

Quantum Spin Glasses, Annealing and Computation

Quantum annealing is a new-generation tool of information technology, which helps in solving combinatorial optimization problems with high precision, based on the concepts of quantum statistical physics.

This book focuses on the recent developments in quantum spin glasses, quantum annealing and quantum computations. It offers a detailed discussion on quantum statistical physics of spin glasses and its application in solving combinatorial optimization problems. Separate chapters on simulated annealing, quantum dynamics and classical spin models are provided for enhanced understanding. Notes on adiabatic quantum computers and quenching dynamics make it apt for the readers. This text will be useful for the students of quantum computation, quantum information, statistical physics and computer science.

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This book is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Jun-ichi Inoue

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The book contains three important notes contributed by Eliahu Cohen, Uma Divakaran, Sudip Mukherjee, Atanu Rajak and Boaz Tamir.



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Preface

This book intends to introduce the readers to the developments in the researches on phase transition of quantum spin glasses, their dynamics near the phase boundary and applications in the efforts to solve multi-variable optimization problems by using quantum annealing. In view of the recent successes of both theoretical and experimental studies, major efforts were undertaken in employing these ideas in developing some prototype quantum computers (e.g., by D-wave Systems Inc.) and these have led to a revolution in quantum technologies.

The ideas developed in solving the dynamics of frustrated random systems like spin glasses, in particular of the celebrated Sherrington–Kirkpatrick model (SK model) (1975), have led to the understanding of the intrinsic nature of the problems involved in searches for the least cost solutions in multi-variable optimization problems. In particular, the pioneering idea of simulated or classical annealing technique by Kirkpatrick, Gelatt, and Vecchi (1983) had already led to major breakthroughs. It has also led to some crucial concepts regarding how the hardness of such optimization problems come about through their mapping to the ruggedness of the cost function landscape of the SK model. The idea that quantum fluctuations in the SK model can lead to some escape routes by tunneling through such macroscopically tall but thin barriers (Ray, Chakrabarti, and Chakrabarti, 1989) those which are difficult to scale using classical fluctuations, have led to some important clues. With this and some more developments, the quantum annealing technique was finally launched through a landmark paper by Kadowaki and Nishimori in 1998. Since then, as mentioned earlier, a revolution has taken place through a surge of outstanding papers both in theory and in technological applications, leading finally to the birth of this new age of quantum technologies.

This book intends to present and review these developments in a step-by-step manner, mainly from the point of view of theoretical statistical physicists. We hope the book will also be useful to physicists in general and to computer scientists as well. As one can easily see, the subject is growing at a tremendous rate today, and many more materials will soon be needed to supplement our knowledge on quantum annealing. We believe, however, the materials discussed in the book will prove indispensable for young researches and Ph. D

course students who are eager to get into this exciting field of research! Indeed, we have added three notes by other experts (B. Tamir and E. Cohen, A. Rajak and U. Divakaran, and S. Mukherjee) to provide some complementary ideas and historical accounts for the benefit of the readers.

This book is dedicated to the loving memory of Professor Jun-ichi Inoue with whom we shared many ideas and developed part of the studies described here. Indeed, we had an early plan to write this book together with him. His untimely death has robbed us of that opportunity. We still hope, he would be delighted to see this book and its contents.

We are grateful to the Cambridge University Press, in particular to M. Choudhary, R. Dey, and D. Majumdar, for their immense patience and constant encouragements. We do hope the book will be useful and enjoyable to the readers.

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