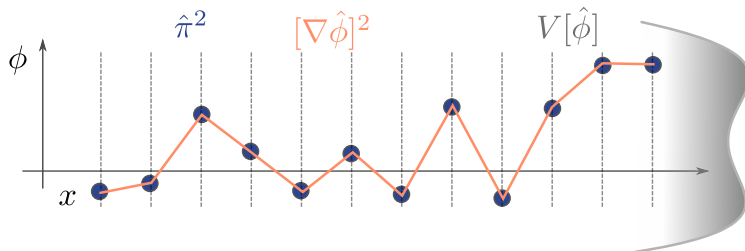


Variational method in relativistic QFT

without cutoff

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Math-Phys seminar, Université de Toulouse
April 15th, 2021

Quantum field theory

- ▶ Currently a good candidate for the most fundamental theory
- ▶ Difficult to define (progress in low dimensions)
- ▶ Very difficult to solve non-perturbatively
- ▶ Same foundational problem as QM
- ▶ Foundational problems likely not harder if we had a well understood version

Quantum field theory: a bit of philosophy

Two ways to attack *real world* quantum field theories non-perturbatively

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ϕ_2^4 - pile of dirt



QCD - Everest



$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM - Chrysler building

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Goal - ideal - philosophy: an apology of the pile of dirt approach

Abandon analytical solutions, but find robust methods that can solve simple QFTs non-perturbatively and, if possible, to machine precision, *without cheating*.

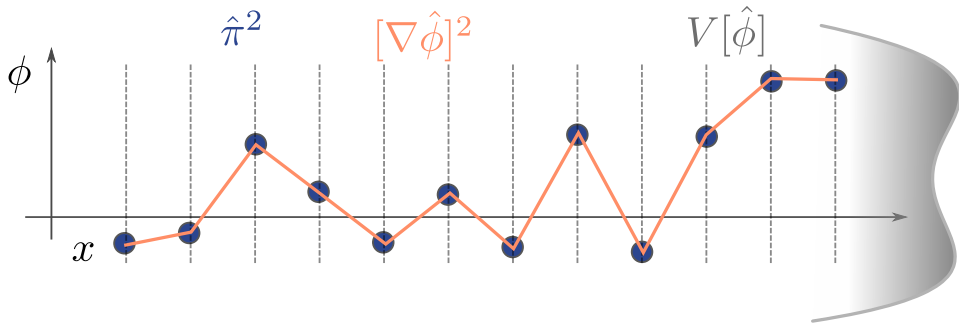
Outline

1. ϕ_2^4 for beginners
2. Some solutions
3. The variational method
4. Matrix product states and their continuum limit
5. Going relativistic
6. Results and discussion

ϕ_2^4 for beginners

and condensed matter theorists

Intuitive definition: canonical quantization



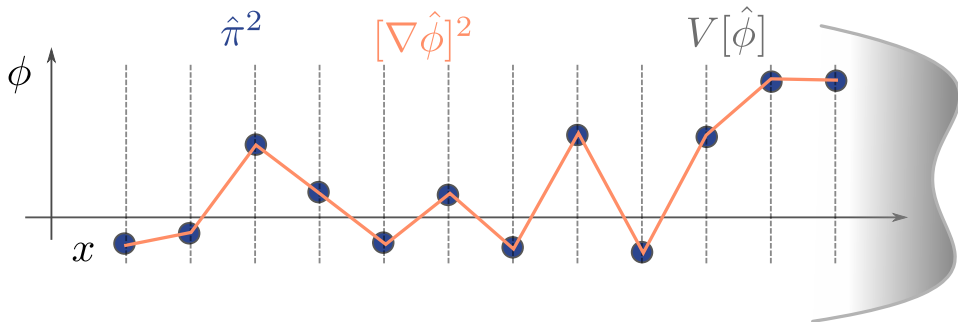
Hamiltonian

A continuum of nearest neighbor coupled anharmonic oscillators

$$\hat{H} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^d} d^d x \quad \underbrace{\frac{\hat{\pi}(x)^2}{2}}_{\text{on-site inertia}} + \underbrace{\frac{[\nabla \hat{\phi}(x)]^2}{2}}_{\text{spatial stiffness}} + \underbrace{V(\hat{\phi}(x))}_{\text{on-site potential}}$$

with canonical commutation relations $[\hat{\phi}(x), \hat{\pi}(y)] = i\delta^d(x - y)\mathbb{1}$ (i.e. bosons)

Intuitive definition



Hilbert space

Fock space $\mathcal{H}_{\text{QFT}} = \mathcal{F}[L^2(\mathbb{R}^d)]$ – just like $x, p \rightarrow (a, a^\dagger)$ do $\hat{\pi}, \hat{\phi} \rightarrow \hat{\psi}, \hat{\psi}^\dagger$

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \int dx_1 dx_2 \cdots dx_n \underbrace{\varphi_n(x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n)}_{\text{wave function}} \underbrace{\hat{\psi}^\dagger(x_1) \hat{\psi}^\dagger(x_2) \cdots \hat{\psi}^\dagger(x_n)}_{\text{local oscillator creation}} |\text{vac}\rangle$$

What are the problems - Hilbert space approach

The Hamiltonian is ill defined on all states in the Hilbert space because of infinite zero point energy *i.e.* terms $\propto \hat{\psi}(x)\hat{\psi}^\dagger(x)$

$$\langle \Psi_1 | \hat{H} | \Psi_2 \rangle = \pm \infty \quad \text{and even} \quad \langle \text{vac} | \hat{H} | \text{vac} \rangle \propto \delta^d(0) = +\infty$$

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If the divergent vacuum terms are removed, the Hamiltonian is not bounded from below

$$\forall |\Psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}, \langle \Psi | \hat{H}_{\text{finite}} | \Psi \rangle = \text{finite but } \exists \Psi_n \text{ s.t. } \lim_{n \rightarrow +\infty} \langle \Psi_n | H_{\text{finite}} | \Psi_n \rangle = -\infty$$

How are they are solved in the free case - Hamiltonian

Bogoliubov transform

Go from $\hat{\psi}(x), \hat{\psi}^\dagger(x)$ to $a(p), a^\dagger(p)$ with

$$a(p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\sqrt{\omega_p} \hat{\phi}(p) + \frac{\hat{\pi}(p)}{\sqrt{\omega_p}} \right) \quad \text{with} \quad \omega_p = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$$

which yields

$$H_0 = \int dp \, \omega_p \, \frac{1}{2} (a_p^\dagger a_p + a_p a_p^\dagger)$$

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Solution

- ▶ Take $H_{\text{QFT}} \equiv : H :_a$
- ▶ $|\text{free ground state}\rangle = |\text{vacuum}\rangle_a$
- ▶ $\mathcal{H}$ built from $a_{p_1}^\dagger \cdots a_{p_n}^\dagger |\text{vacuum}\rangle_a$

This solves the problematic free part exactly, and allows to define a finite interaction (in $1 + 1$)

Rigorous operator definition of ϕ_2^4

Renormalized ϕ_2^4 theory

$$H = \int dx \frac{:\pi^2:_a}{2} + \frac{:(\nabla\phi)^2:_a}{2} + \frac{m^2}{2} : \phi^2 :_a + g : \phi^4 :_a$$

(note that $:\diamond:_a$ depends on m)

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1. Rigorously defined relativistic QFT without cutoff (Wightman QFT)
2. Vacuum energy density finite
3. Very difficult to solve unless $g \ll m^2$ (perturbation theory)
4. Phase transition around $f_c = \frac{g}{4m^2} = 11$ i.e. $g \simeq 2.7$ in mass units

The variational method

Solving the non-exactly solvable by guessing well

Ways to solve the non-exactly-solvable

The two main games in town

1. Perturbative expansions (+ Borel-Padé resummation)
2. Lattice Monte Carlo

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Two “new” deterministic non-perturbative options:

1. Variational method → focus of today
2. Non-perturbative renormalization group (Kadanoff, FRG, Tensor RG, etc.)

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Two “new” deterministic non-perturbative options:

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The two new methods now rule on (low dimensional) lattice problems thanks to tensor networks → QFT?

The variational method

In the Hamiltonian formulation:

- ▶ Guess a **finite dimensional submanifold** $\mathcal{M}$ of the QFT Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}$
- ▶ Find the ground state by minimizing $\langle H \rangle$:

$$|\text{ground}\rangle \simeq |\psi\rangle = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathcal{M}} \frac{\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | \psi \rangle}$$

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Example: naive Hamiltonian truncation

With an IR cutoff, momenta are discrete. Take as submanifold $\mathcal{M}$ the **vector space** spanned by:

$$a_{k_1}^\dagger a_{k_2}^\dagger \cdots a_{k_r}^\dagger |0\rangle_a$$

where $r \leq r_{\max}$ and $k \leq k_{\max}$ (one possible truncation)

Feynman's objection

Feynman's requirement for variational wavefunctions in RQFT (1987)

1. Extensive parameterization

Number of parameters $\propto L^\alpha$ at most for system size L

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All methods so far break one at least:

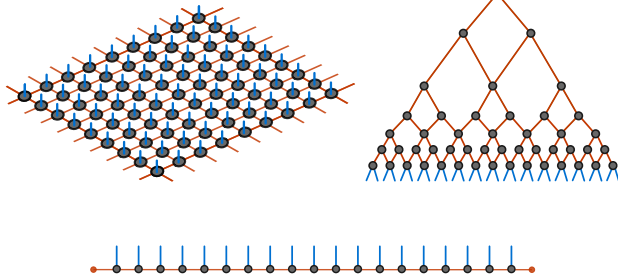
- ▶ Hamiltonian truncation fails at 1 (but works fairly well through its renormalized refinements)
- ▶ Tensor networks succeed at 1 and 2 but fail (a priori) at 3

Haegeman-Cirac-Osborne-Verschelde-Verstraete fix of 2010: regulate the UV by adding a Lagrange multiplier in the Hamiltonian $H \rightarrow H + \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \text{regulator}$

Tensor network states

The best guess for the many-body problem on the lattice

Tensor network states: a tool



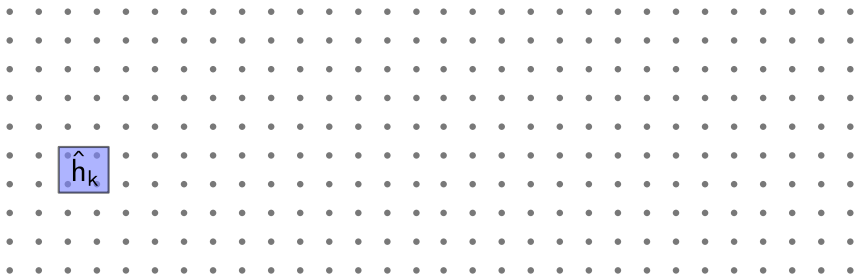
Applications

- ▶ Quantum information theory
- ▶ Statistical Mechanics
- ▶ Quantum gravity
- ▶ **Many-body quantum**

Negative theology

- ▶ **Not** covariant/geometric objects $g_{\mu\nu}$ or $R_{\mu\nu\kappa}^{\sigma}$
- ▶ **Not tensor models** [Rivasseau, Gurau, ...]

Many-body problem



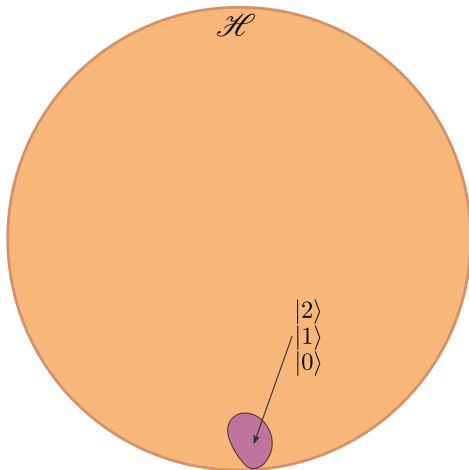
Problem

Finding low energy states of

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{k=1}^N \hat{h}_k$$

is **hard** because $\dim \mathcal{H} \propto D^N$

Variational optimization



Generic (spin $d/2$) state $\in \mathcal{H}$:

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n} c_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n} |i_1, \dots, i_n\rangle$$

Exact variational optimization

To find the ground state:

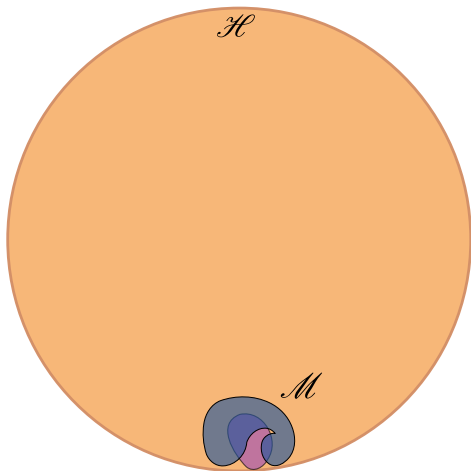
$$|0\rangle = \min_{|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}} \frac{\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | \psi \rangle}$$

► $\dim \mathcal{H} = d^N$

Variational optimization

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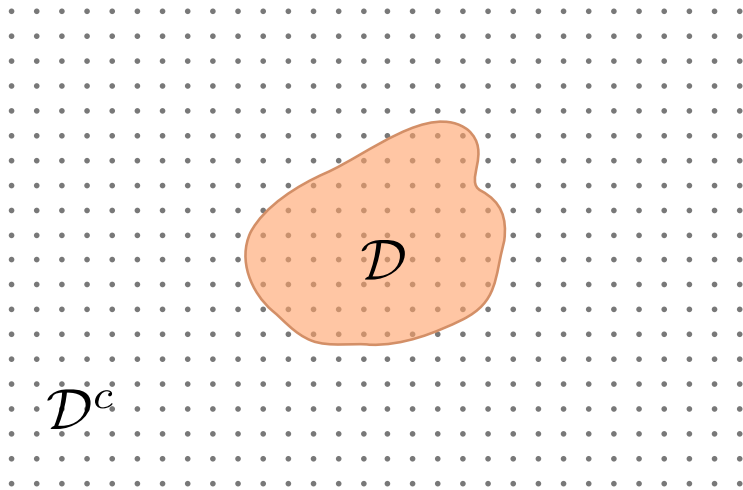
Approx. variational optimization

To find the ground state:

$$|0\rangle = \min_{|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{M}} \frac{\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle}{\langle \psi | \psi \rangle}$$

► $\dim \mathcal{M} \propto \text{Poly}(N)$ or fixed

Interesting states are weakly entangled



Low energy state

$$|\psi\rangle = |0\rangle \text{ or } |1\rangle \dots$$

Reduced density
matrix

$$\rho = \text{tr}_{\mathcal{D}^c} [|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|]$$

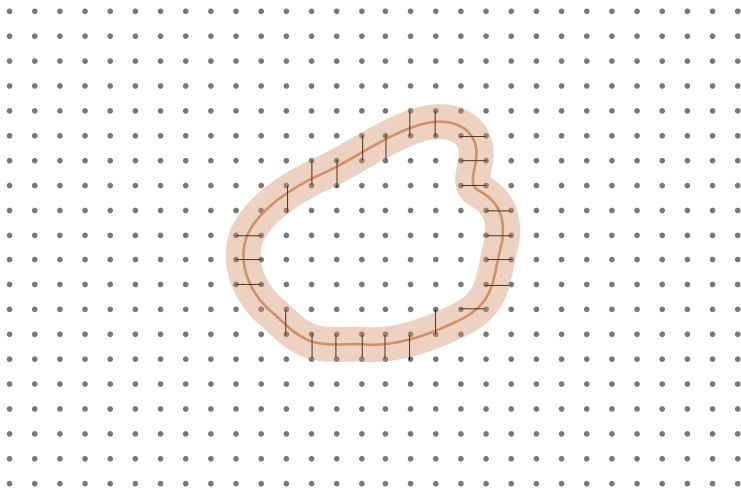
Entanglement
entropy

$$S = -\text{tr} [\rho \log \rho]$$

Area law

$$S \propto |\partial\mathcal{D}|$$

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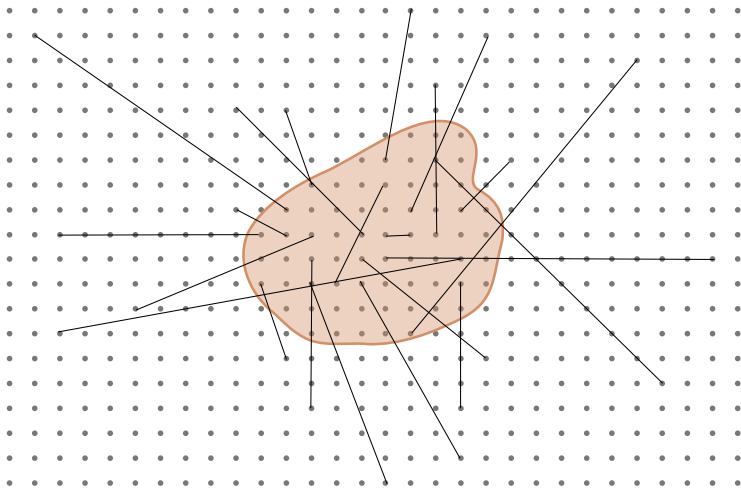
Entanglement
entropy

$$S = -\text{tr} [\rho \log \rho]$$

Area law

$$S \propto |\partial\mathcal{D}|$$

Typical states are strongly entangled



Random state

$$|\psi\rangle = U_{\text{Haar}}|\text{trivial}\rangle$$

Reduced density matrix

$$\rho = \text{tr}_{\mathcal{D}^c} [|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|]$$

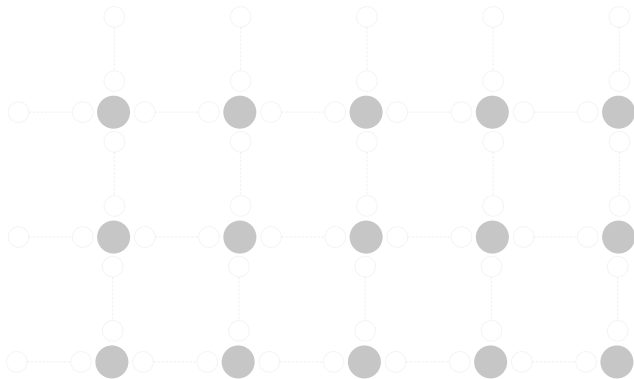
Entanglement entropy

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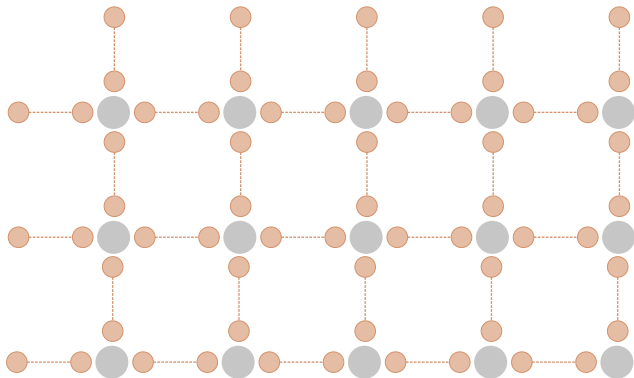
Volume law

$$S \propto |\mathcal{D}|$$

Constructing weakly entangled states



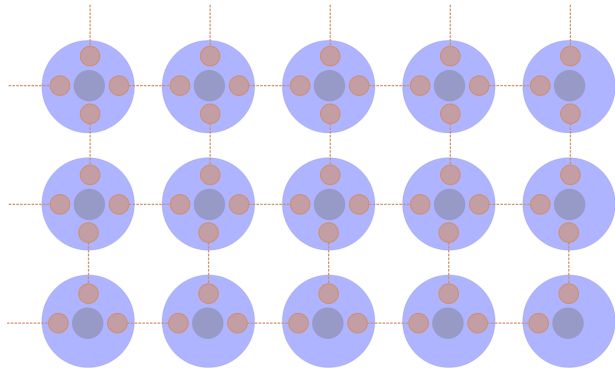
Constructing weakly entangled states



1. Put auxiliary **maximally entangled** states between sites

$$\text{---} = \sum_{j=1}^D |j\rangle\langle j|$$

Constructing weakly entangled states



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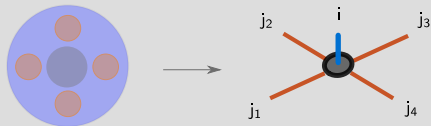
$$\text{brown circle} \cdots \text{brown circle} = \sum_{j=1}^D |j\rangle\langle j|$$

2. Map to initial Hilbert space on each site

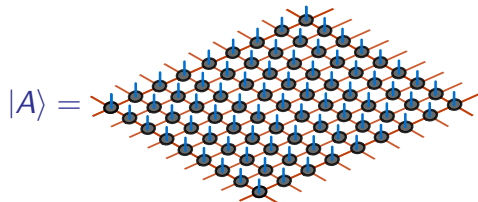
$$\text{blue circle} = A : (\mathbb{C}^D)^{\otimes 4} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^d$$

Tensor network states: definition

Why “tensor” network?



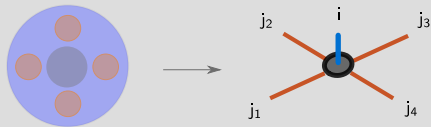
$$A: (\mathbb{C}^D)^{\otimes 4} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^d \longrightarrow A^i_{j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4}$$



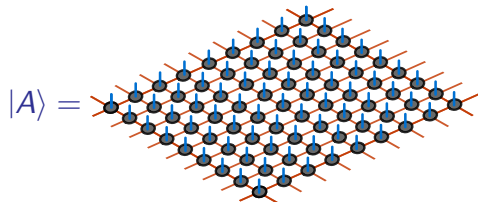
with tensor contractions on links

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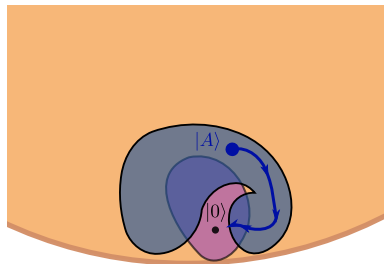
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Optimization

Find best A for fixed χ ($d \times D^4$ coeff.)

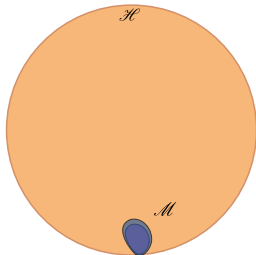
$$E_0 \simeq \min_A \frac{\langle A | \hat{H} | A \rangle}{\langle A | A \rangle}$$

for example go down $\frac{\partial E}{\partial A_{j_1, j_2, j_3, j_4}^i}$



Some facts

1 spatial dimension

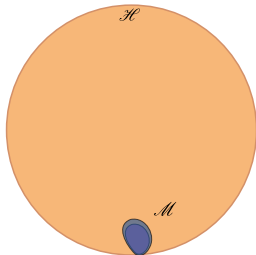


Theorems (colloquially)

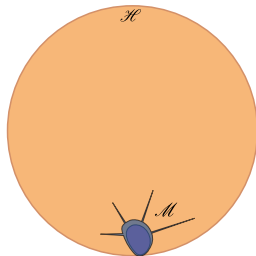
1. For gapped H , tensor network states $|A\rangle$ approximate well $|0\rangle$ as D increases
2. All $|A\rangle$ are ground states of local gapped H

Some facts

1 spatial dimension



≥ 2 spatial dimension



Theorems (colloquially)

1. For gapped H , tensor network states $|A\rangle$ approximate well $|0\rangle$ as D increases
2. **All** $|A\rangle$ are ground states of local gapped H

Folklore

1. For gapped H , tensor network states $|A\rangle$ approximate well $|0\rangle$ as D increases
2. **Most** $|A\rangle$ are ground states of local gapped H

(Continuous) matrix product states

Taking the simplest tensor network and scaling it up to QFT

Matrix Product States (MPS)

Definition

A MPS for a translation invariant chain of N qudits ($\mathbb{C}^d$) with periodic boundary conditions is a state

$$|\psi(A)\rangle := \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_N} \text{tr} [A_{i_1} A_{i_2} \cdots A_{i_N}] |i_1, i_2, \dots, i_N\rangle$$

where A_i are d matrices $\in \mathcal{M}_D(\mathbb{C})$.

- ▶ The matrices A_i for $i = 1 \dots d$ are the free parameters
- ▶ The size D of the matrices is the **bond dimension** (quantifies freedom)
- ▶ Correlation functions (and $\langle H \rangle$) efficiently computable
- ▶ Optimizing over A provably gives good results for gapped H

MPS in graphical notation

$$|A, L, R\rangle = \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots, i_n} \langle L | A_{i_1}(1) A_{i_2}(2) \cdots A_{i_n}(n) | R \rangle |i_1, \dots, i_n\rangle$$

Notation: $[A_i]_{k,l} = \text{---} \bullet \text{---}$ and $k \text{---} l = \sum \delta_{k,l}$ gives:

[illegible]

MPS in graphical notation

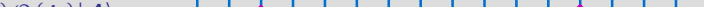
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$$|A, L, R\rangle =$$

Example: computation of correlations

$\langle A | \mathcal{O}(i_k) \mathcal{O}(i_\ell) | A \rangle =$



MPS in graphical notation

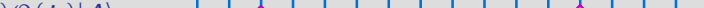
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can be done efficiently by iterating 2 maps:

$\Phi =$  and $\Phi_{\mathcal{O}} =$ 

Continuous Matrix Product States

Type of ansatz for bosons on a fine grained lattice

- ▶ Matrices $A_{i_k}(x)$ where the index i_k corresponds to $\psi^{\dagger i_k}(x)|0\rangle$ in physical space.

Informal cMPS definition

$$A_0 = \mathbb{1} + \varepsilon Q$$

$$A_1 = \varepsilon R$$

$$A_2 = \frac{(\varepsilon R)^2}{\sqrt{2}}$$

...

$$A_n = \frac{(\varepsilon R)^n}{\sqrt{n}}$$

so we go from ∞ to 2 matrices

Fixed by:

- ▶ Finite particle number

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ | & | & | & | & | & | \\ \square & \square & \square & \square & \square & \square \end{array} \propto 1$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccc} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ | & | & | & | & | & | \\ \square & \square & \square & \square & \square & \square \end{array} \propto \varepsilon$$

- ▶ Consistency

$$\begin{array}{cc} 1 & 1 \\ | & | \\ \square & \square \end{array} \approx \begin{array}{cc} 2 & 0 \\ | & | \\ \square & \square \end{array}$$

Continuous Matrix Product States

Introduced by Verstraete and Cirac in 2010

Definition

$$|Q, R, \omega\rangle = \text{tr} \left[\mathcal{P} \exp \left\{ \int_0^L dx \, Q \otimes \mathbb{1} + R \otimes \psi^\dagger(x) \right\} \right] |0\rangle_\psi$$

- ▶ Q, R are $D \times D$ matrices,
- ▶ The trace is taken over this matrix space
- ▶ $[\psi(x), \psi^\dagger(y)] = \delta(x - y)$
- ▶ $\psi^\dagger(x)$ is non-relativistic creation operator (i.e. $\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2v}}[\psi(x) + \psi^\dagger(x)]$)
- ▶ $|0\rangle_\psi$ is the associated Fock vacuum

Idea: A generalized coherent state

Computations

Some correlation functions

$$\langle \hat{\psi}(x)^\dagger \hat{\psi}(x) \rangle = \text{Tr} [e^{TL} (R \otimes \bar{R})]$$

$$\langle \hat{\psi}(x)^\dagger \hat{\psi}(0)^\dagger \hat{\psi}(0) \hat{\psi}(x) \rangle = \text{Tr} [e^{T(L-x)} (R \otimes \bar{R}) e^{Tx} (R \otimes \bar{R})]$$

$$\left\langle \hat{\psi}(x)^\dagger \left[-\frac{d^2}{dx^2} \right] \hat{\psi}(x) \right\rangle = \text{Tr} [e^{TL} ([Q, R] \otimes [\bar{Q}, \bar{R}])]$$

with $T = Q \otimes \mathbb{1} + \mathbb{1} \otimes \bar{Q} + R \otimes \bar{R}$

Example

Lieb-Liniger Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{H} = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dx \left[\frac{d\hat{\psi}^\dagger}{dx} \frac{d\hat{\psi}}{dx} - \mu \hat{\psi}^\dagger \hat{\psi} + c \hat{\psi}^\dagger \hat{\psi}^\dagger \hat{\psi} \hat{\psi} \right]$$

Solve by **minimizing**: $\langle Q, R | \mathcal{H} | Q, R \rangle = f(Q, R)$

Standard CMPS and ϕ^4

Applying cMPS to the ϕ^4 Hamiltonian

$$\langle Q, R | \hat{h}_{\phi^4} | Q, R \rangle = \infty$$

Oh no!

The short distance behavior of cMPS is the wrong one, even the free theory is hard to approximate.

Going relativistic

Infusing some “high-energy” knowledge into tensor networks

Towards relativistic CMPS

Local basis in position of the QFT: $\psi^\dagger, \phi, \pi, |0\rangle_\psi$

Diagonal basis of the free part: $a_k^\dagger, |0\rangle_a$

Bogoliubov transform

Go from $\hat{\psi}(x), \hat{\psi}^\dagger(x)$ to $a(p), a^\dagger(p)$ with

$$a(p) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\sqrt{\omega_p} \hat{\phi}(p) + \frac{\hat{\pi}(p)}{\sqrt{\omega_p}} \right) \quad \text{with} \quad \omega_p = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$$

which yields

$$H_0 = \int dp \, \omega_p \, \frac{1}{2} (a_p^\dagger a_p + a_p a_p^\dagger)$$

Go from $|0\rangle_\psi$ to $|0\rangle_a$

and

Go from $\psi(x)$ to $a(x) = \int dp \, a(p) e^{ipx} \neq \psi(x)$

Relativistic CMPS

Definition

$$|R, Q\rangle = \text{tr} \left\{ \mathcal{P} \exp \left[\int dx \, Q \otimes \mathbb{1} + R \otimes a^\dagger(x) \right] \right\} |0\rangle_a$$

Some properties

1. $|0, 0\rangle = |0\rangle_a$ is the ground state of H_0 hence exact CFT UV fixed point (because interaction super-renormalizable)
2. $\langle Q, R | h_{\phi^4} | Q, R \rangle$ is finite for all Q, R (not trivial)

Consequence on the Hamiltonian

Hamiltonian density in $a(x)$ basis

H is local in $\psi(x)$, not in $a(x)$...

$$\begin{aligned} H = & \int dx_1 dx_2 D(x_1 - x_2) a^\dagger(x_1) a(x_2) \\ & + \int dx_1 dx_2 dx_3 dx_4 K(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) a(x_1) a(x_2) a(x_3) a(x_4) + 4a^\dagger a a a + 3a^\dagger a^\dagger a a \\ & + \text{h.c.} \end{aligned}$$

But fortunately exponentially decreasing: K is horrible, but decays $\propto e^{-m|x|}$.

The nightmarish optimization

Procedure:

Compute $e_0 = \langle Q, R | h_{\phi^4} | Q, R \rangle$ and $\nabla_{Q,R} e_0$ and minimize

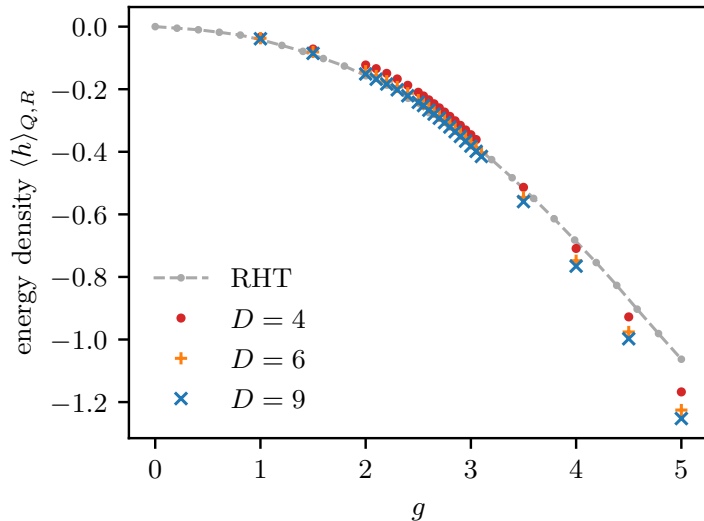
Computations in a nutshell:

1. Contains an algebraic part identical to standard cMPS
2. Involves horrible quadruple integrals without analytic solutions

Optimization a priori non-trivial but **efficient** with geometric methods (gradient descent on a manifold with a natural metric)

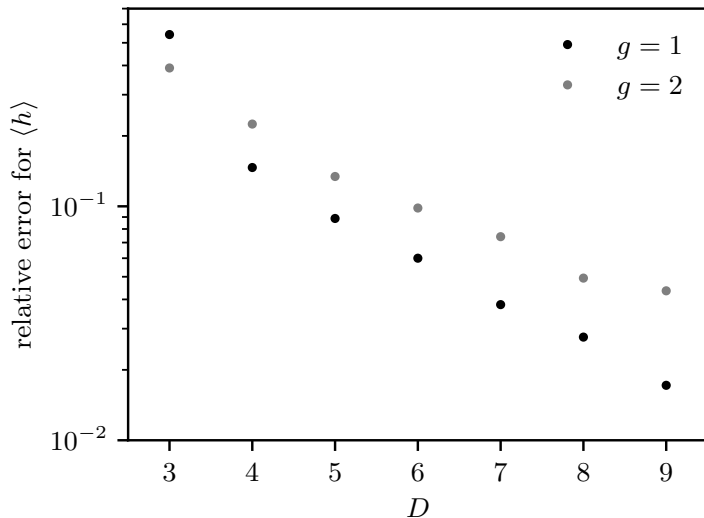
Results and discussion

Results



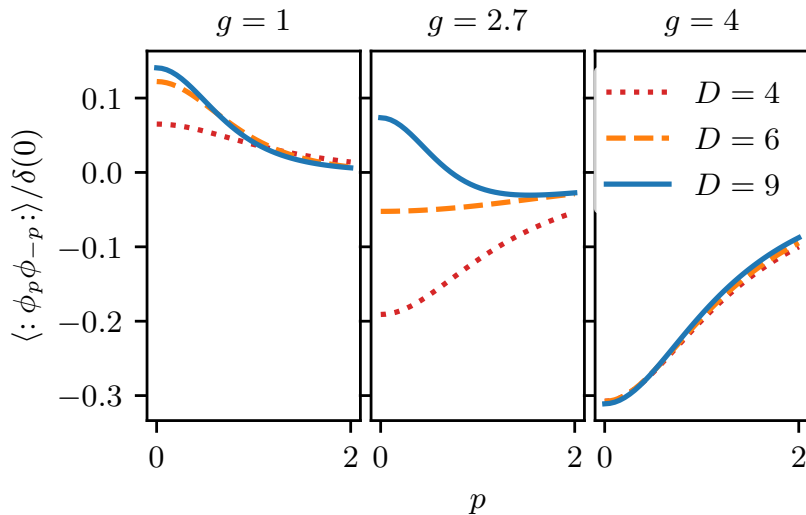
Compared with the Renormalized Hamiltonian Truncation results of Rychkov and Vitale from 2015.

Results



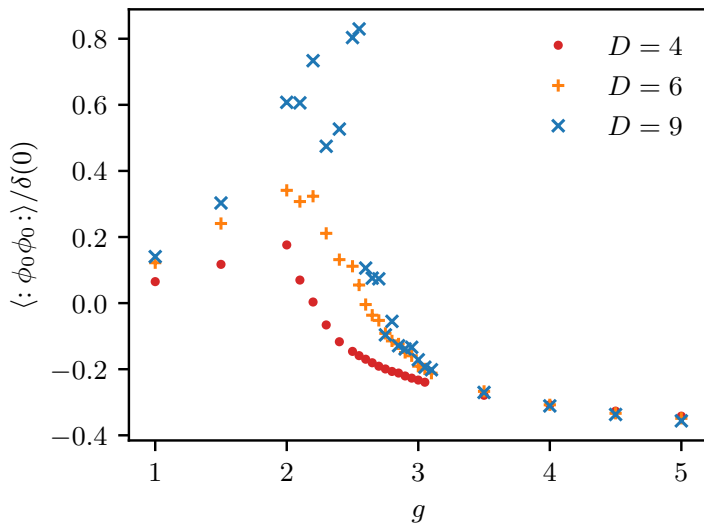
Compared with the “high precision” Renormalized Hamiltonian Truncation results of Elias Miro, Rychkov, and Vitale from 2017 for $g=1$ and $g=2$

Results



Normal ordered momentum two point function $\langle : \phi_p \phi_{-p} : \rangle_{Q,R}$

Results



Normal ordered momentum two point function at zero momentum $\langle : \phi_0 \phi_0 : \rangle_{Q,R}$

Comparison with renormalized Hamiltonian truncation

Ren. Hamiltonian truncation

IR cutoff L , energy truncation E_T

- ▶ Uses a vector space
- ▶ Function to minimize is quadratic, hence linear problem
- ▶ Number of parameters $\propto e^{L \times E_T}$
- ▶ Error $\propto 1/E_T^3$
- ▶ Spectrum easy

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- ▶ Error $o(1/D^\alpha)$, $\forall \alpha$ (folklore)
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Note: real world not asymptotic. RCMPS has expensive prefactors, and RHT can use reliable extrapolations

Extensions

- ▶ To other bosonic theories in $1 + 1$ with poly $V(\phi)$ $\rightarrow$ easy
- ▶ To fermionic theories in $1 + 1$ $\rightarrow$ feasible
- ▶ To $2 + 1$ and $3 + 1$ dimensions $\rightarrow$ very difficult
(lattice tensor networks will probably rule in $2 + 1$ and $3 + 1$ for numerics)

Summary

1. New ansatz for $1 + 1$ relativistic QFT
2. No cutoff, UV or IR (a first?)
3. UV is captured exactly even at $D = 0$
4. Efficient (cost poly D , error superpoly $1/D$)
5. Rigorous (variational)