Ab-initio nuclear response functions with quantum (inspired) algorithms

Alessandro Roggero





Ischia – 22 May, 2025



The need for ab-initio many-body dynamics in NP

- ν scattering for supernovae explosion and NS cooling
- capture reactions for crust heating and nucleosynthesis

- cross sections for dark-matter discovery and neutrino physics
- transport properties of neutron star matter for X-ray emission



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Nuclear response

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Inclusive cross section and the response function



• cross section determined by the response function

$$R_O(\omega) = \sum_f \left| \langle f | \hat{O} | \Psi_0 \rangle \right|^2 \delta \left(\omega - E_f + E_0 \right)$$

 \bullet excitation operator \hat{O} specifies the vertex

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Extremely challenging classically for strongly correlated quantum systems



(see also F.Marino's and G.King's talks)

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Many body dynamics with Integral Transforms

A possible way out with integral transform techniques

Efros (1989), Carlson & Schiavilla (1992), Efros, Leidemann & Orlandini (1994)

$$T(\sigma) = \int d\omega K(\sigma, \omega) R_O(\omega) = \langle 0 | \hat{O}^{\dagger} K \left(\sigma, \hat{H} - E_0 \right) \hat{O} | 0 \rangle$$



PROBLEM: the inversion procedure is often ill-posed, difficult to assign error bars on the reconstructed response function

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The transformation is unitary so the inversion is "easy"

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ADVANTAGE: if we did, we could do more than linear response!

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Simulations of nuclear dynamics

Classical simulations

Quantum simulations



several talks in Ischia: D. Lacroix, J. Menendez, E. Costa

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Nuclear response

Simulations of nuclear dynamics



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Nuclear response

Inclusive cross section from QC

For inclusive scattering seems reasonable to get real-time correlators

$$R_O(\omega) = \int dt e^{i\omega t} C(t) \quad \text{with} \quad C(t) = \langle \Psi_0 | O(t) O(0) | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

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Turns out it is much more convenient to compute moments

Somma(2019), AR et al.(2020), AR(2020), Rall(2020), Baroni et al.(2021), AR&Sobczyk(2022), Kiss et al.(2023)

$$M_F(t) = \langle \Psi_0 | Oe^{-itH} O | \Psi_0 \rangle \qquad \qquad M_C(n) = \langle \Psi_0 | O\mathsf{T}_n(H) O | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

• Chebyshev Polynomials T_n appear naturally (see also S. Wang's talk)

$$f(H) \left| \Phi \right\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_k \mathsf{T}_n(H) \left| \Phi \right\rangle \approx \sum_{n=0}^{M} c_k \mathsf{T}_n(H) \left| \Phi \right\rangle$$

• Very popular recently for early fault-tolerant ground state energy estimation (and preparation) [Lin & Tong (2022), Dong et al. (2022), Wan et al. (2022)]

Quantum inspired simulation of reactions

Since we want Chebyshev moments, why not get them classically instead?

Orthogonal polynomials satisfy recurrence relations, for Chebyshev

$$\mathsf{T}_0(H) = 1 \quad \mathsf{T}_1(H) = H \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathsf{T}_{n+1}(H) = 2H\mathsf{T}_n(H) - \mathsf{T}_{n-1}(H)$$

To get Chebyshev moments we need a many-body method such that • we can prepare a good approximation to the ground state $|\Psi_0\rangle$ • we can apply the Hamiltonian efficiently

$$\begin{split} |\phi_0\rangle = |\Psi_0\rangle \quad |\phi_1\rangle = H \, |\Psi_0\rangle \\ |\phi_n\rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad |\phi_{n+1}\rangle = 2H \, |\phi_n\rangle - |\phi_{n-1}\rangle \end{split}$$

• we can take overlaps efficiently $m_k = \langle \phi_0 | \phi_k
angle = \langle \phi_k | \phi_0
angle$

Once we have the moments, all the post processing is carried out as if we obtained them from a quantum computer

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Nuclear response

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Quantum inspired simulation of reactions with CC-theory

Sobczyk & Roggero (2022), Sobczyk, Jiang, Roggero (2025)

Coupled-cluster theory allows for accurate nuclear ground states to be prepared efficiently. We can use EOM-CC to study excited-states/moments

$$|\Psi_0\rangle = e^T |HF\rangle \qquad \langle \widetilde{\Psi}_0| = \langle HF|(1+\Lambda)e^{-T}$$

the natural construction uses a similarity transformed Hamiltonian

 $\overline{H} = e^{-T}He^{T}$ in CCSD operator T contains 1p1h and 2p2h

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 $\overline{H} = e^{-T}He^{T}$ in CCSD operator T contains 1p1h and 2p2h Within EOM the excited states are parametrized as

$$\left|\phi_{n+1}\right\rangle = 2\overline{H}\left|\phi_{n}\right\rangle - \left|\phi_{n-1}\right\rangle = \mathcal{R}_{n}\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle$$

Once we collected the parameters of \mathcal{R}_n we can get moments as

$$m_k = \langle \widetilde{\Psi}_0 | \phi_k \rangle$$

Reasonably similar to the LIT-CC method (see F.Marino's talk)

Spin response of bulk neutron matter



Dynamic spin structure factor
$$S_{\sigma}(\vec{q},\omega) \propto \int dt e^{i\omega t} \langle \vec{s}(t,\vec{q}) \cdot \vec{s}(0,\vec{q}) \rangle$$

 νN scattering and ν pair-production emissivity dominated by $S_{\sigma}(\vec{q},\omega)$ for small wave-lenghts $|\vec{q}|\to 0$

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Despite being a low energy observable, important interaction dependence

We tested three different Chiral potentials at LO using CC and CIMC

• energy per particle has negligible dependence on method/model



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What is the value of $\langle S^2 \rangle$ in zero temperature neutron matter?

Summary and perspective

- ab-initio treatement of nuclear dynamics is important for both terrestrial experiments and extreme astrophysical sites
- incredible recent progress especially for static nuclear properties but new tools might be needed for some dynamical processes
- quantum computing is a strong candidate to considerably improve our simulations of nuclear physics, especially dynamical properties
- some of the techniques developed for use on future large scale quantum computers can be employed now on classical HPC!
- calculation of spin response shows important interaction/method dependence: neutron matter around ρ_0 not boring anymore!

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Thanks to my collaborators

- J. Sobczyk (Mainz \rightarrow Chalmers)
- W. Jiang (Mainz)



Finite size systematics

We use TABC to minimize finite size effects. This works well for sum rules but residual N dependence in the density of states (and thus the response)



Clustering can be explained as a shell effect: at fixed density $\rho = N/L^3$ so the free single particle energies are $E_n \propto n(2\pi/L)^2$

