

ON THE LINEAR GROWTH OF
QUANTUM CIRCUIT COMPLEXITY

JENS EISERT, FU BERLIN

With J. Haferkamp, P. Faist, N. Kothakonda, A. Munson, N. Yunger Halpern



▶ High energy physics,
holography and the
wormhole growth paradox

▶ Quantum computing

QUANTUM CIRCUIT COMPLEXITY

▶ Statistical physics and
thermodynamics

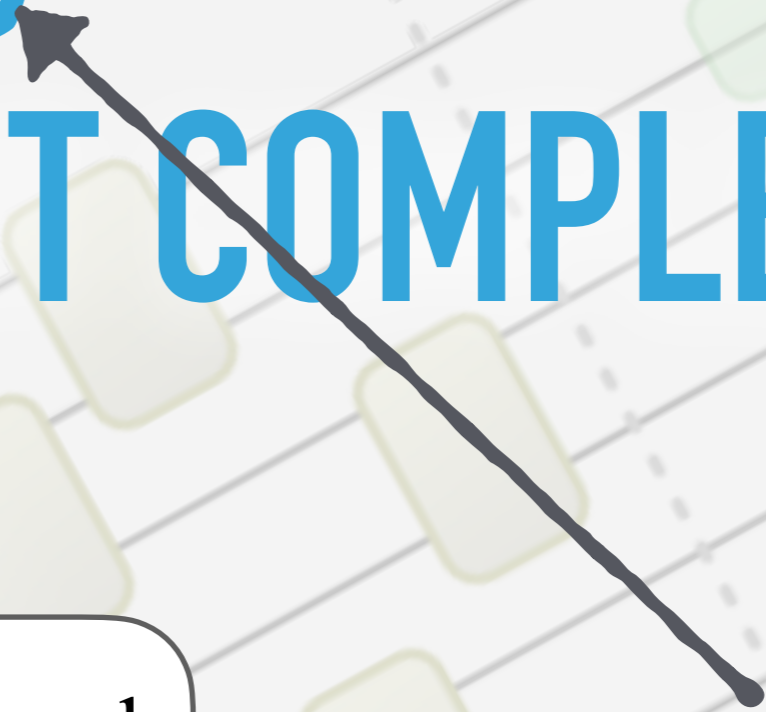
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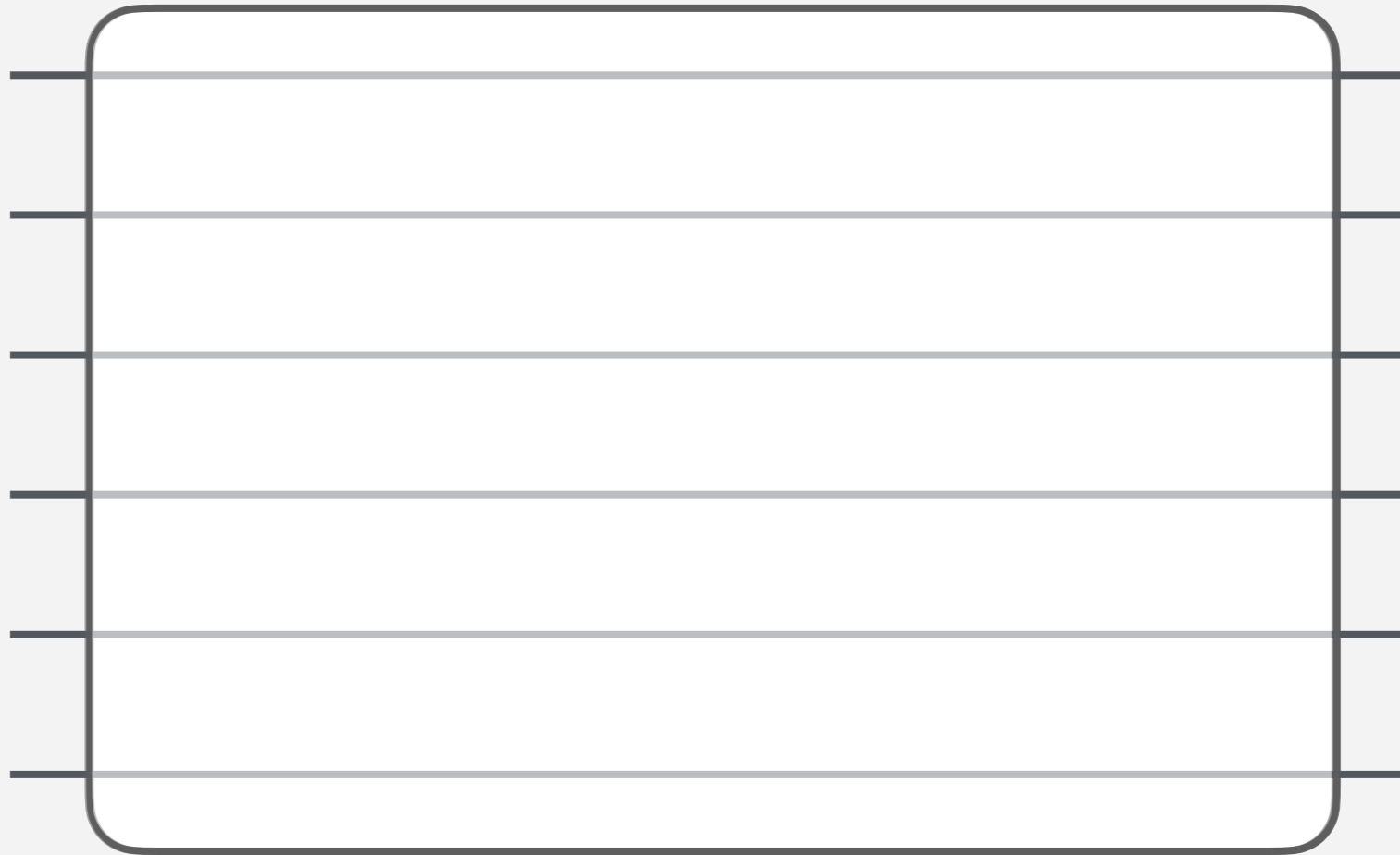
▶ This talk



- ▶ **Complexity** is studied to make sense of the enormity of Hilbert space...

CIRCUIT AND STATE COMPLEXITY

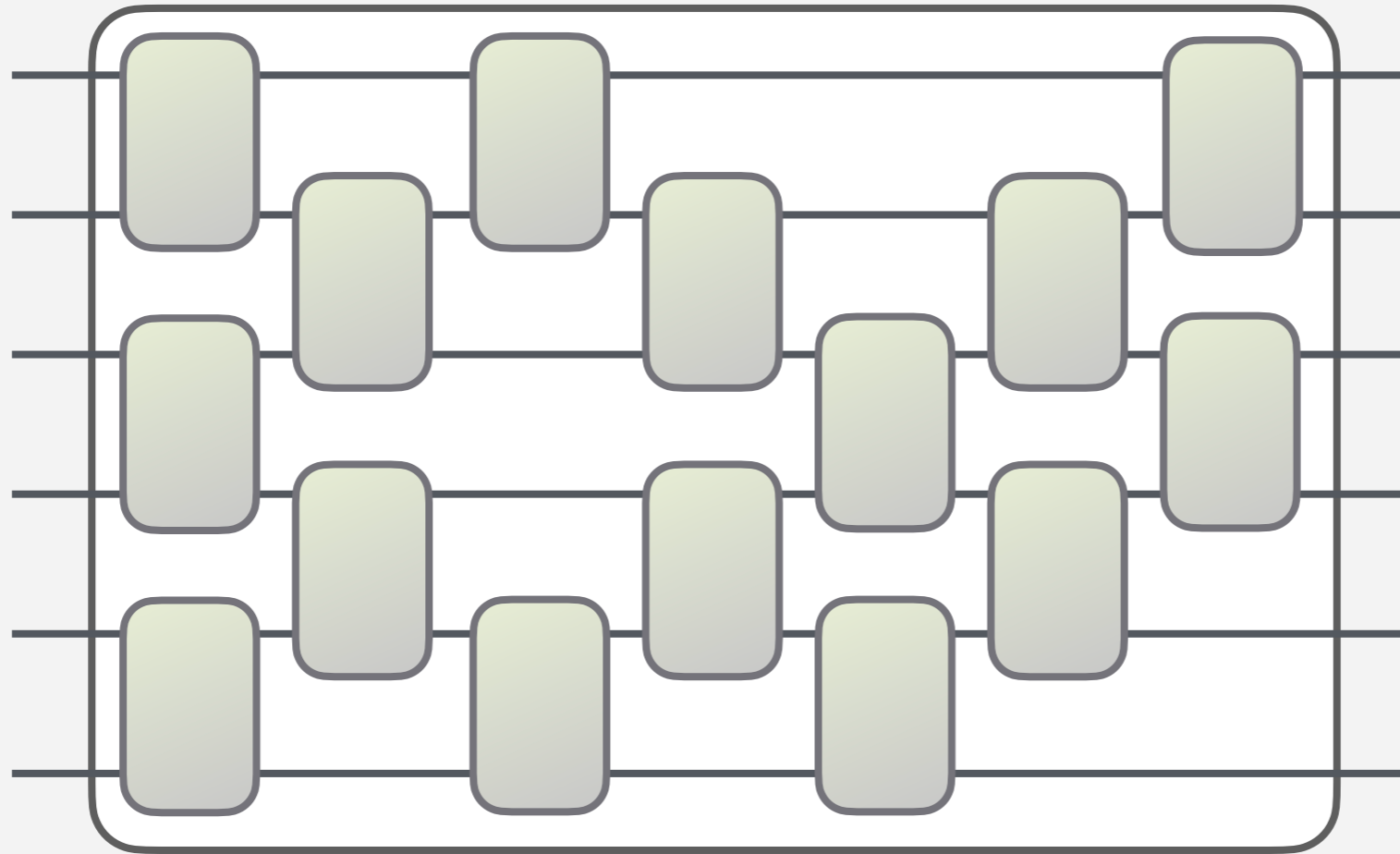
- ▶ **Circuit complexity** of a computation captures the number of elementary steps it minimally takes to determine its outcome



- ▶ Separate computational tasks into ‘**easy**’ and ‘**hard**’

CIRCUIT AND STATE COMPLEXITY

- ▶ **Circuit complexity** of a computation captures the number of elementary steps it minimally takes to determine its outcome



- ▶ Separate computational tasks into ‘**easy**’ and ‘**hard**’
- ▶ In **quantum** setting relevant for phases of matter

CIRCUIT COMPLEXITY

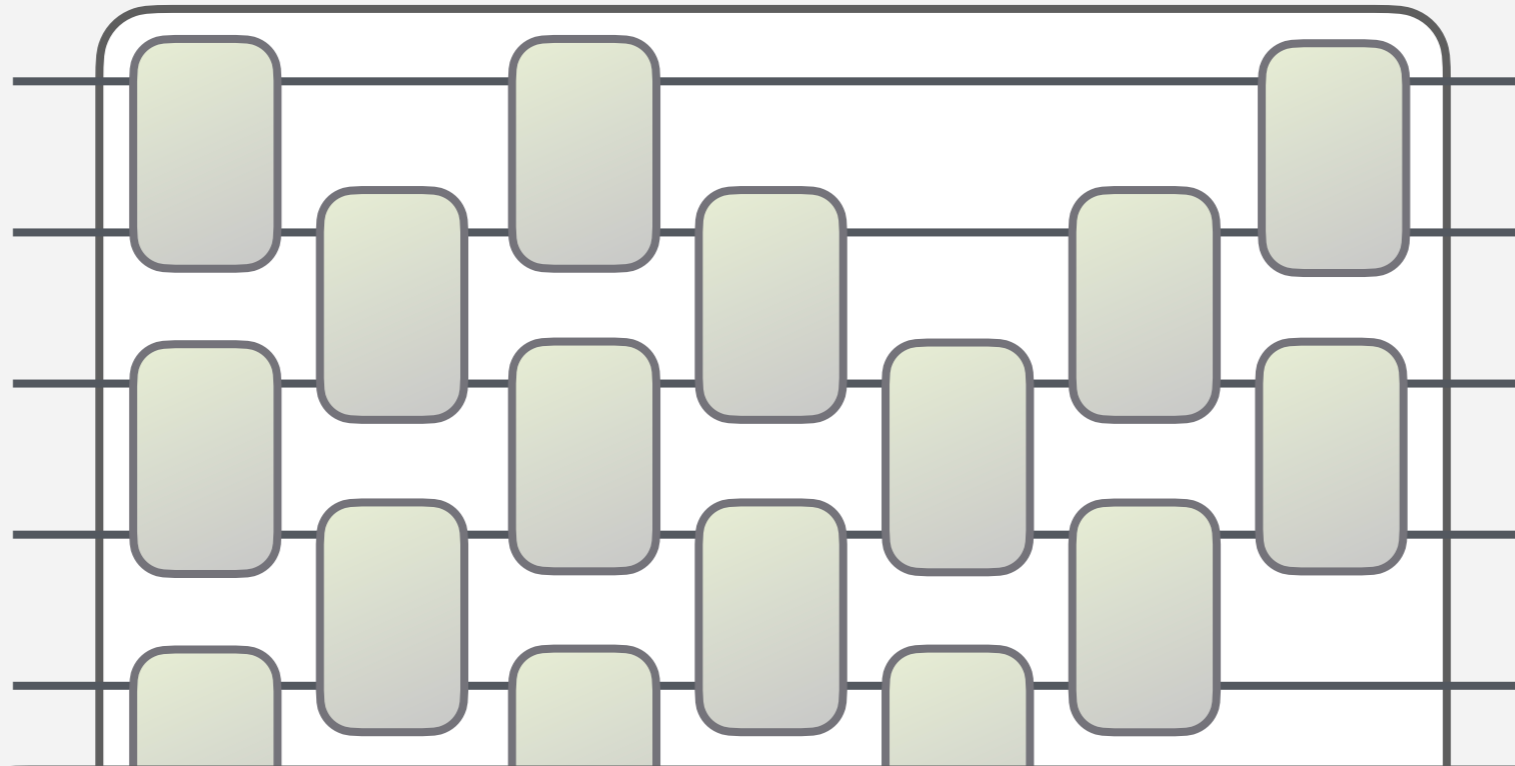
- ▶ **Circuit complexity** of a computation captures the number of elementary steps it minimally takes to determine its outcome



- ▶ **Definition 1** (Exact circuit complexities). *Let $U \in \text{SU}(2^n)$ denote an n -qubit unitary. The (exact) circuit complexity $C_u(U)$ is the least number of two-qubit gates in any circuit that implements U . Similarly, let $|\psi\rangle$ denote a pure quantum state vector. The (exact) state complexity $C_{\text{state}}(|\psi\rangle)$ is the least number r of two-qubit gates U_1, U_2, \dots, U_r , arranged in any architecture, such that $U_1 U_2 \dots U_r |0^n\rangle = |\psi\rangle$.*

CIRCUIT COMPLEXITY

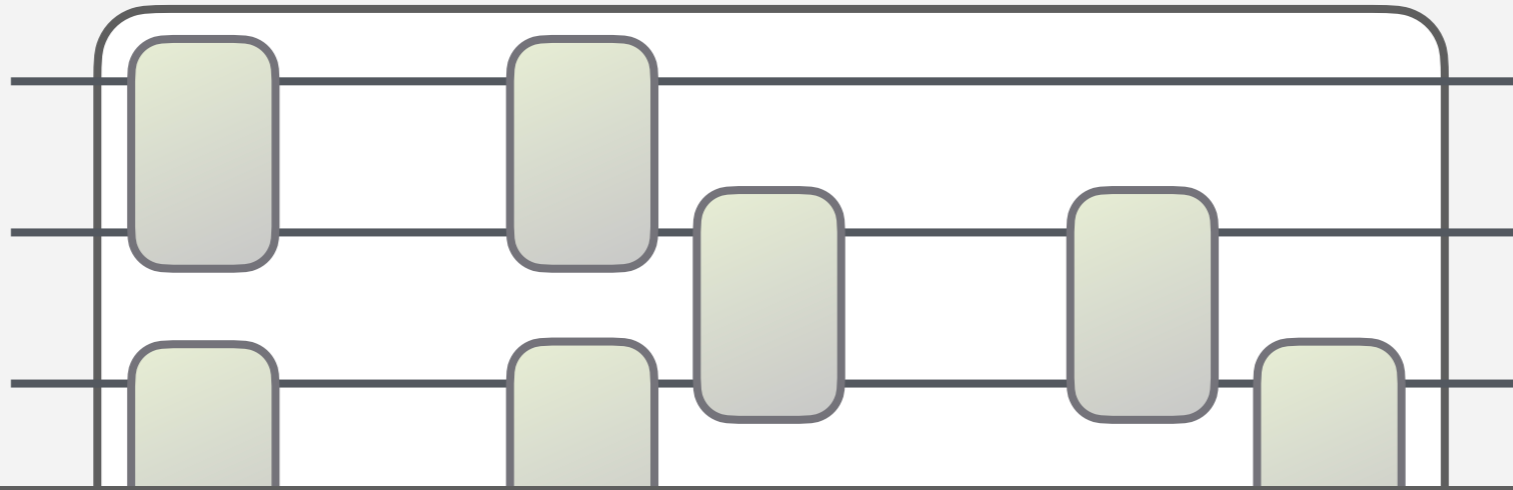
- ▶ **Circuit complexity** of a computation captures the number of elementary steps it minimally takes to determine its outcome



NOTORIOUSLY HARD TO COMPUTE

CIRCUIT COMPLEXITY

- ▶ **Circuit complexity** of a computation captures the number of elementary steps it minimally takes to determine its outcome



- ▶ The run-time of the best known algorithms for the T -count—deciding whether the optimal gate decomposition of a circuit that is given as a sequence of Clifford and T gates on n qubits involves fewer than or equal to m T gates or more—is $O(N^m \text{poly}(m, N))$, with $N := 2^n$.

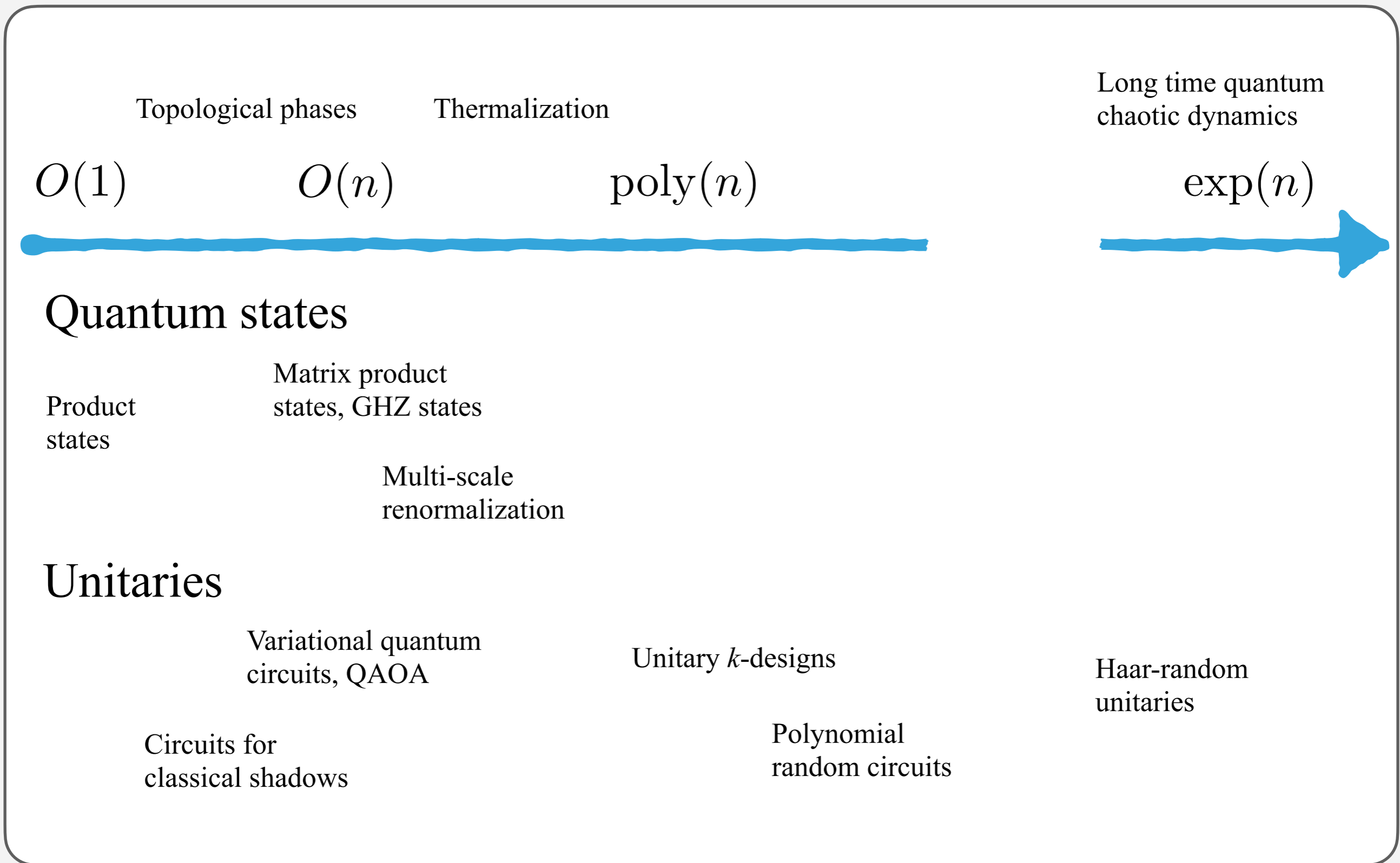
Gosset, Gosset, Kliuchnikov, Mosca, Russo, Quant Inf Comp 14, 1277 (2014)

Aaronson, Gottesman, Phys Rev A 70, 02328 (2004)

- ▶ **Circuit lower bounds**

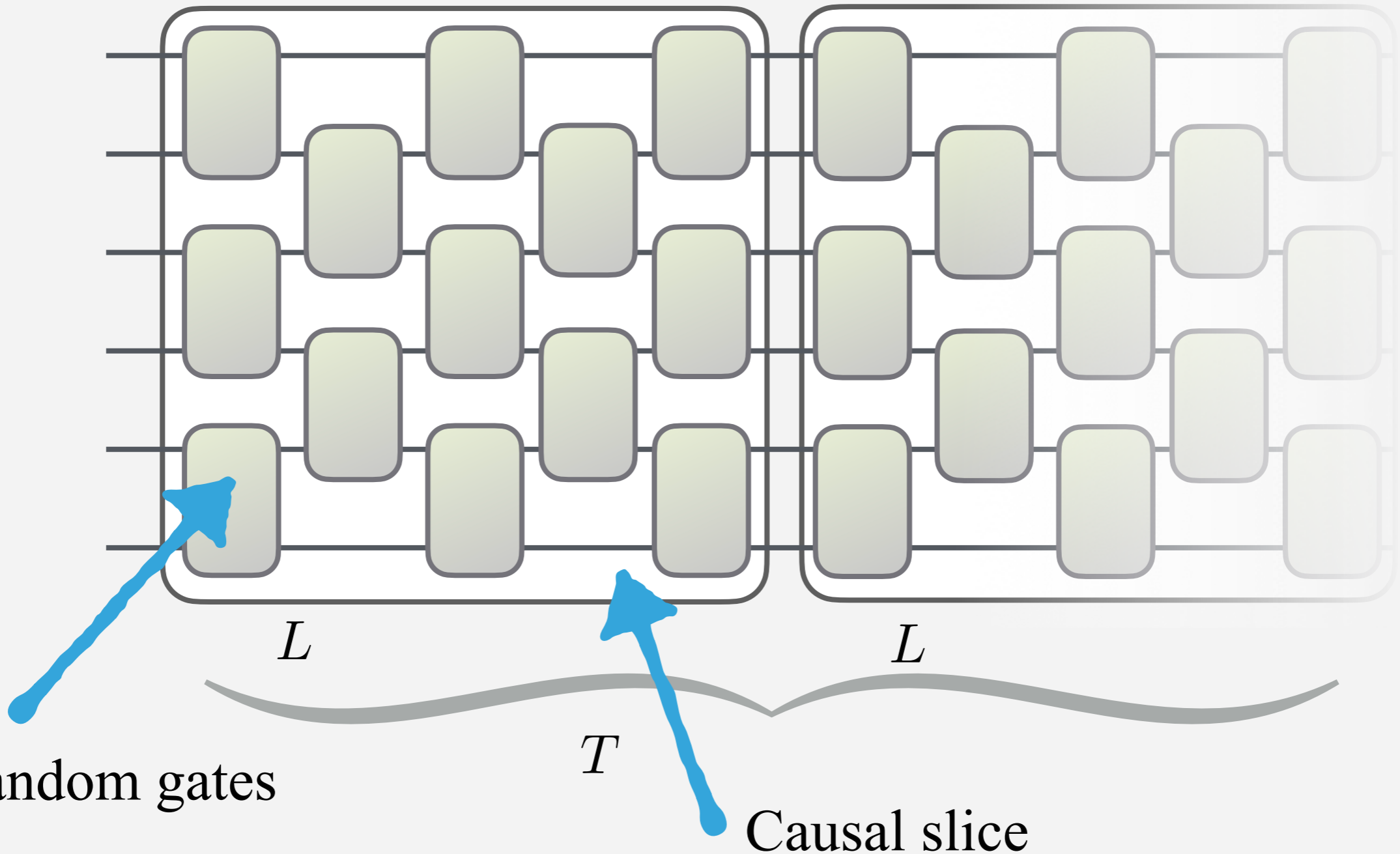
STATES AND UNITARIES THROUGH THE GLASSES OF COMPLEXITY

▶ Circuit and state complexities organize unitaries and quantum states



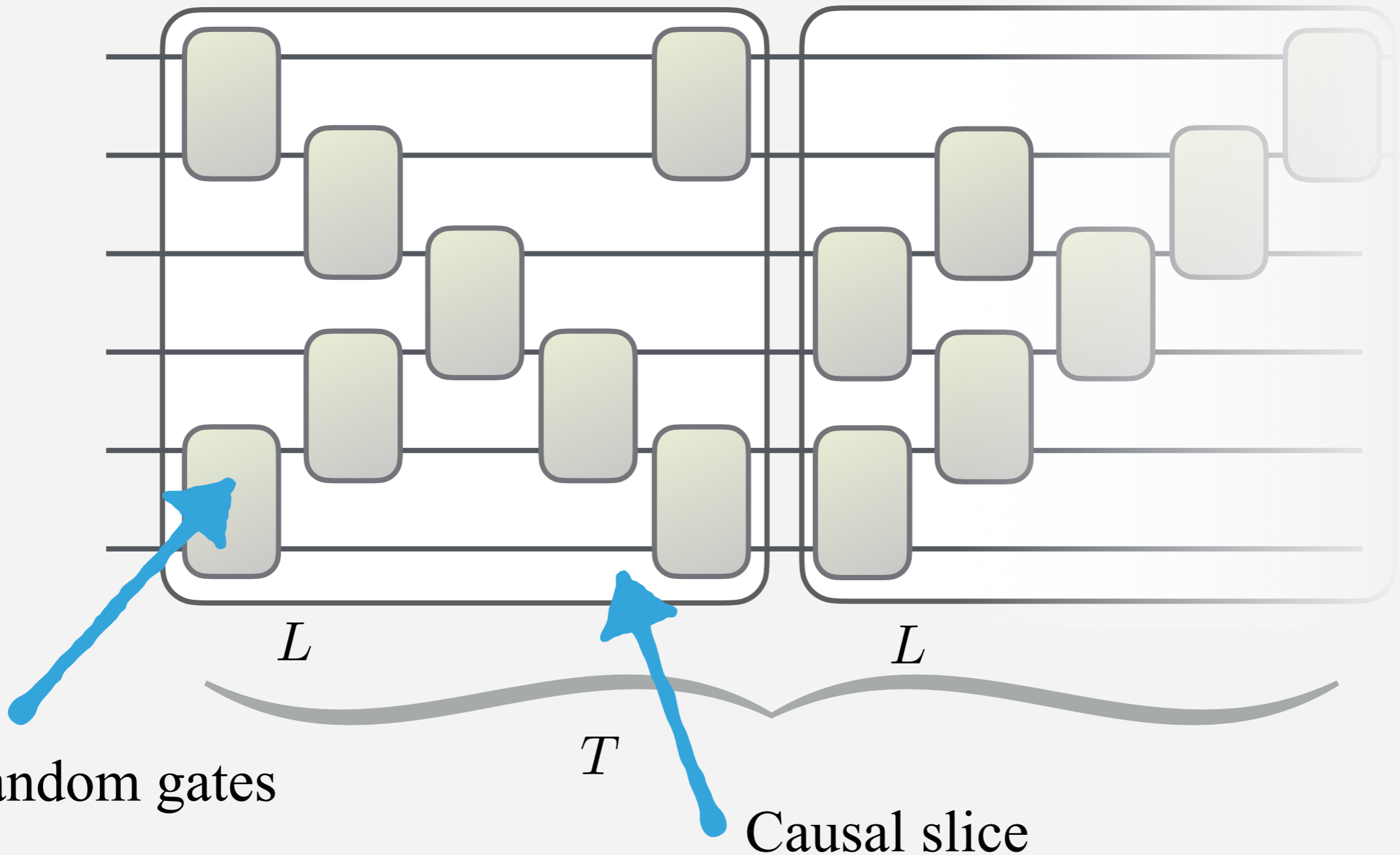
RANDOM QUANTUM CIRCUITS

- ▶ **Random circuits:** Proxies for quantum chaotic dynamics
- ▶ Bricklayer circuits



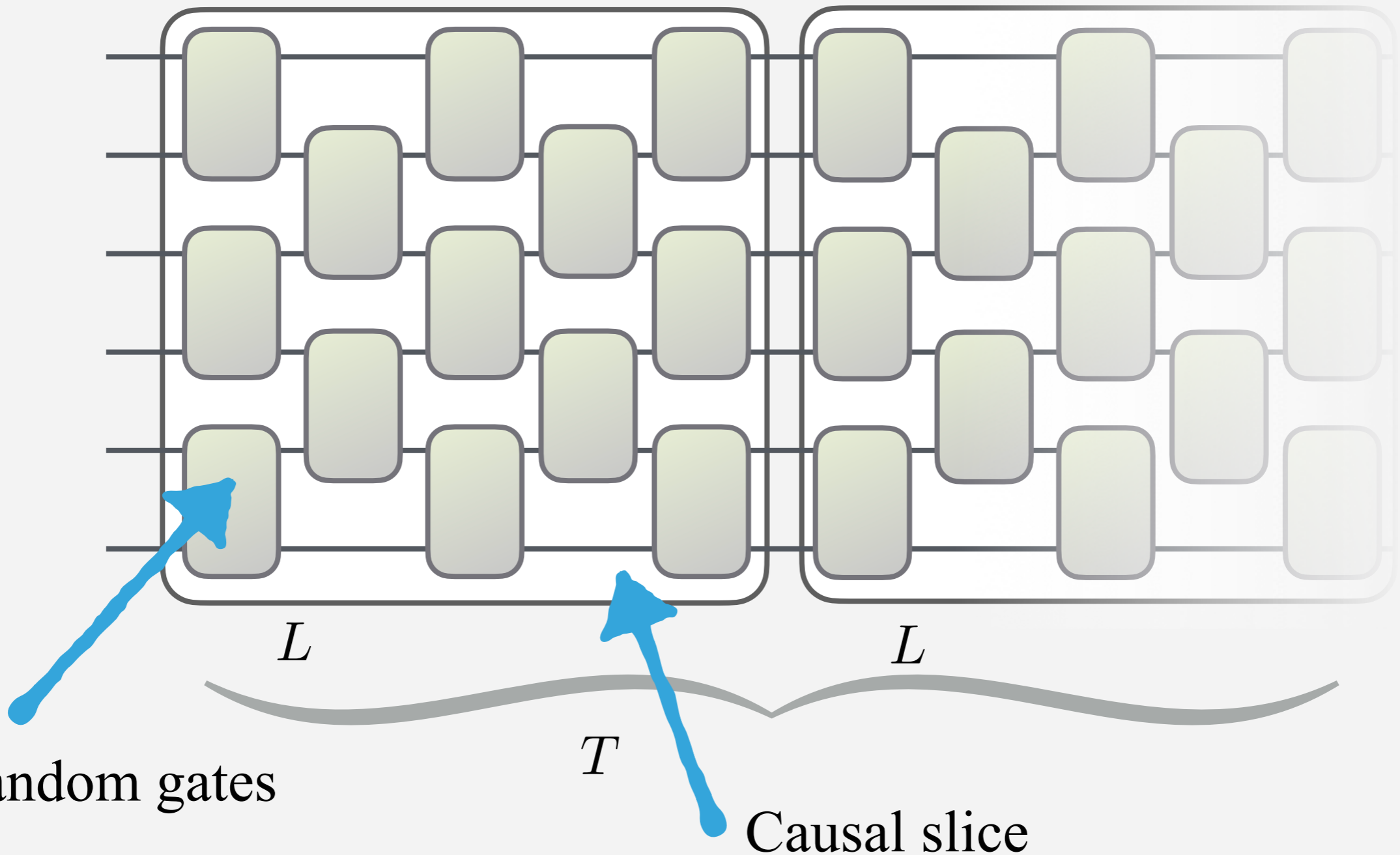
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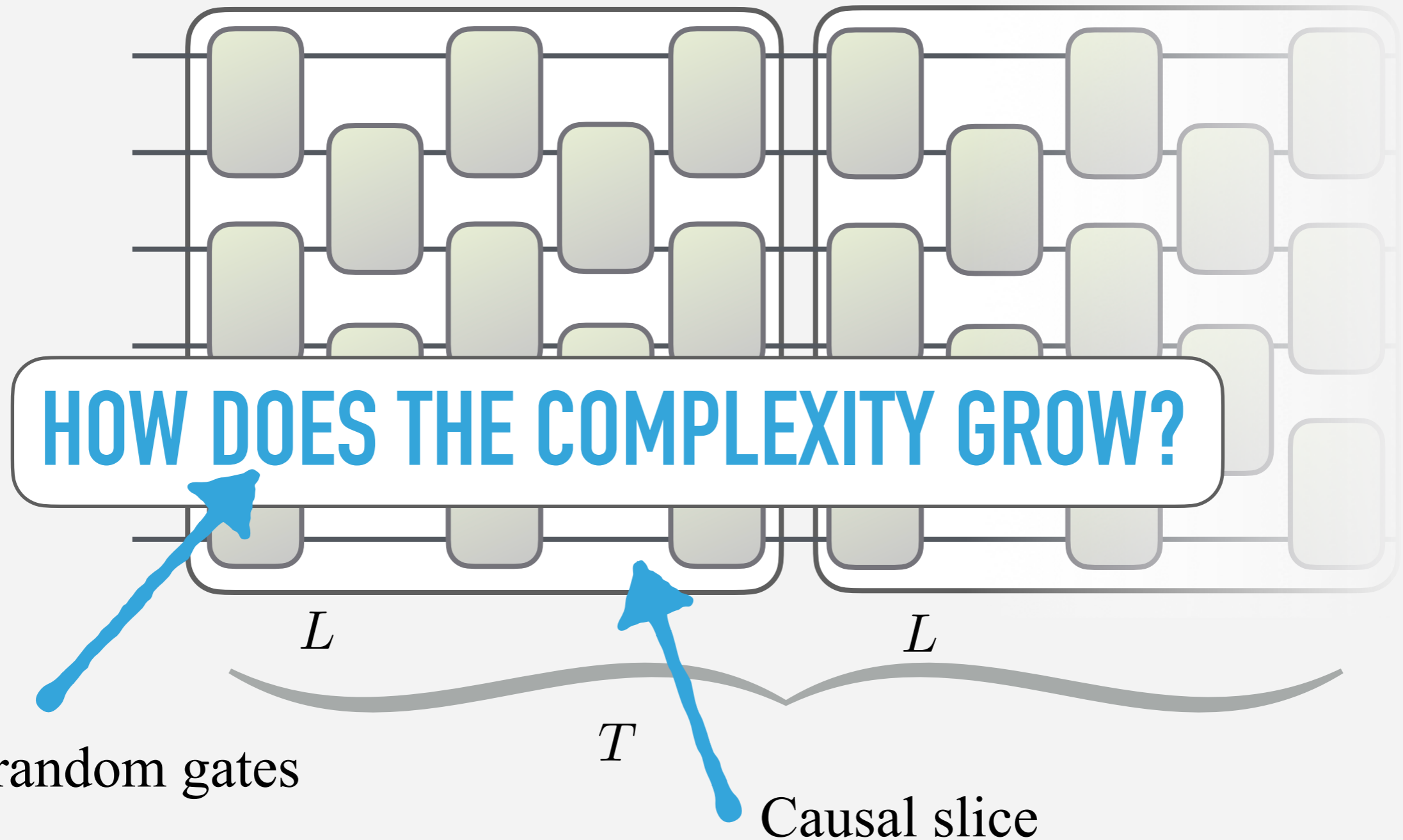
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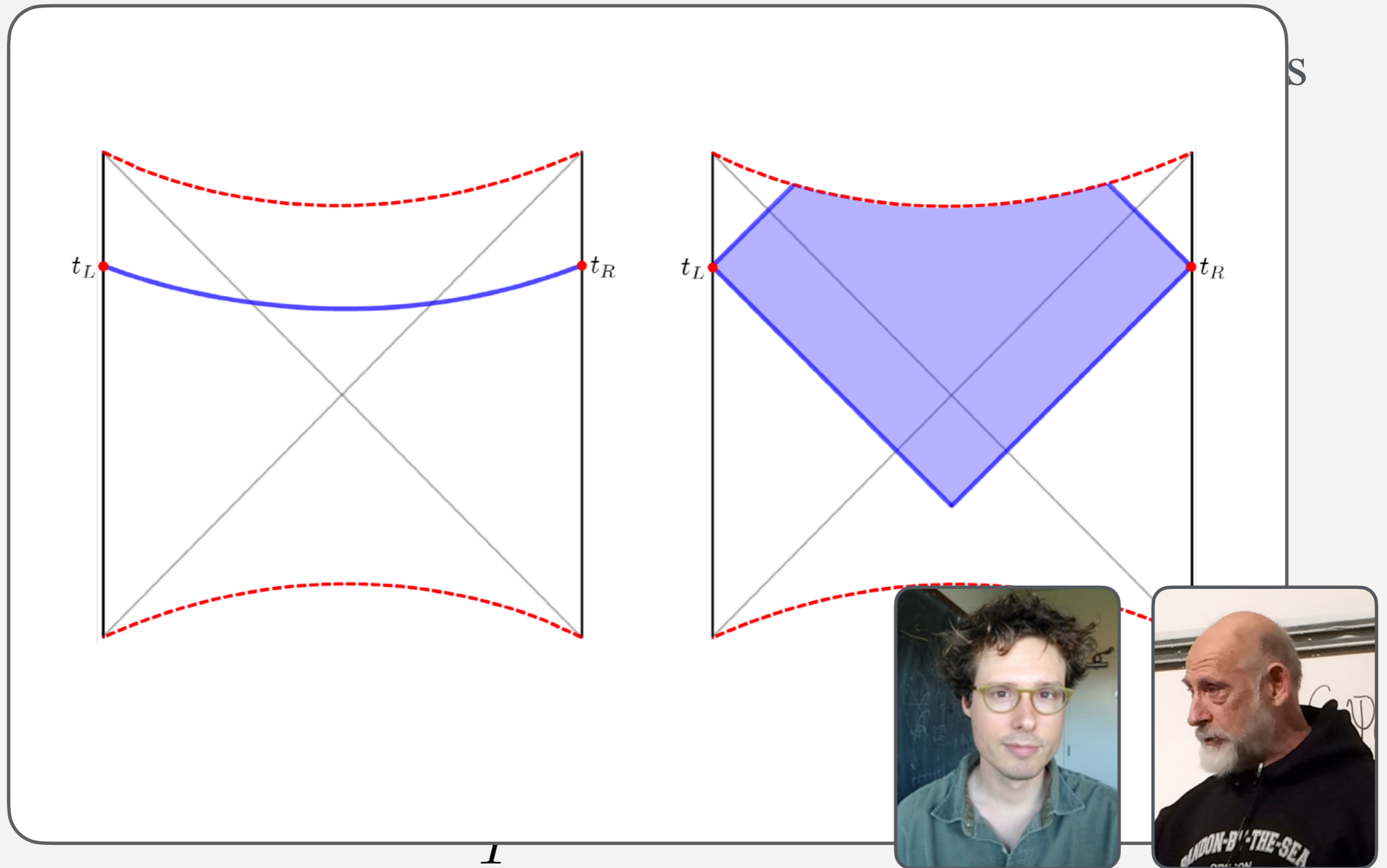


RANDOM QUANTUM CIRCUITS

- ▶ **Random circuits:** Proxies for quantum chaotic dynamics
- ▶ Bricklayer circuits, random arrangements



► Holographic context: Complexity growth of thermofield doubles



Brown, Roberts, Susskind, Swingle, Zhao, Phys Rev Lett 116, 191301 (2016)

Brown, Roberts, Susskind, Swingle, Zhao, Phys Rev D 93, 086006 (2016)

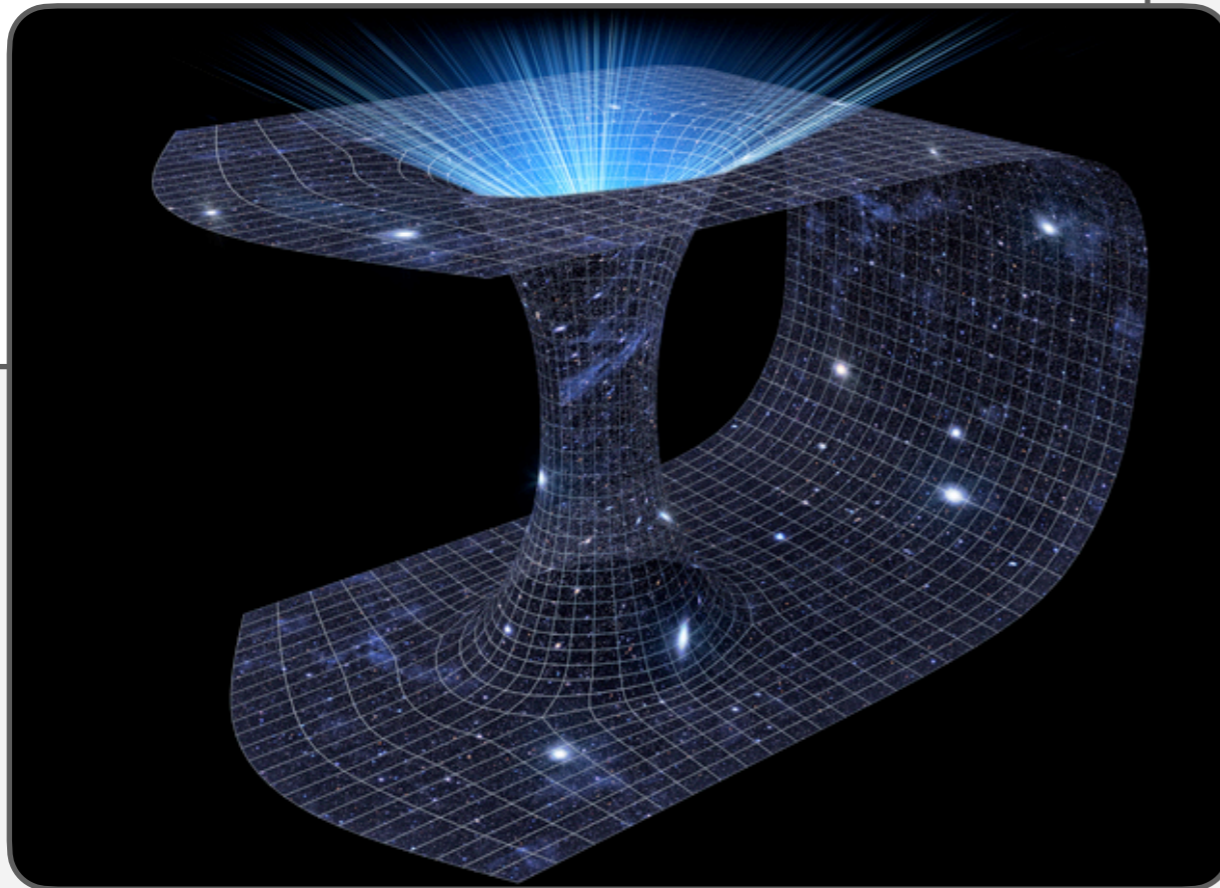
Chapman, Eisert, Hackl, Heller, Jefferson, Marrochio, Myers, SciPost Phys 6, 034 (2019)

Brown, Susskind, Phys Rev D 97, 086015 (2018)

HOLOGRAPHY

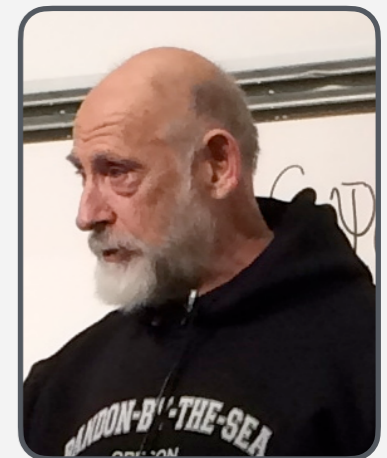
▶ Holographic context: Wormhole-growth paradox

▶ **AdS:** Volume grows for exponentially long time



▶ **CFT:** Local observables equilibrating?

$$|\psi\rangle$$



Brown, Roberts, Susskind, Swingle, Zhao, Phys Rev Lett 116, 191301 (2016)

Brown, Roberts, Susskind, Swingle, Zhao, Phys Rev D 93, 086006 (2016)

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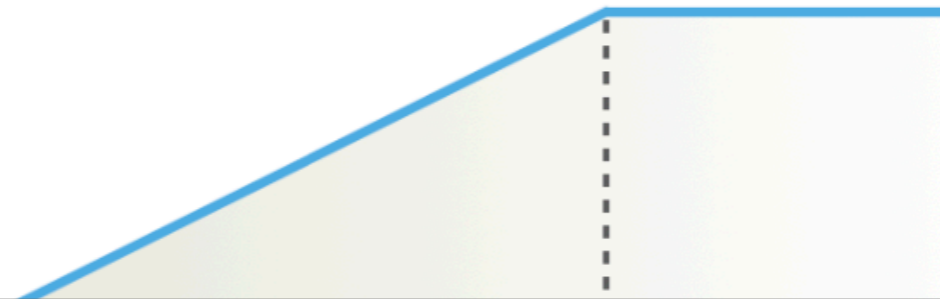
Brown, Susskind, Phys Rev D 97, 086015 (2018)

BROWN SUSSKIND CONJECTURE FOR RANDOM QUANTUM CIRCUITS

- ▶ **Brown-Susskind conjecture:** Linear growth until exponential time

Complexity, \mathcal{C}_u

$\exp(\Omega(n))$



**THIS WOULD MEAN THAT 'CANCELLATIONS'
ACTUALLY HARDLY MATTER**

T



BROWN SUSSKIND CONJECTURE FOR RANDOM QUANTUM CIRCUITS

BUT HOW CAN THIS BE JUDGED?



Complexity

Dimension

BUT HOW CAN THIS BE JUDGED?

SKETCH OF THE PROOF

Contraction map

$$F^A : \text{SU}(4)^{\times R} \rightarrow \text{SU}(2^n)$$



Accessible dimension

$$d_A = \dim(\mathcal{U}(A))$$

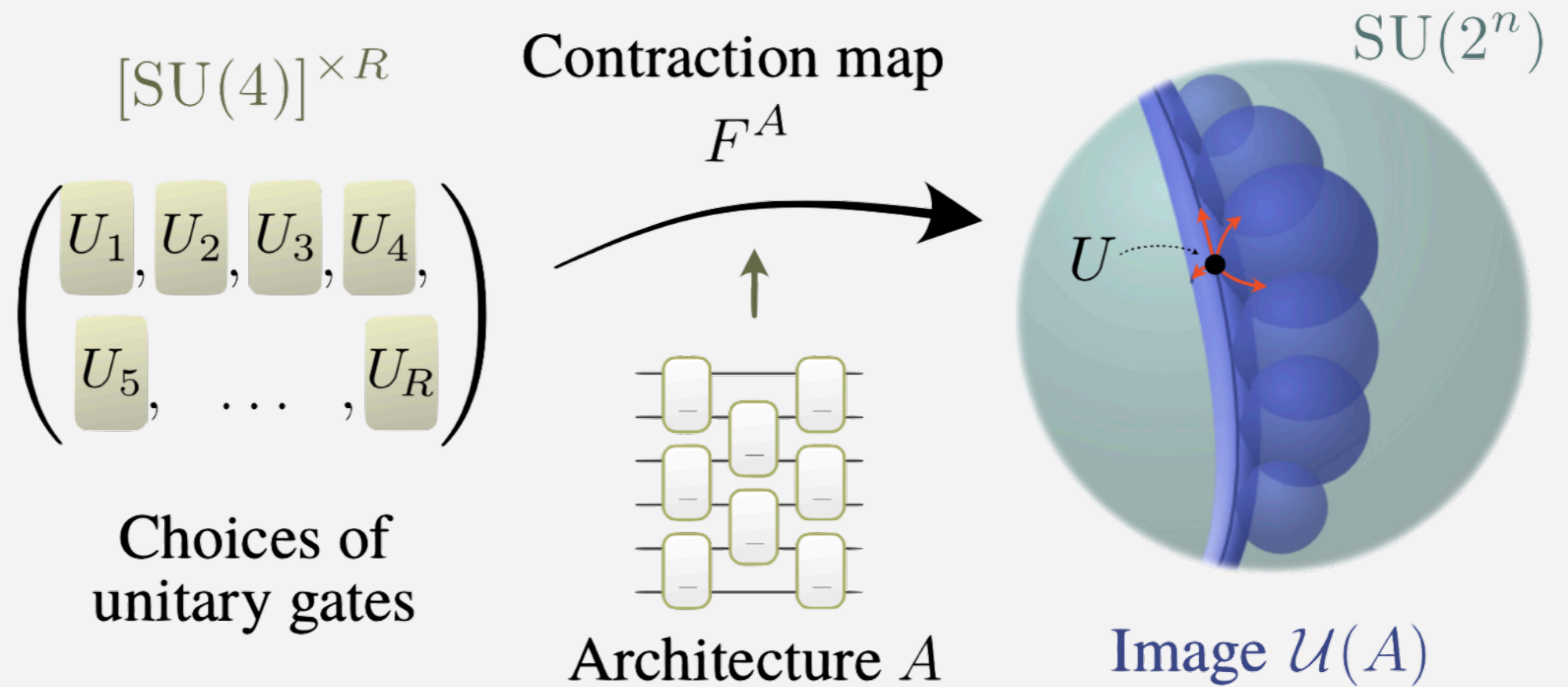
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“Reachable set”

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- ▶ * $\mathcal{U}(A)$ is not a manifold, but a **semialgebraic set**, by virtue of Tarski-Seidenberg principle

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- ▶ **Rank** of F^A in x important: Rank of a matrix that approximates F^A linearly around x
- ▶ Prove that F^A has the **same rank** throughout the domain, except on a measure-zero set

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- ▶ Identify an x where r grows **linearly** with R

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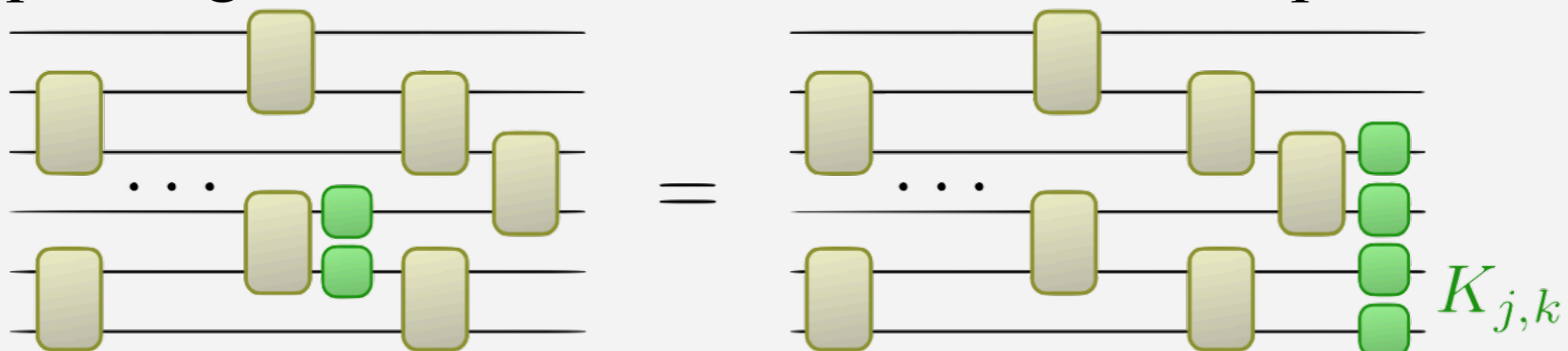
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- ▶ Identify an x where r grows **linearly** with R
- ▶ Demonstrate the point's existence by perturbing **Clifford circuits**, 'appending infinitesimal unitaries', 'count independent directions'



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Proposition 1 (Lower bound of accessible dimension). *Let A_T denote an architecture with $R = TL$ gates. Assume that A_T consists of causal slices of $\leq L$ gates each. The architecture's accessible dimension is lower-bounded as*

$$d_{A_T} \geq T = \frac{R}{L}.$$

SKETCH OF THE PROOF

► Elaborate counting

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SKETCH OF THE PROOF

$$d_A \leq 9R + 3n$$

- ▶ Let R' be less than a linear fraction of R : $9R' + 3n < T = R/L$
 - ▶ For every R' gate architecture A' , $d_{A'} < d_{A_T}$ holds
 - ▶ Almost every $U \in \mathcal{U}(A_T)$ has complexity greater than greatest possible R'
- ▶ Elaborate counting (last step has been much simplified) Li, arXiv:2205.05668

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SKETCH

► **Theorem 1** (Linear growth of complexity). *Let U denote a unitary implemented by a random quantum circuit in an architecture formed from $T = R/L$ causal slices of L gates each. The unitary's circuit complexity is lower-bounded as*

$$C_u(U) \geq \frac{R}{9L} - \frac{n}{3},$$

with unit probability, until the number of gates grows to $T = R/L \geq 4^n - 1$. The same bound holds for $C_{\text{state}}(U|0^n\rangle)$, until $T = R/L \geq 2^{n+1} - 1$.

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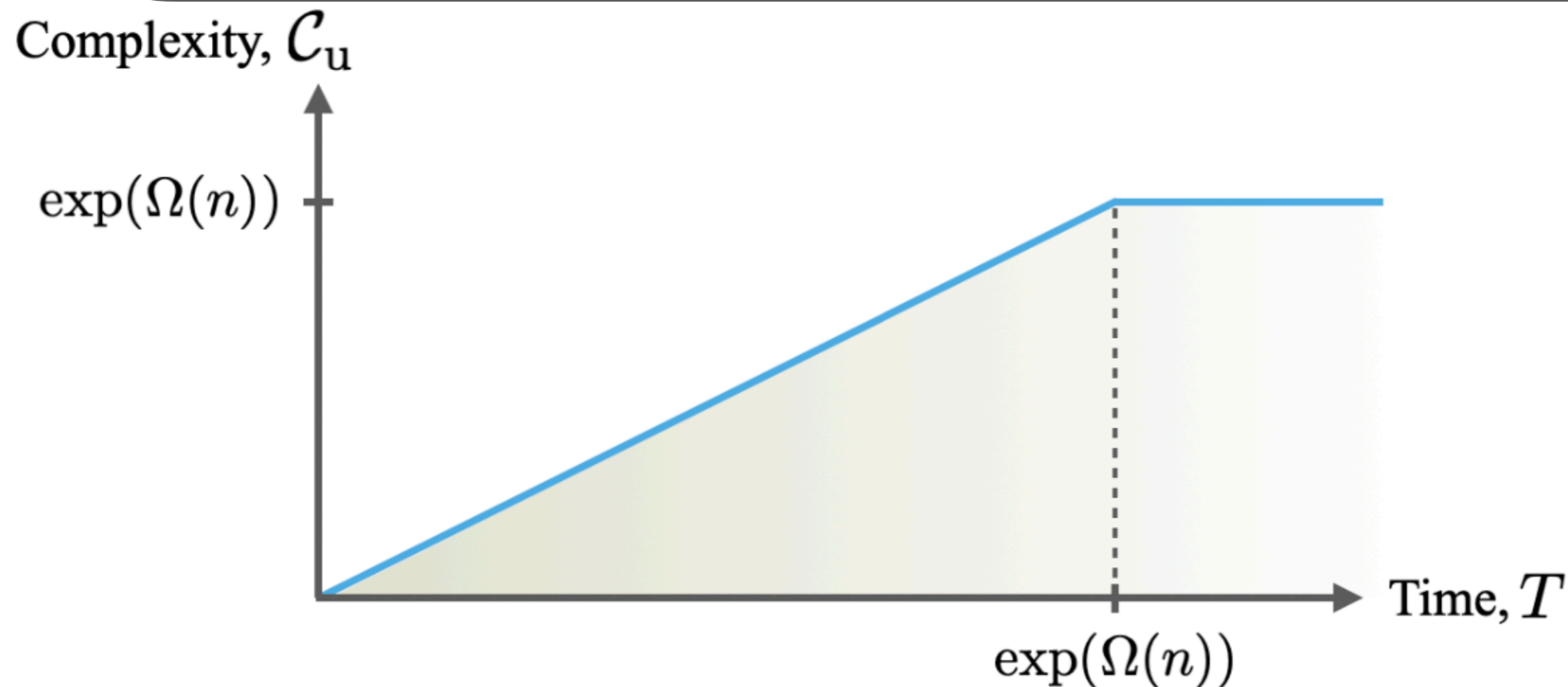
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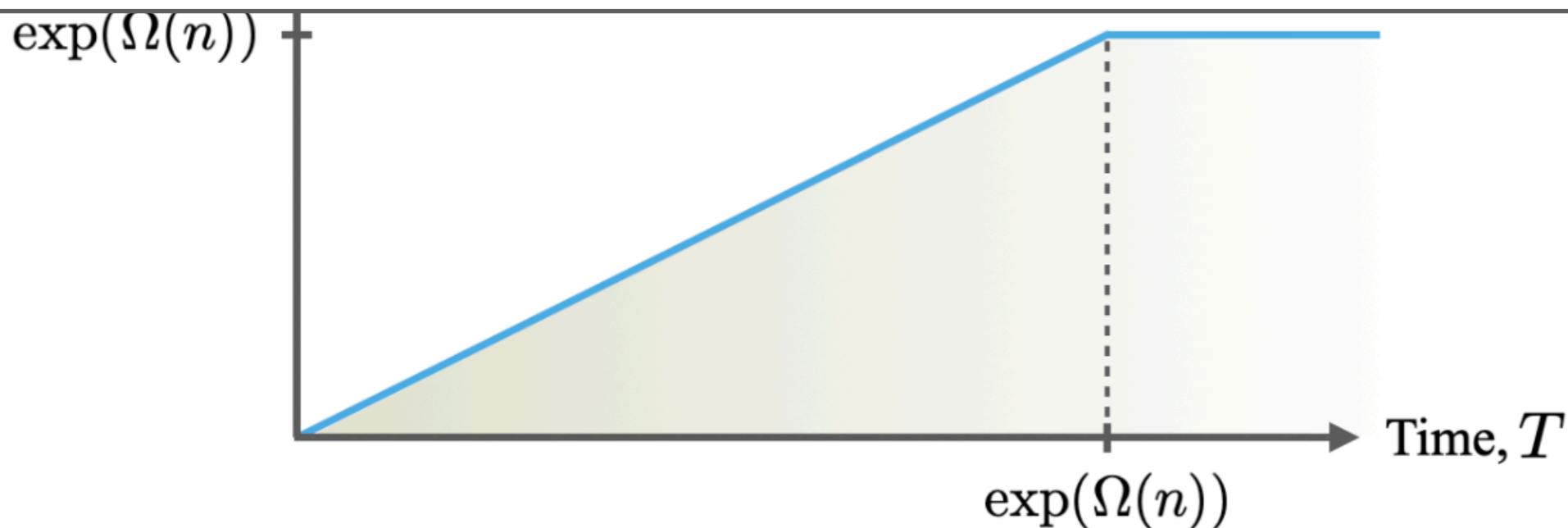
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SO THERE IS A LINEAR COMPLEXITY GROWTH





**INTERLUDE: APPROXIMATE NOTIONS? CONNECTIONS
TO ENTANGLEMENT? TO UNITARY DESIGNS?**

CONNECTION TO ENTANGLEMENT?

- ▶ Fair resolution of the **Brown-Susskind conjecture**
- ▶ **Approximate notions** desirable: Approximate in $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ -norm

Haferkamp, Faist, Kothakonda, Eisert, Younger-Halpern, Nature Physics 18, 528 (2022)

Bouland, Fefferman, Vazirani, arXiv:1910.14646

Brandão, Chennissany, Hunter-Jones, Kueng, Preskill, PRX Quantum 2, 030316 (2021)

Dowling, Nielsen, Quant Inf Comp 8, 861–899 (2008)

CONNECTION TO ENTANGLEMENT?

- ▶ Fair resolution of the **Brown-Susskind conjecture**
- ▶ **Approximate notions** desirable: Approximate in $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ -norm
- ▶ **Nielsen cost and entanglement**

- ▶ Write circuits as integral

$$U = \mathcal{P} \exp \left(-i \int_0^1 dt \sum_I y_I(t) M_I \right)$$

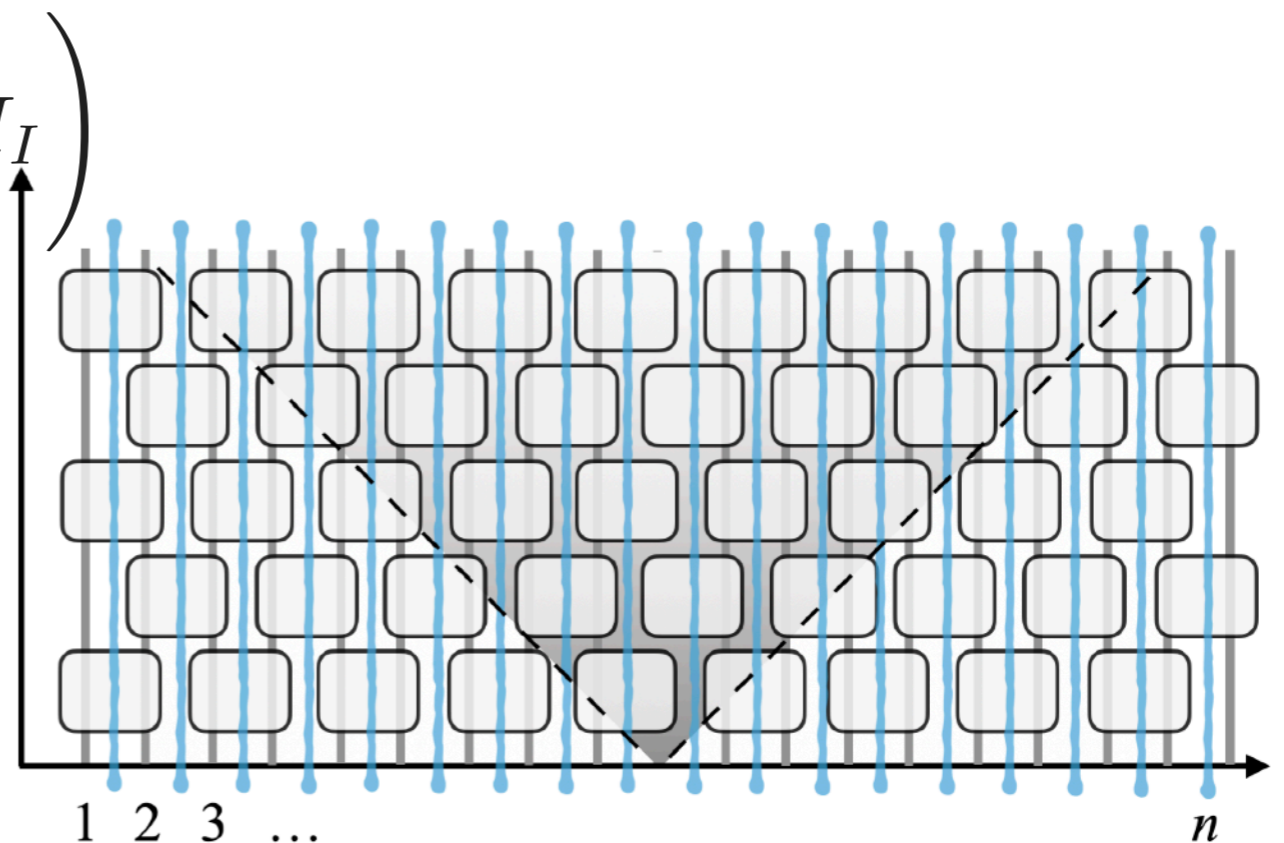
- ▶ **Cost** (common l_1 choice)

$$C := \inf \int_0^1 \sum_I |y_I(t)| ds$$

- ▶ **Theorem 2:**

$$C \geq cE, c > 0$$

Eisert, Phys Rev Lett 127, 020501 (2021)



UNITARY DESIGNS FROM CLIFFORD AND T-GATES

- ▶ Fair resolution of the **Brown-Susskind conjecture**
- ▶ **Approximate notions** desirable: Approximate in $\|\cdot\|_\infty$ -norm
- ▶ **Unitary designs:** The generation of unitary t -designs at a depth $O(nt)$ would imply the approximate Brown-Susskind conjecture

HOW CAN UNITARY DESIGNS BE IMPLEMENTED?

UNITARY DESIGNS

▶ Random **Clifford circuits** are unitary 3-designs

▶ **T -gates** uplift them to arbitrary order designs*

▶ Fair resolution of identity

▶ **Approximate**

▶ **Unitary designs:** The generation of unitary t -designs at a depth $O(nt)$ would imply the approximate Brown-Susskind conjecture

*In approximate sense

UNITARY DE

▶ Random **Clifford circuits** are unitary 3-designs

▶ Fair resolution

▶ **T -gates** uplift then to arbitrary order designs*

▶ Approx

▶ **Theorem 3:** *A **constant** (!) number of T -gates is sufficient*

▶ Unitary designs would imply

Haferkamp, Montaelegre-Mora, Heinrich, Eisert, Gross, Roth, Comm Math Phys (2022)
arXiv:2002.09524 (2022)

Compare also Zhou, Yang, Hama, Chamon, arXiv:1906.01079



Brandão, Chemissany, Hunter-Jones, Kueng, Preskill, PRX Quantum 2, 030316 (2021)

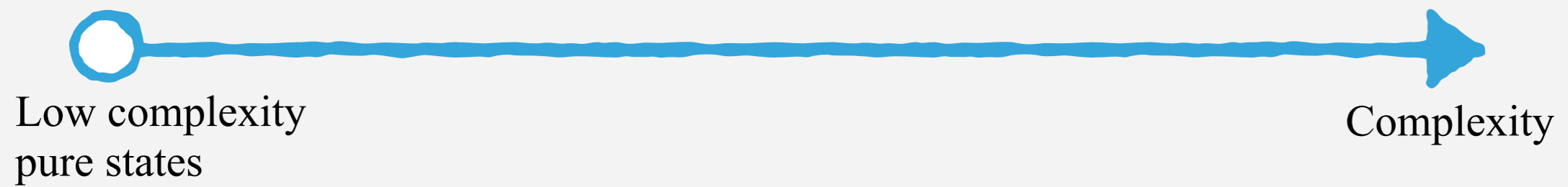
Brandao, Harrow, Horodecki, Phys Rev Lett 116, 170502 (2016)



WHAT ARE THERMODYNAMIC IMPLICATIONS? CAN A RESOURCE THEORY OF UNCOMPLEXITY BE DEFINED?

**HOW CAN COMPLEXITY CAPTURE WHAT WE
CAN DO OPERATIONALLY TO A SYSTEM?**

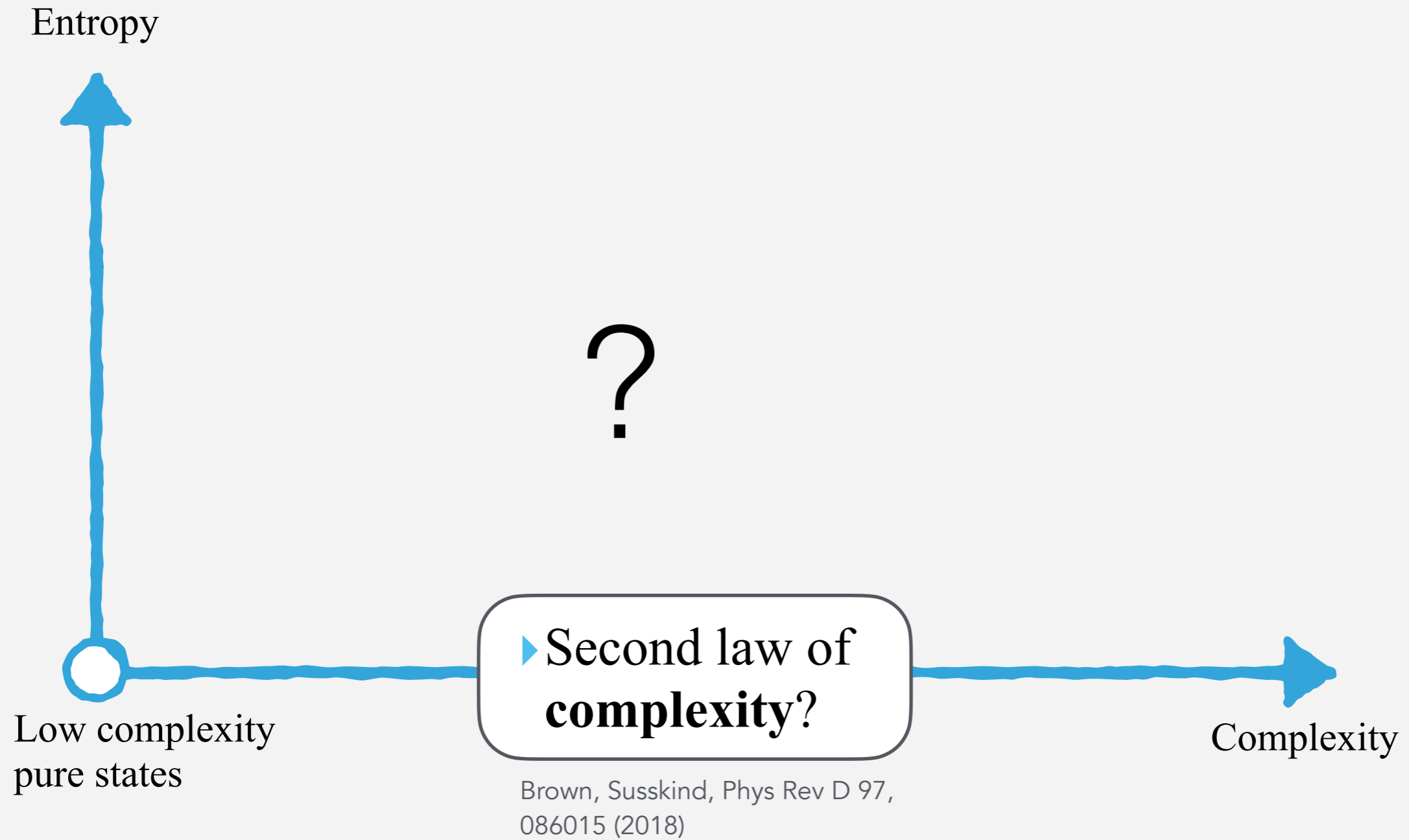
THINKING IN OPERATIONAL TERMS



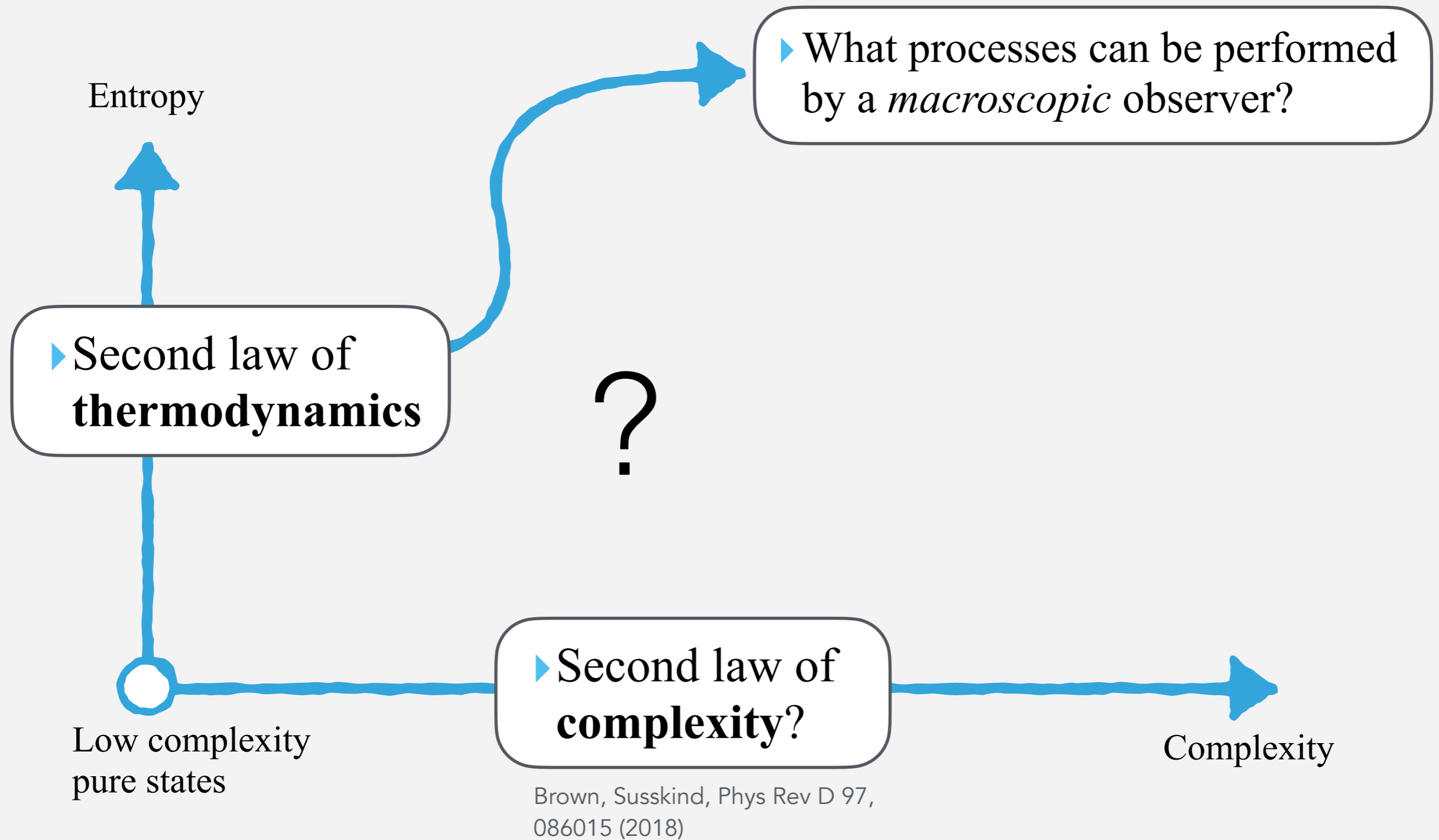
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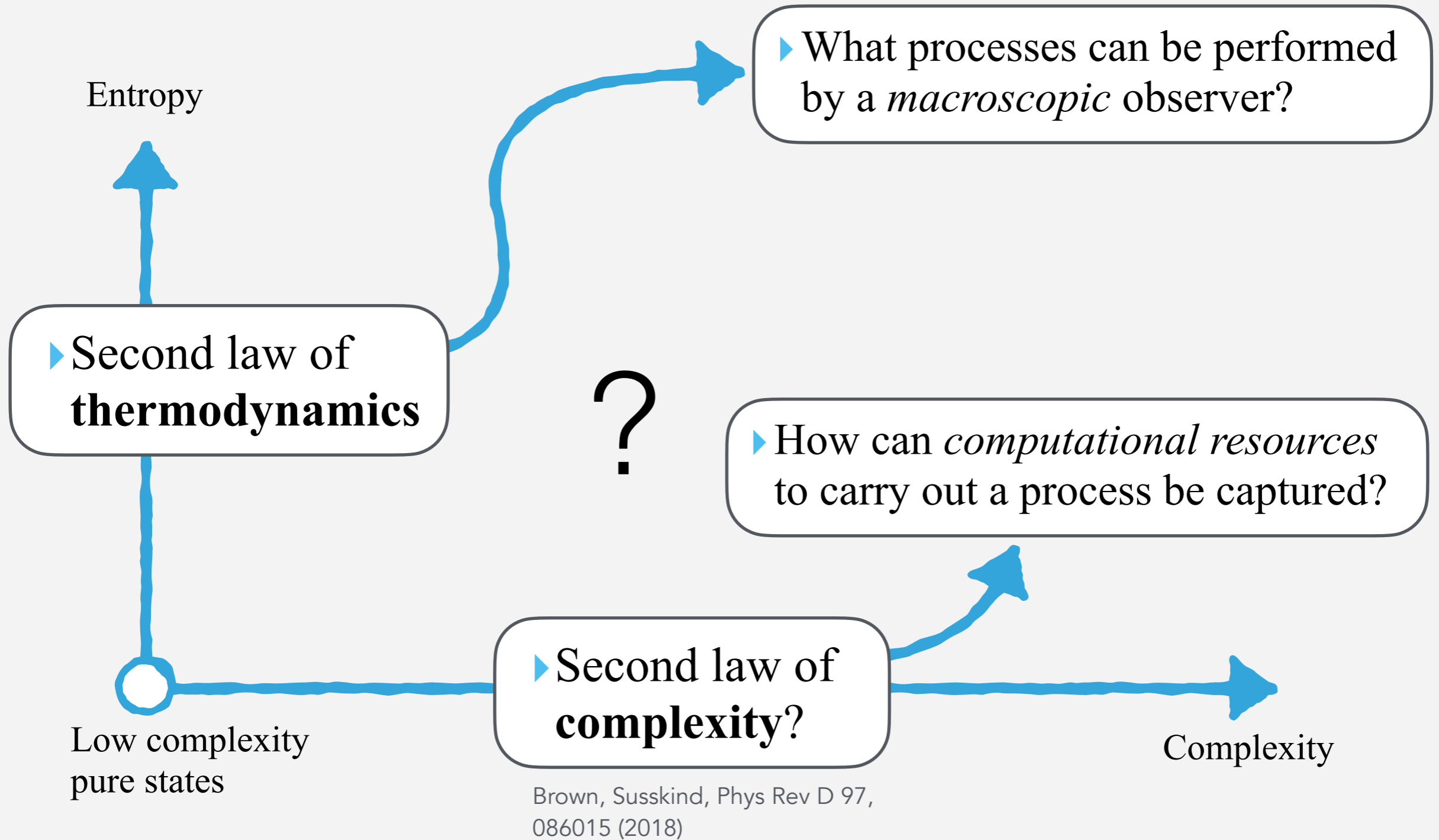
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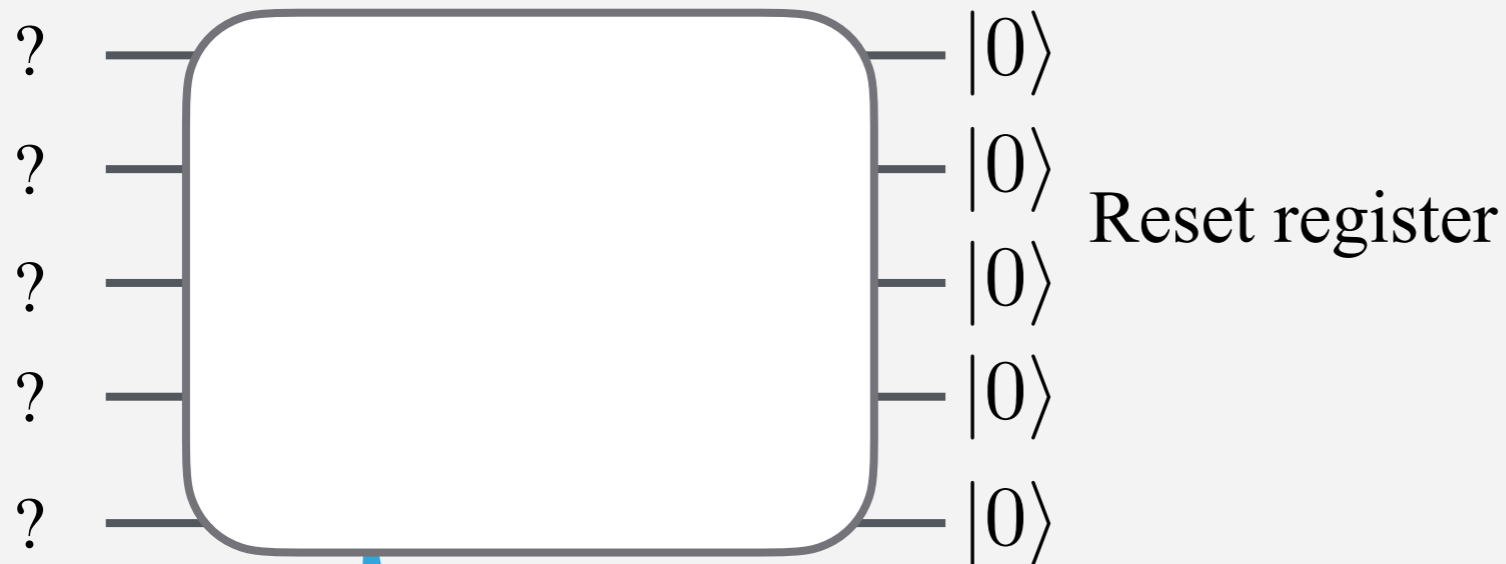


THINKING IN OPERATIONAL TERMS



LANDAUER ERASURE

► Landauer erasure resetting a collection of quantum systems

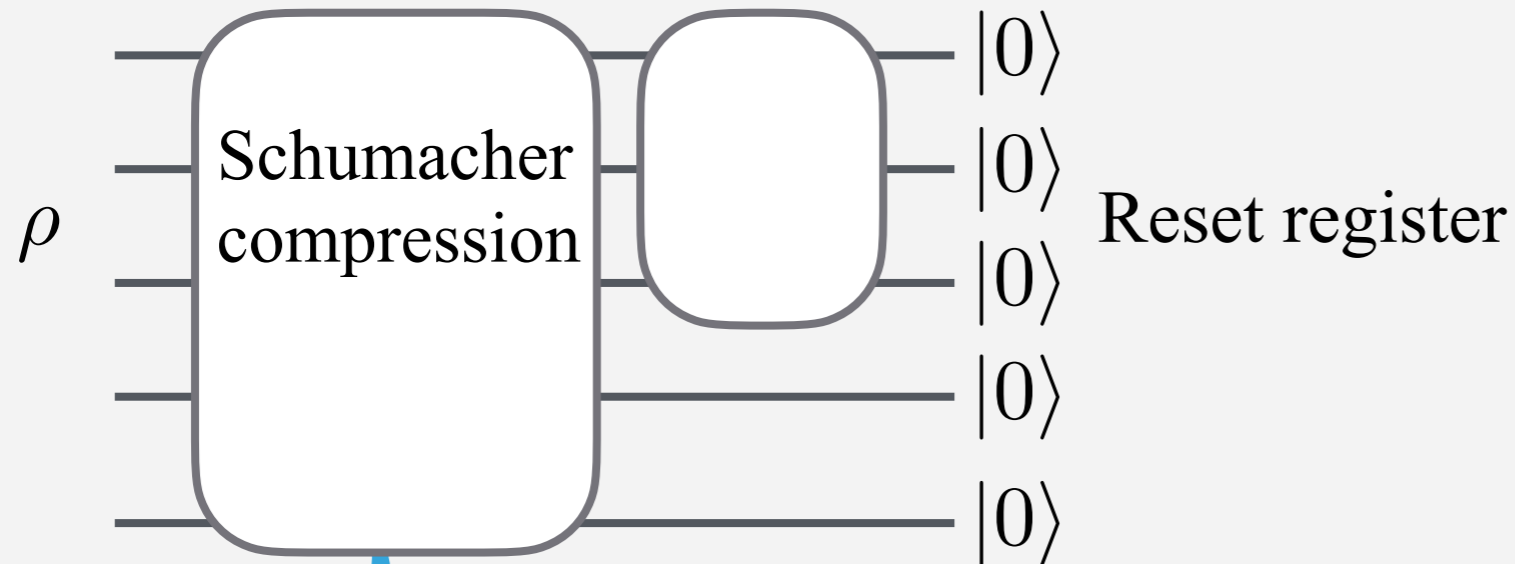


Erasure requires
thermodynamic work

$kT \log(2)$ per bit discarded in environment at temperature T

LANDAUER ERASURE

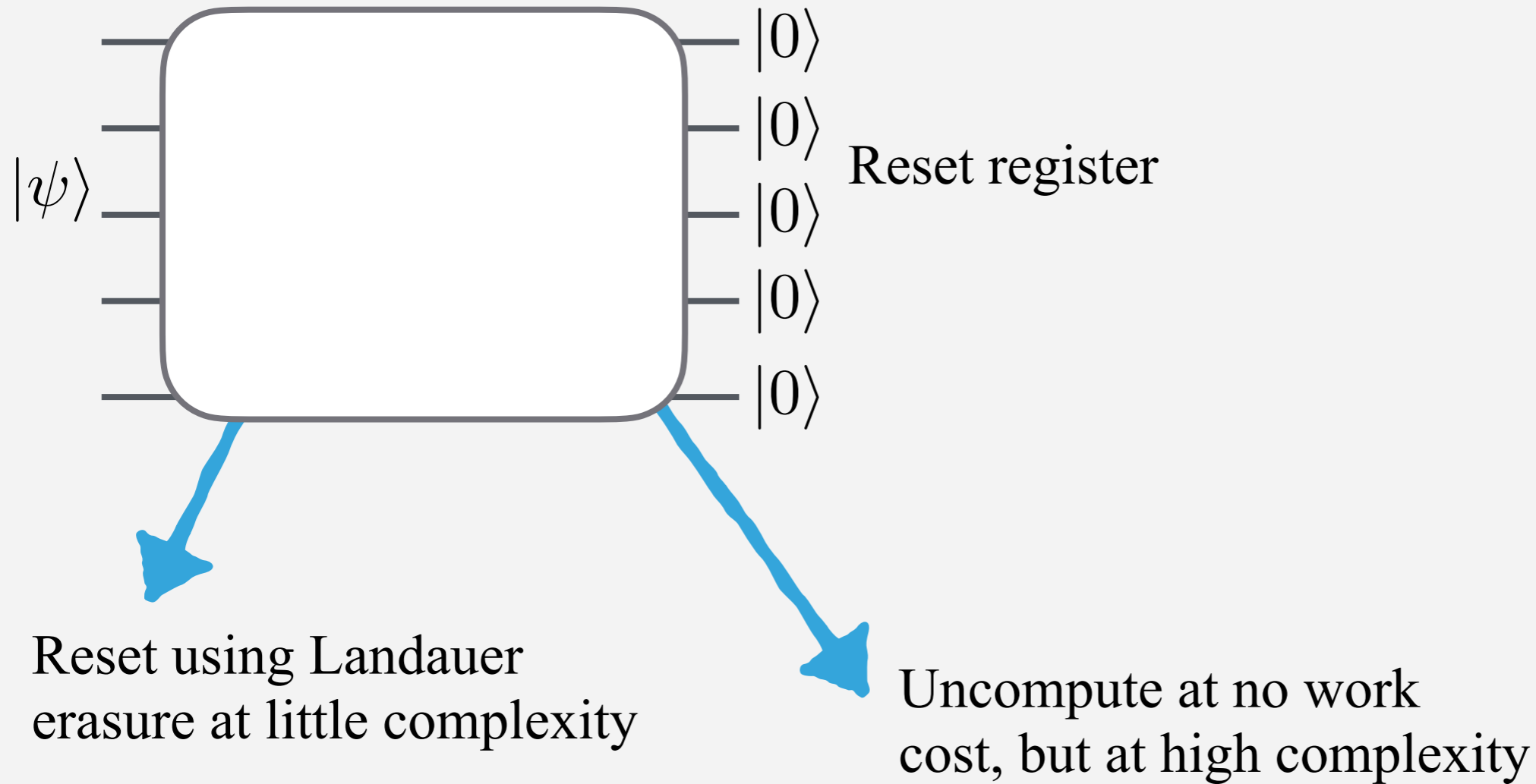
- ▶ **Landauer erasure** resetting a collection of quantum systems



$kT \log(2) H^{1-\epsilon}(\rho)$ total work cost

LANDAUER ERASURE

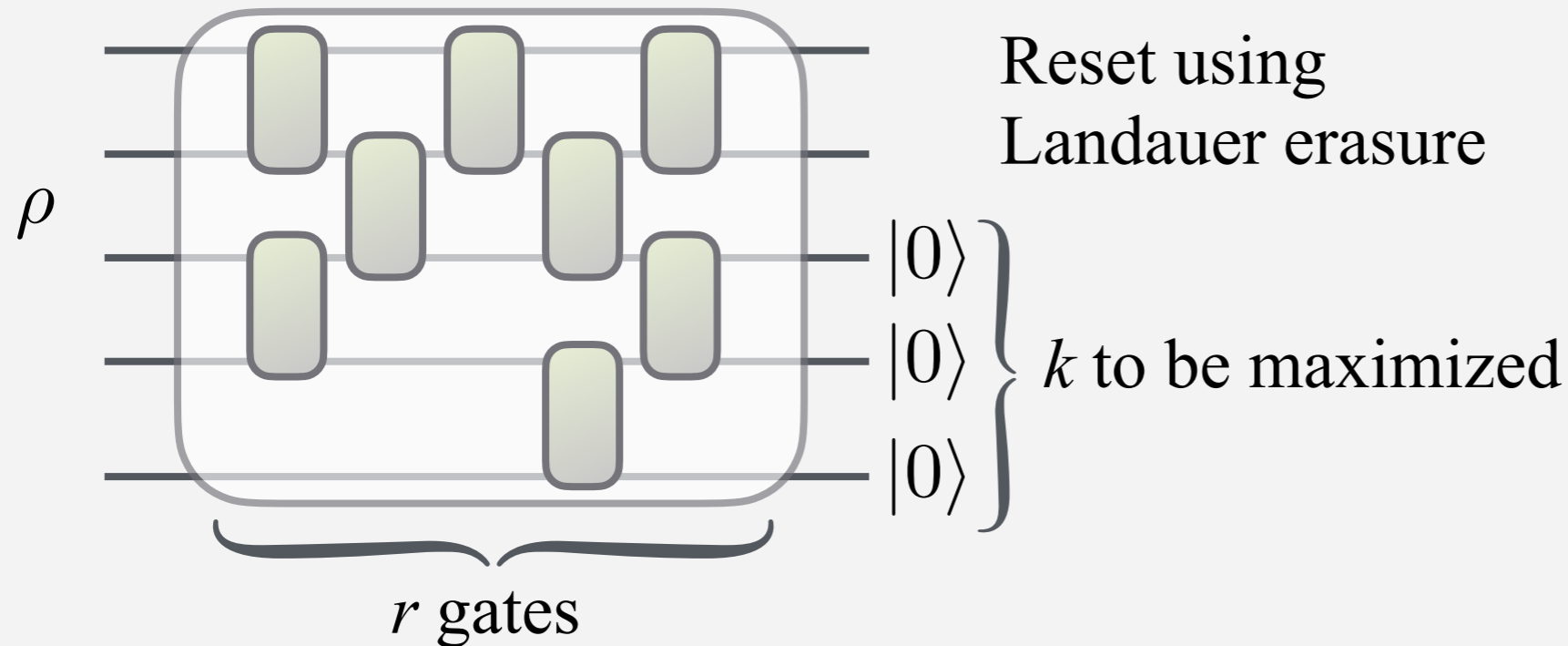
- ▶ Start from **high complexity** pure state



SUGGESTS TRADE-OFF

COMPLEXITY-RESTRICTED ERASURE

- ▶ Allow for at most r quantum gates



OPERATIONAL INTERPRETATION: AMOUNT OF WORK REQUIRED TO RESET A STATE FOR AN AGENT THAT CAN DO AT MOST R GATES

▶ **Theorem 4:** $k_{\text{opt}} = n - H_h^{r, 1-\epsilon}(\rho)$

COMPLEX

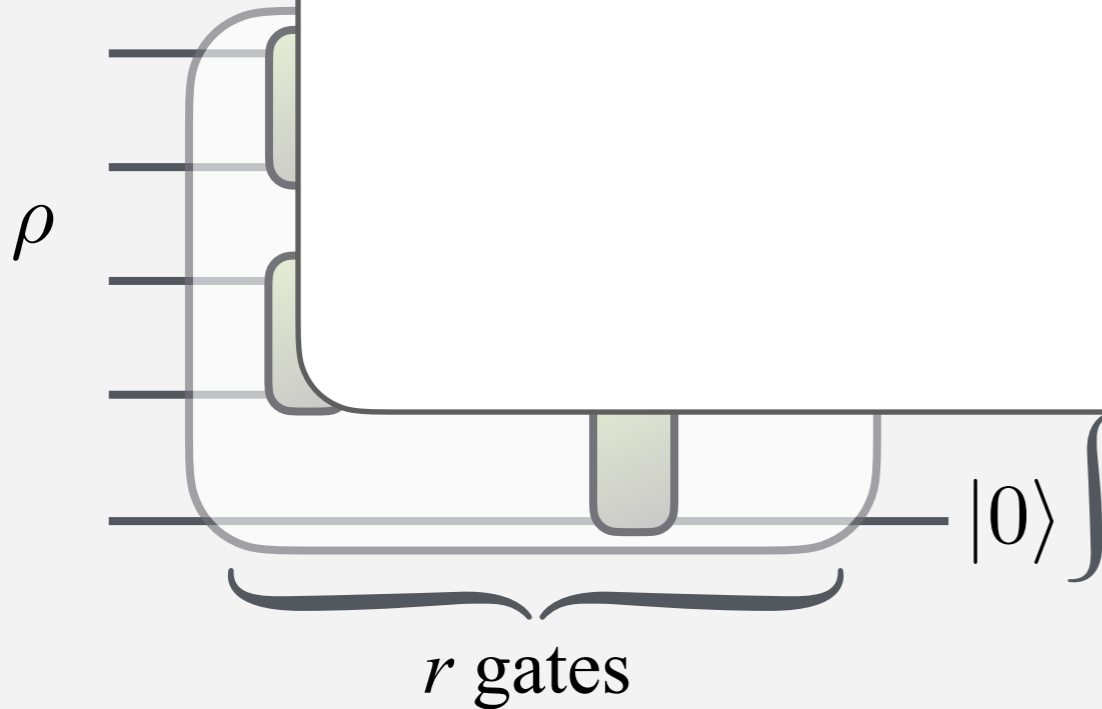
▶ A new **entropy quantity** that accounts for complexity

$$H_h^{r,\eta}(\rho) = \log \min_{\substack{\text{tr}(Q\rho) \geq \eta \\ Q \in M_r}} \text{tr}(Q)$$

How mixed must Q be?

POVMs with at most complexity r captures most of ρ

▶ Allow for



▶ **Theorem 4:** $k_{\text{opt}} = n - H_h^{r,1-\epsilon}(\rho)$

COMPLEX

▶ A new **entropy quantity** that accounts for complexity

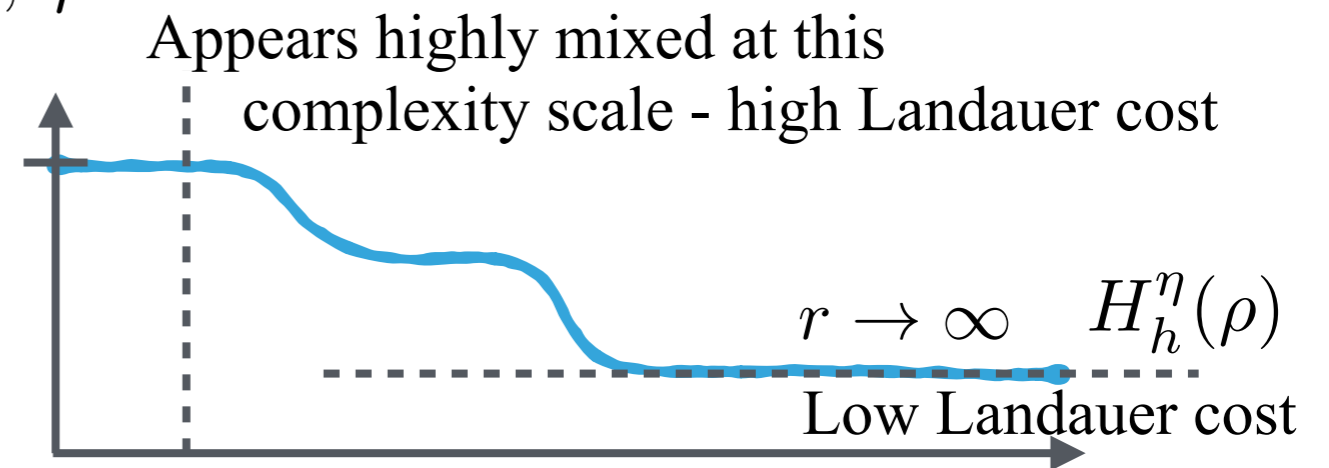
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← How mixed must Q be?

← POVMs with at most complexity r captures most of ρ

▶ Variant of **hypothesis testing entropy**

▶ *Monotonous* in r, η

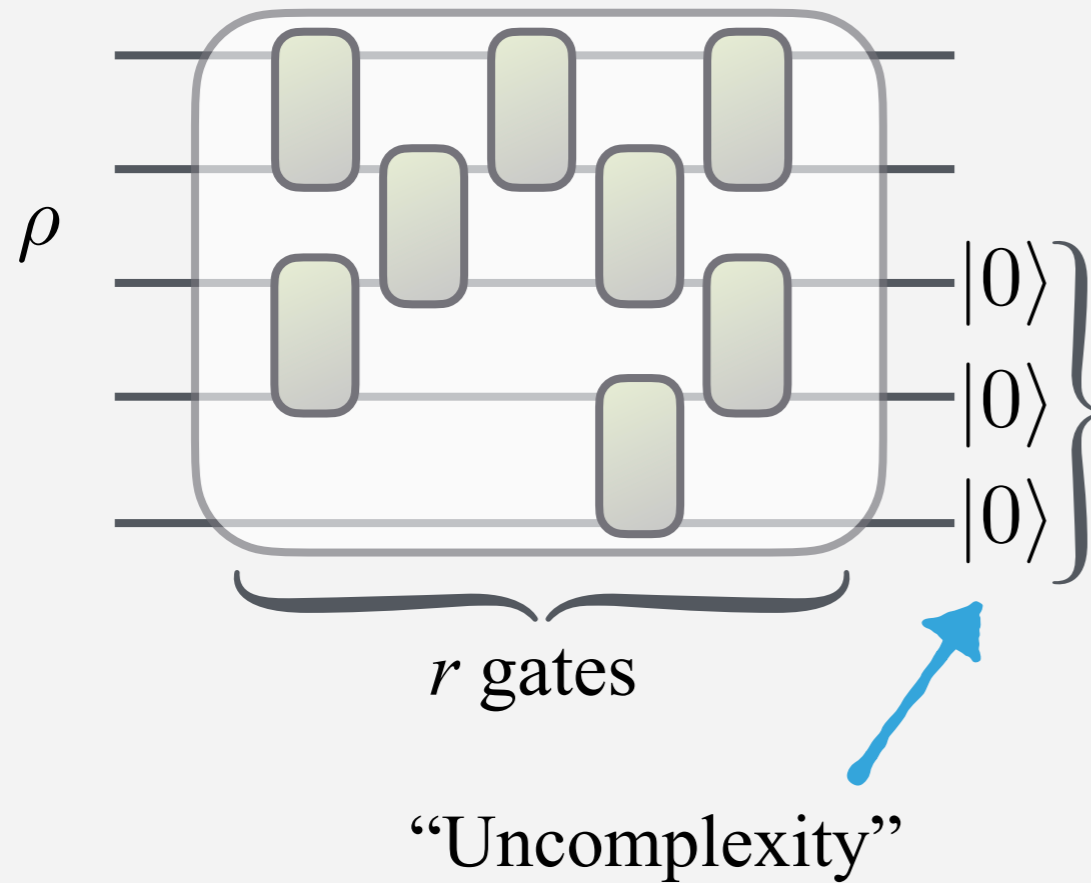


▶ Not *unitarily invariant*

▶ **Theorem 4:** $k_{\text{opt}} = n - H_h^{r,1-\epsilon}(\rho)$

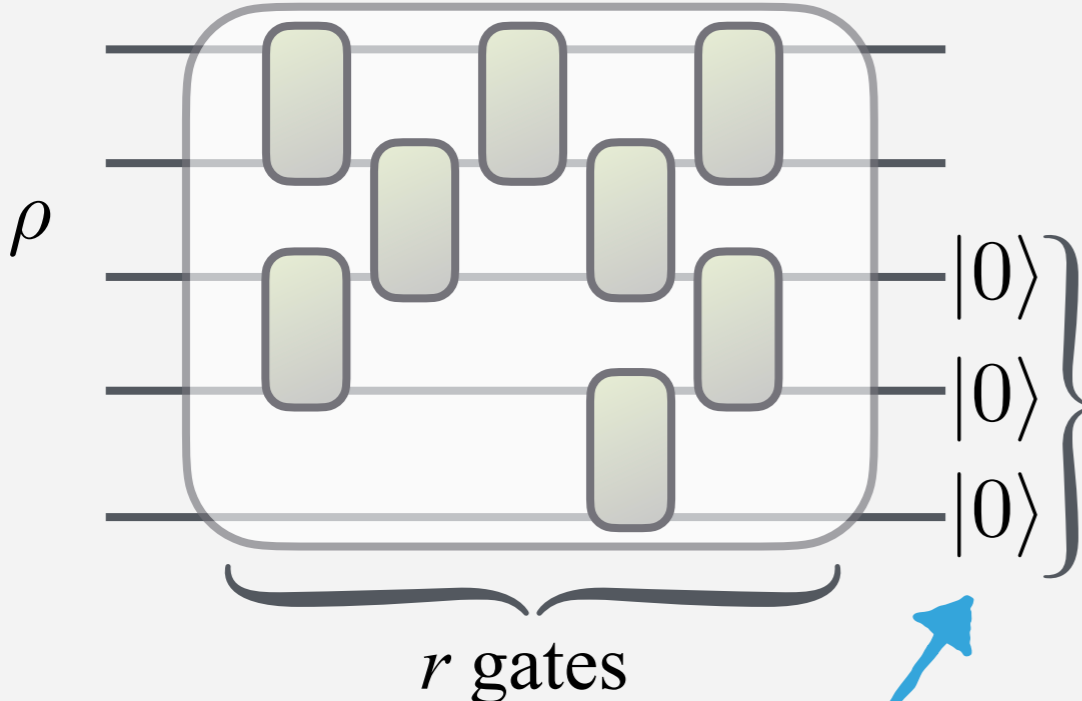
STEPS TOWARDS A RESOURCE THEORY OF UNCOMPLEXITY

- ▶ **Uncomplexity extraction:**
Distills pure qubits from a state

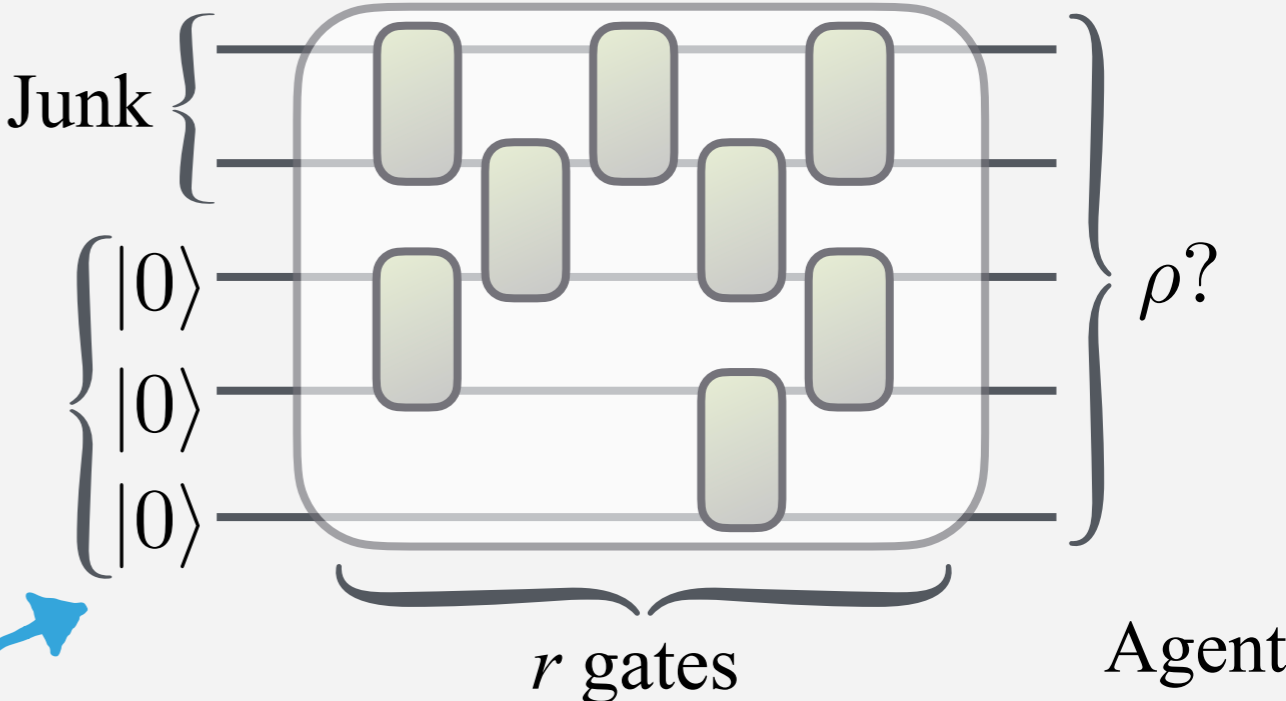


STEPS TOWARDS A RESOURCE THEORY OF UNCOMPLEXITY

► **Uncomplexity extraction:**
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► **Uncomplexity expenditure:**
Imitates a state

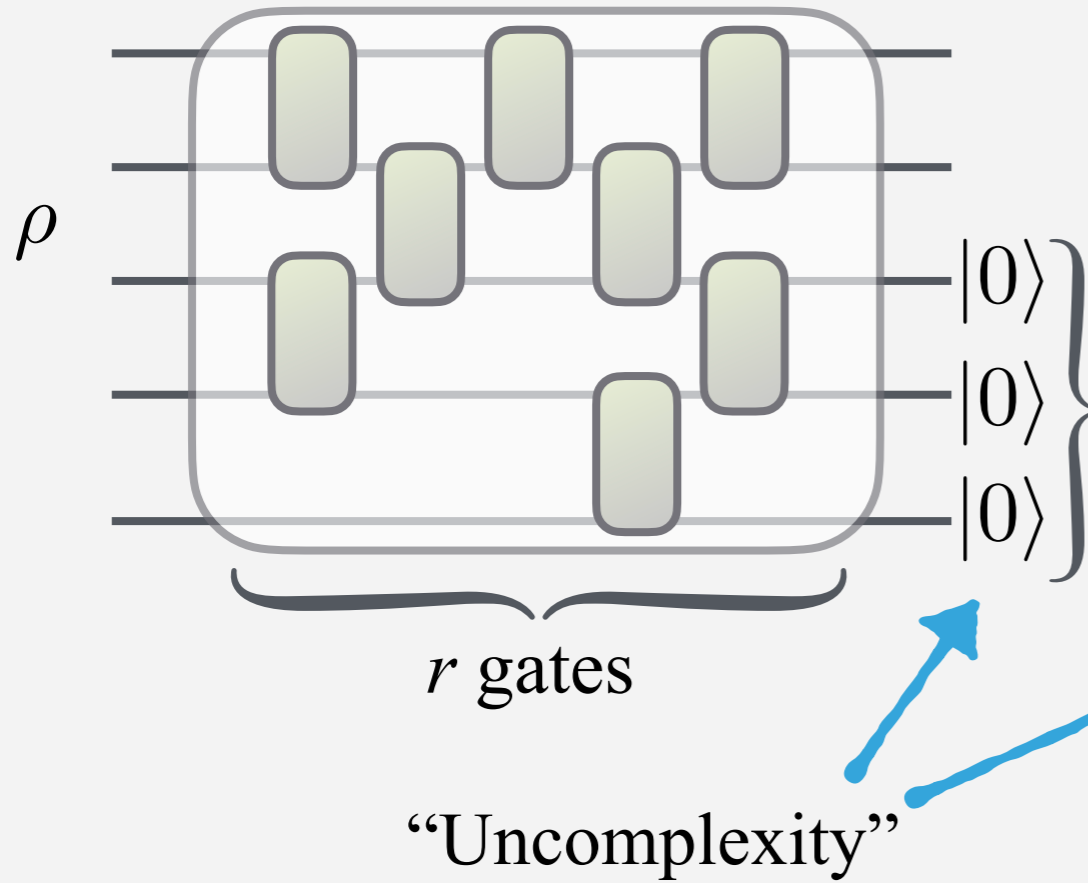


“Uncomplexity”

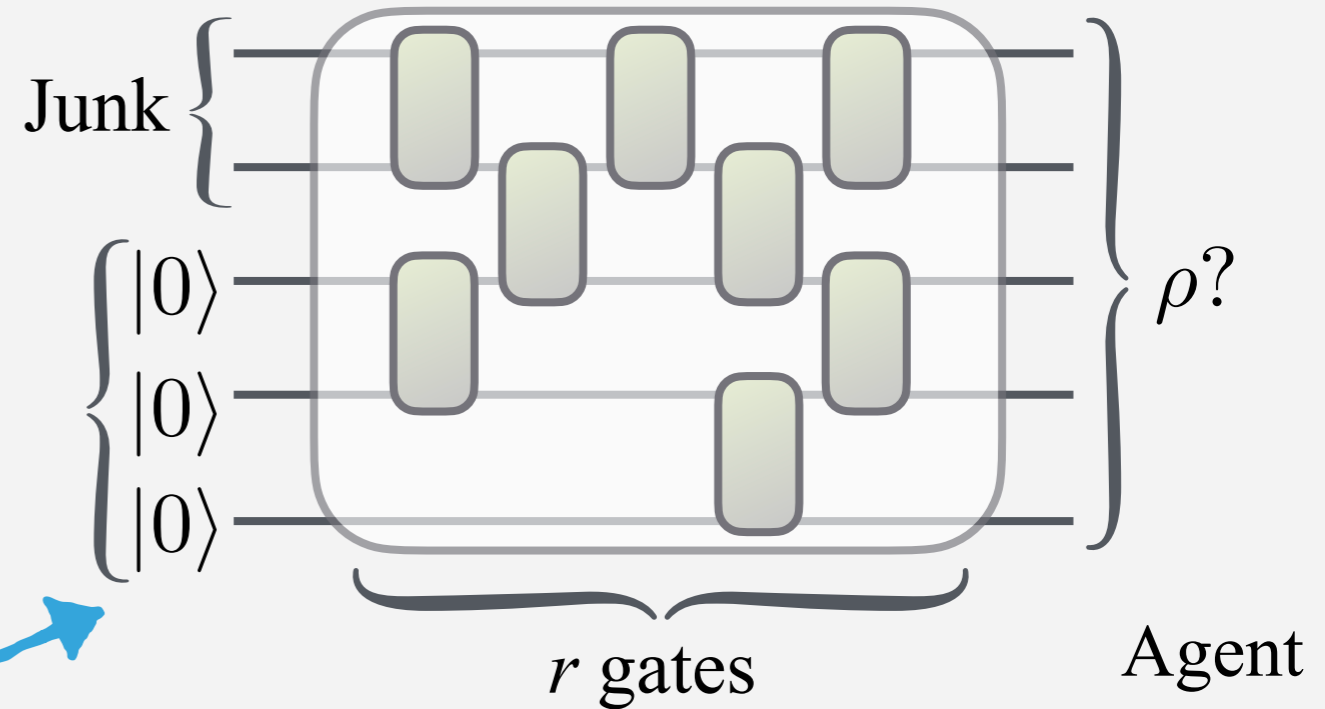


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Imitates a state



CAN YET ANOTHER BROWN-SUSSKIND CONJECTURE - WHETHER A RESOURCE THEORY OF UNCOMPLEXITY CAN BE FORMULATED - BE SHOWN?

It seems so: Governed by the complexity entropy



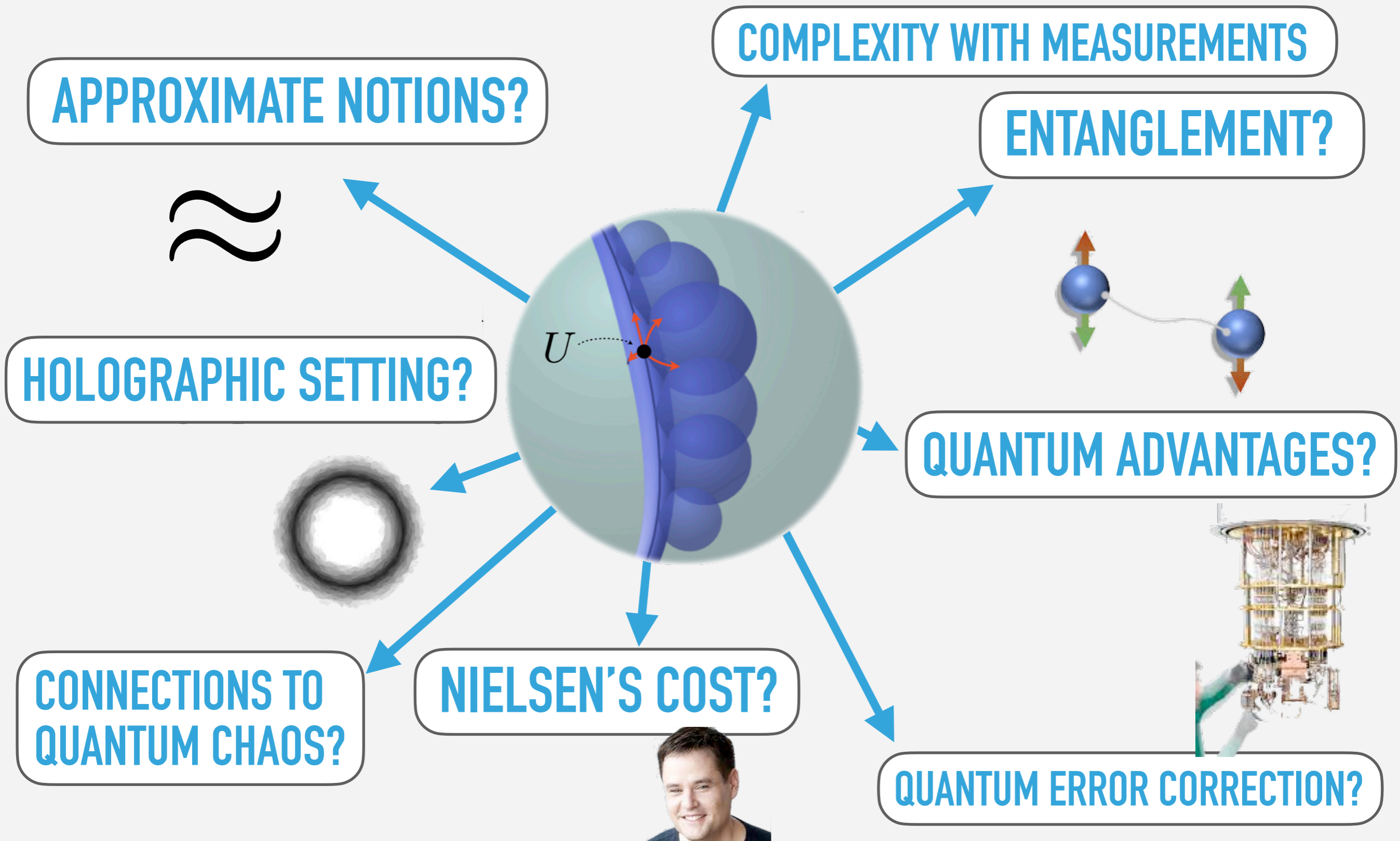
Was ist ein
schwarzes Loch?



OUTLOOK

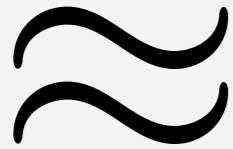
OPEN QUESTIONS

- ▶ Settled the **linear growth conjecture** due to Brown and Susskind



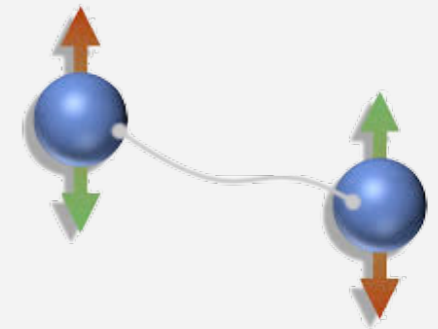
THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

APPROXIMATE NOTIONS?

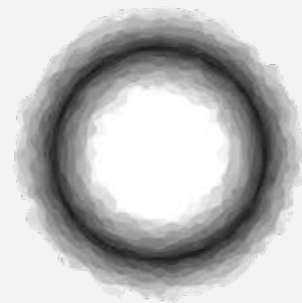


COMPLEXITY WITH MEASUREMENTS

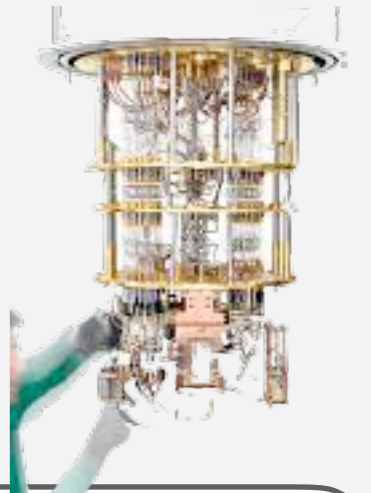
ENTANGLEMENT?



HOLOGRAPHIC SETTING?



QUANTUM ADVANTAGES?



CONNECTIONS TO QUANTUM CHAOS?

NIELSEN'S COST?

QUANTUM ERROR CORRECTION?

