

# Quantum Computing for Heavy Quark Fragmentation (QC4HQ)

David Richards - PI

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Zhongbo Kang (UCLA) - Collaborator

Marco Zaccheddu and Jia-Yue Zhang - Post-doctoral Fellows

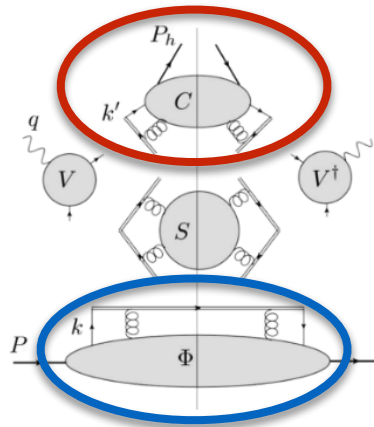
# Impact and strategic value to the Laboratory's mission

**The Problem:** How do the partons produced in experiment evolve to the final hadron(s) observed in detectors. Encapsulated in the Fragmentation Function (FF).



Parton Distribution functions:  
**computable on a Euclidean Lattice**

SIDIS@JLab



Fragmentation Functions: inherently time dependent and *inaccessible to a Euclidean lattice*.



Real-time Lattice computations using a Quantum Computer

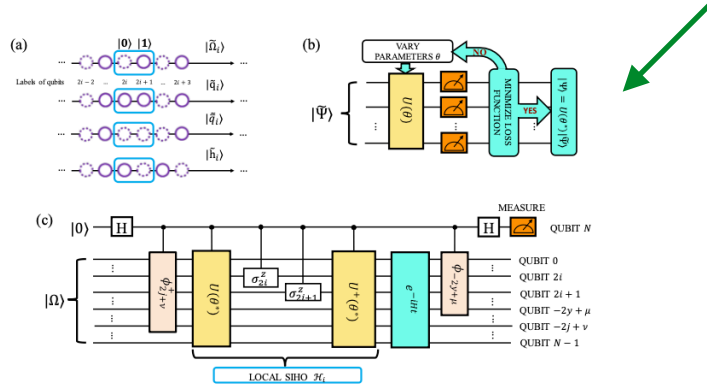
- A knowledge of fragmentation advances us to *more complete understanding of QCD*
- FFs are key to the *interpretation of data, in particular in experiments such as SIDIS*
- Will represent a major addition to our *world-class LQCD Effort* through the study of *real-time evolution*

*Real-time lattice calculations are not part of the NP base funding*

# Level of Innovation

Since submission of LOI, two papers have appeared moving towards addressing fragmentation in 1+1D

- S.Griener and I.Zahed, "Quasi-fragmentation functions in the massive Schwinger model", arXiv:2406.01891
- T.Li et al. (QuNu Collaboration), "Simulating Parton Fragmentation on Quantum Computers", arXiv:2406.05683



NJL model - *not full field theory*

This proposal is timely

**Real-time simulation of a lattice field theory**

First-principles study of QCD in 3+1 dimensions using QC is currently beyond reach:

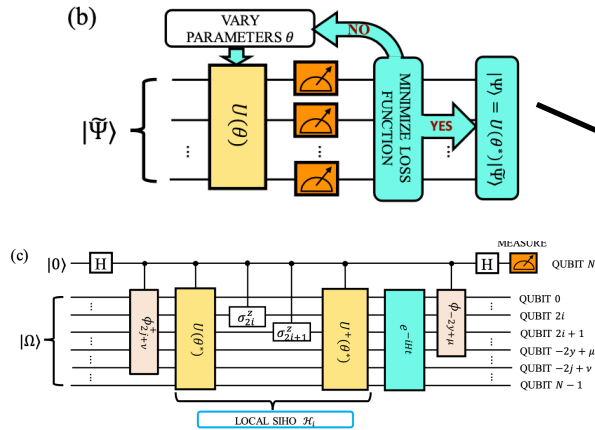
Study theory in 1+1 dimension that exhibits some of essential features of QCD:

- Many-body theory, i.e. allows particle creation and annihilation: lattice field theory
- Theory that admits confinement and emergence of bound states

**Calculation of heavy-quark fragmentation functions in the Schwinger Model**

↓  
Reduced size of Hilbert space

# Research Plan and Timeline



4. Calculation of the **continuum limit** and investigation of scaling/**quantum advantage**
5. Extension to two non-degenerate quark flavors: **threshold effects**

| Objective number | Milestone   | FY25 |    | FY26 |    |
|------------------|---|------|----|------|----|
|                  |   | H1   | H2 | H1   | H2 |
| 1                | Construction of Schwinger Hamiltonian; investigation of other QCD-like models                               |      |    |      |    |
| 2                | State preparation and its implementation in QisKIT  |      |    |      |    |
| 3                | Construction of a SIHO appropriate to the Schwinger model in 1+1 dimensions                                 |      |    |      |    |
| 4                | Investigation of fragmentation in the Schwinger model using Qiskit, and the approach to the continuum limit |      |    |      |    |
| 5                | Systematic Study of Fragmentation Functions with one heavy and one light flavor                             |      |    |      |    |

## Outcomes

- Papers in high-impact journals
- Presentation at NP and QIS conferences
- Open release of our software

# Budget and Justification

Primarily **Personpower**:

- Everyone is *in-place* for the two years
- Anticipate working as a team

| Budget  | Total | FY25  | FY26 | FY27 |
|---------|-------|-------|------|------|
| t (\$K) | 493.4 | 244.4 | 249  |      |

| Team Member     | Role          | Project Contribution                             | Specific Aims | Percent |
|-----------------|---------------|--|---------------|---------|
| David Richards  | PI            | Lead and coordinate the project                  | 1-5           | 25      |
| Kostas Orginos  | Co-PI         | Co-lead the project                              | 1-5           | 5       |
| Nobuo Sato      | Co-PI         | Co-lead the project                              | 1-5           | 5       |
| Marco Zaccheddu | Post-doctoral | Expertise in TMD factorization and fragmentation | 1-5           | 50      |
| Jia-Yia Zhang   | Post-doctoral | Expertise in Heavy Quark physics                 | 1-5           | 50      |

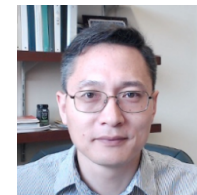


As a team, we bring **key expertise**

- **Lattice QCD**: David Richards and Kostas Orginos
- **Quantum Computing**: Nobuo Sato, Kostas Orginos
- **Factorization and Heavy-Quark Physics**: Nobuo Sato, Marco Zaccheddu, Jia-Yia Zhang, **Zhongbo Kang**

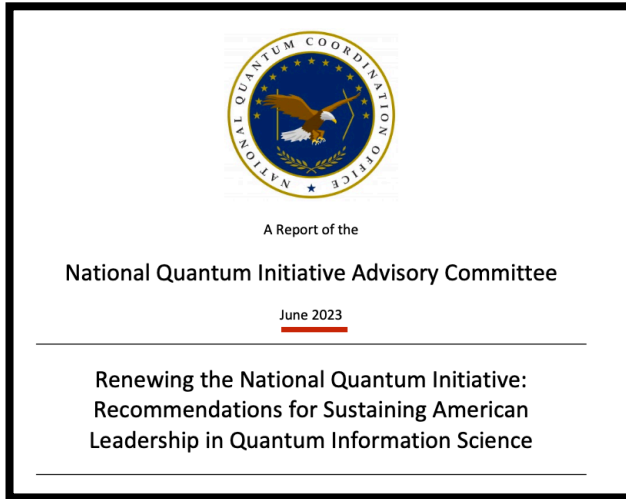
Travel:

- Zhongbo Kang (UCLA) *essential to project*: **budget for collaboration**



# Potential for Future Funding (Beyond LDRD)

- Fermions beyond 1+1D
- TMD FFs
- Di-hadron fragmentation functions



**RECOMMENDATION 1:** The United States should renew the NQI to support U.S. quantum information science, technology, and engineering, and signal intent to extend the NQI beyond its initial ten-year authorization.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:** The United States should expand the NQI to increase support for fundamental research in quantum information science and engineering.

The DOE’s “QIS Horizons” for advanced research on QIS and NP has in the past funded a project on Parton physics, e.g. J.Vary, “Nuclei and Hadrons with Quantum Computers (NuHaQ)”. This focused on a NJL light-front quantization framework.

- This project proposes to study in full a Quantum Field Theory that is more truly representative of QCD
- Therefore would present a strong case for future funding

The Variational Quantum Eigensolver (VQE) that lies at the heart of state preparation is a large-scale computational problem.

- Members of NERSC have expressed interest in the application of high-performance computing (HPC) for quantum computing
  - Opportunity for ASCR support both in terms of facilities and in terms of SciDAC-like projects

## NVIDIA Quantum

Accelerating the future of scientific discovery.

- VQE is an increasingly large scale variational problem requiring machine learning (ML) methods
  - Development of ML methods for VQE and the development of foundational models for the AI4NP FOA

*Recall QML proposal last year*

# BACKUP

Matrix-element definition of **single-hadron fragmentation function**

$$D^{h/q}(z) = z \sum_X \int \frac{d\xi^+}{2\pi} e^{ik^-\xi^+} \text{Tr} [\langle 0 | W(\infty^+, \xi^+) \psi_q(\xi^+, 0^-, 0_T) | P_h; X \rangle \langle P_h; X | \bar{\psi}_q(0^+, 0^-, 0_T) W(0^+, \infty^+) | 0 \rangle \gamma^- ]$$

Sum over **undetected particles**

**Schwinger Model**

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4g^2} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m)\psi; \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$$