

Variational Wave Functions (Jastrow-Slater and Gutzwiller-projected fermionic states)

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Variational Methods for Quantum Many-Body Systems
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UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

1 INTRODUCTION

2 HUBBARD AND HEISENBERG MODELS

3 VARIATIONAL WAVE FUNCTIONS

- Variational wave functions for the Hubbard model
- Variational wave functions for the Heisenberg model
- Variational Monte Carlo method
- Backflow correlations for the Hubbard model

Band theory + **Odd number of el. per unit cell** \Rightarrow **Metal**

Many materials with an odd number of electrons per unit cell are **insulators** for example transition-metal compounds

These are called **Mott** insulators



We will consider lattice models

**GOAL: Defining accurate variational wave functions
to describe metals, insulators, and superconductors**

In Mott insulators localization is induced by strong correlation
Failure of the single-particle picture

The variational approach gives insight into the ground state properties
Until very recently a consistent Mott insulating state was not available

- Long-range (density) Jastrow factor
- “Backflow” correlations

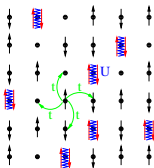
Main result:

Metal-insulator transition and strong-coupling phase

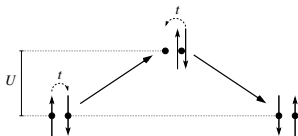
But also:

Accurate metallic and/or superconducting phase when doping Mott insulators

$$\mathcal{H} = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma} c_{i,\sigma}^\dagger c_{j,\sigma} + h.c. + U \sum_i n_{i,\uparrow} n_{i,\downarrow}$$



The Hubbard model is the prototype for correlated electrons on the lattice
 [like the Ising model for classical magnetism]
NO exact solution in $D > 1$



Antiferromagnetic super-exchange

$$J = \frac{4t^2}{U}$$

NO charge fluctuations, only spin

$$\mathcal{H} = J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

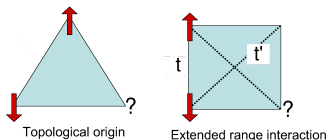
At large U/t there are antiferromagnetic correlations

At $T = 0$ (ground state), magnetic order may be present

- Long-range magnetic order on square and honeycomb lattices (QMC)
Triangular lattice: convincing evidence from different numerical methods

Magnetic frustration: a way to destabilize magnetic AF order

Paramagnetic ground states may exist



- Evidence for the absence of magnetic order on the kagome lattice
Frustrated square and triangular lattices: evidence from different numerical methods

Gutzwiller wave function

$$\mathcal{H}_0 = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma} c_{i,\sigma}^\dagger c_{j,\sigma} + h.c. \quad \implies |\Phi_0\rangle$$

$$|\Psi_g\rangle = e^{-g \sum_i n_{i,\uparrow} n_{i,\downarrow}} |\Phi_0\rangle$$

- $g = 0$, the non-interacting wave function is recovered
- $g \neq 0$, electron-electron correlation is included

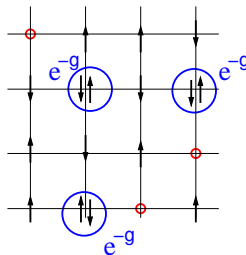
No exact calculations, except for 1D

Metzner and Vollhardt, Phys. Rev. B **37**, 7382 (1988)

Gebhard and Vollhardt, Phys. Rev. B **38**, 6911 (1988)

Monte Carlo sampling is possible

Yokoyama and Shiba, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. **56**, 1490 (1987)

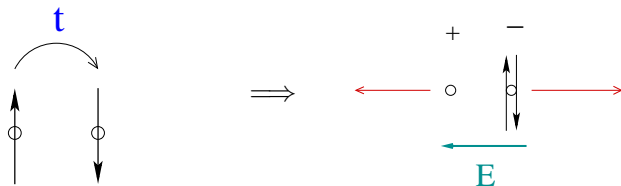


The Gutzwiller wave function is metallic for ANY $g \neq \infty$
 It does not correlate charge fluctuations (empty and doubly occupied sites)

In any realistic insulator there are charge fluctuations

Empty sites (Holons, H) and doubly occupied sites

(Doublons, D) play a crucial role for the conduction



H and D must be correlated otherwise an electric field would induce a current

Short-range holon-doublon wave function

$$|\Psi_{hd}\rangle = e^{f \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle} h_l d_m} |\Psi_g\rangle = e^{f \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle} h_l d_m} e^{-g \sum_i n_{i,\uparrow} n_{i,\downarrow}} |\Phi_0\rangle$$

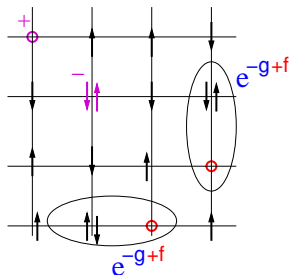
- Put nearest-neighbor correlation among holons and doublons

Exact calculations on small clusters

Kaplan, Horsch, and Fulde, Phys. Rev. B **49**, 889 (1982)

Monte Carlo sampling is possible

Yokoyama and Shiba, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn **59**, 3669 (1990)



H and D farther than nearest neighbors are uncorrelated: metallic for ANY f

The low-energy properties reflect the long-distance behavior
 We must change the density-density correlations of the mean-field state
 at large distance

$$|\Psi\rangle = \mathcal{J}_c |\Phi_0\rangle$$

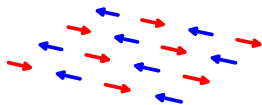
$$\mathcal{J}_c = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} v_{i,j} n_i n_j \right] = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_q v_q n_{-q} n_q \right]$$

Find the optimal set of parameters $v_{i,j}$ which
 minimizes the energy without any a-priori assumption

Capello, Becca, Fabrizio, Sorella, and Tosatti, Phys. Rev. Lett. **94**, 026406 (2005)

Capello, Becca, Yunoki, and Sorella, Phys. Rev. B **73**, 245116 (2006)

- Start from a mean-field approximation that includes AF order

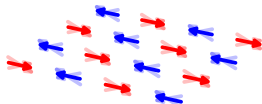


$$\mathcal{H}_{MF} = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle, \sigma} c_{i,\sigma}^\dagger c_{j,\sigma} + h.c. + \Delta_{AF} \sum_j \cos(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{R}_j) S_j^x$$

$$\implies |\Phi_{AF}\rangle$$

\mathbf{Q} determines the periodicity

- Include a spin-spin Jastrow factor



$$|\Psi_{AF}\rangle = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} u_{i,j} S_i^z S_j^z \right] |\Phi_{AF}\rangle$$

The Jastrow factor creates correlations
 $u_{i,j}$ is a pseudo-potential to be optimized

- Magnetically ordered state: the (spin) Jastrow factor**

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{cl}} = \Delta_{\text{AF}} \sum_j \mathbf{S}_j \cdot \mathbf{n}_j \quad \Longrightarrow \quad |\Phi_{\text{cl}}\rangle$$

$$\mathbf{n}_j = \{\cos(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{R}_j), \sin(\mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{R}_j)\}$$

$$\mathcal{J}_s = \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} u_{i,j} S_i^z S_j^z\right]$$

$$|\Psi_{\text{AF}}\rangle = \mathcal{J}_s |\Phi_{\text{cl}}\rangle$$

Manousakis, Rev. Mod. Phys. **63**, 1 (1991)

- Paramagnetic state: the Gutzwiller projector**

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{BCS}} = \sum_{i,j,\sigma} t_{i,j} c_{i,\sigma}^\dagger c_{j,\sigma} + \sum_{i,j} \Delta_{i,j} [c_{i,\uparrow}^\dagger c_{j,\downarrow}^\dagger + c_{j,\uparrow}^\dagger c_{i,\downarrow}^\dagger] + h.c. \quad \Longrightarrow \quad |\Phi_{\text{BCS}}\rangle$$

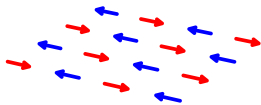
$$P_G = \prod_i (n_{i,\uparrow} - n_{i,\downarrow})^2$$



$$|\Psi_{\text{SL}}\rangle = P_G |\Phi_{\text{BCS}}\rangle$$

Anderson, Science **235**, 1196 (1987)

- Start from a (classical) ordered state in the XY plane

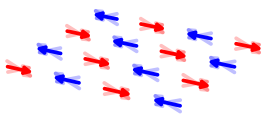


$$|\Phi_{\text{cl}}\rangle = \prod_j \left(|\uparrow\rangle_j + e^{i\mathbf{Q}\cdot\mathbf{R}_j} |\downarrow\rangle_j \right)$$

No correlation

\mathbf{Q} determines the periodicity

- Include a two-body (spin) Jastrow factor to modify the weights



$$|\Psi_{\text{AF}}\rangle = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} u_{i,j} S_i^z S_j^z \right] |\Phi_{\text{cl}}\rangle$$

The Jastrow factor creates correlations

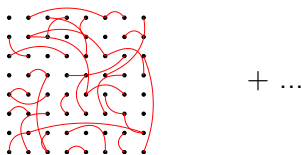
$u_{i,j}$ is a pseudo-potential to be optimized

This wave function corresponds to the one of the spin-wave approximation

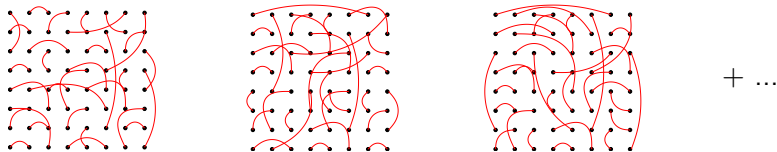
- The mean-field wave function has a BCS form

$$|\Phi_{\text{BCS}}\rangle = \exp\left\{\frac{1}{2}\sum_{i,j} f_{i,j} c_{i,\uparrow}^\dagger c_{j,\downarrow}^\dagger\right\} |0\rangle$$

It is a linear superposition of all singlet configurations (that may overlap)



- With $P_G = \prod_i (n_{i,\uparrow} - n_{i,\downarrow})^2$, only non-overlapping singlets survive



The wave function corresponds to the resonating valence-bond (RVB) state

These wave functions cannot be treated by using analytical approaches

- They can be treated within quantum Monte Carlo

$$E(\Psi) = \frac{\langle \Psi | \mathcal{H} | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle} = \sum_x P(x) e_L(x) \approx \frac{1}{M} \sum_{i=1}^M e_L(x_i)$$

$$P(x) = \frac{|\langle x | \Psi \rangle|^2}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle} \text{ ("classical" Monte Carlo)}$$

$$e_L(x) = \frac{\langle x | \mathcal{H} | \Psi \rangle}{\langle x | \Psi \rangle} = \sum_y \langle x | \mathcal{H} | y \rangle \frac{\langle y | \Psi \rangle}{\langle x | \Psi \rangle}$$

Requirements

- $\langle x | \Psi \rangle$ must be efficiently computed
- The Hamiltonian must be local

Becca and Sorella, *Quantum Monte Carlo Approaches for Correlated Systems* (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

- **Magnetically ordered state** $\implies |\Phi_{cl}\rangle$ is a product state

$$\mathcal{J}_s = \exp\left[-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} u_{i,j} S_i^z S_j^z\right]$$

$$|\Psi_{AF}\rangle = \mathcal{J}_s |\Phi_{cl}\rangle$$

$|x\rangle$ is the (Ising) basis with fixed S^z on each site

- \mathcal{J}_s is **diagonal** and $\langle x|\Phi_{cl}\rangle$ is a **number** $\implies \langle x|\Psi_{AF}\rangle$ computed in $O(N^2)$
- $e_L(x)$ is computed in $O(N^3)$, for a short-range Hamiltonian

Hasting-Metropolis algorithm: Markov chain $|x\rangle \rightarrow |x'\rangle$

- $\frac{P(x')}{P(x)}$ is computed in $O(1)$ for local moves!
- $e_L(x)$ is computed in $O(N)$
- Updating is done in $O(N)$

- **Size consistent wave function**

$O(N)$ variational parameters (with translational invariance): $u_{i,j} \rightarrow u_r$

$O(N^2)$ scaling for sampling: easy calculations up to $N \approx 500 \div 1000$ (on a desktop)

- **The accuracy depends upon the lattice**

Rather good variational energy for unfrustrated lattices: $\Delta E/E_{\text{ex}} \approx 1\%$

Accuracy on observables follows (ϵ on $E \rightarrow \sqrt{\epsilon}$ on O): $\Delta M/M_{\text{ex}} \approx 10\%$

- **It breaks spin SU(2) symmetry**

Bad for finite lattices (the ground state is fully symmetric)

Good for the thermodynamic limit (if the ground state breaks the symmetry)

- **Goldstone modes from the Feynman construction**

For small momenta: $\langle \Psi_{\text{AF}} | S_{-q}^z S_q^z | \Psi_{\text{AF}} \rangle / \langle \Psi_{\text{AF}} | \Psi_{\text{AF}} \rangle \propto q$

$|\Psi_q\rangle = S_q^z |\Psi_{\text{AF}}\rangle$ gives $E_q - E \propto \frac{q^2}{S_q}$

- **Paramagnetic state (RVB)** $\implies |\Phi_{\text{BCS}}\rangle$ is an entangled state

$$P_G = \prod_i (n_{i,\uparrow} - n_{i,\downarrow})^2$$


$$|\Psi_{\text{SL}}\rangle = P_G |\Phi_{\text{BCS}}\rangle$$

$|x\rangle$ is the basis with one electron per site, fixed S^z on each site

- P_G is the **identity** and $\langle x | \Phi_{\text{BCS}} \rangle$ is a **determinant** $\implies \langle x | \Psi_{\text{SL}} \rangle$ computed in $O(N^3)$
- $e_L(x)$ is computed in $O(N^4)$, for a short-range Hamiltonian

Hasting-Metropolis algorithm: Markov chain $|x\rangle \rightarrow |x'\rangle$

- $\frac{P(x')}{P(x)}$ is computed in $O(1)$ for local moves!
- $e_L(x)$ is computed in $O(N)$
- Updating is done in $O(N^2)$

- **Size consistent wave function**

$O(1)$ variational parameters (few distances): $t_{i,j} \rightarrow t_r$ and $\Delta_{i,j} \rightarrow \Delta_r$

$O(N^3)$ scaling for sampling: easy calculations up to $N \approx 100 \div 400$ (on a desktop)

- **The accuracy depends upon the lattice**

Rather good variational energy for frustrated lattices: $\Delta E/E_{\text{ex}} \approx 1\%$

Accuracy on observables follows (ϵ on $E \rightarrow \sqrt{\epsilon}$ on O)

- **It does not break spin $SU(2)$ symmetry**

Good for finite lattices (the ground state is fully symmetric)

Good for the thermodynamic limit (if the ground state does not break the symmetry)

- **Fractional $S = 1/2$ spinon excitations and “gauge” excitations**

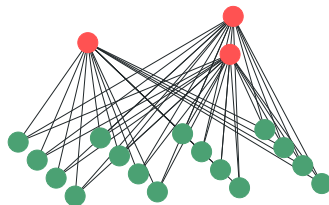
Free (“deconfined”) $S = 1/2$ objects are expected

In addition, neutral $S = 0$ excitations should exist

Fradkin, *Field Theories of Condensed Matter Physics*, (Cambridge University Press, 2013)

MANY-BODY PHYSICS

Solving the quantum many-body problem with artificial neural networks

Giuseppe Carleo^{1*} and Matthias Troyer^{1,2}

$$|\Psi_{\text{RBM}}\rangle = \sum_{h_a=\pm 1} \exp \left[\sum_{i,a} W_{i,a} S_i^z h_a + \sum_a b_a h_a \right] |\Phi_{\text{cl}}\rangle$$

$$|\Psi_{\text{RBM}}\rangle \propto \prod_a \exp \left\{ \log \cosh \left[b_a + \sum_R W_{i,a} S_i^z \right] \right\} |\Phi_{\text{cl}}\rangle$$

- Hidden spin variables (h_1, \dots, h_α)
- Network parameters (b, W)
- Generalization of the Jastrow factor that includes many-body interactions

- **Size consistent wave function**

No transparent interpretation of the parameters

$O(N^2)$ scaling for sampling

- **A systematic improvement is possible (in principle)**

Several variational parameters are necessary

- **Still, difficult to improve the sign structure**

Excellent variational energy for unfrustrated lattices: $\Delta E/E_{\text{ex}} \approx 0.1\%$

Not so excellent variational energy for frustrated lattices

- **It breaks spin $SU(2)$ symmetry**

- **Generalizations to fermionic systems are possible**

Y. Nomura, A.S. Darmawan, Y. Yamaji, and M. Imada, Phys. Rev. B **96**, 205152 (2017)

K. Choo, A. Mezzacapo, and G. Carleo, Nat. Comm. **11**, 2368 (2020)

BACK TO THE HUBBARD MODEL: METAL OR INSULATOR?

Ansatz for the low-energy excitations

Feynman, Phys. Rev. **94**, 262 (1954)

$$|\Psi_q\rangle = n_q |\Psi_0\rangle$$

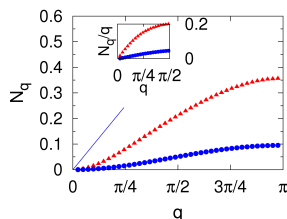
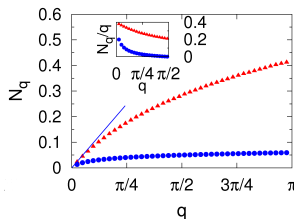
$$N_q = \langle \Psi_0 | n_{-q} n_q | \Psi_0 \rangle / \langle \Psi_0 | \Psi_0 \rangle$$

f-sum
rule

$$\Delta_q = \frac{\langle \Psi_q | (H - E_0) | \Psi_q \rangle}{\langle \Psi_q | \Psi_q \rangle} = \frac{\langle \Psi_0 | [n_{-q}, [H, n_q]] | \Psi_0 \rangle}{2N_q} \sim \frac{q^2}{N_q}$$

$N_q \sim |q| \Rightarrow \Delta_q \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow$ **metal**

$N_q \sim q^2 \Rightarrow \Delta_q$ is finite \Rightarrow **insulator**



Gutzwiller (left) and Jastrow (right) wave functions for $U = 4$ and 10

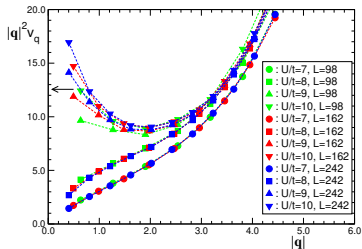
$$N_q = \frac{\langle \Psi | n_{-q} n_q | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle}$$

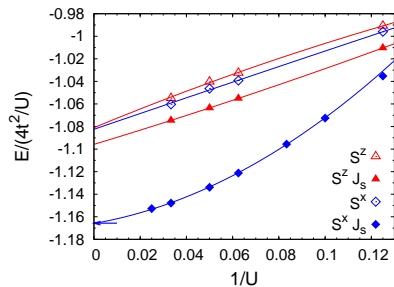
RPA Reatto and Chester, Phys. Rev. **155**, 88 (1967)

- For continuous systems
- In the weak-coupling regime

$$N_q \approx \frac{N_q^0}{1 + 2v_q N_q^0} \approx \frac{1}{v_q}$$

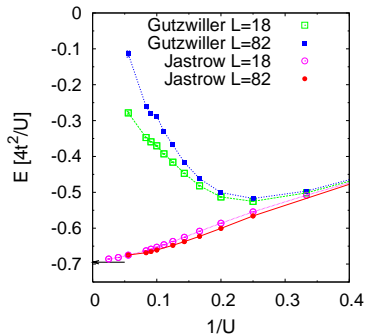
Two-dimensional (paramagnetic) Hubbard model



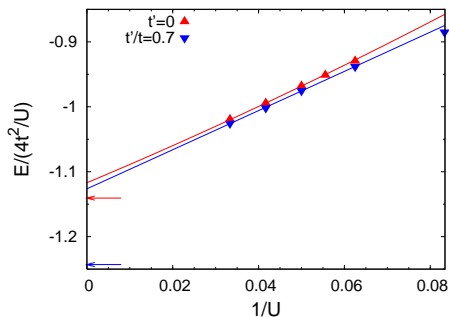


Good accuracy in unfrustrated 2D systems

One dimension



Two dimensions



Poor accuracy in 2D systems: especially in presence of frustration

Suppose we have a good ansatz $|\Psi_H\rangle$ for $U = \infty$

$$E = \langle \Psi_H | H_{\text{Heis}} | \Psi_H \rangle$$

Then a good ansatz for the Hubbard model in the large- U limit is

$$|\Psi\rangle = e^{iS} |\Psi_H\rangle \quad iS = \frac{1}{U} (T^+ - T^-)$$

MacDonald, Girvin, and Yoshioka, Phys. Rev. B **37**, 9753 (1988)

Difficult to treat

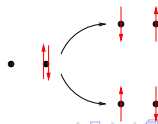
- Expand $e^{iS} \simeq 1 + iS$ (not size consistent)

Paramekanti, Trivedi, and Randeria, Phys. Rev. Lett. **87**, 217002 (2001)

- Perform the Hubbard-Stratonovich decoupling

D. Eichenberger and D. Baeriswyl, Phys. Rev. B **76**, 180504 (2007)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle x_0 | \Psi \rangle &= \langle x_0 | \Psi_H \rangle \\ \langle x_1 | \Psi \rangle &= \frac{1}{U} \left\{ \langle x_0^{\uparrow\downarrow} | \Psi_H \rangle + \langle x_0^{\downarrow\uparrow} | \Psi_H \rangle \right\} \end{aligned}$$



The backflow wave function in the continuum considers fictitious coordinates of the electrons

$$\mathbf{r}_\alpha^b = \mathbf{r}_\alpha + \sum_{\beta} \eta_{\alpha,\beta}(\mathbf{r}_\beta - \mathbf{r}_\alpha)$$

- Proposed for roton excitations in liquid Helium

Feynman and Cohen, Phys. Rev. **102**, 1189 (1956)

- Implemented in Monte Carlo calculations to study bulk ^3He

Schmidt, Lee, Kalos, and Chester, Phys. Rev. Lett. **47**, 807 (1981)

- Used to improve the electron gas

Kwon, Ceperley, and Martin, Phys. Rev. B **48**, 12037 (1993); Phys. Rev. B **58**, 6800 (1998)

Apply backflow to a lattice model

$$\phi_k(\mathbf{r}_\alpha^b) \simeq \phi_k^b(\mathbf{r}_\alpha) \equiv \phi_k(\mathbf{r}_\alpha) + \sum_{\beta} c_{\alpha,\beta} \phi_k(\mathbf{r}_\beta)$$

ϕ_k = single particle orbitals

To favor the recombination of neighboring charge fluctuations

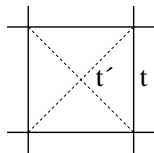
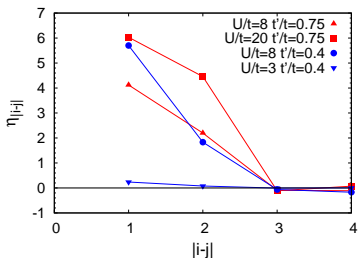
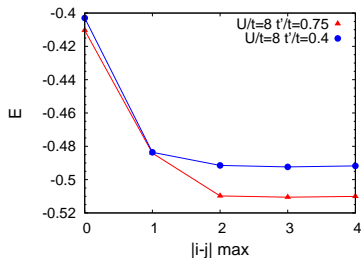
$$\phi_k^b(\mathbf{r}_{i,\sigma}) \equiv \epsilon \phi_k(\mathbf{r}_{i,\sigma}) + \sum_j \eta_{i,j} D_i H_j \phi_k(\mathbf{r}_{j,\sigma})$$

$$D_i = n_{i,\uparrow} n_{i,\downarrow} \quad H_i = (1 - n_{i,\uparrow})(1 - n_{i,\downarrow})$$



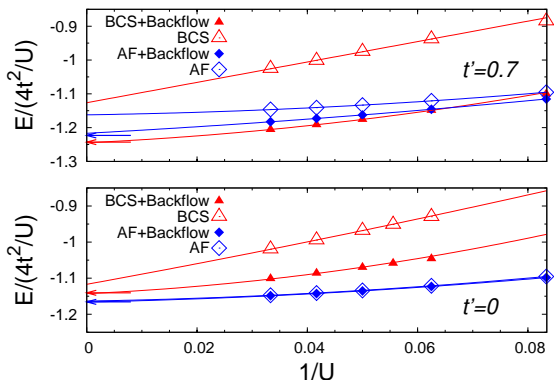
- The determinant part of the wave function includes correlations
- Backflow correlations can modify the nodes of the variational wave function
- Jastrow factor can change only amplitudes

THE BACKFLOW WAVE FUNCTION



- Important backflow parameters up to the range of the Hamiltonian
- Irrelevant backflow parameters for longer distances
- Backflow parameters are particularly important in the insulating phase

Backflow correlations make it possible to reach the fully-projected state



In the frustrated regime, backflow terms are useful also in the AF wave function