

Weak Values: a new paradigm to characterize nanoscale systems

Xabier Oianguren-Asua, Carlos F. Destefani and Xavier Oriols

UAB

Universitat Autònoma
de Barcelona



0 – Traditional Theory-Experiment Link

I – Weak Value Theory-Experiment Link

II – Unprecedented Characterization

- (a) Closed system **Quantum Thermalization**
- (b) **Expected current in THz electronics**
- (c) **The dwell-time in nanoscale transistors**
- (d) Quantum **Work** and **two-time correlations**

III – Non-Markovian Stochastic Schrödinger Equations

- (a) **Unravelling Non-Markovian open** quantum systems
- (b) **Quantum electron** transport with **Monte Carlo trajectories**

THEORY

$$\langle \psi | \hat{A} | \psi \rangle$$

Bra-ket of observable A (with operator \hat{A}) for $|\psi\rangle$

EXPERIMENT

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1. Prepare $|\psi(t)\rangle$

2. Measure **A strongly**

3. Get **average of A** measurements

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$$\mathbb{E}[A]$$

Expected A for $|\psi\rangle$

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Bra-ket of observable **A** (with operator \hat{A}) for $|\psi\rangle$

$$\langle \psi | \hat{A} | \psi \rangle = \mathbb{E}[A]$$

EXPERIMENT

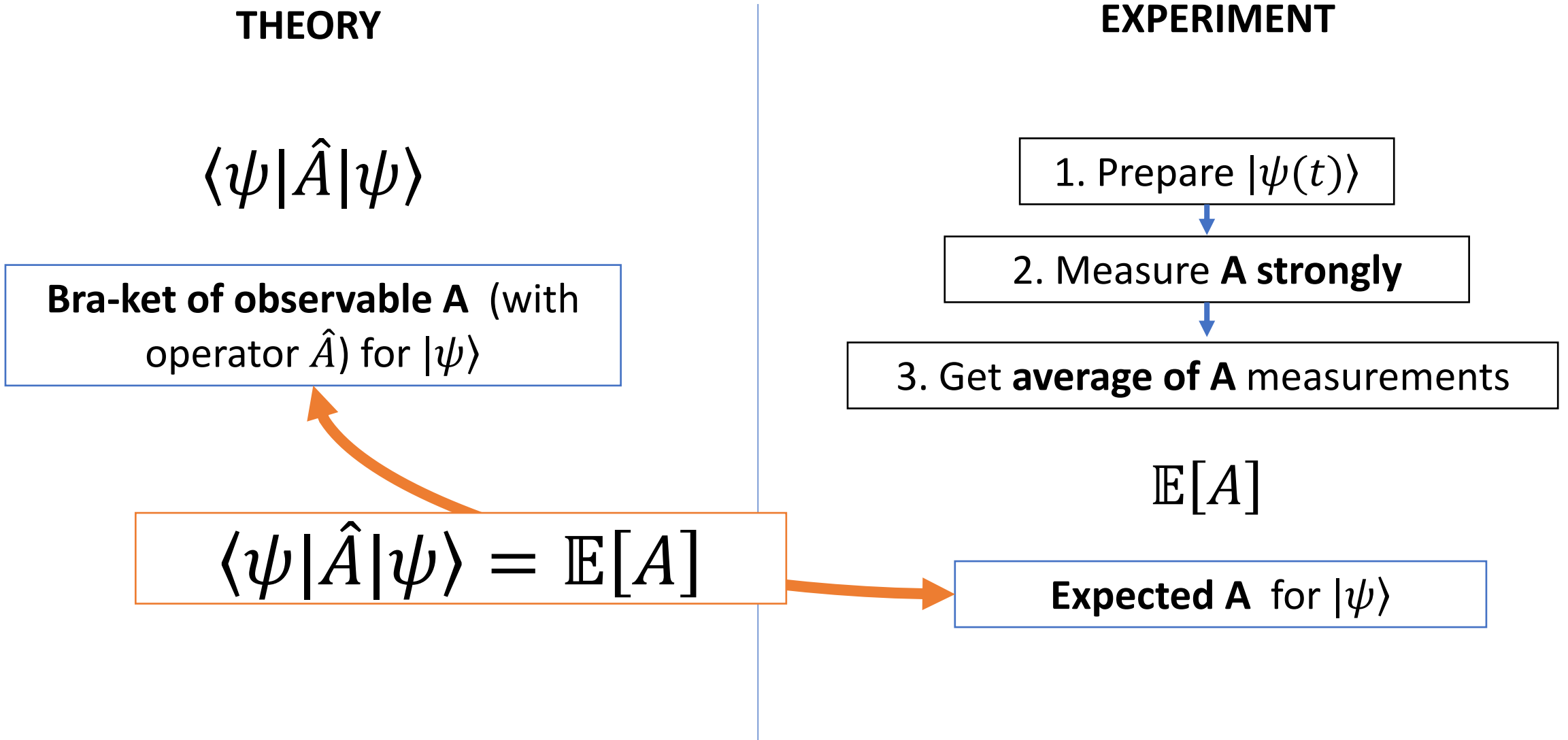
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Uncertainty of A

$$\langle \psi | \hat{A}^2 | \psi \rangle - \langle \psi | \hat{A} | \psi \rangle^2 = (\Delta A)^2$$

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Cross-correlation between A,B

$$\langle \psi(t_2) | \hat{B} \hat{U}_{t_1}^{t_2} \hat{A} | \psi(t_1) \rangle = \mathbb{E}[A(t_1)B(t_2)]$$

if \hat{A}, \hat{B} commute

I – Weak Value Theory-Experiment Link

THEORY

$$\frac{\langle b_k | \hat{A} | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle b_k | \psi(t) \rangle}$$

Weak value of A
on $|\psi\rangle$, if $|b_k\rangle$

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- Is a **complex** number
- $|b_k\rangle$ **eigenstate** of $\hat{B} = \sum_k b_k |b_k\rangle\langle b_k|$
- **Recover expectation**
 $\mathbb{E}[A] = \langle \psi | \hat{A} | \psi \rangle = \sum_k |\langle b_k | \psi \rangle|^2 \langle b_k | A | \psi \rangle$

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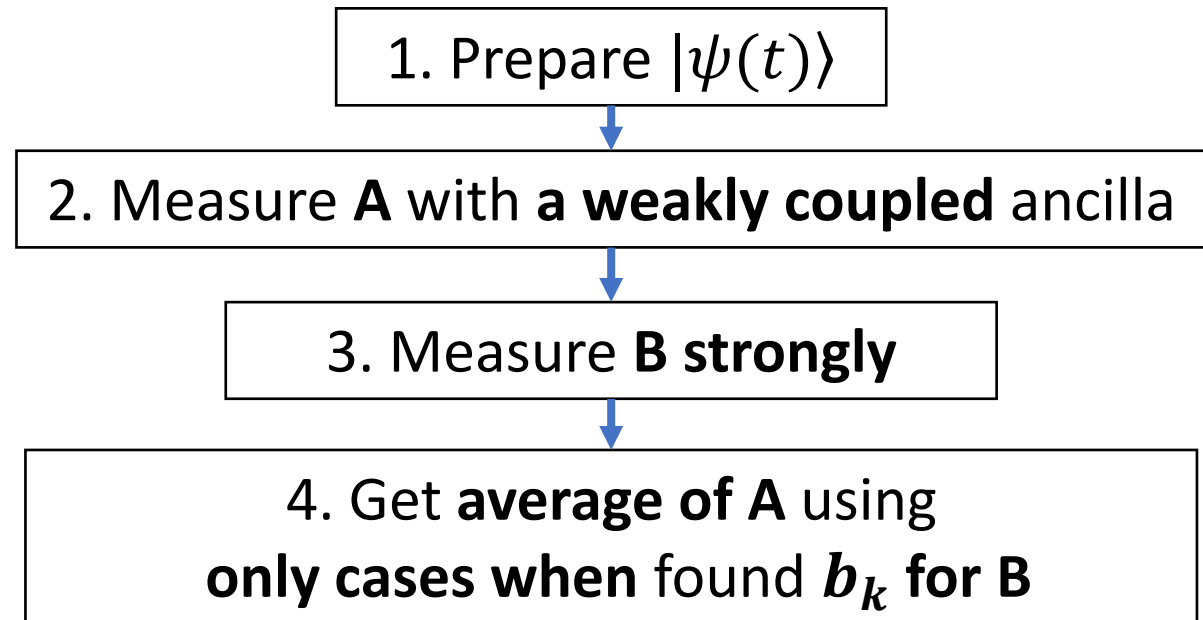
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EXPERIMENT

1. Prepare $|\psi(t)\rangle$

2. Measure **A** with a **weakly coupled** ancilla

3. Measure **B** **strongly**

4. Get **average of A** using
only cases when found b_k for B

$$\mathbb{E} [A_{weak} | B = b_k]$$

Conditional expectation
of A for $|\psi\rangle$

THEORY

EXPERIMENT

$$\frac{\langle b_k | \hat{A} | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle b_k | \psi(t) \rangle} = \mathbb{E}[A_{weak} | B = b_k]$$

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Re{

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D. Pandey, R. Sampaio, T. Ala-Nissila, G. Albareda, and X. Oriols, Phys. Rev. A 103, 052219 (2021).

Y. Aharonov, D. Z. Albert, and L. Vaidman, Phys. Rev. Lett. 60, 1351 (1988).

THEORY

EXPERIMENT

Im if a_{weak} is weak ancilla's momentum

$$\frac{\langle b_k | \hat{A} | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle b_k | \psi(t) \rangle} = \mathbb{E}[A_{weak} | B = b_k]$$

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- **Im and Re** parts using **weak post-selected** measurement (**expectations**)

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- **Im and Re** parts using **strong post-selected** measurement (**expectations**)

E. Cohen and E. Pollak, Phys. Rev. A 98, 042112 (2018).

F. De Zela. Phys. Rev. A 105.4, 042202 (2022)

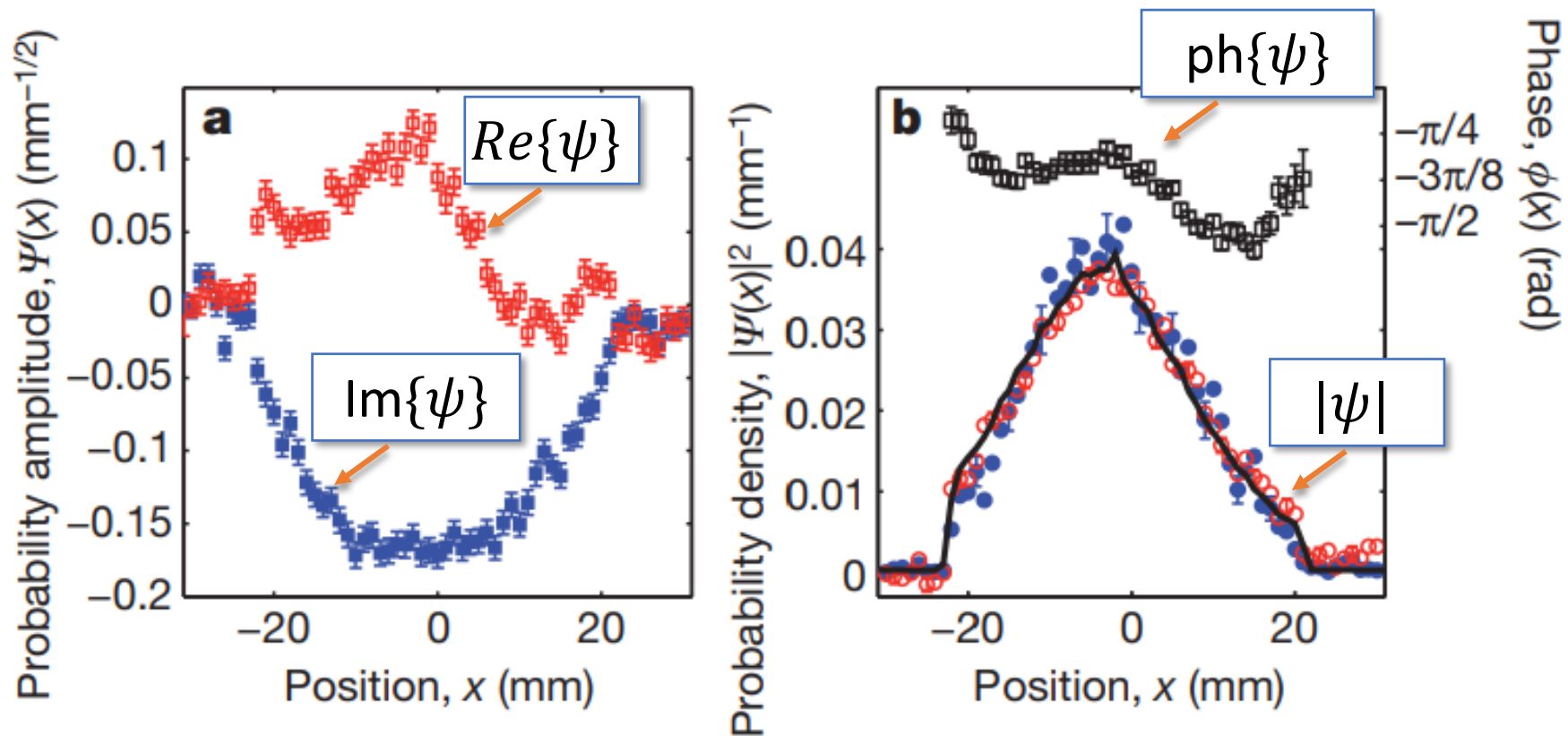
Measuring the **wavefunction** $\psi(\vec{x}, t)$

$$c \psi(\vec{x}, t) = \frac{\langle \vec{p} = 0 | \vec{x} \rangle \langle \vec{x} | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle \vec{p} = 0 | \psi(t) \rangle}$$

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J. S. Lundeen, B. Sutherland, A. Patel, C. Stewart, and C. Bambe,
Nature 474, 188 (2011)



Quantum Particle Trajectories?

$$\vec{\nabla}S(\vec{x}, t) = \text{Re} \left\{ \frac{\langle \vec{x} | \hat{p} | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle \vec{x} | \psi(t) \rangle} \right\}$$

$$\psi(\vec{x}, t) = R(\vec{x}, t) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar}S(\vec{x}, t)}$$

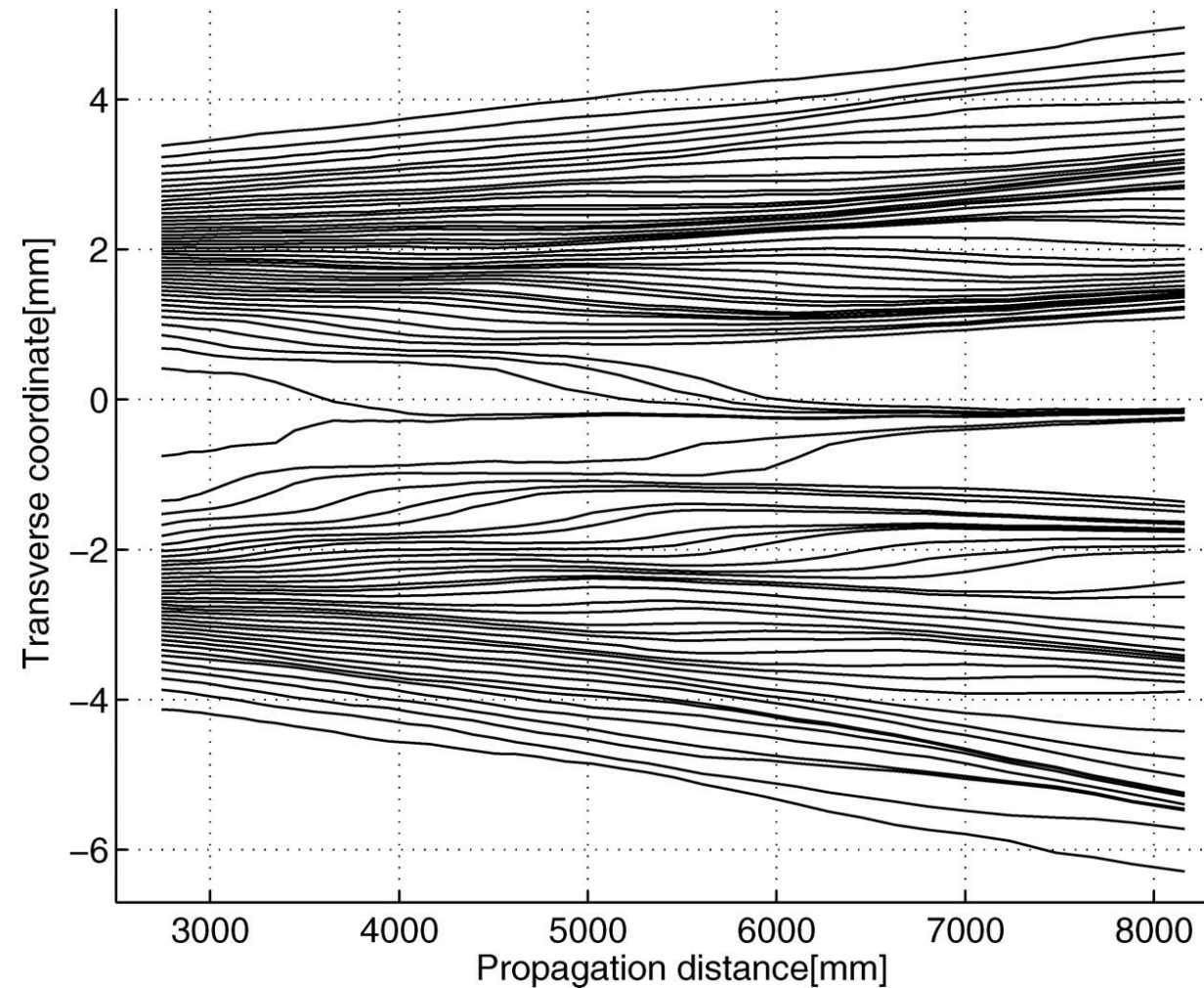
polar form

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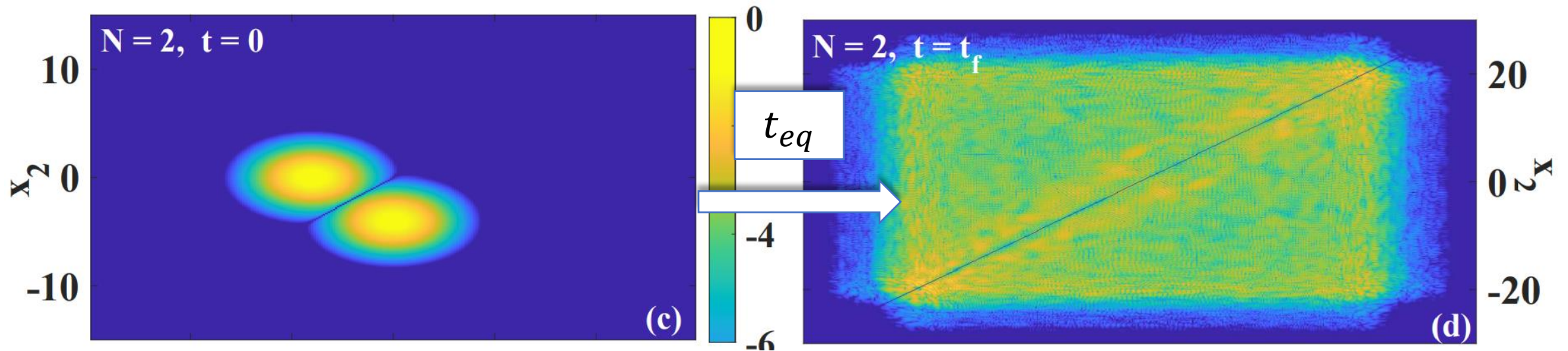
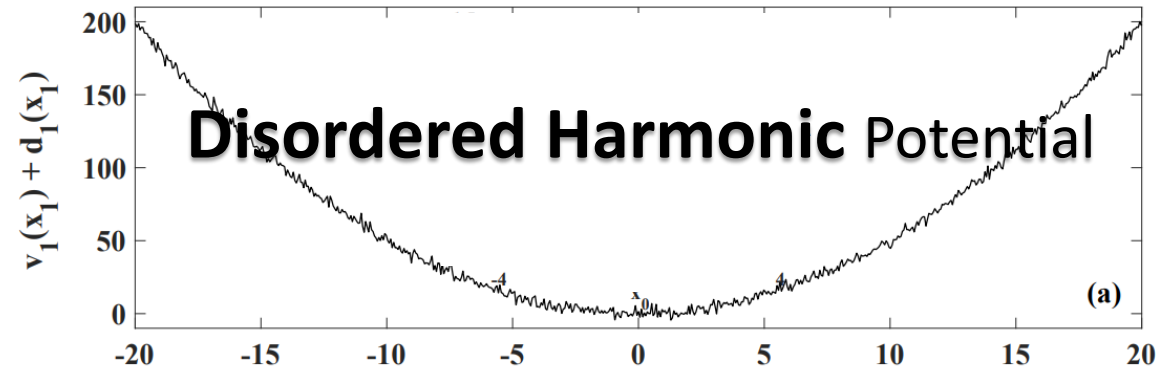
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S. Kocsis, B. Braverman, S. Ravets, M. J. Stevens, R. P. Mirin, L. K. Shalm, and A. M. Steinberg.
Science 332, no. 6034 (2011): 1170-1173.

II – Unprecedented Characterization

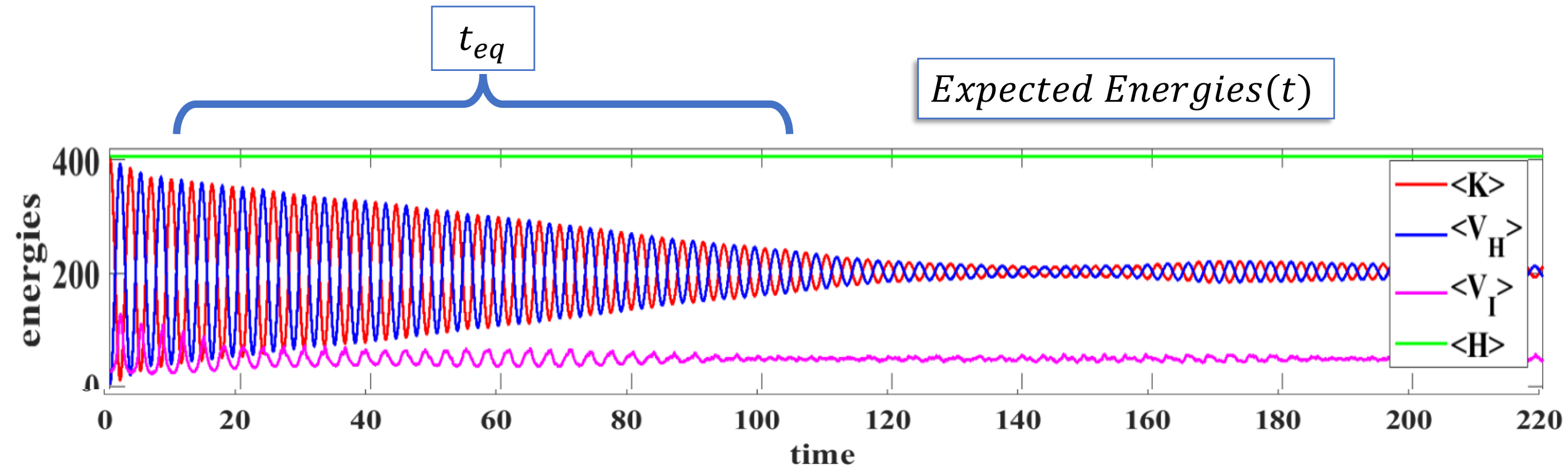
(a) Closed system Quantum Thermalization



C. F. Destefani and X. Oriols, Phys. Rev. A 107, 012213 (2023).

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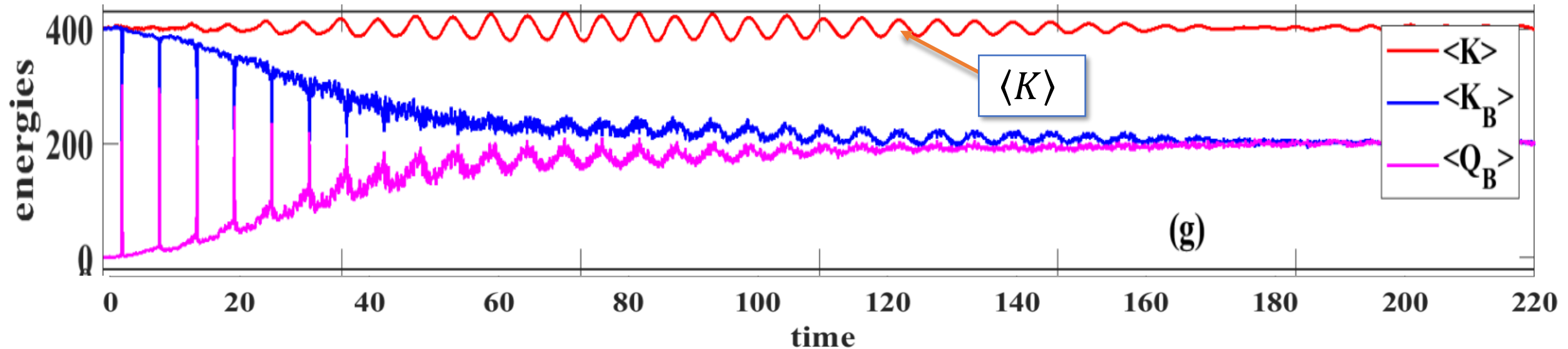


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(a) Closed system Quantum Thermalization

$$\langle K \rangle = \langle K_B \rangle + \langle K_O \rangle$$

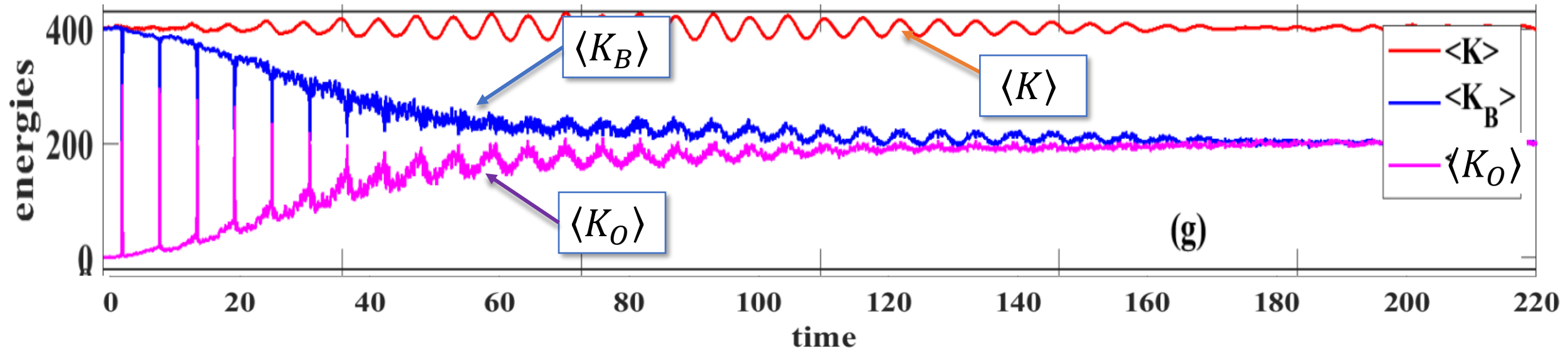


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*Trajectory formulations
as heuristic tools?*

$$g^\psi(\vec{x}, t) = \text{Re} \left\{ \frac{\langle \vec{x} | \hat{G} | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle \vec{x} | \psi(t) \rangle} \right\}$$

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Bohm Momentum

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- $\ell_z^\psi(\vec{x}, t) = \text{Re} \left\{ \frac{\langle \vec{x} | \hat{L}_z | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle \vec{x} | \psi(t) \rangle} \right\} = x_1 p_2(\vec{x}, t) - x_2 p_1(\vec{x}, t)$ Bohm Angular Momentum

...

*D. Pandey, R. Sampaio, T. Ala-Nissila, G. Albareda,
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...

(b) Expected current in THz electronics

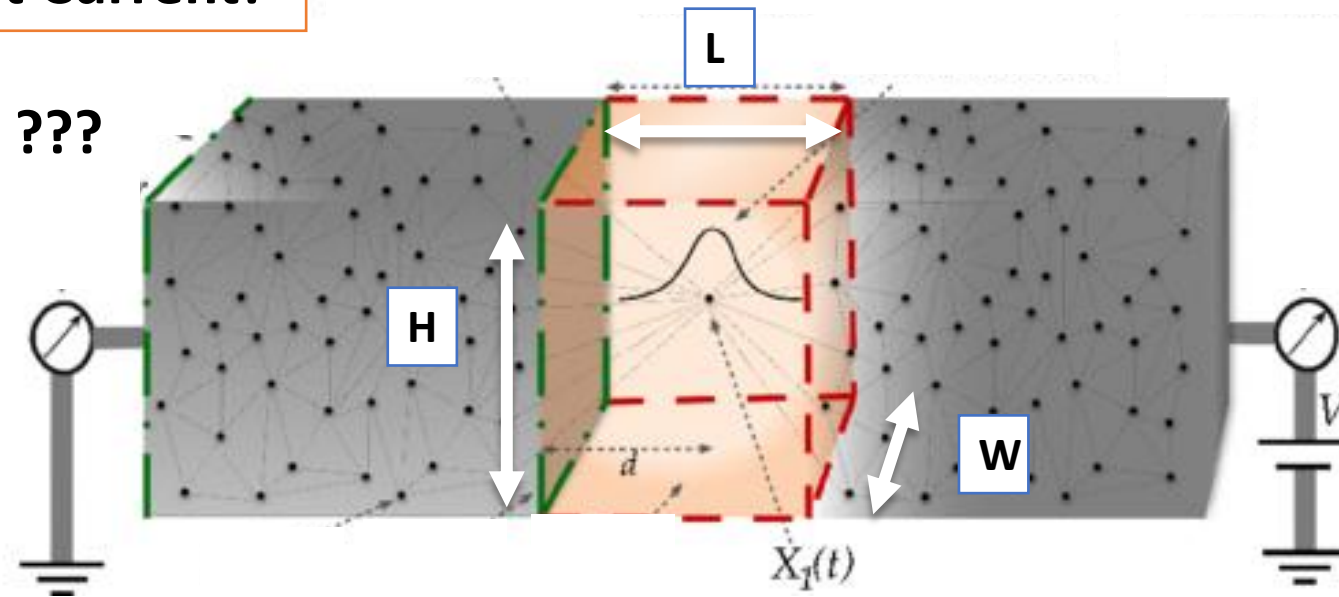
$$I_k^\xi(t) = \int_{\Omega} \vec{J}_k^\xi(\vec{r}, t) \cdot d\vec{s} + \int_{\Omega} \varepsilon(\vec{r}, t) \frac{\partial \vec{E}_k^\xi(\vec{r}, t)}{\partial t} \cdot d\vec{s}$$

Particle Current

Operator: \hat{J}

Displacement Current!

Operator: ???



G Albareda, F. Traversa, A Benali, and X Oriols, Fluct. Noise Lett. 11, 1242008 (2012)

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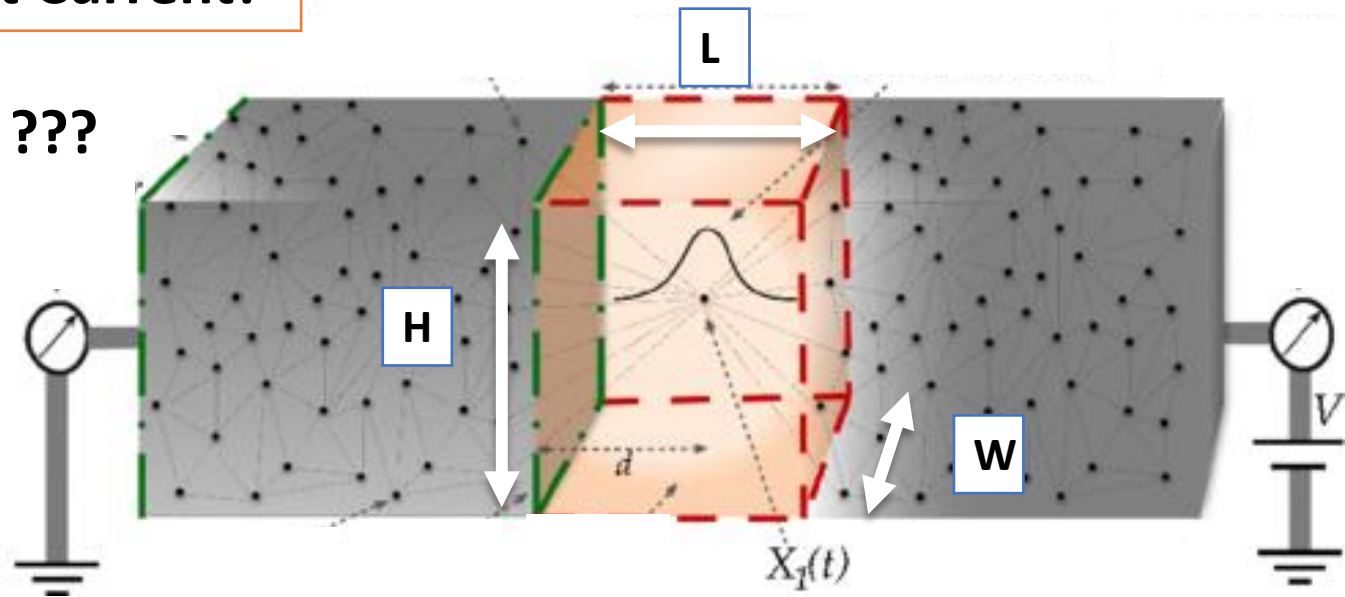
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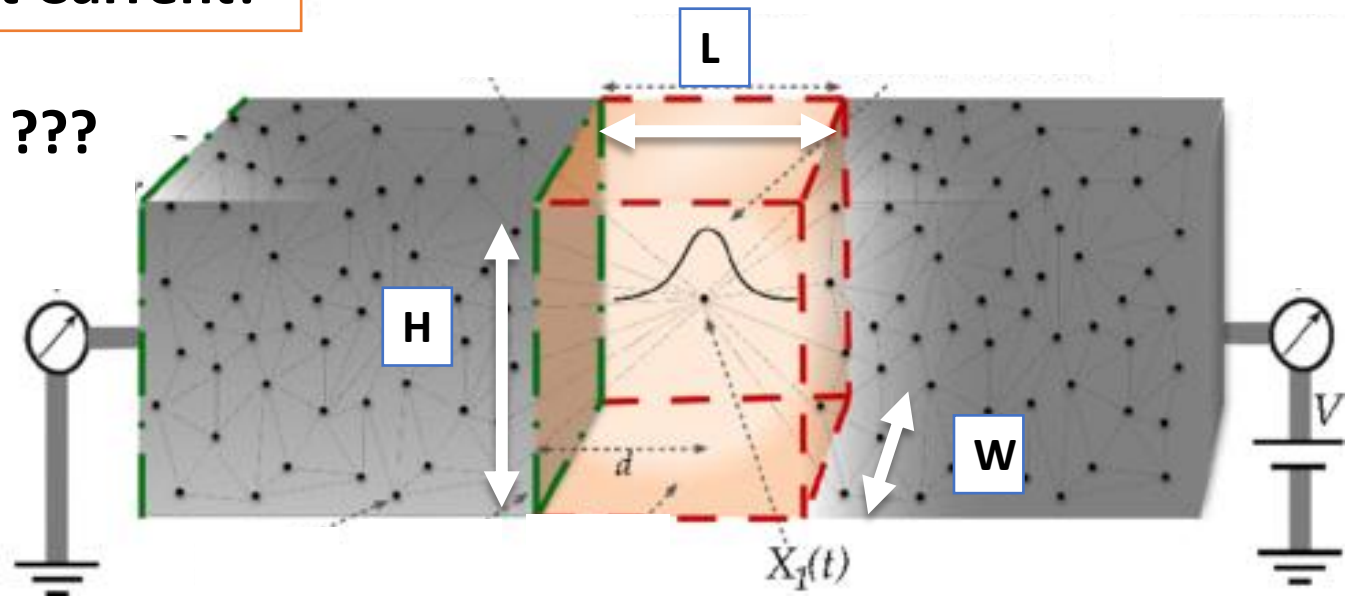
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$$\mathbb{E}[I_T](t) = \lim_{|\sigma| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{|\sigma|} \sum_{\xi \in \sigma} \sum_{k=1}^N I_k^\xi(t)$$



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(c) The dwell-time in nanoscale transistors

Consensus dwell time

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Trajectory Dwell-Time

$$\tau^{\xi} = \int_0^{\infty} dt \int_{\Gamma} \delta(\vec{r} - \vec{x}^{\xi}(t)) dr$$

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Average Trajectory Dwell-Time

$$\lim_{|\sigma| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{\xi \in \sigma} \tau^\xi}{|\sigma|} = \tau_D$$

$\sigma \equiv$ **All** sampled traj

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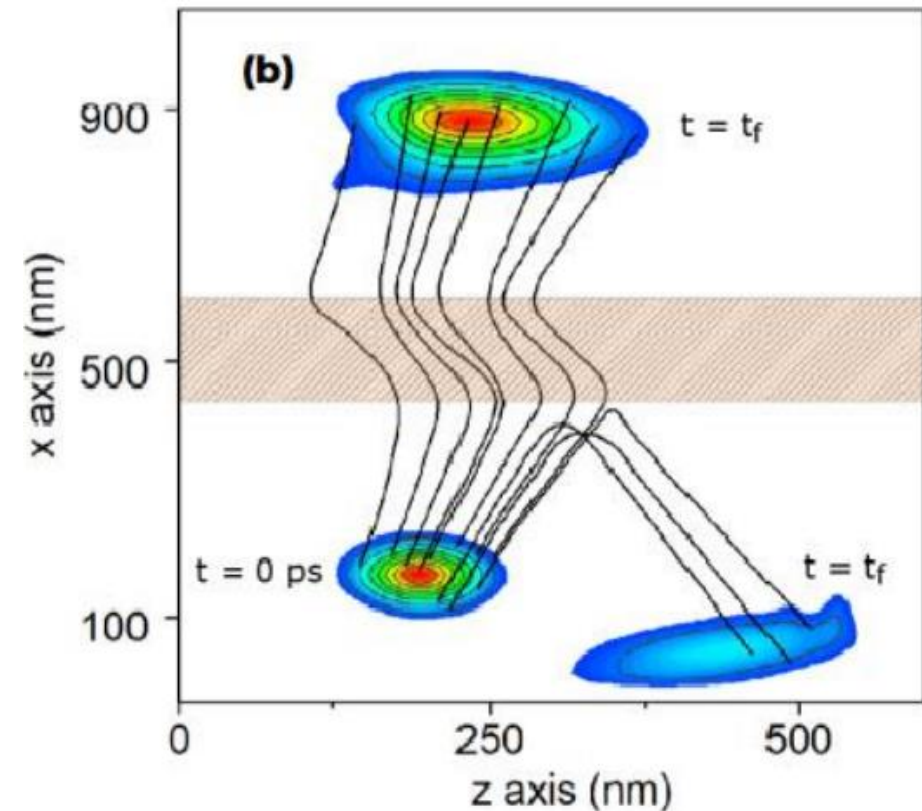
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σ^* \equiv *Only those entering the barrier*

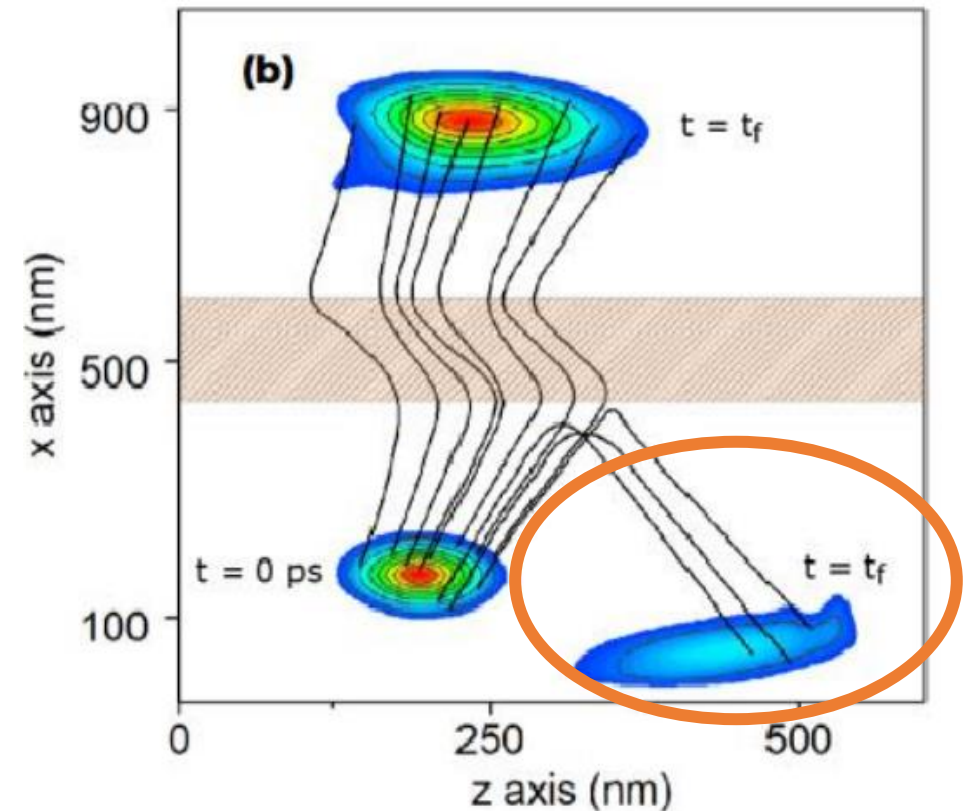
$$\tau_{DB} := \lim_{|\sigma^*| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{\xi \in \sigma^*} \tau^\xi}{|\sigma^*|}$$



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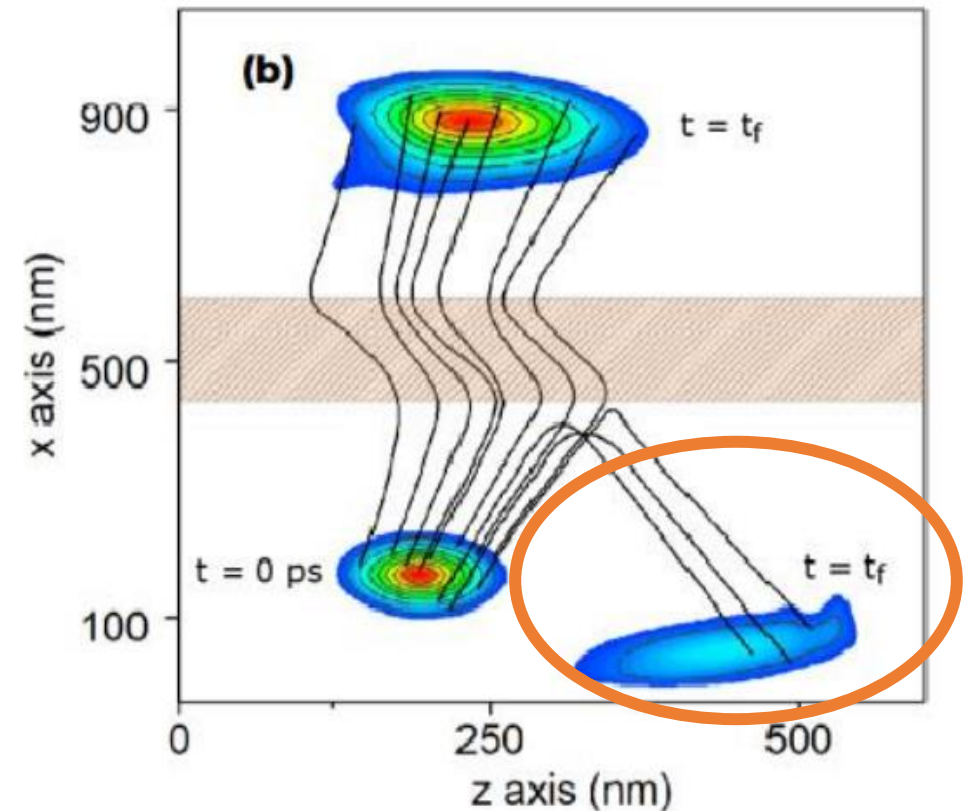
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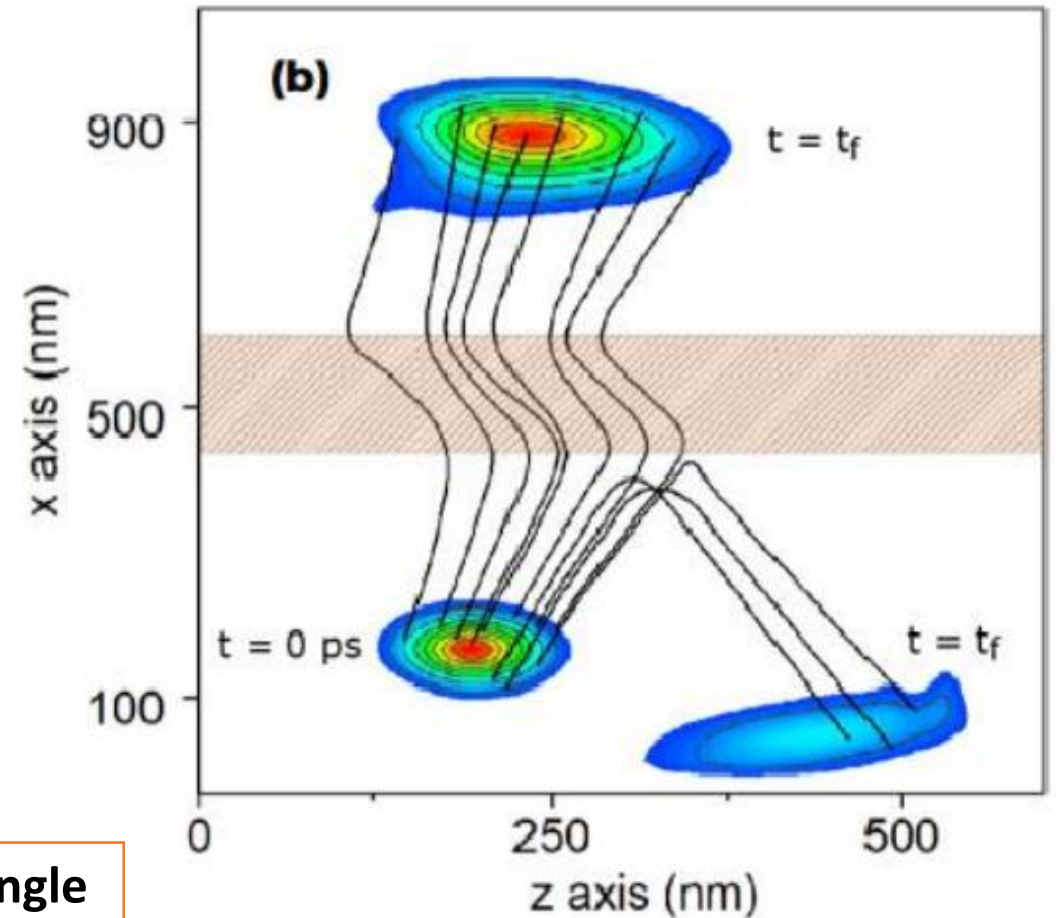
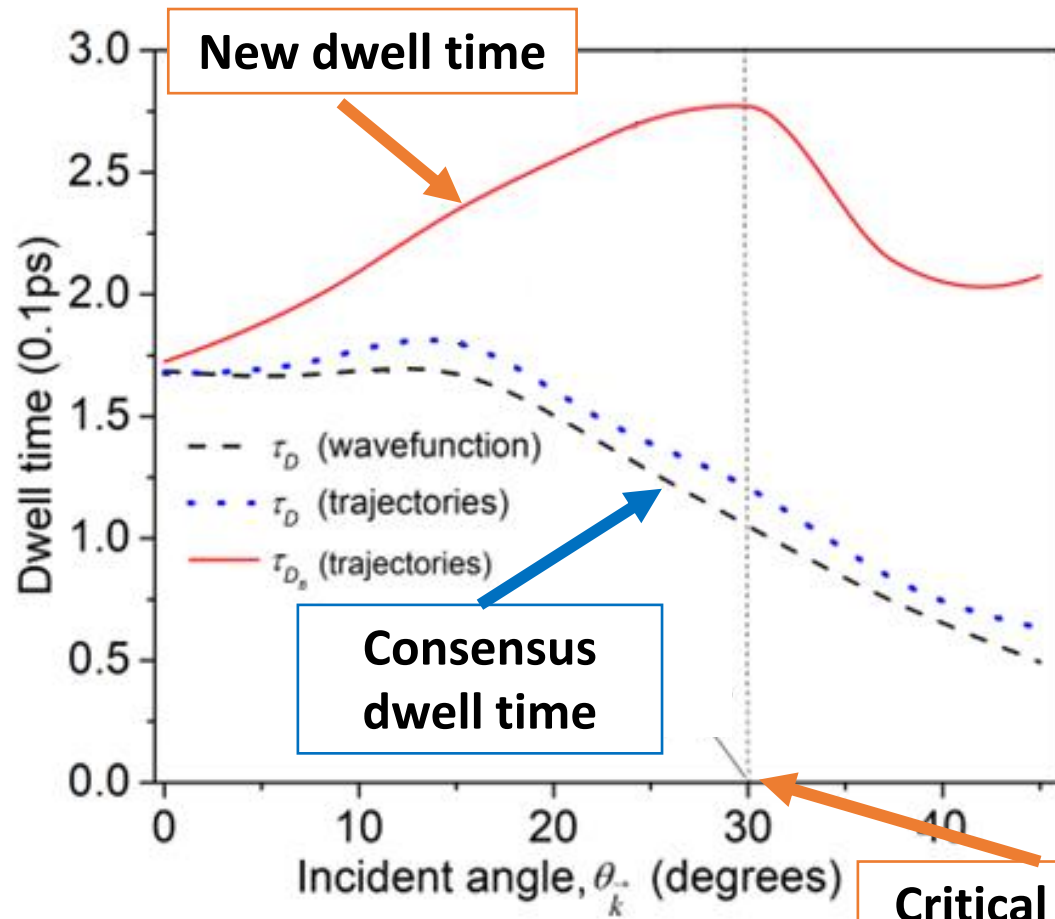
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More informative
Cut-off
Frequency?

$$f_B = \frac{1}{\tau_{DB}}$$

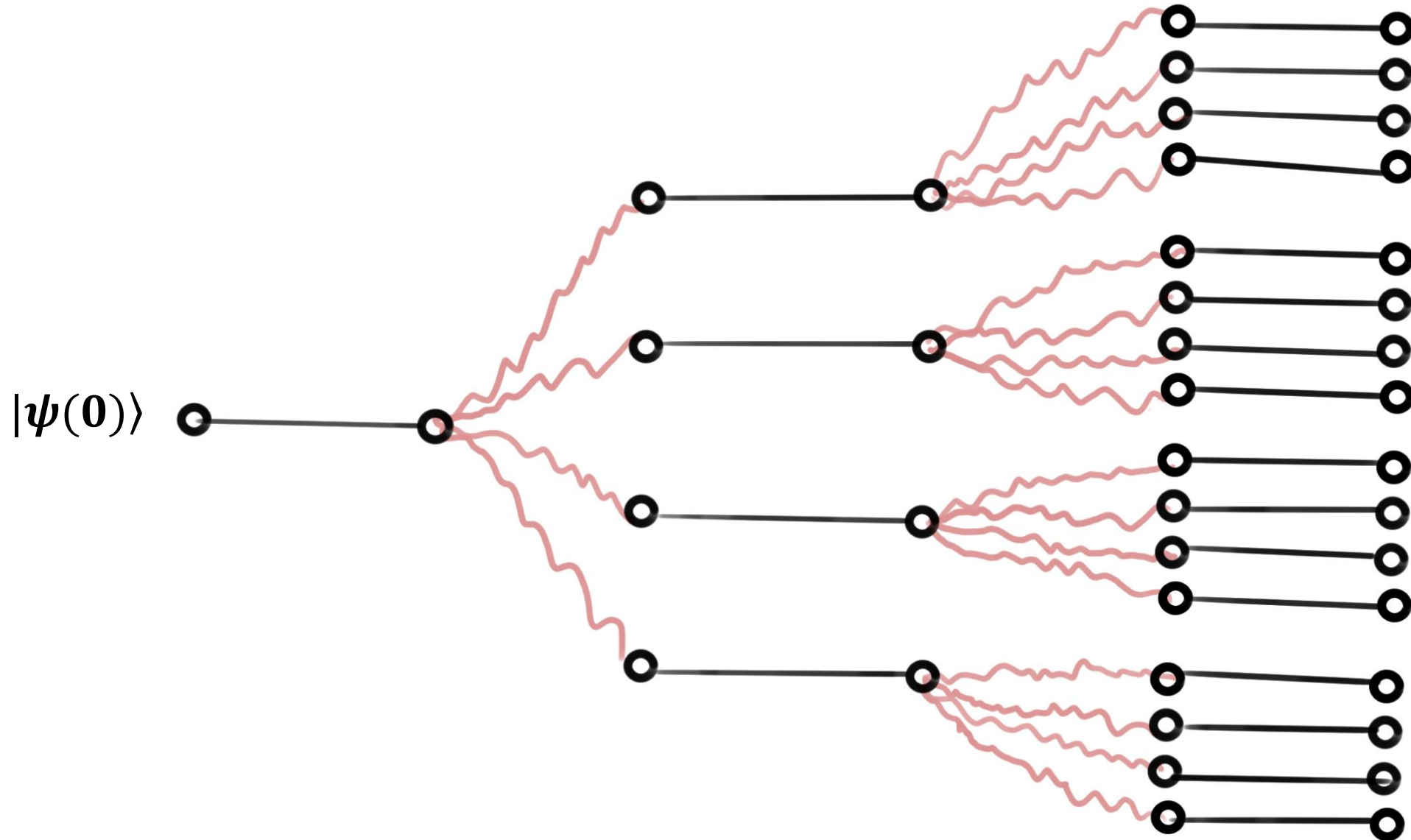


(c) The dwell-time in nanoscale transistors



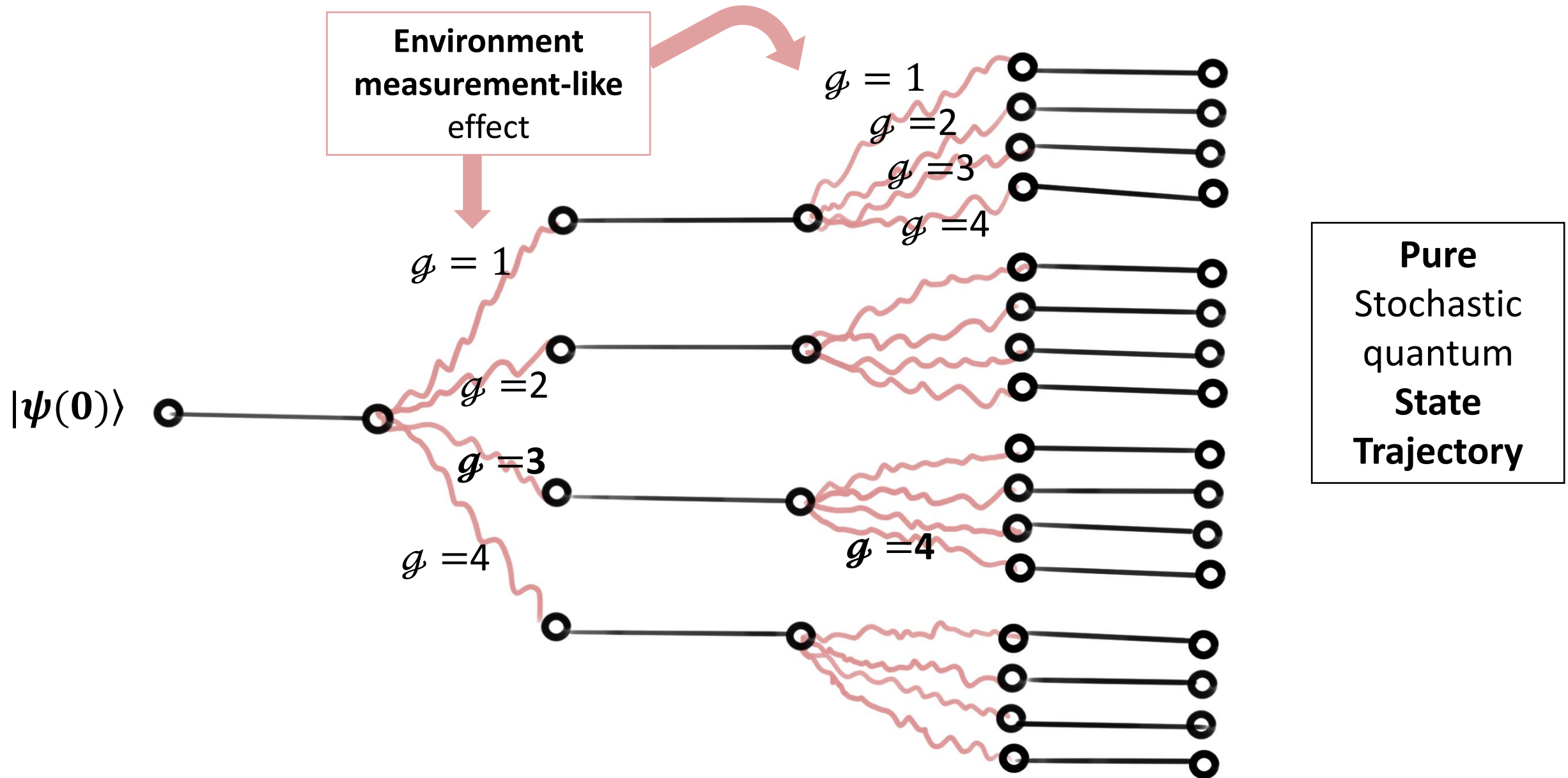
III – A Recipe for non-Markovian Open Quantum Systems

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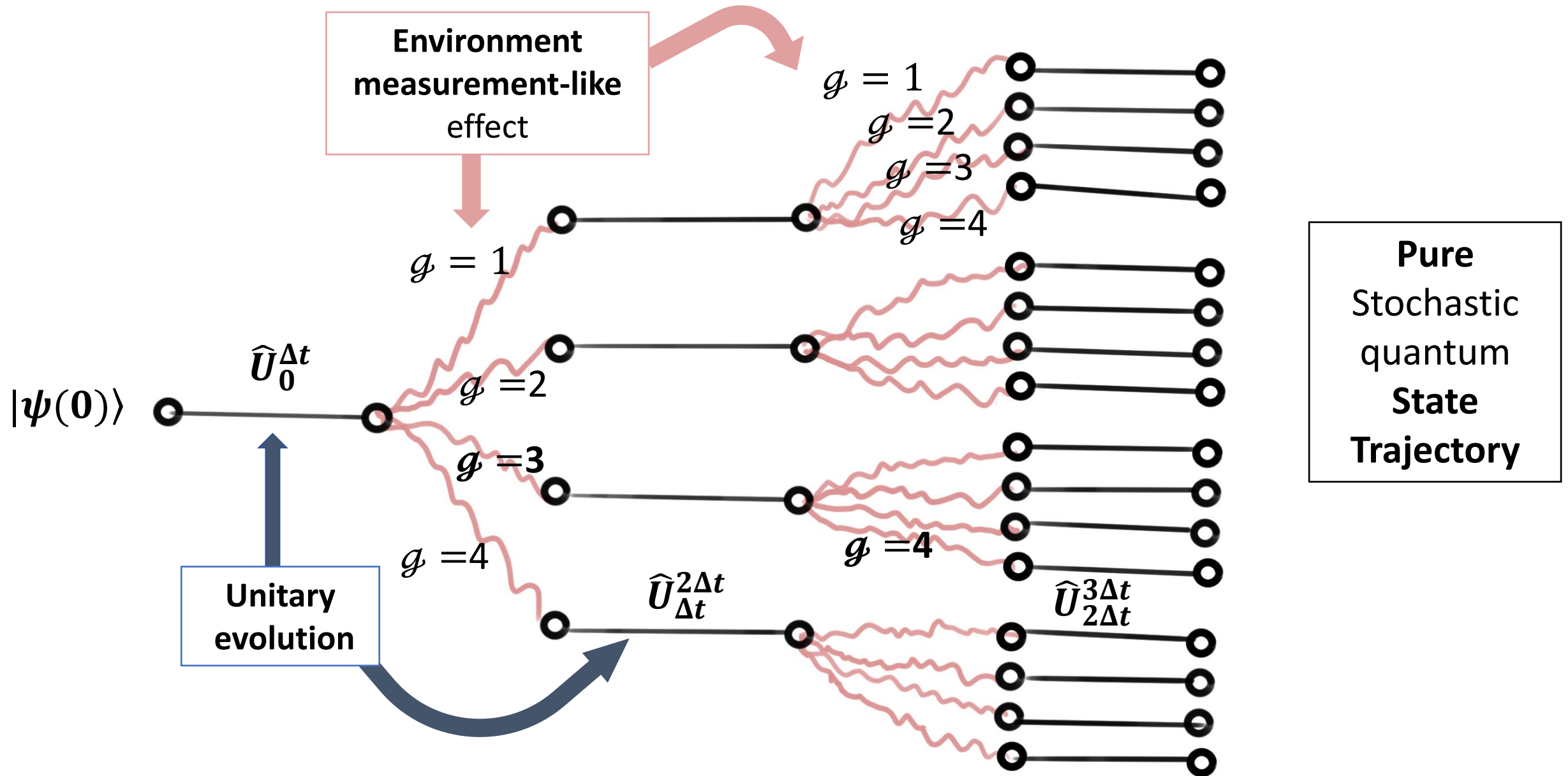


**Pure
Stochastic
quantum
State
Trajectory**

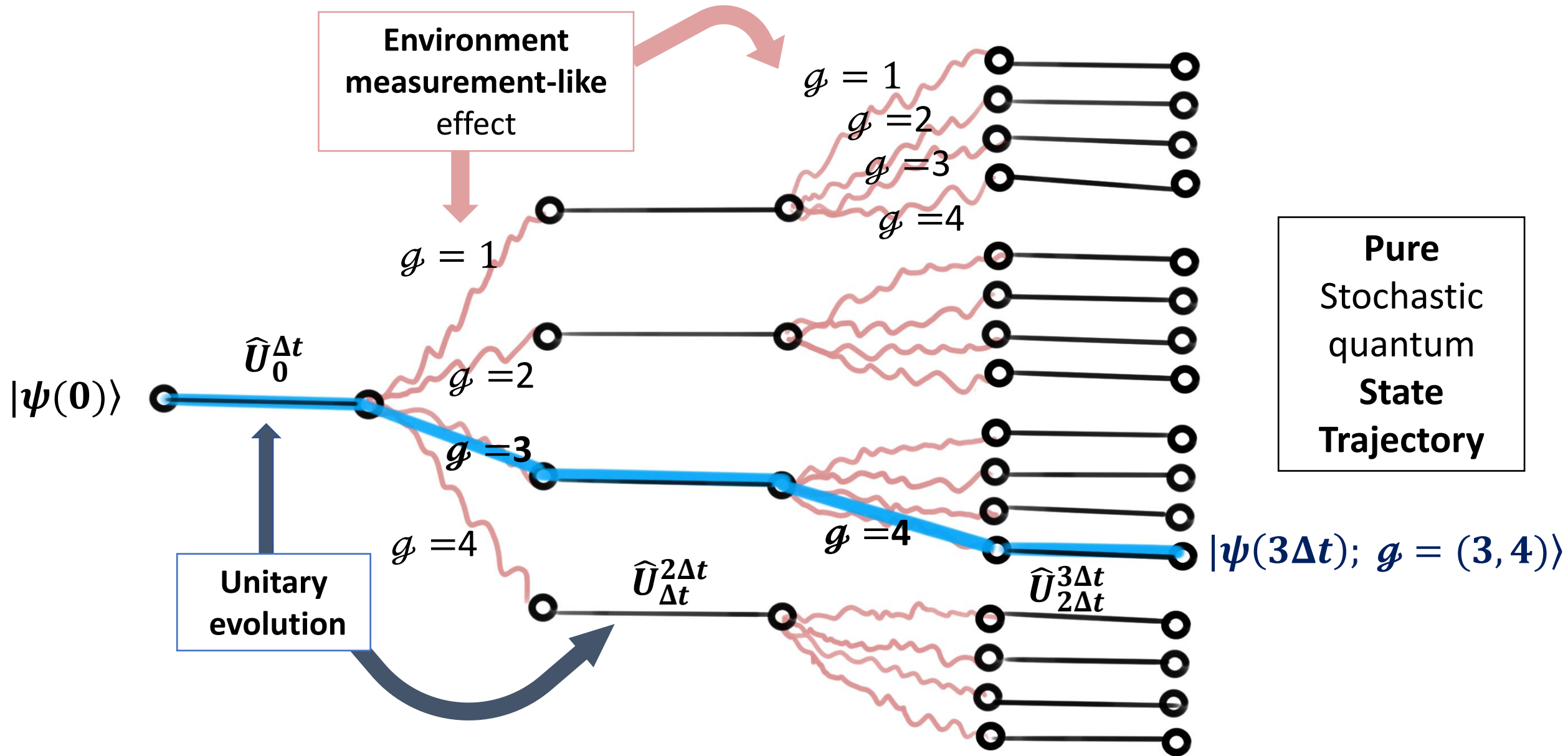
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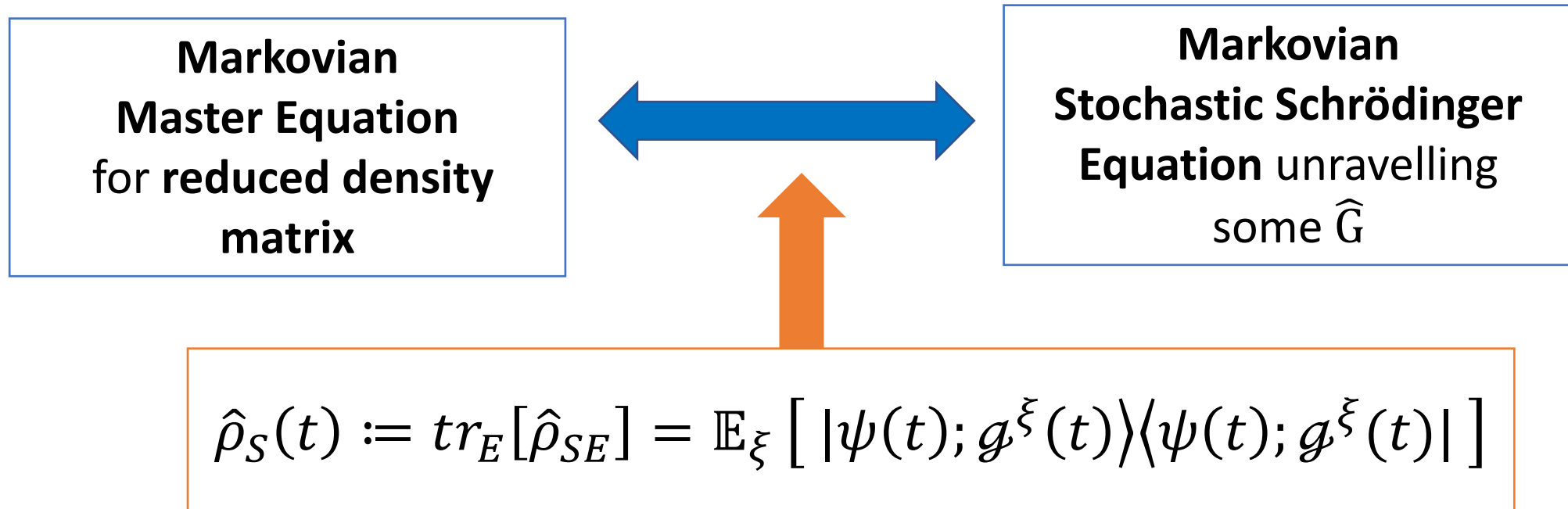
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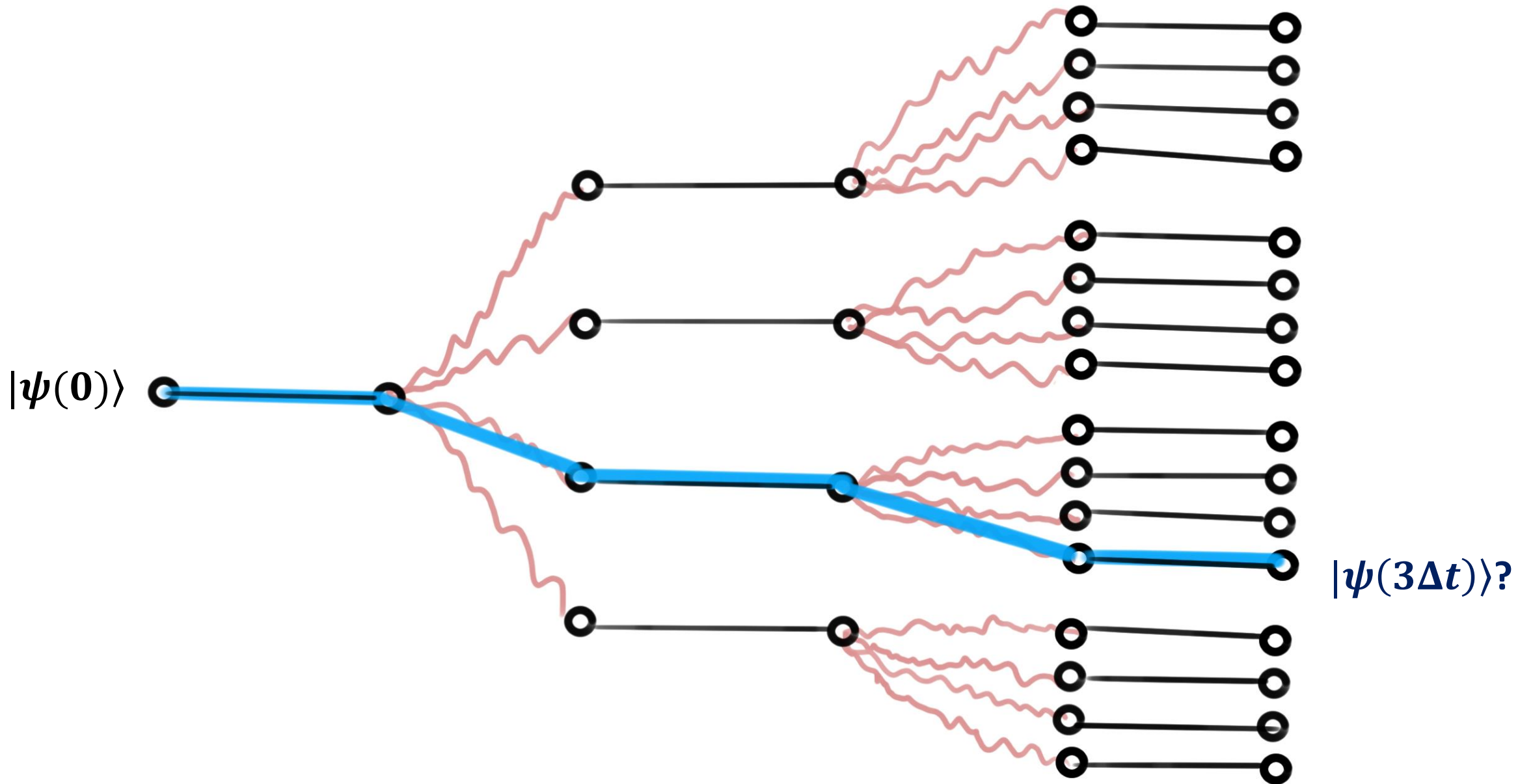
(a) Markovian open quantum systems



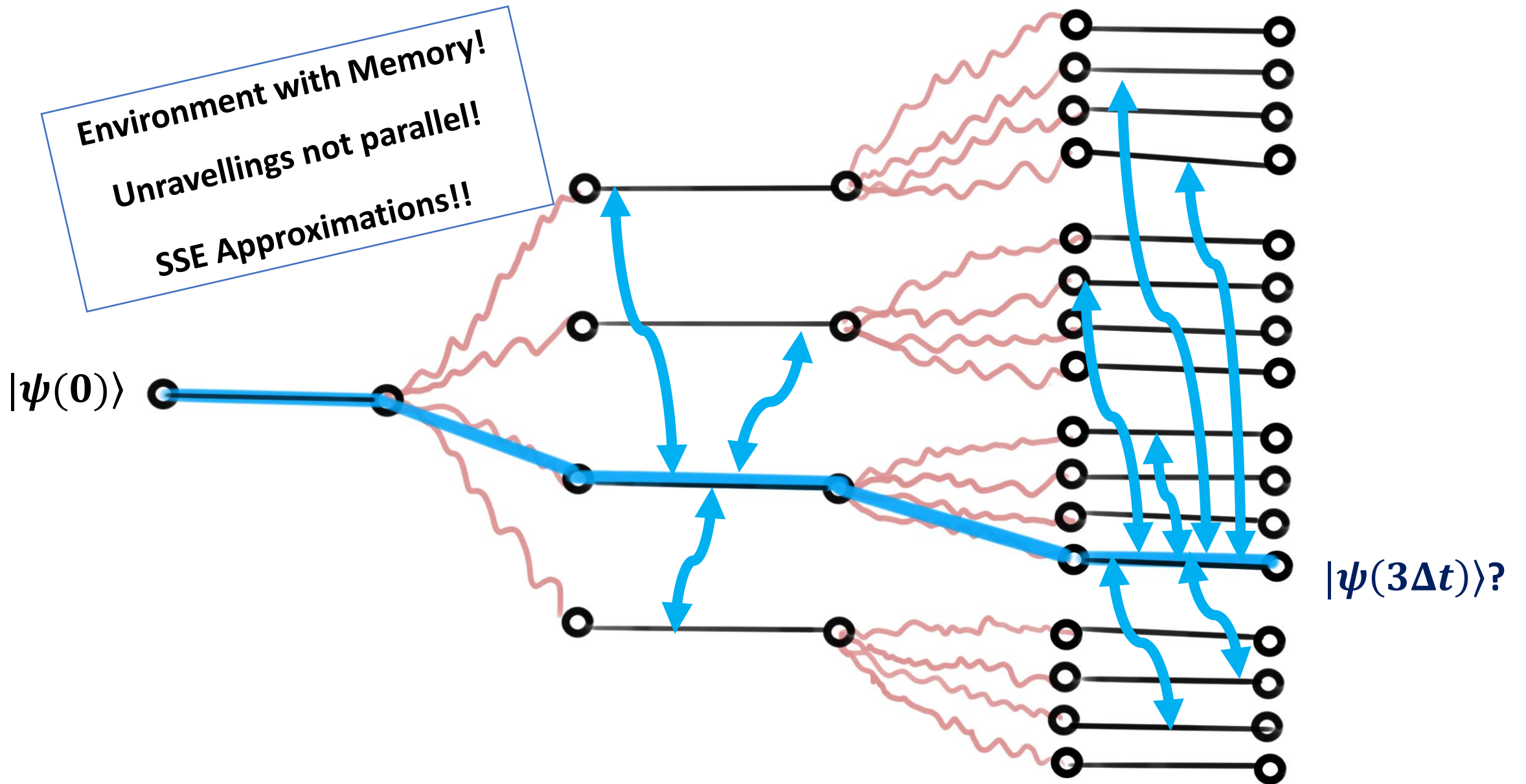
K. Jacobs and D. A. Steck, Contemp. Phys. 47, 279 (2006)

L. Li, M. J. Hall, and H. M. Wiseman, Phys. Rep. 759, 1 (2018)

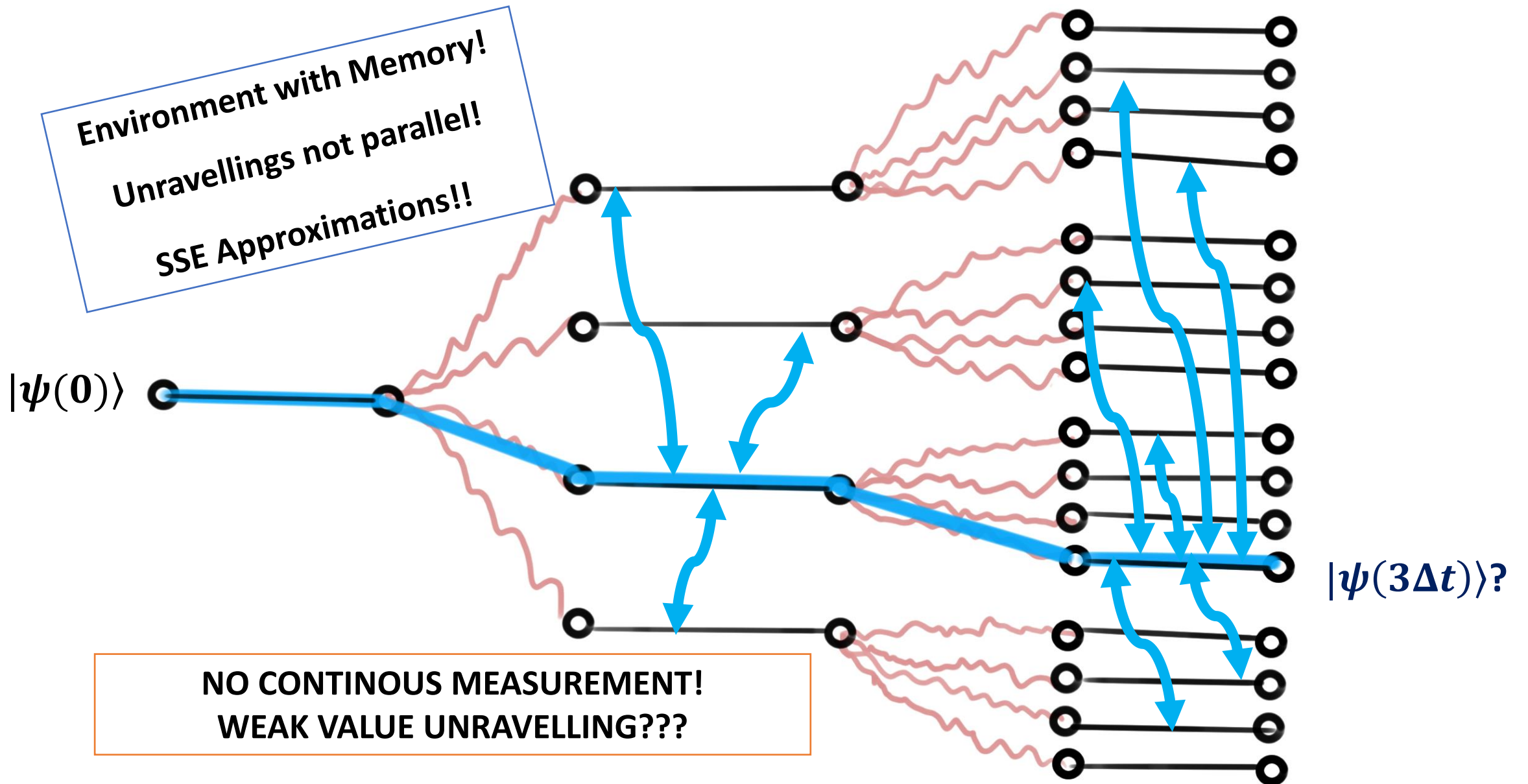
III – A Recipe for non-Markovian Open Quantum Systems



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(b) SSEs Unravelling Weak Values $g^\xi(t) \rightarrow \overline{x_E^\xi}(t)$

$$\left\{ i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi^\xi(\overline{x_S}, t)}{\partial t} = \left[- \sum_{j \in S} \frac{\hbar^2}{2m_j} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x_j^2} + U(\overline{x_S}, \overline{x_E^\xi}(t), t) + \mathcal{P}(\overline{x_S}, \overline{x_E^\xi}(t), t) \right] \psi^\xi(\overline{x_S}, t) \right.$$

H. M. Wiseman and J. M. Gambetta, Phys. Rev. A 68, 062104 (2003) & Phys. Rev. Lett. 101, 140401 (2008)

X. Oianguren-Asua, CF. Destefani, M. Villani, DK. Ferry, X. Oriols. Chapter of: Physics and the Nature of Reality (2023)

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$$\mathcal{P}(\overline{x_S}, \overline{x_E}, t) := \sum_{k \in E} \left[-\frac{1}{2} m_k v_k(\vec{x}, t) + Q_k(\vec{x}, t) - i \frac{\hbar}{2} \frac{\partial v_k(\vec{x}, t)}{\partial x_k} \right]$$

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In non-Markovian,
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But, even in non-Markovian so Almost SSE !

$$\hat{\rho}_S(t) = \mathbb{E}_\xi \left[|\psi^\xi(t); g_\xi(t)\rangle \langle \psi^\xi(t); g_\xi(t)| \right]$$

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Guide approximation by
classical intuition

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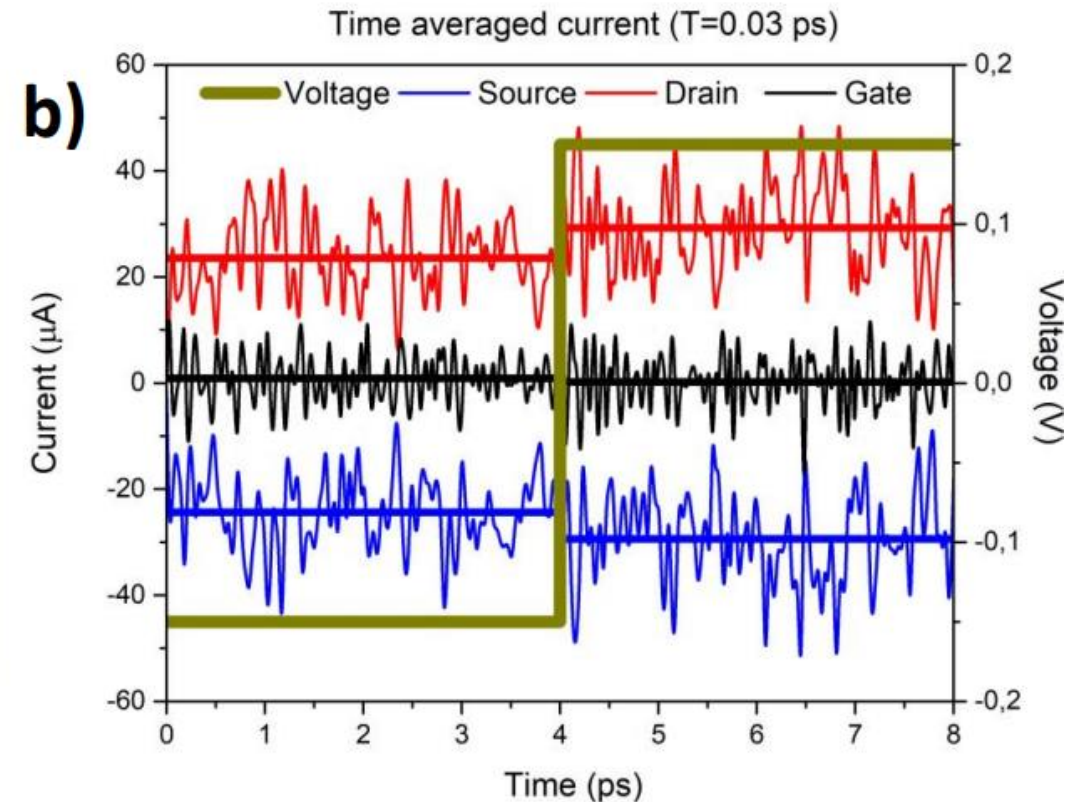
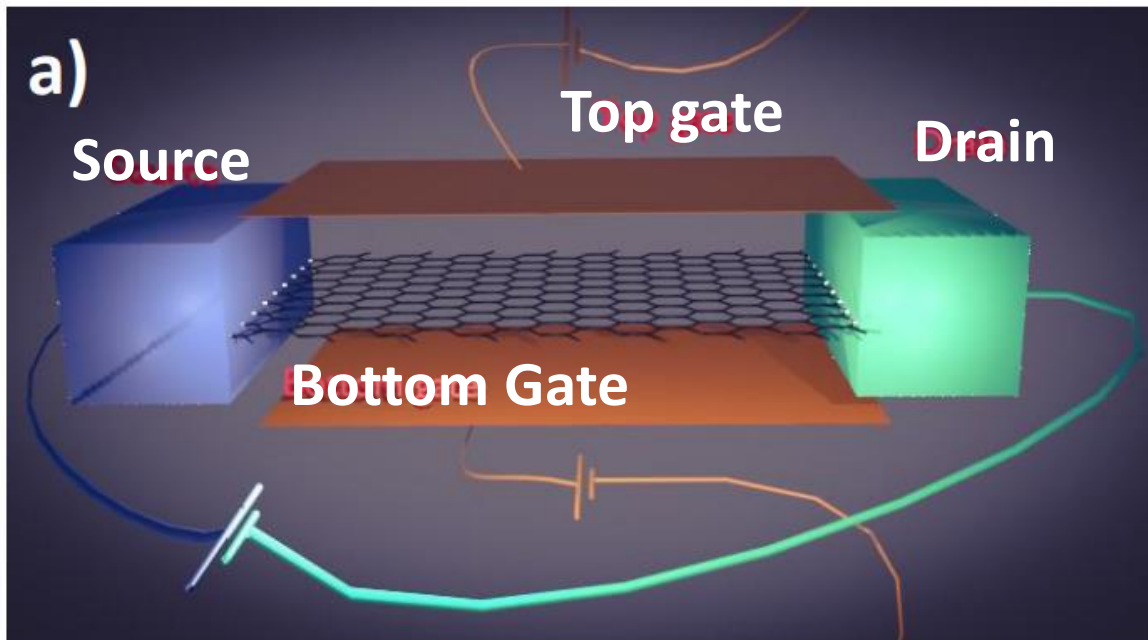
(c) Quantum electron transport with Monte Carlo trajectories

$$I_{Total}^{\xi}(t) = \sum_{k=1}^N I_k^{\xi}(t) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Two-time correlations (PSD), noise distribution, logical operation frequency etc.}$$

(c) Quantum electron transport with Monte Carlo trajectories

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Two-time **correlations** (PSD), **noise** distribution, logical **operation frequency** etc.



The **BITLLES** simulator.

D. Marian, N. Zanghì, and X. Oriols, Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 110404 (2016)
D. Pandey, E. Colomés, G. Albareda, and X. Oriols, Entropy 21, 1148 (2019)

Conclusions

- **Weak Values** (e.g. the ψ) **characterize quantum systems**
- They are **experimentally measurable** through **averages**
- **“Any” simulated result is thus a prediction** for an **experiment**
- They **promote Bohmian Mechanics to a practical tool** :
 - Resolve **pathological scenarios**
 - **Non-Markovian SSE** Toolbox

**Thank you
for your attention!**

Questions?

(d.1.) Quantum Work?

$$W(t_1, t_2) \sim E(t_1), E(t_2), path(t_1, t_2)$$

D. H. Kobe, J. Phys. A Math. Theor. 40, 5155 (2007)

R. Sampaio, S. Suomela, T. Ala-Nissila, J. Anders, and T. Philbin, Phys. Rev. A 97, 012131 (2018)

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- **Path *if* measurement \neq *if not* measurement**
- **Energy undefined if not measurement**

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No uncontextual quantum work?

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Energy of the
system in \vec{x}, t

$$\mathcal{E}^\psi(\vec{x}, t) = \text{Re} \left\{ \frac{\langle \vec{x} | \hat{H}(t) | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle \vec{x} | \psi(t) \rangle} \right\} = \frac{\vec{p}^\psi(\vec{x}, t)^2}{2m} + V(\vec{x}, t) + Q(\vec{x}, t)$$

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Work on the ξ -th trajectory

$$W^\xi(t_1, t_2) := \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{E}^\psi(\vec{x}^\xi(t), t) dt = \mathcal{E}^\psi(\vec{x}^\xi(t_2), t_2) - \mathcal{E}^\psi(\vec{x}^\xi(t_1), t_1)$$

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$$\varepsilon^\psi(\vec{x}, t) = \text{Re} \left\{ \frac{\langle \vec{x} | \hat{H}(t) | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle \vec{x} | \psi(t) \rangle} \right\} = \frac{\vec{p}^\psi(\vec{x}, t)^2}{2m} + V(\vec{x}, t) + Q(\vec{x}, t)$$



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Work on the quantum system

$$\langle W(t_1, t_2) \rangle := \lim_{|\sigma| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{|\sigma|} \sum_{\xi \in \sigma} W^\xi(t_1, t_2) = \langle \psi(t_2) | \hat{H}(t_2) | \psi(t_2) \rangle - \langle \psi(t_1) | \hat{H}(t_1) | \psi(t_1) \rangle$$

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(d.2.) Two-time correlations

$$[\hat{G}, \hat{J}] \neq \hat{0} \quad \rightarrow \quad \langle \hat{G}(t_2) \hat{J}(t_1) \rangle = \langle \psi | \hat{G}(t_2) \hat{J}(t_1) | \psi \rangle \in \mathbb{C}$$

No well-defined two-time correlation?

(d.2.) Two-time correlations

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Well...

$$g^\psi(\vec{x}, t) := \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\langle \vec{x} | \hat{G} | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle \vec{x} | \psi(t) \rangle} \right\} \quad j^\psi(\vec{x}, t) := \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \frac{\langle \vec{x} | \hat{F} | \psi(t) \rangle}{\langle \vec{x} | \psi(t) \rangle} \right\}$$

$$\langle G(t_2) J(t_1) \rangle := \lim_{|\sigma| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{|\sigma|} \sum_{\xi \in \sigma} g^\psi(\vec{x}^\xi(t_1), t_1) j^\psi(\vec{x}^\xi(t_2), t_2)$$

III – A Recipe for non-Markovian Open Quantum Systems

$$\Psi(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N, \vec{y}_{Env}, t)$$
$$\hat{\rho}_{1\dots N,E}(t)$$

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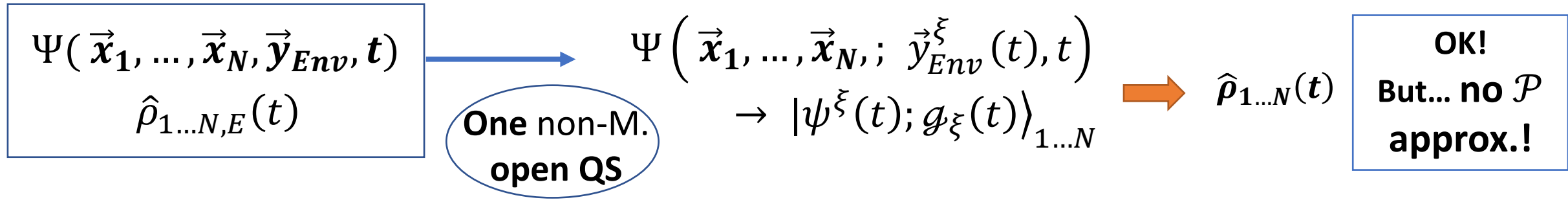


**One non-M.
open QS**

$$\Psi(\vec{x}_1, \dots, \vec{x}_N, ; \vec{y}_{Env}^\xi(t), t)$$

$$\rightarrow |\psi^\xi(t); \mathcal{G}_\xi(t)\rangle_{1\dots N}$$

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$$\hat{\rho}_1(t)$$

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 Ψ ?

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$$J_T^\psi = \sum_{j=1}^N j_k^\psi$$

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$$J_T^\psi = \sum_{j=1}^N j_k^\psi$$

$$\mathbb{E}[J_T] = \lim_{|\sigma| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{|\sigma|} \sum_{\xi \in \sigma} J_T^\psi(\vec{x}_1^\xi(t), \dots, \vec{x}_N^\xi(t), t)$$

$$= \langle \psi | \hat{J} | \psi \rangle$$