

# A simple model of many-particle entanglement: how it describes black holes and superconductors

Mysteries of the Universe  
Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee  
March 13, 2021

Subir Sachdev

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



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in modern physics between  
(A) the quantum theory of many interacting  
particles (e.g. electrons in a crystal)  
and  
(B) the quantum theory of black holes.

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Among the many remarkable features:  
gravitational forces are completely negligible in  
(A), while gravitational forces are extremely  
strong in (B).

This connection is helping us make progress in one of the central open problems in physics: the unification of the quantum theory with Einstein's theory of general relativity.

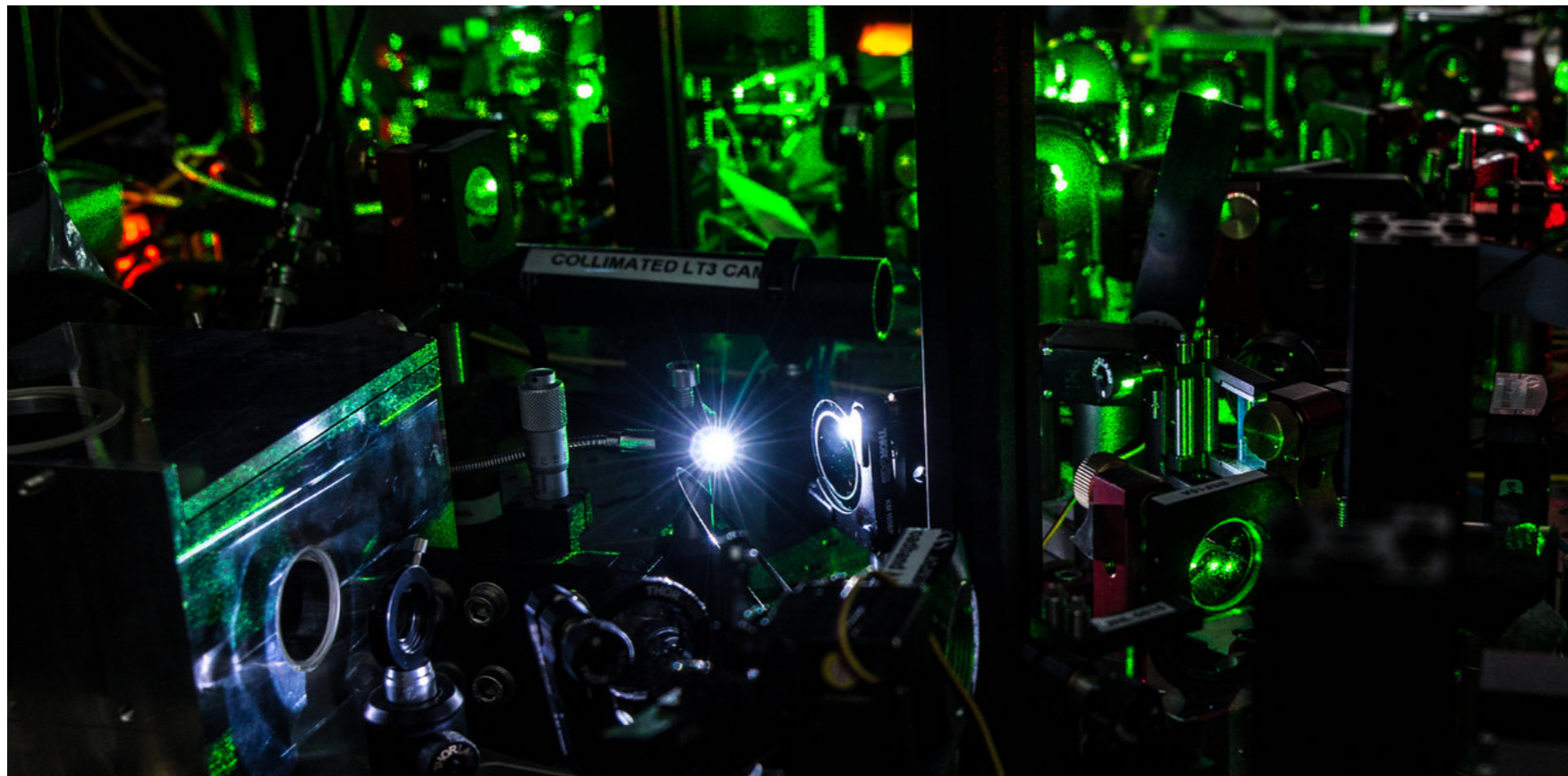
This connection is helping us make progress in one of the central open problems in physics: the unification of the quantum theory with Einstein's theory of general relativity.

I will illustrate this connection using a simple example: the Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model which describes certain quantum many particle systems and certain black holes

## Sorry, Einstein. Quantum Study Suggests ‘Spooky Action’ Is Real.

By **JOHN MARKOFF** OCT. 21, 2015

In a landmark study, scientists at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands reported that they had conducted an experiment that they say proved one of the most fundamental claims of quantum theory — that objects separated by great distance can instantaneously affect each other’s behavior.



Part of the laboratory setup for an experiment at Delft University of Technology, in which two diamonds were set 1.3 kilometers apart, entangled and then shared information.

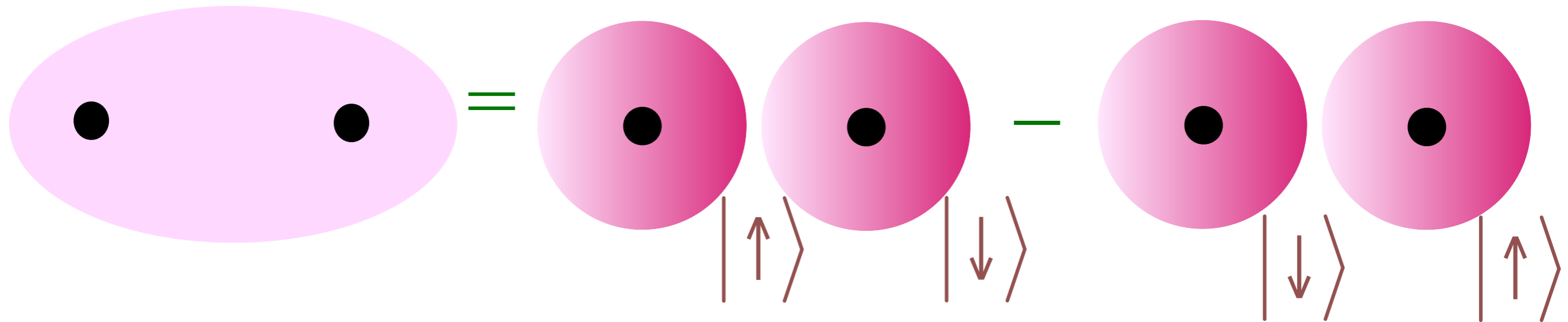
# Quantum entanglement

# Principles of Quantum Mechanics: II. Quantum Entanglement

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



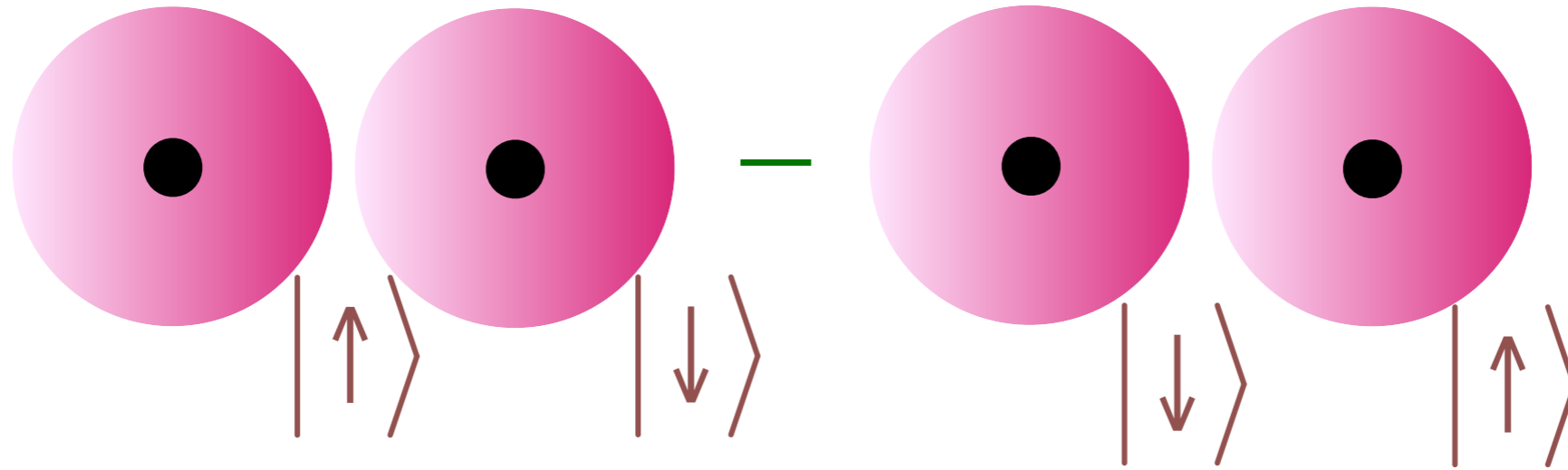
Hydrogen molecule:



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

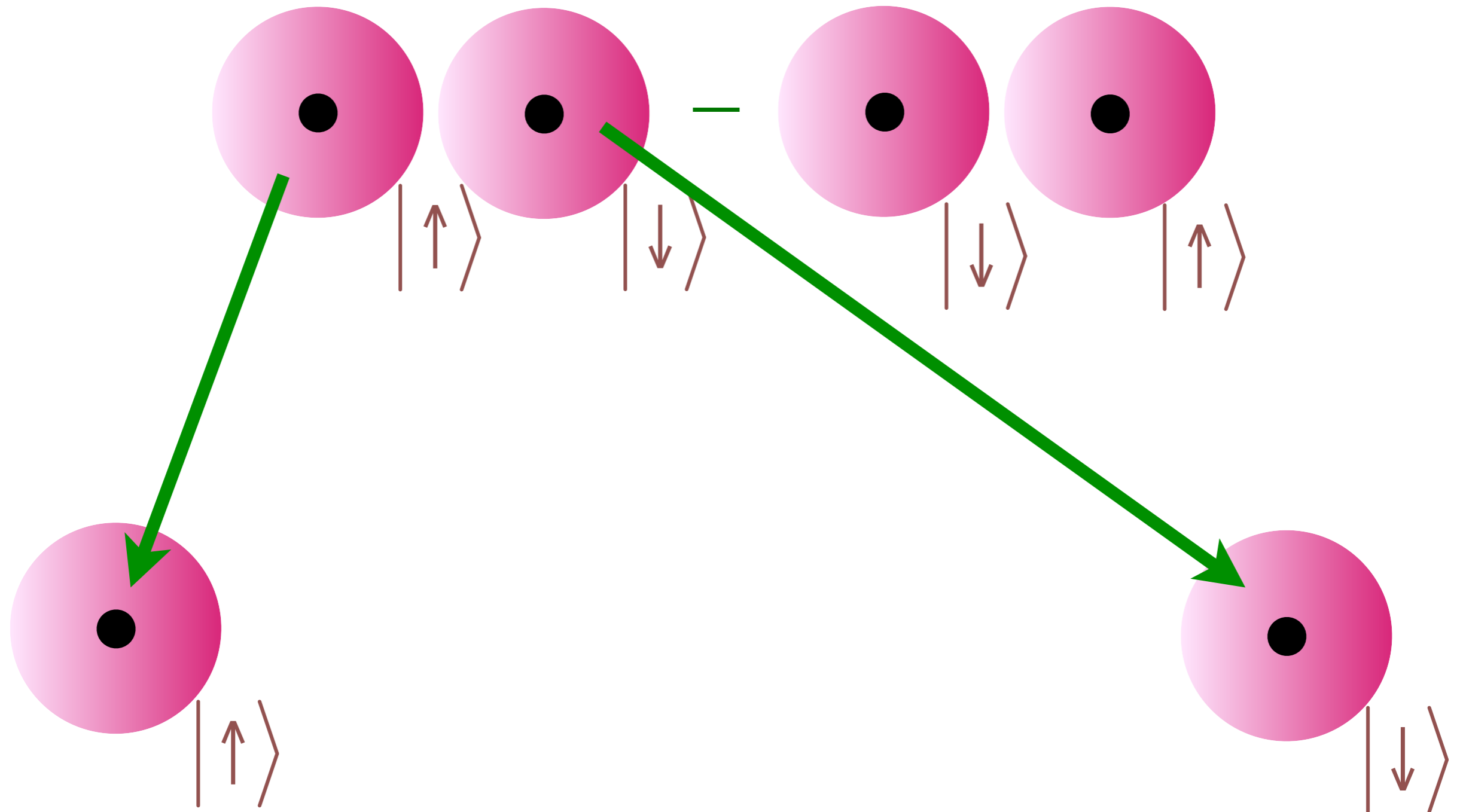
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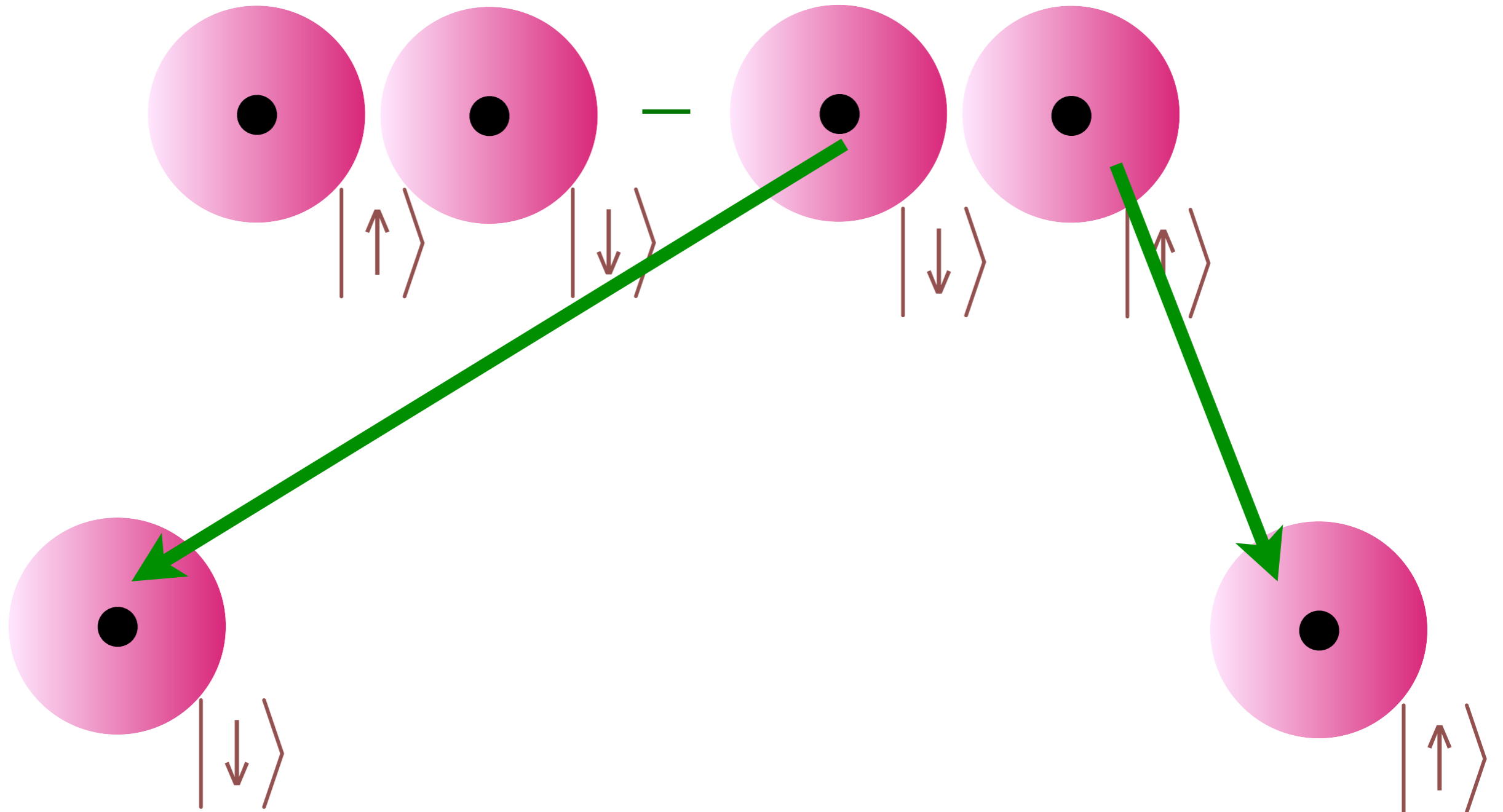
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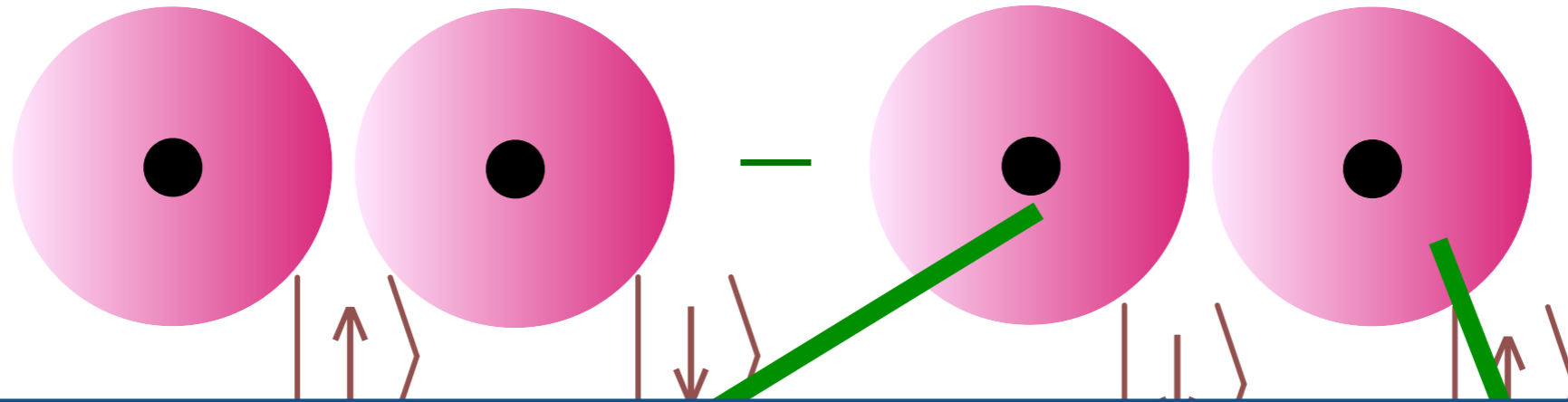
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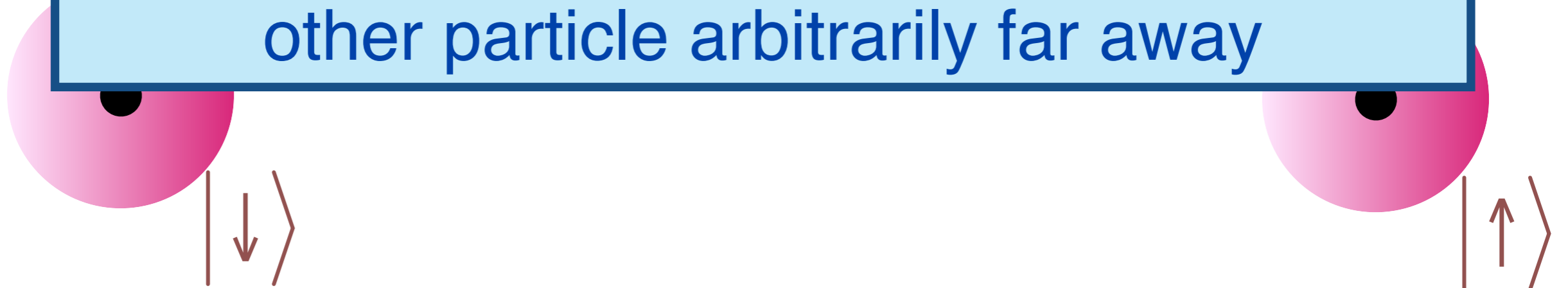


## Principles of Quantum Mechanics: II. Quantum Entanglement

### 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

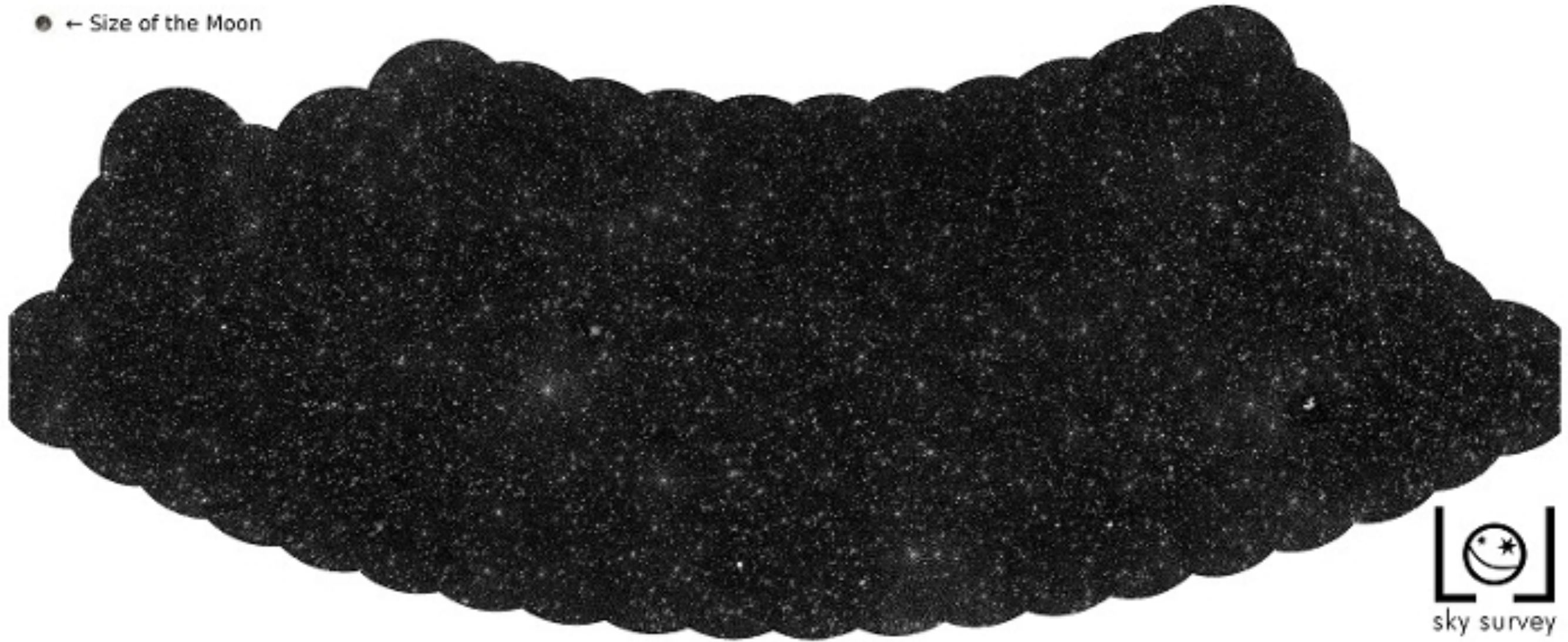


# Quantum entanglement

**Quantum  
entanglement**

**Black  
holes**

● ← Size of the Moon



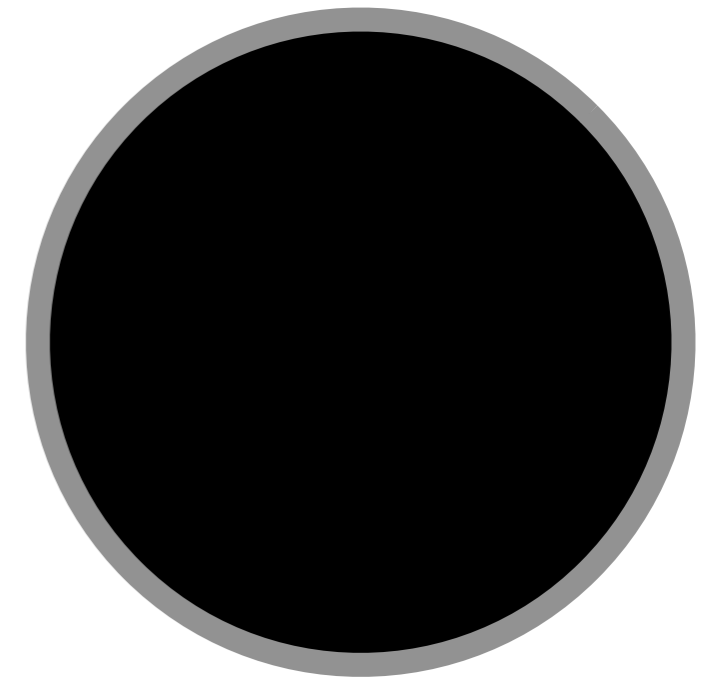
**LOFAR LBA Sky Survey showing 25000 supermassive  
black holes on 4% of the northern sky.  
Obtained by 52 radio telescopes across Europe**

de Gasperin et al. (2021)

# 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.



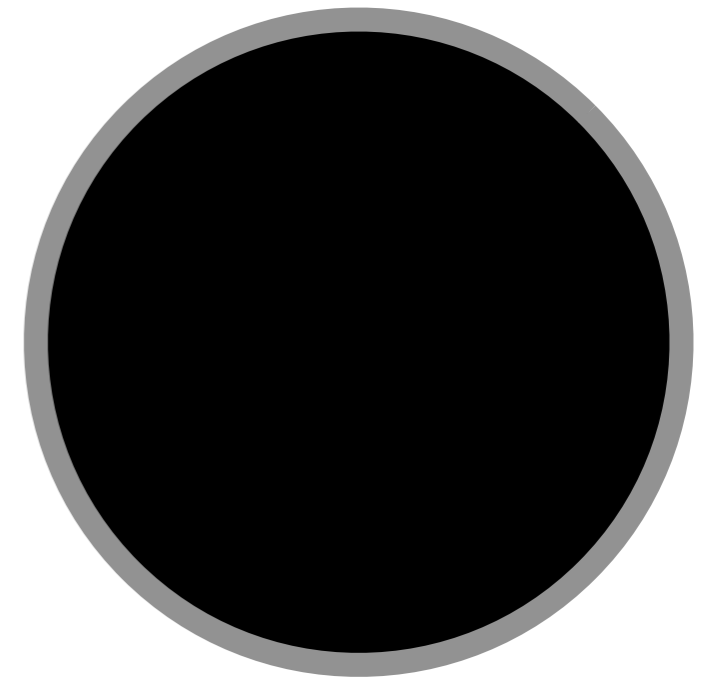
$$\text{Horizon radius } R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

$G$  Newton's constant,  $c$  velocity of light,  $M$  mass of black hole

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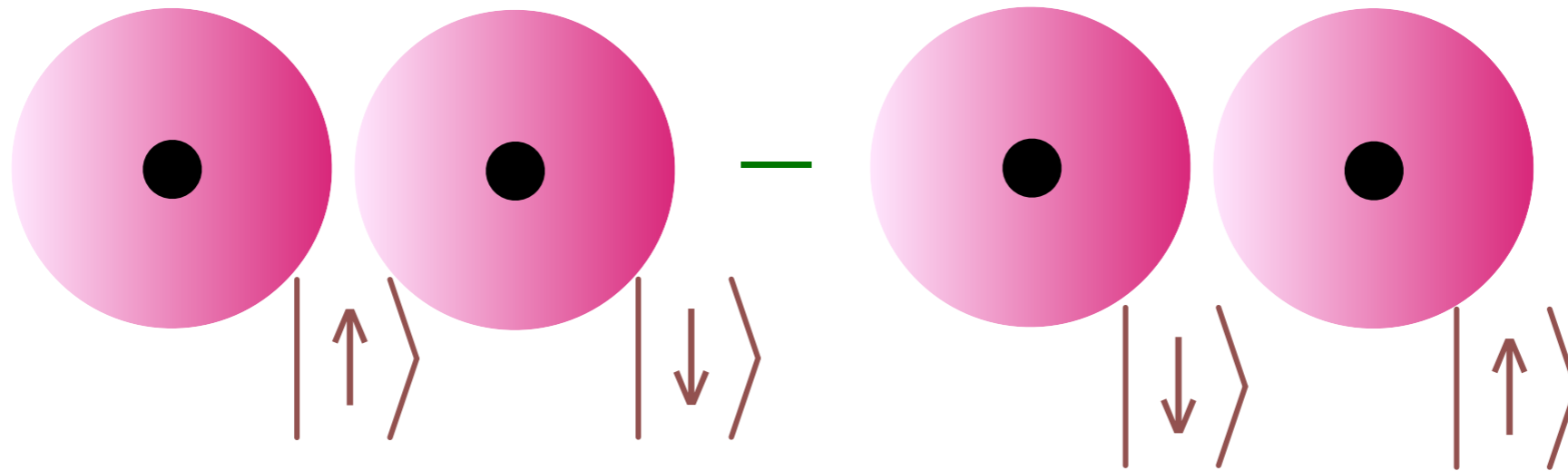
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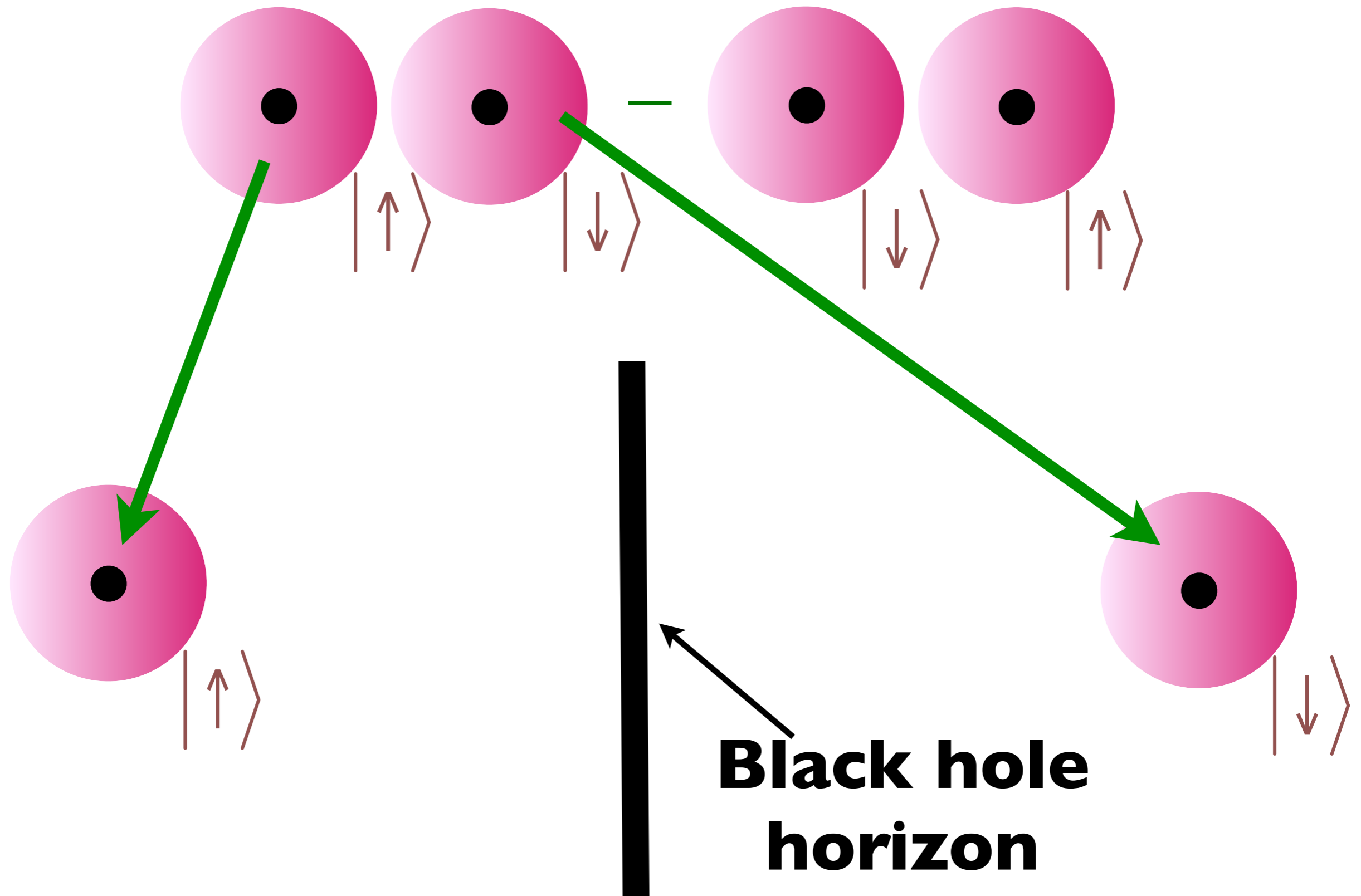
$$\text{Horizon radius } R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

$G$  Newton's constant,  $c$  velocity of light,  $M$  mass of black hole  
For  $M = \text{earth's mass}$ ,  $R \approx 9 \text{ mm}$ !

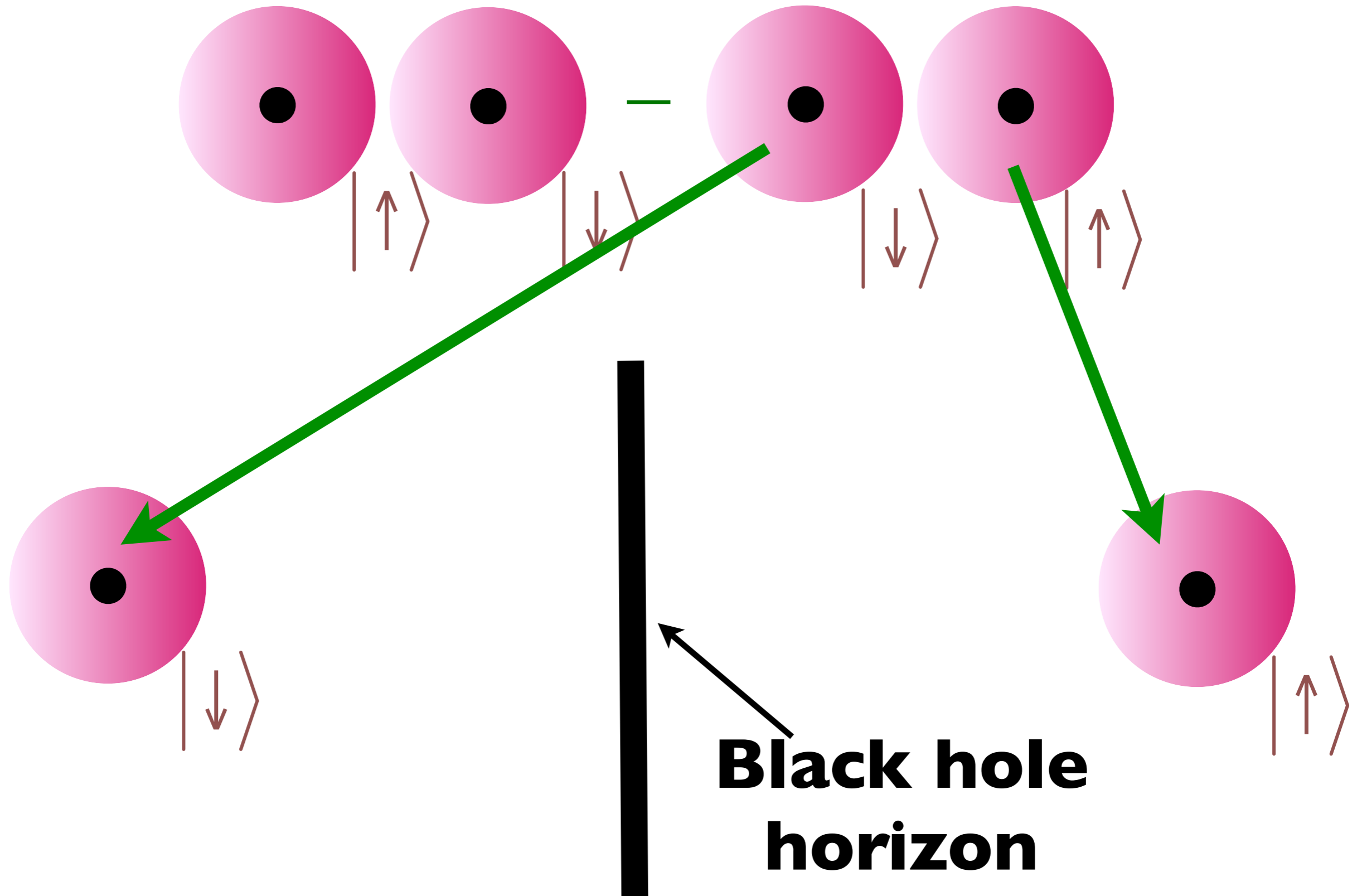
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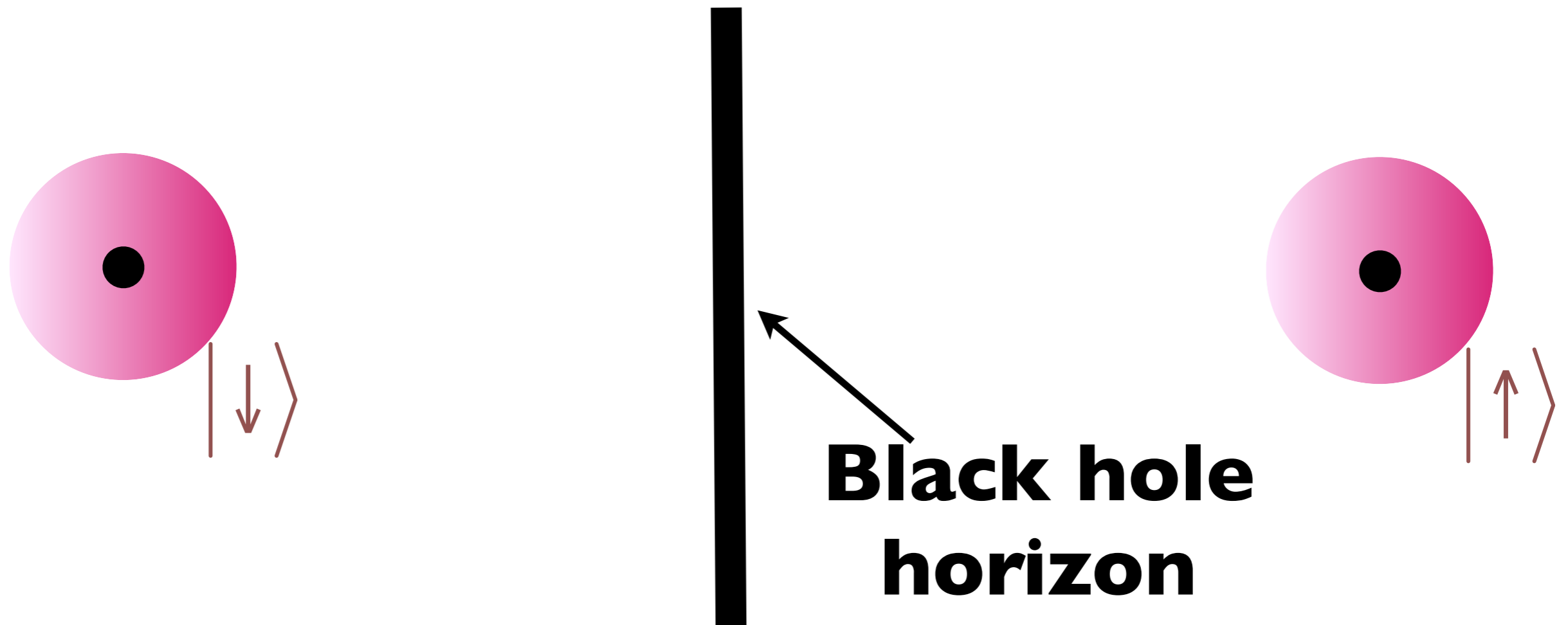


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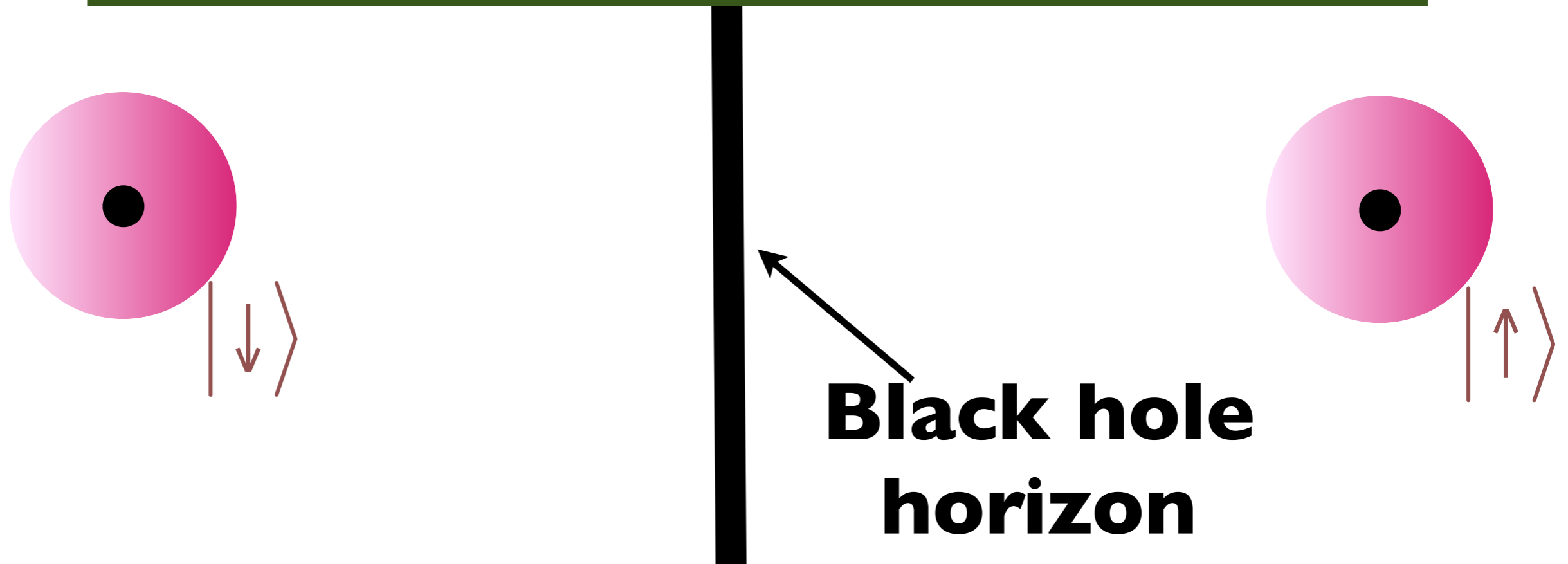
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

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)



# Quantum Black holes

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

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

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All many-body quantum systems  
(without quantum gravity)  
have an entropy  
proportional to their volume !?!?

## Thermodynamics of quantum black holes:

$$\int \mathcal{D}g_{\mu\nu} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{\hbar} \mathcal{S}_{\text{Einstein gravity}}^{(d+1)} [g_{\mu\nu}] \right)$$

Metric of  
spacetime




Quantum gravity: a summation over all possible configurations of spacetime, each weighted by a factor which is the exponential of (the ‘action’ of Einstein gravity)/(Planck’s constant)

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In general, this summation is not well defined, because to the uncontrollably large number of spacetime configurations.

But in recent years, we have learnt how to evaluate the summation for Einstein gravity in some cases, and obtain the exact value of  $\dots????\dots$

thanks to connections to the *Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev* model.

# Holography and duality

Thermodynamics of quantum black holes:

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$$= \exp(S_{BH}) \times \left( \text{Many body quantum theory} \right)$$

in  $d - 1$  spatial dimensions *without* gravity

Metric of spacetime

Black holes are represented as a 'hologram' by a quantum many-body system in one lower dimension.

Duality: a 'change of variables' between the many-particle configurations and the metric of spacetime

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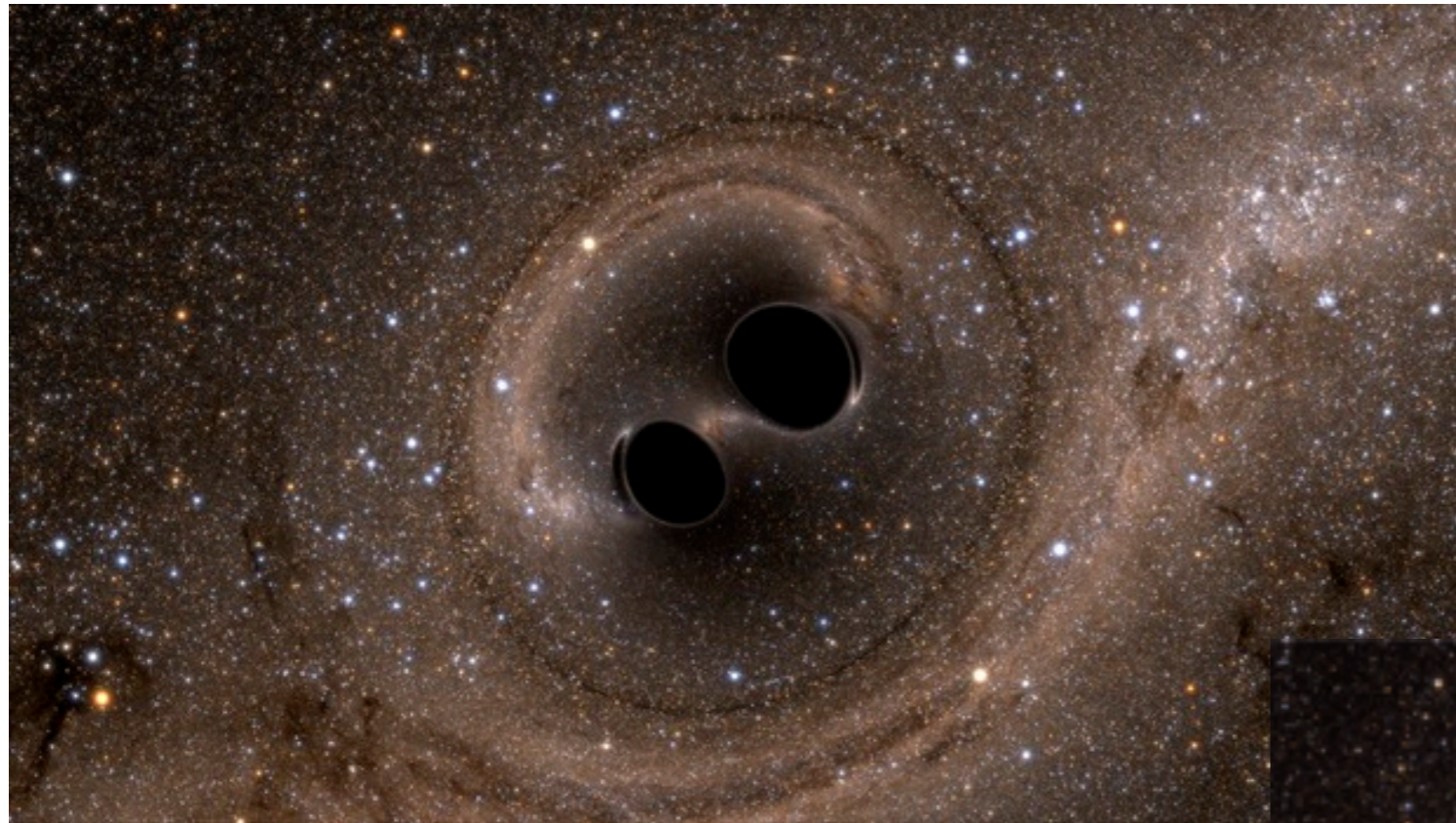
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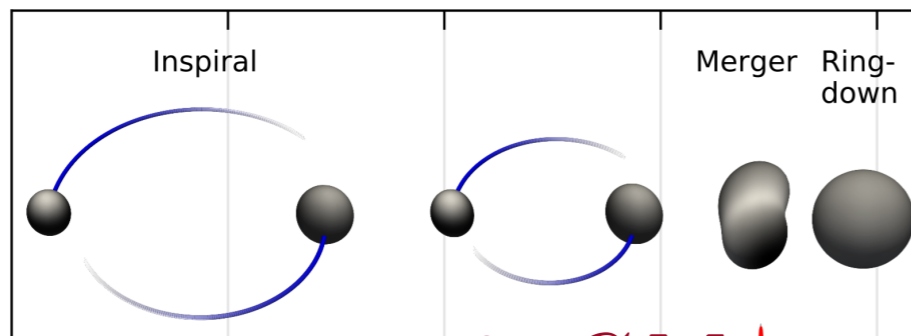
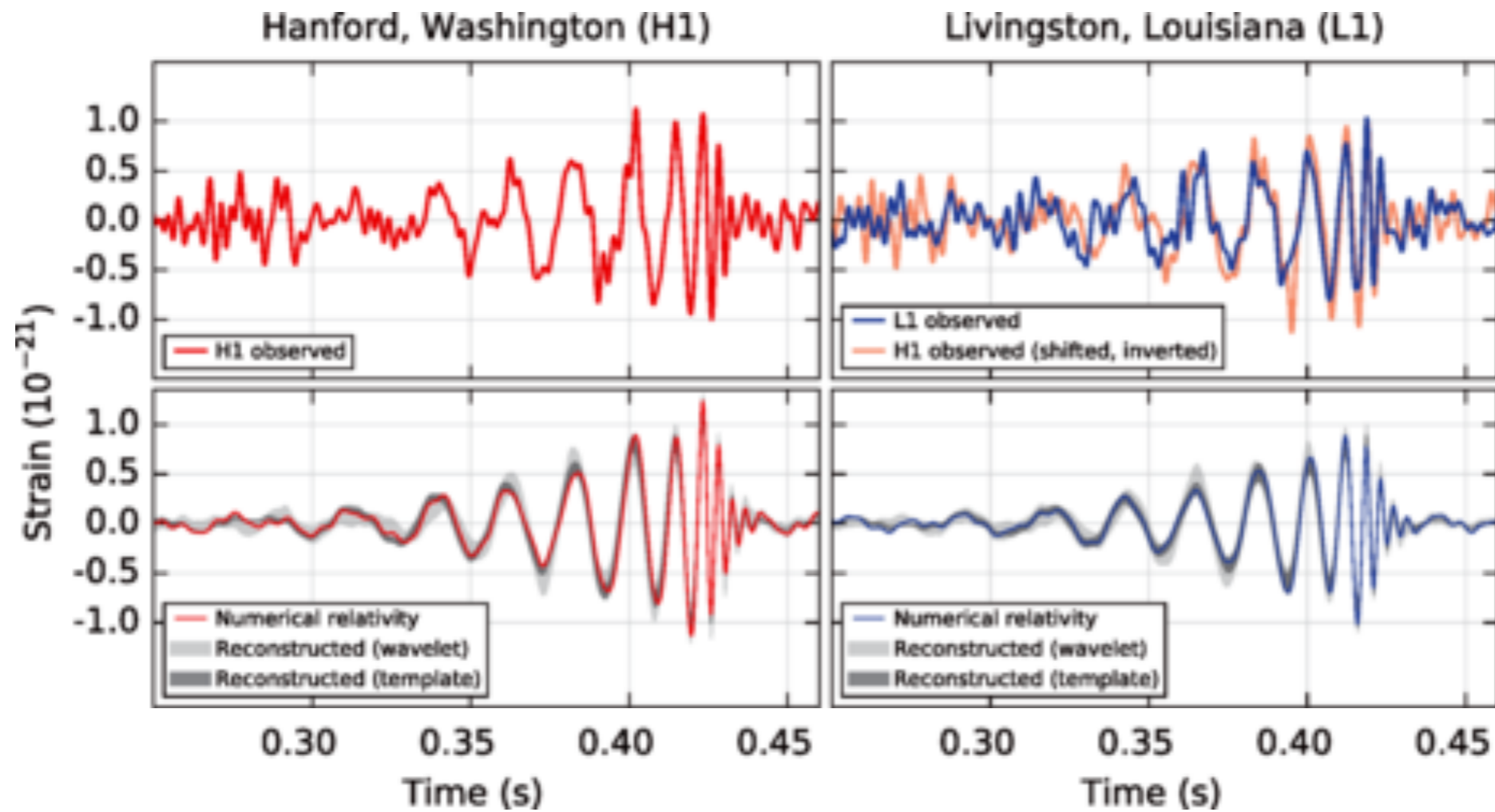
Susskind, Maldacena.....

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 !

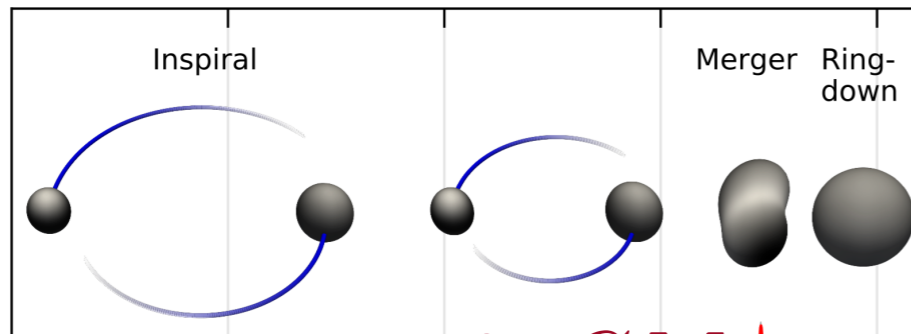
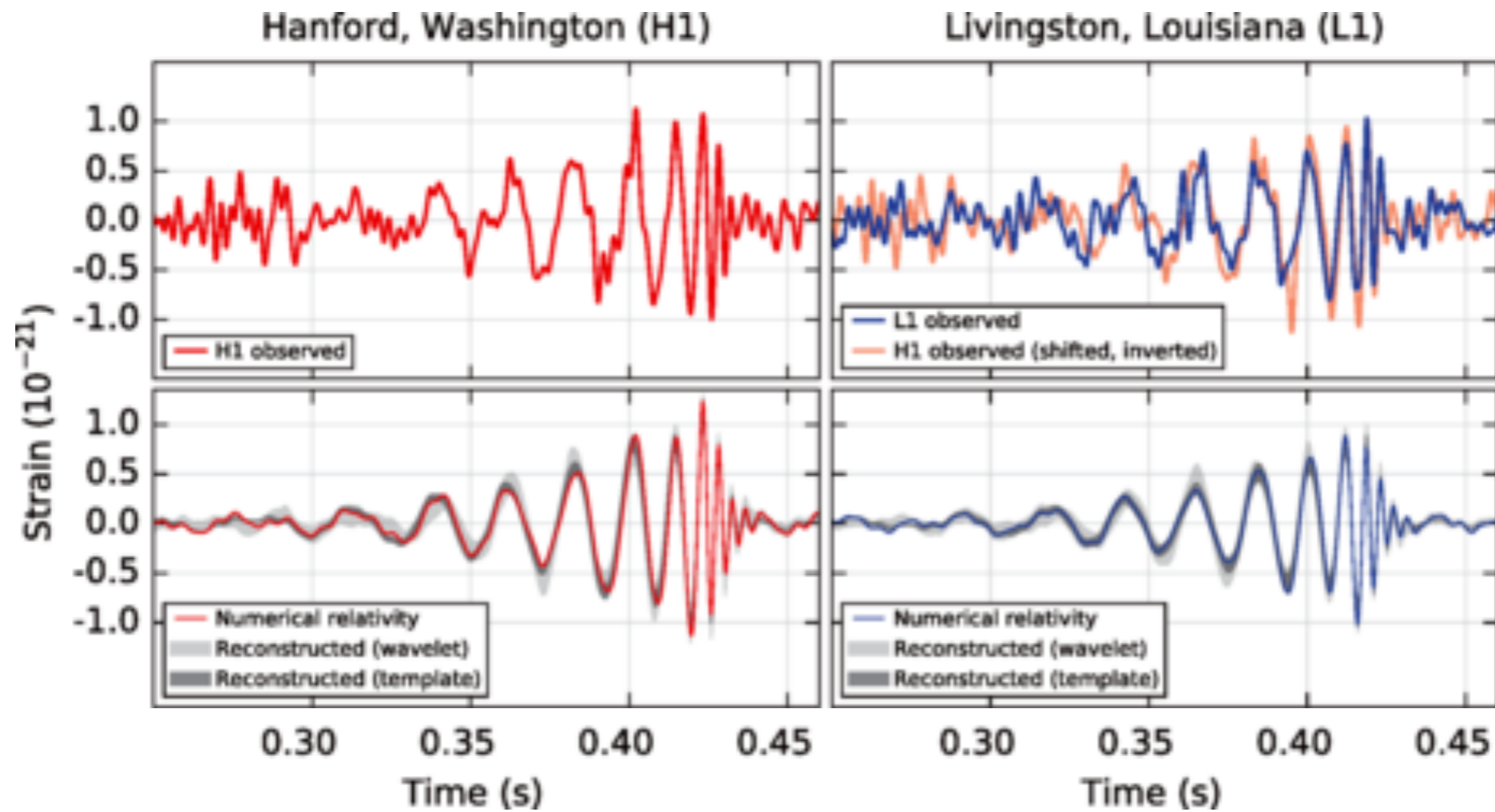




**LIGO**  
**September 14, 2015**

- The ring-down time  $\frac{8\pi GM}{c^3} \sim 8$  milliseconds. Curiously, for essentially all types of black holes, the ring-down time equals

$$\frac{\hbar}{k_B T_H}, \quad \hbar \text{ Planck's constant, } k_B \text{ Boltzmann's constant}$$



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The hologram of a black hole  
in  $d$  dimensions  
is a quantum many-particle system  
in  $(d - 1)$  dimensions  
which relaxes to thermal equilibrium  
in a Planckian time  $\sim \hbar/(k_B T)$

**Quantum  
entanglement**

**Black  
holes**

**A simple  
many-particle  
(SYK) model**

# Ordinary metals



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

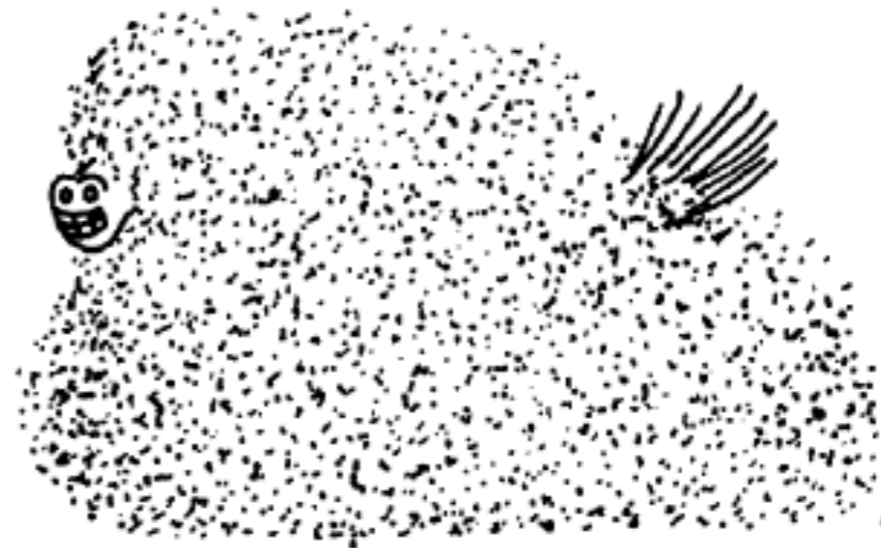
*Almost all many-electron systems are described by the quasiparticle concept: a quasiparticle is an “excited lump” in the many-electron state which responds just like an ordinary particle. The existence of quasiparticles implies limited many-particle entanglement*

← ●  
real particle

← ○  
quasi particle



real horse

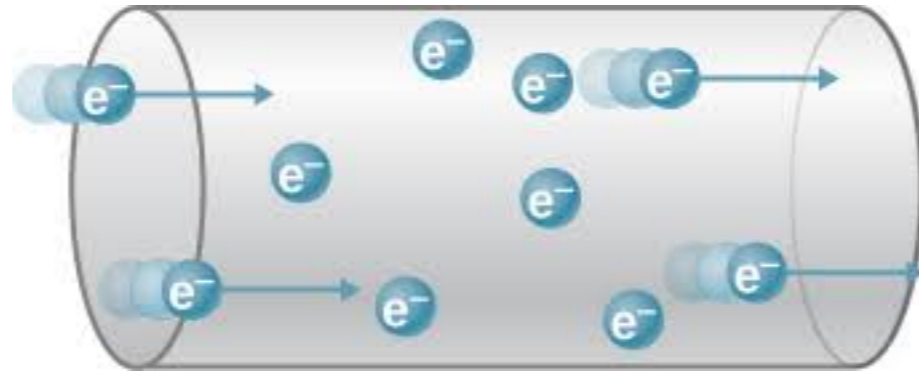


quasi horse

RDM

R.D. Mattuck

## Current flow with quasiparticles



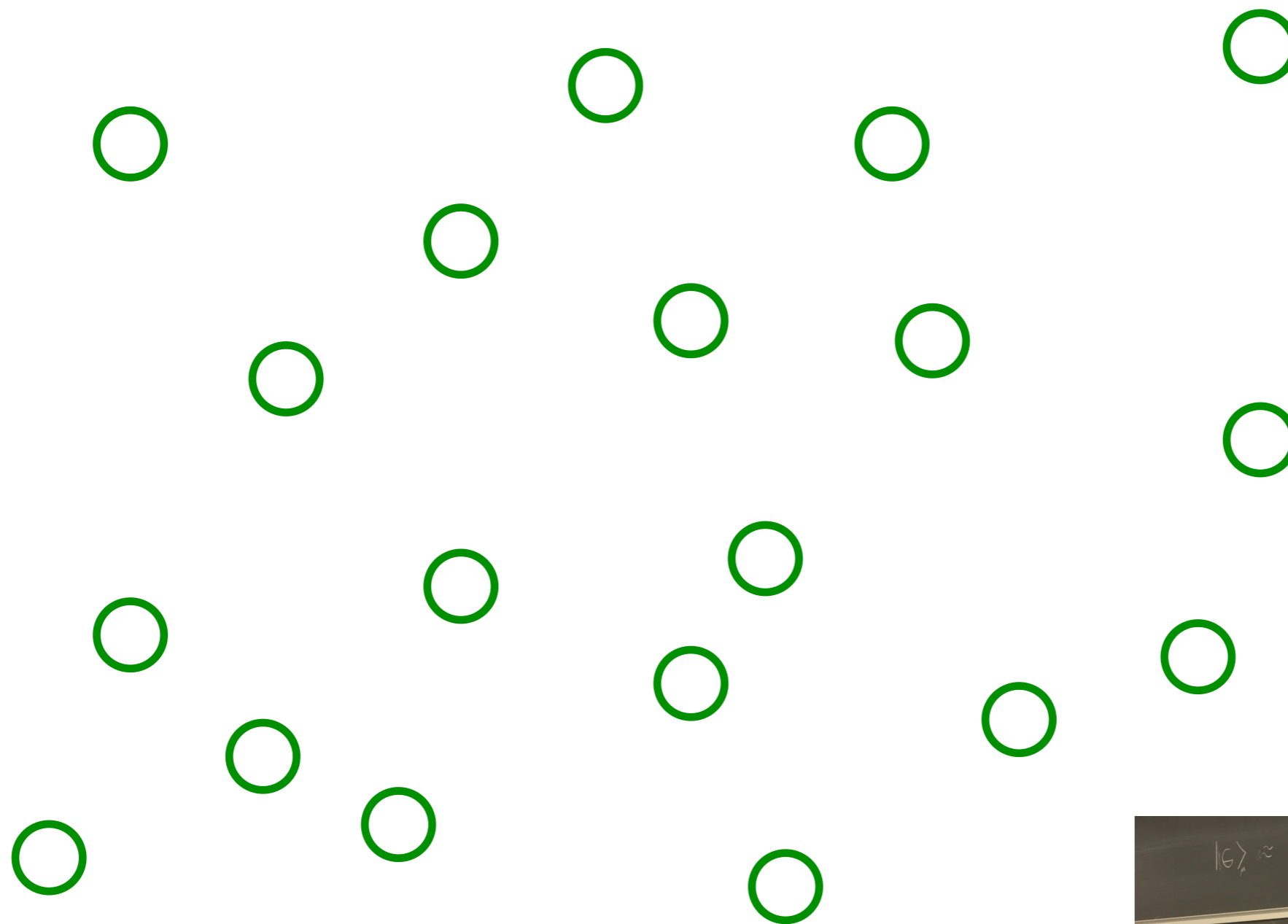
Flowing quasiparticles scatter off each other in a typical scattering time  $\tau$

This time is much longer than a limiting  
'Planckian time'  $\frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$ .

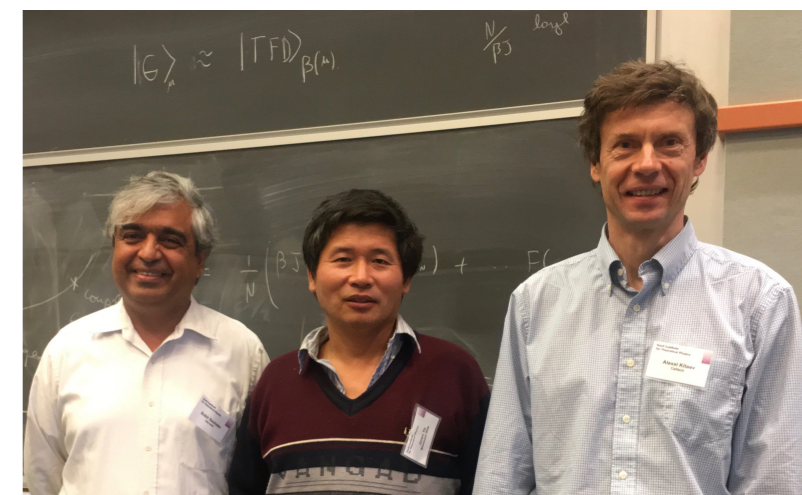
The long scattering time implies that quasiparticles are well-defined.

# The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)

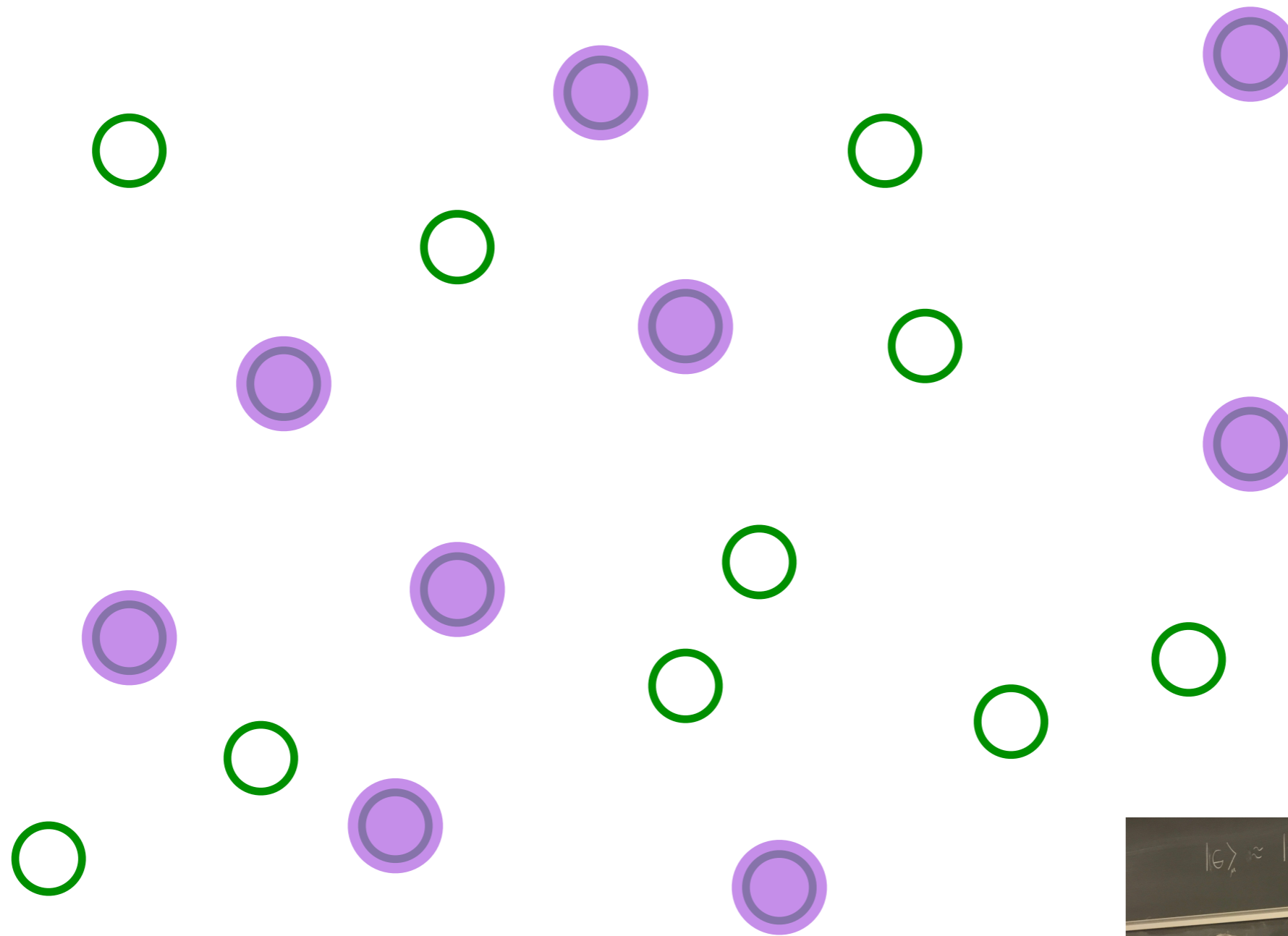


Pick a set of random positions

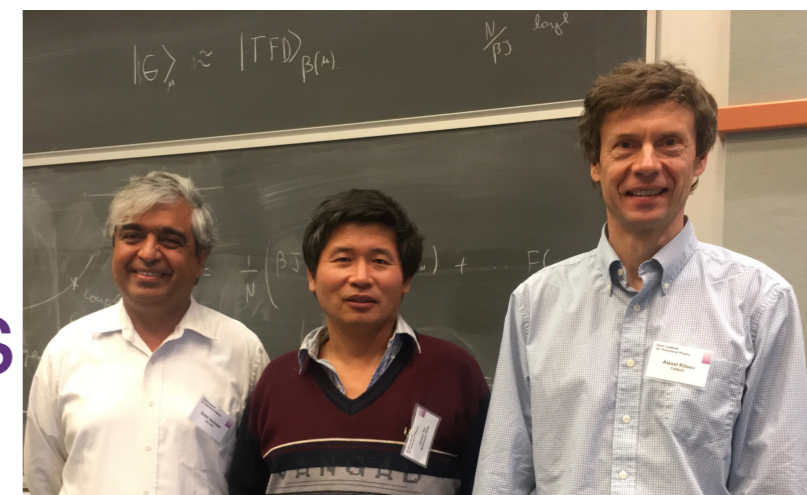


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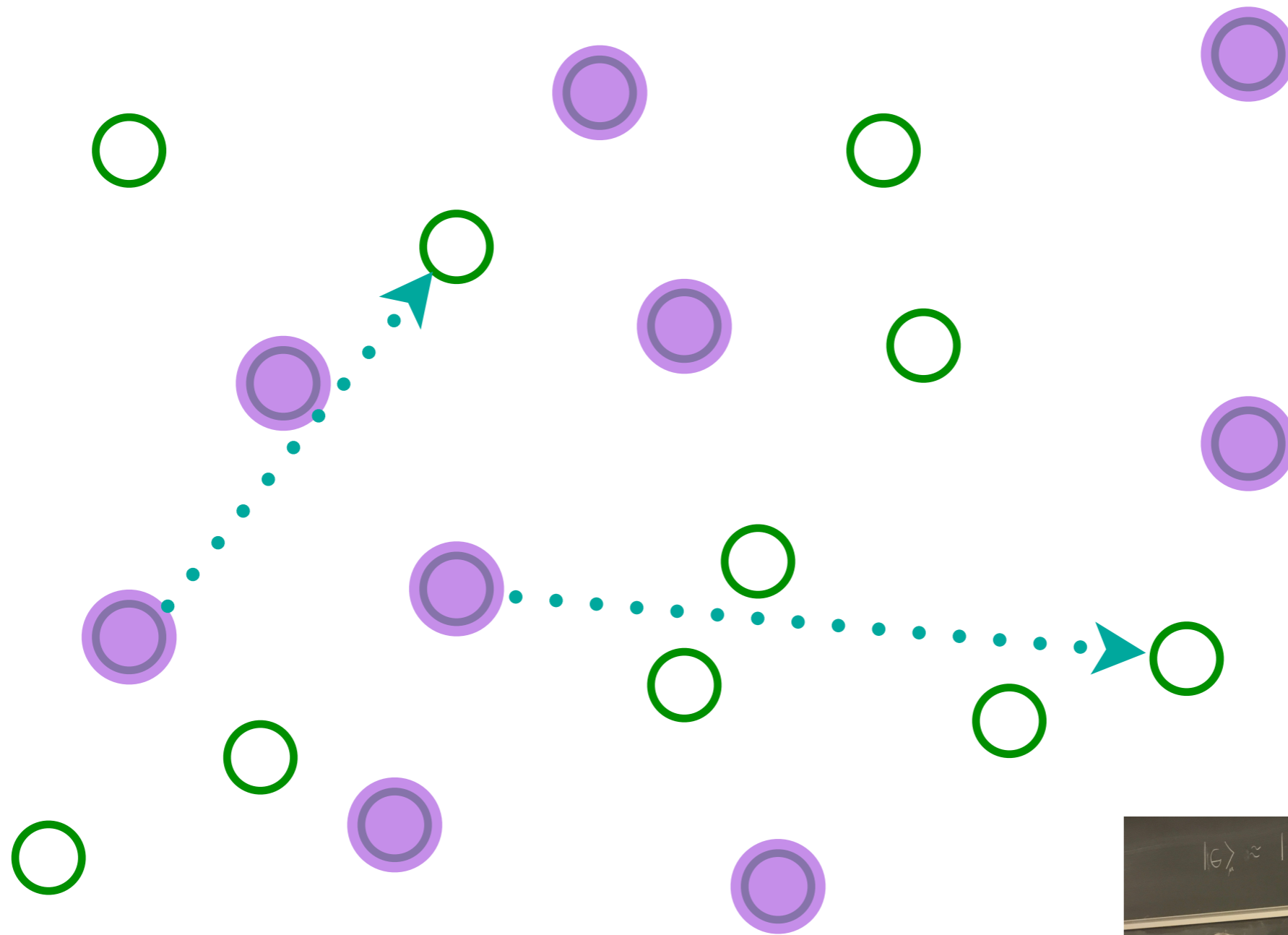


Place electrons randomly on some sites

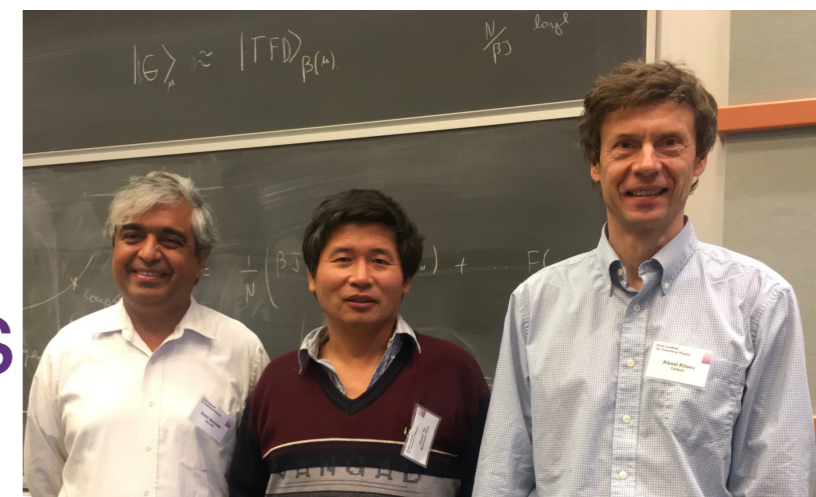


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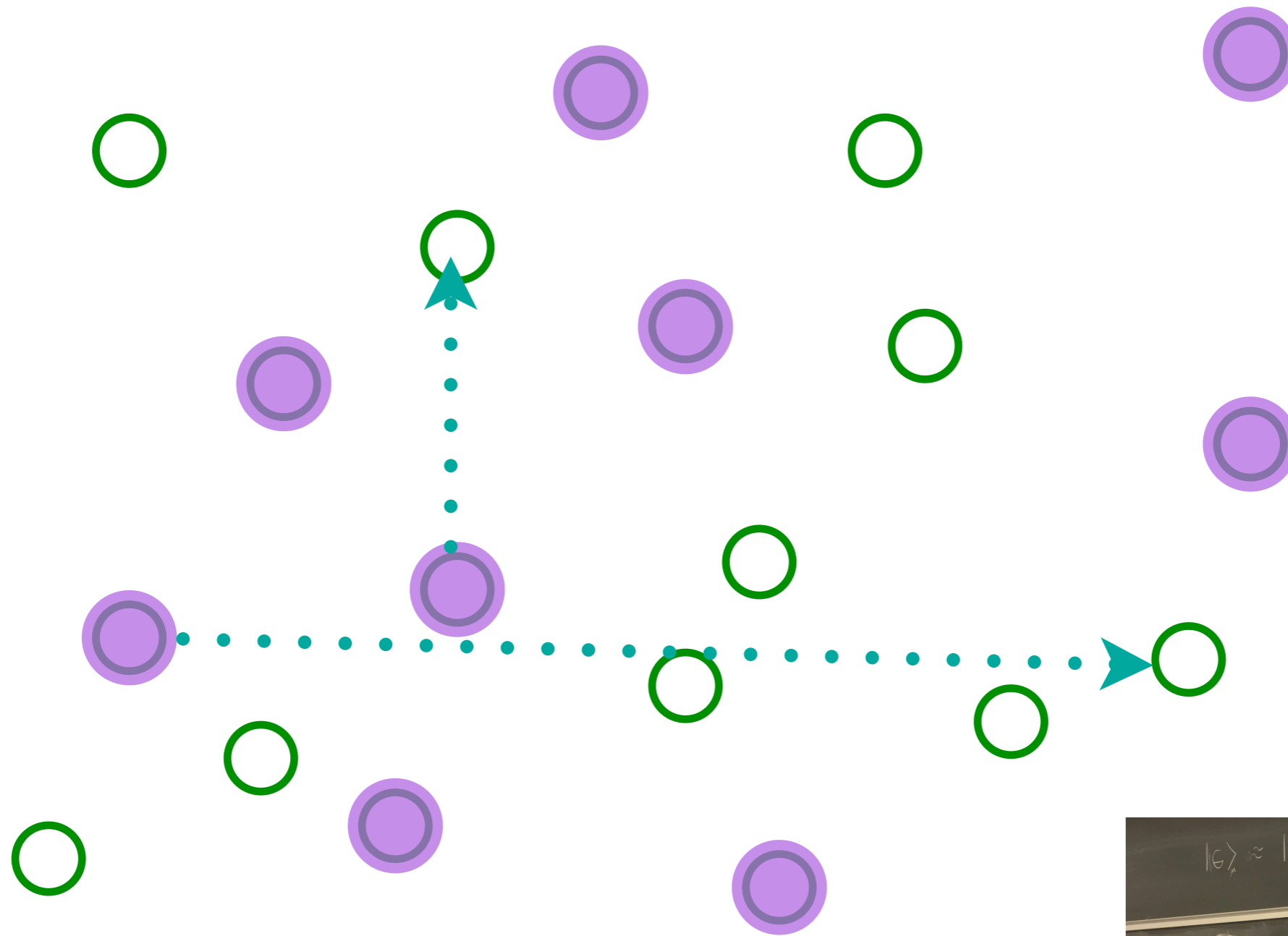


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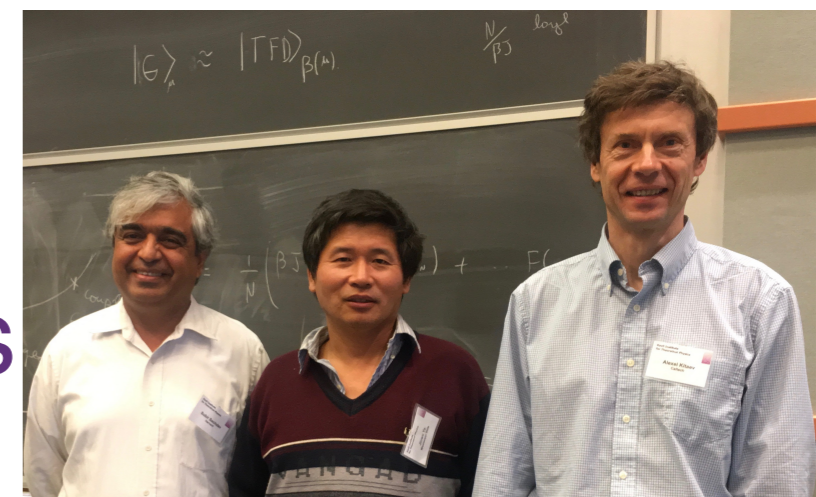


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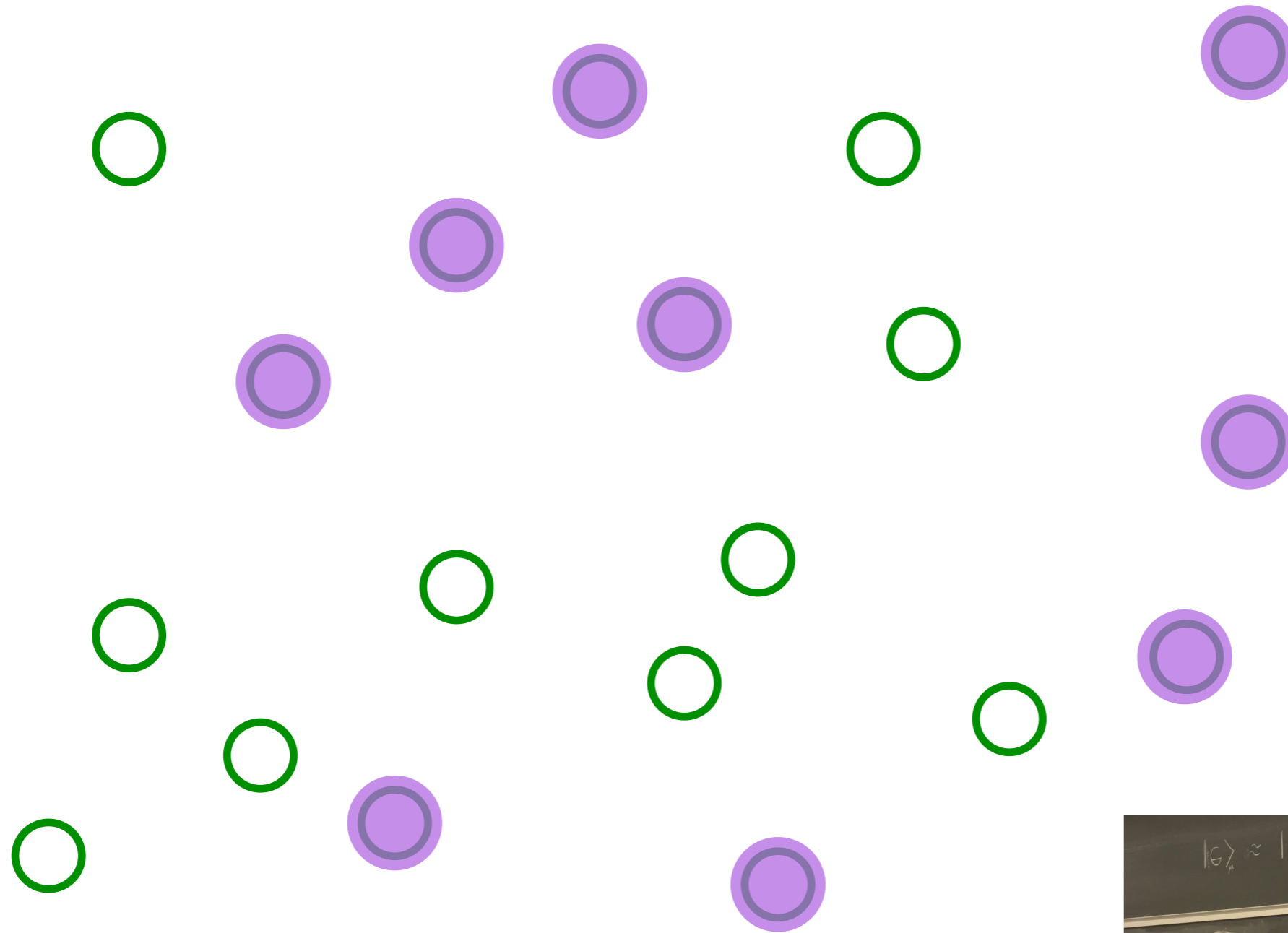


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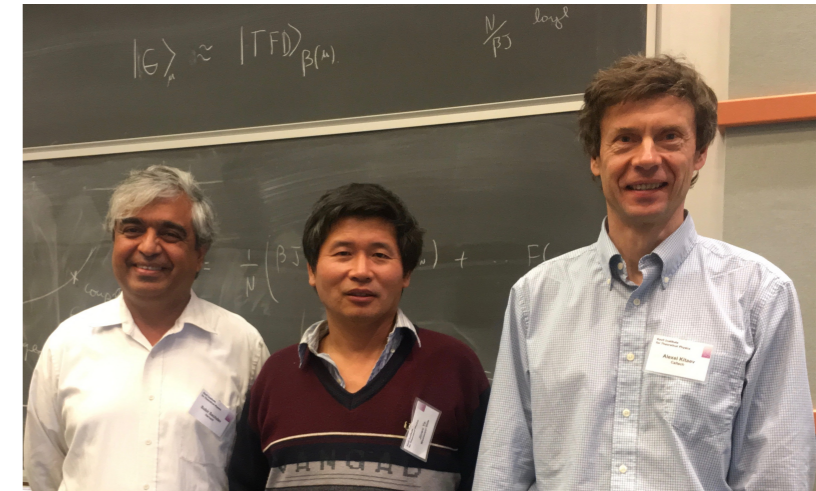


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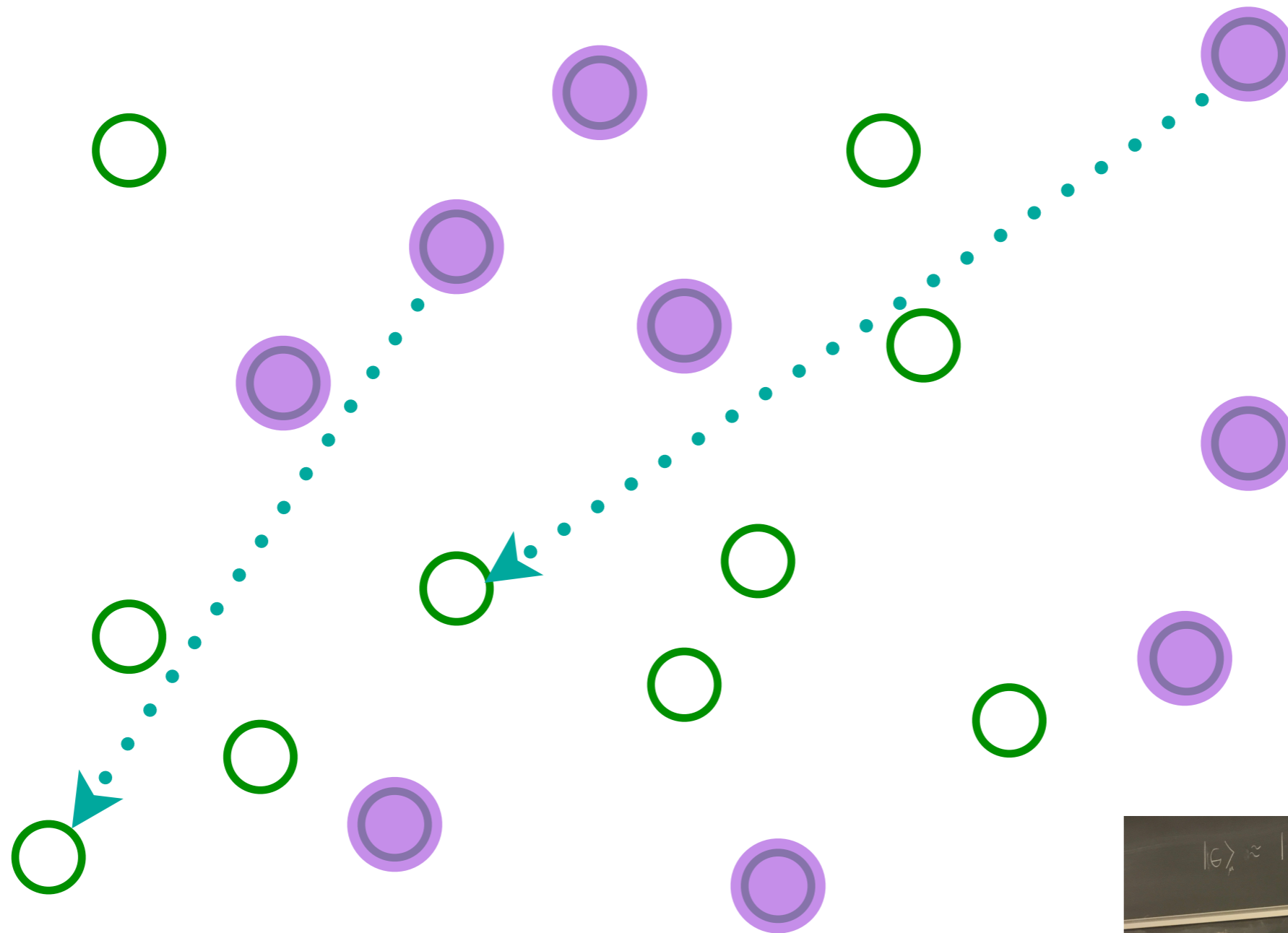


Entangle electrons pairwise randomly

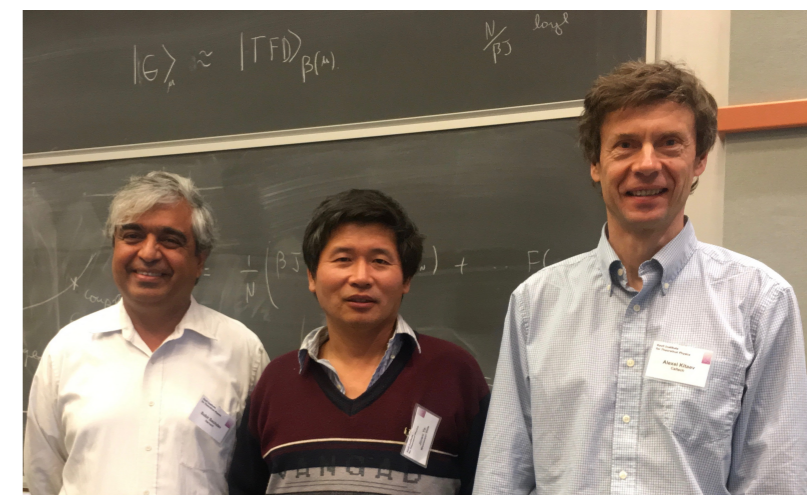


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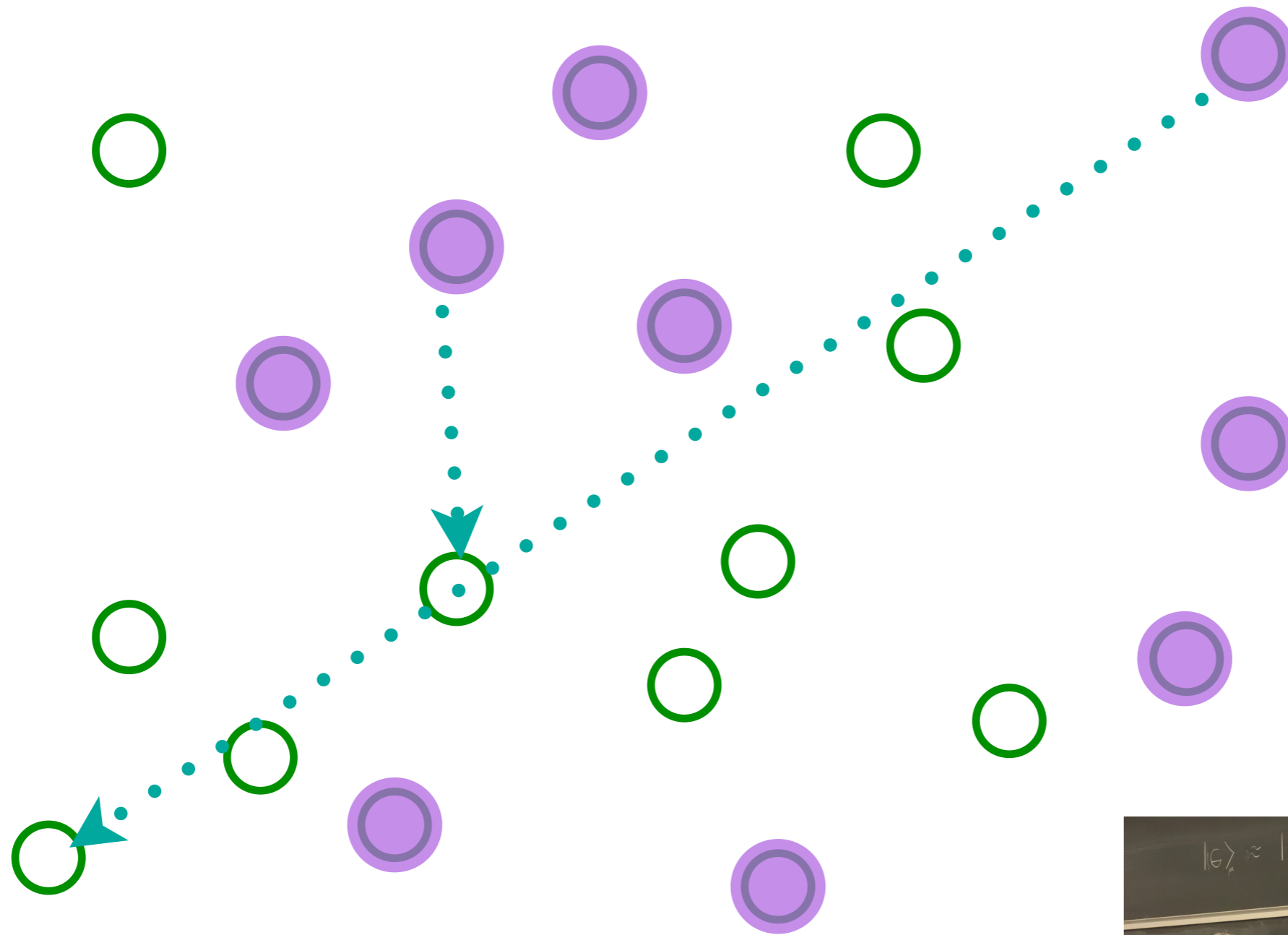


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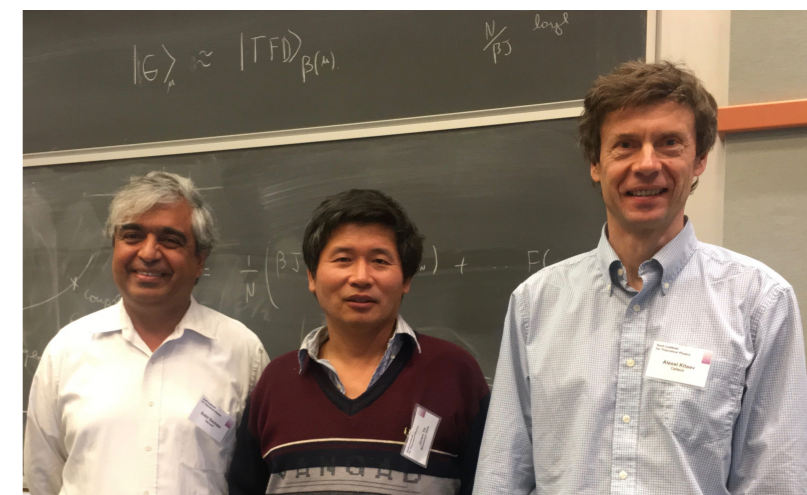


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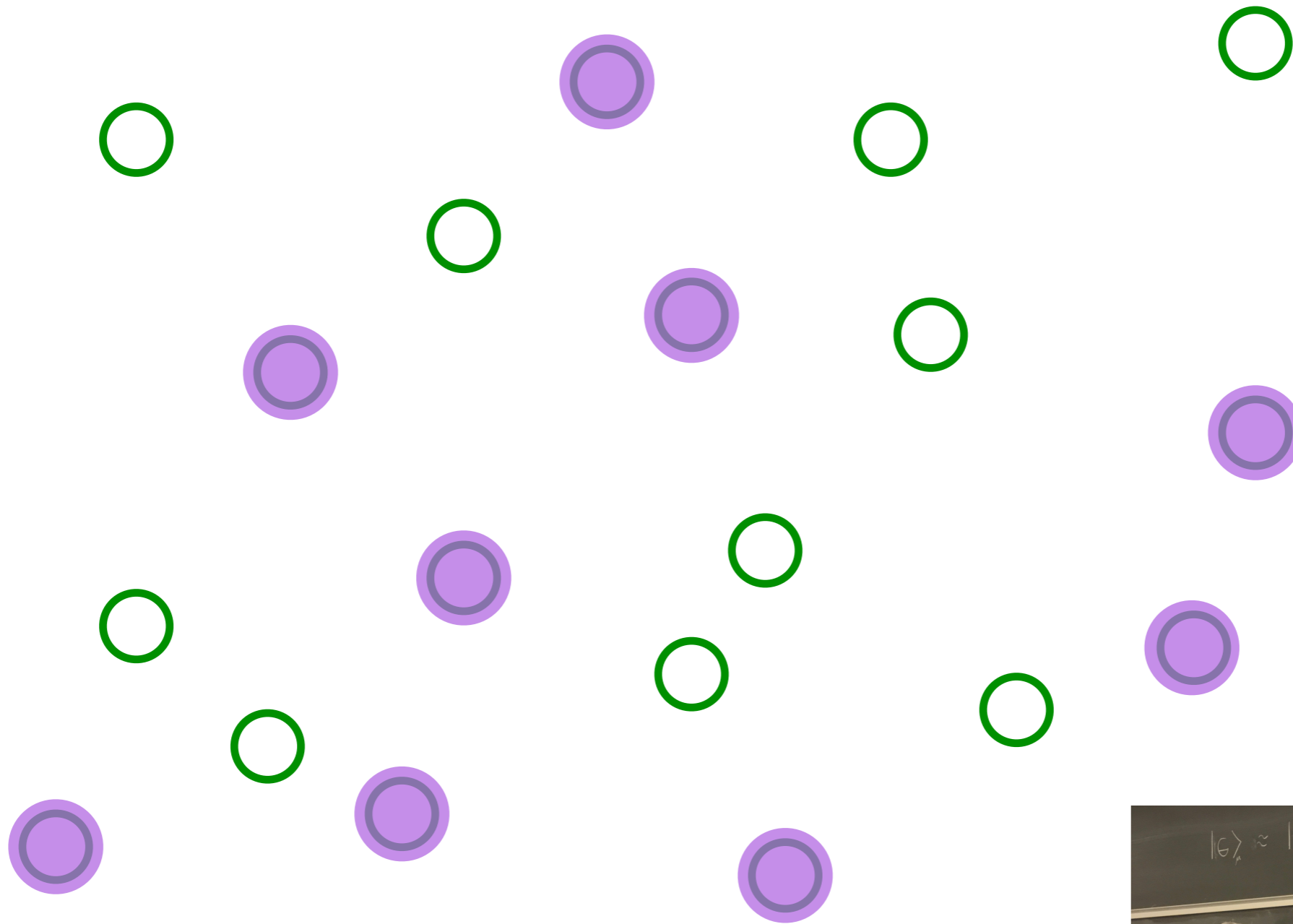


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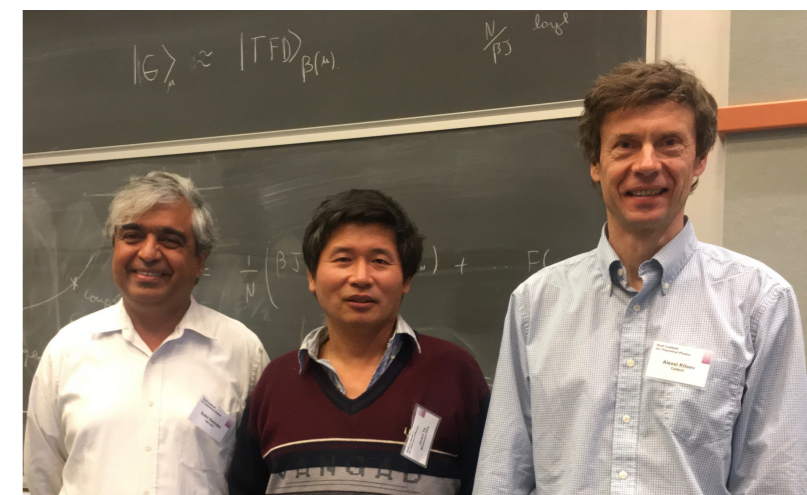


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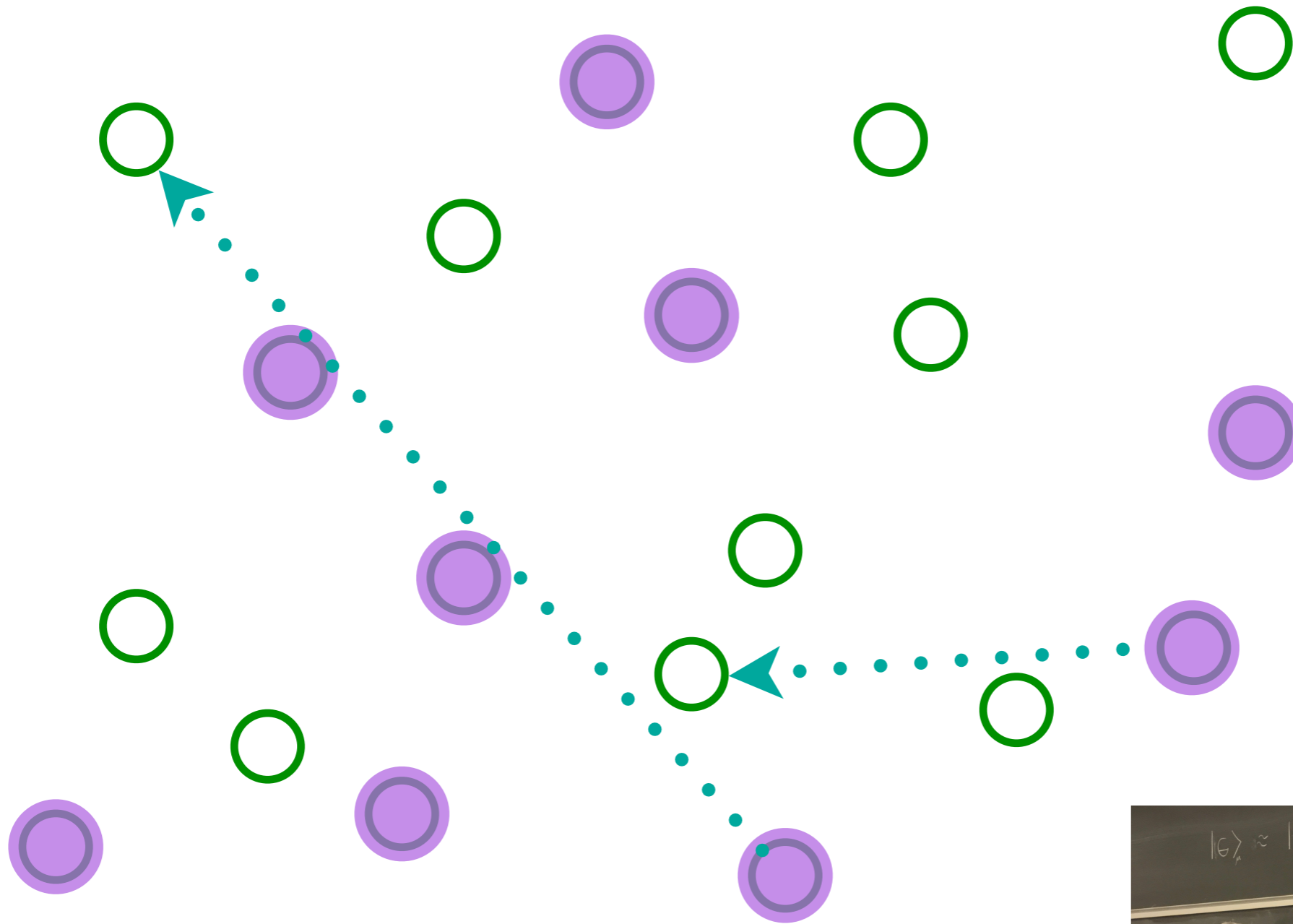


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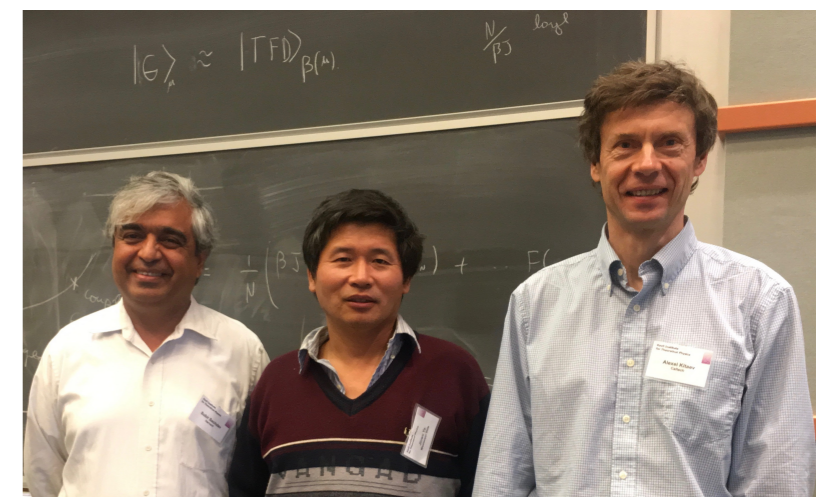


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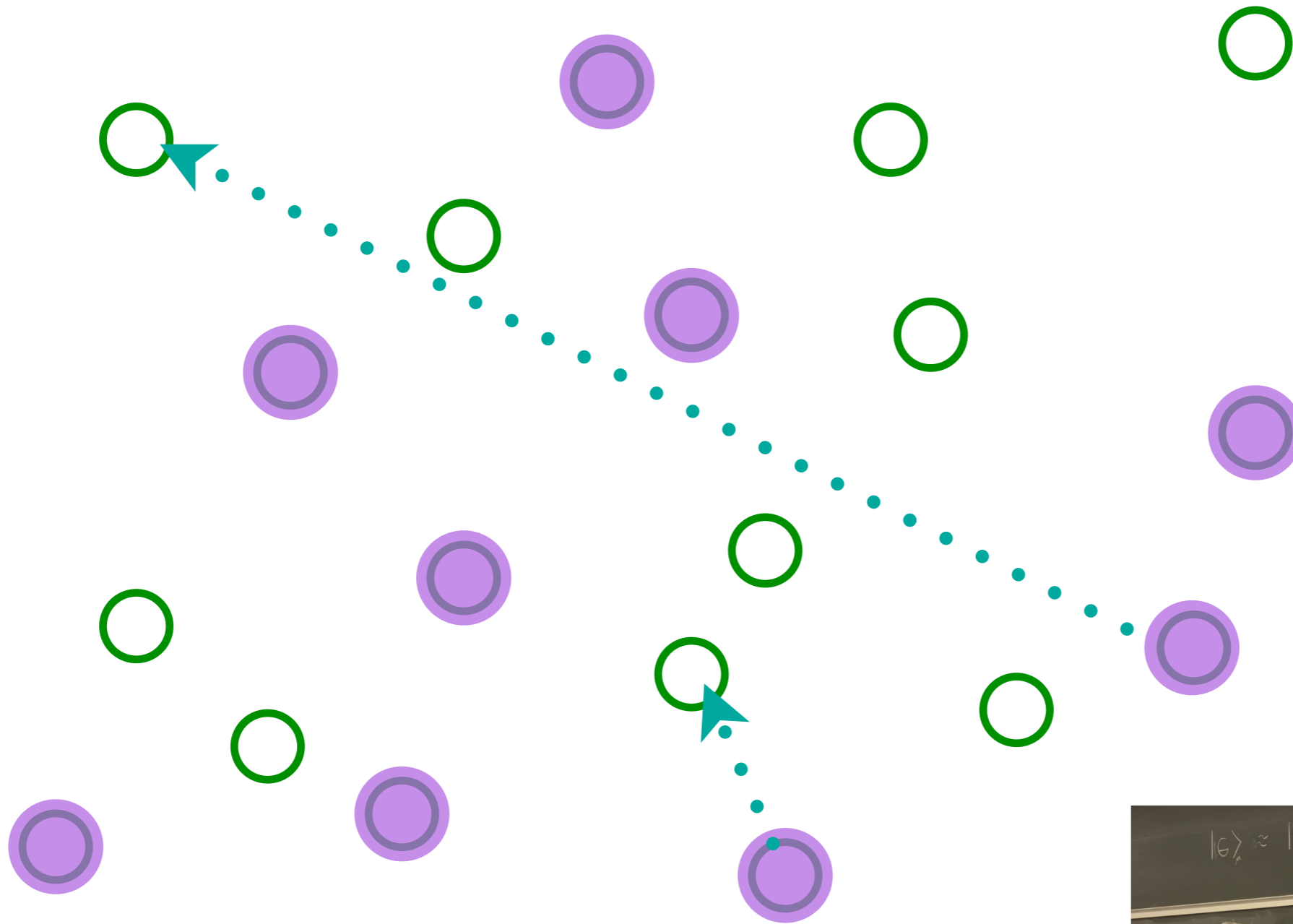


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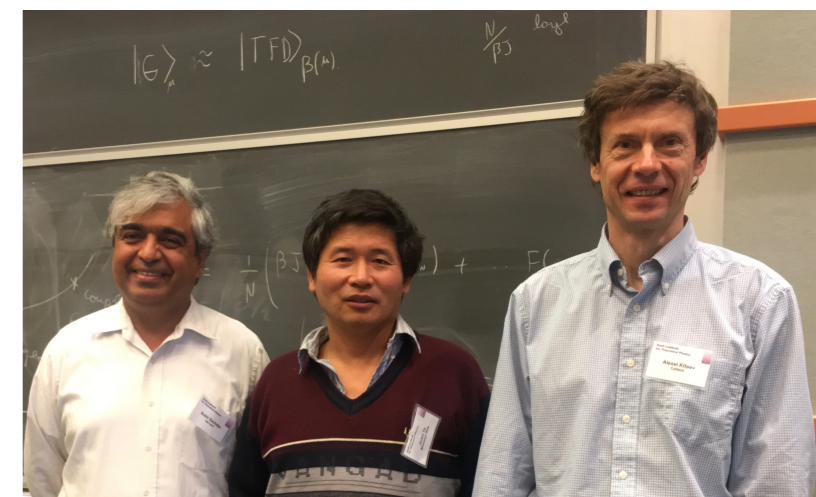


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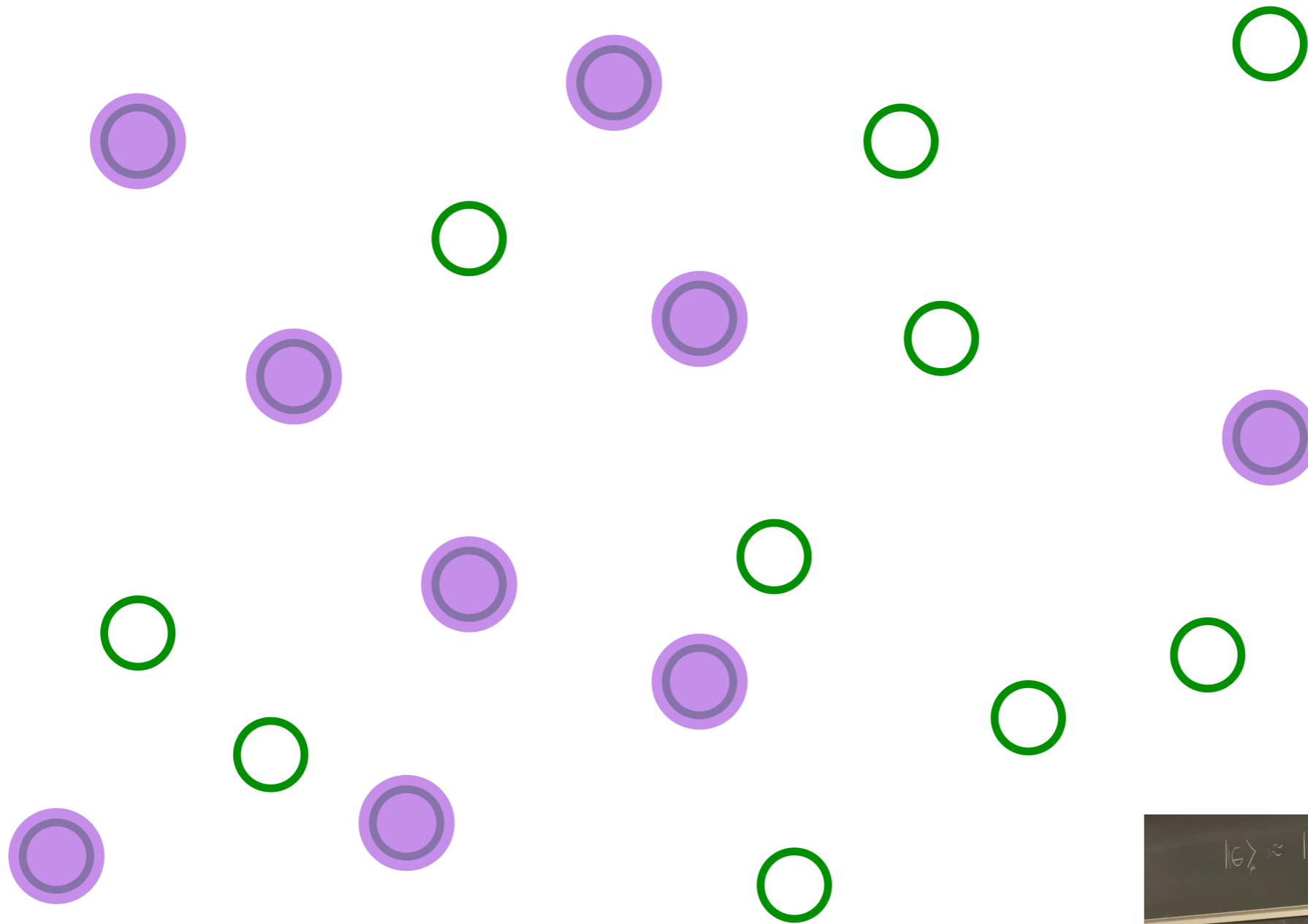


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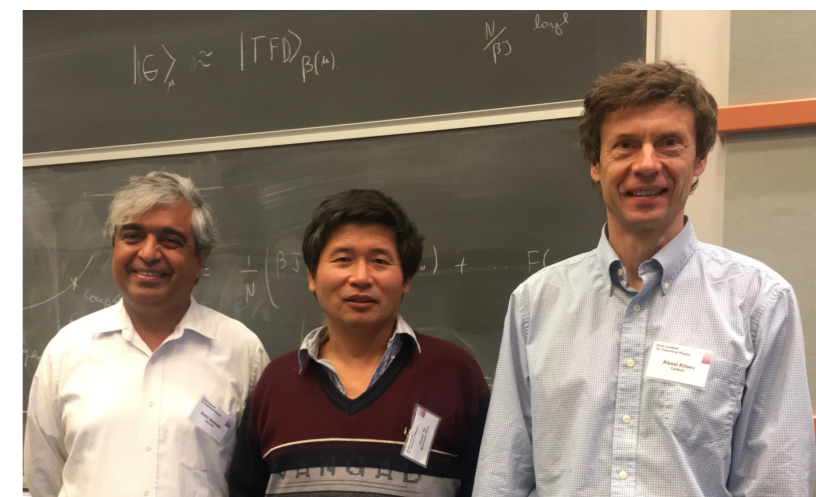


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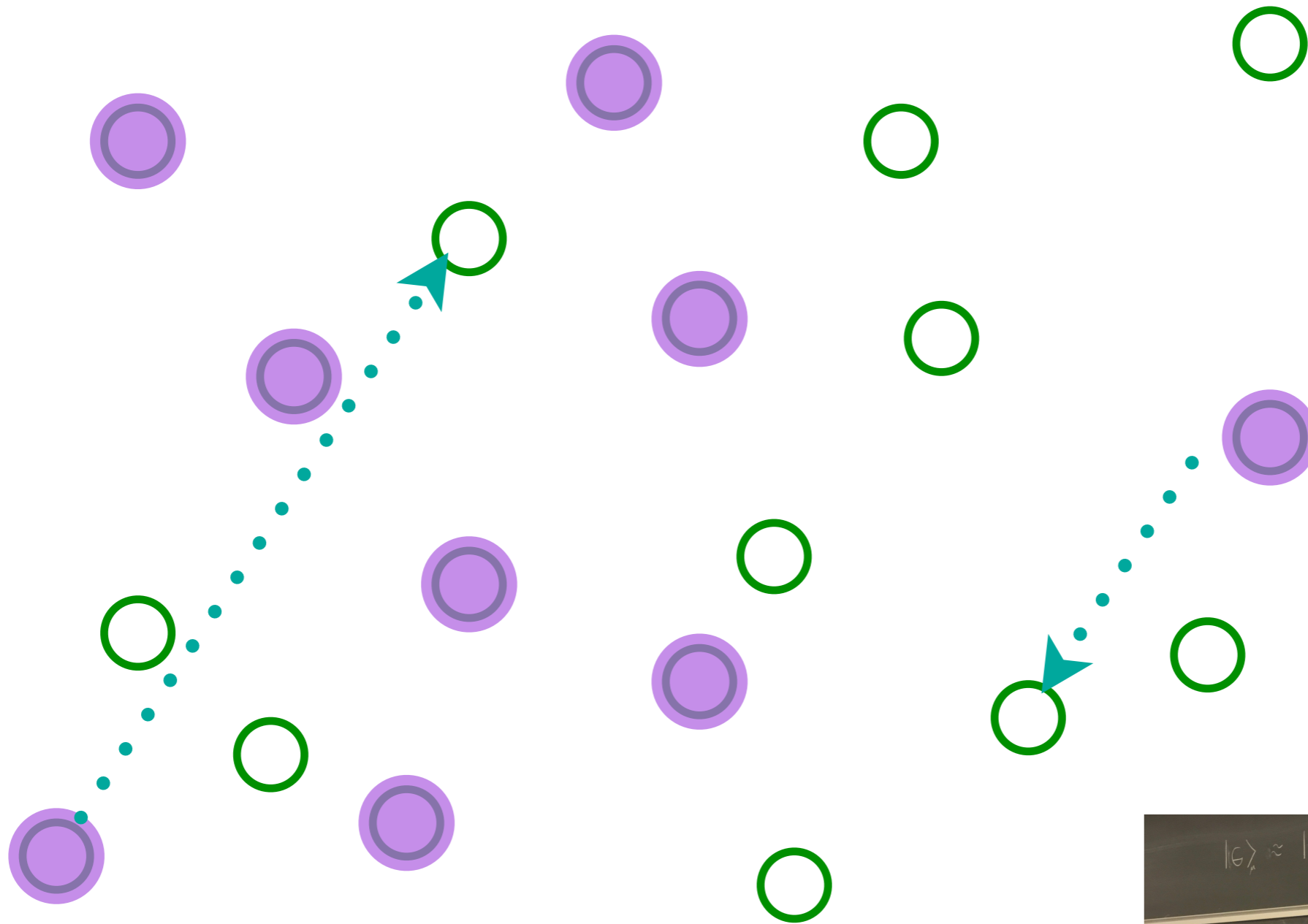


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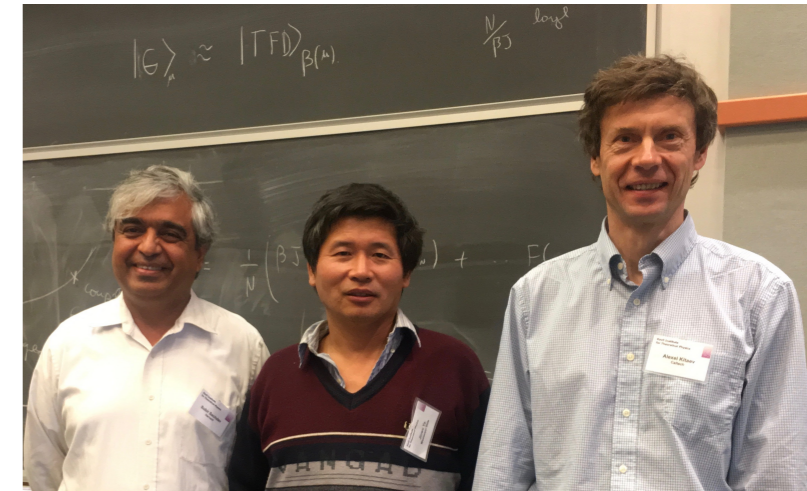


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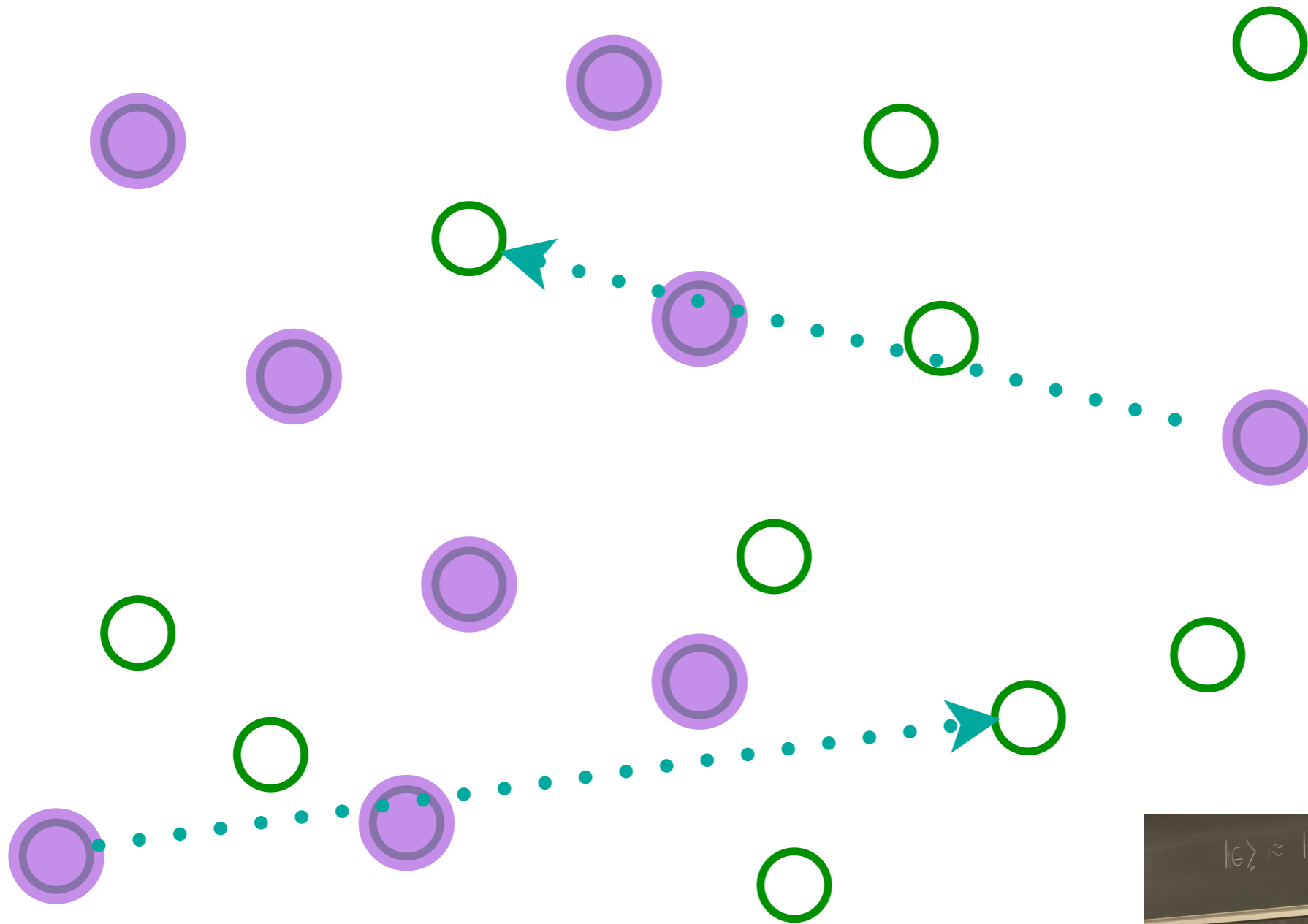


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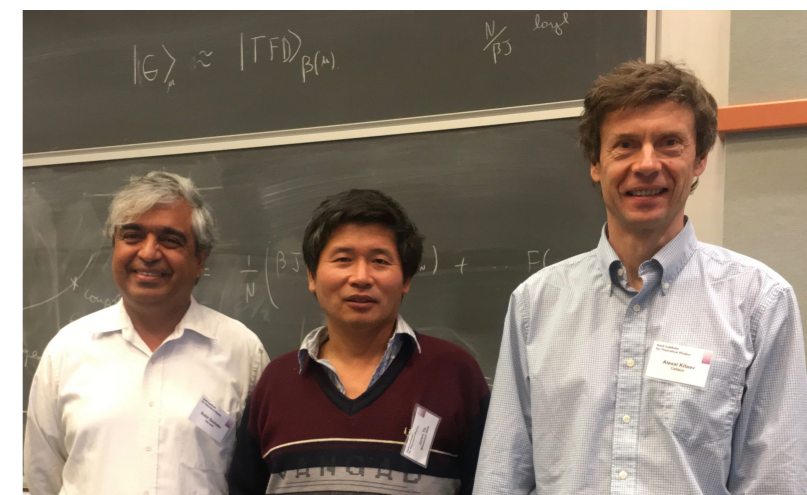


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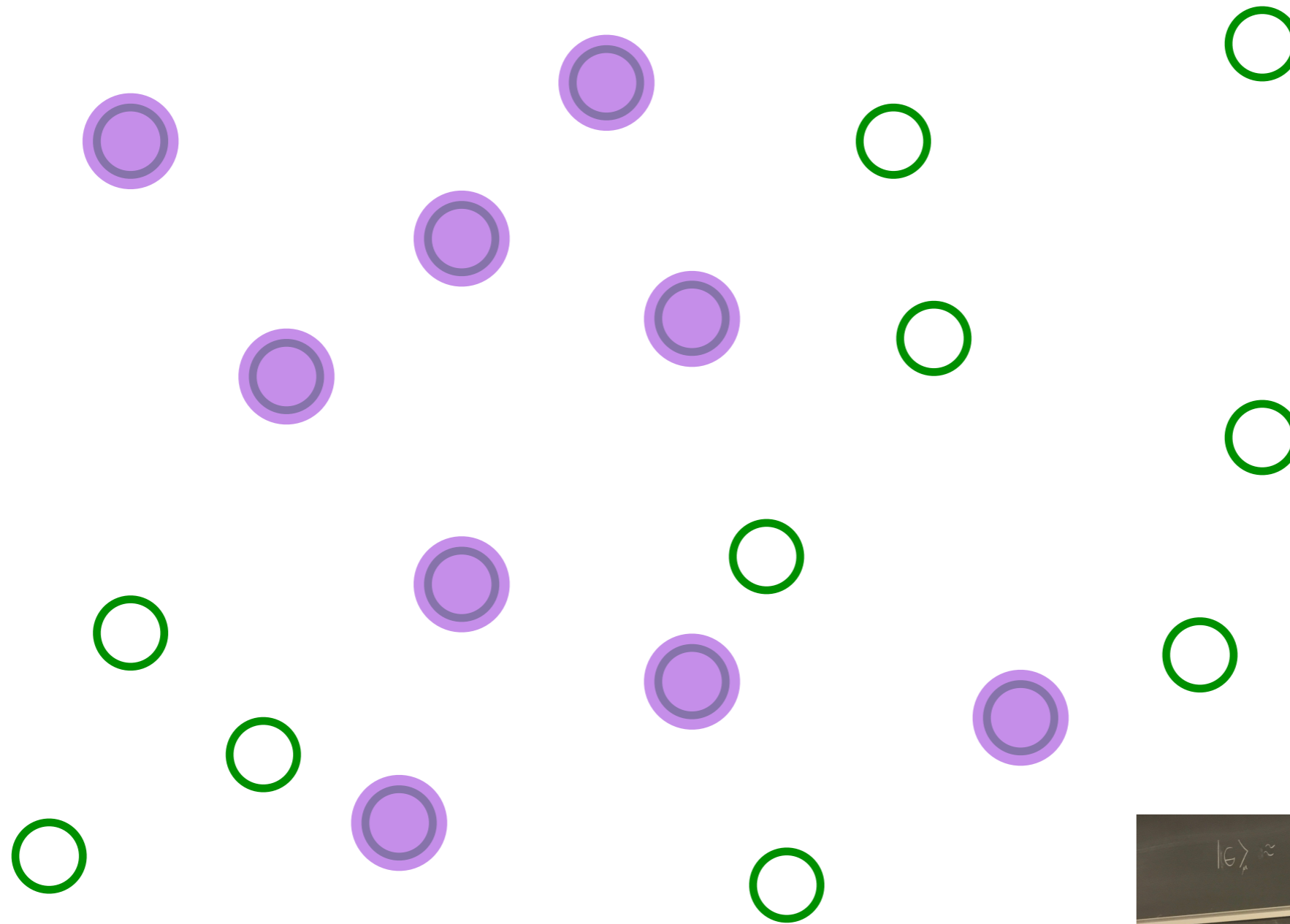


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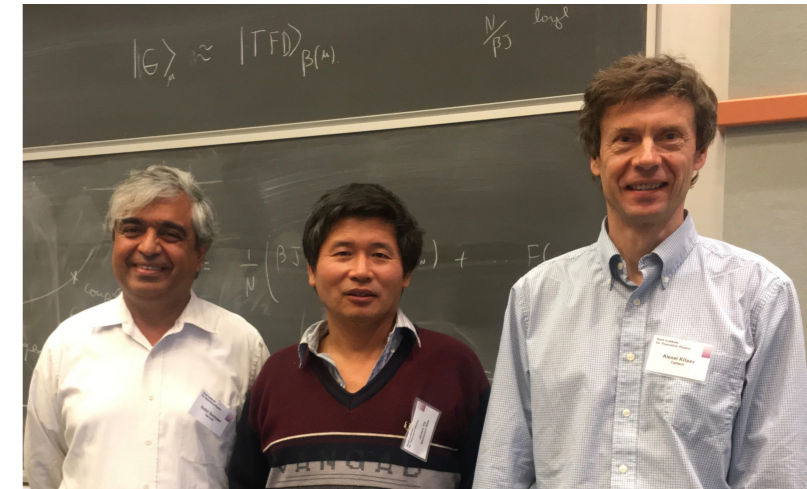


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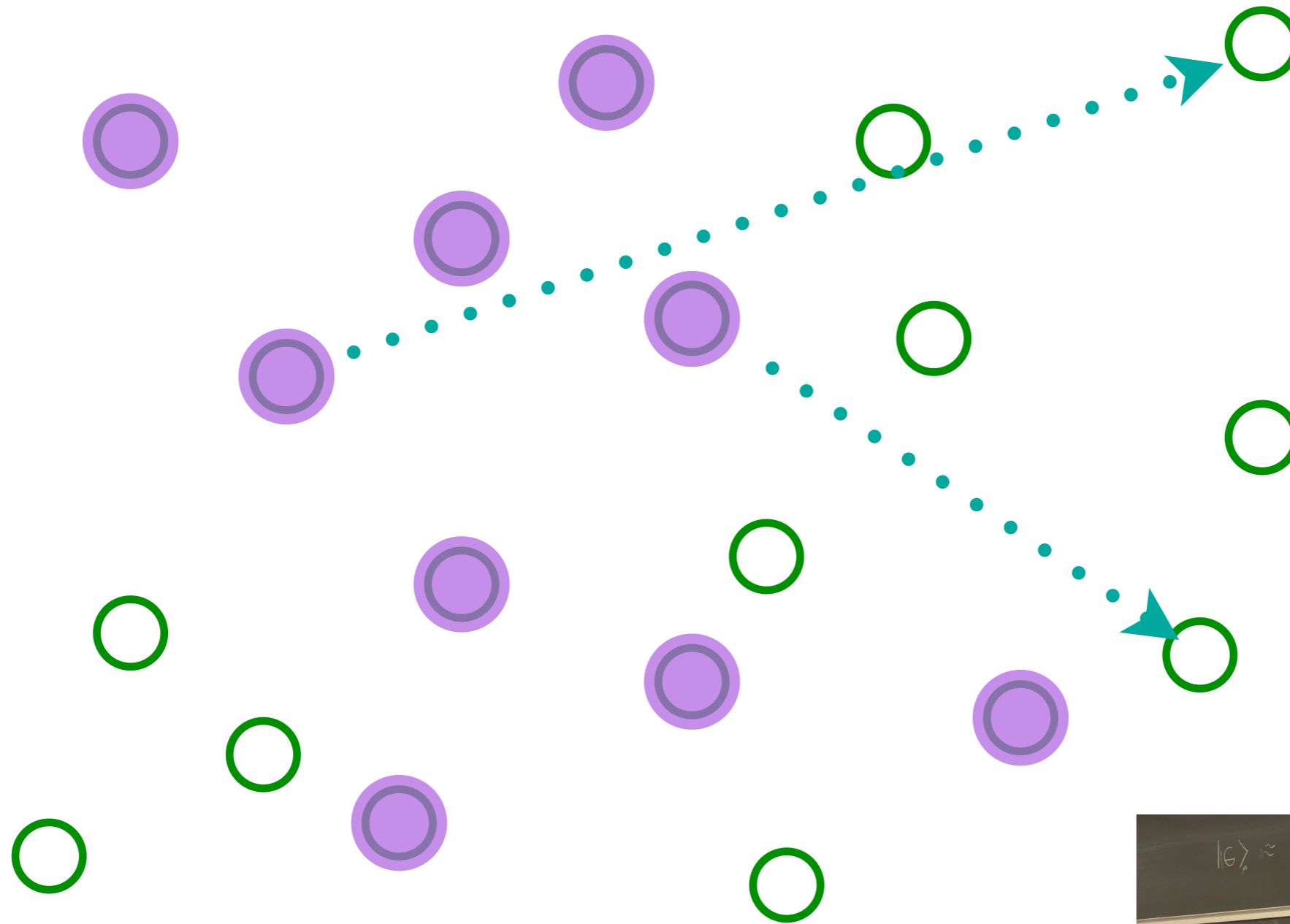


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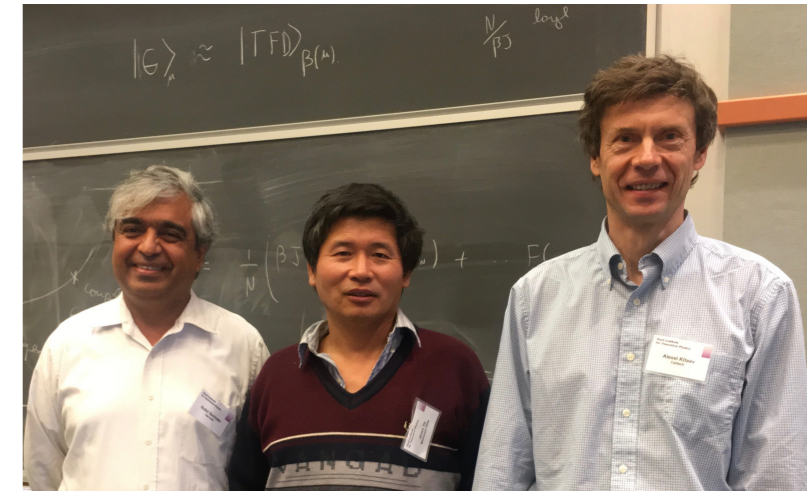


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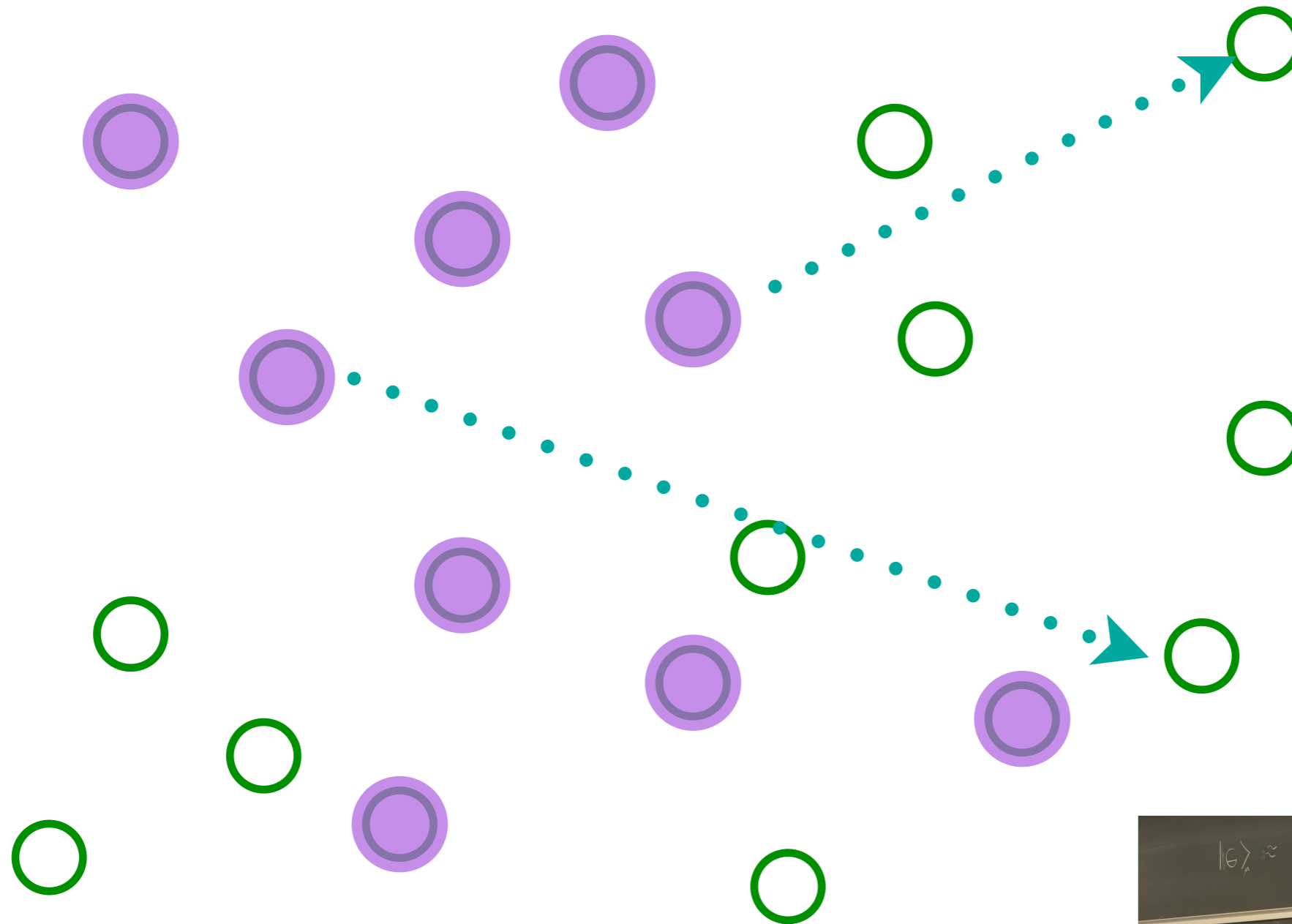


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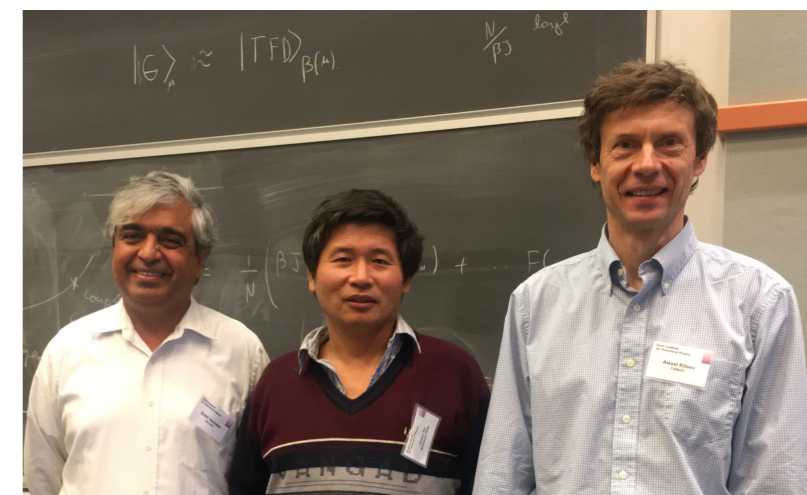


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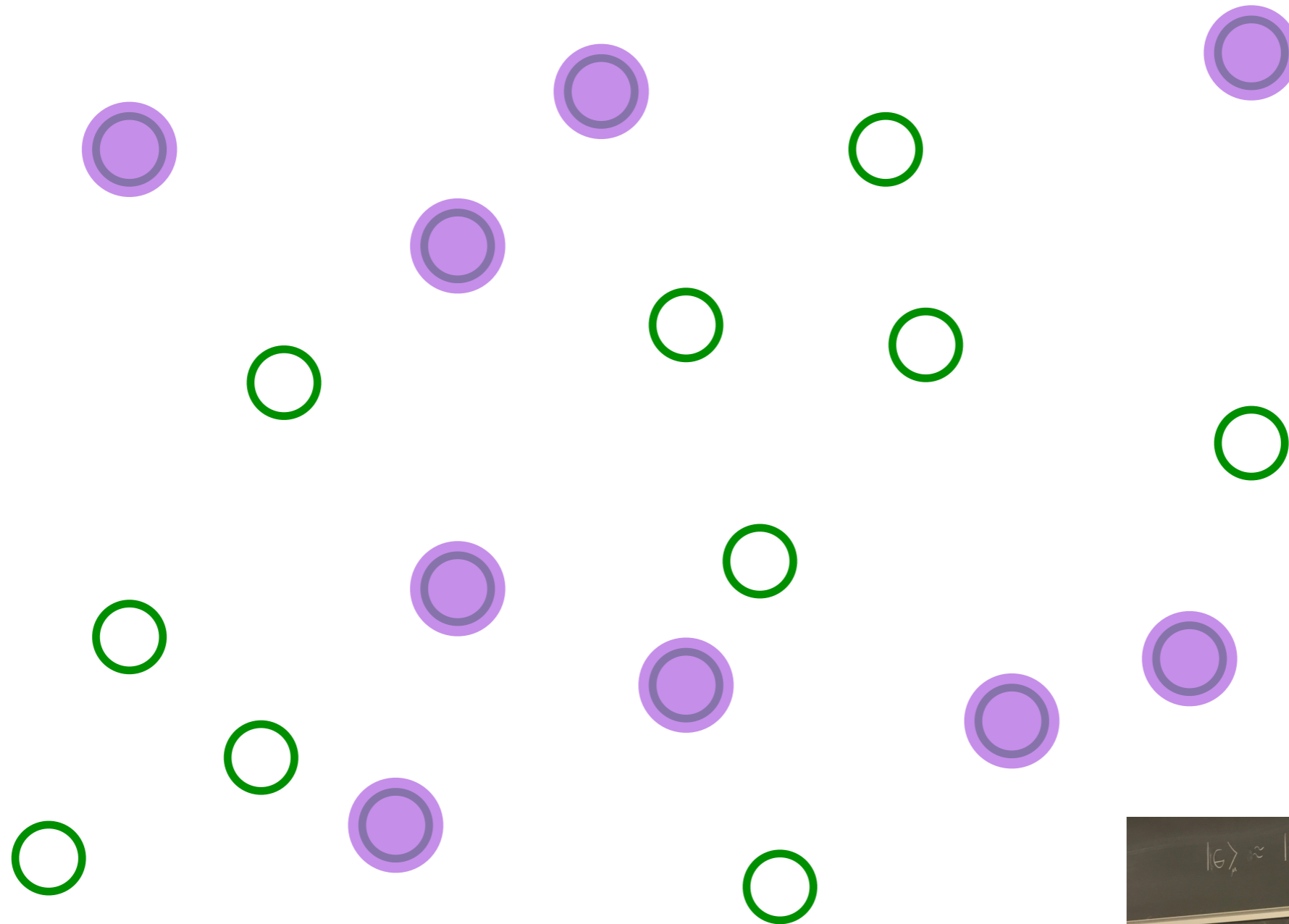


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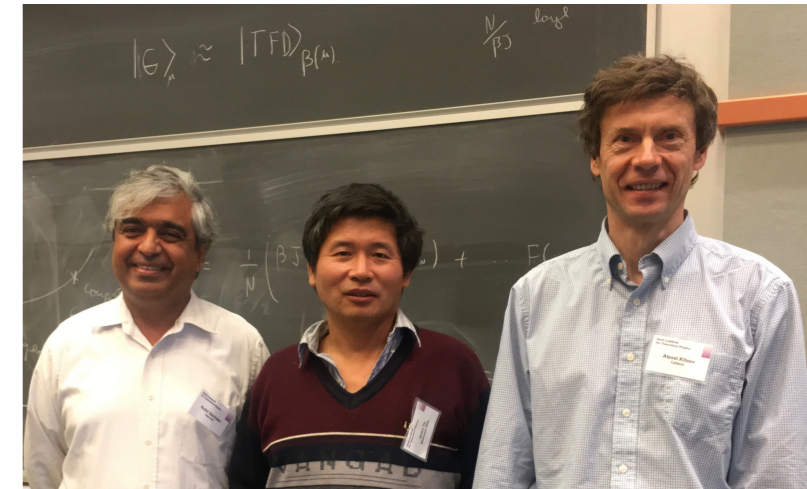


# The SYK model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)

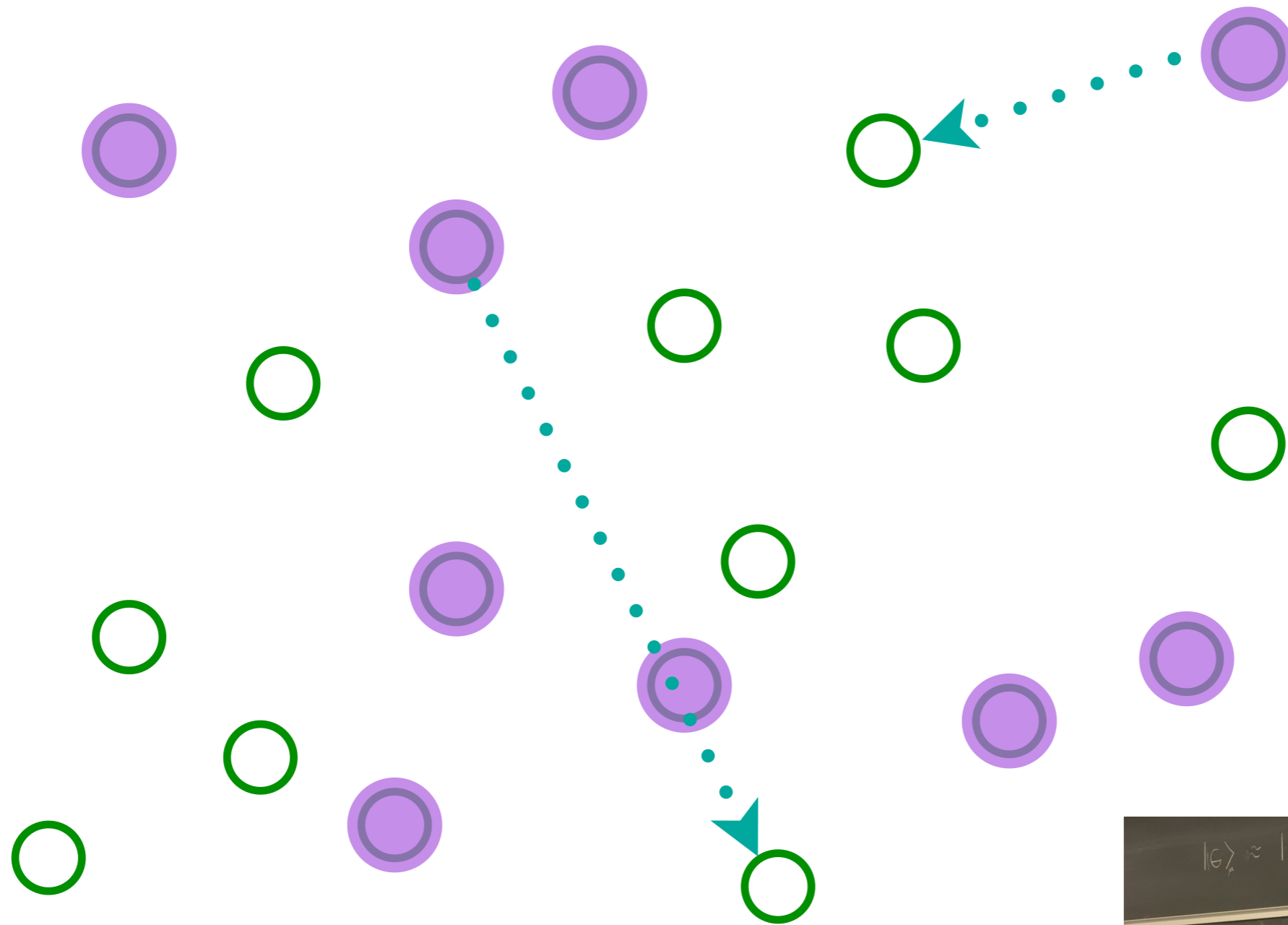


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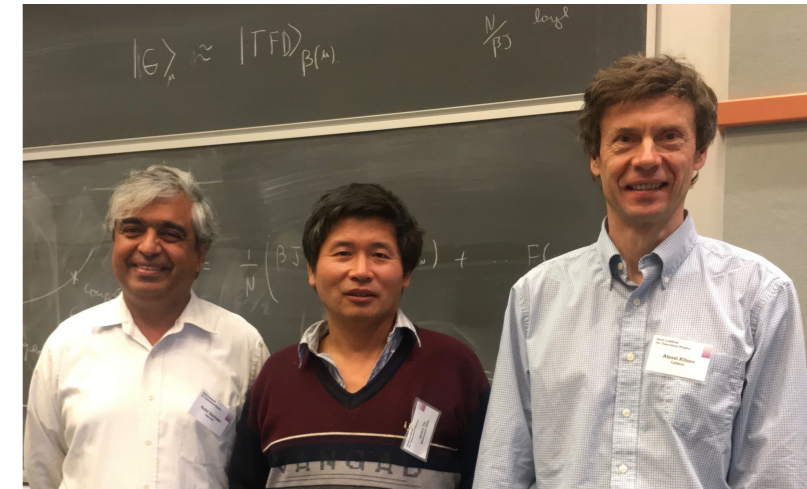


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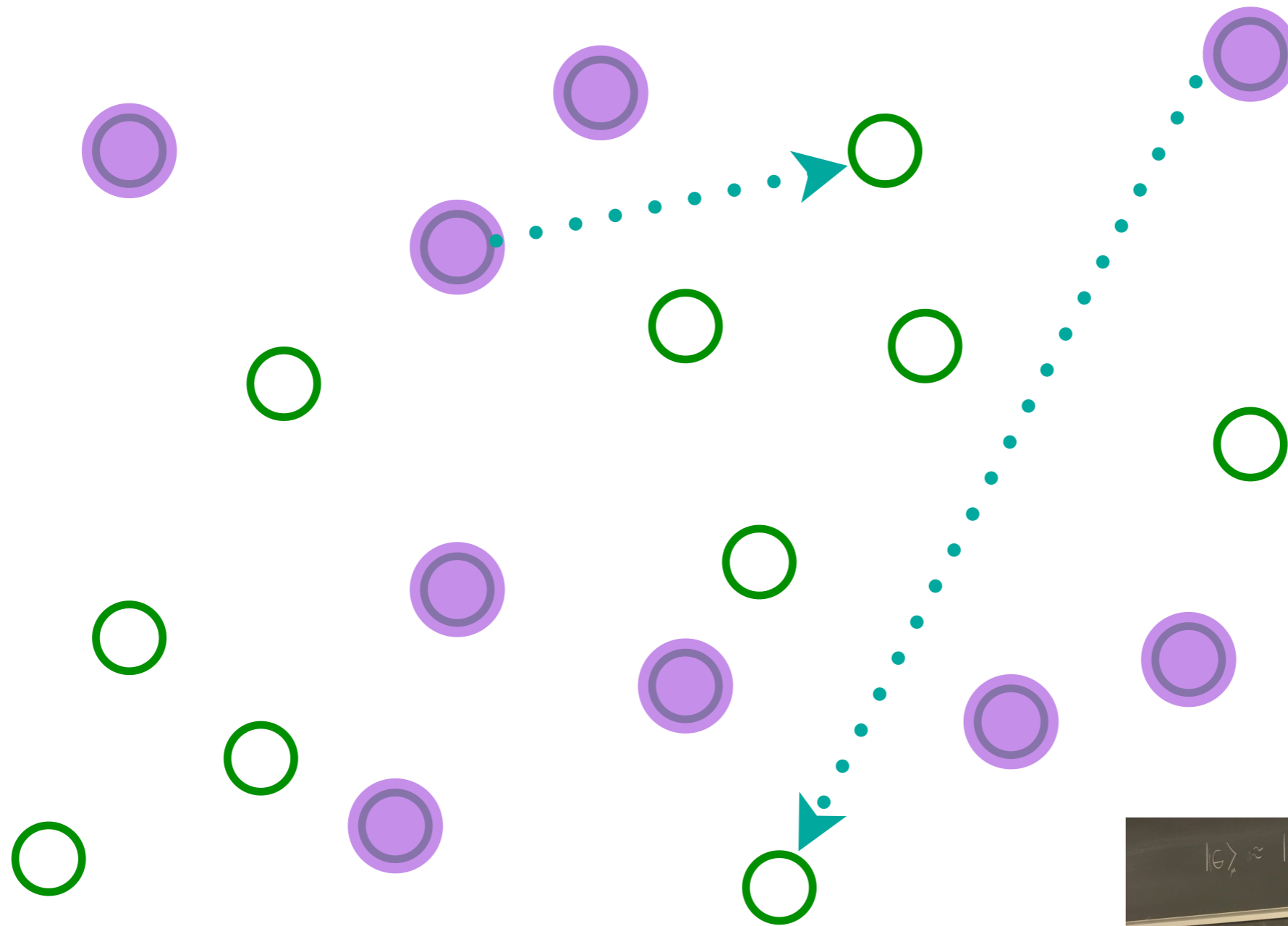


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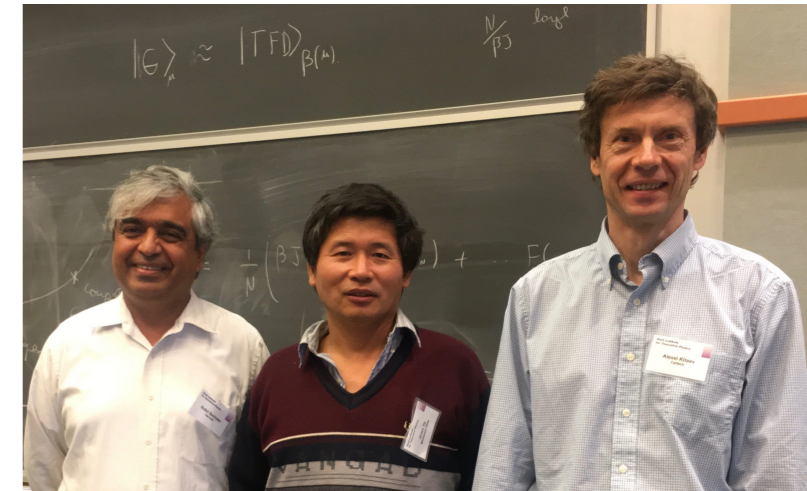


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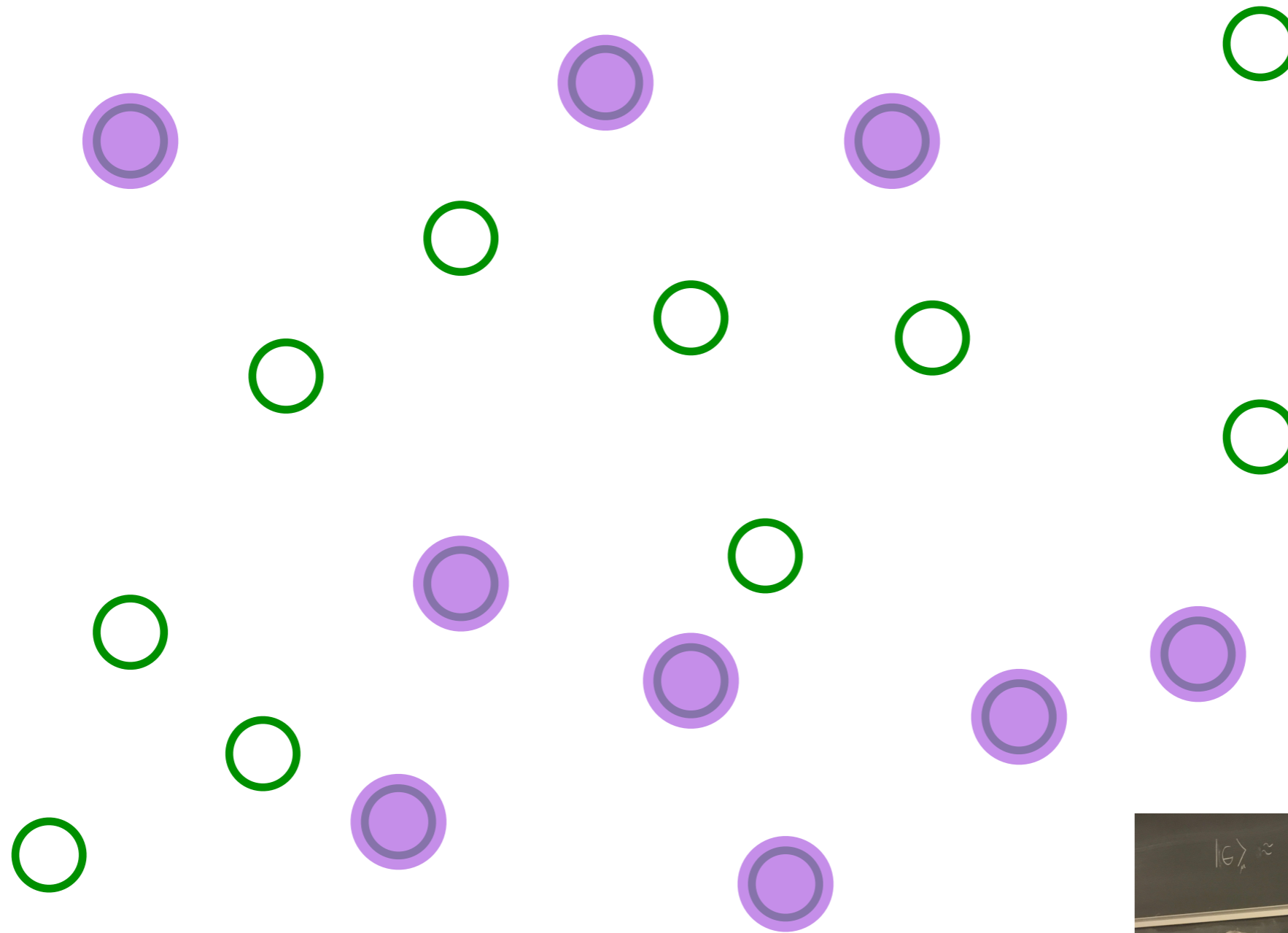


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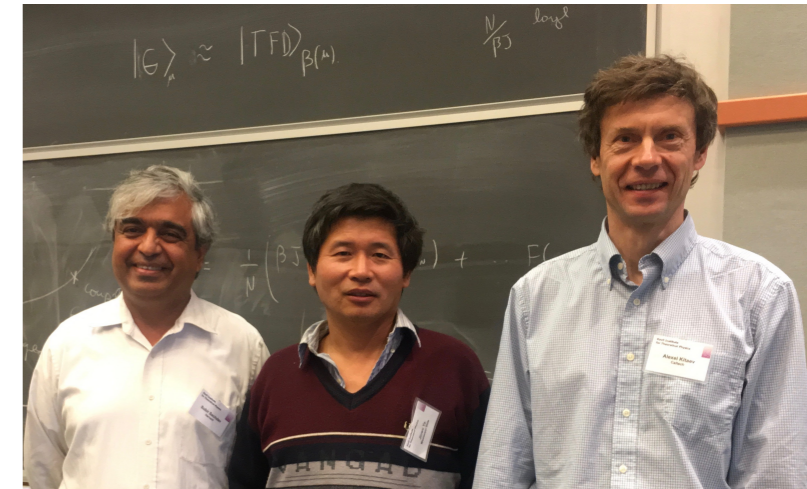


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Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)



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Complex multi-particle entanglement in the SYK model leads to a state without ‘quasiparticle’ excitations; *i.e.*

multiple excitations cannot be built by composing an elementary set of ‘quasiparticle’ excitations.

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Many-body chaos and thermal equilibration in the shortest possible Planckian time  $\sim \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$ .

Quantum  
entanglement

Black  
holes

Hologram ?

A simple  
many-particle  
(SYK) model



# Maxwell's electromagnetism and Einstein's general relativity allow black hole solutions with a net charge

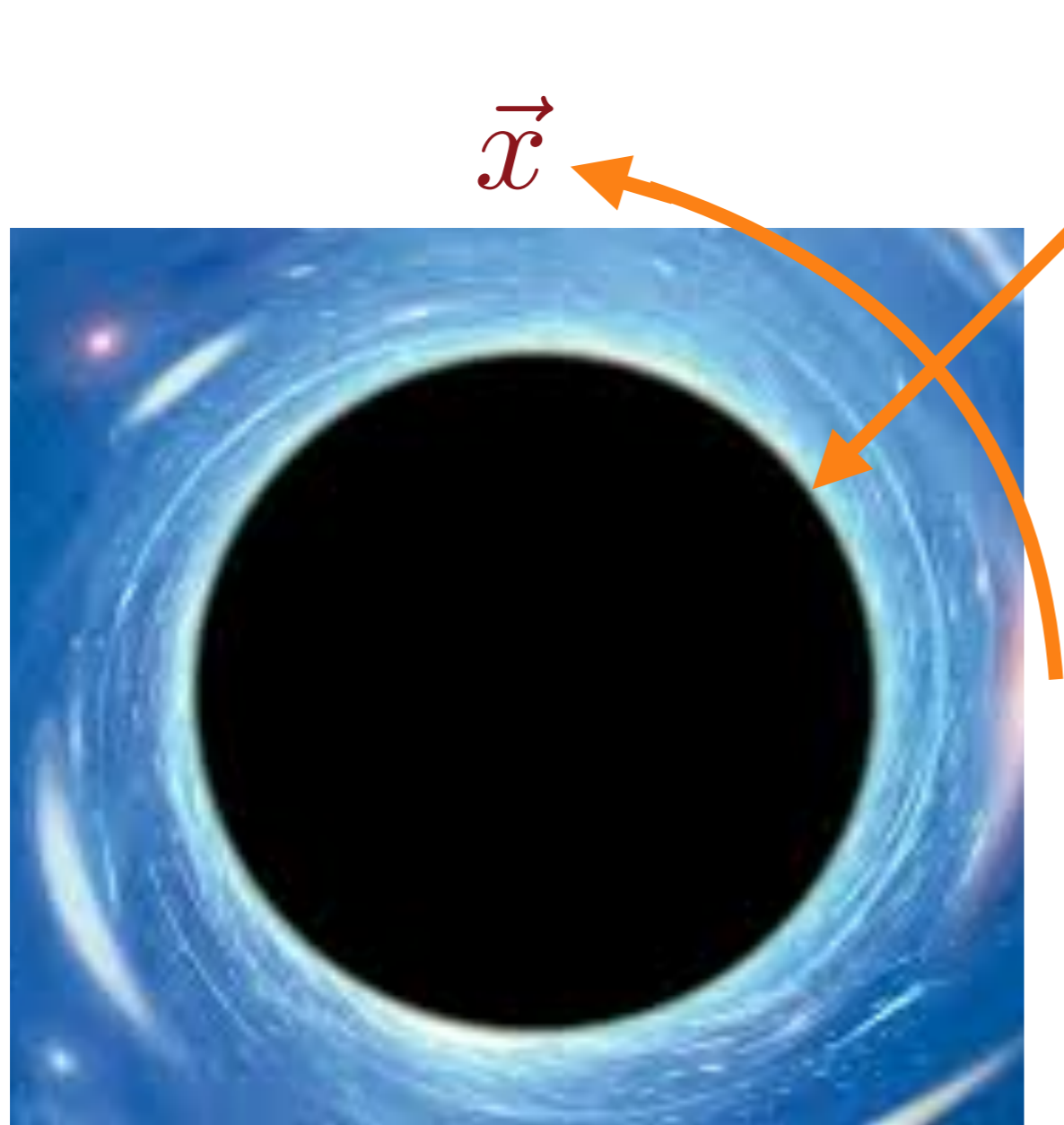
(Similar considerations also apply  
to rapidly rotating black holes,  
Moitra, Sake, Trivedi, Vishal (2019))





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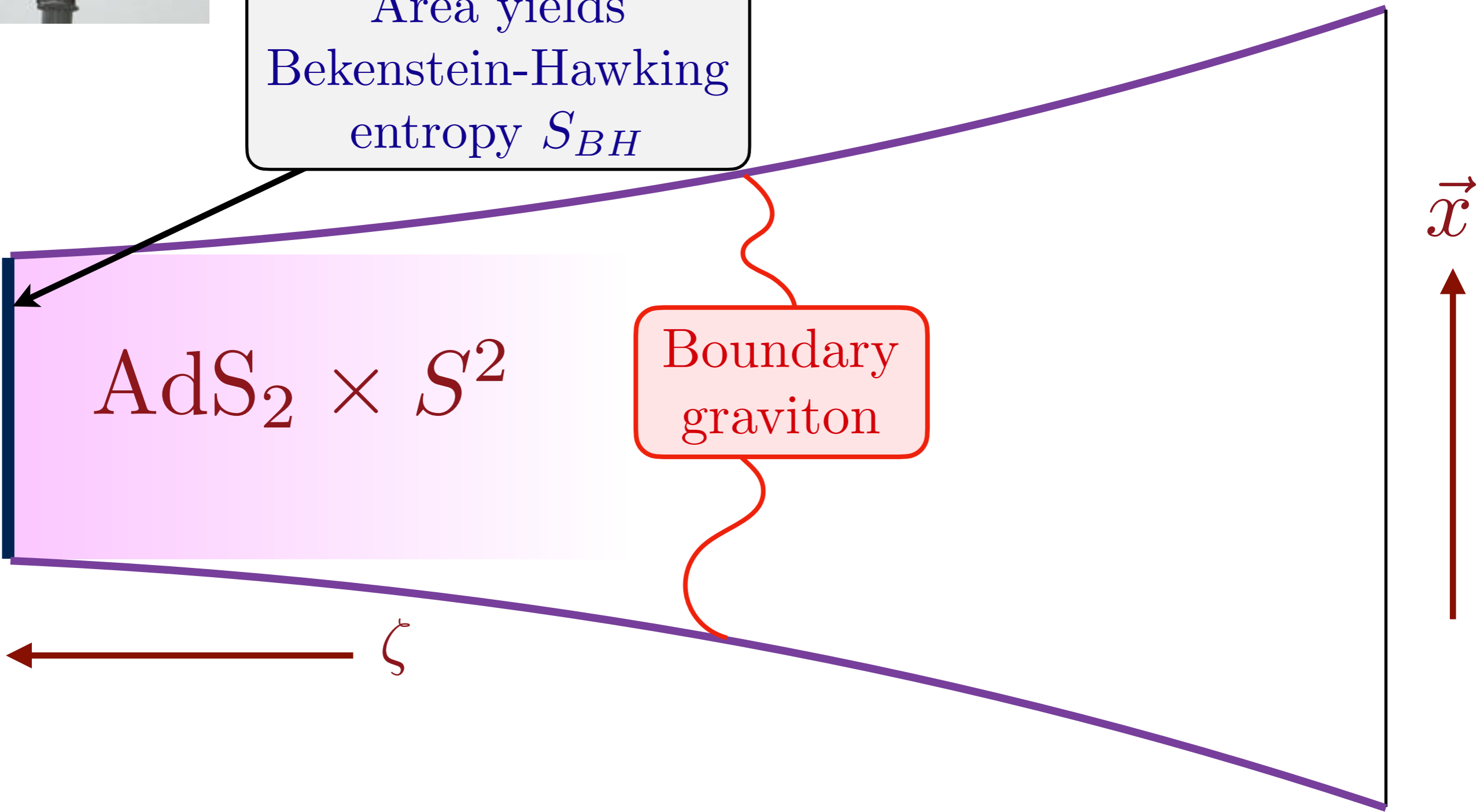


Zooming into the near-  
horizon region of a  
charged black hole at  
low temperature, yields  
a gravitational theory  
in one space ( $\zeta$ ) and  
one time dimension

# SYK model and charged black holes



Horizon  
Area yields  
Bekenstein-Hawking  
entropy  $S_{BH}$



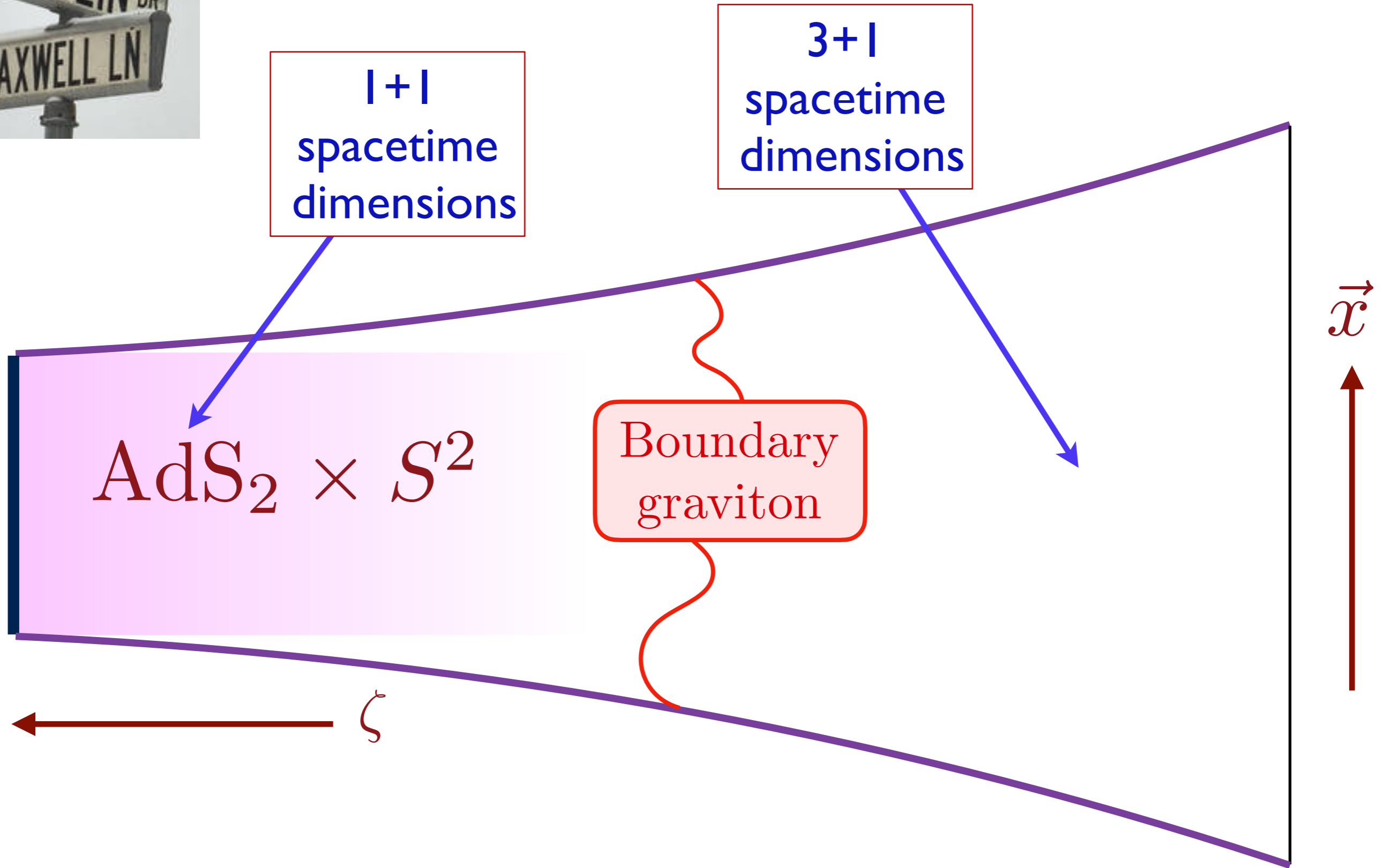
$AdS_2 \times S^2$

Boundary  
graviton

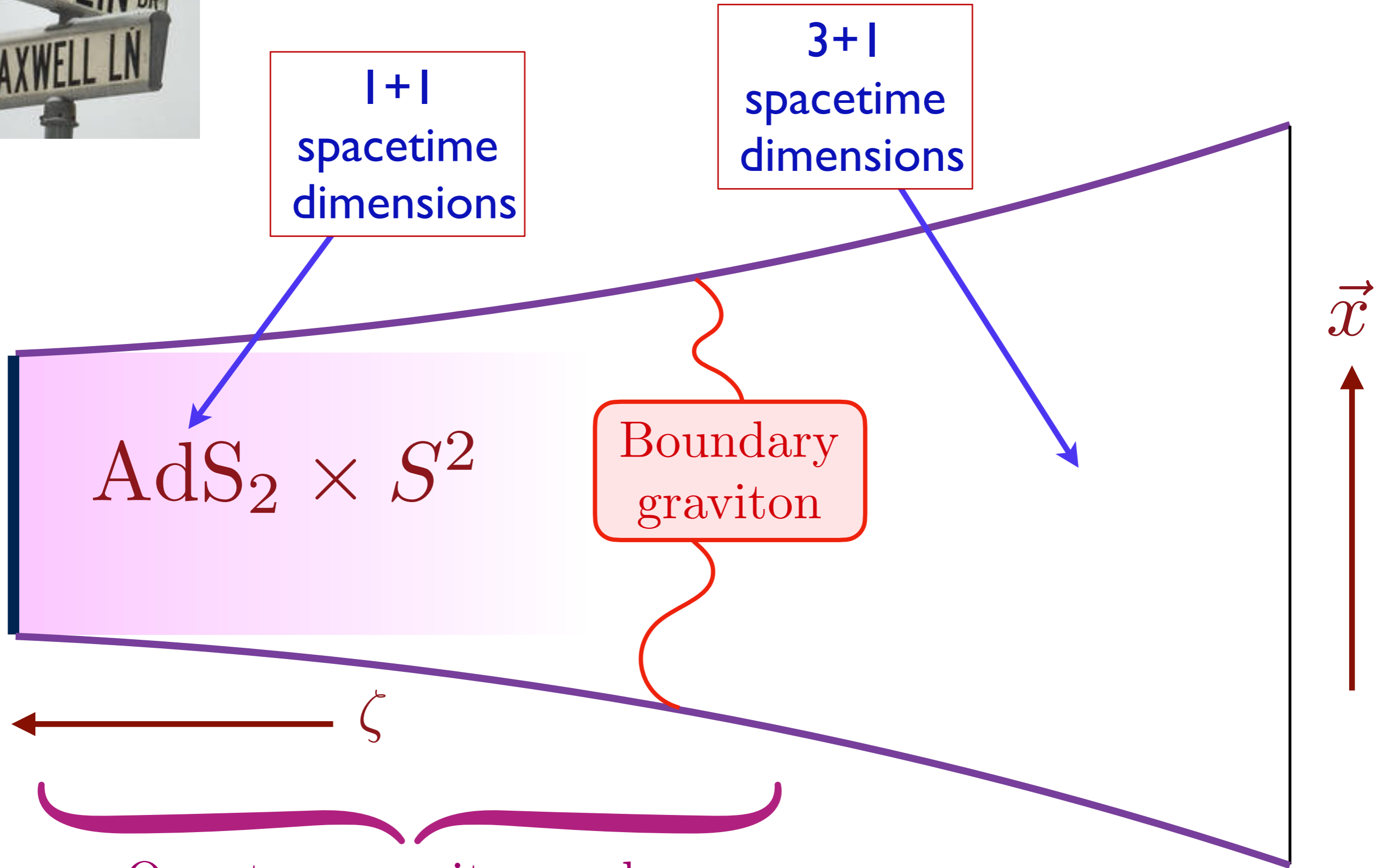
$\vec{x}$

$\zeta$

# SYK model and charged black holes



# SYK model and charged black holes



Quantum gravity can be exactly solved in this region!

# SYK model and charged black holes

Thermodynamics of charged quantum black holes

$$\int \mathcal{D}g_{\mu\nu} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{\hbar} \mathcal{S}_{\text{Einstein-Maxwell theory}}^{(3+1)}[g_{\mu\nu}] \right) T \rightarrow 0,$$
$$\approx \int \mathcal{D}g_{\mu\nu} \exp \left( -\frac{1}{\hbar} \mathcal{S}_{\text{Gravity of AdS}_2 \text{ and boundary}}^{(1+1)}[g_{\mu\nu}] \right)$$

# SYK model and charged black holes

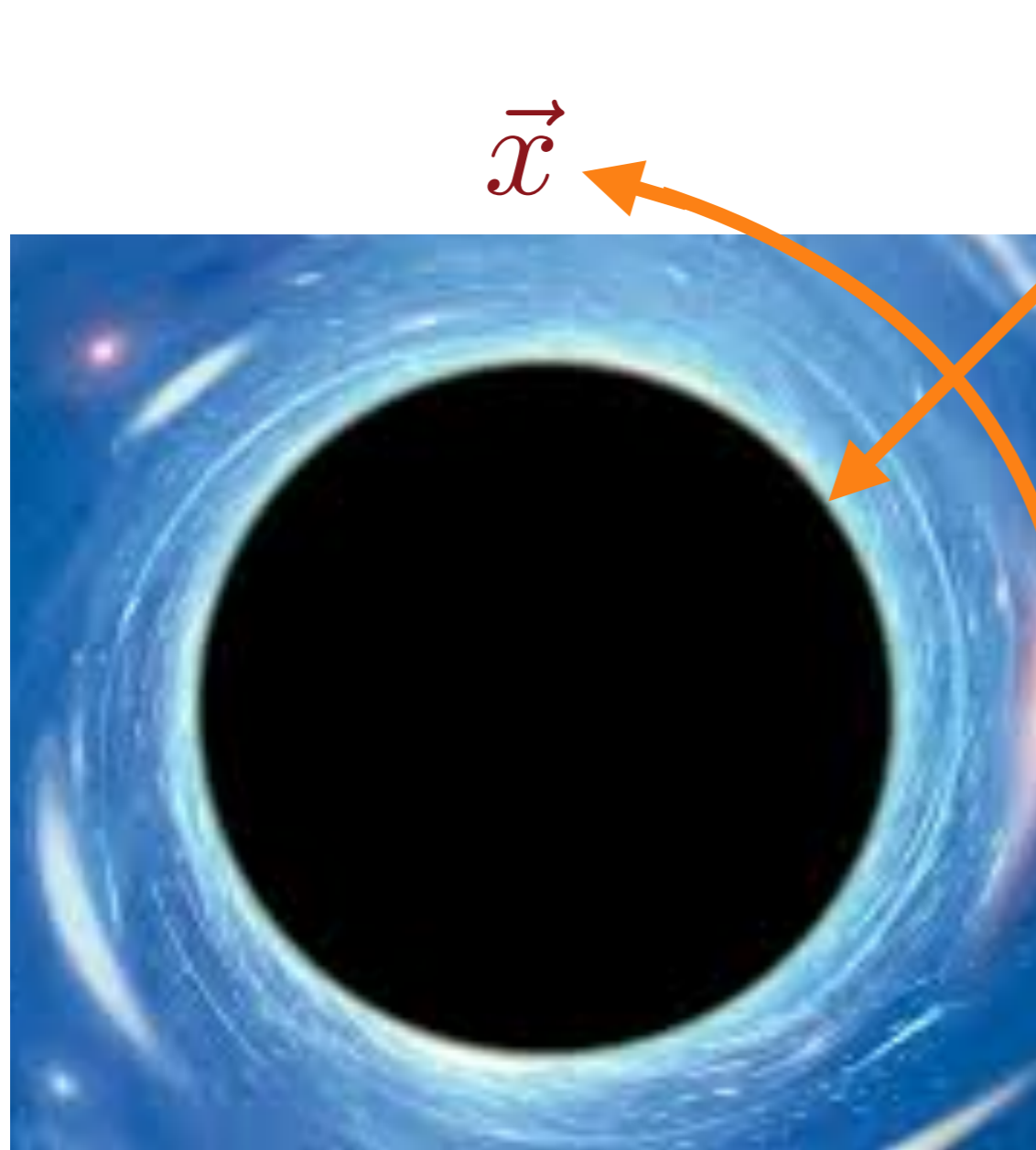
Thermodynamics of charged quantum black holes

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \mathcal{D}g_{\mu\nu} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\hbar} \mathcal{S}_{\text{Einstein-Maxwell theory}}^{(3+1)}[g_{\mu\nu}]\right) T \rightarrow 0, \\ & \approx \int \mathcal{D}g_{\mu\nu} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\hbar} \mathcal{S}_{\text{Gravity of AdS}_2 \text{ and boundary}}^{(1+1)}[g_{\mu\nu}]\right) \\ & = \exp(S_{BH}) \times \exp\left(-\frac{1}{T} \times \text{Free energy of SYK model}\right) \end{aligned}$$

**The hologram of the 1+1 dimensional gravity near the horizon of a charged black hole is the 0+1 dimensional SYK model**



Maxwell's electromagnetism  
and Einstein's general relativity  
allow black hole solutions with a net charge



The near-horizon  
1+1D-gravity theory is  
precisely that of the  
low T limit of the  
SYK models

Quantum entanglement

A simple many-particle (SYK) model

Charged black holes

Low temperatures

Quantum gravity in 1+1 dimensions

Complex multi-particle entanglement  
leads to quantum systems  
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Many-body chaos and  
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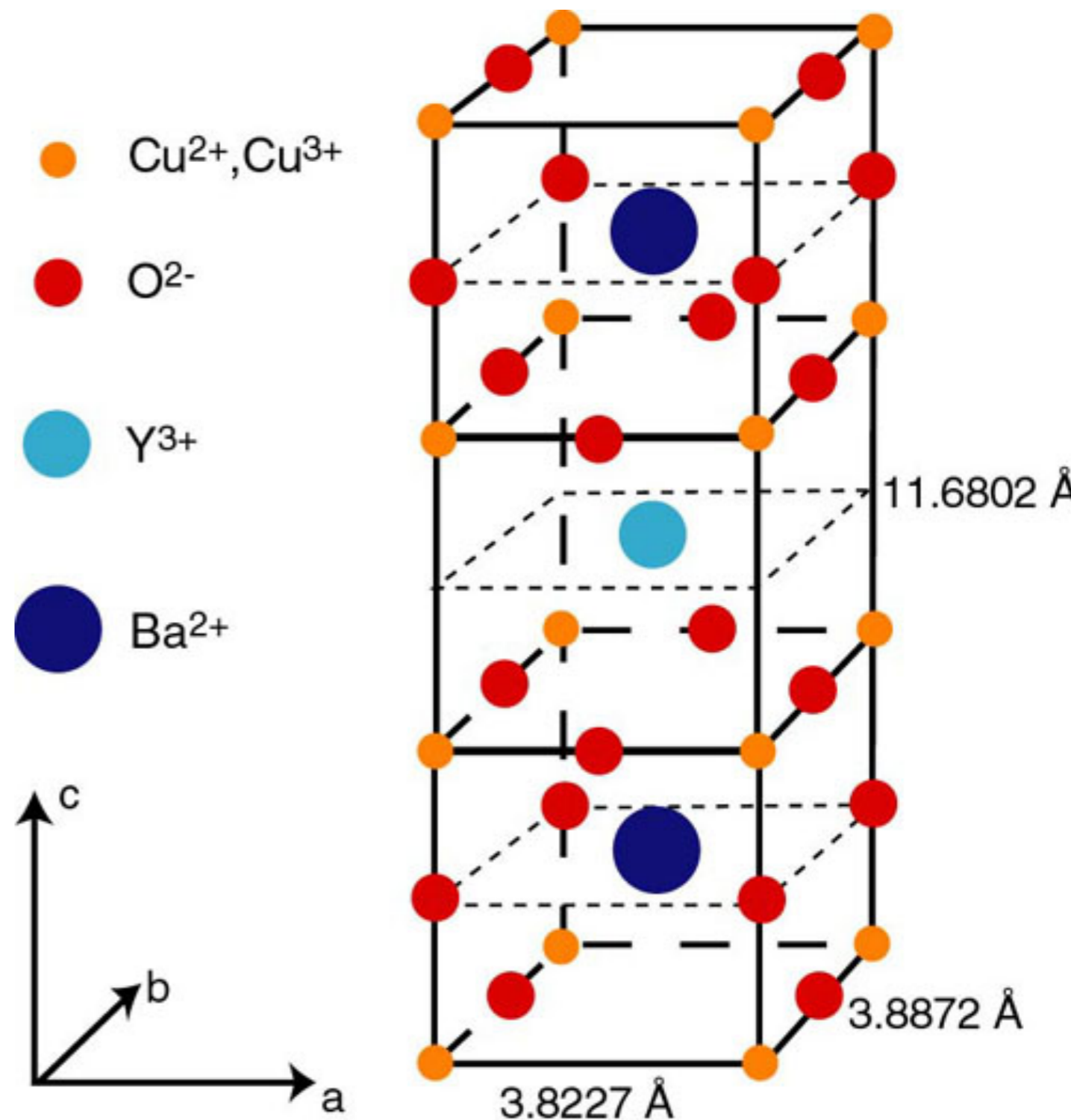
**Quantum  
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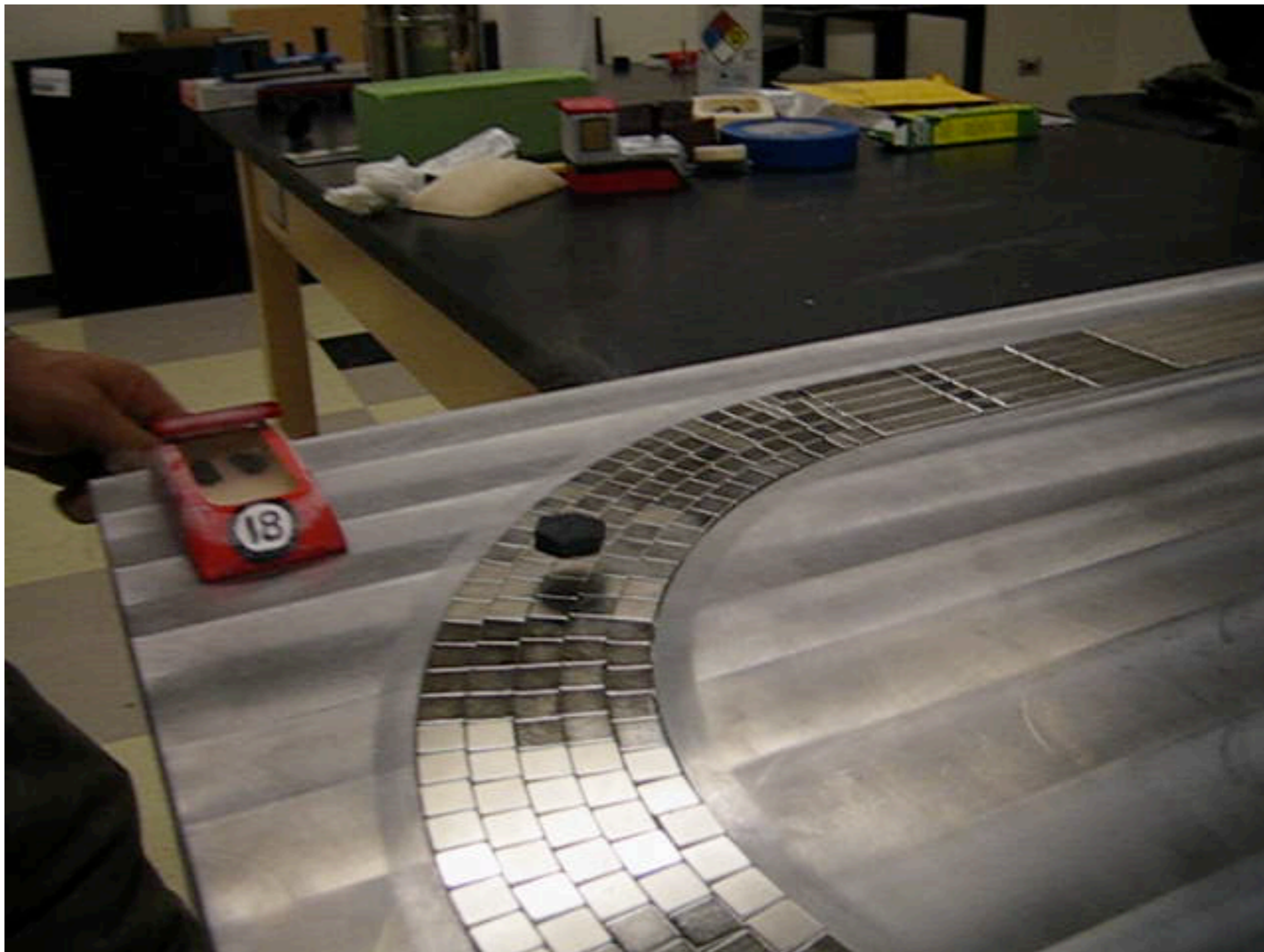
**Charged  
black holes**

**A simple  
many-particle  
(SYK) model**

**Copper-based  
superconductors**

# High temperature superconductors

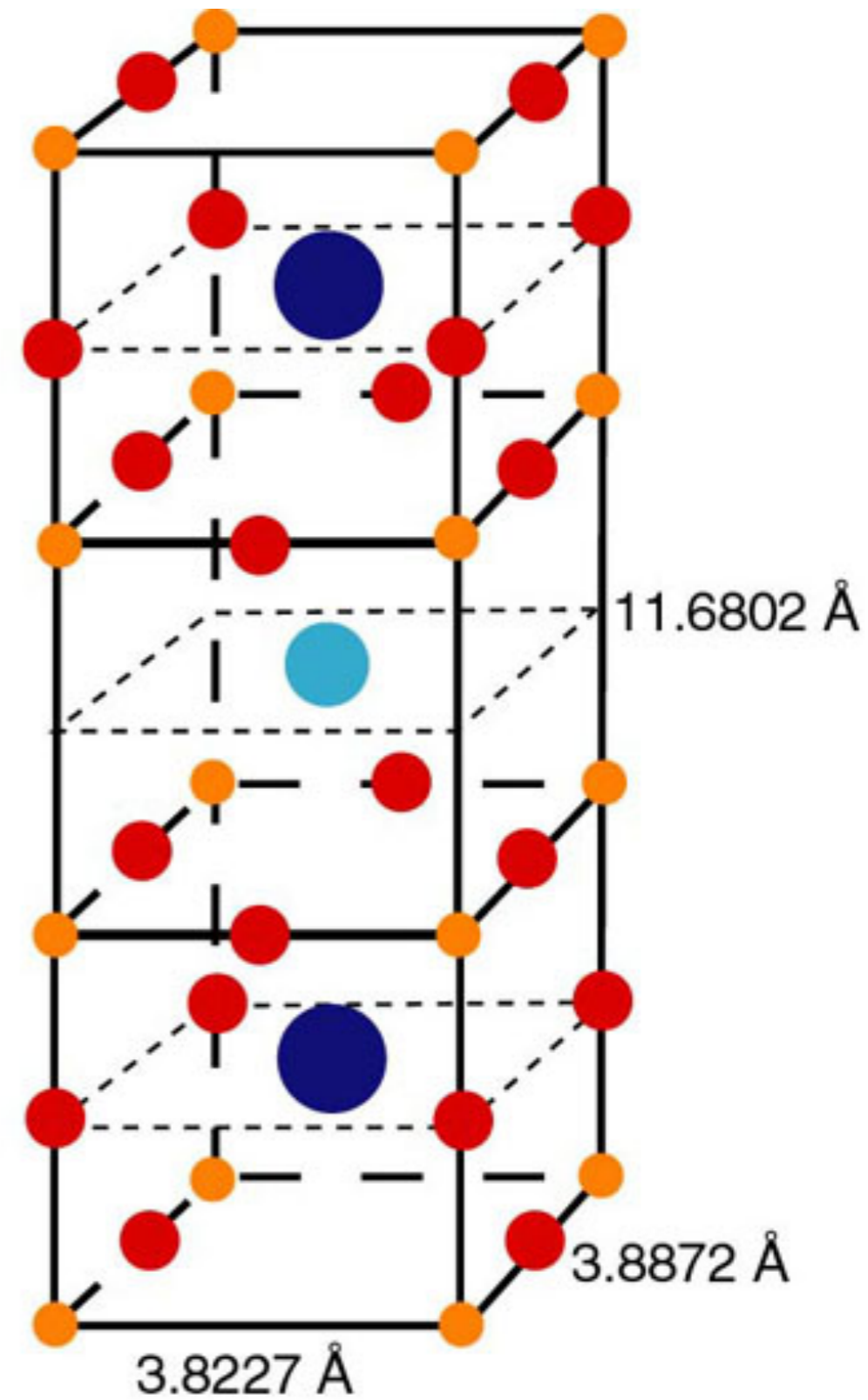
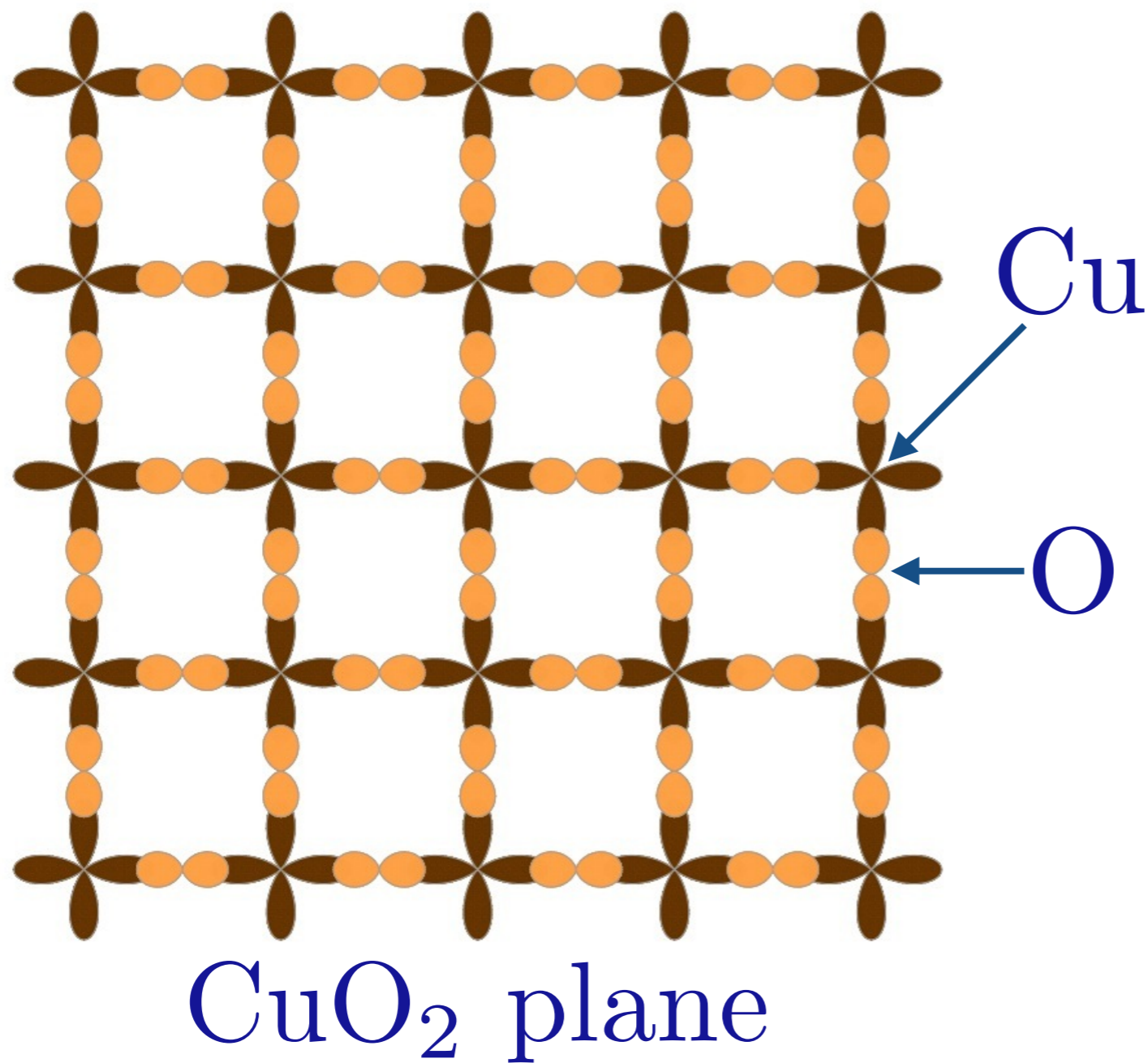




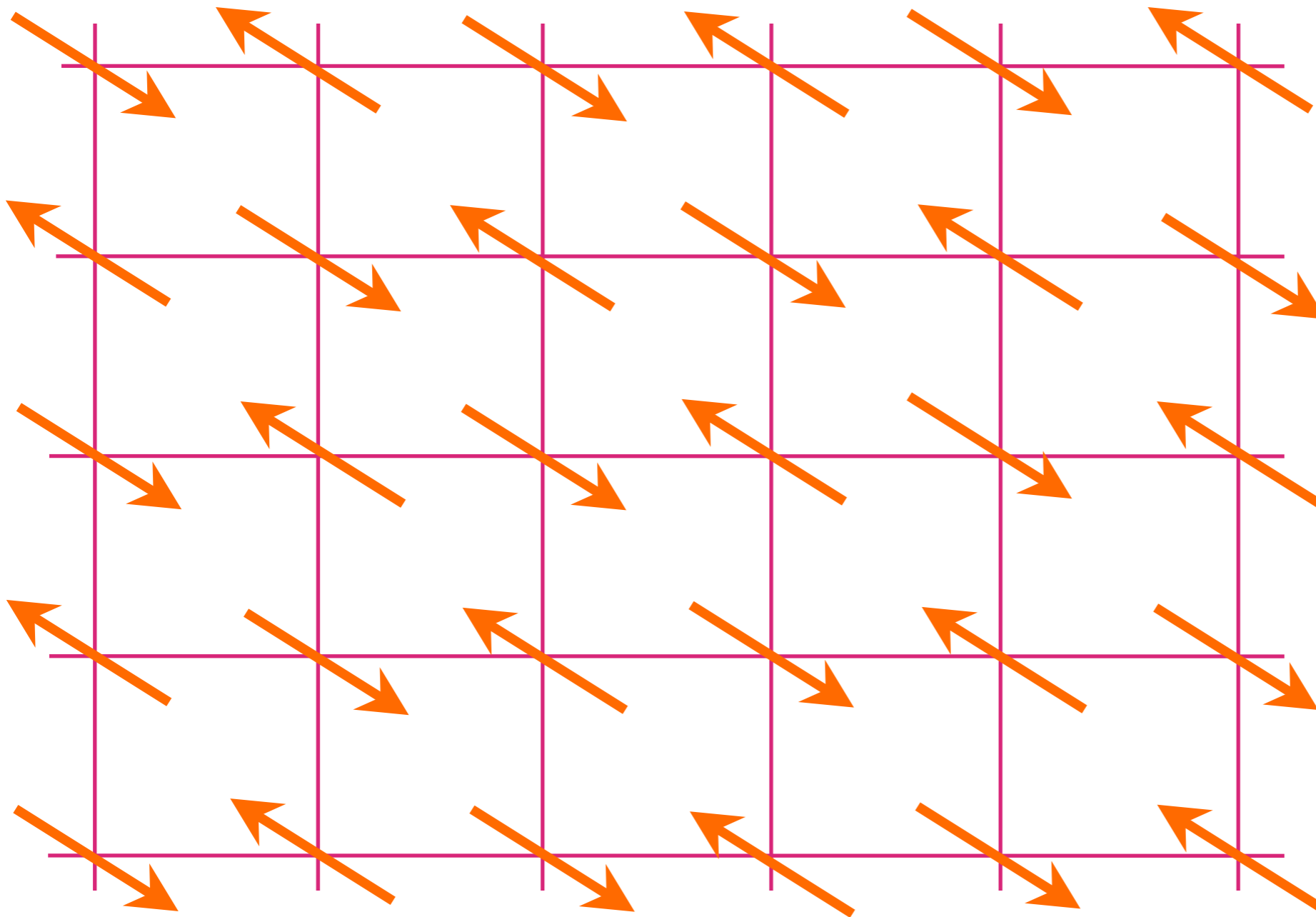
Nd-Fe-B magnets, YBaCuO superconductor

Julian Hetel and Nandini Trivedi, Ohio State University

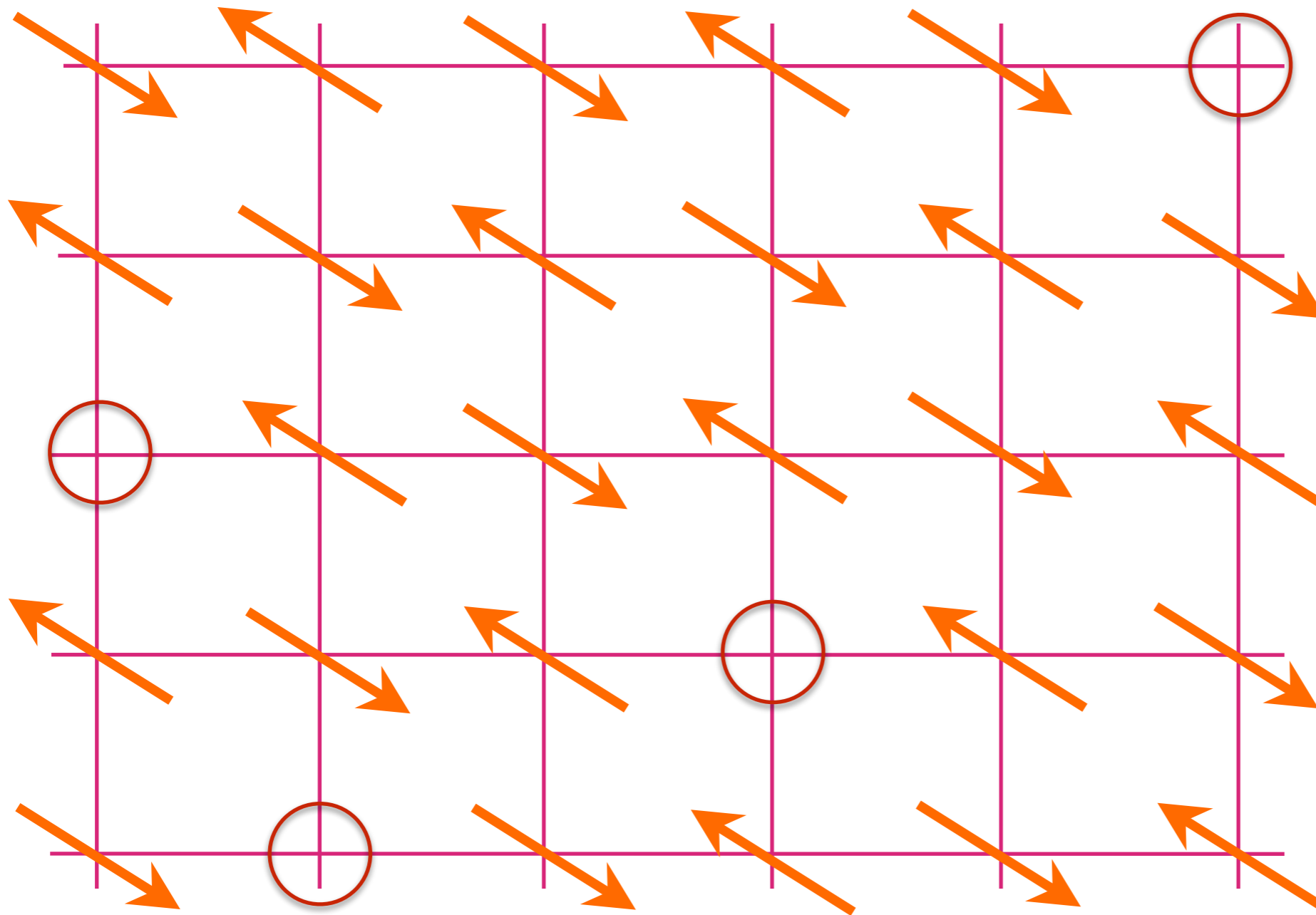
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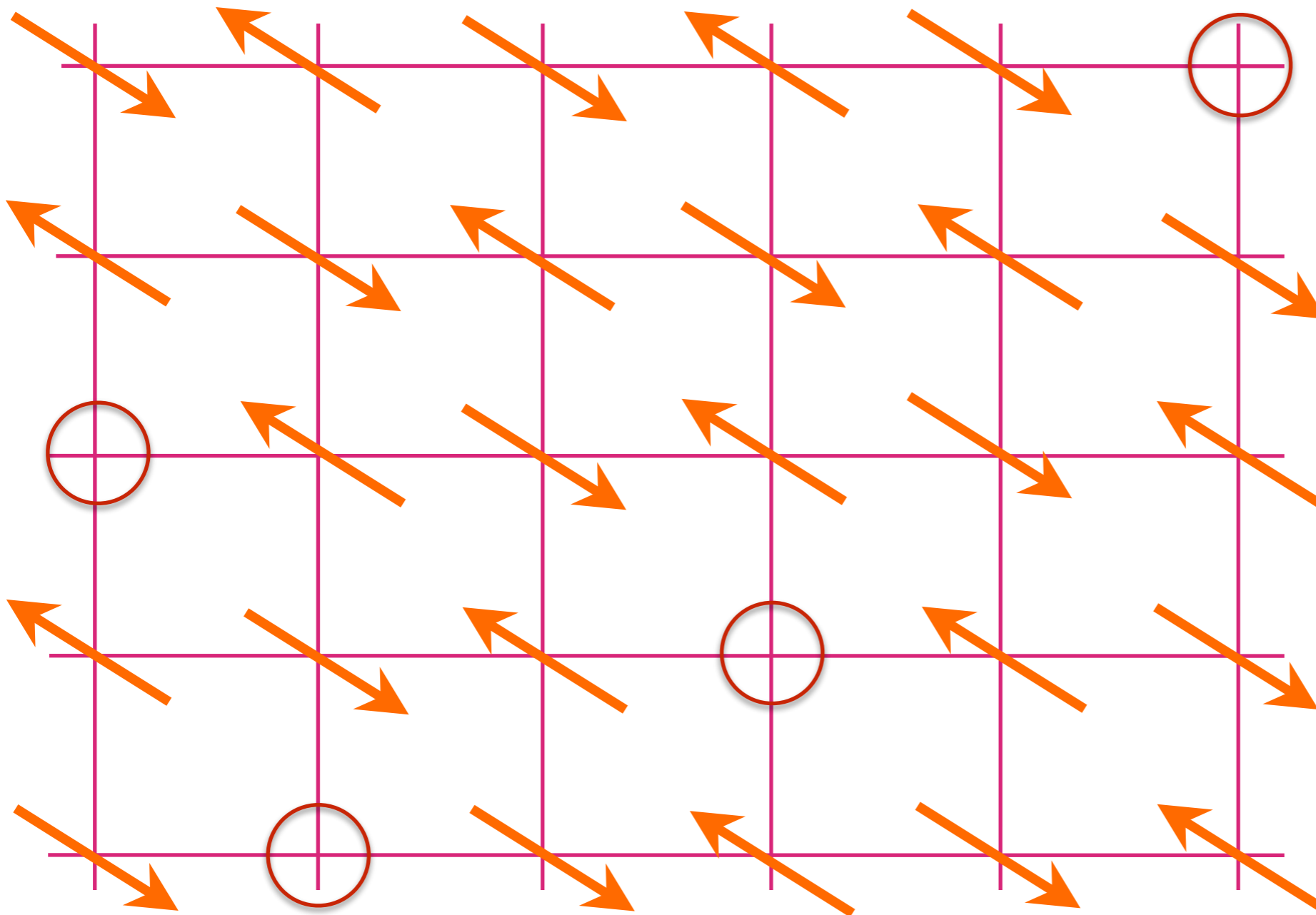
# Insulating antiferromagnet



# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$

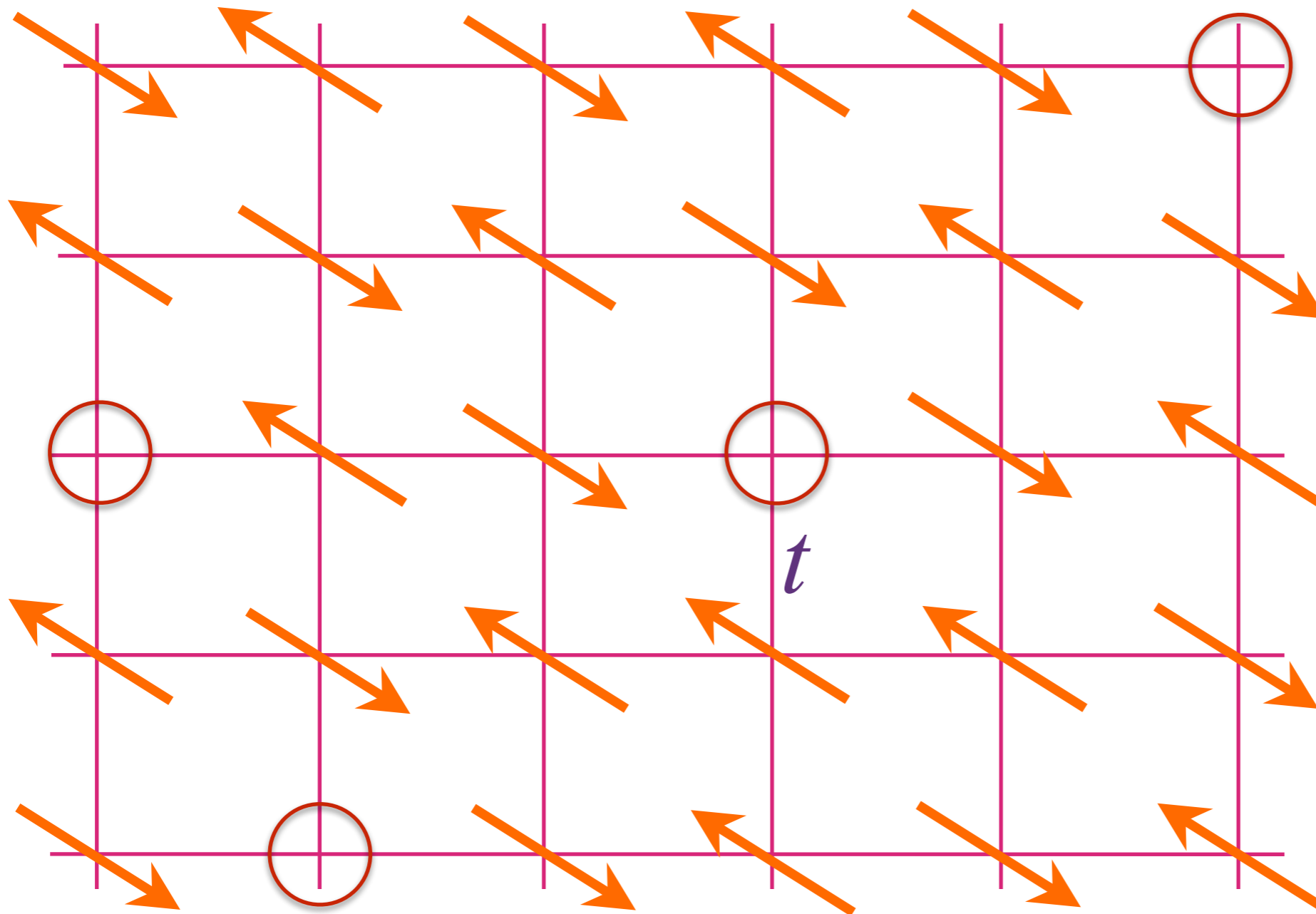


# Real-space view



$p$  mobile holes in a background of  
fluctuating spins

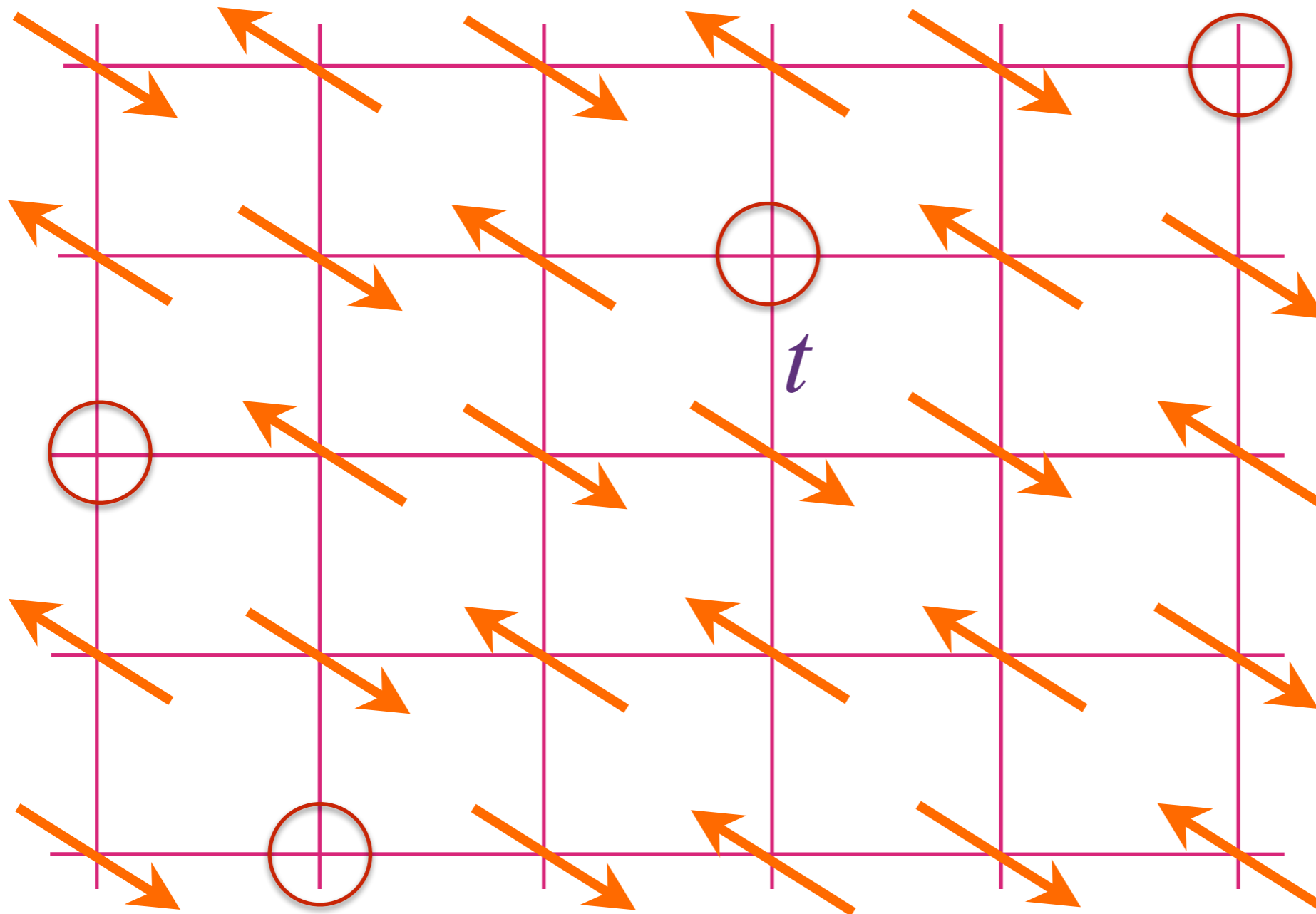
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Baskaran,  
Anderson (1988)

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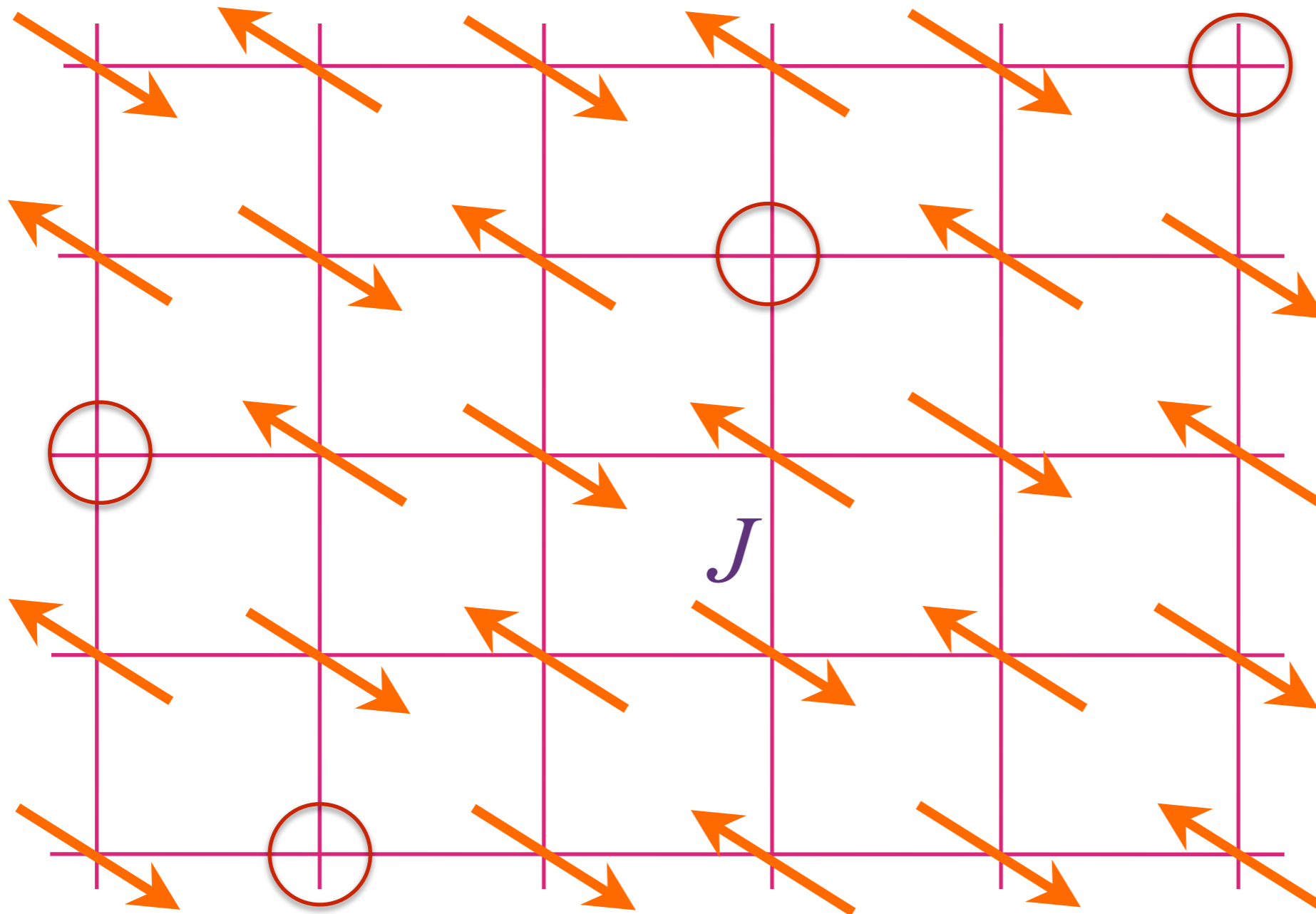
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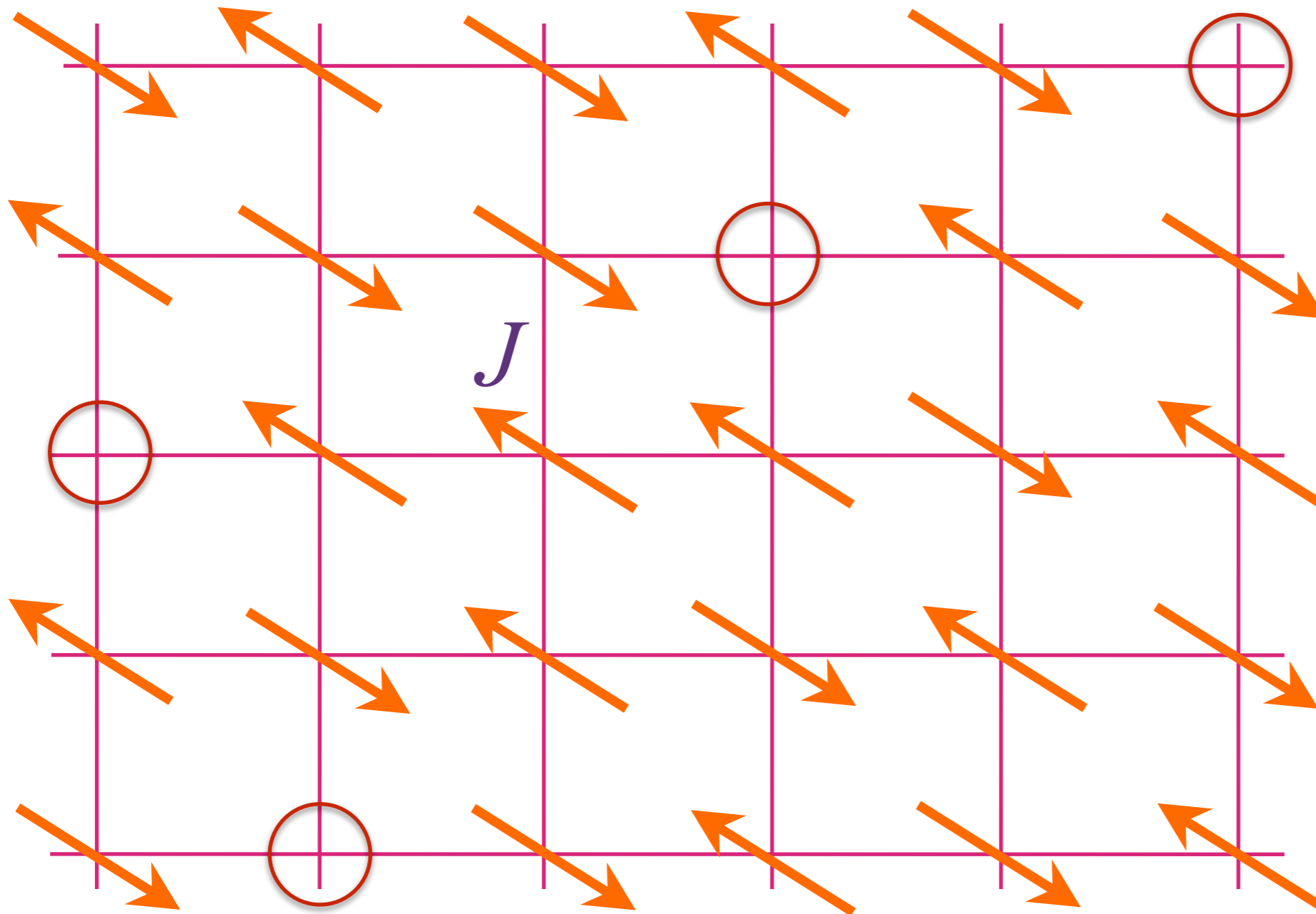
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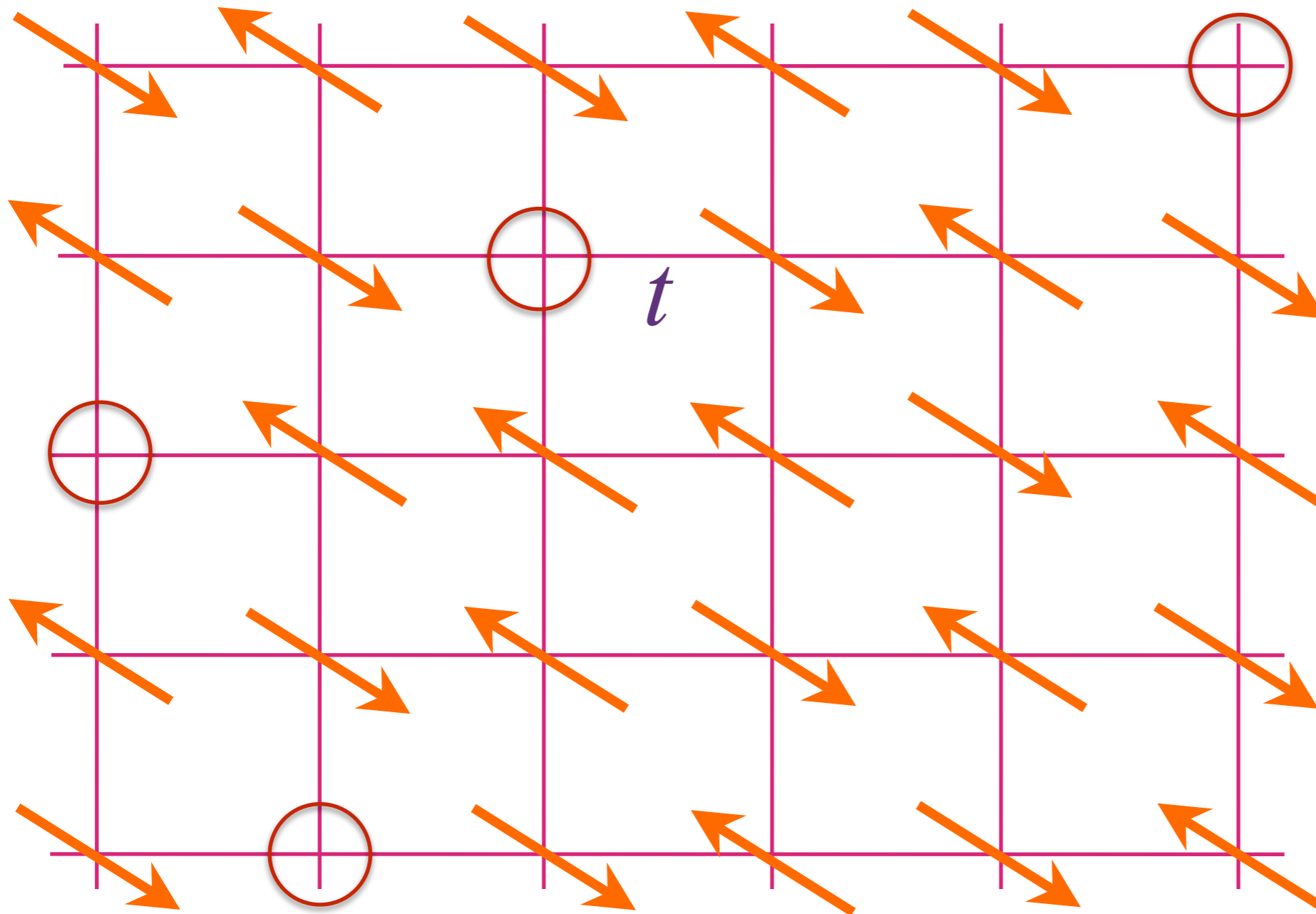
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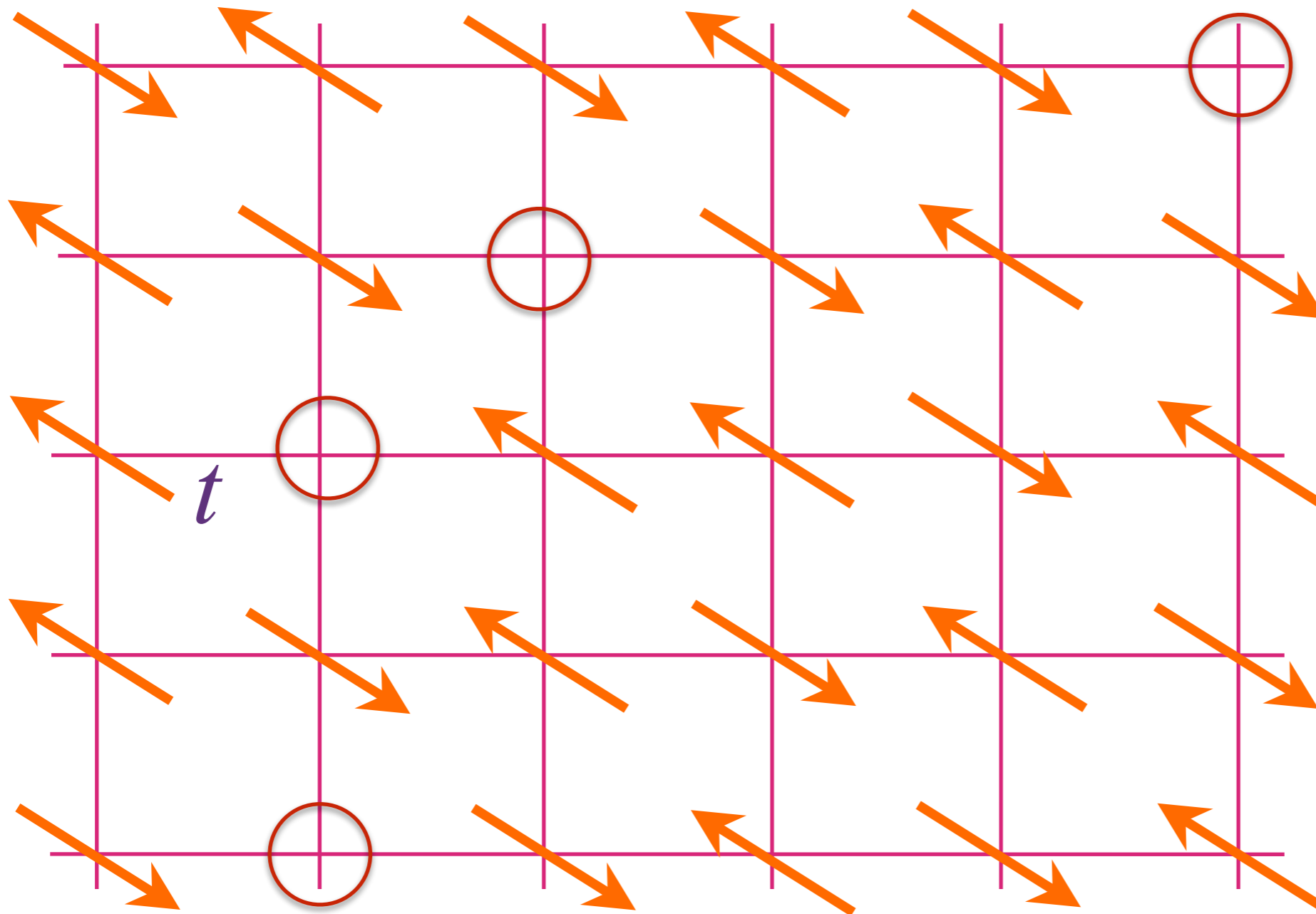
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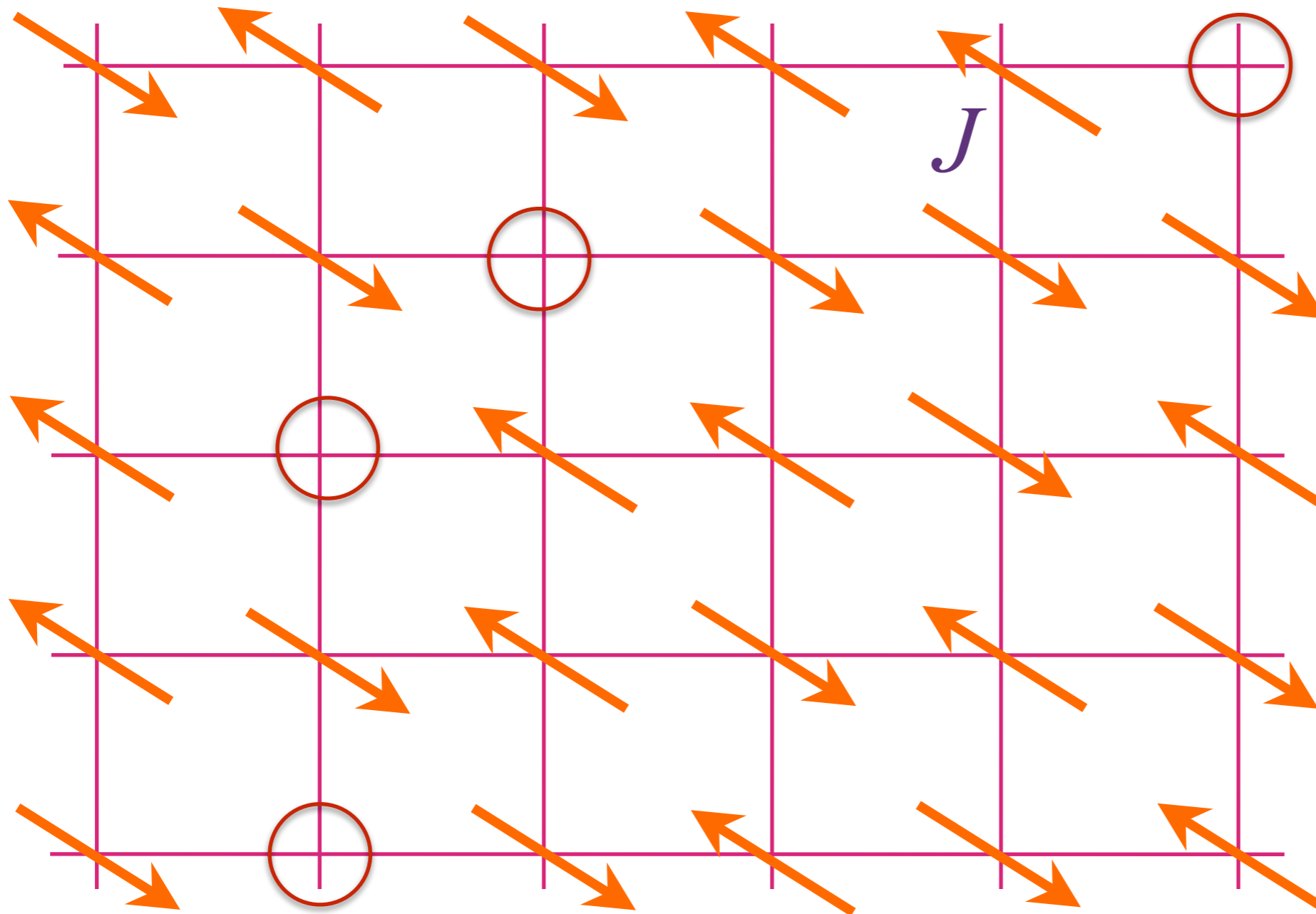
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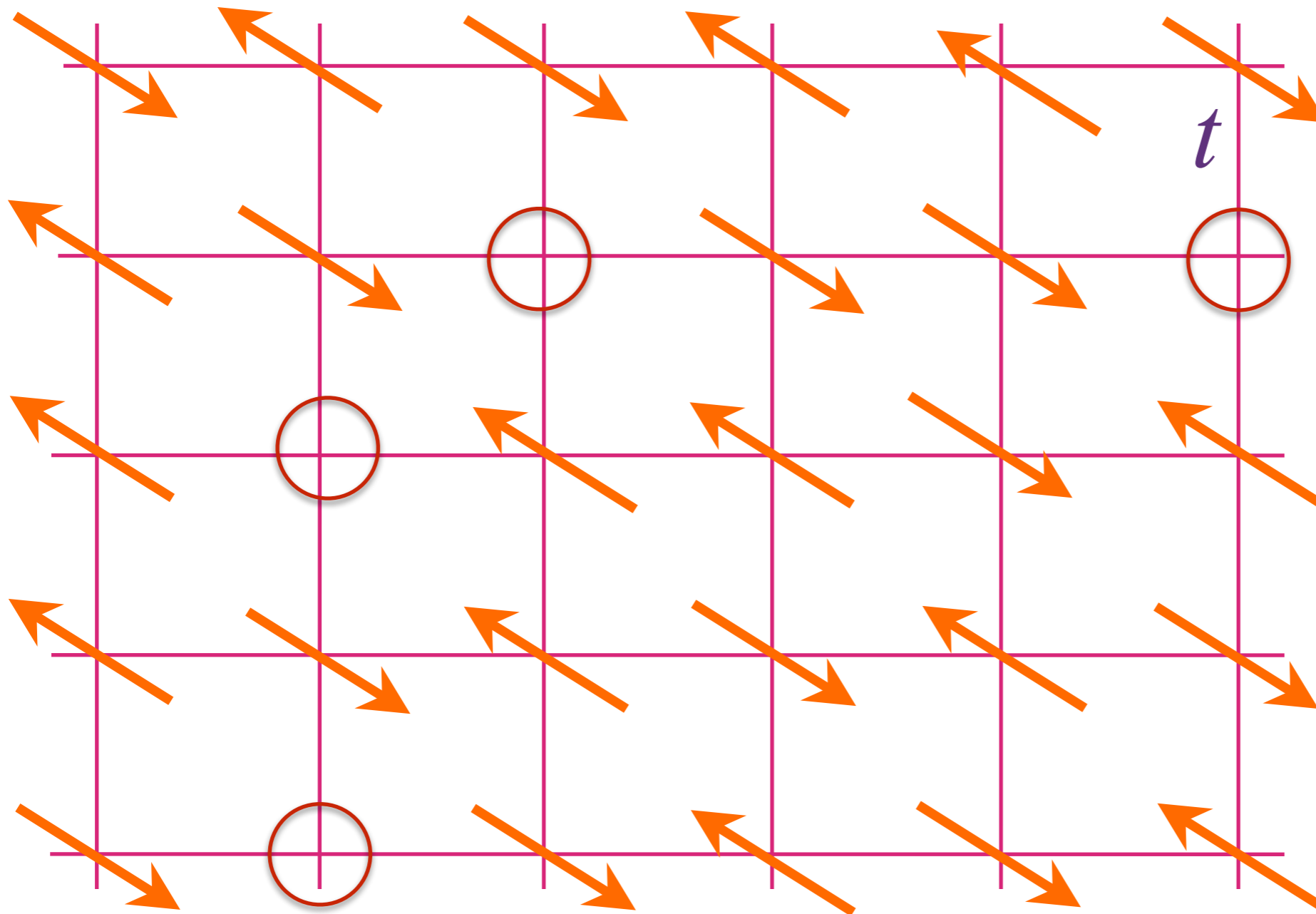
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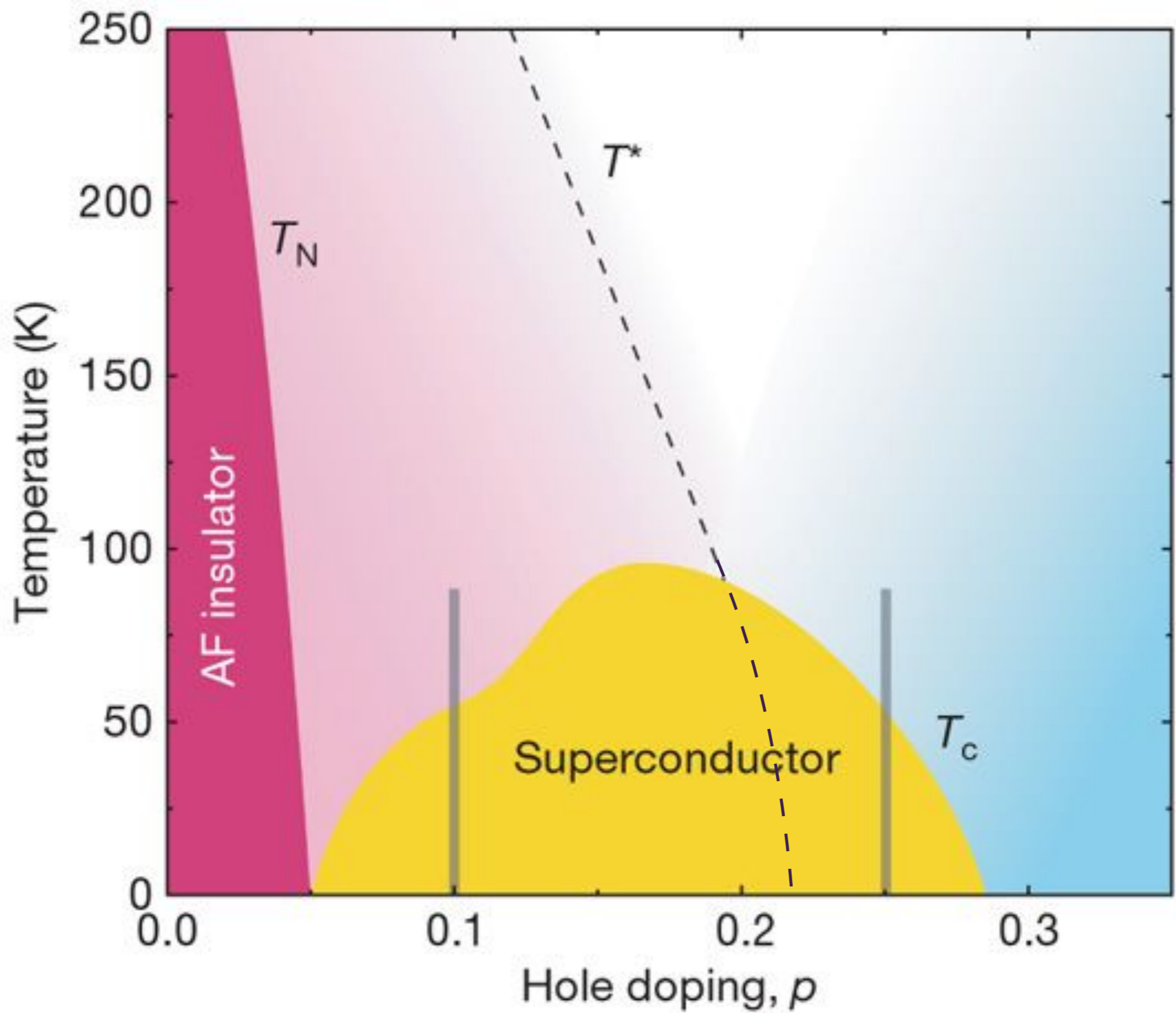
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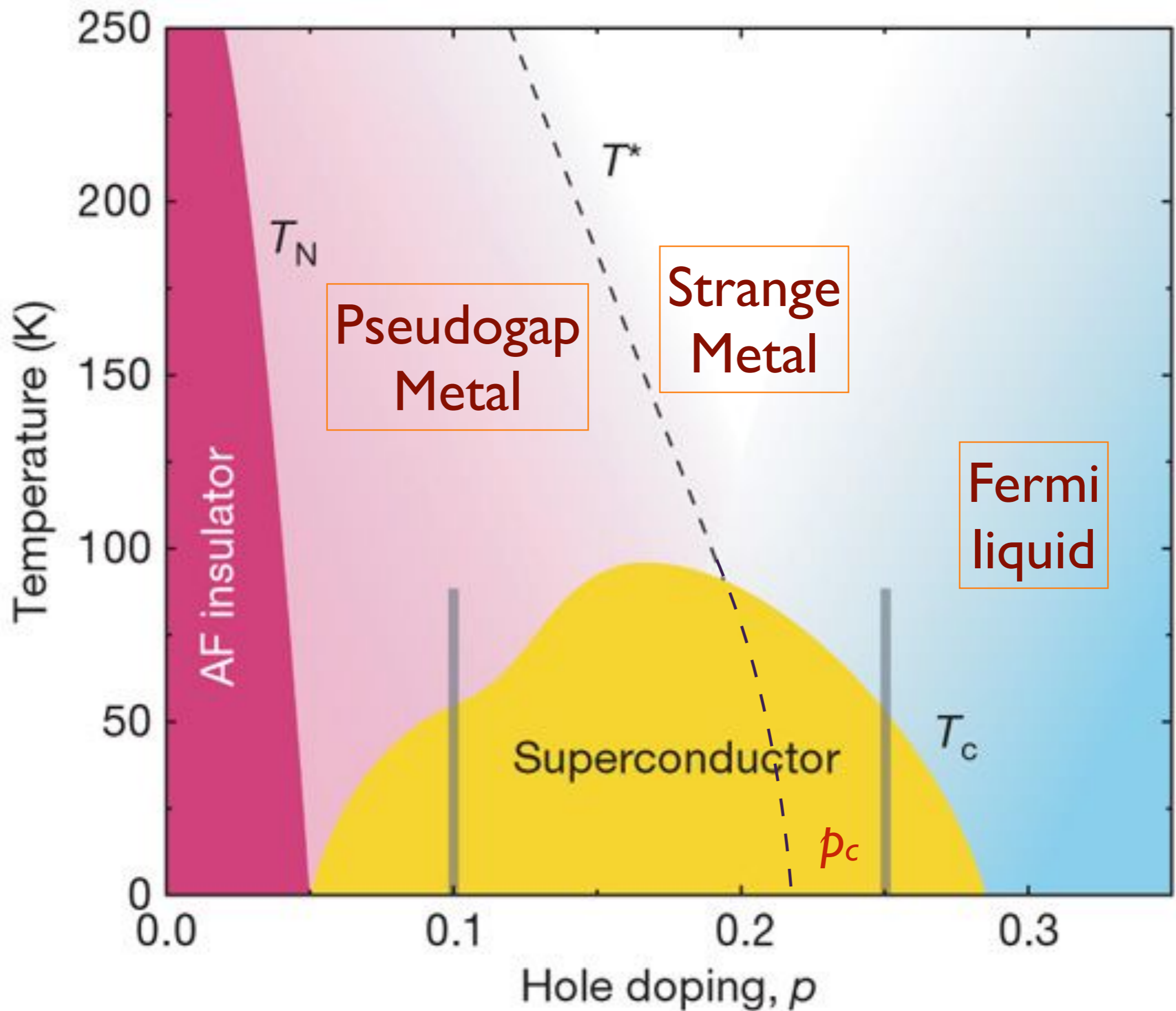
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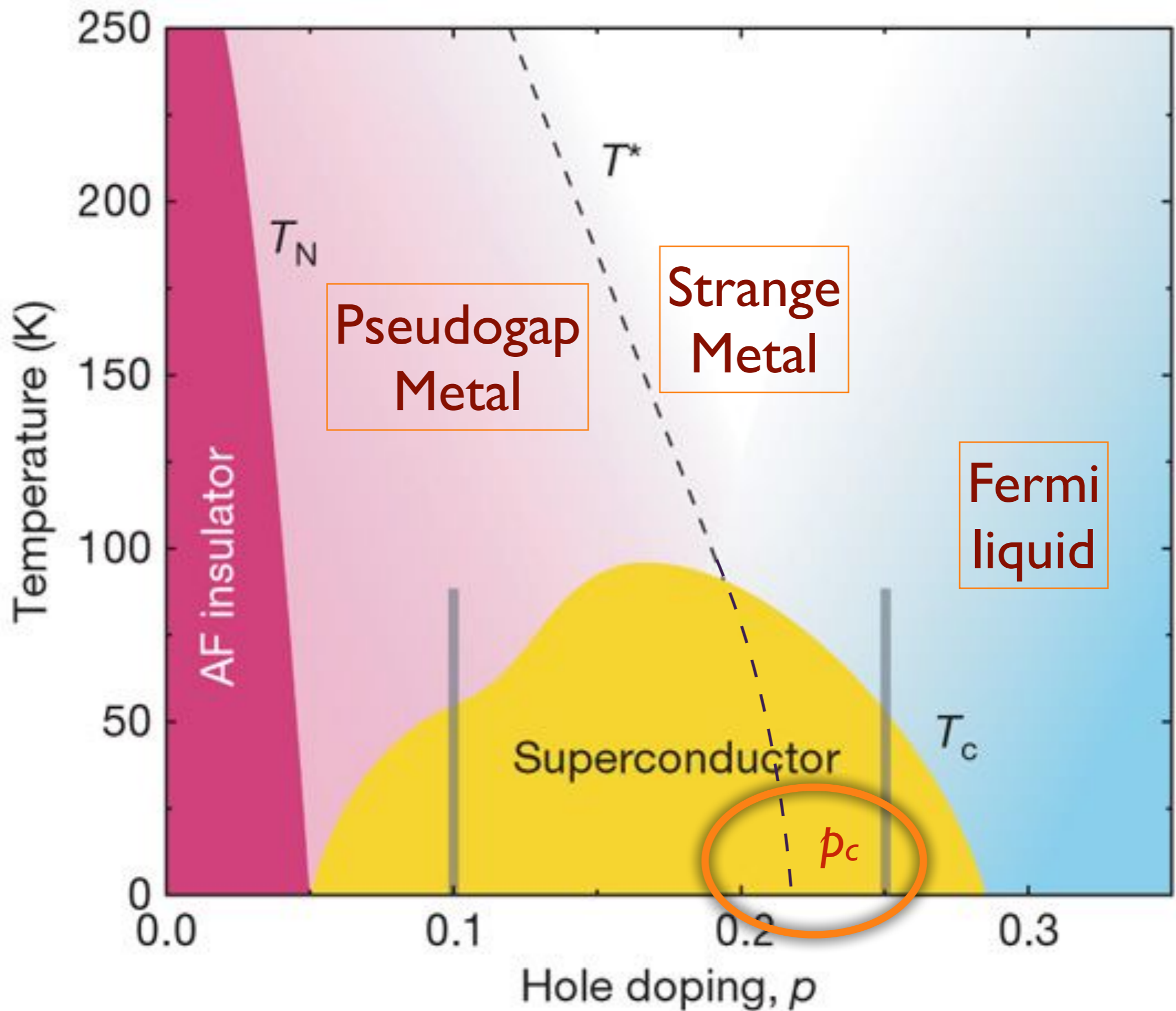


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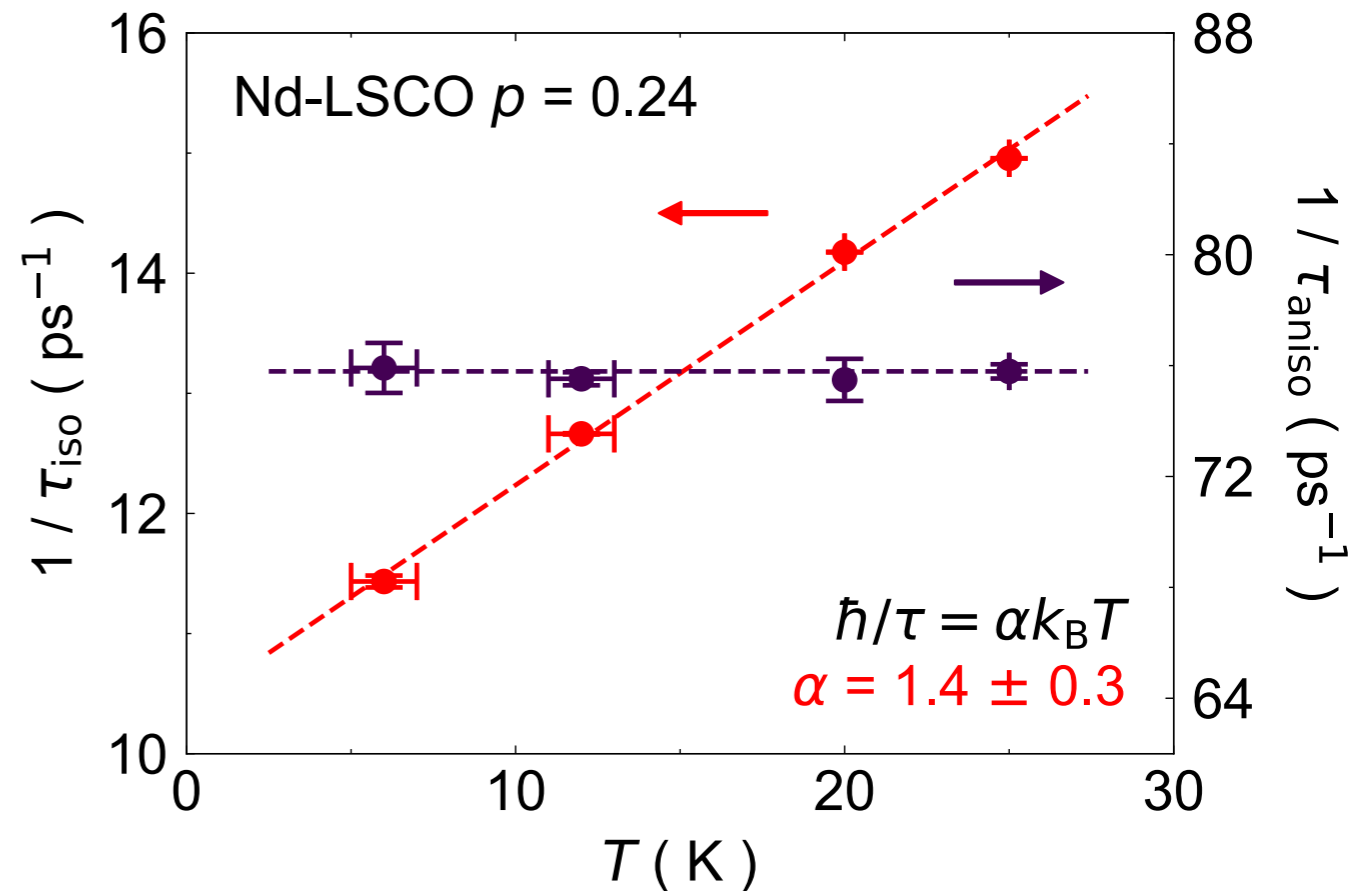
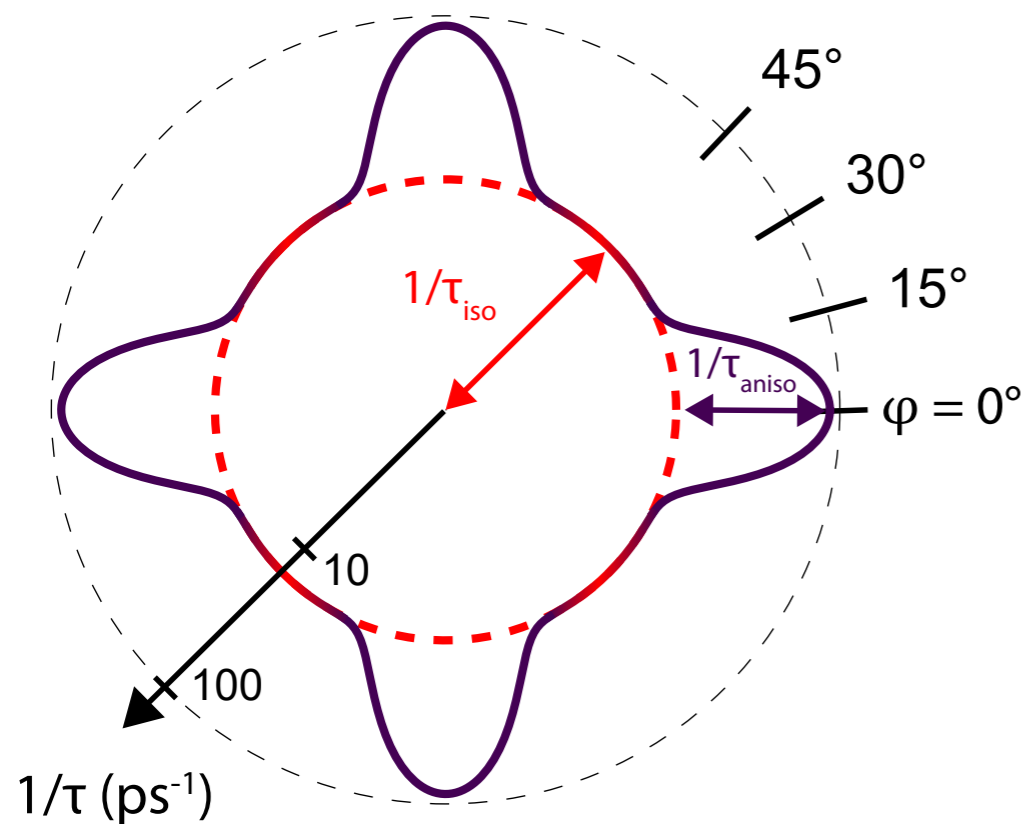




# Measurement of the Planckian Scattering Rate

G. Grissonnanche, Y. Fang, A. Legros, S. Verret, F. Laliberté, C. Collignon, J. Zhou, D. Graf, P. Goddard, L. Taillefer, B. J. Ramshaw, arXiv:2011.13054

Angle-dependent magnetoresistance in Nd-LSCO near  $p = p_c \approx 0.23$ .

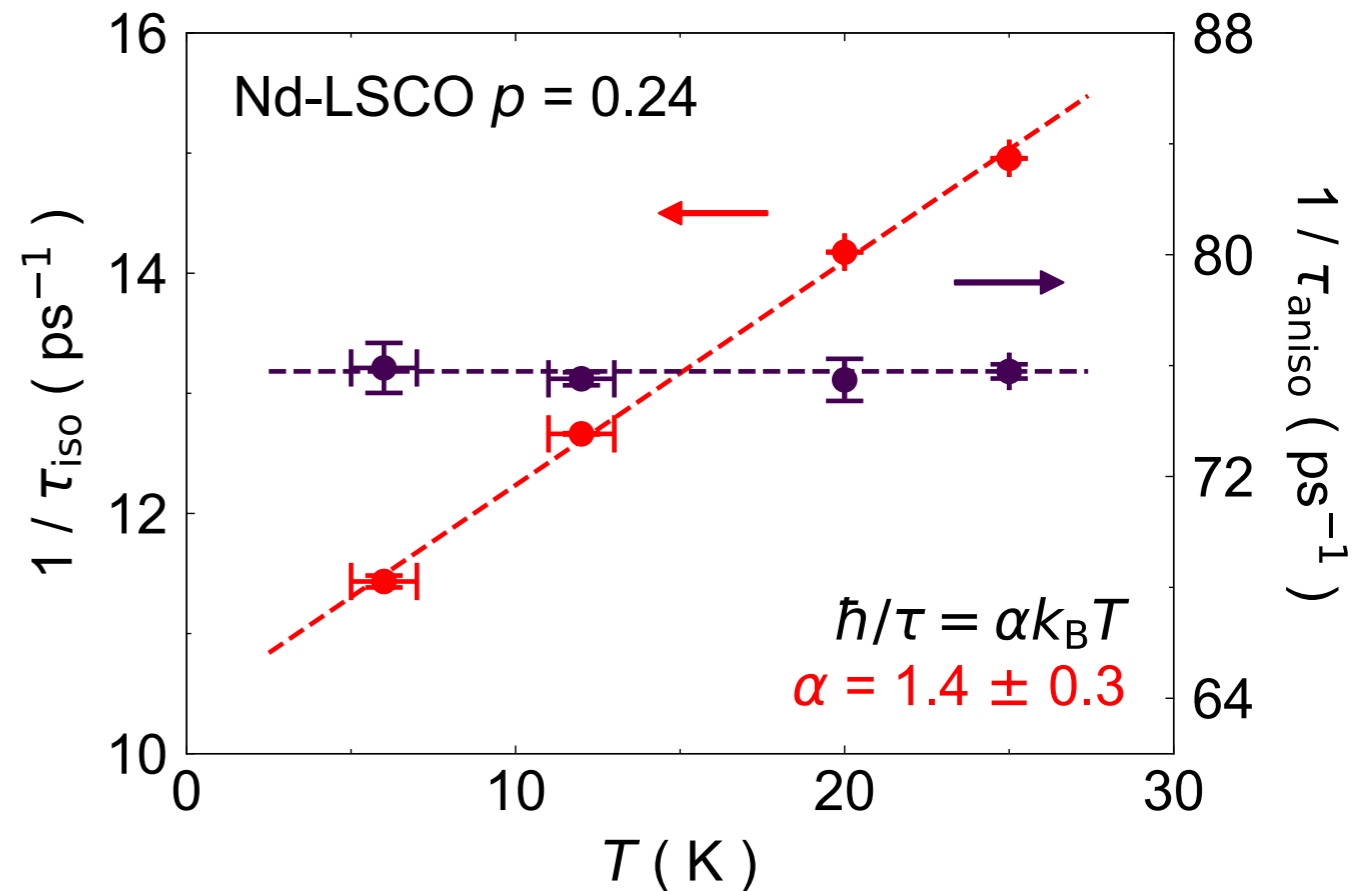
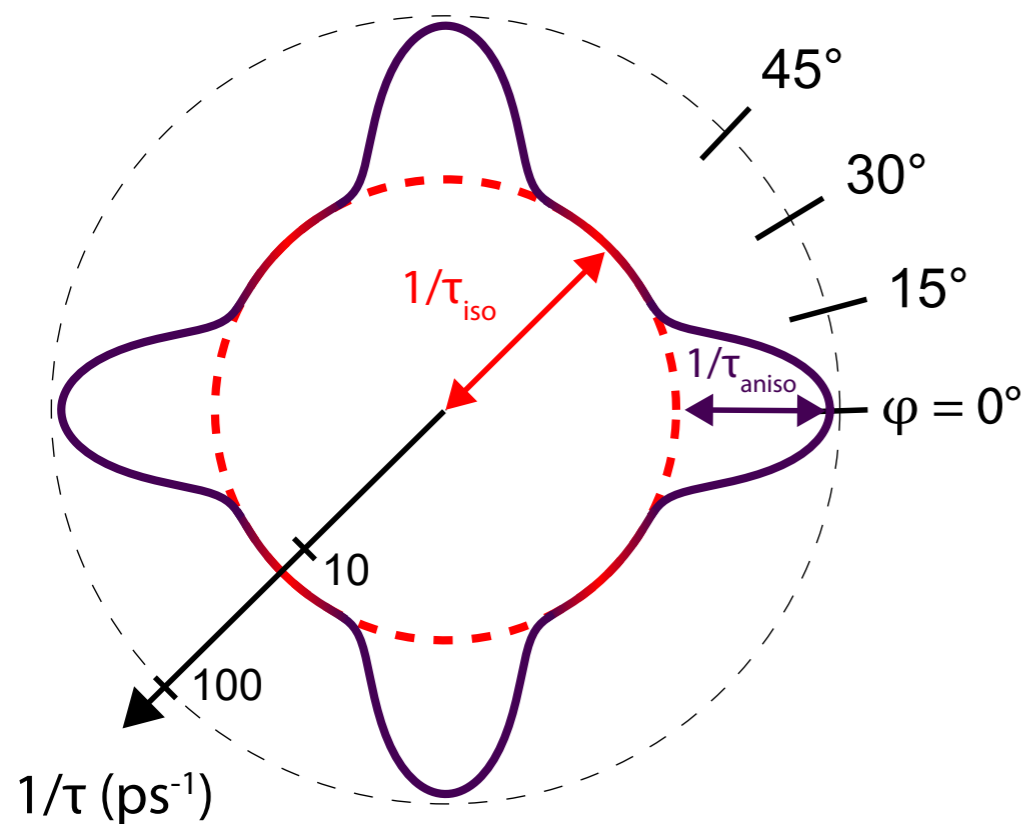


$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\text{aniso}}(\vec{k})} + \frac{\alpha}{\hbar} k_B T$$

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Henry Shackleton



Alexander Wietek



Antoine Georges

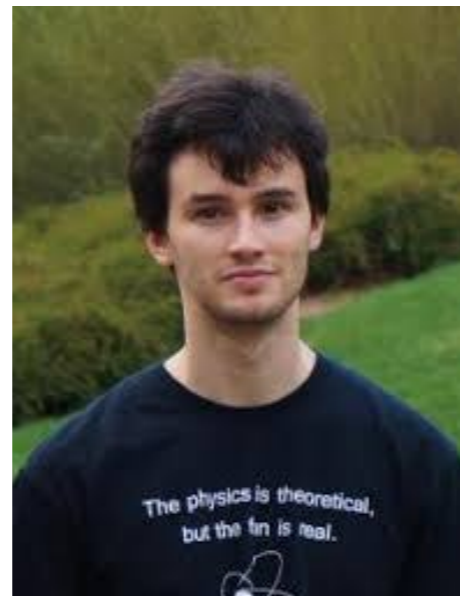
[arXiv:2012.06589](https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.06589)



Maria Tikhanovskaya



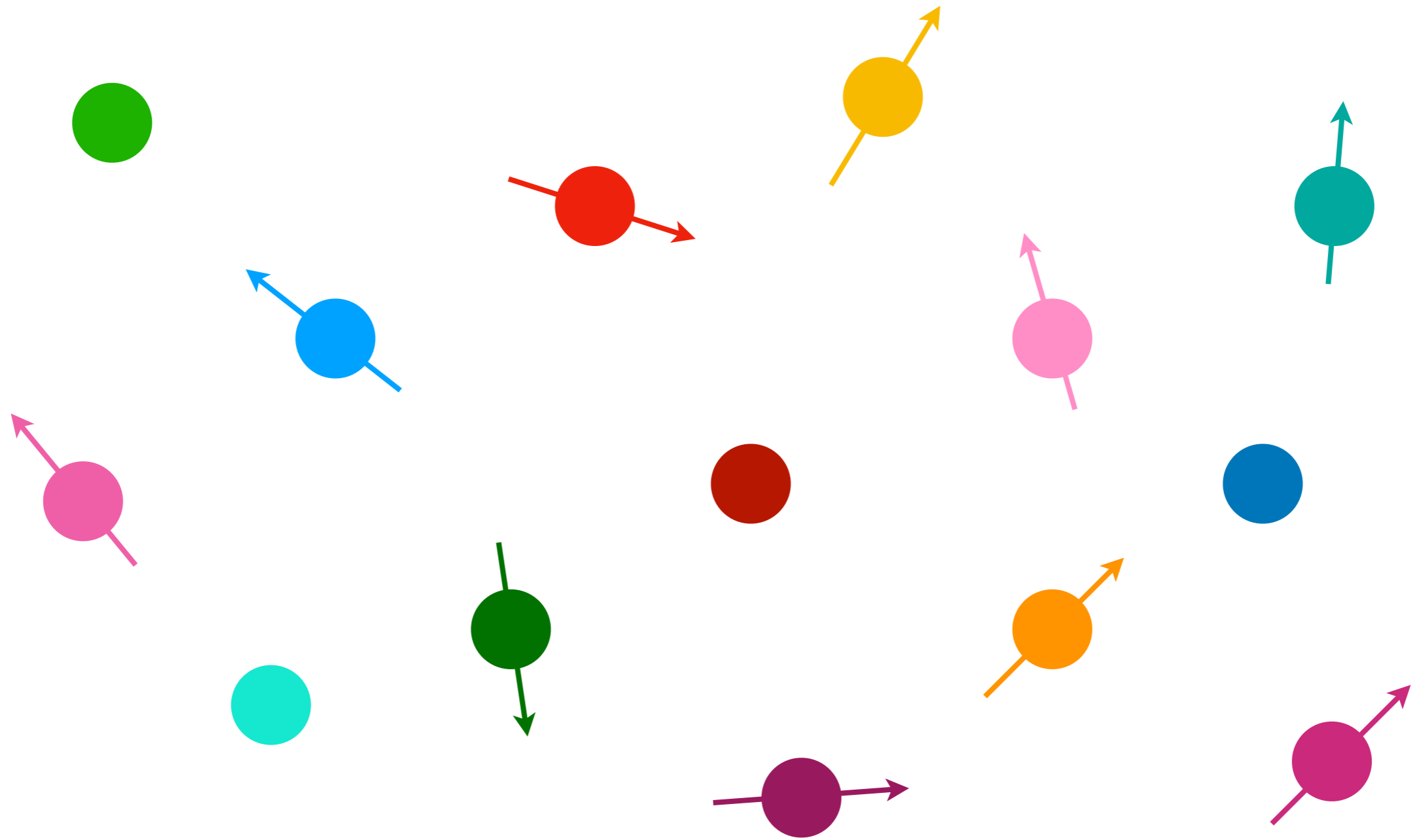
Haoyu Guo



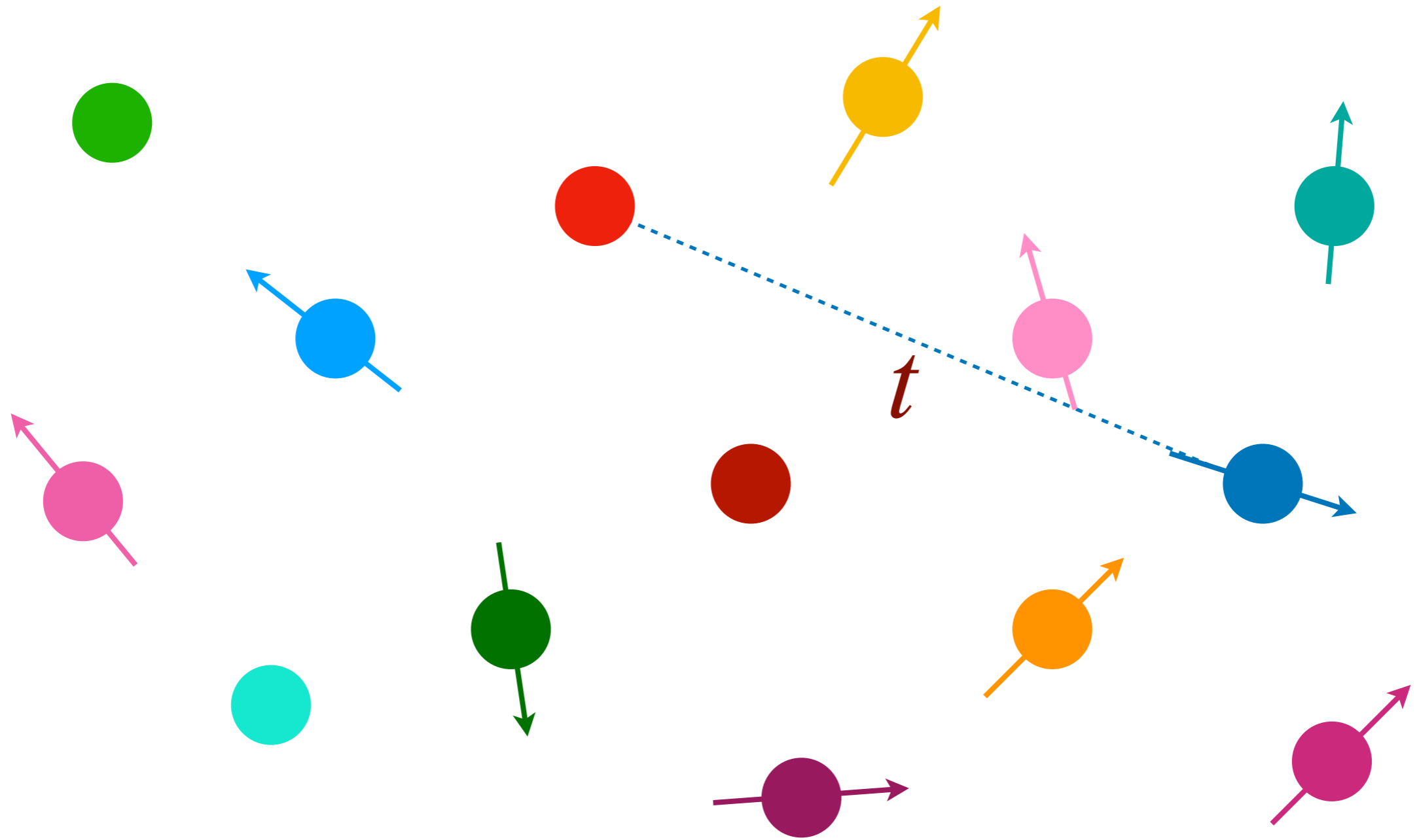
Grigory Tarnopolsky

arXiv:2010.09742  
arXiv:2012.14449

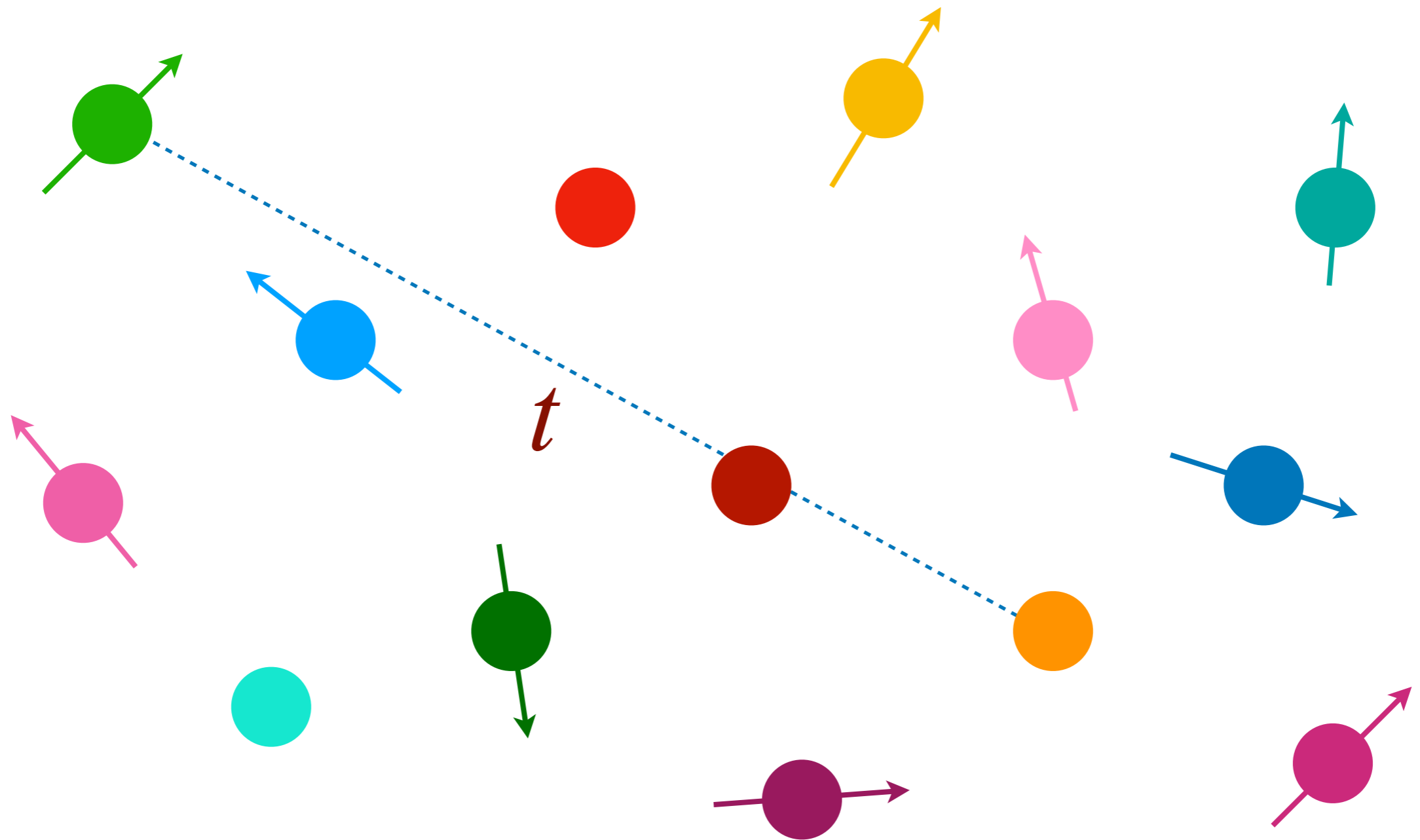
# Random $t$ - $J$ model



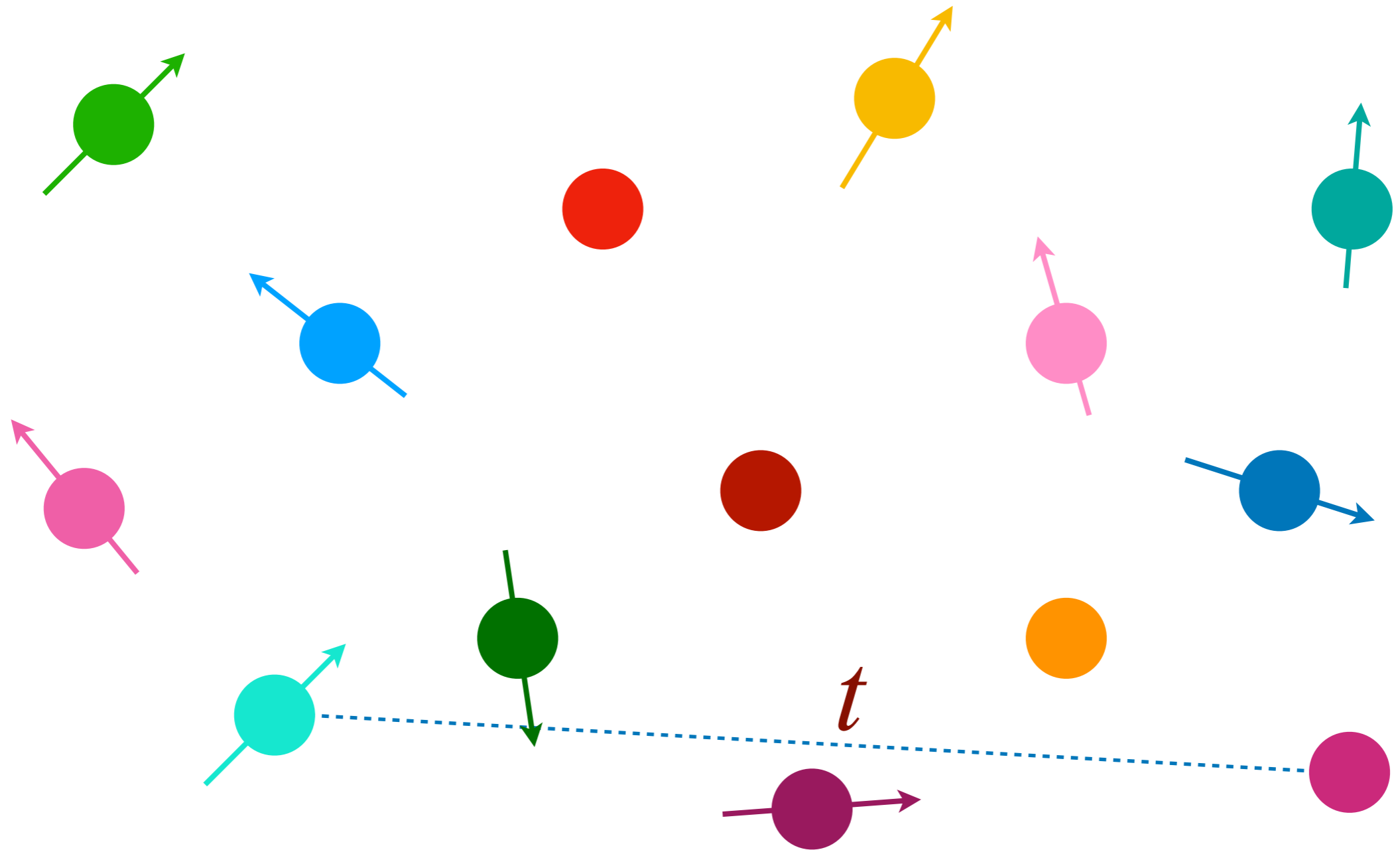
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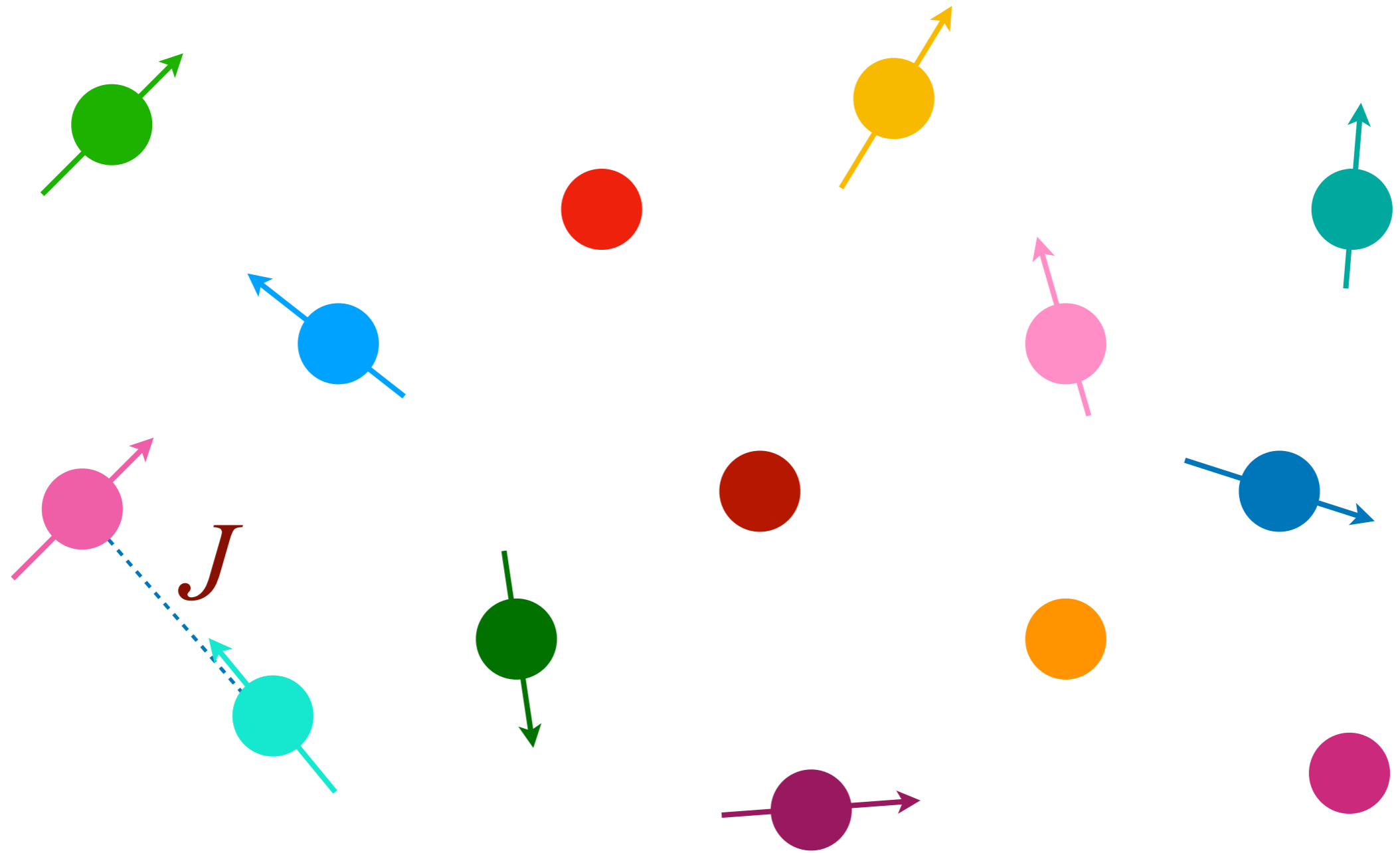
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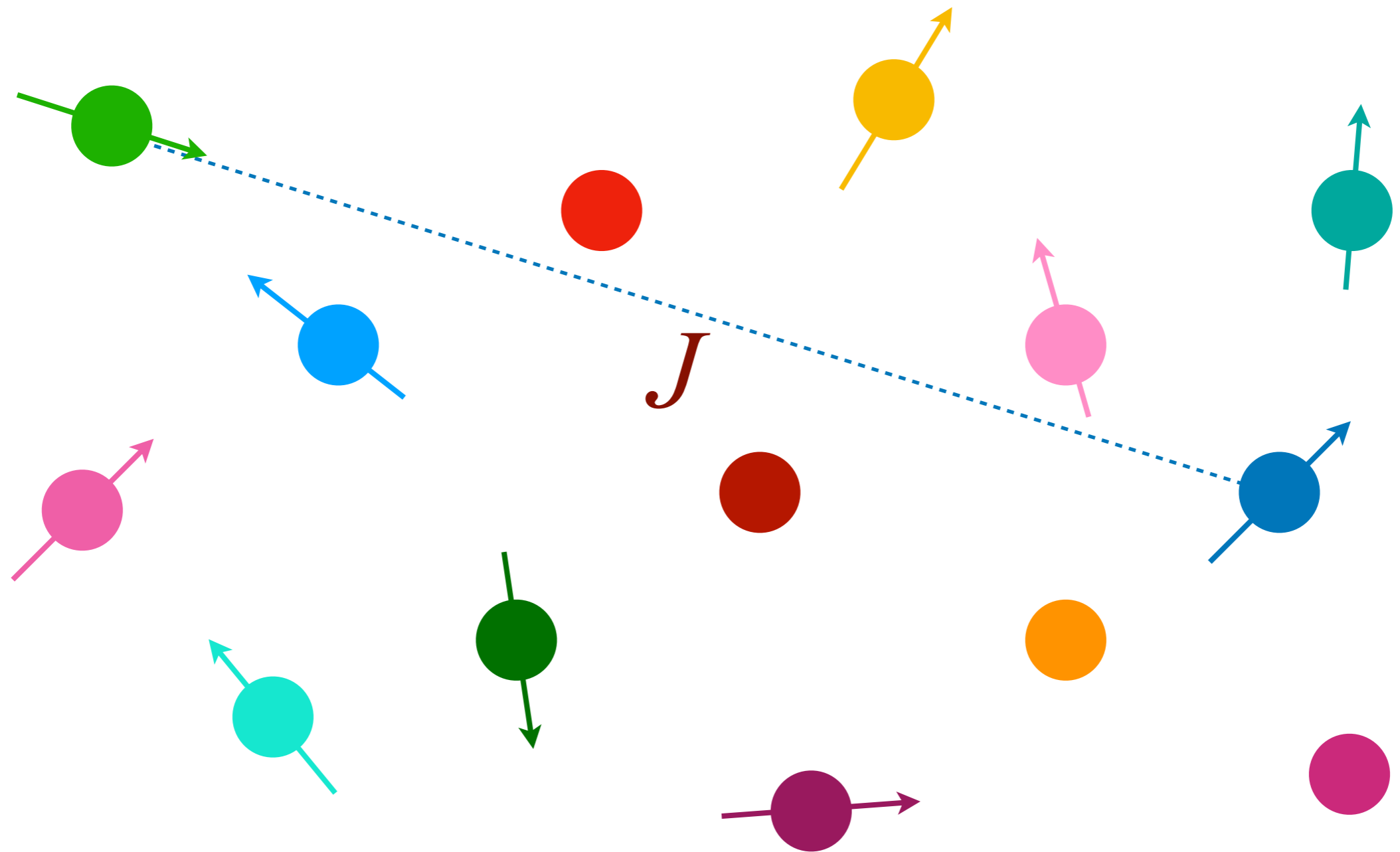
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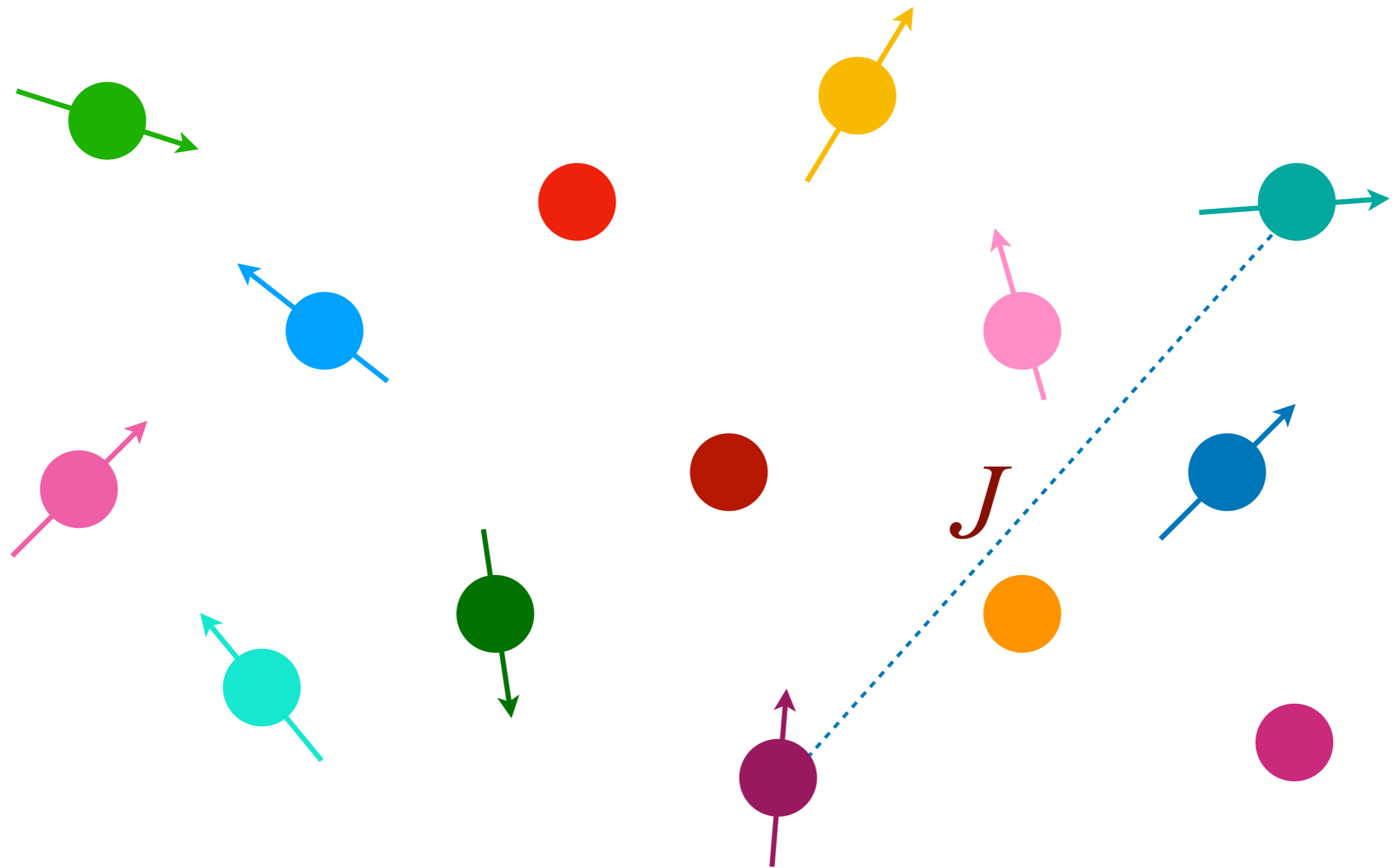
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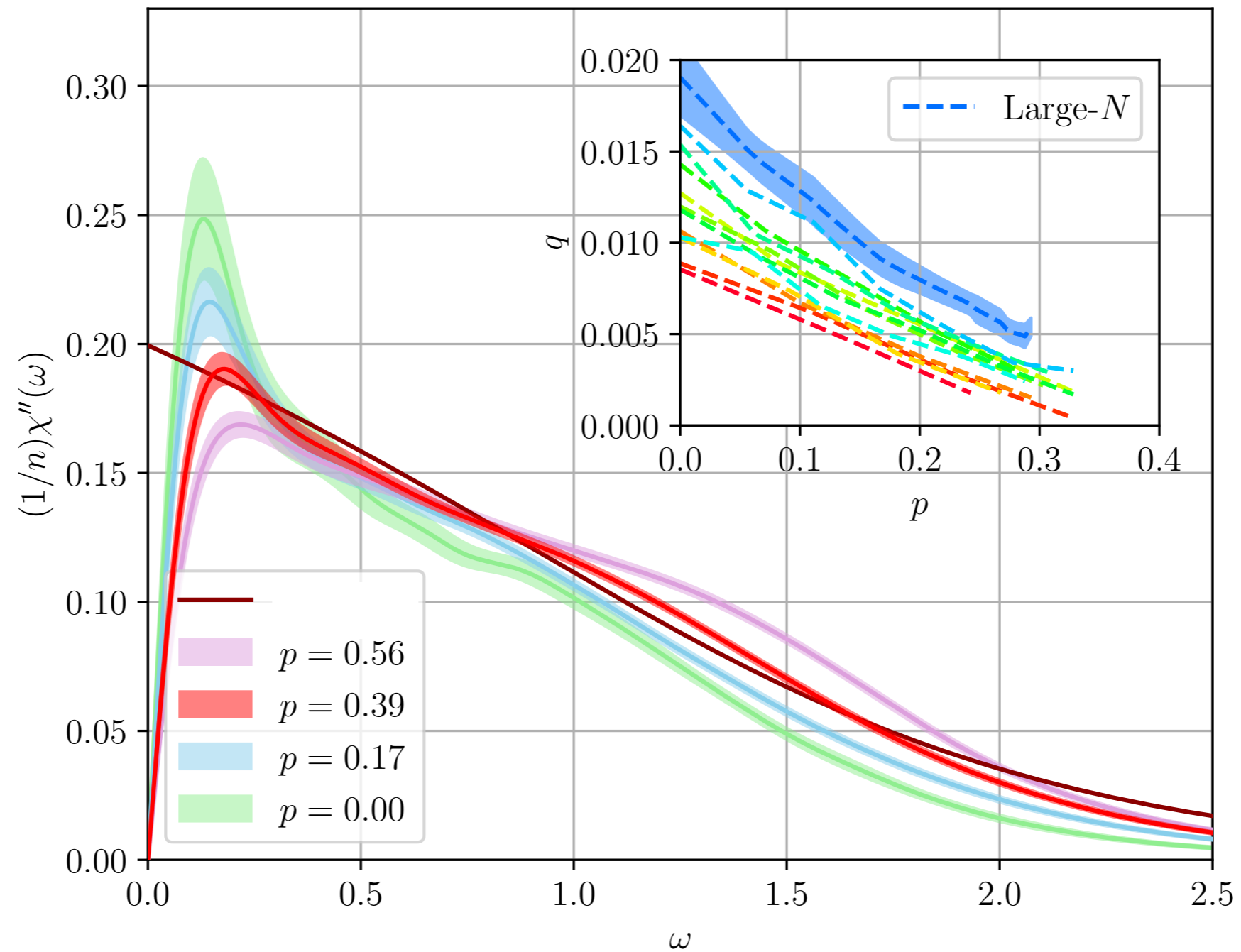


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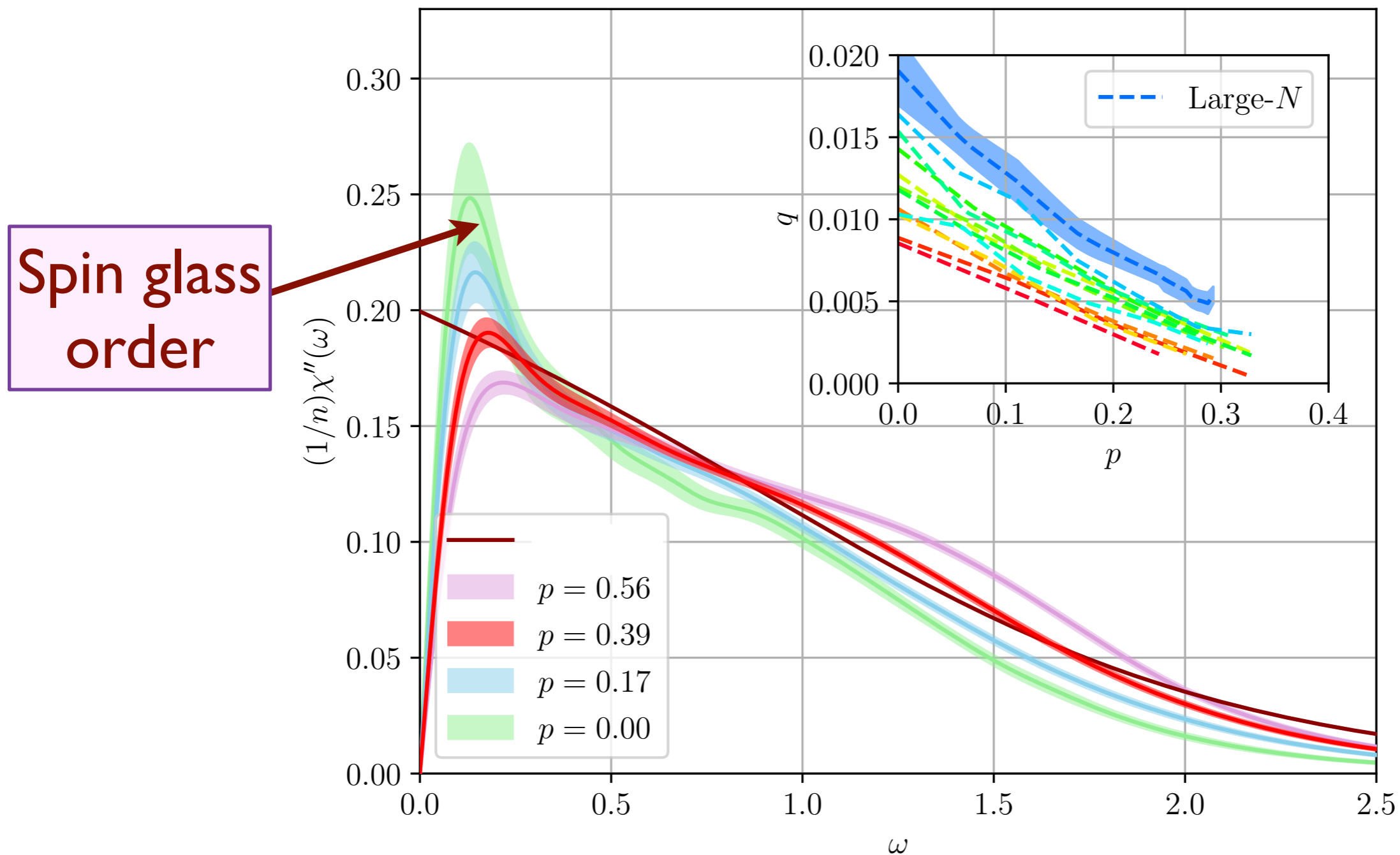
# Dynamic spin susceptibility

Probability to flip an electron spin while absorbing energy  $\hbar\omega$



# Dynamic spin susceptibility

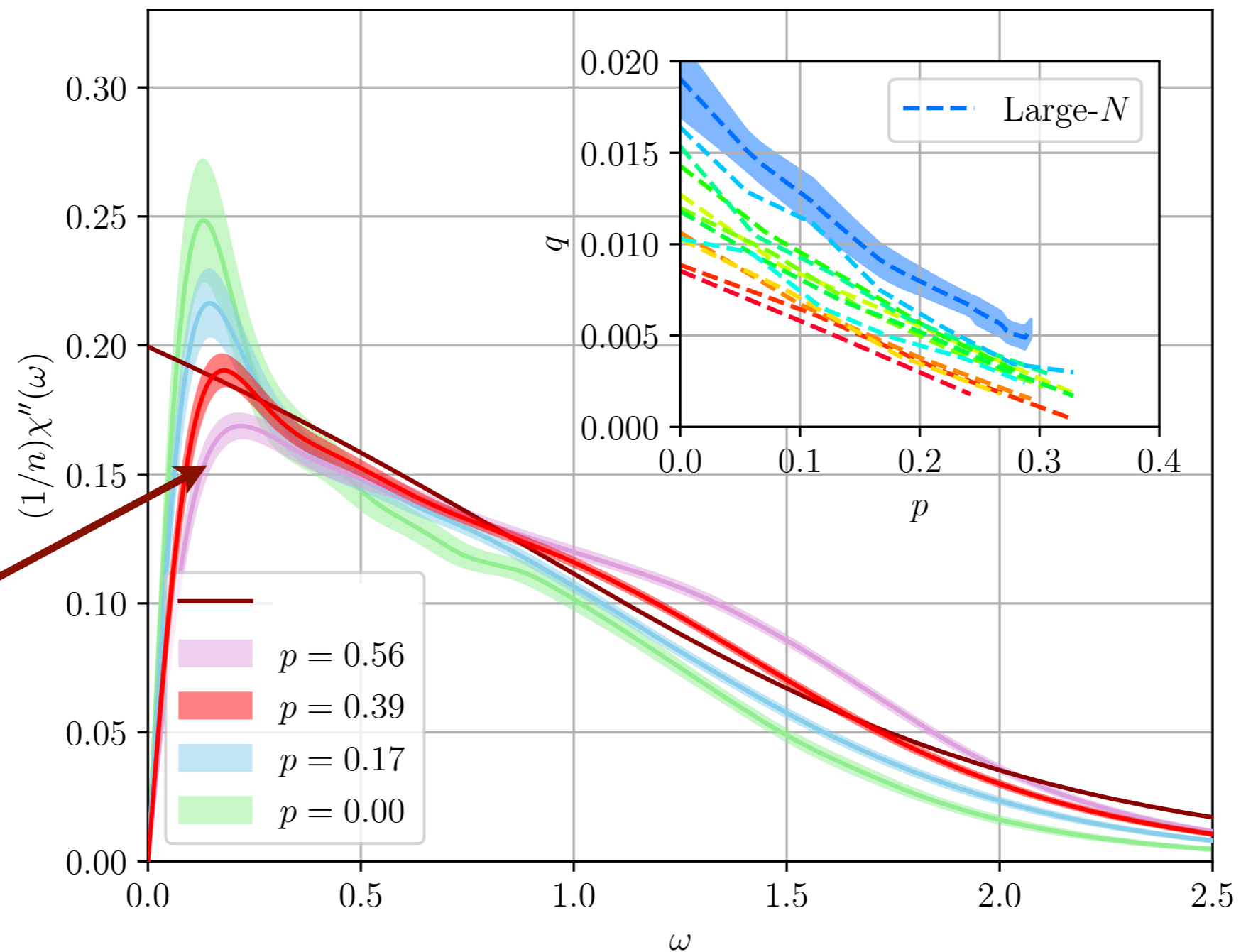
Probability to flip an electron spin while absorbing energy  $\hbar\omega$



Spin glass order  $q$  non-zero for  $p < p_c \approx 0.4$

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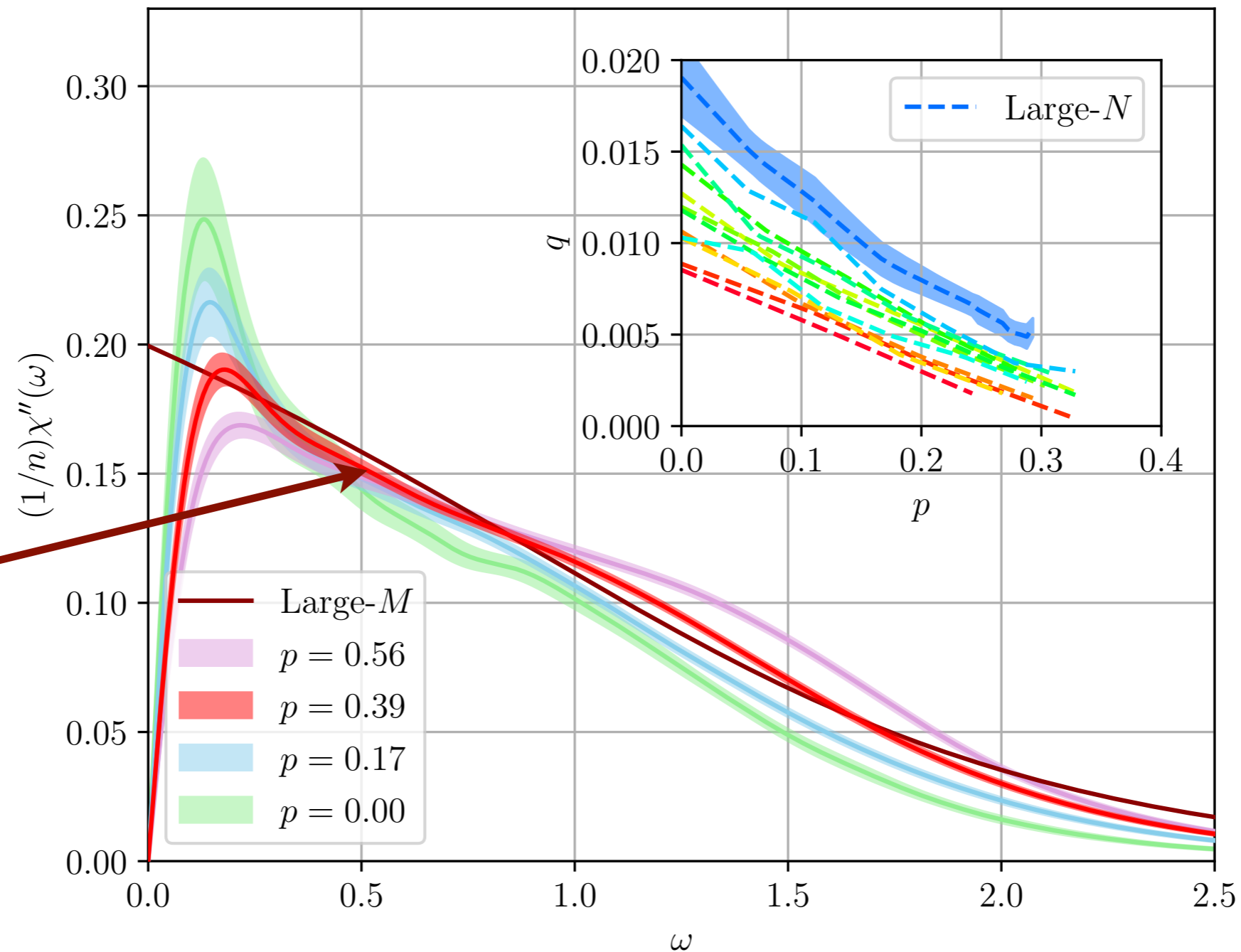


Ordinary  
metal

Spin susceptibility and other properties  
match those of an ordinary metal  $p > p_c$

# Dynamic spin susceptibility

Probability to flip an electron spin while absorbing energy  $\hbar\omega$

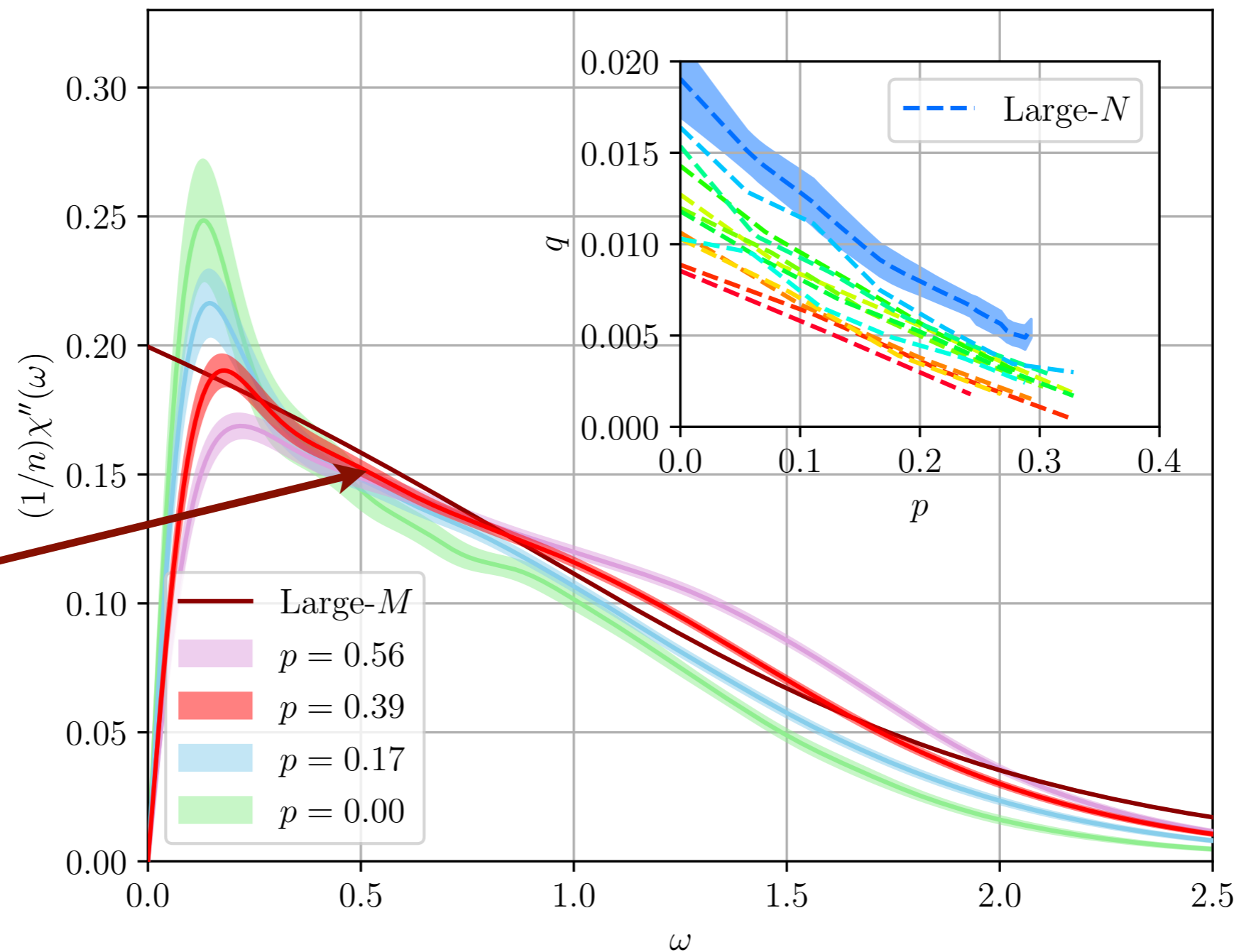


Critical  
point

Critical spin susceptibility matches the SYK model!  
Planckian dissipation in time  $\sim \hbar/(k_B T)$ ,  
and frequency dependence  $\sim \text{sgn}(\omega) [1 - \mathcal{C}\gamma|\omega| + \dots]$   
matches contribution of boundary graviton.

# Dynamic spin susceptibility

Probability to flip an electron spin while absorbing energy  $\hbar\omega$



Critical  
point

D. G. Joshi,  
Chenyuan Li,  
G. Tarnopolsky,  
A. Georges, and  
S. Sachdev,  
PRX **10**, 021033  
(2020)

SYK criticality can be understood by the fractionalization of the electron into 'partons' carrying its spin and charge.  
These partons obey an SYK-like model

**Quantum  
entanglement**

**Charged  
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many-particle  
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2D  
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