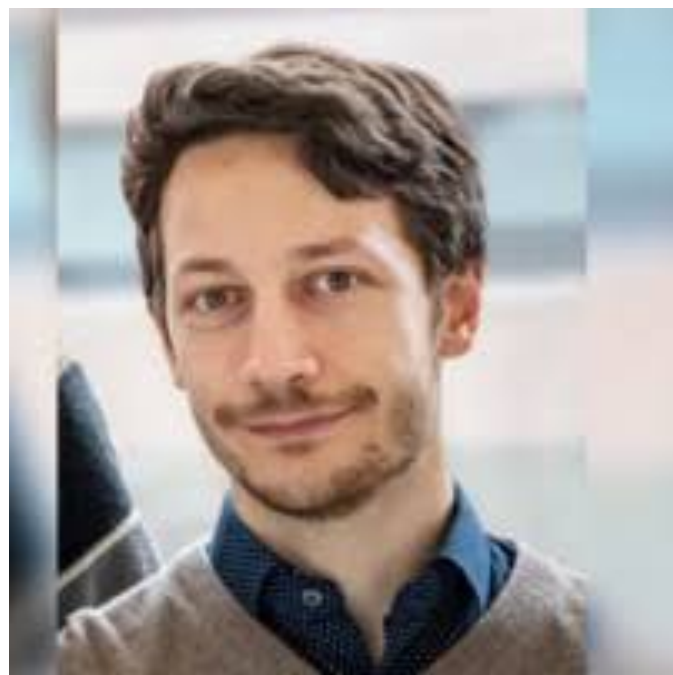




# Many-body physics in the NISQ era: quantum programming a discrete time crystal

Vedika Khemani  
Stanford University



**Matteo Ippoliti** (Stanford)



Kostyantyn Kechedzhi (Google)

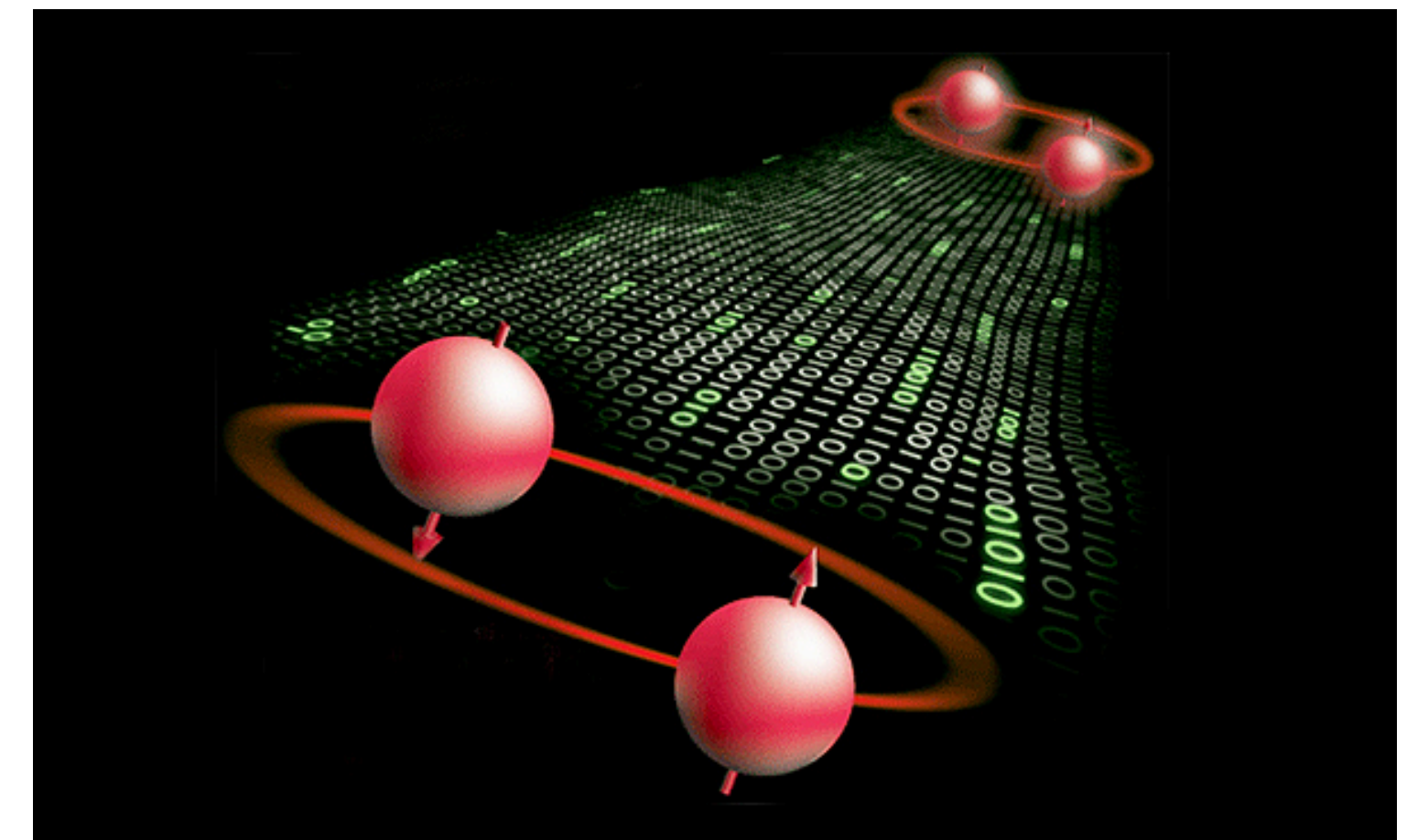
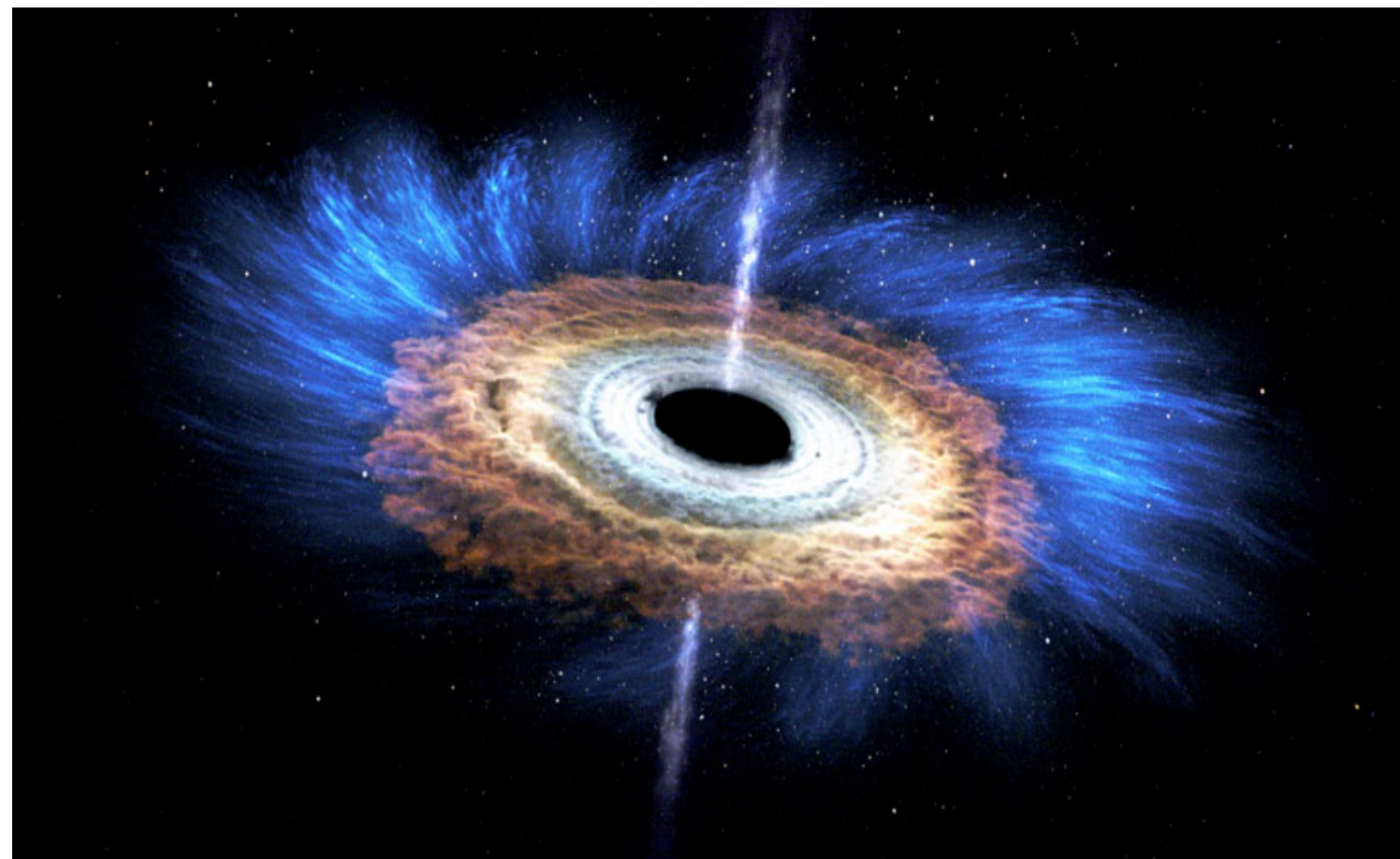
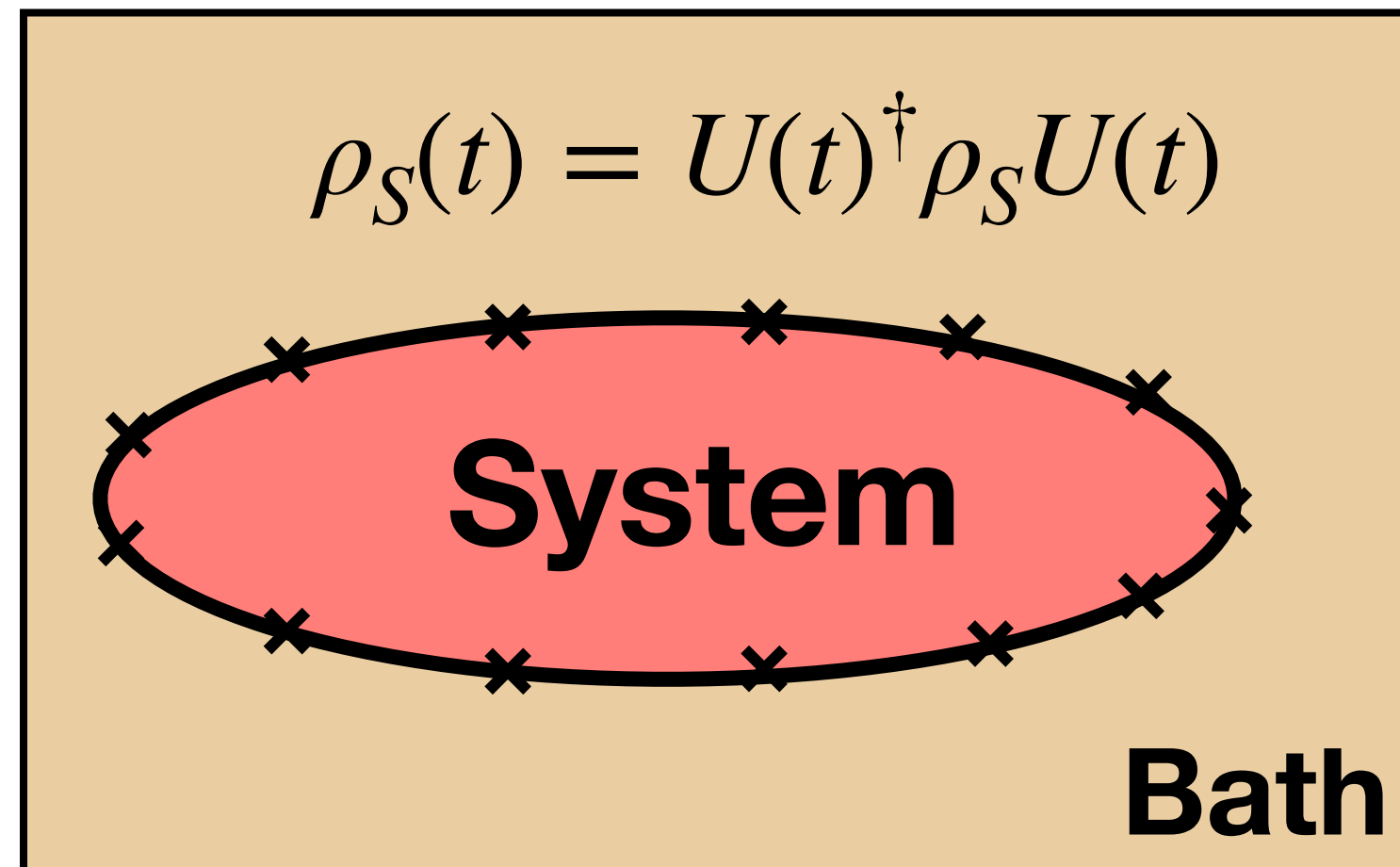


Roderich Moessner (MPIPKS)



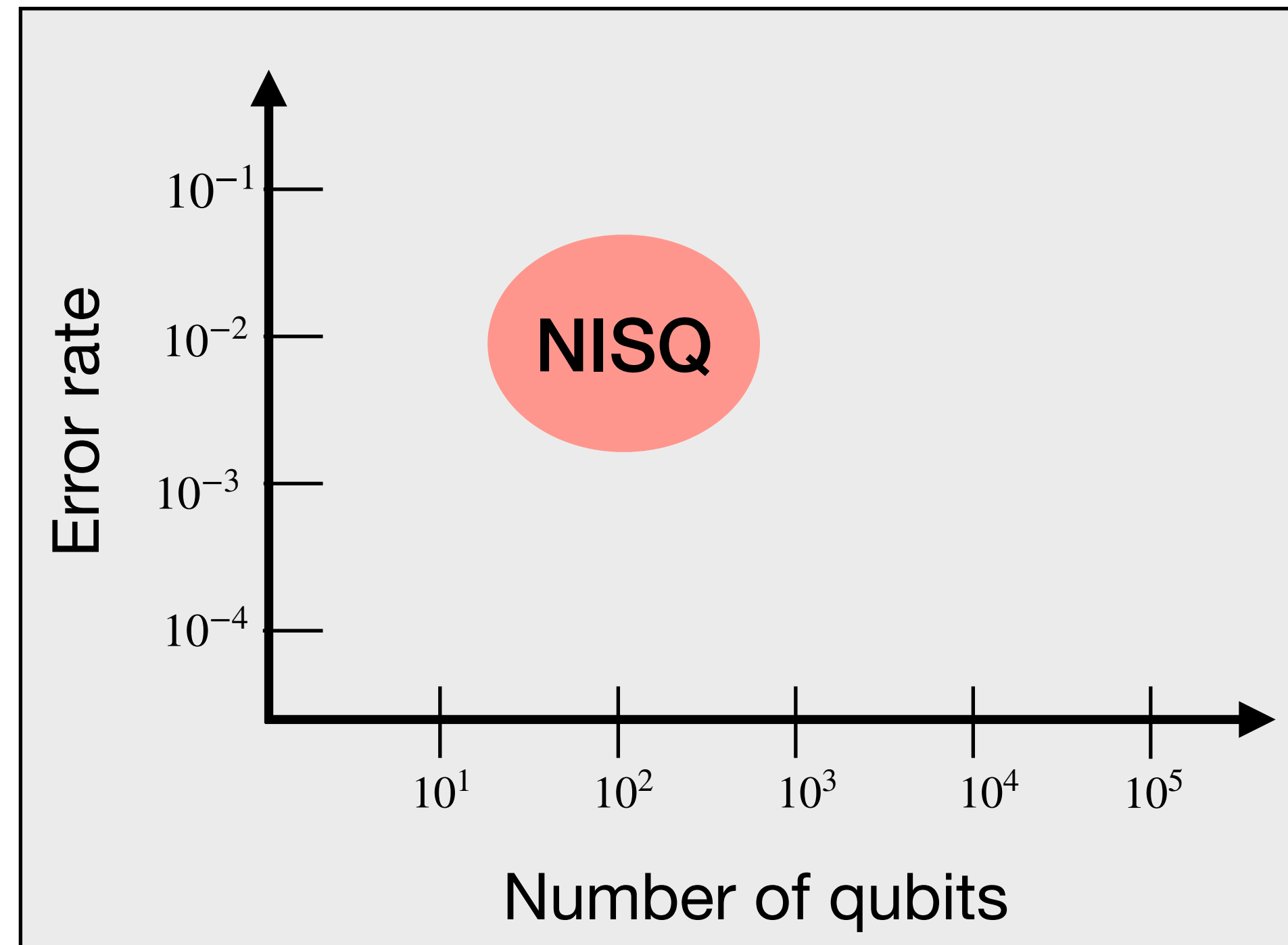
Shivaji Sondhi (Princeton)

# QI theoretic approaches to many-body physics





# Noisy Intermediate Scale Quantum



Steadily pushing the boundary in the development of artificial “designer” many-body quantum systems across a variety of platforms: superconducting qubits, trapped ions, cavity QED, photonic circuits...

*“Nature isn’t classical, dammit, and if you want to make a simulation of nature, you’d better make it quantum mechanical. And by golly it’s a wonderful problem, because it doesn’t look so easy.” (Feynman 1981)*



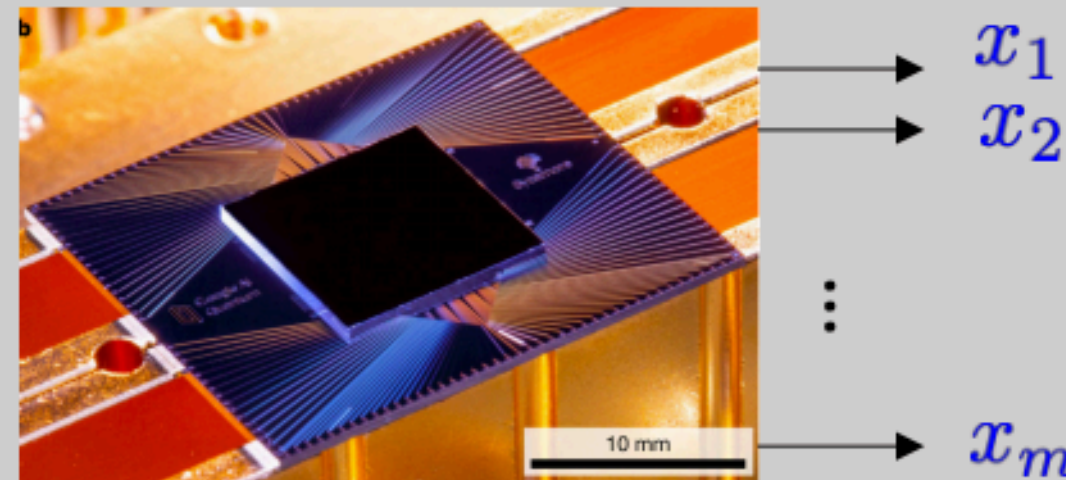
# Quantum supremacy using a programmable superconducting processor

Quantum vs. Classical Task

Sample the output distribution from a random quantum circuit  $U$

Best quantum strategy:

Run circuit on quantum processor, take  $m$  samples



Best classical strategy:

Simulate circuit using a supercomputer

Bench  
marking

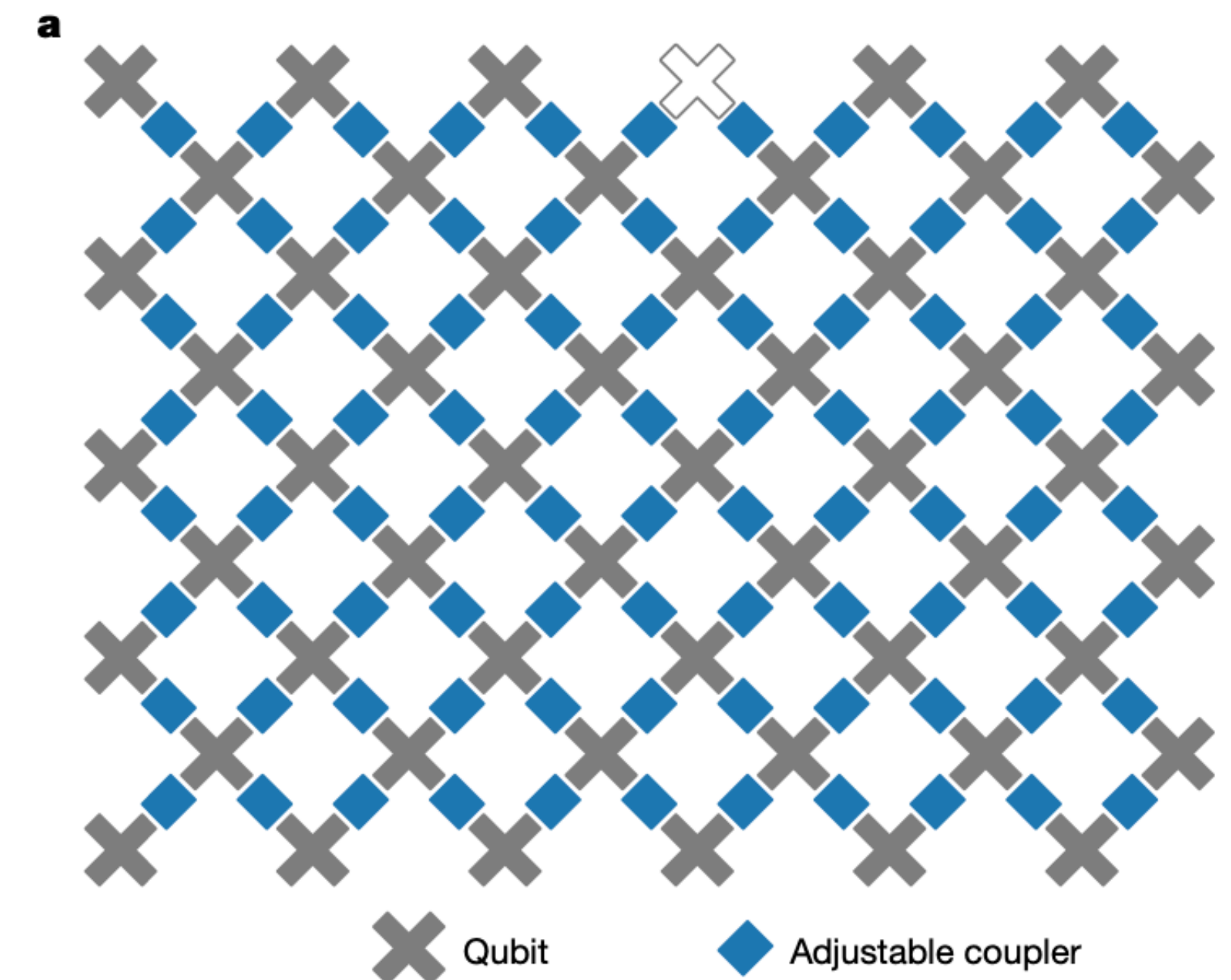
Verify that quantum processor is working properly

$$F_{XEB} = N \langle p_U(x_i) \rangle_i - 1$$

Evaluation

Quantum processing time:  
short

Classical processing time:  
Exponential in  $n$



“Supremacy”

# Many-body physics in the NISQ era

**Computational Devices  $\leftrightarrow$  Experimental Platforms for MB physics**

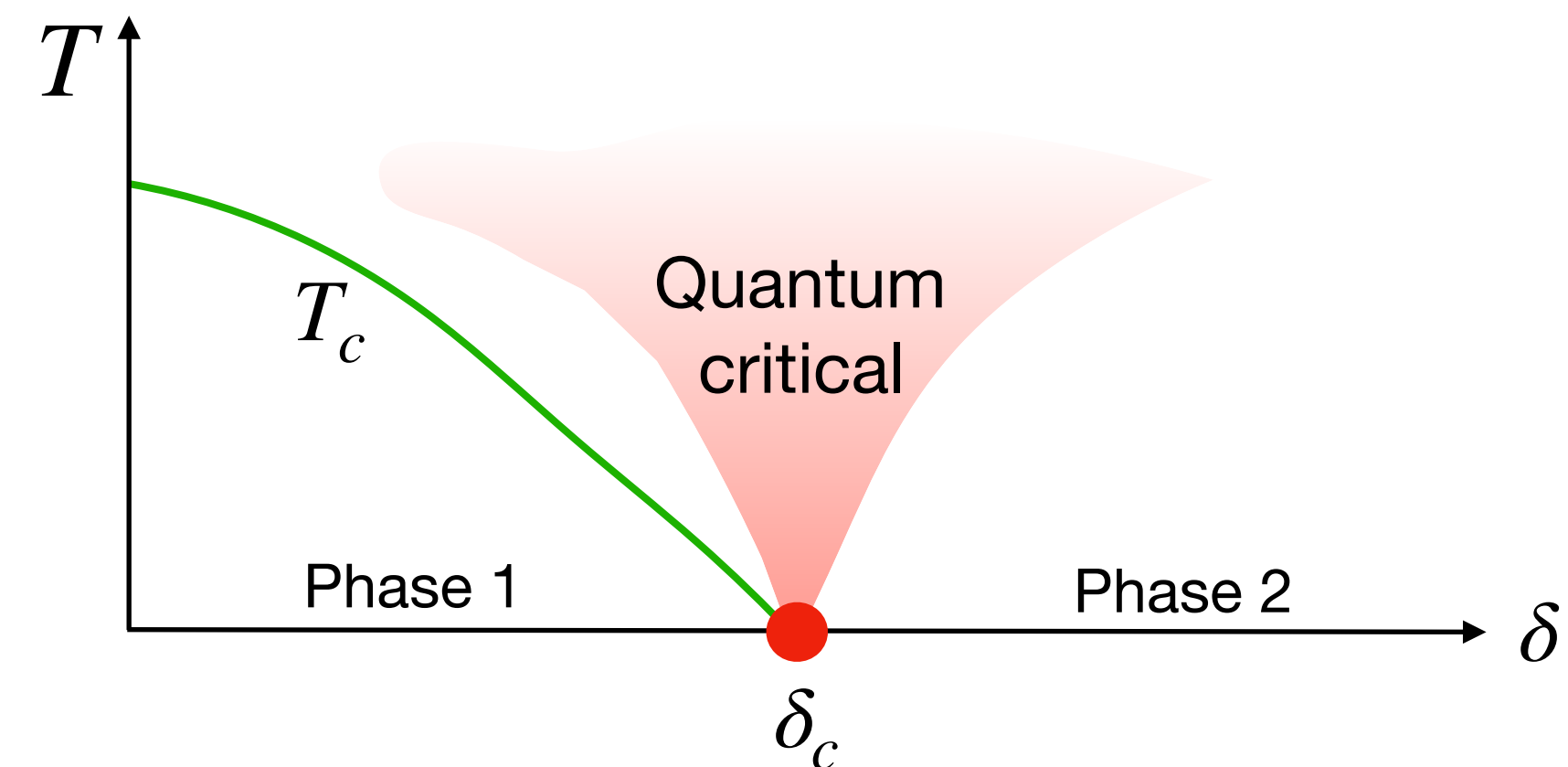
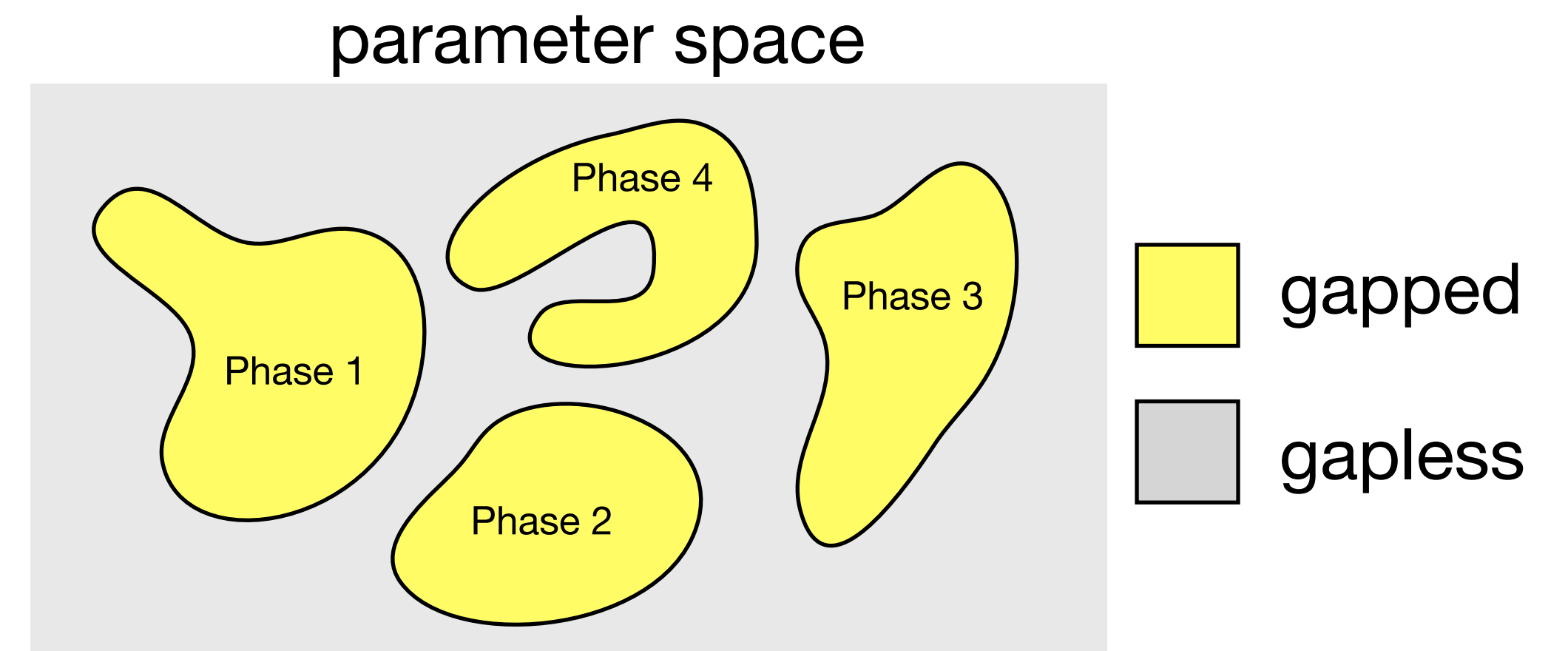
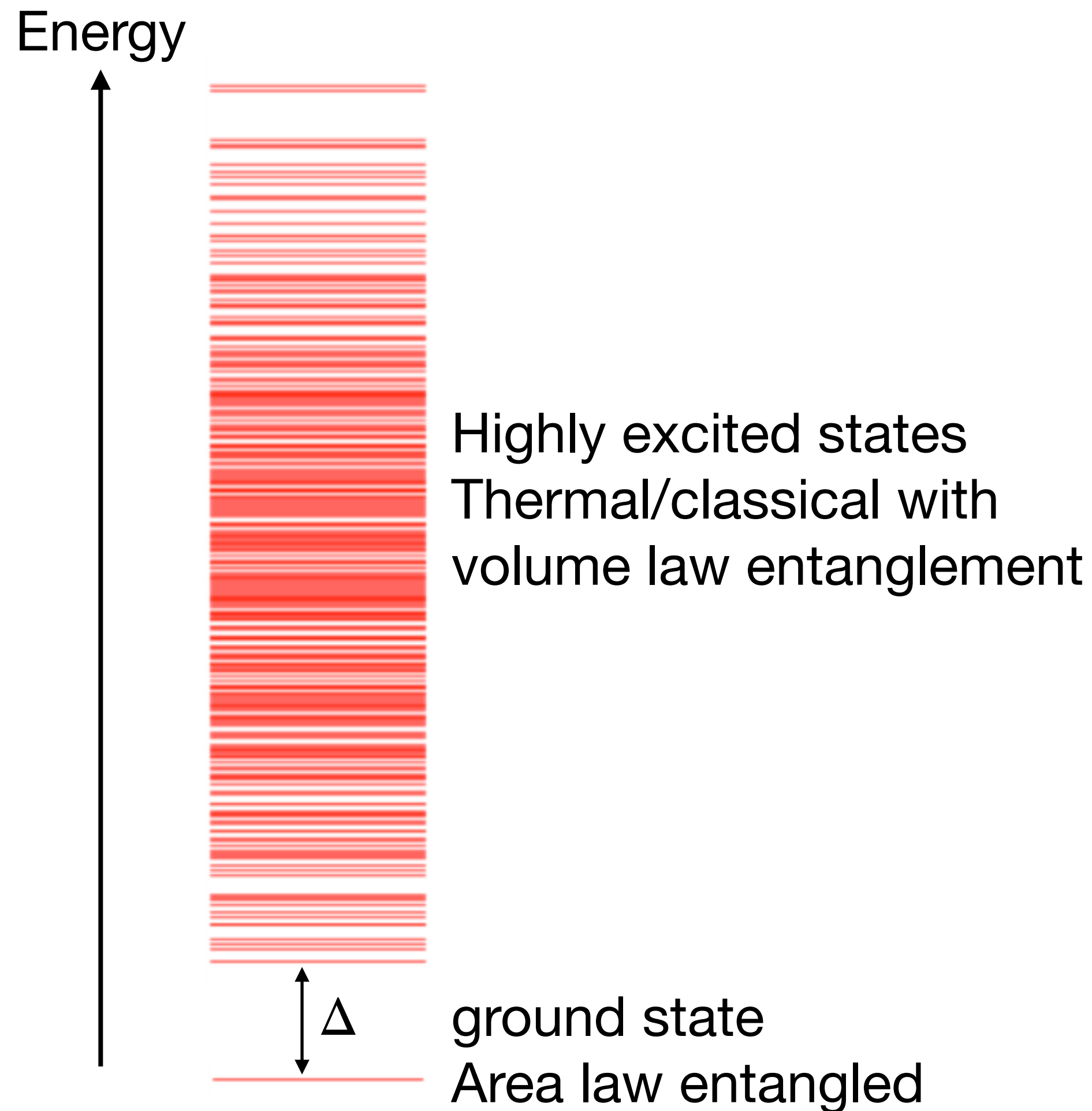
**Broadly: What does the NISQ era of tunable, programmable quantum systems portend for many body physics?**

*Which physical phenomena in the realm of quantum statistical mechanics can these devices realize, that have not been (or cannot be) as crisply demonstrated in any other setting?*

**Narrowly: What interesting physics can be realized immediately with Google's Sycamore device?**

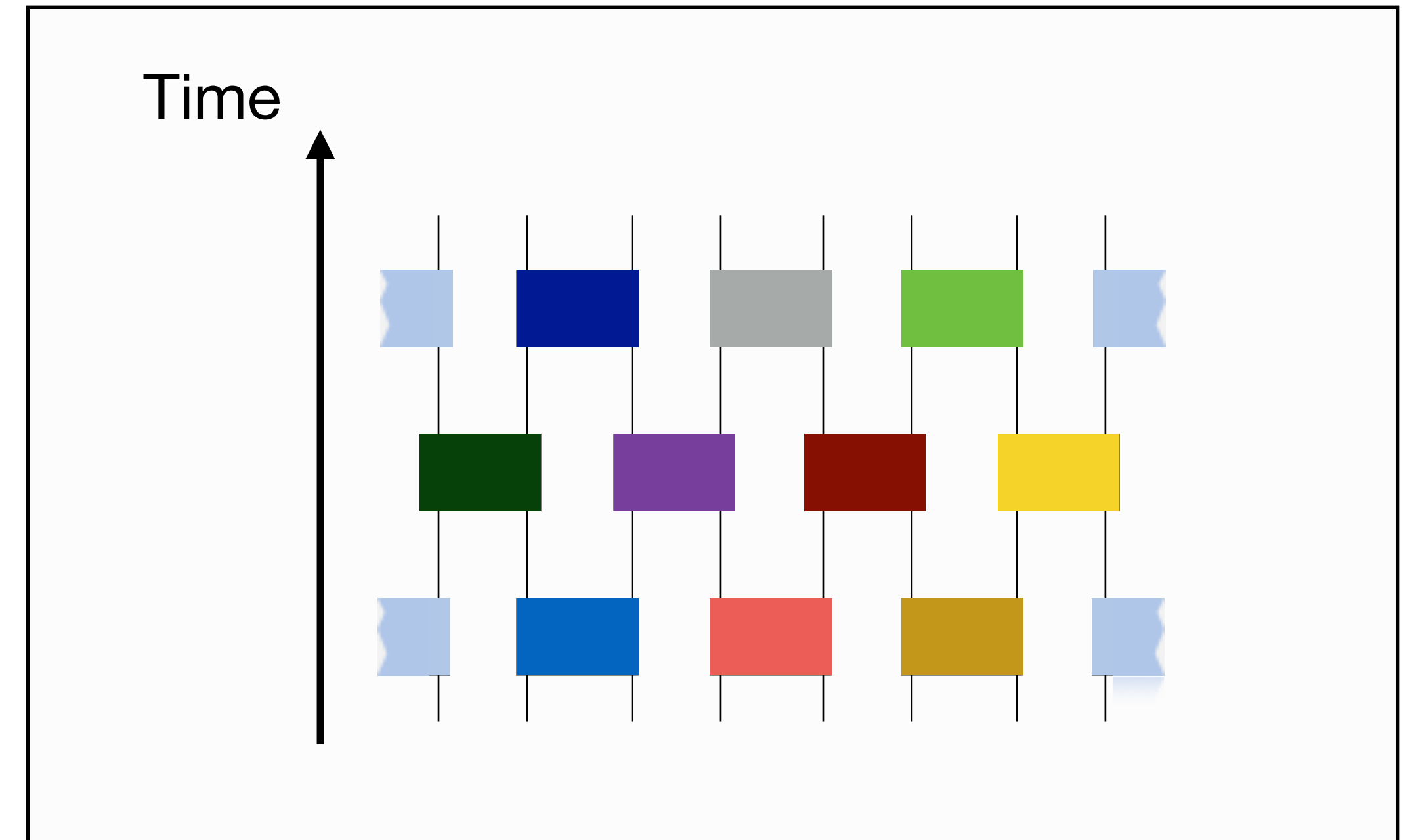
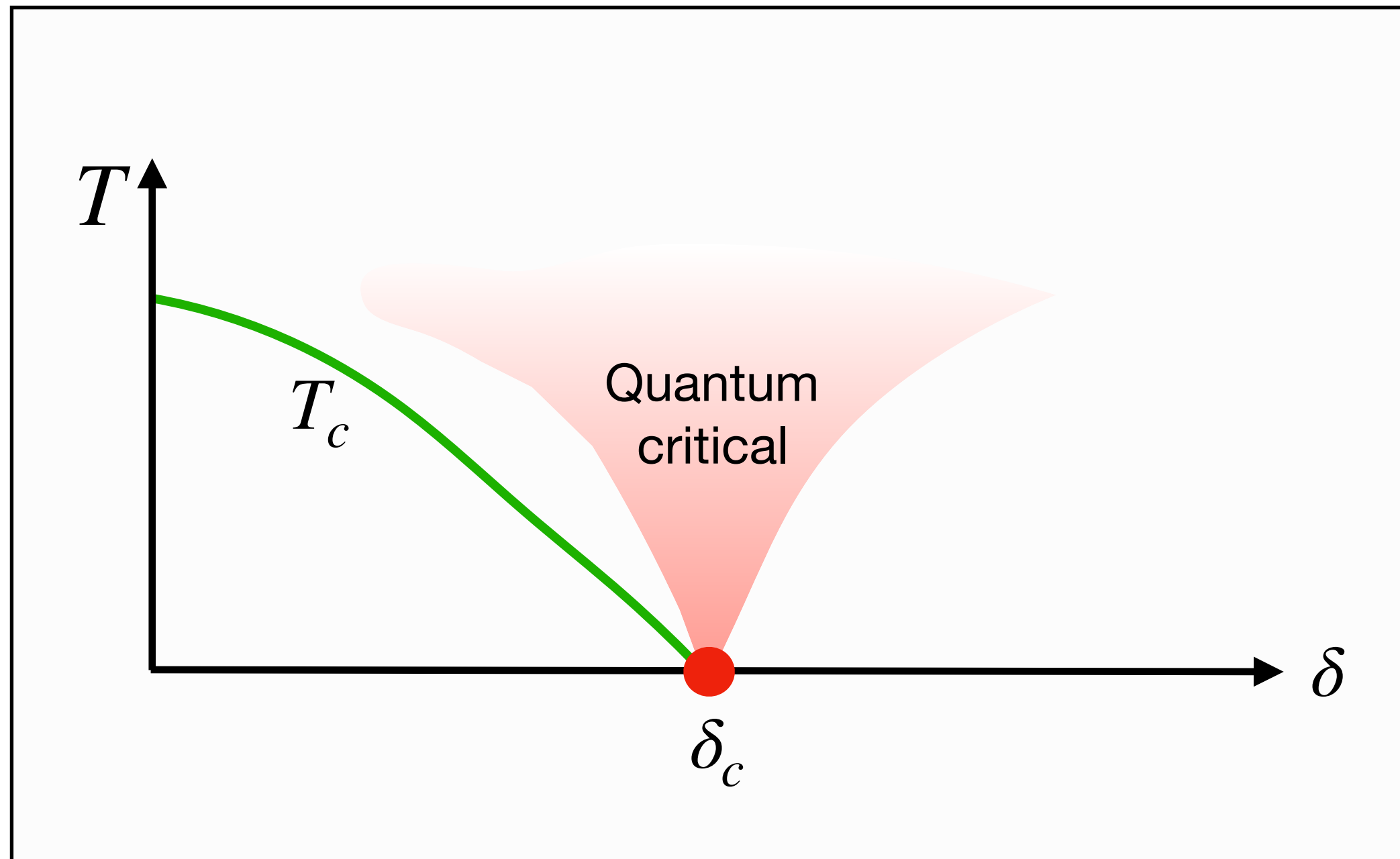
# Traditional CMT paradigms

- Study time-independent Hamiltonians (Ising, Heisenberg, Hubbard...)
- Study universal (quantum) phases and phase transitions at zero/low temperatures



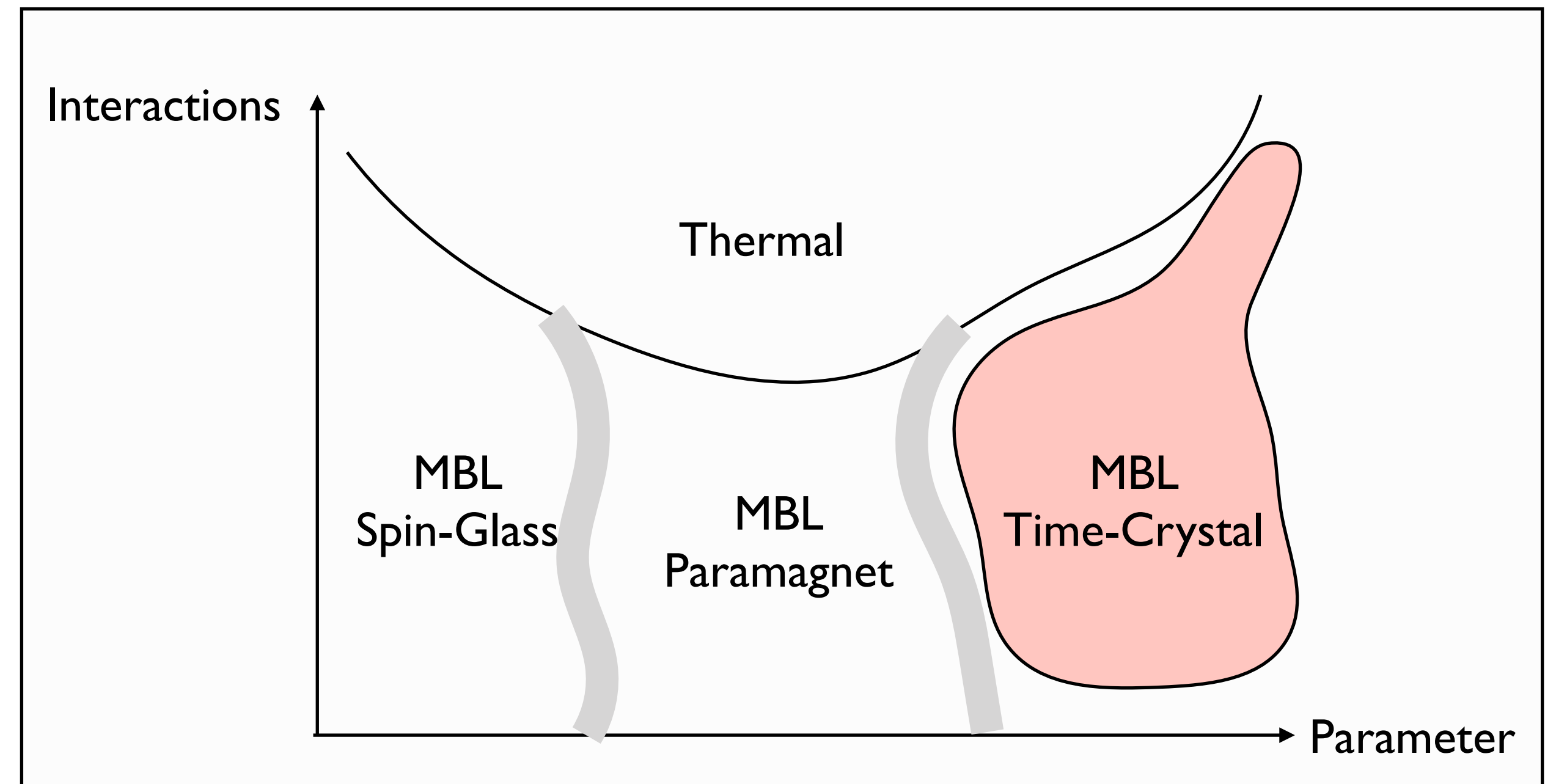
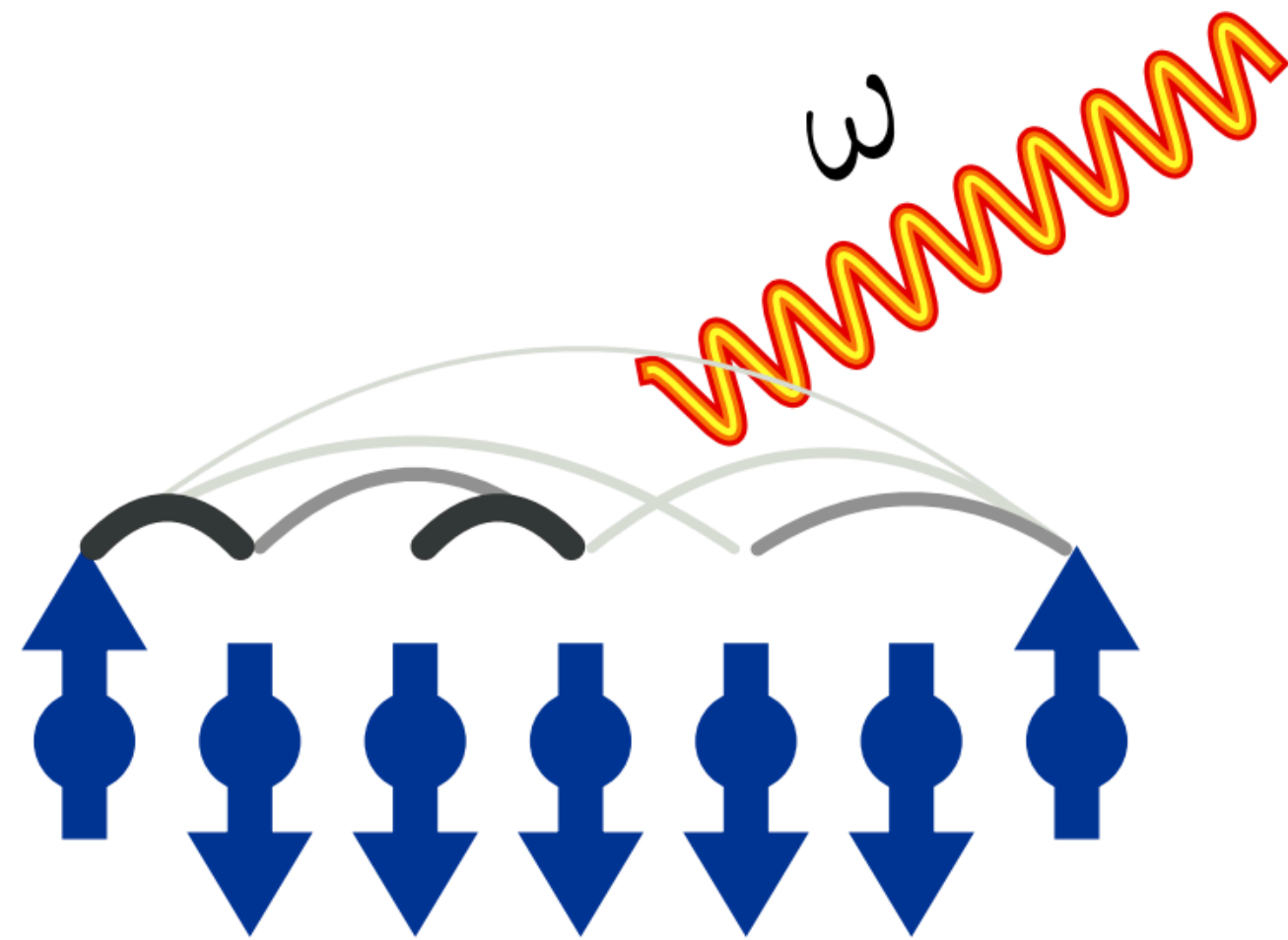


# Many-body physics in the NISQ era



Hamiltonians  $\rightarrow$  Unitary Circuits

# Many-body phases out-of-equilibrium



Equilibrium Phases  $\rightarrow$  Dynamical nonequilibrium phases in Floquet systems

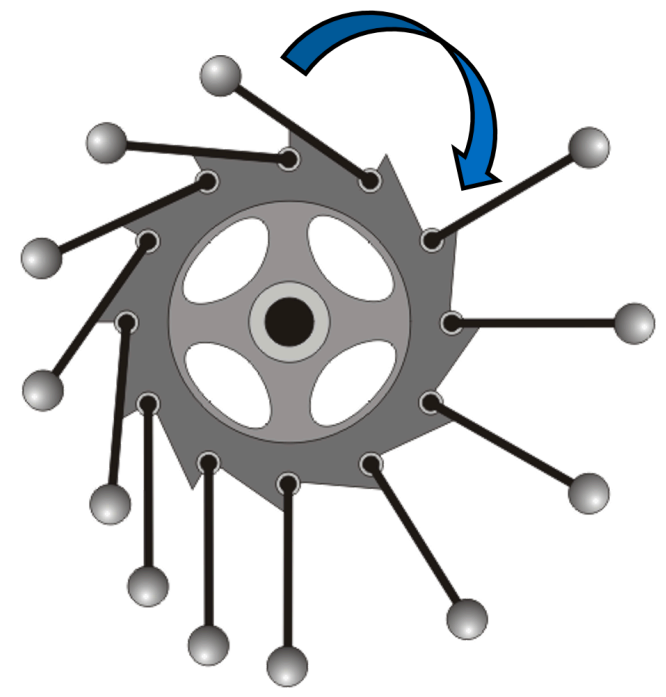
Can allow for “localization protected” quantum order

# Outline

- Review of the discrete time-crystal (DTC) phase
- Summary of state-of-the art DTC experiments
  - desired experimental capabilities
- Implementing a DTC on Sycamore:
  - model
  - phase diagram
  - diagnostics
  - noise



# What is a time crystal?



- Spontaneously breaks time translation symmetry
  - The rules underlying the system are time independent, but the motion (state) is periodic in time.
  - Must consider *macroscopic* many-body systems. Few body systems routinely break TTS and exhibit recurrences and revivals
  - “Perilously close” to a perpetual motion machine

Forbidden in thermal equilibrium states or in ground states of many-body systems (Bruno, Nozieres, Oshikawa Watanabe...)

# Floquet (discrete) time crystal

$$H(t) = H(t + T)$$

- **Period doubling** in observables for infinitely long times (or other multiples of driving period)
  - spontaneously breaks *discrete* time-translation symmetry
  - sharp *subharmonic* peak in Fourier space.
- **Robust** over a range of parameters to define a *phase* of matter
- **MBL** to avoid heating to infinite temperature
- **Spatiotemporal order**: long-range order in space+ period doubling in time

# A zoo of “time-crystals”

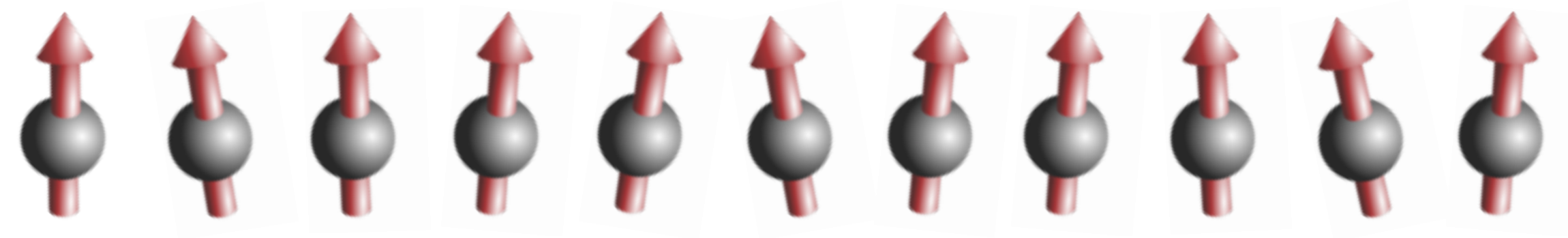
- Nominally similar period doubling behavior across a range of familiar systems (parametric oscillators, Faraday waves...)
- All are one- or few- or “effectively-few” body systems
- We are interested in a *genuine* many-body phase of matter in an isolated quantum system. This requires Floquet MBL.



# Why DTC for Sycamore?

- **Novel nonequilibrium many-body phase of matter** with spatiotemporal order
  - Bona-fide realization has not been achieved in experiment yet
- **Circuit realizations** of Floquet models of DTCs are natural
- **Dynamical signatures**, rather than diagnostics in equilibrium thermodynamics
- **Disorder** (say due to variations in circuit elements) is not only tolerated, but essential for stabilizing MBL

# DTC in a driven Ising chain

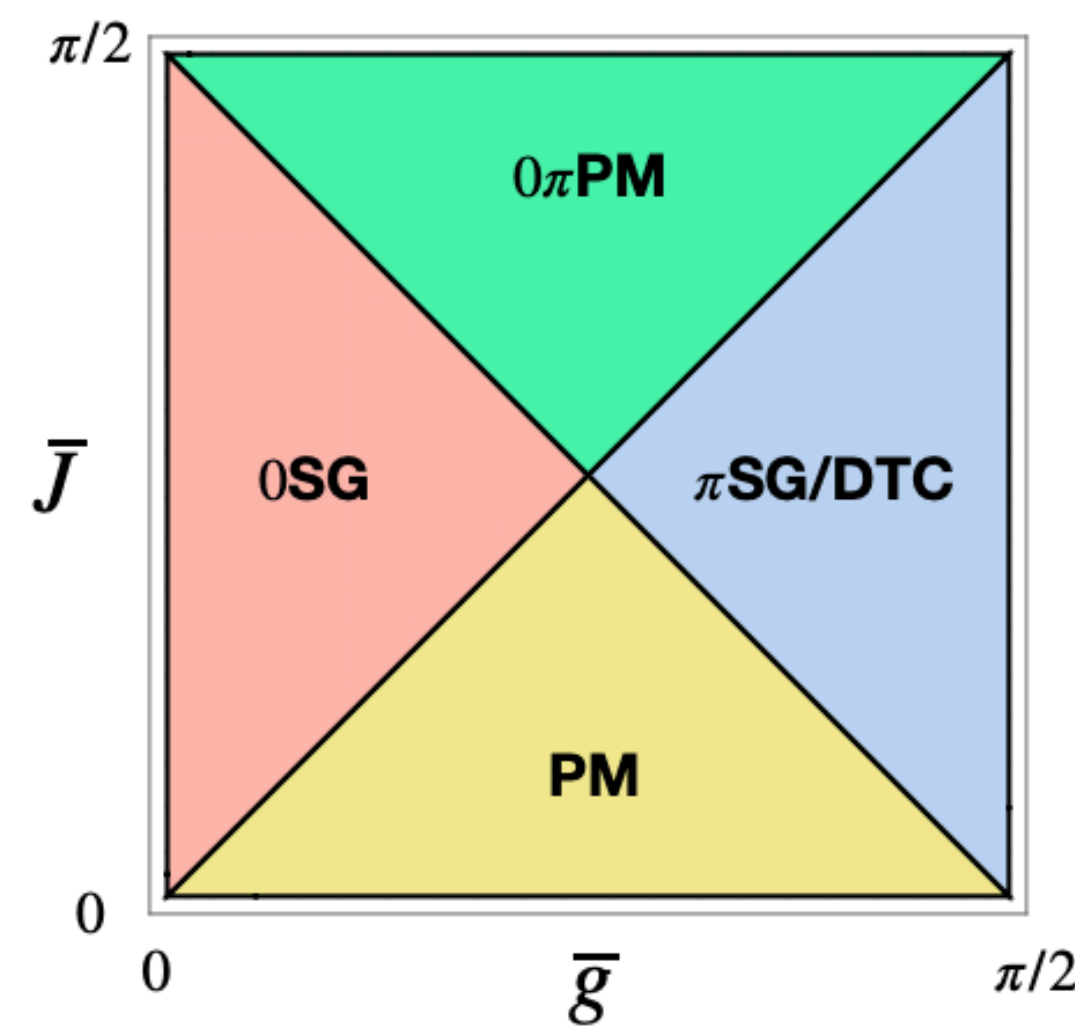


$$H(t) = \boxed{H_X} \boxed{H_Z}$$

$$U_F = \boxed{e^{-ig \sum_i X_i}} \boxed{e^{-iH_Z}}$$

$$U(n) = \boxed{\phantom{H_X}} \boxed{\phantom{H_Z}} \boxed{\phantom{H_X}} \boxed{\phantom{H_Z}} \boxed{\phantom{H_X}} \boxed{\phantom{H_Z}} \dots$$

$$H_Z = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} Z_i Z_j$$



# Spatiotemporal order in a “trivial” limit

$$g = \frac{\pi}{2}$$

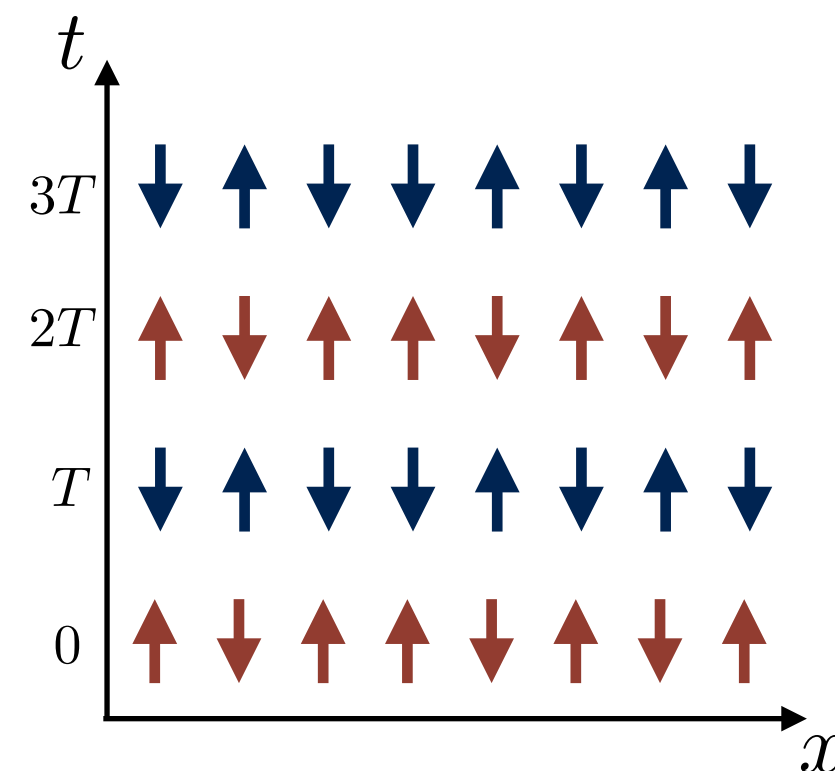
Perfect rotation by  $\pi$  about the x-axis

$$U_F = e^{-i\frac{\pi}{2} \sum_i X_i} e^{-iH_z} = P e^{-iH_z} = \text{\textcolor{red}{\pi rotation}} \text{\textcolor{blue}{H_z}}$$

$$H_Z = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} Z_i Z_j$$

$$e^{-i\frac{\pi}{2} \sum_i X_i} \propto \prod_i X_i \equiv P$$

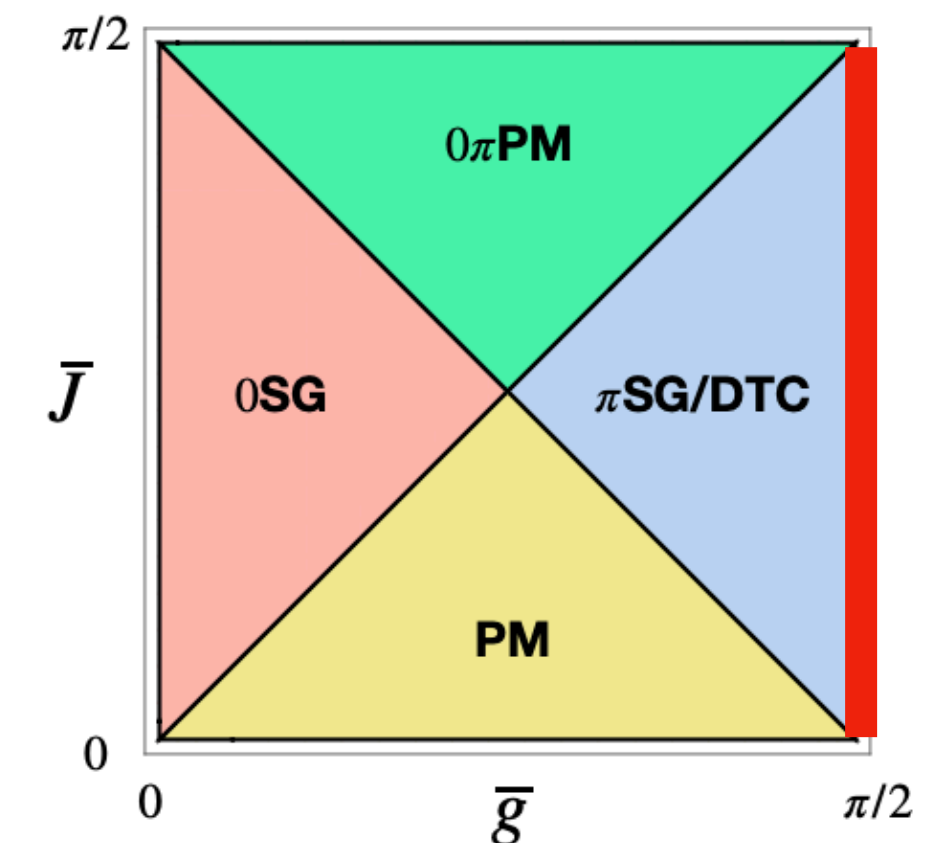
- Period doubling: time translation symmetry breaking



$$Z(n) = (-1)^n Z$$

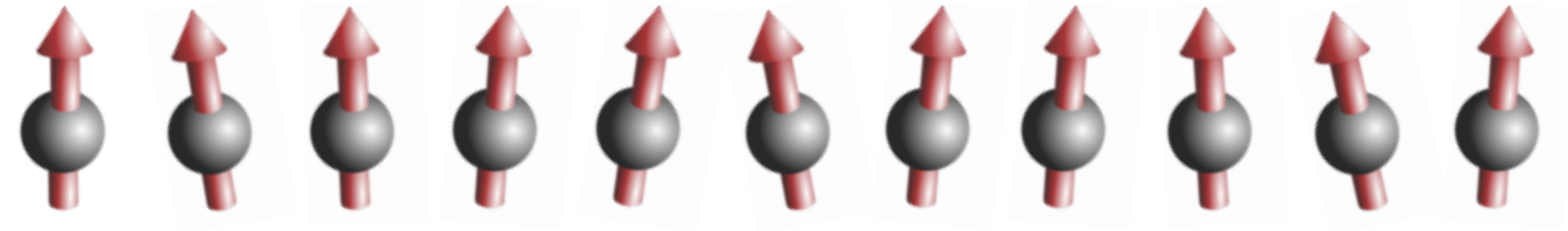
- Glassy Long-range spatial order:

$$\langle Z_i Z_j \rangle_c = s_{ij} \neq 0 \quad \text{for large } |i - j|$$





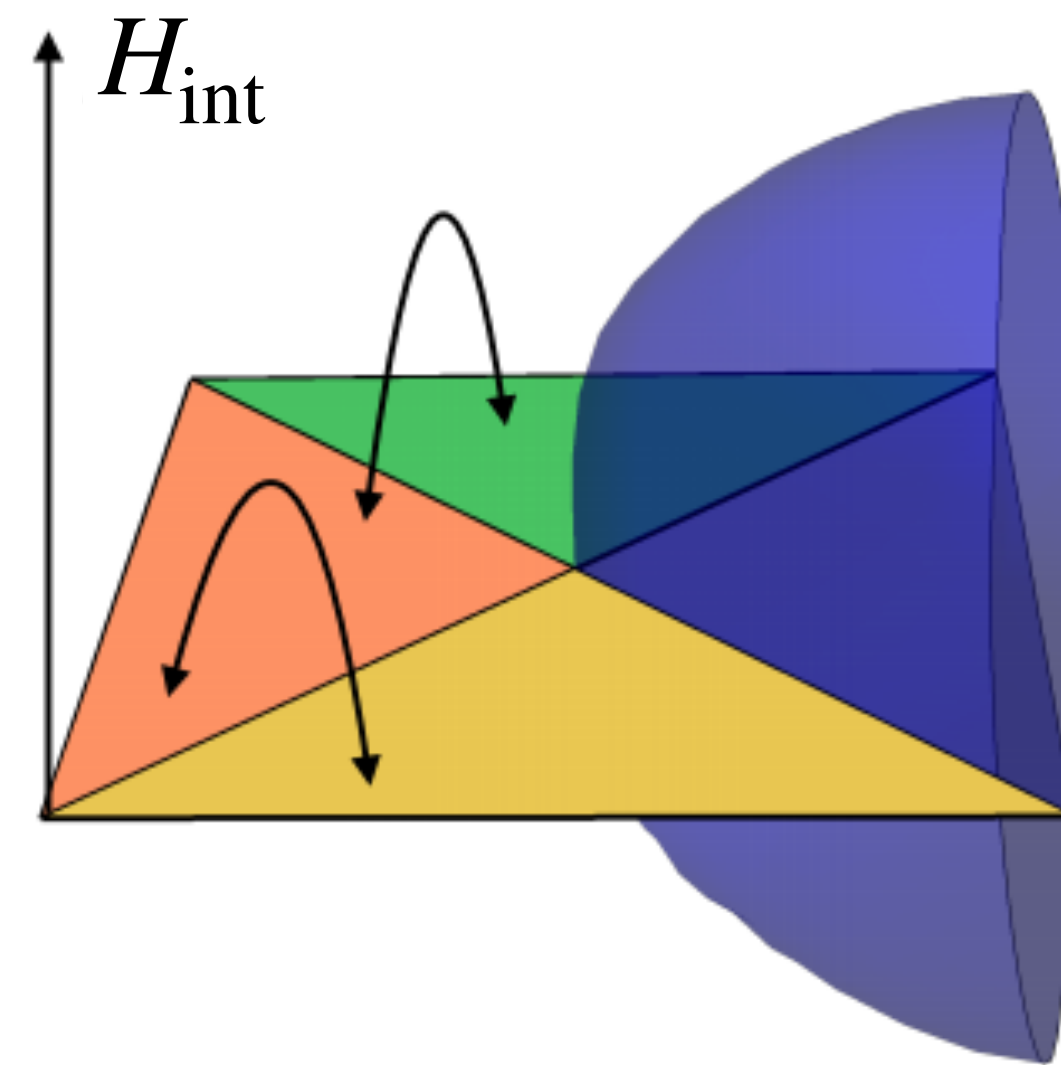
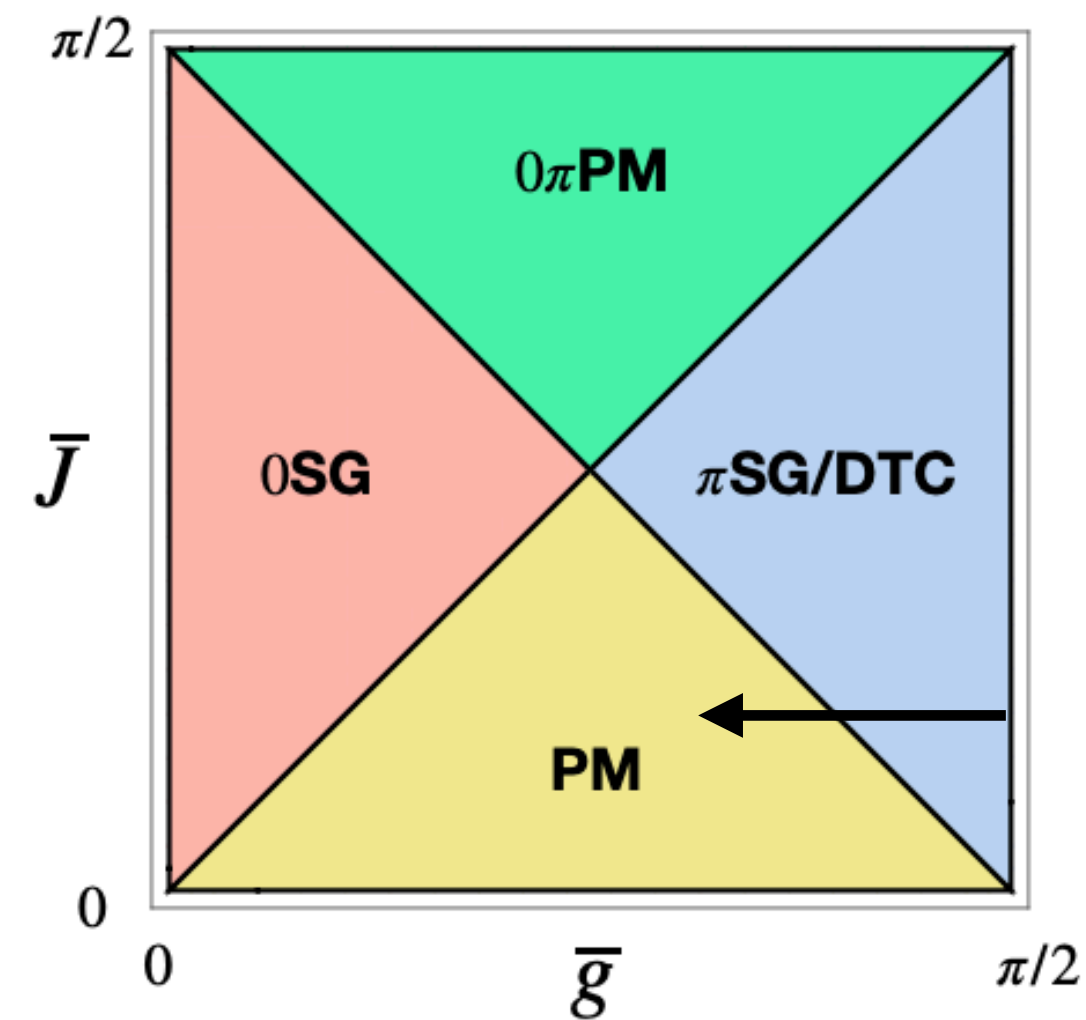
# Robust phase of matter with spatiotemporal order



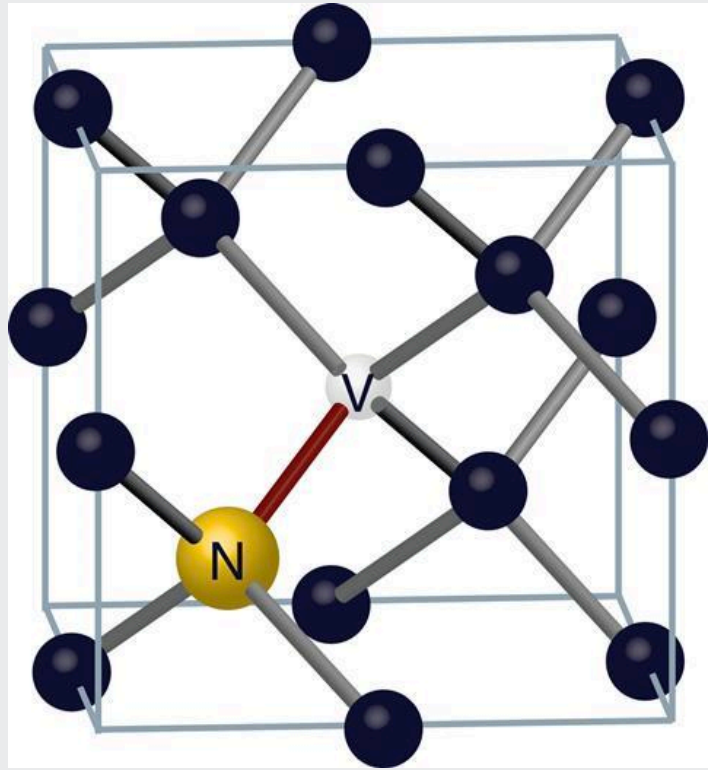
$$U_F = e^{-ig \sum_i X_i} e^{-i(H_z + H_{\text{int}})} = \text{Imperfect Rotation } H_z + H_{\text{int}}$$

$$H_Z = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} Z_i Z_j$$

$$H_{\text{int}} = \sum_i h_i Z_i + J_{ij}^\perp (X_i X_j + Y_i Y_j) + \dots$$

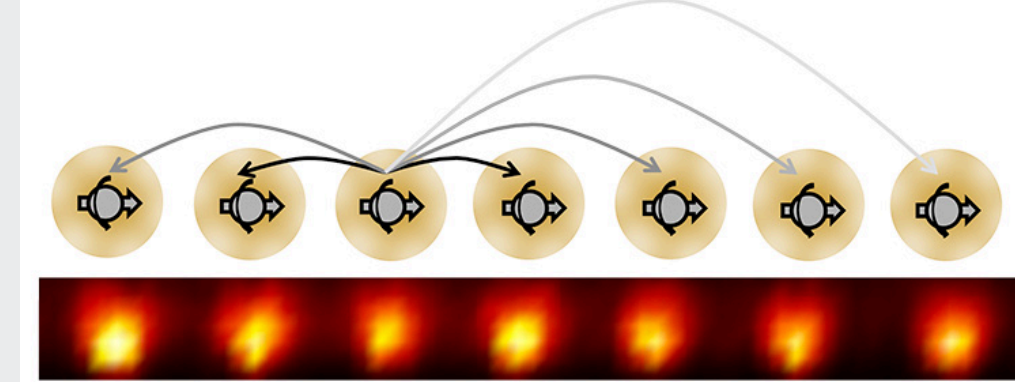


# DTC Experiments



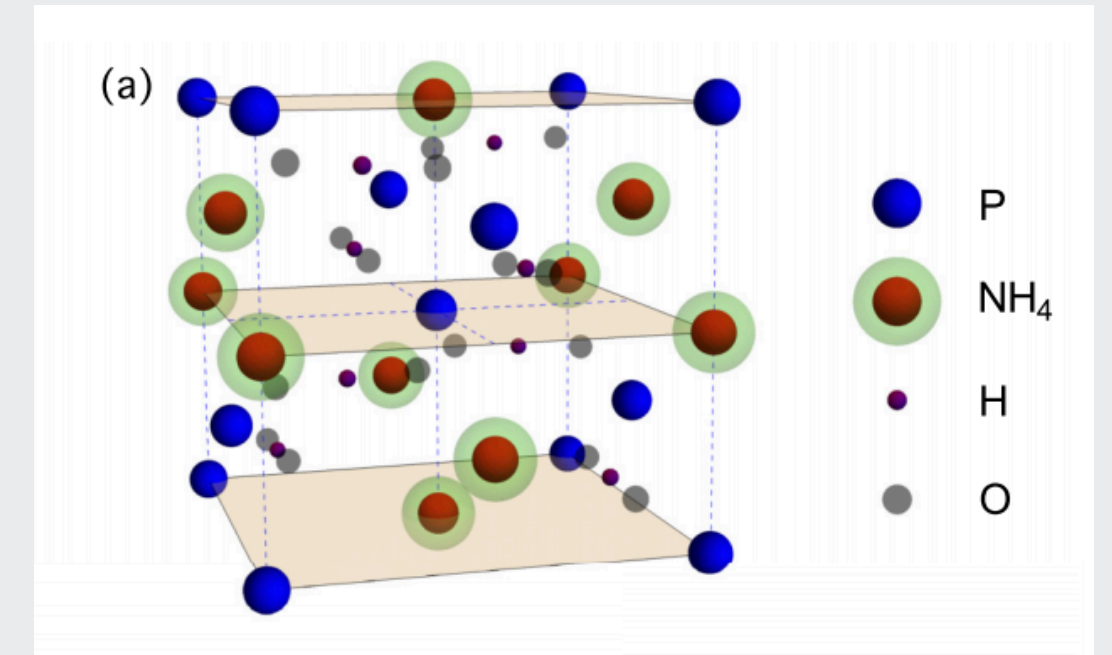
Disordered NV centers in  
3D diamond ( $10^6$ )

Choi...Lukin (2017)



Disordered trapped  
ions in 1D ( $10$ )

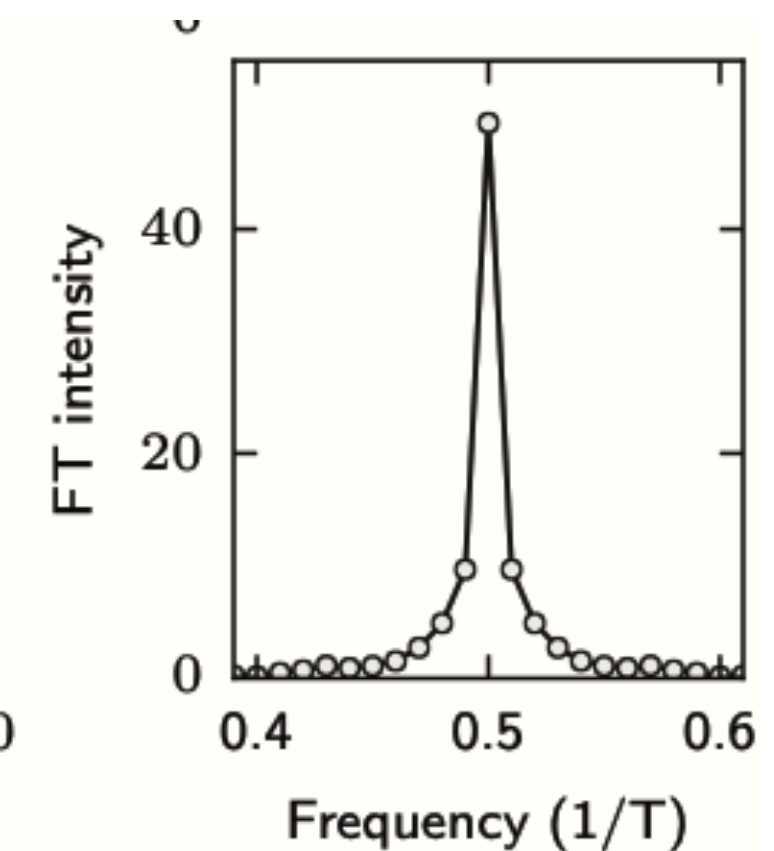
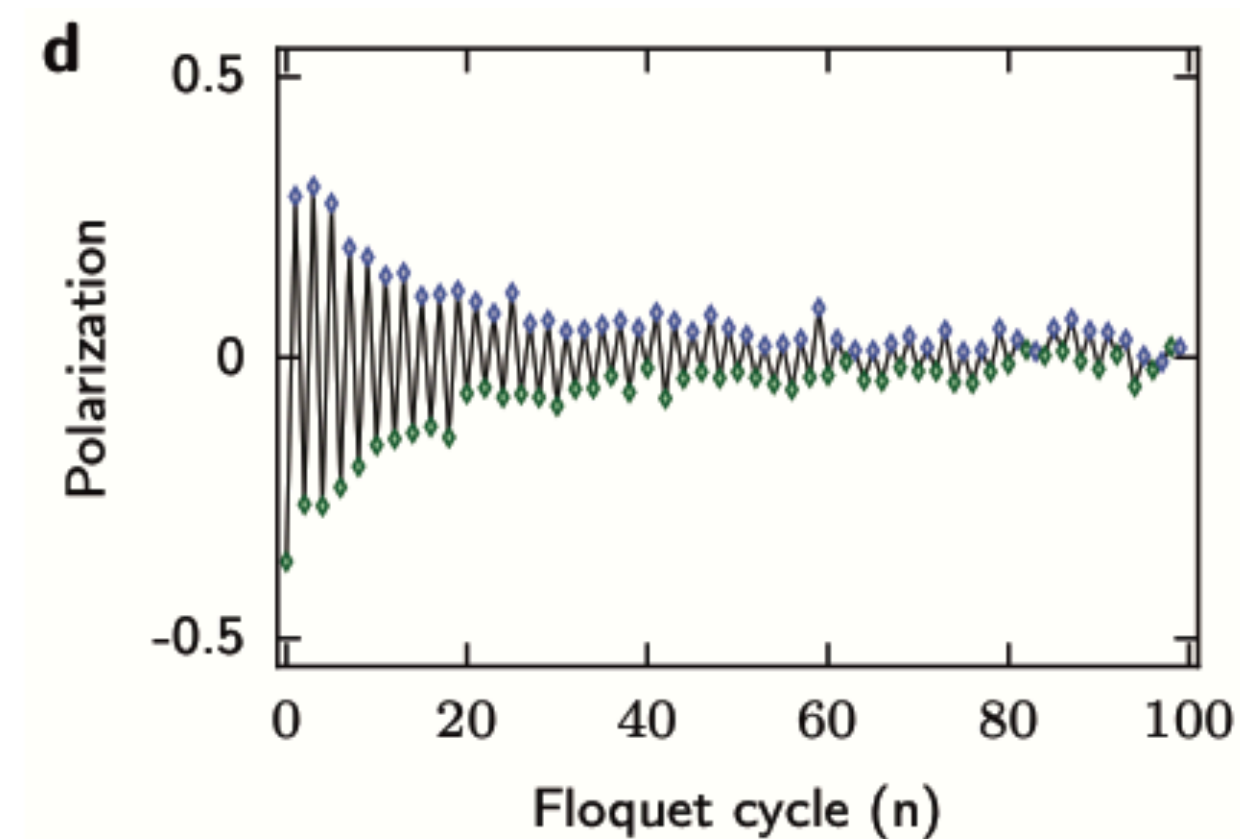
Zhang...Monroe (2017)



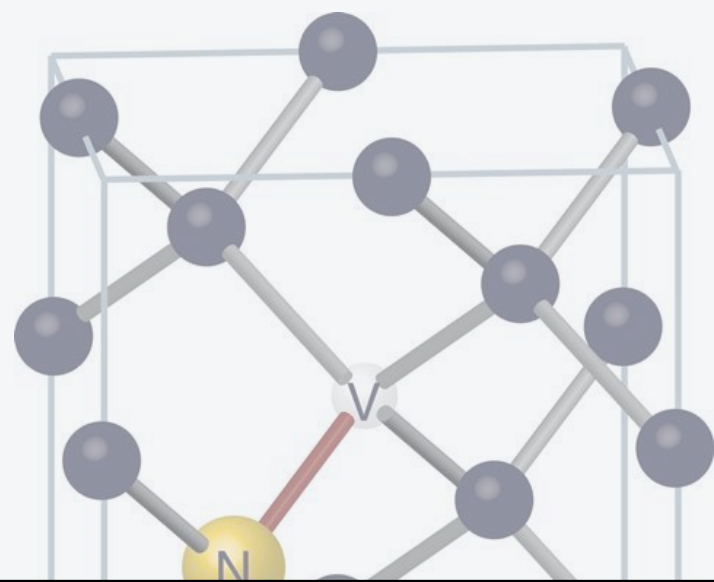
Ordered NMR  
3D crystal ( $10^6$ )

Rovny...Barrett (2018)

$$U(T) = \text{Imperfect Rotation} \quad (\text{Dominantly Ising}) \quad \text{Interactions}$$



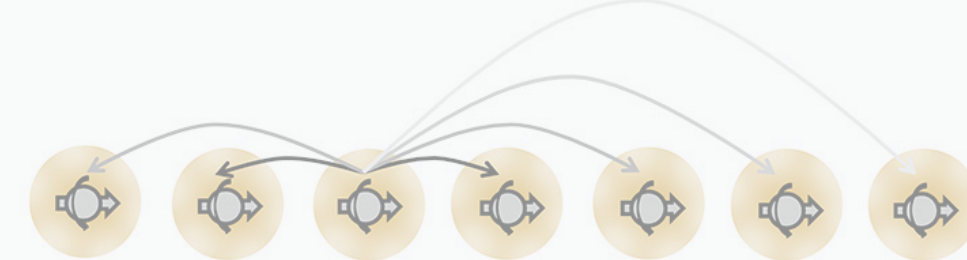
# DTC Experiments



## Critical TC

Disordered NV centers in  
3D diamond ( $10^6$ )

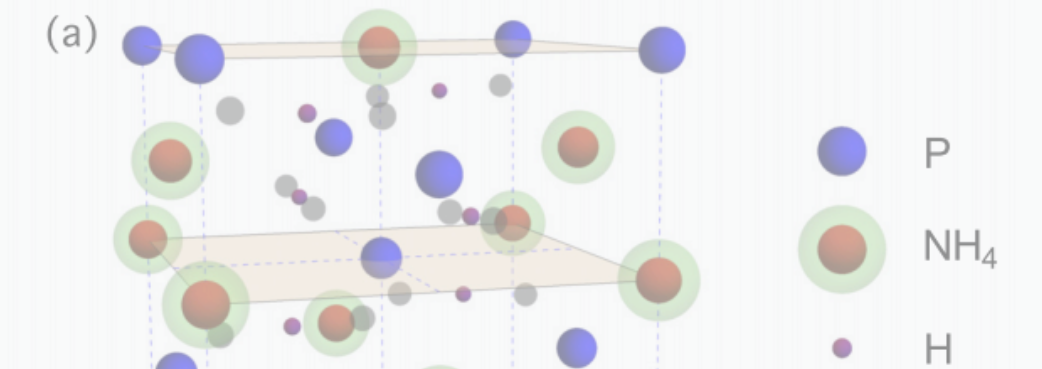
Choi...Lukin (2017)



## Prethermal TC

Disordered trapped  
ions in 1D ( $10$ )

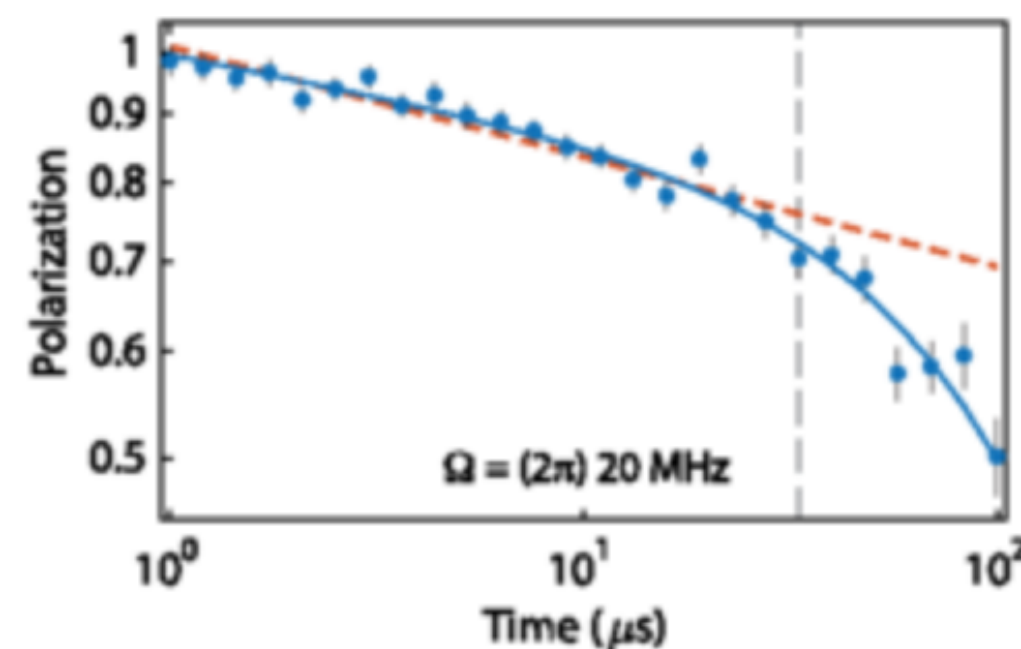
Zhang...Monroe (2017)



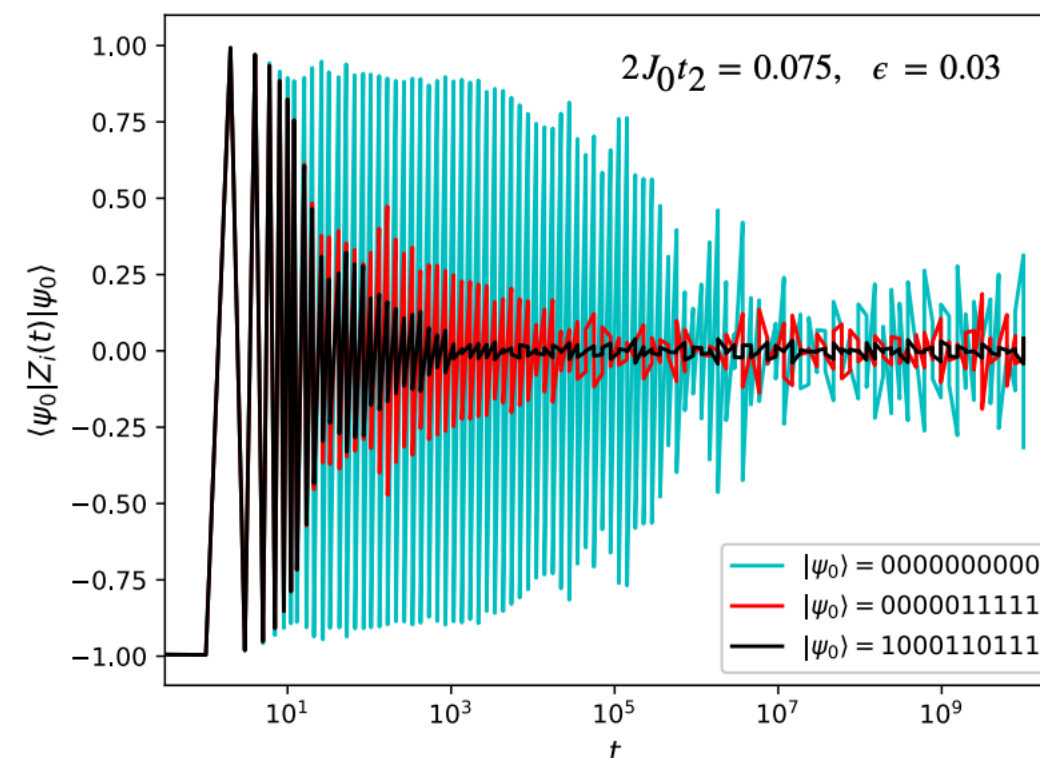
## Prethermal U(1) TC

3D crystal ( $10^6$ )

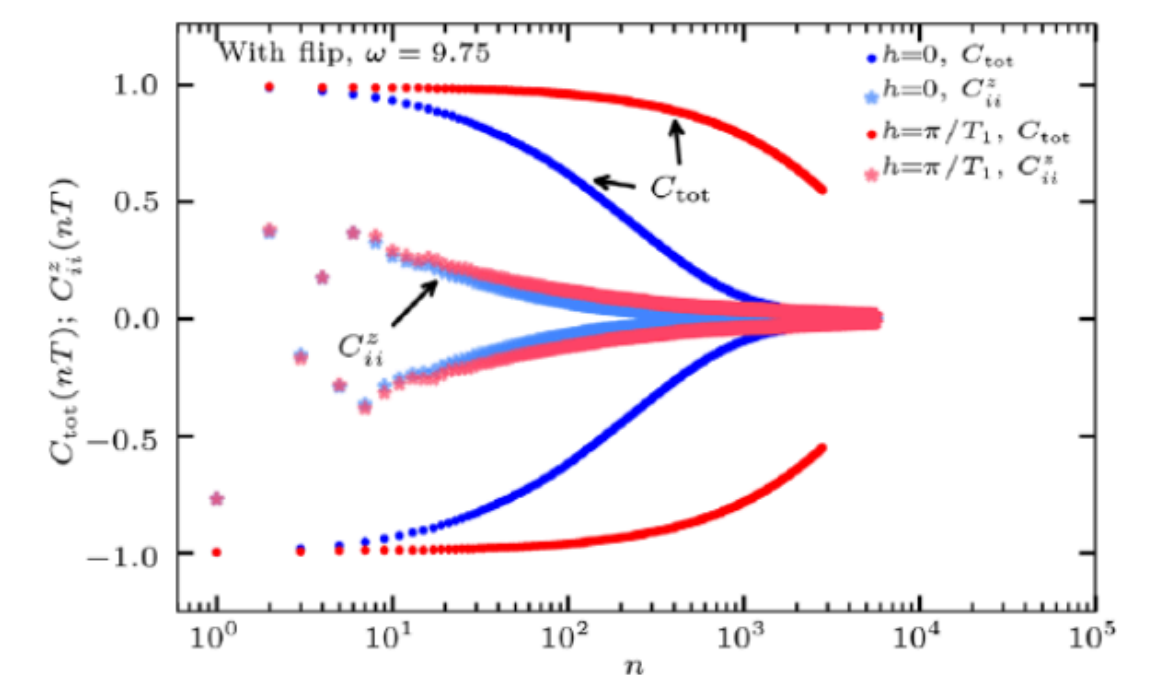
Rovny...Barrett (2018)



Kuscko et. al. (2018)  
Ho et. al. (2018)



**VK** Moessner Sondhi (2019)



Luitz Moessner Sondhi **VK** (2019)



# Desired experimental capabilities

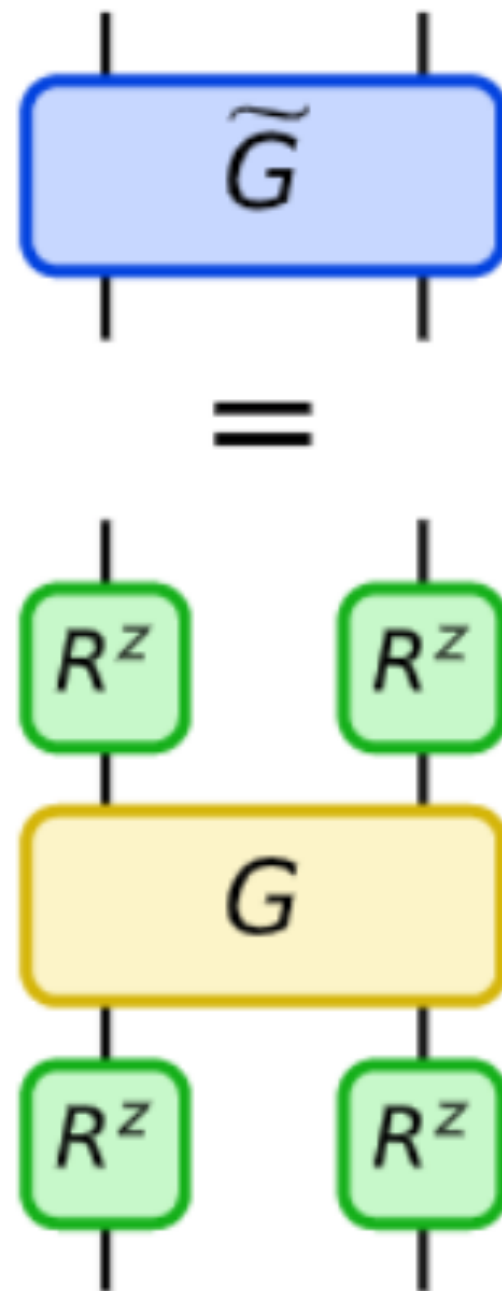
- Large enough and generic enough to probe many-body physics
- Long enough coherence time to probe dynamical phases of matter
- For stabilizing MBL
  - Short-range interactions,  $\alpha < \frac{3}{2}d$  [Only present in trapped-ion setup]
  - Disorder in Ising even couplings  $J_{ij}$ ; [**Not** present in trapped-ion setup]
    - Ising odd disorder (such as in longitudinal fields) “echoes out” over two periods.
- For measuring spatiotemporal order, and distinguishing asymptotic DTCs from “prethermal” variants
  - Site-resolved observables [Only present in trapped-ion setup]
  - Varying initial states [Present in trapped-ion setup, but not exploited]

# Desired experimental capabilities

Requirements	Experiments			
	NV centers	Trapped ions	NMR crystal	Sycamore
<b>Definitional</b>				
Long coherence time	✓	✓	✓	✓
Many-body	✓✓	~	✓✓	✓
<b>Stabilizing MBL</b>				
Short-range int.	✗	?	✗	✓
Ising-even disorder	✓	✗	✗	✓
<b>Detection</b>				
Site-resolved meas.	✗	✓	✗	✓
Varied initial states	✗	~	✗	✓

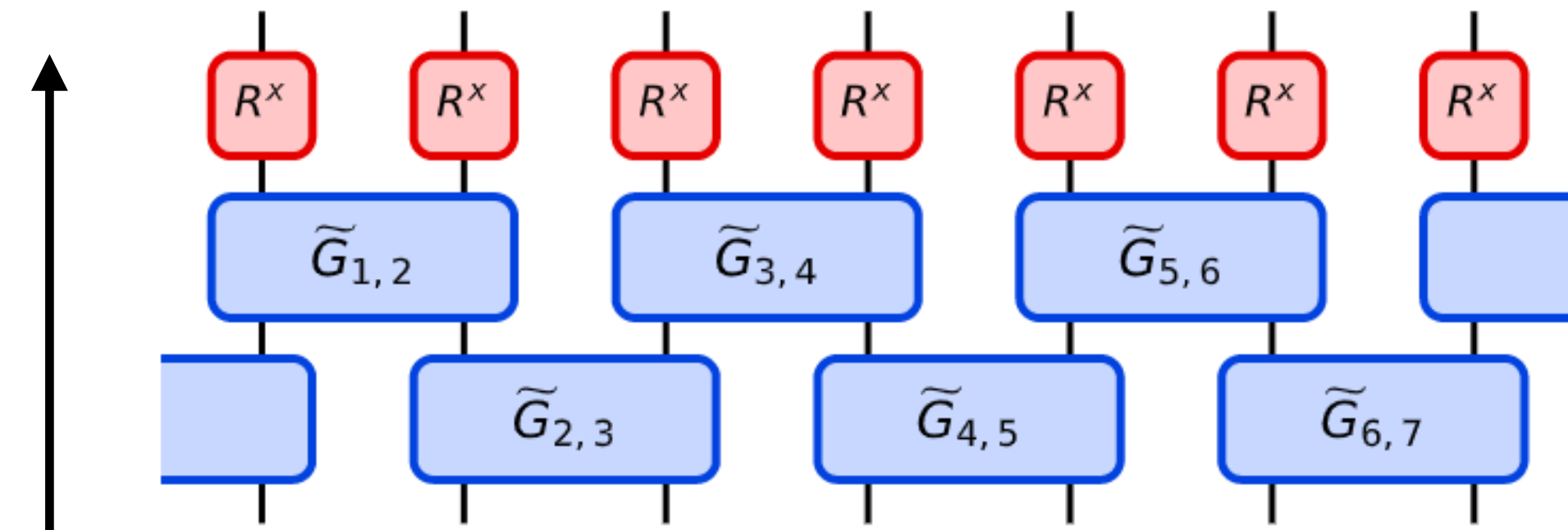


# DTC on Sycamore

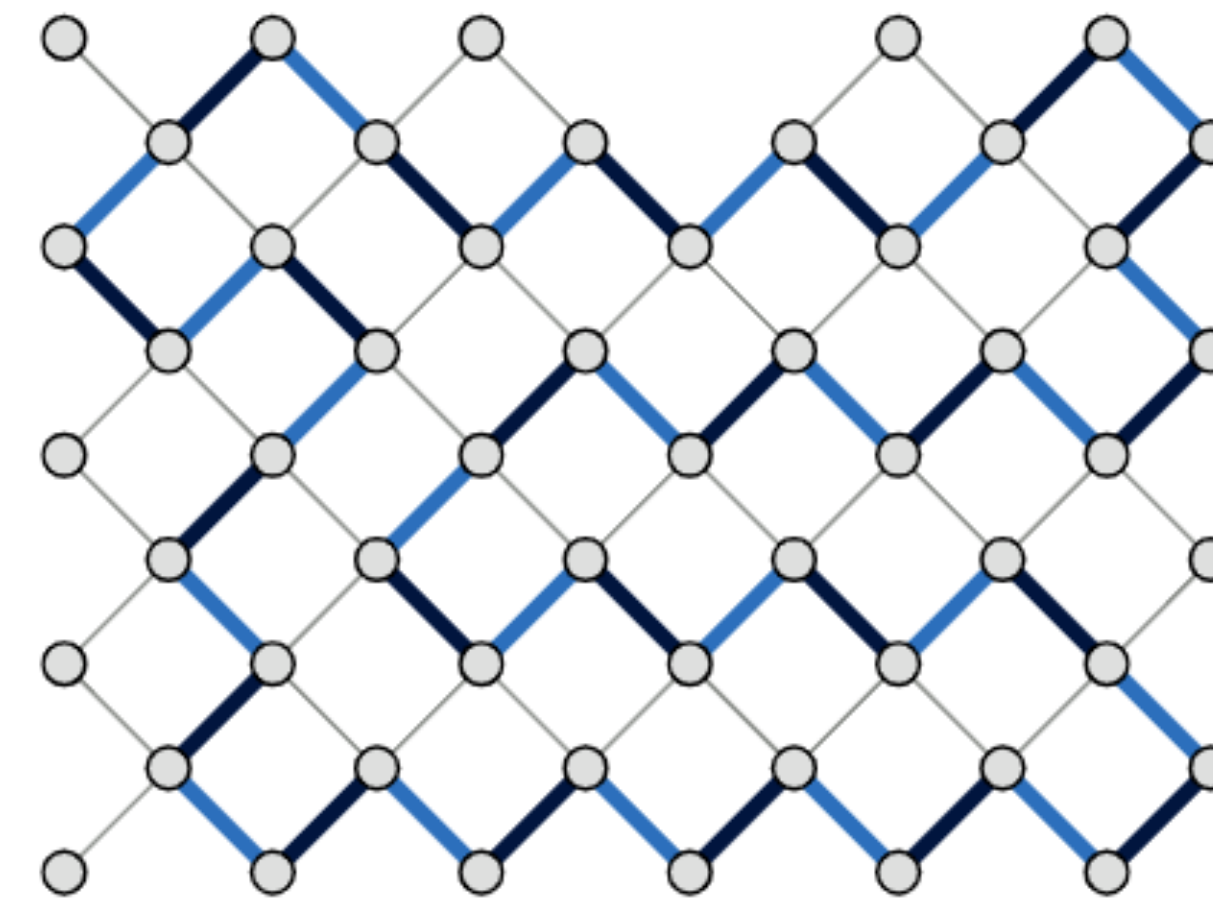


$$\tilde{G} = R_1^z(\delta h_a) R_2^z(-\delta h_a) e^{-i(\theta/2)(XX+YY) - i(\phi/4)ZZ} \times R_1^z(\delta h_{b,1}) R_2^z(\delta h_{b,2})$$

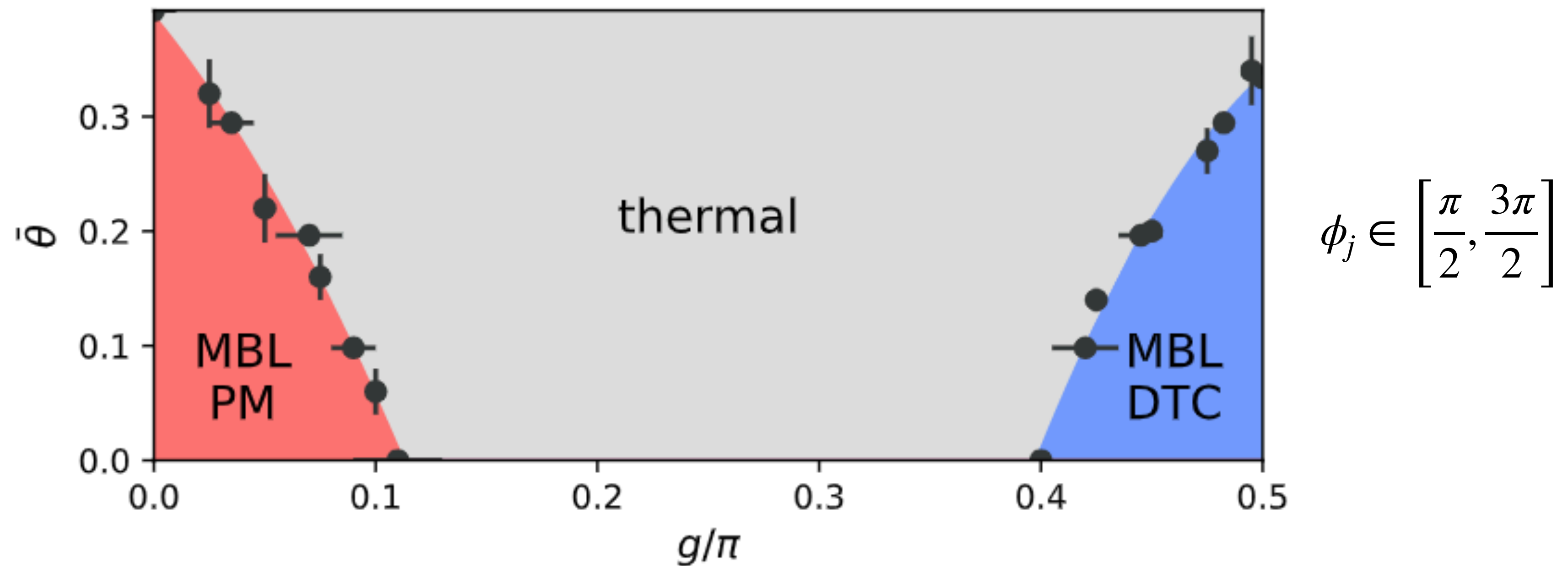
Time



$$U_F = \text{Imperfect Rotation} \quad (\text{Dominantly Ising}) \text{ Interaction}$$



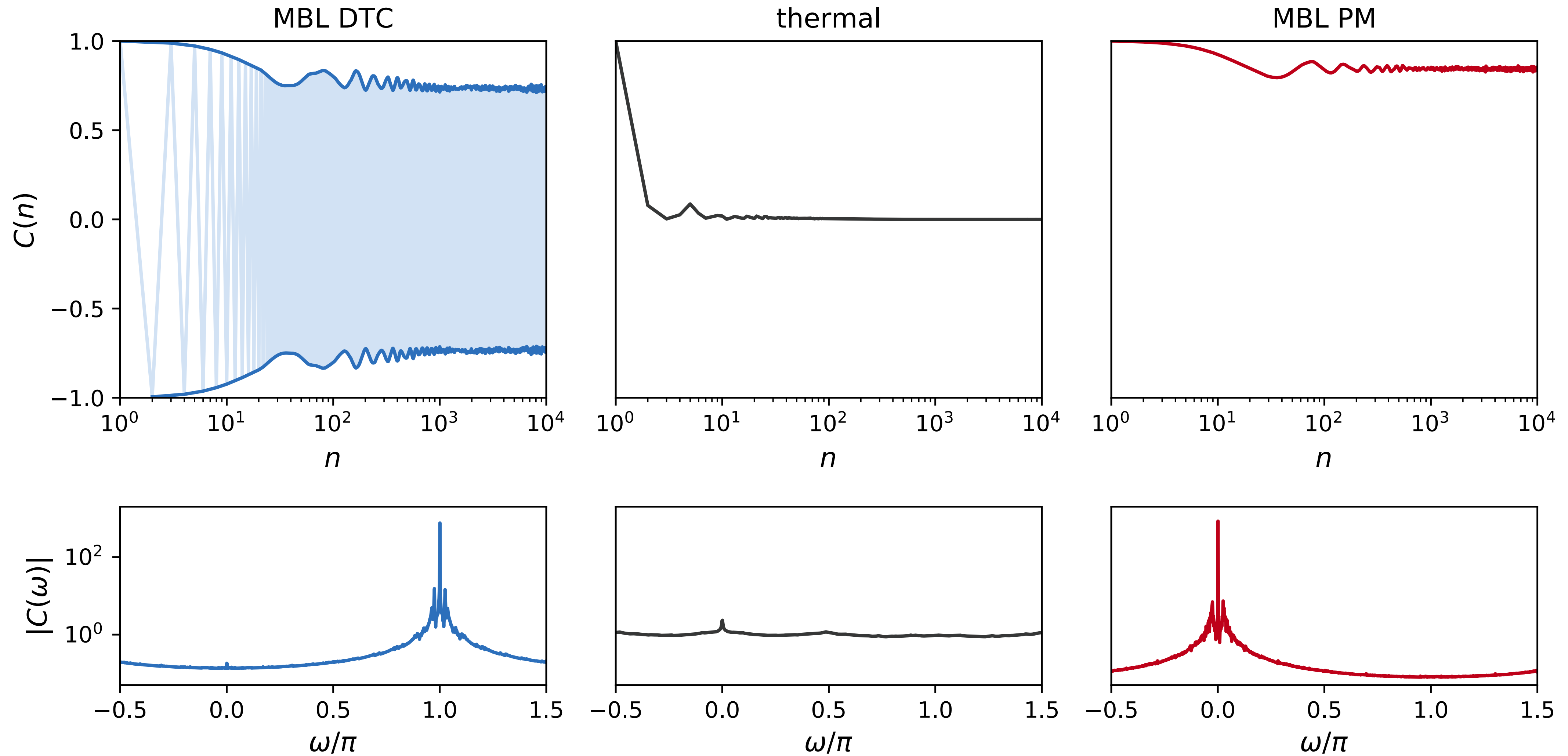
# DTC on Sycamore: Phase diagram



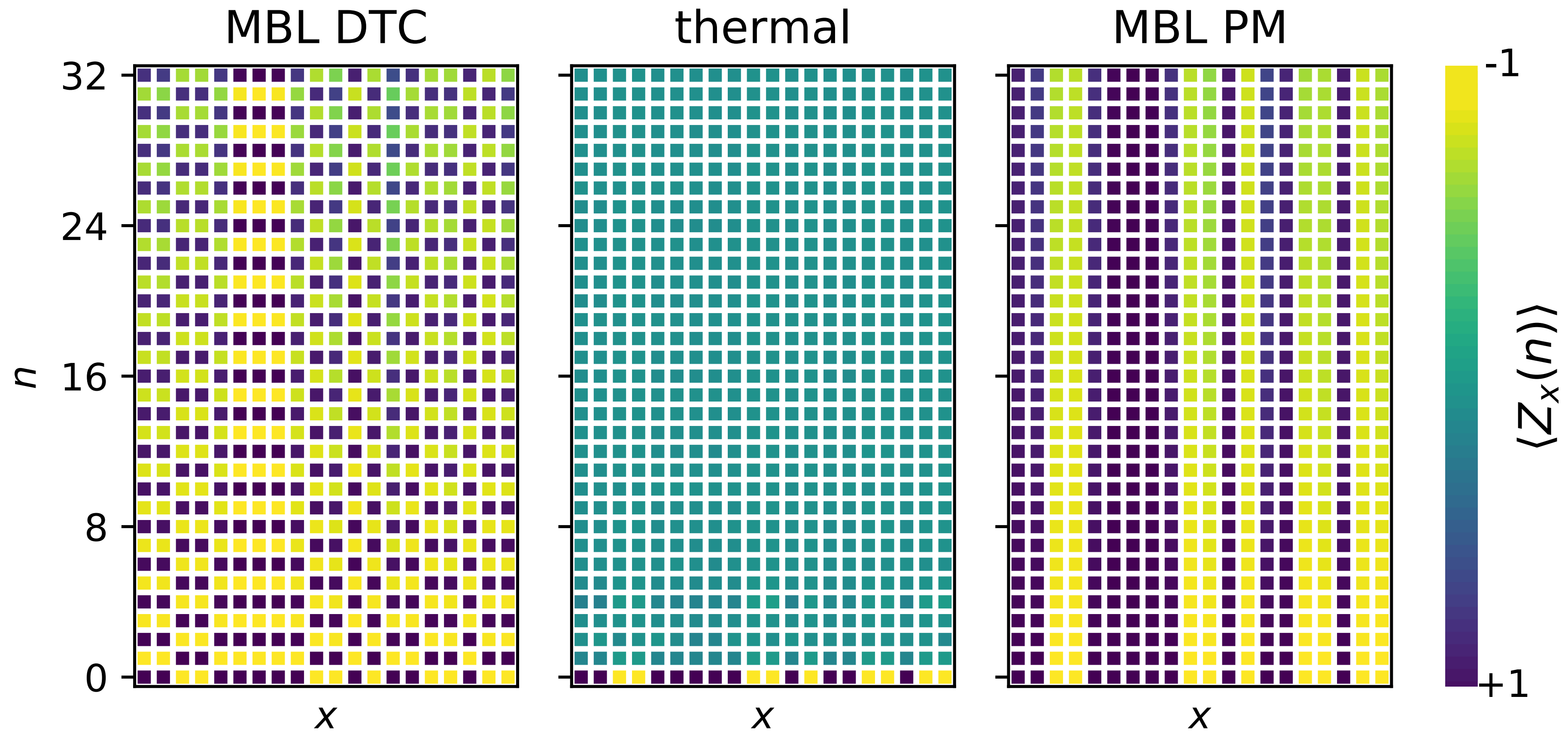
$$\boxed{\tilde{G}} = R_1^z(\delta h_a) R_2^z(-\delta h_a) e^{-i(\theta/2)(XX+YY)-i(\phi/4)ZZ} \times R_1^z(\delta h_{b,1}) R_2^z(\delta h_{b,2})$$

$$\boxed{R^x} = e^{-ig \sum_i X_i}$$

# DTC on Sycamore: Time dynamics

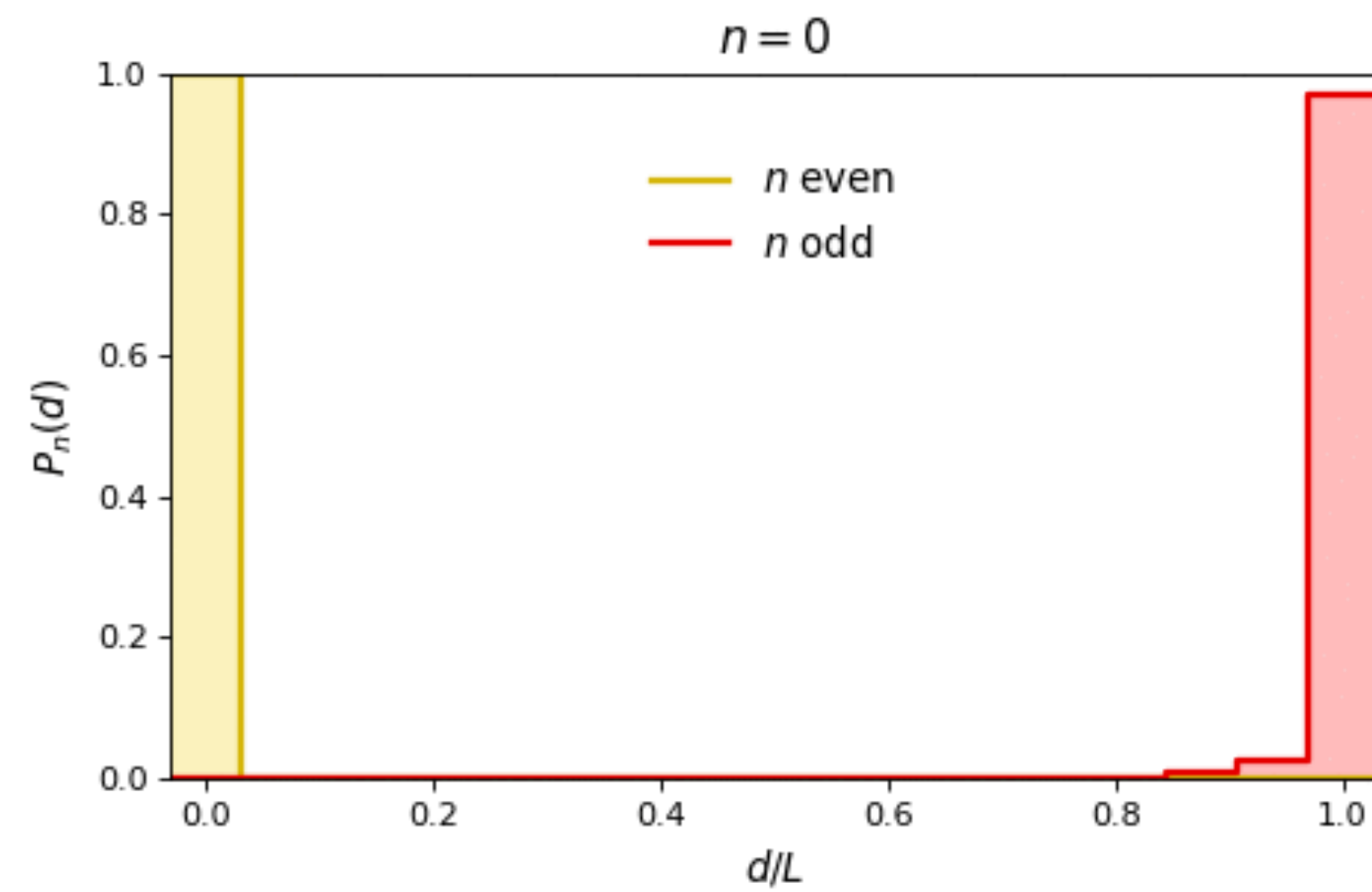


# DTC on Sycamore: space-time snapshots

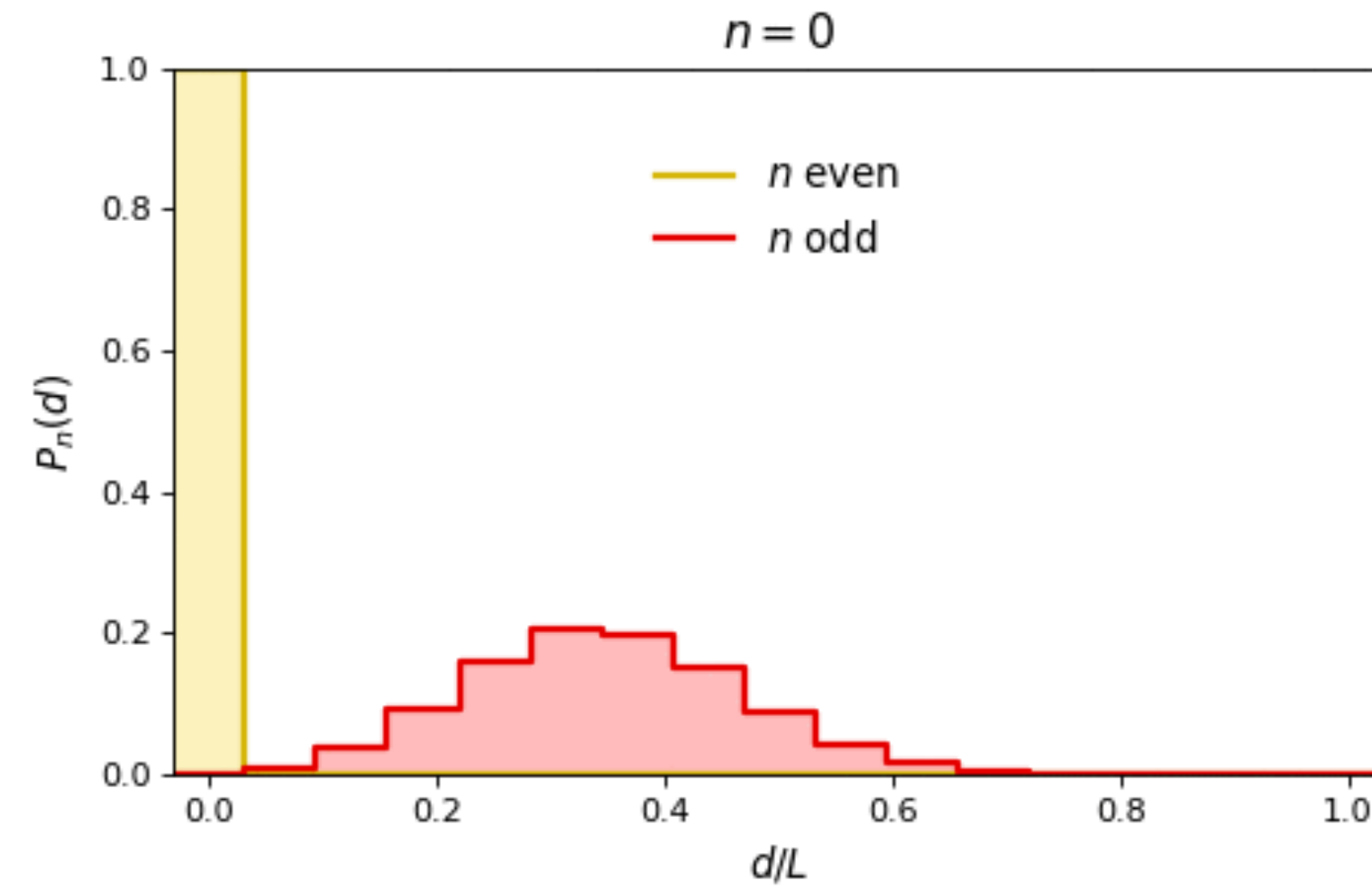


# DTC on Sycamore: Hamming distance as a novel metric

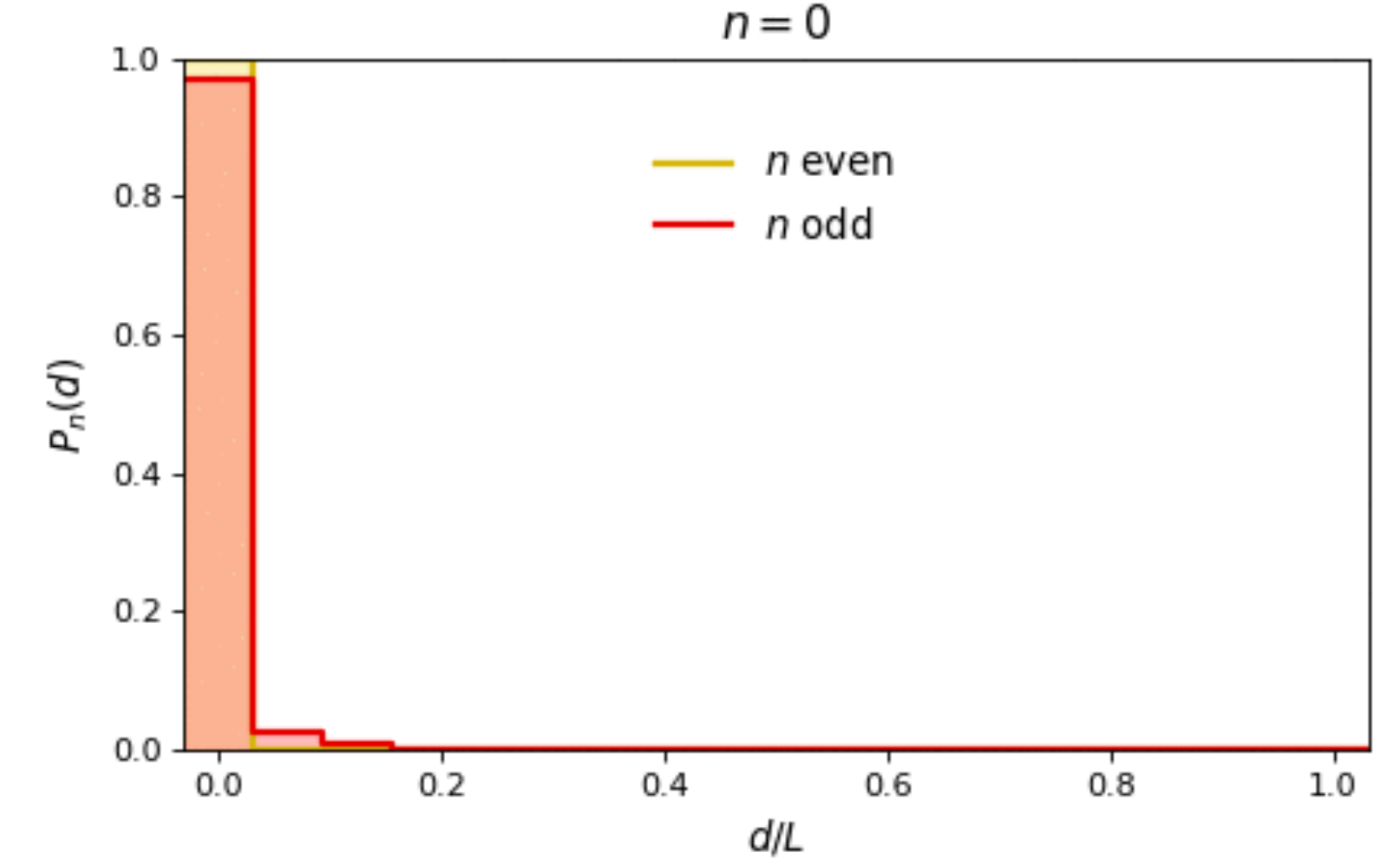
## MBL DTC



## Thermal



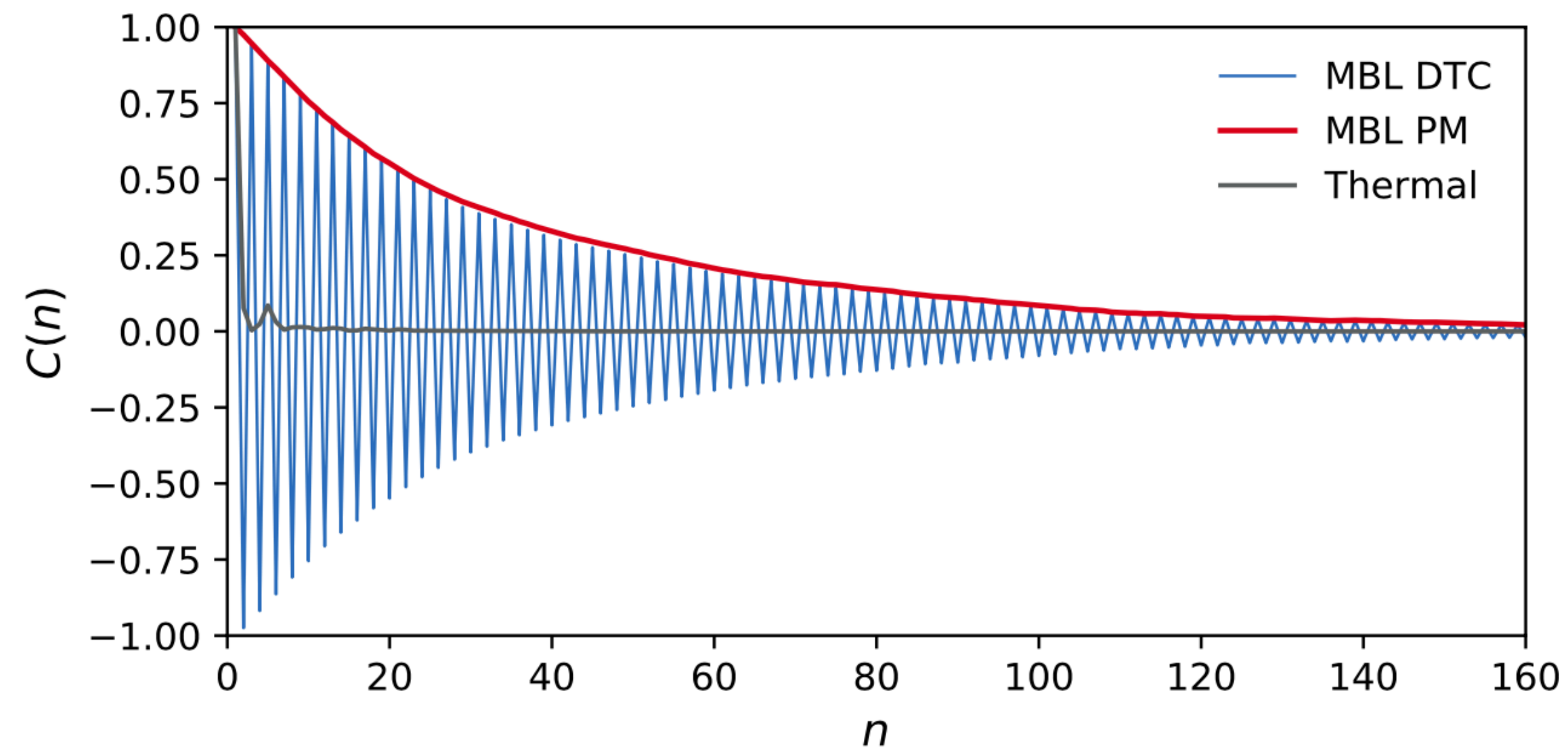
## MBL PM



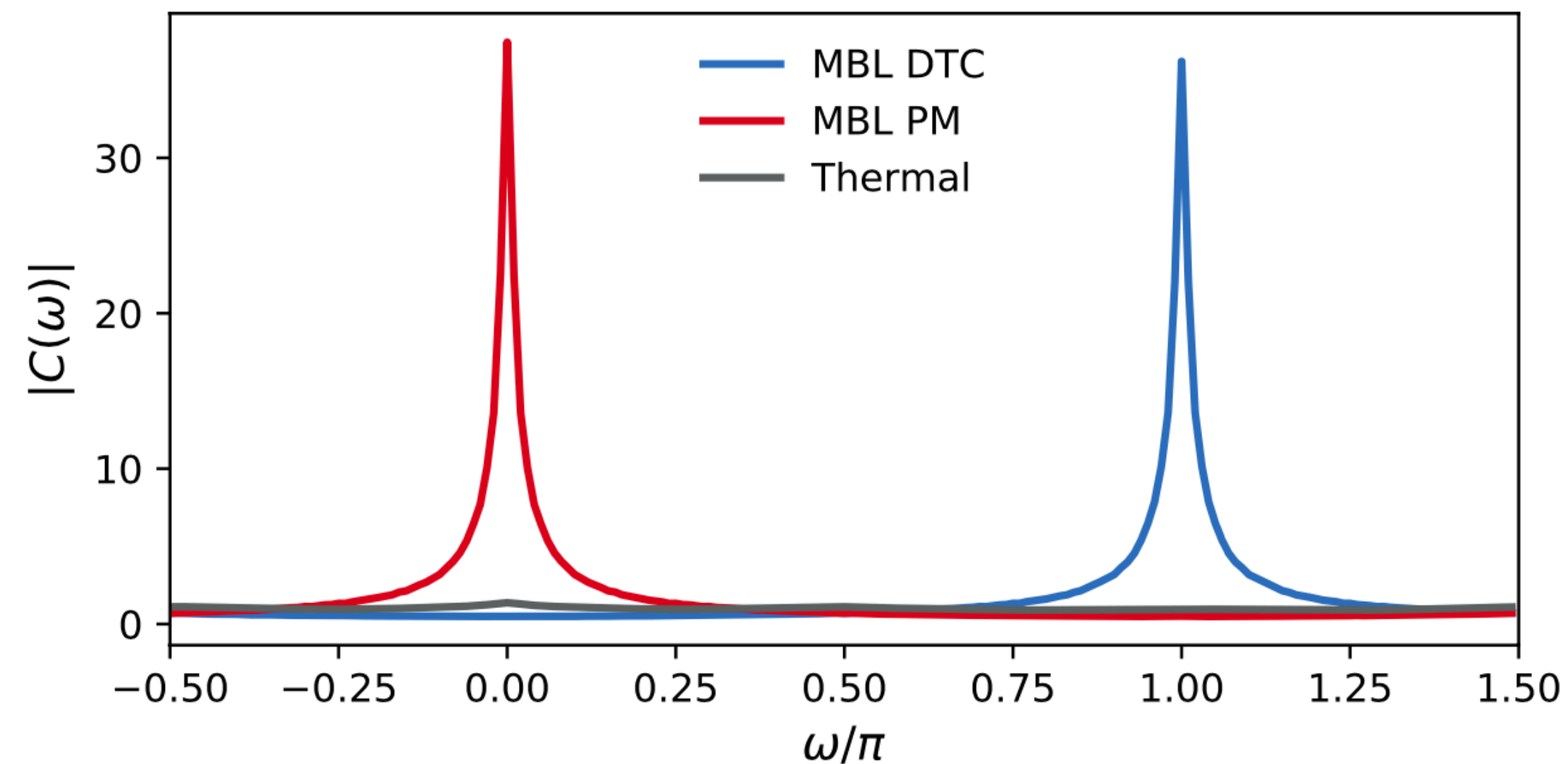
Distributions of Hamming-distance between initial and time-evolved states



# The effect of noise

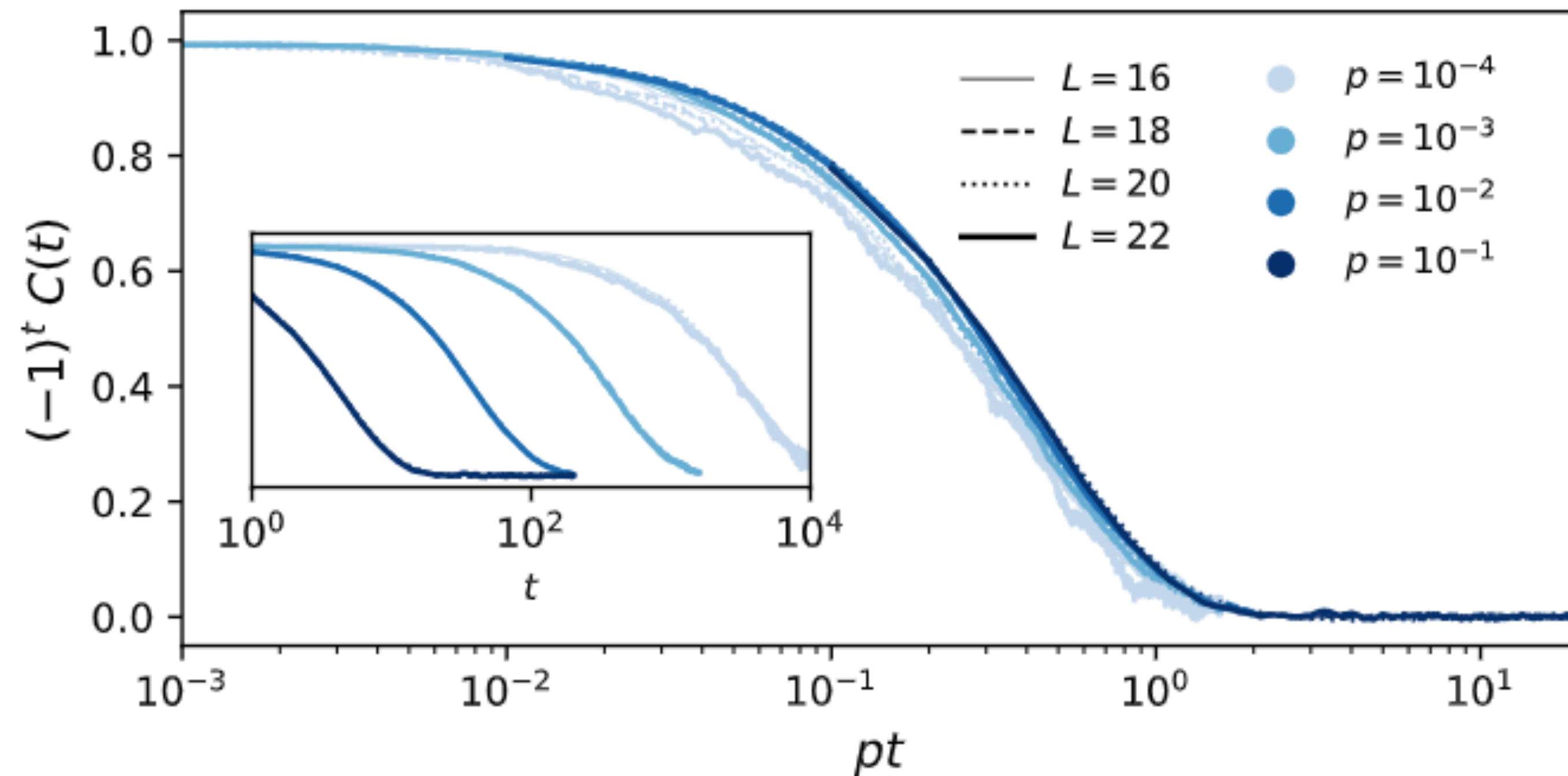


Depolarizing error model  
with two qubit error rate  $p$ ,  
and one qubit error rate  $p/10$ .  
Conservative estimate  $p = 1\%$



Exquisite noise calibration in  
Sycamore helps disentangle  
contributions from “internal and  
“external” decoherence upon  
observing a decaying signal

# The effect of noise



Signal decay does *not* care about system size. Contrast with fidelity decay in chaotic system,  $F \sim (1 - p)^{Lt}$

# Outlook: Physics with Random Unitary circuits

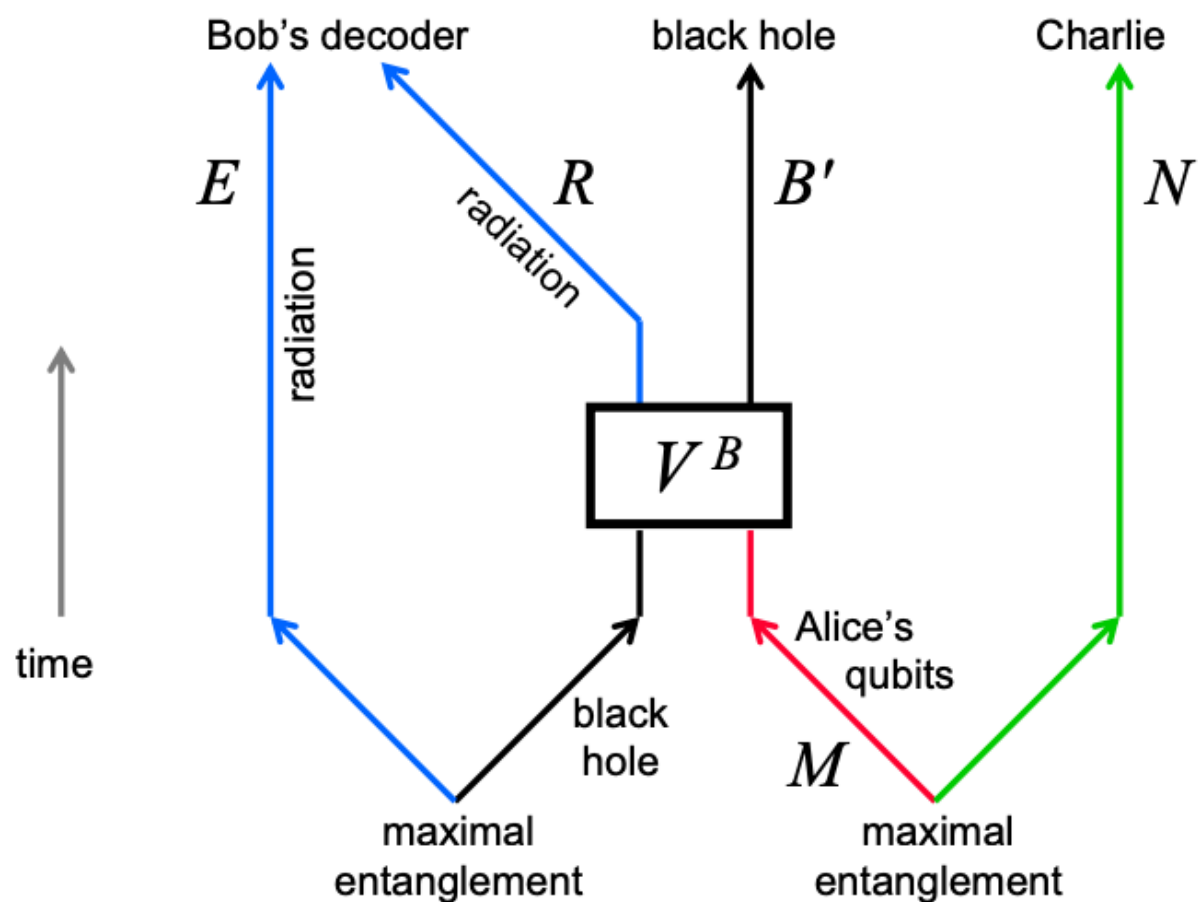
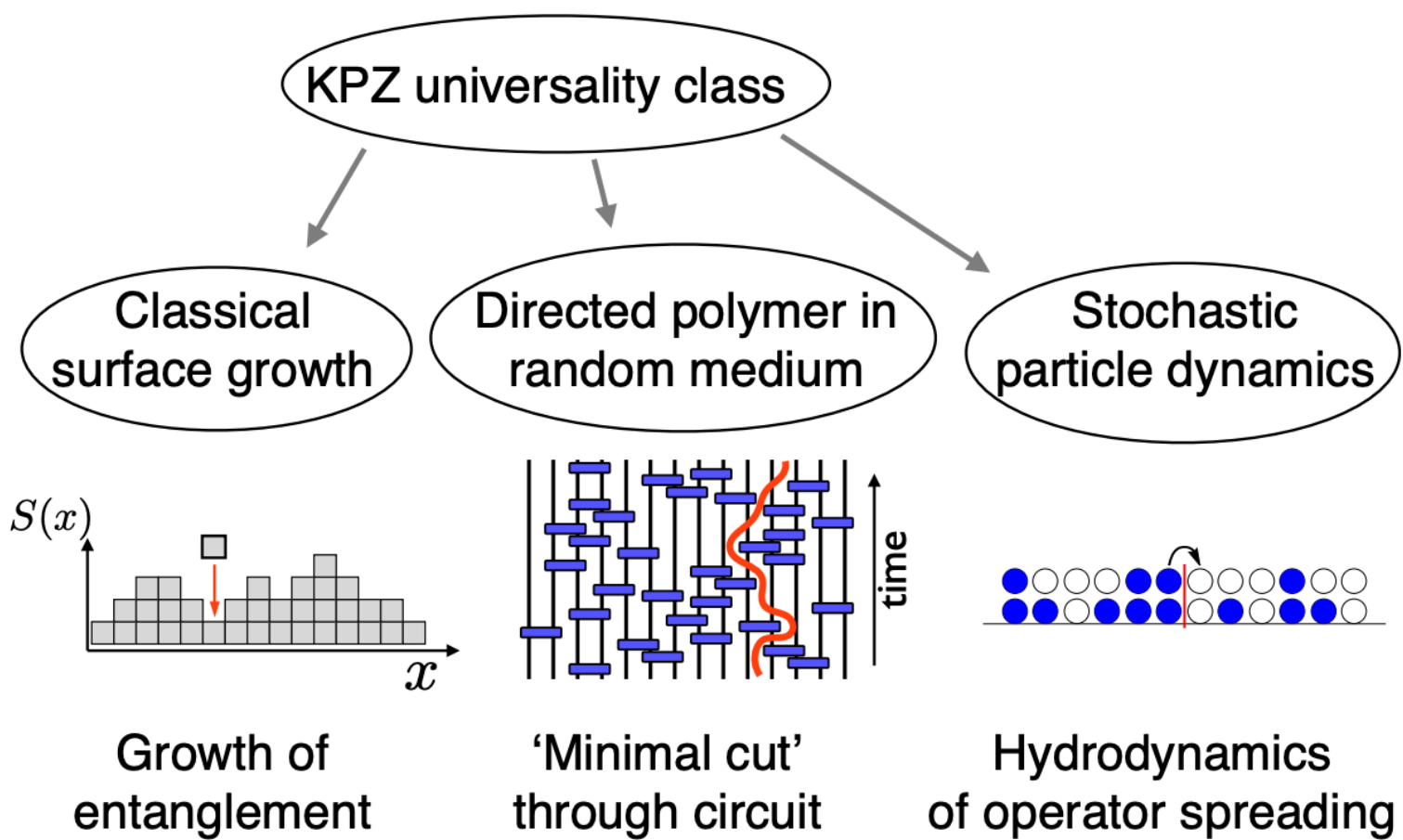
Dynamics of quantum entanglement (Nahum et. al. 2017)

Operator spreading, scrambling and OTOCs (Nahum et. al. 2018; von Keyserlingk et. al. 2018)

Emergence of hydrodynamics under unitary dynamics with conservation laws (VK et. al. 2018; Rakovszky et. al. 2018)

Measurement-induced phase transitions Li, Chen, Fisher (2018); Skinner, Ruhman, Nahum (2018)... Ippoliti...VK (2020)

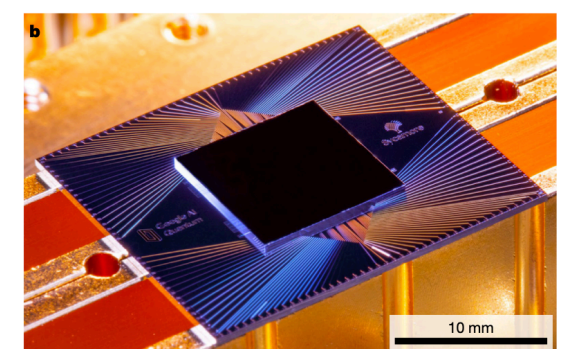
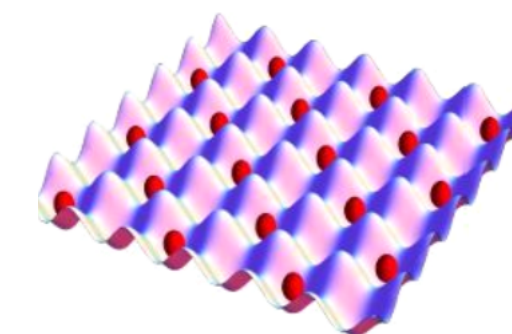
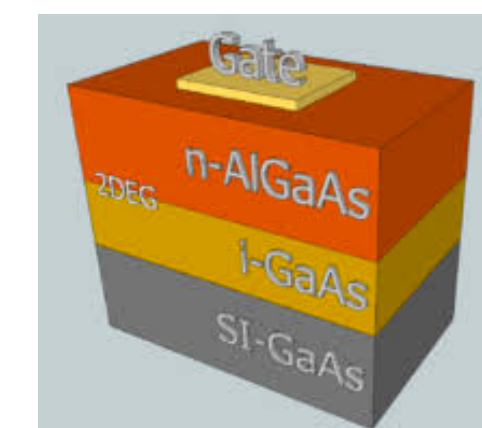
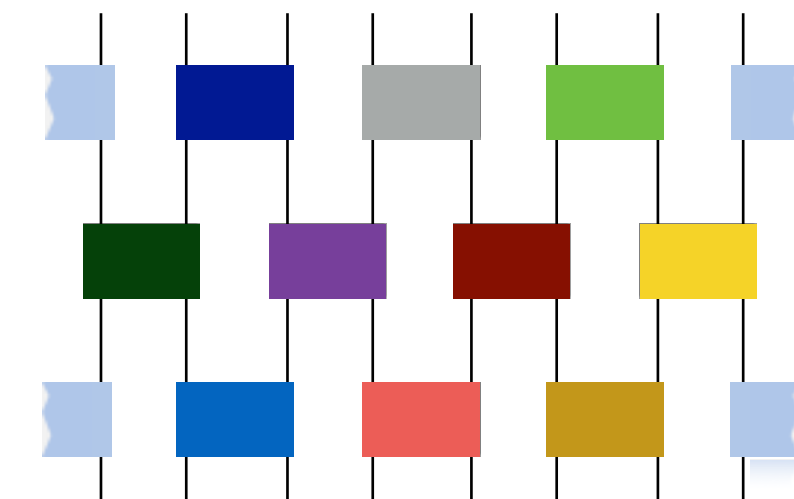
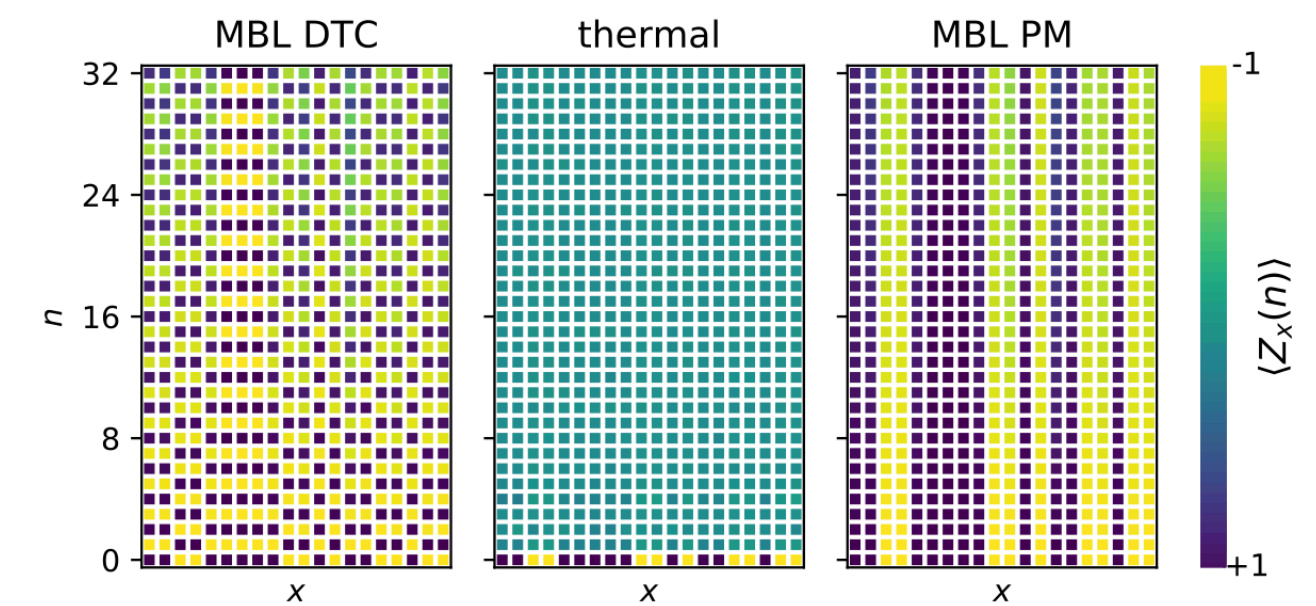
Models of black holes (Hayden Preskill 2007)





# Summary and outlook

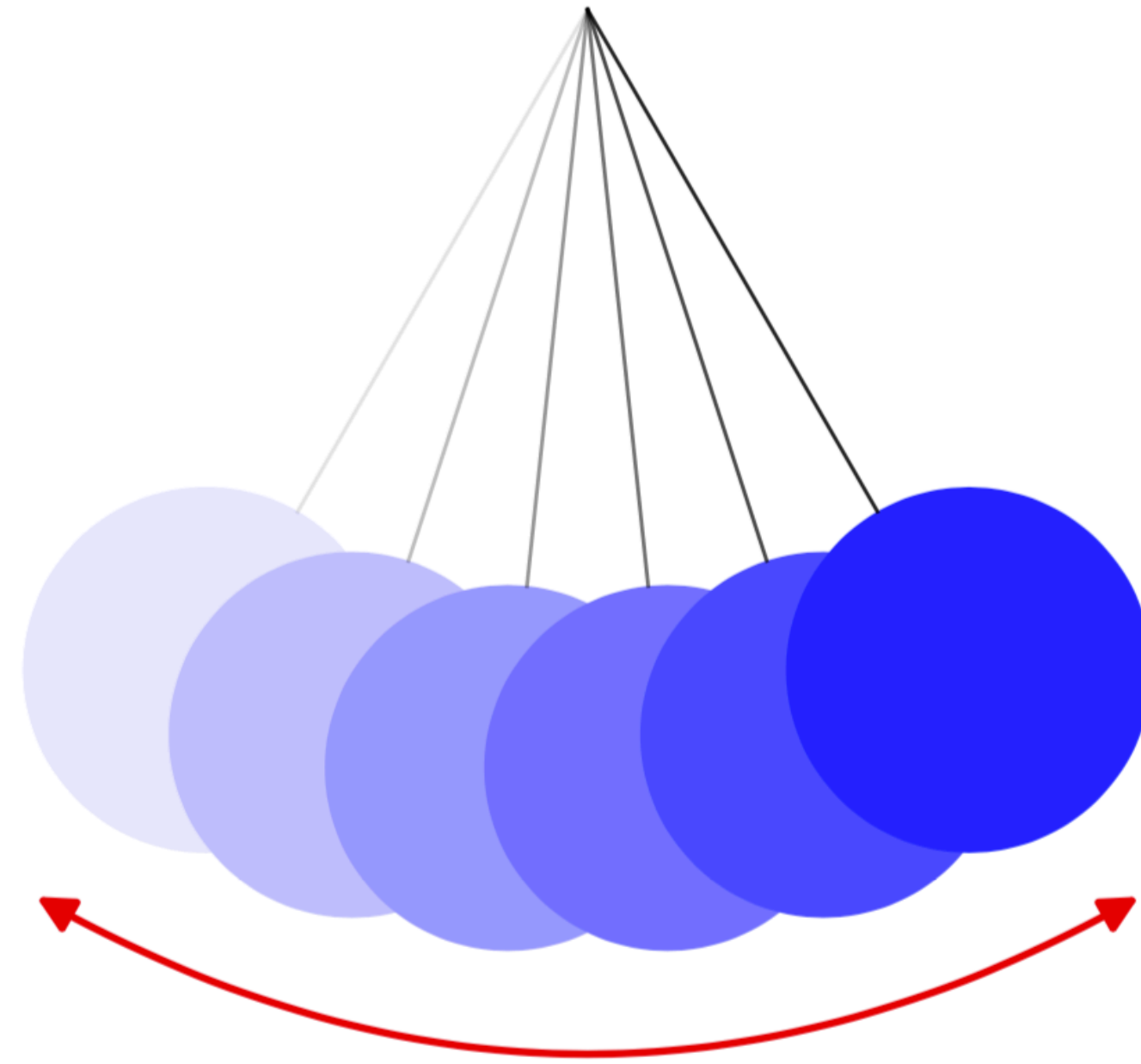
- Immediate near-term application of a NISQ device as a platform for MB experiments: observe DTC. Longer term: can insights from MB physics be used for benchmarking “quantumness” of devices?
- Broader set of interesting MB problems with random circuits (entanglement dynamics, chaos, measurement induced phase transitions...)
- More broadly: view of NISQ devices as experimental platforms calls on many-body physicists to treat these setups with a level of attention commensurate to that normally devoted to other, more traditional systems.



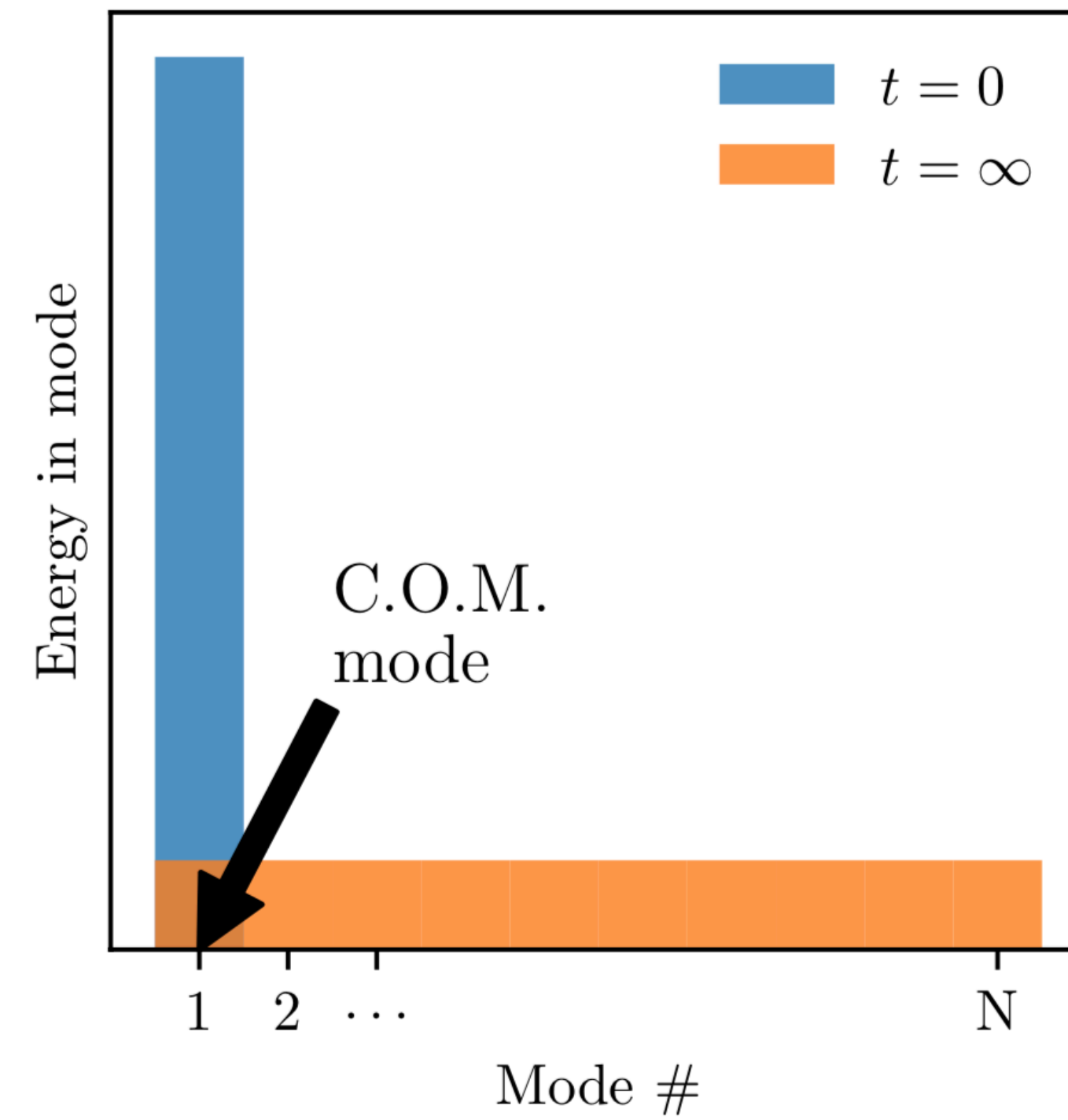
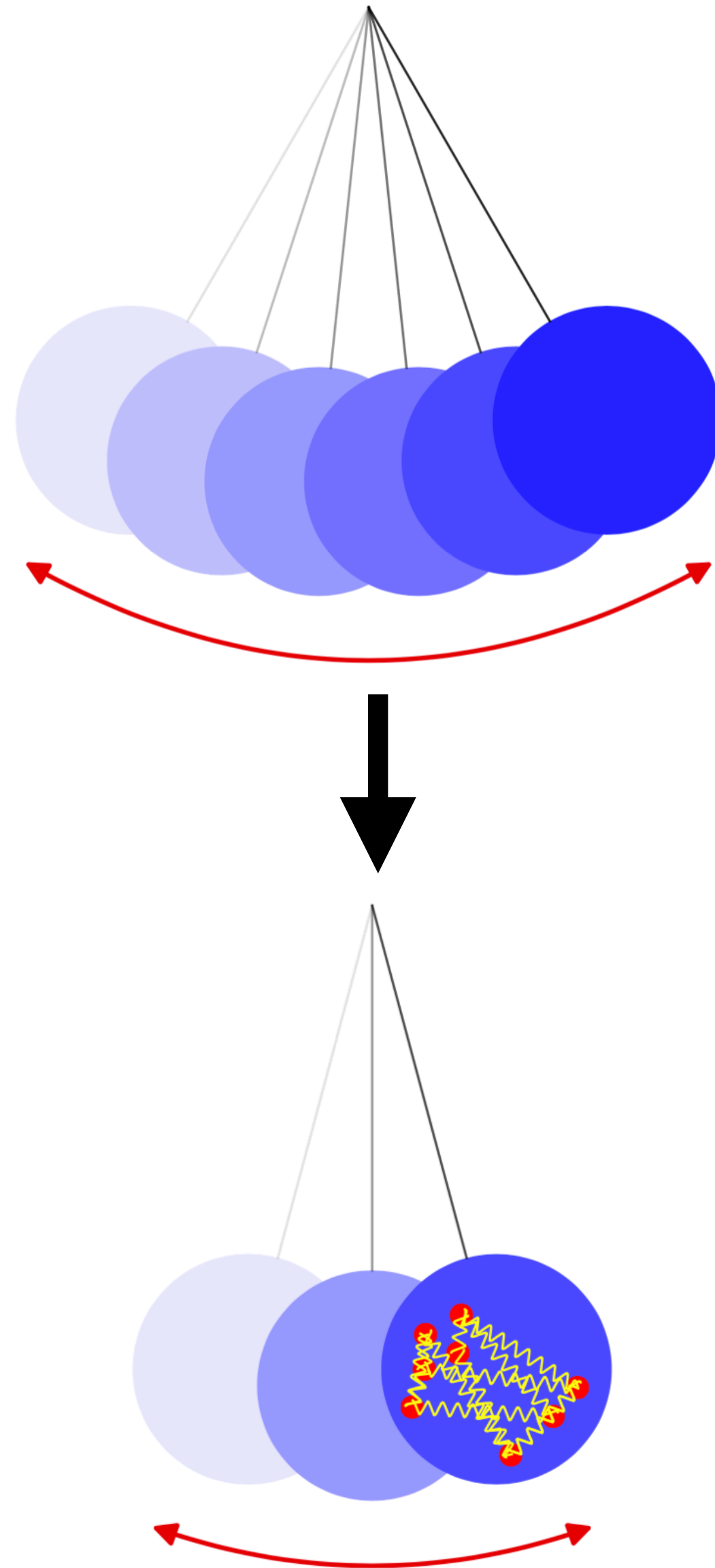




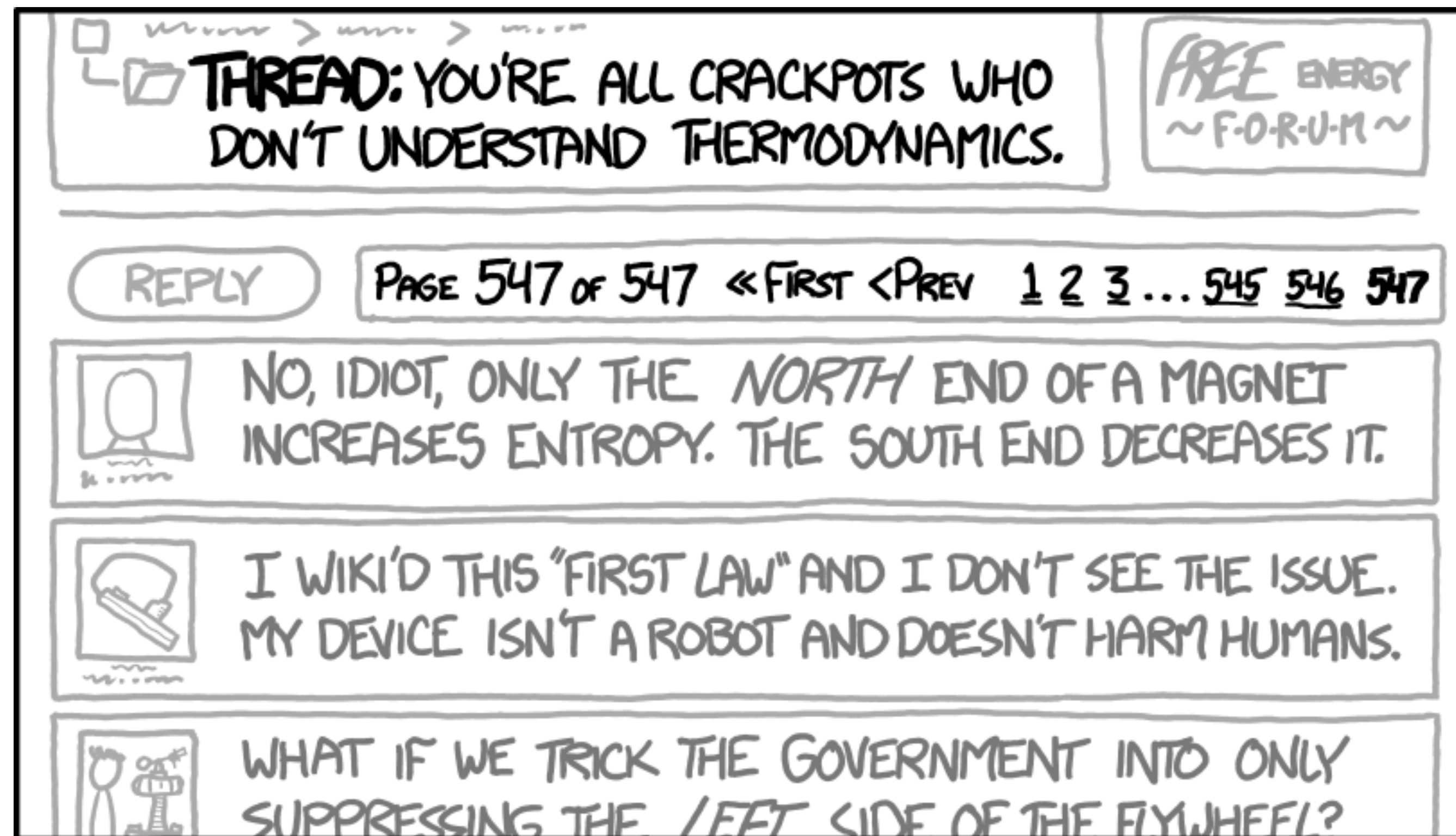
# Why not a large pendulum?



# Equipartition in a *many-body* pendulum

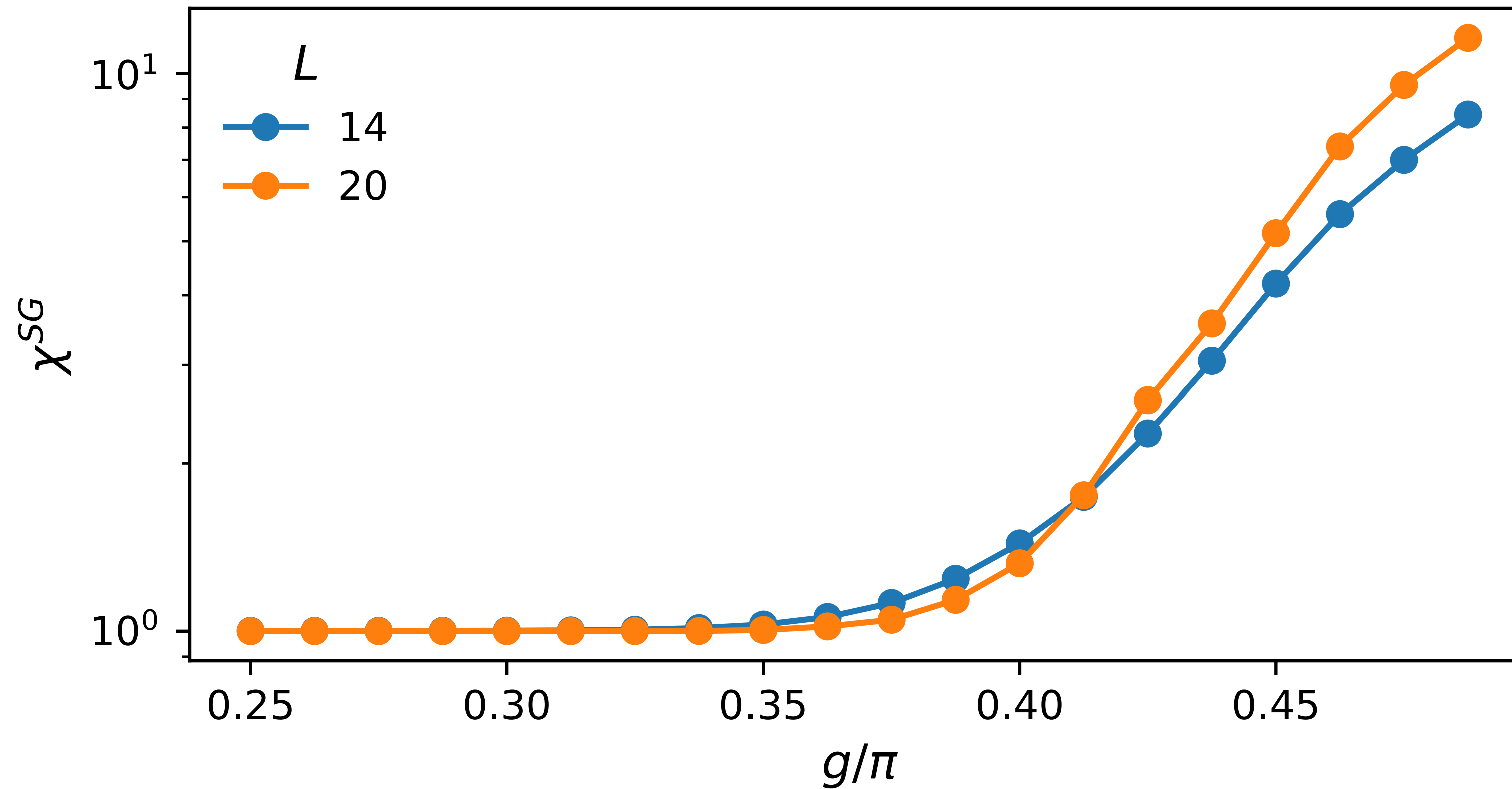


- 1st Law: perpetual motion needs a source of energy
- 2nd Law: macroscopic systems head to entropy maximizing equilibrium states



IRONICALLY, THE ARGUMENT I STARTED ON A PERPETUAL MOTION FORUM IN 2004 SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN.

# DTC on Sycamore: glassy spatial order



$$\chi^{SG} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{i,j} \langle \psi | Z_i Z_j | \psi \rangle^2$$

# Trapped Ions

- Disorder in onsite fields is not enough to stabilize MBL TC.  
Gets “echoed out” over two periods

$$\begin{aligned}
 U(2T) &= \underbrace{P_x R_\epsilon^x}_{\text{cyan}} e^{-i \sum_{ij} J_{ij} Z_i Z_j + h_i Z_i} \underbrace{P_x R_\epsilon^x}_{\text{cyan}} e^{-i \sum_{ij} J_{ij} Z_i Z_j + h_i Z_i} \\
 &= R_\epsilon^x e^{-i \sum_{ij} J_{ij} Z_i Z_j - h_i Z_i} R_\epsilon^x e^{-i \sum_{ij} J_{ij} Z_i Z_j + h_i Z_i}
 \end{aligned}$$

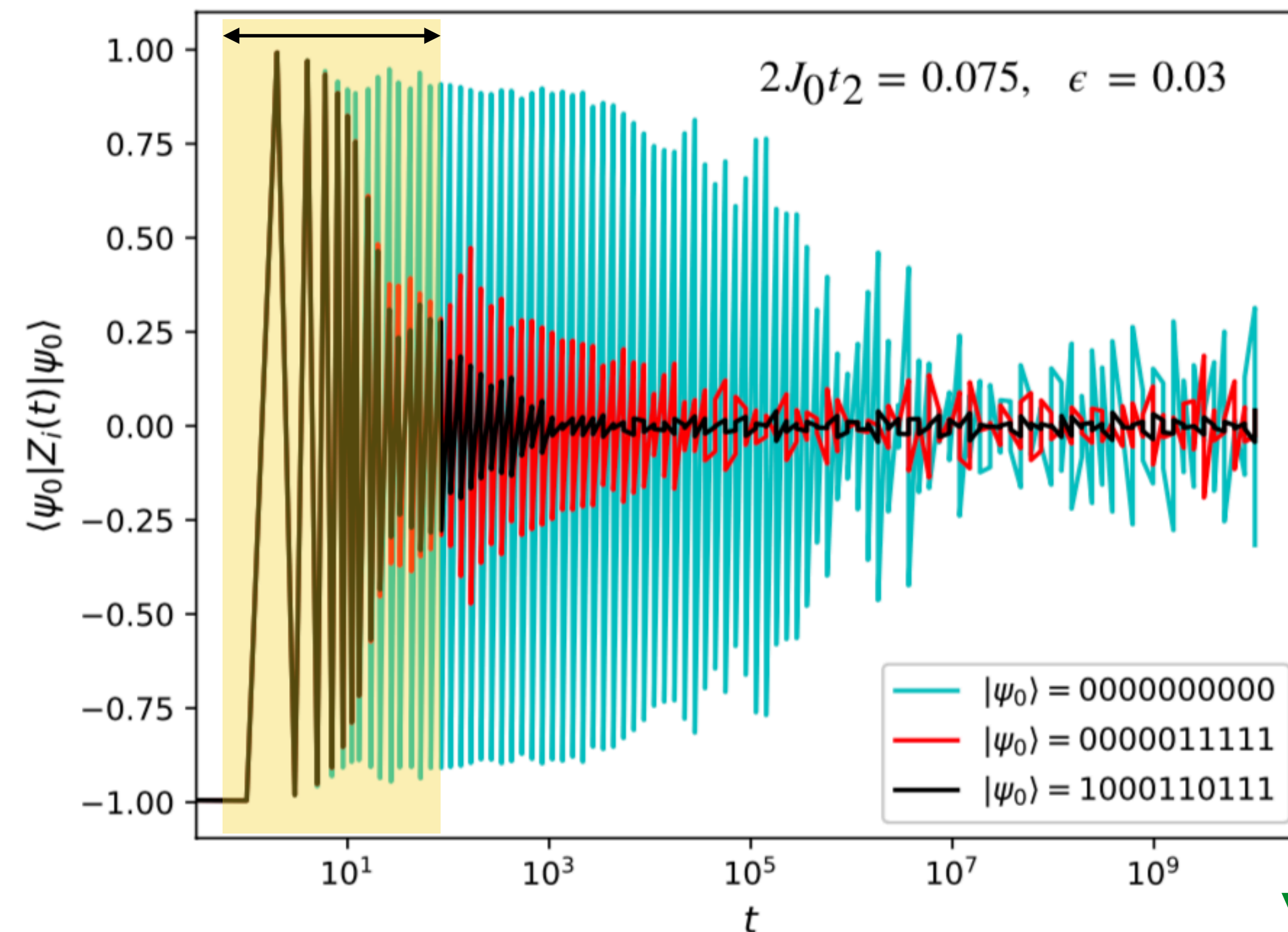


# Trapped Ions

- Parameters chosen to approximate an MBL TC

Yao et al (2017); Choi...Monroe (2017)

- However, disorder in onsite fields is not enough to stabilize MBL TC. Gets “echoed out” over two periods
- System appears to realize a “prethermal TC”, with strong initial state dependence



VK Moessner Sondhi (2019)

# Floquet Prethermalization

- Interacting MB Floquet systems generically heat up to infinite temperature. When the driving frequency is large compared to the local energy scales in the problem, this could take a time exponentially large in the separation:

$$t_* \sim \exp[\omega/J]$$

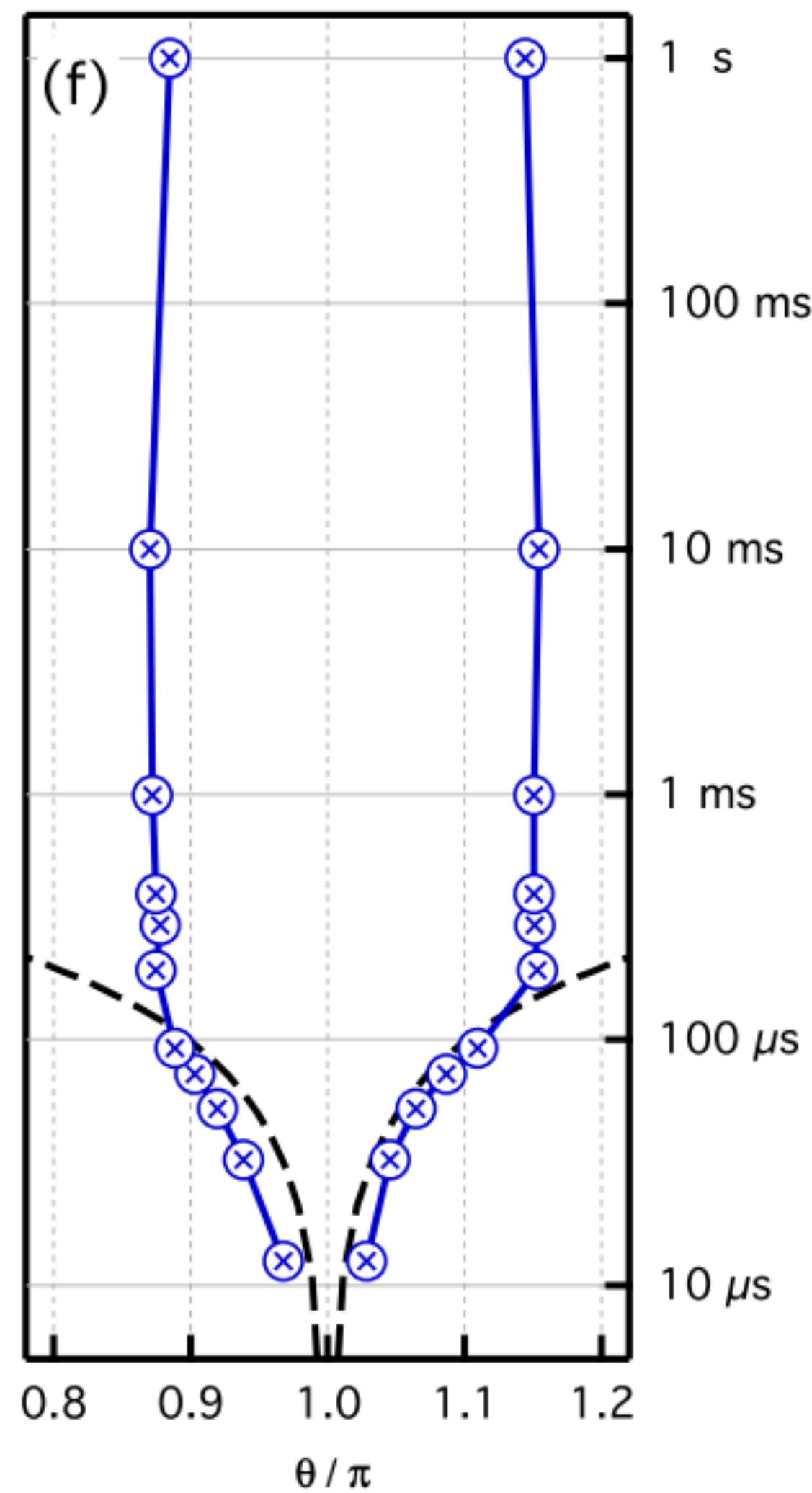
- Prior to this time, the system is described by an effective “prethermal” Hamiltonian, and looks like it conserves energy

Abanin et. al (2015, 2017); Kuwahara et. al (2015); Mori et. al (2015)

- If the prethermal Hamiltonian has an ordering transition at a finite  $T_c$ , then initial states at low temperature can show symmetry breaking and TTSB for a long time

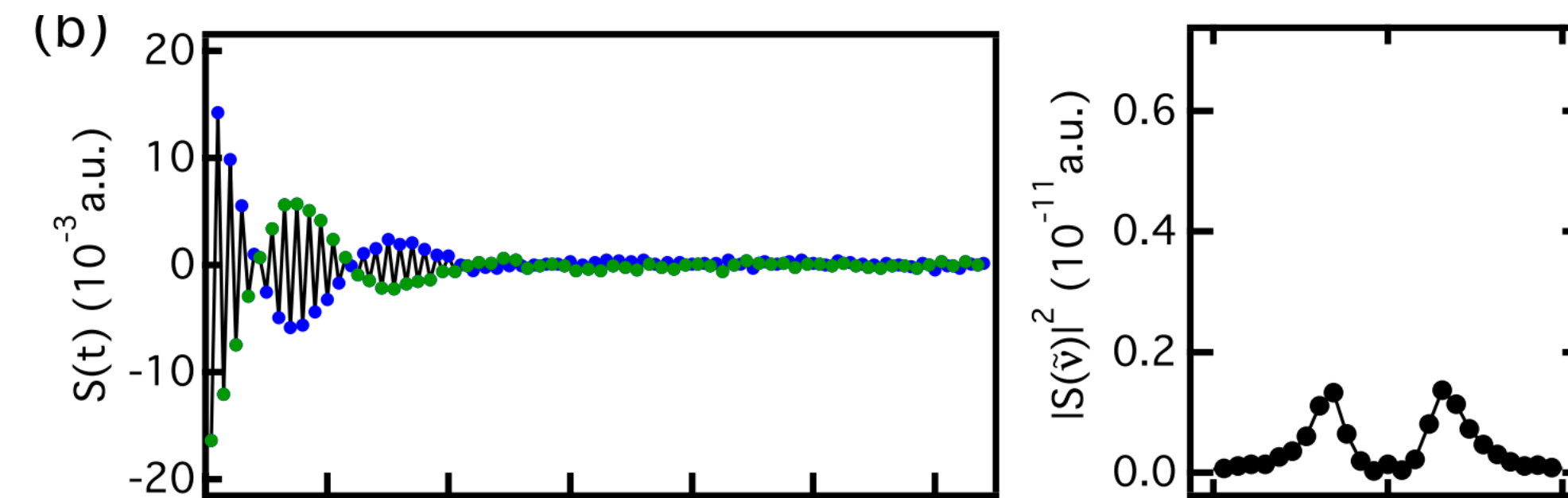
Else, Bauer, Nayak (2016)

# Clean NMR Solid

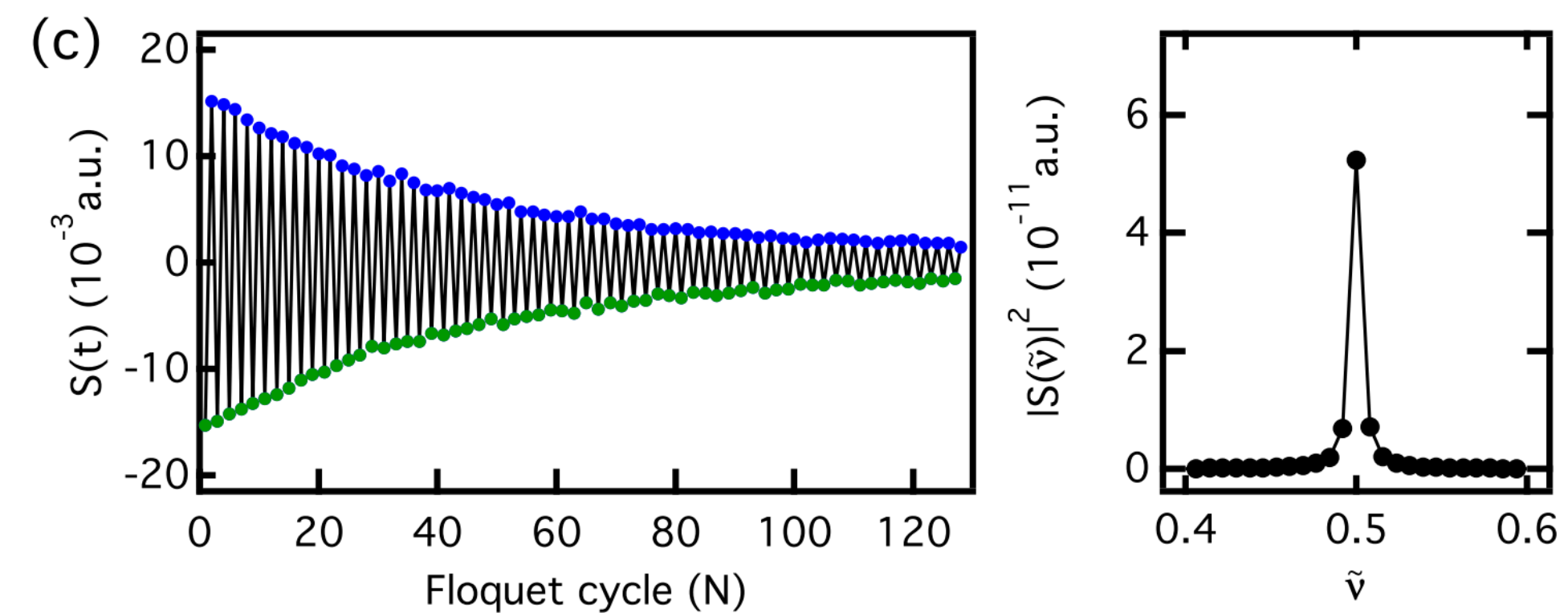


$$U(T) = \underbrace{R_{\pi-\theta}^x}_{\text{Rotation}} \underbrace{e^{-i\tau[\sum_{ij} J_{ij}(X_i X_j + Y_i Y_j) - 2Z_i Z_j + hZ_i]}}_{\text{Interaction}}$$

Weak interactions



Stronger interactions



# Prethermalization *without* temperature

- NMR solid is clean, and initial state is very high temperature. Outside usual framework of MBL/prethermal TCs
- Can be understood via the emergence of an additional  $U(1)$  symmetry; temperature of initial state plays no role in this analysis
- A slightly modified (experimentally realizable) protocol can be used to engineer  $M_z$  conservation for much longer times, keeping all other parameters fixed.
- Not fine tuned — small deviations about new protocol still give enhancement
- Can distinguish between MBL TCs/SSB prethermal TCs/ $U(1)$  prethermal TCs by examining local autocorrelators for a variety of initial states

# Localization Protected Quantum Order

How do we think of phase structure out-of-equilibrium?

- Highly excited (infinite “temperature”) MBL eigenstates have low (area law) entanglement — look like gapped ground states at zero temperature
- *Individual* highly excited MB eigenstates can display “frozen” orders that may be forbidden in equilibrium
- Experimentally measurable dynamical signatures

Equilibrium Phases → Eigenstate Phases

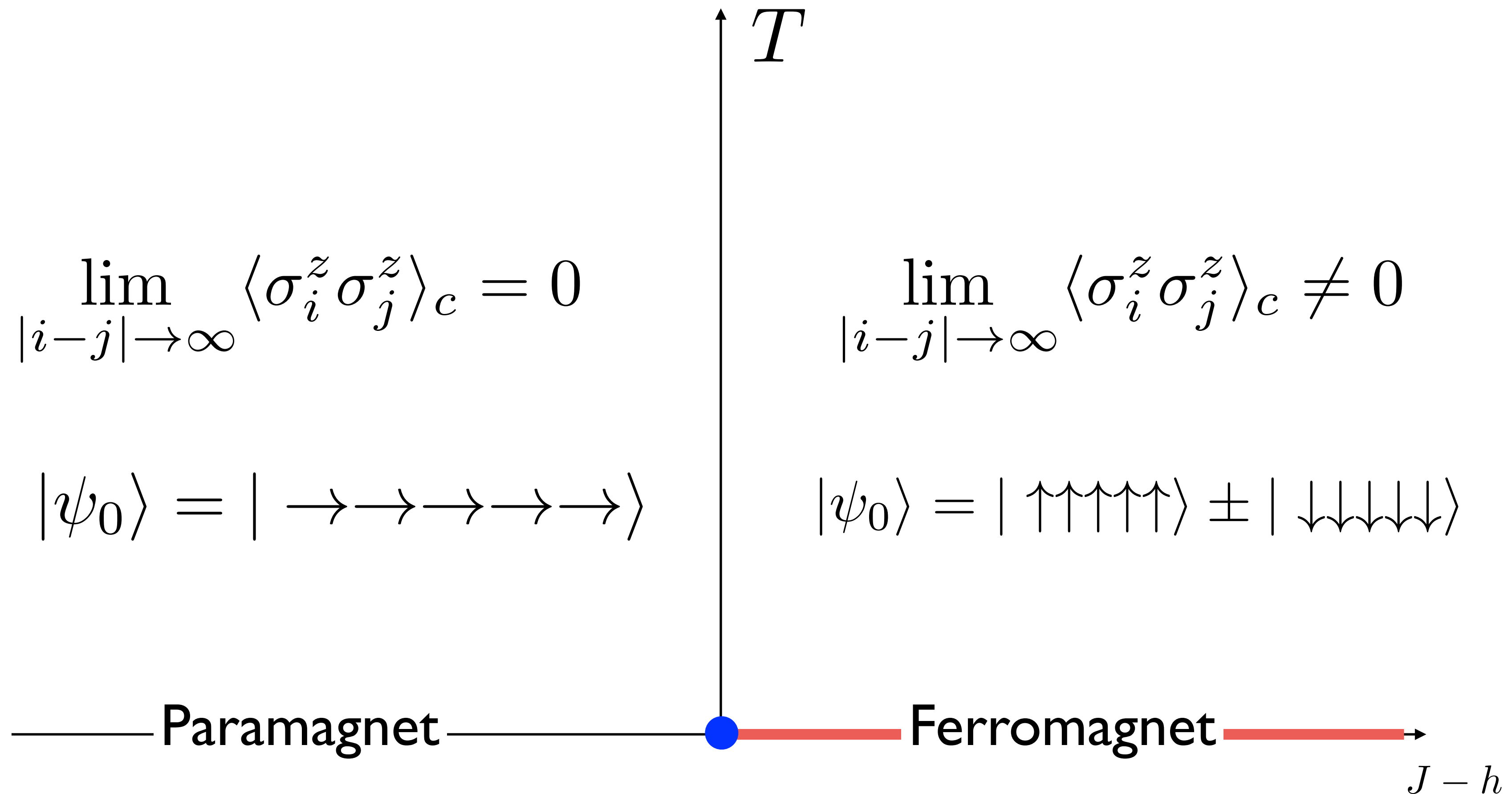


# Eigenstate Order: Ising example

1D transverse field Ising model

$$P = \prod_i \sigma_i^x$$

$$H = J \sum_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z + h \sum_i \sigma_i^x$$



# Eigenstate Order: Ising example

1D transverse field Ising model

$$P = \prod_i \sigma_i^x$$

$$H = \sum_i J_i \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z + h_i \sigma_i^x$$

Paramagnet

$$\langle \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z \rangle = 0$$

for  $|i - j| \rightarrow \infty$

$$|\psi\rangle_\epsilon = | \leftarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \leftarrow \rightarrow \rangle$$

Spin Glass

$$\langle \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z \rangle \neq 0$$

for  $|i - j| \rightarrow \infty$

$$|\psi\rangle_\epsilon = | \uparrow \downarrow \downarrow \uparrow \downarrow \rangle \pm | \downarrow \uparrow \uparrow \downarrow \uparrow \rangle$$