Space-bounded quantum state testing via space-efficient quantum singular value transformation

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- Space-bounded quantum computation in a nutshell
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- 4 Proof technique: Space-efficient quantum singular value transformation
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What is quantum state testing

Task: Quantum state testing (with two-sided error).

Given two quantum devices Q_0 and Q_1 that prepare $\operatorname{poly}(n)$ -qubit quantum (mixed) states $\rho_0 \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$ and $\rho_1 \in \mathbb{C}^{N \times N}$, respectively, which may be viewed as "sample access" to ρ_0 and ρ_1 . Decide whether $\operatorname{dist}(\rho_0, \rho_1) \leq \epsilon_1$ or $\operatorname{dist}(\rho_0, \rho_1) \geq \epsilon_2$.

The one-sided error variant and the classical counterpart are as follows:

- ▶ Quantum state certification [Bădescu-O'Donnell-Wright'19]: Given "sample access" to ρ_0 and ρ_1 , decide whether $\rho_0 = \rho_1$ or $\operatorname{dist}(\rho_0, \rho_1) \geq \epsilon$.
- ▶ Distribution testing (a.k.a. closeness testing of distributions, see [Canonne'20]): Given sample accesses to probability distributions D_0 and D_1 , decide whether $\operatorname{dist}(D_0,D_1) \leq \epsilon_1$ or $\operatorname{dist}(D_0,D_1) \geq \epsilon_2$.

Typical goal: Minimize the number of copies (sample complexity) of ρ_0 and ρ_1 .

<u>In this work:</u> Viewing quantum state testing as a computational (promise) problem.

Quantum state testing w.r.t. various distance-like measures

Classical and quantum distance-like measures that are considered:

	Quantum	Classical	
ℓ_1 norm	trace distance $\mathrm{td}(ho_0, ho_1):=rac{1}{2}\mathrm{Tr} ho_0- ho_1 $	total variation distance (a.k.a. statistical distance)	
ℓ_2 norm	Hilbert-Schmidt distance $\mathrm{HS}^2(\rho_0,\rho_1):=\tfrac{1}{2}\mathrm{Tr}(\rho_0-\rho_1)^2$	Euclidean distance	
Entropy	von Neumann entropy $S(ho) := -{ m Tr}(ho\ln ho)$	Shannon entropy	
Jensen-Shannon divergence	Quantum Jensen-Shannon divergence $\begin{aligned} \mathrm{QJS}_2(\rho_0,\rho_1) := & S_2\Big(\frac{\rho_0+\rho_1}{2}\Big) - \frac{S_2(\rho_0) + S_2(\rho_1)}{2} \\ \text{where } S_2(\rho) := & -\mathrm{Tr}(\rho\log_2\rho) \\ \\ [\mathrm{Majtey-Lamberti-Prato'05,\ Briët-Harremoës'09}] \end{aligned}$	Jensen-Shannon divergence	

<u>Remark.</u> Quantum Jensen-Shannon divergence can be viewed as a *distance version* of the quantum (von Neumann) entropy difference.

Main result: Space-bounded state certification (one-sided error scenario)

Task 1.1 (Space-bounded quantum state certification). Given two polynomial-size $O(\log n)$ -qubit quantum circuits Q_0 and Q_1 that prepare $O(\log n)$ -qubit quantum (mixed) states ρ_0 and ρ_1 , respectively, with access to their "source codes". Decide whether $\rho_0 = \rho_1$ or $\operatorname{dist}(\rho_0, \rho_1) \geq \alpha$.

Theorem 1.2 (Space-bounded quantum state certification is coRQ_UL-complete).

The following space-bounded quantum state certification problems are $coRQ_UL$ -complete. For any $\alpha(n) \geq 1/poly(n)$, decide whether

- $\overline{\mathrm{CERTQSD}}_{\mathsf{log}}$: $\rho_0 = \rho_1$ or $\mathrm{td}(\rho_0, \rho_1) \geq \alpha(n)$;
- **2** $\overline{\text{CERTQHS}}_{\text{log}}$: $\rho_0 = \rho_1$ or $\text{HS}^2(\rho_0, \rho_1) \geq \alpha(n)$.

<u>Remark</u>. $coRQ_UL$ is a complexity class with *perfect completeness*, namely the acceptance probability $p_{acc}=1$ for *yes* instances whereas $p_{acc}\leq 1/2$ for *no* instances.

Main result: Space-bounded quantum state testing (two-sided error scenario)

Task 1.3 (Space-bounded quantum state testing). Given two polynomial-size $O(\log n)$ -qubit quantum circuits Q_0 and Q_1 that prepare $O(\log n)$ -qubit quantum (mixed) states ρ_0 and ρ_1 , respectively, with access to their "source codes". Decide whether $\operatorname{dist}(\rho_0,\rho_1) \leq \beta$ or $\operatorname{dist}(\rho_0,\rho_1) \geq \alpha$.

Theorem 1.4 (Space-bounded quantum state testing is BQL-complete). The following space-bounded quantum state testing problems are BQL-complete. For any α, β such that $\alpha(n) - \beta(n) \geq 1/\mathrm{poly}(n)$ or any $g(n) \geq 1/\mathrm{poly}(n)$, decide whether

- GAPQSD_{log}: $td(\rho_0, \rho_1) \ge \alpha$ or $td(\rho_0, \rho_1) \le \beta$;
- **2** GapQHS_{log}: $HS^2(\rho_0, \rho_1) \ge \alpha$ or $HS^2(\rho_0, \rho_1) \le \beta$;
- **3** GapQED_{log}: $S(\rho_0) S(\rho_1) \ge g$ or $S(\rho_1) S(\rho_0) \ge g$;
- $\bullet \ \mathrm{GapQJS}_{\mathsf{log}} \colon \mathrm{QJS}_2(\rho_0, \rho_1) \geq \alpha \ \mathsf{or} \ \mathrm{QJS}_2(\rho_0, \rho_1) \leq \beta.$

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BQL and BQ_UL: Two-sided error space-bounded quantum computation

BQL (and BQ_UL if only allow *unitary* gates), defined in [Watrous'99, Watrous'03], captures quantum computation that performs by a *logspace-uniform* $O(\log n)$ -qubit quantum circuit. This class admits the following properties:

- ▶ Quadratic advantage in space (?): $BQL \subseteq DSPACE[log^2(n)]$ [Wat99, Wat03].
- ► Gateset-indep.: Space-efficient Solovay-Kitaev theorem [van Melkebeek-Watson'12].
- ► Error reduction for BQ_UL [Fefferman-Kobayashi-Lin-Morimae-Nishimura'16].
- ► Intermediate measurements are useless: BQL = BQUL [Fefferman-Remscrim'21].

History of the only family of (natural) BQL-complete problem:

- Inverting a well-conditioned matrix is in BQL [Ta-Shma'13], whereas it only has DSPACE[log²(n)] containment without the help of quantum.
- ▶ Inverting a well-conditioned matrix is BQUL-complete [Fefferman-Lin'18].
- ➤ A well-conditioned version of DET*-complete problems are BQL-complete [Fefferman-Remscrim'21], such as well-conditioned integer determinant, well-conditioned matrix powering, well-conditioned iterative matrix product.

<u>Takeaway.</u> This work (Theorem 1.4) presents a new family of natural BQL-complete problems that emerge from quantum property testing.

RQ_UL and coRQ_UL: One-sided error space-bounded quantum computation

RQ_UL and coRQ_UL, defined in [Watrous'01], capture *one-sided error* quantum computation that performs by a *logspace-uniform* $O(\log n)$ -qubit quantum circuits. These classes admit the following properties:

- ► Error reduction for RQ_UL and coRQ_UL [Watrous'01].
- ▶ Gateset-dependence which is because of perfect completeness or soundness.
- ▶ Undirected graph connectivity (USTCON) is in RQ_UL \cap coRQ_UL [Watrous'01], although USTCON is actually in L [Reingold'08] .

Open problems on RQUL and coRQUL:

- ▶ A (natural) complete problem for the class RQ_UL or coRQ_UL remains unknown. A "verification" version of well-conditioned iterative matrix product problem is coRQL-hard [Fefferman-Remscrim'21] while there is no containment (hard direction).
- ► $RQ_UL \stackrel{?}{=} RQL$ and $coRQ_UL \stackrel{?}{=} coRQL$.

 $\overline{\text{Takeaway.}}$ This work (Theorem 1.2) demonstrates the first family of natural $\overline{\text{coRQ}_{\text{U}}\text{L-complete}}$ problems that arise from quantum property testing as well.

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Time-bounded quantum state testing: ℓ_1 norm scenario

Task 3.1 (Time-bounded quantum state testing). Given two polynomial-size quantum circuits Q_0 and Q_1 that prepare $\operatorname{poly}(n)$ -qubit quantum (mixed) states ρ_0 and ρ_1 , respectively, with access to their "source codes".

Decide whether $\operatorname{dist}(\rho_0, \rho_1) \leq \beta$ or $\operatorname{dist}(\rho_0, \rho_1) \geq \alpha$.

Time-bounded distribution testing. Given two efficiently samplable distributions D_0 and D_1 (prepared by circuits), decide whether $\operatorname{dist}(D_0,D_1) \leq \beta$ or $\operatorname{dist}(D_0,D_1) \geq \alpha$.

Computational hardness of these tasks with respect to ℓ_1 norm:

- ► Statistical Difference Problem (SDP) is SZK-complete when *constant* $\alpha^2 \beta > 0$ [Sahai-Vadhan'03, Goldreich-Sahai-Vadhan'98].
- ▶ Quantum State Distinguishability Problem (QSDP) is QSZK-complete when constant $\alpha^2 \beta > 0$ [Watrous'02, Watrous'09].
- ▶ Open problem: (α, β) -QSDP is in QSZK when $\alpha(n) \beta(n) \ge 1/\text{poly}(n)$. Recent progress: [Berman-Degwekar-Rothblum-Vasudevan'19] (classical) and [Liu'23] (quantum).

Structural complexity-theoretic results regarding QSZK:

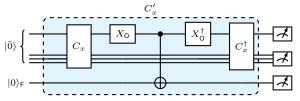
- $\blacktriangleright \ \mathsf{BQP} \subseteq \mathsf{QSZK} \subseteq \mathsf{QIP}(2) \subseteq \mathsf{PSPACE} \ [\mathsf{Watrous'02}, \ \mathsf{Watrous'09}].$
- $\blacktriangleright \ \exists \mathcal{O} \ \mathsf{s.t.} \ \mathsf{QSZK}^{\mathcal{O}} \not\subseteq \mathsf{PP}^{\mathcal{O}} \ [\mathsf{Bouland-Chen-Holden-Thaler-Vasudevan'19}].$

Time-bounded quantum state testing: ℓ_2 norm scenario

<u>BQP containment</u>. As all three terms in $HS^2(\rho_0,\rho_1)=\frac{1}{2}Tr(\rho_0^2)+\frac{1}{2}Tr(\rho_1^2)-Tr(\rho_0\rho_1)$ can be estimated by the SWAP test [Buhrman-Cleve-Watrous-de Wolf'01], we have a hybrid algorithm succeeds w.p. $\frac{1}{2}+\frac{1}{2}HS^2(\rho_0,\rho_1)$:

- **1** Toss two random coins $r_0, r_1 \in \{0, 1\}$;
- **2** Perform the SWAP test on quantum states according to r_0 and r_1 .

BQP hardness (adapted from [Rethinasamy-Agarwal-Sharma-Wilde'23]). Consider a BQP circuit C_x , we can construct $C_x' := C_x^\dagger X_\mathsf{O}^\dagger \mathrm{CNOT}_{\mathsf{O} \to \mathsf{F}} X_\mathsf{O} C_x$ with an ancillary qubit on F such that $\Pr[C_x' \text{ accepts}] = \|(|\bar{0}\rangle\langle\bar{0}|\otimes|0\rangle\langle 0|_\mathsf{F})C_x'(|\bar{0}\rangle\otimes|0\rangle_\mathsf{F})\|_2^2 = \Pr^2[C_x \text{ accepts}].$



By defining two pure states $\rho_0 := |\bar{0}\rangle\langle\bar{0}| \otimes |0\rangle\langle 0|_{\rm F}$ and $\rho_1 := C_x'(|\bar{0}\rangle\langle\bar{0}| \otimes |0\rangle\langle 0|_{\rm F})(C_x')^{\dagger}$, we have $\Pr[C_x']$ accepts $\Pr[C_x'] = \Pr[\rho_0\rho_1] = 1 - \operatorname{HS}^2(\rho_0,\rho_1)$.

Computational hardness of time-bounded testing depends on distance

Computational hardness of Task 3.1: a "dichotomy" theorem

- ► Time-bounded state testing w.r.t. ℓ₁ norm or entropy difference (QSZK-complete) is seemingly much harder than only preparing these states (in BQP).
- ▶ Time-bounded state testing w.r.t. ℓ_2 norm (BQP-complete) is computationally as easy as just preparing these states (in BQP).

Interestingly, the computational hardness "dichotomy" is linkded to the dependence of the sample complexity for distribution testing and state testing on the *dimension* N:

	ℓ_1 norm	ℓ_2 norm	Entropy
Classical	$\operatorname{poly}({\color{red}N},1/\epsilon)$	$\operatorname{poly}(1/\epsilon)$	$\operatorname{poly}({\color{red}N},1/\epsilon)$
sample complexity	[CDVV14]	[CDVV14]	[JVHW15, WY16]
Quantum	$\operatorname{poly}({\color{red}N},1/\epsilon)$	$\operatorname{poly}(1/\epsilon)$	$\operatorname{poly}({\color{red}N},1/\epsilon)$
sample complexity	[BOW19]	[BOW19]	[AISW20, OW21]

Summary: Time-bounded and space-bounded testing

Computational hardness of time- and space-bounded distribution and state testing:

	ℓ_1 norm	ℓ_2 norm	Entropy
Classical	SZK-complete*	BPP-complete	SZK-complete
Time-bounded	[SV03,GSV98]	Folklore	[GV99,GSV98]
Quantum	QSZK-complete*	BQP-complete	QSZK-complete
Time-bounded	[Wat02,Wat09]	[BCWdW01, RASW23]	[BASTS10]
Classical	BPI -hard [†]	BPL-complete [†]	BPL-complete [†]
Space-bounded	DPL-nard	Folklore	Implied by [ABIS19]
Quantum	BQL-complete	BQL-complete	BQL-complete
Space-bounded	This work	[BCWdW01] and this work	This work

 $\underline{\text{Remark}^{\dagger}}$. Space-bounded distribution testing can be viewed as a "white-box" version of *streaming distribution testing* with i.i.d. samples.

<u>Takeaways</u>. For space-bounded state testing and certification problems, the computational hardness of these problems is *as easy as* just preparing quantum states, which is *independent of the choice* of aforementioned distance-like measures.

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Quantum singular value transformation in a nutshell

QSVT [Gilyén-Su-Low-Wiebe'19] is a systematic approach to (time-efficiently) $manipulating \ singular \ values \ \{\sigma_i\}_i \ of \ an \ Hermitian \ matrix \ A \ using \ a \ corresponding$ projected unitary encoding $A=\tilde{\Pi}U\Pi$ for orthogonal projectors $\tilde{\Pi}$ and Π .

Quantum singular value transformation, revisited

Given a singular value decomposition $A=\sum_i \sigma_i |\tilde{\psi}_i\rangle \langle \psi_i|$ associated with an s(n)-qubit projected unitary encoding, we can approximately implement a QSVT $f^{(\mathrm{SV})}(A)=\sum_i f(\sigma_i)|\tilde{\psi}_i\rangle \langle \psi_i|$ by employing a polynomial P_d of degree $d=O\left(\frac{1}{\delta}\log\frac{1}{\epsilon}\right)$ satisfying that

- $\begin{array}{l} \blacktriangleright \ \, P_d \ \, \text{well-approximates} \, \, f \, \, \text{on the interval of interest} \, \, \mathcal{I} \colon \\ \max_{x \in \mathcal{I} \setminus \mathcal{I}_{\delta}} |P_d(x) f(x)| \leq \epsilon \, \, \text{where} \, \, \mathcal{I}_{\delta} \subseteq \mathcal{I} \subseteq [-1,1] \, \, \text{and typically} \, \, \mathcal{I}_{\delta} := (-\delta,\delta). \end{array}$
- $ightharpoonup P_d$ is bounded: $\max_{x \in [-1,1]} |P_d(x)| \le 1$.

Moreover, all coefficients of P_d (namely, classical pre-processing) can be computed in deterministic $\operatorname{poly}(d)$ time (and thus space). Hence, the transformation $P_d^{(\mathrm{SV})}(A)$ can be implemented by a $\operatorname{poly}(d)$ -size quantum circuit acts on $O(\max\{\log d, s(n)\})$ qubits.

Remark. Quantum circuit implementation in QSVT is already space-efficient!

Space-efficient quantum singular value transformation

Question 4.1 (Space-efficient QSVT). Can we implement a degree-d QSVT for any s(n)-qubit projected unitary encoding with $d \leq 2^{O(s(n))}$, using only O(s(n)) space in both classical pre-processing and quantum circuit implementation?

Theorem 4.2 (Space-bounded QSVT, [Metger-Yuen'23]). Implement a degree-d QSVT associated with sign function or square-root function for any $O(\log n)$ qubit block-encoding with $d \leq \operatorname{poly}(n)$ requires $O(\operatorname{polylog} n)$ space for classical pre-processing and $O(\log n)$ qubits in quantum circuit implementation.

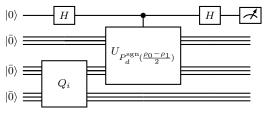
Remark. Theorem 4.2 can be easily extended to continuous functions bounded on [-1,1].

Theorem 4.3 (Space-efficient QSVT, This work). Implement a degree-d QSVT associated with piecewise-smooth functions for any $O(\log n)$ qubit bitstring indexed encoding with $d \leq \operatorname{poly}(n)$ requires (randomized) $O(\log n)$ space for classical pre-processing and $O(\log n)$ qubits in quantum circuit implementation. Moreover, the implementation requires $O(d^2\|\mathbf{c}\|_1)$ uses of $U, U^\dagger, C_\Pi \mathrm{NOT}, C_{\tilde{\Pi}} \mathrm{NOT}$, among with other gates, where \mathbf{c} is the coeffs of Chebyshev interpolation polynomial.

E.g. Normalized log function $\ln_{\beta}(x) := \frac{2\ln(1/x)}{2\ln(2/\beta)}$ on the interval $\mathcal{I} = [\beta, 1]$ for any $\beta \ge 1/\text{poly}(n)$.

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Proof overview: two-sided error scenario



Here, Q_i prepares a purification of the state ρ_i for $i \in \{0,1\}$, and ρ_- is block-encoded in U_{ρ_-} . We say that the tester $\mathcal T$ accepts if the measurement outcome is "0".

By using the space-efficient QSVT (Theorem 4.3) associated with a bounded approx polynomial P_d^{sgn} of sgn, we implement $U_{P_d^{\mathrm{sgn}}(\frac{\rho_0-\rho_1}{2})}$. Consequently, the "acceptance probability" of ρ_i is $\Pr[\mathcal{T}(Q_i, U_{\rho_-}, P_d^{\mathrm{sgn}}) \text{ accepts}] = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \operatorname{Tr}\left(P_d^{\mathrm{sgn}}(\frac{\rho_0-\rho_1}{2})\right)\rho_i\right)$.

Therefore, for $i \in \{0,1\}$, it suffices to estimate $\mathrm{Tr}\Big(P_d^{\mathrm{sgn}}(\frac{\rho_0-\rho_1}{2})\rho_i\Big) \pm \varepsilon$ with high probability using $O(1/\varepsilon^2)$ sequential repetitions.

Proof overview: one-sided error scenario

Proof of Theorem 1.2 ①: $\overline{\mathrm{CERTQSD}}_{log} \in \mathsf{coRQ}_U L$.

Our construction is mainly based on the previous quantum tester $\mathcal{T}(Q_i, U_{\rho_-}, P_d^{\mathrm{sgn}})$, then achieving perfect completeness by standard techniques.

lack 4 We first notice that our space-efficient QSVT in Theorem 4.3 preserves the parity. In particular, the QSVT implementation associated with \hat{P}_d^{sgn} satisfies $\hat{P}_d^{\mathrm{sgn}}(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$. This enables us to construct the algorithm $\mathcal A$ specified below:

- \diamond For yes instances $(\rho_0 = \rho_1)$, we thus have $\Pr[\mathcal{T}(Q_i, U_{\rho_-}, P_d^{\mathrm{sgn}}) \text{ accepts}] = \frac{1}{2}$. Then we obtain an algorithm \mathcal{A} accept with certainty via exact amplitude amplification [Boyer-Brassard-Høyer-Tapp'98, Brassard-Høyer-Mosca-Tapp'02].
- \diamond For *no* instances $(\operatorname{td}(\rho_0, \rho_1) \geq \alpha)$, we have $|\Pr[\mathcal{T}(Q_i, U_{\rho_-}, P_d^{\operatorname{sgn}}) \text{ accepts}] \frac{1}{2}| \geq \Omega(\alpha).$

By a direct (still, a bit complicated) calculation, we can make sure the algorithm $\mathcal A$ accepts w.p. at most $1-\Omega(\alpha^2)$.

Finally, we conclude a $coRQ_UL$ containment from \mathcal{A} by applying *error reduction* for $coRQ_UL$, which can be deduced from our space-efficient QSVT (Theorem 4.3).

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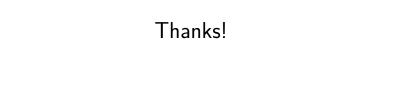
Conclusions and open problems

Take-home messages on our work

- Space-bounded quantum state certification problems w.r.t. trace distance and Hilbert-Schmidt distance are coRQ_UL-complete (Theorem 1.2).
 - This is the *first* family of natural coRQ_UL-complete problem!
- Space-bounded quantum state testing problems w.r.t. common distance-like measures (i.e., trace distance, squared Hilbert-Schmidt distance, quantum entropy difference, quantum Jensen-Shannon divergence) are BQL-complete (Theorem 1.4).
- Quantum singular value transformation on bitstring indexed encoding can be done in quantum logspace, with a randomized classical pre-processing (Theorem 4.3).

Open problems

- Are there any other applications of space-efficient QSVT?
- ullet Space-efficient QSVT with O(d) queries instead of $O(d^2\|\mathbf{c}\|_1)$ in Theorem 4.3, as well as make the pre-processing *deterministic* rather than randomized.
 - Quantum query complexity lower bound (in $\it time-efficient\ scenarios$) $\Omega(d)$ [Montanaro-Shao'24]
- (Inspired by Tom Gur) Are space-bounded quantum channel testings with respect to appropriate distance-like measures also in BQL?



Space-efficient quantum singular value transformation: Proof sketch

Bounded functions. We mainly follow the construction in [MY23]:

Near-minimax approximation by Chebyshev interpolation [Powell'67]

For any continuous function $f\colon [-1,1]\to \mathbb{R}$, if there is a degree-d polynomial P_d satisfying $\max_{x\in [-1,1]}|f(x)-P_d(x)|\leq \epsilon$, then we have a Chebyshev interpolation polynomial $\hat{P}_d:=\frac{c_0}{2}+\sum_{k=1}^d c_k T_k$, where $c_k:=\frac{2}{\pi}\int_{-1}^1 \frac{f(x)T_k(x)}{\sqrt{1-x^2}}\mathrm{d}x$ and T_k is the k-th Chebyshev polynomial (of the first kind), such that $\max_{x\in [-1,1]}|\hat{P}_d(x)-f(x)|\leq O(\epsilon\log d)$.

- ${\bf 0}$ Space-efficient QSVT implementation for $T_k^{\rm (SV)}(\tilde{\Pi} U\Pi)$ [GSLW19]
- $oldsymbol{\Theta}$ For any bounded functions, any coefficient c_k is space-efficiently computable by the standard numerical integral technique. \longrightarrow A careful analysis is required!
- $\textbf{§ Implement } \hat{P}_d^{(\mathrm{SV})}(\tilde{\Pi}U\Pi) \text{ from } T_k^{(\mathrm{SV})}(\tilde{\Pi}U\Pi) \text{ by LCU} \\ [\text{Berry-Childs-Cleve-Kothari-Somma'15}]$
 - Query complexity $O(d^2)$ and the operator norm of $\hat{P}_d(\tilde{\Pi}U\Pi)$ is at most $\|\mathbf{c}\|_1$
- ${\bf 0}$ Renormalizing the resulting (bitstring indexed) encoding $\hat{P}_d^{\rm (SV)}(\tilde{\Pi} U\Pi)$
 - $\longrightarrow \mathsf{Query} \ \mathsf{complexity} \ O(d^2 \|\mathbf{c}\|_1) \ \mathsf{where} \ \|\mathbf{c}\|_1 \leq O(d) \ \mathsf{in} \ \mathsf{general}.$

<u>Piecewise-smooth functions.</u> We adapt the construction (i.e., a reduction to a linear combination of bounded functions) in [van Apeldoorn-Gilyén-Gribling-de Wolf'20].

♣ We thus reduce the main challenge to *stochastic matrix powering problem*, essential for the BPL vs. L problem [Saks-Zhou'99, Cohen-Doron-Sberlo-Ta-Shma'23, Putterman-Pyre'23].