



QUnfold: Quantum Annealing for Distributions Unfolding in High-Energy Physics

Quantum Computing @ INFN

29 October 2024, Padova

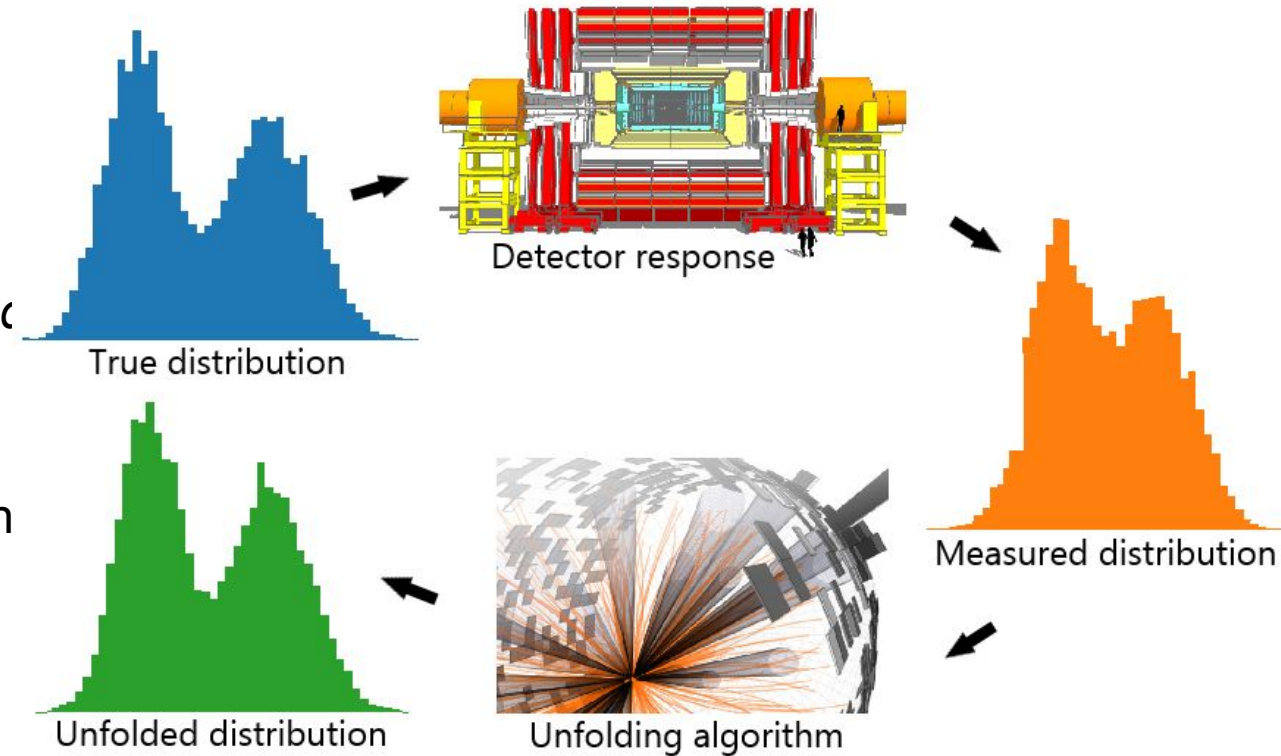
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Unfolding problem

- In **High-Energy Physics** (HEP) experiments each measurement apparatus has a unique signature in terms of *detection efficiency*, *resolution*, and *geometric acceptance*
- The overall effect is that the distribution of some measured observable in a physical process is *biased* and *distorted*
- **Unfolding** is the mathematical technique to correct for this distortion and recover the original distribution



$$\vec{\mu} = R\vec{x}$$

reconstructed histogram
(\approx measured histogram)

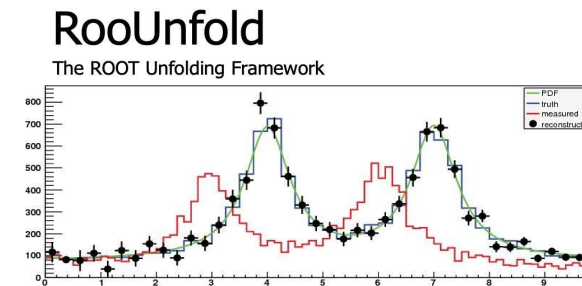
response matrix

unfolded histogram
(\approx true histogram)

Unfolding techniques

Classical methods used in HEP:

- Standard matrix inversion (never used in practice) $\rightarrow \vec{x} = R^{-1} \vec{d}$ with $\vec{d} \sim \vec{\mu}$
 - Bin-by-bin unfolding (never used in practice)
 - ill-conditioned problem
 - large statistical fluctuations
 - Likelihood-based unfolding (SVD)
 - Iterative Bayesian unfolding (IBU)
- } approximate solution



Quantum-based methods:

- First proof-of-concept attempt in 2019: the model worked only for small-size problems instances and the previous generation of D-Wave quantum annealing devices was used
- [QUnfold](#): our open-source implementation ready to be used by HEP scientists

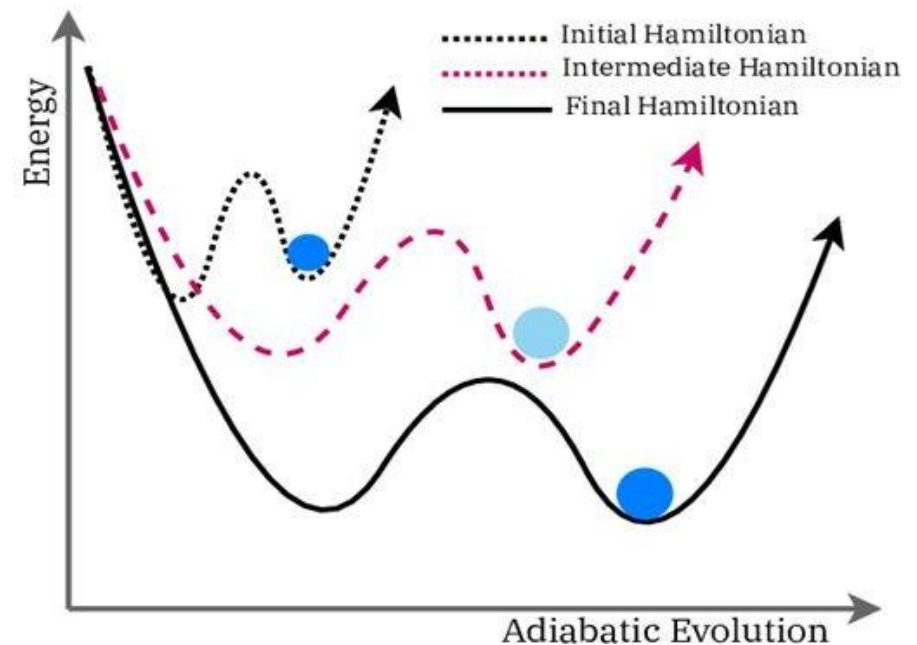
QA is a quantum optimization process to find the global minimum of an objective function $O(\vec{x})$ over a set of candidate states

1. The quantum-mechanical system is prepared in the known ground-state of an **initial Hamiltonian**
2. The problem solution is encoded in the ground-state of a **final Hamiltonian**
3. The quantum system evolution is controlled by the following time-dependent Hamiltonian:

$$H(t) = A(t)H_{init} + B(t)H_{fin} \quad A(t) \downarrow \quad B(t) \uparrow$$

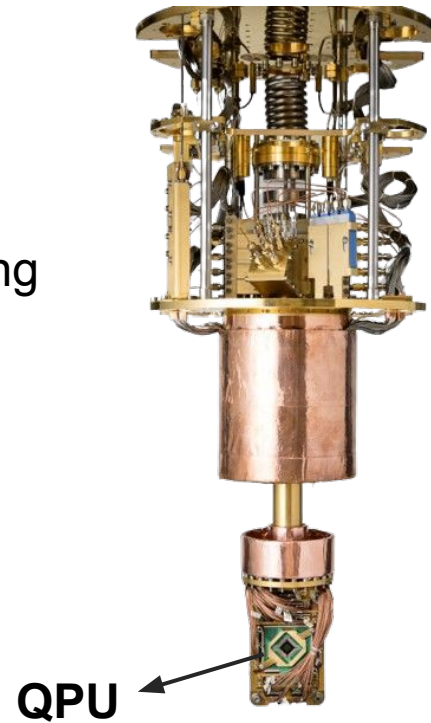
Quantum Adiabatic theorem

“If the evolution is slow enough, the quantum-mechanical system stays close to the ground-state of the instantaneous Hamiltonian”



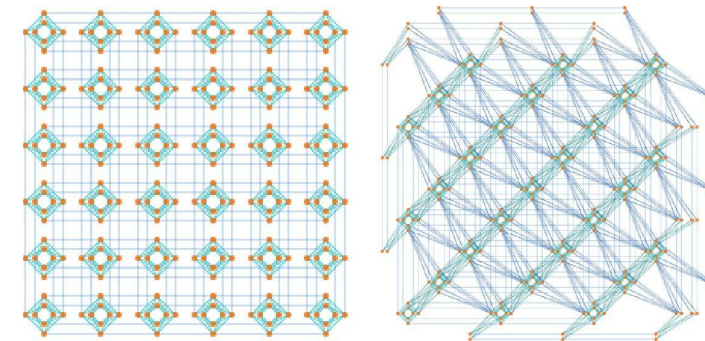
D-Wave QA system

- Shielded from external electric, magnetic, and thermal effects
- Isolated from floor vibrations
- Controlled by a specialized wiring and read-out electronics



Quantum Processing Unit (QPU)

- Lattice of superconducting qubits
- Cooled down to ~ 15 mK by liquid Helium refrigeration system
- < 25 kW total power consumption
- Physical interaction between qubits limited by a fixed topology



QUnfold QM formulation

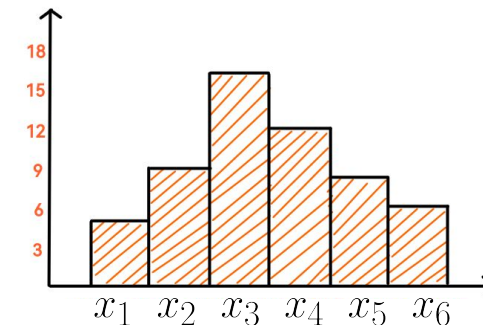
Log-likelihood maximization unfolding: $\max_{\vec{x}} \left(\log \mathcal{L}(\vec{\mu} | \vec{d}) + \lambda \mathcal{S}(\vec{\mu}) \right)$

reconstructed histogram measured histogram regularization term
(avoid overfitting statistical noise)

Quadratic Model minimization: $\min_{\vec{x}} \left(\|R\vec{x} - \vec{d}\|^2 + \lambda \|G\vec{x}\|^2 \right)$

Tikhonov regularization: discrete 2nd order derivative (Laplacian operator G)

- Classical optimization of quadratic function, nothing quantum yet!
- \vec{x} is the vector of integer numbers representing the unfolded histogram



QUnfold QUBO formulation



To get the QUBO model from the integer-variables QM, a “binarization” process based on the standard **logarithmic encoding** of the integer numbers to bit-strings is performed

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{a} &= -2R^T \vec{d} \\ B &= R^T R + \lambda G^T G \end{aligned} \quad \longrightarrow \quad H(\vec{x}) = \sum_i a_i x_i + \sum_{i,j} b_{ij} x_i x_j = \vec{a} \cdot \vec{x} + \vec{x}^T B \vec{x}$$

The scaling of the number of binary variables (= required logical qubits) is:

- $O(N_{\text{bins}})$: linear with the number of bins in the histogram
- $O(\log(N_{\text{entries}}))$: logarithmic with the number of entries in the histogram

Example:

- Gaussian distribution
- 20 bins
- 5M entries
- $N_{\text{qubits}} \approx 350$

Features:

- Package implemented entirely in **Python**
- Designed to work also on real LHC data
- Based on **NumPy**, but compatible with **ROOT**
- Open-source repository on GitHub
- Available on PyPI (`pip install QUnfold`)

```
from qunfold import QUnfolder
```

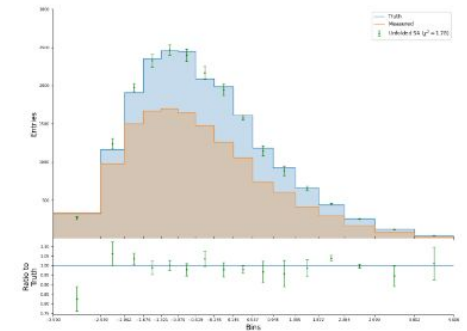
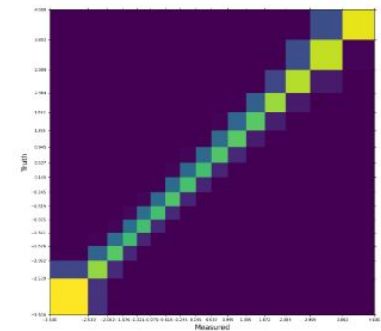
```
# Define your input response matrix and measured histogram as numpy arrays  
response = ...  
measured = ...  
binning = ...
```

```
# Create the QUnfolder object and initialize the QUBO model  
unfolder = QUnfolder(response, measured, binning, lam=0.1)  
unfolder.initialize_qubo_model()
```

```
# Run one of the available solvers to get the unfolding result  
sol, cov = unfolder.solve_simulated_annealing(num_reads=100)
```

Solvers:

- D-Wave Simulated Annealing
- D-Wave Hybrid solver
- D-Wave Quantum Annealing
- Gurobi integer/binary solver



Dataset:

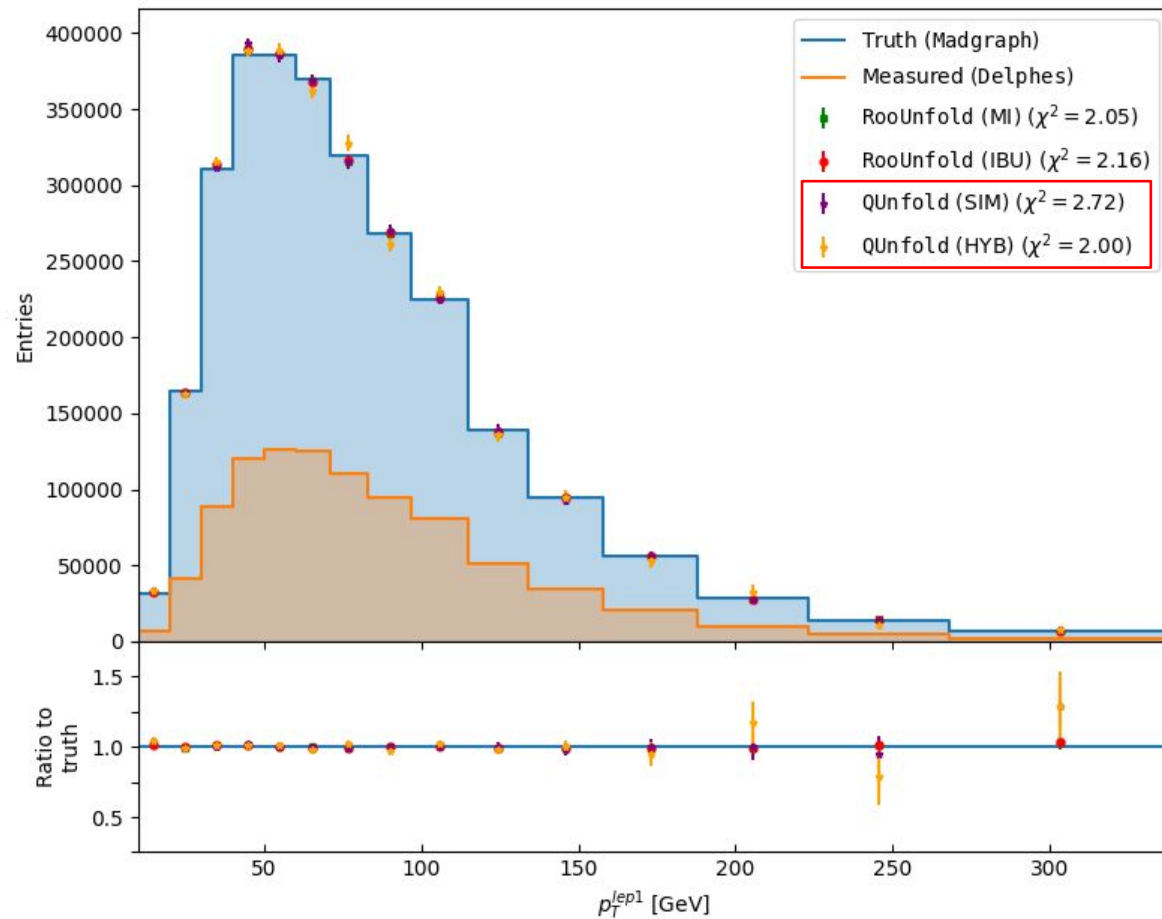
- Simulate $t\bar{t}$ **process** in the *dileptonic channel* (**2 leptons** and at least **2 b-jets** required in the final state)
- Generate detector-level ATLAS data (**Delphes** sim.) and truth-level samples (**MadGraph** gen.)
- $\approx 2.5\text{M}$ entries data are used to generate reco/truth level

Technique:

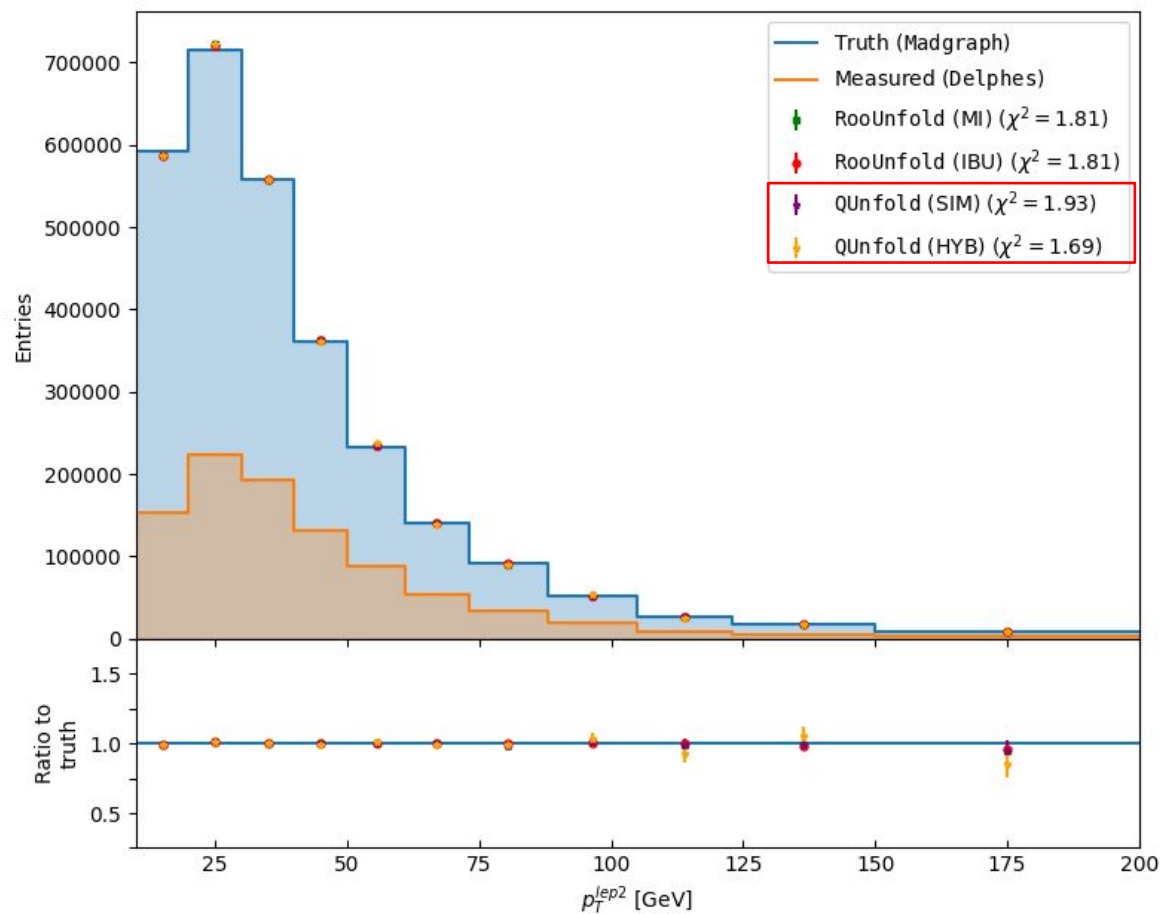
- The simulated annealing and hybrid solvers are used (quantum annealer solver is work in progress)
- The results are compared to classical HEP unfolding methods: *MI* and *IBU*, using the [RooUnfold](#) framework
- Toy Monte Carlo experiments are run to compute the covariance matrix for evaluating the quality of the result (X^2 test) and the statistical errors associated to the unfolding method

Unfolding results (1)

Leading lepton p_T

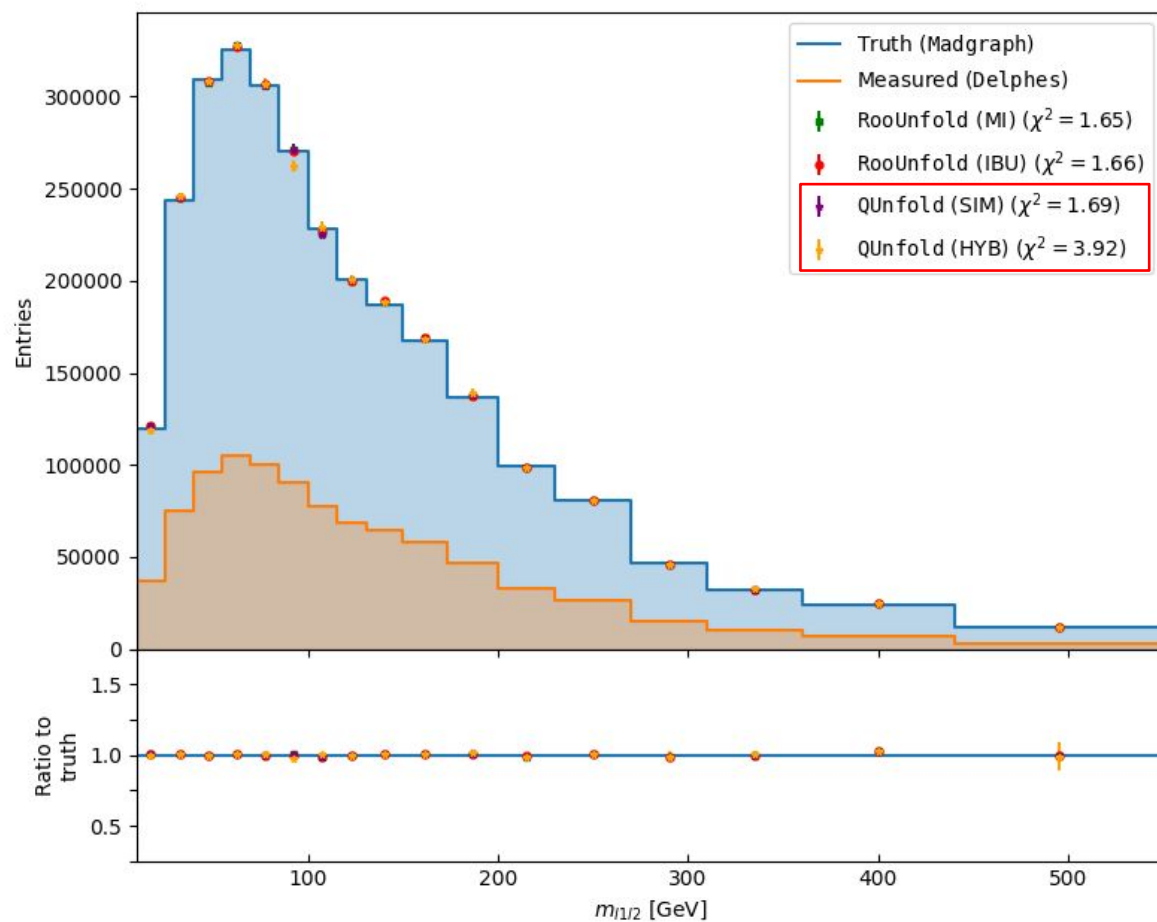


Subleading lepton p_T

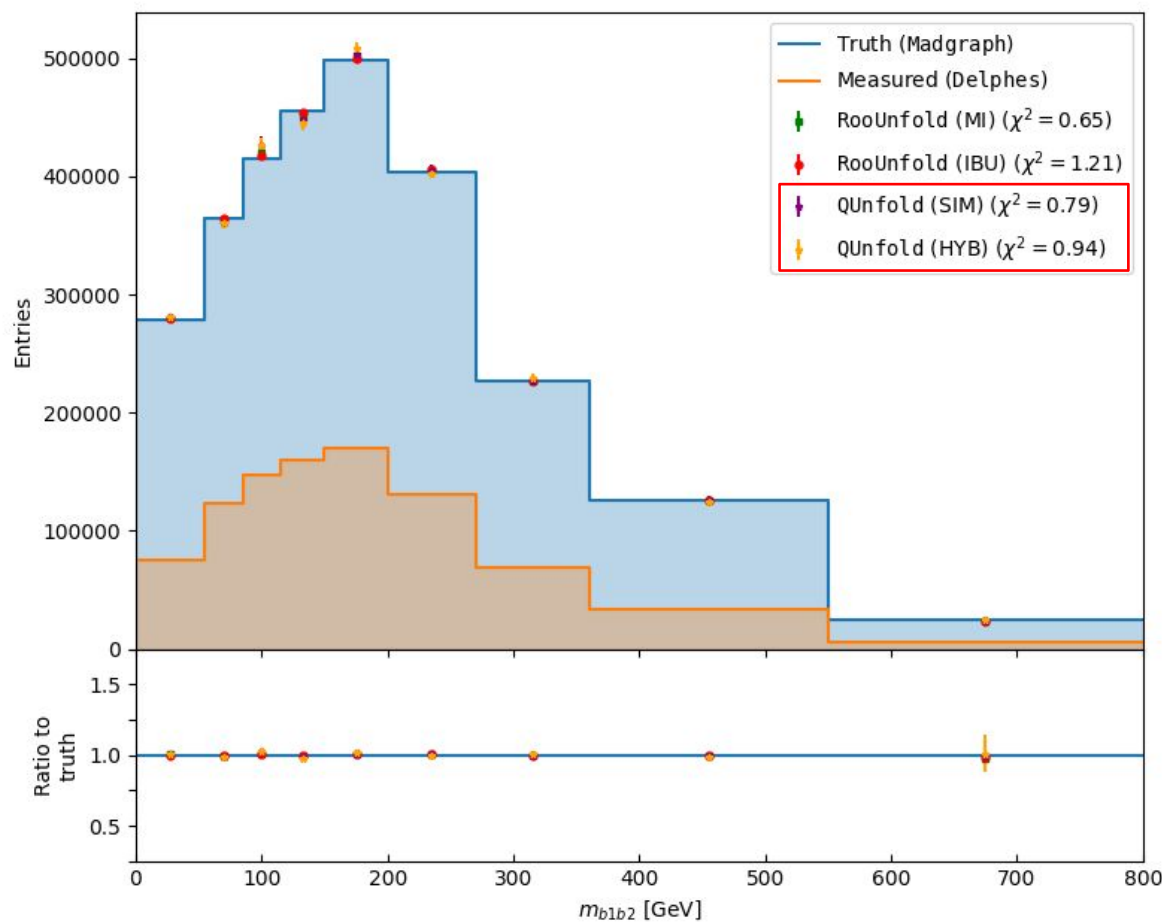


Unfolding results (2)

Leptons invariant mass



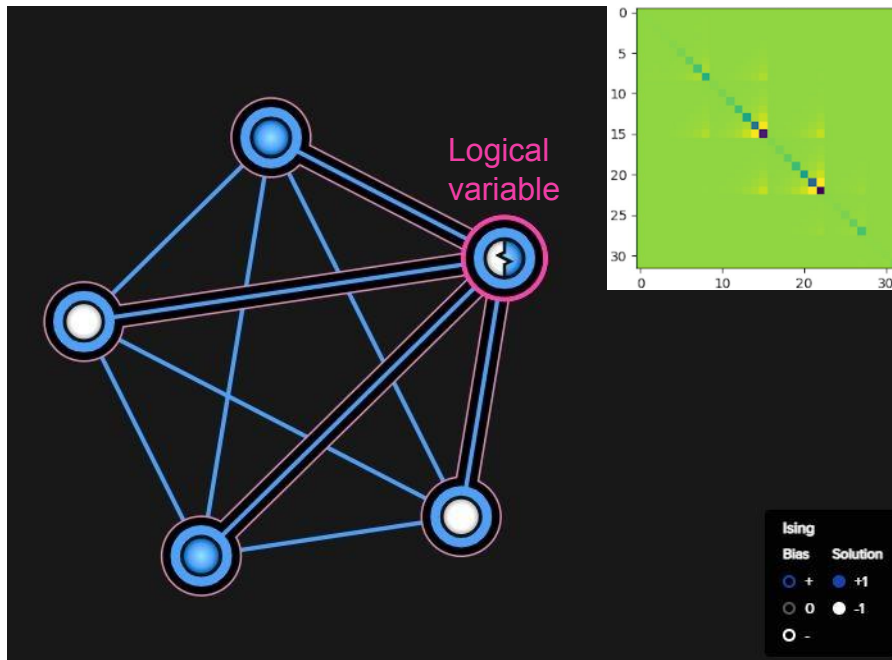
b -jets invariant mass



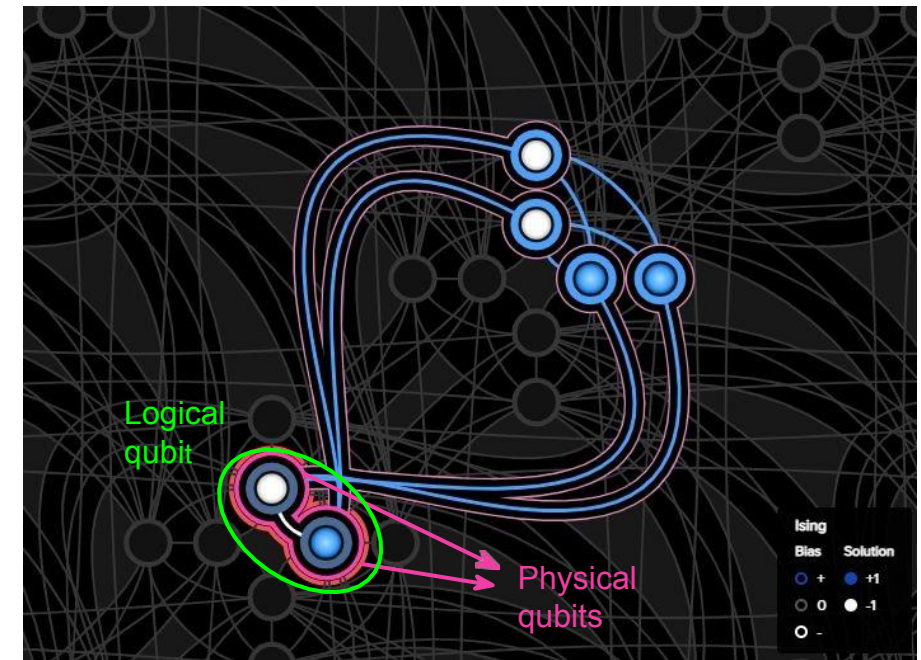
Challenge: graph embedding

Logical qubit \neq Physical qubit

“Embedding” is the process of mapping a **source graph** (problem topology) to a **target graph** (QPU topology): a cluster of physical qubits may represent a single logical qubit/variable

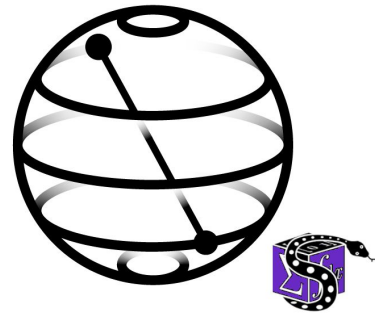


Problem graph topology



Embedding on QPU Pegasus graph topology

Off topic: “qiskit-symb”

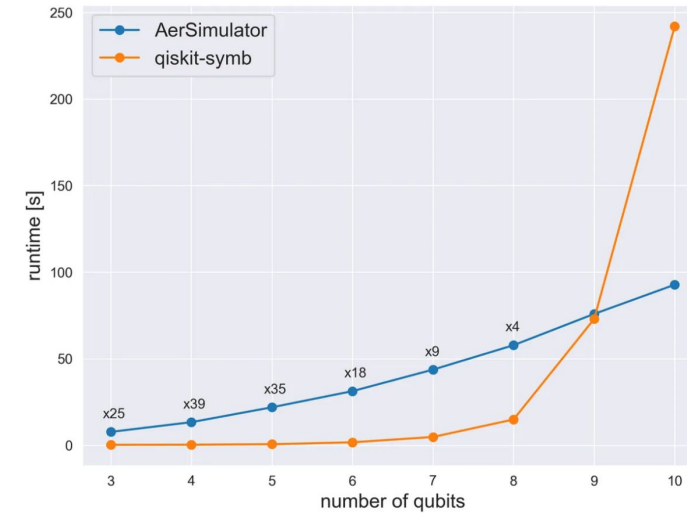


Qiskit

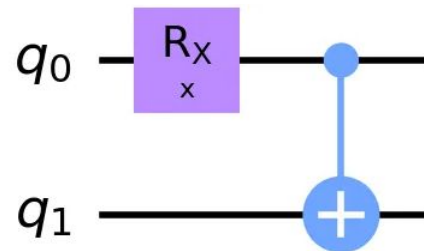
symbolic



Open-source Python package for symbolic evaluation of parametric quantum states and operators in Qiskit



- **Core functionality:** symbolic representation (state vectors, density matrices, unitary operators) of Parameterized Quantum Circuits (PQCs) using *Sympy*
- **Advanced features:** PQC objects conversion into Python functions, simplifying simulations for Quantum ML algorithms



$$\begin{bmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) & -i \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \\ 0 & 0 & \cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) & -i \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) \\ -i \sin\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) & \cos\left(\frac{x}{2}\right) & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- New histogram unfolding approach based on **QUBO formulation** and **Quantum Annealing**
- **QUnfold** software ready to be tested on more HEP data analysis use-cases

Next steps:

- Further optimizations in the model definition (e.g. QUBO matrix preconditioning)
- Further studies to implement a “custom” embedding algorithm (e.g. taking into account the prior knowledge about the blocks structure of the QUBO matrix)

Thanks to [CINECA](#) for providing D-Wave resources to run quantum and hybrid solvers!



<https://github.com/Quantum4HEP/QUnfold>

Thanks for the attention!