RESEARCH NOTE

INSIDE IBM'S ADVANCES IN QUANTUM SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

STEVE MCDOWELL, CHIEF ANALYST
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CONTEXT

In the rapidly evolving quantum computing landscape, IBM is pioneering a transformative approach tailored to meet the needs of an emerging user base: quantum computational scientists.

Recognizing that these scientists require tools that integrate seamlessly with their existing workflows while simplifying the complexities of quantum mechanics, IBM introduced a suite of innovative solutions at its recent Quantum Computing Summit.

At the forefront of these advancements is Qiskit 1.0, a significant upgrade to IBM's open-source quantum computing software development kit, which simplifies the process of programming quantum computers. Qiskit 1.0 introduces Qiskit Patterns, a novel framework designed to streamline the integration of quantum and classical computing.

This approach, along with the beta release of Quantum Serverless on the IBM Quantum Platform, marks a significant step towards making quantum computing more accessible and functional for advancing scientific research in the era of quantum utility.

QISKIT BACKGROUNDER

Qiskit is an open-source software development kit (SDK) for working with quantum computers at the circuit, algorithm, and application level. Developed by IBM, it is designed to facilitate quantum computing research and development.

The critical aspects of Qiskit include:

- **Open-Source Framework:**

  - Qiskit is freely available and open-source, allowing users worldwide to contribute to and utilize its codebase for quantum computing applications.
- **Quantum Circuit Construction and Manipulation:**
  - Qiskit provides tools for efficiently constructing and manipulating quantum circuits. This includes the ability to create complex quantum algorithms and processes.
- **Integration with IBM Quantum Computers:**
  - Qiskit enables users to run their quantum circuits on IBM's quantum computers, available through the IBM Quantum Experience, a cloud-based quantum computing service.
- **Modular Structure:**
  - Qiskit is structured into several components, each designed for different aspects of quantum computing. This includes modules for quantum algorithms, quantum machine learning, quantum optimization, and more.
- **Support for Quantum Algorithms and Applications:**
  - It includes libraries and tools for developing and running quantum algorithms, making it a versatile toolkit for quantum computing research and applications.
- **Educational Resource:**
  - Qiskit also serves as an educational resource, providing tutorials and documentation to help users learn about quantum computing and how to implement quantum solutions.
- **Community and Ecosystem:**
  - Qiskit has a growing community of users and contributors, fostering an ecosystem of quantum computing enthusiasts, researchers, and developers.

Qiskit is a comprehensive and accessible platform for quantum computing, enabling users to experiment with, develop, and run quantum algorithms and applications. Its open-source nature and integration with IBM's quantum computing resources make it a pivotal tool in advancing the field of quantum computing.

QISKIT PATTERNS: A NEW PROBLEM-SOLVING APPROACH FOR QUANTUM

Qiskit Patterns, introduced in IBM's latest quantum computing toolkit, represent a novel and structured approach to programming quantum computers.

They are designed to cater to the evolving needs of quantum computational scientists, focusing on simplifying the process of using quantum computers for practical problem-solving. Here's an overview of Qiskit Patterns:

- **Simplified Approach to Quantum Computing:**
  - Qiskit Patterns offers a streamlined, four-step process for running algorithms on quantum computers. This approach is particularly

beneficial for users who are more focused on the application aspects of quantum computing rather than its underlying technical complexities.

- **Four-Step Process:**
  - The first step involves mapping the problem to abstract quantum circuits and operators, where these circuits and operators represent the encoding of the problem and its inputs. For example, a chemistry problem might be represented by a quantum circuit that encodes the wave function, with operators corresponding to the energy Hamiltonian.
  - The second step is optimizing these quantum circuits and operators for the hardware. This includes using a transpiler to transform circuits according to the constraints and capabilities of the quantum hardware and optimizations to reduce circuit depth and gate count.
  - The third step involves executing the circuits in a runtime that includes quantum and near-time classical processing. This step utilizes Qiskit Primitives to run these circuits on IBM quantum hardware while performing error mitigation with additional classical compute resources.
  - The final step is post-processing the results to generate outputs in the desired format, such as values or graphs.
- **Modularity and Reusability:**
  - Qiskit Patterns comprise reusable building blocks, allowing for code reuse and simplification. This modularity enables users to tailor Patterns by replacing blocks with IBM-defined components or third-party code, services, or open-source components.
  - This design maximizes compatibility with existing software ecosystems, making integrating quantum computing into various workflows easier.
- **Facilitating Complex Quantum Computations:**
  - Qiskit Patterns are specifically designed to help users run complex 100+ qubit circuits, which are essential for advancing science in the era of quantum utility.
- **User-Centric Development:**
  - By focusing on performance, compatibility with current computing workflows, and ease of use, Qiskit Patterns are tailored to meet the specific needs of quantum computational scientists, enabling them to leverage quantum computing without needing deep expertise in quantum mechanics.

Qiskit Patterns represent a significant innovation in quantum computing, making it more accessible and practical for scientists and researchers to solve complex problems. This approach reflects IBM's commitment to evolving its quantum computing capabilities to meet the needs of a diverse and expanding user base.

NEW: QISKIT 1.0

IBM's new Qiskit 1.0 represents a significant evolution of IBM's open-source software development kit for quantum computing. It is tailored to meet the growing demands of quantum computational scientists and incorporates several new features and enhancements:

- **Targeted User Base:**
    - Qiskit 1.0 is developed with a focus on quantum computational scientists, a new category of users who prioritize performance, compatibility with existing computing workflows, and ease of use in quantum computing applications.
- **Qiskit Patterns:**
    - A key innovation in Qiskit 1.0 is the introduction of Qiskit Patterns. These Patterns simplify using quantum computers by shifting the focus from writing complex circuits to creating quantum functions. This approach aligns with the needs of users more interested in applying quantum computing rather than its underlying hardware intricacies.
- **Improved Performance and Stability:**
    - Qiskit 1.0 comes with enhanced performance, stability, and reliability. It features significant improvements in the memory footprint of circuits, boasting a 55% decrease in memory usage compared to its predecessor.
- **Dynamic Circuit Construction:**
    - The new version allows developers to construct dynamic circuits with loops, branches, and classical expressions. This capability adds flexibility and sophistication in designing quantum algorithms and experiments.
- **Optimization and Transpilation:**
    - Qiskit 1.0 includes an updated transpiler for optimizing quantum circuits according to the constraints and instructions of specific quantum hardware. This transpiler is faster and more efficient, producing circuits with shorter depths and fewer two-qubit gates.
- **AI Integration:**
    - The integration of AI tools is a significant advancement in Qiskit 1.0. This includes AI models trained using reinforcement learning to produce highly optimized circuits, showing improvements in circuit depth and CNOT count.
- **Quantum Serverless and Execution Modes:**
    - The beta release of Quantum Serverless on the IBM Quantum Platform is a notable feature, facilitating the remote execution of Qiskit Patterns. This makes quantum computing more accessible and manageable.
    - New execution modes, such as Batch mode, have been introduced to optimize the execution of quantum algorithms, especially for utility-scale work.
- **Future Developments:**
    - Qiskit 1.0 lays the groundwork for future enhancements, such as Quantum Functions, planned for release in 2025. This indicates IBM's

commitment to continuous innovation in making quantum computing more user-friendly and versatile.

Qiskit 1.0 marks a significant milestone in developing quantum computing tools, designed to make quantum computing more accessible and effective for a broader range of scientific explorations and applications. It reflects IBM's strategy to evolve its quantum computing capabilities in line with the needs of an expanding and diversifying user base.

TRANSPILATION IN QISKIT 1.0

Transpilation is a critical process that involves transforming and optimizing quantum circuits to make them compatible and efficient for execution on specific quantum hardware.

In Qiskit 1.0, transpilation is crucial in preparing quantum circuits for execution on quantum hardware. This process involves several key steps and features that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of quantum computing tasks:

- **Optimization for Specific Quantum Hardware:**
    - Transpilation in Qiskit 1.0 involves converting abstract quantum circuits, which are hardware-agnostic, into a form compatible with the specific constraints and architecture of a chosen quantum processor.
    - This includes adjusting the circuit layout to match the qubit connectivity of the hardware and ensuring that the quantum operations are executable on the available qubit arrangement.
- **Circuit Optimization:**
    - A significant aspect of transpilation in Qiskit 1.0 is the optimization of quantum circuits. This process aims to reduce the number of quantum gates, minimize the circuit depth, and decrease the overall gate count.
    - Optimizing the circuits is crucial for improving the fidelity of quantum computations, considering the limitations like qubit coherence times and operational errors in current quantum hardware.
- **Enhanced Transpiler Capabilities:**
    - Qiskit 1.0 features an advanced transpiler that offers faster transpilation times and more efficient circuit optimization than previous versions.
    - The transpiler allows for configurable optimization levels, allowing users to choose between faster compilation times or more aggressive circuit optimizations.
- **Integration of AI for Optimization:**
    - One of the novel features in Qiskit 1.0 is the integration of AI models, trained with reinforcement learning, to produce highly optimized quantum circuits. These AI-based transpiler passes are designed to improve circuit depth and gate count significantly.
- **Reduced Memory Footprint:**
    - Qiskit 1.0 also includes significant improvements in the memory usage of quantum circuits, with a significant reduction in memory footprint.

This enhancement makes handling large and complex quantum circuits more efficiently during the transpilation process.

- **User-Friendly and Accessible:**
  - The transpilation process in Qiskit 1.0 is designed to be user-friendly, catering to the needs of both seasoned quantum researchers and those new to the field. The goal is to make quantum computing more accessible and practical for various applications.

Transpilation in Qiskit 1.0 bridges the gap between theoretical quantum circuit design and practical execution on quantum hardware, ensuring that quantum algorithms are optimized for performance and compatibility with the specific characteristics of quantum processors. This process is integral to maximizing the efficacy and accuracy of quantum computations in Qiskit 1.0.

GENERATIVE AI FOR QUANTUM

IBM's integration of generative AI into quantum computing represents a groundbreaking fusion of two advanced technologies. This initiative aims to streamline and enhance the process of quantum computing development.

Key aspects of IBM's generative AI for quantum include:

- **AI-Powered Quantum Code Development:**
  - IBM is pioneering the use of generative AI models to automate the development of quantum code.
  - This approach leverages AI to generate or suggest quantum algorithms and circuits, potentially reducing the complexity and time required for quantum programming.
- **Integration with Watsonx Platform:**
  - The generative AI models for quantum computing are integrated into IBM's enterprise AI platform, watsonx.
  - Watsonx is the foundation for this initiative, providing a robust and scalable platform for AI applications.
- **Fine-Tuning of IBM Granite Model Series:**
  - IBM utilizes its Granite model series, a 20-billion parameter code foundation model, to facilitate this process.
  - The fine-tuning of these models is crucial for adapting them to the specific needs and intricacies of quantum code development.
- **Simplifying Quantum Algorithm Development:**
  - By employing generative AI, IBM aims to simplify the process of building quantum algorithms.
  - This technology can assist in creating quantum code that is optimized for specific tasks or computational problems, making quantum computing more accessible to a broader range of users.
- **Enhancing Efficiency and Accessibility:**

    - Generative AI has the potential to significantly enhance the efficiency of quantum programming, making it faster and more intuitive.
    - It can help democratize access to quantum computing by lowering the barrier to entry for those who may not have extensive experience in quantum programming.
- **Streamlining Quantum-Classic Integration:**
    - The initiative also supports the integration of quantum and classical computing by facilitating the development of hybrid algorithms.
    - This integration is essential for leveraging the full potential of quantum computing in real-world applications.

IBM's integration of generative AI into quantum computing is a significant innovation that aims to transform how quantum algorithms are developed. By automating and optimizing quantum code development, this approach can accelerate the adoption and application of quantum computing across various fields, making it more accessible and efficient for a wider range of users and applications.

NEW: QUANTUM EXECUTION MODES & SERVERLESS

Quantum execution modes and serverless computing in quantum technology, particularly in IBM's advancements, are key developments that enhance the efficiency and accessibility of quantum computing processes:

- **Quantum Execution Modes:**
    - These modes dictate how quantum computations are organized and executed on quantum hardware.
    - IBM has introduced advanced execution modes, such as batch mode, which allows for the simultaneous or sequential execution of multiple quantum jobs. This approach significantly increases the efficiency and throughput of quantum computations.
    - Such modes are particularly beneficial for optimizing the quantum computing process, with IBM's batch mode reportedly improving execution time by up to five times compared to single-job submissions. This improvement is crucial when managing numerous independent jobs.
- **Serverless Quantum Computing:**
    - In serverless quantum computing, users can execute quantum computing tasks without needing to manage or operate the underlying quantum hardware infrastructure.
    - This approach aligns with the broader trend in cloud computing, where serverless architectures allow users to run applications and services without worrying about the underlying servers.
    - Serverless quantum computing simplifies access to resources, making it easier for users to run quantum algorithms and applications. It abstracts away the complexities of quantum hardware, enabling a

broader range of users to explore and utilize quantum computing for various applications.

IBM’s introduction of sophisticated quantum execution modes and the adoption of serverless computing paradigms in the quantum realm are pivotal in enhancing the performance and accessibility of quantum computing. These advancements by IBM represent significant strides in making quantum computing more user-friendly and efficient, expanding its potential applications and user base.

STREAMLINING QUANTUM-CLASSIC INTEGRATION

Streamlining the integration between quantum and classical computing is a pivotal aspect of IBM's recent advancements in quantum computing. This is essential for leveraging the unique strengths of both quantum and classical systems in computational tasks.

Here's how IBM is streamlining this integration:

- **Qiskit Patterns for Seamless Integration:**
  - Qiskit Patterns are crucial in facilitating the integration of quantum and classical computing. These Patterns provide a structured, four-step process that guides users through mapping problems to quantum circuits, optimizing for hardware, executing these circuits, and post-processing the results.
  - The Patterns are designed to be composed of reusable building blocks, making it easier for users to integrate quantum routines into their classical workflows. This modularity maximizes compatibility with existing software ecosystems, aiding in accelerating diverse computational workflows.
- **Simplification and Accessibility:**
  - The goal is to make quantum computing accessible to users who may not have in-depth knowledge of quantum physics. By simplifying the process of quantum algorithm development and execution, IBM is making it feasible for a broader range of scientists and developers to utilize quantum computing in their research and applications.
  - Qiskit 1.0, in particular, is designed to be more user-friendly, with enhancements like dynamic circuit construction and reduced memory footprint, making it easier for users to develop quantum solutions within their familiar computing environments.
- **Quantum Serverless and Execution Modes:**
  - Introducing Quantum Serverless and new execution modes like Batch mode is a significant step in streamlining quantum-classic integration. Quantum Serverless allows for the remote execution of quantum tasks, simplifying the deployment and execution of quantum algorithms.

  - These new execution modes enhance the efficiency of quantum computing tasks, enabling users to run experiments more effectively, especially those involving multiple, independently executable jobs.
- **AI-Assisted Quantum Computing Development:**
  - AI tools like the Qiskit Code Assistant further streamline the integration process. These tools use AI to assist in developing and optimizing quantum code, making it easier for users to construct and execute quantum algorithms.
  - Incorporating AI into quantum computing development simplifies the process and opens up new possibilities for algorithm optimization and innovation.

IBM's approach to streamlining quantum-classic integration is focused on simplifying the use of quantum computing, making it more accessible, and enhancing its compatibility with existing classical computing workflows.

In developing tools like Qiskit Patterns, Quantum Serverless, and AI-assisted development platforms, IBM is bridging the gap between quantum and classical computing, enabling a broader range of users to explore and harness the potential of quantum computing in various fields.

ANALYSIS

The recent advancements in IBM's quantum computing ecosystem, particularly with the introduction of Qiskit 1.0, represent a significant leap forward in making quantum computing more accessible and practical for a broader user base, specifically quantum computational scientists.

Qiskit 1.0, with its enhanced features and focus on user-friendliness, responds to the evolving demands of these users who seek to leverage quantum computing for practical problem-solving without needing deep expertise in quantum mechanics.

The introduction of Qiskit Patterns is a pivotal innovation, simplifying the process of using quantum computers by enabling a more intuitive approach to creating quantum functions rather than writing intricate quantum circuits.

This approach makes quantum computing more approachable and aligns with the requirements of users who are more interested in applying quantum computing rather than its underlying technical complexities.

The transpilation process in Qiskit 1.0 highlights IBM's commitment to optimizing quantum computing tasks for specific quantum hardware. The advanced transpiler in Qiskit 1.0, bolstered by AI models, significantly improves circuit optimization, reducing circuit depth and gate count more efficiently.

This enhancement is crucial, given the current limitations of quantum hardware, such as qubit coherence times and operational errors. The ability to optimize quantum circuits for specific hardware architectures underscores IBM's effort to bridge the gap between theoretical quantum circuit design and practical execution on quantum processors.

Furthermore, integrating Quantum Serverless and introducing new execution modes like Batch mode in Qiskit 1.0 are notable strides in enhancing the efficiency and scalability of quantum computing tasks. Quantum Serverless simplifies the deployment and execution of quantum algorithms, making quantum computing more manageable and accessible.

These advancements, coupled with the reduction in memory footprint and improvements in user accessibility, suggest that IBM is not only pushing the boundaries of what's possible in quantum computing but is also keenly focused on expanding its practical utility.

This dual approach of technological advancement and user-centric development positions IBM as a leader in the quantum computing landscape, paving the way for more widespread adoption and application of this groundbreaking technology.

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