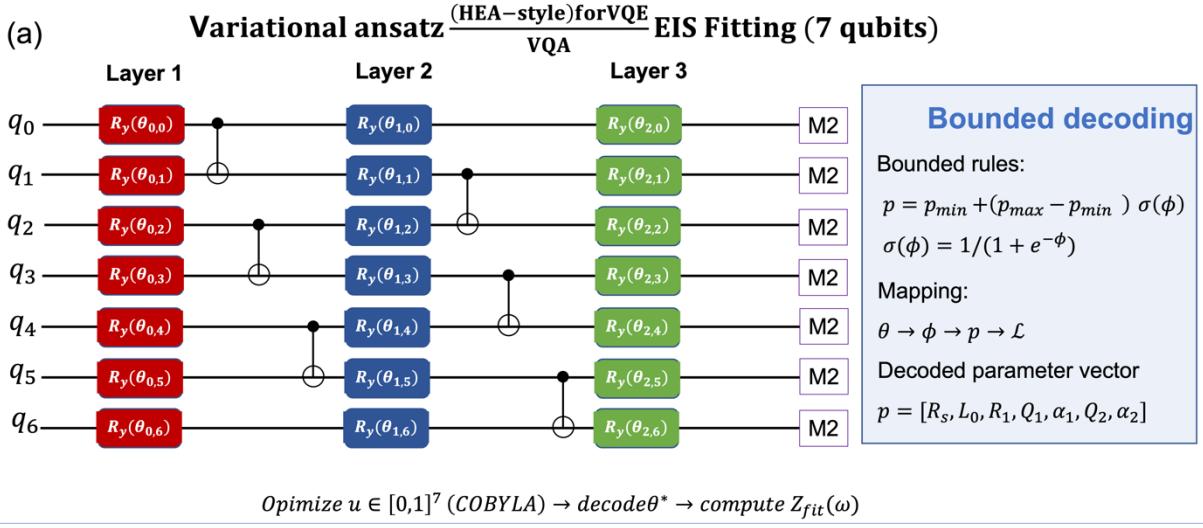


Figure 2 | Quantum inference architecture for MXene EIS parameter estimation. (a) **Continuous branch (VQE/VQA):** A 7-qubit hardware-efficient ansatz (HEA, three layers of parameterized R_y rotations with entangling links) encodes the seven circuit parameters $\theta = \{R_s, L, R_{ct}, Q_1, \alpha_1, Q_2, \alpha_2\}$. Measurement outcomes are mapped to normalized variables $u \in [0,1]^7$ and converted to physical parameters via the bounded decoding rule $p = p_{min} + (p_{max} - p_{min})\sigma(\phi)$ (and the linear/log maps defined in Table S1), ensuring feasibility ($R > 0$, $0 < \alpha \leq 1$) throughout optimization. A derivative-free COBYLA loop updates the ansatz angles using shot-based evaluations (4096 shots) to minimize the complex-domain EIS loss, yielding a decoded θ^* used to compute $Z_{fit}(\omega)$. (b) Discrete branch (QAOA/QUBO): A local quadratic surrogate of the classical EIS objective is discretized using 3 bits per parameter (21 qubits total) and mapped to an Ising Hamiltonian $H_C = \sum_i h_i Z_i + \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} Z_i Z_j$. The $p = 1$ QAOA circuit prepares $|+\rangle^{\otimes 21}$, applies the problem unitary $U_C(\gamma) = \exp(-i\gamma H_C)$ and mixer $U_B(\beta) = \exp(-i\beta \sum_i X_i)$, and is sampled with 4096 shots. The most favorable measured bitstring is decoded (trust-region $\Delta=0.08$ about the classical baseline and bounds in Table S1) to obtain θ , which is then used to generate the final EIS overlays.



(b) QAOA $p = 1$ circuit for the EIS QUBO surrogate (21 qubits)

