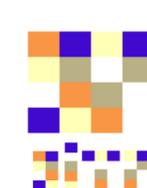


Thermodynamics of Precision in Open Quantum Systems

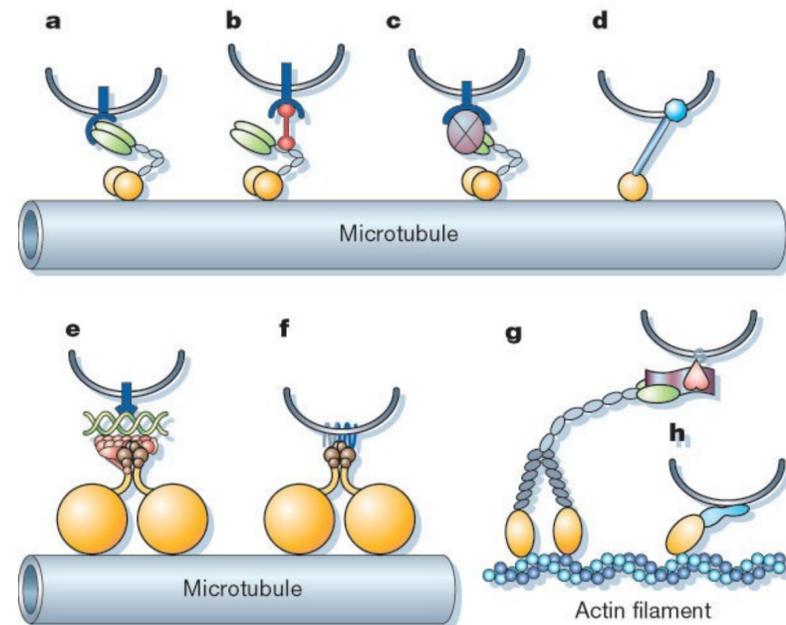
Tan Van Vu

Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University

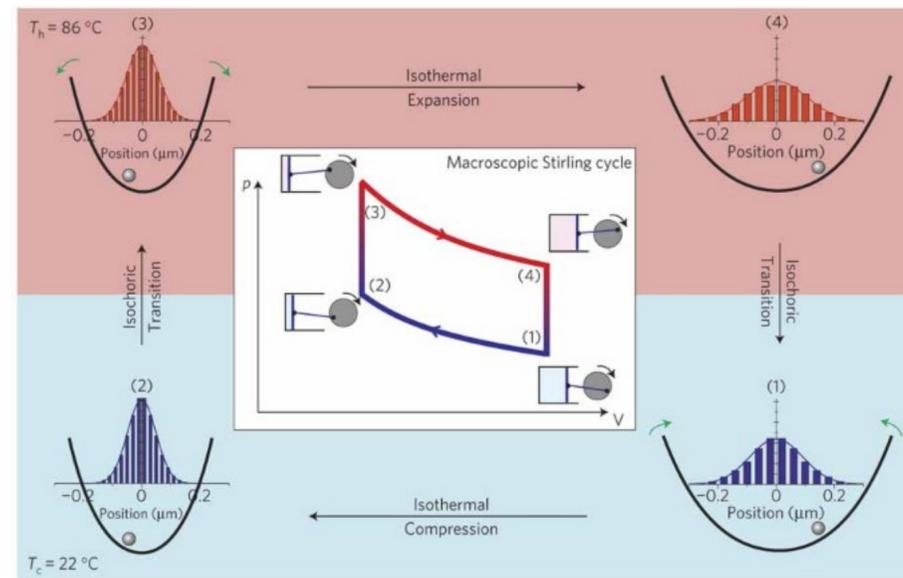
Kyoto Workshop on Quantum Thermodynamics and Stochastic Thermodynamics
Dec 8-12 2025, Kyoto University



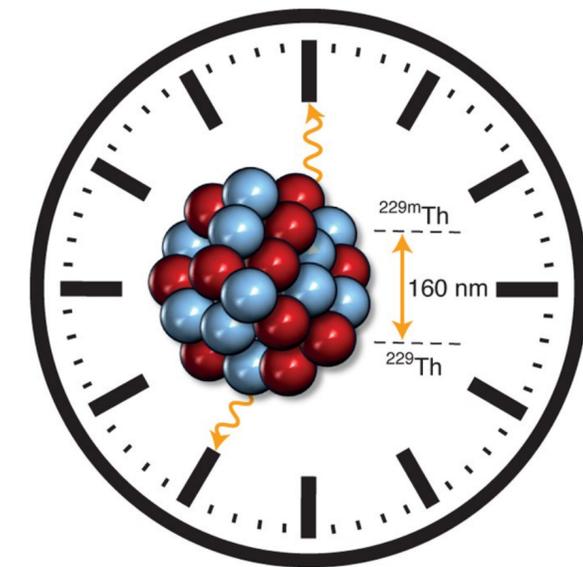
Thermodynamics of precision



Molecular motor, Nature (2003)

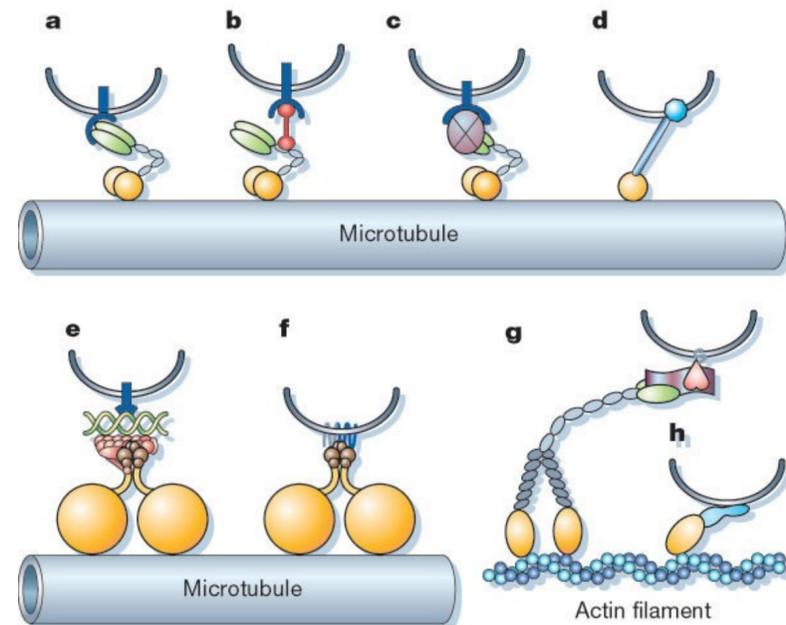


Heat engine, Nat. Phys. (2012)



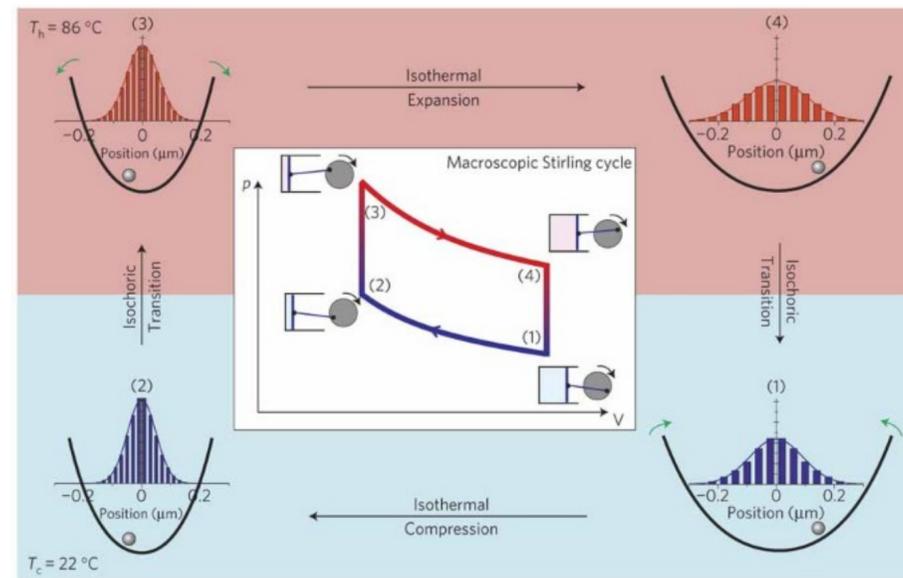
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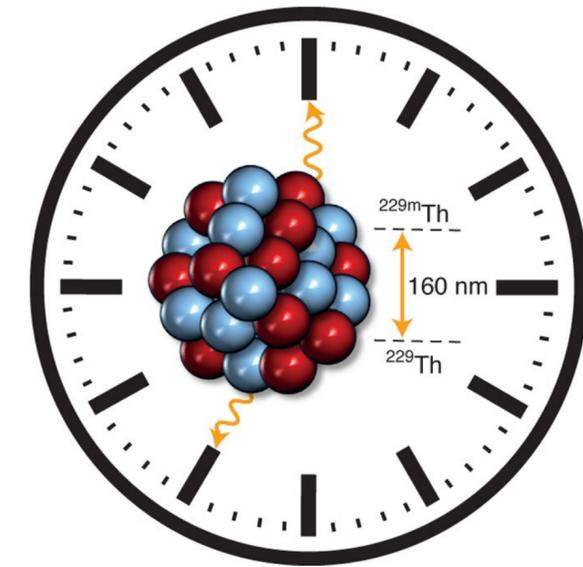


Molecular motor, Nature (2003)

traveled distance

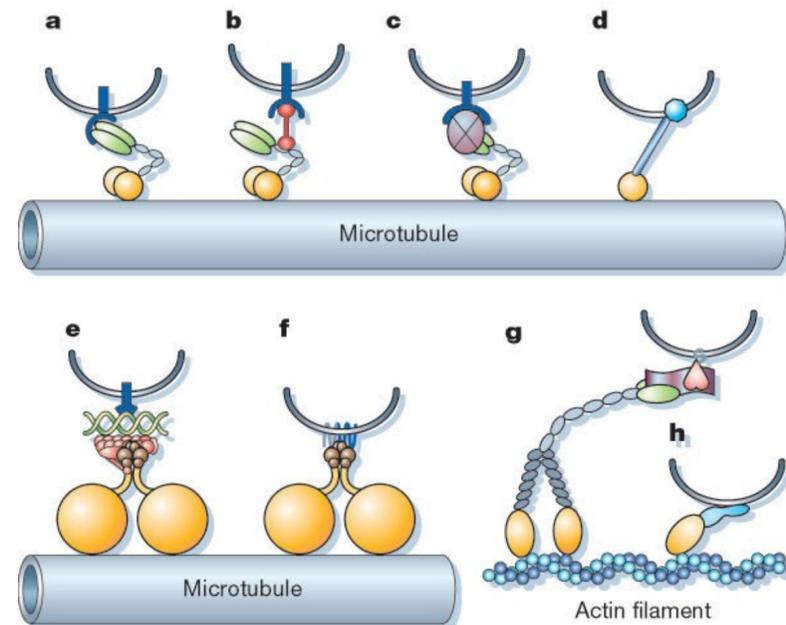


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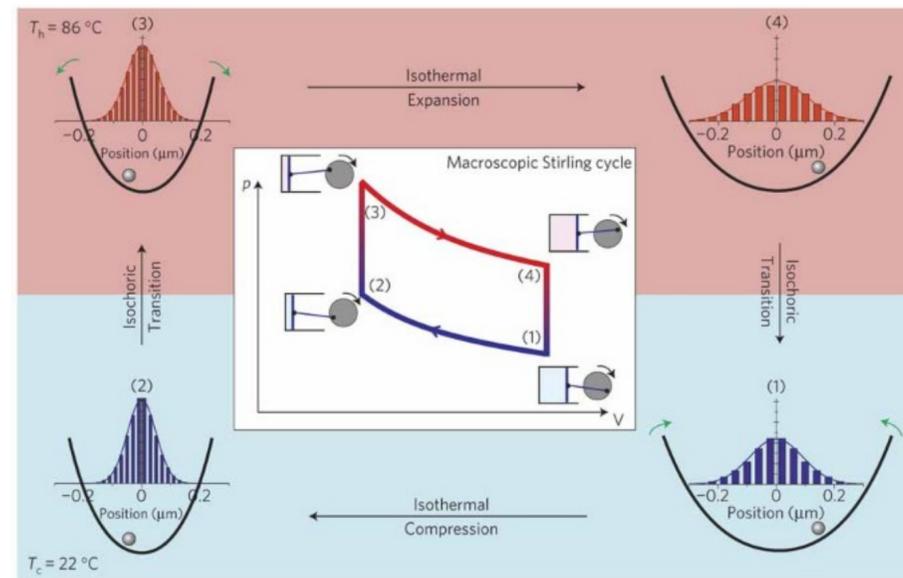
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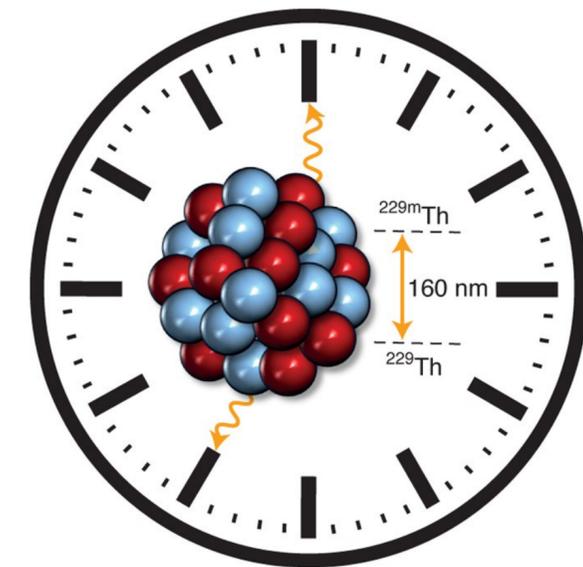
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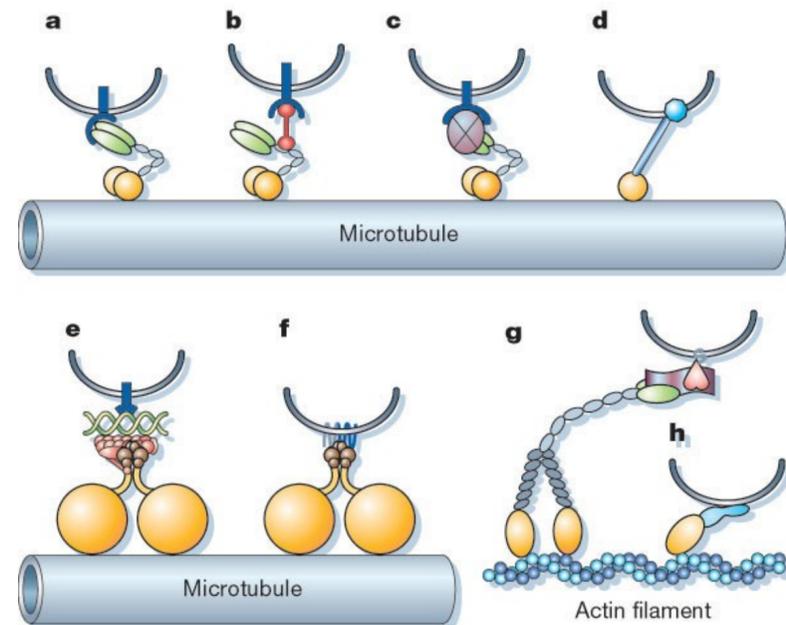
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power current



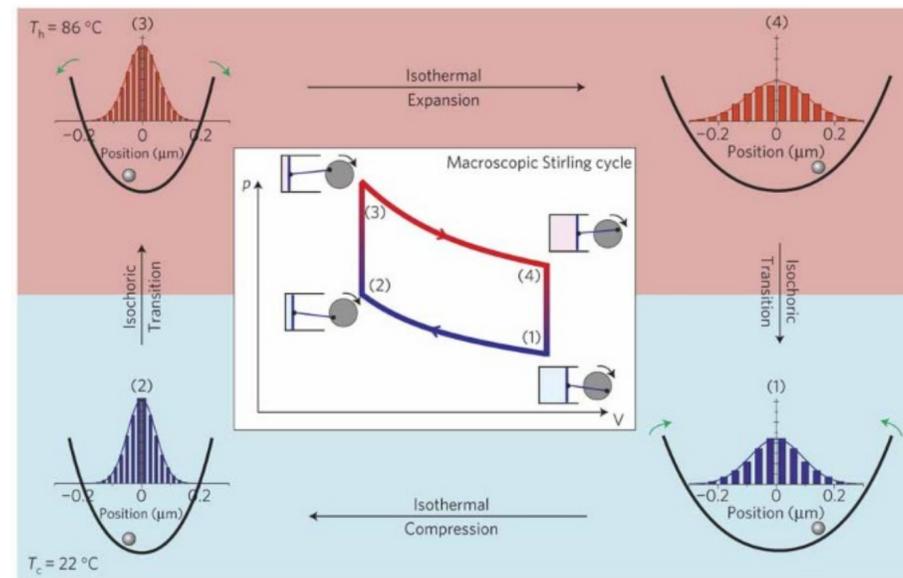
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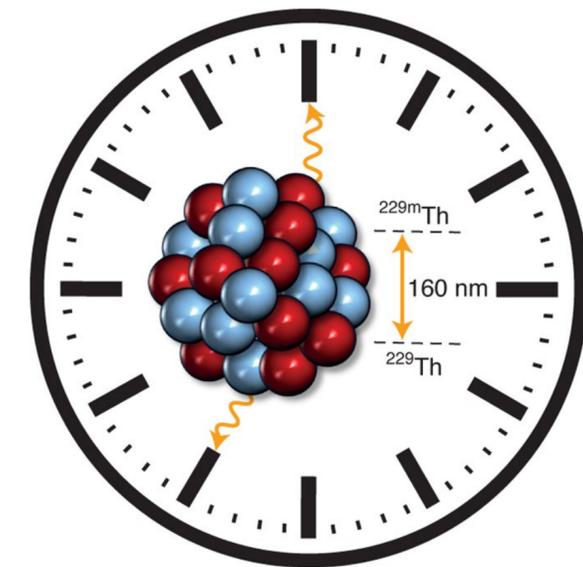
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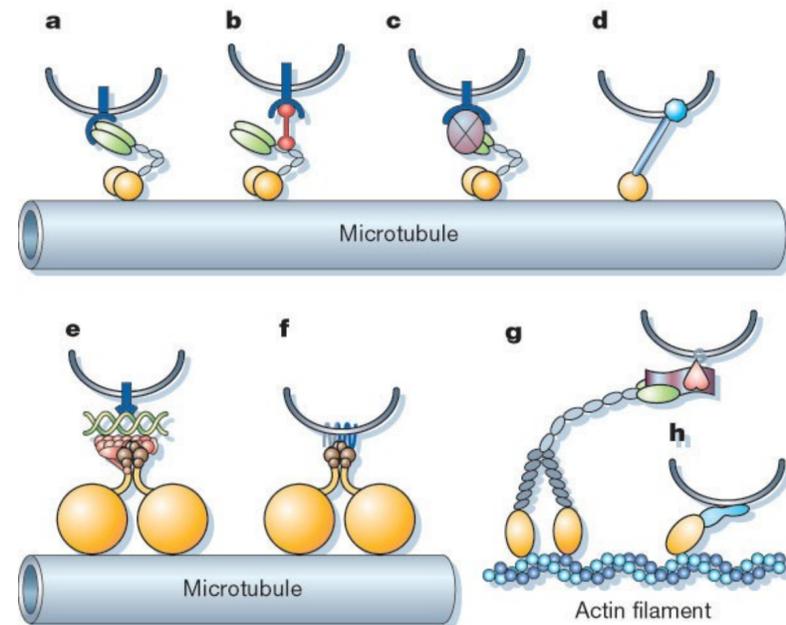
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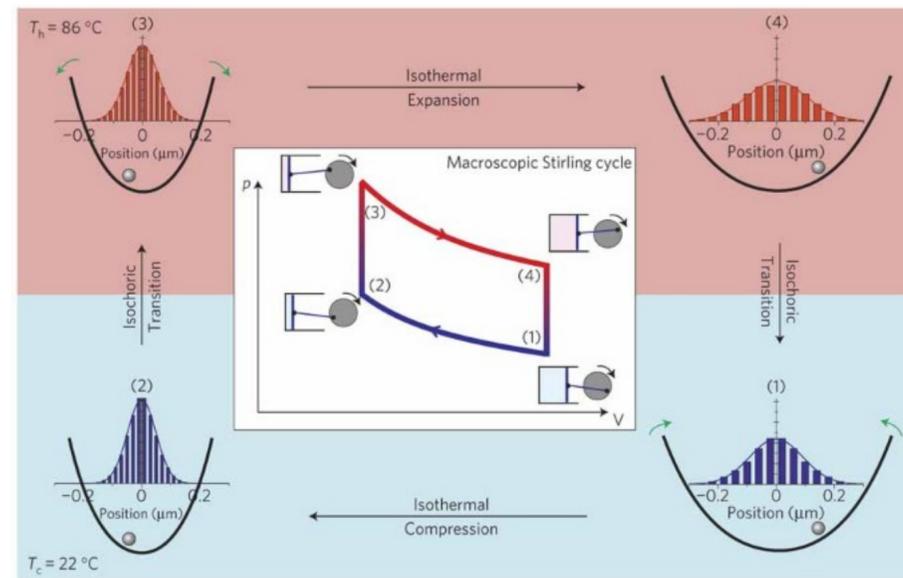
tick current

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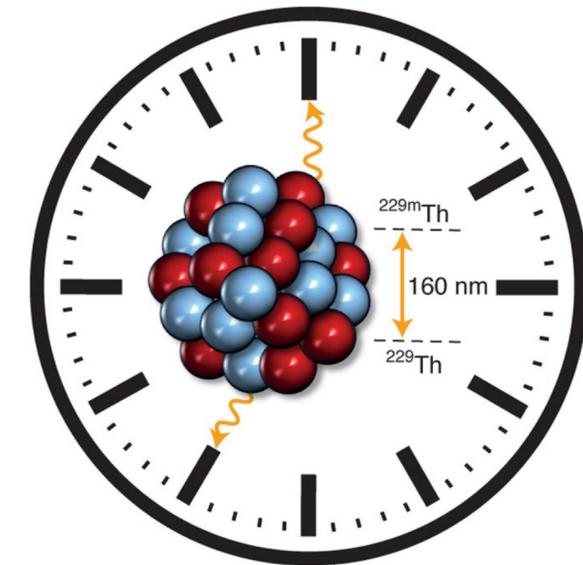
Molecular motor, Nature (2003)

traveled distance



Heat engine, Nat. Phys. (2012)

power current



Clock, Nat. Phys. (2018)

tick current

- How precise can these currents be?
- What is the cost of being precise?

Outline

- Background & motivation
- Markovian dynamics [PRX Quantum 6, 010343 (2025)]
- General open quantum dynamics [arXiv:2508.21567]
- Summary

Classical precision bounds

- Thermodynamic and kinetic uncertainty relations

$$F_\phi := \tau \frac{\text{Var}[\phi]}{\langle \phi \rangle^2}$$

ϕ : time-integrated current

e.g., particle & heat current,
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Barato+, PRL (2015)

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Vo, TVV, Hasegawa, J. Phys. A (2022)

Φ : inverse function of $x \tanh x$

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Vo, TVV, Hasegawa, J. Phys. A (2022)

- Valid only for overdamped and Markov jump processes

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- TKUR can be violated for quantum systems due to quantum coherence

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- How precision limits are modified in the presence of quantum effects?
 - Understand effects of quantum features (coherence & entanglement)
 - Utilize quantum features to enhance precision

PRX QUANTUM 6, 010343 (2025)

IYQ Collection

Fundamental Bounds on Precision and Response for Quantum Trajectory Observables

Tan Van Vu *

*Center for Gravitational Physics and Quantum Information, Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics,
Kyoto University, Kitashirakawa Oiwakecho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8502, Japan*



(Received 10 December 2024; revised 4 February 2025; accepted 13 February 2025; published 6 March 2025)

Markovian dynamics - setup

- GKSL equation

$$\dot{\rho}_t = \mathcal{L}(\rho_t),$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\circ) := -i[H, \circ] + \sum_{k \geq 1} (L_k \circ L_k^\dagger - \{L_k^\dagger L_k, \circ\}/2)$$

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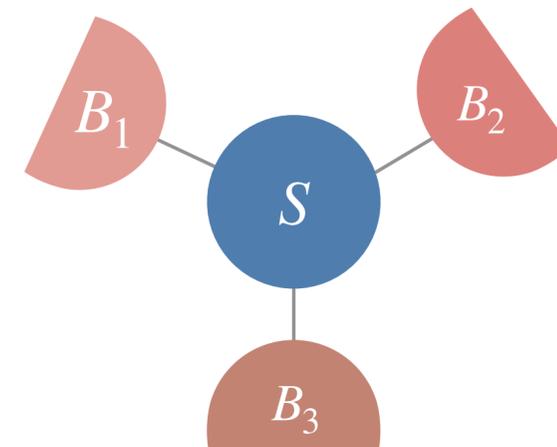
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local detailed balance condition $L_k = e^{\Delta s_k/2} L_{k^*}^\dagger$

Δs_k : environmental entropy change due to jump L_k



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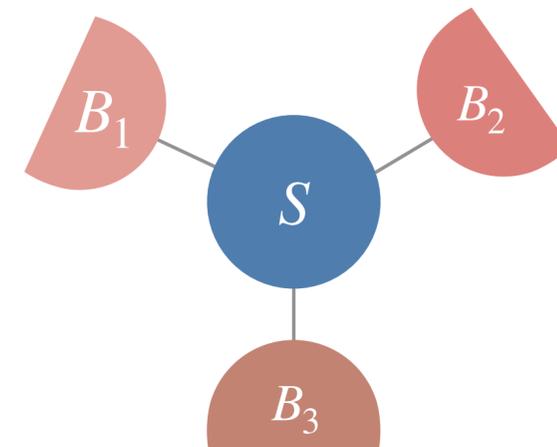
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- Entropy production & dynamical activity

$$\sigma = \sum_{k \geq 1} \text{tr}(L_k \pi L_k^\dagger) \Delta s_k \quad a = \sum_{k \geq 1} \text{tr}(L_k \pi L_k^\dagger) \quad \pi: \text{steady state}$$

Unraveling & observables

- Quantum jump unraveling

$$\rho_{t+dt} = \sum_{k \geq 0} M_k \rho_t M_k^\dagger$$
$$M_0 = \mathbf{1} - (iH + \underbrace{\sum_{k \geq 1} L_k^\dagger L_k / 2}_{\text{no jump}}) dt, \quad M_k = \underbrace{L_k \sqrt{dt}}_{\text{kth jump}} \quad (k \geq 1)$$

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- Observables defined for stochastic trajectory $\Gamma = \{(t_1, k_1), \dots, (t_J, k_J)\}$

$$\phi(\Gamma) := \sum_{i=1}^J c_{k_i} \quad c_k: \text{coefficient associated with } k \text{th jump}$$

e.g., entropy flux ($c_k = \Delta s_k$), number of jumps ($c_k = 1$)

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- Currents: $c_k = -c_{k^*}$ (time-antisymmetry)

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- similar result can be obtained for quantum diffusion unraveling

Application to heat engines

Application to heat engines

- Power-efficiency trade-off for steady-state heat engines

$$P \frac{\eta}{\eta_C - \eta} \frac{T_c (1 + \delta_P)^2}{D_P} \leq \frac{1}{2}$$

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$(1 + \delta_P)^2 = O(\eta_C - \eta) \mapsto$ possible to achieve Carnot efficiency at finite power
without divergent power fluctuation?

Application to quantum clocks

- Precision of quantum clocks is limited by both dissipation and coherence

ϕ : number of clock cycles

$$\mathcal{N} := \frac{\langle \phi \rangle}{\text{Var}[\phi]}: \text{clock precision}$$

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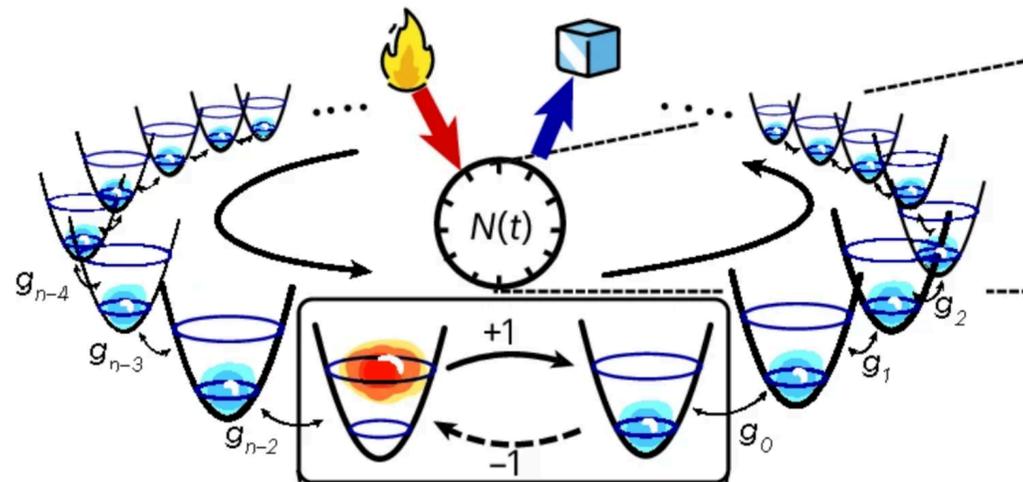
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cf. $\mathcal{N} = O(e^{\Sigma_{\text{tick}}})$ Meier+, Nat. Phys. (2025)

arXiv > quant-ph > arXiv:2508.21567

Universal Precision Limits in General Open Quantum Systems

Tan Van Vu,^{1,*} Ryotaro Honma,¹ and Keiji Saito²

¹*Center for Gravitational Physics and Quantum Information,
Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University,
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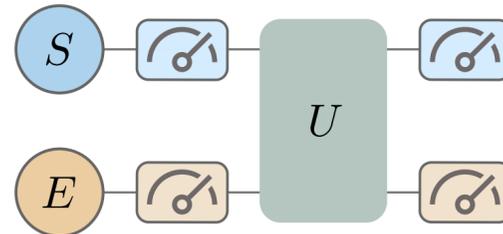
General open quantum dynamics - setup

- General unitary dynamics

$$\dot{Q}_t = - [H, Q_t]$$

$$H = H_S + H_E + H_I$$

(a)



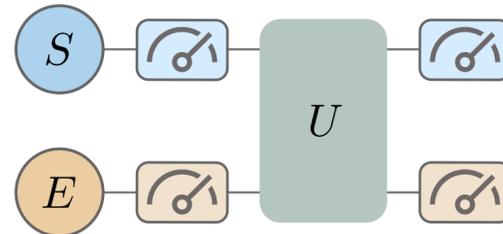
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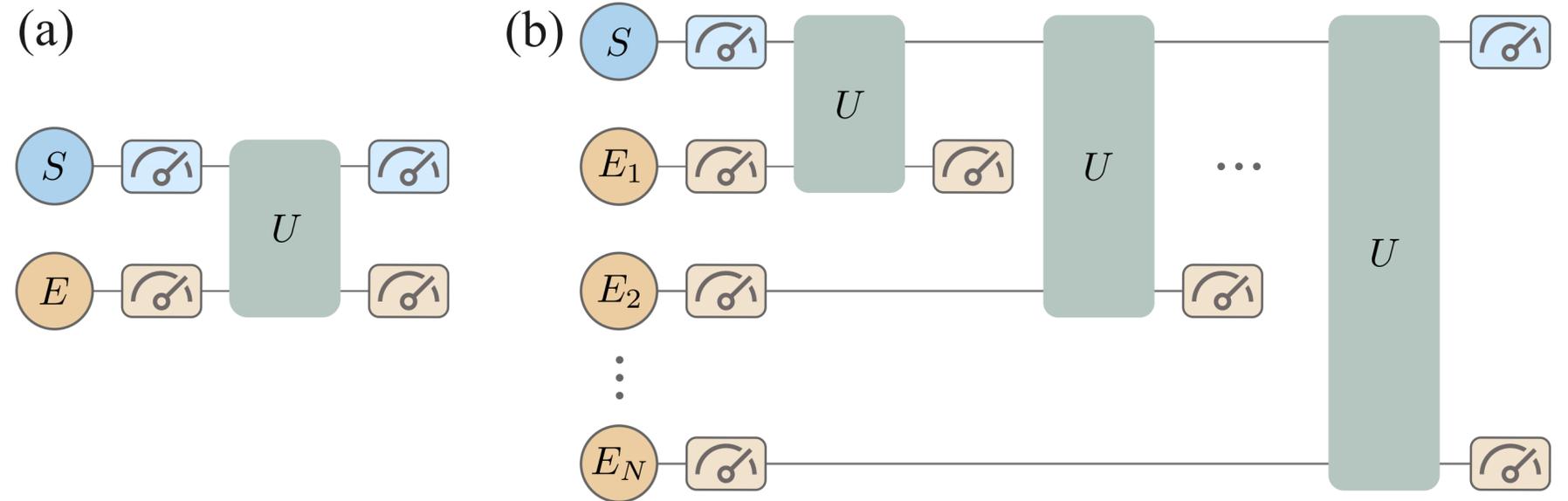
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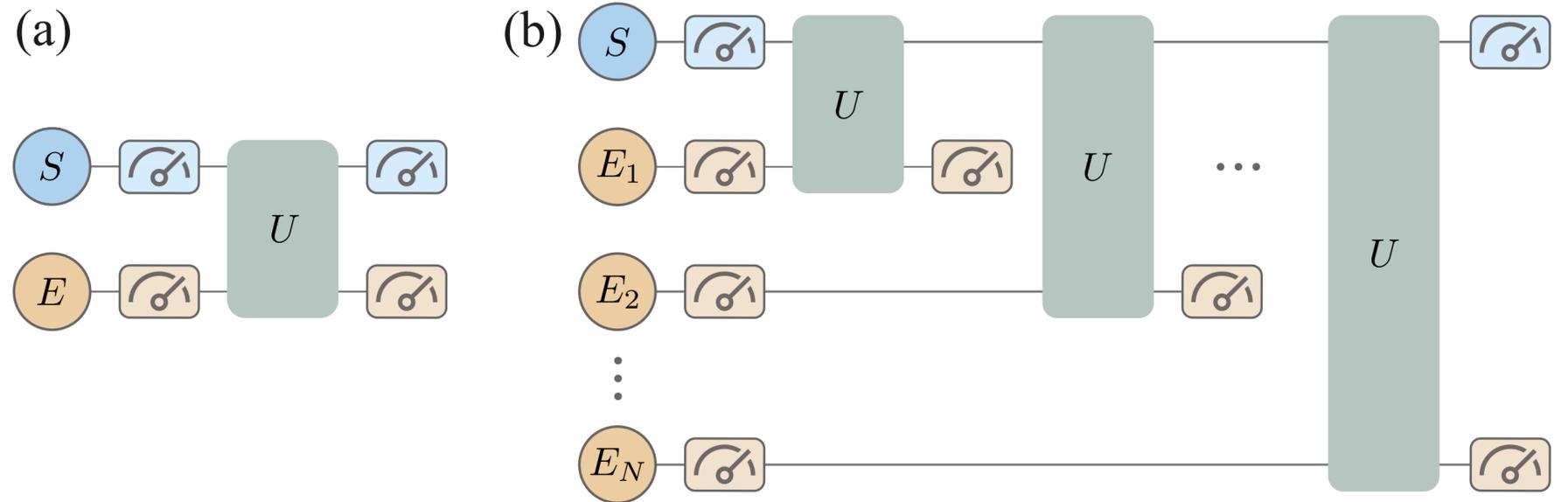
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Σ_* : **asymmetry induced by dynamical factors** (e.g., coherence, entanglement, magnetic fields)

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PRL 123, 110602 (2019)

PRL 123, 090604 (2019)

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- Generalization to arbitrary initial states

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\mathfrak{b} : boundary term

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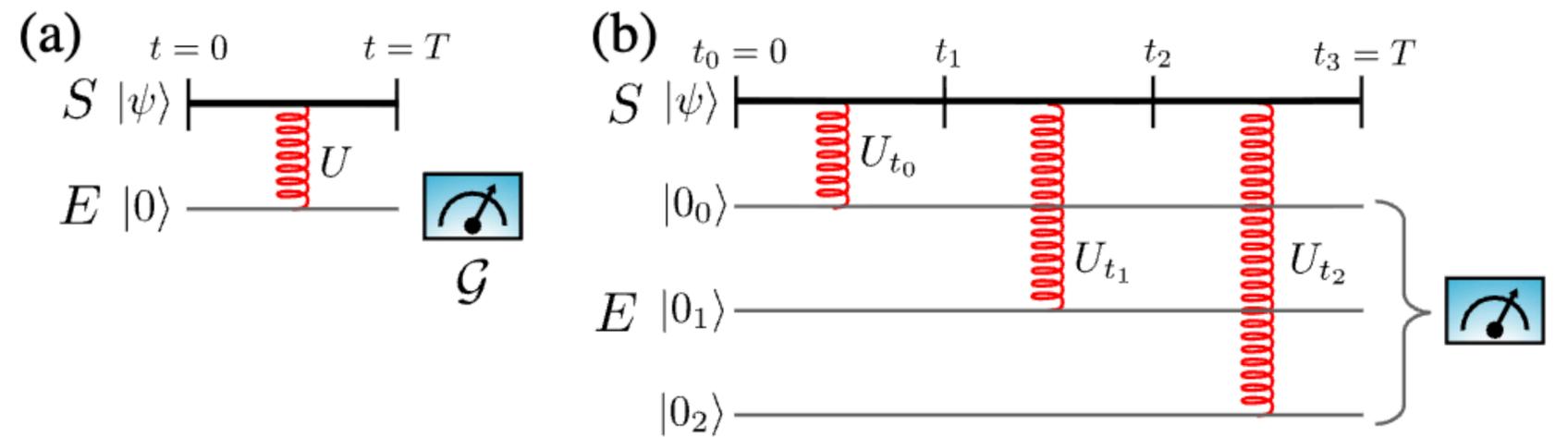
✓ tightens and generalizes previous results

PRL 126, 010602 (2021)

PRL 127, 240602 (2021)

Comparison with previous results

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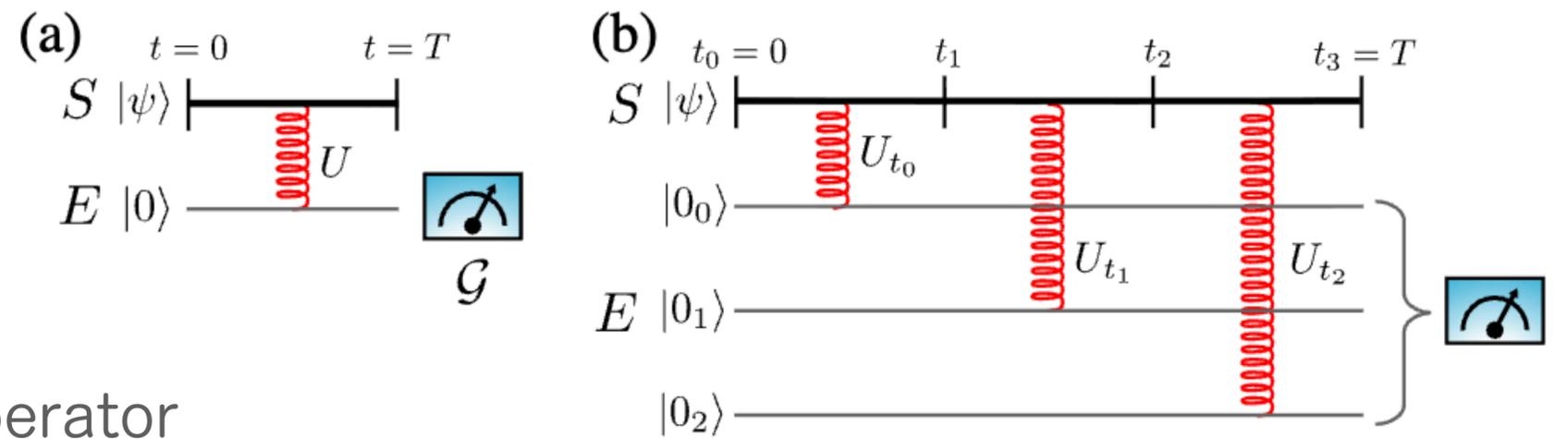
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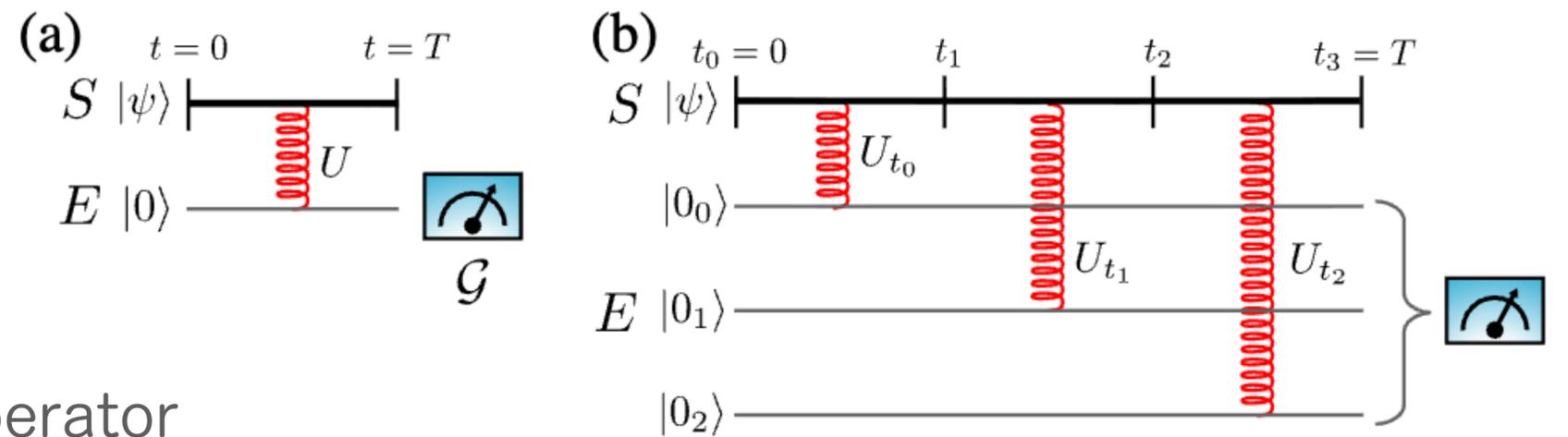
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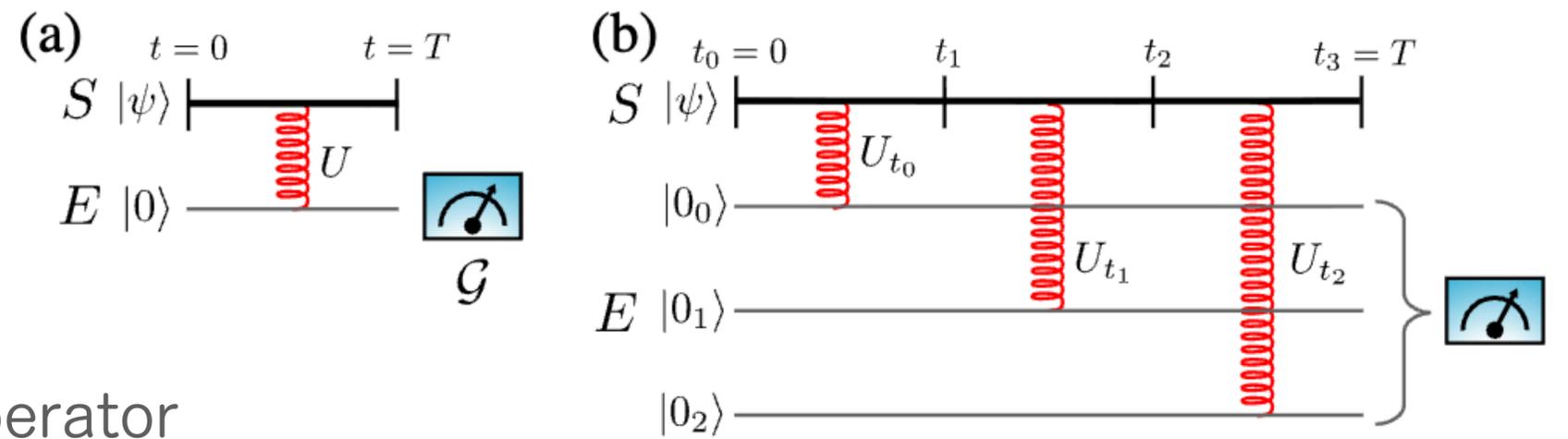
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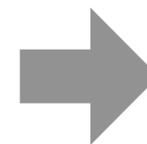
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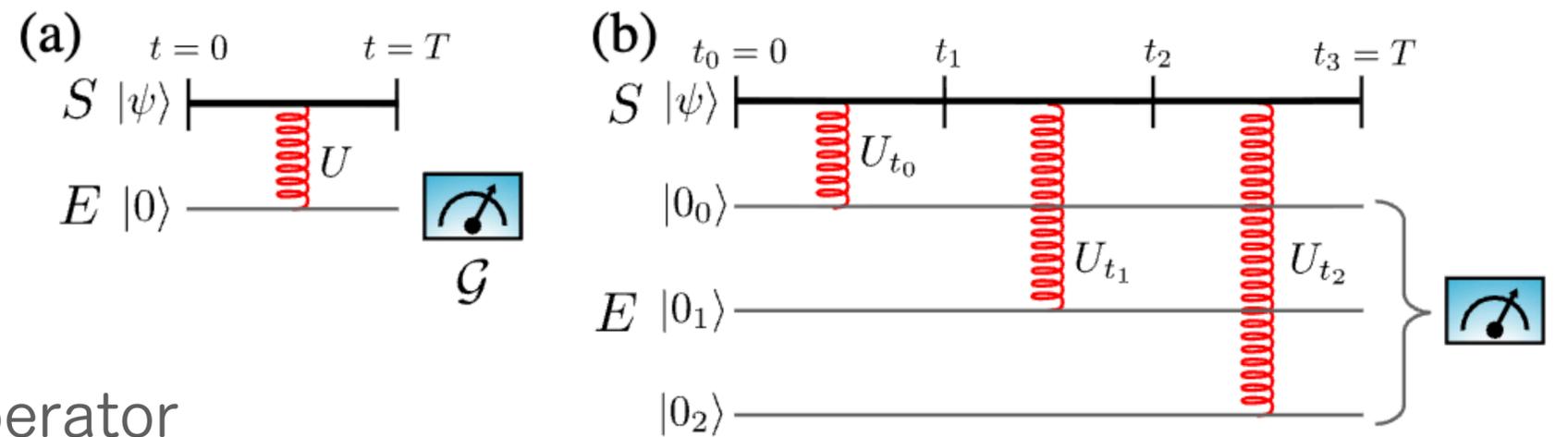
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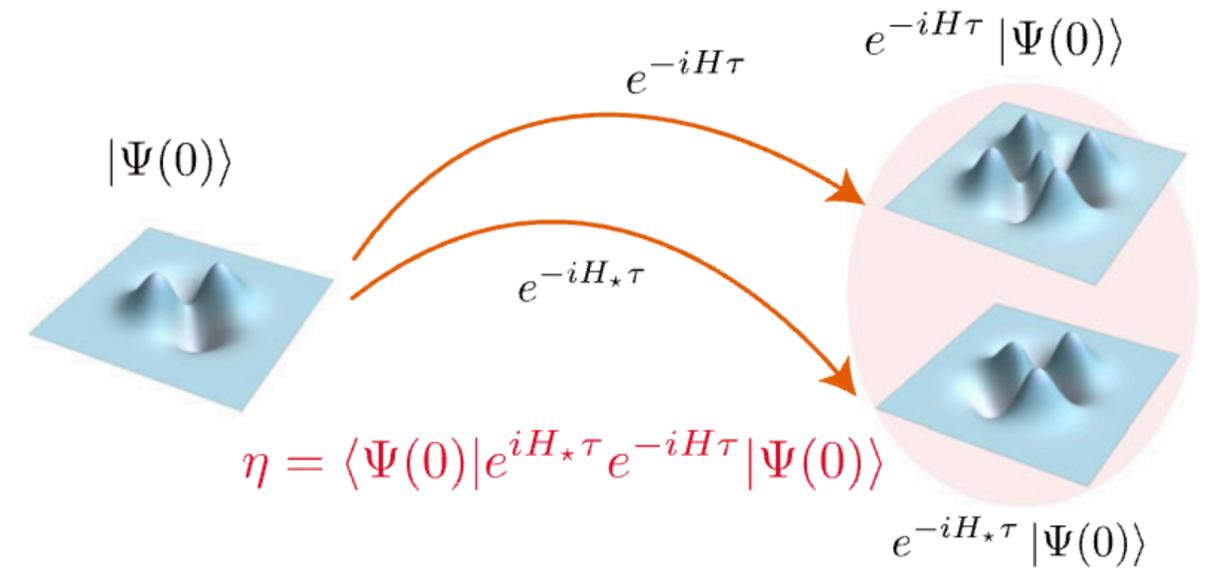


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⇒ generalize and sharpen the previous result

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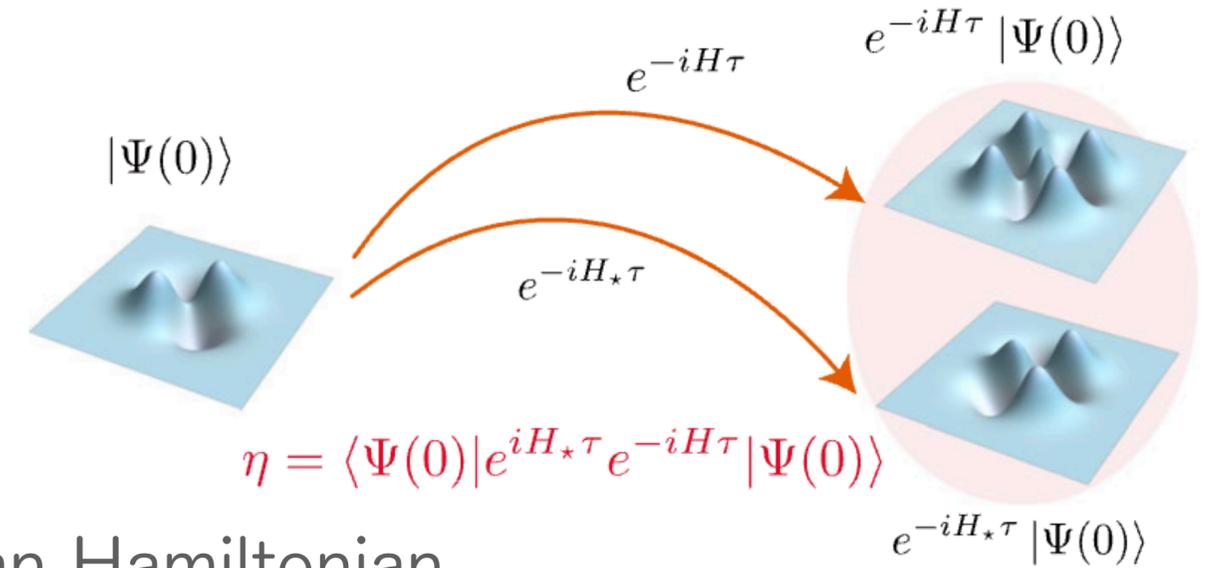
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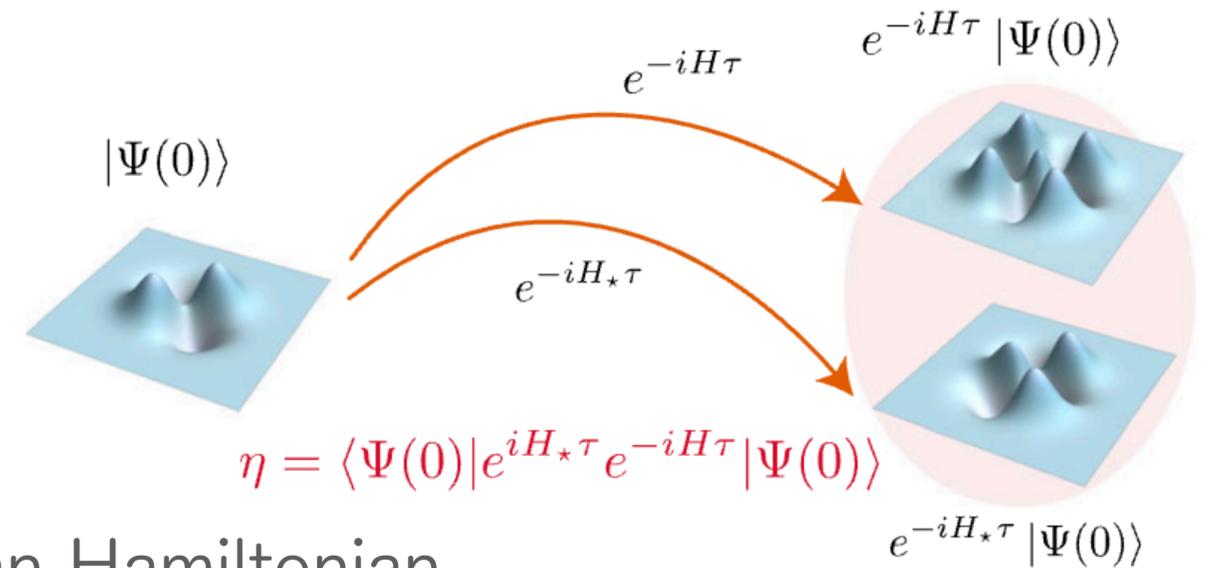
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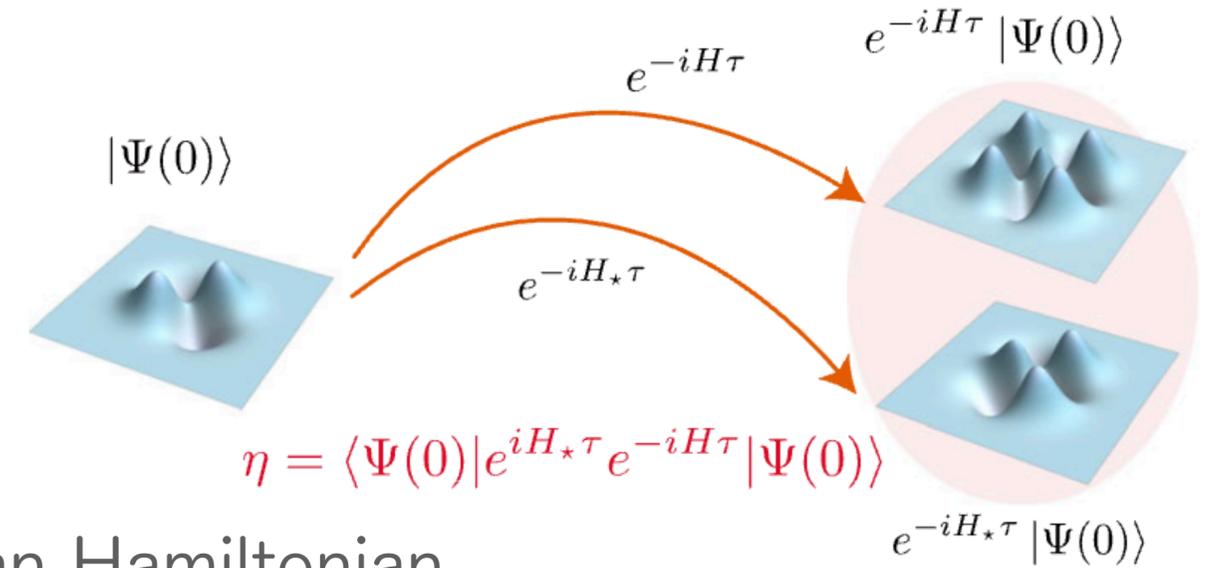
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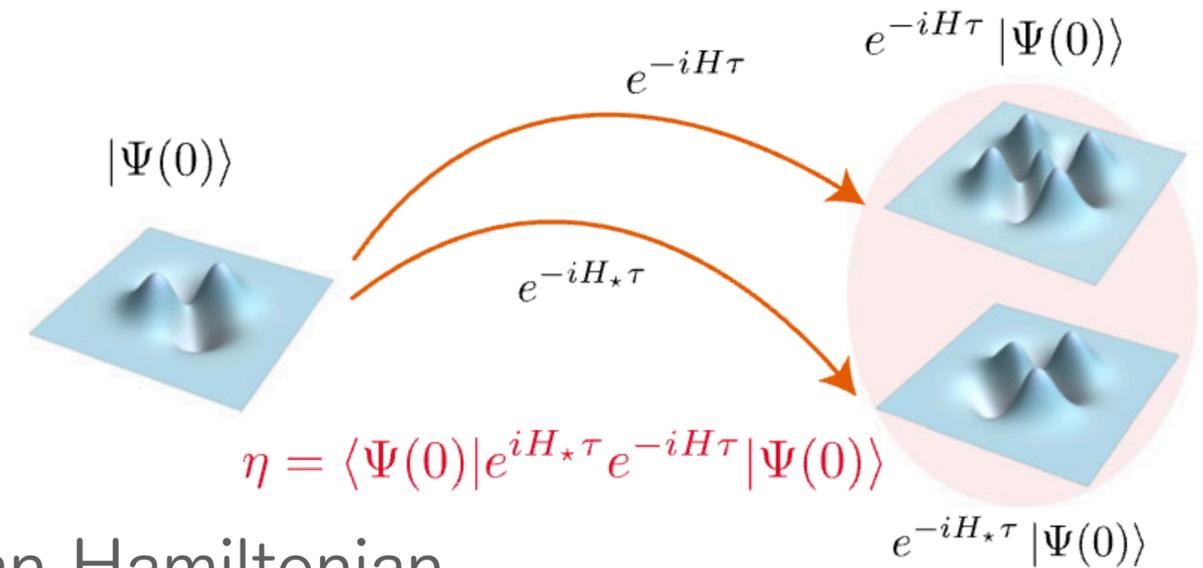
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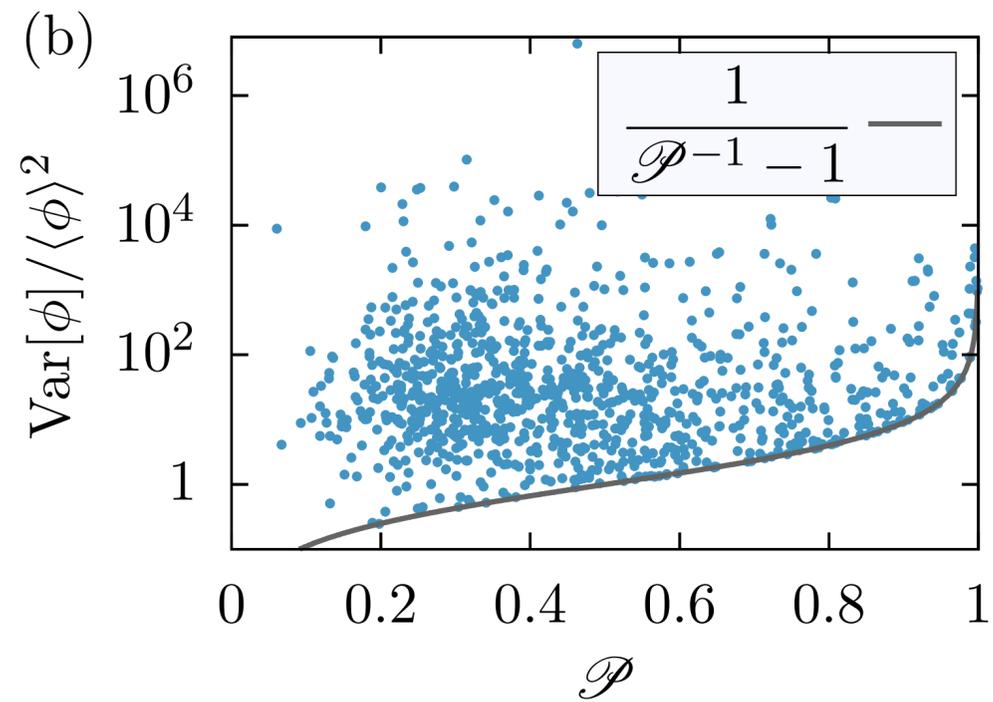
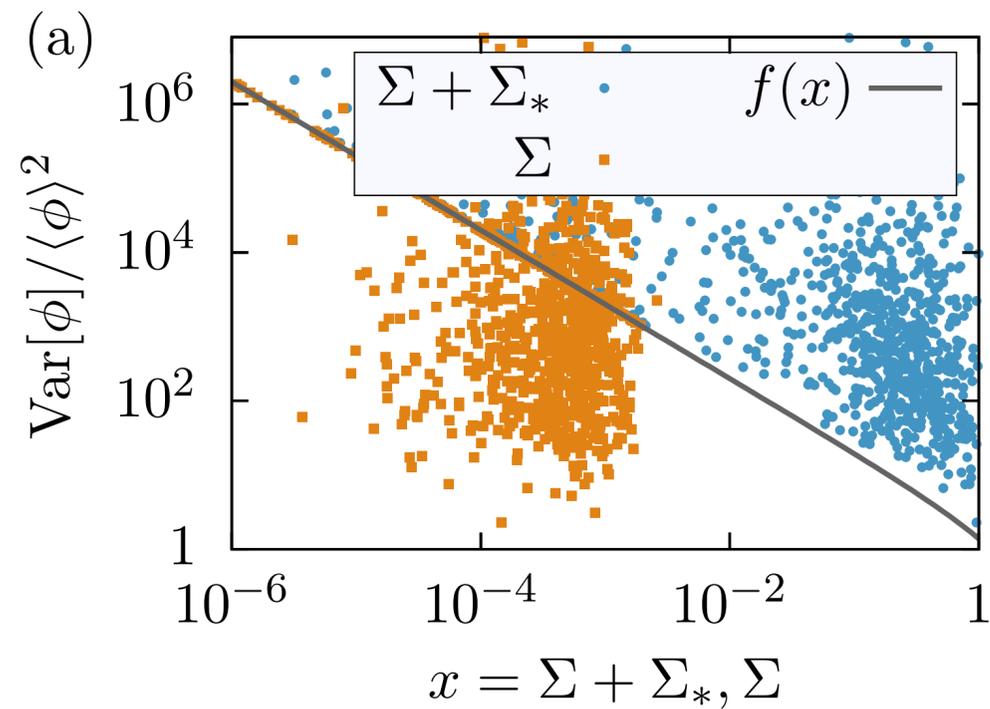
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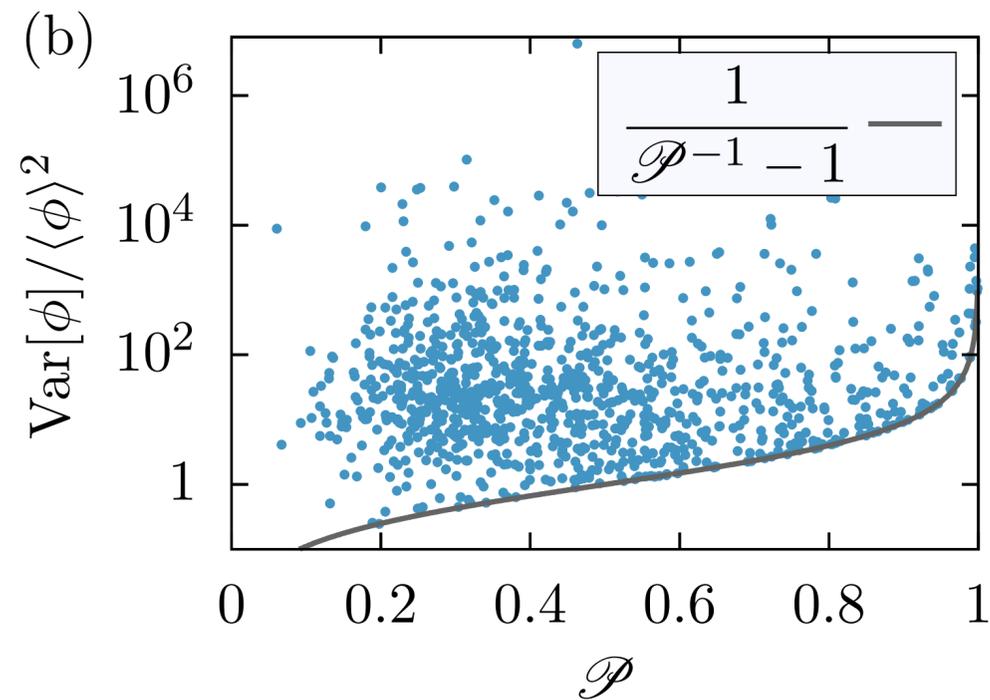
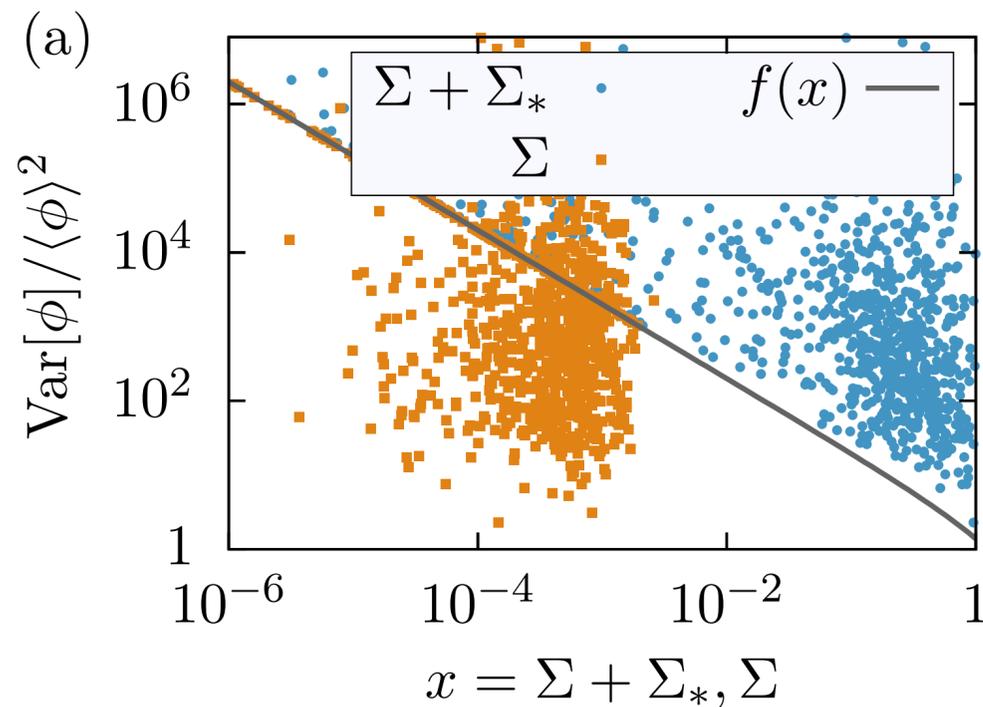


Demonstration - Qubits

$$H = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_z \sigma_z + \omega_x \sigma_x) \otimes \mathbf{1}_E + \mathbf{1}_S \otimes H_E + \lambda V_S \otimes V_E$$

$$\bar{S}_{EE} := \sum_{n,\nu} p_n p_\nu S_{EE}(Q'_{n,\nu}) : \text{average entanglement entropy}$$

$$Q := (\text{Var}[\phi] / \langle \phi \rangle^2) / f(\Sigma) : \text{quality factor}$$

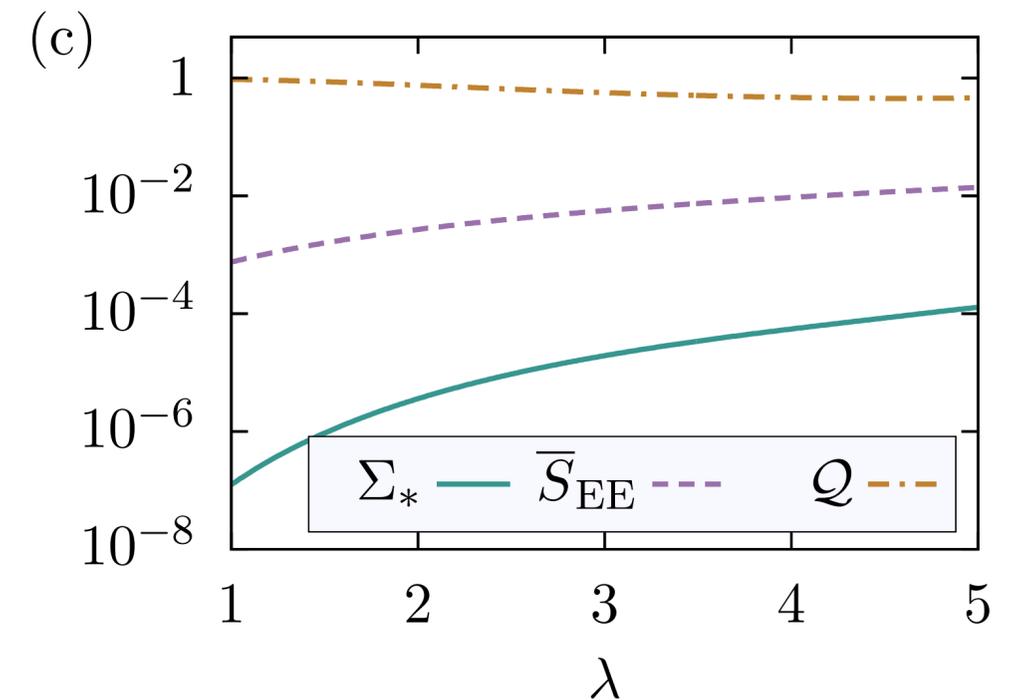
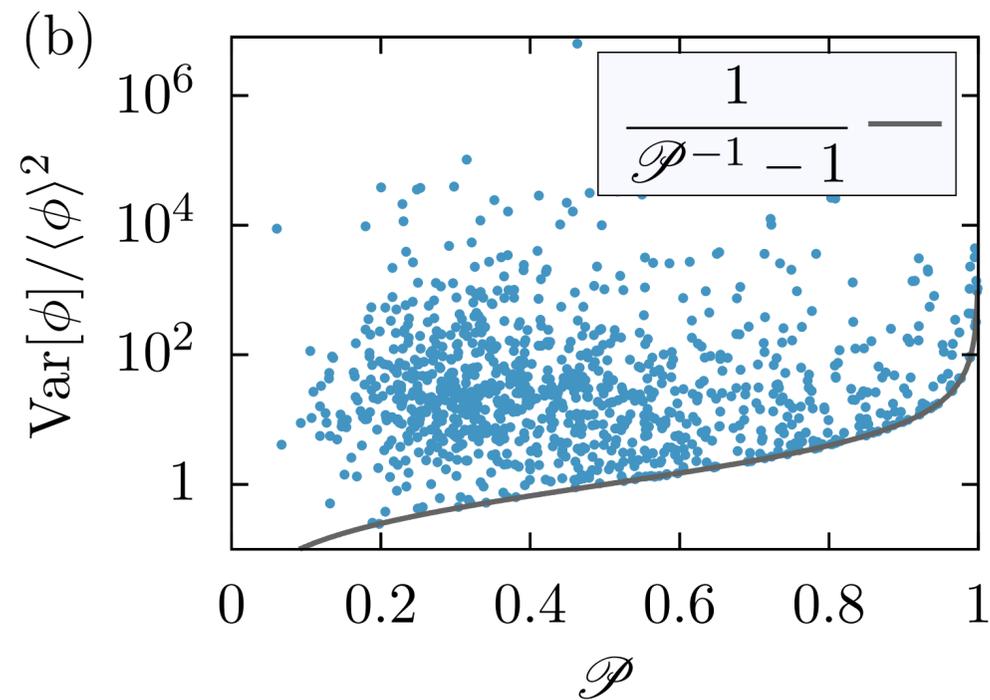
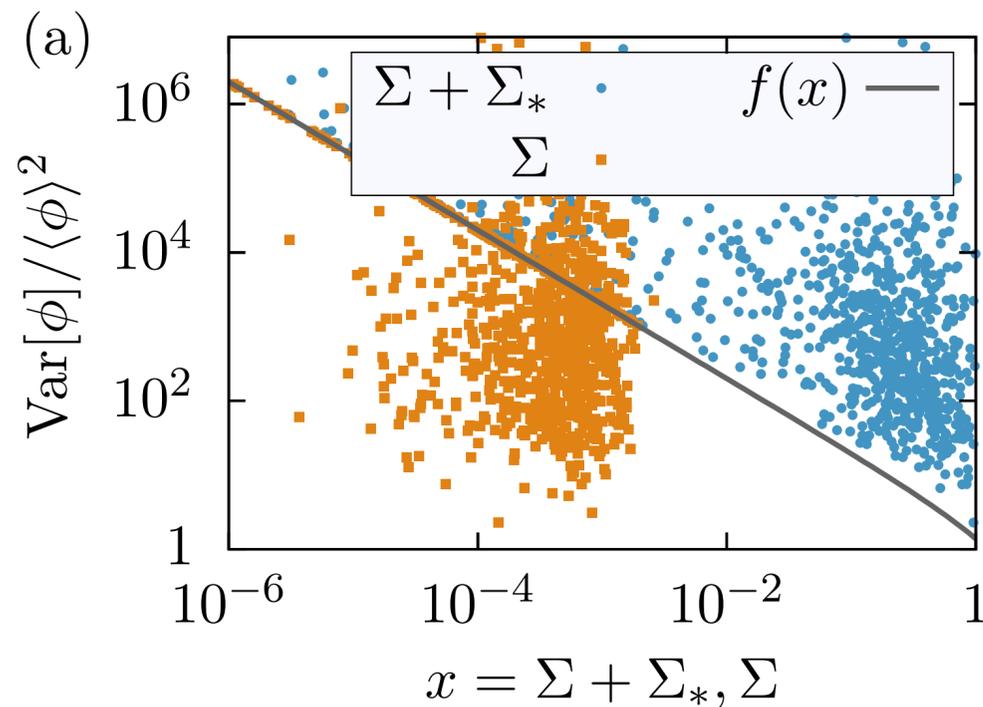


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Open problems

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- Extension to infinite-dimensional environments

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- Improved TUR for only time-extensive currents

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- Improved TUR for only time-extensive currents
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