

Simulating Open Quantum Systems and Their Environments with Matrix Product States



Grazia Di Bello



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
FEDERICO II



COST Action CA24109 – QOpen



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the European Union

<https://cost.eu>

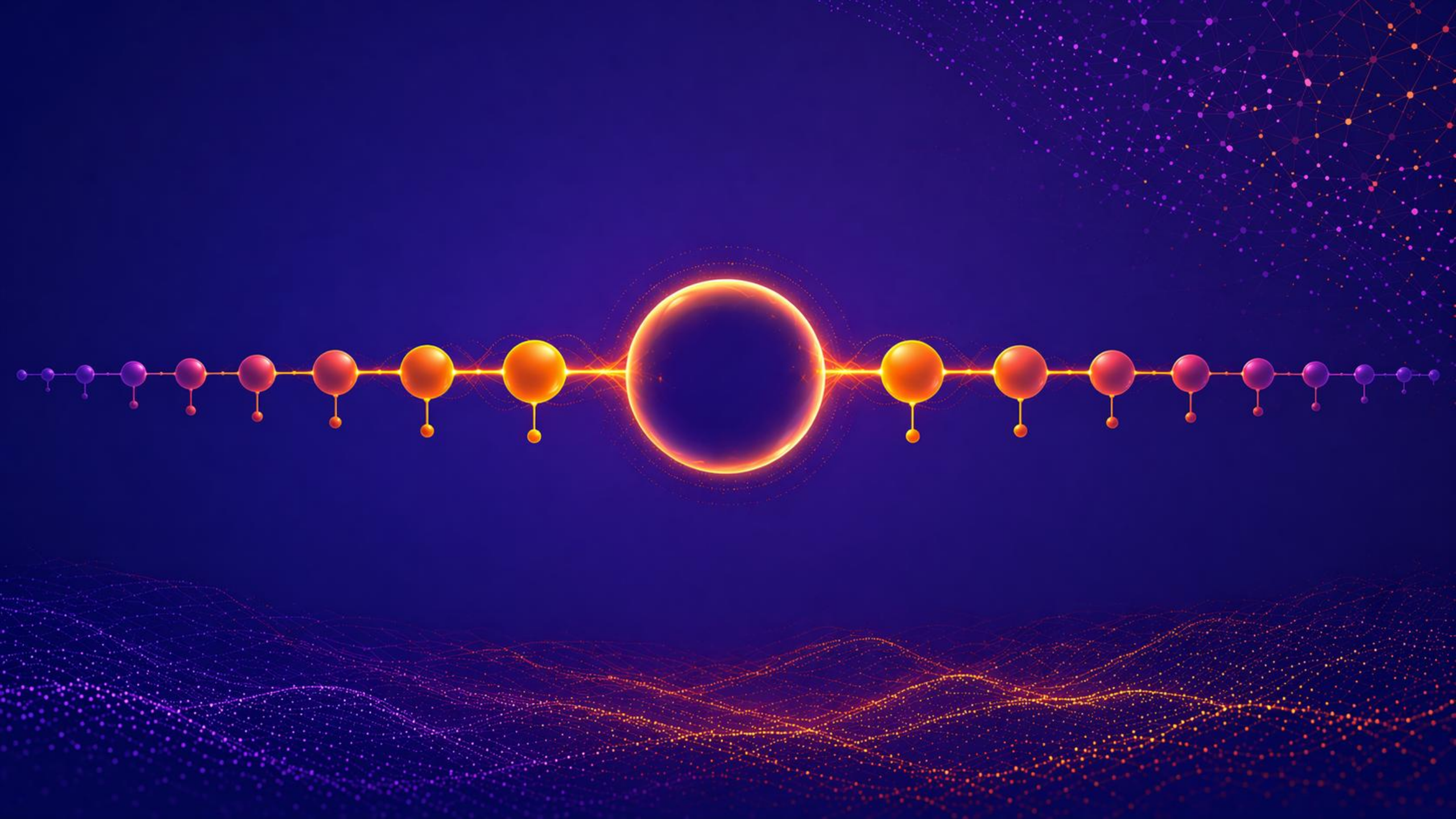


QOpen

Many-body Open Quantum Systems

<https://qopen.eu/>

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.



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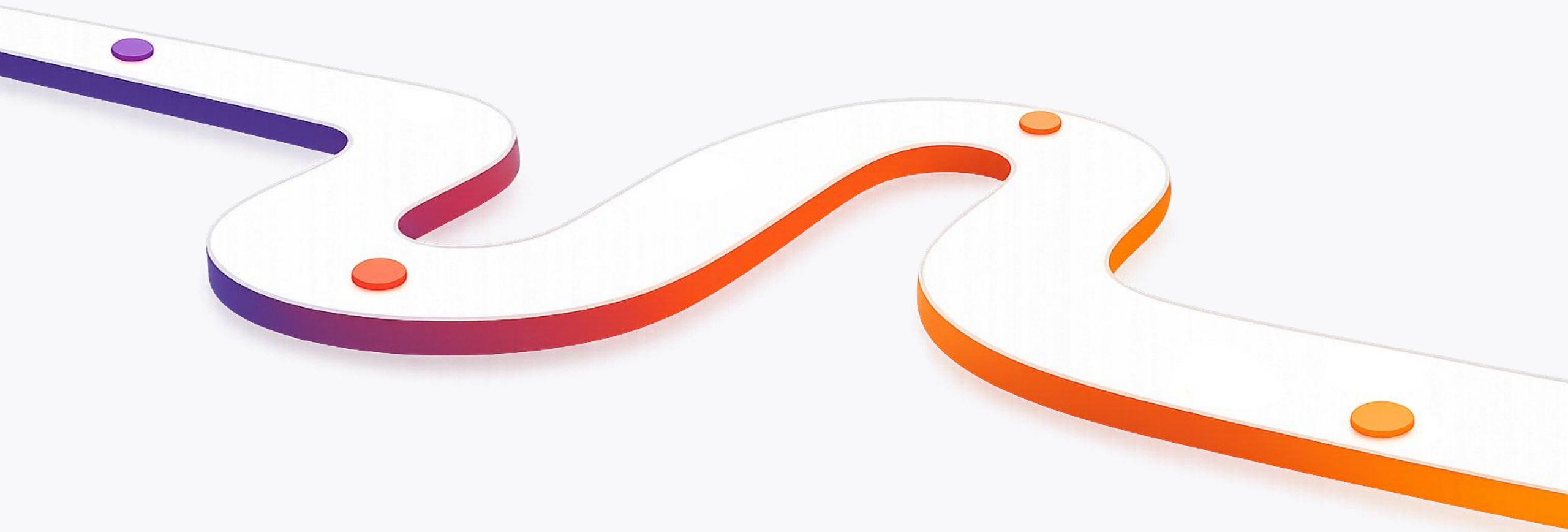


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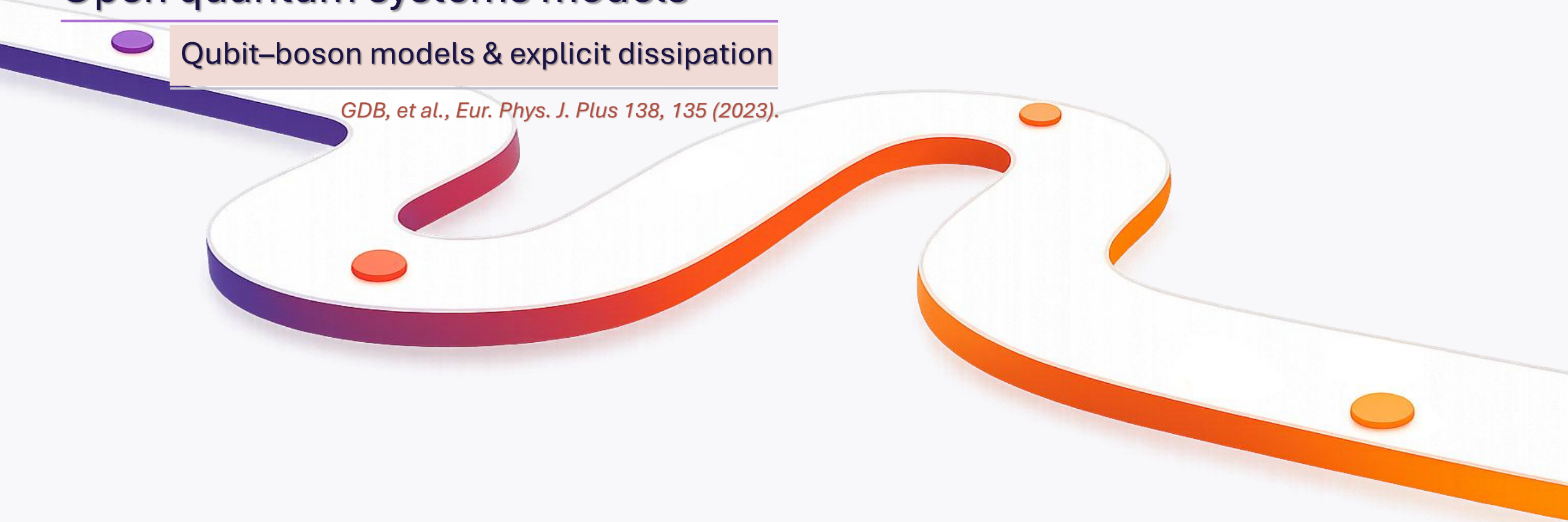
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Open quantum systems models

Qubit–boson models & explicit dissipation

GDB, et al., Eur. Phys. J. Plus 138, 135 (2023).



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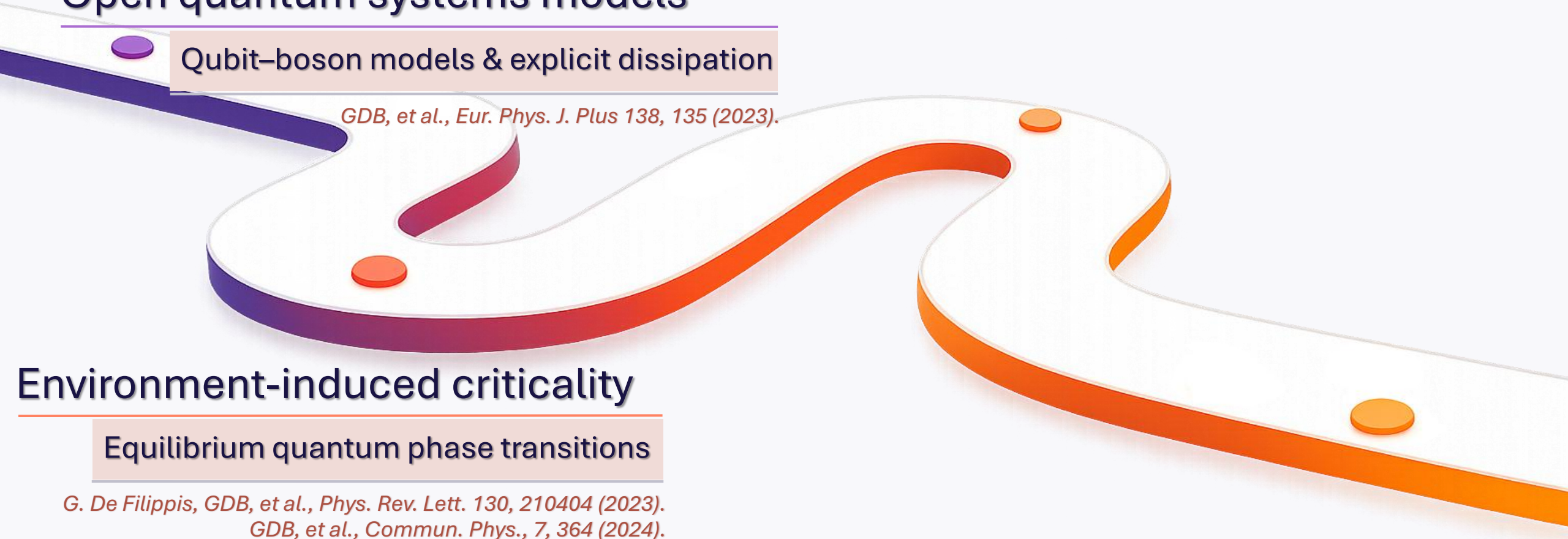
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Applications: work extraction & sensing

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Recent past: non-equilibrium effects

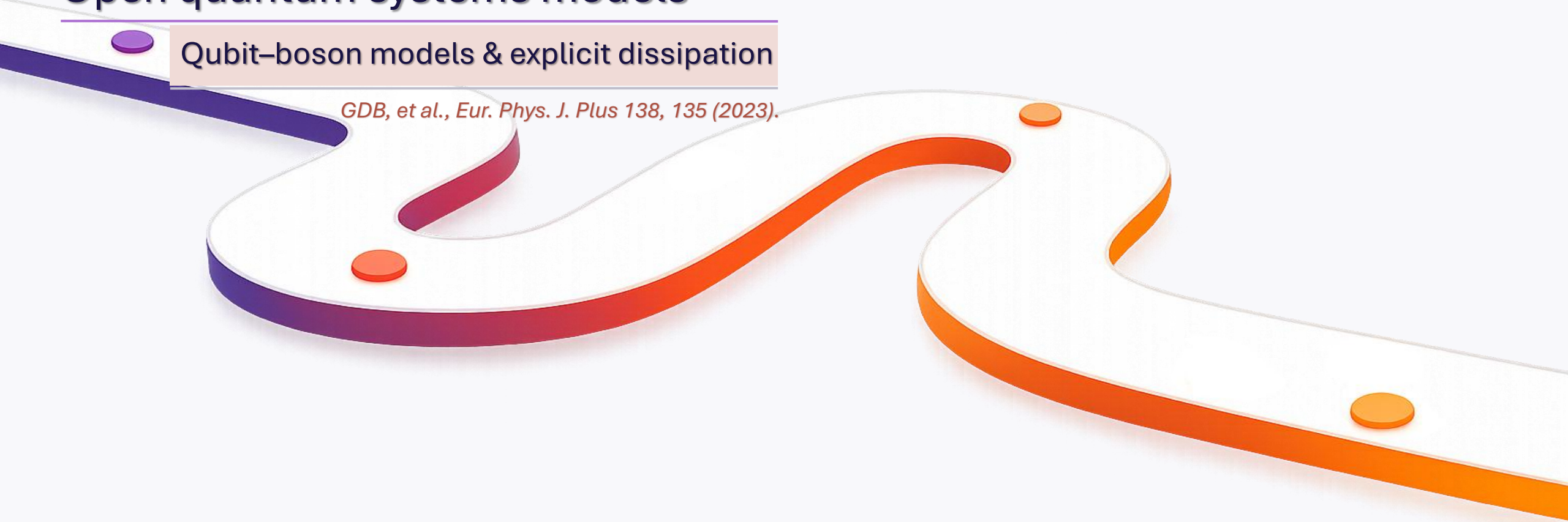
Kibble-Zurek mechanism & quantum Mpemba effect

*T. Pirozzi, GDB, et al., arXiv:2603.16709 (2026).
P. Chirico, GDB, et al., arXiv:2603.17565 (2026).*

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SIMULATING OPEN QUANTUM SYSTEMS



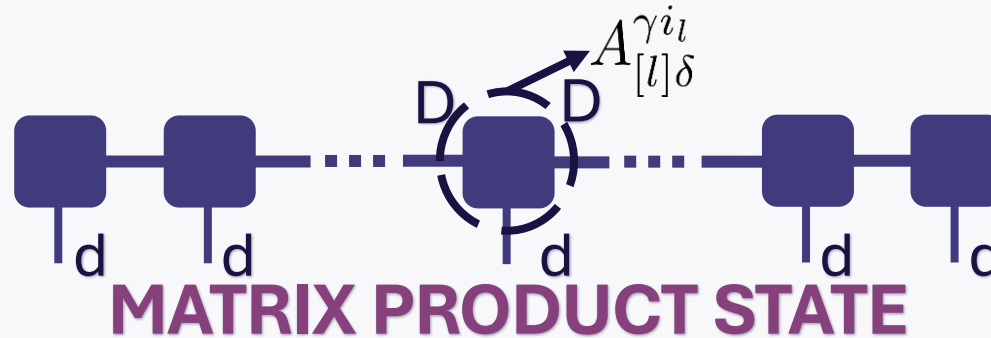
SIMULATING OPEN QUANTUM SYSTEMS

- ❑ no exact solution in general
- ❑ perturbative methods fail at strong coupling
- ❑ exact diagonalization is not scalable



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[M. C. Bañuls, Annu. Rev. Condens. Matter Phys., 14, 173-191 (2023).]

$$S_{\mathcal{N}/2} \leq \log(D) \quad \boxed{\mathcal{N} D^2 d \text{ params}}$$

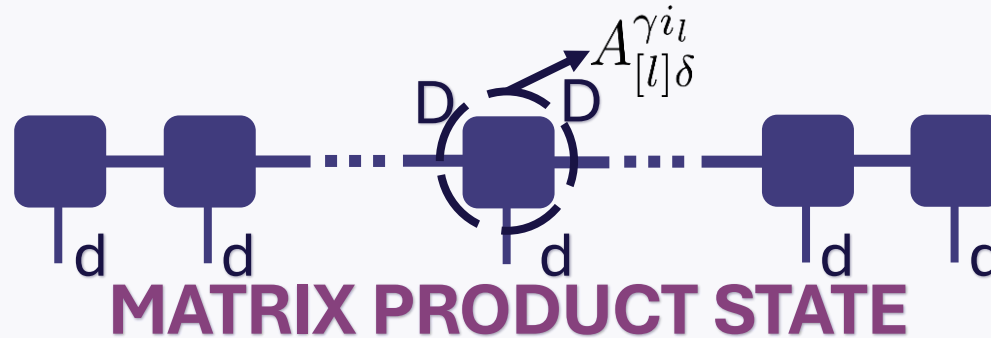
Ground state search (DMRG)
and time evolution (TDVP)

**Numerical effort
correlates to
entanglement**



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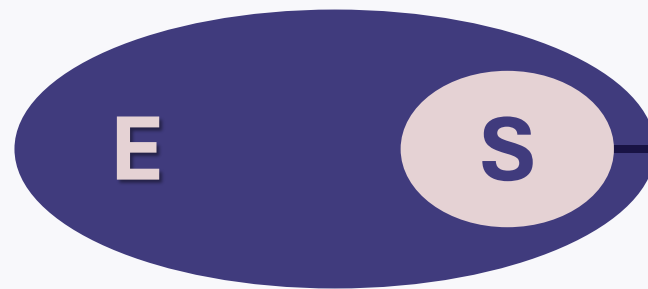


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[H. P. Breuer, & F. Petruccione, OUP Oxford (2002).]

BORN, MARKOV, SECULAR APPROX

$$\dot{\rho}(t) = \mathcal{L}[\rho(t)]$$

LINDBLAD MASTER EQUATION

MPS-based methods

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Ground state search

[U. Schollwöck,
Ann. Phys., 326,
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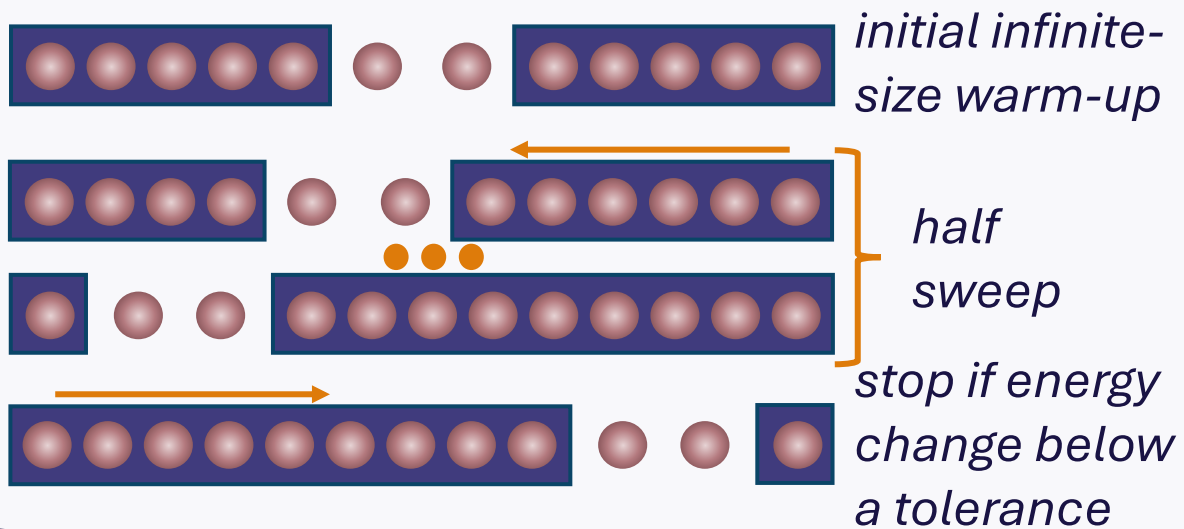
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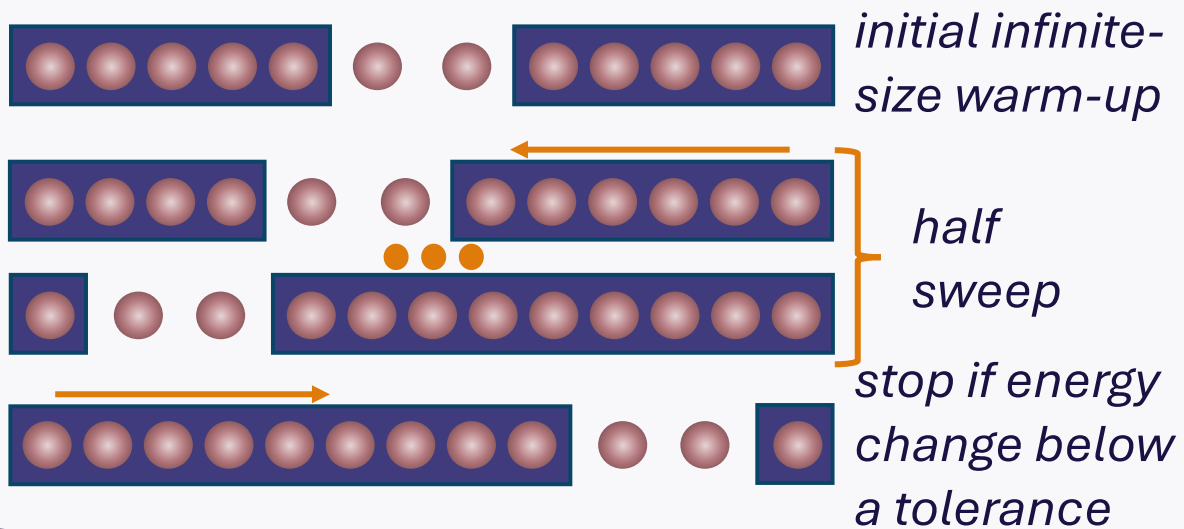
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DMRG

Time-dependent evolution

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TDVP

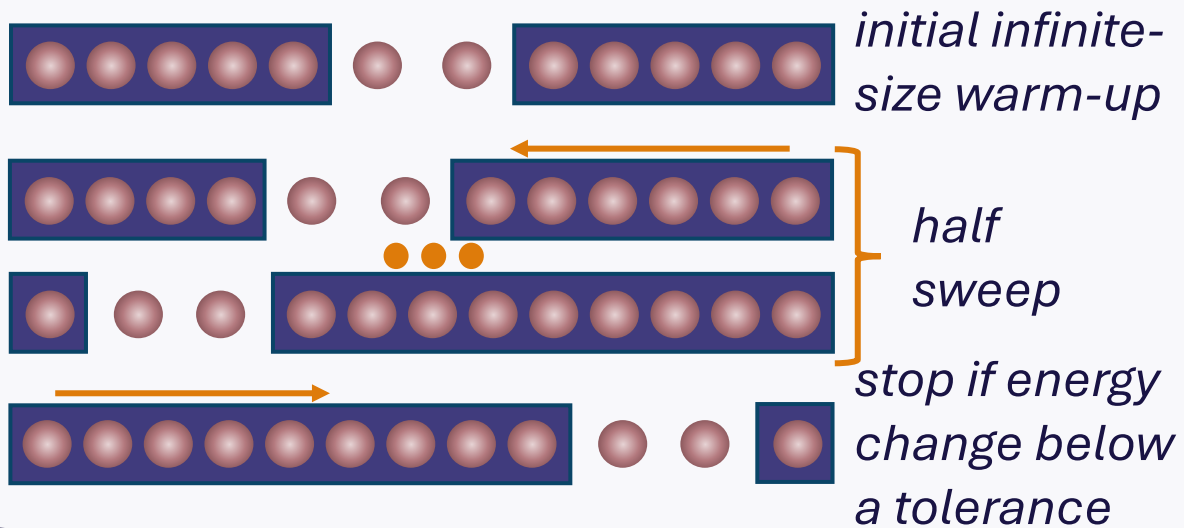


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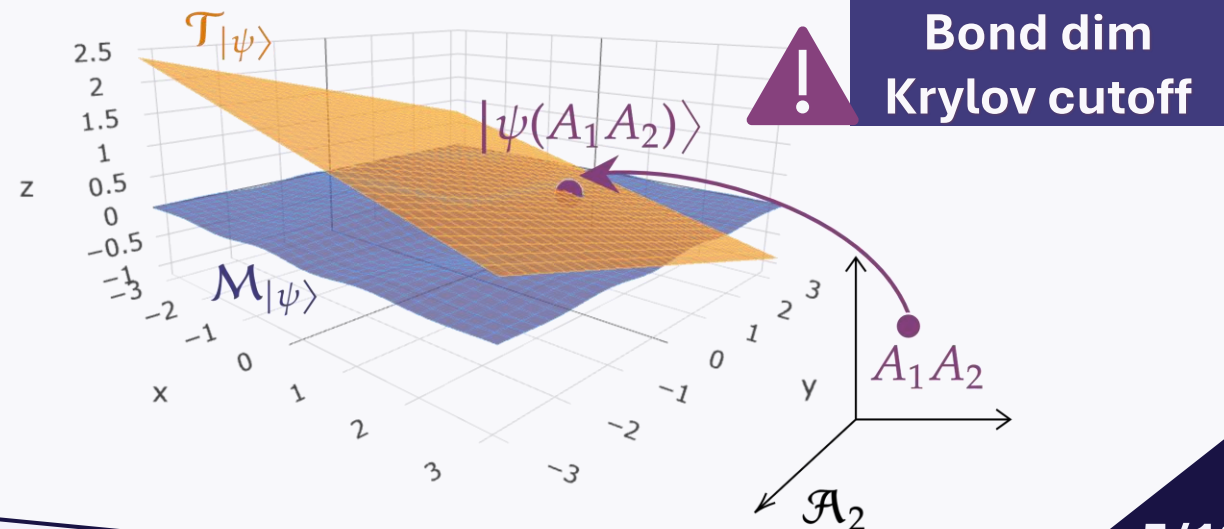
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TDVP

$$-i \frac{d}{dt} |\psi\rangle = \hat{P}_{T|\psi\rangle} H |\psi\rangle$$

- Bigger time-step than W^I and W^{II}
- Time-step error $O(dt^3)$



HOW TO MODEL DISSIPATION

HOW TO MODEL DISSIPATION

$$H = \frac{p^2}{2M} + V(q) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \left\{ \frac{p_{\alpha}^2}{m_{\alpha}} + m_{\alpha} \omega_{\alpha}^2 \left(x_{\alpha} - q \frac{c_{\alpha}}{m_{\alpha} \omega_{\alpha}^2} \right)^2 \right\}$$

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H_S Particle in a potential

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Caldeira-Leggett
model

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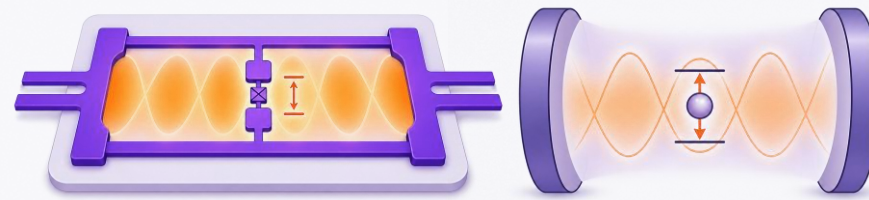
$$J(\omega) = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \frac{c_{\alpha}^2}{m_{\alpha} \omega_{\alpha}} \delta(\omega - \omega_{\alpha}) \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \alpha \omega^s \omega_c^{1-s} \Theta(\omega_c - \omega)$$

Bath spectral density
linked to the dissipation rates

MODELS

MODELS

 **Target platforms**



Circuit- and cavity-QED Hamiltonians

[G. Beaulieu, et al., PRX Quantum 6, 020301 (2025).]

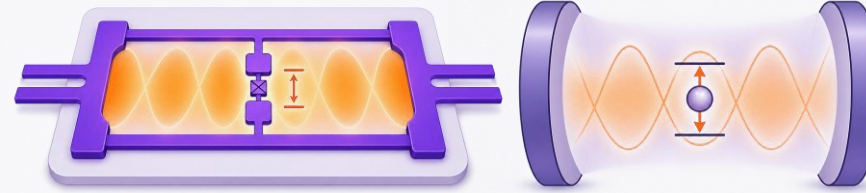
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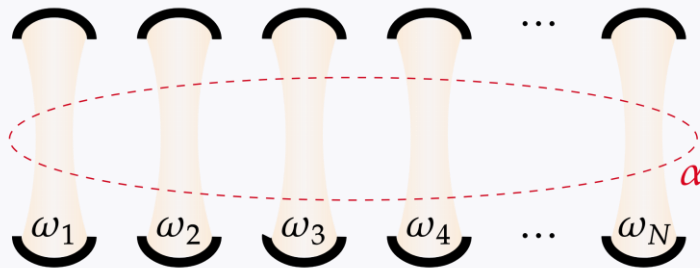
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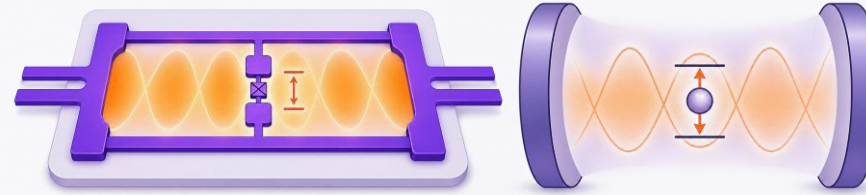
Non-Markovian challenges

Memory backflow • device noise



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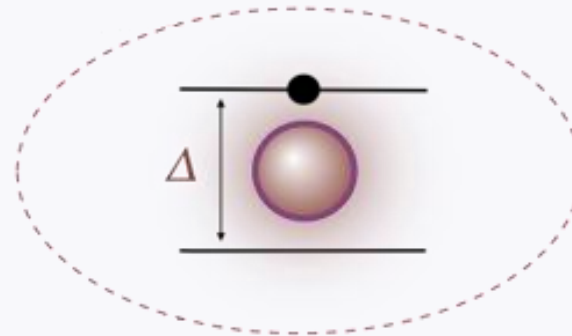
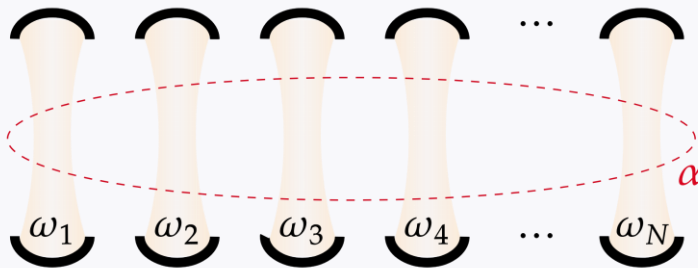
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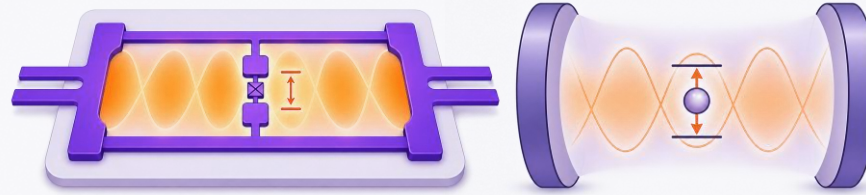


**SPIN-BOSON
MODEL
(SBM)**

1 qubit + N
harmonic
oscillators

MODELS

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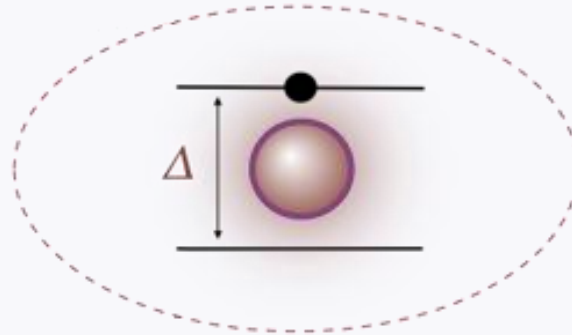
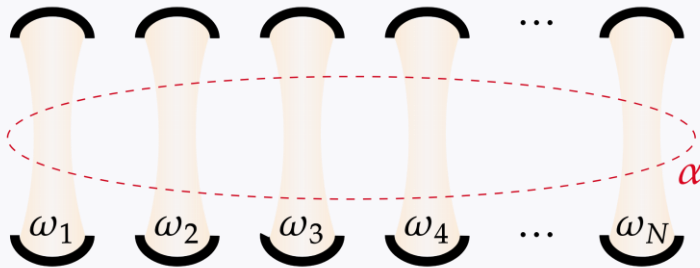


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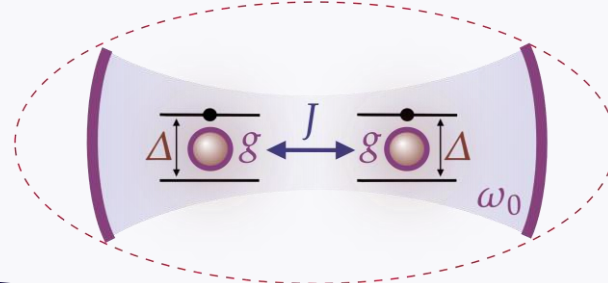
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**QUANTUM
RABI MODEL
(QRM)**

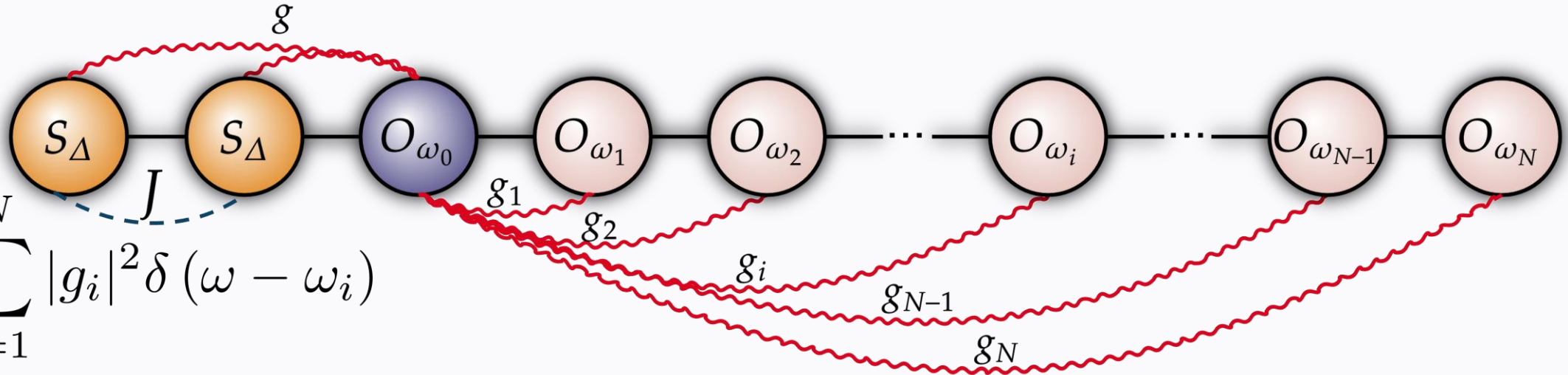
1 or 2 qubits +
cavity + N harmonic
oscillators

How to set MPS sites

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Example:

two-qubit
Rabi model



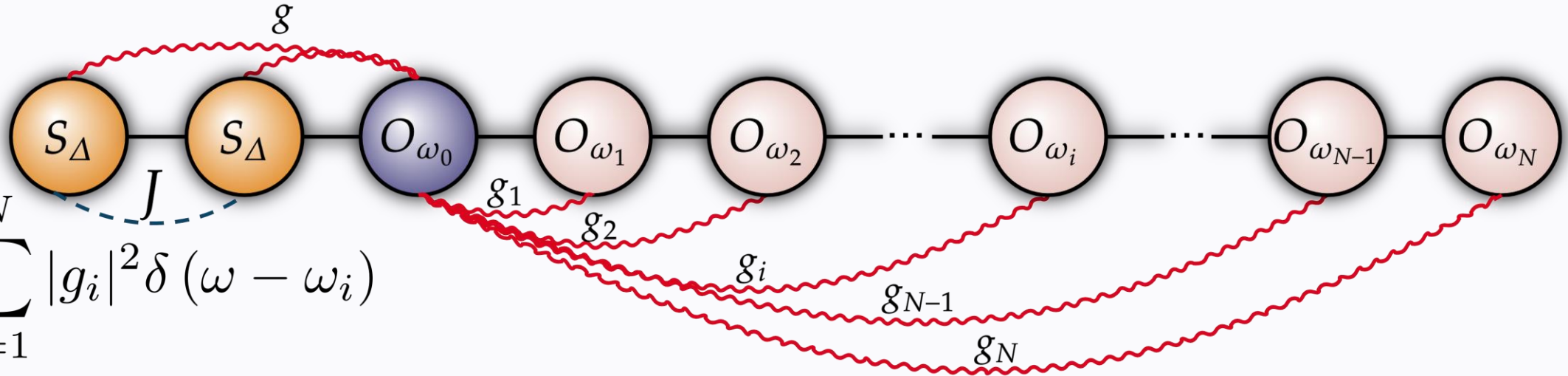
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$$\longrightarrow \alpha \omega^s \omega_c^{1-s} f(\omega_c)$$

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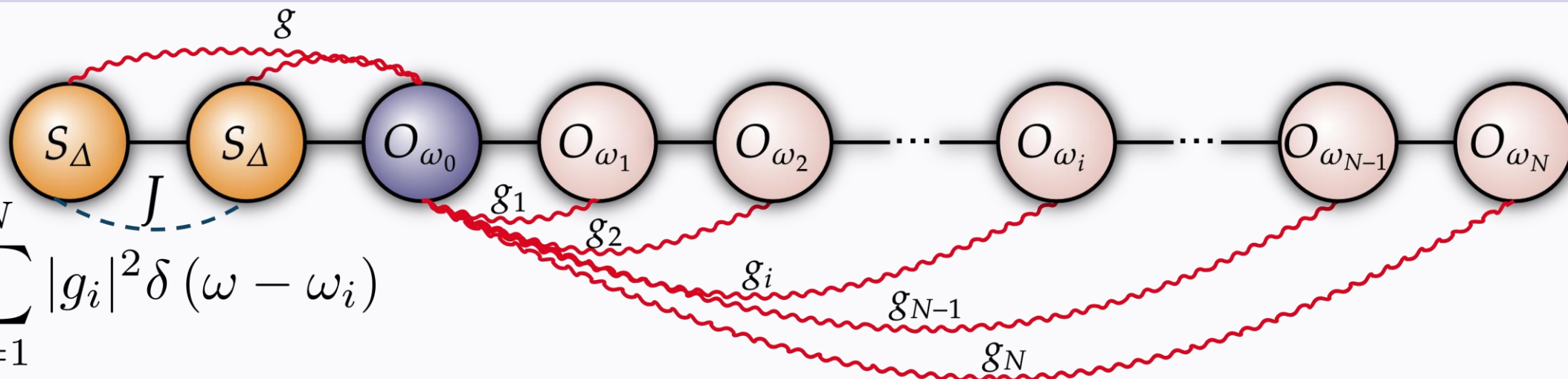
Wavefunction of the compound

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = (\alpha |\uparrow\uparrow\rangle + \beta |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle + \gamma |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle + \delta |\downarrow\downarrow\rangle) \otimes \sum_{n=0}^{n_{osc}} c_n |n\rangle \otimes |n_1, \dots, n_N\rangle$$

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Direct access to interactions and bath observables



Environment-induced criticality

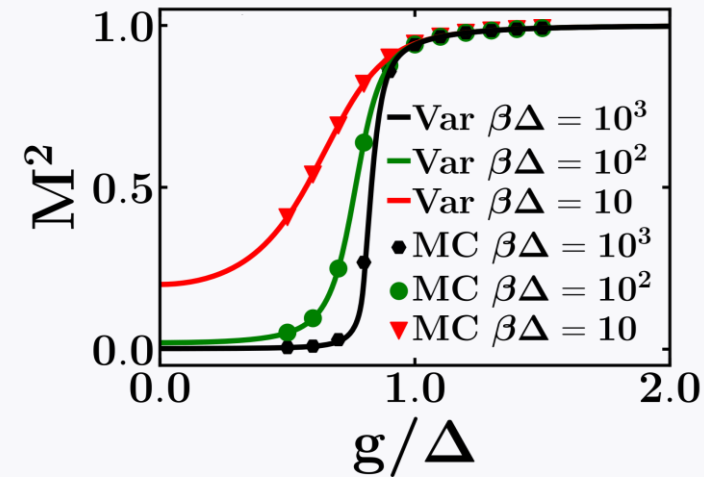
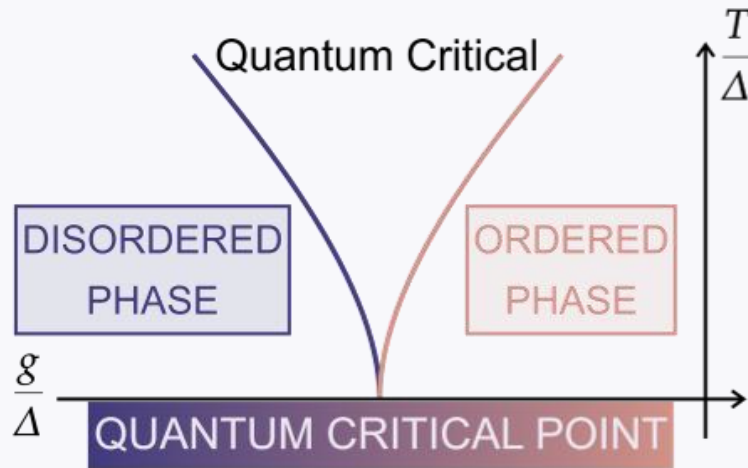
Equilibrium quantum phase transitions

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EQUILIBRIUM QUANTUM PHASE TRANSITIONS (QPTs)

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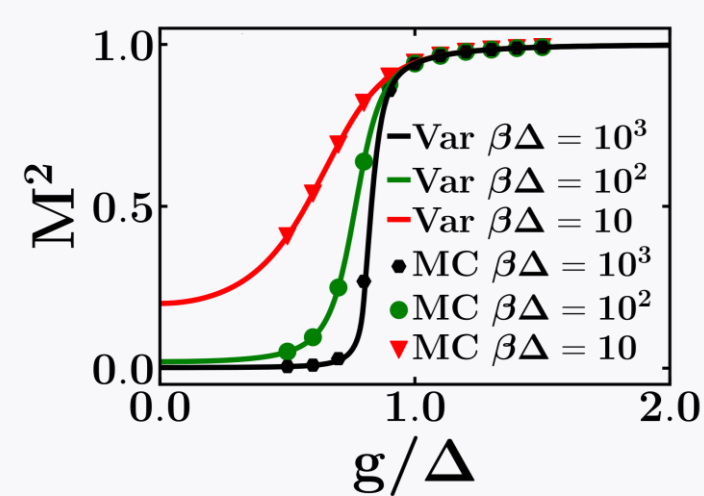
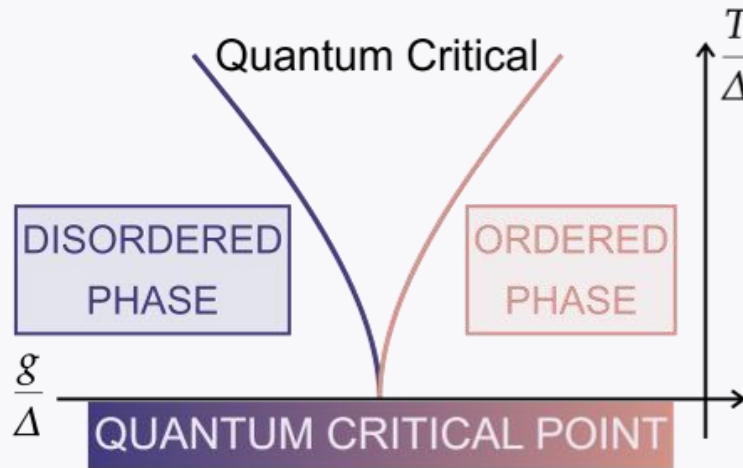
EQUILIBRIUM



Squared magnetization signals the transition in the open QRM

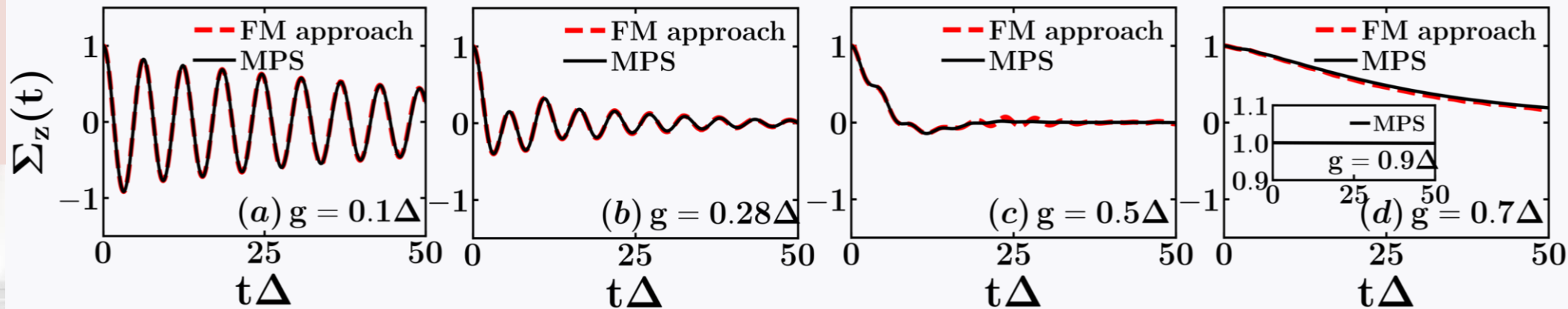
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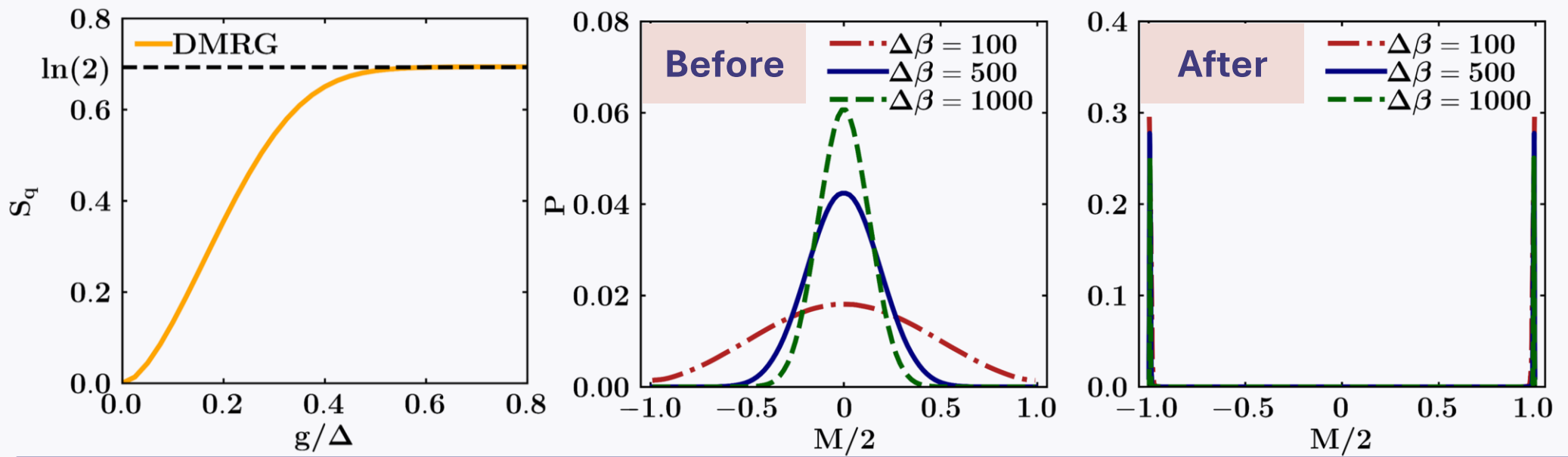
OUT OF EQUILIBRIUM



Rabi oscillations → exponential decay → no relaxation at the transition

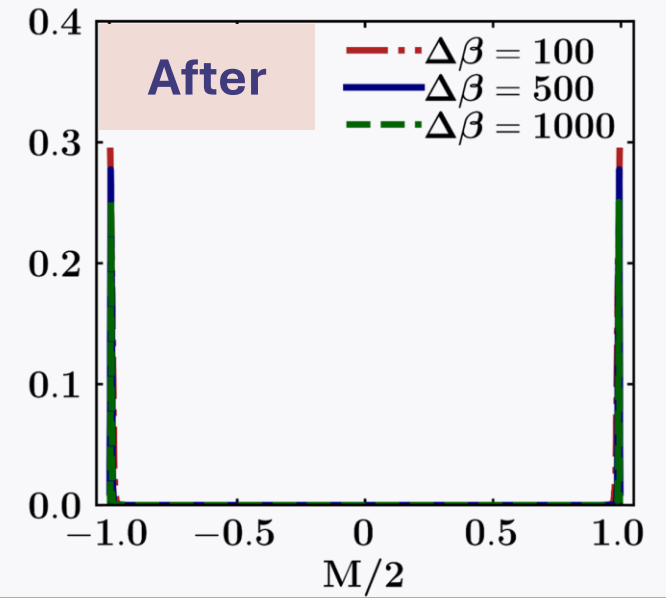
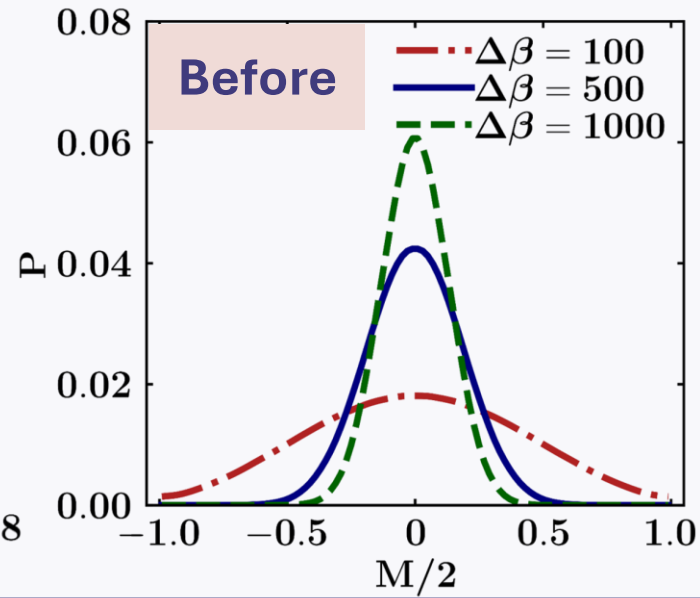
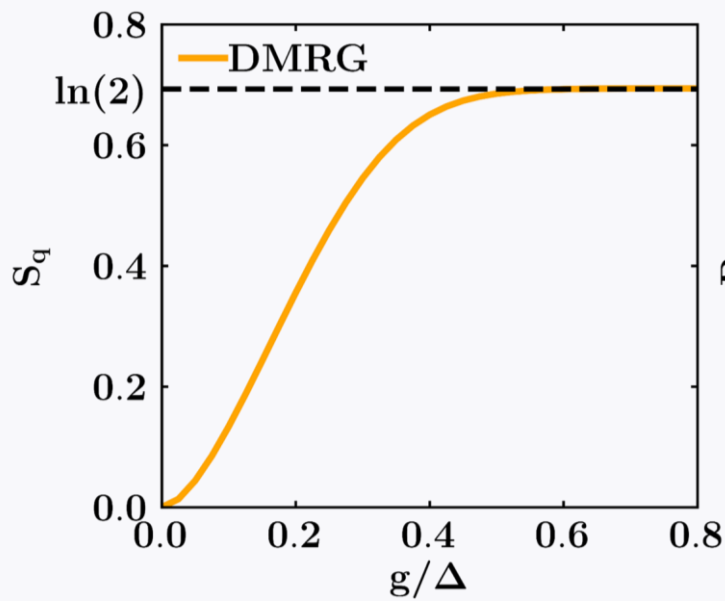
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2-QUBIT
CASE:
EQUILIBRIUM



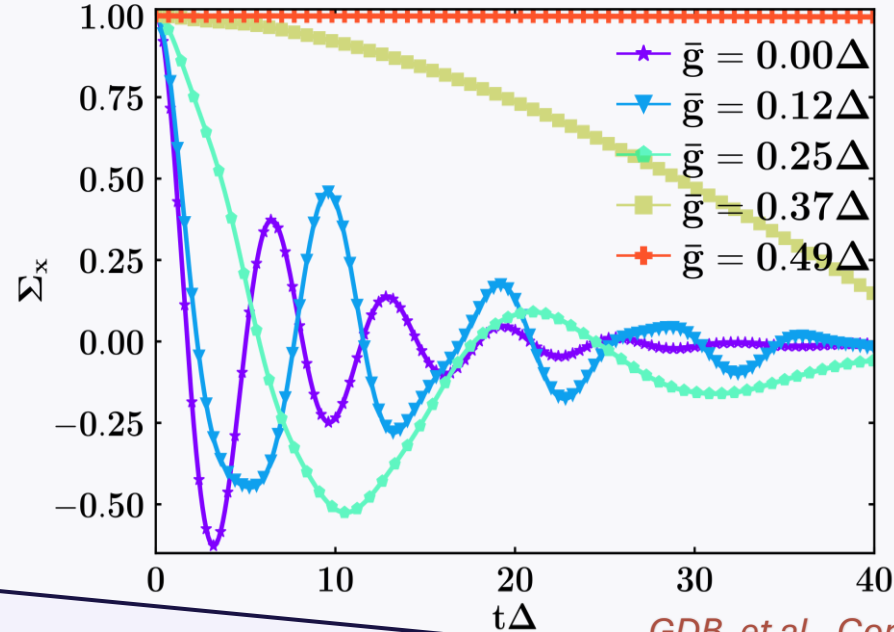
Two degenerate states post-transition from entanglement and magnetization distribution

2-QUBIT CASE: EQUILIBRIUM



Two degenerate states post-transition from entanglement and magnetization distribution

2-QUBIT CASE: OUT OF EQUILIBRIUM - OSCILLATOR



Oscillator behavior resembles the qubits one

GDB, et al., Commun. Phys., 7, 364 (2024).

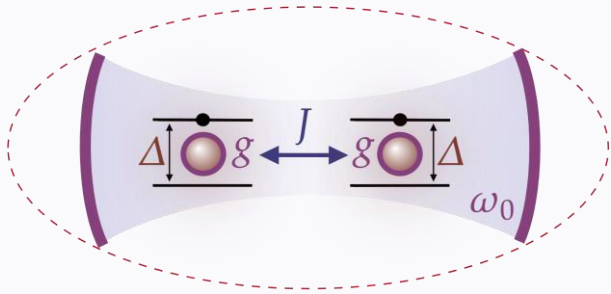
RELATED IDEA: Dynamical quantum phase transitions

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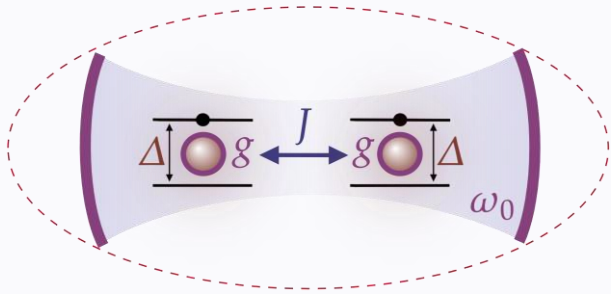


$$|\psi(0)\rangle = |GS\rangle_S \otimes |0, \dots, 0\rangle_E$$

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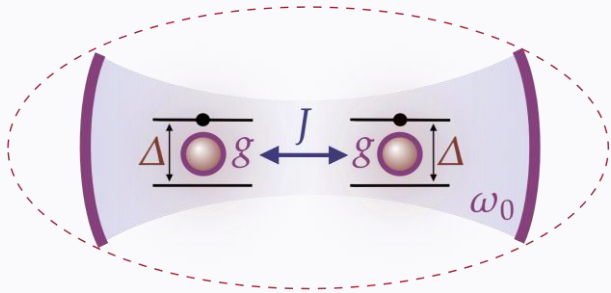
HAMILTONIAN QUENCH

$$\begin{cases} H|_{g=0} \equiv H_0 \\ H|_{g \neq 0} \equiv H \end{cases}$$

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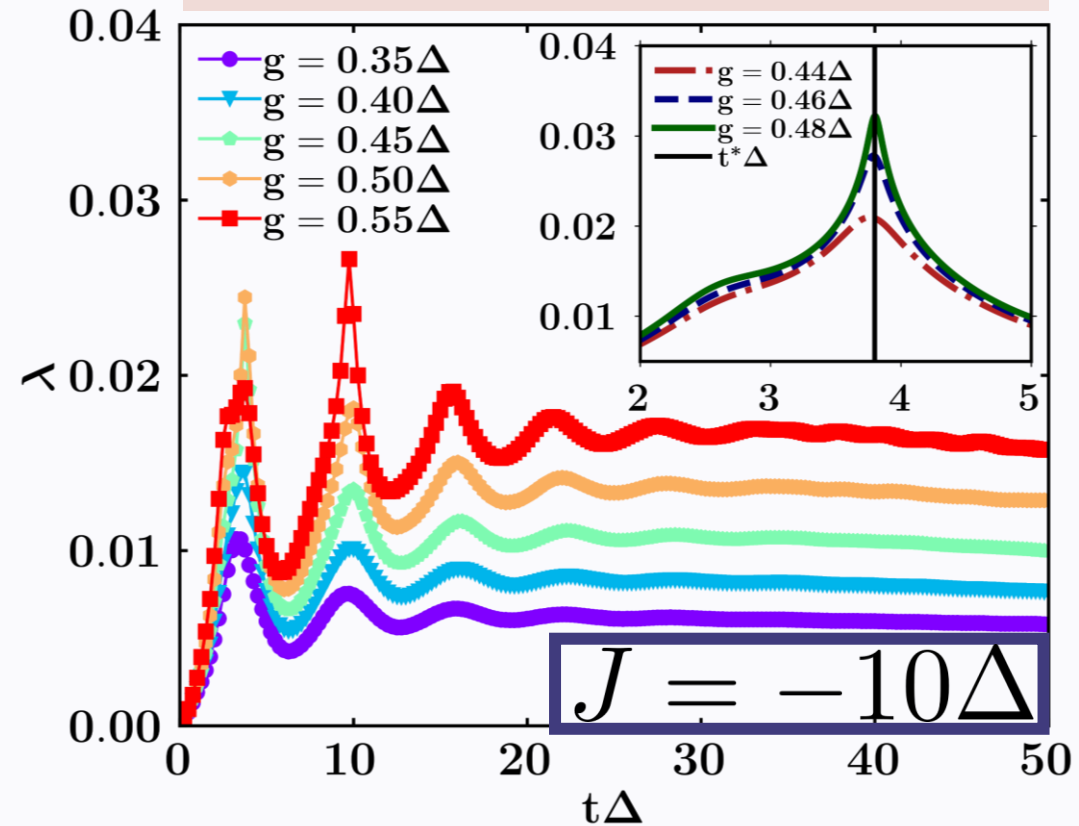


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LOSCHMIDT ECHO RATE FUNCTION TIME EVOLUTION



Rate function kinks towards the **dynamical transition (DQPT)** in the **same parameter range** as QPT

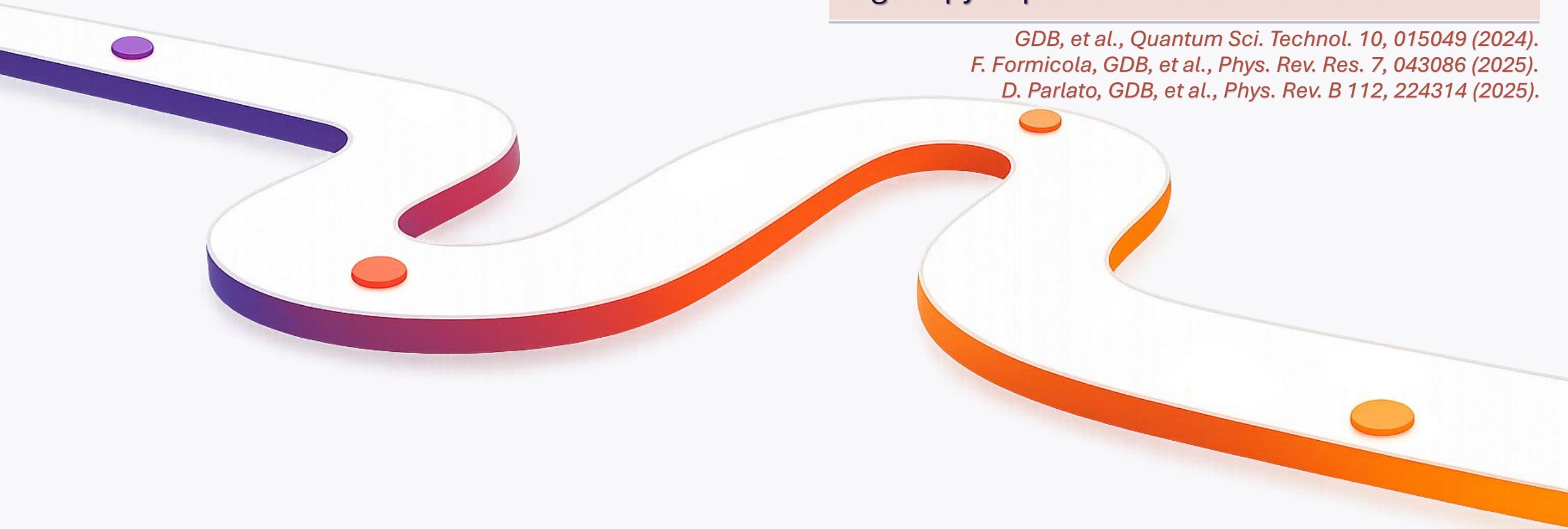
Applications: work extraction & sensing

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WORK EXTRACTION

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ERGOTROPY

Maximum extractable work

$$\mathcal{E} = \max_{U \in \mathcal{U}(d)} \left\{ \text{tr}(H\rho) - \text{tr}(U\rho U^\dagger H) \right\}$$

[A. Allahverdyan, et al., Europhys. Lett., 67, 565 (2004).]

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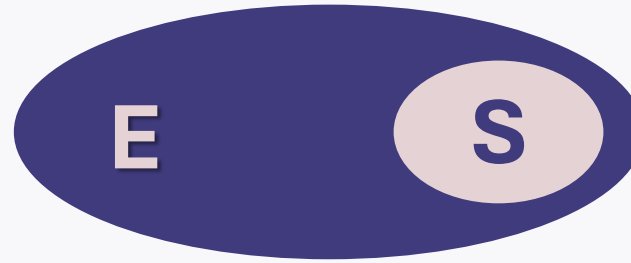
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WORK EXTRACTION

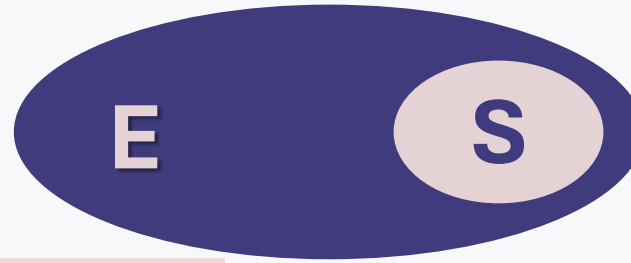
[F. Campaioli, et al., Rev. Mod. Phys.,
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ERGOTROPY

Maximum extractable work

$$\mathcal{E} = \max_{U \in \mathcal{U}(d)} \left\{ \text{tr}(H\rho) - \text{tr}(U\rho U^\dagger H) \right\}$$

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Switch-off: turning off environment interactions

$$\mathcal{E}_{so} = \mathcal{E}_{sys} - \Delta_{so}$$

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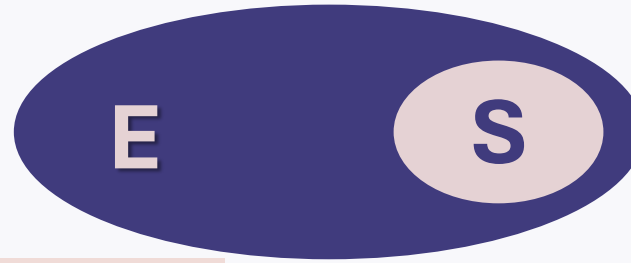
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[R. Salvia, et al., Phys. Rev. A, 107, 01240 (2023).]

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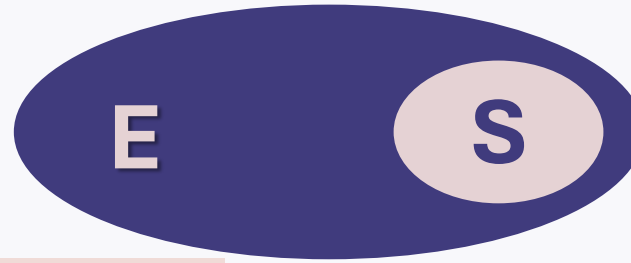
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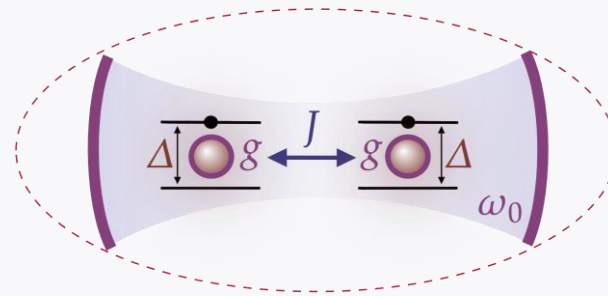
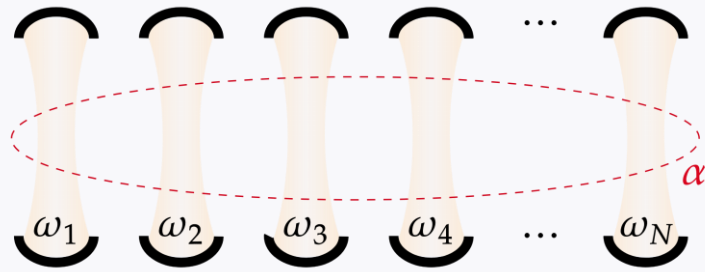
Fluctuations: work quasi-probability distribution

$$\sigma^2(t) = \langle w^2 \rangle - \langle w \rangle^2$$

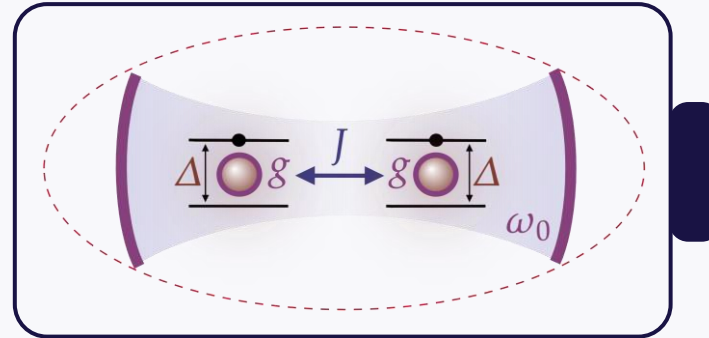
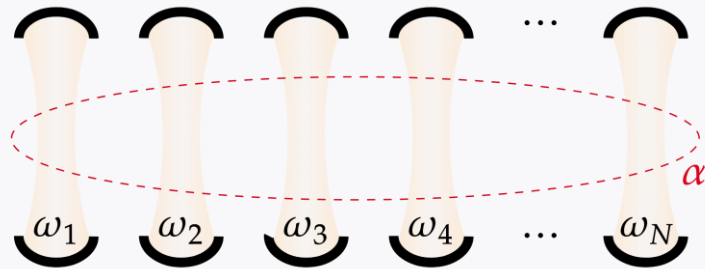
[G. Francica, Phys. Rev. E, 105, 014101 (2022).]

LOCAL ERGOTROPY ACROSS THE QPT

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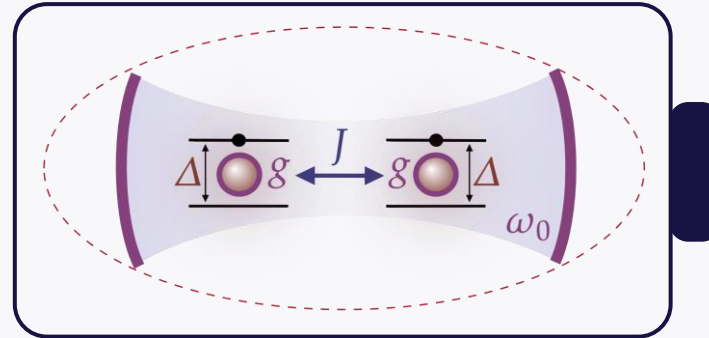
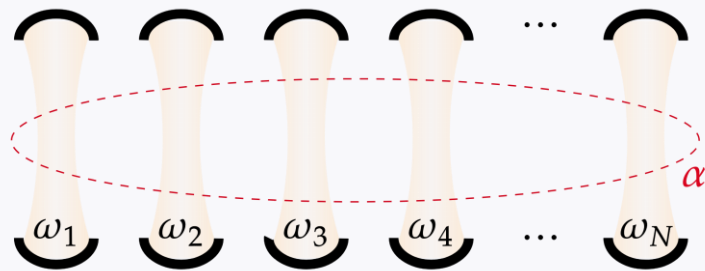


OPEN QUANTUM BATTERY

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = |GS\rangle_{DMRG}$$

Initial ground state of entire system

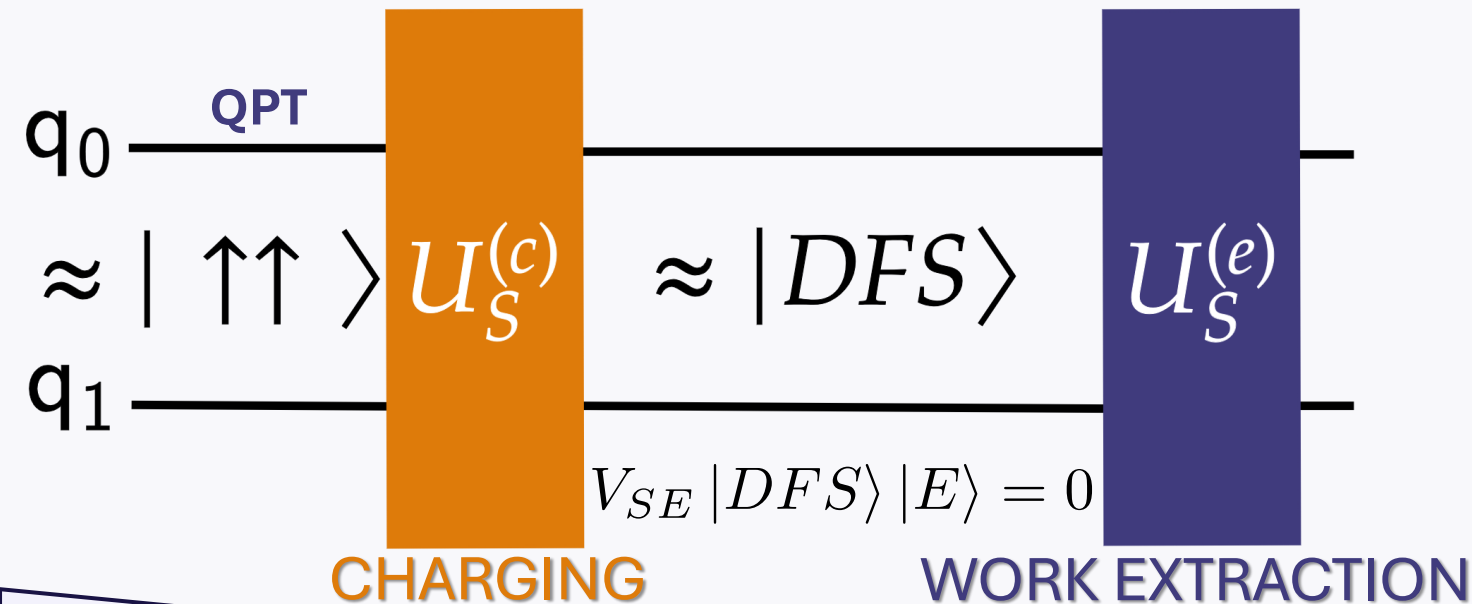
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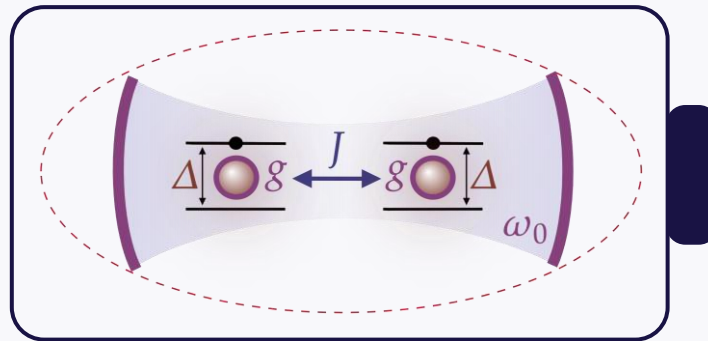
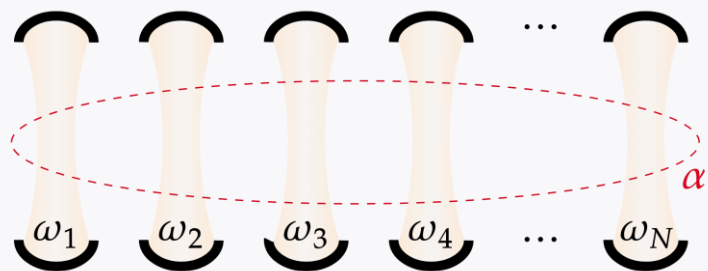
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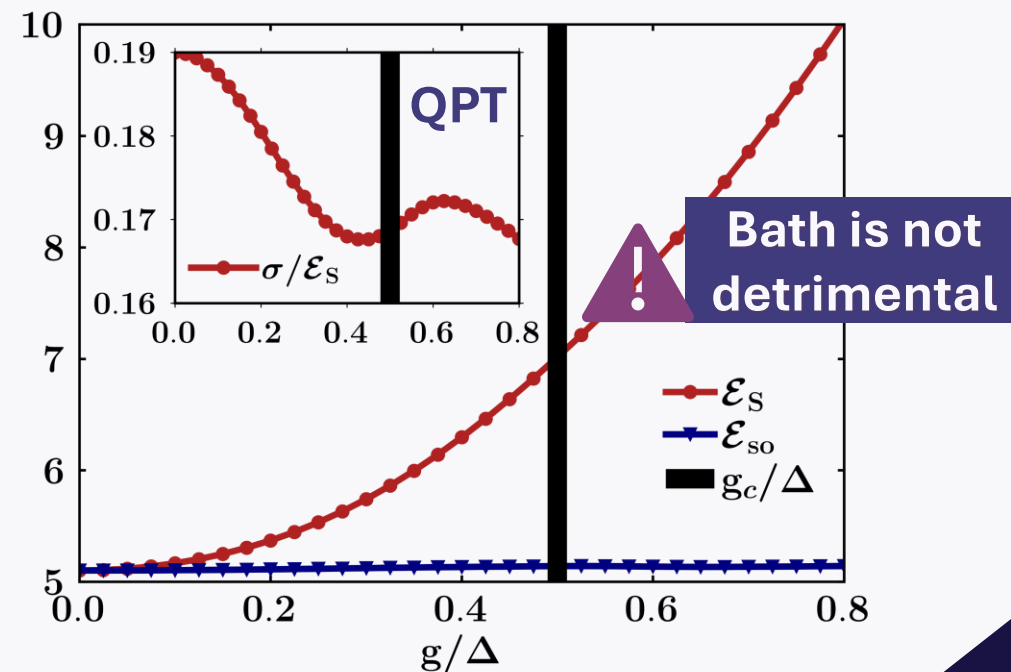
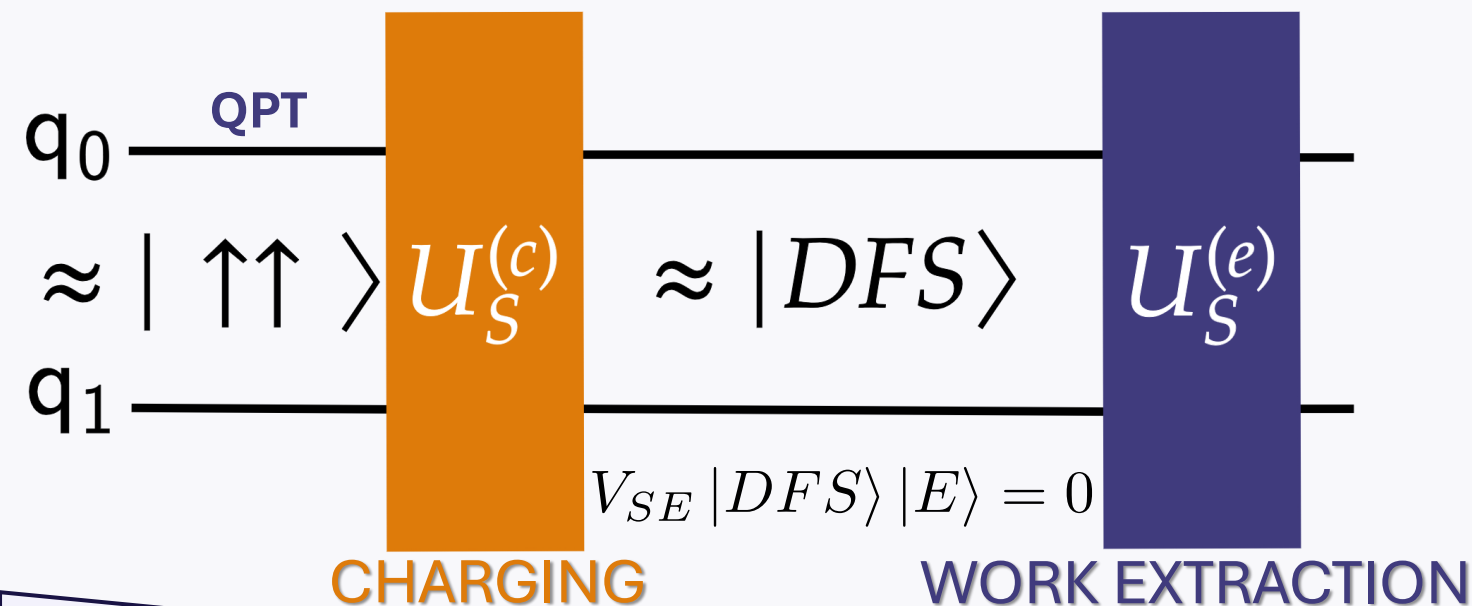
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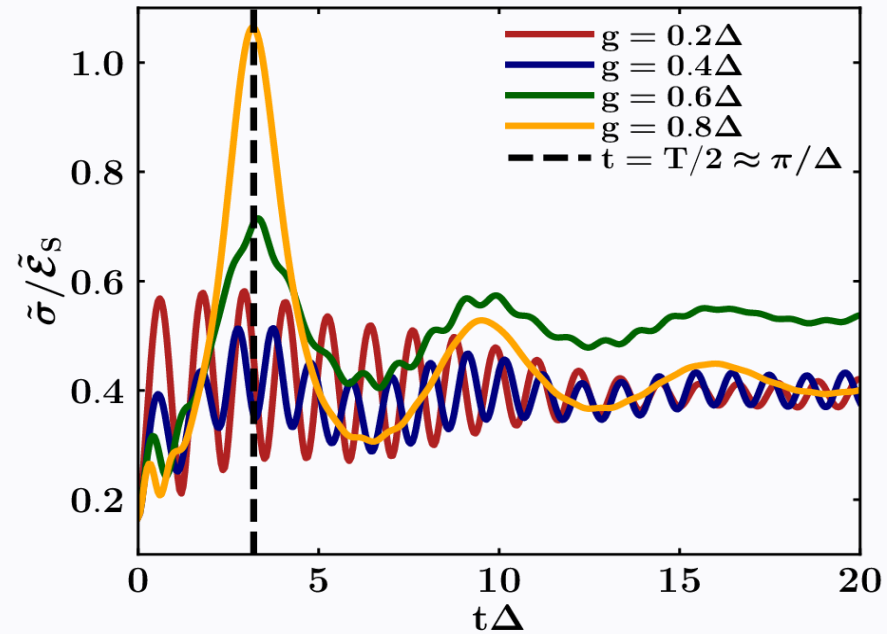


AGNOSTIC PROTOCOL

BAYESIAN OPTIMIZED PROTOCOL

AGNOSTIC PROTOCOL

apply $U_S^{(e)} = U_S^{(c)\dagger}$

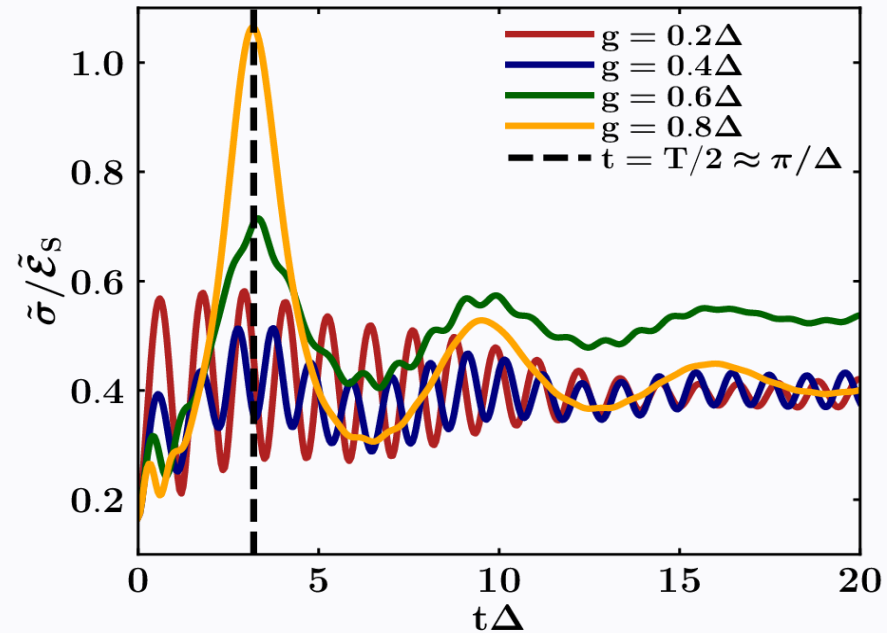


Relative fluctuations provide a QPT marker
Oscillations at ω_0 (cavity-bath) and $|J|$ (qubits)

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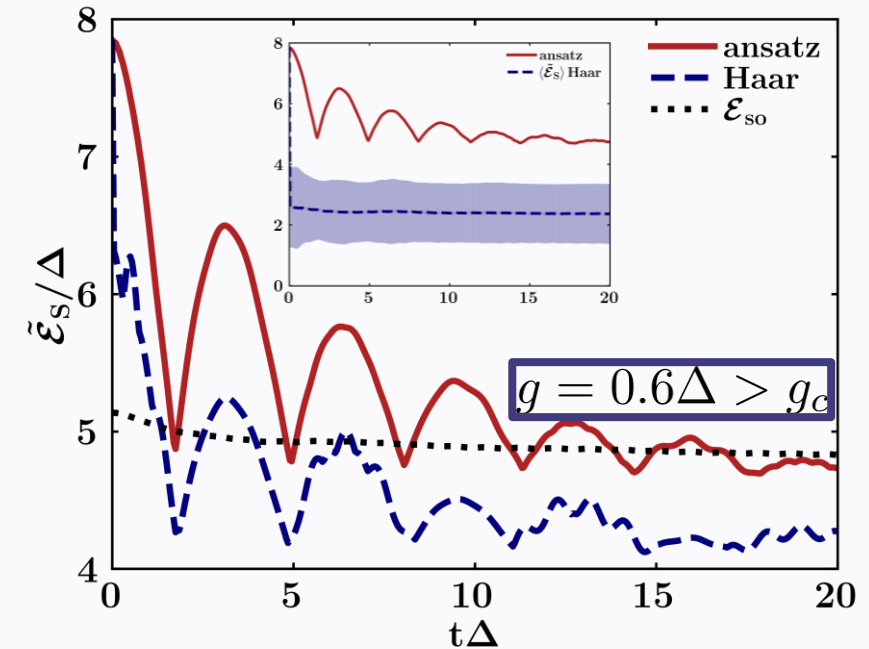
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BAYESIAN OPTIMIZED PROTOCOL

apply $U_S^{(e)} = U'_S(\bar{\theta}, \bar{\phi}) U_S^{(c)\dagger}$



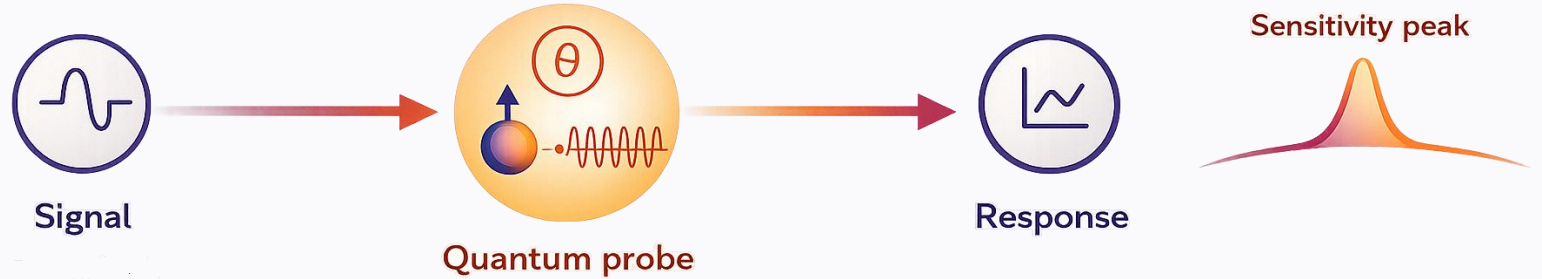
Bath rephasing improves the ergotropy performance
It outperforms Haar unitaries
and approaches ϵ_{SO} at long times

QUANTUM FISHER INFORMATION (QFI) PROBING NON-MARKOVIANITY AND CRITICALITY

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QUANTUM SENSING

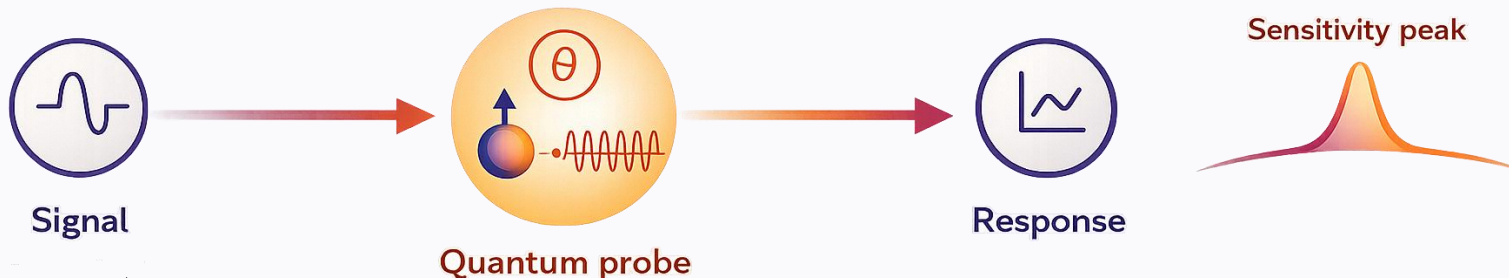
Estimate a parameter from
the probe response



QUANTUM FISHER INFORMATION (QFI) PROBING NON-MARKOVIANITY AND CRITICALITY

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Estimate a parameter from
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Large QFI = enhanced sensitivity to
small parameter changes

Cramér-Rao bound

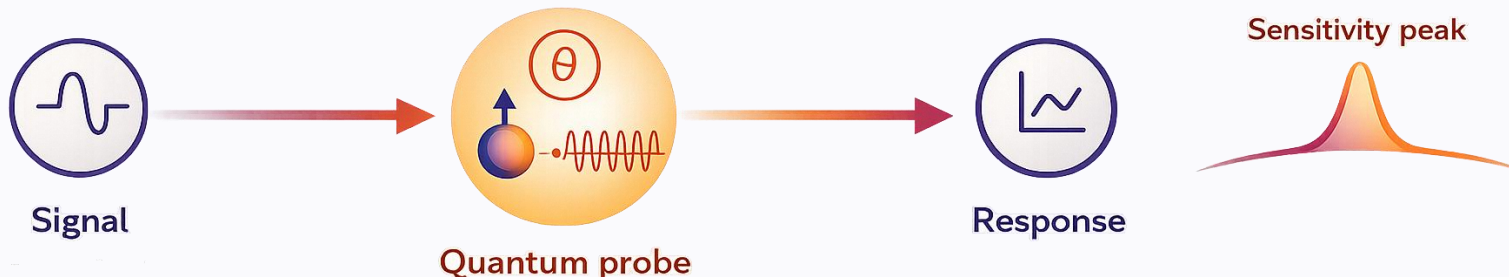
$$\text{var}_\theta \geq \frac{1}{(\#\text{meas.}) F_\theta(\rho(\theta))}$$

[J. Liu, et al., J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 53, 023001 (2019).]

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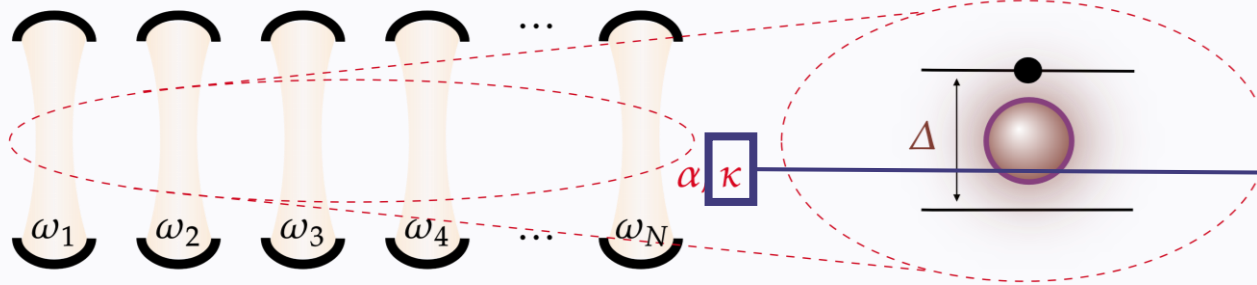
[J. Liu, et al., J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 53, 023001 (2019).]

WHAT DO WE ASK?

- ☐ Is QFI a marker of quantum phase transitions?
- ☐ Is it **robust to dephasing** noise?
- ☐ Can its dynamics reveal **non-Markovianity**?

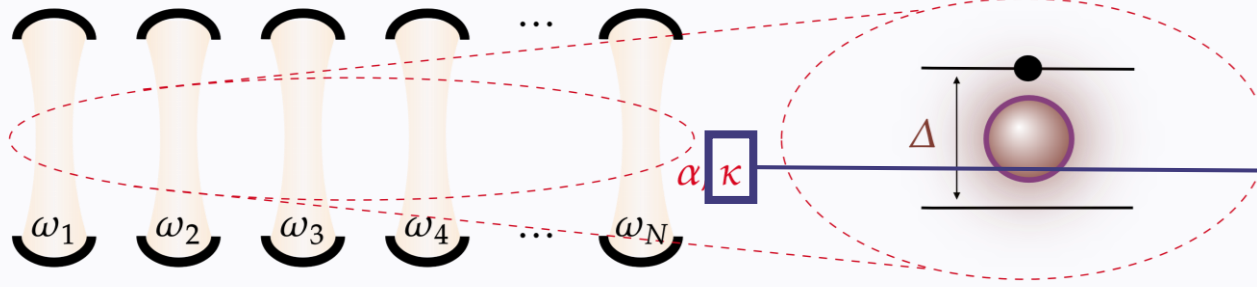
QFI to probe criticality and non-Markovianity

MODEL



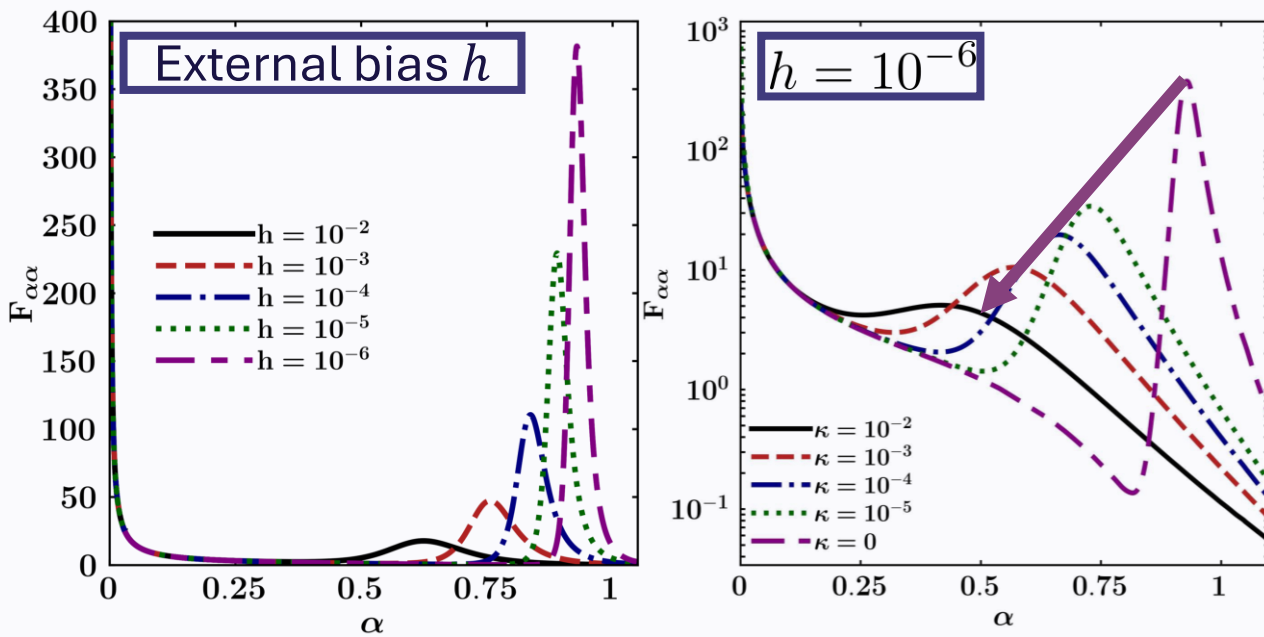
Dephasing noise κ modifies the transition in SBM

MODEL



Dephasing noise κ modifies the transition in SBM

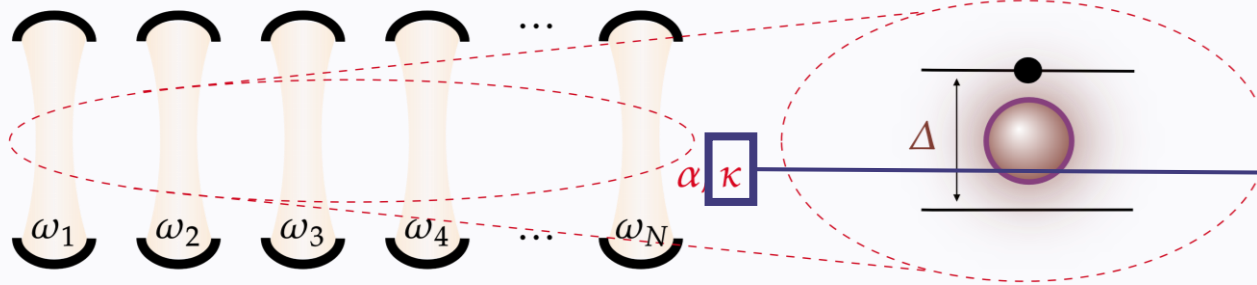
QFI peaks at CRITICAL COUPLING



Dephasing reduces sensitivity

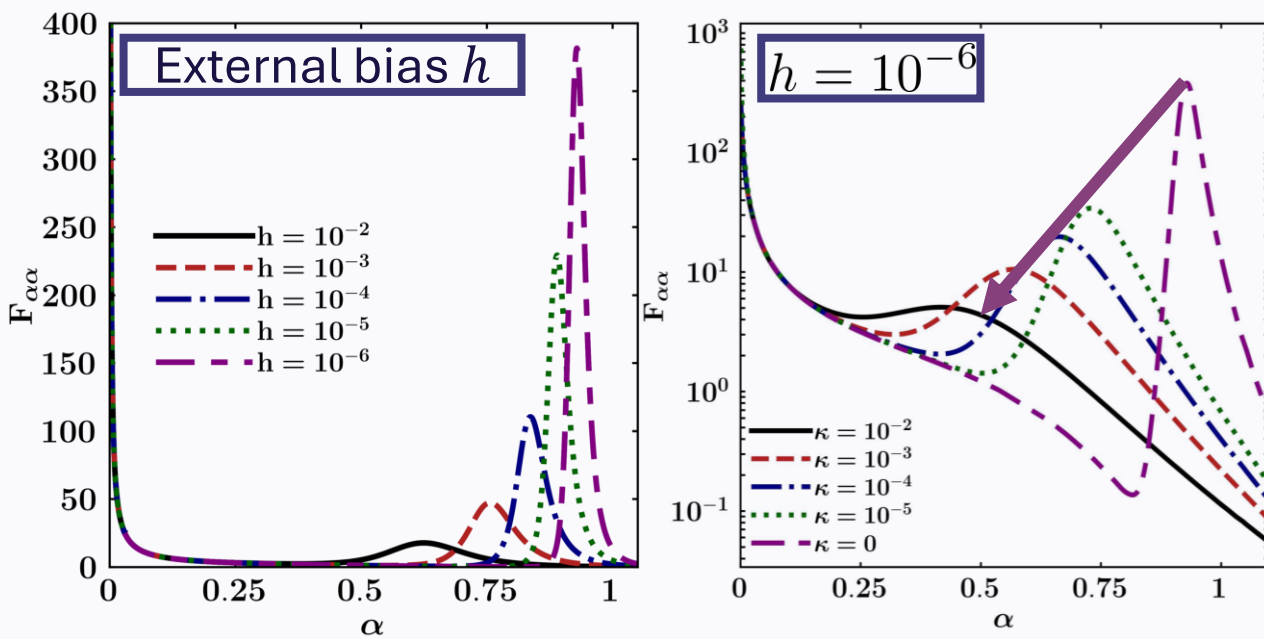
D. Parlato, GDB, et al., Phys. Rev. B 112, 224314 (2025).

MODEL



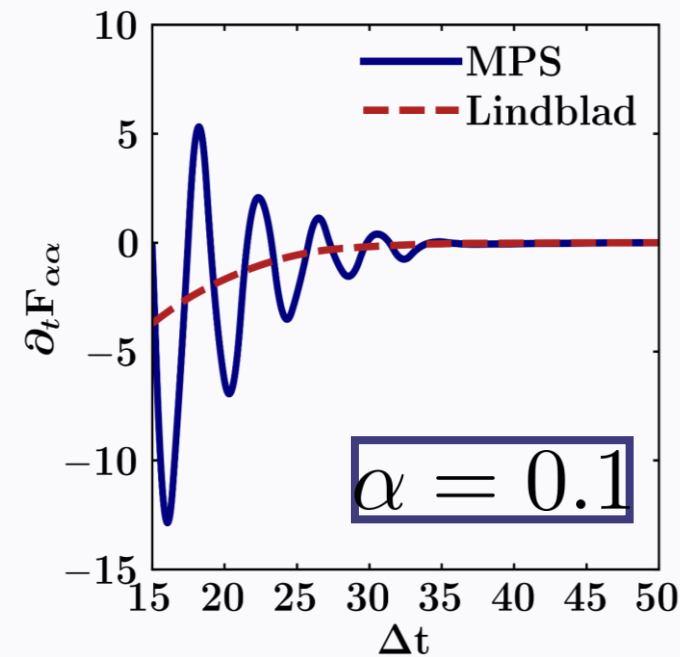
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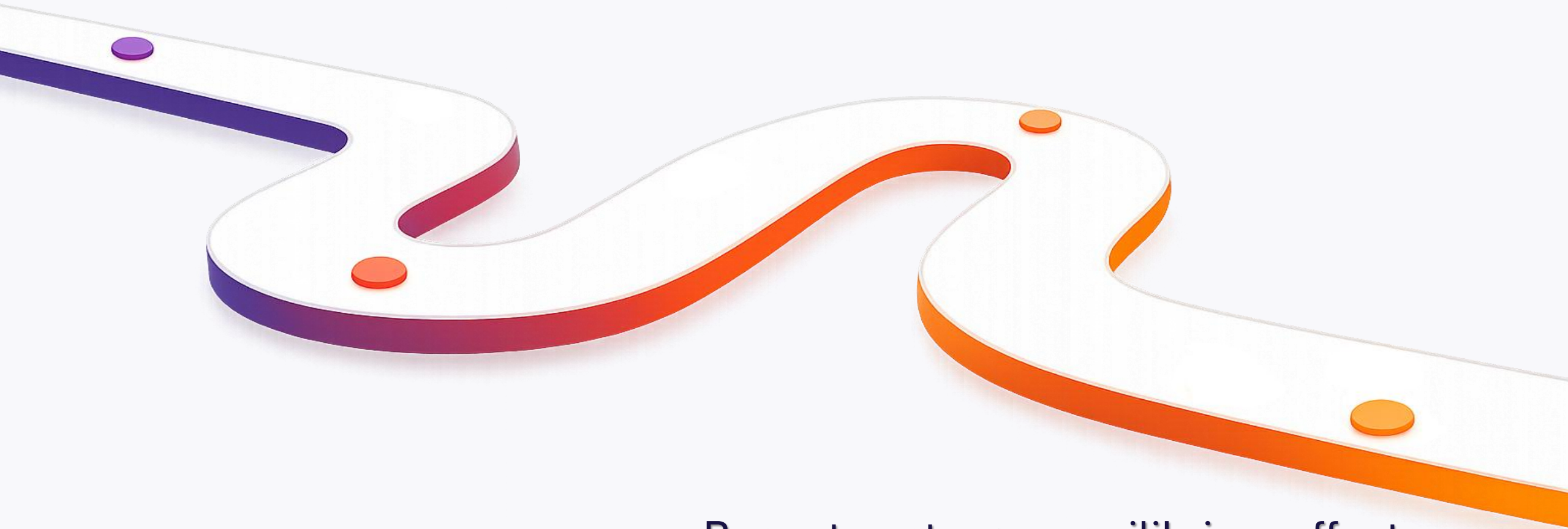


Dephasing reduces sensitivity

QFI FLUX reveals MEMORY EFFECTS



Lindblad =
Markovian
Matrix product
state =
continuous
exchange of
information



Recent past: non-equilibrium effects

Kibble-Zurek mechanism & quantum Mpemba effect

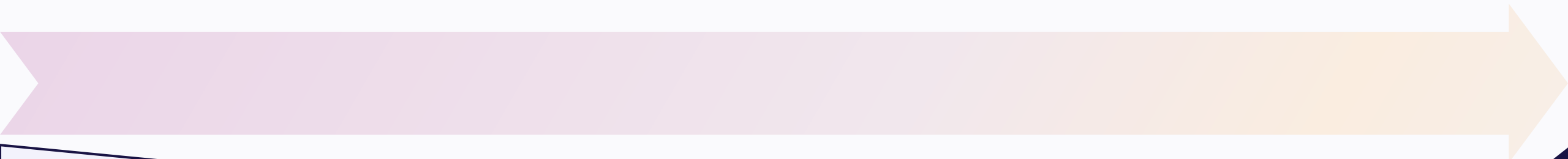
*T. Pirozzi, GDB, et al., arXiv:2603.16709 (2026).
P. Chirico, GDB, et al., arXiv:2603.17565 (2026).*

KIBBLE–ZUREK MECHANISM (KZM) IN THE OPEN QRB

KIBBLE-ZUREK MECHANISM (KZM) IN THE OPEN QRB

Main idea

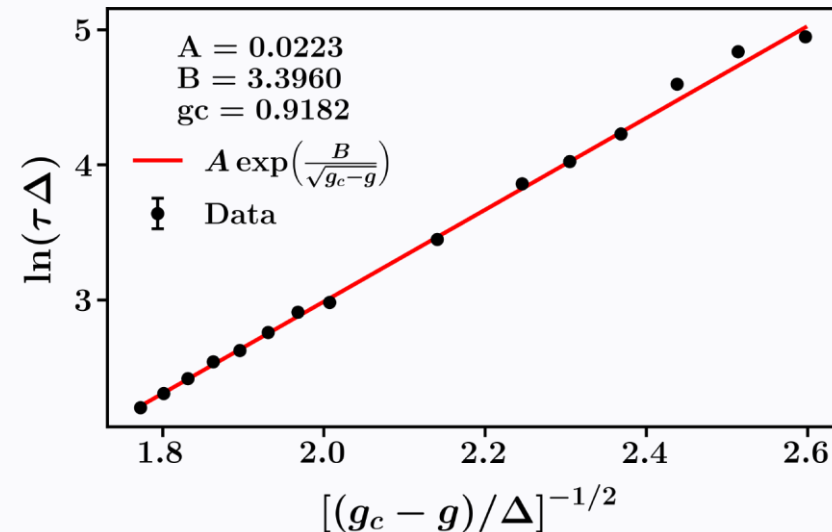
Environment does not simply destroy adiabaticity: in the non-Markovian regime, it shapes the critical universality class and preserves KZ scaling



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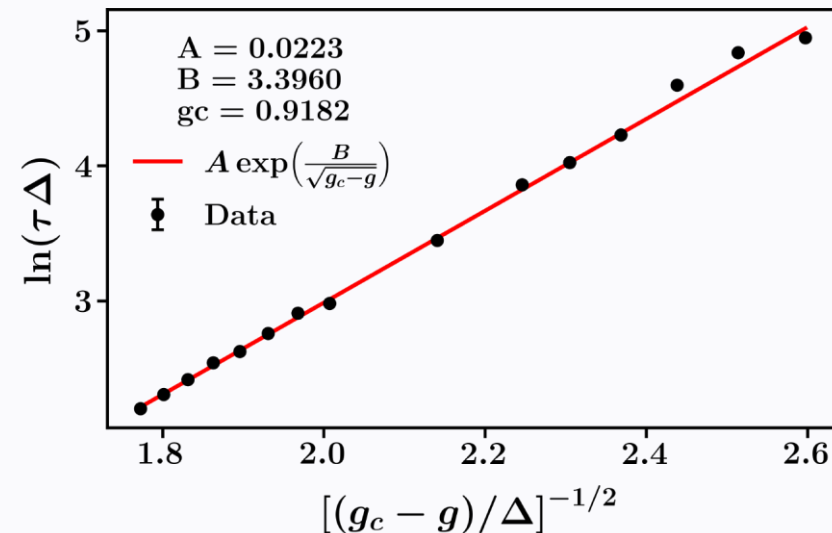
BKT transition

Relaxation-time
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BKT criticality

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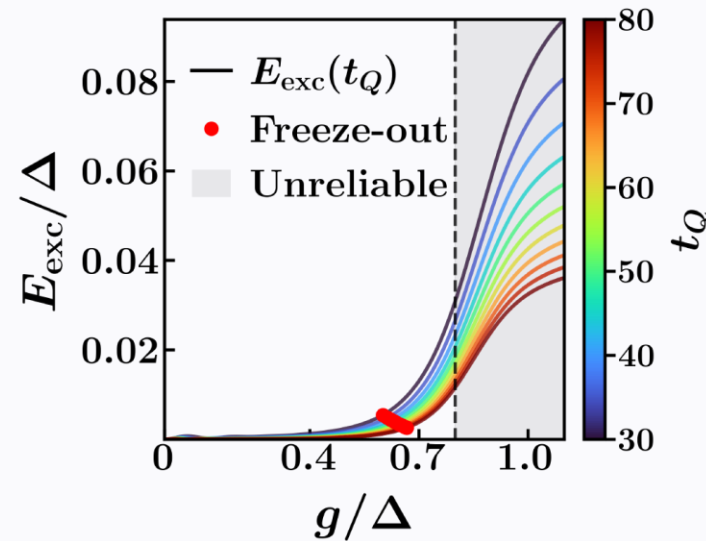
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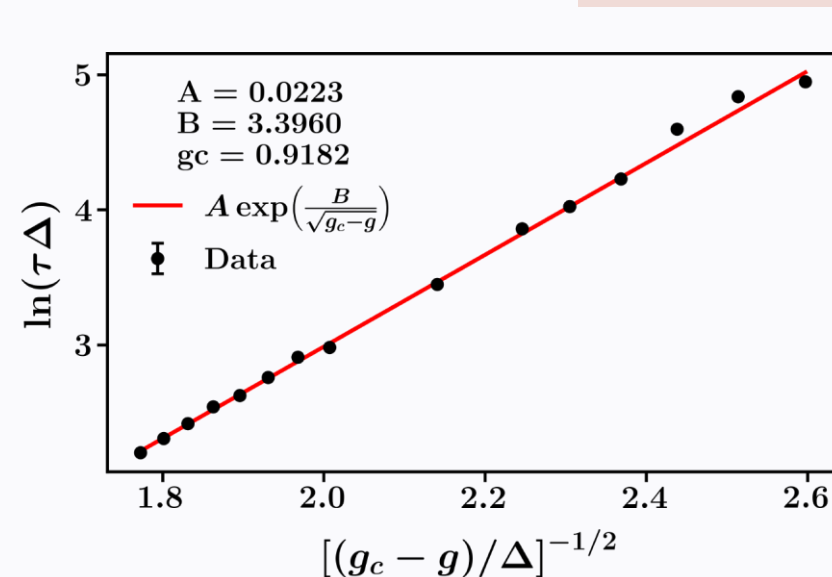
Adiabatic breakdown

Crossing the critical point
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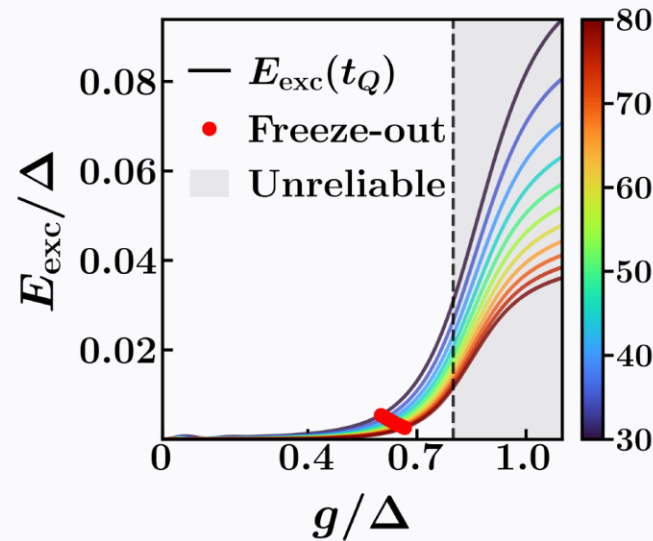
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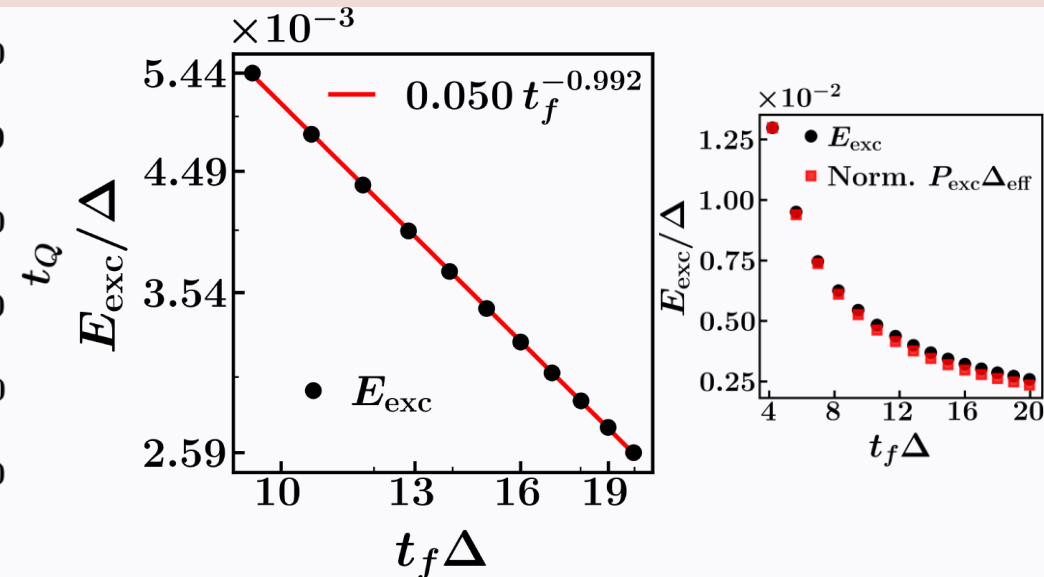
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KZM scaling + effective TLS

Universal excitation scaling follows from an effective **Landau-Zener** picture

QUANTUM MPEMBA EFFECT BEYOND WEAK COUPLING IN THE SBM

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Main idea

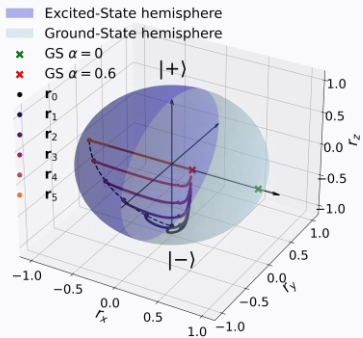
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What we need



Initial states
related by
rotations

$$S(\rho||\rho_{ss}) = \text{Tr} [\rho (\ln \rho - \ln \rho_{ss})]$$

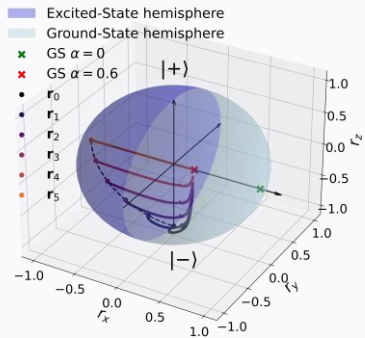
Relaxation quantified by
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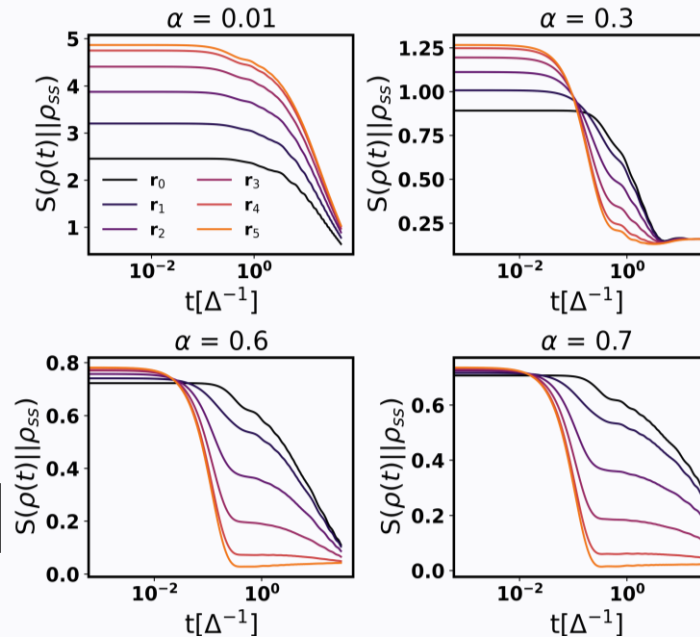
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Curve crossings mark the Mpemba effect; stronger coupling makes the separation clearer.

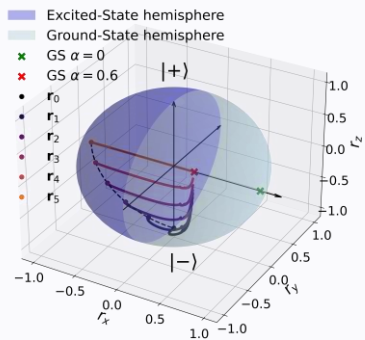
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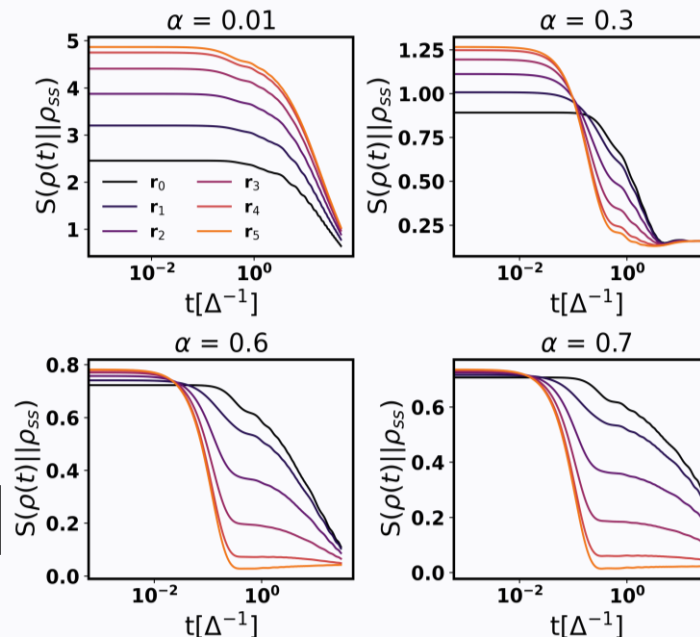
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What we find

- The effect has a geometric structure on the Bloch sphere
- At zero temperature it is restored by increasing coupling α (for low α you need high temperature)
- Larger $\alpha \rightarrow$ stronger effect

CONCLUSIONS

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MPS to simulate open quantum systems beyond weak-coupling and Markovian approximations

Outcome: *by treating system and bath explicitly, we access reduced dynamics, bath observables, and system–environment interactions.*

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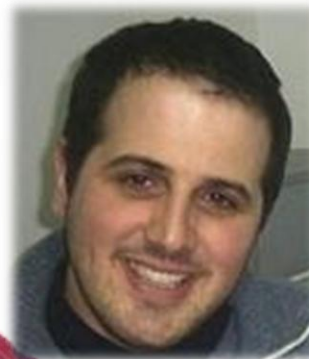
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Applications

- Ergotropy: system–environment interaction as a resource for work extraction
- QFI: criticality as a resource for sensing and memory effects

Thank you



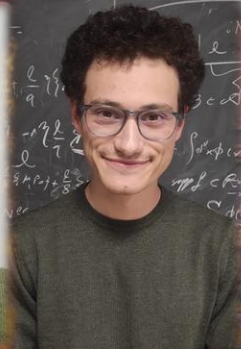
C. A. Perroni, G. De Filippis, A. de Candia

Thank you



C. A. Perroni, G. De Filippis, A. de Candia

F. Pavan,
F. G. Capone,
F. Formicola,
D. Parlato,
P. Chirico,
F. Tafuri,
T. Pirozzi



Thank you