Quantum Annealing for Music Arrangement

Lucas Kirby

4 March 2025

Department of Physics, Durham University

Overview

Motivations

Theory

Music arrangement

Quantum annealing

Methods

Results

Conclusions

Motivations

Motivations

- · Small lit review¹
- · Quantum computer music
- My own novel adaption of the method
- THIS IS MY OWN IDEA

¹Emilios Cambouropoulos. 'The Local Boundary Detection Model (LBDM) and its Application in the Study of Expressive Timing'. In: International Computer Music Association (2011). ISSN: 2223-3881

Theory

Music arrangement

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



Beethoven's String Quartet No. 10

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

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

Andrew Lucas. 'Ising formulations of many NP problems'.

English. In: *Frontiers in Physics* 2 (Feb. 2014). Publisher: Frontiers. ISSN: 2296-424X. DOI: **10.3389/fphy.2014.00005**. (Visited on 14/10/2024)

Quantum annealing

Ising model

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

Initial state

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

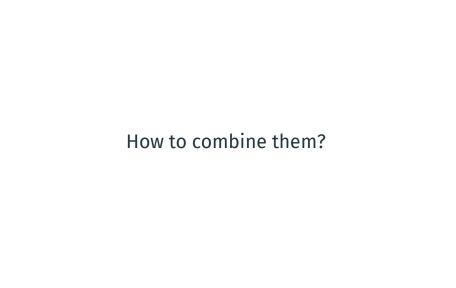
Lucas, 'Ising formulations of many NP problems'

Quantum annealing

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



Methods

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

Local boundary detection model (LBDM)

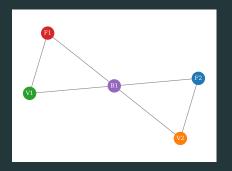
$$S_i = x_i \times (r_{i-1,i} + r_{i,i+1})$$

Emilios Cambouropoulos. 'The Local Boundary Detection Model (LBDM) and its Application in the Study of Expressive Timing'. In: International Computer Music Association (2011). ISSN: 2223-3881



2. Create graph

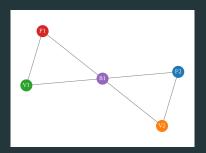


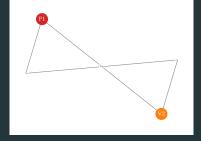


3. Solve graph

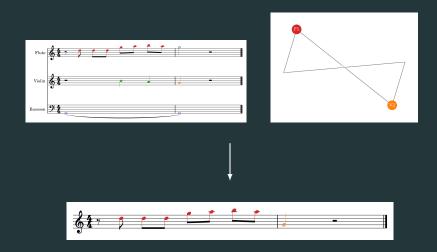
Maximal independent set (MIS)

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



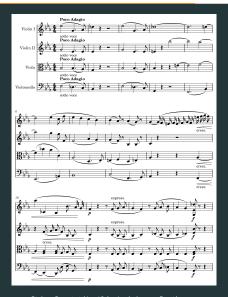


4. Construct arrangement



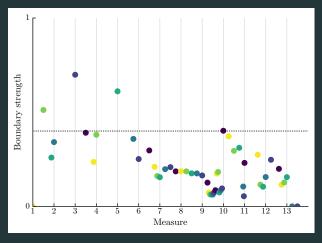
Results

Excerpt



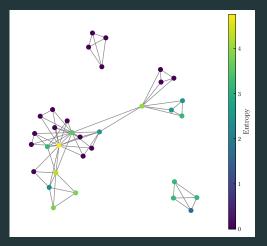
String Quartet No. 10 by Ludwig van Beethoven

Phrase detection



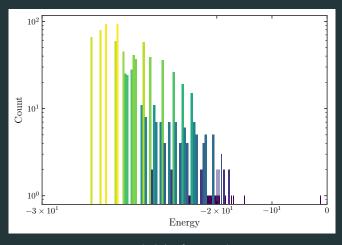
Boundary strengths for the Violin I part

Problem graph



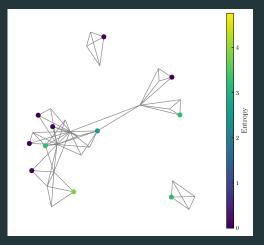
Problem graph with 33 nodes and 70 edges

Solutions



Returned solutions for 1000 reads

Example solution



Solution graph returning a subset of 11 nodes

Final arrangement





Selected phrases

Final arrangemen

Conclusions

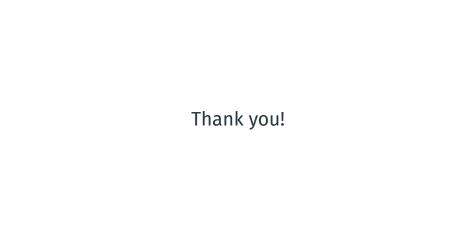
Conclusions

- Successful in creating a valid single-part reduction
- · Advantage over classical algorithms Jiun-Long Huang, 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)
- Removes skill barrier for music arrangement



Future work

- Increased problem size
- Parametric variation of LBDM
- Physical limitations of instruments
- Reduction to more than one part
- Quality comparison of computer arrangements M. Pearce 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



Quantum Annealing for Music Arrangement

Lucas Kirby

4 March 2025

Department of Physics, Durham University

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

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

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

MIS

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

Lucas, 'Ising formulations of many NP problems'

 $A/B>=2\max(W)$ 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

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

You Li 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)