

Finding water on Mars

using Quantum Computing

Quantum BC team



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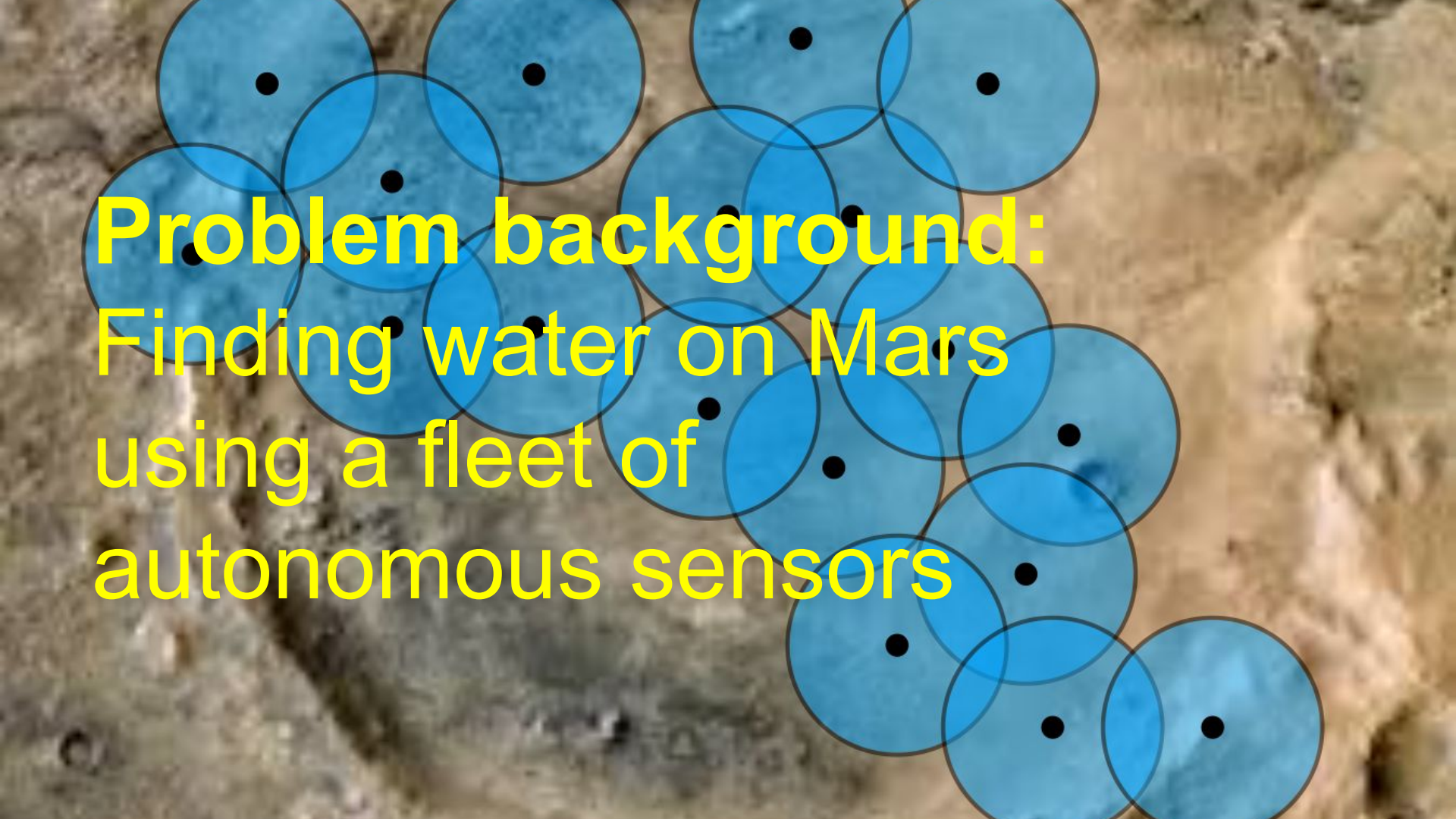
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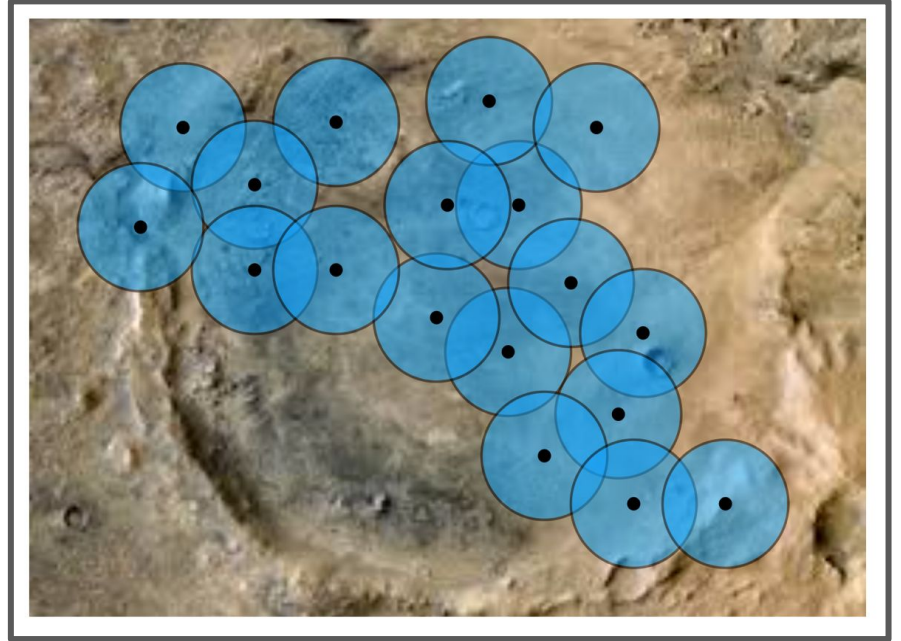
The background of the slide is a high-resolution image of the Martian surface, showing a mix of tan, brown, and grey rocky terrain with some darker patches. Overlaid on this background is a fleet of autonomous sensors. Each sensor is represented by a semi-transparent blue circle with a thin black outline. Inside each circle is a solid black dot, which likely represents the sensor's current position or a specific point of interest. The sensors are distributed across the frame, with a higher concentration on the left side and a more sparse arrangement towards the right. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially covering some of the sensor circles.

Problem background:
Finding water on Mars
using a fleet of
autonomous sensors

Mobile Ad-Hoc Networks on Mars

Idea : Use a fleet of autonomous nano-sensors to collectively explore areas

Problem : Short connection range of sensor poses a problem for global communication

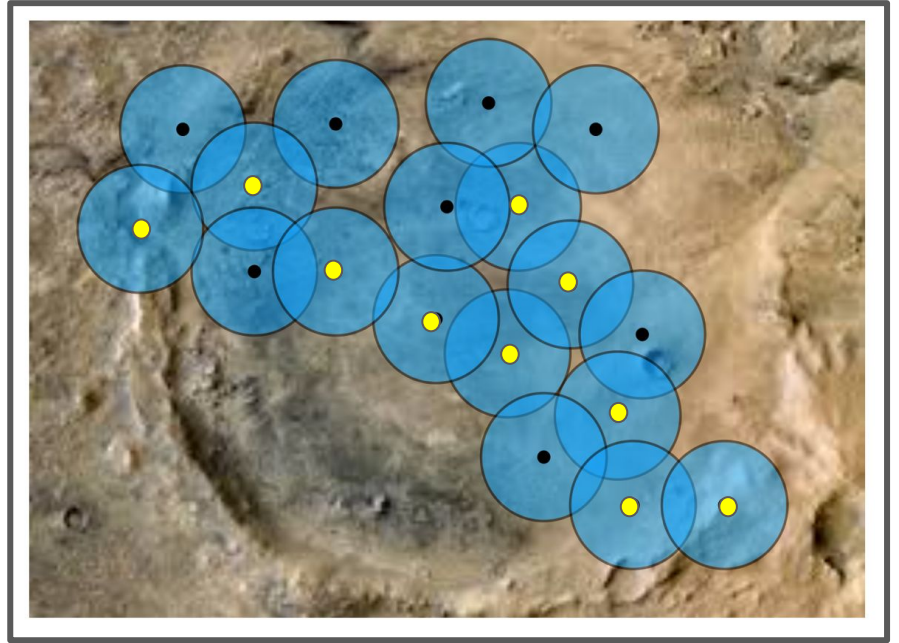


Mobile Ad-Hoc Networks on Mars

Define a **virtual backbone** of nodes in transmitter mode

Remaining nodes save energy by only doing the sensing task

Global communication is guaranteed



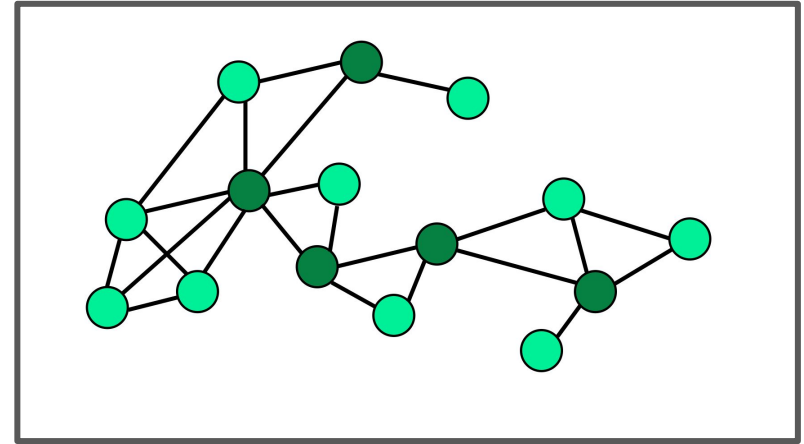
Connected Dominant Set

Graph $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$

Connected Dominant Set (**CDS**) is a subset $\mathbf{D} \subset \mathbf{V}$ such that

- All vertices in \mathbf{D} are connected
- Each node in \mathbf{V}/\mathbf{D} is a neighbor of at least one node in \mathbf{D}

Finding the CDS of a graph is NP-hard i.e. $\mathbf{O}(1.9407^n)$



Technical goal : Find a “good” CDS of a graph using the capabilities of neutral atoms and Pulser

The challenge

Start with a **simple graph** for which the solution can be easily verified

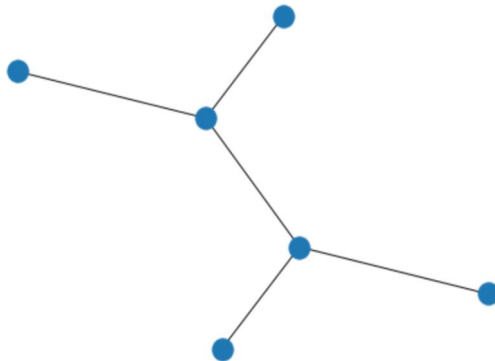
Develop solution to determine the **CDS** of the graph using **neutral atom quantum computing**

Generalize the approach to more complicated graphs

Time for the challenge !

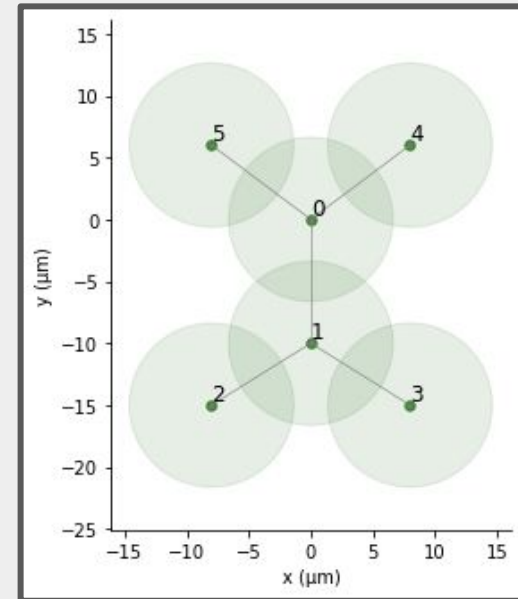
Using the above physics, write a program that finds a minimal CDS of the following graph using Pulser.

```
In [1]: import networkx as nx
G = nx.Graph()
G.add_edges_from([(0,1),(0,2),(0,3),(1,4),(1,5)])
nx.draw(G,pos=nx.spring_layout(G))
```



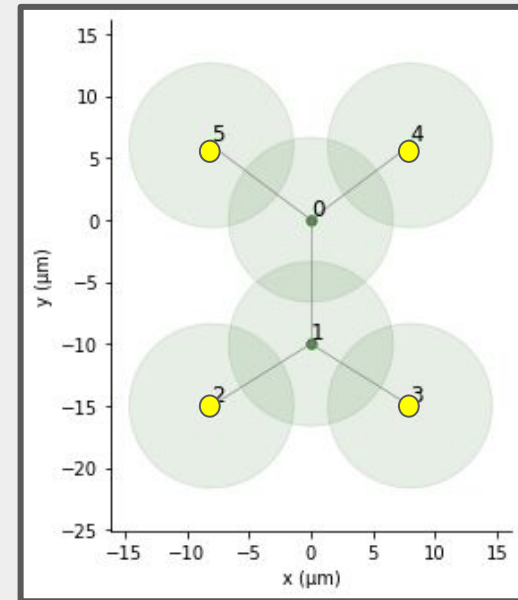
Our solution

Map the sensors/graph to
neutral atom coordinates



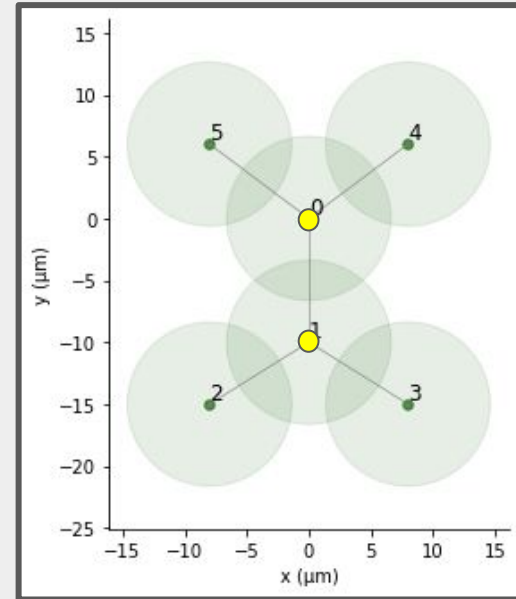
Our solution

Use **QAOA** and **Pulser** to
find a **Maximally
Independent Set (MIS)**



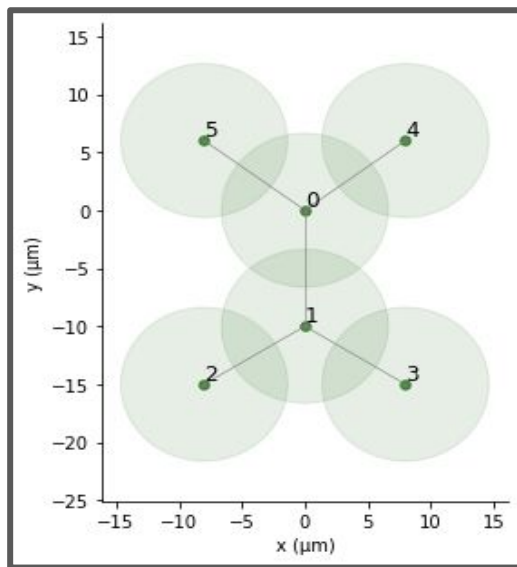
Our solution

Use the **MIS** solution to
determine the **CDS**



Results

Encoded problem



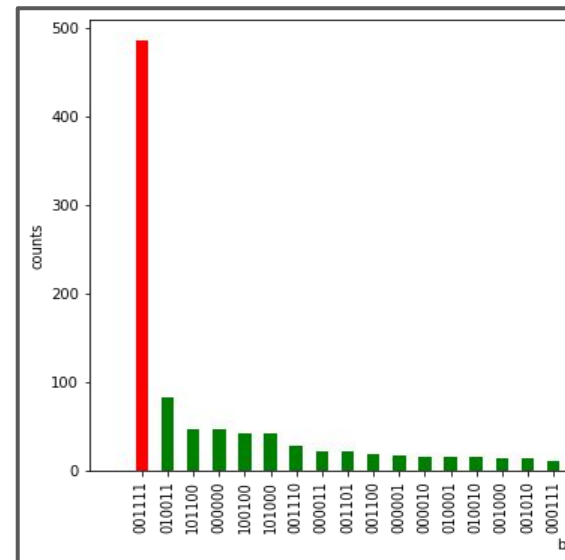
Hybrid quantum -classical optimization

MIS using **QAOA**
and **Pulser**

Fast parameter
optimization using
Bayesian
optimization

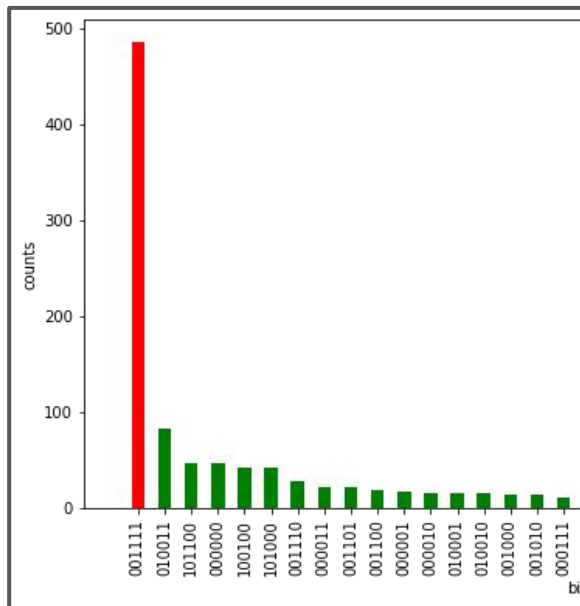


MIS solution



Results

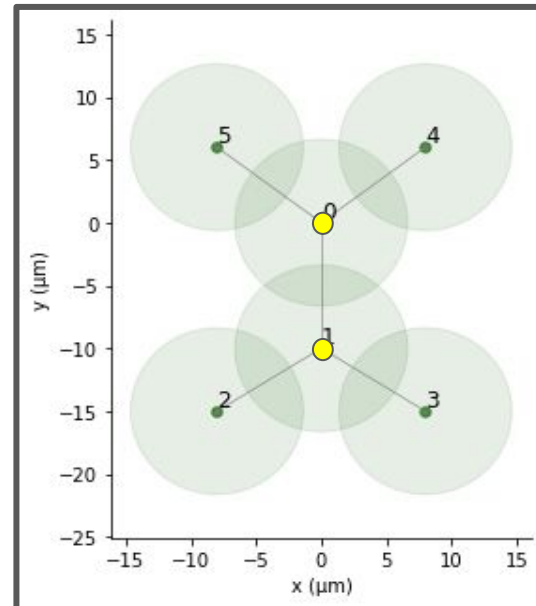
MIS solution



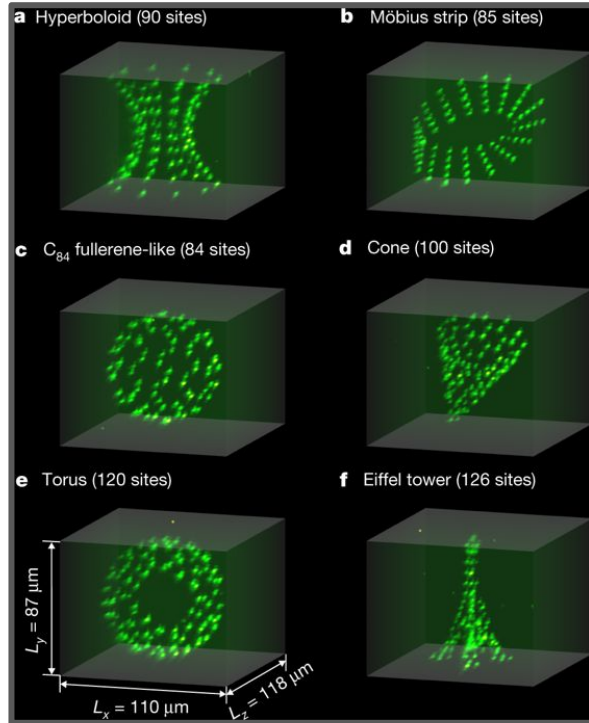
Classical
post-processing

Iterative greedy
search

CDS solution



Considerations for scalability



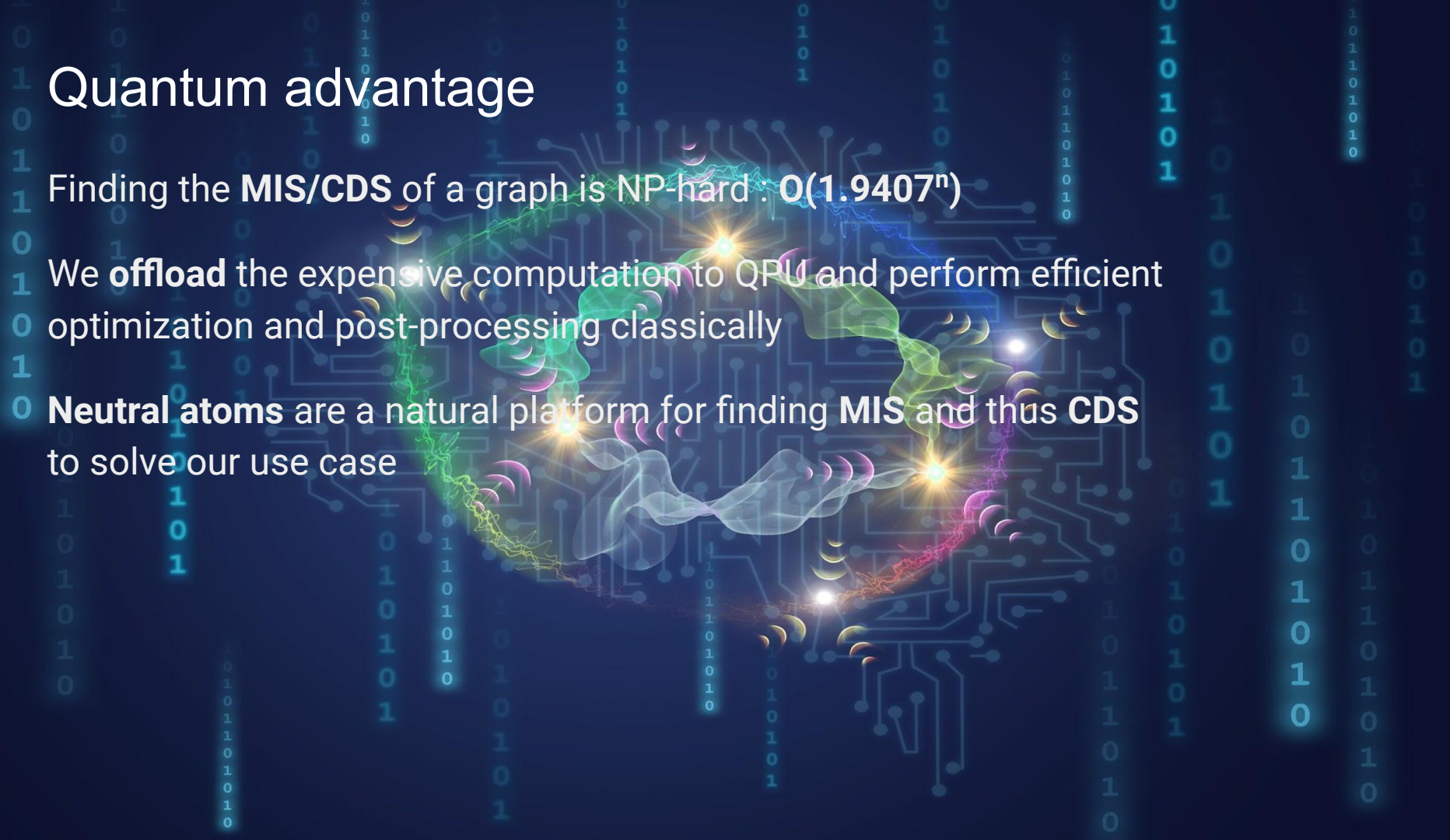
- Due to the **reconfigurable** nature of **neutral atom arrays**, our approach is scalable to the **number of neutral atoms** in a quantum computer
- We can easily extend our approach to **non-planar graphs** by using **3D neutral atom arrays**
- The iterative greedy algorithm to obtain a **CDS** from the **MIS** solution has a complexity of $\mathbf{O(n^2)} \ll \mathbf{O(1.9407^n)}$

Quantum advantage

Finding the **MIS/CDS** of a graph is NP-hard : $O(1.9407^n)$

We **offload** the expensive computation to QPU and perform efficient optimization and post-processing classically

Neutral atoms are a natural platform for finding **MIS** and thus **CDS** to solve our use case



Summary

- **Our contribution :**
 - We developed a heuristic solution to find the **Connected Dominating Set** of a graph using **Neutral Atom Quantum Computing** and **Pulser**
- **Application to use-case :**
 - In a real-world scenario, we found that the **sensor positions** can be mapped to **neutral atom positions** and our approach can be used to find a **virtual backbone**
- **Quantum advantage :**
 - NP-hard problem to solve i.e. $O(1.9407^n)$ can be solved efficiently

Appendix

An aerial photograph of a wetland landscape at sunset. A large, dark pond with a bright, shimmering reflection of the sun is the central focus. To its right, a smaller, darker pond is visible. The surrounding terrain is a mix of brown and green, with some low-lying vegetation. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a long, bright reflection on the water.

Thank you. Questions
?

Outline

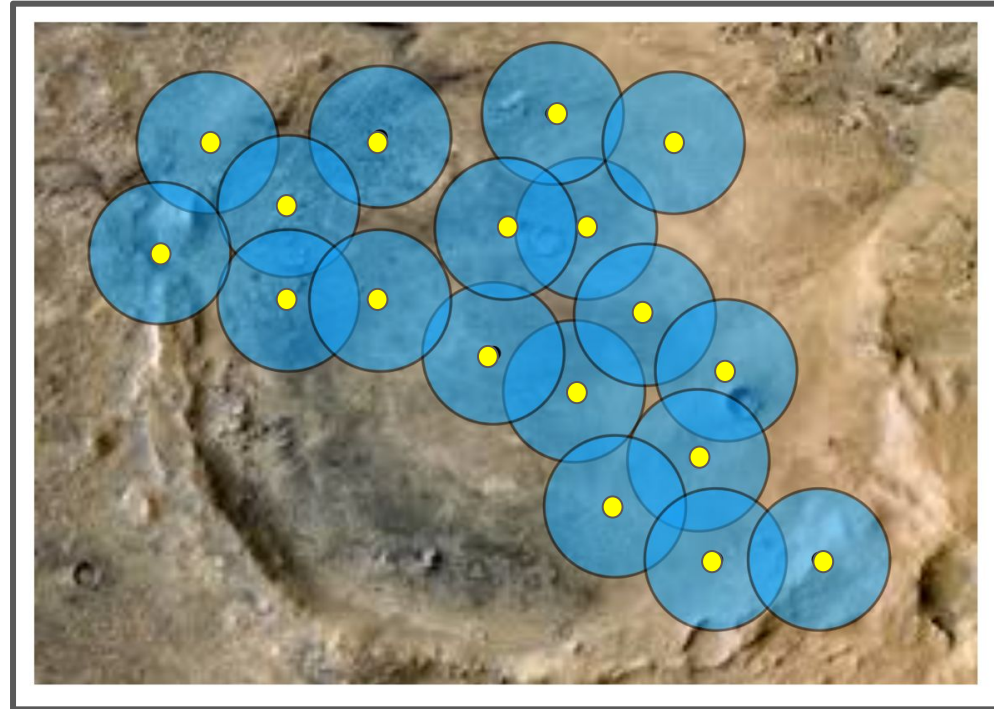
1. Problem background
2. Connected Dominant Set (CDS)
3. Our solution
4. Considerations for scalability
5. Future outlook

MANETs on Mars : Problem

Global communication

guaranteed if all sensors are in transmit mode, but

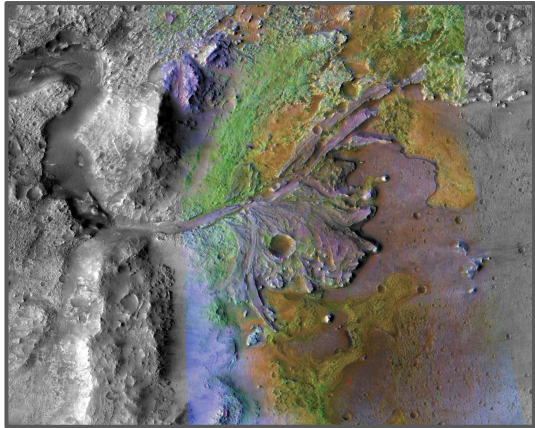
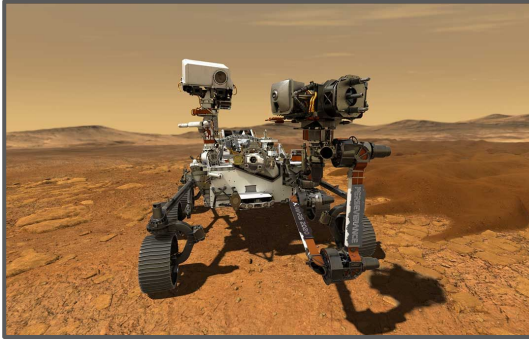
- drains sensor battery
- redundant nodes spreading the same information



Must have in presentation

- Contribution on top of the existing use cases
 - QAOA for a new graph problem - did not find existing work
 - Implementation of the code on actual hardware
- Application to industry
 - In real-world scenario, the positions of the sensors has to be mapped to neutral atoms and the rydberg blockade radius set accordingly
- Quantum advantage
 - NP-hard problem to solve
 - Existing approach $O(1.9407^n)$

Perseverance on Mars



Finding **Martian** sources of water is crucial for human exploration of Mars

Perseverance landed in the **Jezero Crater** in February 2020 and searching for signs of microbial life under the surface

Curiosity landed in the **Gale Crater** in August 2012 and searching for signs of water and organic life

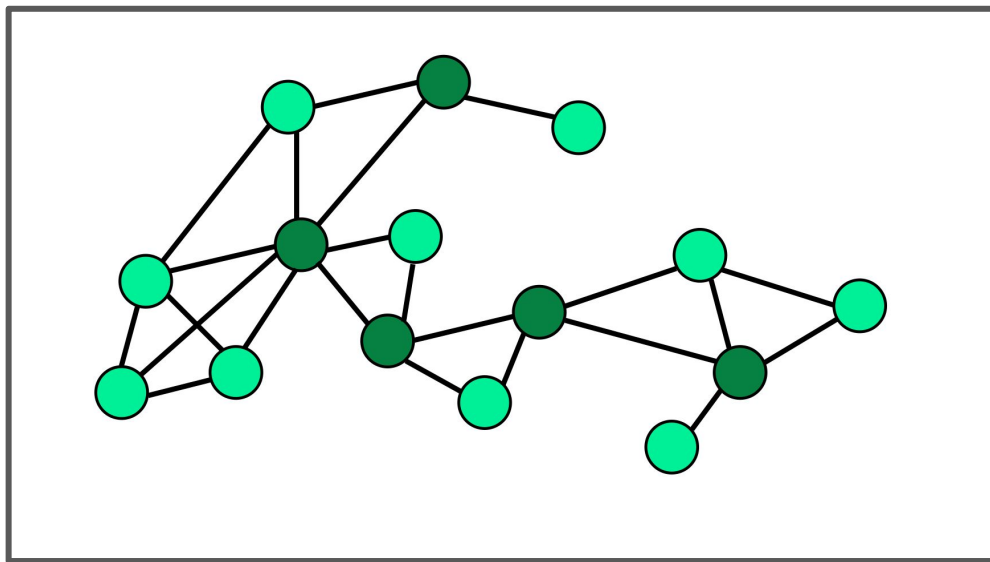
Problem : The area to search is large and progress is slow. For e.g. Perseverance has only explored a thin line of 11.76 km in 2 years.

Connected Dominant Set

Finding the CDS of a graph is
NP-hard

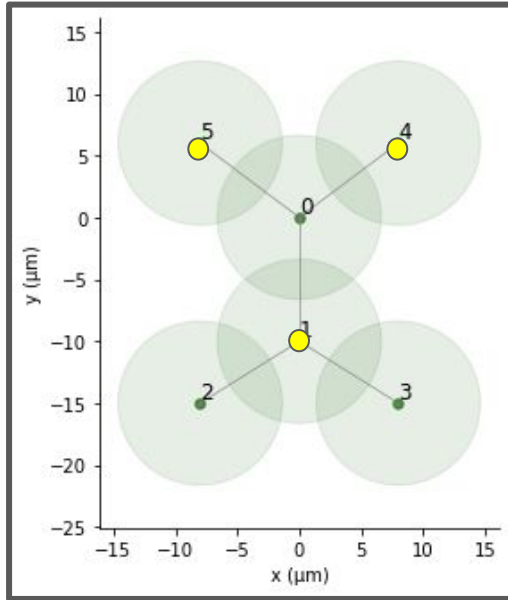
Best exact classical algorithm :
 $O(1.9407^n)$

**Technical goal : Find a “good”
CDS of a graph using the
capabilities of neutral atoms
and Pulser**



QAOA

Maximally Independent Set (MIS)



Original cost function:

$$C(z_1, \dots, z_N) = - \sum_{i=1}^N (z_i) + U \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} z_i z_j$$

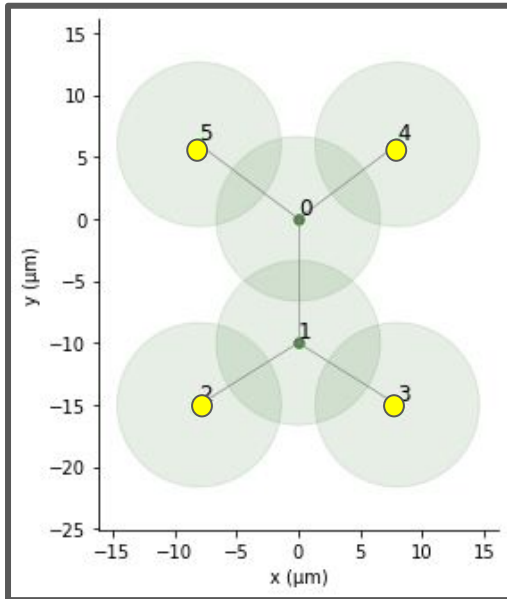


Cost function with weighted nodes:

$$C(z_1, \dots, z_N) = - \sum_{i=1}^N (w_i z_i) + U \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} z_i z_j$$

w_i = degree of the i^{th} node

Maximally Independent Set (MIS)

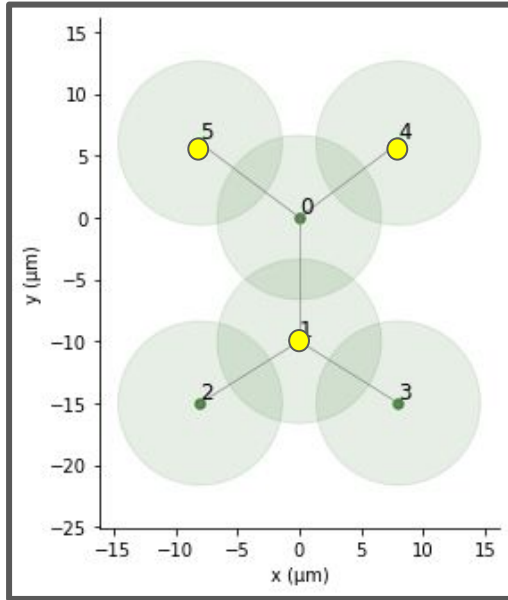


Graph $\mathbf{G} = (\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{E})$

Maximally Independent Set (**MIS**) is a subset $\mathbf{MIS} \subset \mathbf{V}$ such that

- **None** of the vertices in **MIS** are connected
- Each node in \mathbf{V}/\mathbf{MIS} is a neighbor of at least one node in **MIS**

Maximally Independent Set (MIS)



Original cost function:

$$C(z_1, \dots, z_N) = - \sum_{i=1}^N (z_i) + U \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} z_i z_j$$

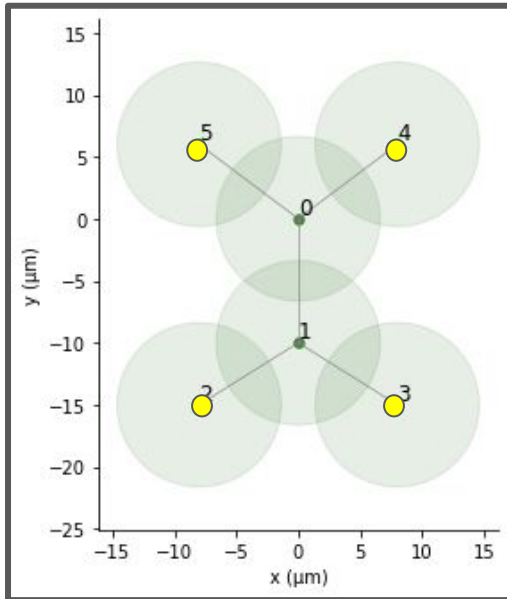


Cost function with weighted nodes:

$$C(z_1, \dots, z_N) = - \sum_{i=1}^N (w_i z_i) + U \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} z_i z_j$$

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Maximally Independent Set (MIS)



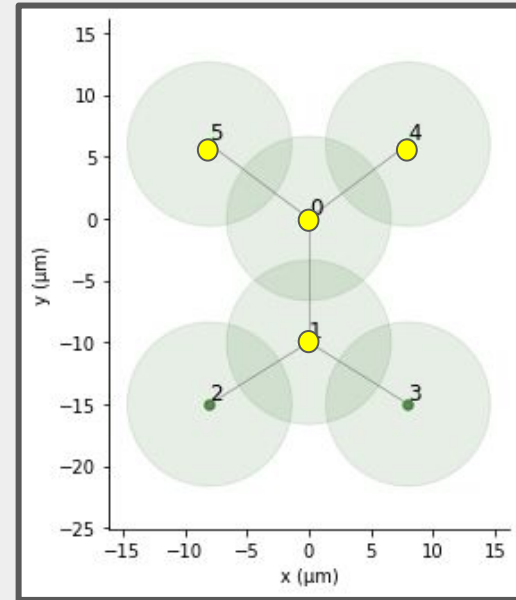
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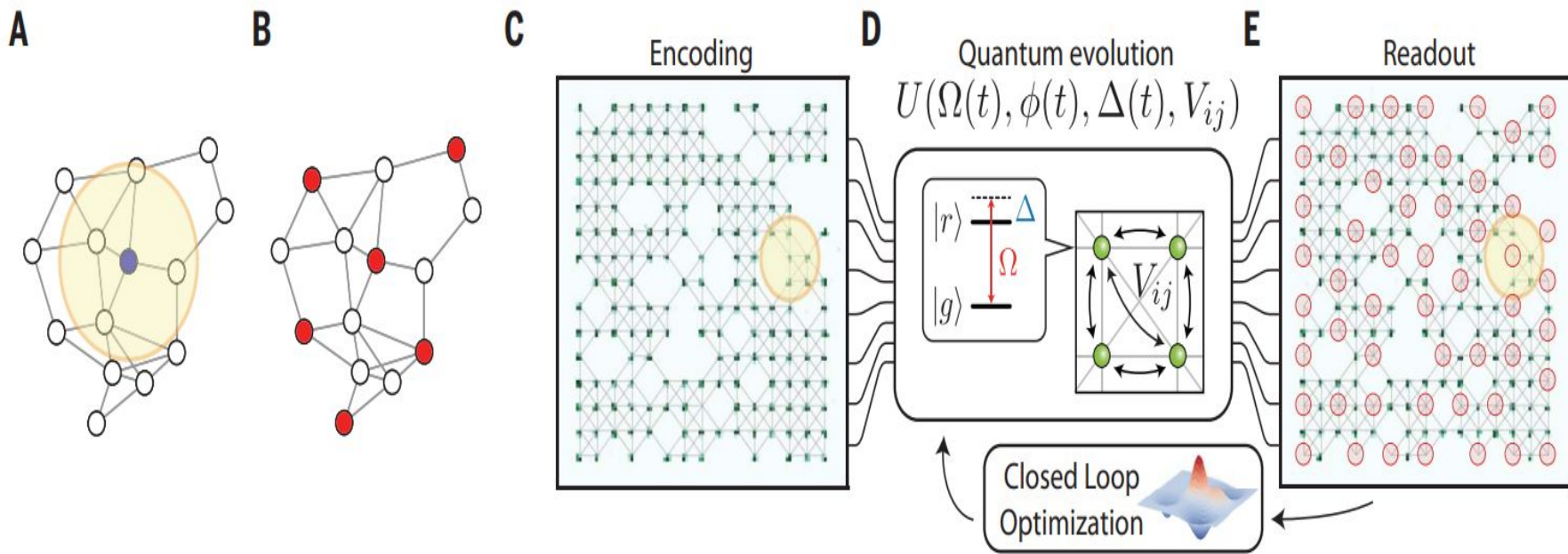
- **None** of the vertices in **MIS** are connected
- Each node in \mathbf{V}/\mathbf{MIS} is a neighbor of at least one node in **MIS**

Our solution

Iteratively add vertices to the **MIS** solution to obtain a **CDS**



QAOA



Results