# Robust Online Hamiltonian Learning

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June 6, 2013 DAMOP 2013, Quebec City  Characterizing unknown quantum systems is critical for design of control.

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- Want accurate reporting of errors incurred by estimate, and of smallest credible regions.

Consider a single qubit undergoing Larmor precession at an unknown frequency  $\omega$ :

$$H(\omega) = \frac{\omega}{2}\sigma_z, \quad |\psi_{\rm in}\rangle = |+\rangle, \quad M = \{|+\rangle \langle +|, |-\rangle \langle -|\}$$

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If the qubit is also undergoing dephasing, we can model this by an exponentially decaying visibility,  $e^{-t/T_2}$ , where we would like to learn  $T_2$ .

#### Numerical Results: Unknown *T*<sub>2</sub>

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Moreover, using our best available knowledge to optimize experiment designs, we can continue to learn about  $\omega$  even in the presence of unknown  $T_2$ .

Model data collection as a probability distribution  $Pr(D|\omega, T_2; t)$ , and then update via Bayes' rule,

$$\Pr(\omega, T_2|D, t) = \frac{\Pr(D|\omega, T_2; t)}{\Pr(D|t)} \Pr(\omega, T_2),$$

where *D* is the observed data.

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Simulation and learning are very closely connected.

To implement our approach on a computer, we approximate distributions by a sum over weighted delta functions,

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Updates to distributions now require evaluation the model  $Pr(D|\omega, T_2; t)$  at a finite number of points. Integrals over distributions are now represented by finite sums.

## Sequential Monte Carlo

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N = 11

We wish to find measurements that minimize the error we incur when averaging over hypotheses about the true model, and about future data. We wish to find measurements that minimize the error we incur when averaging over hypotheses about the true model, and about future data.

Because the sequential Monte Carlo approximation gives us a distribution, we can reason directly about the estimation error by performing a Bayes update for each possible measurement outcome, then finding the expected error given by the covariance.

#### Numerical Results: Adaptive Experiment Design



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- Sequential Monte Carlo allows for Bayesian updates to be efficiently implemented on a classical computer.
- Current best knowledge can be applied to adaptively design new experiments and measurements.
- Our approach is *generic*, treating simulation as a resource for learning.

## **Further Information**

Slides, a journal reference for this work, a full bibliography and a software implementation can be found at *http://www.cgranade.com/research/rohl/*.



Thank you for your kind attention!