin{array}{c} i \neq \left(1 - ab + ab + ab \right) & = b \neq \left(1 + ab + ab - ab + ab - ab + ab - ab - b + ab - ab -$	see. H) s of T. at bee monothing the	e i fade ofte of farte	Artho, is Adata , 3 (24) MM 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46 46
To chied : of . The factor openant the state	1) = 10 0 + 10 + 10 + 1 + 1	· FU' 57 5		in the source of
tine) to lay	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1+6 815)	ally described of	To al financiation

Feynman knows his Bessel functions!

Feynman (1946)

Feynman's Proof

Geometry of Dirac Equ. 1 dimension Free particles: tet of . a. F. h. **** Parts - Sys. of Sum of control each path Pathy 2 is 2ay at light relocity Salar by fath counting, starting sight from 0, Contrabute is factor for such reversed and factor a sade of the of faither an face it Ja(2Var) = it Ja(te-sight + (1) = (idin + (it)" K + + FU" " " " water worth ・まーも(モー ぎょ・ おお..) ・-+ み/-+ - たた ・ ちゃ -...) · + + 35 5. (15-55) " Jo (Jab) = Jo (Ver- m) + 612-19 + 51tm To check : " . it is automation of an o & (\$ \$ 1000) - 6 & [455 \$ 1000)] Prun Solution of 2 of The factor a great hereman by an integrating green function . \$150 - \$10000 + \$1000000 to west - + & long - wit House if that to to , x = x, this to (x, t) and the issues, then at to, x. £ 15,01 = \$ (s-4,0-6) + \$ 10-4 \$ 14.5/ = to laret - + + \$ laret - 4 is

Feynman (1946)

This is the DTQW!

Relativistic Walks

- Can we use the Dirac equation to understand the DTQW?
- Yes, if we have some method to generate wave-packet solutions
- Look at wave-packet solutions of Dirac equation!
 - (Use Momentum Space!)
- Compare with wave-packet solutions of DTQW
 - (Use Momentum Space!)
- CTQW comes for free!

FWS, Phys. Rev. A **73**, 054302 (2006)

Dirac Wave-Packet

One-dimensional Dirac Hamiltonian:

 $H_{Dirac} = \sigma_z p + \sigma_x m = \begin{pmatrix} p & m \\ m & -p \end{pmatrix}, \quad eig(H_{Dirac}) = \pm \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$

Dirac wave-packets $\Psi_{\pm}(x,t) = N \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-(a\pm it)\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} e^{ipx} \left(I \pm \frac{H_{Dirac}}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ $= N' \begin{pmatrix} s_{\pm}^{-1}(a \pm i(t+x))K_1(ms_{\pm}) \pm K_0(ms_{\pm}) \\ s_{\pm}^{-1}(a \pm i(t-x))K_1(ms_{\pm}) \pm K_0(ms_{\pm}) \end{pmatrix}$

 $s_{\pm} = \sqrt{x^2 + (a \pm it)^2}$ Modified Bessel fxn

DTQW Wave-Packet

DTQW unitary mapping

 $U = e^{-ik\sigma_z} e^{-i\theta\sigma_x} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{-ik}\cos\theta & -ie^{-ik}\sin\theta \\ -ie^{ik}\sin\theta & e^{ik}\cos\theta \end{pmatrix}, \quad eig(U) = e^{\pm i\omega(k)}$

 $\cos\omega(k) = \cos\theta\cos k$

DTQW "wave-packets" α = localization parameter

$$\begin{split} \psi_{\pm}(n,t) &= N \int_{-\pi}^{+\pi} e^{-(\alpha \pm it)\omega(k)} e^{ikn} (U - e^{\pm i\omega(k)}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} dk \\ &= N' \begin{pmatrix} I_n(\pm(t-1) - i\alpha) - e^{-i\theta} I_{n-1}(\pm t - i\alpha) \\ I_n(\pm(t-1) - i\alpha) - e^{-i\theta} I_{n+1}(\pm t - i\alpha) \end{pmatrix} \end{split}$$

 $I_n(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{+\pi} e^{-iz\omega(k)} e^{ikn} dk \approx i^n e^{-iz\pi/2} J_n(z\cos\theta), \cos\theta <<1$



Non-Relativistic Wave-Packet Spreading







Slices



Dynamics governed by dispersion relations



Each has $d\omega/dp < c = \text{maximum speed}$

Connecting the Quantum Walks

Introduce arbitrary coin parameter θ , take various continuum limits!



FWS, Phys. Rev. A **74**, 030301 (R) (2006) FWS, J. Math. Phys., **48**, 082102 (2007)

Classical Analogy: Simple Diffusion vs. Telegrapher's Equation

Connection for general graphs

- Childs (2008):
 - -Uses Szedegy's QW
 - -Hamiltonian simulation method



- –QW "walks" on Hilbert space of dimension |G|² (each state ~ edge of graph).
- D'Allesandro (2008):
 - -Controls QW by varying coin-flips.
 - -Lie theoretical proof of universal control
 - -QW on graphs of size |G|, coin flips of length log |G|

Outline

- Quantum Walks
 - -DTQW & CTQW
- Quantum Algorithms
 - -Search, Mixing, Hitting, & Graph Traversal
- Connecting the quantum walks
 - -Relativistic Limits & Other Approaches
- Applications: Present and Future
 - Algorithms, Implementations, Quantum State Transfer



Properties of graph revealed by scattering Farhi, Goldstone, & Guttman (2008)

Graph Isomorphism

Properties of graph revealed by multiple walkers (Wang + others)



Universality

ALL Q Computations can be written as a CTQW Childs (2008)

Encodings and Implementations

Quantum Computer

- -Graph vertices encoded in quantum bits
- -Walks encoded by unitary logic gates
- –Most efficient encoding has log₂|G| qubits = binary encoding

Physical Network

- -Graph vertices encoded in degrees of freedom (atom sites, electron sites, etc.)
- -Walks encoded by natural Hamiltonian
- –Most natural encoding has |G| qubits = unary encoding

QW Implementations (not an exhaustive list)

Proposal	System	Walk	Encoding
W. Dür et al. (2002)	Optical Lattices	ID DTQW	Unary
B. C. Sanders <i>et al.</i> (2002)	Cavity-QED	ID DTQW	Unary/Binary
A. Romito <i>et al</i> . (2005)	Superconductors	ID CTQW	Unary
C.A. Ryan et al. (2005)	NMR exp	2D DTQW	Binary
J. M. Taylor (2007)	Quantum Dots	NAND CTQW	Unary
F. W. Strauch (2008)	Superconductors	Hypercube	Unary
Karski et al. (2009)	Optical Lattices	ID DTQW	Unary
Zähringer et al. (2010)	Ion Traps	ID DTQW	Unary
Broome et al. (2010)	Photons	ID DTSQW	Unary

Most proposals encode the walk using a **unary** representation. Does this really demonstrate quantum computational speedup?

DTQW = Discrete-time quantum walk CTQW = Continuous-time quantum walk

Nature's Implementation? Photosynthesis

FMO Complex





Unary QW with disorder & decoherence

M. Mohseni, P. Rebentrost, S. Lloyd, and A. Aspuru-Guzik, J. Chem. Phys. **129**, 174106 (2008)

Decoherence in the Hypercube Quantum Walk

Two "natural" models of decoherence for the hypercube:

- Subspace Model
 - Each node is represented by a state of several qubits.
 - **Binary** encoding with **d** qubits •
 - Dephasing occurs between subspaces of the hypercube.
 - Useful model for quantum computer implementation of quantum walks.

G.Alagic and A. Russell, Phys. Rev. A **72**, 062304 (2005) F. W. Strauch, Phys. Rev. A **79**, 032319 (2009) arXiv: 0808.3403

• Each node is represented by the excited state of one qubit.

Vertex Model

- Unary encoding with 2^d qubits
- Dephasing occurs between vertices of the hypercube.
- Useful model for quantum state transfer in qubit networks.

See also A. P. Hines and P. C. E. Stamp, arXiv: 0711.1555

Decoherence in the Hypercube Quantum Walk Lindblad Equation

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = -i[H,\rho] - \sum_{j} \lambda_{j} \left(L_{j}\rho L_{j}^{\dagger} - \frac{1}{2}L_{j}^{\dagger}L_{j}\rho - \frac{1}{2}\rho L_{j}^{\dagger}L_{j} \right)$$

Dephasing leads to decay of off-diagonal elements of $\boldsymbol{\rho}$

Subspace Model $(x = x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5...)$

$$\frac{d\rho_{x,y}}{dt} = -i\sum_{z} (H_{xz}\rho_{z,y} - \rho_{x,z}H_{zy}) - \lambda \sum_{j} (1 - \delta_{x_jy_j})\rho_{x,y}$$

Dephasing between different subspaces $(x_j \neq y_j)$

Vertex Model

$$\frac{d\rho_{x,y}}{dt} = -i\sum_{z} (H_{xz}\rho_{z,y} - \rho_{x,z}H_{zy}) - \lambda(1 - \delta_{xy})\rho_{x,y}$$

Dephasing between different vertices $(x \neq y)$



See F. W. Strauch, Phys. Rev. A 79, 032319 (2009) for details



Decoherence in the vertex model has a hitting probability with a lower bound independent of the hypercube dimension **d** ! **Quantum speedup robust for unary encoding.**

Quantum State Transfer

One can transfer the state of a single qubit from site A to site B using a set of permanently coupled qubits with Hamiltonian:

$$H = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j} \hbar \omega_{j} \sigma_{j}^{z} + \sum_{jk} \hbar \Omega_{jk} (\sigma_{j}^{+} \sigma_{k}^{-} + \sigma_{k}^{+} \sigma_{j}^{-})$$

Dynamics of a single excitation (with $\omega = 0$) maps onto the continuous-time quantum walk with $H = \hbar \Omega$, where the coupling matrix Ω is proportional to the adjacency matrix of the coupling graph. Certain choices of couplings such as the **hypercube** lead to **perfect state transfer:**



Hypercube State Transfer

 Each vertex represents a qubit. Quantum states travel along all paths simultaneously in superposition with full constructive interference, yielding perfect state transfer.



Superconducting Circuits

Artificial Atoms→ Artificial Molecules → Artificial Solids



Phase Qubit Cube 1 2 3

Courtesy Ray Simmonds, NIST Boulder







HEE TRANSACTIONS ON APPLIED SUPERCONDUCTIVITY, VOL. 15, NO. 2, JUNE 2005

Fabrication Process of Planarized Multi-Layer Nb Integrated Circuits

Tetsuro Satoh, Kenji Hinode, Hiroyuki Akaike, Shuichi Nagasawa, Yoshihiro Kitagawa, and Mutsuo Hidaka

Abstract—To improve the operating speed and density of Nb single-flux-quantum integrated circuits, we developed an advanced fabrication process based on NEC's standard process. We fabricated planarized six-Nb-layer circuit structures using this advanced process. This new structure has four Nb wiring layers for greater design flexibility. To shield the magnetic field produced by the DC blac current, the DC blac power supply layer was placed under the groundplane. The critical current density of the Josephson junction was 10 kA/cm². We fabricated and fested more than 10 wafers and demonstrated that the six-layer circuits were successfully planarized. We also confirmed insulation between each Nb layer and the reliability of superconducting



Fig. 1. Schematic illustration of a fabricated circuit structure.

Perfect State Transfer with Phase Qubits

- Programmable: Any two nodes can communicate by programming the qubit frequencies in the network.
- **Parallel**: Multiple quantum states can be transferred at the same time.
- Efficient: Transfer time is independent of the distance between nodes!
- High Fidelity: F > 90% possible using existing technology, modest dimensions!
 Requires Study of Disorder and Decoherencen

FWS and C.J. Williams, Phys. Rev. B **78**, 094516 (2008)





Phys. Rev. Lett. 105, 260501 (2010)

Conclusions

- Quantum Walks are an exciting testbed for quantum information processing
- Connections have emerged between and but each has their own advantages (CTQW for studying physical networks, DTQW for computer algorithms)
- Search algorithms well developed---new algorithms on the way?
- Implementations require study of encoding, decoherence, and disorder. Understanding robustness may be the key.