

# Strange metals and black holes

Case Western University  
March 21, 2019

Subir Sachdev

Talk online: [sachdev.physics.harvard.edu](http://sachdev.physics.harvard.edu)



Ordinary metals:  
quasiparticles

Strange metals:  
no quasiparticles

Black  
holes

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quasiparticles

Strange metals:  
no quasiparticles

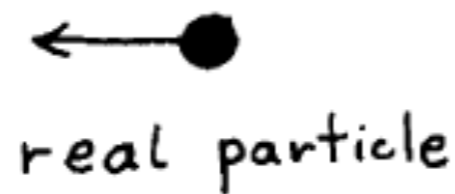
Black  
holes

# Ordinary metals

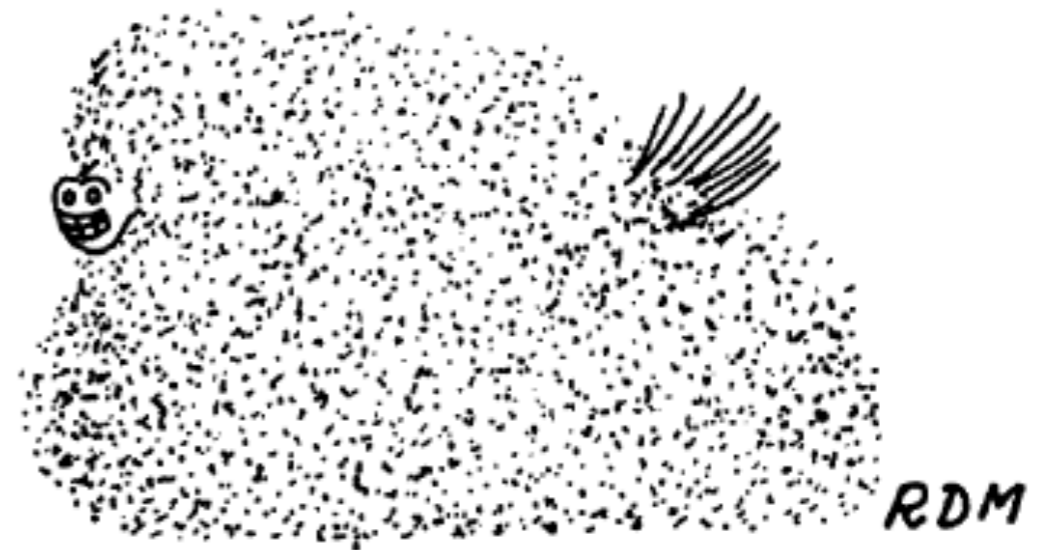


Ordinary metals are shiny, and they conduct heat and electricity efficiently. Each atom donates electrons which are delocalized throughout the entire crystal

*Almost all many-electron systems are described by the quasiparticle concept: a quasiparticle is an “excited lump” in the many-electron state which responds just like an ordinary particle.*



real horse



quasi horse

## What are quasiparticles ?

- **Quasiparticles are additive excitations:**

The low-lying excitations of the many-body system can be identified as a set  $\{n_\alpha\}$  of quasiparticles with energy  $\varepsilon_\alpha$

$$E = \sum_{\alpha} n_{\alpha} \varepsilon_{\alpha} + \sum_{\alpha, \beta} F_{\alpha\beta} n_{\alpha} n_{\beta} + \dots$$

In a lattice system of  $N$  sites, this parameterizes the energy of  $\sim e^{\alpha N}$  states in terms of poly( $N$ ) numbers.

## What are quasiparticles ?

- Quasiparticles eventually collide with each other. Such collisions eventually leads to thermal equilibration in a chaotic quantum state, but the equilibration takes a long time. In a Fermi liquid, this time diverges as

$$\tau_{\text{eq}} \sim \frac{\hbar E_F}{(k_B T)^2} \quad , \quad \text{as } T \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $E_F$  is the Fermi energy.

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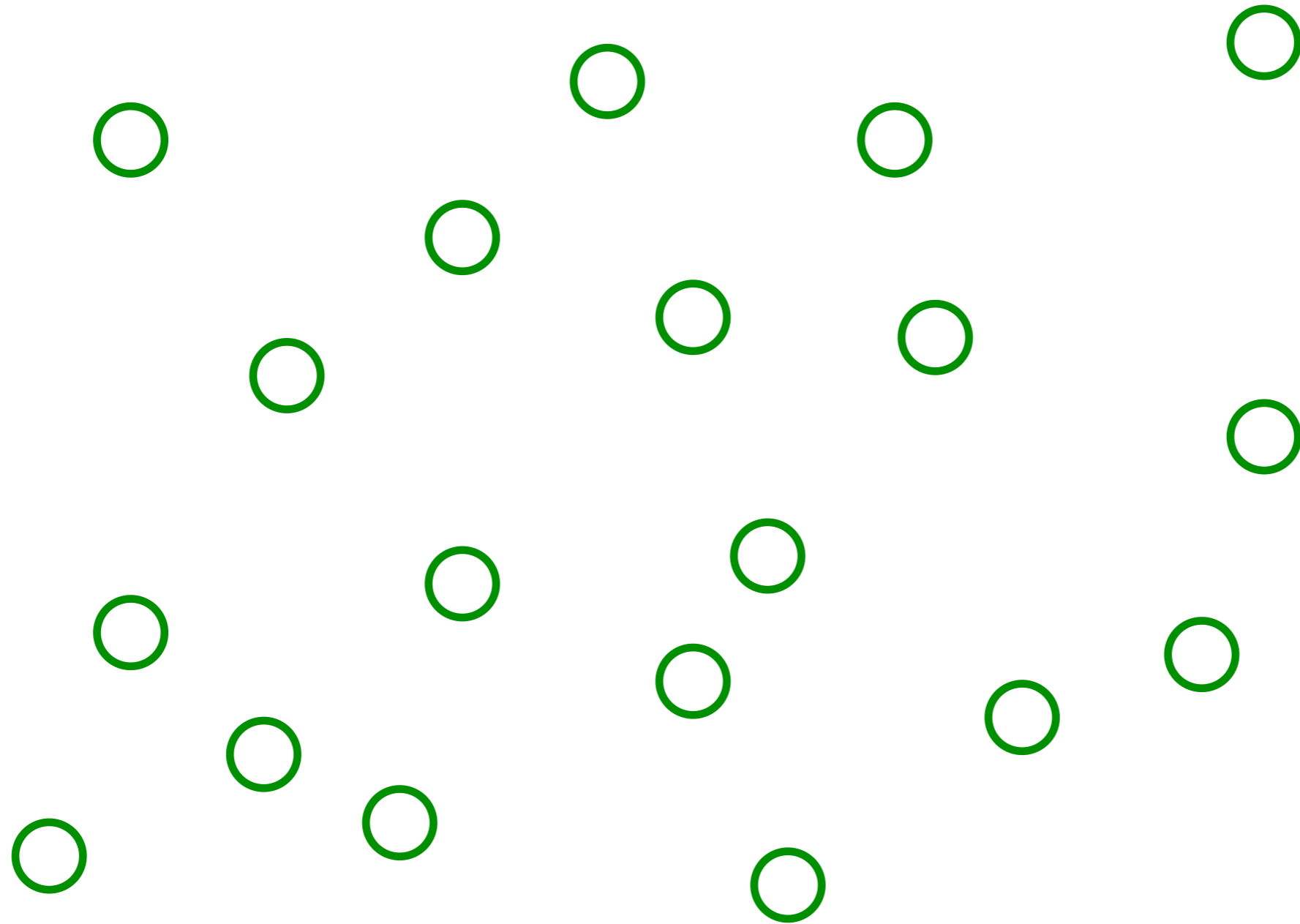
$$\tau_{\text{eq}} \sim \frac{\hbar E_F}{(k_B T)^2} \quad , \quad \text{as } T \rightarrow 0,$$

where  $E_F$  is the Fermi energy.

- This time is much longer than the ‘Planckian time’  $\hbar/(k_B T)$ , which we will find in systems without quasiparticle excitations.

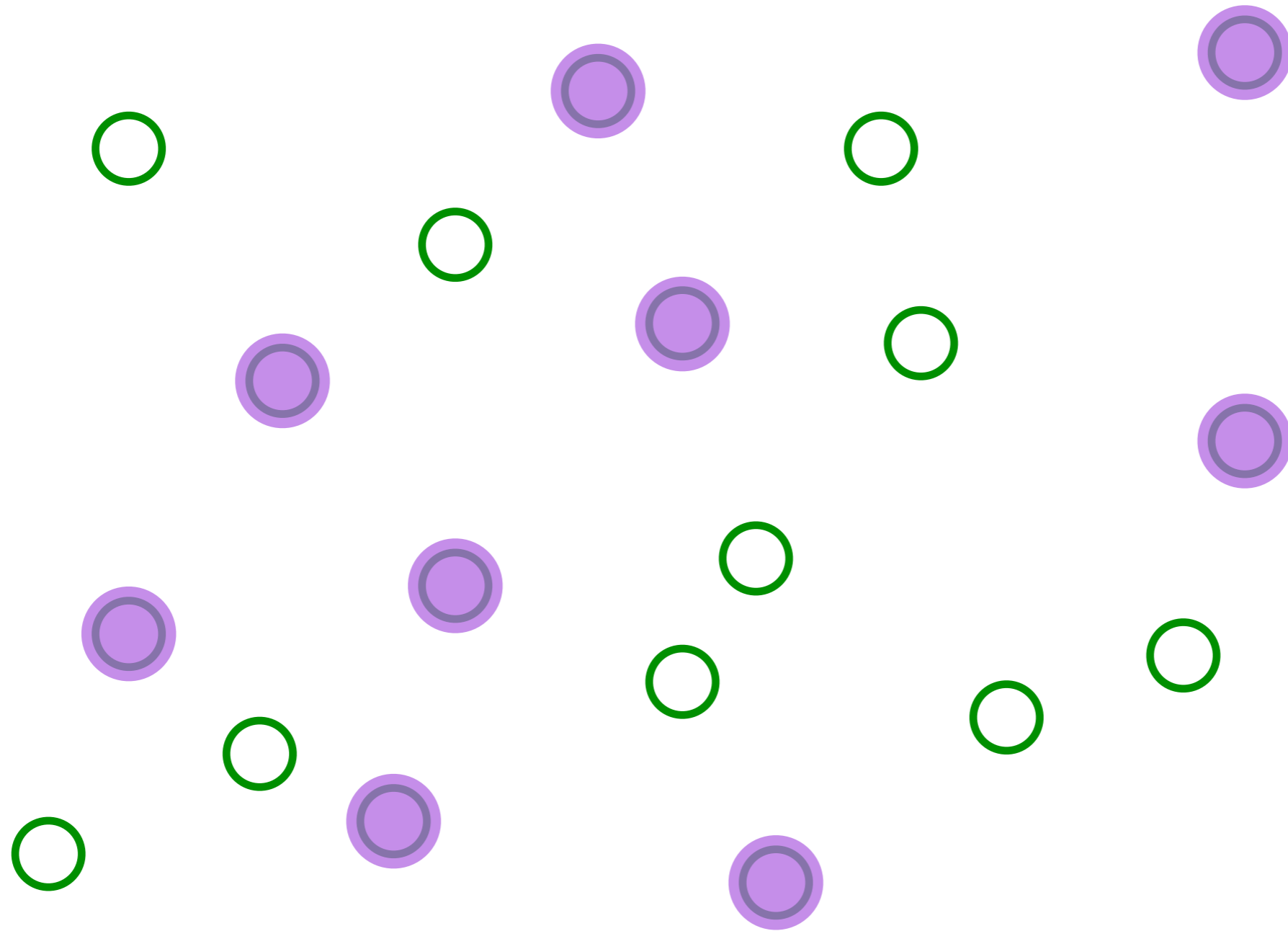
$$\tau_{\text{eq}} \gg \frac{\hbar}{k_B T} \quad , \quad \text{as } T \rightarrow 0.$$

# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles



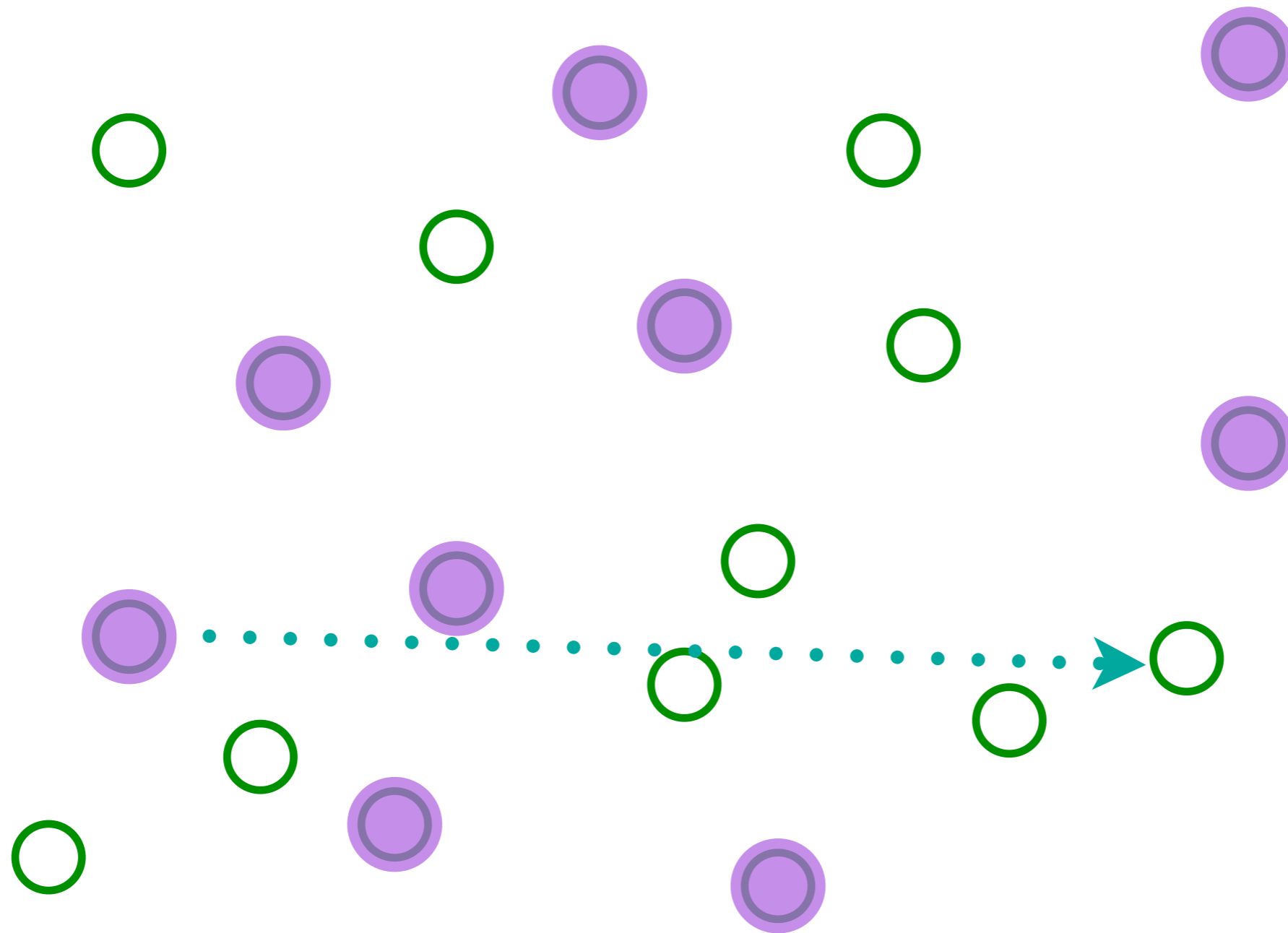
Pick a set of random positions

# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles



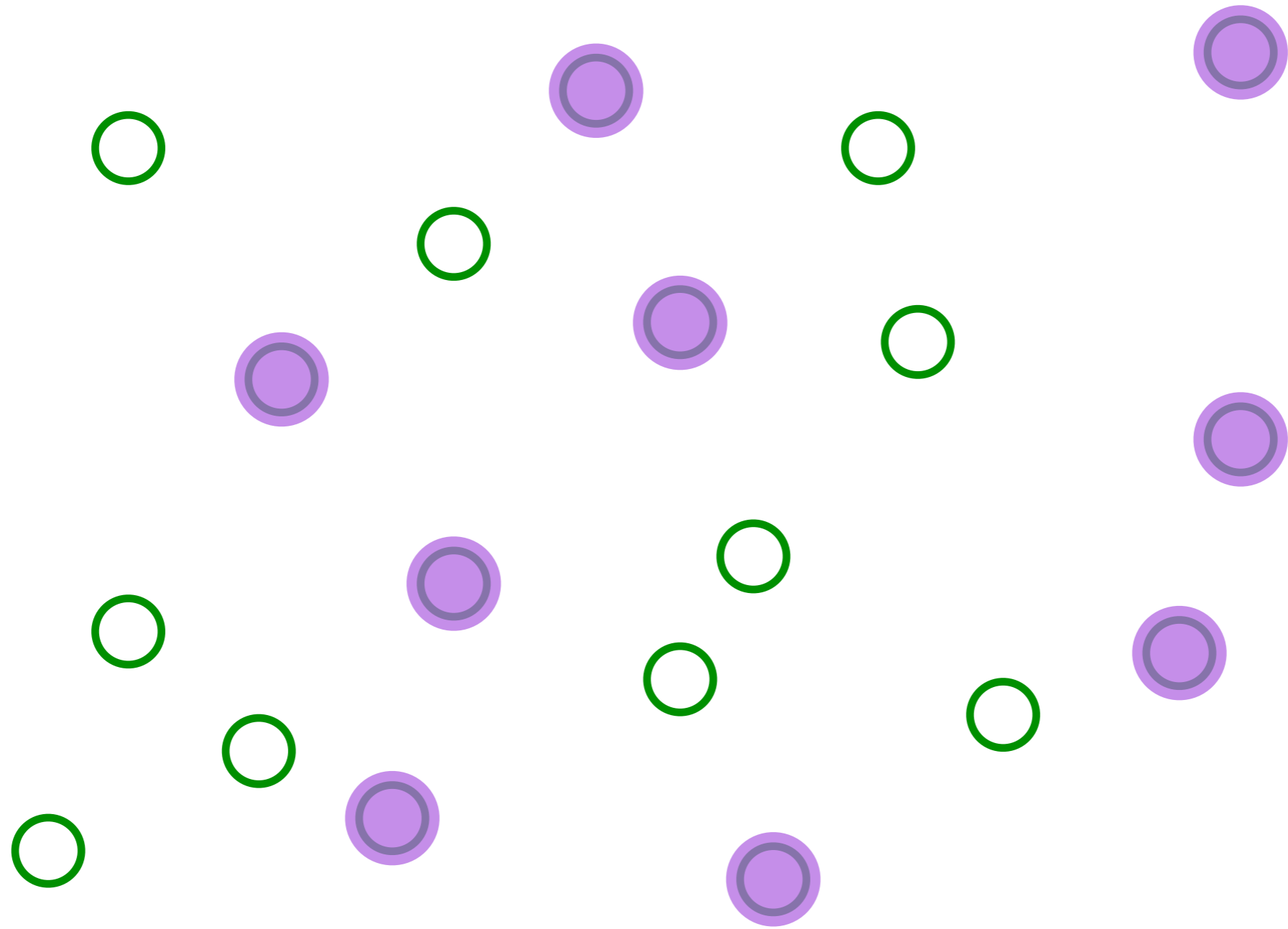
Place electrons randomly on some sites

# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles



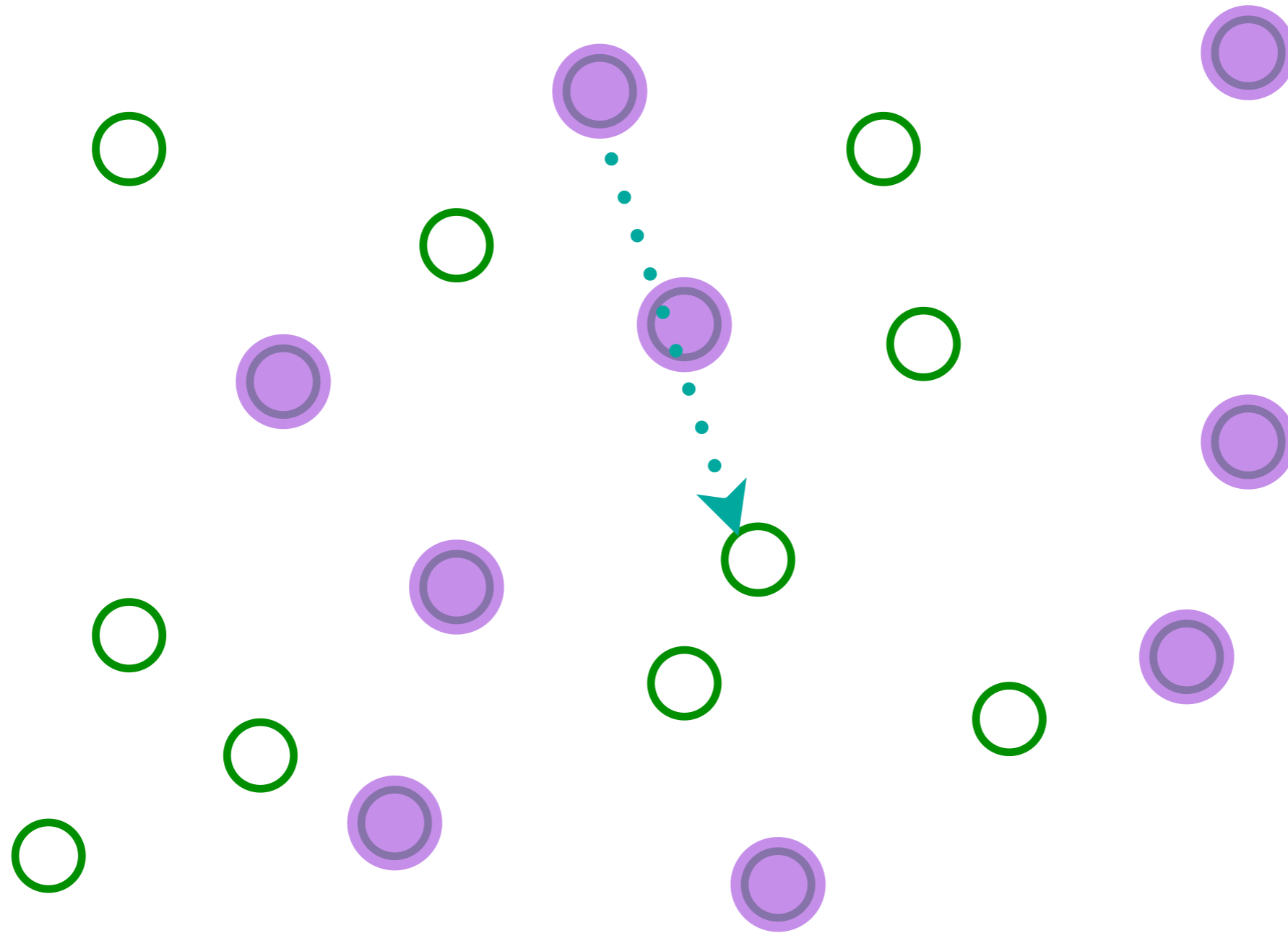
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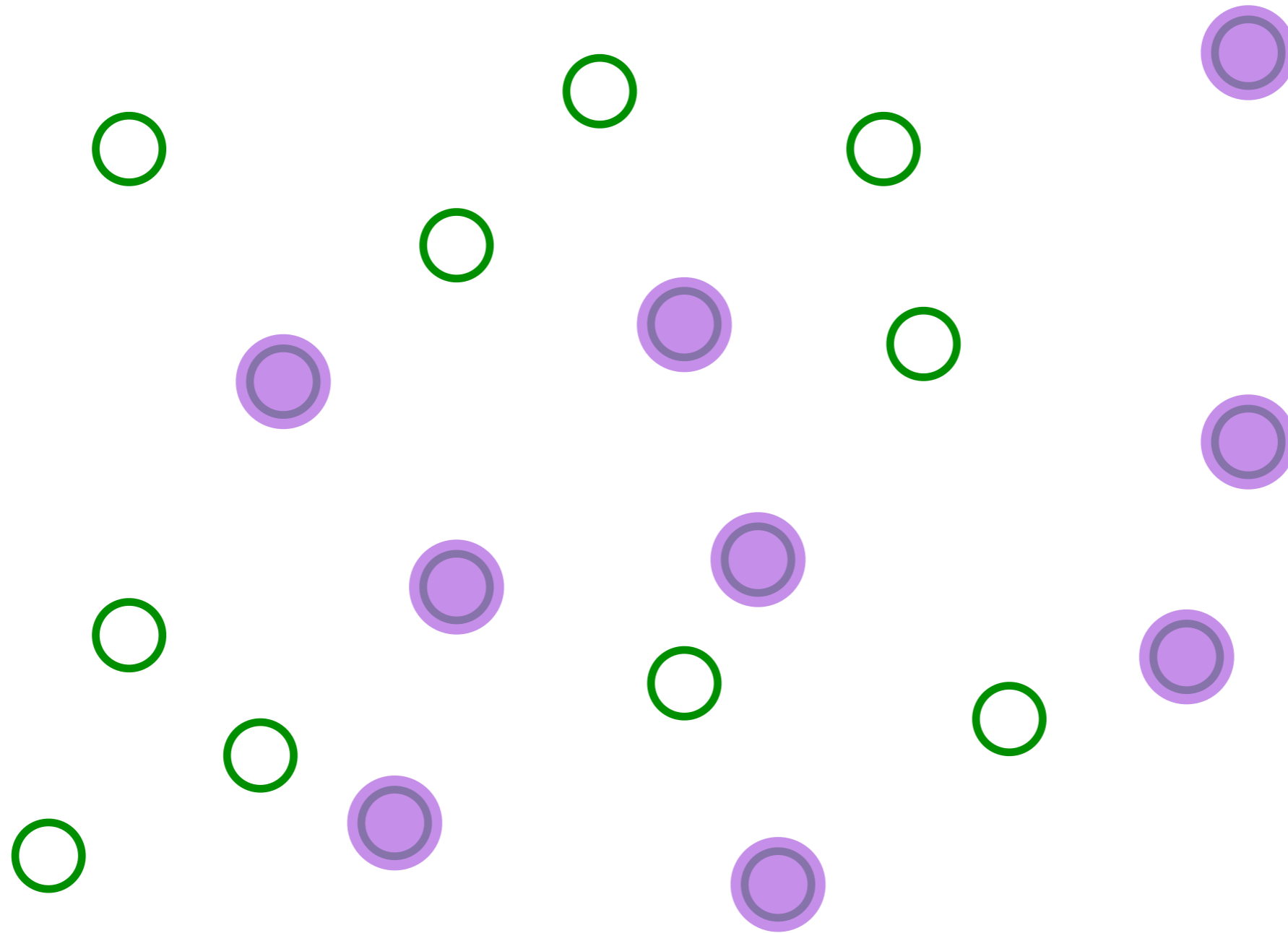
Electrons move one-by-one randomly

# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles



Electrons move one-by-one randomly

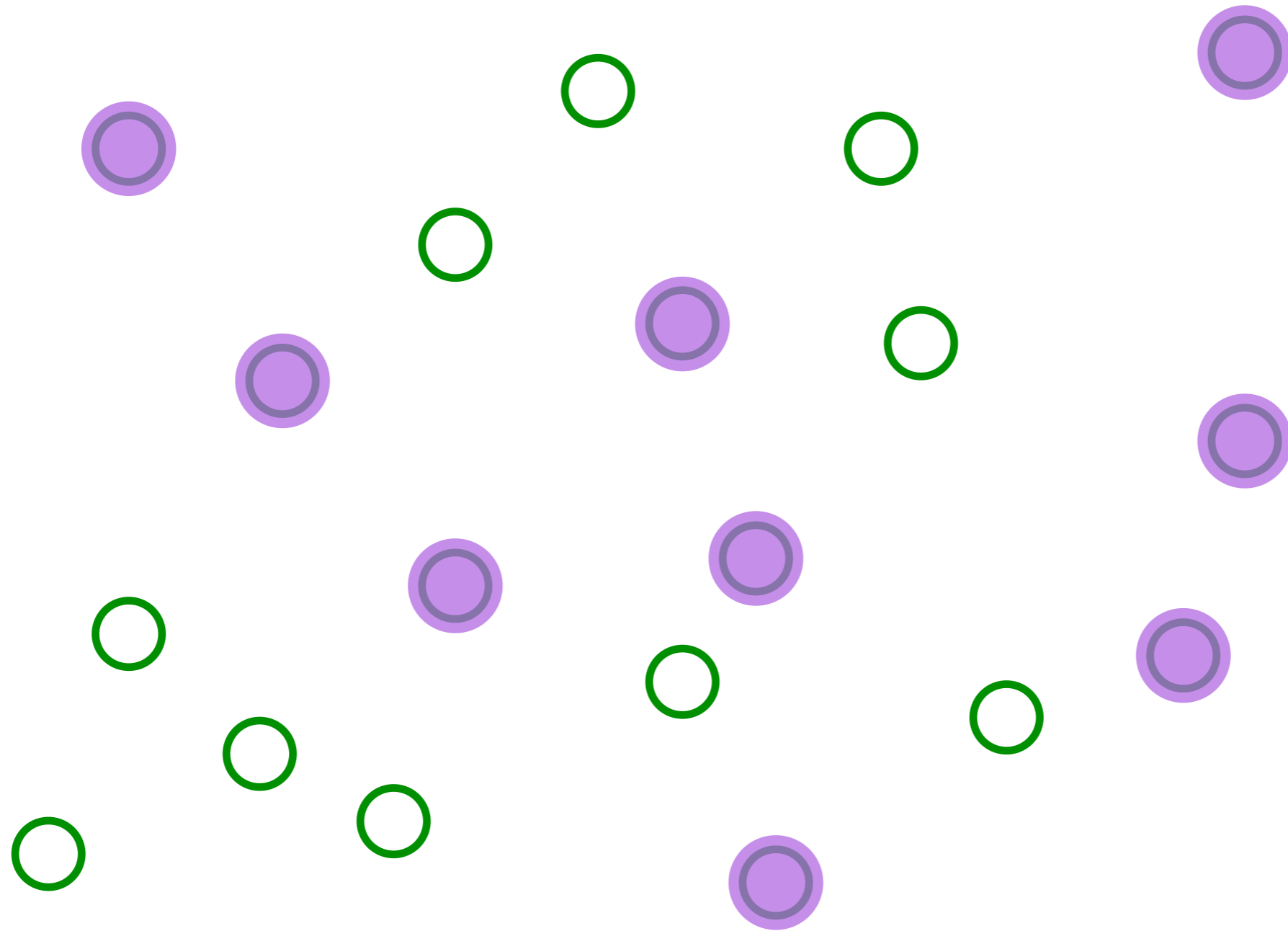
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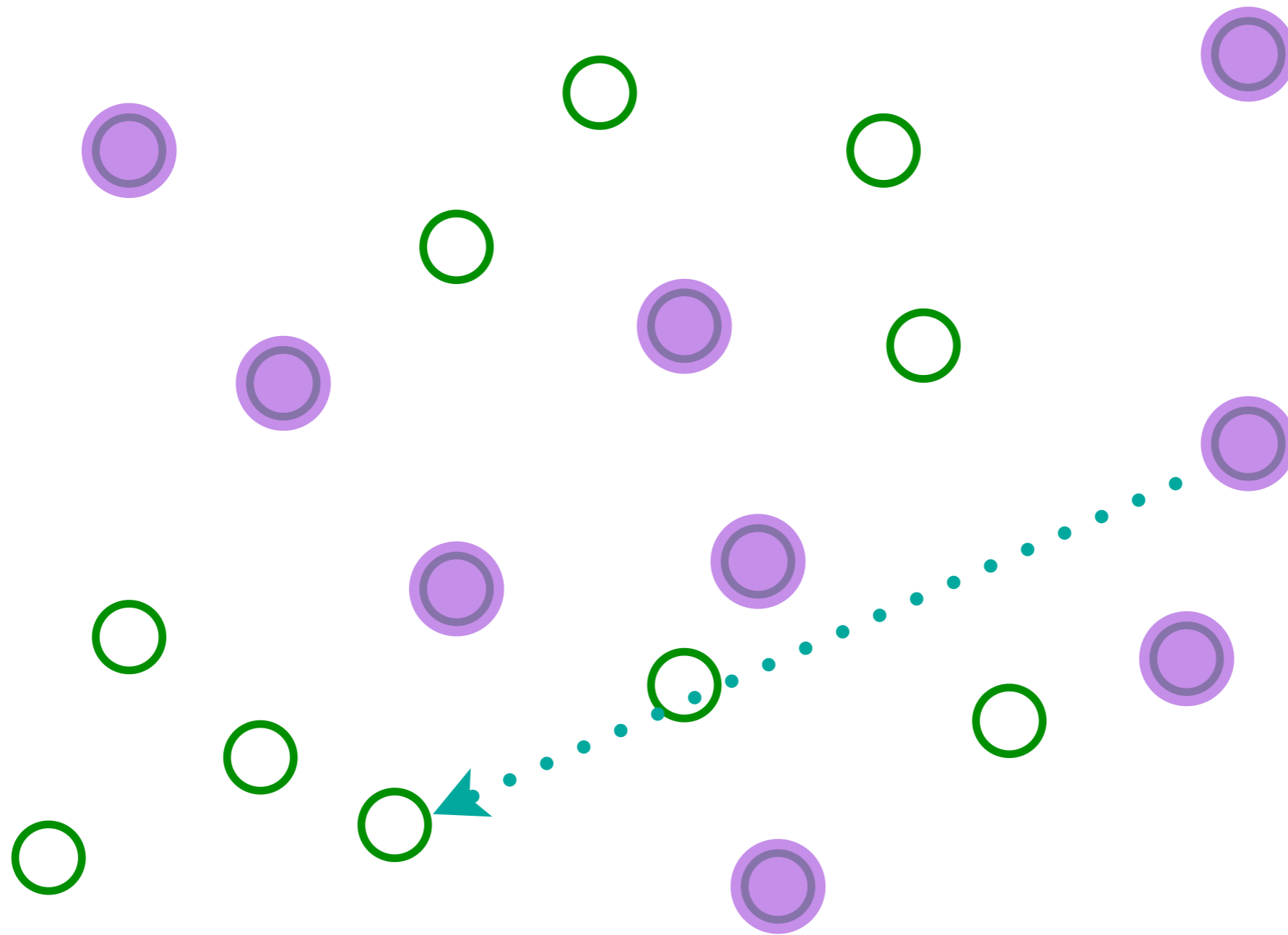


# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles



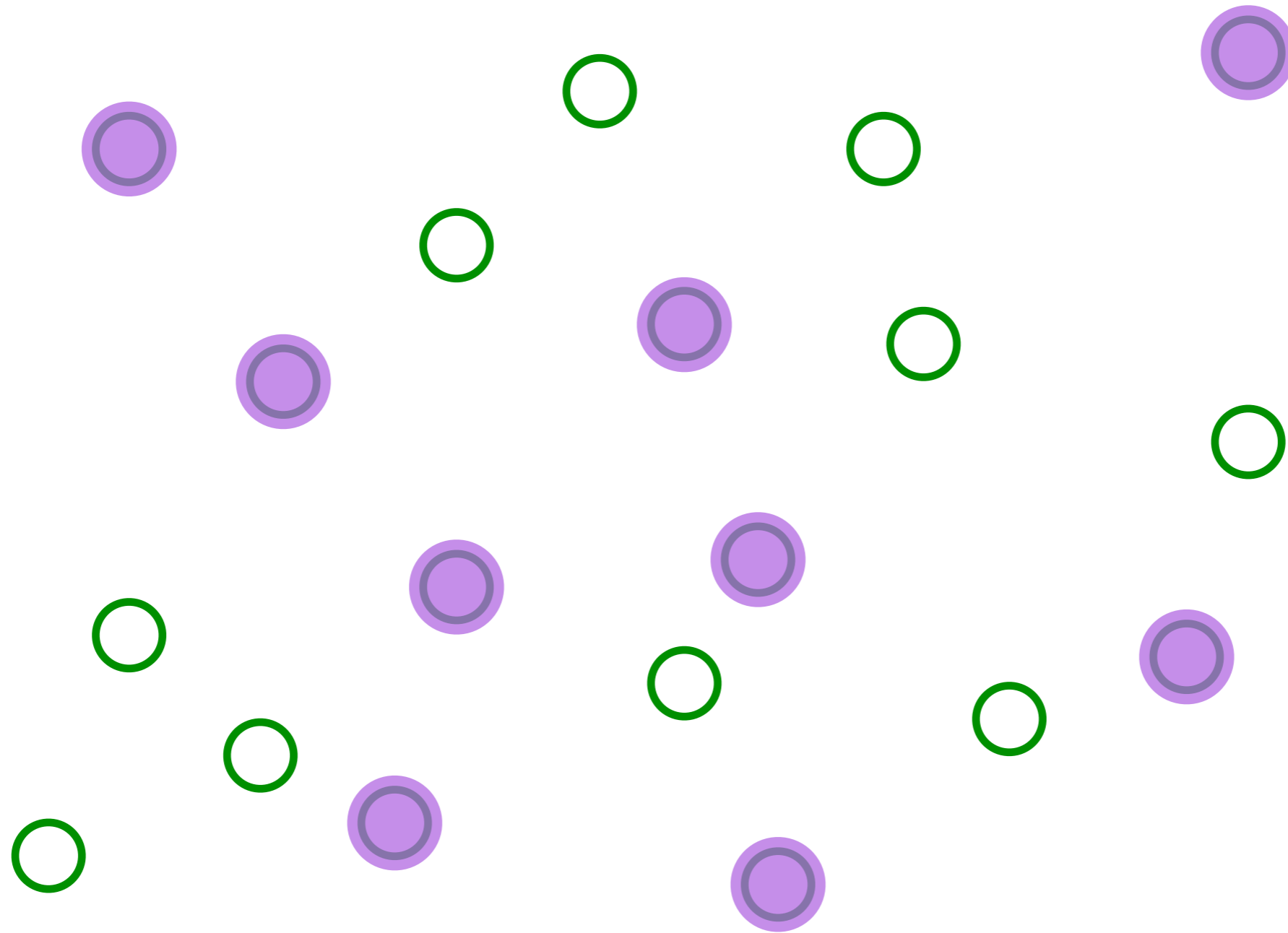
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# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles



Electrons move one-by-one randomly

# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles



Electrons move one-by-one randomly

# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles

$$H = \frac{1}{(N)^{1/2}} \sum_{i,j=1}^N t_{ij} c_i^\dagger c_j - \mu \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i$$

$$c_i c_j + c_j c_i = 0 \quad , \quad c_i c_j^\dagger + c_j^\dagger c_i = \delta_{ij}$$

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i = Q$$

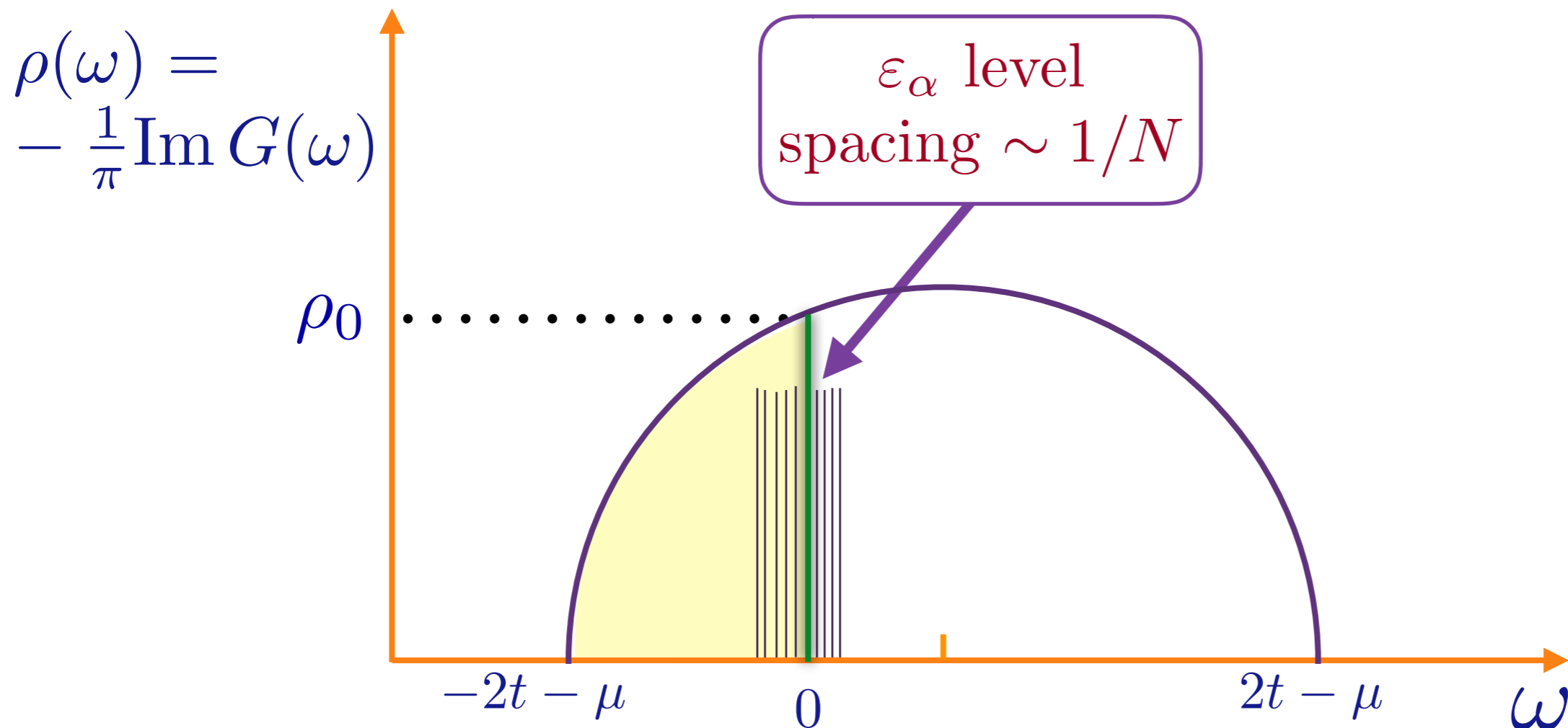
$t_{ij}$  are independent random variables with  $\overline{t_{ij}} = 0$  and  $\overline{|t_{ij}|^2} = t^2$

**Fermions occupying the eigenstates of a  
 $N \times N$  random matrix**

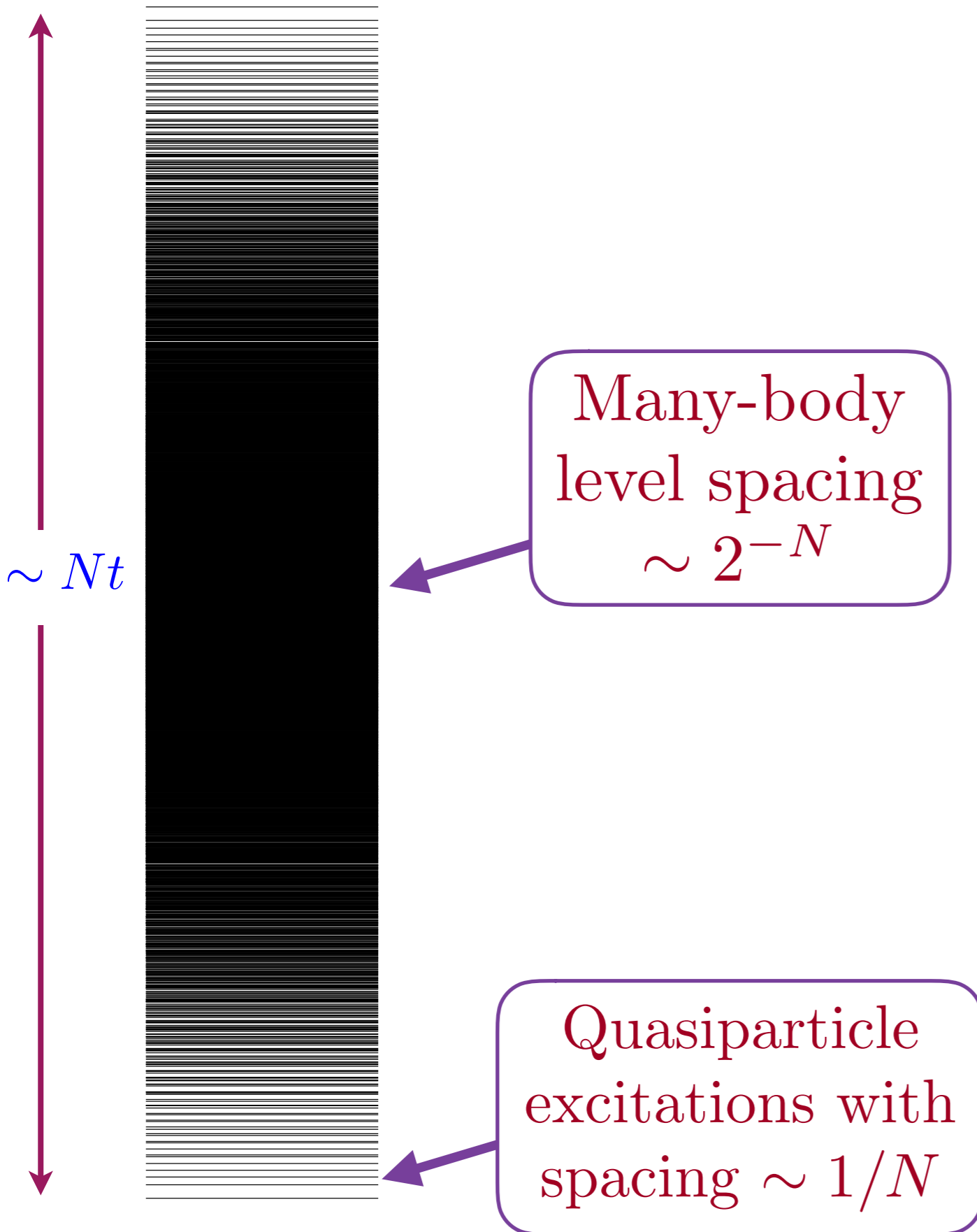
# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles

Let  $\varepsilon_\alpha$  be the eigenvalues of the matrix  $t_{ij}/\sqrt{N}$ . The fermions will occupy the lowest  $NQ$  eigenvalues, upto the Fermi energy  $E_F$ . The single-particle density of states is

$$\rho(\omega) = (1/N) \sum_\alpha \delta(\omega - \varepsilon_\alpha), \text{ and } \rho_0 \equiv \rho(\omega = 0).$$



# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles

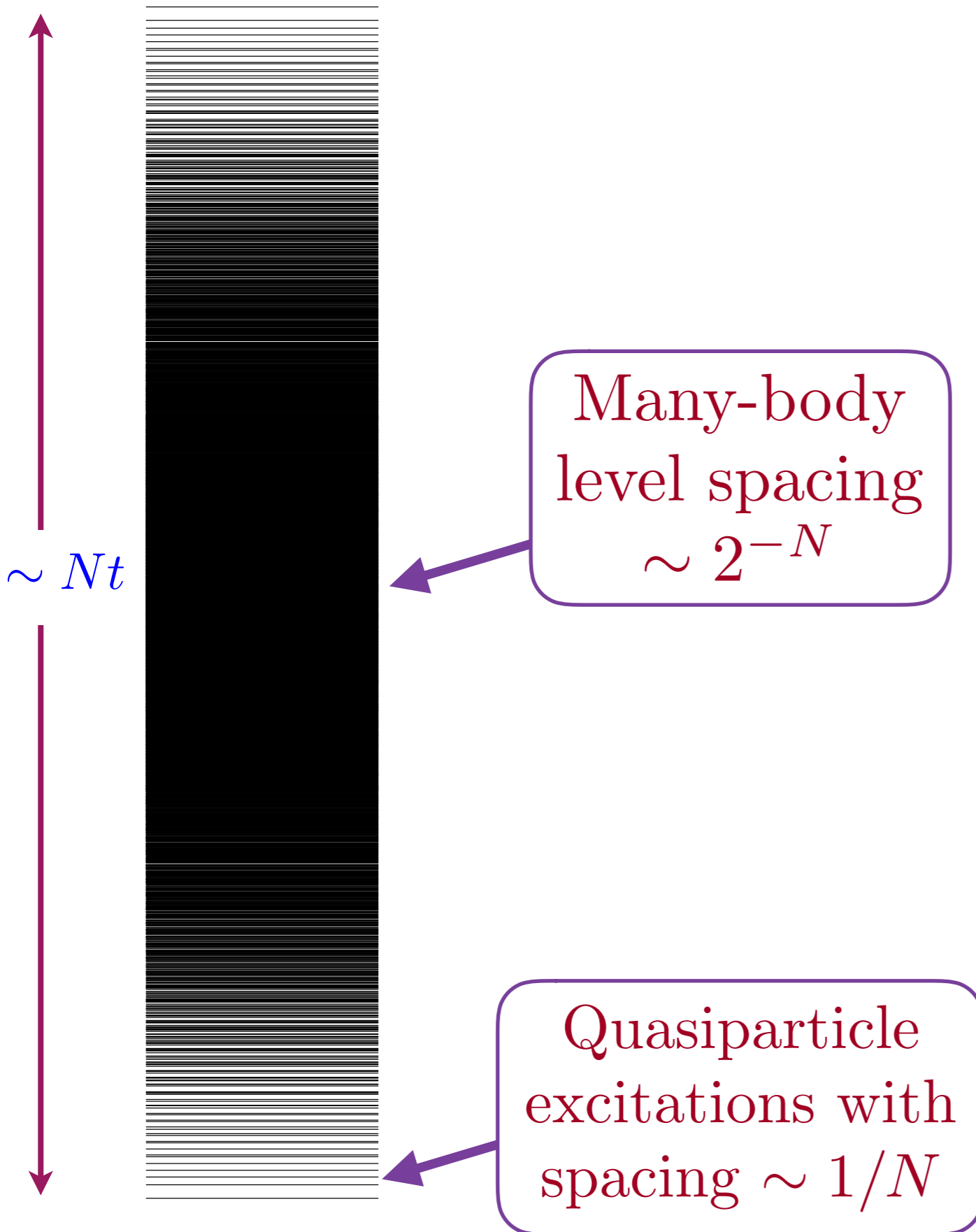


There are  $2^N$  many body levels with energy

$$E = \sum_{\alpha=1}^N n_{\alpha} \varepsilon_{\alpha},$$

where  $n_{\alpha} = 0, 1$ . Shown are all values of  $E$  for a single cluster of size  $N = 12$ . The  $\varepsilon_{\alpha}$  have a level spacing  $\sim 1/N$ .

# A simple model of a metal with quasiparticles



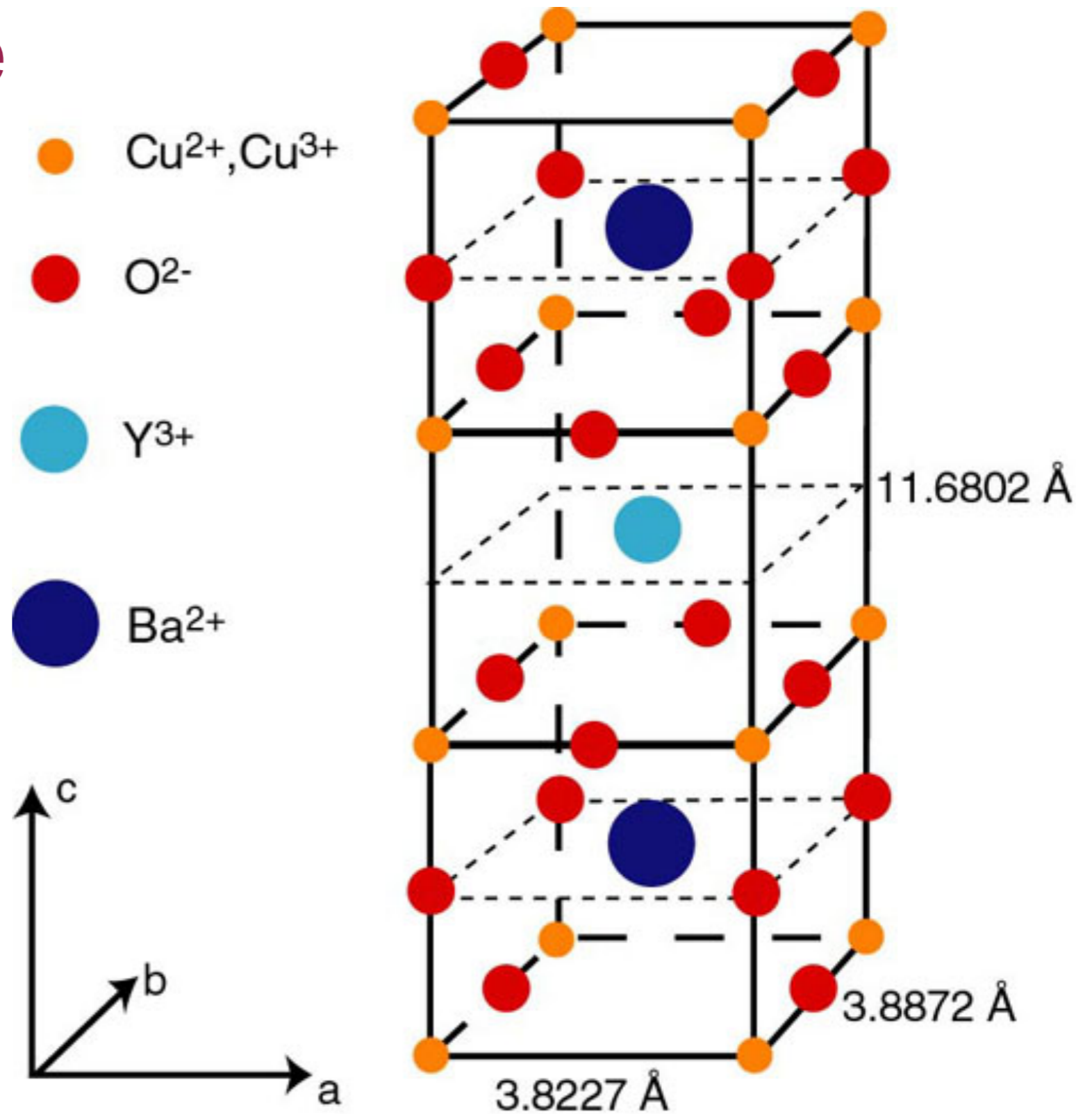
With interactions,  
we can use  
Fermi's Golden rule  
to compute a  
quasiparticle lifetime  
 $\sim 1/T^2$

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Strange metals:  
no quasiparticles

Black  
holes

# High temperature superconductors





“Strange”,

“Bad”,



or “Incoherent”,

H. Takagi, B. Batlogg,  
H. L. Kao, J. Kwo,  
R. J. Cava,  
J. J. Krajewski, and  
W. F. Peck, Jr.,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **69**,  
2975 (1992)

metal found ubiquitously at temperatures

$T > T_c$  (the superconducting critical temperature)

has a resistivity,  $\rho$ , which obeys

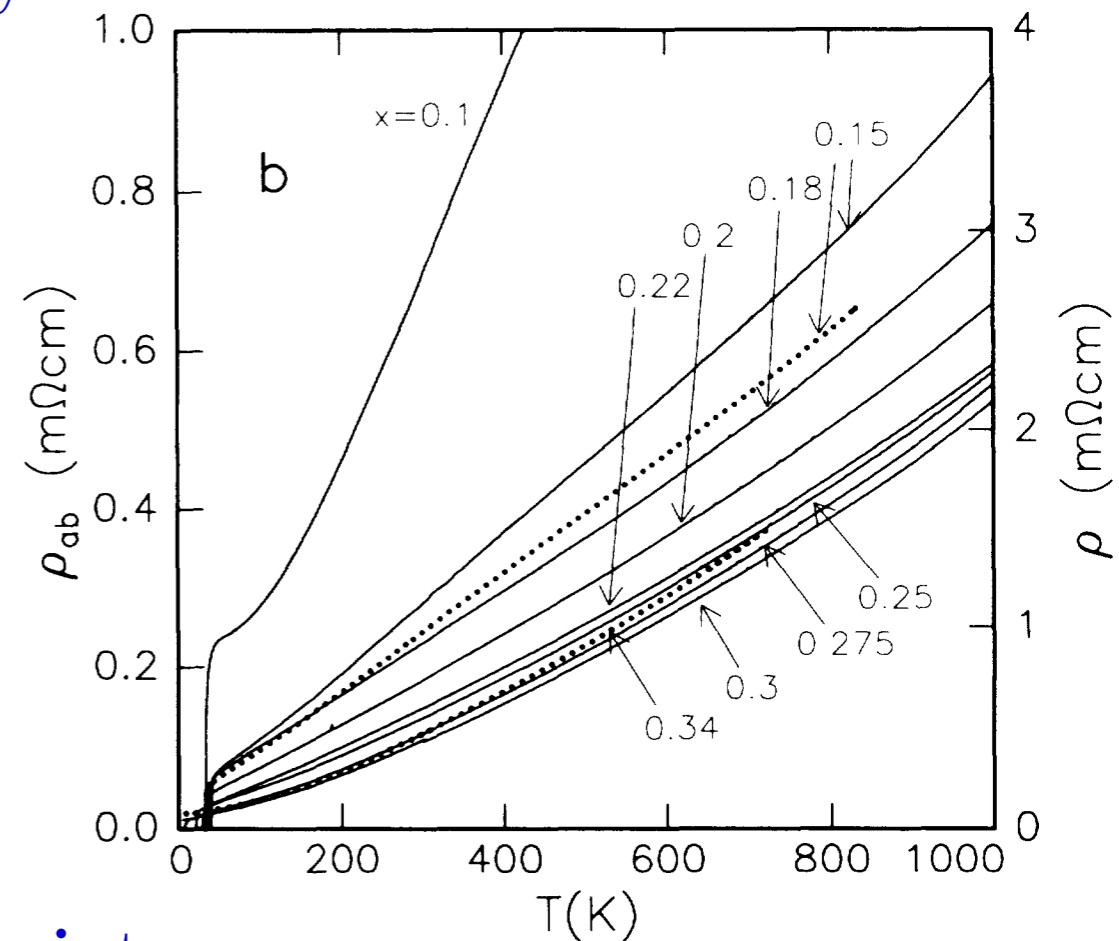
$$\rho \sim T,$$

and

in some cases  $\rho \gg h/e^2$

(in two dimensions),

where  $h/e^2$  is the quantum unit of resistance.



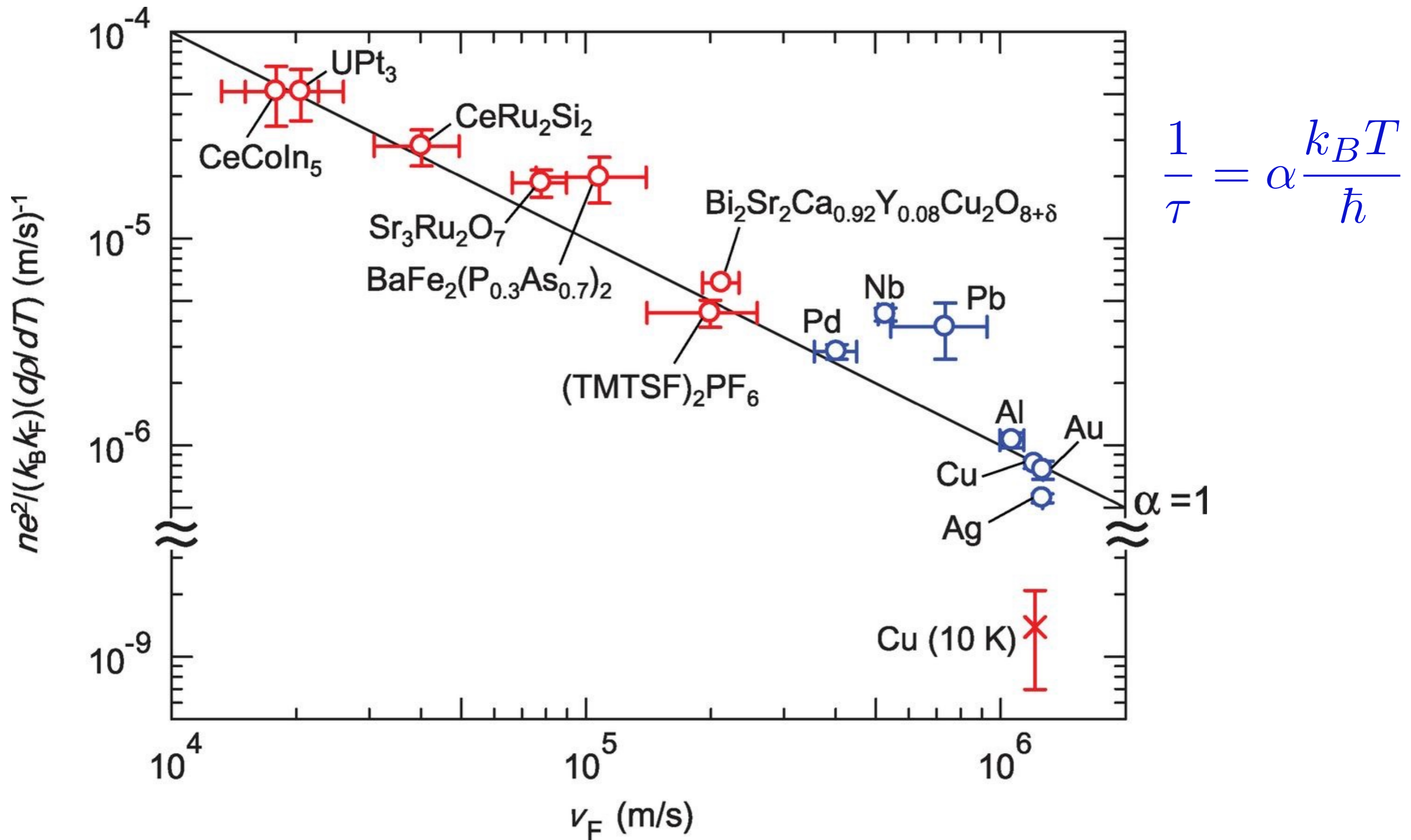
Remarkable recent observation of ‘Planckian’ strange metal transport in cuprates, pnictides, magic-angle graphene, and ultracold atoms: the resistivity,  $\rho$ , is

$$\rho = \frac{m^*}{ne^2} \frac{1}{\tau}$$

with a universal scattering rate

$$\frac{1}{\tau} \approx \frac{k_B T}{\hbar}$$

# Strange metals







J. A. N. Bruin, H. Sakai, R. S. Perry, A. P. Mackenzie, *Science*. **339**, 804 (2013)

Remarkable recent observation of ‘Planckian’ strange metal transport in cuprates, pnictides, magic-angle graphene, and ultracold atoms: the resistivity is associated with a universal scattering time  $\approx \hbar/(k_B T)$ .

## Universal $T$ -linear resistivity and Planckian dissipation in overdoped cuprates





NATURE PHYSICS | VOL 15 | FEBRUARY 2019 | 142-147

A. Legros<sup>1,2</sup>, S. Benhabib<sup>3</sup>, W. Tabis<sup>3,4</sup>, F. Laliberté <sup>1</sup>, M. Dion<sup>1</sup>, M. Lizaire<sup>1</sup>, B. Vignolle<sup>3</sup>, D. Vignolles <sup>3</sup>,  
H. Raffy<sup>5</sup>, Z. Z. Li<sup>5</sup>, P. Auban-Senzier<sup>5</sup>, N. Doiron-Leyraud<sup>1</sup>, P. Fournier<sup>1,6</sup>, D. Colson<sup>2</sup>, L. Taillefer <sup>1,6\*</sup> and  
C. Proust <sup>3,6\*</sup>

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arXiv:1902.01034





## Planckian dissipation and scale invariance in a quantum-critical disordered pnictide

Yasuyuki Nakajima,<sup>1,2</sup> Tristin Metz,<sup>2</sup> Christopher Eckberg,<sup>2</sup> Kevin Kirshenbaum,<sup>2</sup> Alex Hughes,<sup>2</sup>  
Renxiong Wang,<sup>2</sup> Limin Wang,<sup>2</sup> Shanta R. Saha,<sup>2</sup> I-Lin Liu,<sup>2,3,4</sup> Nicholas P. Butch,<sup>2,4</sup>  
Zhonghao Liu,<sup>5,6</sup> Sergey V. Borisenko,<sup>5</sup> Peter Y. Zavalij,<sup>7</sup> and Johnpierre Paglione<sup>2,8</sup>

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## Strange metal in magic-angle graphene with near Planckian dissipation

Yuan Cao,<sup>1,\*</sup> Debanjan Chowdhury,<sup>1,\*</sup> Daniel Rodan-Legrain,<sup>1</sup> Oriol Rubies-Bigordà,<sup>1</sup>  
Kenji Watanabe,<sup>2</sup> Takashi Taniguchi,<sup>2</sup> T. Senthil,<sup>1,†</sup> and Pablo Jarillo-Herrero<sup>1,†</sup>

arXiv:1901.03710

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arXiv:1901.03710

## Bad metallic transport in a cold atom Fermi-Hubbard system

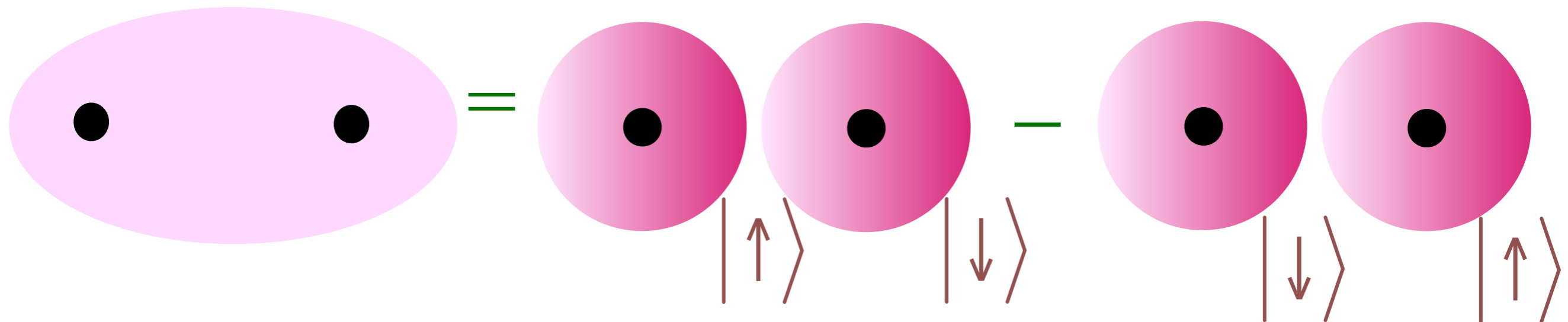
*Science* **363**, 379–382 (2019)

Peter T. Brown<sup>1</sup>, Debayan Mitra<sup>1</sup>, Elmer Guardado-Sanchez<sup>1</sup>, Reza Nourafkan<sup>2</sup>, Alexis Reymbaut<sup>2</sup>, Charles-David Hébert<sup>2</sup>, Simon Bergeron<sup>2</sup>, A.-M. S. Tremblay<sup>2,3</sup>, Jure Kokalj<sup>4,5</sup>, David A. Huse<sup>1</sup>, Peter Schauf<sup>1\*</sup>, Waseem S. Bakr<sup>1†</sup>

# Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle

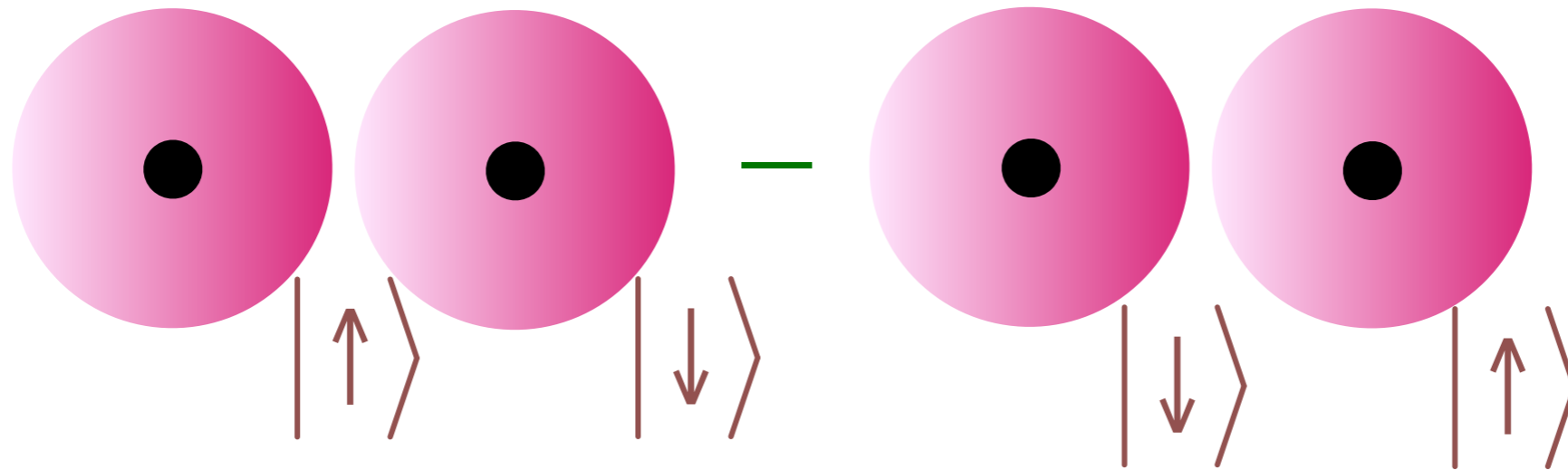


Hydrogen molecule:

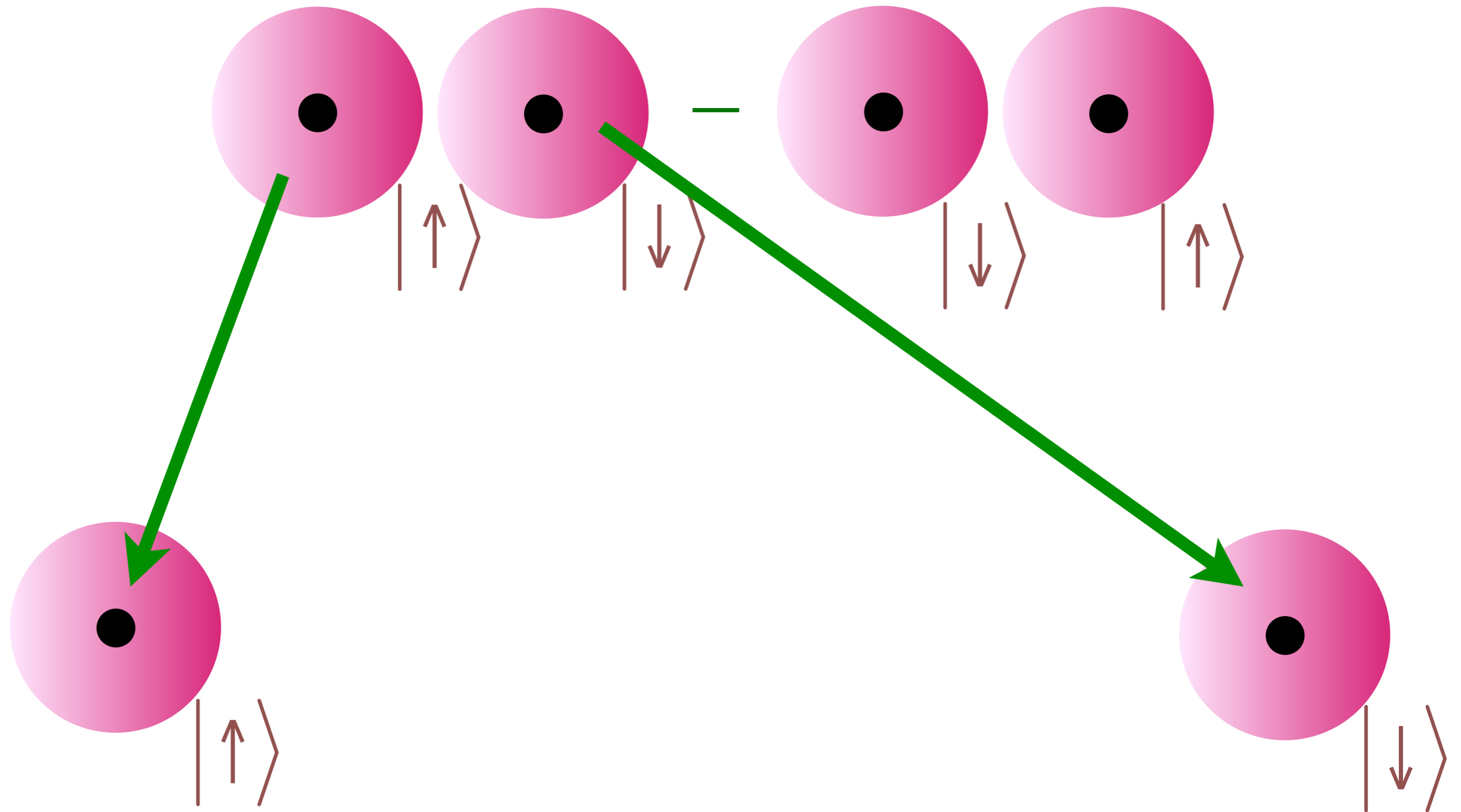


$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$

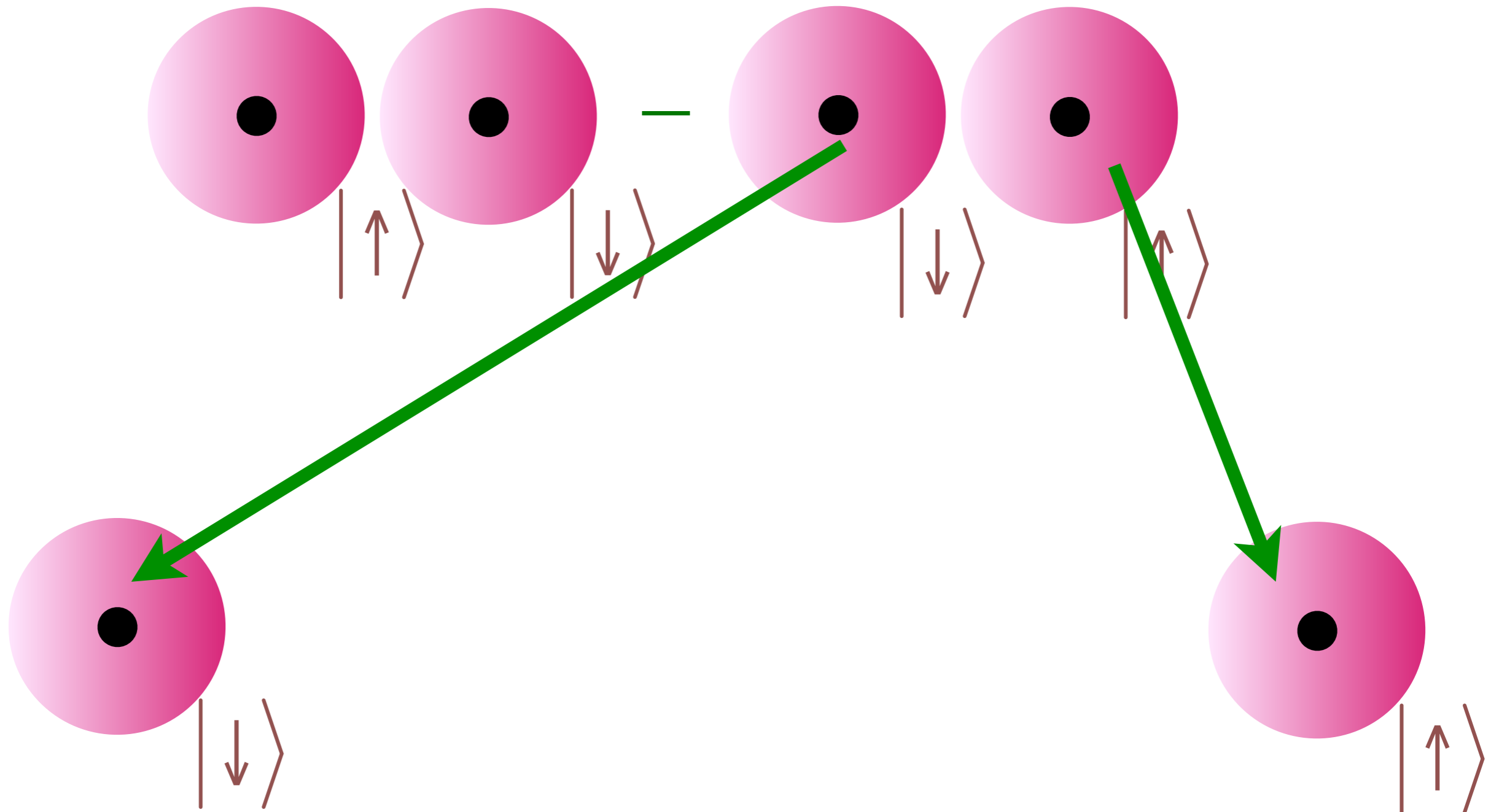
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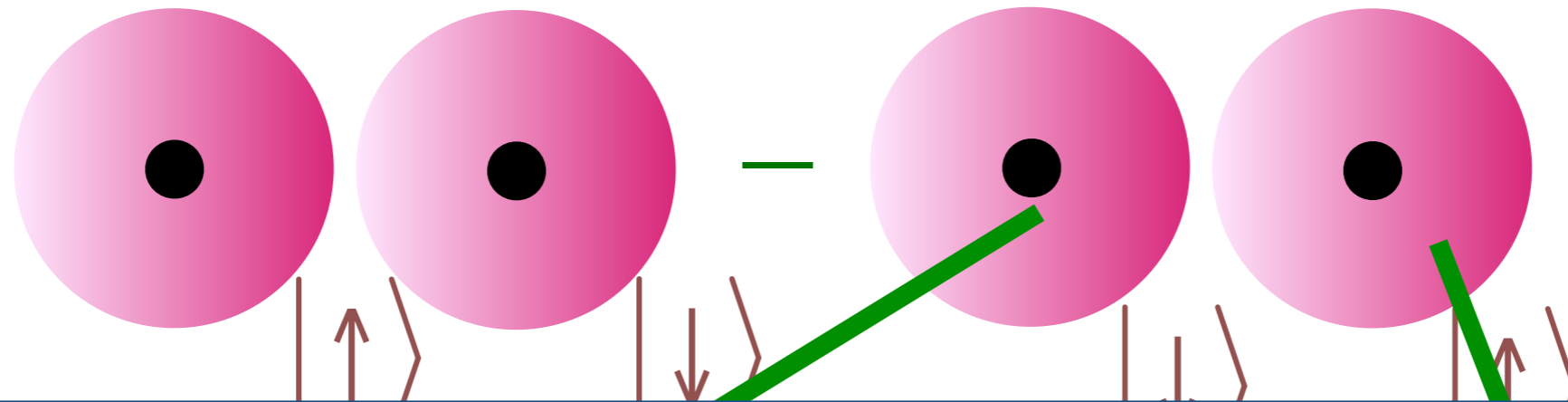
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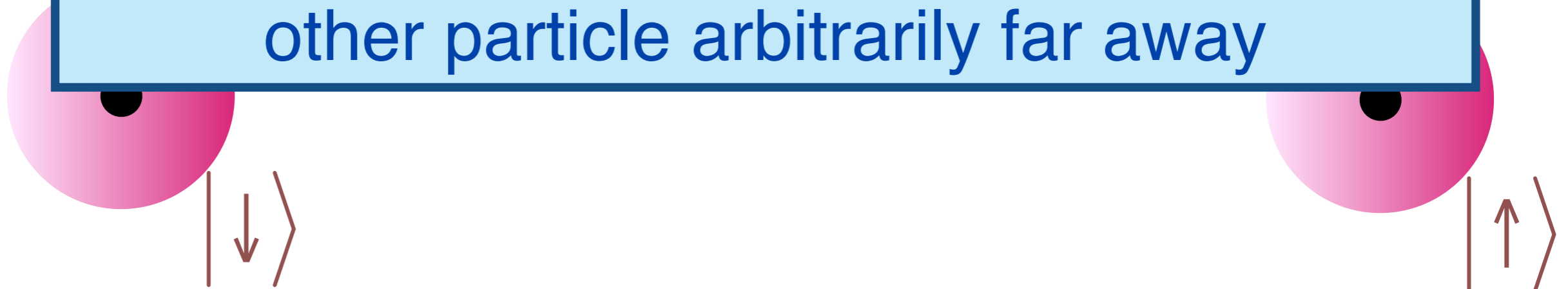
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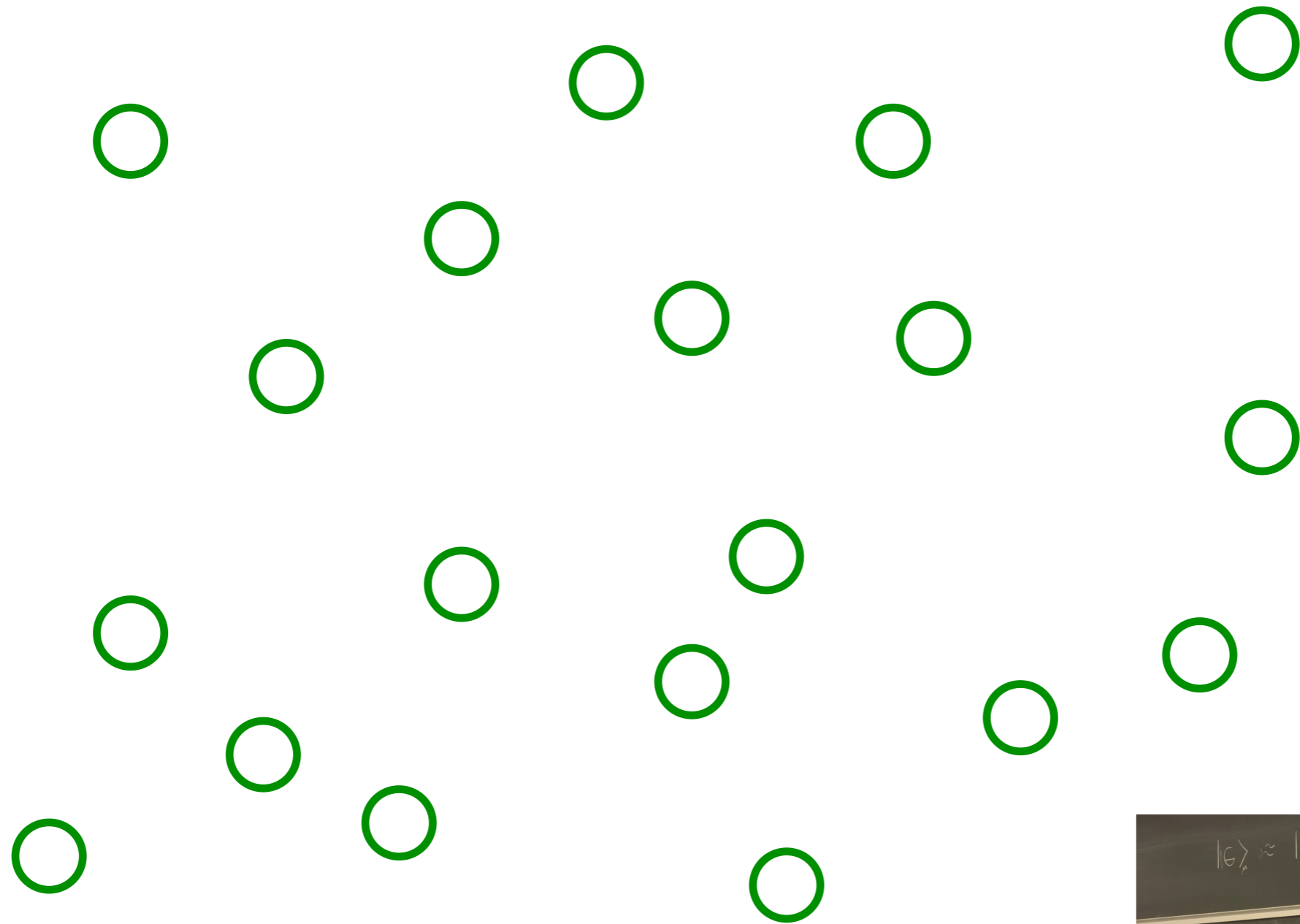
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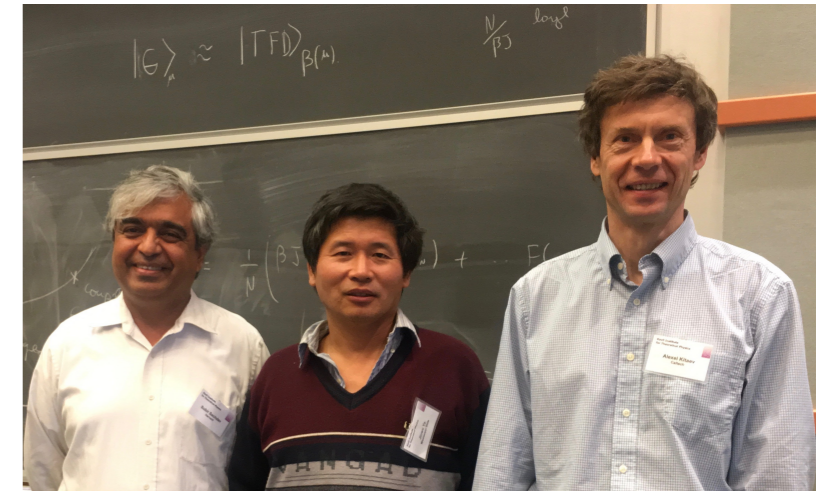
Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen “paradox” (1935):  
Measurement of one particle  
instantaneously determines the state of the  
other particle arbitrarily far away



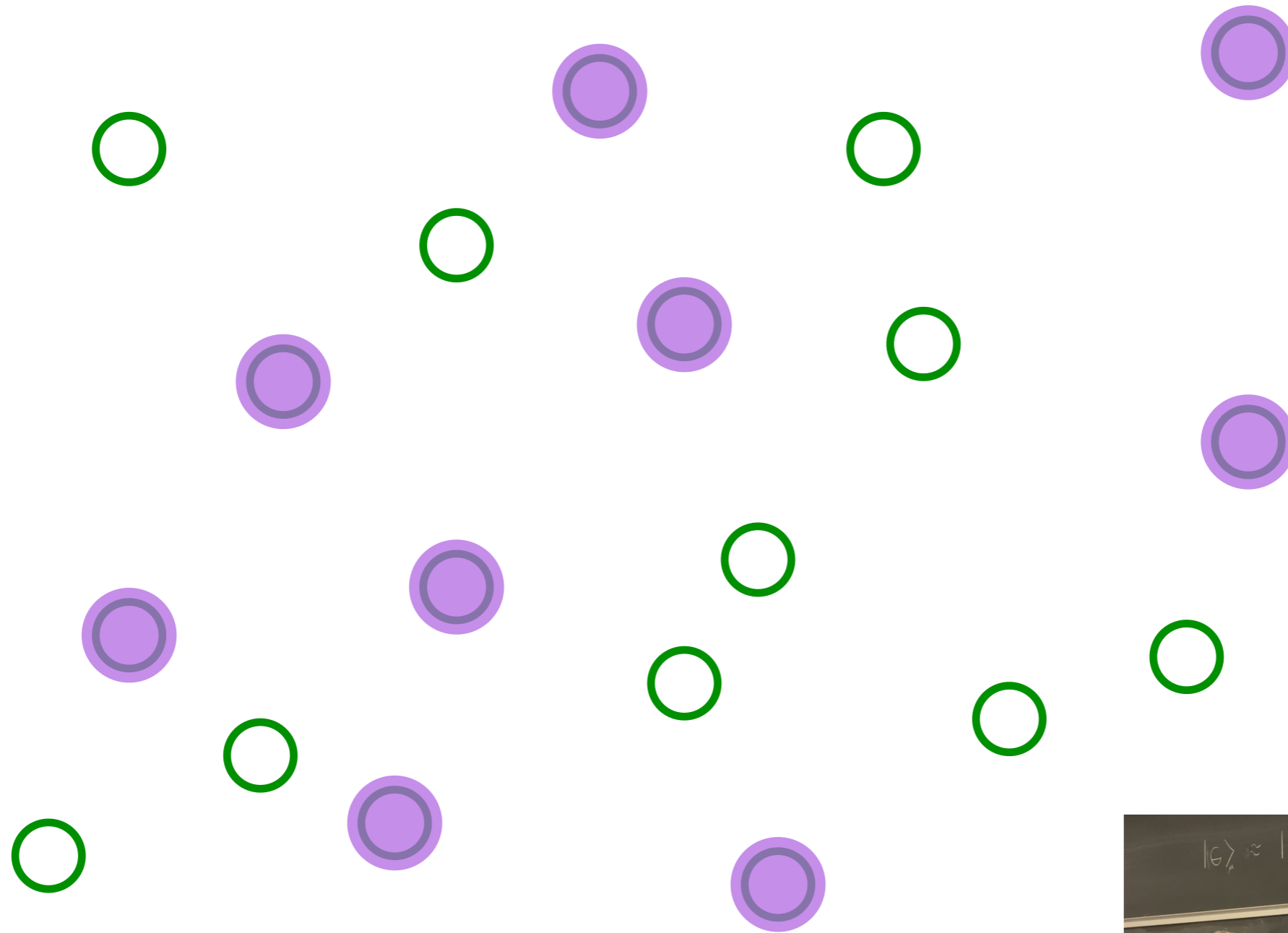
# The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model



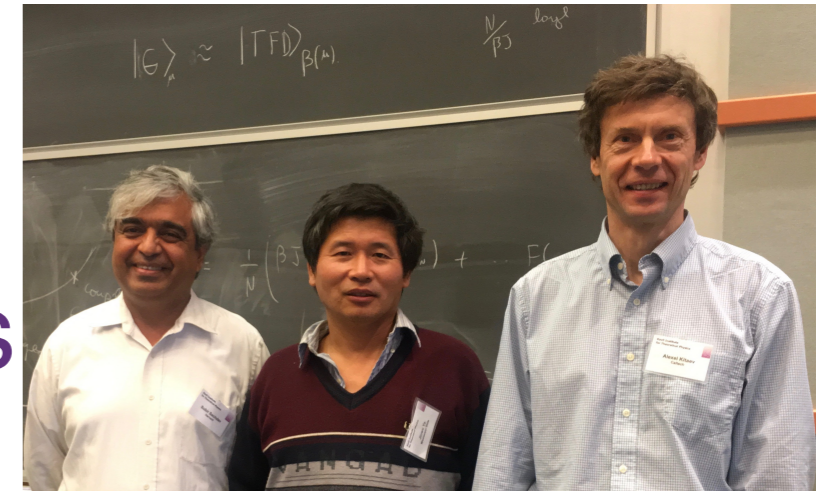
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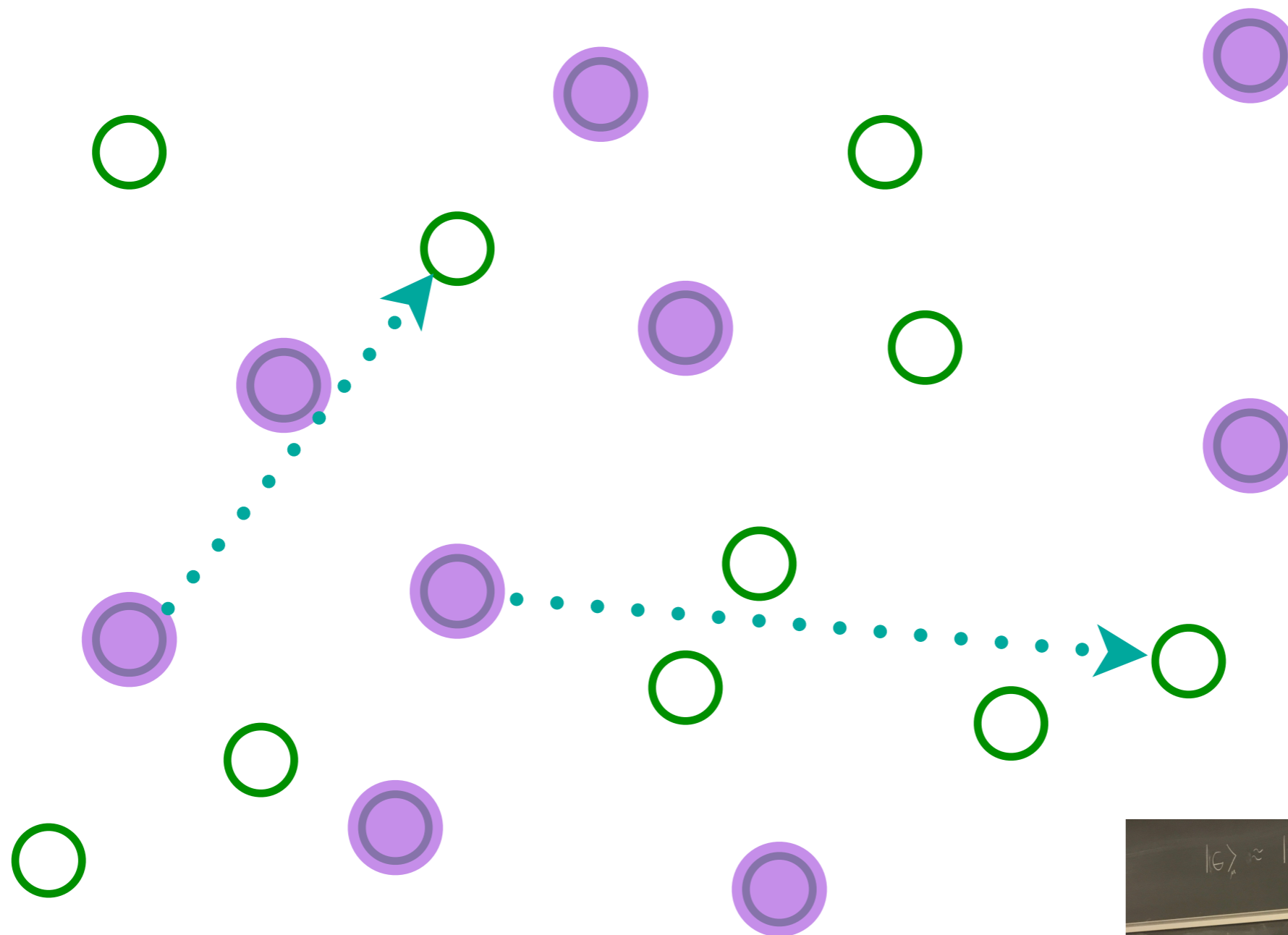
# The SYK model



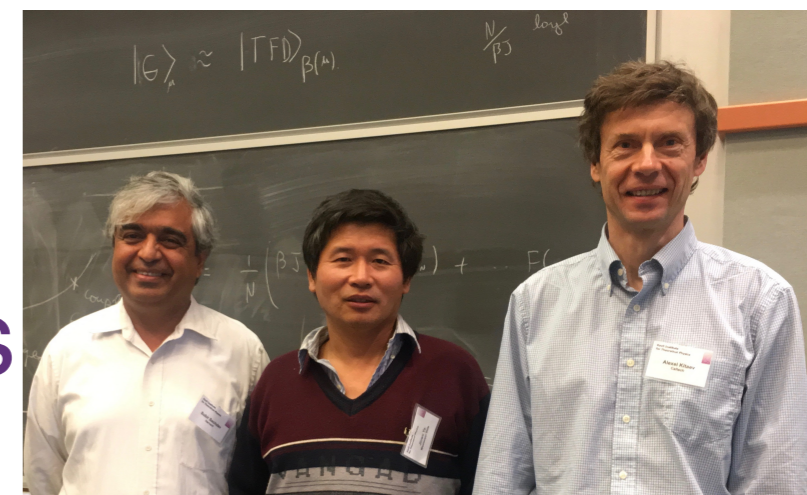
Place electrons randomly on some sites



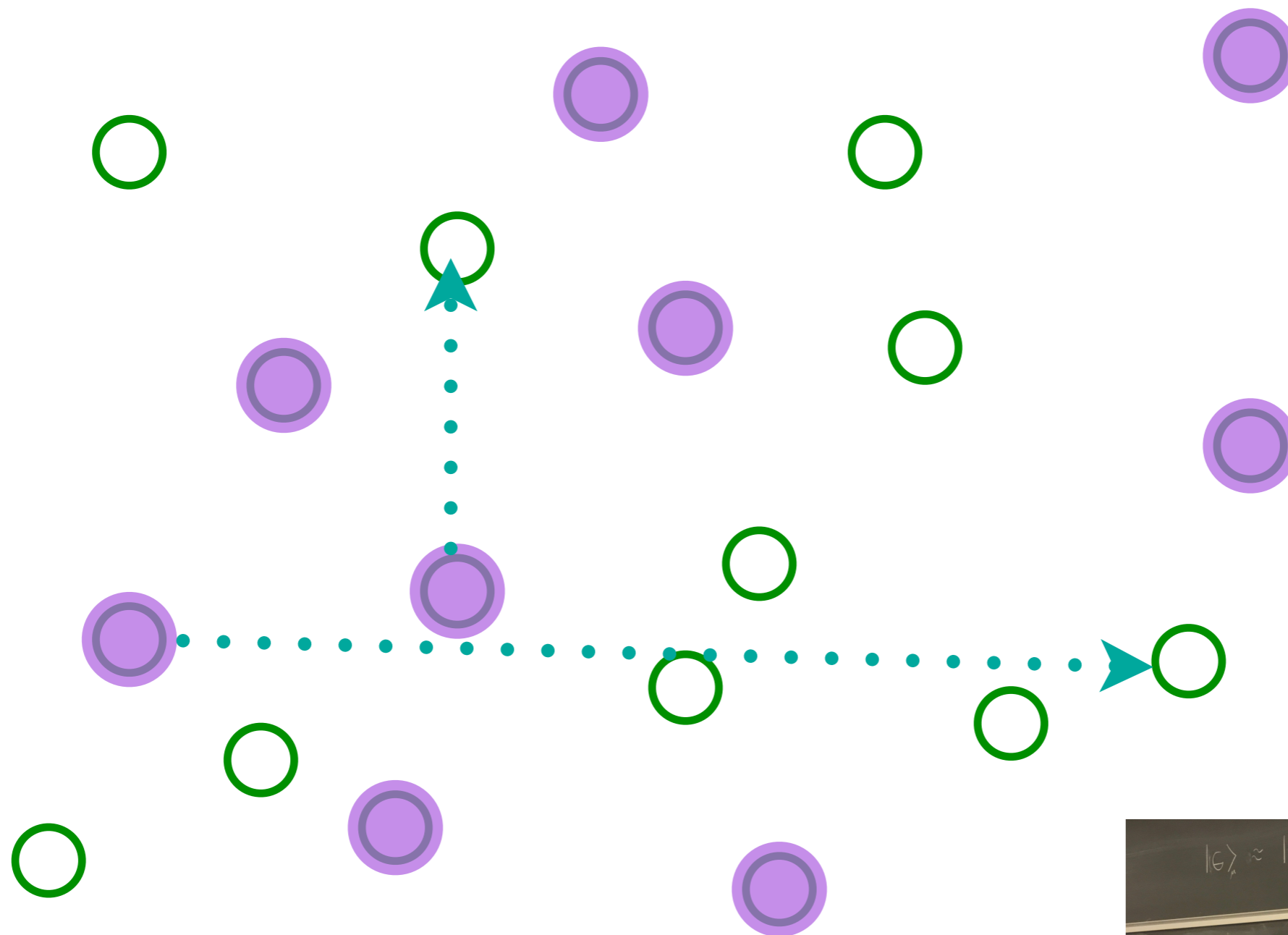
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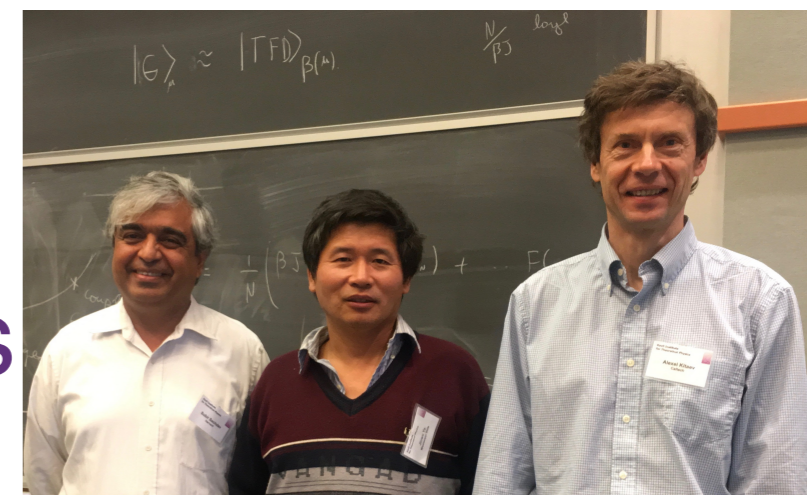
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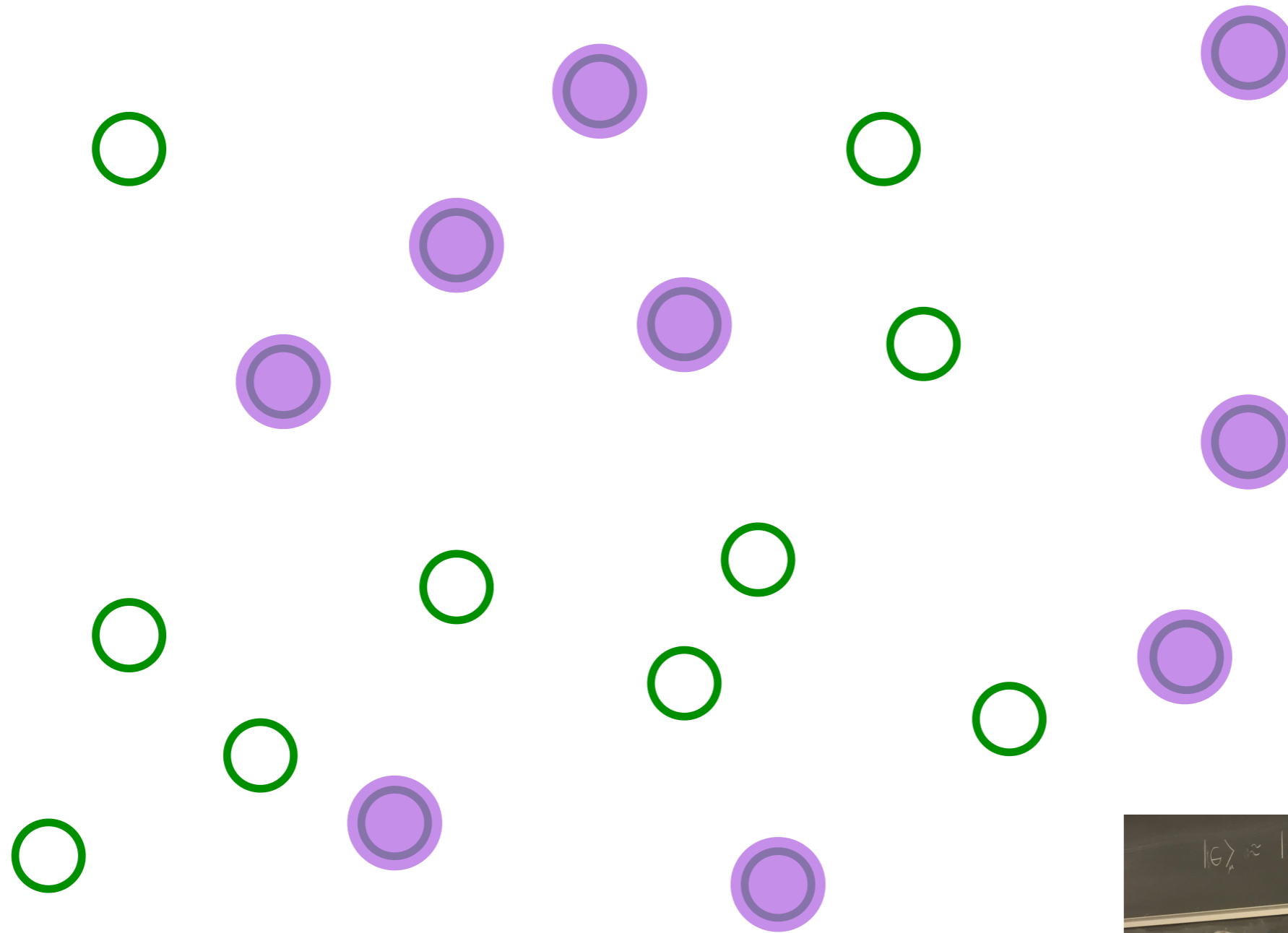
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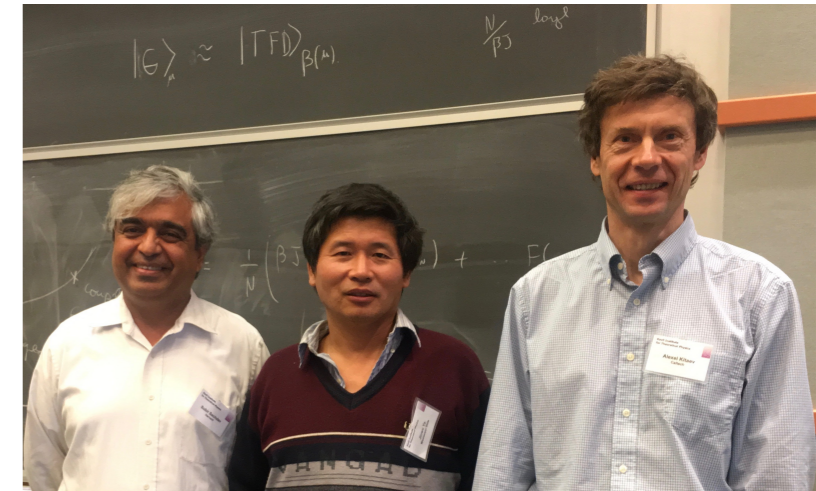
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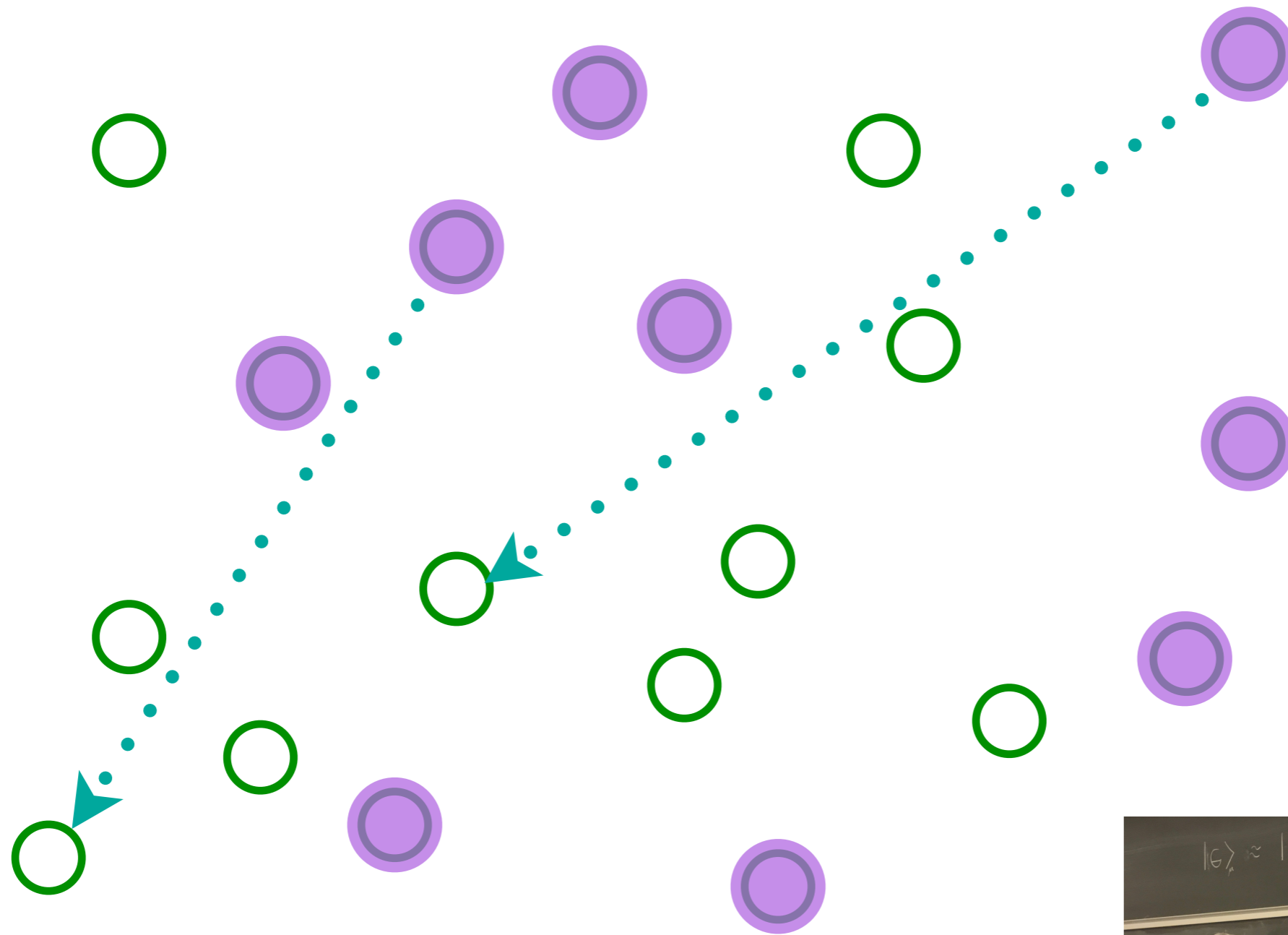
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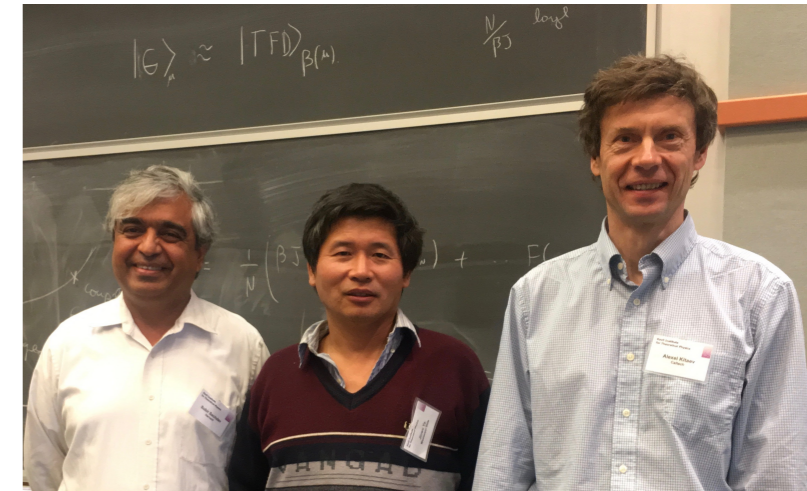
Entangle electrons pairwise randomly



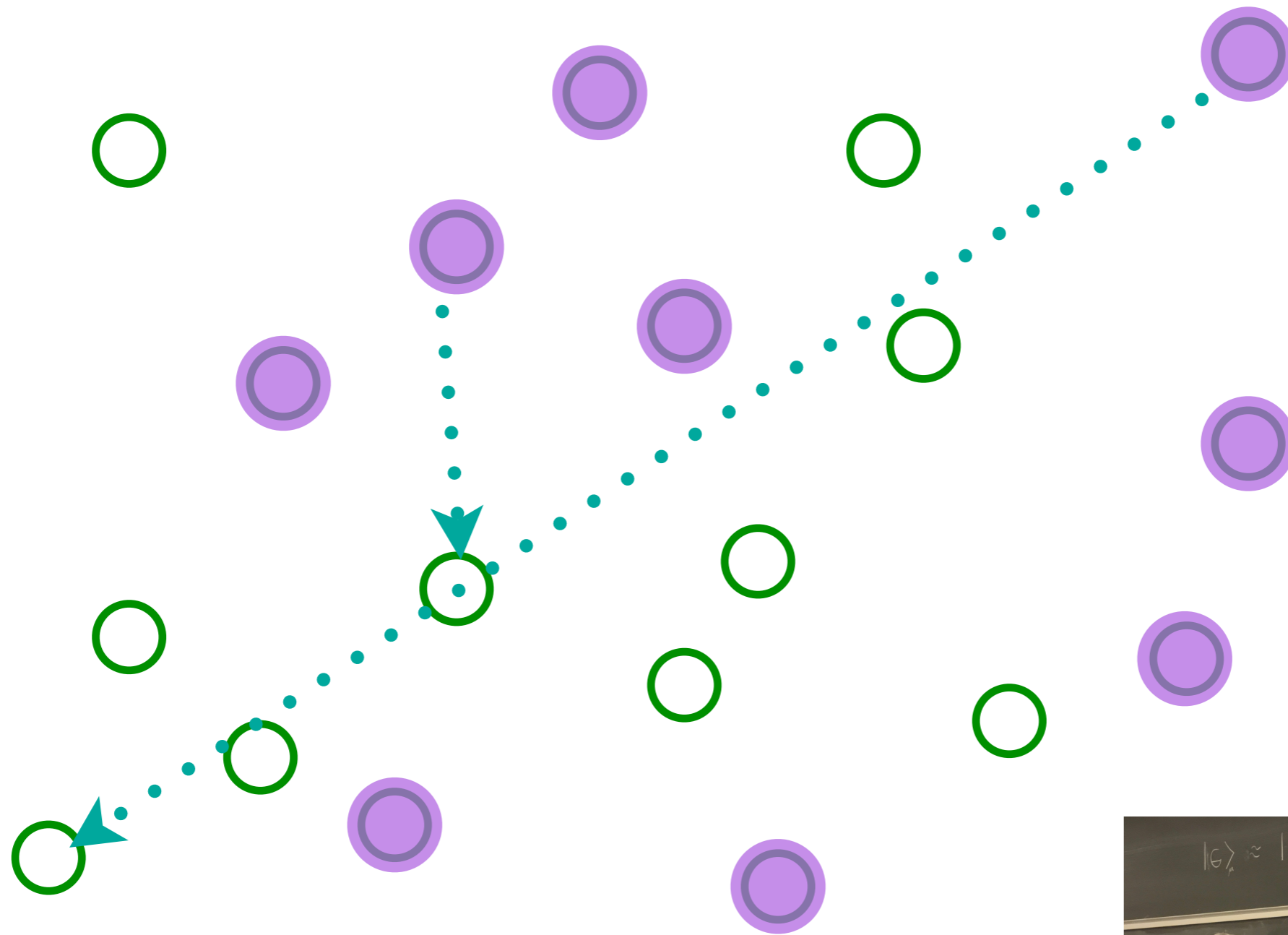
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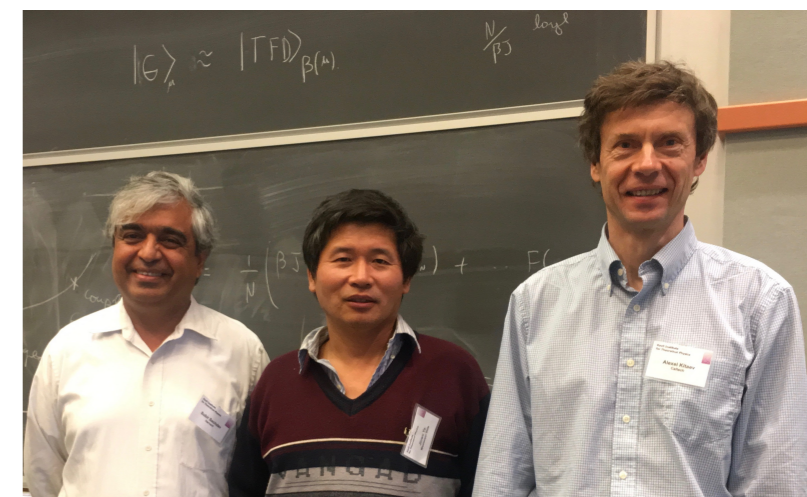
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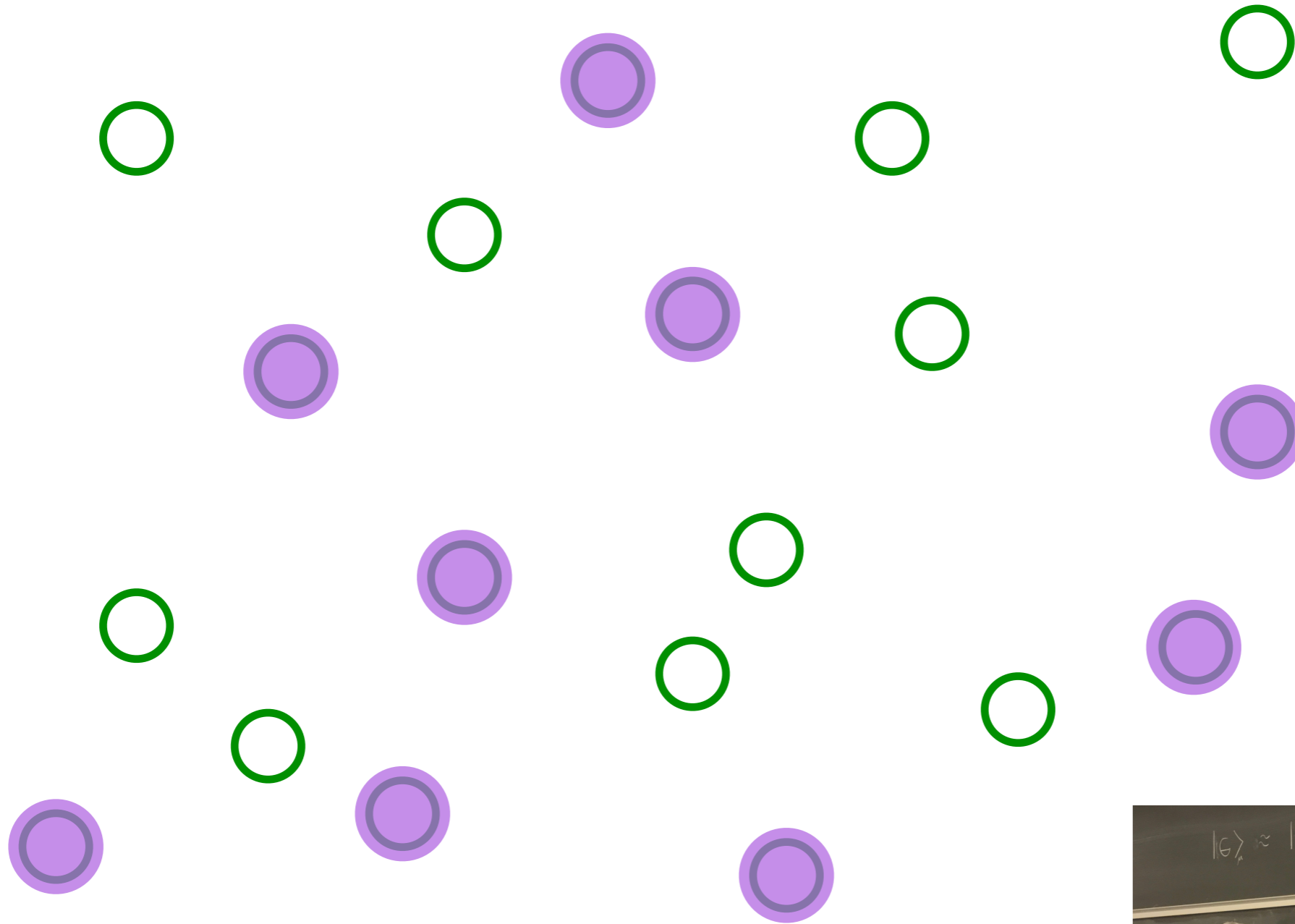
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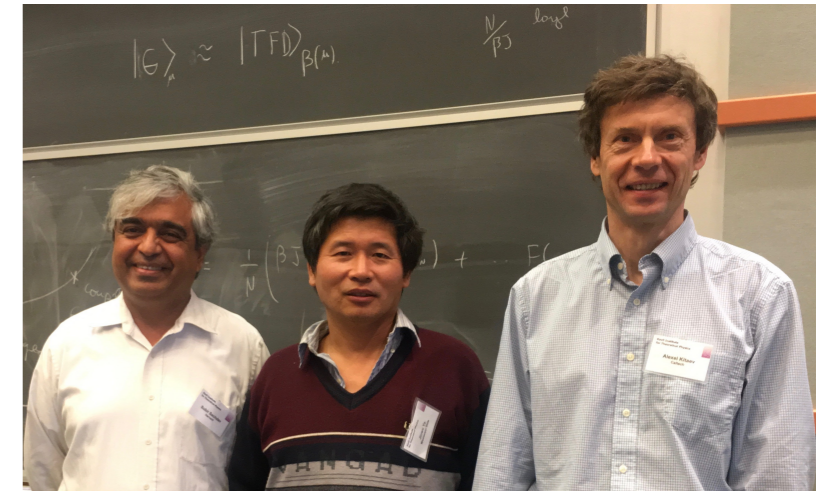
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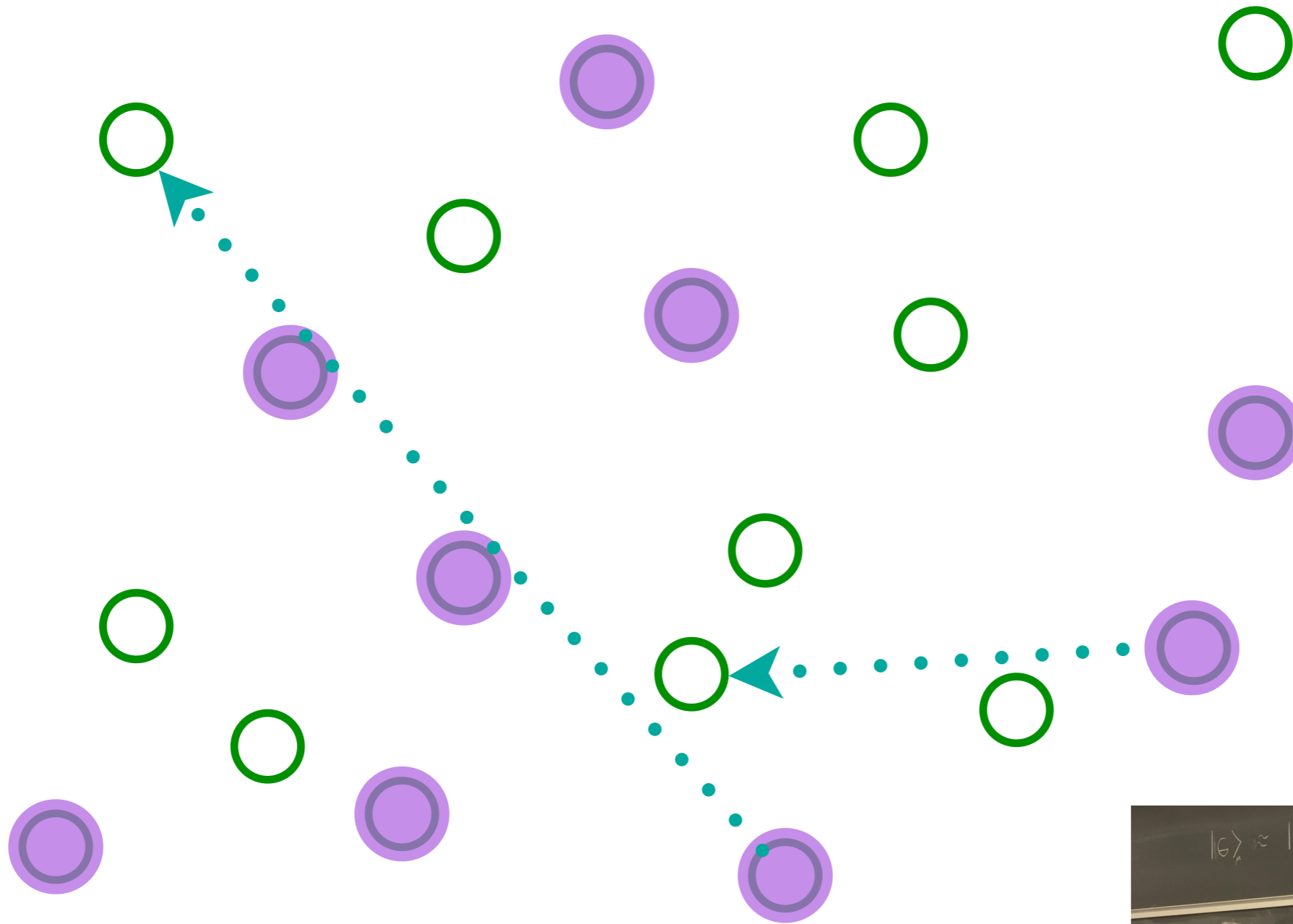
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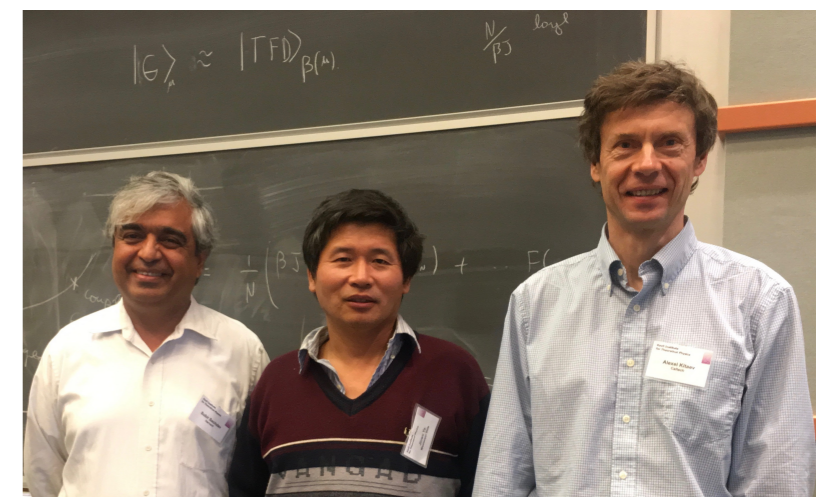
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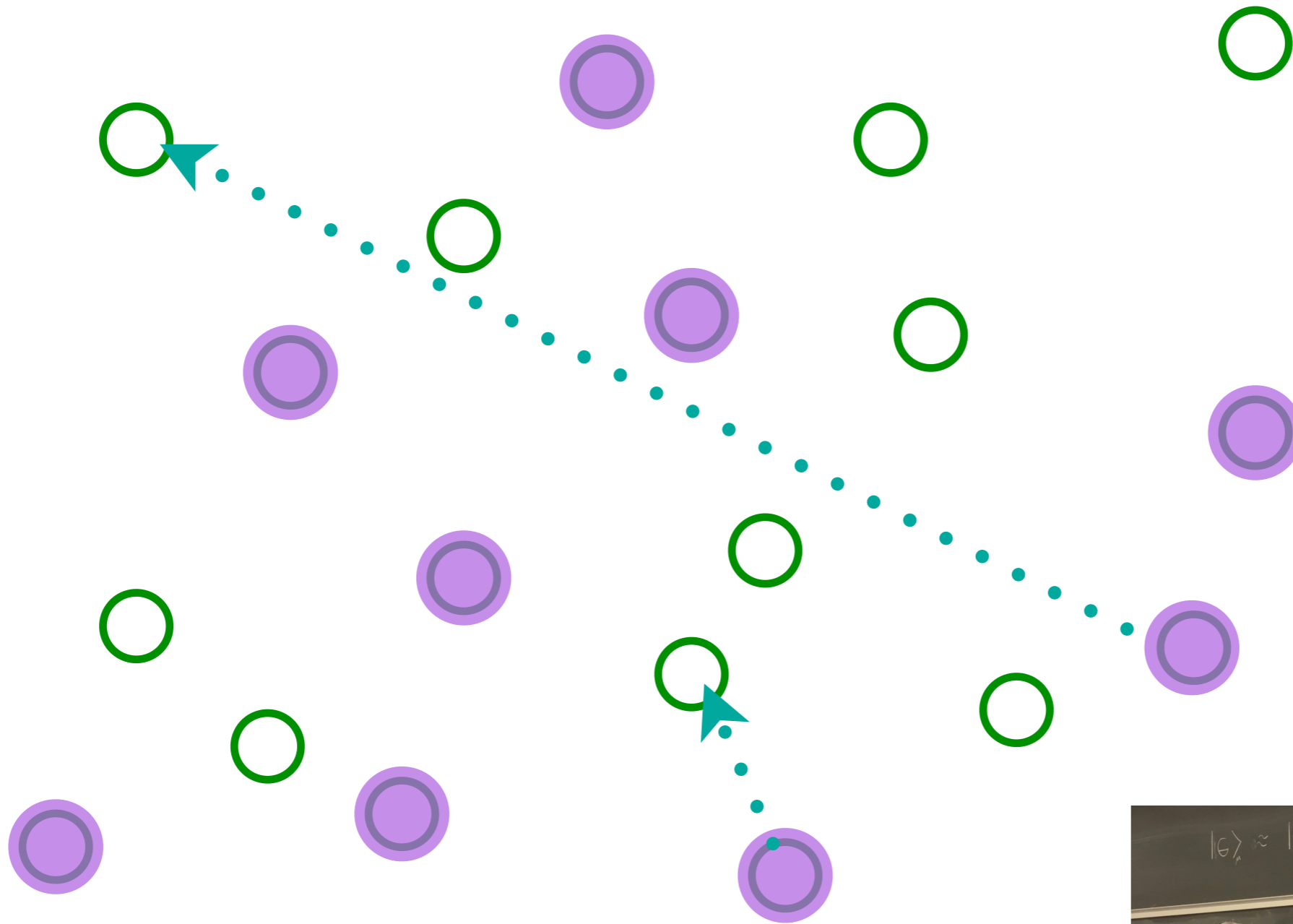
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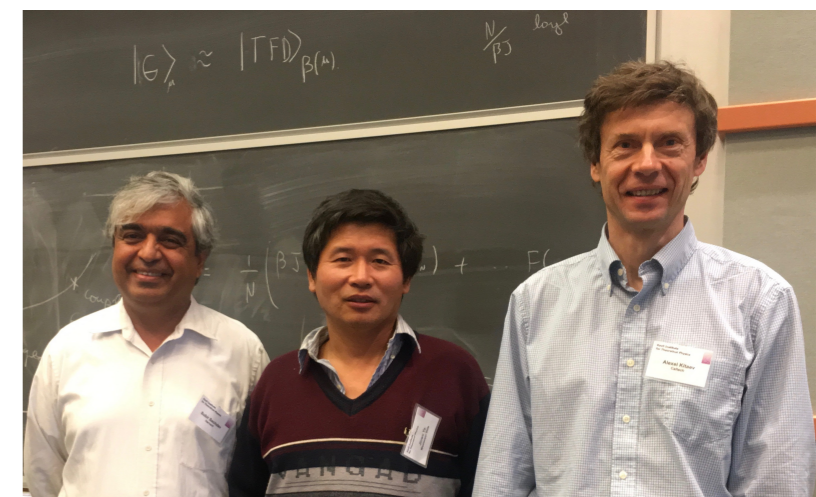
Entangle electrons pairwise randomly



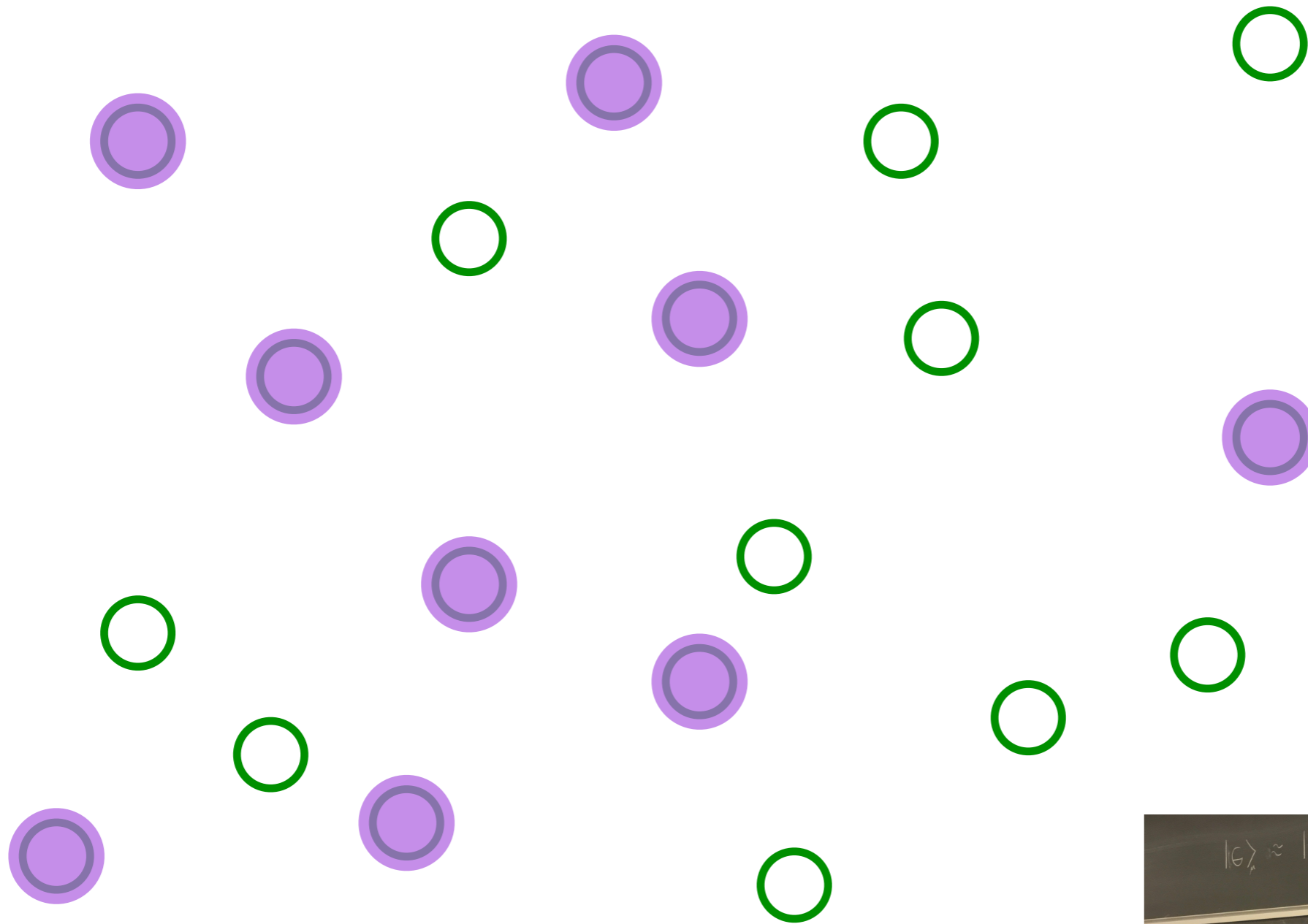
# The SYK model



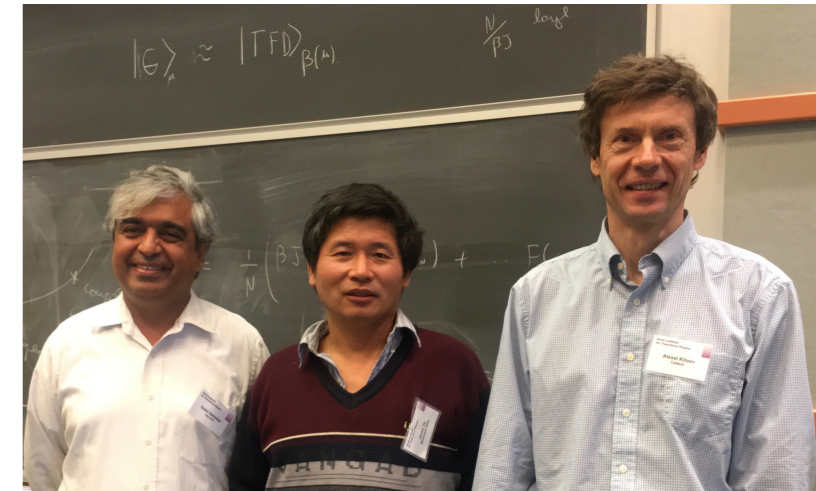
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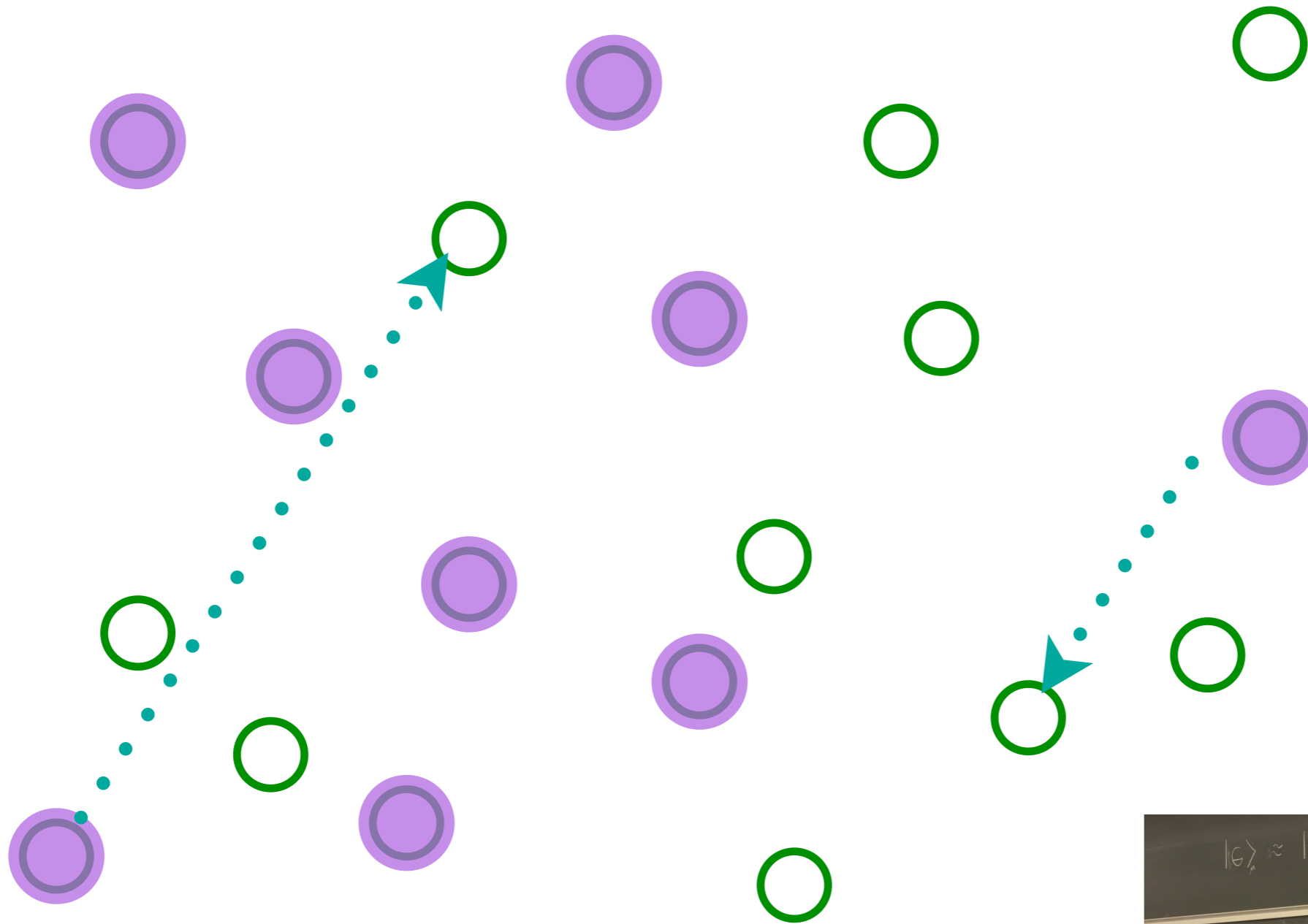
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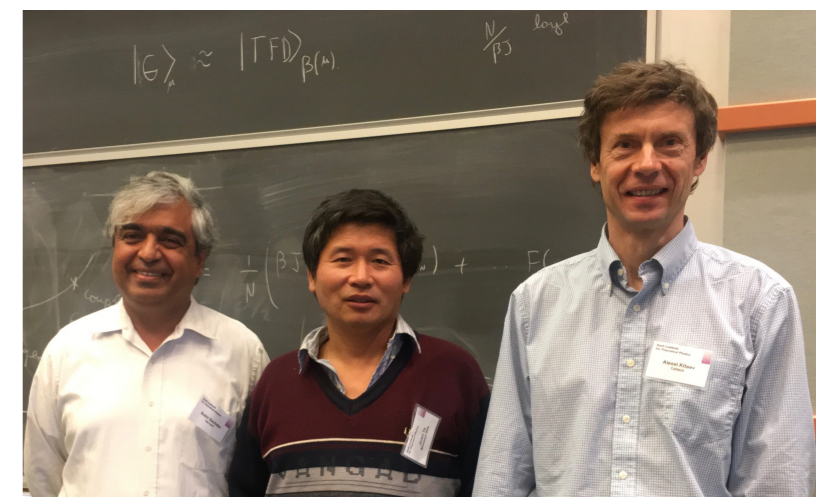
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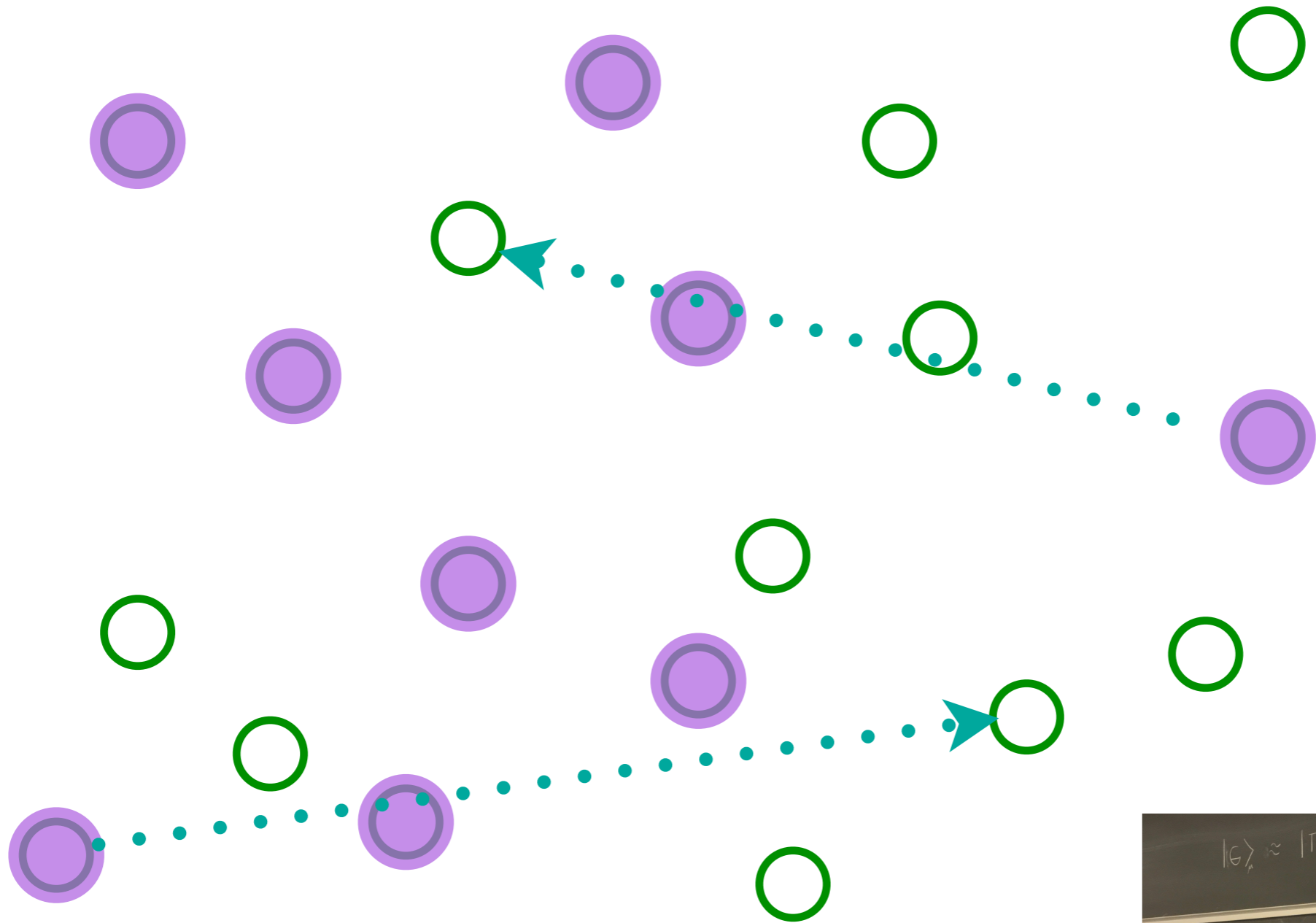
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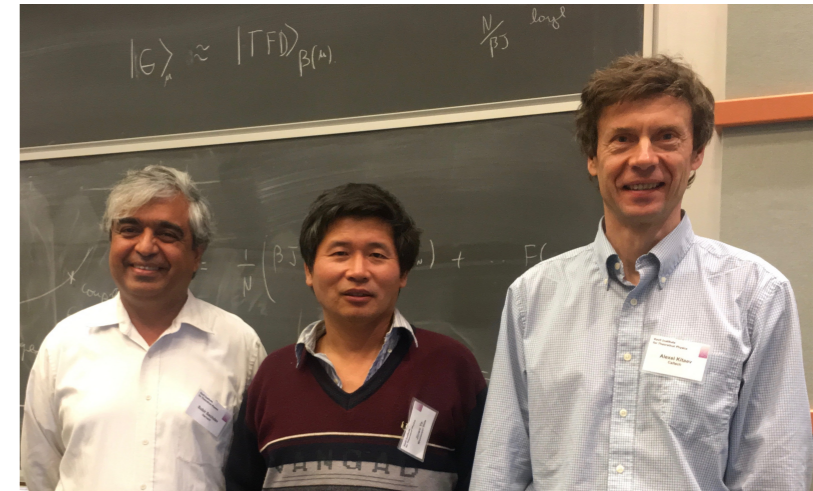
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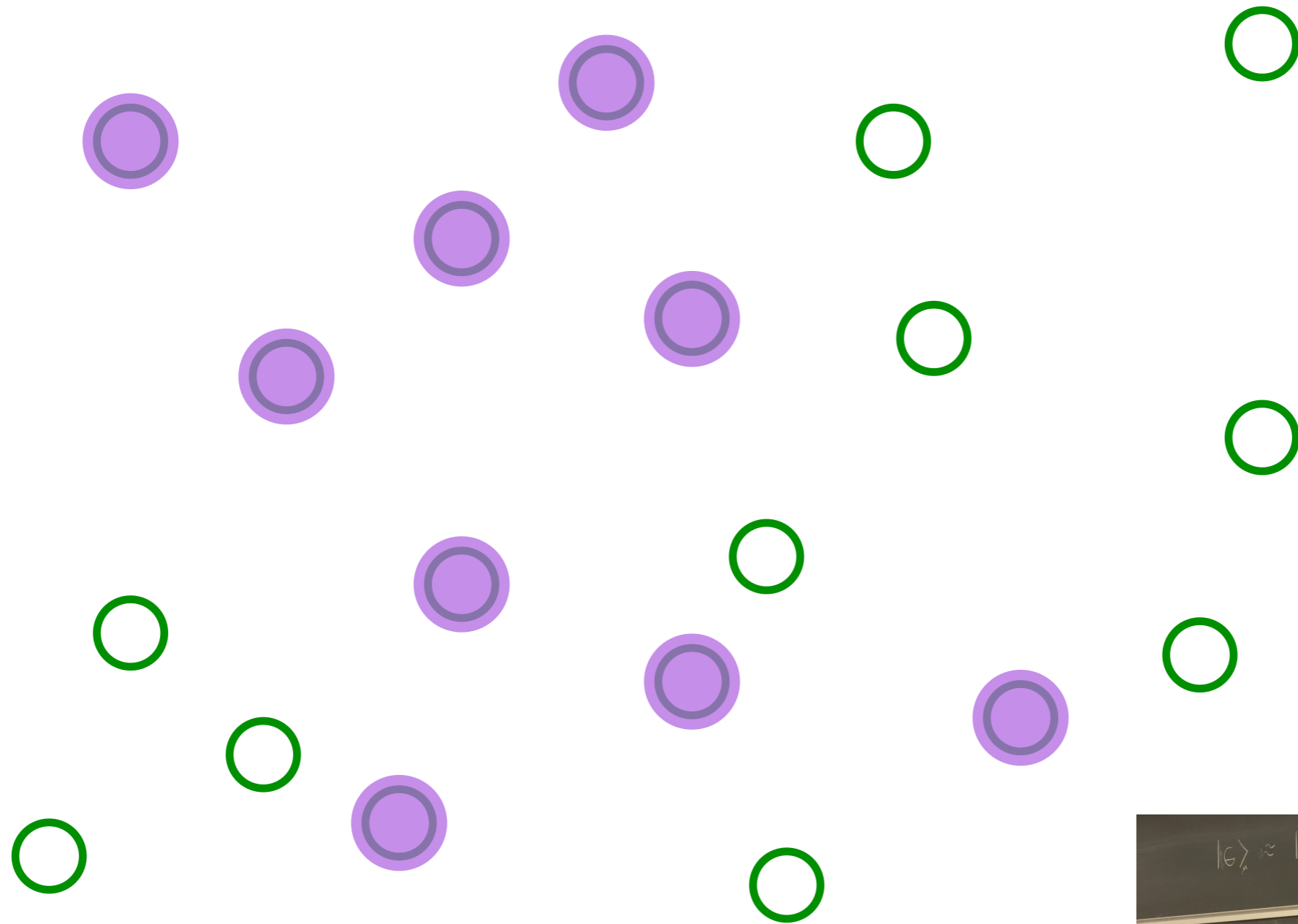
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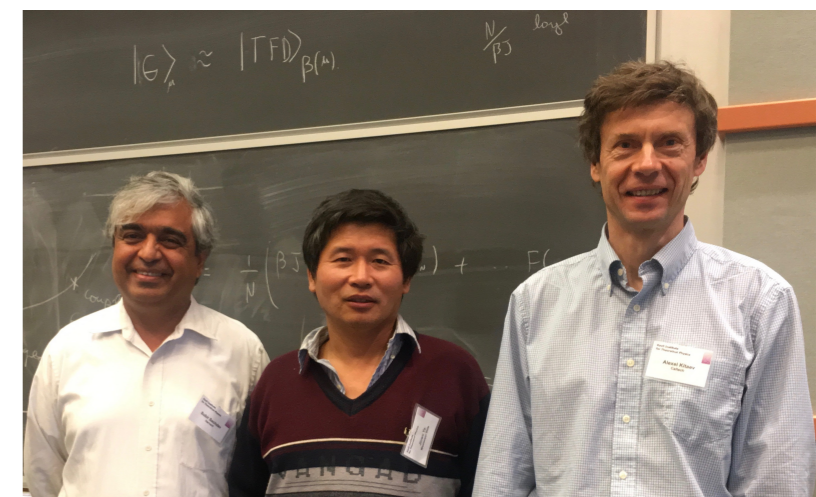
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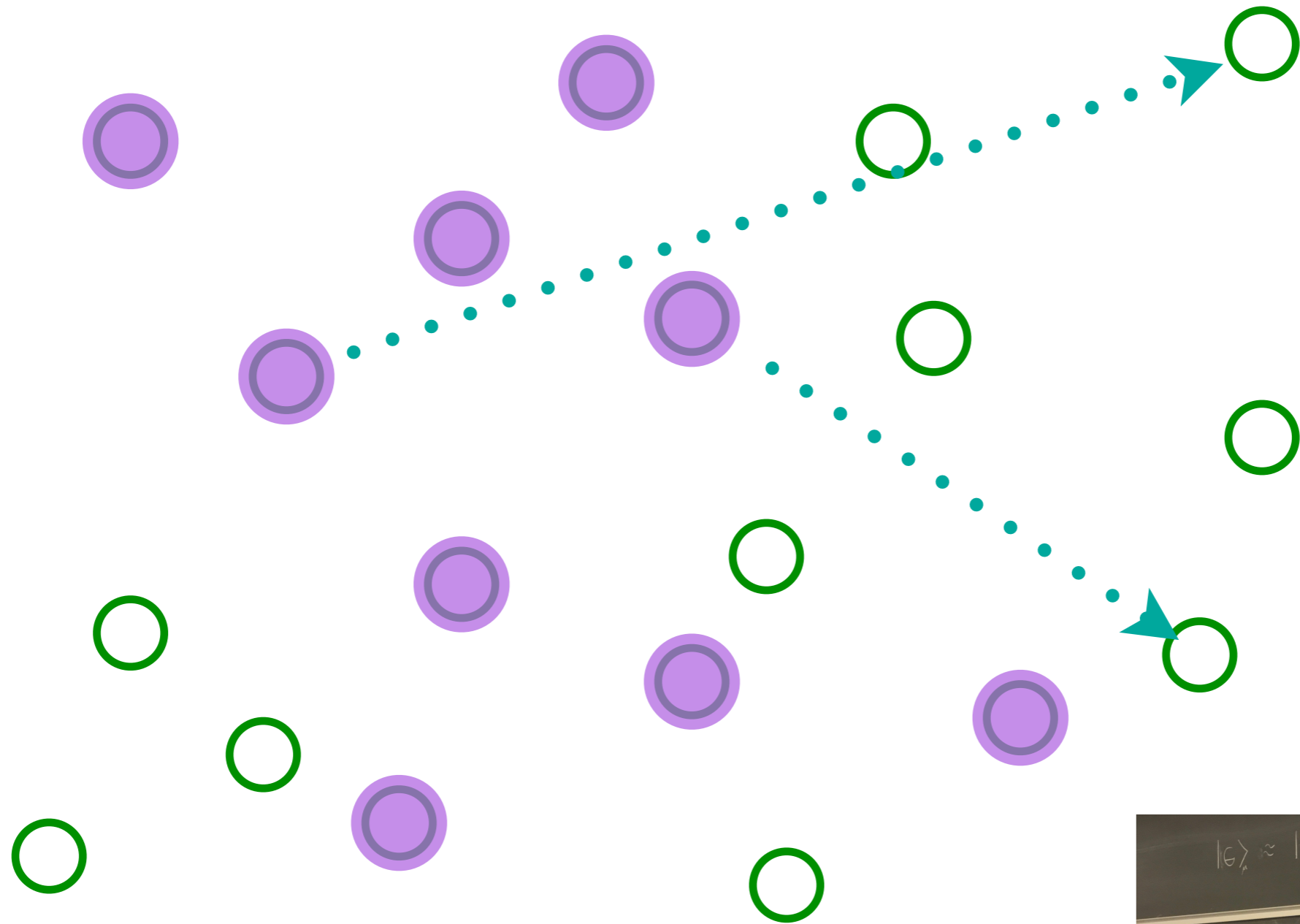
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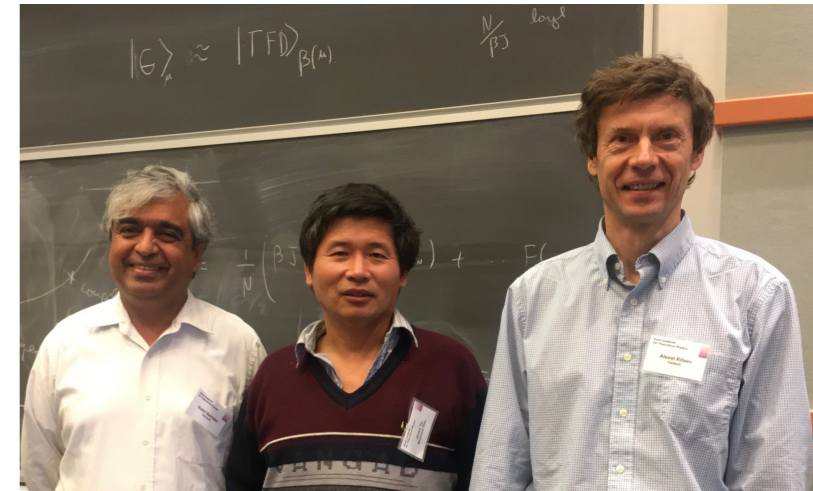
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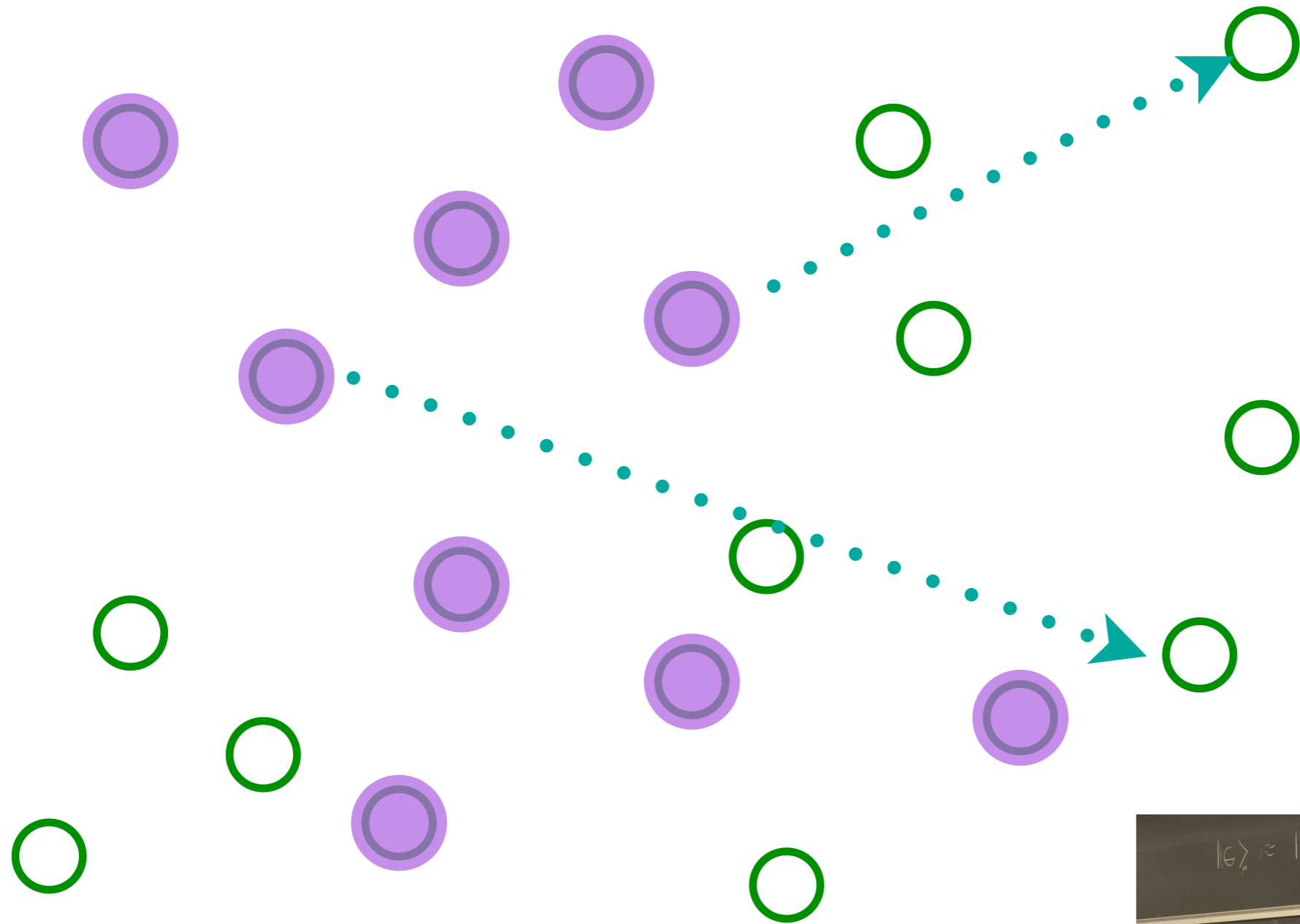
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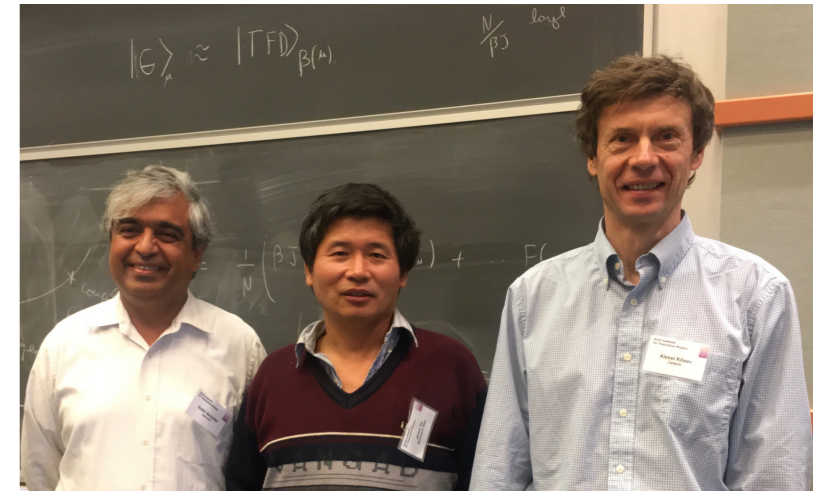
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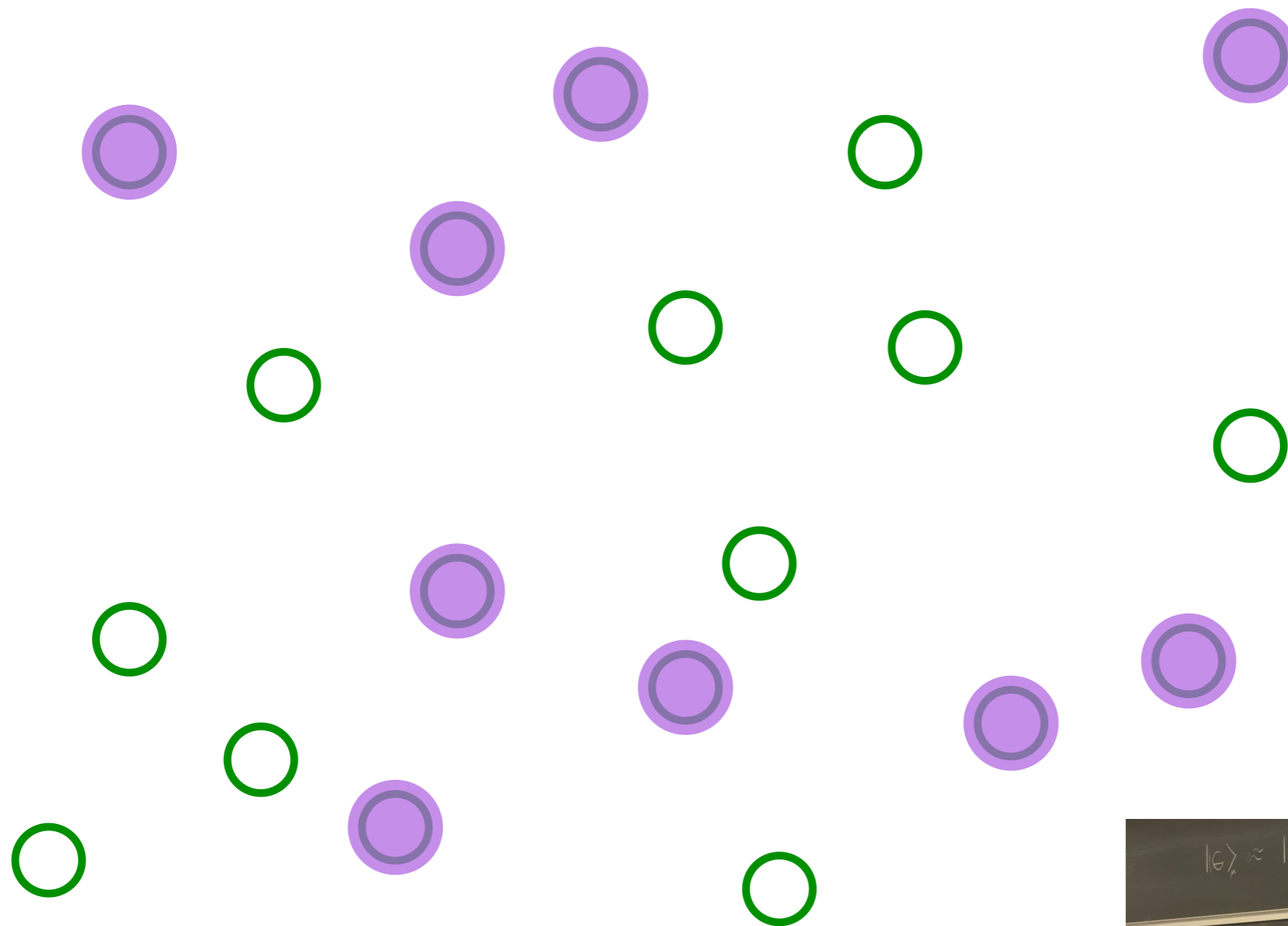
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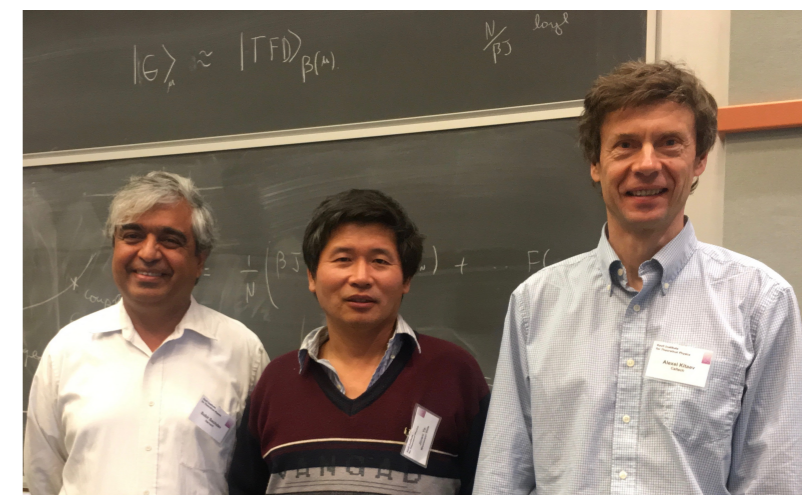
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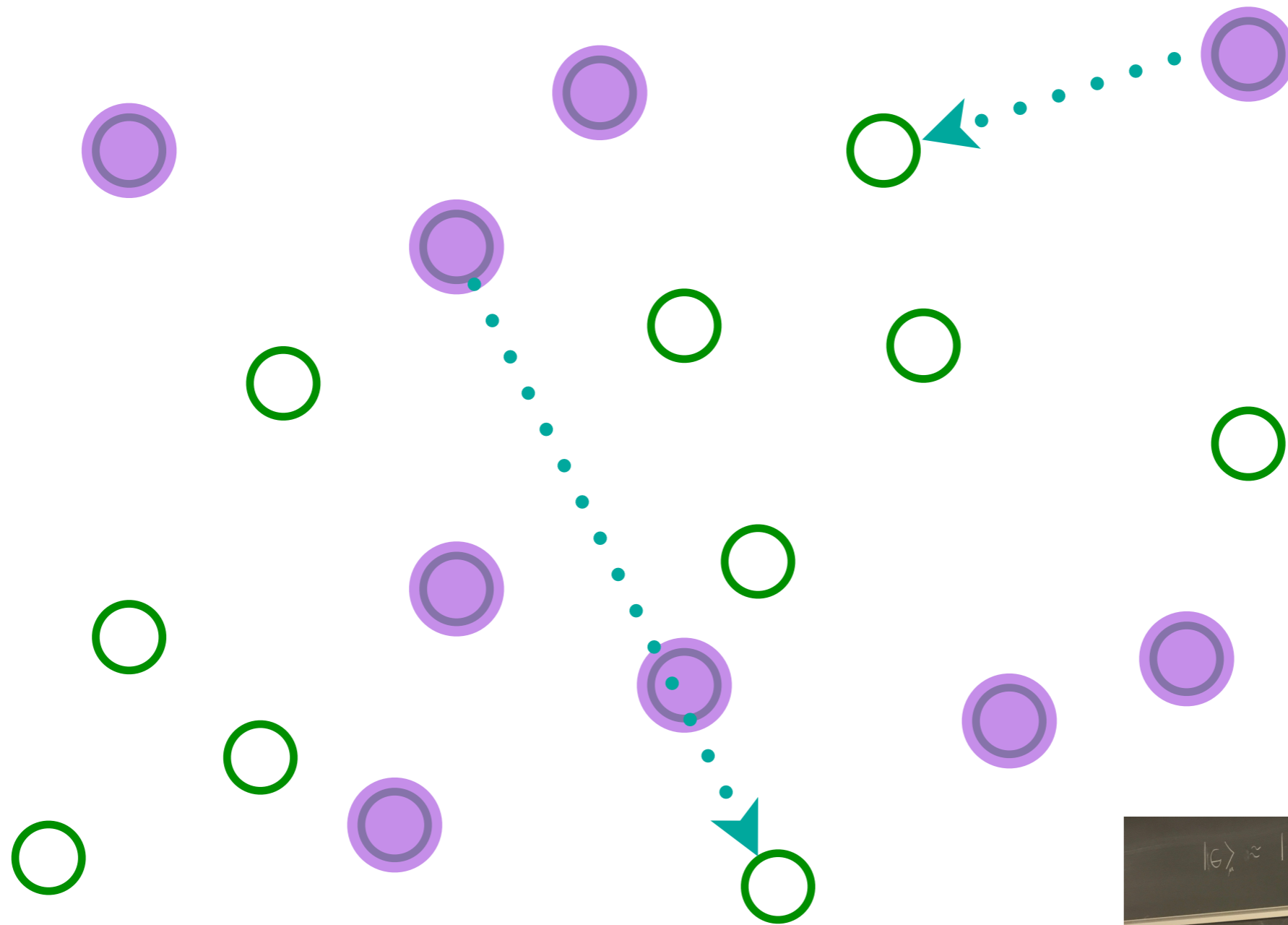
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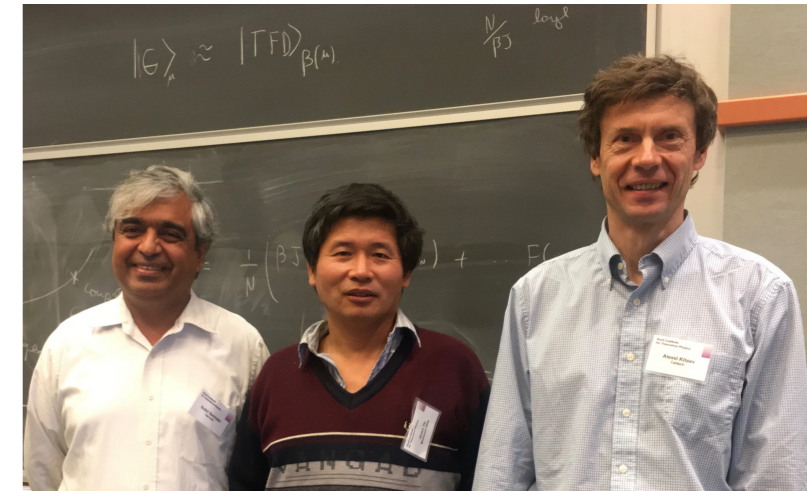
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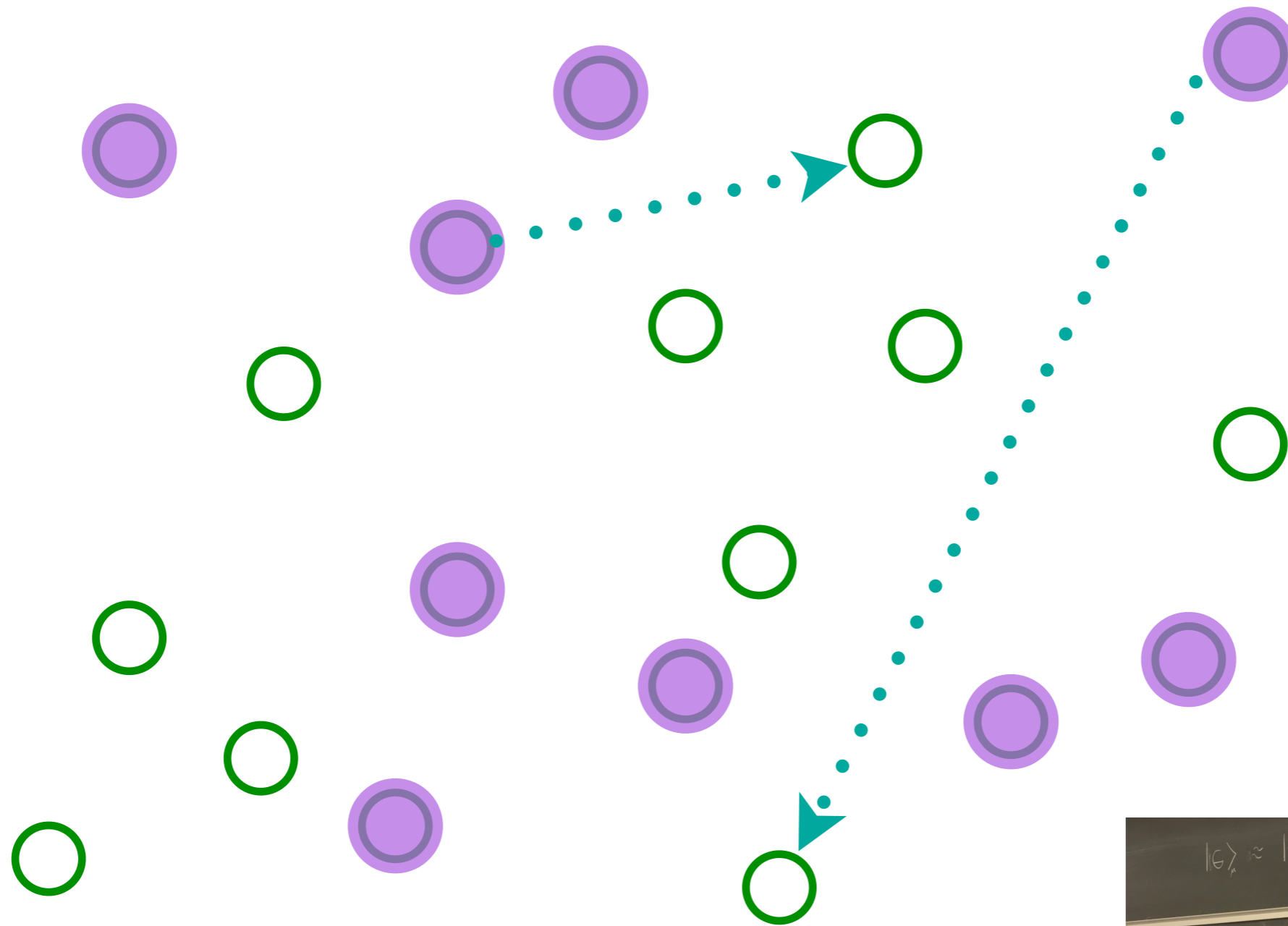
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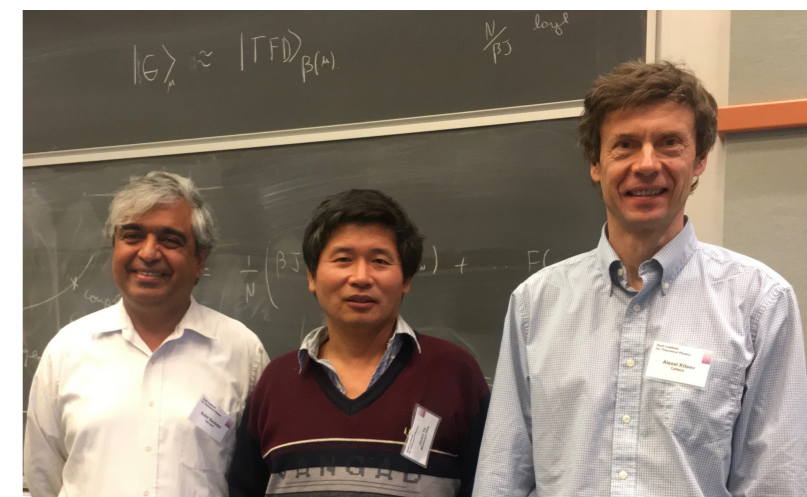
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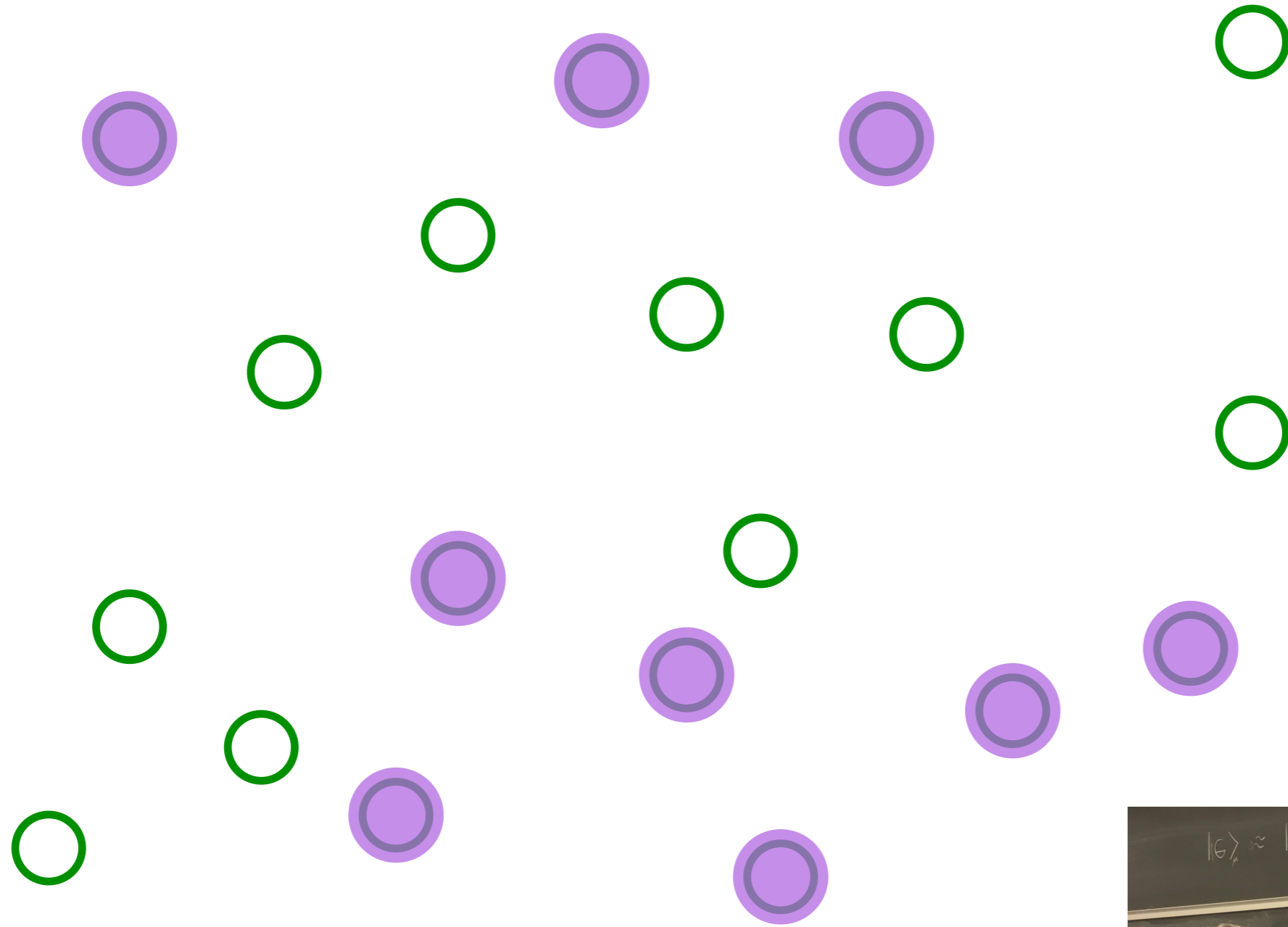
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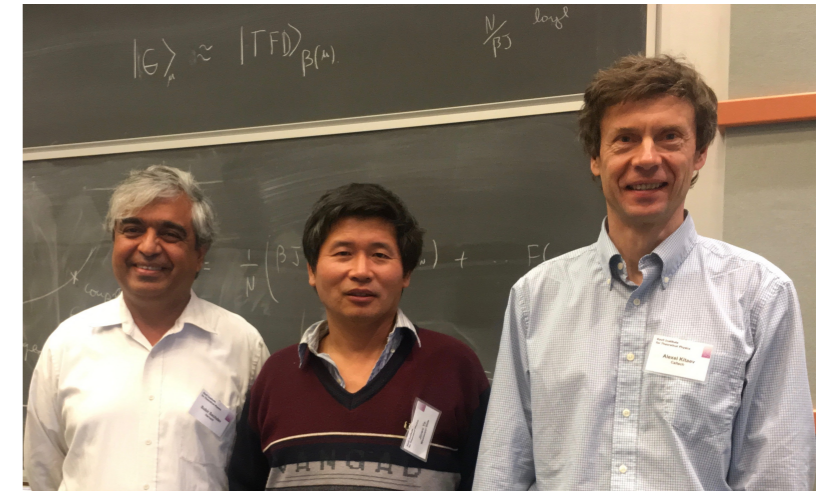
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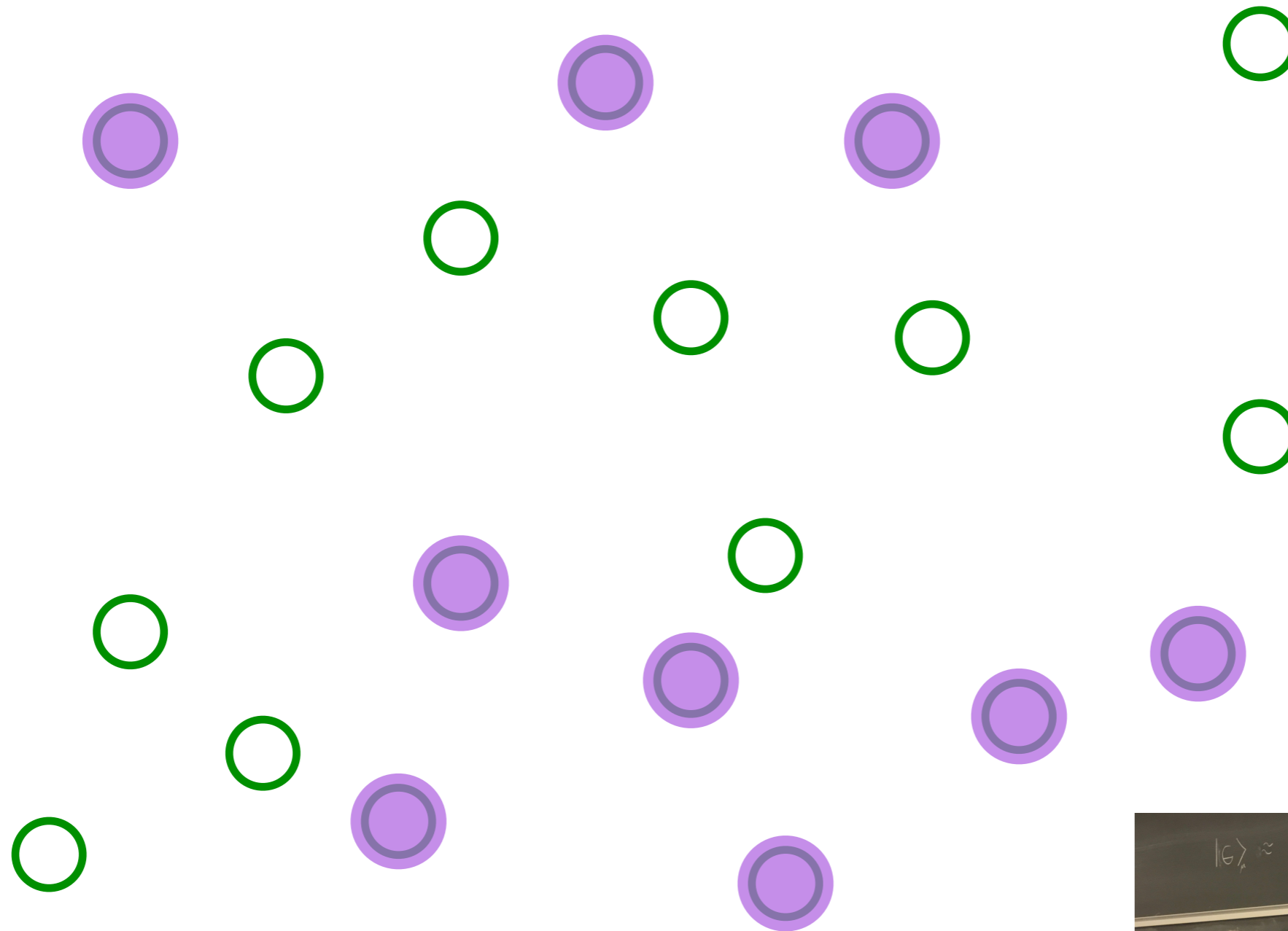
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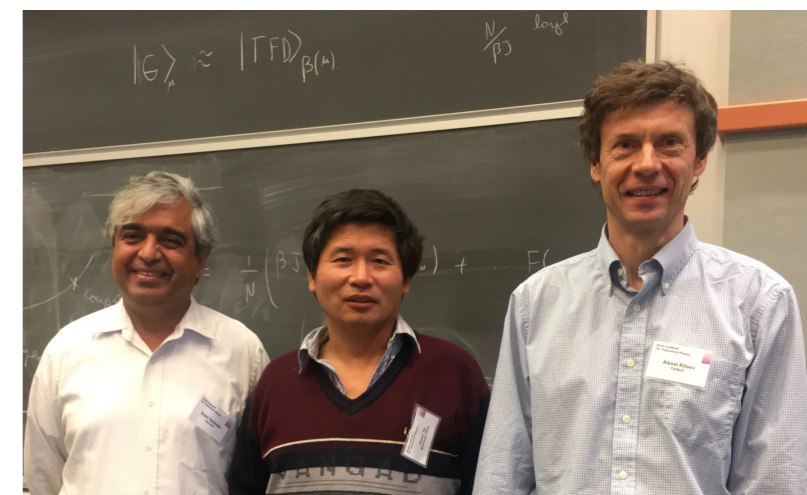
Entangle electrons pairwise randomly



# The SYK model



This describes both a strange metal  
and a black hole!



# The SYK model

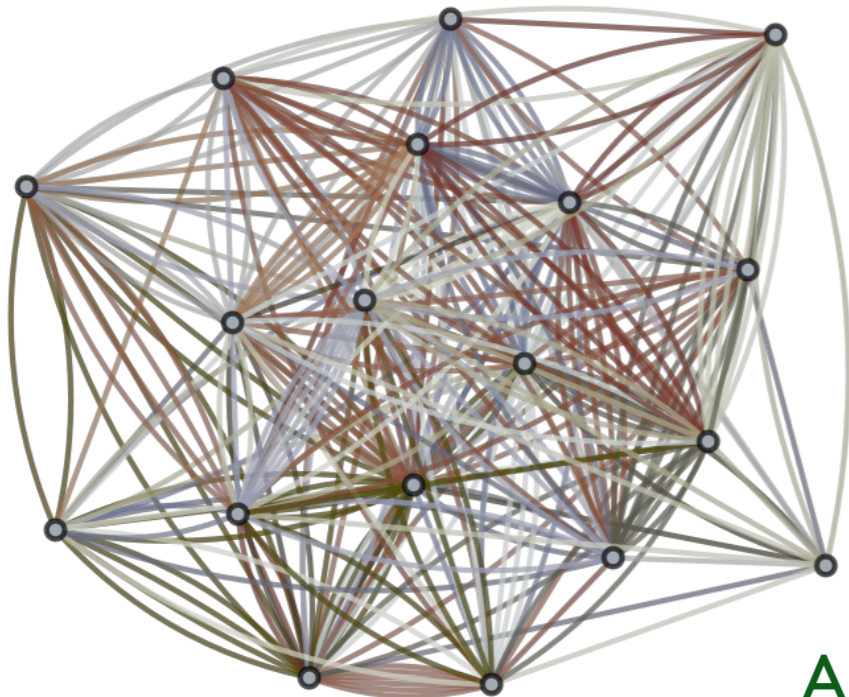
(See also: the “2-Body Random Ensemble” in nuclear physics; did not obtain the large  $N$  limit; T.A. Brody, J. Flores, J.B. French, P.A. Mello, A. Pandey, and S.S.M. Wong, Rev. Mod. Phys. **53**, 385 (1981))

$$H = \frac{1}{(2N)^{3/2}} \sum_{i,j,k,\ell=1}^N U_{ij;k\ell} c_i^\dagger c_j^\dagger c_k c_\ell - \mu \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i$$

$$c_i c_j + c_j c_i = 0 \quad , \quad c_i c_j^\dagger + c_j^\dagger c_i = \delta_{ij}$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i c_i^\dagger c_i$$

$U_{ij;k\ell}$  are independent random variables with  $\overline{U_{ij;k\ell}} = 0$  and  $\overline{|U_{ij;k\ell}|^2} = U^2$   
 $N \rightarrow \infty$  yields critical strange metal.



S. Sachdev and J. Ye, PRL **70**, 3339 (1993)

A. Kitaev, unpublished; S. Sachdev, PRX **5**, 041025 (2015)

# The SYK model

The large  $N$  limit is given by the sum of “melon” Feynman graphs

For long times  $\tau > 0$

$$\left\langle c_i(\tau) c_i^\dagger(0) \right\rangle = \frac{A}{\sqrt{\tau}}$$



S. Sachdev and J. Ye, PRL **70**, 3339 (1993)

# The SYK model



GPS: A. Georges, O. Parcollet, and S. Sachdev, PRB **63**, 134406 (2001)

Many-body  
level spacing  $\sim$   
 $2^{-N} = e^{-N \ln 2}$

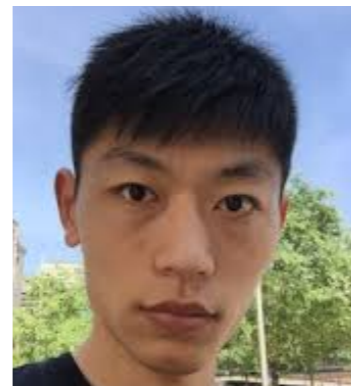
Non-quasiparticle  
excitations with  
spacing  $\sim e^{-Ns_0}$

There are  $2^N$  many body levels with energy  $E$ . Shown are all values of  $E$  for a single cluster of size  $N = 12$ . The  $T \rightarrow 0$  state has an entropy  $S_{GPS} = Ns_0$ , where

At  $Q = 1/2$ ,

$$s_0 = \frac{G}{\pi} + \frac{\ln(2)}{4} = 0.464848 \dots$$

where  $G$  is Catalan's constant.



W. Fu and S. Sachdev, PRB **94**, 035135 (2016)

$\sim NU$

# The SYK model

*No quasiparticles*



Julia Steinberg

- Rapid local thermal equilibration (of fermion correlators) in a ‘Planckian’ time

$$\tau_{\text{eq}} \sim \frac{\hbar}{k_B T} \quad , \quad \text{as } T \rightarrow 0.$$

A. Georges and O. Parcollet  
PRB **59**, 5341 (1999)

A. Eberlein, V. Kasper, S. Sachdev, and  
J. Steinberg, PRB **96**, 205123 (2017)

Established by solution of Schwinger-Keldysh equations for a quench.

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Established by solution of Schwinger-Keldysh equations for a quench.

- Presence of quasiparticles should slow down thermalization, so *all* quantum systems obey

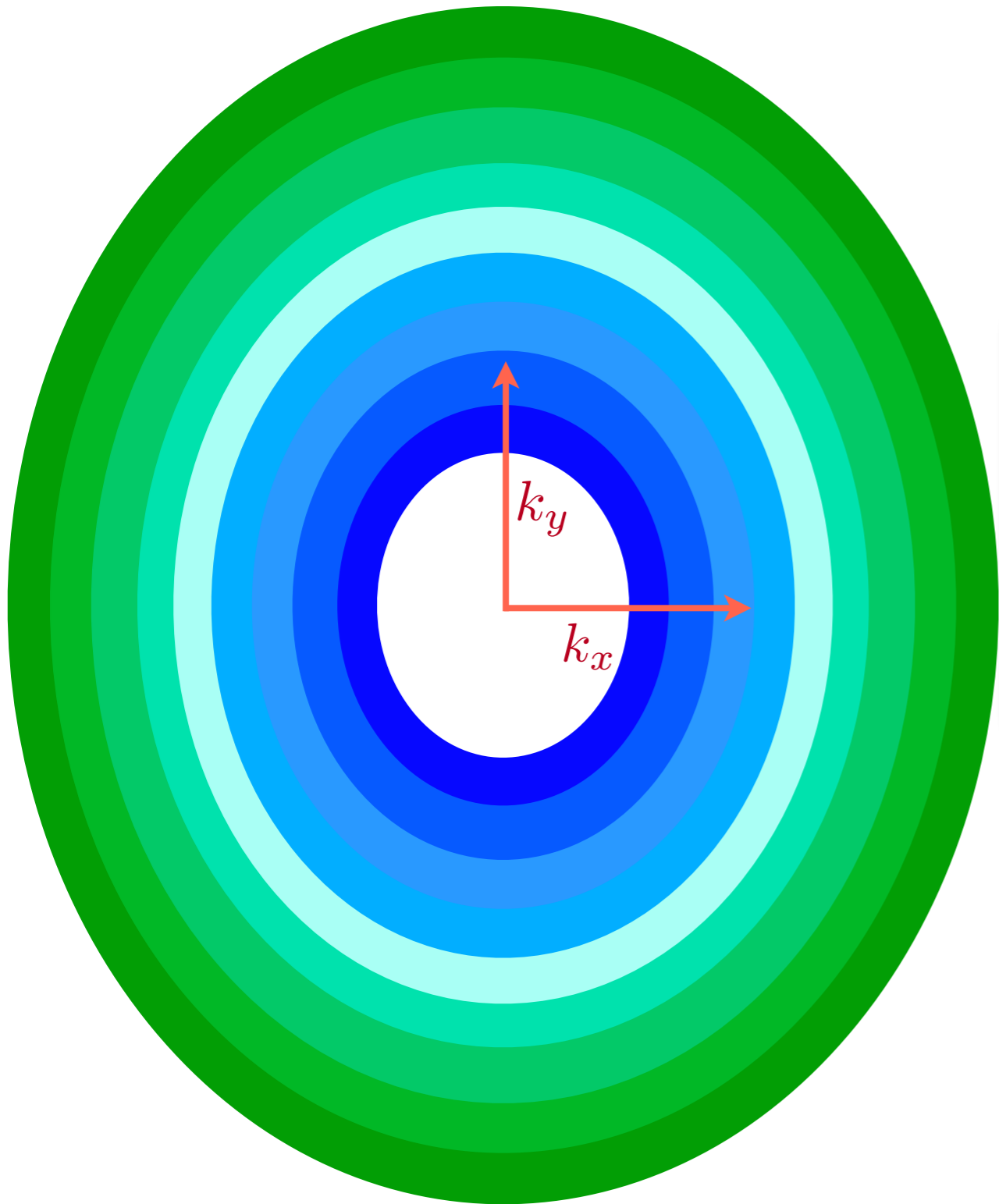
$$\tau_{\text{eq}} > C \frac{\hbar}{k_B T} \quad , \quad \text{as } T \rightarrow 0.$$

S. Sachdev, *Quantum Phase Transitions*,  
Cambridge (1999)

Absence of quasiparticles  $\Leftrightarrow$  Fastest possible thermalization

# SYK model in momentum space

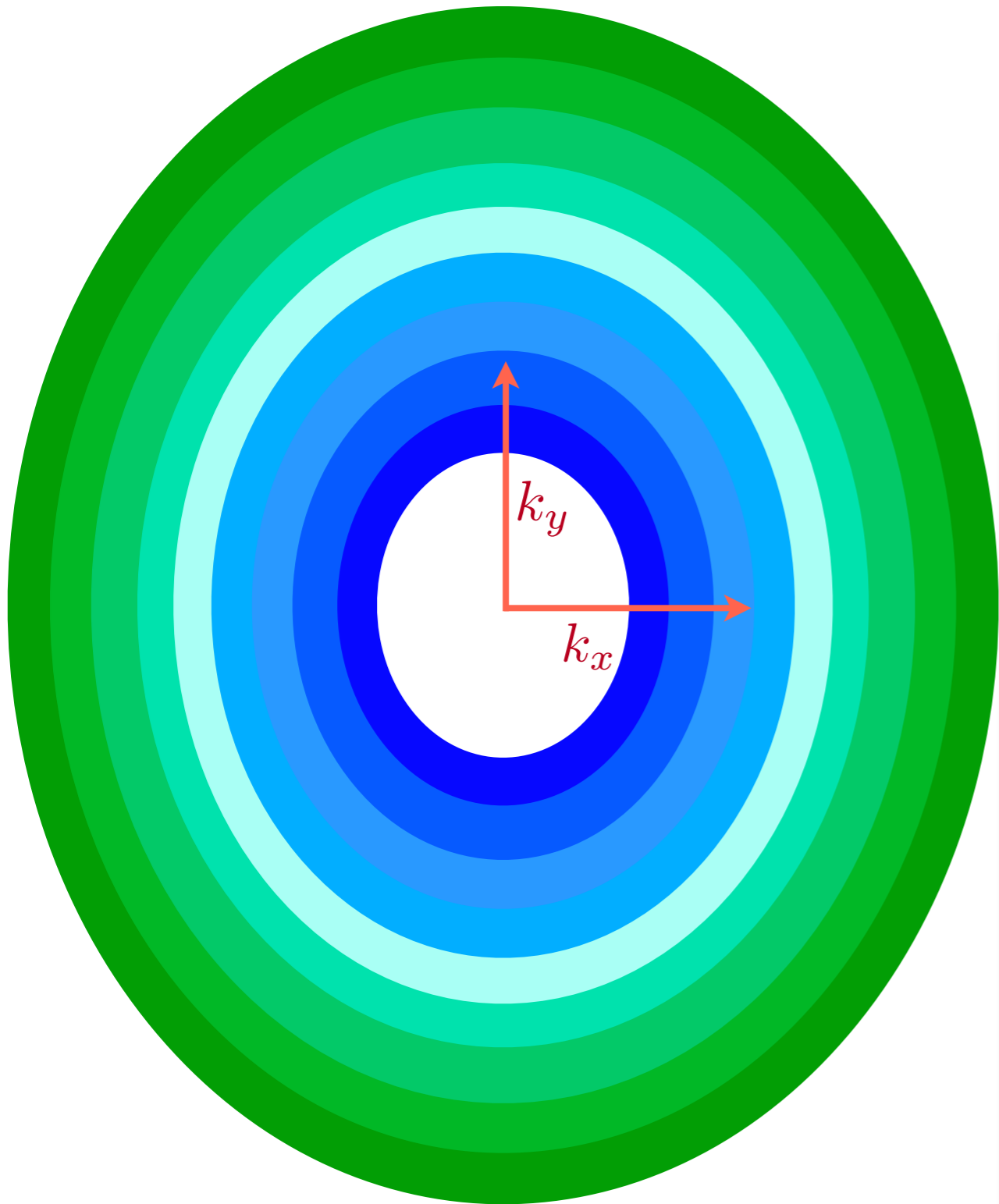
Aavishkar Patel



Consider quasiparticles  $c_i(\varepsilon)$  with bare energy  $\varepsilon$ , where the SYK label  $i$  refers to a direction in momentum space. Choose interactions between quasiparticles which are random functions of momentum direction, but which are resonant in the bare quasiparticle energies  $\varepsilon$ .

# SYK model in momentum space

Aavishkar Patel



Consider quasiparticles  $c_i(\varepsilon)$  with bare energy  $\varepsilon$ , where the SYK label  $i$  refers to a direction in momentum space. Choose interactions between quasiparticles which are random functions of momentum direction, but which are resonant in the bare quasiparticle energies  $\varepsilon$ . This leads to a resistivity

$$\rho = \frac{m^*}{ne^2} \frac{1}{\tau}$$

with

$$\frac{1}{\tau} \approx \frac{k_B T}{\hbar}$$

and independent of the interaction strength.

Ordinary metals:  
quasiparticles

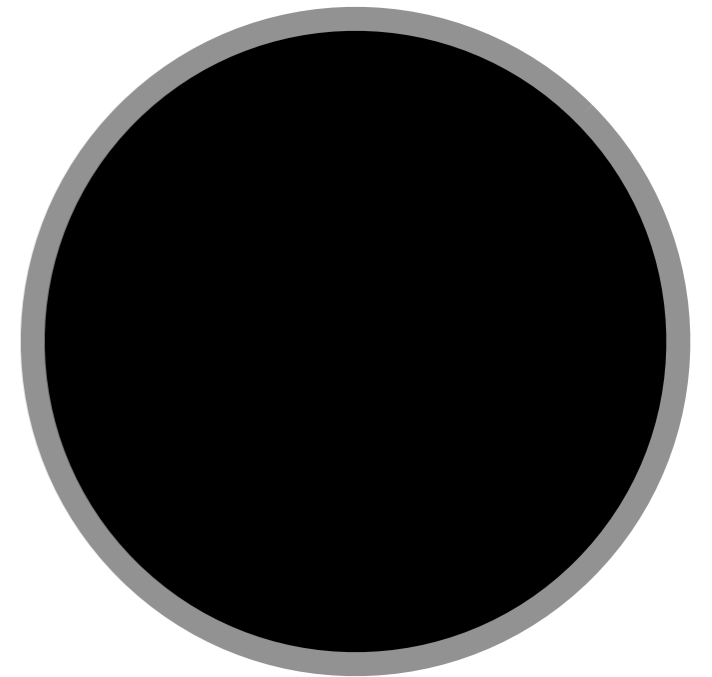
Strange metals:  
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Black  
holes

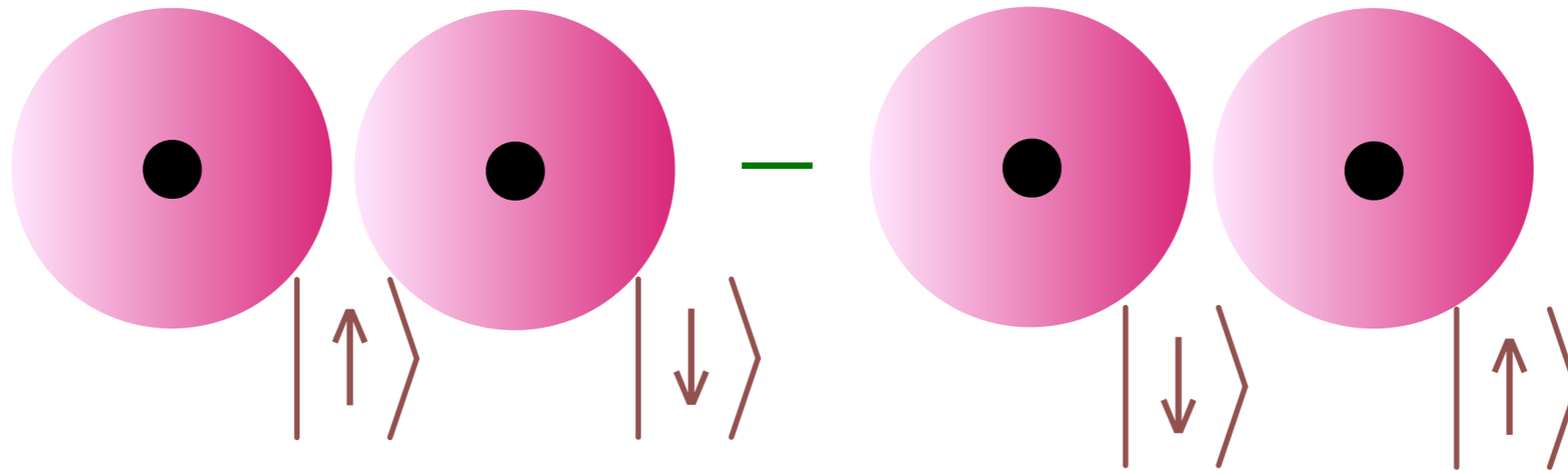
# Black Holes

Objects so dense that light is gravitationally bound to them.

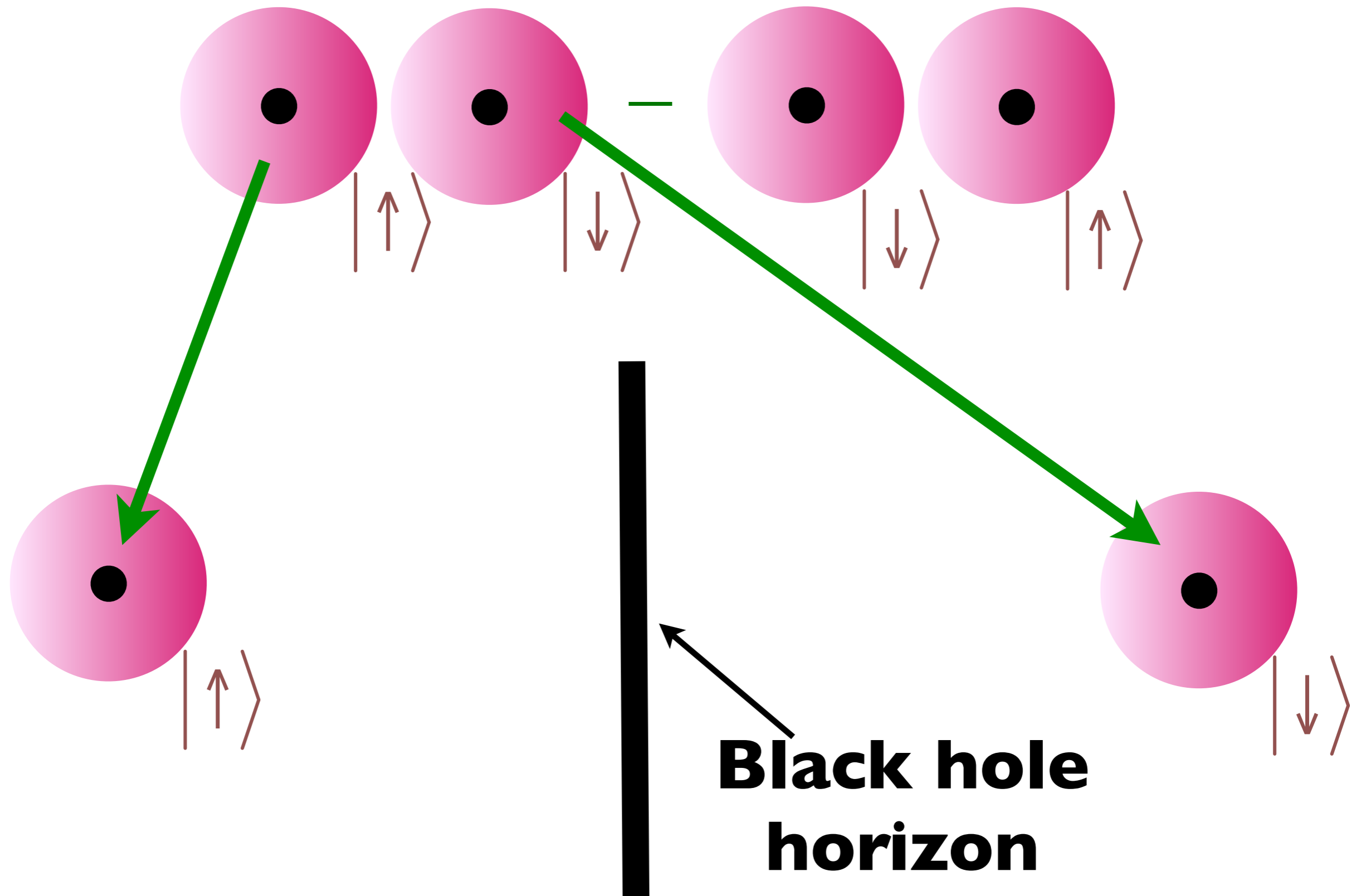
In Einstein's theory, the region inside the black hole **horizon** is disconnected from the rest of the universe.



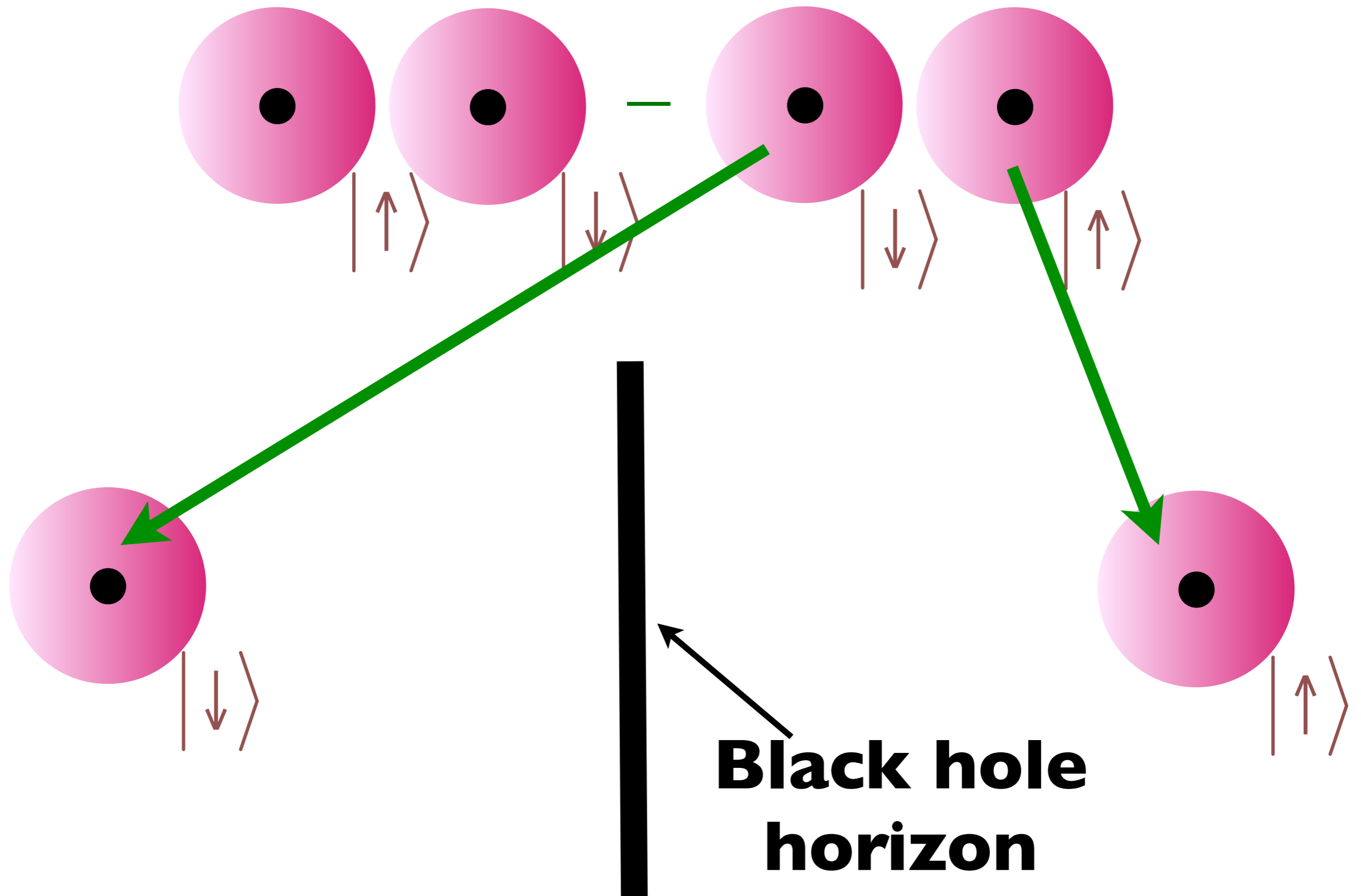
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

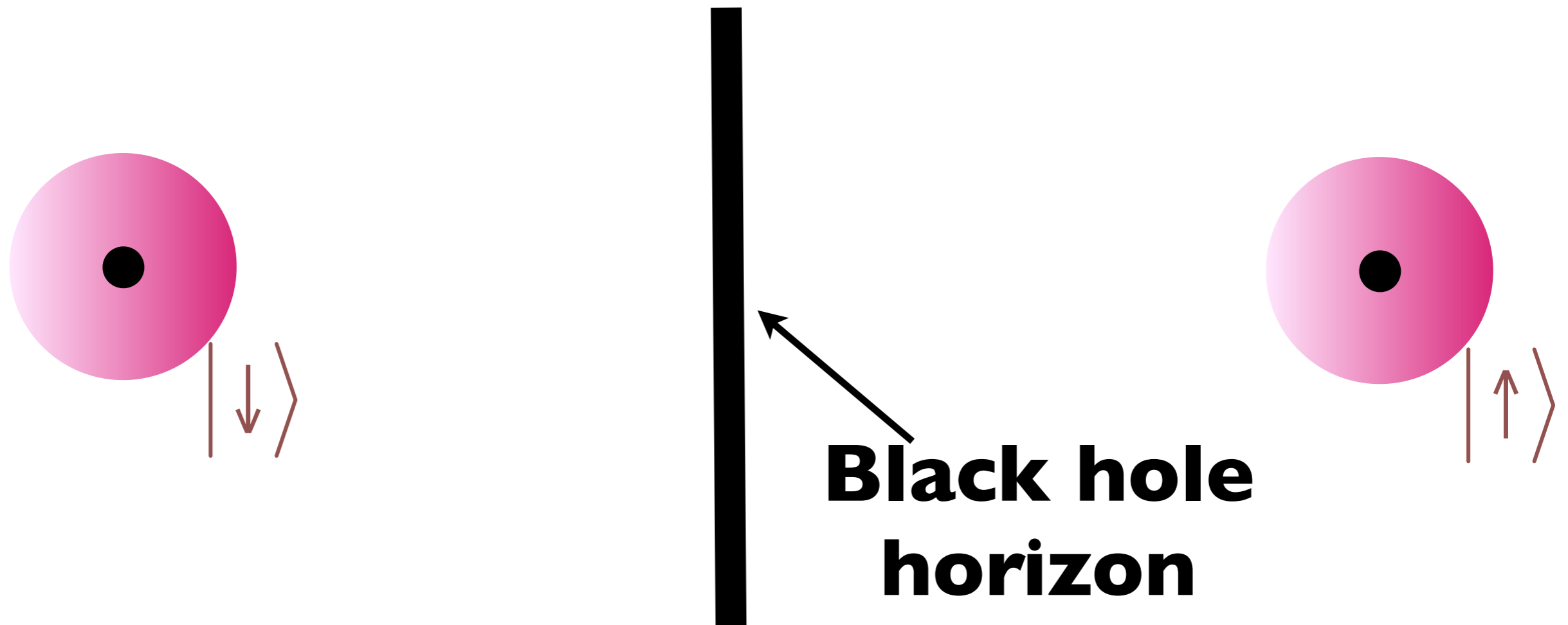


# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



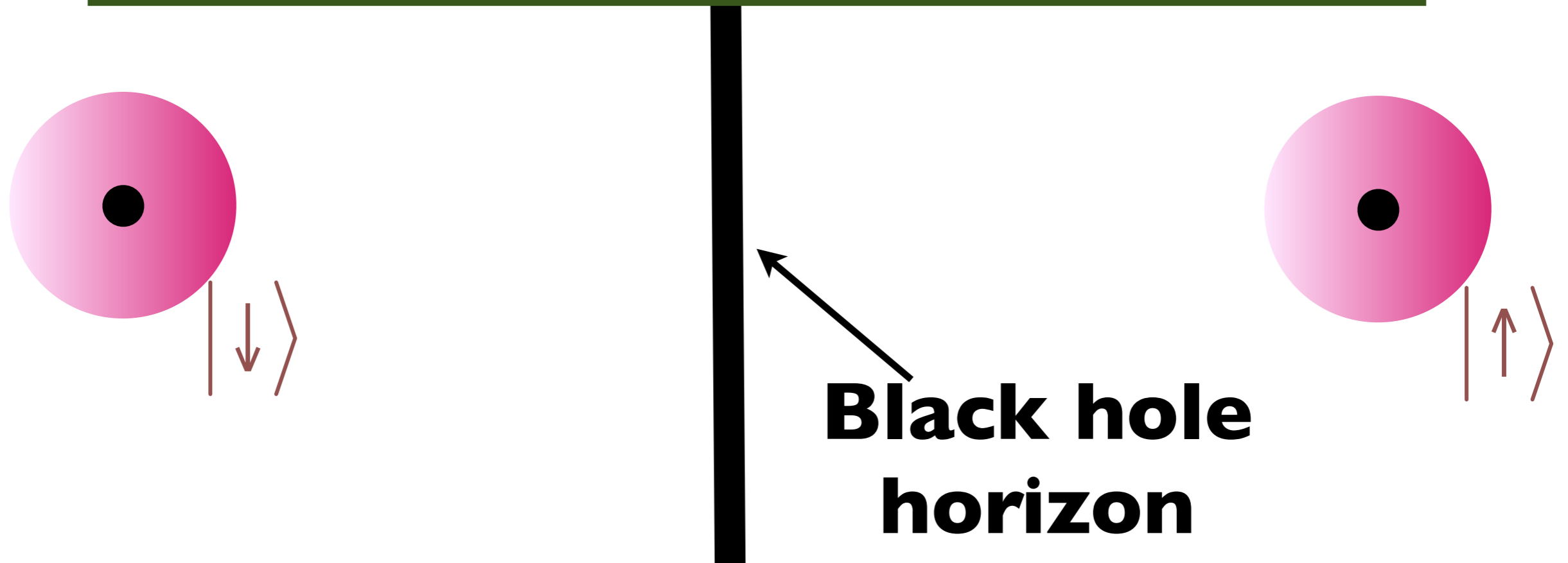
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

There is quantum entanglement between the inside and outside of a black hole



# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

Hawking used this to show that black hole horizons have an entropy and a temperature  
(because to an outside observer, the state of the electron inside the black hole is an unknown)

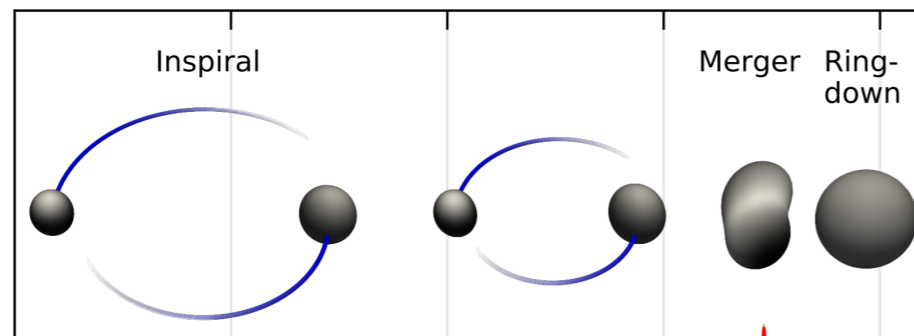
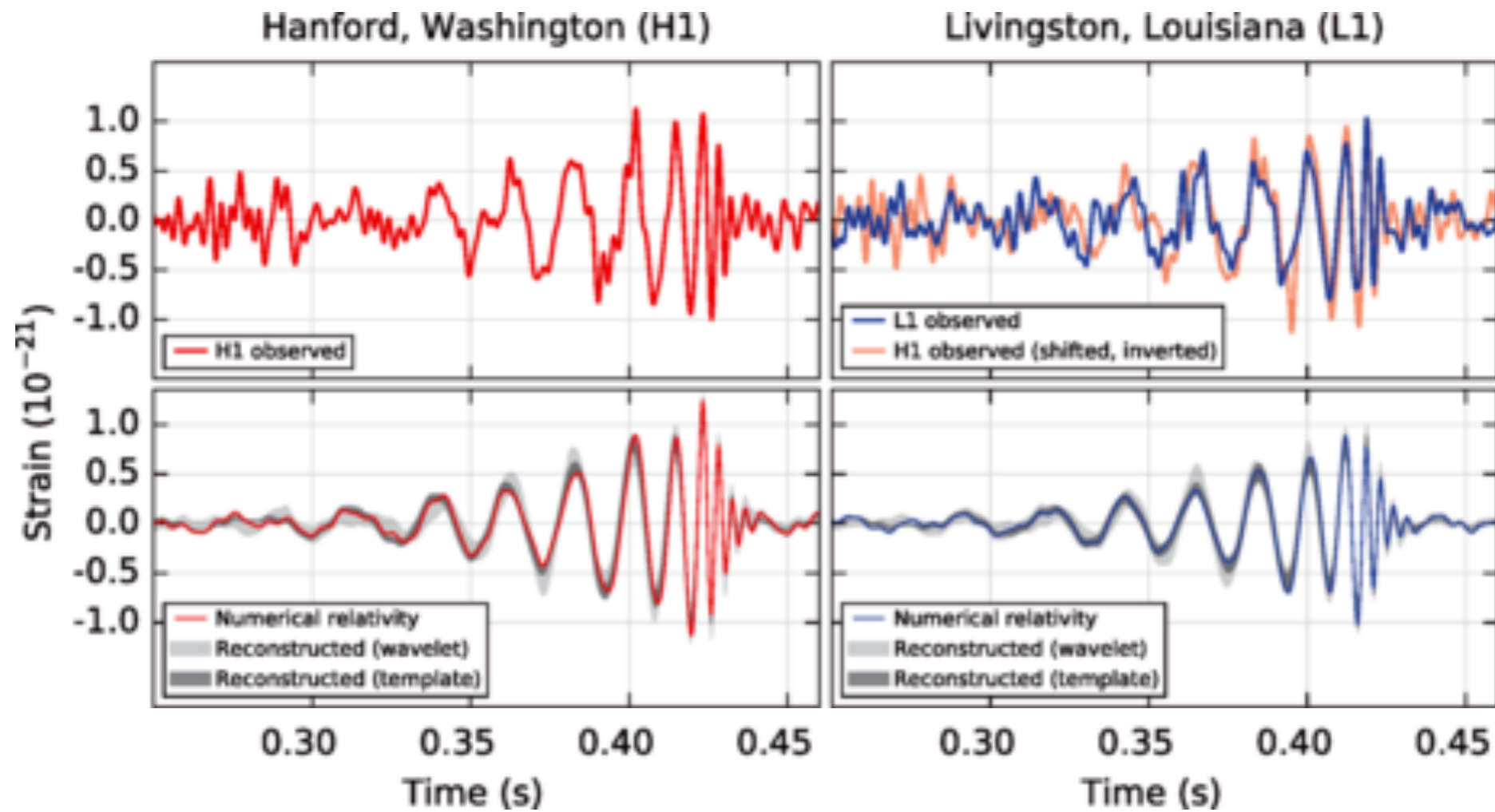


# Black holes

- Black holes have an entropy and a temperature,  $T_H$
- The entropy is proportional to their surface area.

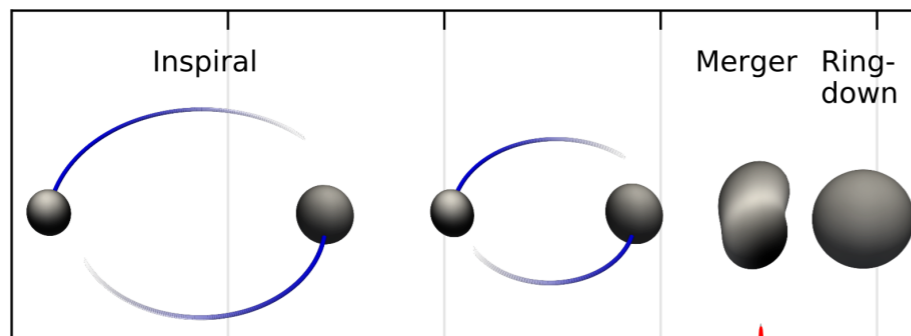
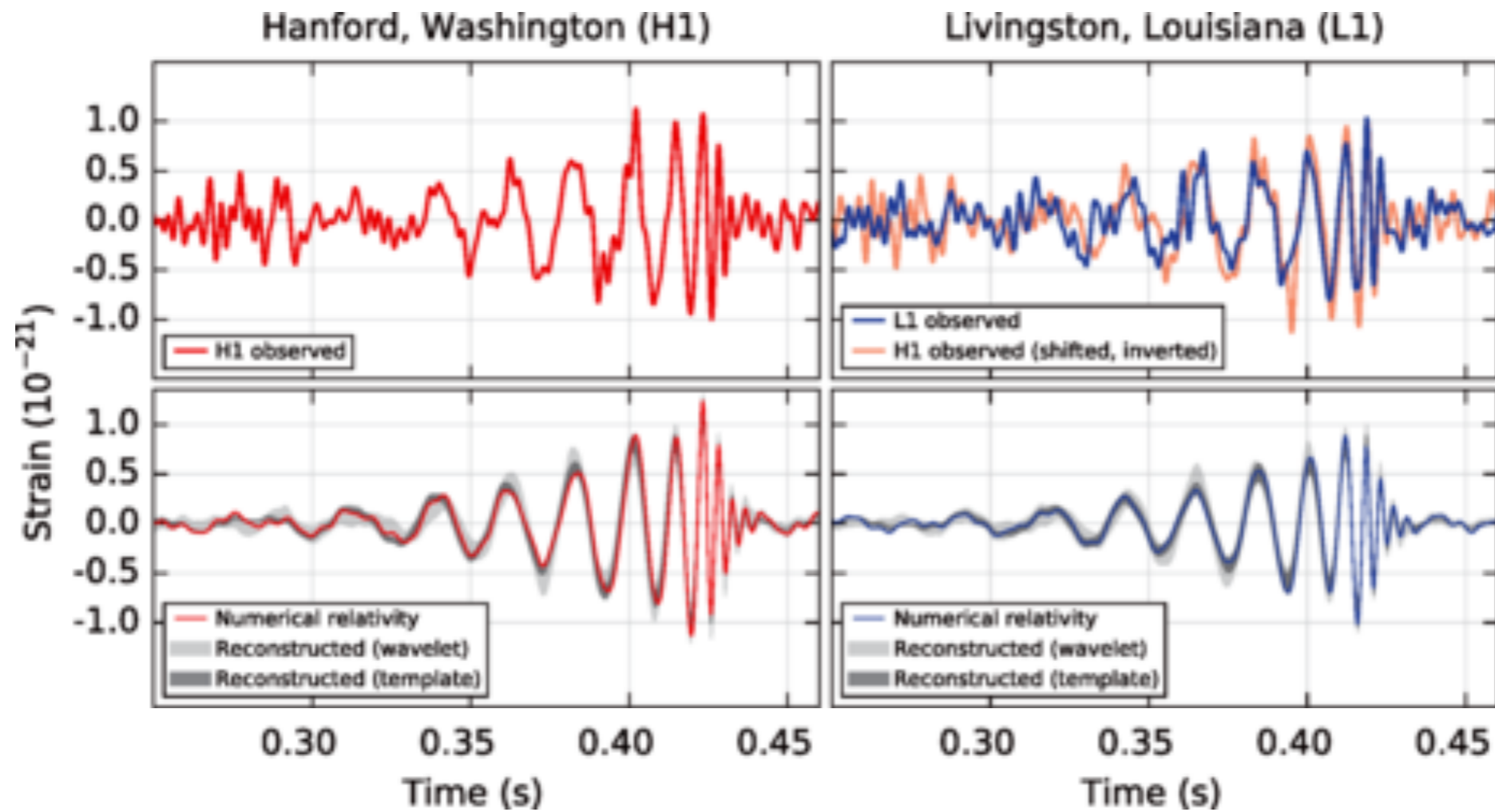
J. D. Bekenstein, PRD **7**, 2333 (1973)  
S.W. Hawking, Nature **248**, 30 (1974)





**LIGO**  
**September 14, 2015**

- The ring-down is predicted by General Relativity to happen in a time  $\frac{8\pi GM}{c^3} \sim 8$  milliseconds.



**LIGO**  
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- The ring-down is predicted by General Relativity to happen in a time  $\frac{8\pi GM}{c^3} \sim 8$  milliseconds. Curiously this happens to equal  $\frac{\hbar}{k_B T_H}$ ; so the ring down can also be viewed as the approach of a quantum system to thermal equilibrium at the fastest possible rate!

# Black holes

- Black holes have an entropy and a temperature,  $T_H$
- The entropy is proportional to their surface area.
- They relax to thermal equilibrium in a Planckian time  $\sim \hbar/(k_B T_H)$ .



# Black holes

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- The entropy is proportional to their surface area.
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## Holography:

Quantum black holes “look like” quantum many-particle systems without quasiparticle excitations, residing “on” the surface of the black hole

Ordinary metals:  
quasiparticles

Strange metals:  
no quasiparticles

Black  
holes

Ordinary metals:  
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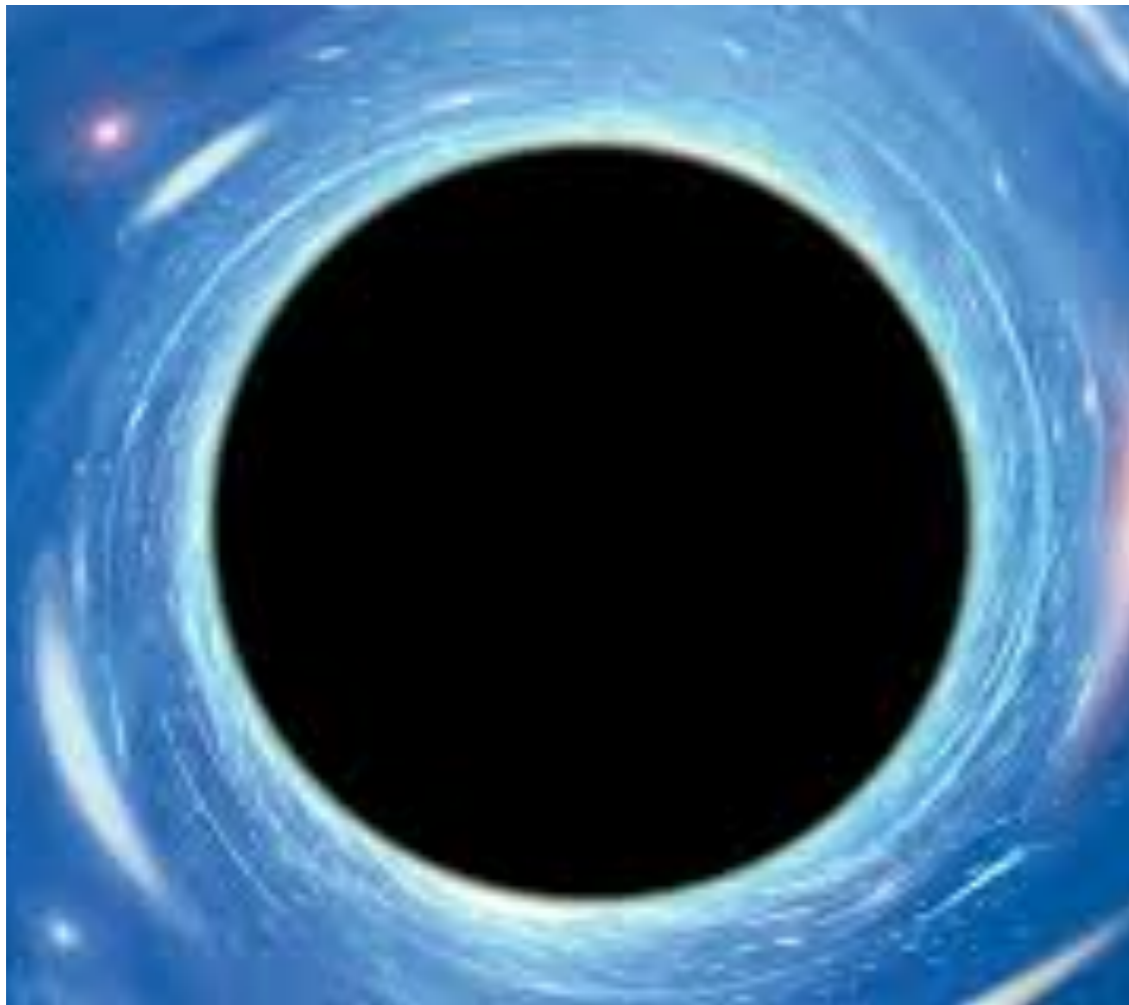
Strange metals:  
no quasiparticles

Black  
holes

The SYK model also describes  
charged black holes at low  $T$  !



We use a theory of Maxwell's electromagnetism and Einstein's general relativity. Include a negative cosmological constant, and examine black hole solutions with a net charge





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$\vec{x}$

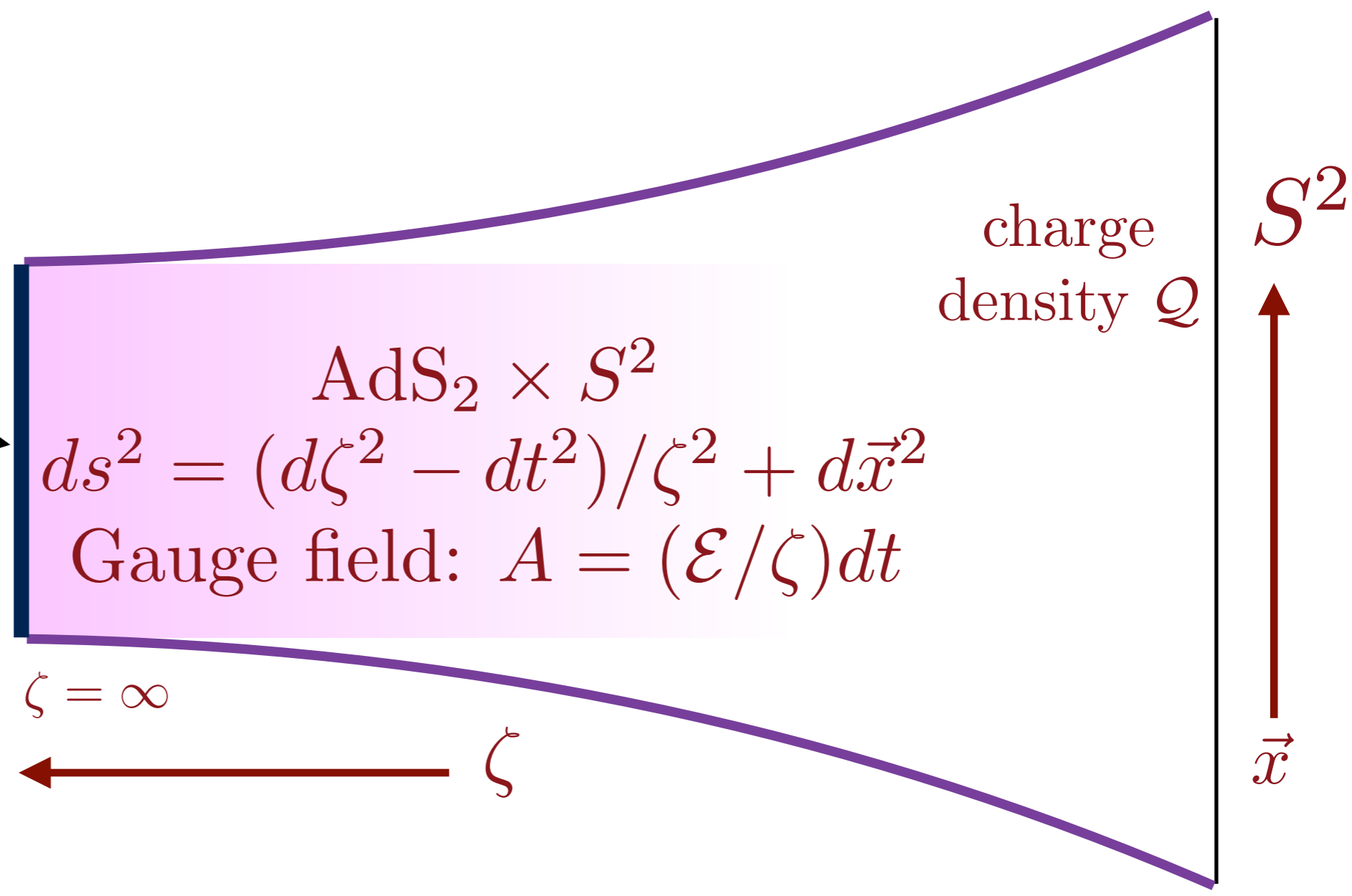
$\zeta$

Zooming into the near-horizon region of a charged black hole at low temperature, yields a quantum theory in one space ( $\zeta$ ) and one time dimension

# SYK model and charged black holes



Black hole horizon

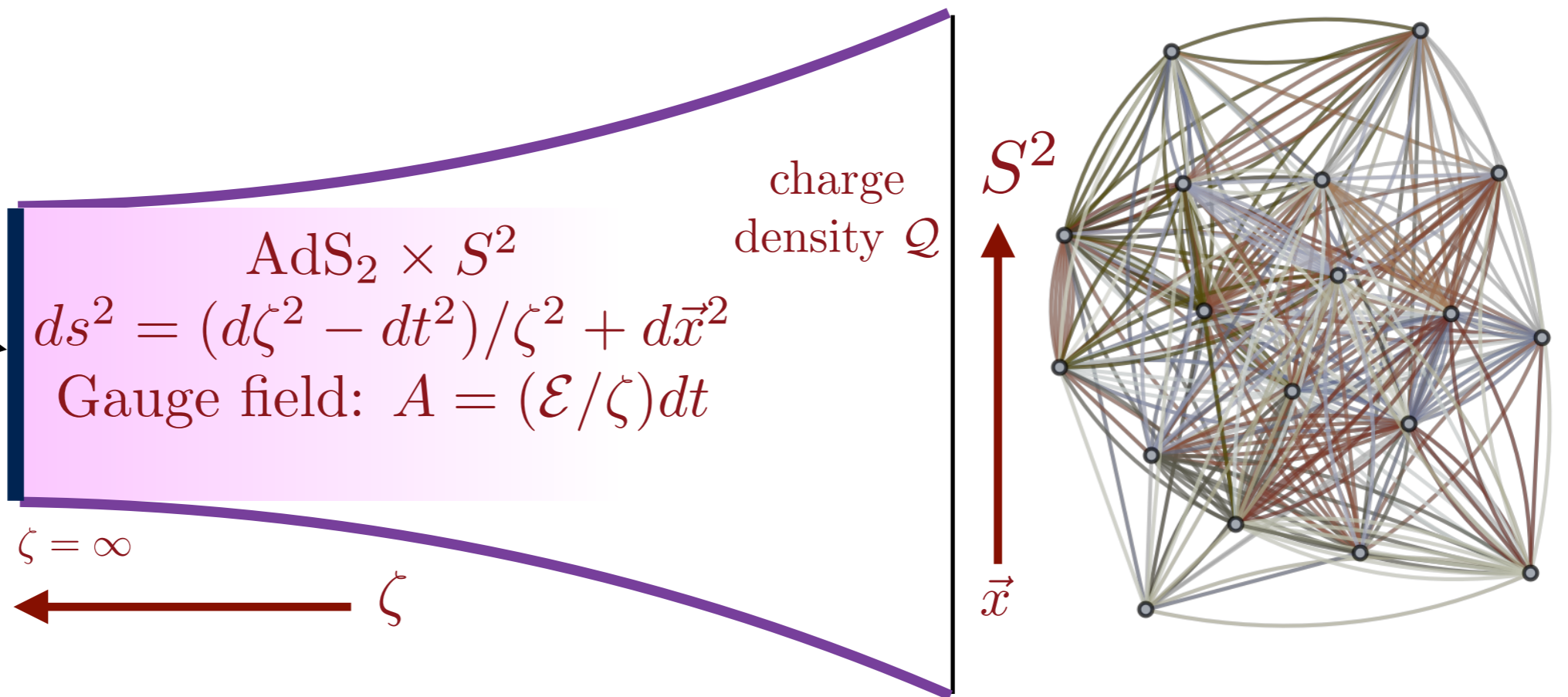


The near-horizon region of a charged black hole has the geometry of (1+1)-dimensional anti-de Sitter spacetime. By holography, this should map to a zero-dimensional quantum system: this turns out to be the SYK model

# SYK model and charged black holes



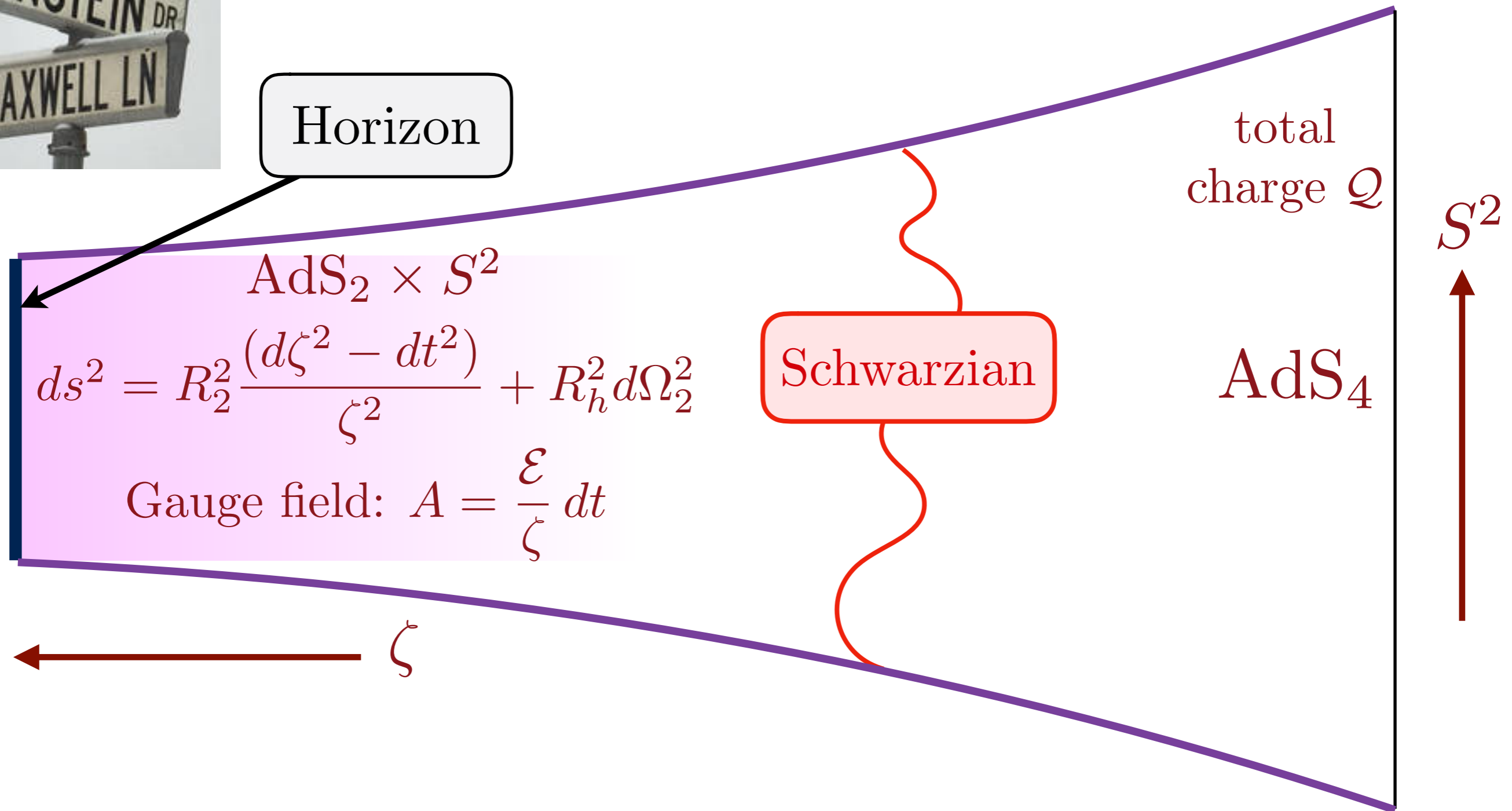
Black hole horizon



Bekenstein-Hawking entropy of  $AdS_2$  horizon at  $T = 0 \Leftrightarrow N s_0$  entropy of SYK model.

The same equation determines the  $\mathcal{Q}$  dependence of  $s_0$  for the black hole and for the SYK model.

# SYK model and charged black holes



Remarkably, the correspondence between charged black holes and the SYK model also holds for the leading fluctuations at higher temperatures: both are described by a ‘Schwarzian’ theory with emergent  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  and  $U(1)$  gauge symmetries. For the black hole, the Schwarzian describes the fluctuations of the boundary between  $AdS_2$  and  $AdS_4$ .

## Main result

SYK model of fermions with random interactions of mean-square-value  $U$ , with total fermion number  $Q$ ,  
at temperatures  $T \ll U$

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SYK model of fermions with random interactions of mean-square-value  $U$ , with total fermion number  $Q$ ,  
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and

Charged black holes in  $3+1$  dimensions of radius  $R_h$ ,  
with total charge  $Q$ , at temperatures  $T \ll 1/R_h$

are described by a common low energy quantum  
theory in  $0+1$  dimensions

# Main result

The common low  $T$  path integral is  $\mathcal{Z} = \int \mathcal{D}f \mathcal{D}\phi e^{-I}$ . This can be exactly evaluated, and the action is

$$I = -s_0 + \int_0^{1/T} d\tau \left\{ \frac{K}{2} \left( \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial\tau} + i(2\pi\mathcal{E}T) \frac{\partial f}{\partial\tau} \right)^2 - \frac{\gamma}{4\pi^2} \text{Sch}[\tan(\pi T f(\tau)), \tau] \right\},$$

where  $f(\tau)$  is a monotonic reparameterization of the temporal circle with

$$f(\tau + 1/T) = f(\tau) + 1/T,$$

$\phi$  is a phase conjugate to the charge density with

$$\phi(\tau + 1/T) = \phi(\tau) + 2\pi n, \quad n \text{ integer},$$

$\text{Sch}[g[\tau], \tau]$  is the Schwarzian derivative of  $g(\tau)$ .

The couplings are related to the entropy  $S(T, \mathcal{Q})$  and the chemical potential  $\mu$  via

$$S(T \rightarrow 0, \mathcal{Q}) = s_0 + \gamma T, \quad K = \left( \frac{d\mathcal{Q}}{d\mu} \right)_{T \rightarrow 0}, \quad 2\pi\mathcal{E} = \frac{ds_0}{d\mathcal{Q}}$$

## Main result

- Close related, but not the usual AdS/CFT correspondence, which involves only neutral black holes at  $T > 0$ .
- Unlike the AdS/CFT correspondence, *both* sides of the duality are fully solvable. This has enabled numerous recent studies of black holes quantum information.

# Main result

S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. Lett. **105**, 151602 (2010)

A. Kitaev (2015)

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# Quantum matter without quasiparticles

- Planckian dynamics (*i.e.* fastest possible local thermalization in a time  $\hbar/(k_B T)$ ) is realized in the ‘solvable’ SYK models.

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- A Schwarzian theory of a time reparameterization mode, with  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  symmetry, (along with a phase fluctuating mode) describes the quantum dynamics of
  - the SYK models
  - black holes with near-extremal  $AdS_2$  horizons