

# Quantum Computing for Transport and Energy Correlators

Xiaojun Yao



InQubator for Quantum Simulation

University of Washington

Francesco Turro, Anthony Ciavarella, XY, 2402.04221

Francesco Turro, Kyle Lee, XY, 2409.13830

Francesco Turro, XY, 2502.17551

QuantHEP 2025, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab  
October 1, 2025

# Real-Time Correlators

- **Definition**

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_1(t_1) \mathcal{O}_2(t_2) \cdots \mathcal{O}_n(t_n) \rangle_T$$

$T = 0$ , vacuum

$T \neq 0$ , thermal

1. Time-ordered: e.g. in perturbation theory
2. Schwinger-Keldysh contour: out-of-equilibrium dynamics
3. Out-of-time-ordered (OTOC)

- **Contain useful physics information**

Parton distribution function

**Transport coefficients**

Jet/soft function in jet physics

Quantum chaos

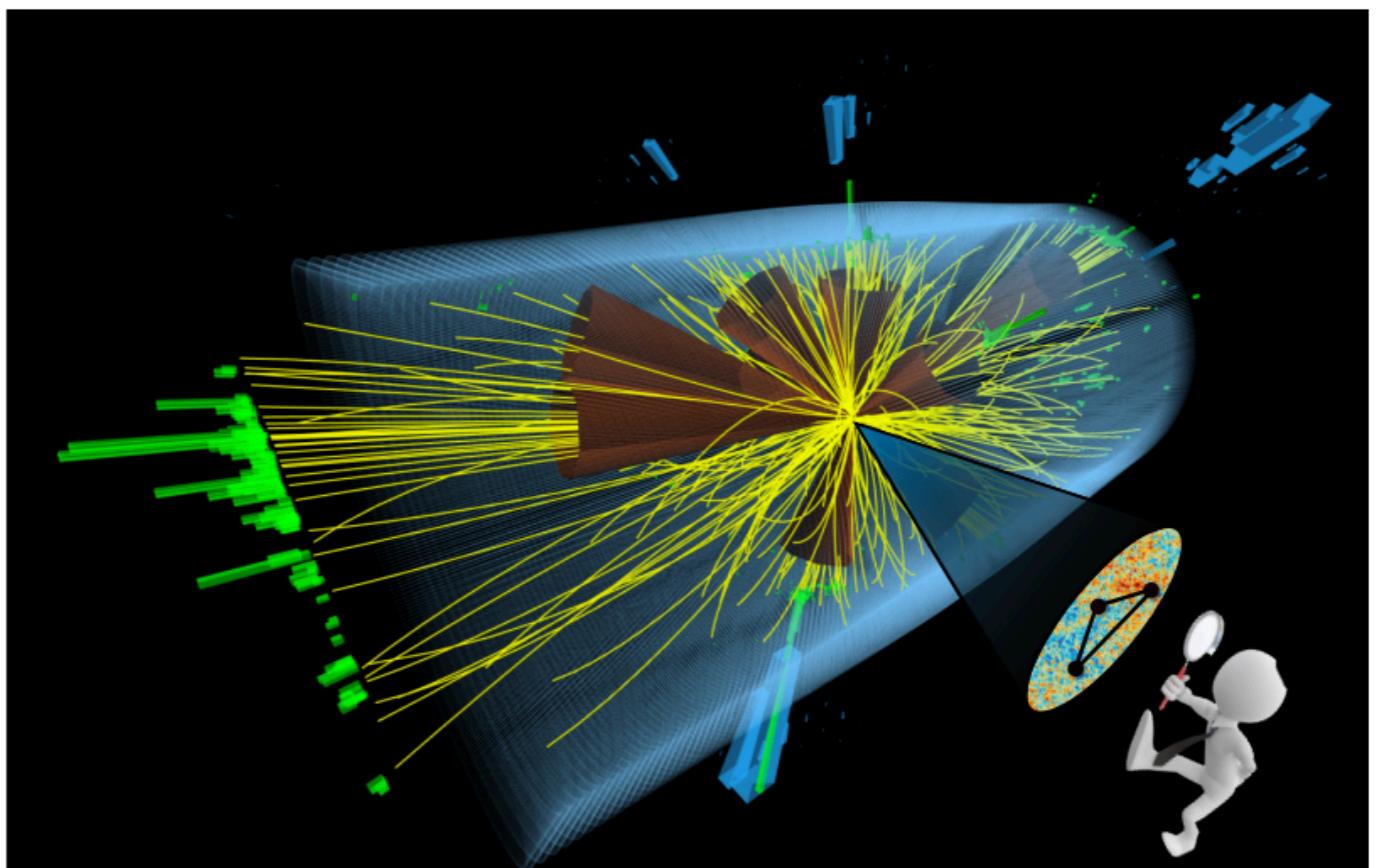
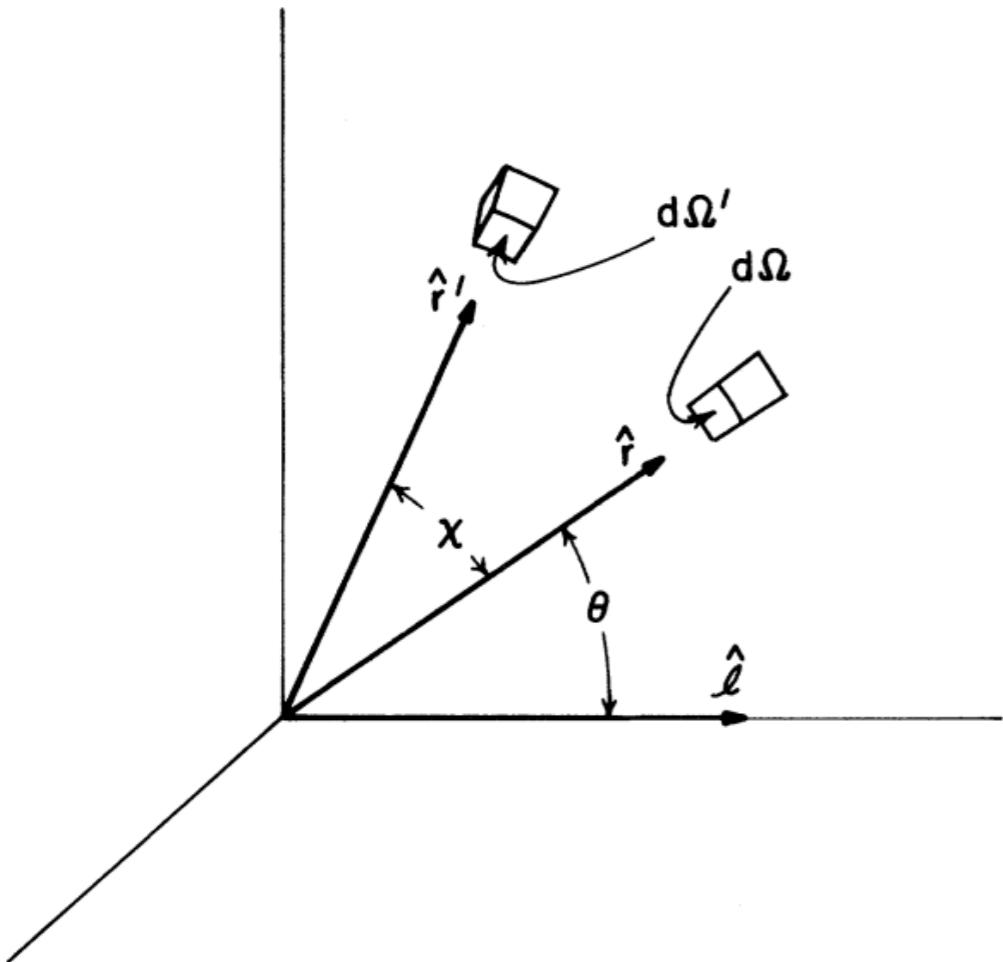
**Energy-energy correlators**

And more

# **Energy Correlators**

# Introduction 1: Energy Correlators

- Correlations of energy flow in collider events



Sterman ILL-TH-75-32 (1975)

Basham, Brown, Ellis, and Love,  
PRL 41, 1585 (1978)

# Introduction 1: Energy Correlators

- **Field theory definition**

Energy flow operator from  $T_{0i}$

$$\mathcal{E}(\theta) = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} r^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt n^i T_i^0(t, r\vec{n}^i)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{E}(\theta_1) \cdots \mathcal{E}(\theta_n) \rangle \equiv \frac{\langle 0 | \mathcal{O}^\dagger \mathcal{E}(\theta_1) \cdots \mathcal{E}(\theta_n) \mathcal{O} | 0 \rangle}{\langle 0 | \mathcal{O}^\dagger \mathcal{O} | 0 \rangle}$$

- **Conformal field theory**

Strong coupling: flat in  $\theta$

$$\langle \mathcal{E}(\theta_1) \cdots \mathcal{E}(\theta_n) \rangle = \left( \frac{Q}{4\pi} \right)^n$$

Hofman, Maldacena, 0803.1467

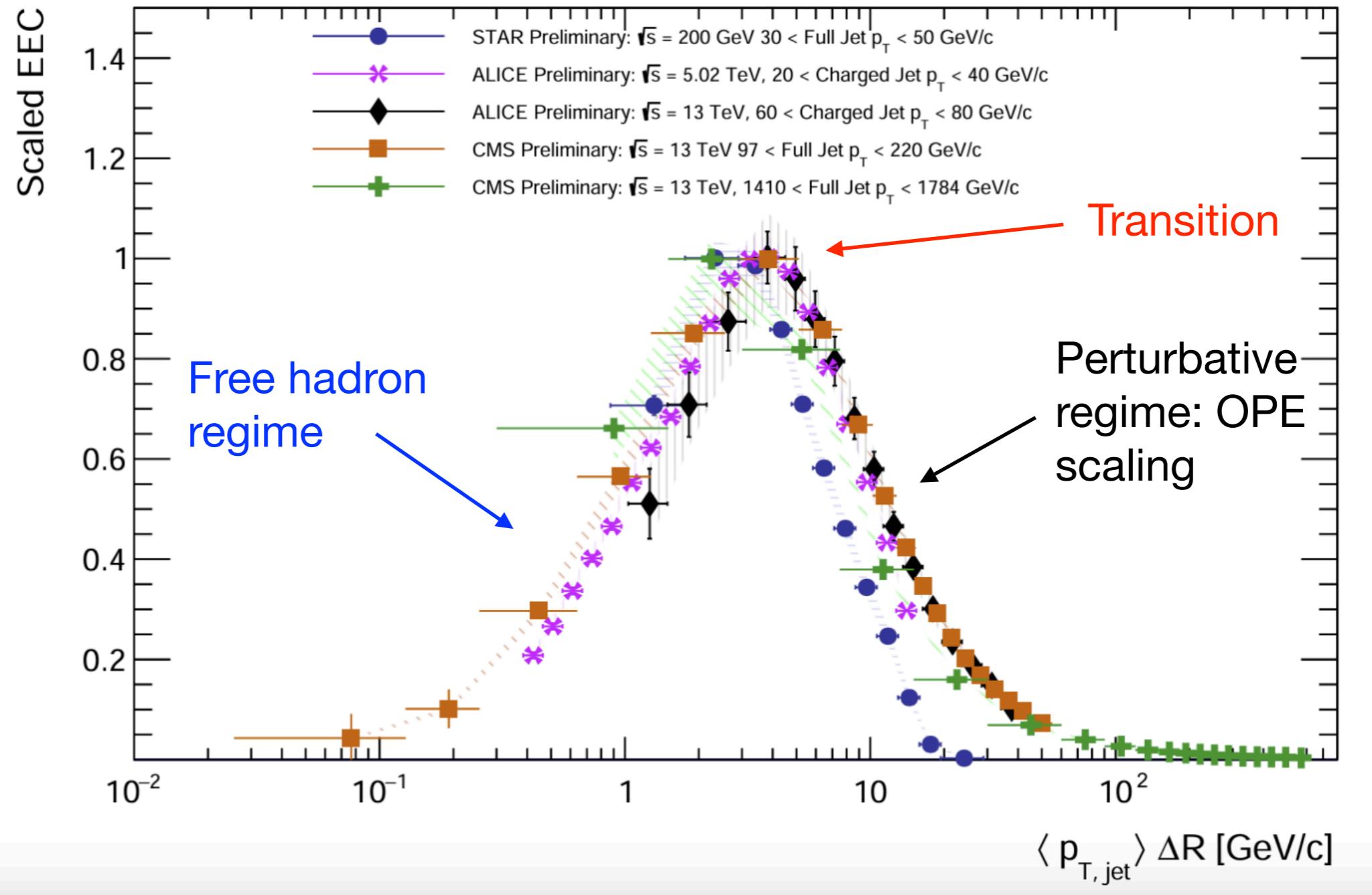
Weak coupling: OPE at small angle:, scaling controlled by anomalous dimension

$$\langle \mathcal{E}(\theta_1) \mathcal{E}(\theta_2) \cdots \rangle \sim \sum_n |\theta_{12}|^{\tau_n - 4} \langle \mathcal{U}_{3-1,n}(\theta_2) \cdots \rangle$$

# Introduction 1: Experimental Measurement of EEC

- Measurements in jets

Tamis, Hard Probe 2024

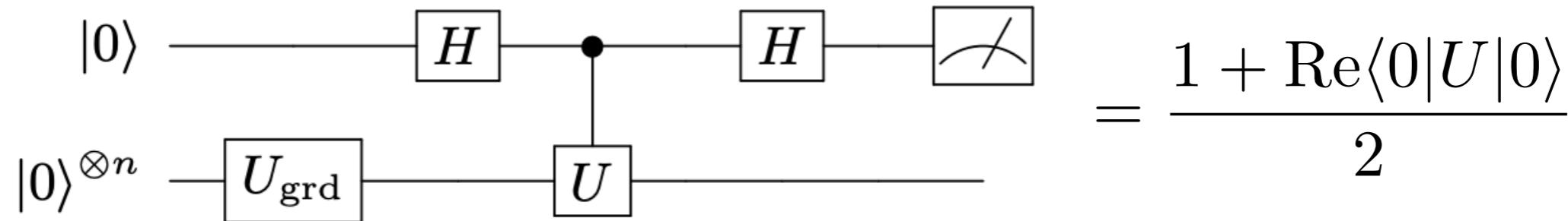


Understanding transition regime requires nonperturbative calculation

# Quantum Algorithm for Real-Time Correlator

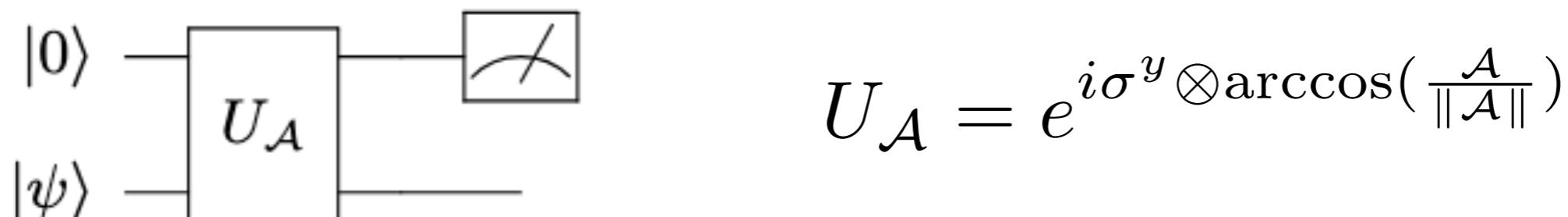
$$\sum_{i=0}^N \int_{t_i}^{\tilde{t}_i} dt_1 \int_{t_i}^{\tilde{t}_i} dt_2 \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) n_1^i T_{0i}(t_1, r_i \vec{n}_1) n_2^j T_{0j}(t_2, r_i \vec{n}_2) \mathcal{O}(0) | 0 \rangle$$

- Hadamard test



$$U = \mathcal{O}^\dagger e^{iHt_1} T_{0i}(r \vec{n}_1) e^{iH(t_2-t_1)} T_{0j}(r \vec{n}_2) e^{-iHt_2} \mathcal{O}$$

- Diluted operator to realize nonunitary operator  $\mathcal{A}$



Success probability  $P_s = \langle \psi | \frac{\mathcal{A}^2}{\|\mathcal{A}\|^2} | \psi \rangle$

# Discretized Time Integration Path

- Energy flux detectors spacelike separated

$$[\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1), \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_2)] = 0$$

Constant time integration not work

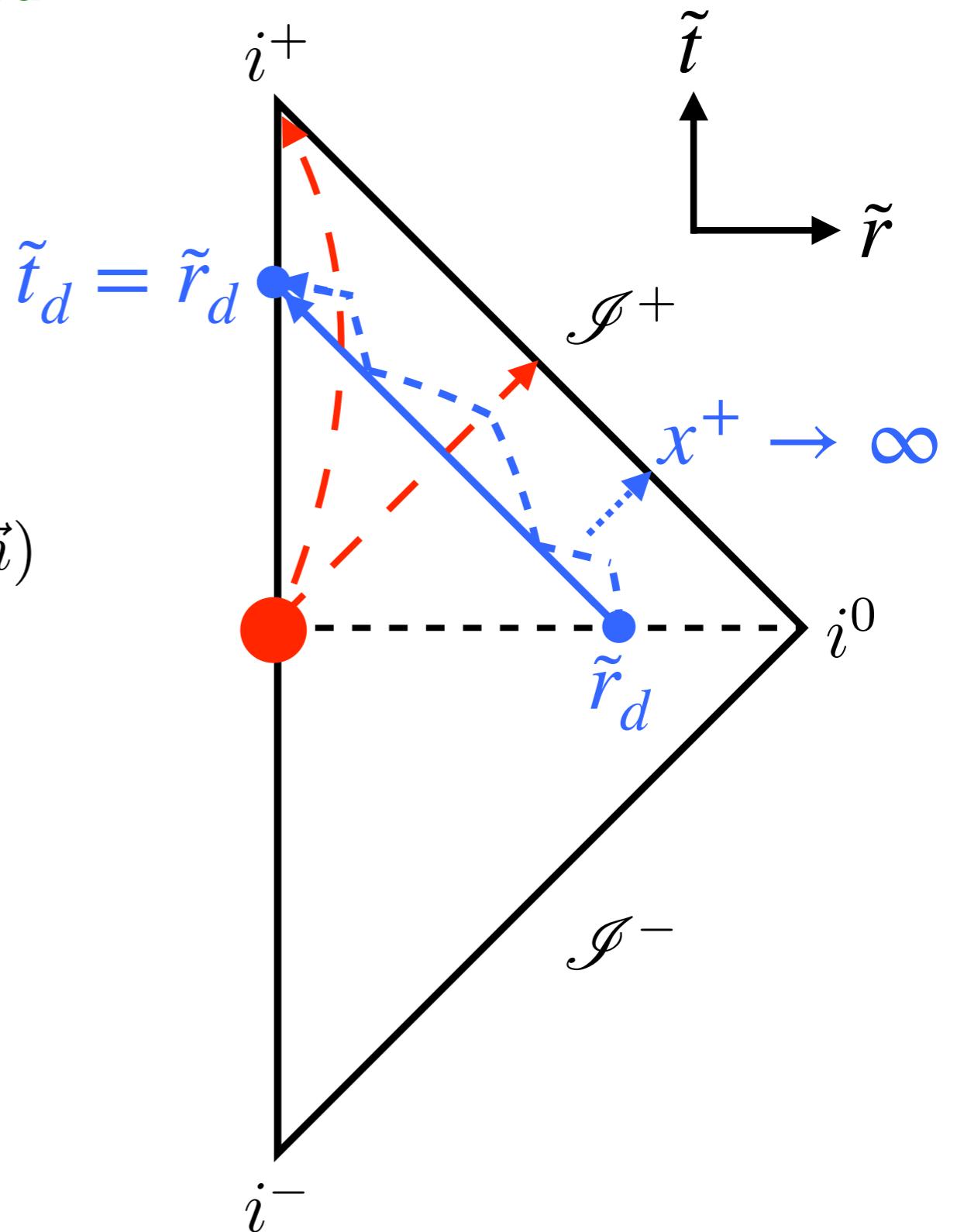
- Integrate along  $x^-$  with  $x^+$  fixed

$$\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}) = \lim_{r \rightarrow \infty} \int_0^\infty dt r^{d-1} n^i T_{0i}(t, r\vec{n})$$

$$\int_0^\infty dt n^i T_{0i} \rightarrow \int_{-x^+}^{x^+} dx^- n^i T_{-i}$$

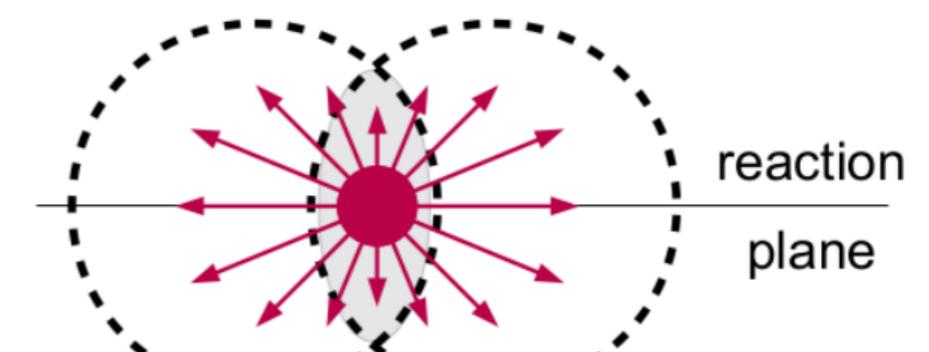
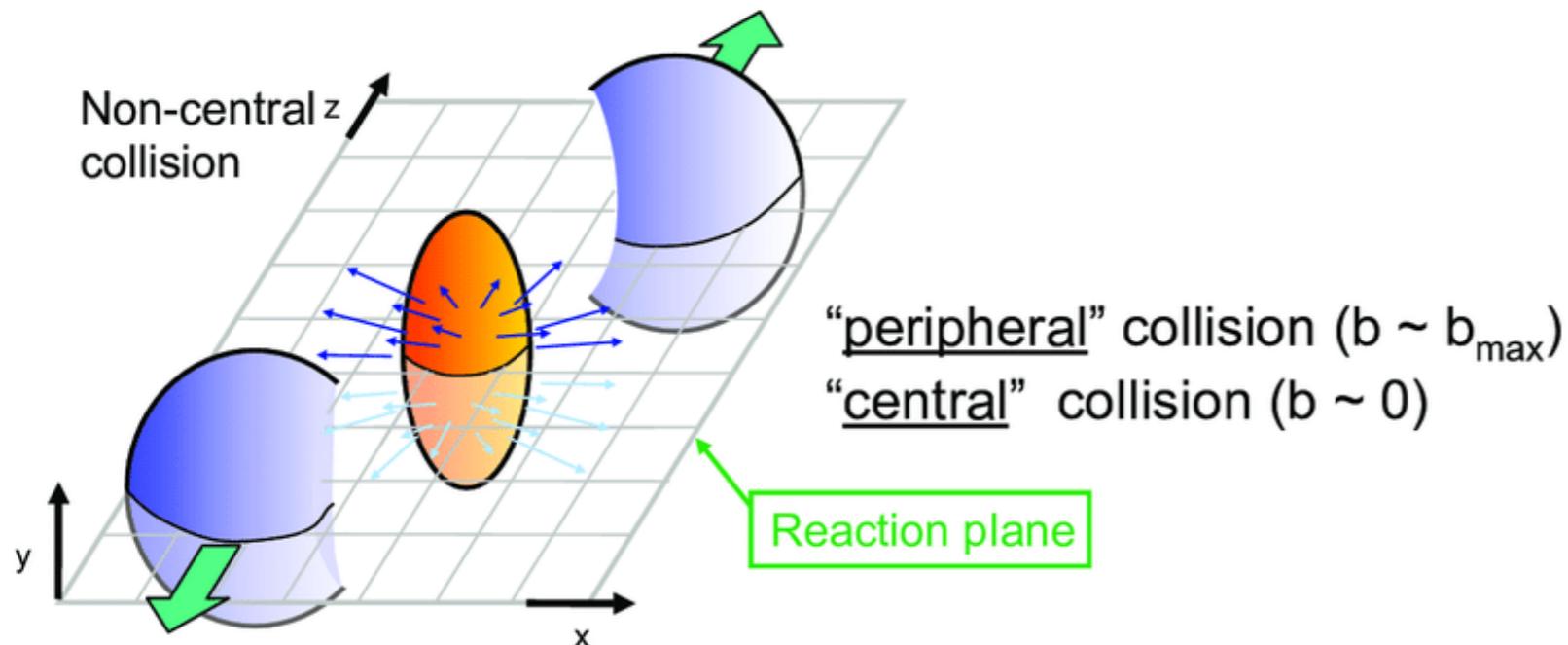
Then take  $x^+ \rightarrow \infty$

- On lattice: zigzag contour



# **Transport Coefficients**

# Introduction 2: Flow in Heavy Ion Collisions



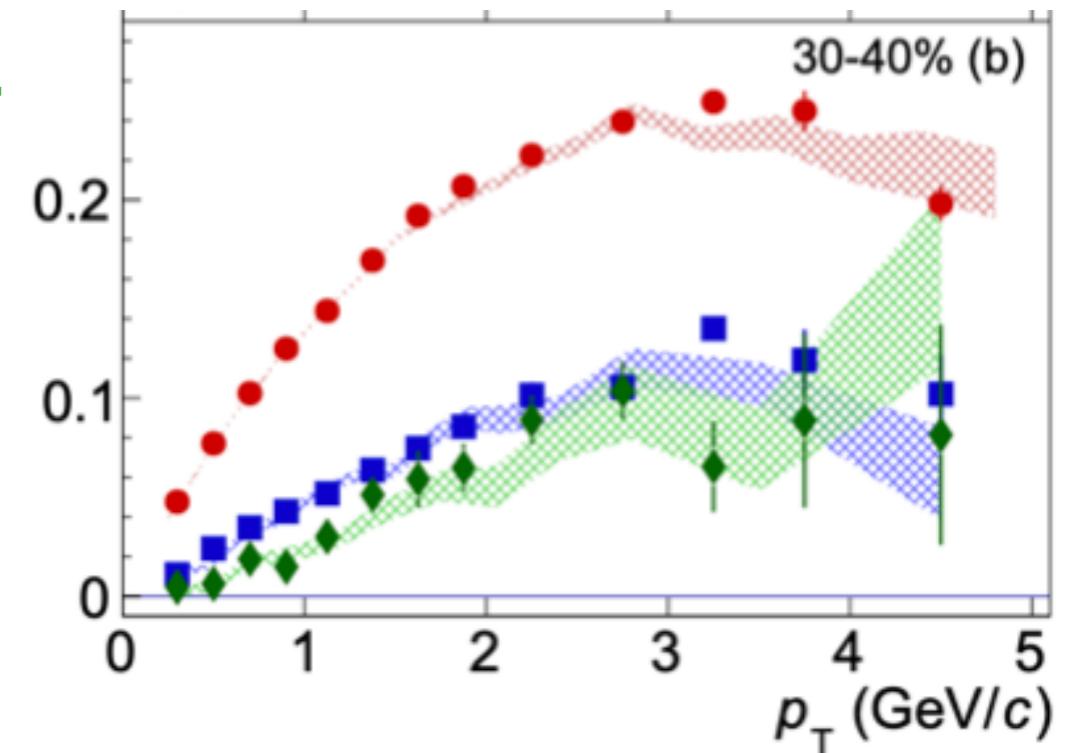
- **Anisotropic distribution → collective behavior**

$$\rho(\phi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[ 1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} v_n \cos(n\phi) \right]$$

Flow coefficients

$v_2$ : elliptic flow,

$v_3$ : triangular flow



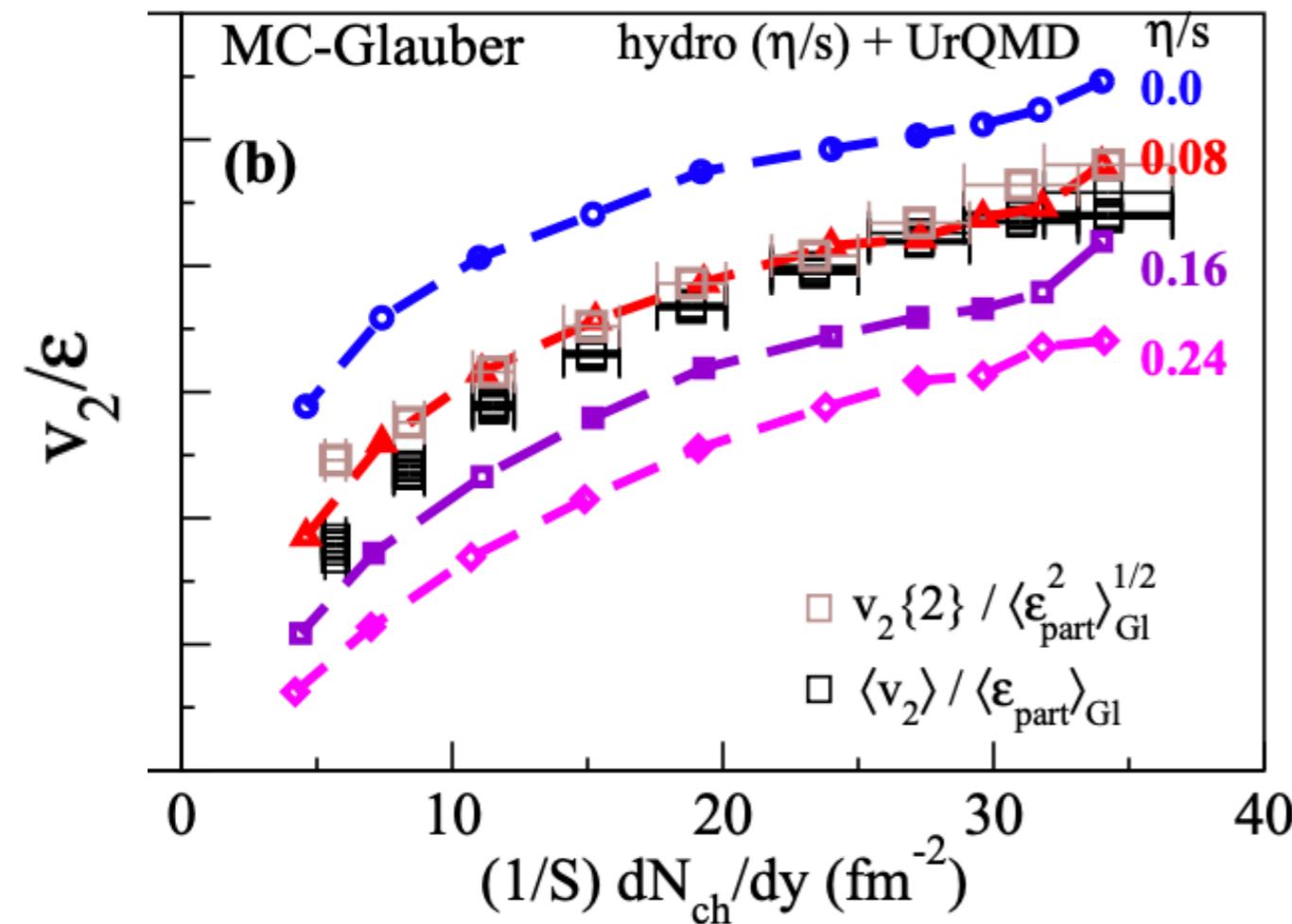
ALICE, 1602.01119

# Introduction 2: Flow and Shear Viscosity

- Relativistic hydrodynamic calculations indicate a small shear viscosity works

$$\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (\varepsilon + P)u^\mu u^\nu - Pg^{\mu\nu} + 2\eta \nabla^{\langle\mu} u^{\nu\rangle}$$



$\eta/s = 0.08$  best describes data

$\eta/s \sim 1000$  for air

$\eta/s \sim 10$  for water

Calculating shear viscosity in QCD is hard

Moore, 2010.15704

# Shear Viscosity from Linear Response

- Kubo formula: transport determined by real-time correlation function

$$\eta = \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \omega} G_r^{xy}(\omega)$$

Baier, Romatschke, Son, Starinets, Stephanov, 0712.2451

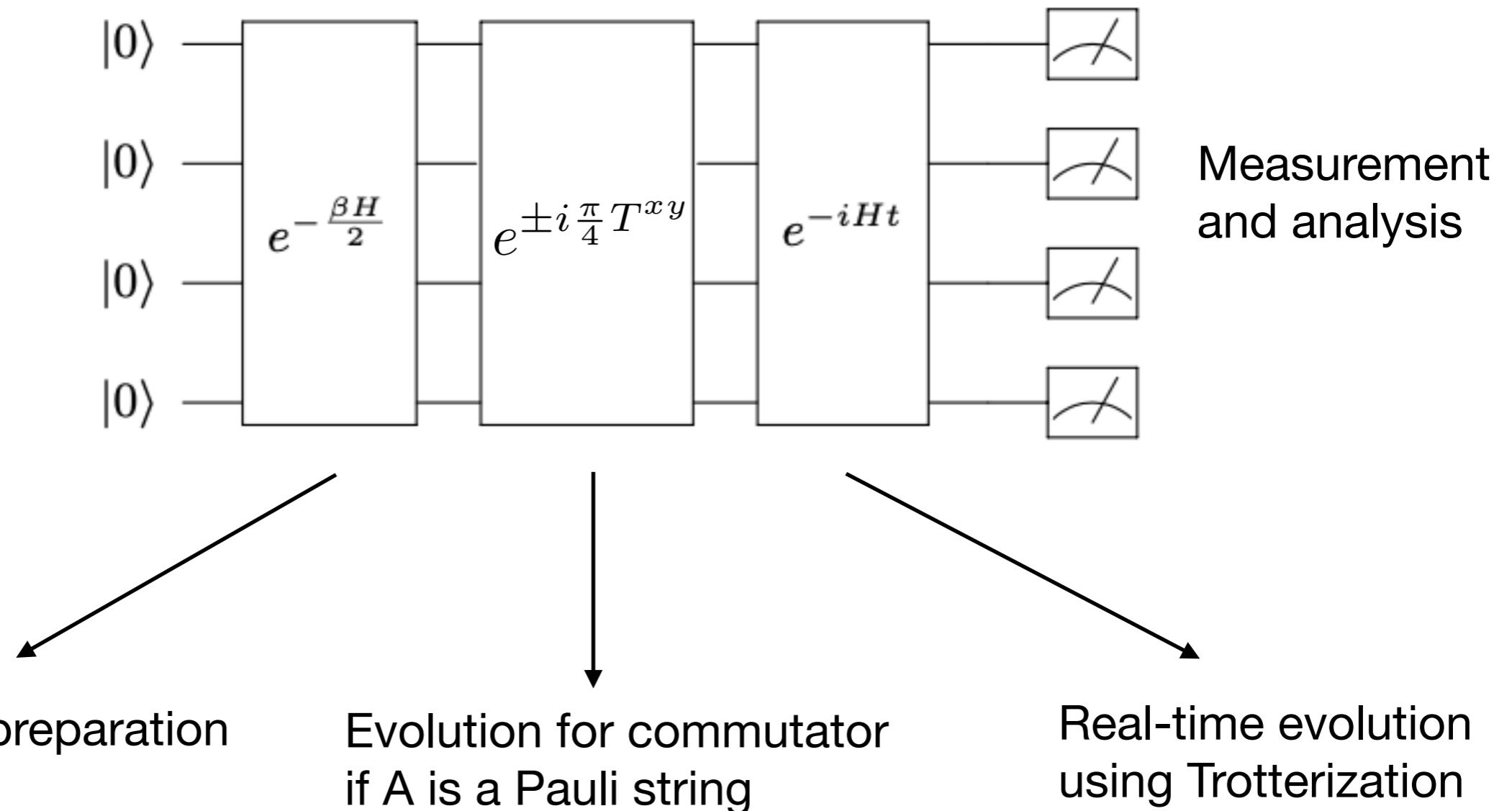
- Retarded Green's function of  $T^{xy}$

$$G_r^{xy}(t, \mathbf{x}) \equiv \theta(t) \text{Tr}([T^{xy}(t, \mathbf{x}), T^{xy}(0, \mathbf{0})] \rho_T)$$

$$\rho_T = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta H}$$

# A Quantum Algorithm for Retarded Correlator

- An overview



$$[A, B] = -i \left( e^{-i \frac{\pi}{4} A} B e^{i \frac{\pi}{4} A} - e^{i \frac{\pi}{4} A} B e^{-i \frac{\pi}{4} A} \right)$$

# Quantum Imaginary Time Propagation

- Initialization:  $n_s$  system qubits +  $(n_s + 1)$  ancillas

Hadamard + CNOT + measurements give maximally mixed state

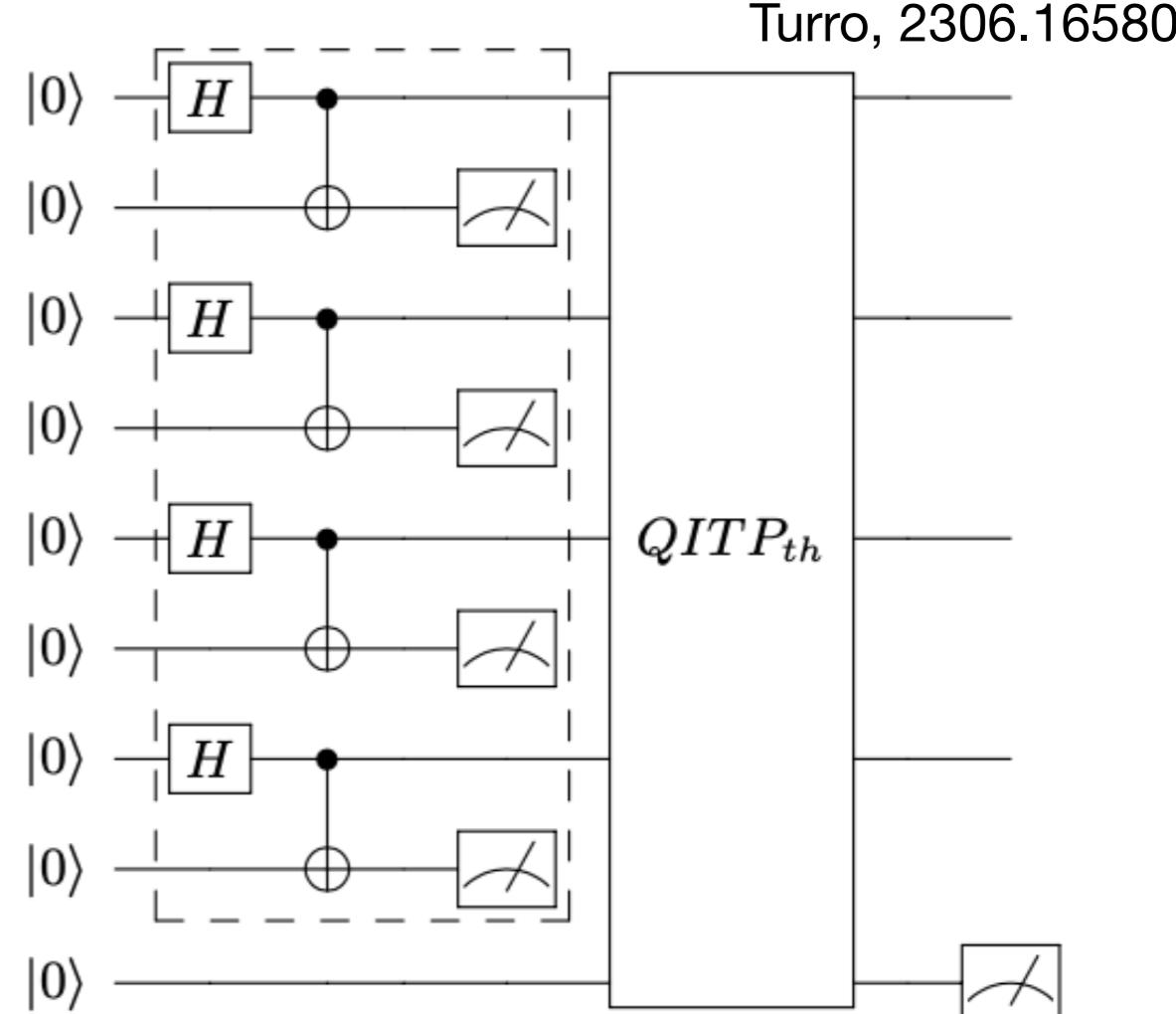
$$\rho_s = \frac{1}{2^{n_s}} \mathbf{1}_{2^{n_s} \times 2^{n_s}}$$

- Quantum imaginary time propagation

$$QITP_{th} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p} e^{-\tau(H - E_T)} & \sqrt{1 - p} e^{-2\tau(H - E_T)} \\ -\sqrt{1 - p} e^{-2\tau(H - E_T)} & \sqrt{p} e^{-\tau(H - E_T)} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Measure the ancilla, success if  $|0\rangle$  returned

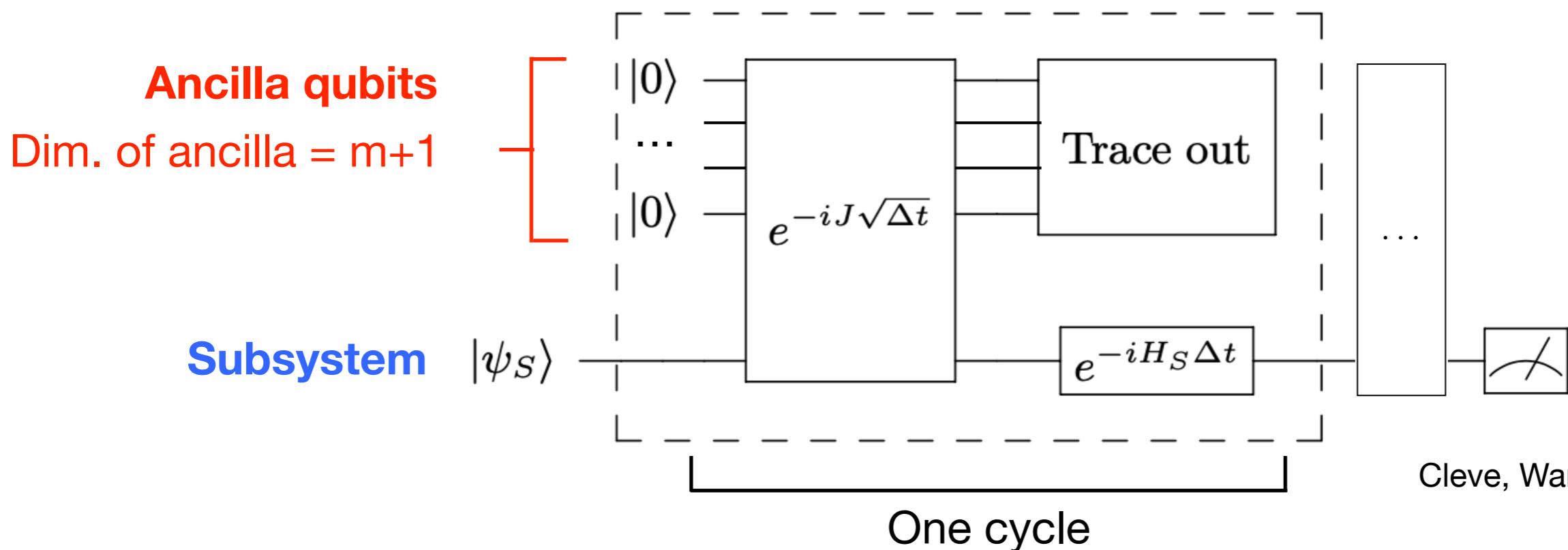
Success probability decays **exponentially** with system size



# Thermal State Preparation: Open Quantum System

- Lindblad equation in quantum Brownian motion limit, steady state  $\approx$  thermal

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = -i[H_S, \rho] + \sum_{j=1}^m (L_j \rho L_j^\dagger - \frac{1}{2}\{L_j^\dagger L_j, \rho\}) \equiv \mathcal{L}\rho$$



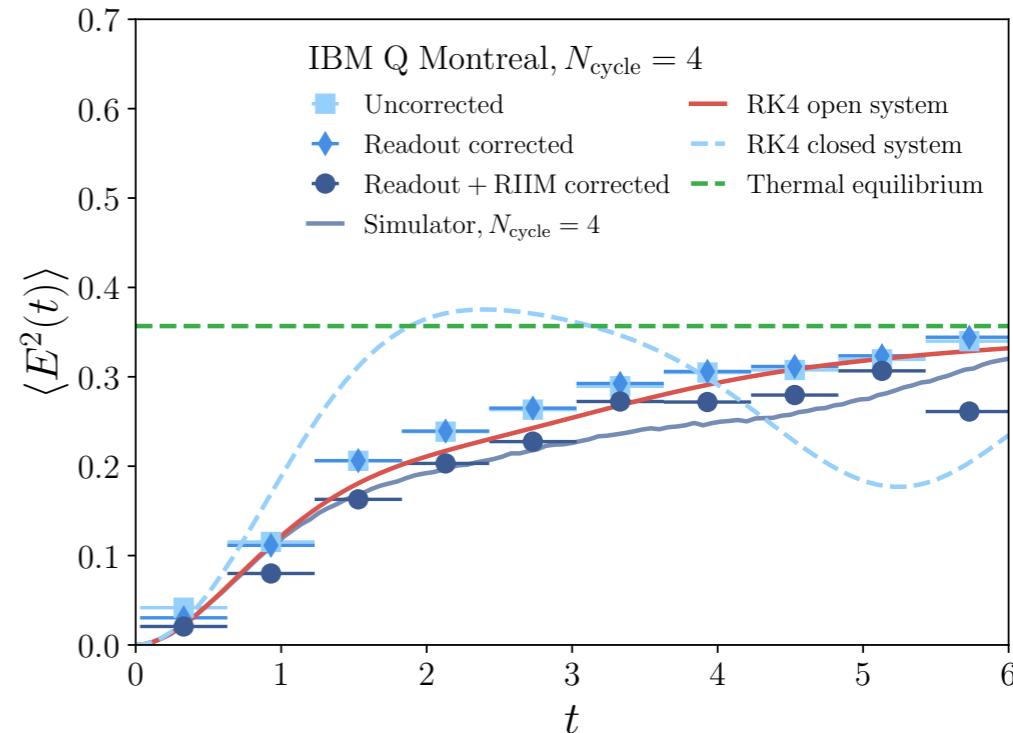
$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & L_1^\dagger & \dots & L_m^\dagger \\ L_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ L_m & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Reproduce Lindblad equation if expanded to linear order in  $\Delta t$

# Efficient Thermal State Preparation: OQS

- Implementation on IBM hardware for Schwinger model

de Jong, Lee, Mulligan, Ploskon,  
Ringer and XY, 2106.08394



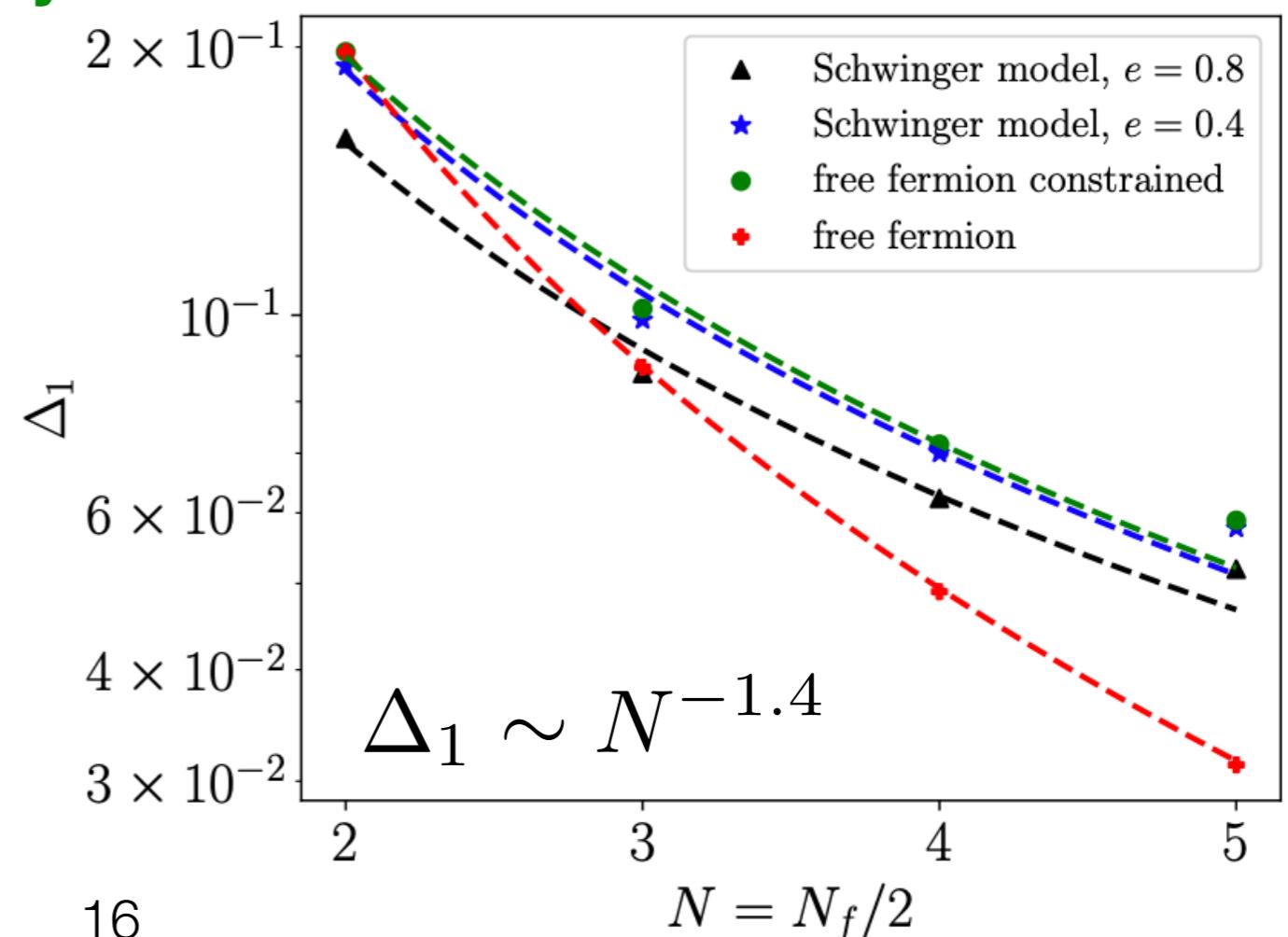
- Equilibration time scales polynomially

$$\rho(t) = \rho_0 + \sum_j c_j e^{\lambda_j t} \rho_j^R$$



$$\text{Liouvillian gap } \Delta_1 = - \operatorname{Re} \lambda_j$$

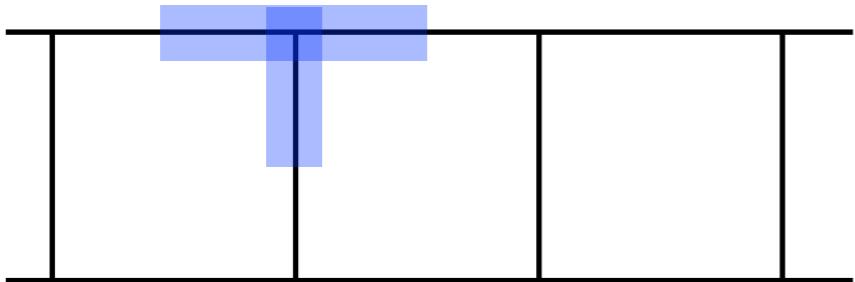
Lee, Mulligan, Ringer and XY, 2308.03878



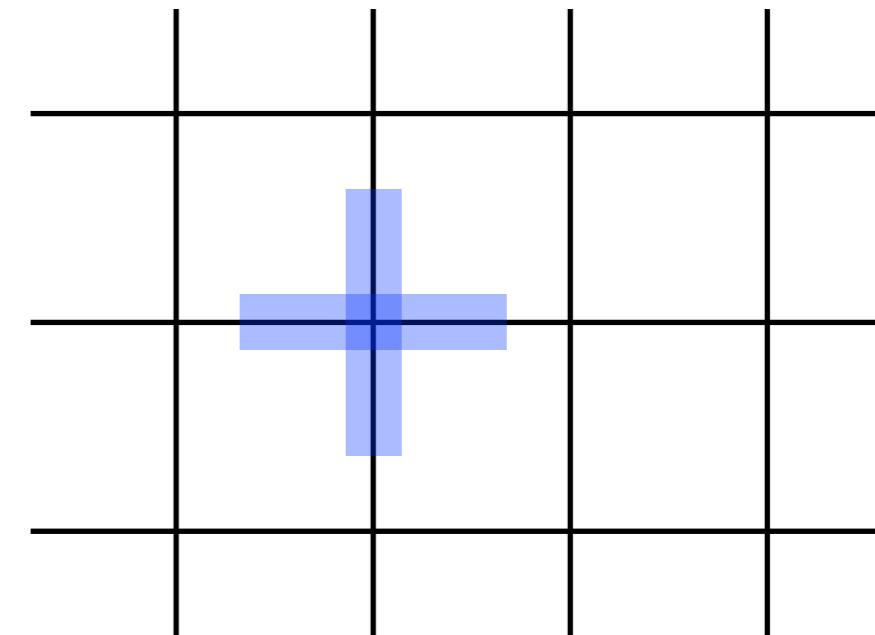
# **Application to 2+1D SU(2)**

# Honeycomb Lattice for SU(2)

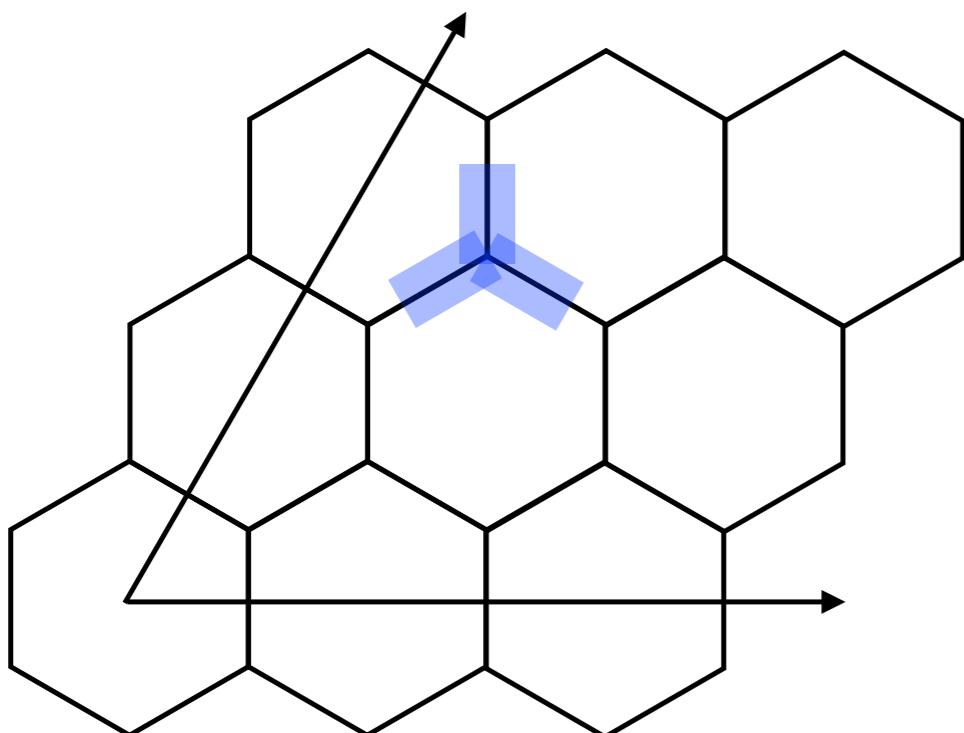
- **Problem on square lattice:** each vertex has four links → singlet is **not uniquely** defined by four  $j$  values



Klco, Stryker, Savage, 1908.06935



- **Use honeycomb lattice**

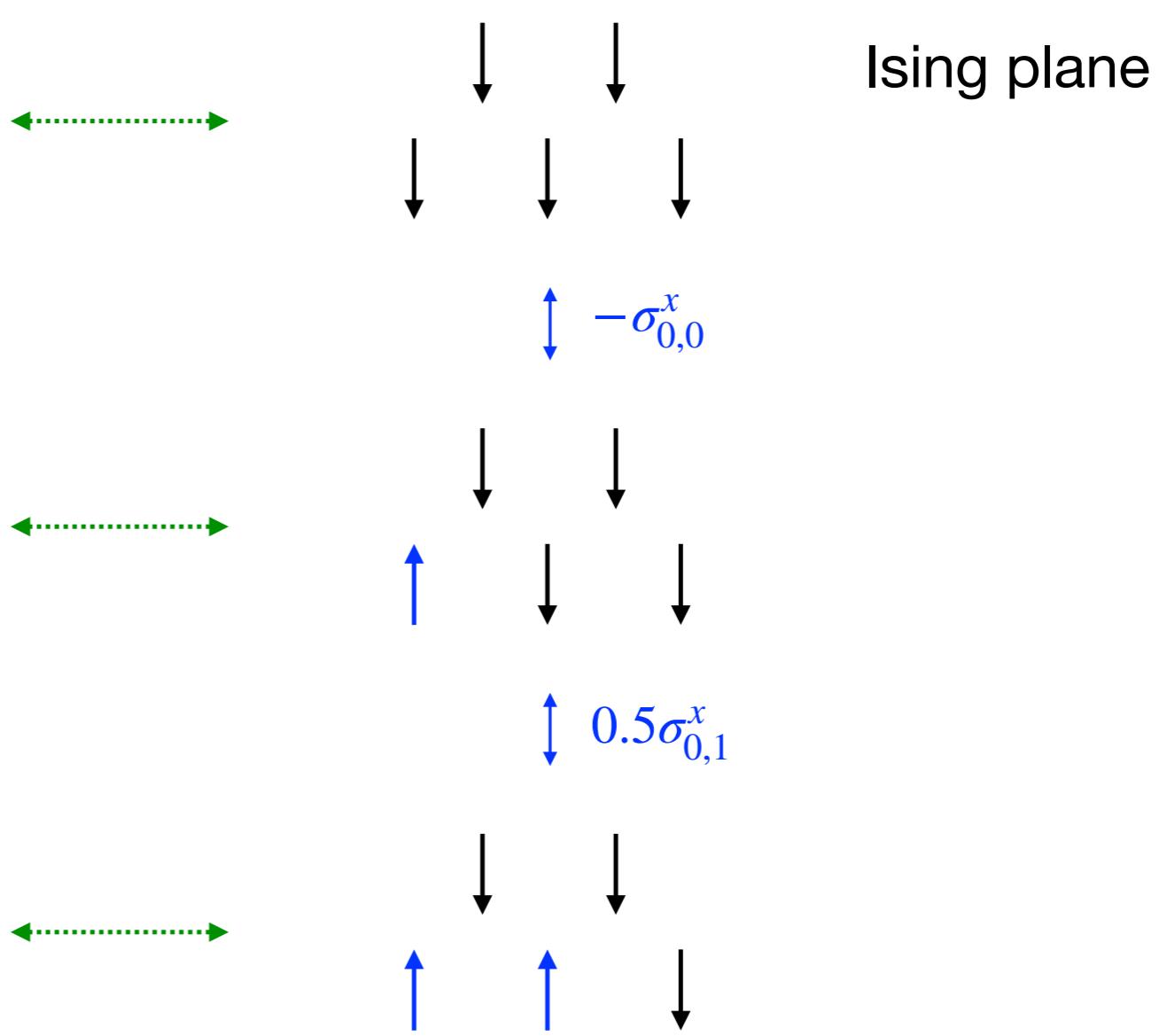
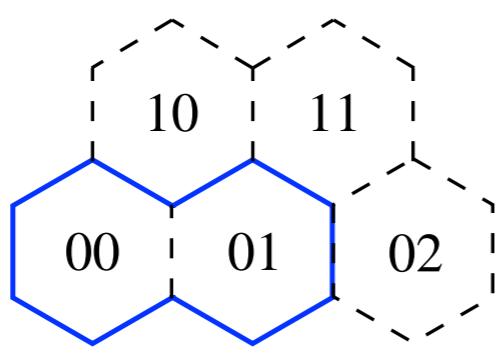
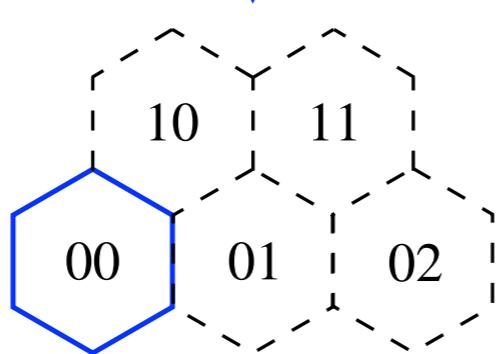
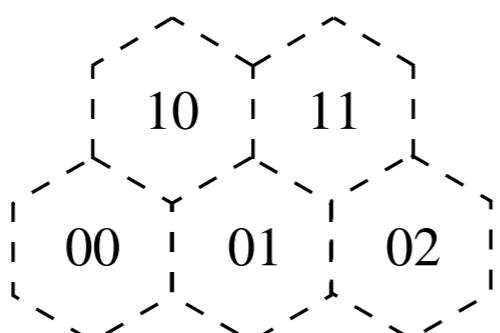


Müller, XY, 2307.00045  
Illa, Savage, XY, 2503.09688

$$H_{\text{el}} \propto g^2 \sum_{\text{links}} E_i^a E_i^a$$
$$H_{\text{mag}} \propto -\frac{1}{a^2 g^2} \sum_{\text{plaqs}} \text{hexagon}$$

# Simplify Hamiltonian with $j_{\max} = 1/2$

$SU(2)$  w/  $j_{\max} = \frac{1}{2}$



$$aH = h_+ \sum_{(i,j)} \Pi_{i,j}^+ - h_{++} \sum_{(i,j)} \Pi_{i,j}^+ \left( \Pi_{i+1,j}^+ + \Pi_{i,j+1}^+ + \Pi_{i+1,j-1}^+ \right) + h_x \sum_{(i,j)} \sigma_{ij}^x D_{ij}$$

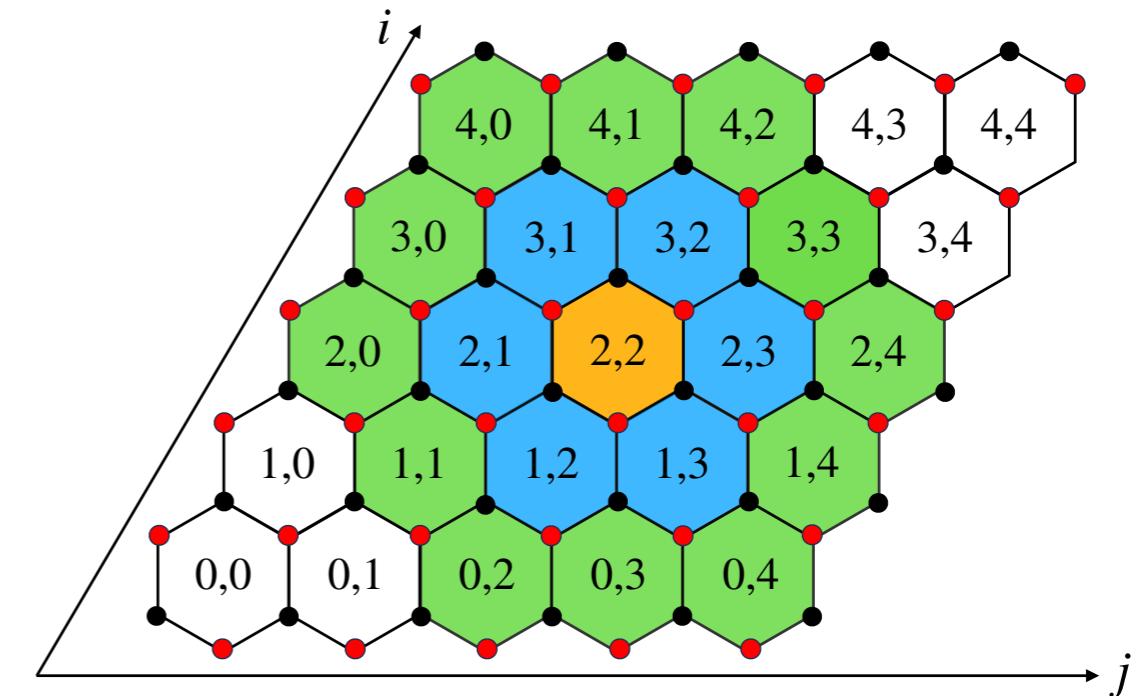
$$\Pi_{i,j}^+ = (1 + \sigma_{i,j}^z)/2$$

# Results

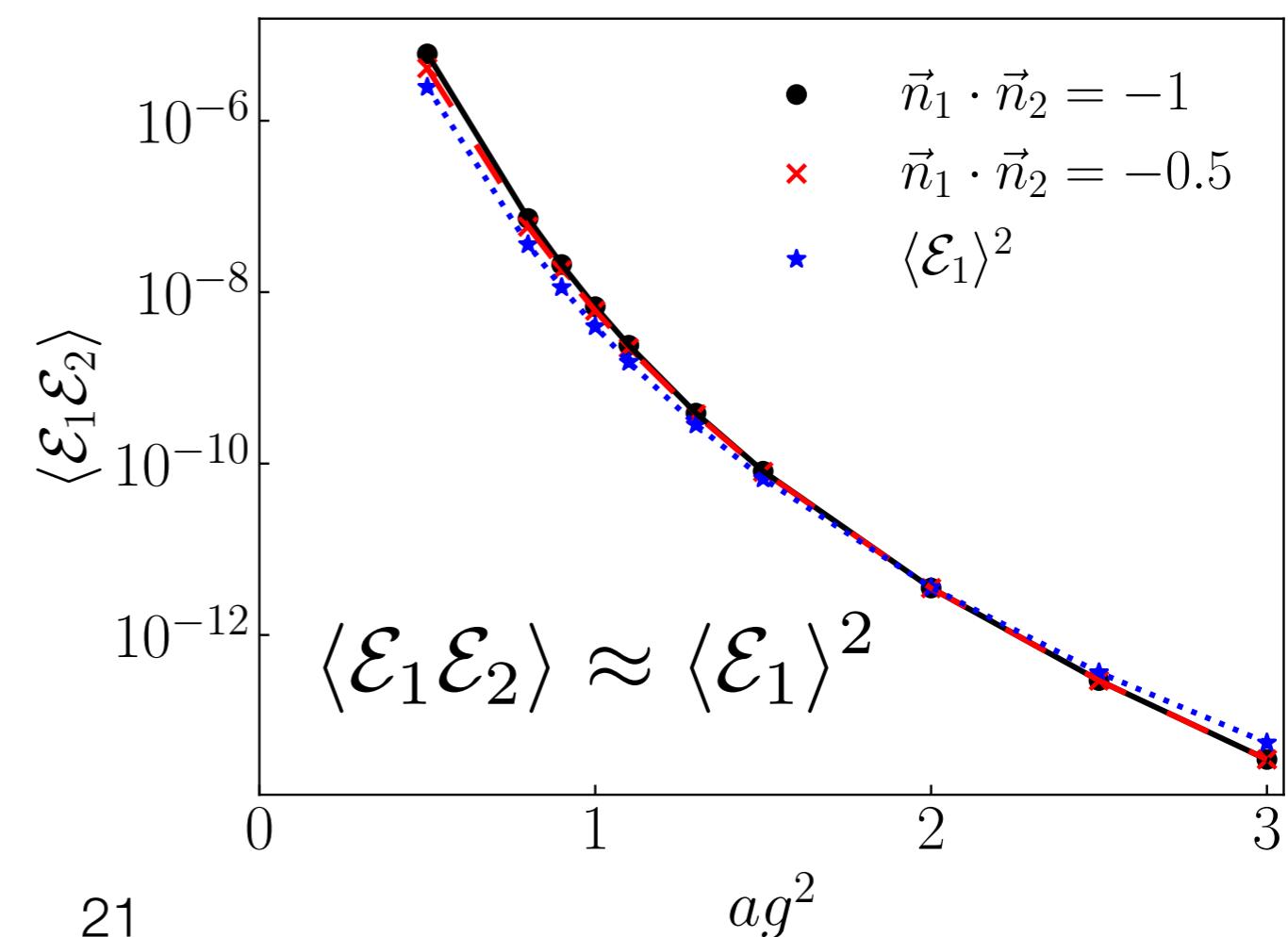
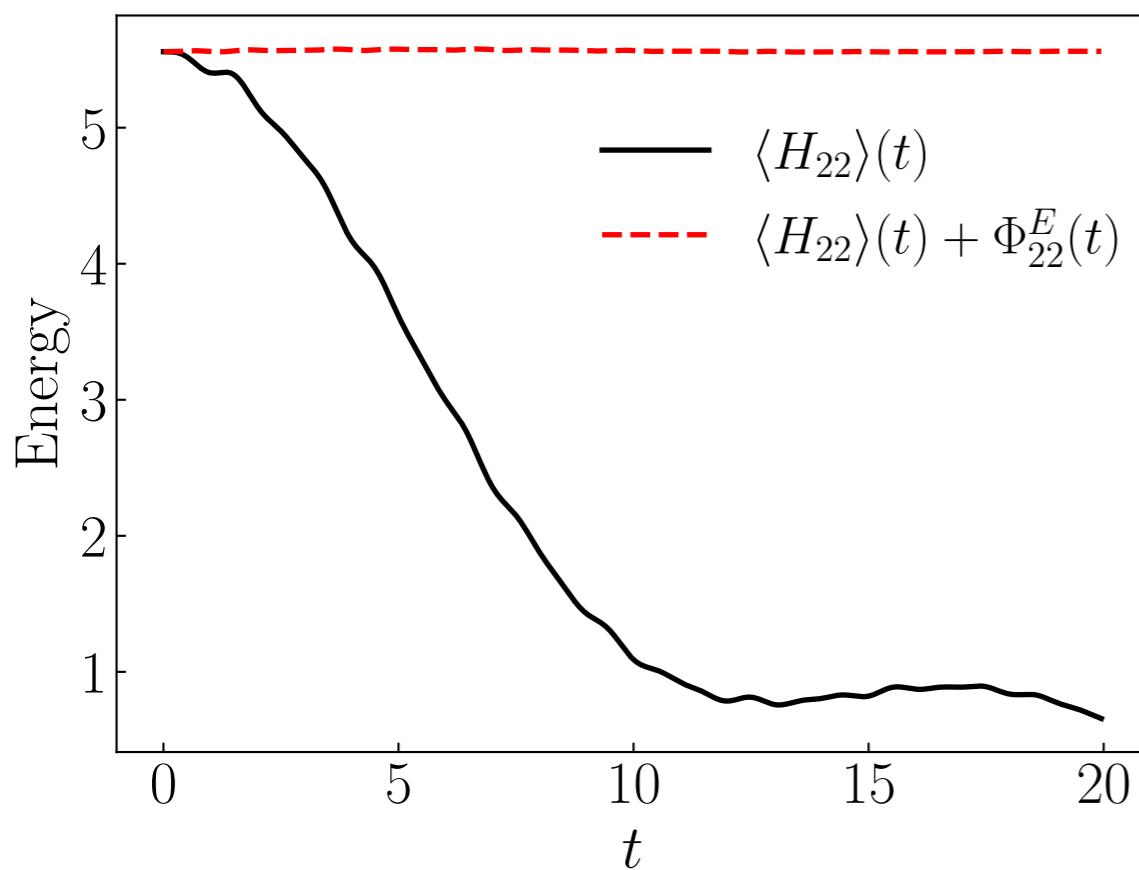
# Energy Correlator for 2+1D SU(2) on Small Lattice

- $5 \times 5$  lattice with  $ag^2 = 1, j_{\max} = 1/2$

Perturbation source at center (2,2)



Energy conservation works well

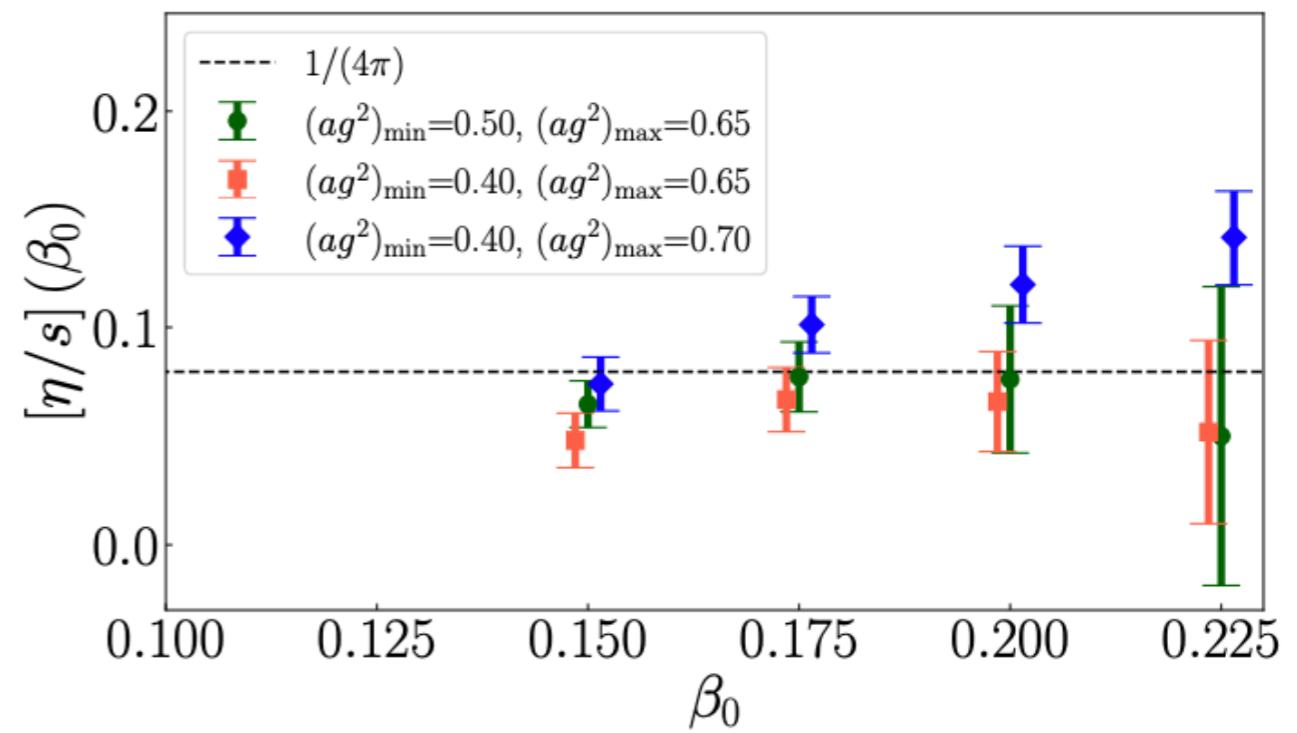
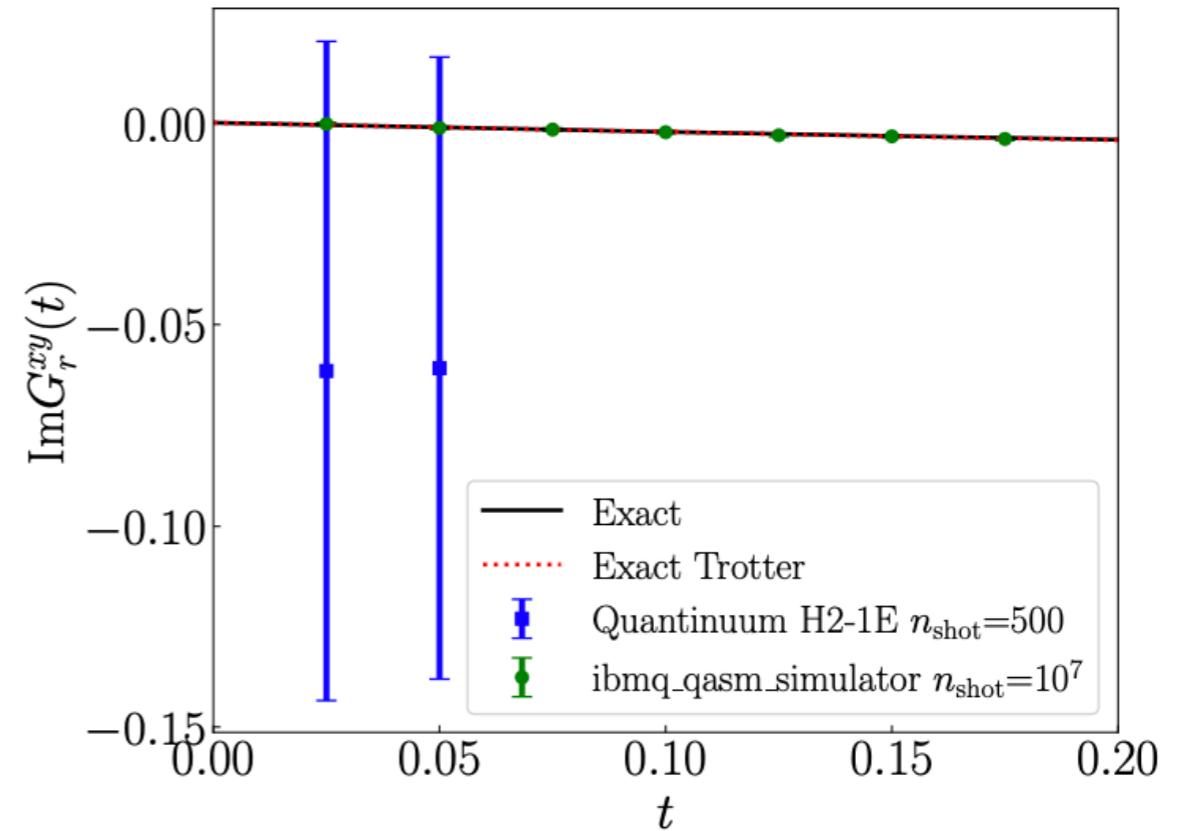
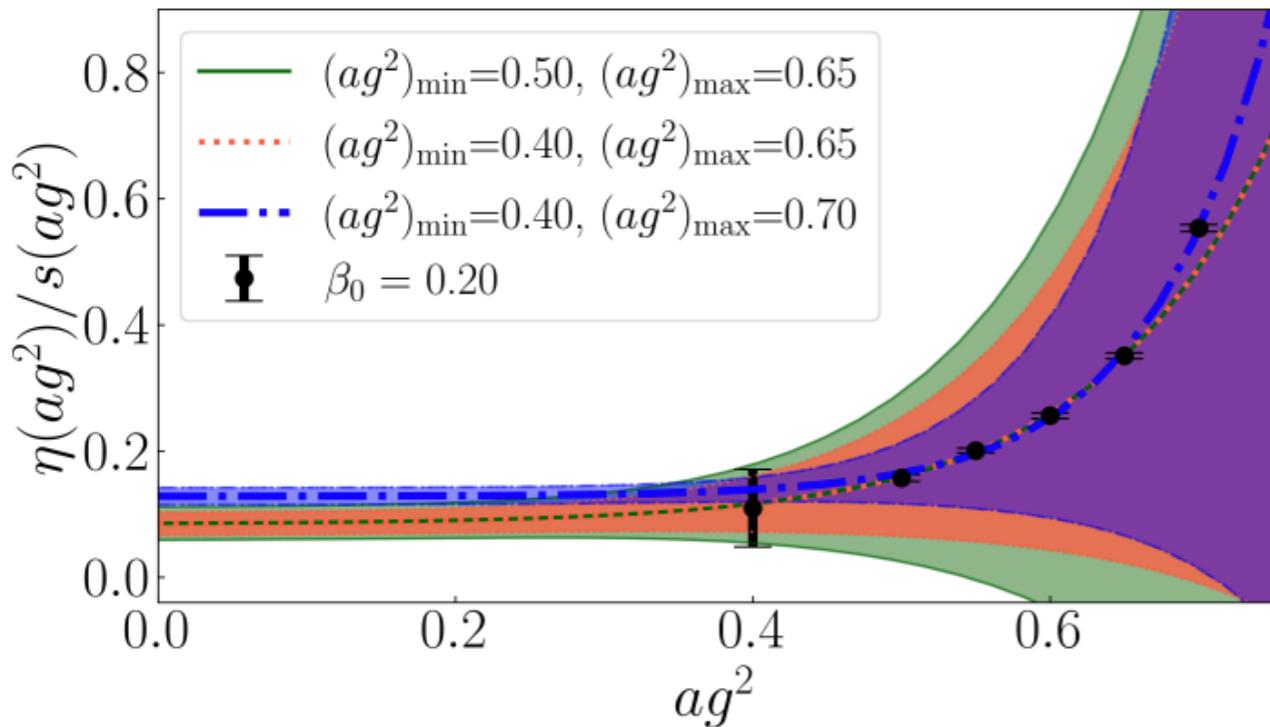


# Shear Viscosity on Small Lattice

- Quantum simulator results for retarded correlator on  $2 \times 2$  lattice

$$j_{\max} = 1/2, ag^2 = 1, \beta = 0.15, \Delta t = 0.025$$

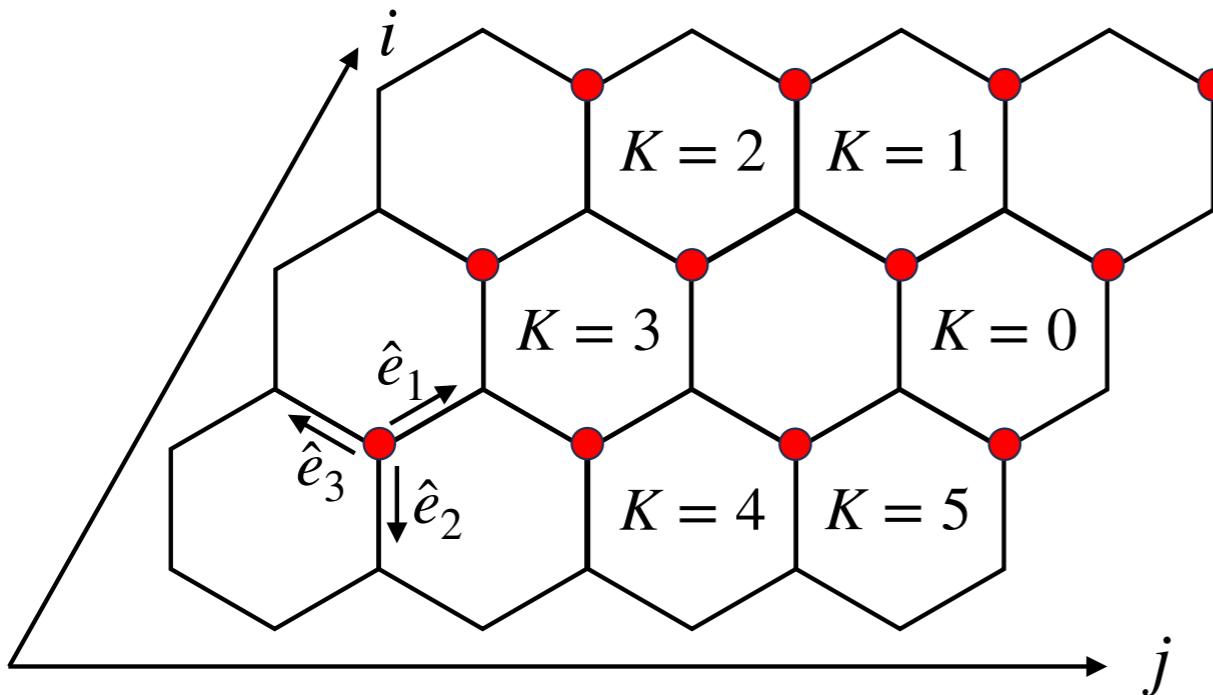
- A naive “continuum” extrapolation on  $4 \times 4$  lattice w/  $j_{\max} = 1/2$



# Conclusions

- Real-time correlators contain interesting physics information
  - Energy-energy correlators
  - Shear viscosity
- For 2+1D SU(2) with  $j_{\max} = 1/2$  on honeycomb lattice, each Trotter step takes about 200 CNOT depth

# Backup: Magnetic Interaction w/ $j_{\max} = 1/2$



Factors of  $(-0.5)^n$  can appear,  
consequence of CG coefficients

$$H^{\text{mag}} = h_x \sum_{(i,j)} \sigma_{i,j}^x \prod_{K=0}^5 \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{i}{2\sqrt{2}} \right) \sigma_K^z \sigma_{K+1}^z + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{i}{2\sqrt{2}} \right]$$

# Backup: Lattice Version of $T_{0i}$

- Obtain from energy conservation

Start with an energy density operator on lattice  $H_{ij}$  (per plaquette)

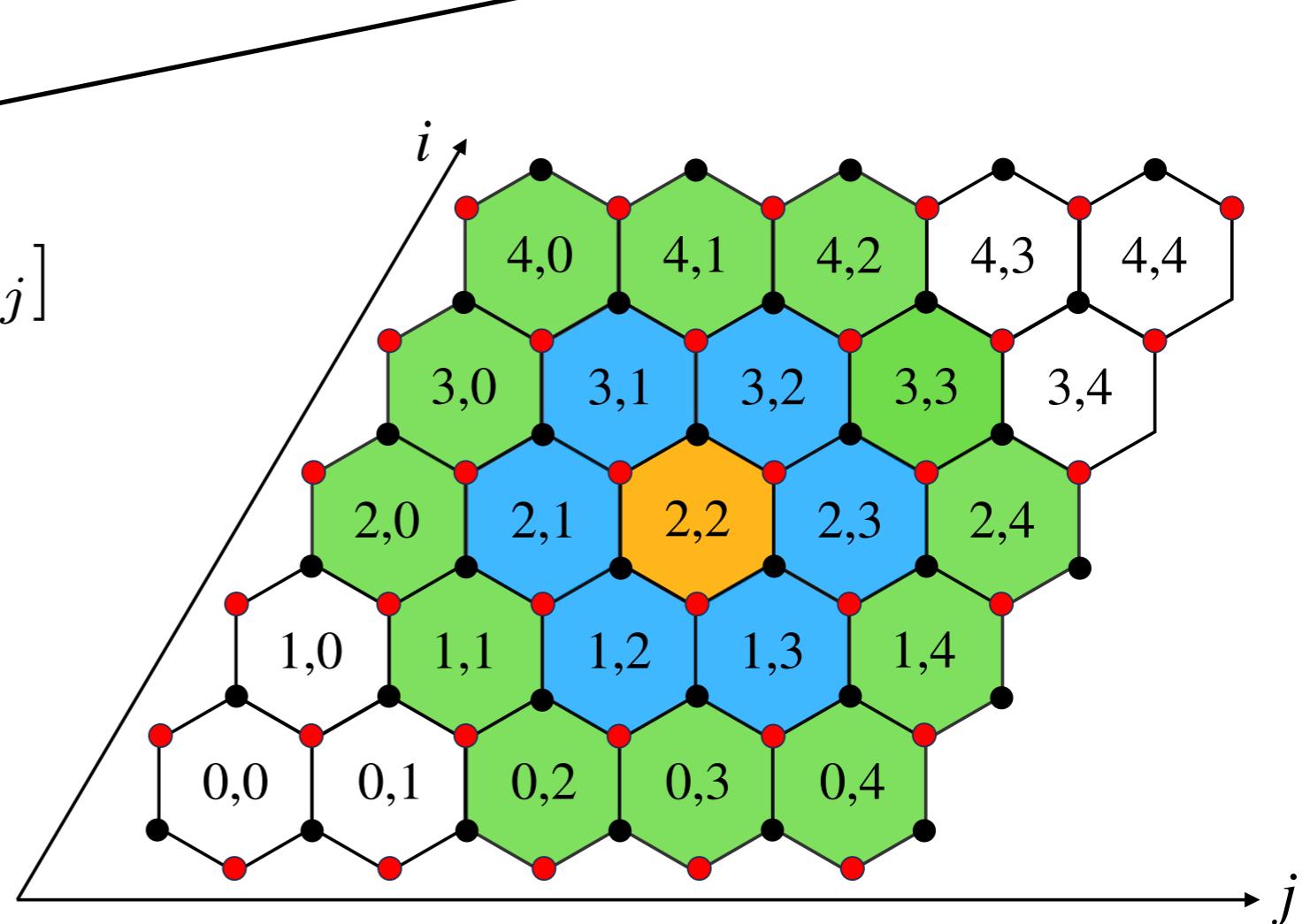
Evolution in Heisenberg picture v.s. energy conservation equation

$$\frac{dH_{ij}(t)}{dt} = i[H, H_{ij}(t)]$$

$$\partial_t e = -\nabla \cdot \vec{J}^e$$

$$T_{0,(i,j) \rightarrow (i',j')} = -i[H_{i'j'}, H_{ij}]$$

$(i', j')$  denotes neighbors of  $(i, j)$



# Backup: Relation to Naively Discretized Operator

- **A particular discretization**  $T_{0i} = -T^{0i} = \frac{1}{g^2} F_{0j}^a F_{ij}^a$
- $$T_{0i}^{\text{bare}} \propto \epsilon_{ijz} (E_j^a \text{Tr}(T^a U_{\circlearrowleft}) + \text{Tr}(T^a U_{\circlearrowleft}) E_j^a - E_j^a \text{Tr}(T^a U_{\circlearrowright}^\dagger) - \text{Tr}(T^a U_{\circlearrowright}^\dagger) E_j^a)$$
- ↓  
Poynting vector  $\vec{E} \times \vec{B}$

- **With arbitrary cutoff of irrep dimensions  $j_{\max}$**

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \{J\} | \text{Tr}(T^a U_{\circlearrowleft}) E_{R1}^a | \{j\} \rangle &= - \frac{\langle \{J\} | \text{Tr}(U_{\circlearrowleft}) | \{j\} \rangle}{\left\{ \begin{matrix} j_6^{ex} & j_6 & j_1 \\ \frac{1}{2} & J_1 & J_6 \end{matrix} \right\}} \\ &\times (-1)^{s'_1 + j_6^{ex} - M_6 - M_1 + J_1 - j_1} T_{s_1 s'_1}^a T_{m_1 m'_1}^{(j_1)a} \left( \begin{matrix} j_6 & j_6^{ex} & j_1 \\ m_6 & m_6^{ex} & m_1 \end{matrix} \right) \\ &\times \left( \begin{matrix} J_6 & j_6^{ex} & J_1 \\ M_6 & m_6^{ex} & M_1 \end{matrix} \right) \left( \begin{matrix} j_1 & \frac{1}{2} & J_1 \\ m'_1 & s_1 & -M_1 \end{matrix} \right) \left( \begin{matrix} j_6 & \frac{1}{2} & J_6 \\ m_6 & -s'_1 & -M_6 \end{matrix} \right), \end{aligned}$$

- **With cutoff  $j_{\max} = 1/2$ , we find**

$$T_{0,(i,j) \rightarrow (i',j')} = T_{0i}^{\text{bare}} + \frac{\#}{a^2 g^4}$$