

QCD meets Quantum Information Science: Thermalization of Gauge Theories from their Entanglement Spectrum

Niklas Mueller
University of Washington

*based on NM, Torsten Zache, Robert Ott,
Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 011601 (2022)*

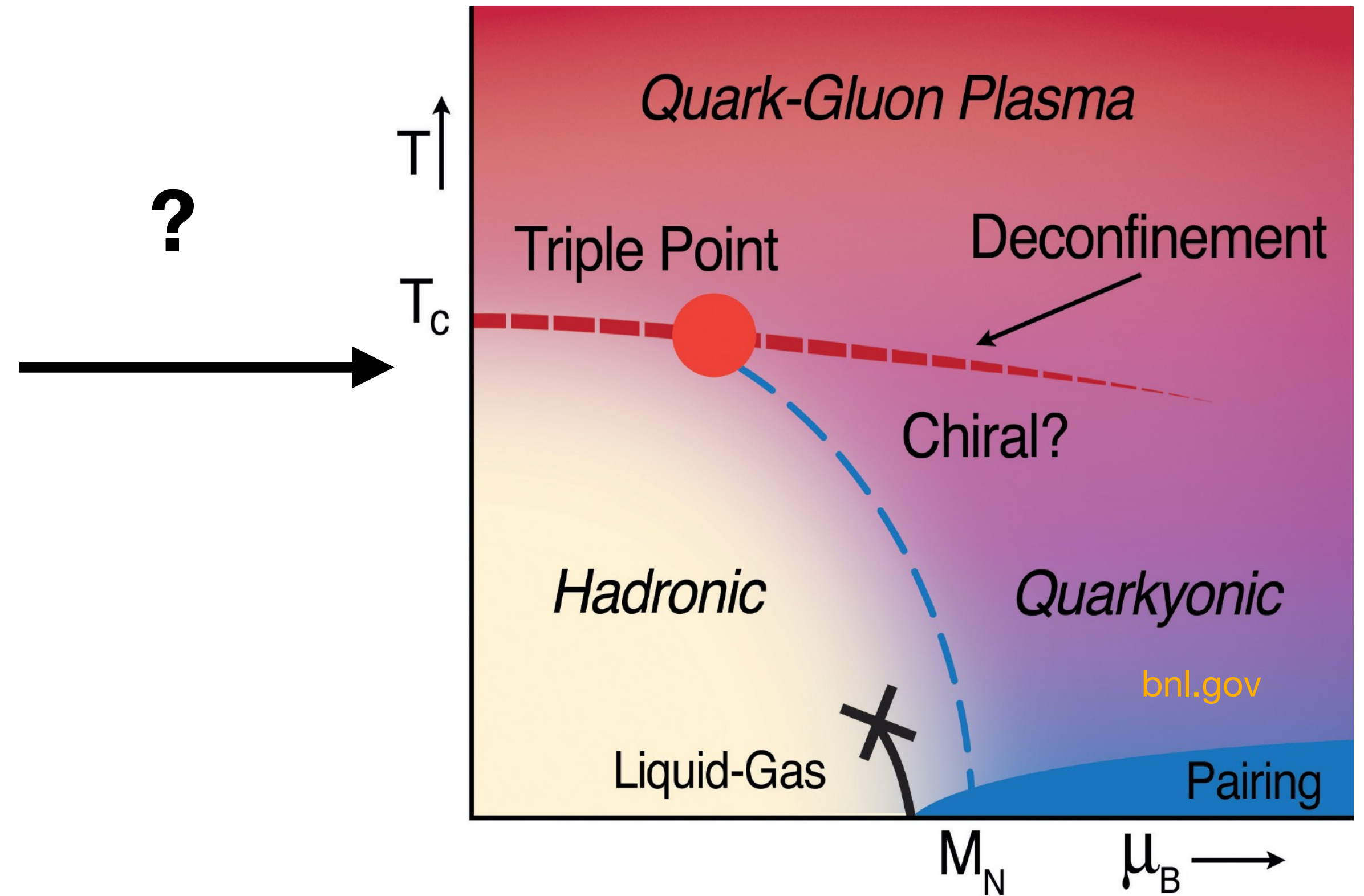
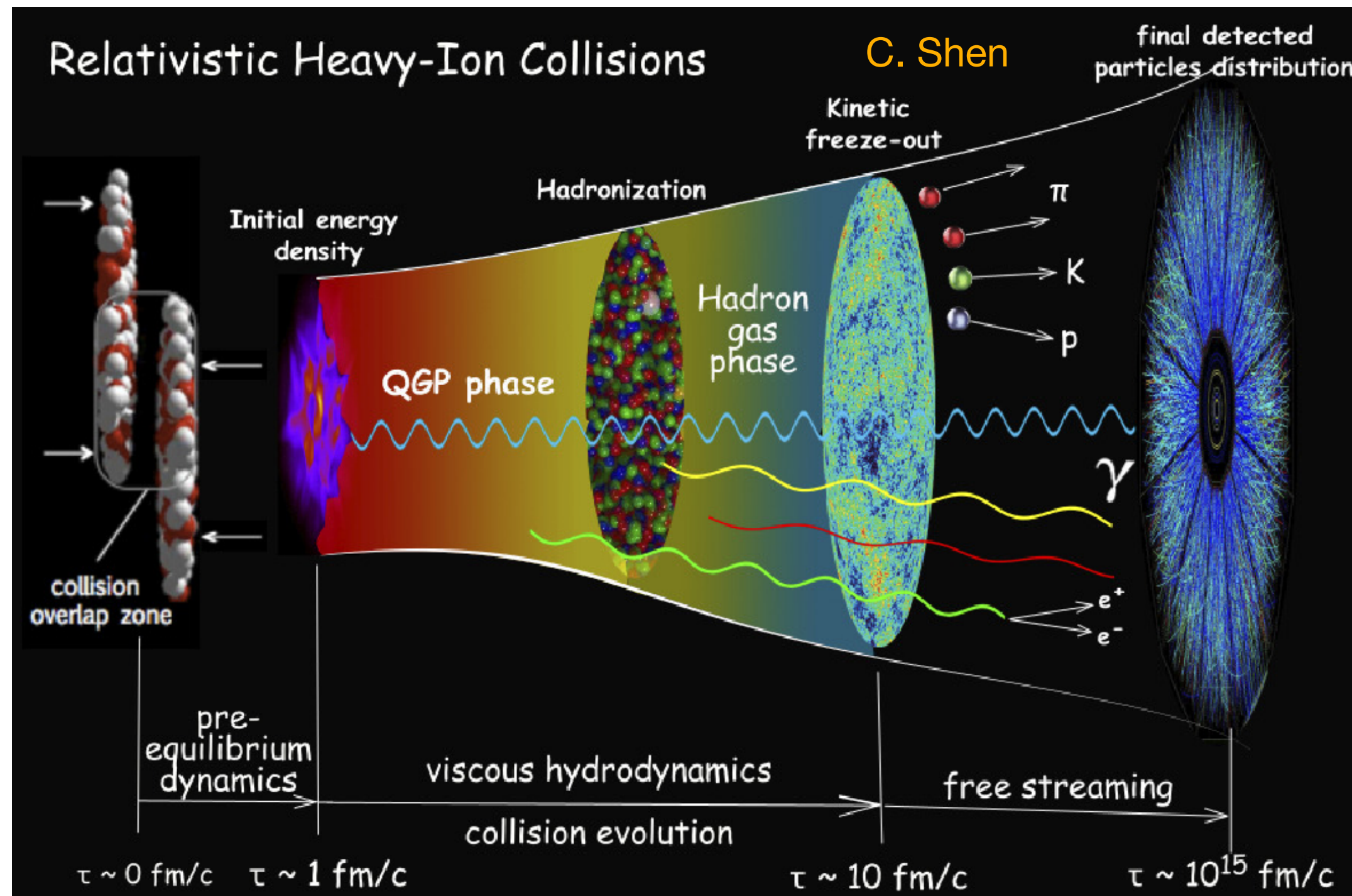
QCD Theory Seminar



*Torsten Zache, Robert Ott,
Innsbruck*

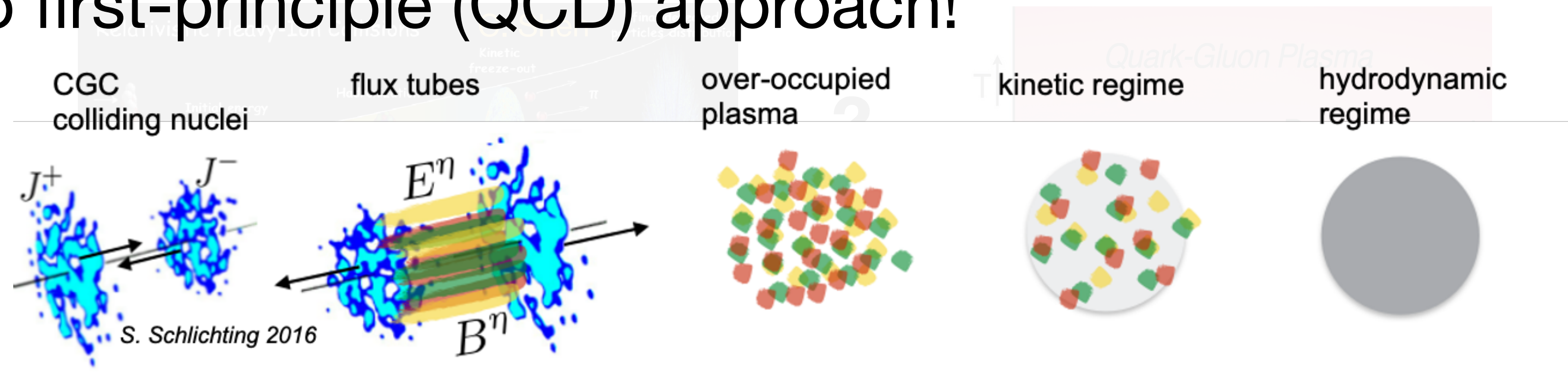
Nov 13/14, 2022

Motivation: How does QCD thermalize?



Motivation: How does QCD thermalize?

Issue #1: No first-principle (QCD) approach!



- “piecewise” descriptions: QCD kinetic theory, hydrodynamics

- Problem: Real-time dynamics, ~~MC-based lattice QCD~~

Arnold, Moore, Yaffe; JHEP 11 (2000) & 05 (2003)
Baier, Mueller, Schiff, Son; PLB 502, 51 (2001)
Berges, Heller, Mazeliauskas, Venugopalan, Rev. Mod. Phys. 93 (2021), 035003
Keegan, Kurkela, Romatschke, van der Schee, JHEP 2016(4), 1

Issue #2: What actually means thermalization? (spoiler: Entanglement has to do with it)

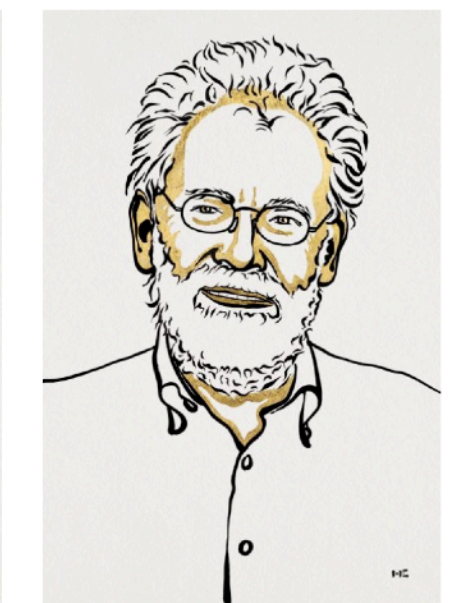
The Nobel Prize in Physics 2022



III. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Alain Aspect

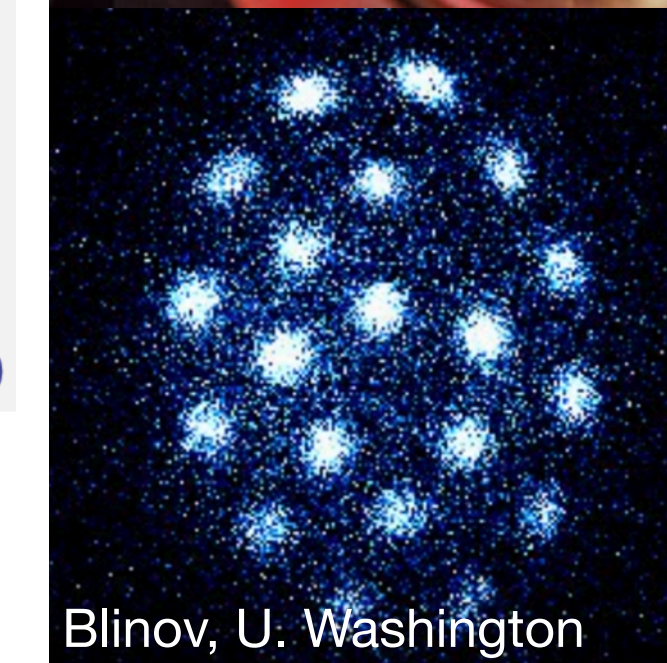
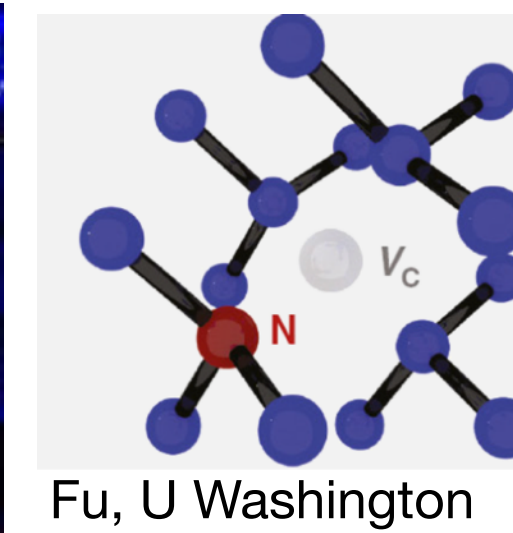
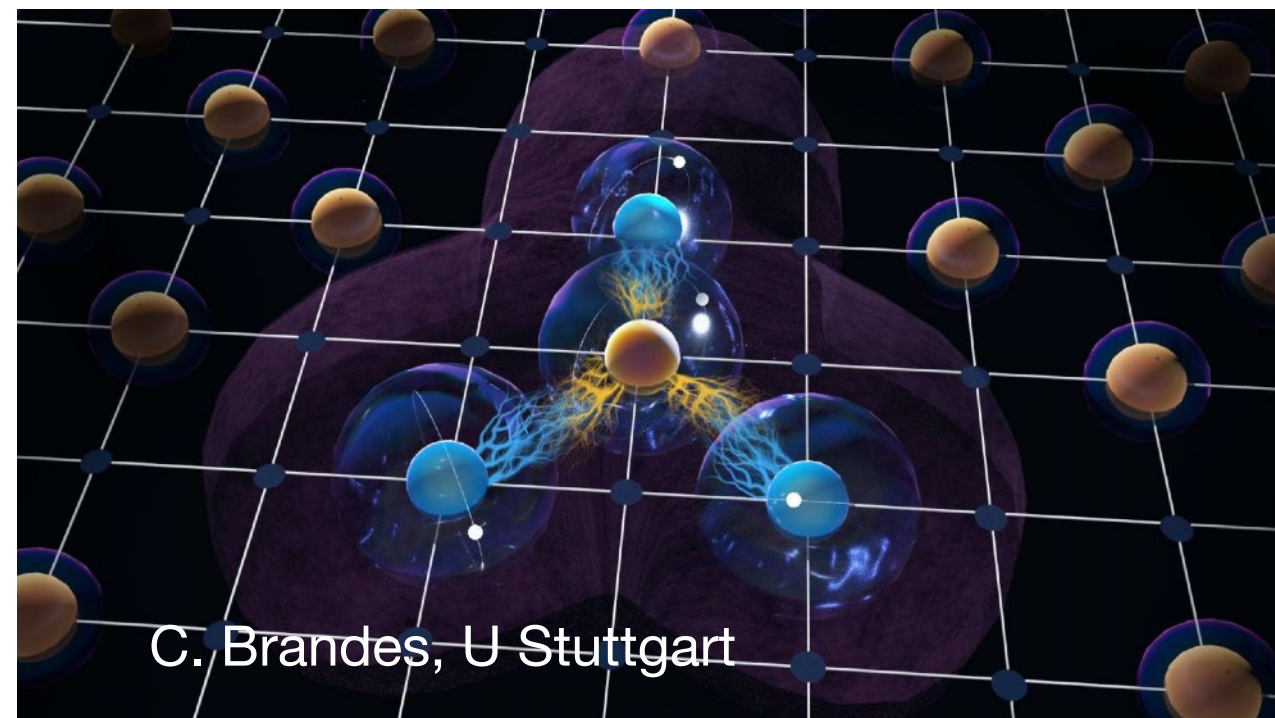
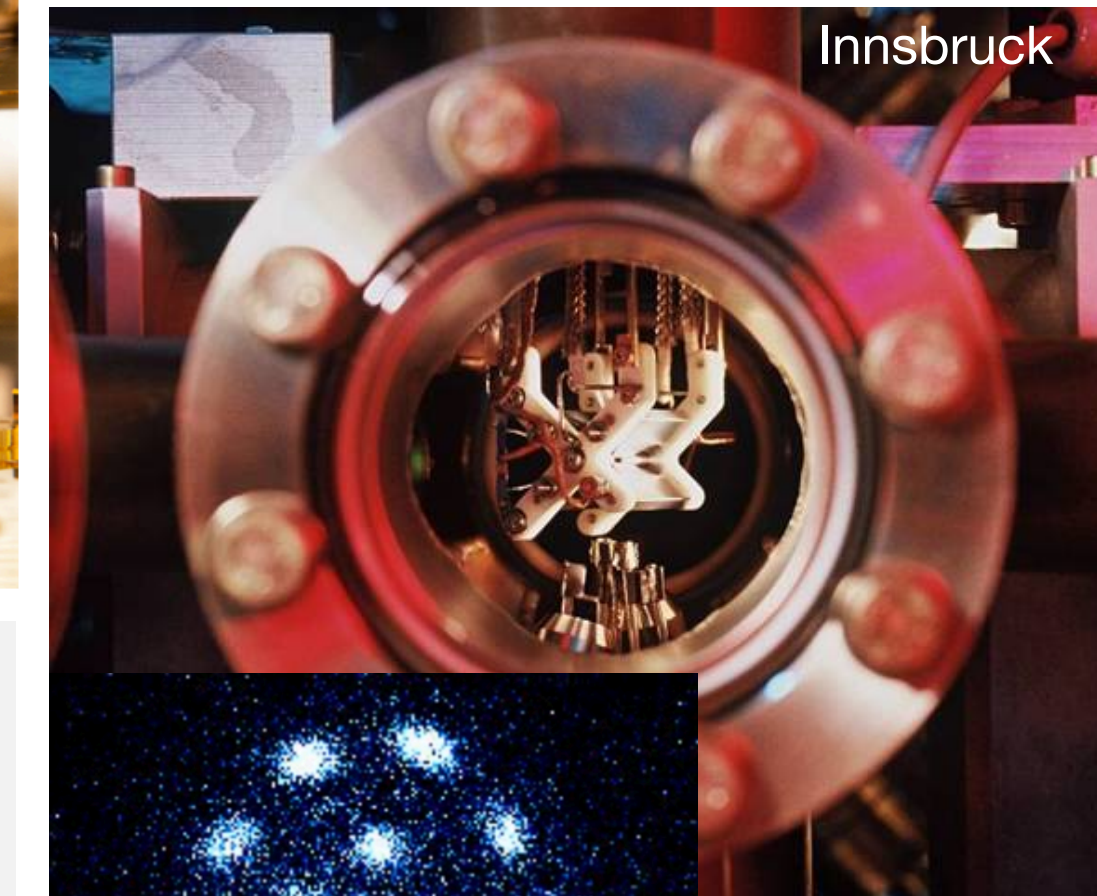
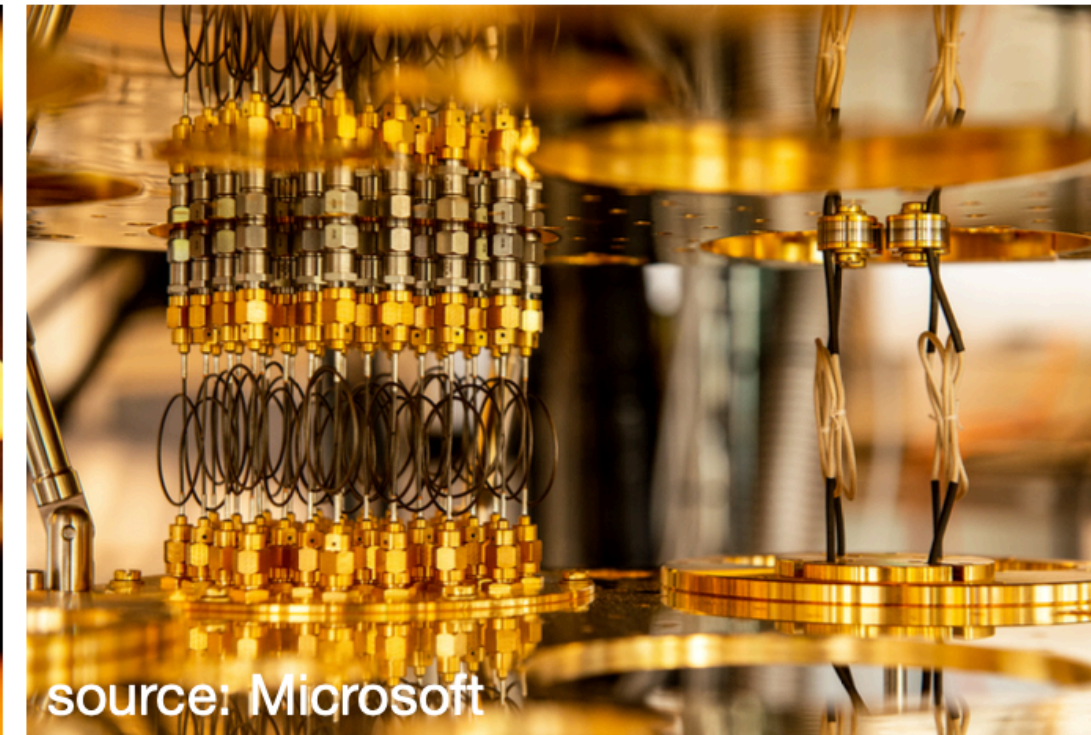
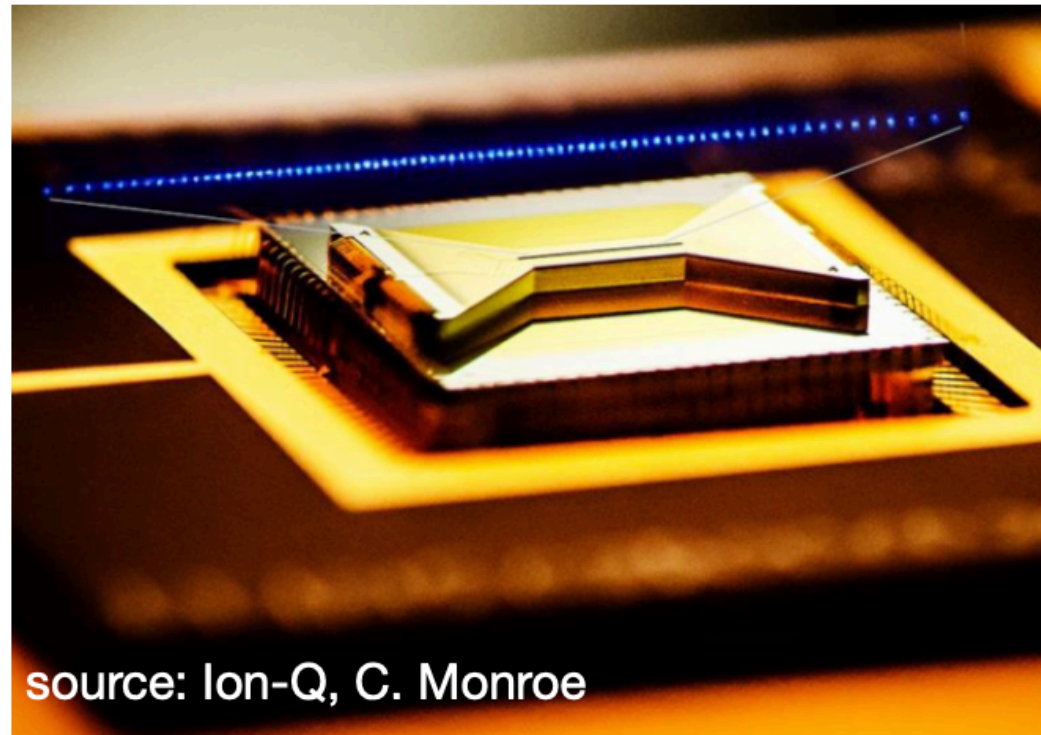
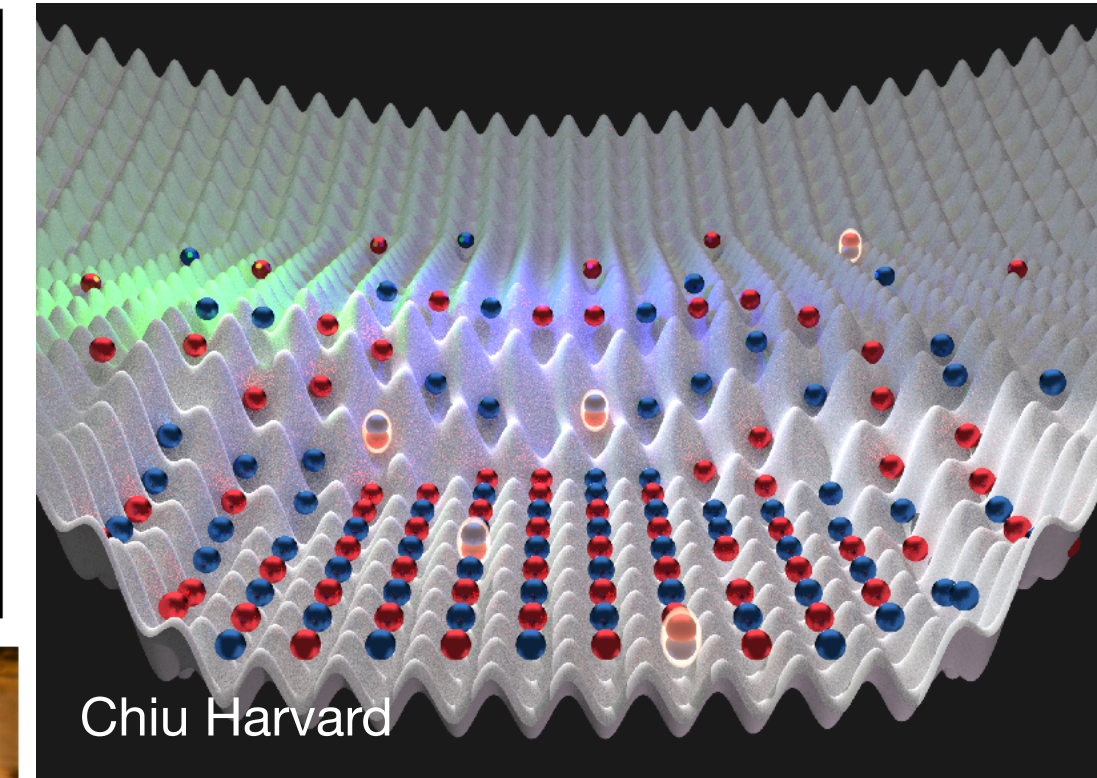
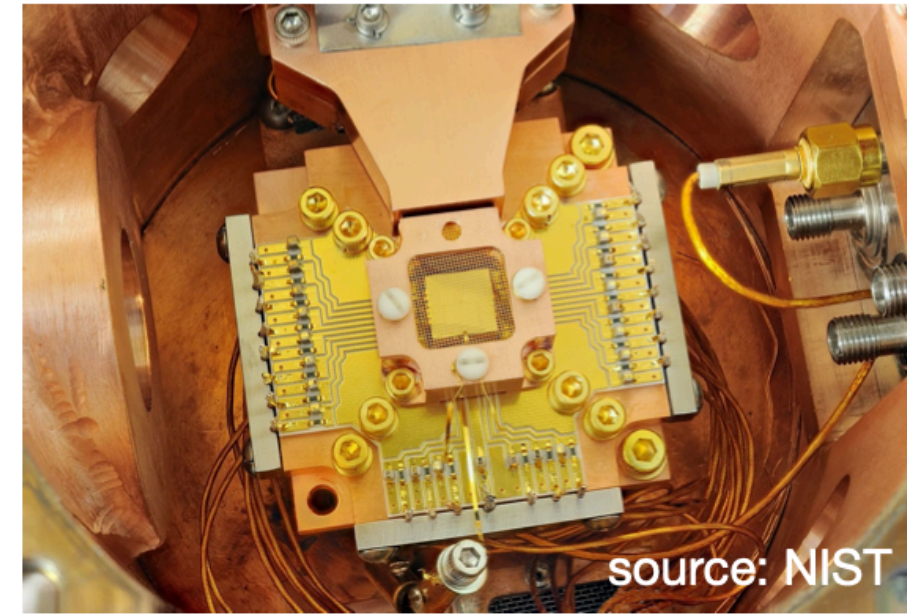
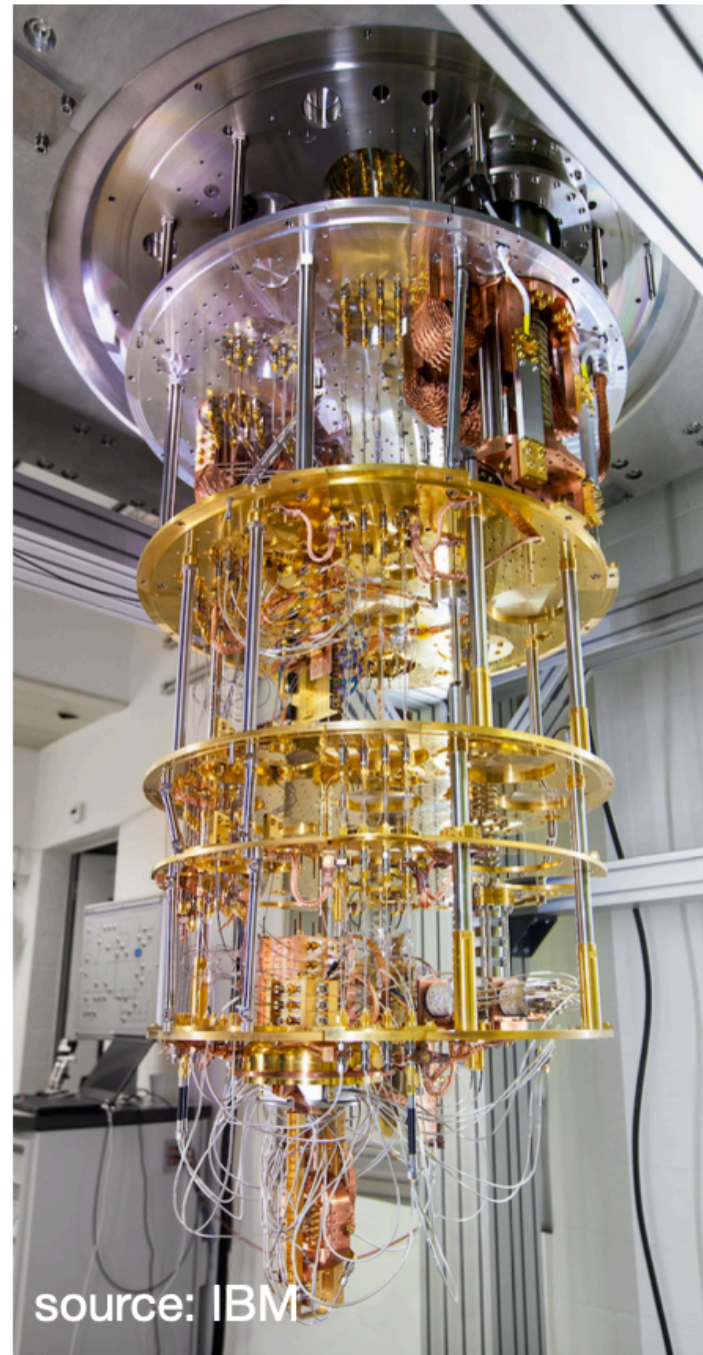


III. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
John F. Clauser



III. Niklas Elmehed © Nobel Prize Outreach
Anton Zeilinger

issue #1, perhaps soon no longer an issue?



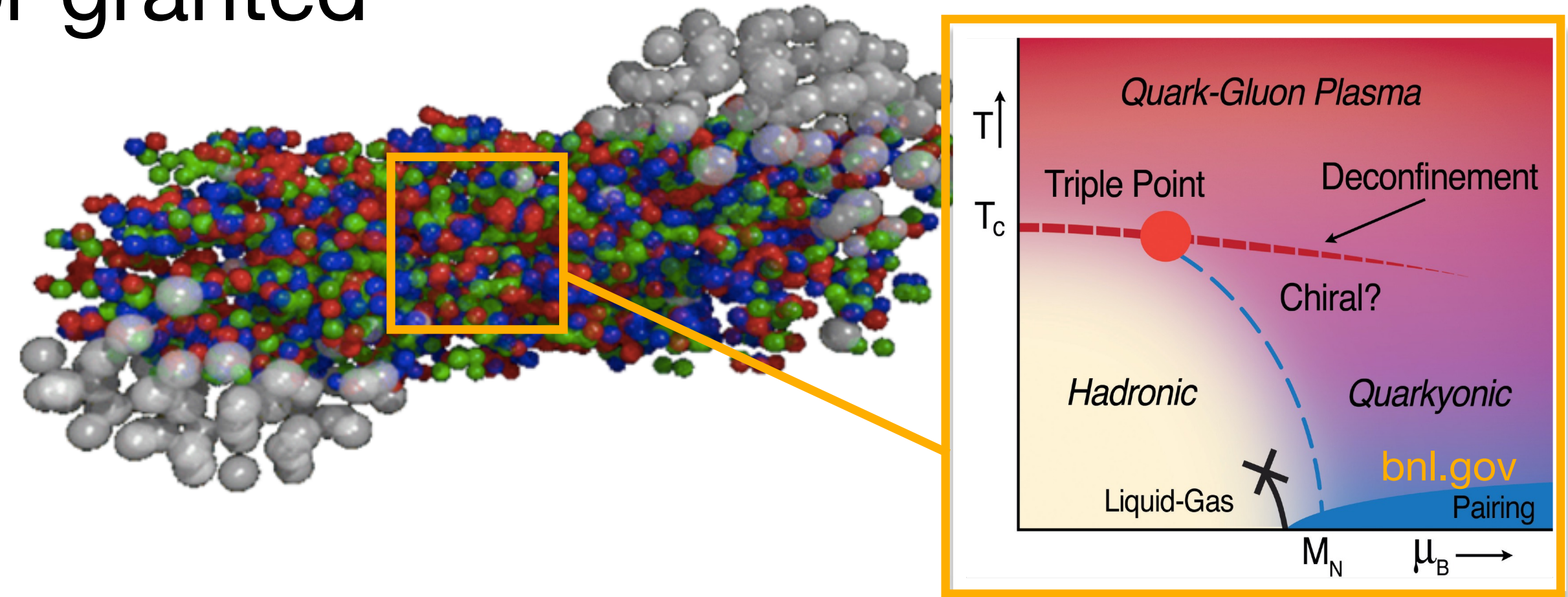
This talk: Mostly issue #2

Thermalization of Gauge Theories

Thermal equilibrium often taken for granted

- “Hydrodynamics works”
= local thermal equilibrium?
- Weak-coupling: QCD kinetic theory,
“should thermalize ... eventually”

Arnold, Moore, Yaffe; JHEP 11 (2000) & 05 (2003)
Baier, Mueller, Schiff, Son; PLB 502, 51 (2001)



What means thermal equilibrium?

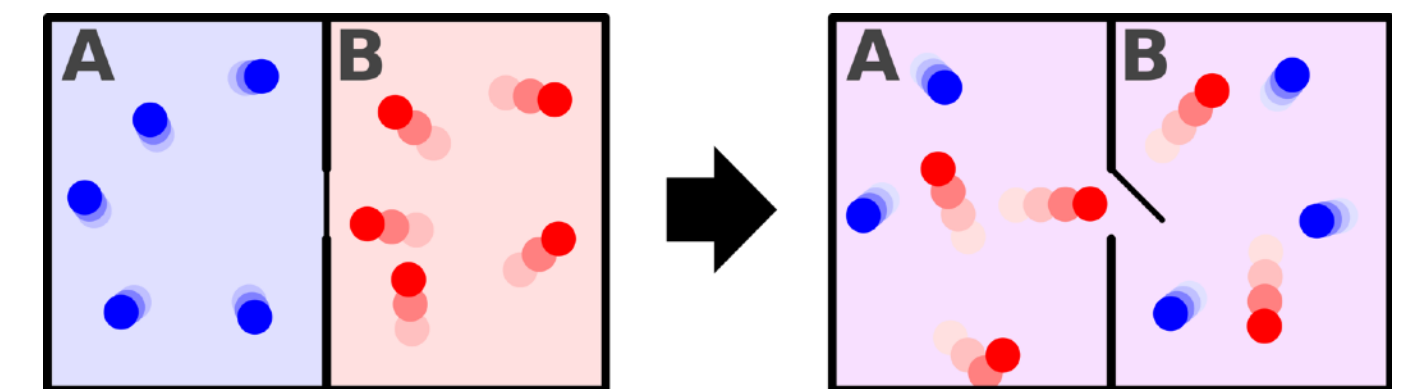
thermal equilibrium = system behaves statistically, i.e. according to the laws of thermodynamics

○ thermal expectation values

expectation values of physical variable predicted by Gibbs ensemble

○ fluctuation-dissipation relation

fluctuations of physical variable \leftrightarrow response (“admittance”) to external change



$$Z \sim \sum_k e^{-\beta E_k} \quad \beta = 1/k_B T$$

$$\langle E \rangle = - \frac{\partial Z}{\partial \beta}$$

Thermalization of Gauge Theories

How to reach thermal equilibrium?

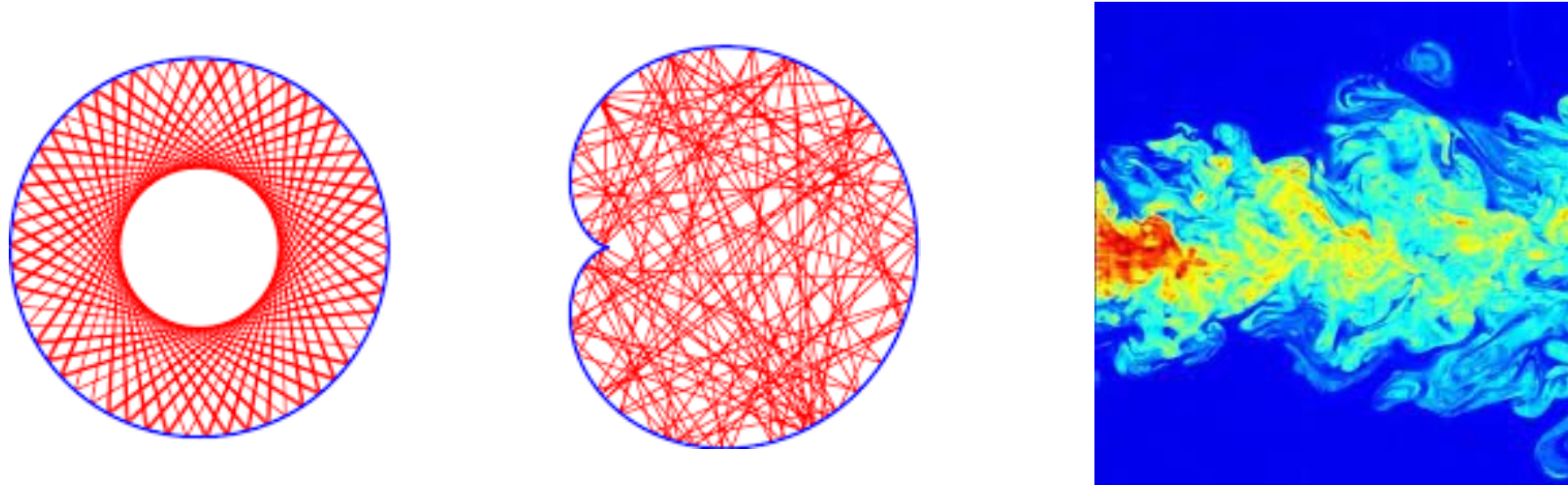
Initial state characterized by
lots of information

—————→
“loss of information”?

Thermal state “Gibbs ensemble”
only characterized by: temperature, chemical potential ...

Classical systems

- ergodicity & chaos
small systems can relax to micro-canonical ensemble



Quantum systems

- formally, isolated quantum systems cannot
quantum mechanics is unitary

$$i\partial_t |\psi\rangle = H |\psi\rangle \quad |\psi\rangle \not\rightarrow e^{-\beta H}$$

- **Eigenstate Thermalization Hypothesis**

Deutsch, PRA 43, 2046 (1991); Srednicki PRE 50, 888 (1994)

Typicality: von Neumann (1929)

Golstein, Lebowitz, Mastrodonato, Tumulk, Azngghi, Proc. R. Soc. A 466, 3203 (2010)

Eisert, Friesdorf, Gogolin, Nature Phys. 11, 124130 (2015)

Random Matrix Theory: Wigner, Dyson, Bohigas, Berry

Borgonovi, Izrailev, Santos, Zelevinsky, Phys. Rep. 626, 1 (2016)

Berry's conjecture

Berry, J Phys A 10, 2083 (1977)

Thermalization of Gauge Theories

ETH

Finally we would like to comment on the much-discussed question of an appropriate definition for quantum chaos. Some time ago, van Kampen suggested that quantum chaos be defined as “that property that causes a quantum system to behave statistically [33].

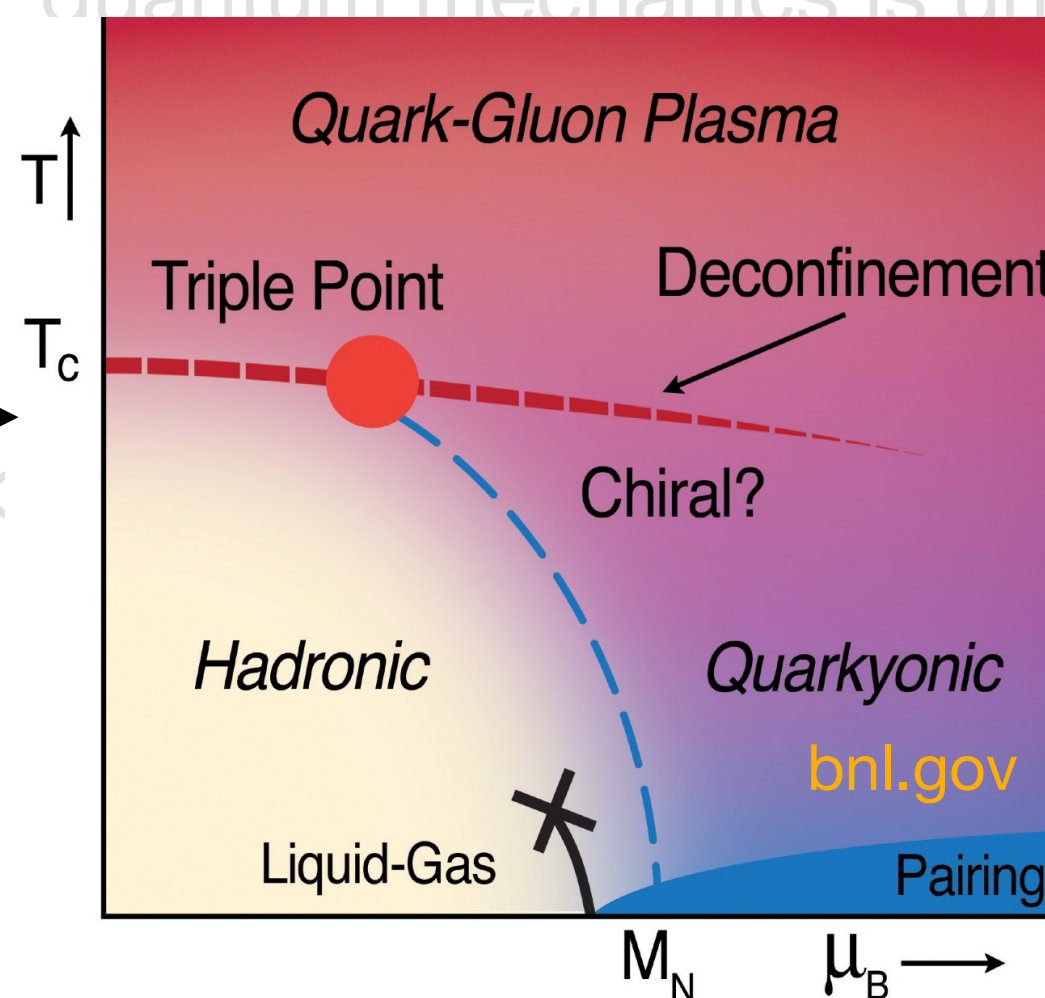
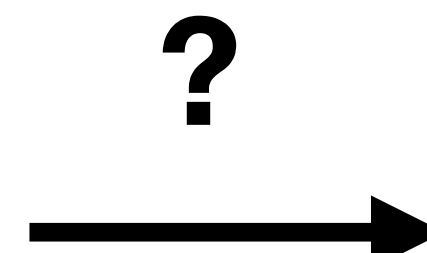
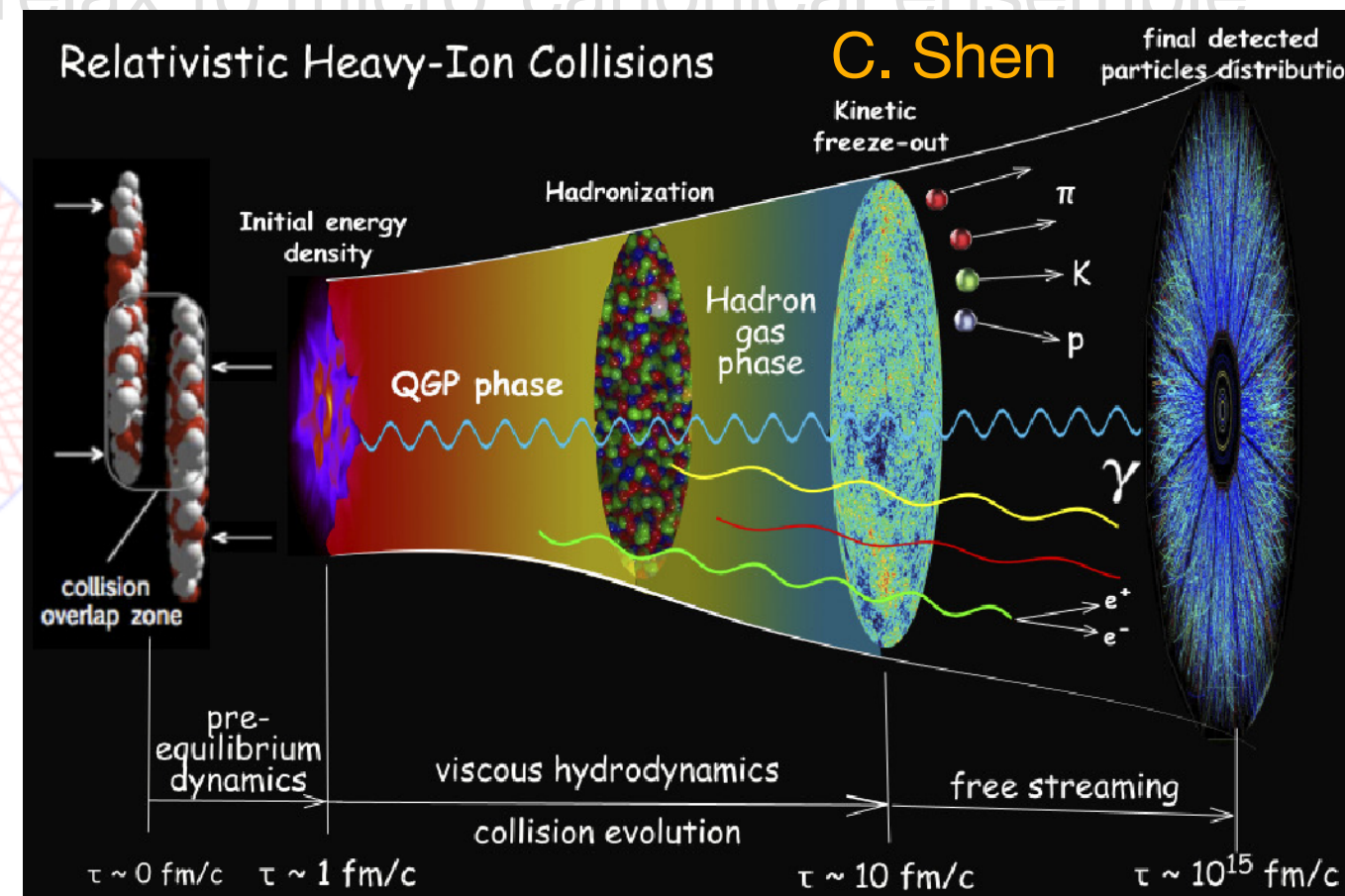
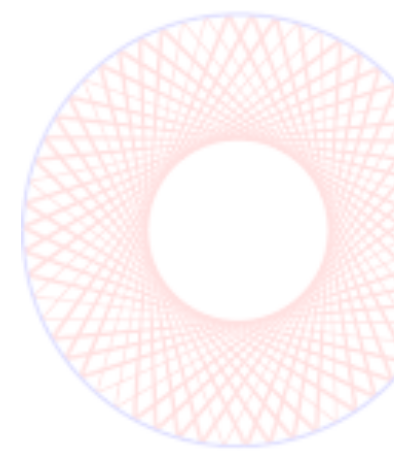
Initial state
lots of information

If we replace “behave statistically” with “obey the laws of statistical mechanics,” then we have seen that the key feature is Berry’s conjectured properties of the energy eigenstates. In particular, properties of the energy eigenvalues (such as GOE rather than Poisson statistics for the unfolded level spacings [33]) have played no role at all in the present work.

Steiner has suggested [21] that Berry’s conjecture be elevated to the status of the best definition of quantum chaos, a proposal which we see to be equivalent to (our version of) van Kampen’s. **More generally, in quantum mechanics, where time evolution is always linear and therefore essentially trivial, the only place to encode the complexities of the classical limit is in the energy eigenfunctions: that is where quantum chaos, like thermal behavior, must be sought.**

Srednicki PRL 50, 888 (1994)

“complexities” & structure of quantum states: Quantify through Entanglement



$|\psi\rangle \rightarrow e^{-\beta H}$

Randomization Hypothesis

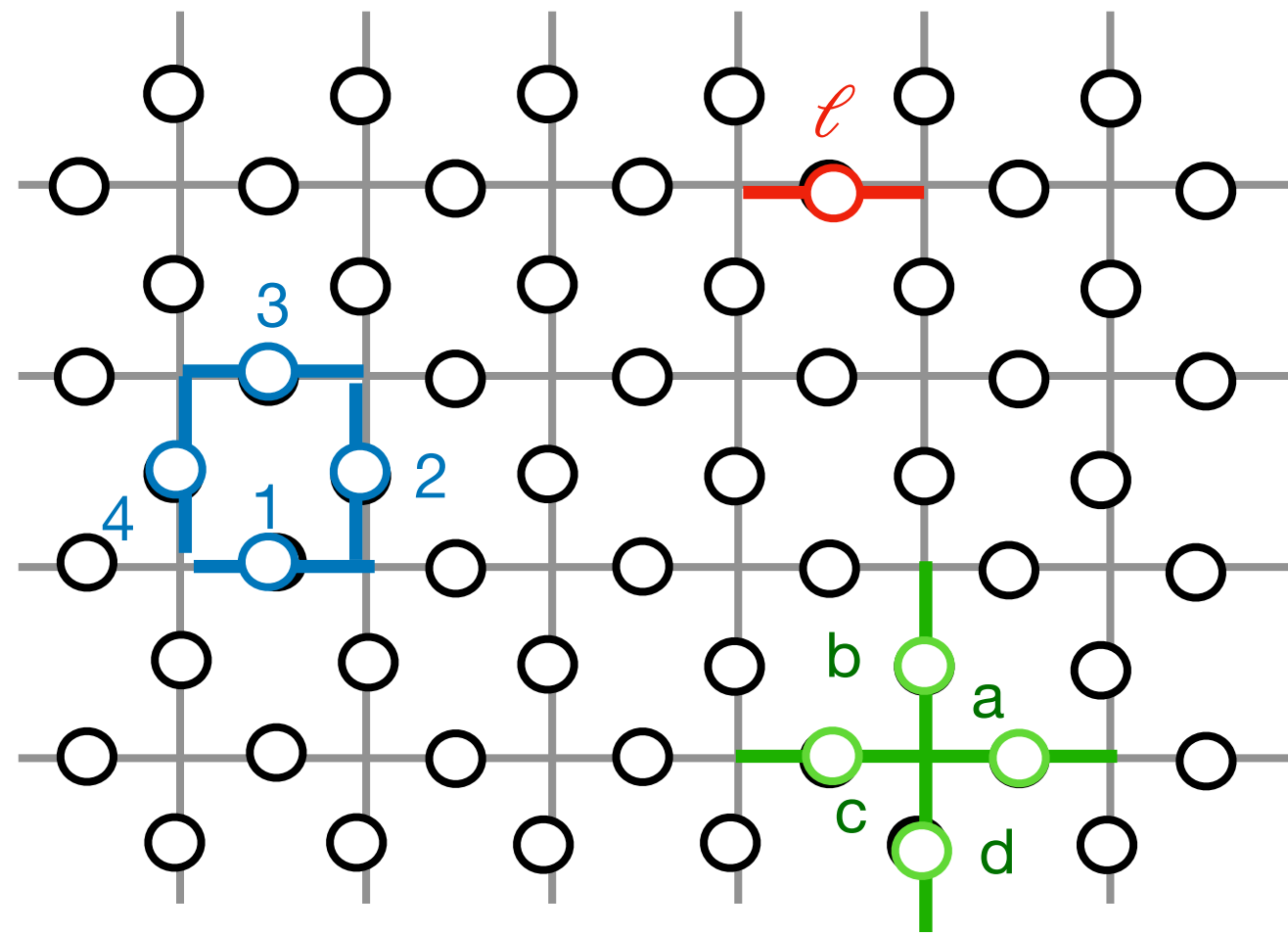
has not been explored yet for gauge theories

Berry's conjecture
Berry, J Phys A 10, 2083 (1977)

Basics

What is a (lattice) gauge theory?

Z_2 Lattice Gauge Theory



$$H = - \sum_{\square} \sigma_1^z \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^z \sigma_4^z - \epsilon \sum_{\ell} \sigma_{\ell}^x \quad \ell \equiv (\mathbf{n}, i)$$

Gauss law

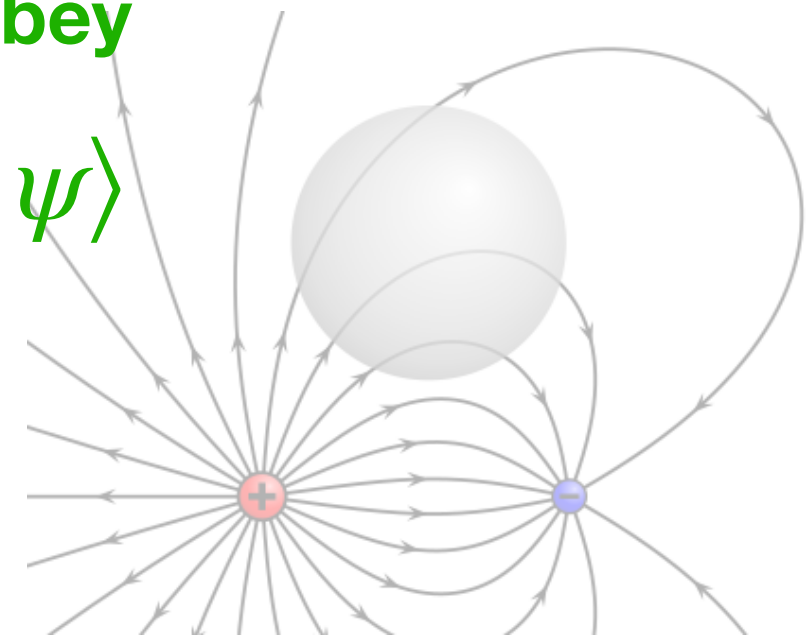
$$G_{\mathbf{n}} = \sigma_a^x \sigma_b^x \sigma_c^x \sigma_d^x \quad [G_{\mathbf{n}}, H] = 0$$



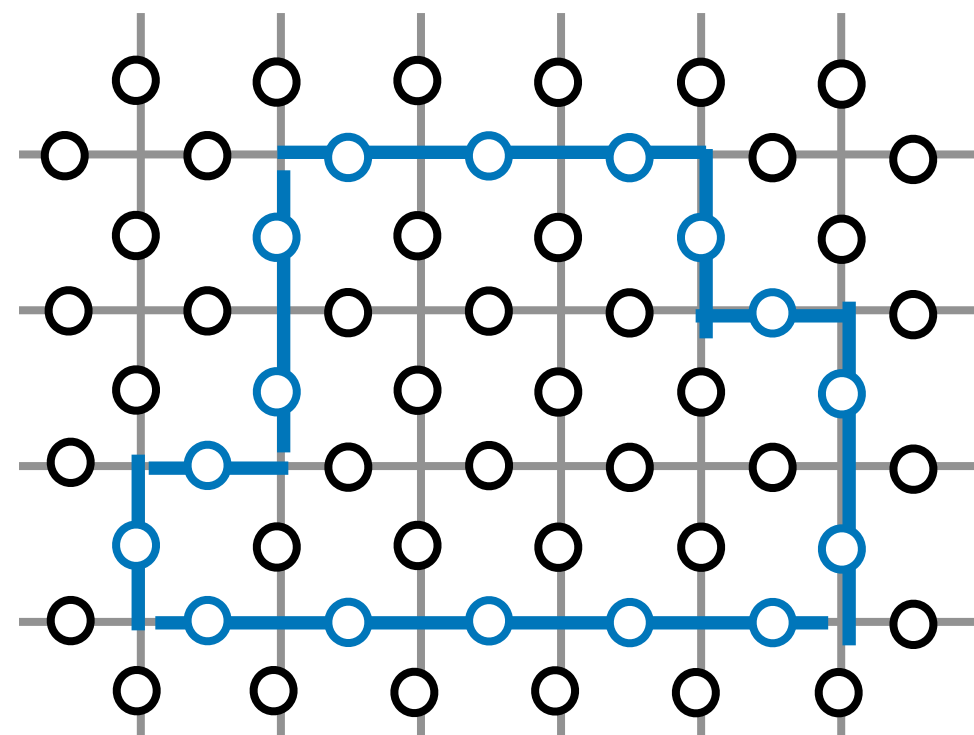
F. Wegner 1979
J. Math. Phys. 12, 2259

physical states obey

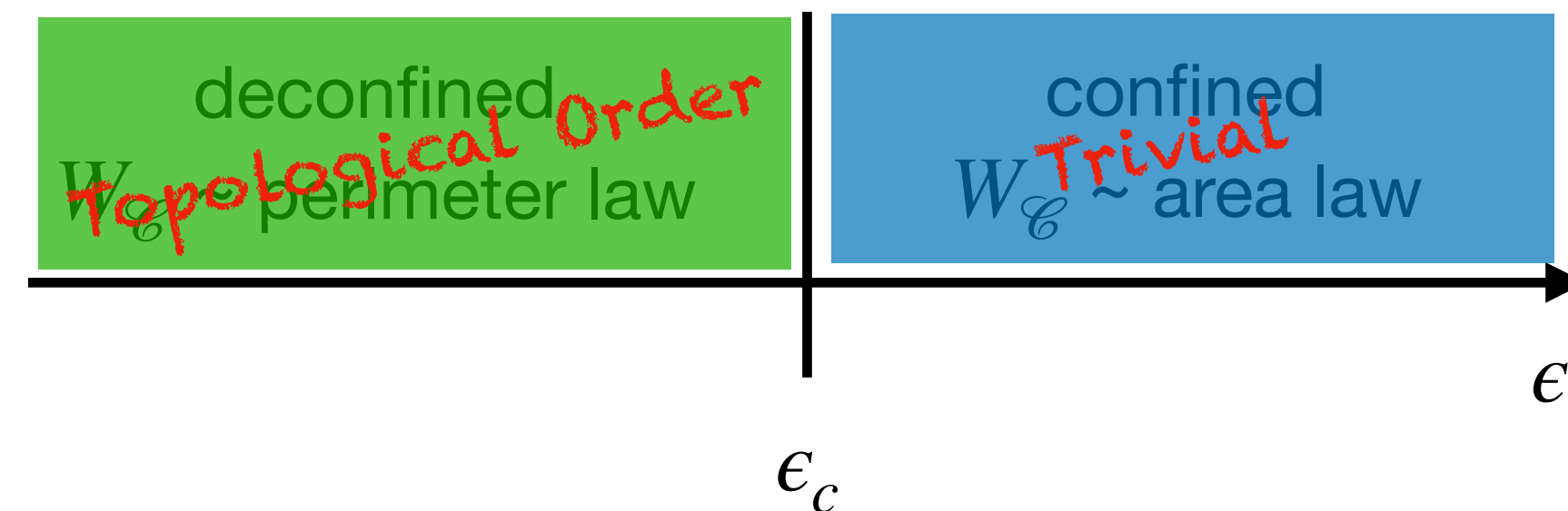
$$G_{\mathbf{n}} |\psi\rangle = 1 |\psi\rangle$$



- Phase transition w/o local order parameter
deconfinement vs. confinement



$$W_{\mathcal{C}} \equiv \prod_{\ell \in \mathcal{C}} \sigma_{\ell}^z$$



Entanglement of Gauge Theories

◦ Entanglement Structure

$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B\{\rho\} \equiv \exp\{-H_A\}$$

$$H_A = -\log(\rho_A) \quad \text{“Entanglement Hamiltonian”}$$

Entanglement Spectrum as a Generalization of Entanglement Entropy: Identification of Topological Order in Non-Abelian Fractional Quantum Hall Effect States

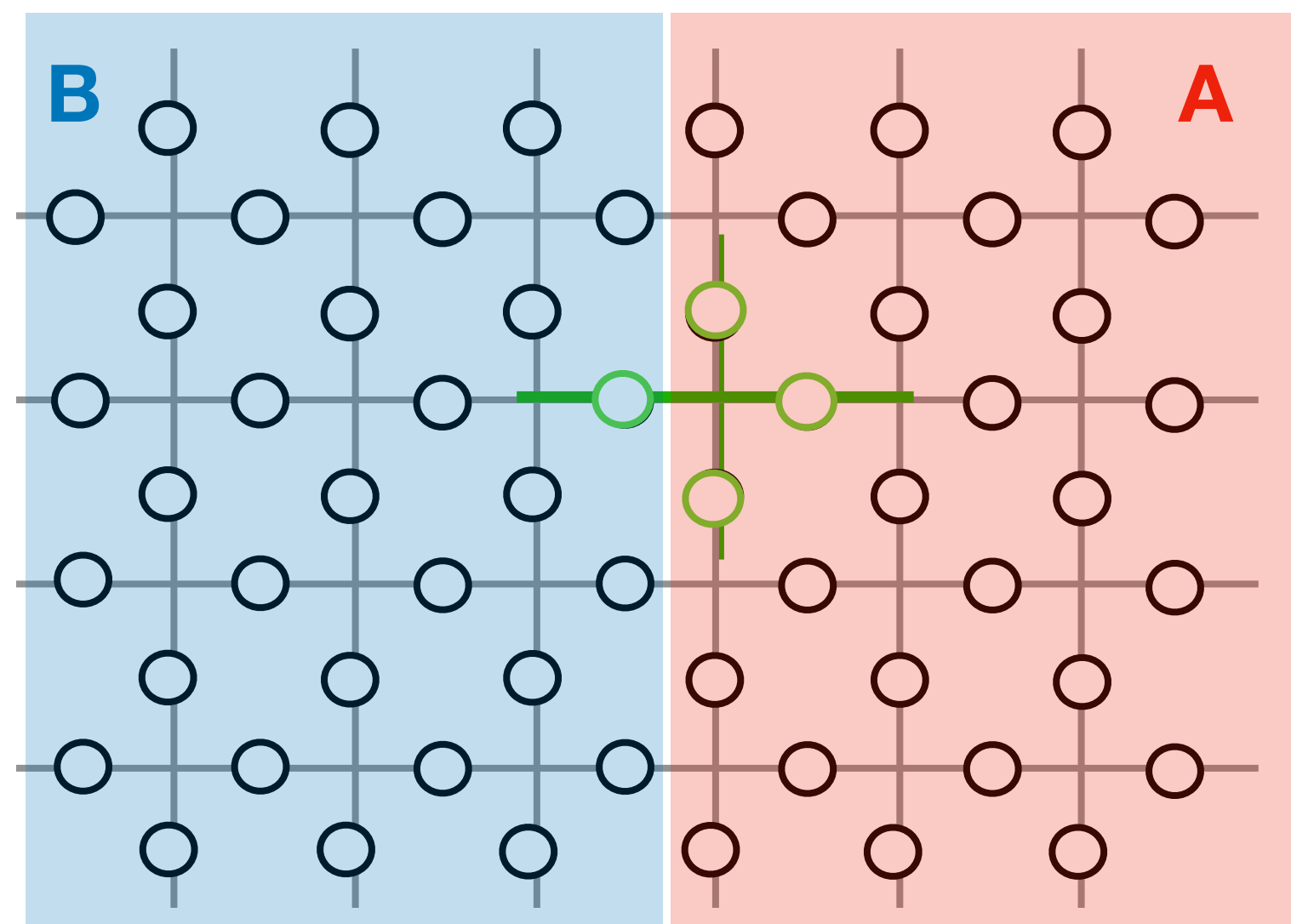
Hui Li and F. D. M. Haldane

Physics Department, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544, USA

(Dated: July 3, 2008)

Li, Haldane, PRL 101, 010504 (2008)

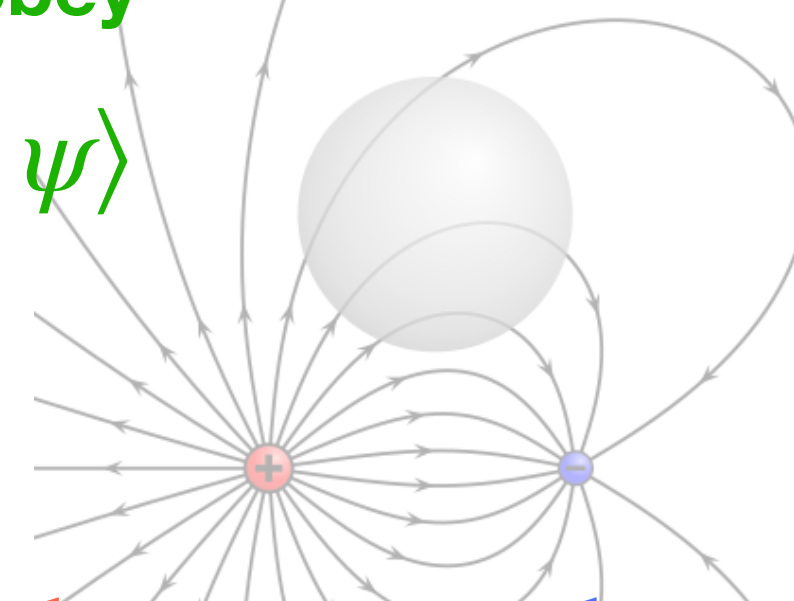
◦ ρ_A for a gauge theory?



physical states obey

$$G_n |\psi\rangle = 1 |\psi\rangle$$

$$\mathcal{H}^{\text{phys}} \neq \mathcal{H}_A^{\text{phys}} \otimes \mathcal{H}_B^{\text{phys}}$$



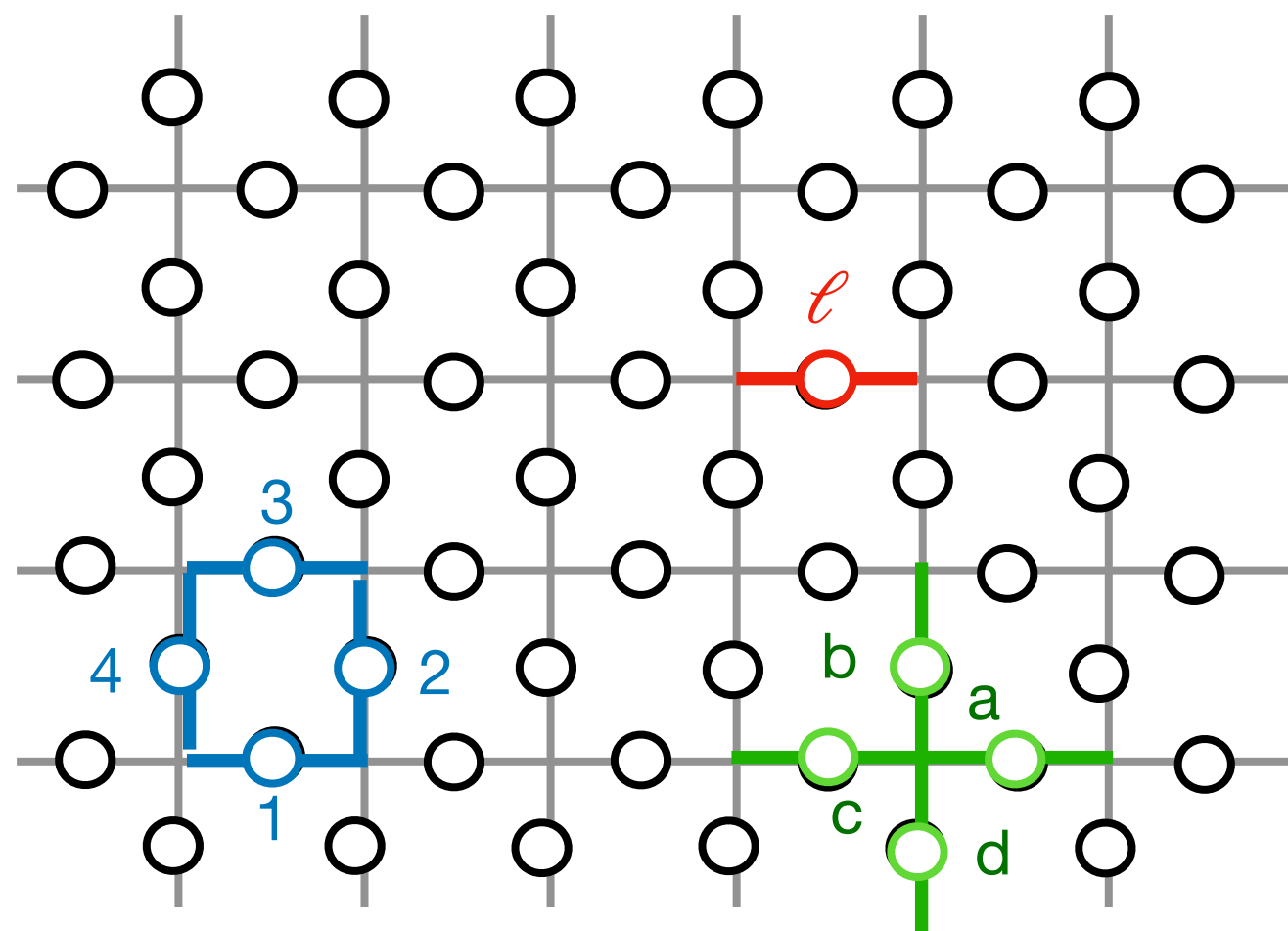
Buividovich, Polikarpov, PLB 670, 141 (2008),
 Casini, Huerta Rosabal, PRD 89, 085012 (2014).
 Aoki, Iritani, Nozaki, Numasawa, Shiba, Tasaki, JHEP 2015, 1 (2015).
 Ghosh, Soni, Trivedi, JHEP, 1 (2015).
 Van Acoleyen, Bultinck, Haegeman, Marien,
 Scholz, Verstraete, PRL 117, 131602 (2016).
 Lin and D. Radicevic, NPB 958, 115118 (2020)

Entanglement of Gauge Theories

- measurements determine state

$$\text{Tr}(\rho O) = \langle O \rangle \quad \rho = \sum_{O \in \mathcal{A}} \rho_O O \quad \rho_O = \frac{\langle O \rangle}{2}$$

- Only gauge invariant operators have non-zero expectation value



$$H = - \sum_{\square} \sigma_1^z \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^z \sigma_4^z \quad \ell \equiv (\mathbf{n}, i)$$

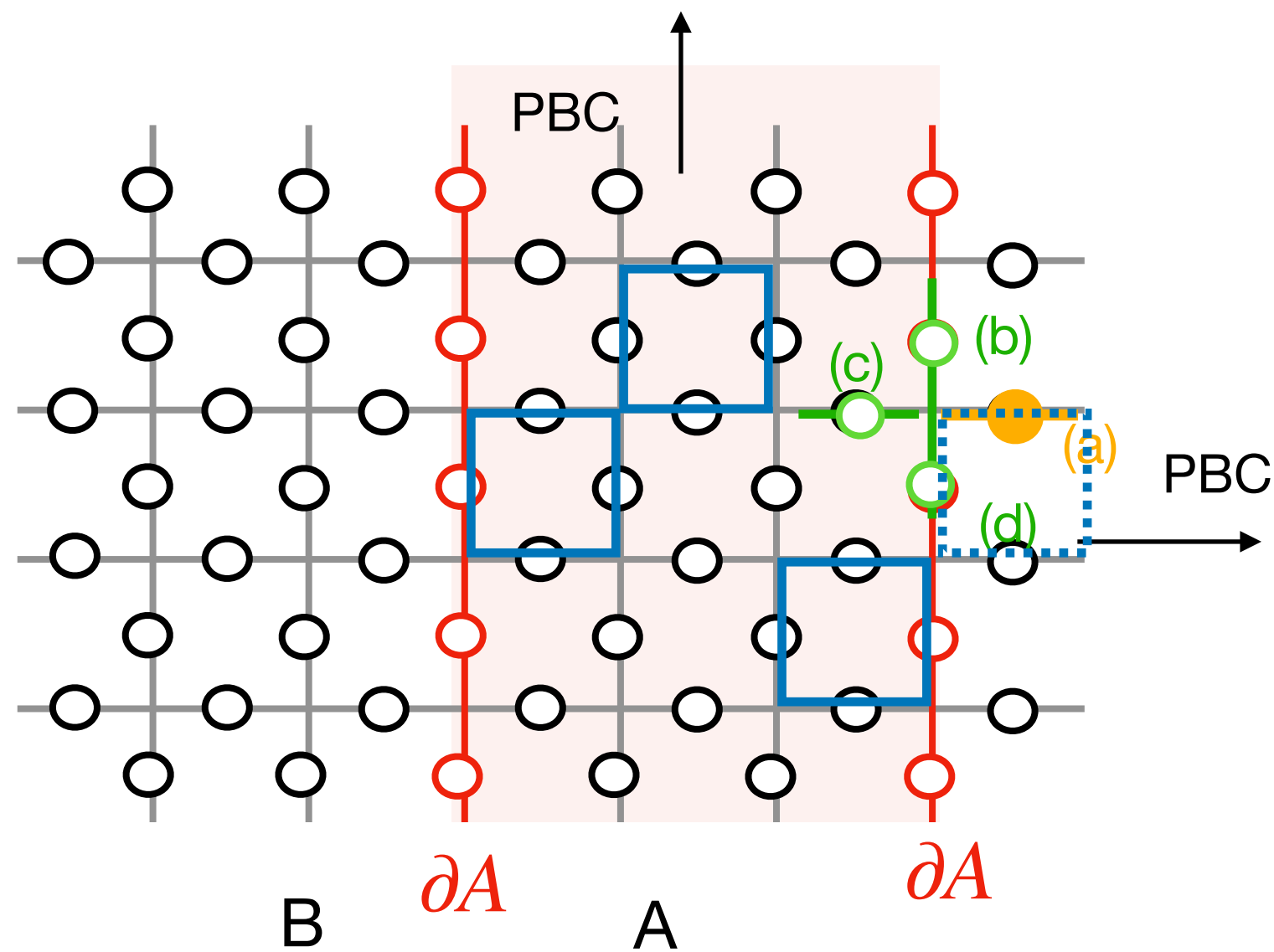
$$G_{\mathbf{n}} = \sigma_a^x \sigma_b^x \sigma_c^x \sigma_d^x \quad [G_{\mathbf{n}}, H] = 0$$

- Example $\epsilon = 0$

$$\rho \sim \frac{1}{2^{\#}} \left[\mathbb{1} + \sum_{\square} W_{\square} + \sum_{\square \neq \square'} W_{\square} W_{\square'} + \dots \right] \prod_{\mathbf{n}} \frac{1 + G_{\mathbf{n}}}{2} = \prod_{\square} \frac{1 + W_{\square}}{2} \prod_{\mathbf{n}} \frac{1 + G_{\mathbf{n}}}{2} \quad W_{\square} = \sigma_1^z \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^z \sigma_4^z$$

Entanglement of Gauge Theories

- Consider subsystem A



- Gauss law on boundary $\sigma_a^x = \sigma_b^x \sigma_c^x \sigma_d^x$
- commutes with all operators in system A

\square $W_{\square} = \sigma_1^z \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^z \sigma_4^z$
 \square does not commute, but outside A

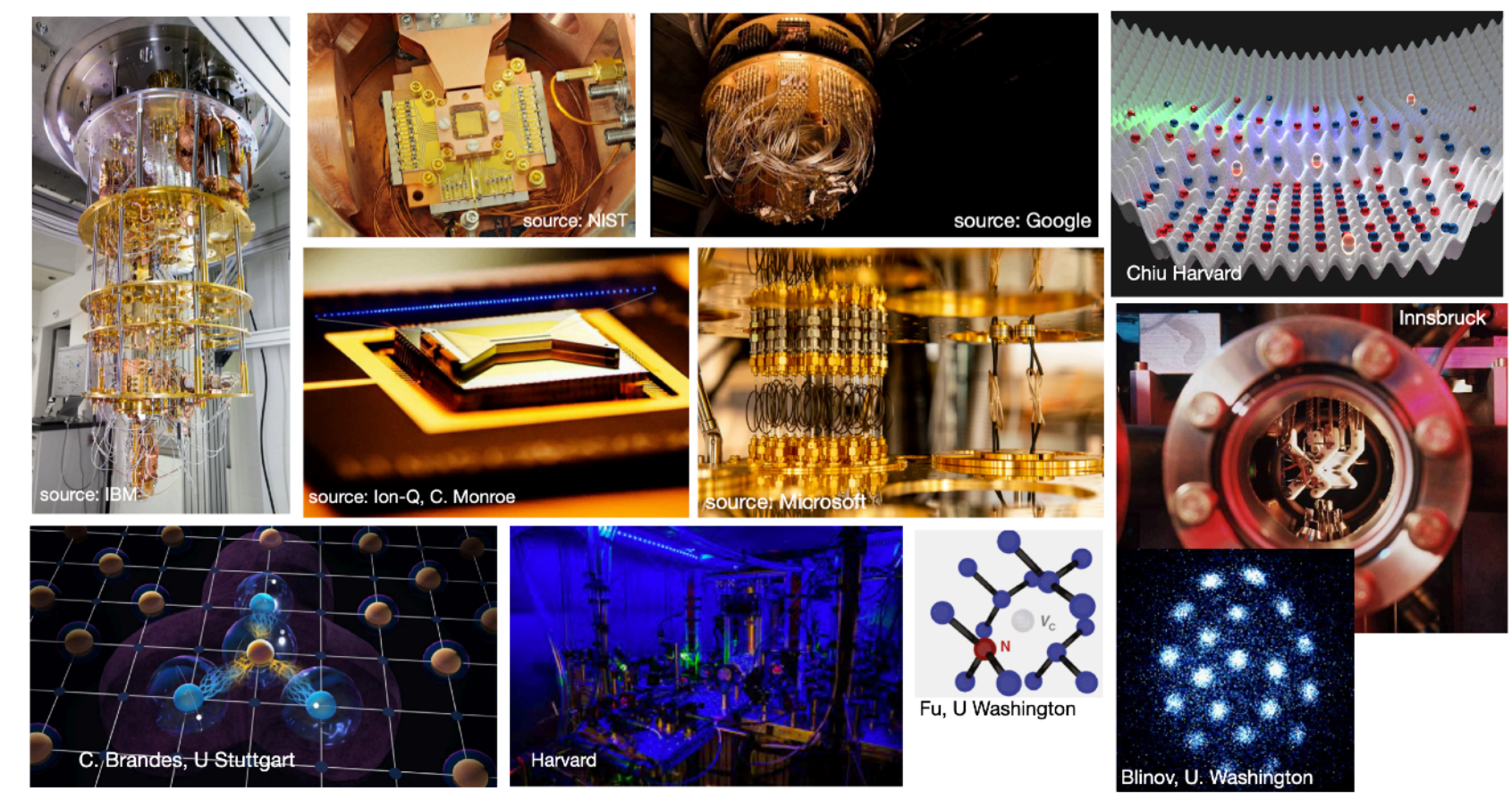
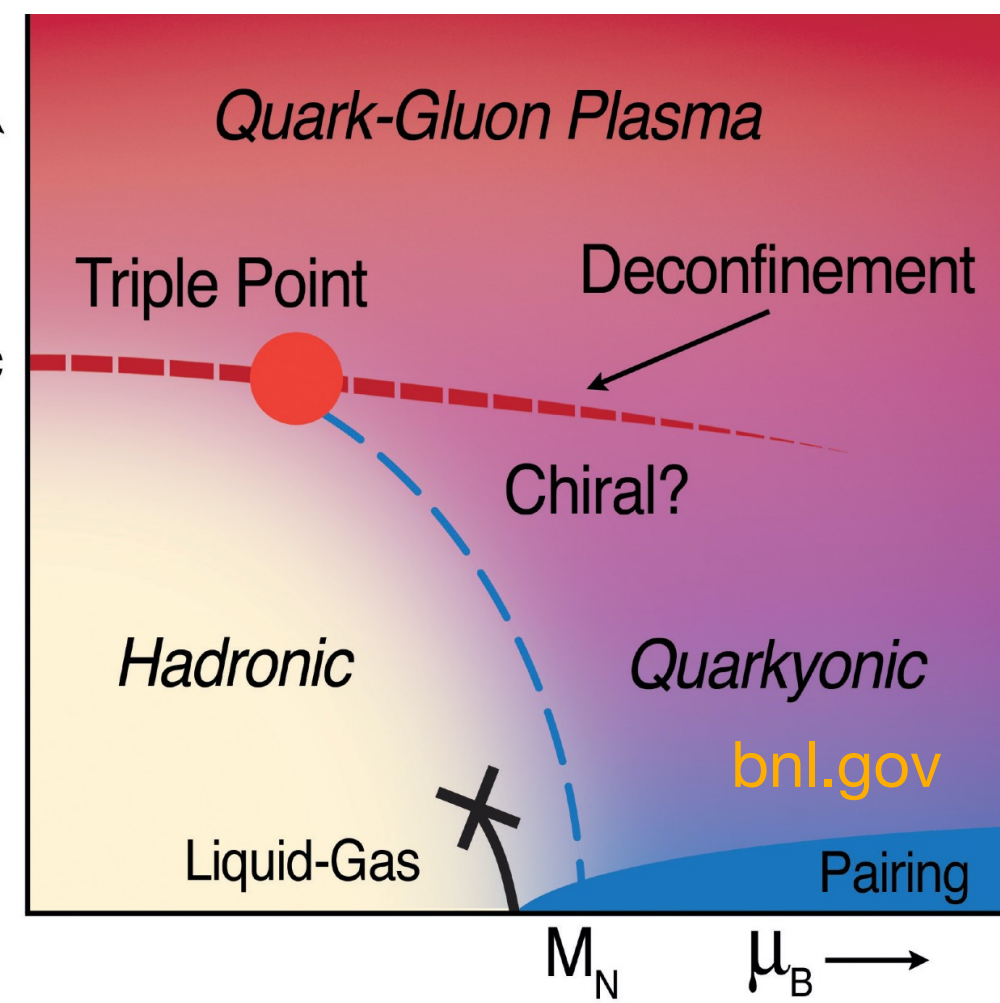
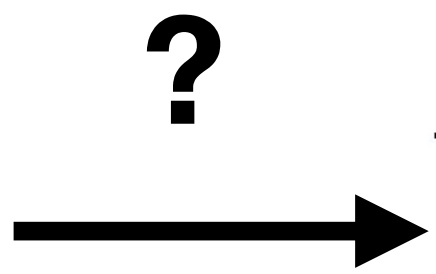
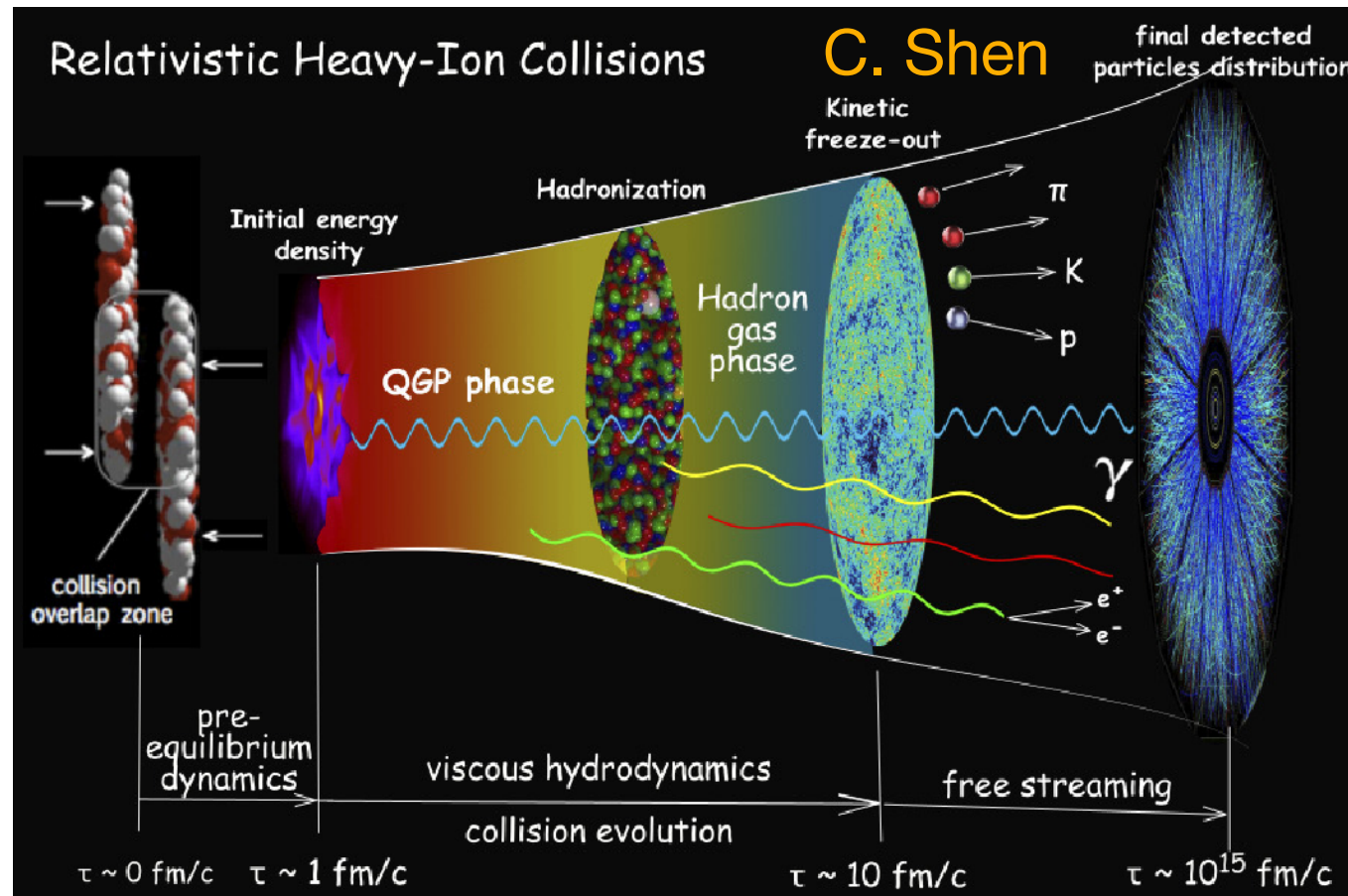
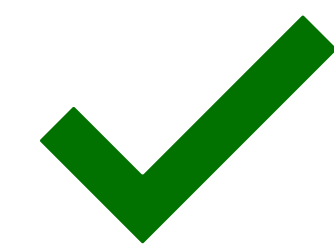
- $[\sigma_b^x \sigma_c^x \sigma_d^x, \rho_A] = 0$ defines symmetry

$$\rho_A = \prod_{\square} \frac{1 + W_{\square}}{2} \prod_{\mathbf{n} \neq \partial A} \frac{1 + G_{\mathbf{n}}}{2} \times \left(\frac{I^{\partial A}}{2^{2N_y}} \right)$$

von Neumann entanglement entropy
 $S_E = 2N_y \log(2)$

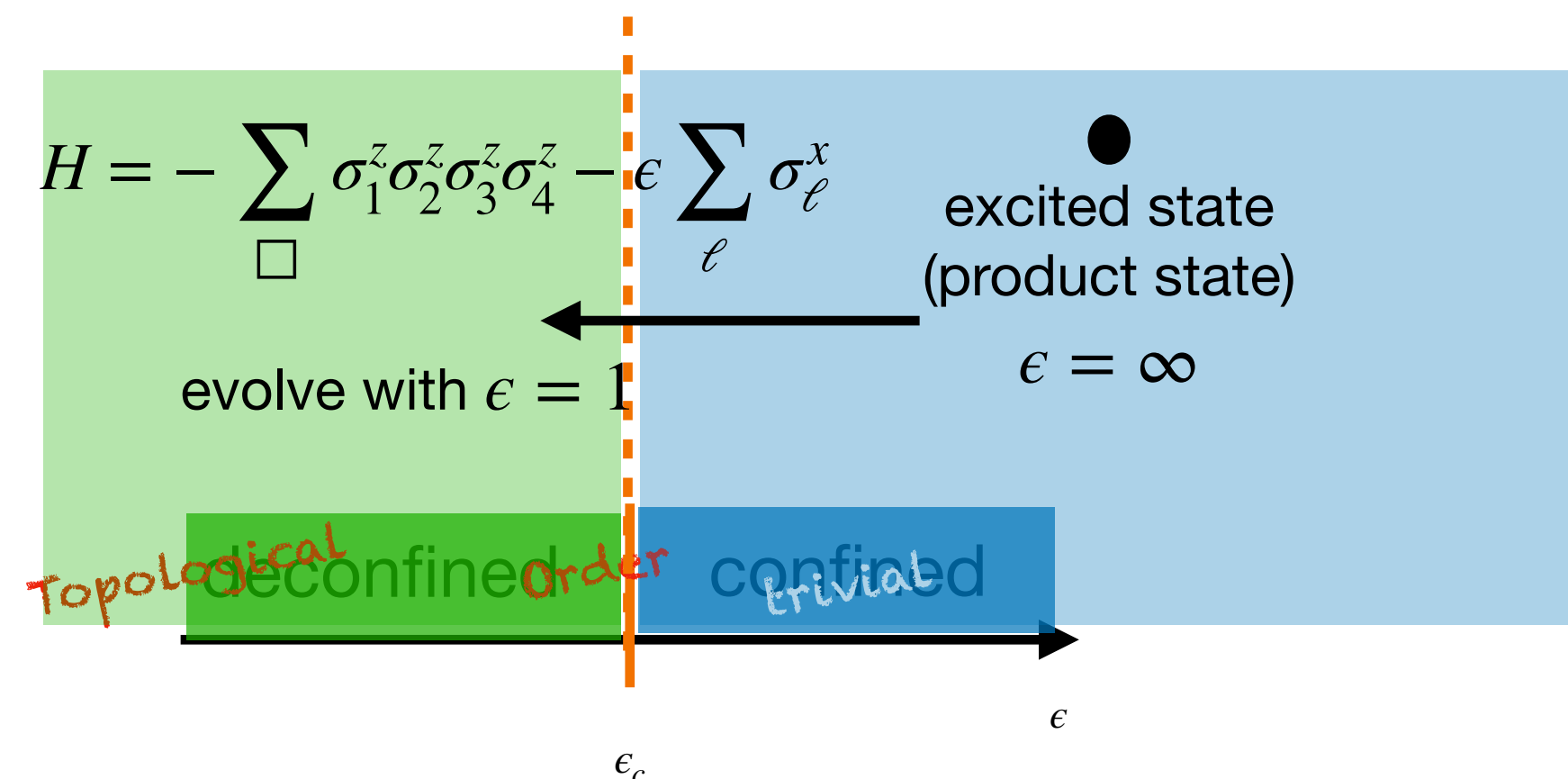
- Entanglement: distillable vs. symmetry/classical

compute Entanglement of LGTs



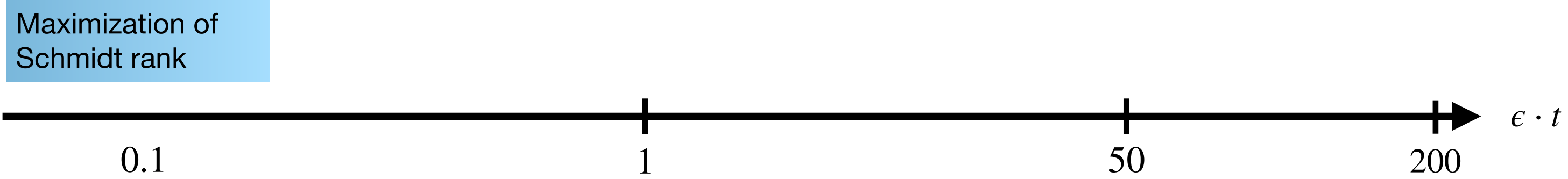
cannot compute a heavy ion collision  (yet)

o “Quantum Quench”



Gauge Theory Thermalization

Stage I: Maximization of Schmidt rank



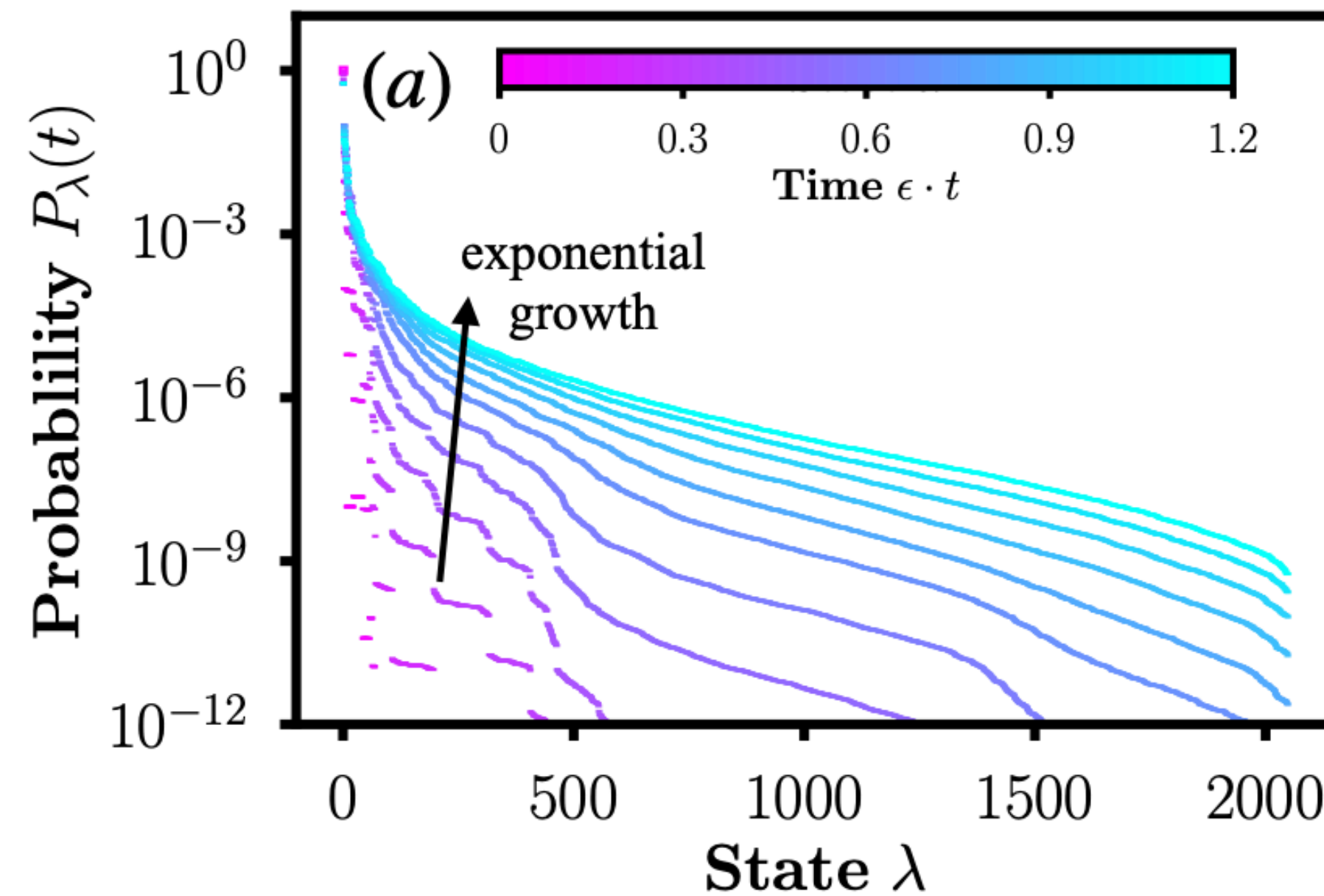
Schmidt decomposition

$$\rho_A \equiv \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\chi-1} P_{\lambda} |\psi_{\lambda_A}\rangle \langle \psi_{\lambda_A}|$$

Entanglement Structure

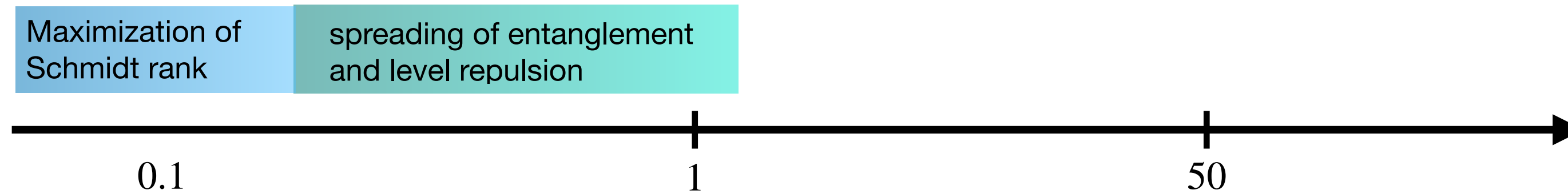
$$\rho_A(t) \equiv e^{-H_A(t)}$$

$$P_{\lambda}(t) \equiv e^{-\xi_{\lambda}(t)}$$

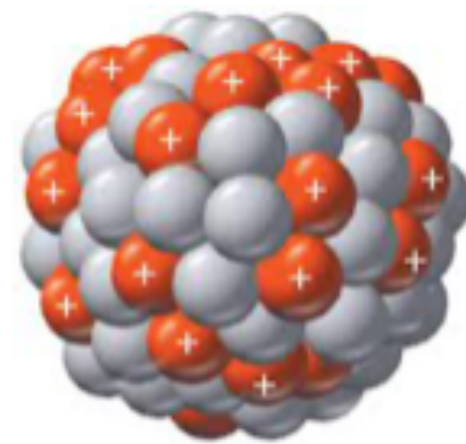


Gauge Theory Thermalization

Stage II: Spreading of level repulsion

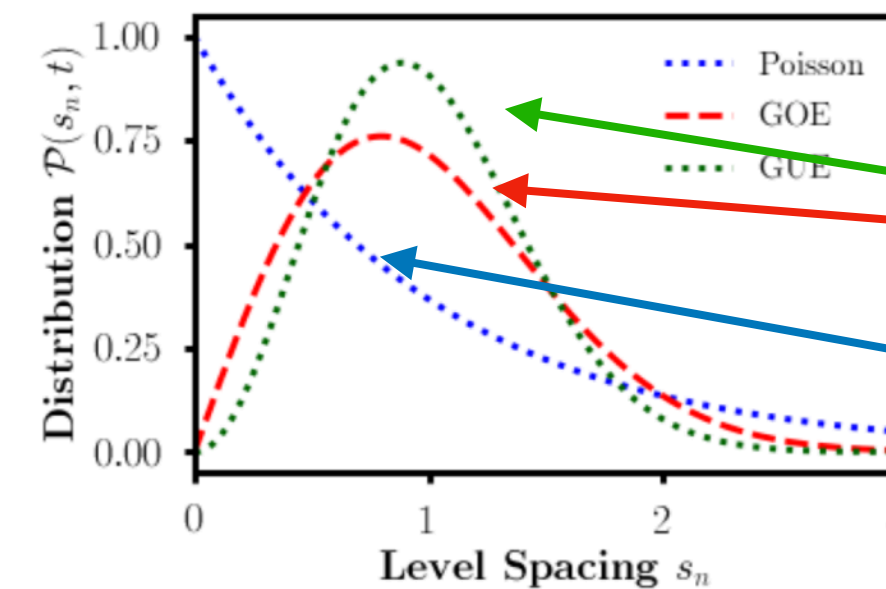


quantum chaos



$$\hat{H} \doteq \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_1 & \frac{V}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{V^*}{\sqrt{2}} & \varepsilon_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

“Wigner’s surmise”



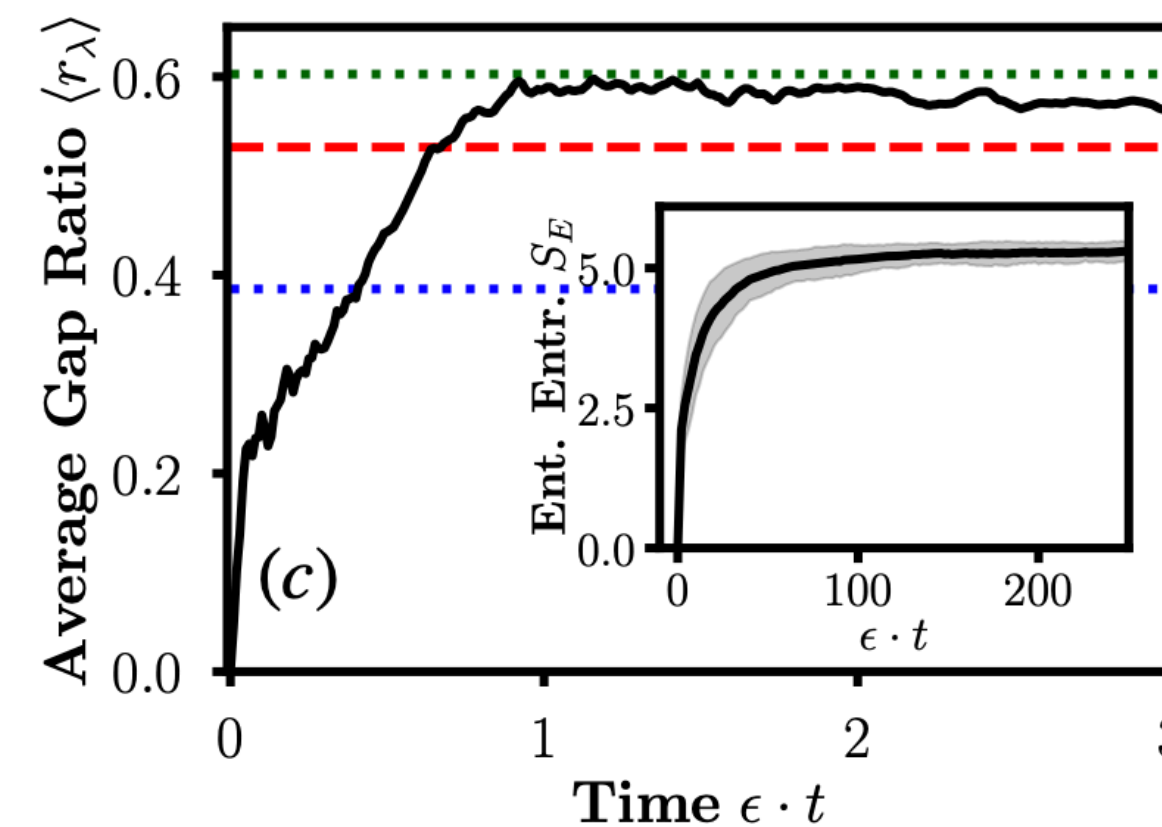
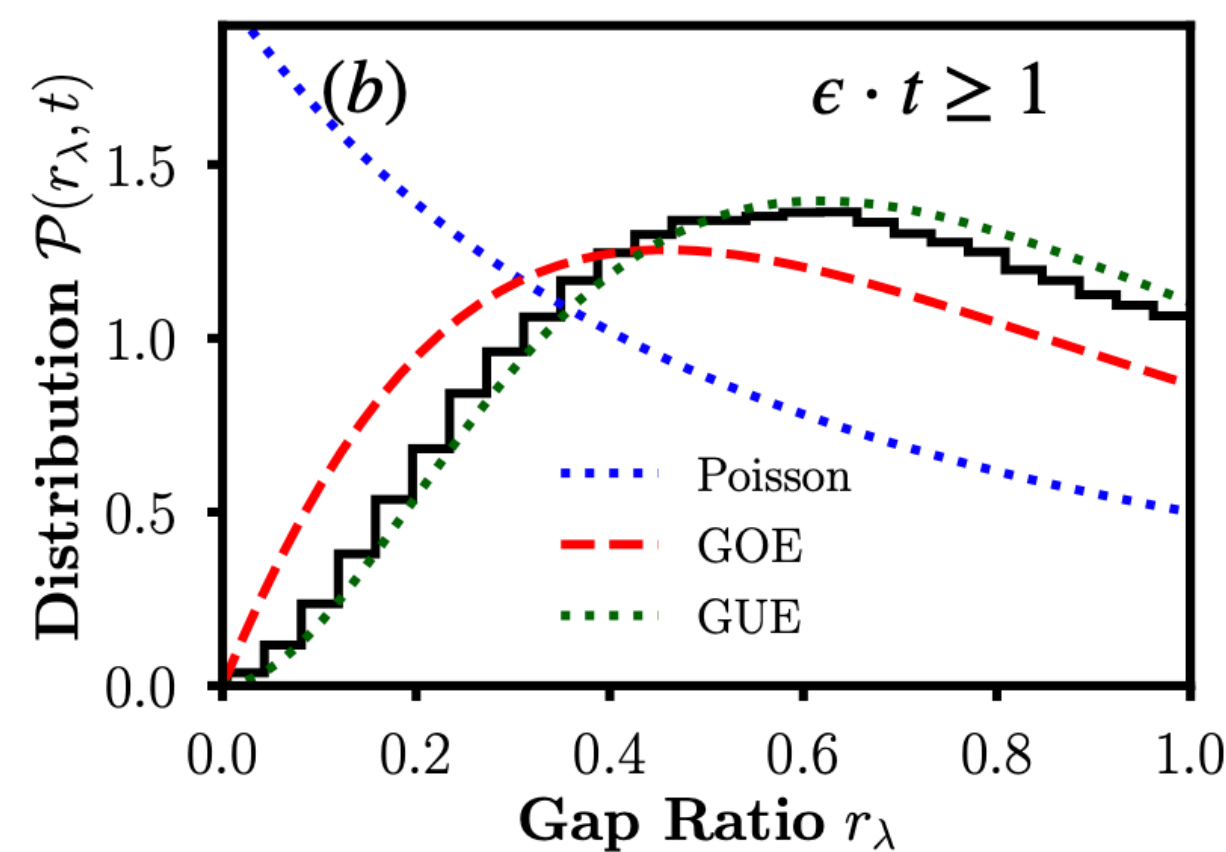
levels repulse
= chaos/thermalization

levels uncorrelated
= many-body localization
integrable

... seen in level spacings of Entanglement Hamiltonian

$$H_A(t) \equiv -\log[\rho_A(t)]$$

$$\xi_\lambda(t) \equiv -\log[P_\lambda(t)]$$

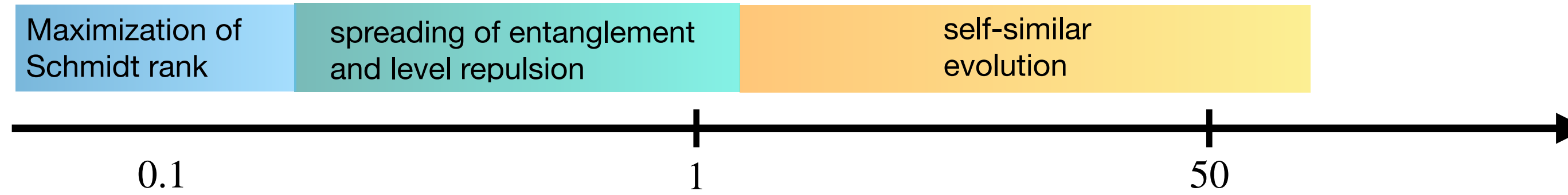
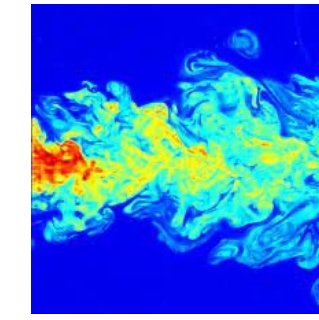


towards thermalization

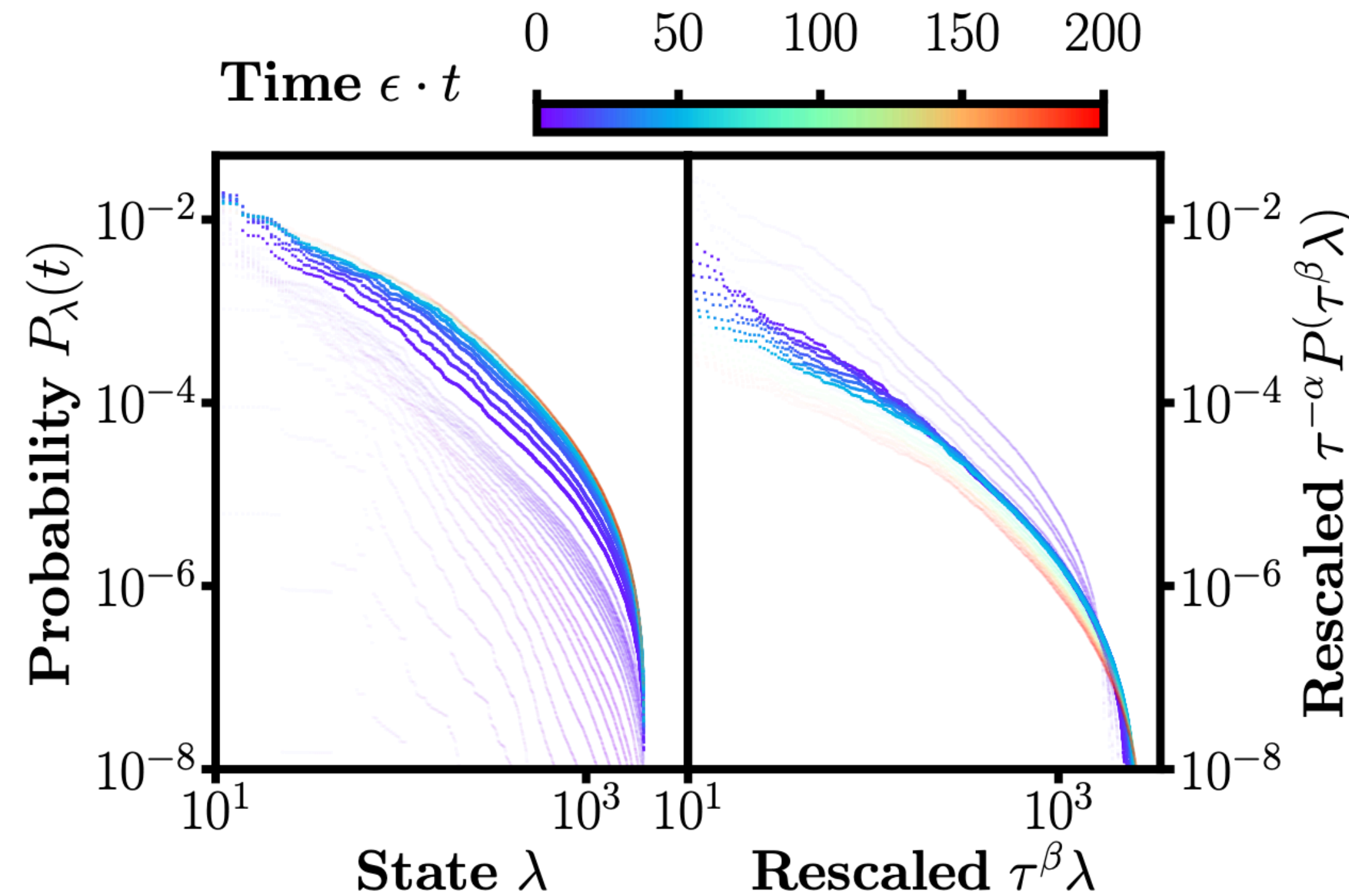
MBL
integrable

Gauge Theory Thermalization

Stage III: Self Similar Evolution



“Quantum Turbulence”



- scaling form

$$P(\lambda, t) = \tau^{-\alpha} P(\tau^\beta \lambda)$$

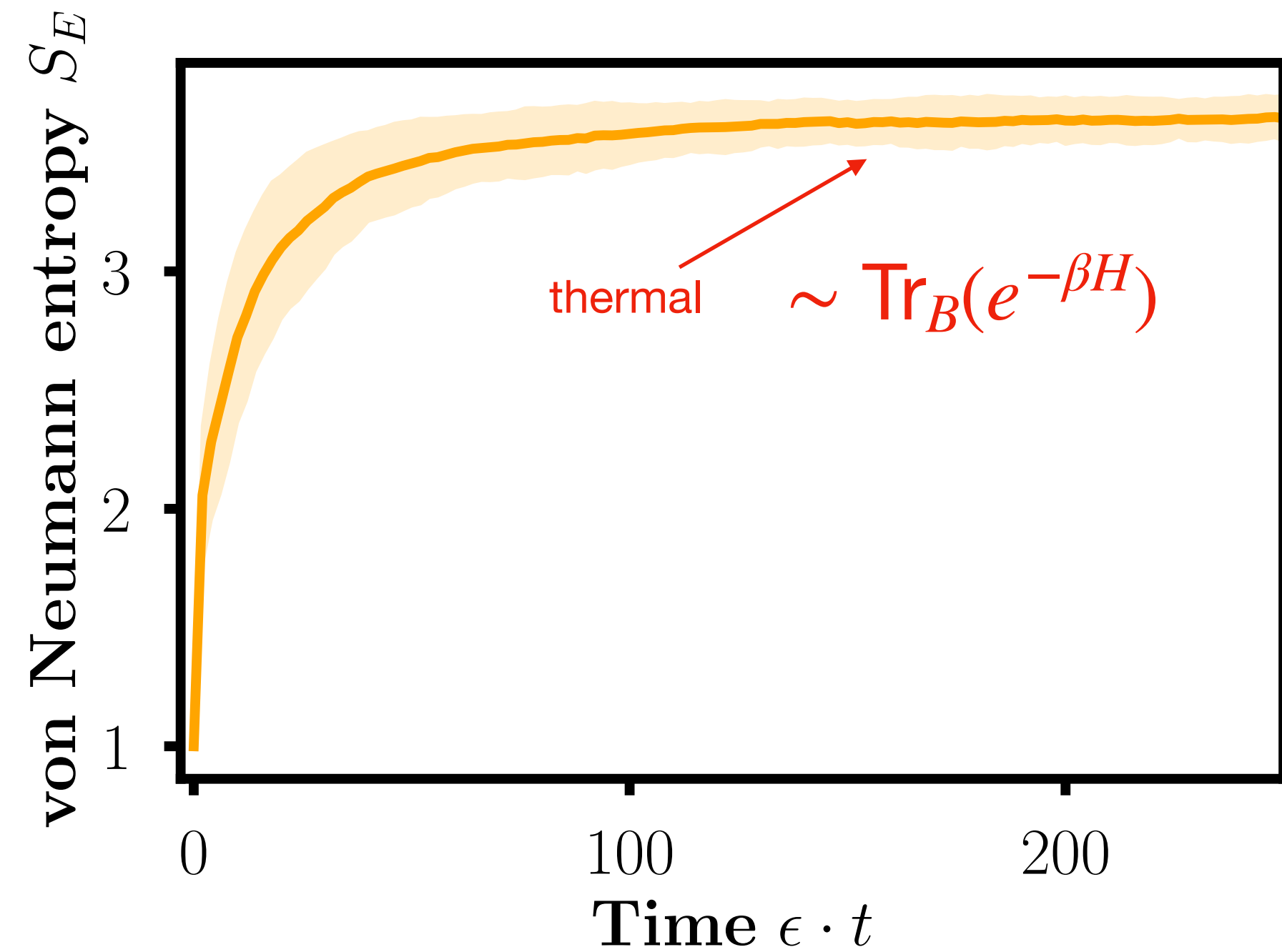
$$\tau = \epsilon(t - t_0)$$

$$\alpha = 0.8 \pm 0.1$$

$$\beta = 0.0 \pm 0.1$$

Gauge Theory Thermalization

Stage IV: Saturation of von Neumann entropy



von-Neumann entropy = thermal entropy

Conclusions

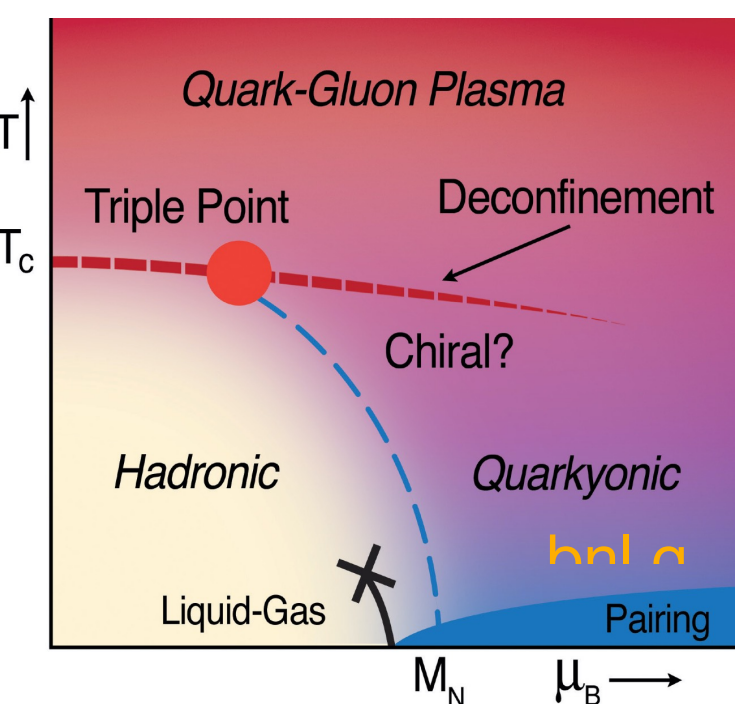
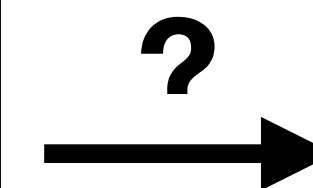
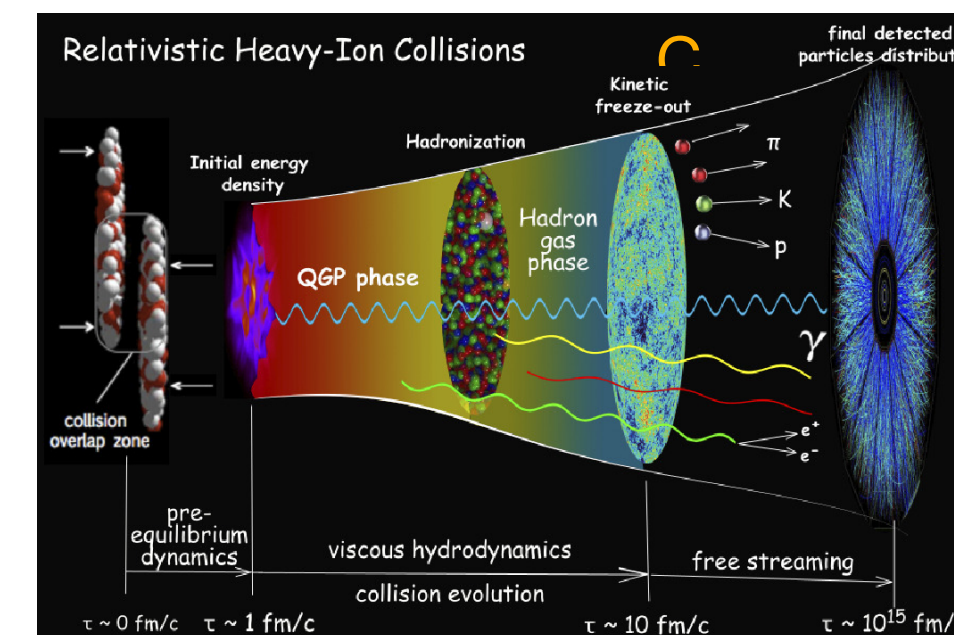
- Understanding gauge theory thermalization from entanglement structure.



- Characteristic sequence: quantum chaos, turbulence

- Consistent with ETH, but LGTs “not special”.

- $\mathbb{Z}_2^{2+1} \rightarrow$ QCD much harder.



- Great opportunity for Quantum Information Technology

