

# Chapter 18

## Quantum-Inspired Optimization for Enterprises

**R. Thilagavathy**

*Department of Computing Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India*

**M. Gayathri**

*Department of Computing Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India*

**G. K. Sandhia**

*Department of Computing Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India*

**M. Pushpalatha**

*Department of Computing Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India*

### **ABSTRACT**

*Optimization involves finding the best solution from a set of possible options. Traditional computers employ classical algorithms like gradient descent and simulated annealing to solve these problems. However, as the complexity of problems increases, classical computers encounter limitations in terms of time and resources. Quantum optimization stands as a revolutionary paradigm that harnesses the unique properties of quantum mechanics to tackle complex optimization problems that are beyond the capabilities of classical computers. Quantum computers utilize qubits, the fundamental units of quantum information, which can exist in superpositions of states, enabling them to process a vast number of possibilities simultaneously. Additionally, the phenomenon of entanglement enables qubits to be correlated in ways that classical bits cannot, further enhancing their computational power. In this chapter, the authors will delve into the principles, applications, and current developments in the realm of quantum optimization.*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, enterprises face an ever-increasing demand for optimization solutions that can streamline operations, enhance decision-making processes, and ultimately drive competitiveness. In the quest to solve optimization problems that were once deemed insurmountable,

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-1168-4.ch018

quantum optimization emerges as a game-changing field. By harnessing the principles of quantum mechanics, researchers and industries are poised to unlock new frontiers of computational power (Khang & Vugar et al., 2023).

Quantum mechanics, a branch of physics that studies the behavior of matter and energy at the smallest scales, has long been the realm of theoretical physicists. However, recent advancements in quantum computing and quantum-inspired optimization have brought these complex principles into practical applications for businesses. This marks a pivotal moment in the history of technology, akin to the emergence of classical computing in the mid-20th century (Khang & Shah et al., 2023).

As quantum technology continues to advance, the impact of quantum optimization on various sectors of society is bound to be transformative, ushering in a new era of problem-solving and innovation. Quantum-inspired optimization represents a cutting-edge approach that harnesses the principles of quantum mechanics to tackle complex business problems (Ajagekar, 2020).

Quantum-inspired optimization leverages the principles of superposition and entanglement, fundamental to quantum mechanics, to enhance optimization algorithms. These algorithms can efficiently explore vast solution spaces, providing enterprises with the capability to find optimal solutions to complex problems that were once computationally infeasible (Khang & Kali et al., 2023).

Unlike classical optimization techniques, which often rely on exhaustive searches or heuristic methods, quantum-inspired optimization algorithms have the potential to significantly accelerate problem-solving. They offer the promise of solving intricate problems across diverse domains, including supply chain management, financial modeling, logistics, and more (Ewald 2019).

## 2. QUANTUM MECHANICS PRIMER

Before we dive into quantum-inspired optimization, it's essential to have a basic understanding of quantum mechanics. At its core, quantum mechanics describes the behavior of particles at the atomic and subatomic levels. Several fundamental principles of quantum mechanics underpin quantum-inspired optimization (Gill, 2022):

- ***Superposition:*** In quantum mechanics, particles can exist in multiple states simultaneously, a phenomenon known as superposition. Quantum-inspired optimization algorithms leverage this principle to explore multiple solutions to a problem simultaneously.
- ***Entanglement:*** Entanglement is a quantum phenomenon where the properties of two or more particles become correlated, even when separated by vast distances. This concept is used to enhance the exploration of solution spaces in quantum-inspired optimization.
- ***Quantum Bits (Qubits):*** Qubits are the quantum analogs of classical bits. Unlike classical bits, which can be either 0 or 1, qubits can exist in a superposition of states, representing both 0 and 1 simultaneously. This property enables quantum-inspired algorithms to process information in new and powerful ways.

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