

# Variational Hybrid Quantum Algorithms

with Applications to Quantum Chemistry Problems

OsloMet – Autumn School on Quantum Computing

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Chalmers University of Technology

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## My Background and Learning Goals

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PostDoc at Chalmers University (Oct.2021)

Development of **quantum algorithms** to

enable accurate and efficient **quantum chemistry**

calculations on current and near-term quantum computers



Gothenburg



**WACQT** Wallenberg Centre for Quantum Technology

140M EUR Research effort for

Sweden's Quantum Computing Stack

≈30 PIs, 20 PostDocs and 40 PhDs

NordIQuEst:

HPC-QC ecosystem in the Nordics + Estonia



**MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE**  
FOR SOLID STATE RESEARCH

Stuttgart

PhD in **theoretical quantum chemistry** at

MPI Stuttgart and University of Stuttgart

**Method Development for Quantum Chemistry.**

Development of Quantum Monte Carlo methods for  
strongly correlated electron systems

St. Lorenzen im Paltental



**TU**  
**Graz**

BSc/MSc Studies in **physics** at TU Graz

Specialization: **Computational/Solid State Physics.**

## Take-home messages

- What is quantum chemistry concerned with?
- How can quantum computing help quantum chemistry?
- What are hybrid quantum-classical algorithms?
- How can we simulate chemistry on quantum hardware?
- What is the Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE)?

# Outline

- Motivation – Quantum Chemistry and Electronic Structure Theory
- The Case for Quantum Computing
  - Gate-based Quantum Computing and the Quantum Circuit Model
- How to do quantum chemistry on quantum hardware?
- Quantum Circuit Ansätze and the Variational Quantum Eigensolver
- Applications and Outlook

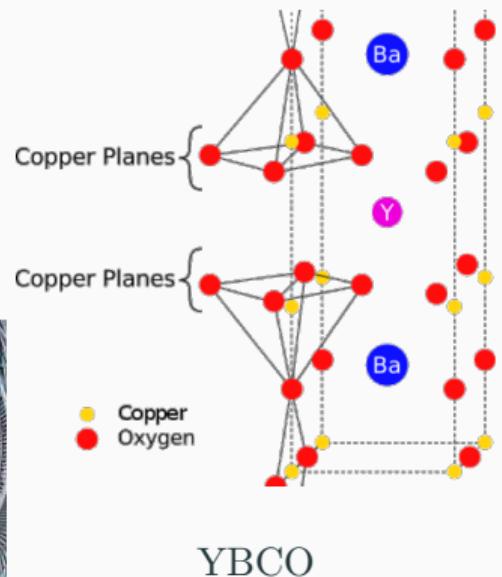
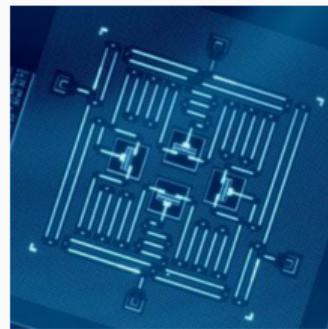
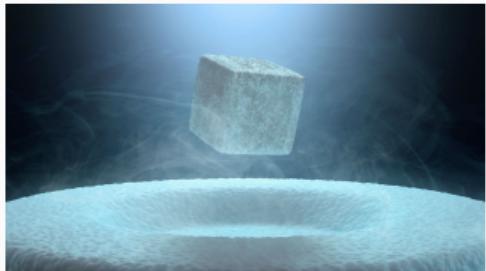
# Motivation – Quantum Chemistry and Electronic Structure Theory

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Surprisingly small systems at the center of fascinating  
physical and chemical effects

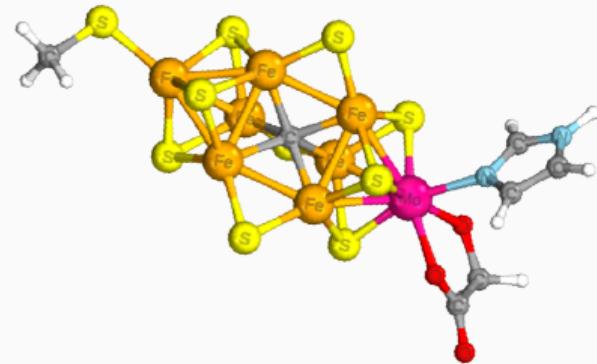
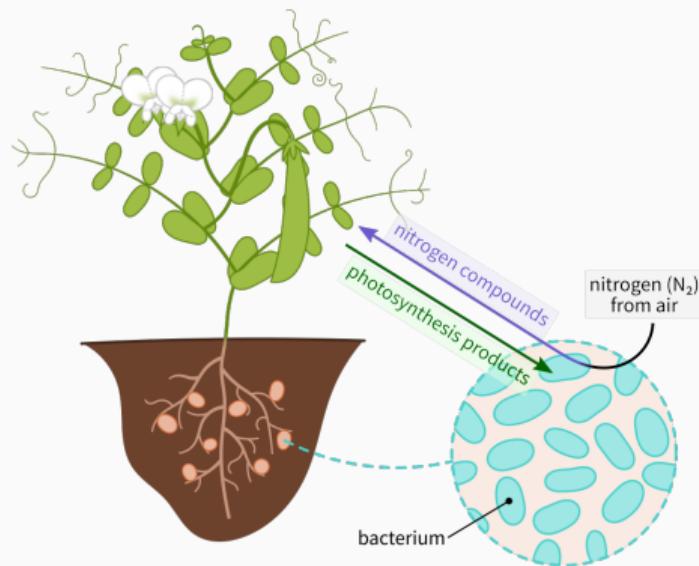
# High-temperature superconductivity

Zero electrical resistivity



# Nitrogen fixation

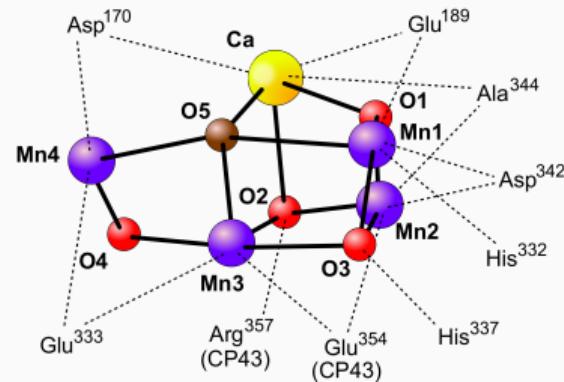
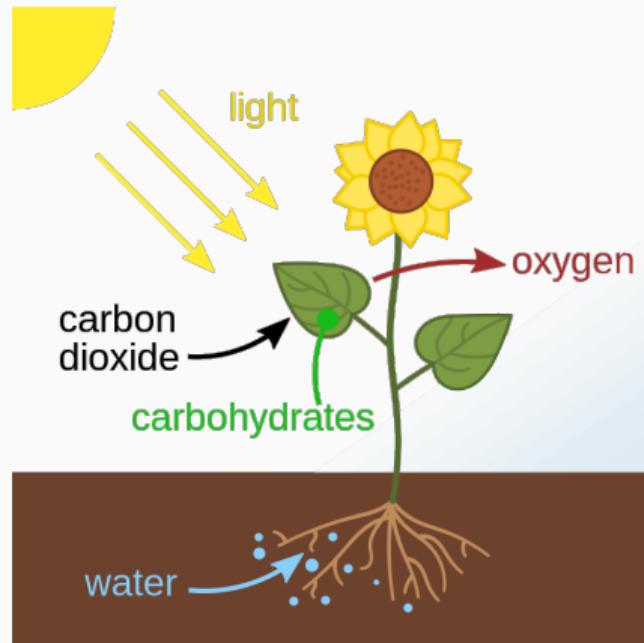
Haber-Bosch process: 1-2% global energy consumption, huge CO<sub>2</sub> emission



Iron-sulfur clusters

⇒ Cheaper and cleaner ammonia production for fertilizers

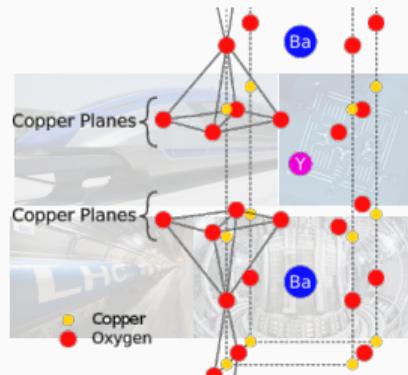
# Photosynthesis



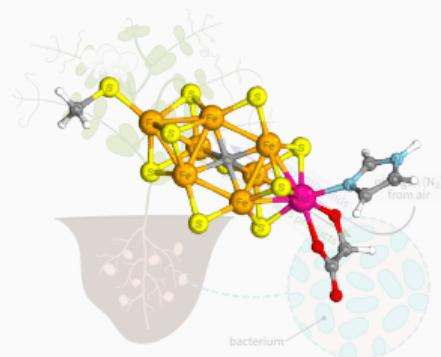
Manganese-Calcium-Oxygen Clusters

Artificial photosynthesis: Carbon capture and hydrogen and oxygen for fuel cell

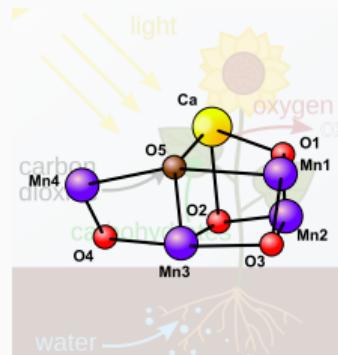
# Applications of Quantum Algorithms: *Ab Initio* Quantum Chemistry



**YBCO:** Unconventional high- $T_c$  superconductivity



**FeMoCo:** primary cofactor of nitrogenase  $\rightarrow$  nitrogen fixation



**Manganese-Calcium-Oxygen Clusters:** Oxygen evolving clusters in photosystem II

Surprisingly small systems responsible for interesting physical/chemical properties!

**Strong electron correlation**  $\Rightarrow$  challenging systems for computational approaches!

Accurate theoretical understanding at nano-scale for bottom-up materials design!

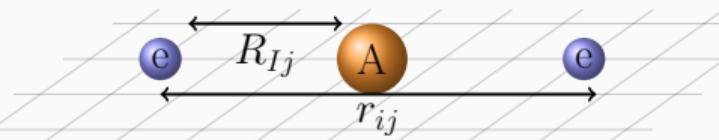
# *Ab Initio* Quantum Chemistry – Electronic Structure Theory

To obtain insight on the **physical** and **chemical properties** (ground- and excited state energies, energy differences, response functions, ...) of quantum systems we need to **solve the Schrödinger equation**:

$$\hat{H} |\Psi\rangle = E |\Psi\rangle,$$

where all necessary information of a quantum system contained in electronic **molecular Hamiltonian**:

$$\hat{H} = \underbrace{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_i \nabla_{\mathbf{r}_i}^2}_{\text{kinetic energy of } e^-} - \underbrace{\sum_{I,j} \frac{Z_I}{|\mathbf{R}_I - \mathbf{r}_j|}}_{\text{Attr. potential}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r}_j|}}_{e^- - e^- \text{ repulsion}}$$

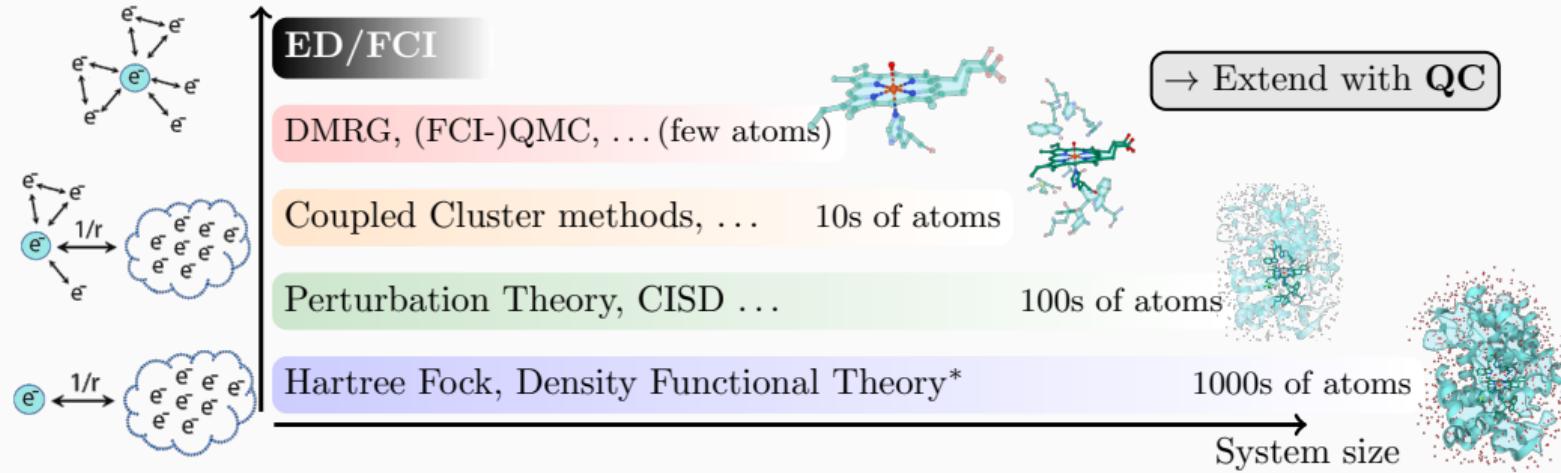


Coulomb repulsion correlates all electrons of a system → analytic solution too complex  
→ **approximations and computational approaches**

# Accuracy and cost – scaling and hierarchy of methods

Depending how accurately we treat correlation: various methods and **levels of theory** to solve the Schrödinger equation

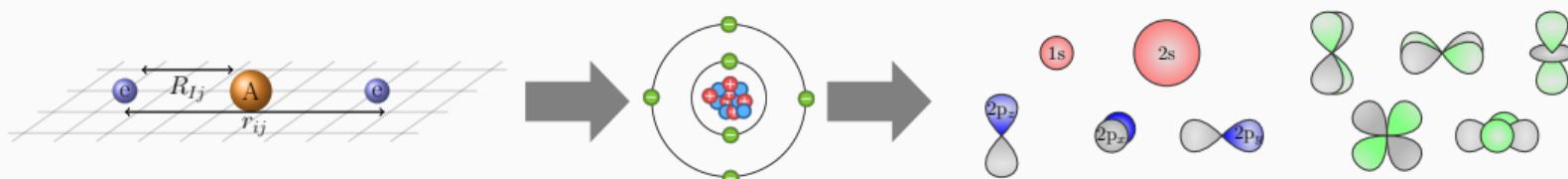
Accuracy/Cost



Need **highly-accurate** methods to describe **strongly correlated** problems

# *Ab Initio* Quantum Chemistry – Electronic Structure Theory

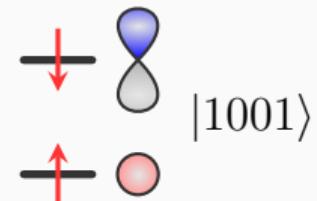
We have to choose a **basis/orbitals** we perform our calculations in! In quantum chemistry: starting orbitals are most often “atomic-like” orbitals (for each atom):



Second quantized form of molecular Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \underbrace{\sum_{i,j} t_{ij} \sum_{\sigma=\uparrow,\downarrow} a_{i,\sigma}^\dagger a_{j,\sigma}}_{\text{kinetic/hopping term}} + \underbrace{\sum_{i,j,k,l} V_{ijkl} \sum_{\sigma,\tau=\uparrow,\downarrow} a_{i,\sigma}^\dagger a_{j,\tau}^\dagger a_{l,\tau} a_{k,\sigma}}_{\text{e}^- - \text{e}^- \text{ interaction term}}$$

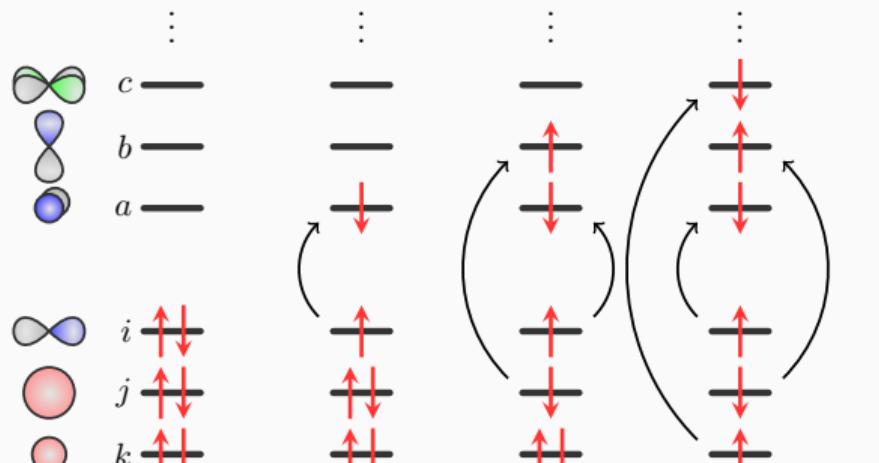
$a_{i,\sigma}^{(\dagger)}$  annihilates(creates) an electron with spin  $\sigma = \{\uparrow, \downarrow\}$  in orbital  $i$ . e.g.  
for 2 electrons in 2 orbitals (=4 spin-orbitals):  $a_{1,\uparrow}^\dagger a_{2,\downarrow}^\dagger |vac\rangle = |1001\rangle$ :



# Exponential scaling of Full Configuration Interaction

FCI  $\Rightarrow$  exact solution in a given basis: linear combination of determinants

$$|\Psi\rangle = |\Phi_{HF}\rangle + \sum_i c_i |\Phi_i\rangle$$



$$|\Phi_{HF}\rangle + |\Phi_i^a\rangle + |\Phi_{ij}^{ab}\rangle + |\Phi_{ijk}^{abc}\rangle + \dots$$

All possible excitations from HF determinant

Number of possible states for given number of electrons,  $N$ , and orbitals,  $n$ ,  $\sim \binom{N}{n}$

Mol.	#orbitals	#electrons	#states
H <sub>2</sub>	2	2	4
LiH	4	4	36
Be <sub>2</sub>	8	8	4900
H <sub>2</sub> O	12	12	$\sim 8 \cdot 10^5$
C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub>	16	16	$\sim 16 \cdot 10^6$
F <sub>2</sub>	18	18	$\sim 2 \cdot 10^9$

# The Case for Quantum Computing

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Classical bit

0

1

Quantum bit = qubit

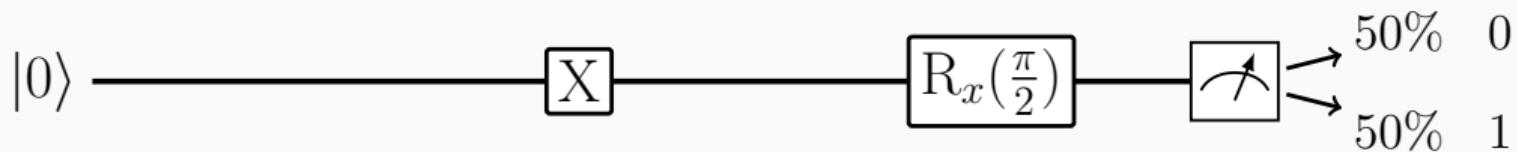
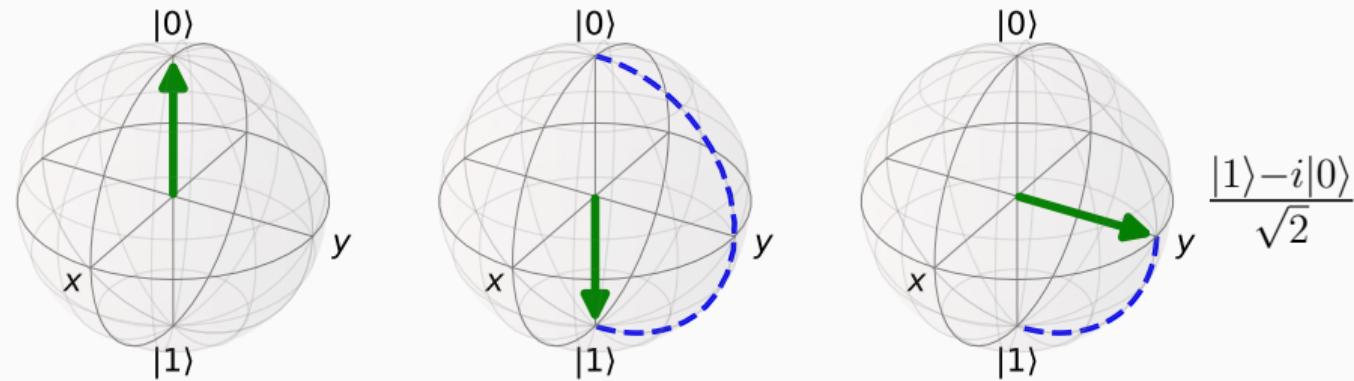
$$a |0\rangle + b |1\rangle$$

Quantum bit = qubit

$$a |0\rangle + b |1\rangle$$

$$|a|^2 + |b|^2 = 1$$

# Qubits – Bloch Sphere



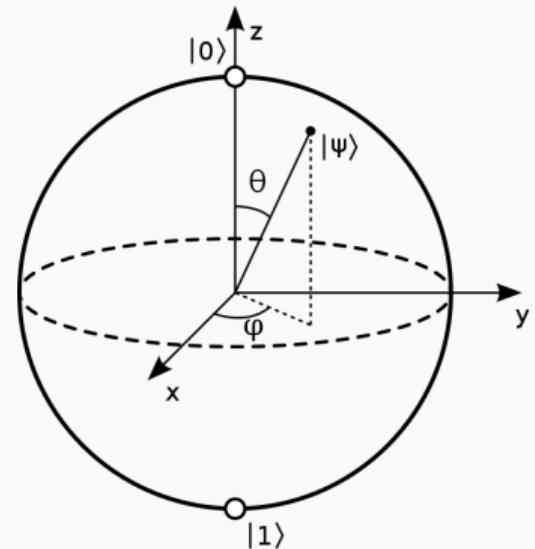
## Parametrized gates

For flexibility, we need **parametrized** gates, e.g. rotation around axis:

$$R_X(\theta) = \exp(-i\frac{\theta}{2}\hat{X}) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta/2) & -i\sin(\theta/2) \\ -i\sin(\theta/2) & \cos(\theta/2) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_Y(\theta) = \exp(-i\frac{\theta}{2}\hat{Y}) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\theta/2) & -\sin(\theta/2) \\ \sin(\theta/2) & \cos(\theta/2) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R_Z(\varphi) = \exp(-i\frac{\varphi}{2}\hat{Z}) = \begin{pmatrix} \exp(-i\varphi/2) & 0 \\ 0 & \exp(i\varphi/2) \end{pmatrix}$$



with the Pauli matrices:  $\hat{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\hat{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\hat{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$

# Multiple Qubits

Bringing **two** qubits together:

$$|\Psi\rangle = \overbrace{(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)}^{\text{qubit 1}} \otimes \overbrace{(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)}^{\text{qubit 2}} = |00\rangle + |01\rangle + |10\rangle + |11\rangle \quad 4 \text{ states}$$

**Three** qubits:

$$\begin{aligned} |\Psi\rangle &= \overbrace{(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)}^{\text{qubit 1}} \otimes \overbrace{(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)}^{\text{qubit 2}} \otimes \overbrace{(|0\rangle + |1\rangle)}^{\text{qubit 3}} \\ &= |000\rangle + |001\rangle + |010\rangle + |100\rangle + |011\rangle + |101\rangle + |110\rangle + |111\rangle \quad 8 \text{ states} \end{aligned}$$

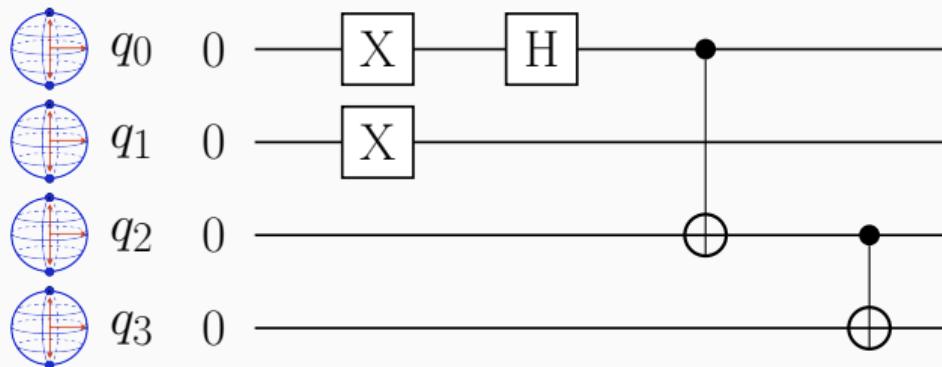
$n$  qubits can encode exponentially many ( $2^n$ ) states.

→ Need new **quantum algorithms** to use this potential advantage!

$\approx 40$  qubits enough to encode the  $\sim 2 \cdot 10^9$  states of  $F_2$ !

# Quantum circuit model

**Circuit model:** Lines represent qubits and similar to classical circuits (AND, OR, ...) we can act with **operations/gates** on one (rotations) or **multiple qubits** (CNOT, ...)



Hadamard gate (H):

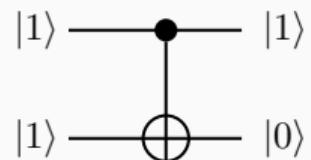
$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Controlled NOT (CNOT):

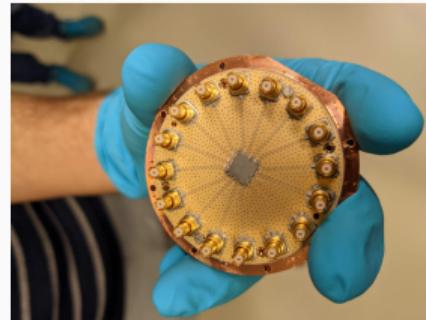
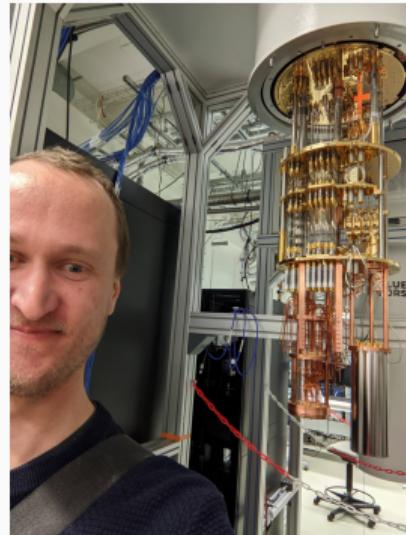
target qubit ( $\oplus$ ) is inverted if control qubit ( $\cdot$ ) is in  $|1\rangle$  state

**Exercise:** what is the state  $|\Phi\rangle$  at the end of the above circuit?

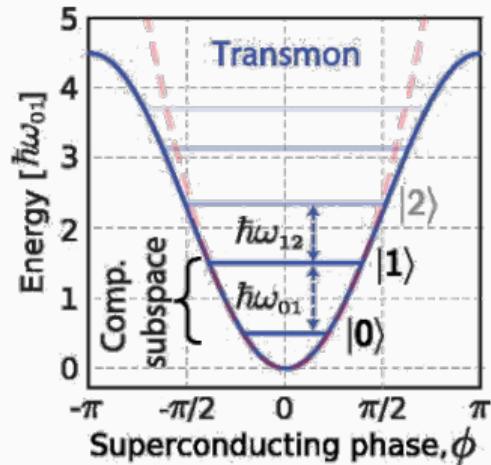
Parametrized gates ( $R_x(\theta), \dots$ ) and multi-qubit gates allow us to prepare flexible **entangled** (non-classical) states,  $|\Psi(\theta)\rangle = \hat{U}(\theta)|0\rangle$ .



# Noisy intermediate-scale quantum - NISQ



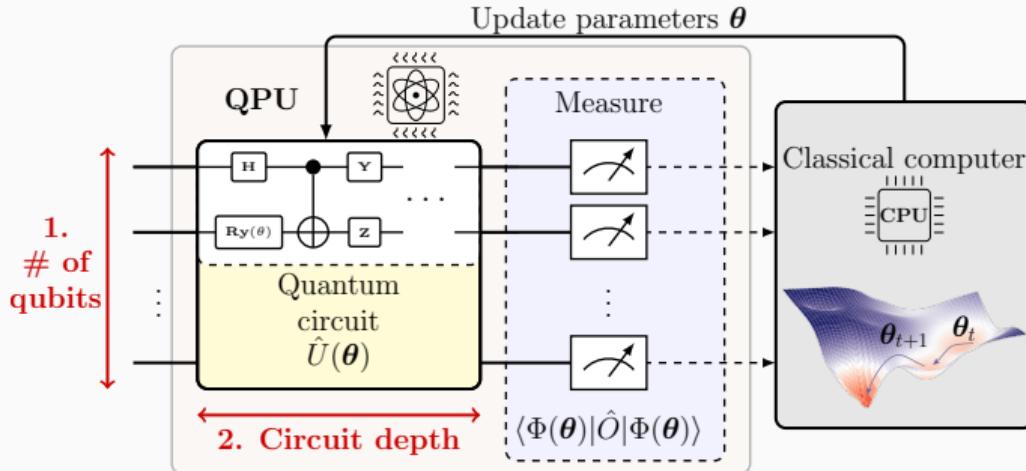
3 qubit device @Chalmers



Qubits rely on quantum effects → very fragile, easily influenced by environmental effects/noise. Need to isolate and cool them close to absolute zero! Only few of them...

# Hybrid quantum-classical approach

Current quantum hardware has many flaws: **noise, decoherence and limited number of qubits** → Hybrid quantum-classical approach



Use pros of both CPUs and QPUs:

- Use **short-depth quantum circuits** that fit current hardware
- Can **improve on classical estimates** by non-classical states
- Store quantum state with **exponentially fewer resources**
- Use CPU to i.e. optimize gate parameters,  $\theta$

# How to do quantum chemistry on quantum hardware?

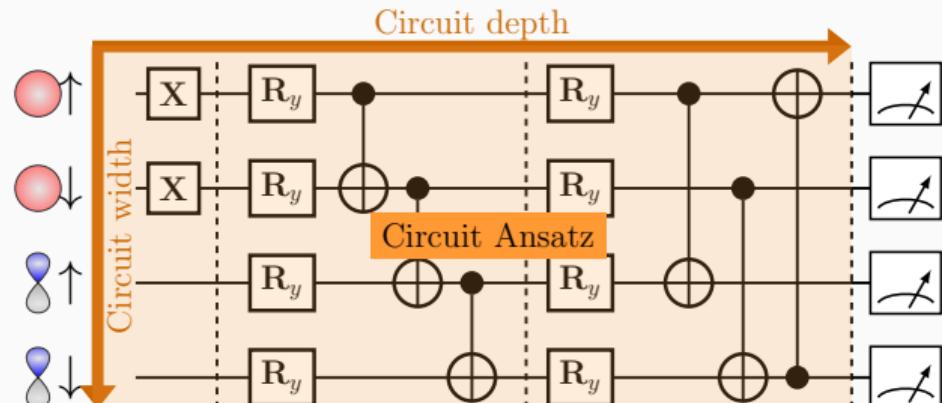
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# Quantum Chemistry on Quantum Computers

1. Map fermionic Hamiltonian/basis functions onto quantum hardware/qubits\*
2. Choose an ‘Ansatz’
3. Use quantum algorithms for ground-, excited states, dynamics, ...

a) Prepare an initial state

$$|\Phi_0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



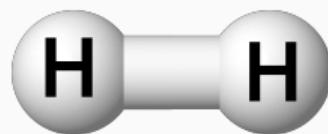
- b) Perform **unitary** operations of the quantum algorithm on the qubits  
c) Measure observables of interest, ( $\langle \hat{H} \rangle$ )

$$|\Phi\rangle = \hat{U} |\Phi_0\rangle = a_1 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + a_2 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \cdots + a_{2^N} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

\* Jordan-Wigner, Bravyi-Kitaev, (Ann. Phys. **298**, 210 (2002)), Parity encoding ...

## Example: Classic solution of hydrogen molecule – H<sub>2</sub>

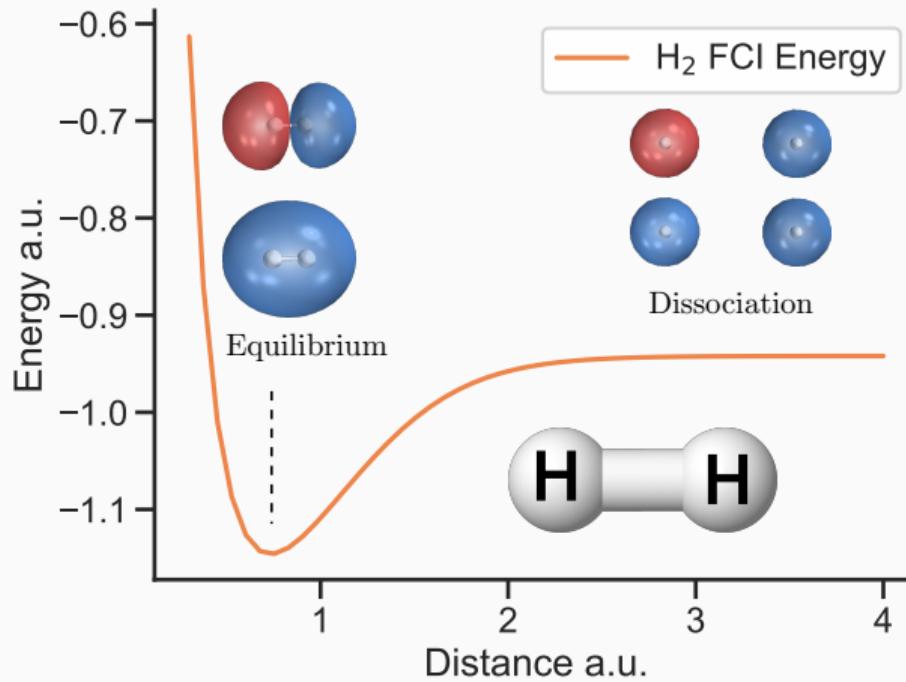
Hydrogen molecule in a “minimal” basis set: 1s orbital for each hydrogen.  
4-dimensional Hilbert space for two electrons in two orbitals (4 spin-orbitals).



1⟩:	— ↑ — ↓ —	— ↑ — ↓ —	1001⟩
-----			
2⟩:	— ↑ — ↓ —	— ↑ — ↓ —	0110⟩
-----			
3⟩:	— — — ↑ —	— — — ↓ —	0011⟩
-----			
4⟩:	— ↑ — ↓ —	— — — —	1100⟩

**Solution:** Construct matrix representation of quantum chemistry Hamiltonian in this basis,  $H_{ij} = \langle i | \hat{H} | j \rangle$ , → diagonalize → exact solution in given basis

## Example: Hydrogen molecule – H<sub>2</sub> – PES



Groundstate wavefunction at equilibrium:  $|\Psi_0\rangle = 0.995|1100\rangle - 0.105|0011\rangle$   
Groundstate wavefunction at dissociation:  $|\Psi_0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|1100\rangle - |0011\rangle)$

## Encoding the problem on a quantum computer

Qubits can quite naturally store the occupation of an spin-orbital:

$|0\rangle$ -state/ $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$ : empty,     $|1\rangle$ -state/ $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$ : occupied

Also: action of creation and annihilation operators representable by Pauli matrices:

$$\hat{a}^\dagger |0\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\hat{X} - i\hat{Y}}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = |1\rangle$$

$$\hat{a} |1\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{\hat{X} + i\hat{Y}}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = |0\rangle,$$

with the Pauli matrices

$$\hat{X} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{Z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

## (Anti-)Symmetric wave functions – Pauli exclusion principle

However:

- For Fermions, the Pauli exclusion principle requires the wavefunction to be **anti-symmetric** under the exchange of two particles:

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_i, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N) = -\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots, \mathbf{r}_i, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N)$$

- While Bosonic wave functions are **symmetric** under the exchange of particles

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_i, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N) = +\Psi(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \dots, \mathbf{r}_j, \dots, \mathbf{r}_i, \dots, \mathbf{r}_N)$$

## Anti-symmetry/Anti-commutation relations

Electrons are **indistinguishable Fermions**, with anti-symmetric wavefunction and anti-commuting creation/annihilation operators:

$$\left\{ a_i^\dagger, a_j^\dagger \right\} = 0, \quad a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger = -a_j^\dagger a_i^\dagger$$

Unlike **individually addressable** qubits, with Pauli operators:

$$\left( \frac{X_i - iY_i}{2} \right) \left( \frac{X_j - iY_j}{2} \right) = + \left( \frac{X_j - iY_j}{2} \right) \left( \frac{X_i - iY_i}{2} \right)$$

**Task:** We need to map the **fermionic** Hamiltonian to a **qubit** Hamiltonian in terms of Pauli operators:

$$\hat{H}_f = \sum V_{ijkl} a_{i,\sigma}^\dagger a_{j,\tau}^\dagger a_{l,\tau} a_{k,\sigma} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{H}_q = \sum_i c_i \hat{P}_i$$

# Jordan Wigner Mapping

Note that the following Pauli operators anti-commute:

$$\hat{Z}\hat{X} = -\hat{X}\hat{Z}, \quad \hat{Z}\hat{Y} = -\hat{Y}\hat{Z}$$

*Exercise:* convince yourself of equation above

**Jordan-Wigner encoding:**

$$a_1^\dagger = \frac{X_1 - iY_1}{2}$$

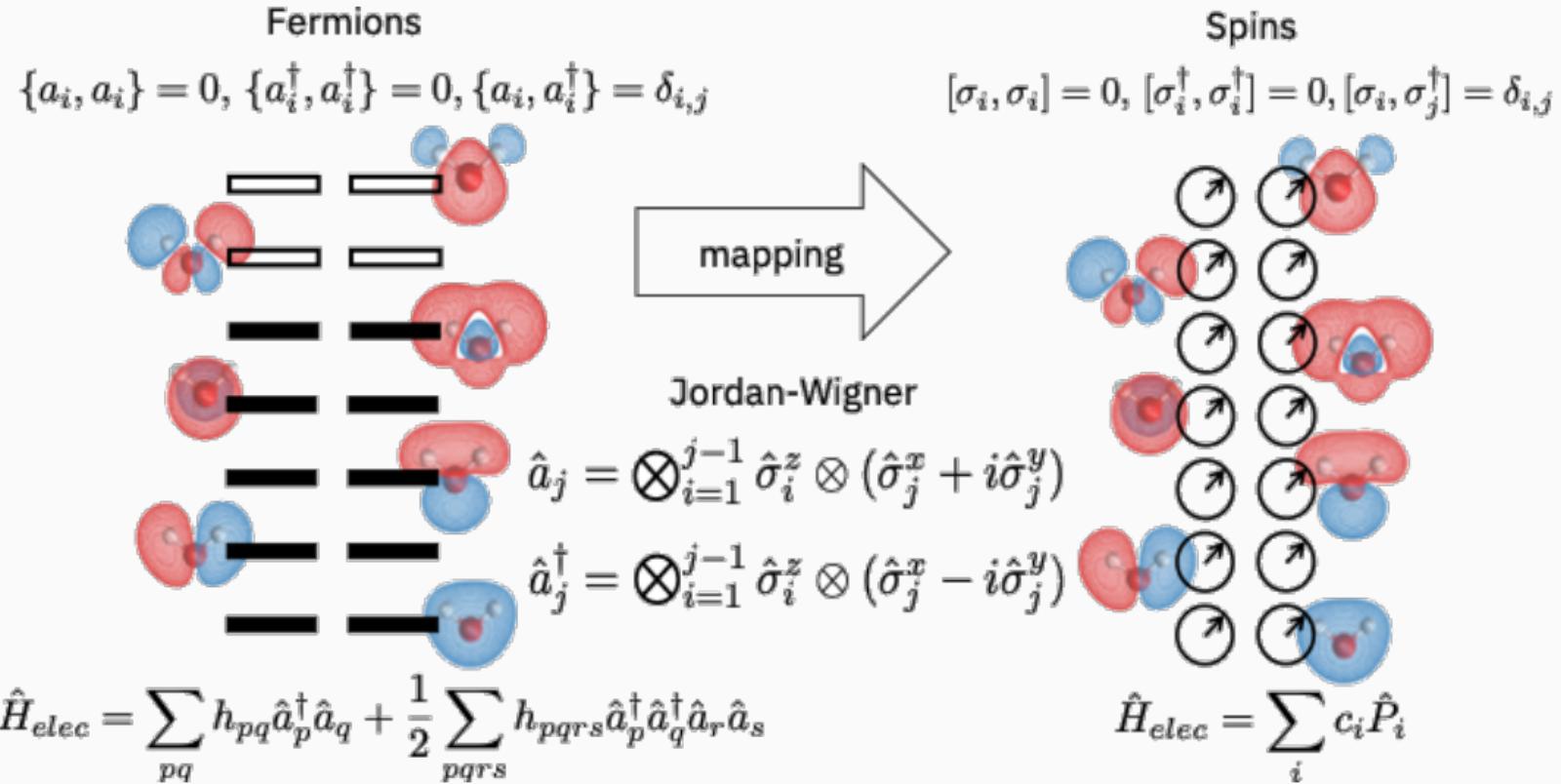
$$a_2^\dagger = Z_1 \left( \frac{X_2 - iY_2}{2} \right)$$

$$a_3^\dagger = Z_1 Z_2 \left( \frac{X_3 - iY_3}{2} \right)$$

$$a_i^\dagger = \bigotimes_{j=1}^{i-1} Z_j \left( \frac{X_i - iY_i}{2} \right)$$

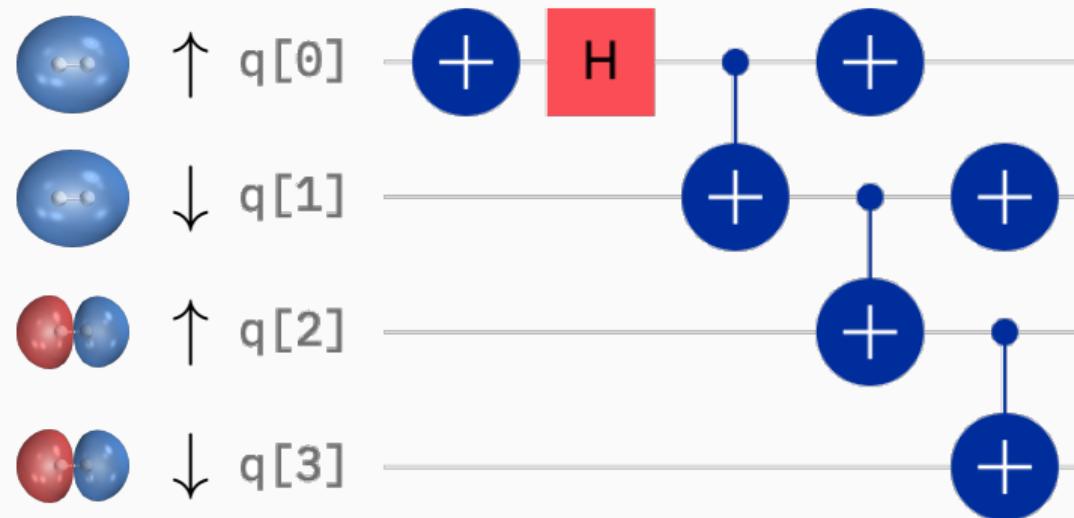
- Fix anti-symmetry by tracking parity/phase before each creation/annihilation operator with  $\hat{Z}_i$
- **Exercise:** Demonstrate anti-symmetry of JW-encoded  $a_3^\dagger a_2^\dagger = -a_2^\dagger a_3^\dagger$ !

# JW Mapping – Recap



## Re: H<sub>2</sub> at dissociation

What is the state of this quantum circuit?



Try: IBM Quantum Composer

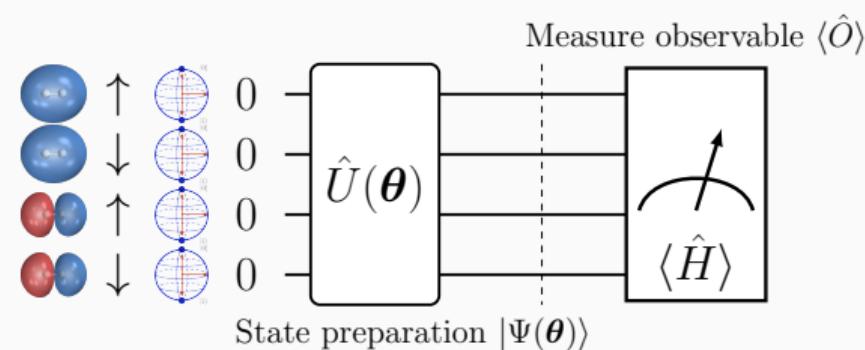
## More general quantum circuits – Ansätze

$\text{H}_2$  groundstate wavefunction at equilibrium:

$$|\Psi_0\rangle = 0.995 |1100\rangle - 0.105 |0011\rangle + 0 \cdot |1001\rangle + 0 \cdot |0110\rangle$$

Need a more general “Ansatz”,  $\hat{U}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) |\mathbf{0}\rangle$ :

$$\begin{aligned} |\Psi(\boldsymbol{\theta})\rangle &= \hat{U}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) |0000\rangle \\ &\stackrel{!}{=} c_1 |1100\rangle + c_2 |0011\rangle \\ &\quad + c_3 |1001\rangle + c_4 |0110\rangle \end{aligned}$$



Given a general quantum Ansatz  $\hat{U}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ : We need algorithms to find the optimal gate parameters  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ ! The variational quantum eigensolver (VQE) can find the **most optimal** parameters/angles  $\boldsymbol{\theta}$  to minimize the energy expectation value:

$$E(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \langle \mathbf{0} | \hat{U}^\dagger(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \hat{H} \hat{U}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) | \mathbf{0} \rangle$$

# Quantum Circuit Ansätze and the Variational Quantum Eigensolver

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# Ansatz for the quantum chemistry wavefunction

In general: an **Ansatz** is a quantum circuit with parametrized gates

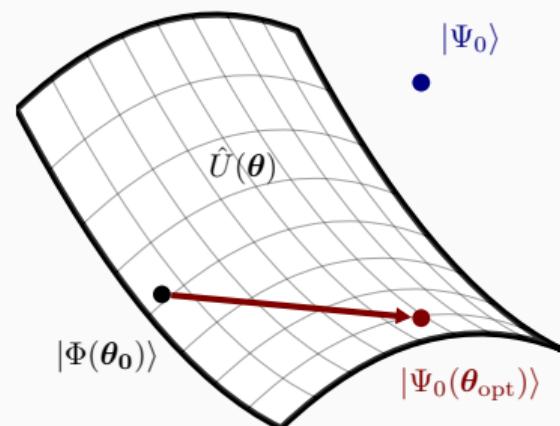
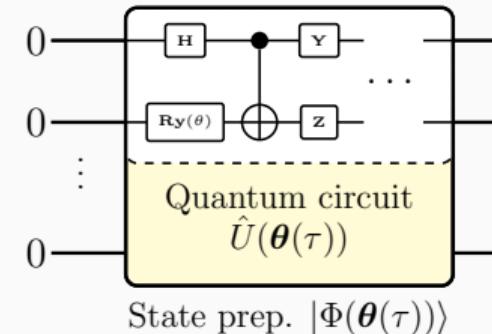
Desired in Ansätze:

- Expressive – spans large and correct portion of Hilbert space
- Small number of qubits
- Short-depth

→ **Hardware efficient**

Consideration due to noise and coherence times:

- Circuit depth
- Circuit connectivity
- Number of parameters
- Number of 2-qubit gates
- Gate types (Native to hardware?)

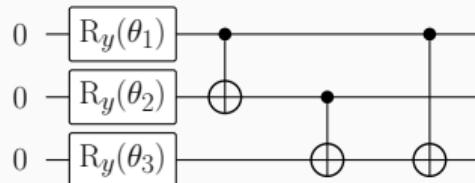


# Ansatz for the quantum chemistry wavefunction:s $|\Psi(\theta)\rangle = \hat{U}(\theta) |0\rangle$

## Hardware efficient Ansätze:

- Gates directly tailored for the specific quantum device
- Spans a very large portion of the Fock space (inefficient)
- Large number of parameters, hard to optimize, “barren plateaus”

$$|\Psi(\theta)\rangle = \prod_i^d \left[ \hat{U}_{ent} \hat{U}_{\text{rot}}(\{\theta_i\}) \right] |\psi_{\text{init}}\rangle$$

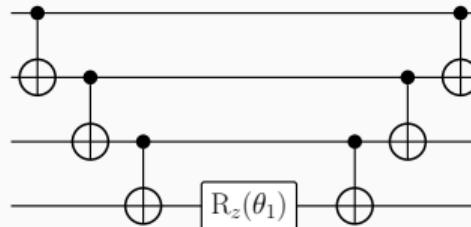


⇒ Adaptive Ansätze\*

## Chemically/Physically motivated:

- Chemistry-inspired exponential Ansatz:  
*Unitary coupled cluster Ansatz*
- Encode excitations of electrons between different orbitals,  $|1100\rangle \rightarrow |0011\rangle$
- Not hardware efficient, deep circuits
- Less parameters, easier to optimize

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



## Variational Quantum Eigensolver – VQE

**Ground state**,  $|\Psi_0\rangle$ , is fundamental in quantum chemistry and electronic structure theory → used to calculate all sort of properties, like reaction rates and reaction pathways

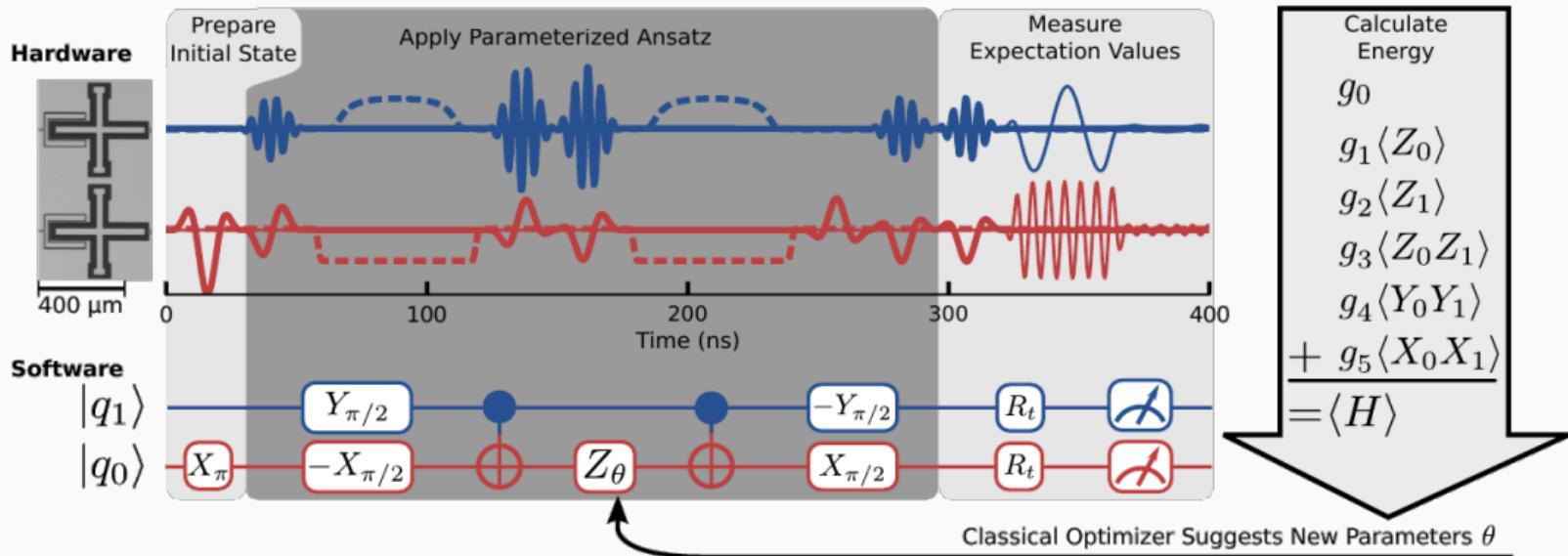
**Our goal** is to estimate:  $\hat{H} |\Psi_0\rangle = E_0 |\Psi_0\rangle \Rightarrow \langle \Psi_0 | \hat{H} | \Psi_0 \rangle = E_0$

**Variational principle:** an arbitrary state,  $|\Psi(\theta)\rangle$ , the expectation value of  $\hat{H}$ , will be an upper bound to  $E_0$

$$\langle \Psi(\theta) | \hat{H} | \Psi(\theta) \rangle = E(\theta) \geq E_0$$

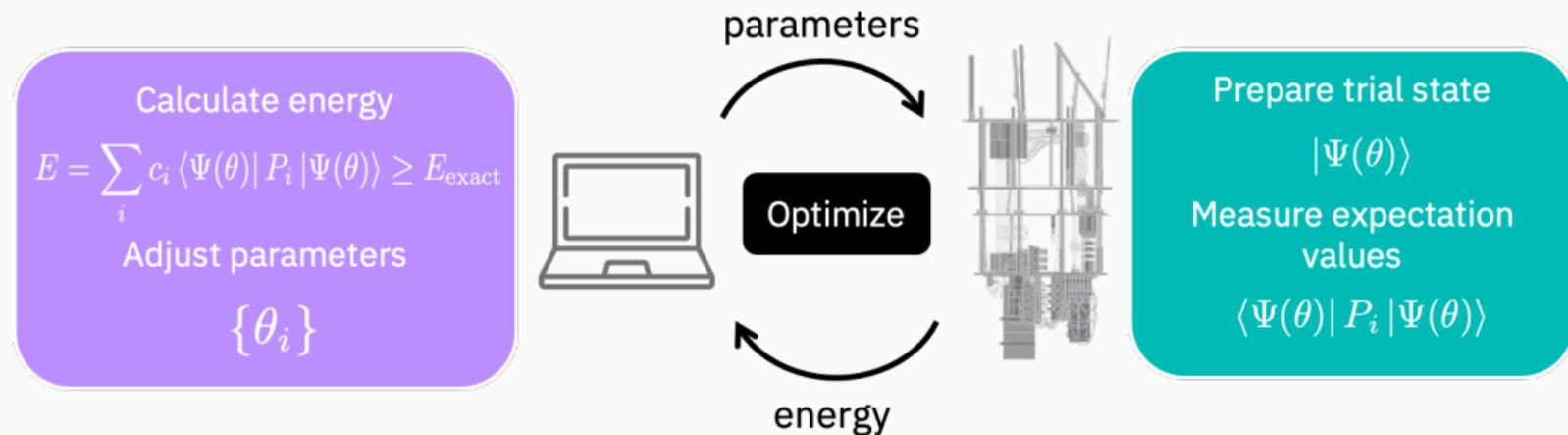
# Variational Quantum Eigensolver

Leverage pros of both classical and quantum computers:



# Variational Quantum Eigensolver

**VQE:** Efficiently prepare and encode  $|\Psi(\theta)\rangle$  with a suitable *Ansatz*,  $\hat{U}(\theta)$ , on **quantum hardware** and measure the expectation values of “Pauli strings”,  $\hat{P}_i$ . Reconstruct the energy and update the parameters (with some optimizer) on a **classical computer**. Repeat until convergence of  $E(\theta) = \langle \Psi(\theta) | \hat{H} | \Psi(\theta) \rangle$



## Applications and Outlook

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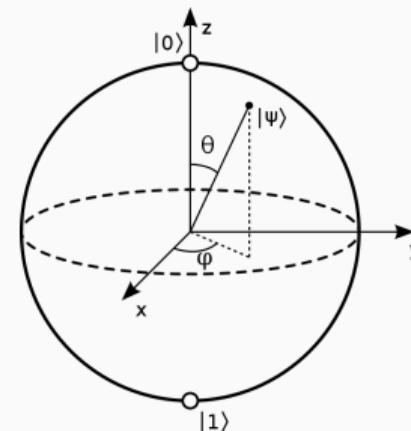
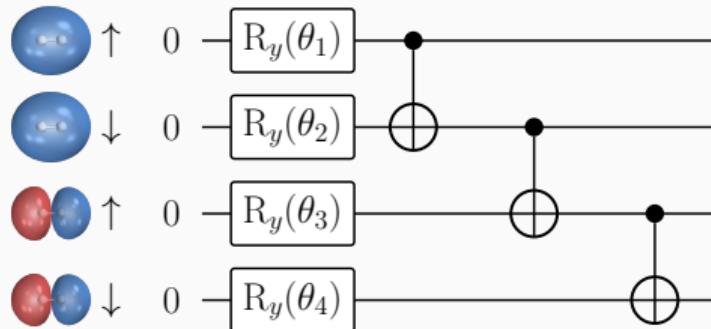
## $H_2$ – Hardware efficient Ansatz

$H_2$  groundstate wavefunction at equilibrium:

$$|\Psi_0\rangle = 0.995 |1100\rangle - 0.105 |0011\rangle + 0 \cdot |1001\rangle + 0 \cdot |0110\rangle$$

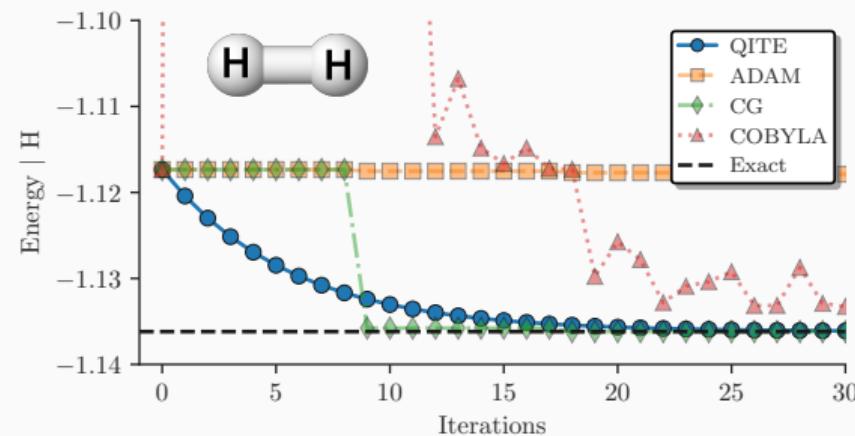
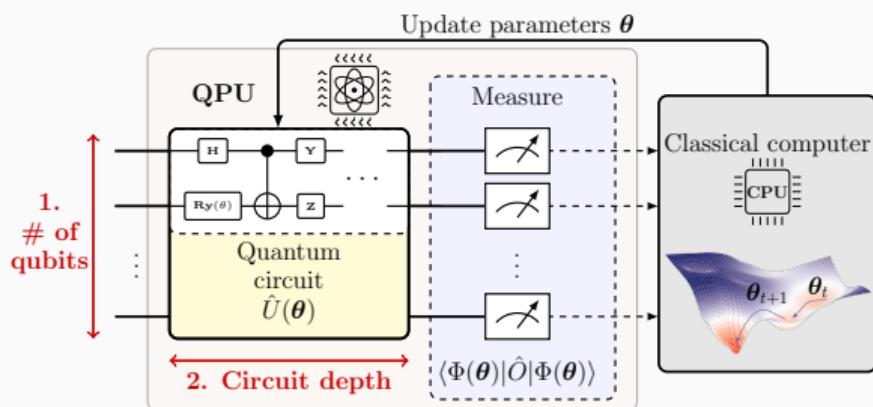
Need a general “Ansatz”,  $\hat{U}(\theta) |\mathbf{0}\rangle$ :

$$|\Psi(\theta)\rangle = \hat{U}(\theta) |0000\rangle \stackrel{!}{=} c_1(\theta) |1100\rangle + c_2(\theta) |0011\rangle + c_3(\theta) |1001\rangle + c_4(\theta) |0110\rangle$$



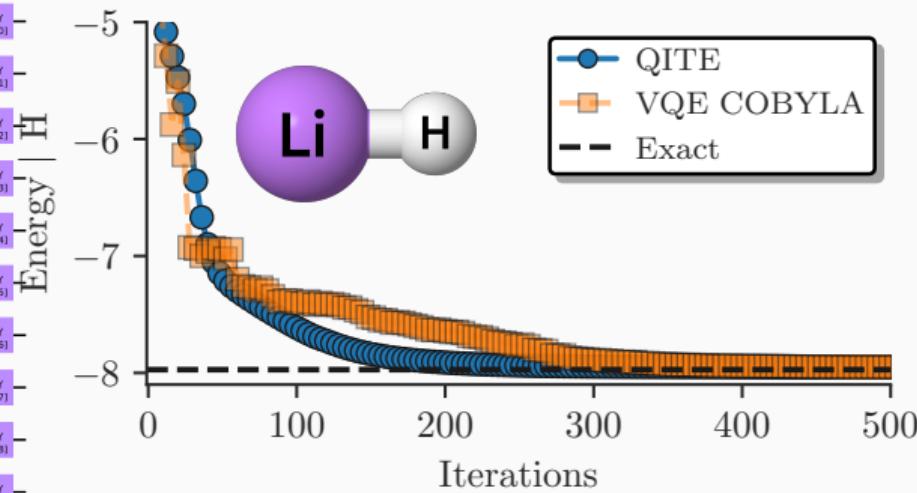
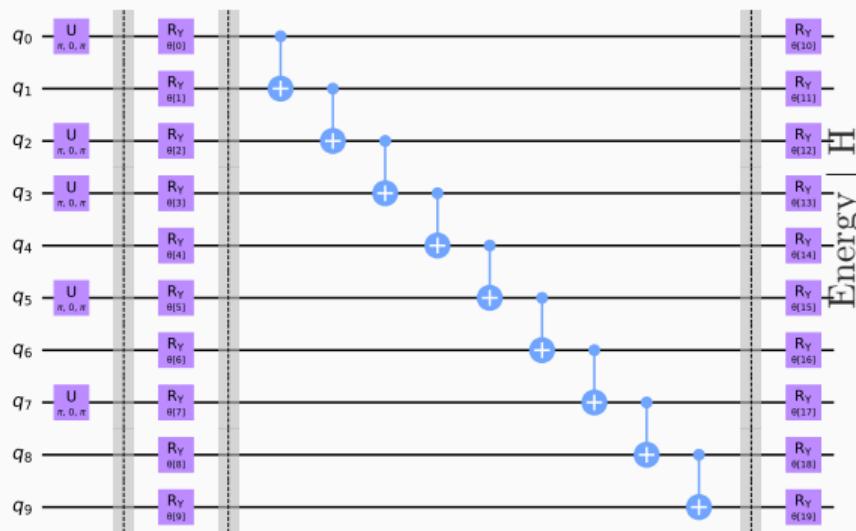
# $H_2$ VQE Statevector simulation

$H_2$  at 0.7 Å in a STO-6G basis using 4 qubits: Default Qiskit VQE settings for different types of optimizers, no noise!



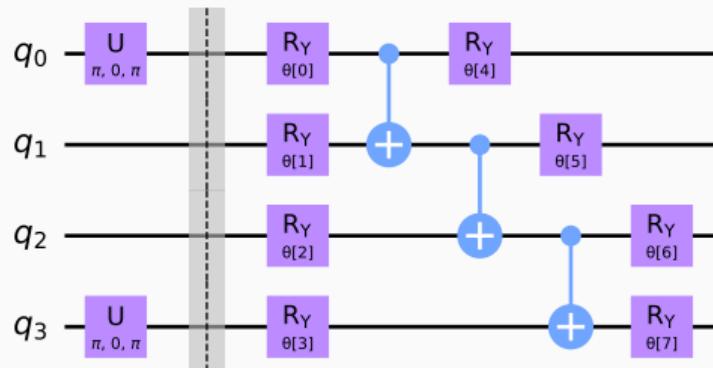
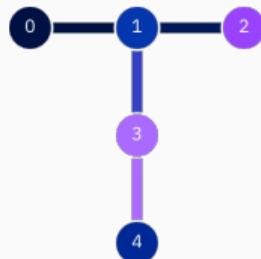
# LiH Statevector

LiH – minimal basis – 1.6Å – parity mapping – HEA Ansatz

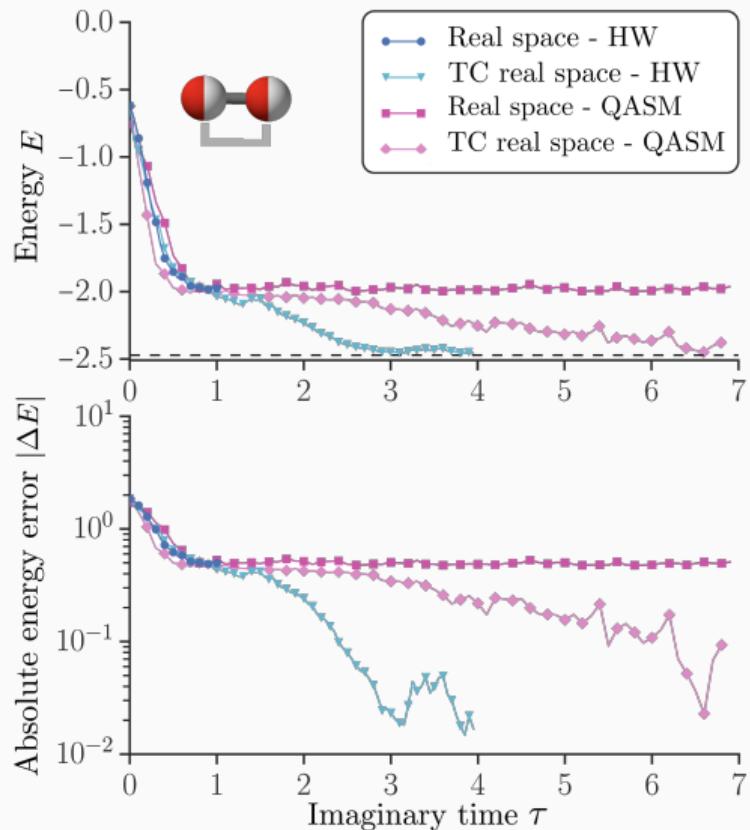


# Actual experimental results for the Hubbard model on `ibmq_lima`

- 2-site Hubbard model
- On `ibmq_lima`



Hardware-efficient RY Ansatz



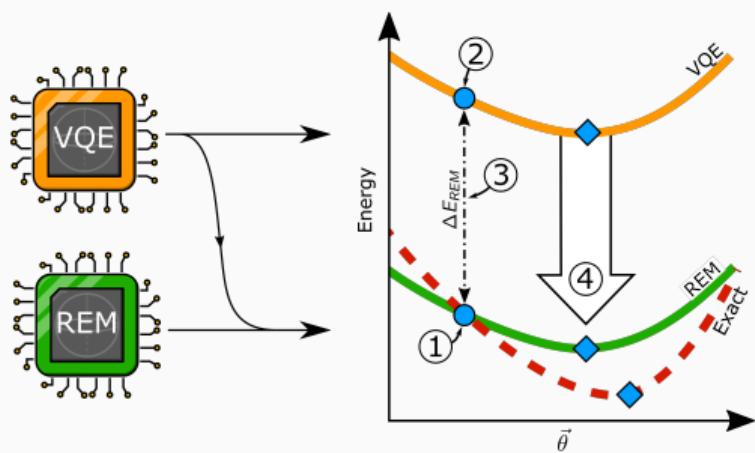
# Reference-state Error Mitigation

## Reference-State Error Mitigation: A Strategy for High Accuracy Quantum Computation of Chemistry

Phalgun Lolur,<sup>II</sup> Märten Skogh,<sup>II</sup> Werner Dobrautz, Christopher Warren, Janka Biznárová, Amr Osman, Giovanna Tancredi, Göran Wendin, Jonas Bylander, and Martin Rahm<sup>\*</sup>

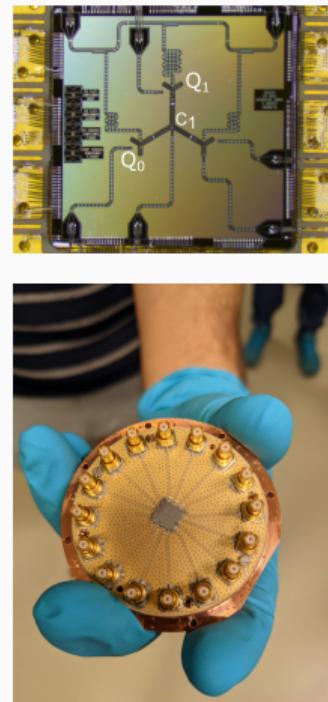
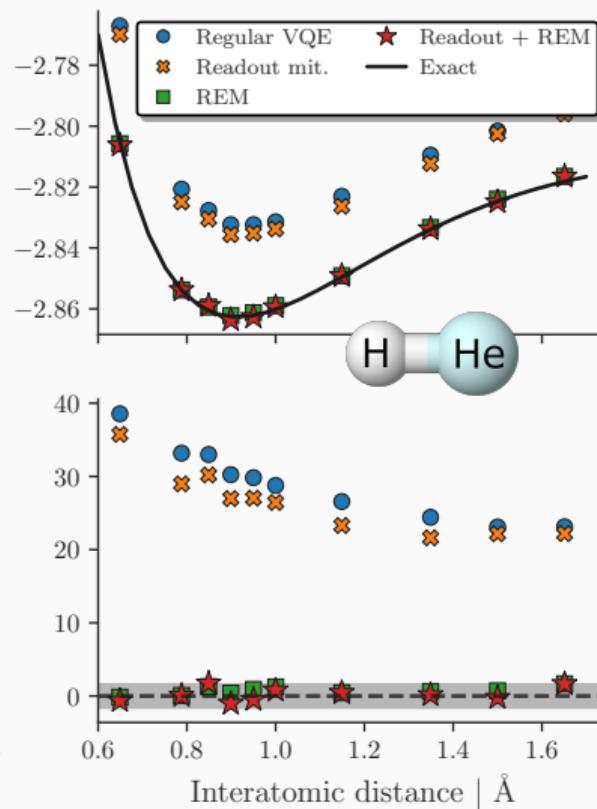
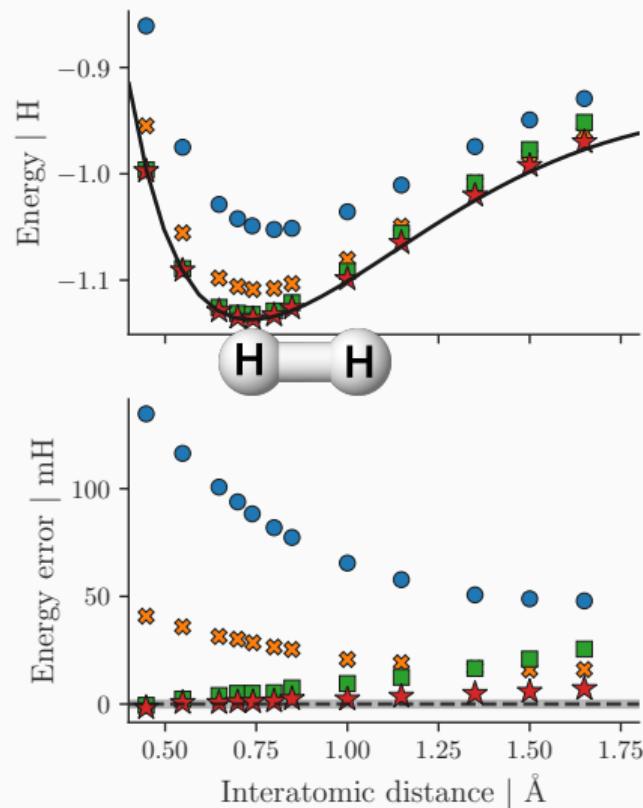


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1. Classically compute exact reference energy (i.e. Hartree-Fock),  $E(\theta_{\text{ref}})$
2. Measure reference energy on noisy device  $\mathcal{E}(\theta_{\text{ref}})$ , with reference parameters  $\theta_{\text{ref}}$
3. Calculate REM correction:  
$$\Delta E_{\text{REM}} = \mathcal{E}(\theta_{\text{ref}}) - E(\theta_{\text{ref}})$$
4. Correct final VQE energy with REM correction

# Reference-state Error Mitigation



## Further Topics

- Noise!
- Scaling up!
- Calculations on real-hardware over the cloud
- Error mitigation: Reference-State Error Mitigation: A Strategy for High Accuracy Quantum Computation of Chemistry, with calculations/experiments on Chalmers devices
- Resource reduction: Phys. Rev. Research 5, 023174, arXiv:2303.02007
- Many more...

# Algorithms on quantum hardware

On near-term intermediate-scale quantum (NISQ) hardware (low number of qubits and short circuits): **hybrid quantum-classical algorithms**

- Quantum Approximate Optimization algorithm (QAOA)
- Quantum (Imaginary) Time Evolution
- **Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE)**
- ...

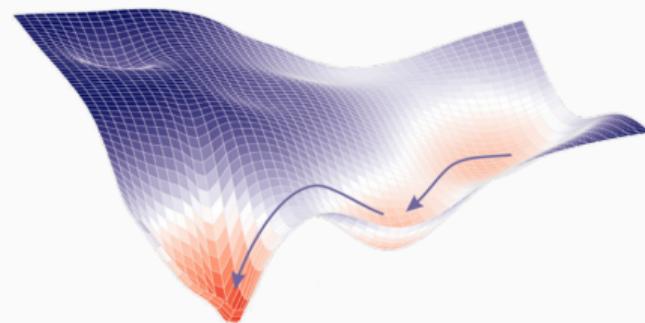
There is a variety of quantum algorithms for different kind of problems, most are for future **fault-tolerant** quantum hardware with many qubits and deep circuits.

- Shor's algorithm – Encryption
- Grover's algorithm – Database search
- **Quantum Fourier Transformation**
- **Quantum Phase Estimation**

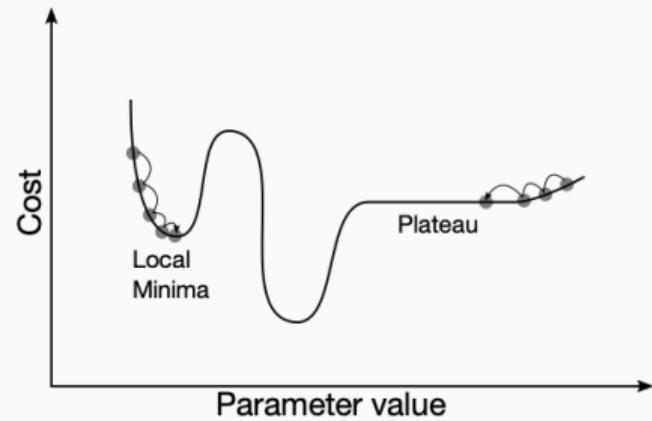
Thank you for your attention!

# Variational Quantum Eigensolver – VQE

Main hybrid quantum-classical approach, many advantages (see other talks).



Parameter landscape



Problems, e.g. difficult classical optimizations of parameters  $\theta$  (**local minima, barren plateaus**) and relies on variational principle:  $E_0 \leq \min_{\theta} E(\theta) = \langle \Psi(\theta) | \hat{H} | \Psi(\theta) \rangle$   
→ not applicable to open quantum system and transport problems (non-Hermitian Hamiltonians)