
dwave-neal Documentation

Release 0.5.9

D-Wave Systems Inc

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An implementation of a simulated annealing sampler.

A simulated annealing sampler can be used for approximate Boltzmann sampling or heuristic optimization. This implementation approaches the equilibrium distribution by performing updates at a sequence of increasing beta values, `beta_schedule`, terminating at the target beta. Each spin is updated once in a fixed order per point in the `beta_schedule` according to a Metropolis- Hastings update. When beta is large the target distribution concentrates, at equilibrium, over ground states of the model. Samples are guaranteed to match the equilibrium for long ‘smooth’ beta schedules.

For more information, see Kirkpatrick, S.; Gelatt Jr, C. D.; Vecchi, M. P. (1983). “Optimization by Simulated Annealing”. *Science*. 220 (4598): 671–680

CHAPTER 1

Example Usage

```
import neal

sampler = neal.SimulatedAnnealingSampler()

h = {0: -1, 1: -1}
J = {(0, 1): -1}
sampleset = sampler.sample_ising(h, J)
```

Note: This documentation is for the latest version of [dwave-neal](#). Documentation for the version currently installed by [dwave-ocean-sdk](#) is here: [dwave-neal](#).

2.1 Introduction

Samplers are processes that sample from low energy states of a problem's objective function. A binary quadratic model (BQM) sampler samples from low energy states in models such as those defined by an Ising equation or a Quadratic Unconstrained Binary Optimization (QUBO) problem and returns an iterable of samples, in order of increasing energy. A `dimod` sampler provides `'sample_qubo'` and `'sample_ising'` methods as well as the generic BQM sampler method.

The `SimulatedAnnealingSampler` sampler implements the simulated annealing algorithm, based on the technique of cooling metal from a high temperature to improve its structure (annealing). This algorithm often finds good solutions to hard optimization problems.

2.2 Reference Documentation

Release 0.5.9

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2.2.1 Simulated Annealing Sampler

A `dimod` sampler that uses the simulated annealing algorithm.

Class

class `SimulatedAnnealingSampler`

Simulated annealing sampler.

Also aliased as `Neal`.

Examples

This example solves a simple Ising problem.

```
>>> import neal
>>> sampler = neal.SimulatedAnnealingSampler()
>>> h = {'a': 0.0, 'b': 0.0, 'c': 0.0}
>>> J = {('a', 'b'): 1.0, ('b', 'c'): 1.0, ('a', 'c'): 1.0}
>>> sampleset = sampler.sample_ising(h, J, num_reads=10)
>>> print(sampleset.first.energy)
-1.0
```

Sampler Properties

<code>SimulatedAnnealingSampler.properties</code>	A dict containing any additional information about the sampler.
<code>SimulatedAnnealingSampler.parameters</code>	A dict where keys are the keyword parameters accepted by the sampler methods (allowed kwargs) and values are lists of <code>SimulatedAnnealingSampler.properties</code> relevant to each parameter.

`neal.sampler.SimulatedAnnealingSampler.properties`

`SimulatedAnnealingSampler.properties = None`

A dict containing any additional information about the sampler.

Examples

This example looks at the values set for a sampler property.

```
>>> import neal
>>> sampler = neal.SimulatedAnnealingSampler()
>>> sampler.properties['beta_schedule_options']
('linear', 'geometric', 'custom')
```

Type `dict`

`neal.sampler.SimulatedAnnealingSampler.parameters`

`SimulatedAnnealingSampler.parameters = None`

A dict where keys are the keyword parameters accepted by the sampler methods (allowed kwargs) and values are lists of `SimulatedAnnealingSampler.properties` relevant to each parameter.

See `SimulatedAnnealingSampler.sample()` for a description of the parameters.

Examples

This example looks at a sampler's parameters and some of their values.

```
>>> import neal
>>> sampler = neal.SimulatedAnnealingSampler()
>>> for kwarg in sorted(sampler.parameters):
...     print(kwarg)
beta_range
beta_schedule_type
initial_states
initial_states_generator
interrupt_function
num_reads
num_sweeps
num_sweeps_per_beta
seed
>>> sampler.parameters['beta_range']
[]
>>> sampler.parameters['beta_schedule_type']
['beta_schedule_options']
```

Type dict

Methods

<code>SimulatedAnnealingSampler.sample(bqm[, ...])</code>	Sample from a binary quadratic model using an implemented sample method.
<code>SimulatedAnnealingSampler.sample_ising(h, J, ...)</code>	Sample from an Ising model using the implemented sample method.
<code>SimulatedAnnealingSampler.sample_qubo(Q, ...)</code>	Sample from a QUBO using the implemented sample method.

neal.sampler.SimulatedAnnealingSampler.sample

`SimulatedAnnealingSampler.sample` (*bqm*, *beta_range=None*, *num_reads=None*, *num_sweeps=None*, *num_sweeps_per_beta=1*, *beta_schedule_type='geometric'*, *seed=None*, *interrupt_function=None*, *beta_schedule=None*, *initial_states=None*, *initial_states_generator='random'*, ***kwargs*)

Sample from a binary quadratic model using an implemented sample method.

Parameters

- **bqm** (`dimod.BinaryQuadraticModel`) – The binary quadratic model to be sampled.
- **beta_range** (*tuple or list, optional*) – A 2-tuple or list defining the beginning and end of the beta schedule, where beta is the inverse temperature. The schedule is interpolated within this range according to the value specified by `beta_schedule_type`. Default range is set based on the total bias associated with each node.
- **num_reads** (*int, optional, default=len(initial_states) or 1*) – Number of reads. Each read is generated by one run of the simulated annealing algorithm.

If `num_reads` is not explicitly given, it is selected to match the number of initial states given. If initial states are not provided, only one read is performed.

- **num_sweeps** (*int, optional, default=``len(beta_schedule)*num_sweeps_per_beta`` or 1000*) – Number of sweeps used in annealing. If no value is provided and `beta_schedule` is `None` the value is defaulted to 1000.
- **num_sweeps_per_beta** (*int, optional, default=1*) – Number of sweeps to perform at each beta. One sweep consists of a sequential Metropolis update of all spins.
- **beta_schedule_type** (*string, optional, default="geometric"*) – Beta schedule type, or how the beta values are interpolated between the given `beta_range`. Supported values are:
 - "linear"
 - "geometric"
 - "custom"

"custom" is recommended for high-performance applications, which typically require optimizing beta schedules beyond those of the "linear" and "geometric" options, with bounds beyond those provided by default. `num_sweeps_per_beta` and `beta_schedule` fully specify a custom schedule.
- **beta_schedule** (*array-like, optional, default = None*) – Sequence of beta values swept. Format compatible with `numpy.array(beta_schedule, dtype=float)` required. Values should be non-negative.
- **seed** (*int, optional, default = None*) – Seed to use for the PRNG. Specifying a particular seed with a constant set of parameters produces identical results. If not provided, a random seed is chosen.
- **initial_states** (*samples-like, optional, default=None*) – One or more samples, each defining an initial state for all the problem variables. Initial states are given one per read, but if fewer than `num_reads` initial states are defined, additional values are generated as specified by `initial_states_generator`. See `func:.as_samples` for a description of "samples-like".
- **initial_states_generator** (*str, "none"/"tile"/"random", optional, default="random"*) – Defines the expansion of `initial_states` if fewer than `num_reads` are specified:
 - **"none"**: If the number of initial states specified is smaller than `num_reads`, raises `ValueError`.
 - **"tile"**: Reuses the specified initial states if fewer than `num_reads` or truncates if greater.
 - **"random"**: Expands the specified initial states with randomly generated states if fewer than `num_reads` or truncates if greater.
- **interrupt_function** (*function, optional*) – If provided, `interrupt_function` is called with no parameters between each sample of simulated annealing. If the function returns `True`, then simulated annealing will terminate and return with all of the samples and energies found so far.

Returns `dimod.SampleSet`

Examples

This example runs simulated annealing on a binary quadratic model with some different input parameters.

```
>>> import dimod
>>> import neal
...
>>> sampler = neal.SimulatedAnnealingSampler()
>>> bqm = dimod.BinaryQuadraticModel({'a': .5, 'b': -.5},
...                                  {'(a', 'b)': -1}, 0.0,
...                                  dimod.SPIN)
>>> # Run with default parameters
>>> sampleset = sampler.sample(bqm)
>>> # Run with specified parameters
>>> sampleset = sampler.sample(bqm, seed=1234,
...                             beta_range=[0.1, 4.2],
...                             num_sweeps=20,
...                             beta_schedule_type='geometric')
>>> # Reuse a seed
>>> a1 = next((sampler.sample(bqm, seed=88)).samples())['a']
>>> a2 = next((sampler.sample(bqm, seed=88)).samples())['a']
>>> a1 == a2
True
```

neal.sampler.SimulatedAnnealingSampler.sample_ising

SimulatedAnnealingSampler.**sample_ising**(*h*, *J*, ***parameters*)

Sample from an Ising model using the implemented sample method.

This method is inherited from the Sampler base class.

Converts the Ising model into a BinaryQuadraticModel and then calls `sample()`.

Parameters

- **h** (*dict/list*) – Linear biases of the Ising problem. If a dict, should be of the form $\{v: bias, \dots\}$ where v is a spin-valued variable and $bias$ is its associated bias. If a list, it is treated as a list of biases where the indices are the variable labels.
- **J** (*dict[(variable, variable), bias]*) – Quadratic biases of the Ising problem.
- ****kwargs** – See the implemented sampling for additional keyword definitions.

Returns SampleSet

See also:

`sample()`, `sample_qubo()`

neal.sampler.SimulatedAnnealingSampler.sample_qubo

SimulatedAnnealingSampler.**sample_qubo**(*Q*, ***parameters*)

Sample from a QUBO using the implemented sample method.

This method is inherited from the Sampler base class.

Converts the QUBO into a BinaryQuadraticModel and then calls `sample()`.

Parameters

- `Q(dict)` – Coefficients of a quadratic unconstrained binary optimization (QUBO) problem. Should be a dict of the form $\{(u, v): bias, \dots\}$ where u, v , are binary-valued variables and $bias$ is their associated coefficient.
- `**kwargs` – See the implemented sampling for additional keyword definitions.

Returns `SampleSet`

See also:

`sample()`, `sample_ising()`

Alias

Neal

alias of `neal.sampler.SimulatedAnnealingSampler`

2.3 Installation

To install:

```
pip install dwave-neal
```

To build from source:

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
python setup.py build_ext --inplace
python setup.py install
```

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Version 2.0, January 2004

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