

# Simulating atomic nuclei in a quantum computer

arXiv:2302.03641

Axel Pérez-Obiol, Antonio Márquez, Javier Menéndez,  
Arnau Rios, Artur Garcia, Bruno Juliá-Díaz

**QUANTIC group**



**Dept. Física quàntica i astrofísica**

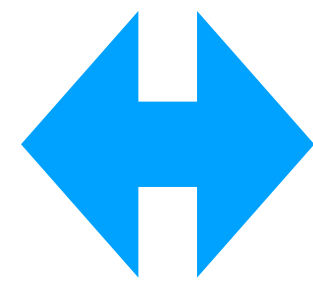


Santiago, May 28th 2023

# Quantum simulation

Quantum many body problems are hard (exponential scaling)  
(dammit! -R.F.)

molecules, crystals,  
nuclei, optical  
lattices, etc.

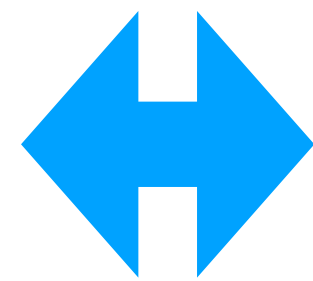


$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{ij} t_{ij} a_i^\dagger a_j + \sum_{ijkl} t_{ijkl} a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_k a_l$$

# Quantum simulation

Quantum many body problems are hard (exponential scaling)  
(dammit! -R.F.)

molecules, crystals,  
nuclei, optical  
lattices, etc.



$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{ij} t_{ij} a_i^\dagger a_j + \sum_{ijkl} t_{ijkl} a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_k a_l$$

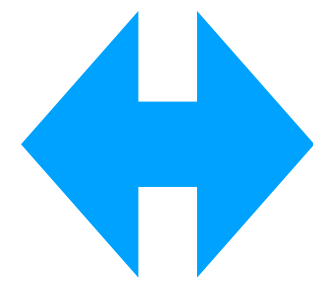
## Classical hardware

- Exact diagonalization (small systems)
- Integrable cases (very particular)
- Mean field, MC, PT... (approximations)

# Quantum simulation

Quantum many body problems are hard (exponential scaling)  
(dammit! -R.F.)

molecules, crystals,  
nuclei, optical  
lattices, etc.



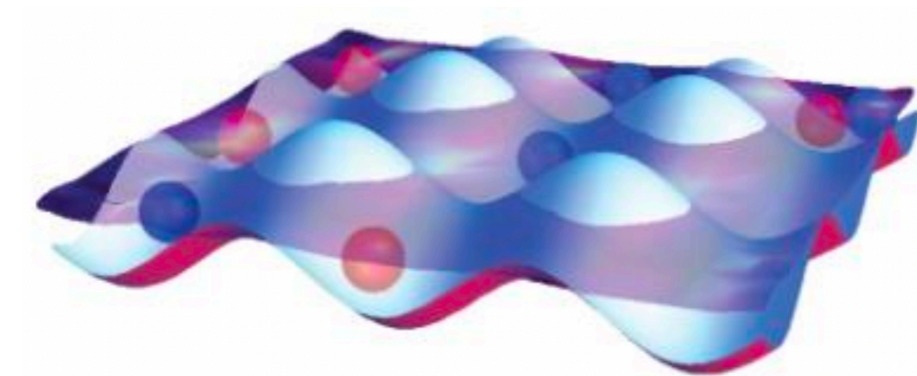
$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{ij} t_{ij} a_i^\dagger a_j + \sum_{ijkl} t_{ijkl} a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_k a_l$$

## Classical hardware

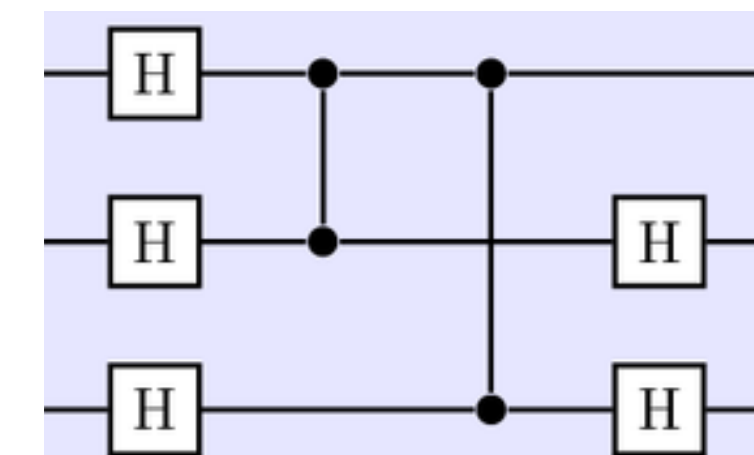
- Exact diagonalization (small systems)
- Integrable cases (very particular)
- Mean field, MC, PT... (approximations)

## Quantum hardware

- quantum simulators



- digital quantum computers



# Nuclear shell-model

1. Primordial shell model (IPM, naive):

➔ Mean field:

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega r^2 + D \vec{l}^2 + C \vec{l} \cdot \vec{s}$$

➔ Predicts magic numbers

➔ Valence space + effective interactions

# Nuclear shell-model

## 1. Primordial shell model (IPM, naive):

➔ Mean field:

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega r^2 + D \vec{l}^2 + C \vec{l} \cdot \vec{s}$$

➔ Predicts magic numbers

➔ Valence space + effective interactions

$0d_{3/2}$	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>				
$1s_{1/2}$				<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>			
$0d_{5/2}$	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<i>sd</i>	

$0p_{1/2}$				<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>			
$0p_{3/2}$	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>				
<i>m</i>	$-\frac{7}{2}$	$-\frac{5}{2}$	$-\frac{3}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{5}{2}$	$\frac{7}{2}$

# Nuclear shell-model

1. Primordial shell model (IPM, naive):

➔ Mean field:

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega r^2 + D \vec{l}^2 + C \vec{l} \cdot \vec{s}$$

➔ Predicts magic numbers

➔ Valence space + effective interactions

2. Interaction shell model:

➔ Mean field + residual two-body interactions:

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{ij} K_{ij} a_i^\dagger a_j + \sum_{ijkl} V_{ijkl} a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_k a_l$$

➔ Diagonalization problem

$0d_{3/2}$		<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>				
$1s_{1/2}$			<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>					
$0d_{5/2}$	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>			

*sd*

$0p_{1/2}$			<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>					
$0p_{3/2}$		<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>				
<i>m</i>	$-\frac{7}{2}$	$-\frac{5}{2}$	$-\frac{3}{2}$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{5}{2}$	$\frac{7}{2}$	

*p*

Jordan-Wigner mapping:

$$a_j^\dagger = \prod_{k=0}^{j-1} Z_k \frac{1}{2}(X_j - iY_j)$$

# Nuclear shell-model

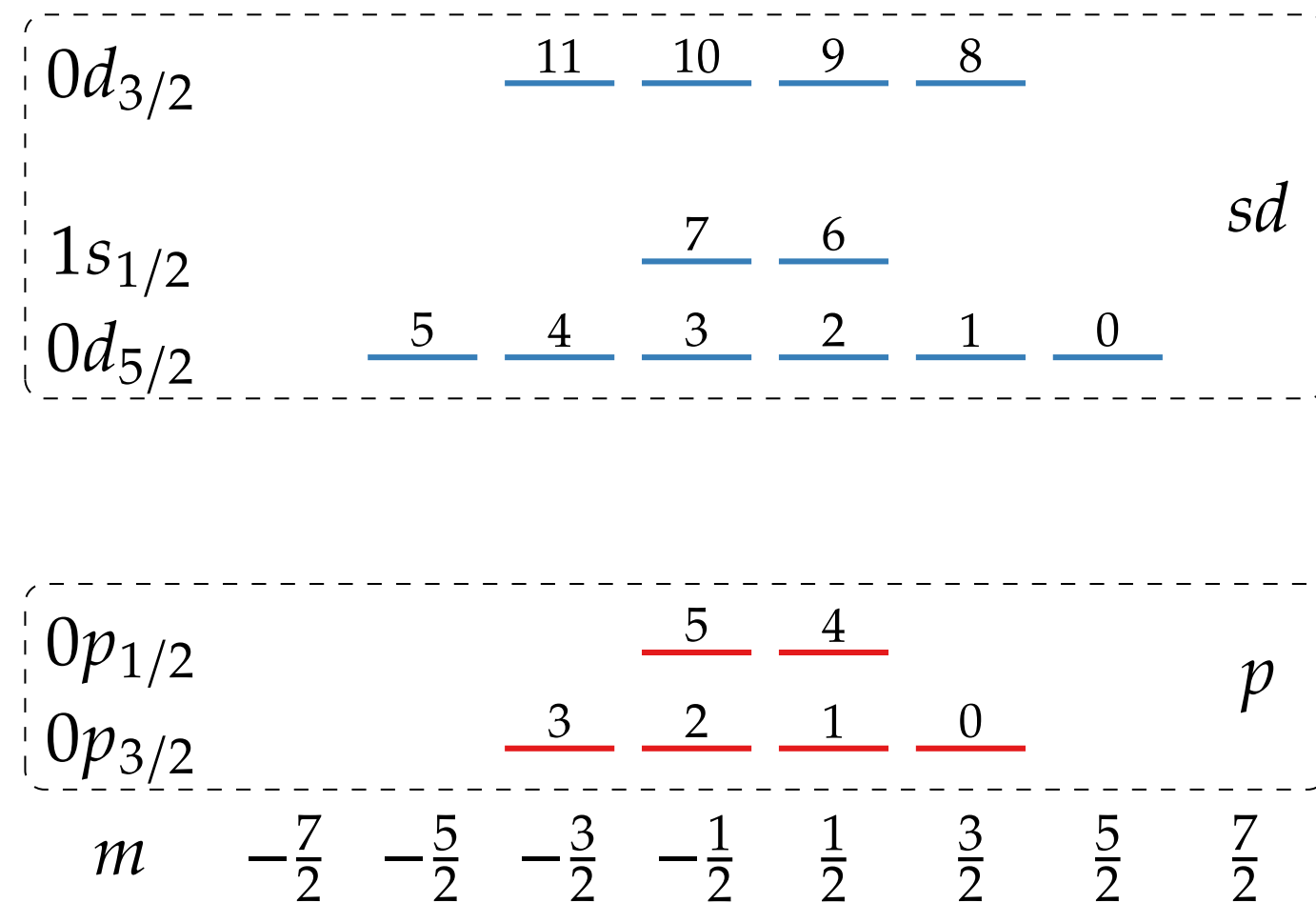
## 1. Primordial shell model (IPM, naive):

➔ Mean field:

$$V(r) = \frac{1}{2}\hbar\omega r^2 + D \vec{l}^2 + C \vec{l} \cdot \vec{s}$$

➔ Predicts magic numbers

➔ Valence space + effective interactions



Jordan-Wigner mapping:

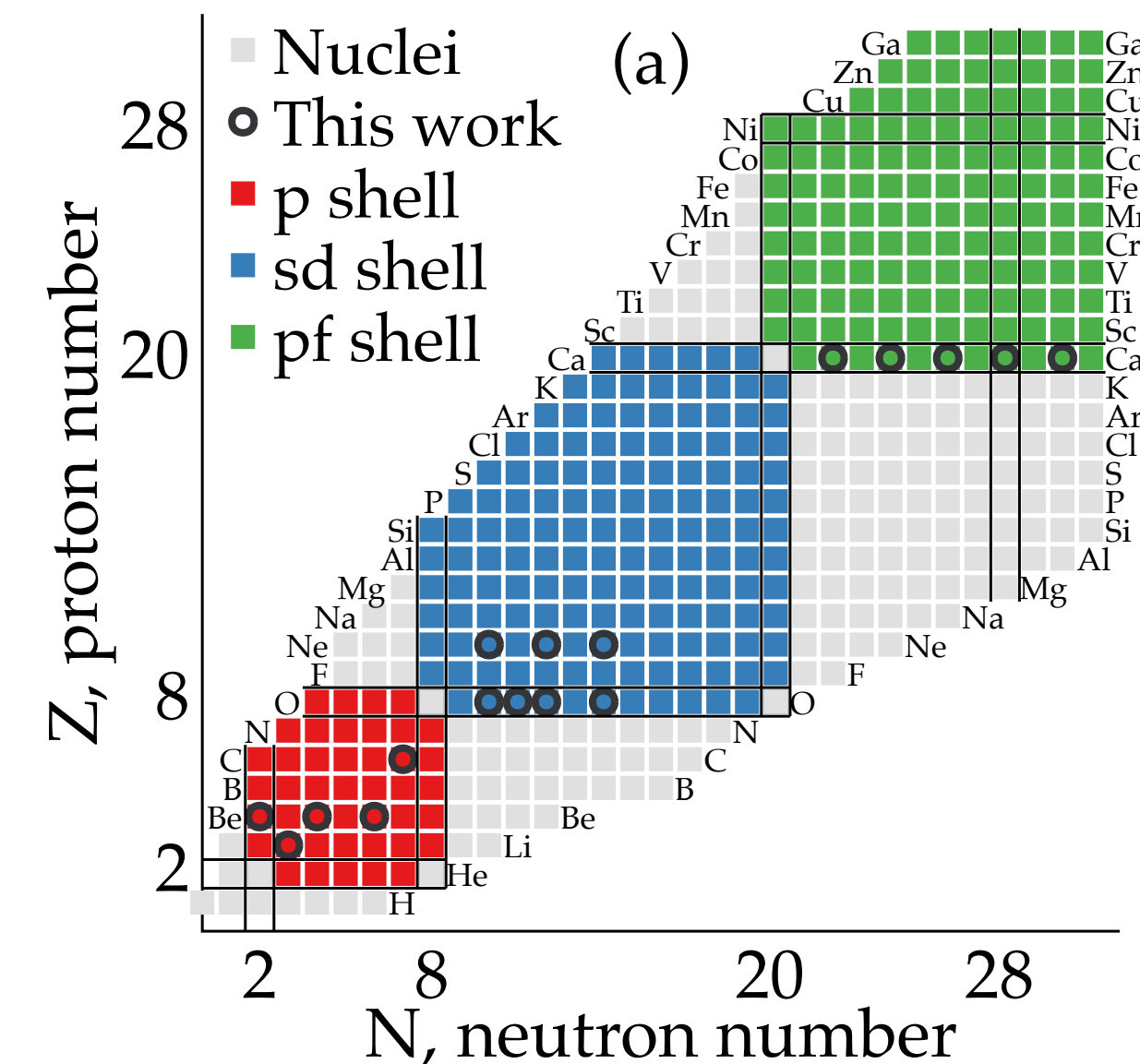
$$a_j^\dagger = \prod_{k=0}^{j-1} Z_k \frac{1}{2}(X_j - iY_j)$$

## 2. Interaction shell model:

➔ Mean field + residual two-body interactions:

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{ij} K_{ij} a_i^\dagger a_j + \sum_{ijkl} V_{ijkl} a_i^\dagger a_j^\dagger a_k a_l$$

➔ Diagonalization problem





# ADAPT-VQE

1. (Regular) variational quantum eigensolver :

➔ Parametrized, trial wave function (hardware efficient / physics inspired)

➔ Optimize cost function:  $E_{\text{ADAPT}} = \min_{\theta_k} \frac{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | H | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}$

# ADAPT-VQE

1. (Regular) variational quantum eigensolver :

➔ Parametrized, trial wave function (hardware efficient / physics inspired)

➔ Optimize cost function:  $E_{\text{ADAPT}} = \min_{\theta_k} \frac{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | H | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}$

2. Adaptive VQE:

1. Choose a pool of operators:  $A_k = i(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)$

Grimsley et al., *Nat. comm.* **10**, 1–9 (2019)

# ADAPT-VQE

1. (Regular) variational quantum eigensolver :

➔ Parametrized, trial wave function (hardware efficient / physics inspired)

➔ Optimize cost function:  $E_{\text{ADAPT}} = \min_{\theta_k} \frac{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | H | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}$

2. Adaptive VQE:

1. Choose a pool of operators:  $A_k = i(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)$

2. Start from reference state:  $|\psi_0\rangle = a_{i_1}^\dagger \dots a_{i_{N_p}}^\dagger |0\rangle$

Grimsley et al., *Nat. comm.* **10**, 1–9 (2019)

# ADAPT-VQE

1. (Regular) variational quantum eigensolver :

➔ Parametrized, trial wave function (hardware efficient / physics inspired)

➔ Optimize cost function:  $E_{\text{ADAPT}} = \min_{\theta_k} \frac{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | H | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}$

2. Adaptive VQE:

1. Choose a pool of operators:  $A_k = i(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)$

2. Start from reference state:  $|\psi_0\rangle = a_{i_1}^\dagger \dots a_{i_{N_p}}^\dagger |0\rangle$

3. Add operator from the pool with the largest gradient:

$$|\psi(\theta_1)\rangle_{\text{ADAPT}} = e^{i\theta_1 A_1} |\psi_0\rangle, \text{ with maximum } \left. \frac{\partial E^{(n)}}{\partial \theta_k} \right|_{\theta_k=0}$$

Grimsley et al., *Nat. comm.* **10**, 1–9 (2019)

# ADAPT-VQE

1. (Regular) variational quantum eigensolver :

➔ Parametrized, trial wave function (hardware efficient / physics inspired)

➔ Optimize cost function:  $E_{\text{ADAPT}} = \min_{\theta_k} \frac{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | H | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}$

2. Adaptive VQE:

1. Choose a pool of operators:  $A_k = i(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)$

2. Start from reference state:  $|\psi_0\rangle = a_{i_1}^\dagger \dots a_{i_{N_p}}^\dagger |0\rangle$

3. Add operator from the pool with the largest gradient:

$$|\psi(\theta_1)\rangle_{\text{ADAPT}} = e^{i\theta_1 A_1} |\psi_0\rangle, \text{ with maximum } \left. \frac{\partial E^{(n)}}{\partial \theta_k} \right|_{\theta_k=0}$$

4. Optimize all parameters:  $|\psi(\theta_k)\rangle_{\text{ADAPT}} = \prod_{k=1}^n e^{i\theta_k A_k} |\psi_0\rangle$

Grimsley et al., *Nat. comm.* **10**, 1–9 (2019)

# ADAPT-VQE

1. (Regular) variational quantum eigensolver :

➔ Parametrized, trial wave function (hardware efficient / physics inspired)

➔ Optimize cost function:  $E_{\text{ADAPT}} = \min_{\theta_k} \frac{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | H | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}{\langle \Psi(\theta_k) | \Psi(\theta_k) \rangle}$

2. Adaptive VQE:

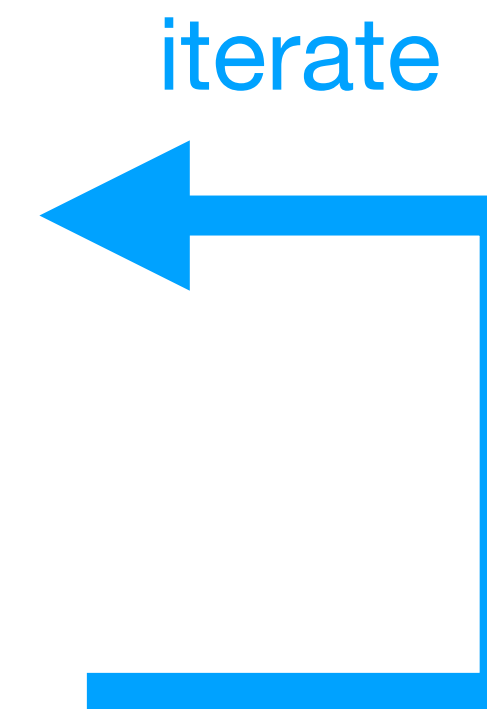
1. Choose a pool of operators:  $A_k = i(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)$

2. Start from reference state:  $|\psi_0\rangle = a_{i_1}^\dagger \dots a_{i_{N_p}}^\dagger |0\rangle$

3. Add operator from the pool with the largest gradient:

$$|\psi(\theta_1)\rangle_{\text{ADAPT}} = e^{i\theta_1 A_1} |\psi_0\rangle, \text{ with maximum } \left. \frac{\partial E^{(n)}}{\partial \theta_k} \right|_{\theta_k=0}$$

4. Optimize all parameters:  $|\psi(\theta_k)\rangle_{\text{ADAPT}} = \prod_{k=1}^n e^{i\theta_k A_k} |\psi_0\rangle$



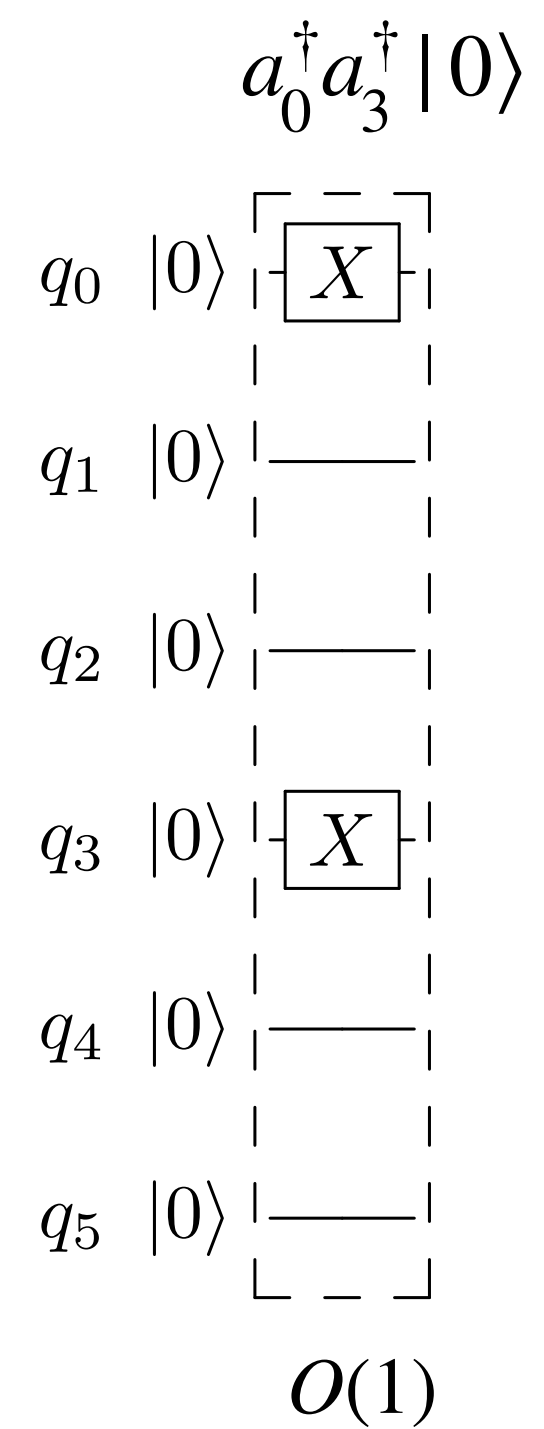
Grimsley et al., *Nat. comm.* **10**, 1–9 (2019)

# Circuit

## 1. Initial state

preparation, e.g.,

$$|\psi_0\rangle = a_0^\dagger a_3^\dagger |0\rangle = X_0 X_3 |0\rangle$$

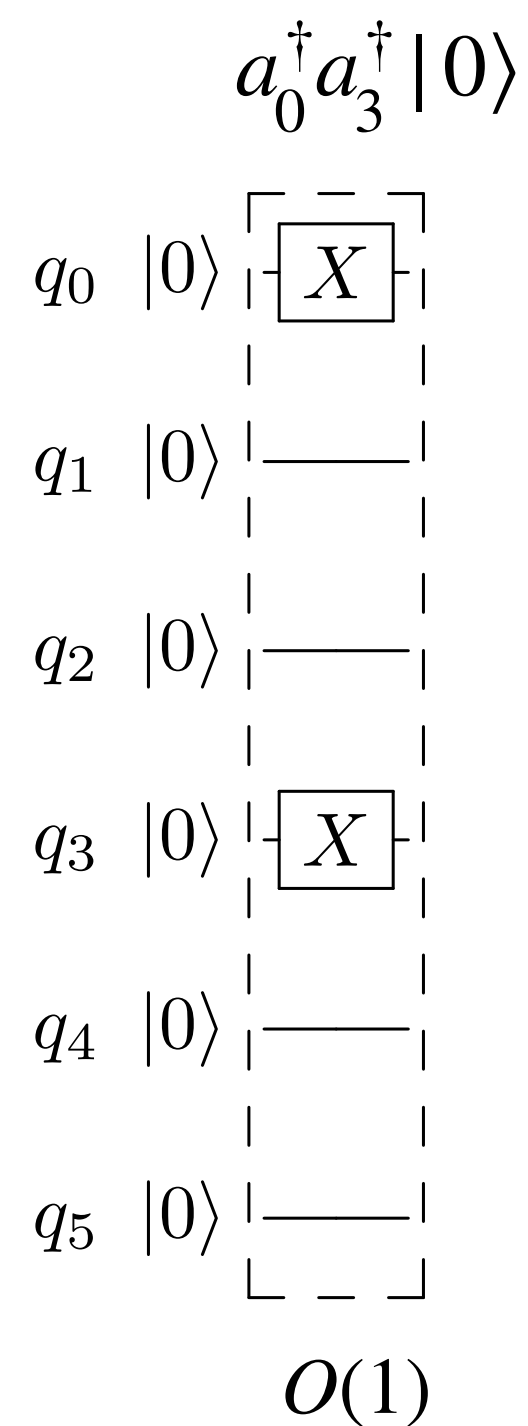


# Circuit

1. Initial state

preparation, e.g.,

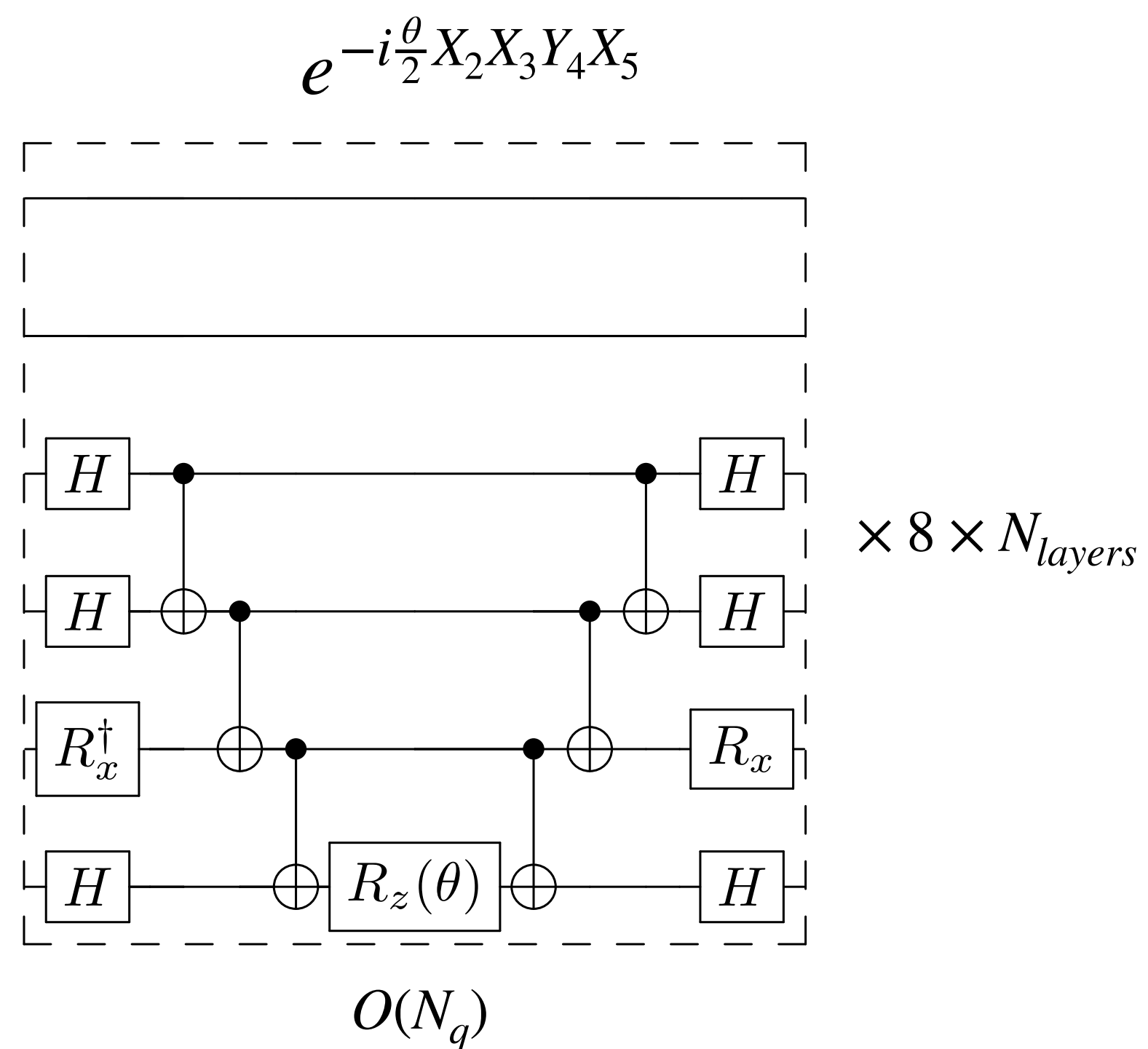
$$|\psi_0\rangle = a_0^\dagger a_3^\dagger |0\rangle = X_0 X_3 |0\rangle$$



2. Each ansatz layer implemented

with the staircase algorithm:

$$e^{-\theta(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)} = e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2} X_2 X_3 Y_4 X_5} \times (\dots)$$



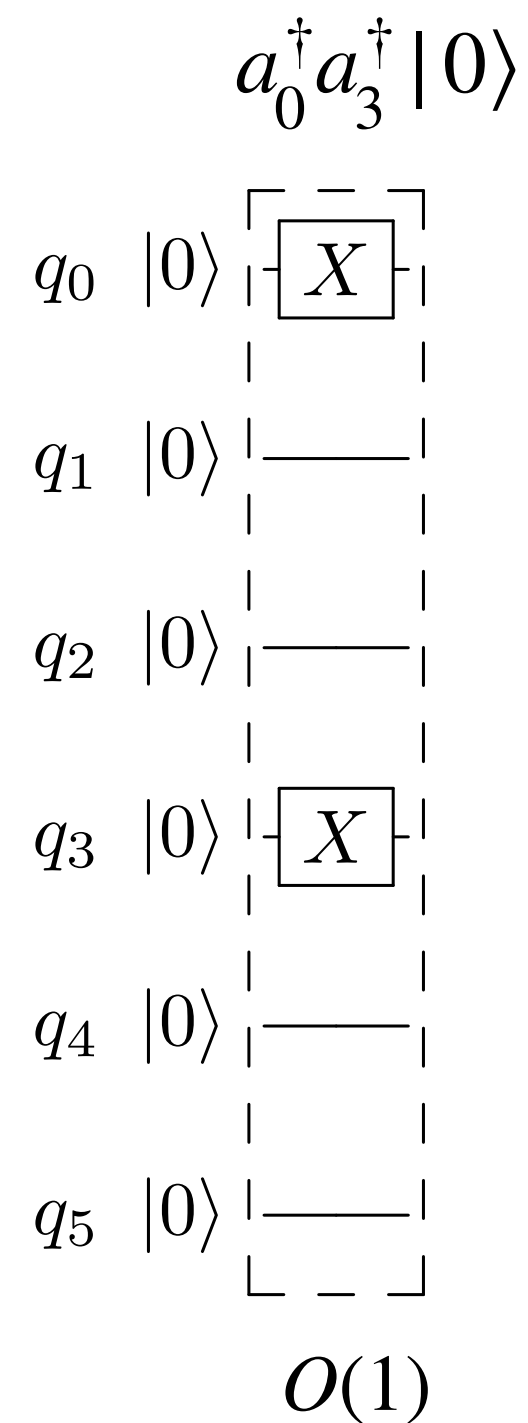


# Circuit

## 1. Initial state

preparation, e.g.,

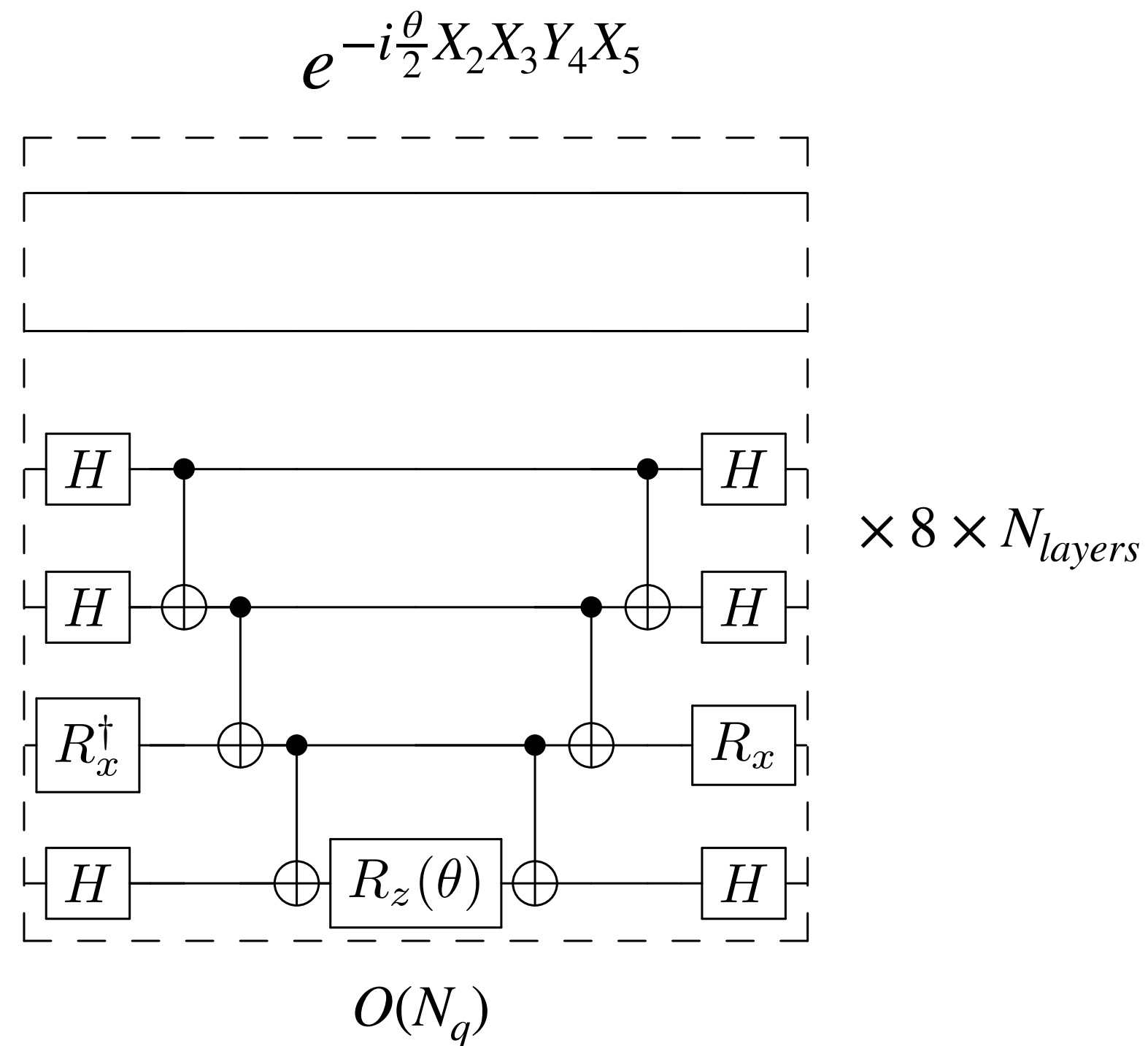
$$|\psi_0\rangle = a_0^\dagger a_3^\dagger |0\rangle = X_0 X_3 |0\rangle$$



## 2. Each ansatz layer implemented

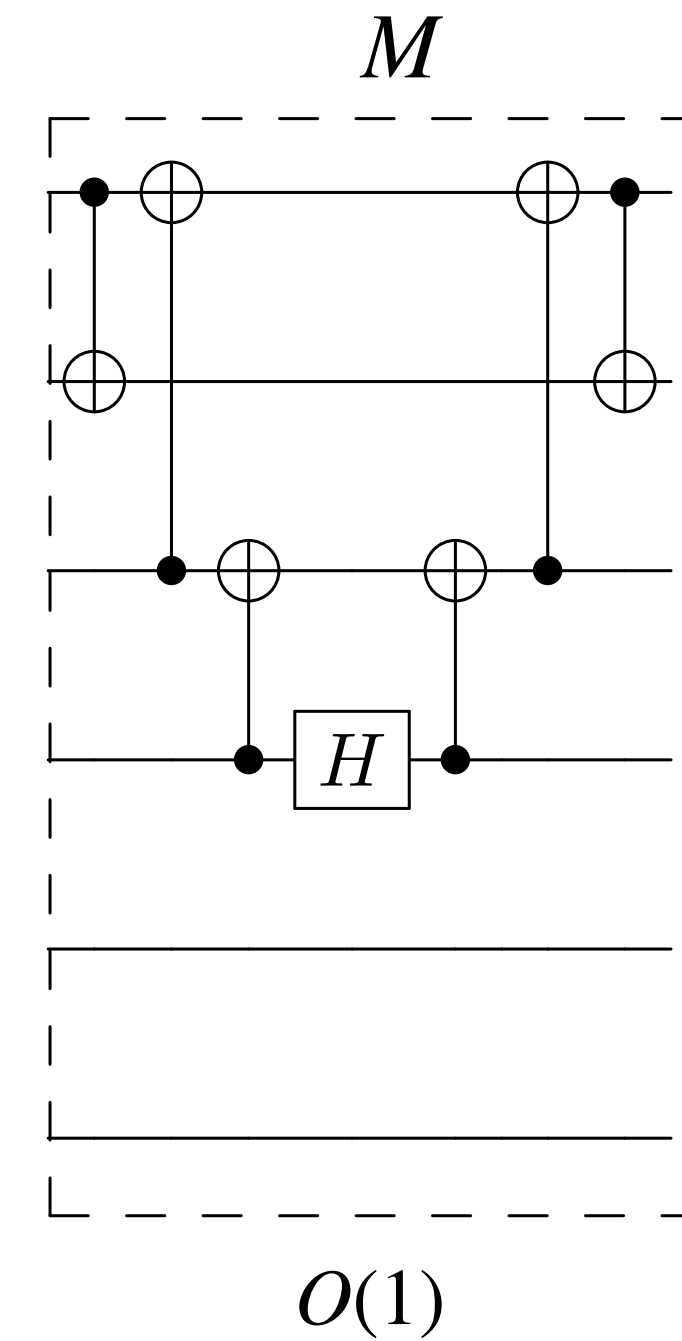
with the staircase algorithm:

$$e^{-\theta(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)} = e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2} X_2 X_3 Y_4 X_5} \times (\dots)$$



## 3. Measurement

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow h &= a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s + a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q \\ &\propto |0011\rangle\langle 1100| + |1100\rangle\langle 0011| \\ \Rightarrow \langle \psi | h | \psi \rangle &= \langle \psi | M^\dagger (M h M^\dagger) M | \psi \rangle \\ &= P_{1100} - P_{0011} \end{aligned}$$

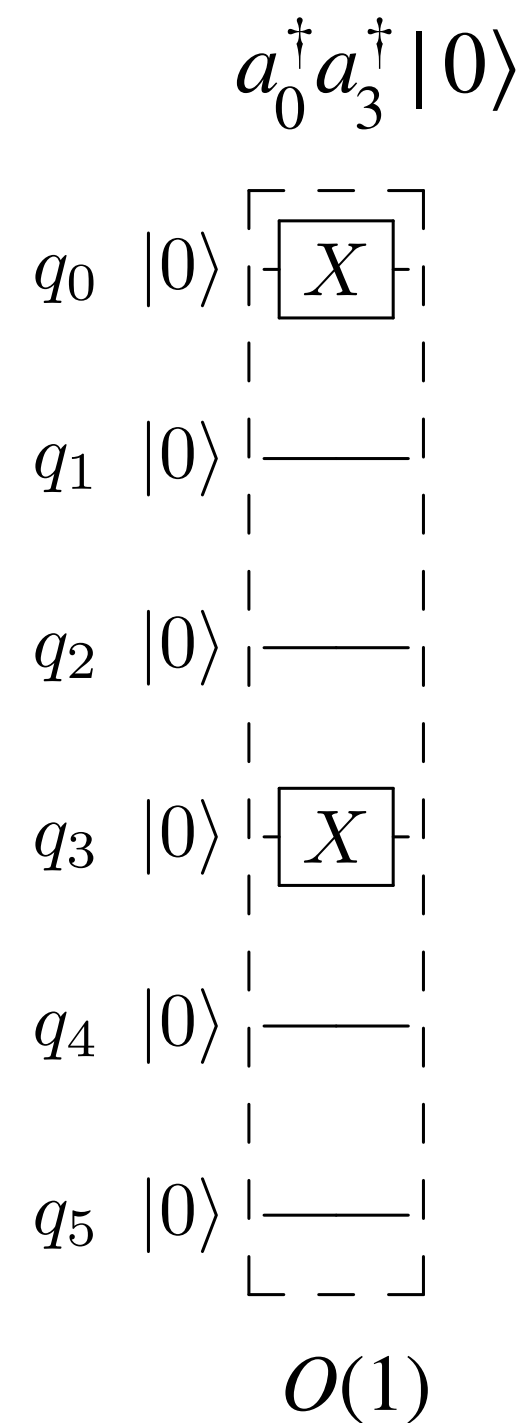


# Circuit

## 1. Initial state

preparation, e.g.,

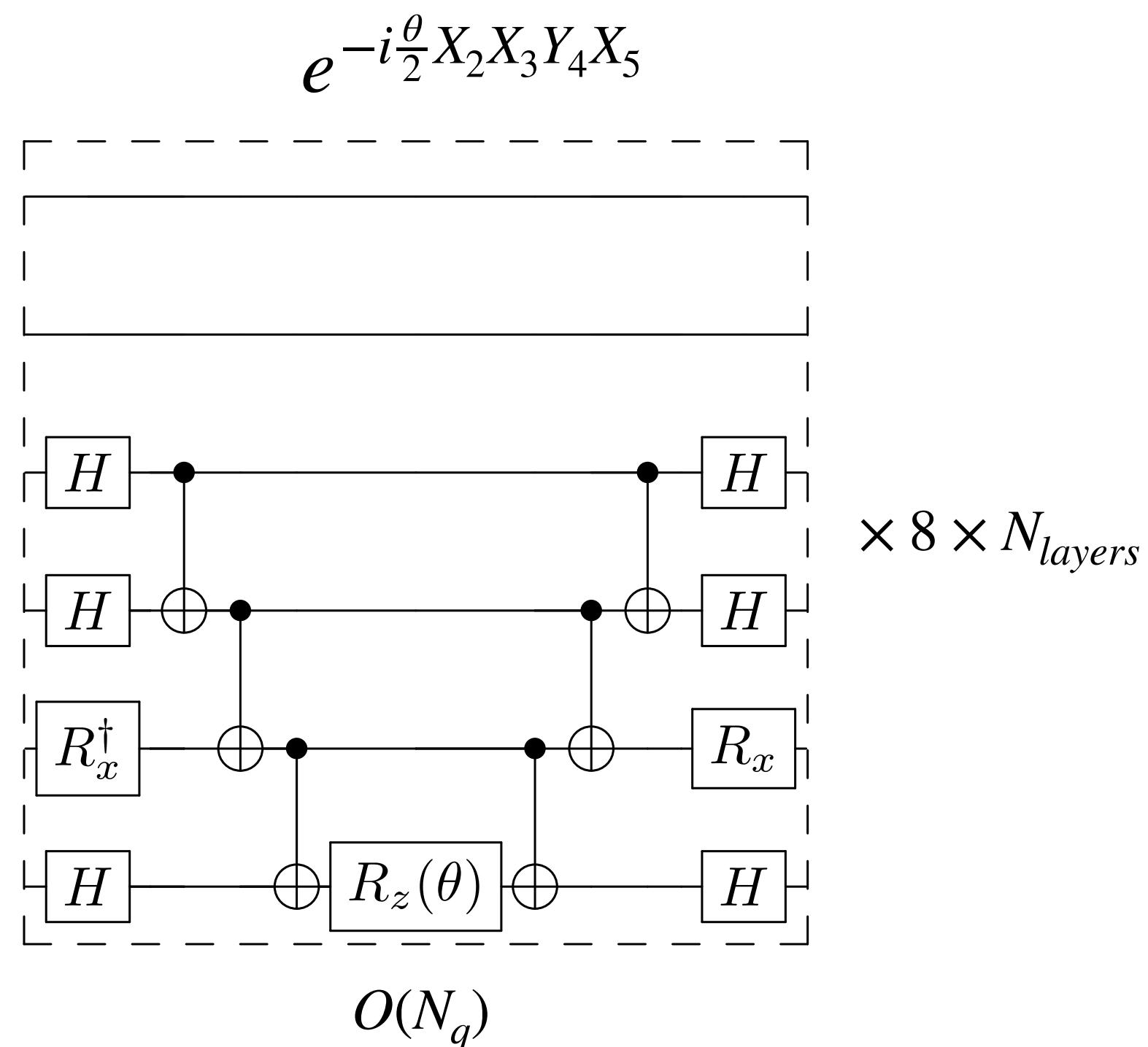
$$|\psi_0\rangle = a_0^\dagger a_3^\dagger |0\rangle = X_0 X_3 |0\rangle$$



## 2. Each ansatz layer implemented

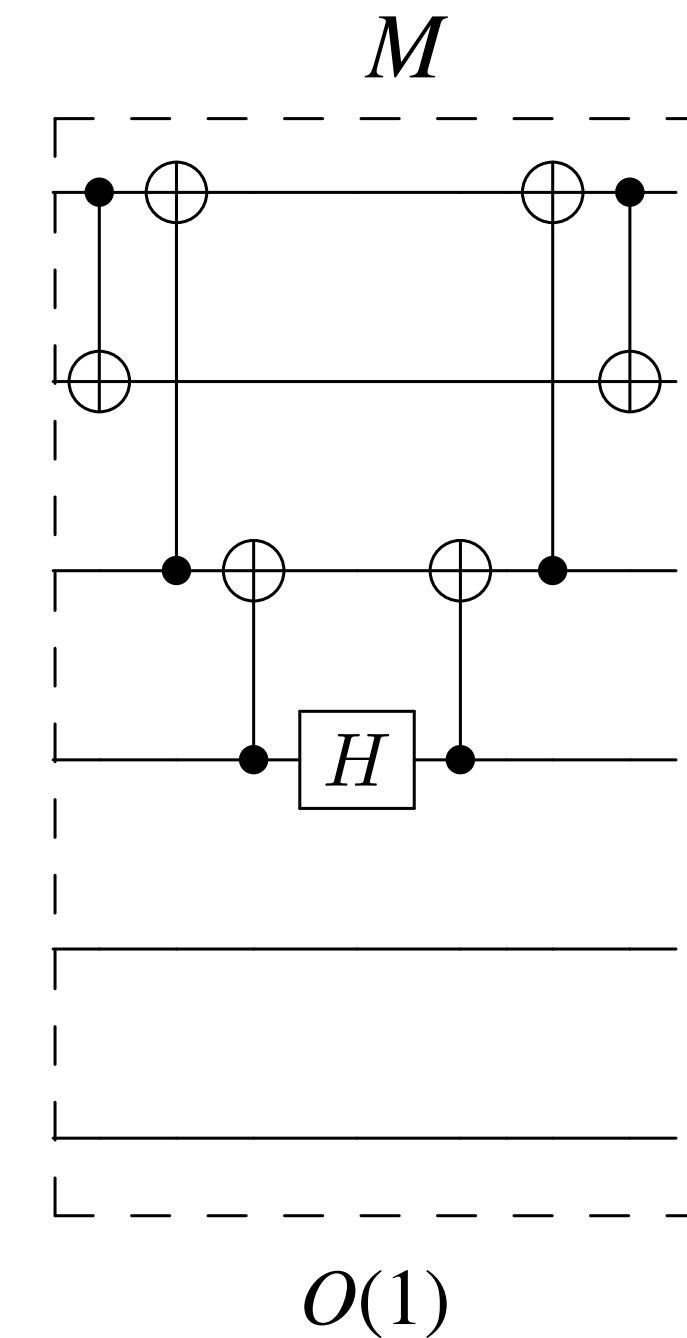
with the staircase algorithm:

$$e^{-\theta(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)} = e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2} X_2 X_3 Y_4 X_5} \times (\dots)$$



## 3. Measurement

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow h &= a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s + a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q \\ &\propto |0011\rangle\langle 1100| + |1100\rangle\langle 0011| \\ \Rightarrow \langle \psi | h | \psi \rangle &= \langle \psi | M^\dagger (M h M^\dagger) M | \psi \rangle \\ &= P_{1100} - P_{0011} \end{aligned}$$



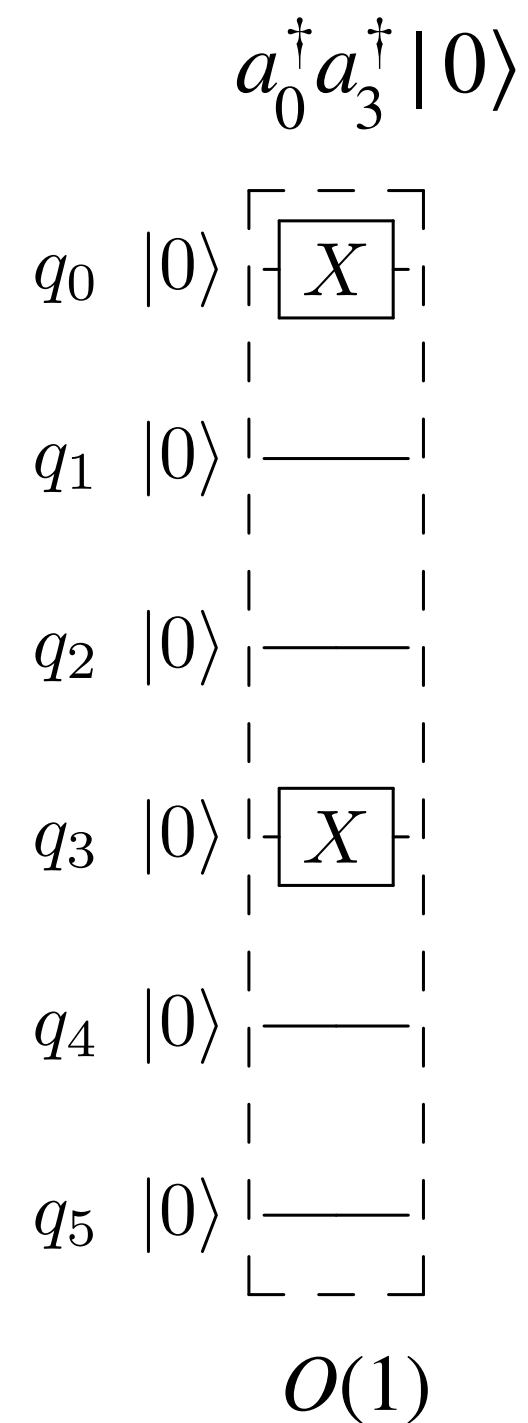
**How many layers?**

# Circuit

## 1. Initial state

preparation, e.g.,

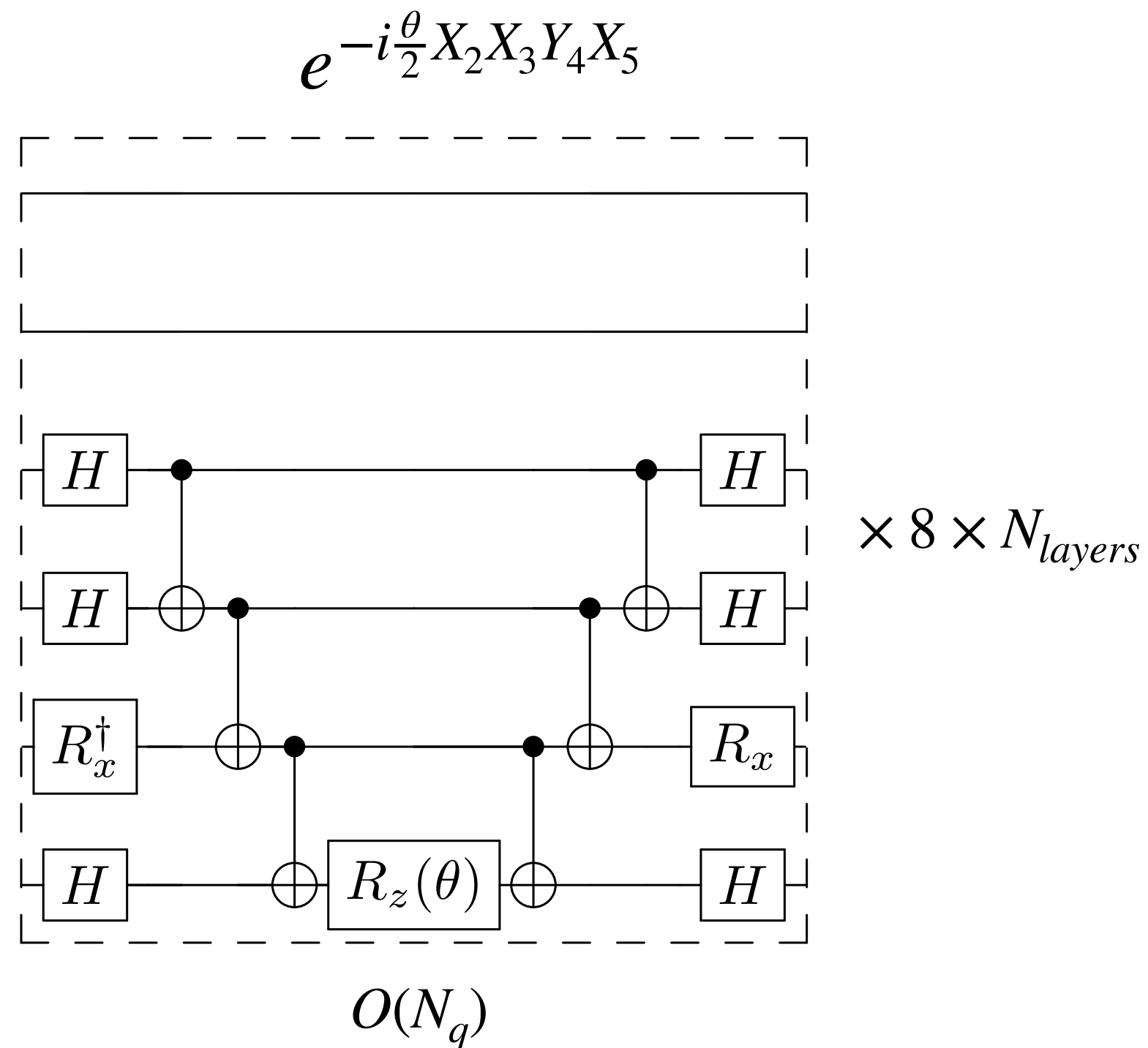
$$|\psi_0\rangle = a_0^\dagger a_3^\dagger |0\rangle = X_0 X_3 |0\rangle$$



## 2. Each ansatz layer implemented

with the staircase algorithm:

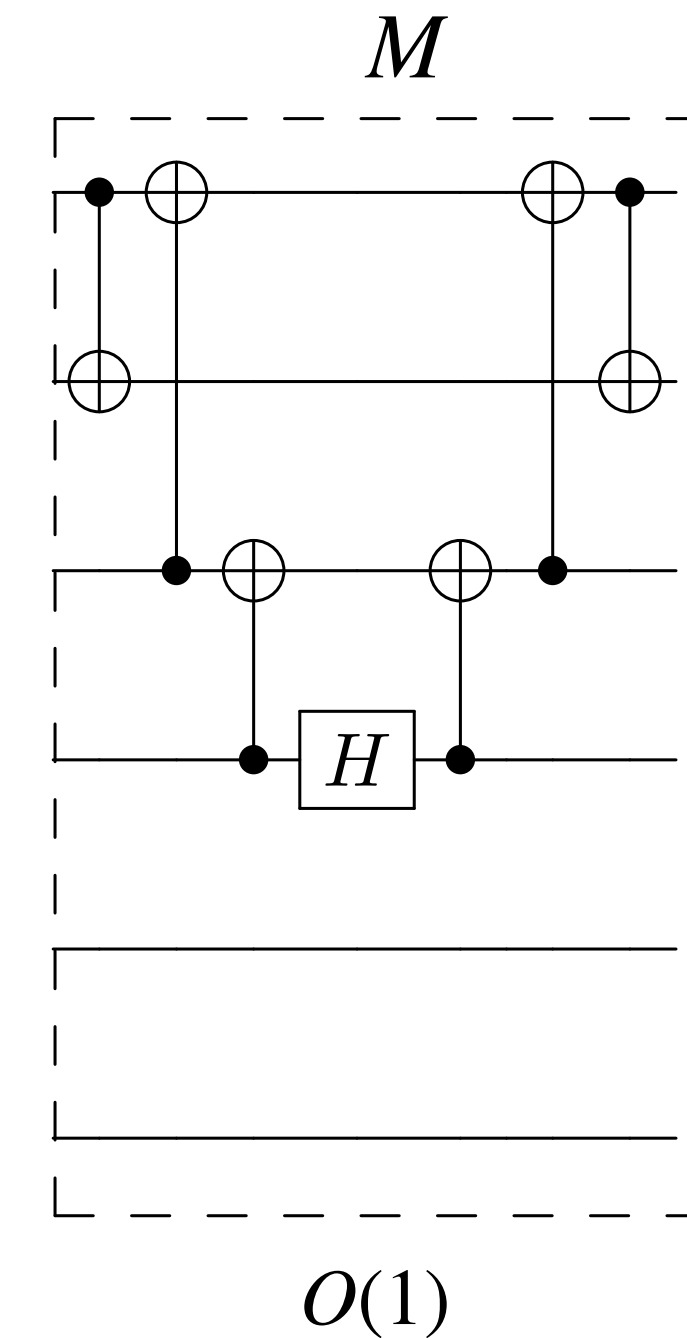
$$e^{-\theta(a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s - a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q)} = e^{-i\frac{\theta}{2} X_2 X_3 Y_4 X_5} \times (\dots)$$



**How many layers?**

## 3. Measurement

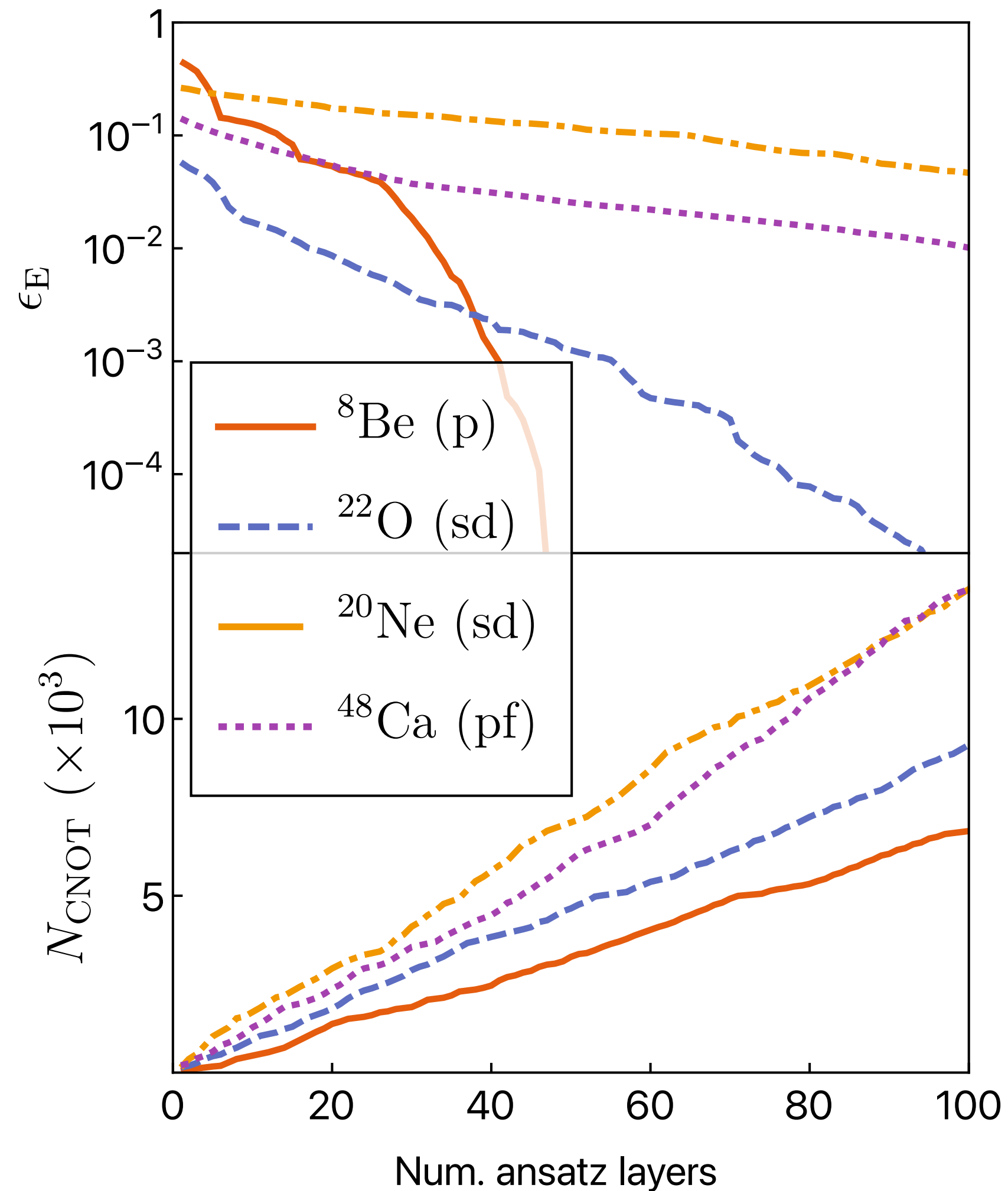
$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow h &= a_p^\dagger a_q^\dagger a_r a_s + a_r^\dagger a_s^\dagger a_p a_q \\ &\propto |0011\rangle\langle 1100| + |1100\rangle\langle 0011| \\ \Rightarrow \langle \psi | h | \psi \rangle &= \langle \psi | M^\dagger (M h M^\dagger) M | \psi \rangle \\ &= P_{1100} - P_{0011} \end{aligned}$$



**How many measurements?**

# Number of parameters/CNOTs needed

quantum circuit simulation (qibo, GPUs, Marenostrom 4)



shell	$N_{qb}$	$N_{SD}$	nucleus	$N_{\text{layers}}$	$\epsilon_E$ bound	$N_C$ (bound)
<i>p</i>	6	5	${}^6\text{Be}$	2	$10^{-8}$	42 (80)
	12	10	${}^6\text{Li}$	9	$10^{-7}$	92 (176)
		53	${}^8\text{Be}$	48	$10^{-7}$	68 (176)
		51	${}^{10}\text{Be}$	48	$10^{-7}$	62 (176)
		42	${}^{13}\text{C}$	17	$10^{-5}$	77 (176)
<i>sd</i>	12	14	${}^{18}\text{O}$	5	$10^{-6}$	99 (176)
		74	${}^{19}\text{O}$	32	$10^{-6}$	85 (176)
		81	${}^{20}\text{O}$	70	$10^{-6}$	98 (176)
		142	${}^{22}\text{O}$	117	$10^{-6}$	93 (176)
	24	640	${}^{20}\text{Ne}$	167	$2 \times 10^{-2}$	137 (368)
		4206	${}^{22}\text{Ne}$	236	$2 \times 10^{-2}$	137 (368)
		7562	${}^{24}\text{Ne}$	345	$2 \times 10^{-2}$	138 (368)
	<i>pf</i>	20	30	${}^{42}\text{Ca}$	9	$10^{-8}$
565			${}^{44}\text{Ca}$	132	$10^{-2}$	153 (304)
3952			${}^{46}\text{Ca}$	124	$10^{-2}$	139 (304)
12022			${}^{48}\text{Ca}$	101	$10^{-2}$	137 (304)
17276			${}^{50}\text{Ca}$	221	$10^{-2}$	130 (304)

# Number of circuits

$$= N_{terms} \times N_{shots} \times N_{calls}$$



grows as  $O(S^4)$   
S = num. orbitals



grows as  $\frac{1}{\epsilon_E^2}$



depends on  
optimizer, nucleus

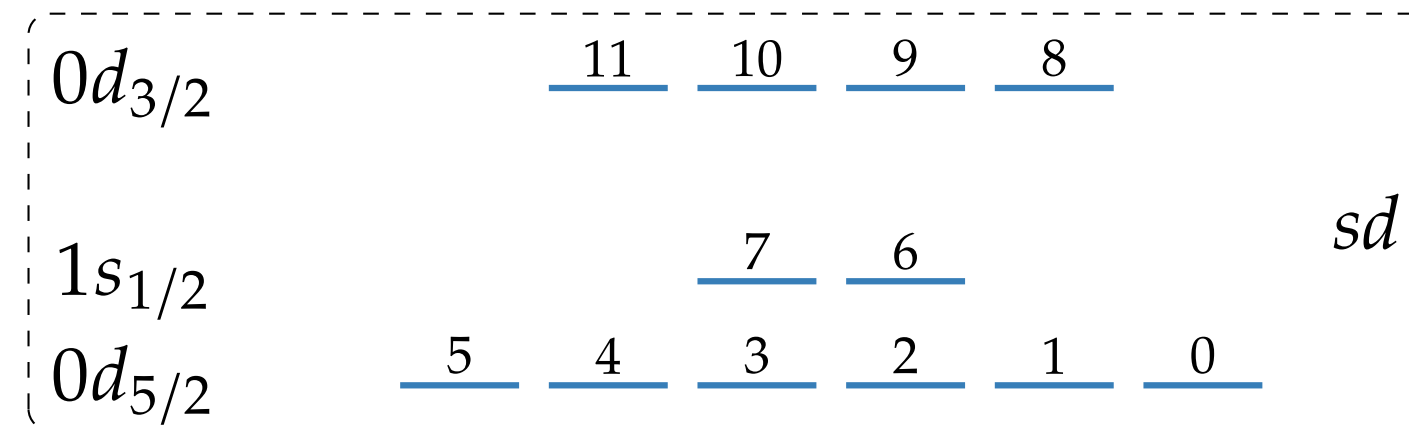
group into terms that  
self-commute

shell	$N_q$	$N_h$	$N_{hh}$	$N_{terms}$
$p$	6	2	10 (9)	13 (12)
	12	4	109 (44)	114 (49)
$sd$	12	8	203 (86)	212 (95)
	24	16	1389 (518)	1406 (535)
$pf$	20	20	1507 (570)	1528 (591)
	40	40	10572 (3459)	10613 (3500)

**reduces  $N_{terms}$  a  
factor 3**

# (orbital) entanglement entropies

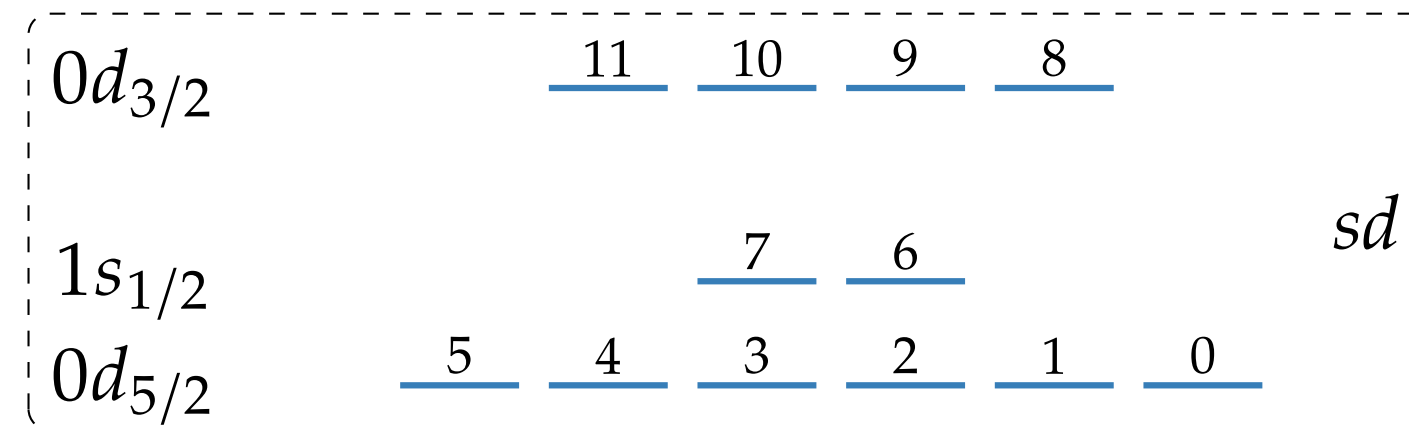
$$S_A = -\rho_A \log_2(\rho_A)$$



$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B(\rho)$$

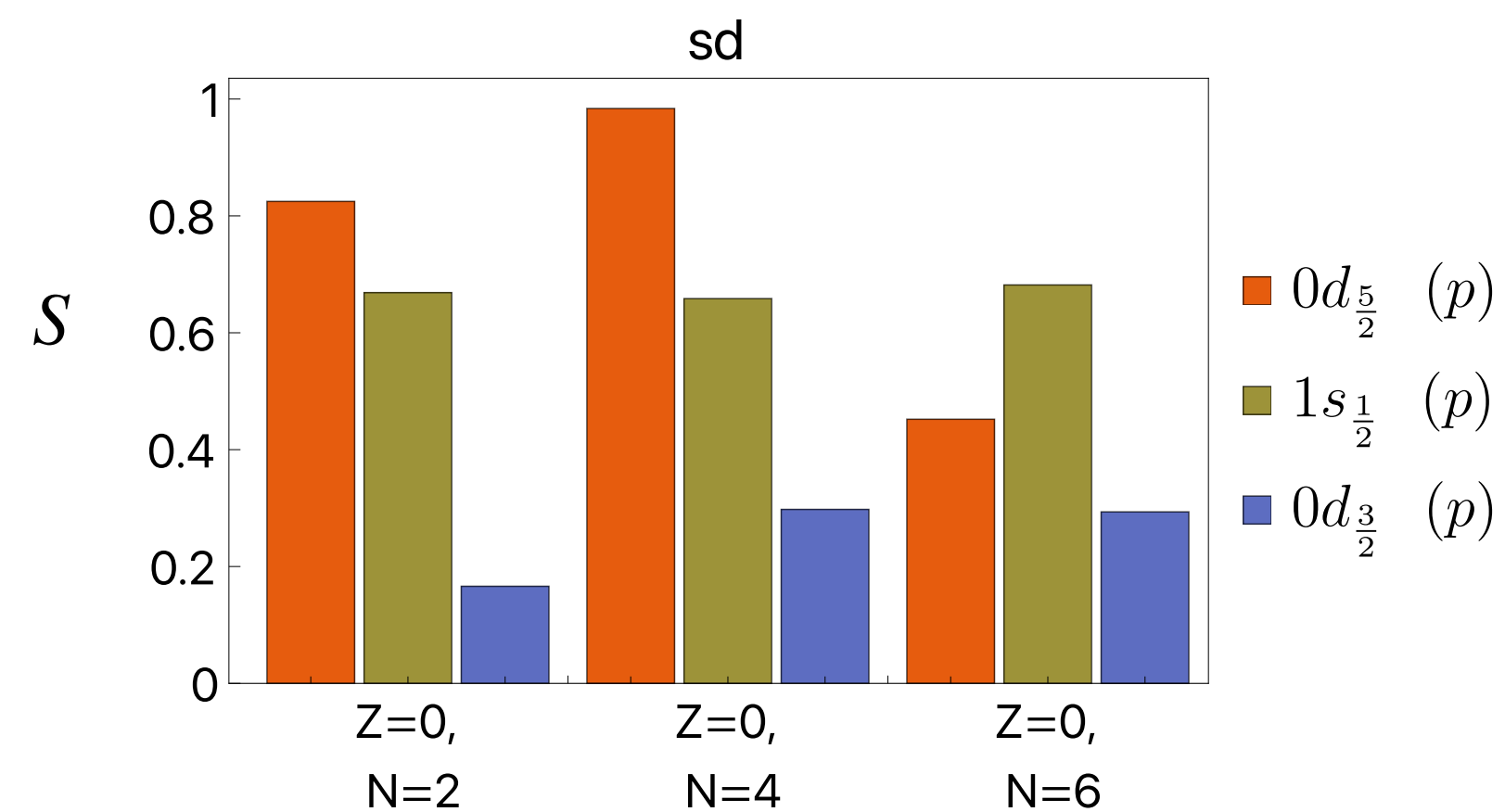
# (orbital) entanglement entropies

$$S_A = -\rho_A \log_2(\rho_A)$$



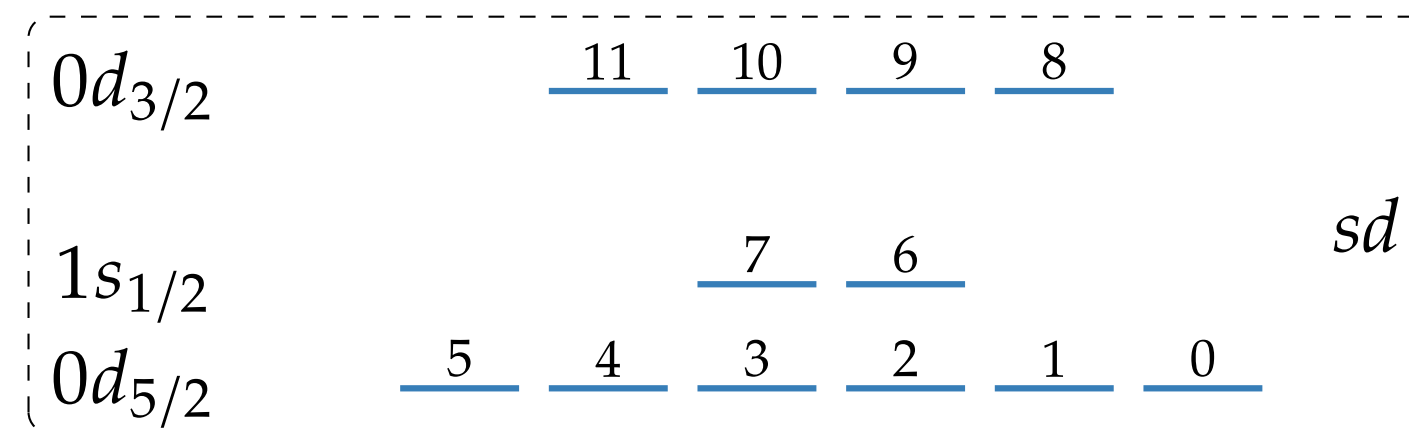
$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B(\rho)$$

## orbital-nucleus



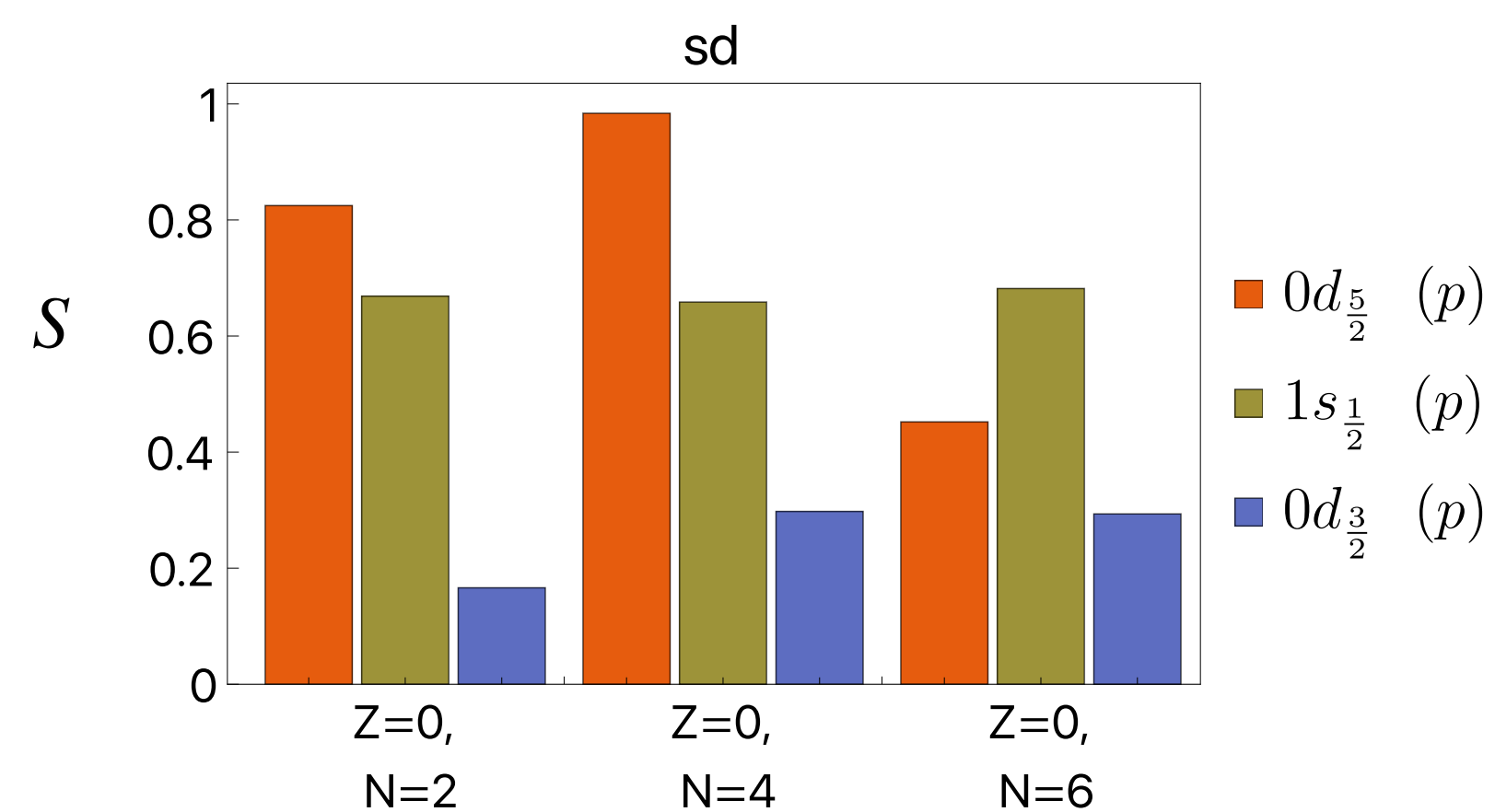
# (orbital) entanglement entropies

$$S_A = -\text{Tr}(\rho_A \log_2 \rho_A)$$

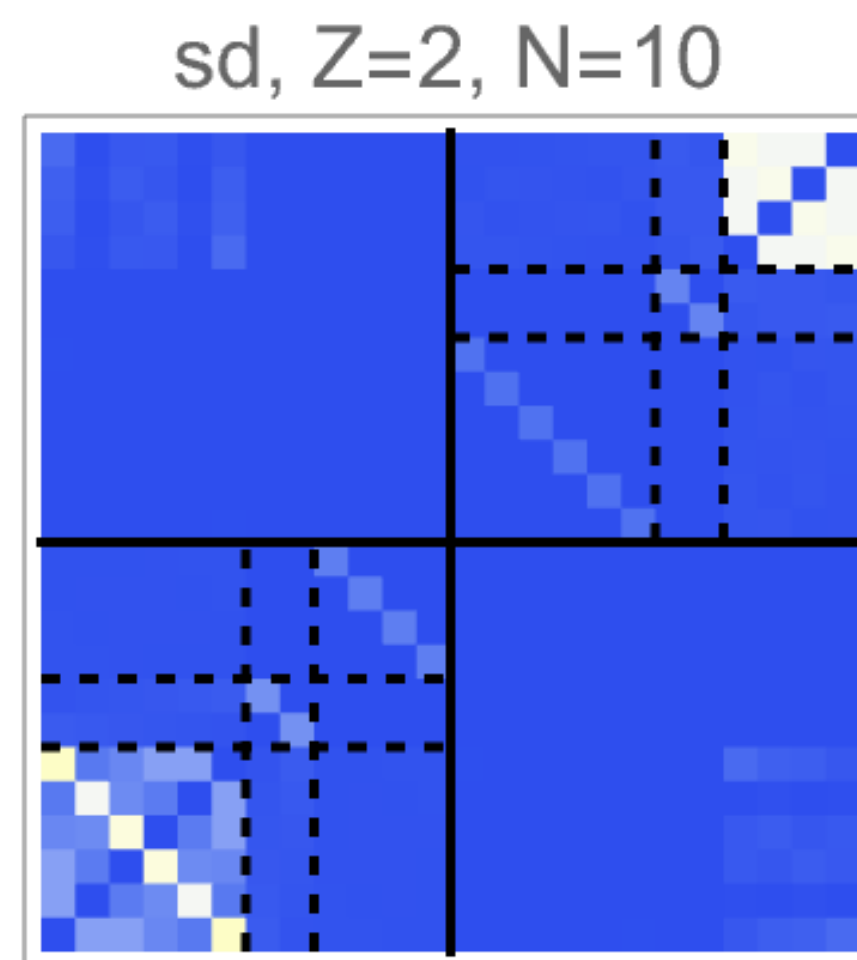


$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B(\rho)$$

orbital-nucleus



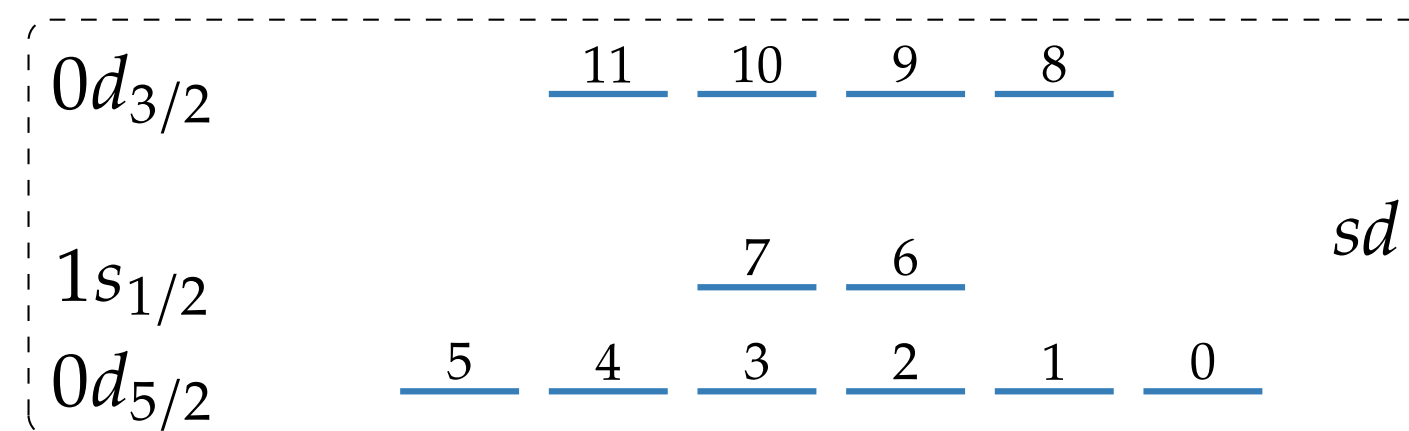
2-orbital  $S_i + S_j - S_{ij}$





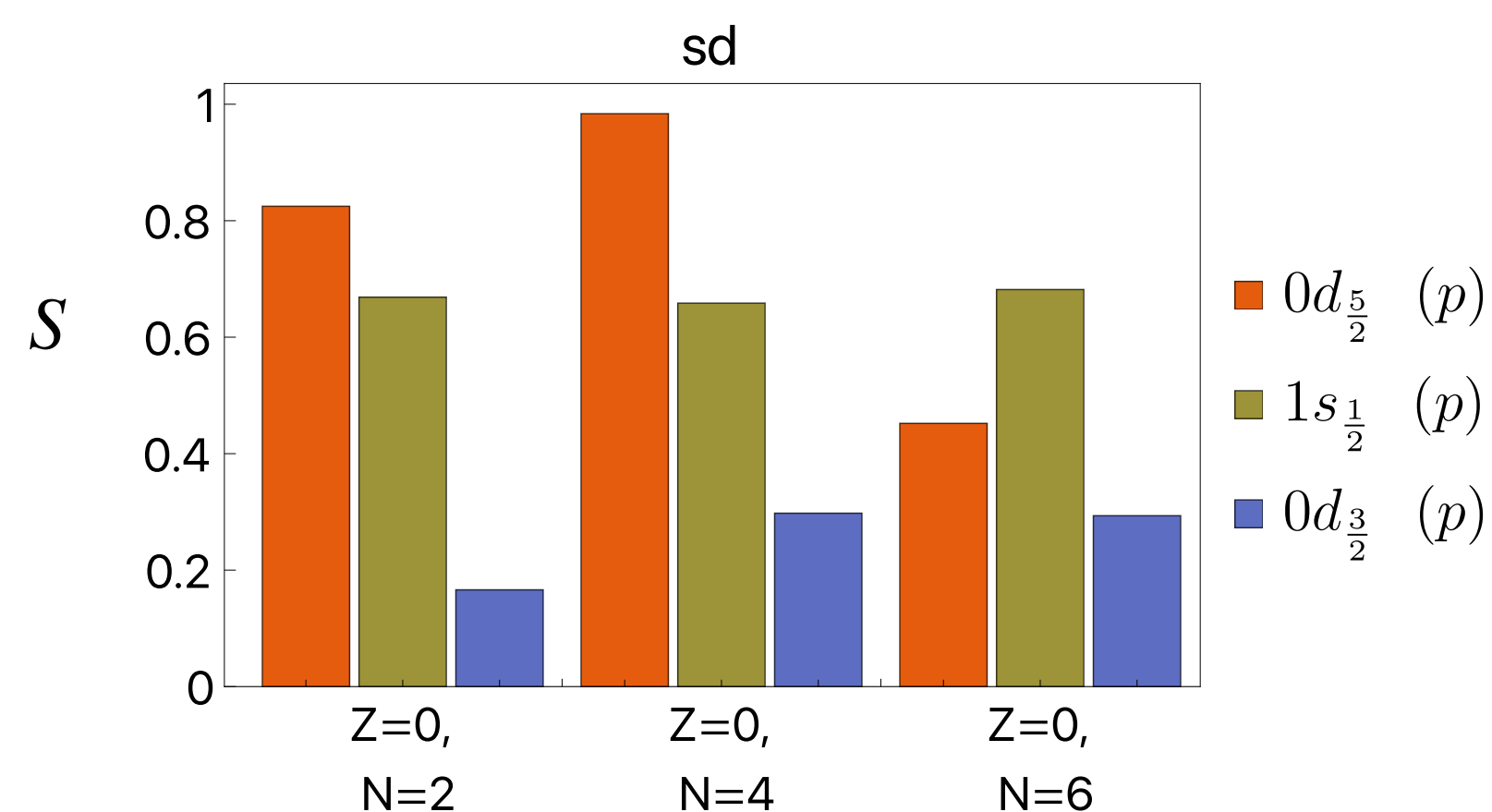
# (orbital) entanglement entropies

$$S_A = -\text{Tr}(\rho_A \log_2 \rho_A)$$

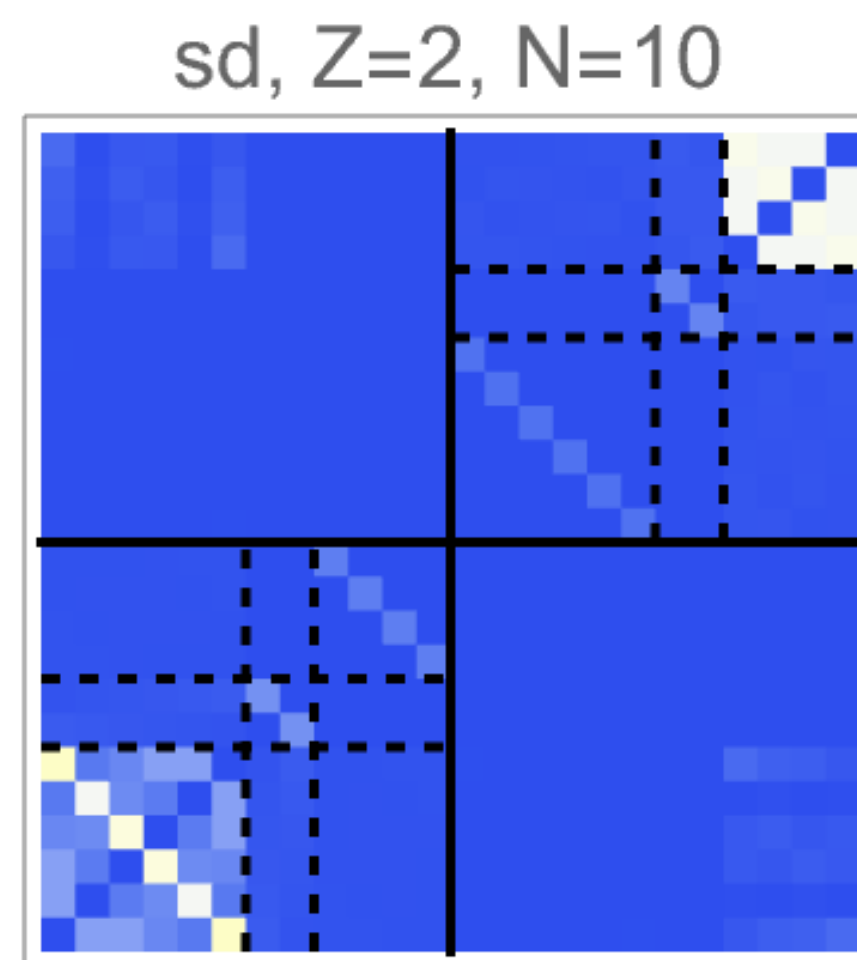


$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B(\rho)$$

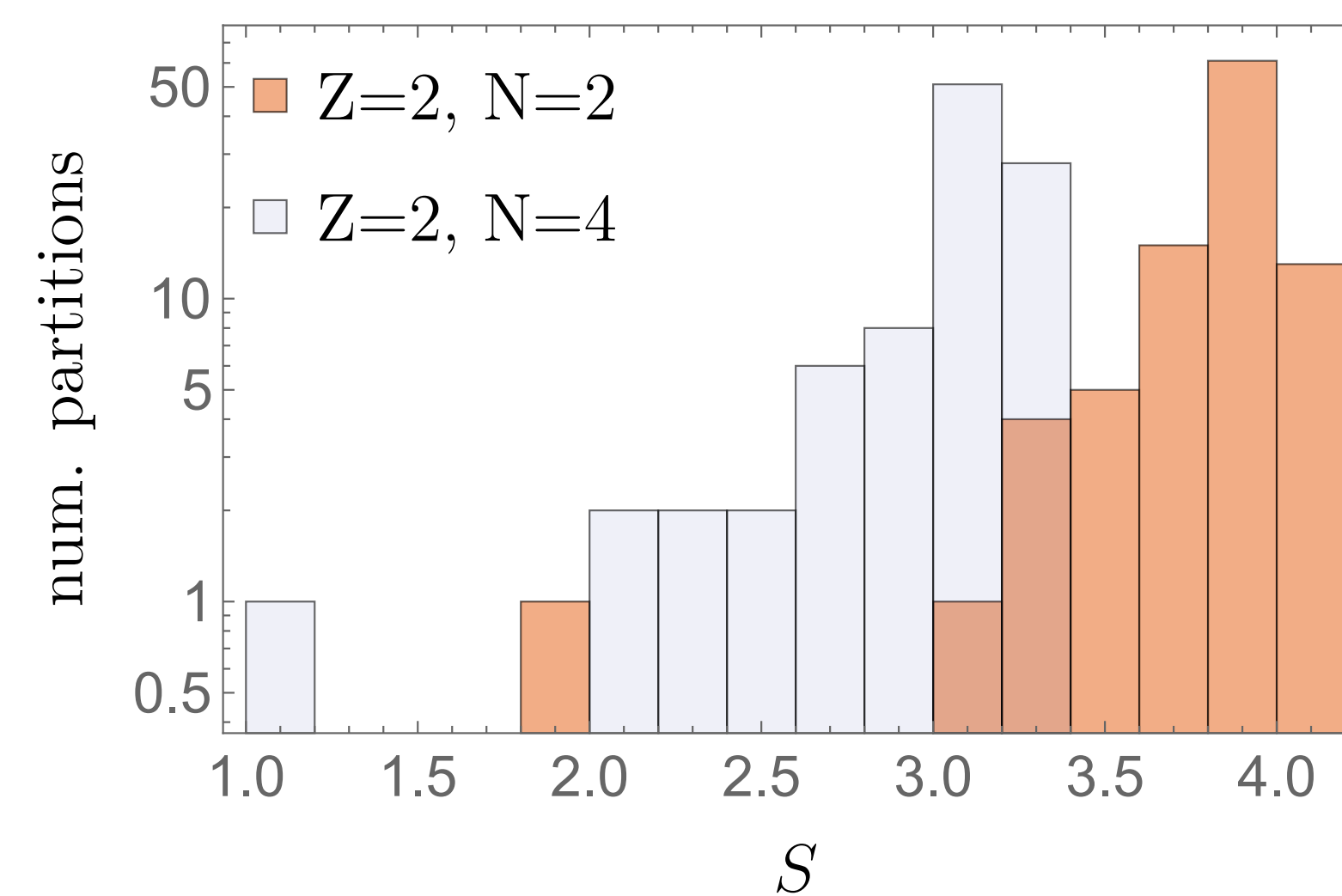
orbital-nucleus



2-orbital  $S_i + S_j - S_{ij}$

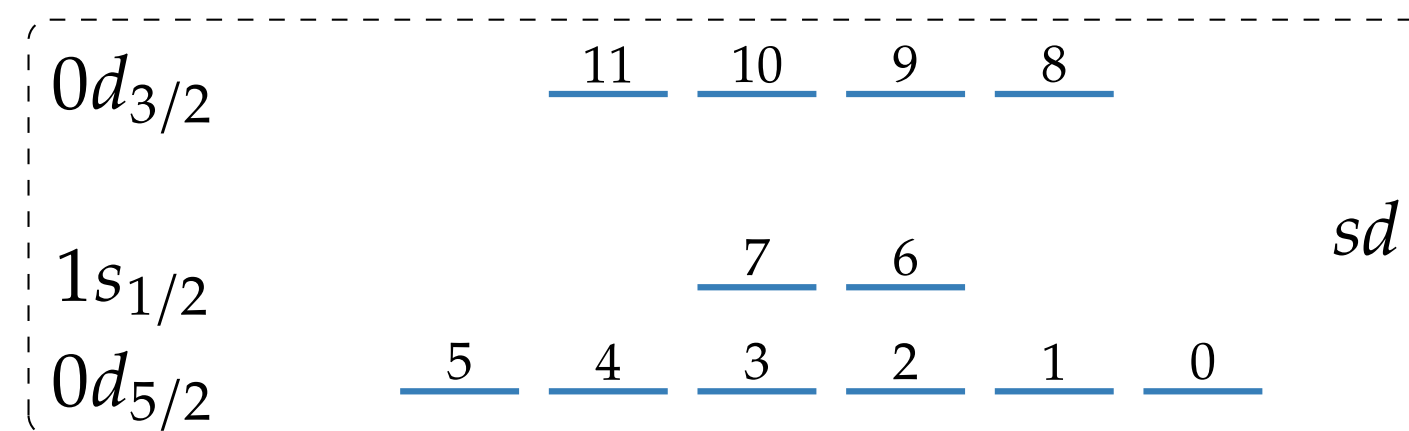


equipartitions



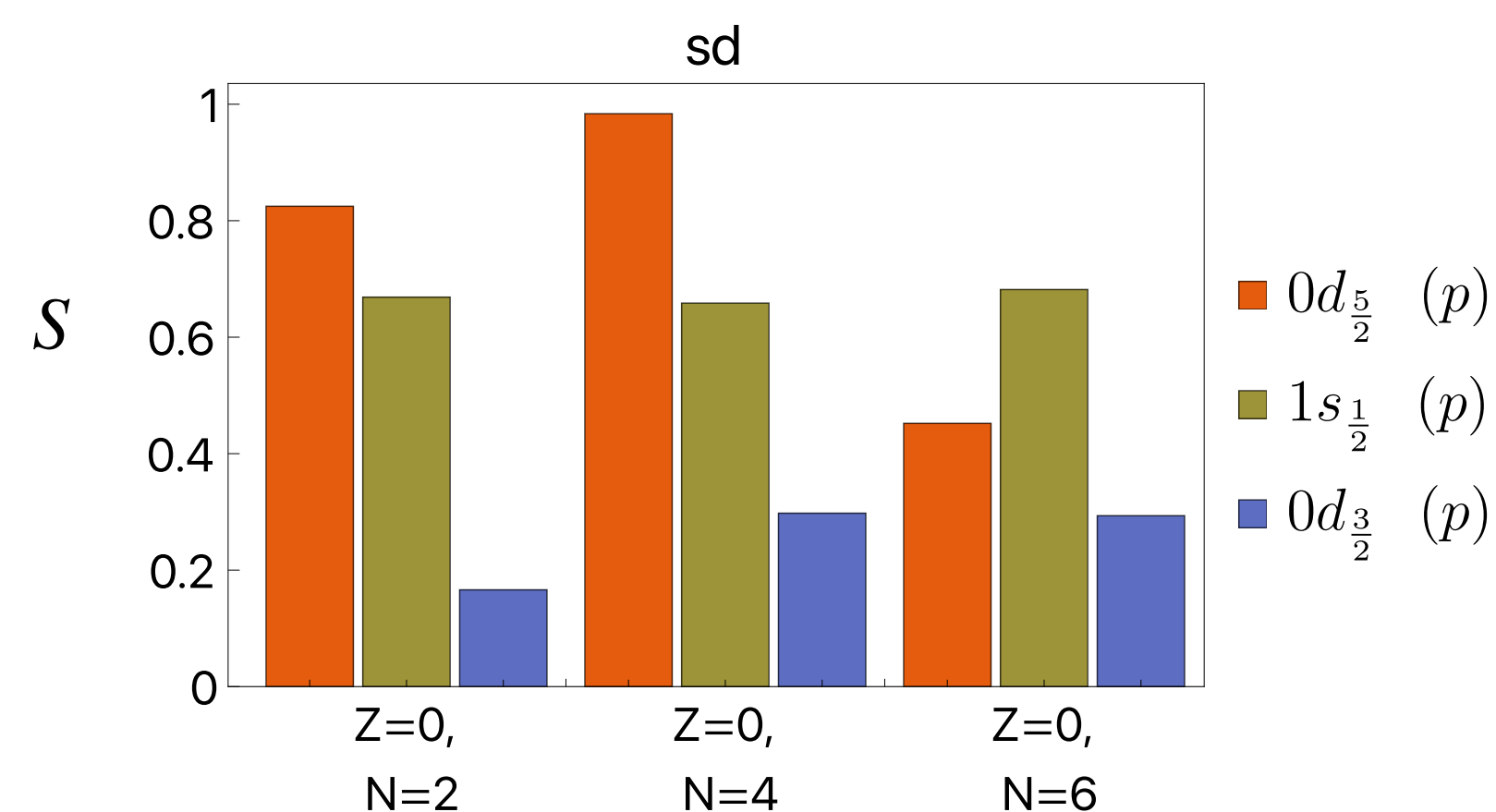
# (orbital) entanglement entropies

$$S_A = -\rho_A \log_2(\rho_A)$$

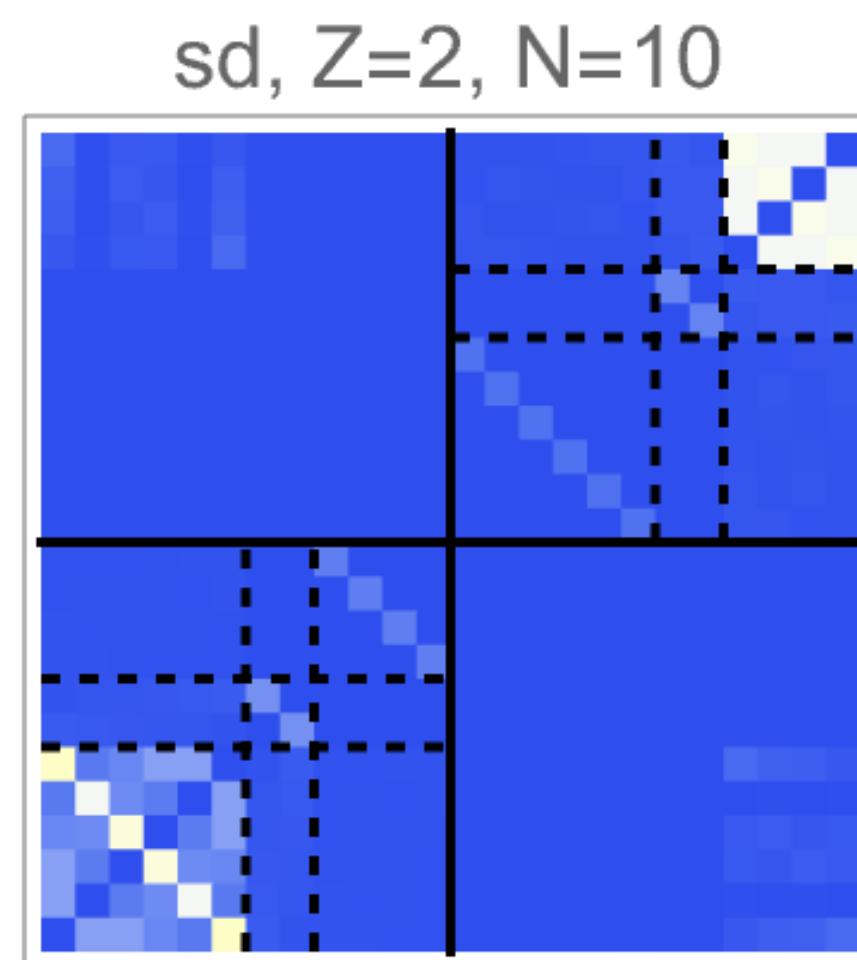


$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B(\rho)$$

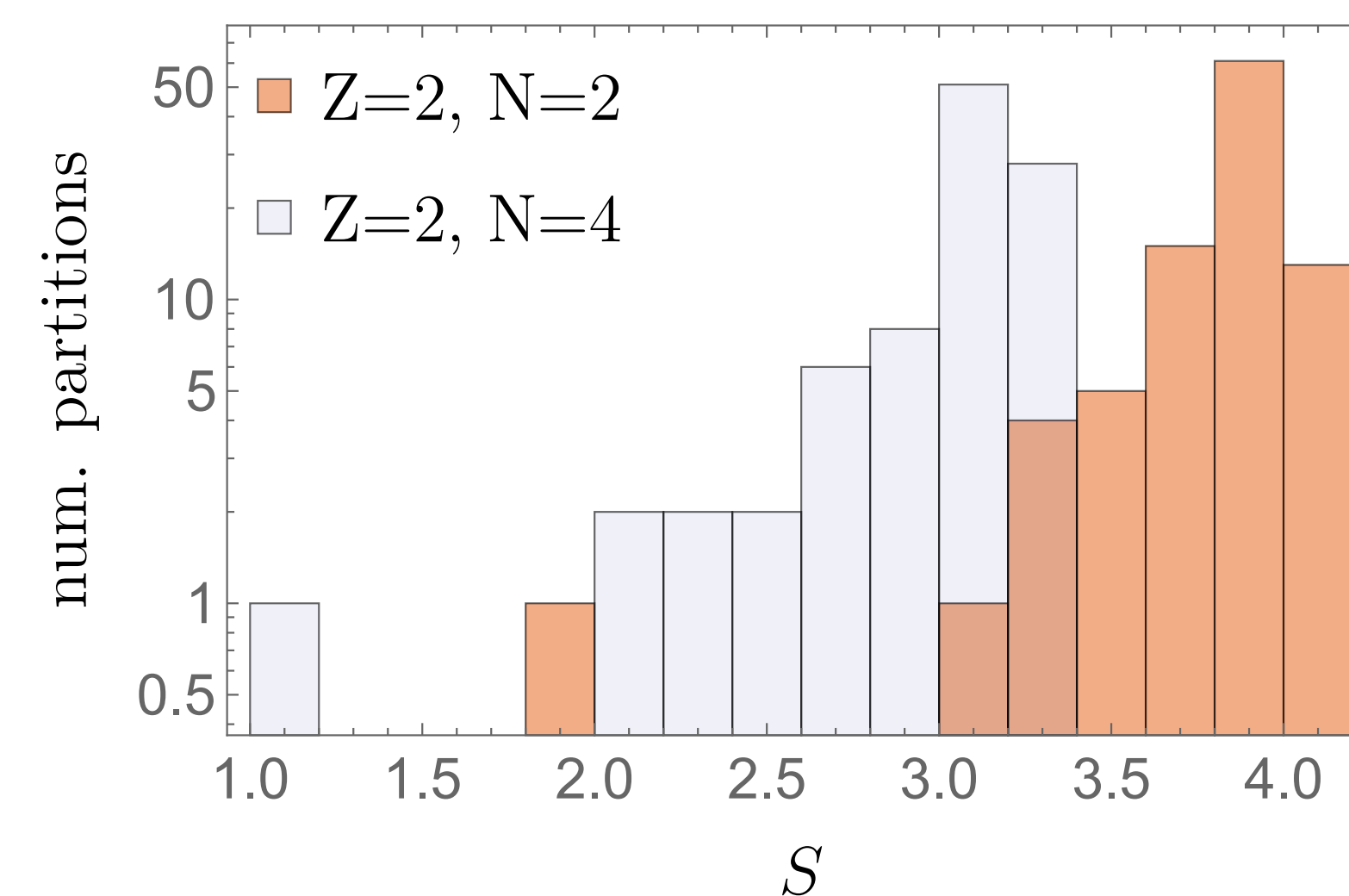
**orbital-nucleus**



**2-orbital  $S_i + S_j - S_{ij}$**



**equipartitions**



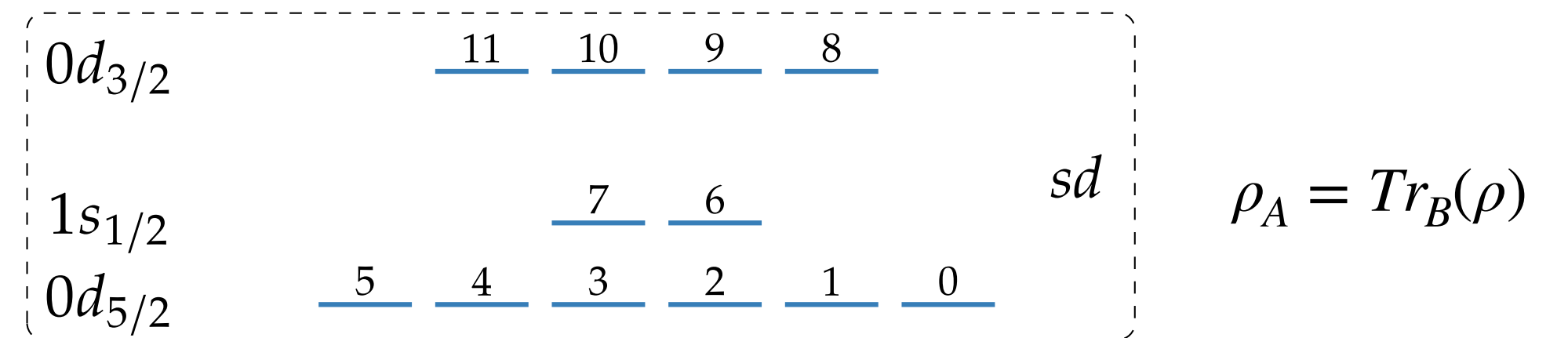
1. Well reproduced with adapt-vqe

2. Shell structure strongly affects entanglement

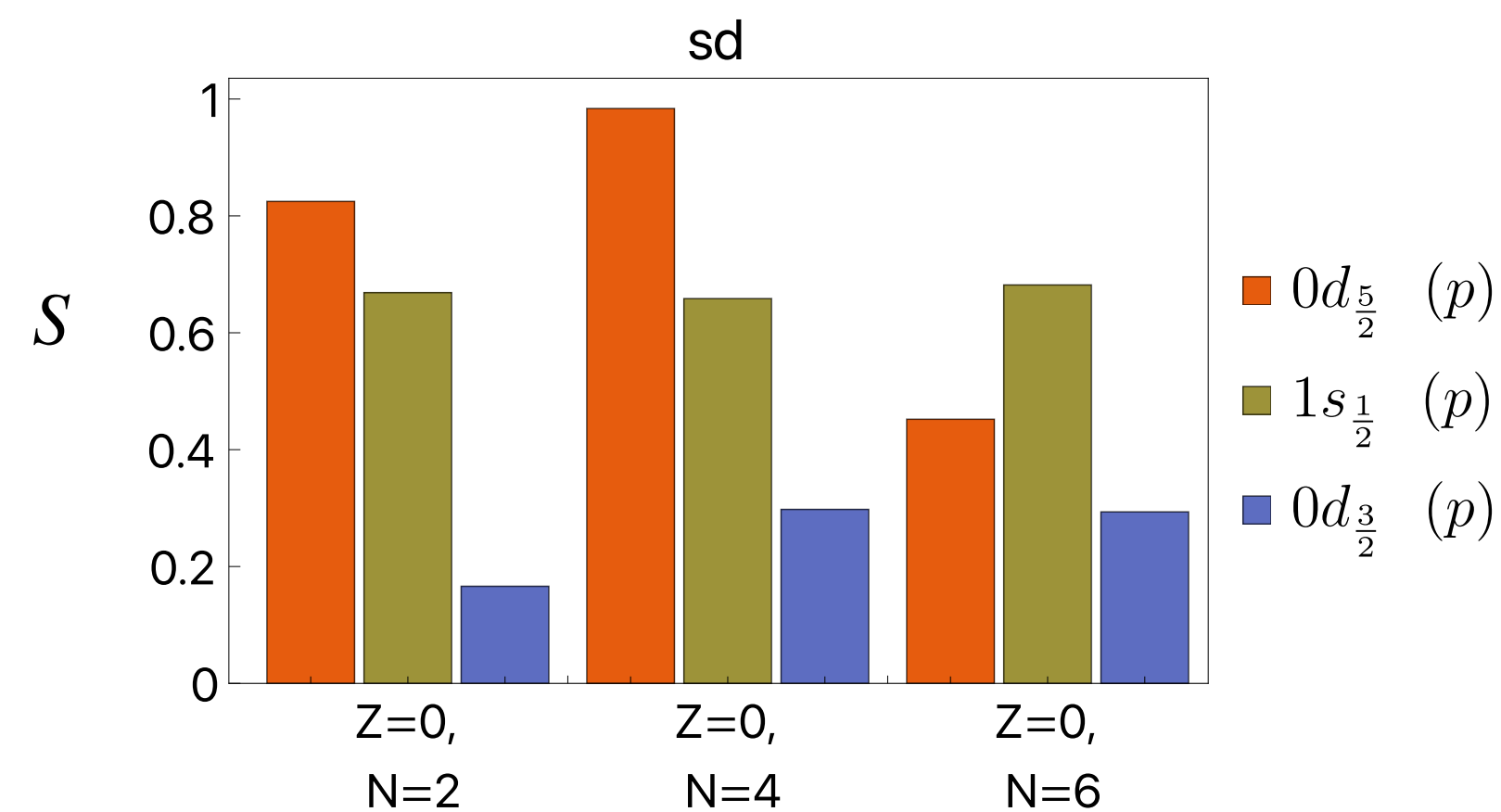
3. protons and neutrons lowly entangled

# (orbital) entanglement entropies

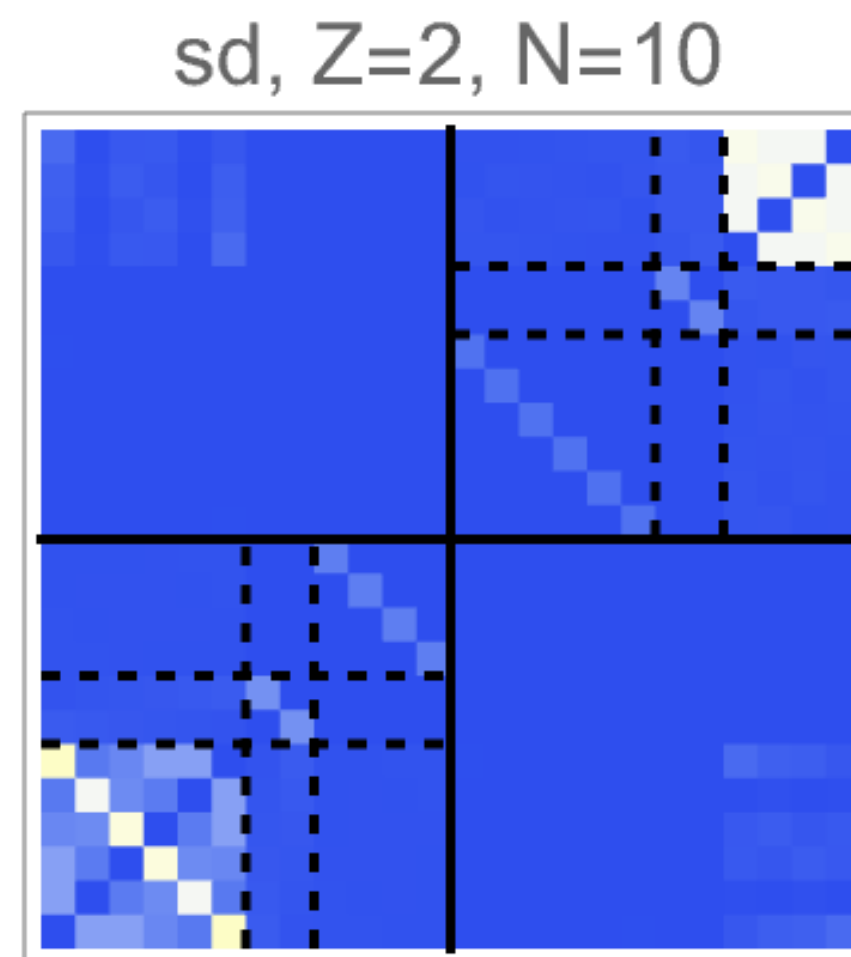
$$S_A = -\rho_A \log_2(\rho_A)$$



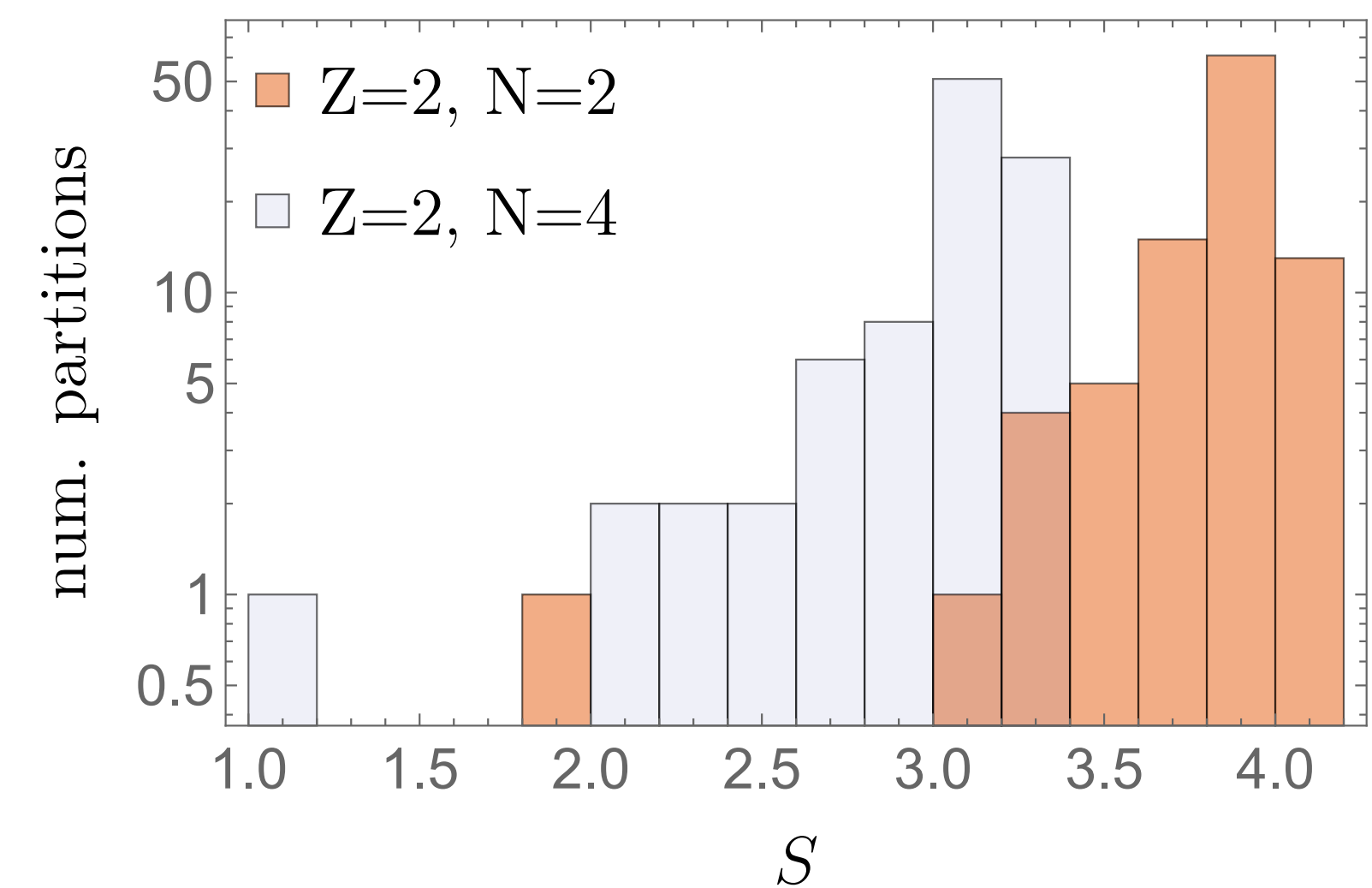
orbital-nucleus



2-orbital  $S_i + S_j - S_{ij}$



equipartitions



1. Well reproduced with adapt-vqe

2. Shell structure strongly affects entanglement

3. protons and neutrons lowly entangled

# Conclusions

1. Atomic nuclei are good candidates for (digital) quantum simulation:
  - ➔ Naturally quantized in shells & orbitals —> easily mapped to qubits
  - ➔ Can start with light nuclei and gradually increase to heavier ones

# Conclusions

1. Atomic nuclei are good candidates for (digital) quantum simulation:
  - ➔ Naturally quantized in shells & orbitals —> easily mapped to qubits
  - ➔ Can start with light nuclei and gradually increase to heavier ones
2. ADAPT-VQE works well to simulate nuclear ground states
  - ➔ Polynomial scaling with the size of the nuclear shell
  - ➔ No barren plateaus!
  - ➔ Adapts well to quantum hardware
  - ➔ Fidelity and entropies well reproduced

# Conclusions

1. Atomic nuclei are good candidates for (digital) quantum simulation:

- ➔ Naturally quantized in shells & orbitals —> easily mapped to qubits
- ➔ Can start with light nuclei and gradually increase to heavier ones

2. ADAPT-VQE works well to simulate nuclear ground states

- ➔ Polynomial scaling with the size of the nuclear shell
- ➔ No barren plateaus!
- ➔ Adapts well to quantum hardware
- ➔ Fidelity and entropies well reproduced

[preprint at:](#)

**arXiv:2302.03641**

[other recent work:](#)

**quantum simulation for graphene  
PRA 106, 052408 (2022)**

[check Maria Cea's poster](#)

**ultracold gases in digital QC**