

# Quantum entanglement: strange metals and black holes

National Conference on Condensed Matter  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali  
July 26, 2018

Subir Sachdev



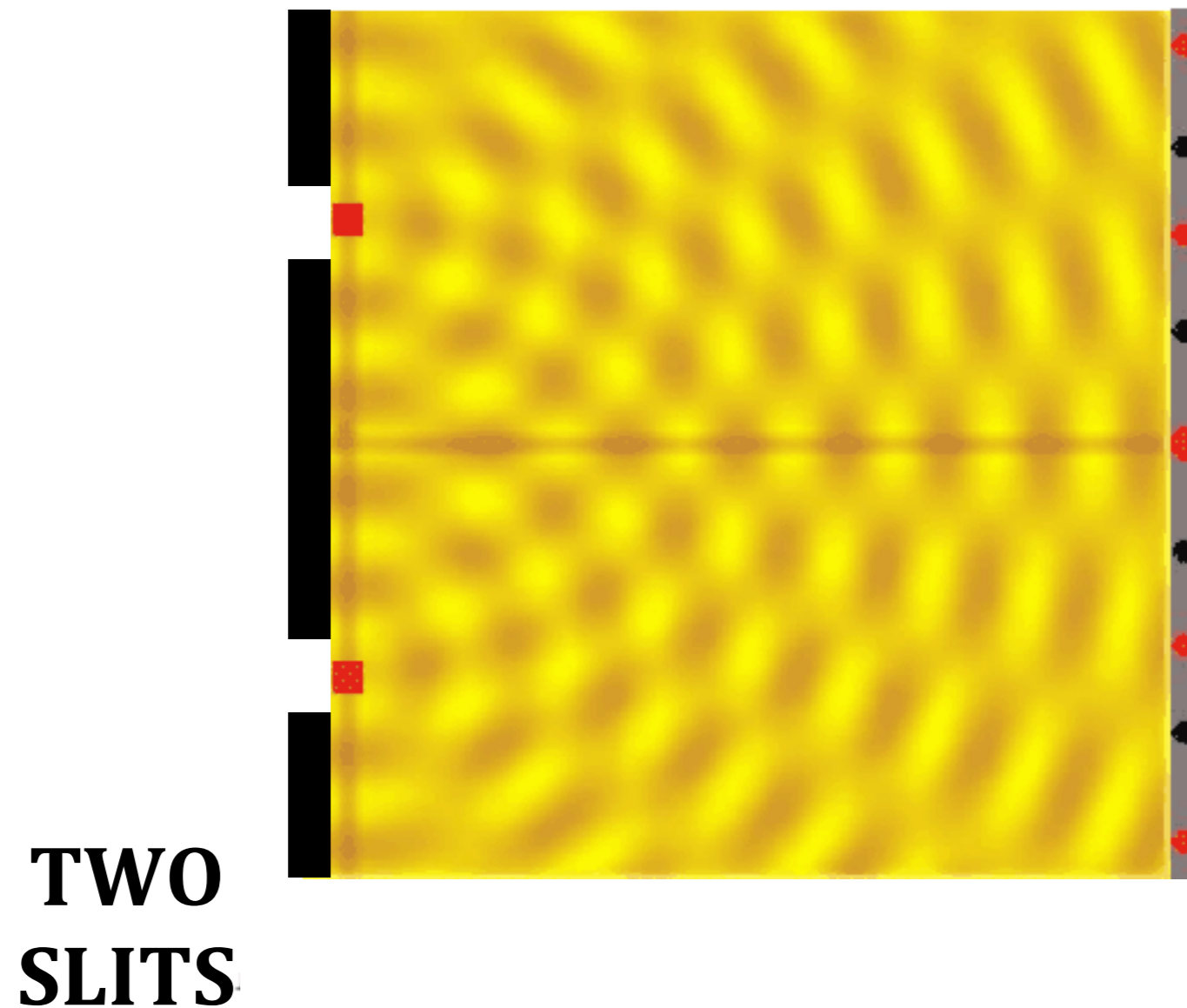
Talk online: [sachdev.physics.harvard.edu](http://sachdev.physics.harvard.edu)



# Quantum entanglement

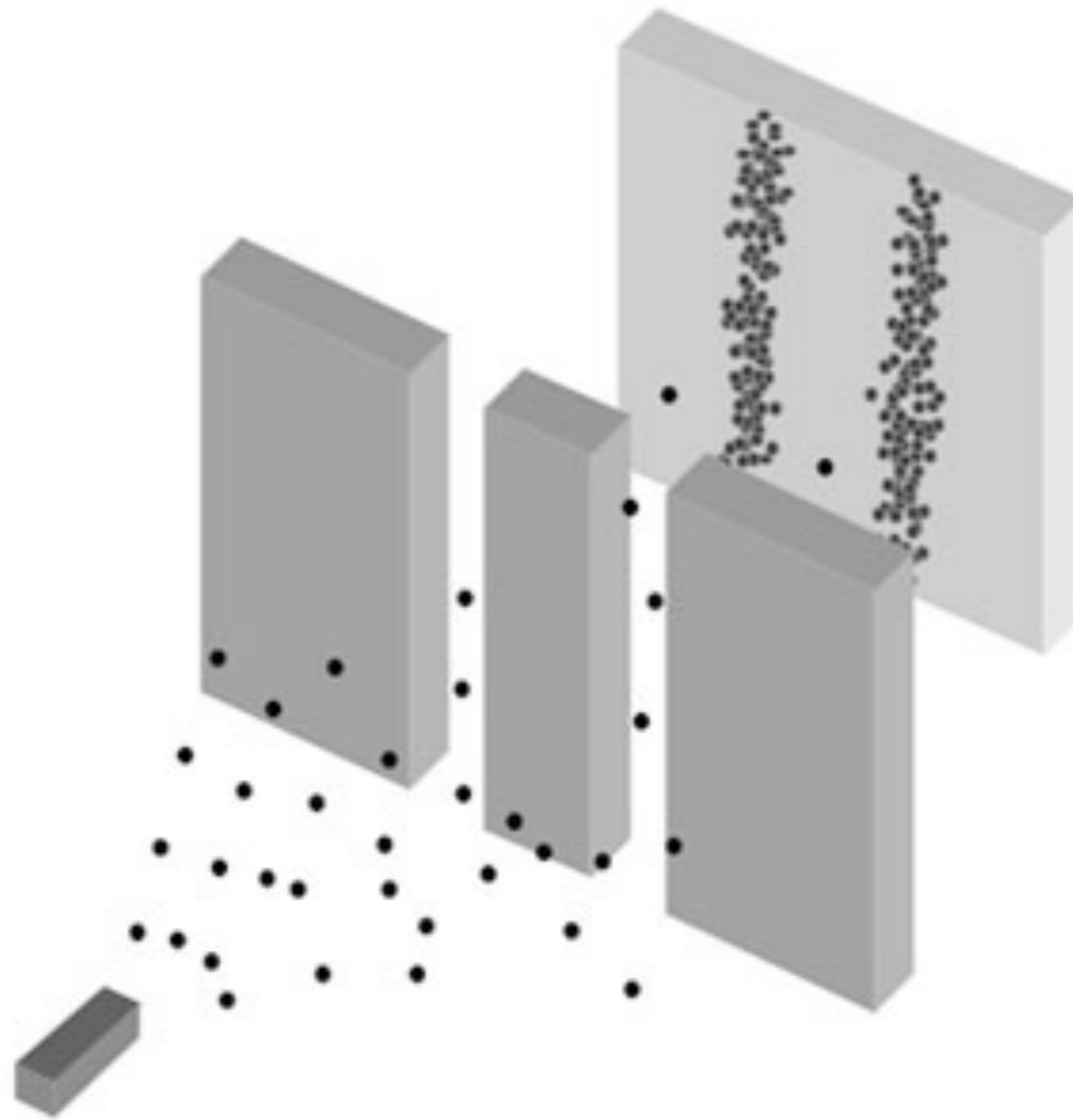
# Principles of Quantum Mechanics: I. Quantum Superposition

## The double slit experiment



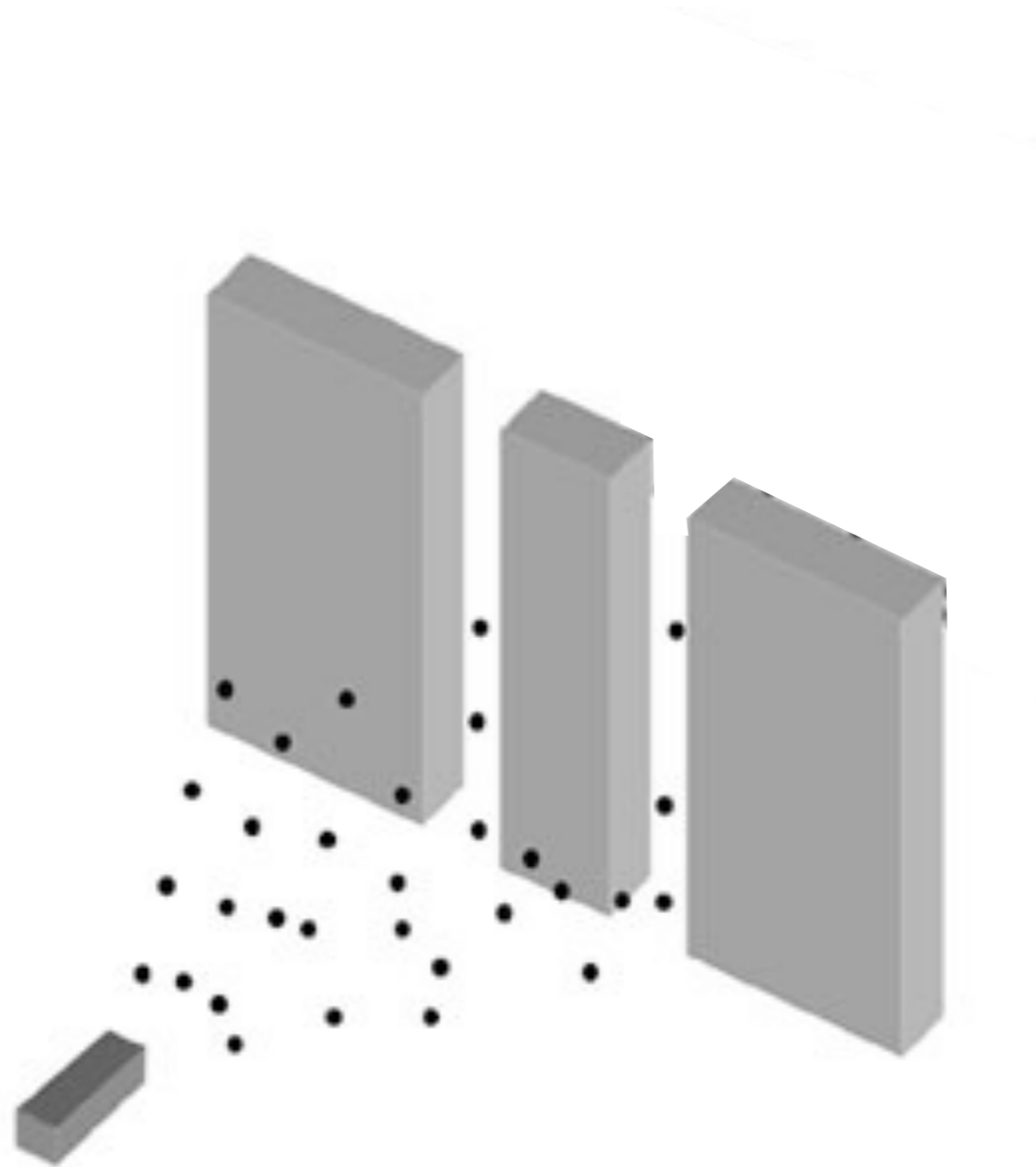
Interference of water waves

# The double slit experiment



Bullets

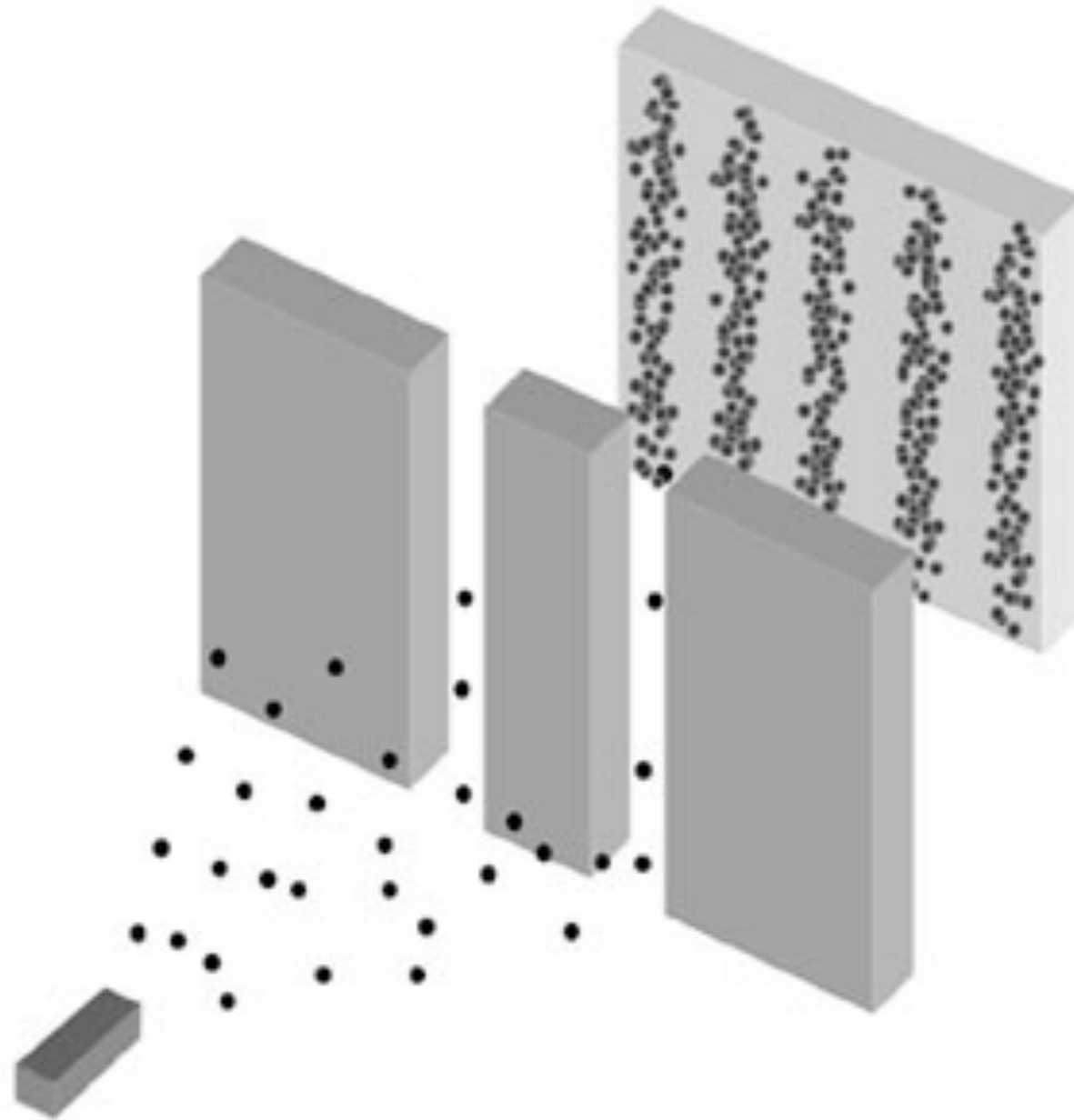
## The double slit experiment



Send electrons through the slits

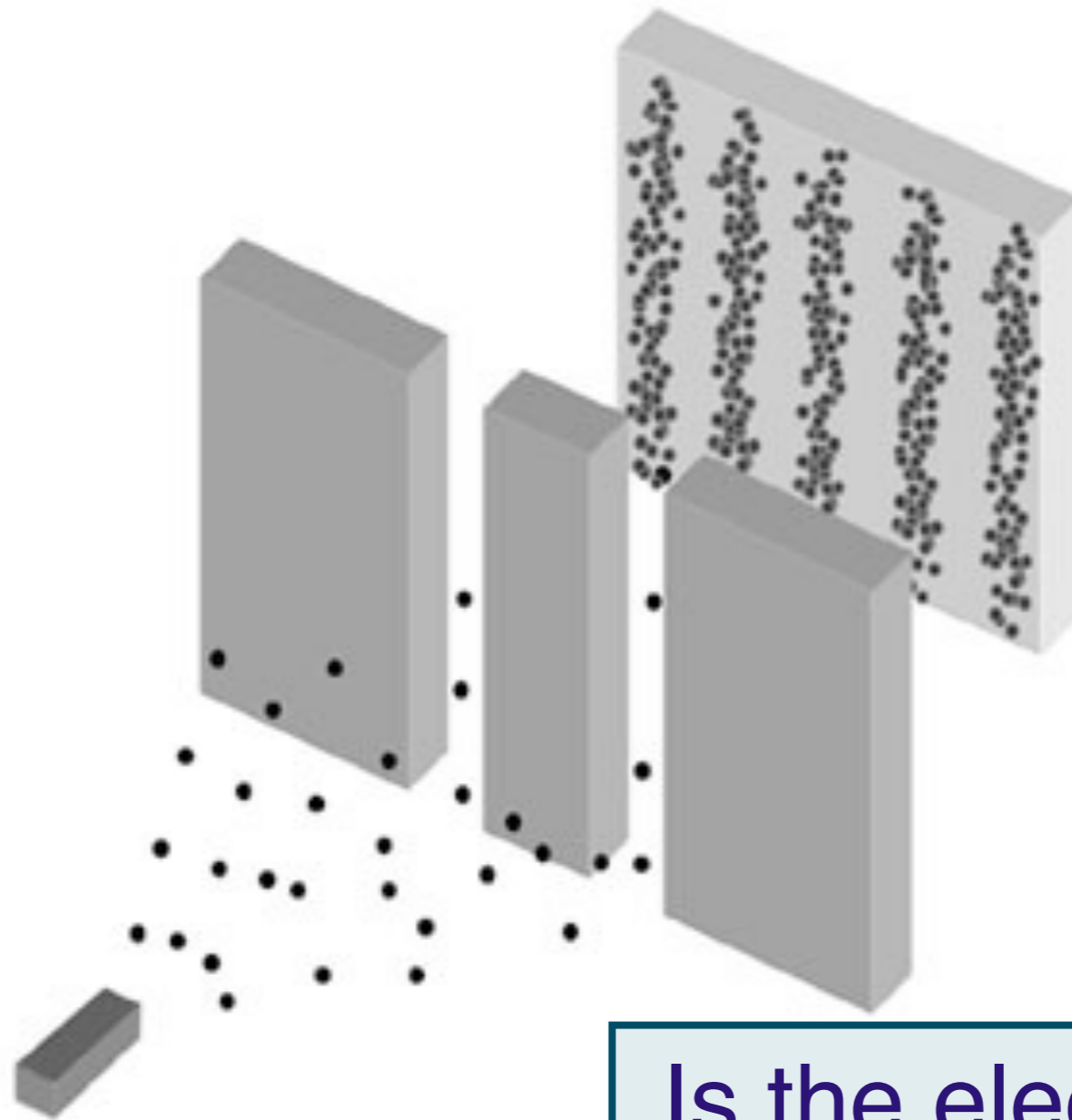
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## The double slit experiment



Interference of electrons

## The double slit experiment

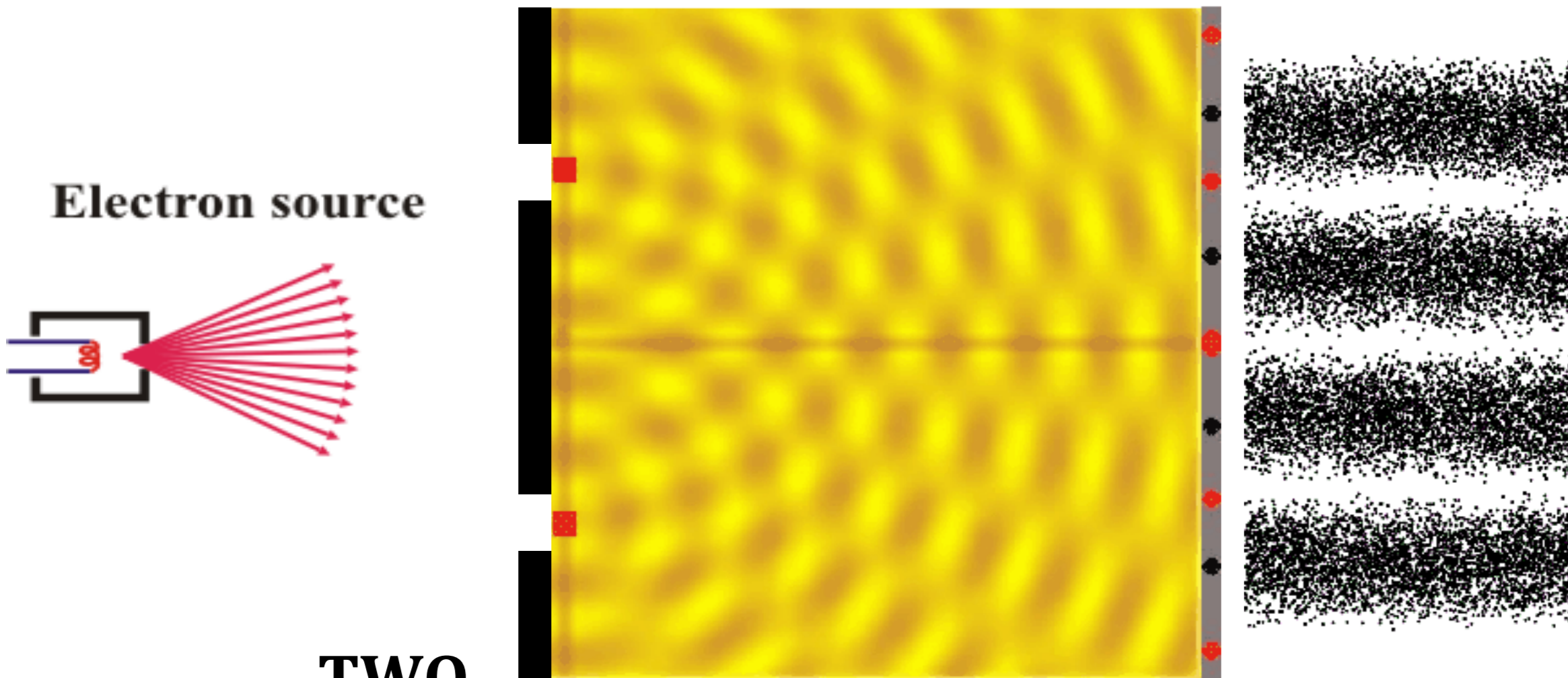


Is the electron a wave ?

Interference of electrons

# Principles of Quantum Mechanics: I. Quantum Superposition

## The double slit experiment



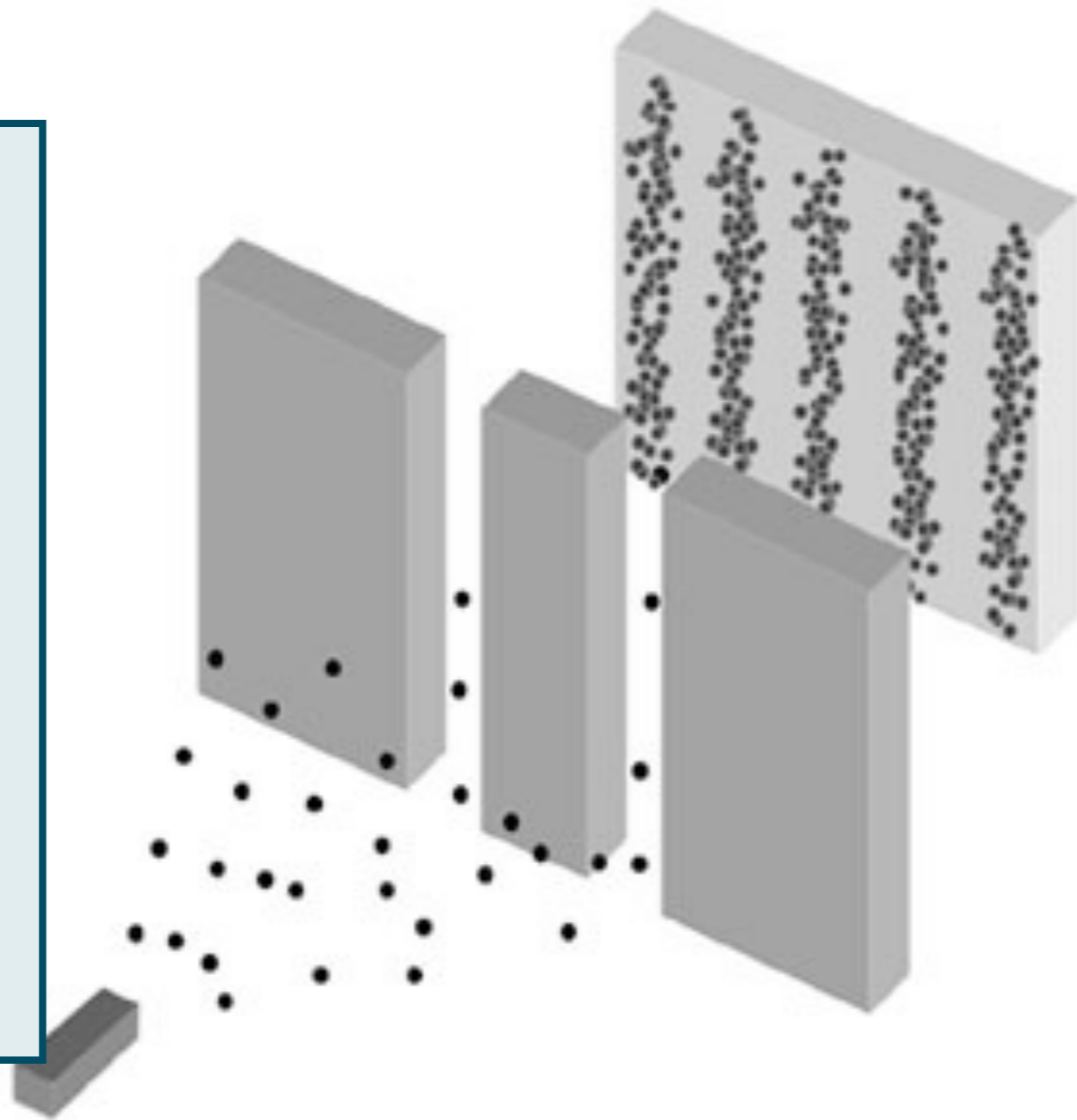
**TWO  
SLITS**

Unlike water waves, electrons arrive one-by-one (so is it like a particle ?)

**Interference of electrons**

## The double slit experiment

But if it is like a particle, which slit does each electron pass through ?

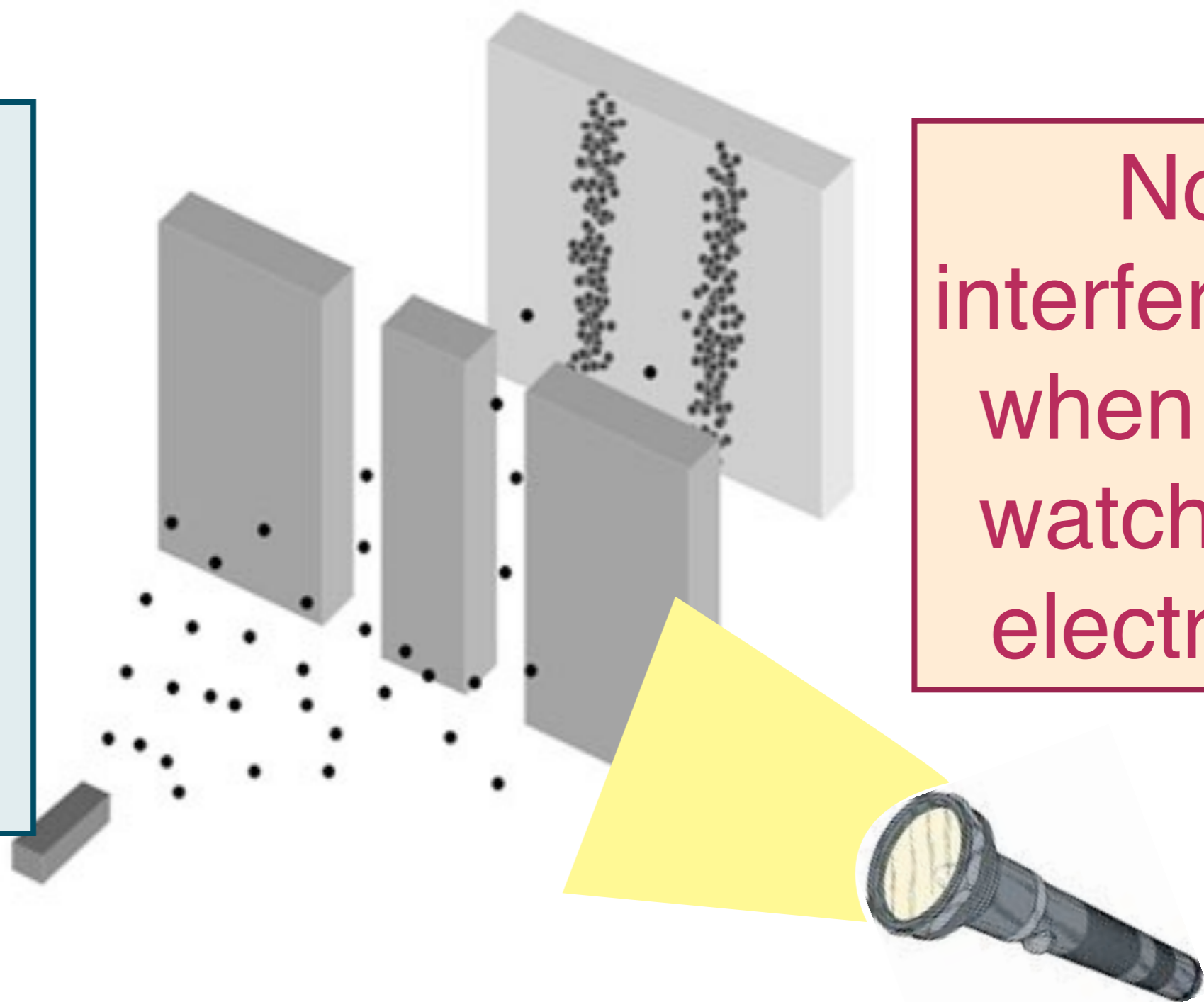


Interference of electrons

# Principles of Quantum Mechanics: I. Quantum Superposition

## The double slit experiment

But if it is like a particle, which slit does each electron pass through ?



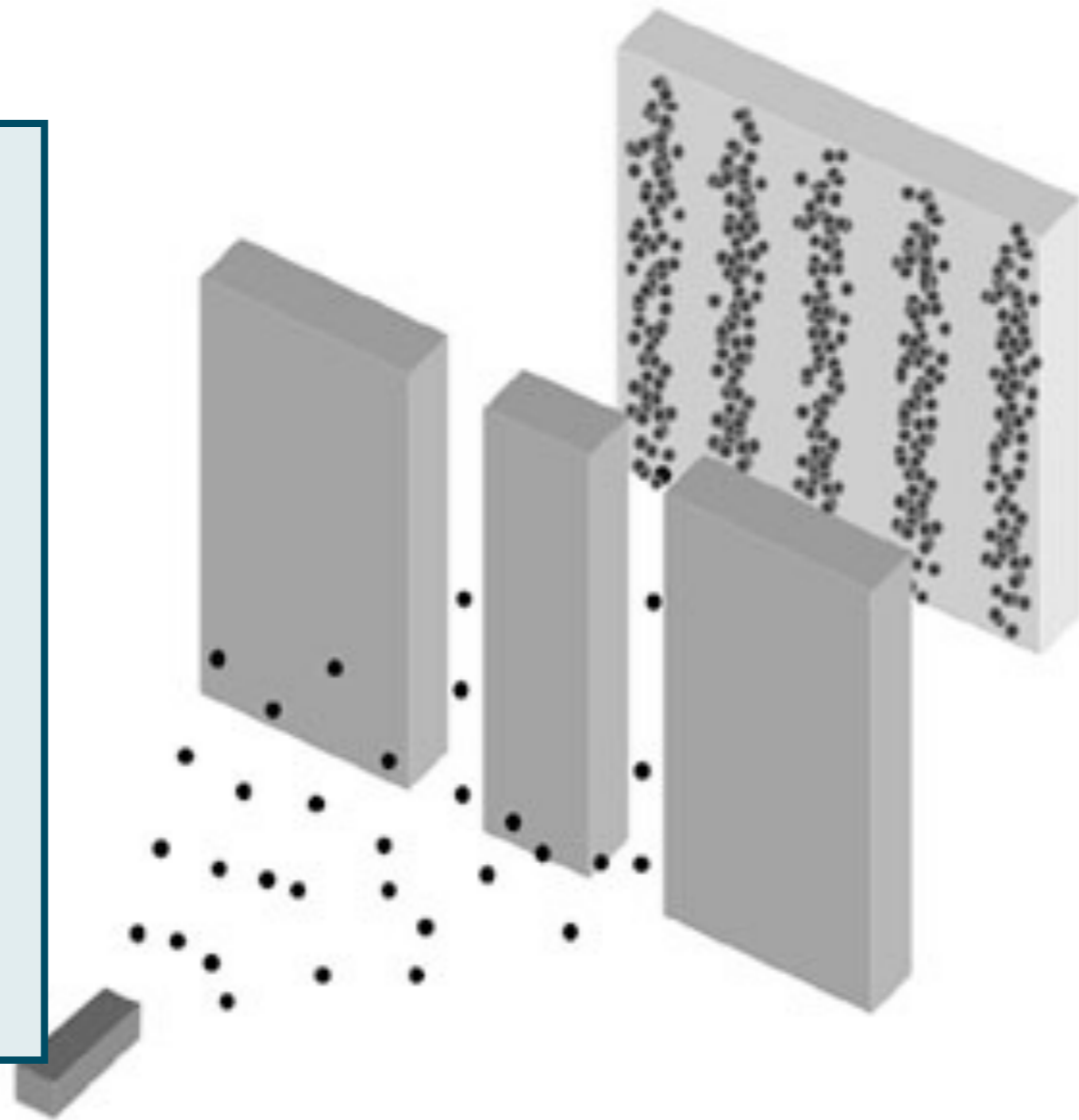
No interference when you watch the electrons

Interference of electrons

# Principles of Quantum Mechanics: I. Quantum Superposition

## The double slit experiment

But if it is like a particle, which slit does each electron pass through ?

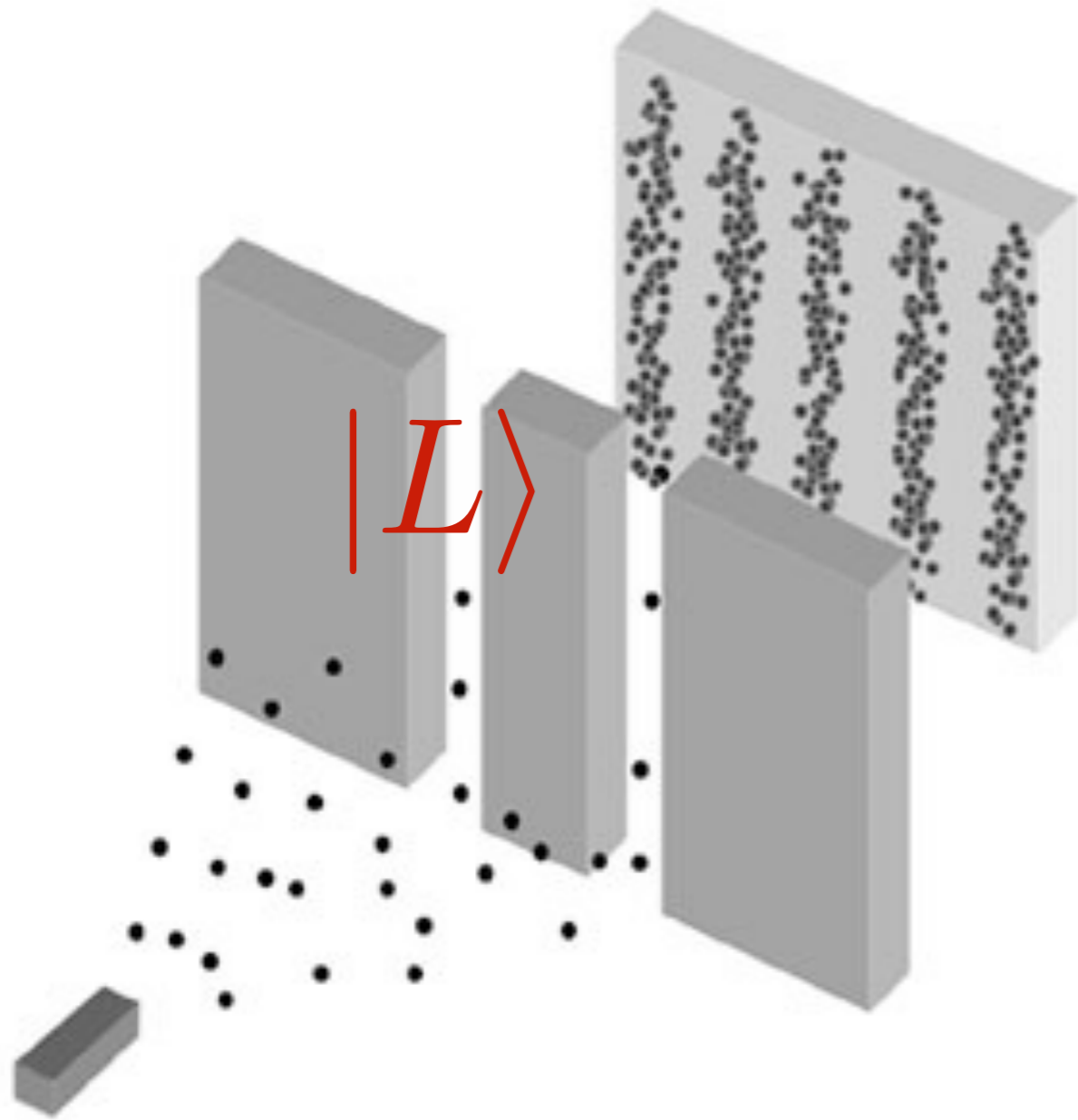


Each electron passes through both slits !

Interference of electrons

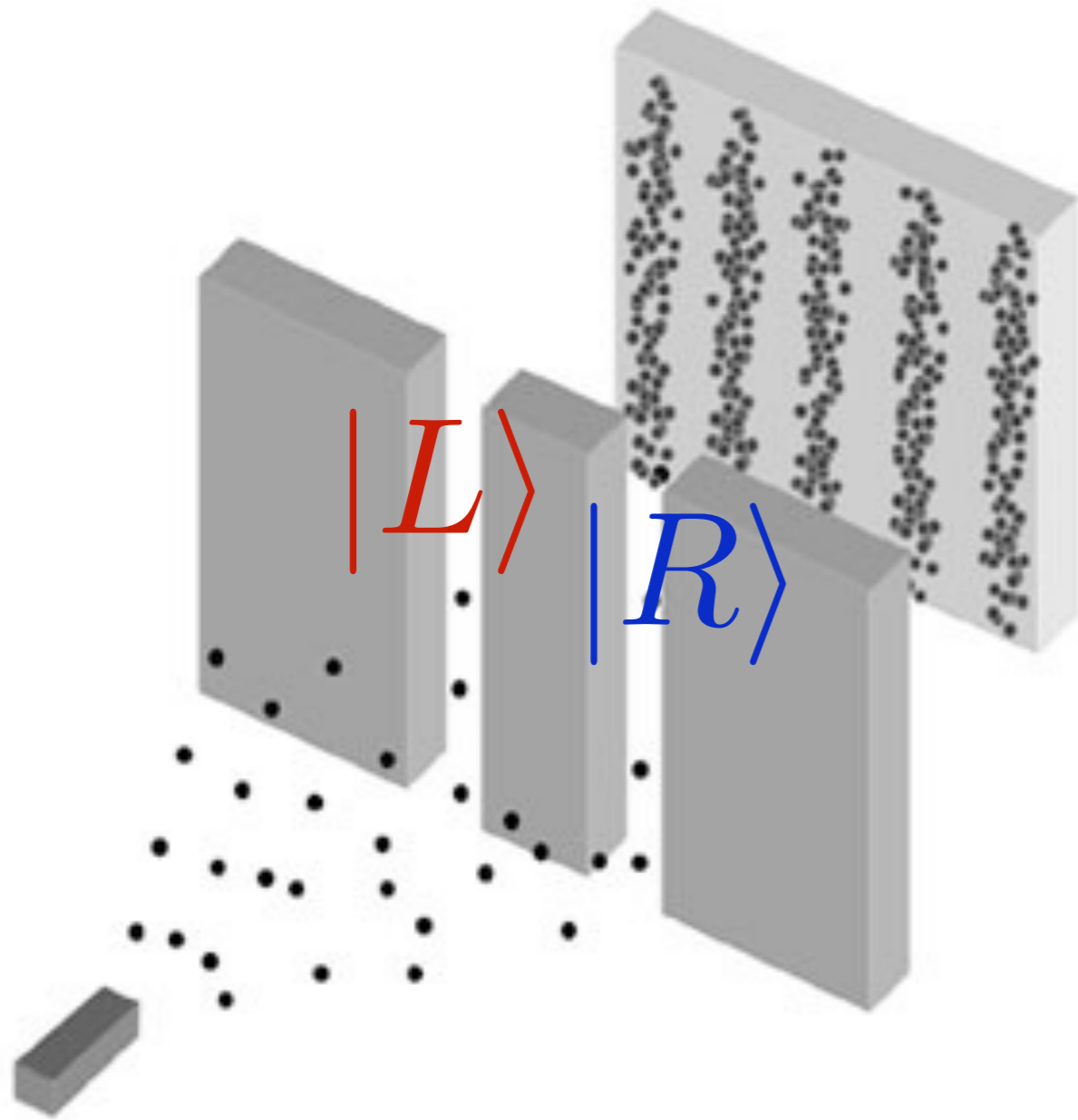
# Principles of Quantum Mechanics: I. Quantum Superposition

## The double slit experiment



Let  $|L\rangle$  represent the state with the electron in the left slit

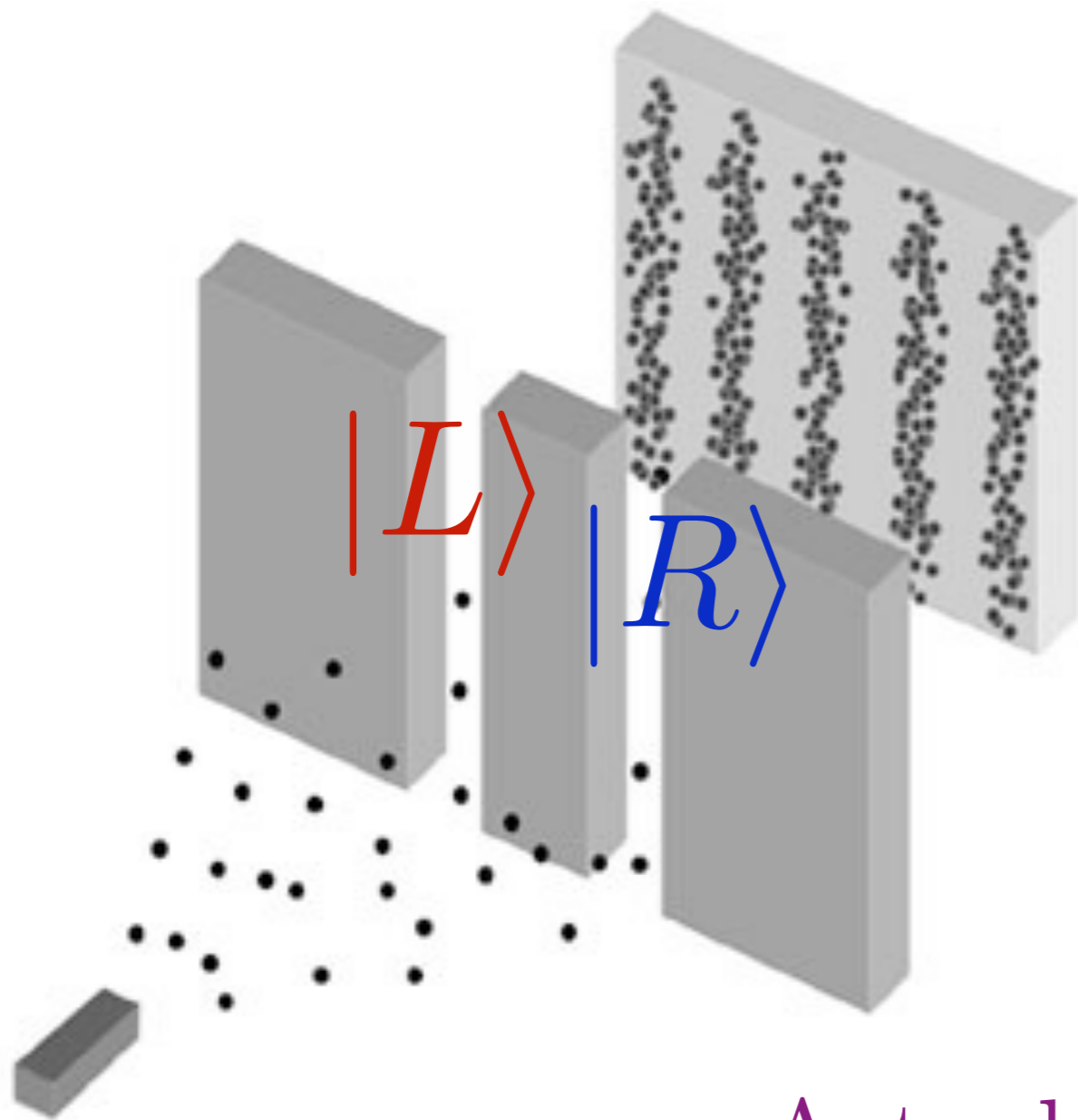
## The double slit experiment



Let  $|L\rangle$  represent the state with the electron in the left slit

And  $|R\rangle$  represents the state with the electron in the right slit

## The double slit experiment



Let  $|L\rangle$  represent the state with the electron in the left slit

And  $|R\rangle$  represents the state with the electron in the right slit

Actual state of *each* electron is

$$|L\rangle + |R\rangle$$

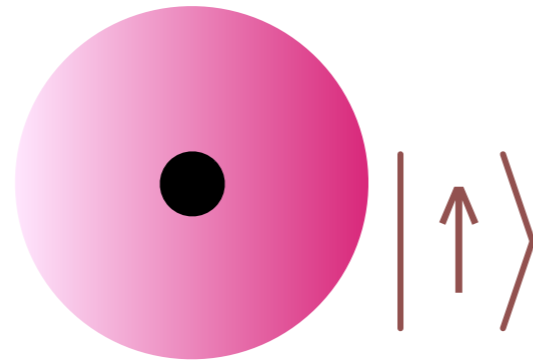
## Principles of Quantum Mechanics: II. Quantum Entanglement

Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition  
with more than one particle

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## Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle

Hydrogen atom:

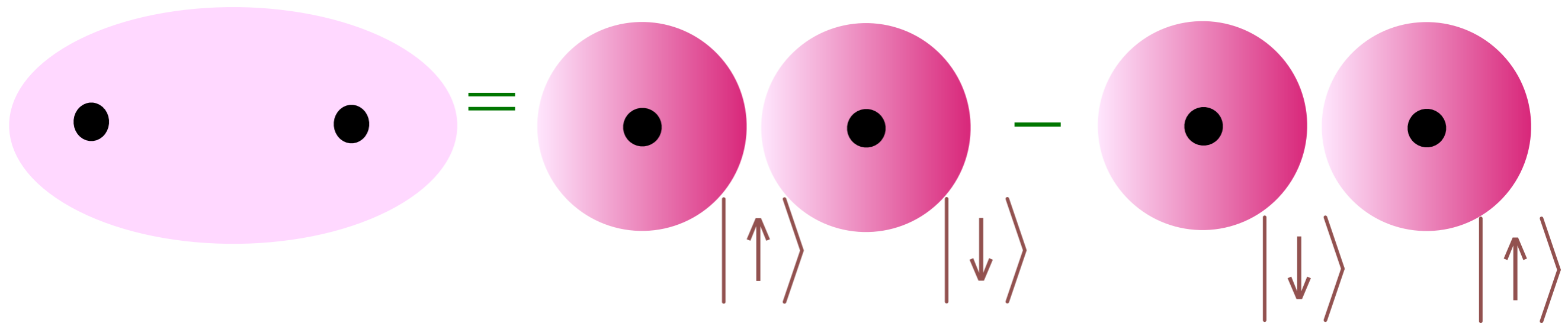


# Principles of Quantum Mechanics: II. Quantum Entanglement

## Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle

Hydrogen atom: 

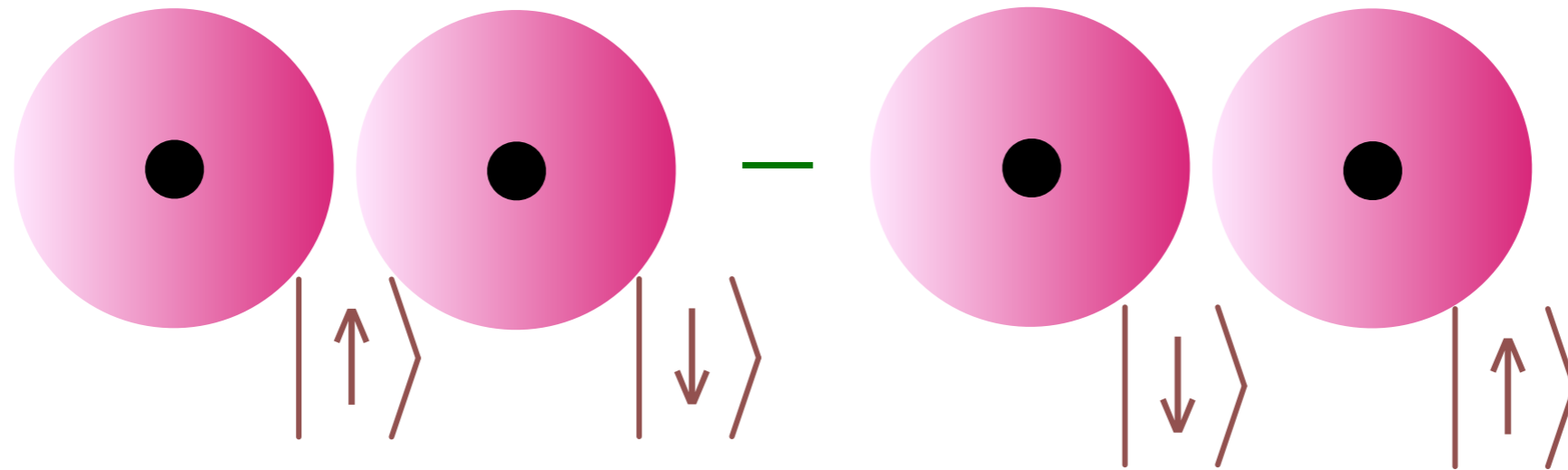
Hydrogen molecule:



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

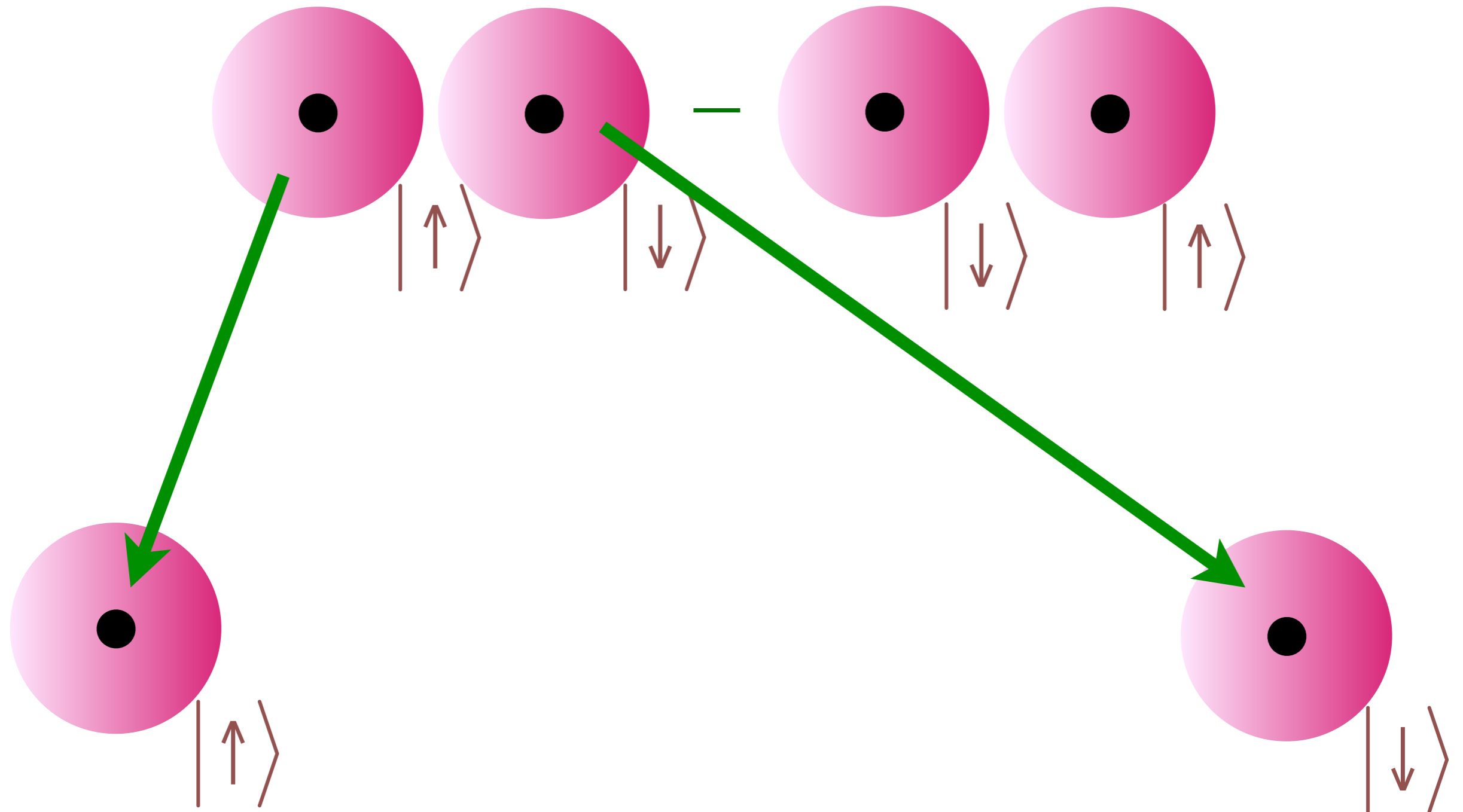
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## Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle



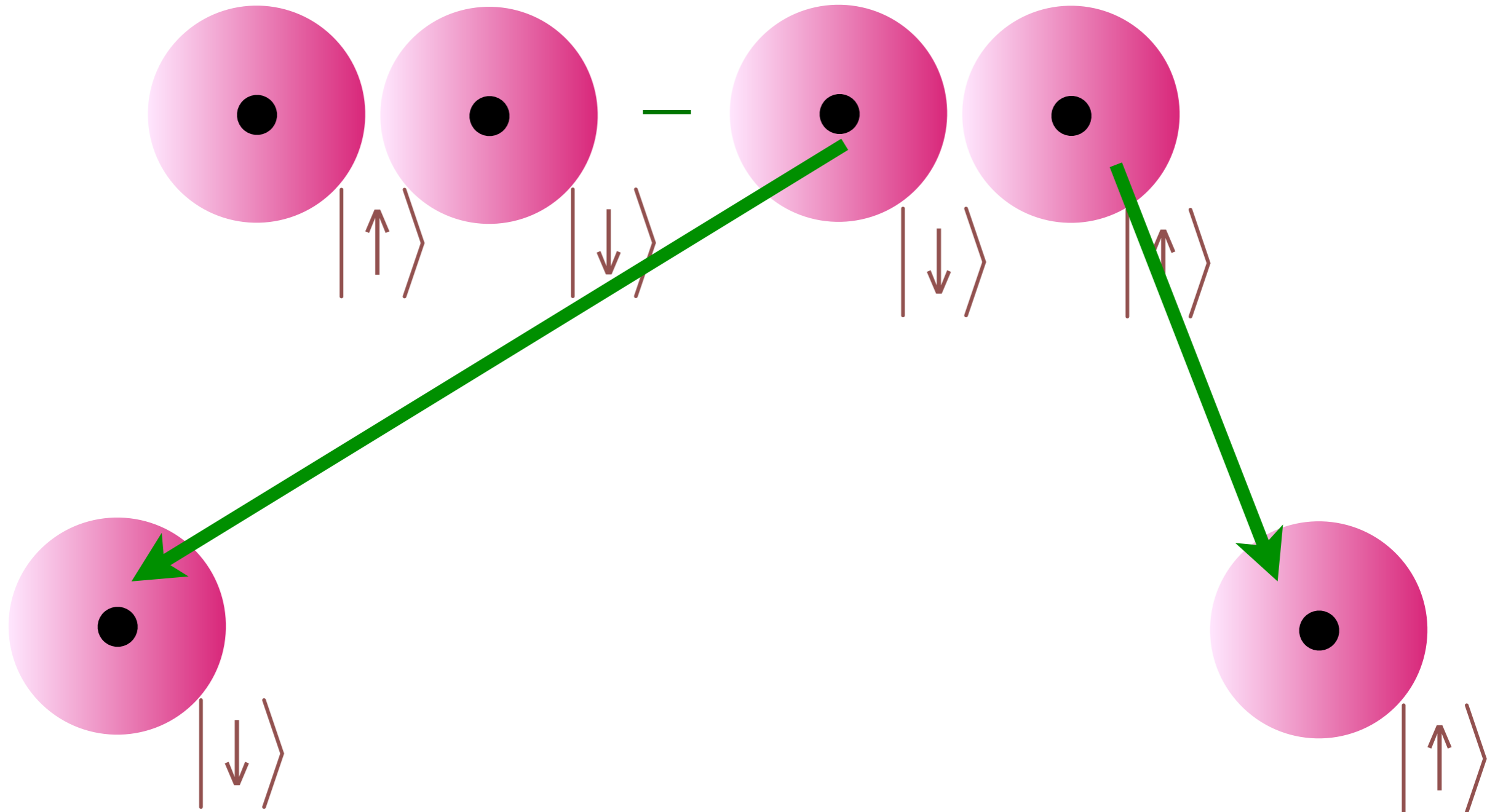
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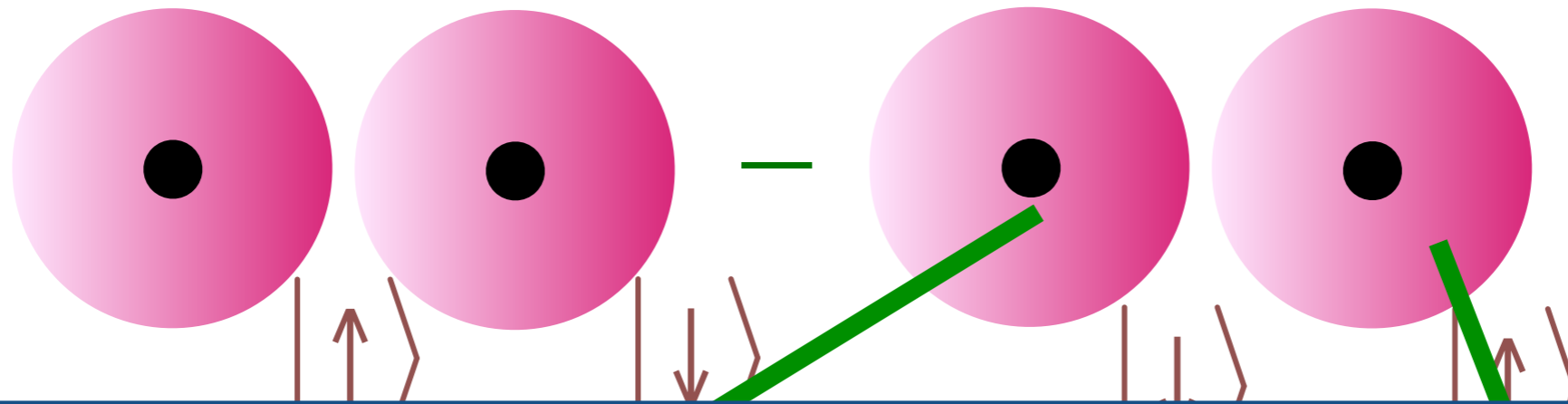
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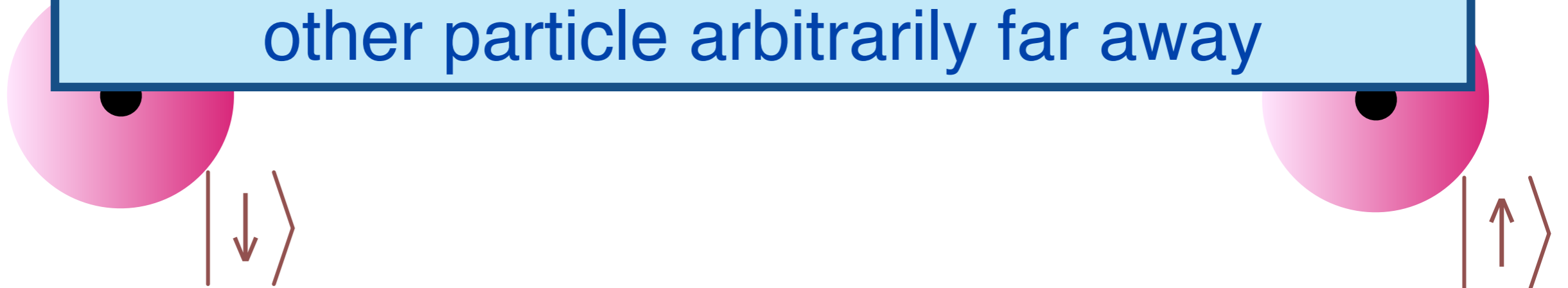


## Principles of Quantum Mechanics: II. Quantum Entanglement

### Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle



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



# Quantum entanglement

**Quantum  
entanglement**

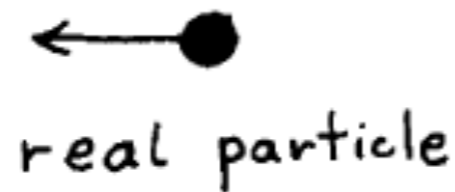
**Strange  
metals**

# Ordinary metals

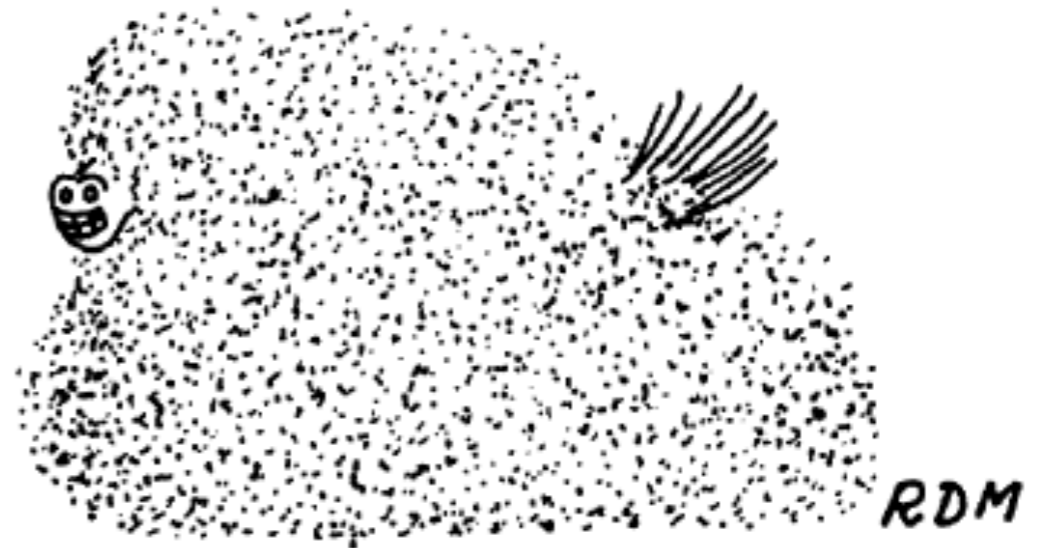


Ordinary metals are shiny, and they conduct heat and electricity efficiently. Each atom donates electrons which are delocalized throughout the entire crystal

*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

*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.*

- 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

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

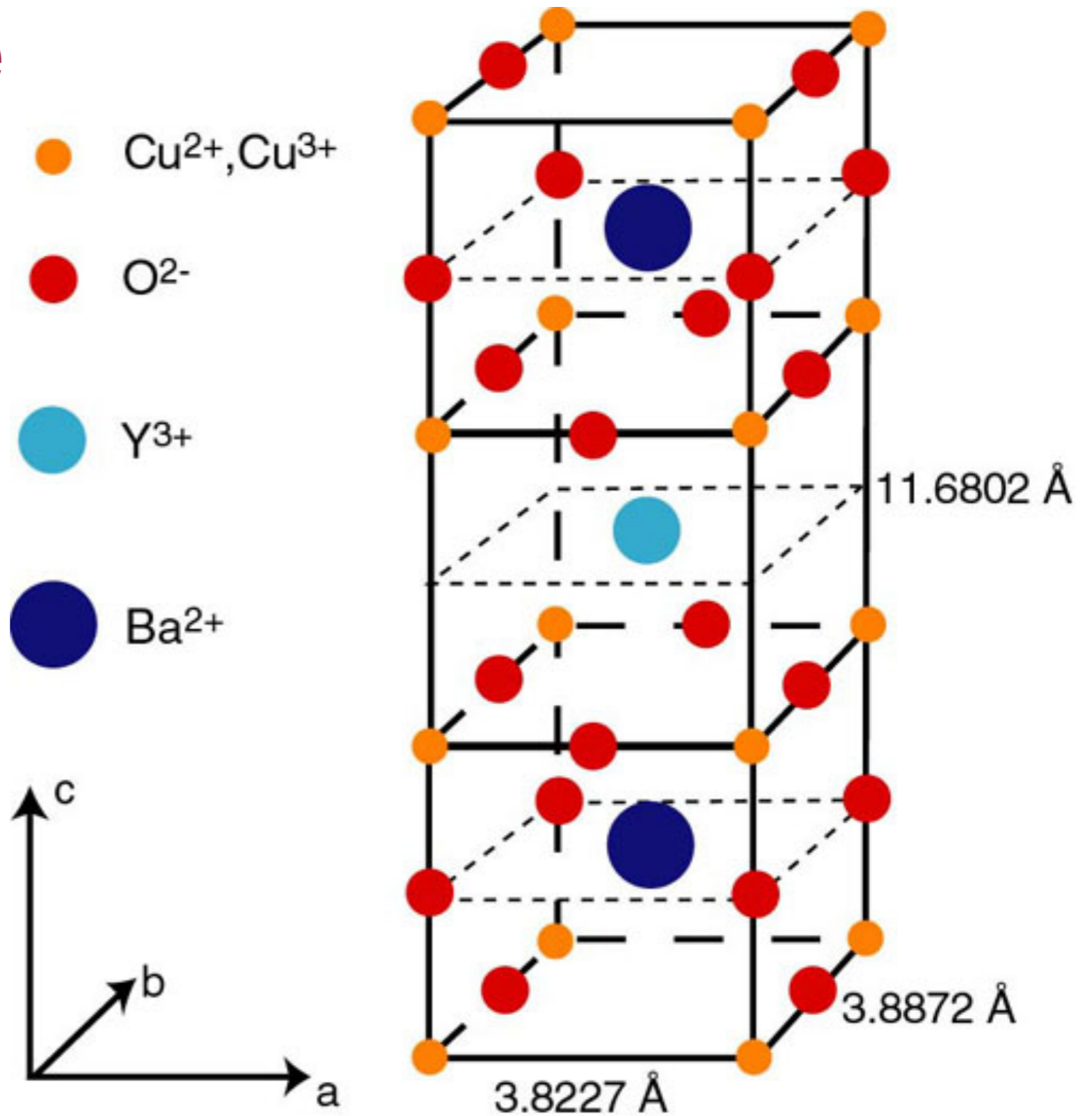
where  $E_F$  is the Fermi energy.

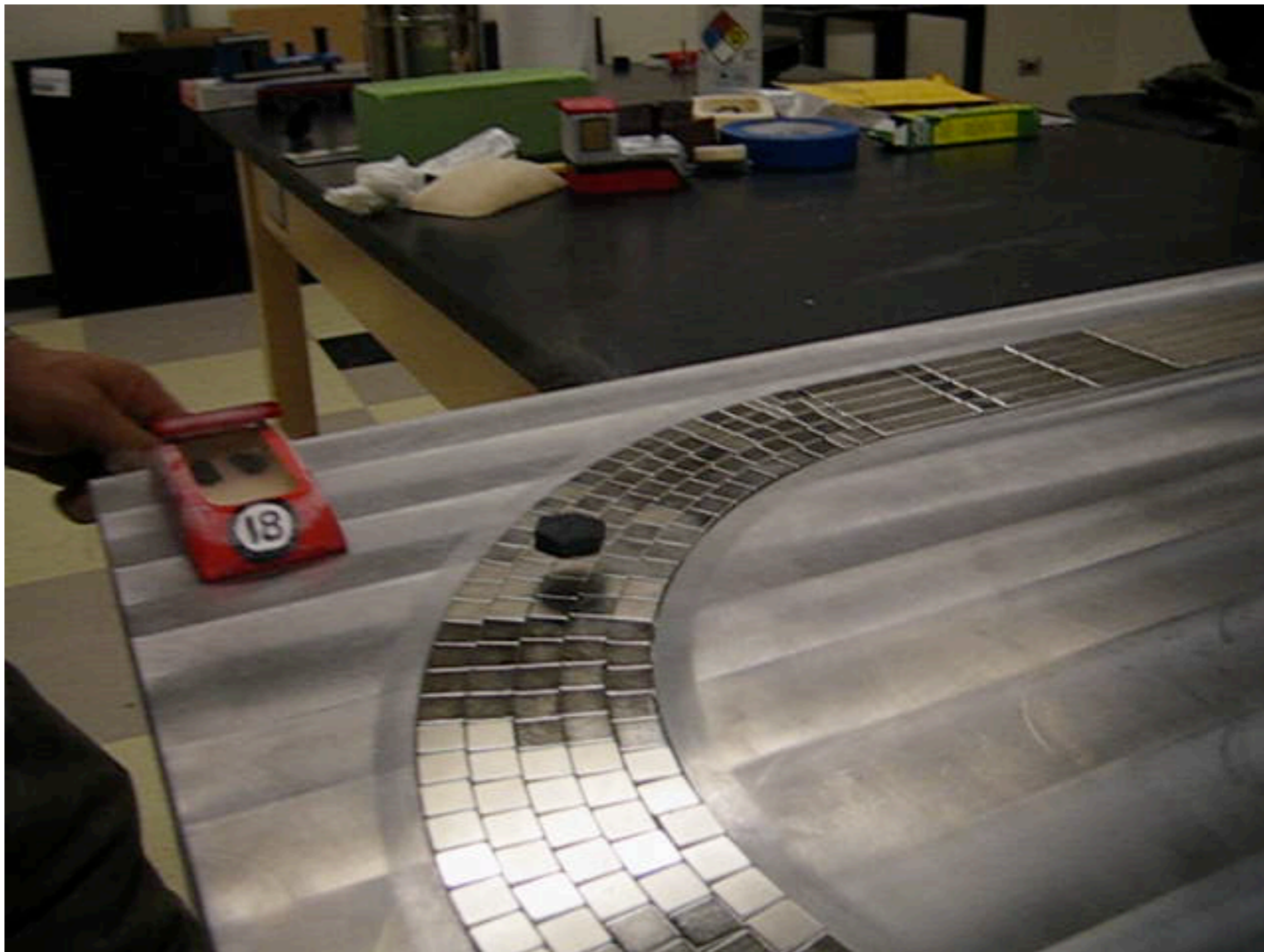
*Almost all many-electron systems are described by the quasiparticle concept: a quasiparticle is an “excited lump” in the many-electron state which responds just like an ordinary particle.*

- The equilibration time for quasiparticles is much longer than the ‘Planckian time’  $\hbar/(k_B T)$

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

# High temperature superconductors





Nd-Fe-B magnets, YBaCuO superconductor

Julian Hetel and Nandini Trivedi, Ohio State University

Quantum matter without quasiparticles

# Strange metal

Entangled electrons lead to “strange” temperature dependence of resistivity and other properties

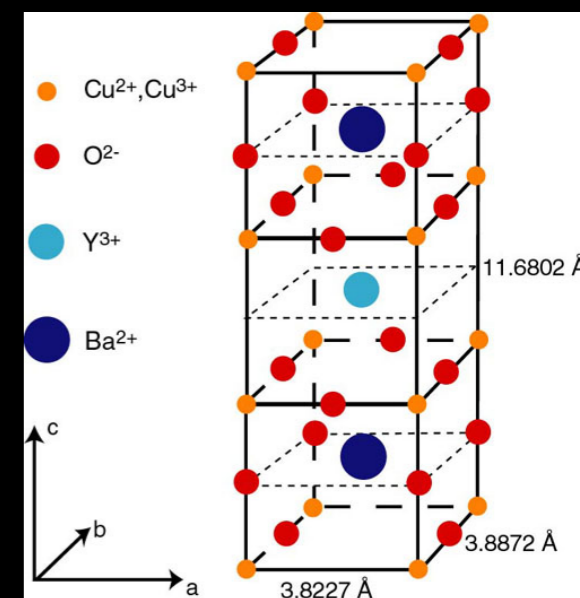
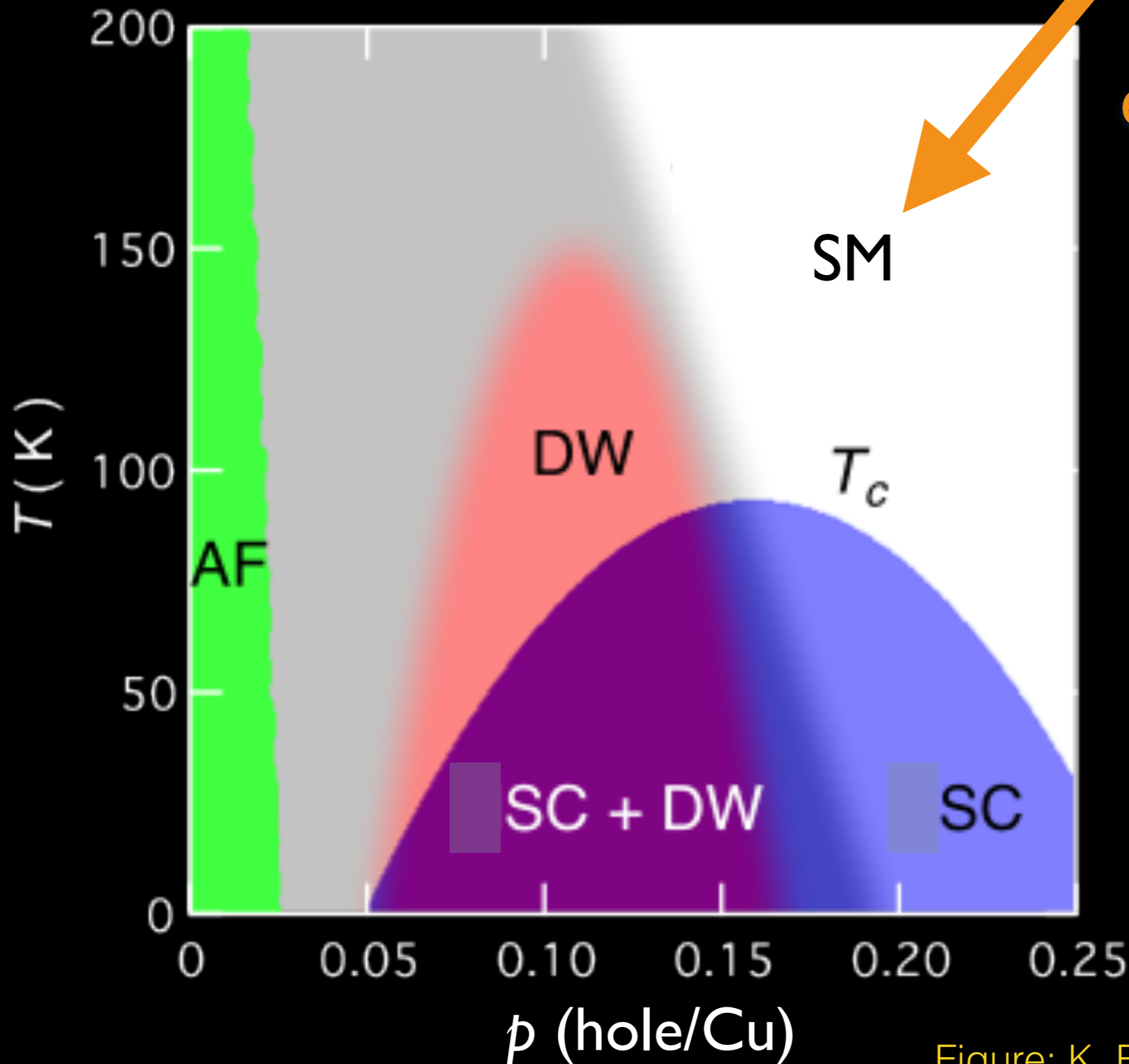


Figure: K. Fujita and J. C. Seamus Davis



“Strange”,

“Bad”,



or “Incoherent”,



metal has a resistivity,  $\rho$ , which obeys

$$\rho \sim T,$$

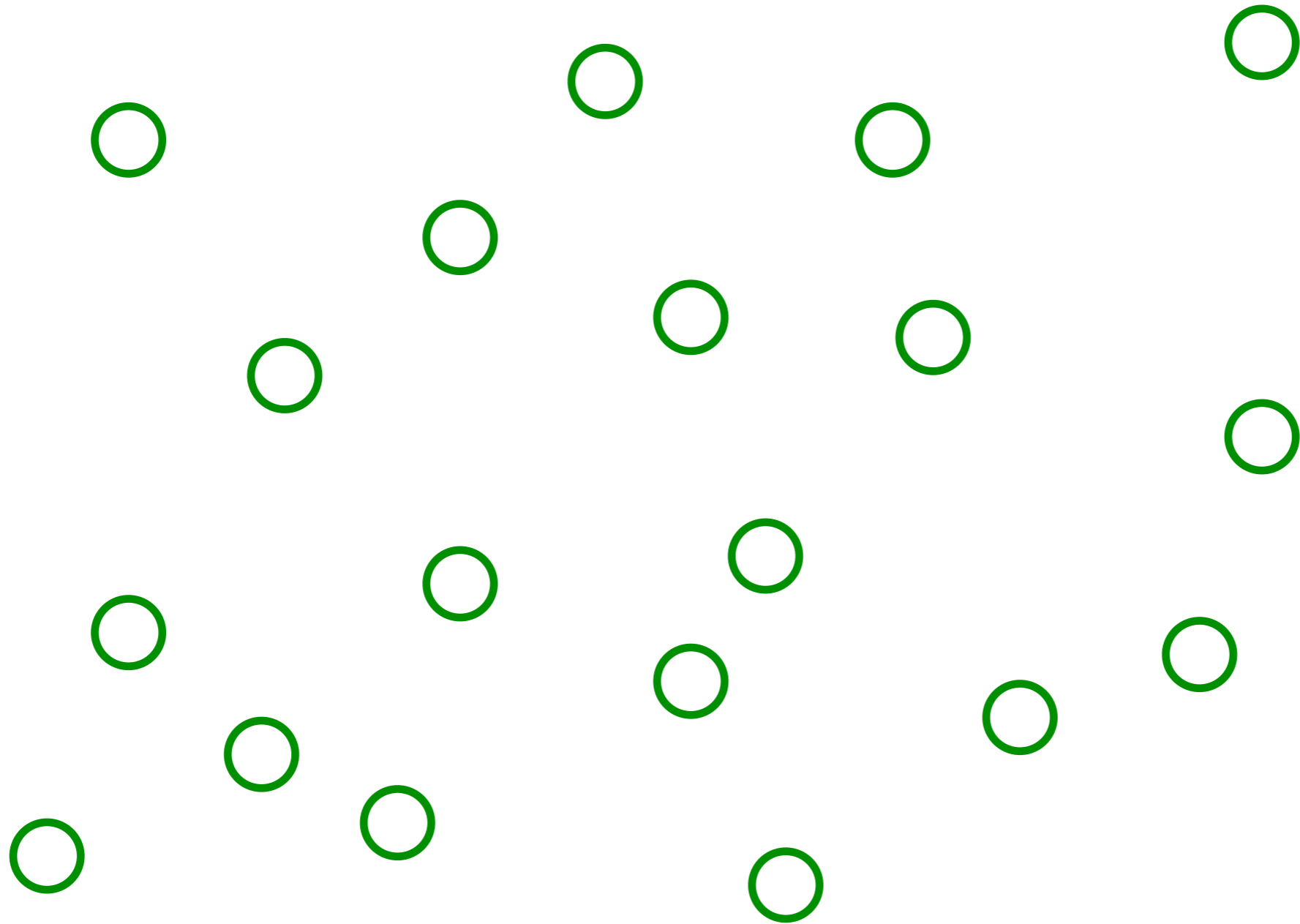
and

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

(in two dimensions),

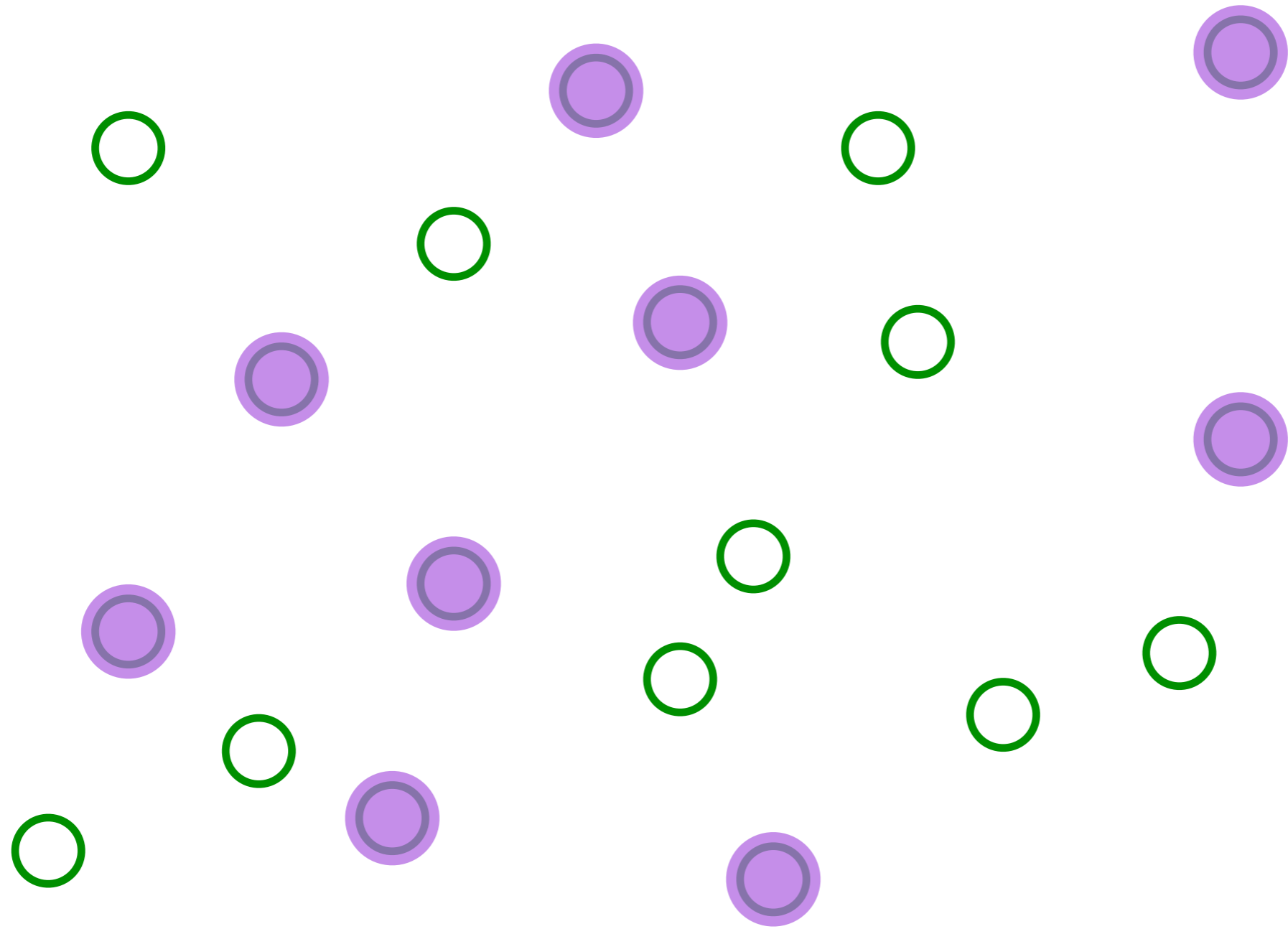
where  $h/e^2$  is the quantum unit of resistance.

# The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model



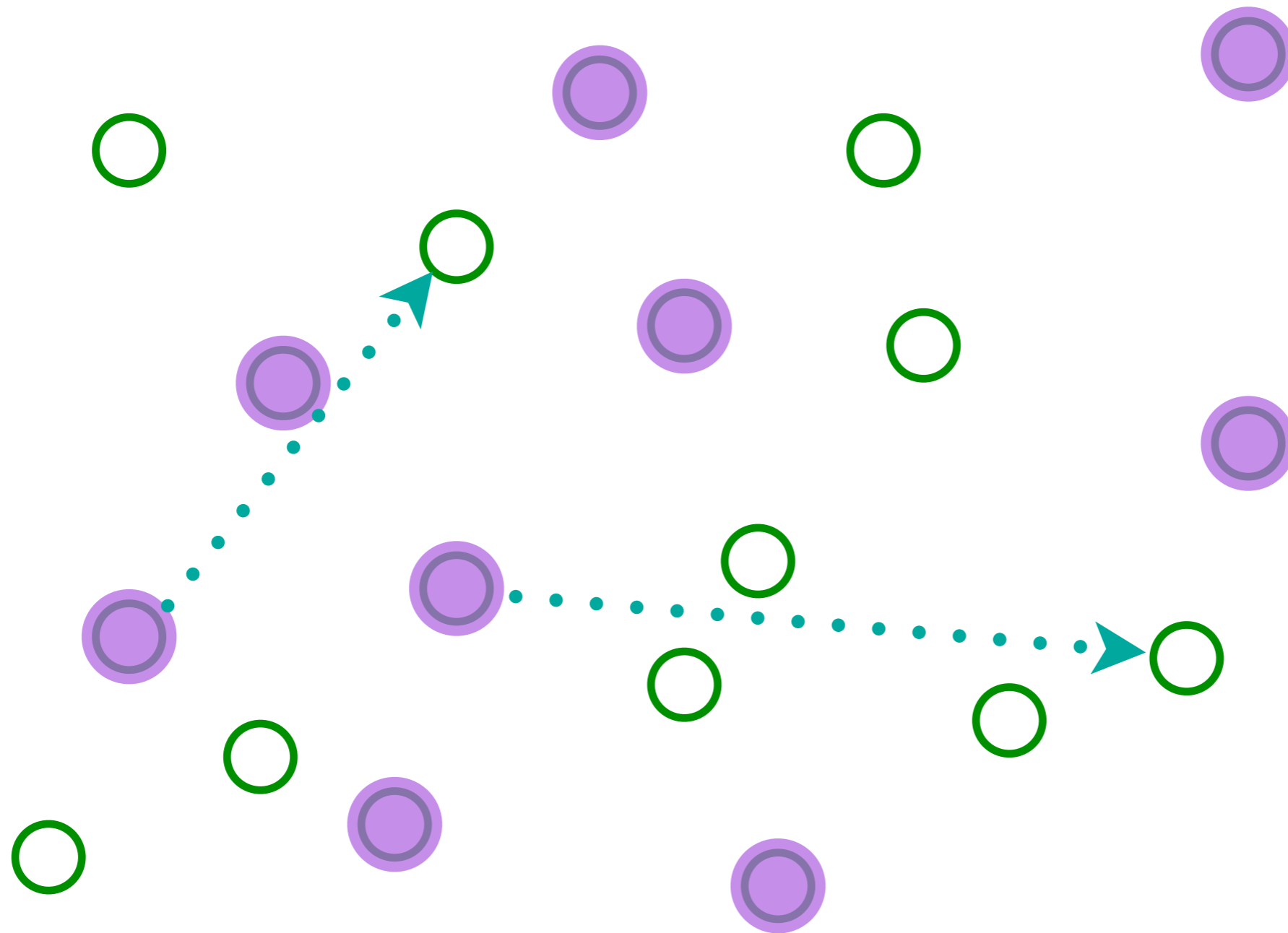
Pick a set of random positions

# The SYK model



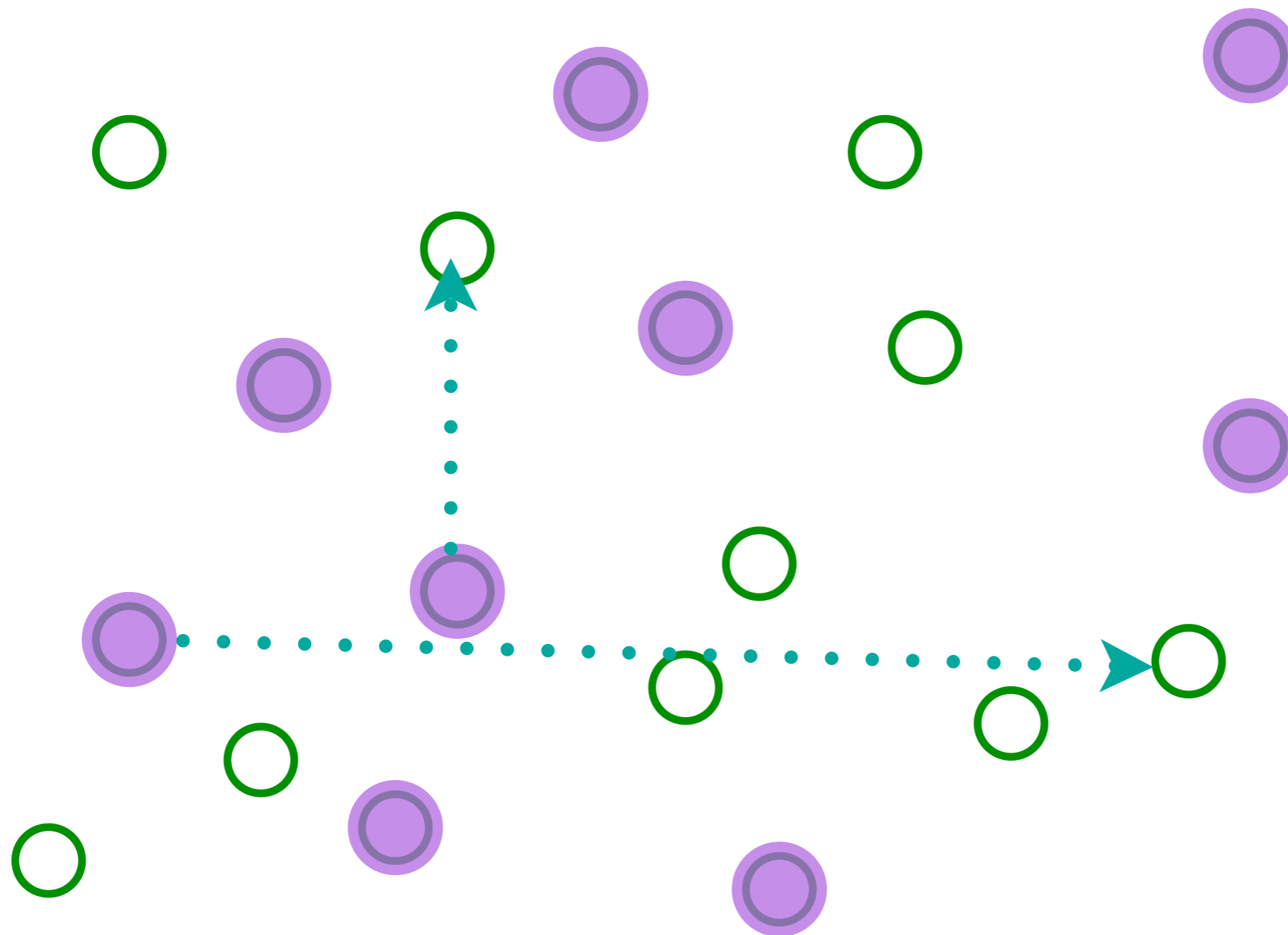
Place electrons randomly on some sites

# The SYK model



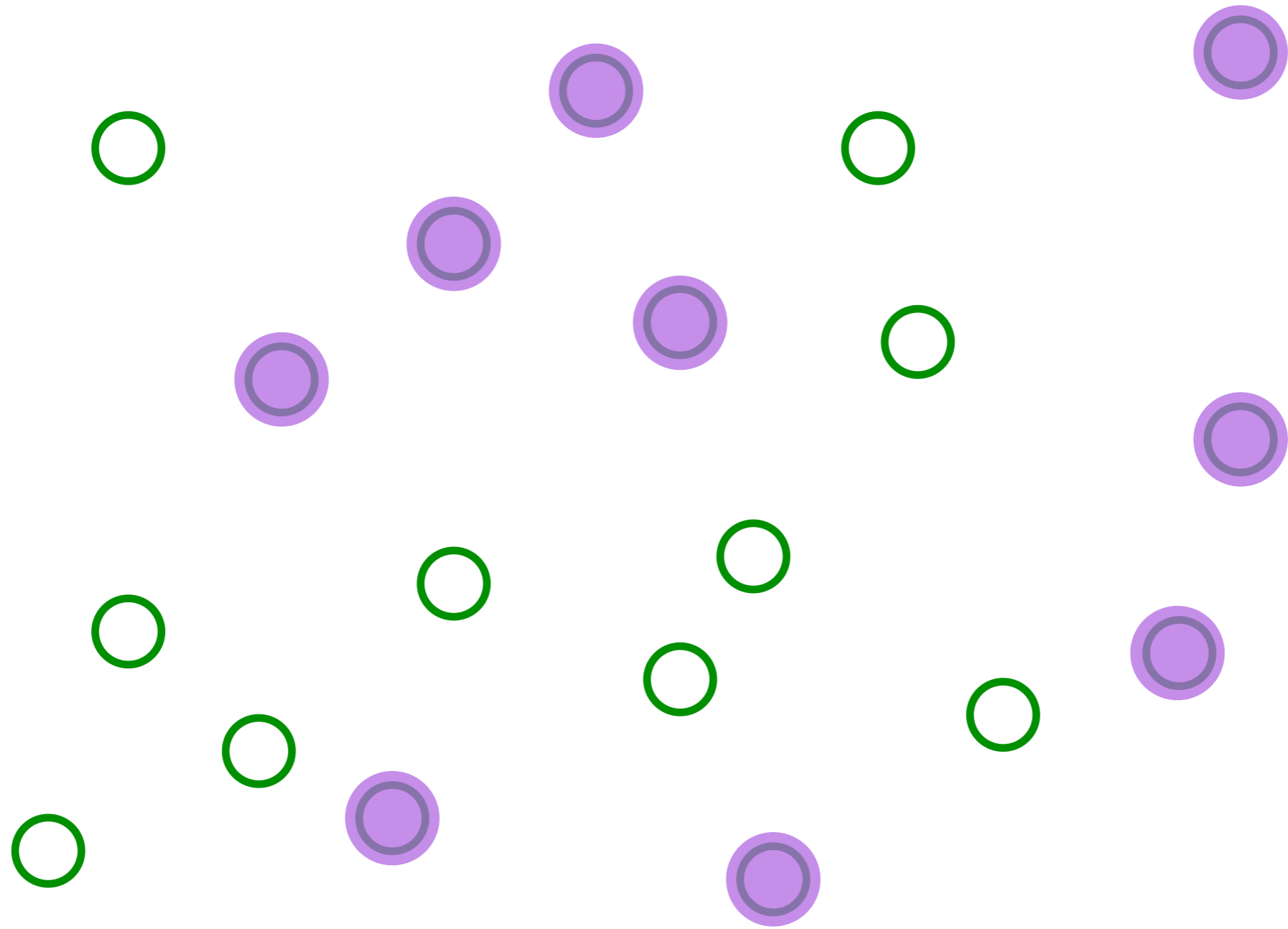
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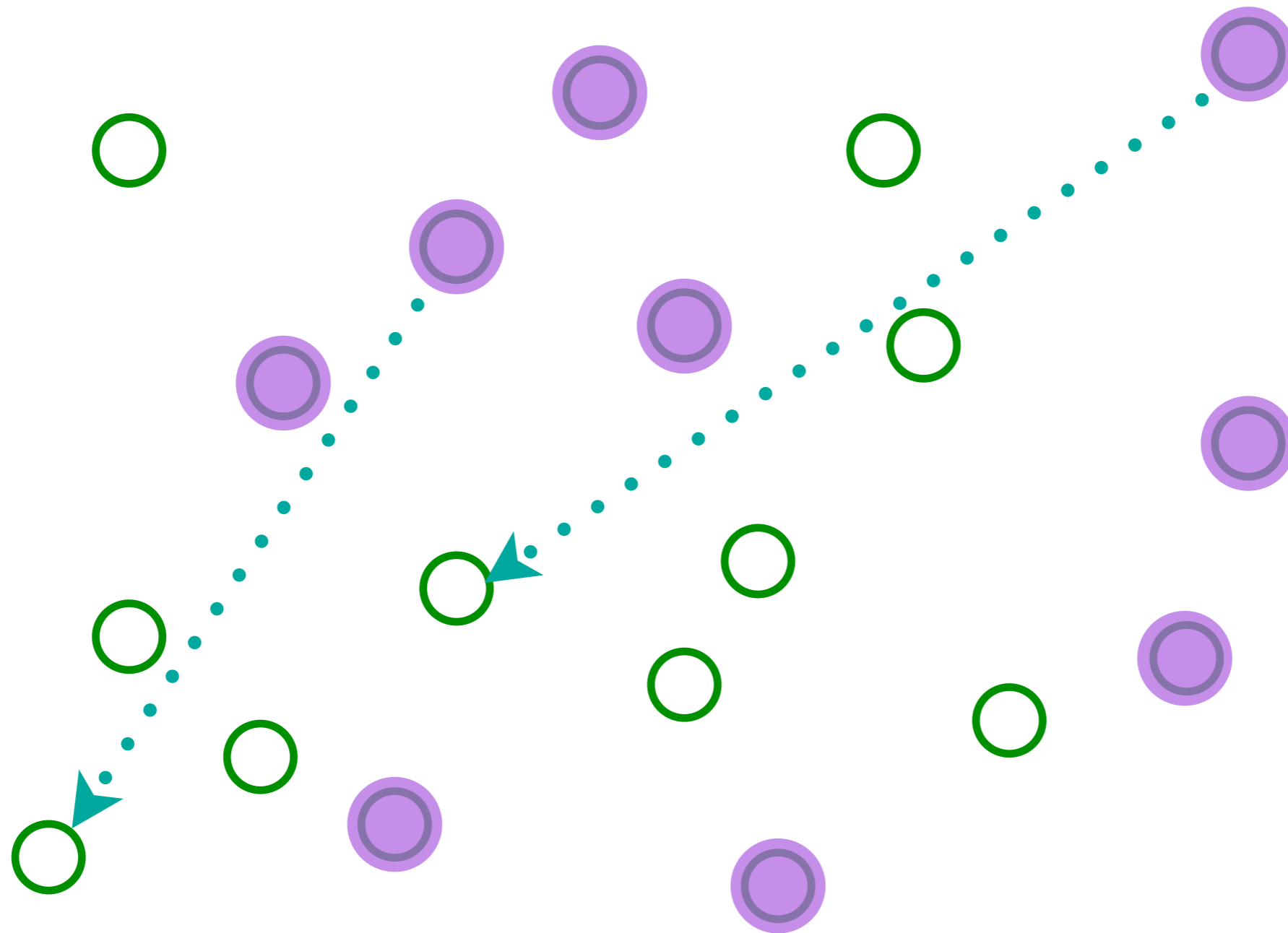
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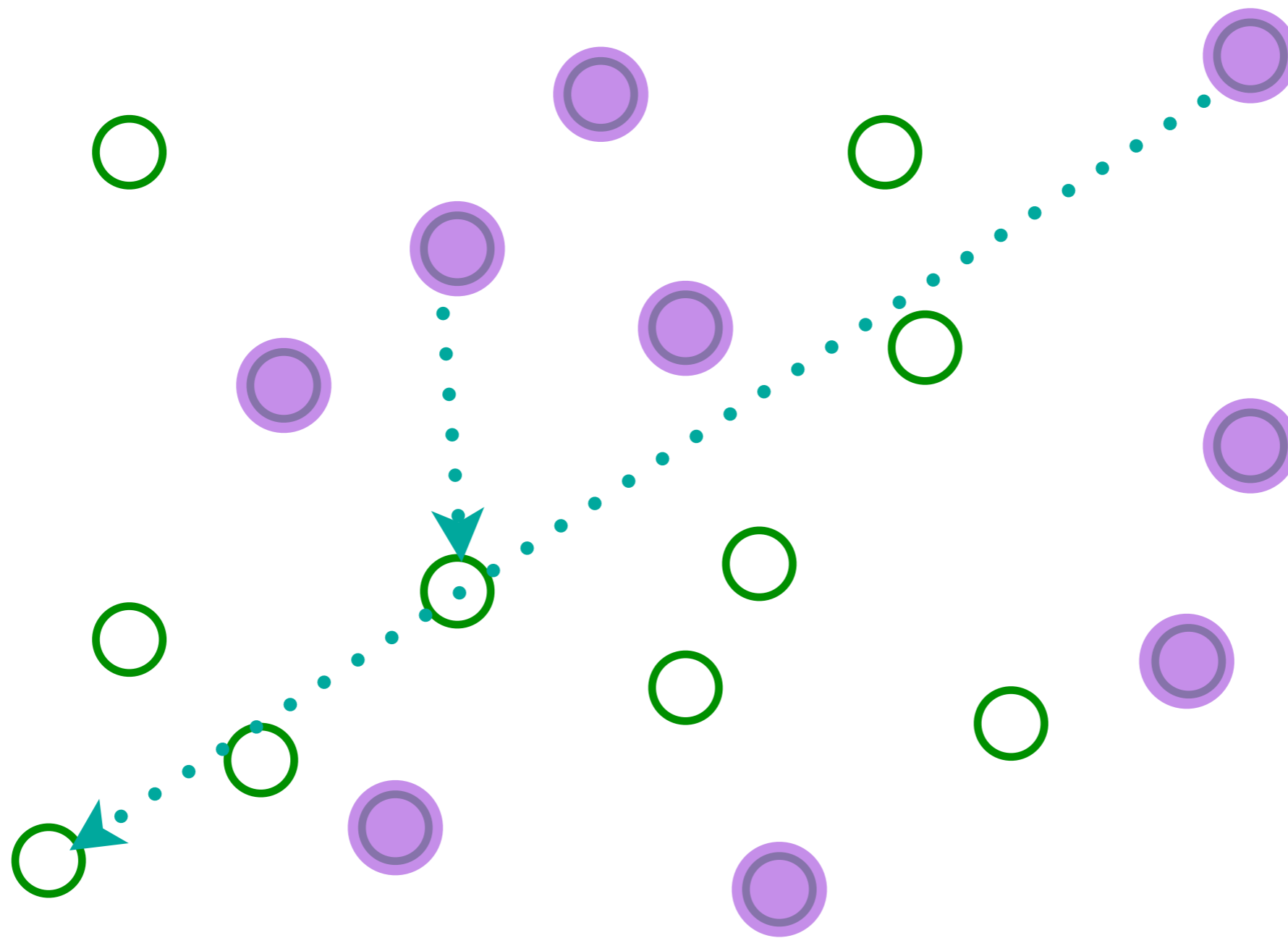
Entangle electrons pairwise randomly

# The SYK model



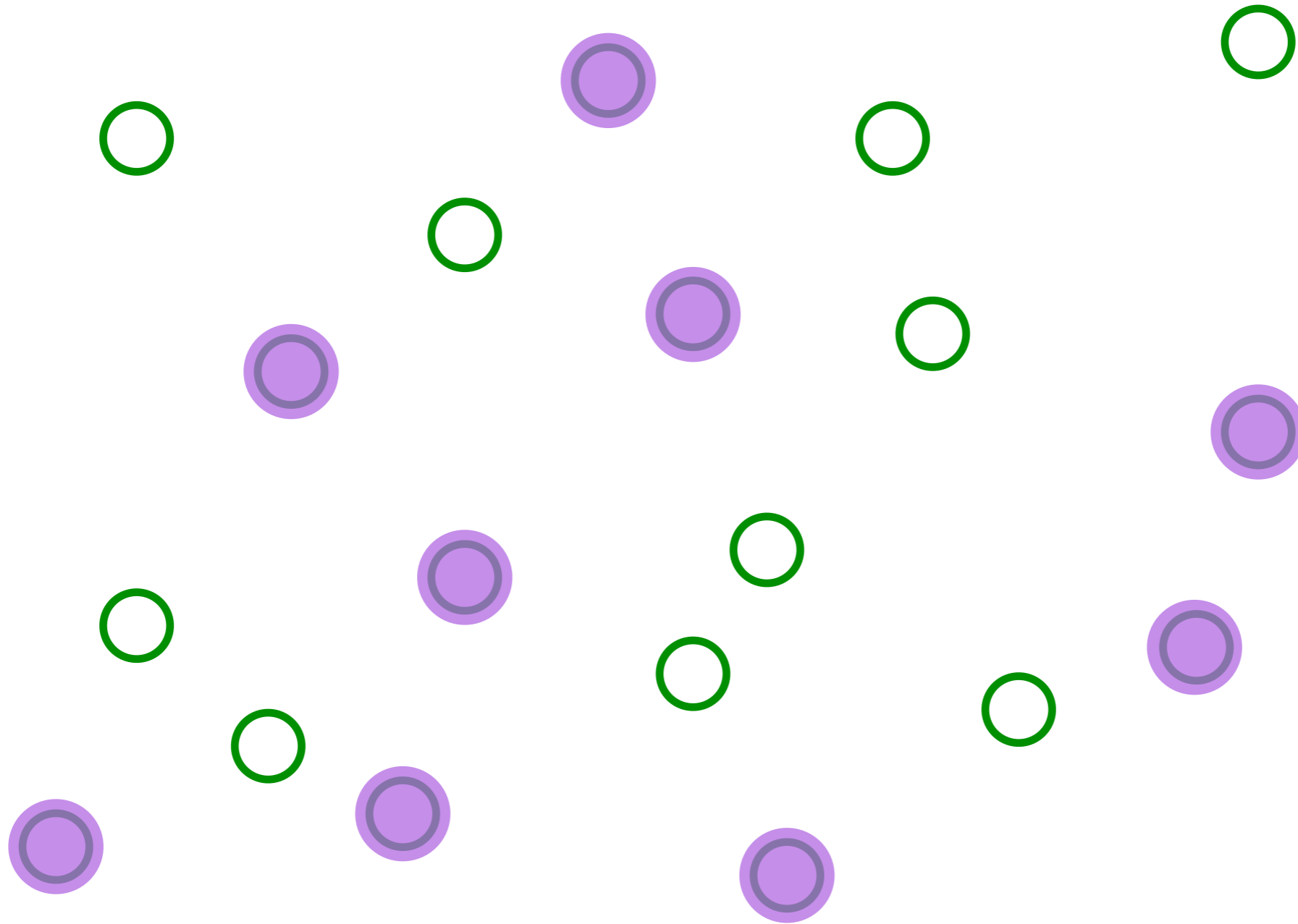
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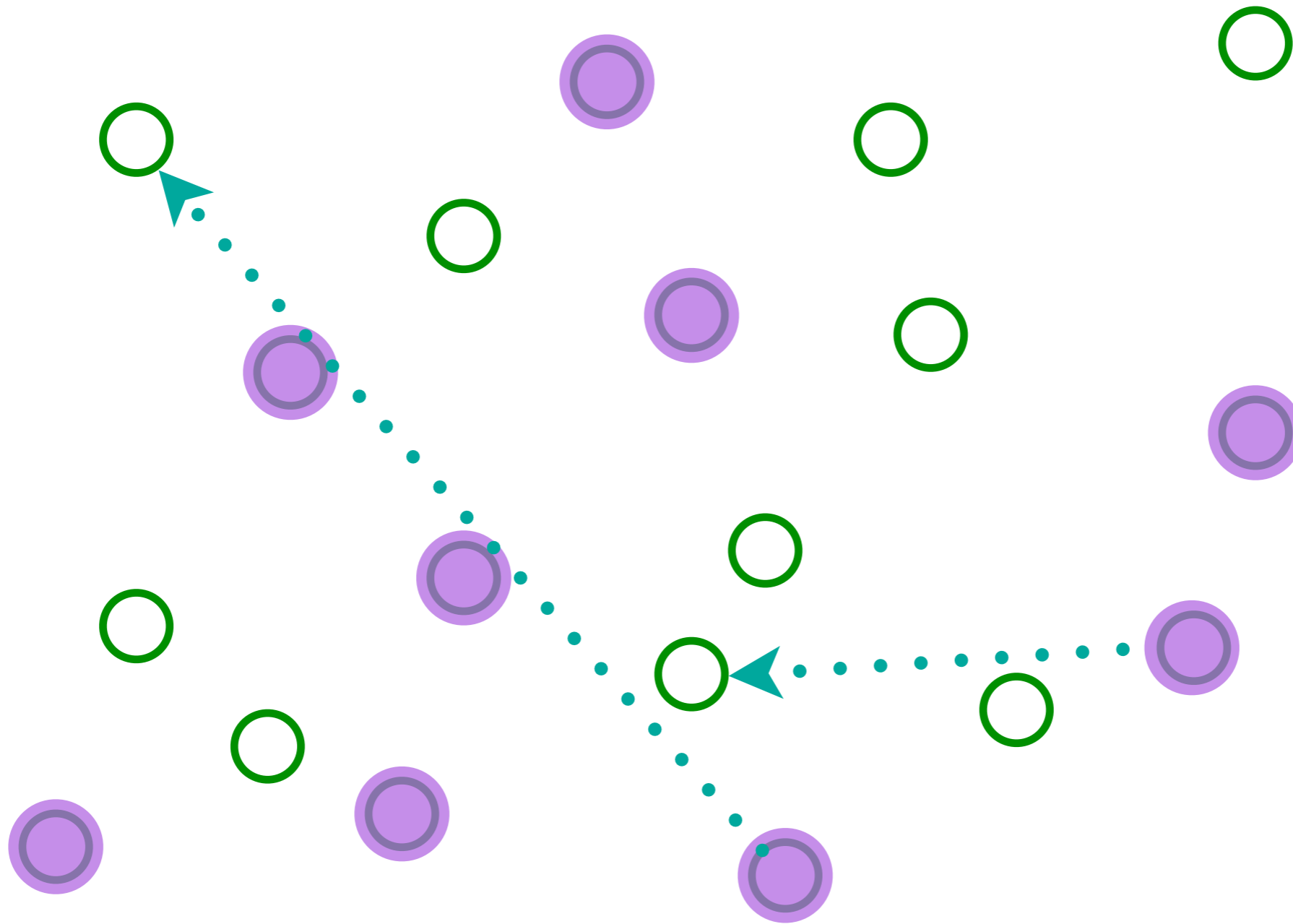
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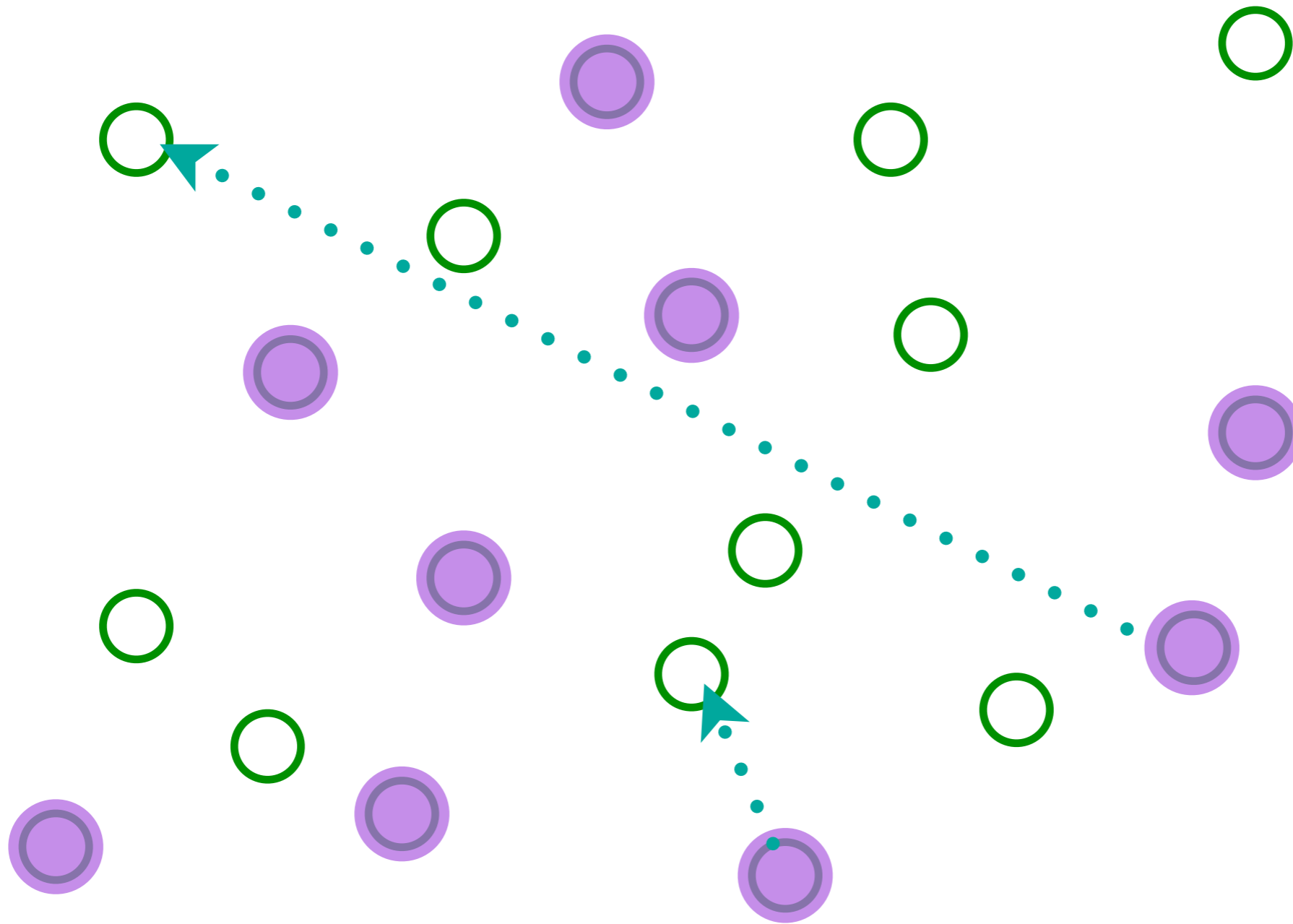
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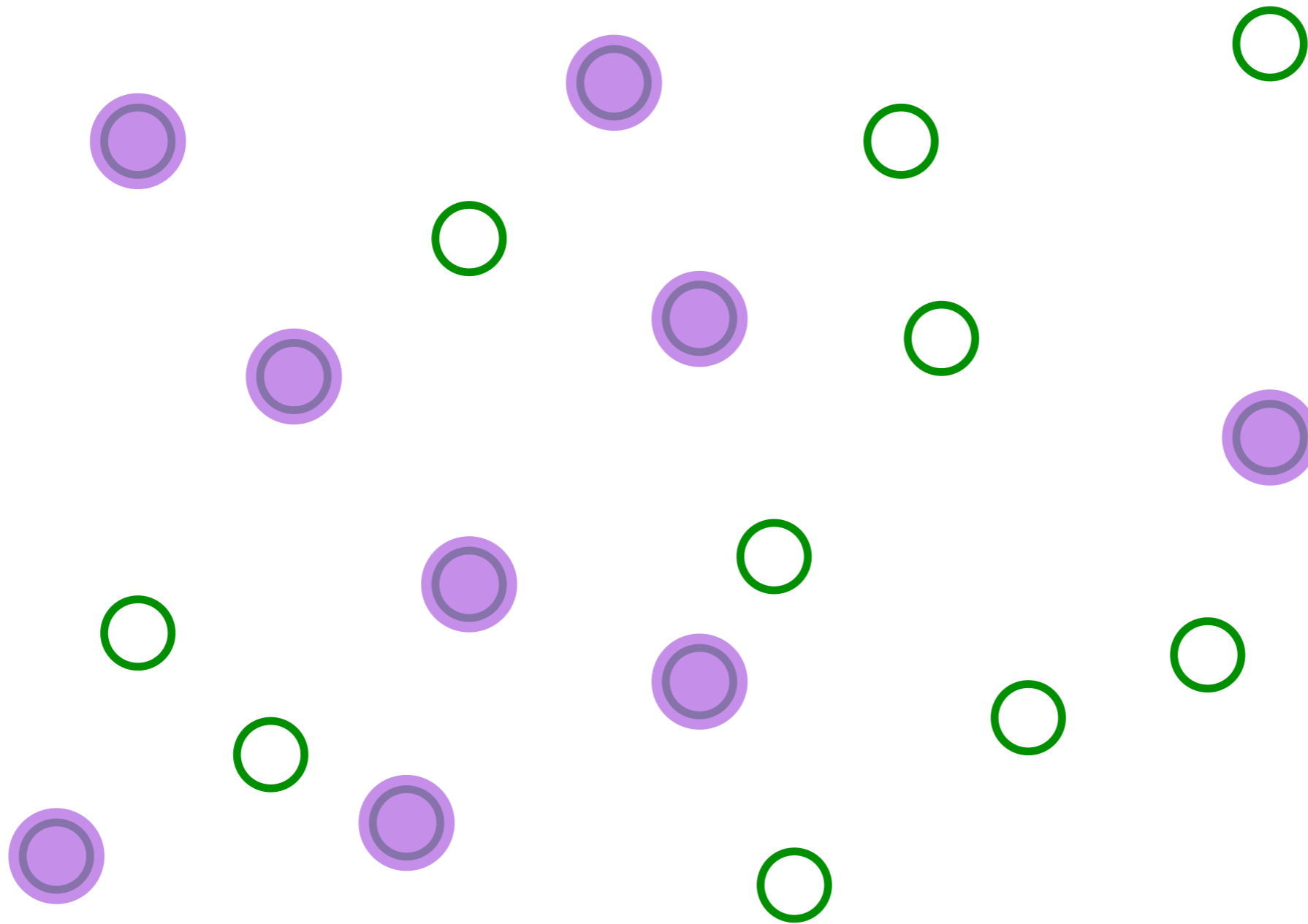
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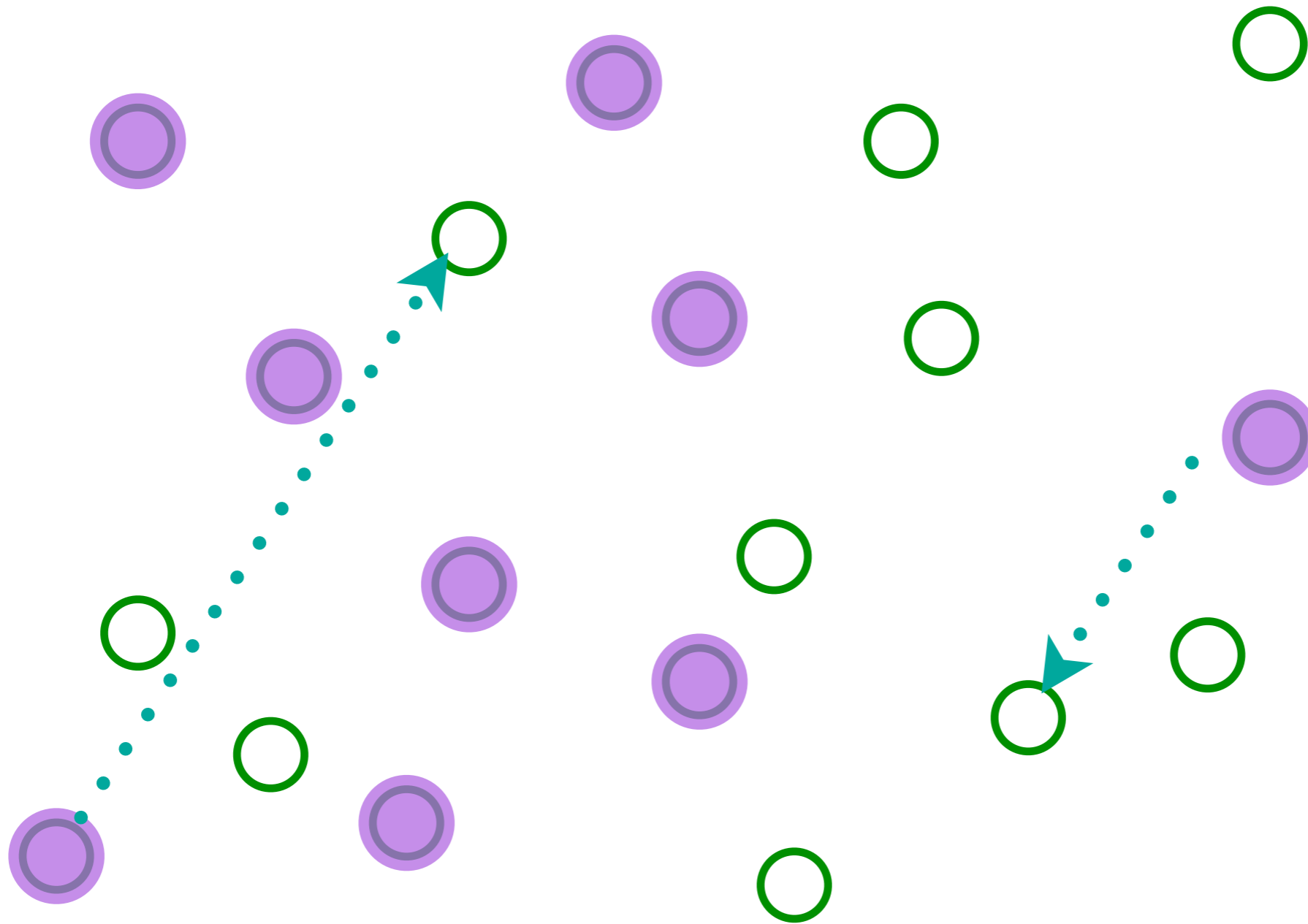
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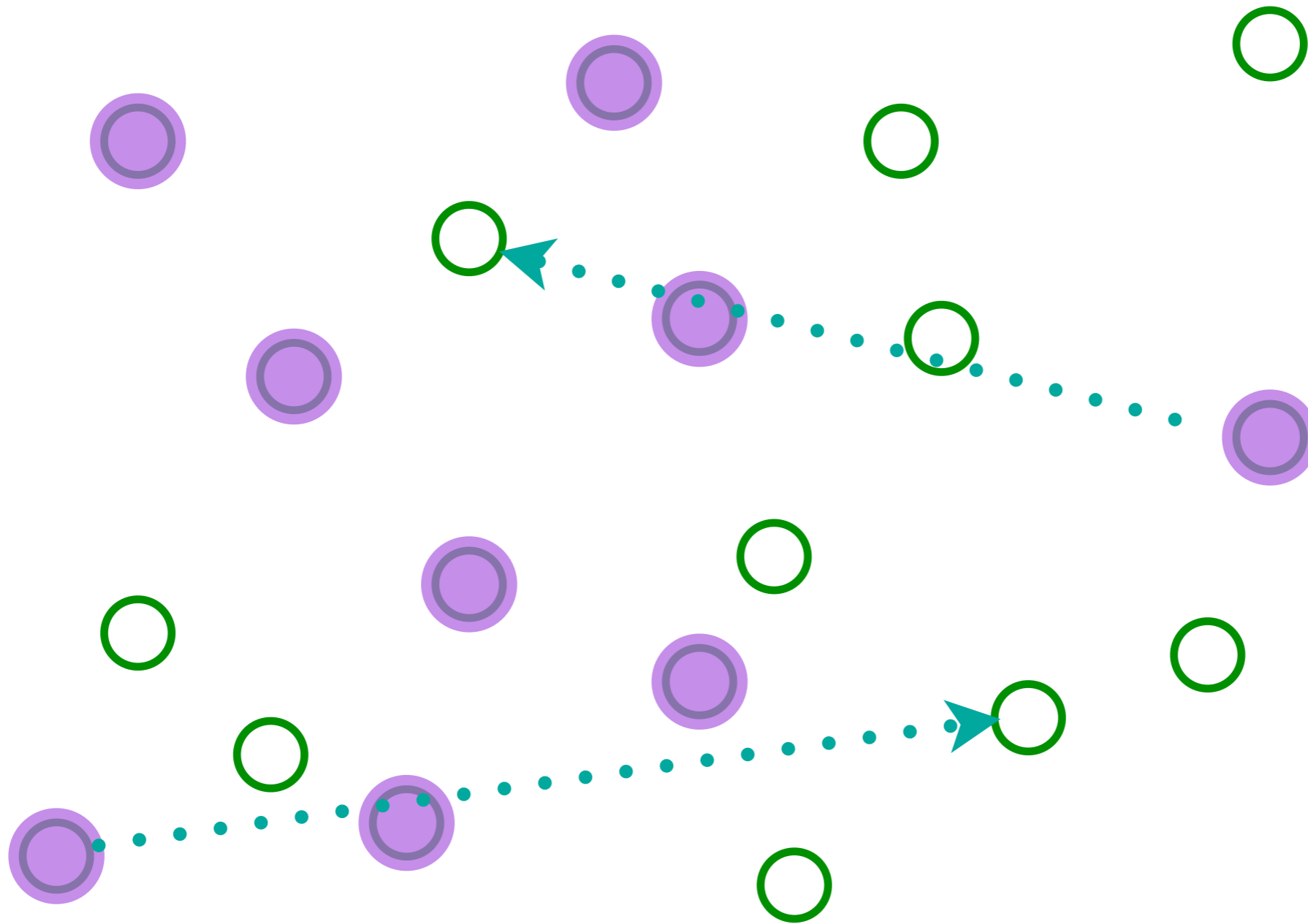
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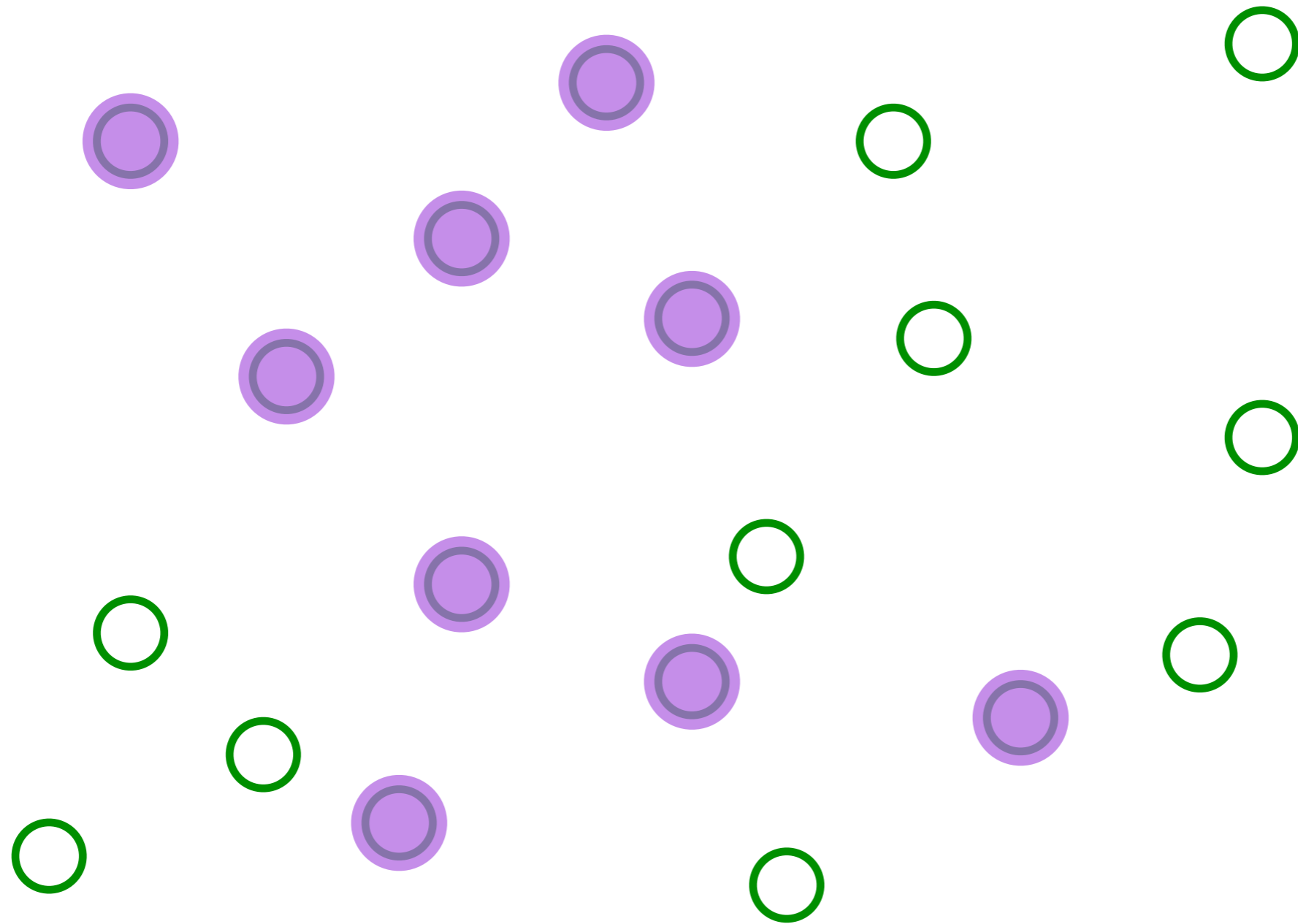
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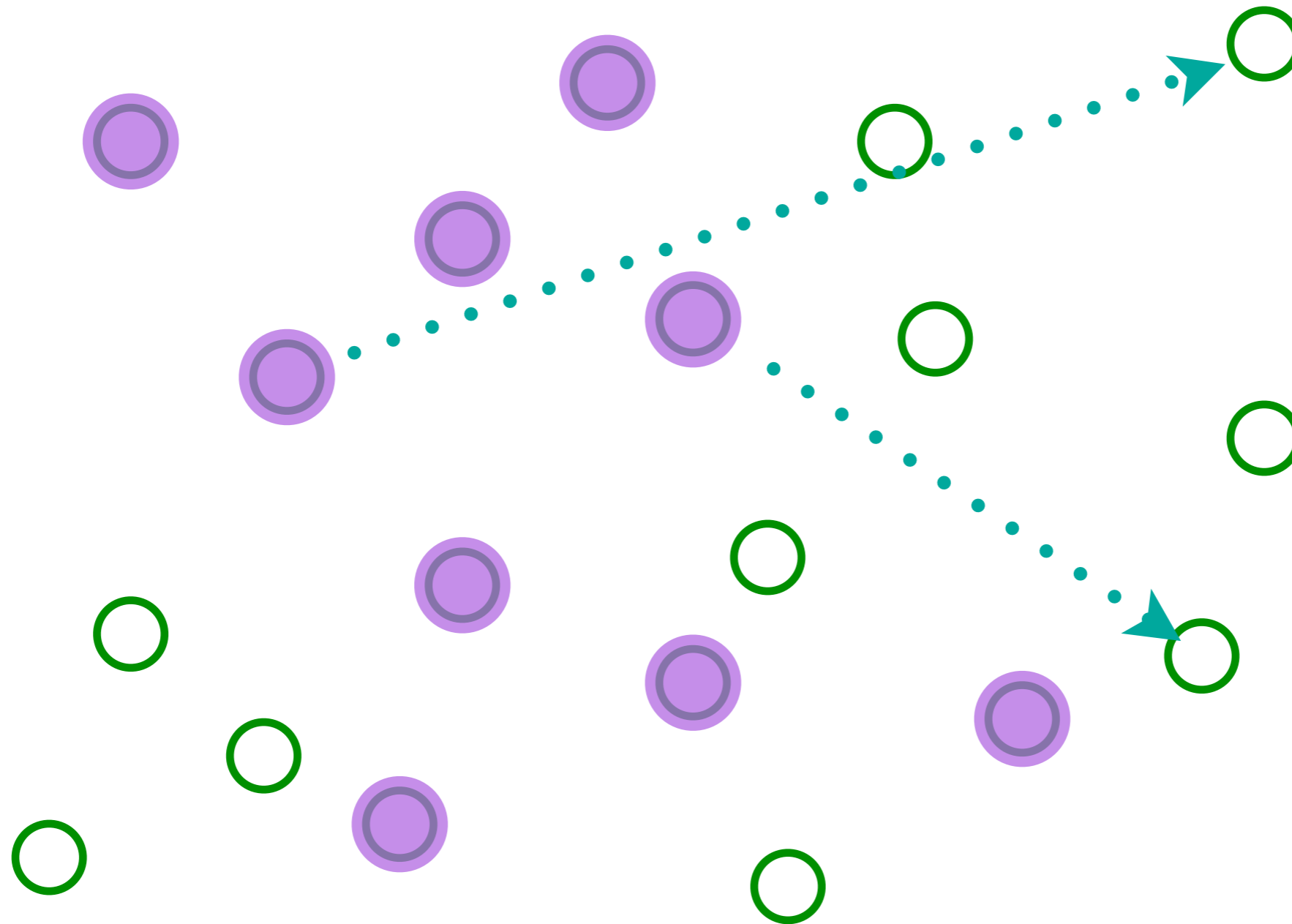
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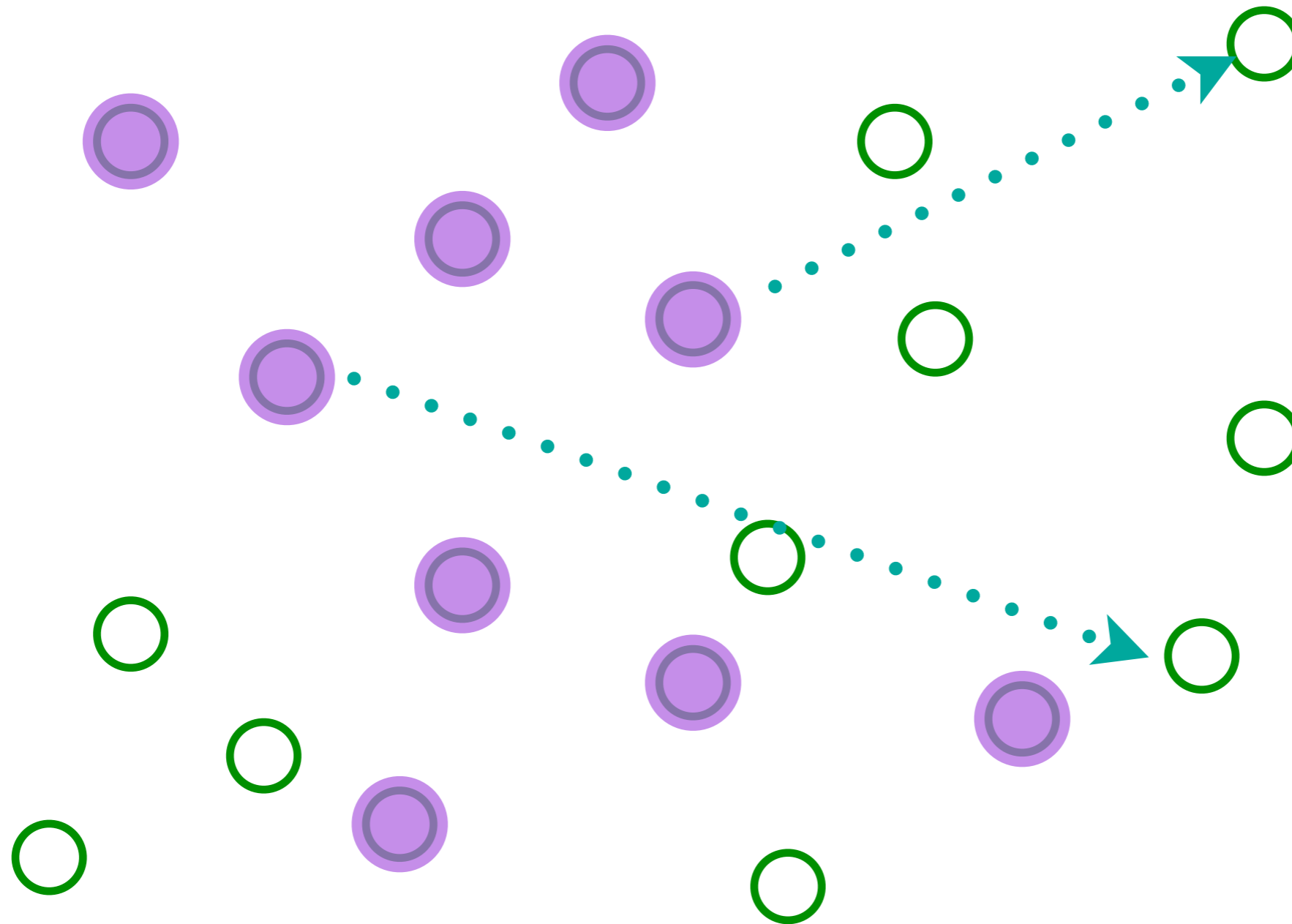
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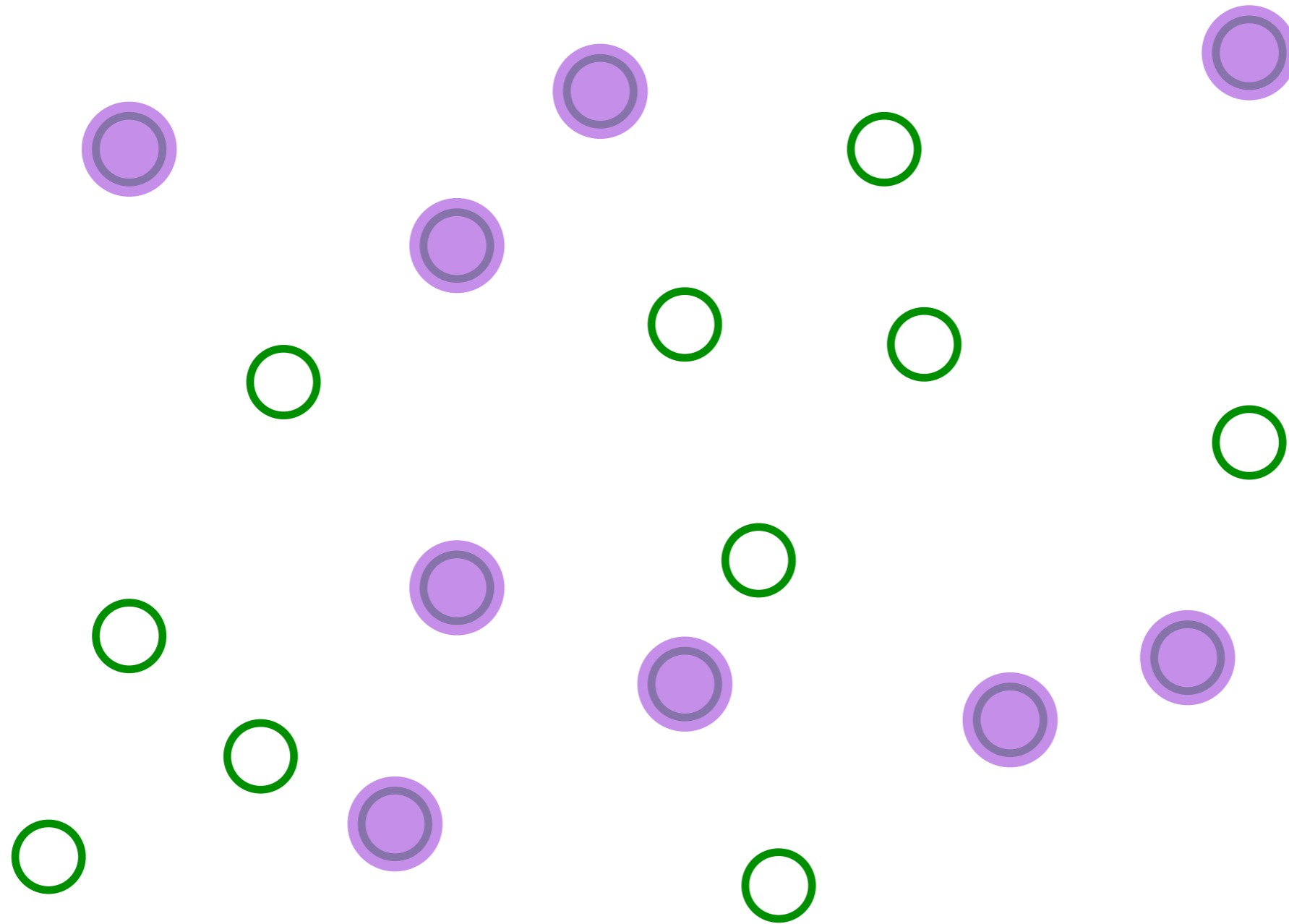
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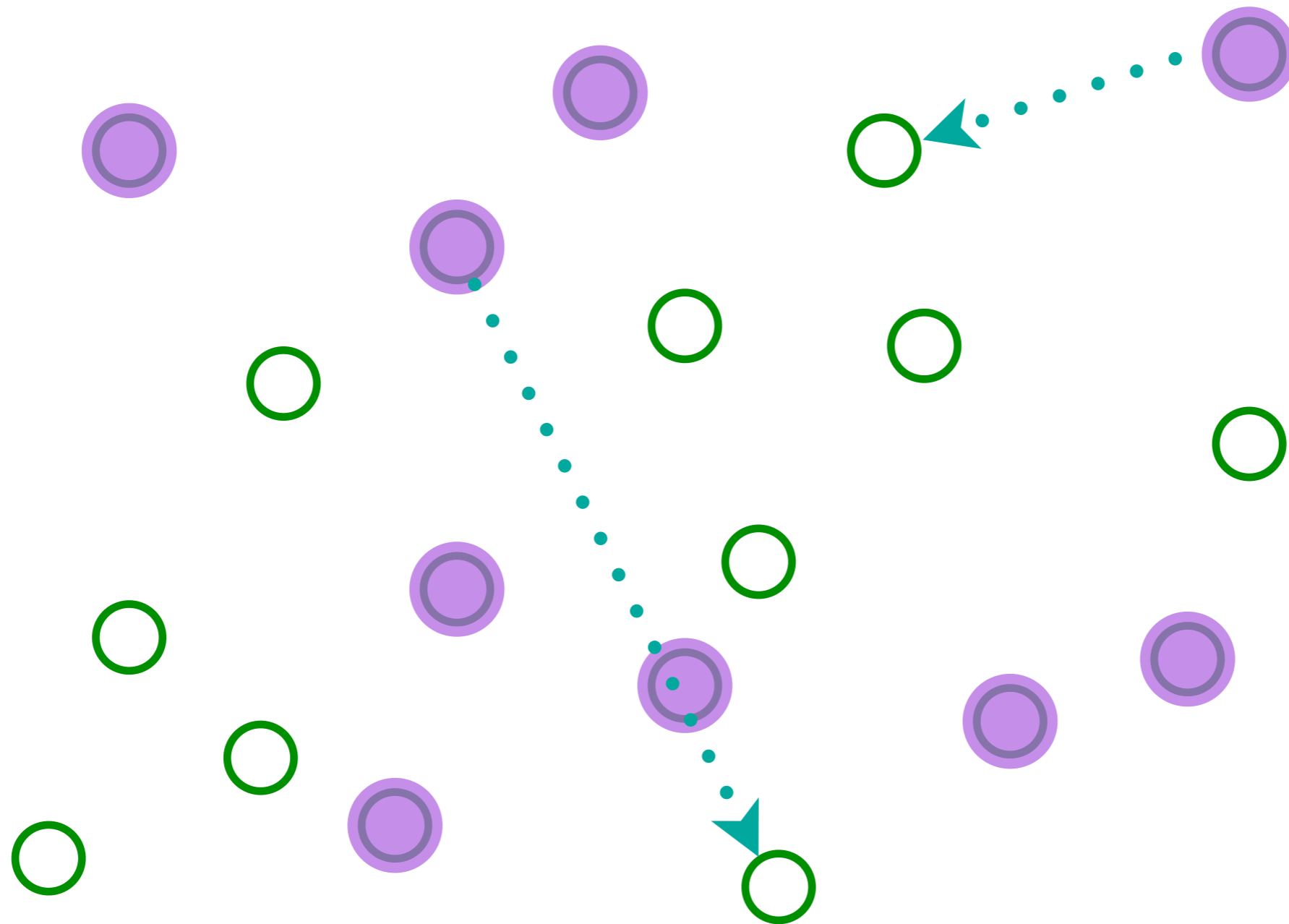
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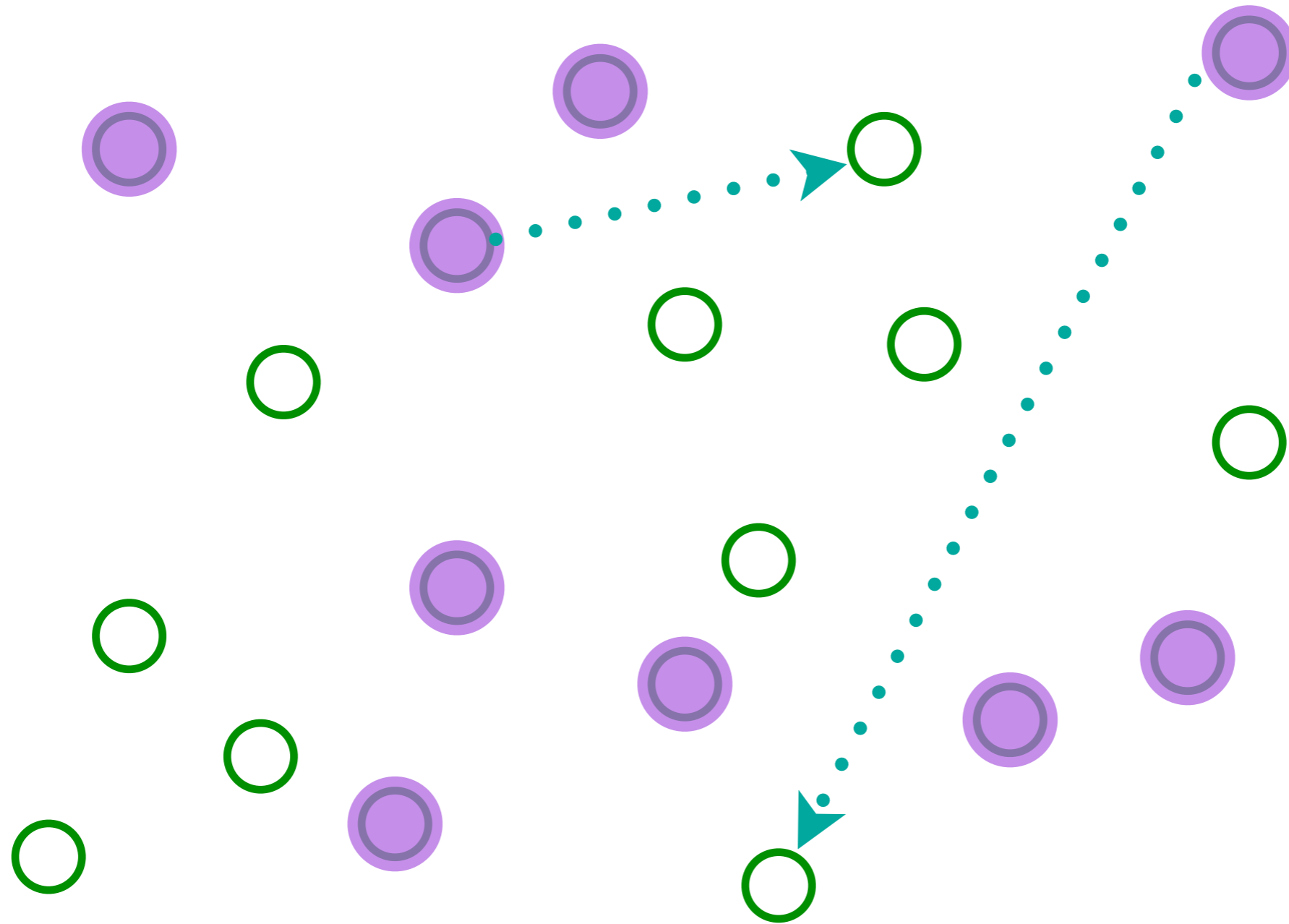
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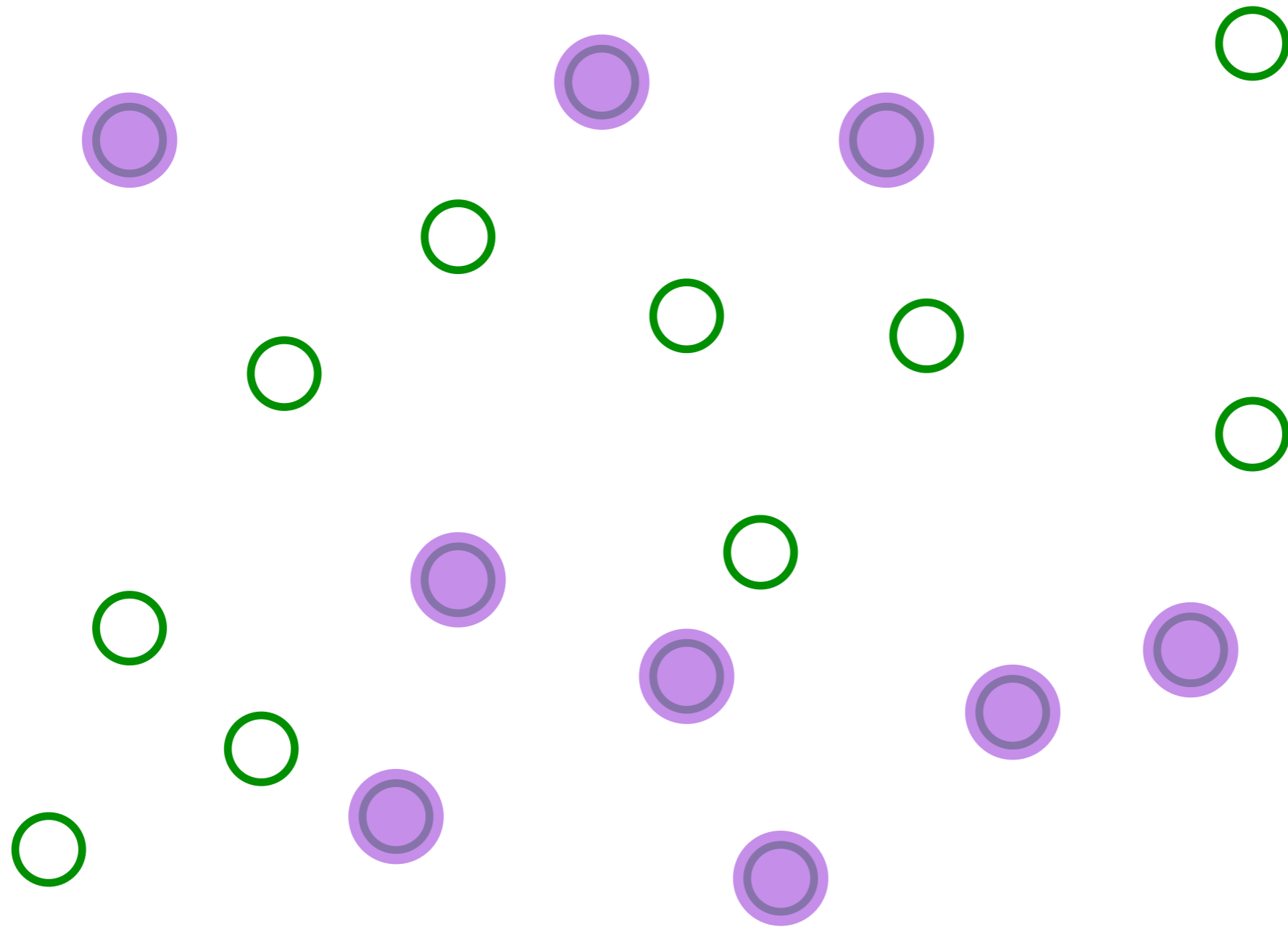
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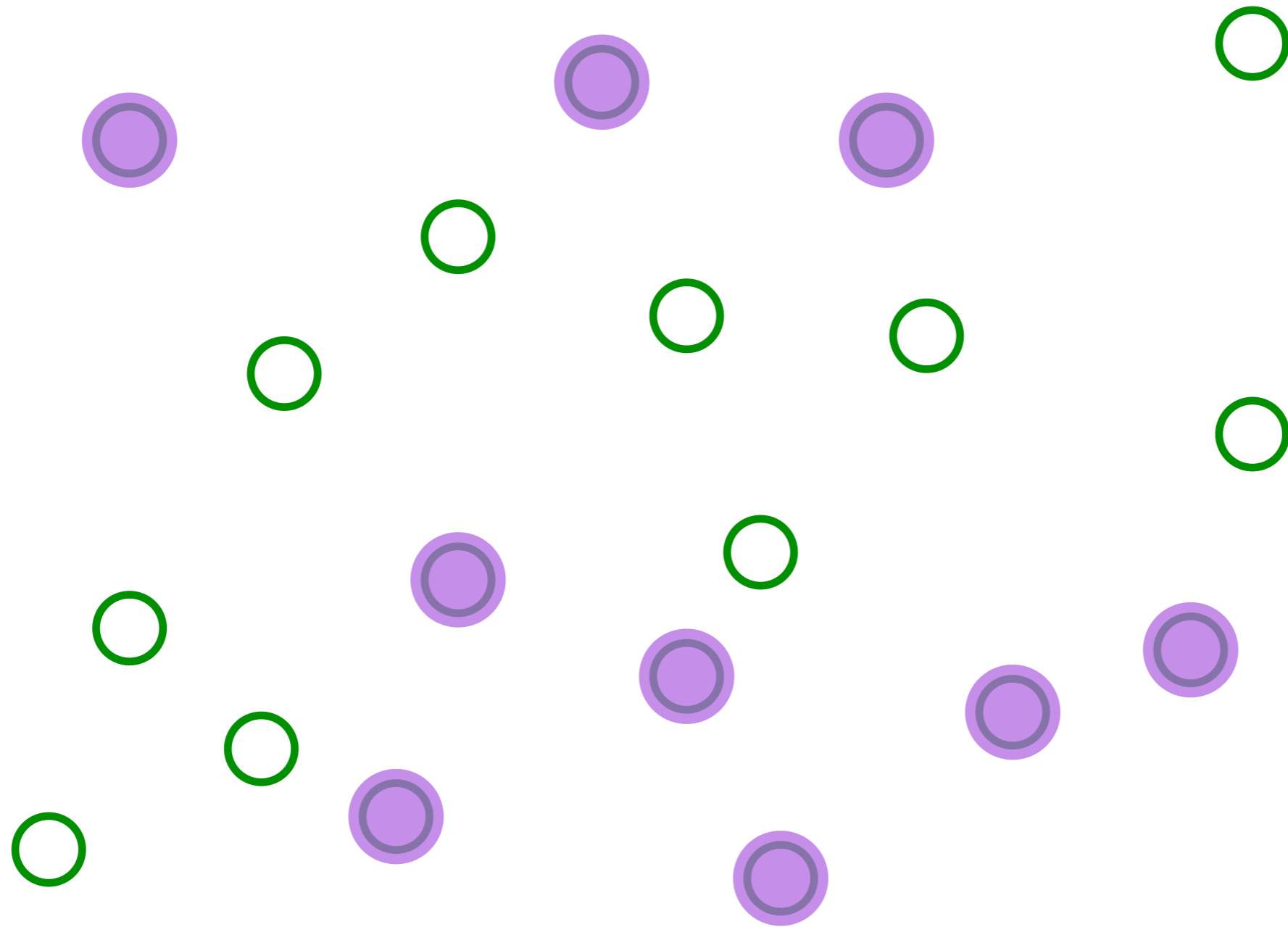
Entangle electrons pairwise randomly

# The SYK model



Entangle electrons pairwise randomly

# The SYK model



**This describes both a strange metal  
and a black hole!**

*The SYK model leads to an `extreme` entanglement of the electrons. Consequently, there are no quasiparticle excitations*

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- The equilibration time for the SYK model is of order the ‘Planckian time’  $\hbar/(k_B T)$

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

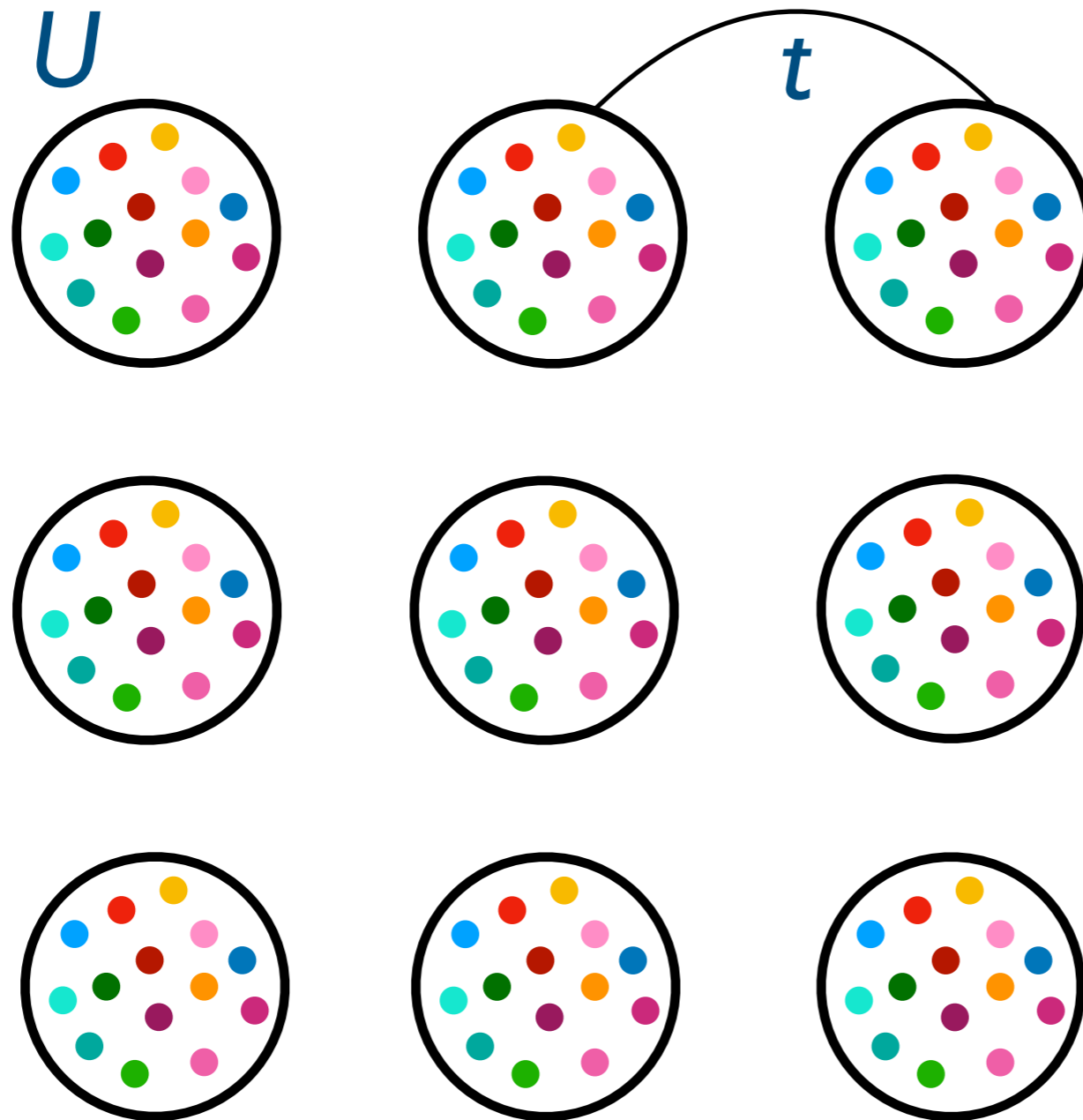
*The SYK model leads to an `extreme` entanglement of the electrons. Consequently, there are no quasiparticle excitations*

- Because of the all-to-all entanglement, the low energy quantum theory has a high degree of symmetry. It is expressed as an integral over all possible reparameterizations of time (*i.e.* rates of the running of a clock), modulo the symmetry group  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ :

$$\tau \rightarrow \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d} \quad , \quad ad - bc = 1$$

# Coupled SYK Islands

SYK quantum islands of electrons with single particle hopping between them.



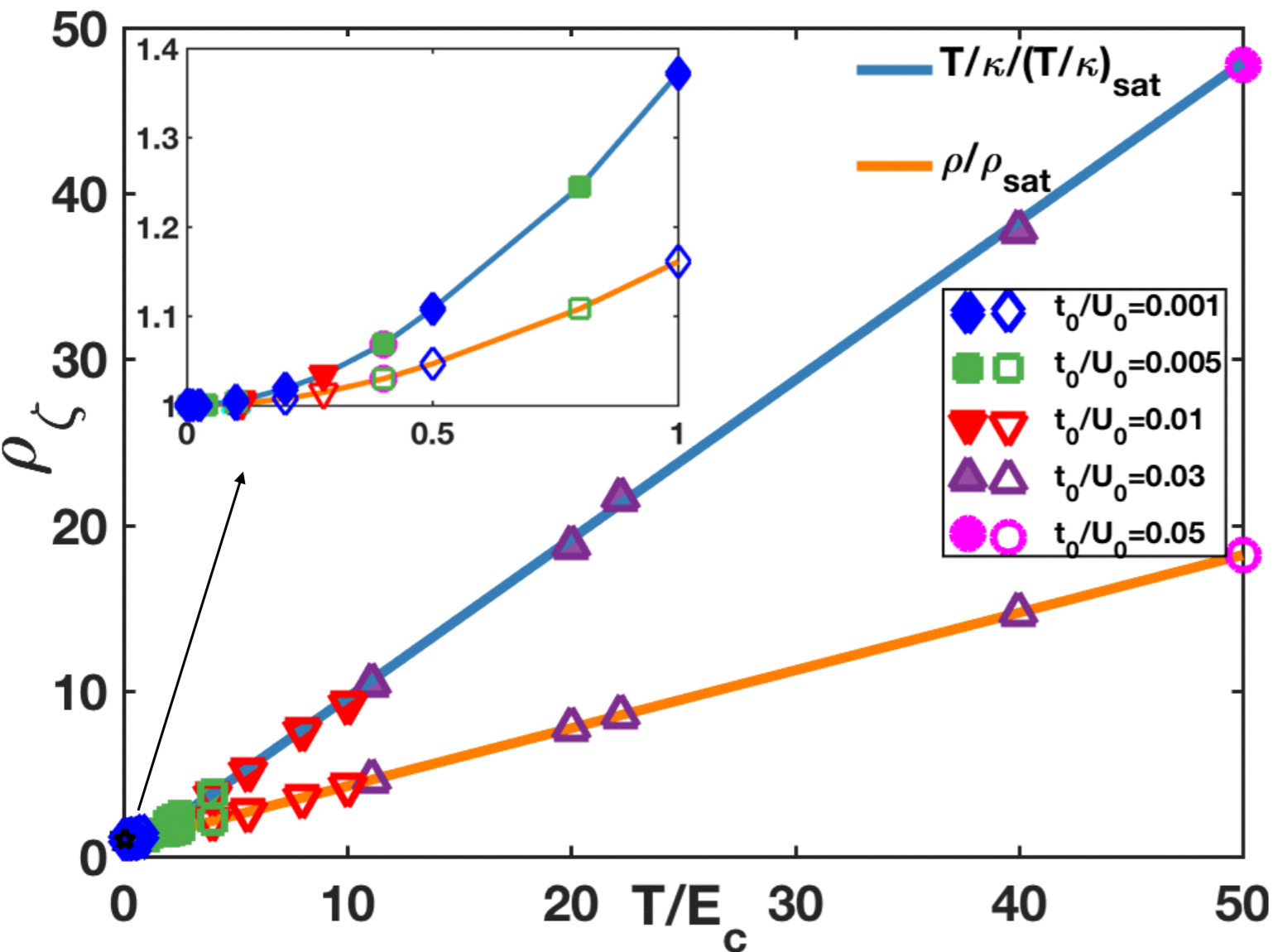
Pengfei Zhang, PRB **96**, 205138 (2017)

Debanjan Chowdhury, Yochai Werman, Erez Berg, T. Senthil, PRX **8**, 031024 (2018)

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

# Coupled SYK Islands

Low 'coherence' scale



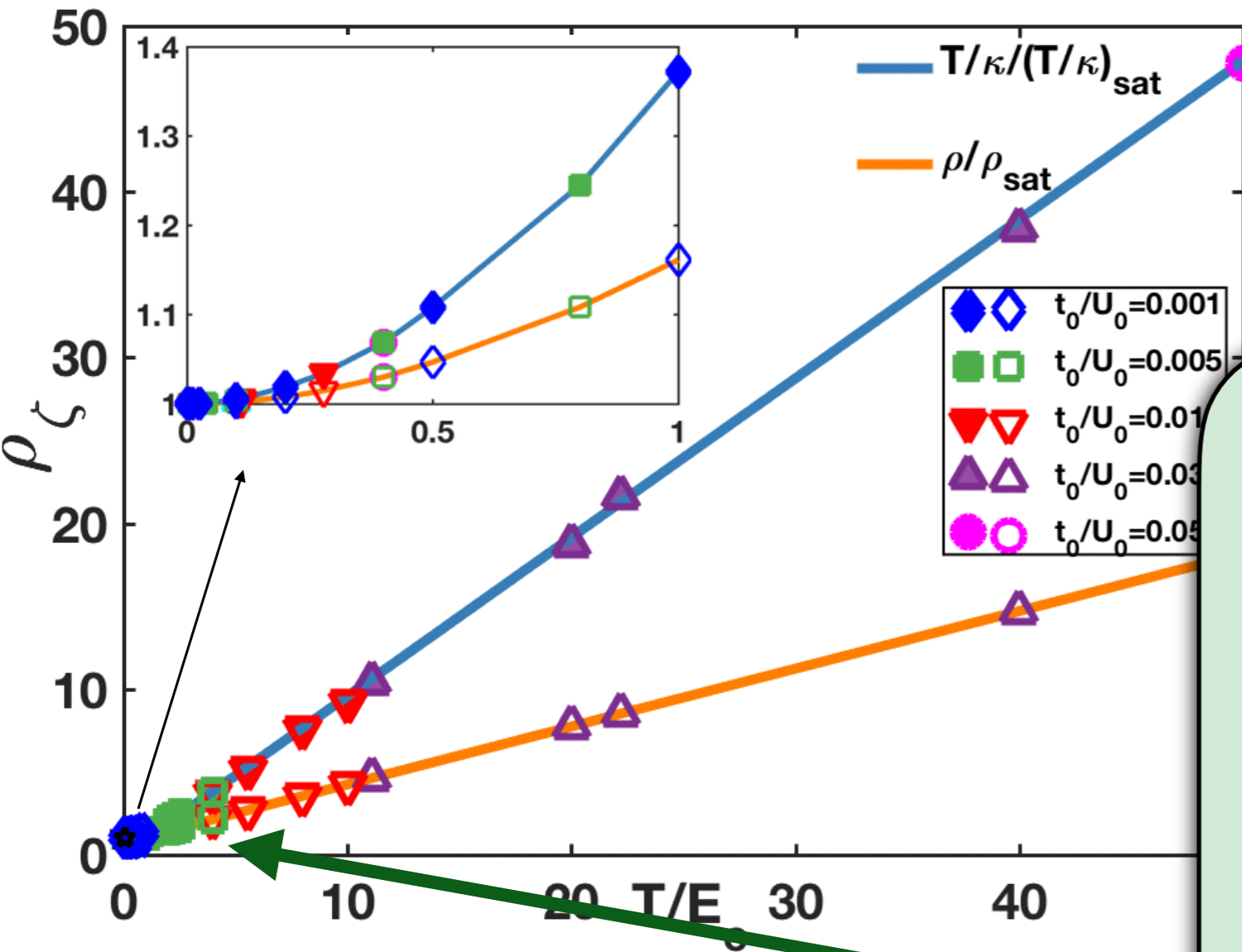
$$E_c \sim \frac{t_0^2}{U}$$

Xue-Yang Song, Chao-Ming Jian, and L. Balents, PRL **119**, 216601 (2017)

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# Coupled SYK Islands

Low 'coherence' scale



$$E_c \sim \frac{t_0^2}{U}$$

For  $T < E_c$ , the resistivity,  $\rho$ , and entropy density,  $s$ , are

$$\rho = \frac{h}{e^2} \left[ c_1 + c_2 \left( \frac{T}{E_c} \right)^2 \right]$$

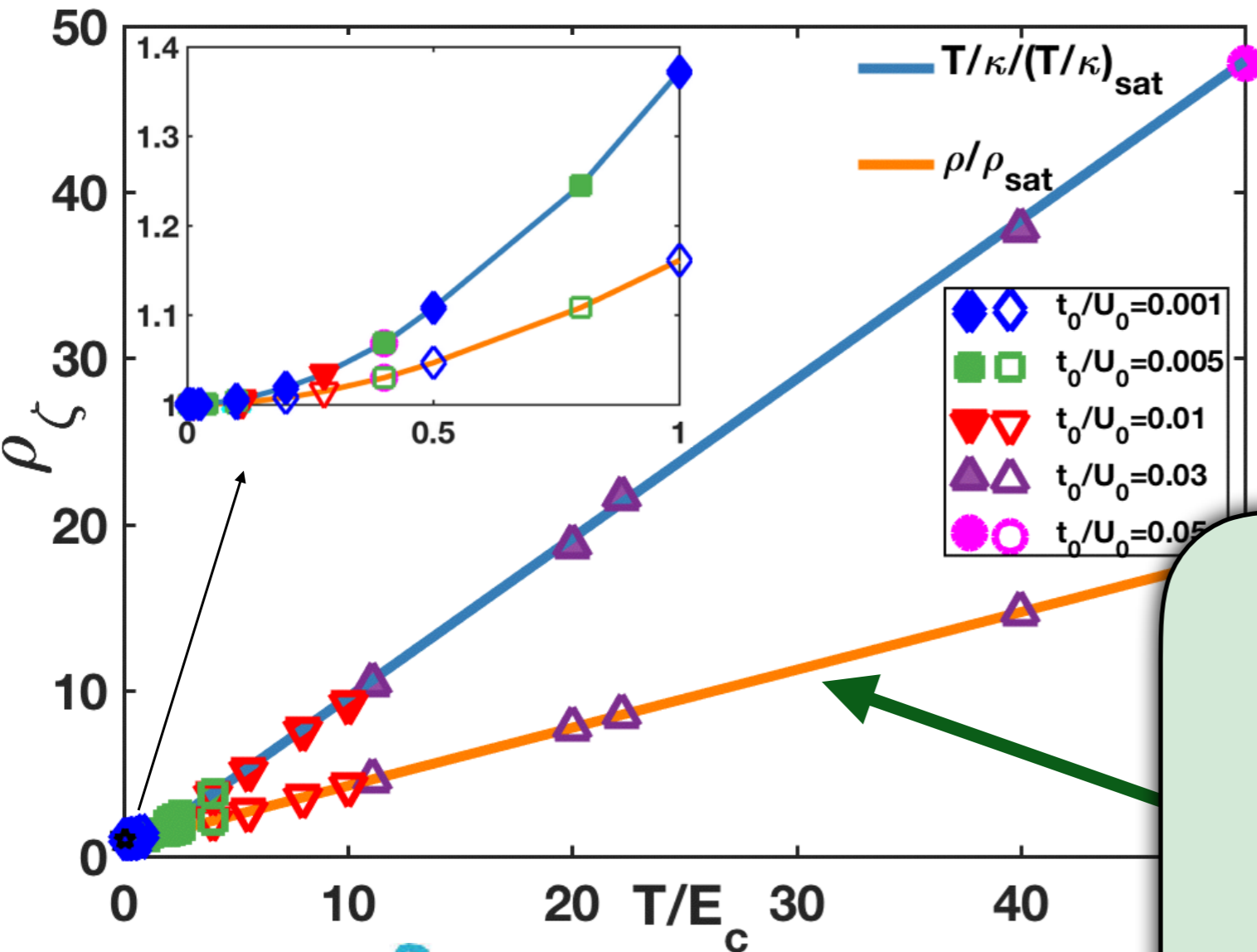
$$s \sim s_0 \left( \frac{T}{E_c} \right)$$

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# Coupled SYK Islands

Low 'coherence' scale



$$E_c \sim \frac{t_0^2}{U}$$

For  $E_c < T < U$ , the resistivity,  $\rho$ , and entropy density,  $s$ , are

$$\rho \sim \frac{h}{e^2} \left( \frac{T}{E_c} \right), \quad s = s_0$$



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**Quantum  
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**Strange  
metals**

**Quantum  
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**Black  
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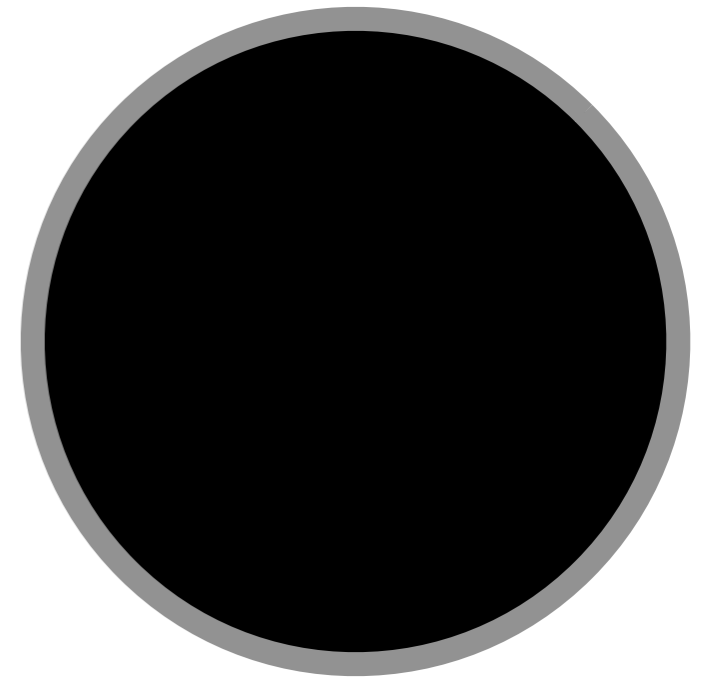
**Strange  
metals**

# Black Holes

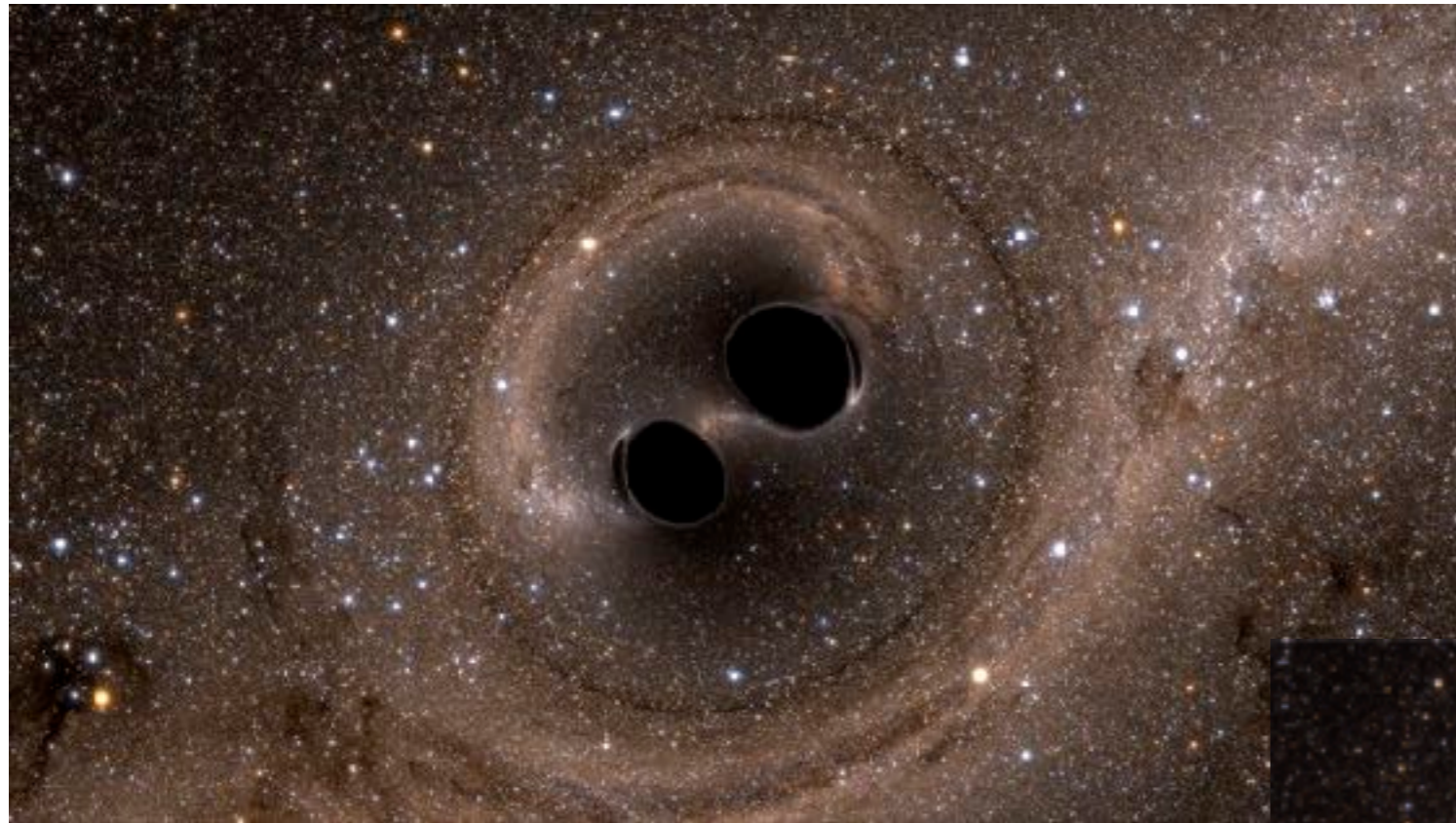
Objects so dense that light is gravitationally bound to them.

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

Horizon radius  $R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$

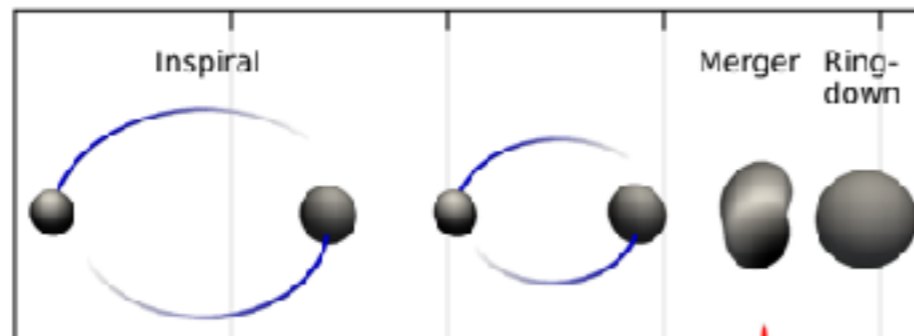
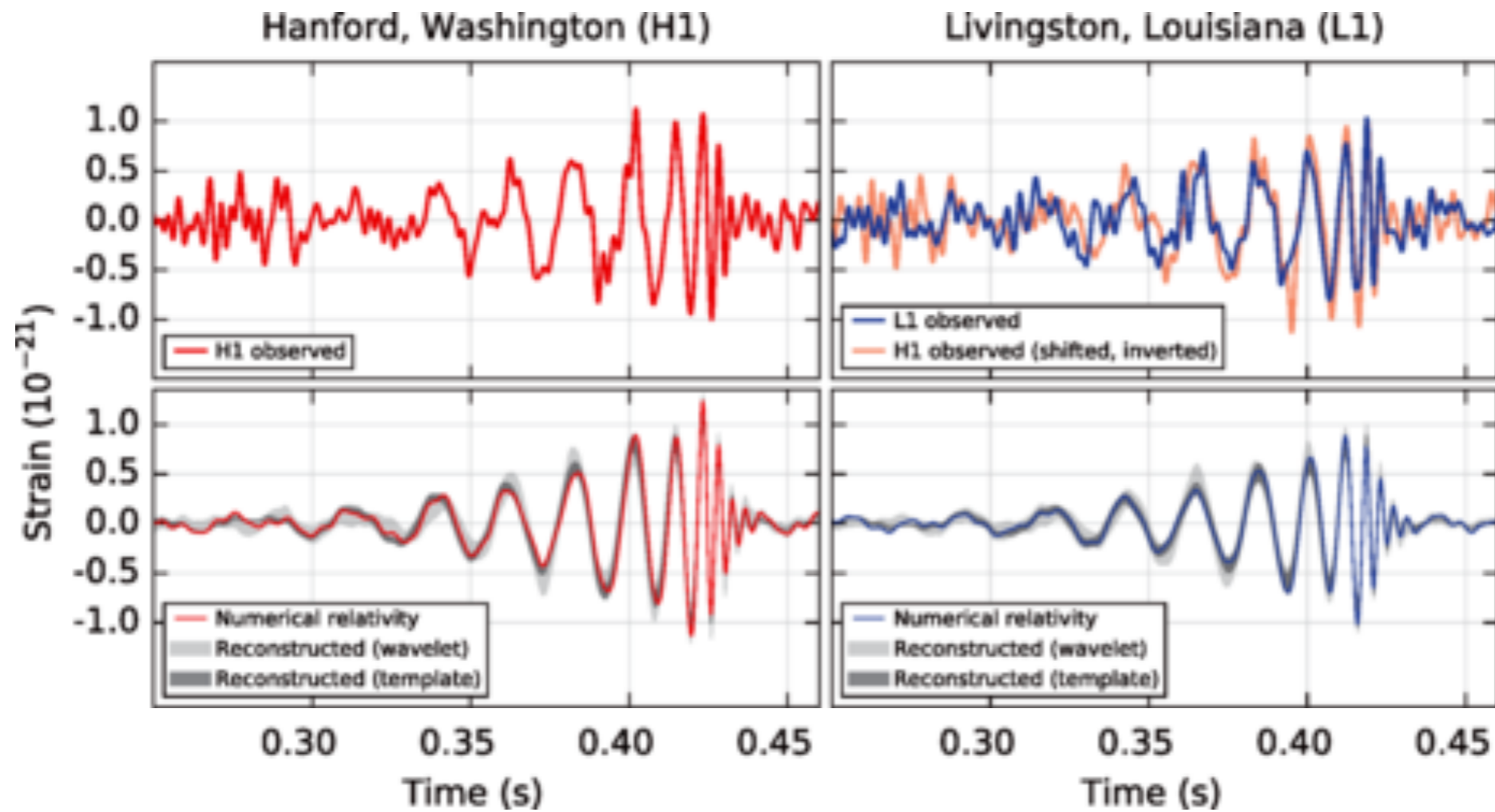


On September 14, 2015, LIGO detected the merger of two black holes, each weighing about 30 solar masses, with radii of about 100 km, 1.3 billion light years away



0.1 seconds later !





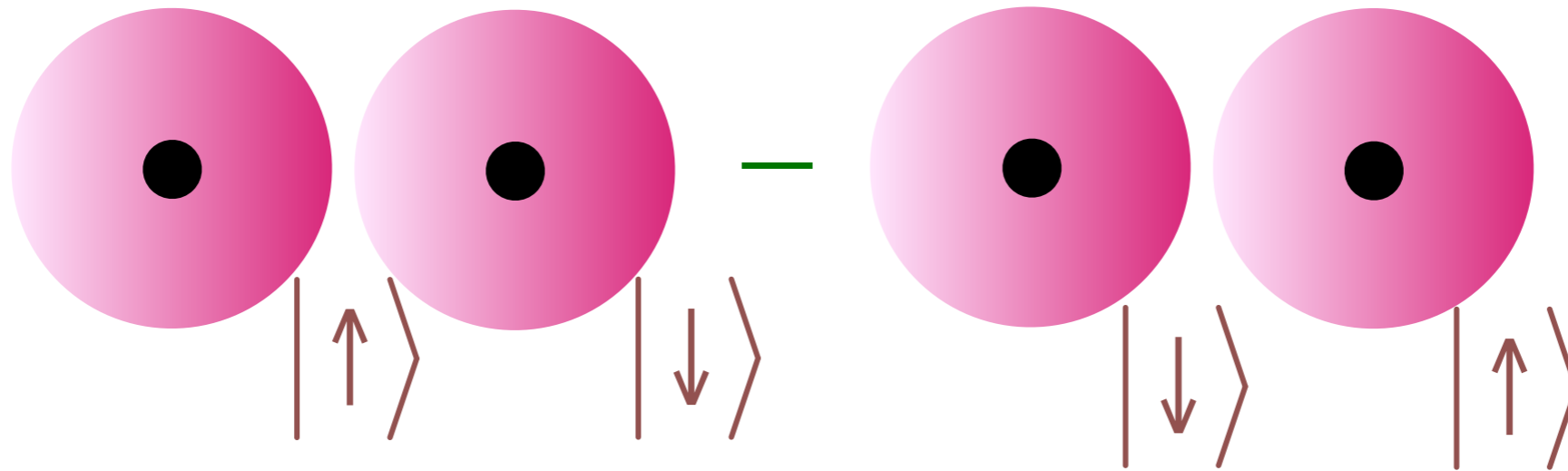
**LIGO**  
**September 14, 2015**

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

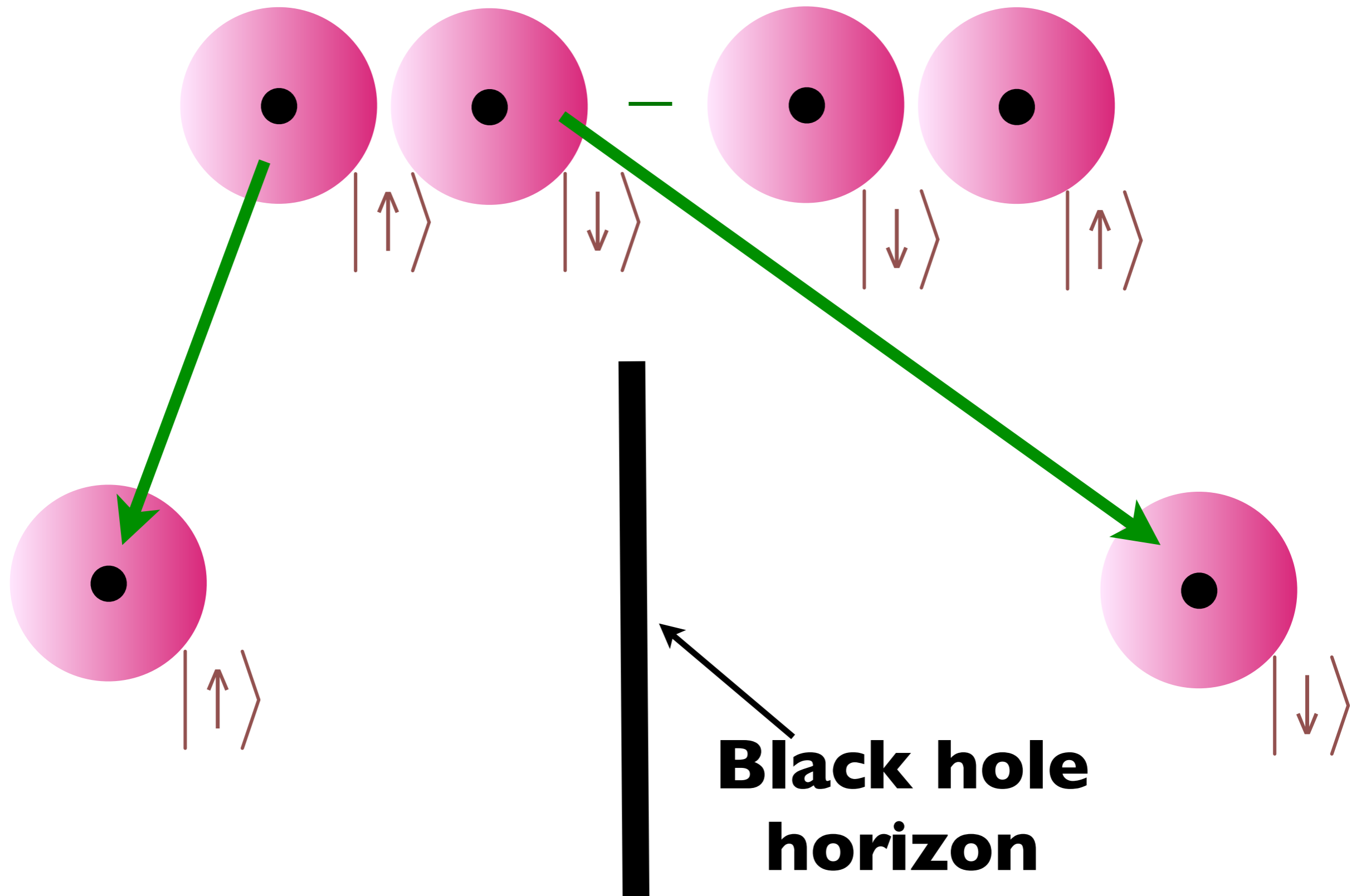
# Black Holes + Quantum theory

Around 1974, Bekenstein and Hawking showed that the application of the quantum theory across a black hole horizon led to many astonishing conclusions

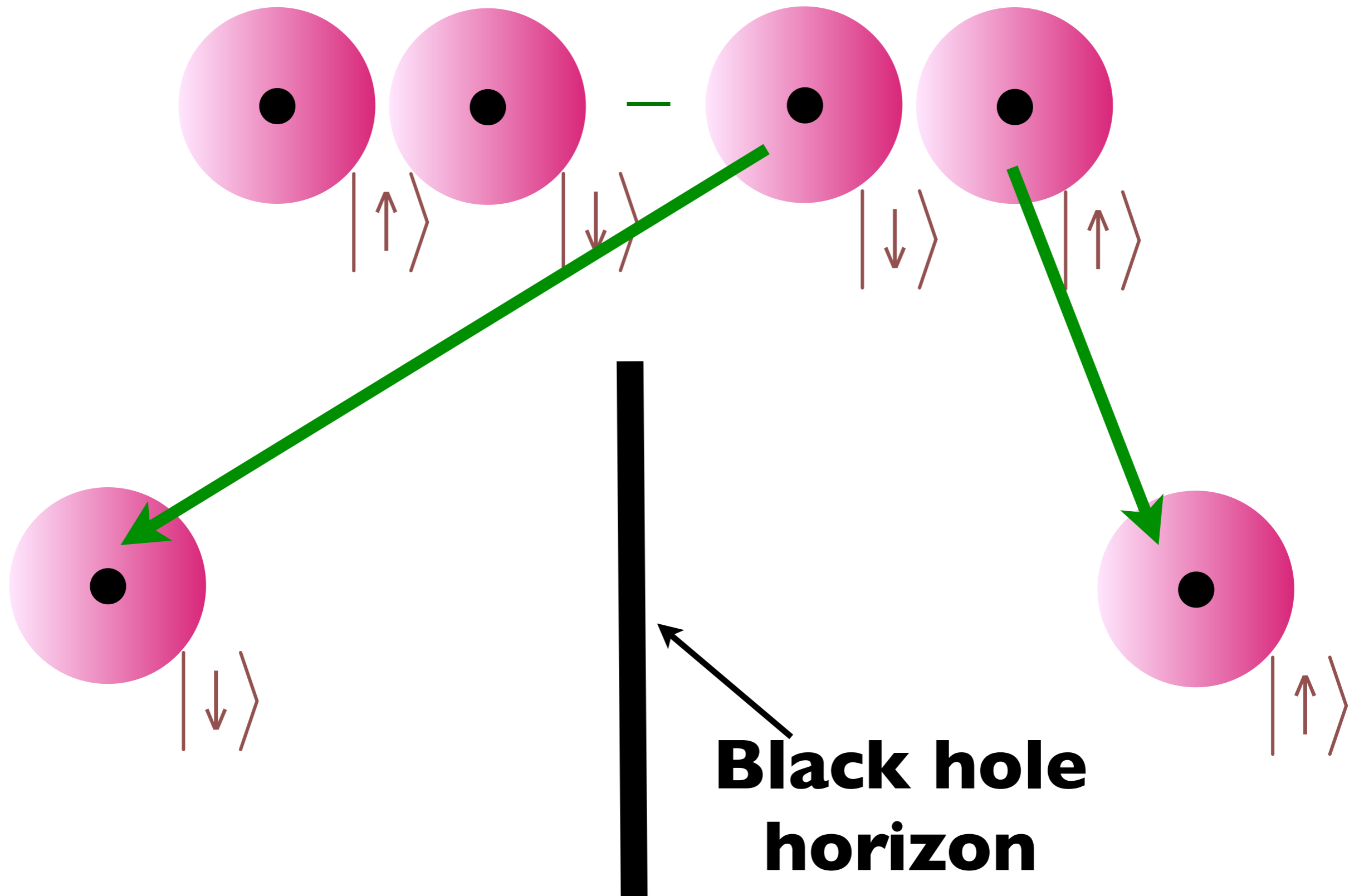
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

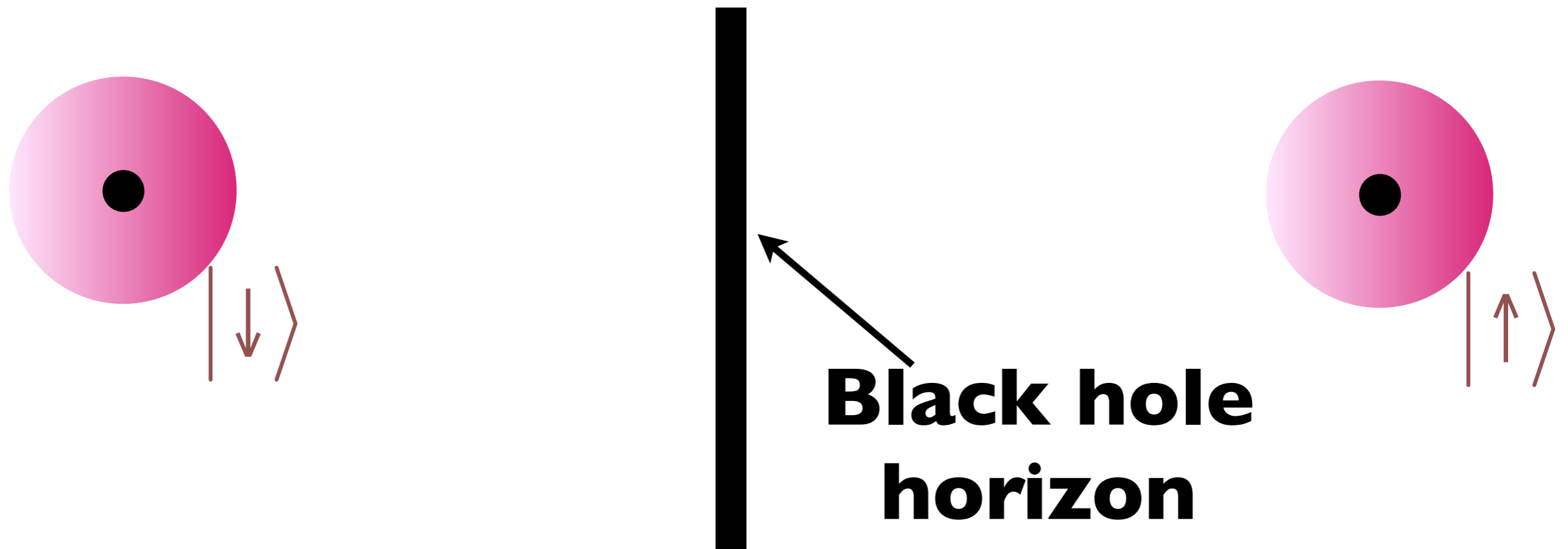


# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



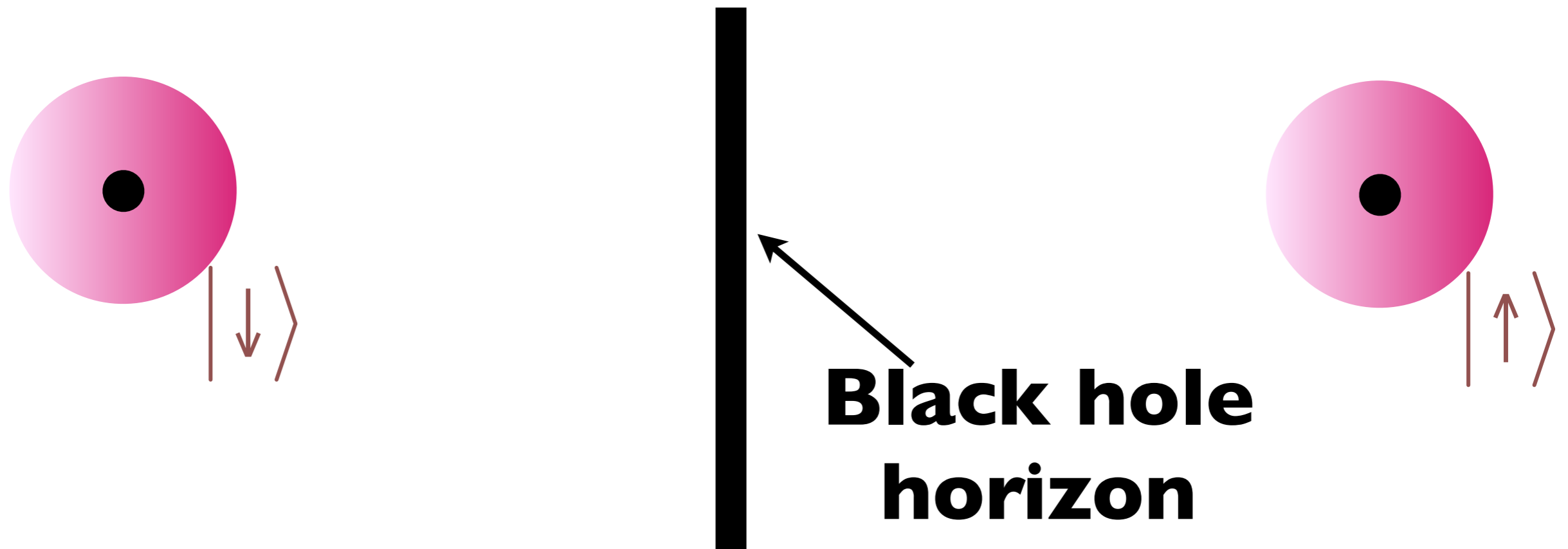
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

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



# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

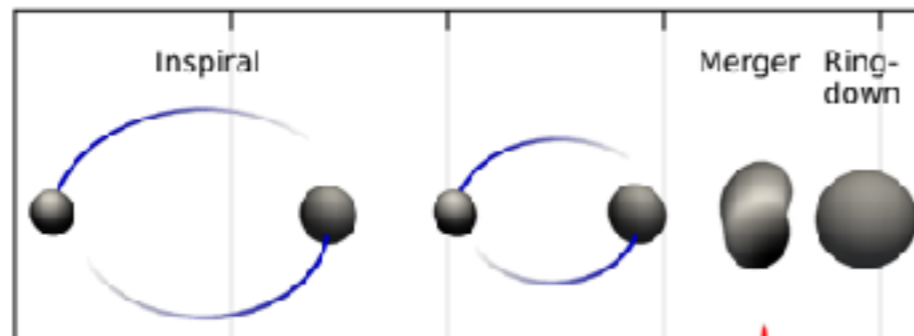
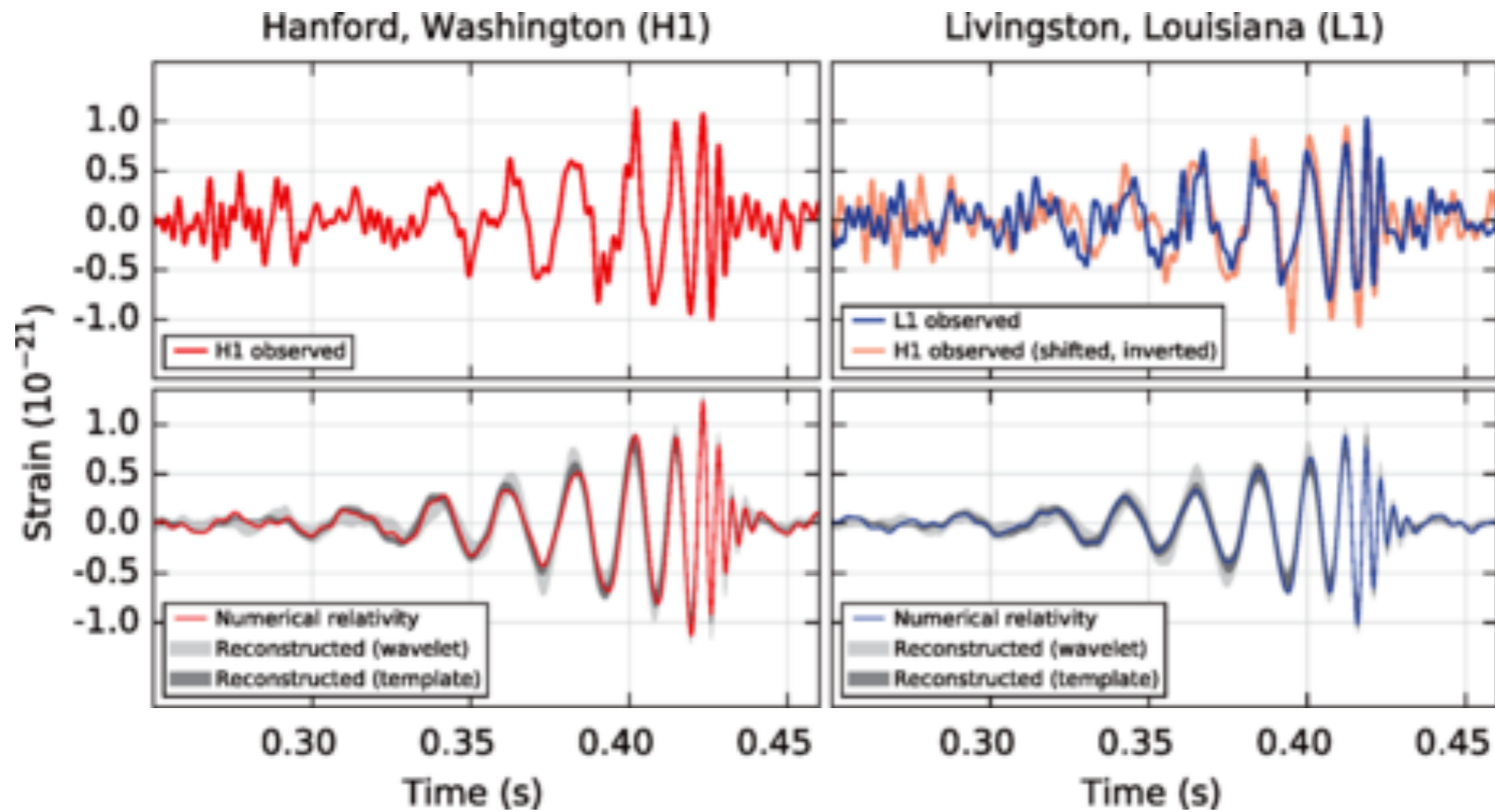
Hawking used this to show that black hole horizons have an entropy and a temperature (because to an outside observer, the state of the electron inside the black hole is an unknown)



# Black holes

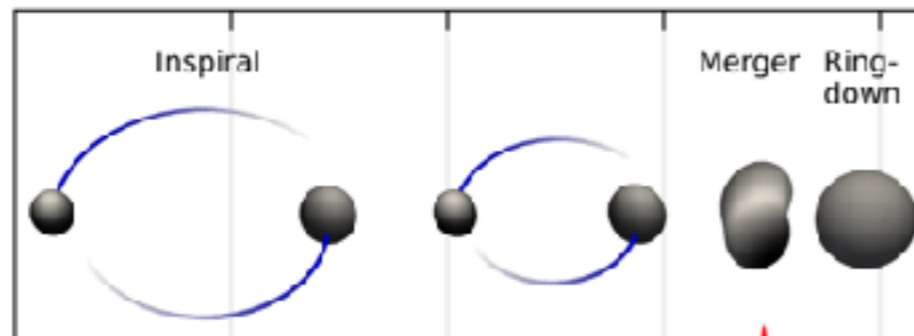
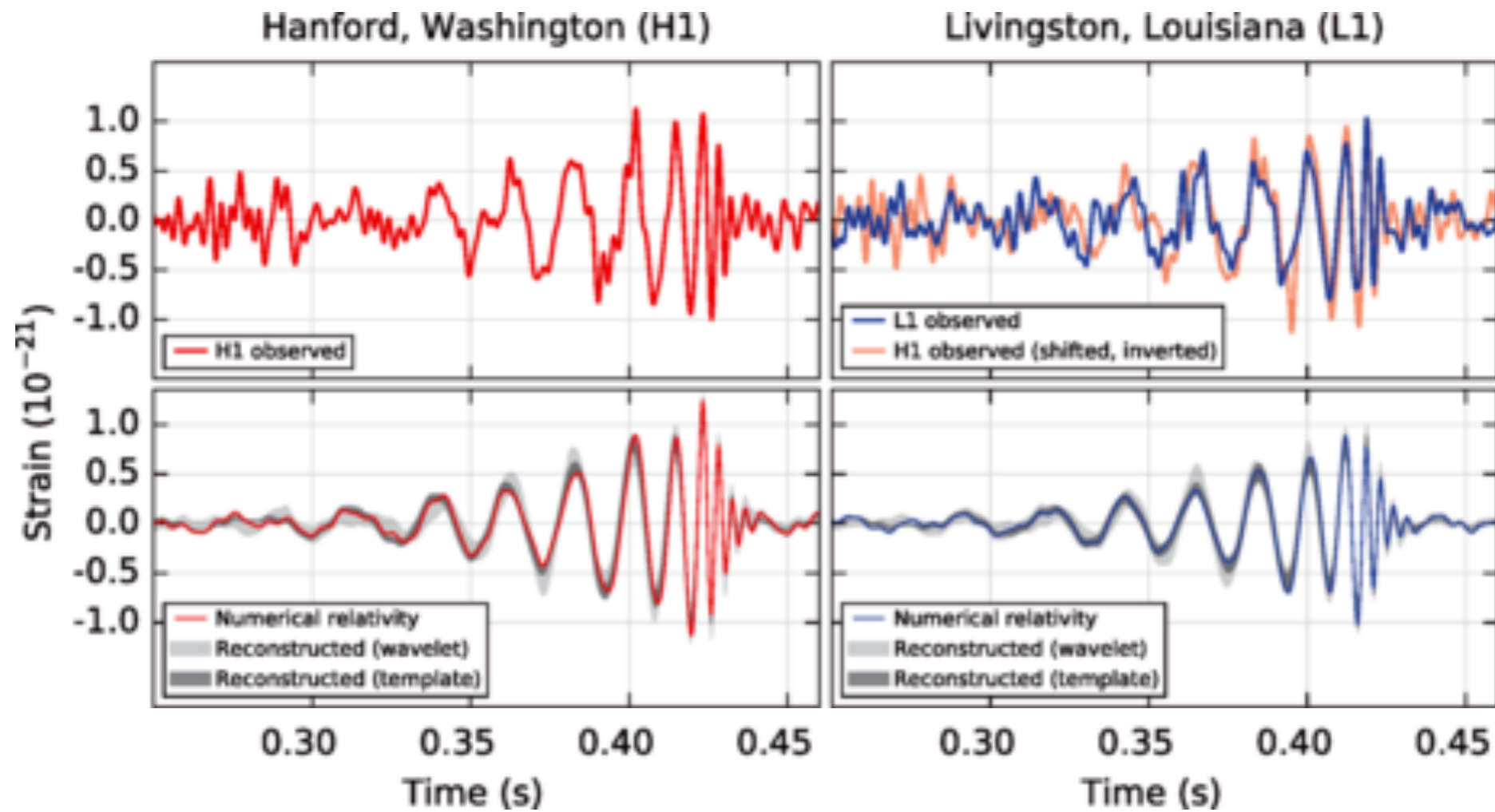
- Black holes have an entropy and a temperature,  $T_H = \hbar c^3 / (8\pi G M k_B)$ .
- The entropy is proportional to their surface area.





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

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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

**Quantum  
entanglement**

**Black  
holes**

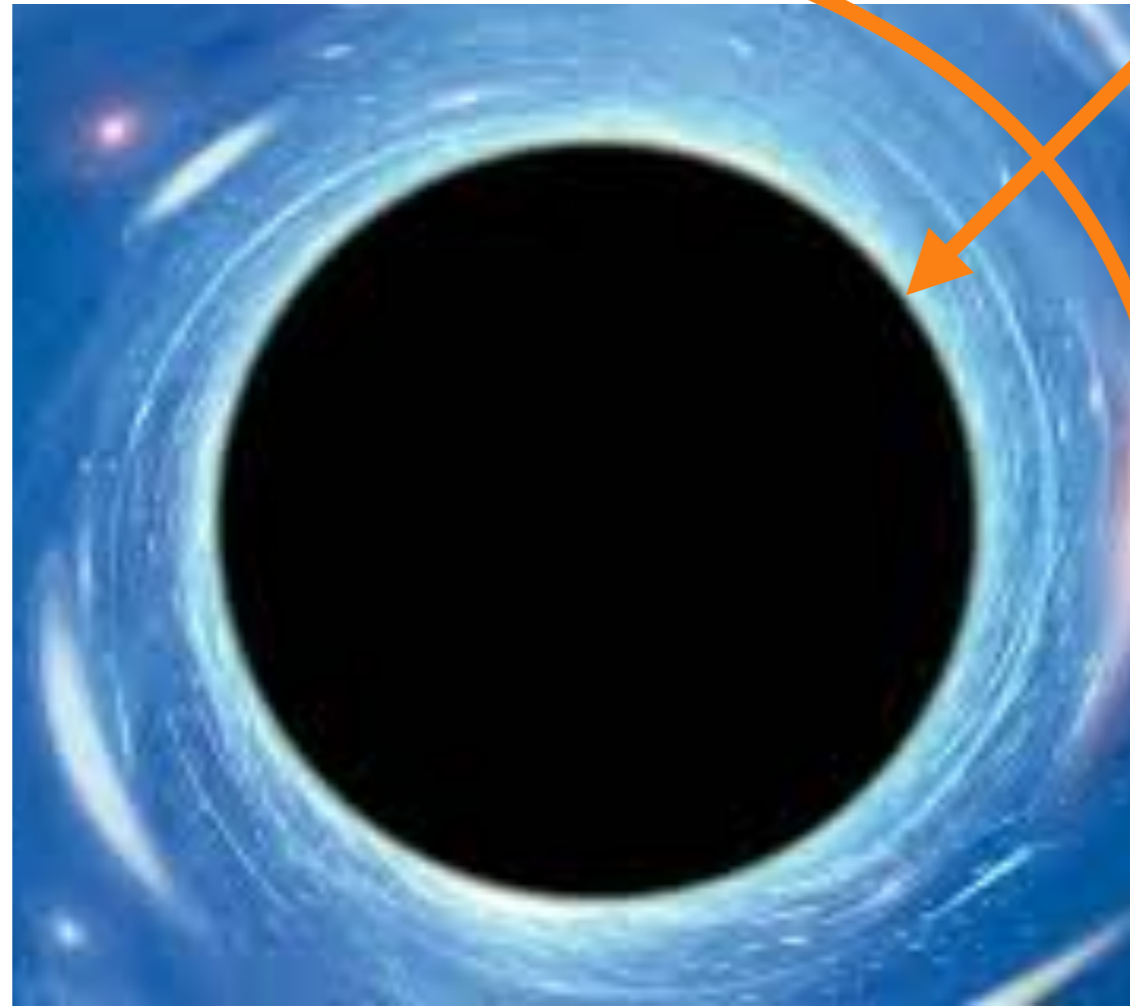
**Strange  
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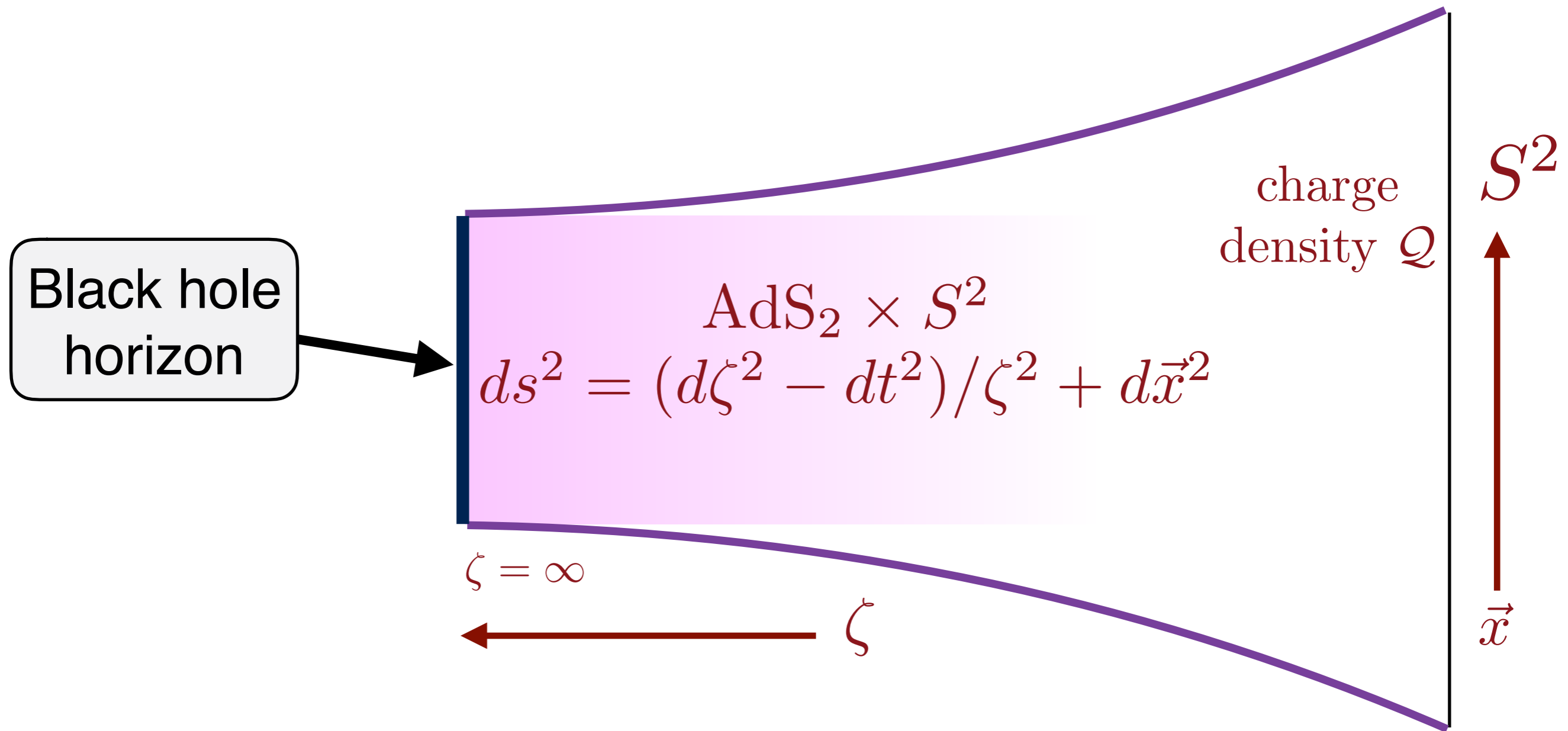
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**The SYK model also describes  
extremal charged black holes !**



Consider a charged black hole with the smallest possible mass: the extremal limit. Zoom in to the near-horizon region at low energies. In this limit, the quantum theory lives in one space ( $\zeta$ ) and one time dimension



The near-horizon region of an extremal 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

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$ds^2 = (d\tau^2 + d\zeta^2)/\zeta^2$  is invariant under

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# SYK models and black holes

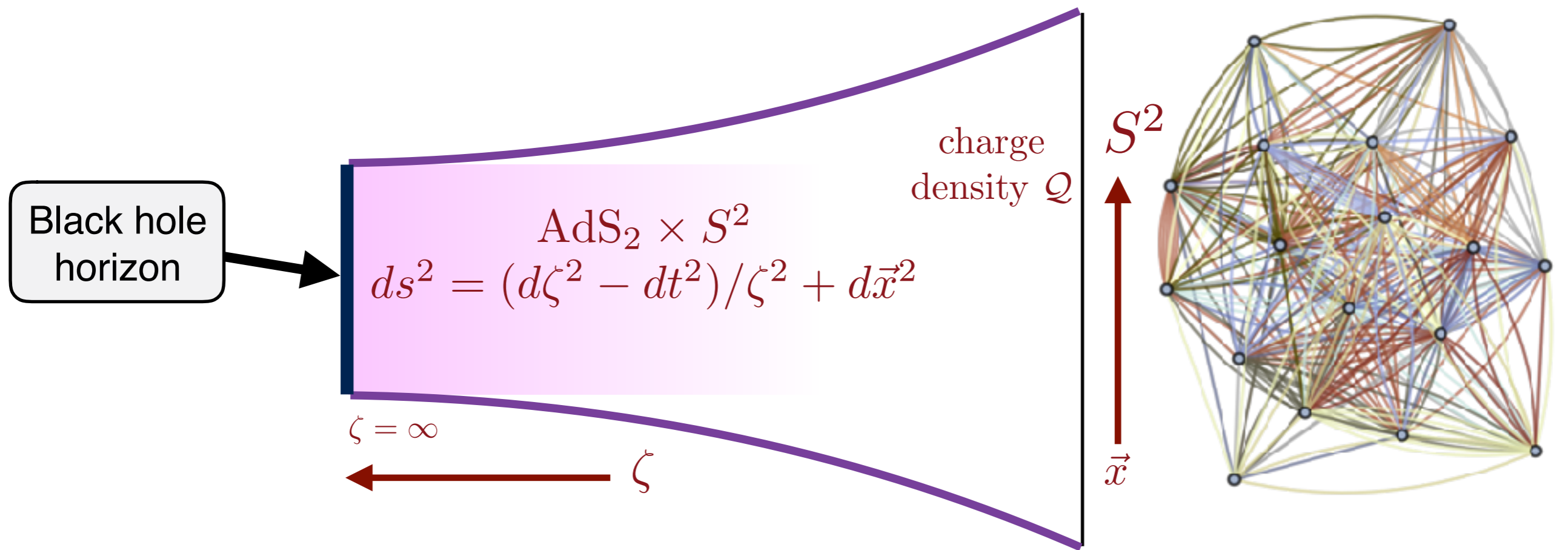
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**The SYK model describes a strange metal and extremal charged black holes**

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- These are also characteristics of black holes in quantum gravity.