



# Feedback-based quantum optimization

Alicia B. Magann, Kenneth M. Rudinger, Matthew D. Grace, Mohan Sarovar

Sandia National Laboratories

arXiv:2103.08619 & arXiv:2108.05945

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# Quantum computing is coming

## The Decade of Quantum Computing Is Upon Us, IBM Exec Says

With business uses poised to accelerate, CIOs need to start tinkering with platforms, forming work groups and looking for problems the technology could address, says IBM Research's Dario Gil



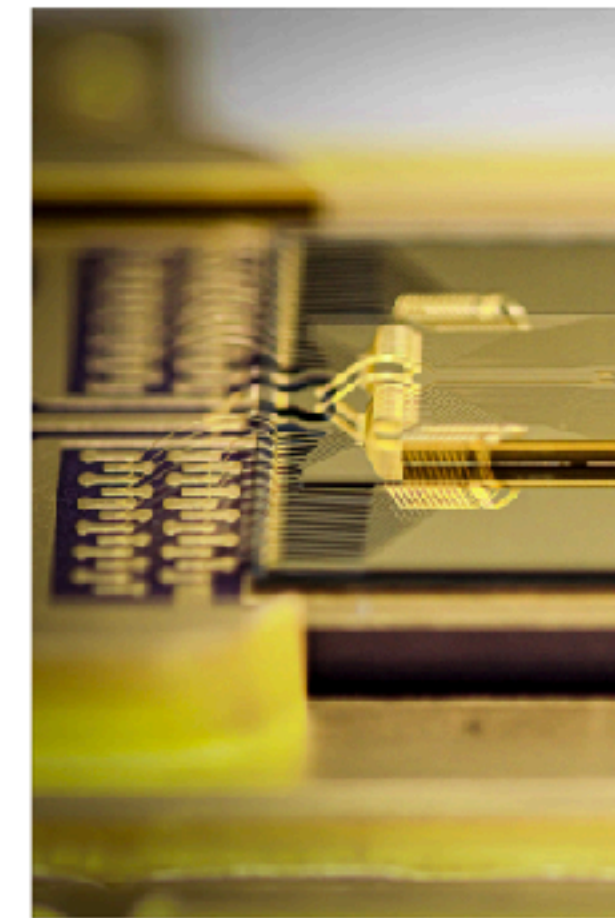
<https://www.>

## Washington's new crush on quantum computing

By KONSTANTIN KAKAES and BRENDAN BORDELON | 04/19/2022 04:00 PM EDT

Presented by FTX

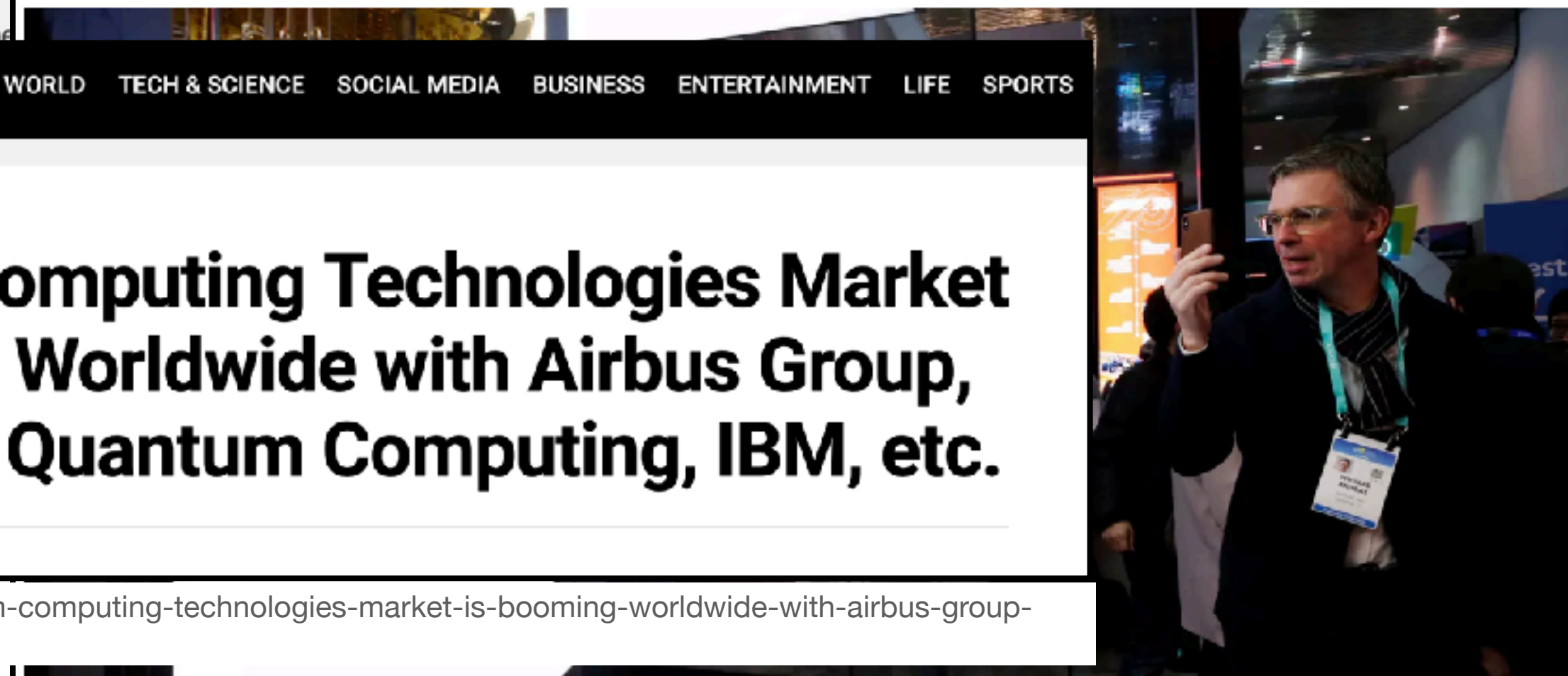
With help from Derek Robertson



<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/digital-future-daily/2022/04/19/washingtons-new-crush-on-quantum-computing-00026369>

The Digital Transformation of Business | Digital Inclusion | Education, Skills and Learning

## Why education must take a quantum leap



To truly embrace the full potential of quantum computing, quantum education and workforce development will be crucial. Image: REUTERS/Steve Marcus

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/04/why-education-must-take-a-quantum-leap/>

**DIGITAL JOURNAL** WORLD TECH & SCIENCE SOCIAL MEDIA BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE SPORTS

## Quantum Computing Technologies Market is Booming Worldwide with Airbus Group, Cambridge Quantum Computing, IBM, etc.

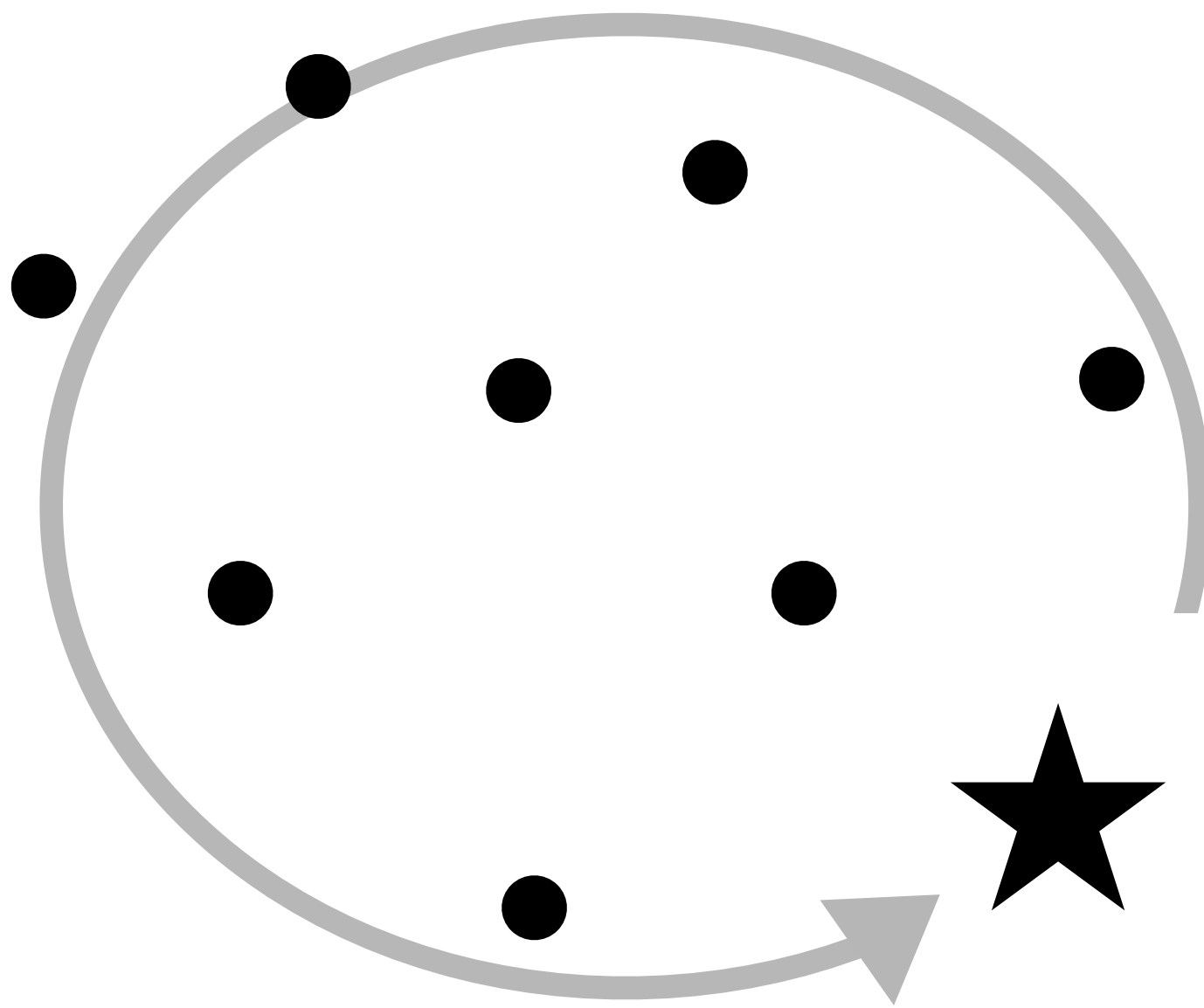
By Newsmantraa Published April 25, 2022

<https://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/quantum-computing-technologies-market-is-booming-worldwide-with-airbus-group-cambridge-quantum-computing-ibm-etc>

# Quantum computing is coming

## Combinatorial optimization

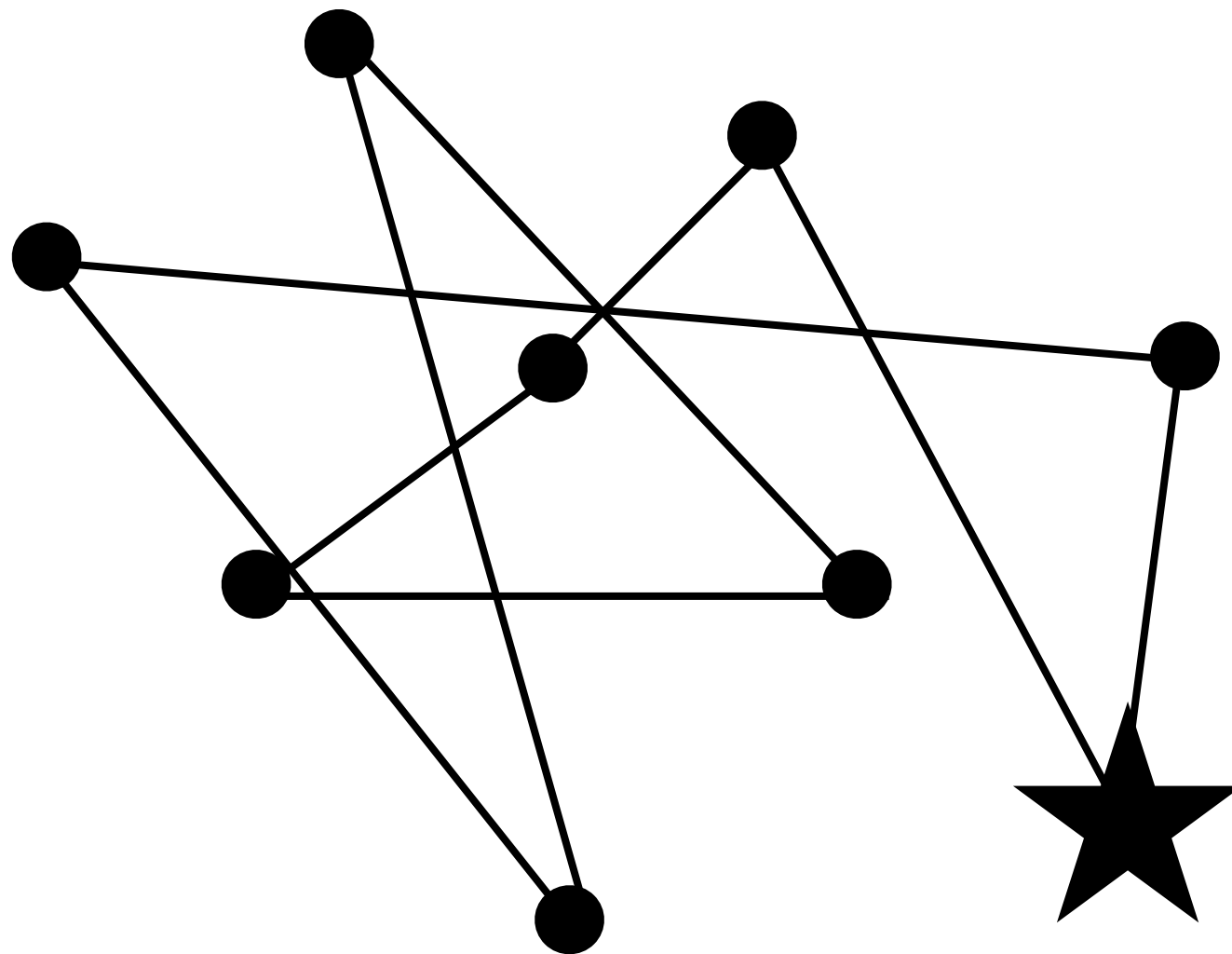
- ▶ Routing, scheduling, logistics
  - ▶ Example: traveling salesman



# Quantum computing is coming

## Combinatorial optimization

- ▶ Routing, scheduling, logistics
  - ▶ Example: traveling salesman

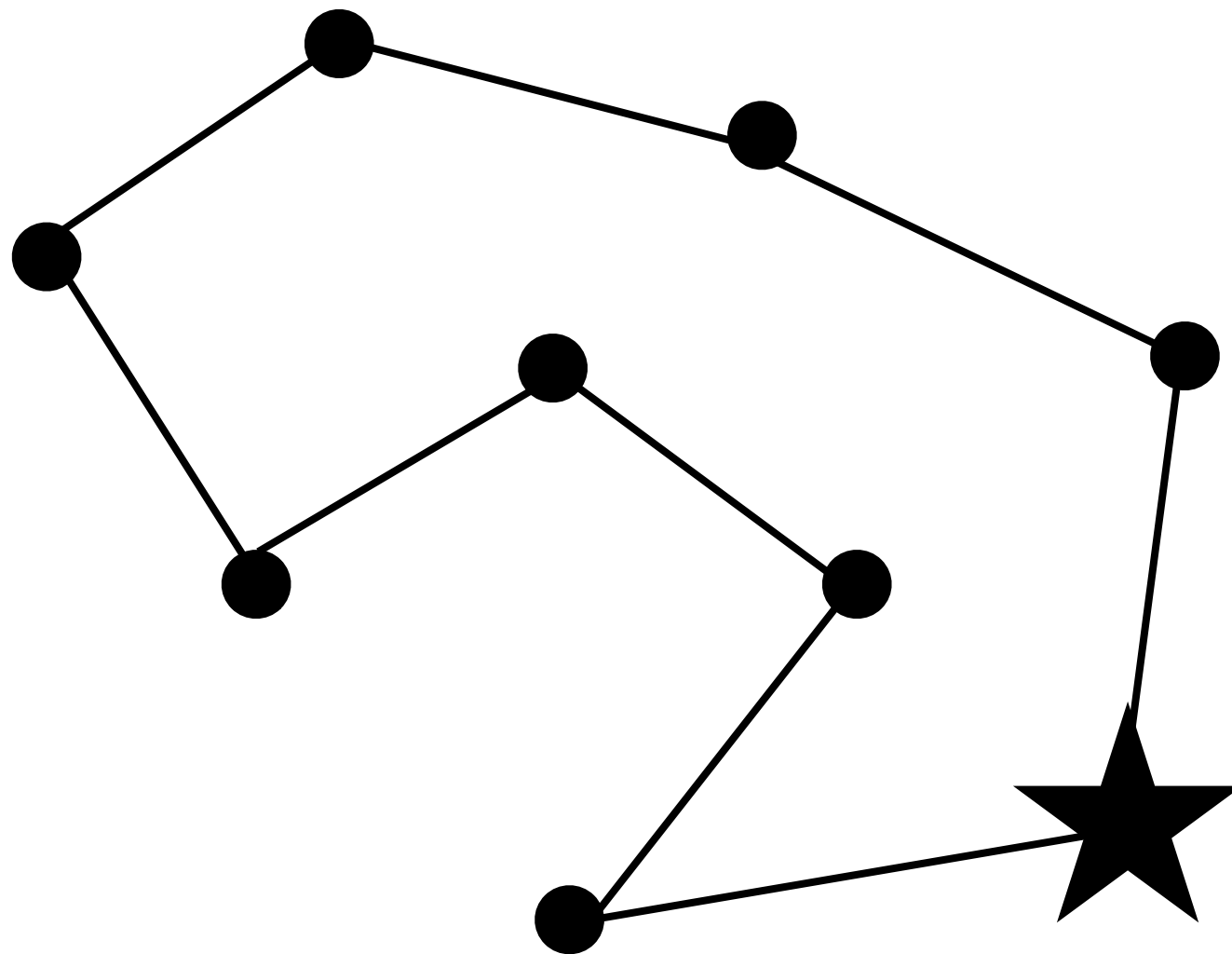




# Quantum computing is coming

## Combinatorial optimization

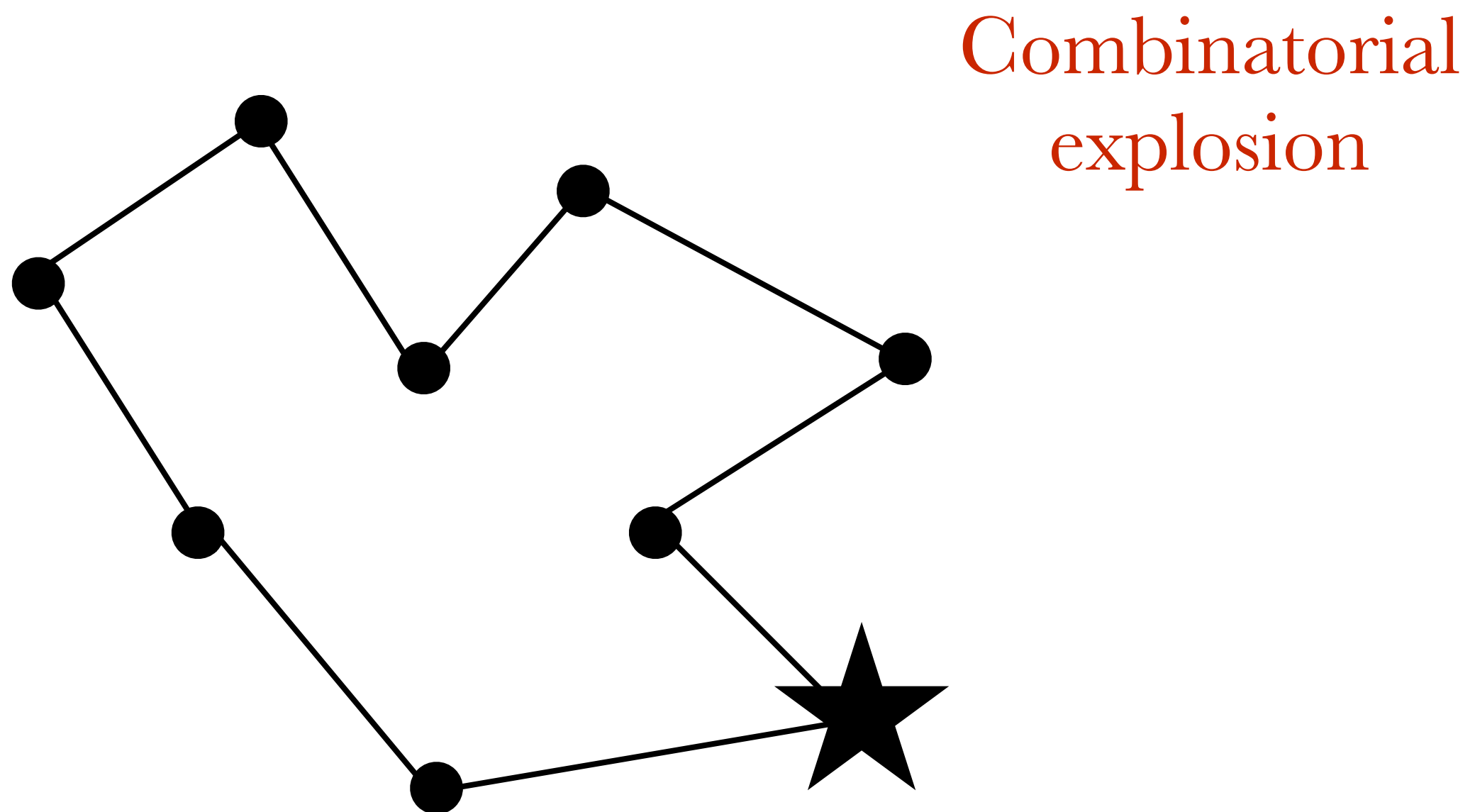
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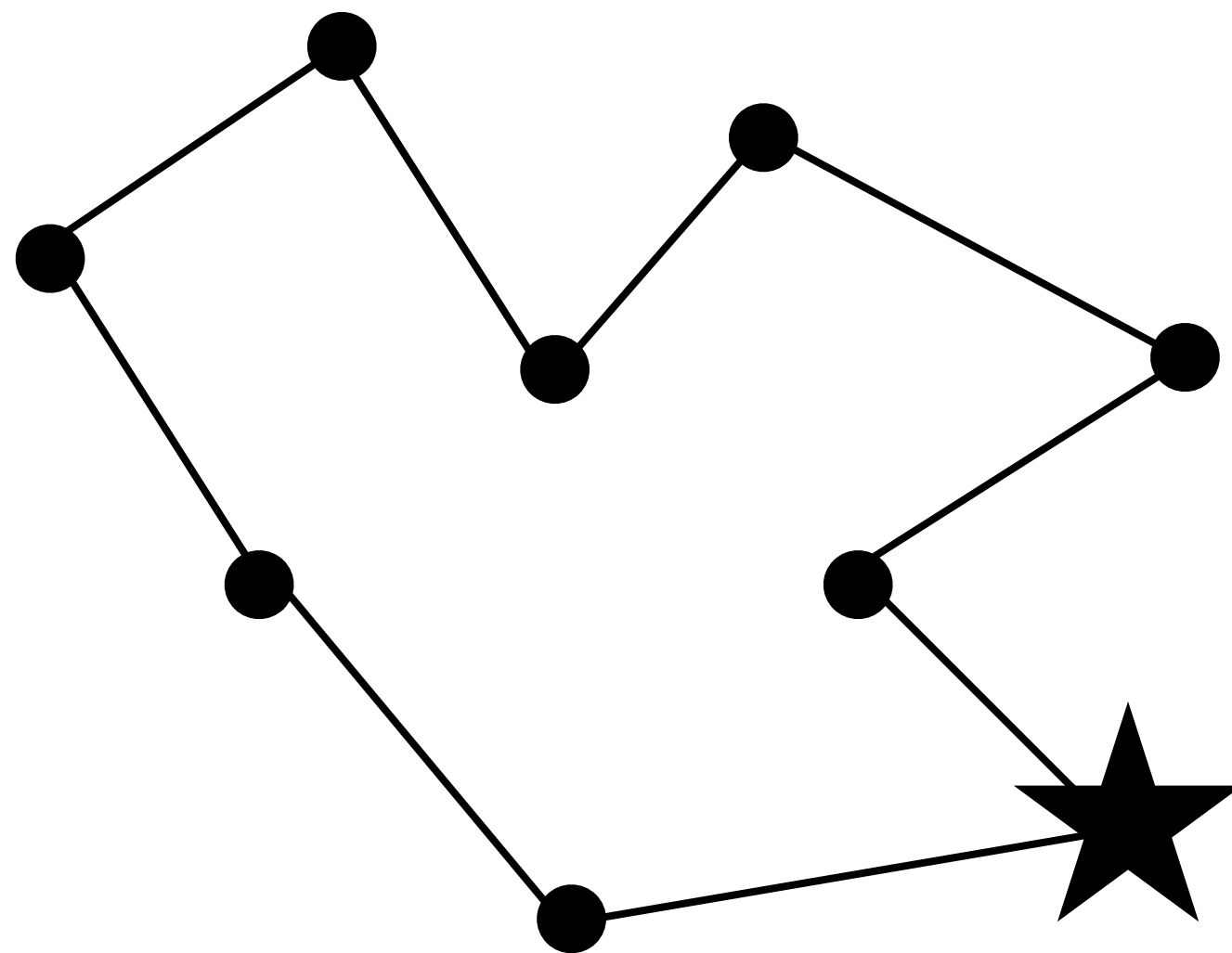
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# Quantum computing is coming

## Combinatorial optimization

- ▶ Routing, scheduling, logistics
- ▶ Example: traveling salesman



Combinatorial  
explosion

## Can quantum resources help?

- ▶ Adiabatic/annealing strategies

T Kadowaki, H Nishimori, Quantum annealing in the transverse Ising model. *Physical Review E*, 58(5), p.5355 (1998)

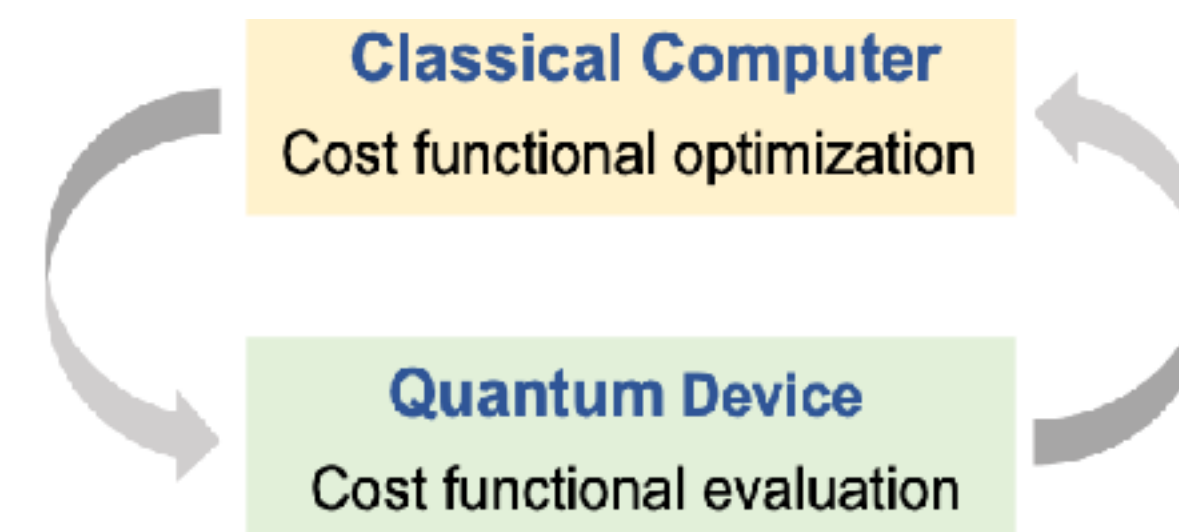
E Farhi, et. al., A quantum adiabatic evolution algorithm applied to random instances of an NP-complete problem. *Science*, 292(5516), pp.472-475 (2001)

Can require  
considerable runtime

- ▶ More recently:  
Quantum Approximate Optimization  
Algorithm (QAOA)

E Farhi, J Goldstone, S Gutmann, A quantum approximate optimization algorithm, *arXiv:1411.4028* (2014)

Hybrid quantum-classical algorithm

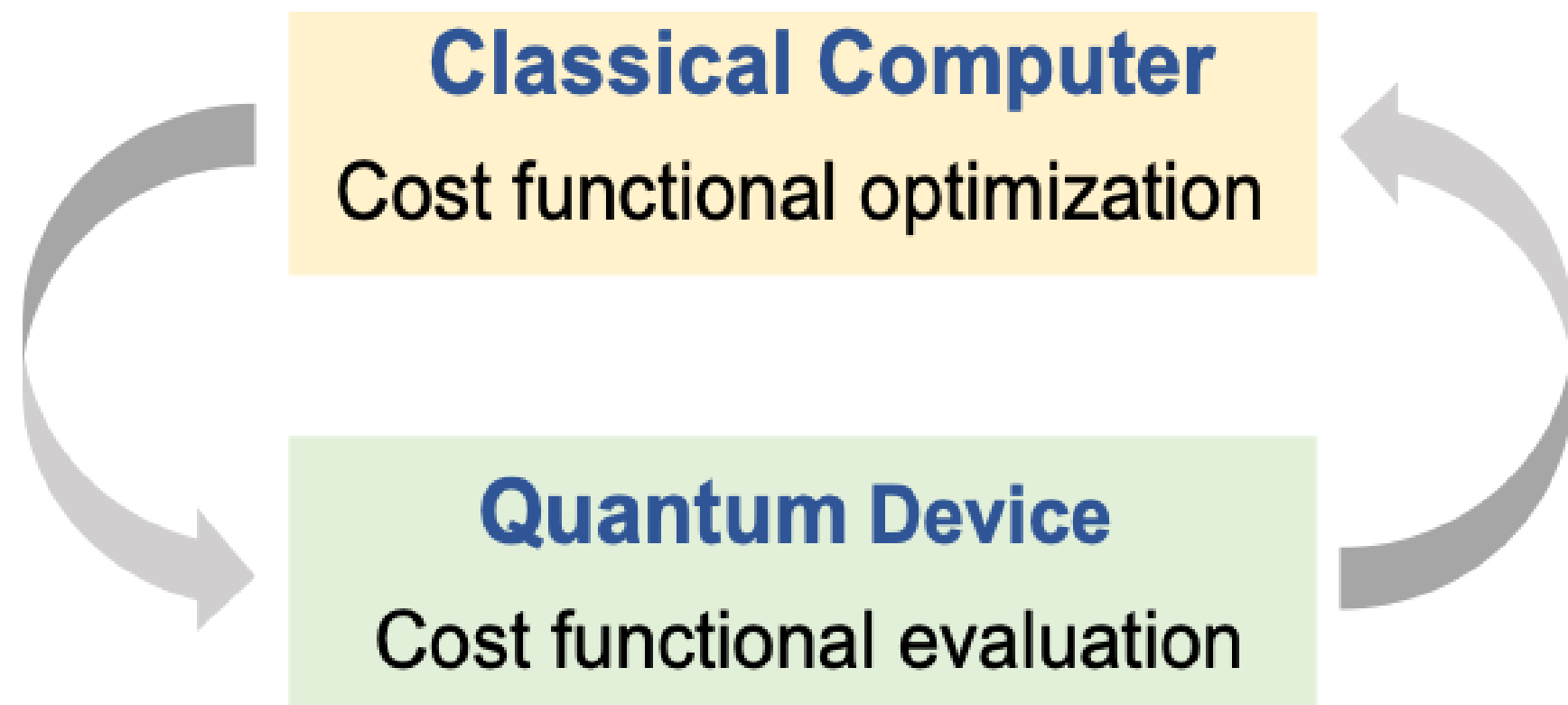


Use classical processors  
in tandem with current  
error-prone quantum  
processors

# Quantum computing is coming

A Lucas, Ising formulations of many NP problems, *Frontiers in Physics* 2 (2014)

## Hybrid quantum-classical algorithm



## Encode combinatorial optimization problem

$$\min_{\vec{\theta}} J(\vec{\theta})$$

A blue arrow points from the text below to the  $\vec{\theta}$  parameter in the equation.

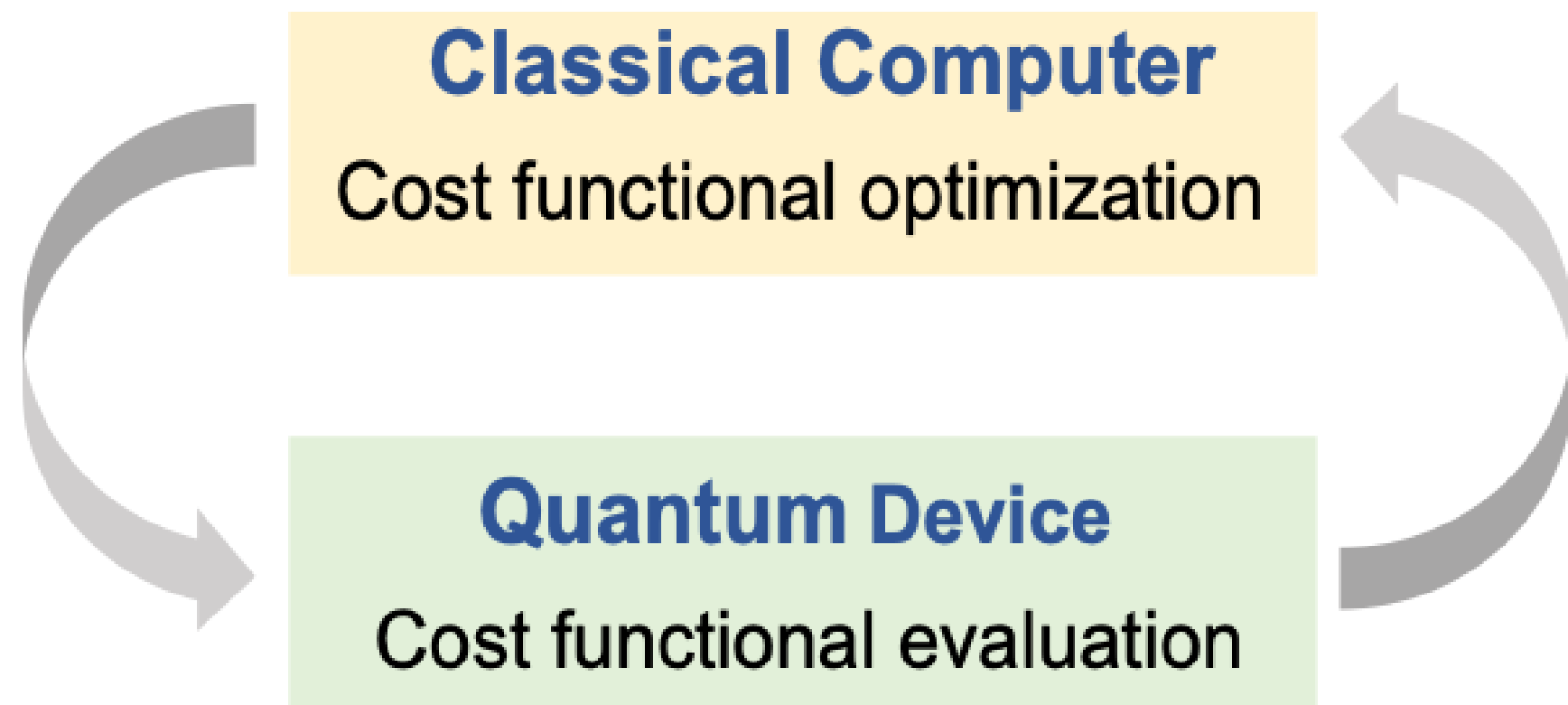
Cost function quantifies how well we solve combinatorial optimization problem under consideration

- Can be estimated by first performing quantum computation, and then measuring qubits



# Quantum computing is coming

## Hybrid quantum-classical algorithm



## Encode combinatorial optimization problem

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$$\min_{\vec{\theta}} J(\vec{\theta})$$

Set of coefficients that  
parameterize the quantum  
computation

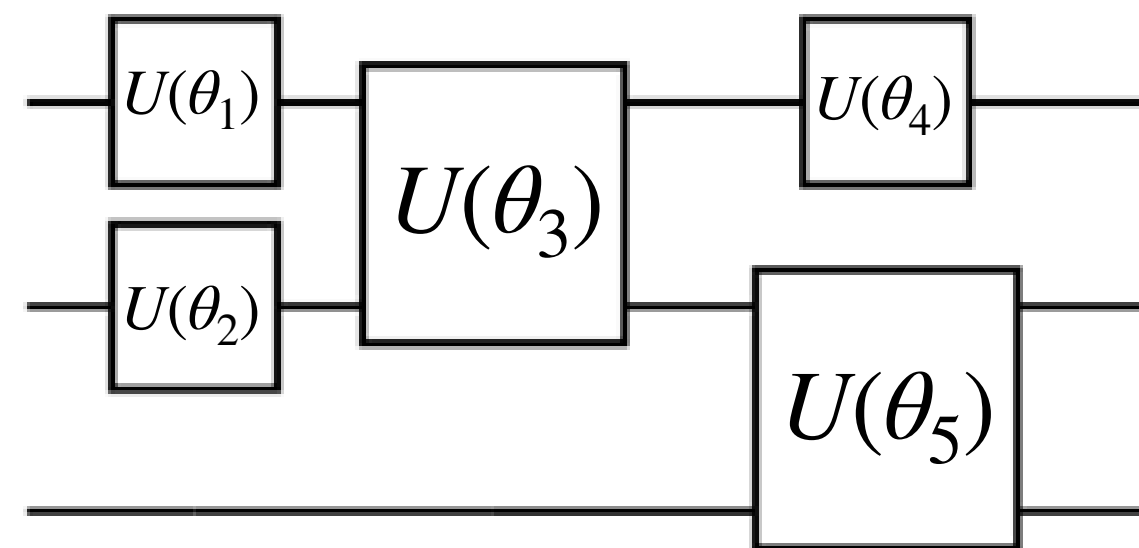
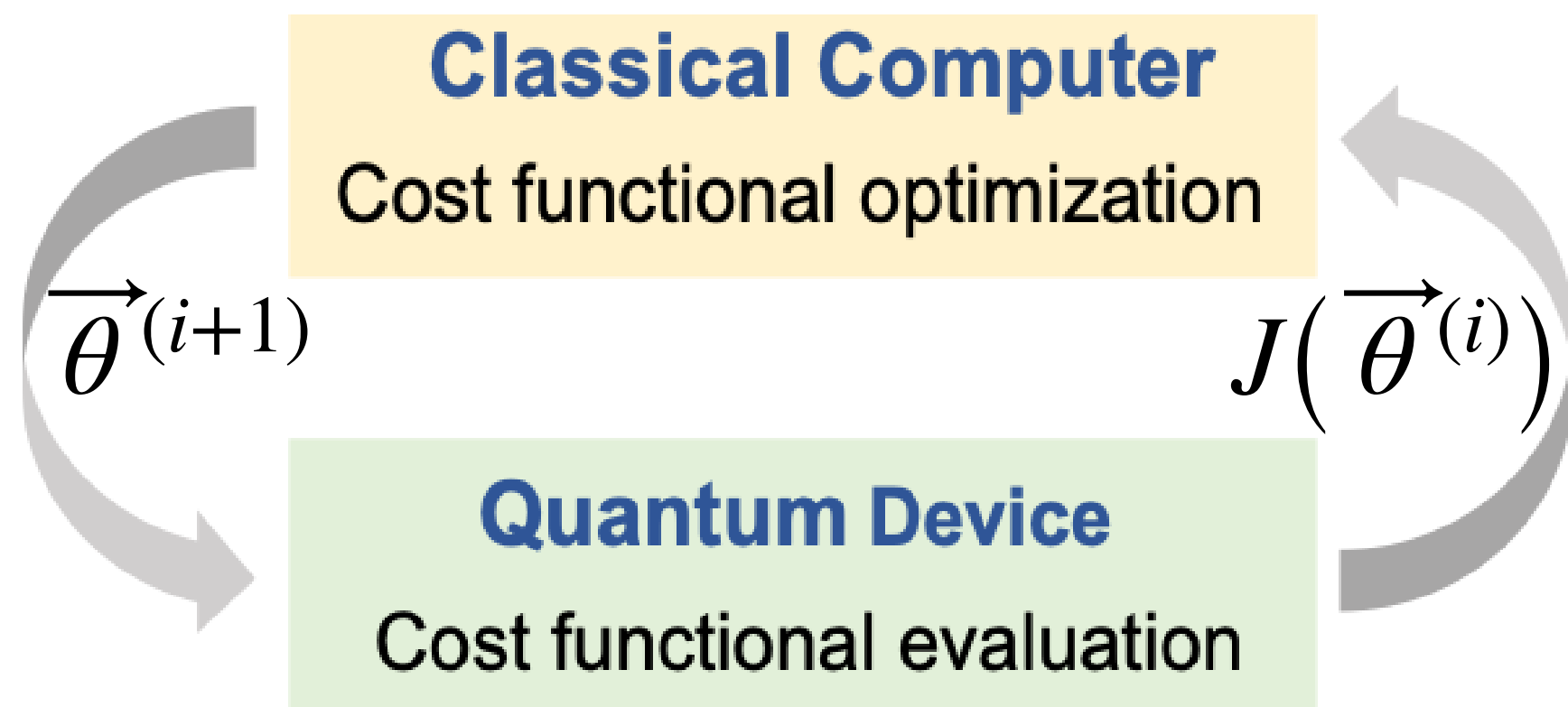
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## Hybrid quantum-classical algorithm



Encode combinatorial optimization problem

$$\min_{\vec{\theta}} J(\vec{\theta})$$

Set of coefficients that parameterize the quantum computation

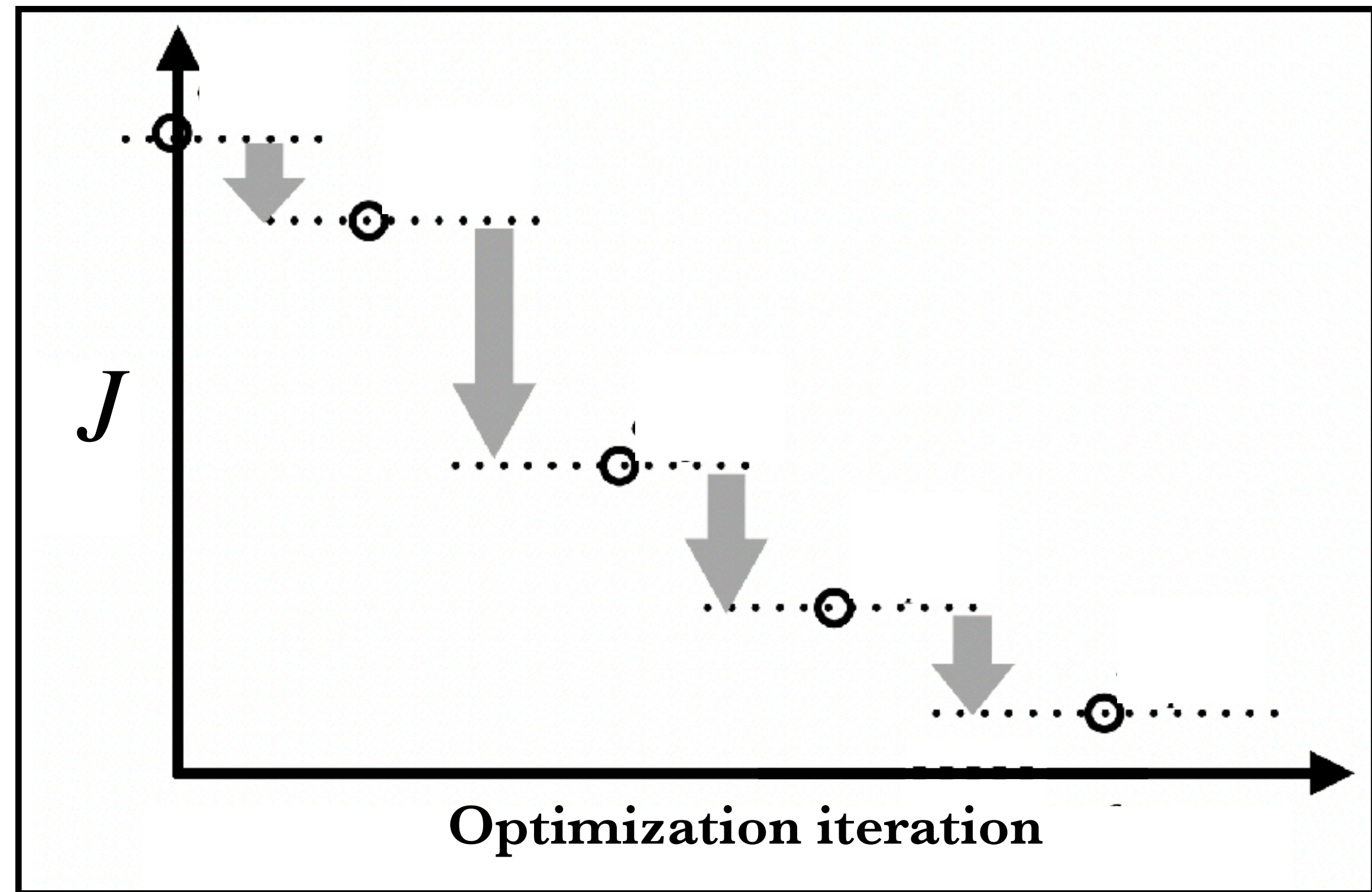
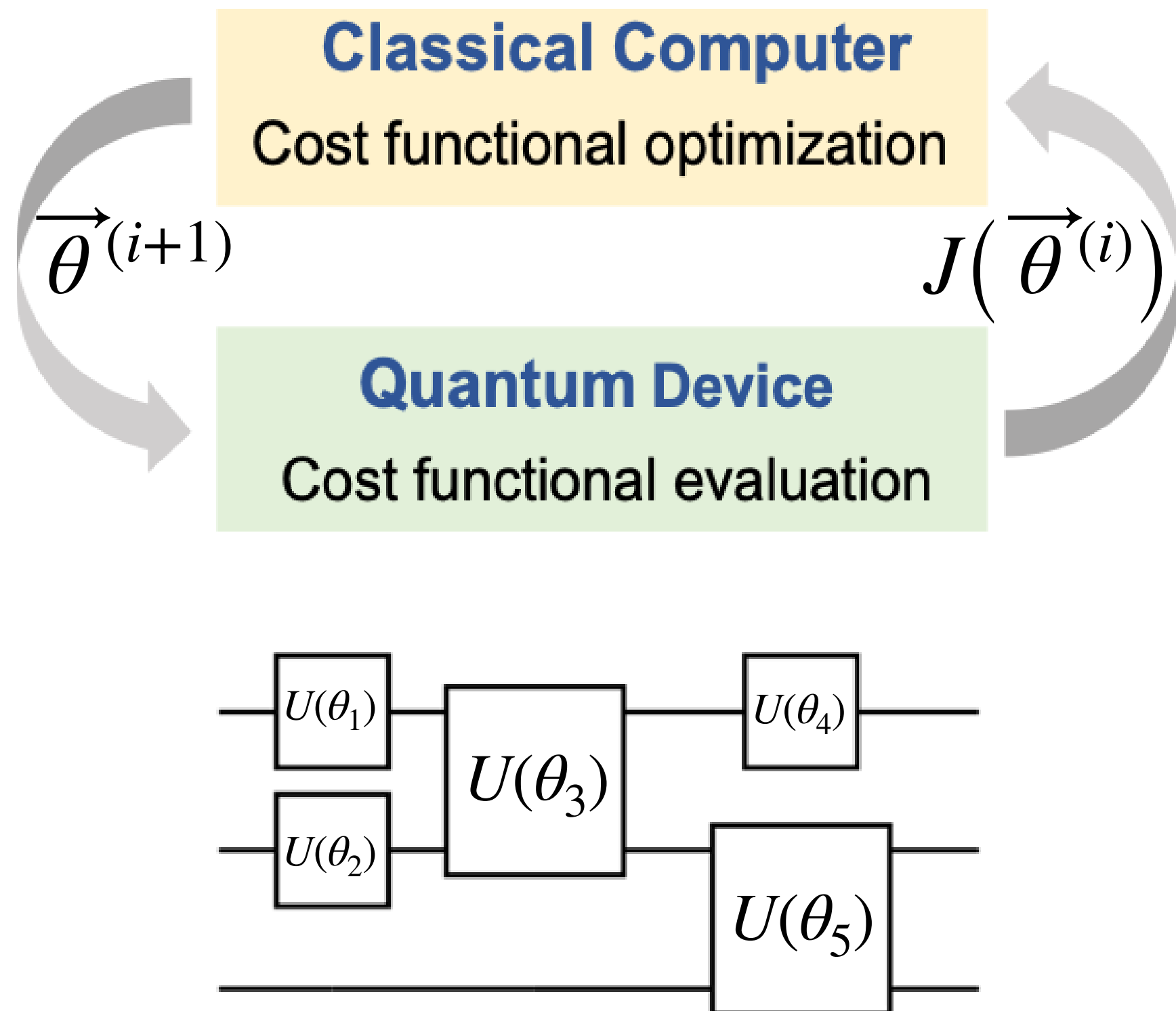
Cost function quantifies how well we solve combinatorial optimization problem under consideration

- Can be estimated by first performing quantum computation, and then measuring qubits

Use classical computer to iteratively search for the values of  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots$  that minimize  $J(\vec{\theta})$

# Quantum computing is coming

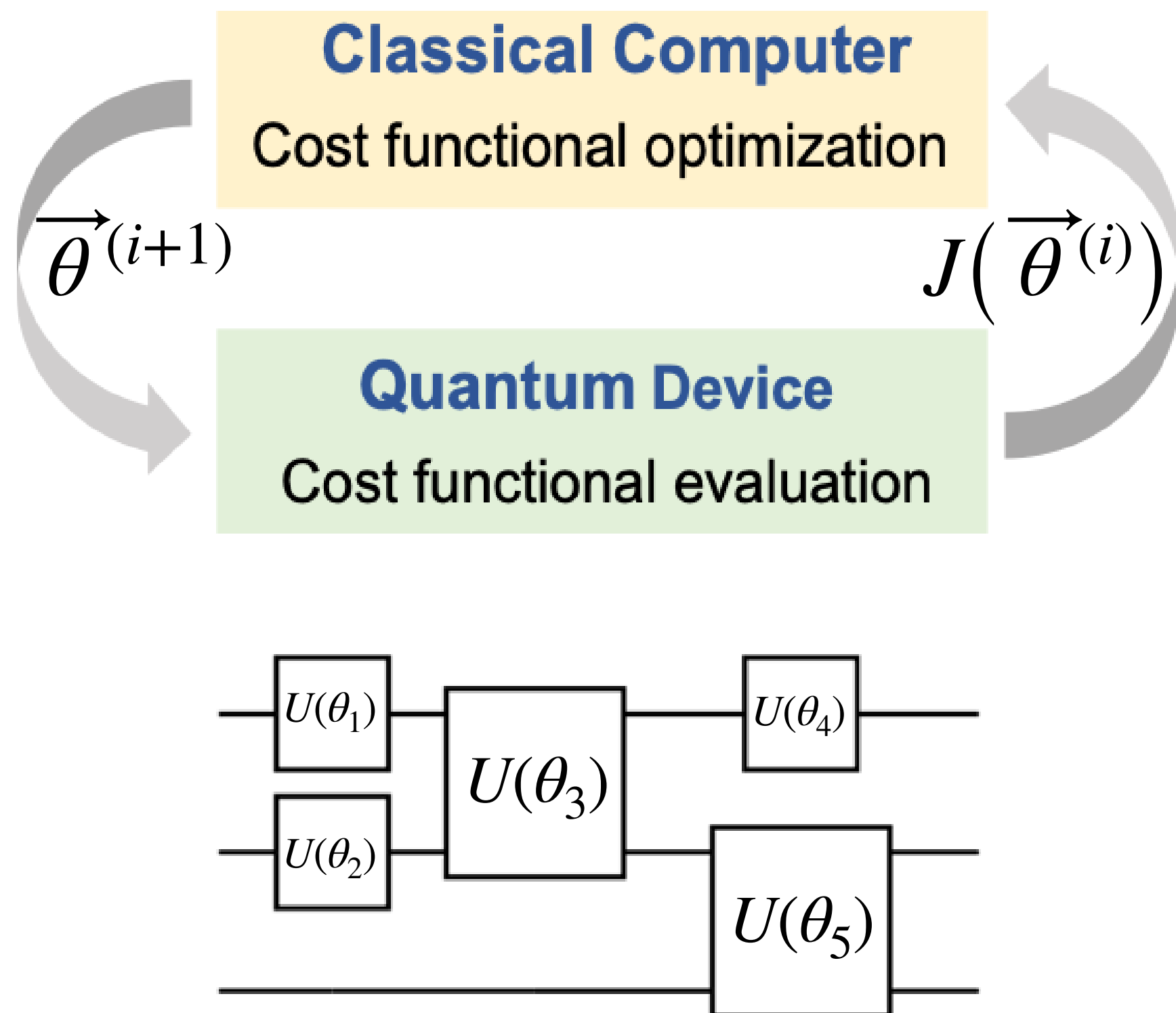
## Hybrid quantum-classical algorithm



Use classical computer to iteratively search for the values of  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots$  that minimize  $J(\vec{\theta})$

# Quantum computing is coming

## Hybrid quantum-classical algorithm



## Bottleneck:

Searching for the optimal values of parameters  $\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots$

## This work:

Incorporate the use of measurement-based feedback to remove this bottleneck

AB Magann, KM Rudinger, MD Grace, M Sarovar, Feedback-based quantum optimization, *arXiv:2103.08619* (2021)

AB Magann, KM Rudinger, MD Grace, M Sarovar, Lyapunov control-inspired strategies for quantum combinatorial optimization, *arXiv:2108.05945* (2021)

► Feedback-based ALgorithm for Quantum OptimizationN, or “FALQON”

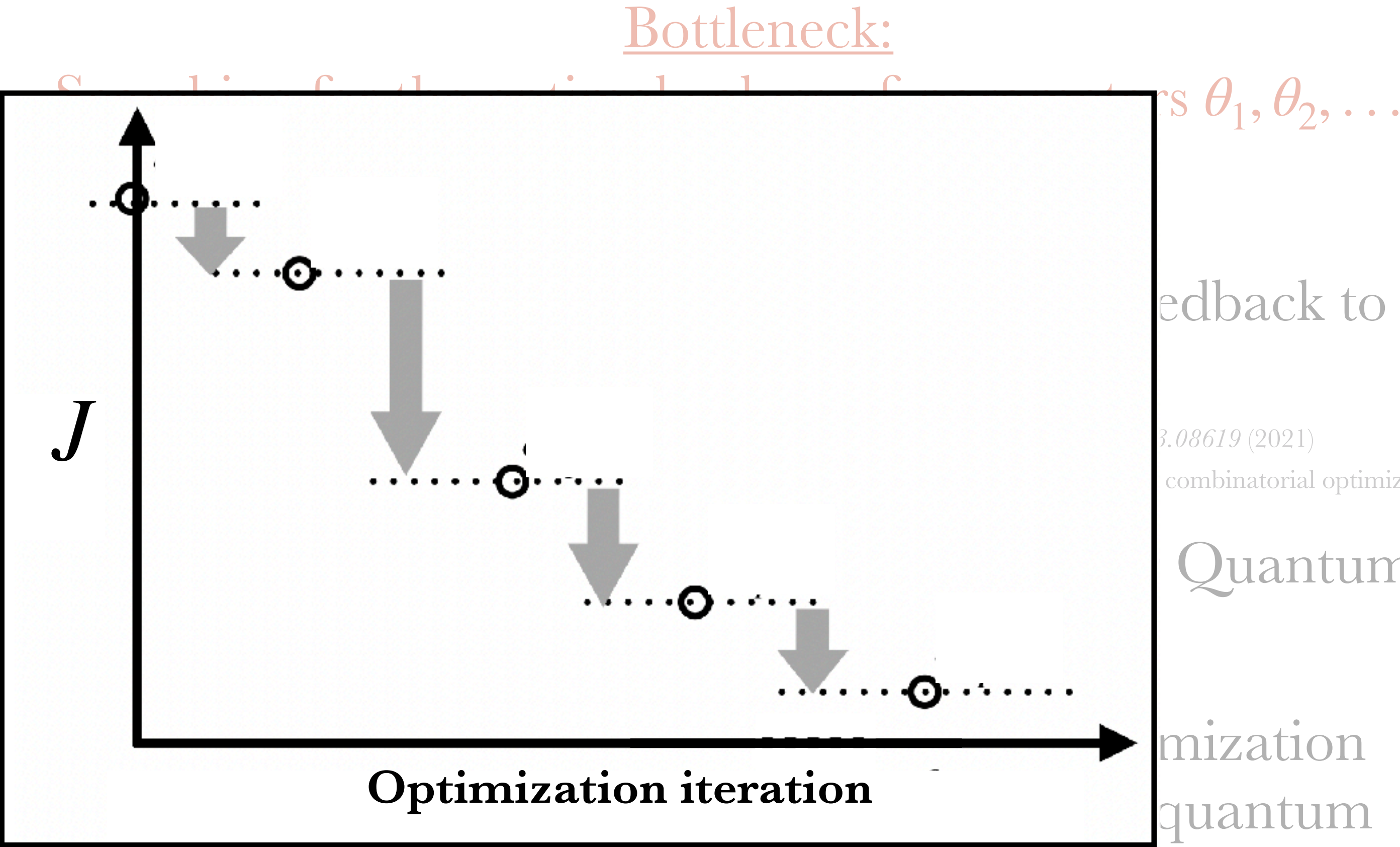
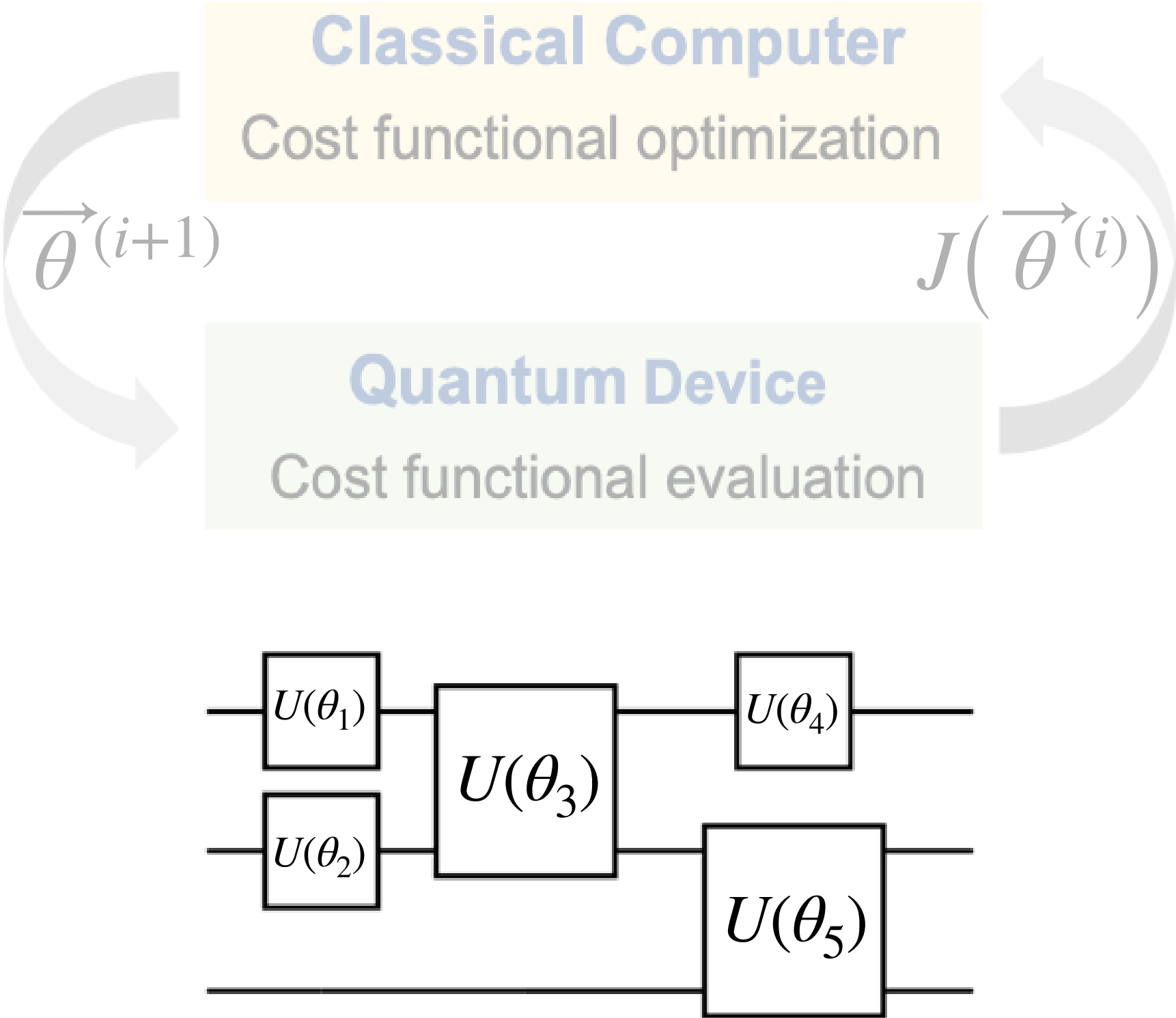
New framework for hybrid quantum-classical algorithms, inspired by quantum control theory

AB Magann, C Arenz, MD Grace, TS Ho, RL Kosut, JR McClean, HA Rabitz, M Sarovar "From pulses to circuits and back again: A quantum optimal control perspective on variational quantum algorithms." *PRX Quantum* 2 (2020)



# Quantum computing is coming

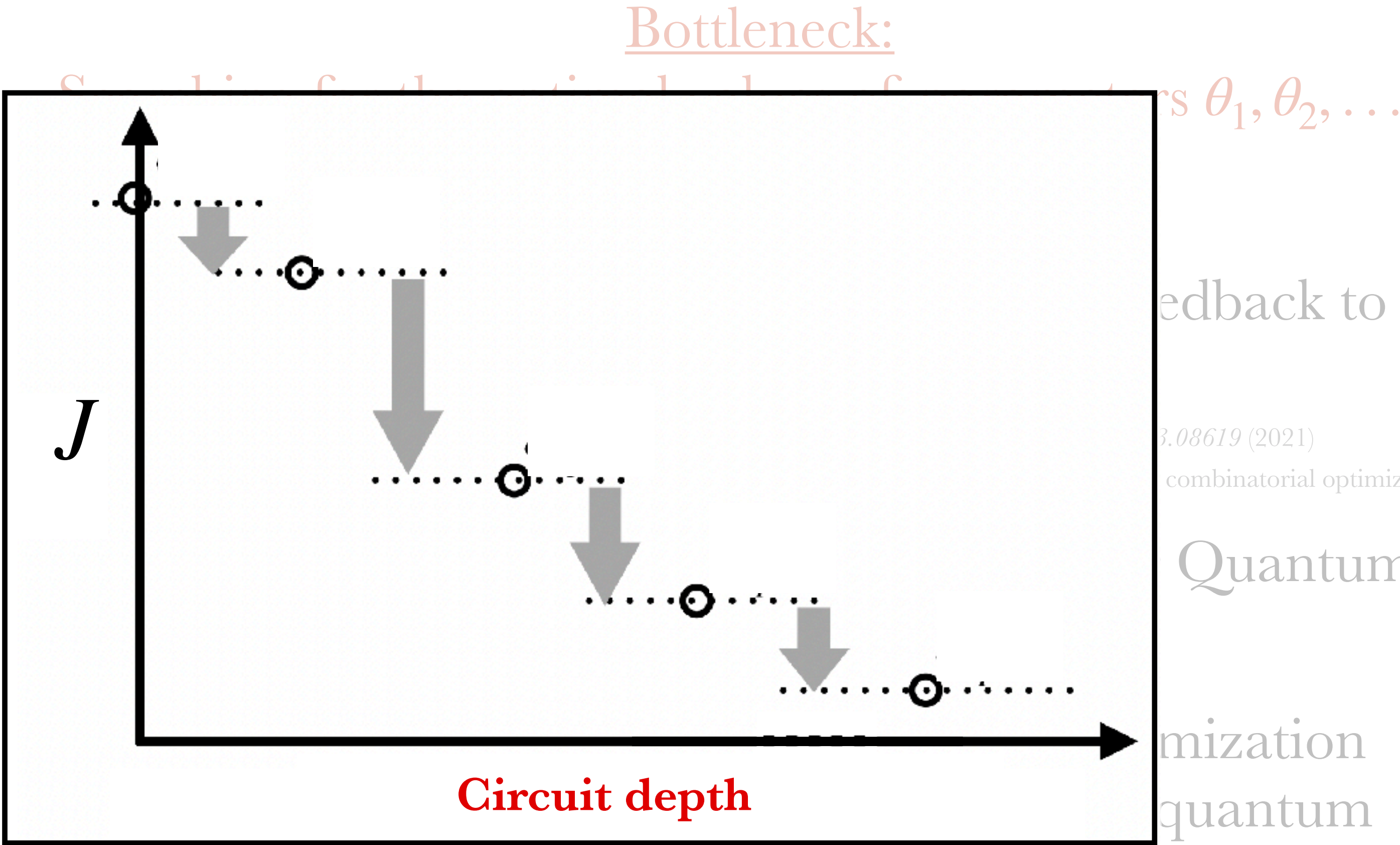
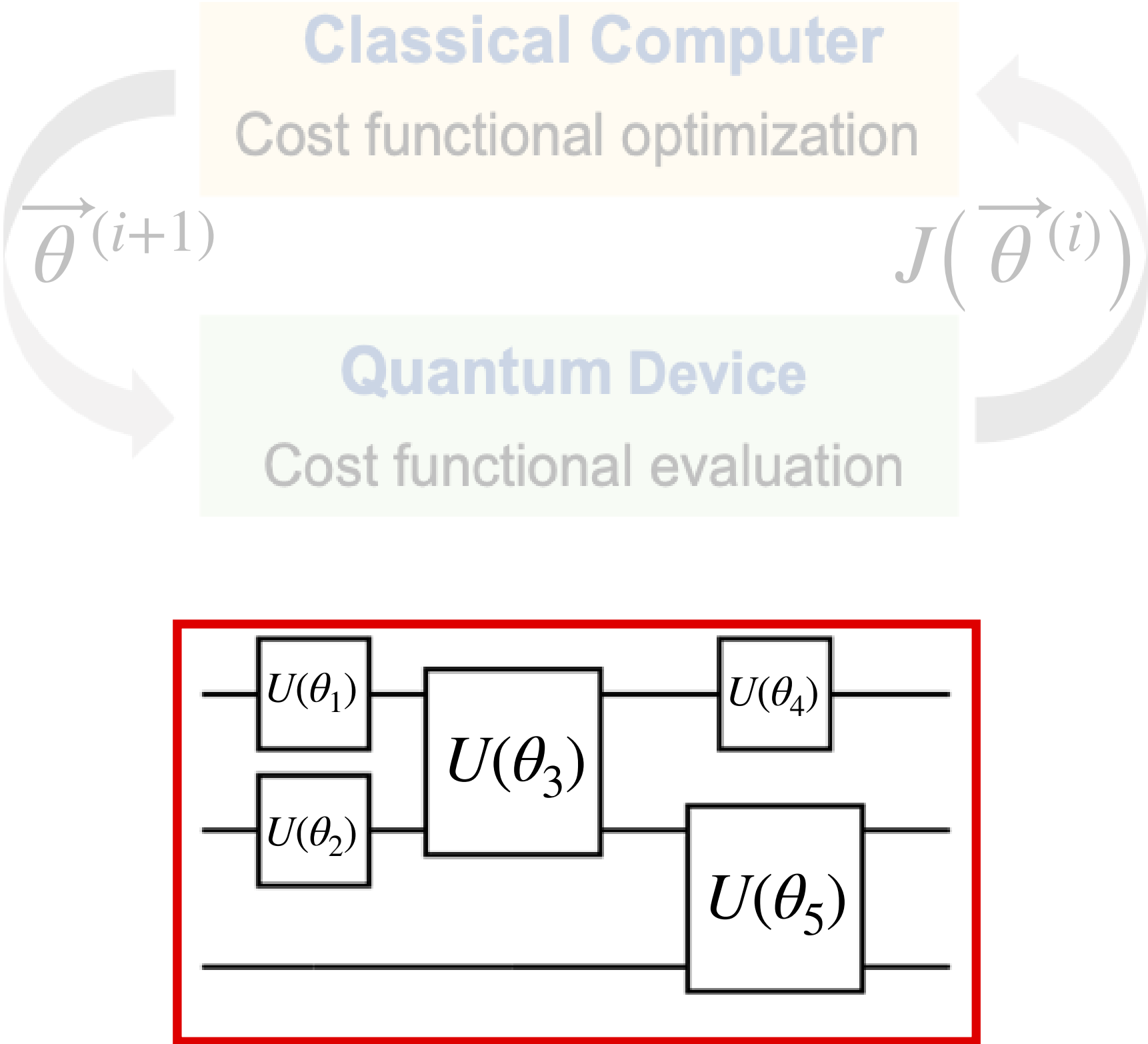
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# Feedback-based quantum optimization

## Continuous-time control perspective

Consider a quantum system whose dynamics are governed by

$$i\frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle = H(t) |\psi(t)\rangle \quad \text{with} \quad H(t) = H_p + H_d\beta(t)$$

Scalar, time-dependent  
control function

“problem” Hamiltonian      “driver” Hamiltonian

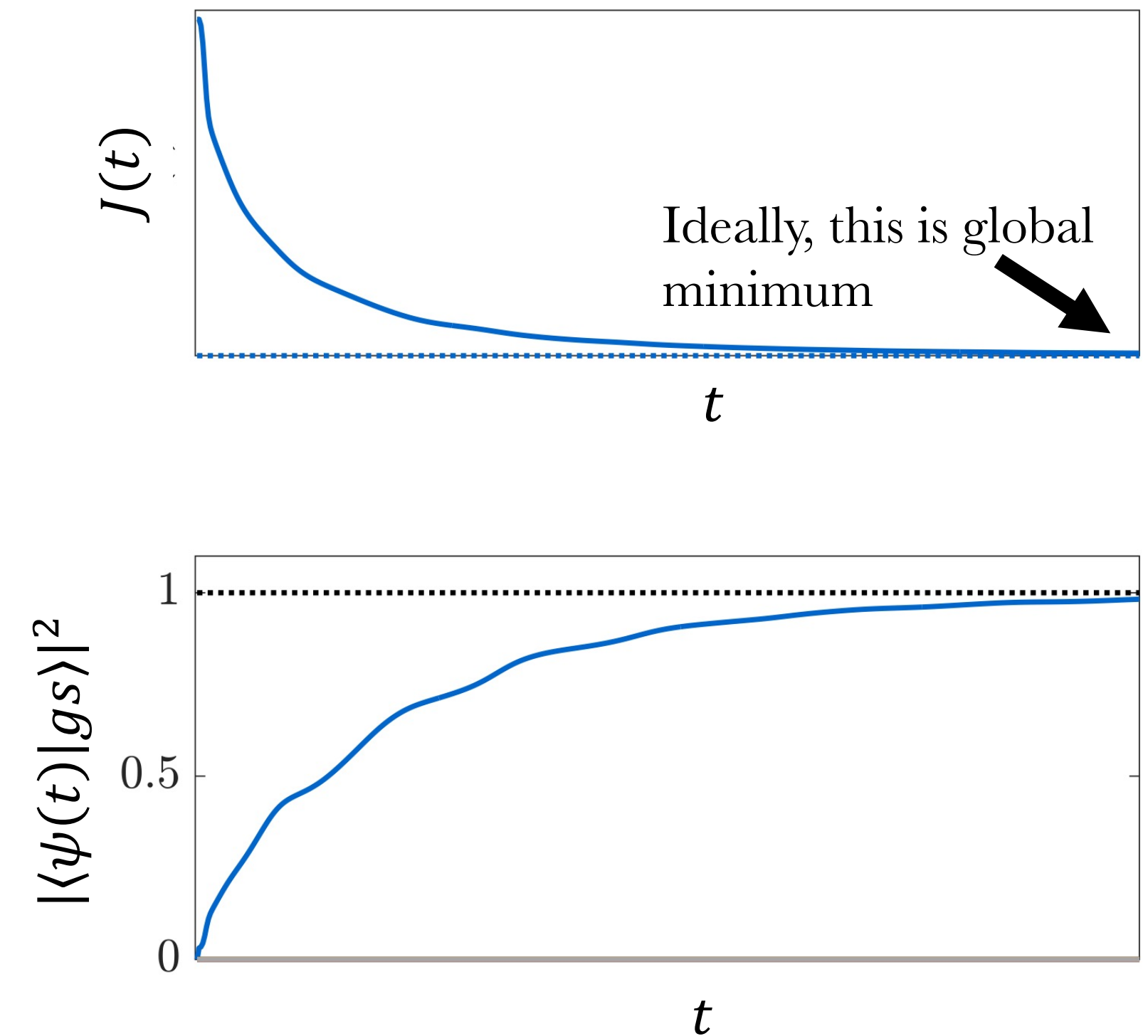
Objective: design  $\beta(t)$  to drive the system to a state that minimizes

$$J(t) = \langle \psi(t) | H_p | \psi(t) \rangle$$

Quantum Lyapunov control principle:

Design  $\beta(t)$  to ensure  $J(t)$  is strictly decreasing over time by enforcing  $\frac{d}{dt}J(t) \leq 0$  at all times

Illustration of the principle





# Feedback-based quantum optimization

$$\frac{d}{dt}J(t) \leq 0$$

The left-hand side is given by,

$$\frac{d}{dt}J(t) = \frac{d}{dt}\langle\psi(t)|H_p|\psi(t)\rangle = i\langle\psi(t)|[H_d, H_p]|\psi(t)\rangle\beta(t)$$

Define  $A(t) \equiv \langle\psi(t)|i[H_d, H_p]|\psi(t)\rangle$

Then,  $\frac{d}{dt}J(t) = A(t)\beta(t)$

We choose the following control law

$$\beta(t) = -A(t) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \frac{d}{dt}J(t) = -\left(A(t)\right)^2$$

Implementation using alternating operator QAOA ansatz

One “layer” given by

Such that full circuit has the form

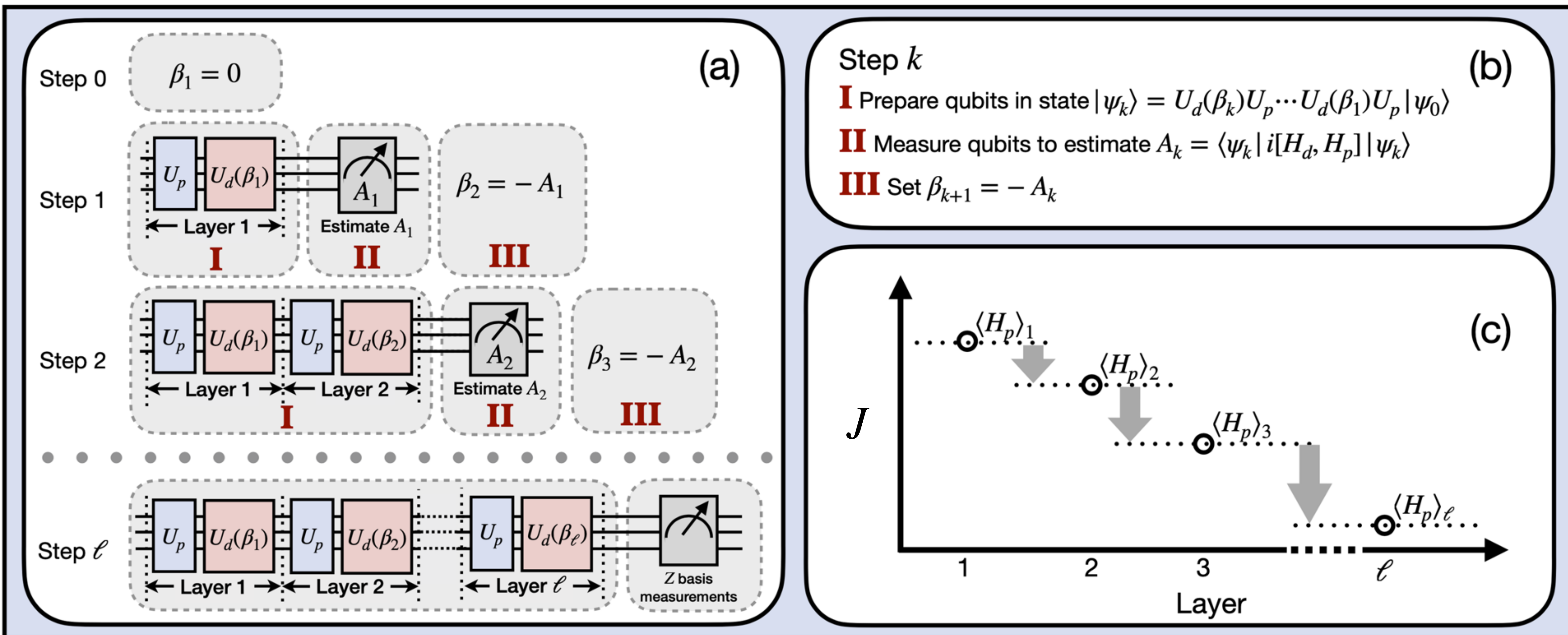
$$|\psi_k\rangle = e^{-i\beta_k H_d \Delta t} e^{-iH_p \Delta t} |\psi_{k-1}\rangle = U_d(\beta_k) U_p |\psi_{k-1}\rangle \quad U_d(\beta_\ell) U_p \dots U_d(\beta_3) U_p U_d(\beta_2) U_p U_d(\beta_1) U_p$$

***Set  $\beta$  values per feedback law  $\beta_k = -A_{k-1}$***

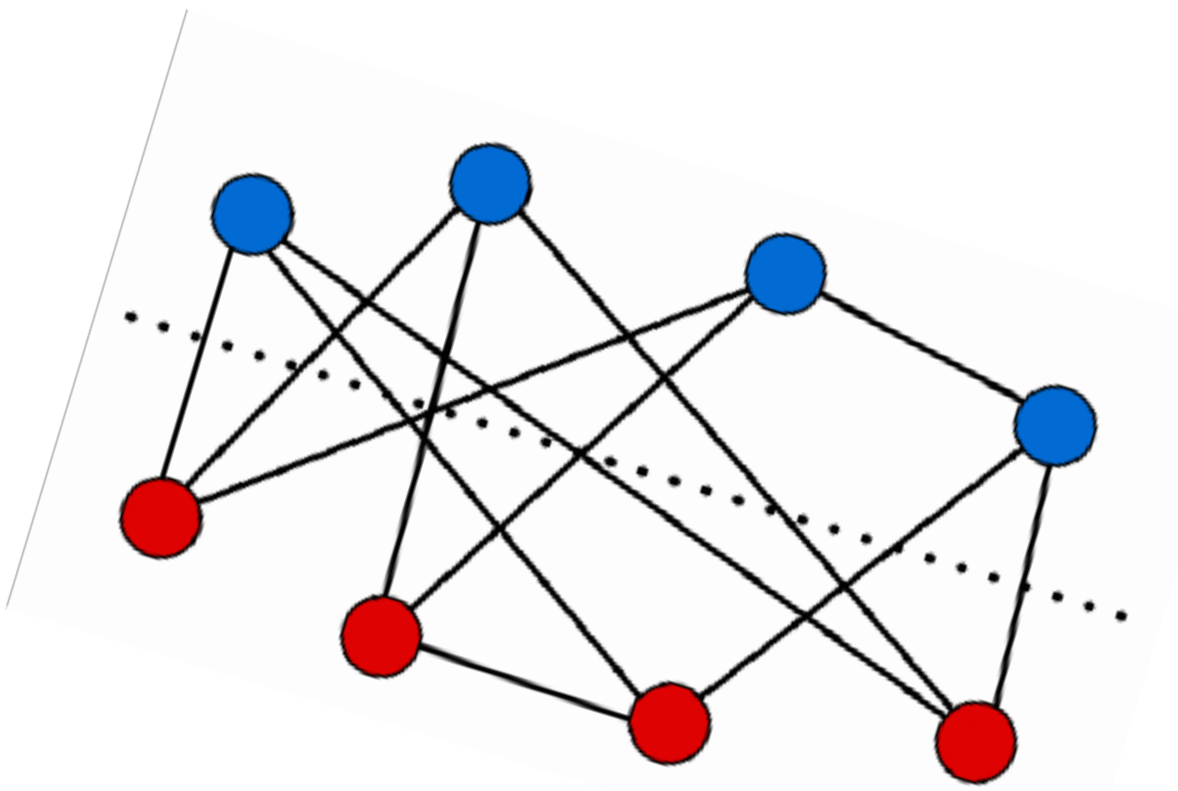
“Feedback-based quantum optimization”



# Feedback-based quantum optimization



# Applications to MaxCut



The aim of MaxCut is to identify bipartition of a graph that maximizes the number of edges crossing the two sets.

QAOA sampling cost:  $N_{samp} \geq mq(1 + 2\ell) = O(mq\ell)$

This work:  $N_{samp} \leq m(1 + 2\ell(d + 1)) = O(md\ell)$

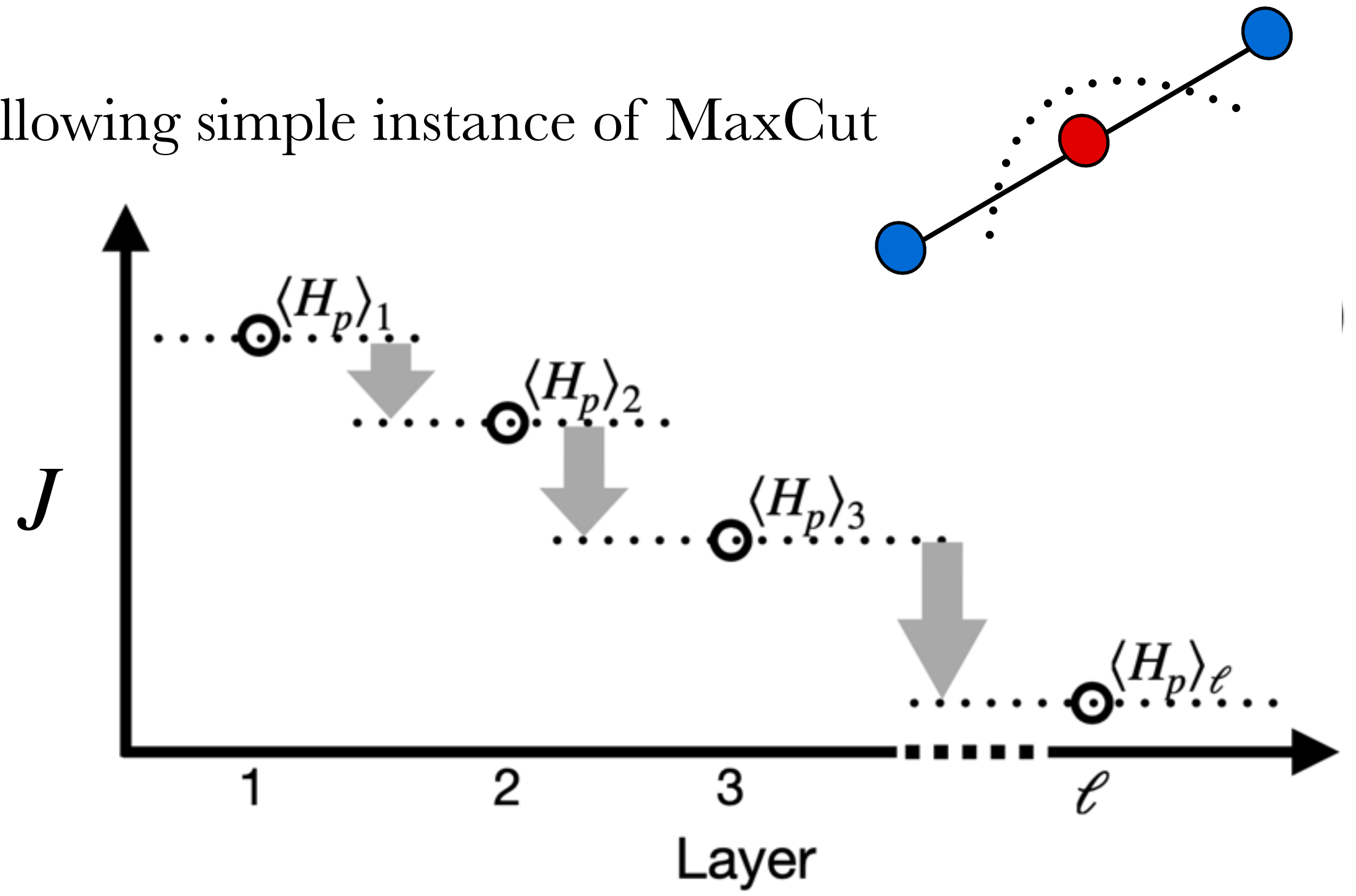
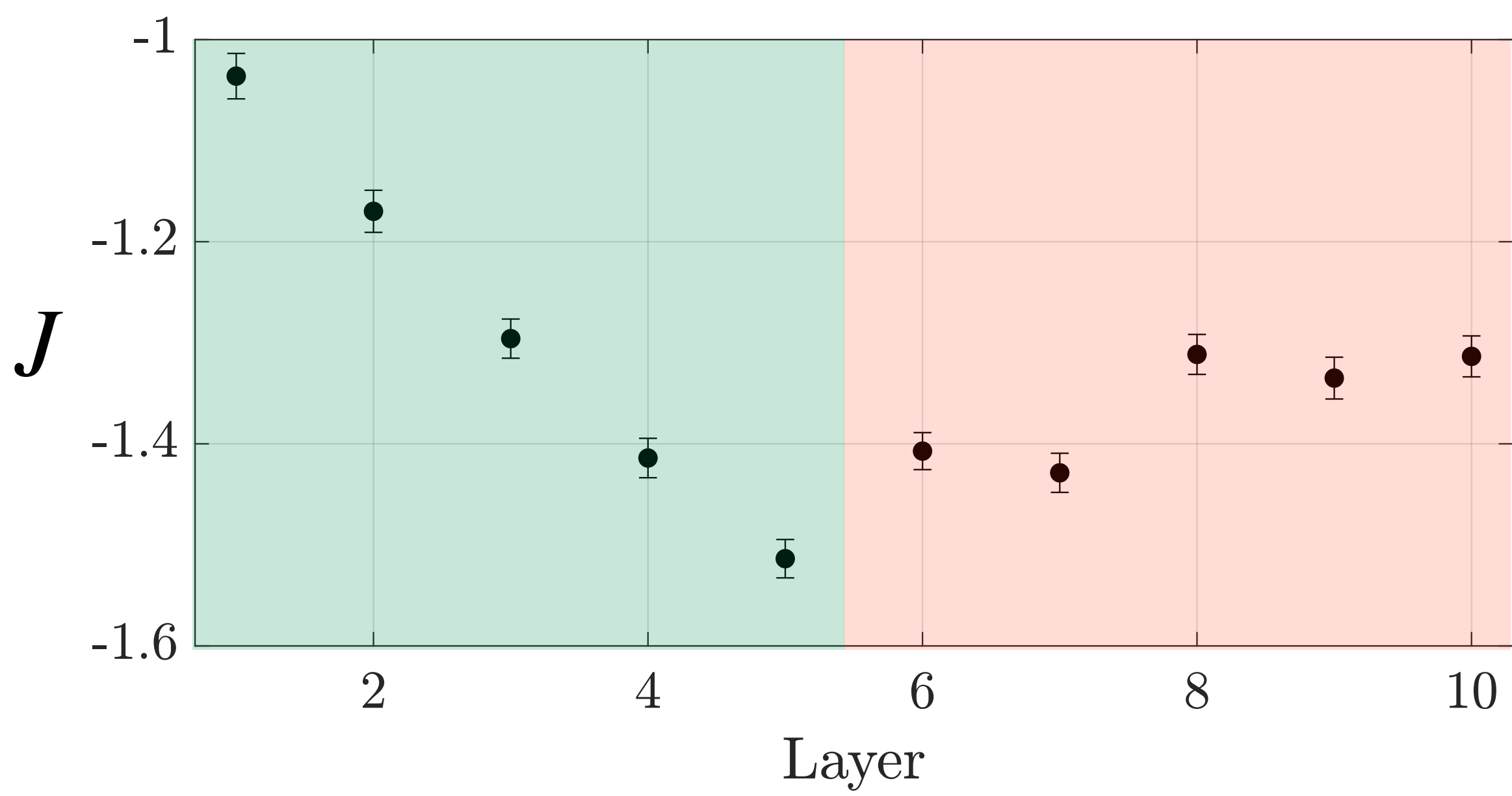
$m$ : # samples to evaluate single expectation value

$q$ : # classical optimization iterations

$\ell$ : # layers

$d$ : degree of graph

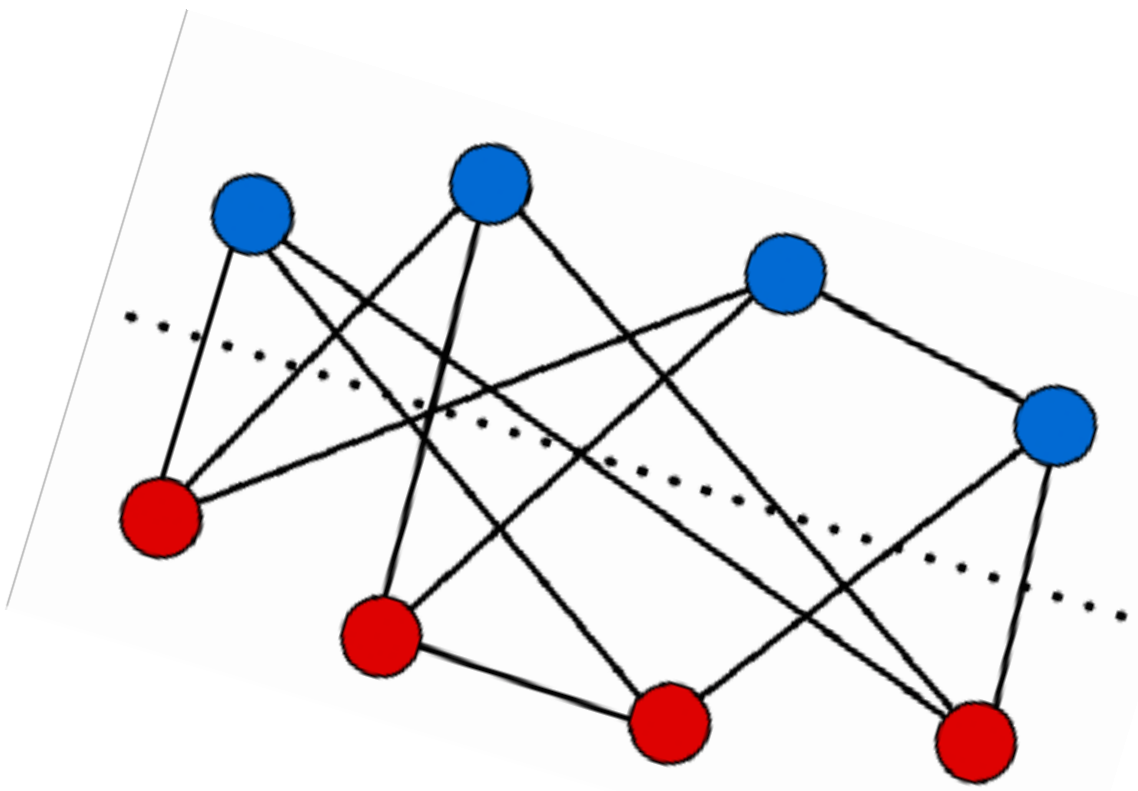
Performed hardware demonstration on ibmq\_manila for the following simple instance of MaxCut



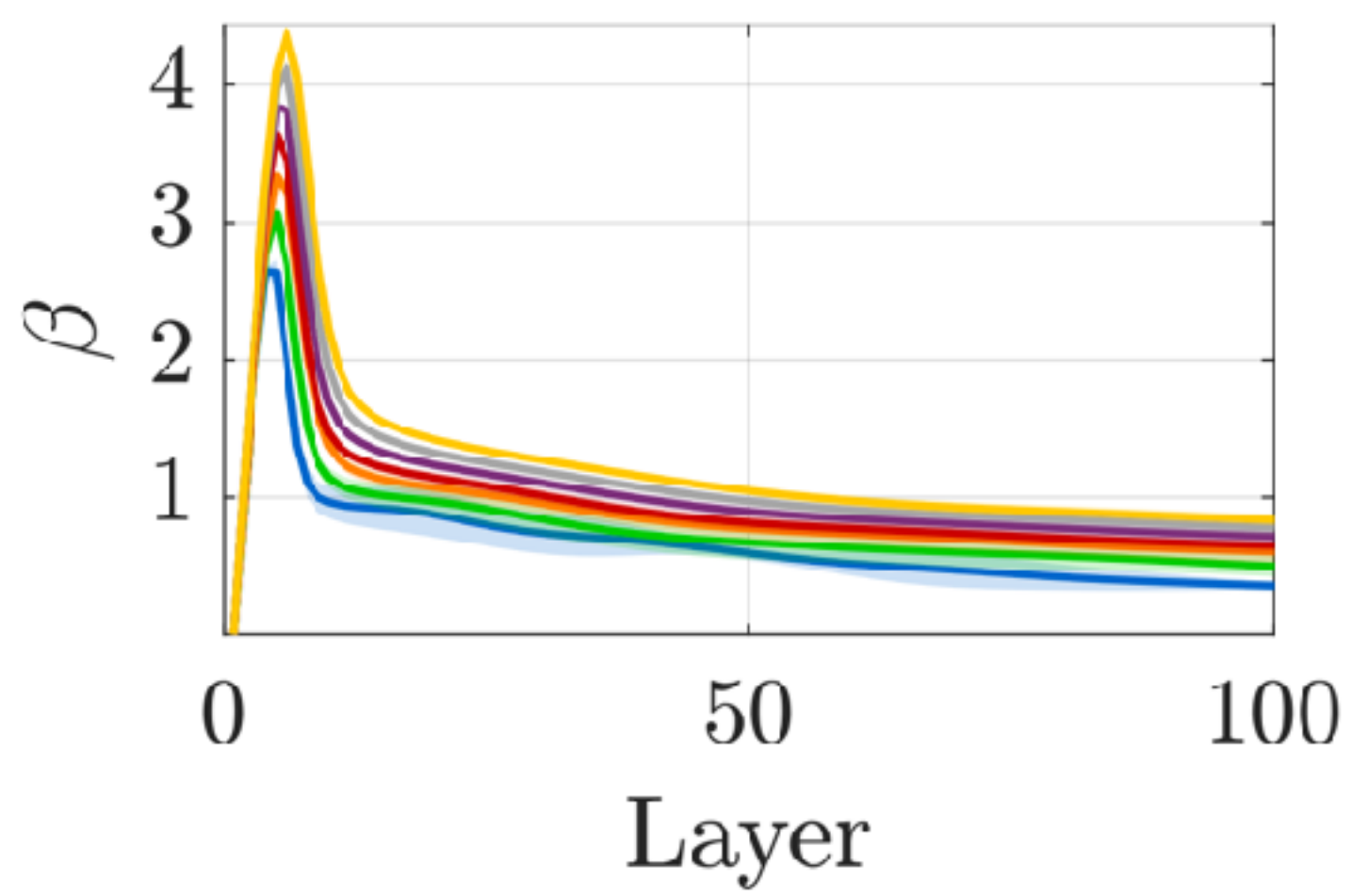
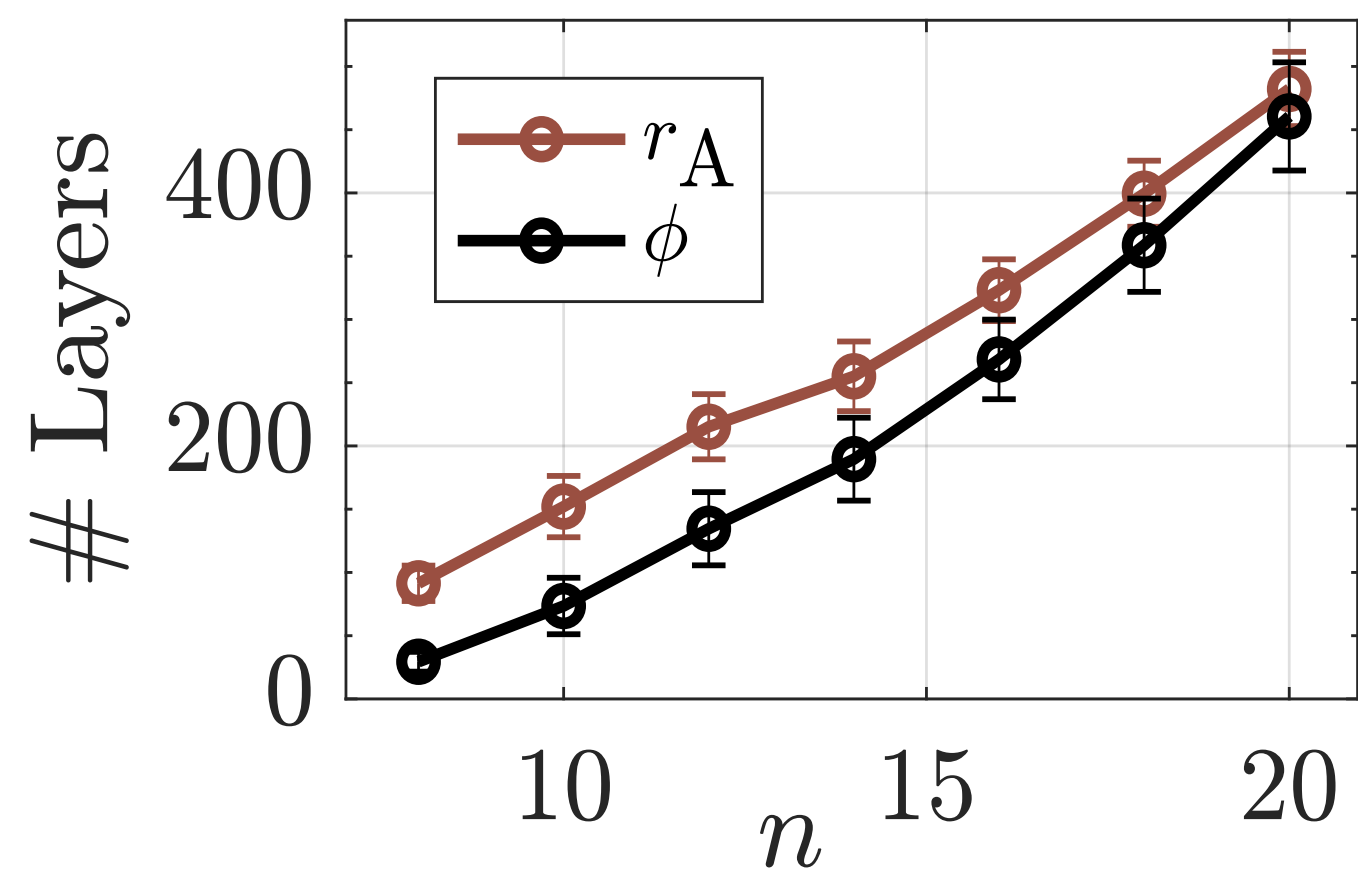
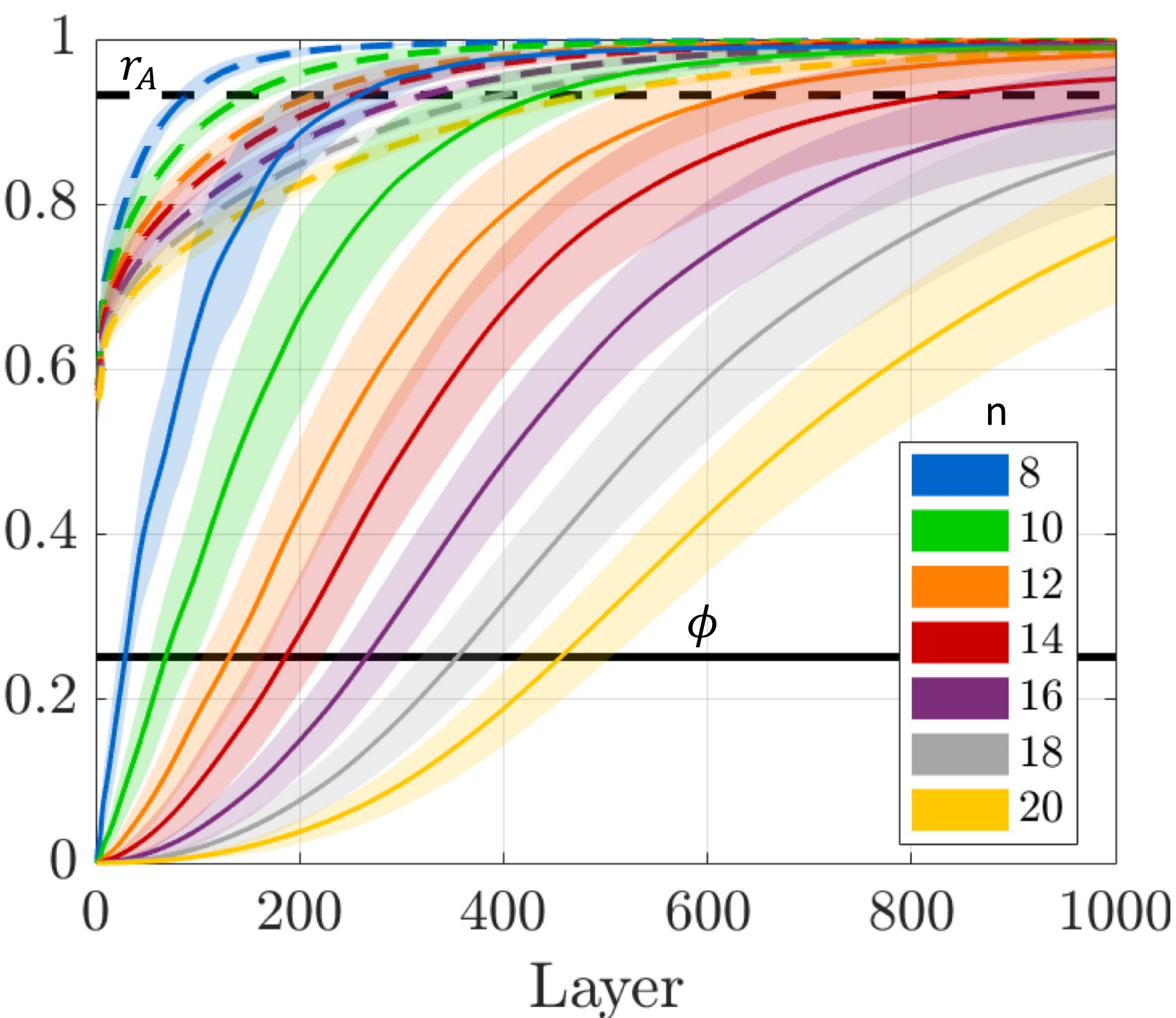


# Applications to MaxCut

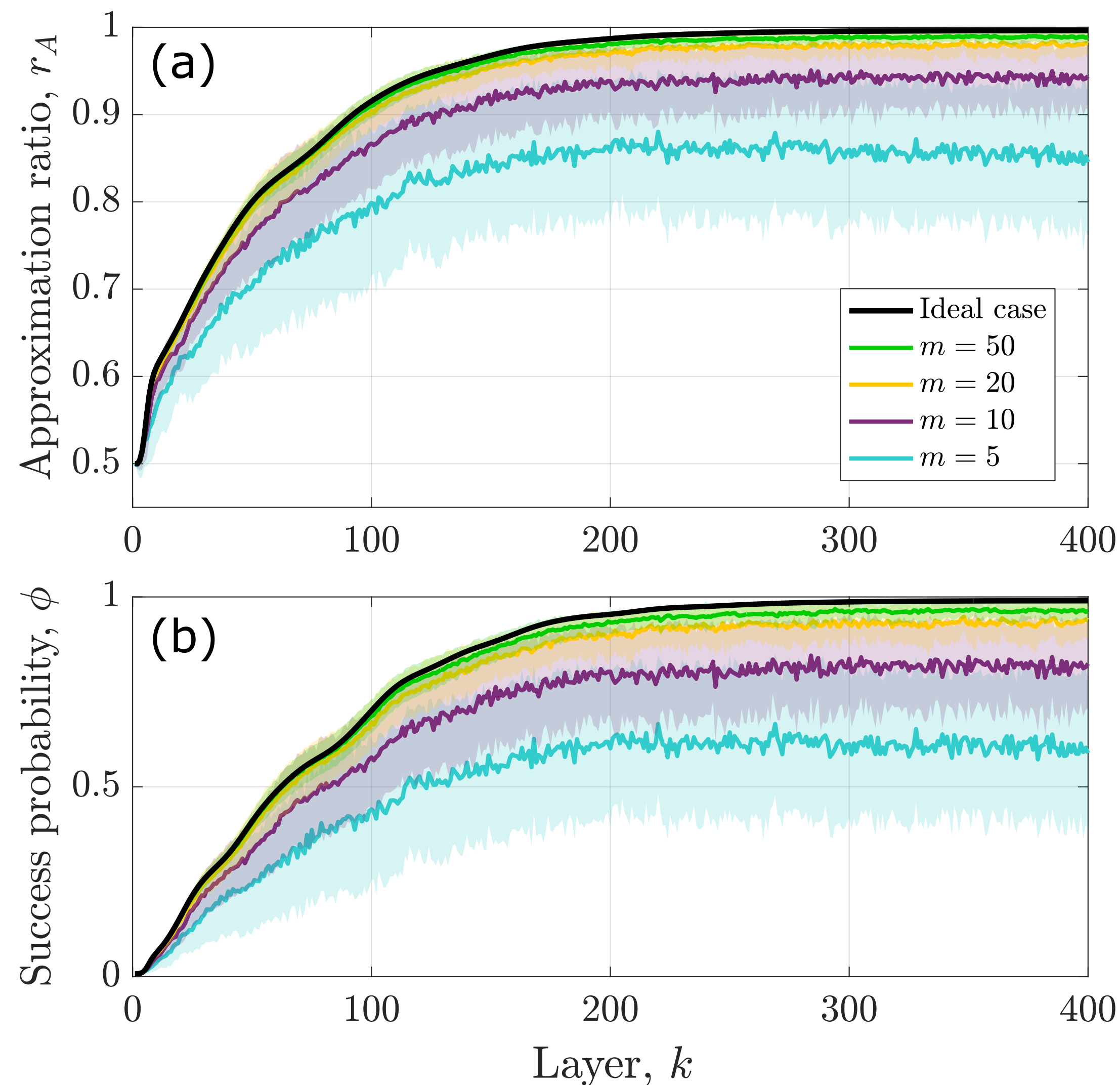
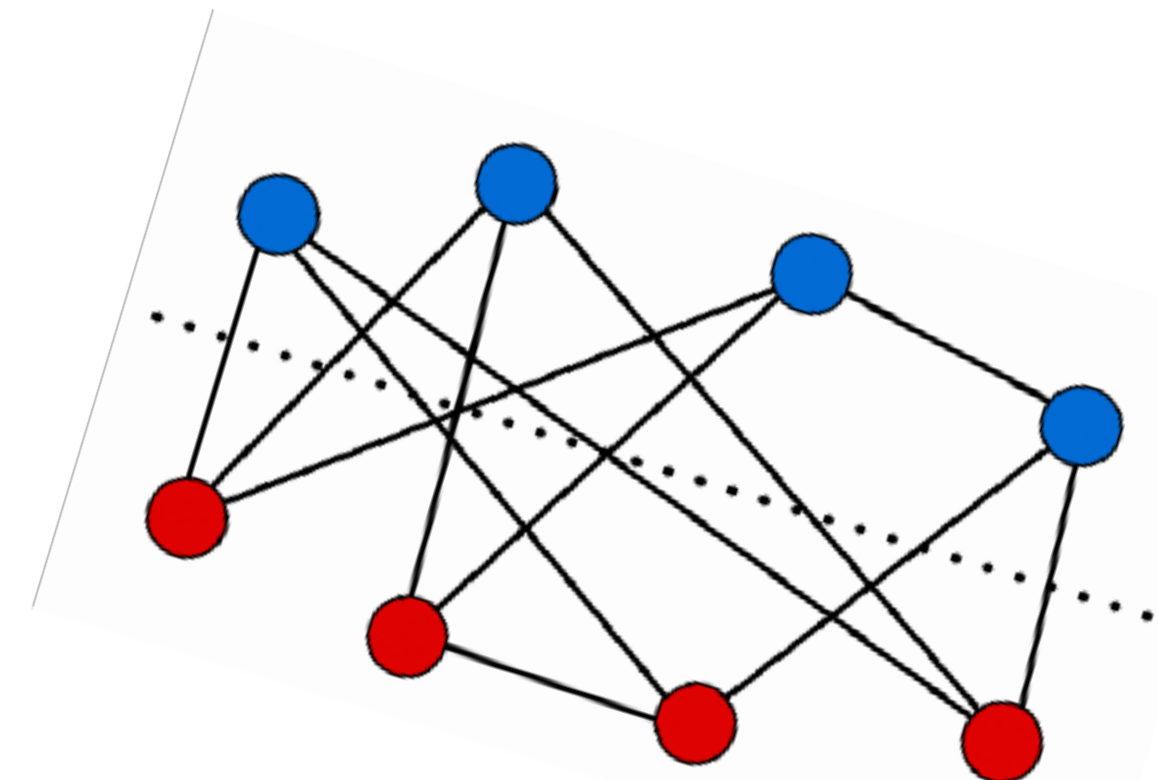
Performed a variety of numerical analyses exploring the performance of FALQON towards MaxCut on connected, 3-regular graphs



- We consider two figures of merit:
- the probability  $\phi$  of measuring  $|gs\rangle$
  - the approximation ratio  $r_A = \frac{\langle H_p \rangle}{\min \langle H_p \rangle}$



# Applications to MaxCut



$m = \#$  samples to estimate  $A_k$  at each layer

We also explored the performance of our protocol in the presence of sampling noise in our estimate of  $A$ , that directly infects  $\beta$  through  $\beta_k = A_{k-1}$

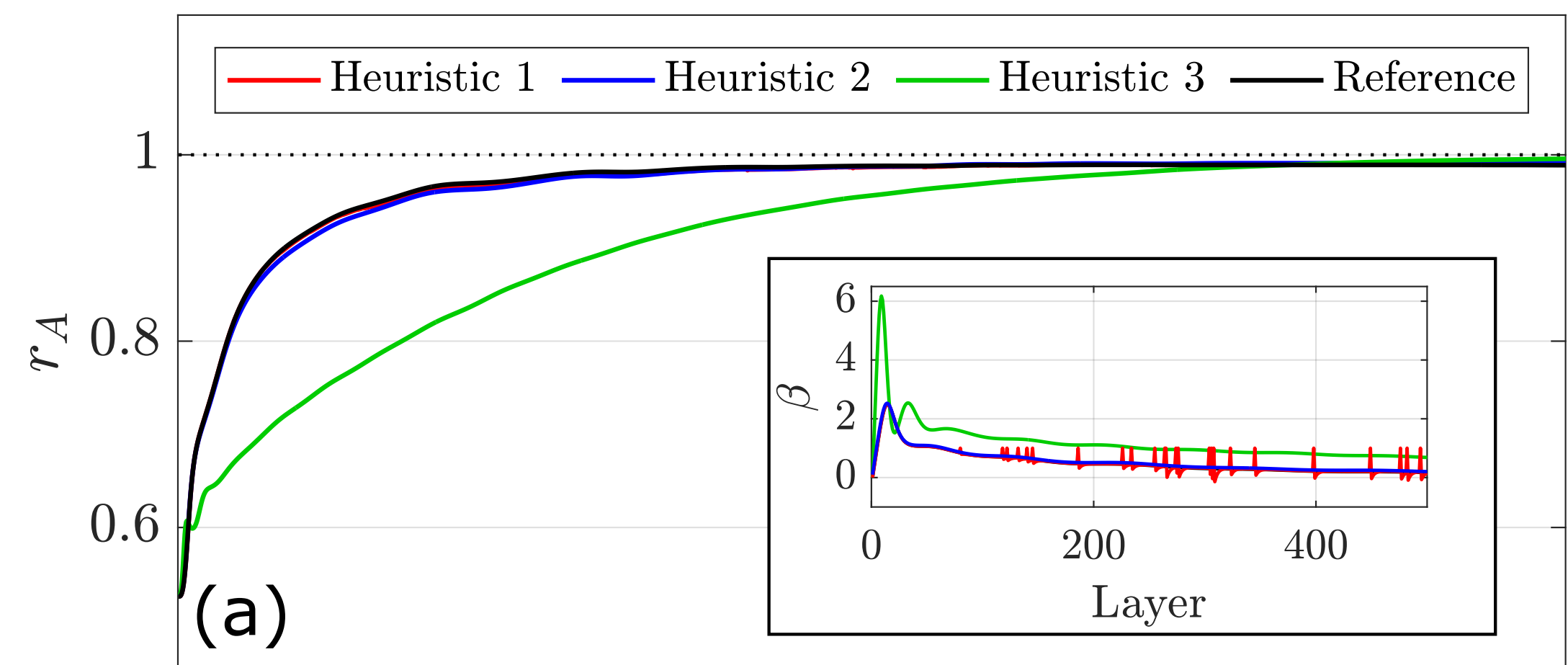
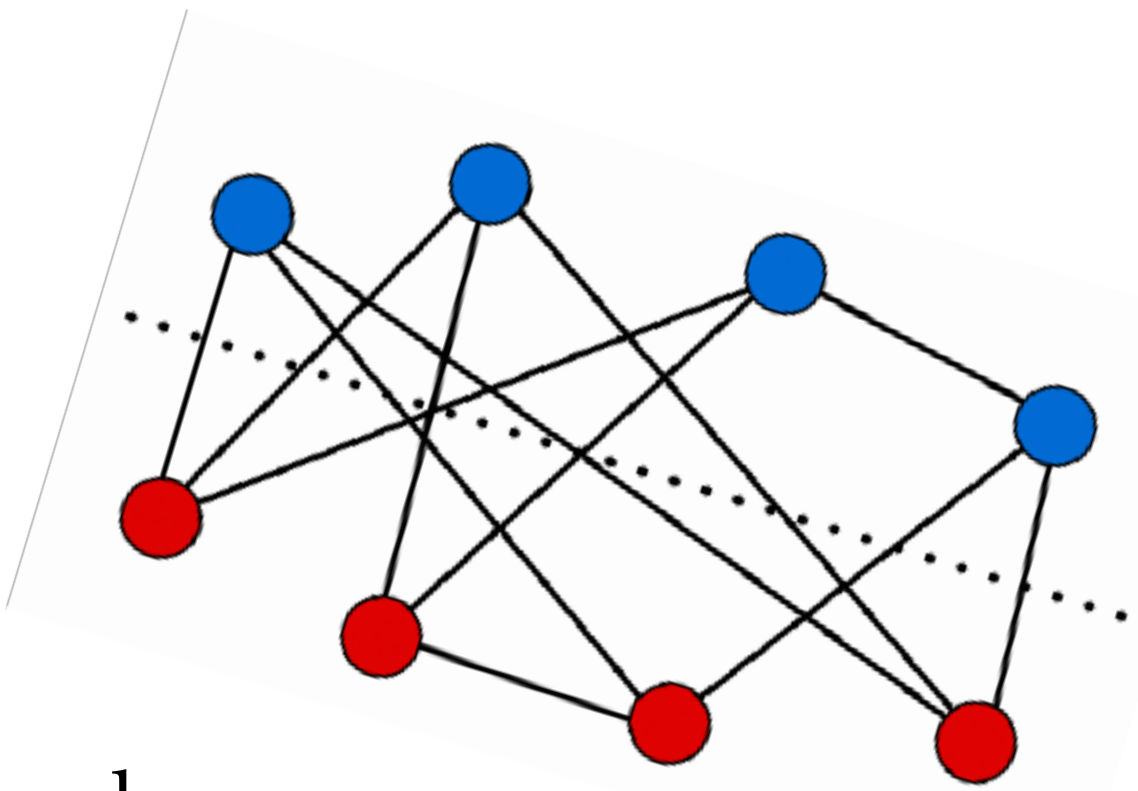
Find robustness to sampling noise, due to freedom in control law for satisfying

$$\frac{d}{dt}J(t) \leq 0$$

i.e., we chose  $\beta(t) = -A(t)$  such that  $\frac{d}{dt}J(t) = -(A(t))^2$ , but the Lyapunov condition is satisfied as long as  $\beta$  is the correct sign

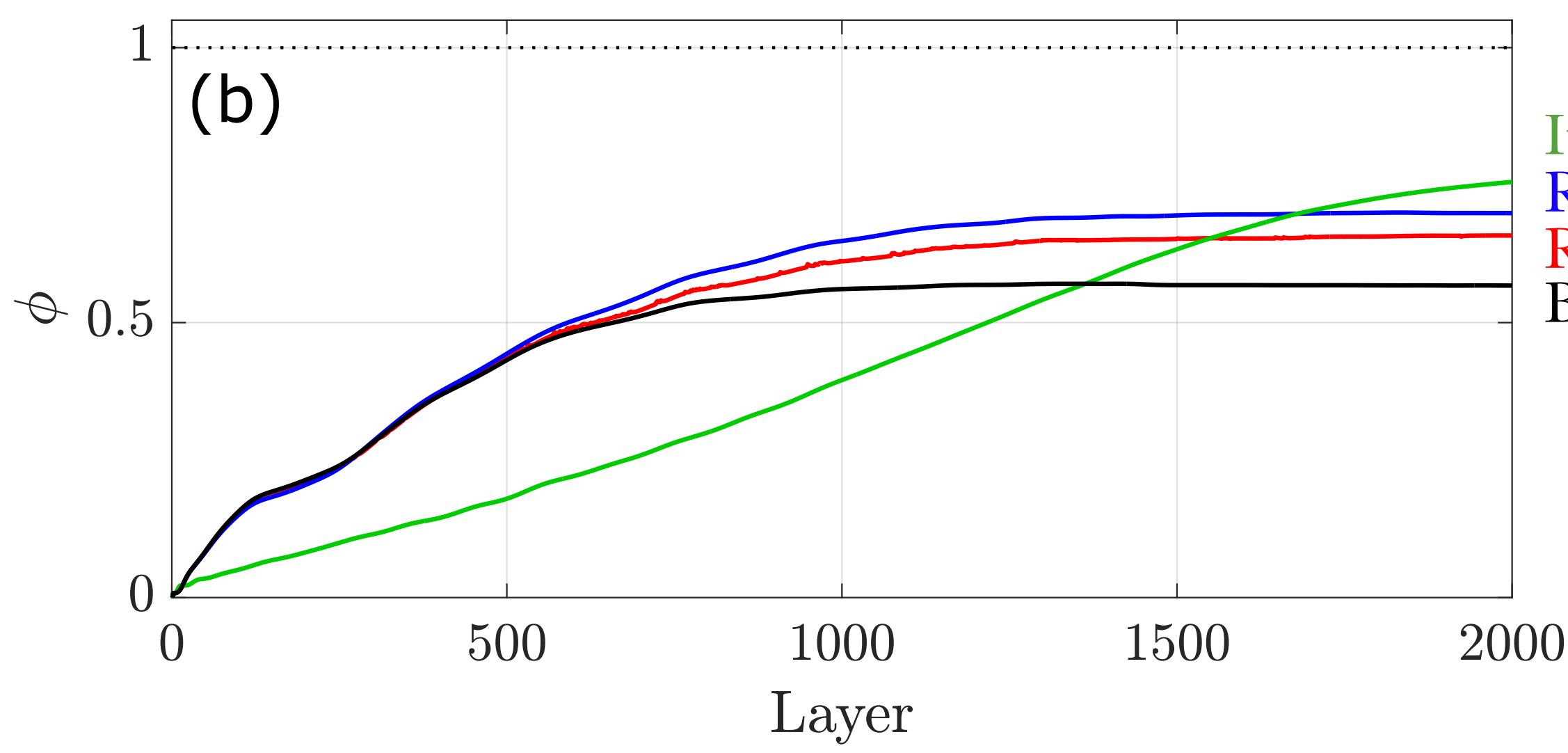


# Applications to MaxCut



We also explored applications towards weighted MaxCut, and found instances that did not converge

For such cases, we introduced a series of modifications that can be included that improve performance



Iterative updates to perturbation  
Reference field perturbation in  $\beta$   
Random perturbations in  $\beta$   
Base case

# Summary

- Introduced a feedback-based algorithm for combinatorial optimization on quantum computers
- Feedback from qubit measurements is used to sequentially assign values to circuit parameters
- This eliminates the need to search for optimal parameters
- Presented results of hardware demonstration on IBM quantum processor
- Presented numerical illustrations involving MaxCut on regular graphs to investigate convergence, scalability, and robustness

# Thank you

arXiv:2103.08619 & arXiv:2108.05945



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