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Material simulation on D-Wave

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Motivation



- Simulating electronic structure properties is important for different areas of research and industry
- Numerical approximations rapidly become unfeasible
- Quantum computers do not require exponentially increasing time to solve larger systems

Long term goal:

Investigating the use of quantum computers to find advanced materials

Electronic structure calculations on quantum computers



- Mainly targeted by gate model approaches
- Quantum algorithms: variational quantum eigensolver (VQE), phase estimation algorithm (PEA)
- Current gate model devices suffer from different challenges:
 - Small number of qubits
 - Decoherence effects
 - Imperfect qubits and gates

Can we instead use a quantum annealer, e.g. a D-Wave machine, for such calculations? Yes! [1]



Quantum chemistry in a nutshell



• Molecules can be described by a fermionic Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i,j} h_{ij}(R) a_i^{\dagger} a_j + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j,k,l} h_{ijkl}(R) a_i^{\dagger} a_j^{\dagger} a_k a_l$$

• Jordan-Wigner transformation to map it onto a qubit Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i,\alpha} h^i_{\alpha} \sigma^i_{\alpha} + \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} h^{ij}_{\alpha\beta} \sigma^i_{\alpha} \sigma^j_{\beta} + \sum_{i,j,k,\alpha,\beta,\gamma} h^{ijk}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \sigma^i_{\alpha} \sigma^j_{\beta} \sigma^k_{\gamma} + \dots$$

Mapping the problem onto D-Wave (1)



$$H = \sum_{i,\alpha} h^i_{\alpha} \sigma^i_{\alpha} + \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} h^{ij}_{\alpha\beta} \sigma^i_{\alpha} \sigma^j_{\beta} + \sum_{i,j,k,\alpha,\beta,\gamma} h^{ijk}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \sigma^i_{\alpha} \sigma^j_{\beta} \sigma^k_{\gamma} + \dots$$

- σ_x , σ_y and σ_z terms instead of σ_z terms only
- k-local terms instead of 2-local
- [1] shows how to map a *n*-qubit Hamiltonian with σ_x , σ_y and σ_z terms to a *rn*-qubit Hamiltonian with σ_z terms only



[1] Xia, Teng, and Kais. "Electronic Structure Calculations and the Ising Hamiltonian." The Journal of Physical Chemistry B (2017)

Mapping the problem onto D-Wave (2)



- Reducing the dimensions from k-local to 2-local by using ancillary qubits
- Illustrative example (by [1]):

$$\min(\pm x_1 x_2 x_3) = \min(\pm x_4 x_3 + x_1 x_2 - 2x_1 x_4 - 2x_2 x_4 + 3x_4)$$

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \in \{0, 1\}$$

• Ising representation:

$$H = \sum_{i} h'_{i} \sigma^{i}_{z} + \sum_{i,j} J'_{ij} \sigma^{i}_{z} \sigma^{j}_{z}$$

[1] Xia, Teng, and Kais. "Electronic Structure Calculations and the Ising Hamiltonian." The Journal of Physical Chemistry B (2017)

Experiments on D-Wave



- Molecular hydrogen, H₂ (2 electrons)
- Lithium hydride, LiH (4 electrons)

- 1. Calculate the fermionic Hamiltonian for a chosen basis set
- 2. Map onto an Ising Hamiltonian for a specific accuracy parameter r
- 3. Comparison to numerical calculations, as Hartree-Fock (HF) or Full Configuration Interaction (FCI)

Results – H_2 **Molecule –** r = 2





Results – H_2 **Molecule** – r = 4





Results – LiH **Molecule –** r = 2







Take home message



• It is possible to use a D-Wave machine for electronic structure calculations

Outlook

- Improve the results by increasing the accuracy parameter r
- Study the scaling behavior for larger systems
- Find new approaches for larger molecules and implement these on a D-Wave quantum computer





Thank you. Any questions?