

Using Quantum Annealing to Fold and Design HP Lattice Proteins

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Introduction

Quantum Annealing (D-Wave)

QPU

Hybrid

HP Lattice Proteins

Folding [**Irbäck et al. 2022, PhysRevResearch.4.043013**]

Mapping and Energy Function

Results: Hybrid

Results: QPU

Conclusion

Design [**Irbäck et al. 2024, PhysRevResearch.6.013162**]

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Results: Hybrid

Results: QPU

Conclusion

If I have time: Some QAOA

Replace bits $\{0,1\}^n$ with qubits $|state\rangle = \bigotimes_i^n (\alpha_i |0\rangle + \beta_i |1\rangle)$

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Guaranteed to find the ground state if $T \gg \max \frac{\langle gs(t) | \dot{H} | e(t) \rangle}{(E_{gs}(t) - E_e(t))^2}$

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Start in the ground state, $|+\rangle^n$, of $H_D = -\sum_i \sigma_i^x$

Quantum Annealing: D-Wave Advantage

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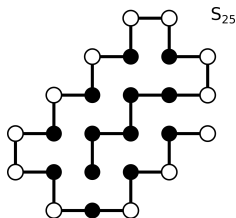
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Hybrid quantum-classical solver: Subproblems sent as queries to the QPU

HP Lattice Proteins [Lau,Dill 1989]

Simplified protein model with two types of amino acids, H and P.
Hs interact, and Ps do not. $E_{HP} = -N_{HH}$

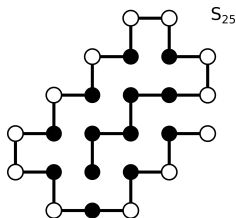


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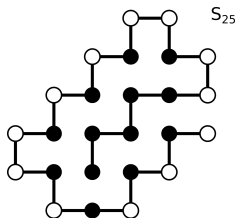


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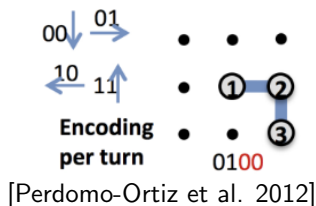
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Despite the simplicity, both folding (given a sequence find its ground state structure) and design (given a structure find a sequence that folds into that structure) are computationally difficult



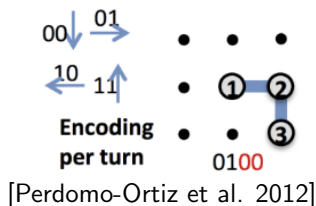
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Previous attempts used a turn-based encoding. Non-local interactions became difficult to implement. (short chains 6-9 amino acids)



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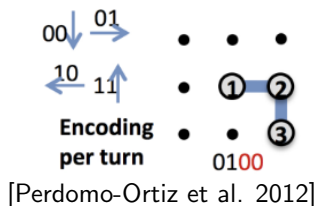
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We wanted to test the mapping on actual hardware

Folding: Mapping and Energy Function

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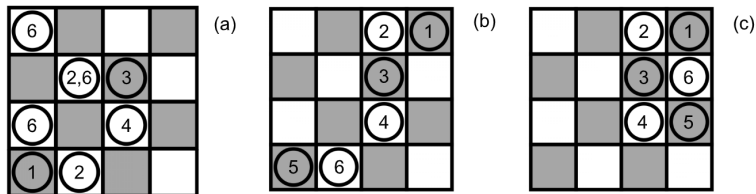
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A spin $\sigma_s^f \in \{0, 1\}$ is 1 if bead f is on site s , $NL^2/2 \approx N^2$ spins



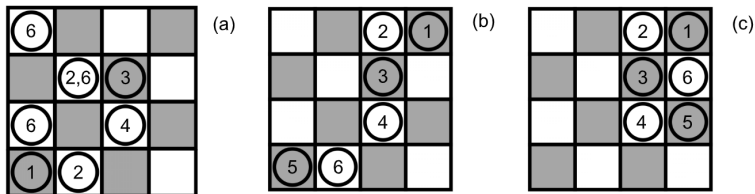
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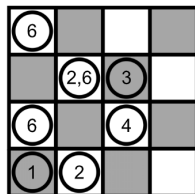
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Energy function takes the form $E = E_{\text{HP}} + \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i E_i$, with E_i being constraints to ensure a valid chain

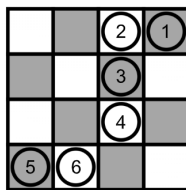


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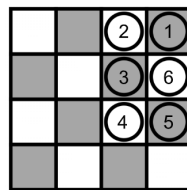
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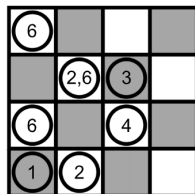


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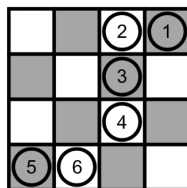
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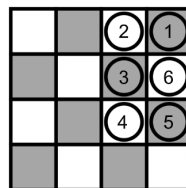
$$E_{\text{HP}} = - \sum_{|f-f'| > 1} C(h_f, h_{f'}) \sum_{\langle s, s' \rangle} \sigma_s^f \sigma_{s'}^{f'}$$



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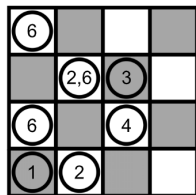
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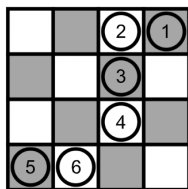
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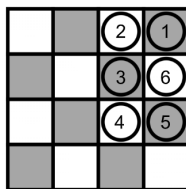
$$E_1 = \sum_f (\sum_s \sigma_s^f - 1)^2,$$



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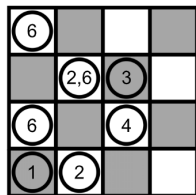
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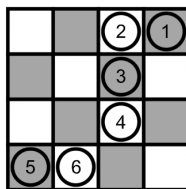
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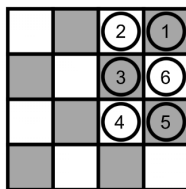
$$E_1 = \sum_f (\sum_s \sigma_s^f - 1)^2, \quad E_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{f_1 \neq f_2} \sum_s \sigma_s^{f_1} \sigma_s^{f_2}$$



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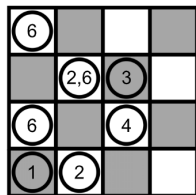
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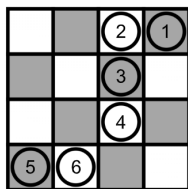
$$E_{\text{HP}} = - \sum_{|f-f'|>1} C(h_f, h_{f'}) \sum_{\langle s, s' \rangle} \sigma_s^f \sigma_{s'}^{f'}$$

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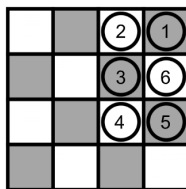
$$E_3 = \sum_{1 \leq f < N} \sum_s \sigma_s^f \sum_{|s'-s|>1} \sigma_{s'}^{f+1}$$



(a)



(b)



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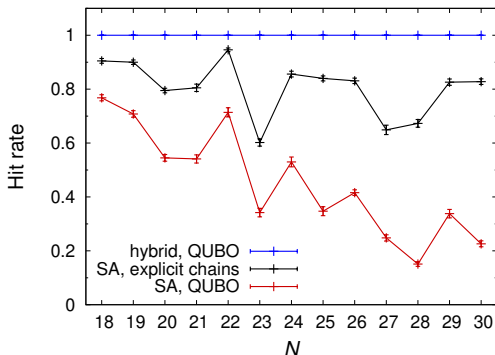
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Implement on hardware: Hybrid minimize $E = E_{\text{HP}} + \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i E_i$

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100 runs for each sequence (10^2 lattice, runtime 4 s) 100% hit rate

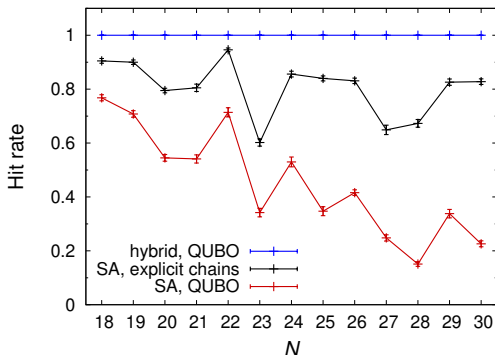


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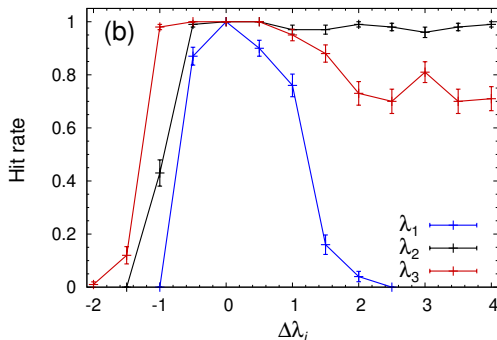
For comparison, classical SA with explicit chains and spins (run time >4 s)



Folding: Hybrid

$$E = E_{\text{HP}} + \sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i E_i$$

Hybrid solver was insensitive to changes, no fine tuning needed



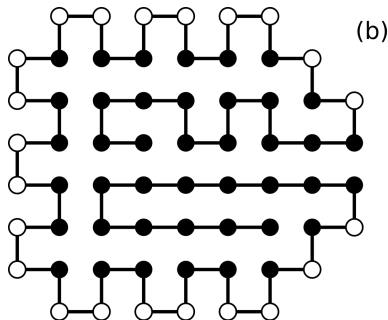
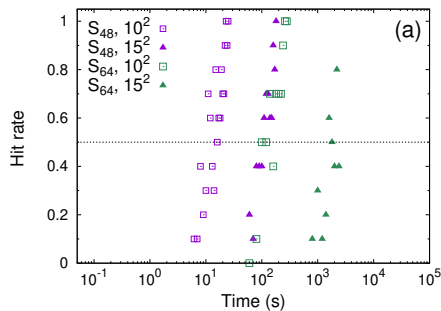
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The lowest known energies were recovered with high probability, once the runtime was high enough



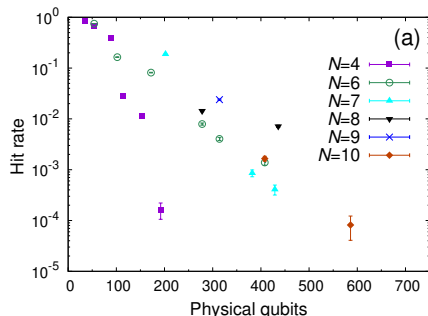
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Limited to short sequences

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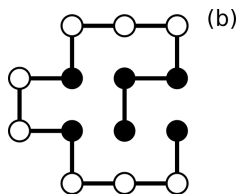
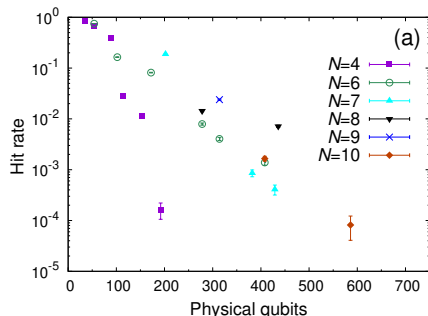


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Longest sequence was 14-beads on a 4^2 grid



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The QPU is less impressive, with a roughly exponential decrease in hit rate with increasing system size

Design of HP Lattice Proteins: Questions We Wish to Answer

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What is the source for the exponential decay?

Design: Procedure

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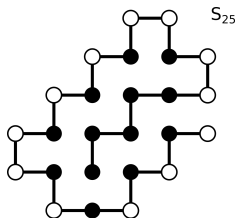
Two-step procedure:

- 1 Seek sequences with minimum energy in the target structure
- 2 Test whether or not the optimized sequence fold to the intended structure (using the folding mapping)

Step 1 is done at fixed number of Hs. Otherwise, the all-H sequence is a trivial solution.

Design: Sequence Optimization

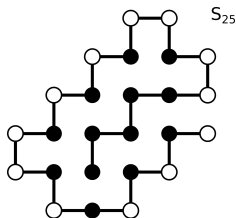
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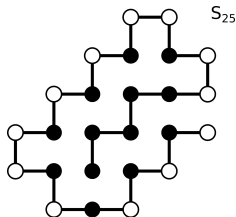


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Find minimum-energy sequences for a given composition, N_H , by minimizing $E = \sum_{ij} w_{ij} s_i s_j + \lambda (\sum_i s_i - N_H)^2$

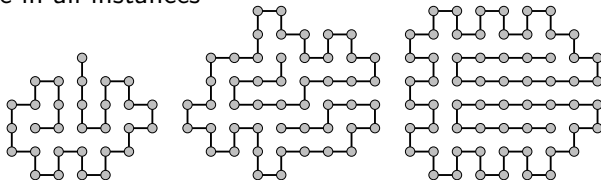


Design: Sequence Optimization with Hybrid

Target structures with $N = 30, 50, 64$.

a few different N_H values for each structure

100% success rate in all instances

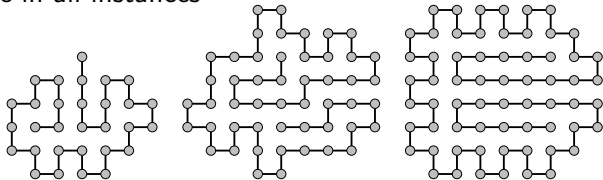


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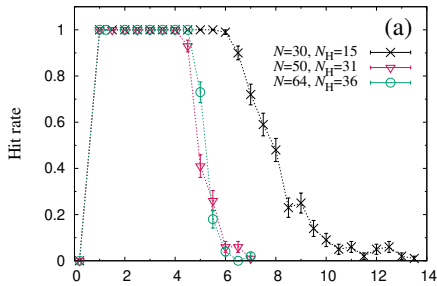
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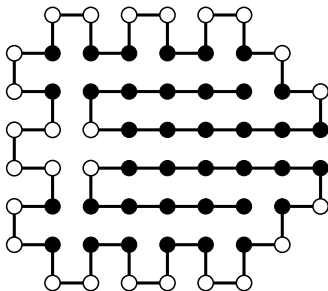


$$E = \sum_{ij} w_{ij} s_i s_j + \lambda (\sum_i s_i - N_H)^2$$



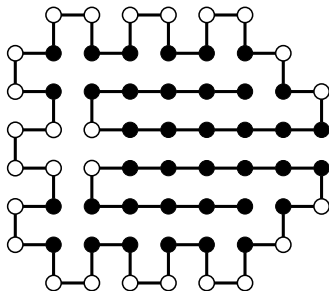
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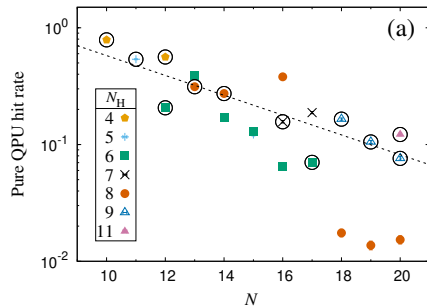
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Previously studied sequences with $N = 64$ and $N_H = 42$, the ground state is degenerate.

Design: Sequence Optimization with the QPU

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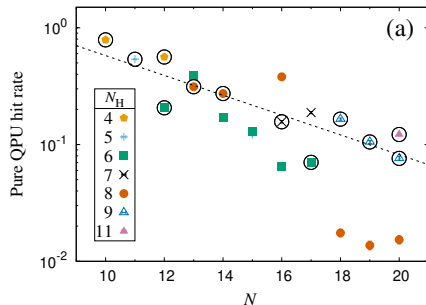


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(i) thermal noise, (ii) chain breaks, (iii) finite annealing time, (iv) control errors



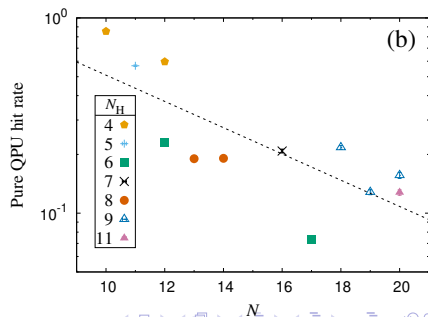
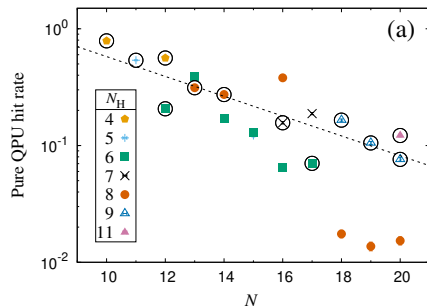
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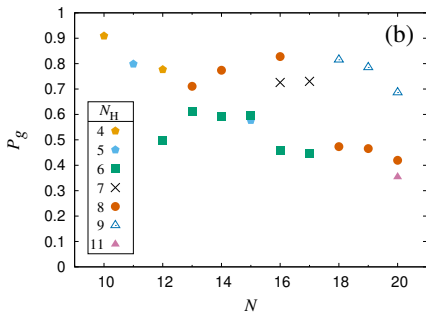
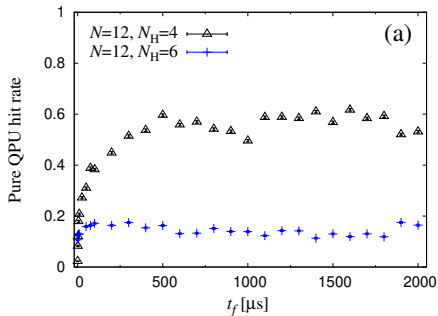
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Right shows the data without chain breaks and large energy gaps



Design: Sequence Optimization with the QPU - finite time

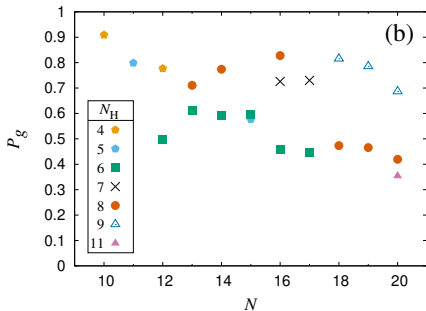
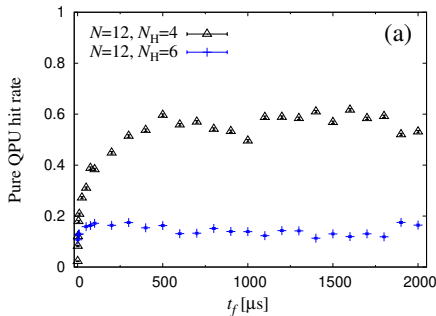
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- (b) Success rates when integrating the time-dependent Schrödinger equation for different systems using a fixed annealing time



Design: Sequence Optimization with the QPU - finite time

- (a) Pure QPU hit rate against annealing time
- (b) Success rates when integrating the time-dependent Schrödinger equation for different systems using a fixed annealing time

No indication that finite annealing time explains the decay in success rate



Intermezzo: How does the D-Wave work?

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Remember the chains? Several strongly coupled qubits represent one logical qubit.

Intermezzo: How does the D-Wave work?

D-Wave uses super-conducting flux qubits with a limited energy range

Therefore, if you give a problem, $\sum_i h_i \sigma_z^i + \sum_{ij} J_{ij} \sigma_z^i \sigma_z^j$ with h_i s and/or J_{ij} s outside this range, we rescale

Remember the chains? Several strongly coupled qubits represent one logical qubit. The chain coupling strength is often the largest J_{ij} in the reformed problem

Design: Sequence Optimization with the QPU - control errors

Imperfect implementation of the problem Hamiltonian

$$\tilde{H}_P = \sum_i (h_i + \delta h_i) \sigma_z^i + \sum_{ij} (J_{ij} + \delta J_{ij}) \sigma_z^i \sigma_z^j$$

Assume $\delta h_i, \delta J_{ij}$ independent and Gaussian with std devs σ_h and σ_J

Design: Sequence Optimization with the QPU - control errors

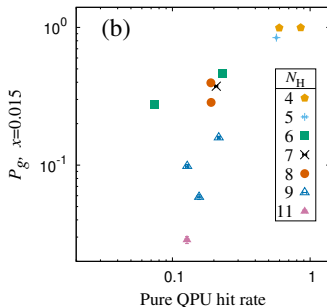
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Assume δh_i , δJ_{ij} independent and Gaussian with std devs σ_h and σ_J

D-Wave: $\sigma_h = x \max |h_i|$ and $\sigma_J = x \max |J_{ij}|$, $x = 0.015$

Semi-quantitative agreement



Design: Conclusion

The hybrid quantum-classical method swiftly and consistently solves the lattice protein folding and design problems for system sizes that are non-trivial with classical methods.

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The hybrid quantum-classical method swiftly and consistently solves the lattice protein folding and design problems for system sizes that are non-trivial with classical methods.

The pure QPU results are less impressive. Control errors may have a significant impact on the success rate

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements: All QA computations were done on the D-Wave Advantage System at the Jülich Supercomputing Centre, Germany.

QAOA: Gate-based optimization

QA: $|f\rangle = \mathcal{T} \exp(\int_0^T H(t) dt) |start\rangle,$

QAOA: use $\mathcal{T} \exp(\int_0^T H(t) dt) \approx$

$\exp(-i\gamma_k H_P) \exp(-i\beta_k H_D) \cdots \exp(-i\gamma_1 H_P) \exp(-i\beta_1 H_D)$ when $k \rightarrow \infty$

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Free to choose $|start\rangle$ and H_D (which causes transitions)

QAOA: Folding [Manuscript in preparation]

In collaboration with Leif Gellersen and Stefan Prestel

$$E_{\text{HP}} = - \sum_{|f-f'|>1} C(h_f, h_{f'}) \sum_{\langle s, s' \rangle} \sigma_s^f \sigma_{s'}^{f'}$$

$$E_1 = \sum_f (\sum_s \sigma_s^f - 1)^2, \quad E_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{f_1 \neq f_2} \sum_s \sigma_s^{f_1} \sigma_s^{f_2}$$

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That is a lot of gates.

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Remember that H_D causes transition. We choose an H_D that only move between sets of spins with no edges in common.

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If we combine this with divide-and-conquer methods we can do large proteins with few qubits and gates