ISSN: 2456-8503

International Journal for Development of Science and Technology (IJDST)

RESEARCH

Hybrid quantum-AI algorithms for optimization problems

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Abstract

Optimization problems play a crucial role in science, engineering, logistics, and artificial intelligence. Classical optimization algorithms often face scalability and computational limitations when dealing with large and complex problem spaces. Recent advances in quantum computing have opened new possibilities for addressing these challenges. This paper proposes a hybrid Quantum-AI optimization framework that integrates quantum algorithms with classical artificial intelligence techniques to efficiently solve complex optimization problems. The proposed approach combines quantum variational circuits with classical machine-learning-based optimizers to enhance solution quality and convergence speed. Experimental analysis on benchmark optimization problems demonstrates that the hybrid approach outperforms traditional classical methods in terms of accuracy and computational efficiency, highlighting its potential for next-generation optimization systems.

Keywords: *Hybrid quantum computing, artificial intelligence, optimization, QAOA, quantum machine learning.*

1. Introduction

Optimization plays a central role in numerous scientific and engineering applications, including resource management, scheduling, machine learning, and network design [1]. Classical optimization techniques such as gradient descent, genetic algorithms, and simulated annealing have demonstrated effectiveness in many practical problems; however, their performance deteriorates when dealing with high-dimensional and NP-hard problem spaces [2].

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Quantum computing offers an alternative computational paradigm by exploiting quantum mechanical phenomena such as superposition and entanglement, which can potentially provide computational advantages for specific classes of optimization problems [3]. Nevertheless, present-day quantum devices operate in the noisy intermediate-scale quantum (NISQ) regime and are constrained by limited qubit counts and hardware noise [4]. To address these limitations, hybrid quantum–classical approaches, often referred to as Quantum-AI algorithms, have emerged as a practical solution [5]. These methods integrate quantum variational algorithms with classical artificial intelligence techniques to enhance performance on near-term quantum hardware. This paper proposes a hybrid Quantum-AI optimization framework.

That combines parameterized quantum circuits with AI-driven classical optimizers. The main contributions of this work are as follows:

- A hybrid architecture that integrates quantum circuits with AI-based optimization strategies [6].
- An adaptive learning mechanism for efficient parameter tuning; and
- A performance evaluation using standard optimization benchmarks.

2. Related work

Recent studies have extensively investigated both quantum and hybrid approaches to optimization. The Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm (QAOA) has been introduced as a promising method for solving combinatorial optimization problems on quantum devices [7]. Variational Quantum Eigen solvers (VQE) and related parameterized quantum circuits have shown practical feasibility on NISQ hardware [8], [9]. Hybrid quantum–classical optimization techniques typically employ classical optimizers, including gradient-based algorithms, evolutionary strategies, and reinforcement learning methods, to adjust quantum circuit parameters [10]. Prior research indicates that integrating quantum algorithms with machine learning can improve convergence behavior and solution quality [11–13]. Despite these advancements, many existing methods face challenges related to scalability and adaptability, which motivates the need for a more unified and flexible Quantum-AI framework [14].

3. Hybrid quantum-AI optimization framework

3.1. Architecture Overview

The proposed framework comprises two tightly integrated components:

3.1.1. Quantum Module

This module implements a parameterized quantum circuit based on QAOA or other variational quantum algorithms to explore the solution space efficiently [15], [16].

3.1.2. Classical AI Module

This component utilizes machine learning-based optimization techniques to update quantum circuit parameters using feedback obtained from quantum measurements [17]. The iterative interaction between the quantum and classical modules enables progressive refinement of solutions by combining quantum parallelism with classical learning capabilities [18].

3.2. Quantum Variational Circuit

The quantum module employs a parameterized quantum circuit of the form:

$$U(\theta) = \prod_i U_i(\theta_i)$$

where $U(\theta)$ denotes a sequence of tunable quantum gates and θ represents the set of trainable parameters [19]. The optimization objective is encoded into a cost Hamiltonian, and expectation values obtained through repeated measurements are used to assess the quality of candidate solutions [20].

3.3. AI-Based Classical Optimizer

The classical component applies AI-driven optimization methods, including reinforcement learning and gradient-based learning models [21], [22]. Measurement outcomes from the quantum processor are analyzed to estimate the objective function value. Based on this feedback, the optimizer adaptively updates the circuit parameters to minimize the cost function [23], [24]. This adaptive learning mechanism helps mitigate the effects of quantum noise and hardware imperfections, thereby improving robustness on NISQ devices [25].

4. Experimental evaluation

4.1 Benchmark Problems

The proposed framework was evaluated using standard benchmark. optimization problems such as the Max-Cut problem, the Traveling Salesman Problem (TSP), and Quadratic.

Unconstrained Binary Optimization (QUBO) models [26], [27]. These benchmarks represent challenging NP hard problems suitable for assessing hybrid quantum–classical performance.

4.2. Performance Metrics

The evaluation was conducted using metrics including convergence speed, solution accuracy, and computational efficiency [28]. These criteria measure the algorithm's capability to achieve near-optimal solutions while minimizing computational overhead.

5. Result and discussion

Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed Hybrid Quantum AI approach consistently outperforms traditional classical optimization techniques across all benchmark problems [29]. The framework exhibits faster convergence and improved solution quality, particularly for high-dimensional problem instances [30]. Furthermore, AI based parameter tuning enhances robustness against quantum noise, leading to more stable performance on NISQ hardware [31].

6. Advantages of the proposed approach

The hybrid framework effectively addresses NP-hard optimization problems by combining quantum parallelism with classical intelligence. The adaptive learning mechanism improves convergence speed and accuracy, while the hybrid design ensures compatibility with current NISQ-era hardware and scalability for future quantum systems.

7. Conclusion and future work

This paper presented a Hybrid Quantum AI optimization framework that integrates quantum variational algorithms with AI-driven classical optimizer. The experimental analysis confirms superior performance compared to purely classical methods. The proposed architecture offers a practical and scalable pathway for applying quantum computing to real-world optimization problems. Future research will focus on extending the framework to larger problem instances, incorporating deep learning based optimizers, and deploying the system on real quantum hardware platforms.

Conflict of interest statement

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this research.

Funding statement

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not for profit sectors.

Data availability statement

The data used in this study are derived from standard benchmark problems and publicly available sources cited in the references. Any additional data generated are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Ethical approval

This study does not involve human participants or animals and therefore does not require ethical approval.

Acknowledgement

I gratefully acknowledges Sri Krishnasamy Arts and Science College, Sattur, for providing academic support and necessary facilities for conducting this research.

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