



# Thermalization time bounds for Pauli stabilizer Hamiltonians

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California Institute of Technology

arXiv:1412.2858


QEC 2014, Zurich










$$t_{mix} \leq \mathcal{O}(N^2 e^{2\beta\bar{\epsilon}})$$

# Overview

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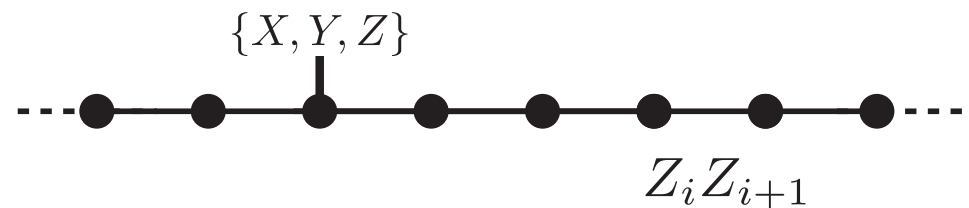
- Motivation & previous results
- Mixing and thermalization
- The spectral gap bound
- Proof sketch

# Thermalization in Kitaev's 2D model

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- Spectral gap bound for the 2D toric code and 1D Ising

R. Alicki, M. Fannes, M. Horodecki J. Phys. A: Math. Theor. 42 (2009) 065303

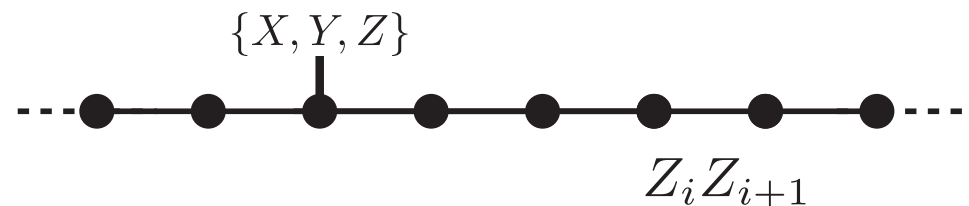


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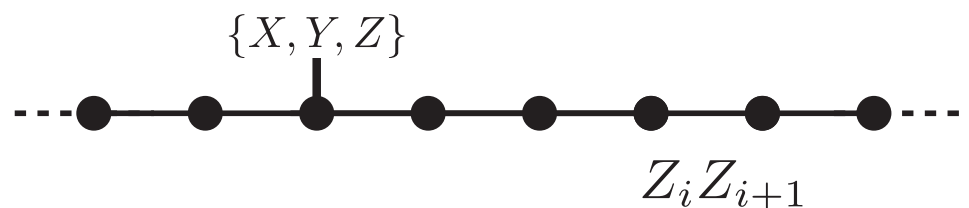
Spectral gap bound:

$$\lambda \geq \frac{1}{3} e^{-8\beta J}$$

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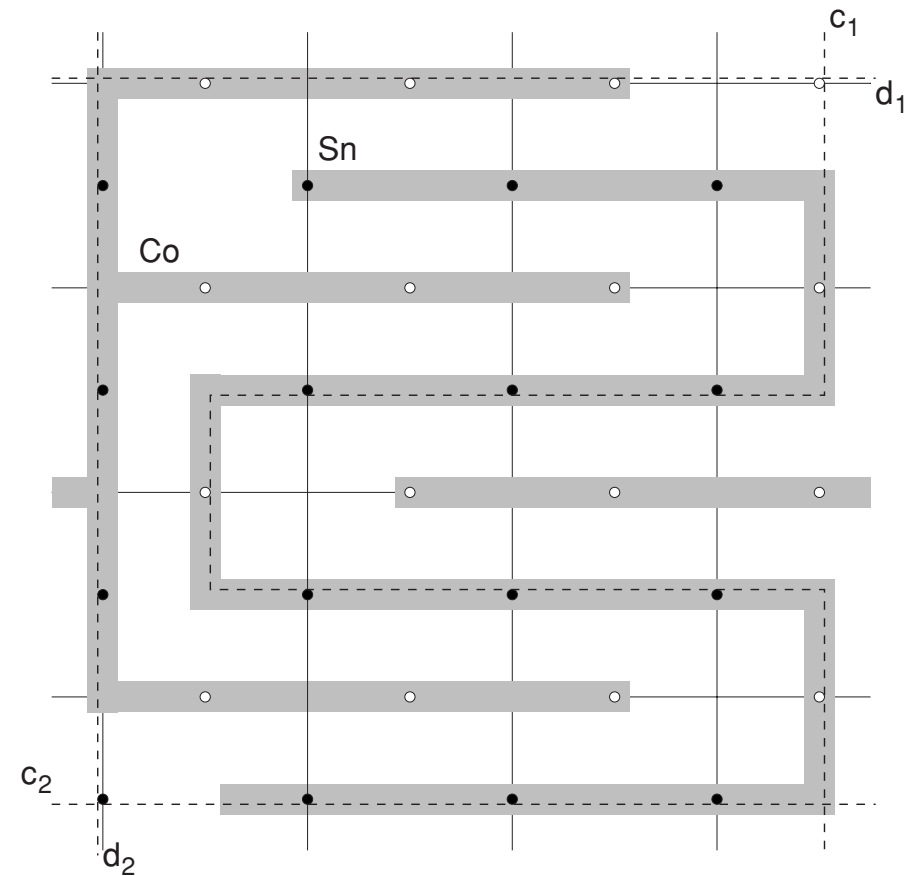
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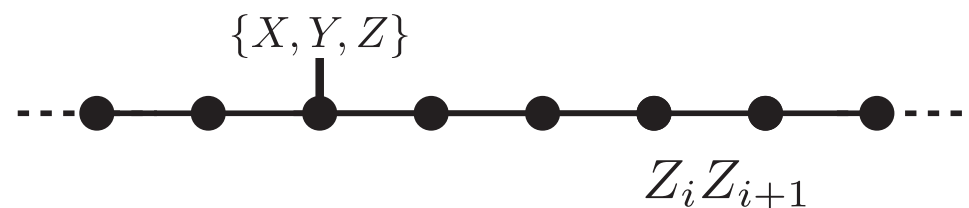
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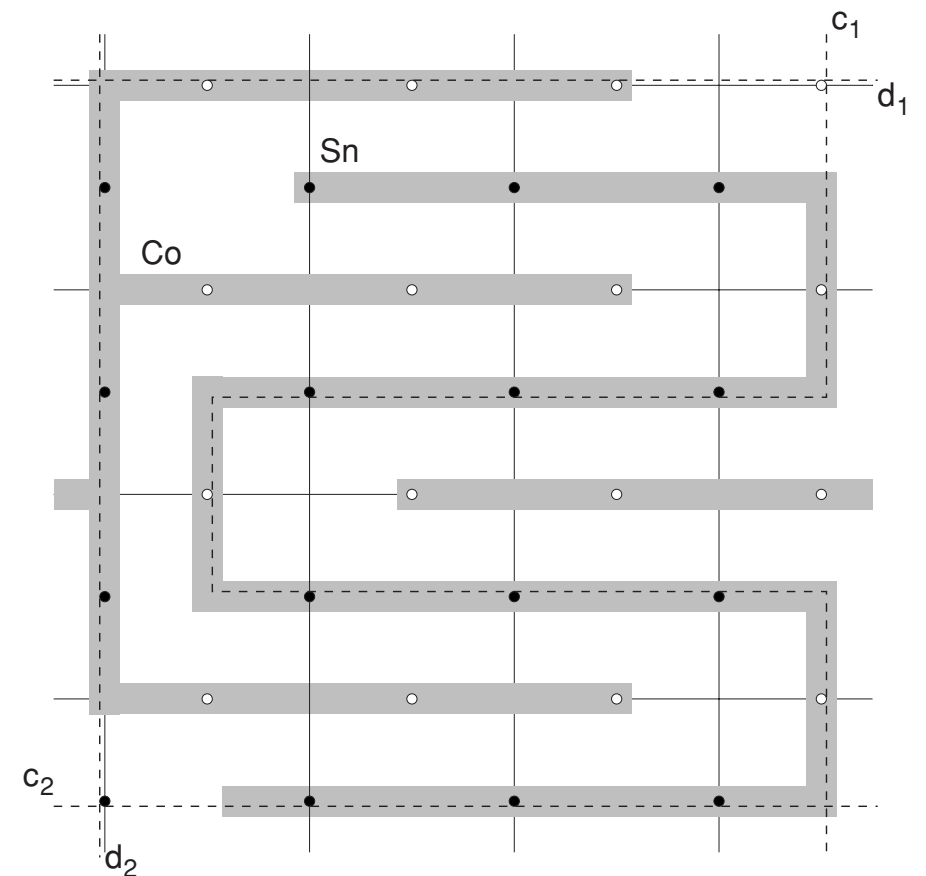


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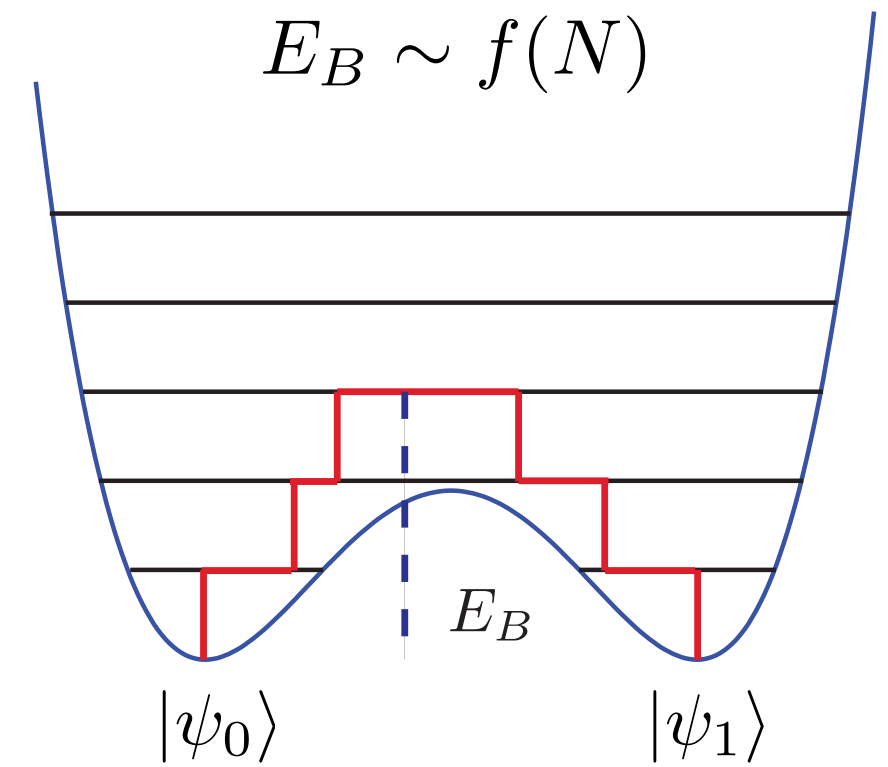
$$t_{mix} \leq \mathcal{O}(N e^{8\beta J})$$





# The energy barrier

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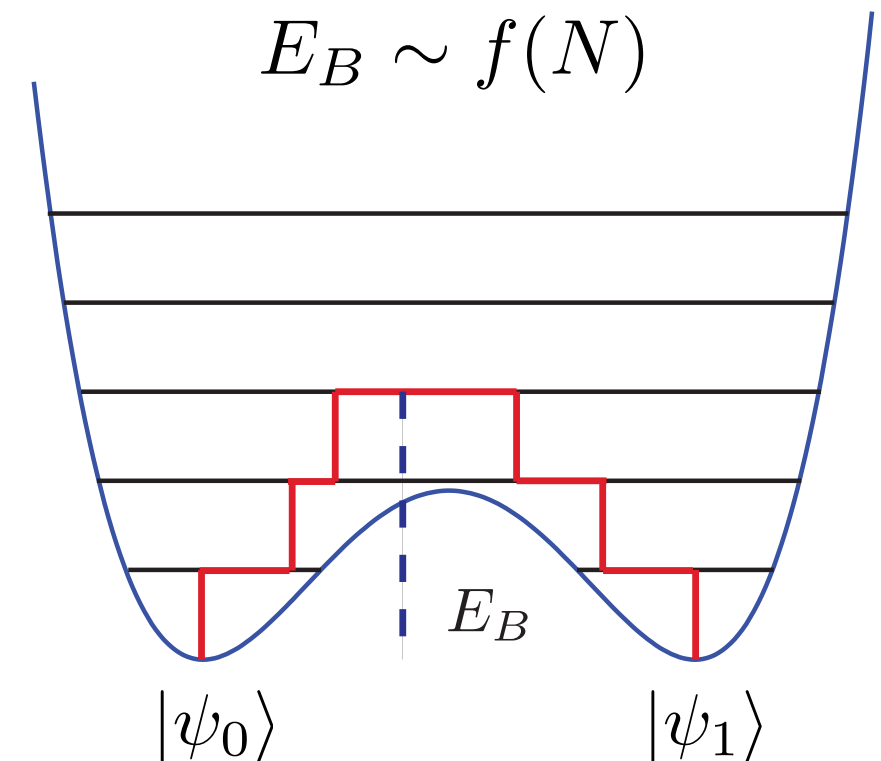
- Arrhenius law

$$t_{mem} \sim e^{\beta E_B}$$

Phenomenological law of the lifetime

Bravyi, Sergey, and Barbara Terhal, J. Phys. II (2009) 043029

Olivier Landon-Cardinal, David Poulin Phys. Rev. Lett. 110, 090502 (2013)



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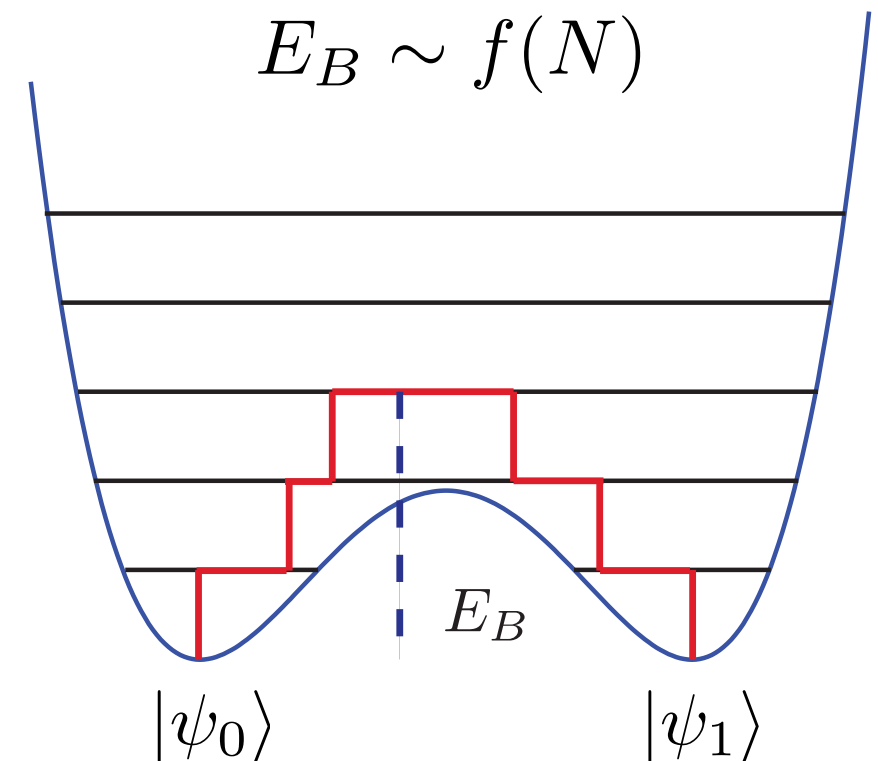
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- Question:

Can we prove a connection between the energy barrier and thermalization ?



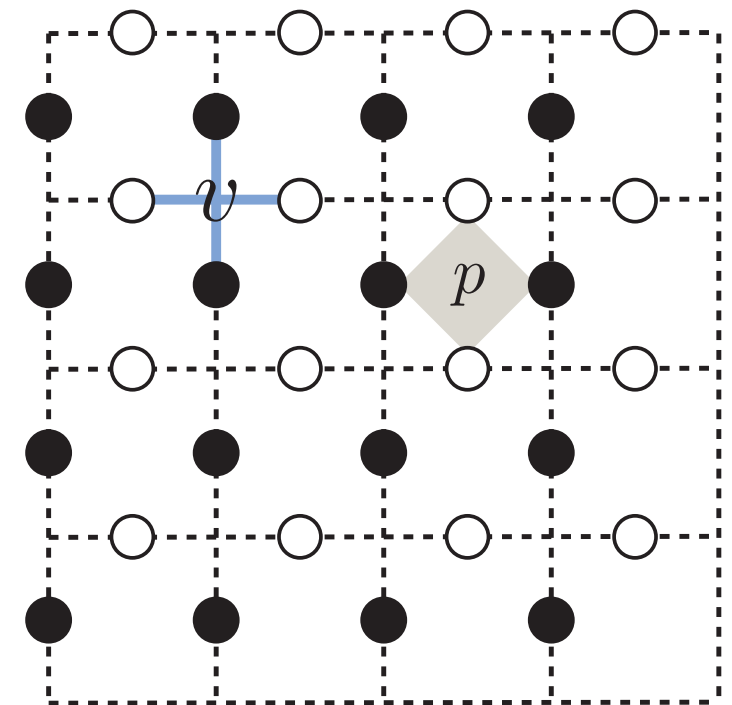
# Stabilizer Hamiltonians

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A set of commuting Pauli matrices

$$\mathcal{G} = \{g_1, \dots, g_M\} \quad [g_i, g_j] = 0$$

Example : Toric Code



$$A_v = Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 Z_4$$

$$B_p = X_1 X_2 X_3 X_4$$

# Stabilizer Hamiltonians

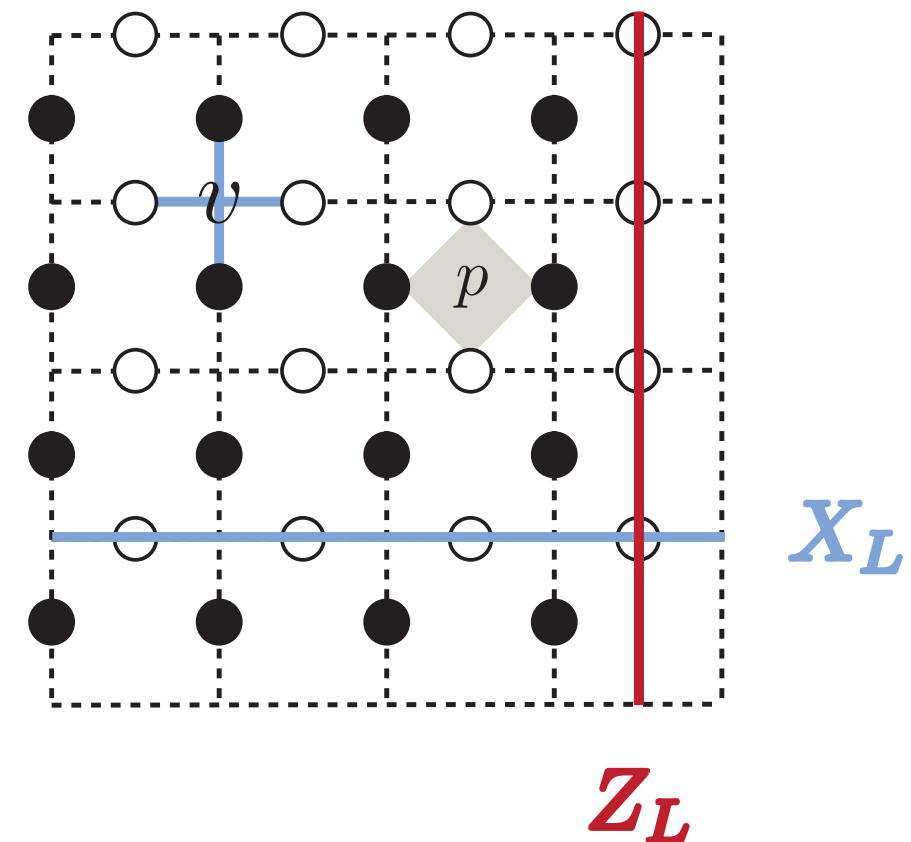
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The Stabilizer Group  $\mathcal{S} = \langle \mathcal{G} \rangle$

Logical operators  $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{S}) \setminus \mathcal{S}$

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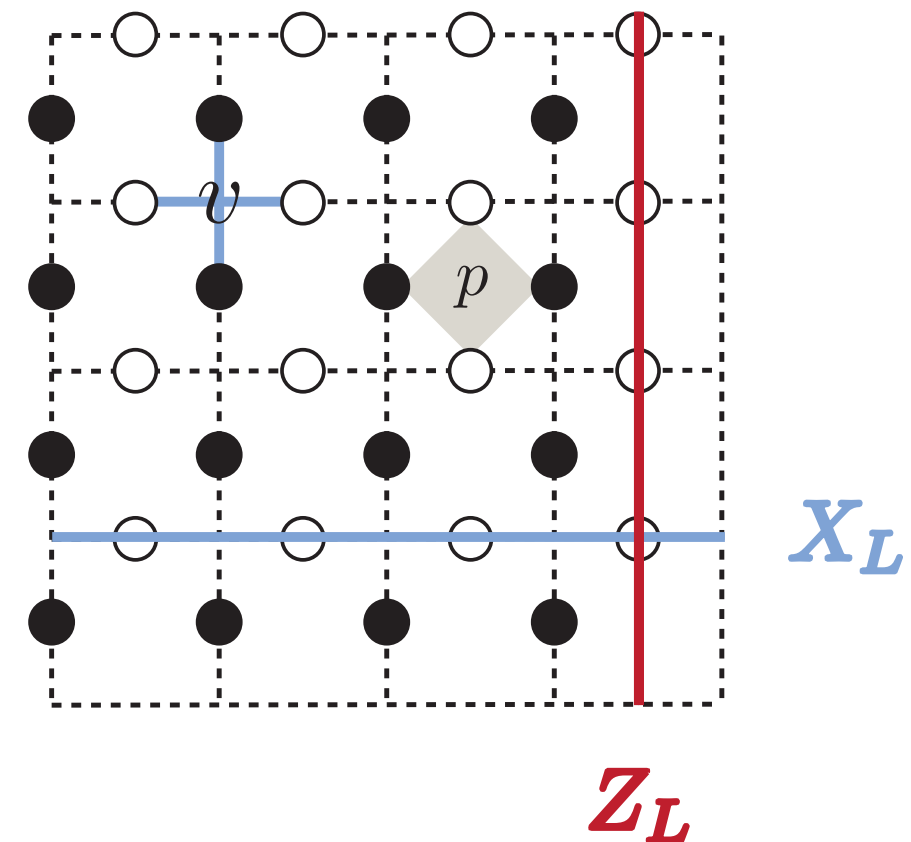
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Stabilizer Hamiltonian

$$H = -J \sum_k g_k$$

Example : Toric Code



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# Open system dynamics

---

- Lindblad master equation

$$\dot{\rho} = \mathcal{L}(\rho) = -i[H, \rho] + \sum_k L_k \rho L_k^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \{L_k^\dagger L_k, \rho\}_+$$

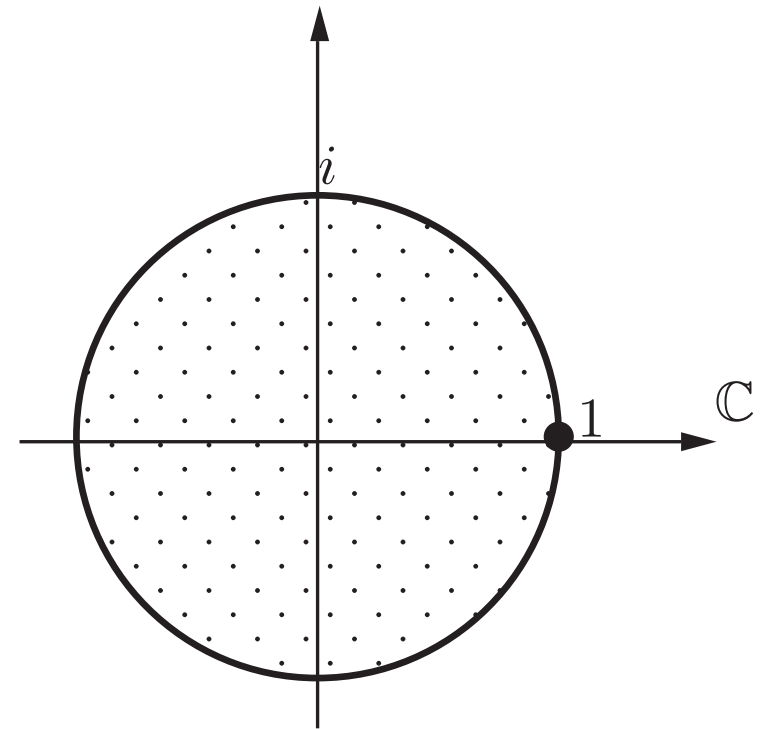
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$$T_t(f) = \exp(\mathcal{L}t)(f)$$



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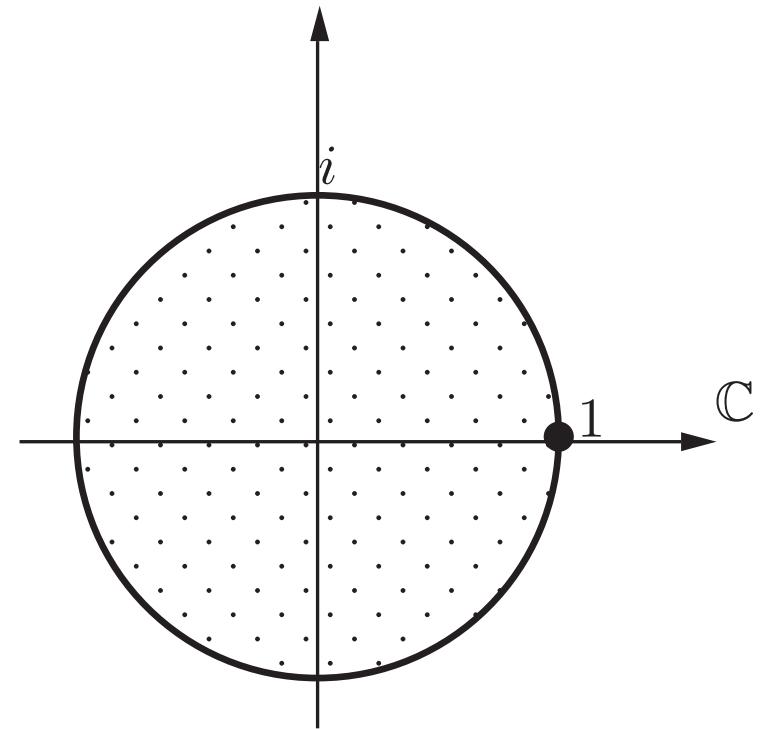
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- With a unique fixed point

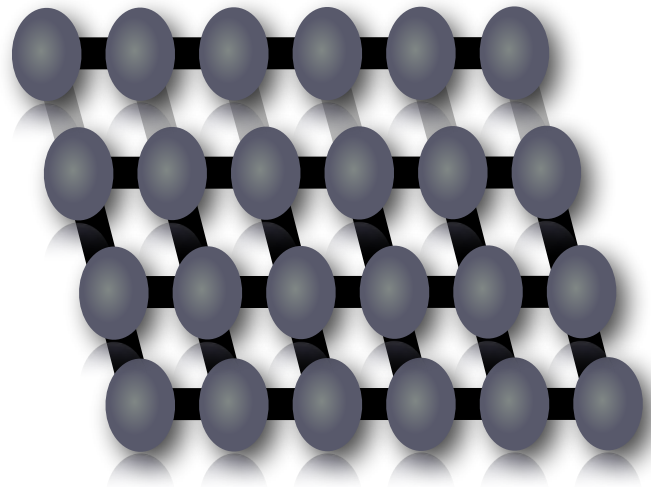
$$\mathcal{L}(\sigma) = 0 \quad \sigma > 0$$





# Thermal noise model & Weak coupling limit

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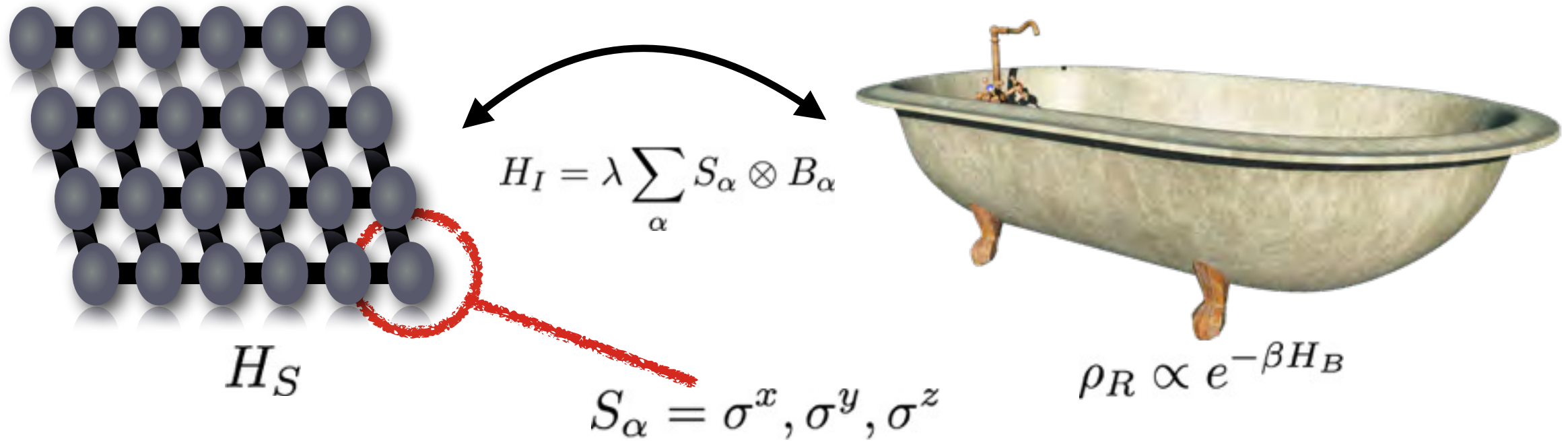
$H_S$

$$H_I = \lambda \sum_{\alpha} S_{\alpha} \otimes B_{\alpha}$$

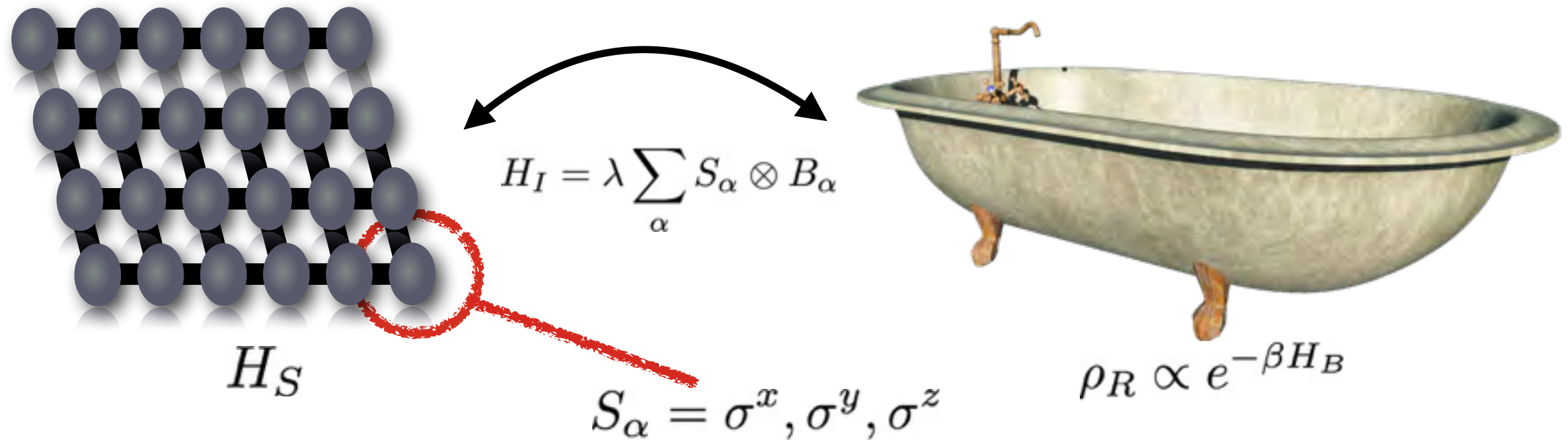


$$\rho_R \propto e^{-\beta H_B}$$

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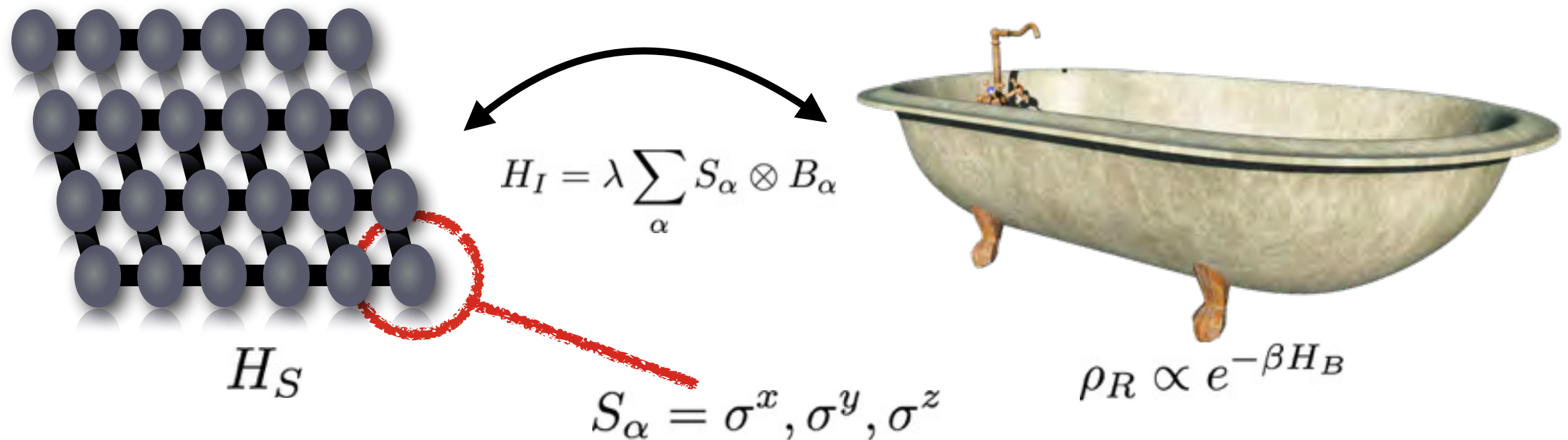


The evolution :

$$\rho_S(t + \Delta t) = \text{tr}_R[e^{-iH\Delta t}(\rho(t) \otimes \rho_R)e^{iH\Delta t}]$$



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The evolution :

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Weak coupling limit & Markovian approximation:

$$\partial_t \rho = \mathcal{L}(\rho)$$

Davies, E. B. (1974). Markovian master equations.  
Communications in Mathematical Physics, 39(2), 91–110.

# The Davies generator

---

$$\mathcal{L}_\beta(\rho) = \sum_{\alpha, \omega} h^\alpha(\omega) \left( S_\alpha(\omega) \rho S_\alpha^\dagger(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} \{ S_\alpha^\dagger(\omega) S_\alpha(\omega), \rho \} \right)$$

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For a single thermal bath:

KMS conditions\*:

Ensures detail balance with:

Gibbs state as steady state

$$h^\alpha(-\omega) = e^{-\beta\omega} h^\alpha(\omega)$$

$$\sigma S_\alpha(\omega) = e^{\beta\omega} S_\alpha(\omega) \sigma$$

$$\sigma \propto e^{-\beta H_S}$$

\* Kubo, R. (1957). Statistical-Mechanical Theory of Irreversible Processes. I. General Theory and Simple Applications to Magnetic and Conduction Problems. *Journal of the Physical Society of Japan*, 12(6), 570–586.

Martin, P., & Schwinger, J. (1959). Theory of Many-Particle Systems. I. *Physical Review*, 115(6), 1342–1373.

# Davies generator for Pauli stabilizers

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- Lindblad operators

$$e^{iHt} S_\alpha e^{-iHt} = \sum_{\omega} S_\alpha(\omega) e^{i\omega t}$$



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$$S_\alpha(\omega) = \sum_{\omega = \epsilon_a - \epsilon_{a\alpha}} \sigma_i^\alpha P(a)$$

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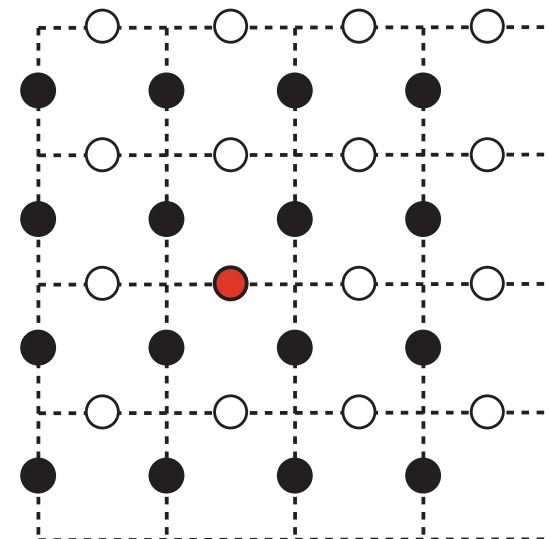
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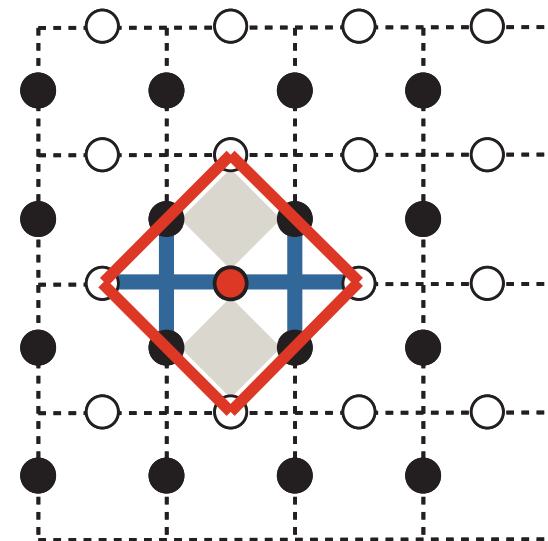
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# Convergence to the fixed point $\sigma$

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- For a unique fixed point:

$$t > t_{\text{mix}}(\epsilon) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \|e^{\mathcal{L}t}(\rho_0) - \sigma\|_{tr} \leq \epsilon$$

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$$\|e^{t\mathcal{L}}(\rho_0) - \sigma\|_{tr} \leq A e^{-Bt}$$



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$$\|e^{t\mathcal{L}}(\rho_0) - \sigma\|_{tr} \leq \sqrt{\|\sigma^{-1}\|} e^{-\lambda t}$$

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- A thermal  $\sigma$  implies the bound

$$\|\sigma^{-1}\| \sim e^{c\beta N} \quad \Rightarrow \quad t_{\text{mix}} \sim \mathcal{O}(\beta N \lambda^{-1})$$

# Spectral gap bound

---

**Theorem 14** *For any commuting Pauli Hamiltonian  $H$ , eqn. (1), the spectral gap  $\lambda$  of the Davies generator  $\mathcal{L}_\beta$ , c.f. eqn (15), with weight one Pauli couplings  $W_1$  is bounded by*

$$\lambda \geq \frac{h^*}{4\eta^*} \exp(-2\beta \bar{\epsilon}), \quad (81)$$

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The constants are:

The largest Pauli path:	$\eta^* = \mathcal{O}(N)$
smallest transition rate:	$h^* \geq c_0 e^{-\beta\Delta}$

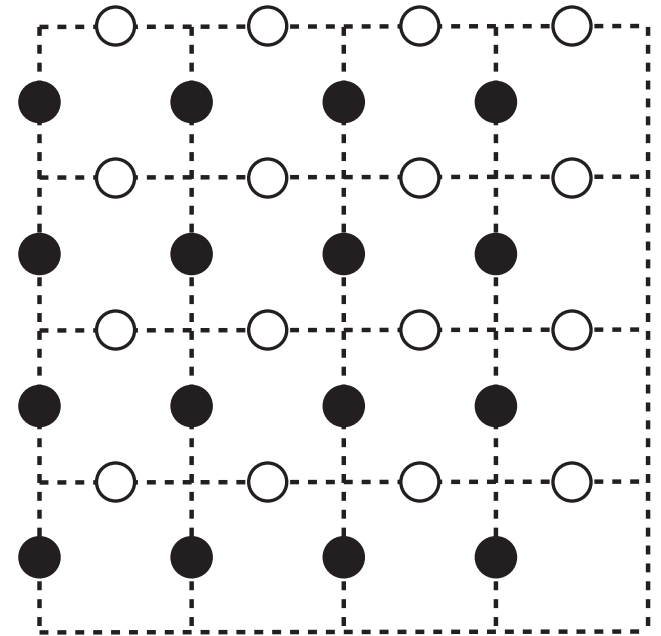
generalized energy barrier :  $\bar{\epsilon}$

# Generalized energy barrier

---

Paths on the Pauli Group  $\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_t \in \mathcal{P}$

$$\gamma_0 = I$$

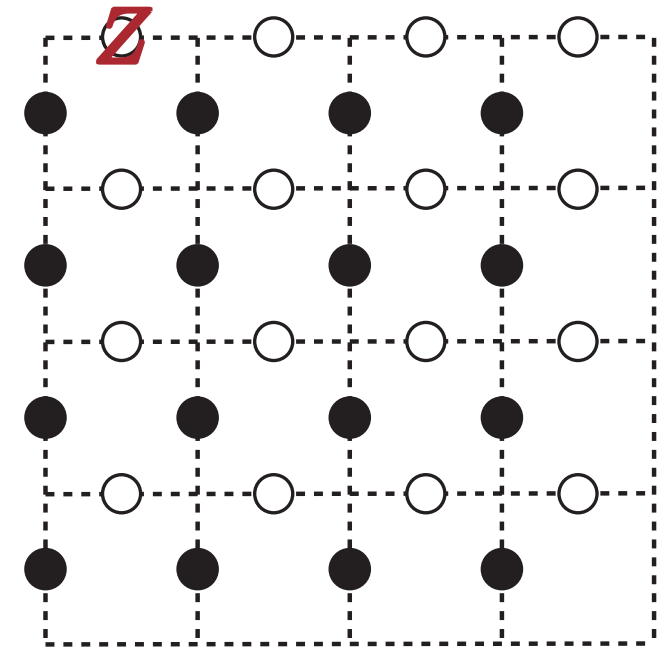




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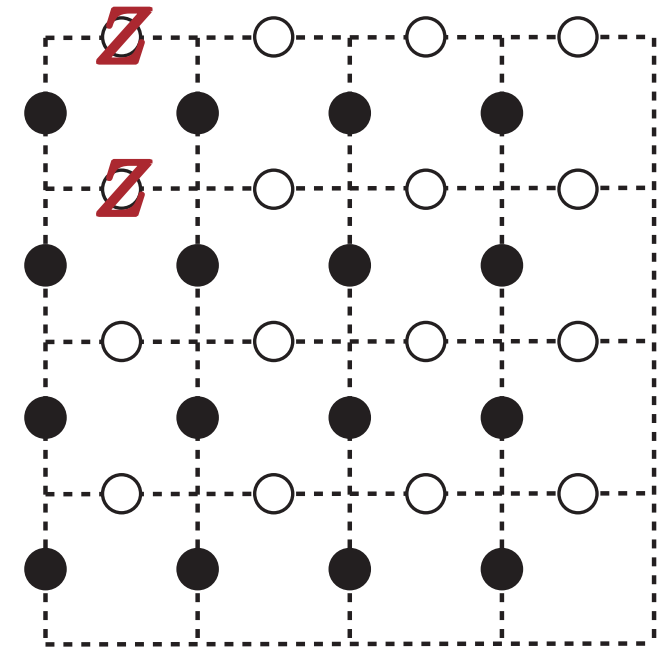
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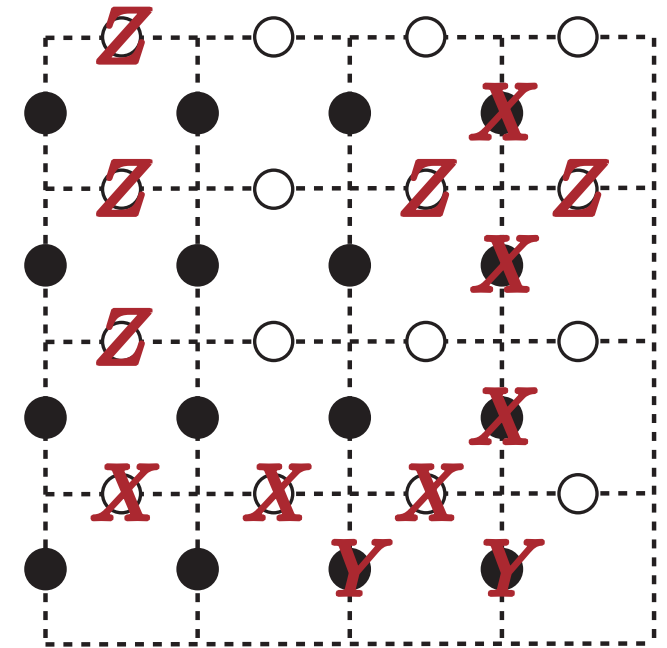


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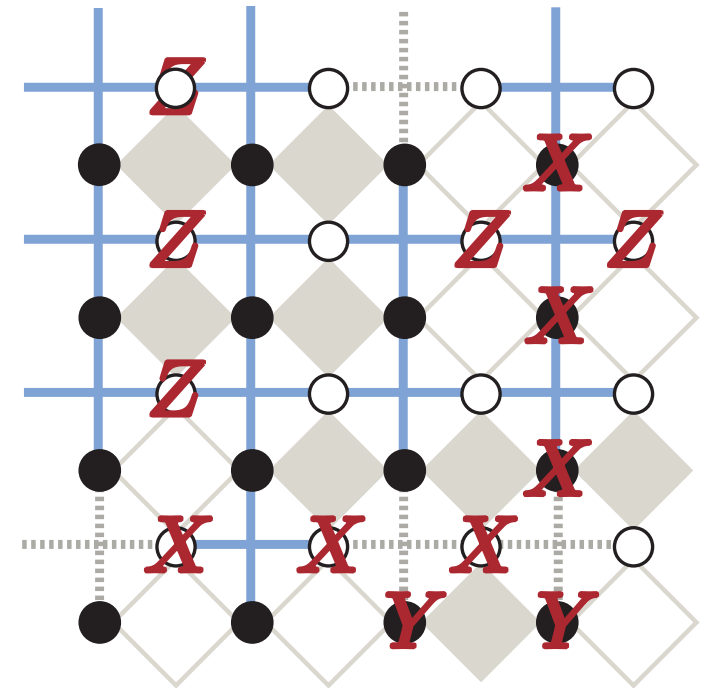
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Reduced set of generators

$$\mathcal{G}_\eta = \{g \in \mathcal{G} \mid [g, \eta] = 0\}$$



# Generalized energy barrier

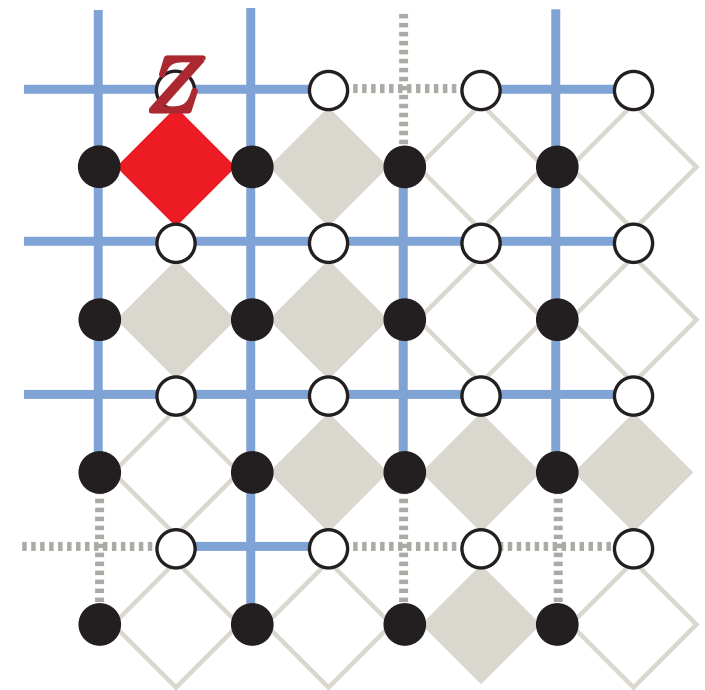
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Energy barrier of the Pauli

$$\bar{e}(\eta) = \max_t 2\#\{g_k \in \mathcal{G}_\eta \mid \{g_k, \gamma_t\} = 0\}$$





# Generalized energy barrier

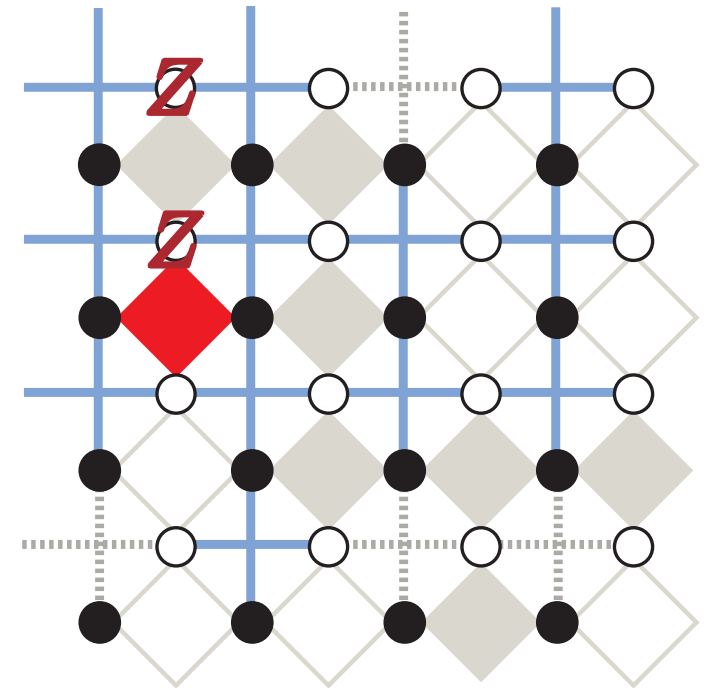
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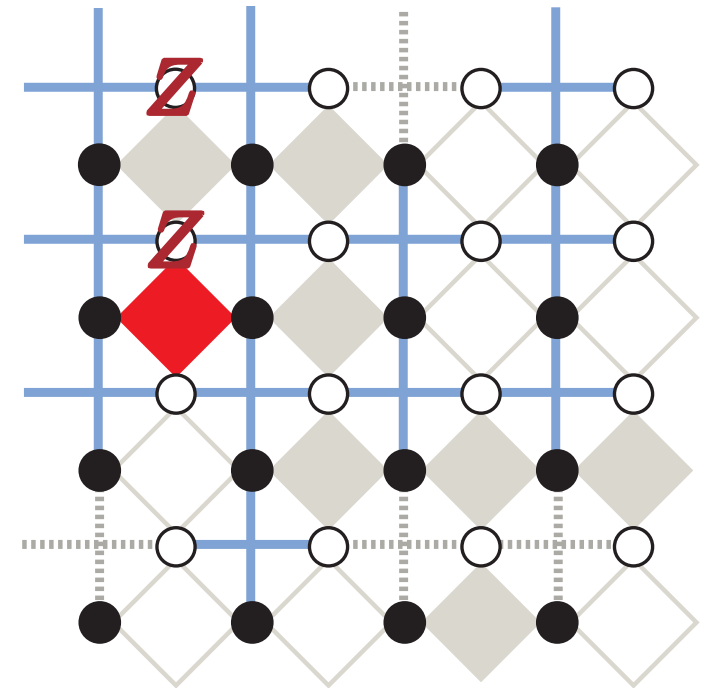
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The generalized energy barrier

$$\bar{e} = \min_{\{\gamma\}} \max_{\eta} \bar{e}(\eta)$$



# Generalized energy barrier

Paths on the Pauli Group  $\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_t \in \mathcal{P}$

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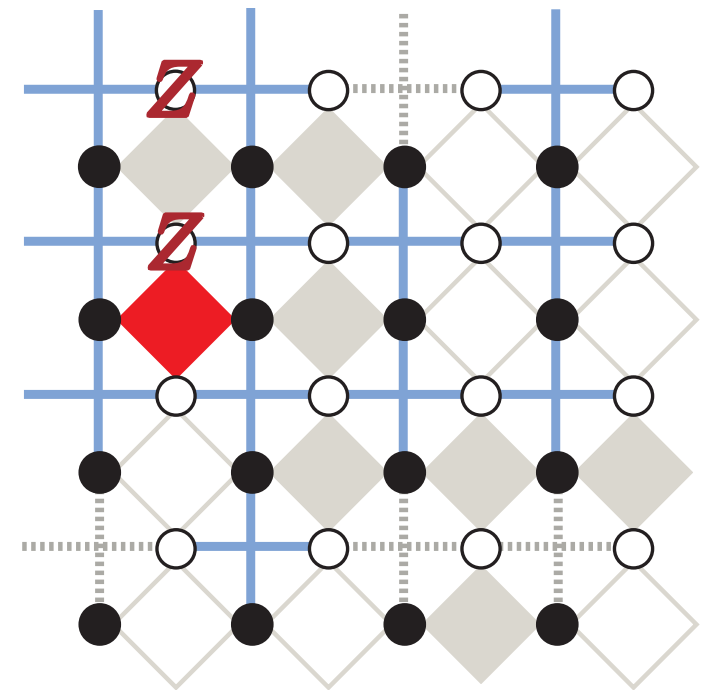
$$\mathcal{G}_\eta = \left\{ g \in \mathcal{G} \mid [g, \eta] = 0 \right\}$$

Energy barrier of the Pauli

$$\bar{\epsilon}(\eta) = \max_t 2 \# \left\{ g_k \in \mathcal{G}_\eta \mid \{g_k, \gamma_t\} = 0 \right\}$$

The generalized energy barrier

$$\bar{\epsilon} = \min_{\{\gamma\}} \max_{\eta} \bar{\epsilon}(\eta)$$



Example: 2D Toric Code

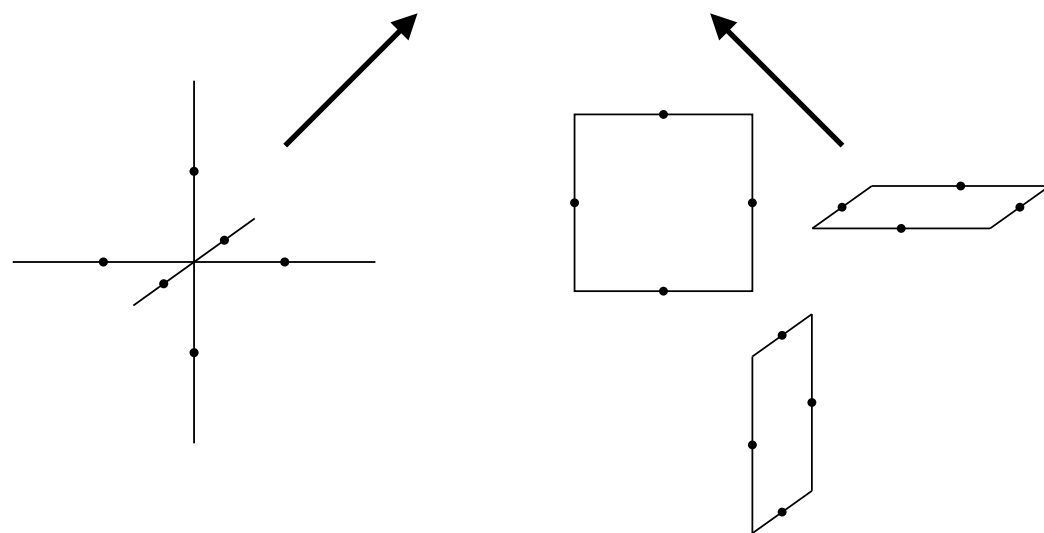
$$\lambda \geq \frac{1}{8N} e^{-\beta 6J}$$

# 3D Toric Code

---

Consider the toric code on an  $L \times L \times L$  lattice

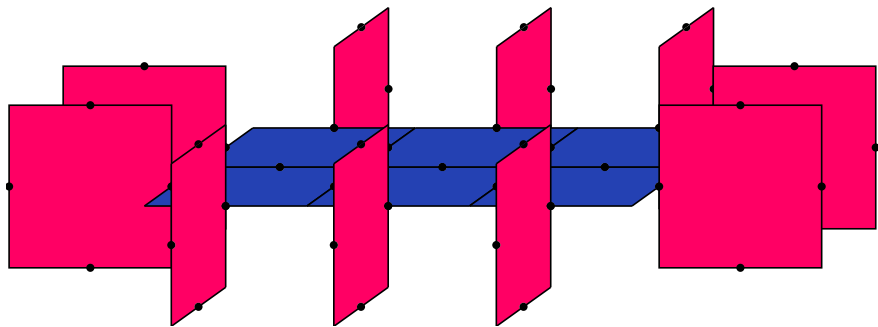
$$H = -J \sum_v A_v - J \sum_p B_p$$



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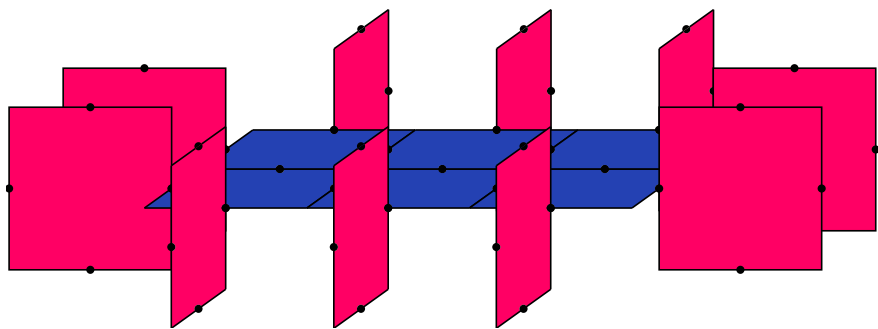


$$\bar{\epsilon} \sim 2JL$$

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leads to a bound  $\lambda \geq \mathcal{O}(L^{-3}e^{-4J\beta L})$



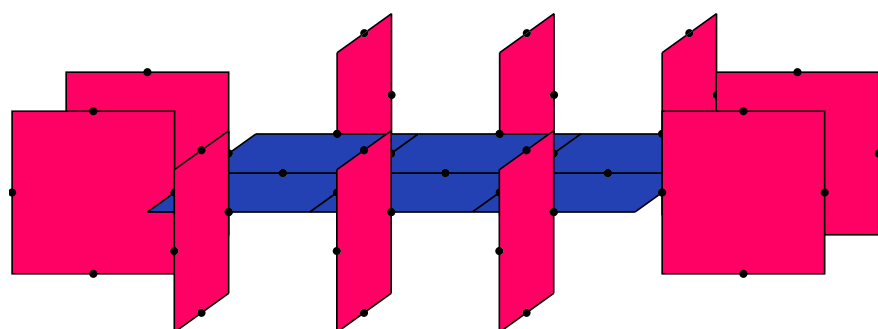
# 3D Toric Code

Fernando Pastawski

Michael Kastoryano



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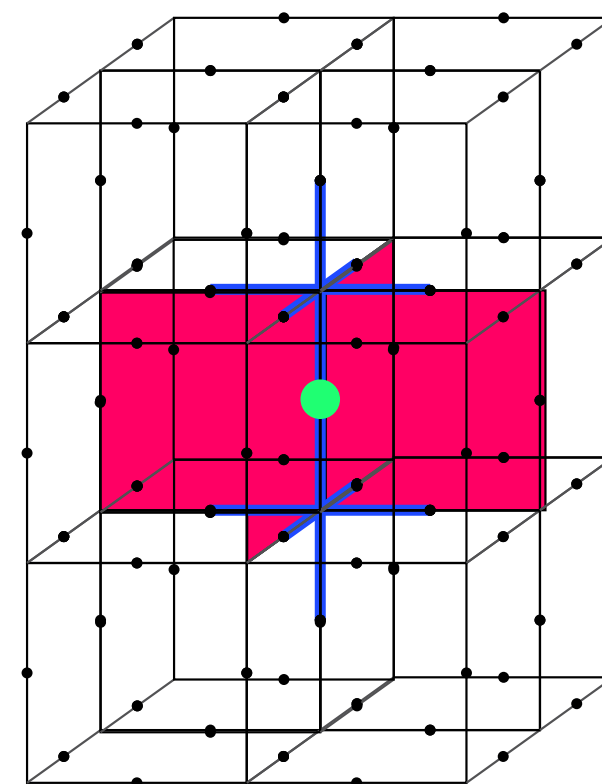


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leads to a bound

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$$\kappa(\beta)$$



High temperature bound

$$\kappa(\beta^*) \leq 1$$

$$\lambda \geq \frac{1 - \kappa(\beta)}{\log(2)}$$

# Discussion of the bound

---

- Relationship to Arrhenius law

$$t_{mem} \sim e^{\beta E_B}$$

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# Discussion of the bound

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- Relationship to Arrhenius law

$$t_{mem} \sim e^{\beta E_B} \qquad t_{mix} = \mathcal{O}(\beta N^2 e^{2\beta \bar{\epsilon}})$$

- It would be nicer to have a bound that includes “entropic contributions”
- Can we get rid of the  $1/N$  factor?

$$\lambda \geq \frac{h^*}{4N} e^{-2\beta \bar{\epsilon}}$$

# Proof sketch

---

- The Poincare Inequality
- Matrix pencils and the PI
- The canonical paths bound
- The spectral gap and the energy barrier

# The Poincare Inequality

---



$$\lambda \text{Var}_\sigma(f, f) \leq \mathcal{E}(f, f)$$



# The Poincare Inequality

---

$$\lambda \left( \text{tr} [\sigma f^\dagger f] - \text{tr} [\sigma f]^2 \right) \leq -\text{tr} [\sigma f^\dagger \mathcal{L}(f)]$$

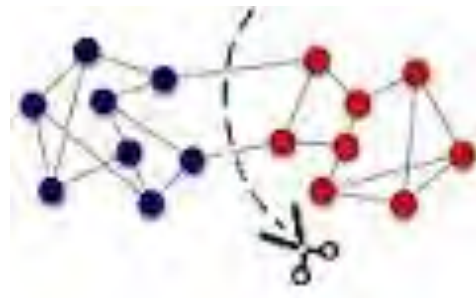


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For classical Markov processes

- Sampling the Permanent : M. Jerrum, A. Sinclair. "Approximating the permanent." *SIAM journal on computing* 18.6 (1989): 1149-1178.
- Powerful because it can lead to a geometric interpretation



Cheeger's bound



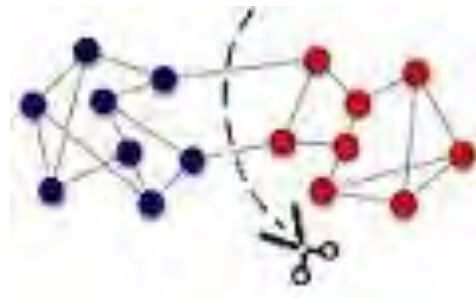
Canonical paths

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Cheeger's bound



Canonical paths

Challenges in the quantum setting

- We are missing a general geometric picture

# Poincare and a Matrix pencil $\lambda^{-1} = \tau$

---

Equivalent formulation for  $\lambda \text{Var}_\sigma(f, f) \leq \mathcal{E}(f, f)$

$$\text{minimize } \tau \quad \text{subject to} \quad \tau \hat{\mathcal{E}} - \hat{\mathcal{V}} \geq 0$$

where  $\mathcal{E}(f, f) = (f | \hat{\mathcal{E}} | f)$  and  $\text{Var}_\sigma(f, f) = (f | \hat{\mathcal{V}} | f)$

# Poincare and a Matrix pencil $\lambda^{-1} = \tau$

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Lemma: Let  $\hat{\mathcal{E}} = AA^\dagger$  and  $\hat{\mathcal{V}} = BB^\dagger$

$$\tau = \min \|W\|^2 \quad \text{subject to} \quad AW = B$$

# Suitable matrix factorization

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Some intuition from  $\beta \rightarrow 0$

$$\mathcal{E}(f, f) \longrightarrow \mathcal{L}(f) \sim \sum_{i:\alpha_i} (\sigma_i^{\alpha_i} f \sigma_i^{\alpha_i} - f)$$

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Choosing a decomposition in terms of

$$(\sigma_1^x f \sigma_1^x - f) + (\sigma_2^z f \sigma_2^z - f) + (\sigma_3^x f \sigma_3^x - f) \sim (\sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^x f \sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^x - f)$$

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Choosing a decomposition in terms of

$$(\sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z f \sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z - f) + (\sigma_3^x f \sigma_3^x - f) \sim (\sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^x f \sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^x - f)$$



# Suitable matrix factorization

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Choosing a decomposition in terms of

$$(\sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z f \sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z - f) + (\sigma_3^x f \sigma_3^x - f) \sim (\sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^x f \sigma_1^x \sigma_2^z \sigma_3^x - f)$$

A generalization yields to the matrix triple  $[A, B, W]$

$\|W\|^2$  can be bounded by suitable norm bounds

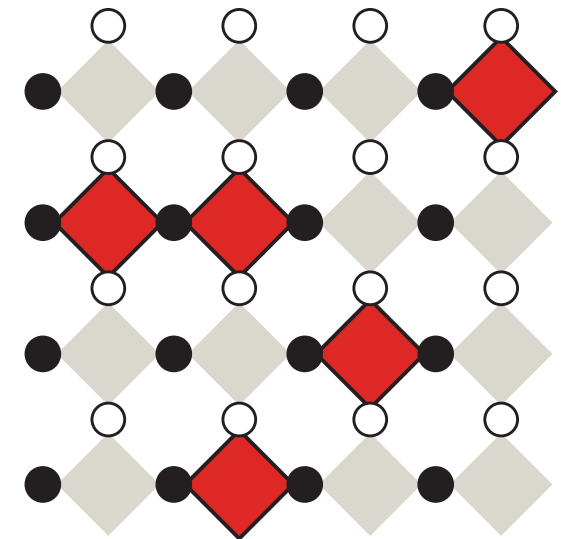
# Canonical paths bound

---

- The norm bound on  $\|W\|^2$  can be evaluated in the following picture

Dressed Pauli paths :

$$\hat{\eta}_a = [(a, \mathbf{0}), (a^{\alpha_1}, \alpha_1), \dots, (a^\eta, \eta)]$$



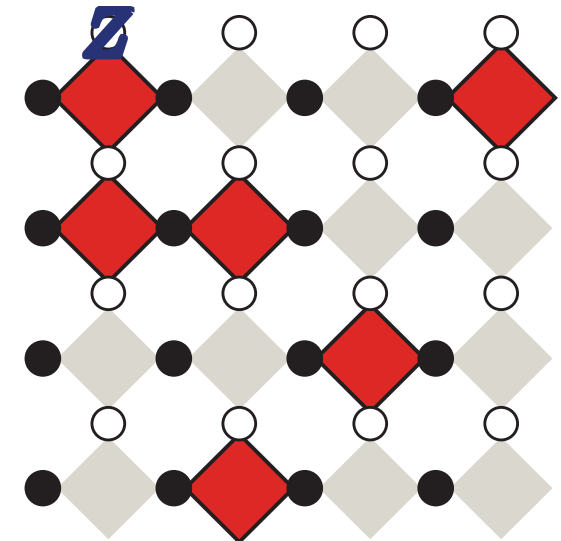
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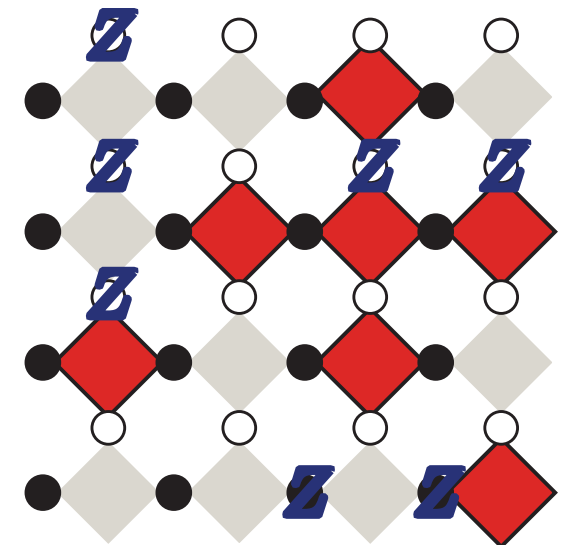
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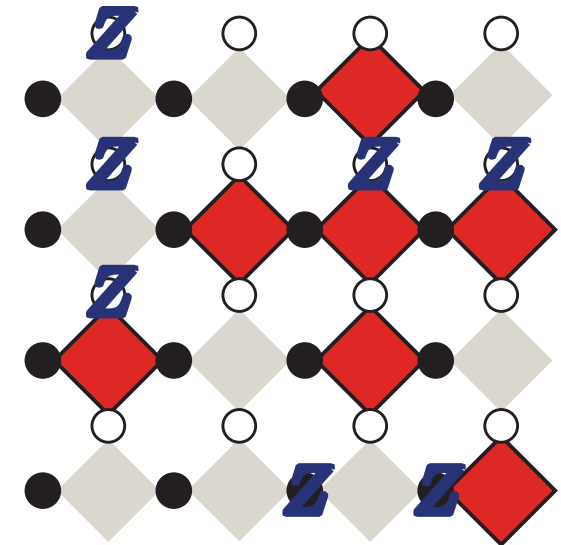


# Canonical paths bound

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Dressed Pauli paths :

$$\hat{\eta}_a = [(a, 0), \underbrace{(a^{\alpha_1}, \alpha_1), \dots, (a^\eta, \eta)}_{\xi}]$$



The matrix norm bound yields

$$\tau \leq \max_{\xi} \frac{4\eta^*}{2^N h(\omega^\alpha(b)) \rho_b} \sum_{\hat{\eta}_a \in \Gamma(\xi)} \rho_a \rho_{a^\eta}$$

# The spectral gap and the energy barrier

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- The only challenge is the maximum in the definition of  $\mathcal{T}$

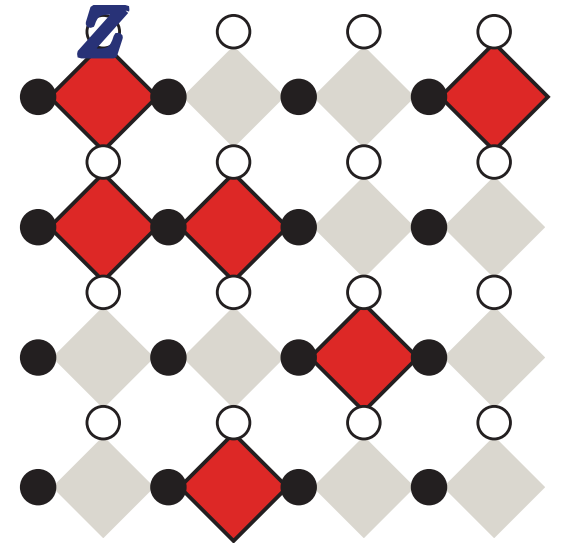
# The spectral gap and the energy barrier

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- The only challenge is the maximum in the definition of  $\mathcal{T}$

Injective map (Jerrum & Sinclair)

$$\Phi_\xi : \Gamma(\xi) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_N$$



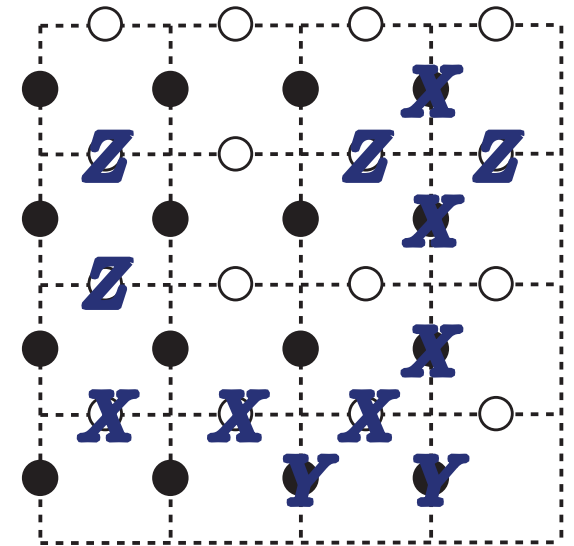
# The spectral gap and the energy barrier

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Injective map (Jerrum & Sinclair)

$$\Phi_\xi : \Gamma(\xi) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_N \quad [\Phi_\xi(\hat{\eta}_a)]_k = \begin{cases} (0, 0)_k & : k \leq \xi \\ \eta_k & : k > \xi \end{cases}$$



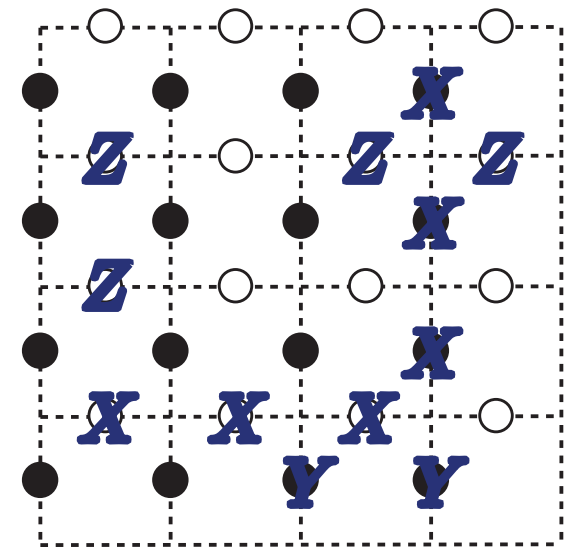


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Bounding  $\mathcal{T}$

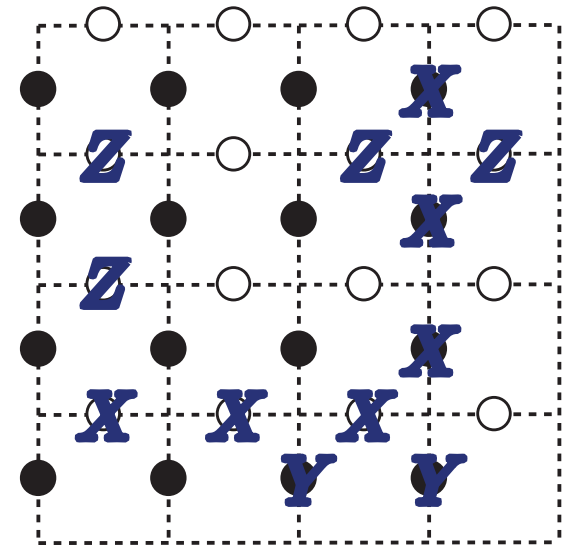
$$\epsilon_{b\eta \oplus \xi} + \epsilon_{b\xi} - \epsilon_b - \epsilon_{b\eta} \leq 2\bar{\epsilon}$$

# The spectral gap and the energy barrier

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Bounding  $\mathcal{T}$

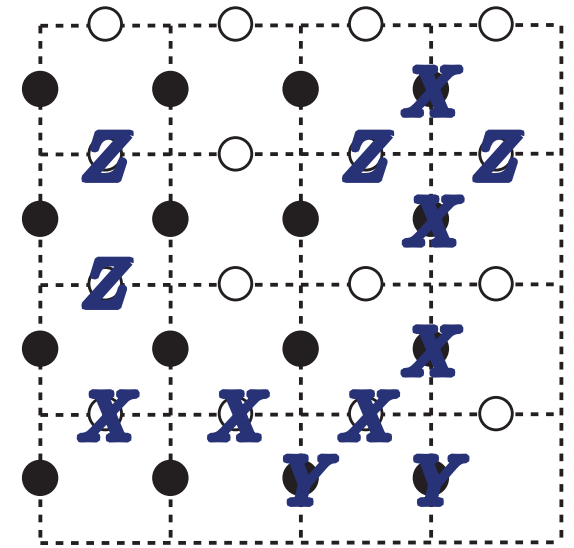
$$h^\alpha(\omega^\alpha(a)) \rho_a \rho_b^{\Phi_\xi(\hat{\eta}_b)} \geq h^* e^{-\beta 2\bar{\epsilon}} \rho_b \rho_b^\eta$$

# The spectral gap and the energy barrier

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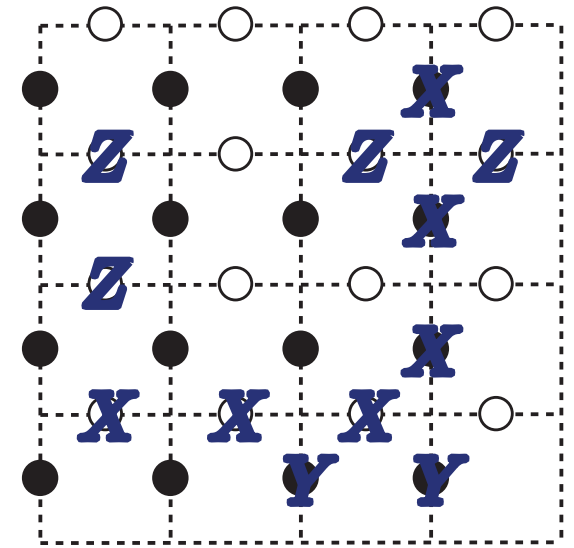
$$\tau_{\gamma_0} \leq 4 \frac{\eta^*}{h^*} e^{\beta 2\bar{\epsilon}} \max_{\hat{\xi}} \sum_{\hat{\eta}_b \in \Gamma(\hat{\xi})} \frac{1}{2^N} \rho_b^{\Phi_\xi(\hat{\eta}_b)}$$

# The spectral gap and the energy barrier

- The only challenge is the maximum in the definition of  $\tau$

Injective map (Jerrum & Sinclair)

$$\Phi_\xi : \Gamma(\xi) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_N \quad [\Phi_\xi(\hat{\eta}_a)]_k = \begin{cases} (0, 0)_k & : k \leq \xi \\ \eta_k & : k > \xi \end{cases}$$



Bounding  $\tau$

$$h^\alpha(\omega^\alpha(a)) \rho_a \rho_b^{\Phi_\xi(\hat{\eta}_b)} \geq h^* e^{-\beta 2\bar{\epsilon}} \rho_b \rho_b^\eta$$

$$\tau_{\gamma_0} \leq 4 \frac{\eta^*}{h^*} e^{\beta 2\bar{\epsilon}} \max_{\hat{\xi}} \underbrace{\sum_{\hat{\eta}_b \in \Gamma(\hat{\xi})} \frac{1}{2^N} \rho_b^{\Phi_\xi(\hat{\eta}_b)}}_{\leq 1}$$

# Conclusion and Open Questions

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- Is it possible to find a bound that also takes the “entropic” contributions into account?
- Can we get rid of the prefactor?  $N^{-1}$
- It would be great if one could extend the results to more general quantum memory models.
- This only provides a converse to the lifetime of the classical memory. It would be great if one could find a converse for the quantum memory time



