



# Quantum Computation for the Understanding of Mass

## Simulating Quantum Field Theories

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# Introduction

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

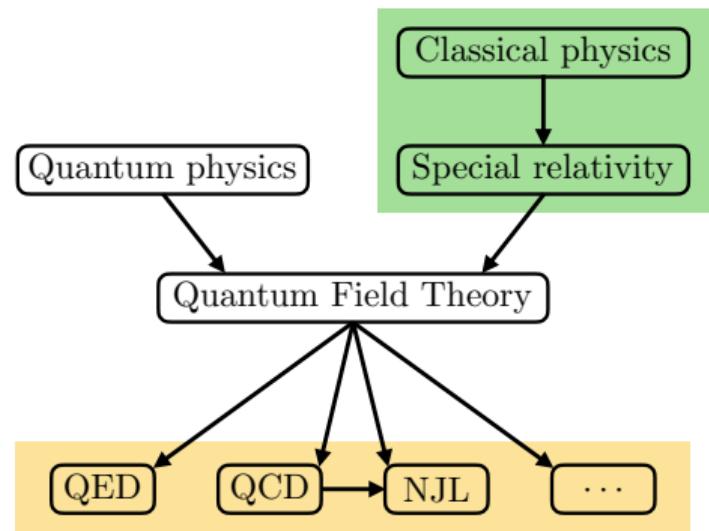
Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



Nature is described through the mathematical framework provided by **Quantum Field Theory**.

- The different implementations of Quantum Field Theory are referred to as quantum field theories themselves.
- Quantum Chromodynamics (QCD) is the theory of the strong nuclear force.
- QCD holds many mysteries (e.g. **mass generation** phenomena).
- QCD is currently studied using brute-force numerics on the world's largest supercomputers.
- Many aspects of quantum field theories cannot be studied using classical computers.



# Objectives

## Introduction

### Background in Quantum Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and quantum algorithms  
Applications

### Solving the NJL model in $1 + 1$ dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization and state preparation  
Ground state energy

### Conclusions and prospective work

### Bibliography

An important path forward is to develop methods to simulate these models on quantum computers. This effort is only just beginning, however, performing calculations on a quantum computer is far from being a straightforward task; and it has only been achieved for relatively simple problems. My goal will be to develop some of the techniques necessary to use quantum computers for this endeavor. We will do so by analyzing the following:

- **Nambu–Jona-Lasino model** (NJL) in  $1 + 1$  dimensions: an effective field theory, regarded as a low-energy approximation to QCD.
- It retains certain key features of QCD, such as the so called Goldstone modes and **dynamical chiral symmetry breaking**; which in turn is responsible for the creation of dressed mass.
- This model can be solved nonperturbatively through the standard leading order truncation; an important characteristic since verifying the solutions returned by any quantum computation is currently a major challenge.



# Contents

## Introduction

### Background in Quantum Computation

- Quantum logic
- Quantum information
- Quantum circuits and quantum algorithms
- Applications

### Solving the NJL model in 1 + 1 dimensions

- Lattice formulation
- Fermion-qubit mapping
- Space parametrization and state preparation
- Ground state energy

### Conclusions and prospective work

### Bibliography

## 1 Introduction

## 2 Background in Quantum Computation

- Quantum logic
- Quantum information
- Quantum circuits and quantum algorithms
- Applications

## 3 Solving the NJL model in 1 + 1 dimensions

- Lattice formulation
- Fermion-qubit mapping
- Space parametrization and state preparation
- Ground state energy

## 4 Conclusions and prospective work

## 5 Bibliography

# Background in Quantum Computation

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

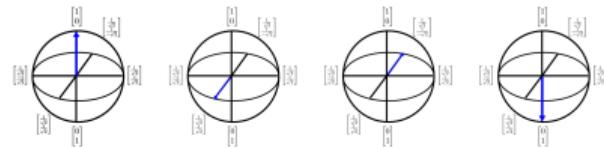
Bibliography



Before the abacus was invented, the only way of counting was through a "thermometer-like" scale. This device introduced the concept of **digits**, which was later adopted into our own language in the form of **numerals**. This meant that, instead of counting up to  $N$  using  $N$  elements, we could count using only  $\log_b(N)$  abacus elements —where  $b$  is the base of our number system (i.e. the amount of beads per row in the abacus).

Therefore, for  $b \geq 2$ , the abacus introduced an **exponential decrease in resource requirements**.

Quantum computers do something analogous. To represent the quantum state of a system made out of  $N$  subsystems —with  $b$  degrees of freedom each— we would usually need  $b^N$  classical elements (i.e. numbers). By using quantum systems for this representation, we would only need  $N$  quantum elements (i.e. each subsystem).



# Quantum logic

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic

Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography

Formally speaking, the states of a quantum system will be represented as a vector in a Hilbert space; whereas the state of a classical system is simply an element of a set. This distinction, along with the probabilistic nature of quantum mechanics, makes the entire logical system describing quantum computers fundamentally different than **classical propositional logic** (i.e. Boolean algebra).

## CLASSICAL LOGIC

*Set Theory (Boolean algebra)*

- **AND**  $\Rightarrow A \cup B$
- **OR**  $\Rightarrow A \cap B$
- **NOT**  $\Rightarrow \bar{A}$
- **XOR**  $\Rightarrow A \cap B - A \cup B$

## QUANTUM LOGIC

*Quantum Theory (Non-abelian)*

- **Probabilistic measurement**
- **Measurement causes disturbance**
- **Superposition**
- **Entanglement**
- **Uncertainty principle**



# Bloch sphere representation of a qubit

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

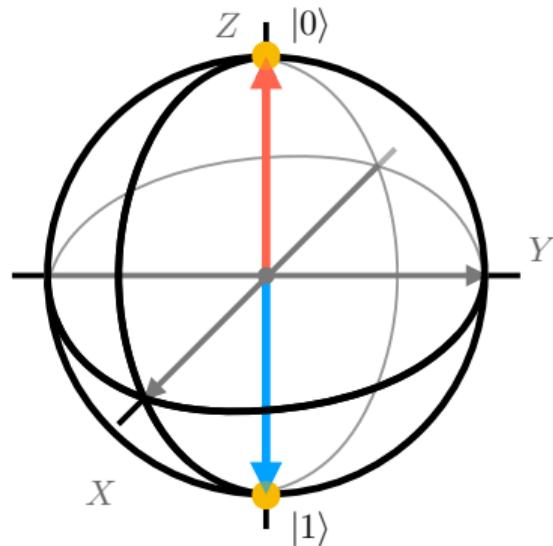
Bibliography



The basic unit of information in quantum mechanics is the **qubit**; a quantum system with only two distinguishable states:  $|0\rangle$  and  $|1\rangle$ .

The main difference between bit and qubit lies in the fact that, when they are not being measured, quantum systems do not need to be in one of their so called, mutually incompatible, basis states; instead, they can be in any (normalized) **linear superposition** of them.

A simple example of a qubit is a spin- $\frac{1}{2}$  particle; whose space of states is spanned by the spin up and spin down quantum basis. Inspired by this particular system, the qubit can be pictorially represented through the **Bloch sphere**.



# Quantum information

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



In the same way that the device known as an abacus had its theoretical counterpart in positional number systems, quantum computers have Quantum Information Science (QIS); which help us understand the full capabilities of these new machines. Two very important insights extracted from QIS, and with direct applicability to quantum apparatuses are:

## ■ Unitary quantum state transformations (i.e. reversible):

$$\langle \psi_0 | \phi_0 \rangle \equiv \langle \psi(t) | \phi(t) \rangle = \langle \psi_0 | U^\dagger U | \phi_0 \rangle \Rightarrow U^\dagger U \equiv \mathbb{1}$$

## ■ No-cloning theorem:

$$U_{\text{cloning}}(|\psi\rangle_A \otimes |e\rangle_B) = |\psi\rangle_A \otimes |\psi\rangle_B, \quad U_{\text{cloning}}(|\phi\rangle_A \otimes |e\rangle_B) = |\phi\rangle_A \otimes |\phi\rangle_B$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \psi | \phi \rangle &= (\langle \psi | \phi \rangle)_A (\langle e | e \rangle)_B = (\langle \psi |_A \otimes \langle e |_B) (|\phi\rangle_A \otimes |e\rangle_B) \\ &\equiv (\langle \psi |_A \otimes \langle e |_B) U_{\text{cloning}}^\dagger U_{\text{cloning}} (|\phi\rangle_A \otimes |e\rangle_B) = (\langle \psi |_A \otimes \langle \psi |_B) (|\phi\rangle_A \otimes |\phi\rangle_B) \\ &= (\langle \psi | \phi \rangle)_A (\langle \psi | \phi \rangle)_B = (\langle \psi | \phi \rangle)^2 \end{aligned}$$

# Implications for quantum information technologies

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

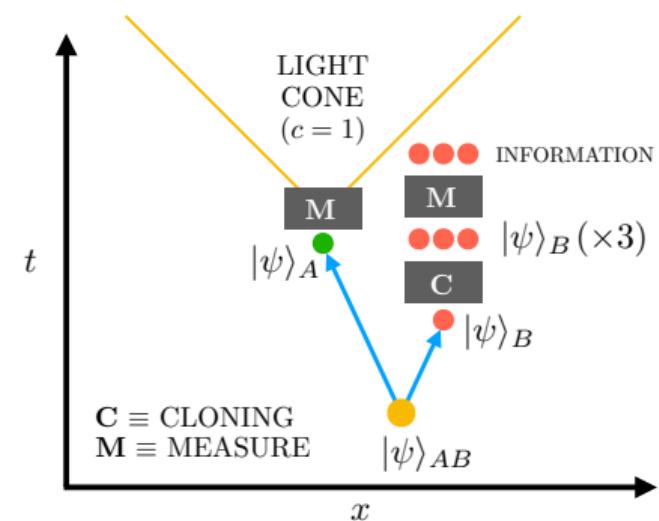
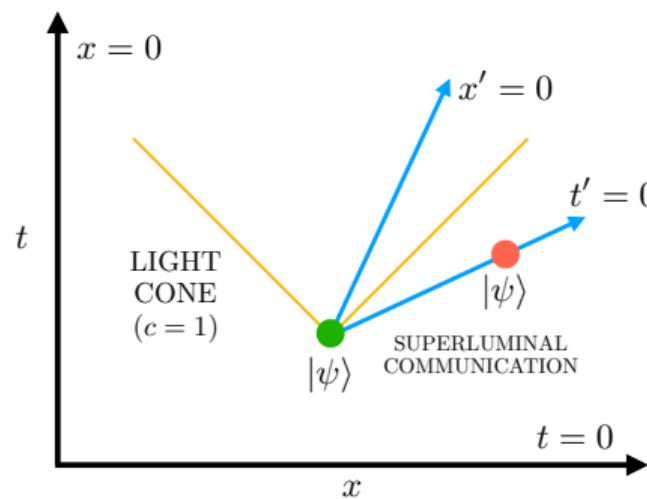
Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



The fact that all transformations have to preserve information (i.e. entropy), imply that they are unitary. This is the only kind of transformations that a quantum computer will be able to reproduce ideally. On the other hand, the no-cloning theorem can be used to construct inherently secure communication and data storage systems. Furthermore, it means that **superluminal communication** is impossible:



# Quantum circuits and quantum algorithms

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic

Quantum information

Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms

Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



In order to work with quantum computers we need to be able to formulate how they operate in an abstract, mathematical way. There are a number of formulations that go by the name of **quantum computing models**; the main four of these being:

- Topological
- Adiabatic
- One-way
- Gate arrar or circuit based

They all differ in the basic elements in which any computation is divided, and therefore have a decisive role in the **hardware implementation** of these machines. Nonetheless, all of them have been proven theoretically equivalent to each other as well as to an universal quantum Turing machine.

- Josephson junctions
- Ion traps
- Nuclear magnetic resonators
- Optical cavities

# Quantum circuit formalism

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic

Quantum information

Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms

Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation

Fermion-qubit mapping

Space parametrization  
and state preparation

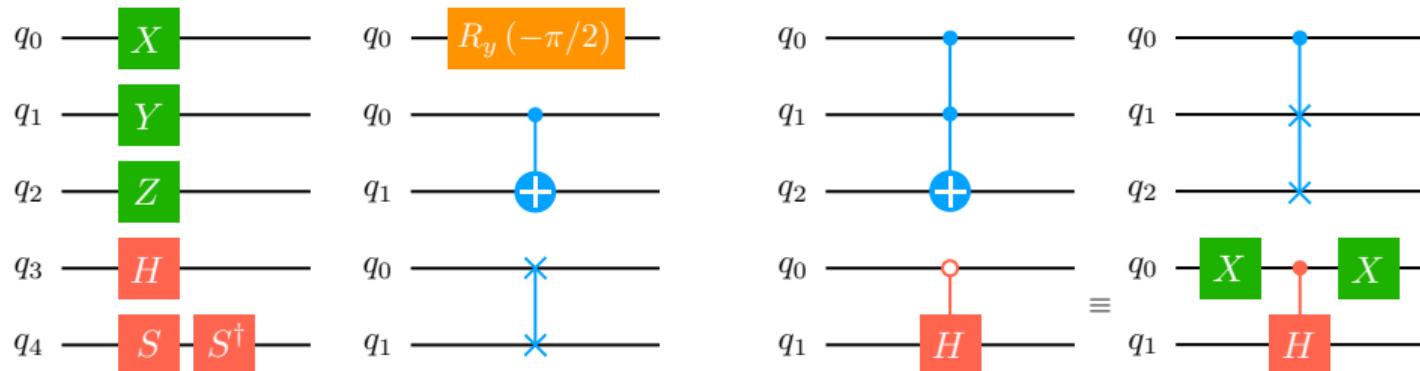
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



Due to its simplicity and similarity with classical models of computation, the most widespread of all is, by far, the **quantum circuit** or quantum gate array model. This model is made up of two kind of components: *registers* and *gates*.



# Pauli measurements and the singlet state

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic

Quantum information

Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms

Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

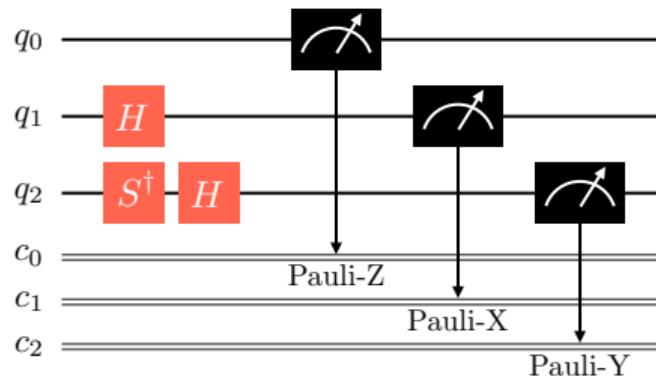
Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



The final thing that we need to know about are measurements. **Pauli measurements** are made along the three primary axes of the Bloch sphere, allowing us to calculate the expectation value of *Pauli observables* (i.e. tensor product combinations of the Pauli hermitian operators):



$$|\text{singlet}\rangle \triangleq \frac{|01\rangle - |10\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

# Deutsch-Jozsa algorithm I

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

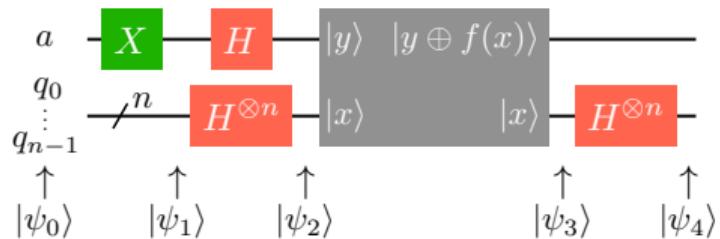
Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



**Deutsch's problem** says that we are given a function  $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ , and are told that the function is either constant or balanced (i.e. half of the inputs return 0 and the other half 1). The goal is to determine, with the smallest number of evaluations possible, whether the given function is one kind or the other.



Using classical resources the only way to solve this problem is to repeatedly evaluate the function for different inputs. In the worst case scenario, we will need to perform  $2^n/2 + 1$  evaluations, since it is always possible to obtain  $2^n/2$  times the same number even if the function is balanced. However, making use of quantum superposition, we can find a way to solve this problem with just one evaluation. The key as to why this is possible is quantum superposition. By evaluating the target function for a superposition state, we are evaluating it simultaneously for all possible inputs. This is sometimes referred to as **quantum parallelism**.

# Deutsch-Jozsa algorithm II

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



The solution to this problem as expressed by the quantum circuit in the previous slide is known as the **Deutsch-Jozsa algorithm**:

$$|\psi_0\rangle = |0\rangle^{\otimes(n+1)}$$

$$|\psi_1\rangle = |0\rangle^{\otimes n} |1\rangle$$

$$H^{\otimes n} |x\rangle = \sum_{z \in \{0,1\}^n} (-1)^{x \cdot z} \frac{|z\rangle}{\sqrt{2^n}}$$

$$|\psi_2\rangle = \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} \frac{|x\rangle}{\sqrt{2^n}} \left[ \frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right]$$

$$\frac{|0 \oplus f(x)\rangle - |1 \oplus f(x)\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} = (-1)^{f(x)} \frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$|\psi_3\rangle = \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} \frac{(-1)^{f(x)}}{\sqrt{2^n}} |x\rangle \left[ \frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right]$$

$$|\psi_4\rangle = \sum_{\substack{x \in \{0,1\}^n \\ z \in \{0,1\}^n}} \frac{(-1)^{x \cdot z + f(x)}}{2^n} |z\rangle \left[ \frac{|0\rangle - |1\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right]$$

# Quantum Fourier transform I

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



The usual **Discrete Fourier Transform** (DFT) can be expressed as:

$$\begin{aligned} |j\rangle &\rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \exp\left[2\pi i \frac{jk}{N}\right] |k\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{n/2}} \sum_{k_{n-1}=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_0=0}^1 \exp\left[2\pi ij \left(\sum_{l=0}^{n-1} k_l 2^{l-n}\right)\right] |0b k_{n-1} \dots k_0\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{n/2}} \sum_{k_{n-1}=0}^1 \cdots \sum_{k_0=0}^1 \left\{ \bigotimes_{l=1}^n \exp\left[2\pi i j k_{n-l} 2^{-l}\right] |k_{n-l}\rangle \right\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2^{n/2}} \bigotimes_{l=1}^n \left\{ \sum_{k_{n-l}=0}^1 \exp\left[2\pi i j k_{n-l} 2^{-l}\right] |k_{n-l}\rangle \right\} = \frac{1}{2^{n/2}} \bigotimes_{l=1}^n \left\{ |0\rangle + \exp\left[2\pi i j 2^{-l}\right] |1\rangle \right\} \end{aligned}$$

# Quantum Fourier transform II

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

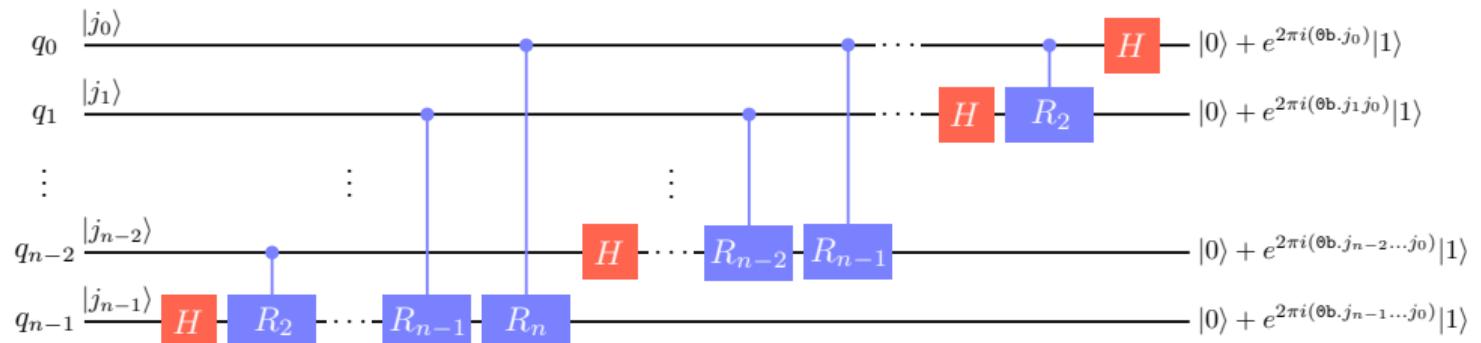
Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



$$|j\rangle \rightarrow \frac{\{ |0\rangle + e^{2\pi i(\theta b.j_0)} |1\rangle \} \otimes \{ |0\rangle + e^{2\pi i(\theta b.j_1 j_0)} |1\rangle \} \otimes \cdots \otimes \{ |0\rangle + e^{2\pi i(\theta b.j_{n-1} j_{n-2} \dots j_0)} |1\rangle \}}{2^{n/2}}$$

$$R_k \triangleq \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{2\pi i/2^k} \end{bmatrix}$$



# Quantum Fourier transform III

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic

Quantum information

Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms

Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



We can now compare the complexity of this algorithm with its best classical counterparts. This is done by counting the number of gates in the circuit, where we have to remember the final SWAP gates omitted in the representation.

## FAST FOURIER TRANSFORM

$$N \log_2 N \equiv \Theta(n2^n)$$

## QUANTUM FOURIER TRANSFORM

$$\sum_{k=1}^n k + \frac{n}{2} = \frac{n(n+1)}{2} + \frac{n}{2} \equiv \Theta(n^2)$$

Nonetheless, this technique cannot be used directly for computing the target transform; since we do not know how to recover the individual amplitudes from the quantum states. On top of that, there is no efficient general method for preparing the states to be transformed. This is a great example of an algorithm that presents huge savings compared to its classical analogs, but which cannot be generally used as much as we would like to due to our inability to extract the desired information. In some instances however, we can profit from this method to great deeds —mainly as part of bigger algorithms. An important application is **Shor's factoring algorithm**, which can be used for efficiently finding the prime decomposition of any given number.

# Applications

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic

Quantum information

Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms

Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in 1 + 1  
dimensions

Lattice formulation

Fermion-qubit mapping

Space parametrization  
and state preparation

Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography

Generally speaking, quantum computing is thought to be able to outperform classical processors, but not for all tasks. This raises the important question of determining which problems are easy to solve using quantum logic while remaining hard for classical approaches. As a matter of fact, we do not fully understand the extent to which there are problems of this kind; and many of the ones we suspect to be good candidates have no formal proof to back them up. So far, some of the applications that have been found are:

- Cryptography
- Secure communications
- Quantum randomness
- Quantum sensing
- Optimization
- Algebra
- Machine learning
- Quantum games
- Quantum simulation

Quantum physics —especially Quantum Field Theory— is the ideal place to look for (relevant) problems which can be solved on a quantum computer while remaining intractable for classical machines; that also makes it the best choice for analyzing the computational power behind this new paradigm.



# Bibliography

Introduction

Background in  
Quantum  
Computation

Quantum logic  
Quantum information  
Quantum circuits and  
quantum algorithms  
Applications

Solving the NJL  
model in  $1 + 1$   
dimensions

Lattice formulation  
Fermion-qubit mapping  
Space parametrization  
and state preparation  
Ground state energy

Conclusions and  
prospective work

Bibliography



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*"The only thing demonstrated by an impossibility proof is a lack of imagination."*  
– John Stewart Bell –



