

# Geometry and Nonequilibrium Thermodynamic Theories *Far From Steady States*

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# Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics Beyond Steady States

## **I. Counter-intuitive effects where systems evolve beyond stationarity**

-- from Mpemba effect to non-equilibrium shortcuts

## **II. Meditation on Geometry: Bird's-Eye View of Thermodynamic Theory**

## **III. Geometry & Non-equilibrium Theory Beyond Steady States:**

-- general design principle for energy rectifying molecular machines; Mpemba-like response in biological information sensors; a general non-stationary response theory; and many more...

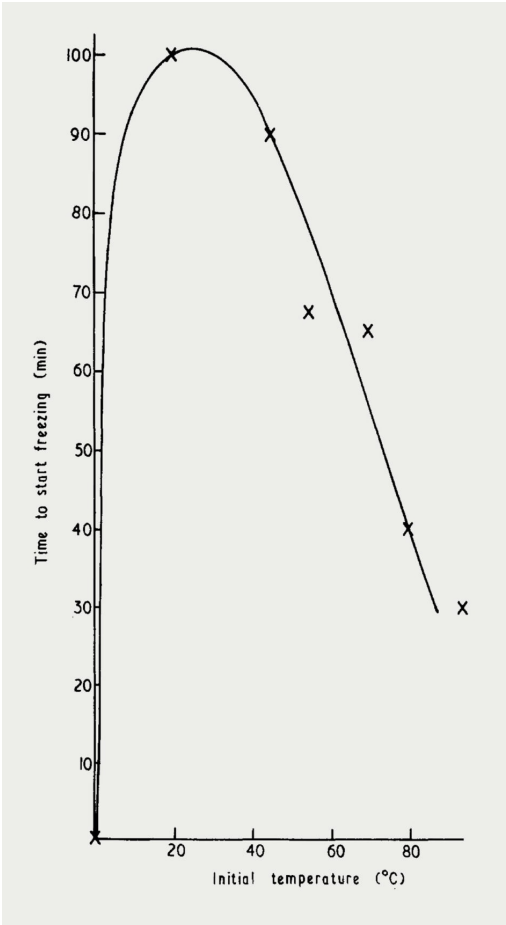
Part II and III are very short and aim to inspire discussions after the session.

# Mpemba effect – hot water freezes faster than cold water?! @o@



PA Images / Alamy Stock Photo

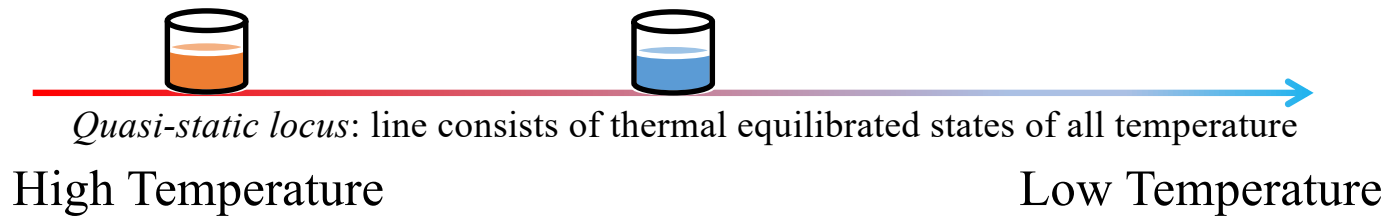
Let us first clean up the definition – . –



Mpemba and Osborne (1969)

Mpemba Effect **Cannot** Happen near Equilibrium (1-Dim space)

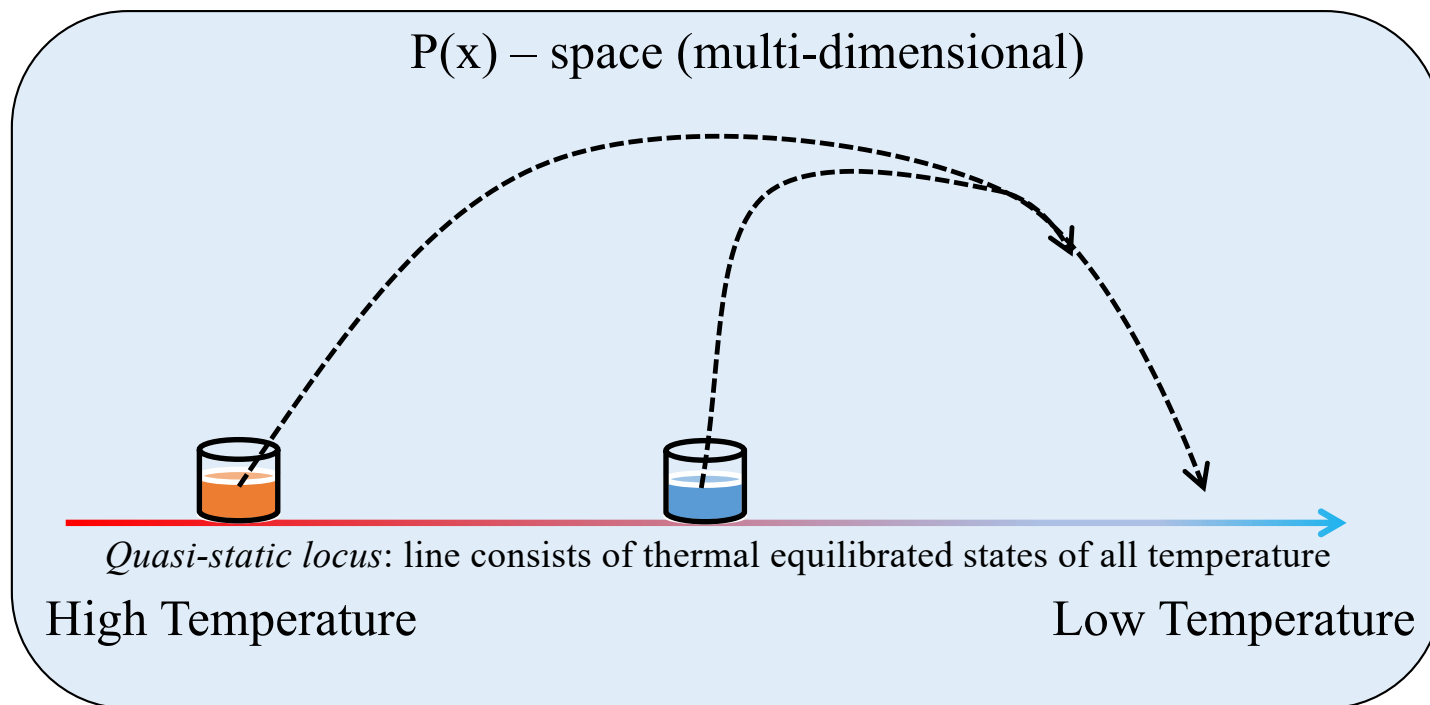
$$\frac{dT}{dt} = C \cdot (T(t) - T_{\text{cold}})$$



Lu., Z and Raz. O. (2017) PNAS

## Mpemba Effect May Occur Beyond Equilibrium (multi-Dim)

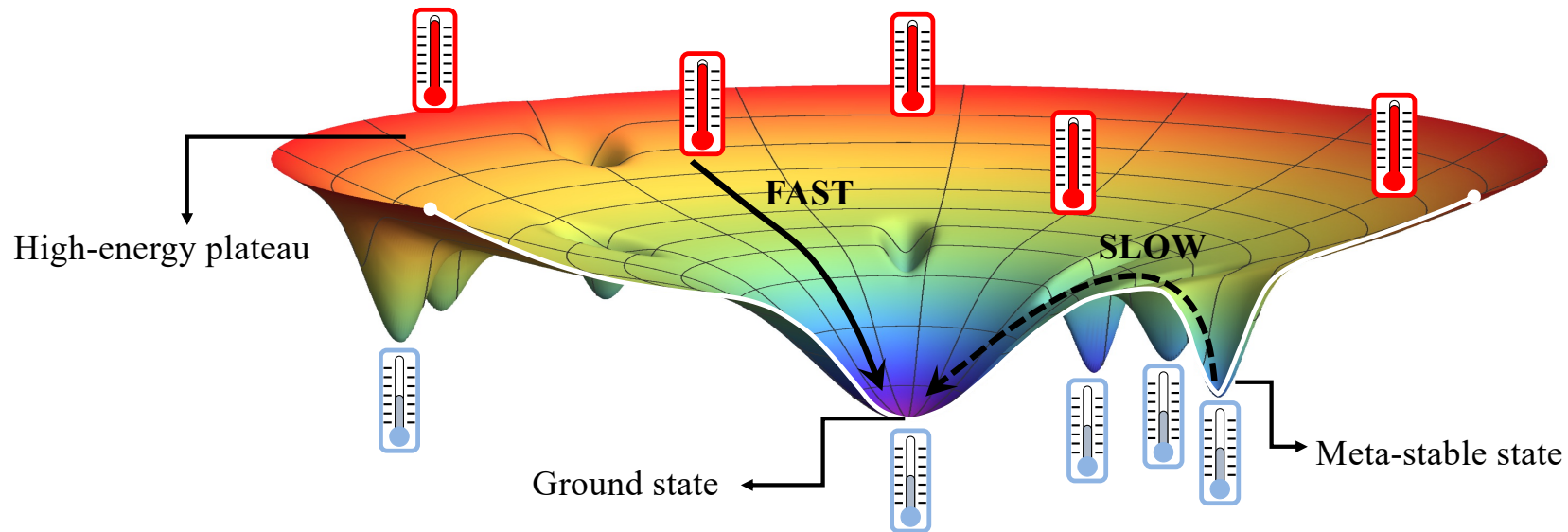
Nonequilibrium evolution of system's probability density:  $\frac{\partial P(x, t)}{\partial t} = \mathcal{L}P(x, t)$



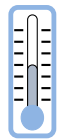
Lu and Raz (2017)

# Intuitive energy landscape to demonstrate the Mpemba effect

Mpemba effect is a shortcut flow for probability distribution into the desired shape.



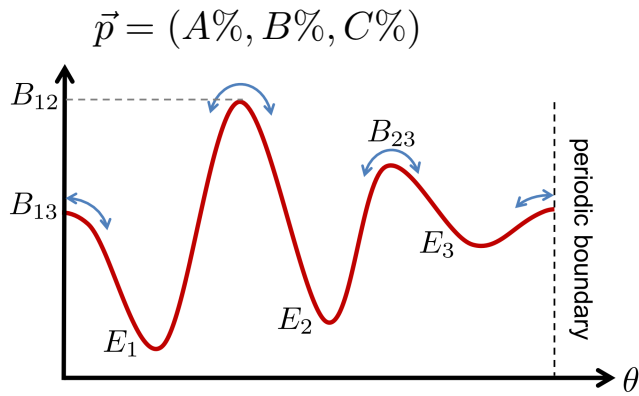
-- at high temperature: system occupies high-energy plateau.



-- at low temperature: system trapped in meta-stable states.

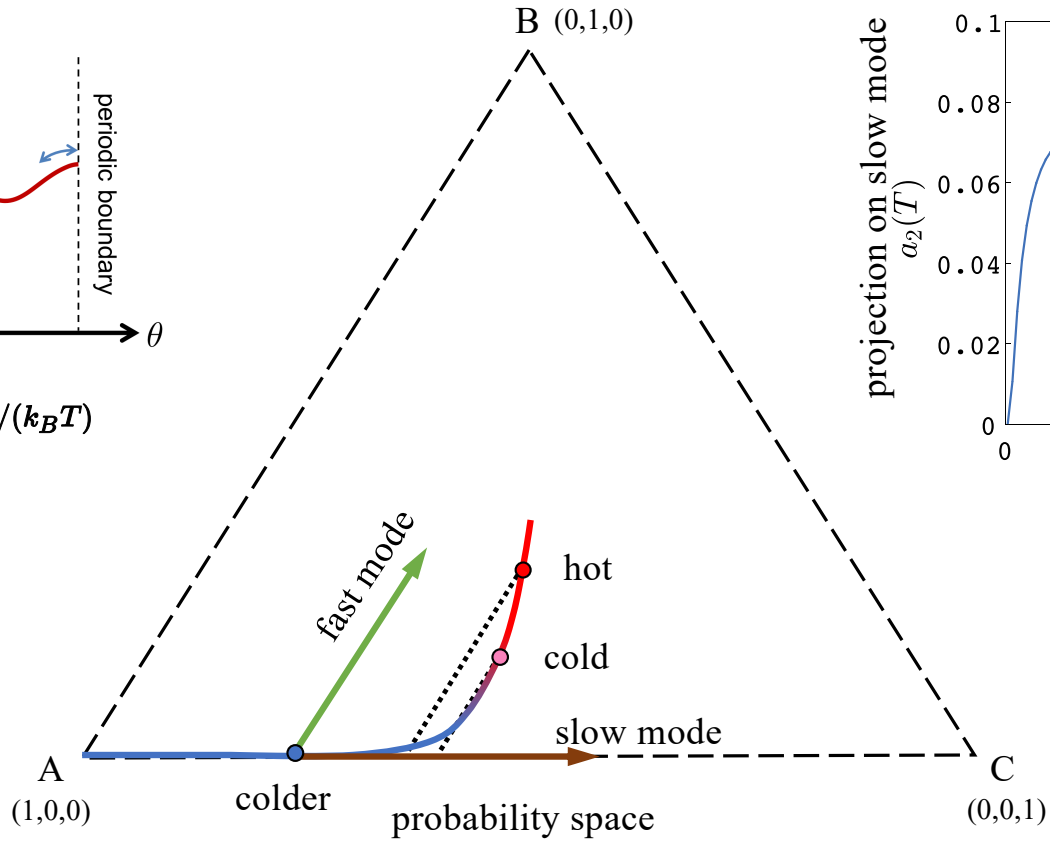
Lu., Z and Raz. O. (2017) PNAS

# Necessary Condition of the Mpemba effect

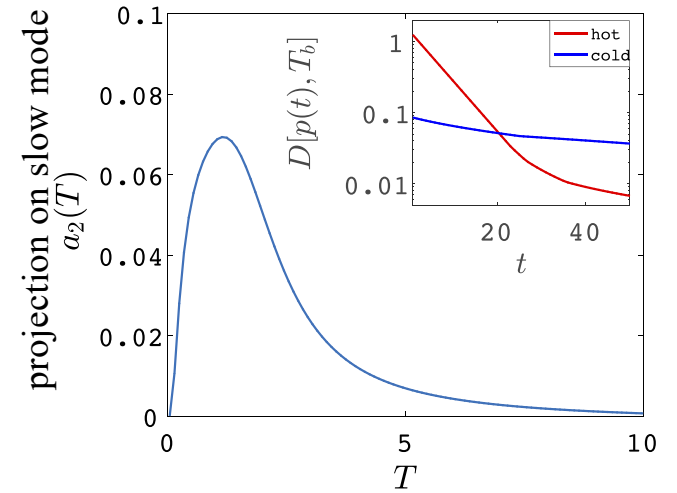


Arrhenius Law:  $k = Ae^{-E_a/(k_B T)}$

$$\frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = R \vec{p}$$



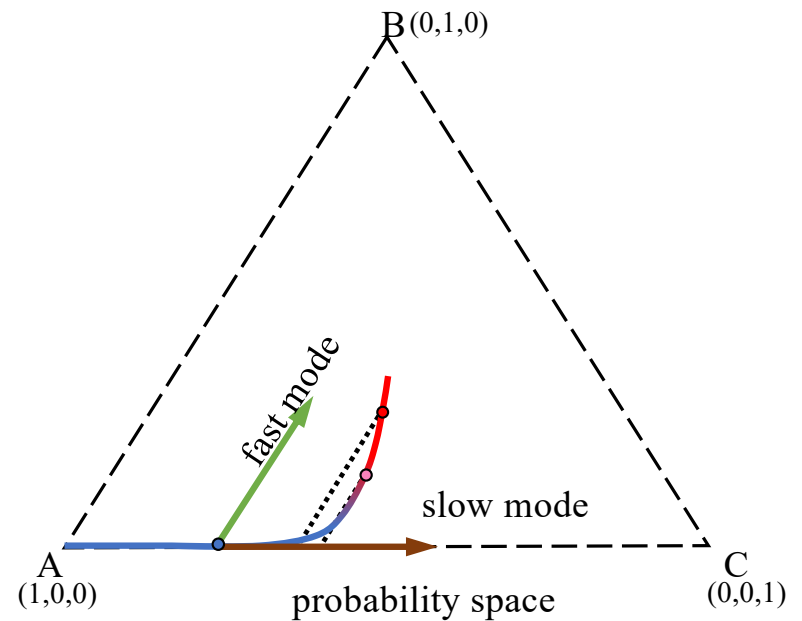
## Necessary Condition:



Lu., Z and Raz. O. (2017) PNAS

## Take-Home Message in Geometry Perspective

- **Findings:** The Mpemba effect could exist; it contradicts the intuition of near-equilibrium thermodynamics (where dynamics is 1-dimensional).
- **Updated intuition:** Distance does not dictate the relaxation time; it is the distance projected to the slowest relaxation mode.



Lu., Z and Raz. O. (2017) PNAS



## Incomplete List of References

### Stochastic thermodynamics theory:

- Lu, Z., & Raz, O. (2017). Nonequilibrium thermodynamics of the Markovian Mpemba effect and its inverse. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 114(20), 5083–5088.
- Klich, I., Raz, O., Hirschberg, O., & Vucelja, M. (2019). Mpemba index and anomalous relaxation. *Physical Review X*, 9(2), 021060.

### Experimental realization:

- Bechhoefer, J., Kumar, A., & Chétrite, R. (2021). A fresh understanding of the Mpemba effect. *Nature Reviews Physics*, 3(8), 534–535.

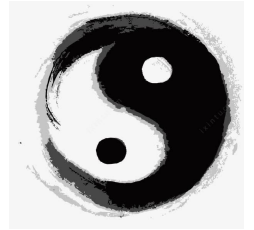
### Phase transitions:

- Yang, Z.-Y., & Hou, J.-X. (2022). Mpemba effect of a mean-field system: The phase transition time. *Physical Review E*, 105(1), 014119.
- Holtzman, R., & Raz, O. (2022). Landau theory for the Mpemba effect through phase transitions. *Communications Physics*, 5(1), 280.
- Zhang, S., & Hou, J.-X. (2022). Theoretical model for the Mpemba effect through the canonical first-order phase transition. *Physical Review E*, 106(3), 034131.

### Extensions:

- Yang, Z.-Y., & Hou, J.-X. (2020). Non-Markovian Mpemba effect in mean-field systems. *Physical Review E*, 101(5), 052106.
- Degünther, J., & Seifert, U. (2022). Anomalous relaxation from a non-equilibrium steady state: An isothermal analog of the Mpemba effect. *Europhysics Letters*, 139(4), 41002.
- Chatterjee, AK, Takada, S, & Hayakawa, H. (2023). Quantum Mpemba effect in a quantum dot with reservoirs. *Physical Review Letters* 131(8), 080402.

# Non-equilibrium Control Shortcuts beyond Mpemba Effect



**Claim:** The Mpemba effect is a special-case example of a general class of non-equilibrium shortcuts.

反る者は道の動なり (老子 第四十章)

## Key Question:

What type of systems are prone to have interesting non-equilibrium shortcuts?

## Answer:

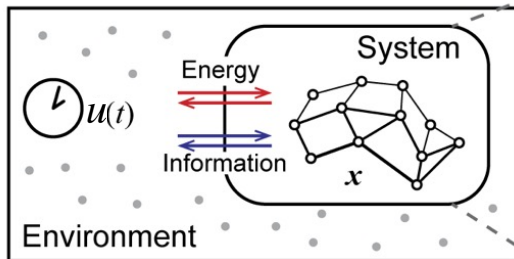
Systems with separation of timescales and non-trivial eigenmodes (geometry).

Reference: Chittari SS, & L. Z. (2023) Geometric approach to nonequilibrium hasty shortcuts. *The Journal of Chemical Physics*. 159(8).



Supraja  
Chittari

# System under External Control: master equation with parameter $u(t)$



System under control  $u$

Master equation under control parameter  $u(t)$ :

$$\frac{d\vec{p}(u)}{dt} = \hat{R}(u) \cdot \vec{p}(u)$$

General solution to the master equation **at constant  $u$** :

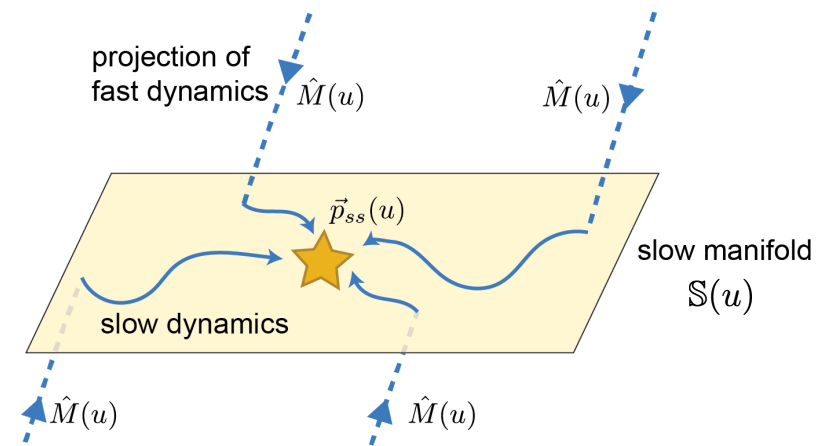
$$\vec{p}(t) = \sum_i c_i \vec{v}_i e^{\lambda_i t}$$

Eigenvalues with a gap between  $\lambda_c$  and  $\lambda_{c+1}$

$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_c, \lambda_{c+1}, \dots, \lambda_n$$

**Separation of timescale!!!!**

$$\frac{1}{|\lambda_{c+1}|} \ll \tau \ll \frac{1}{|\lambda_c|}$$



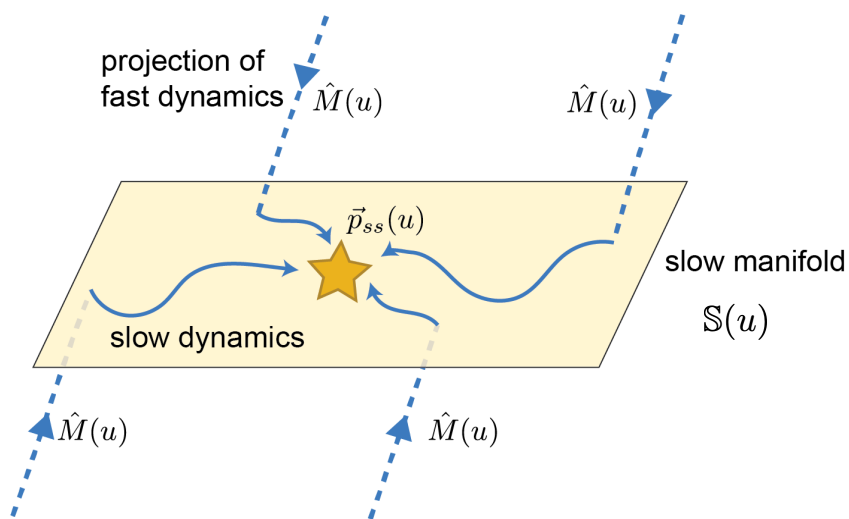
The star is the stationary probability at the chosen " $u$ ".

# Warm-up Geometric Quiz: Which system is more responsive (top or bottom)?

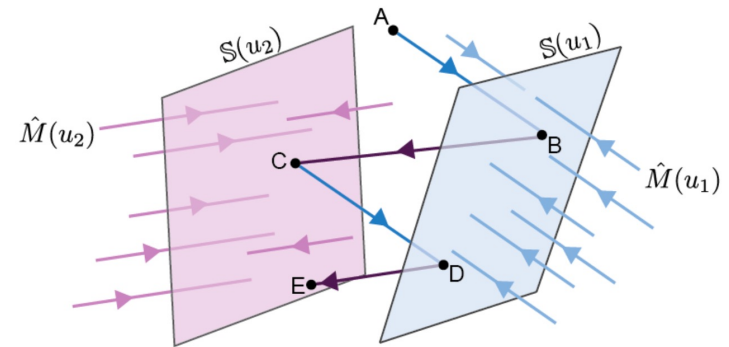
Fast dynamics projects initial distributions onto a slow manifold, which is spanned by the  $c$  slow eigenvectors:

$$\vec{p}(\tau) = \hat{T}_\tau \vec{p}_0 = \hat{V} e^{\hat{\Lambda}\tau} \hat{V}^{-1} \vec{p}_0$$

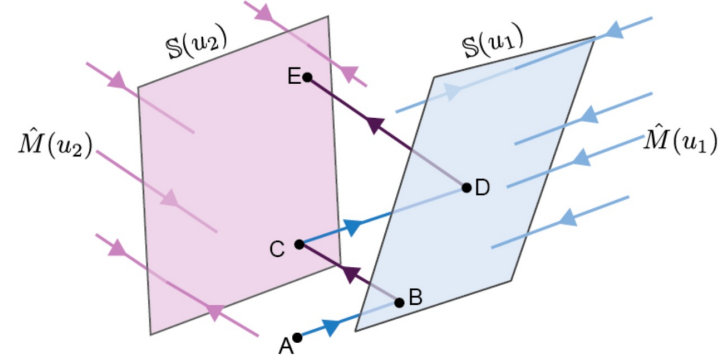
$$\hat{M}_\tau = \hat{V} \hat{D}_{01} \hat{V}^{-1}$$



Converging through oscillatory control

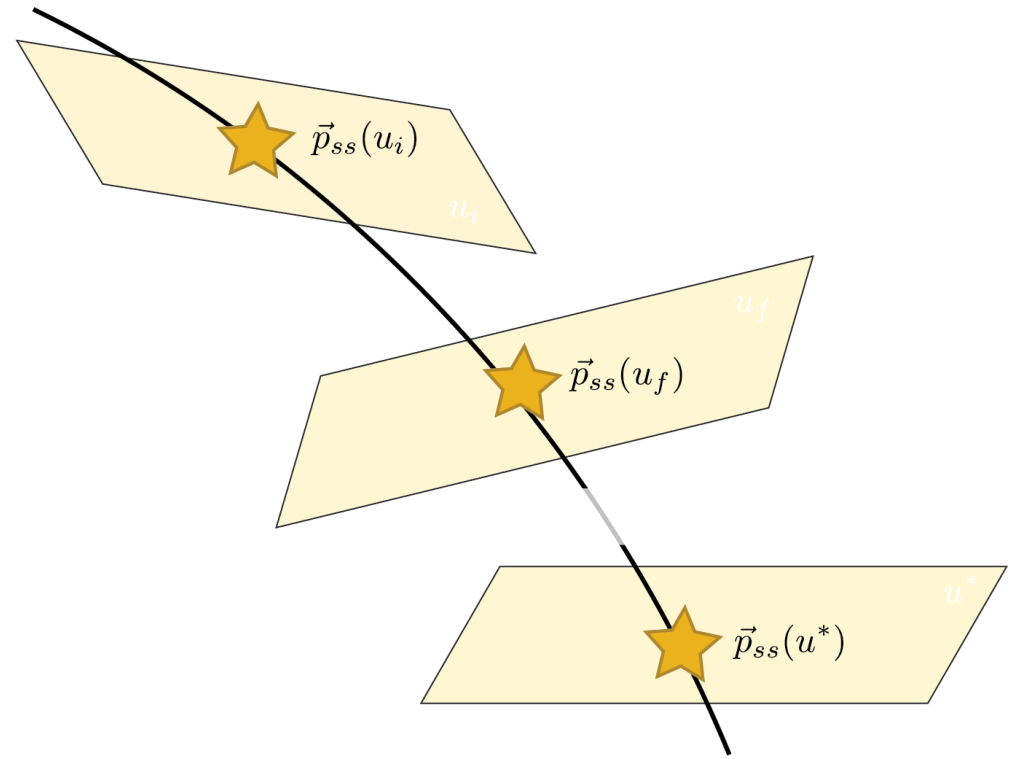


Diverging through oscillatory control



Now let us consider a continuous range of parameter “u”:

- At each value of u, there is one steady state, one slow manifold (base), and one fast projection map (fibers toward base).
- The set of all steady states for each “u” forms a black curve (1-dim u).
- **As a result:**
  - > There is a family of slow manifolds parameterized by “u” (yellow planes).
  - > Each plane receives projection from (fast dynamics) that are typically not perpendicular to the base.



Black curve is the steady-state locus (made of stars).

## What do we mean by Non-equilibrium Hasty Shortcut?

### Goal:

Starting at an initial steady state for initial  $u_i$ , how to control  $u(t)$  to steer the system into the final steady state corresponding to the value of  $u_f$  without involving any slow dynamics?

**Posts**

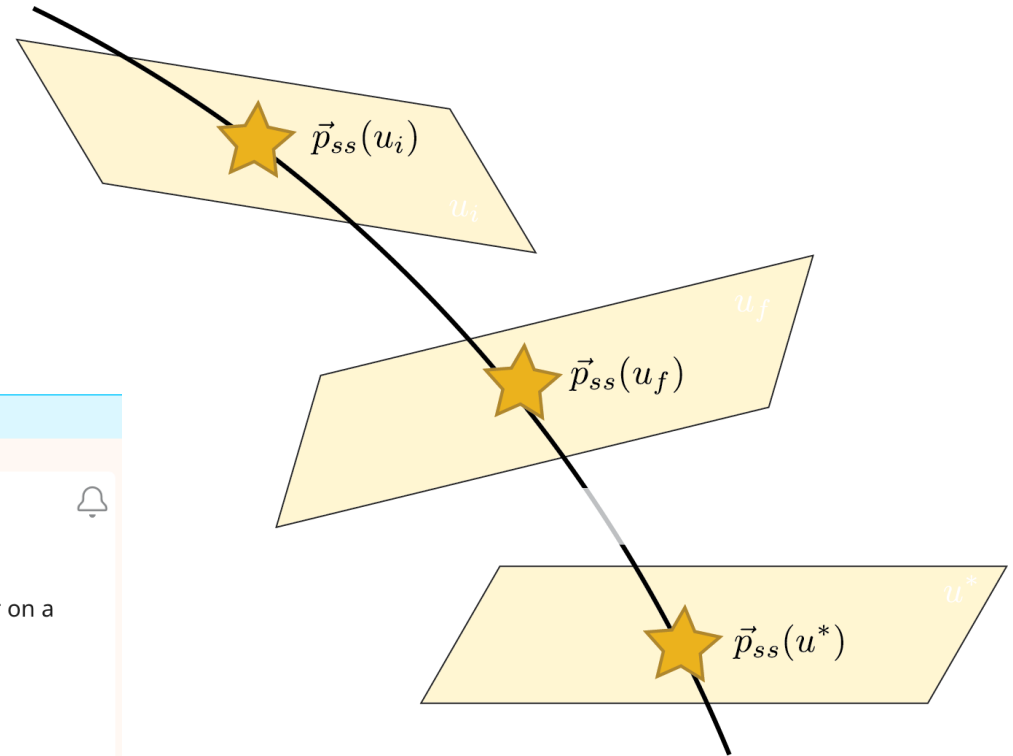
Posted by u/trampolinebears 6 years ago

**16** **Avoid sitting in traffic, even if it takes longer?**

I hate sitting in traffic. I *really* hate sitting in traffic. I'd rather drive for an hour on a quiet country road than sit in heavy traffic for ten minutes.

How can I use Waze to avoid areas where traffic is causing a slowdown?

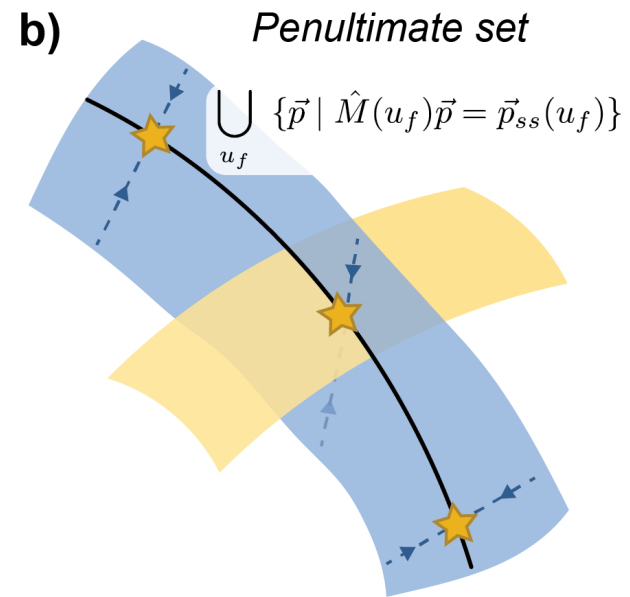
10 Comments Share Save Hide Report 90% Upvoted



Black curve is the steady-state locus consisting of stars.

# Toward the Design Principle of Hasty Shortcut – When Can It Exist?

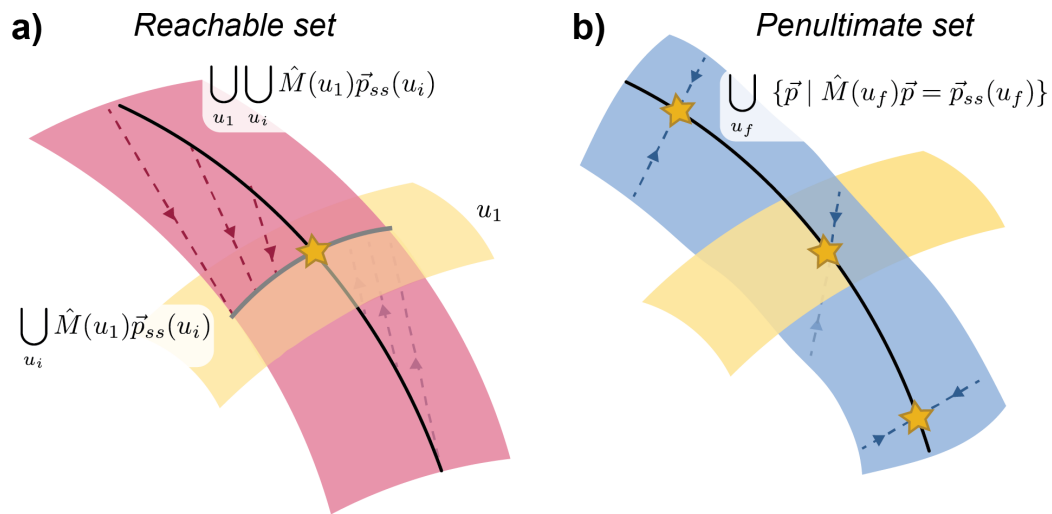
**Attn Audiences:** Please remind me to twist my arm.



Condition: Shortcuts exist if and only if the **reachable set** and the **penultimate set** intersects beyond the black curve. (**non-trivial intersection**)

## Geometry Allowing for Non-trivial Intersection

**Attn Audiences:** Please remind me to twist my arm.



- The steady-state locus is better bent than straight.
- The **reachable manifold** is better bent than flat.
- The **penultimate manifold** is also better bent than flat.

What does the geometric requirement “bent” mean in terms of the property of the family of rate matrix  $\hat{R}(u)$  ?

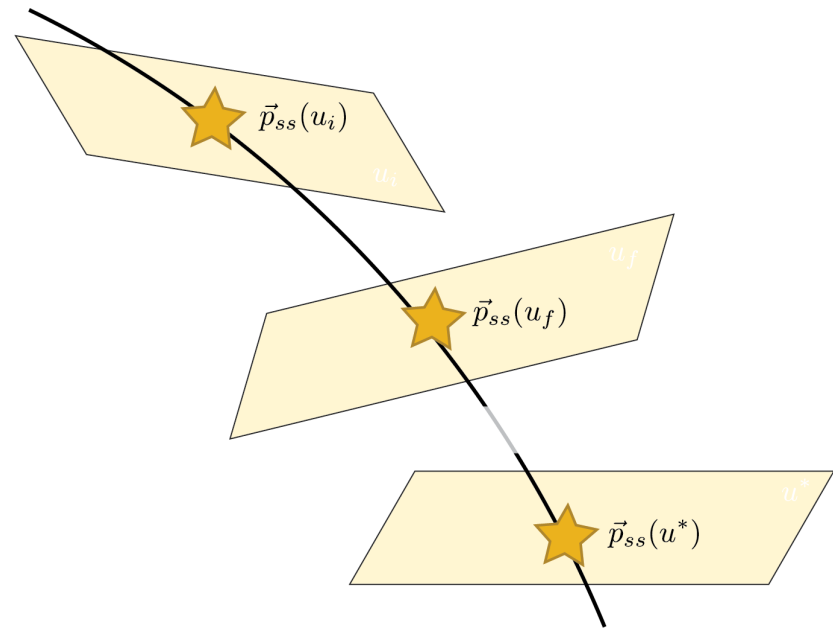


## Optional Slide: Geometric Intuition for Eigen-analysis

Assuming that each transition rates are continuous and smooth functions of  $u$ .

Eigenvalues and eigenvectors are smooth functions, and thus these objects may change smoothly with  $u$ . ☹️

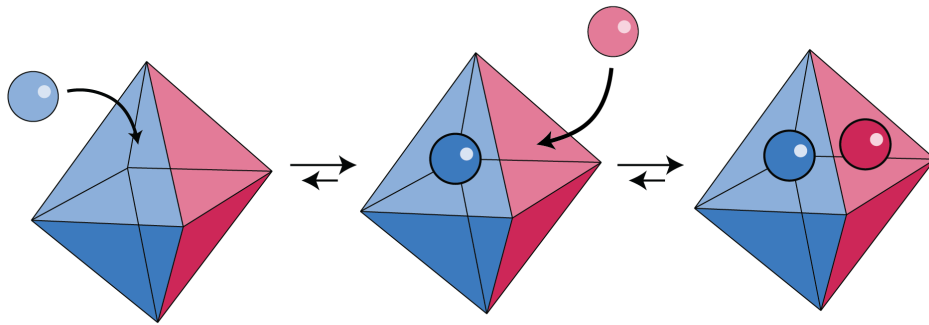
However, if eigenvalues as functions of  $u$  cross each other at certain critical values of  $u^*$ , or has avoided crossing, then the orientation of the slow manifold has a “jump” at the  $u^*$ . Similar jump occurs for the directions of the fast projection (sudden fiber-direction change). 😊



**Eigenvalue gap and eigenvalue crossing at certain  $u^*$ 's could allow for the non-trivial geometry for the hasty shortcut.**

## Demo by Chemical Systems: Shortcut to Self-Assembly

Control parameter:  $c_s$



$$E(\mathbf{s}) = h \sum_k s_k + J \sum_{\langle l,m \rangle} s_l s_m$$

$$F_s = E_s - T \ln(g_s)$$

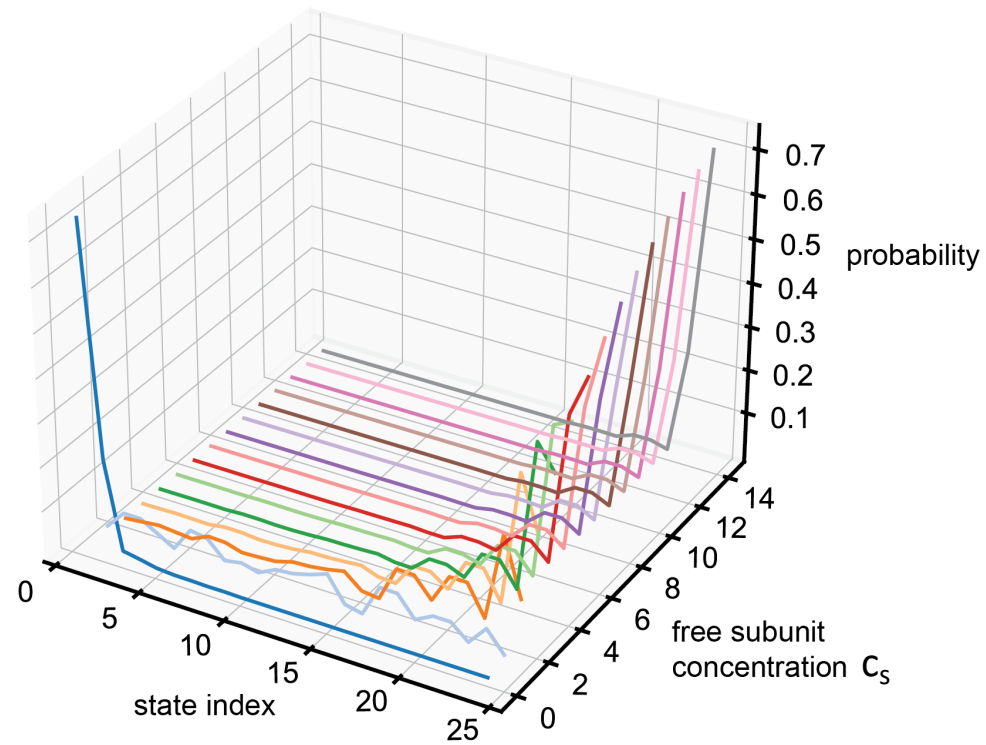
$g_s$ : configuration degeneracy.

$$\frac{d\vec{p}(t)}{dt} = \hat{R} \cdot \vec{p}(t)$$

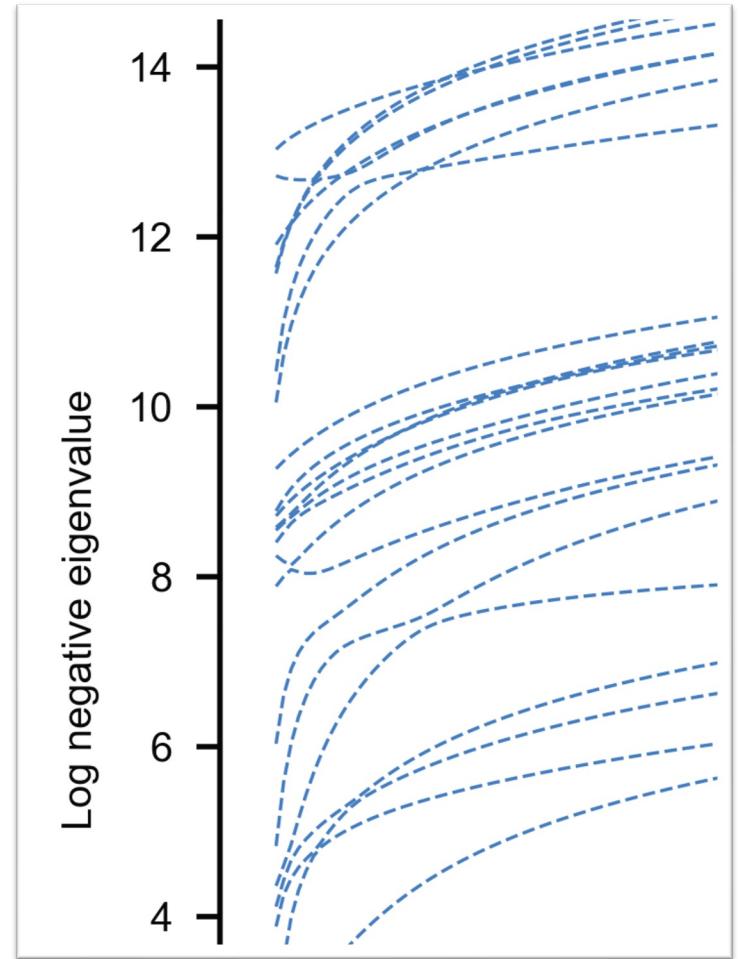
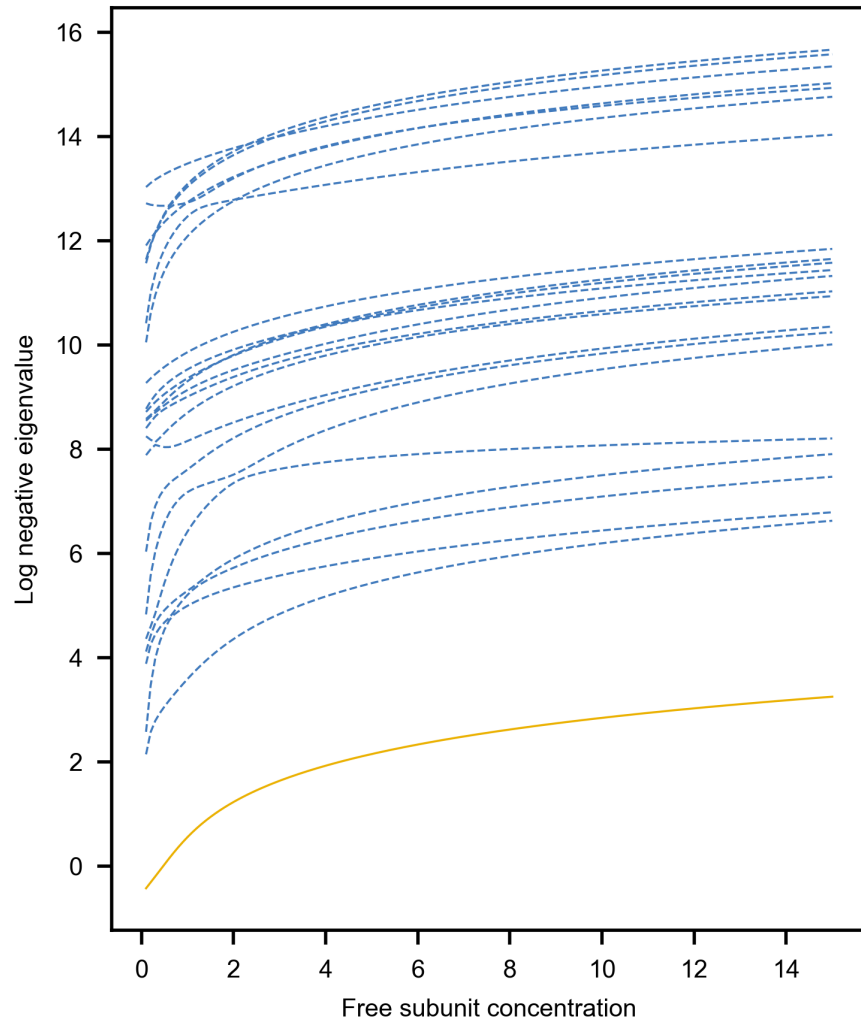
$$R_{ji} = c_s e^{\beta \frac{F_j - F_i}{2} + \beta C \eta(i,j)} \quad \text{binding rate}$$

$$R_{ji} = e^{\beta \frac{F_j - F_i}{2} + \beta C \eta(i,j)} \quad \text{unbinding rate}$$

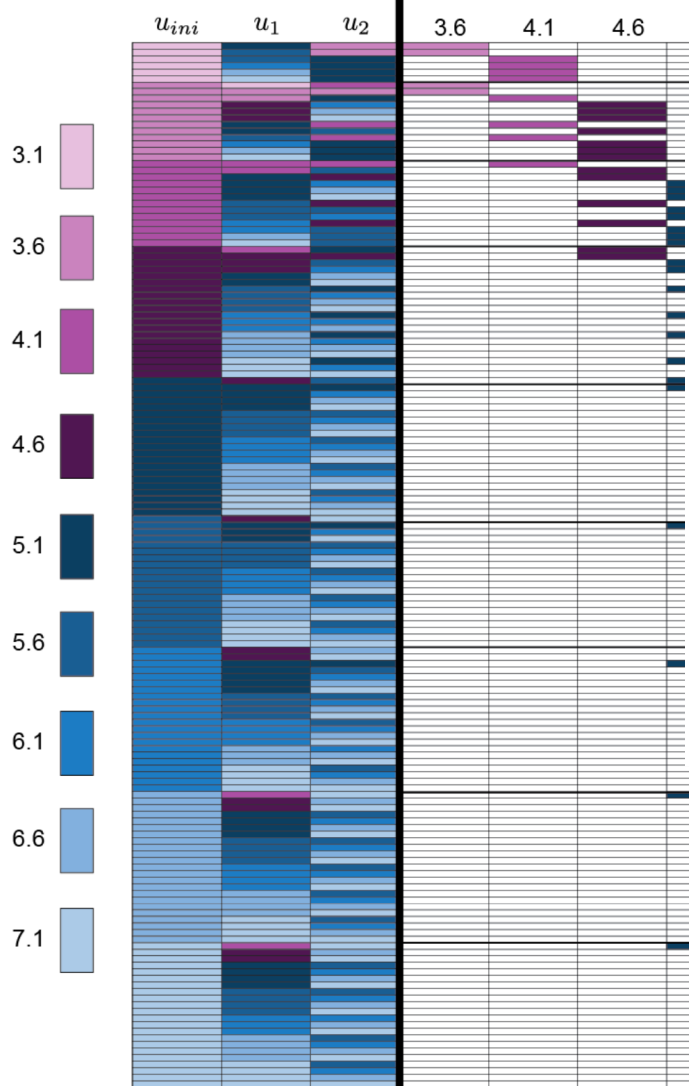
# Equilibrium configuration probability distributions under various $c_s$



# Eigenvalue Crossings and Avoided Crossings ( $c_s$ from 0 to 3)

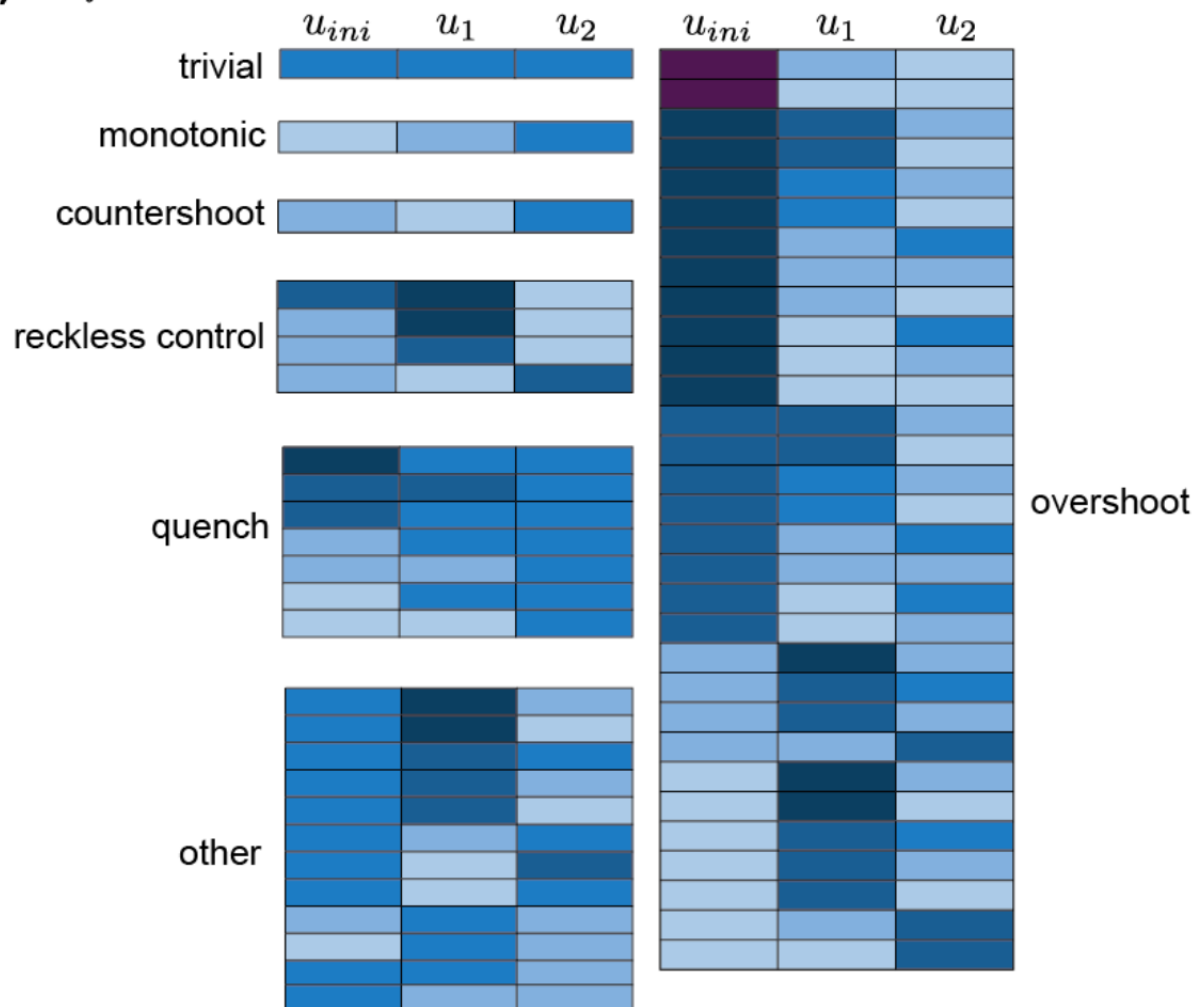


a)



c)

$u_{fin} = 6.1$



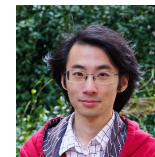
## Take-home messages

- We find the geometric requirement of the hasty shortcut to manipulate a thermodynamic system from one steady state to another.

## Open questions

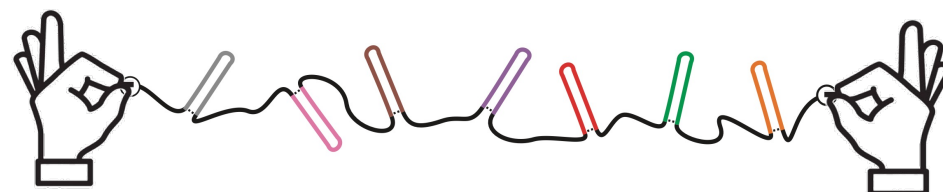
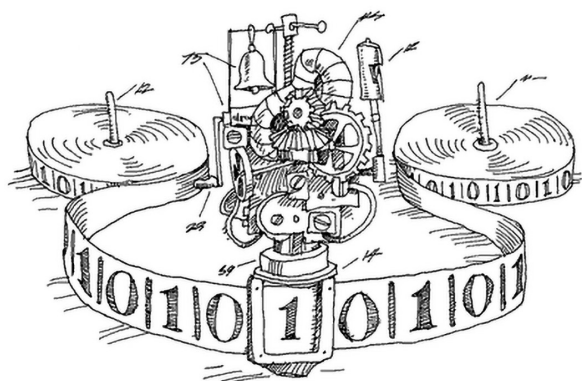
- Is it generally true that hasty shortcuts typically need to cross critical control values where eigenvalues cross?
- What does “eigenvalue crossing” for the classical master equation imply in the physical system? Especially at the thermodynamic limit?
- What are other mechanisms of the hasty shortcut beyond eigenvalue crossing? (e.g., **hub-states** & **bend black curve?**)

# Bonus: Non-equilibrium Manipulation of an Ising-like Polymer into a Memory & Computer



Dr.  
Zhongmin  
Zhang

## Single Molecular Automaton



Poster  
week #2

Temporal protocol recognition: “smart” polymer that discerns temporal patterns of mechanical force signal. It is a “memory register” that records the historical mechanical information into its meta-stable configurations.



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Z. Zhang, Z. Lu, in prep.

# Outline

- I. **Counter-intuitive effects where systems evolve beyond stationarity**
  - from Mpemba effect to non-equilibrium shortcuts
- II. **Meditation on Geometry: Bird's-Eye View of Thermodynamic Theory**
- III. **Geometry & Non-equilibrium Theory Beyond Steady States:**
  - energy rectification, information transduction, response theory...





# Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics Beyond Steady States

## I. Counter-intuitive effects where systems evolve beyond stationarity

-- from Mpemba effect to non-equilibrium shortcuts

## II. Meditation on Geometry: Bird's-Eye View of Thermodynamic Theory

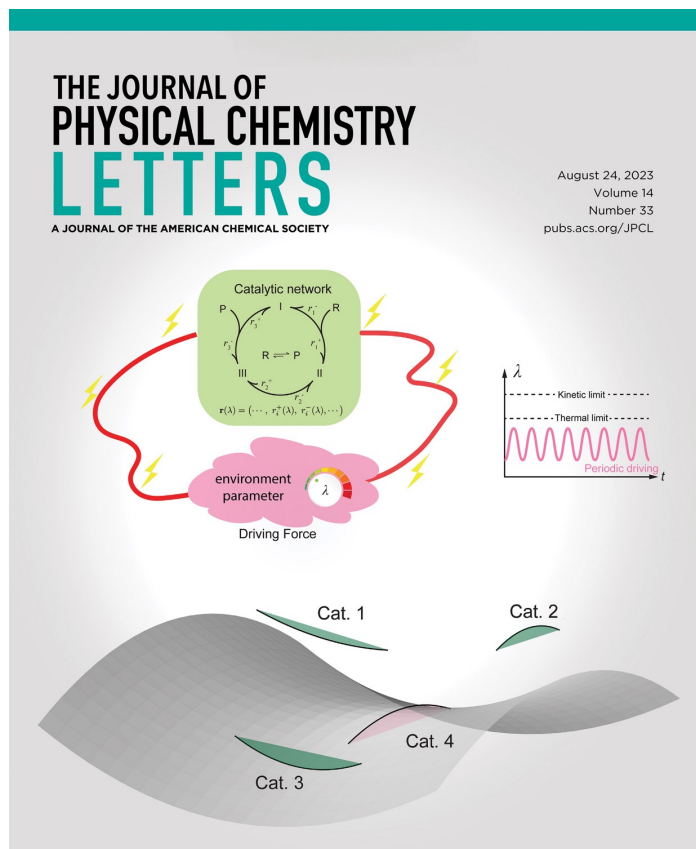
## III. Geometry & Non-equilibrium Theory Beyond Steady States:

- a) Geometric design principle for energy rectifying molecular machines;
- b) Mpemba-like response in biological information sensors;
- c) Information Geometry and non-stationary response theory;

and many more...

Part II and III are very short and aim to inspire discussions after the session.

# a) Geometry can be Useful for Designing Molecular Machines



## Theory for Oscillation-Driven Molecular Machine

1. What is the theoretical limit of pumped performances?
2. What type of performance can(not) be pumped?

## Practical Design Principles for such Machines

1. What is the optimal catalyst for desired performance?
2. What is the optimal protocol to pump a catalyst?

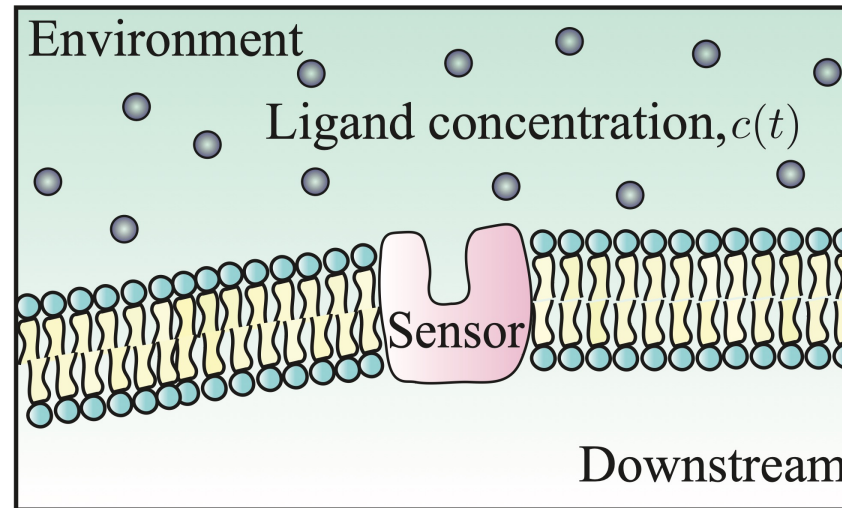
Z. Zhang, **ZL**, JPCL 2023

Z. Zhang, Vincent Du, **ZL**, PRE 2023

## b) Information Transduction Far From Steady States



Asawari  
Pagare



Refs:

A. Pagare, SH. Min, **Z. Lu**. "Theoretical upper bound of multiplexing in biological sensory receptors" *Physical Review Research*, 5 (2023): 023032.

A. Pagare, **Z. Lu**. "Information Benchmark for Biological Sensors Beyond Steady States -- **Mpemba-like sensory withdrawal effect**" under review at *PRX Life*, see also arXiv:2406.04304 (2024)



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# c) Response Theory for non-steady process



Poster  
week #2

Jiming Zheng

❖ Linear response:

Rep Kubo. *Reports on progress in physics* 29.1 (1966): 255.

❖ Nonequilibrium Steady State (NESS) sensitivity:

Jeremy A. Owen, Todd R. Gingrich, Jordan Horowitz. *PRX* 10.1 (2020): 011066. [[Graph Theory](#)]

Pedro E. Harunari, Sara Dal Cengio, Vivien Lecomte, Matteo Polettini. *arXiv: 2402.13193*. [[Graph Theory](#)]

Timur Aslyamov, Massimiliano Esposito. *PRL* 132.3 (2024): 037101. [[Linear Algebra](#)]

Timur Aslyamov, Massimiliano Esposito. *arXiv: 2402.13990*. [[Linear Algebra](#)]

❖ Non-stationary sensitivity:

Andreas Dechant, Shin-ichi Sasa. *PNAS* 117 (12) 6430-6436 (2020).

Pedro E. Harunari, Sara Dal Cengio, Vivien Lecomte, Matteo Polettini. *arXiv: 2402.13193*.

$$|\partial_{R_{e\pm}} \langle Q \rangle| \leq \sqrt{\text{Var}[Q]} \cdot \frac{\sqrt{\mathcal{A}_{e\pm}}}{R_{e\pm}}$$

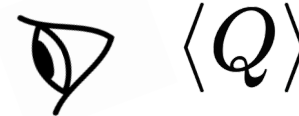
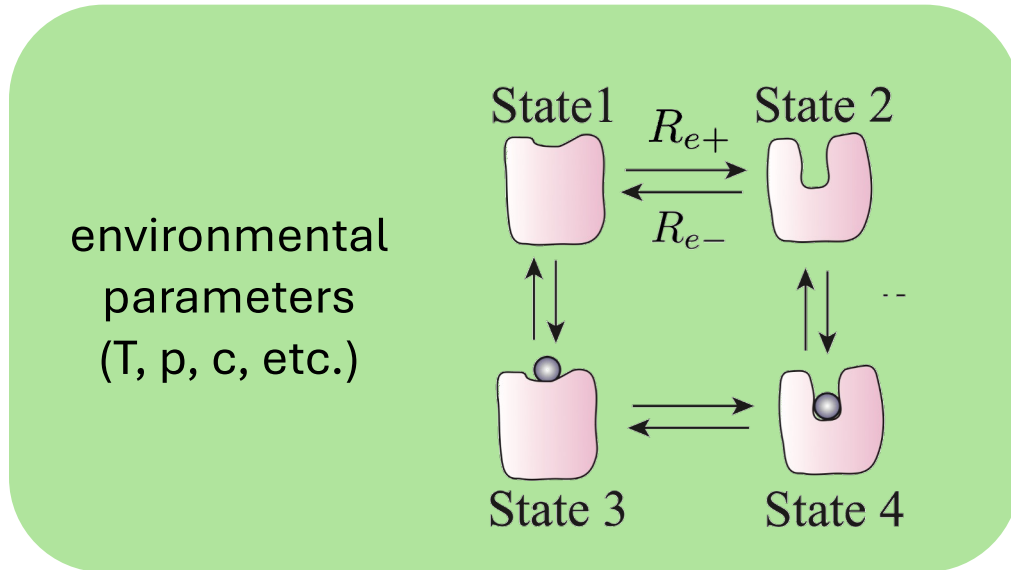
sensitivity relation

$$|\langle Q \rangle' - \langle Q \rangle| \leq 2 \max_{X_\tau} |Q| \cdot \sin(G_{e\pm})$$

finite response relation

This work: J. Zheng, Z. Lu, "[Information Geometry and Universal Bounds on Non-stationary Responsiveness of Markov Dynamics](#)", arXiv:2403.10952 (2024)

# How Do General Non-equilibrium Systems Respond to Stimuli?



- What is the biological observable  $Q$ ?
- How to improve sensitivity?
- How to improve robustness?
- Which kinetic path matters more?
- How to use the response to design drugs?
- ...

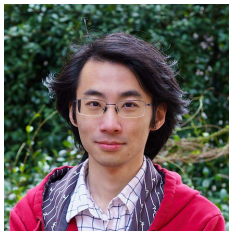
How does any arbitrary quantity  $Q(t)$  respond to changes in environmental parameters?  
Can general understanding be obtained for arbitrary systems independent of system's detail?



# Acknowledgements



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Dr.  
Zhongmin  
Zhang



Jiming  
Zheng



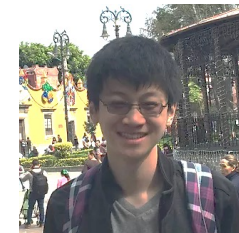
Supraja  
Chittari



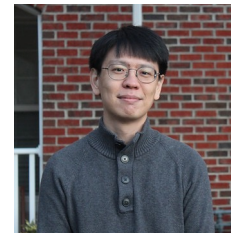
Asawari  
Pagare



Chase  
Slowey



Vincent  
Du



Dr.  
Sa Hoon  
Min

^^^ Please contact Dr. Zhang if your department looks for new talented faculty colleagues!!!

Collaborators & Friends: Prof. Hong Qian & Prof. Oren Raz

SCAN ME

