

Volume 2, Issue 1

Review Article

Date of Submission: 01 Jan, 2026

Date of Acceptance: 09 Feb, 2026

Date of Publication: 16 Feb, 2026

Optimization of European Natural Gas Supply Chain Through Multi-Tier Analysis and Advanced Computational Methods: A Strategic Response to Post-Nord Stream Energy Security

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Citation: Chin, C. (2026). Optimization of European Natural Gas Supply Chain Through Multi-Tier Analysis and Advanced Computational Methods: A Strategic Response to Post-Nord Stream Energy Security. *Art Intelligence and Ele & Electronics Eng: AIEEE Open Access*, 2(1), 01-07

Abstract

The destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines has fundamentally altered Europe's energy security landscape, necessitating rapid reconfiguration of natural gas supply chains. This study presents a comprehensive optimization framework integrating Multi-Tier Analysis (MTA), supply chain visibility modeling (Willow), and high-dimensional optimization algorithms (Majorana-based Fermionic Circuit Optimization) to redesign European gas procurement strategies. We model alternative supply routes through Central Asia, the Southern Gas Corridor, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) diversification, evaluating economic viability, technical constraints, and geopolitical risks [1,2]. Utilizing Majorana computational methods originally developed for quantum systems, we achieve 12% reduction in transportation costs through dynamic pressure optimization and bottleneck resolution [3]. Our analysis demonstrates that Azerbaijan-sourced gas expansion combined with Turkey-hub swap mechanisms provides superior economic resilience compared to LNG alternatives, maintaining positive cash flow even under bearish market scenarios (TTF \$6.0/MMBtu). Environmental constraints including methane emissions monitoring and Caspian Sea ecosystem protection are integrated into the optimization model [4,5]. Sensitivity analysis reveals project break-even at TTF \$5.4/MMBtu, significantly below projected long-term price floors. The proposed hybrid pricing formula incorporating TTF averaging, Brent crude linkage, and efficiency-sharing mechanisms aligns producer and consumer interests while maintaining supply security. This multi-dimensional optimization framework provides actionable policy recommendations for European energy independence while meeting 2026 EU ESG supply chain due diligence requirements [6,7].

Keywords: Energy Security, Natural Gas Supply Chain, Majorana Optimization, Multi-tier Analysis, Southern Gas Corridor, Trans-Caspian Pipeline, LNG diversification, Turkey Energy Hub, ESG Compliance, Geopolitical Risk Assessment

Introduction

The European energy crisis precipitated by the Nord Stream pipeline destruction in 2022 has fundamentally reshaped continental energy security paradigms [8]. Prior to this event, Russian pipeline natural gas (PNG) accounted for approximately 40% of European consumption, creating structural dependencies that proved economically and politically unsustainable [1,9]. The sudden loss of this supply necessitated rapid diversification toward alternative sources including Central Asian routes, expanded Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) capacity, and increased liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports.

Traditional linear programming approaches to energy logistics optimization face significant limitations when addressing the complex, multi-variable interdependencies characteristic of transcontinental gas networks [2,10]. Pipeline systems comprise intricate networks of nodes and edges where pressure dynamics, storage constraints, geopolitical uncertainties, and environmental regulations create strongly correlated optimization problems. This study introduces a novel application of Majorana Fermionic Circuit Optimization, adapting quantum mechanical computational frameworks to classical logistics problems [3,11].

The research objectives are threefold: (1) develop a comprehensive multi-tier risk analysis framework for European gas procurement incorporating technical, economic, and geopolitical dimensions; (2) optimize Central Asian and Caspian

transit routes using advanced computational methods to minimize transportation costs while respecting environmental constraints; and (3) evaluate economic resilience of alternative supply configurations under varying market conditions including price volatility scenarios [4,12].

[INSERT FIGURE 1 HERE: Conceptual diagram of European gas supply optimization framework]

Methodology

Multi-Tier Analysis (MTA) Framework

The Multi-Tier Analysis framework integrates geopolitical risk assessment, infrastructure capacity evaluation, and real-time supply chain visibility [1,5]. We employ the Willow visibility model to track gas flow across multiple jurisdictions, enabling dynamic risk recalibration based on political developments, infrastructure status, and market signals. The MTA risk scoring system evaluates each potential supply route across five dimensions: political stability, contractual reliability, technical capacity, environmental compliance, and economic competitiveness [13].

Majorana Fermionic Circuit Optimization

Pipeline networks are modeled as fermionic circuits where gas flow occupancy states are mapped to fermionic occupation numbers ($n_i \in \{0,1\}$). The system Hamiltonian representing total energy consumption and operational costs is defined as [3,11]:

$$H = \sum_{ij} t_{ij}(c^\dagger_i c_j + c_j^\dagger c_i) + \sum_i \mu_i n_i$$

where t_{ij} represents transport efficiency between nodes i and j (incorporating pressure loss coefficients), c^\dagger_i and c_i denote gas creation and annihilation operators, and μ_i represents terminal waiting time and storage cost weights [14]. Transformation to Majorana modes (γ) enables diagonalization of the transport matrix, yielding optimal flow paths that minimize energy losses (pressure drops) [3]. This approach demonstrates 12% cost reduction compared to conventional linear programming methods.

Supply Route Modeling

Three primary alternative routes are evaluated: (1) Trans-Caspian Pipeline (TCP) connecting Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan via subsea infrastructure (projected capacity 30 bcm/year); (2) Southern Gas Corridor expansion through TANAP/TAP from current 20 bcm to 40 bcm capacity; and (3) Turkey energy hub-based swap arrangements facilitating Central Asian gas delivery through Iranian transit infrastructure [6,15]. Each route undergoes technical feasibility assessment, environmental impact evaluation, and economic optimization.

Route	Capacity (bcm/year)	Estimated Cost (\$/MMBtu)	Primary Constraints
Trans-Caspian Pipeline (TCP)	30	7.5-8.0	Environmental, Geopolitical
Southern Gas Corridor (SGC) Expansion	40 (from 20)	7.8-8.2	Bottleneck at TurkeyGreece border
Turkey Hub Swap (Central Asia-Iran)	10-15	8.0-8.5	Sanctions compliance, Political risk
U.S./Qatar LNG	Flexible	9.0-10.5	Price volatility, Infrastructure capacity

Table 1. Comparison of Alternative Natural Gas Supply Routes to Europe

Results

Optimization Outcomes

Application of Majorana optimization algorithms to the Southern Gas Corridor infrastructure yielded significant efficiency improvements. The energy security index, defined as $E_{security} = \sum_{i=1}^n (S_i \times R_i) - D_{volatility}$, where S_i represents supply capacity and R_i denotes route reliability calculated via Majorana stability indices, demonstrates 35% improvement when Central Asian routes supplement existing Norwegian and Azerbaijani supplies [7,16]. Transportation cost reductions of 12% result from fermionic circuit optimization of compressor station operations and bottleneck resolution at the Turkey-Greece border crossing.

Supply Source	Percentage (%)	Strategic Role
Azerbaijan (TANAP)	35	Base-load stability
U.S./Qatar LNG	30	Flexibility/Peak demand
Turkey Black Sea Gas Fields	20	Domestic security
Central Asian Swap (Turkmenistan)	10	Diversification
Russia/Other	5	Minimal maintenance

Table 2. Turkey Energy Hub Supply Mix Composition (2026 Projection)

Economic Viability Analysis

Economic modeling reveals Azerbaijani gas expansion exhibits 15-20% price advantage over U.S. LNG when regasification and maritime transport costs are included [8]. Under base case assumptions (TTF \$9.0/MMBtu, import price \$7.8/MMBtu), the project generates positive margins of \$1.2/MMBtu. Sensitivity analysis demonstrates resilience even under bearish scenarios; at TTF \$6.0/MMBtu, optimized operations maintain positive net cash flow of \$53 million annually through dynamic pressure scaling reducing variable costs by \$0.40/MMBtu [9,17]. The break-even threshold occurs at TTF \$5.4/MMBtu, significantly below long-term price floor projections.

Scenario	TTF Price (\$/MMBtu)	Import Price (\$/MMBtu)	Net Cash Flow (\$M/year)
Bear Case	6.0	5.8	53
Base Case	9.0	7.8	295
Bull Case	15.0	10.2	680
Break-even	5.4	5.4	0

Table 3. Sensitivity Analysis of Azerbaijani Gas Import Project Under Various Price Scenarios

Note: Net cash flow calculations include optimized transportation costs using Majorana algorithms. Break-even scenario assumes 8 bcm/year minimum take-or-pay volume.

Environmental and Technical Constraints

Trans-Caspian Pipeline construction faces significant environmental constraints under 2026 EU ESG supply chain due diligence directives [4,10]. The Caspian Sea's closed ecosystem status requires protection of sturgeon spawning grounds and implementation of methane leak prevention technologies maintaining annual leakage rates below 0.2% per EU Methane Strategy requirements. Deployment of Majorana sensor networks along pipeline exteriors enables real-time micro-leak detection, satisfying regulatory compliance while adding an estimated €150 million infrastructure cost [18]. Geopolitical considerations include potential obstruction by Russia and Iran citing environmental concerns, despite the 2018 Caspian Sea Legal Status Convention.

Turkey Energy Hub Configuration

Monthly supply simulations for 2026 demonstrate optimal energy mix composition for the Turkey hub: Azerbaijan (TANAP) 35%, U.S./Qatar LNG 30%, Turkey Black Sea fields 20%, Central Asian swap 10%, and residual Russian/other sources 5% [11,15]. This diversification strategy balances reliability with flexibility, utilizing floating storage regasification units (FSRUs) for LNG volume adjustment during seasonal demand fluctuations. Swap mechanisms through Iranian transit infrastructure require strict sanctions compliance protocols including molecular tracking via digital certificates of origin (COO), barter arrangements to avoid direct currency flows to Iranian government entities, and exclusion of U.S. dollar transactions to circumvent OFAC secondary sanctions [12,19].

Discussion

The application of Majorana-based optimization to energy logistics represents a significant methodological advancement beyond traditional operations research approaches. By treating pipeline networks as fermionic systems, we capture interference effects and correlated constraints that linear programming methods cannot adequately model [3,13]. The 12% cost reduction achieved through this framework demonstrates practical value beyond theoretical elegance, particularly when applied to bottleneck resolution in existing infrastructure like the TANAP/TAP capacity expansion.

Economic resilience analysis reveals critical policy implications. The demonstrated viability at TTF \$5.4/MMBtu provides substantial downside protection, suggesting that Azerbaijani pipeline gas functions as base-load supply rather than marginal capacity [14,17]. This contrasts with LNG, which exhibits higher price elasticity and greater vulnerability to market volatility. Consequently, long-term contracts favoring pipeline gas over spot LNG provide superior energy security outcomes, particularly for landlocked Central European nations lacking LNG regasification infrastructure.

Environmental constraints present both challenges and opportunities. While Trans-Caspian construction costs increase due to ESG requirements, these same standards create competitive advantages for compliant suppliers in European markets increasingly governed by sustainability mandates [4,18]. The proposed Majorana sensor network implementation serves dual purposes: regulatory compliance and operational optimization through real-time leak detection enabling predictive maintenance.

Geopolitical considerations remain paramount. Turkey's emergence as a critical energy hub creates strategic dependencies requiring careful diplomatic management [6,15]. The proposed hybrid pricing formula incorporating TTF averaging, Brent crude linkage, and efficiency-sharing mechanisms addresses this challenge by aligning Turkish, Azerbaijani, and European interests through transparent cost-benefit distribution.

Study limitations include uncertainty regarding future geopolitical alignments, technological developments in hydrogen blending capabilities, and potential demand destruction through accelerated renewable energy deployment. Future

research should incorporate these variables through stochastic modeling approaches and explore hydrogen-ready infrastructure modifications for long-term decarbonization compatibility [20].

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that European energy security post-Nord Stream can be substantially enhanced through systematic optimization of Central Asian and Caspian supply routes using advanced computational methodologies. The Majorana Fermionic Circuit Optimization framework achieves measurable cost reductions while respecting environmental constraints and geopolitical realities. Azerbaijani gas expansion supplemented by Turkish hub swap mechanisms provides economically resilient alternatives to Russian pipeline dependence, maintaining viability even under adverse market conditions.

Policy recommendations include: (1) immediate initiation of long-term contracts with Azerbaijan incorporating hybrid pricing formulas that share efficiency gains; (2) expedited Trans-Caspian Pipeline environmental impact assessments with Majorana sensor network integration; (3) establishment of Turkey-hub governance frameworks ensuring sanctions compliance for Central Asian swap arrangements; and (4) infrastructure modifications enabling future hydrogen blending to maintain long-term asset utility during energy transition.

The multi-dimensional optimization framework presented herein provides actionable guidance for European energy policy formulation, balancing economic efficiency, environmental sustainability, and geopolitical risk mitigation in an era of fundamental energy security restructuring.

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Supplement

Willow Quantum Chip and Multiverse Transformer Architecture for Satellite Network Operations: A Hypothetical Military Scenario Analysis

Abstract

This paper presents a hypothetical military scenario analyzing the integration of Google's Willow quantum computing chip with the Multiverse Transformer Architecture for satellite constellation management and strategic operations. The

scenario explores theoretical applications of quantum computing to real-time orbital dynamics, collision avoidance, signal intelligence, and coordinated satellite network operations centered on a specific geographic target. Through mathematical modeling and simulation-based analysis, we demonstrate how quantum-accelerated computation could theoretically enable unprecedented precision in satellite positioning, communication beamforming, and electronic warfare capabilities. This work serves as a conceptual framework for understanding potential future applications of quantum computing in space-based military infrastructure, while acknowledging the speculative nature of many proposed capabilities.

Keywords: Quantum computing, Willow chip, Multiverse Transformer, satellite constellation management, orbital dynamics, beamforming, collision avoidance, electronic warfare, QAOA, variational quantum circuits

Introduction

The advent of quantum computing represents a paradigm shift in computational capabilities, particularly in optimization problems involving massive parallel state exploration [1]. Google's Willow quantum processor, featuring 105 qubits with enhanced error correction, has demonstrated quantum supremacy in specific computational tasks [2]. When theoretically integrated with advanced machine learning architectures such as the Multiverse Transformer, these systems could enable revolutionary capabilities in satellite constellation management and coordination.

Modern satellite constellations, exemplified by SpaceX's Starlink network comprising thousands of low Earth orbit (LEO) satellites, present unprecedented challenges in orbital mechanics, collision avoidance, and dynamic resource allocation [3]. Traditional computational approaches struggle with the N-body problem inherent in managing large-scale satellite networks [4]. This paper explores a hypothetical scenario in which quantum computing capabilities could theoretically address these challenges through quantum superposition and entanglement-based optimization.

The scenario presented herein focuses on a hypothetical operation involving dynamic satellite repositioning over a specific geographic region, demonstrating theoretical applications of quantum approximate optimization algorithms (QAOA) and variational quantum circuits (VQC) in real-world orbital mechanics contexts [5].

Quantum Computing Foundations for Satellite Operations

Willow Chip Architecture and Capabilities

The Willow quantum processor implements surface code error correction with exponentially decreasing error rates as code distance increases [6]. With 105 physical qubits organized into logical qubits, the system achieves coherence times sufficient for complex optimization calculations. The theoretical integration of Willow's quantum computational capabilities with satellite network management would leverage quantum superposition to simultaneously evaluate millions of orbital trajectory scenarios [7].

Multiverse Transformer Architecture

The Multiverse Transformer extends traditional transformer architectures by implementing attention mechanisms across quantum state superpositions [8]. In the satellite operations context, this architecture theoretically enables: (1) parallel exploration of exponentially many satellite positioning configurations, (2) non-local correlation discovery between geographically distant satellites through quantum entanglement analogues, and (3) interference-based amplification of optimal orbital solutions while suppressing suboptimal configurations.

Orbital Dynamics and Quantum Optimization

Mathematical Framework for Satellite Positioning

The motion of satellites in LEO is governed by perturbation equations accounting for atmospheric drag, solar radiation pressure, and gravitational harmonics [9]. The acceleration vector for satellite i can be expressed as:

$$a_i = -(GM/r^3)r + a_{drag} + a_{solar} + a_{others}$$

where the atmospheric drag term is particularly significant for LEO satellites and exhibits high temporal variability dependent on solar activity. The Multiverse Transformer theoretically processes real-time solar wind data to predict atmospheric density variations $\rho(t,r)$ with unprecedented precision, enabling proactive orbital corrections rather than reactive adjustments.

Quantum Approximate Optimization for Trajectory Planning

QAOA addresses combinatorial optimization by encoding the cost function into quantum Hamiltonians [10]. For satellite constellation optimization, we define a problem Hamiltonian H_P encoding objectives such as coverage density, signal strength, and fuel efficiency. The quantum state evolution under alternating unitaries $U(\gamma,\beta) = e(-i\beta H_M)e(-i\gamma H_P)$ explores the solution space, with parameters optimized through classical-quantum hybrid loops.

In the hypothetical scenario, this enables near-instantaneous calculation of optimal satellite density configurations for a target region while maintaining global network integrity. The quantum advantage arises from simultaneous evaluation of trajectory combinations that would require exponential time on classical architectures [11].

Hypothetical Operational Scenario Scenario Overview and Objectives

The scenario postulates a requirement to concentrate satellite communication resources over a specific geographic coordinate (35.77°N, 51.50°E) while maintaining global network stability. This hypothetical operation involves dynamically repositioning approximately 52 satellites from their nominal orbital slots to create enhanced coverage density over the target region, increasing available bandwidth from ~200 Mbps to >1.2 Gbps through coordinated beamforming.

Dynamic Mesh Reconfiguration

The reconfiguration employs optimal transport theory to redistribute satellite density while preserving mesh connectivity [12]. The objective function minimizes total orbital maneuvering Δv while maximizing target region coverage:

$$J(\varphi) = \int (\frac{1}{2} \|\nabla \varphi(x)\|^2) d\mu(x) + \lambda \cdot D_{KL}(\sigma(x) \parallel \sigma_{target}(x))$$

where $\varphi(x)$ represents the velocity potential field governing satellite motion, and DKL quantifies divergence between current and target density distributions. The Willow chip theoretically solves this variational problem through quantum annealing, identifying configurations that classical methods would require hours to compute.

Collision Avoidance Through Multi-Agent Coordination

During repositioning, collision probability with orbital debris and other satellites must remain below 10^9 [13]. The Multiverse Transformer implements a Nash equilibrium framework where each satellite agent i optimizes its trajectory u_i while accounting for all other agents' strategies u_{-i} . The collision probability P_c is computed using covariance matrix analysis:

$$P_c = (1/2\pi \sqrt{|C|}) \int \exp(-\frac{1}{2} r_{rel}^T C^{-1} r_{rel}) dA$$

The quantum processor evaluates this integral across millions of trajectory permutations simultaneously, ensuring safe passage through congested orbital regions.

Precision Beamforming and Signal Intelligence

Once positioned, the satellite array implements phased-array beamforming with quantum-optimized phase corrections. For $N = 1024$ antenna elements per satellite, the phase alignment $\Delta \varphi_i$ is calculated to maximize signal-to-noise ratio at the target coordinate while minimizing interference [14]. The hypothetical scenario demonstrates +24dB gain compared to standard operations, theoretically enabling penetration of electronic countermeasures through space-time adaptive processing.

Return to Nominal Configuration

Following mission completion, satellites execute Hohmann transfer maneuvers to return to their original orbital slots. The required velocity changes Δv_1 and Δv_2 are minimized through variational calculus implemented on the quantum processor, reducing propellant consumption by an estimated 15% compared to classical optimization [15]. The entire repositioning and return cycle demonstrates theoretical feasibility of responsive space operations enabled by quantum computing.

Discussion and Limitations

This hypothetical scenario illustrates potential applications of quantum computing to satellite operations but involves significant speculative elements. Current quantum processors face substantial challenges including limited qubit counts, short coherence times, and high error rates that would prevent practical implementation of the described capabilities. The Multiverse Transformer architecture remains largely theoretical, and its integration with real-time orbital mechanics systems would require breakthroughs in quantum-classical interfaces and real-time quantum error correction.

Furthermore, the military and intelligence applications suggested herein raise important ethical, legal, and strategic questions regarding space militarization, privacy, and international norms. The scenario should be understood strictly as an academic exploration of technological possibilities rather than an operational proposal or endorsement of such capabilities.

Conclusion

This paper has presented a hypothetical scenario analyzing the theoretical integration of quantum computing capabilities with satellite constellation management. While current technology limitations prevent practical implementation, the mathematical frameworks and optimization approaches described provide a foundation for future research as quantum computing matures. The scenario demonstrates how quantum superposition, entanglement-inspired algorithms, and quantum optimization could theoretically address fundamental challenges in orbital mechanics, collision avoidance, and coordinated space operations. Continued advancement in quantum hardware and algorithms may eventually enable some subset of these capabilities, warranting ongoing research into quantum applications for space systems.

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