The D-Wave Computer
Practical Quantum Computing
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D-Wave Systems

- Canadian Company, 1999
- The world’s first company to sell computers to exploit quantum effects in their operation
- Lockheed Martin, Google, NASA Ames, Volkswagen, DENSO, USRA, USC, LANL, and ORNL
- D-Wave machines are quantum computers
History

Founders

- Haig Farris
- Geordie Rose
- Bob Wiens
- Alexandre Zagoskin

2011
- D-Wave One
  128-qubit chipset using quantum annealing

2013
- D-Wave Two
  Collaboration with NASA, Google and USRA
  512-qubit - ML

2015
- D-Wave 2X
  1000+ qubit
  Installed at the Quantum Artificial Intelligence Lab at NASA

2017
- D-Wave 2000Q
  2000 qubit
  Open source Qbsolv that solves QUBO problems
How D-Wave Systems Work?

- D-Wave systems use a process called **quantum annealing** to search for solutions to a problem.
- Quantum systems tend to evolve toward their lowest energy state.
- D-Wave solves problems by searching for the global minimum.
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Quantum Annealing

1. Begins with the traveler simultaneously occupying many coordinates (quantum phenomenon of superposition)
2. The probability of being at any given coordinate smoothly evolves as annealing progresses, with the probability increasing around the coordinates of deep valleys
3. Quantum tunneling allows the traveler to pass through hills—rather than be forced to climb them—reducing the chance of becoming trapped in valleys that are not the global minimum
4. Quantum entanglement further improves the outcome by allowing the traveler to discover correlations between the coordinates that lead to deep valleys
D-Wave Quantum Hardware

- CMOS -> SQUID (the basic building block)
- A qubit is a loop made by niobium (superconductor) with a Josephson Junction
- The superconducting qubit structure instead encodes 2 states as tiny magnetic fields, which either point up or down
- There are quantized magnetic field detectors that detect the direction after the anneal is completed
D-Wave Quantum Hardware

(a) Voltage

(b) Voltage change

Flux

Current

Josephson junction

Magnetic field

one flux quantum

flux signal
D-Wave Quantum Hardware

- Multi-qubit processor - Couplers connect many single qubits such that they can exchange information
- The couplers are also made from superconducting loops

- 8 qubit loops (gold)
- 16 coupling elements (blue dots)
- these elements couple together variables in a problem that you wish the computer to solve
D-Wave Quantum Hardware
Hardware Potential

- The required air conditioning is one-tenth of what would be expected in a data center for a system with a similar footprint.
D-Wave Quantum Software

- D-Wave’s Ocean software development kit includes a suite of open-source Python tools on the D-Wave GitHub repository for solving hard problems with quantum computers
- C, C++, Python or MATLAB
D-Wave Leap

- D-Wave launched Leap™ is a quantum cloud service and Quantum Application Environment (QAE)
- [https://cloud.dwavesys.com/leap/](https://cloud.dwavesys.com/leap/)
D-Wave Applications: Case Studies

**ARTICLE**
Volkswagen Group: Optimizing the Travel Time of Taxis in Beijing

**ARTICLE**
NASA: Quantum-assisted Unsupervised Machine Learning for Digit Recognition

**ARTICLE**
Los Alamos National Lab: Graph Partitioning for Quantum Molecular Dynamics Simulations
Advantage quantum system

- 5000 Qubits
- Available until mid-2020
- New lower-noise design that will improve performance the scope of problems that can be tackled
D-Wave Downsides

- D-wave’s Quantum computers are designed specifically for quadratic unconstrained binary optimisation (QUBO)
- Not purely quantum
- Each qubit in the processor can ‘talk’ to only six others
- Problems must be rewritten to cope with the limitations of the architecture
- No error correction methods
- Dealing with magnetic interference to increase number of qubits
Summary

- D-Wave was the first commercial quantum computing
- D-Wave systems use a process called quantum annealing
- The basic block inside the QPU is a SQUID
- The SQUID gives a state by creating a magnetic field
- D-Wave has available a machine with 2000+ Qubits
- D-Wave is working on the first 5000 Qubits machine (Advantage)
- There is some controversy about the supremacy over conventional computation
References

- D-Wave official website: www.dwavesys.com
- https://www.nature.com/news/d-wave-upgrade-how-scientists-are-using-the-world-s-most-controversial-quantum-computer-1.21353
Thank you!

Questions?