

# Dance with Noise in NISQ Era

## — A NASA Perspective on Quantum Computing

**Zhihui Wang<sup>1,2</sup>**

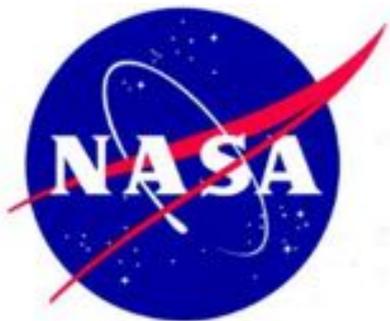
*zhihui.wang@nasa.gov*

**Eleanor Rieffel<sup>1</sup>**

*eleanor.rieffel@nasa.gov*

1. NASA Quantum Artificial Intelligence Lab (QuAIL)
2. Universities Space Research Association

*ICCAD 2019, West Minster, CO*



Office of the Director of National Intelligence  
**IARPA**  
BE THE FUTURE



QUANTUM  
ENHANCED  
OPTIMIZATION

## Quantum Computing:

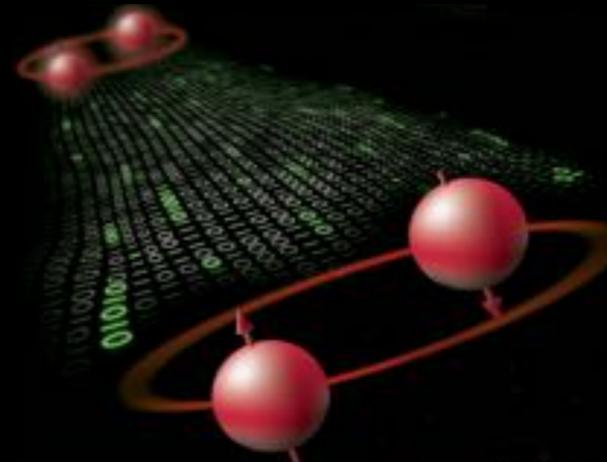
Explore “bizarre” features of quantum mechanics

Superposition

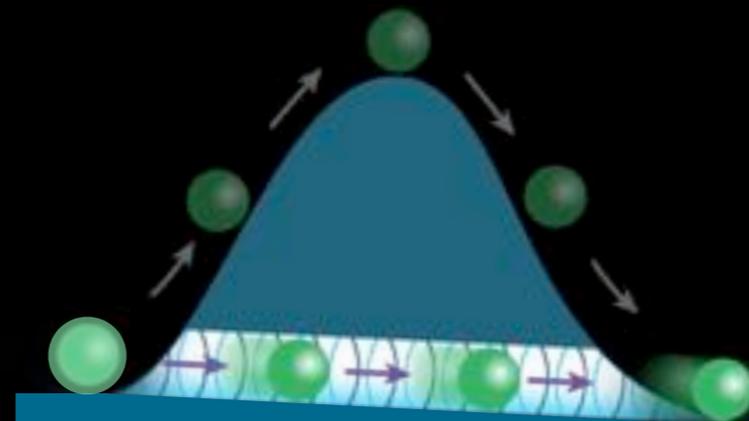
0 1



Entanglement



Quantum Tunneling



# The Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum (NISQ) Era

**Google**

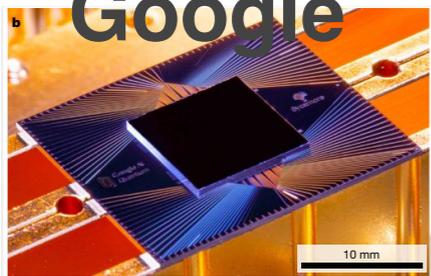
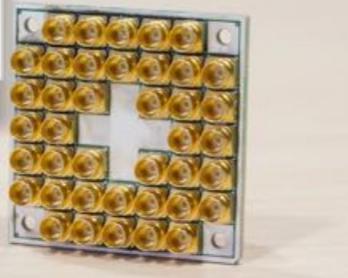


Fig. 1 | The Sycamore processor. a. Layout of processor, showing a rectangular

**Intel**



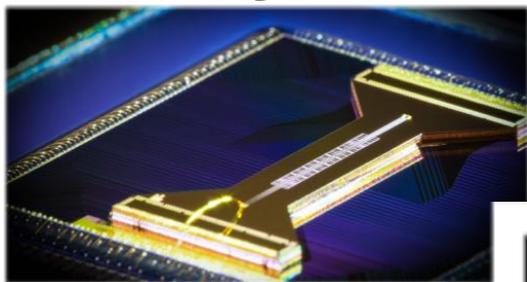
**IBM**



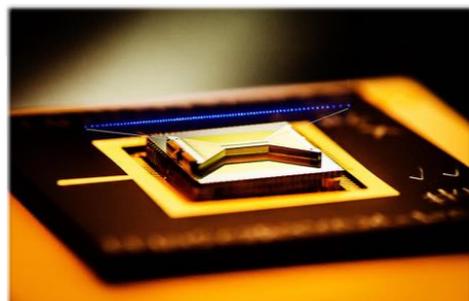
**Rigetti**



**Honeywell**



**IonQ**



## Hardware Limitations:

- up to 100 physical qubits
- (some) planar connectivity
- Limited in circuit depth
- Little to no error correction

## Are NISQ devices useful?

- Quantum supremacy
- Optimization
- Quantum chemistry
- Quantum machine learning
- ...

# Quantum supremacy through random circuit

- **Advantage** Sampling the output of a pseudo-random quantum circuit

- **qFlex: state of art classical simulator**

<https://github.com/ngnrsaa/qflex>

[Villalonga et. al., accepted on NPJ QIP 2019]

- **Application** random-number generator

- **Why achievable in NISQ era**

*“Random circuits are a suitable choice for benchmarking because they do not possess structure and therefore allow for limited guarantees of computational hardness”*

— Randomness is desired

&

Signature is resilient against noise.

## nature

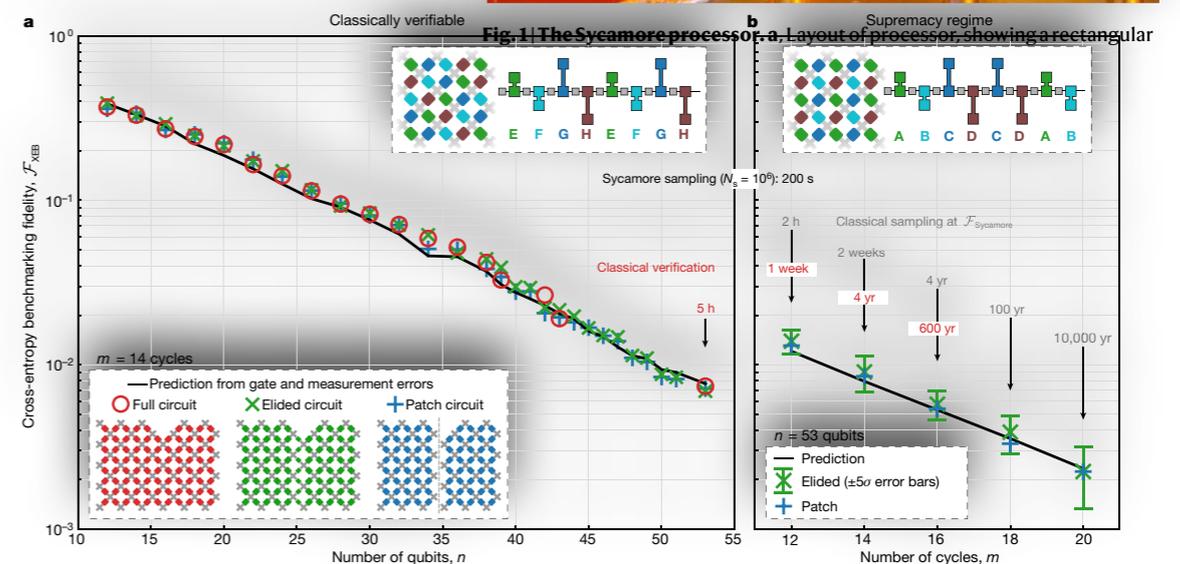
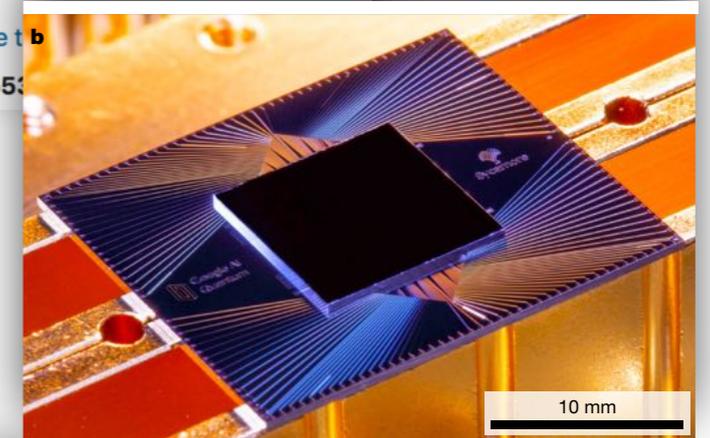
Article | Published: 23 October 2019

### Quantum supremacy using a programmable superconducting processor

Frank Arute, Kunal Arya, [...] John M. Martinis

Nature 574, 505–510(2019) | Cite this article

551k Accesses | 2 Citations | 553 Downloads



## Where to look next?

### NISQ era: Challenging for fault tolerate quantum computing

Need to find ways to deal / live with noise

✓ Quantum Supremacy: random circuit *qFlex: state of art classical simulator*  
<https://github.com/ngnrsaa/qflex>

**[Villalonga et. al., accepted on NPJ QIP 2019]**

Two other (out of many) NASA QuAIL efforts:

- Advanced qubit-routing (quantum circuit compilation)
- Variational quantum heuristics for optimization and quantum chemistry
  - like Quantum Alternating Operator Ansatz (QAOA), Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE)

## Where to look next?

**NISQ era: Challenging for fault tolerate quantum computing**

Need to find ways to deal / live with noise

✓ Quantum Supremacy: random circuit

Two other (out of many) NASA QuAIL efforts:

- Advanced qubit-routing (quantum circuit compilation)
- Variational quantum heuristics for optimization and quantum chemistry
  - like Quantum Alternating Operator Ansatz (QAOA), Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE)

## Noise-aware qubit routing / circuit compilation

Circuit for an algorithm is usually written at a hardware-agnostic level

- Non-commuting gates should obey the ordering dictated by the algorithm (circuit)

- When a set of 2-qubit gates commute but cannot be executed at the same time, E.g.,  $[ZZ(q1, q2), ZZ(q2, q3)] = 0$

Does not matter ideally, ordering can affect circuit length/depth, and therefore the effect of noise.

- On hardware with restricted qubit connectivity, SWAPs are needed.

## Noise-aware qubit routing / circuit compilation

Circuit for an algorithm is usually written at a hardware-agnostic level

- Non-commuting gates should obey the ordering dictated by the algorithm (circuit)
- When a set of 2-qubit gates commute but cannot be executed at the same time, E.g.,  $[ZZ(q1, q2), ZZ(q2, q3)] = 0$ 
  - Does not matter ideally, ordering can affect circuit length/depth, and therefore the effect of noise.
- On hardware with restricted qubit connectivity, SWAPs are needed.

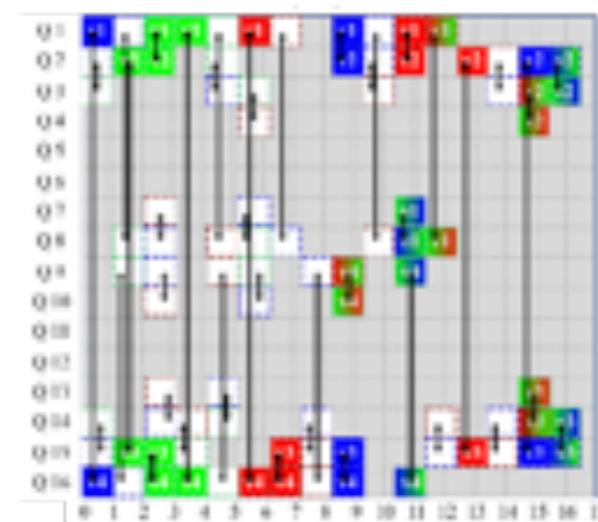
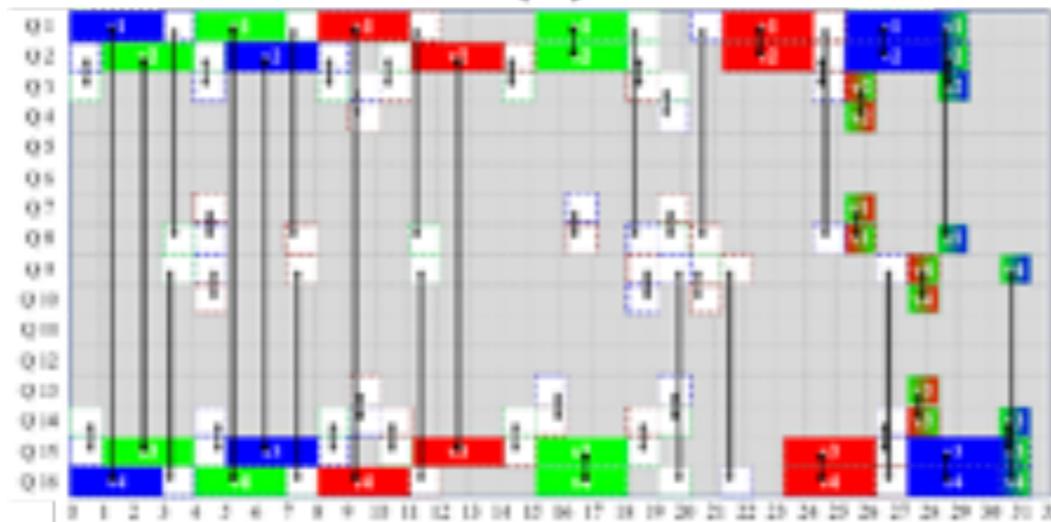
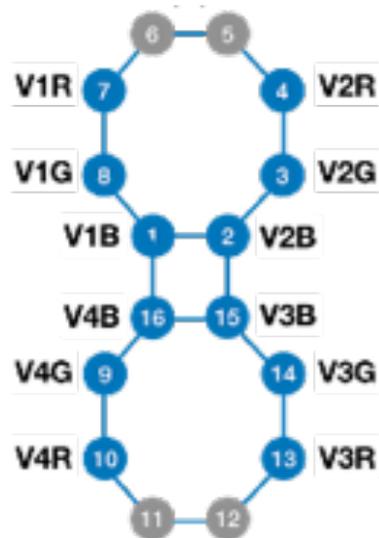
### Pioneered temporal planning & for compilation for NISQ devices

- Collaborating with domain experts at NASA, utilizing state of the art temporal planners

For superconducting qubits

- Taking Rigetti and Google h/w constraints
- Minimizing makespan (gate-duration aware)
- Including Crosstalk
- Logical-to-Physical mapping/allocation

## Noise-aware qubit routing / circuit compilation



*Do et. al., Planning for quantum circuit compilation for graph coloring, In preparation*

### Pioneered temporal planning & for compilation for NISQ devices

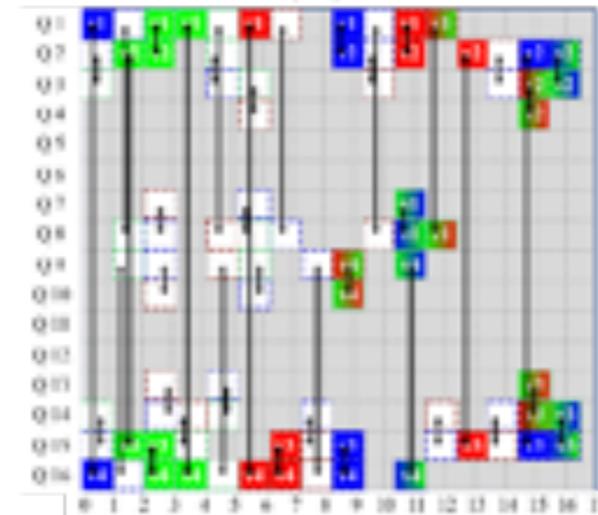
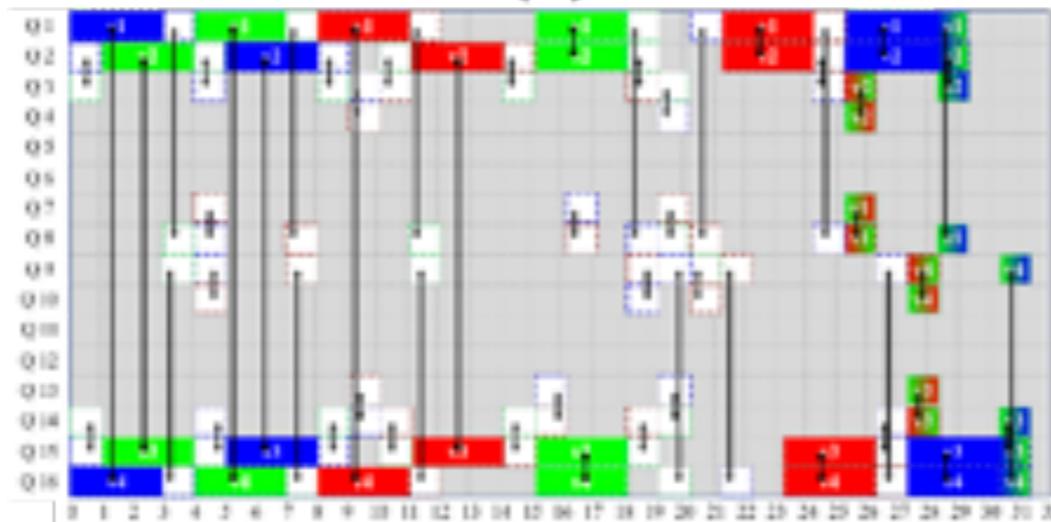
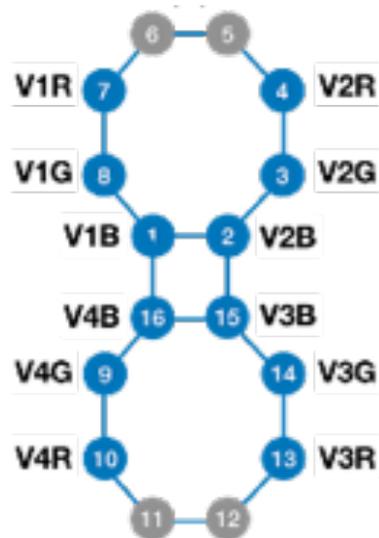
- Collaborating with domain experts at NASA, utilizing state of the art temporal planners

### For superconducting qubits

- Taking Rigetti and Google h/w constraints
- Minimizing makespan (gate-duration aware)
- Including Crosstalk
- Logical-to-Physical mapping/allocation

*Venturelli, Do, Rieffel, Frank., Quantum Science and Technology (2018)*

# Noise-aware qubit routing / circuit compilation



*Do et. al., Planning for quantum circuit compilation for graph coloring, In preparation*

## Pioneered temporal planning & for compilation for NISQ devices

- Collaborating with domain experts at NASA, utilizing state of the art temporal planners

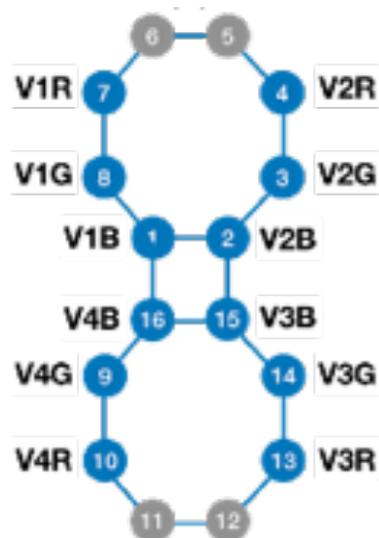
## For superconducting qubits

- Taking Rigetti and Google h/w constraints
- Minimizing makespan (gate-duration aware)
- Including Crosstalk
- Logical-to-Physical mapping/allocation
- Benchmarking against analytical bounds
- Demonstrating effect of native gate sets
- Raising challenges and inspiring new planning/scheduling algorithms

*Venturelli, Do, Rieffel, Frank., Quantum Science and Technology (2018)*

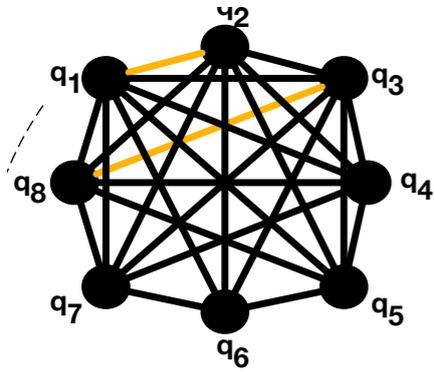
*Generalized swap networks for near-term quantum computing, B O’Gorman 2019]*

## Noise-aware qubit routing / circuit compilation





## Noise-aware qubit routing / circuit compilation



**Beyond superconducting qubit platform,** noise and gate infidelity are posing other challenges. We are looking to

- Develop hardware specific models and goals
- Further exploiting planners for compilation

### Pioneered temporal planning & for compilation for NISQ devices

- Collaborating with domain experts at NASA, utilizing state of the art temporal planners

## Where to look next?

**NISQ era: Challenging for fault tolerate quantum computing**

Need to find ways to deal / live with noise

✓ Quantum Supremacy: random circuit

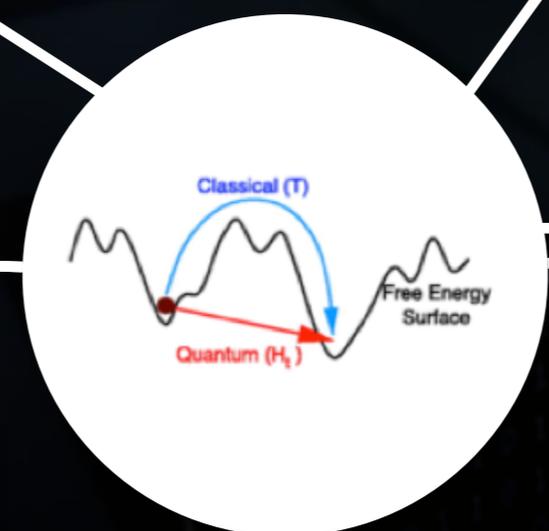
Two other (out of many) NASA QuAIL efforts:

- Advanced qubit-routing (quantum circuit compilation)
- Variational quantum heuristics for optimization and quantum chemistry
  - like Quantum Alternating Operator Ansatz (QAOA), Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE)

# Quantum Computing for NASA Applications

**Objective:** Find “better” solution

- Faster
- More precise
- Not found by classical algorithm



Data Analysis and Data Fusion

Anomaly Detection and Decision Making

Air Traffic Management

V&V and Optimal Sensor Placement

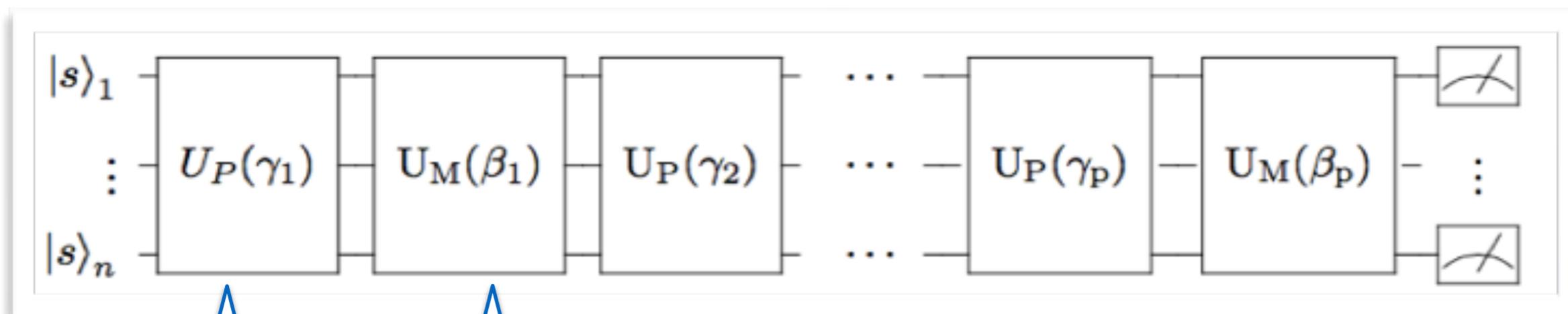
Mission Planning, Scheduling, and Coordination

**NOTIONAL SCENARIO**  
Robust Network Design for UAV

Image from P. Kopardekar et. al., *Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) Concept of Operations*, DASC 2016

**Common Feature:** Intractable problems on classical supercomputers

# Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithms (QAOA)



*Farhi, Goldstone, and Gutmann, arXiv:1411.4028*

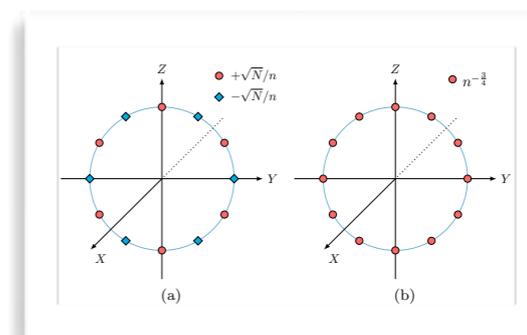
Cost Hamiltonian  
encoding cost function

Mixer Hamiltonian  
generating transitions  
between different states

**Variational parameters:**  $(\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \dots, \beta_1, \beta_2, \dots)$

**Work principle:** constructive interference

**Case shown speedup:** reproduces quantum speedup in Grover's algorithm for needle-in-a-haystack search



query complexity of our algorithm is

$$T(n) \simeq \frac{2\pi}{\arg(\alpha)} \simeq \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{2}} 2^{n/2}$$

*Zhang, Rieffel, and Wang, PRA 2017*

—> Symmetry Preserving Quantum Alternating Operator Ansatz (QAOA)  
**Exploit local or global symmetries in the problem**

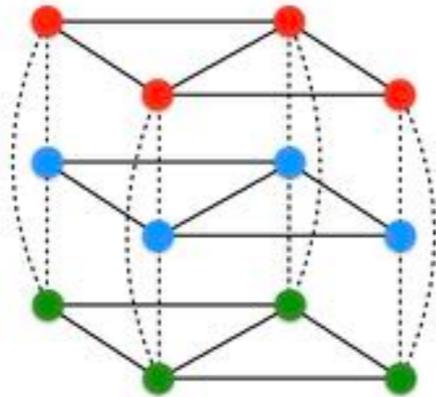
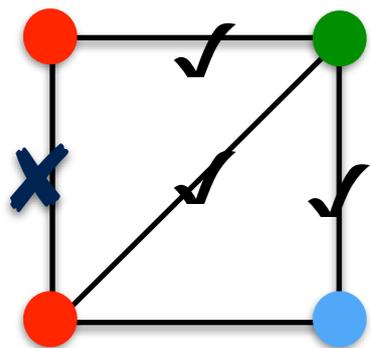
E.g., QAOA for constrained optimization

*Hadfield, Wang, O’Gorman, Rieffel, Venturelli, Biswas, arXiv 1709.03489*

Design a mixer that contains the quantum evolution in the subspace that satisfies the constraints.

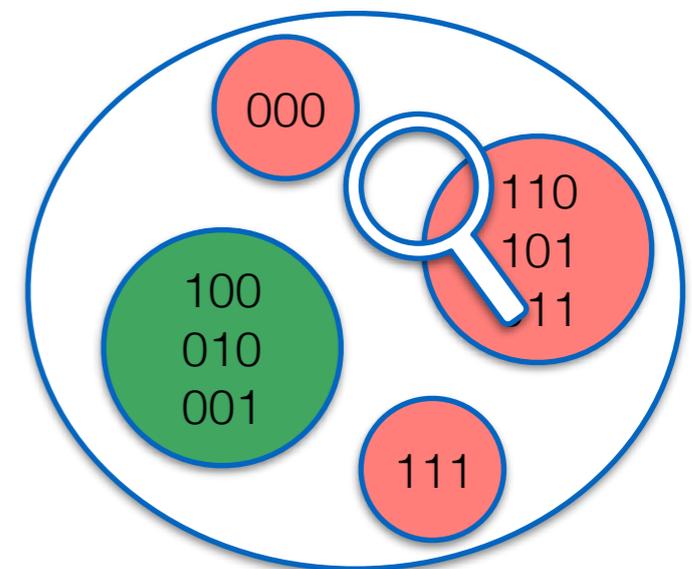
One-hot encoding: 
$$\sum_{c=1}^k x_{v,c} = 1 \iff \sum_{c=1}^k \sigma_{v,c}^z = k - 2$$

Symmetry (constraints): preserve Hamming weight of subset



Standard mixer:  $X$

symmetry-preserving mixer:  $XX+YY$



*Wang, Rubin, Dominy, Rieffel, arXiv:1904.09314*

## Efficient Implementation

XY **complete**-graph mixer in **linear depth**  $\kappa-1$

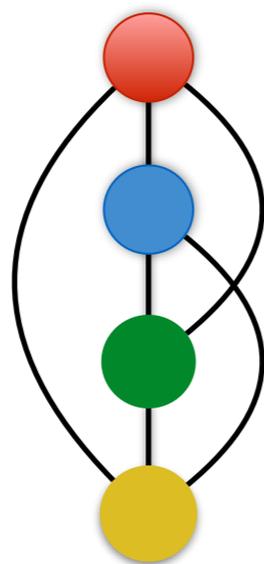
Special for the Hamming-1 subspace:

$$\exp[-i\beta \sum_{c,c' \in [0,3]} (XY)_{c,c'}] =$$

$$\exp[-i\beta ((XY)_{0,1} + (XY)_{2,3})]$$

$$\exp[-i\beta ((XY)_{0,2} + (XY)_{1,3})]$$

$$\exp[-i\beta ((XY)_{0,3} + (XY)_{1,2})].$$



**1D** XY model in **logarithmic** depth

Through Jordan-Wigner transformation

$$H_{XY} = \sum_{c=1}^{\kappa} (\sigma_c^x \sigma_{c+1}^x + \sigma_c^y \sigma_{c+1}^y)$$

$$\downarrow$$

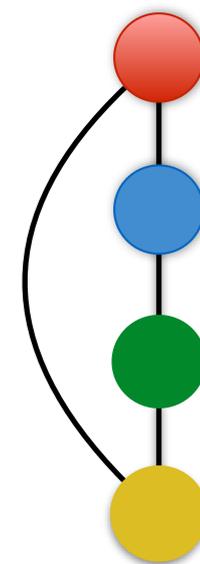
$$H_{XY} = 2 \sum_{c=1}^{\kappa} (a_c^\dagger a_{c+1} + \text{h.c.}),$$

and Fermionic Fourier transform,

$$\hat{a}_c^\dagger = \text{FFFT}^\dagger \hat{f}_k^\dagger \text{FFFT} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{\kappa}} \sum_c e^{i2\pi ck} \hat{f}_k^\dagger$$

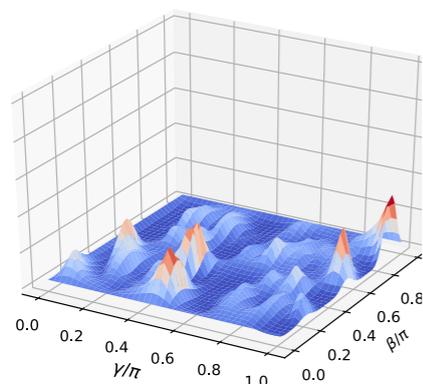
$$H_{XY} = \sum_{k=1}^{\kappa} E_k \hat{f}_k^\dagger \hat{f}_k \quad H_{XY}^{(k)} = \sum_{k=1}^{\kappa} E_k (1 - \sigma_k^z) / 2$$

FFFT :  $O(\log(\kappa))$  depth

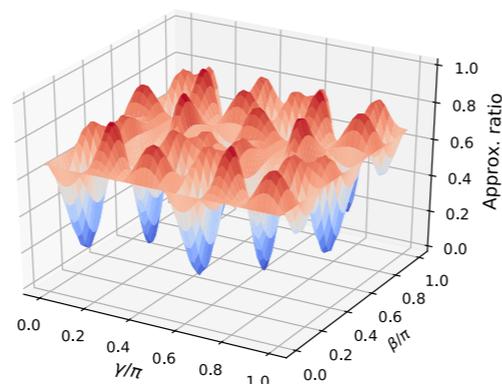


# Performance Comparison: Penalty vs XY

## XY wins over X

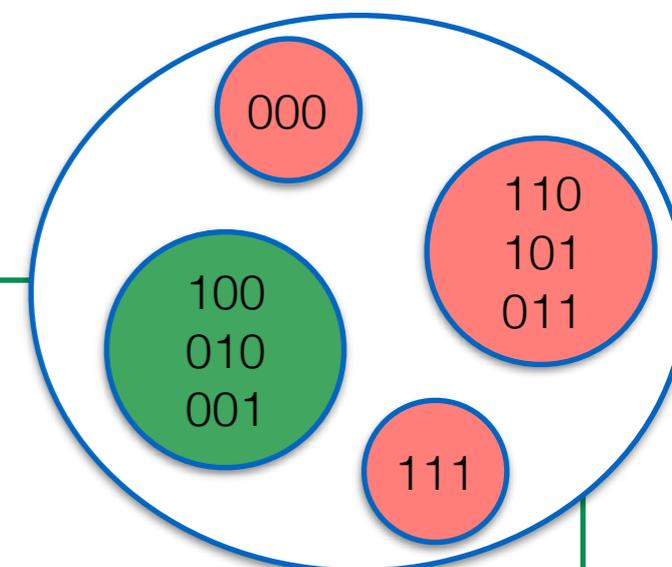
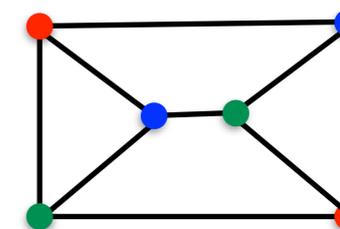
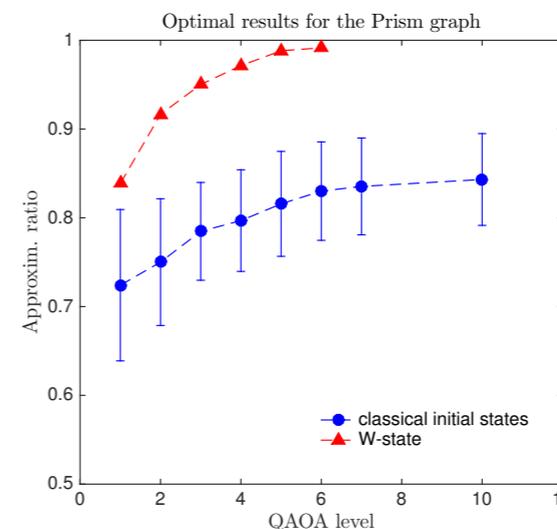


(a)



(b)

## Small problems solved at low-depth with XY



- Size of search space

Penalty + X-mixer

XY mixer

Ratio:  $\left(\frac{k}{2^k}\right)^n$

Full Hilbert space

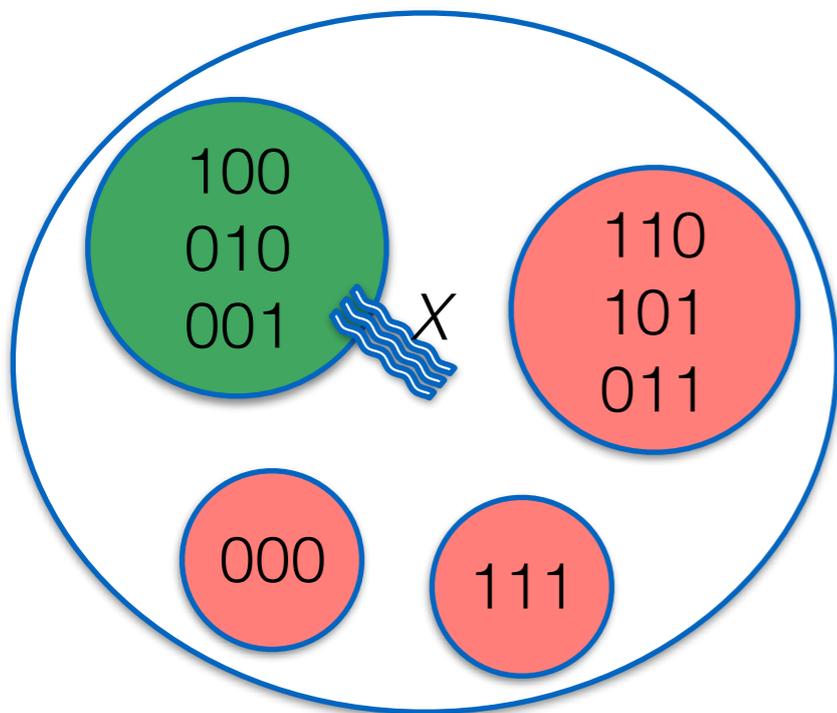
Feasible subspace

The feasible space **shrinks exponentially** with  $n$ .

$$2^{nk}$$

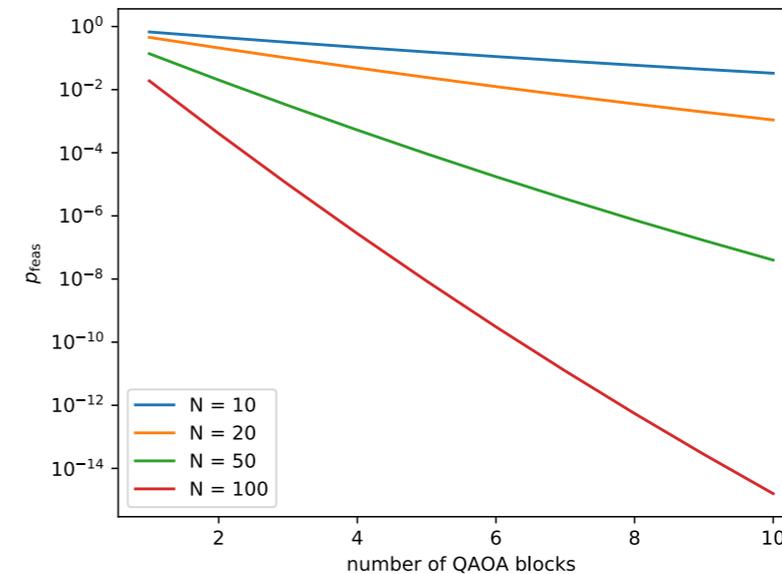
$$k^n$$

## Symmetry-preserving QAOA circuits for noise characterization



### Subspace for one vertex

Noise exponentially shrinks the probability of staying in the desired subspace with problem size and QAOA level



(a)  $p_{\text{noise}} = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{P}_{\text{fea}}^i \rangle &= \text{Tr}[\rho_0 U_1^\dagger \mathcal{E}(U_2^\dagger \mathcal{E}(U_3^\dagger \dots \mathcal{E}(U_l^\dagger \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{P}_{\text{fea}}^i) U_l) \dots U_3) U_2) U_1] \\ &= \text{Tr}[\rho_0 \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{E}(\dots \mathcal{E}(\mathcal{P}_{\text{fea}}^i) \dots))] \end{aligned}$$

Probability of staying in the desired subspace is exactly computable under noise— can be used for experimental noise characterization

# Summary

## Things we study to live with noise in NISQ era

- Using planning tools **for qubit routing / quantum circuit compilation**
- Symmetry-preserving QAOA circuits **for more efficient optimization**
- Symmetry-preserving QAOA circuits **for noise characterization**

QuAIL NASA

