



MULTISCALE STRUCTURAL SIMULATIONS LABORATORY  
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING • UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

## Solving differential equations on quantum computers

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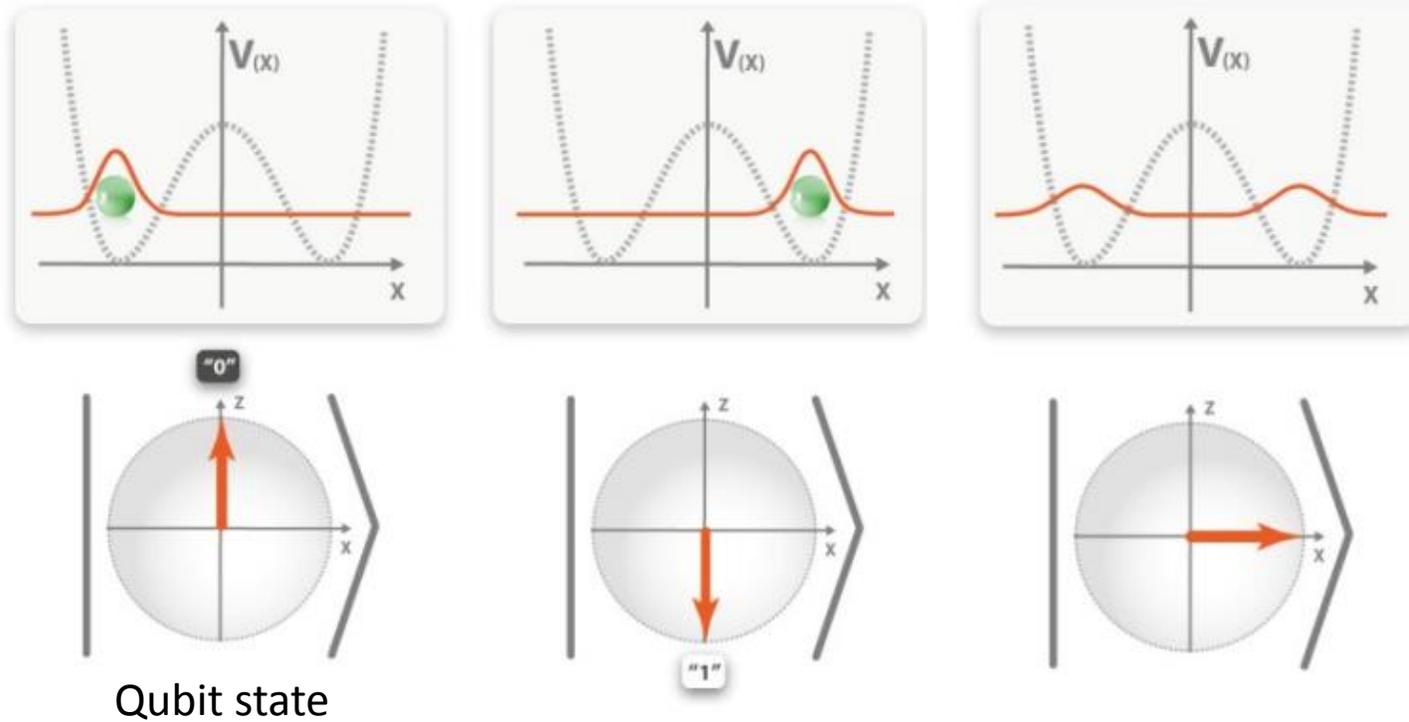
Sid Srivastava (PhD candidate)

Keynote Talk: Modeling and Computation session  
16<sup>th</sup> Pan-American Congress of Applied Mechanics

May 23, 2019

Acknowledgments: USRA Quantum information Sciences Program

# What is Quantum computing?



Quantum computers  
employ superposition of  
states

Dur and Heusler, Arxiv  
2013

“It’s not just a question of moving more quickly. It’s a question of moving in different ways.”

“It’s as though you’re Houdini trying to pick a lock and escape from an underwater cabinet. If you were free to move your hands wherever you’d like, you could do so much more efficiently than if you were handcuffed.”

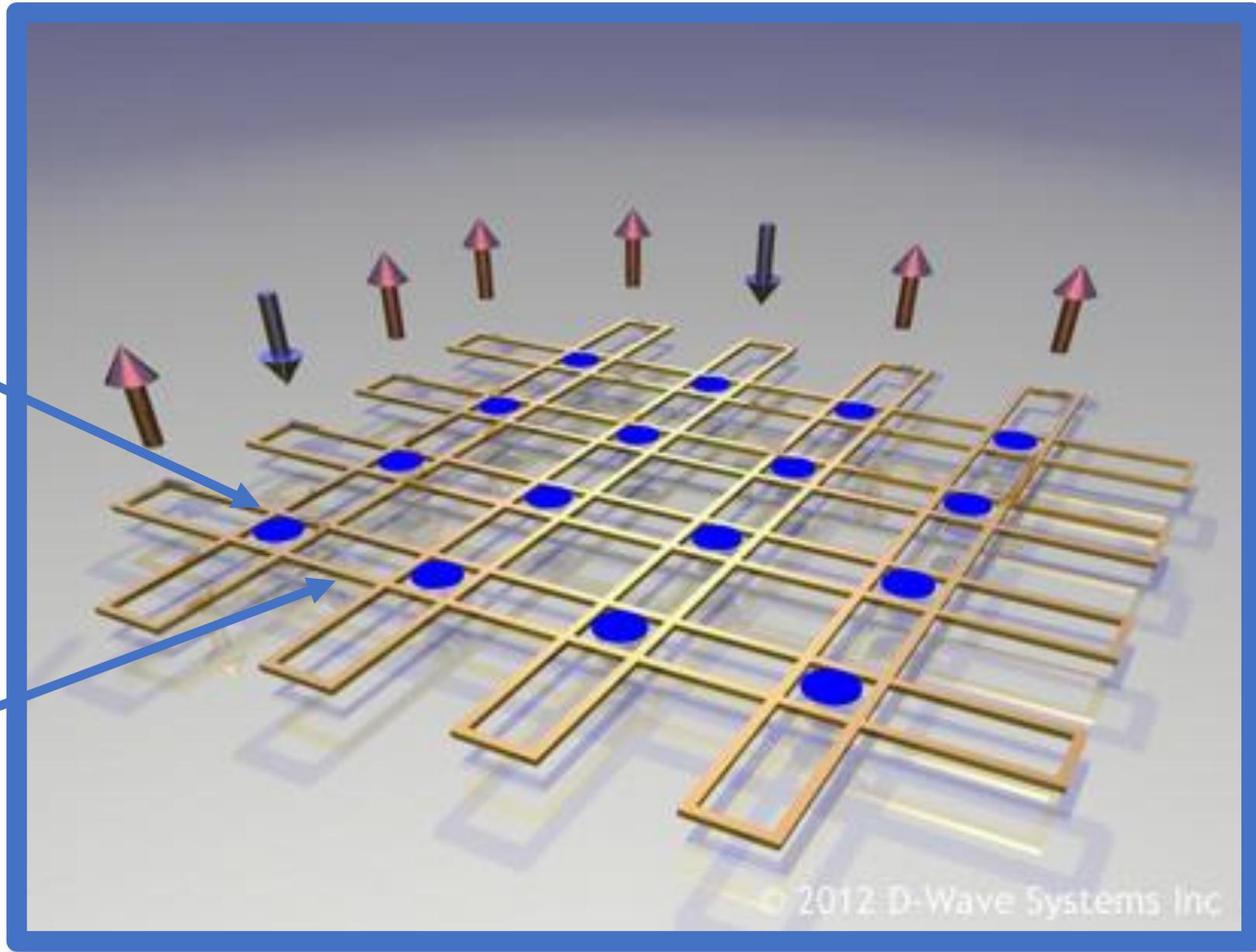
**Aephraim Steinberg**

Professor of physics at the University of Toronto and  
Centre for Quantum Information and Quantum Control

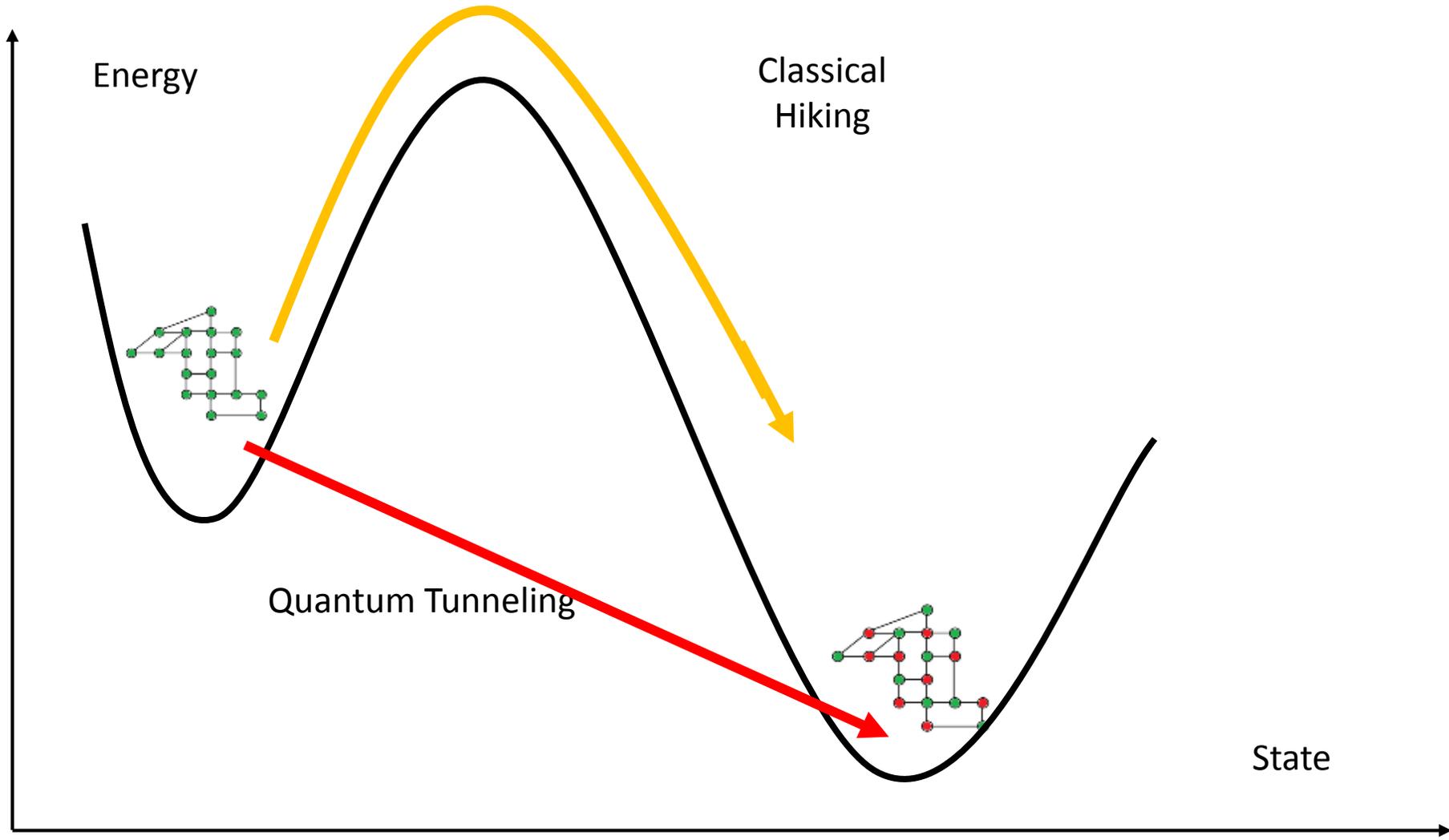
# The Quantum annealer

Tunable field on the qubit

Tunable interaction between qubits



# Optimization using quantum annealers



# Algorithms were developed before the machines arrived

1960-80: Quantum Information theory

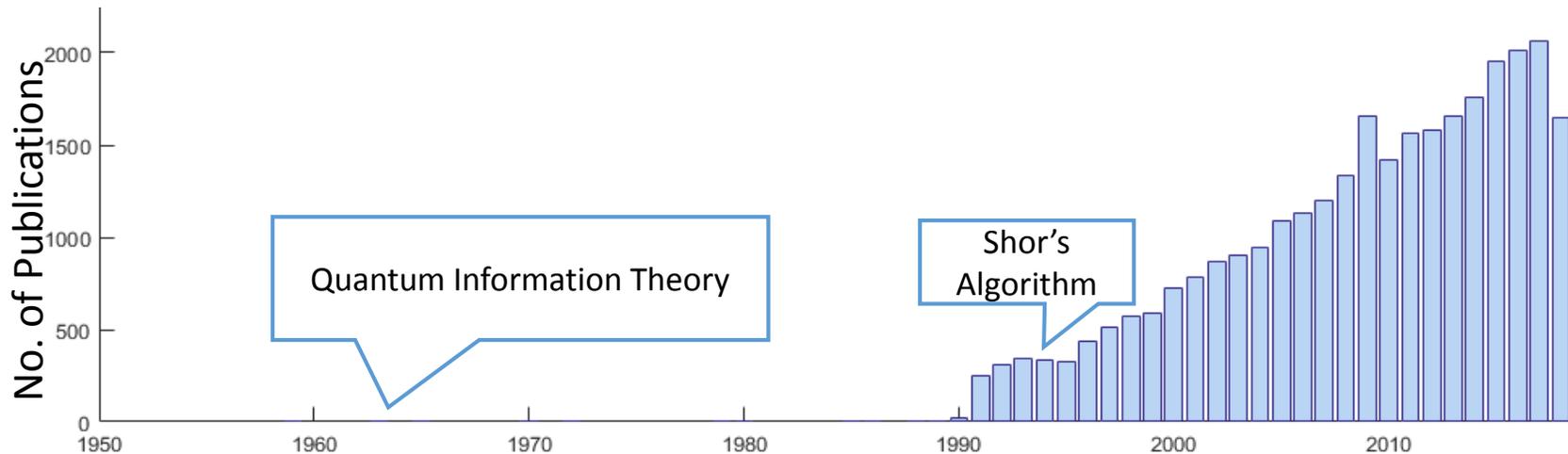
1980-90: Feynman's talk – Cannot simulate Quantum system efficiently on a classical computer  
Benioff proposes a theoretical framework for QC  
Deutsch describes the first universal quantum computer  
Ekert invents entangled based secure communication

1990-98: Shor's algorithm for factorization  
Grover's search algorithm

1998: 2-qubit NMR quantum computer

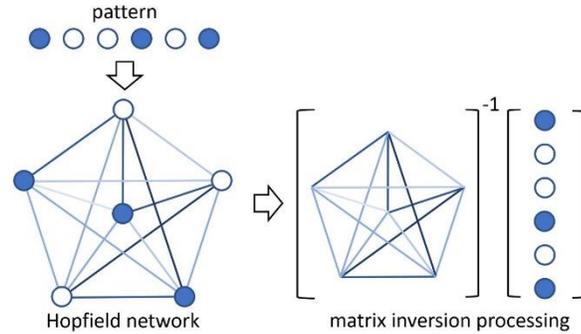


(Present)

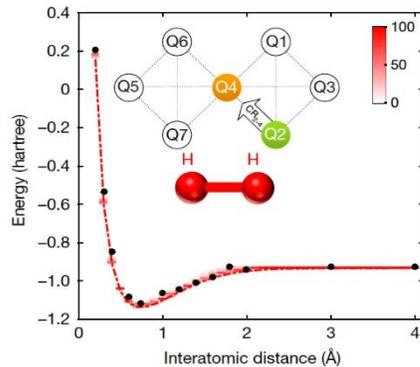


Data from Web of science

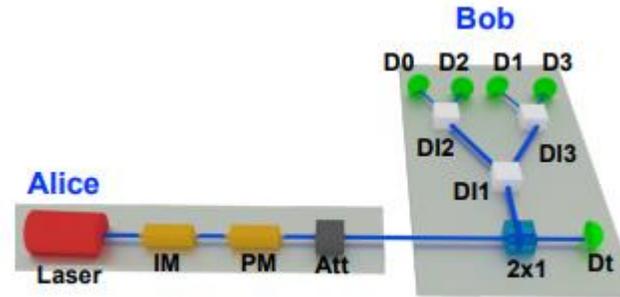
# Recent developments



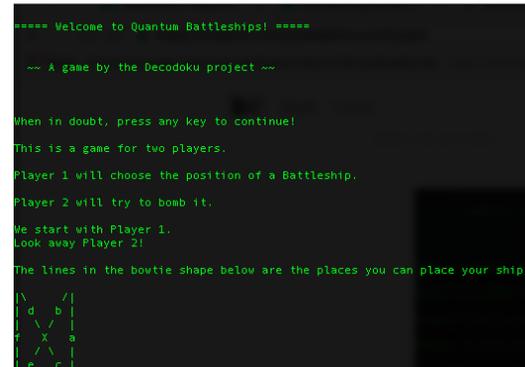
Neural Network<sup>[1]</sup>



Molecular energy estimation<sup>[2]</sup>



Quantum key distribution<sup>[3]</sup>



Playing Battleship<sup>[4]</sup>

Primary focus: Identify and solve problems which are very hard to be solved on Classical supercomputers (e.g. NP hard combinatorial problems).

Secondary focus: Solve well-established classical problems on a Quantum system more efficiently.

National Quantum Initiative Act (Jan 2019) at a funding level of \$1.2 billion impacts growth of quantum computational sciences

[1] Rebentrost, Patrick, et al. "Quantum Hopfield neural network." *Physical Review A* 98.4 (2018): 042308.

[2] Kandala, Abhinav, et al. "Hardware-efficient variational quantum eigensolver for small molecules and quantum magnets." *Nature* 549.7671 (2017): 242.

[3] Islam, Nurul T., et al. "Securing quantum key distribution systems using fewer states." *Physical Review A* 97.4 (2018): 042347.

[4] <https://www.research.ibm.com/ibm-q/> (Last accessed on 20 Feb 2019)

# Some issues with near-term quantum computers

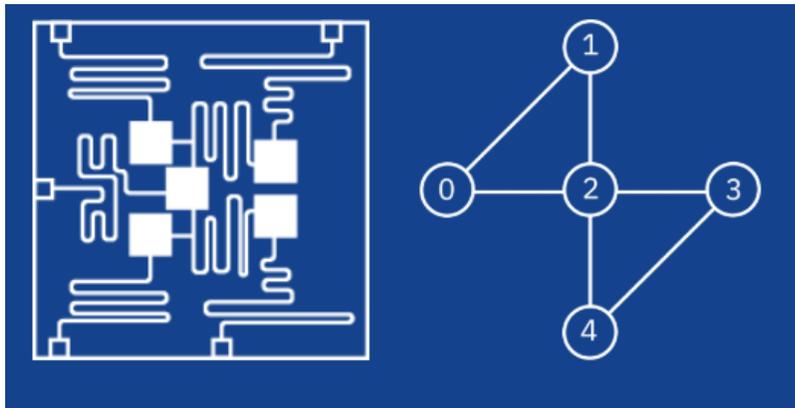
## Limited Qubits

In classical computers, with similar binary (0/1) encoding:

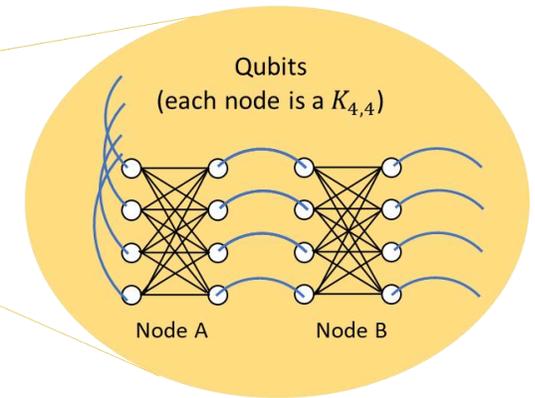
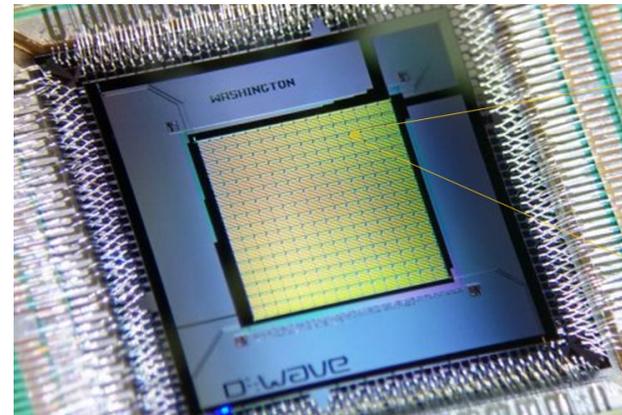
Data type size : 32 bits (float) to 80 bits (long double)  
1 GB memory = 12 million high precision variables

In contrast, currently available quantum annealers have a limited number of physical qubits.

## Limited connectivity (Gate operations):



Schematic of IBM Q5 processor

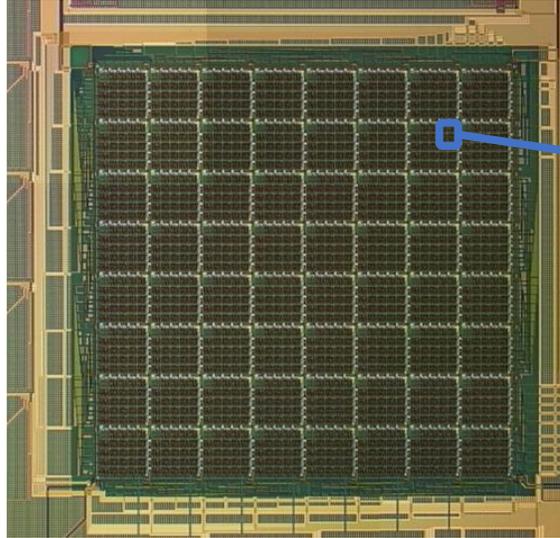


Unit graph structure for D-Wave 2000Q

# Quantum annealing: Ising spin systems

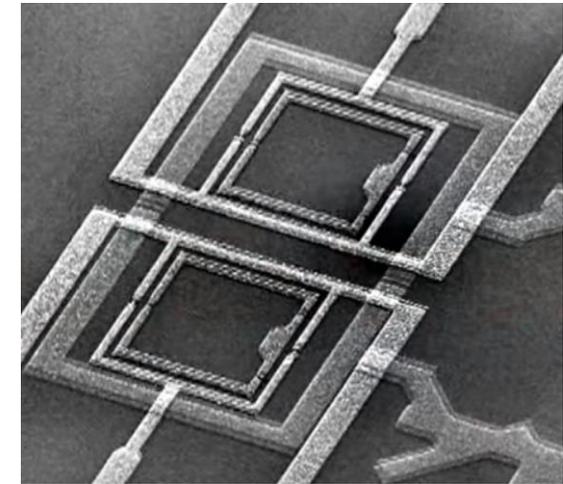
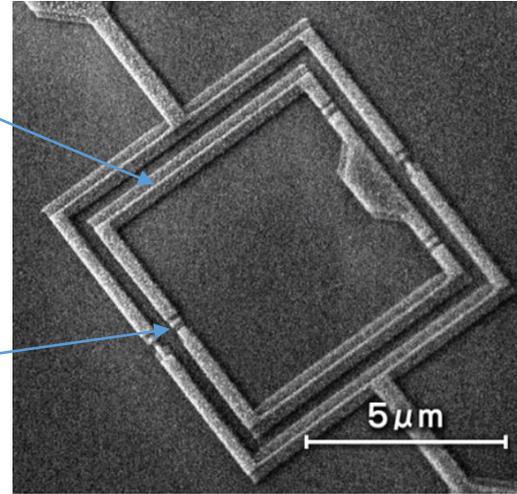
How does a Quantum annealer work?

D-Wave Processor

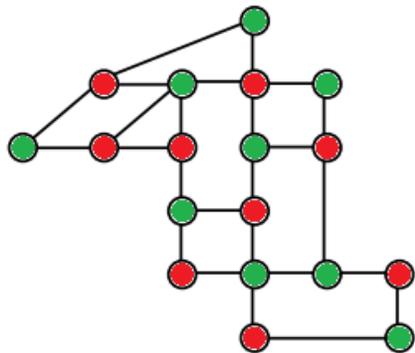


Aluminum loop

Josephson junction



NTT Basic Research Laboratories (2005)



Energy in spin systems is dependent on 3 things:

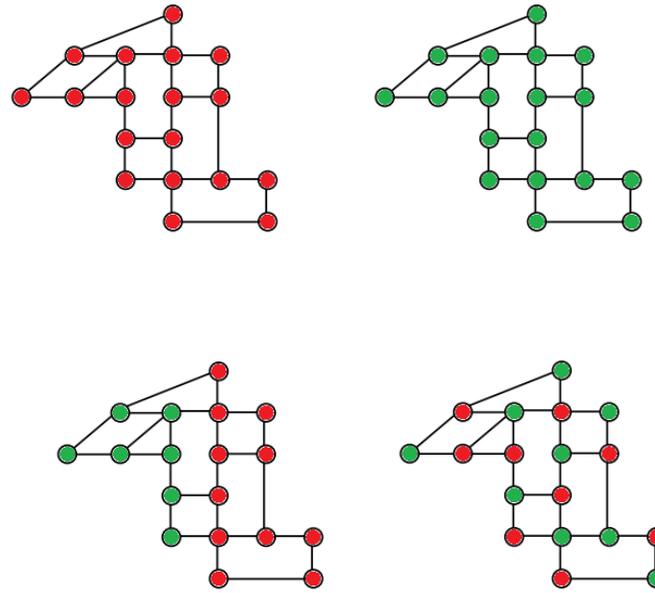
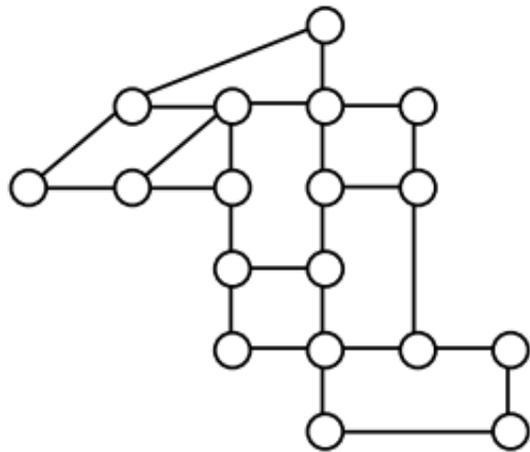
1. Topology of graph.
2. Parameters  $H$  (Field strength) and  $J$  (Coupling strength)
3. Labeling of vertices

# Ising spin systems

## Spin systems

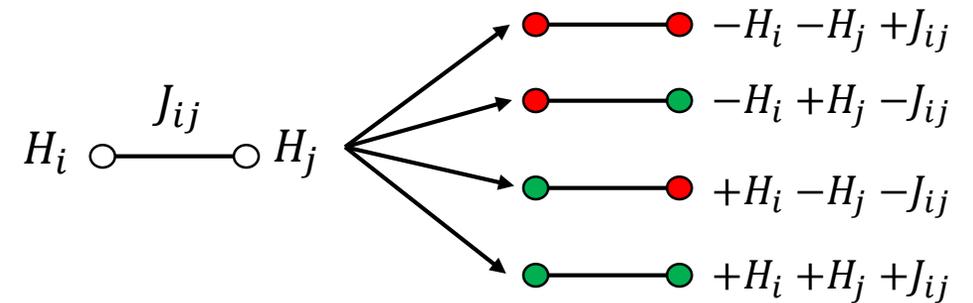
- A spin model defines a Hamiltonian (Energy) on a **simple undirected Graph** for a given set of **labelling**.
- An **Undirected Graph**  $G(V,E)$  is a set of vertices ( $V$ ) and edges ( $E$ ) with no orientation. It is '**simple**' if it does not contain any multi-edge or self loop.
- A **Vertex labeling** is a function of  $V$  to a set of *labels* ( $\{+1,-1\}$  in our case)

- Label = +1
- Label = -1

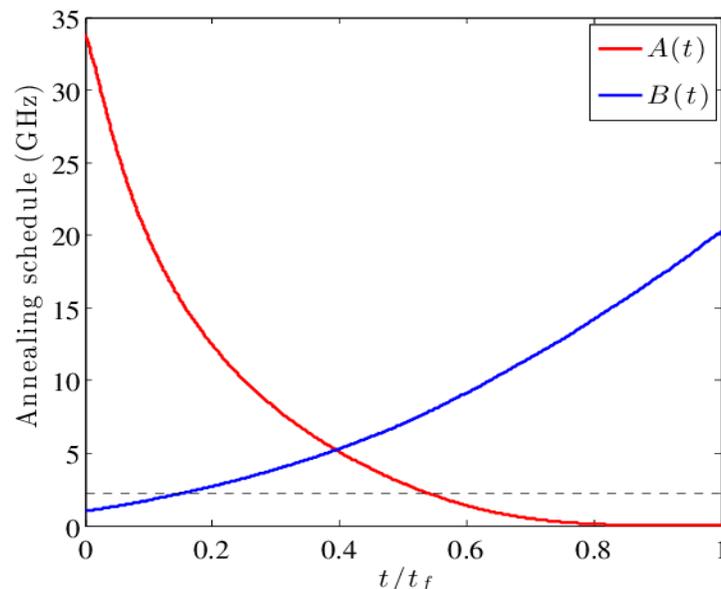


The energy ( $E$ ) for a given labeling ( $S$ ) :

$$E(S) = \sum_i H_i S_i + \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} J_{ij} S_i S_j$$



# Annealing procedure

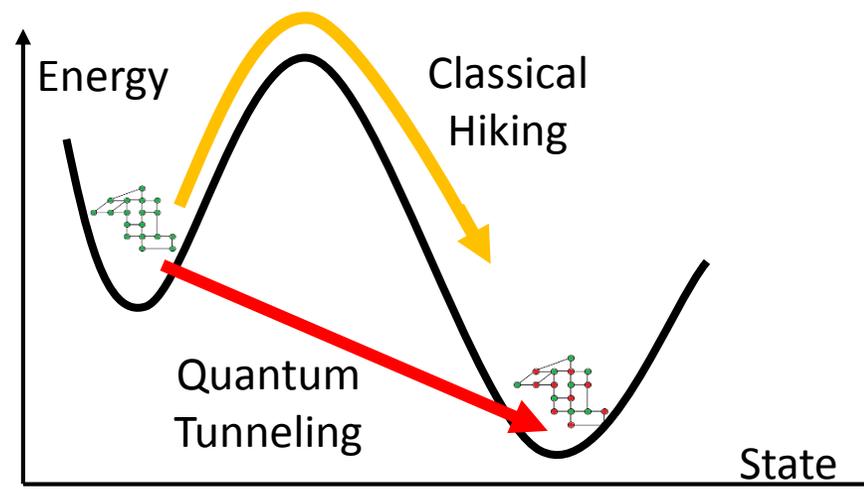


Why is this better than classical computing?

- The annealing procedure is conducted by varying the field as

$$E(t) = A(t) \sum_i S_i^x + B(t) ( \sum_i H_i S_i^z + \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} J_{ij} S_i^z S_j^z )$$

- The fridge temperature used in D-Wave Vesuvius processor is 12mK.
- The total annealing time is in range of 5  $\mu$ s - 2000  $\mu$ s

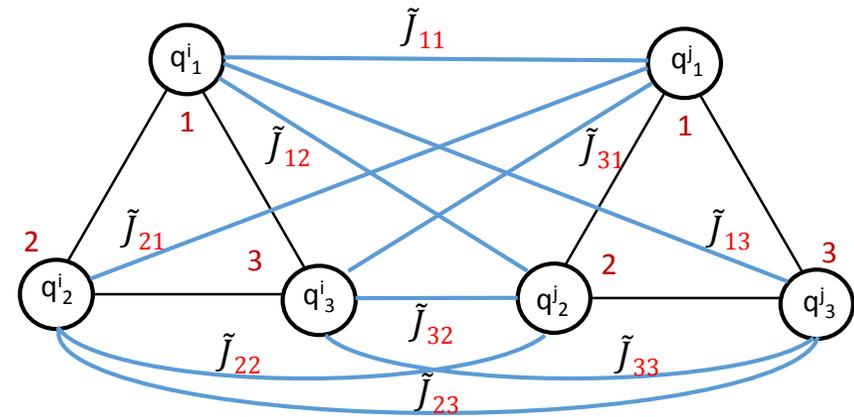


# Key topic of this talk: Mapping physics to Ising models

$$\Pi[u] = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 u'^2 dx$$



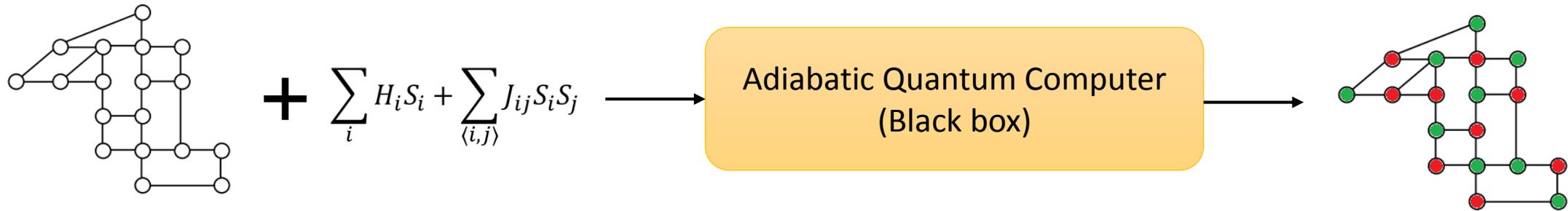
Element



Gate based quantum computers or  
Quantum annealers

# Scope of this talk

**Primary objective:** Formulate and test Quantum annealing based algorithms for differential equations.



For most part, we will treat Quantum annealer as a black box which solves graph labeling in one step.

**Also in scope:** Quantum approximate optimization on gate based quantum computers

**Not in Scope:** Quantum linear solver-based procedure

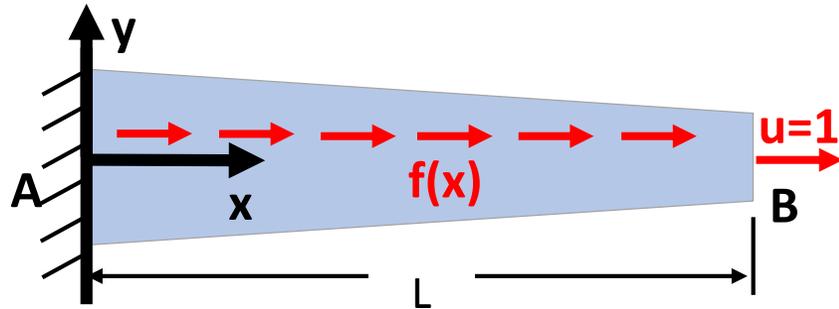
A great amount of work has been based on QLSA solver developed by Seth Lloyd [1,2]. QLSA is very promising but is not as robust to noise which becomes important in near term quantum computers.

[1] Aram W. Harrow, Avinatan Hassidim, and Seth Lloyd, Quantum algorithm for linear systems of equations, Physical Review Letters (2009), 103, no. 15, 150502, arXiv:0811.3171. (QLSA)

[2] Childs, Andrew M., and Jin-Peng Liu. "Quantum spectral methods for differential equations." arXiv preprint arXiv:1901.00961 (2019).

# A simple example

## Case Study I: 1-D truss problem



$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( EA(x) \frac{du}{dx} \right) + f(x) = 0 \quad 0 < x < L$$

Dirichlet boundary conditions:

$$u(0) = 0$$
$$u(L) = 1$$

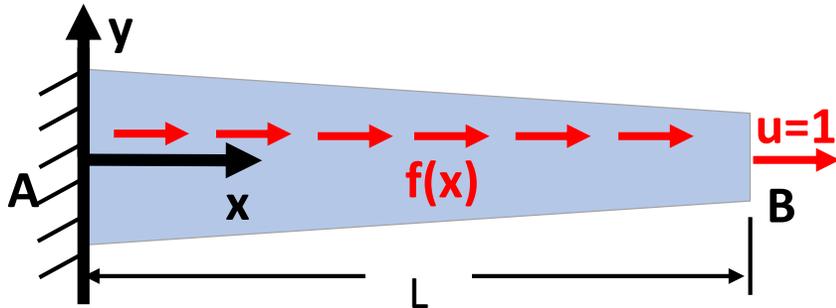
### Goals

- Introducing Box algorithm for solving differential equations\*
- Familiarizing with the D-wave quantum annealing architecture

\*Srivastava, Siddhartha, and Veera Sundararaghavan. "Box algorithm for the solution of differential equations on a quantum annealer." accepted for publication in Physical Review A.

# Solving differential equation

## Case Study I: 1-D truss problem



$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( EA(x) \frac{du}{dx} \right) + f(x) = 0 \quad 0 < x < L$$

Dirichlet boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} u(0) &= 0 \\ u(L) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

### Energy methods:

Solution obtained by minimizing the potential energy given as:

$$\min \pi(u) = \int_0^L \frac{1}{2} EA \left( \frac{du}{dx} \right)^2 - f u dx$$

# Discretization and compact basis

Finite element approximation:

Pick some appropriate finite dimensional space,  $V_h$  with basis  $\{\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n\}$  :

$$u = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \phi_i \text{ with } a_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

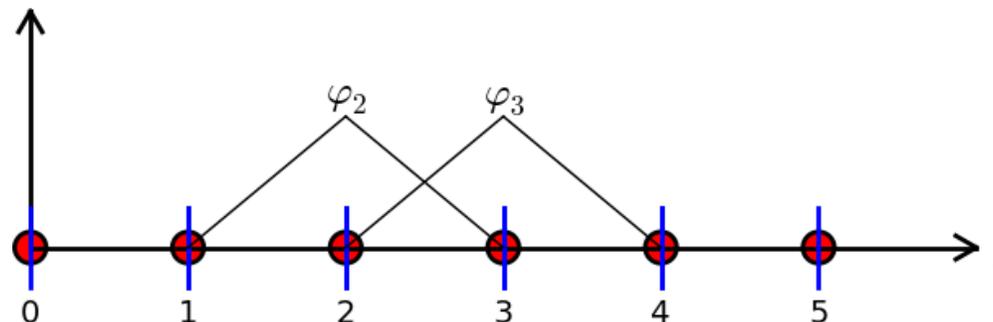
Solve  $\min \pi(a)$  to get the best approximation of  $u$

$$\pi(a) = \int_0^L \frac{1}{2} EA \left( \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \phi'_i \right)^2 - f \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \phi_i dx$$

Choice of  $\phi$ :

**'Hat functions'** (Compact support)

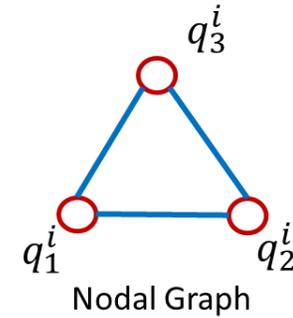
This gives a **sparse structure** to the minimization problem



# Nodal graph

We want to ensure that there is only **'ONE' +1** and **'TWO' -1** on each node

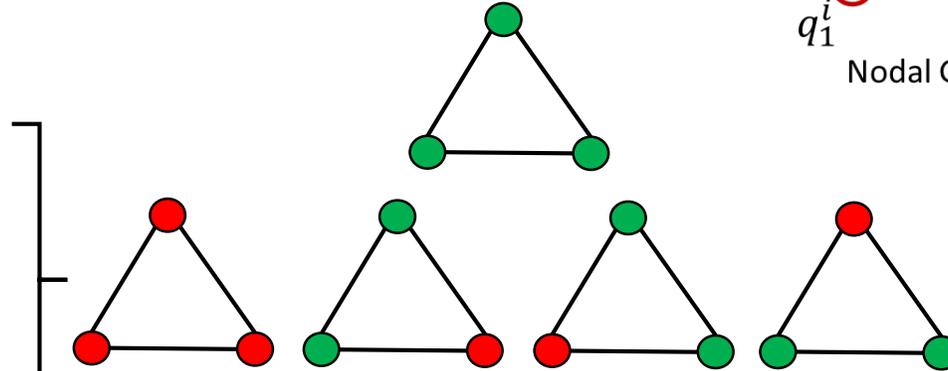
$q_1^i$	$q_2^i$	$q_3^i$	Energy	H=1, J=1
1	1	1	$3H+3J$	6
-1	-1	-1	$-3H+3J$	0
-1	1	1	H-J	0
1	-1	1	H-J	0
1	1	-1	H-J	0
-1	-1	1	-H-J	-2
-1	1	-1	-H-J	-2
1	-1	-1	-H-J	-2



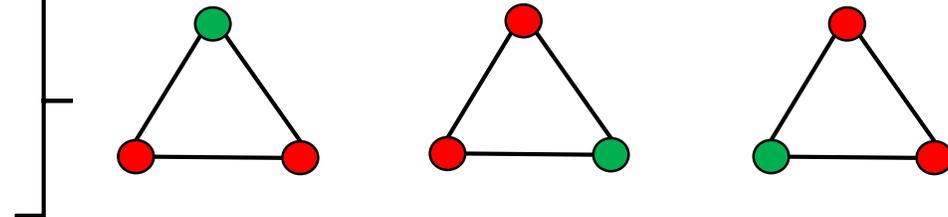
$$H_i = a \text{ on all nodes}$$

$$J_{ij} = b \text{ on all edges}$$

Higher energy states



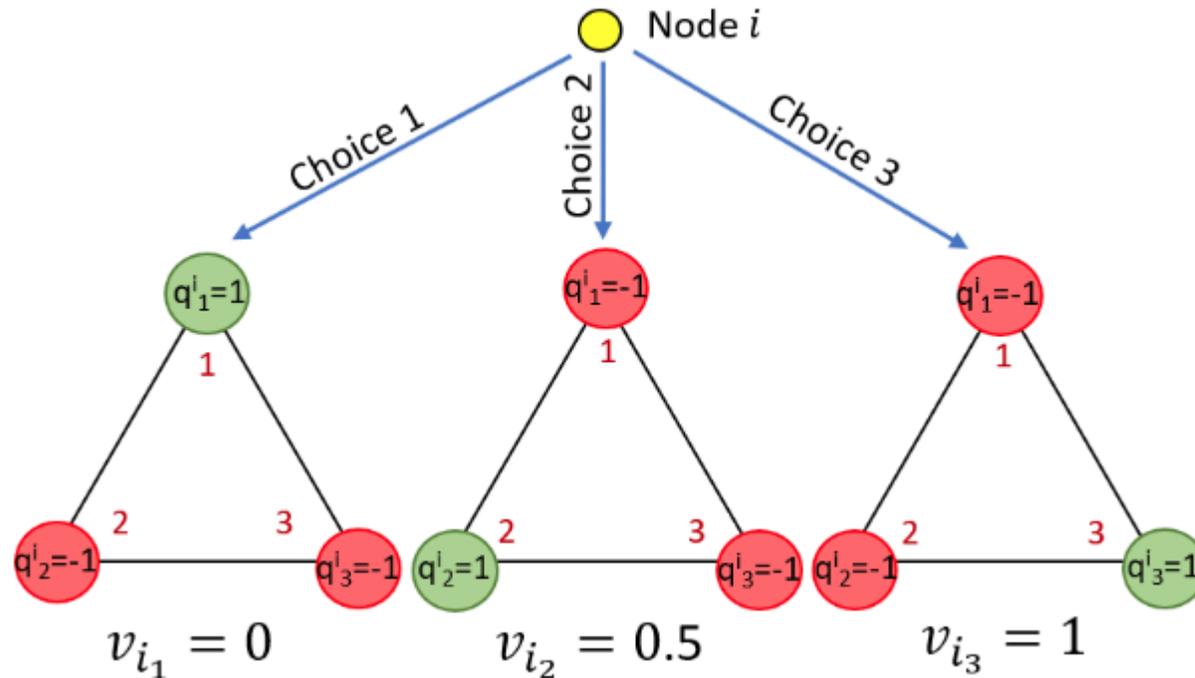
3 Minimum energy degenerate states



# Representation of Solution space

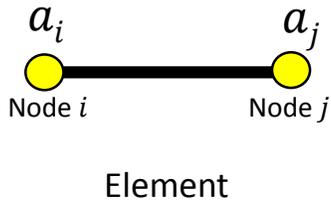
Three energy minimizers (symmetric) for each node

⇒ Three values of  $a_i$  (coefficient of linear expansion) for  $i^{th}$  node



# Element graph

Element graph encodes the physics of the problem



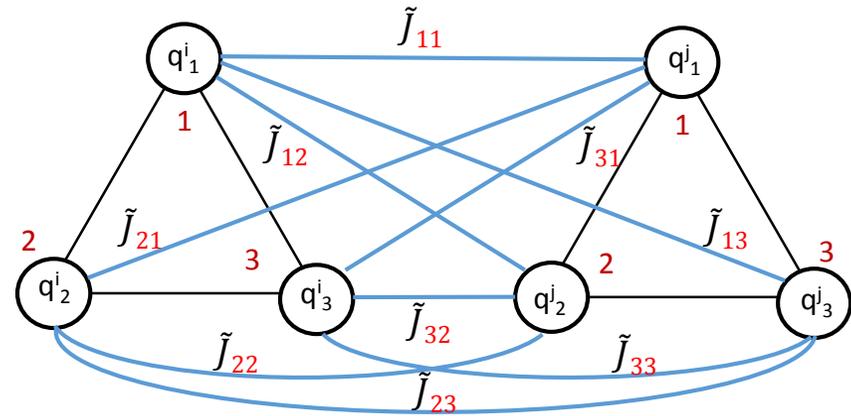
- Each node can take 3 values
- Each element can have one of 9 states  $(a_i, a_{i+1})$

$$\pi_e = \frac{1}{2}EA(a_{i+1} - a_i)^2 - f \frac{(a_{i+1} + a_i)}{2}$$

Estimate  $\tilde{J}$  (edge strength) such that:

$$E = \sum_{ij} \tilde{J}_{ij} S_i S_j = \pi_e(a_i, a_{i+1})$$

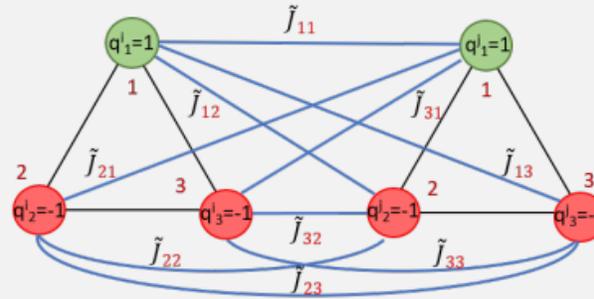
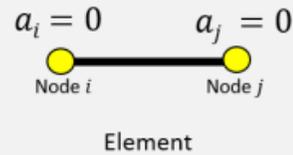
System of 9 linear equations in 9 variables



Element graph has 9 edges and 9 valid colorings

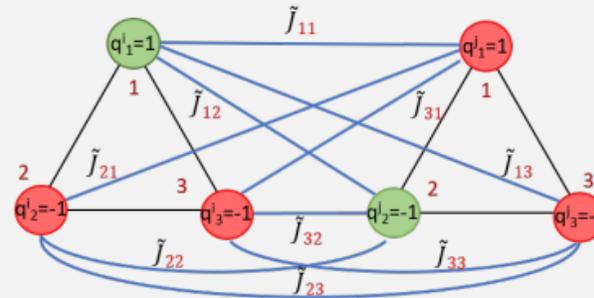
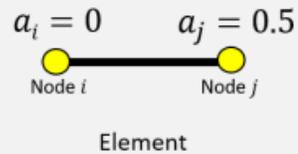
# Element graph : Example

$$\Pi(\mathbf{a}) = (a_1 - a_2)^2$$



In the above Figure, both nodes take up choice 1 ( $a_i = a_j = 0$ ). The interaction energy for qubits:  $E = \tilde{J}_{11} - \tilde{J}_{12} - \tilde{J}_{13} - \tilde{J}_{21} + \tilde{J}_{22} + \tilde{J}_{23} - \tilde{J}_{31} + \tilde{J}_{32} + \tilde{J}_{33} = (a_i - a_j)^2 = 0$

Sample 2:

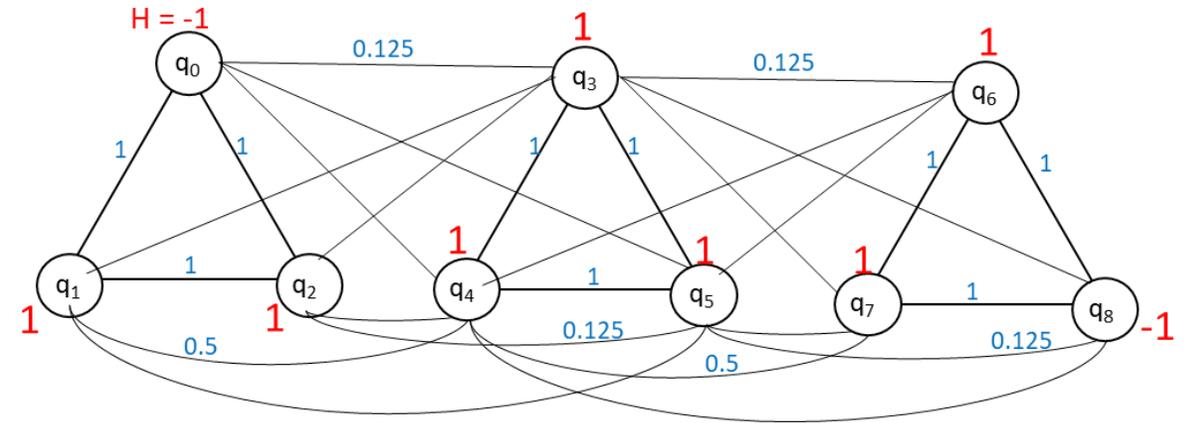


In the above Figure, node  $i$  takes up choice 1 ( $a_i = 0$ ), while node  $j$  takes up choice 2 ( $a_j = 0.5$ ). The interaction energy for qubits:  $E = -\tilde{J}_{11} + \tilde{J}_{12} + \tilde{J}_{13} + \tilde{J}_{21} - \tilde{J}_{22} - \tilde{J}_{23} - \tilde{J}_{31} + \tilde{J}_{32} + \tilde{J}_{33} = (a_i - a_j)^2 = 0.25$

# Element graph : Example (contd)

$$\begin{bmatrix} +1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 \\ -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & +1 \\ +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 \\ +1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 \\ +1 & +1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & +1 & -1 \\ +1 & +1 & -1 & +1 & +1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & +1 \end{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{J}_{11}^n \\ \tilde{J}_{12}^n \\ \tilde{J}_{13}^n \\ \tilde{J}_{21}^n \\ \tilde{J}_{22}^n \\ \tilde{J}_{23}^n \\ \tilde{J}_{31}^n \\ \tilde{J}_{32}^n \\ \tilde{J}_{33}^n \end{bmatrix}
 =
 \begin{bmatrix} (v_{i_1} - v_{j_1})^2 \\ (v_{i_2} - v_{j_1})^2 \\ (v_{i_3} - v_{j_1})^2 \\ (v_{i_1} - v_{j_2})^2 \\ (v_{i_2} - v_{j_2})^2 \\ (v_{i_3} - v_{j_2})^2 \\ (v_{i_1} - v_{j_3})^2 \\ (v_{i_2} - v_{j_3})^2 \\ (v_{i_3} - v_{j_3})^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

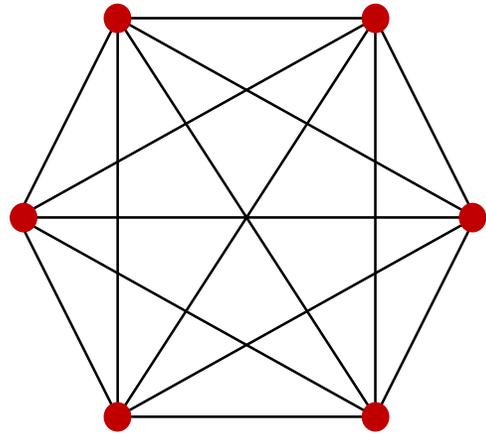
$$\tilde{J}^1 = \tilde{J}^2 = \begin{bmatrix} 0.1250 & 0.3750 & 0.3750 \\ 0.3750 & 0.5000 & 0.3750 \\ 0.3750 & 0.3750 & 0.1250 \end{bmatrix}$$



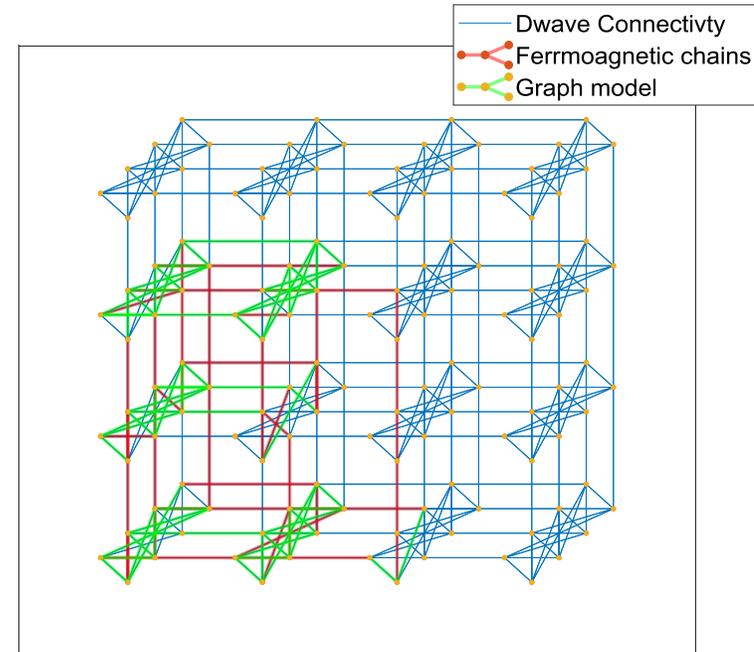
All unmarked links have a weight of 0.375

# Graph Embedding

- We want to map all nodes from the graph model onto the physical graph.
- This mapping should preserve the minimum energy states.



Required Connectivity



Physical connectivity

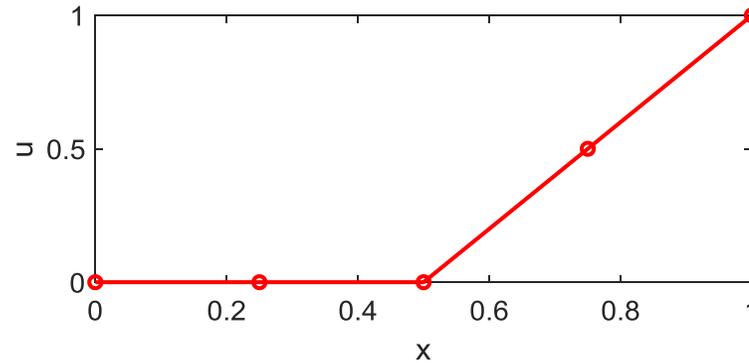
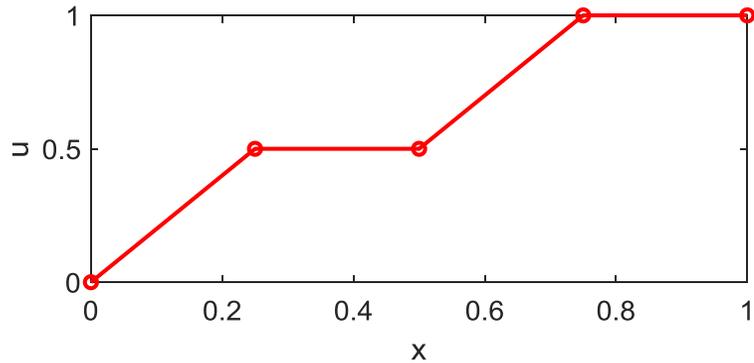
Good News: D-wave provides you with API's to search embedding in a heuristic fashion

# Energy minimization

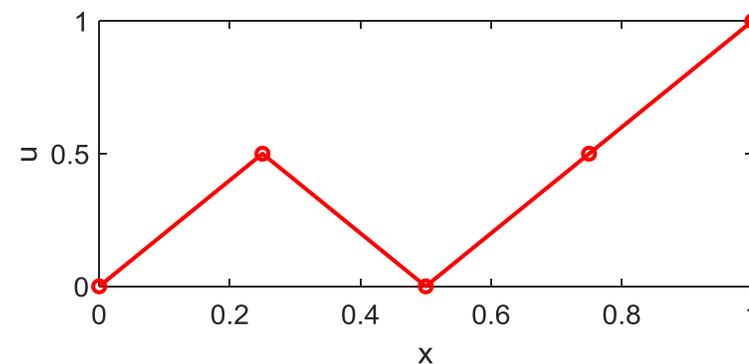
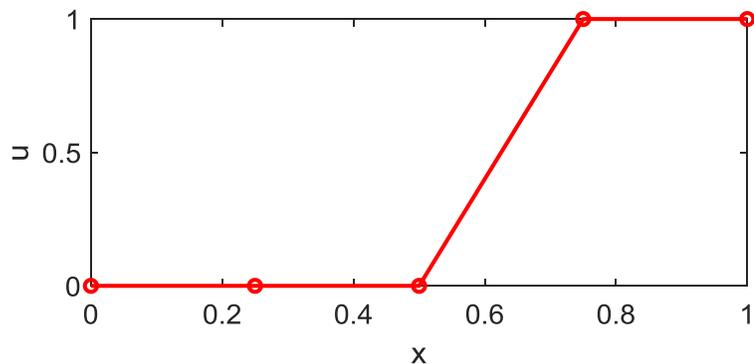
**Boundary Conditions:**  $a_1 = u_1$  and  $a_n = u_3$

Choose  $H_i$  (Field term) corresponding to  $q_1^1$  and  $q_n^3$  as large negative values.

**Solve for  $EA(x) = 1$  and  $f(x) = 0$**



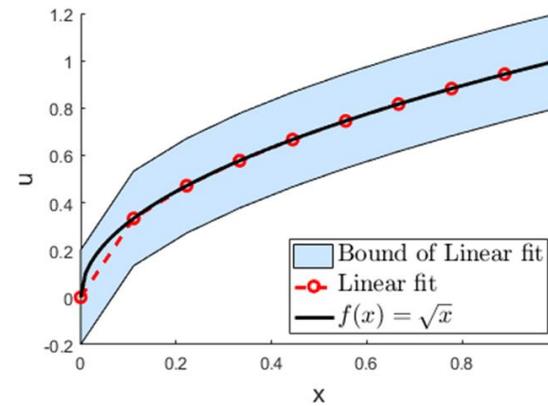
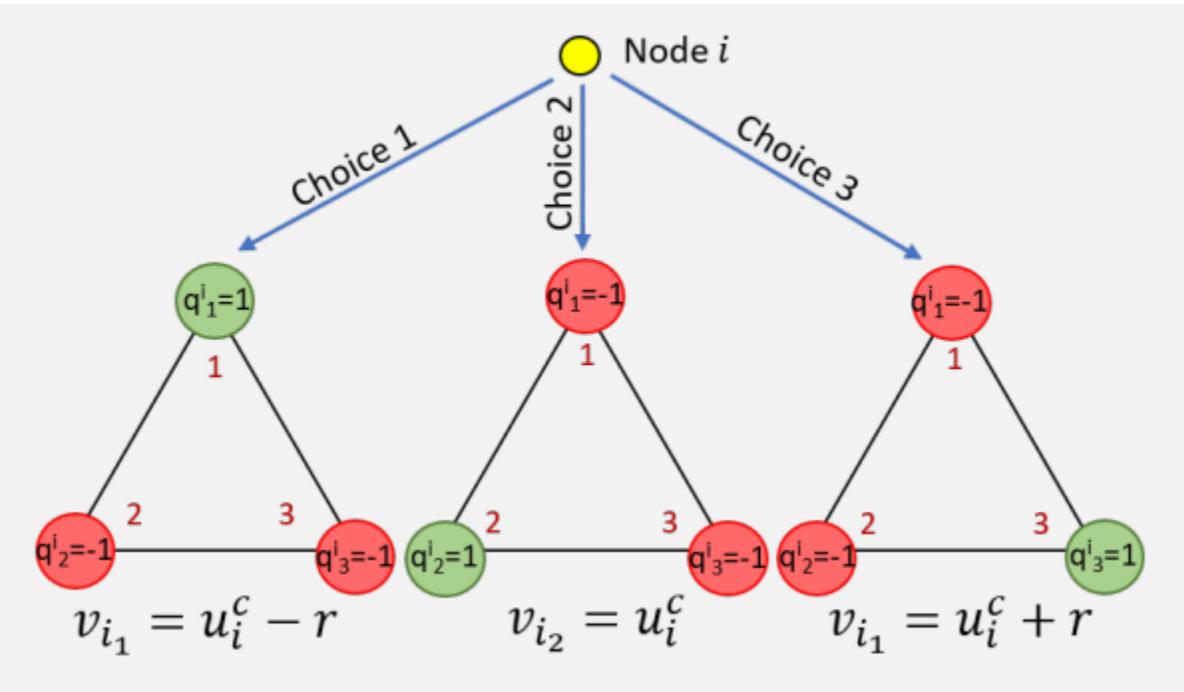
Low Energy Solution  
High Probability



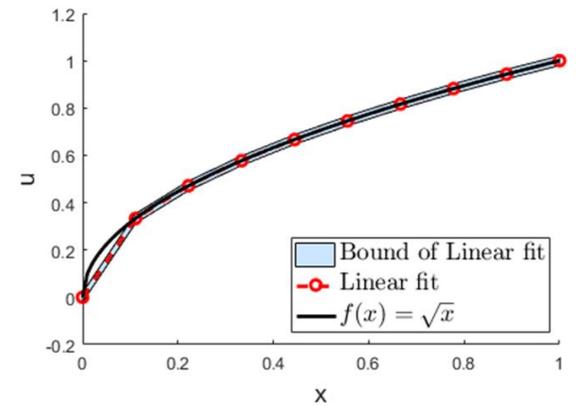
High Energy Solution  
Low Probability

100 labels per node are required to get a precision of 0.01 for a bounded displacement between  $[0,1]$ .

# Introduce slack variables



(a)



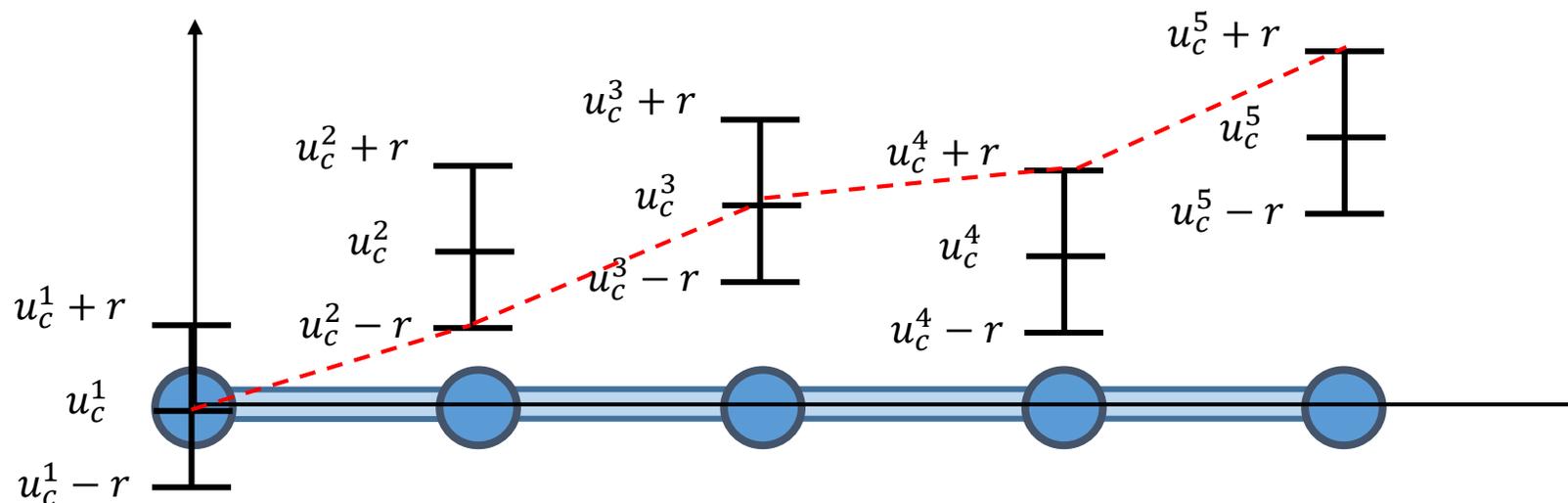
(b)

# Box algorithm: Iterative Procedure

- Define  $u_c^i$  as the displacement corresponding to center label of  $i^{th}$  node.

$$\mathbf{u}_c = \{u_c^1, u_c^2, \dots, u_c^n\}$$

- And a parameter, ' $r$ ' (called slack variable) so that the displacements of  $i^{th}$  node for corresponding to labels  $\{1,2,3\}$  are  $\{u_c^i - r, u_c^i, u_c^i + r\}$ , respectively.



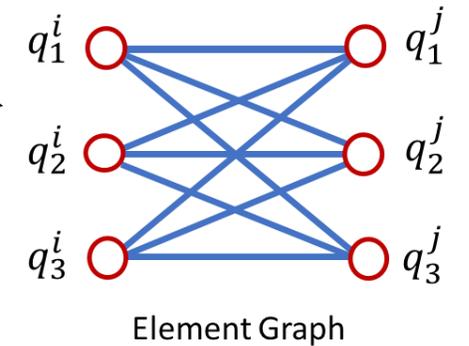
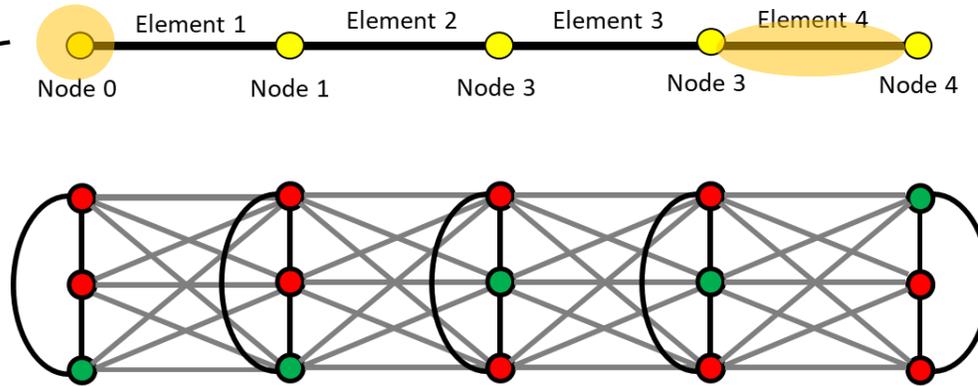
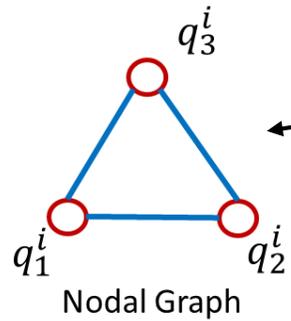
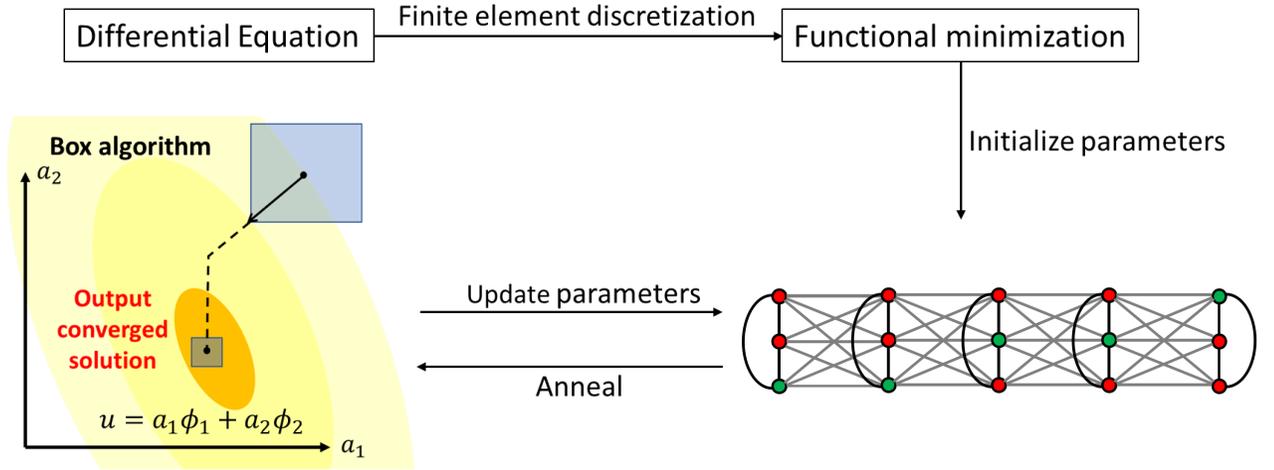
**Definition: 'Box' is the high dimensional representation of all possible outcomes. In this case 5D space. Box length =  $2r$**   
**Box center:  $\{u_c^1, u_c^2, \dots, u_c^5\}$**

**Approach:**

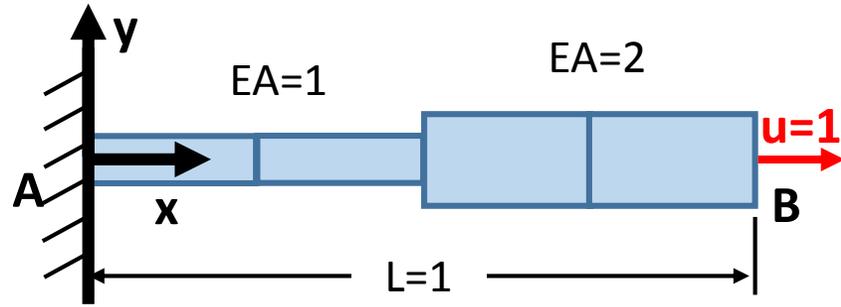
- 1. If box corner is chosen, recenter the box to the corner.**
- 2. If box center is chosen, shrink the box.**

# Iterative solution

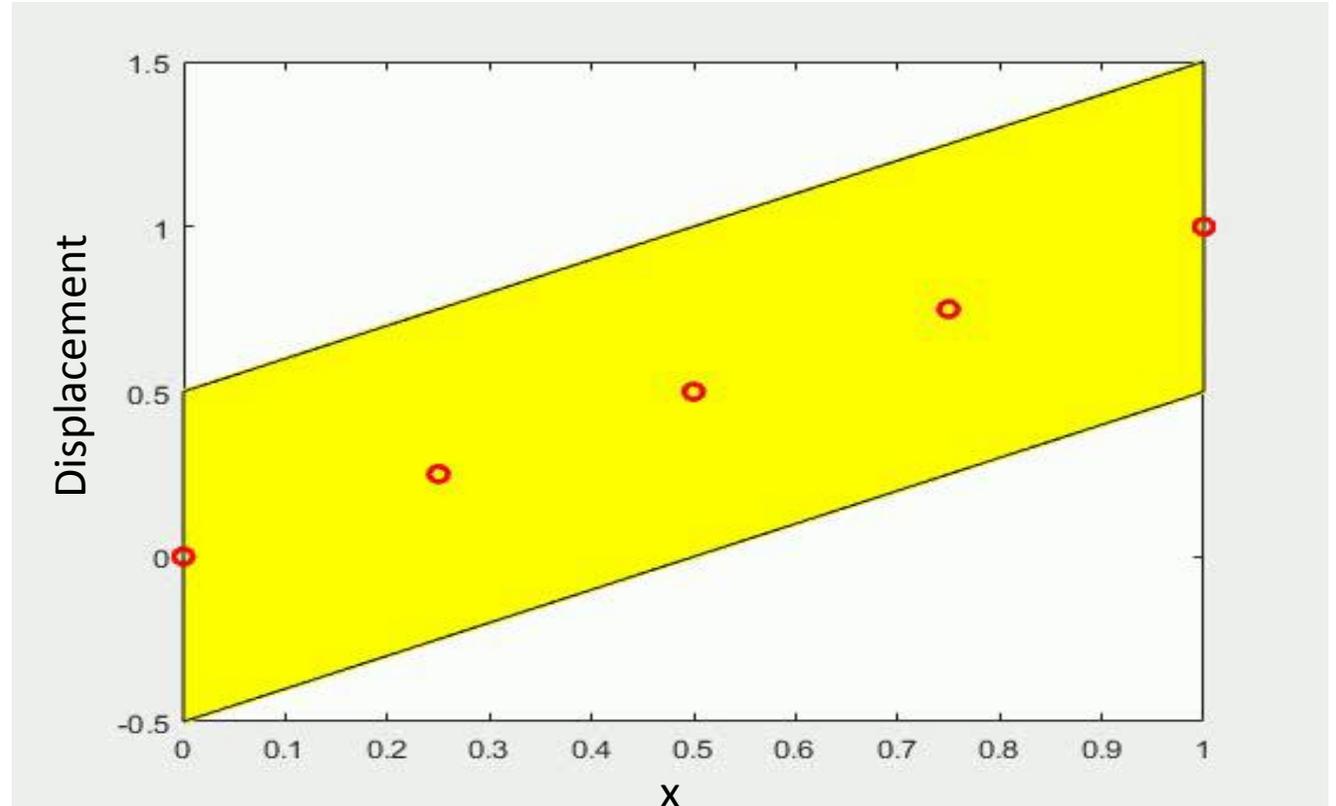
The link weights are modified based on the current choices of center and slack variable for each node.



# Numerical solution



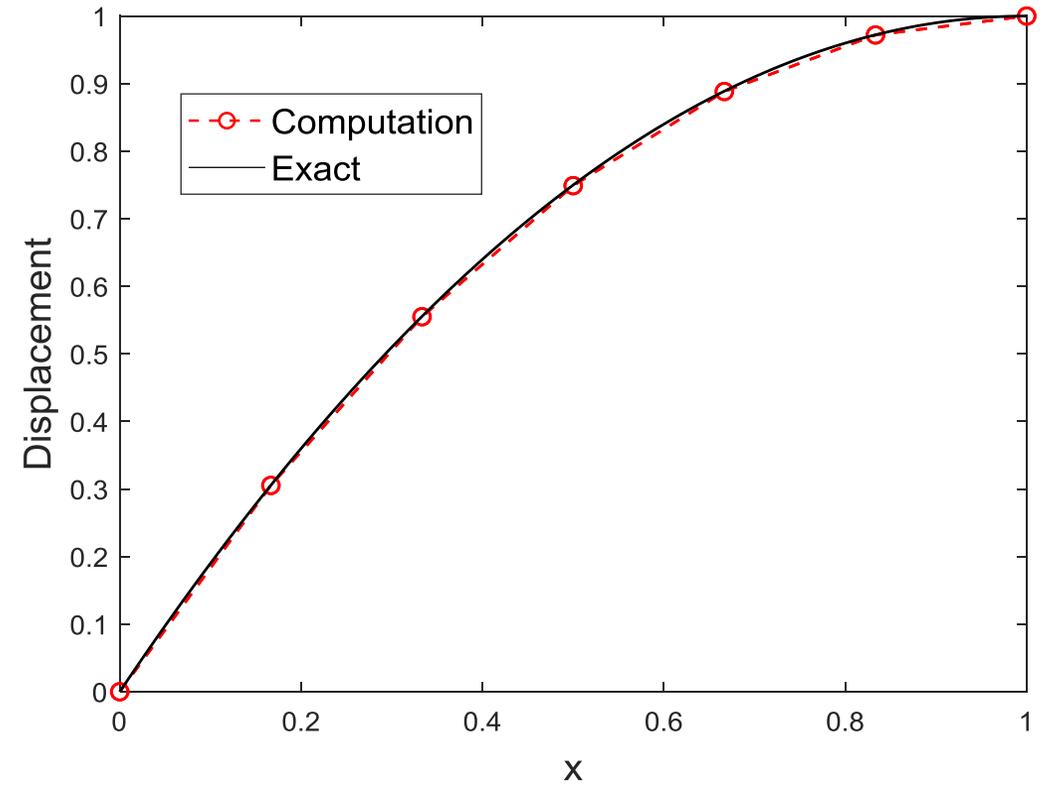
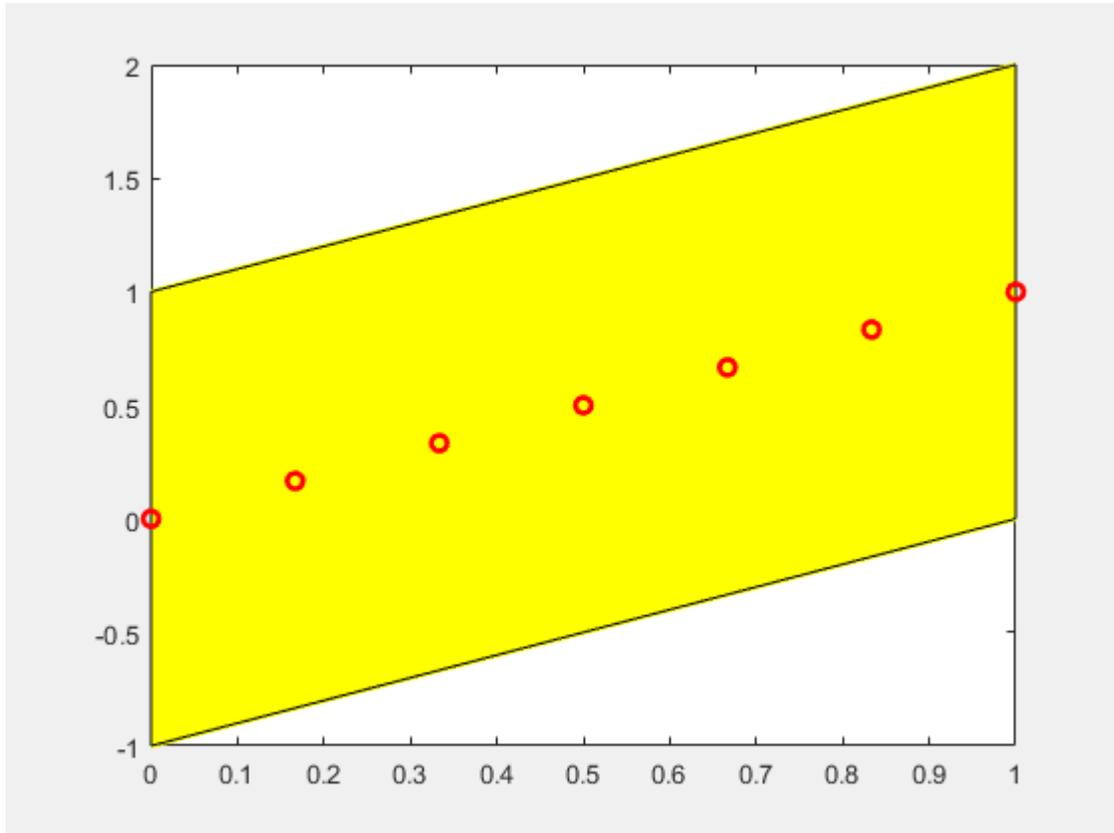
- The yellow region represents the space between  $\mathbf{u}_c + \mathbf{r}$  and  $\mathbf{u}_c - \mathbf{r}$ .
- The result converges to the exact solution



# Quantum computer's solution

$$EA(x) = 2 - x$$

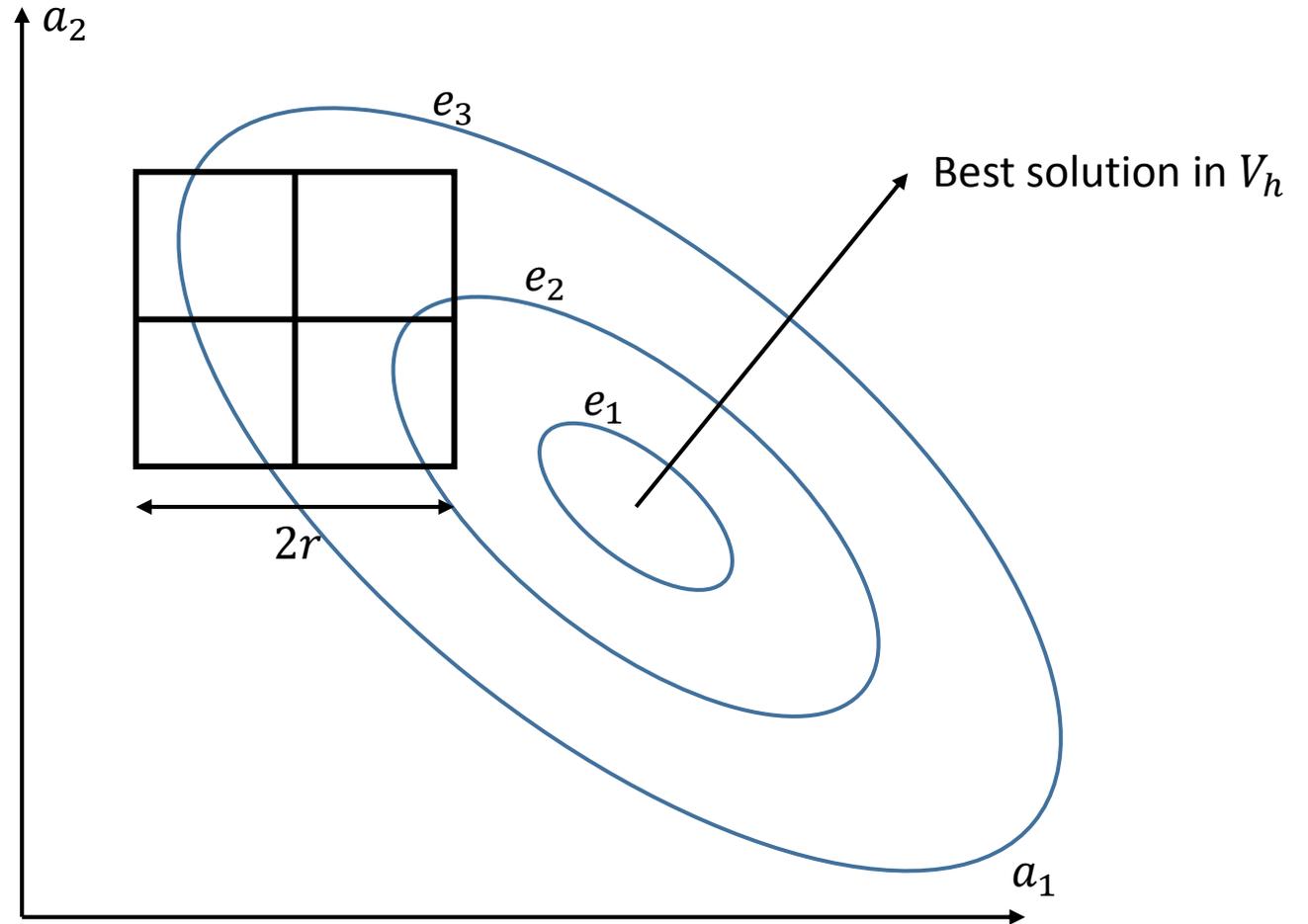
$$f(x) = 4x - 6$$



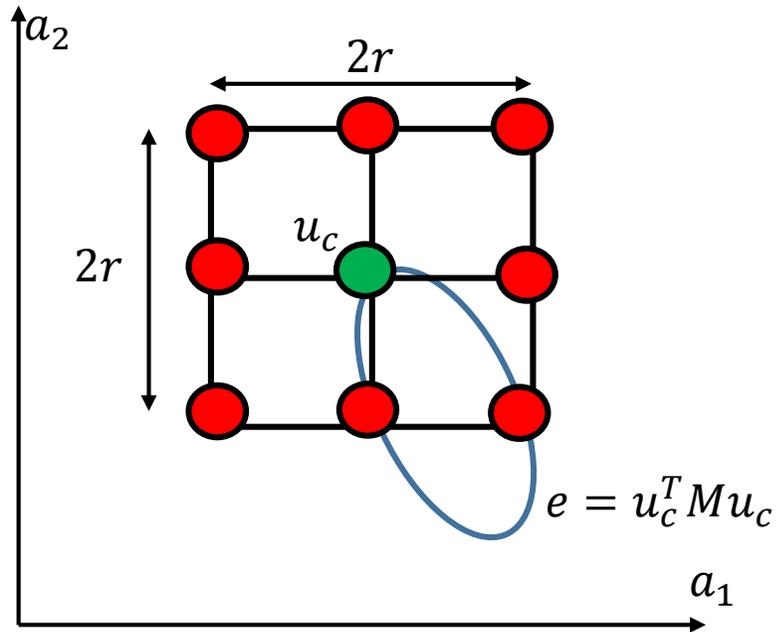
# Convergence

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i \phi_i \quad \text{with } \phi_i \in V_h \text{ and } a_i \in \mathbb{R}$$

Now we sample  $a_i$  from  $\{u_c^i - r, u_c^i, u_c^i + r\}$



# Convergence



Consider the iteration, when the minimum energy point corresponds to  $u_c$ .

Observe:

- All other points in the sample lie outside the energy contour corresponding to  $F(u_c)$
- The length of the major axis is bounded for a given matrix M

Only considering the horizontal and vertical node, you can bound the major axis of the ellipse as:

$$d_{max} = \sqrt{2}(1 + \lambda_{max}/\lambda_{min})r$$

Following the same logic the bound can be extended to  $\mathbb{R}^2$  :

$$d_{max} = 2 \left( 1 + (n - 1) \frac{\lambda_{max}}{\lambda_{min}} \right) \frac{r}{\sqrt{n}}$$

i.e. for a finite discretization,  $\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} d_{max} \rightarrow 0$

This mean as  $r \rightarrow 0$ ,  $u_c$  approaches the best approximation for  $u$  in  $V_h$

# Another example

## Case Study II: Advection-Diffusion problem

Homogeneous Advection-diffusion equation with Dirichlet boundary conditions on both ends

Governing Equation:

$$\begin{aligned} -u'' + vu' &= 0 & 0 < x < 10 \\ u(0) &= 0 & , & \quad u(10) = 1 \end{aligned}$$

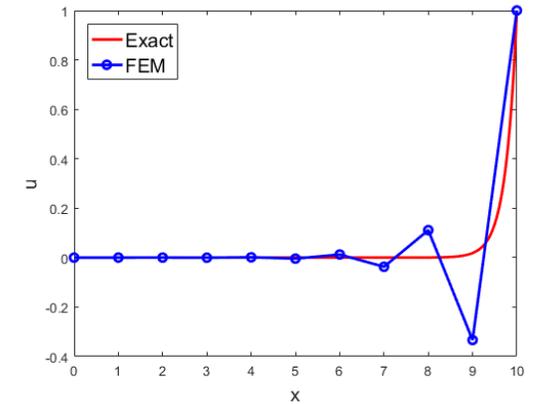
### Finite Element Method (Galerkin approach)

Weak-form:  $W(u, \tilde{u}) := \int_{\Omega} (u' \tilde{u}' + vu' \tilde{u}) dx = 0$

- Observe that the weak form is non-symmetric
- This results in unstable solution for high values of  $v$  i.e. in highly advective flows.

### Goals

- Application of energy minimization in a restrictive way
- Some tweaks in the Box algorithm and speed of convergence
- Error correction measures



FEM (Linear elements) calculation  
for  $v = 4$

# Box algorithm for A-D equation

First, we need a functional minimization form

Potential flow assumption:  $v = -\nabla\phi$

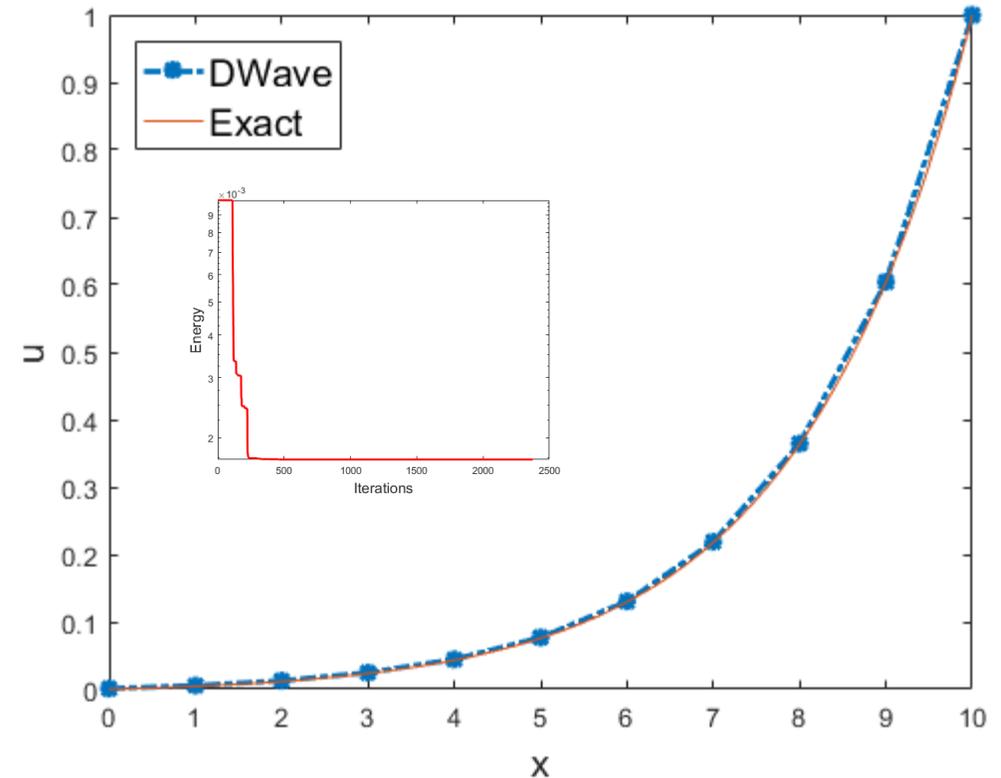
$$F_v[u] = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L e^{-v \cdot x} (u')^2 dx$$

This energy can be written for n-dimensions with non-homogenous terms with Dirichlet and flux boundary conditions\*

Restriction (Necessary condition for  $n \geq 2$ )

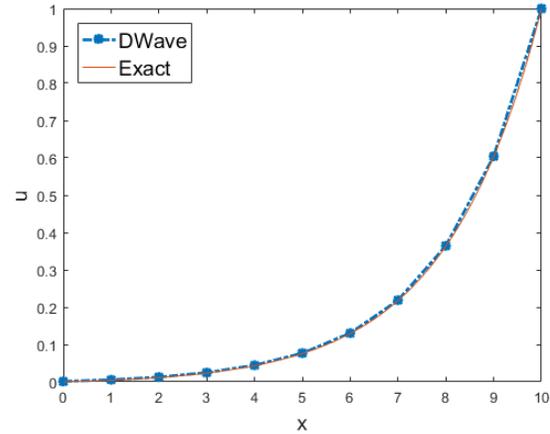
$$\nabla \times v = 0$$

Application of Box algorithm is same as truss problem

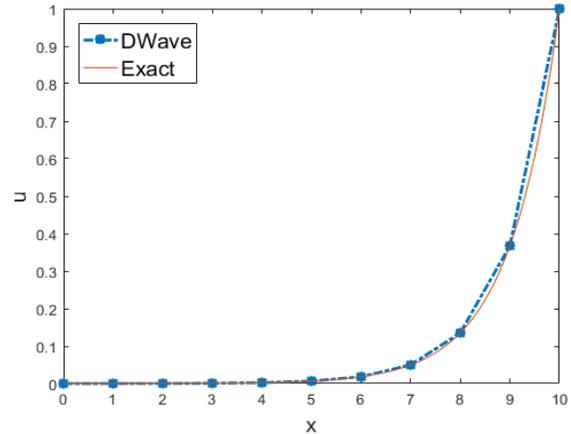


\*Auchmuty, Giles. "Variational principles for advection–diffusion problems." *Computers & Mathematics with Applications* 75.6 (2018): 1882-1886.

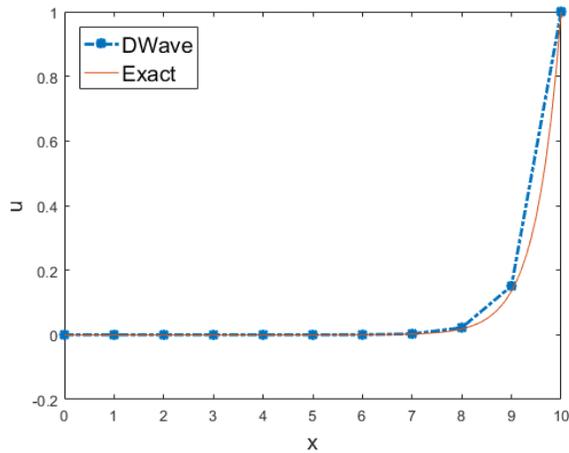
# Slow convergence



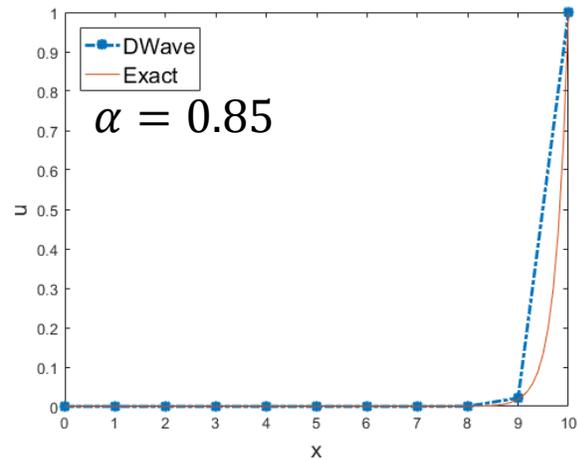
$v = 0.5$



$v = 1$



$v = 2$



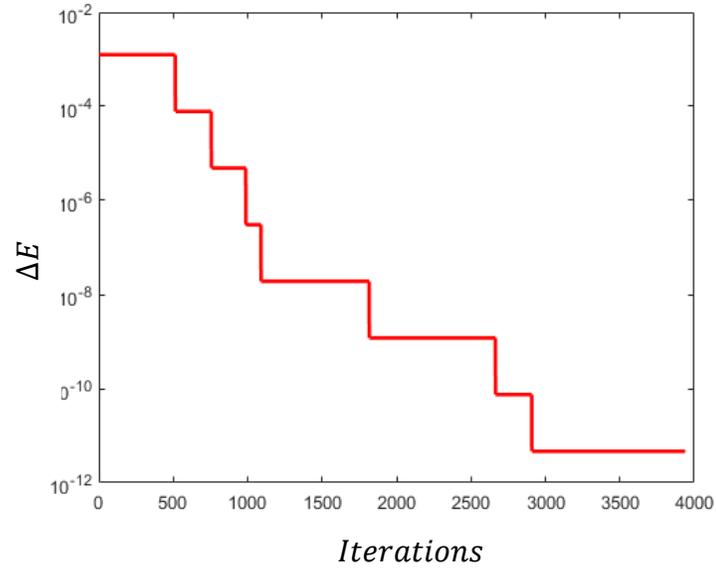
$v = 4$

- Box algorithm performs well for smaller velocities
- For higher velocities we use step size selection

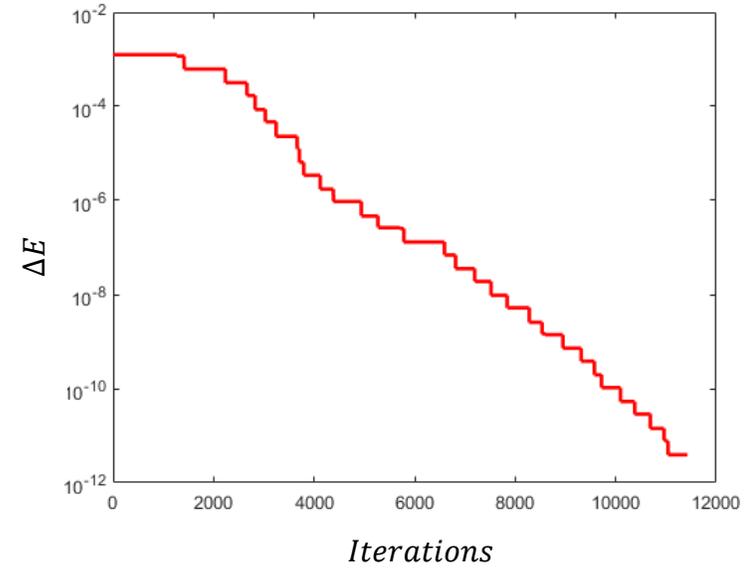
$$r_{new} = \alpha r_{old}$$

$$0 < \alpha < 1$$

# Summary of Case Study II



$\alpha = 0.5$



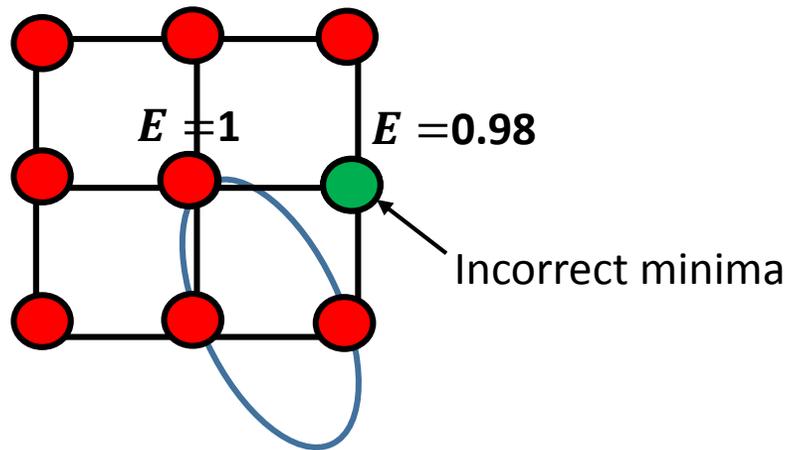
$\alpha = 0.85$

- We formulated and implemented Box algorithm for Advection-Diffusion (w/ Potential flow)
- We showed that step size selection can be used to approach the global minima

# Error correction

So far, we have treated the quantum computer as a black box which outputs the correct minima.

When  $\delta(E) \ll E$  i.e. the relative energy of all states are same then the solver can output sub-optimal solutions.



Idea for error correction: Scale energy to maximize the gap between the different states:  $(H, J) \rightarrow (H', J')$

$$E' = \frac{1}{a} \sum_{i \in \text{element}} (E_i - b_i)$$

Choose  $a, b_i$  appropriately

# Bifurcation

## Case Study III: Beam-buckling problem

4<sup>th</sup> Order differential equation with critical behavior

Governing Equation:

$$EIw'''' + Pw'' = 0 \quad 0 < x < L$$

Boundary conditions at  $x = x_b$  :

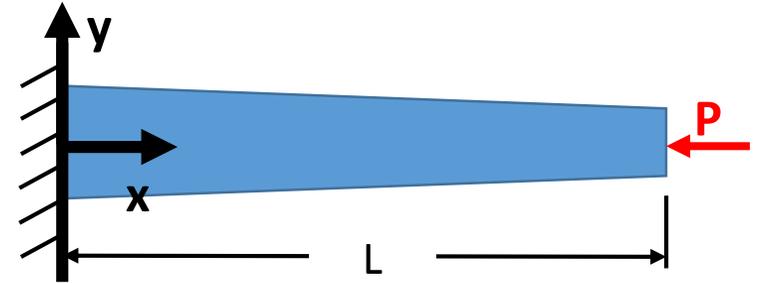
$$\begin{array}{ll} w(x_b) = 0 \text{ (Displacement)} & \text{or} & V(x_b) \sim w'''(x_b) = 0 \text{ (Shear)} \\ w'(x_b) = 0 \text{ (Slope)} & \text{or} & M(x_b) \sim w''(x_b) = 0 \text{ (Moment)} \end{array}$$

### Energy form

$$F[w] = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^L EI(w'')^2 - P(w')^2 dx$$

### Goals

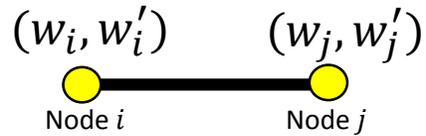
- Introducing higher order derivatives
- Non convex energy form when  $P > P_{cr}$



# Bifurcation

## FEM discretization:

We enforce continuity of slope on element boundary using Hermite cubic interpolation



At each node there are 2 DOF's :  $(w_i, w_i')$

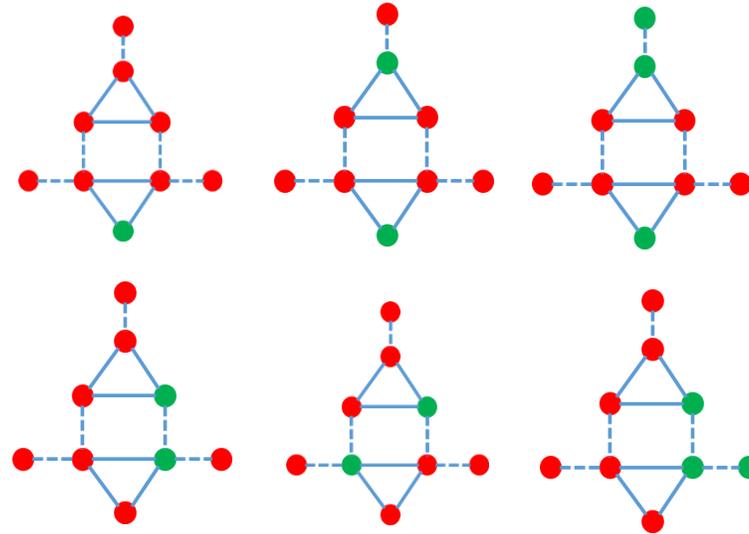
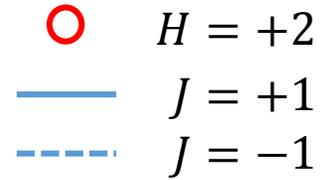
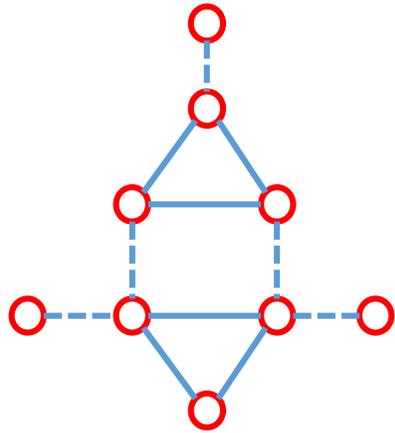
Note: Having 2 DOF's per node means we need to construct new nodal and element graphs

## Nondimensionalized form:

$$\frac{2\pi L^3 F}{EI} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_e \int_0^1 (w'')^2 - \bar{P}_c \left(\frac{l_e}{L}\right)^2 (w')^2 dz \quad \text{with} \quad \bar{P}_c = \frac{PL^2}{EI}$$

# Bifurcation

## Nodal and Element graphs:



**9 Energy  
minimizing states**

**× 2  
(bilateral symmetry)**

Each minimizing state of the nodal graph is mapped to one of the 9 solutions of the node

$$\{w_c^i - r, w_c^i, w_c^i + r\} \times \{w_c'^i - r, w_c'^i, w_c'^i + r\}$$

Element graph is constructed as a complete bipartite graph between consecutive nodes.

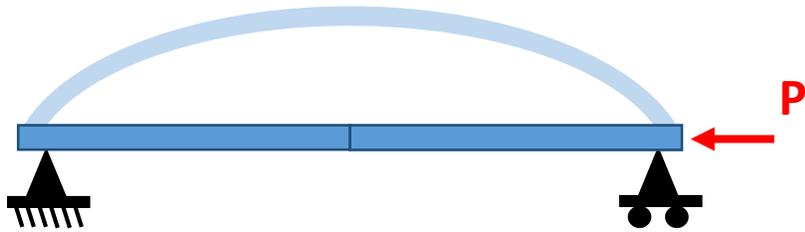
Total connections (element graph) = 81

Total possible states for the element = 81

Exactly solvable weights!!!

# Why is non-convexity a problem?

2-element problem example



Symmetry of the problem:

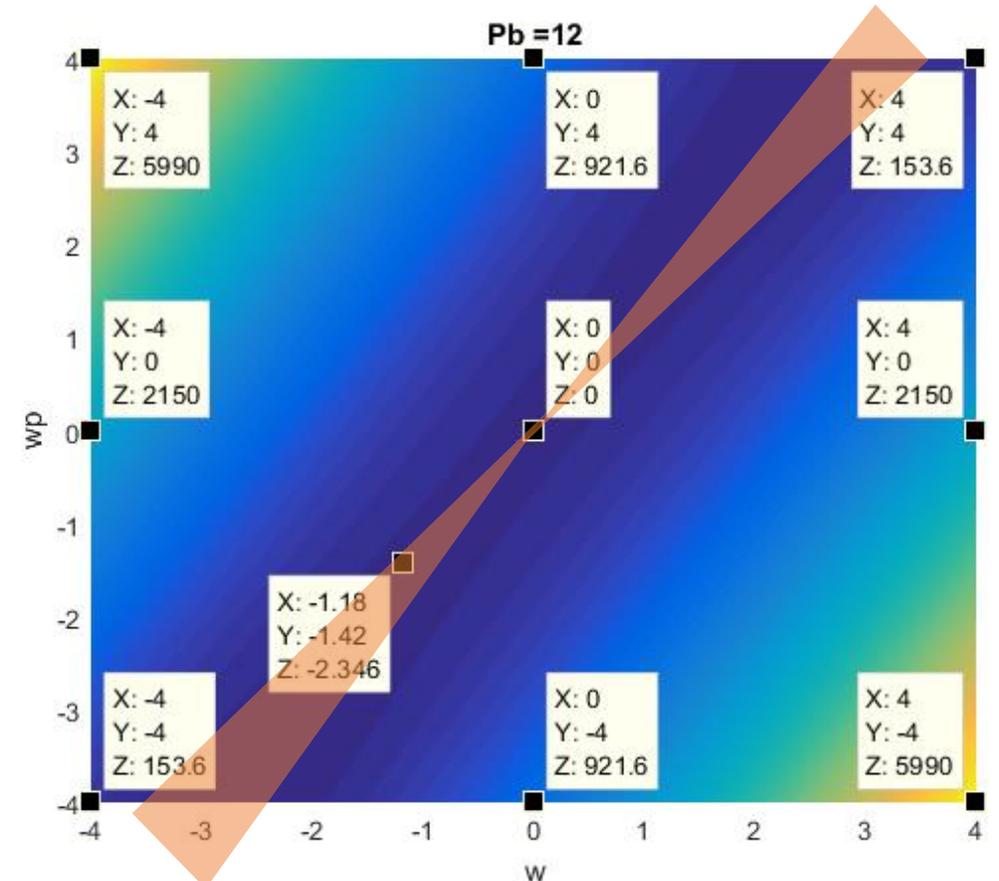
$$w'_1 = -w'_3$$

$$w'_2 = 0$$

Essentially two degrees of freedom:

$$w'_1 \sim w_p, w_2 \sim w$$

Observe single slack variable box algorithm cannot resolve the downward hill of the saddle and gives a false stable point. We augment another slack variable for the slope.



Red region constitutes the downward hill of the saddle

# Multiple slack variables

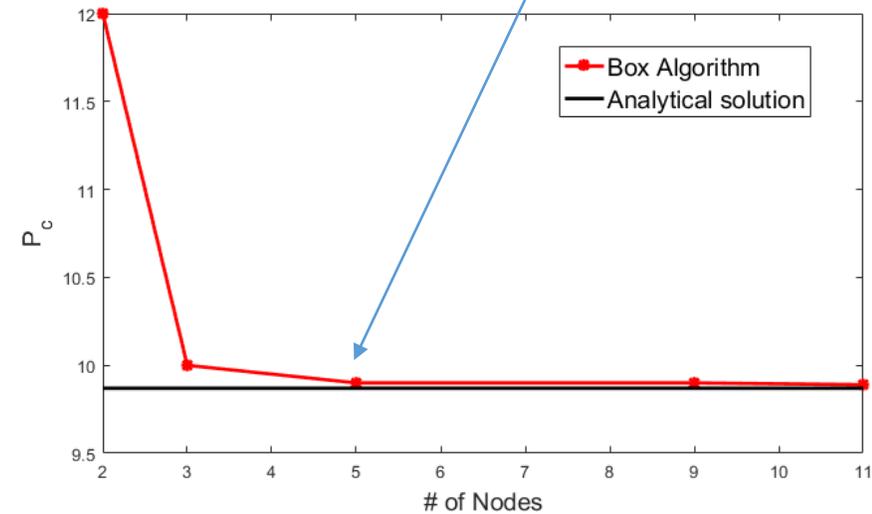
A heuristic remedy:

Consider different box sizes for different variables

$$\{w_c^i - r_1, w_c^i, w_c^i + r_1\} \times \{w_c'^i - r_2, w_c'^i, w_c'^i + r_2\}$$

In the post buckling solution (for 2 element case) the solution tends to choose the up/down solution with similar likelihoods.

Naturally identifies critical loads via energy minimization



More work is needed in this direction to extend the algorithm for non-convex problems.

# Summary

- Formulated and implemented an energy-based algorithm for solving differential equations on quantum annealer.
- Showed applications in following different types of equations:
  - Truss mechanics
    - Convergence of the method for convex problems.
  - Advection-Diffusion
    - Discussed an energy formulation
    - Convergence rate depends on the contraction step
    - Error correction strategies
  - Beam buckling problem
    - Introducing higher order derivatives by augmenting nodal and element graph
    - Non-convex: multiple slack variables

# Prospective

## Comparison to Finite elements:

### **Complexity:** Similar complexities

FEM: Assembly and solve  $O(N)$  for 1D problems

Box: Computing element graphs imposes  $O(N)$  complexity (per iteration) as well. However, annealing time depends on the 'energy gap' rather than the number of unknowns.

### **Memory:** Similar order of memory requirements

FEM: Stiffness matrix requires  $O(N)$  floats (sparse structure)

Box: Graph adjacency requires  $O(N)$  floats (#Edges for Truss and AD-problem)

### **Utility:** Box algorithm seems more advantageous for certain problems:

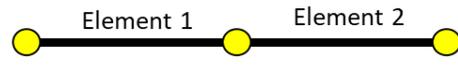
- It does not need gradient estimations or inversion so there is no problem of ill-conditioning
- It may be easier to navigate non-convex energy manifolds using this method. However, further development of algorithm is needed for completely spanning the solution space.

# Moving to gate-based computing

## Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm (QAOA)

Introduce a gate-based quantum algorithm that produces approximate solutions for Ising hamiltonians.

Example: Truss problem

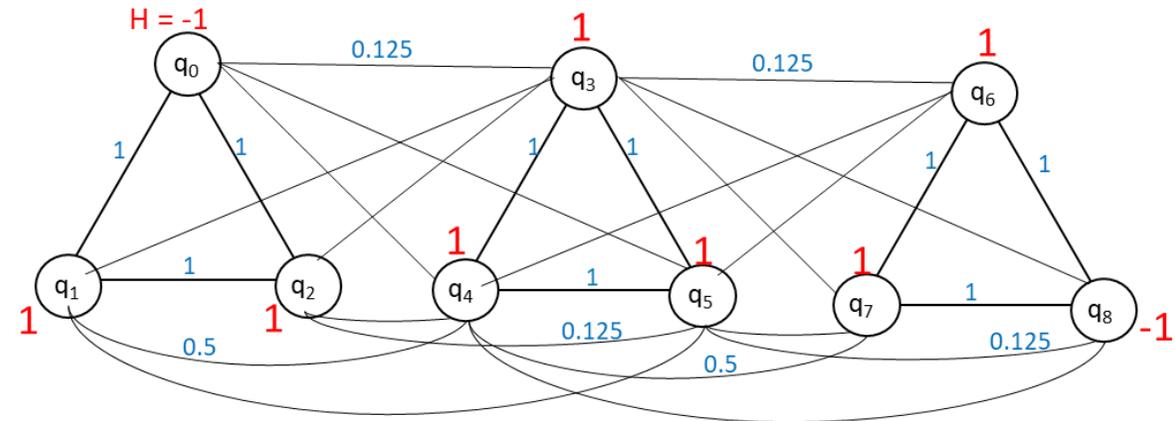


$$F = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 u'^2$$

- Variable transformation from -1/+1 (D-Wave) to 0/1 (Quantum Assembly Language)

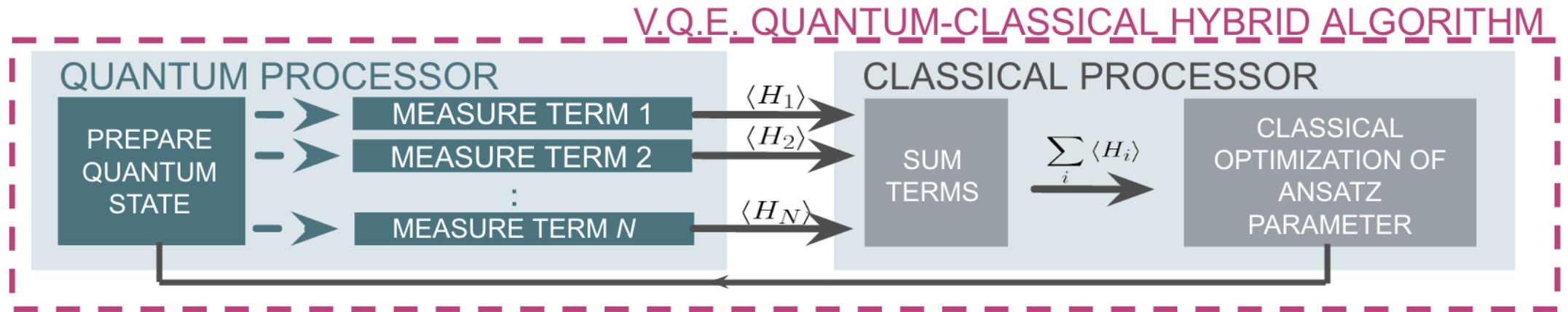
$$H^{new} = 2H - 2\sum J$$

$$J^{new} = 4J$$

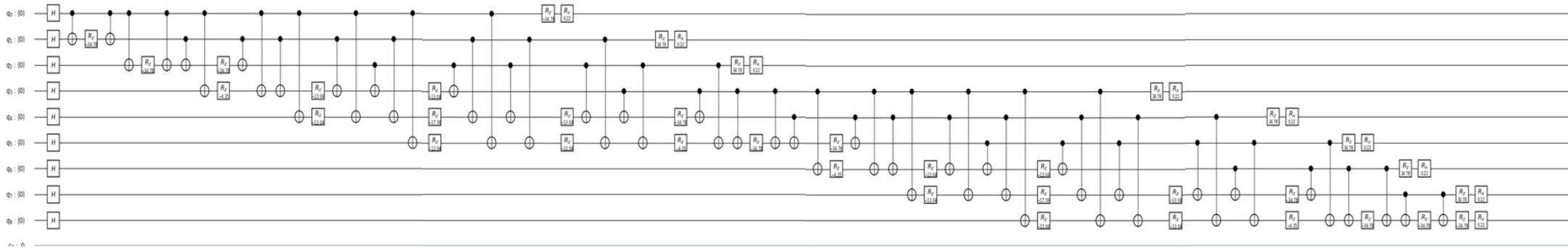


All unmarked links have a weight of 0.375

# Moving to gate-based computing

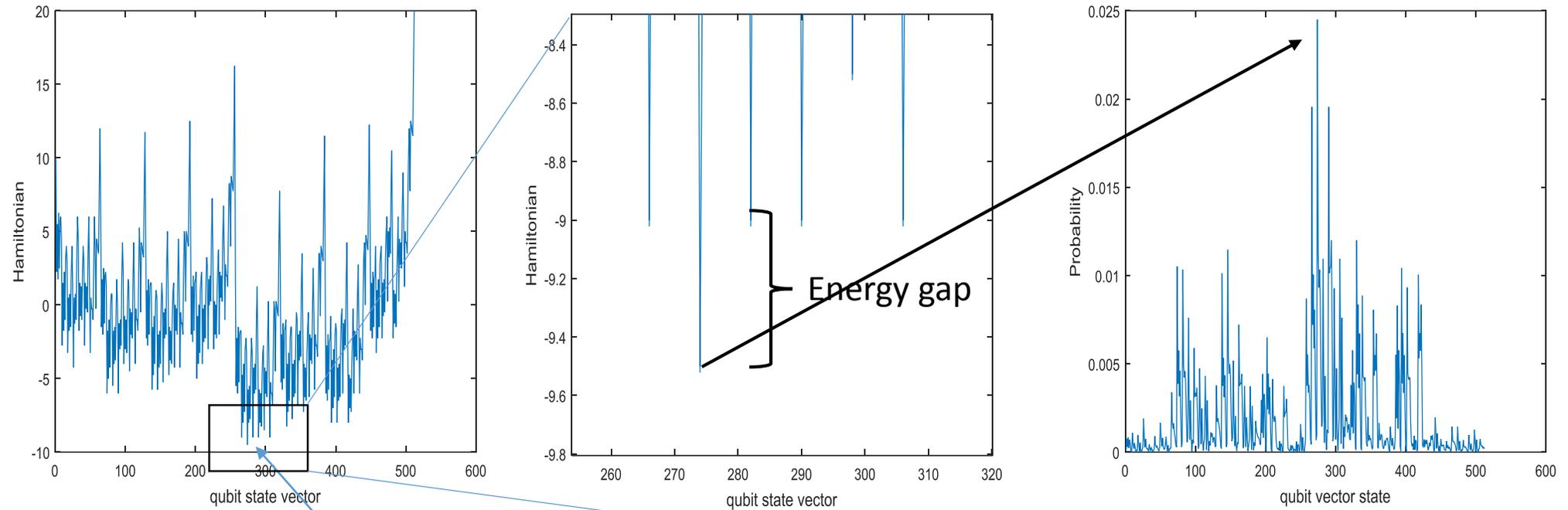


Quantum Assembly Language (QASM) based circuit is generated and solved using Qiskit



# Moving to gate-based computing

## Solution statistics



Unique minima at [1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1]

**Thank you**