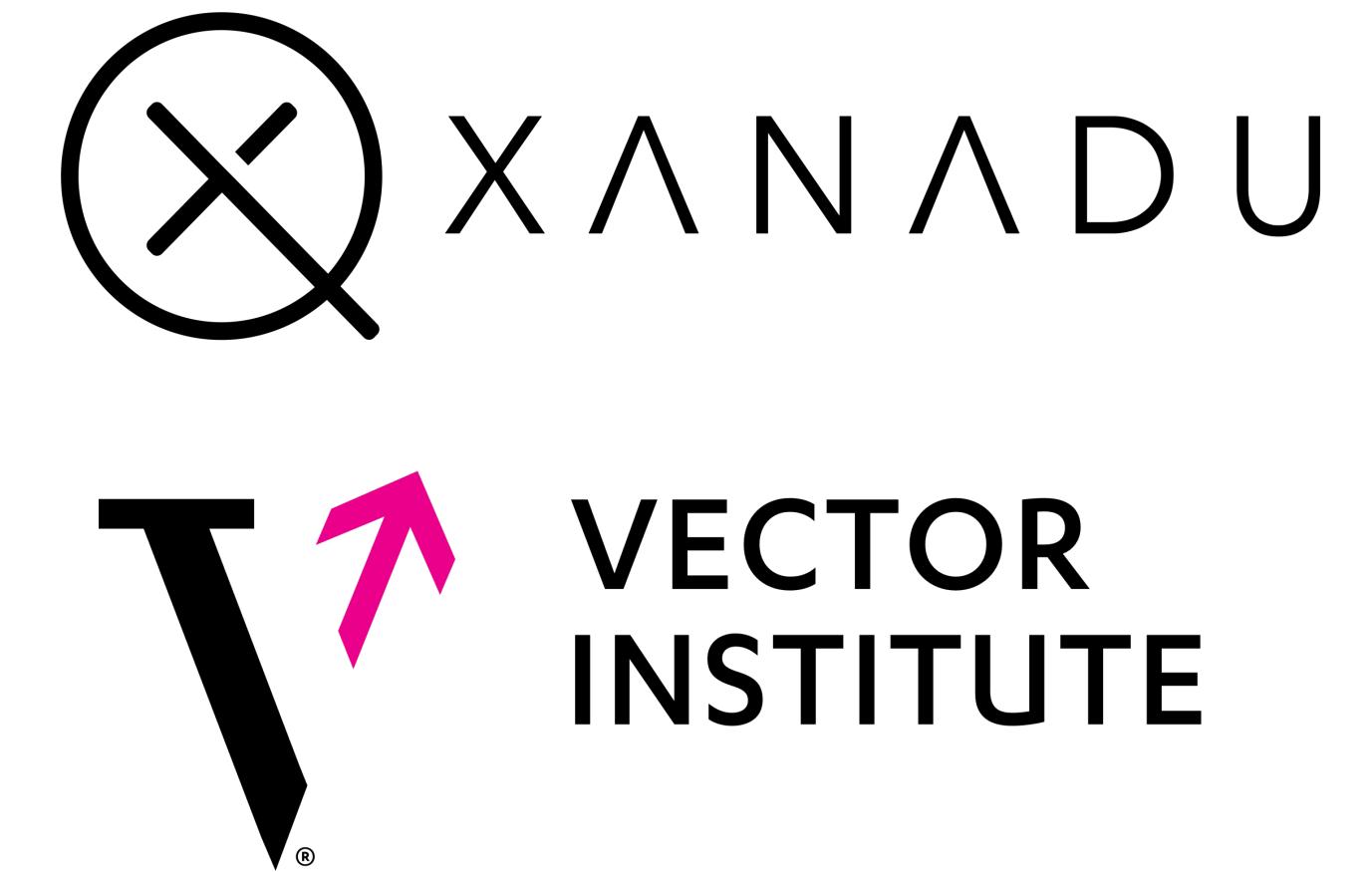




# Implicit differentiation of variational quantum algorithms



Shahnawaz Ahmed  
Ph.D. student, Chalmers



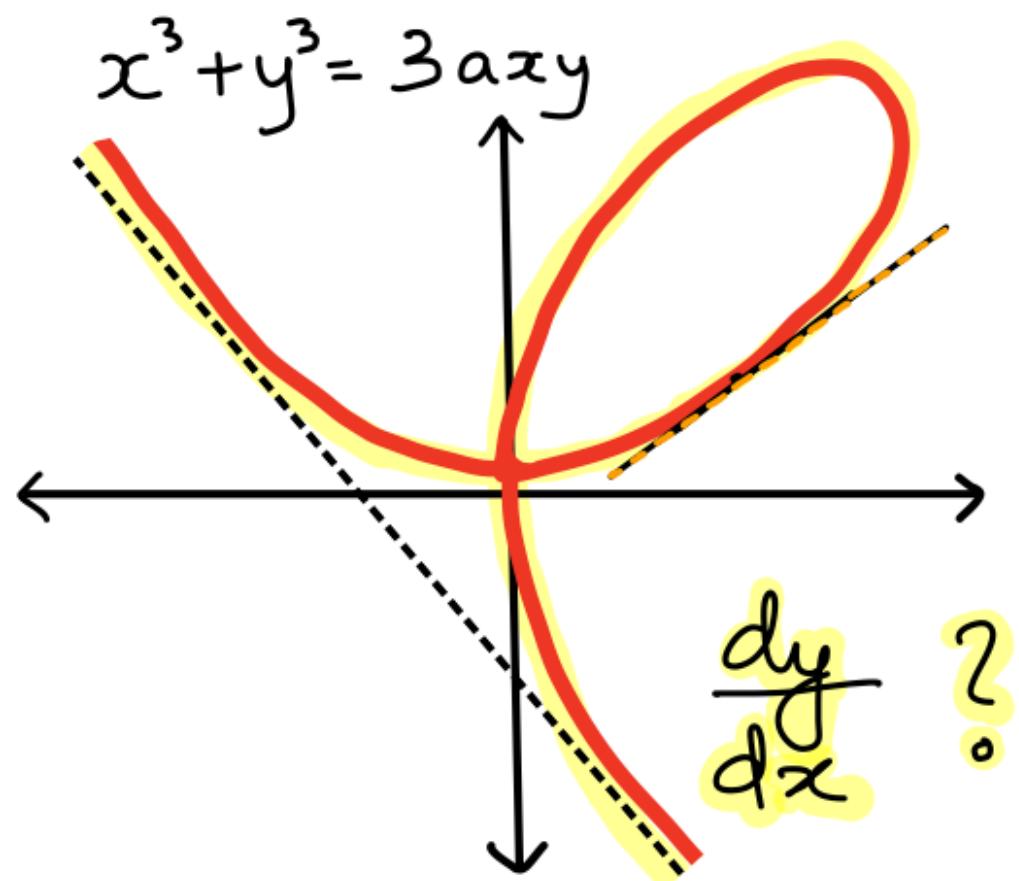
Astra Zeneca, Gothenburg, March 22

Juan Felipe Carrasquilla  
Álvarez  
Vector Institute for AI, Waterloo

Nathan Killoran  
Xanadu

# Outline

## 1. Implicit differentiation



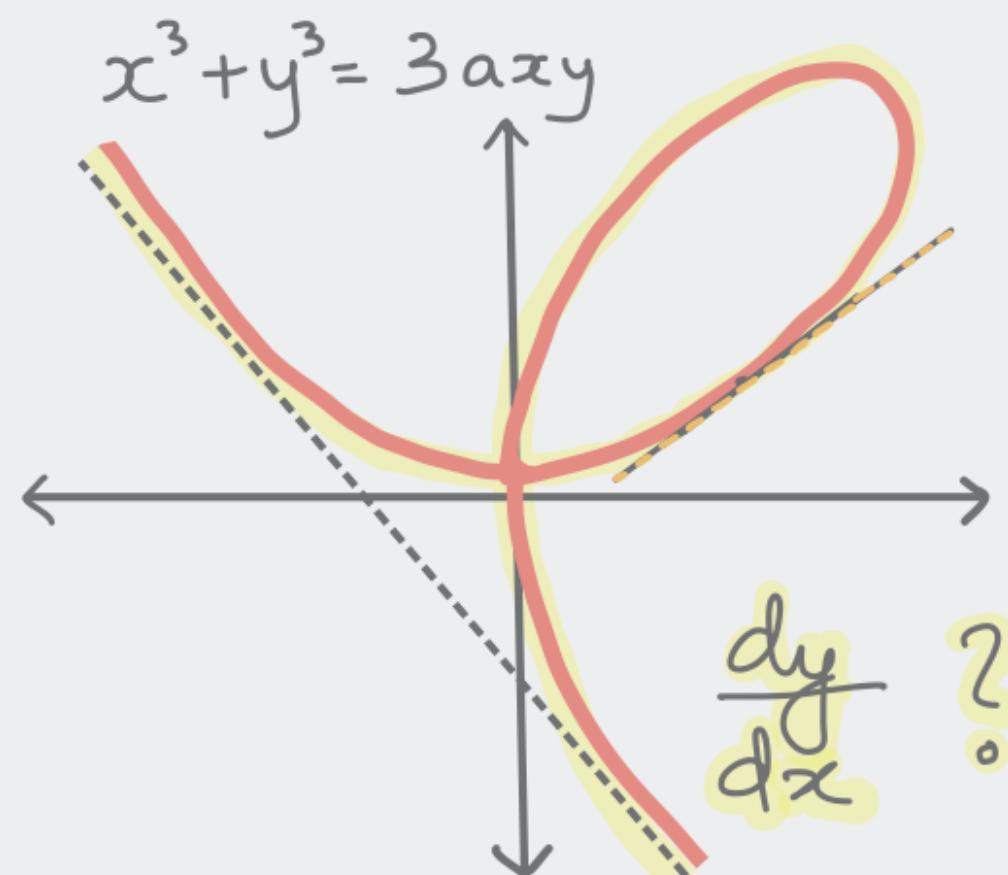
Descartes



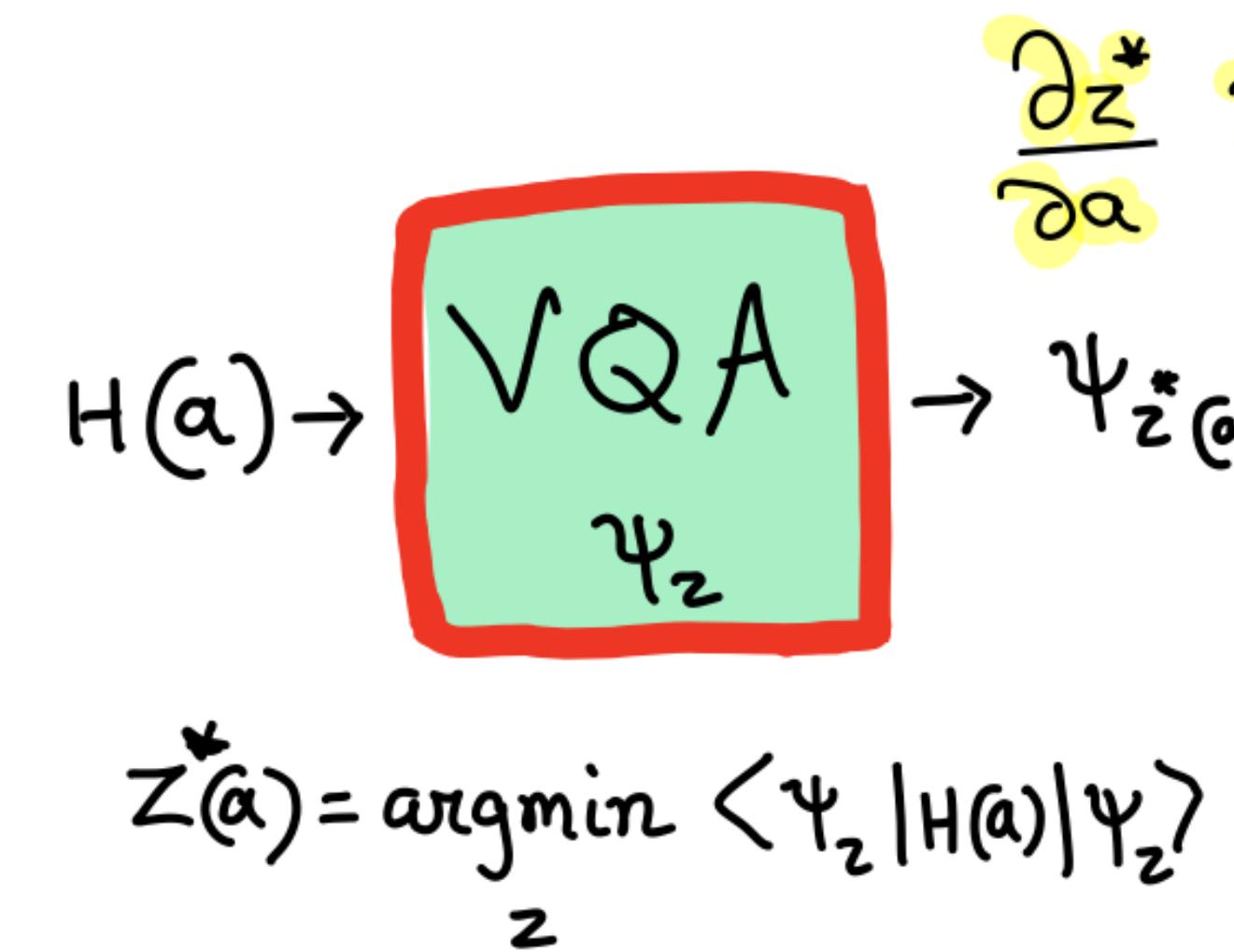
Fermat

# Outline

## 1. Implicit differentiation

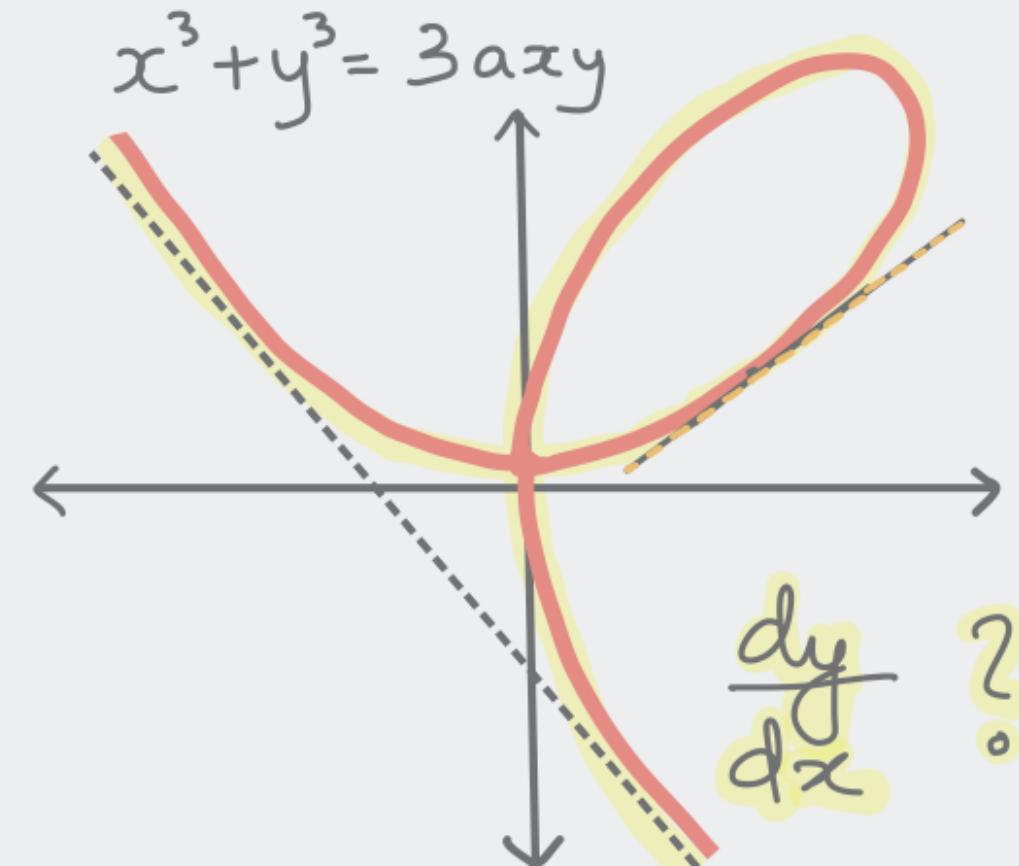


## 2. Gradients of solutions to variational quantum algorithms

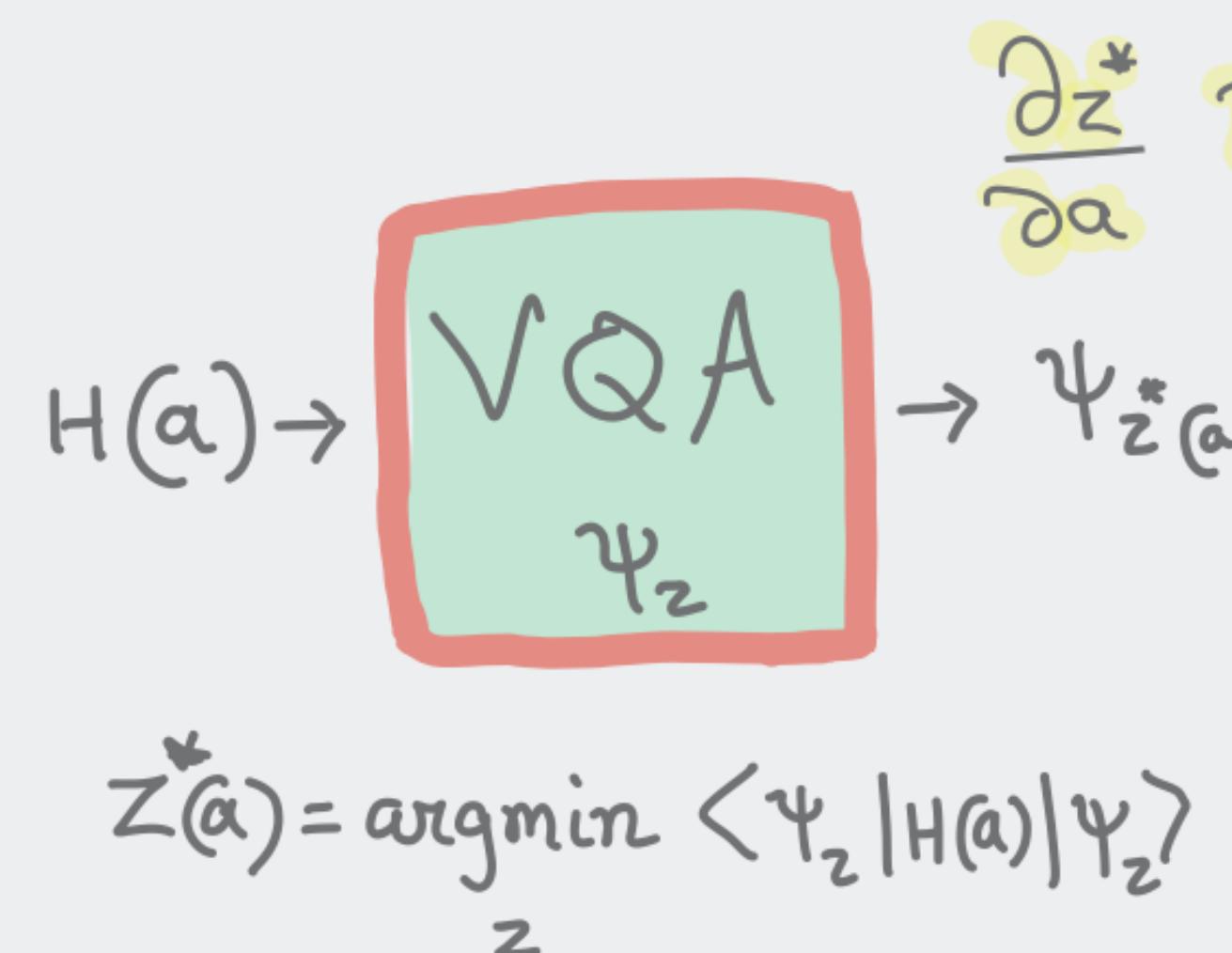


# Outline

## 1. Implicit differentiation

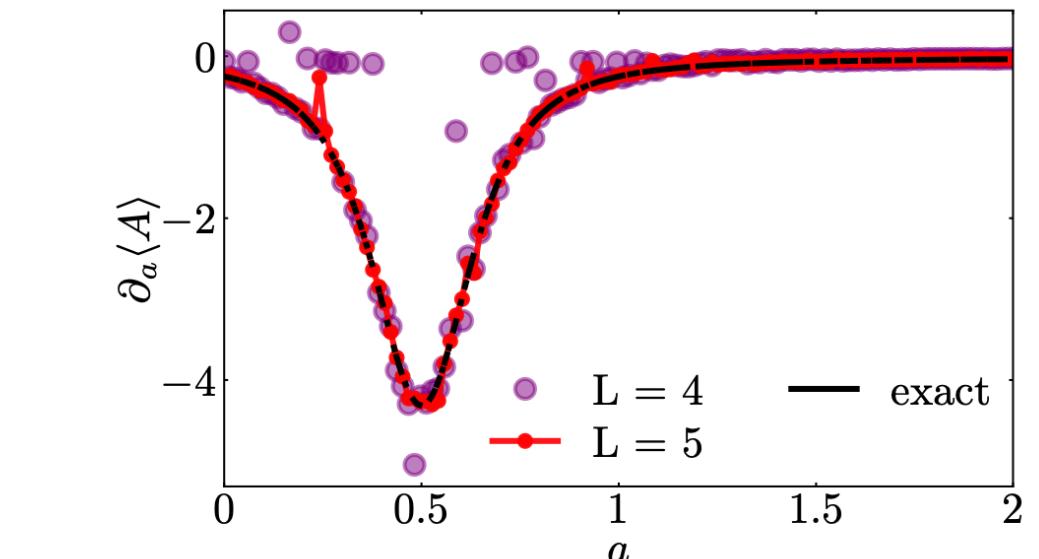


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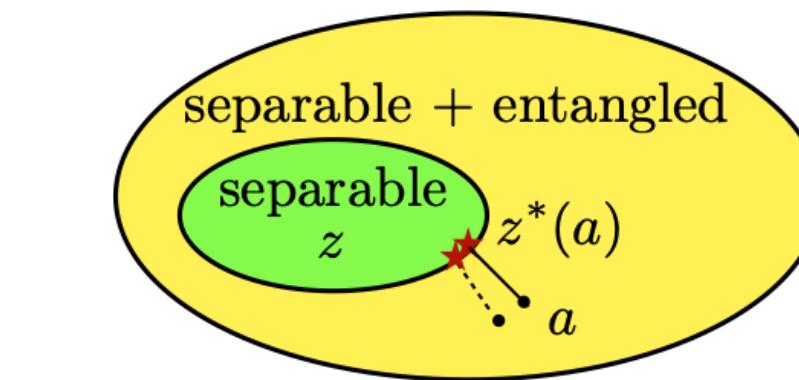


## 3. Applications

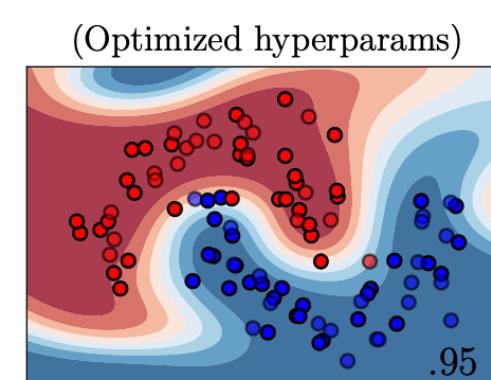
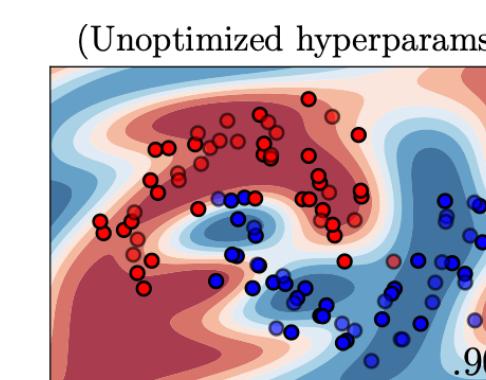
### Ground-state gradients



### Entanglement generation



$$z^*(a) = \arg \max_z \frac{\|\langle \psi_z | \psi_a \rangle\|}{\Lambda_{\max}(a)}$$



# Paper and code

arXiv:2211.13765

[pennylane.ai/qml/demos/tutorial\\_implicit\\_diff\\_susceptibility.html](https://pennylane.ai/qml/demos/tutorial_implicit_diff_susceptibility.html)

## Implicit differentiation of variational quantum algorithms

Shahnawaz Ahmed<sup>1,2</sup>, Nathan Killoran<sup>2</sup>, and Juan Felipe Carrasquilla Álvarez<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Microtechnology and Nanoscience, Chalmers University of Technology, 412 96 Gothenburg, Sweden

<sup>2</sup>Xanadu, Toronto, ON, M5G 2C8, Canada

<sup>3</sup>Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence, MaRS Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada M5G 1M1

<sup>4</sup>Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1, Canada

Several quantities important in condensed matter physics, quantum information, and quantum chemistry, as well as quantities required in meta-optimization of machine learning algorithms, can be expressed as gradients of implicitly defined functions of the parameters characterizing the system. Here, we show how to leverage implicit differentiation for gradient computation through variational quantum algorithms and explore applications in condensed matter physics, quantum machine learning, and quantum information. A function defined implicitly as the solution of a quantum algorithm, e.g., a variationally obtained ground- or steady-state,

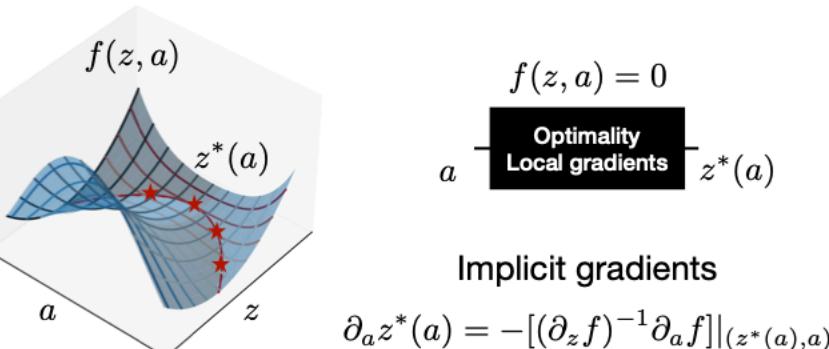


Figure 1: Automatic differentiation through a black-box algorithm that implicitly defines a solution function  $z^*(a)$  to some problem using an optimality condition  $f(z, a) = 0$ . Solution points (shown with the red stars) can be obtained using an iterative black-box solver without having access to the explicit solution. However, if we have access to local gradients ( $\partial_z f, \partial_a f$ ) at the solution points, implicit differentiation can compute the gradient of the solution function  $\partial_a z^*(a)$  without differentiating

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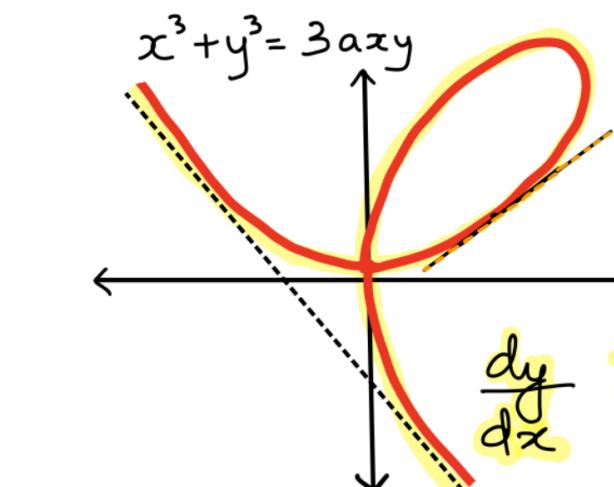


## Implicit differentiation of variational quantum algorithms

Authors: Shahnawaz Ahmed and Juan Felipe Carrasquilla Álvarez – Posted: 28 November 2022. Last updated: 28 November 2022.

In 1638, René Descartes, intrigued by (then amateur) Pierre de Fermat's method of computing tangents, challenged Fermat to find the tangent to a complicated curve – now called the folium of Descartes:

$$x^3 + y^3 = 3axy.$$





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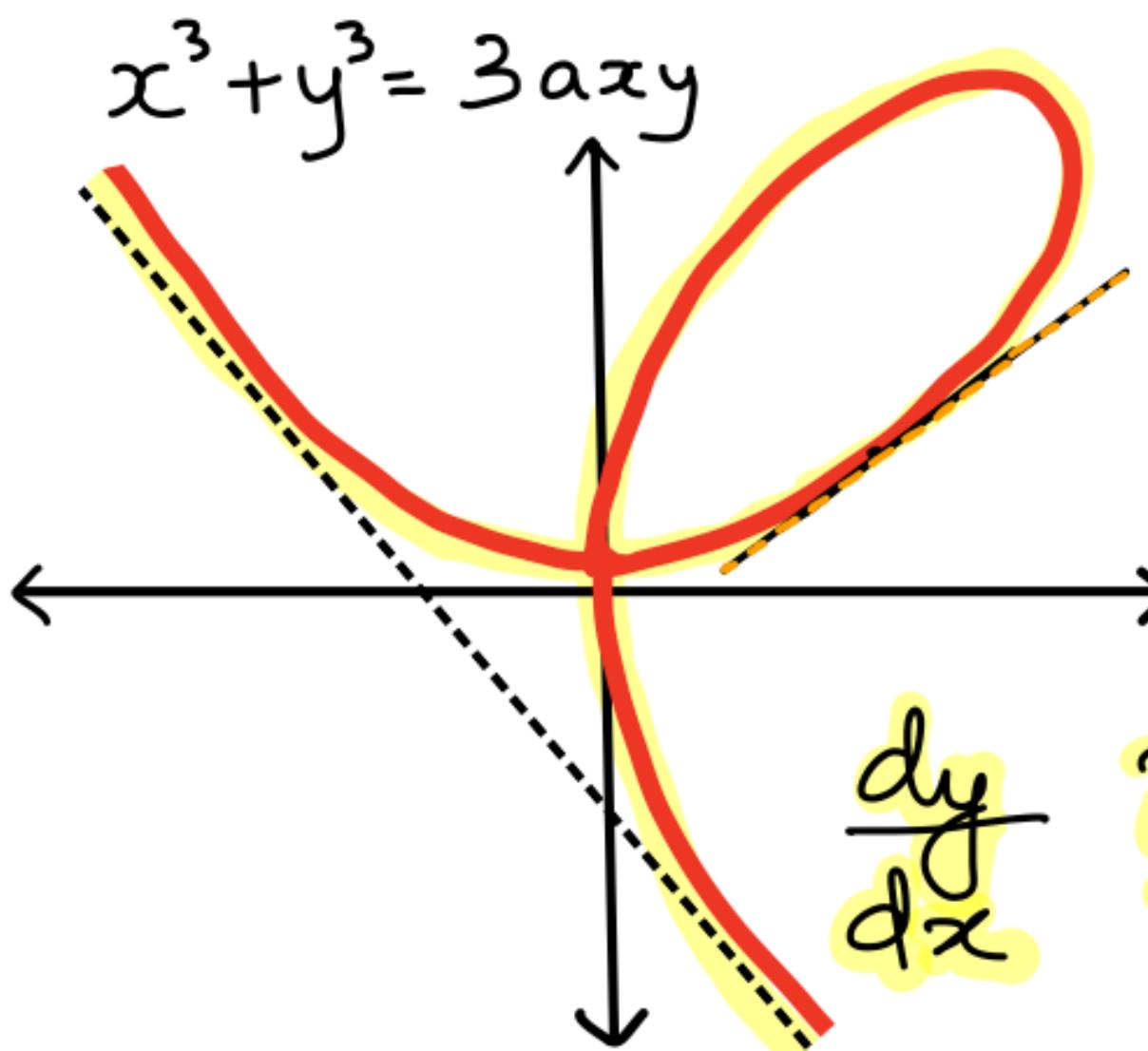
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# Implicit differentiation



Descartes



Fermat

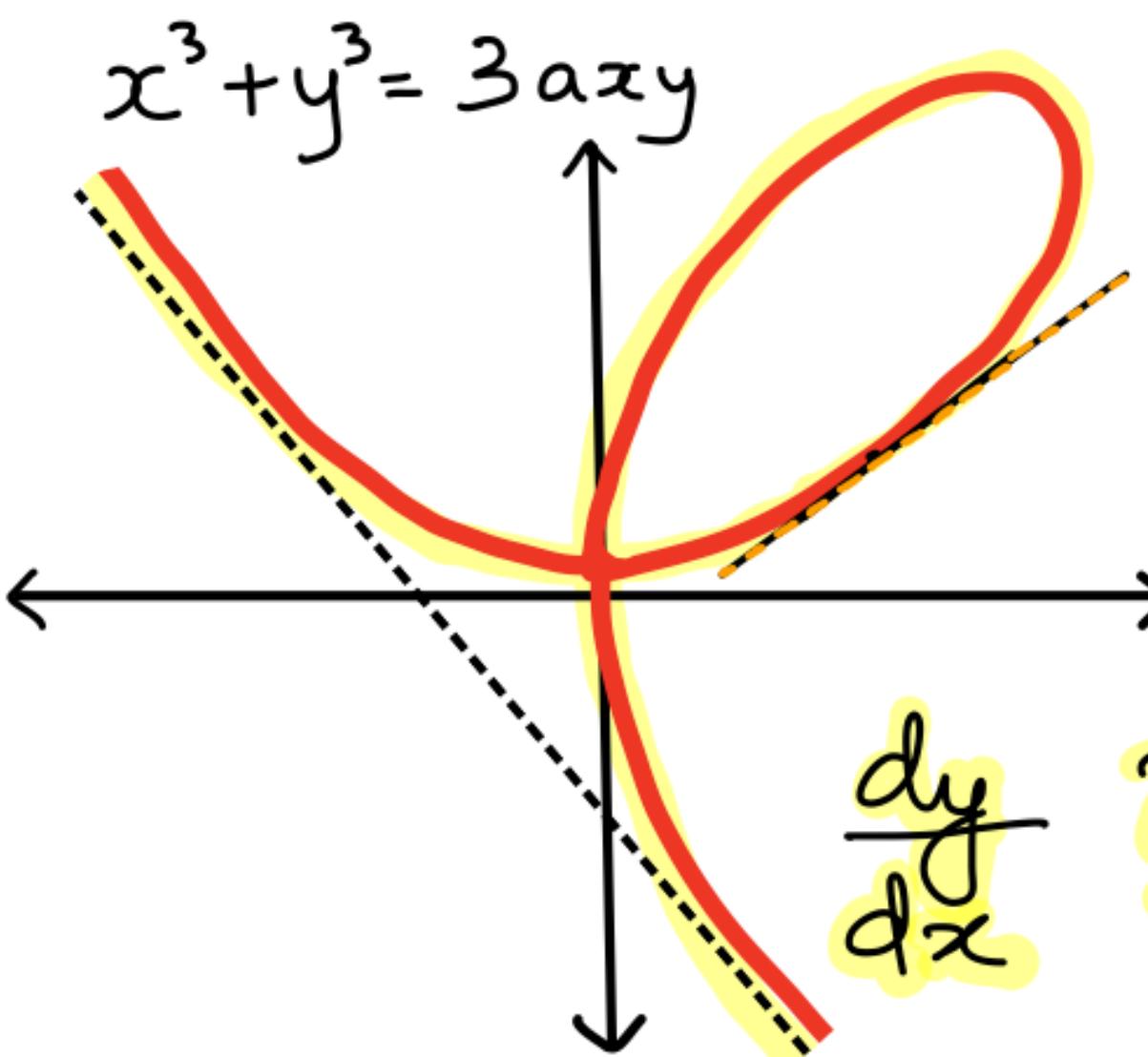
# Implicit differentiation



Descartes



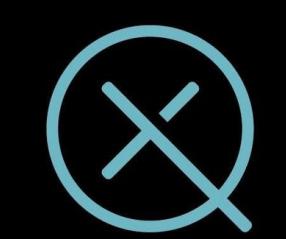
Fermat



Folium of Descartes (1638)

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\frac{x^2 - ay}{y^2 - ax}$$

[49] Jaume Paradís et al. Fermat and the Quadrature of the Folium of Descartes. *The American Mathematical Monthly*, 111:(3):216-229, 2004.



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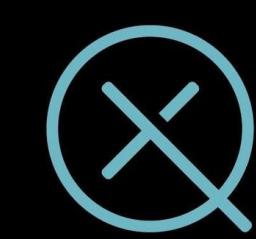
# Implicit differentiation of solutions to variational quantum algorithms (VQAs)

Ground-state gradients

$$H(\alpha) \rightarrow \boxed{\text{VQA}} \rightarrow \Psi_z^*(\alpha)$$

$$z^*(\alpha) = \underset{z}{\operatorname{argmin}} \langle \Psi_z | H(\alpha) | \Psi_z \rangle$$

$$\frac{\partial z^*}{\partial \alpha} ?$$



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# Why is implicit differentiation interesting for quantum physics?

## Ground-state gradients

$$\mathcal{H}(\alpha) \rightarrow \boxed{\nabla Q A} \rightarrow \Psi_z^*(\alpha)$$

$\Psi_z$

$\frac{\partial z^*}{\partial \alpha}$  ?

$$z^*(\alpha) = \underset{z}{\operatorname{argmin}} \langle \Psi_z | \mathcal{H}(\alpha) | \Psi_z \rangle$$

[26] Gergely Barcza, et al. **Ground-state properties** of the symmetric single-impurity anderson model on a ring from density- matrix renormalization group, hartree-fock, and gutzwiler theory. Phys. Rev. B, 99:165130, 2019.

[5] O'Brien et al. **Calculating energy derivatives for quantum chemistry** on a quantum computer. Npj Quantum Inf., 5(1):1–12, 2019.

[29] Juan Carrasquilla et al. **Scaling of the gap, fidelity susceptibility**, and bloch oscillations across the superfluid-to-mott-insulator transition in the one-dimensional bose-hubbard model. Phys. Rev. A, 87:043606, 2013.

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$\frac{\partial z^*}{\partial a}$  ?

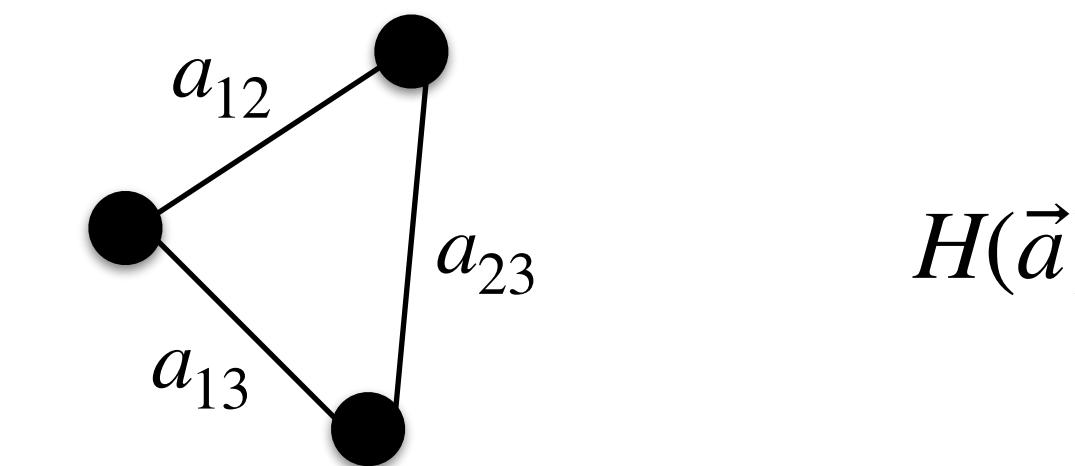
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[26] Gergely Barcza, et al. **Ground-state properties** of the symmetric single-impurity anderson model on a ring from density- matrix renormalization group, hartree-fock, and gutzwiler theory. Phys. Rev. B, 99:165130, 2019.

[5] O'Brien et al. **Calculating energy derivatives for quantum chemistry** on a quantum computer. Npj Quantum Inf., 5(1):1–12, 2019.

[29] Juan Carrasquilla et al. **Scaling of the gap, fidelity susceptibility**, and bloch oscillations across the superfluid-to-mott-insulator transition in the one-dimensional bose-hubbard model. Phys. Rev. A, 87:043606, 2013.

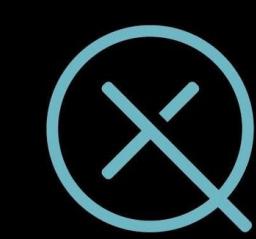
Geometry optimization



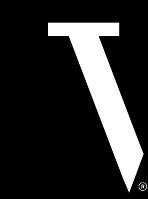
[6] P. Pulay. **Ab initio calculation of force constants and equilibrium** geometries in poly- atomic molecules. Mol. Phys., 17(2):197– 204, 1969.

[7] Kosuke Mitarai et al. **Theory of analytical energy derivatives for the variational quantum eigensolver**. Phys. Rev. Research, 2:013129, 2020.

[8] Ivan Kassal and Alán Aspuru-Guzik. **Quantum algorithm for molecular properties and geometry optimization**. J. Chem. Phys., 131(22):224102, 2009.



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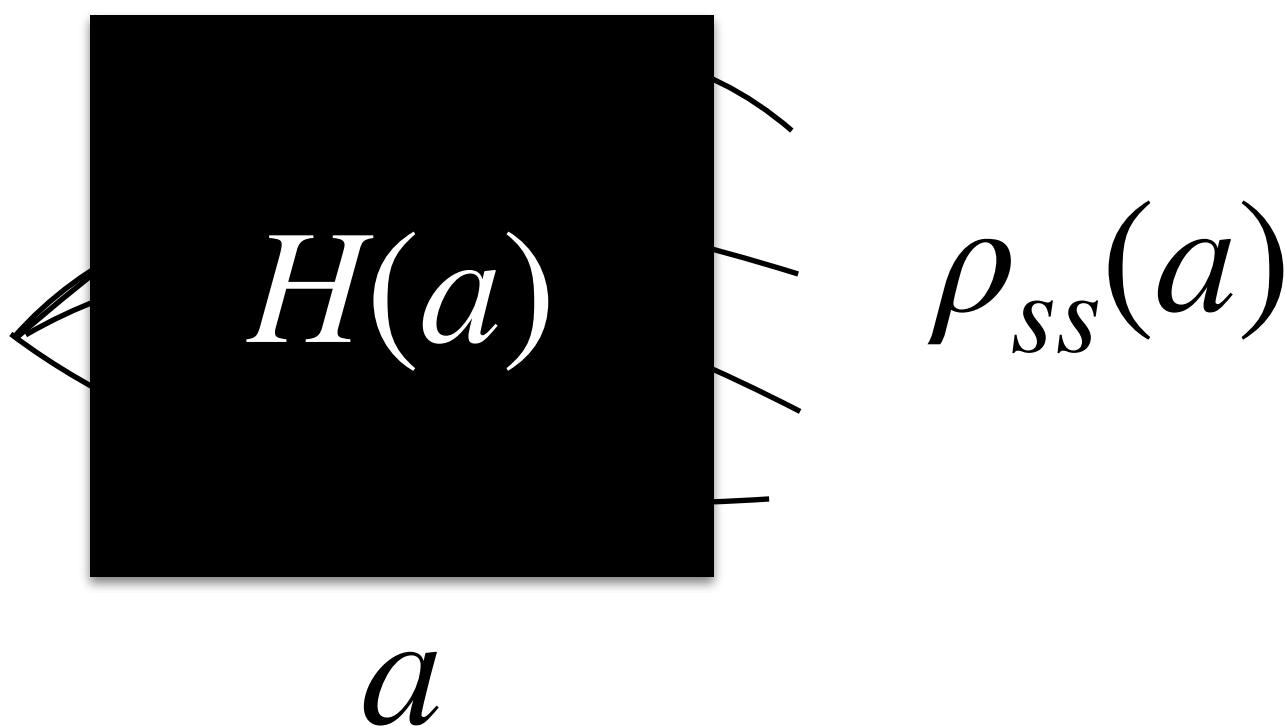
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# Why is implicit differentiation interesting for quantum physics?

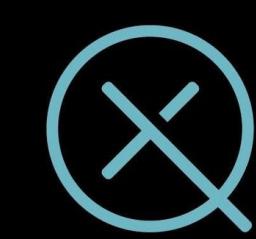
Steady-state optimization, inverse design



How to tune  $a$  to get desired steady state (ss)?

\*did not work for control problems where there is no steady state naturally

[50] Rodrigo A. Vargas-Hernández, Ricky T. Q. Chen, Kenneth A. Jung, and Paul Brumer. **Fully differentiable optimization protocols for non-equilibrium steady states**. New J. Phys., 23(12):123006, 2021.



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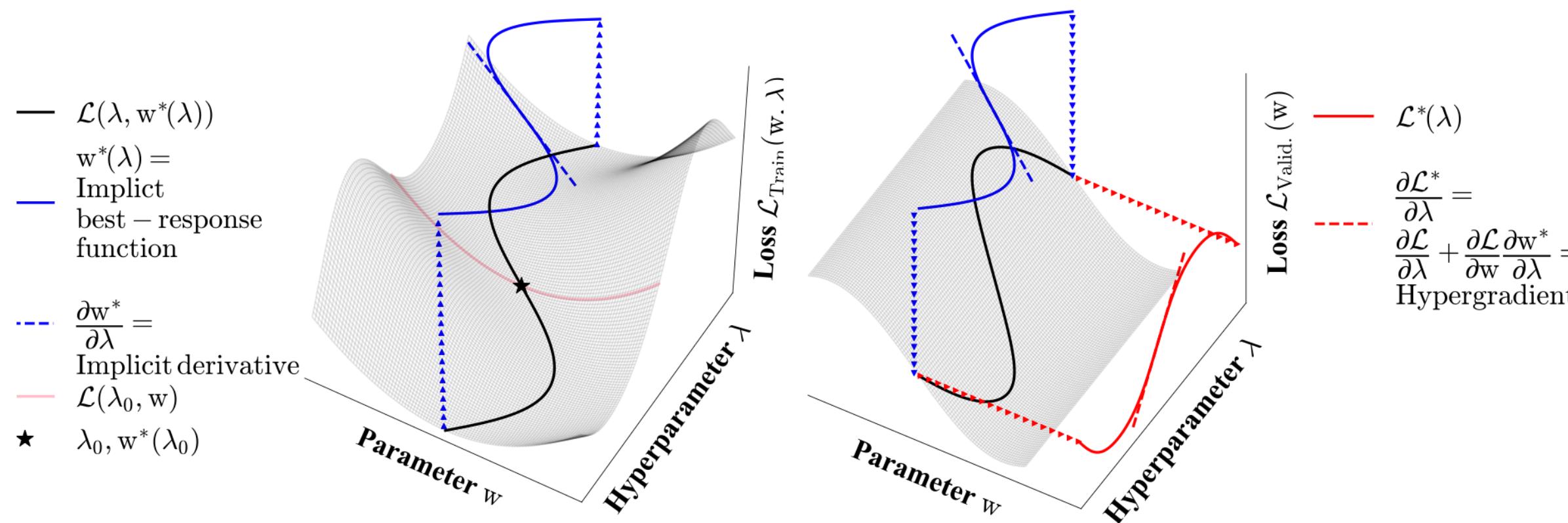
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# Why is implicit differentiation interesting for machine learning?

Machine learning, automatic differentiation and quantum circuits



[21] Jonathan Lorraine, Paul Vicol, and David Duvenaud. **Optimizing Millions of Hyper-parameters by Implicit Differentiation**. In Proceedings of the Twenty Third International Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Statistics, pages 1540–1552. PMLR, 2020.



A cross-platform Python library for differentiable programming of quantum computers. Train a quantum computer the same way as a neural network.



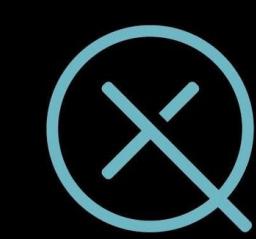
=  
**JAX: High-Performance Array Computing**

JAX is [Autograd](#) and [XLA](#), brought together for high-performance numerical computing.

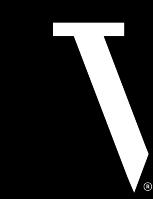
**JAXopt**

Hardware accelerated, batchable and differentiable optimizers in [JAX](#).

[16] Mathieu Blondel et al. **Efficient and Modular Implicit Differentiation** (arXiv:2105.15183), 2021.



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# Can't we just use autodifferentiation ?

Ground-state gradients

$$H(\alpha) \rightarrow \boxed{VQA} \rightarrow \Psi_z^*(\alpha)$$

$$\Psi_z$$

$$Z(\alpha) = \underset{z}{\operatorname{argmin}} \langle \Psi_z | H(\alpha) | \Psi_z \rangle$$

$$\frac{\partial z^*}{\partial \alpha}$$

$$?$$

High memory cost through unrolling  
of the VQAs

**JAX, M.D.**

**A Framework for Differentiable Physics**

**Samuel S. Schoenholz**  
Google Research: Brain Team  
schsam@google.com

**Ekin D. Cubuk**  
Google Research: Brain Team  
cubuk@google.com

RuntimeError: RESOURCE\_EXHAUSTED: Out of memory while trying to allocate 7935373600 bytes.

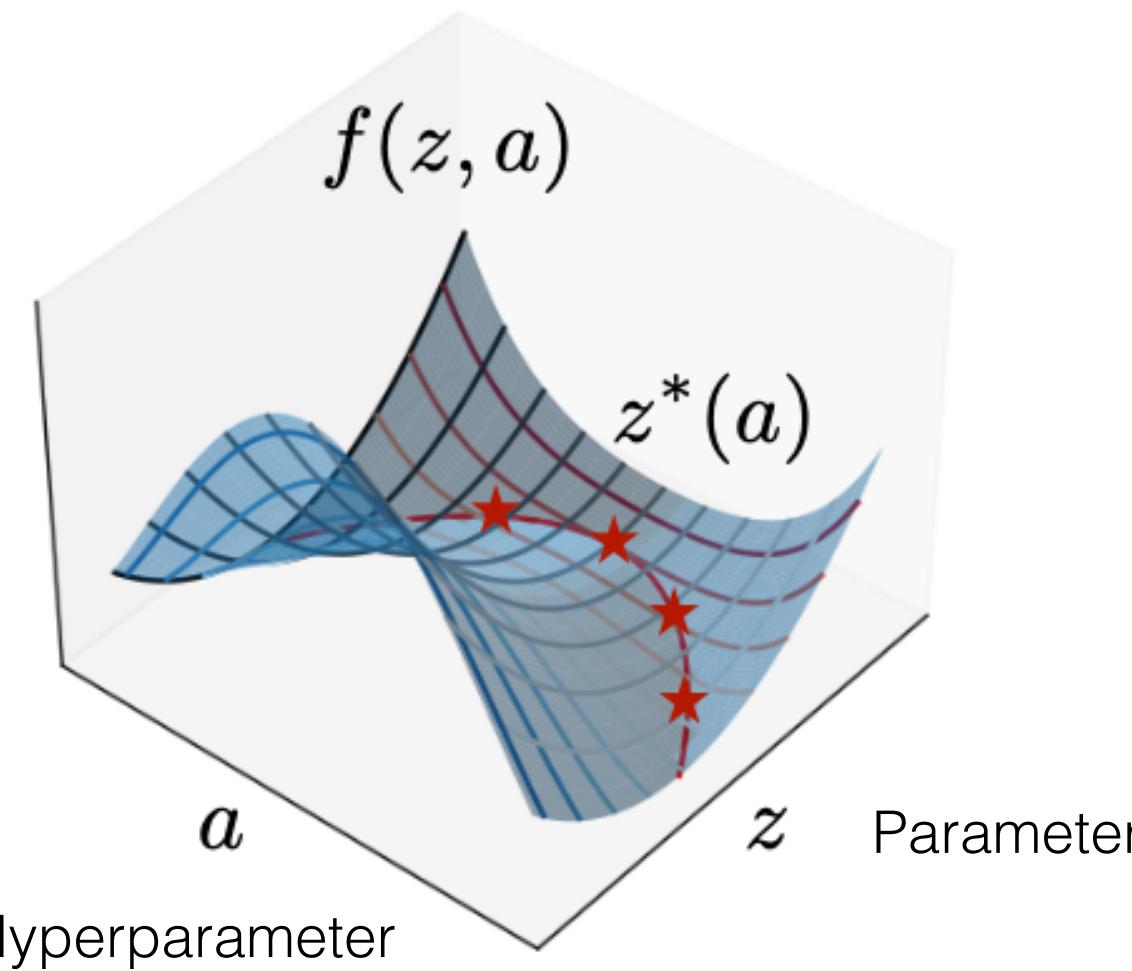
SEARCH STACK OVERFLOW

As you can see our computation fails due to running out of memory when trying to compute the gradient. The reason for that is that for reverse mode differentiation (e.g. `jax.grad`) the memory consumption grows linearly with respect to the number of optimization steps we have to take since reverse mode differentiation needs to store the whole forward pass in order to compute the gradient in the backwards pass.

We could reduce the memory requirements by using a technique called [gradient rematerialization/checkpointing](#) for a corresponding increase in computation time. While this strategy works, there exists a better solution for our problem called implicit differentiation.

Implicit Differentiation

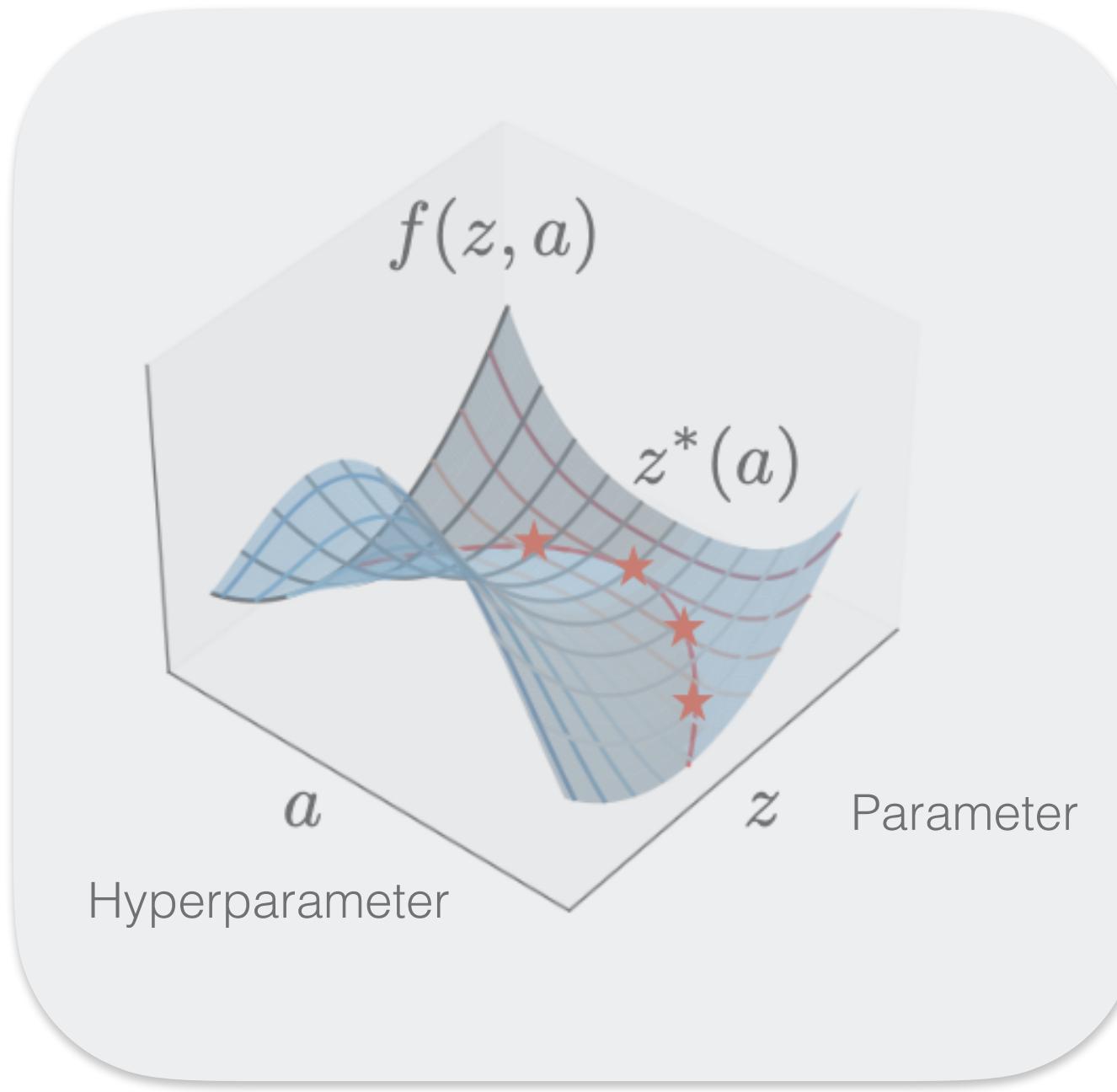
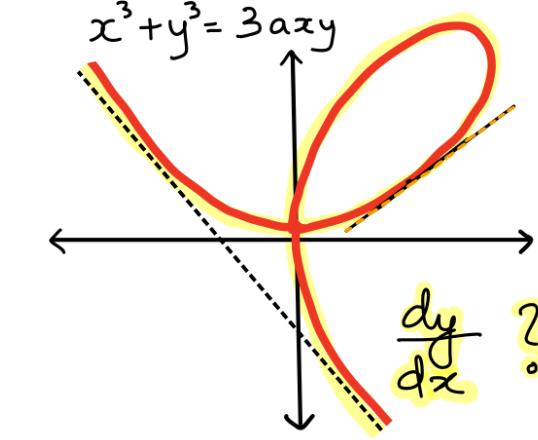
# Implicit differentiation: the math



## Implicit function theorem (informal):

Solutions  $z^*(a)$  satisfying  $f(z^*(a), a) = 0$  are locally analytic (therefore differentiable)

# Implicit differentiation: the math



Some optimality condition

$$f(z, a) = 0$$

**Optimality  
Local gradients**

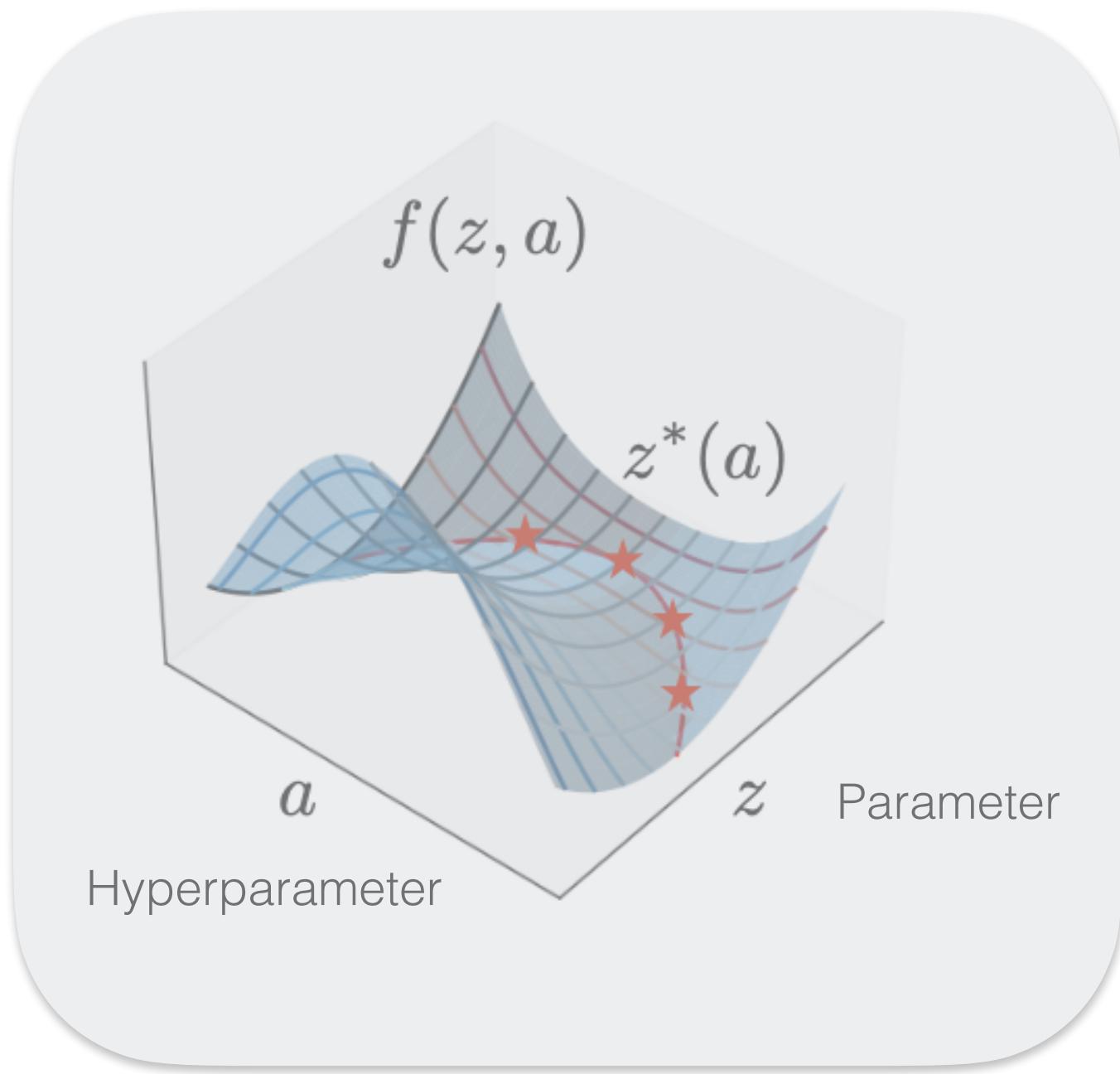
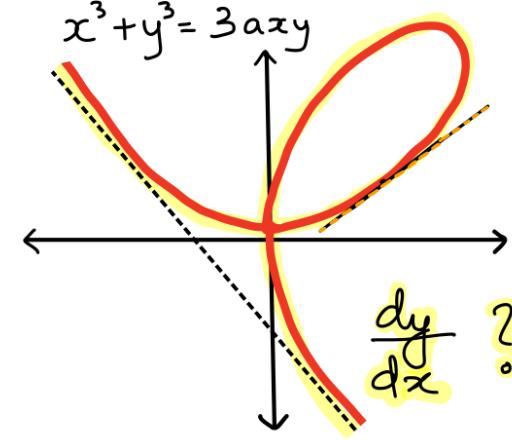
$$a \xrightarrow{ } z^*(a)$$

Implicitly defined solution  
function (cannot be written  
down analytically)

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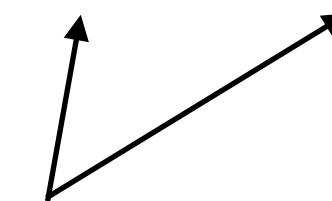
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(therefore differentiable)

## Implicit gradients

$$\partial_a z^*(a) = -[(\partial_z f)^{-1} \partial_a f]|_{(z^*(a), a)}$$



Local gradients at solution  $z^*(a)$

Also works for fixed-point equations:

$$f'(z, a) = z$$

$$f'(z, a) - z = 0$$

$$f(z, a) = 0$$



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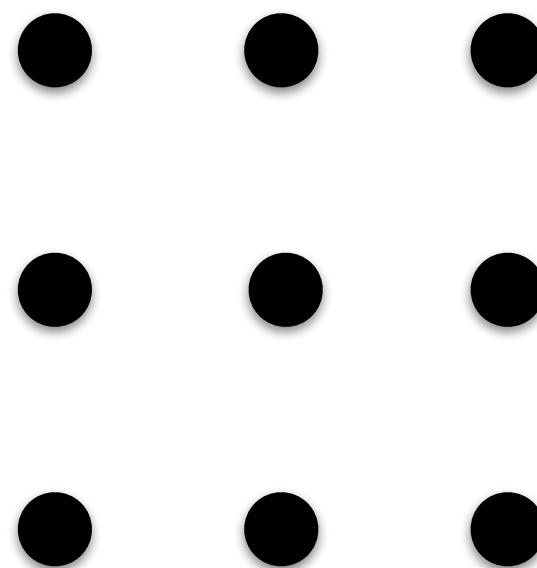
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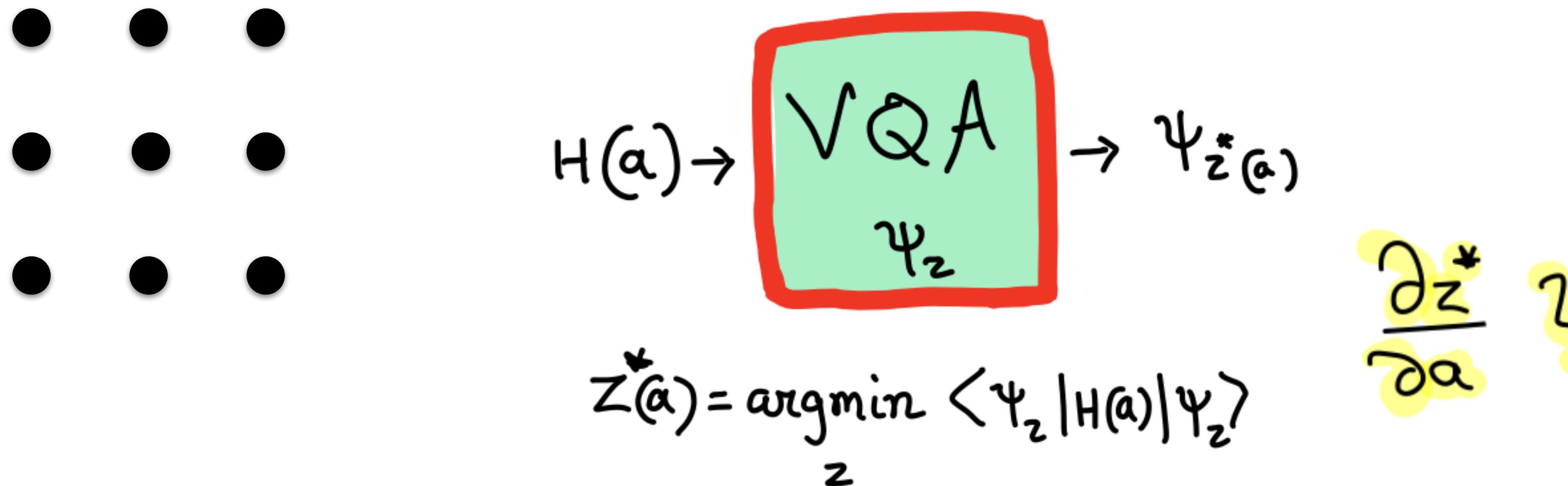
# Implicit differentiation of VQAs: ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities

$$H(a) = -J \sum_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z - \gamma \sum_i \sigma_i^x + \delta \sum_i \sigma_i^z - aA$$



# Implicit differentiation of VQAs: ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities

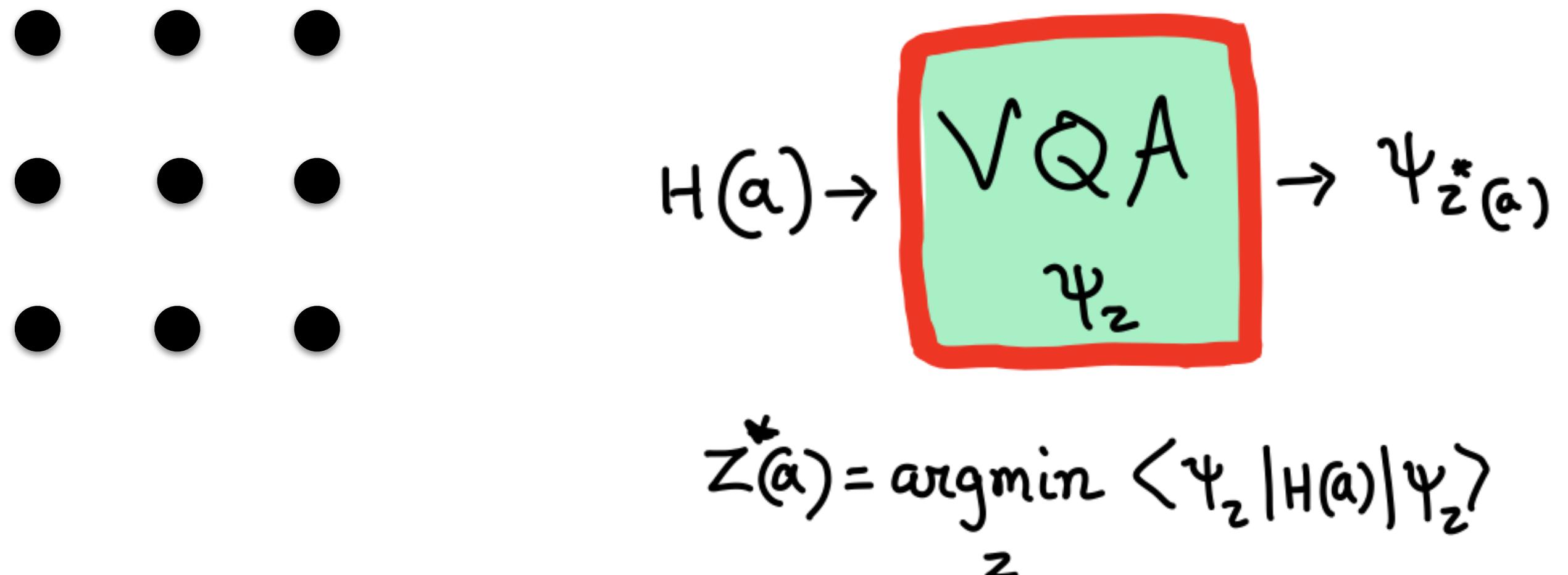
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# Implicit differentiation of VQAs:

## ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities

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$$\frac{\partial z^*}{\partial a}$$

- How do general ground-state properties change w.r.t the Hamiltonian params?

$$\langle A \rangle = \langle \psi_{z^*(a)} | A | \psi_{z^*(a)} \rangle$$

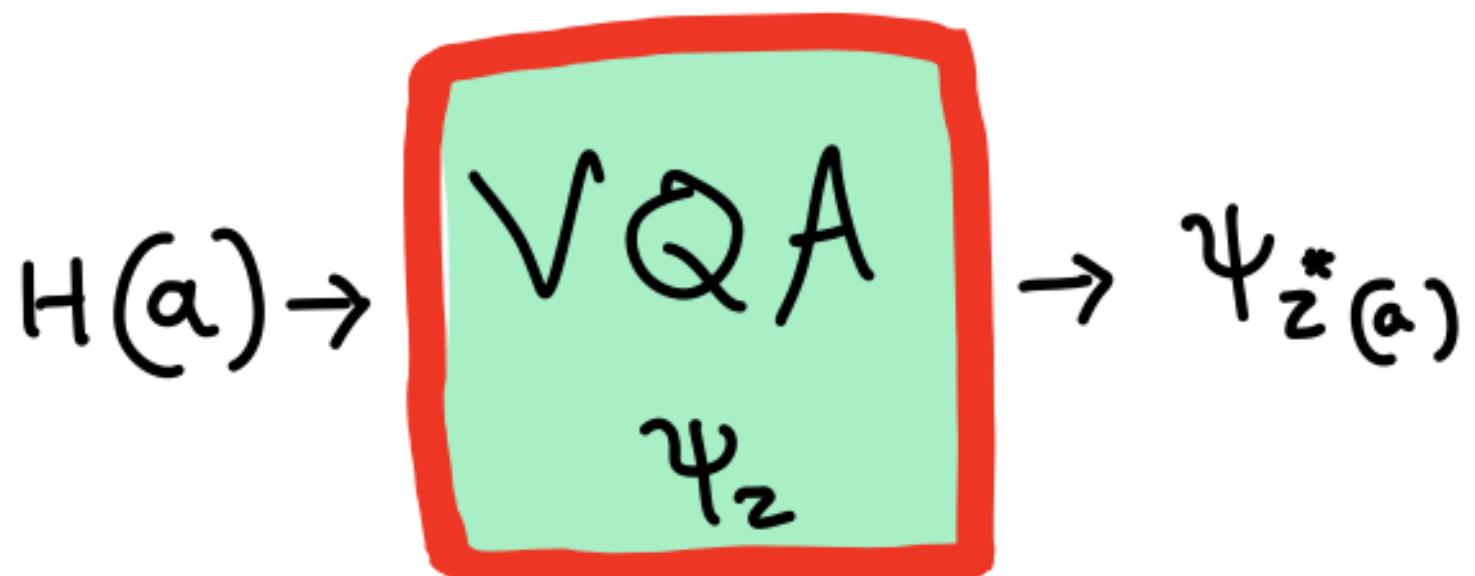
- What is  $\partial_a \langle A \rangle$  ?

# Implicit differentiation of VQAs:

## ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities

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• • •  
 • • •  
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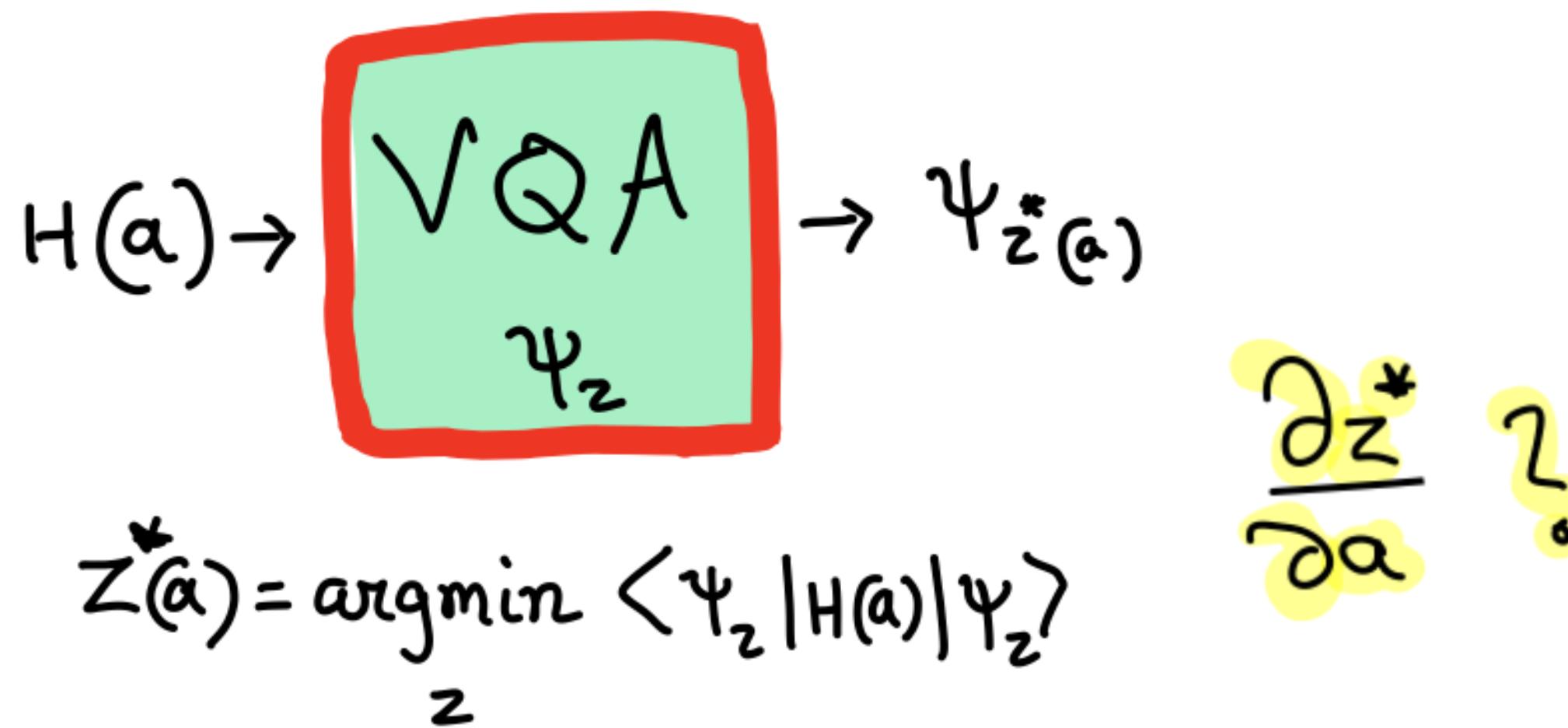
- What is  $\partial_a \langle A \rangle$  ?

\*If  $A = H(a)$ , Hellman-Feynmann theorem works:  $\partial_a \langle A \rangle = \cancel{\partial_a z^*(a) \cdot \partial_z \langle A \rangle} + \langle \psi_{z^*(a)} | \partial_a A | \psi_{z^*(a)} \rangle$

$$+ \langle \psi_{z^*(a)} | \partial_a A | \psi_{z^*(a)} \rangle$$

# Implicit differentiation of VQAs: ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities

$$\partial_a z^*(a) = -[(\partial_z f)^{-1} \partial_a f]|_{(z^*(a), a)}$$



# Implicit differentiation of VQAs:

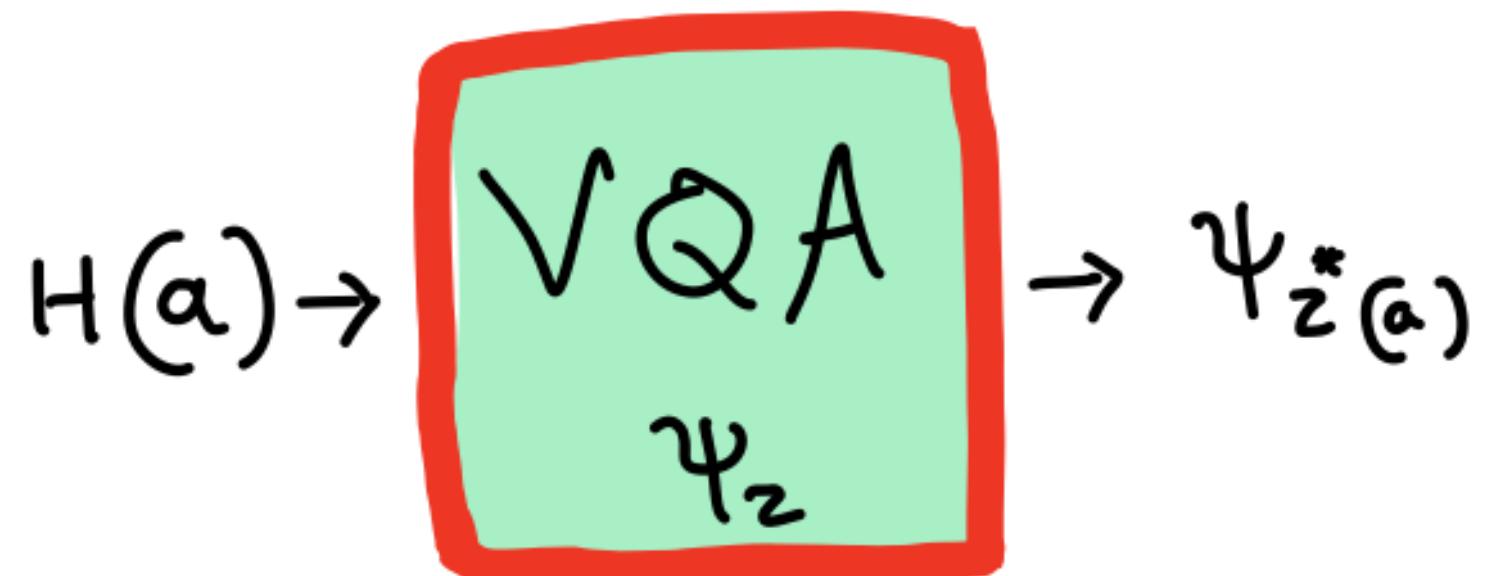
## ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities

$$\partial_a z^*(a) = -[(\partial_z f)^{-1} \partial_a f]|_{(z^*(a), a)}$$

What do we need?

- $f(z, a) = 0$ :

$$f(z, a) = \partial_z \langle \psi_z | H(a) | \psi_z \rangle = 0$$



$$z^*(a) = \underset{z}{\operatorname{argmin}} \langle \psi_z | H(a) | \psi_z \rangle$$

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# Implicit differentiation of VQAs:

## ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities

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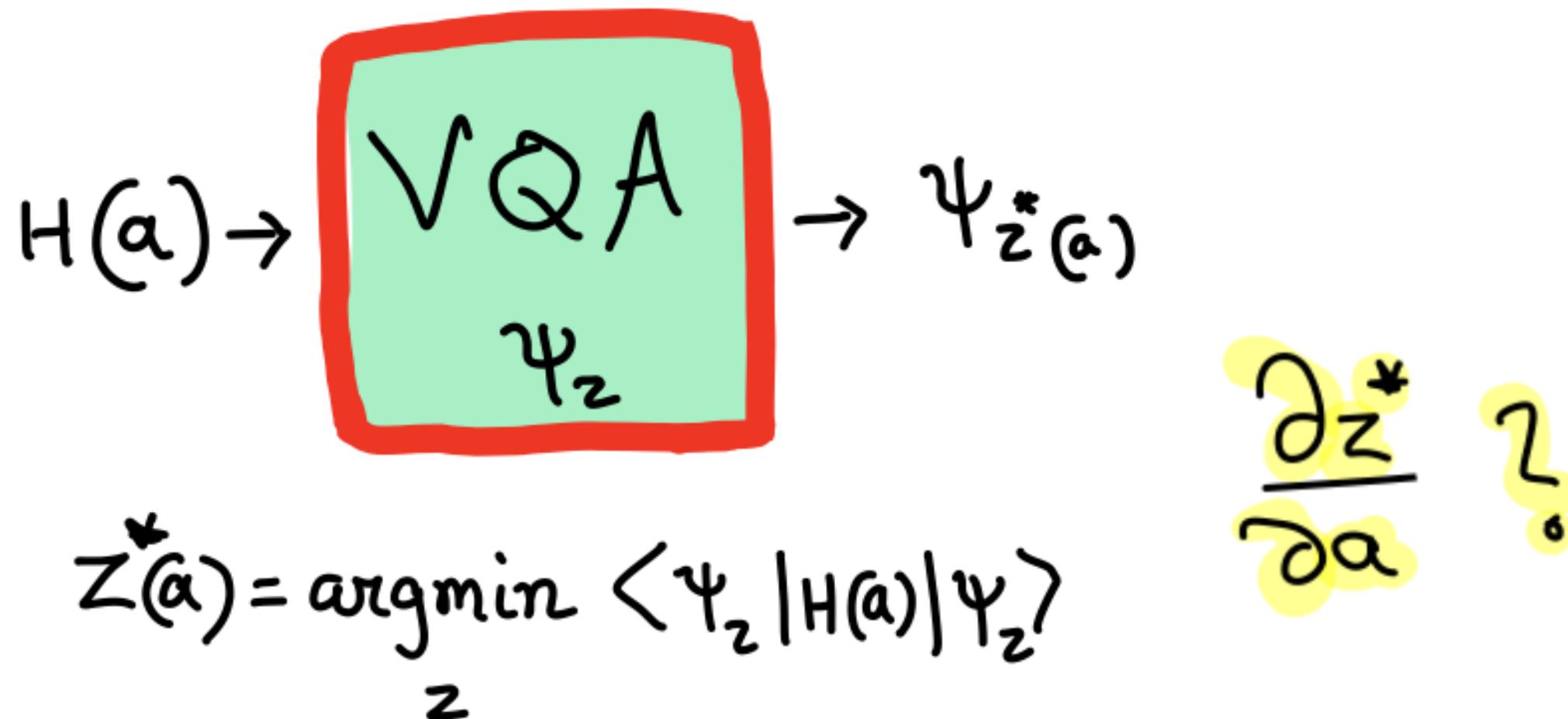
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- $z^*(a)$ , local gradients

$$(\partial_z f, \partial_a f)|_{(z^*(a), a)}$$



# Implicit differentiation of VQAs:

## ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities

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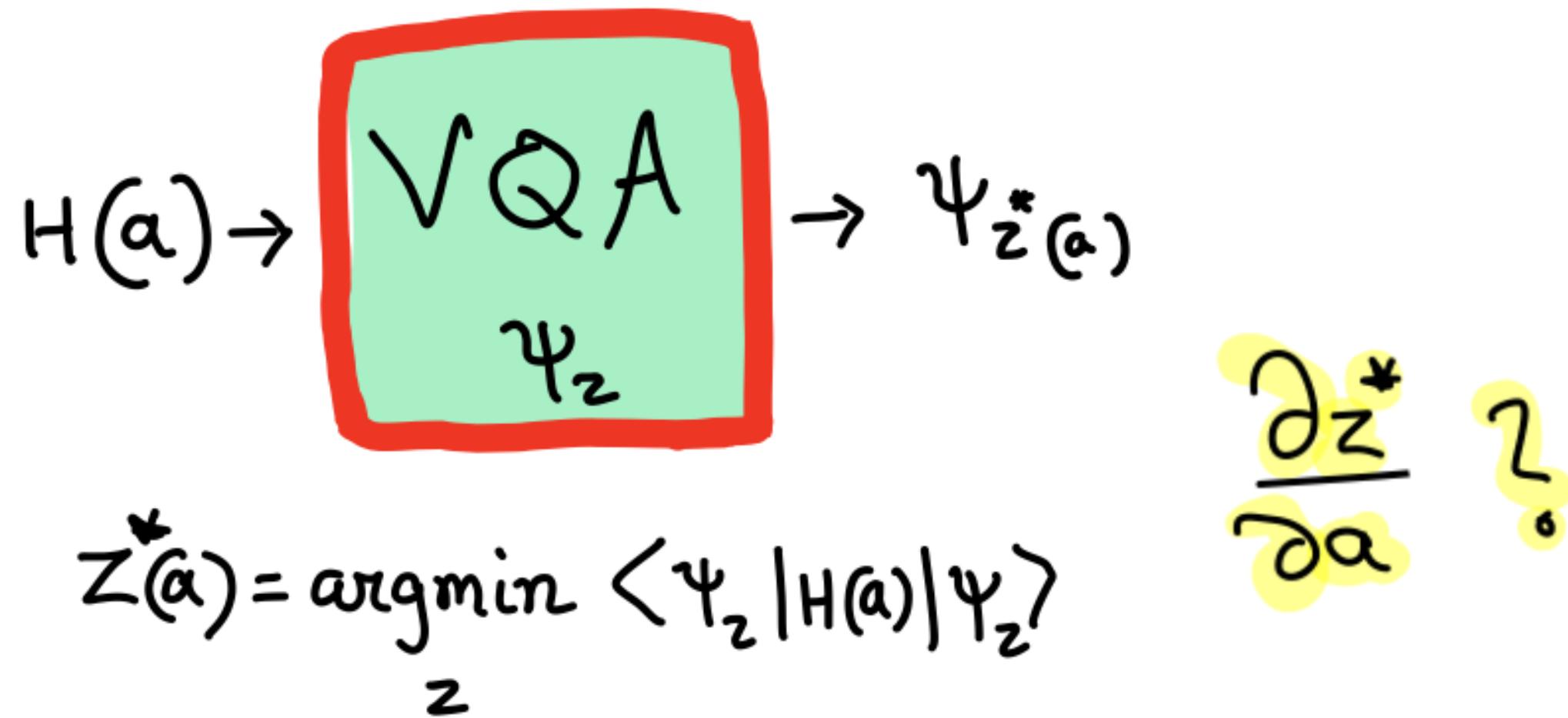
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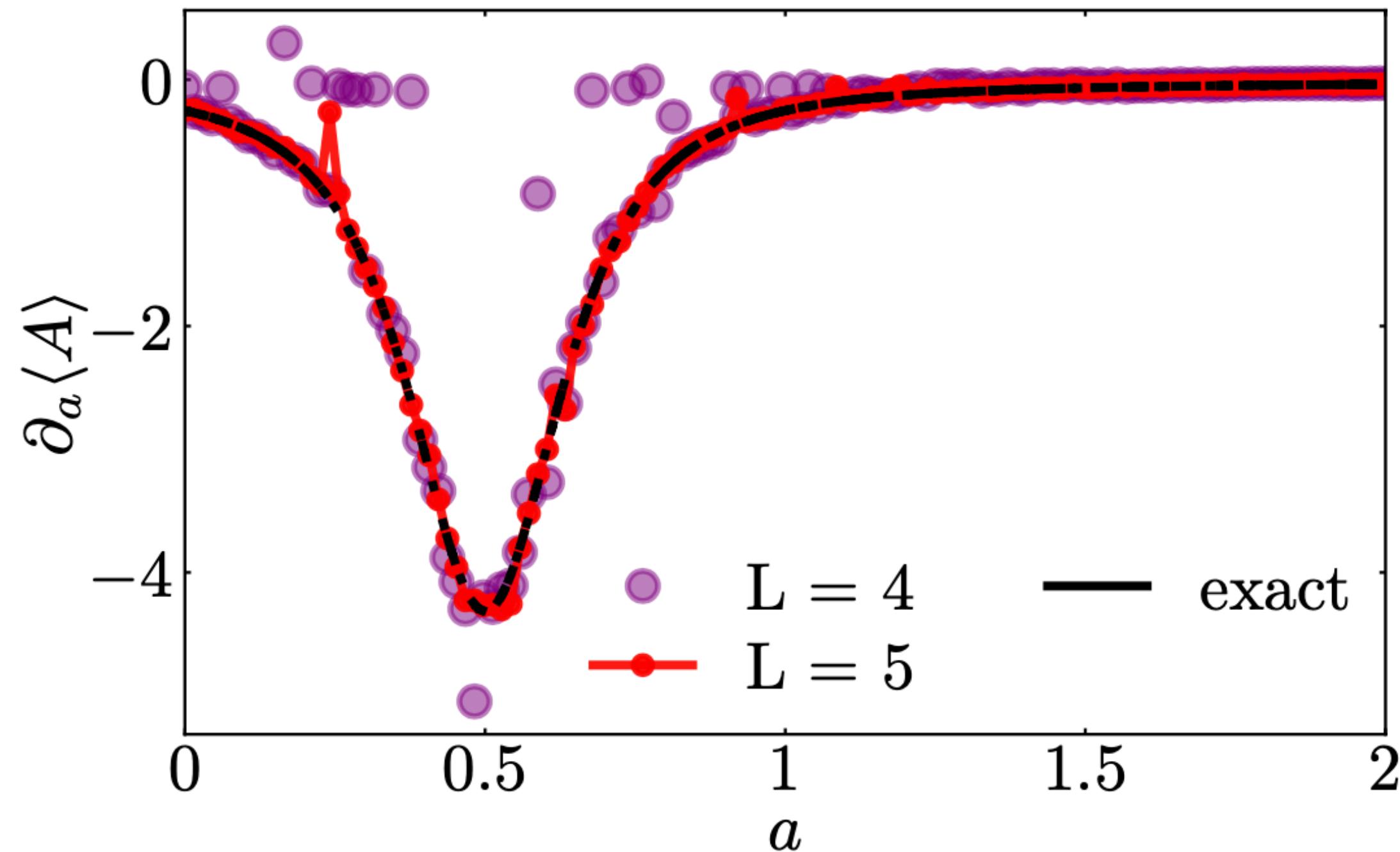
- $z^*(a)$ , local gradients

$$(\partial_z f, \partial_a f)|_{(z^*(a), a)}$$

- Inverting  $\partial_z f$  efficiently (arXiv:2211.13765)



# Implicit differentiation of VQAs: ground-state gradients, generalized susceptibilities



$$\partial_a z^*(a) = -[(\partial_z f)^{-1} \partial_a f]|_{(z^*(a), a)}$$

Quantum computing fidelity susceptibility using automatic differentiation

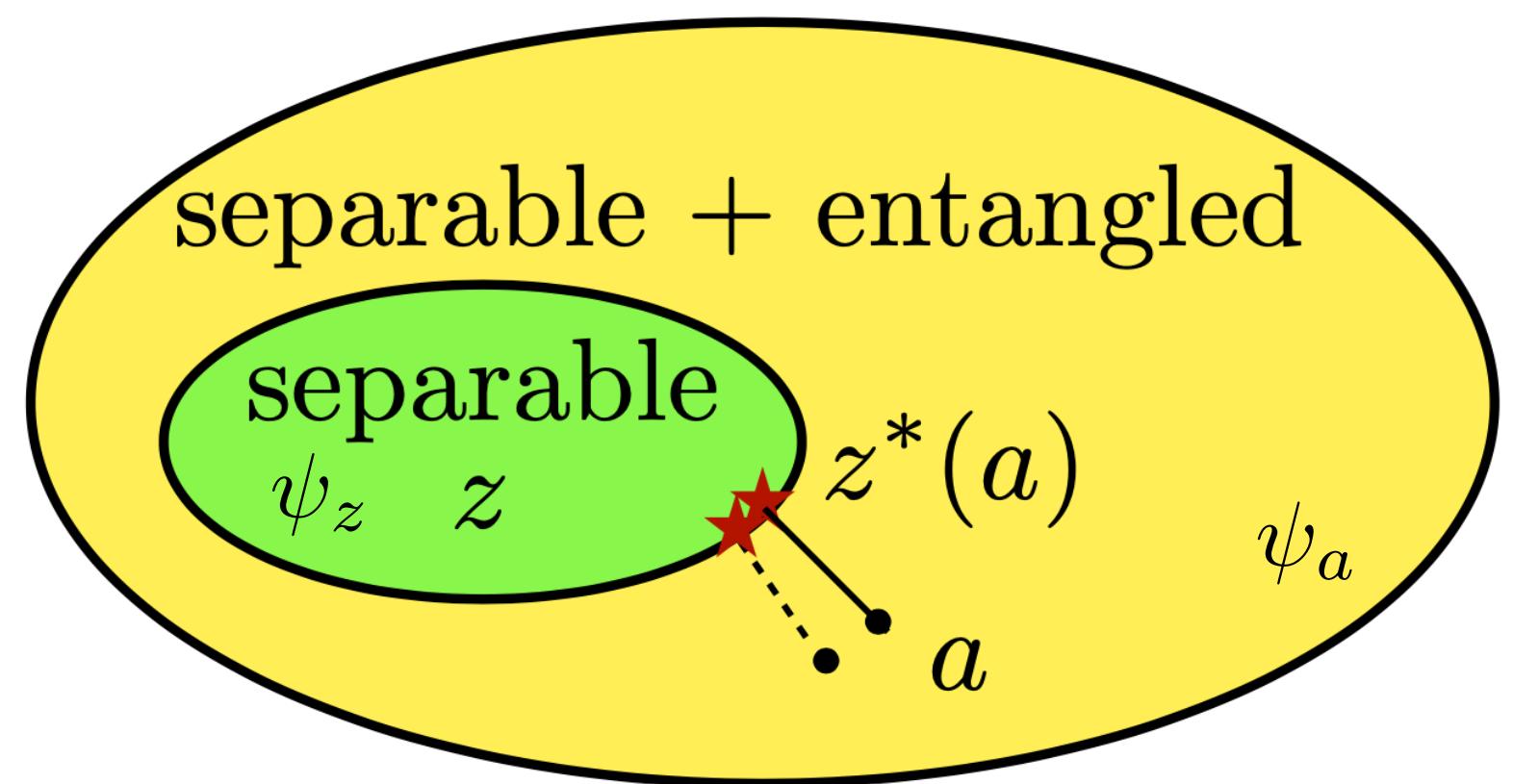
Olivia Di Matteo and R. M. Woloshyn  
Phys. Rev. A **106**, 052429 – Published 28 November 2022

Figure 3: Susceptibility computation for a  $N = 5$  spin  
arXiv:2211.13765

# Implicit differentiation of VQAs:

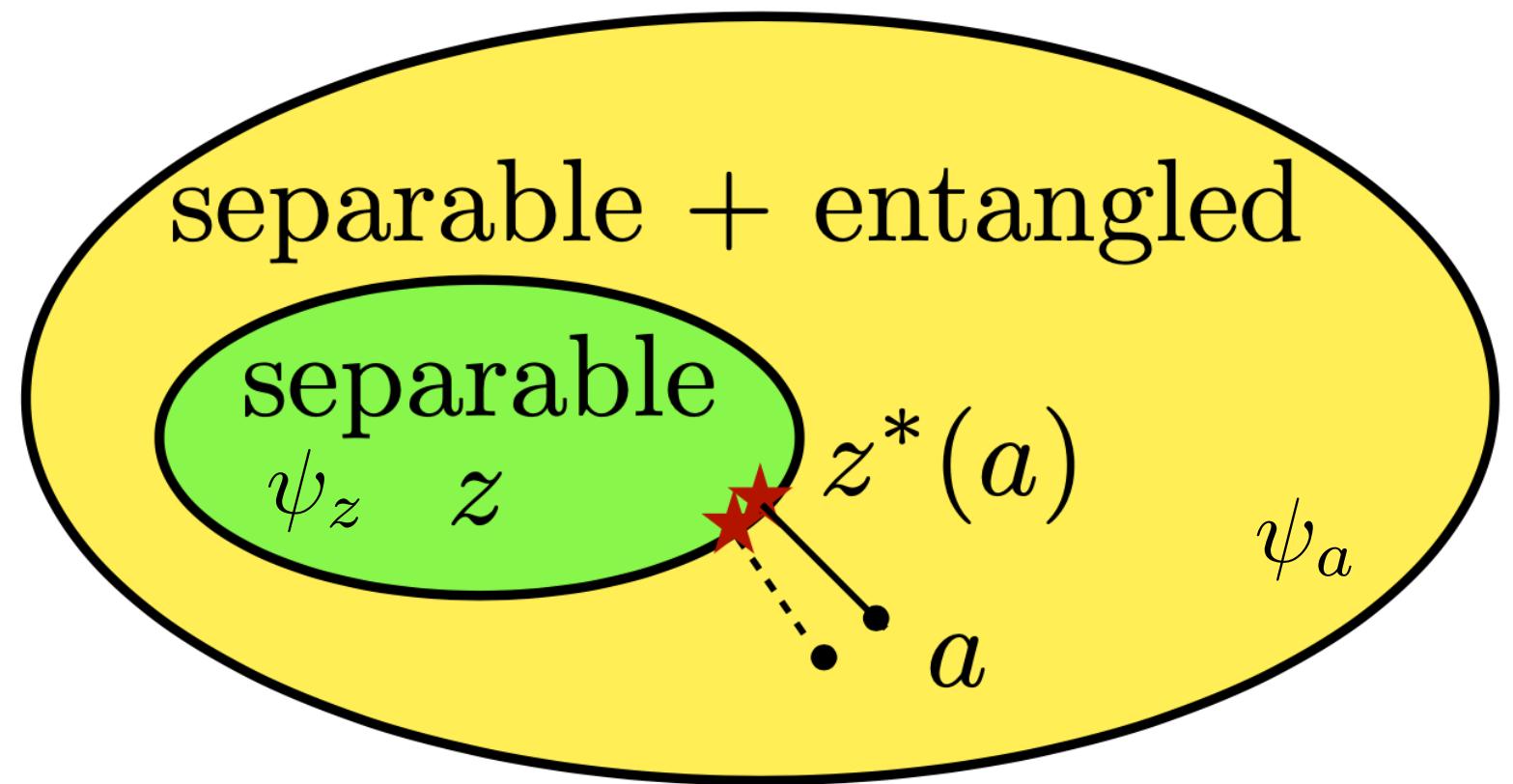
creating entangled states by optimising a geometric measure of entanglement

What is the separable state  
farthest away from our state?



# Implicit differentiation of VQAs:

creating entangled states by optimising a geometric measure of entanglement



$$\partial_a z^*(a)$$

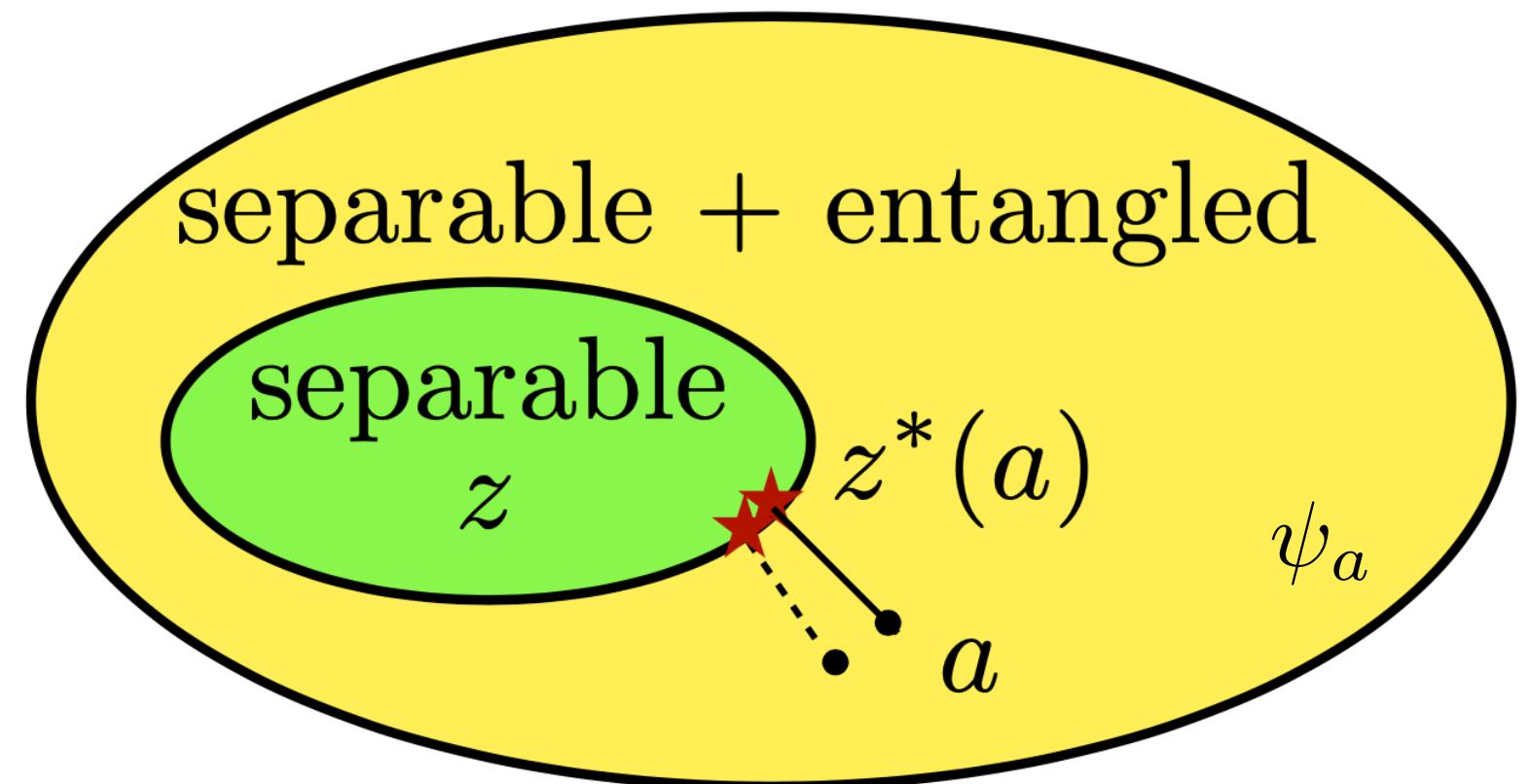
What is the separable state  
farthest away from our state?

$$z^*(a) = \arg \max_z \underbrace{||\langle \psi_z | \psi_a \rangle||}_{\Lambda_{\max}(a)}$$

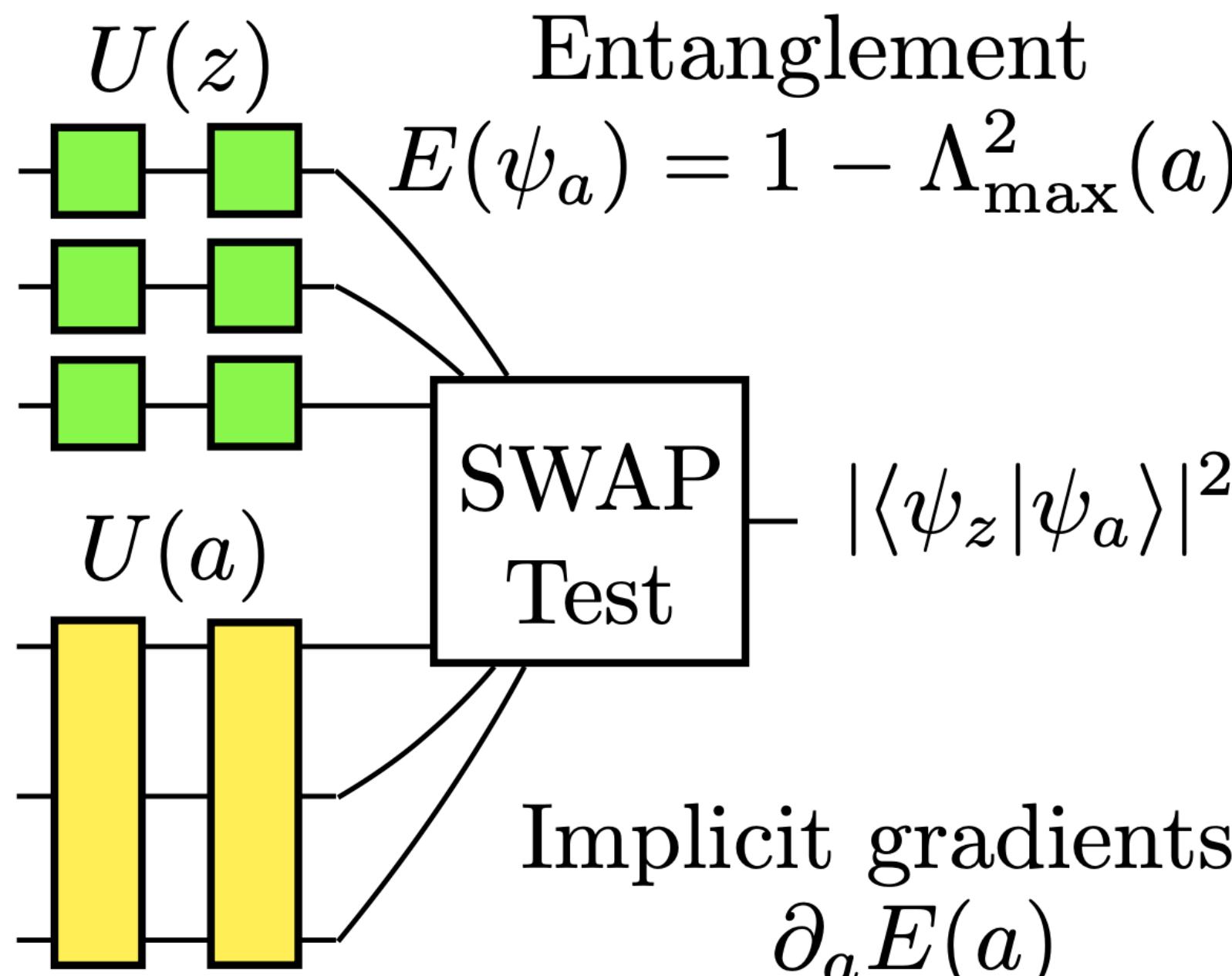
Entanglement  
 $E(\psi_a) = 1 - \Lambda_{\max}^2(a)$

# Implicit differentiation of VQAs:

creating entangled states by optimising a geometric measure of entanglement



$$\partial_a z^*(a)$$



Entanglement

$$E(\psi_a) = 1 - \Lambda_{\max}^2(a)$$

SWAP  
Test

$$|\langle\psi_z|\psi_a\rangle|^2$$

Implicit gradients  
 $\partial_a E(a)$

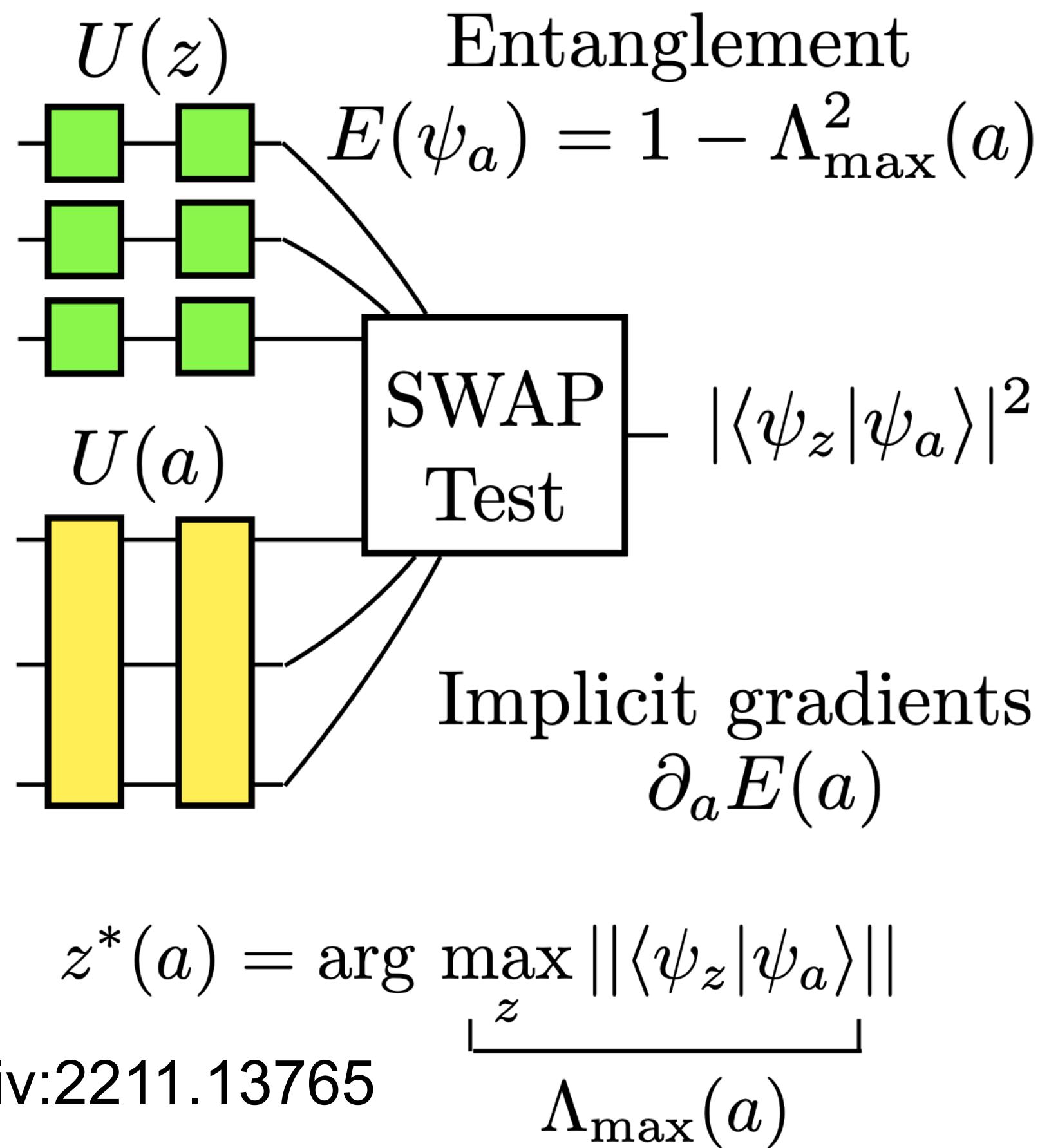
$$z^*(a) = \arg \max_z \frac{||\langle\psi_z|\psi_a\rangle||}{\Lambda_{\max}(a)}$$

How does the entanglement  
measure change  
as we change  $a$  ?

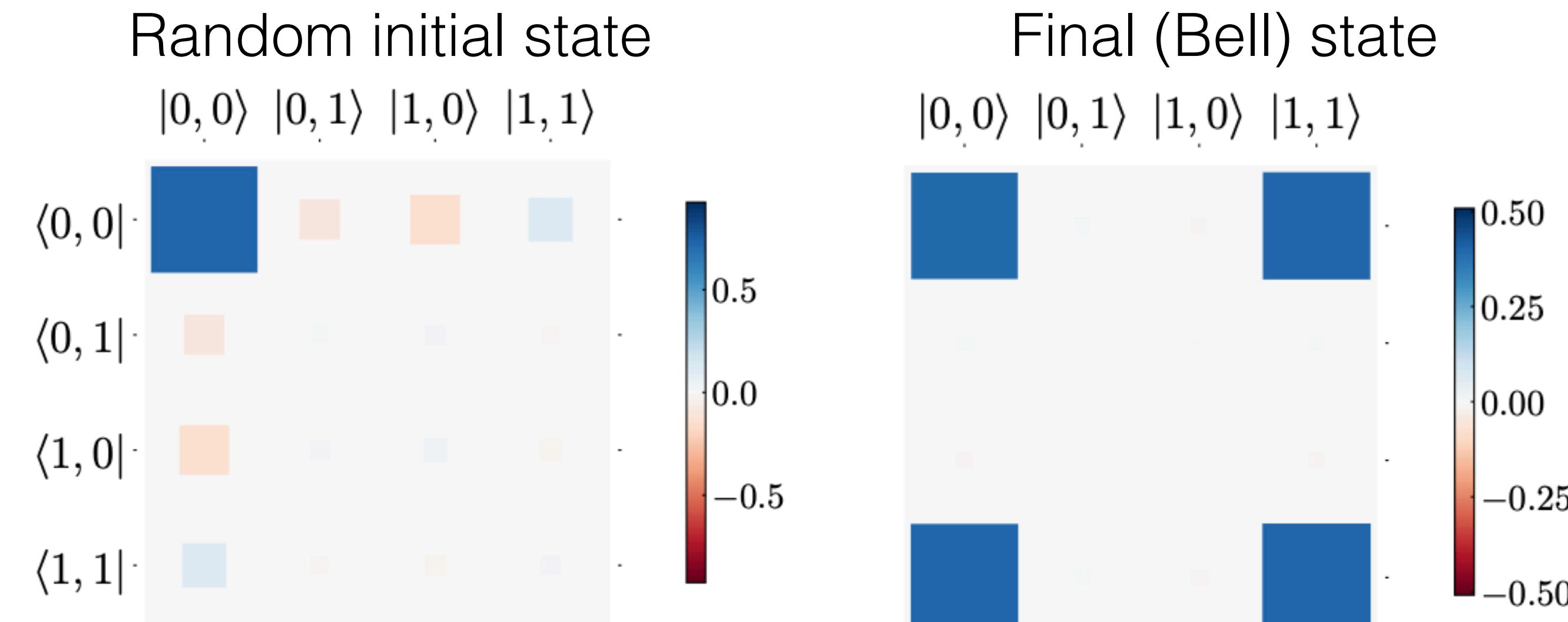
$$\partial_a E(\psi_a)$$

# Implicit differentiation of variational quantum algorithms:

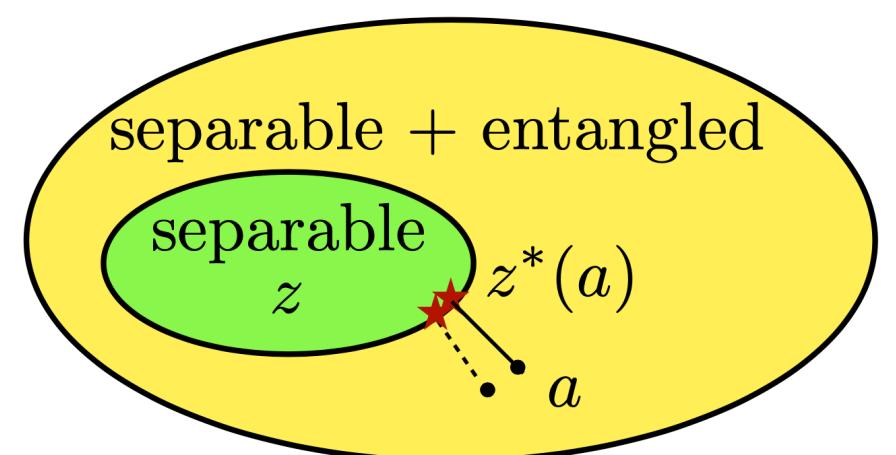
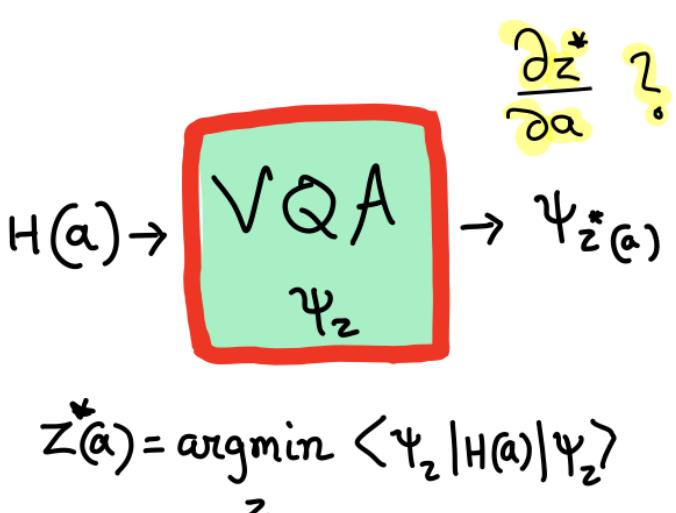
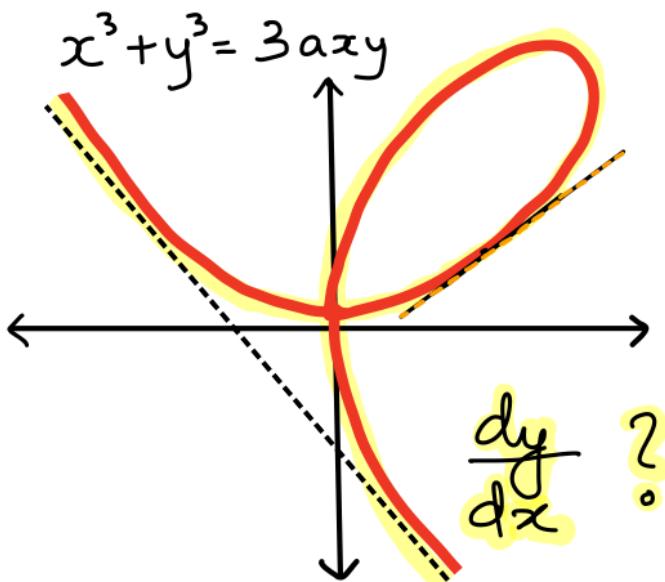
creating entangled states by optimizing a geometric measure of entanglement



With the implicit gradients, we can simply apply gradient-based optimization to create entanglement variationally!



# Conclusions



- Implicit differentiation unlocks new possibilities for VQAs:
  - Ground-state gradients
  - Entanglement generation: a novel application
  - Hyperparameter optimization in quantum machine learning algorithms
- Caveats:
  - solution points and their gradients are necessary
  - gradients could be noisy



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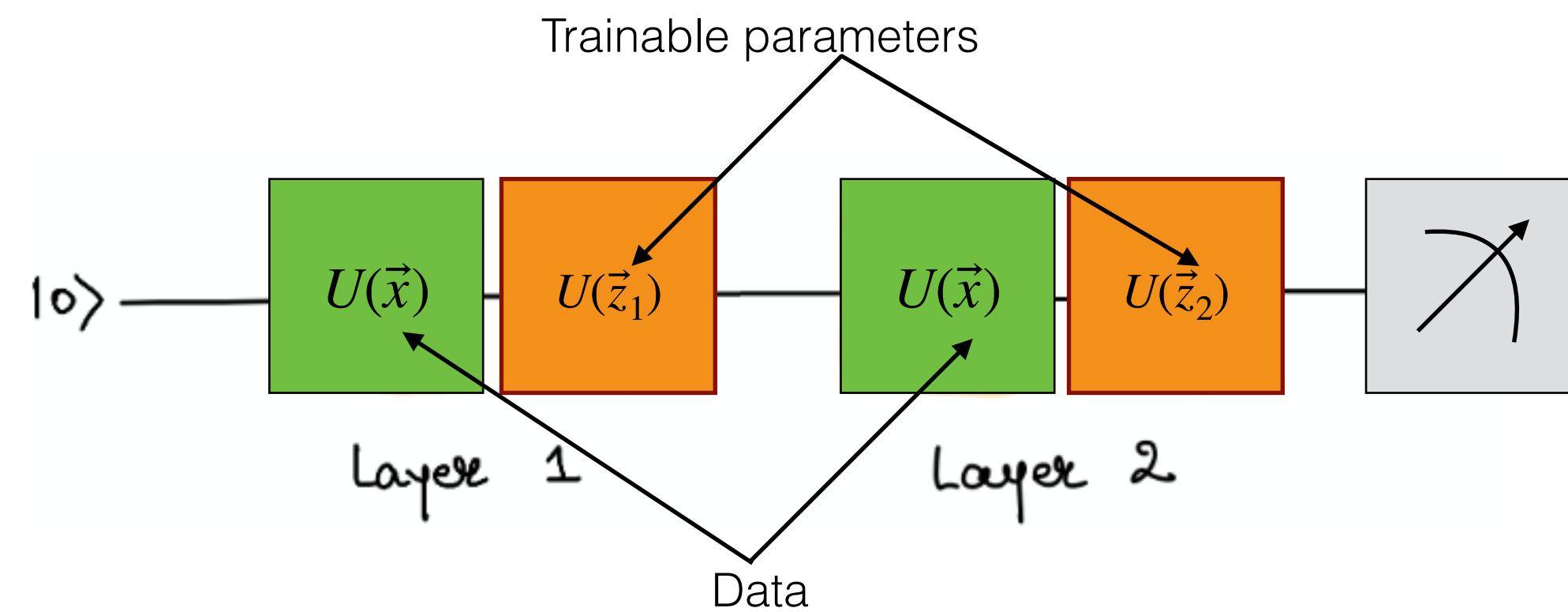
WACQT

Wallenberg Center for  
Quantum Technology

# Extra slides

# Implicit differentiation of variational quantum algorithms:

## Hyperparameter optimization in QML

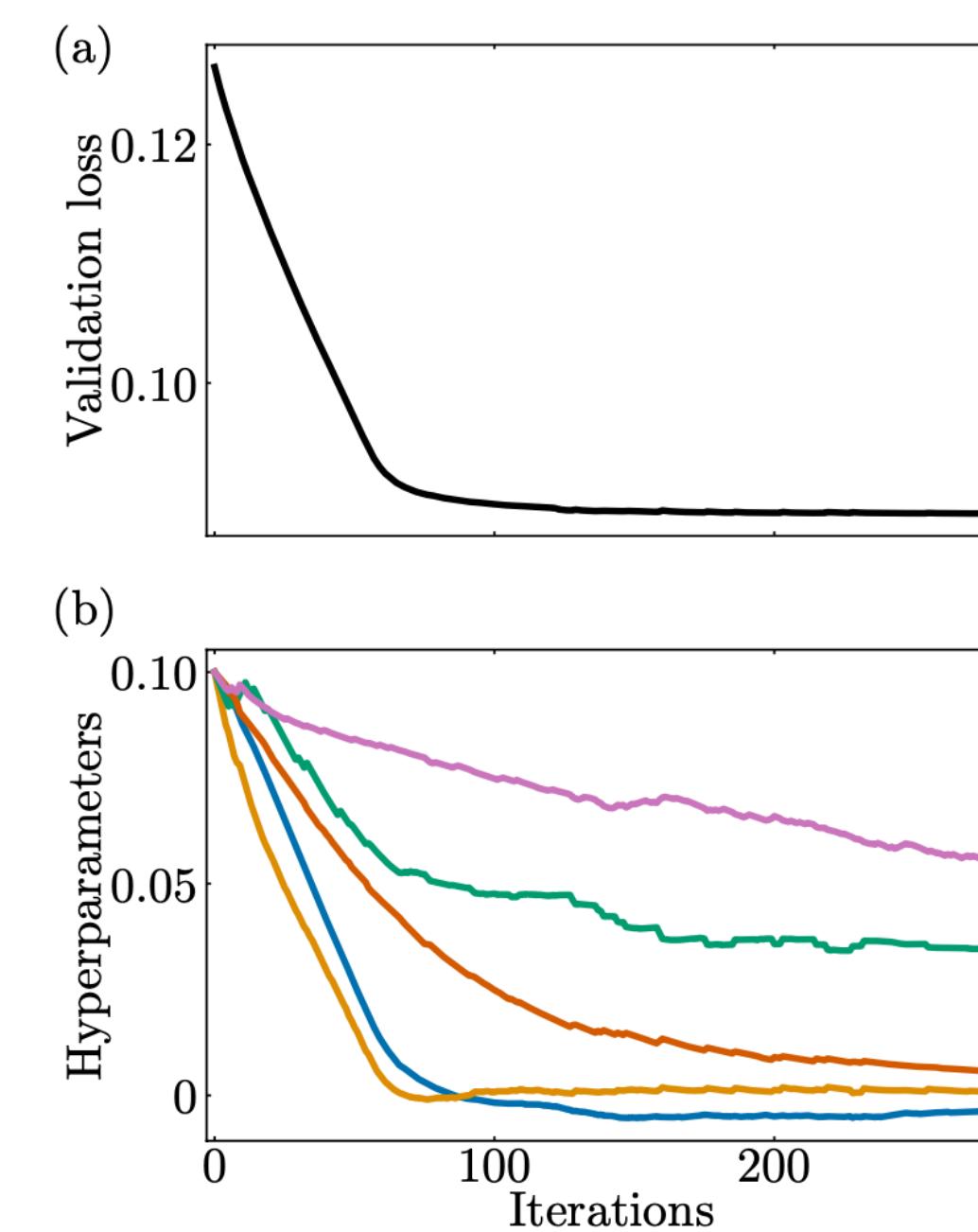


$$\mathcal{L}_T(z, a) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{bincross}}(z) + \sum_l a_l \|z_l\|_2$$

Train parameters with gradient-descent with some hyperparameter

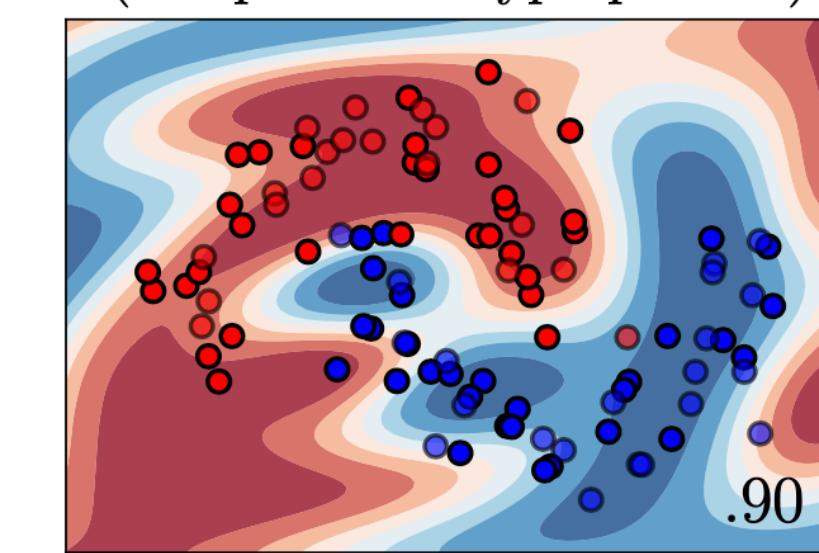
$$L_V(a) = L_{\text{bincross}}(z^*(a))$$

Hyperparameters



Train hyperparameters also with gradient-descent!  
optimize validation loss

DataReuploading  
(Unoptimized hyperparams)



DataReuploading  
(Optimized hyperparams)

