

## VQE continued

Recall from the previous lecture that we introduced the Variational Quantum Eigensolver. It is based on the variational principle which states that for any Hermitian  $H$

$$\frac{\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | \psi \rangle} \geq \lambda_0 \quad \text{where } \lambda_0 \text{ is the smallest eigenvalue of } H.$$

[VQE]

This leads to the following algorithm:

Note: this holds for mixed states e.g.  $\text{Tr}(\rho H) \geq \lambda_0$   
AND  $\text{Var}[H] = \langle \psi | H^2 | \psi \rangle - \langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle^2 \geq 0$   
see Maclenn et al 2015

- ① Prepare  $|\psi(\vec{\theta}_i)\rangle$  on a quantum computer where  $\vec{\theta}$  are some adjustable programming parameters on the QPC
- ② Measure  $\langle H \rangle(\vec{\theta}_i) = \langle \psi(\vec{\theta}_i) | H | \psi(\vec{\theta}_i) \rangle$
- ③ Use a classical non-linear optimizer (such as Nelder-Mead) to determine  $\vec{\theta}_{i+1}$  that decreases  $\langle H \rangle(\vec{\theta})$
- ④ Iterate until convergence of  $\langle H \rangle(\vec{\theta})$ . Then  $\langle H \rangle \approx \lambda_0$  and  $|\psi(\vec{\theta}_i)\rangle \approx \vec{x}_0$   
↑ eigenstate of  $H$   
s.t.  $H\vec{x}_0 = \lambda_0\vec{x}_0$

## VQE for Quantum Chemistry (Peruzzo et al 2013)

VQE was introduced in the context of a quantum chemistry simulation known as the electronic structure problem. In this problem one is given a description of a molecule (represented by its Hamiltonian) and then we are tasked to find the molecule's ground state and ground state energy.

### Molecules + Electronic structure

A molecule is a quantum system w/ state  $|\psi\rangle$ . The time evolution is given by a unitary operator\*

$$U(t) = e^{-iHt/\hbar}$$

$H$  is the Hamiltonian of the system and it describes the dynamics of the molecule.

\* assuming the molecule is just sitting there w/ no time-dependance

$H$  is a fixed Hermitian operator whose details are given by the dynamics of the physical system. In general  $H = T + V$

$\begin{array}{c} \uparrow \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\ \text{kinetic} \qquad \text{potential} \\ \text{energy} \qquad \text{energy} \end{array}$

Because  $H = H^\dagger$  we can decompose  $H$  into a basis formed by its eigenvalues and eigenvectors

$$H = \sum_E E |E\rangle \langle E|$$

These are referred to as the energy eigenstates and energies of the system. The smallest energy is called the ground state energy and is associated with the ground state eigenvector.

Evolution in quantum mechanics is described by the Schrödinger Equation

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\psi\rangle = H |\psi\rangle$$

$\uparrow$   
 Hamiltonian

Thus for any energy eigenstate

$$\frac{d|E_j\rangle}{dt} = -\frac{iH|E_j\rangle}{\hbar} = -\frac{iE_j|E_j\rangle}{\hbar} \Rightarrow |E\rangle \mapsto e^{-iE_j t/\hbar} |E\rangle$$

evolution is just multiplication by some overall phase factor.

In fact general evolution for a time-independent  $H$  is given by

$$|\psi\rangle \mapsto e^{-iHt/\hbar} |\psi\rangle$$

This is easy to see by expanding  $|\psi\rangle$  into the eigenbasis of  $H$ .

When our system is a molecule the ground state tells us the most stable structure of the molecule which is useful for determining chemical properties like reaction rates,

Defn Given a set of nuclear charges  $N_i$  and a number of electrons the Hamiltonian describes their interactions  $\hat{H}$ : \* in atomic units

$$H = - \underbrace{\sum_i \frac{\nabla_{R_i}^2}{2M_i}}_{\text{nuclear kinetic}} - \underbrace{\sum_i \frac{\nabla_{r_i}^2}{2}}_{\text{electronic kinetic}} - \underbrace{\sum_{ij} \frac{N_i N_j}{|R_i - R_j|}}_{\text{attraction to nucleus}} + \underbrace{\sum_{ij > i} \frac{N_i N_j}{|R_i - R_j|}}_{\text{nuclear repulsion}} + \underbrace{\sum_{ij > i} \frac{1}{|r_i - r_j|}}_{\text{electron repulsion}}$$

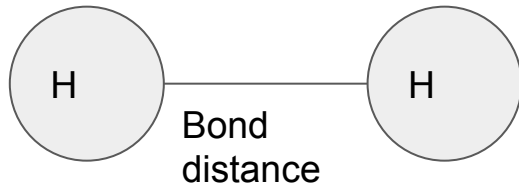
$R_i$  = nuclear positions  
 $r_i$  = electronic positions  
 $M_i$  = nuclear masses

Typically chemists then make the Born-Oppenheimer approximation by assuming the nuclei are classical point charges w/ fixed positions  $R_i$ . This is called first quantized form.

# VQE H2 Example

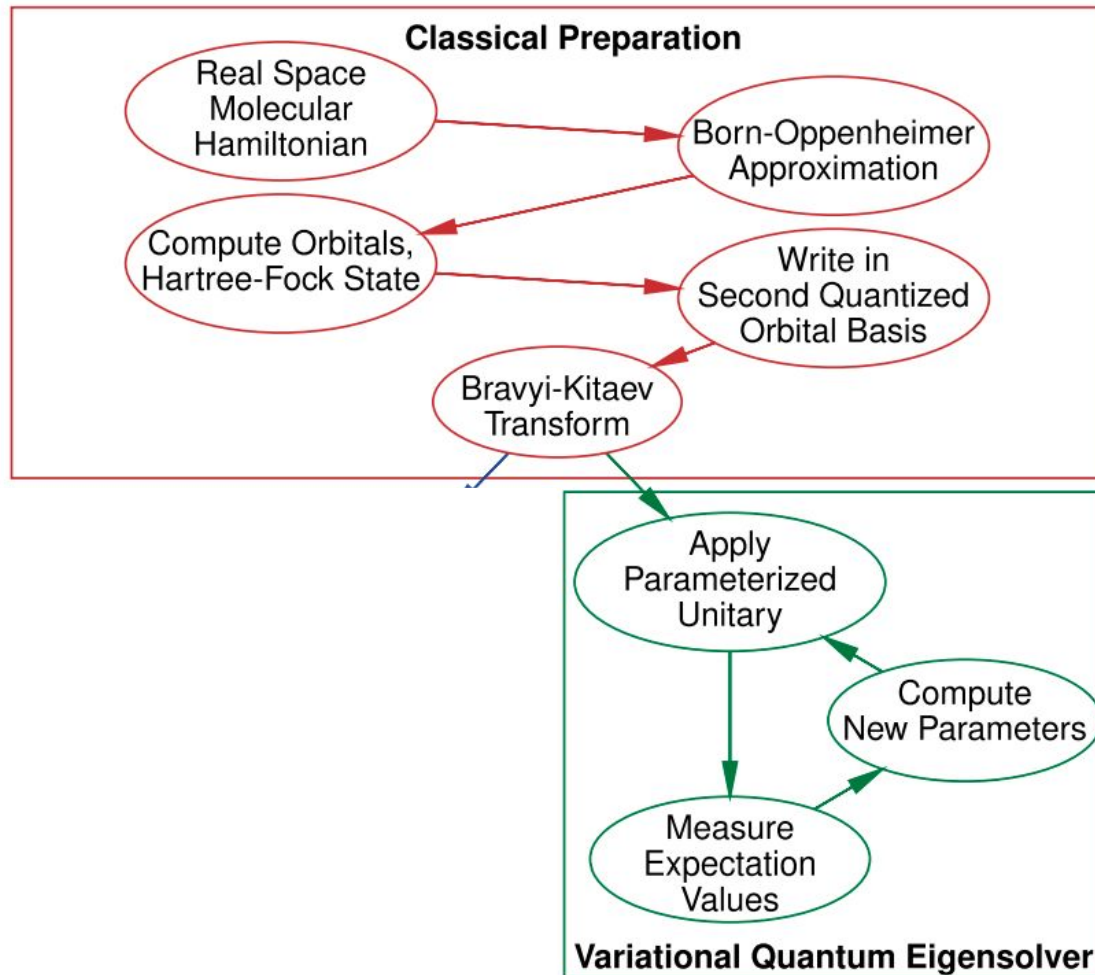
# How to find the ground state of $H_2$

O'Malley, P. J., et al (2016). Scalable quantum simulation of molecular energies.  
*Physical Review X*, 6(3), 031007.





# Steps for VQE



# Step 1: Map into a Pauli representation of H

$$H = \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_n} \frac{Z_i Z_j}{|R_i - R_j|} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \frac{-\nabla_{r_i}^2}{2} - \sum_{ij}^{N_n, N_e} \frac{Z_i}{|R_i - r_j|} + \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_e} \frac{1}{|r_i - r_j|}.$$



$$\begin{aligned} H = & f_0 \mathbb{1} + f_1 Z_0 + f_2 Z_1 + f_3 Z_2 + f_4 Z_0 Z_1 \\ & + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 + f_5 Z_1 Z_3 + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 \\ & + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 Z_3 + f_3 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \\ & + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 Z_3 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 Z_3 + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \end{aligned}$$

How many qubits are needed to simulate this?

# Step 1: Map into a Pauli representation of H

$$H = \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_n} \frac{Z_i Z_j}{|R_i - R_j|} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \frac{-\nabla_{r_i}^2}{2} - \sum_{i,j}^{N_n, N_e} \frac{Z_i}{|R_i - r_j|} + \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_e} \frac{1}{|r_i - r_j|}.$$



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# Step 1: Map into a Pauli representation of H

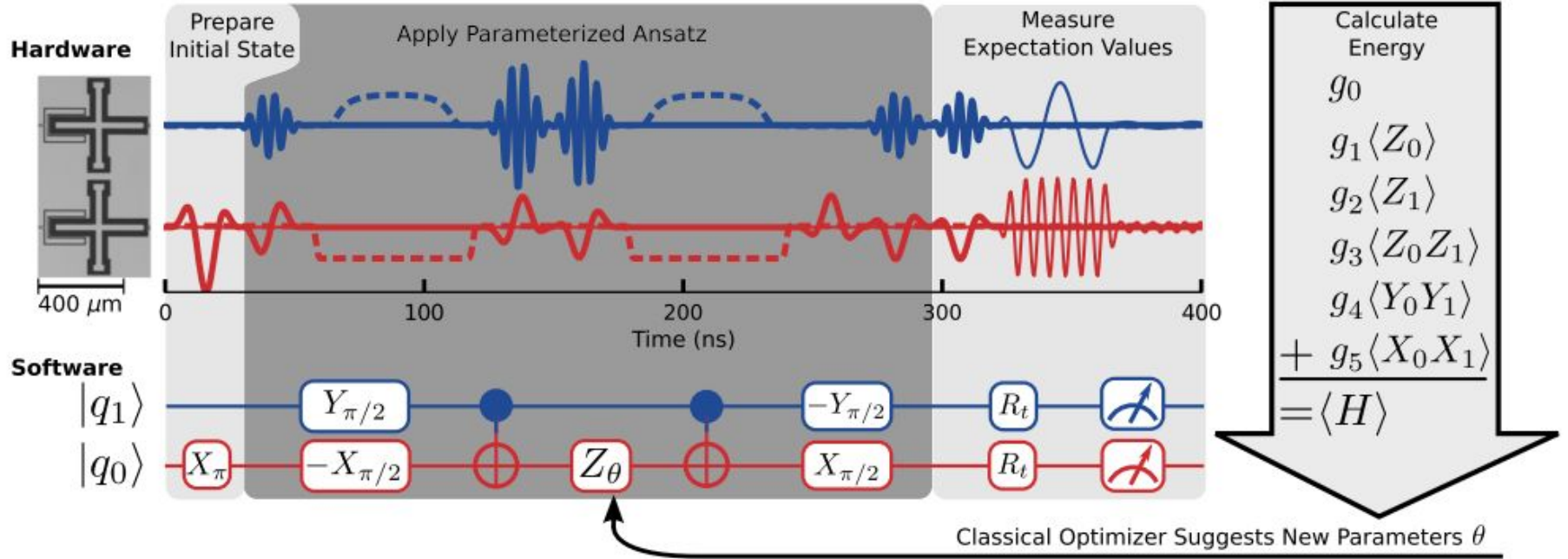
$$H = \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_n} \frac{Z_i Z_j}{|R_i - R_j|} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \frac{-\nabla_{r_i}^2}{2} - \sum_{ij}^{N_n, N_e} \frac{Z_i}{|R_i - r_j|} + \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_e} \frac{1}{|r_i - r_j|}.$$



$$\begin{aligned} H = & f_0 \mathbb{1} + f_1 Z_0 + f_2 Z_1 + f_3 Z_2 + f_4 Z_0 Z_1 \\ & + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 + f_5 Z_1 Z_3 + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 \\ & + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 Z_3 + f_3 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \\ & + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 Z_3 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 Z_3 + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\tilde{H} = g_0 \mathbb{1} + g_1 Z_0 + g_2 Z_1 + g_3 Z_0 Z_1 + g_4 X_0 X_1 + g_5 Y_0 Y_1,$$

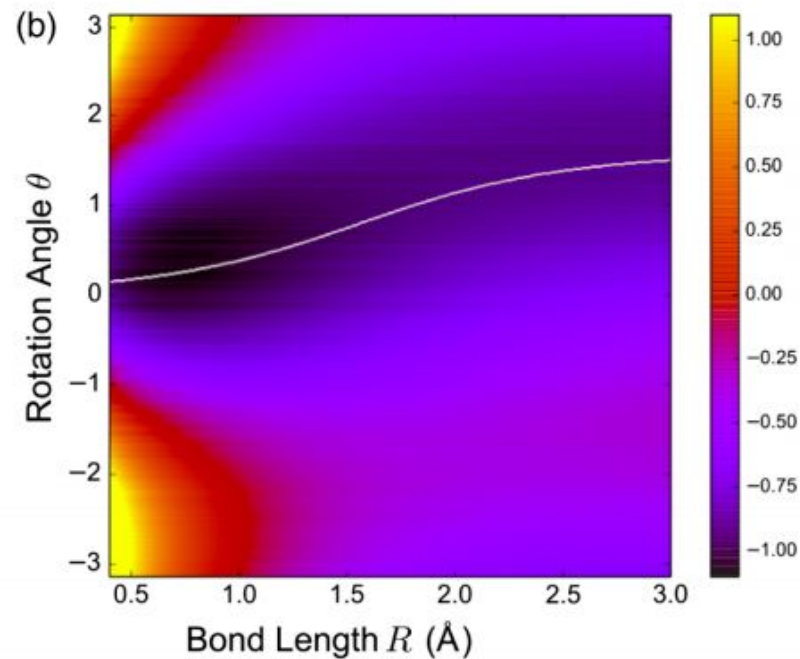
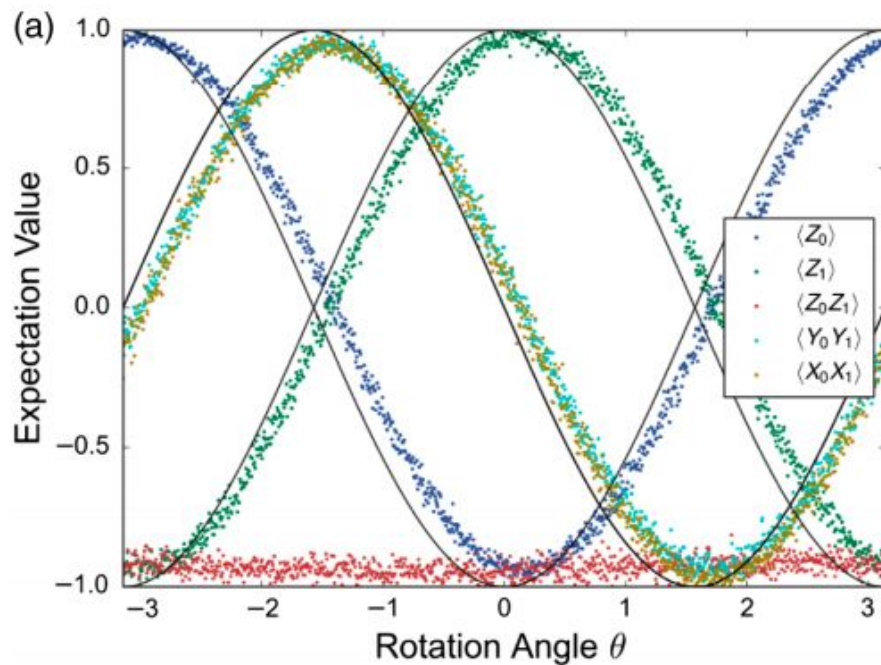
# Step 2: Pick ansatz



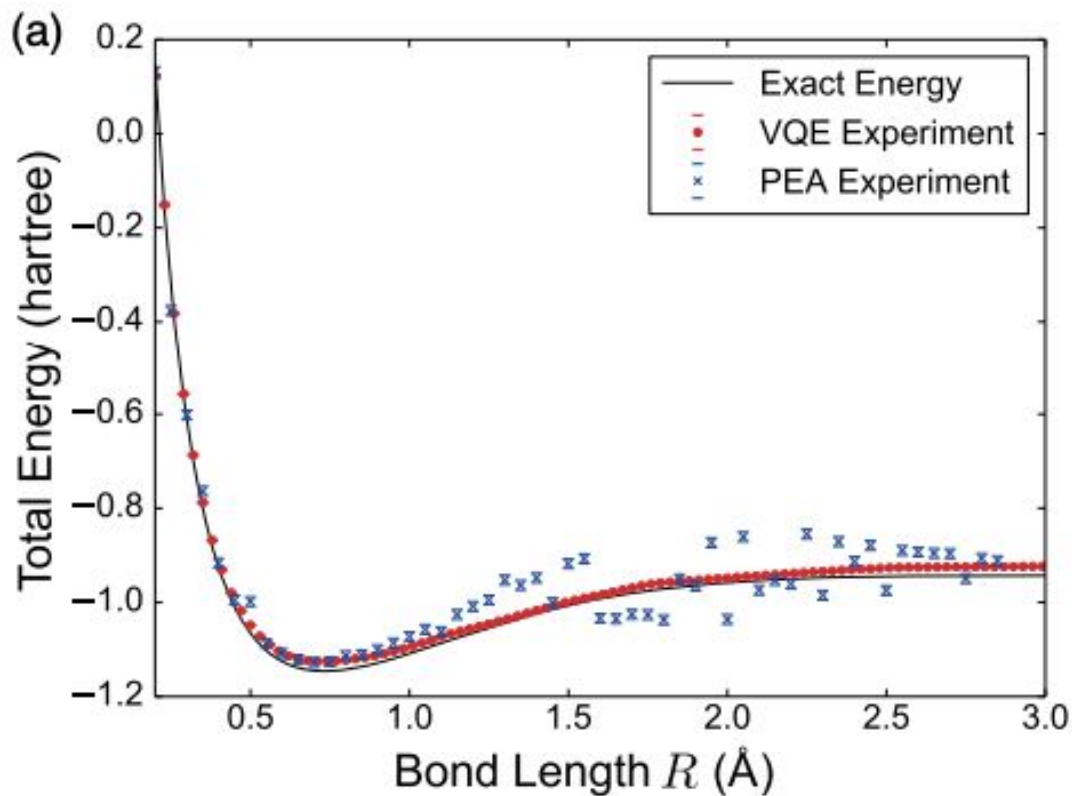
Remind Will to draw the circuit on the board

## Step 3: Optimize Over Expectations

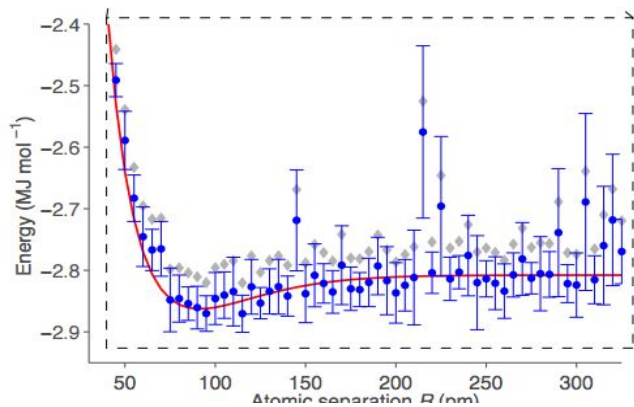
# Step 3: Optimize Brute Force Over Expectations



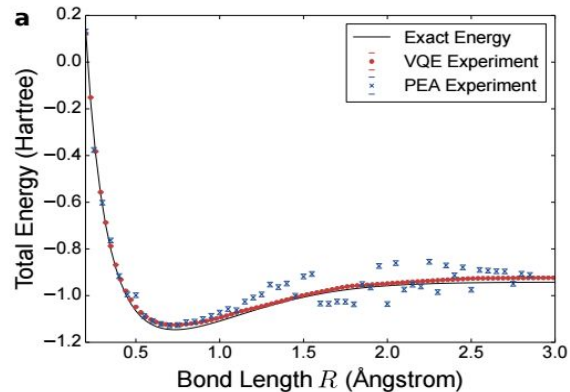
## Step 3: Plot Optimum



# VQE Simulations on Quantum Hardware



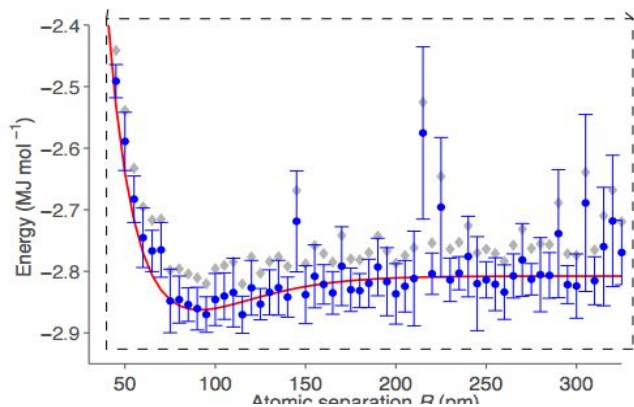
Peruzzo et al. 1304.3061



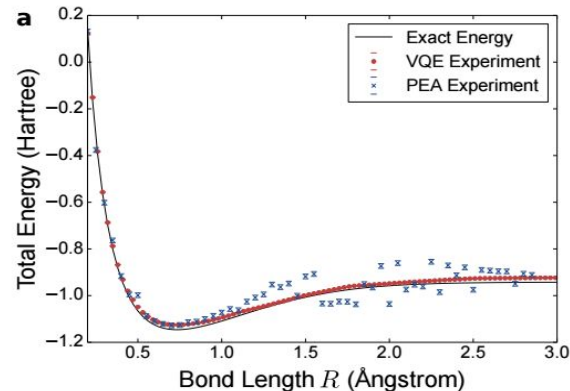
O'Malley et al. 1512.06860



# VQE Simulations on Quantum Hardware

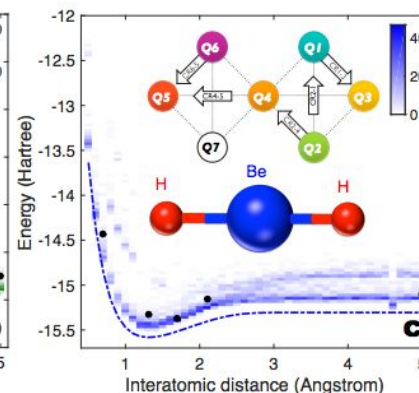
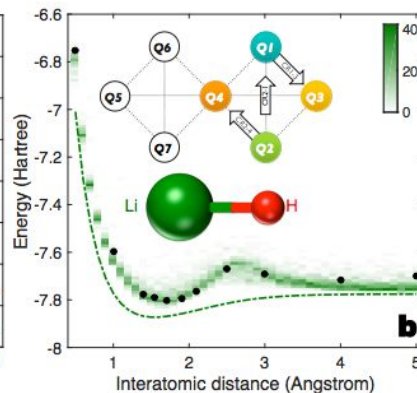
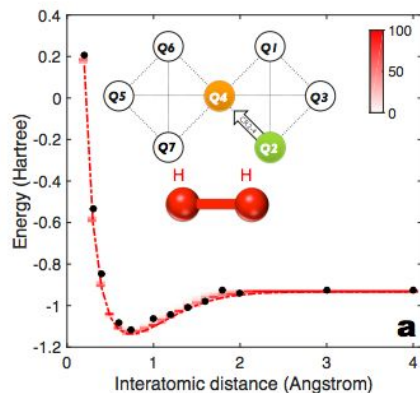


Peruzzo et al. 1304.3061



O'Malley et al. 1512.06860

Kandala et al.  
1704.05018



# The Variational Quantum Eigensolver

Used for the electronic structure problem in quantum chemistry

## 1. MOLECULAR DESCRIPTION

e.g. Electronic Structure Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_n} \frac{Z_i Z_j}{|R_i - R_j|} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_e} \frac{-\nabla_{r_i}^2}{2} - \sum_{ij}^{N_n, N_e} \frac{Z_i}{|R_i - r_j|} + \sum_{i,j < i}^{N_e} \frac{1}{|r_i - r_j|}$$

## 2. MAP TO QUBIT REPRESENTATION

e.g. Bravyi-Kitaev or Jordan-Wigner Transform

e.g. DI-HYDROGEN

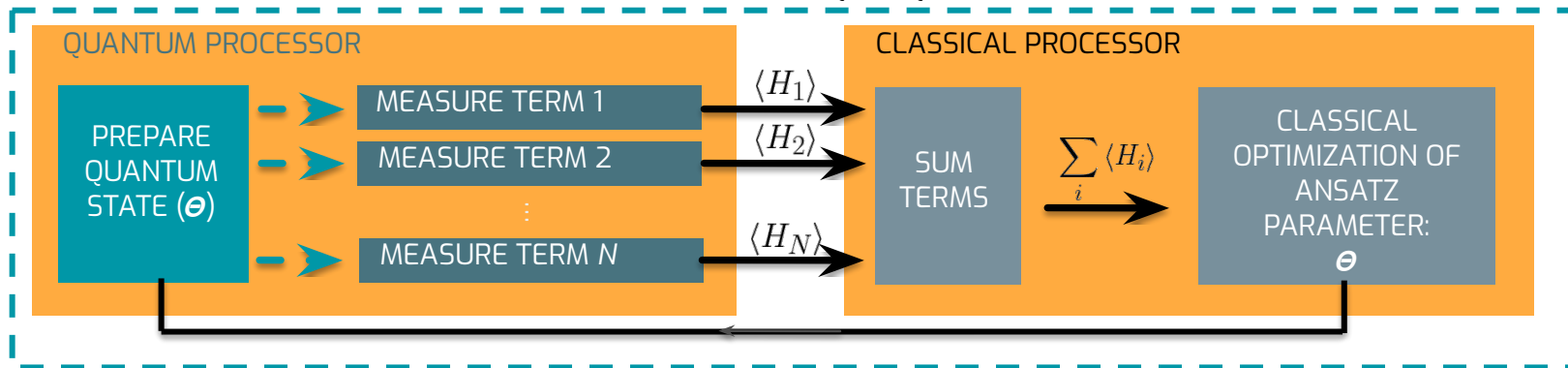
$$\begin{aligned} H = & f_0 \mathbb{1} + f_1 Z_0 + f_2 Z_1 + f_3 Z_2 + f_1 Z_0 Z_1 \\ & + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 + f_5 Z_1 Z_3 + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 \\ & + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 + f_4 Z_0 Z_2 Z_3 + f_3 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \\ & + f_6 X_0 Z_1 X_2 Z_3 + f_6 Y_0 Z_1 Y_2 Z_3 + f_7 Z_0 Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 \end{aligned}$$

## 3. PARAMETERIZED ANSATZ

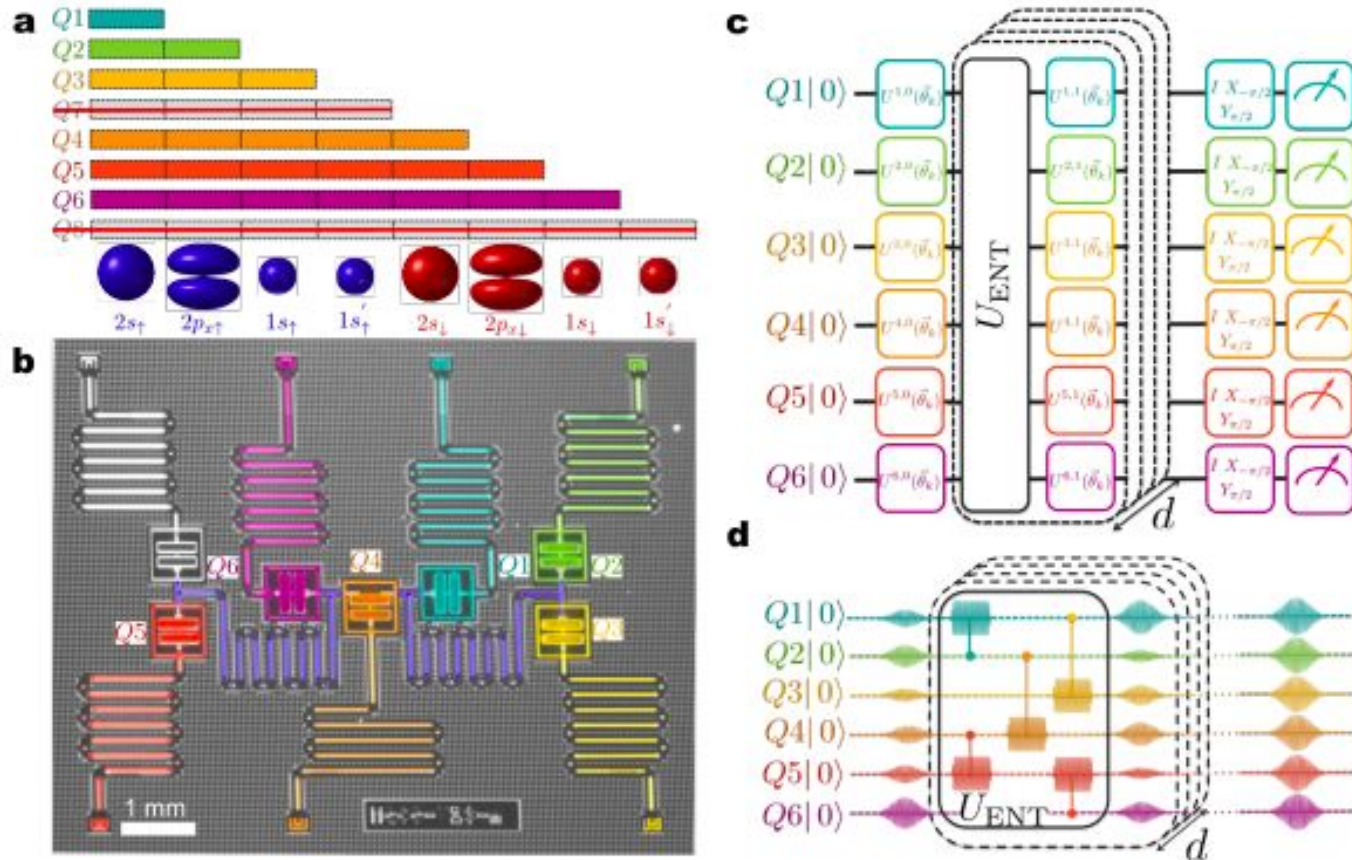
e.g. Unitary Coupled Cluster Variational Adiabatic Ansatz

$$\frac{\langle \varphi(\vec{\theta}) | H | \varphi(\vec{\theta}) \rangle}{\langle \varphi(\vec{\theta}) | \varphi(\vec{\theta}) \rangle} \geq E_0$$

## 4. RUN Q.V.E. QUANTUM-CLASSICAL HYBRID ALGORITHM



# Example: Hardware Ansatz



Kandala, A., Mezzacapo, A., Temme, K., Takita, M., Brink, M., Chow, J. M., & Gambetta, J. M. (2017). Hardware-efficient variational quantum eigensolver for small molecules and quantum magnets. *Nature*, 549(7671), 242.

### Mapping into Pauli representation

In second quantized form we project the electronic Hamiltonian into a spin-orbital basis. Thus instead of talking about real space positions we talk about occupancies of discrete orbitals.

$$H = \sum_{pq} h_{pq} a_p^\dagger a_q + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{pqrs} h_{pqrs} a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s$$

where  $a_i$  is the annihilation operator  
 $a_i^\dagger$  is the creation operator

This means roughly that  $h_{pq} a_p^\dagger a_q$  is the "hopping" term for a single electron to go from orbital  $q$  to orbital  $p$ . and

$h_{pqrs} a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s$  is the ~~pairwise~~ hopping term for a pair of electrons to go together from orbitals  $r$  &  $s$  to orbitals  $p$  &  $q$

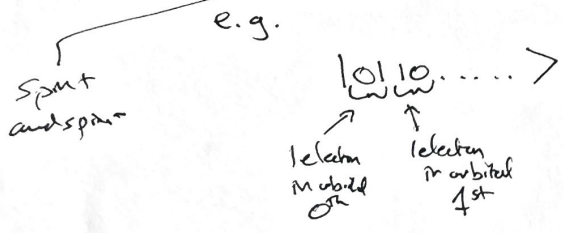
This is sufficient as all interactions in this system are pairwise (Coulomb) interactions. There are no naturally  $n$ -body interactions for ~~more than~~  $n > 2$ .

Electrons are Fermions and so their  $a_i$  and  $a_i^\dagger$  form a Fermionic algebra w/ the following commutation relations:

$$\{a_p^\dagger, a_r\} = a_p^\dagger a_r + a_r a_p^\dagger = \delta_{p,r} \Rightarrow a a^\dagger = 1 - a^\dagger a$$

$$\{a_p^\dagger, a_r^\dagger\} = \{a_p, a_r\} = 0 \Rightarrow a_p a_p = a_p^\dagger a_p^\dagger = 0$$

Ideally we would hope to use our qubits to represent the occupancies of the orbitals. (Remember that the Pauli exclusion principle states that each orbital can have at most two electrons) This would require  $2N_e$  qubits for  $N_e$  electrons.



Pauli exclusion short proof

$\hat{n} = a_p^\dagger a_p$  gives the # of electrons in  $p$  and  $a a^\dagger = 1 - n$  (eg. to show)

$\hat{n}(1 - \hat{n}) = a^\dagger a a^\dagger = 0$

Thus  $n = 0$  or  $n = 1$



We can then represent the creation and annihilation operators as

$$\begin{aligned} Q^+ |0\rangle &= |1\rangle & Q^- |0\rangle &= 0 \\ Q^+ |1\rangle &= 0 & Q^- |1\rangle &= |0\rangle \end{aligned}$$

where we have a Pauli operator representation

$$Q^+ = |1\rangle\langle 0| = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{2}(X - iY)$$

$$Q^- = |0\rangle\langle 1| = \frac{1}{2}(X + iY)$$

However these don't immediately obey the Fermionic anti-commutation relations.

Let's check this using the pyQuil pauli algebra package.

What's going on here is that Fermions have native properties that qubits don't. Namely that if you swap two fermions then you are supposed to acquire a phase. (For more details see Seeley, Richard, Love 2012)

To capture this we ~~can~~ <sup>can</sup> define the Jordan-Wigner Transform

$$a_p^+ = \left( \prod_{m < p} Z_m \right) Q_p^+$$

$$a_p = \left( \prod_{m < p} Z_m \right) Q_p^-$$

JW-overhead

$\mathcal{O}(n)$  Pauli operators per fermionic operator.

Alternative Bravyi-Kitaev transform

$\mathcal{O}(\log n)$  Pauli overhead per fermionic operator

see (Seeley, Richard, Love 2012) for details

Once we have a Pauli gates representation we must ~~choose~~  
choose an ansatz [see McClean ~~et al~~ et al 2015 for details]

Ex Variationally Prepared States

Let  $|\Psi(\theta)\rangle = e^{-iV(\theta)}|0\rangle$  where

$V(\theta)$  is an adiabatic evolution into  $H$  e.g.

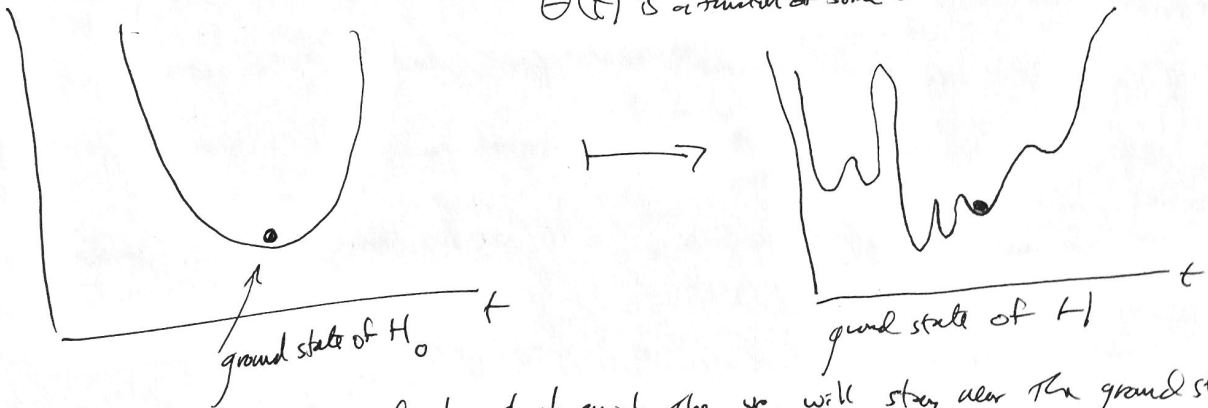
$V(\theta) = A(\theta)H_0 + B(\theta)H$  ← our final target  $H$  as a Pauli decomposition

some initial simple  $H_0$  like  $H_0 = \sum_i X_i$

and  $\theta \in [0, \pi]$  w/  $A(0) = B(\pi) = 1$

$A(\pi) = B(0) = 0$

$\theta(t)$  is a function of some  $t$



Adiabatic theorem says if we do this slowly enough then we will stay near the ground state.  
So we let VQE pick our annealing schedule mapping  $e^{-iV(\theta)}$  into our parameterized gate set.

→ We could start in a state that is the best classically computable state

→ We can use this to produce states that are hard to make classically since adiabatic evolution is equal to general QC

(Aharonov et al 2007)



▷ We can also be inspired to choose states that are hard classically but we believe will be good models:

e.g. Unitary coupled cluster a unitary version of coupled cluster that is the gold standard classical method.

~~The idea is to explore~~ to some order  $k$  (where in practice  $k=2$  works well)

$$|\Psi_{CC}^{(k)}(\theta)\rangle = e^{T(\theta)} |\Phi_R\rangle$$

$\downarrow$  has  $\mathcal{O}((3N)^k)$  real params and so is quadratic in params.
 ↑ intelligibility or "reference state"

This can be turned into gates efficiently using, for example, Suzuki-Trotter.

▷ We can also choose an a-theoretical method and use a hardware ansatz (See Stokes and [Kandala et al 2017])

### Solving for the optimal state

Non-convex optimization. More to come in future lectures.

In the meantime scipy.optimize has Nelder-Mead for small examples.