

Exploring lattice supersymmetry with variational quantum deflation

David Schaich (U. Liverpool)



Lattice 2023, August 3

[arXiv:2112.07651](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.07651)

[arXiv:2301.02230](https://arxiv.org/abs/2301.02230)

and more to come with Chris Culver

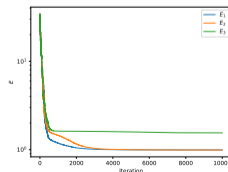
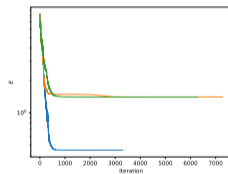
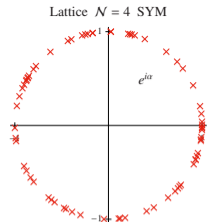
Overview and plan

Spontaneous susy breaking in Wess–Zumino model
is compelling target for near-term quantum computing

Lattice supersymmetry motivations

Sign problems and spontaneous susy breaking

Wess–Zumino model and variational quantum deflation

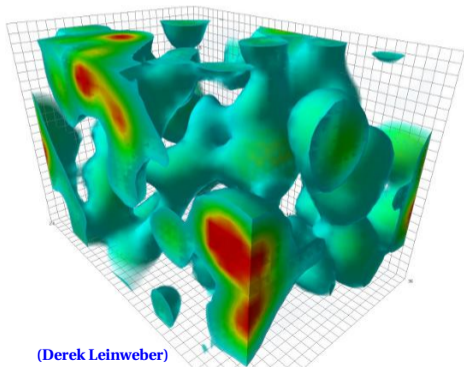


Lattice field theory promises first-principles predictions
for strongly coupled supersymmetric QFTs

BSM

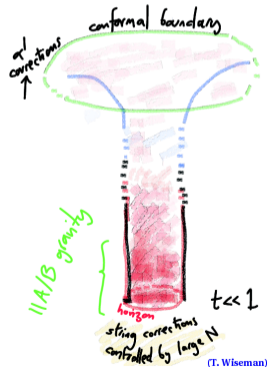


QFT



(Derek Leinweber)

Holography



(T. Wiseman)

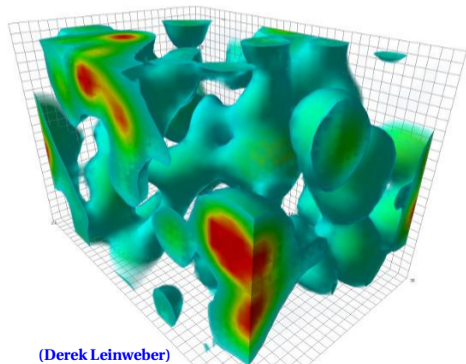
Lattice field theory promises first-principles predictions
for strongly coupled supersymmetric QFTs

(1+1)d Wess–Zumino model

Simplest QFT

with spontaneous supersymmetry breaking

QFT



(Derek Leinweber)

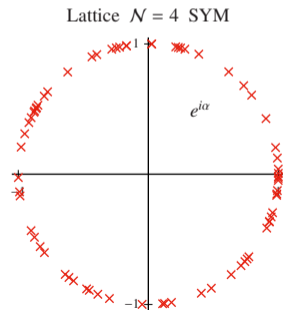
Lattice supersymmetry sign problems

Recall phase reweighting in lagrangian formalism

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int \mathcal{D}\Phi \mathcal{O}(\Phi) e^{-S[\Phi]} \longrightarrow \frac{\langle \mathcal{O} e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{pq}}{\langle e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{pq}}$$

Sign problem

$$\langle e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{pq} = \frac{\mathcal{Z}}{\mathcal{Z}_{pq}} \longrightarrow 0 \text{ exponentially quickly}$$



Lattice supersymmetry sign problems

Recall phase reweighting in lagrangian formalism

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int \mathcal{D}\Phi \mathcal{O}(\Phi) e^{-S[\Phi]} \longrightarrow \frac{\langle \mathcal{O} e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{\text{pq}}}{\langle e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{\text{pq}}}$$

Spontaneous supersymmetry breaking

Requires vanishing **Witten index** $\mathcal{W} = \text{Tr} [(-1)^F e^{-iHt}] = \text{Tr}_B [e^{-iHt}] - \text{Tr}_F [e^{-iHt}]$

Periodic BCs $\longrightarrow \mathcal{W} = \mathcal{Z} \propto \langle e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{\text{pq}} = 0 \longrightarrow$ maximally bad sign problem

[Avoided with fermion loop formulation by Steinhauer–Wenger, [arXiv:1410.6665](https://arxiv.org/abs/1410.6665);
with tensor networks by Kadoh et al., [arXiv:1801.04183](https://arxiv.org/abs/1801.04183)]

Apply quantum computing

Evade sign problems by changing perspective

Path integral \longrightarrow continuous-time hamiltonian H on spatial lattice

Generic targets:

Find ground state $|\Omega\rangle \longrightarrow$ test spontaneous symmetry breaking

Real-time evolution $|\Psi(t)\rangle = e^{-iHt} |\Psi(0)\rangle \sim \left(\exp[-iH\delta_T] \right)^{N_T} |\Psi(0)\rangle$

Supersymmetric $H \longleftrightarrow$ matched boson / fermion d.o.f. at each lattice site:

$$H = Q^2 = \sum_n \left[\frac{p_n^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\phi_{n+1} - \phi_{n-1}}{2} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} [W(\phi_n)]^2 + W(\phi_n) \frac{\phi_{n+1} - \phi_{n-1}}{2} \right. \\ \left. + (-1)^n W'(\phi_n) \left(\chi_n^\dagger \chi_n - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\chi_n^\dagger \chi_{n+1} + \chi_{n+1}^\dagger \chi_n \right) \right]$$

Prepotential $W(\phi)$ ensures supersymmetric interactions

$W = \phi$ [free theory] $\longrightarrow \mathcal{W} \neq 0 \longrightarrow$ supersymmetric $|\Omega\rangle$

$W = \phi^2 \longrightarrow$ expect dynamical supersymmetry breaking

Wess–Zumino set up for quantum computing

Map bosons and fermions to finite number of qubits

Fermions: Usual Jordan–Wigner transformation \longrightarrow one qubit per site

Bosons: Retain lowest $\Lambda = 2^B$ harmonic oscillator modes

binary encoding $\longrightarrow B$ qubits per site

Defines operators like H in terms of Pauli strings

Explicit susy breaking from different treatment, removed as $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$

Current focus on exploratory development & testing

\longrightarrow Qiskit simulator for rapid turnaround

[github.com/chrisculver/WessZumino]

Variational quantum eigensolver (VQE)

Well-known 'hybrid' quantum–classical algorithm

Quantum circuit implements wave-function ansatz $|\Psi(\theta_i)\rangle$ with tunable params

Loss function measurements \longrightarrow classical optimizer adjusts θ_i to minimize
 \swarrow shallower circuit \longrightarrow less sensitive to noise / errors

Energy as loss function \longrightarrow approximate ground state

Apply to Wess–Zumino model

Spontaneous supersymmetry breaking \longleftrightarrow non-zero ground-state energy

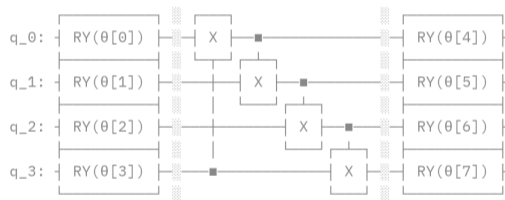
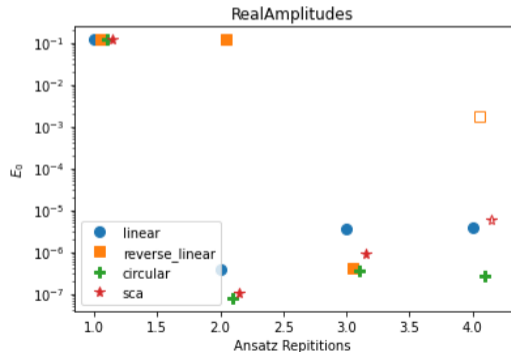
$$E_0 = \langle \Omega | H | \Omega \rangle = |Q | \Omega \rangle|^2$$

Some Wess–Zumino VQE technical details

Balance expressivity of ansatz vs. number of parameters

Tested various flavors of Qiskit `RealAmplitudes` circuits

alternating CNOTs and parameterized Y rotations

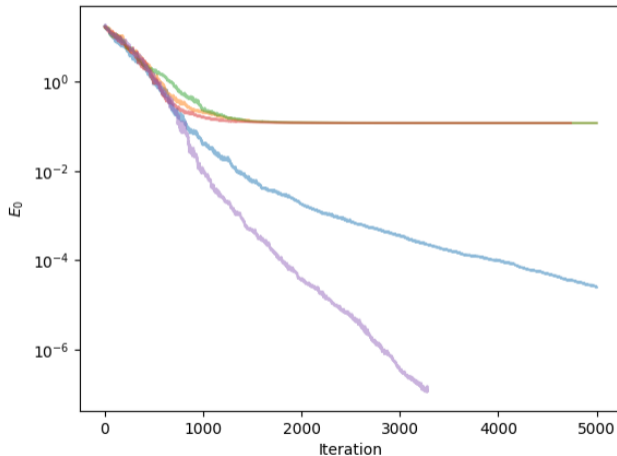


$$N_s \times (B + 1) \times (\text{reps} + 1) \text{ params}$$

COBYLA optimizer

Wess–Zumino VQE

$W = \phi$ with $N_s = 2$ and $\Lambda = 16 \rightarrow 10$ qubits, 30 params, ~ 1000 Pauli strings



Can struggle to find ground state
even for free theory

5 VQE runs find $10^{-7} \lesssim E_0 \lesssim 10^{-1}$
[exact $E_1 = E_2 \approx 1.118$]

Challenge:
Distinguishing “small” vs. “zero”

Excited states can help

Supersymmetry \longrightarrow all $E > 0$ eigenstates paired

$$[H, Q] = 0 \longrightarrow H(Q|\Psi\rangle) = E_\Psi(Q|\Psi\rangle)$$

Consider just three smallest energies:

$$E_0 < E_1 \approx E_2 \longleftrightarrow \text{supersymmetric}$$

$$E_0 \approx E_1 < E_2 \longleftrightarrow \text{broken}$$

Get k lowest eigenstates from Variational Quantum Deflation (VQD)

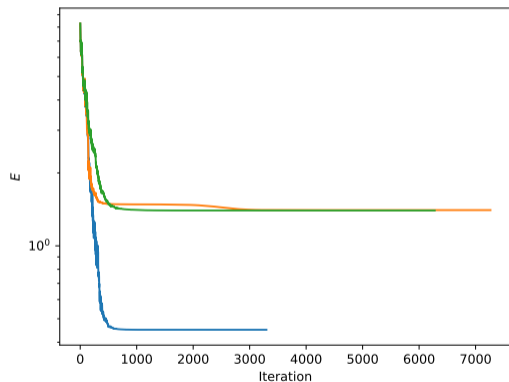
[Higgott–Wang–Brierley, [arXiv:1805.08138](https://arxiv.org/abs/1805.08138)]

Do k VQE solves, each time deflating previous eigenstates

$$H_k = H + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} \beta_i |\Psi_i\rangle \langle \Psi_i| \quad \beta_i > E_k - E_i$$

Wess–Zumino VQD

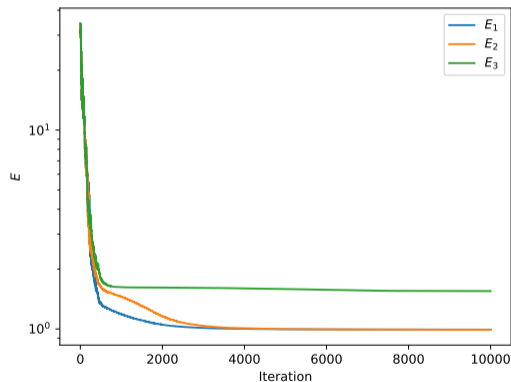
$W = \phi$ with $N_s = 4$ and $\Lambda = 4$
12 qubits, 36 params, ~ 4000 Paulis



VQD: 0.450, 1.399, 1.405

Exact: -0.001 , 0.829, 0.829

$W = \phi^2$ with $N_s = 3$ and $\Lambda = 8$
12 qubits, 36 params, ~ 6000 Paulis



VQD: 0.991, 0.993, 1.551

Exact: 0.416, 0.416, 1.089

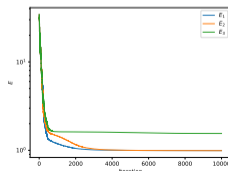
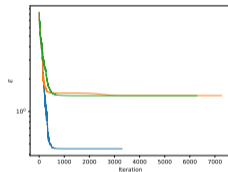
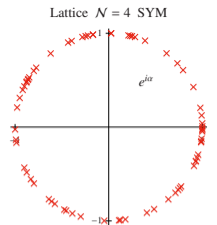
Recap and outlook

Spontaneous susy breaking in Wess–Zumino model
is compelling target for near-term quantum computing

Sign problem motivates quantum computing

Variational quantum deflation distinguishes broken or not

Lots to explore: Optimizations, formulations, real-time evol. . .



Recap and outlook

Spontaneous susy breaking in Wess–Zumino model
is compelling target for near-term quantum computing

Sign problem motivates quantum computing

Variational quantum deflation distinguishes broken or not

Lots to explore: Optimizations, formulations, real-time evol. . .

Thanks for your attention!

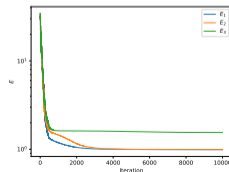
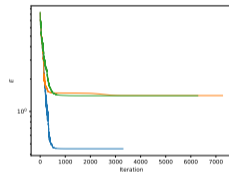
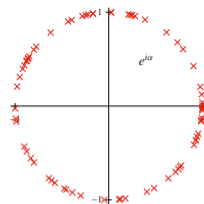
Any questions?

Chris Culver

UK Research
and Innovation



Lattice $N = 4$ SYM



Backup: Supersymmetry of Wess–Zumino lattice hamiltonian

Build $H = Q^2$ from lattice supercharge

$$Q = \sum_n \left[p_n \psi_n^+ - \left(\frac{\phi_{n+1} - \phi_{n-1}}{2} + W(\phi_n) \right) \psi_n^- \right]$$

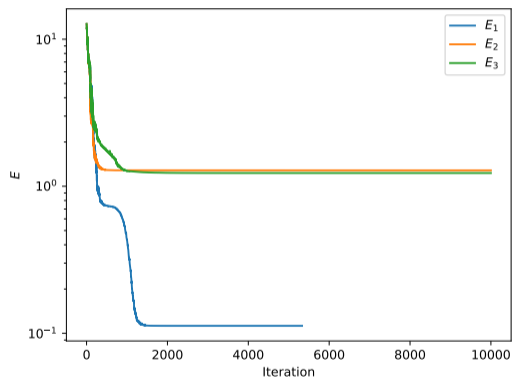
by changing variables

$$\psi_n^\pm = \frac{1 \mp i(-1)^n}{2j^n} (\chi_n^\dagger \pm i\chi_n)$$

Note exact lattice supersymmetry allowed by continuous time

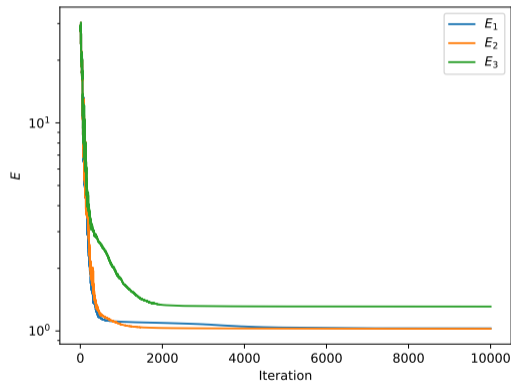
Backup: Wess–Zumino VQD with Dirichlet BCs

$W = \phi$ with $N_s = 3$ and $\Lambda = 8$
12 qubits, 36 params, ~ 4250 Paulis



VQD: 10^{-1} , 1.230, 1.283
Exact: 10^{-5} , 1.000, 1.000

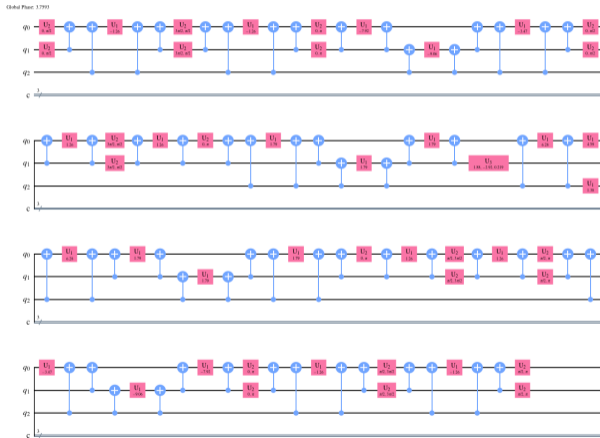
$W = \phi^2$ with $N_s = 3$ and $\Lambda = 8$
12 qubits, 36 params, ~ 3000 Paulis



VQD: 1.025, 1.029, 1.310
Exact: 0.493, 0.493, 0.899

Backup: Real-time evolution

For now, need far too many gates for reasonable $\Lambda \gtrsim \mathcal{O}(10)$



$W = g\phi^3 + m\phi$ with $\Lambda = 4$, $N_s = 1$
→ supersymmetric quantum mech.
[\[arXiv:2112.07651\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.07651)

Smarter Trotterization & transpilation
should help

Reduce to single spatial site:

$$H_{\text{SQM}} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\hat{p}^2 + [W(\hat{q})]^2 - W'(\hat{q}) (\hat{b}^\dagger \hat{b} - \hat{b} \hat{b}^\dagger) \right].$$

Spontaneous supersymmetry breaking no longer dynamical

→ determined by prepotential

Harmonic oscillator $W_{\text{HO}} = m\hat{q} \rightarrow$ expect (free) supersymmetric $|\Omega\rangle$

Anharmonic oscillator $W_{\text{AHO}} = m\hat{q} + g\hat{q}^3 \rightarrow$ expect supersymmetric $|\Omega\rangle$

Double-well $W_{\text{DW}} = m\hat{q} + g(\hat{q}^2 + \mu^2) \rightarrow$ expect spont. susy breaking

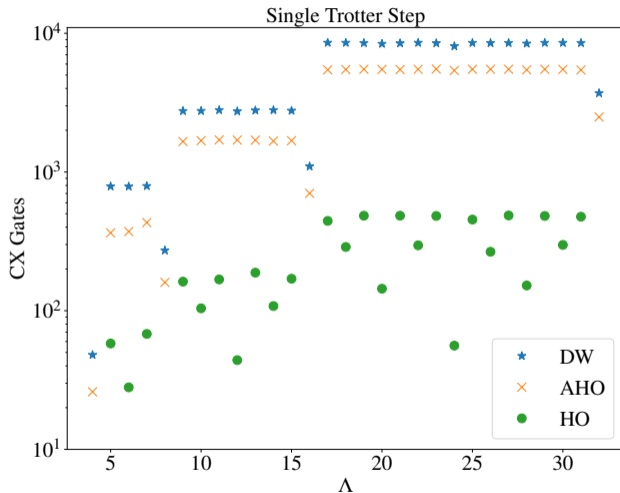
Ground-state energies from VQE

Free theory clearly converges to zero energy

More params \longrightarrow harder to converge, especially for anharmonic oscillator W_{AHO}

Clear non-zero energy (spont. susy breaking) for double-well W_{DW}

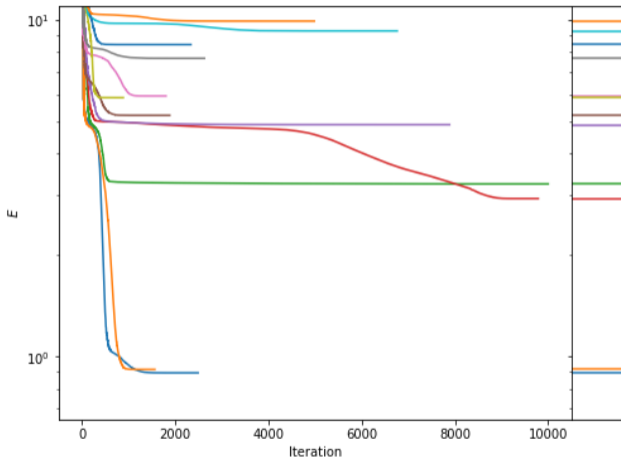
Λ	HO	VQE	AHO	VQE	DW	VQE
2	0	5.34e-10	9.38e-01	9.38e-01	1.08e+00	1.08e+00
4	0	1.07e-09	1.27e-01	1.27e-01	9.15e-01	9.15e-01
8	0	4.06e-09	2.93e-02	2.93e-02	8.93e-01	8.93e-01
16	0	1.13e-08	1.83e-03	6.02e-02	8.92e-01	8.94e-01
32	0	4.81e-08	1.83e-05	6.63e-01	8.92e-01	8.95e-01



Count number of entangling gates
for single Trotter step
(default Qiskit transpilation)

Big improvements when $\Lambda = 2^B$
(note log scale)

Backup: Supersymmetric quantum mechanics VQD



Double-well W_{DW} with $\Lambda = 16$

Decent pairing among lowest 12 E_s

VQD: 0.894, 0.915, 3.249, ...

Exact: 0.892, 0.892, 2.734, ...