

DeepQuark: a deep-neural-network approach to multiquark bound states

Wei-Lin Wu (吴伟霖)

Peking University

Based on: Phys. Rev. Lett. 136 (2026) 7, 071901

Coauthors: Lu Meng (孟璐), Shi-Lin Zhu (朱世琳)



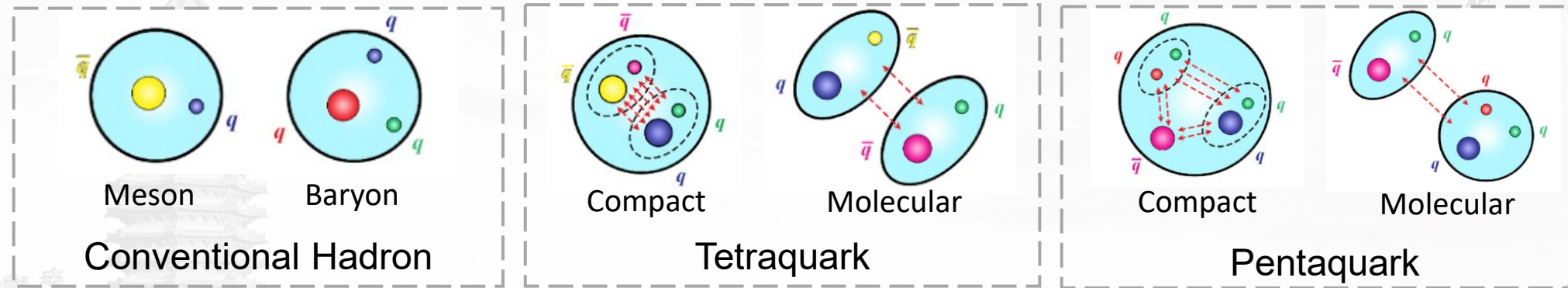
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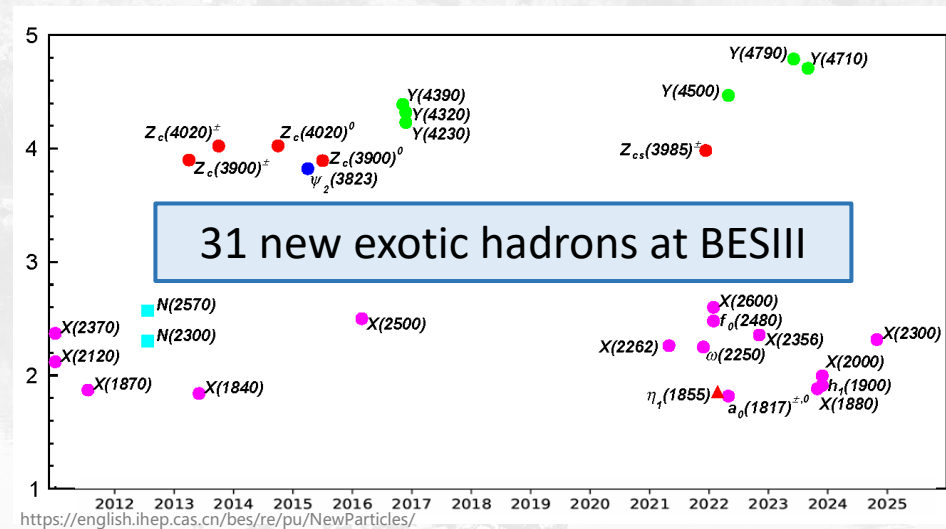
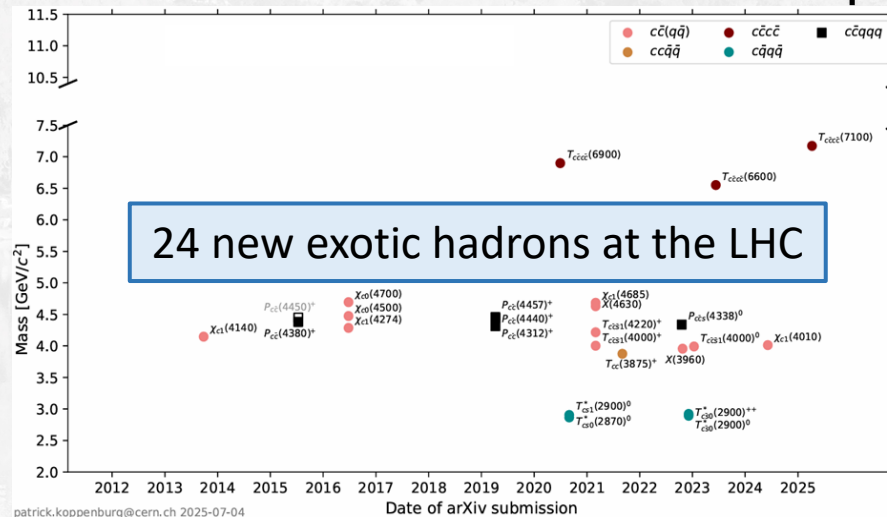
- 01 Multiquark States & Quark Potential Model
- 02 Neural-network Quantum State & Variational Monte Carlo
- 03 DeepQuark Architecture & Results



Multiquark States



- Numerous new hadron states as multiquark candidates



- Main questions in phenomenological descriptions:

- pattern of mass spectra
- clustering of quarks: compact / molecular / ...

Quark Potential Model

- QCD is nonperturbative at low energies → QCD-inspired models / EFT

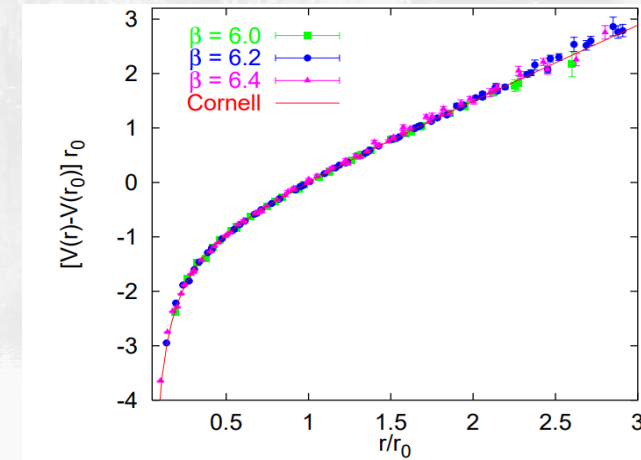
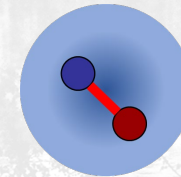
- Quark potential model

- Constituent quarks

- Minimal potential model

Cornell model: PRD 17,3090 (1978) ; BGS model: PRD 72,054026 (2005) , ...

$$V_{ij}(r) = V_{ij}^{OGE} + V_{ij}^{conf.} = \left[\underbrace{\left(\frac{\alpha_s}{r} - \frac{8\pi\alpha_s}{3m_Q^2} \tilde{\delta}(\sigma; r) \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j \right)}_{\text{one-gluon-exchange}} + \underbrace{\left(-\frac{3}{4} br \right)}_{\text{linear confinement}} \right] \frac{\lambda_i \cdot \lambda_j}{4}$$



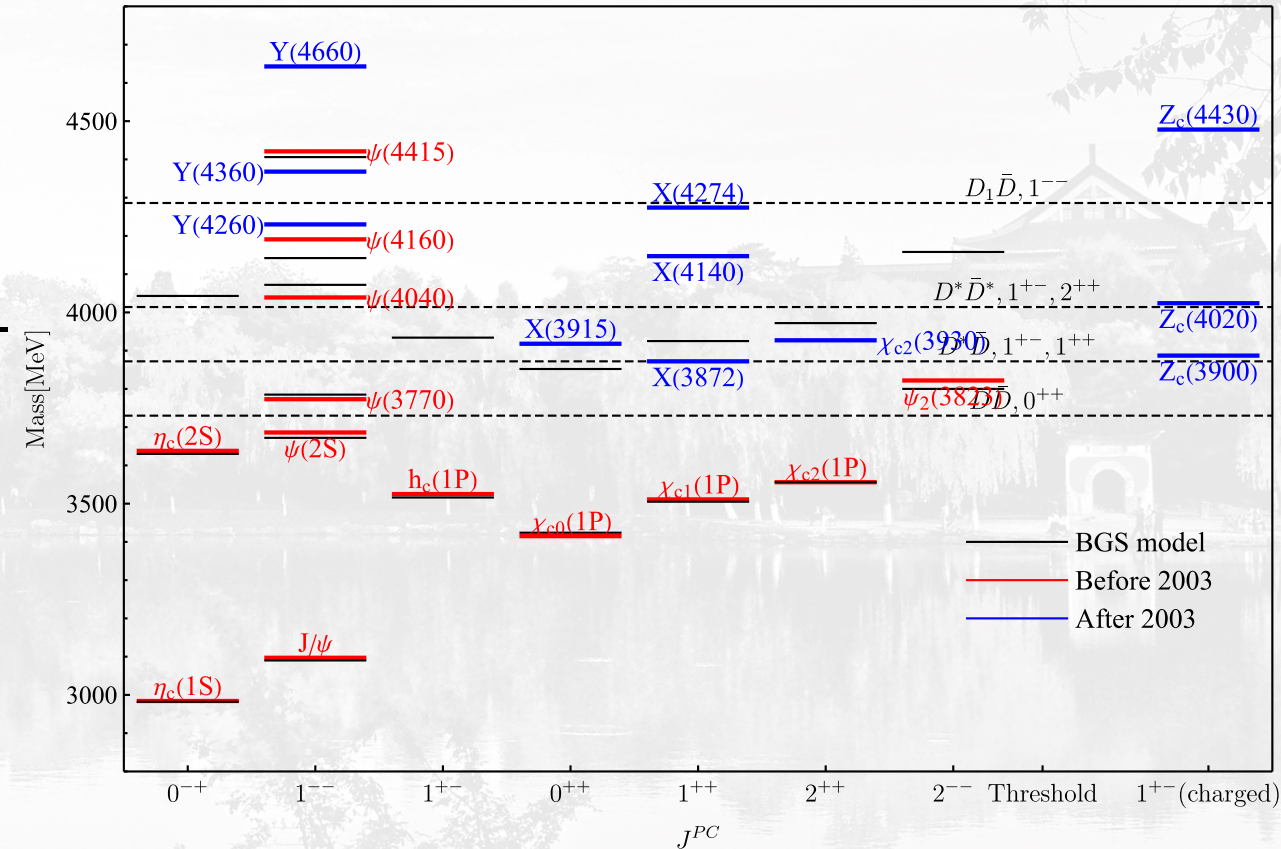
Phys.Rept. 343, 1-136 (2001)

Quark Potential Model

- Great success in conventional hadrons

- Charmonia: PRD 72, 054026 (2005)

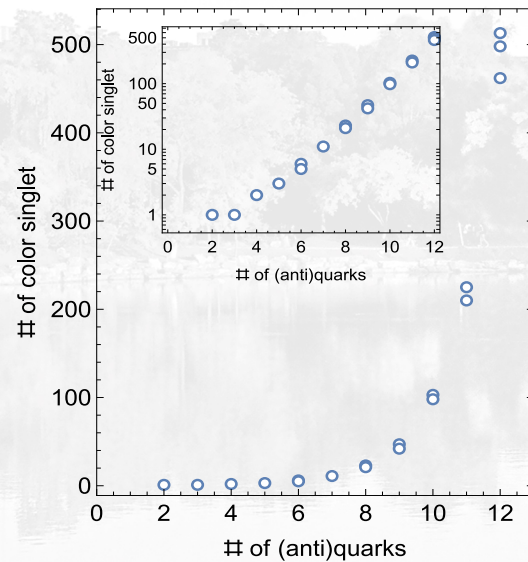
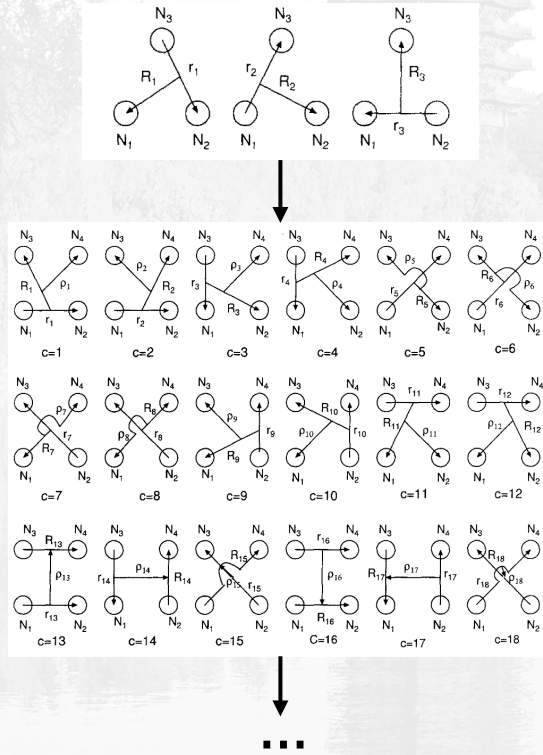
- NRQM with only 4 params
- Well describe low-lying states below open-flavor thresholds
- EM transitions, open flavor strong decays
- Inconsistent above the thresholds, multiquarks ($c\bar{c}q\bar{q}$) involved



Solving multiquark states in QM

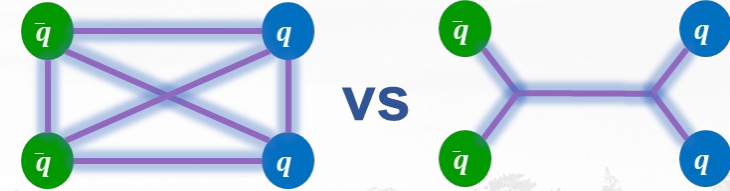
Dimensionality curse

- Basis construction: spatial $\otimes$ spin $\otimes$ flavor $\otimes$ color
- Exponential growth of basis

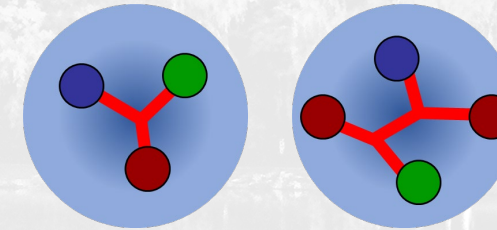


Confinement interaction

- Exp. tetraquark results $\Rightarrow$ confinement pictures



- Flux-tube interaction is supported by lattice QCD



PRL 86, 18 (2001) ;
PRD 72, 014505 (2005) ;
PRD 96, 074508 (2017)

- Matrix elements no longer analytical
→ basis expansion intractable

AI4S enables a new framework for multiquark states

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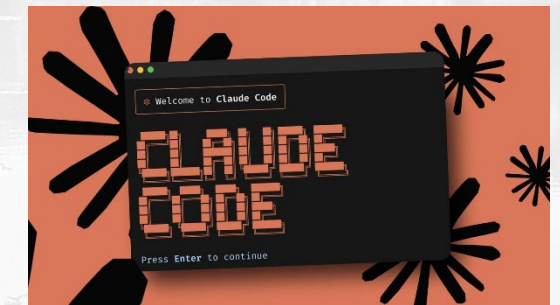
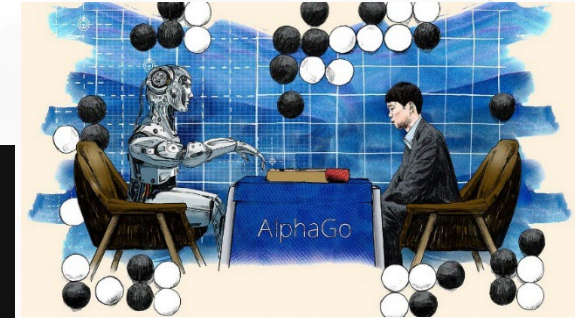
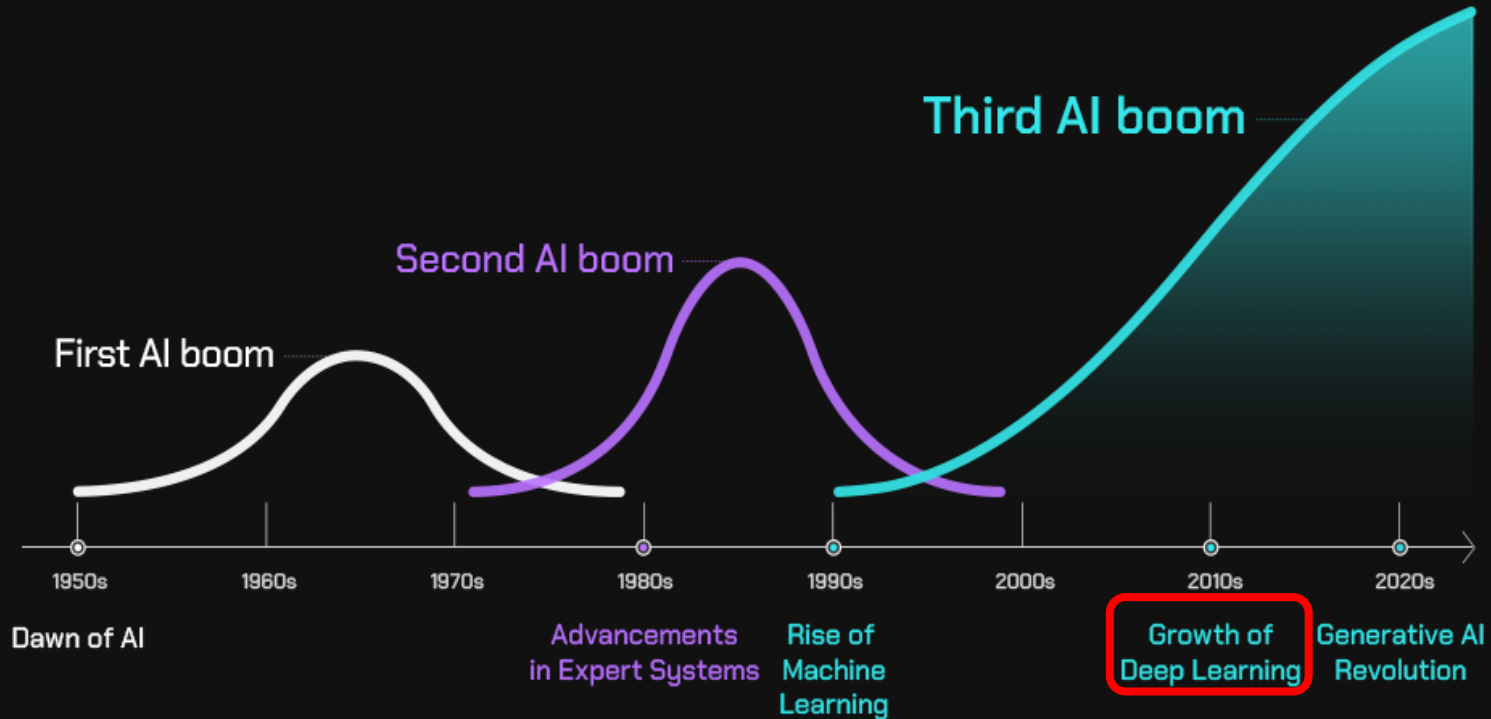
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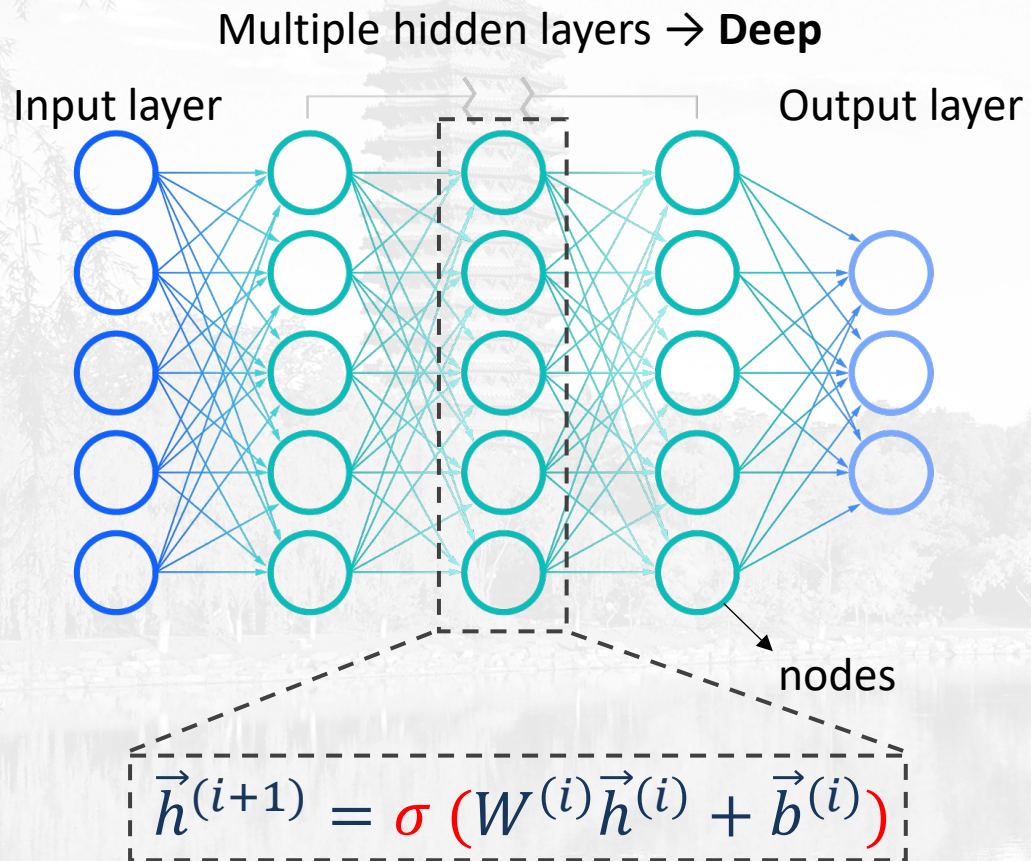
AI & DNN

The Evolution of AI Through the Decades



Deep Learning: Machine learning based on **Deep Neural Networks (DNN)**

Deep Neural Network (DNN)



- Representation of high-dimensional function
- Training process:
Minimize loss function by varying params
- Universal Approximation Theorem:

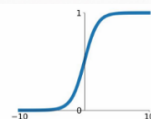
sufficiently wide or deep

Neural networks with a certain structure can, in principle, approximate **any continuous function to any desired accuracy**

- Linear: Trainable parameters $W^{(i)}, \vec{b}^{(i)}$
- Nonlinear: Activation function $\sigma(x)$

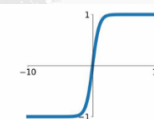
Sigmoid

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$$



tanh

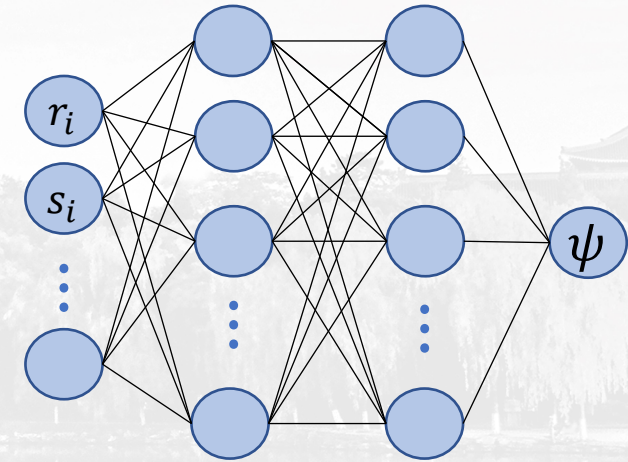
$$\tanh(x)$$



...

Neural-network Quantum State (NQS)

- Input: many-body configuration $(r_i, s_i, \dots)$
- Output: wave function amplitude $\psi(r_i, s_i, \dots)$
- Physical symmetry constraints
(antisymmetry, quantum number projection)
- Advantages:
 - Polynomial scaling with N
 - Flexible and unbiased representation: describing various configurations
- Unsupervised learning: no additional data, trained by physical equation

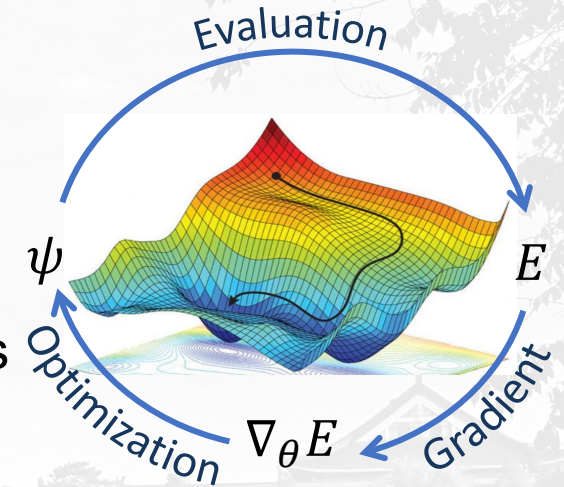


Variational Monte Carlo (VMC)

Variational Principle.

$$E[\theta] = \langle \psi_\theta | H | \psi_\theta \rangle / \langle \psi_\theta | \psi_\theta \rangle \geq E_0$$

- Minimizing $E[\theta]$ approaches ground state
- Traditional ansatz: based on *a priori* knowledge, limited expressiveness
- **NQS: a universal, flexible ansatz**

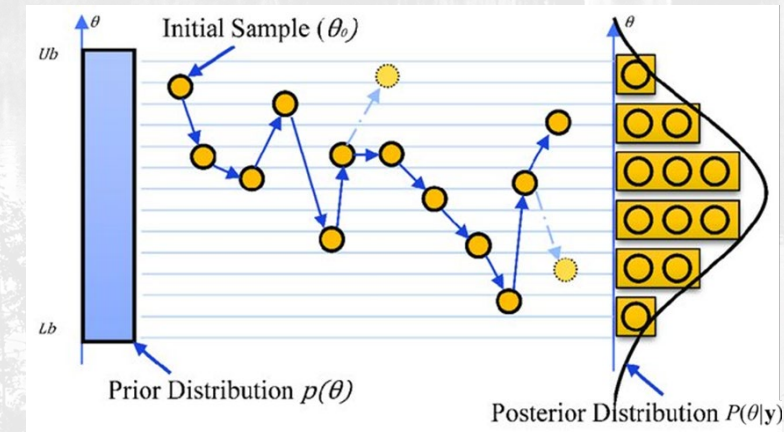


Monte Carlo Estimation. High-dim integral via importance sampling:

$$E[\theta] = \frac{\int |\psi_\theta(r)|^2 \frac{H\psi(r)}{\psi(r)} dr}{\int |\psi_\theta(r)|^2 dr} \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_i E_L(r_i)$$

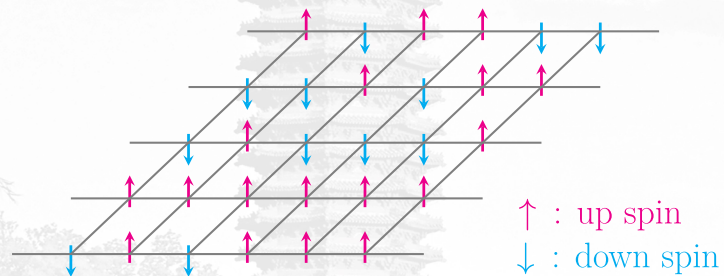
$$E_L(r) = \frac{H\psi(r)}{\psi(r)} = \frac{T\psi(r)}{\psi(r)} + V(r)$$

- Samples $r_i \sim |\psi_\theta|^2$ generated by Metropolis-Hastings algorithm
- Efficient evaluation with statistical error $\sim 1/\sqrt{N}$
- easily handles complicated potentials, only needs $V(r_i)$



Applications in many-body physics

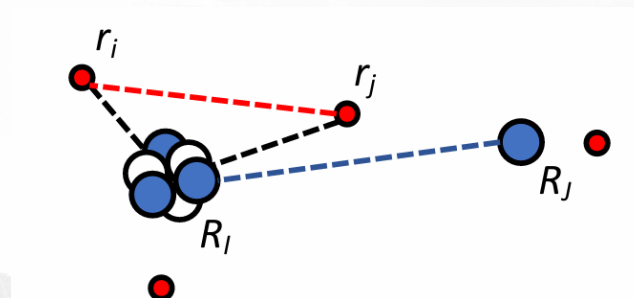
Spin Model



Science 355, 602 (2017).

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Atomic & Molecular Systems

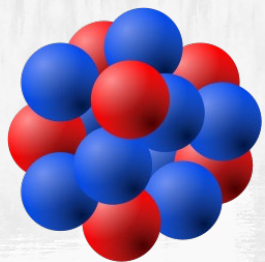


FermiNet: Phys. Rev. Res. 2, 033429 (2020).

PauliNet: Nat. Chem. 12, 891 (2020).

...

Nuclear Physics



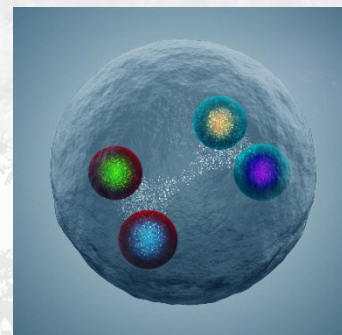
Deuteron: PLB 809, 135743 (2020).

$A \leq 4$: PRL 127, 022502 (2021).

Neutron- α scattering: PRL 135, 172502 (2025) .

...

Hadron Physics: a new frontier



DeepQuark: PRL 136, 071901 (2026)

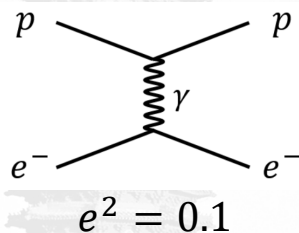
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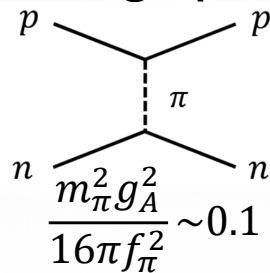


Challenges in multiquark systems

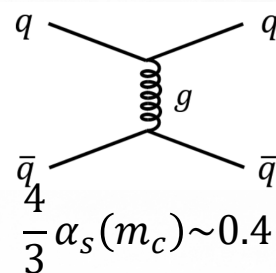
● Stronger interactions among quarks



$$e^2 = 0.1$$



$$\frac{m_\pi^2 g_A^2}{16\pi f_\pi^2} \sim 0.1$$



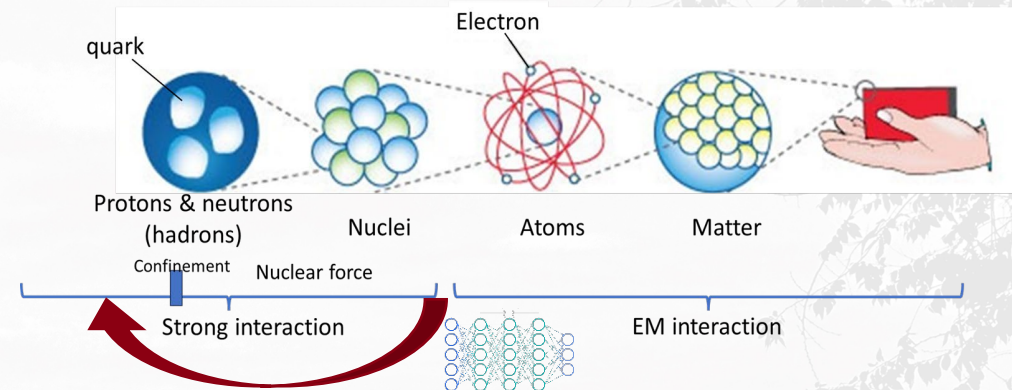
$$\frac{4}{3} \alpha_s(m_c) \sim 0.4$$

- significant correlation effects
- no evidence of shell structure in multiquarks
- Slater-type wave function is not a good ansatz

● Symmetry constraints

- color projection to ensure SU(3) singlet
- spin projection to target states of interest

$[cc\bar{q}\bar{q}]_{S=0}$: DD threshold, $[cc\bar{q}\bar{q}]_{S=1}$: T_{cc} state

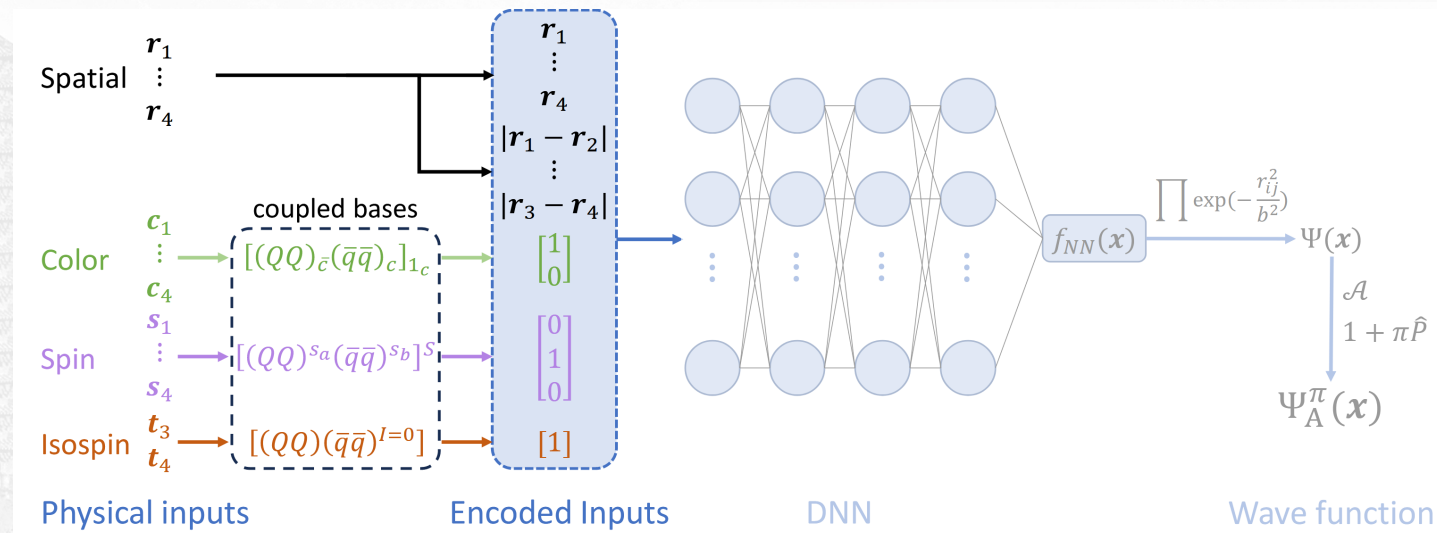


$$\sum_{\mathcal{P}} \text{sign}(\mathcal{P}) \prod_i \phi_i^k(\mathbf{x}_{\mathcal{P}_i}) = \begin{vmatrix} \phi_1^k(\mathbf{x}_1) & \dots & \phi_1^k(\mathbf{x}_n) \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \phi_n^k(\mathbf{x}_1) & \dots & \phi_n^k(\mathbf{x}_n) \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \det[\phi_i^k(\mathbf{x}_j)] = \det[\Phi^k],$$

$$\psi(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) = \sum_k \omega_k \det[\Phi^k],$$

DeepQuark Architecture



Empowered by NetKet
<https://github.com/netket>



Spatial Input

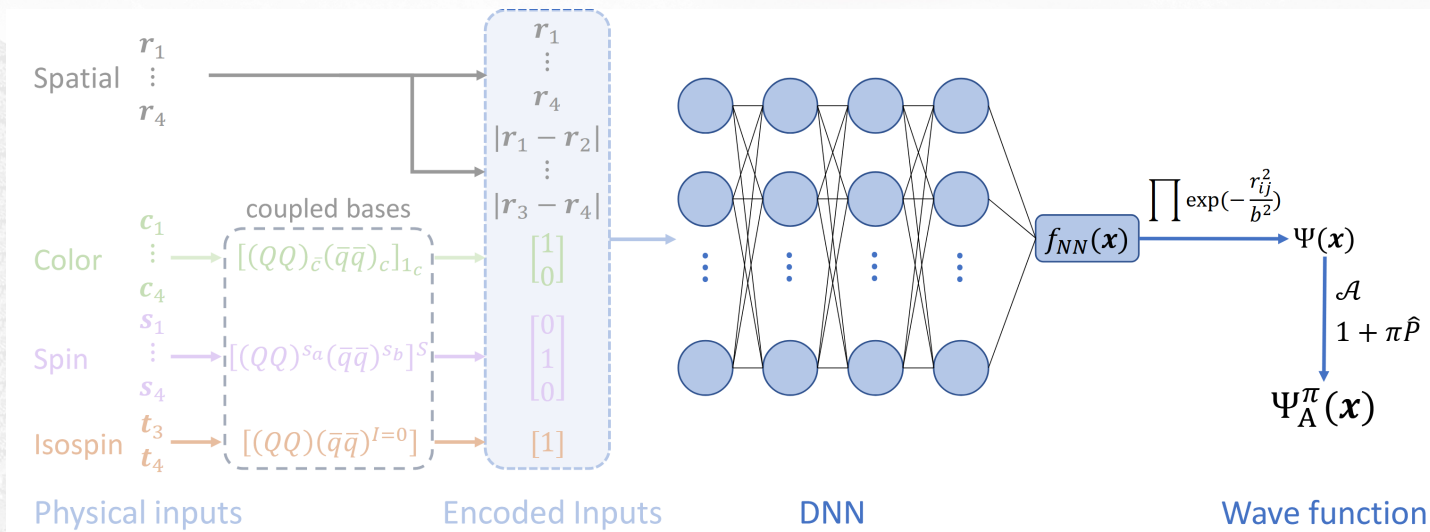
- Quark coordinates in c.m. frame
- Interparticle distances
 - encapsulate interparticle correlations
 - better describe wave function cusps

PRR 2, 033429 (2020)

Discrete Input

- Coupled bases instead of single particle (s_i, t_i, c_i)
 - satisfy discrete symmetry
 - describe multichannel coupling
- One-hot encoding
 - no prejudiced correlations between bases

DeepQuark Architecture



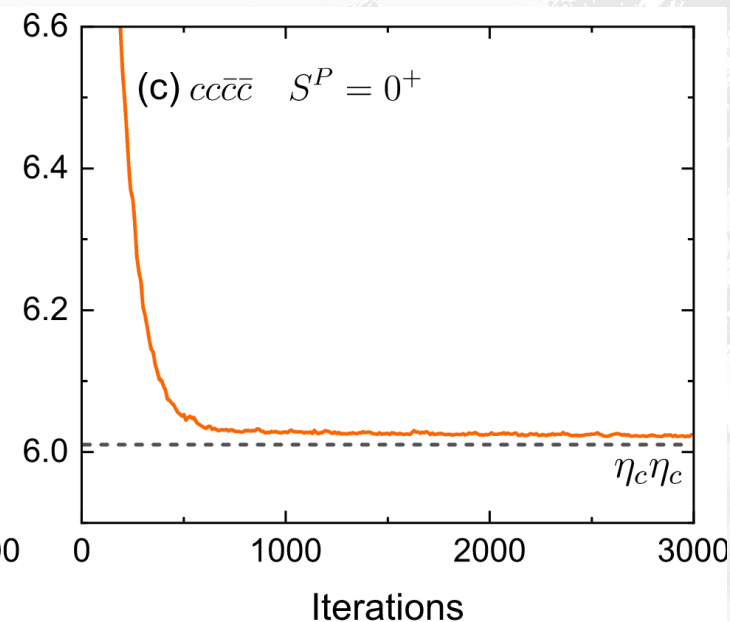
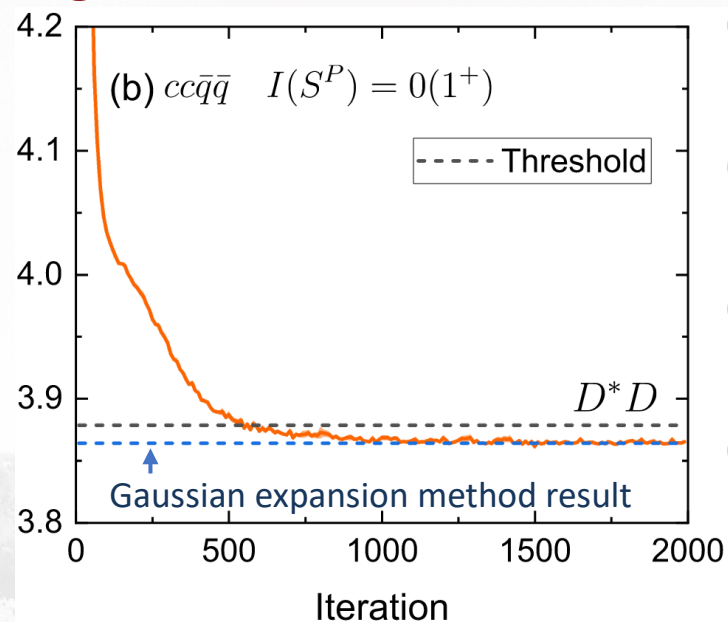
Empowered by NetKet
<https://github.com/netket>



- 4 hidden layers with only $O(10^3)$ parameters
 vs. GEM for tetraquark: $\sim 10^4$ bases; $A \leq 4$ nuclei: $\sim 10^4$ paras
 PRL 127, 022502 (2021)
- Antisymmetrization $\mathcal{A} = \sum_{\mathcal{P}} (-1)^{\mathcal{P}} \mathcal{P}$
 - $O(n!)$ for identical particles
 - the price for enforcing symmetry
- Boundary condition $\exp(-r_{ij}^2/b^2)$
 - better initial state for faster convergence
- Parity projection $1 + \pi\hat{P}$

Tetraquarks with two-body interactions

- Convergence within 2000 iterations
- High accuracy competitive with Gaussian expansion method
- $cc\bar{q}\bar{q}$: molecular state, agree with exp.
- $bb\bar{q}\bar{q}$: compact tetraquark
- $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$: no bound states



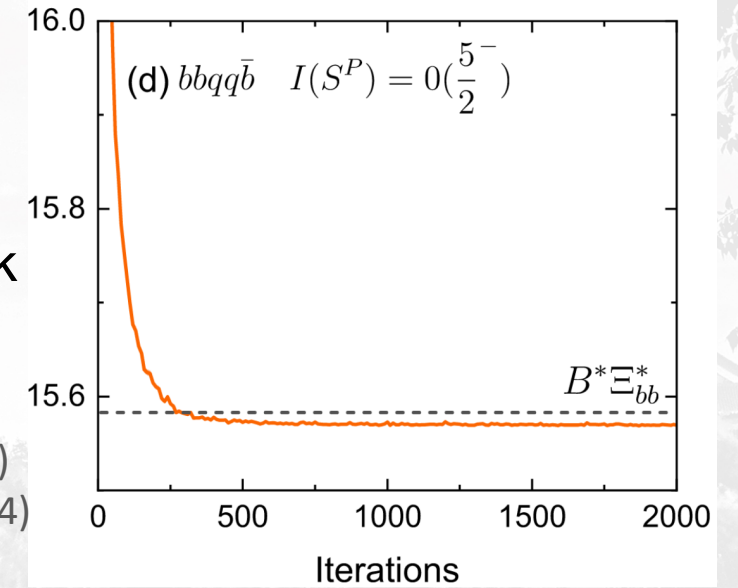
unified
descriptions

	$I(S^P)$	Thresh.	ΔE	$P_{\bar{3}_c \otimes 3_c}$	$P_{6 \otimes 6_c}$	r_{QQ}	$r_{\bar{q}\bar{q}}$	$r_{Q\bar{q}}$
$cc\bar{q}\bar{q}$	$0(1^+)$	DD^*	-15	55%	45%	1.24	1.41	1.06
$bb\bar{q}\bar{q}$	$0(1^+)$	$\bar{B}\bar{B}^*$	-153	97%	3%	0.33	0.78	0.69
$QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$	$0(0^+)$ $0(1^+)$ $0(2^+)$	$\eta_c\eta_c$ $\eta_c J/\psi$ $J/\psi J/\psi$	Unbound					

Pentaquarks with two-body interactions

- Five-body dynamical calculations without approximations via DeepQuark
- Moderate increase in computational cost compared to tetraquark
(2000 iters: ~40/60 mins on a A100 GPU for tetra/penta-quark)
- Possible bound pentaquark systems $QQ\bar{Q}qq$
 - Heavy diquark-antiquark symmetry: $(QQ)_{\bar{3}_c} \rightarrow \bar{Q}$
 - $\bar{Q}\bar{Q}qq \rightarrow QQ\bar{Q}qq$
 - Given $M_{\bar{Q}\bar{Q}qq} < M_{\bar{Q}q} + M_{\bar{Q}q}$, $M_{QQ\bar{Q}qq} < M_{QQq} + M_{\bar{Q}q}$?

PRD 88, 054014 (2013)
PRD 110, 076014 (2024)



	$I(S^P)$	Thresh.	ΔE	r_{QQ}	r_{Qq}	r_{qq}	$r_{Q\bar{Q}}$	$r_{q\bar{Q}}$
$cc\bar{c}qq$	$0(1/2^+, 3/2^+)$	$\eta_c \Lambda_c, J/\psi \Lambda_c$	Unbound					
	$0(5/2^+)$	$\bar{D}^* \Xi_{cc}^*$	-3	0.50	1.39	1.90	1.73	1.38
$bb\bar{b}qq$	$0(1/2^+, 3/2^+)$	$\eta_b \Lambda_b, \Upsilon \Lambda_b$	Unbound					
	$0(5/2^+)$	$B^* \Xi_{bb}^*$	-14	0.30	0.89	1.22	0.88	0.88

$\rightarrow J/\psi \Lambda_c$ (D-wave)

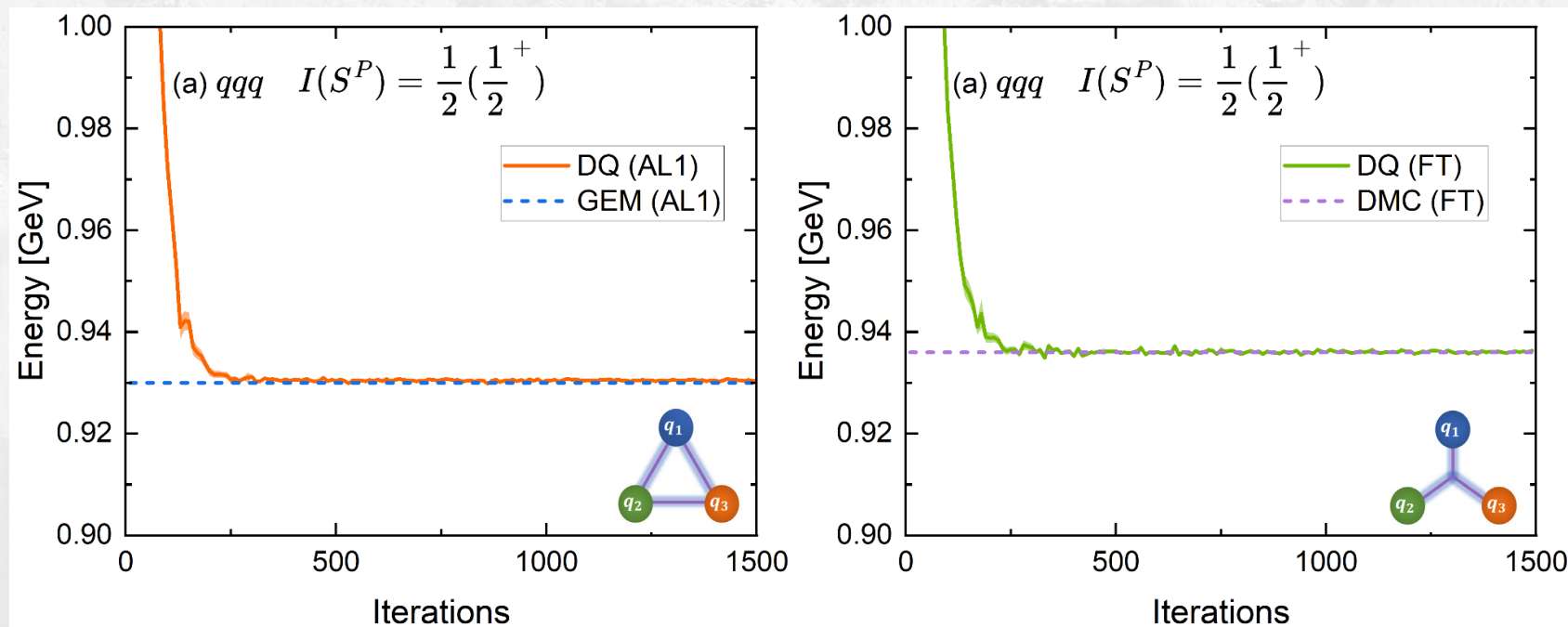
Baryons with flux-tube interactions

- Lattice QCD favors flux-tube confinement interactions for baryons

PRL 86, 18-21 (2001)

$$V_{\text{conf}} = \sum_{i < j} \lambda r_{ij} \rightarrow \sigma L_{\text{min}} \quad L_{\text{min}} = \begin{cases} \left[\frac{1}{2}(a^2 + b^2 + c^2) + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \sqrt{d(d-2a)(d-2b)(d-2c)} \right]^{1/2} & \max(\theta_a, \theta_b, \theta_c) < \frac{2\pi}{3}, \\ d - \max(a, b, c) & \max(\theta_a, \theta_b, \theta_c) > \frac{2\pi}{3}, \end{cases}$$

- DeepQuark efficiently incorporates flux-tube type interactions using VMC
- Ready for exploring different confinement mechanisms in tetraquarks



Summary & Outlooks

- DNN + VMC framework
 - DNN as many-body wave function: efficient, general, unbiased
 - VMC: solves ground state using variational principle; handles complicated interactions
- DeepQuark: Towards accurate solutions of multiquark Hamiltonians
 - Architecture for strongly correlated multiquark systems with symmetry constraints
 - Unbiased form: clustering behaviors (molecular / compact)
 - Outperforms traditional methods starting from pentaquarks
 - Capable of flux-tube interactions
- Outlooks:
 - Framework for exploring confinement mechanisms in multiquark states
 - DNN for scattering and resonances

Thanks for your attention!

The background of the slide is a faded, grayscale image of a traditional Chinese landscape. On the left, a tall, multi-tiered pagoda stands prominently. In the center, a calm body of water reflects the surrounding scenery. To the right, there are more traditional buildings and lush trees, including weeping willows. The overall atmosphere is serene and historical.

Backup

Previous NQS

NQS in electronic / nuclear systems: Slater-Jastrow form

$$\Psi(\mathbf{x}) = e^J \det[\Phi]$$

Slater determinant

- Enforces fermionic antisymmetry
- Built from single-particle orbital
- Neural network:
 - generalize $\phi_i(x_j) \rightarrow \phi_i(x_j; x_1, \dots, x_N)$
 - encode many-body correlations

Jastrow factor

- Permutation invariant
- Captures correlations beyond mean field
- Cusps from short-range interactions
- Neural network:
 - generalize $J = \sum_{i < j} u(x_i, x_j) \rightarrow J(x_1, \dots, x_N)$
 $x_i = (r_i, s_i, \dots)$

AL1 model

$$H = \sum_i \frac{p_i^2}{2m_i} + \sum_{i < j} V_{\text{OGE},ij} + V_{\text{conf},ij}$$

- Minimal nonrelativistic model extended to multiquark sectors

- Pairwise interaction:

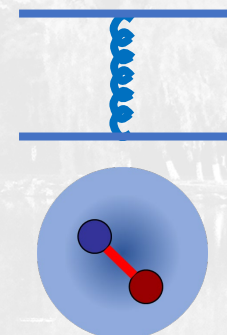
➤ one-gluon-exchange

$$V_{\text{OGE},ij} = \frac{\lambda_i \cdot \lambda_j}{4} \left[\frac{\alpha_s}{r} - \frac{8\pi\alpha'_s}{3m_i m_j} \tilde{\delta}(\sigma; r) \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j \right]$$

➤ linear confinement

$$V_{\text{conf},ij} = \frac{\lambda_i \cdot \lambda_j}{4} \left(-\frac{3}{4} br + \Lambda \right)$$

- Parameters fitted by meson spectra across all flavor sectors

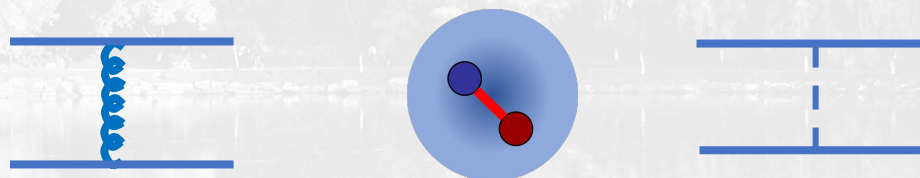


More models

TABLE SM-IV. Different ingredients in five different quark models.

	One-gluon-exchange		Confinement		meson-exchange
	asymptotic freedom	Hyperfine	form	screening effect	
AL1	No	Gaussian	linear	No	No
AL2	Yes	Gaussian	linear	No	No
AP1	No	Gaussian	$p = 2/3$	No	No
AP2	Yes	Gaussian	$p = 2/3$	No	No
SLM	No	Yukawa	linear	Yes	Yes

Potential	DQ		GEM [4]	
	E	ΔE	E	ΔE
AL1	10491	-153	10493	-152
AP1	10502	-176	10504	-175
AL2	10473	-151	10474	-151
AP2	10471	-174	10472	-174
SLM	10230	-362	10232	-360



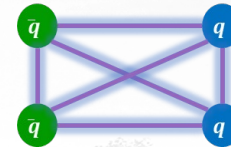
- Accommodate a wide variety of interactions
- Taking $bb\bar{q}\bar{q}$ as a testing system, all in agreement with GEM
- A flexible framework for spectroscopy studies

QM for tetraquark states

- Does QM work in multiquark sector?

- Previous tetraquark study:

- Pairwise confinement interaction model



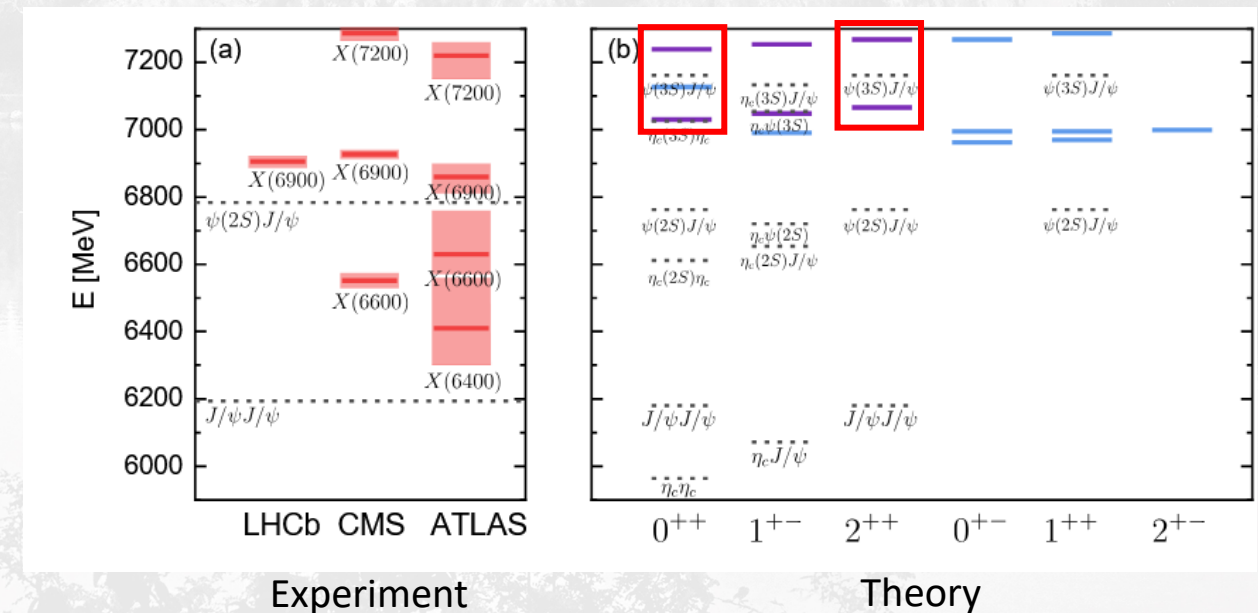
- Gaussian expansion method (GEM) to solve 4-body problem PNP 51, 223 (2003)

- Bound and resonant states

✓ $T_{cc}(3875)^+$ PLB 814, 136095 (2021)

✓ $T_{cc\bar{c}\bar{c}}(6900), T_{cc\bar{c}\bar{c}}(7200)$
PRD 109, 054034 (2024)

✓ $T_{cs0}^*(2870)^0$
PRD 109, 014010 (2024)



Code

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository for 'DeepQuark' by user 'wlwuphy'. The repository is public and has 7 stars, 0 watches, and 1 fork. The main branch is 'main'. The repository contains several files and folders: 'baryon', 'meson', 'multiquark', 'CITATION.cff', 'README.md', 'config.py', 'operator.py', and 'sampler.py'. The 'README.md' file is selected, showing the project title 'DeepQuark' and the description 'Neural-network algorithms for multiquark bound states'. The 'Requirements' section states that the codes are developed based on 'NetKet v3.17'. The right sidebar shows the repository's activity, including the number of stars, watches, and forks, and a list of contributors.

DeepQuark (Public)

main 1 Branch 0 Tags

Go to file Add file Code

wlwuphy Update model_.py 3e1a2c6 · 2 months ago 11 Commits

File/Folder	Commit Message	Time Ago
baryon	Update model_.py	2 months ago
meson	Upload codes	4 months ago
multiquark	Upload codes	4 months ago
CITATION.cff	Update CITATION.cff	4 months ago
README.md	Update README.md	4 months ago
config.py	Upload codes	4 months ago
operator.py	Upload codes	4 months ago
sampler.py	Upload codes	4 months ago

README

DeepQuark

Neural-network algorithms for multiquark bound states

Requirements

The codes are developed based on [NetKet v3.17](#). A stable package version to run this code:

About

Neural-network algorithms for multiquark bound states

- Readme
- Cite this repository
- Activity
- 7 stars
- 0 watching
- 1 fork

Releases

No releases published
[Create a new release](#)

Packages

No packages published
[Publish your first package](#)

Contributors 1

- wlwuphy

Languages

- Python 100.0%

Empowered by NetKet
<https://github.com/netket>



<https://github.com/wlwuphy/DeepQuark>