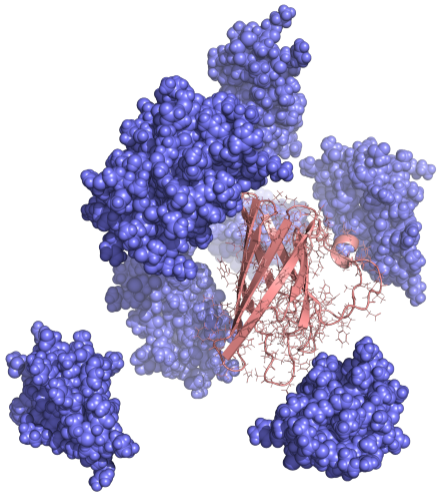


Protein folding in a 2D HP lattice model using quantum annealing

15 November 2022 | Sandipan Mohanty | Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany

What we (SDL Biology) usually do...



- Classical Monte Carlo simulations (replica exchange, simulated tempering, simulated annealing, multi-canonical and Wang-Landau methods...)
- Atomically detailed protein model, fixed bond lengths and bond angles
- Implicit solvent interaction potential
- Markov Chain Monte Carlo simulations using torsion angles and rigid body translations/rotations as degrees of freedom
- Study phenomena involving large scale structural transitions like protein folding, aggregation, and effects of molecular crowding
- Highly optimised HPC code (ProFASi) to handle thousands of atoms

Quantenphysik

Der optimale Computer

23. Februar 2022, 11:34 Uhr | Lesezeit: 6 min



Ein Name wie ein Versprechen: „Advantage“ heißt der Rechner, der so groß ist wie manches Badezimmer. (Foto: Sascha Kreklau / Forschungszentrum Jülich)

In Jülich geht der größte Quantencomputer Europas an den Start. Er soll die bestmöglichen Lösungen für komplexe mathematische Probleme finden - am Flughafen, im Pflanzenbeet oder im Aktienportfolio. Doch manchmal patzt die futuristische Technik.

Von Christian Meier

▶ Anhören 📌 Merken ➦ Teilen 💬 Feedback 🖨️ Drucken

Das neue Gebäude, das den größten [Quantencomputer](#) Europas beherbergt, sieht nicht gerade imposant aus. Hätte es Fenster in seiner holzverkleideten Außenwand, könnte es auch als

IBM Unveils 400 Qubit-Plus Quantum Processor and Next-Generation IBM Quantum System Two

Company Outlines Path Towards Quantum-Centric Supercomputing with New Hardware, Software, and System Breakthrough

Nov 9, 2022

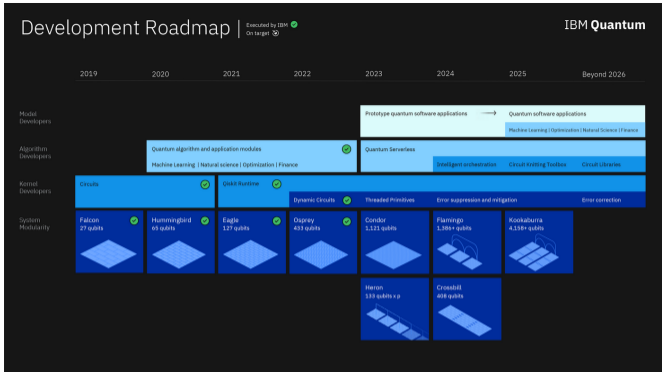


Dario Gil, Jay Gambetta and Jerry Chow holding the new 433 qubit 'IBM Osprey' processor



NEW YORK, Nov. 9, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- IBM (NYSE: [IBM](#)) today kicked off the IBM Quantum Summit 2022, announcing new breakthrough advancements in quantum hardware and software and outlining its pioneering vision for quantum-centric

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Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale Launches Quantum Computing Readiness Discovery Phase with IBM to Establish Quantum capability in France

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Additional Assets

- [IBM_Quantum_Flexi_Cables.jpg](#)
- [IBM_Quantum_Processors.png](#)
- [IBM_Quantum_System_Two_\(front\).jpg](#)

At the Summit, the company unveiled the following new developments:

- **'IBM Osprey' - IBM's new 433-quantum bit (qubit) processor**

IBM Osprey has the largest qubit count of any IBM quantum processor, more than tripling the 127 qubits on the IBM Eagle processor unveiled in 2021. This processor has the potential to run complex quantum computations well beyond the computational capability of any classical computer. For reference, the number of classical bits that would be necessary to represent a state on the IBM Osprey processor far exceeds the total number of atoms in the known universe. For more about how IBM continues to improve the scale, quality, and speed of its quantum systems, read [Quantum-Centric Supercomputing: Bringing the Next Wave of Computing to Life](#).

- **New quantum software addresses error correction and mitigation**

Addressing noise in quantum computers continues to be an important factor in adoption of this technology. To simplify this, IBM released a beta update to Qiskit Runtime, which now includes allowing a user to trade speed for reduced error count with a simple option in the API. By abstracting the complexities of these features into the software layer, it will make

Quantum computing

- Universal gate-based quantum computing
- Special-purpose quantum annealing (QA)



Quantum computing

- Universal gate-based quantum computing
- Special-purpose quantum annealing (QA)

D-Wave QA

- Minimize $E = \sum_i h_i \sigma_i + \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \sigma_i \sigma_j$, $\sigma_i = \pm 1$
- Consider $H(t) = a(t)H_a + b(t)H_b$, $H_b \leftrightarrow E$
 $t = 0$: ground state of $H(0) \approx H_a$, $a(0) \gg b(0)$
 a and b change slowly as t increases from 0 to τ
 $t = \tau$: ground state of $H(\tau) \approx H_b$, $a(\tau) \ll b(\tau)$
annealing rate $\tau^{-1} \leftrightarrow$ cooling rate in simulated annealing
- Threats: non-adiabaticity, thermal noise, imperfect H implementation



How well does D-Wave QA work?

B. Heim, T.F. Rønnow, S.V. Isakov, M. Troyer, Quantum versus classical annealing of Ising spin glasses, *Science* **348**, 215 (2015)

“... the evidence for quantum speed-up is contradictory.”

COMPUTER SCIENCE

***Quantum or not, controversial
computer yields no speedup***

Conventional computer ties D-Wave machine

A.D. King *et al.* (D-Wave, Google), Scaling advantage over path-integral Monte Carlo in quantum simulation of geometrically frustrated magnets, *Nature Communications* **12**, 1113 (2021)

“... million-fold speedup over an efficient CPU implementation.”



D-Wave quantum annealer

- “Frame your problem as an energy minimisation problem and solve it using the physics of the QPU, exploiting quantum fluctuations, tunneling...”



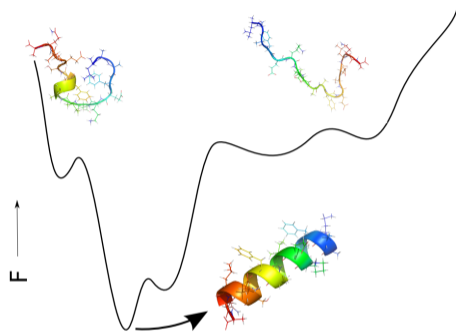
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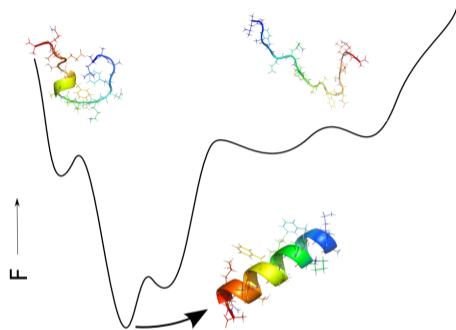
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- But, many problems in science and engineering involve some kind of optimisation



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- What the annealer does: generate sample configurations $\{x_i\}$ of bits (equivalently, spins) which minimize the Ising model energy, or the QUBO energy

$$E = \sum_{i=1}^N q_i x_i + \sum_{i < j}^N q_{ij} x_i x_j$$

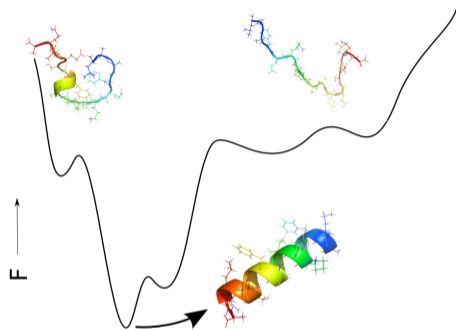


D-Wave quantum annealer

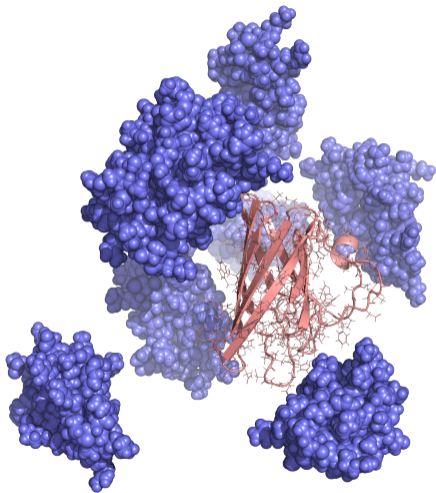
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- Formulating a problem for the quantum annealer: specify q_i and q_{ij} so that $\{x_i\}$ which minimizes the above energy also represents a solution



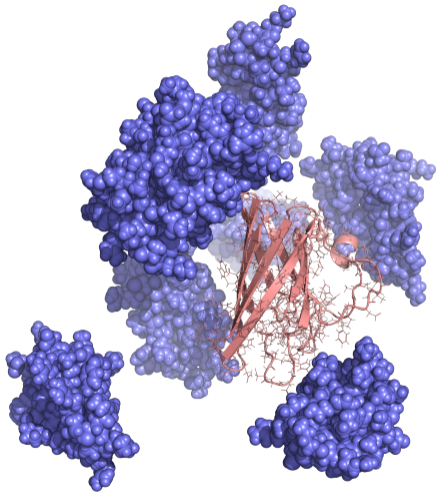
The challenge ahead...



Example study with classical MC (ProFASi)

- 9373 atoms, 2706 torsional degrees of freedom + translation/rotation of the molecules

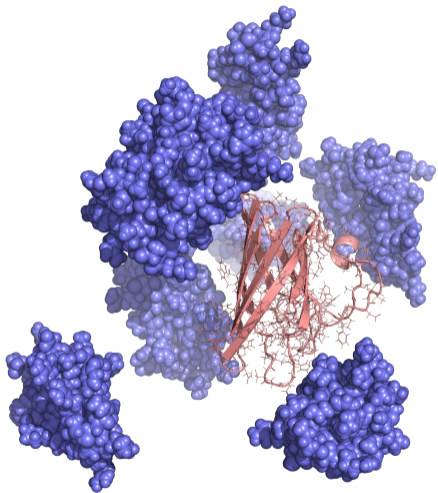
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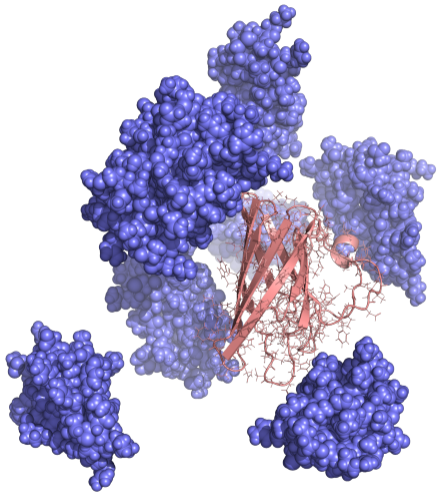
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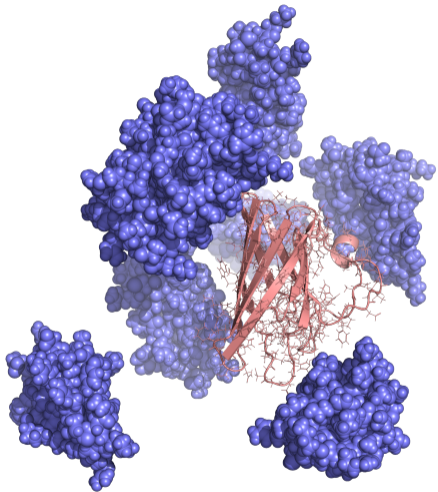
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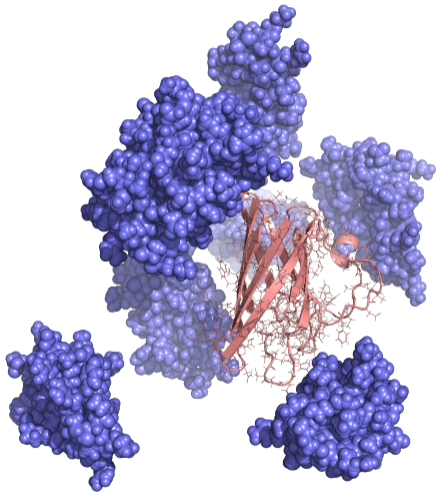
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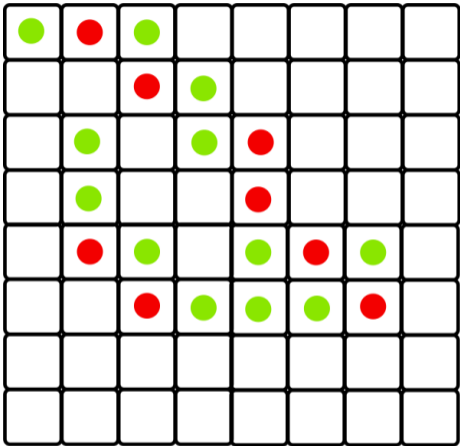
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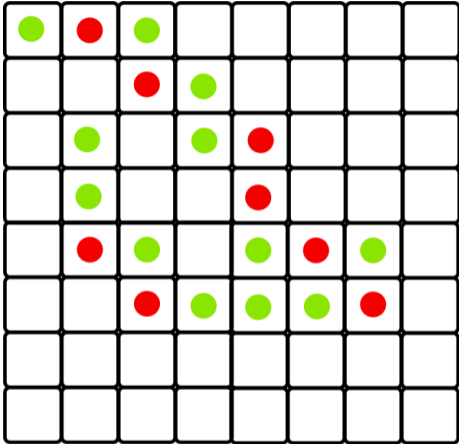
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- Can a quantum computer perform the state space search faster?
- What is our path to perform comparable studies on quantum computers?

Let's start with something simple



- One bead represents one amino acid
- **HP model:** Only two kinds of amino acids: H = hydrophobic, P = polar. Molecule specified by a “sequence” of H and P beads, e.g., HPHHPHPHP
- 2D
- Beads can only be placed on lattice sites
- Two beads are said to be in contact if they occupy nearest neighbour sites on the lattice, despite not being sequence neighbours
- Attractive interaction between two H beads in contact
- Known (from classical MC studies) to capture some basic aspects of proteins

First step: a very reduced model

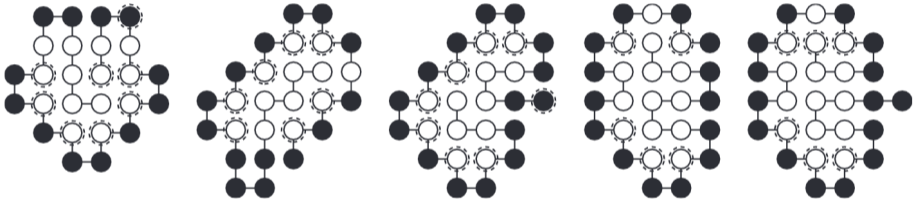


Explicit-chain MC simulations

- Sequence $S_1 S_2 S_3 \dots$, with $S_i = H$ or P .
- $E = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=i+1}^N n(\vec{r}_i, \vec{r}_j) \epsilon_{ij}$.
- $\epsilon_{ij} = -1$ if $S_i = S_j = H$, $\epsilon_{ij} = 0$ otherwise.
- $n(\vec{r}_i, \vec{r}_j) = 1$ if \vec{r}_i and \vec{r}_j are nearest neighbours, $n(\vec{r}_i, \vec{r}_j) = 0$ otherwise
- Internal coordinates can be chosen as the directions of the displacements $S_1 \rightarrow S_2$, $S_2 \rightarrow S_3$, e.g., 00 =down, 01 =right, 10 =left, 11 =up
- Bit-string \rightarrow conformation
- Conformation \rightarrow energy
- Energy, bit flip moves \rightarrow MCMC
- Works. Easy with classical MC. But that's not the topic for today!

2D HP lattice proteins

- All HP sequences with unique ground states and the corresponding structures are known¹ for $N \leq 30$
- $N = 30$: # sequences: $\sim 10^9$, # structures: $\sim 8 \times 10^{11}$



Open circle=H, filled circle=P, dashes=conserved position

¹A. Irbäck, C. Troein, *J. Biol. Phys.* **28**, 1 (2002); C. Holzgräfe, A. Irbäck, C. Troein *J. Chem. Phys.* **135**, 195101 (2011).

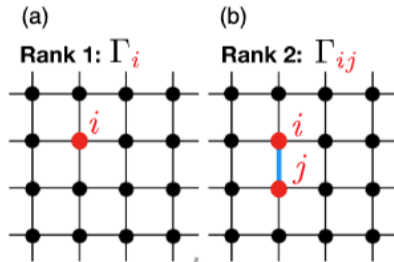
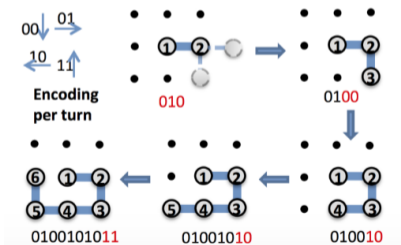
Polymer studies with quantum annealing

Short lattice proteins:

A. Perdomo-Ortiz, N. Dickson, M. Drew-Brook, G. Rose, A. Aspuru-Guzik, Finding low-energy conformations of lattice protein models by quantum annealing, *Sci. Rep.* **2**, 248 (2012)

Homopolymers:

C. Micheletti, P. Hauke, P. Faccioli, Polymer physics by quantum computing, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **127**, 080501 (2021)



Polymer studies with quantum annealing

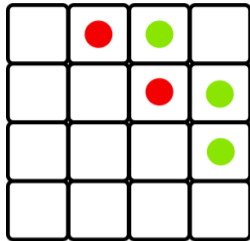
Some difficulties encountered in previous attempts...

- Growth algorithms: hard to encode self-avoidance
- Qubit-economic encoding of chain conformations, but needed extra qubits to ensure a quadratic Hamiltonian
- Non-trivial to add more beads to the studied polymer



Spin glass representation of HP chains: our formulation

- Chain with N beads on square grid with L^2 sites
- $\sigma_s^f = 1$ if chain bead f is on lattice site s , $\sigma_s^f = 0$ otherwise
- $N \times L^2$ binary variables σ_s^f
- Not all possible $\{\sigma_s^f\}$ represent valid chains. Valid configurations emerge dynamically



Energy function:

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

E_{HP} = HP energy

E_i = constraint energies (≥ 0)

λ_i = strength parameters

Valid chain configuration $\Leftrightarrow E_1 = E_2 = E_3 = 0$

f	σ_s^f
1	0100 0000 0000 0000
2	0010 0000 0000 0000
3	0000 0010 0000 0000
4	0000 0001 0000 0000
5	0000 0000 0001 0000

Spin glass representation of HP chains

HP energy (sequence h_1, \dots, h_N):

$$E_{\text{HP}} = - \sum_{\substack{|f-f'|>1 \\ h_f=h_{f'}=H}} \sum_{\substack{\text{n.n. pairs} \\ s,s'}} \sigma_s^f \sigma_{s'}^{f'}$$

Site allotment to beads (each bead on one and only one lattice site):

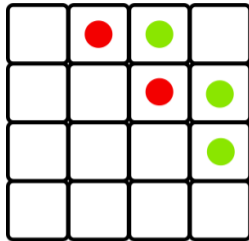
$$E_1 = \sum_{f=1}^N \left(\sum_s \sigma_s^f - 1 \right)^2$$

Self-avoidance:

$$E_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{f \neq f'} \sum_s \sigma_s^f \sigma_s^{f'}$$

Chain connectivity:

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

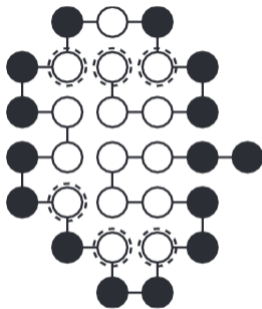


f	σ_s^f
1	0100 0000 0000 0000
2	0010 0000 0000 0000
3	0000 0010 0000 0000
4	0000 0001 0000 0000
5	0000 0000 0001 0000

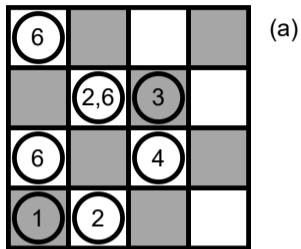
Test: minimize E by classical simulated annealing (SA)

$N = 30$

- 10^2 grid, 30×10^2 binary variables, $2^{3000} \sim 10^{903}$ states
- SA with 25 temperature levels, 3 core minutes per SA run
- Success rate $\gtrsim 10\%$
- May compare with conventional explicit-chain SA:
 8×10^{11} states, 10 core seconds per SA run, success rate $> 50\%$

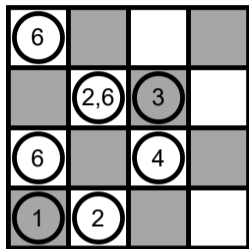


Binary field approach, classical SA, typical run

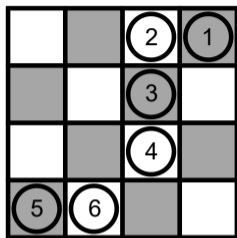


- Random start: all constraints likely violated

Binary field approach, classical SA, typical run



(a)

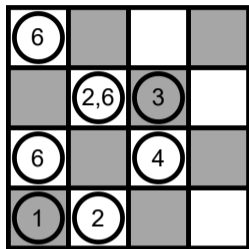


(b)

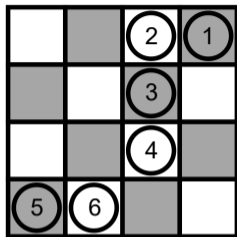
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- Gradually, lower energy states are found with more constraints satisfied

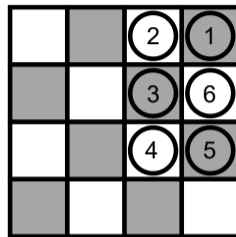
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(a)



(b)



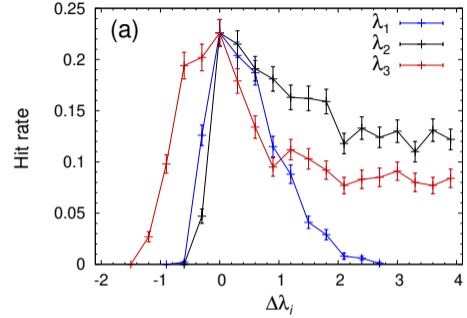
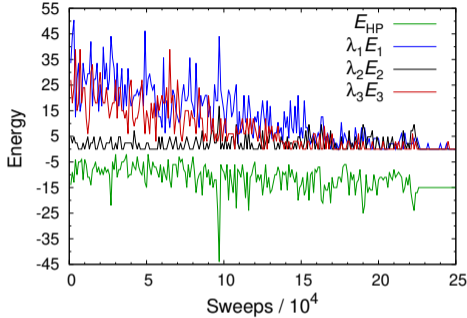
(c)

- Random start: all constraints likely violated

- Gradually, lower energy states are found with more constraints satisfied

- An annealing run, may end in a low energy state where all constraints are satisfied and with a low HP energy

Binary field approach, typical run, parameter sensitivity



- Constraint terms decay at different rates
- The main physical term might go lower than its optimal value during the run when violating constraints

- If constraints are weighted too low, they don't relax fast enough. If they are too strong the energy landscape is rugged and the sampling is slow.
- Some crude tuning required to get good success rates.

Using the D-Wave hybrid solver

- Binary variables: σ_s^f , where s is a lattice position (x, y) and f is the serial number of a given bead along the sequence
- To formulate our QBM (quadratic binary model), we need to map the total contribution involving a pair of these variables to a pairwise contribution
- The public interface expects Q to be given as a **dictionary**
 - key type:** An ordered pair $(k1, k2)$, where $k1, k2$ are keys identifying two of our binary variables. For instance, if we identify our σ_s^f variables in terms of the x, y lattice coordinates and the serial number f along the sequence, the key type for Q would be $((x_1, y_1), f_1), ((x_2, y_2), f_2)$.
 - value type:** numeric

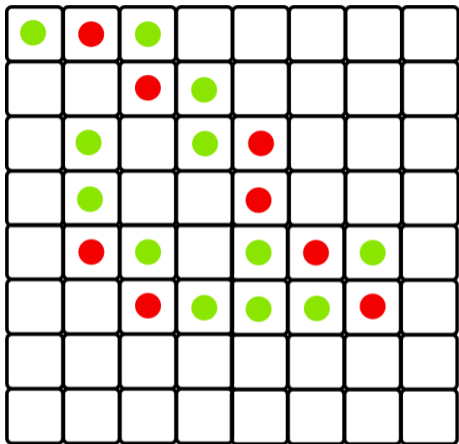
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$$E_1 = \sum_{f=1}^N \left(\sum_s \sigma_s^f - 1 \right)^2$$

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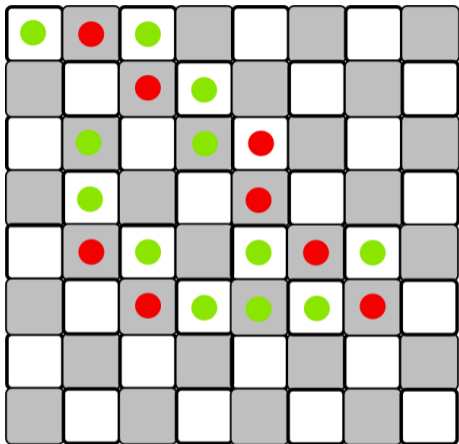
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A trick to reduce the number of required qubits



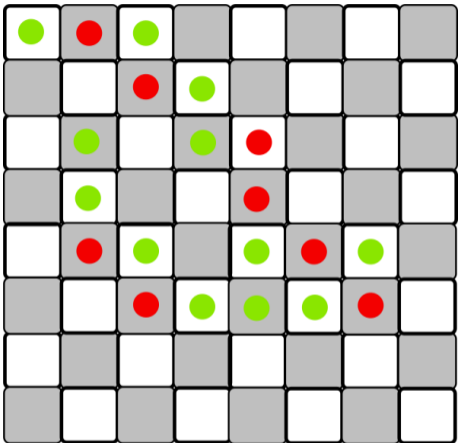
- **Why:** As presented up to this point, our QBM needs (for sequence length N on an $L \times L$ lattice) $N \times L^2$ bits in its state representation, i.e., 3000 bits for $N = 30$, $L = 10$

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- **Trick:** Colour lattice sites like a chess board. If the sequence position 1 is on a white site, positions 3, 5, 7... are also on white sites! And similarly for the black lattice sites.

A trick to reduce the number of required qubits



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- **Trick:** Colour lattice sites like a chess board. If the sequence position 1 is on a white site, positions 3, 5, 7... are also on white sites! And similarly for the black lattice sites.
- Every odd sequence position has $\approx \frac{1}{2}L^2$ available sites, and similarly for even sequence positions. Number of possible (s, f) combinations for σ_s^f

$$\approx \frac{1}{2}N \times \frac{1}{2}L^2 + \frac{1}{2}N \times \frac{1}{2}L^2 = \frac{1}{2}N \times L^2$$

Useful bits from the code

```
1 def parity(node):
2     return (node[0]%2 + node[1]%2)%2
3 def E_HP_qubo_contribs(g, sequence): # g is a graph representing the L x L lattice
4     QQ = defaultdict(float)
5     for u, v in g.edges():
6         if parity(u) == 0:
7             ev, od = u, v
8         else:
9             ev, od = v, u
10    for i in range(len(sequence)):
11        for j in range(i+1, len(sequence)):
12            if (i - j) * (i - j) <= 4:
13                continue
14            if (i + j) % 2 == 0:
15                continue
16            if (sequence[i] == 0 or sequence[j] == 0):
17                continue;
18            if (i % 2 == 0):
19                QQ[((ev, i), (od, j))] += -1
20            else:
21                QQ[((ev, j), (od, i))] += -1
22
23    return QQ
```



Useful bits from the code

```
1 def unique_bead_location(g, strength, sequence_length):
2     evenpos = [i for i in range(sequence_length) if i%2 == 0]
3     oddpos = [i for i in range(sequence_length) if i%2 == 1]
4     QQ = defaultdict(float)
5     for i in evenpos:
6         for u in g.nodes():
7             if parity(u) == 0:
8                 QQ[((u, i), (u, i))] += -strength
9         for u in g.nodes():
10            for v in g.nodes():
11                if u != v and parity(u) == 0 and parity(v) == 0:
12                    QQ[((u, i), (v, i))] += strength
13    for i in oddpos:
14        for u in g.nodes():
15            if parity(u) == 1:
16                QQ[((u, i), (u, i))] += -strength
17        for u in g.nodes():
18            for v in g.nodes():
19                if u != v and parity(u) == 1 and parity(v) == 1:
20                    QQ[((u, i), (v, i))] += strength
21    return QQ
```



Useful bits from the code

```
1
2 def self_avoidance(g, strength, sequence_length):
3     evenpos = [i for i in range(sequence_length) if i%2 == 0]
4     oddpos = [i for i in range(sequence_length) if i%2 == 1]
5     QQ = defaultdict(float)
6     for u in g.nodes():
7         if parity(u) == 0:
8             for x in evenpos:
9                 for y in evenpos:
10                    if x < y:
11                        QQ[((u, x), (u, y))] += strength
12        else:
13            for x in oddpos:
14                for y in oddpos:
15                    if x < y:
16                        QQ[((u, x), (u, y))] += strength
17
18     return QQ
```

Note: Nothing D-Wave specific in any of these functions! Just plain old python.



Useful bits from the code

```
1
2 def chain_connectivity(g, strength, sequence_length):
3     evenpos = [i for i in range(sequence_length) if i%2 == 0]
4     oddpos = [i for i in range(sequence_length) if i%2 == 1]
5     QQ = defaultdict(float)
6     for i in evenpos:
7         for u in g.nodes():
8             for v in g.nodes():
9                 if u == v or ((u,v) in g.edges() or ((v,u) in g.edges())):
10                    continue
11                if parity(u) == 0 and parity(v) == 1:
12                    if i != evenpos[-1] or sequence_length % 2 == 0:
13                        QQ[((u, i), (v, i+1))] += strength
14
15    for i in oddpos:
16        for u in g.nodes():
17            for v in g.nodes():
18                if u == v or ((u,v) in g.edges() or ((v,u) in g.edges())):
19                    continue
20                if parity(u) == 0 and parity(v) == 1:
21                    if i != oddpos[-1] or sequence_length % 2 == 1:
22                        QQ[((u, i+1), (v, i))] += strength
23
24    return QQ
```



Sampling our QBM using the hybrid solver

```
1 def lattice_HP_QUBO(dim, L, S):
2     # add up contributions and return total Q
3     sequence = from_str("HPPHPPHPH PPHPHPPH PPHHH")
4     dim = [10, 10]
5     Q = lattice_HP_QUBO(dim, Lambda, sequence)
6     # Nothing "quantum" up to this point
7     # Need to find {x_i} minimising Xt Q X
8     from dwave.system import LeapHybridSampler
9     sampler = LeapHybridSampler()
10    for i in range(0, 10):
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- Set up Q (a mapping from a pairs of qbit ids to real numbers)



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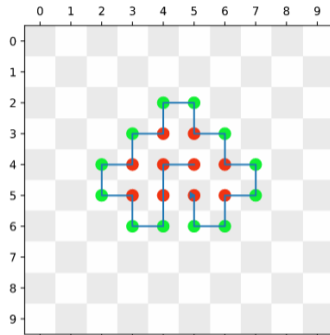
- Set up Q (a mapping from a pairs of qbit ids to real numbers)
- Create a sampler
- Ask the sampler to return a sample bit vector minimising the energy function encoded in Q
- Continue with analysis



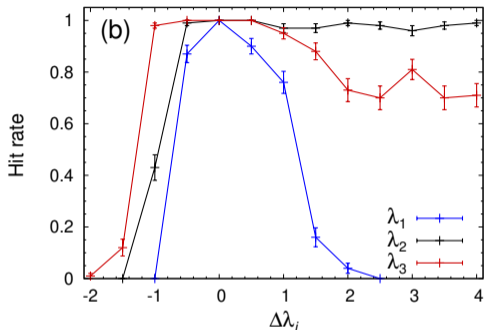
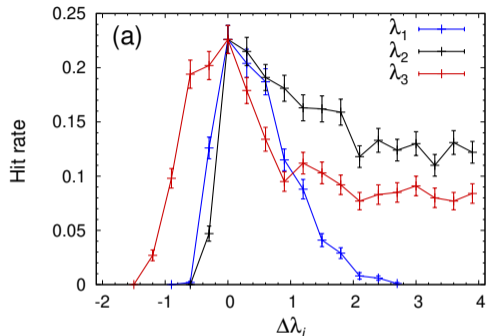
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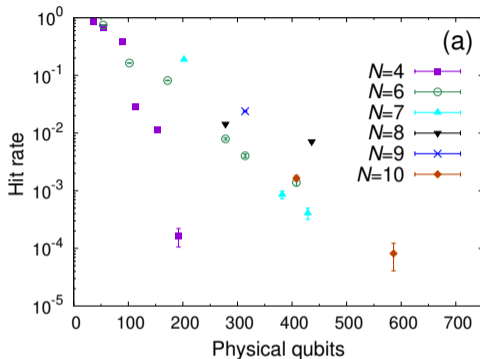
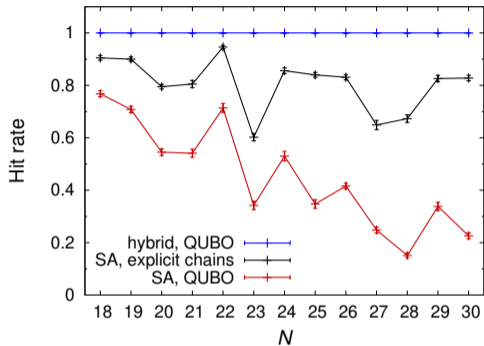


Hybrid solver: optimal λ_i parameters



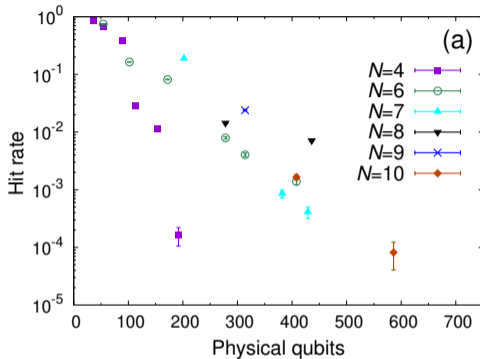
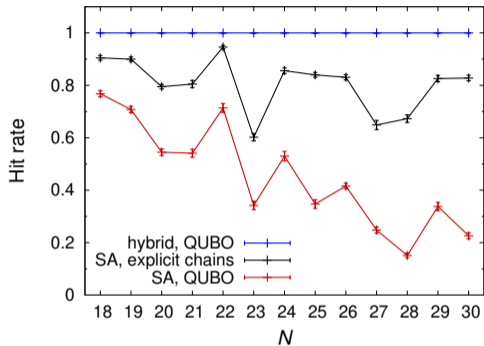
- Vaguely similar shapes compared to classical SA simulations
- Maximum achievable hit rate is **far superior!**

Hybrid solver: comparison with classical SA and pure QPU



- Hybrid solver reproduces the known ground states in about 100% of the runs for sequences up to 30 beads
- Classical SA with the same encoding suffers from having a large number of DOF
- Classical SA with explicit chains is fast, results are good, but still can't keep up!

Hybrid solver: comparison with classical SA and pure QPU

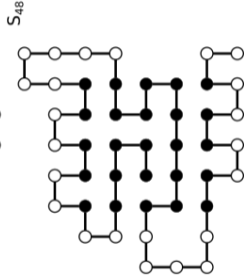
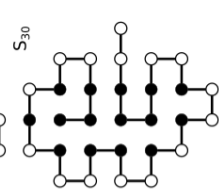
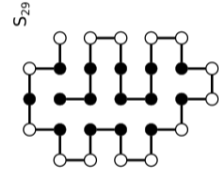
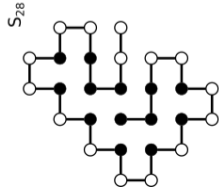
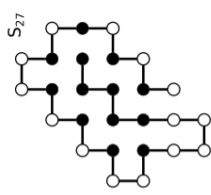
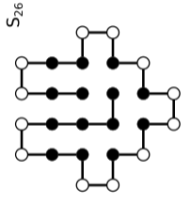
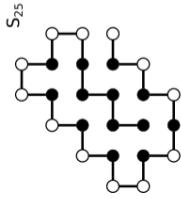
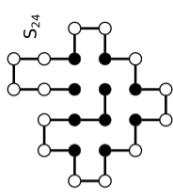
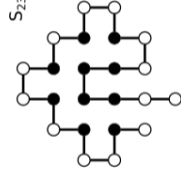
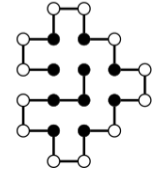
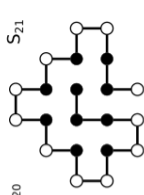
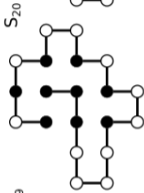
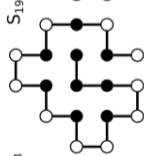
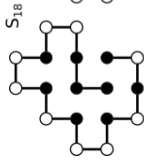
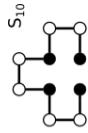
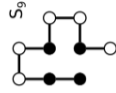
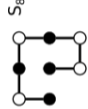


- Hybrid solver reproduces the known ground states in about 100% of the runs for sequences up to 30 beads
- Pure QPU sampler performs poorly with even 10 bead sequences
- The largest sequence we managed with pure QPU was 14 beads long

HP sequences up to 30 beads

Name	Sequence	E_{\min}
S_4	HPPH	-1
S_6	HPPHPH	-2
S_7	PHPPHPH	-2
S_8	HPHPHPPH	-3
S_9	HHPPHPHP	-3
S_{10}	HPPHPHPHPH	-4
S_{14}	HHHPPPHPPHPPPH	-5
S_{18}	HHHPPHPHPHPHPHPH	-9
S_{19}	PHHPHPHPHPHPHPHHH	-9
S_{20}	HPHPHPHPHPHPHPHHH	-9
S_{21}	PHHPHPHPHPHPHPHHH	-10
S_{22}	HPPHPHPHPHPHPHPHHH	-11
S_{23}	PPHHHPHPHPHPHPHPHP	-10
S_{24}	HPPPPHPHPHPHPHPHPHHH	-11
S_{25}	PHHPHPHPHPHPHPHPHHHHH	-13
S_{26}	HHHHPPHHPPHPHPHPHPHH	-14
S_{27}	PHHPHPHPHPHPHPHPHPHHHHH	-13
S_{28}	PPHHHPHPHPHPHPHPHPHHH	-13
S_{29}	PHHPHPHPHHPPHPHPHPHHHHHPHHH	-15
S_{30}	PPHHHHPPHPHPHPHPHPHPHPHHH	-15





How about longer sequences?

- For chain lengths > 30 , exhaustive enumeration is not available



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- S48: PPHPPHHP PHHPPPPP HHHHHHHH HHPPPPPP HHPHHP HPPHHHHH,
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F. Liang and W. H. Wong, Evolutionary Monte Carlo for protein folding simulations, *J. Chem. Phys.* **115**, 3374 (2001).

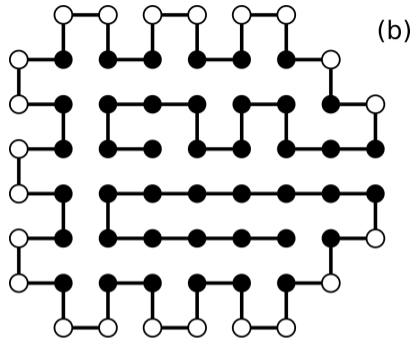
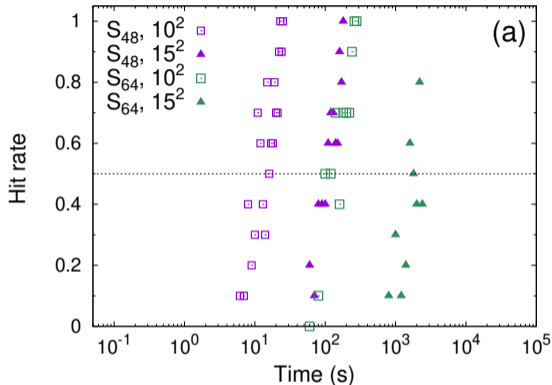


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- S64: HHHHHHHH HHHHPHPH PPHHPPHH PPHPPHHP PHHPPHPP HHPHHP HPHPHHHH
HHHHHHHH,
lowest known energy = -42
U. Bastolla, H. Frauenkron, E. Gerstner, P. Grassberger, and W. Nadler, Testing a new Monte Carlo algorithm for protein folding, *Proteins* **32**, 52 (1998).

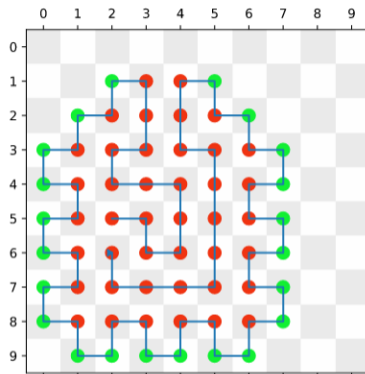
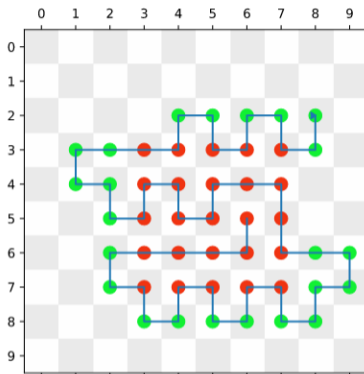


How about longer sequences?



- Initial attempts: only 1 hybrid annealing run in 300 found a state of energy -42
- The hybrid annealer has a default time limit 8s for the 64 bead system. Increasing this limit beyond a threshold rapidly increased the number of annealing cycles ending in that ground state.

How about longer sequences?



- Longer run times need to be given to the hybrid annealer for longer sequences
- Slight changes in λ_i parameters (weights for constraints) also required
- With these changes, we get 100% success rate to the lowest energy state

Wish list

- More openness: How does the hybrid annealer work? What preprocessing steps does it undertake?
- Direct interface to C, C++, FORTRAN... (I need my overloaded functions, `const`, `constexpr`, `template`, ...)
- JSC queue system integration?
- SSH access?

Summary

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