

# Quantum computing for **non-perturbative** high-energy nuclear physics

**Dan-Bo Zhang**

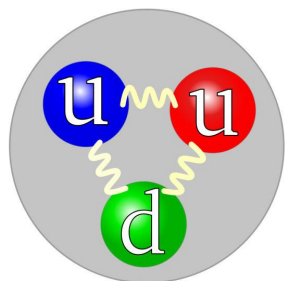
South China Normal University

**QuNu Collaboration**

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Quantum Computing and Machine Learning Workshop

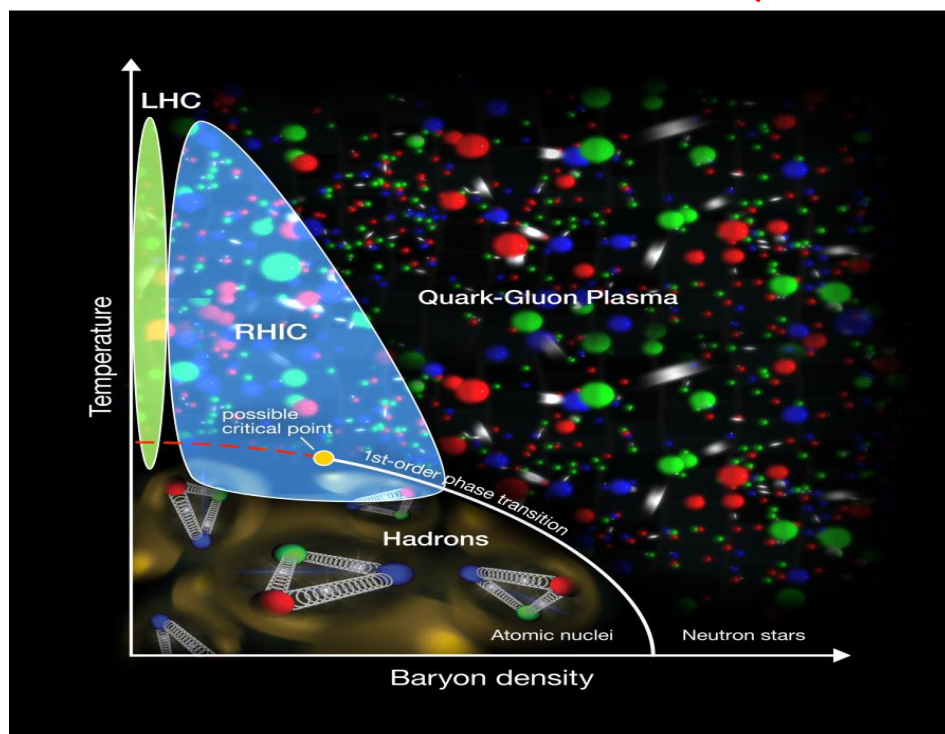
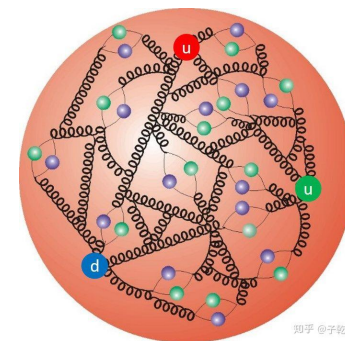
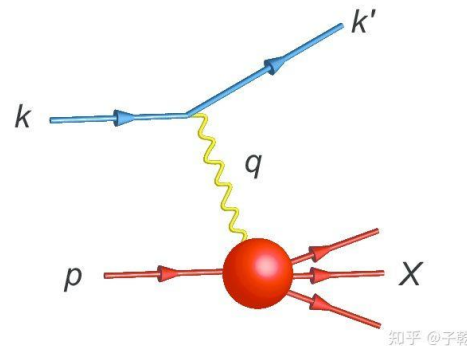
# Non-perturbative aspects



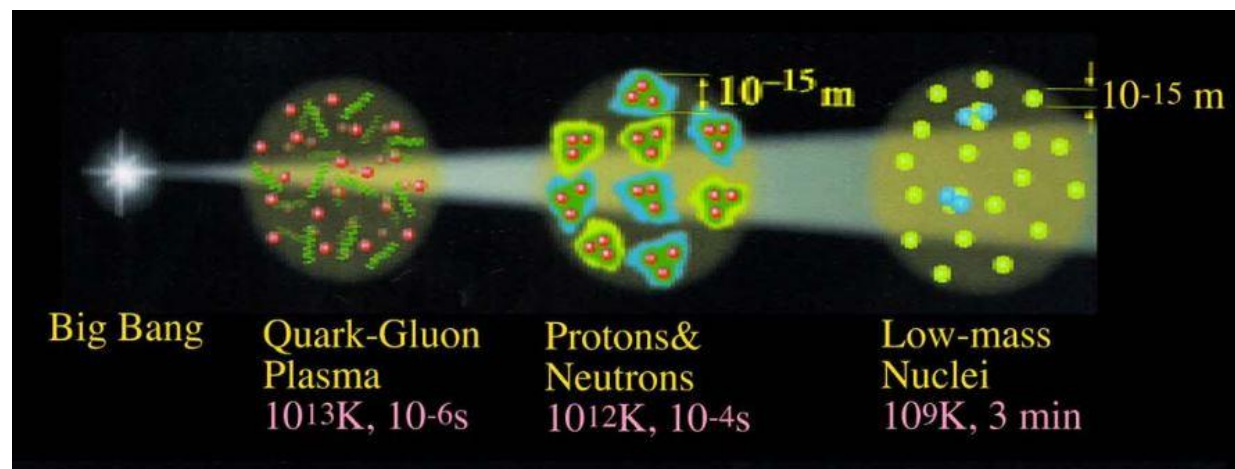
confinement  
of quarks

QCD at **finite density** &  
**finite temperature** ✓

Deep **inelastic** scattering  
(parton distribution function) ✓



**Real-time evolution** of the universe

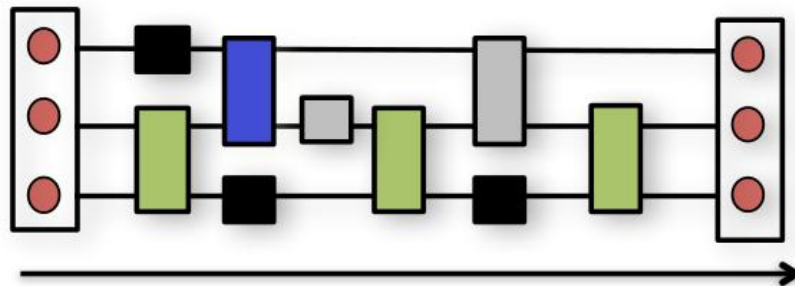


# quantum computing

- in a word, **directly perform calculation** of quantum mechanics on **quantum hardware of qubits**

$$\langle \mathbf{M} \rangle = \langle \psi(t) | \mathbf{M} | \psi(t) \rangle \quad |\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-iHt} |\psi(0)\rangle$$

- quantum simulation: framework of **Hamiltonian & quantum states**
- basically, prepare quantum states and do some measurements
- technically, controllable or programmable & **quantum algorithm**



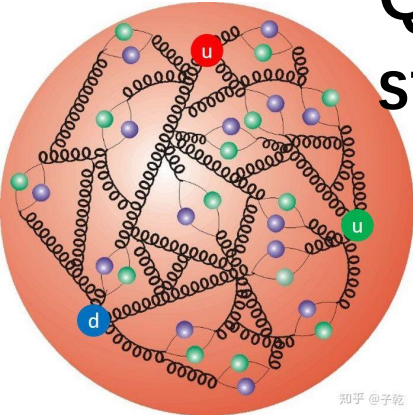
# What make QCD special on a quantum computer?

QCD	mapping	Quantum computer
• fermion with flavor, spin, color	JW transf →	• qubit
• gluon (continuous-variable)	Digitalization →	• qubit
• local gauge-invariance	Local constraint (Gauss law) →	• physical Hilbert space
• continue limit		• renormalizaiton

**The bottleneck is mapping**

# Nuclear matter in the eye of an artist

QCD at current stage is too hard



losing details but not the key features

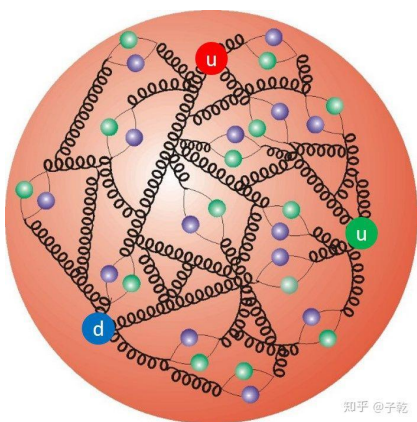
? Starting with some “toy models”, play with quantum computers 沿途下蛋



# QC for dynamical properties for nuclear structure

parton distribution functions (PDFs)

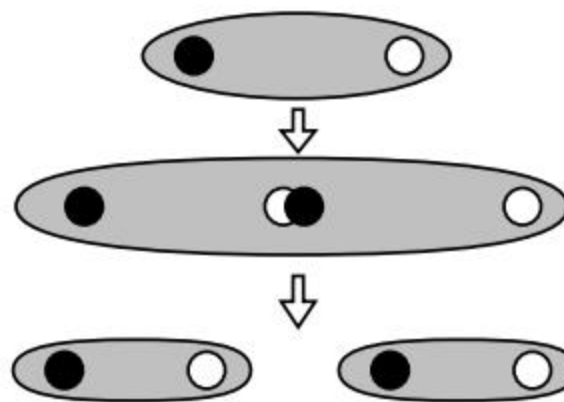
**Parton in hadron**



[PhysRevD.105.L111502\(2022\)](https://arxiv.org/abs/2201.04111)

Fragmentation function (FFs)

**Hadron in parton**



in preparation

# PDFs and FFs

$$\sigma_{SIDIS} = f_q(x) \otimes \hat{\sigma} \otimes D_{h/q}(z)$$

Data from experiments for global fitting FF

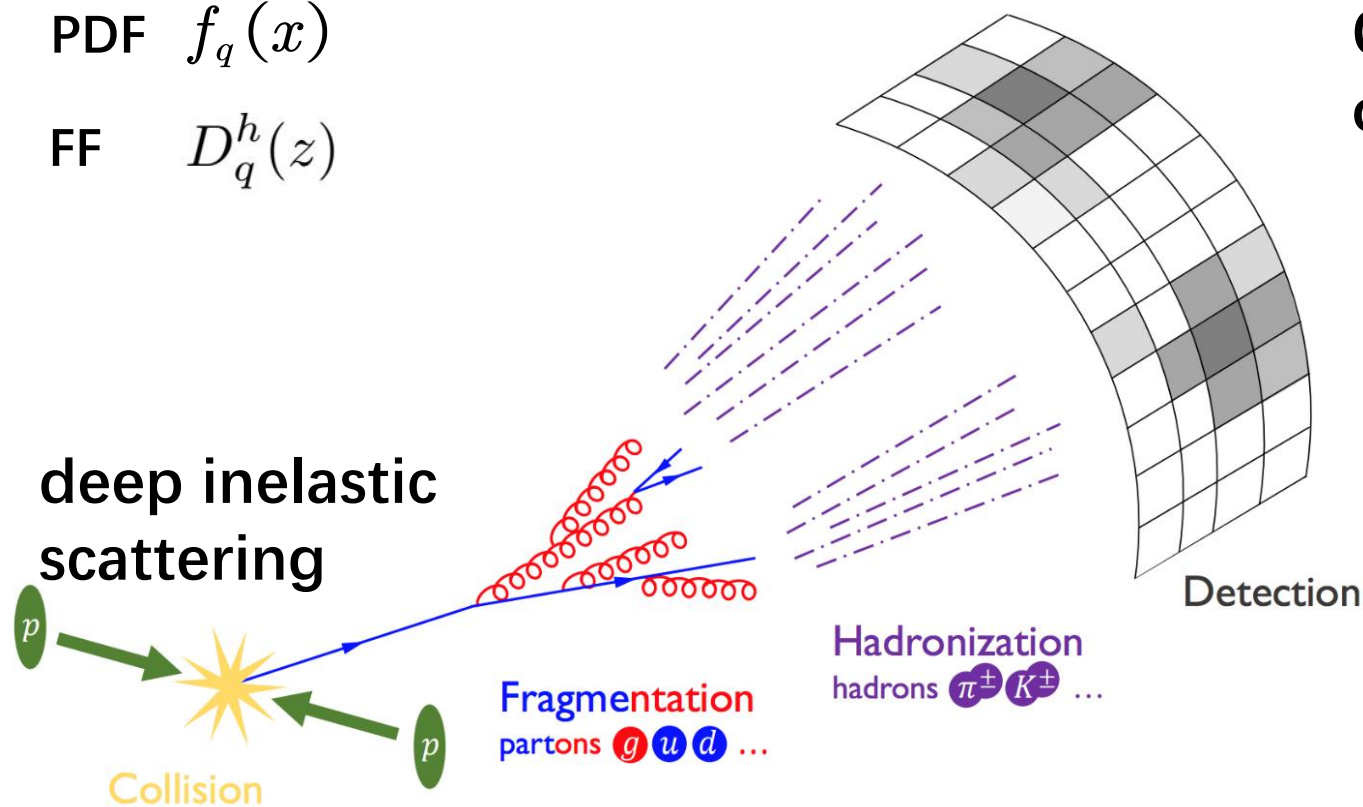


PDF  $f_q(x)$

FF  $D_q^h(z)$

Concern one kind of particle

**h** + X



# Operator definition of PDF and FF

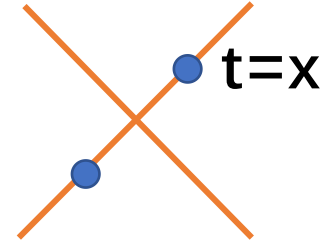
PDF  $f_{q/h}(x) = \int \frac{dz}{4\pi} e^{-ixM_h z}$   
 $\times \langle h | e^{iHt} \bar{\psi}(0, -z) e^{-iHt} \gamma^+ \psi(0, 0) | h \rangle$

Light-cone correlator for the hadron  $|h\rangle$

FF  $D_q^h(z) = z \int \frac{dy}{4\pi} e^{-iyM_h/z} \text{Tr}\{ \langle \Omega | \psi(y n^\mu)$   
 $\times \sum_X \underline{|h, X\rangle \langle h, X|} \bar{\psi}(0, 0) | \Omega \rangle \gamma^+ \}$

Light-cone correlator on the vacuum,  
**inserted with a projector of hadron**

$$P_h = \sum_X |h, X\rangle \langle h, X|$$



Lattice QCD:  
 Large momentum theory,  
 Xiaodong Ji

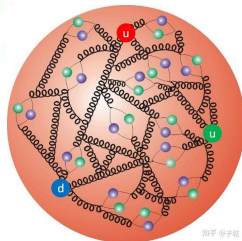
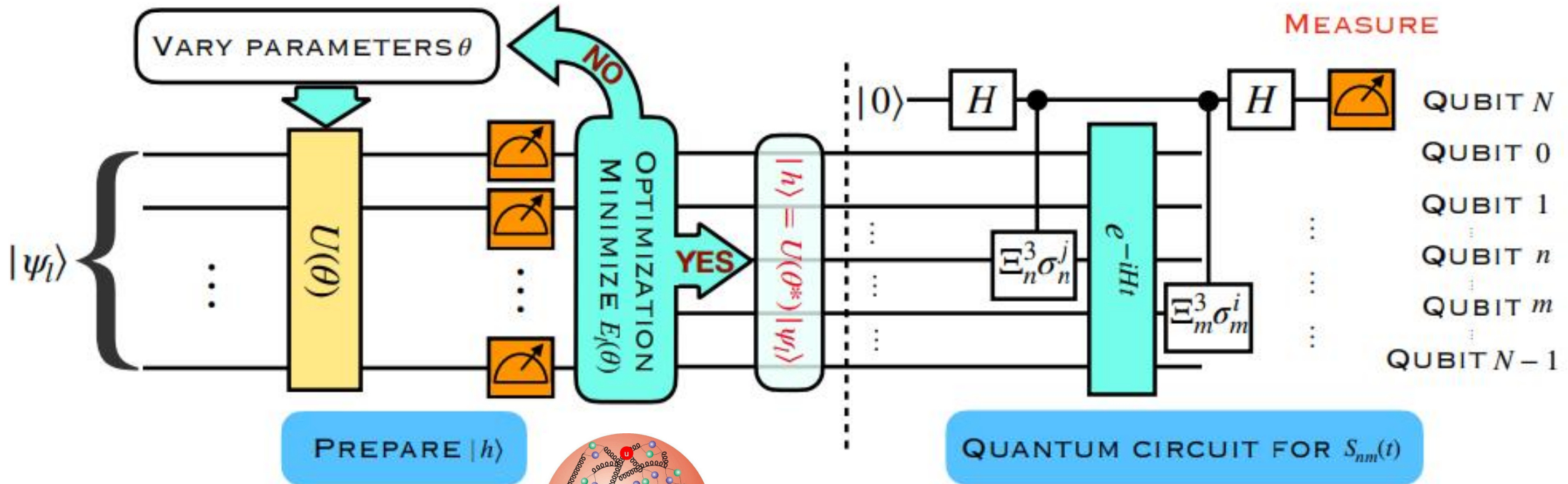
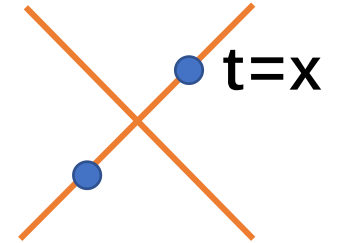
Still no Lattice QCD calculation:  
 How to sum up X?



# Quantum algorithm for PDF

Prepare the hadronic state with VQE(nontrivial)

Probe the dynamical correlator (standard)



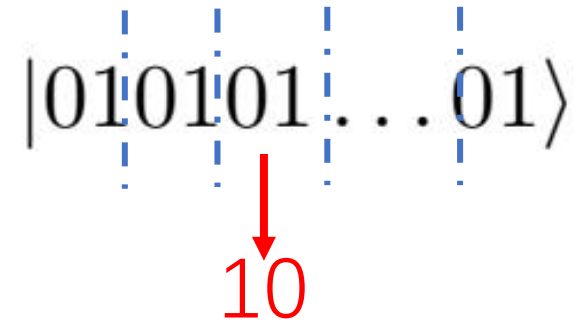
# Demo with 1+1D NJL model

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_\alpha (i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_\alpha) \psi_\alpha + g(\bar{\psi}_\alpha \psi_\alpha)^2$$

Bare vacuum  
(large m limit)

using the staggered fermion approach

$$\psi_\alpha(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{\alpha,1} \\ \psi_{\alpha,2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_{\alpha, \frac{(\alpha-1)N}{2} + 2n} \\ \phi_{\alpha, \frac{(\alpha-1)N}{2} + 2n+1} \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \phi_{\alpha,2n} \\ \phi_{\alpha,2n+1} \end{pmatrix}$$



## Lattice Hamiltonian

$$H = \sum_{\alpha,n} \left[ -\frac{i}{2} (\psi_{\alpha,n}^\dagger \psi_{\alpha,n+1} - \psi_{\alpha,n+1}^\dagger \psi_{\alpha,n}) + (-1)^n m_\alpha \psi_{\alpha,n}^\dagger \psi_{\alpha,n} \right] - g \sum_{\alpha,n=\text{even}} [\psi_{\alpha,n}^\dagger \psi_{\alpha,n} + \psi_{\alpha,n+1}^\dagger \psi_{\alpha,n+1} - 2\psi_{\alpha,n}^\dagger \psi_{\alpha,n} \psi_{\alpha,n+1}^\dagger \psi_{\alpha,n+1}]$$

Quark-antiquark pair

Jordan Wigner transformation (Fermion  $\rightarrow$  qubit)

# Variational quantum eigensolver for preparing hadronic state

- hadron: excited state with given quantum numbers
- quantum-number-resolving VQE

Input state has the given quantum number, and  $U$  is symmetry-preserving

$$|\psi_{lk}(\theta)\rangle = U(\theta) |\psi_{lk}\rangle$$

- ansatz: quantum-number-resolving, efficient and easy for optimization

$$H = H_1 + H_2 + \cdots + H_n$$

$$U(\theta) \equiv \prod_{i=1}^p \prod_{j=1}^n \exp(i \theta_{ij} H_j)$$

- subspace-search VQE: get a set of excited states at one time  
PRR **1**, 033062 (2019)

$$\text{Min } E_l(\theta) = \sum_i^k w_{li} \langle \psi_{li}(\theta) | H | \psi_{li}(\theta) \rangle \quad w_{l1} > w_{l2} > \cdots > w_{lk}$$

# 1-flavor meson state

Large  $m$  limit as input states:

$$|\psi_{\Omega,1}\rangle = |010101 \dots 01\rangle, \quad \text{bare vacuum}$$

$$|\psi_{\Omega,2}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N/2}} (|\underline{1001}, \dots, 01\rangle + |01\underline{10}, \dots, 01\rangle$$

$$+ \dots + |0101, \dots, \underline{10}\rangle),$$

Zero momentum:

superposition of a Quark-antiquark pair



**Trial states:**

$$|\psi_{lk}(\theta)\rangle = U(\theta) |\psi_{lk}\rangle$$

$$U(\theta) \equiv \prod_{i=1}^p \prod_{j=1}^n \exp(i \theta_{ij} H_j)$$

U: quantum fluctuations

Both vacuum and the meson should be superposition of **different number of quark-antiquark pairs**

# Light-cone correlator and PDF (N=18)

- Real part consistent with 0.

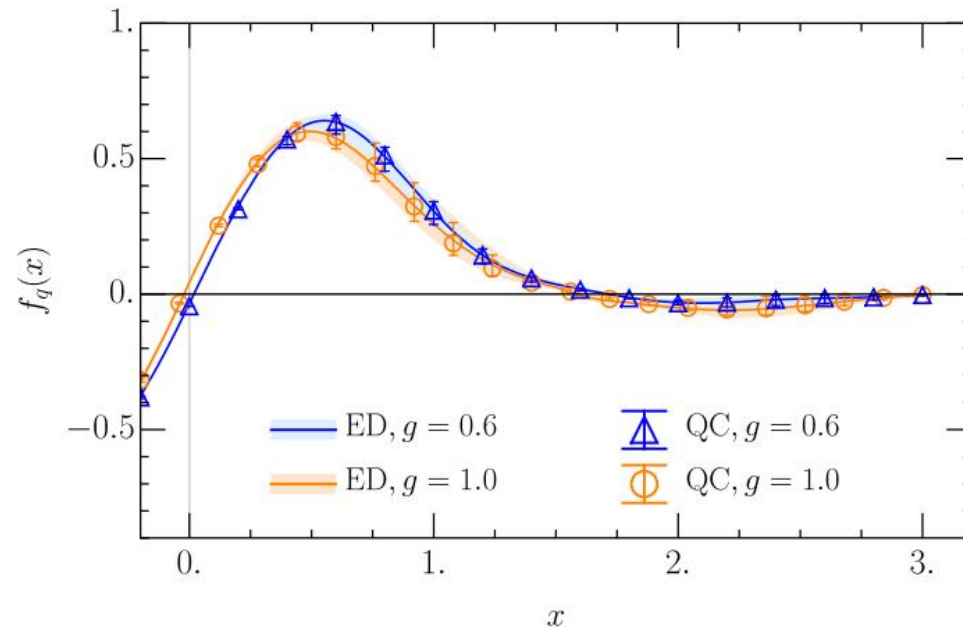
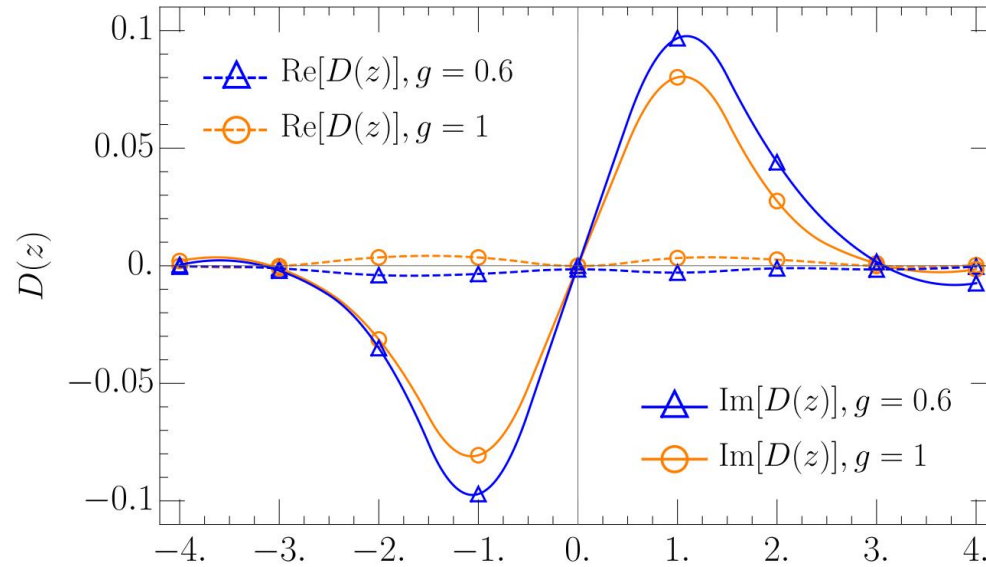
$f$  is odd, so  $D$  is imaginary

$$f_q(x) = -f_{\bar{q}}(-x)$$

- Bounded state behavior.

$$D(z) \equiv \sum_{ij} T_{ij}$$

$$f_{q_\alpha/h} = \sum_{i,j=0}^1 \sum_z \frac{1}{4\pi} e^{-ixM_h z} T_{ij,\alpha}(z)$$

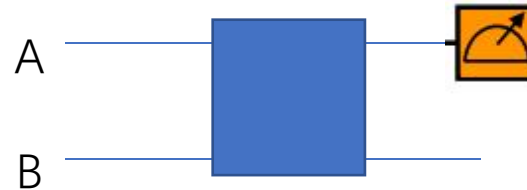


# Hadron projector in FF

- X is unknown, how can one sum unknown?  $P_h = \sum_X |h, X\rangle \langle h, X|$
- sum=trace on a quantum computer = do nothing

$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B |\psi\rangle \langle \psi|$$

$$\text{Tr}[O_A \psi] = \text{Tr}[O_A \rho_A]$$



- **sum\_X = Trace = Do nothing**
- example: counting domain walls in a quantum state


$$|0001111\rangle, |1110001\rangle,$$

then, the projector of domain wall is

$$N_F = \sum_i \frac{1}{2} (1 - Z_i Z_{i+1}) \quad Z|n\rangle = (-1)^n |n\rangle$$

# Hadron projector: bare meson

- meson in a digital word (**large m limit**)

<u>01</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>10</u>	
No particle	$q$ quark	$\bar{q}$ antiquark	$q\bar{q}$ Quark- antiquark	

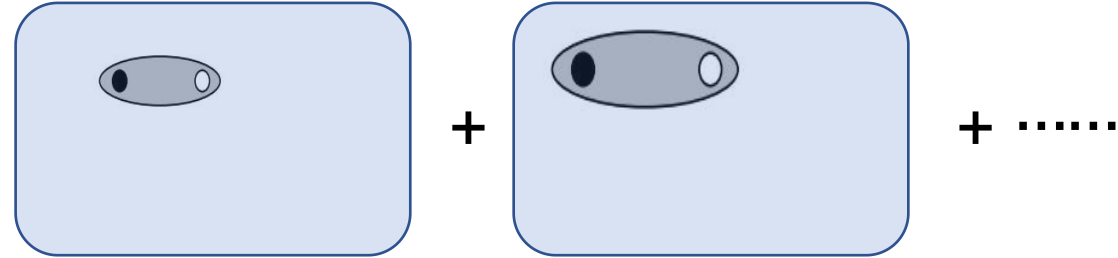
- at site  $i$ :  $|I_i^0\rangle = |01\rangle, |I_i^1\rangle = |00\rangle, |I_i^2\rangle = |11\rangle, |I_i^3\rangle = |10\rangle$

- the hadron projector (T for translation symmetry)

$$P_h^{(0)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{ij} |I_i^3\rangle \langle I_i^3| T^j \quad |I_i^3\rangle \langle I_i^3| = 1 - \sigma_{2i}^z + \sigma_{2i+1}^z - \sigma_{2i}^z \sigma_{2i+1}^z$$

# Meson in a quantum digital world

- superposition of  $q\bar{q}$



- **a dictionary of digital  $\rightarrow$  quantum digital**: vacuum, quark, antiquark, meson ....

$$|\Omega\rangle = U |I_0^0, I_1^0, \dots, I_{M-1}^0\rangle \equiv U |\tilde{\Omega}\rangle$$

$$|h_\alpha\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} U |I_0^0, I_1^0, \dots, I_i^\alpha, I_{i+1}^0, \dots, I_{M-1}^0\rangle$$

$$\equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{M}} \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} U |\tilde{h}_\alpha(i)\rangle .$$

Eigenstates with specified quantum numbers!

The unitary U can be found with quantum-number preserving VQE  
(see PRD 105, L111502 (2022))

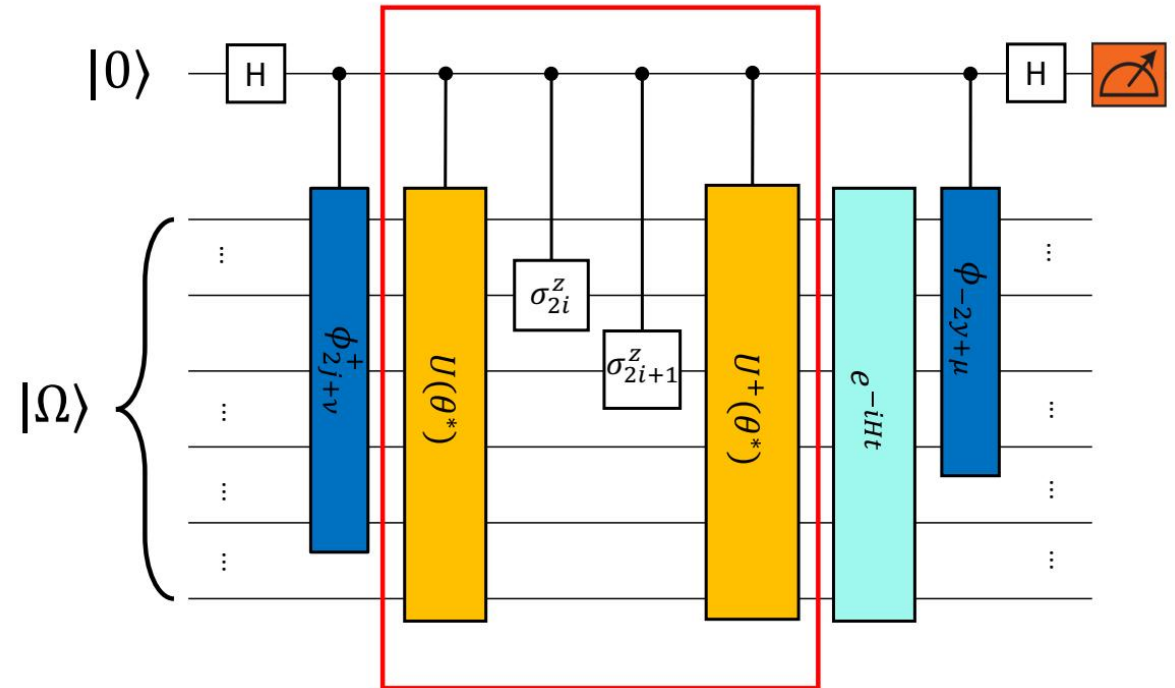


# Quantum circuit for correlator of FF

- variational constructing the hadron projector:

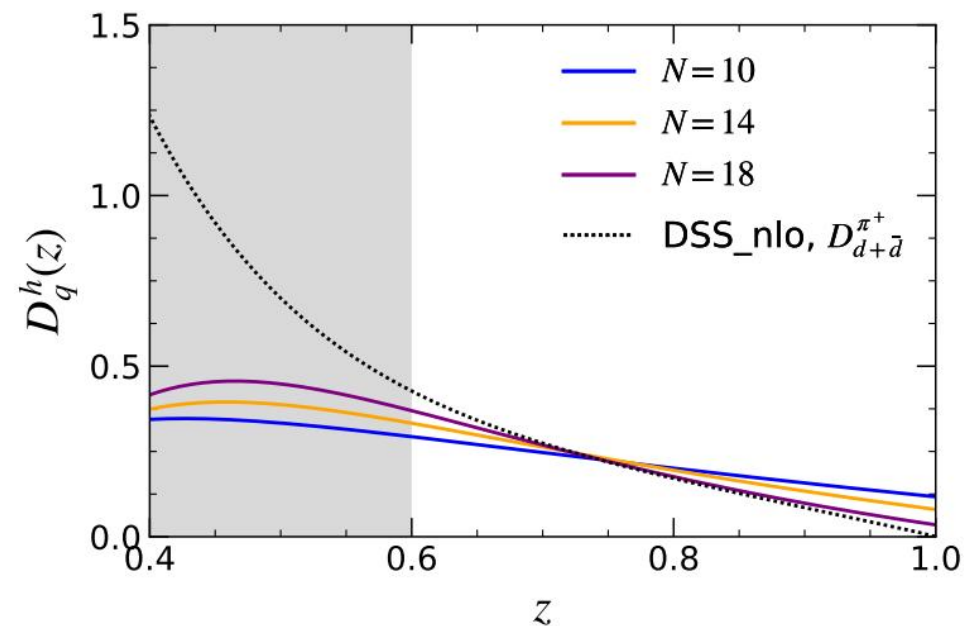
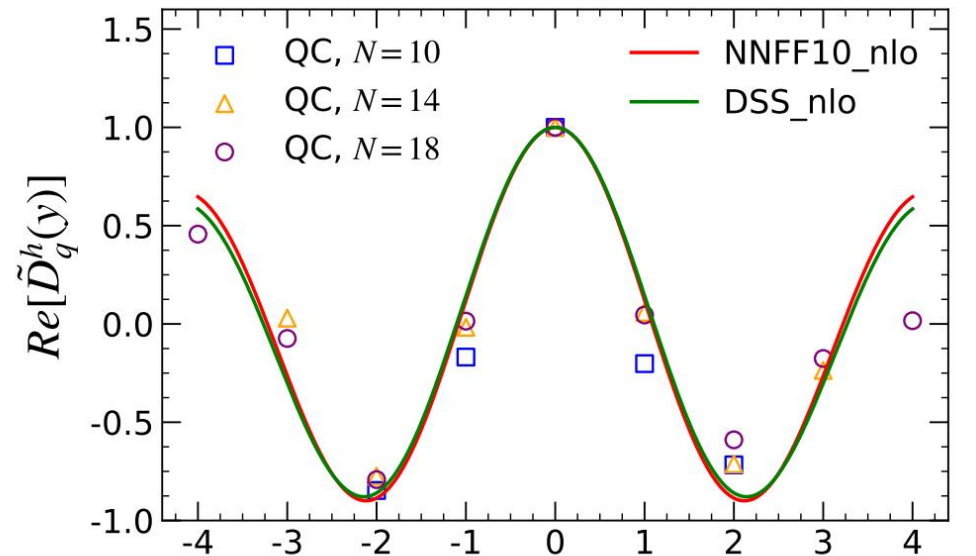
$$P_h = \sum_{ij} \frac{1}{4\sqrt{M}} U(\theta^*) \tilde{P}_h(i) U^\dagger(\theta^*) T^j$$

$$\tilde{P}_h(i) = (I - \sigma_{2i}^z)(I + \sigma_{2i+1}^z)$$



- Evaluate the light-cone correlator inserted with a projector

# Demo of FF: numeral simulation



As the lattice size is limited, **a comparison with global-fitting** is obtained in short-range:

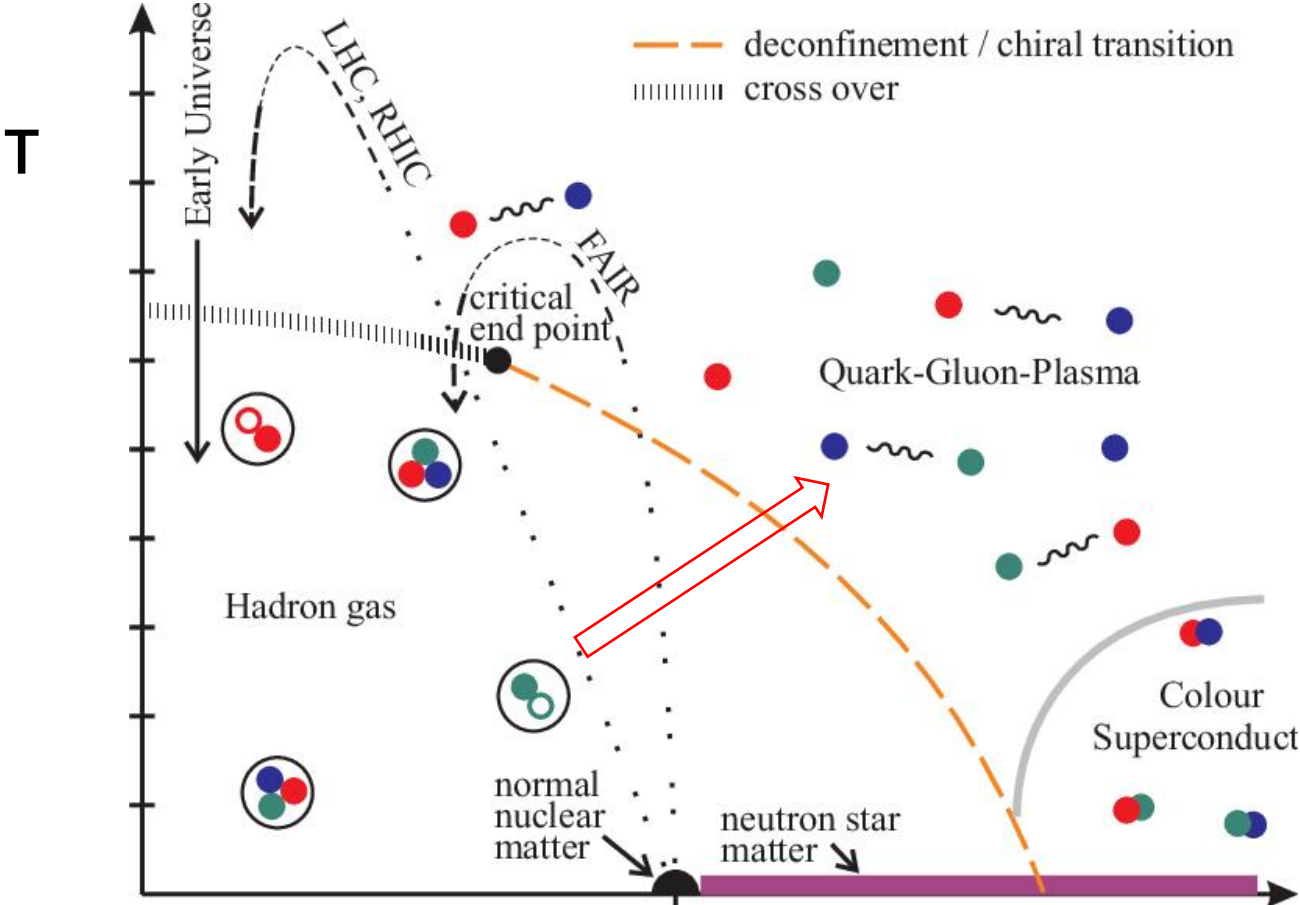
$$\tilde{D}_{d+\bar{d}}^{\pi^+}(y) = \int_{z_{min}}^1 \frac{M_h}{z^3} e^{iyM_h/z} D_{d+\bar{d}}^{\pi^+}(z)$$

$$m_q a = 0.4, m_h a = 0.6$$

$$z_{min} = 0.35$$

# QC for confinement-deconfinement transition

PhysRevD.106.054509(2022)



# Model: 1+1D Schwinger model

- 1+1D quantum electrodynamics (U(1) gauge field)

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} (\gamma^\mu (i\partial_\mu + gA_\mu) - m) \psi - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$



- 麻雀虽小，五脏俱全。 **confinement**, dynamical generated mass(gapped at  $m=0$ ), chiral symmetry breaking...
- familiar to quantum computing community as easy to simulate.
- deconfinement at infinite temperature  
PRD 19.1188(1979)

# Lattice Hamiltonian + Gauss law

U(1) gauge theory

- lattice Hamiltonian ( **is not enough** )

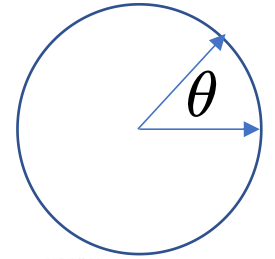
$$H = \frac{1}{2a} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} [\hat{\Phi}_j^\dagger \hat{U}_{j,j+1} \hat{\Phi}_{j+1} + h.c.] + m \sum_{j=1}^N (-1)^j \hat{\Phi}_j^\dagger \hat{\Phi}_j + \frac{g^2 a}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \hat{L}_{j,j+1}^2$$



$$\hat{U}_{j,j+1} = e^{i\theta_{j,j+1}}$$

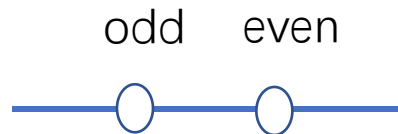
$$[\theta_{j,j+1}, L_{j',j'+1}] = -i\delta_{j,j'}$$

$$\hat{U} |l\rangle = |l+1\rangle$$



- Gauss law: **physical Hilbert space** with local constraints

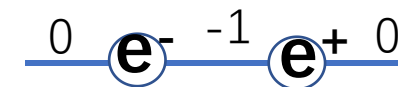
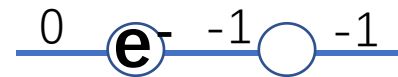
stagger fermion



Odd: 0 ( $e^-$ ), 1 (empty)

even: 1 ( $e^+$ ), 0 (empty)

$$\hat{L}_{j,j+1} - \hat{L}_{j-1,j} = \hat{\Phi}_j^\dagger \hat{\Phi}_j - \frac{1 - (-1)^j}{2}$$



- Eliminate gauge field by Gauss law  $\hat{L}_{j,j+1} = \varepsilon + \sum_{l=1}^j [\hat{\Phi}_j^\dagger \hat{\Phi}_j - \frac{1 - (-1)^l}{2}]$
- Qubit Hamiltonian: gauge field eliminated by Gauss law

$$H_\varepsilon = \varpi \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} [\hat{\sigma}_j^+ \hat{\sigma}_{j+1}^- + h.c.] + \frac{m}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N (-1)^j \hat{\sigma}_j^z$$

$$+ \frac{g^2 a}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \left\{ \varepsilon + \sum_{l=1}^j [\hat{\sigma}_l^z + (-1)^l] \right\}^2,$$

**non-local** interaction

- Finite density

$$H_\varepsilon \Rightarrow G_\varepsilon(\mu) = H_\varepsilon - \frac{\mu}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N \hat{\sigma}_j^z$$

# String tension: indicator of confinement/deconfinement

String tension as **the difference of free energies** with/without a pair of charges at boundaries



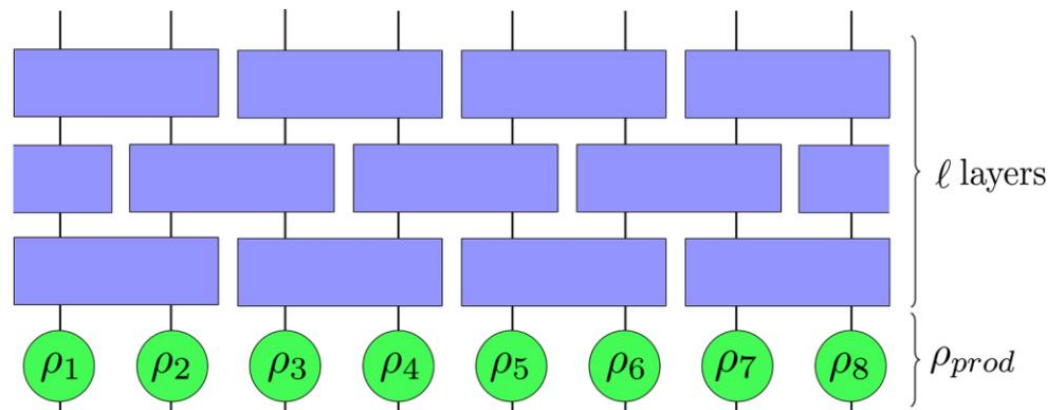
- Zero T. A linear potential between two charges( $q\bar{q}$ )



- Increasing T: the string is weakened by thermal fluctuations of  $q\bar{q}$ .

# Variational quantum algorithm for finite-temperature system

- free energy  $F = E - TS$ : energy vs entropy
- prepare thermal state  $\rho(\beta) = e^{-\beta H} / Z(\beta)$  with VQA



Product spectrum ansatz

$$\rho(\omega) = U(\phi)\rho_0(\theta)U^\dagger(\phi)$$

Entropy not change with U

Classical  
computer

- minimize free energy:

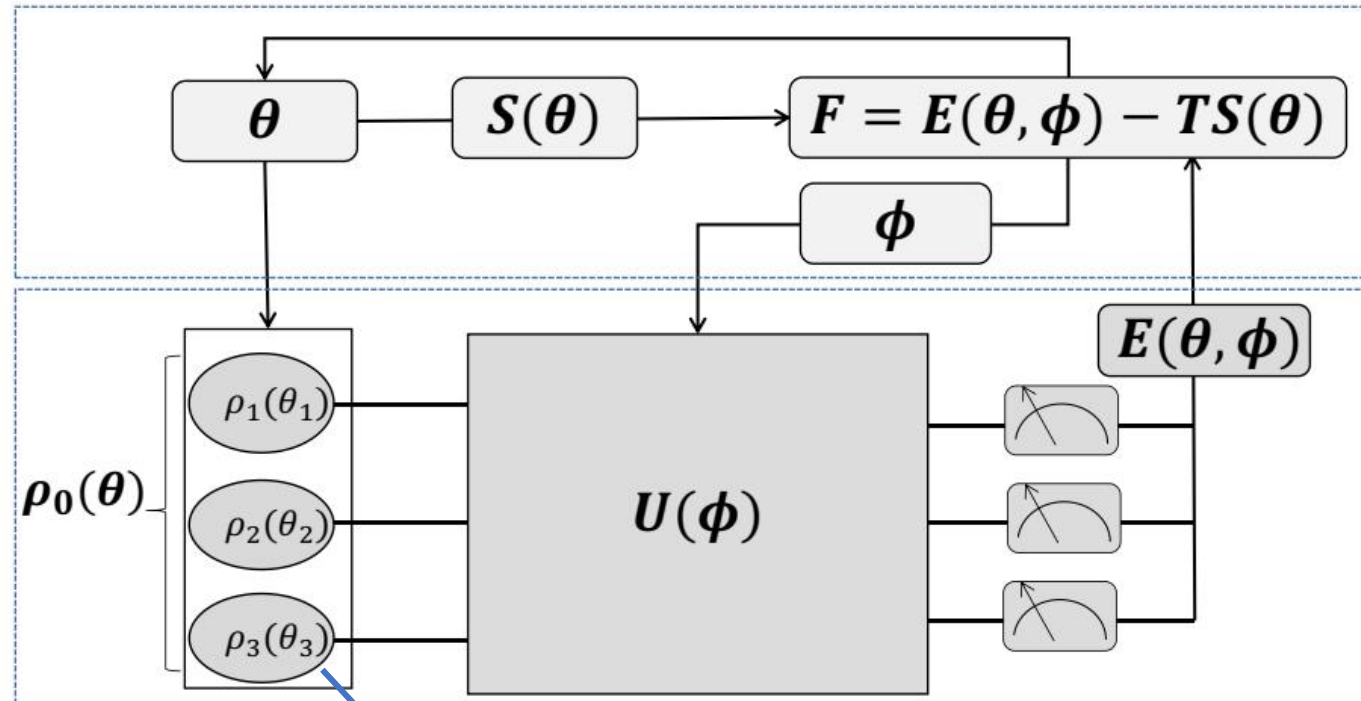
$$F(\beta) = E(\beta) - TS(\beta)$$

Quantum  
computer

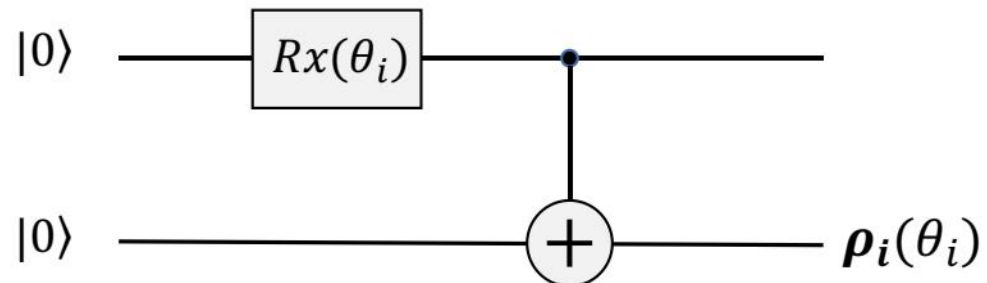


# Illustration of the algorithm

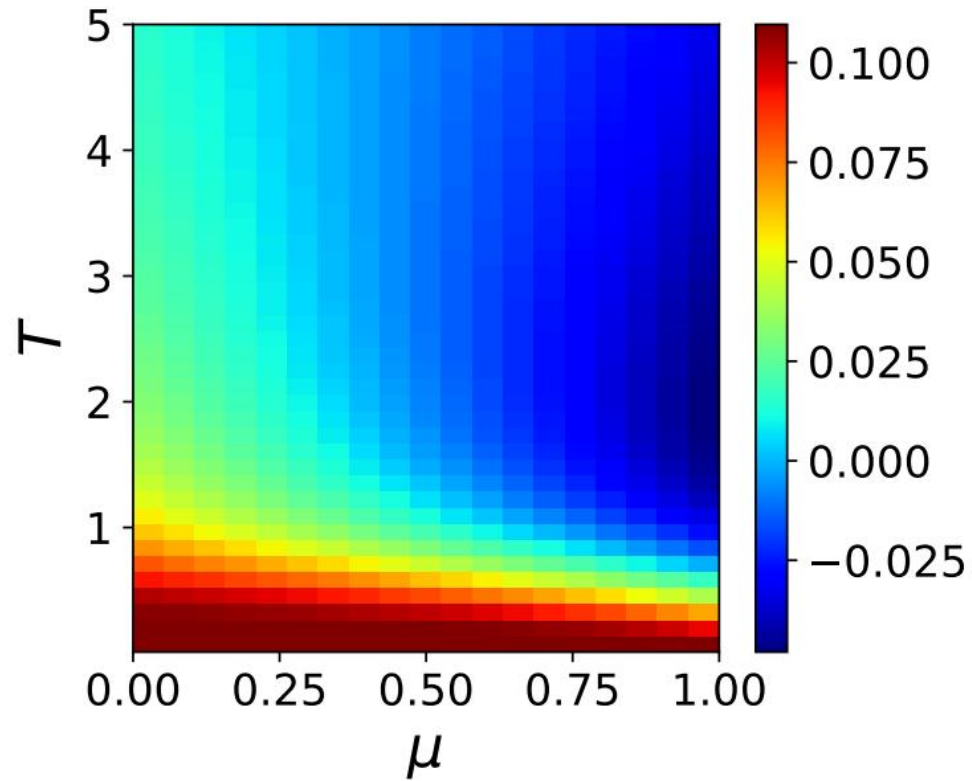
## Hybrid quantum-classical optimization



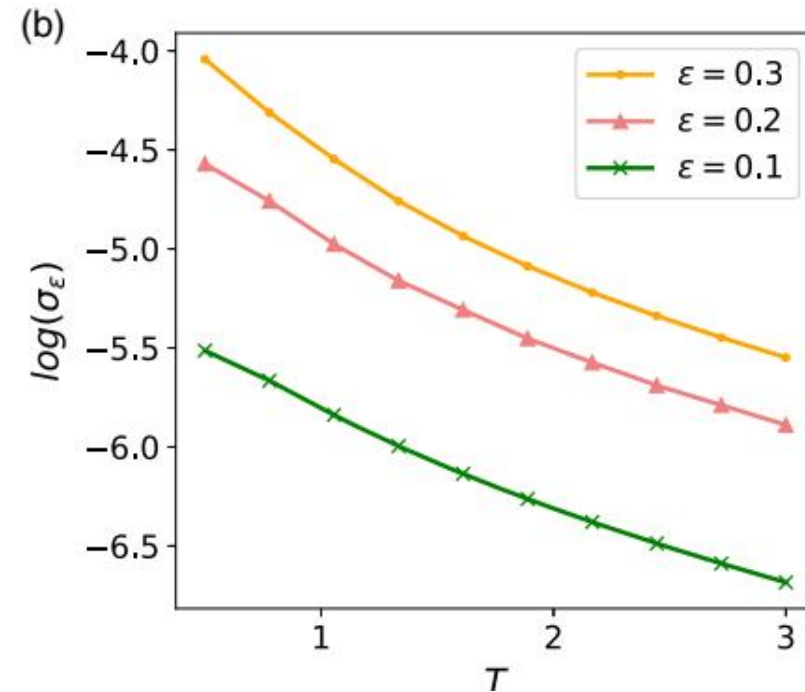
One-qubit mixed state  
from a two-qubit entangled state



# String tension at finite-T finite-density



Exponential decay of string tension with T



# Conclusion

- QC for dynamic properties of hadron structure
- QC for finite-temperature & finite-density nuclear matter

## Outlook:

- gluon PDFs
- phase diagram of QCD
- 2+1D systems