

Quantum Machine Learning for Fundamental Physics

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The Morning After: Google claims 'quantum supremacy'

And a controversial 'Ghost in the Shell' trailer.





First Quantum Computer Simulator Operates The Speed Of Light

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Kristen Philipkoski

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hris Ferrie and whurley

uantum Computers Will Be Incredibly Useful For

Computers don't exist in a vacuum. They serve to solve problems, and the type of problems they can solve are influenced by their hardware. Graphics processors are specialized for rendering images; artificial intelligence processors for AI; and quantum computers designed for... what? While the power of quantum computing is impressive, it does not mean that existing ...

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IU

Master in Elektrotechnik, Informatik, Robotik, Maschinenwesen o. ä. (w/m/d)

German Aerospace Center (DLR) · Oberpfaffenhofen, Bavaria, Germany (On-site)

4 company alumni

Professor Cyber Security im Online Fernstudium (m/w/d)

IU International University of Applied Sciences · Germany (Remote)

Actively recruiting



Expertin für Post-Quanten-Kryptographie (w/m/d) Deutsche Bahn · Frankfurt, Hesse, Germany (On-site)

Actively recruiting

Master Thesis: Design of digitally enhanced power management circuits for Future Quantum Computers

Forschungszentrum Jülich · Jülich, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany (On-site)

1 company alum



Expertin für Quantenkommunikation (w/m/d)

Deutsche Bahn · Frankfurt, Hesse, Germany (On-site)

Actively recruiting





"Nature is quantum [...] so if you want to simulate it, you need a quantum computer" – Richard Feynman (1982)

Easily said ... so how do we do that?

Beginning of a scientific journey that accelerated in recent years tremendously....

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Private and Public Sector is placing big bets on Quantum Computing

Quantum Computing Use Cases





Significant financial investment expected across many sectors

In US, already now higher financial investment from private than public sector



All national and international labs have QC programmes (Fermilab, BNL, LBNL, DESY, CERN, Singapur, Abu Dhabi, ...)



1 mio physical qubits -> 1k logical qubits by 2029





Machine learning | Natural science | Optimization Error suppression and mitigation Error correction Kookaburra Scaling to 10K-100K qubits with classical and quantum 4,158+ qubits

IBM Quantum

Beyond 2026

speed of quantum

of error correctio Oiskit Runtime

ommunicatio

Increase accuracy and

workflows with integratio

IonQ Roadmap into the Future

2021 🥑

Run guantum

programs 100x faster with Qiskit Runtime

iskit Runtime

Eagle 127 qubits

 \odot

 \odot

2022

Bring dynamic circuits to Qiskit Runtime to unlock

Dynamic circuits 👌

Osprey

433 qubits

 $\overline{\checkmark}$

ځ

more computation

2023

and parall

Quantum Serverless

Threaded primitives

Condor

1,121 qubits

133 aubits x p

2024

Flamingo

Crossbill

408 aubits

1,386+ qubits

Prototype quantum software applications

Improve accuracy of Qiskit Runtime with

2025

Scale quantum applica-

tions with circuit knitting

Quantum software applications

oolbox controlling

Diskit Runtime

Development Roadmap

2020 🥪

prototype quan algorithms and

nstrate and

Hummingbird 🔗

65 aubits

Quantum algorithm and application modules Achine learning | Natural science | Optimization

2019 🕑

Falcon

27 qubits

 \odot

Model Developers

Algorithm Developers

Developers

System Modularity

Run quantum circuits on the IBM cloud



Classical Quantum
ML Algorithms ML Algorithms

1. an adaptable complex system that allows approximating a complicated function





around state

2. the calculation of a loss function used to define the task the method

3. a way to update 1. while minimising the loss function





Almost all of the methods used and shown at EUCAIFCON



Calculating observables in many-body systems with Neural Quantum States

- Challenges in solving quantum many-body problems
 - Exponential growth of Hilber space with system size
 - Computational intractability of classical methods
- The promise of machine learning
 - ➡ Efficient representation of complex systems
 - ➡ Advances in optimization and scalability
- Neural Quantum States as a bridge [Carleo, Troyer '17]
 - Combining neural networks with variational quantum methods
 - ➡ Alternative approach to Tensor Networks



Universal Approximation Theorem(s)				
width $\rightarrow \infty$	$\Rightarrow f^* - f_W \sim \text{width}^{-1}$			
[Cybenk '89]	[Leshno et al '93] [Hornik '91]			

Univ. Approx. Conjecture(s)

$$D \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow |f^* - f_W| \sim \exp[-D]$$

[Z. Lu et al, '17]

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- To calculate the groundstate of a quantum system, choose a variational ansatz that approximates the quantum state of the system $|\psi\rangle \approx |\psi_{\theta}\rangle$ and minimize the energy computed with respect to the parameters θ .
- Rayleigh-Ritz variational principle guarantees convergence to approximation of groundstate

$$E_{\theta} = \frac{\left\langle \psi_{\theta} | H | \psi_{\theta} \right\rangle}{\left\langle \psi_{\theta} | \psi_{\theta} \right\rangle} \ge E_{\text{GS}}$$

• In NQS, we approximate the wave function with a neural network



- Problem is that Hilbert space scales exponentially and selecting the entire basis for ψ becomes prohibitive.
 - \rightarrow Monte Carlo sampling of basis states $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_N$ to approximate energy ground state
 - ➡ NN variation and energy optimisation are necessary for each choice of set of $|\sigma_1, ..., \sigma_N\rangle$

Example:



For each dimension Normalising Flow Posterior Distribution **Prior Distribution** $f_{\phi}: Z \rightarrow Y$ YZNF Loss $p_Y(\mathbf{y})$ $E[\psi_{ heta}]$ $|\psi\rangle$ NQS ψ_{θ} NQS Loss

[Ngairangbam, MS, Sypchenko '25]



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Classical data processed via quantum algorithms on quantum devices

P q



Popular Quantum Computing paradigms

Туре	Discrete Gate (DG)	Continuous Variable (CV)	Quantum Annealer (QA)	
Computing	Digital	Digital/Analog	Analog	
Property	Universal (any quantum algorithm can be expressed)	Universal - GBS non-Universal	Not universal — certain quantum systems	
Advantage	most algorithms and tech support	uncountable Hilbert (configuration) space	continuous time quantum process	
How?	IBM – Qiskit ~500 Qubits	Xanadu	DWave - LEAP ~7000 Qubits	
What?				
	input 10) H X H H K K K K K K K K K K K K K K K K	$\begin{array}{c c} \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\ \\ \hline \\$	CA finds wide region failed tunnelling state	

How most quantum algorithms work



• Often `Trotterization' (Suzuki-Trotter decomposition) needed:

For
$$H = \sum_{j=1}^{m} H_j$$
 $e^{iHt} = \left(\prod_{j=1}^{m} e^{-iH_j t/r}\right)^r + \mathcal{O}(m^2 t^2/r)$

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Rotation about the Bloch Sphere and state parametrisation





Extending this to a system of N qubits forms a 2^N -dimensional Hilbert Space

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Expressibility of model and encoding

- Most encodings result in sum of trigonometric functions, e.g. angle encoding, time evolution encoding
- Fourier series is universal approximator, but for many encoding strategies quantum models are linear combinations of functions composed of few frequencies
- Pendant to activation functions in the encoding step.
- Encoding + W operator give functional form
- Data reuploading can increase expressivity
- Universal Approximation
 Theorem

$$f_{\theta}(x) = \langle \mathcal{M} \rangle_{x,\theta} = A + B\cos(x) - C\sin(x)$$

A, B, C coefficients from parametrised circuit W



trigonometric structure from data encoding

[Perez-Salina et al 2020] [Schuld et al '20]

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- Entangled state shares information across qubits
- Evaluate expectation value of qubits to construct loss

for supervised S vs B classification one qubit sufficient

 $\mathbb{E}(\sigma_z) = \langle 0 | S_x(x)^{\dagger} U(w)^{\dagger} \hat{O} U(w) S_x(x) | 0 \rangle = \pi(w, x) \quad \text{for} \quad \hat{O} = \sigma_z \otimes \mathbb{I}^{\otimes (n-1)}$

- Quantum network output: $f(w, b, x) = \pi(w, x) + b$
- Changing operator and loss => VQE, VQT, ... (simulate QFT)

Simple example: $|0\rangle - R_x(x) - \operatorname{Rot}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3) - \checkmark \sigma_z$

gives the model output $f_{\theta}(x) = \langle 0 | R_x(x)^{\dagger} \operatorname{Rot}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3)^{\dagger} \sigma_z \operatorname{Rot}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3) R_x(x) | 0 \rangle$

data encoding
$$|\phi(x)\rangle = R_x(x)|0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\frac{x}{2}) & -i\sin(\frac{x}{2}) \\ -i\sin(\frac{x}{2}) & \cos(\frac{x}{2}) \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\frac{x}{2}) \\ -i\sin(\frac{x}{2}) \end{pmatrix}$$

parametrised
rotation
$$\begin{aligned} |\psi(x,\theta)\rangle &= \operatorname{Rot}(\theta_1,\theta_2,\theta_3)|\phi(x)\rangle \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} e^{i(-\frac{\theta_1}{2} - \frac{\theta_3}{2})}\cos(\frac{\theta_2}{2})\cos(\frac{x}{2}) + ie^{i(-\frac{\theta_1}{2} + \frac{\theta_3}{2})}\sin(\frac{\theta_2}{2})\sin(\frac{x}{2}) \\ e^{i(\frac{\theta_1}{2} - \frac{\theta_3}{2})}\sin(\frac{\theta_2}{2})\cos(\frac{x}{2}) - ie^{i(\frac{\theta_1}{2} + \frac{\theta_3}{2})}\cos(\frac{\theta_2}{2})\sin(\frac{x}{2}) \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

model output

$$f_{\theta}(x) = \langle \psi(x, \theta) | \sigma_z | \psi(x, \theta) \rangle = \cos(\theta_2) \cos(x) - \sin(\theta_1) \sin(\theta_2) \sin(x)$$

What happens on the Bloch-Sphere





for probabilistic classifier (density estimator)

$$p(1) = \frac{f_{\theta}(x) + 1}{2}, \qquad p_0 = 1 - p_1$$







• Hybrid approach (QC to calculate exp. value, CC to optimise U operator)

• Loss function
$$L = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left[y_i^{\text{truth}} - f(w, b, x_i) \right]^2$$

label (signal, bkg), supervised learning

Quantum gradient descent – for fast convergence

Fubiny-Study metric underlies geometric[Cheng '10]structure of VQC parameter space: $\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta g^+ \nabla L(\theta)$ [Blance, MS '20][Abbas et al '20]

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0.7 0.6 0.5 0.4 0.3

Barren Plateaus

- Area in loss landscape where gradients are close to zero
- Optimisation is slow and expensive, requiring high accuracy in evaluating gradient to avoid random walking
 - Barren Plateaus often arise if quantum model is overly expressive and Hilbert spaces are large
 - Individual gradient steps in exponentially large parameter and Hilbert space becomes less relevant
 - → Important task for efficient learning is the choice of model, i.e. **as expressive as necessary while as small as possible**

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Valley of mountain



Hole on golf course

Optimising the loss landscape

classical gradient descent (GD):

 $\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta \nabla L(\theta)$



quantum gradient descent (QDC):

Fisher Information Matrix F promotes gradient descent to natural gradient descent (Riemannian geometry):

 $\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta F^{-1} \nabla L(\theta)$

Fubiny-Study metric underlies geometric structure of VQC parameter space (complex projective Hilbert Spaces):

$$\theta_{t+1} = \theta_t - \eta g^+ \nabla L(\theta)$$

[Stokes, Izaac, Killoran, Carleo '20] [Blance, MS '20]

VQC parametersweights $\theta_{t+1}^w = \theta_t^w - \eta g^+ \nabla^w L(\theta)$,bias $\theta_{t+1}^b = \theta_t^b - \eta \nabla^b L(\theta)$,

HEP Example

- Each particle defined by 3 features (ϕ, η, p_T)
- •LHC events consist of $\mathcal{O}(500)$ particles
- •Fat jets have $\mathcal{O}(10)$ subjets

Efficient data encoding crucial for realistic data analysis on quantum device





1P1Q Encoding

[Bal, Klute, Maier, Oughton, Pezone, MS '25]



Supervised-Learning with Variational Quantum Circuit

- VQC supervised learning algorithm
- Use the JetClass dataset first introduced by authors of Particle Transformer (ParT)
- Train on labelled data, signal = boosted top quarks
 bkg = QCD fat jets
- Avoid jet bias
 -> flat p_T in [500,1000] GeV
- \bullet Train only on 3 basic kinematic featrues (p_T,η,ϕ) with appropriate sclaing and normalization
 - → Assign one particle to one qubit
 - → Jet represented by N qubits (N hardest constits)







Drastically reduced model parameters:
 VQC (32) vs Transformer (2.14 Millions)

[Bal, Klute, Maier, Oughton, Pezone, MS '25]

Unsupervised learning with Quantum Autoencoders



- Freature input is encoded into information bottleneck, i.e. latent space with smaller dimension that feature space
- Latent space decoded into reconstructed output, which is then compared with input via loss-function (often MSE)
 - -> Encoder+Decoder trained together to produce output similar to input
- Quantum AE needs to work with unitary gate operations. Thus, need trash states to realise information bottleneck



Performance QAE for different signals



Comparison with CAE

Signals
Algorithm $W \rightarrow q\overline{q}$ $H \rightarrow b\overline{b}$ $t \rightarrow bq\overline{q'}$ QAE0.6930.7570.861CAE0.6710.7390.858

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Results: Training size dependence





[Ngairangbam, MS, Takeuchi '21]

Much faster training and better performance for Quantum autoencoder
 In our test cases QAE > CAE for much larger classical networks
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 $\Delta(t)$ induces bit-hopping in the Hamming/Hilbert space

- Anneal idea: transition from ground state of initial Hamiltonian into ground state of problem Hamiltonian
- The idea is to dial this parameter to land in the global minimum (i.e. the solution) of some "problem space" described by J, h:





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Native stat

Thermal (classical) and Quantum Annealing are complementary:

- Thermal tunnelling is fast over broad shallow potentials $\sim e^{-{\rm height}/T}$ (Quantum "tunnelling" is exponentially slow)
- Quantum tunnelling is fast through tall thin potentials $\sim e^{-\sqrt{\mathrm{height}} \times \mathrm{width}/\hbar}$ (Thermal "tunnelling" is exponentially slow Boltzmann suppression)
- Hybrid approach can be useful depending on solution landscape



• More specifically – thermal annealing uses Metropolis algorithm: accept random σ_i^Z flips with probability

$$P = \begin{cases} 1 & \Delta H \le 0\\ e^{-\Delta H/KT} & \Delta H > 0 \end{cases}$$

• Quantum tunnelling in QFT happens with probability $P \sim e^{-w\sqrt{2m\Delta H}/\hbar}$ so by contrast it can be operative for tall barriers if they are thin



A quantum laboratory for QFT and QML

- going beyond the reach of classical computers -

• Using the spin-chain approach for field theories discussed before, we can encode a QFT on a quantum annealer and study its dynamics directly.

[Abel, MS '20]

 To show that the system is a true and genuine quantum system we investigate if the state can tunnel from a meta-stable vacuum into a the true vacuum.



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0.8

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Calibrating the system with a simple harmonic oscillator

we assume for the potential
$$~~U_0(\phi) = rac{\kappa}{2} \phi^2$$
 with $\kappa = 0.06$

we initialise classically at $\phi=0$ and let it settle for $75~\mu{
m s}$ with $s_q=0.7$



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Results: it decays with v as expected



Also dynamics has characteristic behaviour. For example it still "tunnels" to the bottom of a potential even if there is no barrier: i.e. the wave function leaks across, rather than rolling as a lump -

Numerically solving S.E. we find (this takes an hour!)



Also dynamics has characteristic behaviour. For example it still "tunnels" to the bottom of a potential even if there is no barrier: i.e. the wave function leaks across, rather than rolling as a lump —

Multiple measurements on the quantum annealer:



Also dynamics has characteristic behaviour. For example it still "tunnels" to the bottom of a potential even if there is no barrier: i.e. the wave function leaks across, rather than rolling as a lump —

Multiple measurements on the quantum annealer:



Example 2: Optimisation comparison quantum vs classical



Applied to several examples in [Abel, Blance, MS '21], let's show one here:



Results for Multi-well potential

[Abel, Blance, MS '21]

19.06.2025

 Quantum algorithms finds global minimum of potential reliably and fast!

Method	Time/run (μs)			
Nelder-Mead	4900			
Gradient Descent	2900			
Thermal Annealing	$5 imes 10^5$			
Quantum Annealing	115			



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Completely Quantum Neural Networks

Structure of node i, in layer L $L_i(x) = g\left(\sum_i w_{ij}x_i + b_i\right)$

Network output in final layer

$$Y = L^{(n)} \circ \ldots \circ L^{(0)}$$

Loss function
$$\mathcal{L}(Y) = \frac{1}{N_d} \sum_a |y_a - Y(x_a)|^2$$

[Abel, Criado, MS '22]

- Developed binary encoding of weights (discretised)
- Polynomial approximation of activation function
- Reduction of binary higher-order polynomials into quadratic ones (Ising model)





0.8

1.0

0.6

0.75 1.00

•

Completely Quantum Neural Networks



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Application to differential equations and variational methods

Define your mathematical task as an optimisation problem

$$\mathcal{F}_m(\vec{x},\phi_m(\vec{x}),\nabla\phi_m(\vec{x}),\cdots,\nabla^j\phi_m(\vec{x}))=0$$

Build the full function, here a DE into the loss function, incl boundary conditions

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identify trial solution with network output $\hat{\phi}_m(\vec{x}) \equiv N_m(\vec{x}, \{w, \vec{b}\})$

QADE: Solving differential equations with a quantum annealer

[Criado, MS '22]

Example Laguerre differential equation:

xy'' + (1-x)y' + 4y = 0 with y(0) = 1 and $y(1) = L_4(1)$



QFitter

Example Higgs EFT fit:

[Criado, Kogler, MS '22]

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L} &= \frac{c_{u3}y_t}{v^2} (\phi^{\dagger}\phi) (\bar{q}_L \tilde{\phi} u_R) + \frac{c_{d3}y_b}{v^2} (\phi^{\dagger}\phi) (\bar{q}_L \phi d_R) \\ &+ \frac{ic_W g}{2m_W^2} (\phi^{\dagger}\sigma^a D^{\mu}\phi) D^{\nu} W^a_{\mu\nu} + \frac{c_H}{4v^2} \left(\partial_{\mu} (\phi^{\dagger}\phi) \right)^2 \\ &+ \frac{c_{\gamma} (g')^2}{2m_W^2} (\phi^{\dagger}\phi) B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} + \frac{c_g g_S^2}{2m_W^2} (\phi^{\dagger}\phi) G^a_{\mu\nu} G^{a\mu\nu} \\ &+ \frac{ic_{HW} g}{4m_W^2} (\phi^{\dagger}\sigma^a D^{\mu}\phi) D^{\nu} W^a_{\mu\nu} \\ &+ \frac{ic_{HB} g'}{4m_W^2} (\phi^{\dagger} D^{\mu}\phi) D^{\nu} B_{\mu\nu} + \text{h.c.} \end{split}$$

$$\chi^{2} = \sum_{ij} V_{a} C_{ab}^{-1} V_{b} \qquad V_{a} = O_{a}^{(\exp)} - O_{a}^{(th)}(c)$$

- Fast and reliable state-of-the-art Higgs, ELW, ... fits
- Convergence no problem for nonconvex $\Delta \chi^2 = \chi^2 - \chi^2_{\min}$ functions

Formulation	Method	Fit time	c_{HW}	c_H	c_g	c_γ	χ^2
Standard	Minuit (initial $c_{HW} = 0$) Minuit (initial $c_{HW} = -0.05$) Simulated annealing (initial $c_{HW} = 0$) Simulated annealing (initial $c_{HW} = -0.05$)	$2.0 { m s}$ $2.4 { m s}$ $642 { m s}$ $644 { m s}$	-0.009 -0.050 -0.009 -0.009	$0.100 \\ 0.039 \\ 0.100 \\ 0.100$	$\begin{array}{c} 1.4 \times 10^{-5} \\ -9.7 \times 10^{-6} \\ 1.4 \times 10^{-5} \\ 1.4 \times 10^{-5} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 3.2\times 10^{-6} \\ -1.0\times 10^{-4} \\ 3.7\times 10^{-6} \\ 3.7\times 10^{-6} \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4110 \\ 135 \\ 4110 \\ 4110 \end{array}$
QUBO	Simulated annealing (Class A) Simulated annealing (Class B) Quantum annealing	$\begin{array}{c} 6.4\mathrm{s}\\ 6.4\mathrm{s}\\ 0.2\mathrm{s}\end{array}$	-0.012 -0.045 -0.047	-0.054 -0.175 -0.050	$\begin{array}{c} -3.0\times 10^{-5} \\ -3.7\times 10^{-5} \\ 1.9\times 10^{-5} \end{array}$	$3.9 imes 10^{-5}$ $1.8 imes 10^{-4}$ $7.5 imes 10^{-7}$	3910 228 68



- Quantum Machine Learning is exciting research area that rapidly expands, supported through private and public sector. Many algorithms to be invented.
- Quantum Machine Learning often shows an improved performance over classical Machine Learning, when limiting to a similar complexity of the model.
 Can exploit QM prop: entanglement, superposition principle and tunnelling

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 For more exciting applications (quantum advantage), need development of technical realisation of quantum computers (size, fault tolerance, coherence, operations,...)