

Towards the Optimizer that NQS Deserves

M. Drissi, J.W.T Keeble, J. Rozalén Sarmiento & A. Rios, Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A. 382 (2024)



J. Rozalén Sarmiento, M. Drissi, J.W.T. Keeble, A. Rios



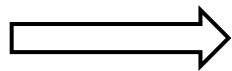
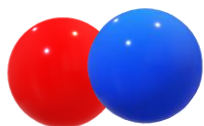
CPAN 2025, FNUC. November 19th, Valencia, 2025



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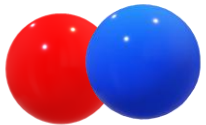


The computation problem



$$\psi_{\theta}(X, \sigma, \tau)$$

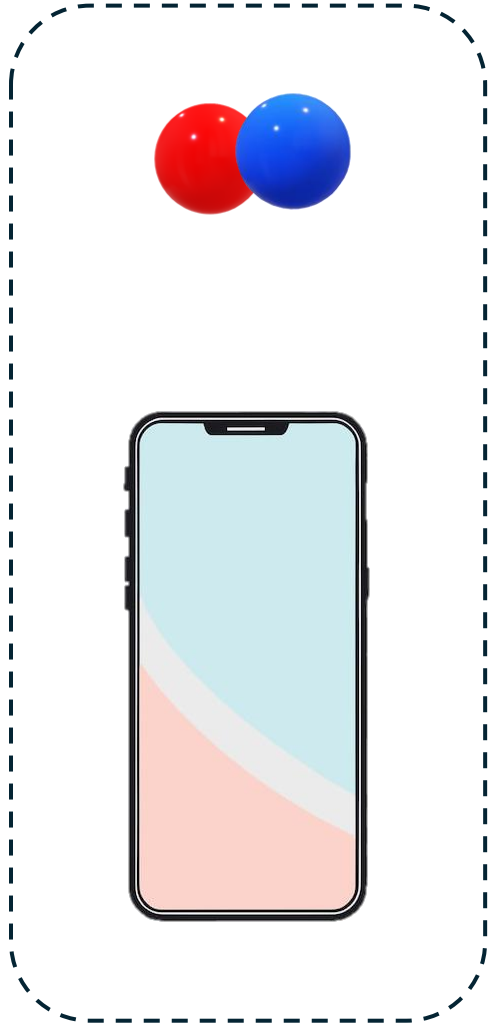
The computation problem



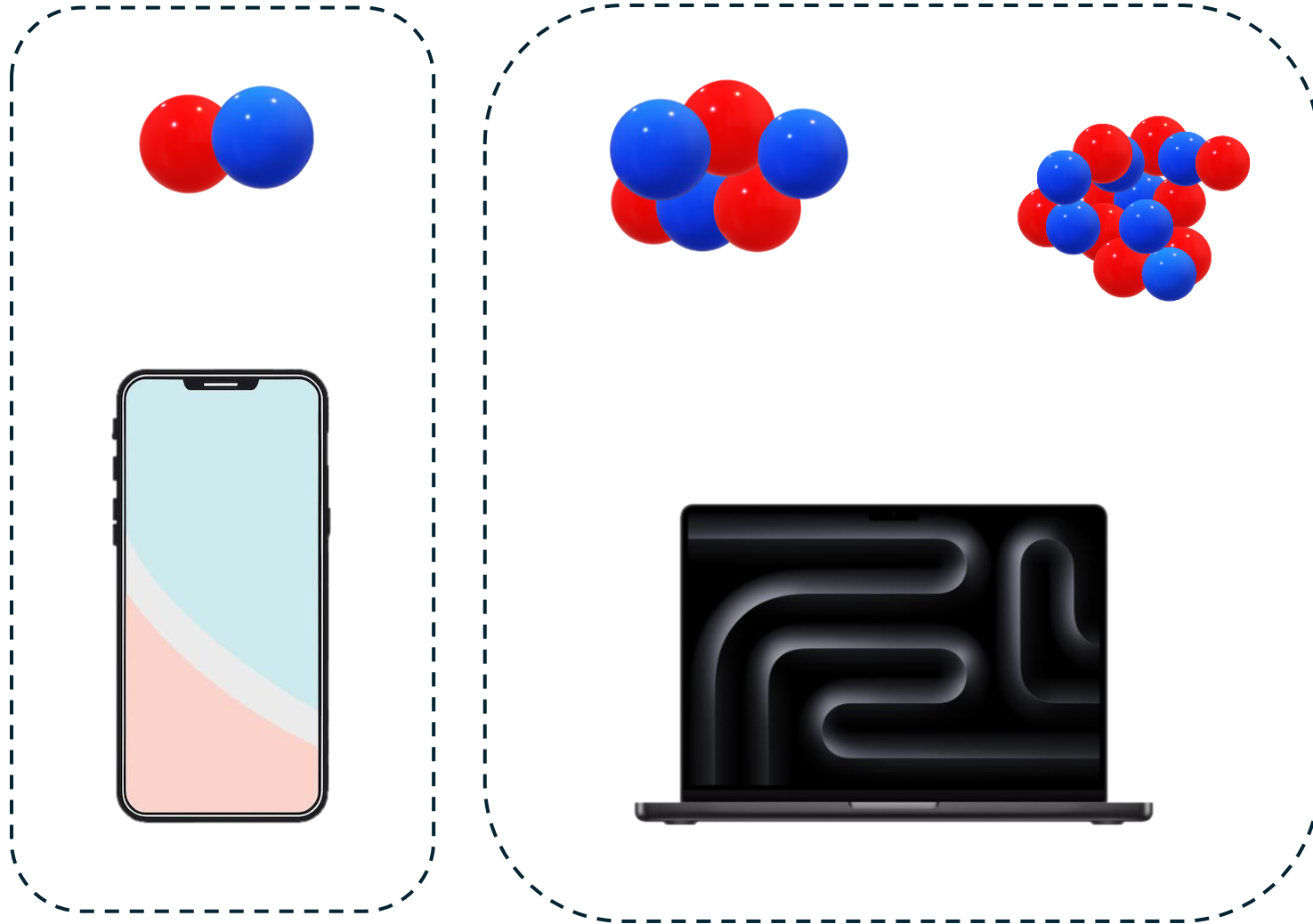
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173736	long	Per3	hbriongo	R	1-04:37:58	1	gn04
173268	long	orca_pbm	jmgomez	R	6-01:11:55	1	cn11
174280	long	Per32	hbriongo	R	2:59:26	1	gn06
174304	low	all1400_k	notari	R	52:06	1	gn05
173648	low	c1a	ftorrent	R	2-08:48:40	2	cn[05,08]
174237	short	z_res_41	srastell	R	15:54:13	1	cn06
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174241	short	z_res_94	srastell	R	15:54:13	1	cn06
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174236	short	z_res_34	srastell	R	15:54:14	1	cn10
174276	unlimited	CVAE_tra	badan	PD	0:00	1	(Resources)
174287	unlimited	LMC_Orig	ibeloto	PD	0:00	1	(Priority)
173645	unlimited	pos	agomezva	R	2-22:00:42	1	cn11
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174285	unlimited	TestAli	akalout	R	2:28:31	1	gn02
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171863	unlimited	OCBayes	acastro	R	9-01:31:47	1	cn11

$$\psi_{\theta}(X, \sigma, \tau)$$

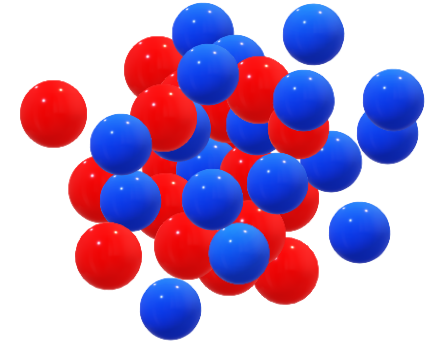
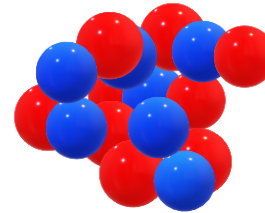
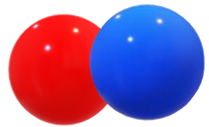
Exponential Scaling Problem



Exponential Scaling Problem

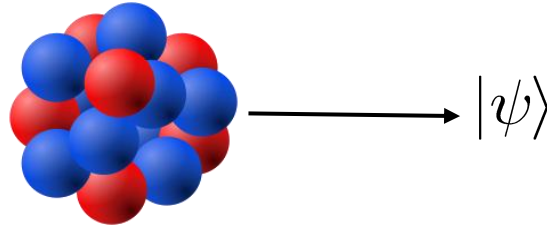


Exponential Scaling Problem



Neural Quantum States

- **Goal:** Solve for the wave function of a nucleus, ψ

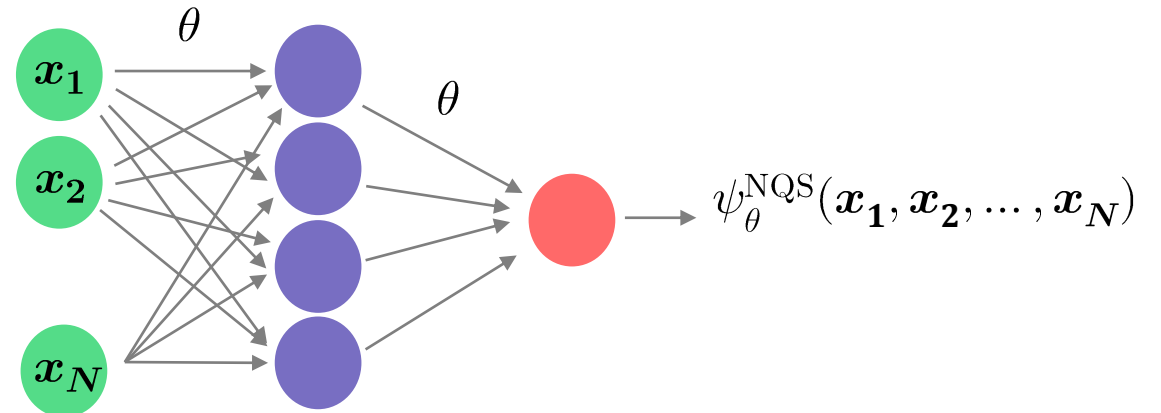


- **How?** Rayleigh-Ritz variational principle

$$\frac{\langle \psi_\theta | \hat{H} | \psi_\theta \rangle}{\langle \psi_\theta | \psi_\theta \rangle} \geq E_{\text{GS}}$$

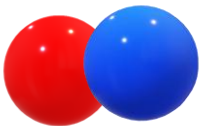
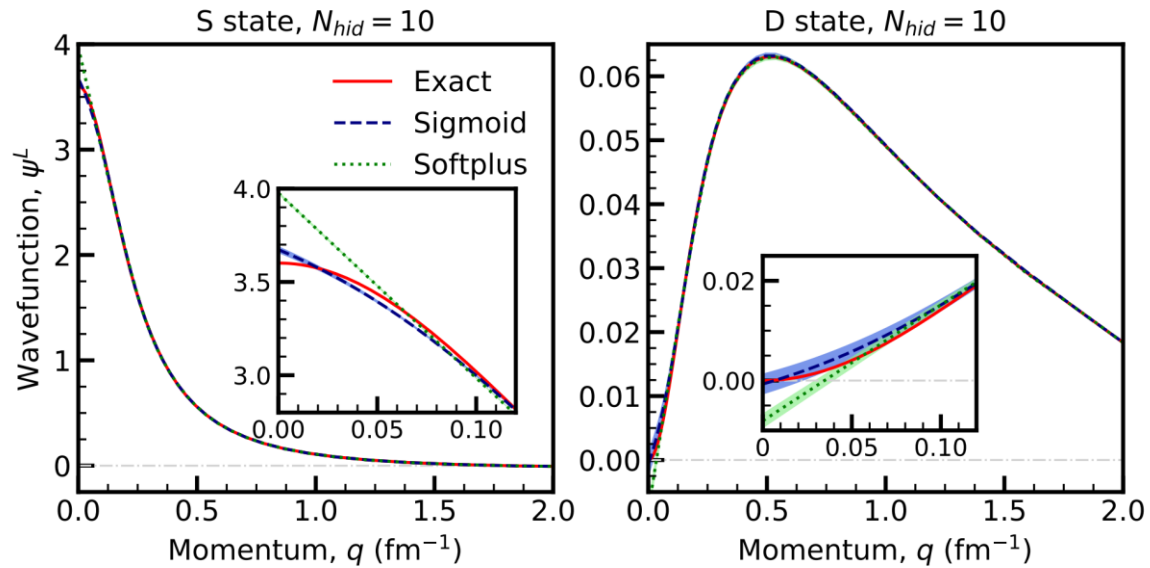
$$|\psi_\theta\rangle = \int |x\rangle \psi_\theta(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N) d^{3N}x$$

- **NQS Ansatz:** $\psi_{\text{NQS}}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots, \mathbf{x}_N; \theta)$



NQS for Nuclei

2020

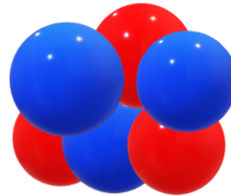
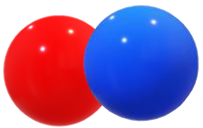
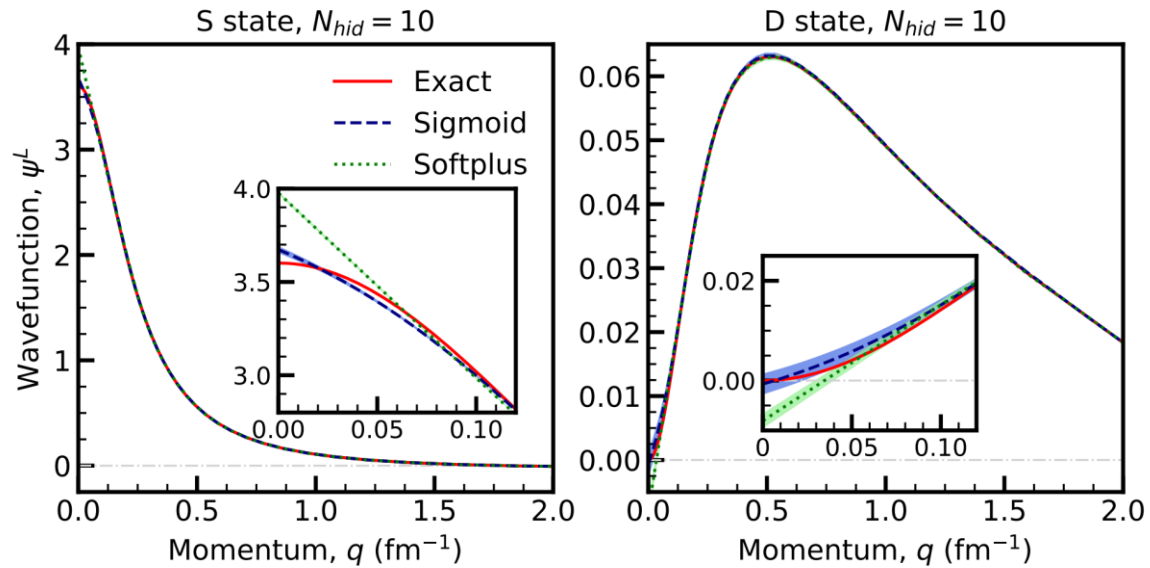


NQS for Nuclei

2020



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J. Keeble & A. Rios, Phys. Lett. B **809**
(2020)

A. Gnech et al, Few-Body Syst. **63** (2022)

NQS for Nuclei

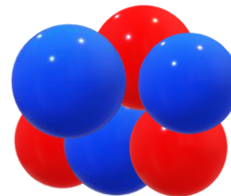
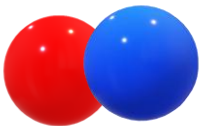
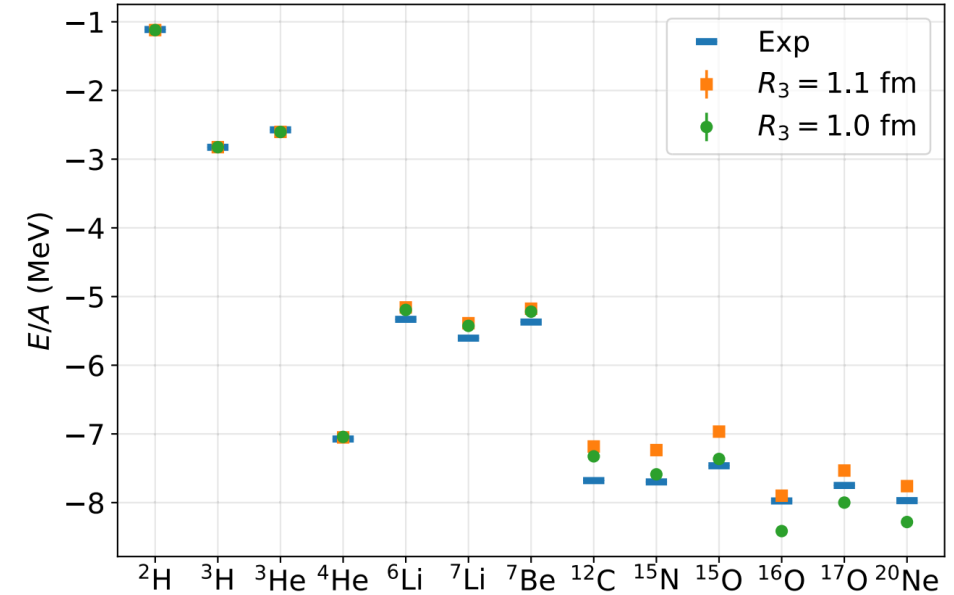
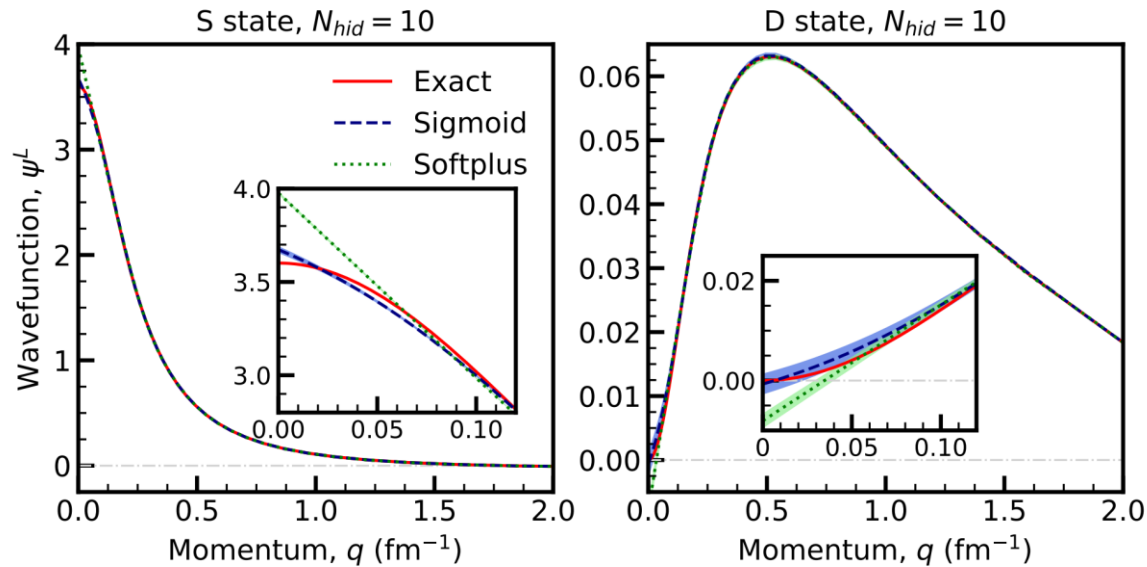
2020



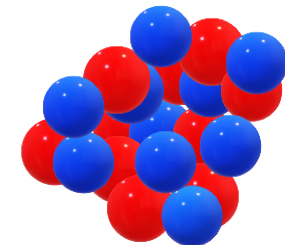
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2024



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J. Keeble & A. Rios, Phys. Lett. B **809**
(2020)

A. Gnech et al, Few-Body Syst. **63** (2022)

A. Gnech et al, PRL **133** (2024)

Optimisation: A Big Challenge in NQS

The Optimisation Step

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - \alpha \nabla E(\theta_n)$$

- **Learning rate:** How big the steps are
- **Gradient:** In which direction we move

The Optimisation Step

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - \alpha G^{-1} \nabla E(\theta_n)$$

- **Learning rate:** How big should the step be?
- **Gradient:** In which direction do we move?
- **Metric tensor:** What is the geometry of the energy landscape?

The Optimisation Step

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - \alpha G^{-1} \nabla E(\theta_n)$$

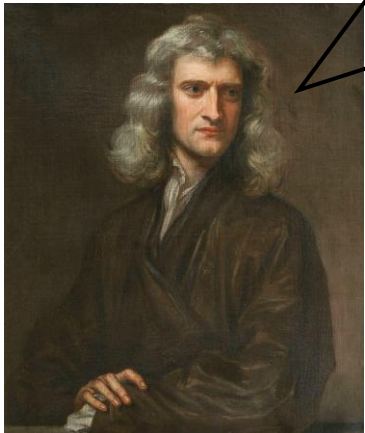
- **Learning rate:** How big should the step be?
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The Metric Tensor

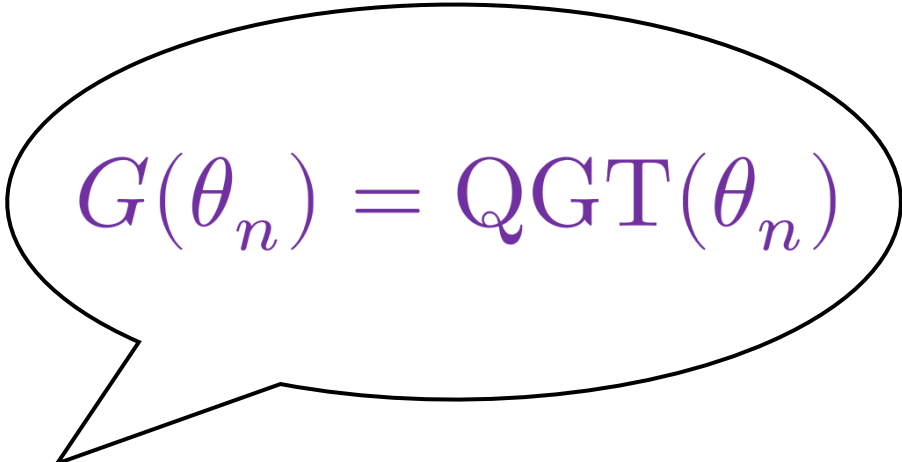
The Metric Tensor

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - \alpha G^{-1} \nabla E(\theta_n)$$



A portrait of Isaac Newton, showing him with long, wavy hair, wearing a dark robe over a white shirt. A speech bubble tail points from the portrait to the equation in the adjacent block.

$$G(\theta_n) = H(\theta_n)$$



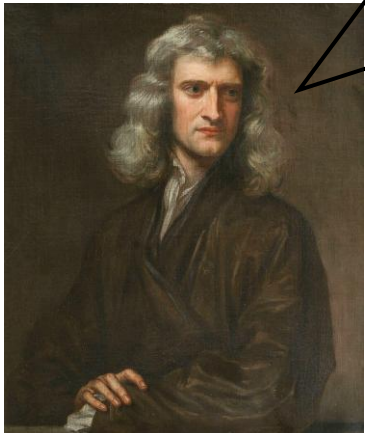
A speech bubble containing the equation $G(\theta_n) = QGT(\theta_n)$. The bubble tail points towards the 'Modern Literature' text below.

$$G(\theta_n) = QGT(\theta_n)$$

Modern
Literature

The Metric Tensor

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - \alpha G^{-1} \nabla E(\theta_n)$$



A portrait of Isaac Newton, showing him with long, wavy hair, wearing a dark robe over a white shirt. A speech bubble points from the portrait to the equation below.

$$G(\theta_n) = H(\theta_n)$$

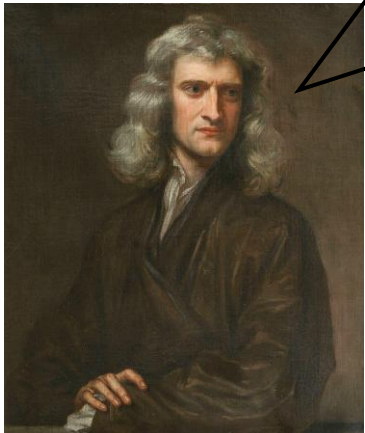
$$G(\theta_n) = \mathbf{Q} \mathbf{G} \mathbf{T}(\theta_n)$$

Modern
Literature

- ✓ Very precise
- ✓ $\alpha = 1$
- ✗ Costly to compute

The Metric Tensor

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - \alpha G^{-1} \nabla E(\theta_n)$$



A portrait of Isaac Newton, a man with long, wavy hair, wearing a dark robe, looking slightly to the right.

$$G(\theta_n) = H(\theta_n)$$

$$G(\theta_n) = \text{QGT}(\theta_n)$$

Modern
Literature

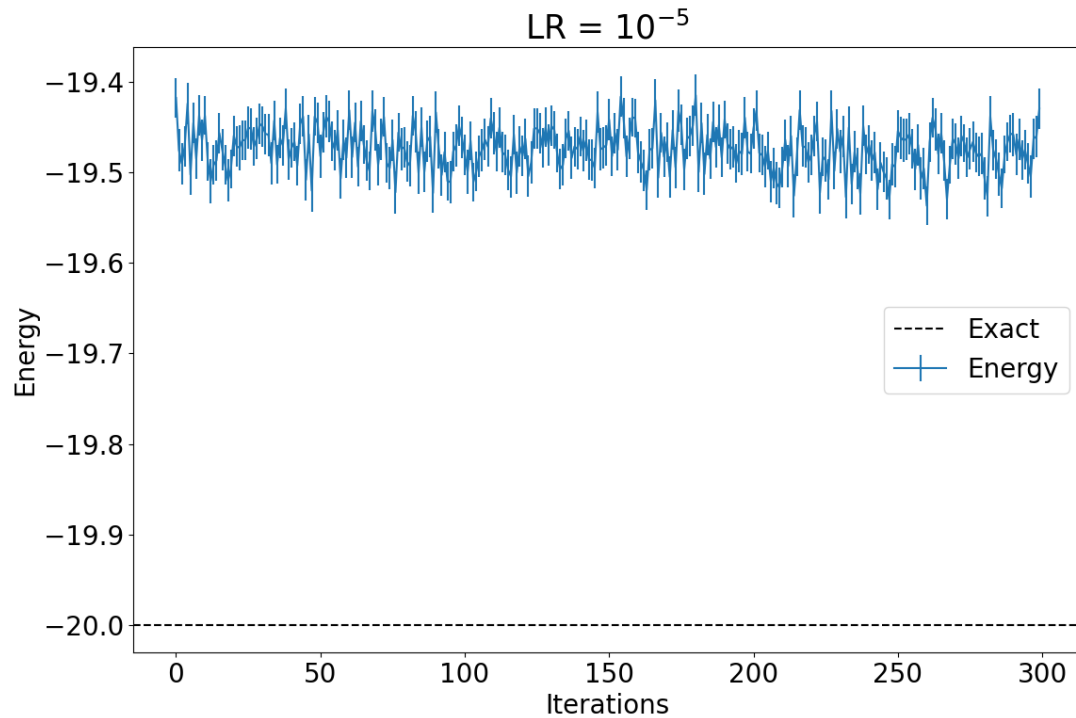
- ✓ Very precise
- ✓ $\alpha = 1$
- ✗ Costly to compute

- ✓ Quite good
- ✗ $\alpha \ll 1$
- ✓ Cheap to compute

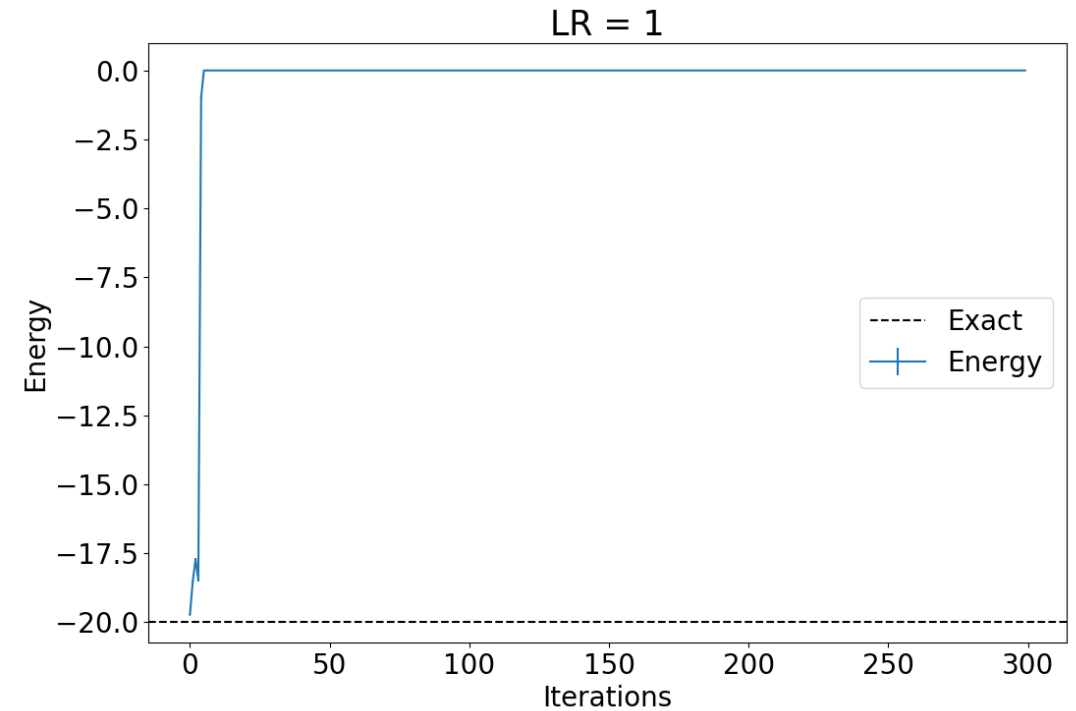
The Learning Rate

A Common Problem...

α is too small



α is too large



$$H = - \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^{(z)} \sigma_{i+1}^{(z)} + V \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j^{(x)}$$

- N=20 particles
- QGT

Can we do better?

Decisional Gradient Descent

A new proposal

- **QGT:** based on the **Hilbert** distance between states, $\langle \phi_i | \phi_j \rangle$

$$\text{QGT}(\theta)_{\theta_i \theta_j} = \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p_\theta} \left[\left(\partial_{\theta_i} \ln \psi_\theta (X) - \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p_\theta} [\partial_{\theta_i} \ln \psi_\theta (X)] \right)^* \left(\partial_{\theta_j} \ln \psi_\theta (X) - \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p_\theta} [\partial_{\theta_j} \ln \psi_\theta (X)] \right) \right]$$

- **DGD:** based on the **Hamiltonian** distance between states, $\langle \phi_i | H | \phi_j \rangle$

$$G_{\text{VMC}}(\theta)_{\theta_i \theta_j} \equiv \frac{1}{4} \sum_{k=1}^A \mathbb{E}_{X \sim p_\theta} \left[\partial_{\theta_i} \partial_{x_k} \ln p_\theta(X) \partial_{\theta_j} \partial_{x_k} \ln p_\theta(X) \right]$$

A new proposal

- **QGT:** based on the **Hilbert** distance between states, $\langle \phi_i | \phi_j \rangle$

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- **DGD:** based on the **Hamiltonian** distance between states, $\langle \phi_i | H | \phi_j \rangle$

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└─ Similar to the Hessian ──→ $\alpha \simeq 1$

Results: Fermions on the continuum

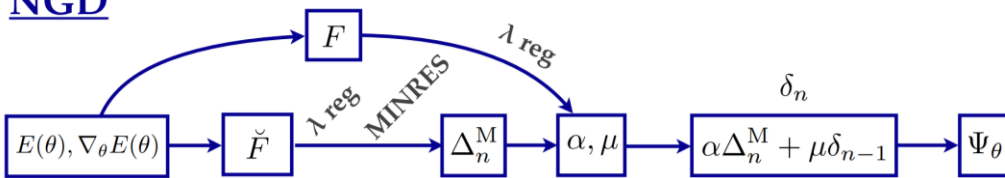
DGD vs. QGT

- **System:** chain of **1D spinless fermions**

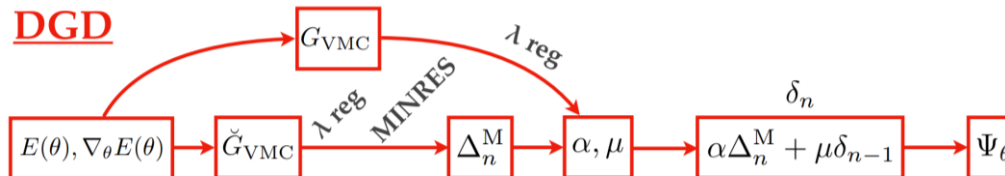
$$H = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^A \nabla_i^2 + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^A x_i^2 + \frac{V_0}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_0} \sum_{i<j} e^{-\frac{(x_i-x_j)^2}{2\sigma_0^2}}$$

- **Comparison:** **Natural Gradient Descent** vs. **Decisional Gradient Descent**

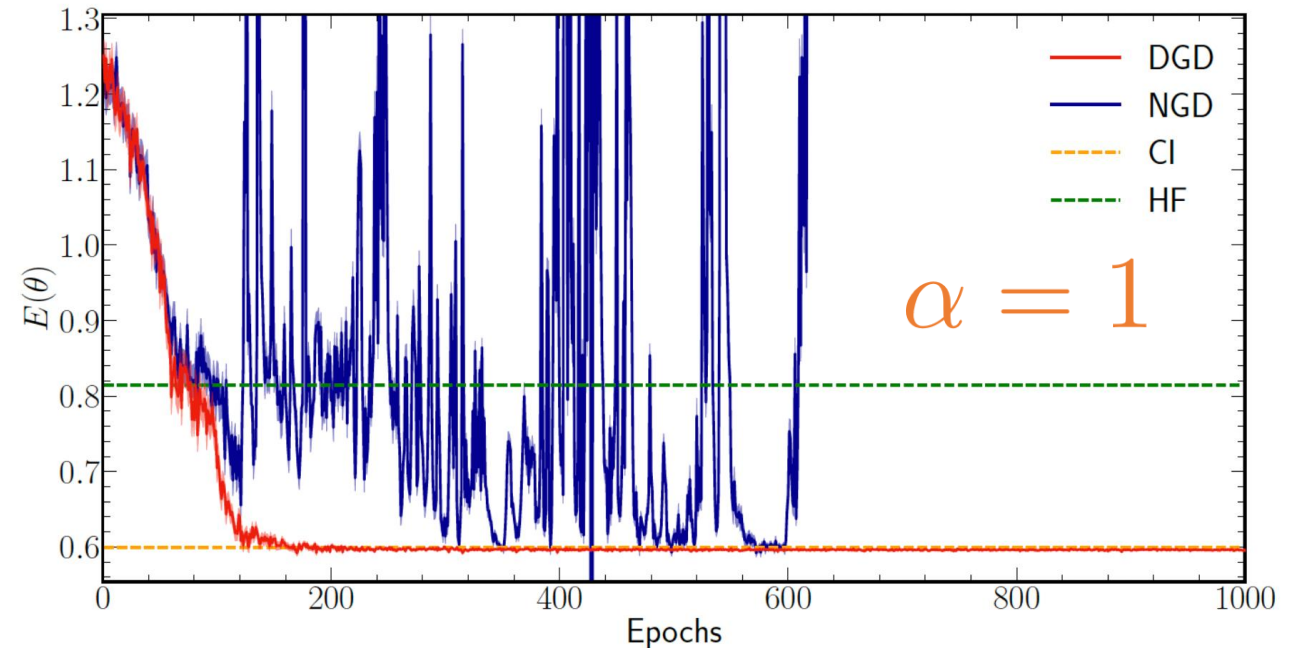
NGD



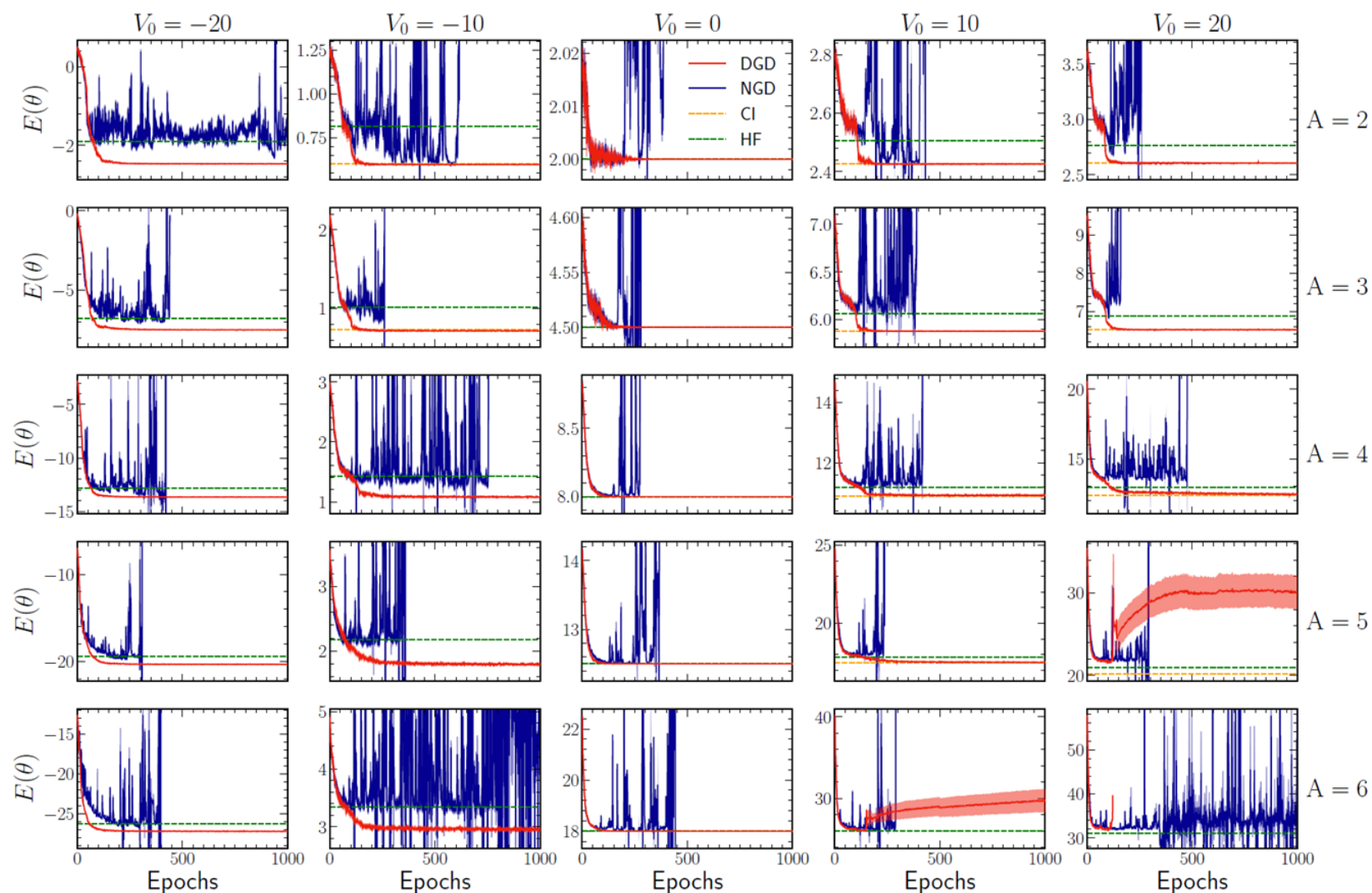
DGD



NGD vs DGD: $A = 2, V_0 = -10$



DGD vs. QGT



Results: Fermions on a lattice

DGD for lattice systems

- **Transverse-Field Ising Model:**

$$G(\theta_n)_{kl} = 4e^{\beta(c^{\text{MFA}} - \mu)} \prod_{i=1}^N \cosh \frac{\beta d_i^{\text{MFA}}}{2} \times \text{QGT}(\theta_n)_{kl} \\ + \sum_{j=1}^N \tanh \frac{-\beta d_j^{\text{MFA}}}{2} \times E_{\sigma \sim |\psi_\theta|^2} \left\{ \text{sgn}(\sigma_j) \left| \frac{T_j[\psi_\theta](\sigma)}{\psi_\theta(\sigma)} \right| \left(\partial_k \ln T_j[\psi_\theta](\sigma) \right)^* \left(\partial_l \ln T_j[\psi_\theta](\sigma) \right) \right\}$$

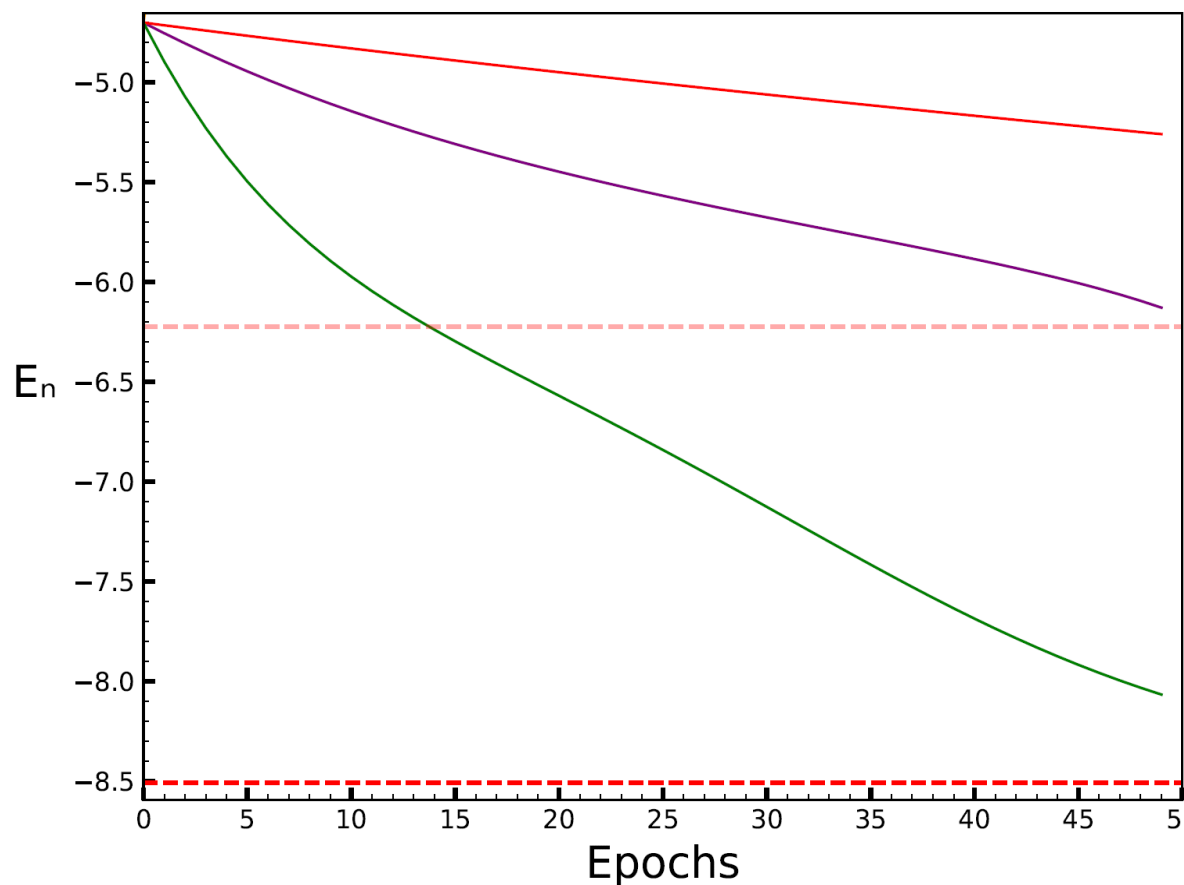
- **J₁-J₂ Heisenberg:**

$$G(\theta_n)_{kl} = \left(\frac{1}{\beta} - \mu + J_1 N_{\langle i,j \rangle} + J_2 N_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} \right) \times 2\text{Re}(\text{QGT}(\theta_n)_{kl}) + 2\text{Re} \left\{ J_1 \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} E_{\sigma \sim |\psi_\theta|^2} [(\text{sgn}(\sigma_i) \text{sgn}(\sigma_j))] \right\} \\ \times \left(\partial_k \ln \psi_\theta(\sigma) - \frac{\psi_\theta(f_{ij}(\sigma))}{\psi_\theta(\sigma)} \partial_k \ln \psi(f_{ij}(\sigma)) - \left(1 - \frac{\psi_\theta(f_{ij}(\sigma))}{\psi_\theta(\sigma)} \right) \times E_{\sigma \sim |\psi_\theta|^2} [\partial_k \ln \psi_\theta(\sigma)] \right) \\ \times \left(\partial_l \ln \psi_\theta(\sigma) - \frac{\psi_\theta(f_{ij}(\sigma))}{\psi_\theta(\sigma)} \partial_l \ln \psi(f_{ij}(\sigma)) - \left(1 - \frac{\psi_\theta(f_{ij}(\sigma))}{\psi_\theta(\sigma)} \right) \times E_{\sigma \sim |\psi_\theta|^2} [\partial_l \ln \psi_\theta(\sigma)] \right)$$

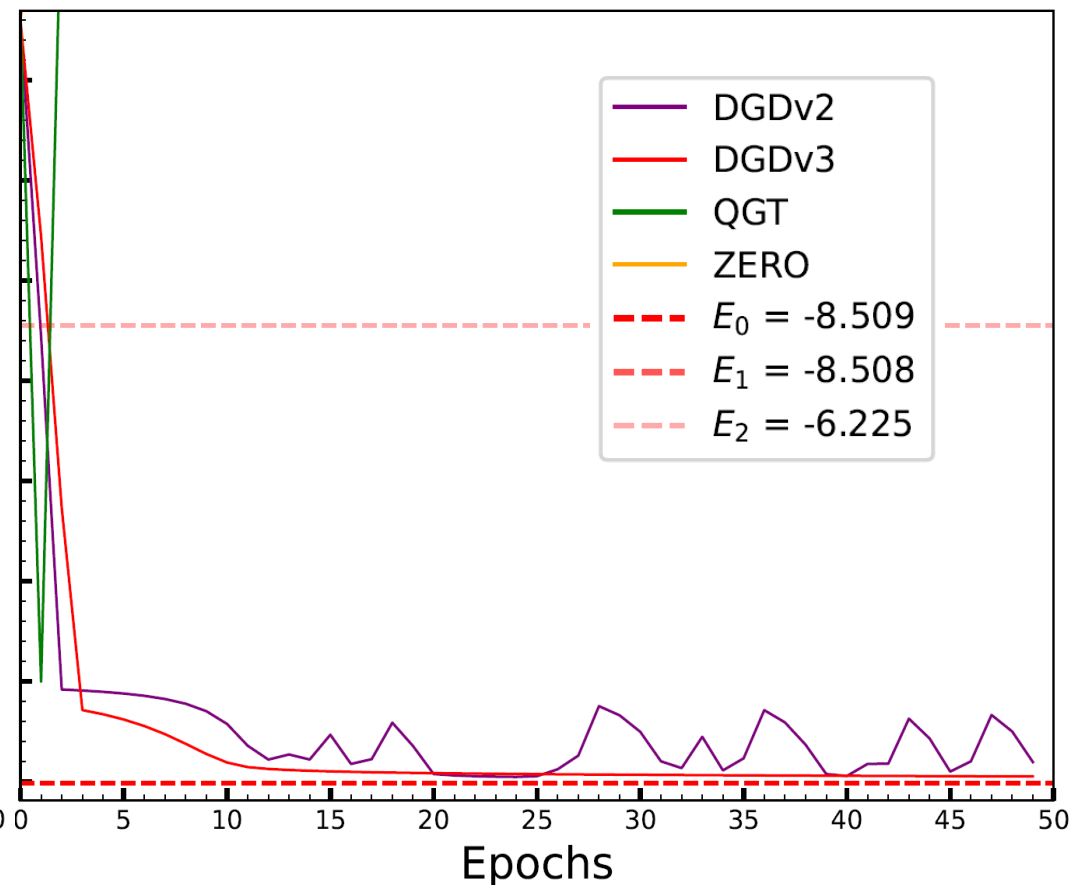
DGD vs. QGT: Ising

$$H = - \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^{(z)} \sigma_{i+1}^{(z)} + V \sum_{j=1}^N \sigma_j^{(x)}$$

N=8, Ansatz=Jastrow, V=0.5, LR=0.01



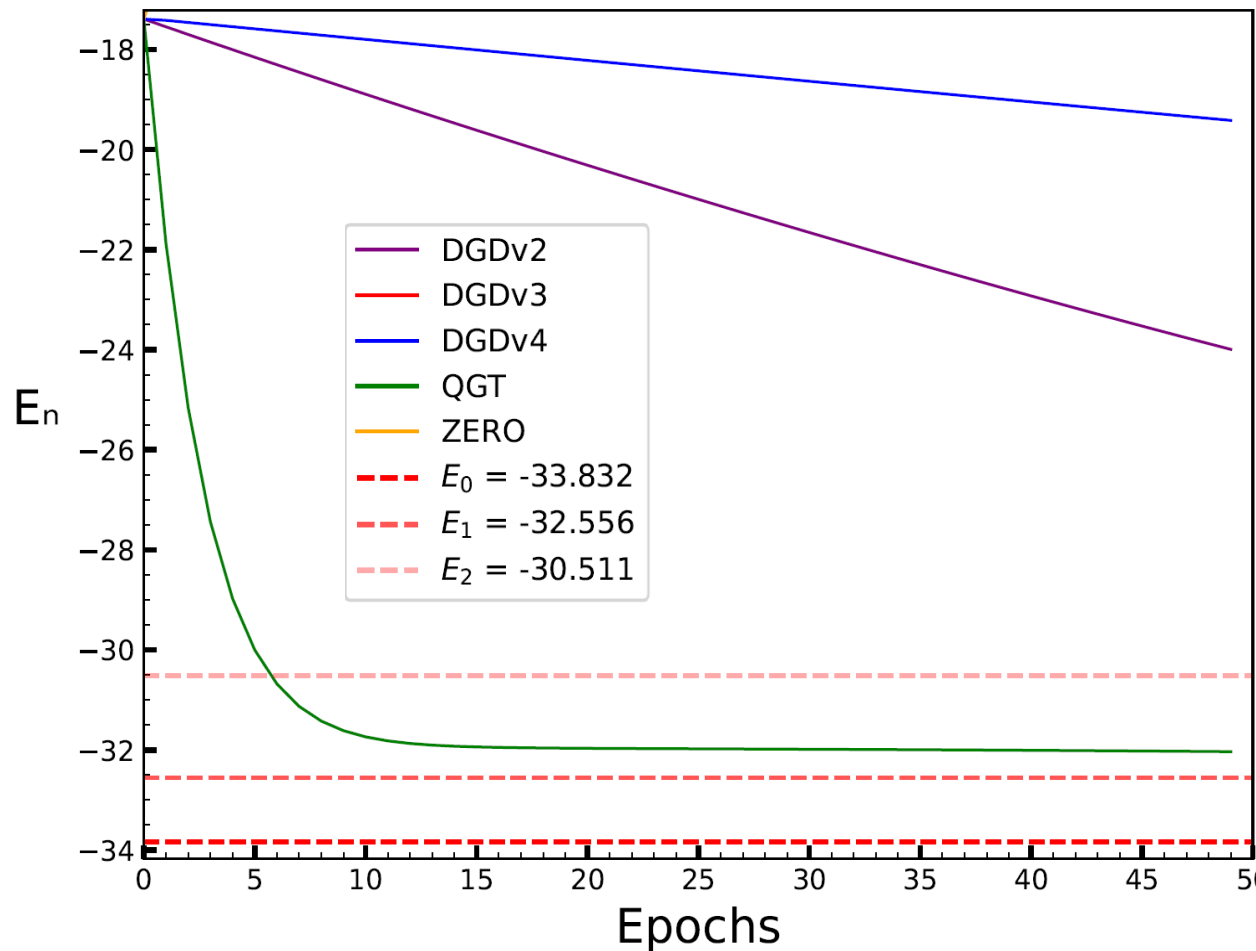
N=8, Ansatz=Jastrow, V=0.5, LR=1.0



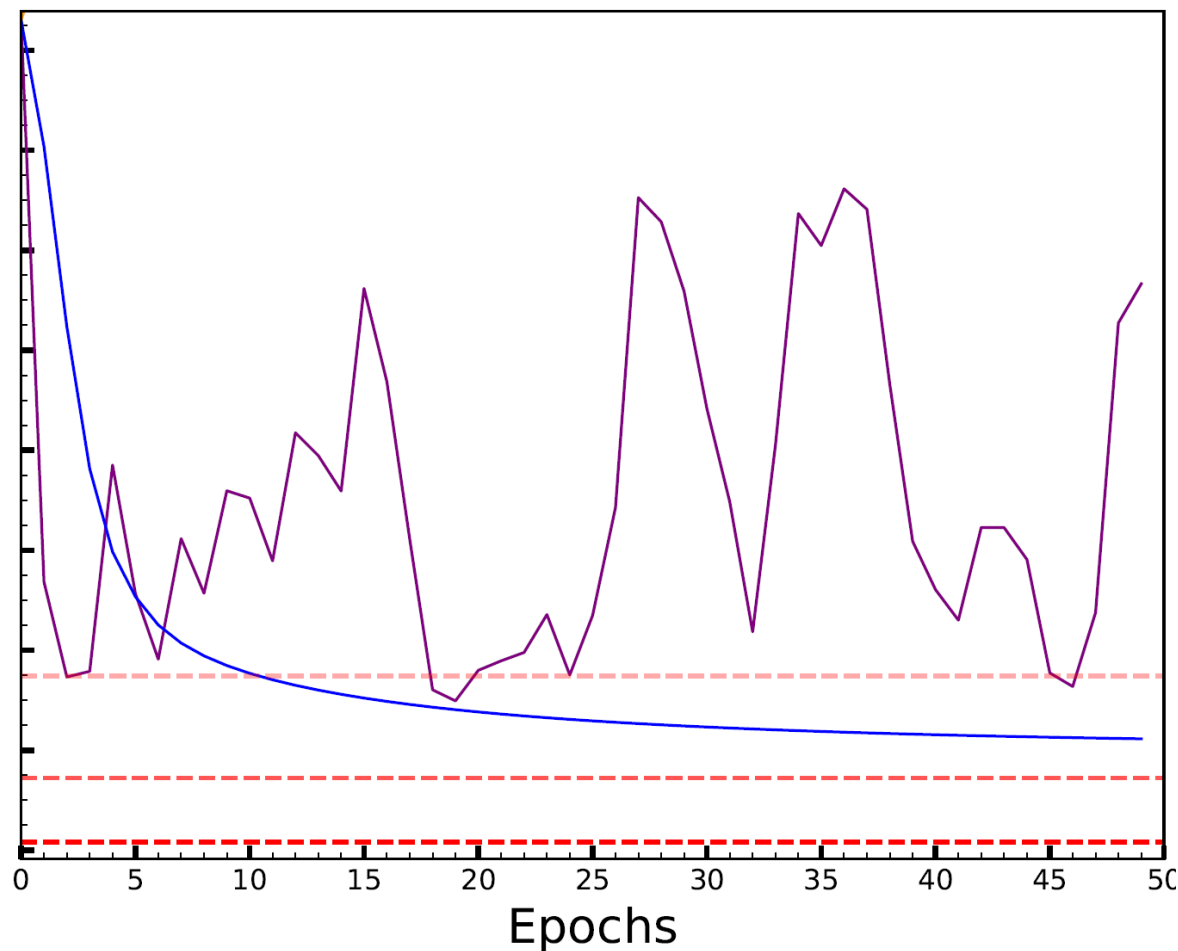
DGD vs. QGT: J_1 - J_2

$$H = J_1 \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j + J_2 \sum_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

N=16 (4x4), Ansatz=Jastrow, $J_2=0.5$, LR=0.01

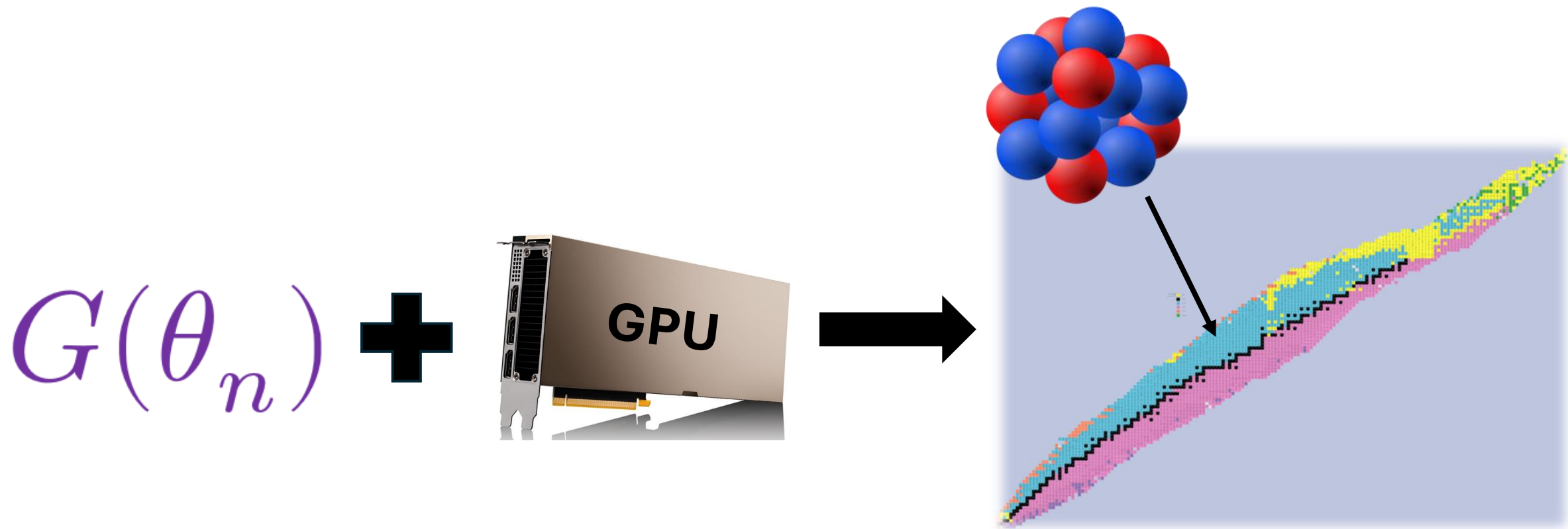


N=16 (4x4), Ansatz=Jastrow, $J_2=0.5$, LR=1.0



Final Thoughts

Takeaway



Thank you



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<https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2024.0057>



[arXiv:2401.17550](https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.17550)



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