

The Meta-Variational Quantum Eigensolver

Alba Cervera-Lierta, Jakob S. Kottmann, Alán Aspuru-Guzik

Machine Learning for Quantum X

July 5th, 2021

Outlook

1. Variational Quantum Algorithms (VQA)
2. VQA for Quantum Machine Learning (QML)
3. The Meta-VQE: a QML algorithm for Hamiltonian simulation

Variational Quantum Algorithms

[Submitted on 21 Jan 2021]

Noisy intermediate-scale quantum (NISQ) algorithms

Kishor Bharti, Alba Cervera-Lierta, Thi Ha Kyaw, Tobias Haug, Sumner Alperin-Lea, Abhinav Anand, Matthias Degroote, Hermann Heimonen, Jakob S. Kottmann, Tim Menke, Wai-Keong Mok, Sukin Sim, Leong-Chuan Kwek, Alán Aspuru-Guzik

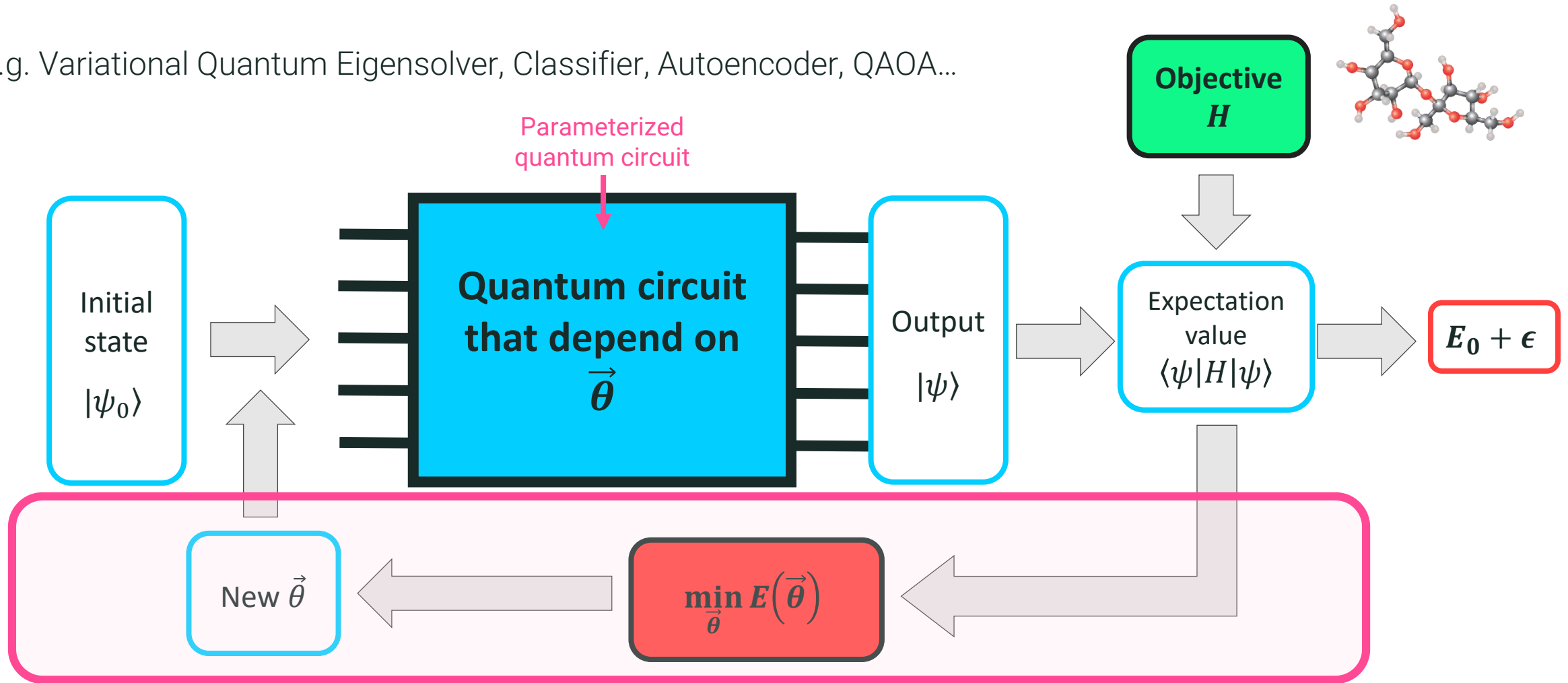
Comments: Review article, 82 pages, 7 figures, comments welcome

Subjects: **Quantum Physics (quant-ph)**; Statistical Mechanics (cond-mat.stat-mech); Artificial Intelligence (cs.AI); Machine Learning (cs.LG)

Cite as: [arXiv:2101.08448](https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.08448) [quant-ph]

Variational Quantum Algorithms

e.g. Variational Quantum Eigensolver, Classifier, Autoencoder, QAOA...



Classical optimization

Variational principle: $E = \langle\psi|H|\psi\rangle \geq E_0$

Objective function



It encodes the problem in a form of a quantum operator, e.g. a Hamiltonian

$$\langle H \rangle_{\mathcal{U}(\theta)} \equiv \langle 0 | \mathcal{U}^\dagger(\theta) H \mathcal{U}(\theta) | 0 \rangle$$

The objective is decomposed into Pauli strings which expectation value can be measured with the quantum computer.

$$H = \sum_{k=1}^M c_k \hat{P}_k \longrightarrow \langle H \rangle_{\mathcal{U}} = \sum_{k=1}^M c_k \langle \hat{P}_k \rangle_{\mathcal{U}}$$

An objective can also be the fidelity w.r.t. a particular target state that we are trying to match.

$$F(\Psi, \Psi_{\mathcal{U}(\theta)}) \equiv |\langle \Psi | \Psi_{\mathcal{U}(\theta)} \rangle|^2$$

We can use projectors or SWAP test to obtain the value of that fidelity

$$\max_{\theta} F(\Psi, \Psi_{\mathcal{U}(\theta)}) = \min_{\theta} (-\langle \hat{\Pi}_{\Psi} \rangle_{\mathcal{U}(\theta)})$$

Parameterized quantum circuits

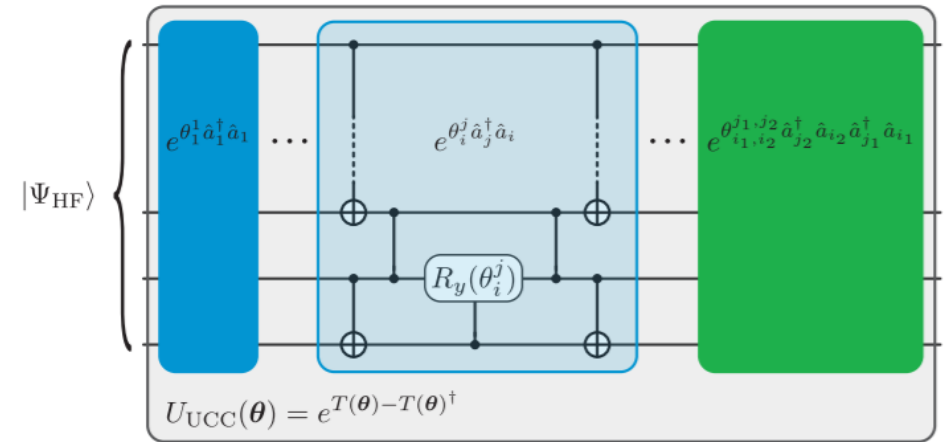


It prepares what will eventually be the approximation of the g.s. of our Objective function.

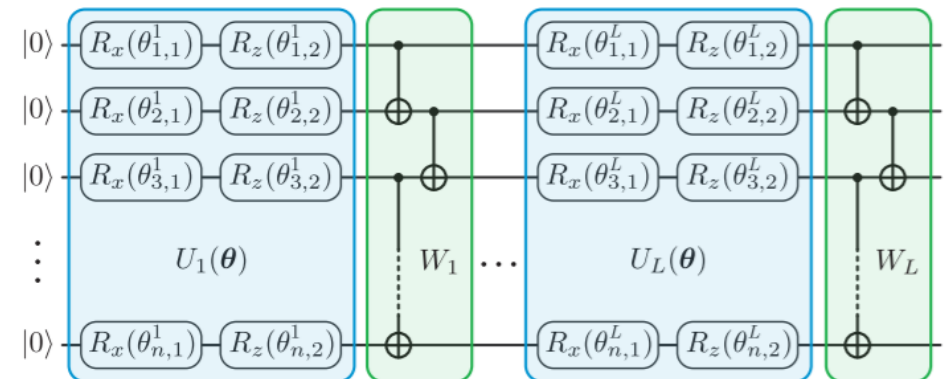
It depends on a series of parameters that have to be finetuned to minimize the objective

They can be designed from a physical point of view (e.g. UCC, QAOA,...) or from a practical point of view (using a limited set of gates and circuit topology).

a Problem-inspired ansatz

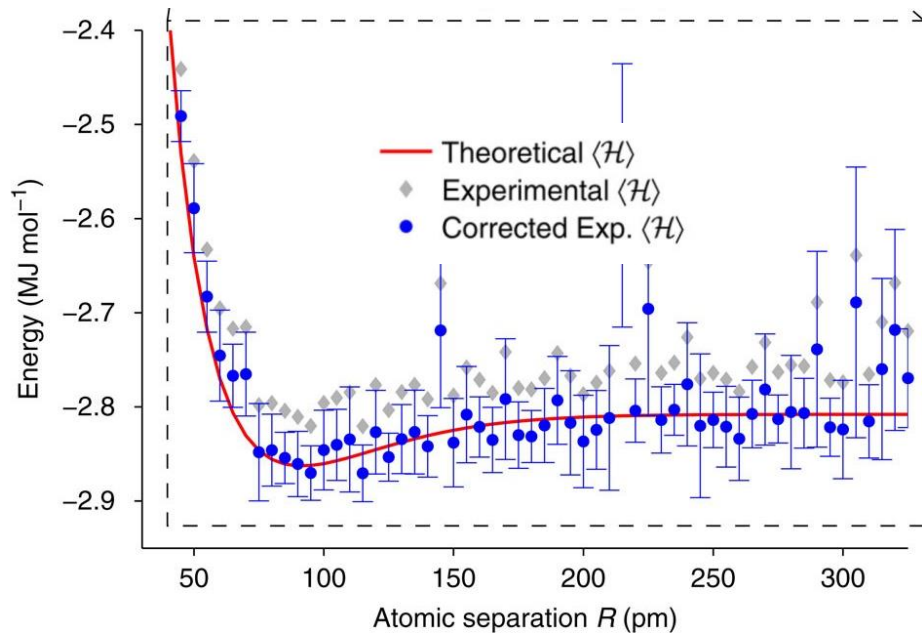


b Hardware-efficient ansatz



Example: the Variational Quantum Eigensolver

Bond dissociation curve of the He–H⁺ molecule.



GOAL: find $|\psi\rangle$ that minimizes $\frac{\langle \psi | \mathcal{H} | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | \psi \rangle}$.

Electronic structure Hamiltonian decomposed into Pauli strings

$$\langle \mathcal{H} \rangle = \sum_{i\alpha} h_{\alpha}^i \langle \sigma_{\alpha}^i \rangle + \sum_{ij\alpha\beta} h_{\alpha\beta}^{ij} \langle \sigma_{\alpha}^i \sigma_{\beta}^j \rangle + \dots$$

Quantum circuit that generates the ground state of that Hamiltonian (Unitary Couple-Cluster ansatz)

$$|\Psi(\theta)\rangle = e^{T(\theta)-T(\theta)^{\dagger}} |\Psi_{\text{HF}}\rangle$$

Unitary operation (Cluster operator) Hartree-Fock Excitations Hartree-Fock orbitals

$$T(\theta) = T_1(\theta) + T_2(\theta) + \dots$$

$$T_1(\theta) = \sum_{\substack{i \in \text{occ} \\ j \in \text{virt}}} \theta_i^j \hat{a}_j^{\dagger} \hat{a}_i$$

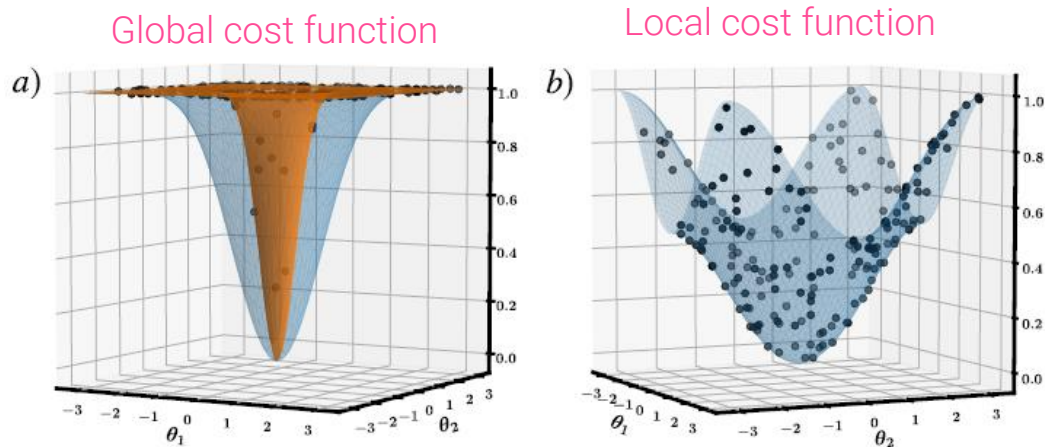
$$T_2(\theta) = \sum_{\substack{i_1, i_2 \in \text{occ} \\ j_1, j_2 \in \text{virt}}} \theta_{i_1, i_2}^{j_1, j_2} \hat{a}_{j_2}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{i_2} \hat{a}_{j_1}^{\dagger} \hat{a}_{i_1}$$

Transform the fermionic operators to Pauli strings (e.g. Jordan Wigner) and they become the generators of the quantum gates.

The *barren-plateaux* problem

Compute the gradients with the quantum circuit and use these values to run a classical minimizer, e.g. Nelder-Mead, Adam, ...

With no prior knowledge about the solution, $\vec{\theta}$ parameters are initialized at random.



Consequence: *barren-plateaux*

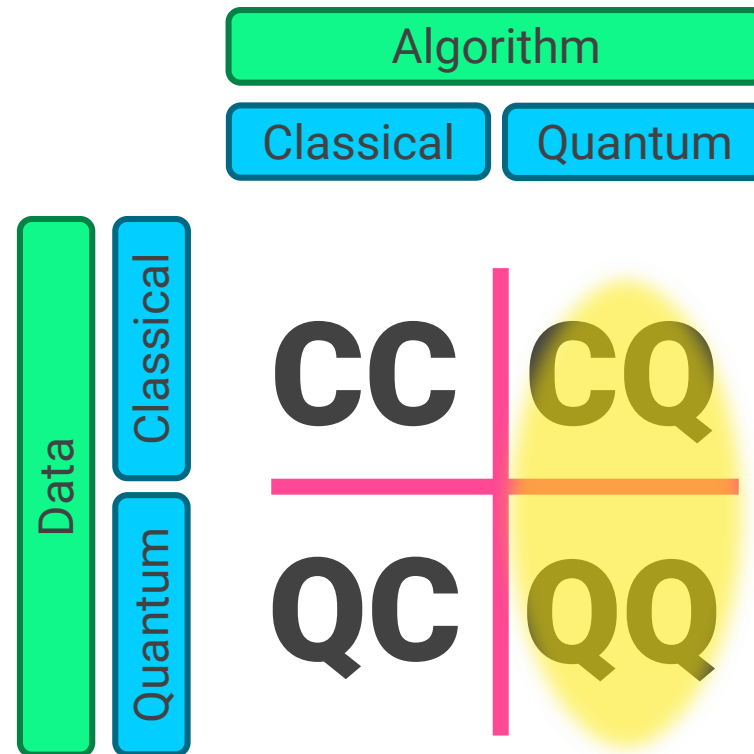
The expected value of the gradient is zero!
The expected value of the variance is also zero!

Solutions

- Use parameters close to the solution.
- Use local cost functions instead of global ones.
- Introduce correlations between parameters.

Ref.: M. Cerezo et. al. arXiv:2001.00550v2 [quant-ph]

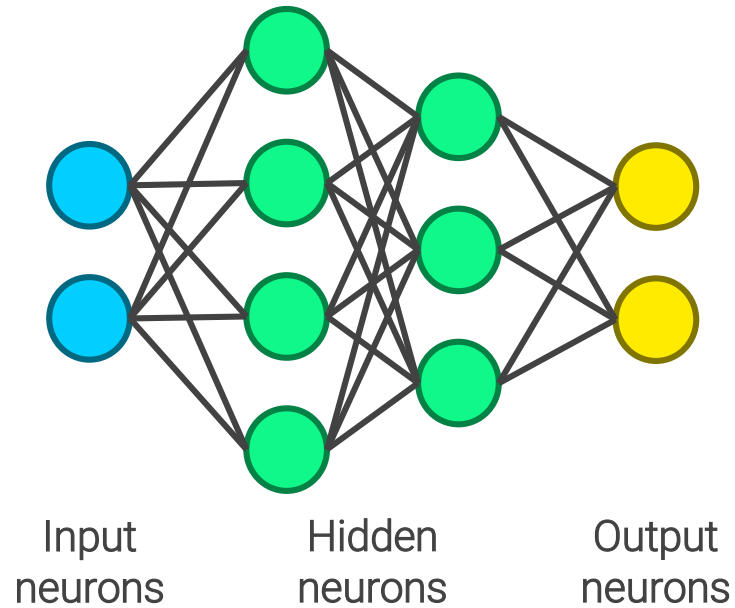
VQA for Quantum Machine Learning



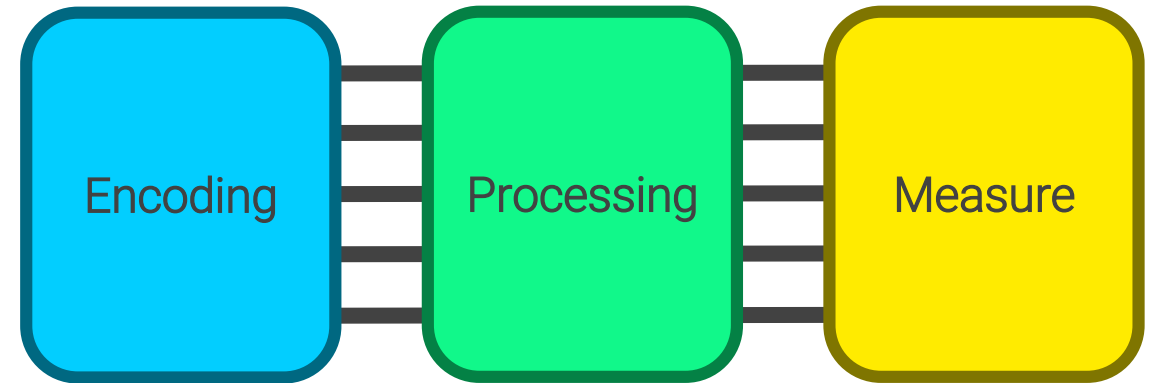
From classical to quantum NN



Classical



Quantum
(circuit centric)



K Mitarai, M Negoro, M Kitagawa, K Fujii Phys. Revs A 98 (3), 032309 (2018)

E. Farhi and H. Neven, arXiv:1802.06002 (2018)

M. Schuld and N. Killoran, Phys. Rev. Lett. 122, 040504 (2019)

M. Schuld, A. Bocharov, K. M. Svore, and N. Wiebe, Phys. Rev. A 101, 032308 (2020)



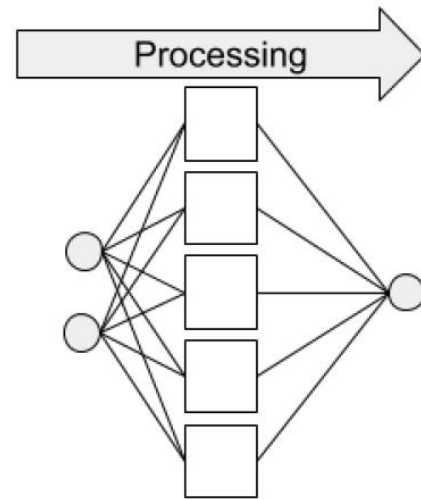
The minimal QNN

What is the most simple (but universal) NN?

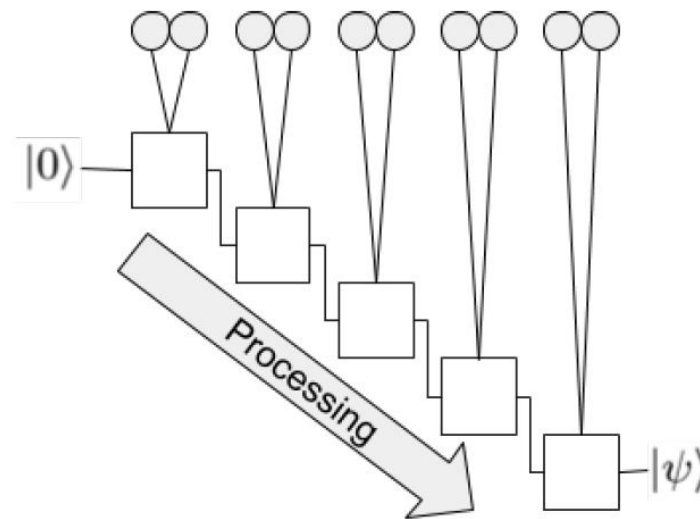
Single hidden layer NN

What is the most simple (but universal) QNN?

Single-qubit QNN



(a) Neural network



(b) Quantum classifier

Encoding the data

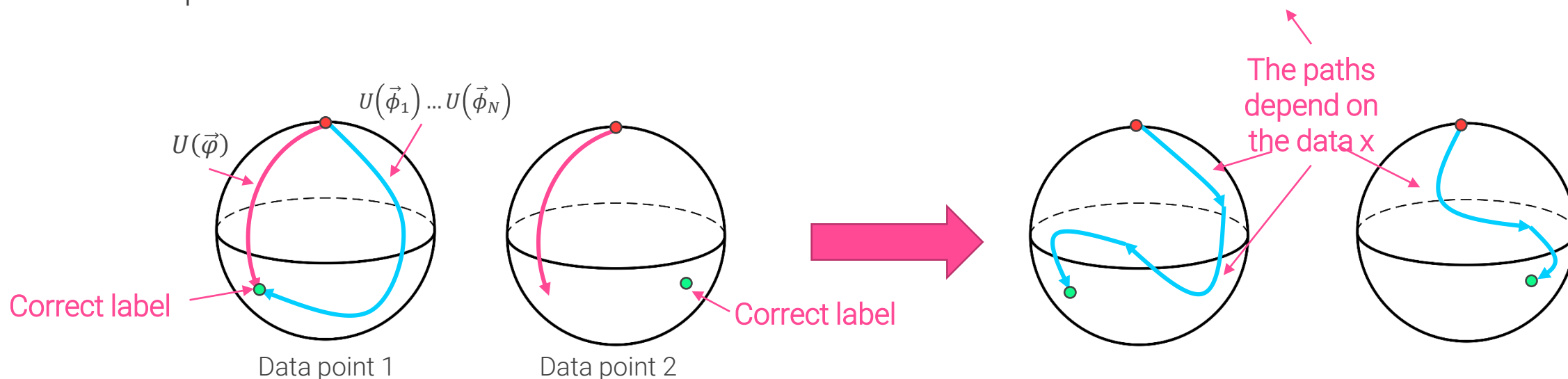
A product of unitaries can be written with a single unitary

$$U(\vec{\phi}_1) \dots U(\vec{\phi}_N) \equiv U(\vec{\phi})$$

If we add some fixed parameter dependency (the data), the operation becomes flexible and data-dependent.

Data re-uploading

$$\mathcal{U}(\vec{\phi}, \vec{x}) \equiv U(\vec{\phi}_N)U(\vec{x}) \dots U(\vec{\phi}_1)U(\vec{x})$$



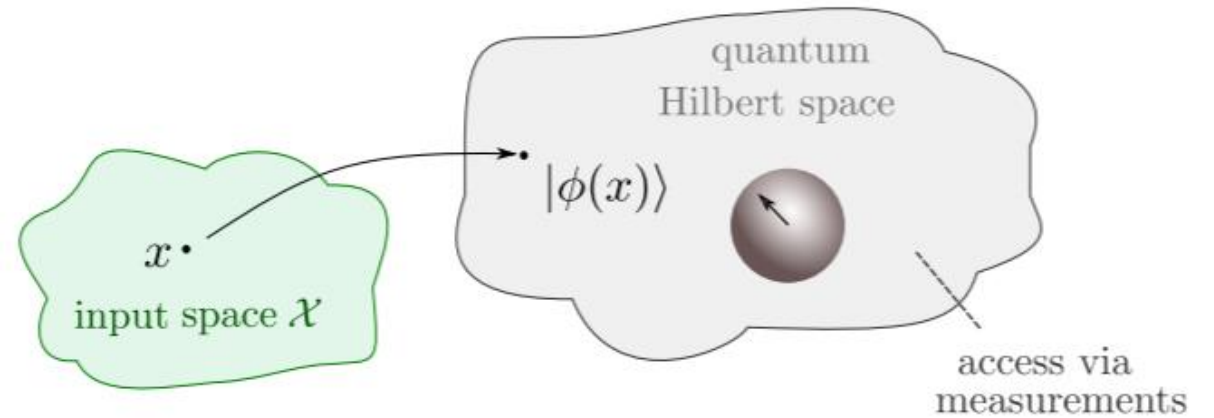
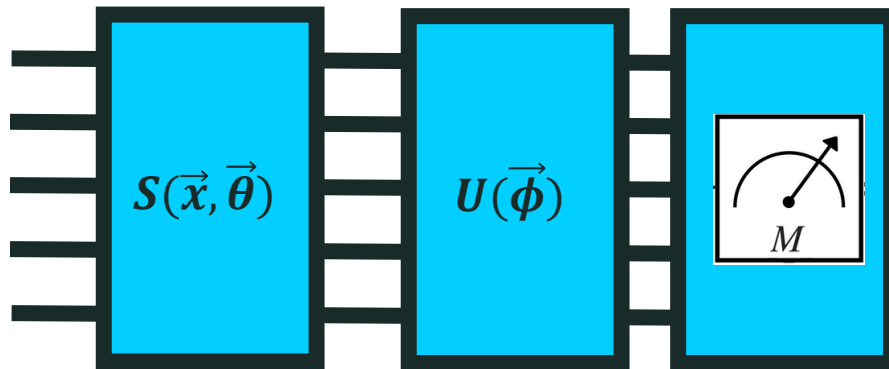
Quantum Feature Maps

$$|\psi_0\rangle \rightarrow |\psi(\vec{x}, \vec{\theta})\rangle \rightarrow |\psi(\vec{x}, \vec{\theta}, \vec{\phi})\rangle \rightarrow |gs(\vec{x})\rangle$$

Encode the data
(quantum
feature space)

Rotate to the
correct
measurement
basis

Find the parameters that
minimize the objective
(measured in the computational
basis)



The Meta-Variational Quantum Eigensolver

Meta-Variational Quantum Eigensolver: Learning Energy Profiles of Parameterized Hamiltonians for Quantum Simulation

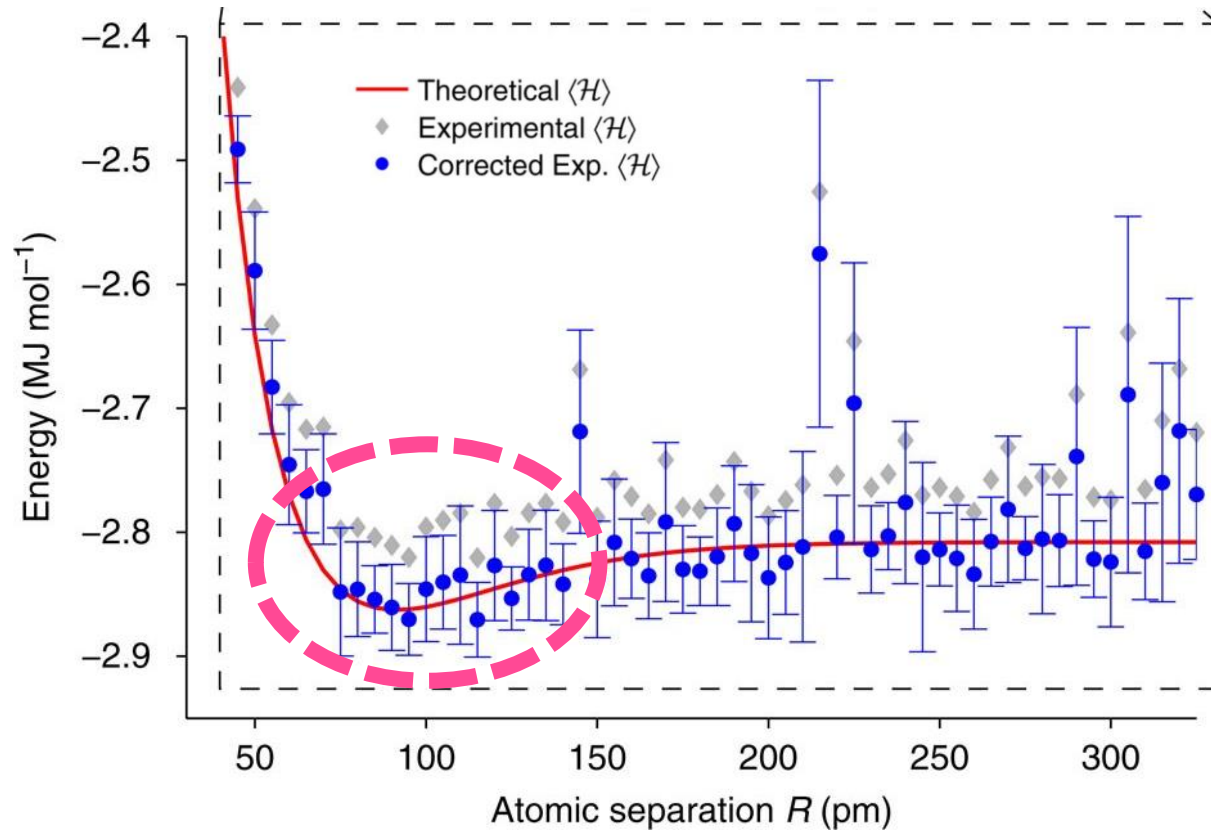
Alba Cervera-Lierta, Jakob S. Kottmann, and Alán Aspuru-Guzik
PRX Quantum **2**, 020329 – Published 28 May 2021



What's the true goal of VQE?



Bond dissociation curve of the He–H⁺ molecule.



GOAL: find $|\psi\rangle$ that minimizes $\frac{\langle \psi | \mathcal{H} | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | \psi \rangle}$.



Find the atomic separation that minimizes the energy

$$\min \langle H(R) \rangle$$

A. Peruzzo, J. McClean, P. Shadbolt, M.-H. Yung, X.-Q. Zhou, P. J. Love, A. Aspuru-Guzik, J. L. O'Brien, Nature Comm. **5**, 4213 (2014)

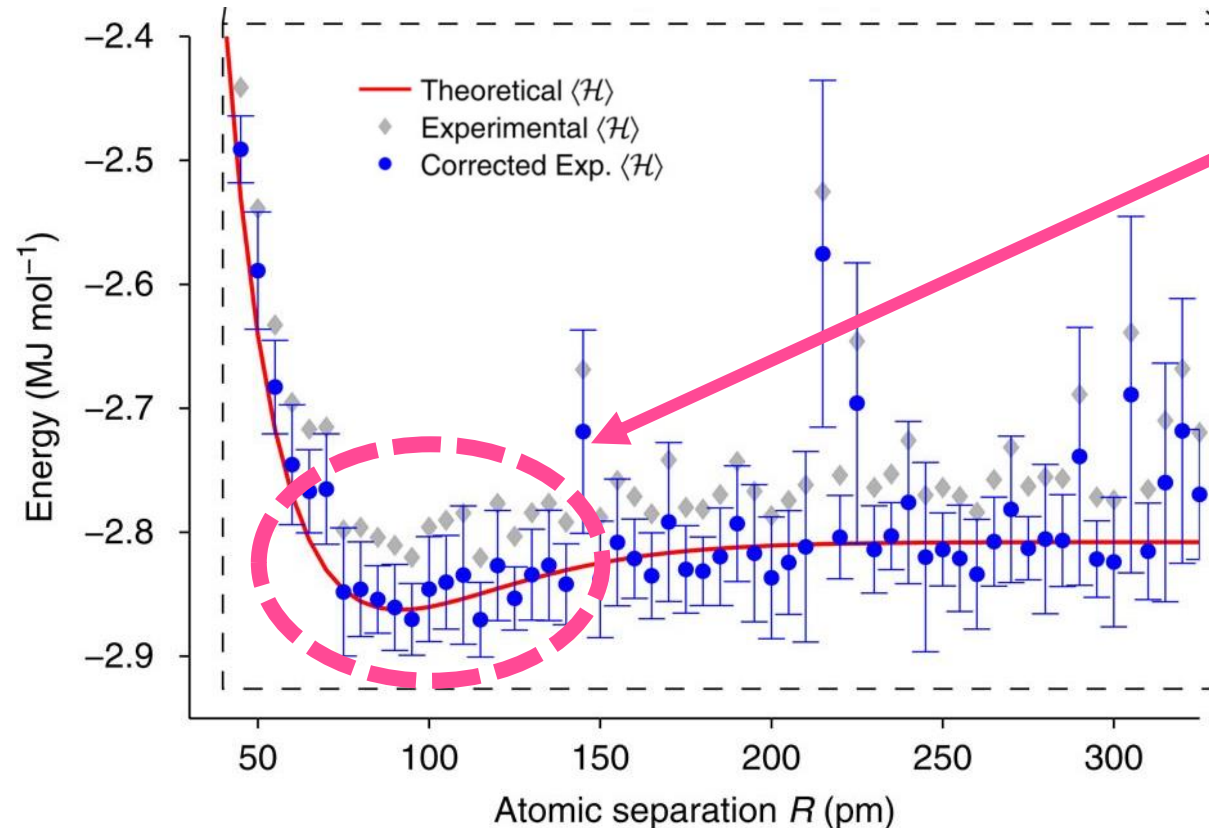
ACL, J. Kottmann, A. Aspuru-Guzik, PRX Quantum **2**, 020329 (2021)



What's the true goal of VQE?



Bond dissociation curve of the He-H⁺ molecule.



To obtain **this** you need to scan from 0 to 300.

Each blue point is a VQE, that is, you have to **prepare, run and optimize** the quantum circuit.

Can we avoid to compute the uninteresting points?

A. Peruzzo, J. McClean, P. Shadbolt, M.-H. Yung, X.-Q. Zhou, P. J. Love, A. Aspuru-Guzik, J. L. O'Brien, Nature Comm. **5**, 4213 (2014)

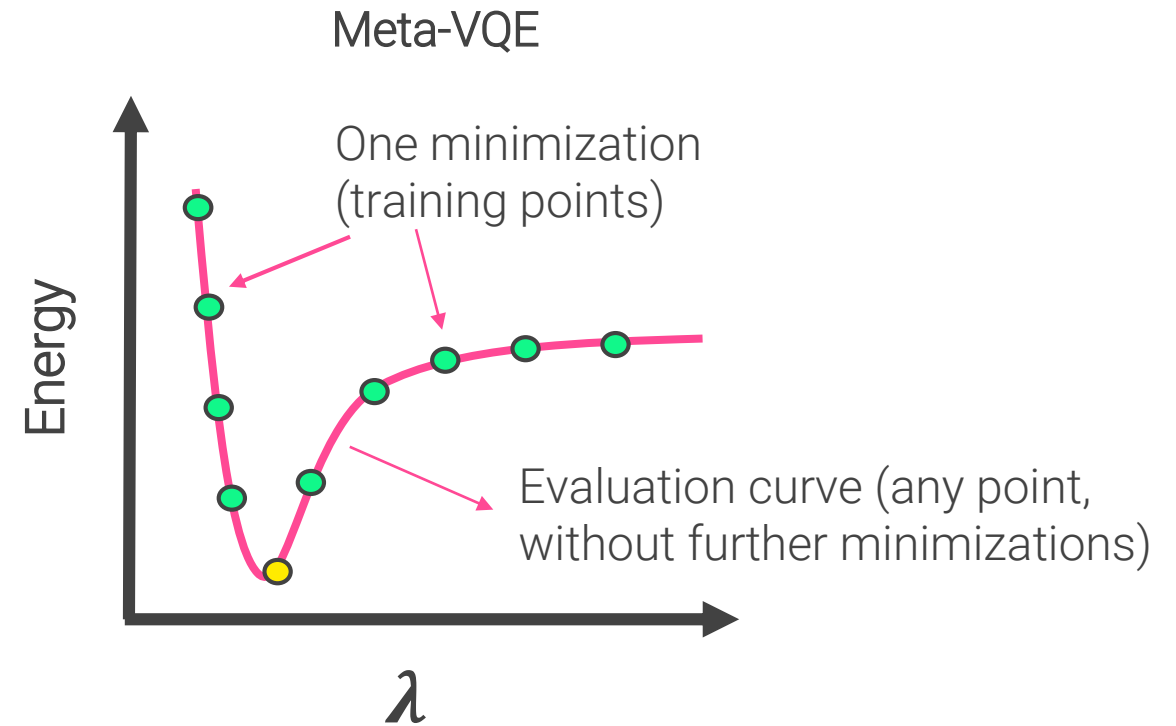
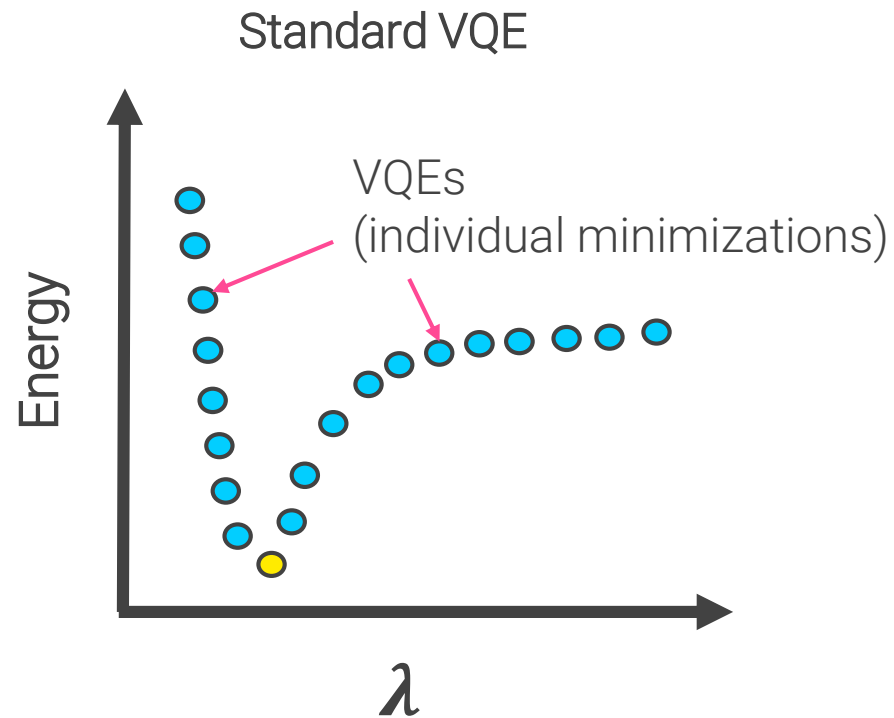
ACL, J. Kottmann, A. Aspuru-Guzik, PRX Quantum **2**, 020329 (2021)



Meta-VQE outlook

Parameterized Hamiltonian $H(\vec{\lambda})$

Goal: to find the quantum circuit that **encodes** the ground state of the Hamiltonian for any value of $\vec{\lambda}$



See also: K. Mitarai, T. Yan, K. Fujii, Phys. Rev. Applied 11, 044087 (2019)

ACL, J. Kottmann, A. Aspuru-Guzik, PRX Quantum 2, 020329 (2021)

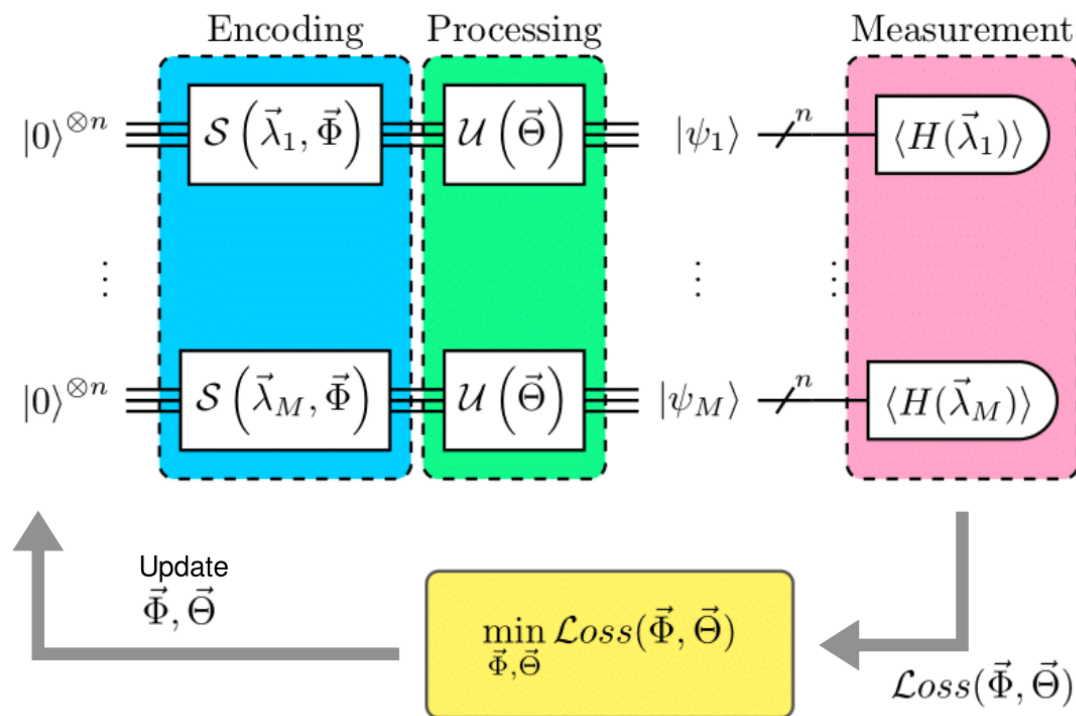
The Meta-VQE

Parameterized Hamiltonian $H(\vec{\lambda})$

Training points: $\vec{\lambda}_i$ for $i = 1, \dots, M$

Loss function with all $\langle H(\vec{\lambda}_i) \rangle$

Goal: to find the quantum circuit that **encodes** the ground state of the Hamiltonian for any value of $\vec{\lambda}$



Output: $\vec{\Phi}_{\text{opt}}$ and $\vec{\Theta}_{\text{opt}}$

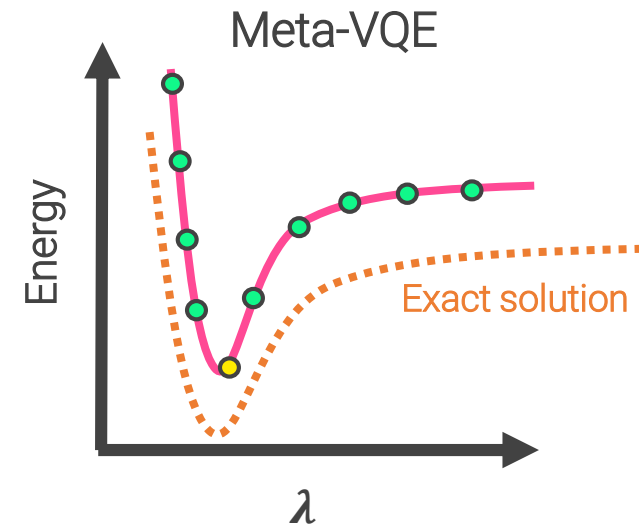
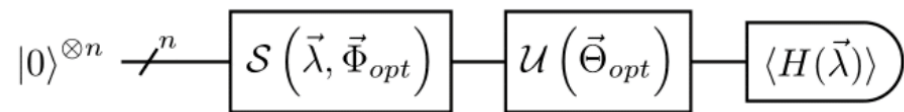
See also: K. Mitarai, T. Yan, K. Fujii, Phys. Rev. Applied 11, 044087 (2019)

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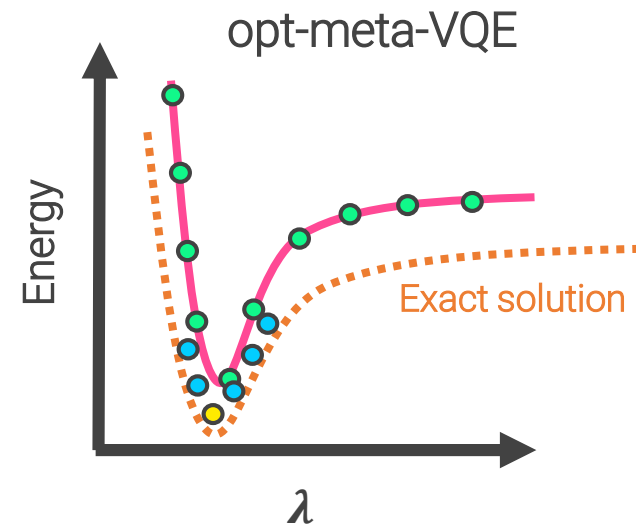
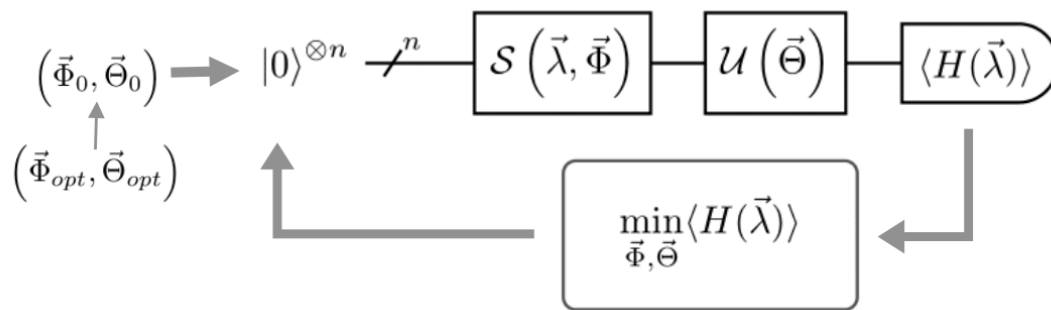
The Meta-VQE output

Output: $\vec{\Phi}_{opt}$ and $\vec{\Theta}_{opt}$

Option 1: run the circuit with test $\vec{\lambda}$ and obtain the g.s. energy profile.



Option 2: use $\vec{\Phi}_{opt}$ and $\vec{\Theta}_{opt}$ as starting point of a standard VQE optimization (opt-meta-VQE)



1D XXZ spin chain



$$H = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_{i+1}^y + \Delta \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z + \lambda \sigma_i^z$$

For $\lambda = 0$, two QPT: $\Delta = -1, \Delta = 1$

Analytical solution of the model: using the Bethe ansatz (no known quantum circuit)

Good worse-case-scenario model

- We do not know which circuit ansatz will work
- The ground state is highly entangled (that's why we need quantum computers!)
- The energy profile is not trivial: it presents a peak in the region $\Delta > -1$

1D XXZ spin chain

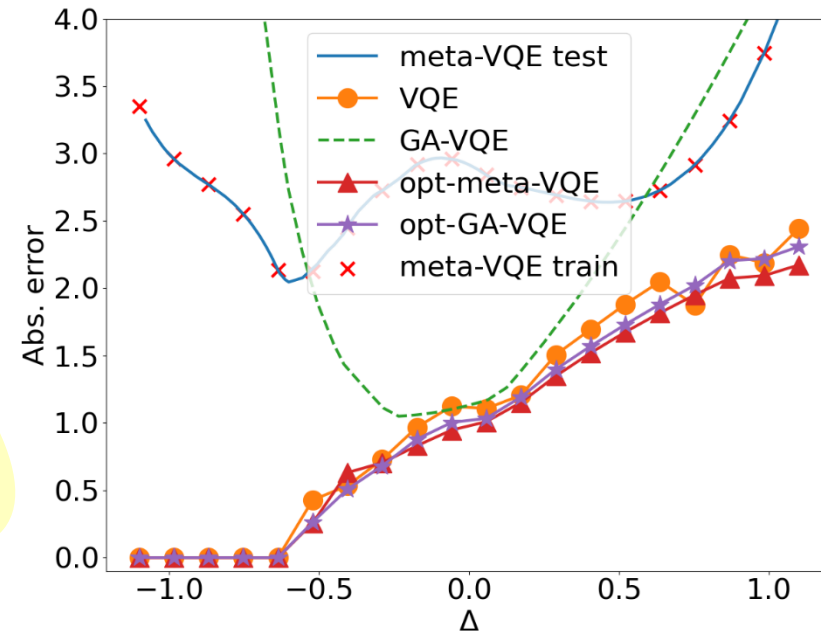
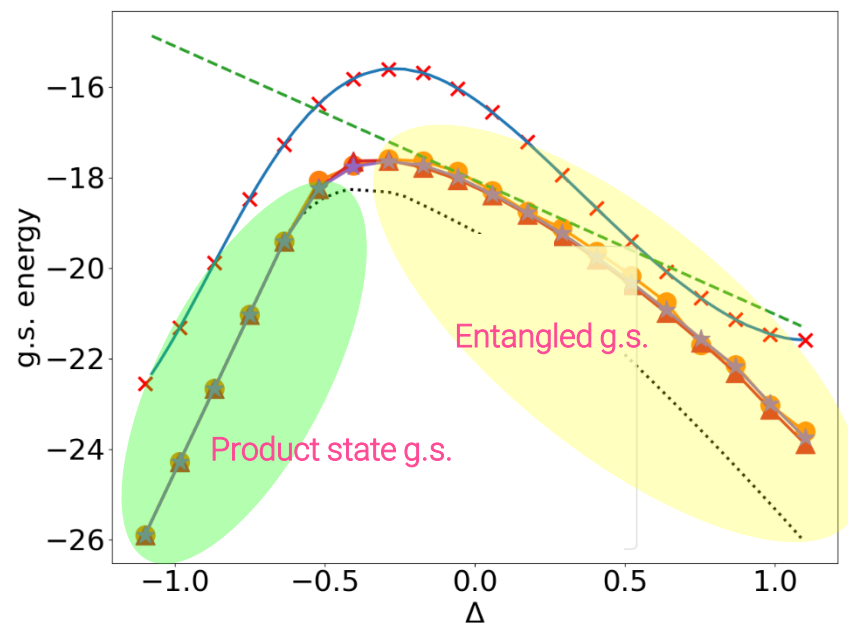
14 qubits simulation, $\lambda = 0.75$

Linear encoding: $R_z(w_1 \Delta + \phi_1) R_y(w_2 \Delta + \phi_2) \otimes$ Alternating CNOT

Processing layer: $R_z(\theta_1) R_y(\theta_2) \otimes$ Alternating CNOT

Results 2 encoding + 2 processing layers

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_i^x \sigma_{i+1}^x + \sigma_i^y \sigma_{i+1}^y + \Delta \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z + \lambda \sigma_i^z$$



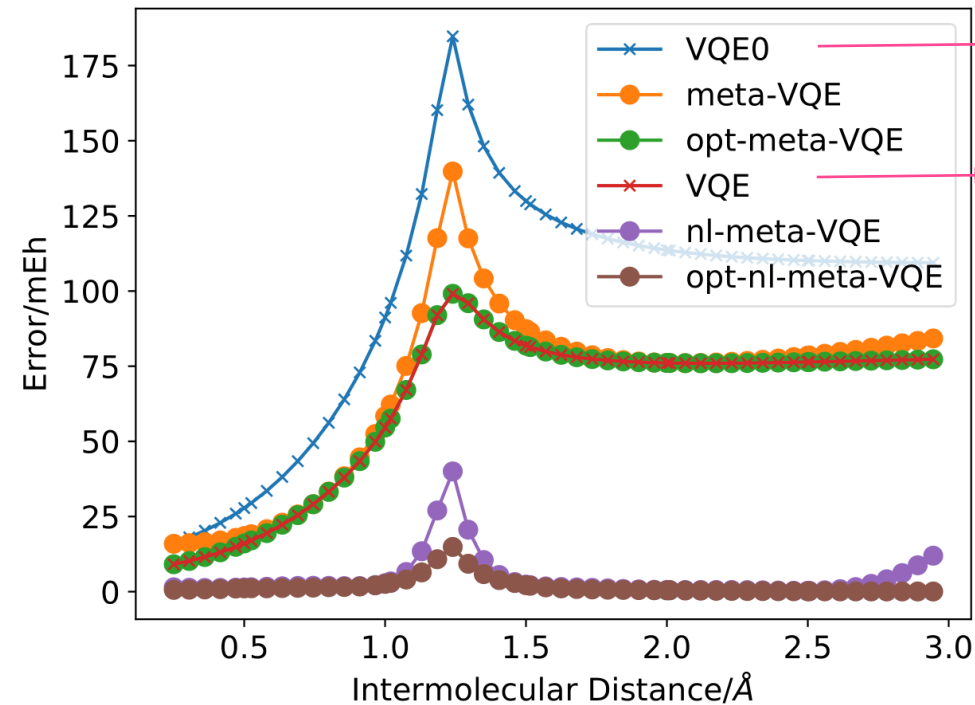
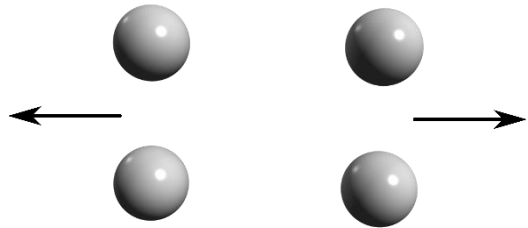
H_4 molecule

H_4 molecule in 8 spin-orbitals (STO-3G basis set)

Ansatz: k-UpCCGSD (k=2 for these results)

Linear encoding: $\theta = \alpha + d\beta$
Non-linear encoding: $\theta = \alpha e^{\beta(\gamma - d)} + \delta$ (floating Gaussians)

Hamiltonian Parameter
(intermolecular distance)



Initial state: $|0\rangle$

Initial state: $|HF\rangle$

Single transmon

Single transmon simulation using QCAD mapping

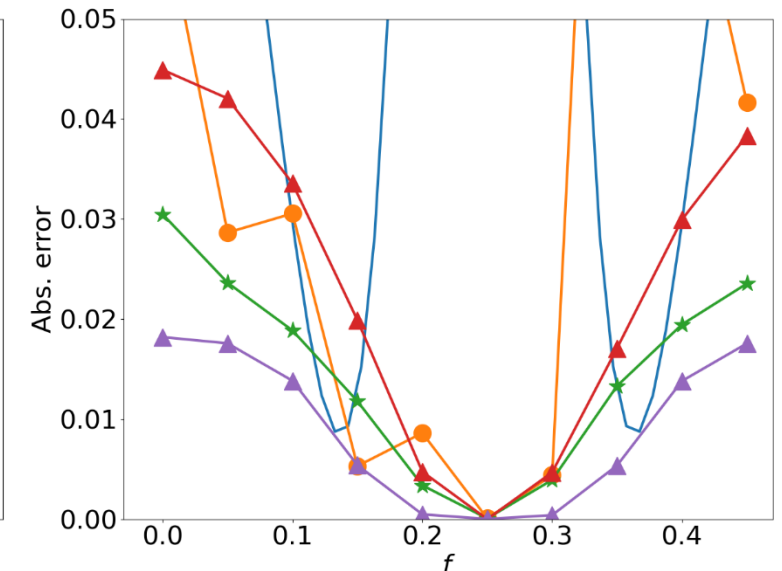
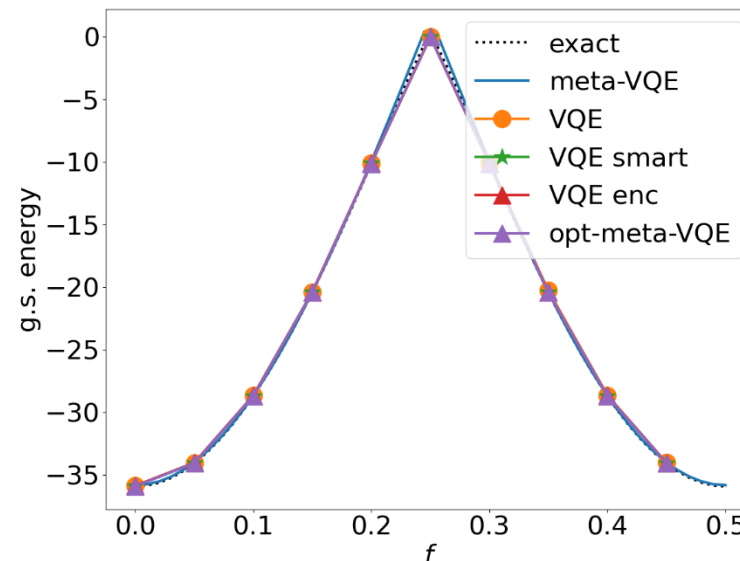
Ansatz: 1 encoding + 1 processing layers + 1 final layer of $R_x R_z$

Layer: $R_x R_z$ + all connected XX gates

Parameters of XX gates are the same in all layers (same entanglement gate)

Linear encoding: $R_x(w_1 f + \phi_1) R_z(w_2 f + \phi_2)$

Hamiltonian Parameter (flux)



Kyaw, Menke, Sim, Sawaya, Oliver,
Guerreschi, Aspuru-Guzik,
arXiv:2006.03070 (2020)

Conclusions

- Meta-VQE can be used to scan over Hamiltonian parameters to find the interesting energy regions.
 - ➡ Reduction in the total computational cost (less number of objective evaluations)
- We can use its parameter solution to run a more precise minimization (opt-meta-VQE)
 - ➡ Faster convergence, potentially avoiding barren plateaus and local minima
- The encoding strategy in VQE-type algorithms might be useful to guide the optimization towards the solution.
 - ➡ Avoiding barren plateaus (T. Volkoff, P. J. Coles, Quantum Sci. Technol. 6, 025008 (2021))

Code and demo (notebooks)

<https://github.com/aspuru-guzik-group/Meta-VQE>

Using Tequila quantum package

<https://github.com/aspuru-guzik-group/tequila>



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Questions?

