

# Improved QUBO Formulation of the <br> Graph Isomorphism Problem 

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#### Abstract

In this paper we provide a practically efficient QUBO formulation for the Graph Isomorphism Problem that is suitable for quantum annealers, such as those produced by D-Wave. After proving correctness of our new method, based on exploiting vertex degree classes, we do some experimental work on a D-Wave 2X computer. We observe that for all "hard" graphs of 6 vertices, we save around $50 \%$ to $95 \%$ of the number of required qubits over the standard QUBO formulation that was given earlier by Calude et al [13]. We also provide some theoretical analysis showing that for two random graphs with the same degree sequence our new method substantially improves in qubit savings as the number of vertices increases beyond 6 .


## 1 Introduction

The Graph Isomorphism Problem is the computational problem of determining whether two graphs are isomorphic. Given two graphs $G_{1}=\left(V_{1}, E_{1}\right)$ and $G_{2}=\left(V_{2}, E_{2}\right)$, we say that $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are isomorphic if there exists an edge-invariant vertex bijection $f: V_{1} \rightarrow V_{2}$ such that for every pair of vertices $\{u, v\}$, we have $u v \in E_{1}$ if and only if $f(u) f(v) \in E_{2}$. Formally, we define the problem below:

## Graph Isomorphism Problem:

Instance: Two graphs $G_{1}=\left(V_{1}, E_{1}\right)$ and $G_{2}=\left(V_{2}, E_{2}\right)$ with $\left|V_{1}\right|=\left|V_{2}\right|$ and $\left|E_{1}\right|=\left|E_{2}\right|$.
Question: Determine whether there exists a bijective edge-invariant vertex mapping (isomorphism) $f: V_{1} \rightarrow V_{2}$.

We assume that the input graphs $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are both connected graphs; if they have multiple connected components then we can always reduce to smaller instances of the Graph Isomorphism Problem. We will also assume $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ have the same degree sequence, they can not be isomorphic otherwise and these cases can be decided quickly.

The Graph Isomorphism Problem has numerous applications in a variety of fields ranging from the study of chemical compound structure [19] and computational biology [34] to security in social networks [35]. The exact complexity of the problem has eluded researchers ever
since its conception for more than five decades. On one hand, the Graph Isomorphism Problem is clearly in NP; given a vertex mapping $f: V_{1} \rightarrow V_{2}$, one can easily check in polynomial time if $f$ is bijective and edge-invariant. On the other hand, the Graph Isomorphism Problem seems to be neither in P nor NP-complete. The current best known classical algorithm for the problem by [4] has a time complexity of $\exp \left((\log n)^{O(1)}\right)$ which is quasipolynomial. If the Graph Isomorphism Problem is NP-complete, it would have huge implication on complexity theory. It has been proven that if the Graph Isomorphism Problem is NP-complete, then the polynomial-time hierarchy collapses [3] which is strong evidence that $\mathrm{P} \neq \mathrm{NP}$. However, despite the similarities between the Graph Isomorphism Problem and many NP-complete problems [27], no one has been able to prove that the Graph Isomorphism Problem is NPcomplete. This makes the Graph Isomorphism Problem one of the most interesting problems in complexity theory since not many other problems have the aforementioned properties.

The concept of adiabatic quantum computing is based on the Adiabatic Theorem in physics [21, 29] which involves the process of evolving the ground state (state of minimum energy) of a physical system [20,21]. It has attracted much attention from both researchers and private sectors over the last few years. One advantage of adiabatic quantum computing over the more traditional quantum gate model is fact that a particular type of physical device that can be used for adiabatic quantum computing, known as quantum annealer, is relatively easier to build compared to quantum gate machines. The Canadian company DWave Systems was able to manufacture the D-Wave $2000 Q^{\mathrm{TM}}$ with more than 2000 physical qubits [14] which is a huge improvement when compared with state-of-the-art quantum gate model device such as the IBM Q 20 [24], which only has 20 physical qubits. Note that physical qubits in an adiabatic quantum computing framework are not equivalent to qubits in the quantum gate framework. To simulate an arbitrary quantum gate computation, the adiabatic framework requires more qubits in general [2]. Furthermore, D-Wave quantum annealers can only support a specific type of problem structure. This means that an algorithm developed for a given problem using a set number of logical of physical qubits has to be 'embedded' in the hardware first, which normally cause the number of physical qubits required to increase dramatically.

Motivated by the limited number of physical qubits in current hardware, we present an improved version of the QUBO formulation given in [13] and empirically compare their performance. Our experimental results indicate that the improved version is much more suitable for current hardware not only in terms of better embedding but also has a higher probability of obtaining the correct answer when run on a quantum annealer.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we will provide the necessary mathematical background knowledge required. In Section 3, we present the improved QUBO formulation along with a proof of correctness. In Section 4, we will first provide an overview of experiment conducted followed by the embedding experiment on an active D-Wave 2X hardware. We also give a brief explanation on how an D-Wave quantum annealer can be used to solved QUBO problems followed by some comments on how to configure some of the parameters and options supported by D-Wave 2X. A discussion of the experiment results are provided in Section 5.

## 2 Mathematical Prerequisites

In this section we introduce the mathematical and graph theory prerequisites that are useful for this paper.

The cardinality of a set $X$ is denoted by $|X|$. By $\lg$ we denote the logarithm in base 2 and $Z_{2}=\{0,1\}$. The power set of $X$ will be denoted by $2^{X}$. A partial function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a function which can be undefined for some values $x \in X$. The domain of $f$, denoted by $\operatorname{dom}(f)$ is the set of all $x \in X$ for which $f(x)$ is defined. A graph $G=(V, E)$ consists of a finite non-empty set of vertices $V$ together with a set of edges $E$. The order of $G$, denoted by $n$, is the number of vertices in $V$. In our representation vertices are labeled by $V=\left\{v_{i} \mid 0 \leq i<n\right\}$. The set (of edges) $E$ consists of unordered pairs of vertices $u, v \in V$; we denote an edge by $e=u v$. Note that since we only consider undirected graphs in this paper, $u v$ and $v u$ represent the same edge. The number of edges, denoted by $m$, is called the size of $G$. For a vertex $v$ in a graph, the degree of $v$, denoted by $\operatorname{deg}(v)$ is the number of neighbors $v$ has. That is, $\operatorname{deg}(v)=|\{u \mid u v \in E\}|$. A regular graph is a graph $G=(V, E)$ such that $\operatorname{deg}(u)=\operatorname{deg}(v)$ for all $u, v \in V$. The degree sequence of a graph $G=(V, E)$ is the monotonic nonincreasing sequence of the vertex degrees of $G$.

In this paper we will only consider simple graphs, that is, graphs with no multi-edges nor self-loops. The first condition means that for all pairs of vertices $u$ and $v$, there is at most one edge between $u$ and $v$; the second condition states that for every vertex $v \in V$ we have $v v \notin E$.

The following well-known theorem is also useful.
Theorem 1. Given two graphs $G_{1}$ and $G_{2} . G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are isomorphic if and only if the complement of $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are isomorphic.

Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimization (QUBO) is an NP-hard optimization problem involving the minimization of a quadratic objective function $F: Z_{2}^{n} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that is defined by an $n \times n$ upper-triangular matrix $Q$. Let $\mathbf{x}=\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right)$ be a vector of $n$ binary variables, the objective function is of the following form $F(\mathbf{x})=\mathbf{x}^{T} Q \mathbf{x}$. Formally the QUBO problem is defined as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
x^{*}=\min _{\mathbf{x}} \sum_{i \leq j} x_{i} Q_{(i, j)} x_{j}, \text { where } x_{i} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Note that for notational convenience, the entries of $Q$ are indexed from 0 (i.e. $0 \leq i, j<$ $n)$. The goal is to find a binary value assignment of variables $\mathbf{x}=\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right)$ such that the value of $F(\mathbf{x})$ is minimum. We use $x^{*}$ to denote the minimum value of $F(\mathbf{x})$ and $\mathbf{x}^{*}=\left(x_{0}^{*}, x_{1}^{*}, \ldots, x_{n-1}^{*}\right)$ to denote the set of value assignments of the $n$ variables that yield $x^{*}$.

Although this paper focuses on the QUBO model, some relevant knowledge of the Ising spin glass model will also be useful since the D-Wave quantum annealers implement the Ising model. The Ising model is a problem in physics that involves the mechanics of ferromagnetism [10], we will not be overly concerned with the physical nature of the problem and will only provide an abstract mathematical description of the model. Let $G=(V, E)$ be a graph where each vertex $i \in V$ and edge $i j \in E$ are associated with real values $h_{i}$ and $J_{(i, j)}$
respectively. An Ising Minimization Problem with $n=|V|$ variables has a variable vector $\mathbf{x}=\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right)$ and can be defined as follows:

$$
\begin{equation*}
x^{*}=\min _{\mathbf{x}} \sum_{i j \in E} x_{i} J_{(i, j)} x_{j}+\sum_{i \in V} h_{i} x_{i}, \text { where } x_{i} \in\{-1,1\} . \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The QUBO and Ising problems are equivalent, they are both NP-hard [5, 33] and one can easily transform one to the other with a relatively simple transformation function [16]. This paper will mainly focus on the QUBO model since binary values are more natural and interpretive than the $\pm 1$ model.

## 3 QUBO Formulation for the Graph Isomorphism Problem and Improvements

For the sake of completeness, we will first introduce the QUBO formulation for the Graph Isomorphism Problem developed in [13]. Note that we assume that the two input graphs $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ have the same order and size. Now suppose $G_{1}=\left(V_{1}, E_{2}\right)$ and $G_{2}=\left(V_{2}, E_{2}\right)$ are two graphs both of order $n$ and size $m$. The objective function of [13] requires a total of $n^{2}$ logical qubits, one variable $x_{i, j}$ for each integer pair $i$ and $j$ where $0 \leq i<n$ and $0 \leq j<n$. If $x_{i, j}=1$ then the vertex mapping maps $v_{i}$ in $G_{1}$ to $v_{j}$ in $G_{2}$. We label the collection of $n^{2}$ variables by a binary vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{n^{2}}$ :

$$
\mathbf{x}=\left[x_{0,0}, x_{0,1}, \ldots x_{0, n-1}, x_{1,0}, x_{1,1}, \ldots, x_{1, n-1}, \ldots x_{n-1,0}, \ldots x_{n-1, n-1}\right] .
$$

We also pre-compute $n^{2}$ binary constants $e_{i, j}$ for $0 \leq i<n$ and $0 \leq j<n$ where $e_{i, j}=1$ if $i j \in E_{2}$ and $e_{i, j}=0$ if $i j \notin E_{2}$.

The objective function in [13] is of the following form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
F(\mathbf{x})=H(\mathbf{x})+\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x}), \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
H(\mathbf{x})=\sum_{0 \leq i<n}\left(1-\sum_{0 \leq i^{\prime}<n} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\right)^{2}+\sum_{0 \leq i^{\prime}<n}\left(1-\sum_{0 \leq i<n} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\right)^{2}, \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=\sum_{0 \leq i^{\prime}<n}\left(x_{i, i^{\prime}} \sum_{0 \leq j^{\prime}<n} x_{j, j^{\prime}}\left(1-e_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}\right)\right) . \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

Now suppose $x^{*}$ and $\mathbf{x}^{*}$ are the optimal value and its corresponding binary variable assignment of Equation (3), one can decide if whether $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are isomorphic and compute the edge-invariant, if it exists, efficiently. See [13] for the proof of correctness and more details.

Clearly, if $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are indeed isomorphic then an edge-invariant vertex mappings can only map vertices in $G_{1}$ to vertices of the same degree in $G_{2}$ (i.e. if $u=f(v)$ then $\operatorname{deg}(u)=\operatorname{deg}(v))$. Based on this fact, we can quickly eliminate unnecessary logical variables
which can not have value 1 . This is important from a practical point of view since the current D-Wave hardware only have a limited number of physical qubits and couplers available, hence reducing the number of required logical qubits means that we can solve larger instances of the Graph Isomorphism Problem. This also makes the problem easier to embed in the hardware.

The improved QUBO formulation still requires $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ qubits in the worst case but substantially less in practice; the exact number depends on the degree sequence of the input graphs. Formally, for each vertex pair $\left(v_{i}, v_{j}\right)$ where $v_{i} \in V_{1}$ and $v_{j} \in V_{2}$, we define a binary variable $x_{i, j}$ if $\operatorname{deg}\left(v_{i}\right)=\operatorname{deg}\left(v_{j}\right)$. For readability, we define a set $S=\left\{(i, j) \mid \operatorname{deg}\left(v_{i}\right)=\right.$ $\operatorname{deg}\left(v_{j}\right)$ for $v_{i} \in V_{1}$ and $\left.v_{j} \in V_{2}\right\}$ and the collection of all binary variables can be indexed by a binary vector $\mathbf{x}=\left[x_{i, j} \mid(i, j) \in S\right]$. Formally, the objective function is of the following form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
F(\mathbf{x})=H(\mathbf{x})+\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x}) \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

where

$$
\begin{equation*}
H(\mathbf{x})=\sum_{0 \leq i<n}\left(1-\sum_{\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\right)^{2}+\sum_{0 \leq i^{\prime}<n}\left(1-\sum_{\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\right)^{2} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{equation*}
P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=\sum_{\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S}\left(x_{i, i^{\prime}} \sum_{\left(j, j^{\prime}\right) \in S} x_{j, j^{\prime}}\left(1-e_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}\right)\right) \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

As in [13], assume that $x^{*}=\min _{\mathbf{x}} F(\mathbf{x})$. Then, the mapping $f$ can be 'decoded' from the values of the variables $x_{i, i^{\prime}}$ using an additional partial function $D$. Let $\mathcal{F}$ be the set of all bijections between $V_{1}$ and $V_{2}$. Then $D: \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{|\mathbf{x}|} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is a partial 'decoder' function that re-constructs the vertex mapping $f$ from the vector $\mathbf{x}$, if such $f$ exists. The domain of $D$ contains all vectors $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{|\mathbf{x}|}$ that can be 'decoded' into a bijective function $f$ :

$$
\begin{aligned}
\operatorname{dom}(D)= & \left\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{|\mathbf{x}|} \mid \sum_{0 \leq i^{\prime}<n} x_{i, i^{\prime}}=1, \text { for all } 0 \leq i<n \text { and }\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S\right. \\
& \text { and } \left.\sum_{0 \leq i<n} x_{i, i^{\prime}}=1, \text { for all } 0 \leq i^{\prime}<n \text { and }\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S\right\}
\end{aligned}
$$

and

$$
D(\mathbf{x})= \begin{cases}f, & \text { if } \mathbf{x} \in \operatorname{dom}(D) \\ \text { undefined }, & \text { otherwise }\end{cases}
$$

where $f: V_{1} \rightarrow V_{2}$ is a bijection such that $f\left(v_{i}\right)=v_{i^{\prime}}$ if and only if $x_{i, i^{\prime}}=1$.
Although Equation (6) is very similar to the objective function presented in [13], we present a proof of correctness here for the sake of completeness.

Lemma 2. For every $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{|\mathbf{x}|}, H(\mathbf{x})=0$ if and only if $D(\mathbf{x})$ is defined (in this case $D(\mathbf{x})$ is a bijection).

Proof. Fix $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{|\mathbf{x}|}$. The term $H(\mathbf{x})$ has two components,

$$
\sum_{0 \leq i<n}\left(1-\sum_{\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\right)^{2} \text { and } \sum_{0 \leq i^{\prime}<n}\left(1-\sum_{\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\right)^{2}
$$

Since both components consist of only quadratic terms, we have $H(\mathbf{x})=0$ if and only if both components are equal to 0 .

First,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{0 \leq i<n}\left(1-\sum_{\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\right)^{2}=0 \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

if and only if for each $0 \leq i<n$, exactly one variable in the set $\left\{x_{i, i^{\prime}} \mid\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S\right\}$ has value 1 , that is, every vertex $v \in V_{1}$ has an image.

Second, with the same argument,

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sum_{0 \leq i^{\prime}<n}\left(1-\sum_{\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\right)^{2}=0 \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

if and only if for each $0 \leq i^{\prime}<n$, exactly one variable in the set $\left\{x_{i, i^{\prime}} \mid\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S\right\}$ has value 1 , hence the function $v_{i} \mapsto v_{i^{\prime}}$ is surjective.

Together the conditions (9) and (10) are equivalent with the property that every vertex $v_{i} \in V_{1}$ is mapped to a unique vertex $v_{i^{\prime}} \in V_{2}$, and since the orders of $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are same, the mapping $v_{i} \mapsto v_{i^{\prime}}$ is bijective.

The second lemma stated below ensures that the mapping $f$, if bijective, is also edgeinvariant.

Lemma 3. Let $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{|\mathbf{x}|}$ and assume that $D(\mathbf{x})$ is a bijective function. Then, $\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=$ 0 if and only if the mapping $f=D(\mathbf{x})$ is edge-invariant.

Proof. Fix $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{|\mathbf{x}|}$. Note that $P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})$ from Equation (6) does not contain cubic terms, so, as all $e_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}$ are constants, $P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})$ contains only quadratic terms; consequently, $P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x}) \geq 0$, for all $i j \in E_{1}$.

Furthermore, $\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=0$ if and only if $P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=0$, for all $i j \in E_{1}$.
After expanding Equation (8), we get
$P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=\sum_{\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S} x_{i, i^{\prime}}\left(x_{j, j_{0}^{\prime}}\left(1-e_{i^{\prime}, j_{0}^{\prime}}\right)+x_{j, j_{1}^{\prime}}\left(1-e_{i^{\prime}, j_{1}^{\prime}}\right)+\cdots+x_{j, j_{k}^{\prime}}\left(1-e_{i^{\prime}, j_{k}^{\prime}}\right)\right)$ for each $\left(j, j^{\prime}\right) \in S$.
Since $f$ is a bijection, for every edge $i j \in E_{1}$, in the set $\left\{x_{i, i^{\prime}} \mid\left(i, i^{\prime}\right) \in S\right\}$ there is a unique variable, denoted by $x_{i, i^{\prime}}^{*}$, with value 1 , and in the set $\left\{x_{j, j^{\prime}} \mid\left(j, j^{\prime}\right) \in S\right\}$ there is exactly one variable, denoted by $x_{j, j^{\prime}}^{*}$, with value 1 .

Assume that $\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$, i.e. for some $i j \in E_{1}$ we have $P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$. It is easy to see that $P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$ if and only if $x_{i, i^{\prime}}^{*} x_{j, j^{\prime}}^{*}\left(1-e_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}\right) \neq 0$, or equivalently, $e_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}=0$. The last
equality violates the condition of an edge-invariant mapping as $e_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}=0$ implies that there is no edge between the vertices $v_{i^{\prime}}$ and $v_{j^{\prime}}$ in $G_{2}$.

Conversely, if $\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=0$, then $P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=0$ for all $i j \in E_{1}$, hence $x_{i, i^{\prime}}^{*} x_{j, j^{\prime}}^{*}(1-$ $\left.e_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}\right)=0$ which implies $e_{i^{\prime}, j^{\prime}}=1$. This means that for all $i j \in E_{1}, f(i) f(j) \in E_{2}$. Since $f$ is bijective and $\left|E_{1}\right|=\left|E_{2}\right|$, every edge $i j \in E_{2}$ must also have a corresponding edge $f^{-1}(i) f^{-1}(j) \in E_{1}$, so $f$ is edge-invariant.

Theorem 4. For all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_{2}^{|\mathbf{x}|}, F(\mathbf{x})=0$ if and only if the mapping $f: V_{1} \rightarrow V_{2}$ defined by $f=D(\mathbf{x})$ is an isomorphism.

Proof. Since both $H(\mathbf{x})$ and $\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})$ contain only quadratic terms, we have $F(\mathbf{x})=0$ if and only if both $H(\mathbf{x})=0$ and $\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x})=0$.

Assume $F(\mathbf{x})=0$. Then by Lemmas 2 and $3, f$ must be bijective and edge-invariant.
On the other hand, if $F(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$, then either $H(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$ or $\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$. If $H(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$, then $f$ is not bijective by Lemma 2. If $H(\mathbf{x})=0$ and $\sum_{i j \in E_{1}} P_{i, j}(\mathbf{x}) \neq 0$, then by Lemma 3 the mapping is not edge-invariant.

### 3.1 An example: the graph $P_{3}$

Recall the example given in [13]. Let $G_{1}=\left(V_{1}, E_{1}\right)$ and $G_{2}=\left(V_{2}, E_{2}\right)$ be two graphs of order 3, where $V_{1}=V_{2}=\{0,1,2\}$ and $E_{1}=\{\{0,1\},\{1,2\}\}$ and $E_{2}=\{\{0,1\},\{0,2\}\}$. The standard QUBO from [13] has nine variables and the binary variable vector is

$$
\mathbf{x}=\left(x_{0,0}, x_{0,1}, x_{0,2}, x_{1,0}, x_{1,1}, x_{1,2}, x_{2,0}, x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}\right)
$$

The complete QUBO matrix is given in Table 1. Note that we always ignore constant terms in Equation (3) and (6) when using the matrix based representation, removing constant values will not affect the optimality of $\mathbf{x}^{*}$ and $x^{*}$. Now, there is only one vertex of degree 2 in either graph, vertex 1 in $G_{1}$ has to be mapped to vertex 0 in $G_{2}$ and it can be verified that the only two optimal solutions are $\mathbf{x}_{1}=(0,1,0,1,0,0,0,0,1)$ and $\mathbf{x}_{2}=(0,0,1,1,0,0,0,1,0)$. See [13] for the complete set of constraints for this particular example.

Table 1: Standard QUBO matrix for $P_{3}$

| Variables | $x_{0,0}$ | $x_{0,1}$ | $x_{0,2}$ | $x_{1,0}$ | $x_{1,1}$ | $x_{1,2}$ | $x_{2,0}$ | $x_{2,1}$ | $x_{2,2}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $x_{0,0}$ | -2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| $x_{0,1}$ |  | -2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| $x_{0,2}$ |  |  | -2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| $x_{1,0}$ |  |  |  | -2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| $x_{1,1}$ |  |  |  |  | -2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| $x_{1,2}$ |  |  |  |  |  | -2 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| $x_{2,0}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | -2 | 2 | 2 |
| $x_{2,1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -2 | 2 |
| $x_{2,2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -2 |

The objective function (6) takes advantage of the fact that vertex 1 in $G_{1}$ has to be mapped to vertex 2 in $G_{2}$ by an edge-invariant vertex mapping. See Table 2 for the improved

QUBO matrix. According to the QUBO formulation given in Equation 6, the set $S$ consists of the following 2-tuples of five binary variables:

$$
S=\{(0,1),(0,2),(1,0),(2,1),(2,2)\}
$$

and so the binary variable vector is now

$$
\mathbf{x}=\left(x_{0,1}, x_{0,2}, x_{1,0}, x_{2,1}, x_{2,2}\right)
$$

After expanding Equation (7), we get

$$
\begin{aligned}
H(\mathbf{x})=\left(1-\left(x_{0,1}+x_{0,2}\right)\right)^{2}+(1 & \left.-x_{1,0}\right)^{2}+\left(1-\left(x_{2,1}+x_{2,2}\right)\right)^{2} \\
& +\left(1-x_{1,0}\right)^{2}+\left(1-\left(x_{0,1}+x_{2,1}\right)\right)^{2}+\left(1-\left(x_{0,2}+x_{2,2}\right)\right)^{2} .
\end{aligned}
$$

Using the definition of Equation (6), we need to pre-compute the following binary constants $e_{i, j}: e_{0,0}=0, e_{0,1}=1, e_{0,2}=1, e_{1,0}=1, e_{1,1}=0, e_{1,2}=0, e_{2,0}=1, e_{2,1}=0, e_{2,2}=0$. By substituting these constants into Equation (8), we obtain the following two constraints:

$$
\begin{gathered}
P_{0,1}(\mathbf{x})=\left(x_{0,1} x_{1,0}\left(1-e_{1,0}\right)\right)+\left(x_{0,2} x_{1,0}\left(1-e_{2,0}\right)\right) \\
P_{1,2}(\mathbf{x})=x_{1,0}\left(x_{2,1}\left(1-e_{0,1}\right)+x_{2,2}\left(1-e_{0,2}\right)\right)
\end{gathered}
$$

Note that both penalties terms completely vanish if we substitute the corresponding value of $e_{i, j}$ into them.

Once again, it is fairly easy to verify that the two optimal solutions are now $\mathbf{x}_{1}=$ $(0,1,1,1,0)$ and $\mathbf{x}_{2}=(1,0,1,0,1)$.

Table 2: Degree sequence mapped QUBO matrix for $P_{3}$

| Variables | $x_{0,1}$ | $x_{0,2}$ | $x_{1,0}$ | $x_{2,1}$ | $x_{2,2}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $x_{0,1}$ | -2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| $x_{0,2}$ |  | -2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| $x_{1,0}$ |  |  | -2 | 0 | 0 |
| $x_{2,1}$ |  |  |  | -2 | 2 |
| $x_{2,2}$ |  |  |  |  | -2 |

## 4 Experiments

We conducted numerous experiments on a D-Wave 2X quantum annealer. The hardware structure of the D-Wave computers are called Chimera graphs, indexed by three integers $(M, N, L)$, they consist of $M$ by $N$ blocks of interconnected $K_{L, L}$ (complete bipartite graphs of order $2 L$ ). A more detailed specification of the Chimera graph can be found in [1]. We experimentally compare the efficiency of the QUBO formulation in Section 3 and of [13] by embedding the QUBO instances of both formulation on actual D-Wave hardware and experimentally test the solvability of both formulation on the quantum annealer. In this section, we will first provide an overview followed by a summary of the experiments.

### 4.1 Test cases and minor embeddings

We experimentally measured the improvement of the QUBO formulation given in Section 3 on graphs of small order. It is common knowledge that the number of labeled graphs of order $n$ is $2^{\binom{n}{2}}$ which becomes intractable very quickly when $n>7$. For example, see http://oeis.org/A000088 for the number of graphs with order up to 19. However, not all graphs are difficult; for example, consider an instance of the Graph Isomorphism Problem when the input graphs have multiple connected components then we can reduce it to several smaller instances of the Graph Isomorphism Problem and combine their solutions to solve the original instance. Furthermore, the Graph Isomorphism Problem is in P if $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are trees (since the Tree Isomorphism Problem is in logspace [25]). Together with Theorem 1, it means that the Graph Isomorphism Problem can be efficiently solved if either $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ or their complements are trees. As a result, we tested all the graphs $G$ with the following properties: 1) both $G$ and its complement are connected; 2) neither $G$ nor its complement is a tree. We also filtered out degree sequences that only corresponds to one unique graph under these two conditions.

Our Script A is a Sage [32] program that enumerates all degree sequences of graphs of order 6 , it then filters out graphs as described in the previous paragraph and outputs all selected graphs. Now, say a given degree sequence has $k$ graphs selected $G_{0}, G_{1}, \ldots, G_{k-1}$. For each $0 \leq i<k$, we generate several instances of the Graph Isomorphism Problem by doing the following: first, we select $G_{i}$ as the input graph $G_{1}$ of the Graph Isomorphism Problem and then, for each $j$ in range $i \leq j<k$, we then randomly permute the vertex labels of $G_{j}$ and use it as input graph $G_{2}$ (see Script B).

In order to compare the improvement of the QUBO instances, we generate two QUBOs for each graph pair, one based on the QUBO formulation given in [13] and one based on Equation (6). The Python Script C contains the implementation of both QUBO formulations. We then tested the embeddings of the QUBOs on a D-Wave 2 X quantum computer. The hardware structure of this particular model is a $12 \times 12 \times 4$ Chimera graph which consists of 12 by 12 grids of interconnected complete bipartite graphs $K_{4,4}$. Note that the actual device we used has 54 inactive qubits. The minor embedding algorithm is provided by the software package developed by D-Wave [15], the same algorithm used in [13]. More details about the embedding algorithm can be found in [11]. Note that some of our Python programs use NetworkX [22] as well.

Since the embedding algorithm used here is probabilistic and heavily relies on an initial random vertex selection, it is fairly difficult to predict its behavior. Hence each test case is embedded five times and Tables 3 and 4 contain these embeddings results. Each test case is indexed by three integers $i, j$ and $k$. The first integer is the degree sequence index generated using the Sage degree sequence generator (see Script A). The other two integers $j$ and $k$ correspond to the indices of selected graphs in the degree sequence (see Script B). For example, seq_0_0_1 corresponds to the first degree sequence where $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ were chosen to be the first and the second graph outputed by Script A, corresponding to that degree sequence. The column labeled 'Logical Qubits' is the number of logical variables required by the QUBO formulation, the QUBOs generated by the standard QUBO formulation [13] (Table 3) all require $n^{2}=6^{2}=36$ logical qubits whereas the improved degree sequence mapping QUBOs (Table 4) each requires a different number depending on the degree sequence. With respect
to the minor embedding, the two most important factors are the total number of physical qubits used and the map size (number of physical qubits each logical qubit is mapped to), so the average map size $\left(\frac{\text { no. physical qubits }}{\text { no. logical qubits }}\right)$ is also computed and presented in Tables 3 and 4.

### 4.2 D-Wave experiments

Several experiments were ran on an actual D-Wave 2X hardware to test the quality of the QUBO instances generated. Since we only have limited access to the quantum computer, it is not possible to test the viability of all QUBO instances in combination with all different embeddings. Previous experimental works such as $[1,18]$ and $[30]^{1}$ suggest that large map size in general will lead to a low probability of solving the QUBO instance with a quantum annealer. Therefore each QUBO instance was executed with an embedding that has the lowest average map size. Note that due to the random nature of the embedding algorithm, the embeddings selected are not likely to be the best embeddings (i.e. other embeddings with a smaller average map size may exist) and different embeddings could affect the result drastically.

Recall the definition of objective function (6) and Theorem 4. If $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are not isomorphic, then the value of the optimal solution of $F(\mathbf{x})$ is meaningless. As a result, only isomorphic pairs of graphs are used in the experiment (these are test cases labeled by seq_i_j_k where $j=k$ ). The correctness of the D-Wave answers can be verified efficiently for these test cases as well, one only need to compute $F(\mathbf{x})$ and if $F(\mathbf{x})=0$ then $\mathbf{x}$ is the correct optimal solution.

The D-Wave quantum annealing hardware uses the Ising model so the QUBO instances has to be converted to their corresponding Ising form. The transformation operation is relatively straightforward so we will omit the details here (see [16] for the details). This function is implemented in the D-Wave software package [15] and so all QUBO instances are converted to Ising form before D-Wave hardware is used to solve the Ising instance. See Script D for the complete implementation, the Python program reads a QUBO in the format outputed by Script B, convert the QUBO instance to an Ising. It then embeds the Ising instance on the hardware structure of the D-Wave 2X, note that the actual embeddings used in the experiment are not included in this paper since these precomputed embeddings are unlikely to be reusable as each current D-Wave computer has a different set of faulty physical qubits.

[^0]Table 3: Standard QUBO embedding result (1 of 2).

| Graph name | Logical Qubits | Physical 1 | Average 1 | Physical 2 | Average 2 | Physical 3 | Average 3 | Physical 4 | Average 4 | Physical 5 | Average 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| seq-0_0_0 | 36 | 516 | 14.33 | 482 | 13.39 | 682 | 18.94 | 399 | 11.08 | 515 | 14.31 |
| seq-0_0_1 | 36 | 532 | 14.78 | 480 | 13.33 | 501 | 13.92 | 467 | 12.97 | 514 | 14.28 |
| seq-0_1_1 | 36 | 506 | 14.06 | 538 | 14.94 | 453 | 12.58 | 480 | 13.33 | 424 | 11.78 |
| seq-1_0_0 | 36 | 587 | 16.31 | 464 | 12.89 | 462 | 12.83 | 463 | 12.86 | 506 | 14.06 |
| seq-1_0_1 | 36 | 511 | 14.19 | 454 | 12.61 | 539 | 14.97 | 483 | 13.42 | 472 | 13.11 |
| seq-1_0_2 | 36 | 432 | 12.0 | 483 | 13.42 | 442 | 12.28 | 525 | 14.58 | 480 | 13.33 |
| seq-1.1.1 | 36 | 399 | 11.08 | 544 | 15.11 | 478 | 13.28 | 502 | 13.94 | 461 | 12.81 |
| seq-1_1_2 | 36 | 496 | 13.78 | 460 | 12.78 | 502 | 13.94 | 450 | 12.5 | 464 | 12.89 |
| seq-1_2_2 | 36 | 531 | 14.75 | 546 | 15.17 | 441 | 12.25 | 504 | 14.0 | 559 | 15.53 |
| seq-2_0_0 | 36 | 471 | 13.08 | 514 | 14.28 | 478 | 13.28 | 483 | 13.42 | 506 | 14.06 |
| seq-2_0_1 | 36 | 472 | 13.11 | 482 | 13.39 | 490 | 13.61 | 554 | 15.39 | 484 | 13.44 |
| seq-2_0_2 | 36 | 574 | 15.94 | 557 | 15.47 | 479 | 13.31 | 533 | 14.81 | 476 | 13.22 |
| seq-2_0_3 | 36 | 609 | 16.92 | 472 | 13.11 | 487 | 13.53 | 465 | 12.92 | 461 | 12.81 |
| seq-2_1_1 | 36 | 486 | 13.5 | 490 | 13.61 | 498 | 13.83 | 444 | 12.33 | 383 | 10.64 |
| seq-2-1_2 | 36 | 454 | 12.61 | 442 | 12.28 | 475 | 13.19 | 395 | 10.97 | 472 | 13.11 |
| seq-2_1_3 | 36 | 557 | 15.47 | 576 | 16.0 | 411 | 11.42 | 531 | 14.75 | 502 | 13.94 |
| seq_2_2_2 | 36 | 495 | 13.75 | 499 | 13.86 | 422 | 11.72 | 472 | 13.11 | 423 | 11.75 |
| seq-2_2_3 | 36 | 440 | 12.22 | 497 | 13.81 | 517 | 14.36 | 521 | 14.47 | 498 | 13.83 |
| seq-2_3_3 | 36 | 459 | 12.75 | 451 | 12.53 | 535 | 14.86 | 496 | 13.78 | 498 | 13.83 |
| seq-3_0_0 | 36 | 574 | 15.94 | 495 | 13.75 | 445 | 12.36 | 542 | 15.06 | 447 | 12.42 |
| seq-3_0_1 | 36 | 512 | 14.22 | 493 | 13.69 | 459 | 12.75 | 518 | 14.39 | 501 | 13.92 |
| seq-3_0_2 | 36 | 536 | 14.89 | 571 | 15.86 | 454 | 12.61 | 465 | 12.92 | 493 | 13.69 |
| seq-3_0_3 | 36 | 436 | 12.11 | 515 | 14.31 | 566 | 15.72 | 425 | 11.81 | 505 | 14.03 |
| seq_3_1_1 | 36 | 512 | 14.22 | 472 | 13.11 | 485 | 13.47 | 539 | 14.97 | 472 | 13.11 |
| seq_3_1_2 | 36 | 517 | 14.36 | 417 | 11.58 | 460 | 12.78 | 521 | 14.47 | 425 | 11.81 |
| seq-3_1_3 | 36 | 420 | 11.67 | 580 | 16.11 | 485 | 13.47 | 531 | 14.75 | 485 | 13.47 |
| seq_3_2_2 | 36 | 475 | 13.19 | 457 | 12.69 | 429 | 11.92 | 492 | 13.67 | 568 | 15.78 |
| seq-3_2_3 | 36 | 372 | 10.33 | 560 | 15.56 | 613 | 17.03 | 412 | 11.44 | 505 | 14.03 |
| seq-3_3_3 | 36 | 513 | 14.25 | 449 | 12.47 | 452 | 12.56 | 567 | 15.75 | 482 | 13.39 |
| seq-4_0_0 | 36 | 481 | 13.36 | 573 | 15.92 | 573 | 15.92 | 477 | 13.25 | 448 | 12.44 |
| seq-4_0_1 | 36 | 495 | 13.75 | 549 | 15.25 | 486 | 13.5 | 440 | 12.22 | 460 | 12.78 |
| seq-4_1_1 | 36 | 415 | 11.53 | 508 | 14.11 | 535 | 14.86 | 527 | 14.64 | 362 | 10.06 |
| seq-5_0_0 | 36 | 373 | 10.36 | 473 | 13.14 | 566 | 15.72 | 462 | 12.83 | 571 | 15.86 |
| seq-5_0_1 | 36 | 426 | 11.83 | 433 | 12.03 | 477 | 13.25 | 520 | 14.44 | 510 | 14.17 |
| seq-5_1_1 | 36 | 434 | 12.06 | 476 | 13.22 | 513 | 14.25 | 509 | 14.14 | 541 | 15.03 |
| seq_6_0_0 | 36 | 484 | 13.44 | 418 | 11.61 | 401 | 11.14 | 402 | 11.17 | 527 | 14.64 |
| seq-6_0_1 | 36 | 469 | 13.03 | 604 | 16.78 | 507 | 14.08 | 471 | 13.08 | 611 | 16.97 |
| seq_6_0_2 | 36 | 492 | 13.67 | 528 | 14.67 | 486 | 13.5 | 477 | 13.25 | 490 | 13.61 |
| seq-6_0_3 | 36 | 474 | 13.17 | 482 | 13.39 | 547 | 15.19 | 446 | 12.39 | 437 | 12.14 |
| seq-6_1.1 | 36 | 499 | 13.86 | 547 | 15.19 | 490 | 13.61 | 499 | 13.86 | 595 | 16.53 |
| seq_6_1_2 | 36 | 464 | 12.89 | 581 | 16.14 | 518 | 14.39 | 557 | 15.47 | 492 | 13.67 |
| seq-6_1_3 | 36 | 472 | 13.11 | 493 | 13.69 | 495 | 13.75 | 599 | 16.64 | 528 | 14.67 |
| seq-6_2_2 | 36 | 563 | 15.64 | 484 | 13.44 | 498 | 13.83 | 471 | 13.08 | 550 | 15.28 |
| seq_6_2_3 | 36 | 507 | 14.08 | 481 | 13.36 | 474 | 13.17 | 460 | 12.78 | 473 | 13.14 |
| seq_6_3_3 | 36 | 532 | 14.78 | 526 | 14.61 | 521 | 14.47 | 487 | 13.53 | 508 | 14.11 |
| seq-7-0_0 | 36 | 512 | 14.22 | 550 | 15.28 | 505 | 14.03 | 632 | 17.56 | 491 | 13.64 |
| seq-7.0_1 | 36 | 547 | 15.19 | 539 | 14.97 | 467 | 12.97 | 453 | 12.58 | 403 | 11.19 |
| seq-7.0_2 | 36 | 478 | 13.28 | 467 | 12.97 | 504 | 14.0 | 538 | 14.94 | 490 | 13.61 |
| seq-7.0_3 | 36 | 518 | 14.39 | 474 | 13.17 | 513 | 14.25 | 540 | 15.0 | 485 | 13.47 |
| seq-7.1.1 | 36 | 509 | 14.14 | 479 | 13.31 | 475 | 13.19 | 480 | 13.33 | 498 | 13.83 |
| seq-7_1_2 | 36 | 463 | 12.86 | 383 | 10.64 | 504 | 14.0 | 516 | 14.33 | 517 | 14.36 |
| seq-7.1_3 | 36 | 452 | 12.56 | 475 | 13.19 | 567 | 15.75 | 543 | 15.08 | 478 | 13.28 |
| seq-7.2.2 | 36 | 532 | 14.78 | 492 | 13.67 | 467 | 12.97 | 593 | 16.47 | 448 | 12.44 |
| seq-7.2_3 | 36 | 581 | 16.14 | 468 | 13.0 | 574 | 15.94 | 456 | 12.67 | 532 | 14.78 |
| seq-7-3_3 | 36 | 452 | 12.56 | 537 | 14.92 | 511 | 14.19 | 456 | 12.67 | 549 | 15.25 |

Table 3: Standard QUBO embedding result (2 of 2).

| Graph name | Logical Qubits | Physical 1 | Average 1 | Physical 2 | Average 2 | Physical 3 | Average 3 | Physical 4 | Average 4 | Physical 5 | Average 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| seq-8_0_0 | 36 | 519 | 14.42 | 546 | 15.17 | 547 | 15.19 | 602 | 16.72 | 462 | 12.83 |
| seq-8_0_1 | 36 | 556 | 15.44 | 428 | 11.89 | 508 | 14.11 | 447 | 12.42 | 502 | 13.94 |
| seq-8_0_2 | 36 | 641 | 17.81 | 516 | 14.33 | 459 | 12.75 | 500 | 13.89 | 531 | 14.75 |
| seq_8_0_3 | 36 | 456 | 12.67 | 514 | 14.28 | 469 | 13.03 | 514 | 14.28 | 446 | 12.39 |
| seq_-8_1_1 | 36 | 582 | 16.17 | 596 | 16.56 | 511 | 14.19 | 537 | 14.92 | 512 | 14.22 |
| seq-8_1_2 | 36 | 509 | 14.14 | 487 | 13.53 | 453 | 12.58 | 546 | 15.17 | 530 | 14.72 |
| seq-8_1_3 | 36 | 577 | 16.03 | 516 | 14.33 | 521 | 14.47 | 539 | 14.97 | 504 | 14.0 |
| seq_-8_2 2 | 36 | 522 | 14.5 | 560 | 15.56 | 534 | 14.83 | 513 | 14.25 | 469 | 13.03 |
| seq_8_2_3 | 36 | 399 | 11.08 | 528 | 14.67 | 531 | 14.75 | 524 | 14.56 | 483 | 13.42 |
| seq-8_3_3 | 36 | 460 | 12.78 | 553 | 15.36 | 429 | 11.92 | 500 | 13.89 | 532 | 14.78 |
| seq-9-0_0 | 36 | 492 | 13.67 | 507 | 14.08 | 428 | 11.89 | 483 | 13.42 | 468 | 13.0 |
| seq-9_0_1 | 36 | 511 | 14.19 | 471 | 13.08 | 522 | 14.5 | 499 | 13.86 | 495 | 13.75 |
| seq_-9_0_2 | 36 | 528 | 14.67 | 524 | 14.56 | 495 | 13.75 | 426 | 11.83 | 545 | 15.14 |
| seq-9-0_3 | 36 | 513 | 14.25 | 444 | 12.33 | 466 | 12.94 | 464 | 12.89 | 439 | 12.19 |
| seq-9-1_1 | 36 | 416 | 11.56 | 446 | 12.39 | 445 | 12.36 | 392 | 10.89 | 564 | 15.67 |
| seq-9-1_2 | 36 | 486 | 13.5 | 492 | 13.67 | 498 | 13.83 | 549 | 15.25 | 483 | 13.42 |
| seq-9-1_3 | 36 | 570 | 15.83 | 516 | 14.33 | 418 | 11.61 | 440 | 12.22 | 502 | 13.94 |
| seq-9-2_2 | 36 | 477 | 13.25 | 508 | 14.11 | 496 | 13.78 | 467 | 12.97 | 471 | 13.08 |
| seq-9.2_3 | 36 | 550 | 15.28 | 563 | 15.64 | 508 | 14.11 | 508 | 14.11 | 446 | 12.39 |
| seq-9-3_3 | 36 | 454 | 12.61 | 457 | 12.69 | 493 | 13.69 | 505 | 14.03 | 472 | 13.11 |
| seq_10_0_0 | 36 | 416 | 11.56 | 629 | 17.47 | 513 | 14.25 | 473 | 13.14 | 456 | 12.67 |
| seq_10_0_1 | 36 | 471 | 13.08 | 517 | 14.36 | 479 | 13.31 | 493 | 13.69 | 454 | 12.61 |
| seq-10_0_2 | 36 | 424 | 11.78 | 468 | 13.0 | 513 | 14.25 | 517 | 14.36 | 453 | 12.58 |
| seq-10_0-3 | 36 | 495 | 13.75 | 401 | 11.14 | 430 | 11.94 | 513 | 14.25 | 498 | 13.83 |
| seq_10_1_1 | 36 | 464 | 12.89 | 338 | 9.39 | 431 | 11.97 | 455 | 12.64 | 516 | 14.33 |
| seq-10_1_2 | 36 | 442 | 12.28 | 482 | 13.39 | 488 | 13.56 | 484 | 13.44 | 528 | 14.67 |
| seq-10_1_3 | 36 | 572 | 15.89 | 445 | 12.36 | 466 | 12.94 | 446 | 12.39 | 543 | 15.08 |
| seq_10_2_2 | 36 | 508 | 14.11 | 564 | 15.67 | 481 | 13.36 | 539 | 14.97 | 491 | 13.64 |
| seq_10_2_3 | 36 | 467 | 12.97 | 525 | 14.58 | 465 | 12.92 | 502 | 13.94 | 525 | 14.58 |
| seq_10_3_3 | 36 | 477 | 13.25 | 479 | 13.31 | 518 | 14.39 | 463 | 12.86 | 443 | 12.31 |
| seq_11_0_0 | 36 | 475 | 13.19 | 536 | 14.89 | 486 | 13.5 | 493 | 13.69 | 464 | 12.89 |
| seq_11_0_1 | 36 | 495 | 13.75 | 446 | 12.39 | 472 | 13.11 | 463 | 12.86 | 405 | 11.25 |
| seq_11_1_1 | 36 | 417 | 11.58 | 418 | 11.61 | 458 | 12.72 | 506 | 14.06 | 455 | 12.64 |
| seq_12_0_0 | 36 | 595 | 16.53 | 529 | 14.69 | 484 | 13.44 | 472 | 13.11 | 493 | 13.69 |
| seq_12_0_1 | 36 | 478 | 13.28 | 469 | 13.03 | 510 | 14.17 | 467 | 12.97 | 552 | 15.33 |
| seq_12_0_2 | 36 | 476 | 13.22 | 459 | 12.75 | 546 | 15.17 | 472 | 13.11 | 486 | 13.5 |
| seq_12_0_3 | 36 | 465 | 12.92 | 520 | 14.44 | 421 | 11.69 | 452 | 12.56 | 511 | 14.19 |
| seq_12_1_1 | 36 | 548 | 15.22 | 540 | 15.0 | 488 | 13.56 | 560 | 15.56 | 482 | 13.39 |
| seq_12_1_2 | 36 | 585 | 16.25 | 459 | 12.75 | 539 | 14.97 | 381 | 10.58 | 487 | 13.53 |
| seq_12_1_3 | 36 | 423 | 11.75 | 481 | 13.36 | 493 | 13.69 | 454 | 12.61 | 470 | 13.06 |
| seq_12_2_2 | 36 | 487 | 13.53 | 527 | 14.64 | 507 | 14.08 | 474 | 13.17 | 465 | 12.92 |
| seq_12_2_3 | 36 | 494 | 13.72 | 433 | 12.03 | 609 | 16.92 | 466 | 12.94 | 432 | 12.0 |
| seq_12_3_3 | 36 | 435 | 12.08 | 527 | 14.64 | 579 | 16.08 | 411 | 11.42 | 374 | 10.39 |
| seq_13_0_0 | 36 | 524 | 14.56 | 483 | 13.42 | 558 | 15.5 | 536 | 14.89 | 500 | 13.89 |
| seq_13_0_1 | 36 | 465 | 12.92 | 488 | 13.56 | 392 | 10.89 | 459 | 12.75 | 497 | 13.81 |
| seq_13_0_2 | 36 | 369 | 10.25 | 469 | 13.03 | 480 | 13.33 | 439 | 12.19 | 468 | 13.0 |
| seq_13_1_1 | 36 | 484 | 13.44 | 444 | 12.33 | 584 | 16.22 | 478 | 13.28 | 578 | 16.06 |
| Seq_13_1_2 | 36 | 456 | 12.67 | 538 | 14.94 | 464 | 12.89 | 438 | 12.17 | 440 | 12.22 |
| seq_13_2_2 | 36 | 477 | 13.25 | 494 | 13.72 | 524 | 14.56 | 498 | 13.83 | 541 | 15.03 |

Table 4: Improved (degree mapping) QUBO embedding result (1 of 2).

| Graph name | Logical Qubits | Physical 1 | Average 1 | Physical 2 | Average 2 | Physical 3 | Average 3 | Physical 4 | Average 4 | Physical 5 | Average 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| seq-0_0_0 | 14 | 29 | 2.07 | 33 | 2.36 | 28 | 2.0 | 30 | 2.14 | 35 | 2.5 |
| seq-0_0_1 | 14 | 35 | 2.5 | 31 | 2.21 | 35 | 2.5 | 31 | 2.21 | 32 | 2.29 |
| seq-0_1_1 | 14 | 43 | 3.07 | 35 | 2.5 | 32 | 2.29 | 57 | 4.07 | 33 | 2.36 |
| seq-1_0_0 | 18 | 78 | 4.33 | 85 | 4.72 | 89 | 4.94 | 87 | 4.83 | 88 | 4.89 |
| seq-1_0_1 | 18 | 83 | 4.61 | 91 | 5.06 | 73 | 4.06 | 85 | 4.72 | 99 | 5.5 |
| seq-1_0_2 | 18 | 86 | 4.78 | 101 | 5.61 | 83 | 4.61 | 75 | 4.17 | 86 | 4.78 |
| seq-1.1.1 | 18 | 87 | 4.83 | 81 | 4.5 | 86 | 4.78 | 80 | 4.44 | 89 | 4.94 |
| seq-1_1_2 | 18 | 80 | 4.44 | 84 | 4.67 | 91 | 5.06 | 86 | 4.78 | 94 | 5.22 |
| seq-1_2_2 | 18 | 87 | 4.83 | 95 | 5.28 | 98 | 5.44 | 77 | 4.28 | 91 | 5.06 |
| seq-2_0_0 | 12 | 16 | 1.33 | 18 | 1.5 | 16 | 1.33 | 15 | 1.25 | 22 | 1.83 |
| seq-2_0_1 | 12 | 36 | 3.0 | 40 | 3.33 | 20 | 1.67 | 41 | 3.42 | 50 | 4.17 |
| seq-2_0_2 | 12 | 30 | 2.5 | 27 | 2.25 | 29 | 2.42 | 46 | 3.83 | 27 | 2.25 |
| seq-2_0_3 | 12 | 26 | 2.17 | 27 | 2.25 | 34 | 2.83 | 24 | 2.0 | 22 | 1.83 |
| seq-2_1_1 | 12 | 19 | 1.58 | 23 | 1.92 | 25 | 2.08 | 22 | 1.83 | 27 | 2.25 |
| seq-2-1_2 | 12 | 32 | 2.67 | 20 | 1.67 | 23 | 1.92 | 29 | 2.42 | 31 | 2.58 |
| seq-2_1_3 | 12 | 32 | 2.67 | 29 | 2.42 | 29 | 2.42 | 30 | 2.5 | 22 | 1.83 |
| seq_2_2_2 | 12 | 25 | 2.08 | 24 | 2.0 | 32 | 2.67 | 24 | 2.0 | 22 | 1.83 |
| seq-2_2_3 | 12 | 28 | 2.33 | 32 | 2.67 | 25 | 2.08 | 35 | 2.92 | 26 | 2.17 |
| seq-2_3_3 | 12 | 24 | 2.0 | 24 | 2.0 | 20 | 1.67 | 23 | 1.92 | 21 | 1.75 |
| seq-3_0_0 | 12 | 24 | 2.0 | 26 | 2.17 | 25 | 2.08 | 25 | 2.08 | 25 | 2.08 |
| seq-3_0_1 | 12 | 38 | 3.17 | 27 | 2.25 | 35 | 2.92 | 30 | 2.5 | 27 | 2.25 |
| seq-3_0_2 | 12 | 29 | 2.42 | 27 | 2.25 | 35 | 2.92 | 27 | 2.25 | 27 | 2.25 |
| seq-3_0_3 | 12 | 27 | 2.25 | 31 | 2.58 | 29 | 2.42 | 31 | 2.58 | 28 | 2.33 |
| seq_3_1_1 | 12 | 29 | 2.42 | 25 | 2.08 | 27 | 2.25 | 30 | 2.5 | 25 | 2.08 |
| seq_3_1_2 | 12 | 29 | 2.42 | 28 | 2.33 | 30 | 2.5 | 25 | 2.08 | 32 | 2.67 |
| seq-3_1_3 | 12 | 27 | 2.25 | 32 | 2.67 | 30 | 2.5 | 28 | 2.33 | 31 | 2.58 |
| seq_3_2_2 | 12 | 26 | 2.17 | 28 | 2.33 | 29 | 2.42 | 30 | 2.5 | 29 | 2.42 |
| seq-3_2_3 | 12 | 28 | 2.33 | 27 | 2.25 | 27 | 2.25 | 37 | 3.08 | 36 | 3.0 |
| seq-3_3_3 | 12 | 30 | 2.5 | 28 | 2.33 | 29 | 2.42 | 33 | 2.75 | 30 | 2.5 |
| seq-4_0_0 | 10 | 14 | 1.4 | 12 | 1.2 | 12 | 1.2 | 10 | 1.0 | 14 | 1.4 |
| seq-4_0_1 | 10 | 13 | 1.3 | 13 | 1.3 | 14 | 1.4 | 14 | 1.4 | 13 | 1.3 |
| seq-4_1_1 | 10 | 17 | 1.7 | 15 | 1.5 | 15 | 1.5 | 15 | 1.5 | 16 | 1.6 |
| seq-5_0_0 | 10 | 12 | 1.2 | 16 | 1.6 | 18 | 1.8 | 17 | 1.7 | 13 | 1.3 |
| seq-5_0_1 | 10 | 13 | 1.3 | 13 | 1.3 | 12 | 1.2 | 13 | 1.3 | 13 | 1.3 |
| seq-5_1_1 | 10 | 12 | 1.2 | 14 | 1.4 | 10 | 1.0 | 12 | 1.2 | 12 | 1.2 |
| seq_6_0_0 | 20 | 94 | 4.7 | 91 | 4.55 | 93 | 4.65 | 88 | 4.4 | 98 | 4.9 |
| seq-6_0_1 | 20 | 112 | 5.6 | 103 | 5.15 | 107 | 5.35 | 100 | 5.0 | 97 | 4.85 |
| seq_6_0_2 | 20 | 116 | 5.8 | 107 | 5.35 | 115 | 5.75 | 89 | 4.45 | 89 | 4.45 |
| seq-6_0_3 | 20 | 101 | 5.05 | 112 | 5.6 | 109 | 5.45 | 110 | 5.5 | 108 | 5.4 |
| seq-6_1.1 | 20 | 99 | 4.95 | 100 | 5.0 | 99 | 4.95 | 90 | 4.5 | 108 | 5.4 |
| seq-6-1_2 | 20 | 112 | 5.6 | 125 | 6.25 | 109 | 5.45 | 125 | 6.25 | 112 | 5.6 |
| seq-6-1_3 | 20 | 105 | 5.25 | 116 | 5.8 | 104 | 5.2 | 115 | 5.75 | 93 | 4.65 |
| seq-6_2_2 | 20 | 106 | 5.3 | 128 | 6.4 | 108 | 5.4 | 105 | 5.25 | 118 | 5.9 |
| seq_6_2_3 | 20 | 108 | 5.4 | 109 | 5.45 | 116 | 5.8 | 125 | 6.25 | 94 | 4.7 |
| seq-6-3_3 | 20 | 106 | 5.3 | 113 | 5.65 | 115 | 5.75 | 108 | 5.4 | 109 | 5.45 |
| seq-7_0_0 | 14 | 39 | 2.79 | 41 | 2.93 | 44 | 3.14 | 45 | 3.21 | 32 | 2.29 |
| seq-7.0_1 | 14 | 47 | 3.36 | 44 | 3.14 | 48 | 3.43 | 48 | 3.43 | 39 | 2.79 |
| seq-7-0_2 | 14 | 48 | 3.43 | 44 | 3.14 | 47 | 3.36 | 47 | 3.36 | 54 | 3.86 |
| seq-7.0_3 | 14 | 43 | 3.07 | 51 | 3.64 | 39 | 2.79 | 35 | 2.5 | 36 | 2.57 |
| seq-7.1.1 | 14 | 32 | 2.29 | 44 | 3.14 | 34 | 2.43 | 37 | 2.64 | 43 | 3.07 |
| seq-7_1_2 | 14 | 44 | 3.14 | 39 | 2.79 | 45 | 3.21 | 45 | 3.21 | 42 | 3.0 |
| seq_7_1_3 | 14 | 36 | 2.57 | 35 | 2.5 | 41 | 2.93 | 40 | 2.86 | 44 | 3.14 |
| seq-7.2.2 | 14 | 52 | 3.71 | 34 | 2.43 | 35 | 2.5 | 34 | 2.43 | 43 | 3.07 |
| seq_7_2_3 | 14 | 40 | 2.86 | 33 | 2.36 | 45 | 3.21 | 39 | 2.79 | 39 | 2.79 |
| seq-7-3_3 | 14 | 45 | 3.21 | 36 | 2.57 | 67 | 4.79 | 42 | 3.0 | 36 | 2.57 |

Table 4: Improved (degree mapping) QUBO embedding result (2 of 2).

| Graph name | Logical Qubits | Physical 1 | Average 1 | Physical 2 | Average 2 | Physical 3 | Average 3 | Physical 4 | Average 4 | Physical 5 | Average 5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| seq-8_0_0 | 14 | 41 | 2.93 | 30 | 2.14 | 43 | 3.07 | 45 | 3.21 | 42 | 3.0 |
| seq_8_0_1 | 14 | 39 | 2.79 | 58 | 4.14 | 42 | 3.0 | 49 | 3.5 | 43 | 3.07 |
| seq-8_0_2 | 14 | 35 | 2.5 | 59 | 4.21 | 37 | 2.64 | 40 | 2.86 | 40 | 2.86 |
| seq-8_0_3 | 14 | 43 | 3.07 | 60 | 4.29 | 37 | 2.64 | 62 | 4.43 | 64 | 4.57 |
| seq-8_1_1 | 14 | 40 | 2.86 | 33 | 2.36 | 38 | 2.71 | 38 | 2.71 | 40 | 2.86 |
| seq-8_1_2 | 14 | 38 | 2.71 | 39 | 2.79 | 37 | 2.64 | 40 | 2.86 | 42 | 3.0 |
| seq-8_1_3 | 14 | 44 | 3.14 | 47 | 3.36 | 43 | 3.07 | 45 | 3.21 | 48 | 3.43 |
| seq_8_2_2 | 14 | 33 | 2.36 | 37 | 2.64 | 44 | 3.14 | 42 | 3.0 | 33 | 2.36 |
| seq-8_2_3 | 14 | 40 | 2.86 | 55 | 3.93 | 51 | 3.64 | 49 | 3.5 | 50 | 3.57 |
| seq-8_3_3 | 14 | 48 | 3.43 | 37 | 2.64 | 39 | 2.79 | 42 | 3.0 | 46 | 3.29 |
| seq-9_0_0 | 12 | 26 | 2.17 | 30 | 2.5 | 25 | 2.08 | 29 | 2.42 | 30 | 2.5 |
| seq-9_0_1 | 12 | 25 | 2.08 | 26 | 2.17 | 25 | 2.08 | 26 | 2.17 | 34 | 2.83 |
| seq-9-0_2 | 12 | 28 | 2.33 | 32 | 2.67 | 27 | 2.25 | 31 | 2.58 | 28 | 2.33 |
| seq-9_0_3 | 12 | 25 | 2.08 | 34 | 2.83 | 27 | 2.25 | 32 | 2.67 | 29 | 2.42 |
| seq-9_1_1 | 12 | 28 | 2.33 | 26 | 2.17 | 25 | 2.08 | 23 | 1.92 | 26 | 2.17 |
| seq-9_1_2 | 12 | 25 | 2.08 | 27 | 2.25 | 25 | 2.08 | 28 | 2.33 | 27 | 2.25 |
| seq-9-1_3 | 12 | 27 | 2.25 | 29 | 2.42 | 28 | 2.33 | 28 | 2.33 | 29 | 2.42 |
| seq-9.2.2 | 12 | 30 | 2.5 | 30 | 2.5 | 38 | 3.17 | 28 | 2.33 | 25 | 2.08 |
| seq-9.2_3 | 12 | 29 | 2.42 | 29 | 2.42 | 28 | 2.33 | 28 | 2.33 | 26 | 2.17 |
| seq-2-3_3 | 12 | 30 | 2.5 | 29 | 2.42 | 26 | 2.17 | 29 | 2.42 | 28 | 2.33 |
| seq-10_0_0 | 12 | 22 | 1.83 | 25 | 2.08 | 20 | 1.67 | 21 | 1.75 | 22 | 1.83 |
| seq-10_0-1 | 12 | 33 | 2.75 | 25 | 2.08 | 30 | 2.5 | 26 | 2.17 | 30 | 2.5 |
| seq-100-2 | 12 | 27 | 2.25 | 38 | 3.17 | 38 | 3.17 | 22 | 1.83 | 25 | 2.08 |
| seq-10_0_3 | 12 | 22 | 1.83 | 22 | 1.83 | 20 | 1.67 | 22 | 1.83 | 23 | 1.92 |
| seq-10_1_1 | 12 | 26 | 2.17 | 30 | 2.5 | 25 | 2.08 | 28 | 2.33 | 28 | 2.33 |
| seq_10_1_2 | 12 | 37 | 3.08 | 34 | 2.83 | 30 | 2.5 | 43 | 3.58 | 29 | 2.42 |
| seq-101_3 | 12 | 30 | 2.5 | 31 | 2.58 | 25 | 2.08 | 21 | 1.75 | 19 | 1.58 |
| seq-102.2 | 12 | 26 | 2.17 | 28 | 2.33 | 19 | 1.58 | 41 | 3.42 | 24 | 2.0 |
| seq_10_2.3 | 12 | 22 | 1.83 | 34 | 2.83 | 20 | 1.67 | 24 | 2.0 | 27 | 2.25 |
| seq-10333 | 12 | 23 | 1.92 | 31 | 2.58 | 33 | 2.75 | 24 | 2.0 | 26 | 2.17 |
| seq_11_0_0 | 14 | 30 | 2.14 | 34 | 2.43 | 30 | 2.14 | 30 | 2.14 | 29 | 2.07 |
| seq-11_0_1 | 14 | 38 | 2.71 | 40 | 2.86 | 43 | 3.07 | 39 | 2.79 | 42 | 3.0 |
| seq_11_1_1 | 14 | 32 | 2.29 | 36 | 2.57 | 41 | 2.93 | 34 | 2.43 | 34 | 2.43 |
| seq_12_0_0 | 20 | 88 | 4.4 | 95 | 4.75 | 96 | 4.8 | 109 | 5.45 | 93 | 4.65 |
| seq_120_1 | 20 | 104 | 5.2 | 105 | 5.25 | 89 | 4.45 | 92 | 4.6 | 92 | 4.6 |
| seq_12_0_2 | 20 | 96 | 4.8 | 86 | 4.3 | 107 | 5.35 | 98 | 4.9 | 99 | 4.95 |
| seq_12_0_3 | 20 | 113 | 5.65 | 108 | 5.4 | 97 | 4.85 | 95 | 4.75 | 95 | 4.75 |
| seq_12_1_1 | 20 | 115 | 5.75 | 103 | 5.15 | 105 | 5.25 | 110 | 5.5 | 111 | 5.55 |
| seq_12_1_2 | 20 | 107 | 5.35 | 111 | 5.55 | 128 | 6.4 | 114 | 5.7 | 105 | 5.25 |
| seq_12_1_3 | 20 | 111 | 5.55 | 105 | 5.25 | 107 | 5.35 | 102 | 5.1 | 116 | 5.8 |
| seq_12_2_2 | 20 | 101 | 5.05 | 114 | 5.7 | 101 | 5.05 | 116 | 5.8 | 134 | 6.7 |
| seq_12_2_3 | 20 | 102 | 5.1 | 96 | 4.8 | 90 | 4.5 | 100 | 5.0 | 87 | 4.35 |
| seq_12_3_3 | 20 | 104 | 5.2 | 99 | 4.95 | 102 | 5.1 | 99 | 4.95 | 101 | 5.05 |
| seq_13_0_0 | 18 | 81 | 4.5 | 87 | 4.83 | 80 | 4.44 | 92 | 5.11 | 82 | 4.56 |
| seq_13_0-1 | 18 | 82 | 4.56 | 93 | 5.17 | 95 | 5.28 | 79 | 4.39 | 98 | 5.44 |
| seq-13_0_2 | 18 | 93 | 5.17 | 109 | 6.06 | 90 | 5.0 | 93 | 5.17 | 93 | 5.17 |
| seq_13_1_1 | 18 | 81 | 4.5 | 80 | 4.44 | 91 | 5.06 | 72 | 4.0 | 81 | 4.5 |
| seq-13_1_2 | 18 | 78 | 4.33 | 90 | 5.0 | 93 | 5.17 | 91 | 5.06 | 74 | 4.11 |
| seq_13_2.2 | 18 | 77 | 4.28 | 71 | 3.94 | 91 | 5.06 | 80 | 4.44 | 91 | 5.06 |

Table 5: Probability of obtaining optimal solution with 5000 samples

| Graph name | Solution probability <br> Improved QUBO |
| :---: | :---: |
| seq_0_0_0 | 0.9986 |
| seq_0_1_1 | 0.999 |
| seq_1_0_0 | 0.3016 |
| seq_1_1_1 | 0.0102 |
| seq_1_2_2 | 0.9724 |
| seq_2_0_0 | 1.0 |
| seq_2_1_1 | 1.0 |
| seq_2_2_2 | 1.0 |
| seq_2_3_3 | 1.0 |
| seq_3_0_0 | 1.0 |
| seq_3_1_1 | 0.9988 |
| seq_3_2_2 | 1.0 |
| seq_3_3_3 | 0.9964 |
| seq_-_0_0 | 1.0 |
| seq_-_1_1 | 1.0 |
| seq_5_0_0 | 1.0 |
| seq_5_1_1 | 1.0 |
| seq_6_0_0 | 0.9892 |
| seq_6_1_1 | 0.9512 |
| seq_6_2_2 | 0.3754 |
| seq_6_3_3 | 0.684 |
| seq_-_0_0 | 0.9968 |
| seq-7_1_1 | 0.8734 |


| Graph name | Solution probability <br> Improved QUBO |
| :---: | :---: |
| seq_7_2_2 | 0.9962 |
| seq_7_3_3 | 1.0 |
| seq_-__0 | 1.0 |
| seq_-_1_1 | 0.9982 |
| seq_8_2_2 | 0.9998 |
| seq_-3_3_3 | 0.9952 |
| seq_9_0_0 | 0.9992 |
| seq_9_1_1 | 1.0 |
| seq_9_2_2 | 0.9792 |
| seq_9_3_3 | 0.851 |
| seq_10_0_0 | 1.0 |
| seq_1__1_1 | 0.9968 |
| seq_10_2_2 | 1.0 |
| seq_10_3_3 | 1.0 |
| seq_11_0_0 | 0.9976 |
| seq_11_1_1 | 0.9998 |
| seq_12_0_0 | 0.7818 |
| seq_12_1_1 | 0.5208 |
| seq_12_2_2 | 0.8864 |
| seq_12_3_3 | 0.1164 |
| seq_13_0_0 | 0.0 |
| seq_13_1_1 | 0.0448 |
| seq_13_2_2 | 0.2154 |

### 4.2.1 Parameter and option settings

Each different model of D-Wave quantum computers supports a different range of $h$ and $J$ values of Equation (2) for the Ising problem submitted. The particular model used for this experiment (D-Wave 2X) have a $h$ value range of $[-2,2]$ and a $J$ value range of $[-1,1]$. All instances submitted to the hardware will have all entries scaled to the full available value range that is supported by the hardware if the 'auto-scale' parameter is set to true (default). The D-Wave user manual [17] states that one should avoid having $J<-0.8$ for some types of problems. Although the exact reason for this advice is not given in [17], we suspect that this effect is mainly caused by Integrated Control Errors (ICEs) in the D-Wave quantum annealers which are systematic errors in the hardware (see [17] for details on the different types of ICEs D-Wave hardware may have). Since these ICEs are difficult to approximate and unavoidable in general, the 'auto-scale' option is turned off and all entries of the Ising instance are scaled by a factor $s$ to ensure that all $J$ entries are greater than -0.8 . See Python Script D for the implementation.

Another setting the D-Wave software package [15] provides to mitigate the effects of ICEs is the spin reversal setting. The physical process of adiabatic quantum computing can be described by the Adiabatic Theorem [21], which states that the spins $( \pm 1)$ of all qubits will converge to the minimum energy state (ground state) of the system with high probability if the system is let to evolve slow enough. The ground state of the system in this case is defined by the Ising objective function (2) which is dictated by $h$ and $J$ values. Due to systematic errors in the hardware, when physical qubits and couplers in the D-Wave are being programmed, the actual value set for each qubit $(h)$ and coupler $(J)$ may have some positive or negative bias. This essentially means that the Ising instance being solved by the hardware is not a hundred percent accurately described by the Ising model (2). This behavior can be modeled by the following Ising problem:

$$
\begin{equation*}
x^{*}=\min _{\mathbf{x}} \sum_{i j \in E} x_{i}\left(J_{(i, j)}+\delta J_{(i, j)}\right) x_{j}+\sum_{i \in V}\left(h_{i}+\delta h_{i}\right) x_{i} . \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

In Equation (11), $\delta h$ and $\delta J$ are the offset bias values. Depending on how big these biases are, they will affect the probability of getting the optimal solution of the original Ising instance to a different degree. What makes this issue difficult to deal with is the fact that these bias values are not constant but rather depend on $h$ and $J$ values [17]. Once again, there is no definitive way of calculating these biases in theory and we do not have enough resource to empirically measure them for all the different test cases we have. The spin reversal setting provides an alternative. It takes a random subset of all qubits say $S=\left\{x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots x_{n}\right\}$ used and set:

$$
\begin{aligned}
x_{i} & \rightarrow x_{i}^{\prime}=-x_{i} \\
h_{i} & \rightarrow h_{i}^{\prime}=-h_{i} \\
J_{(x, y)} \rightarrow J_{(x, y)}^{\prime} & =J_{(x, y)} \text { if } x=i \text { or } y=i
\end{aligned}
$$

For each $x_{i} \in S$. This operation does not change the energy level of any state of the system and only interprets +1 spins as -1 spins and vice versa. The basic idea is that by doing this, we would essentially be introducing a different set of bias values which may
have a less effect on the entire system as a whole then the original errors. Note that this operation does not guarantee better solution quality (one may get a new set of biases that are even worse), and once again, we do not have the resource to determine the best spin reversal setting for each test case. And therefore the recommended value of 2 [17](default value is 0) is used in Script D. This means rather than submitting one Ising instance to the hardware, two different instances are being created each with a different set of biases. And then the two new instances are executed on the D-Wave quantum annealer separately. The manual [17] does not contain any details on how the random subset $S$ is determined. The spin reversal transformation also avoids (at least to a higher probability) potential programming errors. The D-Wave hardware have a less than $10 \%$ probability of not having physical qubits programmed correctly [17]. By setting spin reversal number to 2 , the chance of error occurring in both trials are reduced to less than $1 \%$.

Before other parameter settings can be discussed, one needs to understand the basic procedure of how D-Wave quantum annealers generate samples. After the Ising instance is programmed into the hardware, there will be a short wait time known as the post-programming thermalization time. Its purpose is to let the chipset cool down as much as it can since the smallest amount of heat could affect the system. The default value of 1000 microseconds is used in this experiment, the user manual [15] states that smaller values will potentially lower the quality of samples. Then the sampling cycle begins. The system will evolve for some time, this is known as the annealing time. During annealing, the states of all physical qubits will converge towards the ground state of the system. The default time of 20 microseconds is used here. In theory, the longer the annealing time (the longer the system is let to evolve), the higher the probability it will end up in the ground state of the system [6]. However, in practice, the longer annealing takes place, the more susceptible the system becomes to noise due to heat leakage. As a result, a short annealing time is much suitable for current hardware and so we used the minimum annealing time of 20 microseconds (default) as suggested by previous experimental work such as $[1,18,28,31]$. The state of each qubits will be read at the end of annealing and this counts as one sample. The system will also take some extra time after reading one sample to properly cool down again and this is known as the post-readout thermalization time. Once again, the user manual [15] mentions that lower values of this parameter will reduce solution quality so a value of 100 microseconds is used instead of the default value which is 0 microseconds. Note that, this default time is not referenced in the user manual [15], since this number seems to be different for each model $[15,17]$. This default value can be found by using an API call to the actual D-Wave 2 X hardware. The annealing cycle is only done once by default, this makes estimating the probability of obtaining the optimal solution impossible to calculate. Therefore in Script D, the process is set to repeat 5000 times, generating 5000 samples for each test case. Note that since the number of spin reversal is set to $2,5000 / 2=2500$ samples are taken for each of the two transformed instances.

After obtaining the samples for an Ising instance, it is then mapped back into the corresponding solutions to the original QUBO instance. This function used to do so is the one implemented in the D-Wave API [15]. Recall that the embedding maps each logical qubit of the QUBO problem to a set of connected physical qubits in the hardware. Sometimes, the set of physical qubits for a single logical qubit does not have a consistent answer (i.e. a combination of +1 and -1 spins). In this case, a majority vote is taken among the physical
qubits to determine the final value for the logical qubit. There is also a post-processing optimization option available, it will attempt to optimize the sample obtained using certain classical algorithm, the manual $[15,16]$ does not have much detail on exactly what type of algorithm is used and it does not seem to affect the overall probability of getting the optimal solution much based on previous experimental work [1, 18, 28].

## 5 Discussion and Conclusions

As mentioned in Section 4.2.1, 5000 samples are generated for each instance of our tests. The number of correct optimal solution for each instance is then calculated and the probabilities are given in Table 5. Note that only the probabilities for the improved QUBOs are given. For all the standard QUBOs, the D-Wave 2X we used failed to find any optimal solutions with 5000 samples hence making the estimating the probabilities impossible. Note we did verify the correctness of the QUBOs via a classical algorithm using the CPLEX library [23] (see [26] for the implementation).

As can be seen in the Table 5, the improved QUBOs have consistently high probabilities of obtaining the optimal solution for most test cases. There are also a few exceptions, see the highlighted entries in Table 5. The embeddings of these highlighted test cases are at least on par with the rest, but the probability of obtaining the optimal solution is significantly lower the rest of the test cases. While we do not have a definitive answer that explains this result, we suspect it may have been caused by some unexpected sudden background noise at the time of the experiment. The test cases were executed on the hardware in batches over several days so it is very difficult to pinpoint exactly what was causing the problem (see [17] for a summary of potential sources).

Based on the embedding results in Table 3 and 4, we have calculated the ratio of improvement in terms of the number of qubits required. Let qubitsimp and qubits $_{\text {std }}$ be the number of qubits required by Equation (6) and (3) respectively, we define the ratio of improvement as $1-\frac{\text { qubits }_{i m p}}{\text { qubits }_{\text {std }}}$. The ratio of improvement of both logical and physical qubits for each test cases in these tables are shown in Figure 1 in the same order as they are listed in Table 3 and 4 . Note that we only used the best embedding (one with minimum average map size) when calculating the ratio of improvements for physical qubits. As can be seen, there are very clear clusterings in both figures. Test cases with the same degree sequence will have the exactly same number of logical qubits and since there are only fourteen different degree sequences, the clusterings are expected. Another thing to note is that the improvement ratio post-embedding is in general a lot higher. It has been shown in [9] that it requires $O\left(n^{2}\right)$ physical qubits to embed a complete graph of order $n$ in the Chimera architecture. This means that any small improvement in the number of logical qubits should be magnified after embedding hence the increased ratio of improvement, as we see here.

It is interesting to see how the ratio of improvement scales with much larger graphs so we also computed the expected ratio of improvement for random graphs. There are several different models to generate random graphs, we consider the case where the edges in the graph are chosen independently each with probability $p$, that is, the probability of an edge existing between two vertices $v_{i}$ and $v_{j}$ is $p$ for some $0<p \leq 1$. See [7, 8] for more details


Figure 1: Ratio of improvement in QUBO variables.
about this model. The graphs we consider here will be too large to be embedded in current D-Wave computer. So only the expected improvement ratio for logical qubits are computed. Given a random graph $G=(V, E)$ with order $n$ and a vertex $v \in V$, the probability of $\operatorname{deg}(v)=k$ can be calculated by the following formula from [7]

$$
f(n, k)=\binom{n-1}{k} p^{k}(1-p)^{n-1-k}
$$

Intuitively, vertex $v$ has $k$ neighbors, chosen from $n-1$ vertices, each with independent probability $p$ and hence the formula follows. See [7] for a more detailed discussion. Note that to randomly choose $k$ neighbors each with probability $p$ is the same as to randomly choose $n-k-1$ non-neighbors each with probability $1-p$, so the value of $f(n, k)$ is identical for $p_{1}$ and $p_{2}$ if $p_{1}=1-p_{2}$.

Since the degree of a vertex can range from 0 to $n-1$, if $u$ and $v$ are two vertices, then the probability of $\operatorname{deg}(u)=\operatorname{deg}(v)$ can be expressed as $\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} f(n, k)^{2}$. If $\operatorname{deg}(u)=\operatorname{deg}(v) \neq 0$ then we would need one binary variable $x_{u, v}$ and so the expected number of variables we need is $n^{2} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} f(n, k)^{2}$. Formula (3) always require $n^{2}$ binary variables, so the expected ratio of improvement is exactly $1-\sum_{k=1}^{n-1} f(n, k)^{2}$. We calculated the expected ratio of improvement for $n$ up to 1000 along with different values of $p$, see Figure 2. The degree of a vertex can range from 0 to $n-1$ and the distribution of the degrees should be the most uniform at $p=0.5$. A more uniform distribution of degrees suits Formula (6) better since there will be less vertices pairs of the same degree and hence the highest ratio of improvement we see in Figure 2. Overall, the result is very positive for large random graphs. The ratio of improvement increases as $n$ goes up and exceeds $95 \%$ very quickly at around $n=130,160$ and 360 for $p=0.5,0.3$ and 0.1 respectively. And it is reasonable to assume it will be even better post-embedding (recall that the number of qubits scales quadratically post-embedding).

In summary, compared to the standard QUBO formulation in [13], the improved version given in Section 3 requires only a small amount of classical computation overhead. See Script C and the appendix of [12] for a comparison of the implementation of the two QUBO formulations. The payoff of this classical preprocessing overhead is paramount. Not only does the improved version works a lot better with current hardware, the scaling behavior shown in Figure 2 also demonstrates that this approach is very suitable for hardware of much larger scale. Furthermore, there are other similar approach to boost the performance


Figure 2: Expected ratio of improvement for graphs of order $n$ up to 1000 .
even more. For example, by Theorem 1, to check if $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are isomorphic, we can check whether the complement of $G_{1}$ and $G_{2}$ are isomorphic instead. So it is relatively straightforward to see that we can generate two different QUBO instances for each test case, and use whichever gives a better embedding in practice. We plan to study some of these properties further in the future.

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## A Sage Script to Generate All Graphs of Order 6

```
import sys
n = 6
seq_count = 0
# iterate all degree sequences of length 6
for seq in DegreeSequences(n):
    list_of_graphs = graphs(n, degree_sequence = seq)
    num_chosen_graphs = 0
    # count the number of graphs selected as test cases
    for graph in list_of_graphs:
        if graph.is_connected() and graph.complement().is_connected():
            if (not (graph.is_tree())) and (not graph.complement().is_tree()):
                num_chosen_graphs += 1
    if num_chosen_graphs > 1:
        list_of_graphs = graphs(n, degree_sequence = seq)
        print str(seq),"#",seq_count
        print str(num_chosen_graphs)
        for graph in list_of_graphs:
            if (not (graph.is_tree())) and (not graph.complement().is_tree()) :
                if graph.is_connected() and graph.complement().is_connected():
                        print str(graph.order())
                        for i in graph.vertices():
                        for j in graph.neighbors(i): print j,
                        print
        seq_count += 1
```

listings/ds_sage.sage

## B Python Script to Generate the QUBOs

```
# usage: this program takes the output generated by Script A for one degree
    sequence from the standard input stream
import sys, random
import networkx as nx
import graph_util as util
```

```
# get the degree sequence and the number of graphs that corresponds to it
seq = eval(sys.stdin.readline())
print seq
num_graphs = int(sys.stdin.readline().strip())
print num_graphs
# get all graphs correspond to the degree sequence
graph_list = []
for i in range(num_graphs):
    n = int(sys.stdin.readline().strip())
    G = nx.empty_graph(n, create_using = nx.Graph())
    for u in range(n):
        neighbors = sys.stdin.readline().split()
        for v in neighbors:
            G.add_edge(u, int(v))
    graph_list.append(G)
# generate all qubos per graph pair
for i in range(num_graphs):
    G_1 = graph_list[i]
    for j in range(i, num_graphs):
        G_2 = graph_list[j]
        # generate random vertex permutation
        perm = list(range(G_2.order()))
        random.shuffle(perm)
        # permute G_2
        G_2 = util.vertex_permutation(G_2, perm)
        # qubo generated using the standard formula
        (Q, n, vars_dict) = util.generate_standard_qubo(G_1, G_2)
        util.print_qubo(Q,n)
        print 'perm = ', perm
        print 'vars =', vars_dict
        # qubo generated using the improved formula
        (Q, n, vars_dict) = util.generate_deg_map_qubo(G_1, G_2)
        util.print_qubo(Q,n)
        print 'perm = ', perm
        print 'vars =', vars_dict
```

listings/generate_all_qubo.py

## C Python Utility Script

```
import networkx as \(n x\)
import sys
def vertex_permutation ( \(\mathrm{G}, \mathrm{p}\) ) :
    \(\mathrm{n}=\mathrm{G}\). order ()
```

```
    GP = nx.empty_graph(n, create_using=nx. Graph())
    for (u,v) in G.edges():
        GP.add_edge(p[u],p[v])
    return GP
def print_qubo(Q,n):
    print n
    for i in range(n):
        for j in range(n):
                print Q[i,j],
        print
def generate_standard_qubo(G1, G2):
    n1 = G1.order()
    n2 = G2.order()
    if not(n1 = n2):
        print 'Order of graphs not the same'
        return
    varsDict, edgeDict = {}, {}
    for i in range(n2):
        for j in range(n2):
            if ((i,j) in G2.edges()) or ((j, i) in G2.edges()):
                        edgeDict[i,j],edgeDict[j,i] = 1,1
            else:
                edgeDict[i,j], edgeDict[j, i] = 0,0
    index = 0
    for i in range(n1):
        for j in range(n2):
            varsDict[(i, j)] = index
            index += 1
    # initialize Q
    Q = {}
    for i in range(n1*n2):
        for j in range(n1*n2):
            Q[i,j] = 0
    a=2
    b}=
    # HA part 1
    # -2 sum xi,i,
    for i in range(n1):
        for iprime in range(n2):
            index = varsDict[(i,iprime)]
            Q[index,index] -= 2*a
        for iprime1 in range(n2):
            for iprime2 in range(n2):
                index1 = varsDict[(i,iprime1)]
                index2 = varsDict[(i,iprime2)]
                Q[index1, index2] += 1*a
    # HA part 2
    for iprime in range(n2):
        for i in range(n1):
```

```
            index = varsDict[(i,iprime)]
            Q[index,index] -= 2
        for i1 in range(n1):
            for i2 in range(n1):
                index1 = varsDict[(i1,iprime)]
                index2 = varsDict[(i2,iprime)]
                Q[index1, index2] += 1
    # Pij
    for (i,j) in G1.edges():
        for iprime in range(n2):
        xiiprime = varsDict[(i,iprime)]
        for jprime in range(n2):
            xjjprime = varsDict[(j,jprime)]
            Q[xiiprime,xjjprime] += b*(1-edgeDict[iprime,jprime])
    # Making Q uppertriangular
    for i in range(n1*n2):
        for j in range(n1*n2):
            if (i > j) and (not(Q[i,j]==0)):
                Q[j,i] += Q[i,j]
                Q[i,j] = 0
    return Q,n1*n2,varsDict
def generate_deg_map_qubo(G1, G2):
    n1 = G1.order()
    n2 = G2.order()
    if not(n1 = n2):
        print 'Order of graphs not the same'
        return
    varsDict, edgeDict = {},{}
    for i in range(n2):
    for j in range(n2):
        if ((i,j) in G2.edges()) or ((j,i) in G2.edges()):
            edgeDict[i,j],edgeDict[j, i] = 1,1
            else:
            edgeDict[i,j],edgeDict[j,i] = 0,0
index = 0
total_num_var = 0
for i in range(n1):
        for j in range(n2):
            if G1.degree(i) = G2.degree(j):
            varsDict[(i,j)] = index
            index += 1
            total_num_var += 1
    # initialize Q
    Q = {}
    for i in range(total_num_var):
        for j in range(total_num_var):
            Q[i,j] = 0
```

```
a}=
b = 3
# HA part 1
# -2 sum xi,i,
for i in range(n1):
    for iprime in range(n2):
        if (i, iprime) in varsDict:
            index = varsDict[(i, iprime)]
            Q[index,index] -= 2*a
for iprime1 in range(n2):
    for iprime2 in range(n2):
                if (i, iprime1) in varsDict and (i,iprime2) in varsDict:
                    index1 = varsDict[(i,iprime1)]
                        index2 = varsDict[(i,iprime2)]
                Q[index1, index2] += 1*a
# HA part 2
for iprime in range(n2):
    for i in range(n1):
            if (i,iprime) in varsDict:
                index = varsDict[(i, iprime)]
                Q[index, index] -= 2
    for i1 in range(n1):
        for i2 in range(n1):
            if (i1, iprime) in varsDict and (i2, iprime) in varsDict:
                    index1 = varsDict[(i1,iprime)]
                    index2 = varsDict[(i2,iprime)]
                        Q[index1, index2] += 1
# Pij
for (i,j) in G1.edges():
    for iprime in range(n2):
        if (i, iprime) in varsDict:
            xiiprime = varsDict[(i,iprime)]
            for jprime in range(n2):
                if (j,jprime) in varsDict:
                        xjjprime = varsDict[(j,jprime)]
                        Q[xiiprime,xjjprime] += b*(1-edgeDict[iprime,jprime])
# Making Q uppertriangular
    for i in range(total_num_var):
    for j in range(total_num_var):
        if (i>j) and ( not (Q [i,j]==0)):
            Q[j,i] += Q[i,j]
            Q[i,j] = 0
return Q,total_num_var, varsDict
```

listings/graph_util.py

## D Python Script to Solve QUBO Using D-Wave 2X

```
import sys, time, math, traceback
from dwave_sapi2.remote import RemoteConnection
from dwave_sapi2.util import get_hardware_adjacency
from dwave_sapi2.embedding import embed_problem, unembed_answer
from dwave_sapi2.util import qubo_to_ising, ising_to_qubo
from dwave_sapi2.core import solve_ising
from sys import exc_info
# read input
line=sys.stdin.readline().strip ().split()
print('header:', line)
n=int(line[0])
#Q = defaultdict(int)
Q = {}
for i in range(n):
    line=sys.stdin.readline().strip ().split()
    for j in range(n):
        t = float(line[j])
        if t==0: continue
        if i <= j: Q[(i,j)]=Q. setdefault ((i, j),0)+t
        else: Q Q (j, i )]=Q.setdefault (( j , i ),0)+t
print('Q=',Q)
(H,J,ising_offset ) = qubo_to_ising(Q)
print sys.stdin.readline().strip()
print sys.stdin.readline().strip()
embedding=eval(sys.stdin.readline())
print 'embedding=', embedding
qubits = sum(len(embed) for embed in embedding)
print 'Physical qubits used= %s' % qubits
# create a remote connection using url and token and connect to solver
#
print('Attempting to connect to network...')
try:
    remote_connection = RemoteConnection(url, token)
    solver = remote_connection.get_solver(solver_name)
except:
    print('Error: %s %s %s' % sys.exc_info() [0:3])
    traceback.print_exc()
#print('Solver properties:\n%s\n' % solver.properties)
A = get_hardware_adjacency(solver)
# Embed problem into hardware
```

```
(h0, j0, jc, new_emb) = embed_problem(H, J, embedding, A)
#print 'new_emb=',new_emb
assert new_emb==embedding
# compute scale s so in range [-.8,1]
print "min h0, j0",min(h0)/2.1,min(j0.values())
print "max h0, j0",max(h0)/2.1, max(j0.values())
maxH=0.0
if len(h0): maxH=max(abs(min(h0)), abs(max(h0)))
maxJ=max(abs(min(j0.values())), abs(max(j0.values())))
maxV=max (maxH / 2.0 , maxJ )
s = 0.8/maxV
h1= [val*s for val in h0]
j1 = {}
for (key, val) in j0.iteritems():
    j1[key]=val *s
print 'd-wave Ising'
print 'h1=',h1
print 'j1=',j1
print "min h1, j1",min(h1),min(j1.values())
print "max h1, j1",max(h1),max(j1.values())
assert max(h1)<= 2.01
assert min(h1) >= -2.01
assert max(j1.values()) <= 1.01
assert min(j1.values()) >= -0.81
j1.update(jc)
for spins in [2]: # [[2,4,8,16]:
    #break
    annealT, progT, readT = 20,1000,100
    print ', annealT=', annealT, 'progT=', progT, 'readT=', readT,'spins=', spins
    result = solve_ising(solver, h1, j1, num_reads=5000, annealing_time=annealT
        ,\
            programming_thermalization=progT, readout_thermalization=readT,
            postprocess='optimization',\
            num_spin_reversal_transforms=spins, auto_scale=False)
    print 'result:', result
    newresult = unembed_answer(result['solutions'], new_emb, broken_chains='vote
        ', h=H, j=J)
    print 'newresult:', newresult
```

E Drawings of Test Graphs

seq_0_0

seq_2_0

seq_0_1

seq_2_1

seq_5_1

seq_7_0

seq_6_0

seq_1_0

seq_2_2

seq_4_0

seq_6_1

seq_7_2

seq_6_2

seq_7_3



[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Note that this publication refers to map size as 'chain length' which could be somewhat misleading since the set of physical qubits is not necessarily a path.

