# Clustering Algorithm of Quantum Self-Organization Network Based on Bloch Spherical Rotation

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*Abstract*-To enhance the clustering ability of self-organization network, a quantum-inspired self-organization clustering algorithm is proposed based on Bloch spherical rotation. First, the clustering samples are mapped to the qubits on the Bloch sphere by taking all the sample values as the phases of the qubits, and the all weight values in the competitive layer are mapped to the qubits randomly distributed on the Bloch sphere. Then, the winning node is obtained by computing the spherical distance between sample and weight value, and the weight values of the winning nodes and its neighbourhood are updated by rotating them to the sample on the Bloch sphere until the convergence. The clustering results of IRIS sample show that the proposed approach is obviously superior to the classical self-organization network and the K-mean clustering algorithm.

Keywords- Quantum Bits; Bloch Spherical Rotation; Self-Organization Network; Clustering Algorithm

## I. INTRODUCTION

Since Kak [1] firstly proposed the concept of quantum inspired neural computation in 1995, quantum neural network (ONN) has attracted a great deal of attention from international scholars during the past decade, and a large number of novel techniques have been studied for quantum computation and neural network. For example, Gopathy et al. [2] proposed the model of quantum neural network with multilevel hidden neurons based on the superposition of quantum states in the quantum theory. Michail et al. [3] attempted to reconcile the linear reversible structure of quantum evolution with nonlinear irreversible dynamics of neural network. Michiharu et al. [4] presented a novel learning model with qubit neuron according to quantum circuit for XOR problem and describes the influence to learning by reducing the number of neurons. Gupta et al. [5] defined a new mathematical model of quantum neural network, building on Deutsch's model of quantum computational network, which provides an approach for building scalable parallel computers. Fariel [6] proposed the neural network with the quantum gated nodes, and indicates that such quantum network may contain more advantageous features from the biological systems than the regular electronic devices. In our previous works, [7] proposed a quantum BP neural network model with learning algorithm based on the single-qubit rotation gates and two qubits controlled-rotation gates. Next, [8] proposed a neural network model with quantum gated nodes and a smart algorithm for it, which shows superior performance in comparison with a standard error back propagation network. Adenilton et al. [9] proposed a weightless model based on quantum circuit. It is not only quantuminspired but actually a quantum NN. This model is based on Grover's search algorithm, and it can perform both quantum learning and simulate the classical models. At present, the fusion of quantum computation and neural computation is gradually becoming a new research direction.

In all of the above models, the fusion of quantum computing and supervised neural networks has been widely studied. However the fusion of quantum computing and unsupervised self-organizing neural network is relatively few. In the classical clustering algorithms, Cai et al. [10] proposed a new algorithm called K-Distributions for Clustering Categorical Data, and Huang [11] investigated clustering problem of large data sets with mixed numeric and categorical values. As is known to all, unsupervised clustering is the only function of the self-organizing network. For self-organizing network, unsupervised clustering process, in essence, is the application process of the network. This is very different from BP network which must perform a supervised training process before application. Although [12] proposed a quantum self-organizing networks with quantum inputs and quantum weights, this model applied the supervised mode to training, which severely reduces its generalization ability. In addition, although quantum computing effectively enhances the performance of the traditional selforganizing networks, the fusion research of quantum computation and neural computation is still far from mature. It is necessary to further research new ways of integration between them, in order to further improve the performance of neural computation. Hence, this paper proposed a quantum self-organization network based on Bloch spherical rotation (BQSON), and designed its clustering algorithm in detail. In our approach, both the samples and the weights are denoted by qubits described in Bloch sphere, the weights of the competition winning node and its neighbourhood nodes are adjusted by rotating these qubits to corresponding sample qubit about rotation axis. The experimental results of a benchmark of IRIS clustering show that our approach is superior to the traditional clustering methods including common self-organizing networks, k-means clustering, and the adjacent clustering.

#### II. THE SPHERICAL DESCRIPTION AND ROTATION OF QUBITS

#### A. The Spherical Description of Qubit

In quantum computing, a qubit is a two-level quantum system, described by a two-dimensional complex Hilbert space. From the superposition principles, any state of the qubit may be written as

$$|\varphi\rangle = \cos\frac{\theta}{2}|0\rangle + e^{i\phi}\sin\frac{\theta}{2}|1\rangle, \qquad (1)$$

where  $0 \le \theta \le \pi$ ,  $0 \le \phi \le 2\pi$ .

Notation like  $|\rangle$  is called the Dirac notation, and it will be seen often in the following paragraphs, as it is the standard notation for states in quantum mechanics. Therefore, unlike the classical bit, which only equals 0 or 1, the qubit resides in a vector space parameterized by the continuous variables  $\theta$  and  $\phi$ . The normalization condition means that the qubit's state can be represented by a point on a sphere of unit radius, called the Bloch sphere. The Bloch sphere representation is useful as it provides a geometric picture of the qubit and of the transformations that can be applied to its state. This sphere can be embedded in a three-dimensional space of Cartesian coordinates ( $x = \cos \phi \sin \theta$ ,  $y = \sin \phi \sin \theta$ ,  $z = \cos \theta$ ). Thus, the state  $|\phi\rangle$  can be written as

 $| \mathbf{\phi} \rangle = \left[ \sqrt{\frac{1+z}{2}}, \frac{x+iy}{\sqrt{2(1+z)}} \right]^{\mathrm{T}}.$  (2)

By definition, a Bloch vector is a vector whose components (x, y, z) represent a point on the Bloch sphere. It can be said that the angles  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  define a Bloch vector, as shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1 A qubit description on the Bloch sphere

## B. The Rotation of Qubit about an Axis on the Bloch Sphere

In this work, the weights of competition layer are adjusted by rotating them around an axis towards the target qubit on the Bloch sphere. This rotation can simultaneously change two parameters  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  of a qubit and can automatically achieve the best matching out of two adjustments, which better simulates the quantum behaviour. To achieve this rotation, it is crucial to determine the rotation axis, as it can directly impact the convergence speed and efficiency of algorithm. To determine the rotation axis, this paper proposes the following method:

**Theorem** Let  $W = [w_x, w_y, w_z]$  and  $X = [x_x, x_y, x_z]$  denote two points on the Bloch sphere. The rotation axis for rotating the qubit from W to X can be written as tensor product of W and X, and the relation of these three vectors is shown in Fig. 2.

**Proof** In the Bloch sphere, the shortest distance between two points is defined as the length of minor arc on the great circle through these two points. To make W approximate to X after rotating, W should be rotated along with the minor arc on the

great circle. From the definition of tensor product, it is clear that the direction of  $W \times X$  is perpendicular to the plane defined by the vector W and X, and the direction of these three vectors meet to the right-hand rule. Namely, right hand four fingers grip from point W to point X with angle less than  $\pi$ , at this time, the direction of thumb is defined as the direction of  $W \times X$ . The relation of these three vectors is shown in Fig. 2. Therefore, if let W rotate around axis  $W \times X$ , then its path will be the minor arc on great circle through points W and X. Hence, the rotation axis is  $W \times X$ .

From the above theorem, the approach can simultaneously adjust two parameters  $\theta$  and  $\phi$  of a qubit, and can automatically achieve the best matching between the two adjustments. This best matching can rotate W toward X along with the shortest path on the Bloch sphere, which improves the clustering ability of BQSON.

Let the Bloch coordinates of  $|W\rangle$  and  $|X\rangle$  be  $W = [w_x, w_y, w_z]$  and  $X = [x_x, x_y, x_z]$ , according to the above theorem, the axis of rotating  $|W\rangle$  to  $|X\rangle$  can be written as

$$\mathbf{R}_{axis} = \frac{\mathbf{W} \times \mathbf{X}}{\|\mathbf{W} \times \mathbf{X}\|}.$$
(3)



Fig. 2 The rotation axis of a qubit on the Bloch sphere

From the principles of quantum computing, on the Bloch sphere a rotation through an angle  $\delta$  about the axis directed along the unit vector  $\mathbf{n} = [n_x, n_y, n_z]$  is given by the matrix

$$\boldsymbol{R}_{\boldsymbol{n}}(\delta) = \cos\frac{\delta}{2}\boldsymbol{I} - \mathrm{i}\sin\frac{\delta}{2}(\boldsymbol{n}\times\boldsymbol{\sigma}), \qquad (4)$$

where I denotes an unit matrix,  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = [\boldsymbol{\sigma}_x, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_y, \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z]$  denotes the Pauli matrix as follows

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{x} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{5}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{y} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\mathbf{i} \\ \mathbf{i} & 0 \end{bmatrix},\tag{6}$$

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_{z} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{7}$$

Hence, on the Bloch sphere, a rotation through an angle  $\delta$  about the axis  $R_{axis}$  that rotates the current qubit  $|W\rangle$  towards the target qubit  $|X\rangle$  can be written as

$$\boldsymbol{M}_{\boldsymbol{R}}(\delta) = \cos\frac{\delta}{2}\boldsymbol{I} - \mathrm{i}\sin\frac{\delta}{2}(\boldsymbol{R}_{axis} \times \boldsymbol{\sigma}), \qquad (8)$$

and the rotation operation can be written as

$$W\rangle = M_R(\delta) |W\rangle.$$
<sup>(9)</sup>

## C. The Projective Measurement of Qubits

From the principles of quantum computing, the coordinates x, y, and z of a qubit on the Bloch sphere can be measured by the Pauli operators using the following equations.

$$x = \langle \boldsymbol{\varphi} \mid \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{x} \mid \boldsymbol{\varphi} \rangle = \langle \boldsymbol{\varphi} \mid \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mid \boldsymbol{\varphi} \rangle, \qquad (10)$$

$$y = \langle \boldsymbol{\varphi} \mid \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{y} \mid \boldsymbol{\varphi} \rangle = \langle \boldsymbol{\varphi} \mid \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mid \boldsymbol{\varphi} \rangle, \tag{11}$$

$$z = \langle \boldsymbol{\varphi} \mid \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{z} \mid \boldsymbol{\varphi} \rangle = \langle \boldsymbol{\varphi} \mid \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \mid \boldsymbol{\varphi} \rangle.$$
(12)

### III. THE STRUCTURE OF QUANTUM SELF-ORGANIZATION NEURAL NETWORKS

This paper propose the quantum self-organization neural networks model based on the Bloch spherical rotation, which is shown in Fig. 3, where both inputs and weight values are qubits described on the Bloch sphere.



Fig. 3 The quantum self-organization neural networks model

Let  $|X\rangle = [|x_1\rangle, |x_2\rangle, \dots, |x_n\rangle]^T$  denote the inputs, and  $|W_j\rangle = [|w_{j1}\rangle, |w_{j2}\rangle, \dots, |w_{jn}\rangle]^T$  denote the weight values of the *j*th node in competition layer. By the projection measuring, the Bloch coordinates of  $|x_i\rangle$  and  $|w_{ji}\rangle$  can be written as  $|x_i\rangle = [x_{ix}, x_{iy}, x_{iz}]^T$  and  $|w_{ji}\rangle = [w_{jix}, w_{jiy}, w_{jiz}]^T$ , respectively. From the spherical geometry, the shortest distance between two points on a sphere is defined as the length of the minor arc on the big circle defined by these two points and the centre of Bloch sphere. As a result of the fact that Bloch sphere radius equals to 1, the spherical distance between  $|x_i\rangle$  and  $|w_{ji}\rangle$  equals to the angle between them, and can be written as

$$d_{ij} = \arccos(\langle \boldsymbol{x}_i \mid \boldsymbol{w}_{ji} \rangle) = \arccos(x_{ix}w_{jix} + x_{iy}w_{jiy} + x_{iz}w_{jiz}).$$
(13)

Hence, the distance between  $|X\rangle$  and  $|W_i\rangle$ , namely, the output of the *j*th node in competition layer may be given by

$$D_{j} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} d_{ij}^{2}} .$$
 (14)

#### IV. THE ALGORITHM OF QUANTUM SELF-ORGANIZATION NEURAL NETWORKS

### D. Quantum State Description of the Samples

First, all samples data are converted to [0, 1]. Let  $\tilde{X}_l = [\tilde{x}_{l1}, \tilde{x}_{l2}, \dots, \tilde{x}_{ln}]^T$ ,  $(l = 1, 2, \dots, L)$  denote the *l*th sample. This paper adopts the following normalization method.

$$\mathbf{X}_{l} = \frac{\widetilde{\mathbf{X}}_{l} - \mathrm{MIN}}{\mathrm{MAX} - \mathrm{MIN}},$$
(15)

where MAX and MIN respectively denote the maximum and the minimum of all samples.

Let sample after normalization be  $X_l = [x_{l1}, x_{l2}, \dots, x_{ln}]^T$ , and then  $X_l$  is converted to the phase of qubits by the following equations

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{l} = [\theta_{l1}, \theta_{l2}, \cdots, \theta_{ln}]^{\mathrm{T}} = [\pi x_{l1}, \pi x_{l2}, \cdots, \pi x_{ln}]^{\mathrm{T}},$$
(16)

$$\boldsymbol{\varphi}_{l} = [\boldsymbol{\phi}_{l1}, \boldsymbol{\phi}_{l2}, \cdots, \boldsymbol{\phi}_{ln}]^{\mathrm{T}} = [2\pi x_{l1}, 2\pi x_{l2}, \cdots, 2\pi x_{ln}]^{\mathrm{T}}.$$
(17)

At this point,  $\tilde{X}_l$  may be converted to qubits on the Bloch sphere, as shown in the following equation.

$$|X_l\rangle = [|x_{l1}\rangle, |x_{l2}\rangle, \cdots, |x_{ln}\rangle]^1,$$
(18)

where  $|x_{li}\rangle = \cos\frac{\theta_{li}}{2}|0\rangle + e^{i\phi_{li}}\sin\frac{\theta_{li}}{2}|1\rangle$ .

## E. Competitive Learning Rules

Let  $|W_i\rangle$  denote the weight value of the *j*th node in the competition layer, as follows

$$|\boldsymbol{W}_{j}\rangle = [|w_{j1}\rangle, |w_{j2}\rangle, \cdots, |w_{jn}\rangle]^{\mathrm{T}}.$$
(19)

For the *l*th sample  $|X_l\rangle = [|x_{l1}\rangle, |x_{l2}\rangle, \dots, |x_{ln}\rangle]^T$ , according to the Eqs. (13) and (14), the spherical distance between  $|X_l\rangle$  and  $|W_i\rangle$  can be written as

$$D_{lj} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[\arccos(x_{lix}w_{jix} + x_{liy}w_{jiy} + x_{liz}w_{jiz})\right]^2} .$$
(20)

Suppose that the competition layer has *C* nodes, and that the node with a minimum distance is defined as the winning one. Hence, the winning node should satisfy the following equation

$$D_{lj} = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} [\arccos(x_{lix} w_{jix} + x_{liy} w_{jiy} + x_{liz} w_{jiz})]^2} .$$
(21)

## F. Network Clustering Algorithm

The self-organizing network is a typical unsupervised clustering model; it is suitable for solving the problem of the unknown class number of clustering beforehand. Its training is completely different from the traditional BP neural networks. If a self-organizing network must apply supervised information to clustering, it is powerless for clustering problems with no supervision information available. The training process of our model does not contain any prior knowledge about samples classification results; otherwise its generalization ability will be lost, which is the shortcoming of [12]. The approach can be summarized as follows.

Step 1 Quantum state description of the sample. Convert the samples to qubit states by Eqs. (15)-(18). Measure the quantum samples by Eqs. (10)-(12) to obtain their Bloch coordinates.

Step 2 The weights of networks initialization. Initialize all the networks weights to randomly distribution of qubits on the Bloch sphere, as shown below.

$$|\mathbf{W}_{j}\rangle = [|w_{j1}\rangle, |w_{j2}\rangle, \cdots, |w_{jn}\rangle]^{\mathrm{T}}, \qquad (22)$$

$$|w_{ji}\rangle = \cos\frac{\theta_{ji}}{2}|0\rangle + e^{i\phi_{ji}}\sin\frac{\theta_{ji}}{2}|1\rangle, \qquad (23)$$

where  $\phi_{ji} = 2\theta_{ji} = 2\pi \text{ rand}$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, C$ , C denotes the number of competition nodes, and rand denote the random number in (0, 1).

Step 3 The parameters of networks initialization, including: the maximum iterative steps G, the initial value of learning rate  $\beta_0$ , the finial value of learning rate  $\beta_f$ , the initial value of neighbourhood radius  $r_0$ , the finial value of neighbourhood radius  $r_f$ , the initial value of variance  $\sigma_0$ , the finial value of variance  $\sigma_f$ . Set the current iterative step t to 0.

Step 4 Compute the current learning rate, neighbourhood radius, and variance by the following equations.

$$\beta(t) = \beta_0 (\beta_f / \beta_0)^{(t/G)}, \qquad (24)$$

$$r(t) = \begin{cases} r_0 + (r_f - r_0)(t/G), & t \le 0.1G \\ r_f (1 - t/G), & t > 0.1G \end{cases},$$
(25)

$$\sigma(t) = \sigma_0 (\sigma_f / \sigma_0)^{(t/G)}.$$
<sup>(26)</sup>

Step 5 Measure all quantum weights in competition layer by Eqs. (10)-(12) to obtain their Bloch coordinates. For the *l*th sample  $|X_l\rangle$  ( $l = 1, 2, \dots, L$ ), compute the corresponding winning node  $|W_{i*}^{(l)}\rangle$  by Eqs. (20)-(21).

Step 6 For the *l*th sample  $|X_l\rangle$ , in the competitive layer node array, select the neighbourhood  $\psi(j^*, r(t))$  with the centre  $|W_{j^*}^{(l)}\rangle$  and the radius r(t). For all nodes  $|W_j\rangle$  in  $\psi(j^*, r(t))$ , rotate each component  $|w_{ji}\rangle$  to the corresponding  $|x_{li}\rangle$ . The rotation angles are computed by the following equation

$$\delta_{lj}^{i}(t) = \beta(t) \exp(-\frac{d(j, j^{*})^{2}}{2\sigma(t)}) \arccos(\langle x_{li} | w_{ji} \rangle), \qquad (27)$$

where  $d(j, j^*)$  denotes the spherical distance between the *j*th node and the  $j^*$ th node.

According to theorem, the rotation axis and rotation matrix of rotating  $|w_{ii}\rangle$  to  $|x_{li}\rangle$  can be written as

$$\boldsymbol{R}_{ji,li} = \frac{[w_{jix}, w_{jiy}, w_{jiz}] \times [x_{lix}, x_{liy}, x_{liz}]}{||[w_{jix}, w_{jiy}, w_{jiz}] \times [x_{lix}, x_{liy}, x_{liz}]||},$$
(28)

$$\mathbf{M}_{ji,li}(\delta_{lj}^{i}(t)) = \cos\frac{\delta_{lj}^{i}(t)}{2}\mathbf{I} - i\sin\frac{\delta_{lj}^{i}(t)}{2}(\mathbf{R}_{ji,li} \times \boldsymbol{\sigma}).$$
<sup>(29)</sup>

Then, the rotation operation can be written as

$$|w_{ji}\rangle = \boldsymbol{M}_{ji,li}(\delta^{i}_{lj}(t)) |x_{li}\rangle, \qquad (30)$$

where  $j \in \psi(j^*, r(t))$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, n, l = 1, 2, \dots, L$ .

Step 7 If t > G, save clustering results and stop, else set t = t + 1, and go back to Step 4.

#### V. SIMULATIONS

#### A. The Clustering of IRIS Samples

In order to experimentally illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed BQSON, the IRIS samples are used to compare it to the Classical Self-Organization Network (CSON), the K-mean clustering, the Nearest Neighbour Clustering (NNC) in this section. In these experiments, the BQSON is performed and evaluated in Matlab (Version 7.1.0.246) on a Windows PC with 2.19 GHz CPU and 1.00 GB RAM. To enhance the impartiality of the comparison results, our BQSON has the same structure and parameters as the CSON in this experiment. The IRIS data set contains 150 four dimensional samples. The sample is divided into three classes, and each class contains 50 samples, such as setosa(1-50), versicolor(51-100), virginica(101-150). If the first dimension is ignored, the spatial distribution of the three kinds of samples is shown in Fig. 4.



Fig. 4 The space distribution of IRIS samples

## 1) Parameter Settings

Both BQSON and CSON have 4 input nodes and 100 competition nodes arranged in square matrix. Other parameters are set as follows: G = 10000,  $\beta_0 = 0.8$ ,  $\beta_f = 0.1$ ,  $r_0 = 5$ ,  $r_f = 2$ ,  $\sigma_0 = 5$ ,  $\sigma_f = 0.5$ .

If the clustering results do not change in 100 consecutive steps, algorithm is called convergence. For K-mean clustering, the K is set to 3, and if each of variations of class centers is less than  $10^{-10}$  in two consecutive generations, the algorithm terminates. For NNC, the clustering threshold is set to  $\lambda = 2.0$ . If the distance of the sample X from the center of the *k*th class is less than  $\lambda$ , the sample X is considered to belong to the *k*th class.

## 2) Clustering Result Contrasts

Considering the log likelihood function is more used in evaluation of the performance of the Bayesian classification network, and less used in clustering algorithm, therefore, this index is not used in our work. To facilitate comparison, two relevant concepts are defined as follows:

*Precision Ratio* Let the correct number of samples in the *k*th class after clustering be NPR, and the total number of samples in the *k*th class after clustering be NA. Precision Ratio is defined as follows

$$PR = \frac{NPR}{NA} \times 100\% .$$
(31)

*Recall Ratio* Let the correct number of samples in the *k*th class after clustering be NPR, and the total number of samples in the *k*th class before clustering be NB, Recall Ratio is defined as follows

$$RR = \frac{NPR}{NB} \times 100\% .$$
(32)

After 9797 iterative steps, the BQSON reaches convergence. All samples are divided into three classes, and each class contains 50 samples. The first class contains 50 "setosa" samples. The second class contains 48 "versicolor" samples and 2 "virginica" samples. The third class contains 48 "virginica" samples and 2 "versicolor" samples. The Precision Ratio and Recall Ratio of three class samples reach 100%, 96%, 96%, respectively. The clustering results are shown in Fig. 5, where Fig. 5(a) shows the distribution of winning nodes of each samples, and Fig. 5(b) shows the winning nodes corresponding to each class of sample.

After 10000 iterative steps, the CSON does not reach convergence, as shown in Fig. 6(a). All samples are divided into 60 classes, as shown in Fig. 6(b), where the first class contains 50 "setosa" samples, and for the rest of the 100 samples, the model is powerless. In addition, continue to run the CSON until 30000 iterative steps, the CSON is still not convergence.





For K-mean clustering, convergence is reached after 11 iterative steps. The first class contains 50 "setosa" samples, the second class contains 61 sample where 47 samples are correct, and the third class contains 39 samples where 36 samples are correct. The Precision Ratio of three class samples reach 100%, 77.05%, 92.31%, respectively, and the Recall Ratio of three class samples reach 100%, 77.05%, 92.31%, respectively, and the Recall Ratio of three class samples reach 100%, 72%, respectively. The clustering results are shown in Fig. 7(a).

For NNC, All samples are divided into three classes. The first class contains 50 "setosa" samples, the second class contains 62 samples where 50 samples are correct, and the third class contains 38 samples where all 38 samples are correct. The *Precision Ratio* of three class samples reach 100%, 80.65%, 100%, respectively, and the *Recall Ratio* of three class samples reach 100%, 100%, 76%, respectively. The clustering results are shown in Fig. 7(b).

#### 3) Clustering Results Analysis

From the experimental results, it is clear that both Precision Ratio and Recall Ratio of BQSON are the highest in four algorithms. These results show that the BQSON is obviously superior not only to the CSON but to the K-mean and the NNC as well.

The above experimental results can be theoretically explained as follows. First, BQSON adopted a new way to calculate the distance of nodes between input layer and competition layer. In the existing clustering algorithms, the distance measurement is generally taken the Euclidean distance, which this distance is calculated based on coordinates. In BQSON, however, the distance is obtained by calculating the Bloch spherical distance of each dimension between input samples and competition nodes. Let  $y_{ii}(t)$  denote the *j*th output corresponding to the *i*th input sample, where *t* denotes the current iterative step. Let

$$\bar{y}_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^C y_{ij}(t) / C , \qquad (33)$$

$$\sigma_i(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{C} [y_{ij}(t) - \bar{y}_i(t)]^2 / C, \qquad (34)$$

$$\sigma(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{L} \sigma_i(t) / L, \qquad (35)$$

where C denotes the number of nodes in competition layer, and L denotes the total number of samples.

For the normalized samples, in CSON, the difference of each dimension between sample and weight  $|d_{ij}|$  belongs to [0, 1]. In BQSON, the difference of each dimension  $\in [0, \pi]$  belongs to  $[0, \pi]$  by applying the Bloch spherical distance. Hence, in order to make fair, the average variance of BQSON after dividing by  $\pi^2$  is compared with that of CSON. The contrast results are shown in Fig. 8.

The Fig. 8 shows that the average variance of BQSON is obviously greater than that of CSON, which suggests that the spherical distance has better distinguish ability than Euclidean distance for intensive samples. From Fig. 4, the "setosa" samples are relatively independent, which lead four algorithms to obtain the ideal clustering results. Both "versicolor" and "virginica" samples present overlapping intensive distribution, where the BQSON has also obtained the ideal clustering results. However, the clustering effect is not ideal for both K - mean and NNC based on the Euclidean distance, the CSON is completely unable to separate these two classes of samples.

Secondly, the BQSON adopted a new way of weight adjustment. In CSON, the vector differences between samples and weights are directly used to adjust the weighs, which is strongly influenced by learning rate, not easy to achieve fine adjustment. In BQSON, however, the weighs are adjusted by rotating them to a sample so as to approximate this sample. Since the rotation is performed on the Bloch sphere, it may conduct a subtle adjustment of weights, which enhances the clustering ability of BQSON.



Fig. 8 The average variance contrasts of BQSON and CSON

## B. The Clustering of the Students' Knowledge status

It is the real dataset about the students' knowledge status about the subject of Electrical DC Machines. This dataset contains 403 samples, and each sample has five input values as following: STG (The degree of study time for goal object materials), SCG (The degree of repetition number of user for goal object materials), STR (The degree of study time of user for related objects with goal object), LPR (The exam performance of user for related objects with goal object), PEG (The exam performance of user for goal object), CTR (The knowledge level of user). All samples are divided into four classes: Very Low (50), Low (129), Middle (122), and High (102).

## 1) Parameter Settings

Both BQSON and CSON have 5 input nodes and 100 competition nodes arranged in square matrix. Other parameters are set as follows: G = 20000,  $\beta_0 = 0.8$ ,  $\beta_f = 0.1$ ,  $r_0 = 5$ ,  $r_f = 2$ ,  $\sigma_0 = 5$ ,  $\sigma_f = 0.5$ . If the clustering results do not change in 100 consecutive steps, algorithm is called convergence.

## 2) Clustering Result Contrasts

After 18105 iterative steps, the BQSON reaches convergence. All samples are divided into four classes. The first class contains 102 "High" samples and one "Middle" sample. The second class contains 129 "Low" samples. The third class contains 121 "Middle" samples. The fourth class contains 50 "Very Low" samples. The Precision Ratio of four class samples reach 99%, 100%, 100%, 100%, respectively. The Recall Ratio of four class samples reach 100%, 100%, 99%, 100%, respectively. The clustering results are shown in Fig. 9, where Fig. 9(a) shows the distribution of winning nodes of each samples, and Fig. 9(b) shows the winning nodes corresponding to each class of sample.



Fig.10 The students' knowledge clustering results of CSON

After 20000 iterative steps, the CSON does not reach convergence, as shown in Fig. 10(a). The sample was not well clustered, there are 72 competition winning nodes in the competitive layer, which is equivalent to all samples that are divided into 72 classes, as shown in Fig. 10(b). In addition, continue to run the CSON until 50,000 iterative steps, the CSON is still not convergence.

#### VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this work, a quantum self-organization network clustering algorithm is proposed. In this approach, the weights of nodes in competition layer are updated by rotating qubits on the Bloch sphere. The comparative experiments of IRIS show that the clustering ability of proposed approach is significantly higher than the classic self-organizing network. The Precision Ratio and Recall Ratio of BQSON increased by 7.5467% and 8.6667% than that of K-mean and increased by 3.7833% and 5.3333% than that of NNC. In addition, the BQSON is inefficient. It is also worth pointing out that, BQSON increases computing operations such as the axis of rotation, rotation matrix, projection measurement, which may increase the amount of calculation, prolong the running time, and reduce the efficiency of clustering. However, the increase of these operations greatly improves the clustering ability of BQSON. In other words, BQSON is at the cost of computing efficiency for enhancing clustering ability,

which is consistent with no free lunch theorem. Hence, how to enhance the computing efficiency of BQSON is subject of further research.

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