

Preparing Projected Entangled Pair States on a Quantum Computer

Martin Schwarz, Kristan Temme, and Frank Verstraete

Vienna Center for Quantum Science and Technology, Faculty of Physics, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
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We present a quantum algorithm to prepare injective projected entangled pair states (PEPS) on a quantum computer, a class of open tensor networks representing quantum states. The run time of our algorithm scales polynomially with the inverse of the minimum condition number of the PEPS projectors and, essentially, with the inverse of the spectral gap of the PEPS's parent Hamiltonian.

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Projected entangled pair states (PEPS) [1] have been proposed as a class of quantum states especially suited to describe the ground states of local Hamiltonians in quantum many-body physics. PEPS are a higher-dimensional generalization of the one-dimensional matrix product states (MPS) [2], for which many interesting properties have been proven. For example, MPS provably approximate the ground state of 1D local Hamiltonians with constant spectral gap [3,4] and exhibit an area law [4] as well as an exponential decay of two-point correlation functions. Furthermore, for each MPS with the injectivity property [5], a parent Hamiltonian can be constructed with this MPS as its unique ground state. MPS can also be prepared efficiently on a quantum computer [6]. PEPS, however, form a much richer class of states and can, e.g., represent critical systems and systems with topological quantum order [7]. It is conjectured that all ground states of gapped local Hamiltonians in higher dimensions can be represented faithfully as PEPS, and although there are strong indications for this fact, this has not been proven. What is clear, however, is the fact that one can also construct parent Hamiltonians for them [5], and the PEPS will be the unique ground states of those Hamiltonians if the PEPS obeys the so-called injectivity condition [5]. Many physically relevant classes of PEPS on lattices are known to be almost always injective, including, e.g., the 2D AKLT state [5,8]. A particularly interesting subclass of PEPS is the one that consists of all those states whose parent Hamiltonian have a gap that scales at most as an inverse polynomial as a function of the system size: in that case, a local observable (i.e., the local Hamiltonian) allows us to distinguish the state from all other ones, as the ground state always has energy zero by construction. However, it was an open problem [7] whether such states could even be created on a quantum computer, as an algorithm that would allow us to prepare any PEPS would allow for the solution of *PP*-complete problems [9].

In this Letter we show how well-conditioned injective PEPS can be efficiently prepared on a quantum computer. The key idea of our approach is to grow the PEPS step by step. We demand that not only our final PEPS is the unique ground state of its parent local Hamiltonian, but also that

there exists a sequence of partial sums of the local terms of the parent Hamiltonian, such that each partial sum has a unique ground state of its own. Based on this assumption, the algorithm starts with a physical realization of the valence bond pairs as its initial state and iteratively performs entangling measurements on the virtual particles to map virtual degrees of freedom to physical ones, just as in the definition of the PEPS. The PEPS is called injective, if and only if this map is (left) invertible, which can only be the case if the dimension of the physical space is actually at least as large as the dimension of the virtual space at each vertex. Preparing a PEPS by measurements may seem to require postselection to project onto the right measurement outcome. To overcome this issue we use the Marriott-Watrous trick [10,11] of undoing a measurement based on Jordan's lemma [12] and combine it with the uniqueness property of injective PEPS [5] to prepare the required eigenstates. A key element that contributes to the success of this algorithm is the fact that the measurements are not done locally, such as in the framework of dissipative quantum state engineering [13], but globally by running a phase estimation algorithm that singles out the ground subspace; a similar approach was used in the context of the quantum Metropolis sampling algorithm [14]. Alternatively, methods for eigenpath traversal [15,16] can also be applied [17].

Definitions and results.—Before stating the result, we review the definition of PEPS and their essential properties. Recall [1,5] that PEPS are quantum states defined over an arbitrary graph $G = (V, E)$ such that quantum systems of local dimension d are assigned to each vertex. We construct the PEPS by assigning to each edge $e \in E$ a maximally entangled state $\sum_{i=1}^D |ii\rangle$. In this way, a vertex $v \in V$ with degree k gets associated with k virtual D -dimensional systems. Finally, a map $A^{(v)}: \mathbb{C}^D \otimes \mathbb{C}^D \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{C}^D \mapsto \mathbb{C}^d$ is applied to each vertex, taking the k virtual D -dimensional systems to a single physical d -dimensional system. The linear map $A^{(v)}$ is usually called the PEPS “projector” and is parametrized by tensors $A_i^{(v)}$ as follows: $A^{(v)} = \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j_1, \dots, j_k=1}^D A_{i, j}^{(v)} |i\rangle \langle j_1, \dots, j_k|$, where $A_i^{(v)}$ is a tensor with k indices. The PEPS can now be written as $|\psi\rangle = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_n=1}^d \mathcal{C}[\{A_{i_v}^{(v)}\}_v] |i_1, \dots, i_n\rangle$, where \mathcal{C} means the

contraction of all tensors $A_i^{(v)}$ according to the edges of the graph. In the most general case the virtual index dimension D as well as the physical index dimension d may also depend on the edges e and vertices v of the interaction graph, but we suppress this detail in favor of simplicity. Note, that without loss of generality $A^{(v)} \geq 0$ may be assumed, since for arbitrary $\tilde{A}^{(v)}$ we can choose a local basis by performing a polar decomposition, i.e., $\tilde{A}^{(v)} = U^{(v)}A^{(v)}$ with $U^{(v)}$ unitary and $A^{(v)} \geq 0$.

A PEPS $|\psi\rangle$ is called injective [5] if each PEPS projector $A^{(v)}$ has a left inverse. For some PEPS this may only be true after some local contractions of a constant number of PEPS tensors $A^{(v)}$ according to the interaction graph of the PEPS forming new projectors $\hat{A}^{(v)}$ for which the condition above holds. Since this blocking can be performed efficiently for constant degree graphs, we may assume for the remainder of this Letter that it has already been performed, such that each individual $A^{(v)}$ in our input is already injective by itself. Note that the existence of a left inverse allows us to strengthen the assumption $A^{(v)} \geq 0$ without loss of generality to $A^{(v)} > 0$ for all v .

For injective PEPS, there is a simple construction [5] of a 2-local parent Hamiltonian, such that the injective PEPS is its unique, zero-energy ground state. This construction gives a parent Hamiltonian for a quantum system consisting of n particles with d -dimensional Hilbert spaces.

Let H be a Hermitian matrix with $\lambda_0 < \lambda_1$ its smallest and second smallest eigenvalues. Then we call $\Delta(H) = \lambda_1 - \lambda_0$ the spectral gap of H . For any matrix A , the condition number $\kappa(A)$ is defined as $\kappa(A) = \frac{\sigma_{\max}(A)}{\sigma_{\min}(A)}$, where $\sigma_{\max}(A)$ and $\sigma_{\min}(A)$ are the largest and smallest singular values of A , respectively. We are now in a position to state the performance of our algorithm as our main theorem:

Theorem 1: Let $G = (V, E)$ be an interaction graph with bounded degree and some total order defined on V . Let $\{A^{(v)}\}_{v \in V_{[t]}}$ be a set of injective PEPS projectors of dimension $d \times D^k$ associated with each v in V up to vertex t (according to the total vertex order) describing a sequence of PEPS $|\psi_t\rangle$, and let $\kappa = \max_{v \in V} \kappa(A^{(v)})$ be the largest condition number of all PEPS projectors. Let $\Delta = \min_t \Delta(H_t)$, where $\Delta(H_t)$ is the spectral gap of the parent Hamiltonian H_t of the PEPS $|\psi_t\rangle$. Then there exists a quantum algorithm generating the final PEPS $|\psi_{|V|}\rangle$ with probability at least $1 - \varepsilon$ in time $\tilde{O}(\frac{|V|^2|E|^2\kappa^2}{\varepsilon\Delta} + |V|kd^6)$.

Algorithm.—Conceptually, PEPS are constructed by first preparing entangled pair states $|\psi\rangle = \sum_i |ii\rangle$ for each edge of the interaction graph describing the PEPS, and then projecting the k virtual indices associated with each vertex to a single physical index. While this construction is usually considered only a theoretical device, the proposed algorithm is indeed simulating the above construction for the case of injective PEPS with gapped Hamiltonians. This entails making the virtual indices physical as well.

Figure 1 presents our algorithm in pseudocode. We proceed by explaining each step in detail. PEPS construction starts in step 2 by distributing maximally entangled states of the desired bond dimension according to the interaction graph $G = (E, V)$. The resulting system is the zero-energy ground state of a simple Hamiltonian H_0 consisting purely of terms projecting onto $H_e = \mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{d} \sum_{i,j=1}^d |ii\rangle\langle jj|$ for each edge of the interaction graph (step 3). Note that this simple Hamiltonian is gapped.

We now describe the main iteration of the algorithm (step 4), which is illustrated in Fig. 2. In steps 4(a)–4(c), after having selected the next vertex v of the interaction graph according to the total vertex order, we construct a new Hamiltonian H_{t+1} from H_t . First, we select a d -dimensional “physical” subspace from the D^k -dimensional space at each vertex v . This subspace is represented by projector $P_{\text{phy}}^{(v)}$. Then we remove for each neighboring vertex v' of v the term $H_t^{(v,v')}$. These are either trivial H_e terms or temporary boundary terms (see below). Next we compute the new parent Hamiltonian terms $H_{t+1}^{(v,v')}$ according to [5] and add them to H_{t+1} reflecting the application of $A^{(v)}$. Restricted to the physical subspace

Input: Interaction graph $G = (V, E)$ with degree bound k and total vertex order. For each $v \in V$, $d \times D^k$ -matrices $A^{(v)}$ as PEPS projectors. Acceptable probability of failure ε .

Output: PEPS $|\psi\rangle$ with probability at least $1 - \varepsilon$.

1. $t \leftarrow 0$
2. $|\psi_t\rangle \leftarrow$ entangled pair for each edge $e \in E$.
3. $H_t = \sum_{e \in E} H_e$
4. For each $v \in V$ according to total order:
 - (a) $H_{t+1} \leftarrow H_t$
 - (b) For each neighbor $v' \in V$ of v :
 - remove term $H_t^{(v,v')}$ from H_{t+1}
 - compute parent Hamiltonian term $H_{t+1}^{(v,v')}$ using $A^{(v)}$
 - add term $H_{t+1}^{(v,v')}$ to H_{t+1}
 - (c) Add $H_{\text{phy}}^{(v)} = c(1 - P_{\text{phy}}^{(v)})$ to H_{t+1}
 - (d) $|\psi_{t+1}^{(\perp)}\rangle \leftarrow$ measure H_{t+1} on $|\psi_t\rangle$
 - (e) While measured energy nonzero:
 - i. $|\psi_t^{(\perp)}\rangle \leftarrow$ measure H_t on $|\psi_{t+1}^{(\perp)}\rangle$
 - ii. $|\psi_{t+1}^{(\perp)}\rangle \leftarrow$ measure H_{t+1} on $|\psi_t^{(\perp)}\rangle$
 - (f) $t \leftarrow t + 1$

FIG. 1. Algorithm constructing injective PEPS.

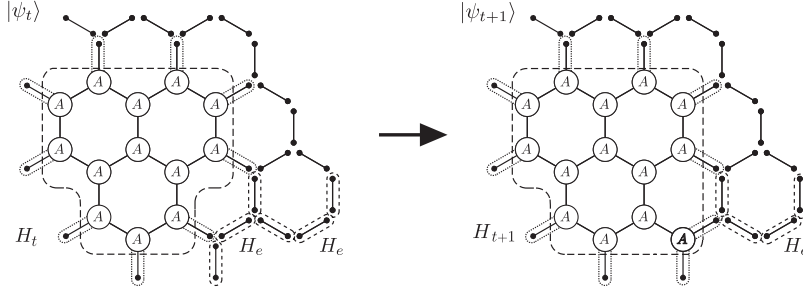


FIG. 2. In each step the algorithm processes one vertex v : H_t is grown into H_{t+1} by removing all existing terms referring to v before the $2k$ -local parent Hamiltonian terms are added implementing PEPS projector $A^{(v)}$ at v . Note that terms around v connecting to an open virtual index v' (bonds with dotted border) are only temporary and are removed in later steps of the algorithm. All terms constraining a vertex v only restrict the physical subspace $P_{\text{phy}}^{(v)}$, while degrees of freedom in the orthogonal subspace ($\mathbb{1} - P_{\text{phy}}^{(v)}$) are eliminated with an additional penalty term $H_{\text{phy}}^{(v)}$ that is added per vertex.

$P_{\text{phy}}^{(v)}$, each $H^{(v,v')}$ is simply a sum of 2-local terms over all edges e from v to vertices v' . Note that parent Hamiltonian terms $H^{(v,v')}$ towards any open “virtual index” v' are only temporary boundary terms which are computed in exactly the same way just as those for any other vertex by assuming the identity as the applicable PEPS map. Since the identity is trivially invertible, each intermediate PEPS is also injective and thus the unique ground state of the intermediate Hamiltonian H_{t+1} . Since the physical d -dimensional space is just a subspace of the D^k “virtual” space that is in fact also implemented physically in this algorithm, $H^{(v)}$ is actually a sum of $2k$ -local projectors. In order to ensure we produce a state with a single d -dimensional local space associated to each vertex v in the final PEPS, we add an extra term $H_{\text{phy}}^{(v)} = c(\mathbb{1} - P_{\text{phy}}^{(v)})$ in this step. This term penalizes the orthogonal complement of the chosen subspace with some energy $c \gg \Delta$.

Note that, prior to the execution of step 4(d), the system is in the ground state $|\psi_t\rangle$ of H_t by construction. This ground state is unique by the injectivity assumption we make for each intermediate PEPS $|\psi_t\rangle$ prepared in each iteration. In order to transition to the ground state $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$ of H_{t+1} , we run the phase estimation [18] algorithm for Hamiltonian H_{t+1} , perform a binary measurement to project $|\psi_t\rangle$ onto the zero- or nonzero-energy subspaces of H_{t+1} , and uncompute the phase estimation [step 4(d)]. This step requires an inverse eigenvalue gap Δ^{-1} between these two subspaces that scales with $O(\text{poly}(|V|))$ for the phase estimation to be efficient and precise enough [19]. We assume that such a gap exists for each intermediate parent Hamiltonian H_t that we construct according to the total vertex order defined on the interaction graph.

If the measurement results in the projection onto the zero-energy subspace of H_{t+1} we proceed to the next iteration [step 4(e)]. By Lemma 2, this event occurs with probability at least $\kappa(A^{(v)})^{-2}$, where $\kappa(A^{(v)})$ is the condition number of PEPS projector $A^{(v)}$ associated with vertex v . Note that the injectivity property of the PEPS assures that each $\kappa(A^{(v)})$ is a positive constant. If the measurement

projects onto the excited subspace of H_{t+1} , we undo the measurement by measuring H_t again [step 4(e)i]. If this second measurement results in a projection on the ground state, we have exactly undone the (unsuccessful) measurement of H_{t+1} , otherwise the system is in the excited subspace of H_t . In both cases the projection onto the ground state of H_{t+1} can now be attempted again, with success probabilities $\kappa(A^{(v)})^{-2}$ and $1 - \kappa(A^{(v)})^{-2}$, respectively [step 4(e)ii]. By Lemma 3, the inner loop will succeed in projecting onto the ground state of H_{t+1} with probability at least $1 - \frac{1}{2\epsilon s}$ after at most $\kappa^2 s$ attempts, with s chosen as $s = \frac{|V|}{2\epsilon}$. Once all $|V|$ vertices have been covered, the outer loop terminates with the PEPS $|\psi\rangle$ in its output register with probability at least $1 - \epsilon$, as shown in Theorem 1.

Bounding the transition probabilities.—As a first step in our analysis, we need a lower bound on the transition probability from $|\psi_t\rangle$ to $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$. To this end we proof the following lemma.

Lemma 2: Let $|\psi_t\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_t}} |A_t\rangle$ be the normalized PEPS $|A_t\rangle$, where $|A_t\rangle$ is the unnormalized partial PEPS resulting from the contraction of PEPS projectors $A^{(v)}$ for all vertices v processed in the algorithm up to step t and let $Z_t = \langle A_t | A_t \rangle$. Let $|A_{t+1}\rangle = A_{t+1} |A_t\rangle$, where A_{t+1} is the PEPS projector of time step $t+1$. Then $|\langle \psi_{t+1} | \psi_t \rangle|^2 \geq \frac{1}{\kappa(A_{t+1})^2} > 0$.

Proof.—A simple calculation shows

$$\langle \psi_{t+1} | \psi_t \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_t}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_{t+1}}} \langle A_t | A_{t+1}^\dagger | A_t \rangle \quad (1)$$

$$\geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_t}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_{t+1}}} \frac{\langle A_t | A_{t+1}^\dagger A_{t+1} | A_t \rangle}{\sigma_{\max}(A_{t+1})} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_t}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{Z_{t+1}}} \frac{Z_{t+1}}{\sigma_{\max}(A_{t+1})} \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sigma_{\max}(A_{t+1})} \left(\frac{Z_{t+1}}{Z_t} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (4)$$

where the inequality follows from the operator inequalities $A_{t+1} \geq 0$ and $\frac{A_{t+1}}{\sigma_{\max}(A_{t+1})} \leq \mathbb{1}$. This implies

$$|\langle \psi_{t+1} | \psi_t \rangle|^2 \geq \frac{1}{\sigma_{\max}(A_{t+1})^2} \frac{Z_{t+1}}{Z_t}. \quad (5)$$

But

$$Z_{t+1} = \langle A_t | A_{t+1}^2 | A_t \rangle \geq \sigma_{\min}(A_{t+1})^2 \langle A_t | A_t \rangle \quad (6)$$

$$= \sigma_{\min}(A_{t+1})^2 Z_t. \quad (7)$$

Thus Eqs. (5) and (7) yield the claim

$$p = |\langle \psi_{t+1} | \psi_t \rangle|^2 \geq \left(\frac{\sigma_{\min}(A_{t+1})}{\sigma_{\max}(A_{t+1})} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{\kappa(A_{t+1})^2}. \quad (8)$$

Finally, the injectivity assumption of PEPS $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$ implies left invertibility of A_{t+1} for each v ; thus, $\kappa(A_{t+1})$ is finite; therefore $p > 0$. ■

Bounding the convergence rate.—In this section we analyze the termination probability of the loop at step 4(e).

Lemma 3: Let H_t, H_{t+1} be Hamiltonians with unique zero-energy ground states $|\psi_t\rangle$ and $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$, respectively. Let s be a positive integer. If the system is in state $|\psi_t\rangle$ initially, then the measurement process alternatingly measuring H_{t+1} and H_t and stopping once $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$ is reached, takes the system to state $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$ with probability at least $1 - \frac{1}{2\epsilon s}$ after at most s/p alternations, where $p = |\langle \psi_{t+1} | \psi_t \rangle|^2$.

Proof.—Let P, Q be the ground state projectors of H_t and H_{t+1} , respectively, and let $P^\perp = \mathbb{1} - P, Q^\perp = \mathbb{1} - Q$. By Jordan's lemma, there exists an orthonormal basis in which the Hilbert space decomposes into (1) two-dimensional subspaces S_i invariant under both P and Q , and (2) one-dimensional subspaces T_j on which PQ is either an identity or a zero projector [11].

Since we know that $|\psi_t\rangle$ and $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$ are the unique 1-eigenstates of P and Q with overlap \sqrt{p} , exactly one S_i is relevant to our analysis. This two-dimensional subspace is spanned by both $|\psi_t\rangle$ and some $|\psi_t^\perp\rangle$, as well as by $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$ and some $|\psi_{t+1}^\perp\rangle$. Among these four vectors, we have the following relationships [10]:

$$|\psi_t\rangle = -\sqrt{p}|\psi_{t+1}\rangle + \sqrt{1-p}|\psi_{t+1}^\perp\rangle, \quad (9)$$

$$|\psi_t^\perp\rangle = \sqrt{1-p}|\psi_{t+1}\rangle + \sqrt{p}|\psi_{t+1}^\perp\rangle, \quad (10)$$

$$|\psi_{t+1}\rangle = -\sqrt{p}|\psi_t\rangle + \sqrt{1-p}|\psi_t^\perp\rangle, \quad (11)$$

$$|\psi_{t+1}^\perp\rangle = \sqrt{1-p}|\psi_t\rangle + \sqrt{p}|\psi_t^\perp\rangle. \quad (12)$$

Considering these symmetrical relations, we see that alternating measurements of H_t and H_{t+1} generate a Markov process among these four states. Since the process terminates whenever it hits $|\psi_{t+1}\rangle$, the only histories which can keep the process from terminating are those with an initial

transition $|\psi_t\rangle \rightarrow |\psi_{t+1}^\perp\rangle$ and which then keep repeating either one of the following two pairs of transitions

$$|\psi_{t+1}^\perp\rangle \rightarrow |\psi_t\rangle \rightarrow |\psi_{t+1}^\perp\rangle, \quad (13)$$

$$|\psi_{t+1}\rangle \rightarrow |\psi_t^\perp\rangle \rightarrow |\psi_{t+1}\rangle, \quad (14)$$

which occur with probabilities $(1-p)^2$ and p^2 , respectively. Thus the process terminates after at most $2m+1$ measurements with probability

$$p_{\text{term}}(p, m) = 1 - (1-p)[p^2 + (1-p)^2]^m. \quad (15)$$

To lower bound this probability we upper bound $p_{\text{fail}}(p, m) = 1 - p_{\text{term}}(p, m)$ as $p_{\text{fail}}(p, m) \leq (1-p) \exp[-2mp(1-p)]$, which follows from $(1-q)^m \leq e^{-qm}$, for $0 \leq q \leq 1$ and $m \geq 0$. Finally we choose m as a multiple of $\frac{1}{p}$ and find $p_{\text{fail}}(p, s/p) \leq \frac{1}{2\epsilon s}$, which can be seen by straightforward calculus. ■

Proof of Theorem 1.—We complete the proof of Theorem 1 by using Lemma 3 for bounding the failure probability p_{fail} of the inner loop to derive a lower bound on the success probability of the outer loop over all vertices in V . That is, we have to show that $(1 - p_{\text{fail}})^{|V|} \geq 1 - \epsilon$. Since $(1 - p_{\text{fail}})^{|V|} \geq 1 - |V|p_{\text{fail}}$ by truncating higher-order terms from the binomial series and assuming $|V| > 1$ it suffices to show $|V|p_{\text{fail}} \leq \epsilon$. Using Lemma 3, we find the first inequality of $|V|p_{\text{fail}} \leq \frac{|V|}{2\epsilon s} \leq \epsilon$, while the second inequality is satisfied by choosing $s \geq \frac{|V|}{2\epsilon}$. Thus, for the algorithm to succeed with at least probability $1 - \epsilon$ we have to choose $m \geq \frac{s}{p} \geq \frac{|V|}{2pe\epsilon}$. Since we know from Lemma 2 that $p \geq \frac{1}{\kappa^2}$, choosing $m \geq \frac{\kappa^2|V|}{2e\epsilon} \geq \frac{|V|}{2pe\epsilon}$ suffices. Thus the inner loop performs at most $2m+1 \leq \frac{\kappa^2|V|}{e\epsilon}$ measurements. The outer loop iterates over $|V|$ vertices; thus, the total number of measurements is less than $\frac{\kappa^2|V|^2}{e\epsilon} + |V|$. Bookkeeping of the active Hamiltonian terms in the outer loop requires a total time of $O(|V|k)$ using simple arrays as data structures and $O(|V|kd^6)$ to compute all parent Hamiltonian terms, both of which are dominated by the $O(|V|^2)$ time of the inner loop for small d . Finally, since each phase estimation step requires $\tilde{O}(|E|^2/\Delta)$ [11,18,19], where $\tilde{O}(\cdot)$ suppresses more slowly growing factors such as $\exp[\sqrt{\ln(|E|/\Delta)}]$ [20], we find a total run time of $\tilde{O}(\frac{|V|^2|E|^2\kappa^2}{\epsilon\Delta} + |V|kd^6)$. This completes the proof of Theorem 1. ■

Conclusion.—In this Letter we have shown how to construct quantum states described by injective PEPS in polynomial time by first reducing the problem to the generation of a sequence of unique ground states of certain Hamiltonians and then preparing that sequence. In future work we will focus on extending the class of preparable PEPS and possible performance improvements following from the results of [16,21,22].

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