



Quantum complexity and generalized area law in fully connected models

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Recent Developments and Challenges in Tensor Networks:
Algorithms, Applications to science, and Rigorous theories

Joint Work with Donghoon Kim (RIKEN RQC)

arXiv:2411.02140, Presented in QIP'25

Main message

1: Area law holds without geometric structures

2: The Local Hamiltonian Problem (LHP) conjecture is (almost) true for fully connected models

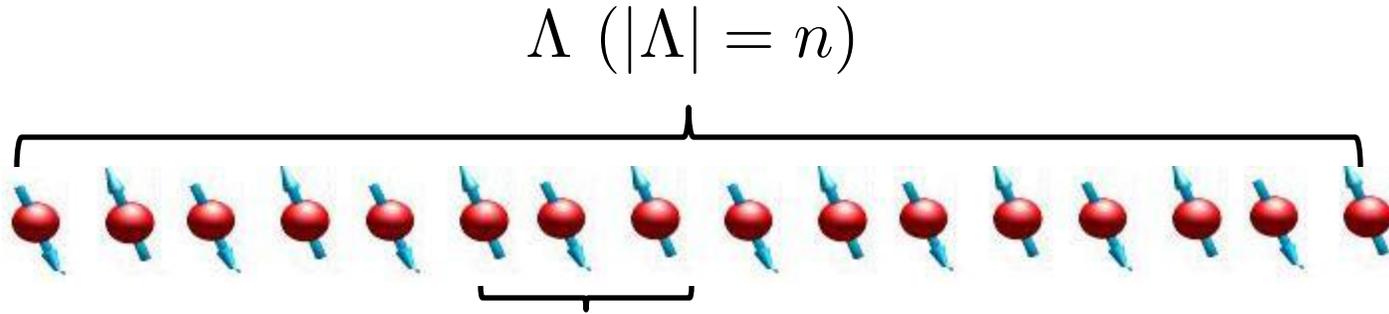
Introduction and Motivation

- ★ Area law conjecture (c.f. Itai's talk on 29th Jul.)
- ★ Generalized area law on infinite dimensional graph

Local Hamiltonian Problem (LHP)

- k-Local Hamiltonian involves at most k-body interactions

$$H = \sum_{Z \subset \Lambda: |Z| \leq k} h_Z$$



- Can we solve the eigenproblem of H ?

- n spin system: $2^n \times 2^n$ matrix

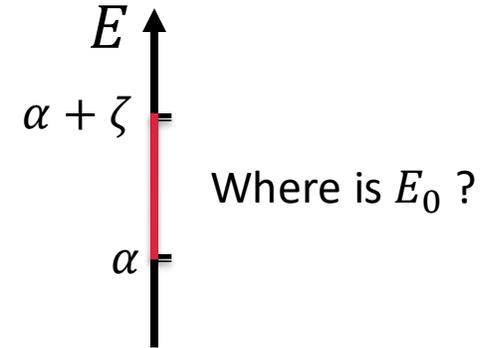
➔ Usually difficult to solve even for very simple model!
 (e.g., Haldane conjecture, PRL, 1983)

Local Hamiltonian Problem (LHP)

Problem

Given a local Hamiltonian H , decide if $E_0 \in [\alpha, \alpha + \zeta]$

E_0 : minimum eigenvalue of H



Thm (Kitaev '99) The local Hamiltonian problem is QMA-complete for $\zeta = 1/\text{poly}(n)$
(analogue Cook-Levin thm)

QMA is the quantum analogue of NP, where the proof and the computation are quantum.

$$H = \sum_{Z \subset \Lambda: |Z| \leq k} h_Z$$

A (bold) conjecture on local Hamiltonian Problem

When the ground state is gapped, the complexity class of LHP is as easy as the classical cases:

→ The 1D case is in P

→ The 2D, 3D, ... cases are in NP

★ Gapped: $\Delta = E_1 - E_0 = \Omega(1)$

★ Gapped cases correspond to non-critical cases

→ determines the quantum phase of matter

E_0 : minimum eigenvalue of H

E_1 : the second minimum eigenvalue of H

A (bold) conjecture on local Hamiltonian Problem

When the ground state is gapped, the complexity class of LHP is as easy as the classical cases:

→ The 1D case is in P

→ The 2D, 3D, ... cases are in NP

★ Classical simulation (computation) of a given ground state

★ In 1D this has been proved by Landau, Vazirani & Vidick

Z. Landau, U. Vazirani and T. Vidick, Nature Physics, 11, 566–569 (2015)

★ In higher D, the problem is wide open.

→ Entanglement of the ground state is the key

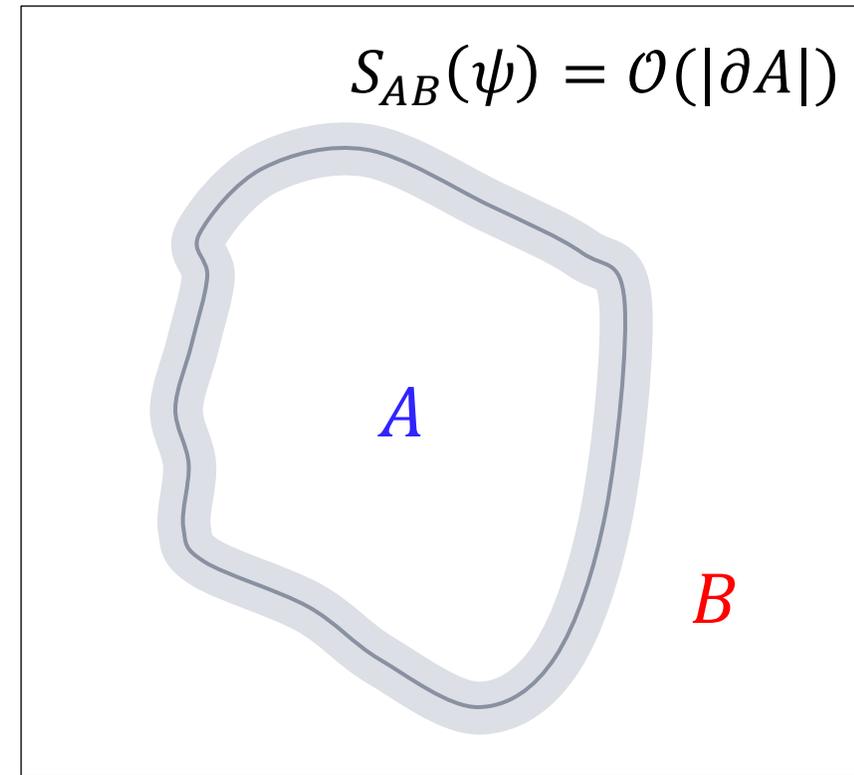
Entanglement Area Law

“How much entanglement between A and B?”
Less entanglement means easier to simulate.

$$|\psi\rangle = \sum_{s=1}^{2^n} \lambda_s |\psi_{A,s}\rangle \otimes |\psi_{B,s}\rangle$$

$$S_{AB}(\psi) = - \sum_{s=1}^{2^n} \lambda_s^2 \log(\lambda_s^2) \leq \text{const.} |\partial A|$$

Area law means the entanglement is proportional to the
boundary of A



➔ (Area Law in 1D) $S_{AB}(\psi) \leq \text{const.}$

Area Law Conjecture

When the ground state $|\Omega\rangle$ is gapped, the area law holds in arbitrary quantum many-body systems, $S_{AB}(\Omega) = \mathcal{O}(|\partial A|)$

★ Gapped: $\Delta = E_1 - E_0 = \mathcal{O}(1)$

E_0 : minimum eigenvalue of H

E_1 : the second minimum eigenvalue of H

★ Proved only in 1D systems (short-range, long-range, bosonic interactions)

M. B. Hastings, J. Stat. Mech. (2007) P08024.

F. Brandao and M. Horodecki, Nat. Phys **9** (2013), 721

T. Kuwahara and K. Saito, Nat. Commun. **11**, 4478 (2020), [Kim-Kuwahara](#), arXiv:2411.02157

★ In 2D-, even the proof of sub-volume law is not known



Conditional proofs:

L. Masanes, Phys. Rev. A **80**, 052104 (2009).

K. Van Acoleyen, M. Mariën, and F. Verstraete, Phys. Rev. Lett. **111**, 170501 (2013).

A. Anshu, I. Arad, and D. Gosset, STOC 2022

Area Law Conjecture

When the ground state $|\Omega\rangle$ is gapped, the area law holds in arbitrary quantum many-body systems, $S_{AB}(\Omega) = \mathcal{O}(|\partial A|)$

★ Gapped: $\Delta = E_1 - E_0 = \mathcal{O}(1)$

E_0 : minimum energy

E_1 : the second energy level

In this talk, I assume non-degeneracy

★ Proved only in 1D systems (short-range, long-range)

Degenerate cases were treated in

Arad et al., Commun. Math. Phys. 356 (1), 65-105 (2017)

Arad et al., arXiv:2310.19028

M. B. Hastings, J. Stat. Mech. (2007) P08024.

F. Brandao and M. Horodecki, Nat. Phys 9 (2013), 721

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Why Area Law is important?

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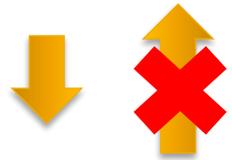
- When the ground state is efficiently described by tensor network,
Efficient classical description of quantum state

 - The ground state satisfies the area law
Necessary condition !
 - Breakdown of Area law
→ all the algorithms and the classifications based on tensor network breakdown!
-  Area law is a cornerstone in modern physics

Why Area Law is important?

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- When the ground state is efficiently described by tensor network,



Area law is not the sufficient condition

Y. Ge, J. Eisert, New J. Phys. **18**, 083026 (2016)

Efficient classical description
of quantum state

- The ground state satisfies the area law

Necessary condition !

- Breakdown of Area law

→ all the algorithms and the classifications based on tensor network break down!

→ Area law is a cornerstone in modern physics

Generalized Area Law

- More general setup: 4-body systems ($A_0 a \leftrightarrow b B_0$)

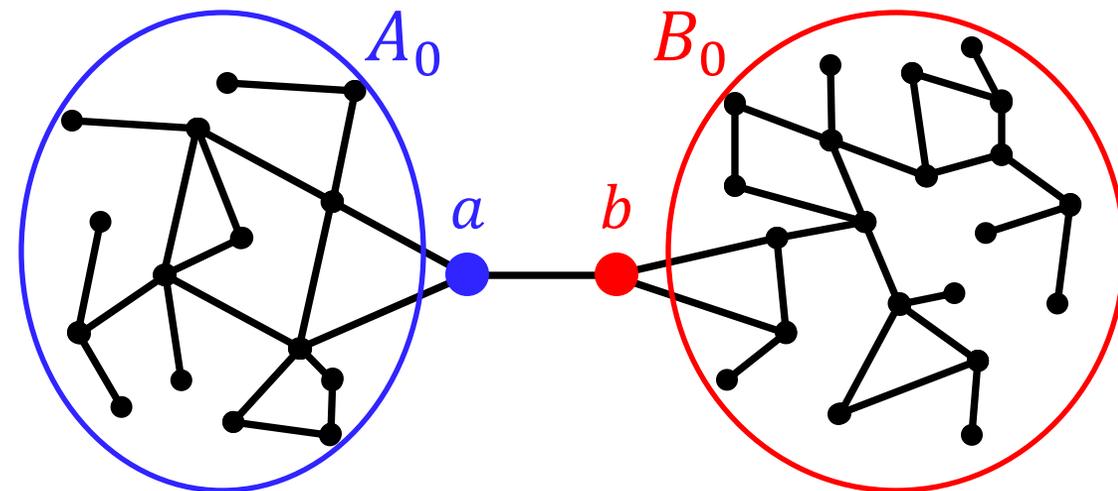
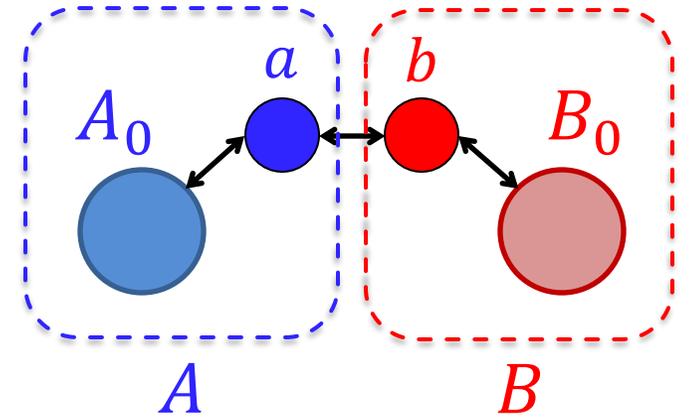
$$S_{AB}(\Omega) \stackrel{?}{\propto} \log[\min(d_a, d_b)]$$

True for

Thermal area law M. Wolf et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **100**, 070502

Dynamical area law (SIE thm.)

K. Van Acoleyen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **111**, 170501 (2013).



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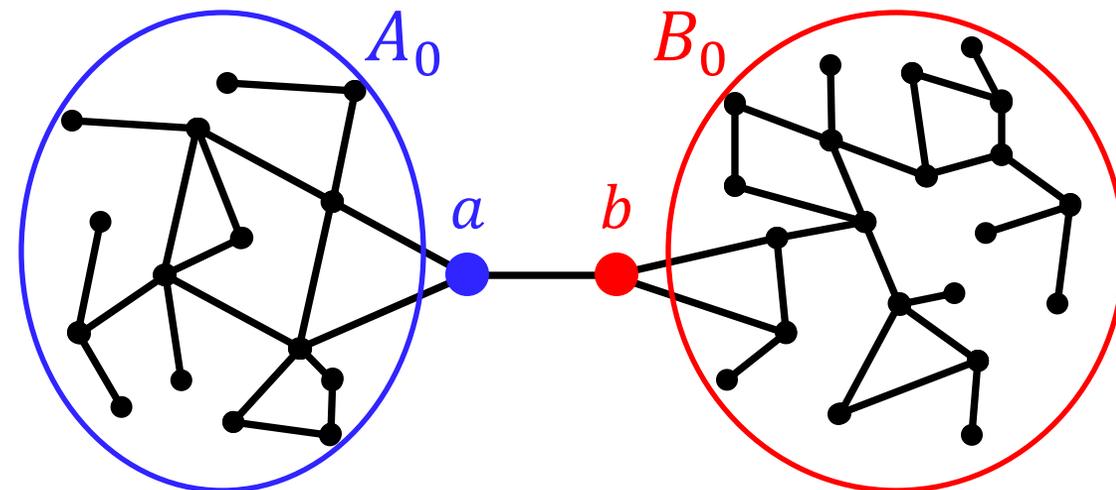
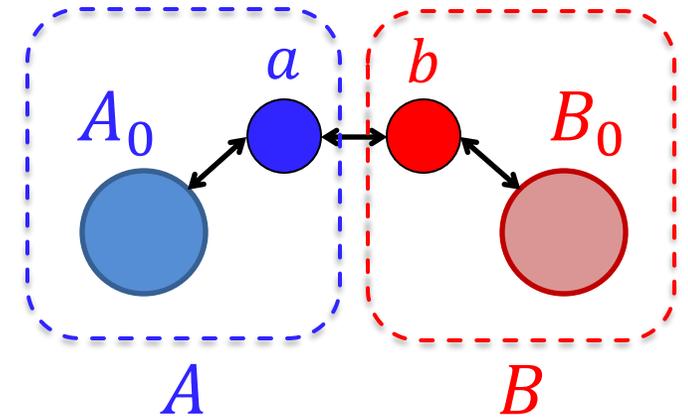
Dynamical area law (SIE thm.)

K. Van Acoleyen et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. **111**, 170501 (2013).

Not True for

Ground-state area law

D. Aharonov, et al., FOCS (2014) pp. 246-255



Fully connected graph

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- Fully connected graph (all-to-all interactions)

(Sherrington-Kirkpatrick model, Lipkin-Meshkov-Glick model, Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev model, etc.)

➔ Quantum computing

W. Lechner, P. Hauke, and P. Zoller, *Science Advances* **1**, e1500838 (2015).

M. Vidal, J. J. Wesdorp, C. K. Andersen, *PRX Quantum* **6**, 010308 (2025)

Quantum chemistry

Y. Cao, et al., *Chem. Rev.* **119**, 10856 (2019).

- Product state well approximates ground energy
(up to $\min[\sqrt{n/\Delta}, n^{2/3}]$ error)

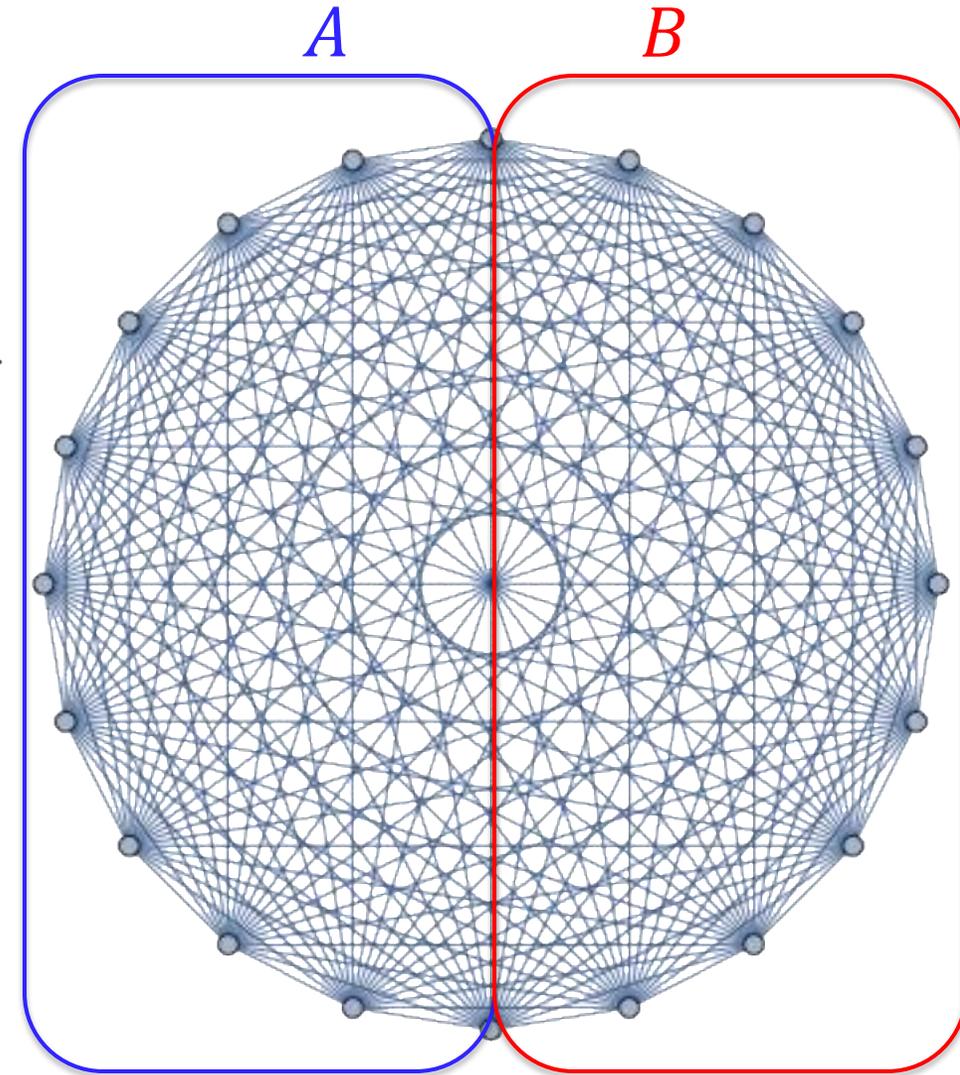
Brandao-Harrow, STOC' 13

Kuwahara et al., *Quantum Sci. Technol.* **2**, 015005 (2017).

- Classical simulation

Bravyi et al., *Nature Physics* **18**, 1367 (2022).

J Tindall et al., *Nature Communications* **13** (1), 7445 (2022)

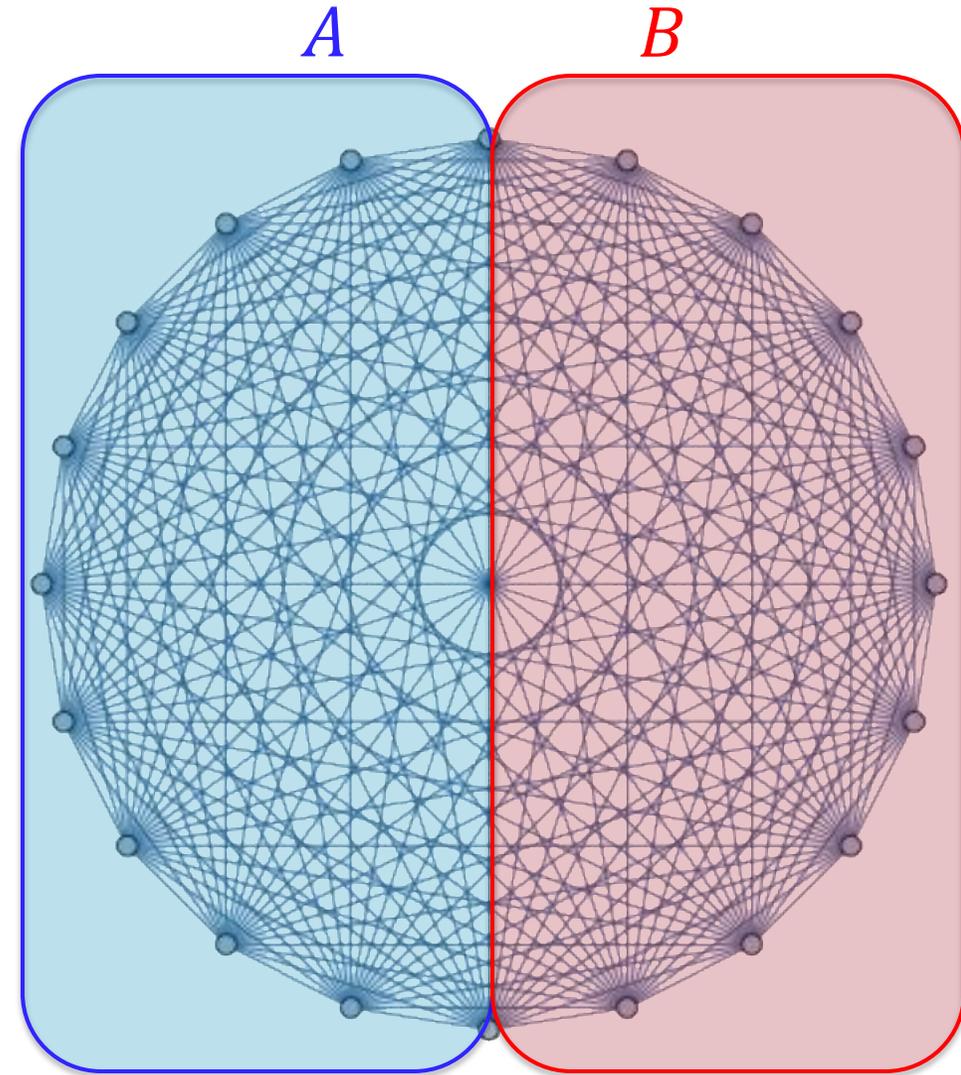


Generalized area law in fully connected graph

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- No Boundary?

All the qudits in A interact with all the qudits in B



Generalized area law in fully connected graph

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- No Boundary?

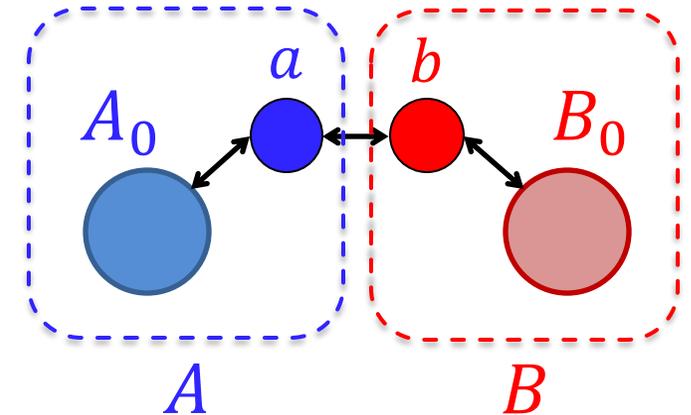
All the qudits in A interact with all the qudits in B

- Effectively mapping to constant size boundary

→ $H_{AB} = H_A + H_B + h_{AB}$

Small Schmidt rank

→ Generalized area law may give $S_{AB}(\Omega) = \text{const.}$



Purpose of this work

- 1: Proving “generalized area law” in the fully connected models
- 2: Efficient classical description of gapped ground states

Setup and Main results

- ★ Fully connected model with small Schmidt ranks
- ★ Generalized area law and Matrix-Product-State approximation

Set up: fully connected model

- Many-body Hamiltonian (n sites) Λ : total system

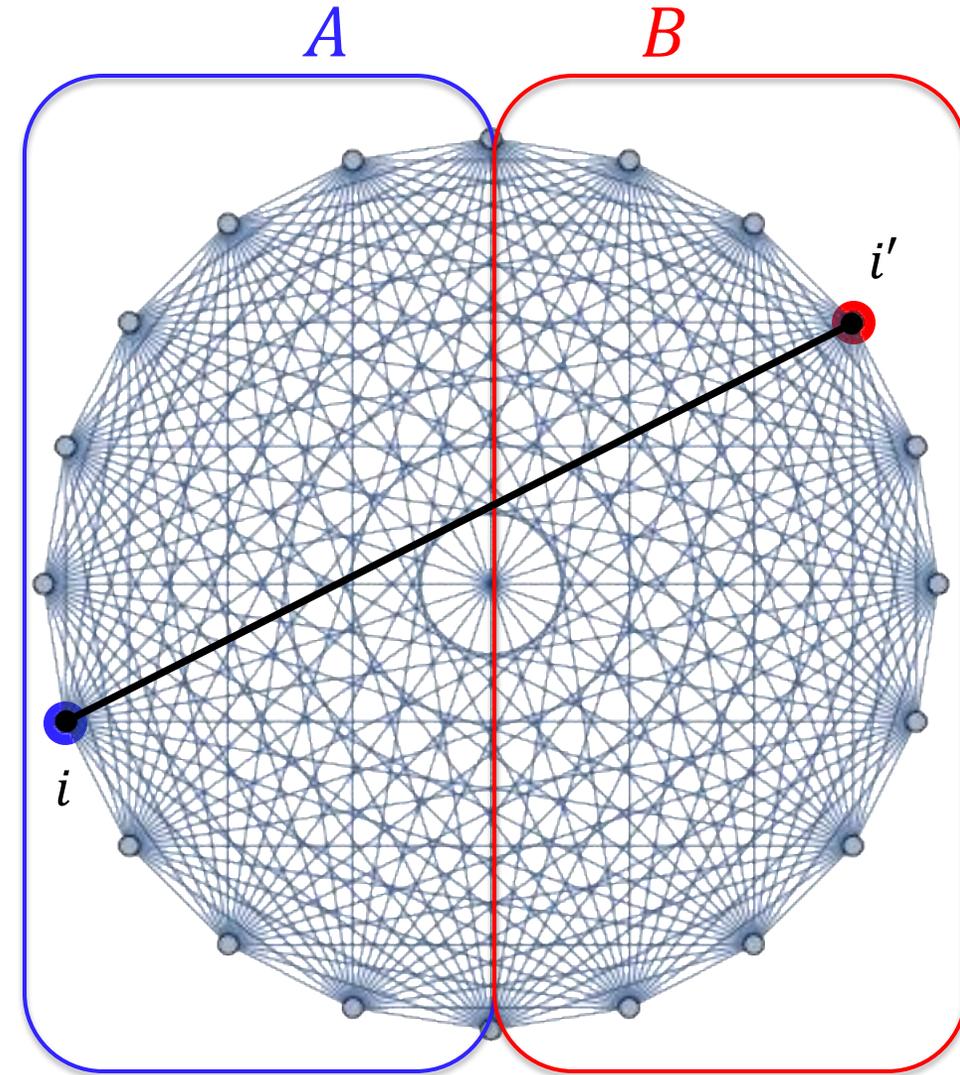
$$H = \sum_{i,i' \in \Lambda} h_{i,i'} + \sum_{i \in \Lambda} h_i,$$

➔ Generalized to arbitrary k -body interactions

- Subset-subset interaction: H_{AB}

$$H_{AB} = \sum_{i \in A} \sum_{i' \in B} h_{i,i'},$$

- Ground state: $|\Omega\rangle$, spectral gap: Δ
- Entanglement entropy: $S_{AB}(\Omega) = -\text{tr}[\rho_A \log(\rho_A)]$
 $\rho_A = \text{tr}_B(|\Omega\rangle\langle\Omega|),$



Assumption: small Schmidt rank

$$H = \sum_{i,i' \in \Lambda} h_{i,i'} + \sum_{i \in \Lambda} h_i, \quad 20$$

- Subset-subset interaction: H_{AB}

$$H_{AB} = \sum_{i \in A} \sum_{i' \in B} h_{i,i'} = \sum_{s=1}^{d_H} \frac{J_s}{n} H_{A,s} \otimes H_{B,s}, \quad \sum_{s=1}^{d_H} |J_s| \leq \bar{g}_1$$

$H_{A,s}, H_{B,s} : 1 \text{ local}$

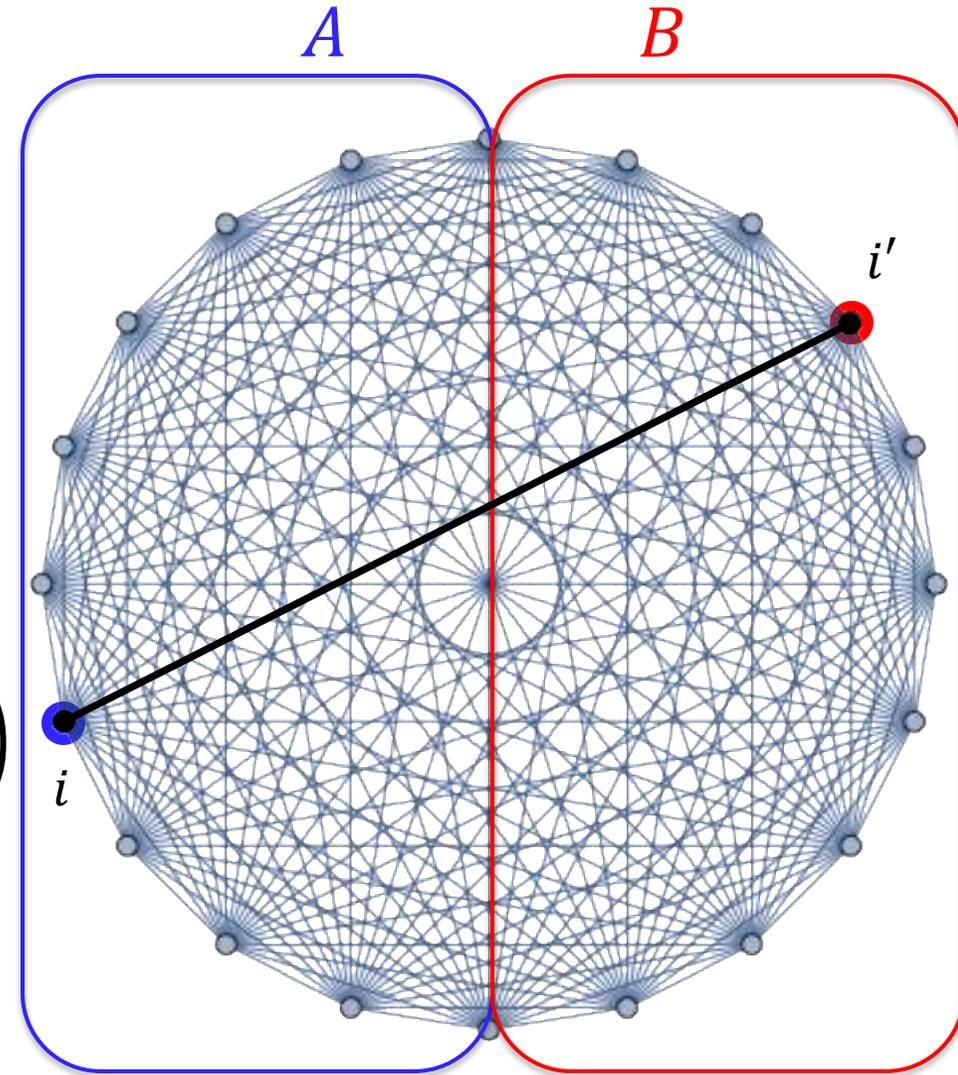
Assumption

- The coefficient $|J_s|$ should linearly decays

- E.g. LMG model, $H = \sum_{i,i' \in \Lambda} \left(\frac{J_x \sigma_{i,x} \otimes \sigma_{i',x} + J_y \sigma_{i,y} \otimes \sigma_{i',y}}{n} \right)$

$$H_{AB} = \frac{J_x}{n} \sum_{i \in A} \sigma_{i,x} \otimes \sum_{i' \in B} \sigma_{i',x} + \frac{J_y}{n} \sum_{i \in A} \sigma_{i,y} \otimes \sum_{i' \in B} \sigma_{i',y}$$

→ $d_H = 2, \bar{g}_1 = J_x + J_y$



Assumption: small Schmidt rank

$$H = \sum_{i,i' \in \Lambda} h_{i,i'} + \sum_{i \in \Lambda} h_i,$$

- Subset-subset interaction: H_{AB}

$$H_{AB} = \sum_{i \in A} \sum_{i' \in B} h_{i,i'} = \sum_{s=1}^{d_H} \frac{J_s}{n} H_{A,s} \otimes H_{B,s}, \quad \sum_{s=1}^{d_H} |J_s| \leq \bar{g}_1$$

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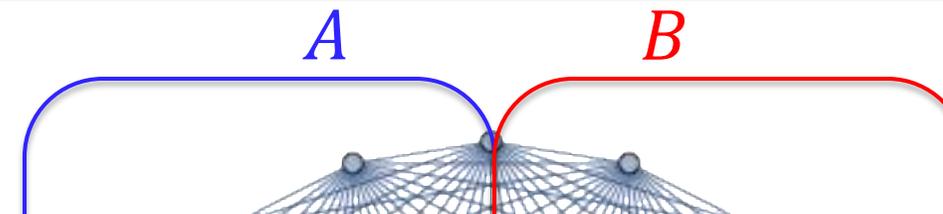
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→ $d_H = 2, \bar{g}_1 = J_x + J_y$



Note. SYK model

$$\sum_{i_1 < i_2 < i_3 < i_4} \frac{J_{i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4}}{n^{3/2}} c_{i_1} c_{i_2} c_{i_3} c_{i_4}$$

does not satisfy the condition.

But, the disorder-free case

$$\sum_{i_1 < i_2 < i_3 < i_4} \frac{J}{n^3} c_{i_1} c_{i_2} c_{i_3} c_{i_4}$$

satisfies the condition.

S. Ozaki, H. Katsura, PRR, 7, 013092 (2025)

Assumption: small Schmidt rank

$$H = \sum_{i,i' \in \Lambda} h_{i,i'} + \sum_{i \in \Lambda} h_i,$$

- Subset-subset interaction: H_{AB}

$$H_{AB} = \sum_{i \in A} \sum_{i' \in B} h_{i,i'} = \sum_{s=1}^{d_H} \frac{J_s}{n} H_{A,s} \otimes H_{B,s}, \quad \sum_{s=1}^{d_H} |J_s| \leq \bar{g}_1$$

$H_{A,s}, H_{B,s} : 1 \text{ local}$

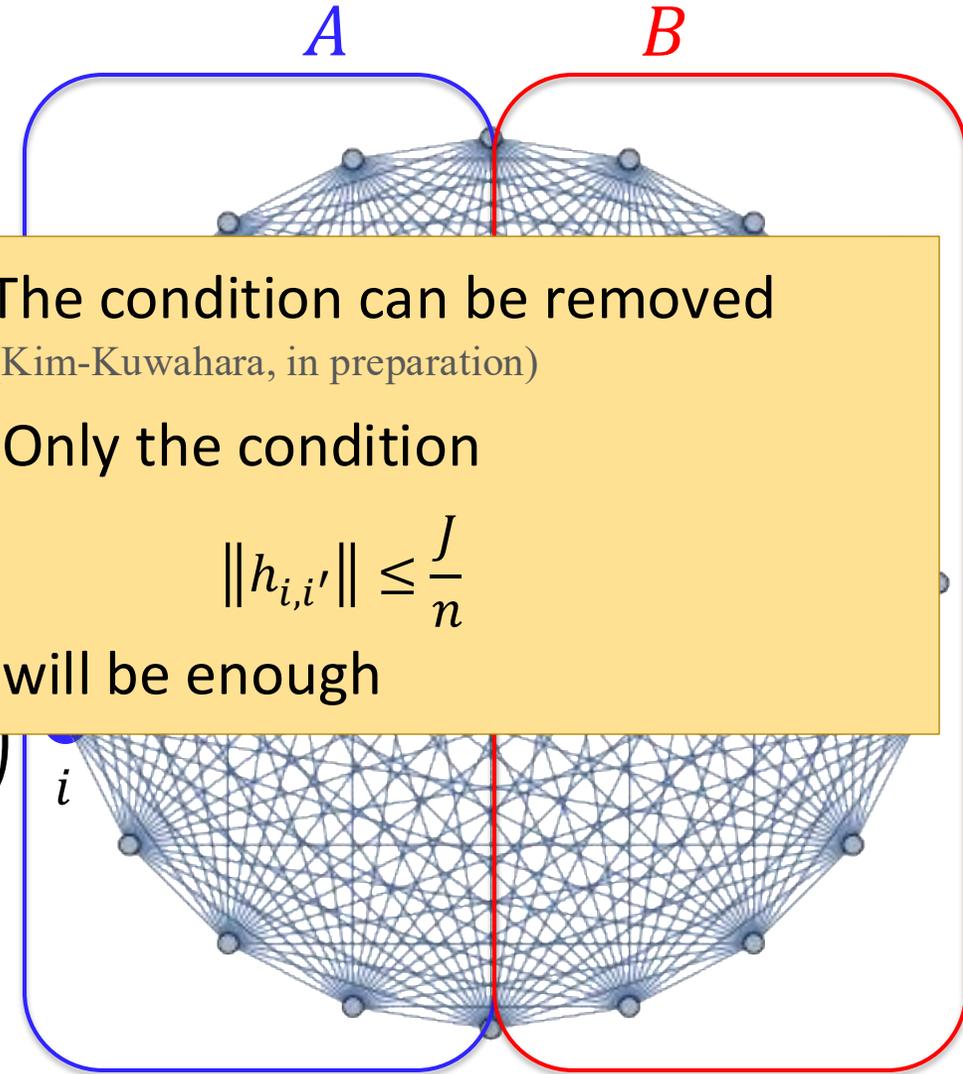
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→ $d_H = 2, \bar{g}_1 = J_x + J_y$



Main results: generalized area law

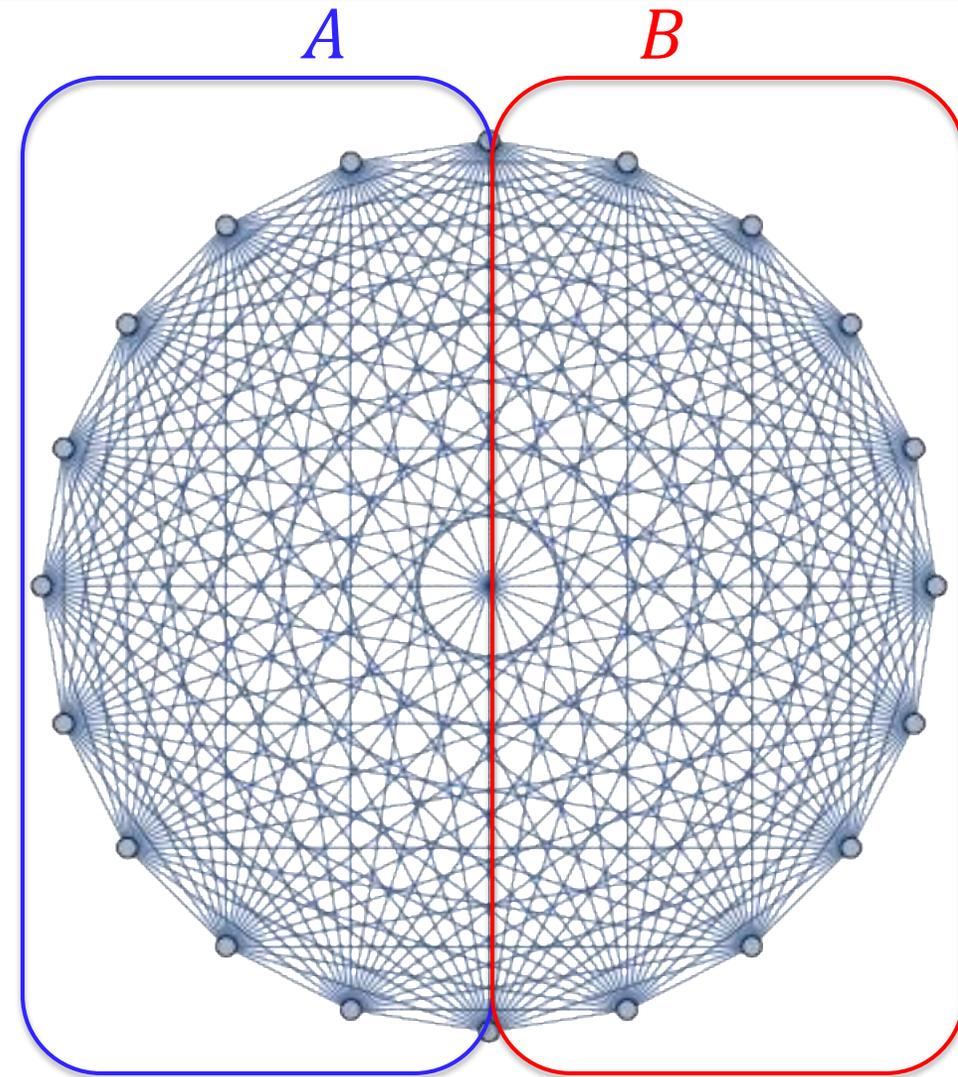
- Generalized area law up to polylog factor

$$S_{AB}(\Omega) \leq 2[\log(n)]^{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \log(f(\bar{g}_1, \Delta))} + \log(d) + 2$$

d : local Hilbert space dimension

$$\alpha_1 = 230 \log(10386ek^2), \quad \alpha_2 = 230, \quad f(\bar{g}_1, \Delta) := \max\{2, \log(324\bar{g}_1/\Delta)\}$$

- We obtain $S_{AB}(\Omega) = \text{polylog}(n)$ for $\Delta > \text{const.}$
- Optimality?
→ Several numerical results indicate a constant upper bound
- [Open Q.] What is the optimal upper bound?



Main results: Matrix Product State approximation

- For 1D arranging, we get a MPS $|\Omega_D\rangle$ such that

$$\|\mathrm{tr}_{X^c}(|\Omega\rangle\langle\Omega|) - \mathrm{tr}_{X^c}(|\Omega_D\rangle\langle\Omega_D|)\| \leq \delta|X| \quad \forall X \subseteq \Lambda$$

by choosing $D = \exp[(\log n)^c \log \log(1/\delta)]$

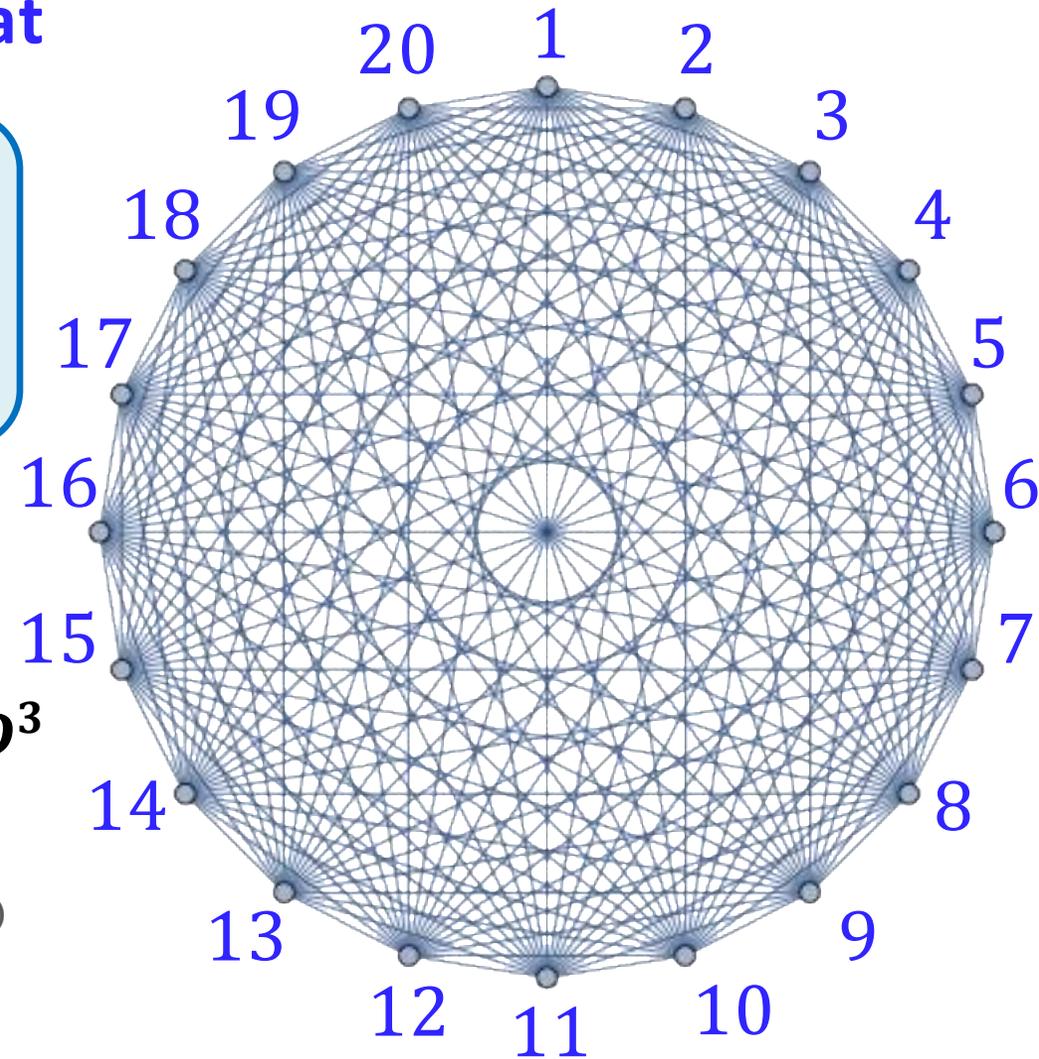
- The bond dimension is quasi-polynomial: $e^{\mathrm{polylog}(n)}$



MPS is classically simulatable by computational time nD^3

→ Theoretical justification of numerical successes

J Tindall et al., Nature Communications 13 (1), 7445 (2022)



Main results: Matrix Product State approximation ²⁵

- For 1D arranging

LHP conj.

$$\|\text{tr}_{X^c}(|\Omega\rangle\langle\Omega|) - \text{tr}_{X^c}(\rho)\|$$

by choosing $D =$

When the ground state is gapped, the complexity class of LHP is as easy as the classical cases:

- The 1D case is in P
- The 2D, 3D, ... cases are in NP

- The bond dimension



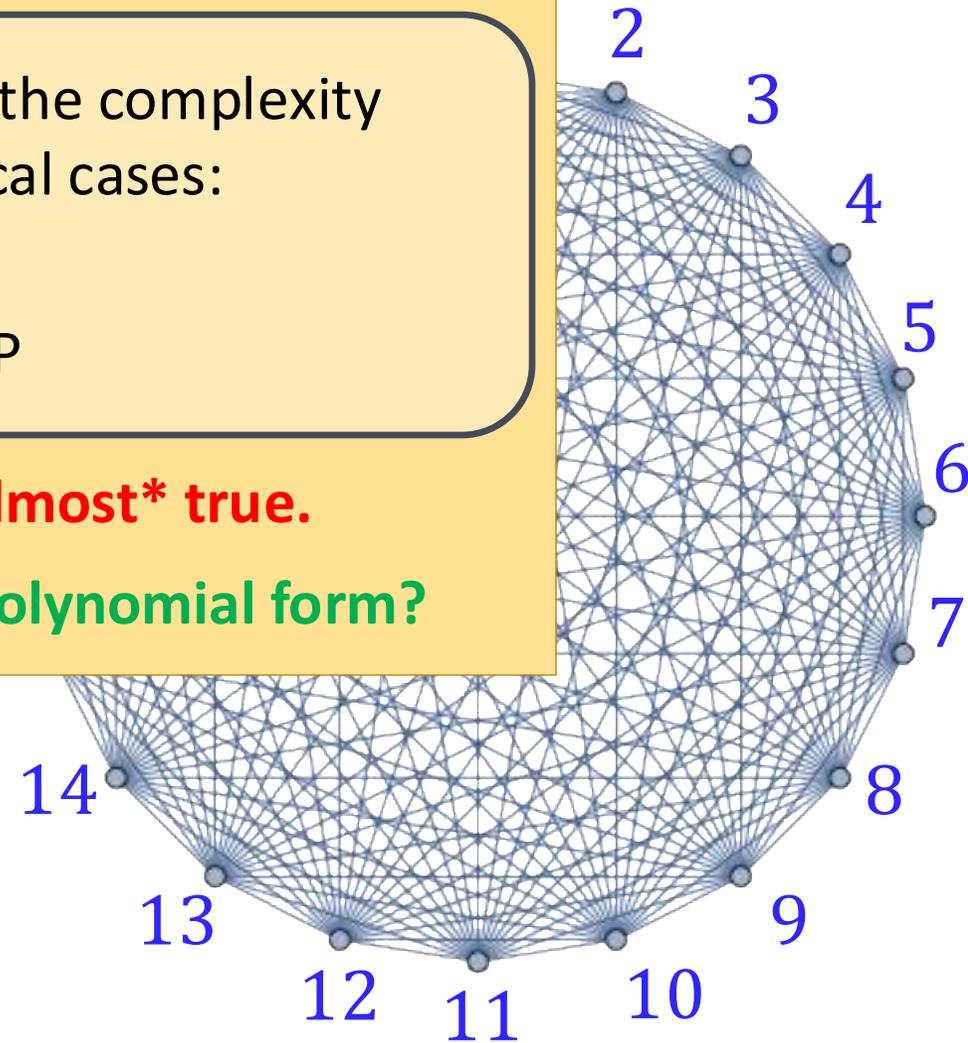
MPS is classically simulatable by computational time nD^3

→ Theoretical justification of numerical successes

LHP conj. on the dense graph is **almost** true.

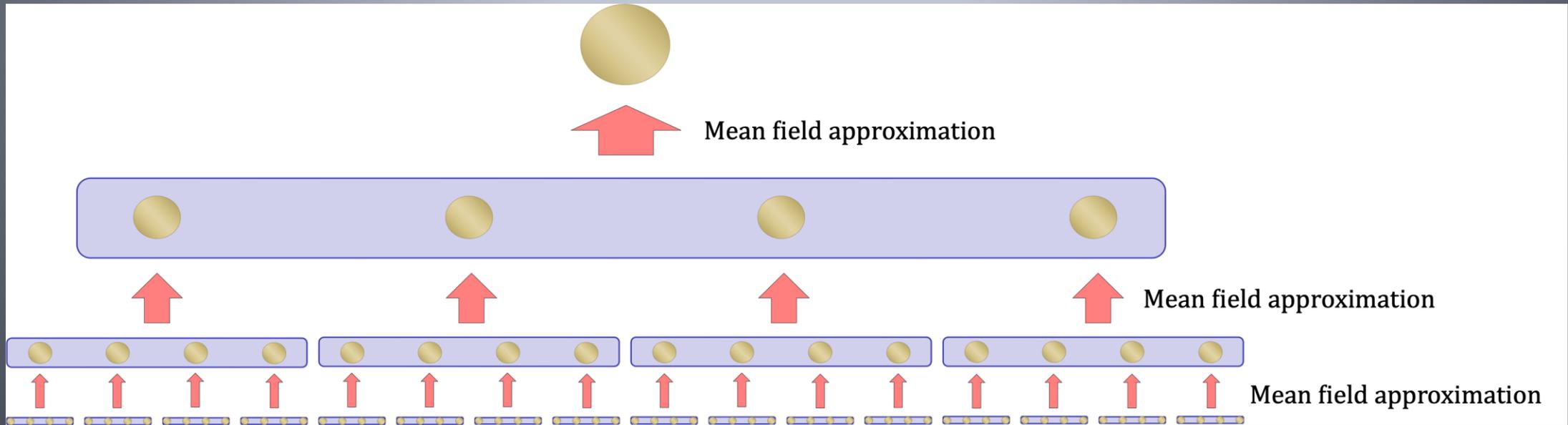
- Can we improve the result to polynomial form?

J Tindall et al., Nature Communications 13 (1), 7445 (2022)



Main Technique

Mean-field-renormalization-group (MFRG) technique



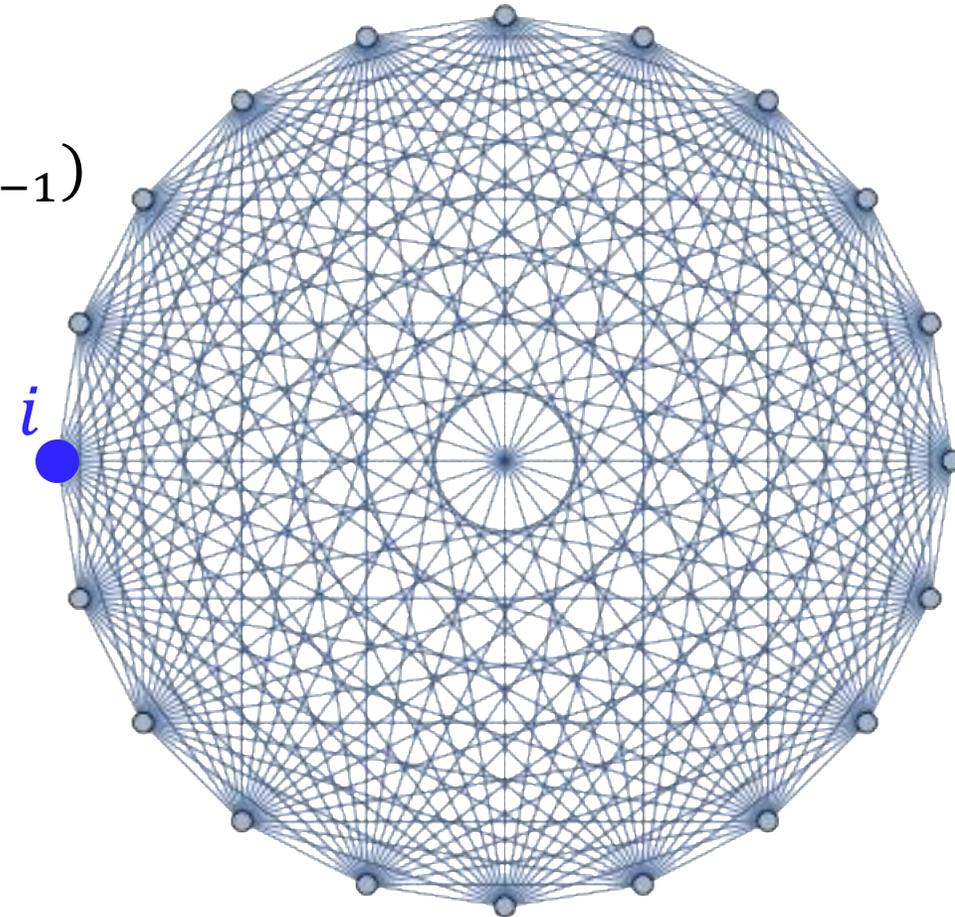
Step 1 of MFRG: mean-field approximation

- Product state approximation of the ground state $|\Omega\rangle$

[Schmidt decomposition at site i]

$$|\Omega\rangle = \sum_{s=0}^{d-1} \lambda_s |s\rangle_i \otimes |\phi_s\rangle_{\Lambda \setminus \{i\}} \quad (\lambda_0 \geq \lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_{d-1})$$

- Mean-field states: $\{|0\rangle_i\}_{i \in \Lambda}$
- Computation of the mean-field states is usually **NP-hard**

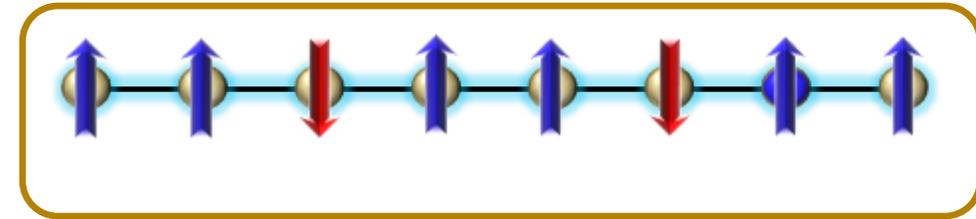


Step 2 of MFRG: truncating the block Hilbert space

- Decomposing the total system into blocks $\{L_s\}_s$

$$|L_s| = n^{1/8}$$

- Block size: $n^{1/8}$ No. of blocks: $n^{7/8}$



- The block's Hilbert space dimension = $e^{cn^{1/8}}$

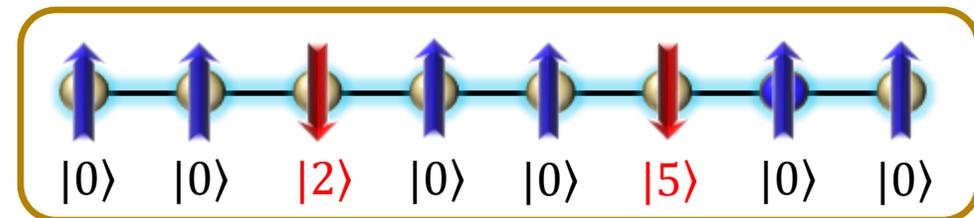
Subexponential!

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- [Renormalized bases]**

Only z sites deviate from the mean-field states

➔ *Dimension $\leq d^z n^{z/8} = \text{poly}(n)$*



Renormalized qudit

Step 3 of MFRG: constructing renormalized Hamiltonian

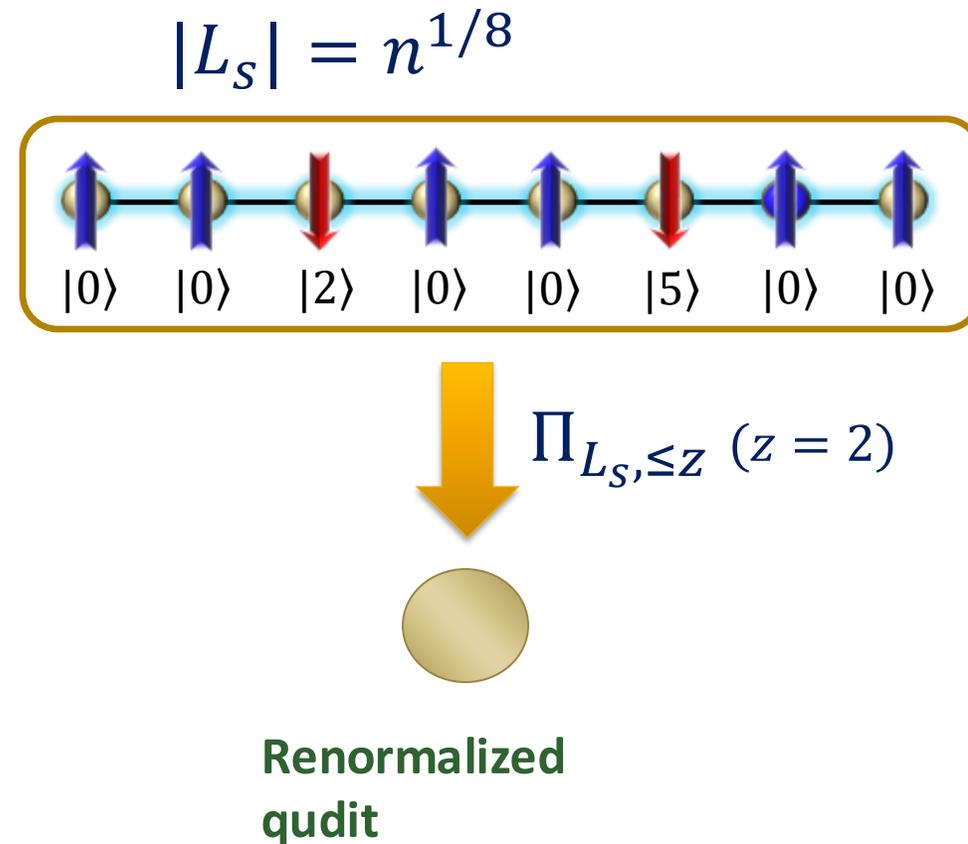
- Renormalization projection: $\Pi^{(0)} = \bigotimes_s \Pi_{L_s, \leq z}$

- Renormalized Hamiltonian

$$H^{(1)} = \sum_{i, i' \in \Lambda} \Pi^{(0)} h_{i, i'} \Pi^{(0)} + \sum_{i \in \Lambda} \Pi^{(0)} h_i \Pi^{(0)},$$

$$\rightarrow \Pi^{(0)} H_{L_s L_{s'}} \Pi^{(0)} = \sum_{i \in L_s} \sum_{i' \in L_{s'}} \Pi^{(0)} h_{i, i'} \Pi^{(0)}$$

Renormalized qudit-qudit interaction



Step 4 of MFRG: iterating the processes

- Renormalized system size: $n \rightarrow n^{7/8} \rightarrow n^{49/64} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow n^{(7/8)^{s_0}}$
(after s_0 processes)

- Renormalized qudit's dimension:

$$d \rightarrow d^z n^{z/8} \rightarrow (d^z n^{z/8})^z n^{7z/64} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow (dn)^{\mathcal{O}(z^{s_0})}$$

➔ By choosing $s_0 \propto \log \log(n)$, system size = $\mathcal{O}(1)$

➔ By choosing $z = \text{const.}$, final dimension = $(dn)^{\text{polylog}(n)}$

Desired dimension!

Step 4 of MFRG: iterating the processes

- Renormalized system size: $n \rightarrow n^{7/8} \rightarrow n^{49/64} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow n^{(7/8)^{s_0}}$
(after s_0 processes)

- Renormalized qudit's dimension:

$$d \rightarrow d^z n^{z/8} \rightarrow \dots$$

The main technical challenge is error guarantee for the truncation z

→ By choosing $s_0 \propto \log \log(n)$, system size $\propto \dots$

→ By choosing $z = \text{const.}$, final dimension = $(dn)^{\text{polylog}(n)}$

Desired dimension!

Technical ingredients

Robustness of the ground state

■ Variance-gap trade-off inequality

Kuwahara-Amico-Arad-Vedral,
Quantum Sci. Technol. **2**, 015005 (2017).

$$\Delta \cdot \text{Var}(A_L) \leq \gamma^2 \bar{g}_1 |L|$$

A_L : k -local operator on L
 γ : $\mathcal{O}(1)$ constant,
 \bar{g}_1 : local energy



Prop. 1 of arXiv:2411.02140

Robustness inequality

When the unitary u_i preserves the Schmidt bases,

$$|\langle \Omega | (u_i^\dagger H u_i - H) | \Omega \rangle| \leq \delta_{\text{Rob}} \propto (n\Delta)^{-1/2}$$

$$|\langle s | u_i | s \rangle_i| = 1$$

$$|\Omega\rangle = \sum_{s=0}^{d-1} \lambda_s |s\rangle_i \otimes |\phi_s\rangle_{\Lambda \setminus \{i\}}$$

Robustness of the ground state

- Variance-gap trade-off inequality

$$\Delta \cdot \text{Var}(A_L) \leq \gamma^2$$



Robustness inequality

When the unitary u_i preserves the Schmidt bases,

$$|\langle \Omega | (u_i^\dagger H u_i - H) | \Omega \rangle| \leq \delta_{\text{Rob}} \propto (n\Delta)^{-1/2}$$

$$|\langle s | u_i | s \rangle_i| = 1$$

The ground state is locally disentangled in the sense

$$|\lambda_0|^2 \geq 1 - \frac{\delta_{\text{Rob}}}{2\Delta} \sim 1 - n^{-1/2}$$

Prop. 2 of arXiv:2411.02140

$$|\Omega\rangle = \sum_{s=0}^{d-1} \lambda_s |s\rangle_i \otimes |\phi_s\rangle_{\Lambda \setminus \{i\}}$$

Block Hilbert space truncation

- Small block L s.t. $|L| \ll n^{1/2}$, we have

$$\left| \langle \Omega | \left(\mathbf{1} - \prod_{i \in L} |0\rangle\langle 0|_i \right) | \Omega \rangle \right| \lesssim |L| \delta_{\text{Rob}} \propto \frac{|L|}{n^{1/2}} \approx 0$$

- Probability to observe deviations from the mean-field states?

➔ **Obtaining probability distribution of 1-local operator $M_L = \sum_{i \in L} (\mathbf{1} - |0\rangle\langle 0|_i)$**

Ground state $|\Omega\rangle$ approximately minimize M_L , $\langle \Omega | M_L | \Omega \rangle \approx 0$

Block Hilbert space truncation

- Small block L s.t. $|L| \ll n^{1/2}$, we have

$$\left| \langle \Omega | \left(\mathbf{1} - \prod_{i \in L} |0\rangle\langle 0|_i \right) | \Omega \rangle \right| \lesssim |L| \delta_{\text{Rob}} \propto \frac{|L|}{n^{1/2}} \approx 0$$

- Probability to observe deviations from the mean-field states?

➡ Obtaining probability distribution of 1-local operator $M_L = \sum_{i \in L} (\mathbf{1} - |0\rangle\langle 0|_i)$

➡ Exponential concentration with a variance $\sqrt{|L|/\Delta}$ [Kuwahara, J. Stat. Mech. \(2016\) 053103](#)

➡ Refining it to the strong decay as $\left(|L| \delta_{\text{Rob}}^{1/2}\right)^z$ to observe eigenvalues of M_L larger than z

Block Hilbert space truncation

- Small block L s.t. $|L| \ll n^{1/2}$, we have

$$\left| \langle \Omega | \left(\mathbf{1} - \prod_{i \in L} |0\rangle\langle 0|_i \right) | \Omega \rangle \right| \lesssim |L| \delta_{\text{Rob}} \propto \frac{|L|}{n^{1/2}} \approx 0$$

- Probability to observe deviations from the mean-field states?

➔ Obtaining probability distribution of 1-local operator $M_L = \sum_{i \in L} (\mathbf{1} - |0\rangle\langle 0|_i)$

➔ **Exponential** More than z sites should deviate from the mean-field state Uwahara, J. Stat. Mech. (2016) 053103

➔ Refining it to the strong decay as $(|L| \delta_{\text{Rob}}^{1/2})^z$ to observe eigenvalues of M_L larger than z

Block Hilbert space truncation

- Small block L s.t. $|L| \ll n^{1/2}$, we have

$$\left| \langle \Omega | \left(\mathbf{1} - \prod_{i \in L} |0\rangle\langle 0|_i \right) | \Omega \rangle \right| \lesssim |L| \delta_{\text{Rob}} \propto \frac{|L|}{n^{1/2}} \approx 0$$

- Probability to observe deviations from the mean-field states?

Decay rate is given by $(|L|/n^{1/4})^z$

Choice of $|L| = n^{1/8}$ makes $(n^{-1/8})^z \rightarrow z = \mathcal{O}(1)$ is enough to ensure $1/\text{poly}(n)$

Refining it to the strong decay as $(|L| \delta_{\text{Rob}}^{1/2})^z$ to observe eigenvalues of M_L larger than z

Renormalized interaction amplitude

- Block-block interaction $H_{L,L'}$

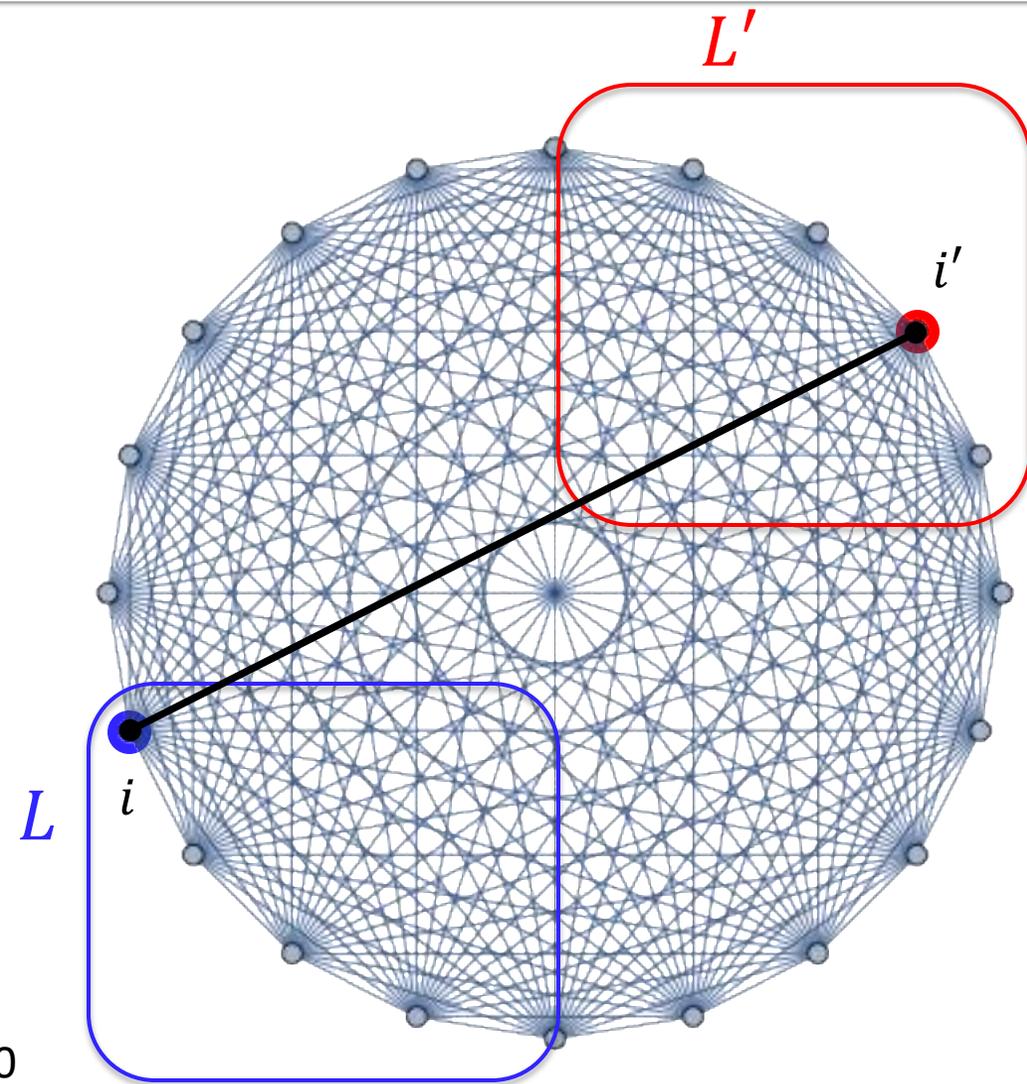
→ $\|\Pi^{(0)} H_{L,L'} \Pi^{(0)}\| \propto |L| \times |L'|/n$

- We need to suppress the amplification

→ Appropriate decomposition of

$$H_{L,L'} = \Delta H_{L,L'} + \tilde{H}_L + \tilde{H}_{L'} + \text{const.}$$

→ $\|\Pi^{(0)} \Delta H_{L,L'} \Pi^{(0)}\| \propto z|L|/n$



Renormalized interaction amplitude

- Block-block interaction $H_{L,L'}$

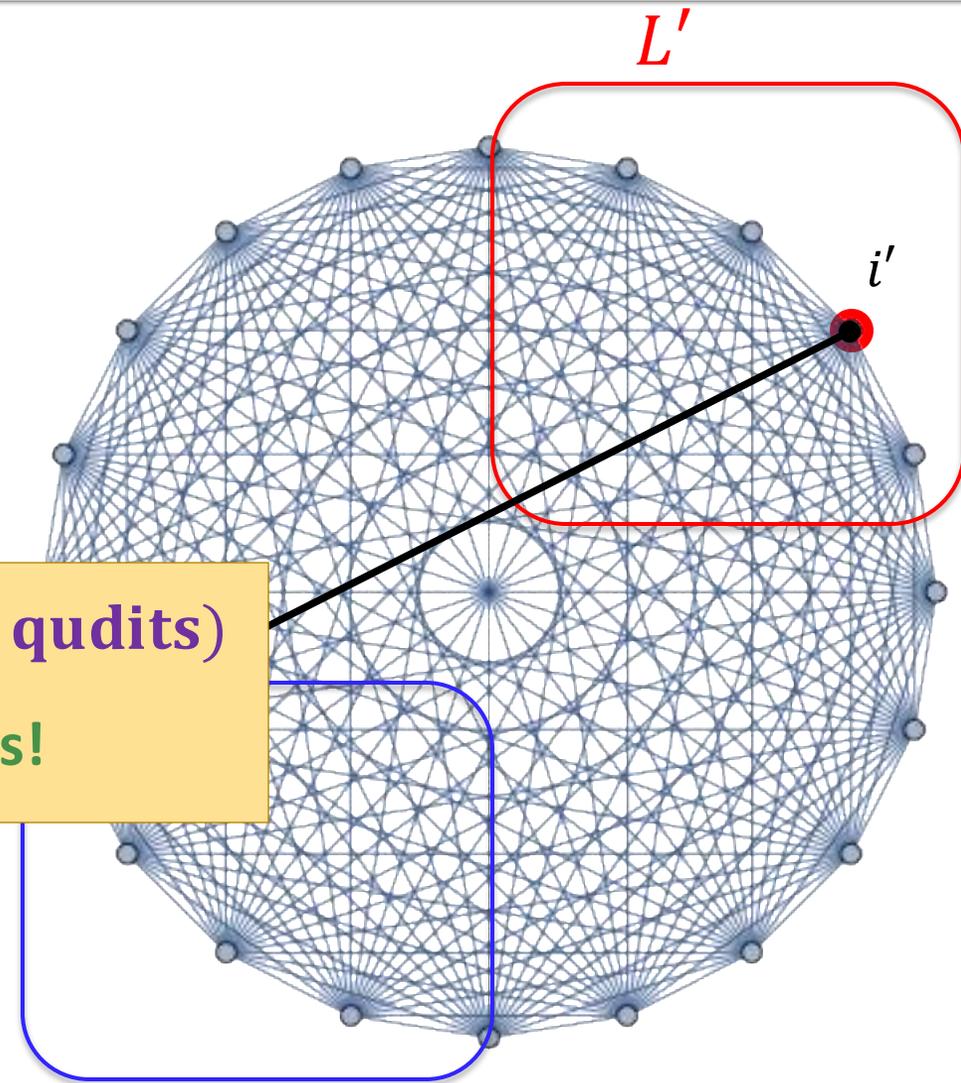
$$\Rightarrow \|\Pi^{(0)} H_{L,L'} \Pi^{(0)}\| \propto |L| \times |L'|/n$$

- We need to suppress the amplification

Qudit-qudit interaction $\propto z/(\text{No. of renormalized qudits})$

\Rightarrow The interaction amplification is at most z times!

$$\Rightarrow \|\Pi^{(0)} \Delta H_{L,L'} \Pi^{(0)}\| \propto z/(n/|L|)$$



Summary and future problems

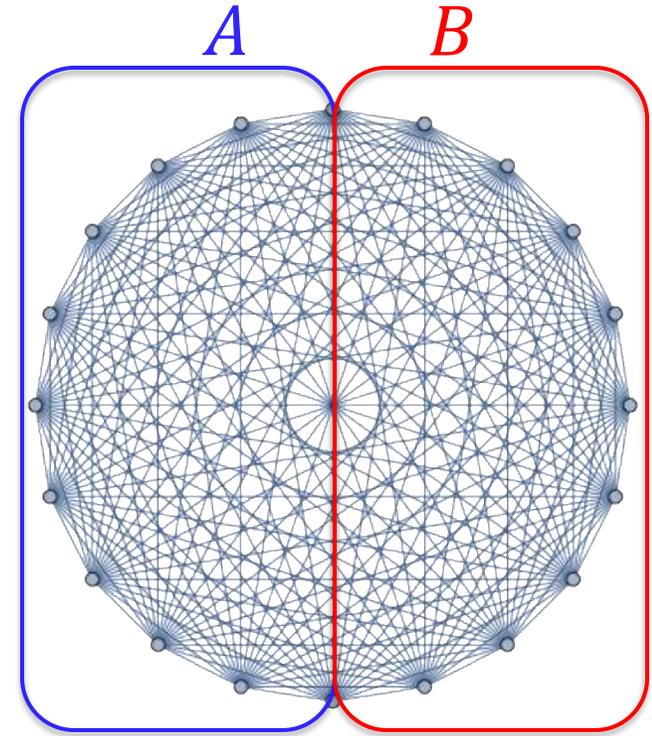
Summary

- Local Hamiltonian Problem on the fully connected graph
- Generalized area law and MPS approximation

★ $S_{AB}(\Omega) \leq 2[\log(n)]^{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 \log(f(\bar{g}_1, \Delta))} + \log(d) + 2$

★ $D = \exp[(\log n)^c \log \log(1/\delta)]$

for $\|\text{tr}_{X^c}(|\Omega\rangle\langle\Omega|) - \text{tr}_{X^c}(|\Omega_D\rangle\langle\Omega_D|)\| \leq \delta|X|$



- The non-critical ground states have quasi-polynomial complexity

Open problems → { (Q1) Can we remove the poly-logarithmic factor?
(Q2) Can we achieve polynomial complexity?

Thank you for listening!