

# Classical & Quantum Algorithms for Hamiltonian Simulation

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CQIF Seminar, Cambridge

Solution of the Schrödinger equation,

$$i\partial_t\psi = H(t)\psi, \quad H(t)^* = H(t), \quad \psi(t) \in \mathcal{H}.$$

Feynman, R. P. Simulating physics with computers. *Int J Theor Phys* **21**, 467-488 (1982).

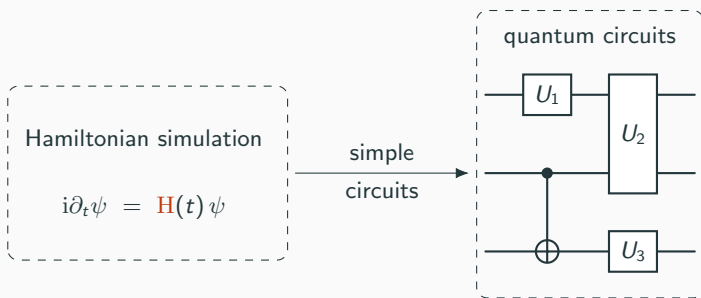
the real difficulty is this: If we had many particles, we have  $R$  particles, for example, in a system, then we would have to describe the probability of a circumstance by giving the probability to find these particles at points  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_R$  at the time  $t$ . That would be a description of the probability of the system. And therefore, you'd need a  $k$ -digit number for every configuration of the system, for every arrangement of the  $R$  values of  $x$ . And therefore if there are  $N$  points in space, we'd need  $N^R$  configurations.

$n$ -body problems

- PDE,  $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^{N^{3n}}$  after spatial discretisation with  $N$  points in each direction,
- ODE,  $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^{2^n}$  for 2-level systems (e.g. spin systems).

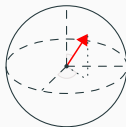
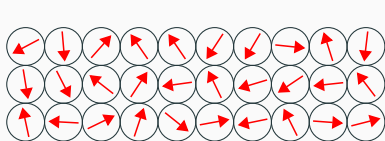
## 4. QUANTUM COMPUTERS—UNIVERSAL QUANTUM SIMULATORS

The first branch, one you might call a side-remark, is, Can you do it with a new kind of computer—a quantum computer? (I'll come back to the other branch in a moment.) Now it turns out, as far as I can tell, that you can simulate this with a quantum system, with quantum computer elements.



- Linear growth in number of qubits vs exponential in classical computing
- Provides a *straightforward* approach for beating the *curse of dimensionality* in quantum physics and chemistry simulations

- A uniquely quantum phenomenon that has no classical counterpart.



$$\rho = \frac{1}{2}(I + \mathbf{s} \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}) \in \mathbb{C}^{2 \times 2},$$

$$\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^3,$$

$$\text{and } \boldsymbol{\sigma} = (X, Y, Z)$$

are  $2 \times 2$  Pauli matrices.

- The phenomenon that powers
  - magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
  - spintronics
  - quantum computing
- Responsible for ferromagnetism.
- Suspected to be involved in detection of Earth's magnetic field by birds (quantum biology).
- Fay, Lindoy, Manolopolous, Hore 2020: '*the accurate simulation of anisotropic magnetic field effects relevant to magnetoreception seems to require full quantum mechanical calculations*'

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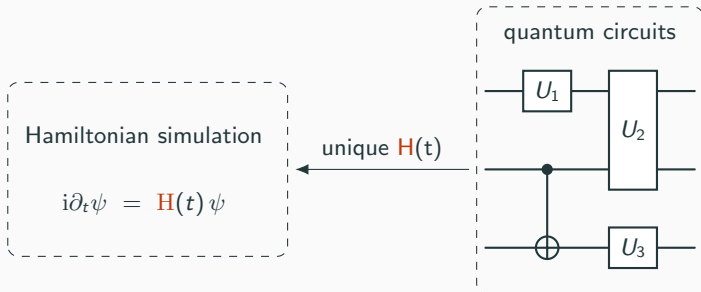
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However, requires linear growth in qubits.

Resurgence of interest in quantum algorithms for Hamiltonian simulation.

Berry et al. 15, Low & Chuang 17, 19, Low & Wiebe 18, Smith et al. 19, Kieferova et al. 19, Berry et al. 20, Chen et al. 21, Haah et al. 21, Jin & Li 21, Jin et al. 21, Dong et al. 21,22, An et al. 22, Watkins et al. 22, Mizuta et al. 23,...

Hamiltonian simulation of two-level systems is among early candidates for demonstrating quantum advantage. (Childs et al. 18, Seetharam et al. 21).

- Claim by IBM (14 June 2023): Kim, Eddins, Anand, Wei, van den Berg, Rosenblatt, Nayfeh, Wu, Zaletel, Temme & Kandala (2023), 'Evidence for the utility of quantum computing before fault tolerance', Nature 618, 500–505.
- Claim by DWave (1 March 2024): King et al, 'Computational supremacy in quantum simulation', arXiv:2403.00910



- Every gate has an underlying Hamiltonian
- Every quantum circuit is a Hamiltonian Simulation (except measurement)
- Due to the unitary nature of quantum computing, Hamiltonian simulation is a natural building block for quantum algorithms
- Important subroutine in quantum algorithms – QPE (Kitaev 95), HHL (Harrow, Hassidim, Lloyd 09)



## Hamiltonian Simulation

$$i\partial_t\psi = \mathbf{H}(\psi, t)\psi, \quad \psi(t) \in \mathcal{H}.$$

### 1. **Linear**

$$\partial_t u = Au$$

### 2. Driven

$$\partial_t u = A(t)u$$

### 3. Non-linear

$$\partial_t u = Au + N(u)$$

The Schrödinger equation

$$\partial_t u = -iHu, \quad u(0) = u_0, \quad H^* = H,$$

can be thought of as an ODE

$$\partial_t u = \mathcal{A}u, \quad u(0) = u_0, \quad \mathcal{A} = -iH$$

The exact solution of this ODE is given by the matrix exponential

$$u(t) = e^{t\mathcal{A}} u_0 = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(t\mathcal{A})^k}{k!}.$$

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**exp** maps Lie algebra  $i\mathfrak{H} \in \mathfrak{su}(n)$  to Lie group  $e^{-itH} \in U(n)$ , leading to:

- Unitary evolution

$$\langle u(t), v(t) \rangle = \langle u(0), v(0) \rangle$$

- Conservation of norm

$$\|u(t)\|_2 = \|u(0)\|_2 = 1$$

- Conservation of energy

$$\langle u(t), Hu(t) \rangle = \langle u(0), Hu(0) \rangle$$

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$$\text{F.E.} \quad \|u_n\|_2 \rightarrow \infty$$

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$e^z \approx \frac{1+z/2}{1-z/2}$	$(I + i(h/2)H)u_1 = (I - i(h/2)H)u_0$	T.R.	$\ u_n\ _2 = \ u_0\ _2$

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## Geometric Numerical Integration:

The design of numerical methods that **conserve certain properties exactly**, even if numerical error in solution is finite

## Computing $e^A$ or $e^A u_0$

C. Moler & C. V. Loan, *Nineteen Dubious Ways to Compute the Exponential of a Matrix, Twenty-Five Years Later*, SIAM Review (2003).

	Diagonalisation	Scaling and Squaring	Splitting
If	$A = UDU^*$	$\ A\  > 1$	$A = B + C$
	$e^A = Ue^D U^*$	$e^A = \left(e^{A/n}\right)^n$	$e^A = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(e^{B/n} e^{C/n}\right)^n$
Fast when	$Uu_0$ and $U^* u_0$ cheap	$\ A\  < 1$ needed	$e^B, e^C$ cheap

	Asymptotic $z \rightarrow 0$	Approximate $e^z$ on spectrum $z \in [a, b] \subseteq \sigma(A)$	Iterative Use $A$ and $u_0$
Polynomial	Taylor $\sum_{k=0}^n \frac{z^k}{k!}$	Chebyshev $J_0(i) + 2 \sum_{k=1}^n i^k J_k(-i) T_k(z)$	Polynomial Krylov
Rational	Padé $\frac{1 + \frac{1}{2}z + \frac{1}{12}z^2}{1 - \frac{1}{2}z + \frac{1}{12}z^2}$	?	Rational Krylov

If  $e^{hA}$  and  $e^{hB}$  are easier to compute, approximate  $e^{h(A+B)}$  by

splitting	error	name	stages
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$e^{a_1hB}e^{b_1hA}e^{a_2hB} \dots e^{b_nhA} \dots e^{a_2hB}e^{b_1hA}e^{a_1hB}$	$\mathcal{O}(h^{2p+1})$	Classical	$\mathcal{O}(2^p)$

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$e^{a_1hB}e^{b_1hA}e^{a_2hB} \dots e^{b_nhA} \dots e^{a_2hB}e^{b_1hA}e^{a_1hB}$	$\mathcal{O}(h^{2p+1})$	Classical	$\mathcal{O}(2^p)$
$e^{\frac{h}{6}A}e^{\frac{h}{2}B}e^{\frac{2}{3}(hA+\frac{h^3}{48}[[A,B],B])}e^{\frac{h}{2}B}e^{\frac{h}{6}A}$	$\mathcal{O}(h^{2p+1})$	Compact	$\mathcal{O}(2^p)$
$e^{\frac{h}{2}B}e^{\frac{h}{2}A}e^{h^3R}e^{h^5S}e^{h^3R}e^{\frac{h}{2}A}e^{\frac{h}{2}B}$	$\mathcal{O}(h^{2p+1})$	Asymptotic	$\mathcal{O}(p)$

Yoshida 1990, Murua & Sanz-Serna 1999, Chin & Chen 2002, McLachlan & Quispel 2002, Omelyan, Mrygold & Folk 2003, Blanes, Casas & Murua 2008, Chartier & Murua 2009, ... Asymptotic (Zassenhaus) [Bader, Iserles, Kropielnicka, & S. 2014](#), Found. Comp. Math.

If  $e^{hA}$  and  $e^{hB}$  conserve unitarity, then splitting **conserves unitarity, norm, modified energy.**



$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{H} &= \underbrace{\mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{S}}_{\mathcal{H}_{ss}(t)} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \mathbf{S}^\top \mathbf{C} \mathbf{S}}_{\mathcal{H}_{in}} \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{\alpha \in \{X, Y, Z\}} \mathbf{e}_k^\alpha \alpha_k + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \sum_{\alpha, \beta \in \{X, Y, Z\}} \mathbf{C}_{j,k}^{\alpha, \beta} \alpha_j \beta_k
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\alpha_k$  acts on  $k$ th spin only,

$$\alpha_k = \underbrace{I \otimes \cdots \otimes I}_{n-k \text{ times}} \otimes \underbrace{\alpha}_{k\text{th}} \otimes \underbrace{I \otimes \cdots \otimes I}_{k-1 \text{ times}} \in \mathbb{C}^{2^n \times 2^n},$$

and  $\alpha = X, Y, Z$  are Pauli matrices,

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Two-level systems: Ising chains, Kitaev models, NMR/ESR, qubits (spin, superconducting, ...)

$$\partial_t u = \mathcal{A} u, \quad u(0) = u_0,$$

exact solution given by **matrix exponential**

$$u(t) = \exp(t\mathcal{A})u_0 = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(t\mathcal{A})^k}{k!} u_0.$$

Hamiltonian simulation:

$$\mathcal{A} = -i \left( \mathbf{e}^\top \mathbb{S} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{S}^\top \mathbf{C} \mathbb{S} \right) \quad (1)$$



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For **non-interacting spins**, since  $\mathfrak{su}(2)$  is spanned by  $iX, iY, iZ$  and

$$[X, Y] = iZ, \quad [Y, Z] = iX, \quad [Z, X] = iY,$$

can compute exponential **analytically**

$$e^{t\mathcal{A}} = \bigotimes_{k=1}^n e^{-it\mathbf{e}_k \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}} = \bigotimes_{k=1}^n \begin{pmatrix} \cos\left(\frac{t\|\mathbf{e}_k\|}{2}\right) - ie_k^z \frac{\sin\left(\frac{t\|\mathbf{e}_k\|}{2}\right)}{\|\mathbf{e}_k\|} & (-ie_k^x - e_k^y) \frac{\sin\left(\frac{t\|\mathbf{e}_k\|}{2}\right)}{\|\mathbf{e}_k\|} \\ (-ie_k^x + e_k^y) \frac{\sin\left(\frac{t\|\mathbf{e}_k\|}{2}\right)}{\|\mathbf{e}_k\|} & \cos\left(\frac{t\|\mathbf{e}_k\|}{2}\right) + ie_k^z \frac{\sin\left(\frac{t\|\mathbf{e}_k\|}{2}\right)}{\|\mathbf{e}_k\|} \end{pmatrix},$$

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**Trotterisation:** For  $-iH = \mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B}$  we need to split

$$\exp(h(\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{B})) = e^{h\mathbf{A}} e^{h\mathbf{B}} + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$$

Trotterisation:

$$e^{-ih(\mathcal{H}^X + \mathcal{H}^Y + \mathcal{H}^Z)} = e^{-ih\mathcal{H}^X} e^{-ih\mathcal{H}^Y} e^{-ih\mathcal{H}^Z} + \mathcal{O}(h^2),$$

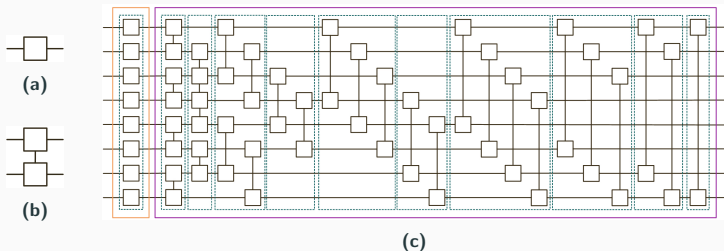
where

$$\mathcal{H}^\alpha = \mathbf{e}^\top \mathbb{S}^\alpha + \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{S}^{\alpha\top} \mathbf{C}^{\alpha,\alpha} \mathbb{S}^\alpha, \quad \alpha \in \{X, Y, Z\},$$

and

$$e^{-ih\mathcal{H}^\alpha} = \prod_{\ell=1}^n e^{-ih\mathbf{e}_\ell^{\alpha\alpha} \alpha_\ell} \prod_{j=1}^n \prod_{k=j+1}^n e^{-ih\mathbf{C}_{j,k}^{\alpha,\alpha} \alpha_j \alpha_k},$$

computed exactly using  $n$  single-qubit gates and  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  coupling gates.

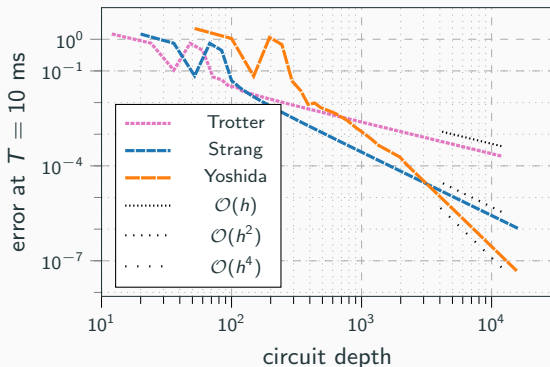


Trotterisation is one of the earliest candidates for Hamiltonian simulation.

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No good reason to use Trotter instead of Strang, even for NISQ

Chen, Foroozandeh, Budd & S. 2023. Quantum simulation of highly-oscillatory many-body Hamiltonians for near-term devices, submitted

$$e^{h(A+B)} \approx e^{a_1 h B} e^{b_1 h A} e^{a_2 h B} \dots e^{b_n h A} \dots e^{a_2 h B} e^{b_1 h A} e^{a_1 h B}$$

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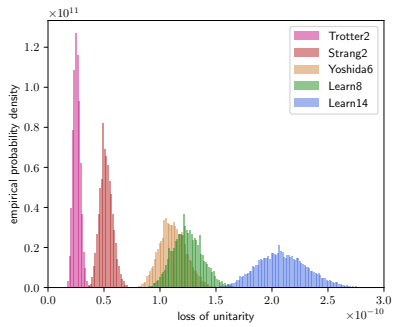
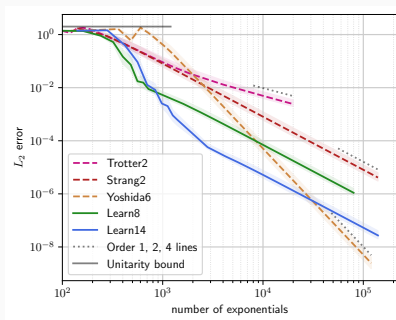
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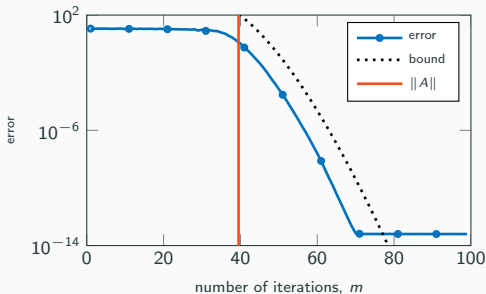
Krylov subspace

$$\mathcal{K}_m(A, u_0) = \text{span}\{u_0, Au_0, \dots, A^{m-1}u_0\}$$

with basis  $\mathcal{V}_m$  and tridiagonal  $\mathcal{H}_m$  has **super-linear accuracy**,

$$\left\| e^A u_0 - \mathcal{V}_m e^{\mathcal{H}_m} \mathcal{V}_m^* u_0 \right\| \leq C \left( \frac{e\rho}{2m} \right)^m$$

**conserves norm and energy** but not **unitarity**.



accurate once  $m \geq \rho = \|A\|$ , is surpassed (Hochbruck & Lubich 1997).

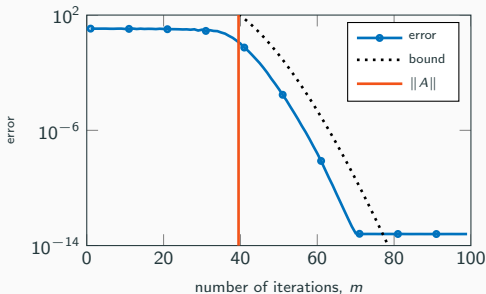
Krylov subspace

$$\mathcal{K}_m(A, u_0) = \text{span}\{u_0, Au_0, \dots, A^{m-1}u_0\}$$

with basis  $\mathcal{V}_m$  and tridiagonal  $\mathcal{H}_m$  has **super-linear accuracy**,

$$\left\| e^A u_0 - \mathcal{V}_m e^{\mathcal{H}_m} \mathcal{V}_m^* u_0 \right\| \leq C \left( \frac{e\rho}{2m} \right)^m$$

**conserves norm and energy** but not **unitarity**.



accurate once  $m \geq \rho = \|A\|$ , is surpassed (Hochbruck & Lubich 1997). **High accuracy** for **small steps**, but ineffective for large steps.

Shift-and-Invert (Sal) method

$$Q_m(A, u_0) = \mathcal{K}_m((A - \alpha I)^{-1}, u_0),$$

is equivalent to Polynomial Krylov with shift-inverted matrix  $(A - \alpha I)^{-1}$  and

$$\underbrace{e^{hA} u_0}_{\varphi_h^A(u_0)} \approx \underbrace{v_m e^{h(\alpha I - H_m^{-1})} v_m^* u_0}_{\Phi_h^A(u_0, \alpha)}$$

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How should we choose the shift  $\alpha$ ? Learning (Botchev, Grimm & M. Hochbruck 2013, Katrutsa, Botchev, & Oseledets 2019), Rational Krylov fitting (Berljafa & Güttel 2017)

Optimise an approximation of the local error:

$$\underbrace{\left\| \varphi_h^A(u_n) - \Phi_h^A(u_n, \alpha_n) \right\|}_{\text{true local error } \mathcal{L}(h, u_n, \alpha)} \propto \underbrace{\left\| \partial_t \Phi_h^A(u_n, \alpha_n) - A \Phi_h^A(u_n, \alpha_n) \right\|}_{\text{defect based estimate of local error } L(h, u_n, \alpha)}$$

$$\alpha_n^* = \operatorname{argmin}_{\alpha \in \Omega} L(h, u_n, \alpha)$$

adaptive (i.e., on-the-fly), unsupervised approach.

energy not conserved, error estimate asymptotic and expensive.

$$Q_m(A, u_0) = \mathcal{K}_m((A - \alpha I)^{-1}, u_0),$$

Rayleigh quotient:

$$A_m = \mathcal{V}_m^* A \mathcal{V}_m.$$

The Rayleigh approximation:

$$e^{hA} v \approx \beta \mathcal{V}_m e^{hA_m} \mathcal{V}_m^* u_0.$$

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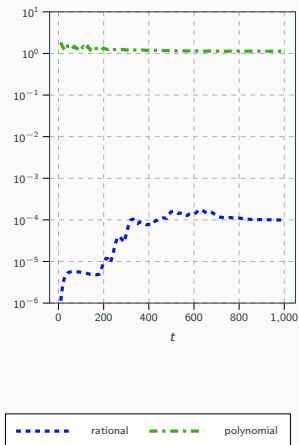
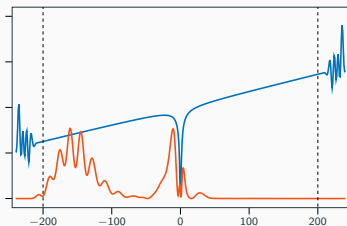
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adaptive (i.e., on-the-fly), **unsupervised** approach.

energy conserved, error estimate **not asymptotic**, but **expensive?**

In practice, both Shift-and-Invert and Rayleigh quotient approaches work well with **cheaper surrogates**



Tennyson, Jawecki, Dolgov, & S., 'Optimal poles for the Shift-and-Invert method', in preparation



If we have good **scalar** approximations on the **spectrum**

$$e^{ix} \approx f(ix), \quad x \in \sigma(H)$$

Then we have good approximation of the matrix exponential,

$$e^{-itH} = U \operatorname{diag} \left( e^{-itE_k} \right) U^{-1} \approx U \operatorname{diag} (f(itE_k)) U^{-1} = f(itH)$$

	Asymptotic $z \rightarrow 0$	Approximate $e^z$ on spectrum $z \in [a, b] \subseteq \sigma(A)$
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- Based on **polynomial Chebyshev approximation**.
- Cannot conserve **unitarity, norm, energy**.
- May have stability issues (due to noise outside spectrum).

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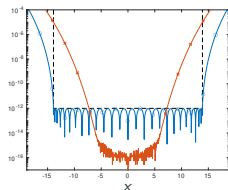
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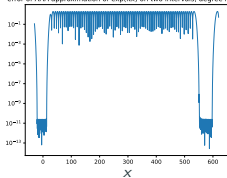
AAA & AAA–Lawson (Nakatsukasa, Sète & Trefethen 2018, Nakatsukasa & Trefethen 2020) are greedy algorithms for rational approximations (i.e. fitting) based on the **Loewner matrix** framework.

Padé vs AAA–Lawson

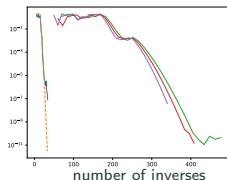


AAA–Lawson

error of AAA approximation of  $\exp(itx)$  on two intervals, degree  $m=31$



(31, 31) AAA–Lawson vs Padé



**Loewner matrix based** rational approximations and interpolations are **unitary** (to **machine precision** when using a modified AAA/AAA–Lawson algorithm).

Jawecki & S 2023. *Unitarity of some barycentric rational approximants*, IMA J. Num. Anal.

Includes Antoulas & Anderson 1986, Mayo & Antoulas 2007, NST 2018 (AAA), NT 2020 (AAA–Lawson), JS (submitted) (interpolation at Chebyshev nodes, modified BRASIL algorithm, modified AAA–Lawson), ...



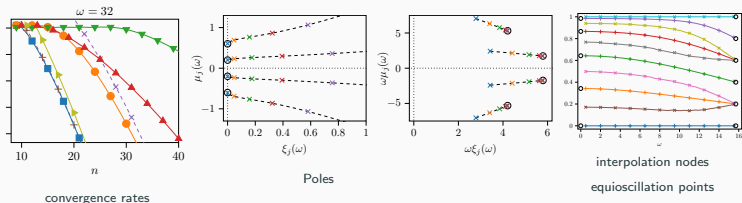
**Theorem.** For  $\omega \in (0, (n + 1)\pi)$ , there exists a unique **unitary** best approximation  $r \in \mathcal{U}_n$ , i.e.,

$$\|r - \exp(\omega \cdot)\| = \inf_{u \in \mathcal{U}_n} \|u - \exp(\omega \cdot)\|, \quad \|f\| := \sup_{x \in [-1, 1]} |f(ix)|,$$

whose **phase error equioscillates** at  $2n + 2$  points, where **max approx error** is achieved. Moreover,  $r$  has minimal degree  $n$ , and distinct poles.

**Three new algorithms:** Interpolation at Chebyshev points, modified AAA–Lawson and BRASIL.

Superlinear convergence, A-stability, Time-symmetry



Jawecki & S 2023. Unitary rational best approximations to the exponential function, submitted.

C. Moler & C. V. Loan, *Nineteen Dubious Ways to Compute the Exponential of a Matrix, Twenty-Five Years Later*, SIAM Review (2003).

	Asymptotic $z \rightarrow 0$	Approximate $e^z$ on spectrum $z \in [a, b] \subseteq \sigma(A)$	Iterative Use $A$ and $u_0$
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Rational	Padé $\frac{1 + \frac{1}{2}z + \frac{1}{12}z^2}{1 - \frac{1}{2}z + \frac{1}{12}z^2}$	unitary best approximations	Rational Krylov

Other techniques: Diagonalisation & Spectral methods, Scaling and Squaring, Splitting

AAA [NST 18], AAA–Lawson [NT 20], their unitary modifications [JS 23], and three new algorithms [JS submitted].

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## Hamiltonian Simulation

$$i\partial_t\psi = \mathbf{H}(\psi, t)\psi, \quad \psi(t) \in \mathcal{H}.$$

1. Linear

$$\partial_t u = Au$$

2. **Driven**

$$\partial_t u = A(t)u$$

3. Non-linear

$$\partial_t u = Au + N(u)$$

The solution to  $u'(t) = A(t)u(t)$  can be approximated by

- Autonomisation (Sanz-Serna & Portillo 1996), if  $A(t) = B(t) + C$

$$u_{n+1} = \left( \prod_{k=1}^s e^{b_k h B(\tau_k)} e^{c_k h C} \right) u_n, \quad \tau_{k+1} = \tau_k + c_k h, \quad \tau_0 = t_n,$$

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- Commutator-free (Alvermann & Fehske 2011)

$$\exp(\Theta) \approx \exp \left( \sum_{k=1}^n c_{1k} h A(t_k) \right) \dots \exp \left( \sum_{k=1}^n c_{pk} h A(t_k) \right).$$

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- Magnus expansion (Magnus 1954)

$$u(h) = \exp(\Theta(h)) u_0, \quad \Theta(h) = \int_0^h A(\xi) d\xi - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^h \int_0^\xi [A(\zeta), A(\xi)] d\zeta d\xi + \mathcal{O}(h^5)$$

Magnus–Krylov (Kormann, Holmgren & Karlsson 2008, Iserles, Kropielnicka, & S. 2018, SINUM), Magnus–Zassenhaus (IKS 2016, Proc. Roy. Soc. A, IKS 2019a, J. Comput. Phys.), Magnus–Splittings for laser–matter (IKS 2019a, Comput. Phys. Commun., S. 2019c, J. Chem. Phys.)

$$A(t) = -iH(t), \quad H(t) = \sum_{k=1}^n \sum_{\alpha \in \{X, Y, Z\}} e_k^{\alpha}(t) \alpha_k + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j, k=1}^n \sum_{\alpha, \beta \in \{X, Y, Z\}} C_{j, k}^{\alpha, \beta} \alpha_j \beta_k$$

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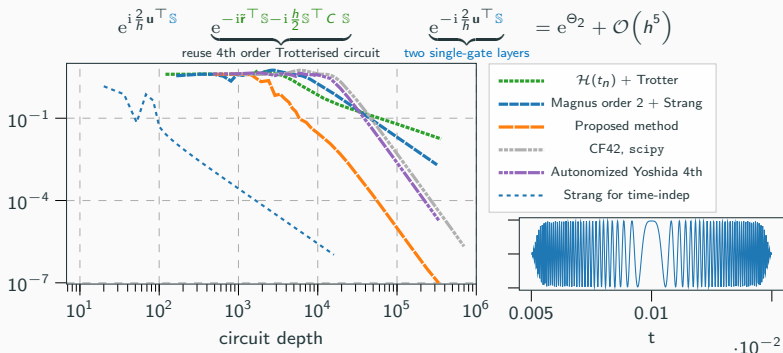
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# Is Magnus expansion DoA for quantum algorithms?

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Chen, Foroozandeh, Budd & S. 2023. submitted



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$$u_{n+1} = u^{[s]}, \quad u^{[0]} = u_n$$

Related: dilation techniques such as Schrödingerization (Jin, Liu, Yu 2022)

- Exponential Integrators (Hochbruck & Ostermann 2000),  $A(u) = Lu + g(u)u$ ,

$$u_{n+1} = e^{hL} u_n + L^{-1}(e^{hL} - I)g(u_n)u_n$$

not a geometric integrator

- Iterative linearisations

$$u^{[k+1]}(h) = \exp\left(\Theta^{[k]}(h)\right) u^{[k]},$$

$$\Theta^{[k]}(h) = \int_0^h A(u^{[k]}(\xi), \xi) d\xi - \frac{1}{2} \int_0^h \int_0^\xi \left[ A(u^{[k]}(\zeta), \zeta), A(u^{[k]}(\xi), \xi) \right] d\zeta d\xi + \mathcal{O}(h^5).$$

$$u_{n+1} = u^{[3]}, \quad u^{[0]} = u_n$$

Chen, Iserles, Kropielnicka, & S. 2024, Computation of some dispersive equations through their iterated linearisation, *submitted*.

# Takeaways

Hamiltonian Simulation is central to quantum computing

- early candidate for **quantum supremacy**
- has **real-world** applications
- is a **building block** for many quantum algorithms

Correspondence between Classical and Quantum algorithms

- Qubitization
  - achieves **additive complexity**, based on **Chebyshev** approximation
  - **does not conserve** unitarity, norm and energy; may have **stability** issues
- Unitary rational approximations (Padé, AAA, best approximation,...)
  - **faster** convergence, extremely **stable**, **conserve** unitarity, norm and energy
  - currently **no quantum algorithm**
- Machine learned Trotterisations (splittings)
  - **convergence** guarantees, **conserve** unitarity, norm and modified energy
  - allow **long** time-steps, **low error** constants
  - can they help create **optimized circuits**?
  - can we do this in an **unsupervised way**?
- Magnus based methods work well for **driven spin systems**