Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Signal Processing and Machine Learning
DOI: 10.54254/2755-2721/112/2025.18111

Optimization and Safety Research on Autonomous Vehicles Based on Blockchain, Quantum Computing, and Artificial Intelligence

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Abstract: The field of autonomous vehicles is undergoing rapid development, with research focused on enhancing safety, efficiency, and intelligence to drive the full realization and transformation of intelligent transportation systems. This paper explores the potential applications and challenges of blockchain technology, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence in the realm of autonomous vehicles. The study finds that integrating blockchain with autonomous vehicles significantly improves data encryption security through quantum hash algorithms. However, the advancement of quantum computers still faces challenges in technological maturity, stability, and cost. In the operating mechanisms of autonomous vehicles, quantum reinforcement learning demonstrates unique advantages in path optimization, while quantum annealing and quantum optimization algorithms improve decision-making efficiency and precision. This research highlights the innovative opportunities brought by blockchain, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence to the field of autonomous vehicles, while also addressing the challenges of technology integration, providing valuable insights for the development of intelligent transportation systems.

Keywords: Blockchain, Quantum Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Vehicles, Path Optimization.

1. Introduction

With the development of autonomous vehicles, issues such as safety, data privacy protection, and path optimization have increasingly become prominent topics of concern. If safety and privacy or path optimization problems are not effectively addressed, they could directly endanger people's lives and property, sparking societal fear. In practical terms, solving these issues can improve both the utilization and efficiency of autonomous vehicles in traffic systems. Should autonomous vehicles be widely deployed under well-developed conditions, we would see significant improvements in traffic safety and order, along with advancements in fields such as academic research and industrial production.

This paper addresses the issues of safety, privacy, and path optimization in autonomous vehicles through an integrated approach combining blockchain, quantum technology, and artificial intelligence. Blockchain technology, known for its security, transparency, decentralization, and immutability [1], can provide a highly secure and trusted platform for data storage and sharing in

DOI: 10.54254/2755-2721/112/2025.18111

onboard and V2X networks. Blockchain can be applied across multiple aspects of autonomous vehicles; for instance, smart insurance leverages blockchain to enable flexible insurance plans based on data collected from vehicles and driving behavior, offering secure, decentralized, on-demand data exchanges with privacy protection. This ensures data tamper resistance, prevents insurance fraud, and allows transparent, trustless automatic claims processing via smart contracts [2]. Quantum technology, with its powerful computing capabilities, high-speed data processing, parallelism, and security, offers efficient and reliable solutions for complex computations and real-time decision-making in autonomous vehicles while also ensuring secure data encryption. Russian scientists, as described in [3], have built and tested the first quantum blockchain system that uses quantum technology to secure blockchain. The team posits that a fully developed quantum computer could break any traditional cryptography-based information, yet could also be combined with blockchain to enhance encryption security. This technology has already reached commercial applications. Artificial intelligence, through reinforcement learning (RL), can analyze and process the massive data generated by autonomous vehicles, identifying potential threats and making well-informed decisions [1]. Path planning in dynamic environments remains one of the most challenging aspects of autonomous driving, and AI-based approaches offer higher accuracy and time efficiency over traditional methods [4]. In [5], reinforcement learning-based path planning and decision optimization in autonomous vehicles have shown significant effects in real-world applications. Some advanced autonomous test vehicles have successfully navigated multiple urban traffic scenarios, effectively avoiding congestion and potential collisions while ensuring a smooth driving experience through reinforcement learning. Integrating these technologies can maximize their strengths, creating a synergistic effect that enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of autonomous vehicle systems.

This paper is structured into five main sections. The second section introduces the contributions of blockchain and quantum hashing technology to data storage and encryption in autonomous vehicles. The third section discusses the opportunities and challenges of quantum computing at its current stage of development. The fourth section analyzes the role of quantum reinforcement learning and quantum algorithms in ensuring path optimization, using comparative experiments and theoretical research to explore their impact on the operational mechanisms of autonomous driving systems. Finally, the fifth section concludes the study, discussing its limitations and suggesting directions for future research.

2. Application Review of Blockchain and Quantum Technology in Autonomous Vehicles

Blockchain is a chain-based data structure that stores data in the form of blocks[6]. It features decentralization, high security, transparency, and support for smart contracts, which significantly enhance the efficiency and trustworthiness of data transactions. These characteristics are particularly crucial in autonomous vehicles, as they rely on vast, constantly updated datasets to make precise decisions, ensuring both driving safety and efficiency. The hash function plays a pivotal role in blockchain technology by providing essential security support. With its collision-resistant properties, it generates fixed-length hash values during the encryption process. This unique mechanism strongly guarantees the immutability, integrity, and overall security of blockchain systems. For autonomous vehicles, this means the data involved in perception, decision-making, and control processes can remain unaltered and accurate, effectively preventing safety incidents arising from data tampering.

As autonomous vehicle technology advances rapidly, data security has emerged as a critical issue in need of urgent solutions. Ensuring secure and transparent data transmission between vehicles, as well as between vehicles and infrastructure, while protecting user privacy, poses a significant challenge. With its robust data protection capabilities, blockchain technology brings a novel solution to the field of autonomous vehicles. It not only achieves secure and transparent data exchanges but also strongly safeguards sensitive user information through advanced encryption methods. Additionally, the use of smart contracts simplifies payment processes, making fee settlement for

DOI: 10.54254/2755-2721/112/2025.18111

autonomous vehicle services more efficient and convenient. The scalability of blockchain further opens up extensive possibilities for future integration with more autonomous vehicle applications, paving a hopeful new path for the advancement of autonomous vehicles.

However, just as blockchain technology is demonstrating its tremendous potential in the field of autonomous vehicles, the rapid progress of quantum technology is presenting new challenges. The widespread application of quantum computers threatens the security of traditional hash function systems, reducing the quantum safety level of classical hash functions and increasing the risk of attacks and data breaches. Thus, exploring quantum computing-based hash algorithms to counter quantum attacks has become a new direction in ensuring data security for autonomous vehicles.

In 2021, Abd El-Latif and colleagues [7] proposed an innovative approach combining Quantum-inspired Quantum Walks (QIQW) with blockchain technology. This method leverages the chaotic behavior of quantum walks to create a blockchain block-linking mechanism based on quantum hash functions. It uses a tamper-proof, quantum-secure channel to transmit secret parameters, countering potential attacks from classical or quantum computers [6]. As a result, the QIQW-based quantum hash function effectively prevents message attacks, non-message attacks, and simulation attacks, enhancing blockchain system security. For autonomous vehicles, this means that even in the most extreme attack scenarios, the integrity and security of the data chain are robustly protected, further enhancing the safety and reliability of autonomous driving systems.

Nonetheless, any innovative approach has its potential limitations. First, quantum technology is still in its early stages, and there are numerous technical challenges to address, such as the stability of qubits, maintaining quantum entanglement, and correcting quantum errors. These challenges currently limit the feasibility and efficiency of applying quantum walks and quantum hash functions in practical applications. Second, performance and scalability are issues. The computational complexity of quantum walks and quantum hash functions requires substantial computing resources and time, which could slow down the transaction processing speed of blockchain systems and exacerbate scalability issues. This implies that the autonomous vehicle sector must balance data security with computational efficiency and system performance, seeking more efficient and practical solutions.

In summary, the close integration of quantum technology with blockchain technology signals a significant enhancement in data security capabilities for autonomous vehicles, presenting a promising future with vast potential.

3. Challenges and Opportunities of Quantum Computing

While combining quantum technology with hash functions can significantly enhance data encryption, it is important to recognize that quantum computing technology is still in its early stages. Its stability, reliability, and error-correction capabilities require further improvement. According to projections, quantum computers may not achieve stable operation in practical applications until around 2027. Even once quantum computers become operational, each autonomous vehicle company would require a quantum computing server to process terminal information. However, the size of a quantum computing server—approximately that of a minibus—presents a substantial challenge for widespread deployment.

Quantum computers are physical devices that perform high-speed mathematical and logical operations, storing and processing quantum information in accordance with quantum mechanics principles. The core component of a quantum computer is the quantum bit, or qubit. Unlike classical computer bits, which can only exist in states of 0 or 1, qubits can exist in a "superposition" of both states simultaneously[8]. This unique property allows quantum computers to solve certain types of problems, such as large-scale optimization and parallel computation, with remarkable speed

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advantages. Consequently, quantum computing holds particular promise in the autonomous vehicle sector, where real-time problem-solving and large-scale data storage are essential.

When it comes to large-scale parallel processing problems, quantum computers exhibit distinct advantages over traditional computers due to their unique capabilities of superposition and entanglement. This potential highlights the promising future of quantum computing[8]. Numerous quantum algorithms have been proposed, and the general consensus is that leveraging quantum mechanical effects can significantly accelerate computation compared to traditional algorithms. This acceleration implies that complex problems, currently challenging for conventional algorithms, could be addressed more efficiently with quantum algorithms[9]. However, quantum computers remain in an early and steadily advancing development stage, making it common to simulate quantum computation processes on classical computers when exploring new algorithms. A challenge arises as the number of qubits increases, since the computational resources required for simulation scale exponentially. Thus, a critical research focus is finding ways to reduce resource demands for large-scale quantum simulations while maintaining accuracy, precision, and efficiency[8].

There are also practical considerations: the manufacturing cost of quantum computers is extremely high, and their maintenance and upgrades require substantial funding and technical support, which limits their widespread application in autonomous driving. Although advancements in connected autonomous driving technology have enabled conditional autonomous driving on urban and highway routes[10], challenges remain. In unexpected situations—such as extreme weather or complex road conditions—the stability and reliability of autonomous driving algorithms and decision-making capabilities require further validation. Furthermore, the intersection of quantum computing and autonomous driving involves multiple fields and manufacturers, creating an urgent need for standardized interoperability across platforms.

4. Experimental Design and Validation

In this section, I will design a comparative experiment between quantum computers and traditional computers within the autonomous vehicle domain to highlight the significant potential of quantum computing in this field.

Experiment Objective: The primary objective is to compare the efficiency and accuracy of quantum computers and traditional computers in path planning tasks. This experiment also aims to analyze the performance differences between the two under various input conditions.

Experimental Environment: A simulated city environment will be created, featuring a model of a large urban area with a complex road network that includes multiple roads, intersections, traffic lights, and obstacles to closely resemble real-world conditions.

Experimental Input Parameters:

- Starting Point: The vehicle’s departure location (e.g., GPS coordinates).
- Destination Point: The vehicle’s destination (e.g., GPS coordinates).
- Vehicle Speed: Various speeds will be tested (e.g., 30 km/h, 50 km/h, 70 km/h).
- Traffic Conditions: Different levels of traffic density will be simulated (e.g., high, medium, low).
- Dynamic Obstacles: Simulation of dynamic elements such as pedestrians and other vehicles.

Experimental Output Parameters

- Path Planning Results: The optimal calculated path, including distance and estimated travel time.
- Computation Time: The time required to complete the path planning calculations.
- Path Safety Assessment: Evaluation of potential collision risks with other vehicles or obstacles.
- Adaptability to Traffic Changes: Response time and effectiveness in re-planning paths when traffic conditions change.

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Experimental Procedures

- Preparation Stage: Build a complex, realistic urban simulation environment to reflect the conditions of a large city; Define the autonomous vehicle model and parameters used in the experiment; Connect the quantum computer and traditional computer to the simulation environment, ensuring they are fully optimized and debugged for accurate comparisons.
- Experiment Stage: Randomly select multiple combinations of starting points, destinations, initial speeds, and traffic conditions; Use both the quantum computer and traditional computer to conduct path planning for the autonomous vehicle, recording all input and output data; Repeat the experiment multiple times to ensure reliability and statistical significance of the results.
- Analysis Stage: Compare differences in path planning time, path safety, and adaptability to changes in traffic flow between the quantum and traditional computers; Employ statistical methods to analyze the data and draw conclusions.

Important Considerations

- Ensure the stability and reliability of the simulation environment to avoid external factors affecting the results.
- Conduct a fair comparison between the quantum and traditional computers, taking into account any potential biases from hardware configurations or software algorithms.
- Recognize that multiple factors may influence the results, necessitating in-depth analysis and discussion to reach accurate conclusions.

By conducting this experiment, we can assess the performance of quantum computers versus traditional computers in autonomous vehicle path planning, helping to guide future research in this promising direction.

We divide the autonomous driving system into cloud and vehicle ends[11]. The vehicle end is responsible for sensing surrounding environmental factors and, through V2X technology (Vehicle-to-Everything, a technology enabling interconnection between vehicles and various entities in the surrounding environment, such as road infrastructure, other vehicles, and pedestrians), it continuously updates the vehicle's operational data and surrounding environmental conditions in real time[1]. The cloud end, on the other hand, processes and computes the vast amount of data transmitted from the vehicle end, constructing a comprehensive picture of the vehicle's surroundings and generating control commands. Below is a diagram showing V2X communication for autonomous vehicles[1]:

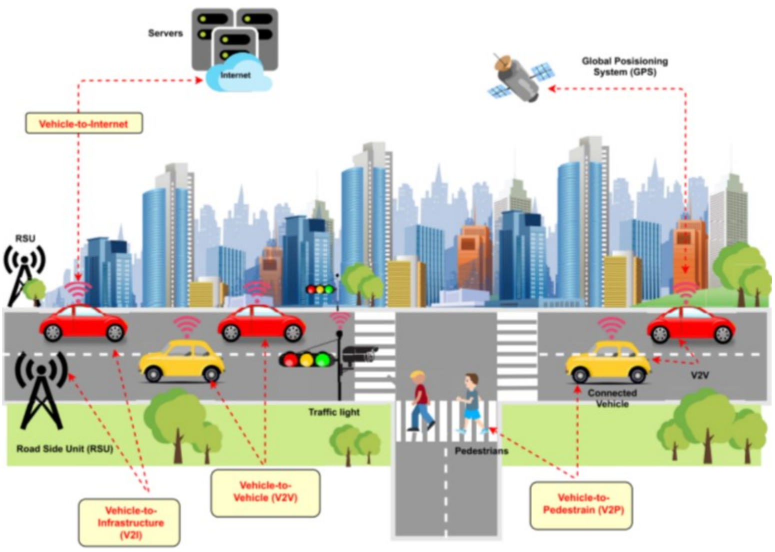

Figure 1: V2X communication for autonomous vehicles.

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It is evident that cloud computing plays a pivotal role in autonomous vehicles, and with the support of quantum computing in computation and data storage, efficiency is significantly enhanced.

During operation, autonomous vehicles need to process data from multiple sensors in real-time, predict dynamic environmental changes, and make appropriate driving decisions. The integration of quantum computing with reinforcement learning (RL) has brought revolutionary advancements in managing various random incidents and potential states within autonomous systems. Reinforcement learning is a specialized paradigm of machine learning that enables an agent to learn and optimize strategies through interaction with the environment, thereby maximizing long-term objectives and enhancing overall performance[5]. RL has the capacity to process and analyze multiple traffic data sources, such as traffic camera feeds, GPS data, and vehicle sensor information, to accurately predict future traffic flow. Additionally, by analyzing image and video data, it can automatically identify road conditions, such as congestion, accidents, and construction zones, which is essential for optimizing route planning and enhancing driving safety. The high-speed parallel processing capabilities of quantum computing allow autonomous systems to process vast amounts of driving data and scenario simulation results in a short time. Within a quantum reinforcement learning framework, autonomous vehicles can leverage historical driving data and simulated scenarios to learn optimal action strategies under varying driving conditions. This approach not only focuses on the current traffic situation but also possesses insights into predicting potential future incidents and state changes, enabling the vehicle to proactively identify and mitigate risks, thereby ensuring driving safety.

To address the real-world issues discussed above, we can envision that, as quantum computers mature, quantum annealing algorithms could enhance the stability and safety of autonomous driving algorithms, particularly in route optimization. Quantum annealing utilizes quantum fluctuations, specifically quantum tunneling effects, to overcome local optima and achieve global optimization[12]. The process comprises three stages: initialization, quantum evolution, and cooling measurement. In the initialization stage, the route optimization problem for autonomous vehicles is transformed into a high-energy initial state. In quantum computation, this state appears as a quantum superposition, encompassing all possible routes simultaneously. During the quantum evolution phase, the route selection process for the autonomous vehicle follows the time-dependent Schrödinger equation [12], allowing quantum evolution. Here, quantum tunneling plays a pivotal role, enabling the vehicle's "qubits" (interpreted as decision-making units for route selection) to traverse energy barriers—barriers that may represent seemingly insurmountable obstacles or restrictions. This ability facilitates a thorough exploration of the solution space (i.e., the complete set of possible routes), guiding the search for the optimal driving path. In the cooling measurement stage, the system gradually cools towards absolute zero, reducing quantum tunneling effects. At this point, the vehicle's "qubits" are "frozen" into a specific state, thereby settling on the optimal driving route. By harnessing quantum properties, quantum annealing improves the efficiency of route optimization, providing new approaches for autonomous driving technology. Quantum tunneling, in particular, enables the algorithm to escape local optima and approach global optimal solutions. For example, in 2017, Volkswagen leveraged quantum annealing to simulate optimal routes for 10,000 taxis traveling from central Beijing to the airport. The quantum annealing algorithm developed by the Volkswagen team could provide each vehicle's optimal route within less than a second, while a classical computer required approximately 45 minutes to complete the same task. This result underscores the effectiveness of quantum technology in handling large-scale route optimization problems.

The quantum optimization algorithm, rooted in the principles of quantum computing, represents an intelligent optimization approach with the potential to tackle problems involving extensive parameter spaces. Quantum computers, leveraging their parallel processing capabilities, can simultaneously assess multiple possible paths and quickly identify optimal solutions, delivering

DOI: 10.54254/2755-2721/112/2025.18111

higher-quality results in less time[13]. Once a driver provides starting and destination points, the backend quantum computer of an autonomous vehicle company can determine the optimal route in a short period. This process requires collaboration across multiple stages, including integrating real-time information within the broader environment of vehicle-to-everything (V2X) networks. Quantum computers need various real-time data related to the journey, incorporating this information into optimization algorithms that simulate traffic congestion scenarios, ultimately suggesting a time-efficient route. This requires combining quantum computing with artificial intelligence (AI) reinforcement learning and V2X technology as previously discussed.

When navigating complex urban landscapes, quantum computers exhibit significant potential due to their unparalleled computational advantages, particularly in handling stochastic processes. Quantum systems can quickly and accurately simulate various random factors along the route, such as instantaneous traffic flow fluctuations, unpredictable pedestrian behavior, and random impacts from unexpected incidents. By deeply analyzing and utilizing this stochastic data, quantum computers can optimize and calculate the shortest or most efficient route from the starting point to the destination in a minimal time frame, providing autonomous vehicles with precise navigation, significantly alleviating traffic congestion, and reducing energy consumption. At busy intersections, quantum computers can further demonstrate their strength in simulating random processes by precisely capturing and predicting trends in pedestrian and vehicle behaviors—such as pedestrian pace, varying directional choices, and potential sudden actions by other drivers. This highly accurate simulation allows autonomous vehicles to intelligently interpret complex traffic scenarios, ensuring safe and efficient navigation across diverse situations. Faced with unexpected traffic disruptions like accidents, road construction, or severe weather, quantum computers leverage their robust stochastic analysis capabilities to rapidly evaluate multiple potential response strategies, selecting the optimal solution to navigate the ever-changing traffic environment.

Looking to the future, the exceptional capacity of quantum computers to simulate stochastic processes will, with the widespread adoption of advanced autonomous driving technologies, significantly reduce traffic accidents caused by driver misjudgments or delayed reactions. This advancement will lay a solid foundation for building safer and more efficient intelligent transportation systems.

In the vast horizon of future technology, quantum technology shines as a dazzling new star, spearheading an unprecedented technological revolution with its unmatched appeal and potential. As optimization algorithms for quantum computers continue to evolve, we believe that within the autonomous driving platform, quantum technology will bring forth mutual advancements through its high-efficiency data encryption, advanced algorithmic optimization, and remarkable data processing capabilities. At that point, we anticipate that issues surrounding the cost, standardization, and relevant regulatory frameworks for quantum computing will also be resolved step-by-step.

5. Conclusion

This paper systematically explores the cross-sectional integration of blockchain, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and autonomous vehicles, along with their potential impacts. By combining blockchain technology with autonomous vehicles and introducing quantum hashing algorithms, we significantly enhance the security, storage, sharing, and encryption capabilities of data. However, the development of quantum computers still faces a range of technical challenges and limitations that currently hinder its widespread application. Despite these constraints, cutting-edge technologies like quantum reinforcement learning, quantum annealing, and quantum optimization algorithms have shown promising advantages in path optimization and driving decision-making within the field of autonomous driving. This study also acknowledges its limitations, including but not limited to the maturity of quantum technology, cost-effectiveness, and the expansion of practical application scenarios. Looking ahead, as quantum technology advances and autonomous driving continues to innovate, their deeper integration will inject new vitality into building and advancing intelligent transportation systems, opening up broader research and application prospects.

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