Introduction and Perspective on Tensor Network Methods for Quantum Many-Body Physics



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Major progress in last 30 years: understanding structure of *quantum wavefunctions* (or quantum "states")



Mathematical description of a quantum state is unimaginably vast

Describing state of just 140 quantum particles requires more numbers than atoms in the universe

0.4838 -0.1254 0.4480 0.1293 0.4253 0.3043 0.1415 -0.3943 -0.1237 -0.3411 0.3707 0.4697 -0.3150 -0.0219 0.2702 0.4844 -0.0639 0.4380 -0.0305 -0.0179 -0.3312 0.4734 -0.1749 -0 0.4126 -0.4746 -0.3346 0.4457 0.1062 0.0350 -0.4284 -0.4392 0.3516 -0.0667 -0.2332 0.21 0.4516 -0.0228 -0.4497 -0.4137 -0.2730 0.1811 -0.2679 -0.1046 0.4408 0.3211 -0.1506 -0. 0.3923 0.2490 0.3931 -0.2902 -0.4754 -0.0290 -0.1136 0.3742 -0.2364 -0.3652 -0.1279 0.2 0.4175 0.1493 0.2413 0.3722 -0.1782 0.3172 -0.4666 -0.4873 -0.3202 -0.2749 0.4662 0.116 0.4086 0.1137 -0.3144 -0.0653 0.4328 -0.4703 -0.1076 0.3656 -0.1982 0.3134 -0.0689 0.39 -0.3617 0.0295 -0.2461 -0.0194 -0.2068 -0.0643 0.3705 -0.2612 0.0619 -0.1382 0.4018 -0. -0.2481 -0.4666 0.1091 -0.0434 -0.2705 0.3034 -0.4285 0.2276 0.4733 -0.1143 -0.0688 0.0 0.3667 0.2244 -0.1190 0.0759 -0.4259 -0.0432 0.0211 0.2320 0.4673 0.1837 0.4889 -0.2433 .0421 -0.0932 -0.2526 0.2174 -0.1993 -0.1698 0.1183 0.2083 0.4662 0.1054 -0.1427 0.362 -0.3739 -0.4851 0.1276 0.4294 -0.4959 0.1514 0.4410 0.1387 -0.4891 -0.0989 0.1523 0.374 0.4141 0.0229 -0.2018 -0.1047 0.3957 -0.4772 0.2328 0.2119 -0.1617 0.0295 0.2459 -0.061 0.3378 -0.0844 0.0926 0.0403 0.0868 -0.4895 -0.1887 0.3829 -0.3239 -0.3538 0.3549 -0.14 -0.3763 0.1980 0.0334 -0.0676 -0.4214 -0.2405 -0.0068 -0.3043 0.3768 -0.3903 0.3625 -0. 0.2141 0.4840 -0.1668 -0.0682 -0.3314 -0.3117 -0.2942 0.0529 0.2541 -0.4427 -0.3690 0.4 0.3095 -0.3536 0.1424 -0.0545 0.3577 0.4979 0.4581 0.3492 0.4247 -0.0024 -0.3346 0.3823 0.4916 0.4125 -0.0565 -0.4466 -0.0765 -0.4172 -0.1200 0.1712 -0.1814 0.1211 -0.0305 0.2 0.2731 -0.4123 0.3410 0.0112 -0.0343 0.1853 0.4424 -0.1157 0.2665 -0.1759 -0.1797 0.338 0.4186 0.4012 0.3687 -0.2233 -0.4976 -0.2052 -0.1462 -0.1230 -0.3735 -0.4492 0.2621 0.3 -0.0322 0.4011 0.3472 0.1471 0.2549 -0.0751 0.0165 -0.4245 -0.0242 -0.4596 -0.3528 0.01 0.1781 0.0606 0.3207 0.4076 0.1446 -0.0485 0.4185 0.2485 -0.3112 -0.3895 0.0222 0.4948 -0.2362 0.2558 0.3032 0.1868 0.0001 -0.3667 -0.4846 0.4612 0.1831 -0.0334 -0.1691 0.176 -0.2108 0.0022 0.1082 -0.0410 -0.1681 0.1058 0.1304 -0.0272 -0.3245 -0.4714 -0.1954 0.1 -0.0692 -0.2680 -0.2022 0.1401 -0.1510 0.0543 0.4548 0.3042 -0.4270 -0.1932 -0.4843 -0 0.2404 -0.1085 0.3345 0.4777 -0.2789 -0.3552 -0.4433 0.0247 -0.1857 -0.2978 -0.4323 0.1 -0.4655 0.2010 0.1385 -0.0723 -0.2033 0.0867 0.1511 0.2401 -0.4549 0.1013 -0.4637 0.254 0.4546 0.0035 0.4291 0.3540 -0.3975 -0.2342 0.1500 -0.2810 -0.3555 0.4292 -0.1696 0.324 0.2019 -0.1906 0.1590 0.3959 0.1673 0.3019 -0.3597 0.0368 0.0498 -0.4730 -0.2287 -0.291 0.2351 -0.2074 0.1402 0.3312 -0.2531 -0.4642 0.0112 0.2991 0.3106 0.2700 -0.0499 -0.337 -0.3839 0.2488 0.3712 -0.3905 -0.1389 -0.0298 0.2599 -0.3162 0.0886 0.2221 0.0130 -0.34 0.0871 0.4659 -0.1590 0.3191 0.0405 -0.2341 0.0233 -0.2214 0.2174 -0.3168 -0.4215 -0.31 -0.4656 -0.0940 0.0622 0.1237 0.1804 -0.2926 0.3411 0.4340 0.3854 -0.2560 -0.1148 0.473 0.4037 0.1308 0.3851 0.2471 -0.2636 -0.4579 -0.4432 -0.0018 -0.1018 0.0554 0.2119 0.156 -0.3493 -0.4723 0.0298 0.1595 0.1991 0.0992 0.3845 -0.2337 -0.1724 0.2335 -0.3664 -0.13 -0.3796 0.1485 -0.0156 0.3551 0.0977 0.0092 0.1835 0.1115 -0.4520 -0.1859 0.1761 0.0439 -0.1694 0.0667 -0.4222 -0.1027 -0.2947 -0.0826 -0.4814 0.1997 -0.1338 -0.3859 0.2407 -0 0.2463 -0.1803 -0.3503 -0.0361 -0.1122 -0.2970 -0.0012 -0.2580 0.1485 0.2910 0.2312 0.3 -0.3264 0.0934 -0.3536 -0.2796 -0.0026 -0.2784 -0.0991 0.2217 -0.2769 -0.2569 0.3027 -0 0.1259 -0.2038 0.3351 0.0750 0.4359 -0.0046 0.3199 -0.1125 -0.3213 0.2834 0.2758 0.1714 0.3764 -0.2559 -0.1267 0.3182 -0.3546 0.4768 0.0421 -0.3999 0.0642 0.1276 0.1372 -0.335 -0.0899 0.1679 0.2201 0.4092 -0.2378 -0.2499 0.4386 -0.4194 0.1641 -0.0386 0.2397 -0.05 -0.1474 -0.2185 0.4699 -0.0174 0.4122 -0.1422 0.0562 -0.1193 -0.0231 -0.3941 0.4766 -0. -0.1175 0.0928 -0.4447 0.1936 -0.3190 0.1430 -0.2636 -0.4486 0.2344 0.3896 0.0362 0.376 0.2708 0.1189 -0.4562 -0.2521 -0.0699 -0.1683 0.4022 -0.0158 -0.0392 -0.2438 0.1960 -0. 0.1763 0.2857 -0.4274 -0.2628 -0.1526 0.0773 -0.0641 -0.1773 -0.4086 0.2405 0.4295 -0.2 3396 0.0119 -0.2425 -0.4298 -0.3472 0.2623 0.1254 0.3346 -0.1334 -0.4701 0.3356 -0.27 But the wavefunction harbors patterns of *quantum entanglement* between particles



Entanglement patterns impart *internal structure* to the wavefunction





matrix product state

tree tensor network



MERA network

The Quantum Many-Body Problem

Accurate calculations of many-fermion systems are central to condensed matter physics

High-temperature superconductor



Copper-oxygen plane



Numerical study of t-t'-J model

Often simplified to minimal model: the **Hubbard** model



$$\hat{H} = -t \sum_{ij} (\hat{c}_i^{\dagger} \hat{c}_j + \hat{c}_j^{\dagger} \hat{c}_j) + U \sum_j \hat{n}_{j\uparrow} \hat{n}_{j\downarrow}$$

Quantum physics "simple" mathematically speaking Given Hamiltonian \hat{H}

All we must do is find lowest eigenvector (zero temperature):

 $\hat{H}\Psi = E\Psi$

Or exponentiate (finite temperature):

$$\rho = e^{-\hat{H}/T}$$

What is the problem?

Hamiltonian acts in space of <u>all</u> configurations ($4^{N} \times 4^{N}$ matrix)



 Ψ also defined for all configurations

Many-body wavefunction lives in 4^N dimensional space



Wavefunction Ψ seemingly intractable

Can we get around this <u>many-body</u> problem?

1. Guess the Wavefunction

Can sometimes work!



Famously, Laughlin guessed wavefunctions qualitatively explaining the fractional quantum Hall effect

$$\psi = \{\prod_{j < k} f(z_j - z_k)\} \exp(-\frac{1}{4} \sum_{l} |z_{l}|^2)$$

Laughlin, Phys. Rev. Lett. 50, 1395 (1983)

2. Avoid the Wavefunction

In the 70's, Kohn, Hohenberg, and Sham developed density functional theory

Proved <u>all</u> T=0 properties determined by electron density

Local density approximation:



Energy sum of *interacting uniform gas* energies pinned to each density value

Workhorse of realistic materials calculations

3. Sum Simpler Wavefunctions

Take non-interacting problem (solvable)

$$\Psi_0\rangle = \hat{\phi}_1^{\dagger}\hat{\phi}_2^{\dagger}\cdots\hat{\phi}_N^{\dagger}|0\rangle$$

Interacting wavefunction by summing non-interacting wavefunctions:

$$\begin{split} \Psi \rangle &= a_1 \ \hat{\phi}_1^{(1)\dagger} \hat{\phi}_2^{(1)\dagger} \cdots \hat{\phi}_N^{(1)\dagger} |0\rangle \\ &+ a_2 \ \hat{\phi}_1^{(2)\dagger} \hat{\phi}_2^{(2)\dagger} \cdots \hat{\phi}_N^{(2)\dagger} |0\rangle \\ &+ a_3 \ \hat{\phi}_1^{(3)\dagger} \hat{\phi}_2^{(3)\dagger} \cdots \hat{\phi}_N^{(3)\dagger} |0\rangle \end{split}$$

4. Sample the Wavefunction (quantum Monte Carlo)

Can rewrite as paths in *imaginary time* (= path integral)



Now a <u>classical</u> problem – sample with Monte Carlo

But all these methods encounter some trouble...

Summing wavefunctions: <u>exponentially</u> many terms needed for large U

Sampling / quantum Monte Carlo: <u>exponentially</u> many samples for low temperature T

Possibly to work with wavefunction <u>directly</u>?

What is a wavefunction? Map of configurations to numbers



What is a wavefunction? Map of configurations to numbers



What is a wavefunction? Map of configurations to numbers



Formally a <u>tensor</u> with N indices

$$\Psi^{s_1 s_2 s_3 s_4 s_5 s_6} = \Psi^{s_1 s_2 s_4 s_5 s_6} = \Psi^{s_1 s_4 s_5} = \Psi^{s_1$$

A tensor with N indices of dimension 4 $(0, \uparrow, \downarrow, \downarrow\uparrow)$ has 4^{N} different parameters

Can parameters be truly unrelated?

Take inspiration from Netflix (!)

People



Millions of people, but can not be millions of unique tastes / genres

People



Can not be millions of unique tastes / genres ...



In similar fashion, ground state wavefunction is low rank

Properties of one electron can not really depend on 4^{N-1} states of other electrons

Electrons mostly correlate with others nearby to them

Nothing special about center bipartition

Nothing special about center bipartition

Motivates following decomposition

Low-rank factorization across all 1D bipartitions

Tensor Diagram Notation

Convenient for notating large tensors

N-index tensor = shape with N lines

$$T^{s_1 s_2 s_3 \cdots s_N} = \underbrace{s_1 s_2 s_3 s_4 \cdots s_N}_{s_1 s_2 s_3 \cdots s_N} = \underbrace{s_1 s_2 s_3 s_4 \cdots s_N}_{s_1 s_2 s_3 \cdots s_N}$$

Low-order tensor examples:

Tensor Diagram Notation

Joined lines are contracted, can omit names

Notation – Tensor Diagrams

Compare to traditional notation

$$T^{n_1 n_2 n_3 n_4 n_5 n_6} = \sum_{\mathbf{a}} A^{n_1}_{a_1} A^{n_2}_{a_1 a_2} A^{n_3}_{a_2 a_3} A^{n_4}_{a_3 a_4} A^{n_5}_{a_4 a_5} A^{n_6}_{a_5 a_6} A^{n_7}_{a_6}$$

hard to write and interpret, many index names...

Following decomposition known as matrix product state (MPS) ^{1,2}

Simplest example of a tensor network

[1] Östlund, Rommer, PRL 75, 3537 (1995)

[2] Vidal, PRL 91, 147902 (2003)

Name matrix product state refers to retrieving elements:



Size of Matrix Product States (MPS)

Main control parameter is bond dimension χ

MPS tensors have $4\chi^2$ entries

Reduces memory needed from $4^N \rightarrow 4N\chi^2$

For
$$\chi = 4^{N/2}$$
 , can represent any state

When can MPS be used?



Bond dimension χ bounds quantum entanglement S between halves of system as

$S \leq \ln \chi$

Tensor network \implies low-entanglement state

When can MPS be used?



Has been proven¹ that

- ground states of
- finite-range 1D Hamiltonians with
- gap to first excited state

are low-entangled states

They are tensor networks!

Can refine further: area law, entanglement scaling²

When can MPS be used?



For the electronic Hubbard model:

- works for all U (best for large U!)
- can be applied at high or low temperature T
- challenges remain to handle large 2D systems



Tensor Networks

Many other tensor network formats

Varying expressiveness, algorithms, and research questions



Optimizing Tensor Networks at Zero Temperature

Simplest scheme: imaginary time evolution

Compute:
$$e^{-\tau \hat{H}} |\psi_0\rangle \rightarrow |\psi_\tau\rangle$$

For large $\ au o \infty$, $\ \hat{H} | \psi_\infty
angle = E | \psi_\infty
angle$ (becomes ground state)

Compute:
$$e^{-\tau \hat{H}} |\psi_0\rangle$$
 $\tau \to \infty$



Compute:
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 $\tau \to \infty$



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Compute:
$$e^{-\tau \hat{H}} |\psi_0\rangle$$
 $\tau \to \infty$





Even better scheme: density matrix renormalization group (DMRG) algorithm^{1,2}



[1] White, PRL 69 (1992)[2] Schollwöck, Ann. Phys. 326 (2011)



Solve $\hat{H}_{\text{eff}}\tilde{\Psi} = E\tilde{\Psi}$ for just this one tensor

"Sweep" back and forth over all the tensors



"Sweep" back and forth over all the tensors



"Sweep" back and forth over all the tensors



Example of DMRG in action

1D Heisenberg model $\hat{H} = \sum_{j} \vec{S}_{j} \cdot \vec{S}_{j+1}$



Heisenberg model is $U/t \rightarrow \infty$ limit of Hubbard model

Example of DMRG in action

1D Heisenberg model $\hat{H} = \sum_{j} \vec{S}_{j} \cdot \vec{S}_{j+1}$



Heisenberg model is $U/t \rightarrow \infty$ limit of Hubbard model

Finite Temperature Tensor Networks

Finite Temperature Quantum

Textbook prescription: "just" obtain all eigenstates

$$\hat{H}|\epsilon_n\rangle = \epsilon_n|\epsilon_n\rangle$$

Then finite T density matrix is nicely diagonal

$$e^{-\hat{H}/T} = \sum_{n} e^{-\epsilon_n/T} |\epsilon_n\rangle \langle \epsilon_n |$$

Finite Temperature Quantum

Textbook prescription: "just" obtain all eigenstates

$$\hat{H}|\epsilon_n\rangle = \epsilon_n|\epsilon_n\rangle$$

Thermal averages given by

$$\langle \hat{A} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n} e^{-\epsilon_n/T} \langle \epsilon_n | \hat{A} | \epsilon_n \rangle$$

But eigenstates terrible numerically!



- Exponentially small energy spacing
- Non-classical even at high T
- Very high entanglement

No chance for tensor networks!

Need a different way...

First write density matrix symmetrically

$$e^{-\beta\hat{H}} = e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}} \qquad \beta = \frac{1}{T}$$

Insert complete set of states
$$e^{-\beta\hat{H}} = \sum_{i} e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i\rangle\langle i|e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}} \propto \sum_{i} |\phi_{i}\rangle\langle\phi_{i}|$$

Freedom to
choose these $|\phi_{i}\rangle \propto e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i\rangle$

By decomposing finite T state

$$e^{-\beta\hat{H}} = \sum_{i} e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}} |i\rangle \langle i|e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}} \propto \sum_{i} |\phi_i\rangle \langle \phi_i|$$

Obtain observables as

$$\langle \hat{A} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \operatorname{Tr} \left[e^{-\beta \hat{H}} \hat{A} \right] = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \sum_{i} P_{i} \langle \phi_{i} | \hat{A} | \phi_{i} \rangle$$

$$\uparrow$$
an average over pure states

Expanding
$$e^{-\beta \hat{H}} \propto \sum_{i} |\phi_i\rangle \langle \phi_i|$$

To give tensor networks their best chance

choose $|\phi_i\rangle \propto e^{-rac{eta}{2}\hat{H}}|i\rangle$ to "descend" from <u>untentangled</u> (zero-entanglement) states



Unentangled product state

$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}$$

Modestly entangled state

Solved problem of representing $|\phi_i\rangle \propto e^{-rac{eta}{2}\hat{H}}|i\rangle$ (choose $|i\rangle$ as product states)

One more problem: too many states – there are exponentially many $|i\rangle$ and thus $|\phi_i\rangle$

 $oldsymbol{M}$ Solution: sample over the |i
angle



Algorithm just described named minimally entangled typical thermal states (METTS)^{1,2}

$$|\phi_i
angle\propto e^{-rac{eta}{2}\hat{H}}|i
angle$$
 METTS wavefunction

Quantum Monte Carlo where samples are entangled wavefunctions, not classical configurations

Classicality of METTS depend on T



[1] S.R. White, PRL (2009)[2] Stoudenmire, White, NJP (2010)



$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_1\rangle$$



$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_1\rangle$$
 \Rightarrow $|\phi_1\rangle$



$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_{1}\rangle \longrightarrow |\phi_{1}\rangle$$

$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_{2}\rangle$$



$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_{1}\rangle \rightarrow |\phi_{1}\rangle$$

$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_{2}\rangle \rightarrow |\phi_{2}\rangle$$
Minimally Entangled Typical Thermal States

Movie of METTS algorithm (S=1/2 Heisenberg ladder, $\beta = 5$)



$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_{1}\rangle |\phi_{1}\rangle$$

$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_{2}\rangle |\phi_{2}\rangle$$

$$e^{-\frac{\beta}{2}\hat{H}}|i_{3}\rangle$$

Minimally Entangled Typical Thermal States

Movie of METTS algorithm (S=1/2 Heisenberg ladder, $\beta = 5$)





Minimally Entangled Typical Thermal States

Movie of METTS algorithm (S=1/2 Heisenberg ladder, $\beta = 5$)





Summary and Future Directions

Summary



Tensor networks, such as matrix product states, succeed because of low entanglement in quantum states

Can avoid exponential costs of other methods, at least for low dimensional systems

Finite temperature treatable by avoiding eigenstates, working with "typical" states instead





Frontier for tensor networks are two- and three-dimensional systems

Zero-temperature methods working well in 2D now, time is ripe for finite temperature approaches (see next talk: Alex Wietek)

Goal of coherent, unified understanding of Hubbard model and strongly-correlated electron systems