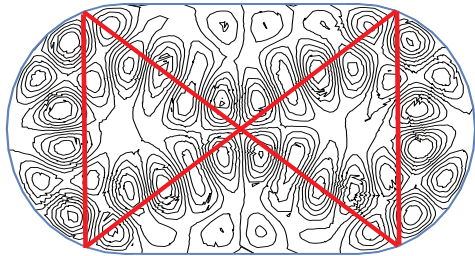
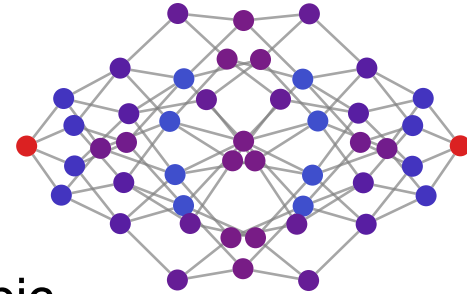


# Weak ergodicity breaking from quantum many-body scars



[Maksym Serbyn](#)

In collaboration with  
C. Turner, A. Michailidis, D. Abanin, Z. Papić

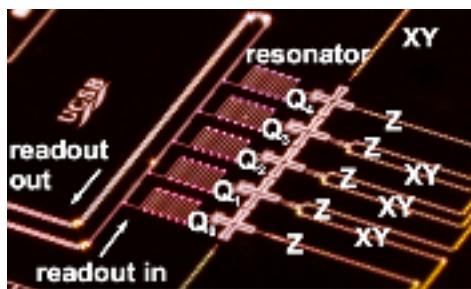


Nature Physics, 2018  
arXiv:1806.10933

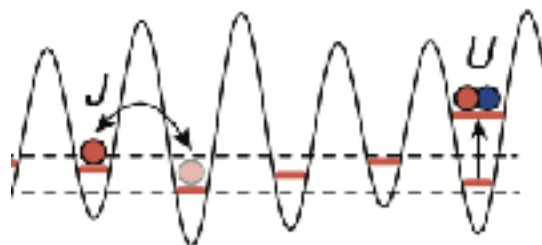
# Universality in quantum dynamics

## Isolated quantum systems out-of-equilibrium?

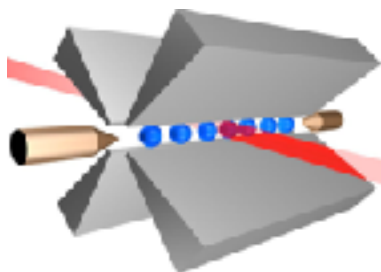
multi-qubit systems



cold atoms



trapped ions



NV centers in diamond,  
polar molecules,

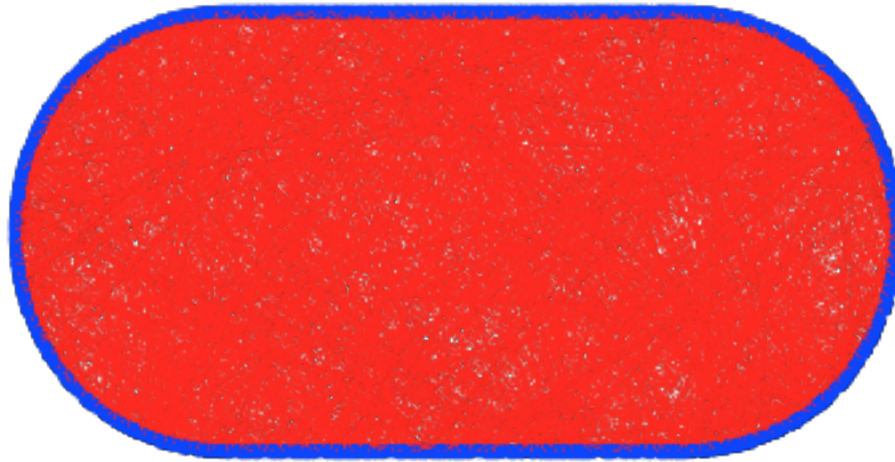
....



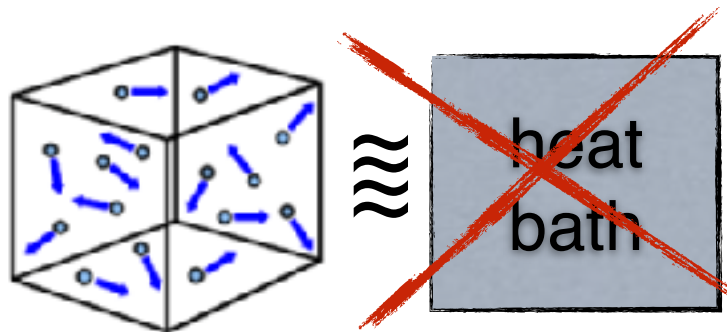
Coarse classification: does system reach **equilibrium**?

# Chaos as a route to statistical equilibrium

- Systems “forget” initial conditions; explore all configurations:

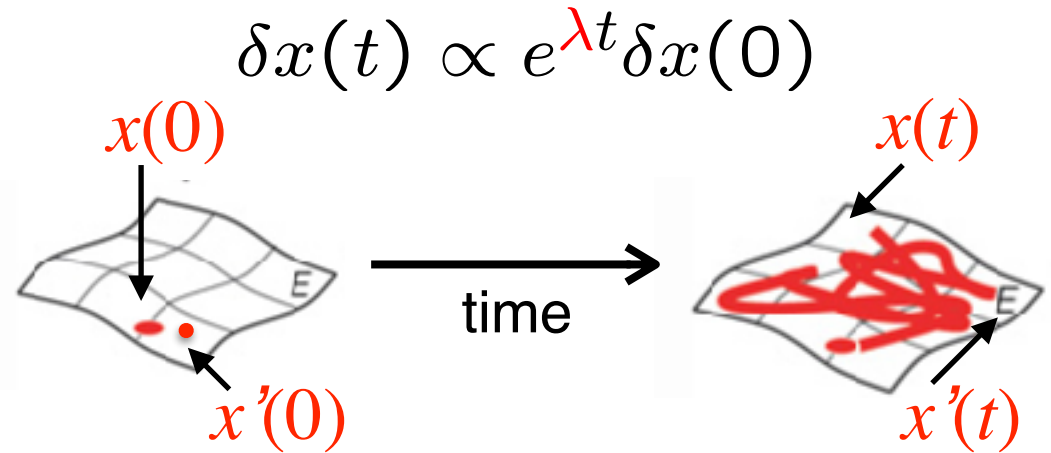


- Generic systems are chaotic  
Even isolated classical systems establish temperature



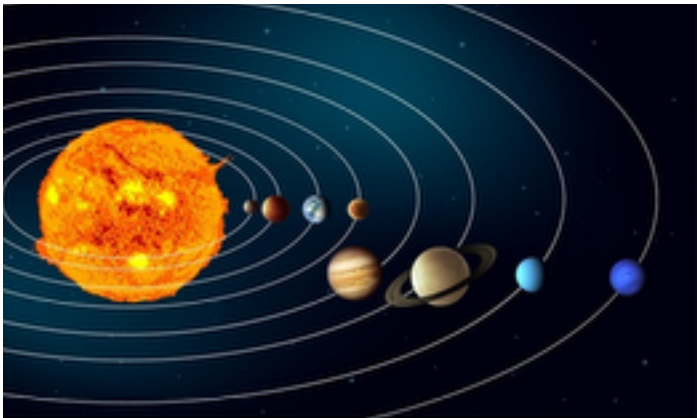
# Not all systems are equally chaotic

Alexandr Lyapunov  
(1857-1918)



Solar system

Lyapunov time  $t=1/\lambda \sim 10^6$  years



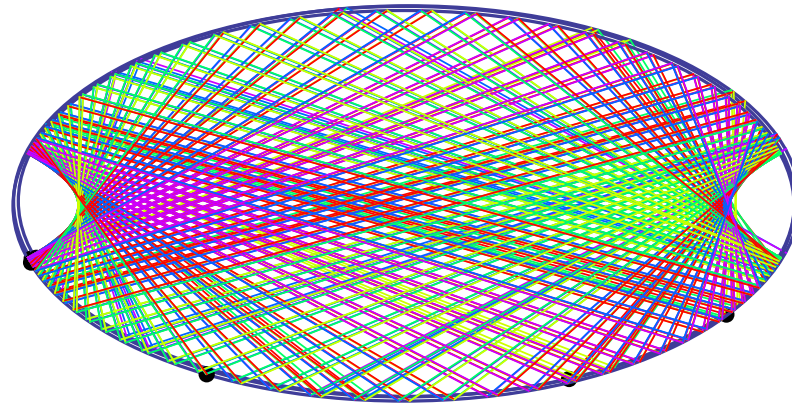
$$\delta x(0) = 10^{-42} \text{ m} \rightarrow$$
$$\delta x(500 \text{ mil. years}) = 150 \text{ m}$$

Small  $\lambda \rightarrow$  longer transient



# Escaping chaos: integrability

- Additional conservation laws/symmetries:



- Dynamics is constrained to tori; full phase space is not explored
- KAM theorem: non-resonant tori survive perturbations

[Kolmogorov 1954; Arnold 1963; Moser 1962]

# Ergodicity and integrability

## Ergodic systems

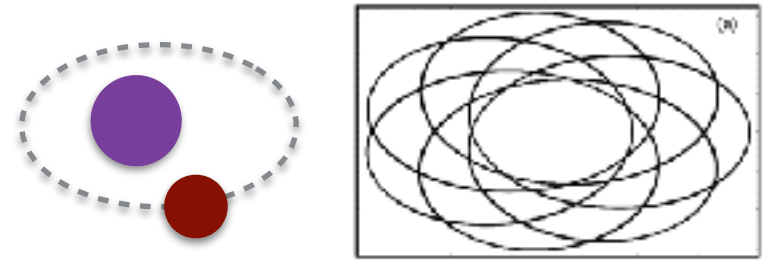
## Integrable systems

Classical

chaos  $\rightarrow$  ergodicity



stable to weak perturbations  
[Kolmogorov-Arnold-Moser theorem]

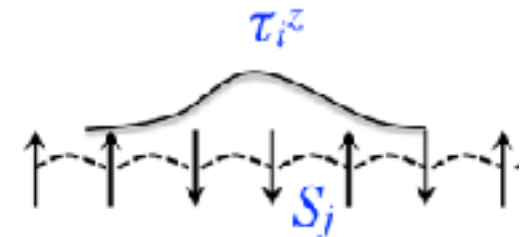
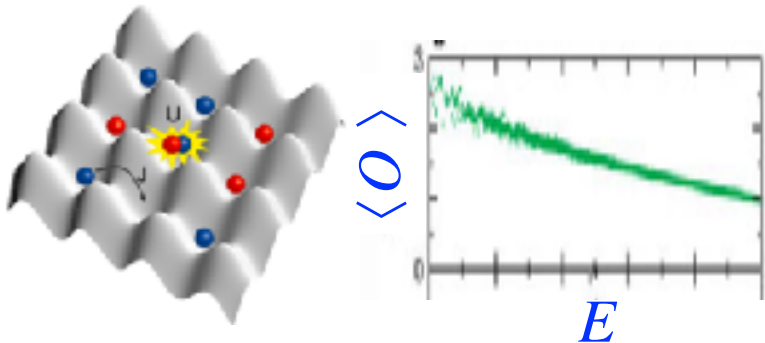


Thermalizing phases

MBL phases

Quantum

emergent integrability

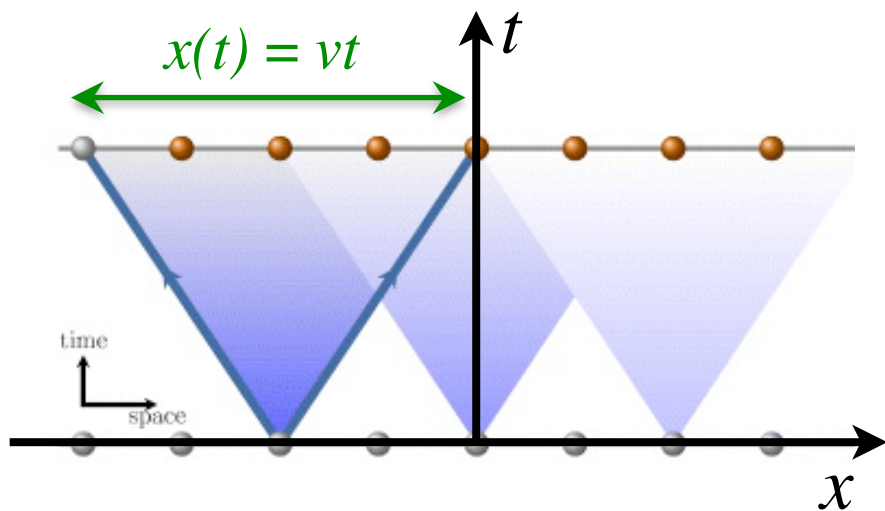


# Ergodic phase

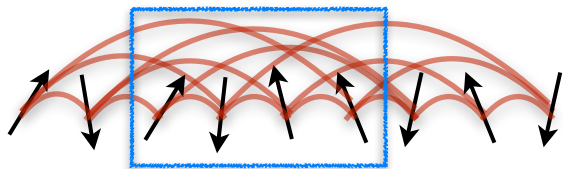
vs

# MBL phase

$$S_{\text{ent}} \propto vt$$



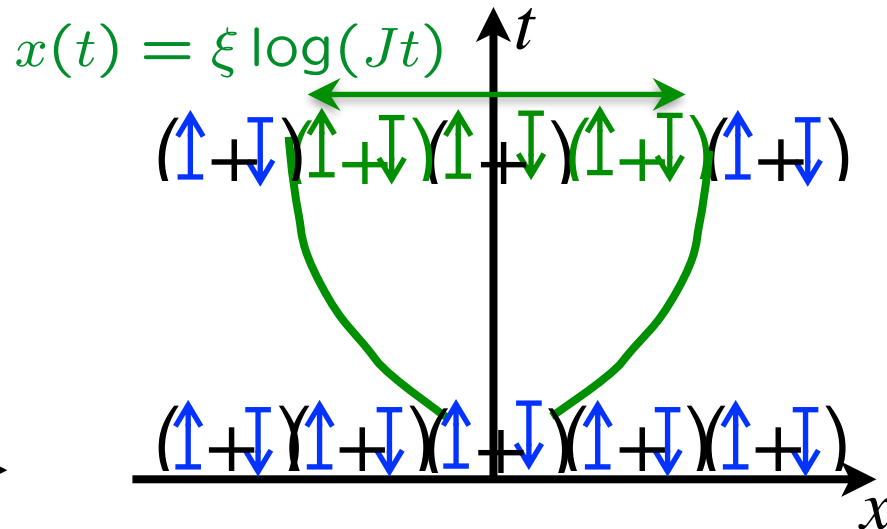
$$S_{\text{ent}}(A) \propto \text{vol}(A)$$



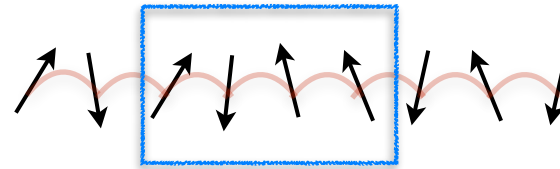
Described by ETH

[Srednicki'94]  
[Rigol, Dunjko, Olshanii'08]

$$S_{\text{ent}} \propto \xi \log Jt$$



$$S_{\text{ent}}(A) \propto \text{area}(A)$$

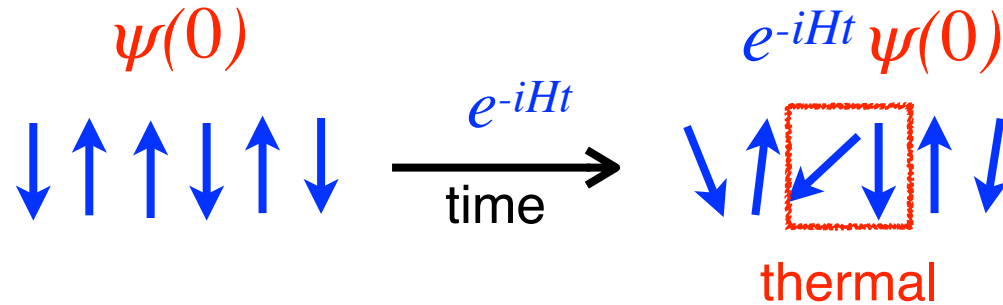


Described by quasi-local  
integrals of motion

[see arXiv:1804.11065 for a review]

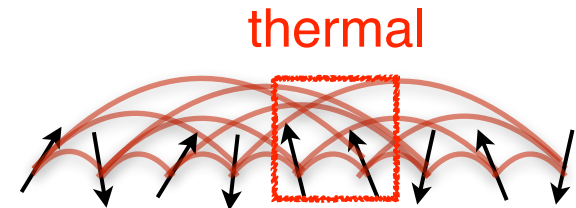
# Eigenstate Thermalization Hypothesis

Quantum dynamics is linear:



ETH: eigenstates are thermal

- volume-law entanglement
- eigenstates  $\approx$  random vectors
- sensitivity to perturbations, level repulsion
- matrix elements ansatz



$$O_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{O}(E)\delta_{\alpha\beta} + e^{-S(E)/2} f(E, \omega) R_{\alpha\beta}$$

local observables  
are smooth

off-diagonal matrix elements  
are small

# Thermalizing vs MBL dynamics

Ergodic

Many-body localized

Entanglement  
growth

$$S_{\text{ent}} \propto vt$$

$$S_{\text{ent}} \propto \xi \log Jt$$

Eigenstates  
entanglement

$$S_{\text{ent}}(A) \propto \text{vol}(A)$$

$$S_{\text{ent}}(A) \propto \text{area}(A)$$

Integrals  
of motion

a few: energy, particle #



Eigenstate Thermalization  
Hypothesis

extensive # of LIOMS



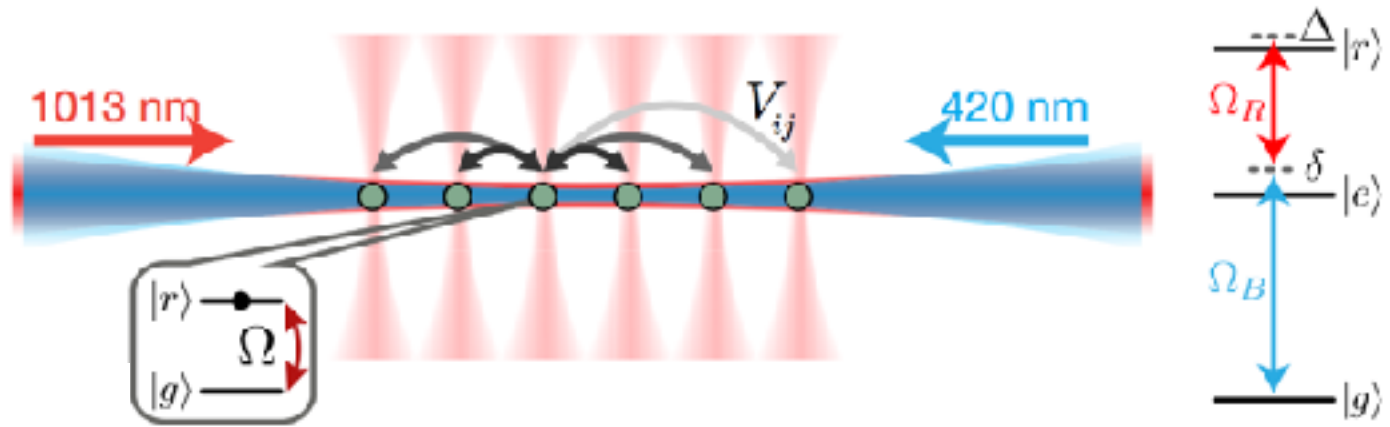
Generalized Gibbs  
Ensemble

**Is intermediate behavior possible?**

**Hints from experiment!**

# Experiments on Rydberg atoms array

## Atom-by-atom assembly of Rydberg chain



[Bernien et al, Nature 2017, arXiv:1707.04344]

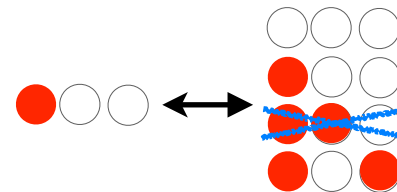
Effective description: two states per atom:

- excited (Rydberg) state
- ground state

Rydberg blockade



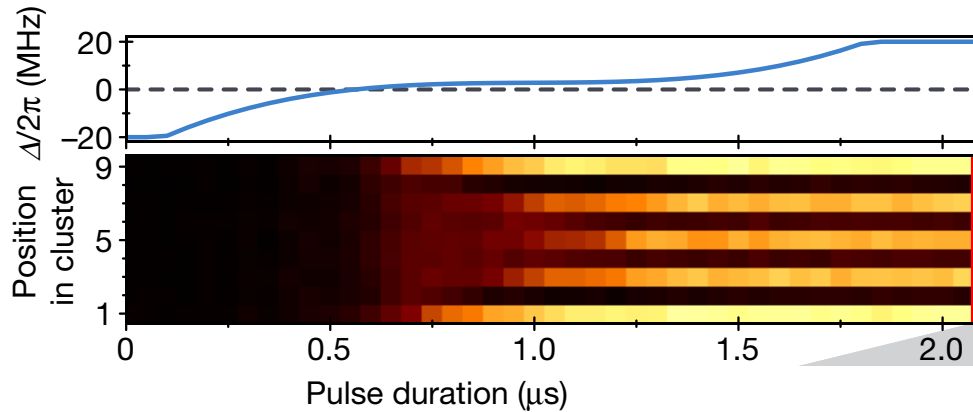
Dynamical constraint





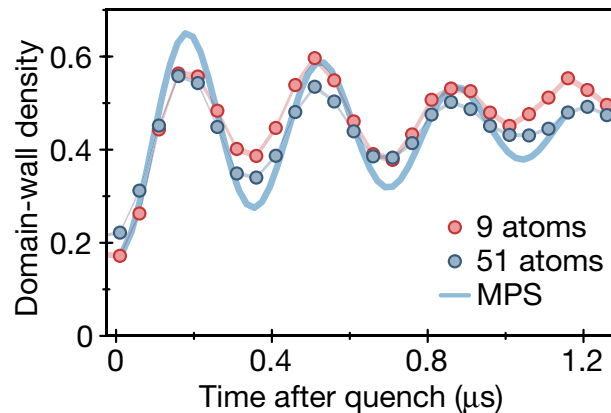
# Experimental puzzle: long-time oscillations

## Preparation of state



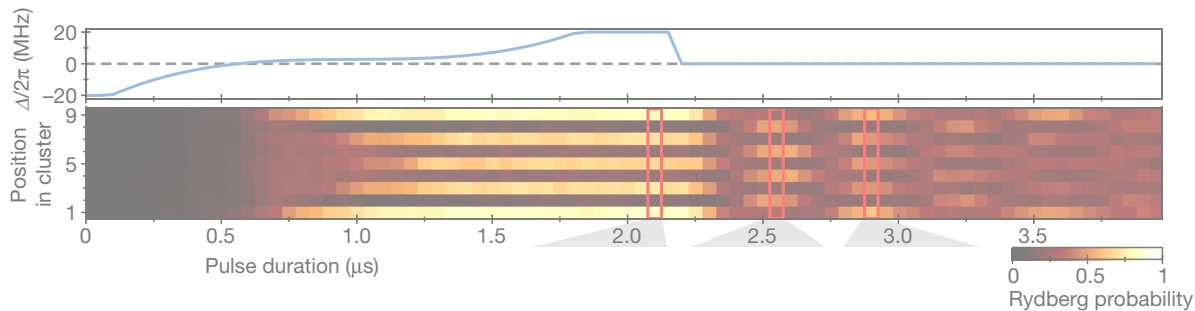
Observable:

$$O = \frac{1}{L} \sum_i P_i^\circ P_{i+1}^\circ$$



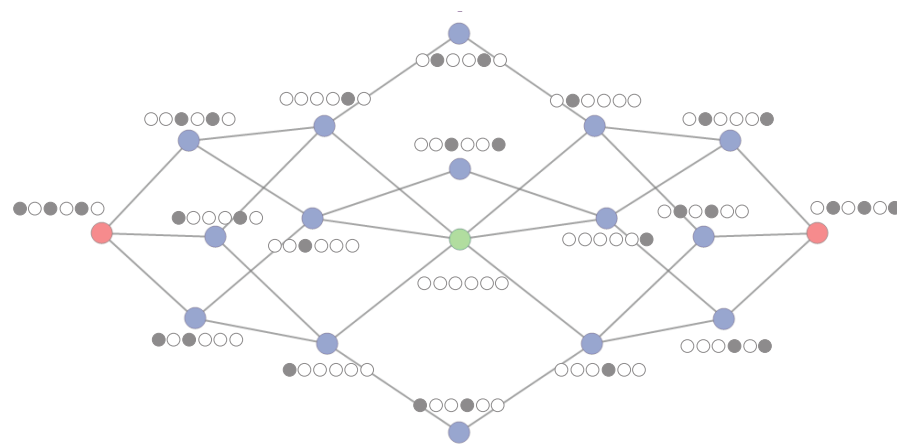
Néel: long-time oscillations

Other initial states:  
rapid relaxation



# Eigenstates and dynamics of PXP model

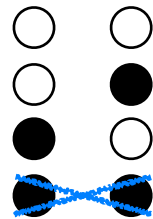
$$H = \sum_i P_{i-1}^\circ X_i P_{i+1}^\circ$$



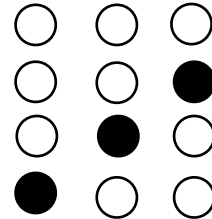
# PXP model as a graph

Hilbert space:

$$\mathcal{D}_2 = 3$$



$$\mathcal{D}_3 = 4$$



$$\mathcal{D}_L = F_{L-1} + F_{L+1}$$

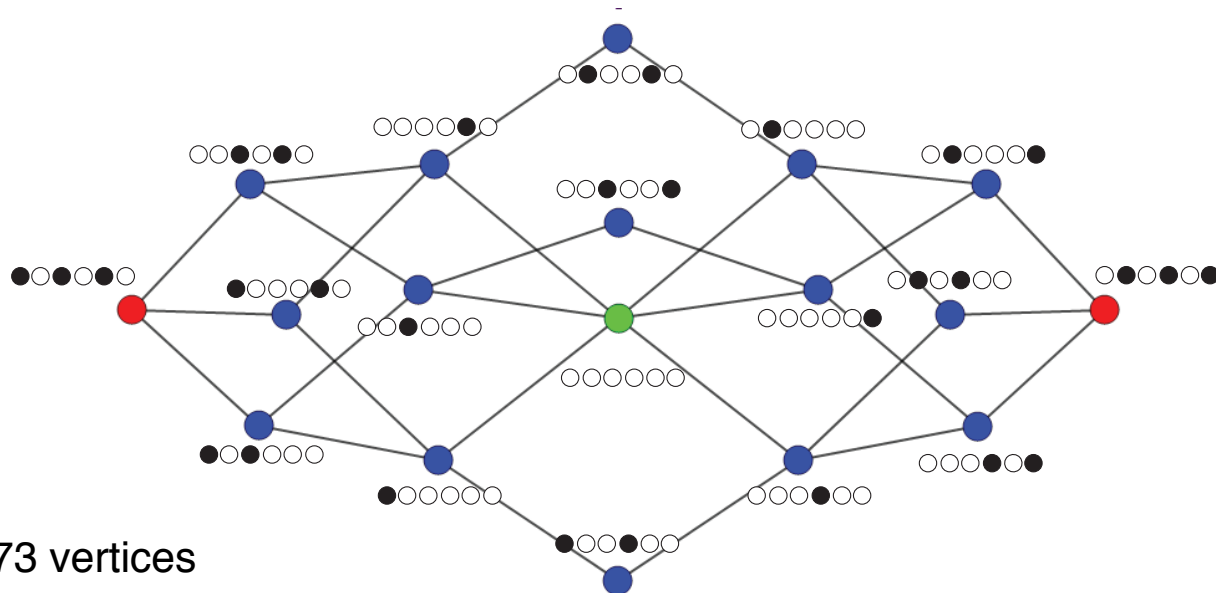
sum of Fibonacci #

no tensor product structure!

Hamiltonian:

$$H = \sum_i P_{i-1}^\circ X_i P_{i+1}^\circ$$

Hilbert space + Hamiltonian = graph + adjacency matrix



Experiment: L=51

$F_{53} = 53,316,291,173$  vertices

# PXP model is non-integrable

## Statistics of level spacings

Chaotic/ergodic

Wigner-Dyson  $P(s) = \frac{\pi}{2} s e^{-\frac{\pi}{4} s^2}$

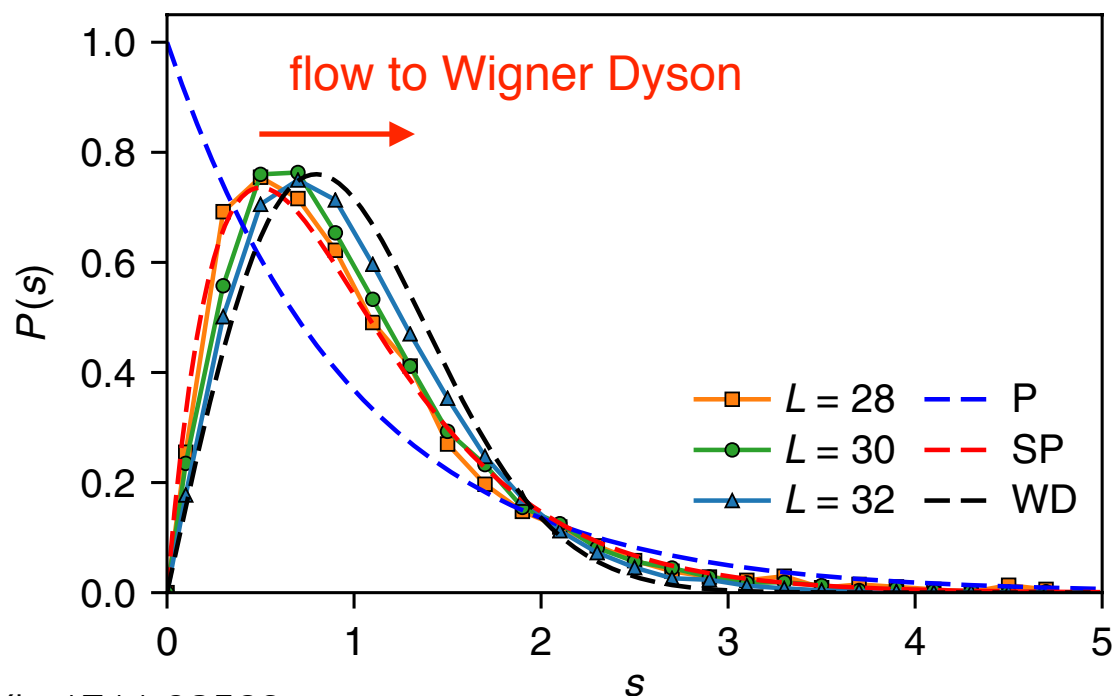
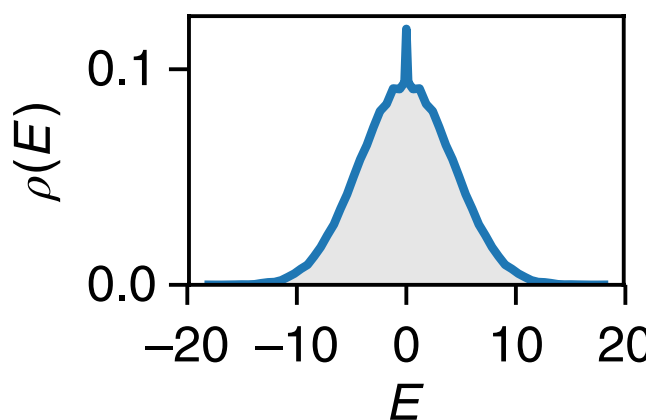
Intermediate/critical

Semi-Poisson  $P(s) = 4 s e^{-2s}$

Integrable/MBL

Poisson  $P(s) = e^{-s}$

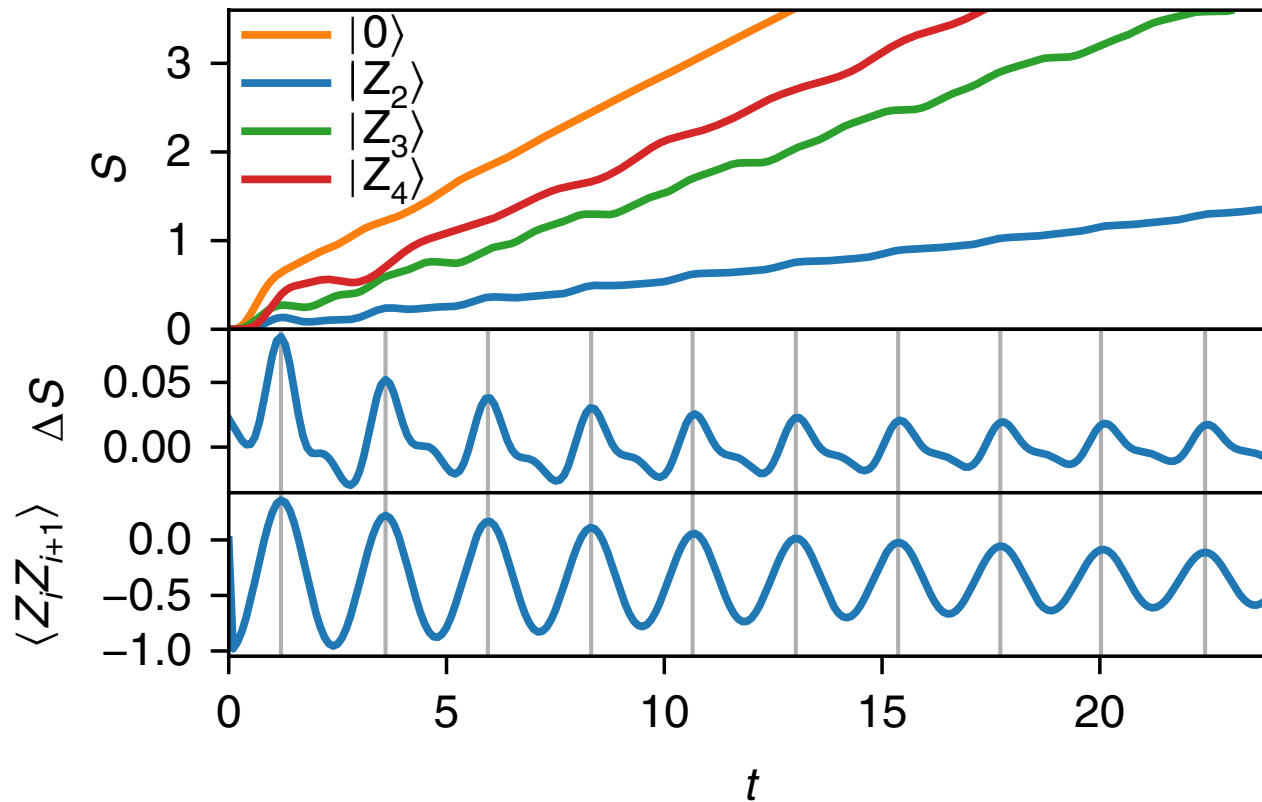
Gaussian DOS



# Dynamics: ballistic growth of entanglement

Entanglement spreading depends on initial state

$$|Z_2\rangle = \bullet \circ \bullet \circ \bullet \circ \quad |Z_3\rangle = \bullet \circ \circ \bullet \circ \circ \quad |0\rangle = \circ \circ \circ \circ \circ \circ$$



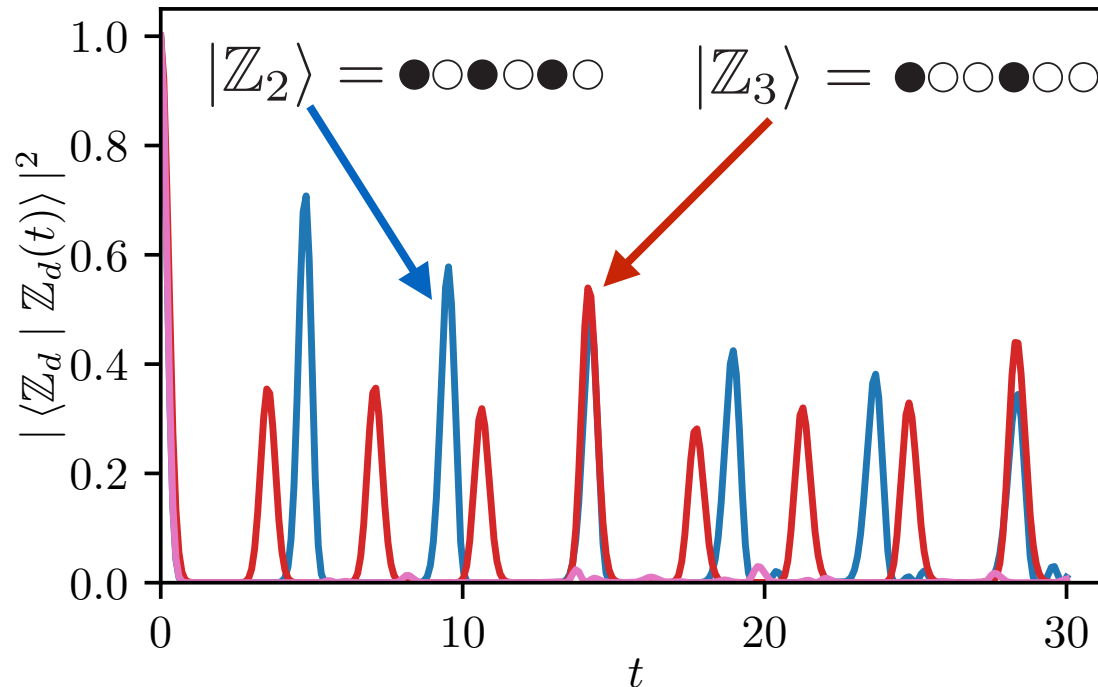
Long-time oscillations are observed!

# Dynamics: revivals of many-body fidelity

Probability to return to Néel/ $Z_3$  state:

$$\mathcal{F} = |\langle Z_d | e^{-iHt} | Z_d \rangle|^2$$

$L=24$  atoms; full Hilbert space: 103,682



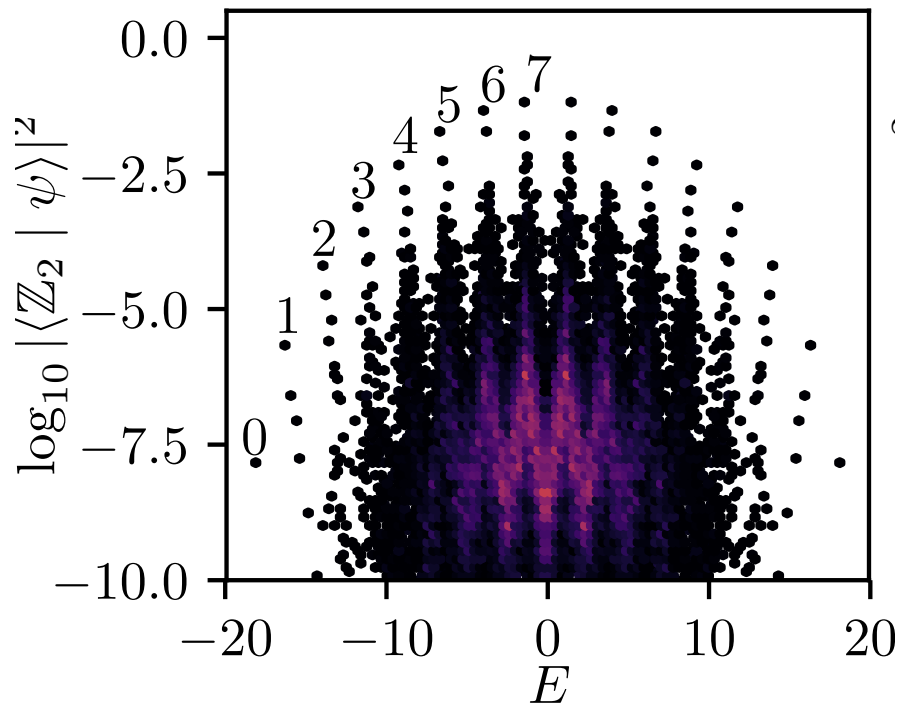
Origin of periodic revivals?



# $\mathbb{Z}_2$ special band of eigenstates

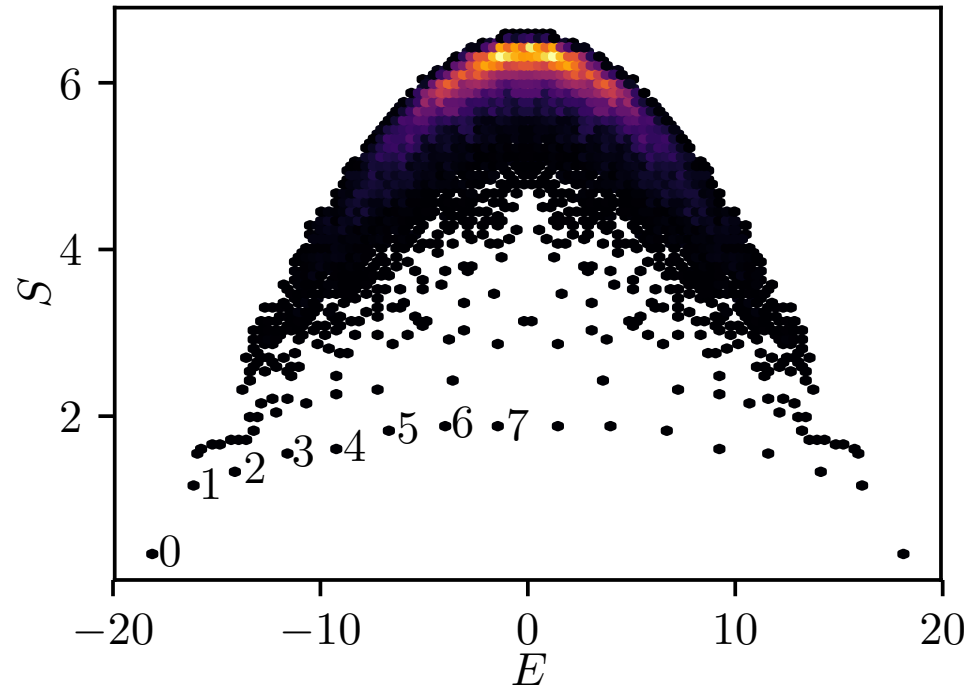
enhanced overlaps with

$$|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle = \bullet \circ \bullet \circ \bullet \circ$$



Vs. random eigenstates  
in ergodic systems

anomalously low entanglement  
entropy

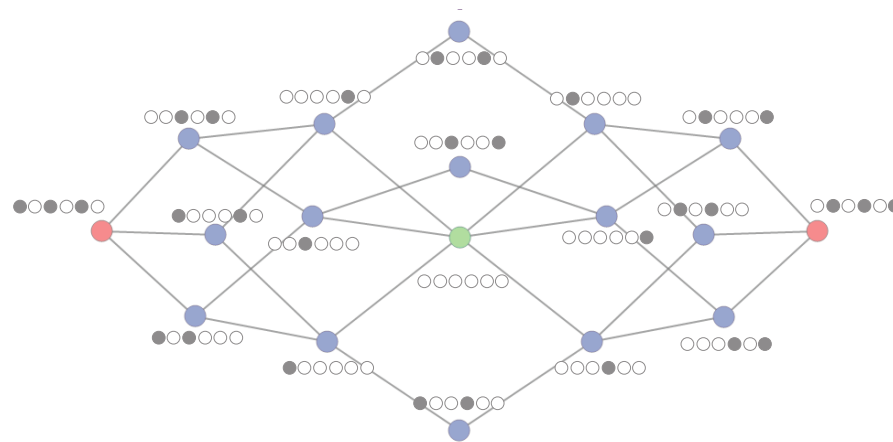


Vs. volume law  $S_{\text{ent}}$  in ergodic systems  
area-law in MBL systems

How to understand these special states?

$$H^+ = \sum_{i \in \text{even}} P_{i-1} \sigma_i^+ P_{i+1} + \sum_{i \in \text{odd}} P_{i-1} \sigma_i^- P_{i+1}$$

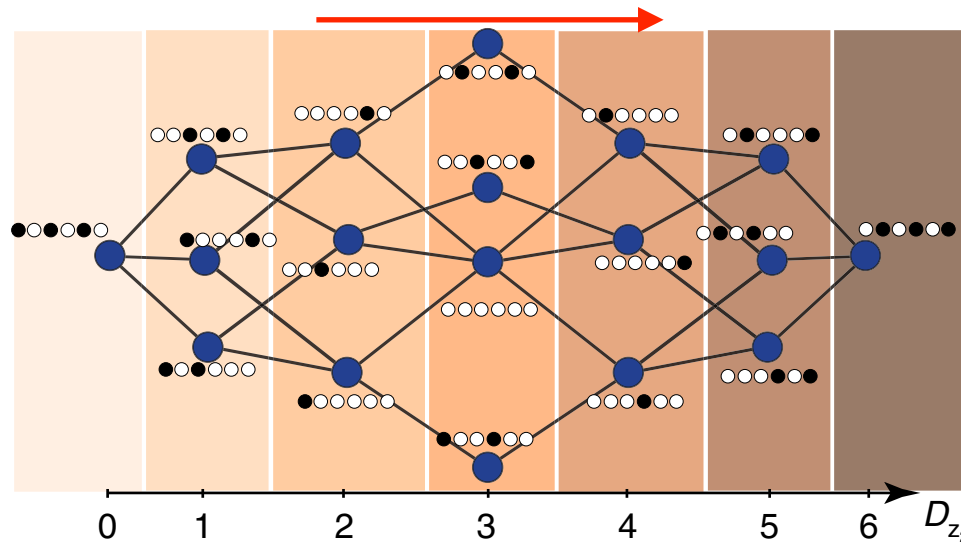
# Forward scattering approximation



# Constructing the special band of eigenstates

$$H = H_+ + H_- = \text{forward} + \text{backward}$$

$$H^+ = \sum_{i \in \text{even}} P_{i-1} \sigma_i^+ P_{i+1} + \sum_{i \in \text{odd}} P_{i-1} \sigma_i^- P_{i+1}$$



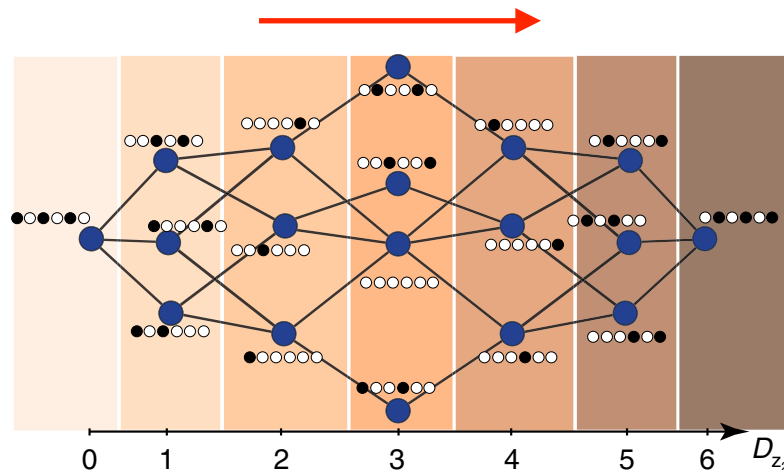
$$H^z = \sum_{i \in \text{even}} P_{i-1} Z_i P_{i+1} - \sum_{i \in \text{odd}} P_{i-1} Z_i P_{i+1}$$

Incomplete spin algebra:  $[H^+, H^-] = H^z + \sum_i P_{i-1} \sigma_i^+ P_{i+1} P_{i+2} + \dots$   
corrections

# Forward scattering approximation

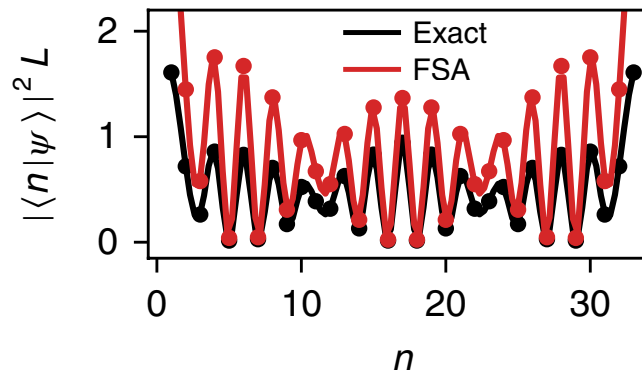
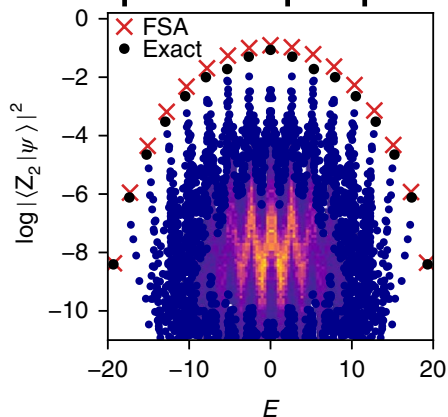
Forward scattering  $H^+$  to construct basis:

$$|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle, H^+|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle, [H^+]^2|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle, \dots, [H^+]^n|\mathbb{Z}_2\rangle$$



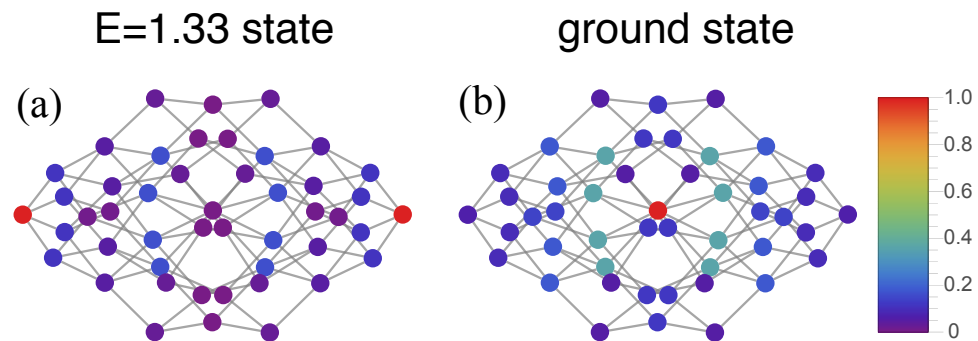
Projected Hamiltonian = tridiagonal matrix

Captures properties of highly excited special states



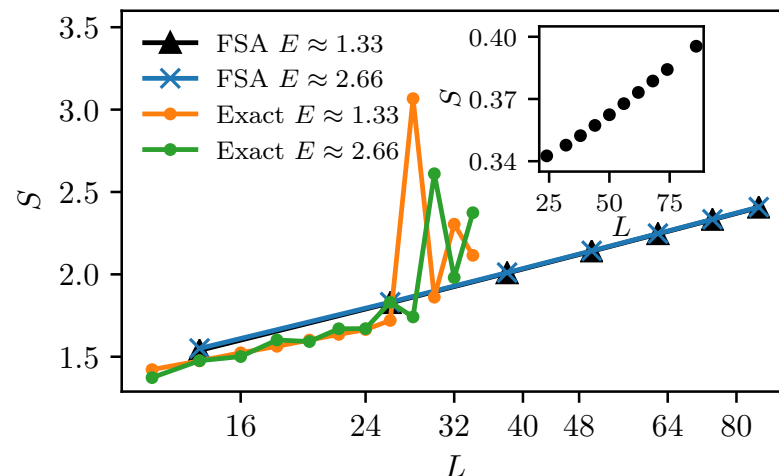
# Structure of special eigenstates

Concentration on parts  
of Hilbert space

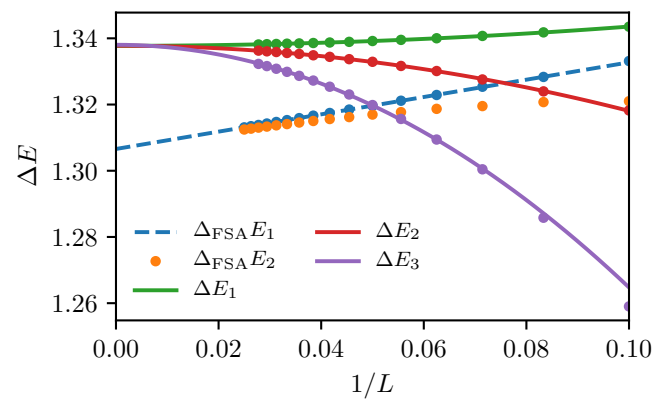


Low entanglement

$$S_{\text{ent}}(A) \propto \log L_A$$



Constant  $\Delta E$   
+  $O(1/L^2)$  corrections

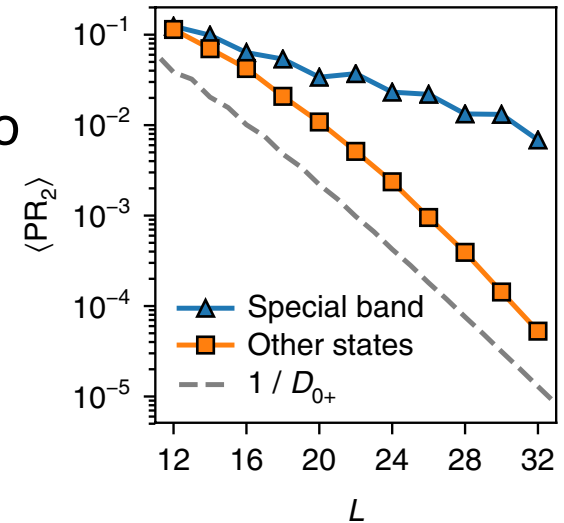


# Special eigenstates as quantum many-body scars

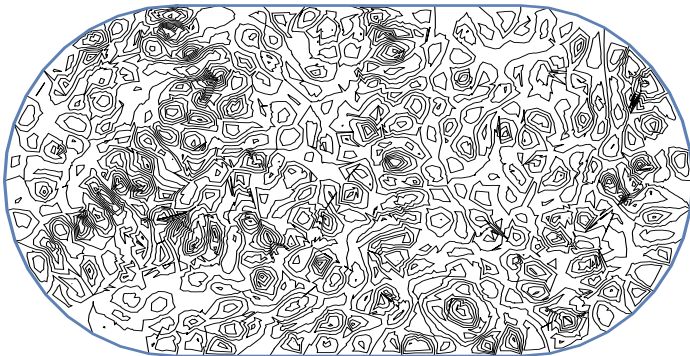
- Concentration, low entanglement, participation ratio
- Constant energy separation
- Remaining eigenstates are “conventional”



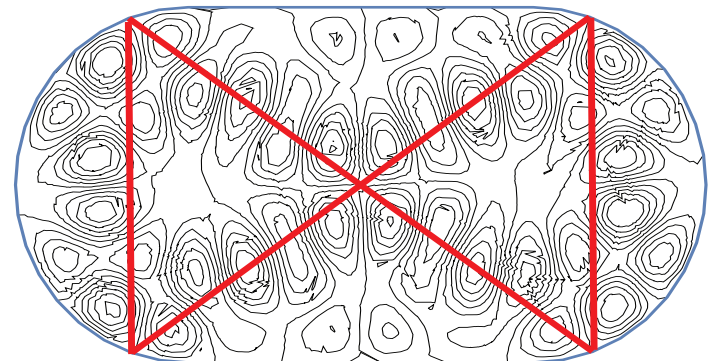
Quantum scars in single-particle chaos



typical  
eigenstates



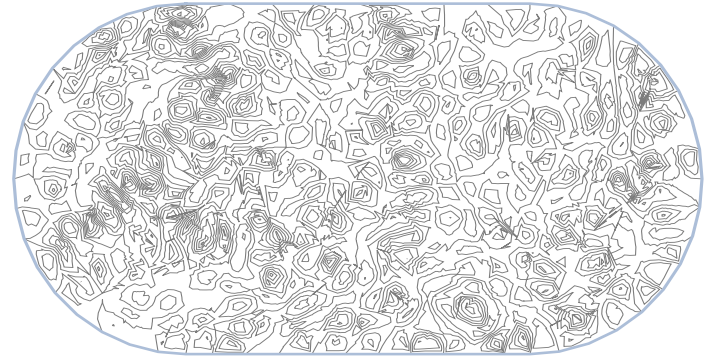
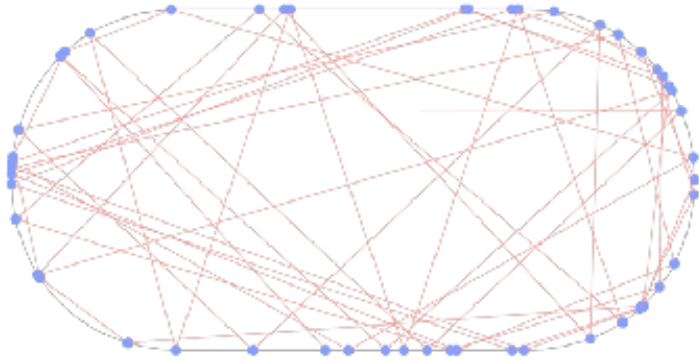
quantum scarred  
eigenstates



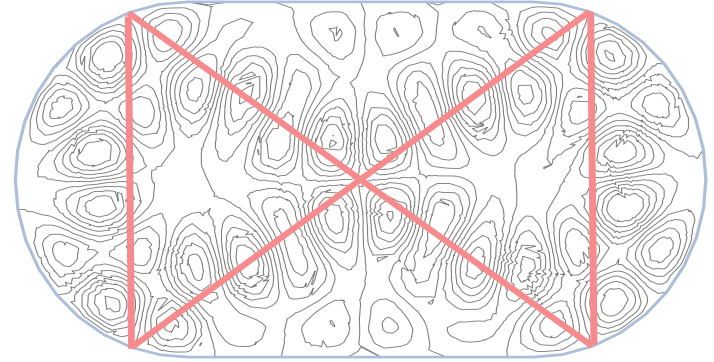
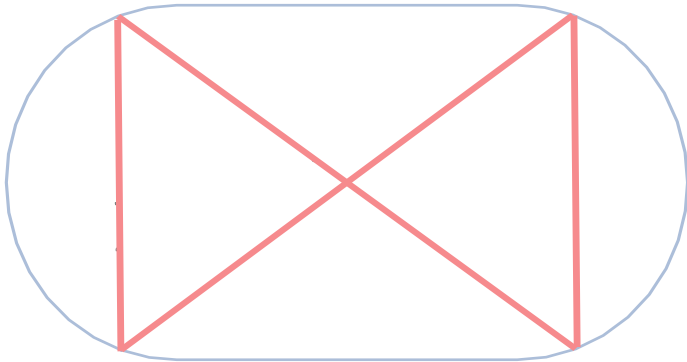
[Heller, PRL'84]

Unstable **classical** orbits influence **quantum** eigenstates



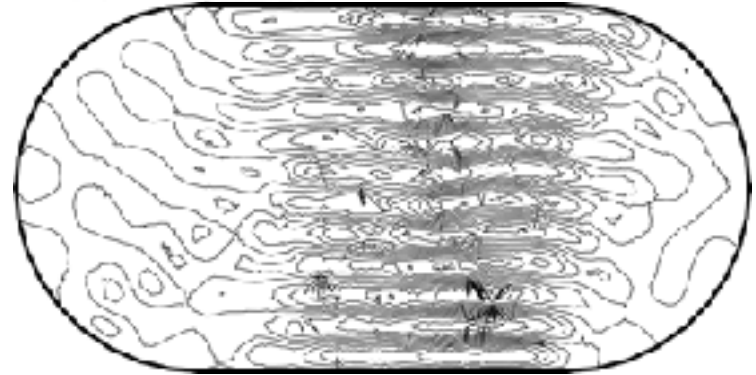
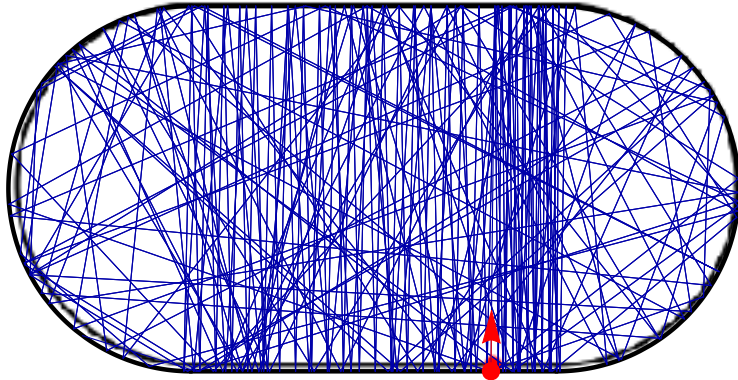


# Quantum many-body scars



# Properties of single-particle quantum scars

I. Different trajectories with small Lyapunov exponent  $\lambda_L T \ll 1$



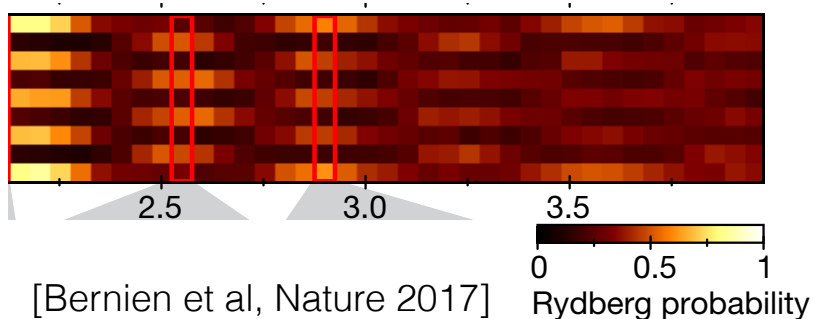
Small Lyapunov exponent  $\rightarrow$  stronger scarring

II. Stability to perturbations when periodic orbit is not destroyed

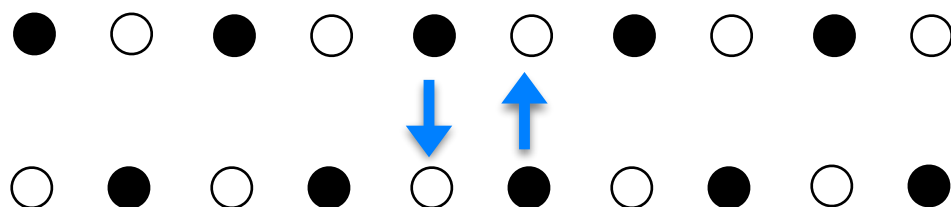
Do these properties hold in many-body system?

# Trajectories and special bands: $Z_2$ and $Z_3$

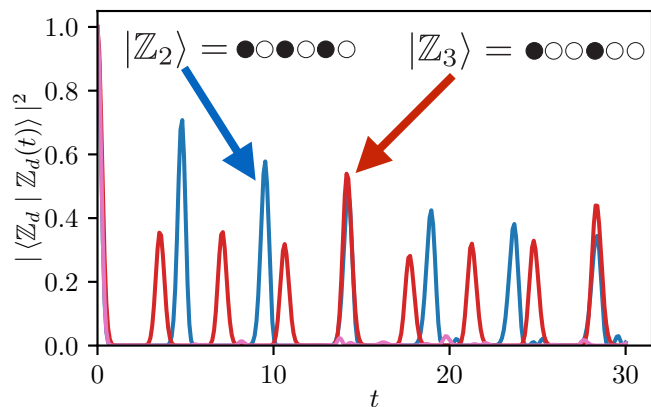
## $Z_2$ special eigenstates



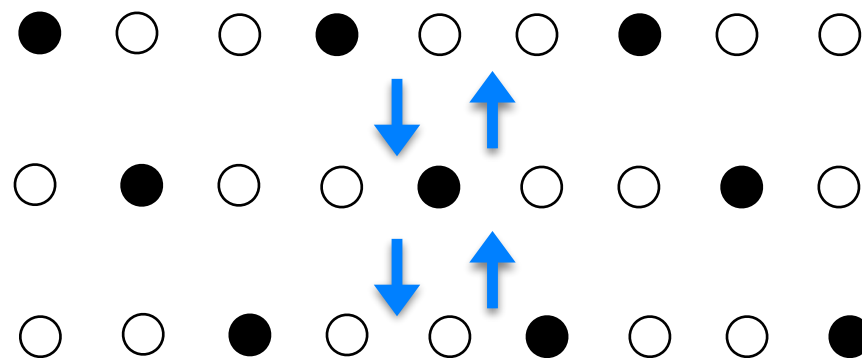
## trajectory connecting 2 Néel states



## $Z_3$ special eigenstates

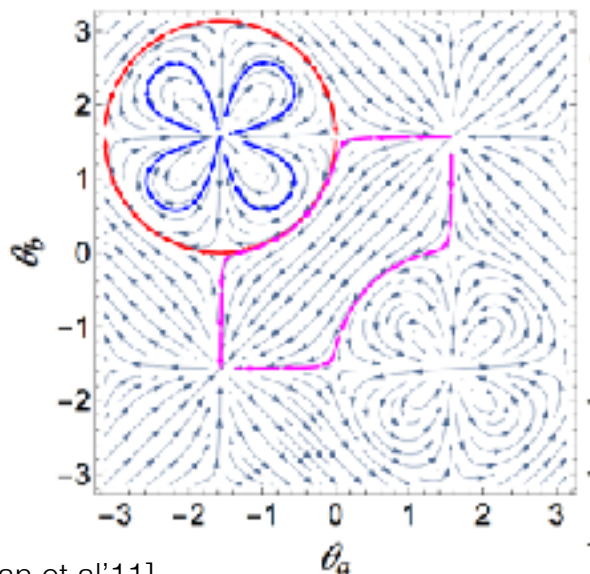


## trajectory connecting period-3 CDW



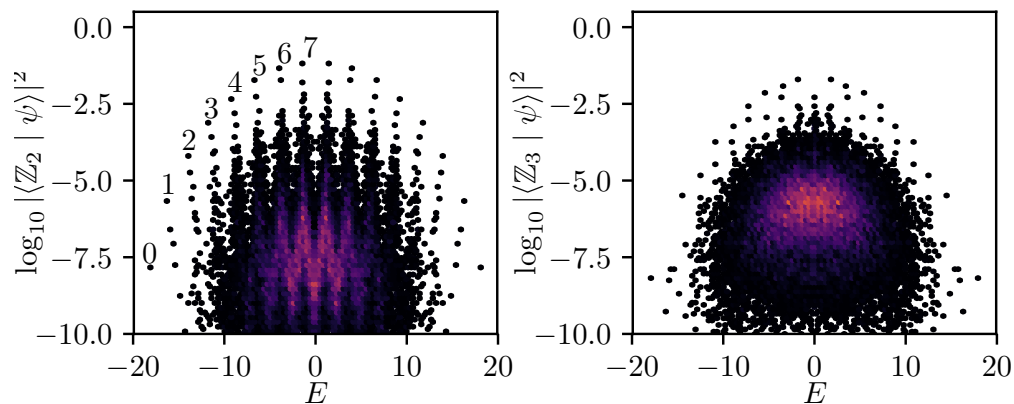
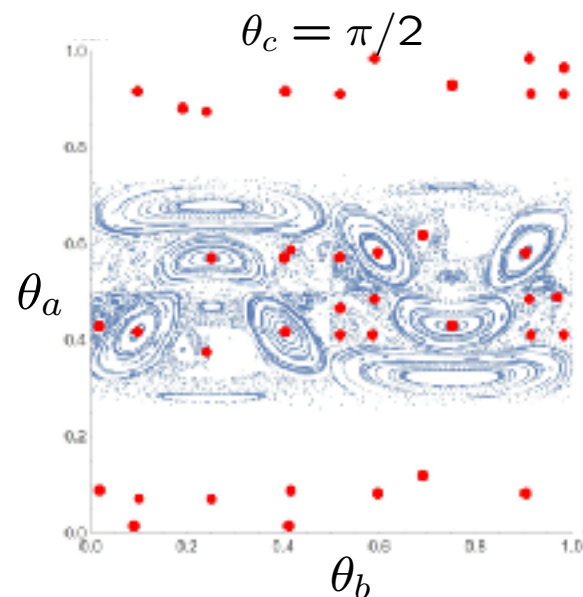
# Time dependent variational principle

## $Z_2$ band trajectory with TDVP



[Haegeman et al'11]  
[Bernien et al, Nature'17]  
[WW Ho et al, arXiv:1807.01815]

## $Z_3$ band trajectories



$Z_3$  trajectory  
is more unstable  
→ weaker scarring

# Stability to perturbations

Oscillations can persist with  $O(1)$  perturbation

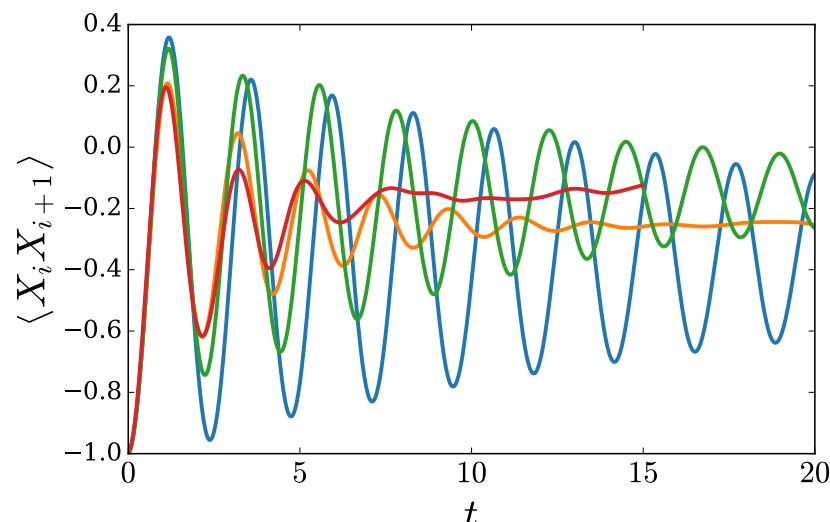
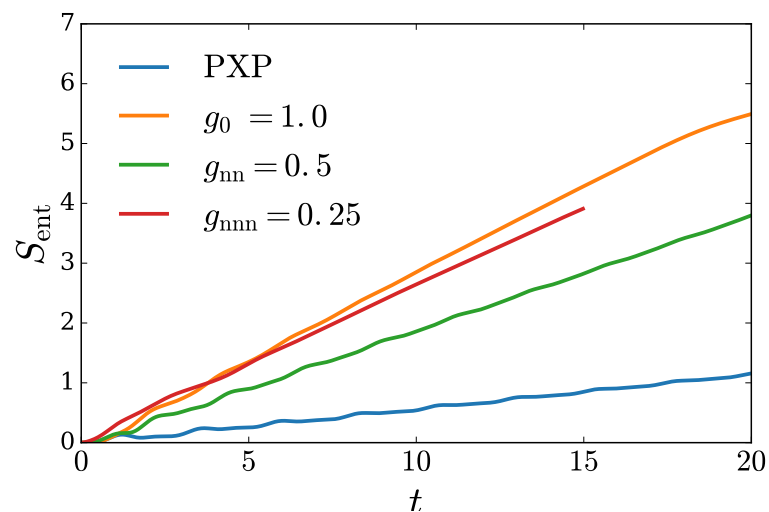
[Turner et al., arXiv:1806.10933]

$$\delta H_0 = g_0 \sum_j Q_j,$$

$$\delta H_{\text{nn}} = g_{\text{nn}} \sum_j P_{j-1} (\sigma_j^+ \sigma_{j+1}^- + \sigma_j^- \sigma_{j+1}^+) P_{j+2}$$

$$\delta H_{\text{nnn}} = g_{\text{nnn}} \sum_j P_{j-1} X_j P_{j+1} X_{j+2} P_{j+3}.$$

Enhancing entanglement growth  $\neq$  destroying orbit



Perturbations that remove scars restore “canonical” ETH

# Summary and outlook



# Ergodicity and integrability

## Ergodic systems

## Integrable systems

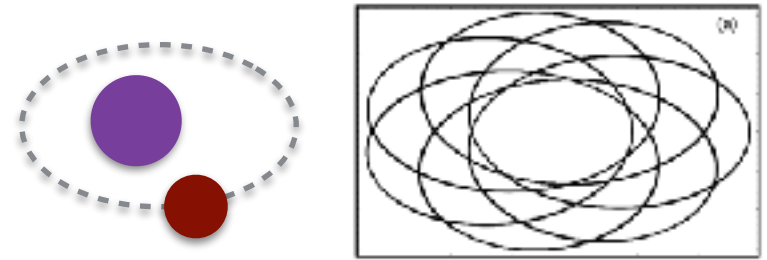
Classical

chaos  $\rightarrow$  ergodicity



stable to weak perturbations

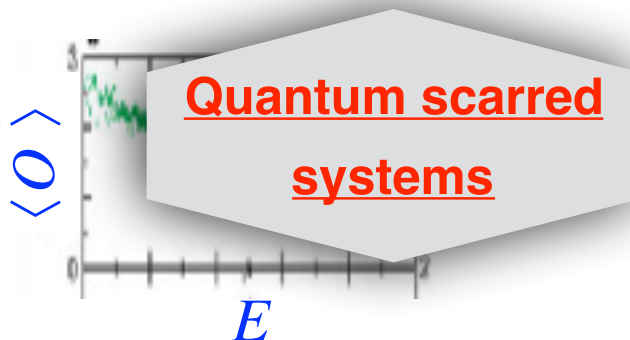
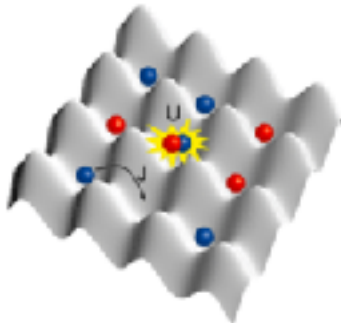
[Kolmogorov-Arnold-Moser theorem]



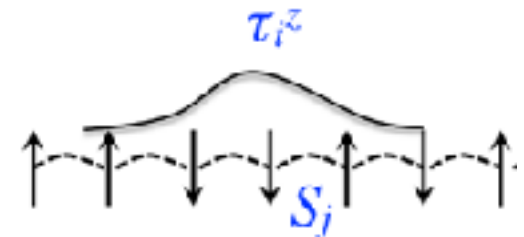
Thermalizing phases

MBL phases

Quantum



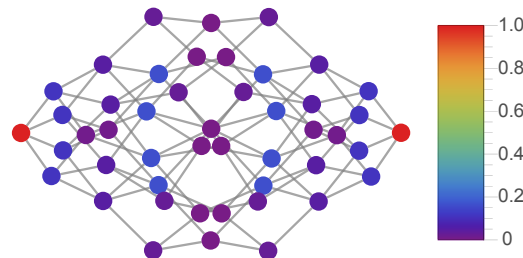
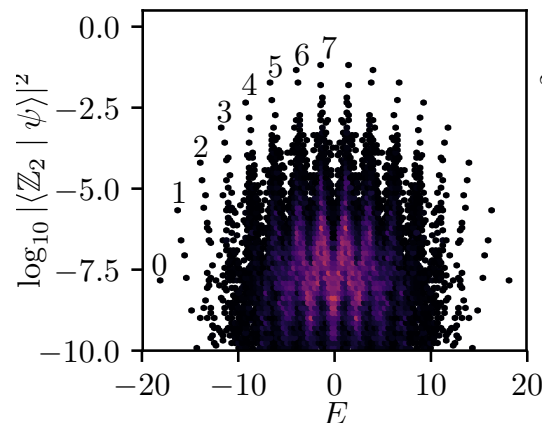
emergent integrability



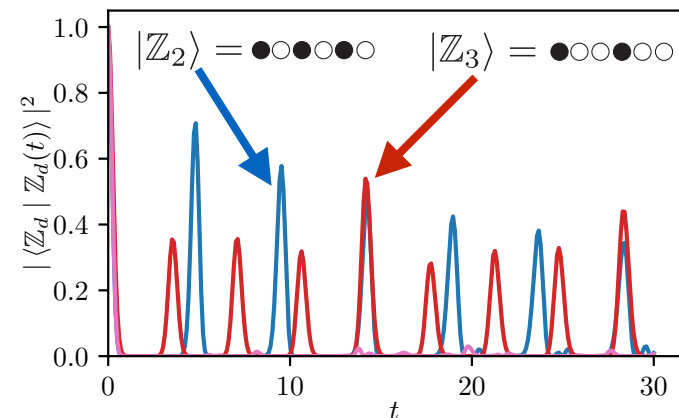
# Quantum many-body scars

- Weak ergodicity breaking:
  - \* special eigenstates: low entanglement, large  $Z_{2,3}$  overlaps, no ETH
  - \* explains recent experiments; stable to perturbations
- Open questions:
  - \* classes of models with quantum scars?
  - \* quasiclassics, meaning of Lyapunov exponent?
  - \* use scars and/or zero modes to protect quantum information?

[Turner et al., Nature Physics 2018]



[Turner et al., arXiv:1806.10933]



# Acknowledgments

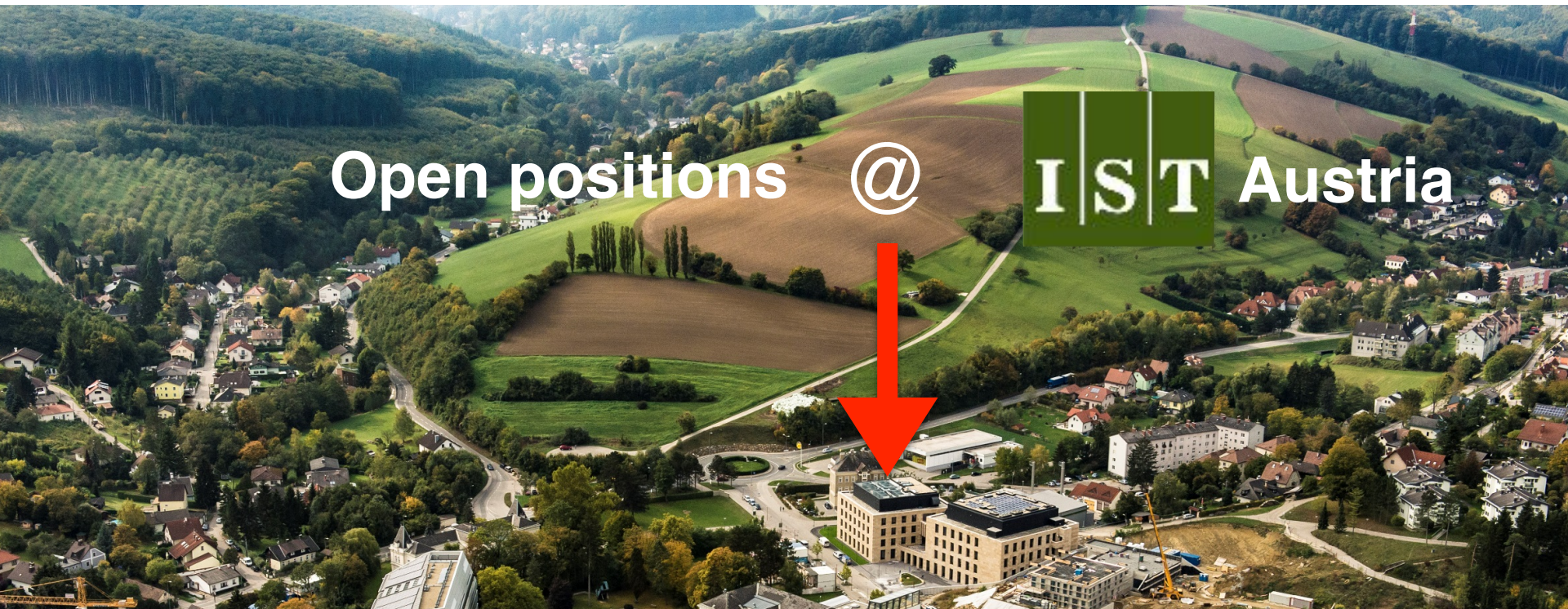
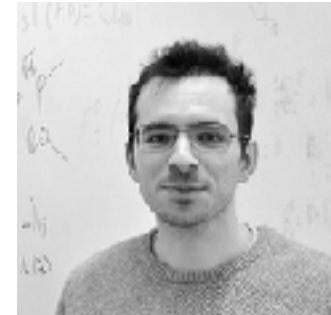
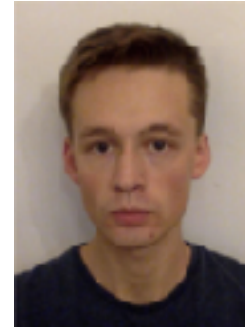
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Open positions

@



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