



IEEE Int'l Workshop on Ising Machines  
(Invited) 10:30~11:00, Apr. 17, 2024

# Simulated bifurcation machines

Enabling NP-hard optimization-based judgement in real-time systems by quantum-inspired technology

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# Outline

01

Introduction

Using quantum-inspired optimization technology  
in real-time systems

02

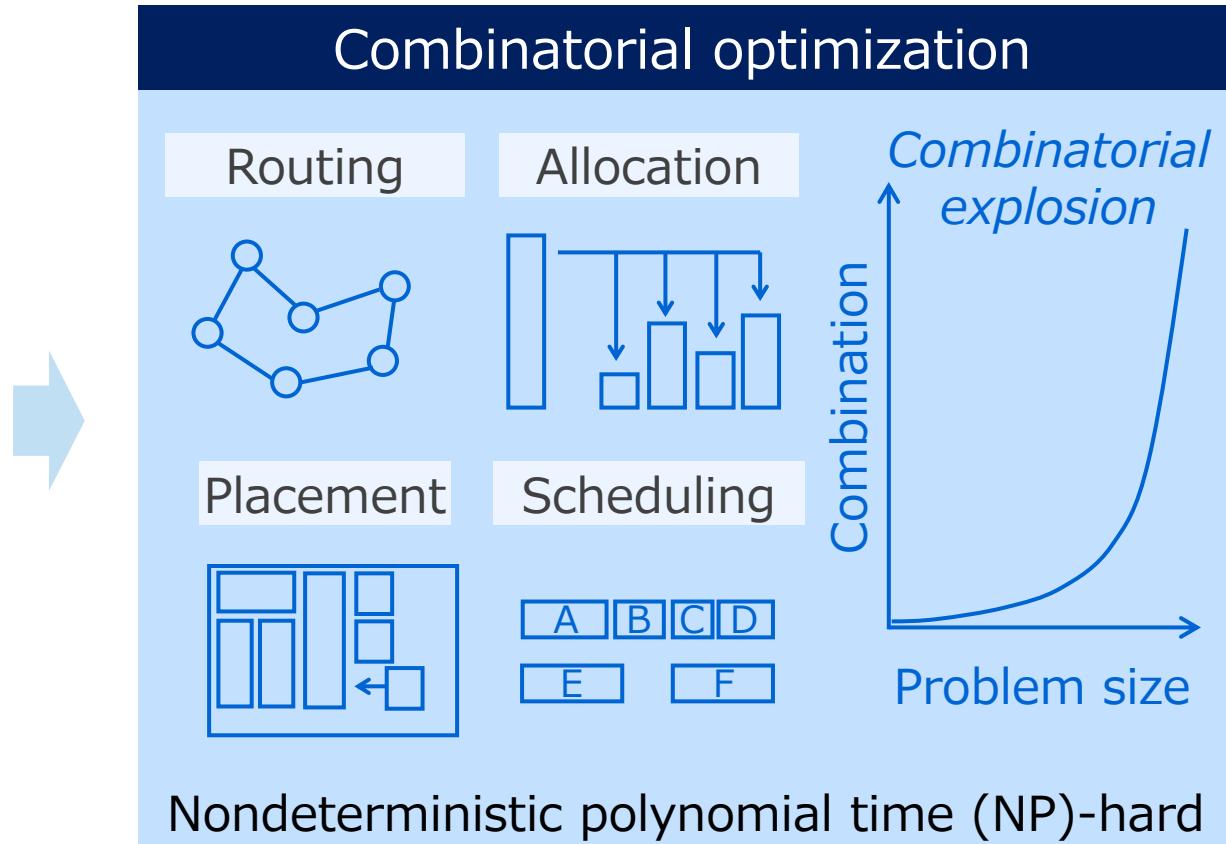
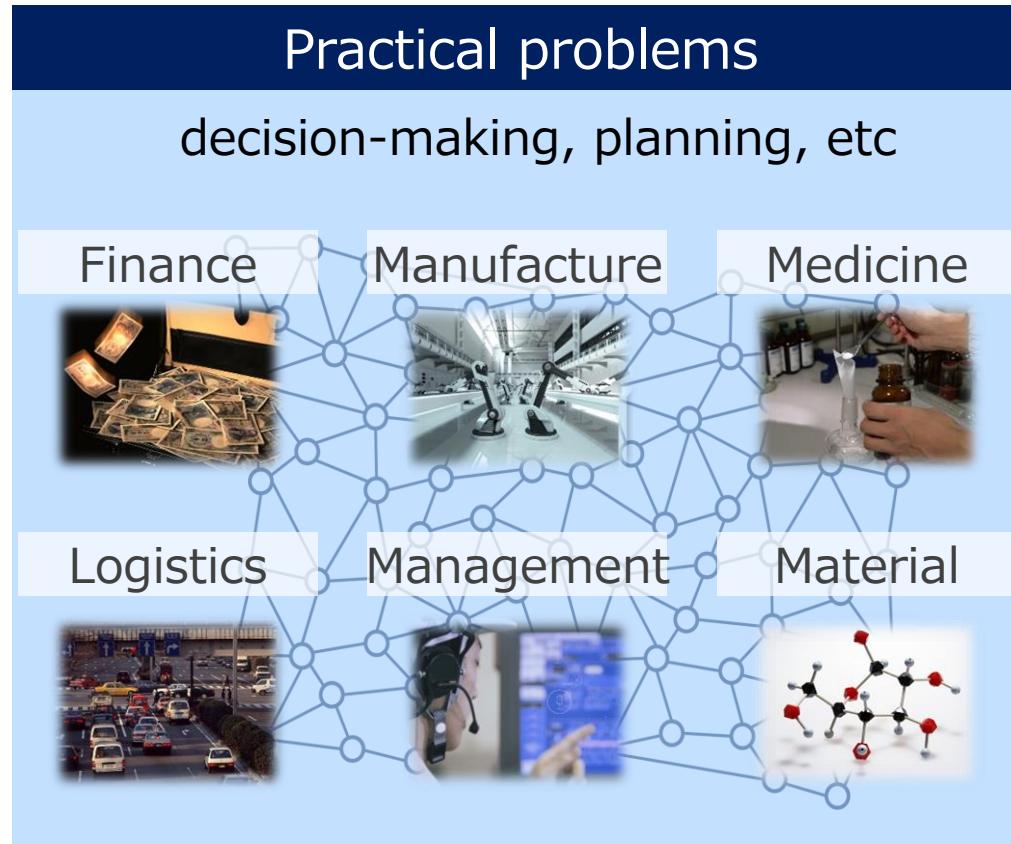
Simulated bifurcation machine (SBM):  
theory, implementation & performance

03

Real-time systems with Simulated bifurcation machines (SBMs):  
Finance and Automotive vehicle

# Combinatorial optimization

Economically important but computationally hard

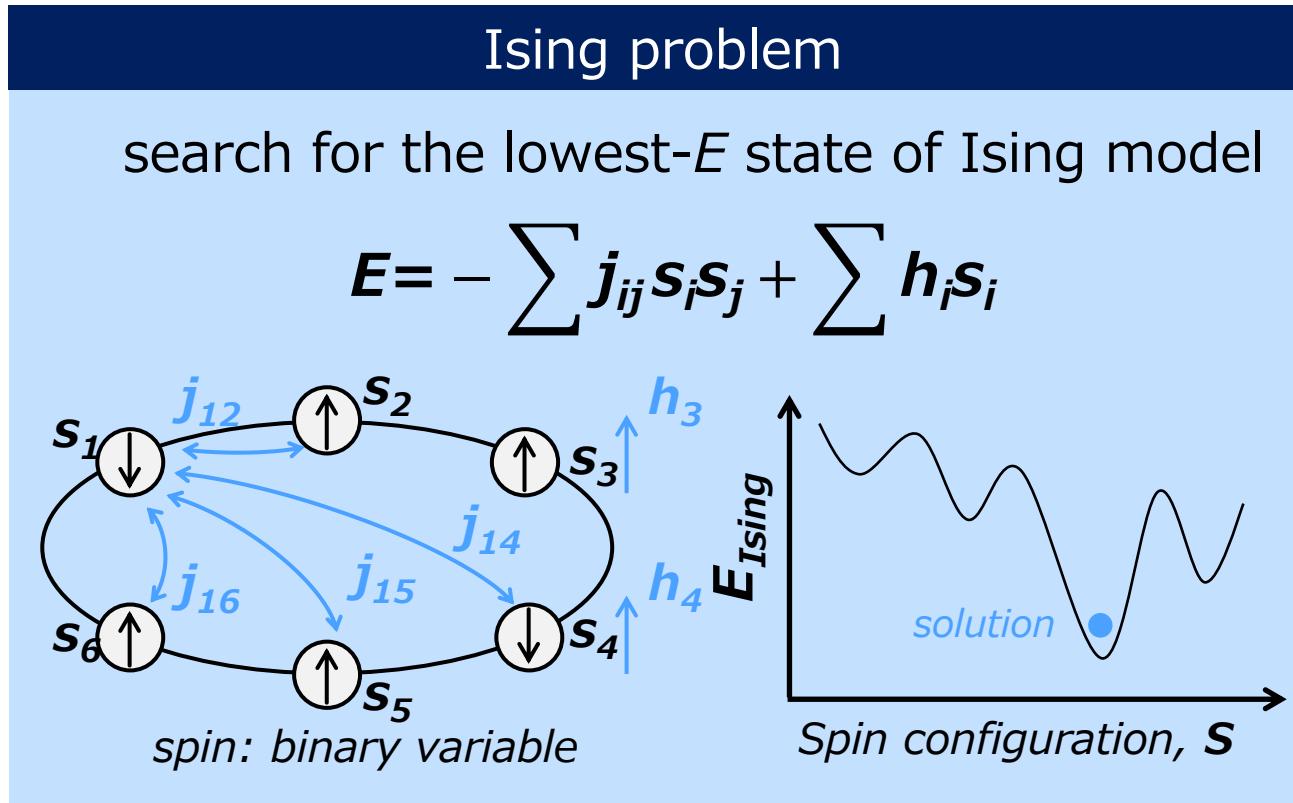


From the viewpoint of system engineering:

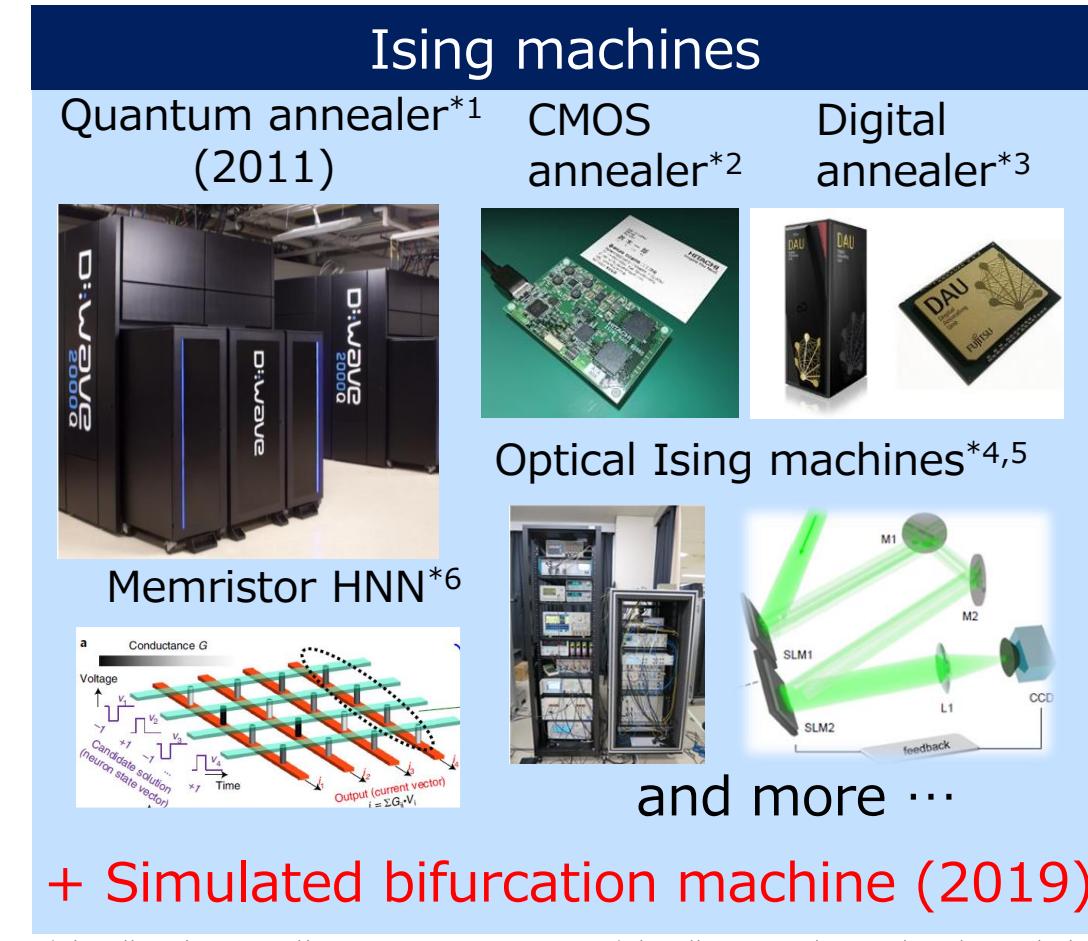
Making *rational* judgment in the situation/at the moment

# Ising machine

## Special-purpose computer for combinatorial optimization



Combinatorial optimization  
(Quadratic discrete optimization)



\*1 <https://www.dwavesys.com/d-wave-two-system>

\*2 <https://www.hitachi.co.jp/New/cnews/month/2019/02/0219.html>

\*3 <https://www.fujitsu.com/global/about/resources/news/press-releases/2018/0515-01.html>

\*4 <https://www.ntt.co.jp/news2017/1711e/171120a.html>

\*5 D. Pierangeli, et al., *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **122**, 213902 (2019).

\*6 F. Cai, et al., *Nature Electronics* **3**, 409 (2020).

# Quantum-inspired optimization technology

\*1 H. Goto et al., *Sci. Adv.* **5**, eaav2372, '19  
\*2 H. Goto et al., *Sci. Adv.* **7**, eabe7953, '21  
\*3 K. Tatsumura et al., *Nat. Ele.* **4**, 208–217, '21  
\*4 T. Kashimata et al., *IEEE Access* **12**, '24

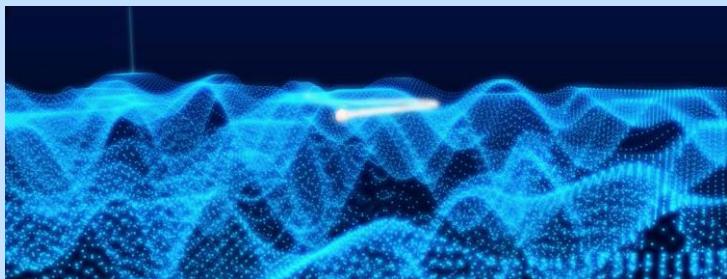
## Simulated Bifurcation Machine, SBM

### Algorithm

**Quantum-inspired**  
**Quantum bifurcation machine**  
in a quantum principle



**Simulated bifurcation algorithm**  
in a new classical principle



**Highly parallelizable**

### Implementation

**High performance**<sup>\*1,2</sup>

single-chip



**Scalable**<sup>\*3,4</sup>

multi-chip



### Application

**Very practical**

edge/embedded



cloud



**Innovative**  
ex. real-time systems



# Edge application of SBM

Simulated bifurcation machine

\*1 K. Tatsumura et al., "FPGA-Based Simulated Bifurcation Machine," *IEEE Field-Programmable Logic and Apps. (FPL)*, 2019

\*2 K. Tatsumura, "Large-scale combinatorial optimization in real-time systems by FPGA-based accelerators for simulated bifurcation," *Int'l Symp. on Highly Efficient Accelerators and Reconfigurable Technologies (HEART)*, 2021

## Enables real-time systems that make more rational judgments\*<sup>1,2</sup>

Constrains in the time domain

### Real-time system

- Must respond within the critically defined time constrain
- Respond time needed for "high-speed" real-time systems:  
**Typically less than 1 ms**
- (Conventional) simple conditional-judgement

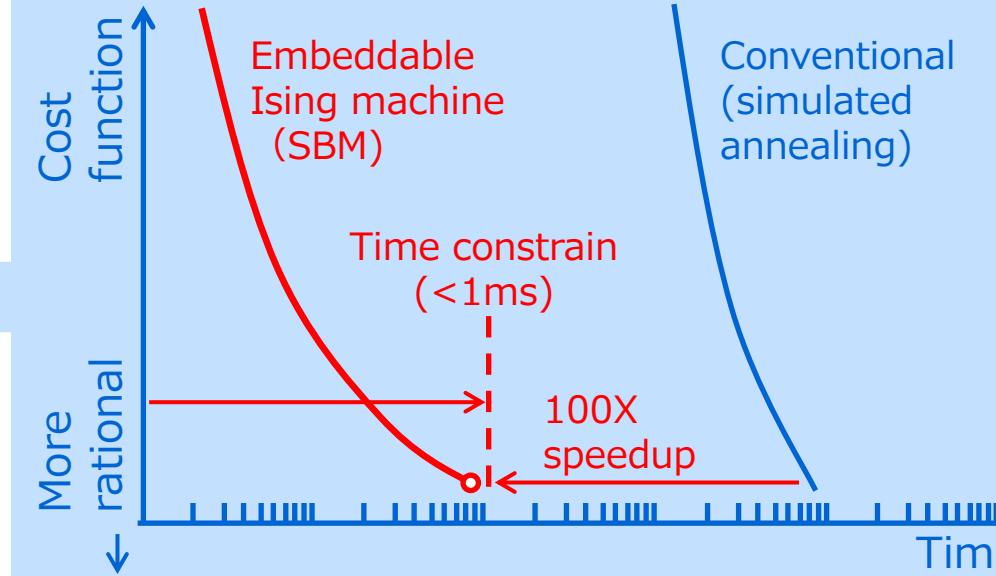
Financial trading



Automotive Vehicle



### Embeddable Ising machine (SBM)



### Real-time system with embeddable SBM

Environment  
• Financial market  
• Surrounding situation

System

info



system-wide latency (<1ms)

response

Time

Rational response based on quadratic discrete optimization

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# SB theory: How it was born

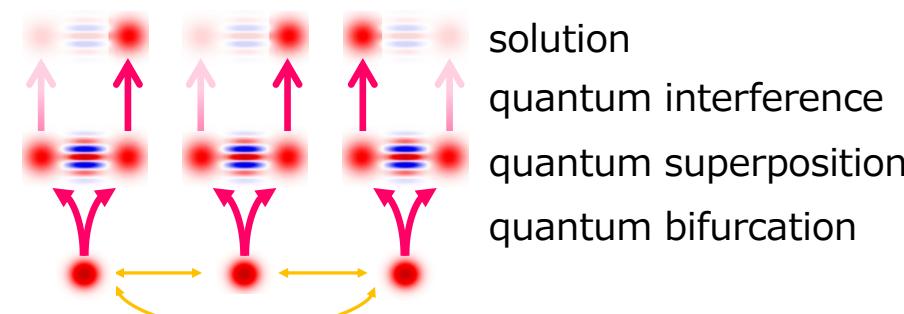
## Quantum-inspired algorithm

### Quantum Bifurcation (QB) machine<sup>\*1</sup>

Hamiltonian describing adiabatic bifurcation process in a nonlinear oscillator network

$$H_q(t) = \hbar \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{K}{2} a_i^{\dagger 2} a_i^2 - \frac{p(t)}{2} (a_i^{\dagger 2} + a_i^2) + \Delta_i a_i^{\dagger} a_i \right] - \hbar \xi_0 \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N J_{i,j} a_i^{\dagger} a_j$$

Combinatorial optimization  
based on quantum adiabatic theorem



### Classical Bifurcation (CB) machine

classicization of  
state variables

$$H_c(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, t) = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{K}{4} (x_i^2 + y_i^2)^2 - \frac{p(t)}{2} (x_i^2 - y_i^2) + \frac{\Delta_i}{2} (x_i^2 + y_i^2) \right] - \frac{\xi_0}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N J_{i,j} (x_i x_j + y_i y_j)$$

algorithmic twist for speed-up

### Simulated Bifurcation (SB) algorithm (2019)<sup>\*2</sup>

*Classicizing* QB that works in a quantum principle...?  
Why SB works? What principle? There was a discovery

# SB theory: Why it works

- \*1 H. Goto et al., *Science Advances* **5**, eaav2372 (2019)
- \*2 G. Finocchio et al., *Nano Futures* **8**, 012001 (2024)
- \*3 H. Goto et al., *Science Advances* **7**, eabe7953 (2021)
- \*4 T. Kanao et al., *Comm. Phys.* **5**, 153 (2022)
- \*5 T. Kanao et al., *Applied Physics Express* **16**, 014501(2023)

## New classical principle: Adiabatic and ergodic search<sup>\*1</sup>

Dynamical change  
of energy landscape

a single local  
minimum



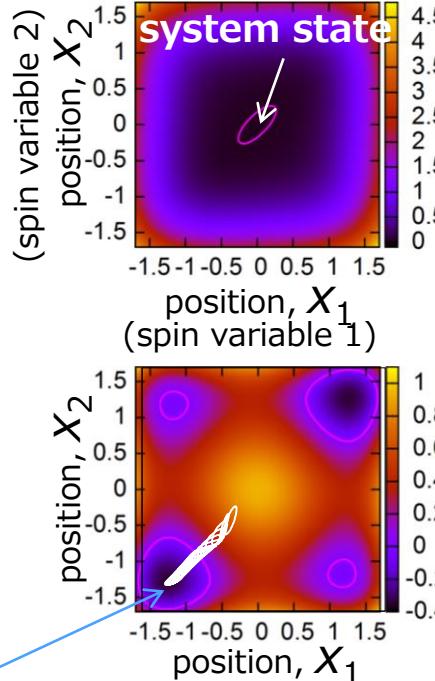
**bifurcation**  
(adiabatic process)



multiple local minima  
(target cost function)

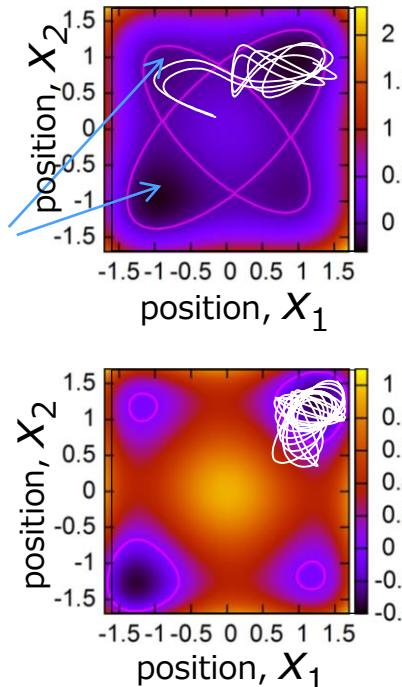
**best solution**  
 $(-1, -1)$

Energy landscape ( $N_{\text{spin}}=2$ )



**adiabatic search**  
chase one of the minima

Multiple minima in  
the energetically  
allowable region



**ergodic search**

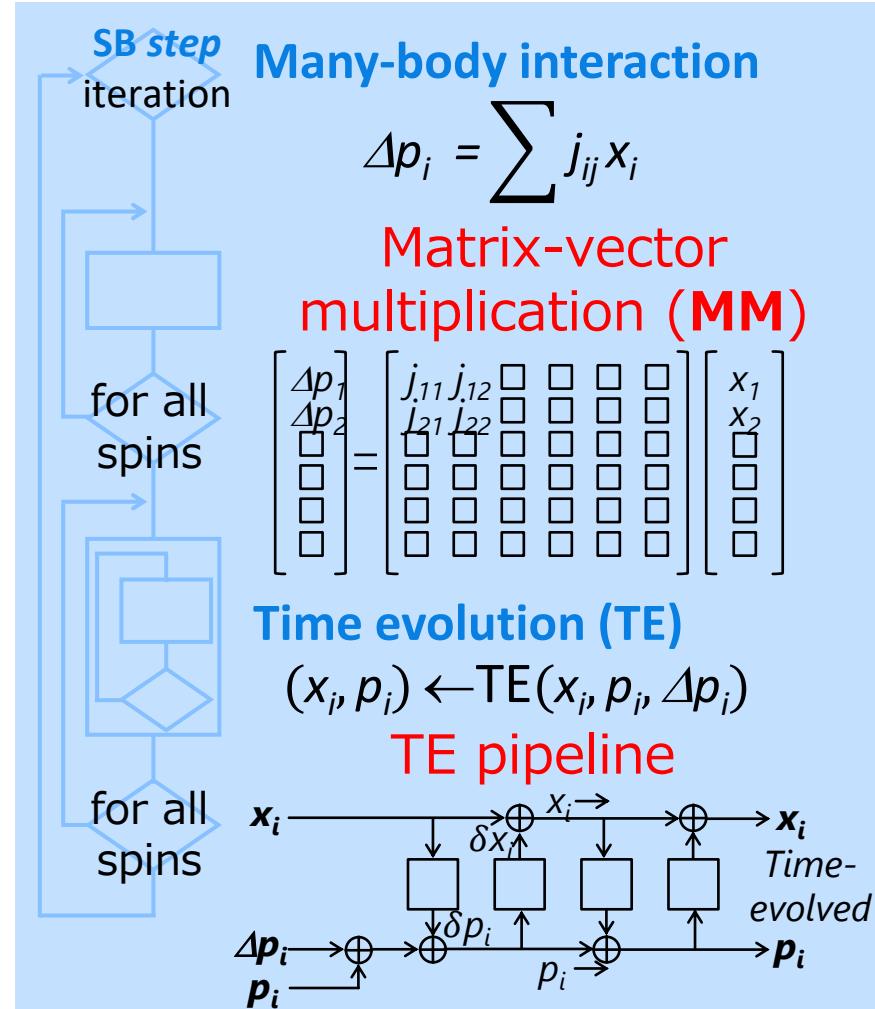
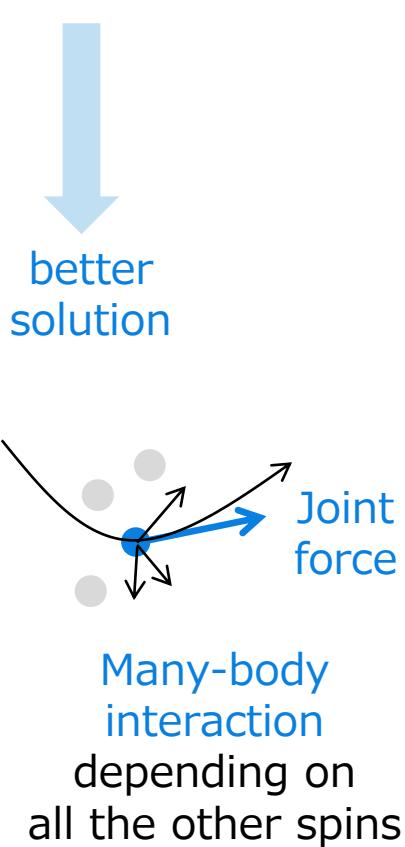
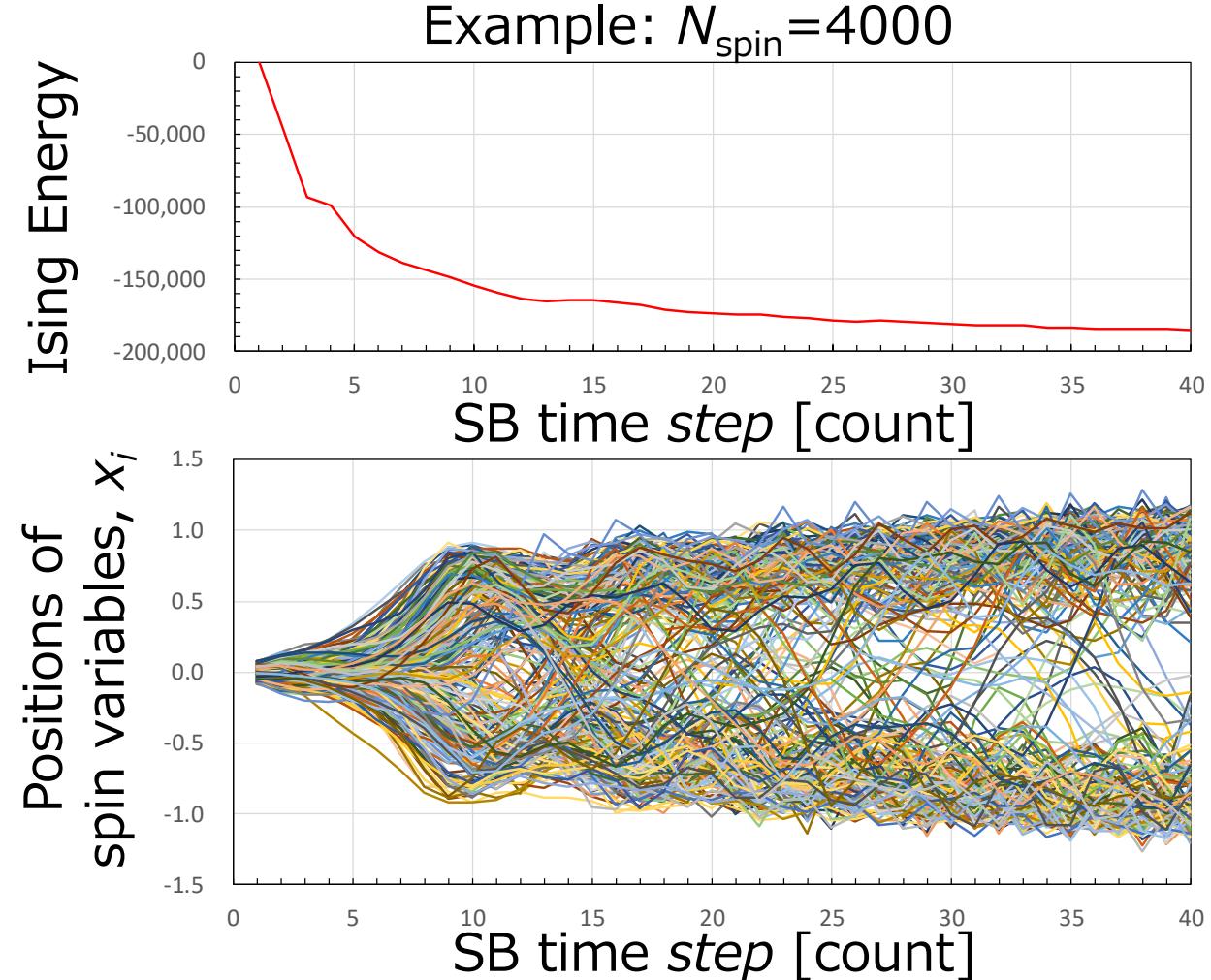
find a better one with a higher probability

Implying *classical* adiabatic theorem (corresponding to quantum adiabatic theorem)<sup>\*2</sup>  
has been extended to 2<sup>nd</sup>-gen SB<sup>\*3</sup>, heat-assisted SB<sup>\*4</sup>, and higher-order SB<sup>\*5</sup>

# SB algorithm: How it works

\*1 Time-evolution simulation of  $N$ -particle systems with long-range pairwise interaction, like celestial systems with gravitational interaction or molecular systems with Coulomb interaction

" $N$ -body"-type algorithmic structure\*1 → Highly parallelizable



# SB algorithm : Characteristics

**More parallelizable than SA, Can be accelerated with FPGAs/GPUs/NPUs**

	SA simulated annealing	SB simulated bifurcation	R-NN recurrent neural network	N-body gravitational (/Coulomb)-force
Structure	<p>Sequential updating</p> <p>t1 t2 t3 t4</p>	<p>Parallel updating</p> <p>t1 t2</p>	<p>position      momentum</p> <p><math>s_1 \rightarrow x_1</math>    <math>s_1 \rightarrow D_1</math>  <math>s_2 \rightarrow x_2</math>    <math>s_2 \rightarrow D_2</math>  <math>\vdots</math>                <math>j_{i,j}</math>  <math>s_N \rightarrow x_N</math>    <math>s_N \rightarrow D_N</math></p> <p>one MAC operation</p>	<p>position      momentum</p> <p><math>r_1 \rightarrow p_1</math>    <math>r_1 \rightarrow p_N</math>  <math>r_2 \rightarrow p_2</math>    <math>r_2 \rightarrow p_N</math>  <math>\vdots</math>                <math>C_i C_j</math>  <math>r_N \rightarrow p_N</math></p> <p>full connection</p> <p>38 FP operations</p>
Parallelism	$O(N)$		$O(N^2)$	

More parallelizable

Intensive memory access  
J/W matrix (NxN matrix)

Very similar

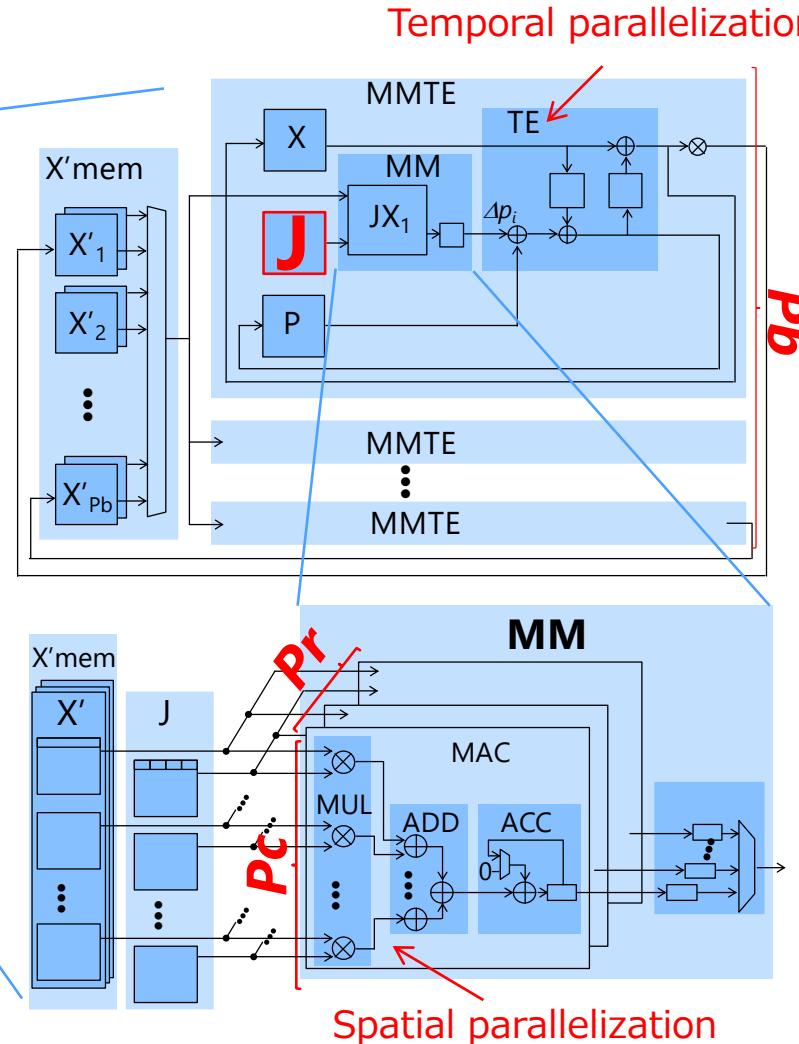
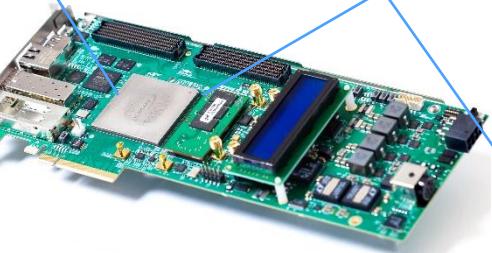
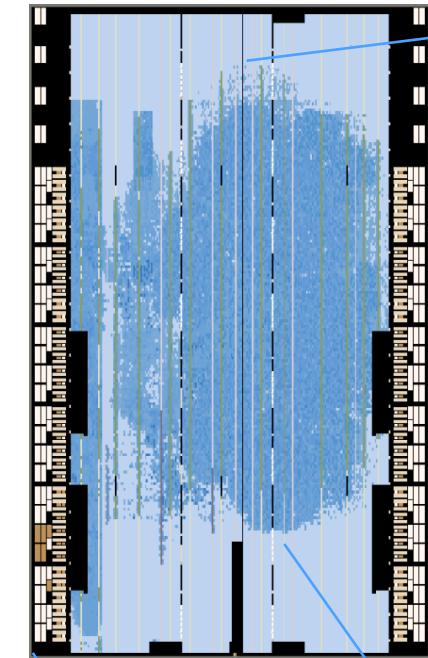
More PEs per chip  
PE: pairwise interaction

SB can be accelerated with FPGAs/GPUs (not limited to special ASICs)  
Many AI chips (NPUs) are beneficial also to SB

# FPGA-based accelerator for SB\*<sup>1</sup>

## Large-scale, massively parallel, and high utilization

Arria10 GX1150 FPGA



Problem	complete-graph MAX-CUT
Machine size	4,096 spins full spin-spin connectivity
Architecture	Pr/Pc/Pb
# of MAC PEs	<b>8,192</b>
Effective activity	<b>92%</b>
Resource	
ALM	40%
BRAM	56%
DSP	7%
System Clock	[MHz]
Fsys	<b>269</b>

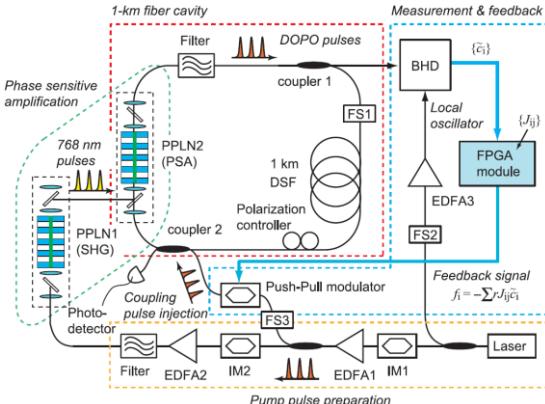
(not achievable for SA)

# Performance<sup>\*1</sup> (2019)

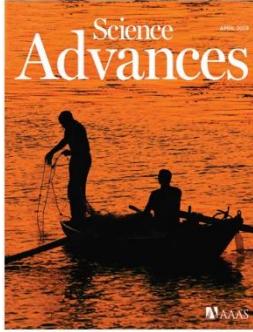
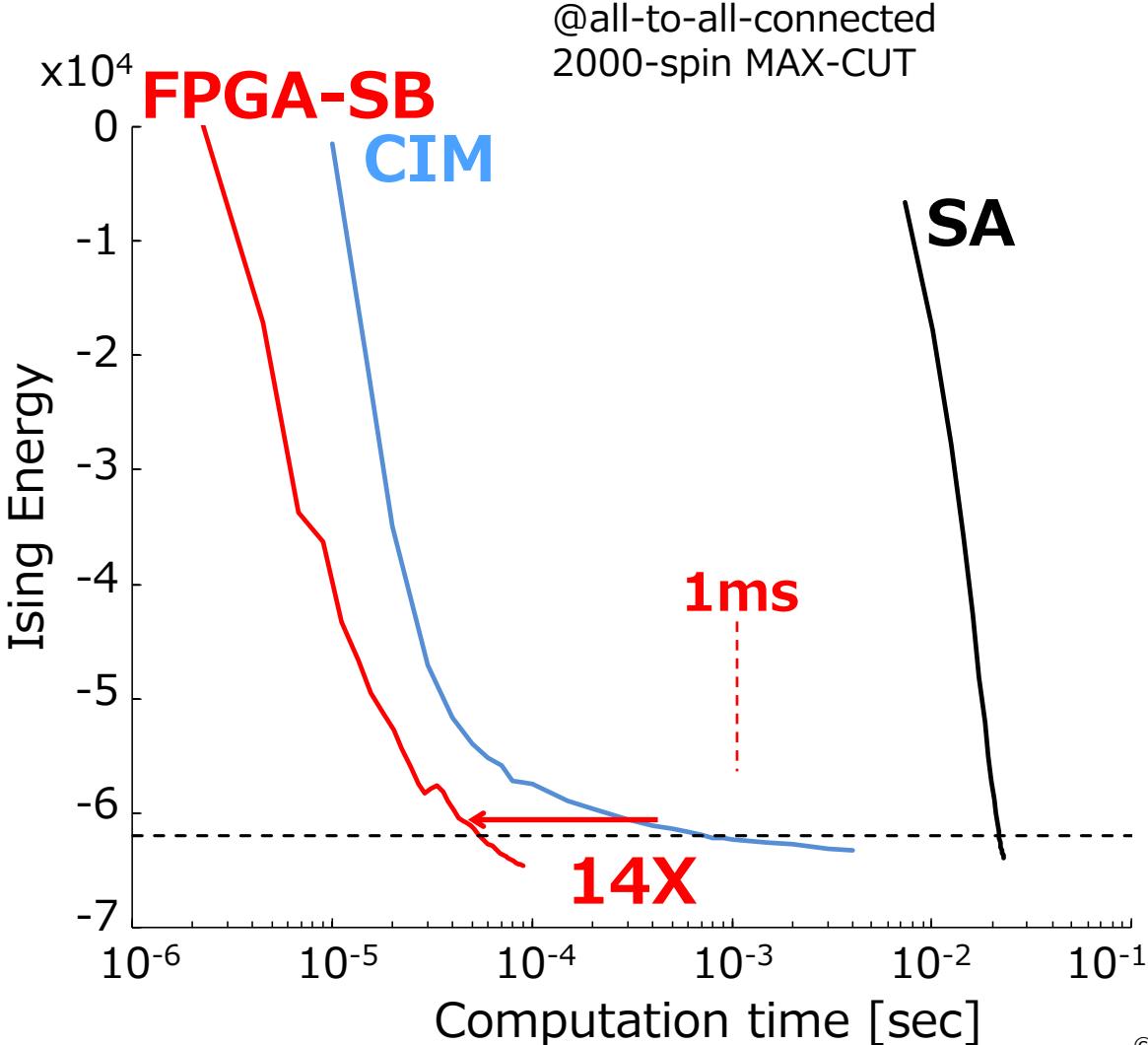
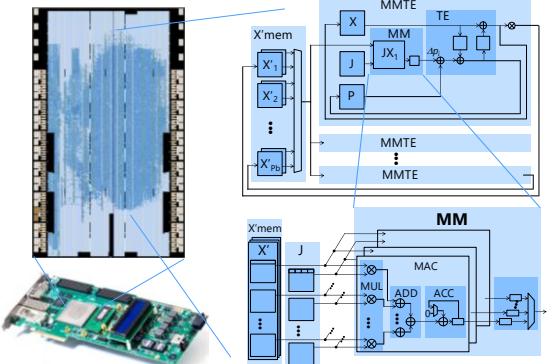
Faster and more efficient than the state-of-the-art one

## Coherent Ising Machine

800 GMAC/s @ 1000 W



**FPGA-SB** 1,873 GMAC/s @ 49 W  
(288X more energy efficient)

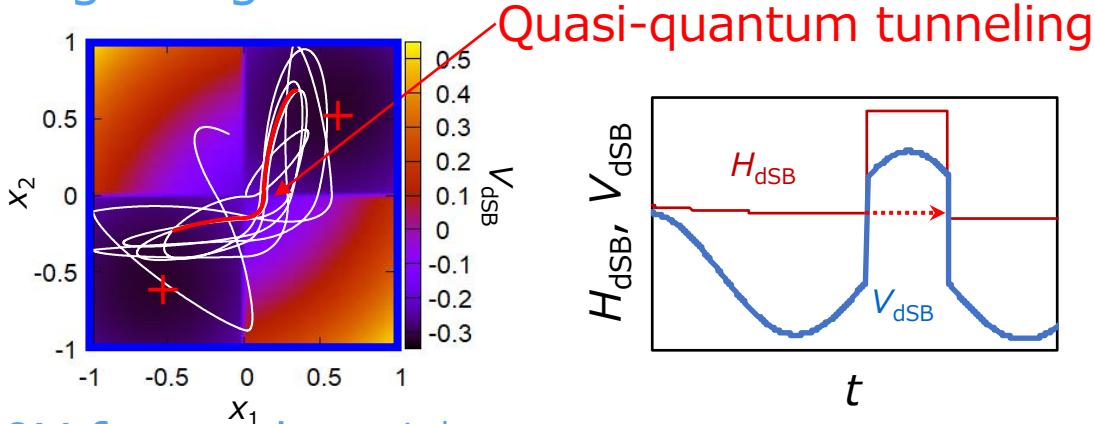


# Performance\*1 (2021)

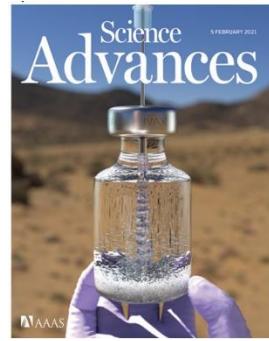
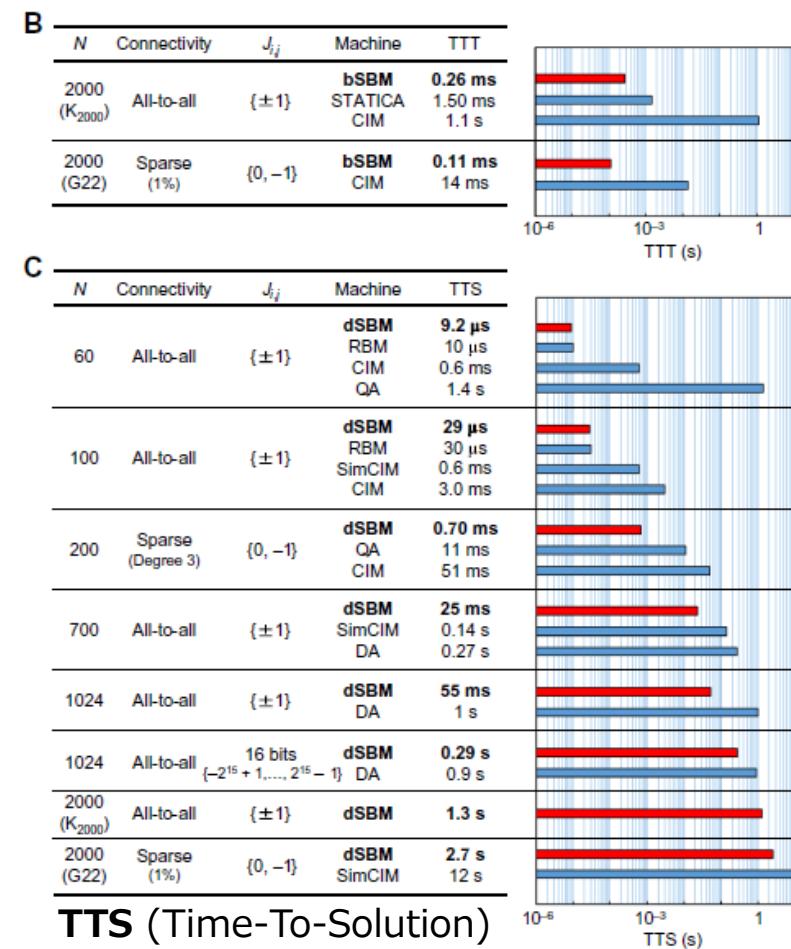
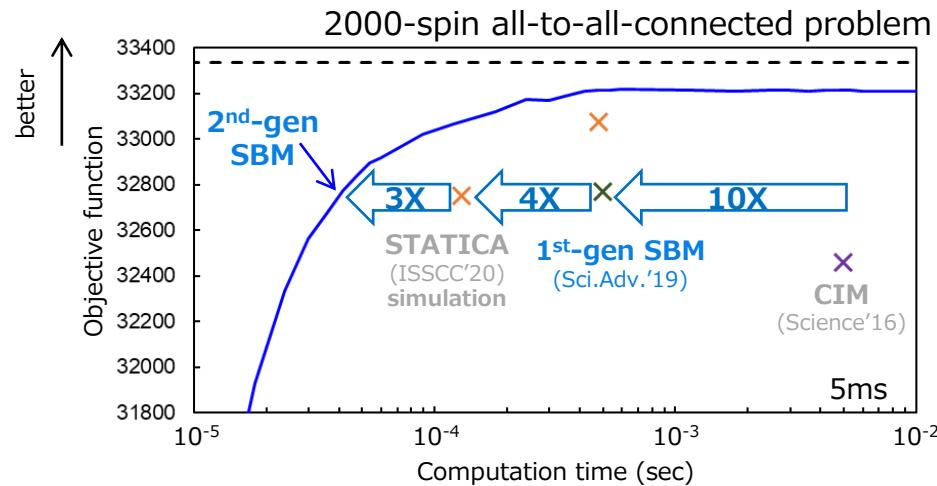
Comprehensive comparison →

## Very competitive with state-of-the-art Ising machines

2<sup>nd</sup>-gen algorithm



10X faster than 1<sup>st</sup>-gen



## Competitors

**SB:** Simulated bifurcation

**QA:** Quantum annealer

**CIM:** Coherent Ising machine

**DA:** Digital annealer

**SimCIM:** Simulated CIM

**RBM:** Restricted Boltzmann machine

**MA:** Momentum annealing

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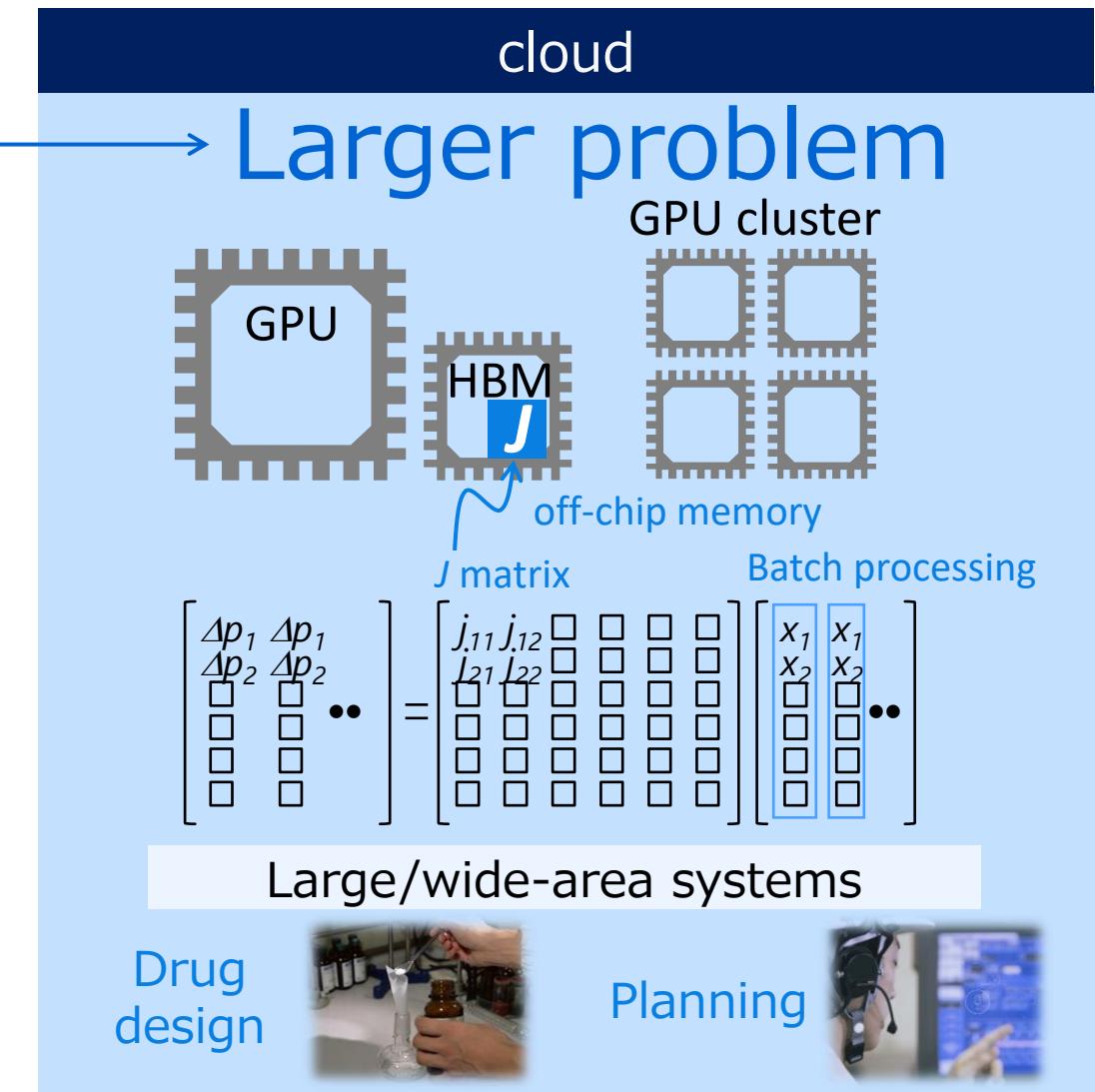
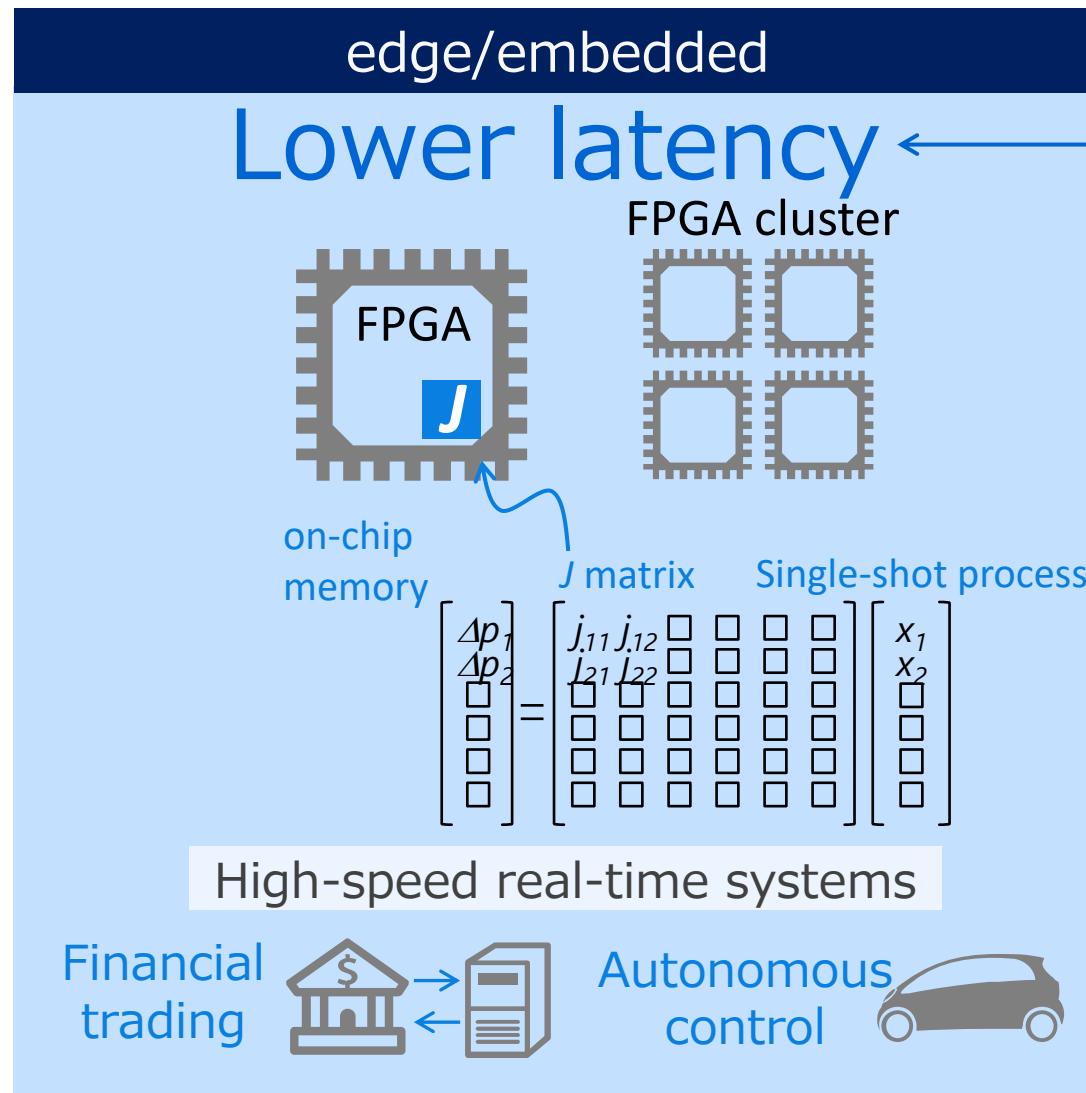
Real-time systems with Simulated bifurcation machines (SBMs):  
Finance and Automotive vehicle

# Application of SBMs\*1

Simulated bifurcation machines

\*1 Toshiba's website "SQBM+™"  
<https://www.global.toshiba/ww/products-solutions/ai-iot/sbm.html>

for Edge (high-speed real-time) and Cloud (large/wide-area)



# Embeddable SBM

Simulated bifurcation machine

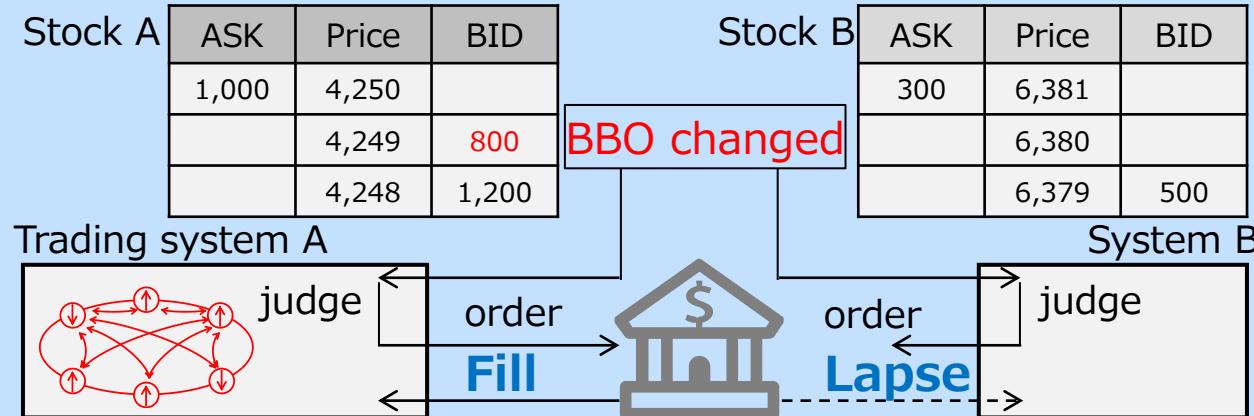
\*1 K. Tatsumura et al., "FPGA-Based Simulated Bifurcation Machine," *IEEE Field-Programmable Logic and Apps. (FPL)*, 2019

\*2 K. Tatsumura, "Large-scale combinatorial optimization in real-time systems by FPGA-based accelerators for simulated bifurcation," *Int'l Symp. on Highly Efficient Accelerators and Reconfigurable Technologies (HEART)*, 2021

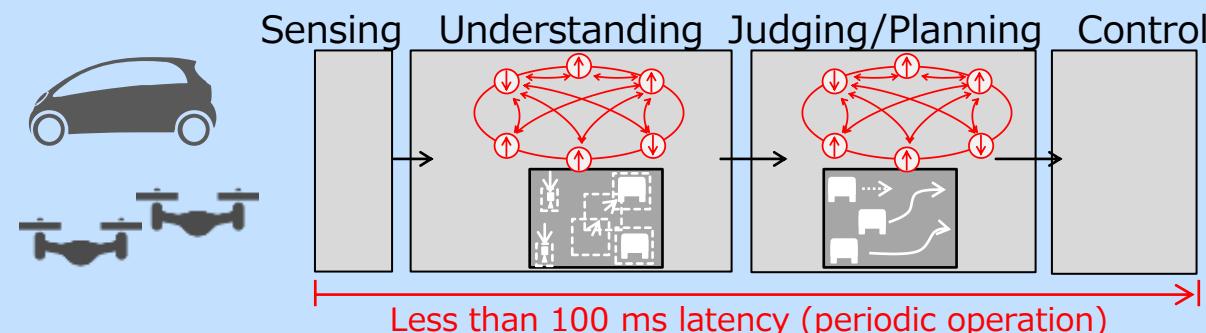
## Enabling NP-hard optimization in real-time systems rational judgment

### High-speed real-time systems

#### Financial trading system



#### Autonomous control



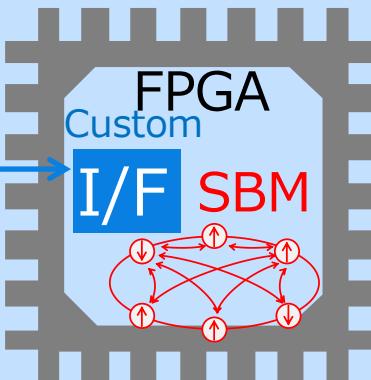
### FPGA-based SBMs

Ultralow latency (sub-msec)

Deterministic latency



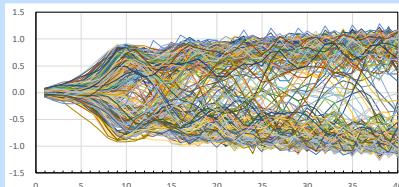
Market packet



1. Embeddable

2. Custom I/F

3. SBM custom circuit  
(No software interrupt)



Predetermined #step

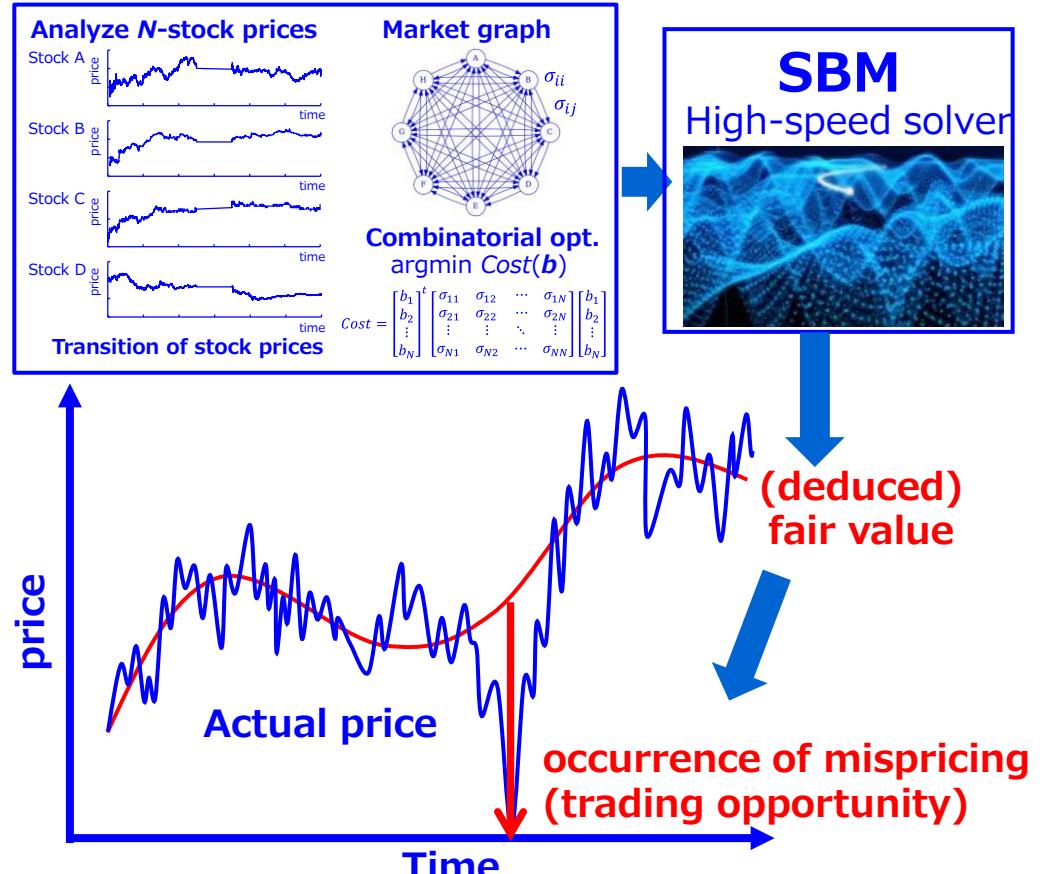
# Applications in Finance

#1 The world's first demonstration of systems that execute unprecedented stock trading strategies based on computationally-hard quadratic discrete optimization by using quantum-inspired computer

- \*1 <https://doi.org/10.1109/ISCAS45731.2020.9181114>
- \*2 <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2023.3316727>
- \*3 <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2023.3326816>
- \*4 <https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2023.3341422>

## New strategies based on detection of ever-untargeted trading opportunities by SBMs

Even if your strategy is splendid, if there is a competitor executing the same one, you may lose  
Traders are essentially **technology-hungry**, pursuing a new strategy by new technologies



Type	High-speed real-time trading		Asset management
Target	Currency	Stock	
Strategy	Cross-currency arbitrage*1	Extended pair-trade*2	High-speed basket trade*3
Opt.	Optimal path search in market graph	Optimal path search in market graph	Discrete portfolio optimization
Paper			
Publish	Oct. 12, 2020	Sep. 18, 2023	Oct. 23, 2023
			Dec. 12, 2023

## System -High-speed basket trade\*1-

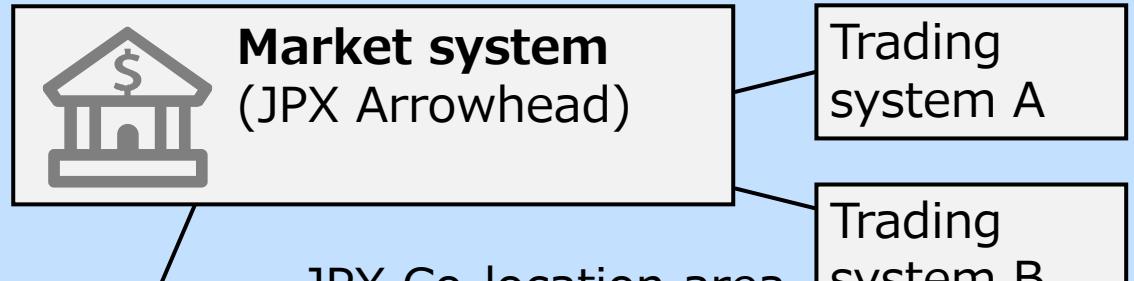
# Real-time trading system with embedded SBM (164μS latency), installed at the JPX Co-location area of the TSE

special area for high-speed trading

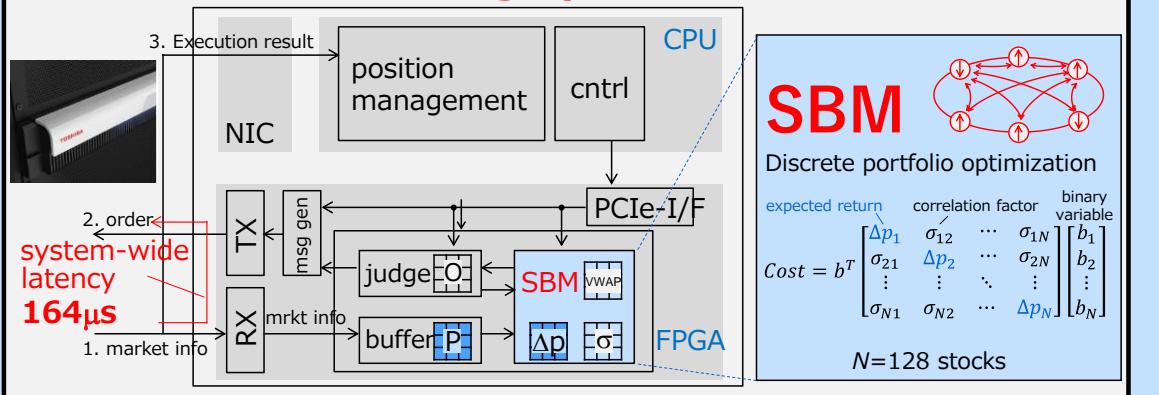
TOKYO Stock Exchange

### System configuration

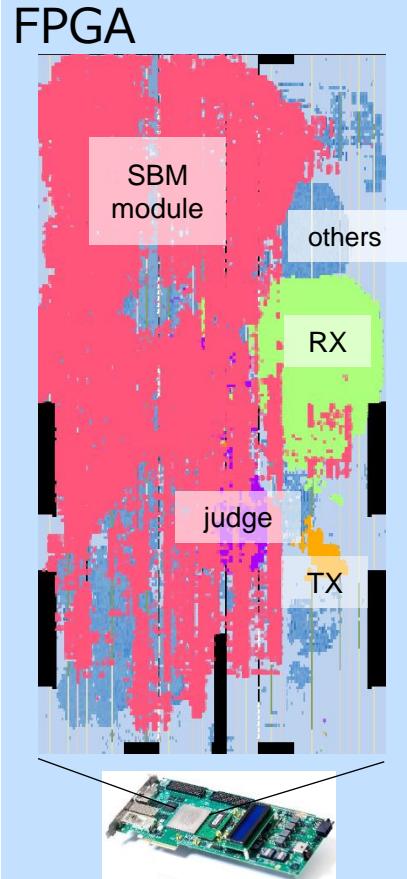
In a data center



### SBM real-time trading system

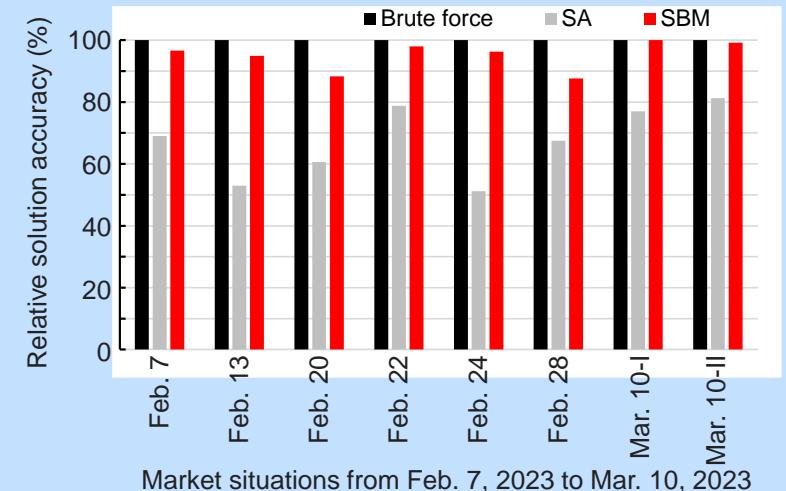


### Embedded SBM



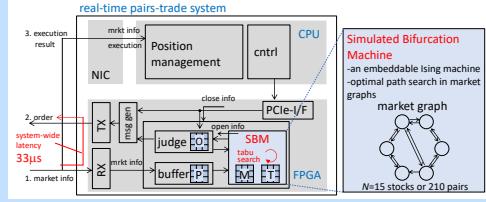
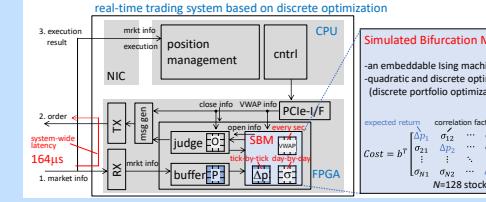
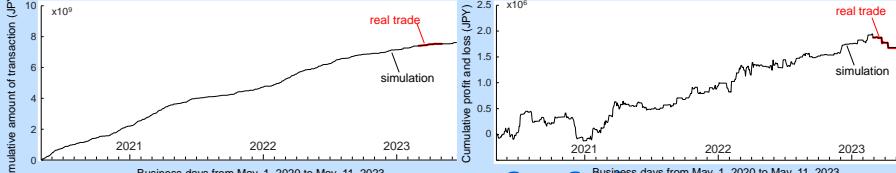
SB alg. ver	Ballistic SB (bSB)
Machine size	Fully-connected 128 spins
Comp. precision	32-bit FP
Time per SBM run	162 μS

### Single-shot solution accuracy



# Demonstration at the Tokyo Stock Exchange

## Execution capability of NP-hard optimization-based trading strategy through real-time/real-money transactions

Strategy & System	Extended pair-trade*1  Optimal path search in market graph (a tabu search)	High-speed basket trade*2  Discrete portfolio optimization
Real-time transactions vs. backsimulation assuming 100% fill rate <i>Execution at intended prices &amp; volumes</i>	 Good agreement → Proof of the execution capability in terms of speed	 Good agreement → Proof of the execution capability in terms of speed
System-wide latency	33 µsec for 210-pair universe	164 µsec for 128-stock universe
Sharpe ratio (annualized return/risk)	0.79 (=7.5% / 9.5%)	1.23 (=3.6% / 2.9%)
Cumulative amounts of transaction	3,817,201,458 JPY <i>(Total )4 billion JPY transactions, 1000-hour no-error operation</i>	118,956,828 JPY
Real-time trading hours	125 days or 750 hours (No errors)	42 days or 252 hours (No errors)

## Strategy -High-speed basket trade\*1-

\*1 K. Tatsumura et al., "Real-time Trading System based on Selections of Potentially Profitable, Uncorrelated, and Balanced Stocks by NP-hard Combinatorial Optimization," *IEEE Access* **11**, pp. 120023 - 120033 (2023).  
 \*2 VWAP: Volume-Weighted Average Price

# Select a delta-neutral basket of stocks to maximize return and minimize correlation (risk) for improving Sharpe ratio

### Formulation of QUBO

A typical “quadratic discrete optimization problem” (NP-hard)

Binary variables  $\mathbf{b} = [b_1 \ b_2 \ \dots \ b_N] \quad b_i \in \{0, 1\}$

Total cost function

$$H_{QUBO} = \sum_i^N \sum_j^N Q_{i,j} = H_{cost} + H_{penalty}$$

Cost

$$H_{cost} = [b_1 \ b_2 \ \dots \ b_N] \begin{bmatrix} \Delta P_1 & \sigma_{12} & \dots & \sigma_{1N} \\ \sigma_{21} & \Delta P_2 & \dots & \sigma_{2N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{N1} & \sigma_{N2} & \dots & \Delta P_N \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_N \end{bmatrix}$$

Penalty

$$H_{penalty} = c_2 \left( \left( \sum_i^N b_i \right) - N_s \right)^2 + c_3 \left( \sum_i^N sgn(\Delta p_i) b_i \right)^2$$



**Maximize**

Sum of expected return

**Minimize**

Sum of correlation factors  
(for diversified-portfolio)

**Constrain I**

Number of selected stocks,  $N_s$



**Constrain II**

Delta neutral  
( $N_{buy} = N_{sell}$ )

# Applications in Automotive vehicle<sup>\*1</sup>

\*1 K. Oya et al., "Proposal and prototyping of automotive computing platform with Quantum inspired Processing Unit", Trans. of Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan 54, pp. 1216-1221 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.11351/jsaeronbun.54.1216>  
<https://trid.trb.org/View/2270193>

## Toward autonomous car/driving-support tech that quickly and optimally respond to surrounding situation

Autonomous control systems: a typical mission-critical, high-speed, real-time system

Making understanding/judgment **more rational within critical time-constraints**

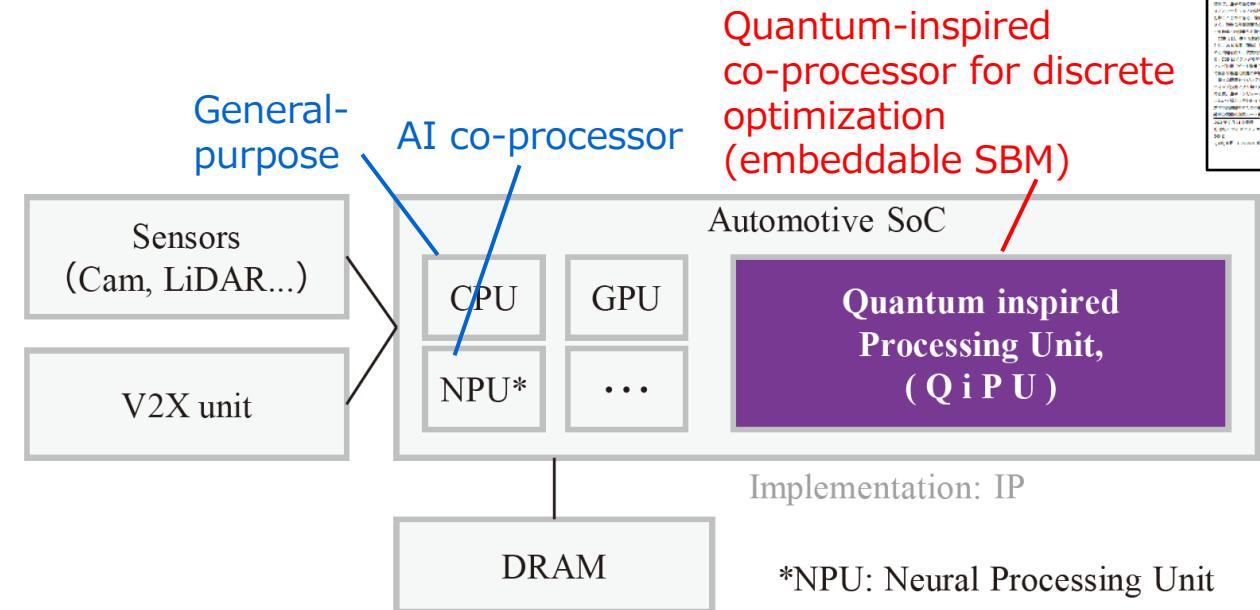
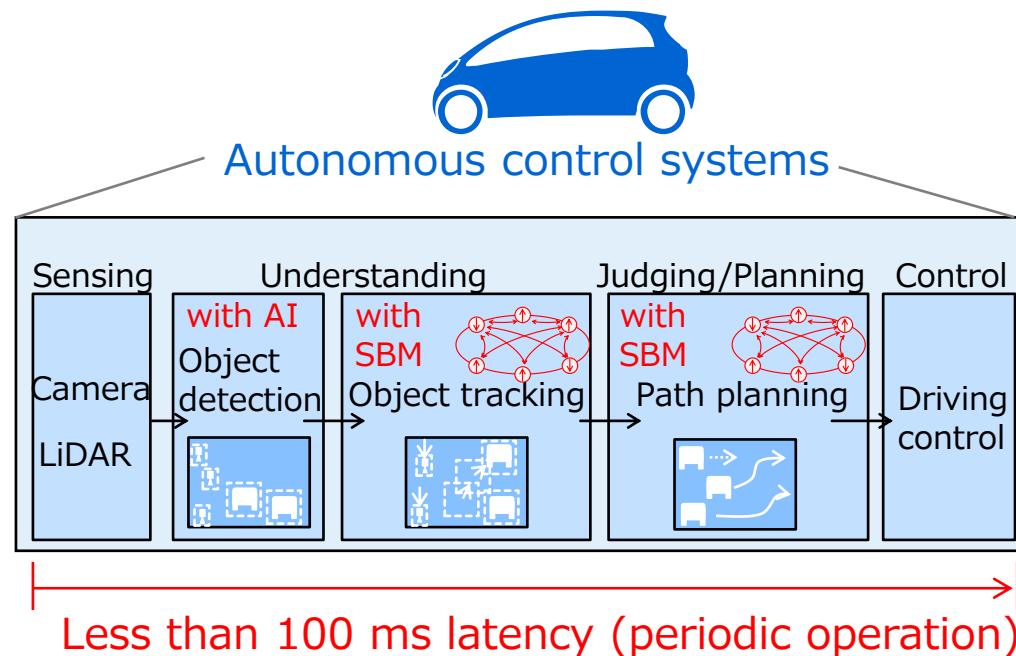


Fig.2 Architecture of automotive computing platform with  
Quantum inspired Processing Unit

\*NPU: Neural Processing Unit

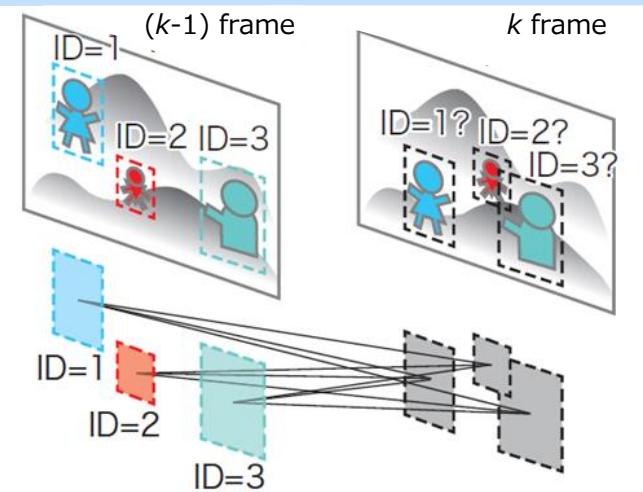
# Multiple Object Tracking with SBM\*1

Simulated bifurcation machine

\*1 K. Oya et al., "Proposal and prototyping of automotive computing platform with Quantum inspired Processing Unit", Trans. of Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan 54, pp. 1216-1221 (2023).  
<https://doi.org/10.11351/jsaeronbun.54.1216>

## Flexible matching functions by SBMs to realize tracking through multiple long-term occlusion events

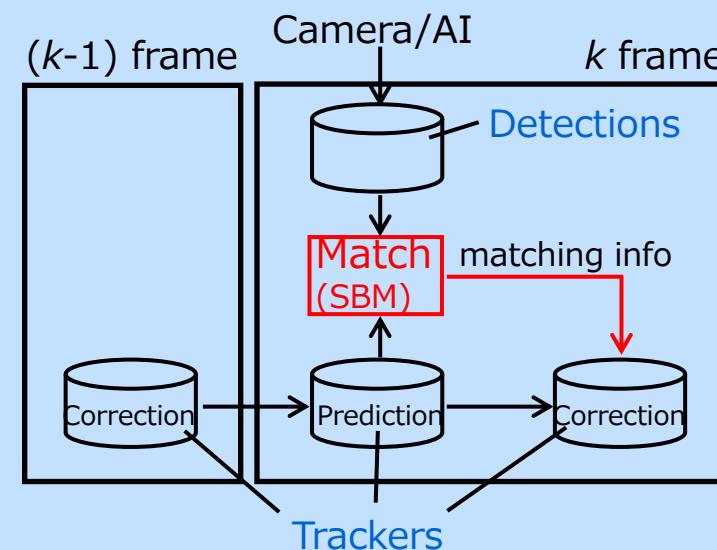
### Extended MOT



To realize tracking of objects through multiple long-term occlusion events

### QUBO formulation

- Matching between *Detections* and *Trackers*
- Detect the occurrences & locations of occlusion events



- Execute SBM **twice** while changing the penalty weight (**c**) for prohibiting double-match

$$H_{QUBO} = \sum_i^N \sum_j^N Q_{i,j} = H_{cost} + c H_{penalty}$$

Maximize intersections  
Prohibiting double-match

w/o occlusion  
(#Detections = #Trackers)

t1	d1	1		
	d3		1	
d2				1
t2				

one-to-one matching

with occlusions  
(#Detections < #Trackers)

t1	d1	1		
	d2		1	1
d2				
t2				

one-to-many matching

# Demonstration<sup>\*1</sup>

\*1 K. Oya et al., "Proposal and prototyping of automotive computing platform with Quantum inspired Processing Unit", Trans. of Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan 54, pp. 1216-1221 (2023).  
<https://doi.org/10.11351/jsaeronbun.54.1216>

## System throughput of 20 FPS and SBM-unique functions with vehicle-mountable FPGA boards

### Vehicle-mountable boards

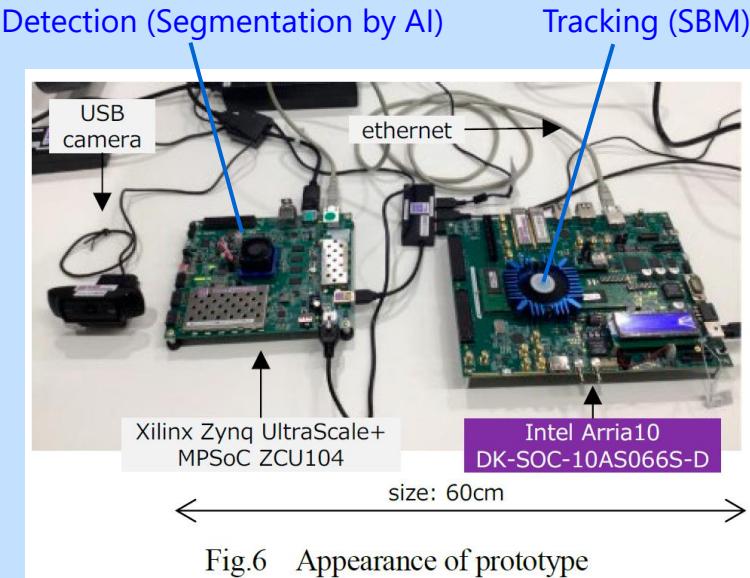


Fig.6 Appearance of prototype

SB alg. ver	Ballistic SB (bSB)
Machine size	Fully-connected 512 spins
# of MAC-PE	2,048
Time per SBM run	284 $\mu$ s

### Throughput (>10FPS)

Table 3. Tracking performance of SORT with matching methods of Hungarian and SBM on MOT benchmark sequences<sup>(19)</sup>

MOT algorithm	Matching	MOTA↑	HOTA↑
Original SORT	Hungarian	48.77	44.80
Original SORT	SBM	48.76	44.83

Rectangles indicates Detection result, and Vectors in Rectangles indicates Tracking result.  
\*This image is processed for privacy protection.

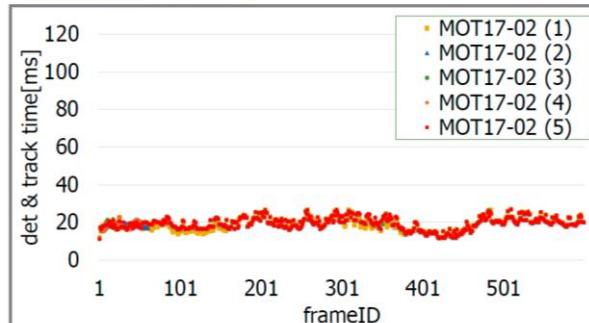


Fig.7 Evaluation result of processing time of prototype

System throughput of approx. 20 FPS

### SBM-unique function

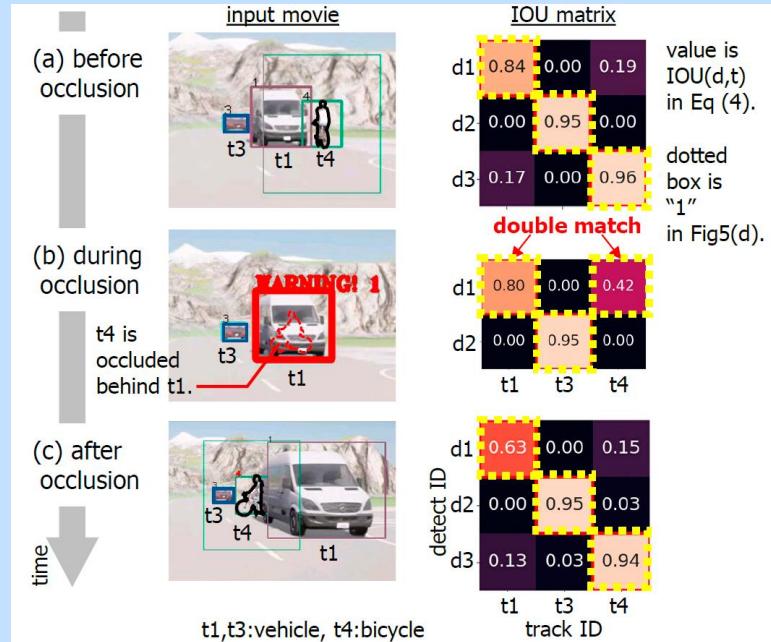


Fig.8 Function demonstration result of tracking through occlusion

Flexible matching functions for tracking through multiple long-term occlusion events

## Simulated bifurcation machines

### Simulated bifurcation (SB):

- quantum-inspired, highly-parallelizable algorithm for combinatorial optimization
- Can be accelerated with FPGAs/GPUs/NPUs → Very practical

### High-speed real-time systems that make more rational judgments

- enabled by embeddable SBMs, for *innovative applications*

### Demonstration

#### Financial trading

Execution capability of NP-hard optimization-based trading strategy through real-time/real-money transactions

#### Automotive vehicle

System throughput of 20 FPS (frames per second) and SBM-unique functions with vehicle-mountable FPGA boards

# For further information

## Search by “SQBM+”

List of Papers, Presentation slides, Manuals

The Slides of *this* presentation are available

The screenshot shows the Toshiba SQBM+ website homepage. At the top, there are navigation links for TOP, Services and Solutions, News, and Corporate Information. Below that, a breadcrumb trail shows the user is at the SQBM+ page. The main header is "Quantum-Inspired Optimization Solutions" followed by the "SQBM+™" logo. A sub-header below the logo says "A unique way to break the limits of the world." Two prominent boxes highlight new releases: "New Version Release SQBM+™ V2 on AWS" and "Now available on Microsoft Azure SQBM+™ V2". Both boxes list key features: up to 10M variables, support for 3 GPU types, and essential algorithms. At the bottom, there are links for TOP, About SQBM+, Products and Services, Technologies, Papers and Links, Advanced cases, Support, Partners, News and Topics, Resources, Events, and Inquiry.



# Appendix

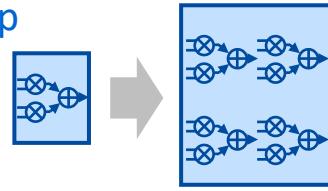
## Appendix

# Scalability\*1 (2021)

## Scaling out Ising machines with full spin-to-spin connectivity

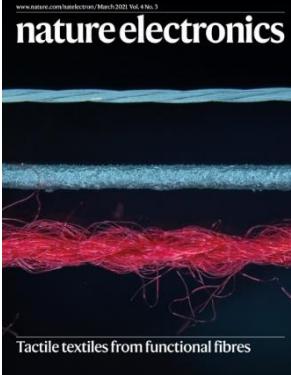
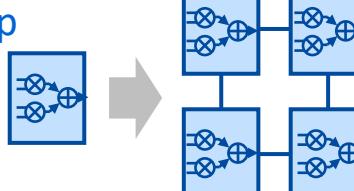
### Scale-up

computing  
chip



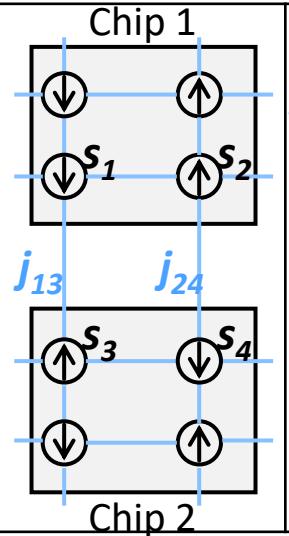
### Scale-out

computing  
chip



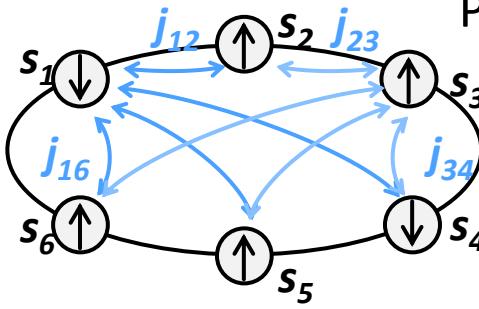
### Locally-connected spin network

Partition



### Fully-connected spin network

Partition



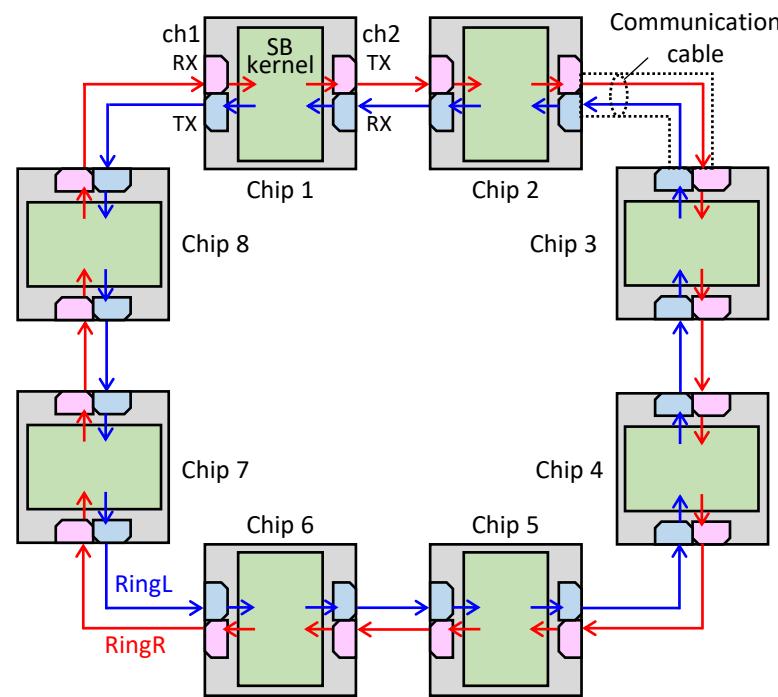
Chip 1

Chip 2

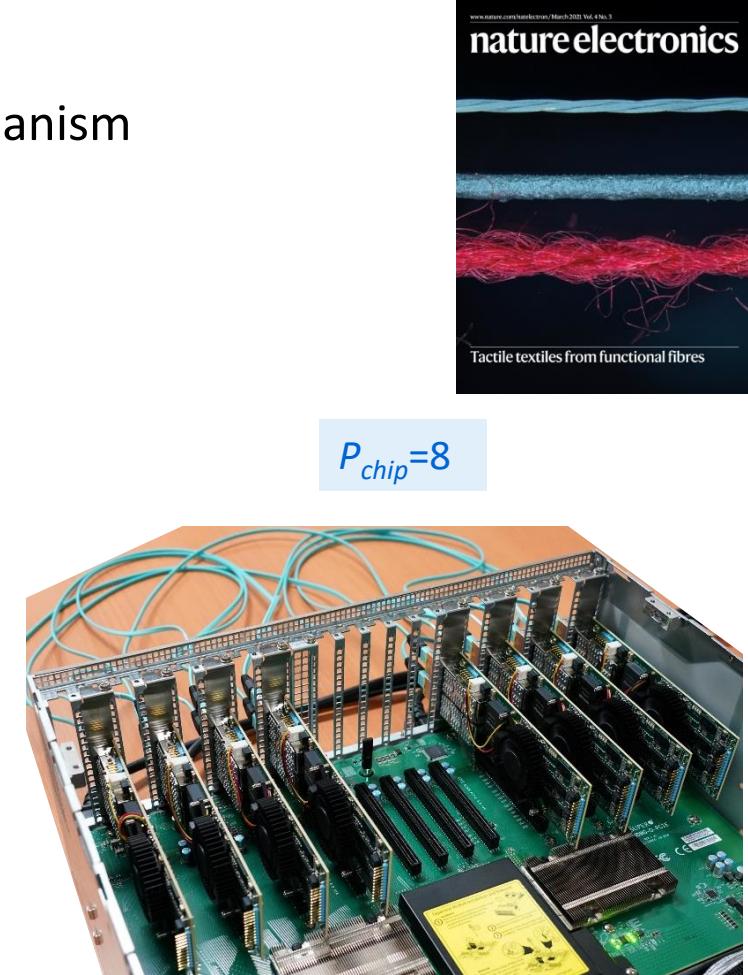
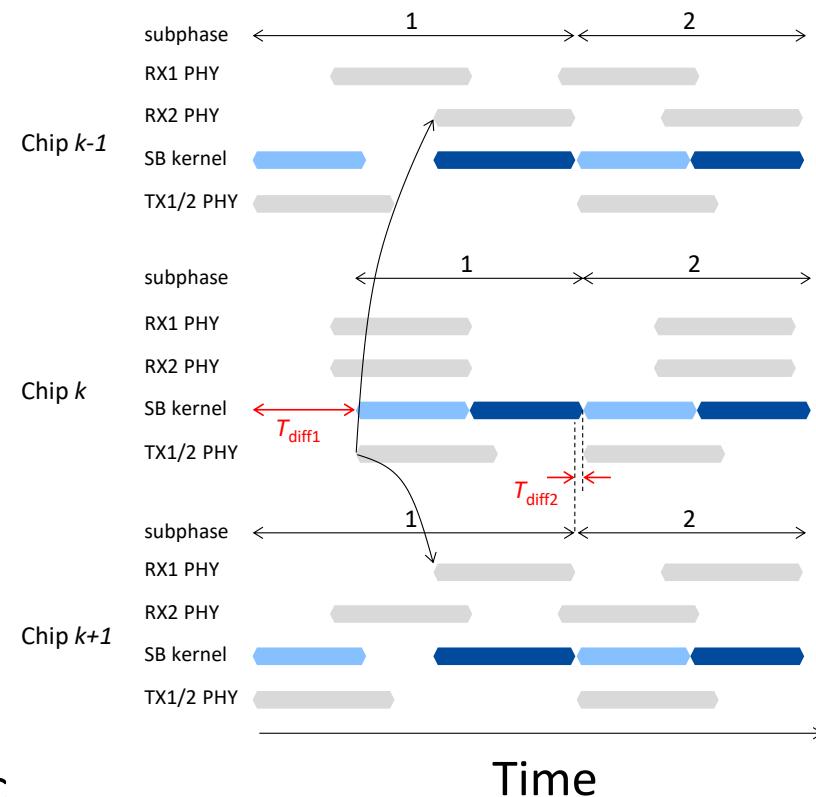
# Scalability\*<sup>1</sup> (2021)

## Multi-chip architecture based on partitioned SB

Bidirectional ring-network cluster without any centralized features



Autonomous synchronization mechanism  
 (No clock-sharing, No central-HUB)



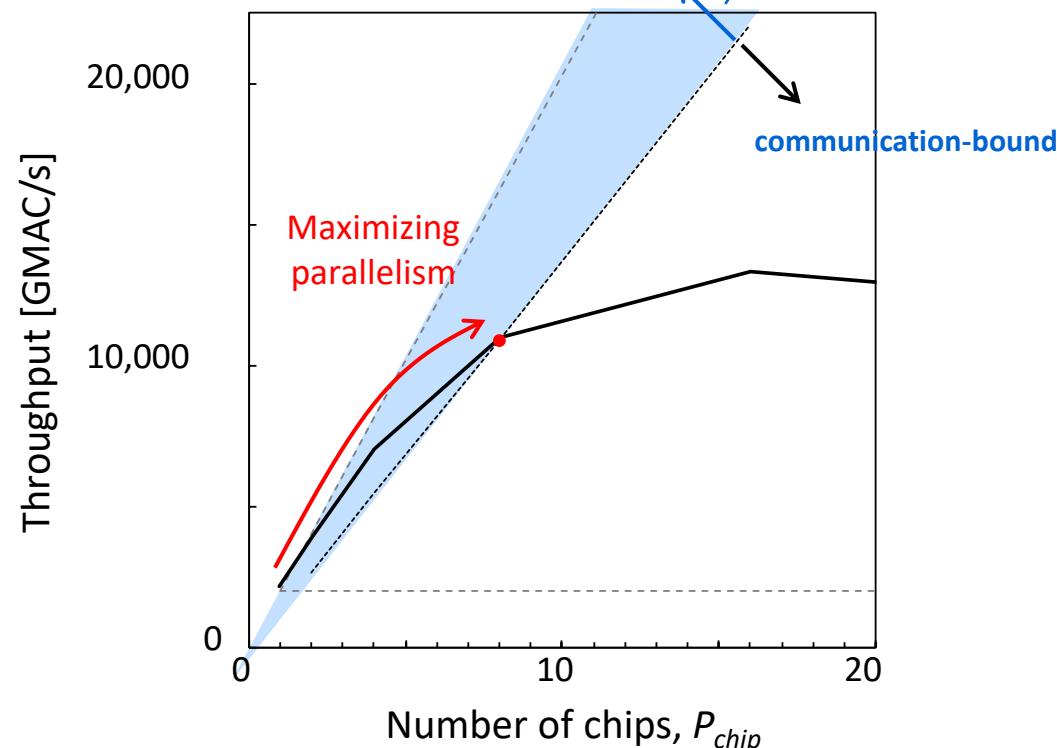
All chips are  
 autonomous, homogeneous and symmetric

# Scalability\*<sup>1</sup> (2021)

## Good strong-scaling & weak-scaling characteristics

### Strong scaling

Increase  $P_{\text{chip}}$  at a fixed problem size ( $N$ )

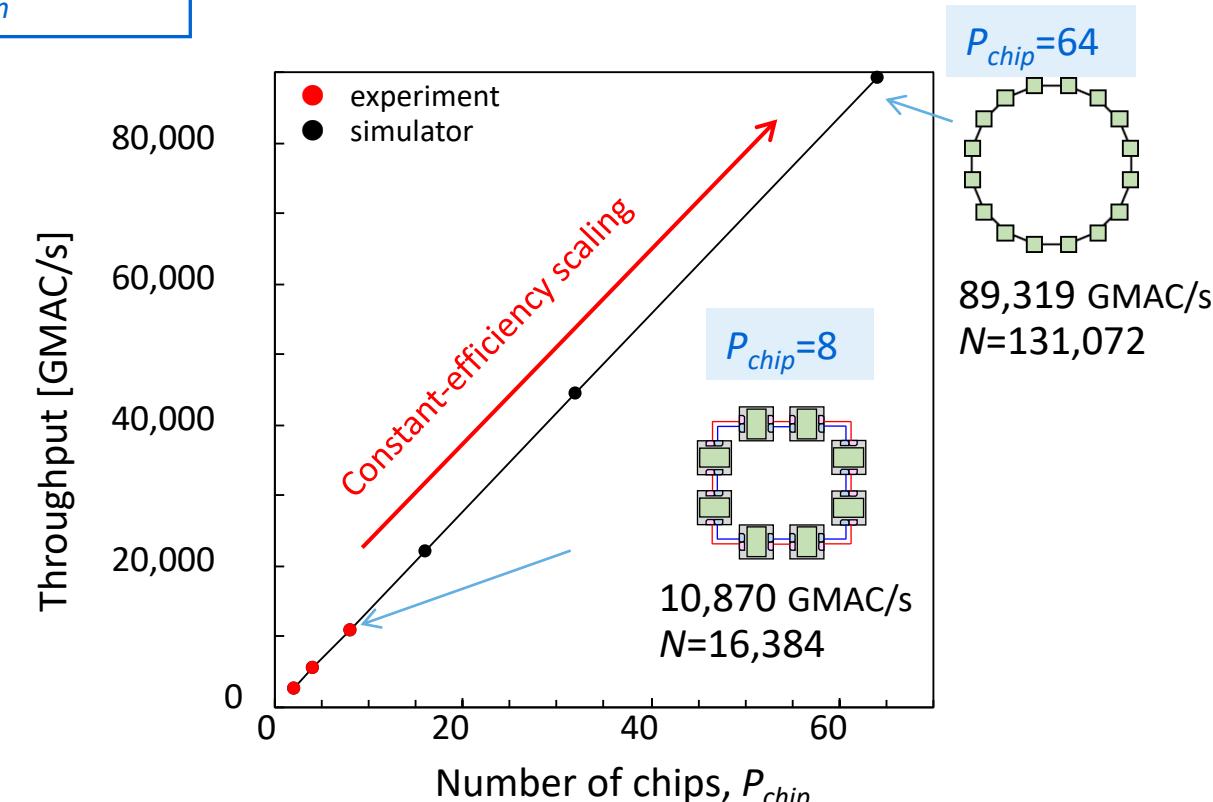


Maximizing parallelism

Computation-bound  
 $\frac{T_{\text{computation}}}{T_{\text{communication}}} > 1$

### Weak scaling

Increase  $P_{\text{chip}}$  and  $N$  in the same proportion



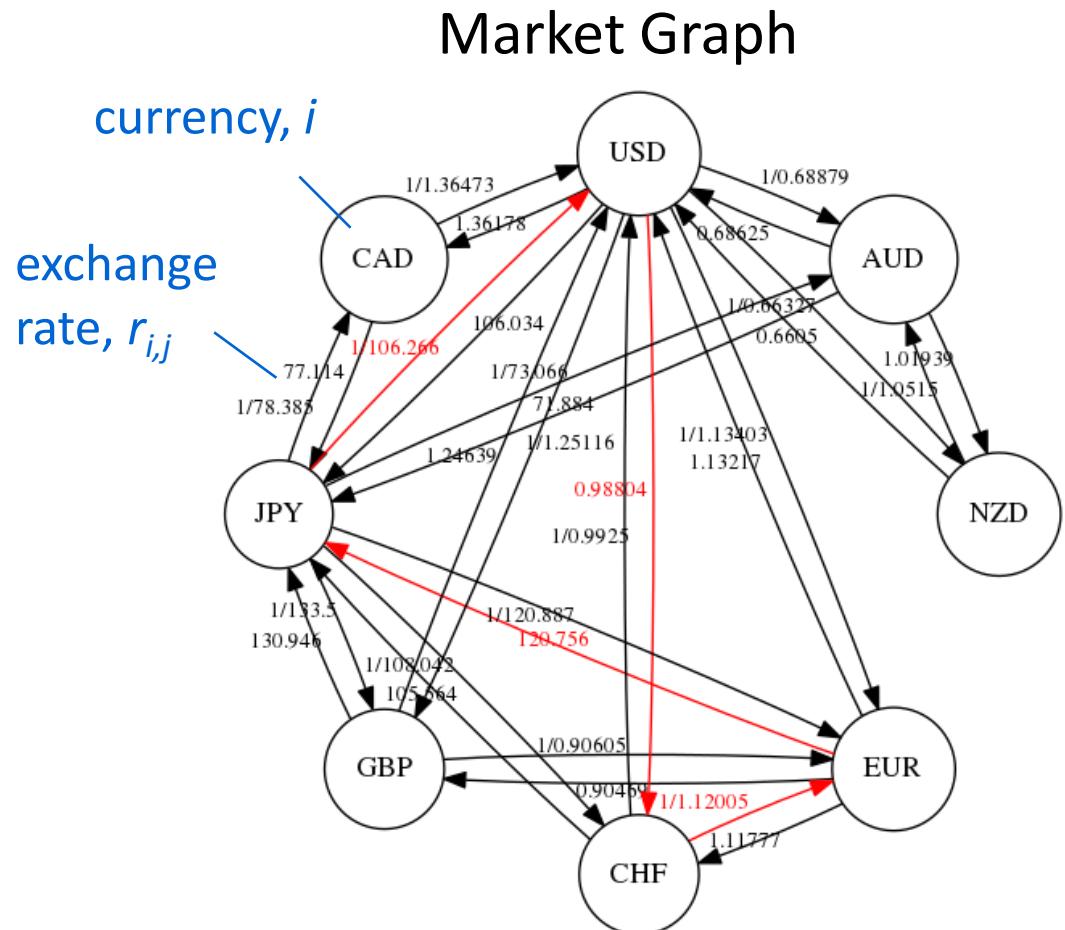
Throughput enhancement to the vicinity of an ideal upper limit determined by the communication tech.

Constant-efficiency scaling at the maximized computation parallelism (at the strong scaling limit)

# High-speed real-time trading

## Trading system for cross-currency arbitrage<sup>\*1</sup>

Optimal path search in a directed graph (a typical combinatorial problem)



### Arbitrage Problem

find a closed path  
that maximizes the profit

Cost function

$$\text{Profit} = \prod_{i,j \in \text{path}} r_{i,j}$$

Constraint

Must be  
a closed path

### Ising (QUBO) formulation

$$C_{tot} = m_c C + m_p P$$

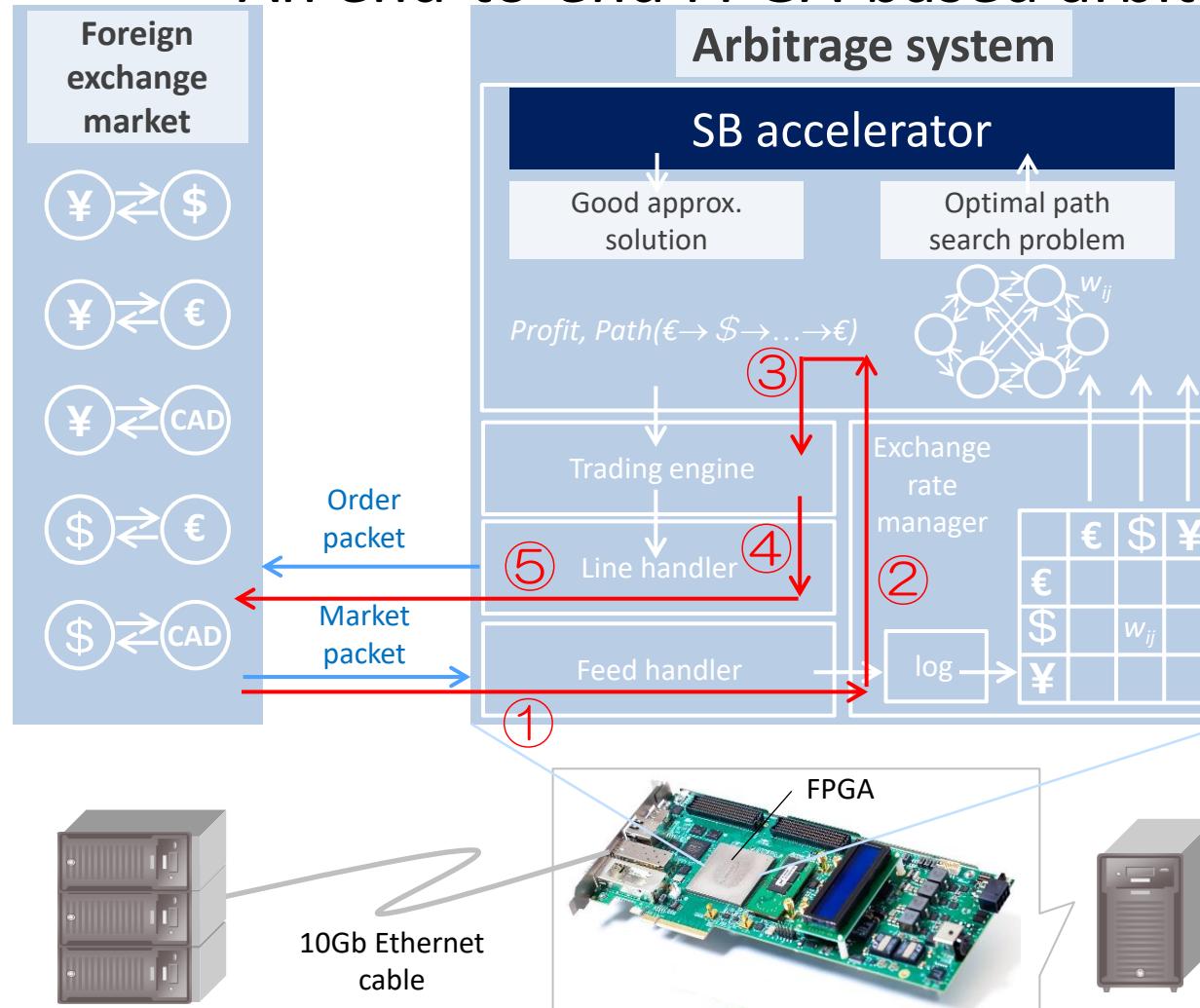
$$C' = \prod r_{i,j}^{b_{i,j}} \quad \boxed{w_{i,j} = -\log r_{i,j}} \rightarrow C = \sum w_{i,j} b_{i,j}$$

$$P = \sum_i \sum_{j \neq j'} b_{i,j} b_{i,j'} + \sum_j \sum_{i \neq i'} b_{i,j} b_{i',j} + \sum_i \left( \sum_j b_{i,j} - \sum_j b_{j,i} \right)^2 + \sum_{i,j} b_{i,j} b_{j,i}$$

# High-speed real-time trading

## Trading system for cross-currency arbitrage<sup>\*1</sup>

### An end-to-end FPGA-based arbitrage system



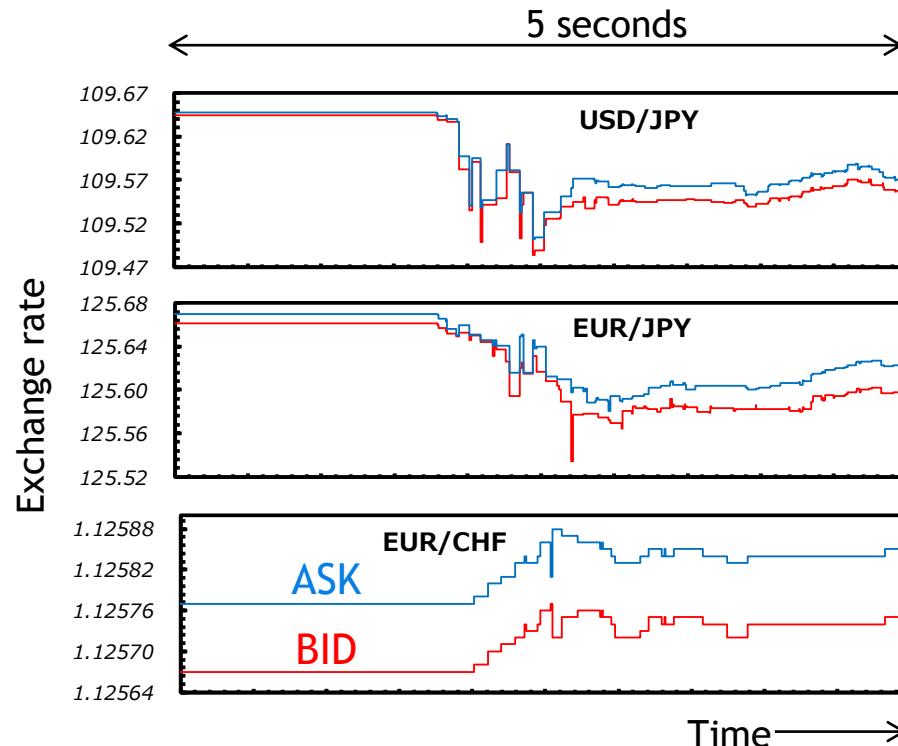
- ①Custom I/F (feed handler)**  
captures market feeds  
at unscheduled intervals
- ②Exchange rate manager**  
updates an  $N \times N$   $w_{ij}$  matrix,  
outputs all weights in a single clock
- ③SB accelerator**  
searches for an optimal path from all  
possible paths
- ④Trading engine**  
prepares order packets
- ⑤Custom I/F (line handler)**  
issues the order packets
- <30 microseconds

# High-speed real-time trading

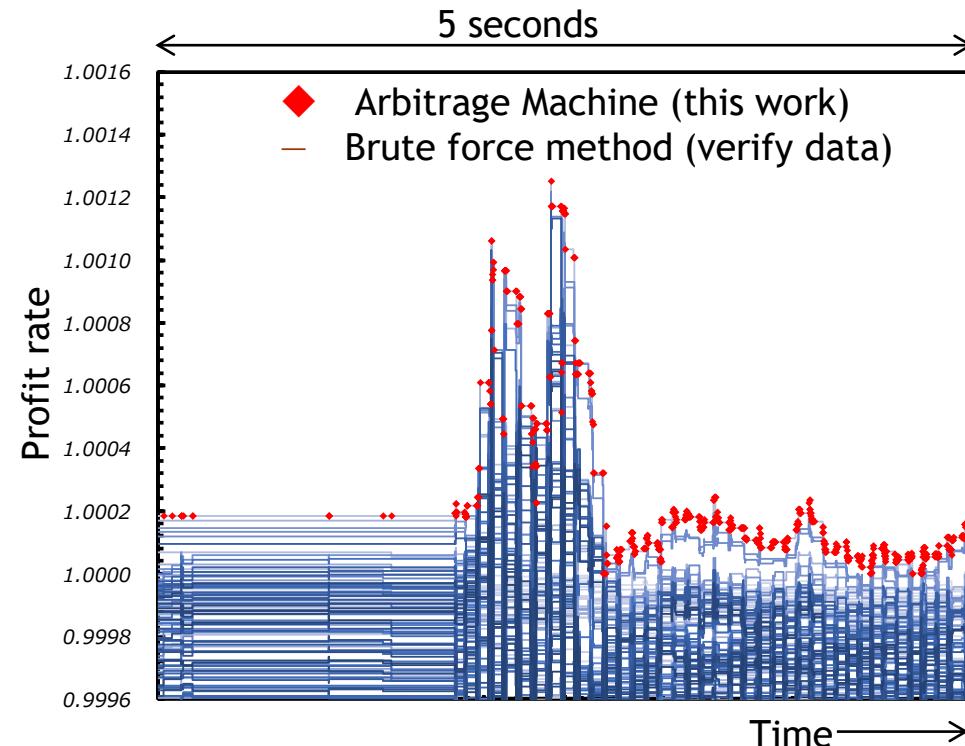
## Trading system for cross-currency arbitrage<sup>\*1</sup>

<30 μs system-wide latency & 91% Top-1 probability

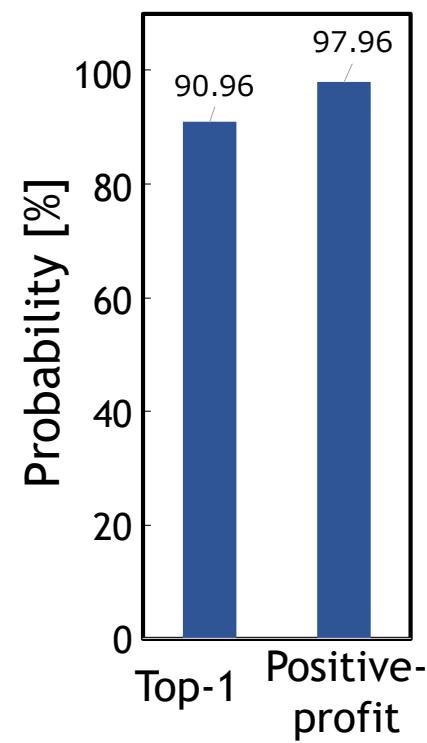
Exchange rates on Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019



Profit rates for arbitrage paths



Solution accuracy



System-wide response time:  
27.5us (on average over 1000 packets)