Quantum Annealing for Music Arrangement

Lucas Kirby

4 March 2025

Department of Physics, Durham University

Overview

Theory

Adiabatic quantum computing

Quantum annealing

Motivations

Music arrangement

Method

Results

Conclusions

Theory

Adiabatic quantum computing

Adiabatic principle

A system remains in its instantaneous eigenstate if a given perturbation is acting on it slowly enough.¹

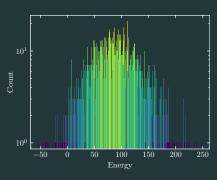
$$H(t) = \left(1 - \frac{t}{T}\right)H_0 + \frac{t}{T}H_p$$

- Universal and guaranteed
- A system that starts in a ground state, ends in a ground state
- Not possible in practice

¹Born and Fock, 'Beweis des Adiabatensatzes'.

Quantum annealing

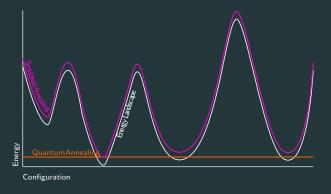
- Relaxes the adiabaticity
- Rate of change determined heuristically
- Final state is probabilistic, not deterministic



Distribution of 2000 solution energies

Advantages

- Find the ground state of complicated Hamiltonians
- Quantum tunneling avoids local minima



By Brianlechthaler - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, $\label{eq:by-sample} $$ https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=112382195 $$$

Ising model

Lattice of variables with two discrete values

Initial Hamiltonian

$$H_0 = h_0 \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^x$$

Problem Hamiltonian

$$H_p = \sum_{i < j}^{N} J_{ij} \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z + \sum_{i=1}^{N} h_i \sigma_i^z$$

Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimisation

Vector x of qubits, matrix Q of weights

$$f(x) = \sum_{i < j}^{N} Q_{i,j} x_i x_j + \sum_{i}^{N} Q_{i,i} x_i$$

- Aim to minimise this function
- Difficult to solve analytically
- Mapped to H_p using simple change of variable
- Encodes problem solution into Hamiltonian's ground state

7

Motivations

What problems can we solve?

Music arrangement

- Adaptation of previously composed pieces for practical or artistic reasons
- Traditionally difficult and time-consuming
- Reduction can be shown to be computationally complex²



www.freepik.com

²Moses and Demaine, 'Computational Complexity of Arranging Music'.

Motivations

- Already exist classical methods of automatic arrangement³
- Quantum annealing used to generate music⁴
- Field of quantum computer music is very new⁵
- Novel adaption of this method to a new problem
- This has never been done before!

³Huang, Chiu and Shan, 'Towards an automatic music arrangement framework using score reduction'; Nakamura and Yoshii, 'Statistical piano reduction controlling performance difficulty'; Li et al., 'Automatic Piano Reduction of Orchestral Music Based on Musical Entropy'.

⁴Freedline, 'Algorhythms'; Arya et al., 'Music Composition Using Quantum Annealing'.

⁵Miranda, Quantum Computer Music.

Method

Aims

- Arrange a musical score for a smaller ensemble
- All notes are taken from the original score
- Each instrument can only play one note at a time



Joseph Haydn playing in a string quartet, painting from the StaatsMuseum, Vienna

Method

- 1. Split score into musical phrases
- 2. Arrange phrases into a graph
- 3. Formulate optimisation problem
- 4. Solve problem using QPU
- 5. Construct arrangement from solution

1. Split score

- Musical phrases chosen as smallest unit of music
- Preserve melody and structure when rearranged

Local boundary detection model (LBDM)⁶

$$S_i = x_i \times (r_{i-1,i} + r_{i,i+1})$$



 $^{^6}$ Cambouropoulos, 'The Local Boundary Detection Model (LBDM) and its Application in the Study of Expressive Timing'.

2. Create graph

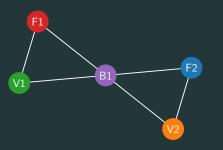
- Vertices (nodes) connected by edges
- Models pairwise relations between objects



- Nodes phrases
- Edges overlap between phrases

2. Create graph





3. Create optimisation problem

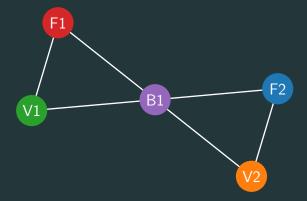
Proper vertex colouring

Colour each vertex such that no edge connects two vertices of the same colour

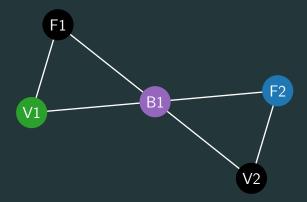
$$x_{v,i} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if vertex } v \text{ is colour } i \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$f(x) = +A \sum_{v \in V} \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{v,i} \right)^{2} +B \sum_{(u,v) \in E} \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_{u,i} x_{v,i}$$
$$-C \sum_{v \in V} \sum_{i=1}^{n} W_{v} x_{v,i} -D \sum_{(u,v) \in E} W_{uv} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} x_{u,i} x_{v,j}$$

3. Create optimisation problem

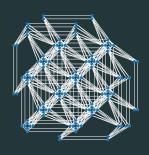


3. Create optimisation problem



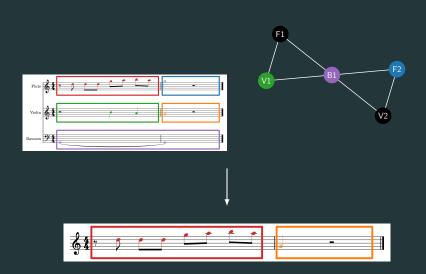
4. Solve problem

- Problem embedded onto D-Wave quantum hardware
- Quantum annealer optimises
 QUBO formulation
- Returns a sampleset of results
- Run many times to find lowest-energy solution



 $\label{eq:D-Wave Advantage QPU topology. Own work.}$ Own work.

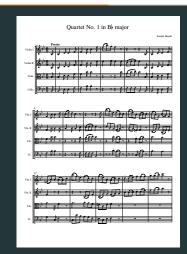
5. Construct arrangement



Results

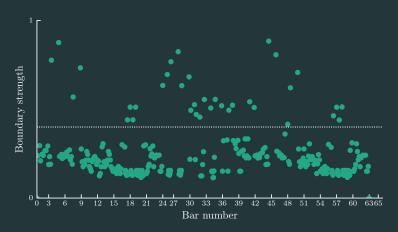
Score

- Smaller ensemble chosen for problem size
- Well-defined musical structure
- Reduction to three instruments



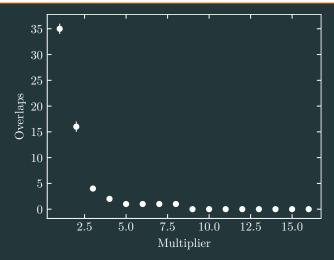
Quartet No. 1 in Bb major by Joseph Haydn

Phrase detection



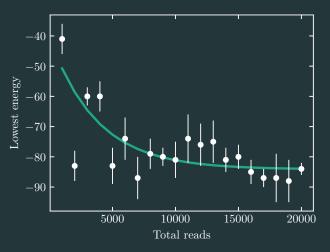
Boundary strengths for the Violin I part

QUBO parameter variation



Variation of the edge constraint Lagrange parameter \boldsymbol{B}

Optimisation



Variation of the number of QPU reads, with the lowest-energy solution found

Conclusions

Conclusions

- Successful novel application of quantum annealing
- QPU returns low-energy samples
- Necessary constraints for a valid arrangement fulfilled
- Still very new technology, does not show quantum advantage (yet)

Future work

- Variation in problem size
- Comparison to classical methods
- Lagrange parameter tuning
- Qualitative judgement of computer arrangements⁷

⁷Pearce and Wiggins, 'Towards A Framework for the Evaluation of Machine Compositions'.



Quantum Annealing for Music Arrangement

Lucas Kirby

4 March 2025

Department of Physics, Durham University

References i

- Arya, Ashish et al. 'Music Composition Using Quantum Annealing'. In: arXiv (Jan. 2022). DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.2201.10557. (Visited on 26/10/2024).
- Born, M. and V. Fock. 'Beweis des Adiabatensatzes'. de. In: Zeitschrift für Physik 51.3 (Mar. 1928), pp. 165–180. ISSN: 0044-3328. DOI: 10.1007/BF01343193. URL: https://doi.org/10.1007/BF01343193 (visited on 01/03/2025).
- Cambouropoulos, Emilios. 'The Local Boundary Detection Model (LBDM) and its Application in the Study of Expressive Timing'. In: International Computer Music Association (2011). ISSN: 2223-3881.

References ii

- Freedline, Alex. 'Algorhythms: Generating Music with D-Wave's Quantum Annealer'. en. In: MIT 6.s089—Intro to Quantum Computing (Feb. 2021).
- Huang, Jiun-Long, Shih-Chuan Chiu and Man-Kwan Shan. 'Towards an automatic music arrangement framework using score reduction'. In: ACM Trans. Multimedia Comput. Commun. Appl. 8.1 (Feb. 2012), 8:1–8:23. ISSN: 1551-6857. DOI: 10.1145/2071396.2071404. (Visited on 05/12/2024).

References iii

- Li, You et al. 'Automatic Piano Reduction of Orchestral Music Based on Musical Entropy'. In: 2019 53rd Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS). Mar. 2019, pp. 1-5. DOI: 10.1109/CISS.2019.8693036. URL: https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/document/8693036 (visited on 27/12/2024).
- Miranda, Eduardo Reck, ed. *Quantum Computer Music: Foundations, Methods and Advanced Concepts.* en.

 Springer International Publishing, 2022. ISBN: 978-3-031-13908-6
 978-3-031-13909-3. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-13909-3. (Visited on 28/12/2024).

References iv

- Moses, William S. and Erik D. Demaine. **'Computational Complexity of Arranging Music'.** In: arXiv (July 2016). arXiv:1607.04220. DOI: 10.48550/arXiv.1607.04220. (Visited on 09/11/2024).
- Nakamura, Eita and Kazuyoshi Yoshii. 'Statistical piano reduction controlling performance difficulty'. en. In: APSIPA Transactions on Signal and Information Processing 7 (Jan. 2018), e13. ISSN: 2048-7703. DOI: 10.1017/ATSIP.2018.18. (Visited on 17/12/2024).
- Pearce, M. and Geraint A. Wiggins. 'Towards A Framework for the Evaluation of Machine Compositions'. In:

 Proceedings of the AISB'01 Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Creativity in the Arts and Sciences. 2001.

LBDM

Boundary strength

$$S_i = x_i \times (r_{i-1,i} + r_{i,i+1})$$
$$r_{i,i+1} = \frac{|x_i - x_{i+1}|}{x_i + x_{i+1}}$$

Normalisation

$$S_i' = \frac{S_i - \min(S_i)}{\max(S_i) - \min(S_i)}$$

Weighting

$$S = \frac{1}{3} \left(S'_{\text{pitch}} + 2S'_{\text{IOI}} \right)$$

⁸Cambouropoulos, 'The Local Boundary Detection Model (LBDM) and its Application in the Study of Expressive

Phrase entropy

 x_i — parameter x of note i

Shannon entropy

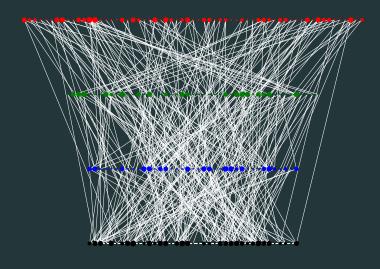
$$H(X) \coloneqq -\sum_{i} P(x_i) \log_2 P(x_i)$$

Probability distribution

$$P(x_i) = \frac{n_i}{N}$$

9

Solution graph



Solution score

