

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

Lucas Kirby

30 January 2025

Department of Physics, Durham University

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

Lucas Kirby
30 January 2025
Department of Physics, Durham University

Theory

Music arrangement

Quantum annealing

Methods

Results

Conclusions

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Overview

- What is music arrangement? What is quantum annealing?
- Methods used to solve the music arrangement problem
- Preliminary results from application of the method
- Concluding thoughts about this process

Overview

Theory

Music arrangement

Quantum annealing

Methods

Results

Conclusions

Theory

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Theory

Theory



Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Music arrangement
 - └ Music arrangement

- Adaptation of music in terms of instrumentation, medium, or style
- Traditionally a complex process that requires a deep understanding of musical theory and structure
- Musically interesting whilst still remaining faithful to the source material
- Interest in automating this process
- Reduction is the rewriting of music for a smaller number of instruments (for example string quartet)



Music arrangement

- Adaptation of previously composed pieces for practical or artistic reasons



The image displays a musical score for Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The tempo is marked 'Poco Adagio'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'cresc.' and 'p'.

Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Music arrangement
 - └ Music arrangement

- Adaptation of music in terms of instrumentation, medium, or style
- Traditionally a complex process that requires a deep understanding of musical theory and structure
- Musically interesting whilst still remaining faithful to the source material
- Interest in automating this process
- Reduction is the rewriting of music for a smaller number of instruments (for example string quartet)

Music arrangement

- Adaptation of previously composed pieces for practical or artistic reasons



A small thumbnail image showing a snippet of a musical score, likely related to the main score shown in the adjacent block.

Music arrangement

- Adaptation of previously composed pieces for practical or artistic reasons
- Traditionally complex and time-consuming

The image displays a page from a musical score for Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10. The top section is titled 'Poco Adagio' and features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. Each staff has a 'sotto voce' marking. The bottom section, marked with a Roman numeral 'II', shows a more complex passage with 'cresc.' and 'espress.' markings, and dynamic markings like 'p' and 'f'.

Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Music arrangement
 - └ Music arrangement

- Adaptation of music in terms of instrumentation, medium, or style
- Traditionally a complex process that requires a deep understanding of musical theory and structure
- Musically interesting whilst still remaining faithful to the source material
- Interest in automating this process
- Reduction is the rewriting of music for a smaller number of instruments (for example string quartet)

Music arrangement

- Adaptation of previously composed pieces for practical or artistic reasons
- Traditionally complex and time-consuming

A small thumbnail image of a musical score, showing a page with multiple staves and musical notation.

Music arrangement

- Adaptation of previously composed pieces for practical or artistic reasons
- Traditionally complex and time-consuming
- This study focuses on **reduction**

The image displays a musical score for Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10. The top section shows the first system with parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello, all marked 'Poco Adagio'. The bottom section shows a more complex arrangement with multiple staves for each instrument, including dynamic markings like 'cresc.' and 'p'.

Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Music arrangement
 - └ Music arrangement

- Adaptation of music in terms of instrumentation, medium, or style
- Traditionally a complex process that requires a deep understanding of musical theory and structure
- Musically interesting whilst still remaining faithful to the source material
- Interest in automating this process
- Reduction is the rewriting of music for a smaller number of instruments (for example string quartet)

Music arrangement

- Adaptation of previously composed pieces for practical or artistic reasons
- Traditionally complex and time-consuming
- This study focuses on **reduction**



Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- Materials science, annealing is a slow heating/cooling process to make a material softer and less brittle
- Quantum computing, slow evolution of a system between Hamiltonians
- Done adiabatically (closed system), system remains in ground state

Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- *Materials* — heating and cooling a material to alter its physical properties

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- Materials science, annealing is a slow heating/cooling process to make a material softer and less brittle
- Quantum computing, slow evolution of a system between Hamiltonians
- Done adiabatically (closed system), system remains in ground state

- *Materials* — heating and cooling a material to alter its physical properties
- *Quantum* — changing a quantum system from one Hamiltonian to another

Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- *Materials* — heating and cooling a material to alter its physical properties
- *Quantum* — changing a quantum system from one Hamiltonian to another

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- Materials science, annealing is a slow heating/cooling process to make a material softer and less brittle
- Quantum computing, slow evolution of a system between Hamiltonians
- Done adiabatically (closed system), system remains in ground state

- *Materials* — heating and cooling a material to alter its physical properties
- *Quantum* — changing a quantum system from one Hamiltonian to another
- Done slowly and adiabatically to remain in the ground state

Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- *Materials* — heating and cooling a material to alter its physical properties
- *Quantum* — changing a quantum system from one Hamiltonian to another
- Done slowly and adiabatically to remain in the ground state

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- Materials science, annealing is a slow heating/cooling process to make a material softer and less brittle
- Quantum computing, slow evolution of a system between Hamiltonians
- Done adiabatically (closed system), system remains in ground state

Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- *Materials* — heating and cooling a material to alter its physical properties
- *Quantum* — changing a quantum system from one Hamiltonian to another
- Done slowly and adiabatically to remain in the ground state

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

[Lucas, 2014]

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ Adiabatic quantum computing (AQC)

- Materials science, annealing is a slow heating/cooling process to make a material softer and less brittle
- Quantum computing, slow evolution of a system between Hamiltonians
- Done adiabatically (closed system), system remains in ground state

- *Materials* — heating and cooling a material to alter its physical properties
- *Quantum* — changing a quantum system from one Hamiltonian to another
- Done slowly and adiabatically to remain in the ground state

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

[Lucas, 2014]

Quantum annealing

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Theory

└ Quantum annealing

└ Quantum annealing

- How is this used to solve problems?
- Ising model, create a lattice of variables with two discrete values (spin up/down)
- Problem Hamiltonian, qubits σ^z , coupling strengths J_{ij} and field strengths h_i
- Initial state is a superposition of all possible states
- If problem solution is encoded within the ground state, system will give solution after evolution

Ising model

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

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ Quantum annealing

Quantum annealing

Ising model

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

- How is this used to solve problems?
- Ising model, create a lattice of variables with two discrete values (spin up/down)
- Problem Hamiltonian, qubits σ^z , coupling strengths J_{ij} and field strengths h_i
- Initial state is a superposition of all possible states
- If problem solution is encoded within the ground state, system will give solution after evolution

Ising model

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

Initial state

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

[Lucas, 2014]

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ Quantum annealing

- How is this used to solve problems?
- Ising model, create a lattice of variables with two discrete values (spin up/down)
- Problem Hamiltonian, qubits σ^z , coupling strengths J_{ij} and field strengths h_i
- Initial state is a superposition of all possible states
- If problem solution is encoded within the ground state, system will give solution after evolution

Ising model

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

Initial state

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

[Lucas, 2014]

Quantum annealing

2025-01-29

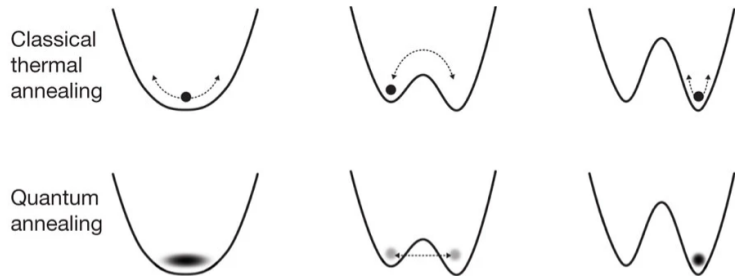
Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Theory

└ Quantum annealing

└ Quantum annealing

Quantum annealing



[Johnson et al., 2011]

- What does this look like?
- Evolution of superposition to a particular state
- More efficiently escape from local minima via quantum tunneling
- Can solve harder problems with a more turbulent energy landscape

QUBO

2025-01-29

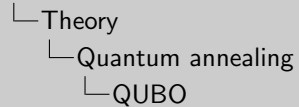
Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ QUBO

- How to encode a problem into a Hamiltonian?
- Similar form to the Ising model, but with binary variables (0 or 1)
- QUBO is a function to be minimised
- Set of binary variables x , matrix Q of real weights that describes interactions between variables
- Can read out variable values after evolution to give solution

Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimisation

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

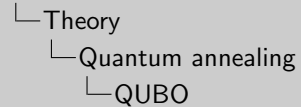


$$f(x) = \sum_{i < j}^N Q_{i,j} x_i x_j + \sum_i^N Q_{i,i} x_i$$

- How to encode a problem into a Hamiltonian?
- Similar form to the Ising model, but with binary variables (0 or 1)
- QUBO is a function to be minimised
- Set of binary variables x , matrix Q of real weights that describes interactions between variables
- Can read out variable values after evolution to give solution

Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimisation

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



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

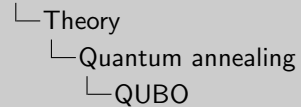
- How to encode a problem into a Hamiltonian?
- Similar form to the Ising model, but with binary variables (0 or 1)
- QUBO is a function to be minimised
- Set of binary variables x , matrix Q of real weights that describes interactions between variables
- Can read out variable values after evolution to give solution

Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimisation

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

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing



QUBO

Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimisation

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

- How to encode a problem into a Hamiltonian?
- Similar form to the Ising model, but with binary variables (0 or 1)
- QUBO is a function to be minimised
- Set of binary variables x , matrix Q of real weights that describes interactions between variables
- Can read out variable values after evolution to give solution

Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimisation

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

- Encodes problem solution into Hamiltonian's ground state
- Sent to the QPU for optimisation

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

- └ Theory
 - └ Quantum annealing
 - └ QUBO

QUBO

Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimisation

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

- Encodes problem solution into Hamiltonian's ground state
- Sent to the QPU for optimisation

- How to encode a problem into a Hamiltonian?
- Similar form to the Ising model, but with binary variables (0 or 1)
- QUBO is a function to be minimised
- Set of binary variables x , matrix Q of real weights that describes interactions between variables
- Can read out variable values after evolution to give solution

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Theory

└ Quantum annealing

How to combine them?

How to combine them?

- How to apply quantum annealing to the problem of music arrangement?

2025-01-29

Methods

Problem formulation

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─ Methods

└─ Problem formulation

- Formulating arrangement as a problem to be solved via annealing, four-step process
- Split parts into musical phrases
- Arrange phrases into a graph (nodes and edges)
- Solve corresponding graph problem using quantum computing
- Construct final arrangement from the solution returned

1. Split score into musical phrases

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─ Methods

└─ Problem formulation

- Formulating arrangement as a problem to be solved via annealing, four-step process
- Split parts into musical phrases
- Arrange phrases into a graph (nodes and edges)
- Solve corresponding graph problem using quantum computing
- Construct final arrangement from the solution returned

Problem formulation

1. Split score into musical phrases
2. Arrange phrases into a graph

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─Methods

└─Problem formulation

- Formulating arrangement as a problem to be solved via annealing, four-step process
- Split parts into musical phrases
- Arrange phrases into a graph (nodes and edges)
- Solve corresponding graph problem using quantum computing
- Construct final arrangement from the solution returned

Problem formulation

1. Split score into musical phrases
2. Arrange phrases into a graph

Problem formulation

1. Split score into musical phrases
2. Arrange phrases into a graph
3. Solve graph problem using QPU

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─Methods

└─Problem formulation

- Formulating arrangement as a problem to be solved via annealing, four-step process
- Split parts into musical phrases
- Arrange phrases into a graph (nodes and edges)
- Solve corresponding graph problem using quantum computing
- Construct final arrangement from the solution returned

Problem formulation

1. Split score into musical phrases
2. Arrange phrases into a graph
3. Solve graph problem using QPU

Problem formulation

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

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─Methods

└─Problem formulation

- Formulating arrangement as a problem to be solved via annealing, four-step process
- Split parts into musical phrases
- Arrange phrases into a graph (nodes and edges)
- Solve corresponding graph problem using quantum computing
- Construct final arrangement from the solution returned

Problem formulation

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

1. Split score

- First stage to separate each part of original score into phrases
- Phrases — smallest unit of music that preserves melody and structure
- Boundaries between phrases found using LBDM
- Measures the degree of change of a certain parameter between notes (explain equation)
- Check pitch and IOI
- Strengths above a threshold value are considered phrases

1. Split score

Local boundary detection model (LBDM)

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

[Cambouropoulos, 2011]

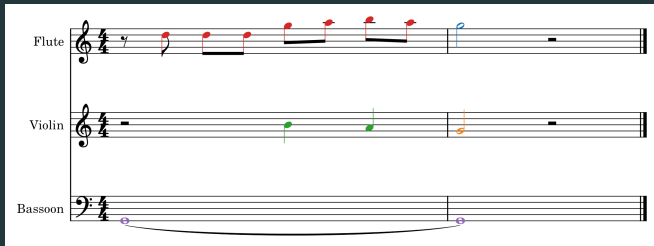
- First stage to separate each part of original score into phrases
- Phrases — smallest unit of music that preserves melody and structure
- Boundaries between phrases found using LBDM
- Measures the degree of change of a certain parameter between notes (explain equation)
- Check pitch and IOI
- Strengths above a threshold value are considered phrases

1. Split score

Local boundary detection model (LBDM)

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

[Cambouropoulos, 2011]



Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

Methods

1. Split score

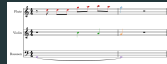
- First stage to separate each part of original score into phrases
- Phrases — smallest unit of music that preserves melody and structure
- Boundaries between phrases found using LBDM
- Measures the degree of change of a certain parameter between notes (explain equation)
- Check pitch and IOI
- Strengths above a threshold value are considered phrases

1. Split score

Local boundary detection model (LBDM)

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

[Cambouropoulos, 2011]



2. Create graph

Flute

Violin

Bassoon

2025-01-29

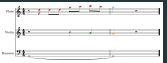
Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Methods

└ 2. Create graph

- Construct problem graph
- Each phrase becomes a node, edges between nodes if phrases overlap

2. Create graph



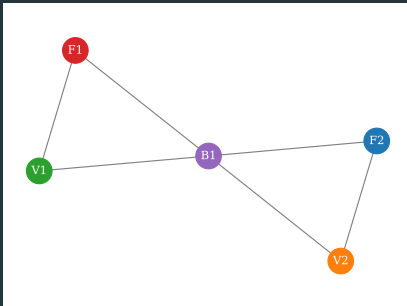
2. Create graph

Flute

Violin

Bassoon

The image shows a musical score for three instruments: Flute, Violin, and Bassoon, in 4/4 time. The Flute part has a melody of eighth notes. The Violin part has a few notes. The Bassoon part has a long note. A purple line connects the start and end of the Bassoon part.



2025-01-29

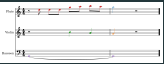
Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Methods

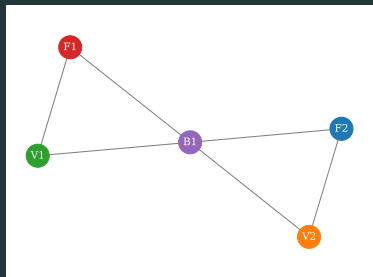
└ 2. Create graph

- Construct problem graph
- Each phrase becomes a node, edges between nodes if phrases overlap

2. Create graph



3. Solve graph



2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Methods

└ 3. Solve graph

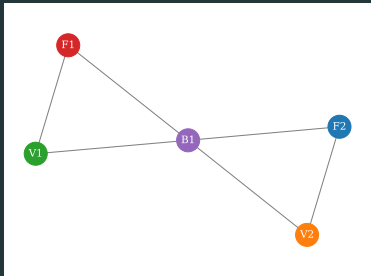


- Special case for reducing to a single monophonic part (one phrase played at a time)
- Solve problem graph using a graph theory problem called MIS
- Enforces that only one simultaneous phrase can be played at once
- Nodes can also be weighted to introduce preference for certain nodes e.g. musicality

3. Solve graph

Maximal independent set (MIS)

Largest subset of nodes such that no nodes within the subset are connected by an edge



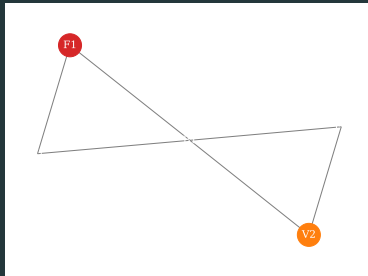
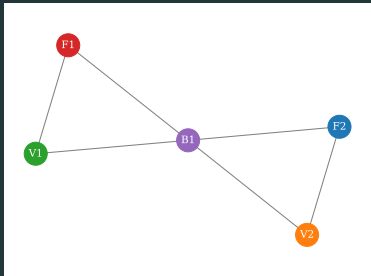
- Special case for reducing to a single monophonic part (one phrase played at a time)
- Solve problem graph using a graph theory problem called MIS
- Enforces that only one simultaneous phrase can be played at once
- Nodes can also be weighted to introduce preference for certain nodes e.g. musicality



3. Solve graph

Maximal independent set (MIS)

Largest subset of nodes such that no nodes within the subset are connected by an edge



2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Methods

└ 3. Solve graph

- Special case for reducing to a single monophonic part (one phrase played at a time)
- Solve problem graph using a graph theory problem called MIS
- Enforces that only one simultaneous phrase can be played at once
- Nodes can also be weighted to introduce preference for certain nodes e.g. musicality

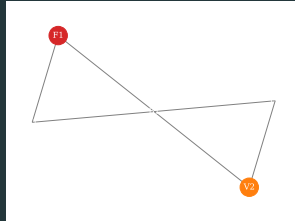
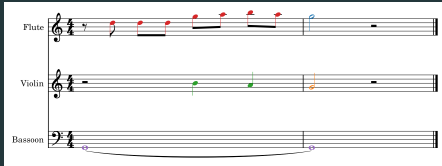
3. Solve graph

Maximal independent set (MIS)

Largest subset of nodes such that no nodes within the subset are connected by an edge



4. Construct arrangement



2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Methods

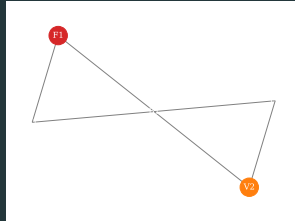
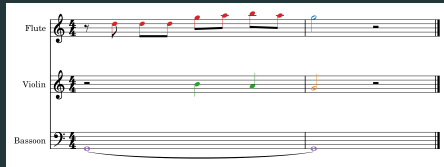
└ 4. Construct arrangement

- Take solution graph and combine selected nodes to create final arrangement

4. Construct arrangement



4. Construct arrangement



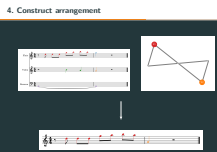
2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Methods

└ 4. Construct arrangement

- Take solution graph and combine selected nodes to create final arrangement



2025-01-29

Results

The image shows a musical score for String Quartet No. 10 by Ludwig van Beethoven. The score is for four instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The tempo is marked 'Poco Adagio' and the key signature is E-flat major (three flats). The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-5) includes the instruction 'sotto voce' for all instruments. The second system (measures 6-10) includes the instruction 'cresc.' (crescendo) for all instruments. The third system (measures 11-15) includes the instruction 'espress.' (expressive) for all instruments. The score is written in 4/4 time.

String Quartet No. 10 by Ludwig van Beethoven

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

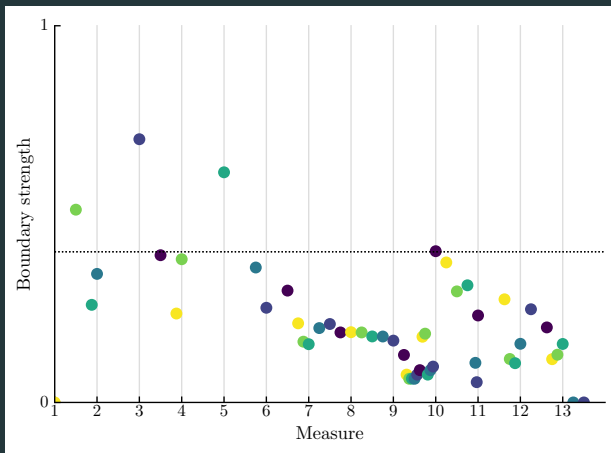
└ Results

└ Excerpt

- Excerpt of String Quartet No. 10 in E-flat major, Op. 74, by Ludwig van Beethoven
- Chosen due to its relatively simple structure and smaller instrumentation, keeping the problem graph small

The thumbnail image shows a smaller version of the musical score for String Quartet No. 10 by Ludwig van Beethoven, similar to the one in the main image.

Phrase detection



Boundary strengths for the Violin I part

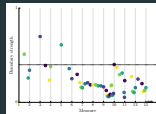
2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Results

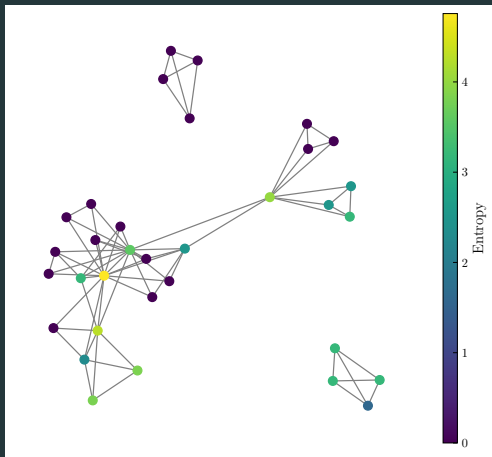
└ Phrase detection

Phrase detection



- Example of the LBDM finding suitable boundaries for phrases
- Threshold value of 0.4 chosen, finds five phrases

Problem graph



Problem graph with 33 nodes and 70 edges

2025-01-29

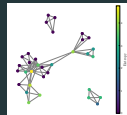
Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Results

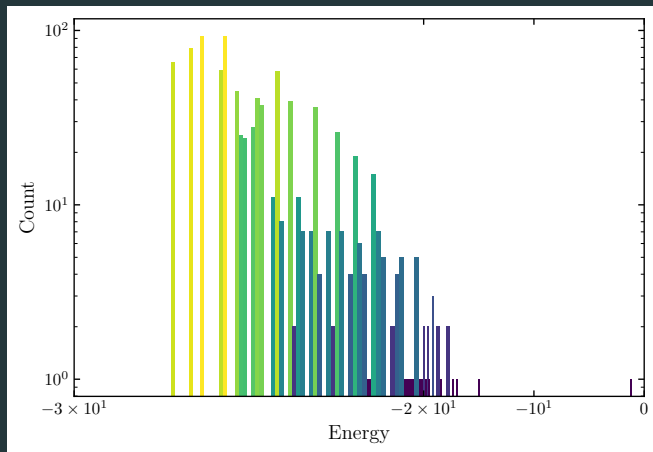
└ Problem graph

- 33 identified phrases (nodes) with 70 overlaps (edges)
- Nodes are weighted by the phrase entropy, how musically interesting the distribution of notes is

Problem graph



Problem graph with 33 nodes and 70 edges



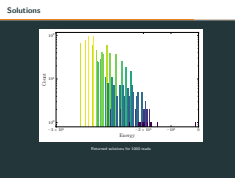
Returned solutions for 1000 reads

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

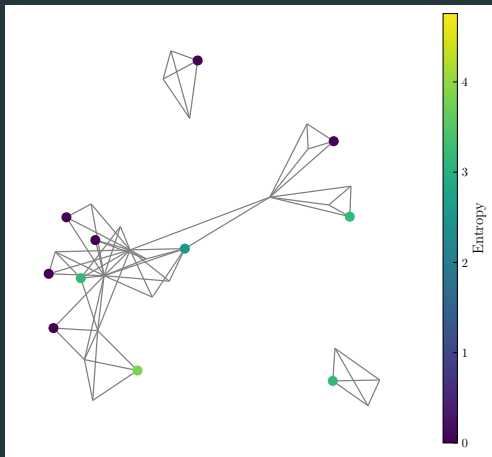
└ Results

└ Solutions



- Histogram of the returned solutions, only energies below zero shown
- Distribution of solutions due to the stochastic nature of annealing
- Lowest energy solution most musically interesting due to construction of weighted MIS QUBO
- (Lowest energy solution -26.8 with a degeneracy of 34)

Example solution



Solution graph returning a subset of 11 nodes

2025-01-29

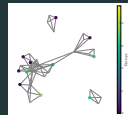
Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Results

└ Example solution

- Selected nodes from one of the lowest energy solutions
- Note in the cliques only one node could be selected

Example solution



Final arrangement

Poco Adagio

Violin I
sotto voce

Violin II
sotto voce

Viola
sotto voce

Violoncello
sotto voce

6

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

10

espress.

p

f

espress.

p

f

cresc.

p

f

p

Selected phrases

Poco Adagio

sotto voce

7

cresc.

espress.

p

12

f

Final arrangement

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Results

└ Final arrangement

- Selected phrases from solution graph highlighted
- Phrases concatenated to create the final arrangement

Final arrangement

Selected phrases

Final arrangement

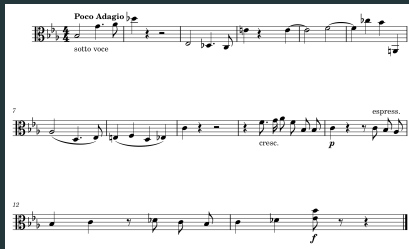
2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─ Conclusions

Conclusions

Conclusions



2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Conclusions

└ Conclusions

- Valid reduction gained from implemented method
- Monophonic lowest-energy solution
- Phrase identification and selection result in musically interesting final arrangement
- Displays some advantages over classical algorithms
- Does not require training data, costly in both time and resources
- Faster solve time compared to similarly-sized problems
- Method and more advanced versions of it removes the skill barrier for music arrangement

Conclusions

- Successful in creating a valid single-part reduction



- Valid reduction gained from implemented method
- Monophonic lowest-energy solution
- Phrase identification and selection result in musically interesting final arrangement
- Displays some advantages over classical algorithms
- Does not require training data, costly in both time and resources
- Faster solve time compared to similarly-sized problems
- Method and more advanced versions of it removes the skill barrier for music arrangement



Conclusions

- Successful in creating a valid single-part reduction
- Advantage over classical algorithms [Huang et al., 2012]



- Valid reduction gained from implemented method
- Monophonic lowest-energy solution
- Phrase identification and selection result in musically interesting final arrangement
- Displays some advantages over classical algorithms
- Does not require training data, costly in both time and resources
- Faster solve time compared to similarly-sized problems
- Method and more advanced versions of it removes the skill barrier for music arrangement



Conclusions

- Successful in creating a valid single-part reduction
- Advantage over classical algorithms [Huang et al., 2012]
- Removes skill barrier for music arrangement



- Valid reduction gained from implemented method
- Monophonic lowest-energy solution
- Phrase identification and selection result in musically interesting final arrangement
- Displays some advantages over classical algorithms
- Does not require training data, costly in both time and resources
- Faster solve time compared to similarly-sized problems
- Method and more advanced versions of it removes the skill barrier for music arrangement



- Problem size — full piece has upwards of 1000 phrases, compare solve times with classical algorithms
- LBDM parameters — phrases should be short and similar in length, prevents important notes being hidden in long phrases with low entropy
- Physical limitations — note ranges, note change speed
- Multiple parts — need different problem formulation, colouring problem with each colour representing a reduced part
- Quality judgement — Turing-like test, present subjects with human-/computer-generated scores

- Increased problem size

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─ Conclusions

└─ Future work

Future work

- Increased problem size

- Problem size — full piece has upwards of 1000 phrases, compare solve times with classical algorithms
- LBDM parameters — phrases should be short and similar in length, prevents important notes being hidden in long phrases with low entropy
- Physical limitations — note ranges, note change speed
- Multiple parts — need different problem formulation, colouring problem with each colour representing a reduced part
- Quality judgement — Turing-like test, present subjects with human-/computer-generated scores

Future work

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─ Conclusions

└─ Future work

- Problem size — full piece has upwards of 1000 phrases, compare solve times with classical algorithms
- LBDM parameters — phrases should be short and similar in length, prevents important notes being hidden in long phrases with low entropy
- Physical limitations — note ranges, note change speed
- Multiple parts — need different problem formulation, colouring problem with each colour representing a reduced part
- Quality judgement — Turing-like test, present subjects with human-/computer-generated scores

Future work

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM

Future work

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM
- Physical limitations of instruments

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─ Conclusions

└─ Future work

- Problem size — full piece has upwards of 1000 phrases, compare solve times with classical algorithms
- LBDM parameters — phrases should be short and similar in length, prevents important notes being hidden in long phrases with low entropy
- Physical limitations — note ranges, note change speed
- Multiple parts — need different problem formulation, colouring problem with each colour representing a reduced part
- Quality judgement — Turing-like test, present subjects with human-/computer-generated scores

Future work

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM
- Physical limitations of instruments

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM
- Physical limitations of instruments
- Reduction to more than one part

- Problem size — full piece has upwards of 1000 phrases, compare solve times with classical algorithms
- LBDM parameters — phrases should be short and similar in length, prevents important notes being hidden in long phrases with low entropy
- Physical limitations — note ranges, note change speed
- Multiple parts — need different problem formulation, colouring problem with each colour representing a reduced part
- Quality judgement — Turing-like test, present subjects with human-/computer-generated scores

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM
- Physical limitations of instruments
- Reduction to more than one part

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM
- Physical limitations of instruments
- Reduction to more than one part
- Quality comparison of computer arrangements
[Pearce and Wiggins, 2001]

- Problem size — full piece has upwards of 1000 phrases, compare solve times with classical algorithms
- LBDM parameters — phrases should be short and similar in length, prevents important notes being hidden in long phrases with low entropy
- Physical limitations — note ranges, note change speed
- Multiple parts — need different problem formulation, colouring problem with each colour representing a reduced part
- Quality judgement — Turing-like test, present subjects with human-/computer-generated scores

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM
- Physical limitations of instruments
- Reduction to more than one part
- Quality comparison of computer arrangements
[Pearce and Wiggins, 2001]

Thank you!

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ **Conclusions**

Thank you!

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

Lucas Kirby

30 January 2025

Department of Physics, Durham University

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

Lucas Kirby
30 January 2025
Department of Physics, Durham University



Cambouropoulos, E. (2011).

The Local Boundary Detection Model (LBDM) and its Application in the Study of Expressive Timing.

International Computer Music Association.



Huang, J.-L., Chiu, S.-C., and Shan, M.-K. (2012).

Towards an automatic music arrangement framework using score reduction.

ACM Trans. Multimedia Comput. Commun. Appl.,
8(1):8:1–8:23.

References

Cambouropoulos, E. (2011).
The Local Boundary Detection Model (LBDM) and its Application in the Study of Expressive Timing.
International Computer Music Association.

Huang, J.-L., Chiu, S.-C., and Shan, M.-K. (2012).
Towards an automatic music arrangement framework using score reduction.
ACM Trans. Multimedia Comput. Commun. Appl.,
8(1):8:1–8:23.



Johnson, M. W., Amin, M. H. S., Gildert, S., Lanting, T., Hamze, F., Dickson, N., Harris, R., Berkley, A. J., Johansson, J., Bunyk, P., Chapple, E. M., Enderud, C., Hilton, J. P., Karimi, K., Ladizinsky, E., Ladizinsky, N., Oh, T., Perminov, I., Rich, C., Thom, M. C., Tolkacheva, E., Truncik, C. J. S., Uchaikin, S., Wang, J., Wilson, B., and Rose, G. (2011).

Quantum annealing with manufactured spins.

Nature, 473(7346):194–198.

Publisher: Nature Publishing Group.

References

 Johnson, M. W., Amin, M. H. S., Gildert, S., Lanting, T., Hamze, F., Dickson, N., Harris, R., Berkley, A. J., Johansson, J., Bunyk, P., Chapple, E. M., Enderud, C., Hilton, J. P., Karimi, K., Ladizinsky, E., Ladizinsky, N., Oh, T., Perminov, I., Rich, C., Thom, M. C., Tolkacheva, E., Truncik, C. J. S., Uchaikin, S., Wang, J., Wilson, B., and Rose, G. (2011). **Quantum annealing with manufactured spins.** *Nature*, 473(7346):194–198. Publisher: Nature Publishing Group.



Li, Y., Wilk, C. M., Hori, T., and Sagayama, S. (2019).

Automatic Piano Reduction of Orchestral Music Based on Musical Entropy.

In 2019 53rd Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS), pages 1–5.



Lucas, A. (2014).

Ising formulations of many NP problems.

Frontiers in Physics, 2.

Publisher: Frontiers.

References

Li, Y., Wilk, C. M., Hori, T., and Sagayama, S. (2019).
Automatic Piano Reduction of Orchestral Music Based on Musical Entropy.
In 2019 53rd Annual Conference on Information Sciences and Systems (CISS), pages 1–5.

Lucas, A. (2014).
Ising formulations of many NP problems.
Frontiers in Physics, 2.
Publisher: Frontiers.



Pearce, M. and Wiggins, G. A. (2001).

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*.

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└─References

▣ Pearce, M. and Wiggins, G. A. (2001).
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*.

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

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

[Cambouropoulos, 2011]



- Boundaries always taken at beginning/end of piece
- Weightings derived by trial and error

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	$S = \frac{1}{3} (S'_{\text{pitch}} + 2S'_{\text{IOI}})$
[Cambouropoulos, 2011]	

$$f(x) = A \sum_{ij \in E} x_i x_j - B \sum_i W_i x_i$$

[Lucas, 2014]

$A/B \geq 2 \max(W)$ to weight the constraint term more heavily than any objective term

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ MIS

- Weighted MIS QUBO
- Lagrange parameters A/B determine the balance between constraint and objective

$$f(x) = A \sum_{ij \in E} x_i x_j - B \sum_i W_i x_i$$

[Lucas, 2014]

$A/B \geq 2 \max(W)$ to weight the constraint term more heavily than any objective term

Phrase entropy

Shannon entropy

$$H(X) := - \sum_i P(x_i) \log_2 P(x_i)$$

Probability distribution

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

[Li et al., 2019]

2025-01-29

Music Arrangement via Quantum Annealing

└ Phrase entropy

- Shannon entropy units in bits due to \log_2
- Distribution calculated for pitch and duration

Phrase entropy

Shannon entropy
 $H(X) := - \sum_i P(x_i) \log_2 P(x_i)$

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

[Li et al., 2019]