

EVIDEN



The BACQ Project on Quantum Computing Benchmarks

BACQ: « Benchmarks applicatifs pour les calculateurs quantiques »

Damien Nicolazic
Quantum Computing Engineer
HPC user Forum – October 08th, 2025



© Eviden SAS – Confidential



EVIDEN

Content overview

01

The BACQ Project

02

First Insights into BACQ Metrics



EVIDEN



01 The BACQ Project



BACQ: Application-oriented benchmarks for quantum computers



- **Main goal**

- A **measuring instrument** for the **objective evaluation** of the **quantum computing practical performance**
- Unbiased, “universal”, long-lasting, reproducible, **widely-used and recognized** to serve as **common reference**

- **Purpose**

- Comparing different quantum computing technologies with classical computers
- Assessing the progress towards useful quantum computing

*Benchmarks adapted to
analog to gate-based machines
NISQ to FTQC*

- **How?**

- An open-access set of benchmarks close to real applications, meaningful for industrial end-users

BACQ: A collaborative R&D project

- **Key figures**

- 3-year project (Sept. 2023 – August 2026)
- 6 partners : Thales, Eviden, CEA, CNRS, Teratec, LNE
- 7,2 FTE/year
- 3,9 M€ budget

- **Major outcomes after 3 years**

- First set of validated application-oriented benchmarks
- Multi-criteria notation model for quantum computers



- **Access to QC and emulators**

- Direct collaboration with QPU providers
- HQI / CEA TGCC (HPC-QC)
- EuroHPC (EU QC hosting sites)
- Eviden Qaptiva Appliance

- **Long term vision**

- LNE, as independent trusted third party:
- Makes the benchmarking tools publicly available
- Collects and publishes the evaluation results

- **Maximizing impact**

- Consultations (Industry – Tech. providers and End-users - , Academia, Gov. agencies...)
- EU and international cooperation (R&D teams, benchmarking initiatives...)
- Standardization (AFNOR, CEN-CENELEC, ISO/IEC, IEEE)
- Publications & Communications

❖ Scientific approach

*Benchmarks adapted to
analog to gate-based machines
NISQ to FTQC*

1. Definition of reference problems to be solved

- [Optimization – Simulation of quantum physics – Linear system solving – Factorization]

2. Definition of technical metrics for their resolution

- [Computational and energetic]

3. Aggregation of the metrics and multi-criteria analysis to derive high-level operational indicators

BACQ: The generic reference problems considered

EVIDEN
an atos business

cea

**Simulation
of Quantum Physics
(Ising model in transverse
field, 2D Hubbard model,
BCS model)**

cea

THALES
Building a future we can all trust

**Optimization
(including MAXCUT /
Q-Score)**

EVIDEN
an atos business

cea

THALES
Building a future we can all trust

Linear Systems Solving

cnrs

cea

Prime factorization

EVIDEN

 **LABORATOIRE
NATIONAL
DE METROLOGIE
ET D'ESSAIS**

THALES
Building a future we can all trust

© Eviden SAS - Confidential

EVIDEN
an atos business

cea

cnrs

Teratec

- **[Simulation of Quantum Physics]**

- Many-body Score
- Many body fidelity

- **[Optimization]**

- Q-score MaxCut
- Accuracy indexed by noise level
- Compilation-dependent criteria
- Probability of obtaining the optimum
- Min case/Max case gap with regards to the optimum
- Size of the problem in number of variables, number of qubits to solve the problem, class of problem addressed

- **[Linear Systems Solving]**

- Accuracy indexed by noise level
- Compilation-dependent criteria
- Probability of solving the problem, number of variables and precision in qubits
- Algorithm-dependent energetic criteria

- **[Factorization]**

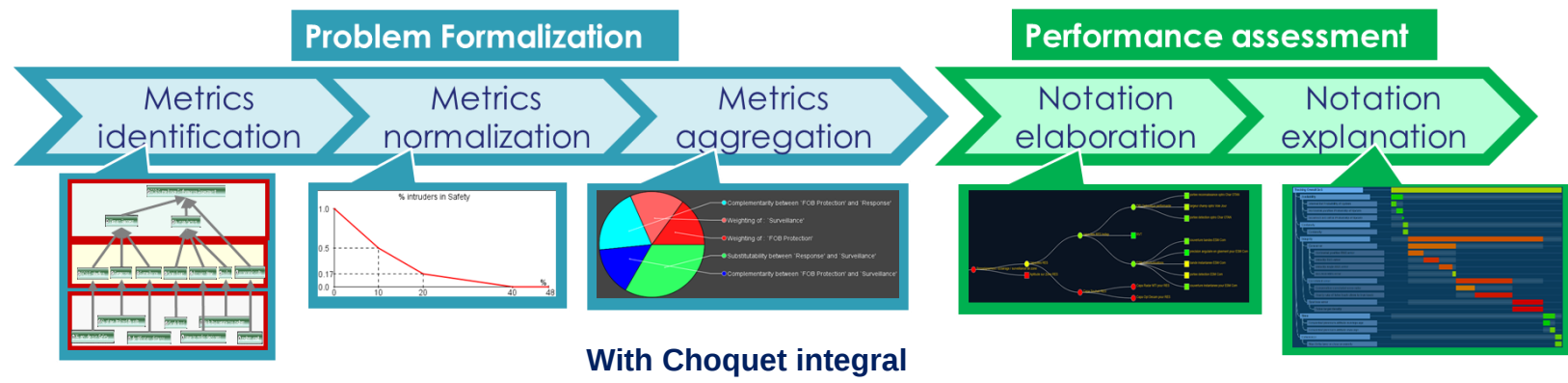
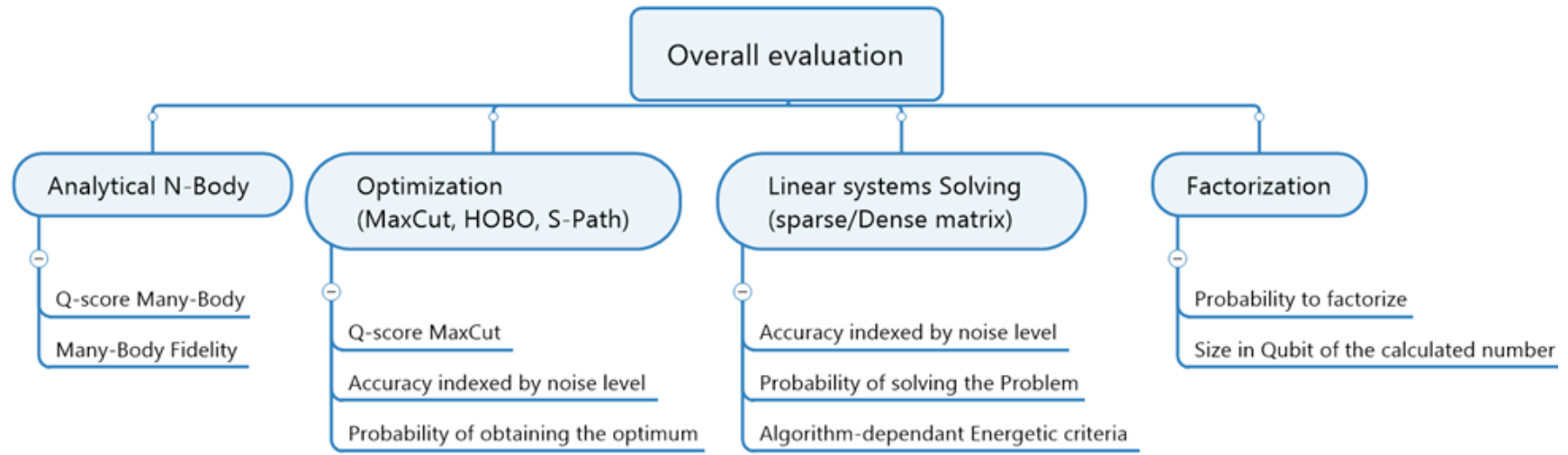
- Probability to factorize
- Size in bits of the calculated number

- **[Generic]**

- Computation time
- Latency
- Energetic Criteria

More to be added...

BACQ: Aggregation of the metrics into high-level operational indicators



- **Aggregates** all the metrics into a unique score (allowing ranking the solutions)
- Takes into account: the **interacting metrics** the **user preferences**
- Fully **interpretable** and **explainable**

BACQ Project Overview – See Article for Details

BACQ - Application-oriented Benchmarks for Quantum Computing

Delivering an application-oriented benchmark suite for objective multi-criteria evaluation of quantum computing performance, a key to industrial uses

Frédéric BARBARESCO
Key Technology Domain PCC
THALES
Velizy-Villacoublay, France
frederic.barbaresco@thalesgroup.com

Michel NOWAK
Research Department STI
THALES Research & Technology
Palaiseau France
michel.nowak@thalesgroup.com

Olivier HESS
Quantum Computing France
EVIDEN
Montpellier, France
olivier.hess@eviden.com

Tanguy SASSOLAS
Calcul quantique et haute performance
CEA LIST
Palaiseau, France
tanguy.sassolas@cea.fr

Grégoire MISGUICH
Université Paris-Saclay, CEA, CNRS
Institut de physique théorique,
Gif-sur-Yvette, France
gregoire.misguich@ipht.fr

Emmanuelle VERGNAUD
Pôle européen de compétence en
simulation et HPC - TERATEC
Bruyères le Châtel, France
emmanuelle.vergnaud@teratec.fr

Laurent RIOUX
Research Department STI
THALES Research & Technology
Palaiseau, France
laurent.rioux@thalesgroup.com

Noé OLIVIER
Research Department STI
THALES Research & Technology
Palaiseau, France
noe.olivier@thalesgroup.com

Anne-Lise GUILMIN
Quantum Computing France
EVIDEN
Montpellier, France
anne-lise.guilmin@eviden.com

Stéphane LOUISE
Université Paris-Saclay
CEA, LIST
Palaiseau, France
stephane.louise@cea.fr

Alexia AUFFEVES
Research Lab MajuLab
CNRS NUS NTU UCA SU
International, Singapore
alexia.auffeves@cnrs.fr

Félicien SCHOPFER
Laboratoire national de métrologie
et d'essais - LNE
Trappes, France
felicien.schopfer@lne.fr

Christophe LABREUCHE
Research Department STI
THALES Research & Technology
Palaiseau, FRANCE
christophe.labreuche@thalesgroup.com

Damien NICOLAZIC
Quantum Computing France
EVIDEN
Paris, France
damien.nicolazic@eviden.com

Robert WANG
Quantum Computing France
EVIDEN
Paris, France
robert.wang@eviden.com

Kyrylo SNIZHKO
Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CEA
INP, IRIG, PHELIQS
Grenoble, France
orcid.org/0000-0002-7236-6779

Robert WHITNEY
LPMMC
CNRS
Grenoble, France
robert.whitney@grenoble.cnrs.fr

Abstract—With the support of the national program on measurements, standards, and evaluation of quantum technologies MetriQs-France, a part of the French national quantum strategy, the BACQ project is dedicated to application-oriented benchmarks for quantum computing. The consortium gathering THALES, EVIDEN, an Atos business, CEA, CNRS, TERATEC, and LNE aims at establishing performance evaluation criteria of reference, meaningful for industry users.

Keywords—Quantum Computer, Quantum Algorithm, Quantum Emulator, Quantum Annealer, NISQ, FTQC, Benchmark, Multi-Criteria Decision

I. INTRODUCTION

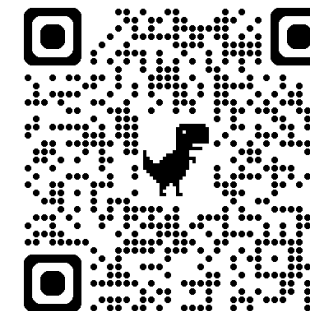
Quantum computing promises to revolutionize multiple technical fields and activity sectors, from optimization in logistics, to simulation for research in physics or chemistry, engineering or industry, passing through cryptography. Measuring the progress towards the quantum advantage and

the realization of such promises, with objectivity and reliability, is of high interest for potential end-users and crucial for the future development of the domain, now subject of hype and high competition. The challenges, especially to achieve comparable measurements, comes from the diversity of the hardware platforms, their specificities in terms of physical characteristics and applications, their maturity that can still be low, and the potential rapid evolution of the technologies.

A number of initiatives exist to benchmark the performance of quantum computers. Examples include Quantum VOLUME [1] and CLOPS [2] from IBM, SupermarQ [3] from Super-Tech or Quantum LINPACK- [4] from Berkeley Lab. The metrics used in these previous approaches are very technical and require familiarity with the technology. They therefore do not make it possible to derive operational indicators of the performance of the different families of algorithms executed on the different existing quantum computers. Dedicated to the whole value chain setting up from quantum hardware development to industrial

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.12205>

ArXiv [quant-ph], 14 pages



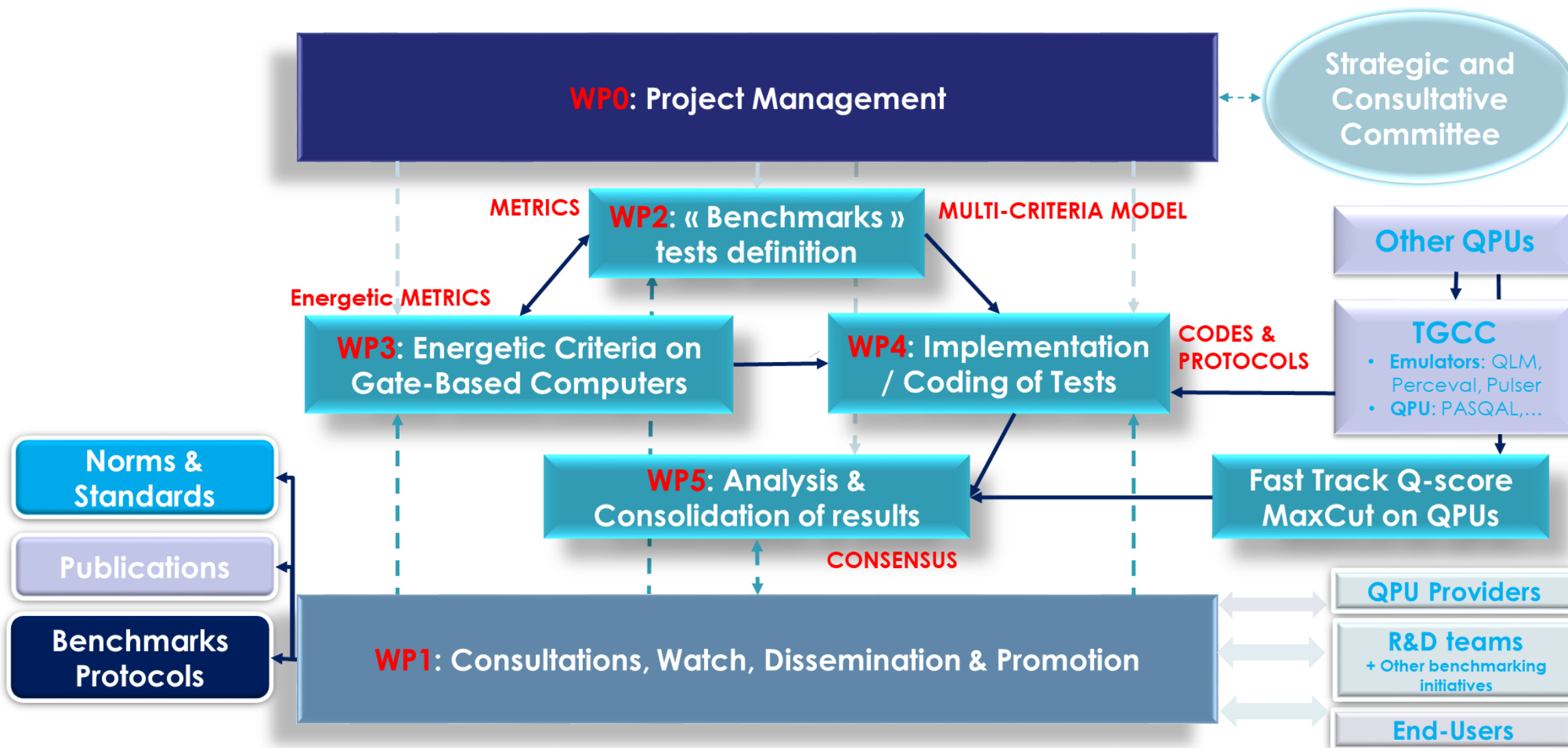
EVIDEN



02 First Insights into BACQ Metrics

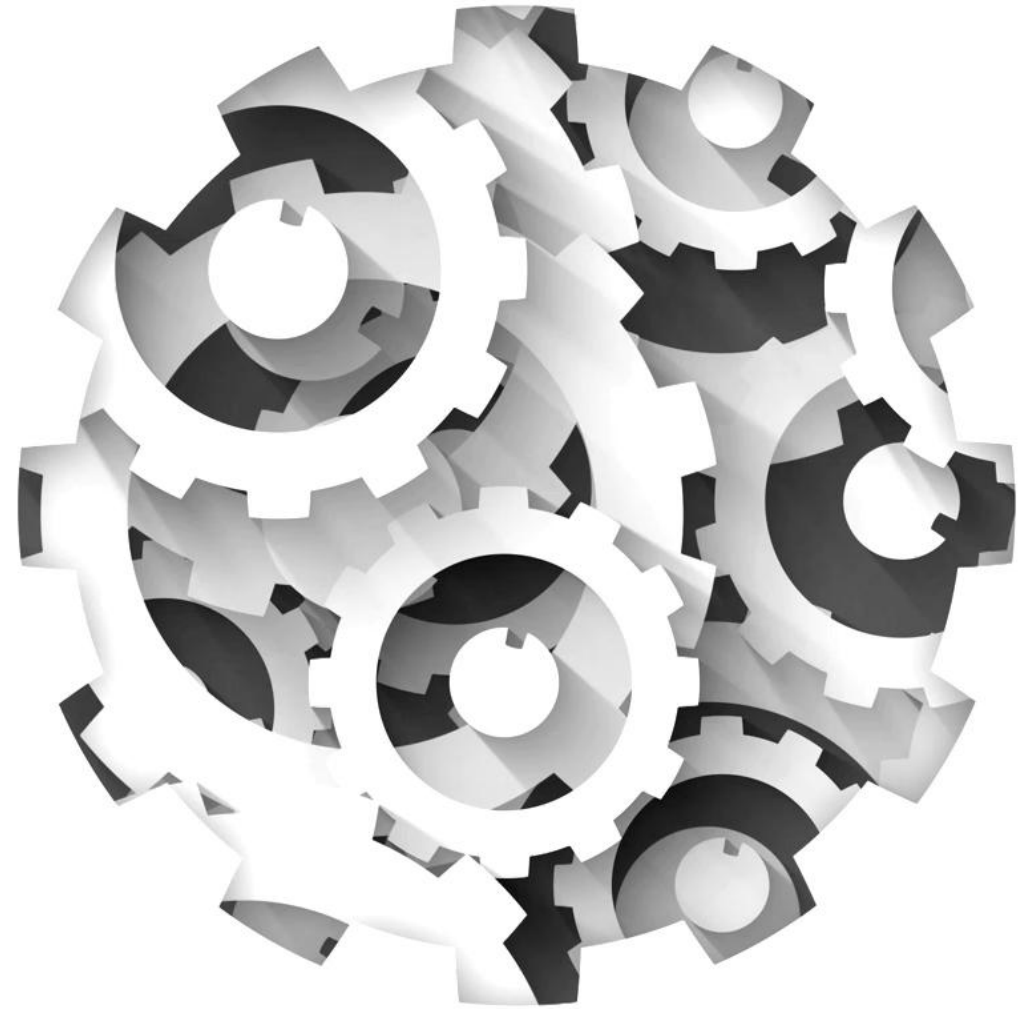


BACQ: Work Break Structure



EVIDEN

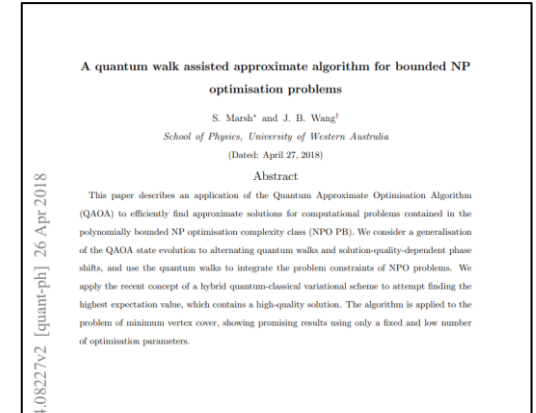
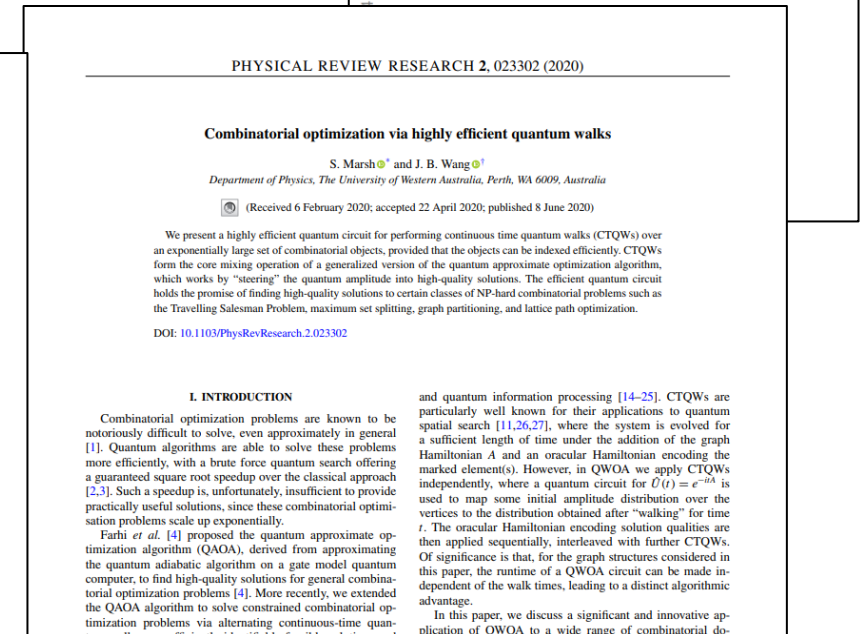
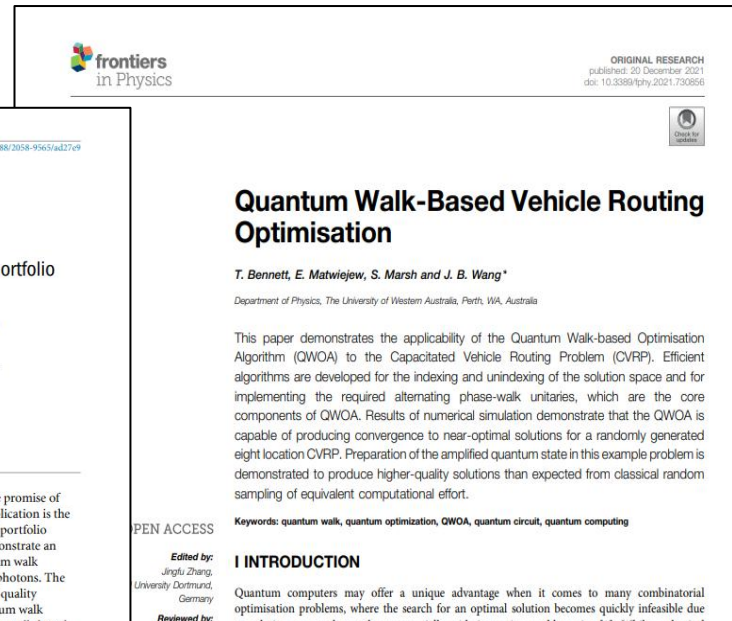
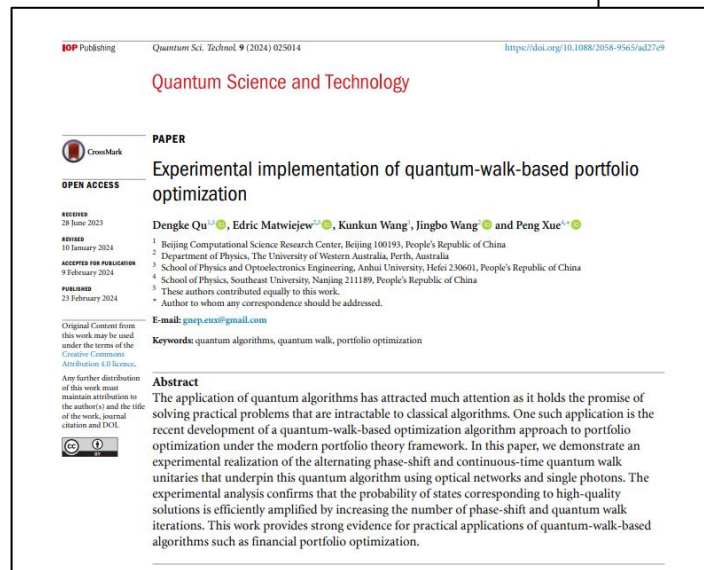
Optimization



BACQ: Metrics elaboration

❖ Optimization

- Motivation and applications for optimization problems:
 - **Proven quadratic advantage** (in propagation) in comparison to classical algorithms
 - **Scalability** of the algorithm
 - **Predictable** behavior and **susceptible to noise/errors**
 - Diverse applications



Q-score: A Broader View

- **Why Q-score Matters?**

- Current quantum metrics often miss the mark on real-world relevance.
- Q-score fills the gap by evaluating quantum systems based on their ability to solve problems like Max-Cut
- Applications: Circuit design, Data clustering, Network optimization
- Hardware-agnostic, scalable across platforms
- Q-score allows comparison of the true performances of various QPUs

- **Application-Centric Benchmarking**

- Focuses on practical performance, not just hardware specs
- Reflects how well quantum processors handle optimization tasks that matter to industry
- Single number metric: maximum graph size (n) solvable above threshold
- Application-driven metrics like Q-score provide transparency and guide users and manufacturers

- **Versatile & Scalable**

- Q-score methodology covers not only gate-based QPUs but also analog simulators and quantum annealers
- Adapts to evolving quantum platforms and algorithms



Quantifies the performances of quantum devices in solving combinatorial problems

Quantum Computing

IEEE Transactions on
Quantum Engineering

Received February 25, 2021; revised April 26, 2021; accepted May 20, 2021; date of publication June 17, 2021;
date of current version August 3, 2021.
Digital Object Identifier 10.1109/TQE.2021.3090207

Benchmarking Quantum Coprocessors in an Application-Centric, Hardware-Agnostic, and Scalable Way

SIMON MARTIEL¹, THOMAS AYRAL¹, AND CYRIL ALLOUCHE¹
¹Atos Quantum Laboratory, 95877 Les Clayes-sous-Bois, France
Corresponding author: Thomas Ayral (thomas.ayral@atos.net)

Understanding Quantum Benchmarks with Q-score Max-Cut

- **Q-score Highlights:**

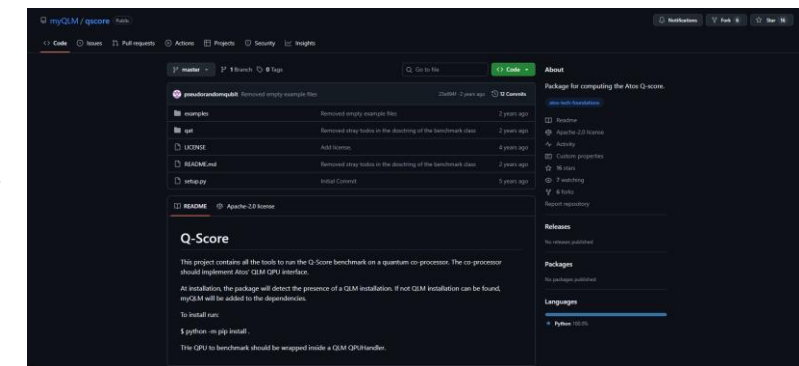
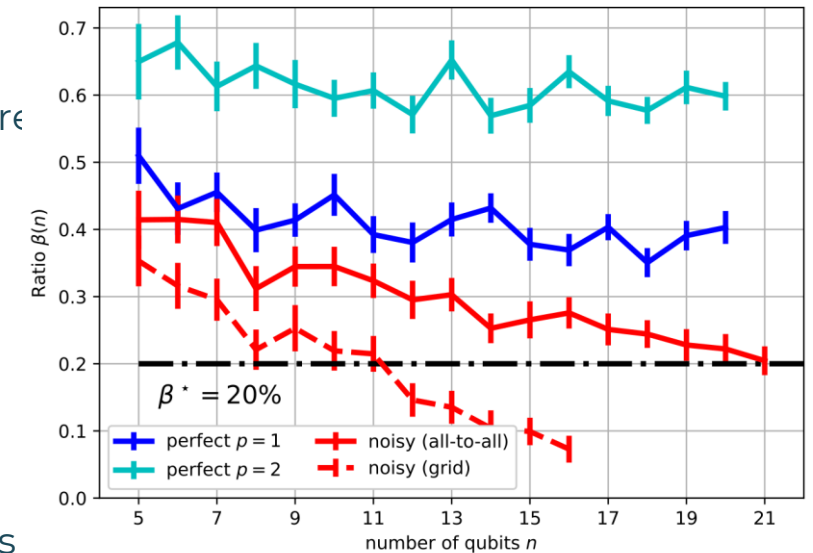
- Q-Score is associated with the effective number of qubits that a specific quantum stack comprising both quantum hardware and optimization software such as compilers can utilize to solve a combinatorial optimization problem known as the Maximum Cut problem
- Q-score, introduced by Atos in 2021

- **Max-Cut & QAOA:**

- Based on Max-Cut optimization problem: Max-Cut = partitioning graph nodes into 2 sets, maximizing edges across the cut
- Typically implemented with QAOA (but adaptable: VQE, etc.)
- QAOA: uses parameterized quantum circuits optimized by classical algorithms

- **Future Prospects:**

- Expect more Q-score like variants for different use cases beyond optimization problems
- Collaboration with international scientists and QPU manufacturers to refine the Q-score family, deepen partnerships, and improve QPU integration
- Q-score maturity and its widespread adoption open the door to discussions about benchmarking standardization
- Already implemented by several QPU providers



Q-score definition & Interpretation

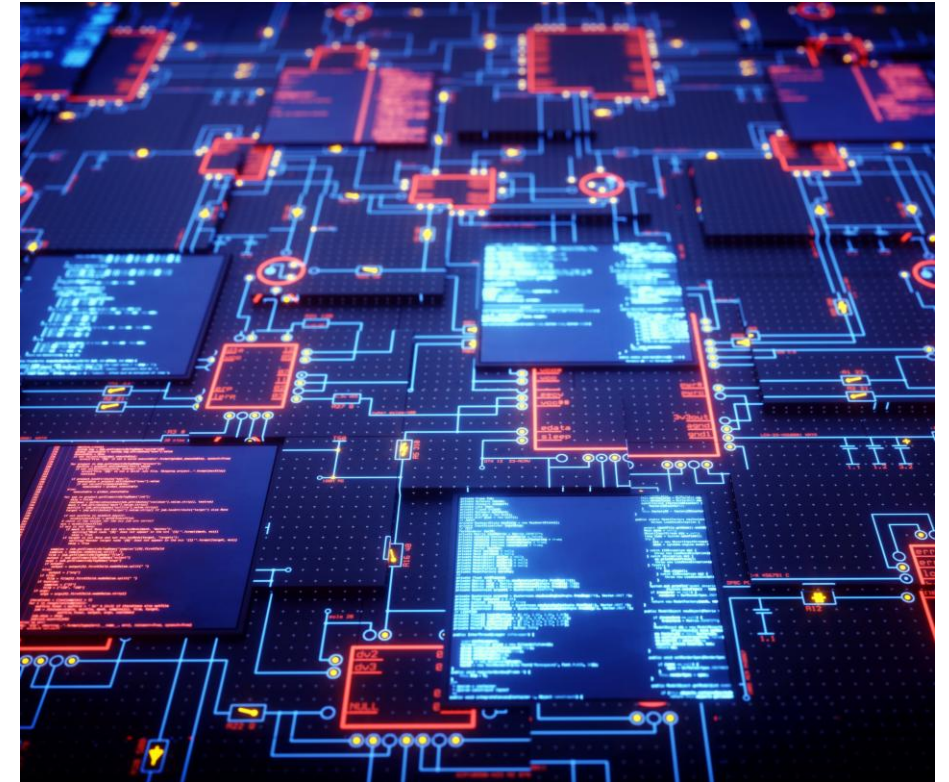
- **Q-score Protocol**

- 1. Select graph size n
- 2. Generate 100 random Erdős–Rényi graphs
- 3. Run QAOA (depth $p=1$, COBYLA optimizer)
- 4. Measure performance via $\beta(n)$ (relative to random guessing and exact solution)
- 5. Q-score = largest n where $\beta(n) > \text{threshold}$

- **Interpretation**

- More than a number: scaling $\beta(n)$, effect of noise, full Quantum stack benchmarking
- Reflects full stack performance (hardware + software)
- Continuous improvement: Q-scores expected to rise as qubit quality improves

$$\beta(n) = \frac{C(N) - C_{rand}}{C_{max} - C_{rand}}$$



G-Score (Max Cardinality Matching)



- **Max Cardinality Matching**

The largest set of pairs that don't overlap

- **Definition of G-Score**

G-Score combines success probability and solution optimality to benchmark quantum optimization performance.

- **Application on Quantum Systems**

G-Score evaluates quantum annealers like D-Wave by measuring accuracy and reliability in solving MCM problems.

- **Complement to Other Metrics**

G-Score complements Q-Score by focusing on constrained problems and providing detailed performance insights.

MIS Optimization Benchmark



- **MIS:**
The largest set of nodes that are not connected to each other.
- **Purpose of MIS Benchmark**
Evaluates quantum systems' ability to solve difficult combinatorial optimization problems effectively.
- **Key Performance Metrics**
Measures ratio of largest sampled independent set to true MIS and probability of single-shot solution sampling.
- **Relevance and Impact**
Helps identify quantum advantage potentials and guides hardware development for solution quality and reliability.
- **Complementary Benchmarks**
MIS benchmark complements Q-Score and G-Score by focusing on constrained, application-specific quantum performance.

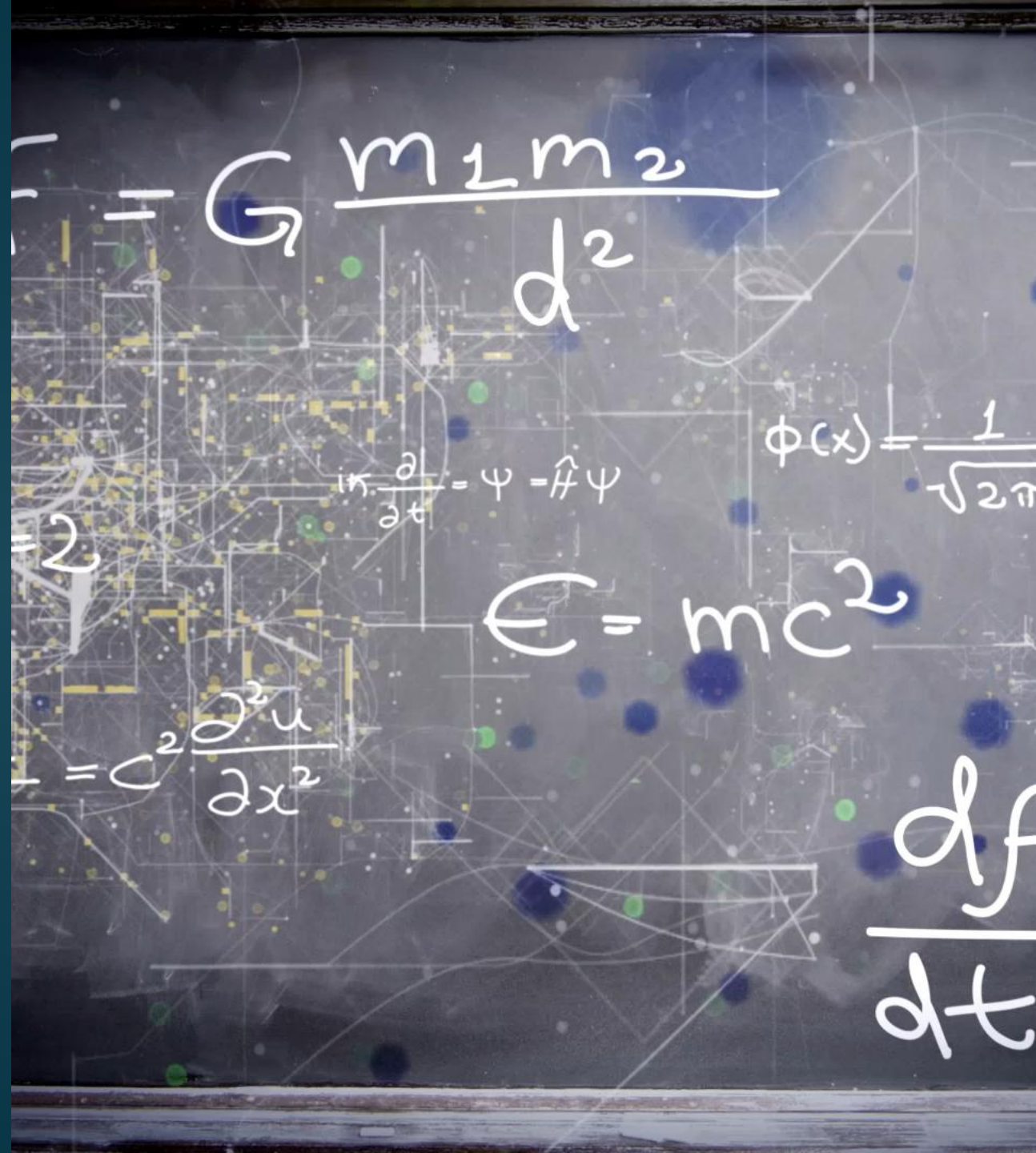
Graph Pathfinding Problem

- **Objective:**
Find a destination node from a source node in a graph with high success probability
- **Goals:**
 - Highlight hardware progress to leverage promising quantum routines for optimization applications
 - Focus on Quantum Walks and Amplitude Amplification



EVIDEN

Physics Simulation



Simulation of Quantum Physics Models

- **Why ?**

Quantum physics problems with **many interacting particles** arise in various fields of science:

- - solid-state physics (superconductivity, correlated electrons, quantum magnetism, electronic transport, understanding new quantum phenomena & design of new materials with potential applications)
- - chemistry (electronic structure of molecules, elucidating chemical reactions, catalyst design, ...)
- - high-energy physics (particle or nuclear physics, gauge theories)

...

Simulating these quantum many-body systems is notoriously difficult on a classical computer

- **Goal**

- Develop metrics to quantify the capacity of a quantum machine **to simulate accurately** physically relevant quantum many-body problems

- **Method**

- - Target non-trivial **many-qubit entangled states**
- - Focus on many-body problems/states/Hamiltonians which are **exactly solvable**
(to allow for comparison between the theoretical [error-free] results and the measured ones)

Simulation of Quantum Physics Models

- Models & Architectures

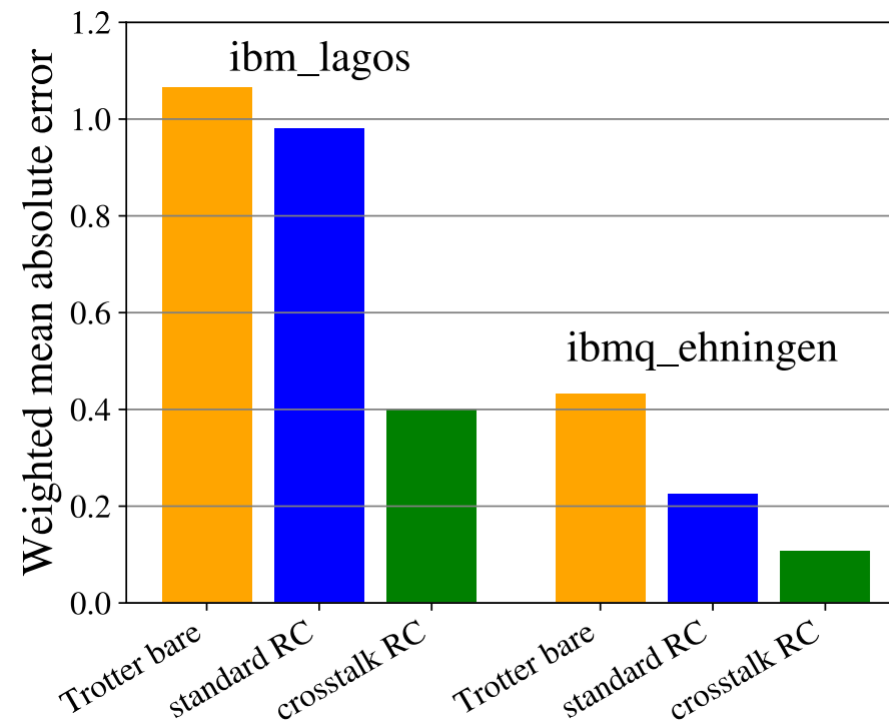
- BCS model
- Gate-based quantum computers

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{BCS}} = - \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \left(\epsilon_j - \frac{g}{2} \right) \sigma_j^z - \frac{g}{2} \sum_{0 \leq i < j \leq L-1} (\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_j^y),$$

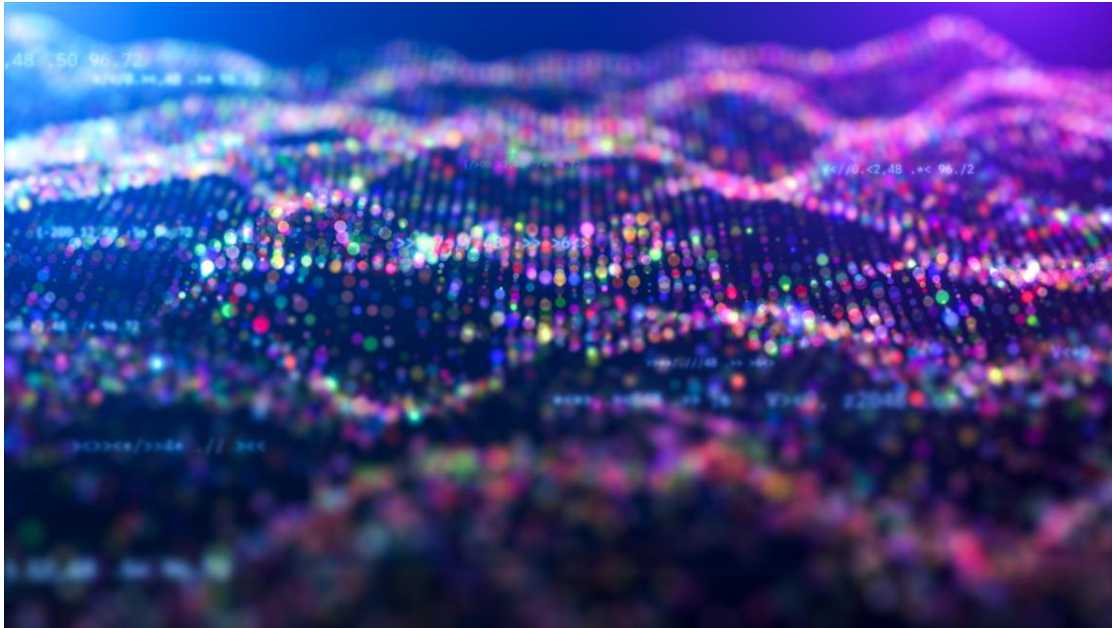
- Metrics development (by CEA/DRF)

- All-to-all coupling** (challenging and probes connectivity)
- Exact theoretical **solution is available**
- Compare dynamics simulation on a quantum computer with exact results
- Cascade of error-mitigation techniques** allows estimating the **significance of different error types** (local errors vs crosstalk)
- gives insight about error sources

[Phys. Rev. Research 6, 013142 \(2024\)](#)



MBQS (Many-Body Quantum Score)



- **Benchmarking Protocol**

MBQS is a benchmarking protocol for analog quantum processing units evaluating many-body quantum dynamics simulation accuracy.

- **Measurement and Calculation**

The protocol measures two-point correlation functions and calculates average relative errors between theory and experiment.

- **Scalability and Fidelity**

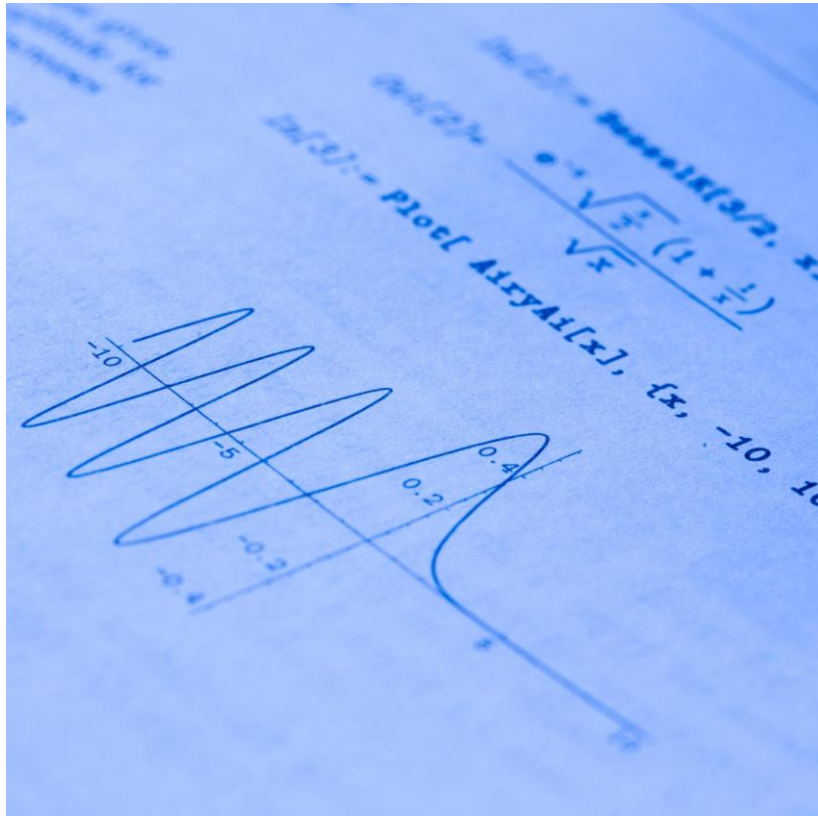
MBQS score indicates the largest system size with errors below a threshold, assessing QPU scalability and fidelity.

EVIDEN

Linear Systems Solving



Linear System Solving (LSS)



LSS Benchmark Purpose

LSS benchmark evaluates quantum annealers by solving $Ax = b$ using least squares in a QUBO format.

Performance Measurement

Success probability versus variables and resolution is measured and fitted using a sigmoid function.

Quantum Processing Unit Capability

The inflection point of the sigmoid curve indicates QPU capability.

Practical Insights and Challenges

LSS benchmark reveals quantum system utility in simulations and challenges in scalability and precision.

EVIDEN

Prime factorization

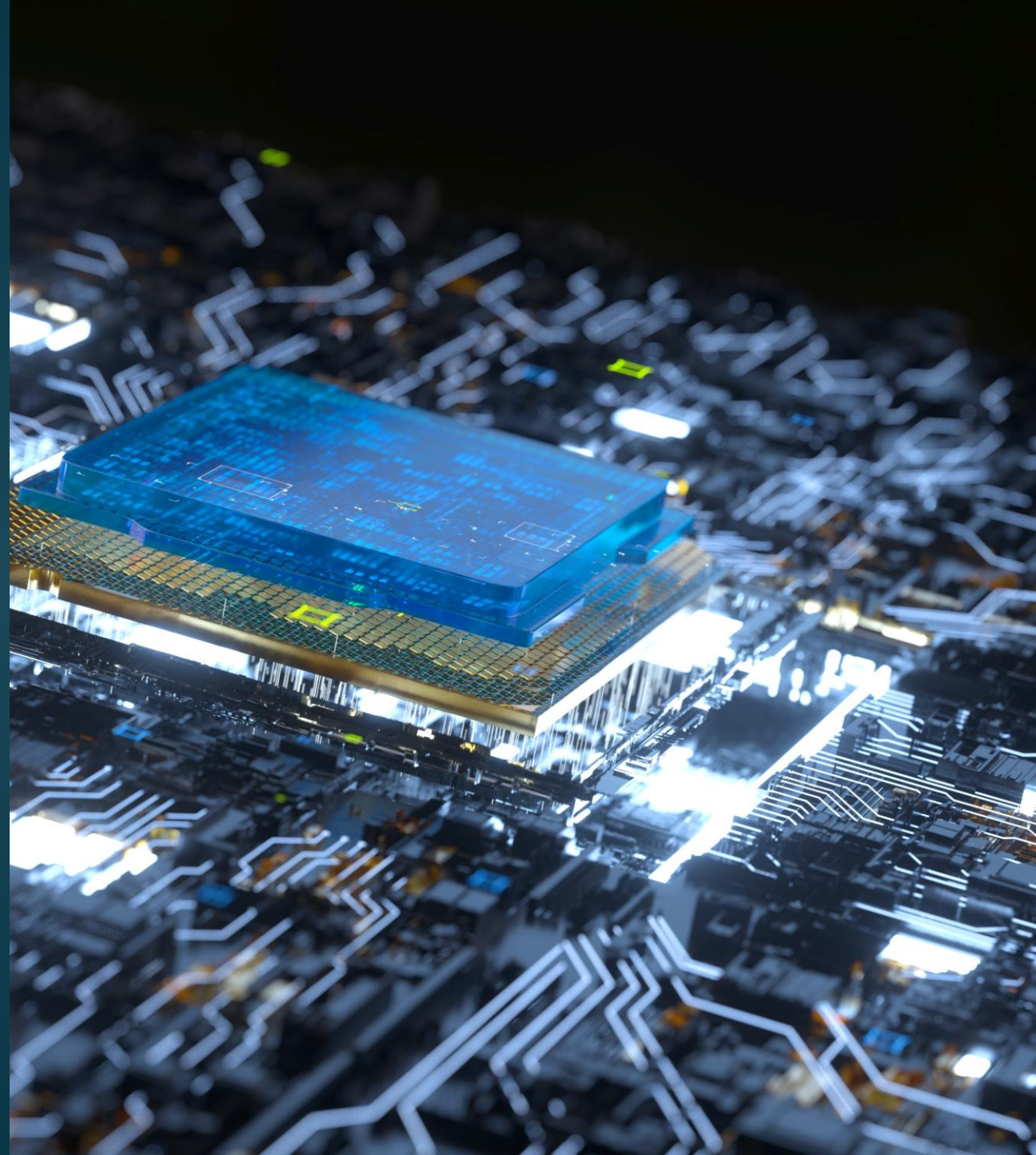


- **(Hamiltonian-based) integer factorization**

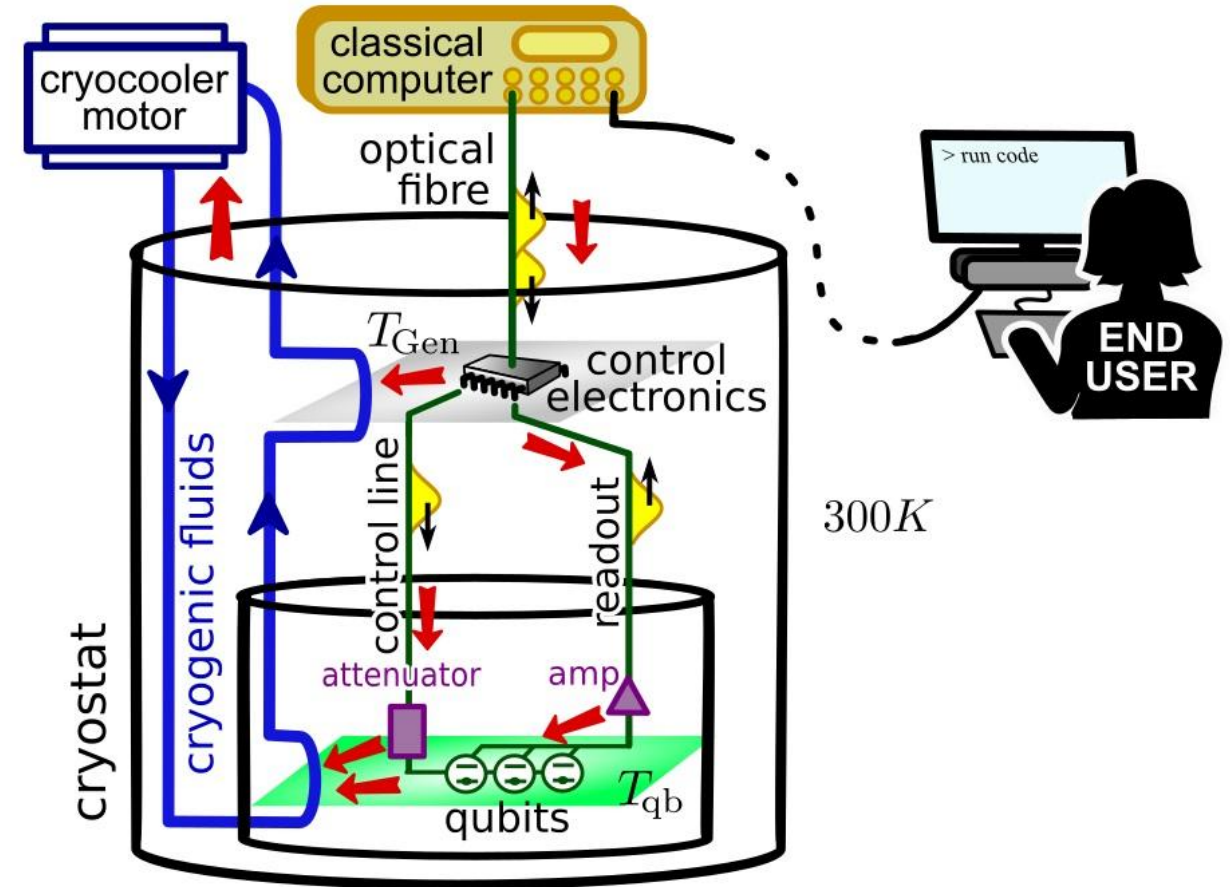
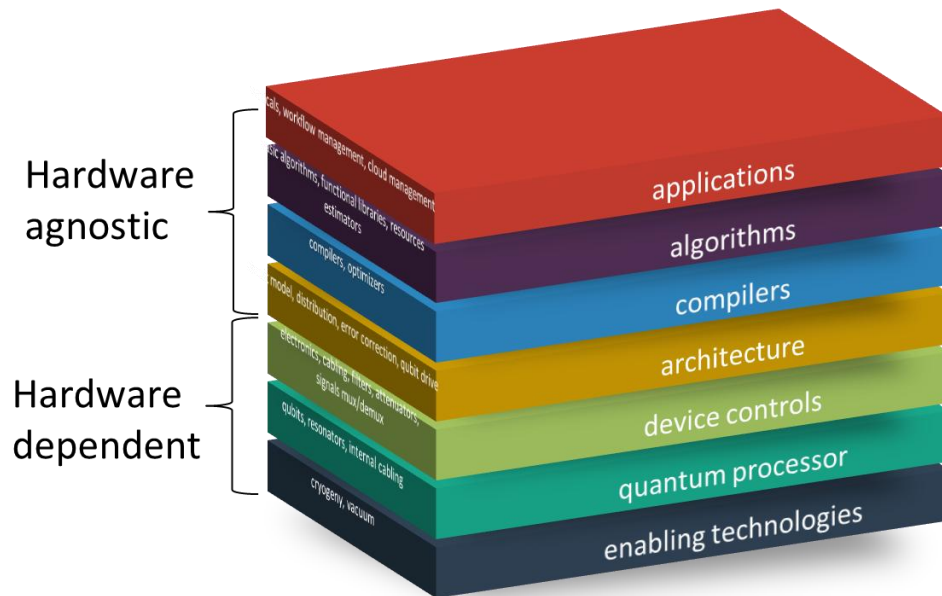
- Idea: Develop metrics to evaluate the capabilities of quantum computers on **prime factorization**
 - Prime factorization is a very hyped potential utilization of QC
 - Make it work on gate-based and analog QC
 - Shor's algorithm will not work before FTQC
 - Once FTQCs are available, we can still use this first method 1) for analog 2) as a base of HOBO problem
- Metrics:
 - **Probability of finding the optimum** or distance to optimum/solution
 - **Size of the problem**
 - **Complexity and sparsity of the problem**
 - **Complexity of pre/post processing if required**

EVIDEN

Energetic criteria



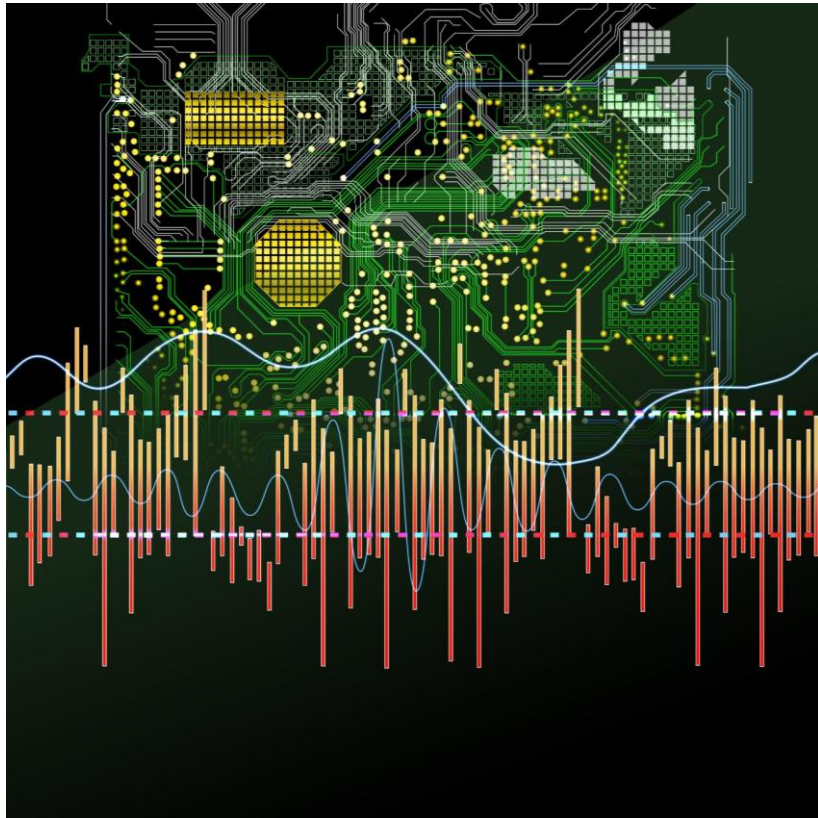
- Defining Resource Efficiency as the ratio of Performance Metrics / Resource Cost



In BACQ, focus on resources at the HW-agnostic layers for linear system solving, with test on a gate-based machine

EVIDEN

MNR Framework (Metric–Noise–Resource)



Comprehensive Quantum Evaluation

MNR framework evaluates quantum systems across computational layers using key performance and noise metrics.

Performance and Resource Trade-offs

The framework highlights trade-offs between performance metrics and resources, focusing on energy efficiency.

Application to Quantum Algorithms

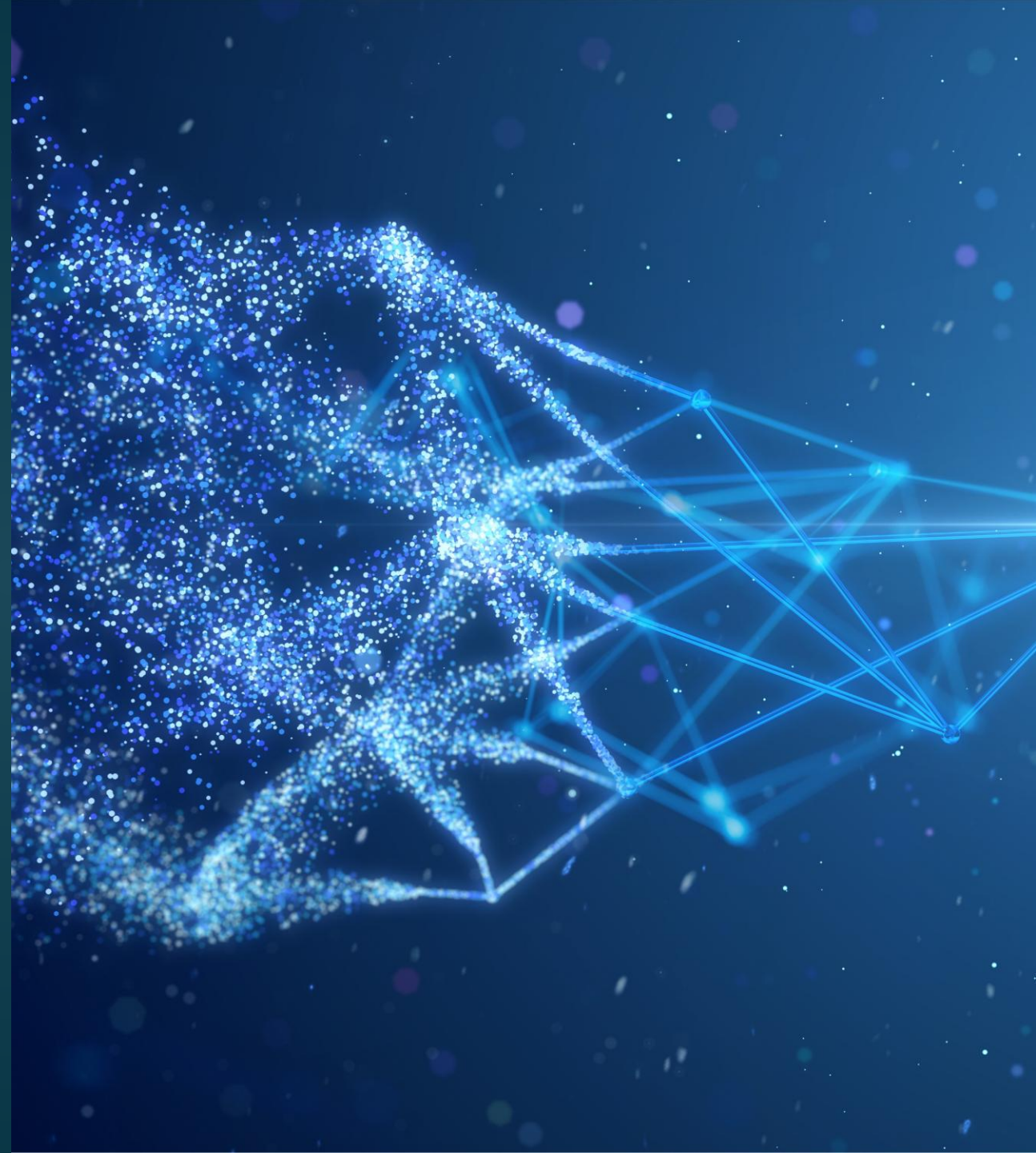
MNR guides quantum algorithm optimization, exemplified by the Variational Quantum Eigensolver under noise.

Standardization and Benchmarking

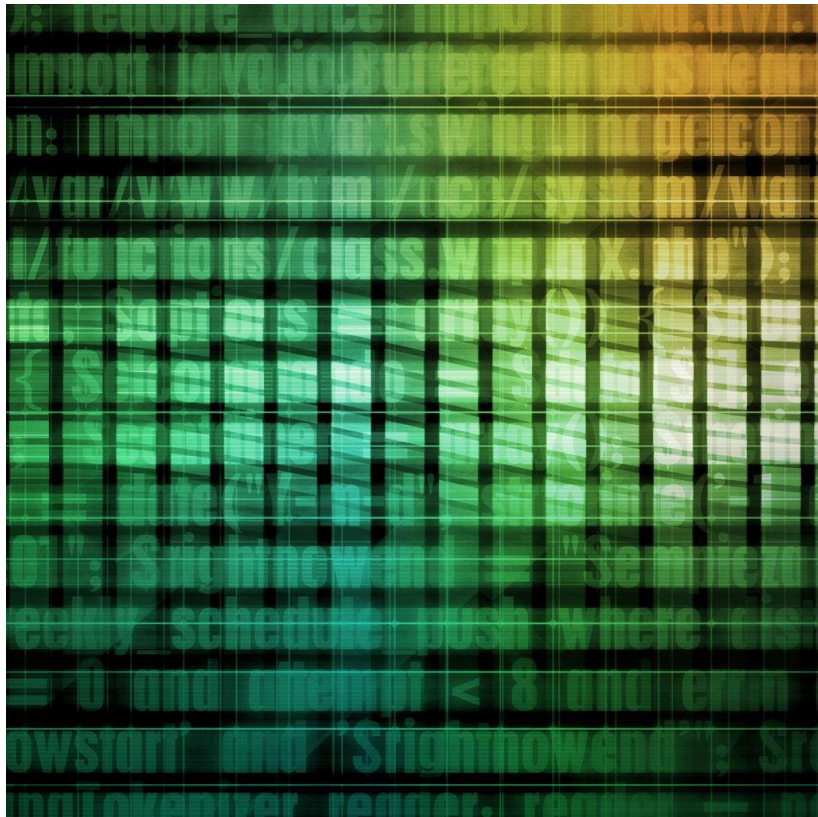
MNR supports benchmarking and standardization across diverse quantum computing technologies.

EVIDEN

Aggregation & Q- MYRIAD



Q-MYRIAD Aggregation Framework



Multi-Criteria Benchmark Aggregation

Q-MYRIAD combines diverse quantum benchmarking KPIs into a unified evaluation framework using normalization methods.

Utility Functions and Normalization

The framework applies utility functions and satisfaction scales to normalize KPIs with defined reference levels and thresholds.

Comparative QPU Analysis

Aggregated scores enable transparent comparison and informed decision-making across different quantum processing units.

Interoperability and Standardization

Q-MYRIAD supports integration of benchmarking data from diverse sources, promoting interoperability in quantum evaluation.

MYRIAD-Q: multi-criteria approach for quantum benchmarking

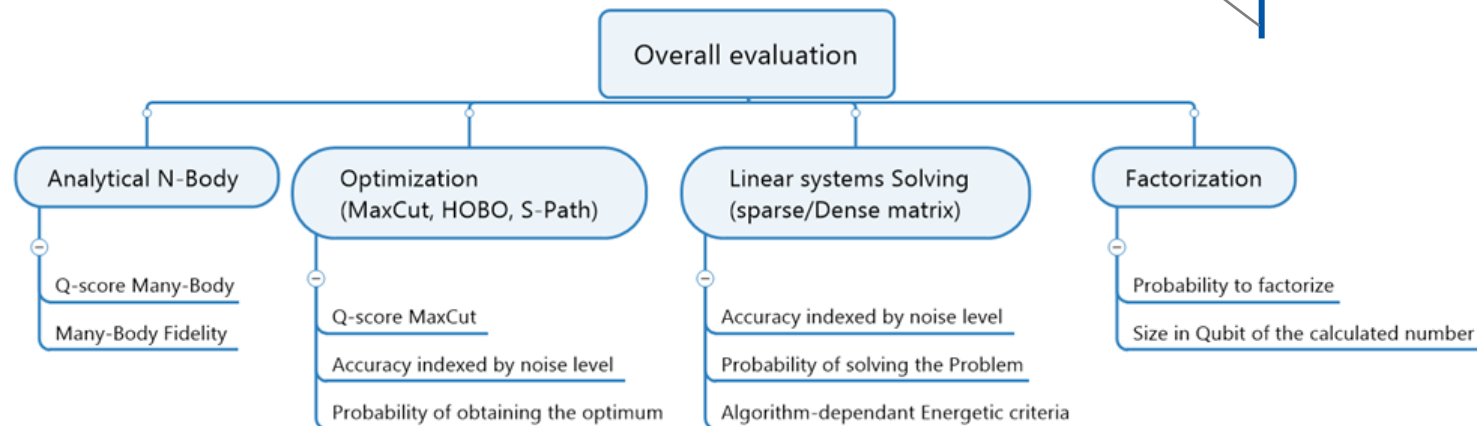
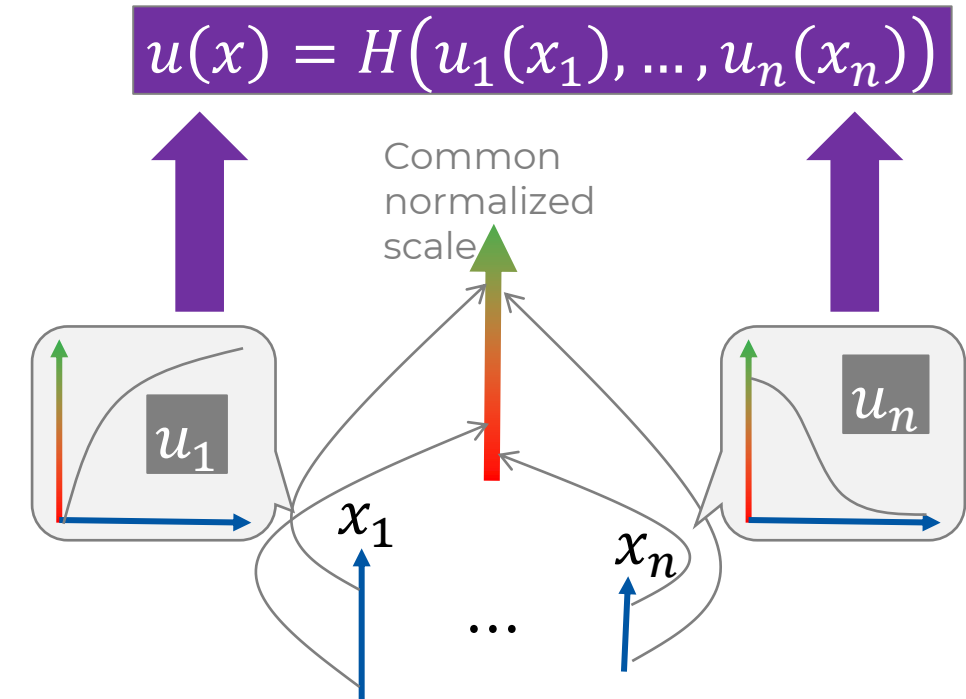
- How to combine many metrics to assess/compare quantum solutions (QPU – algorithms)?

- Potentially many metrics from different benchmarking problems
- Metrics are given in different units
- Different priorities among metrics

- Approach: use of Multi-Criteria Decision Support.

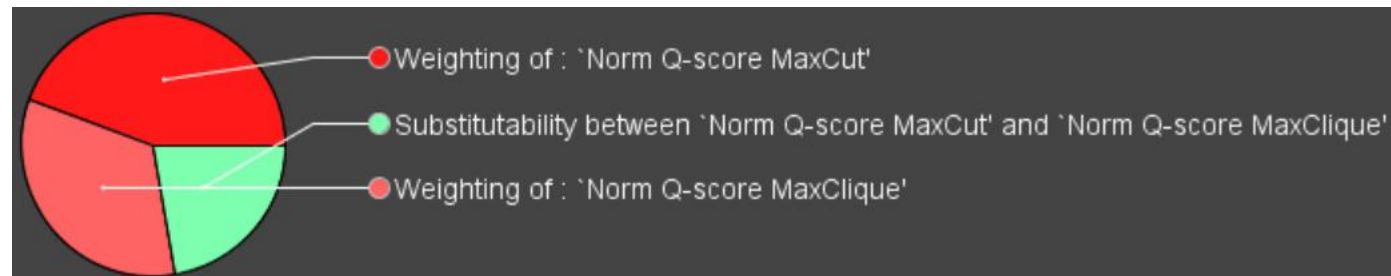
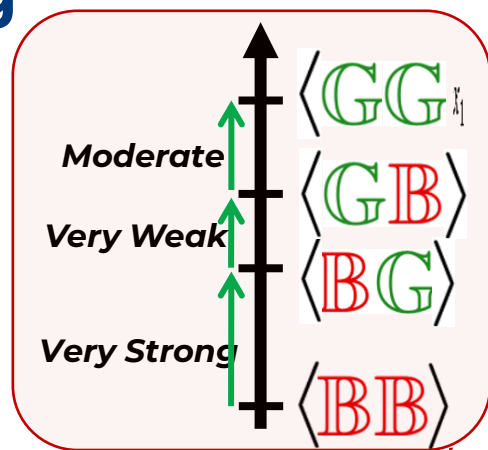
2-step approach:

- Step 1: normalization of metrics
 - $x_i \mapsto u_i(x_i)$
 - Output = normalized score in $\mathbb{R}_+$
- Step 2: aggregation of normalized scores

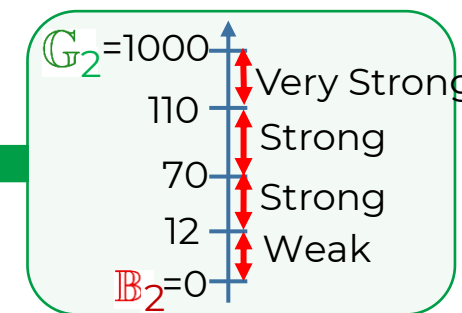
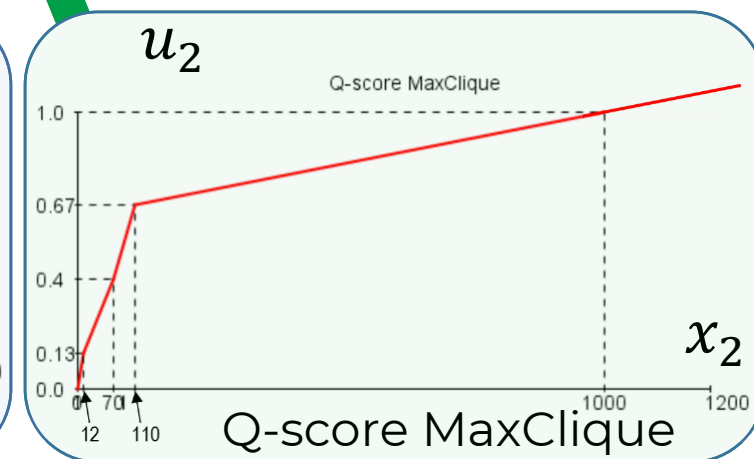
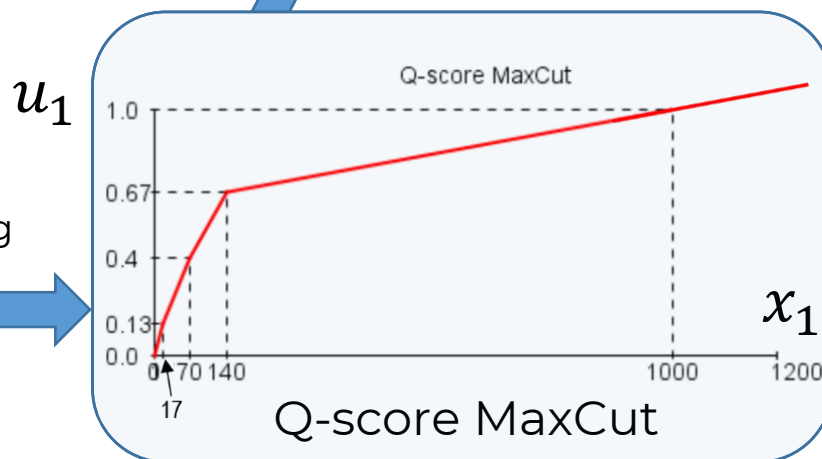
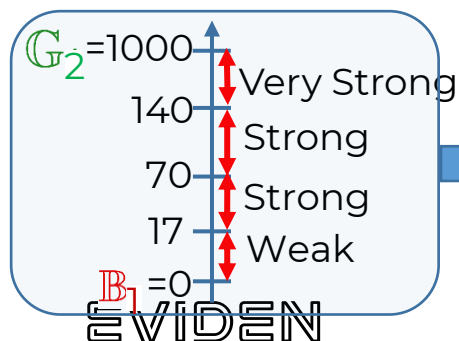


MYRIAD-Q: multi-criteria approach for quantum benchmarking

Illustration of the elicitation process with MYRIAD



$$u(\mathbf{x}) = w_1 u_1(x_1) + w_2 u_2(x_2) + w_{1,2} \min(u_1(x_1), u_2(x_2))$$



- **Towards globally harmonized and recognized benchmarks**

- At the European CEN-CENELEC JTC22 “Quantum technologies” / WG3 “Quantum computing & simulation”
- Ongoing standardization project on QC benchmarks started in Oct. 2023 with participation from FR, NL, UK, IT, AT, DE...



Document history V0.0: 20231012, CEN-CENELEC TR template V0.1: 20231012, First version of index	CEN/CLC/JTC 22 Date: 20YY-XX prEN XXXXX:20YY Secretariat: DIN
Quantum Technologies Benchmarking quantum computers	

- At the international IEC/ISO JTC3 “Quantum technologies”
- Ongoing preparation of a new standardization project on QC benchmarks (from HW-level to application-level and beyond) with FR, JP, UK, CA, AU, KR...



Wrapping Up

- ❖ BACQ delivers application-oriented benchmarks tailored to both gate-based and analog quantum computers, from NISQ to FTQC.
- ❖ Collaborative effort: six major French partners (Thales, Eviden, CEA, CNRS, Teratec, LNE) working together with QPU providers and EuroHPC infrastructures.
- ❖ Comprehensive benchmarking: covering optimization, physics simulation, linear systems solving, and factorization
- ❖ Complementary with low-level metrics:
- ❖ MYRIAD-Q framework enables multi-criteria aggregation of metrics, supporting transparent and interpretable QPU comparisons.
- ❖ BACQ bridges research and industry , paving the way toward standardized quantum performance evaluation.

EVIDEN

Questions



EVIDEN

Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

Damien Nicolazic
Quantum Computing Consultant
damien.nicolazic@eviden.com



Confidential information owned by Eviden SAS, to be used by the recipient only.
This document, or any part of it, may not be reproduced, copied, circulated
and/or distributed nor quoted without prior written approval from Eviden SAS.

© Eviden SAS – Confidential

Fast-track Initiative

- **Fast-Track Quantum Computing Benchmarking Initiative**
 - Part of BACQ project
 - A collaborative effort among quantum computing industry leaders
 - Objective: Conduct a comprehensive measurement campaign on existing QPUs using the Q-score metric
 - Significance: Marks a pivotal moment in quantum computing evaluation and benchmarking
- **Goals: Open & Broad Collaboration**
 - Collect practical feedback from QPU runs
 - Contribute to the development of standardized benchmarking protocols
 - Expand QPUs access
 - Enhance Exchange and Reciprocal Knowledge
- **Future and Impact**
 - Fast-Track stands as evidence of collaborative innovation in quantum computing
 - Advanced partnerships and open contributions to develop quantum computing benchmarks
 - Fast-Track's success leads to an extension of our tests, deepening our understanding of quantum computer benchmarking
 - Refining Q-score and Advancing Standardized Benchmarking Protocols



Q-score experimentation Campaign

Practical Implementation Overview

- **IQM:**
 - Qubit technology: 20 Superconducting qubits (Resonance)
 - Q-score/Max-Cut With QAOA
 - Q-score = 15
 - Reference: [Teratec : Séminaires TQCI](#)
- **Pasqal:**
 - Qubit technology: Neutral Atom
 - Q-score/Max-Cut with Maximum Independent Set (MIS)
 - Q-score: emulator only
 - Reference: [arXiv:2207.13030](#)
- **Quandela:**
 - Qubit technology: Photonic
 - Q-score/Max-Cut with Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE)
 - Q-score = 15
 - Reference: [Teratec : Séminaires TQCI](#)
- **D-wave made by TNO:**
 - Qubit technology: Superconducting quantum annealer
 - Q-score/Max-Cut implementation on D-wave (QUBO)
 - Q-score = 140 (D-wave Advantage)
 - Reference: [arXiv:2208.07633](#)

IQM

 Pasqal

QUANDELA

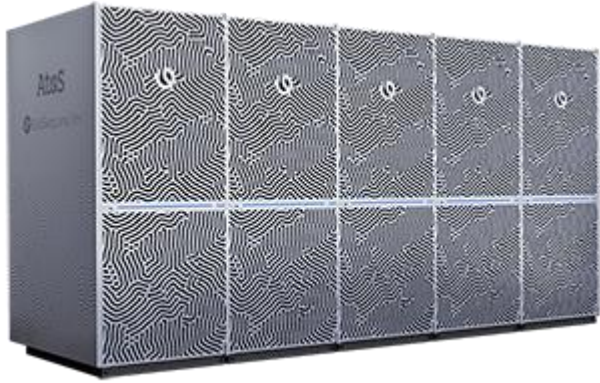
D:WAVE
The Quantum Computing Company™

TNO

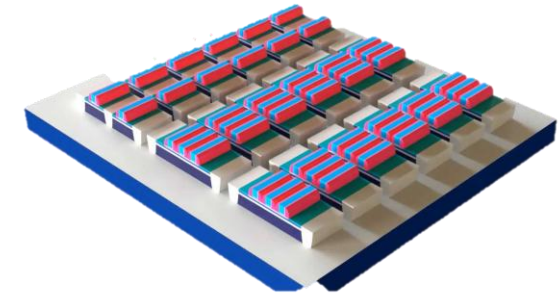
High-performance Computing & Quantum

How to harness the power of quantum in a HPC system?

Classical HPC:



Quantum chip:



Wanted:

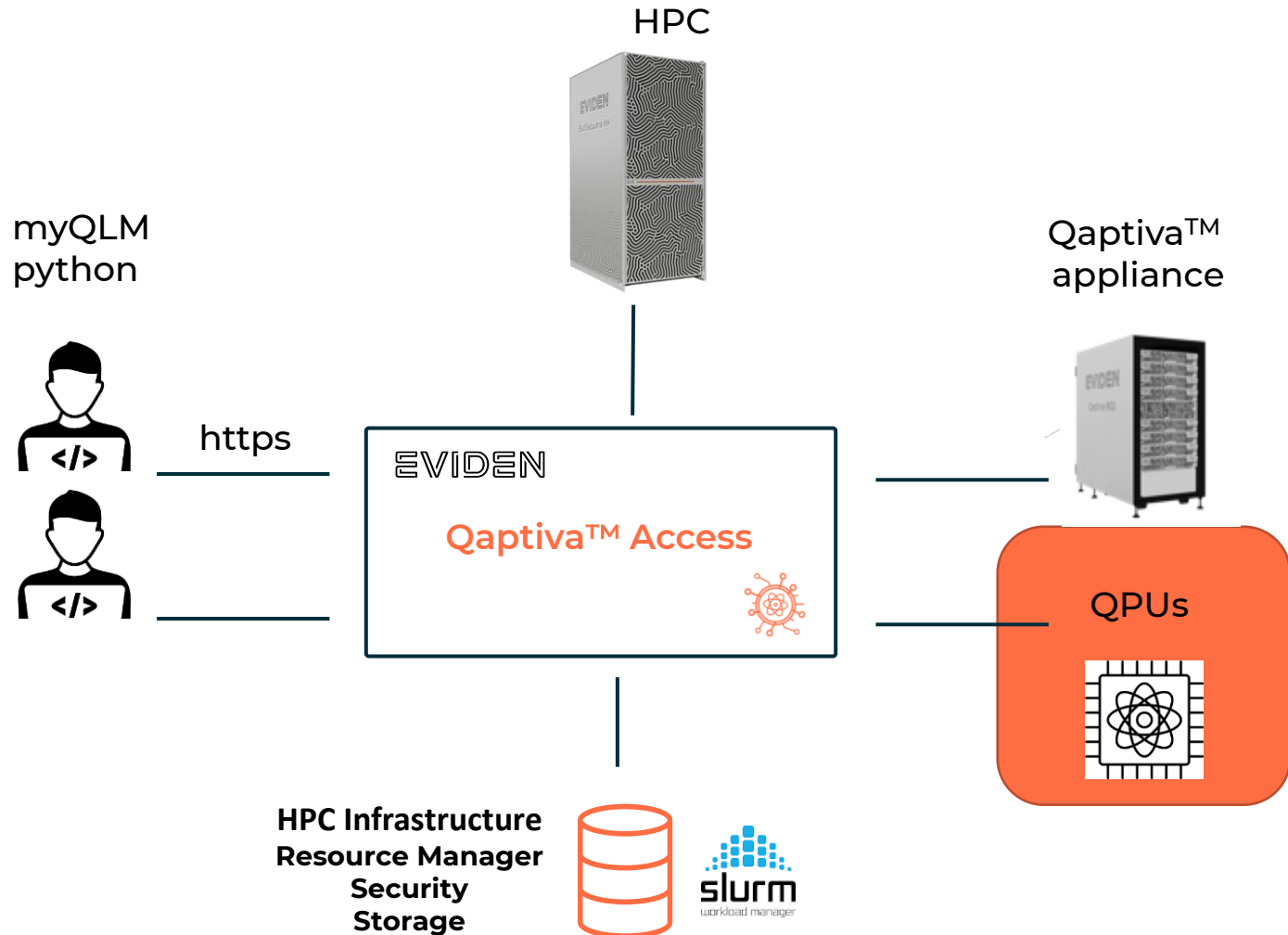
- Continue running large legacy classical codes
- Use hardware-agnostic quantum programming
- Benefit from resource scheduling (etc)

Constraints:

- Native quantum gateset
- Connectivity constraints
- Decoherence

Qaptiva™ Access

HPC & Quantum hybridization



Integration of any quantum processing unit (QPU) and emulator into the high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure.

- Real scheduling of QPUs with SLURM
- Scale-out numerical simulation (MPI + GPU)
- **Used in several HPC-QC pilots:**
 - HPC-QS (EuroHPC)
 - HQI (France)
 - QSolid (GER)