

# (Kolmogorov) complexity and the many-body problem - from classical statistical mechanics to wave functions

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Theoretical Physics, Kyoto

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ICTP, Trieste



The Abdus Salam  
International Centre  
for Theoretical Physics



**FARE**  
RICERCA IN ITALIA  
FRAMEWORK PER L'ATTRAZIONE E IL RAFFORZAMENTO  
DELLE ECCELLENZE PER LA RICERCA IN ITALIA



Theory work with: A. Angelone, R. Fazio, T. Mendes-Santos, R. Panda, A. Rodriguez, X. Turkeshi, R. Verdel Aranda, V. Vitale (+ G. Bianconi and H. Sun)  
Exp: Augsburg/Julich/Palaiseau/TS and Heidelberg/TS collaborations

Based on: Phys. Rev. X **11**, 011040, Phys. Rev. X Quantum **2**, 030332 (2021),  
2301.13216 + 2305.05396

# Outline

Complexity warm-up

Sampling states and **intrinsic dimension**

Data mining partition functions / **criticality as minimal complexity**

*Many-body / field theory*

Data mining *large scale* quantum simulators:

- wave function networks
- **certification and complexity** of Rybderg experiments

*Quantum Info*

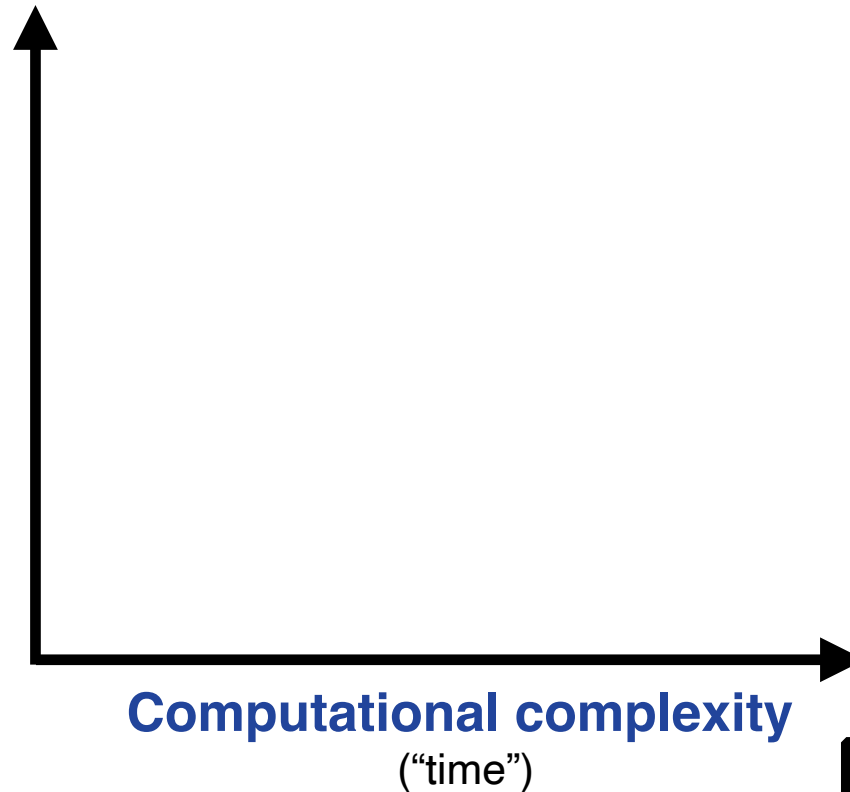
Complexity and topology in many-body systems

*Many-body*

# Theory big picture: “complexity diagram”



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See Michał's lecture

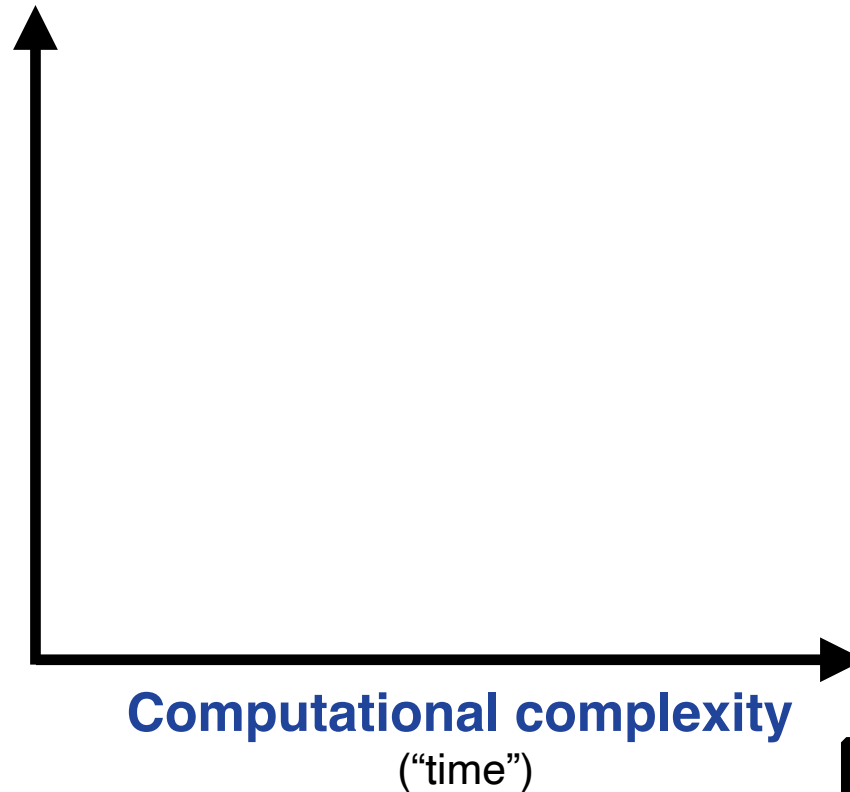
- Refers to a task
- Describes a resource count
- Examples: circuit complexity, computational cost of classical algorithms, holographic,...



# Theory big picture: “complexity diagram”

**Kolmogorov  
(algorithmic)  
complexity**  
 (“space”)

- Refers to information content
- Quantifies incapability of compressing information
- NP hard to compute. Related to ‘effective field theory’



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Given a many-body (quantum) state:

- How are they related?
- Is KC related to *physical phenomena*?
- Can we actually *measure* KC?

**Computational complexity**  
 (“time”)

- Refers to a task
- Describes a resource count
- Examples: circuit complexity, computational cost of classical algorithms, holographic,...

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# Kolmogorov complexity

**Kolmogorov complexity:** How long shall my computer code be in order to reproduce the data structure obtained in the experiments?

Meaningful if we fix the 'programming language'

Ex: bit strings:

```
11111111111111111111
11111111111111111111
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```

"Write 1 N times"

$$K = 15$$

```
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"Write 111000 N/6 times"

$$K = 22$$

```
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"Write 111000...1111"

$$K = 6 + N = 73$$

Refs.: Wikipedia page, Li and Vinayi, *An Introduction to Kolmogorov complexity and its applications*

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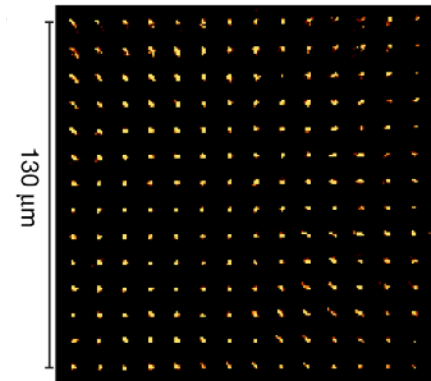
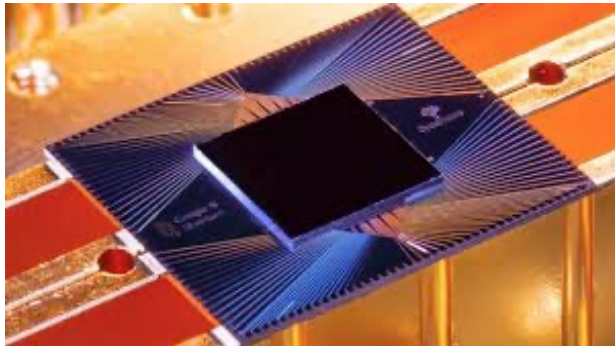
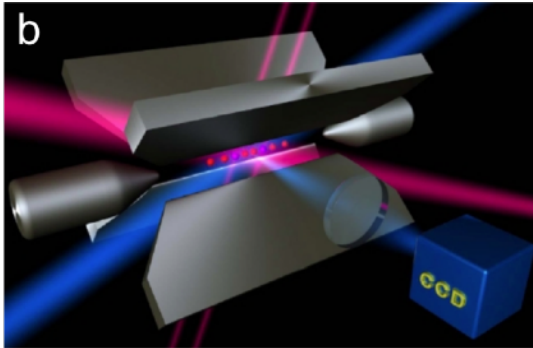
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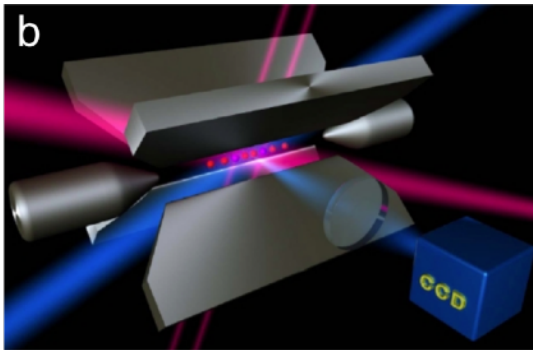
Q: how to adapt to many-body states?

# Experimental big picture: complexity of *what?*

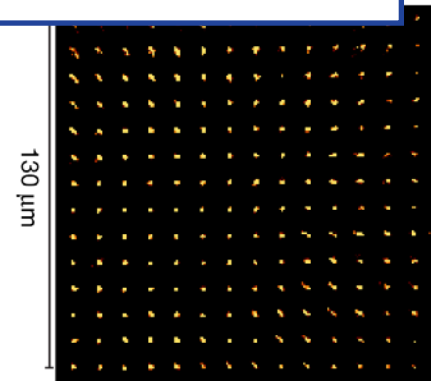
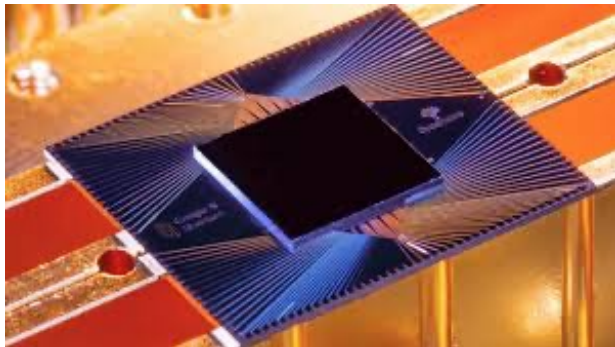


See Atsushi's lecture

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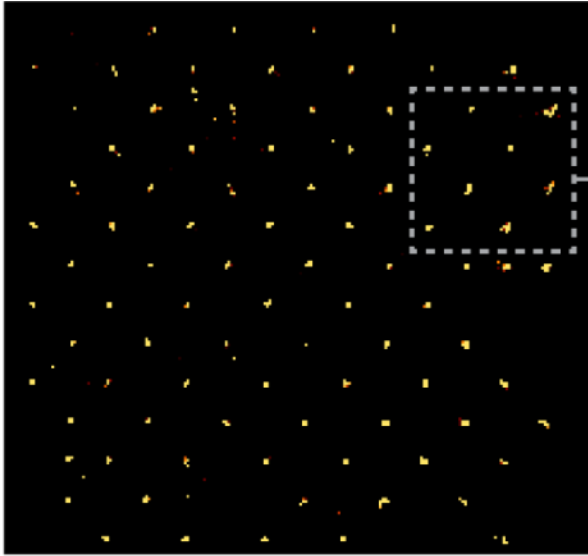


One can now take *photos* of many-body wave functions!



See Atsushi's lecture

# What are we talking about: what is a (many-body) wave function snapshot?

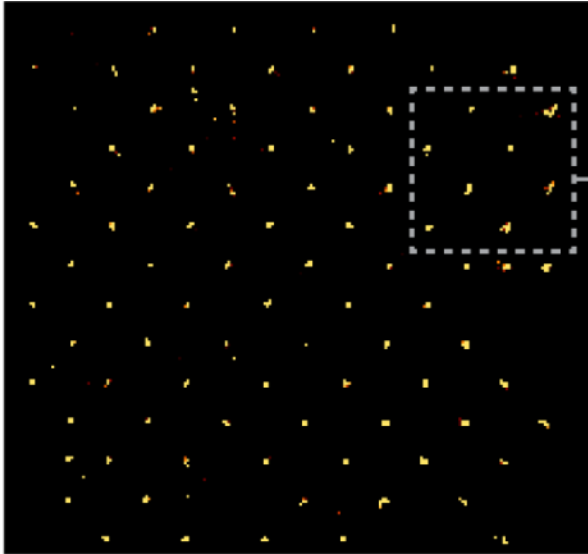


So *far*: trash most of the information content, and extract **low-order** (site resolved) **correlation functions**

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Scholl et al., Nature 2021

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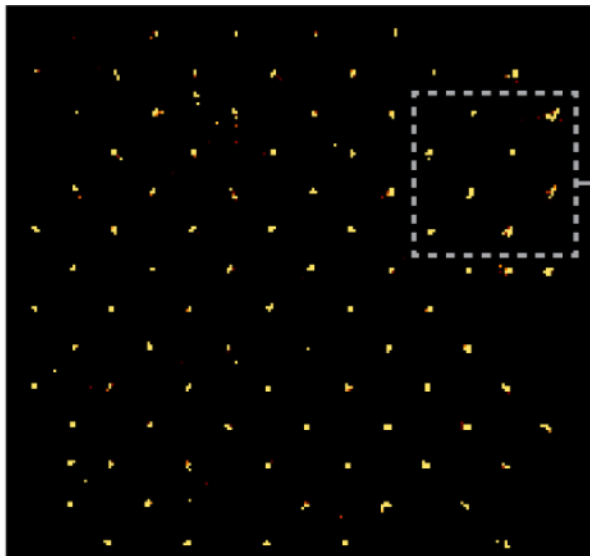
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*Our goal:* analyze the **full information content**  
(assumption free)

Similar goals (different methods) in HEP:  
Berges's, Lucini's groups, 2020, 2022



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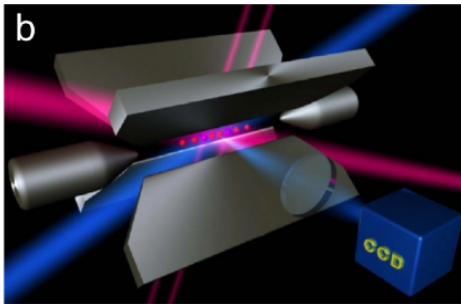
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NB: At the conceptual level, complexity of information shall not rely on low-lying correlation functions

# Why aren't we happy with just low-order correlations?

## Quantum information viewpoint: new tools



Can we trust the outcome of quantum computers/simulators?

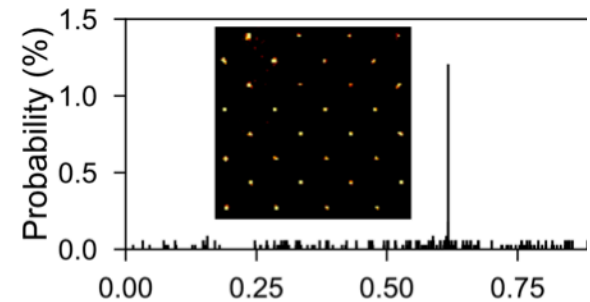
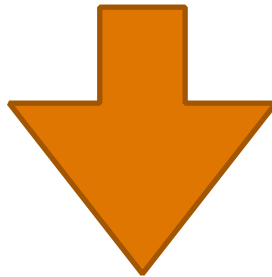
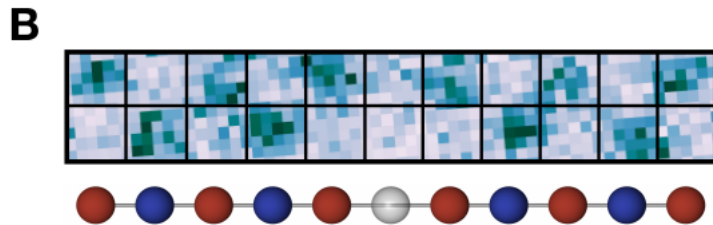
Cirac & Zoller, Nat. Phys. 2012;  
Buluta and Nori, Science 2014

- Cross-platform **verification** of wave functions
- **Noise 'tomography'**
- **Robustness of information**

Complementary to microscopic approaches:  
randomized benchmarking, optimal control / calibration

# Why aren't we happy with just low-order correlations?

Quantum many-body  
viewpoint: new concepts



- How **complex** is this wave function?
- Can we detect **non-local (topological) correlations**?
- ...

# Same reasoning applicable to numerical experiments - and other platforms as well

**Theory:** outcome of numerical experiments

Example:

- Monte Carlo simulations (CM, HEP, etc.)
- Importance / direct sampling of tensor networks

$$Z = e^{-\beta H}$$

$$X = \{X_1, X_2, \dots, X_N\}$$

Elements of a Markov chain

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Elements of a Markov chain

Data-wise, classical simulations are “equivalent” to the outcome of a quantum machine

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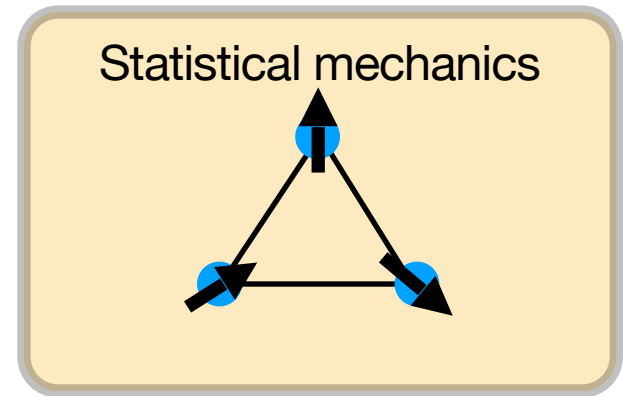
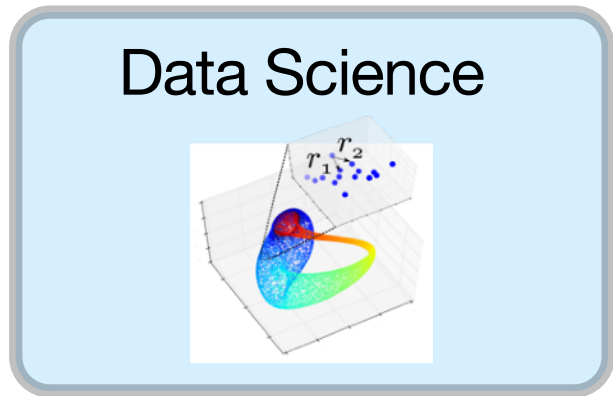
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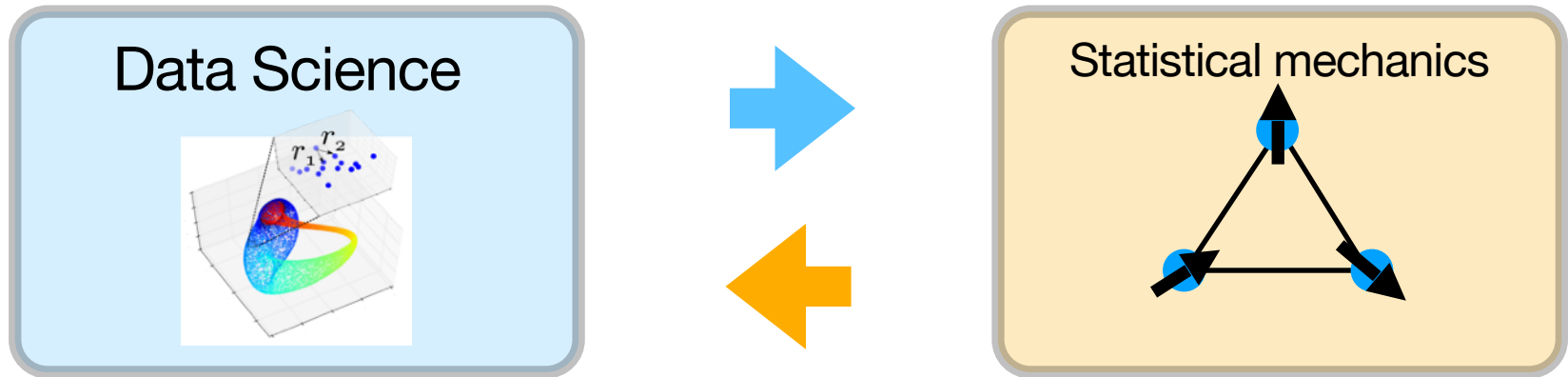
# Main idea: combined statistical mechanics with non-parametric learning methods



Guiding principle: identify (and model) the **most elementary amount of information/degrees of freedom** describing a physical system



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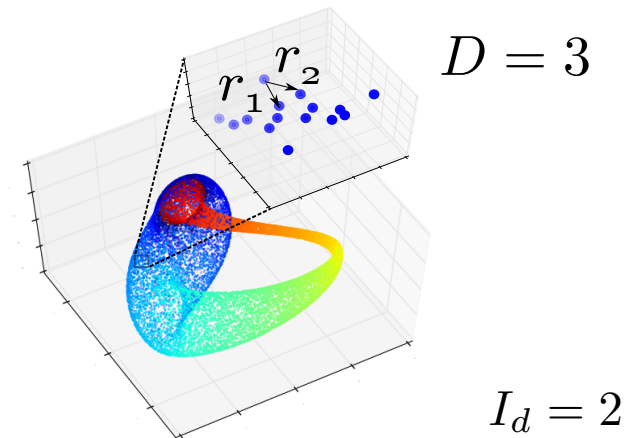
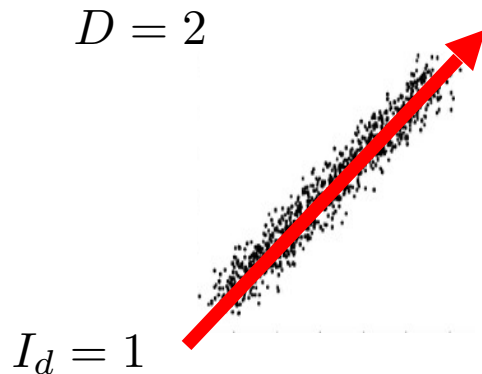
In modern AI language, we are interested in **manifold characterization** - **unsupervised (non-parametric) learning**

# The intrinsic dimension

## The intrinsic dimension

*the minimal number of variables required to describe a dataset*

Widely applied in ab initio molecular dynamics (Laio, Rodriguez, etc.).



Operational meaning: one just needs a single variable to properly describe the object of interest

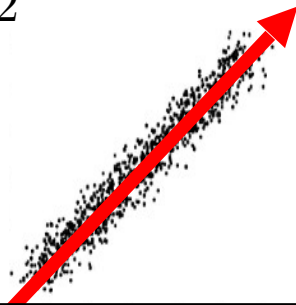
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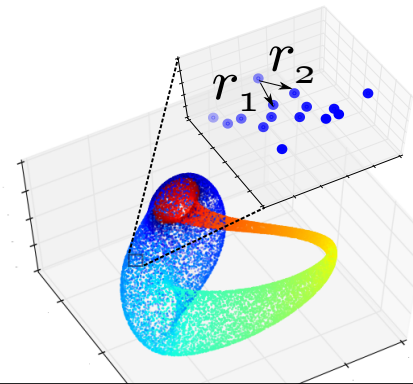
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$D = 2$



$D = 3$



Intuition: the intrinsic dimension is informative about

Op  
ne  
de

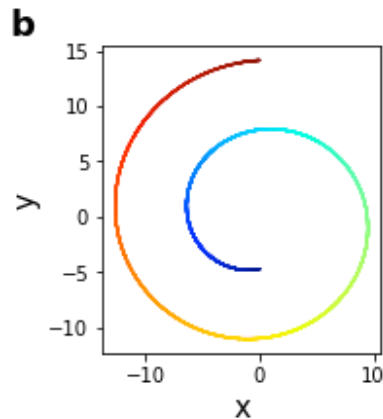
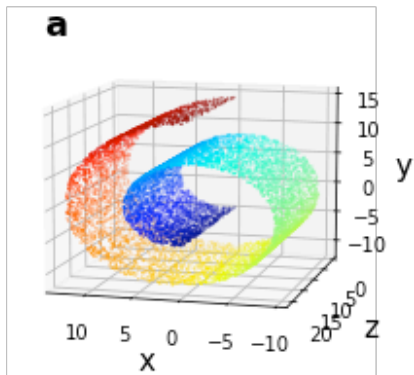
- (1) number of relevant degrees of freedom, and
- (2) **complexity** of a manifold (qualitative so far)

# The intrinsic dimension: how to

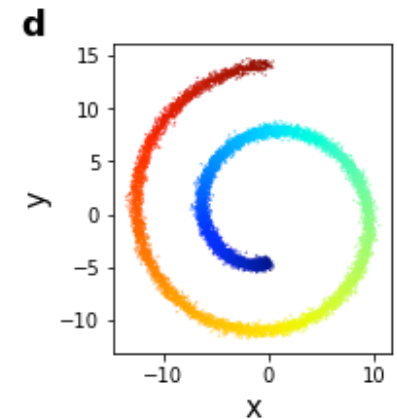
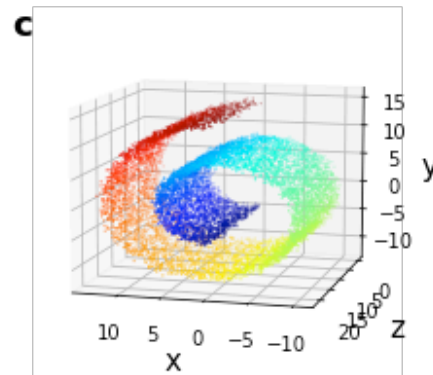
Won't be discussed here - for a reference, see DaDapy, tutorial "Intrinsic dimension"

arXiv:2205.03373

2d swissroll



2d swissroll with noise



**Correct value:  $Id=2$**

**$ID = 1.98$**

**$r = 0.27$**

**$ID_{noisy} = 2.93$**

**$r_{noisy} = 0.40$**

Sensitive to local details - so must be handled with care!

# The intrinsic dimension: properties and estimators

- Used as a preamble to dimensional reduction (e.g., in clustering analysis) to estimate the ‘correct’ dimensionality.
- lower bound complexity of a data set

Example: relation with bottleneck in autoencoders, Zoncolan et al. 2019

- Traditional estimators (PCA, box counting) rely on **assumptions** that are typically not met for the data sets we are interested in
- Modern estimators based on distances have **only very mild assumptions**:  
we will use **2-NN** (Facci et al., 2017)
  - A. Arbitrary curvatures, clustering etc.
  - B. Very strict sanity checks can be applied

Glielmo et al. Chem Rev. 2021; Facco et al., Sci. Rep. 2017, 7, 12140.

# The intrinsic dimension

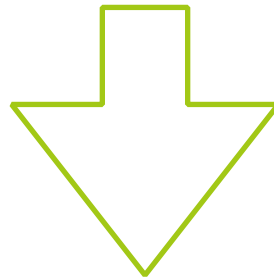
## **Intrinsic dimension:**

*minimal number of variables  
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*Physics?*

# A basic example: a 3 site model

Simple example: sampling a 3-site Heisenberg model

1) States / data space (D=3)

$$\vec{x} = (\vartheta_1, \vartheta_2, \vartheta_3)$$

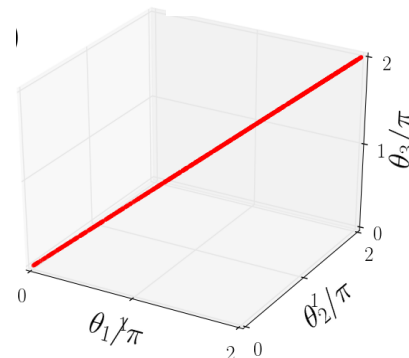
2) Equilibrium weight:

$$\rho(E) \sim e^{-E(\vec{x})/T}$$

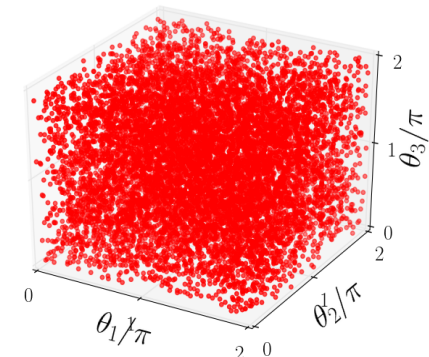
3) Hamiltonian:

$$E(\vec{\theta}) = - \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j,$$

$$N_r \simeq 10^4 / 10^5$$



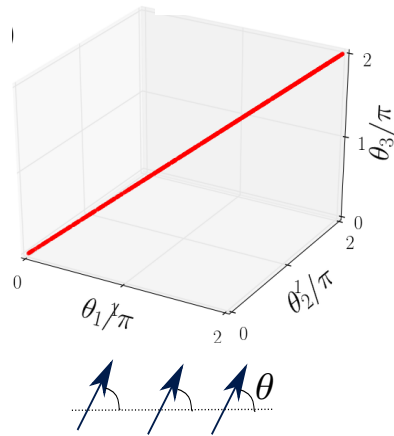
$$I_d = 1$$



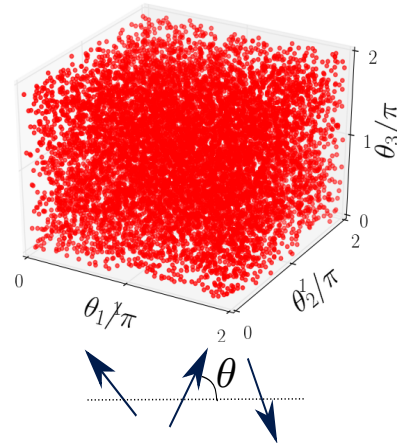
$$I_d = 3$$



# A basic example: a 3 site model



$$I_d = 1$$



$$I_d = 3$$

Remember!  
 $I_d$  *minimal number of variables required to describe a dataset*



**All of this makes sense!  
but what about transitions?**

Message 1: Intrinsic dimension:

- (1) very low in ordered phases
- (2) as high as it can get at high temperature

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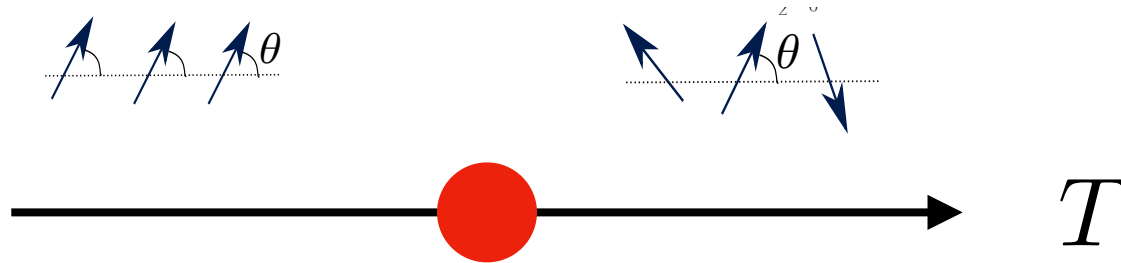
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# How does complexity behave at criticality?



Intuition 1 [real space]: at critical points, correlations diverge!

$$\xi \rightarrow \infty$$

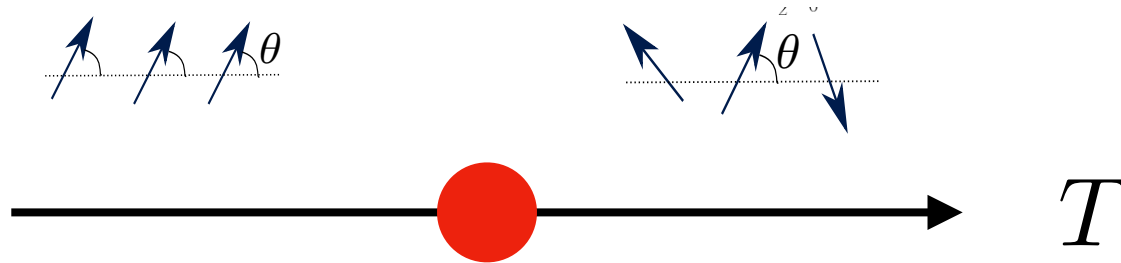
very correlated manifold, so  
maximal intrinsic dimension

Intuition 2 [RG]: at critical points, physics is universal

$$\langle O(r) \rangle = f(r, \nu, z..)$$

manifold is very constrained,  
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## Strategy

- (1) numerical tests on classical statistical mechanics models
- (2) Theory [only sketched here]

# Many-body: the Ising model in 2D

Hamiltonian

$$E(\vec{s}) = - \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} s_i s_j,$$

Data configurations

$$\vec{s} = (s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{N_s})$$

Second order (conformal)  
phase transition at

$$T_c = 2 / \ln(1 + \sqrt{2}) \simeq 2.26\dots$$

$$\nu = 1$$

Data structure:  $s_1 = (s_{11}, s_{12}, \dots) = (0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, \dots)$

# Data space of the Ising model in 2D

Data configurations

$$\vec{s} = (s_1, s_2, \dots, s_{N_s}) \quad s_1 = (s_{11}, s_{12}, \dots) = (0, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, \dots)$$

Distance between points:  
Hamming distance

$$r(\vec{s}^i, \vec{s}^j) = \sum_p |s_p^i - s_p^j|$$

# Data space of the Ising model in 2D

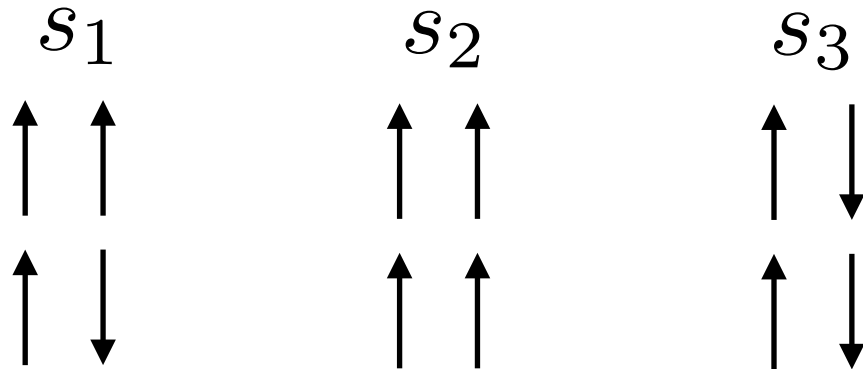
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Example: N=4





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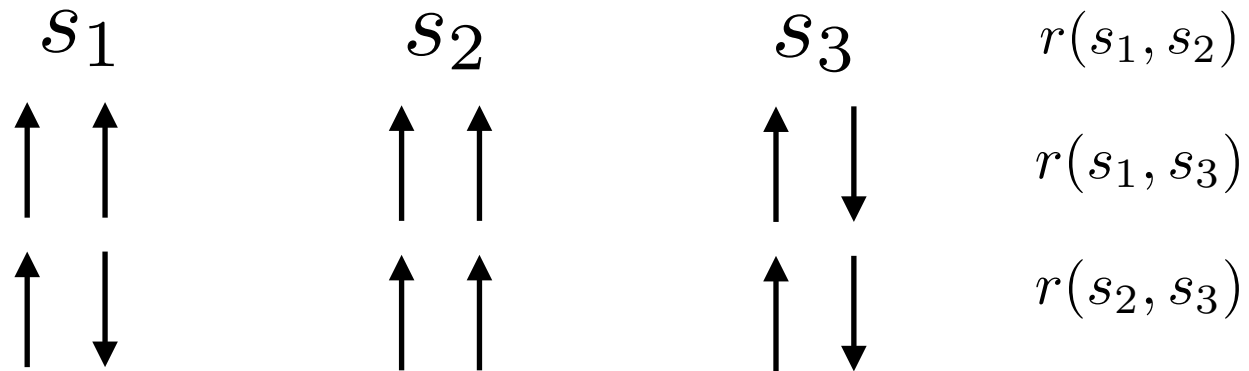
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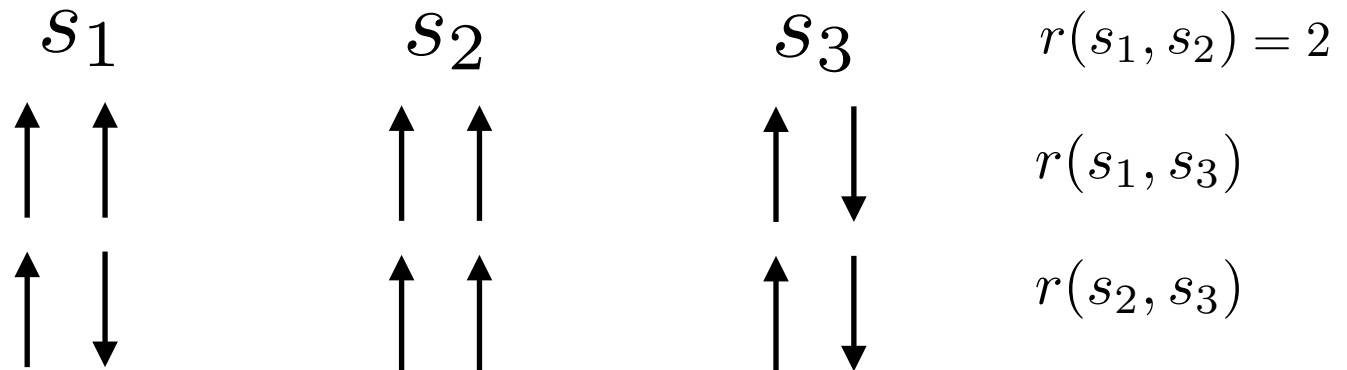
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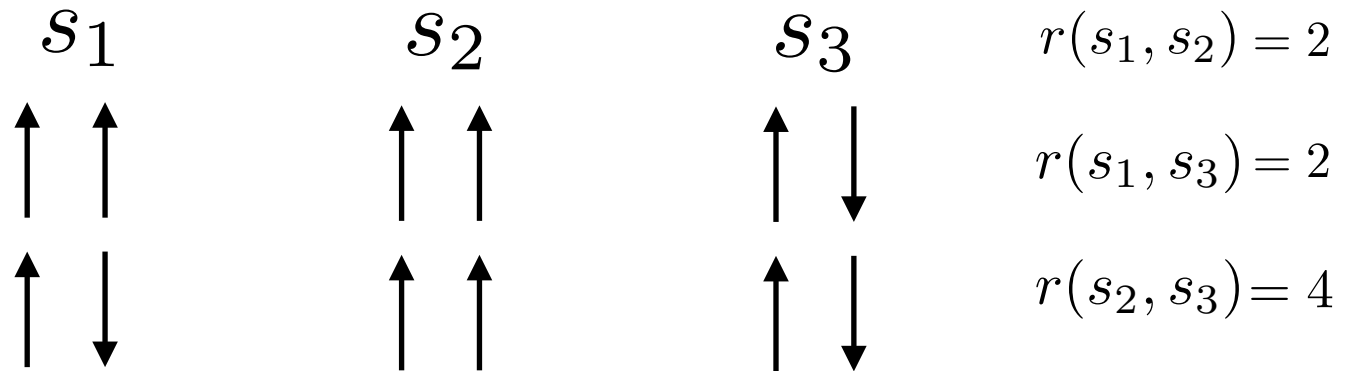
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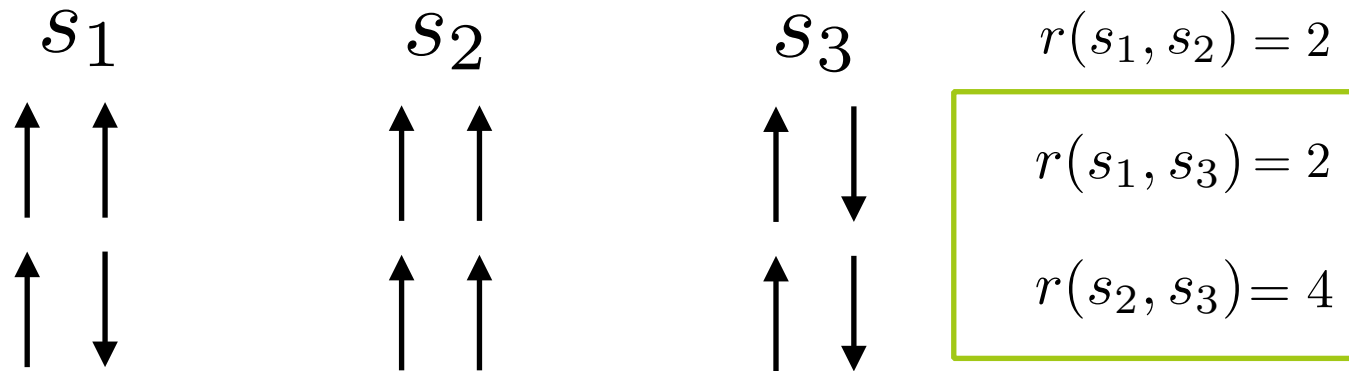
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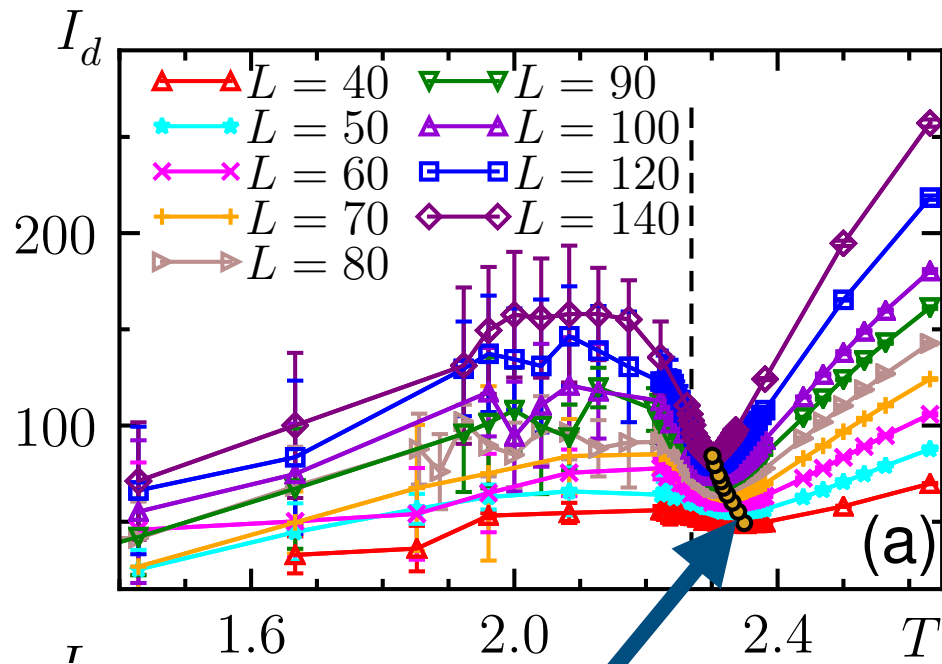
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Example: N=4



# Intrinsic dimension: emergent simplicity



Second order (conformal)  
phase transition at

$$T_c = 2 / \ln(1 + \sqrt{2}) \simeq 2.26\dots$$

$$\nu = 1$$

**emergent simplicity:**  
manifold simplifies at  
transition points!

# Intrinsic dimension: universal behavior

Universal collapse  
scaling from  
renormalization group

Scaling function

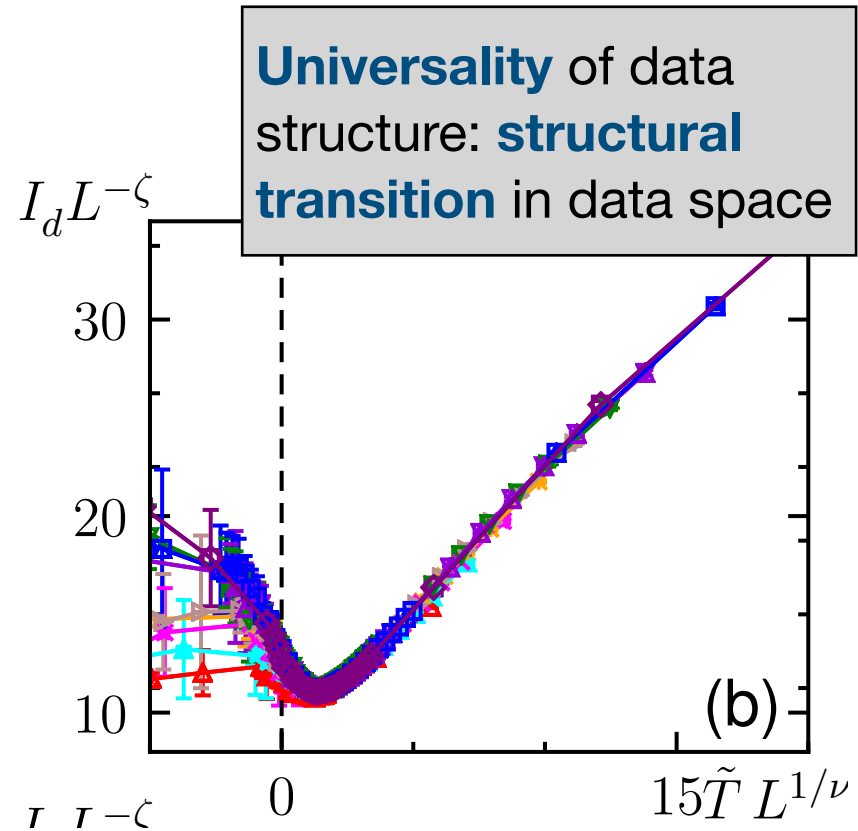
$$I_d = L^\zeta f(\xi/L)$$

$$\xi \sim (T - T_c)^{-\nu}$$

Second order (conformal) phase  
transition at

$$T_c = 2 / \ln(1 + \sqrt{2}) \simeq 2.26\dots$$

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Free parameters:  $T_c, \nu, \zeta$

$$T_c = 2.283(2), \nu = 1.02(2), \zeta = 0.410(5)$$

# Intrinsic dimension: quantitative predictions

Universal collapse  
scaling from  
renormalization  
group

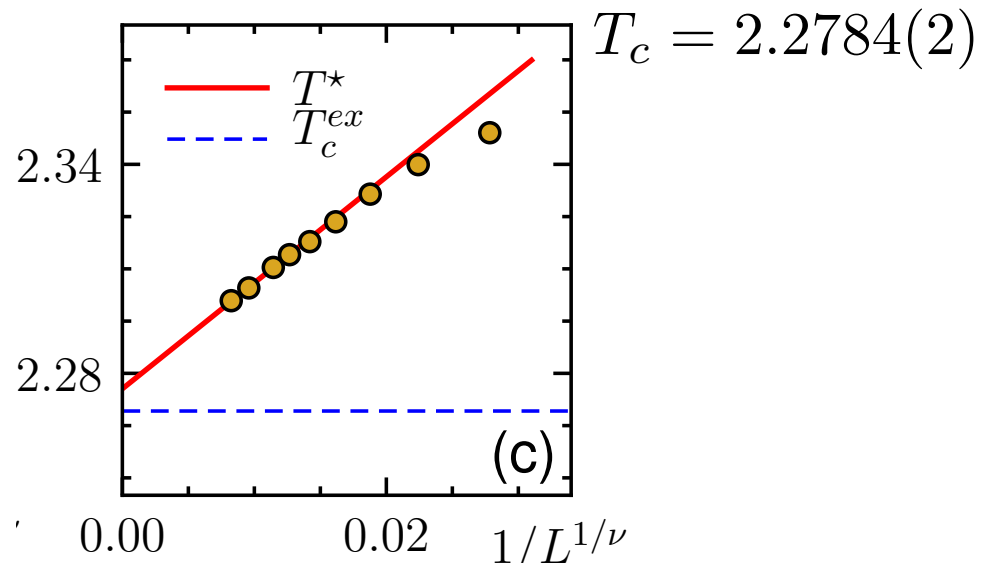
$$T^*(L) - T_c \sim \frac{1}{L^{1/\nu}}$$

Second order (conformal)  
phase transition at

$$T_c = 2/\ln(1 + \sqrt{2}) \simeq 2.26\dots$$

$$\nu = 1$$

Useful to find **critical temperature and exponents** *without* any assumption on order parameters!



# Why is complexity minimal at transition points?

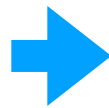
Rationale: complexity of the manifold dominated by the **most significant correlation function** (generically, *not* few-body)

Math: cumulant expansions (+more)

$$I_d = -\frac{\ln(1 - 1/N_r)}{\ln[r_2(1)] - \ln[r_1(1)]}$$



$$\ln[r_2(1)] - \ln[r_1(1)] = \mathcal{F}_2 + \mathcal{F}_4 + \dots$$



$$I_d \simeq \frac{1}{\ln(\langle S_i S_j \rangle)} = \frac{1}{\xi}$$

Origin of **universality of data structures!**

$\mathcal{F}_p$  p-point correlation functions between configurations



# Statements

For classical stat mech sampling,

**Kolmogorov complexity  $\leftrightarrow$  intrinsic dimension**

$$I_d \simeq \frac{1}{\xi}$$

Complexity is minimal for field theories / critical points

$\rightarrow$  **Emergent simplicity**

see also:

data compression: O. Melchert and A. K. Hartmann, Phys. Rev. E 91, 023306 (2014);

local complexity: Schmitt and Lenarcic, Phys. Rev. B 106, L041110 (2022);

out of eq.: Martirani et al. PRX 9, 011031 (2019).

# Outline

Complexity warm-up

Sampling states and **intrinsic dimension**

Data mining partition functions / **criticality as minimal complexity**

*Many-body /  
field theory*

Data mining *large scale* quantum simulators:

- wave function networks
- **certification and complexity** of Rybderg experiments

*Quantum Info*

Complexity and topology in many-body systems

*Many-body*

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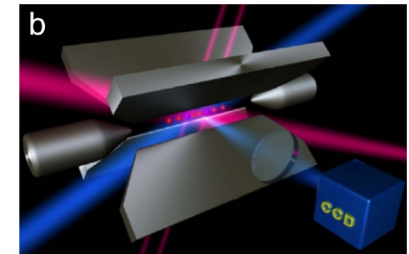
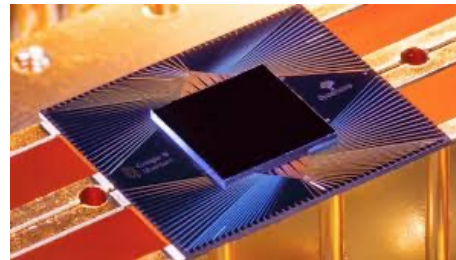
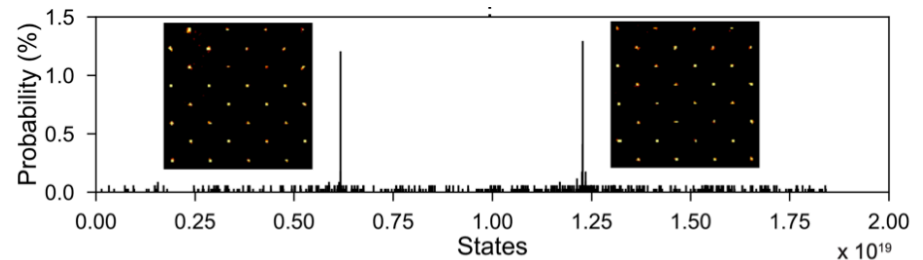
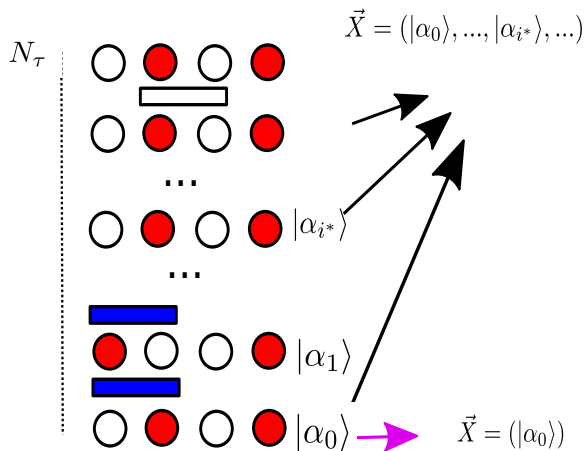
Complexity and topology in many-body systems

*Many-body*

# What about quantum?

Application to quantum mechanics: wave function **snapshots**

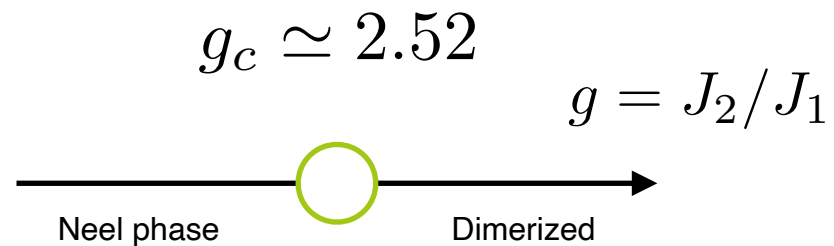
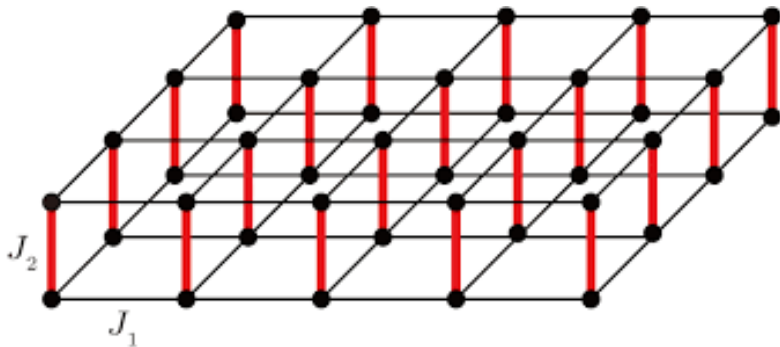
Path integrals:  
quantum MC



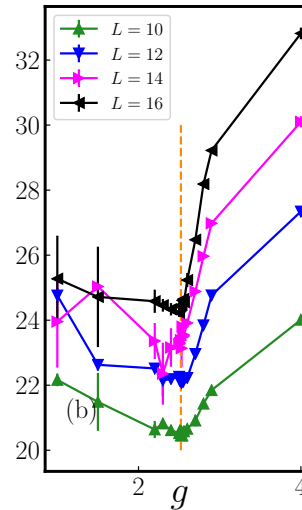
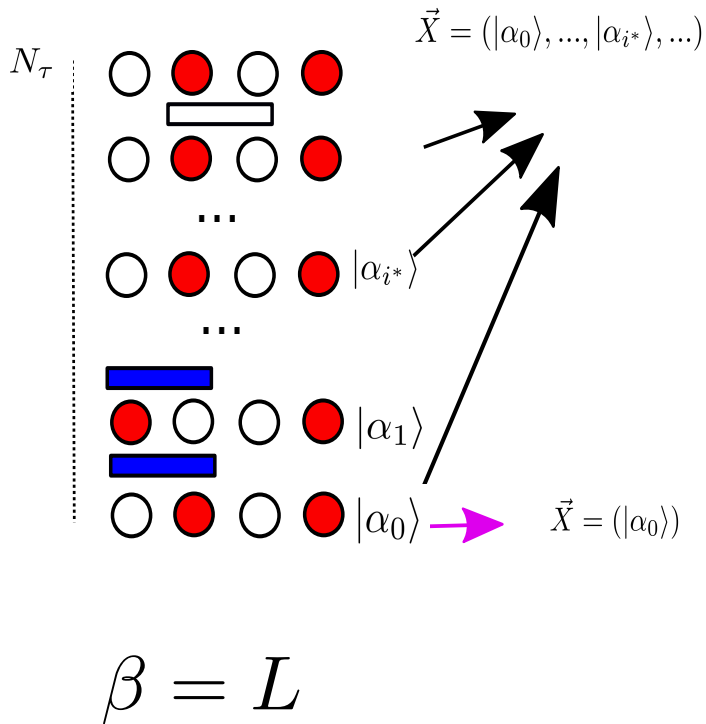
Q: Are quantum systems also described by universal data structures?

# Step 0: study path integrals

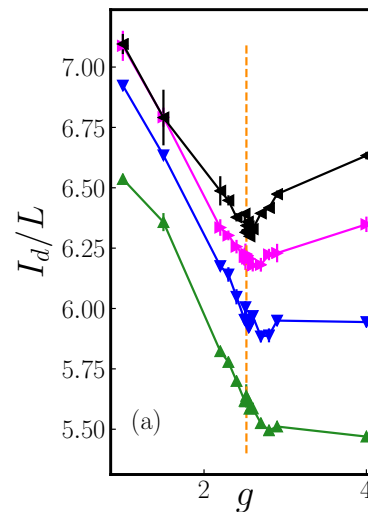
$$H = \sum_{a=1,2} \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \mathbf{S}_{i,a} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{j,a} + g \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \mathbf{S}_{i,1} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{i,2}$$



# Example: the bilayer-Heisenberg model



Full path integral



Both single slice and full path integral show emergent simplicity!

Single slice

# Now change of gear

So far: theory. Quite idealized conditions (no noise, huge sampling, etc.)

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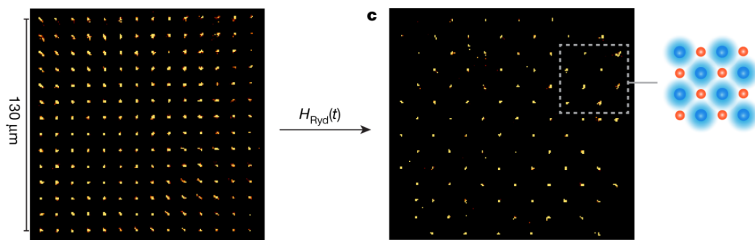
What about *experiments*?



# Now change of gear

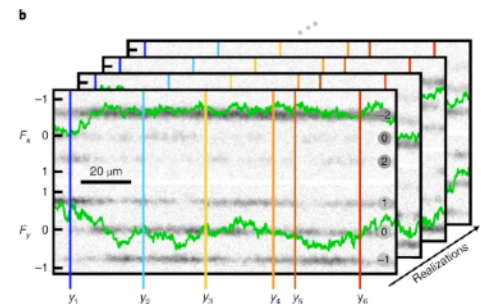
So far: theory. Quite idealized conditions (no noise, huge sampling, etc.)

What about *experiments*?



Rydberg atoms in optical tweezers

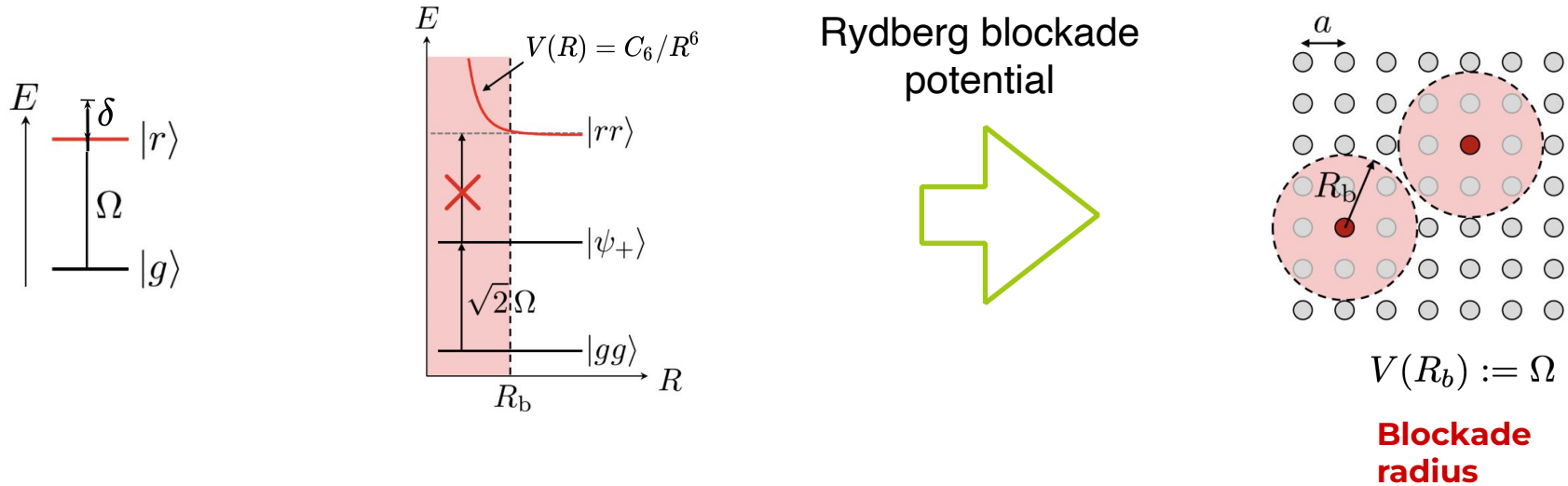
Scholl et al., Nature 2021



Spinor Bose gases

Prüfer et al., Nat. Phys. 2020

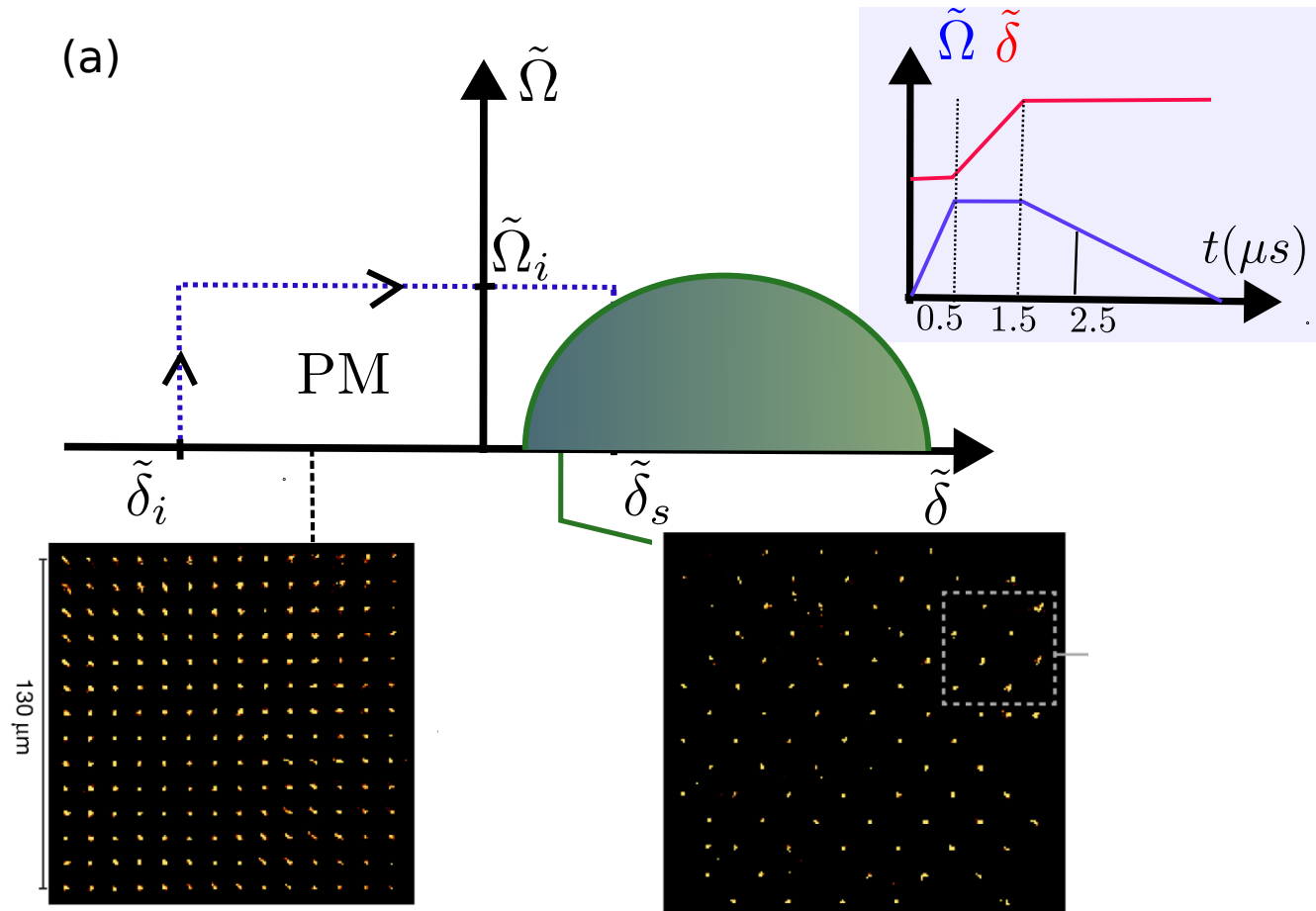
# Rydberg atom arrays: quick intro



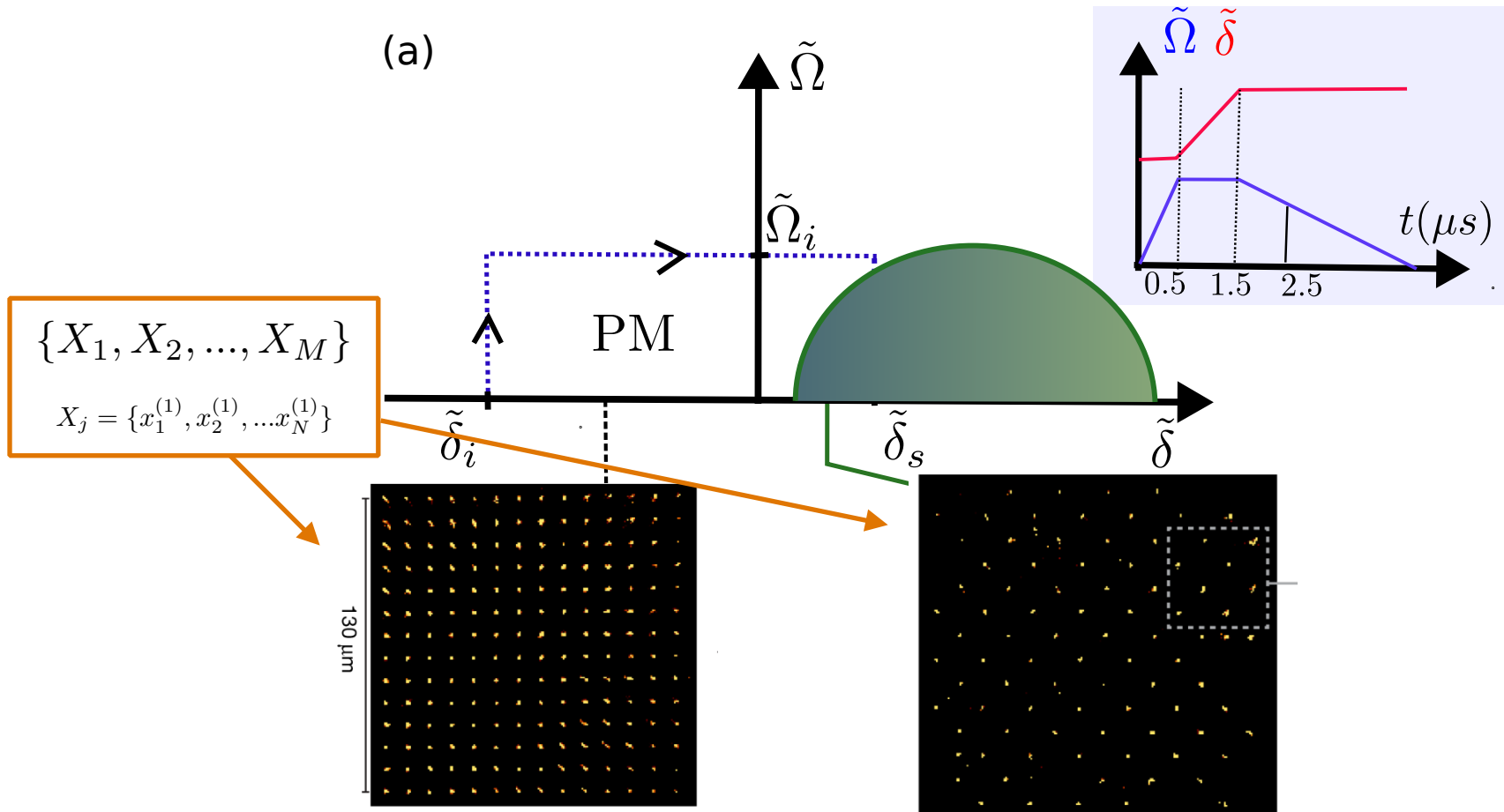
Effective Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H}_{\text{FSS}} = \sum_j (\Omega \hat{\sigma}_j^x + \delta \hat{n}_j) + \sum_{j < l} V_{j,l} \hat{n}_j \hat{n}_l$$

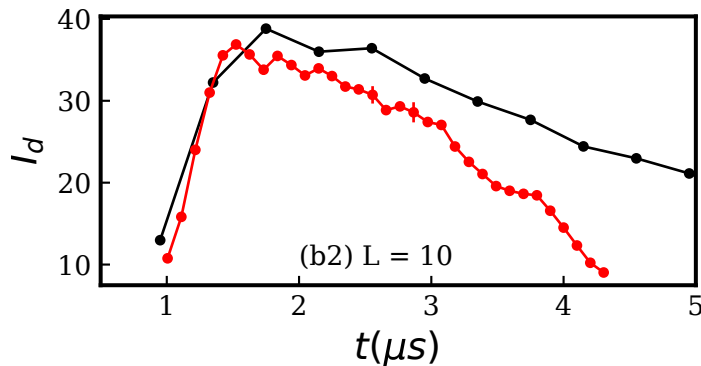
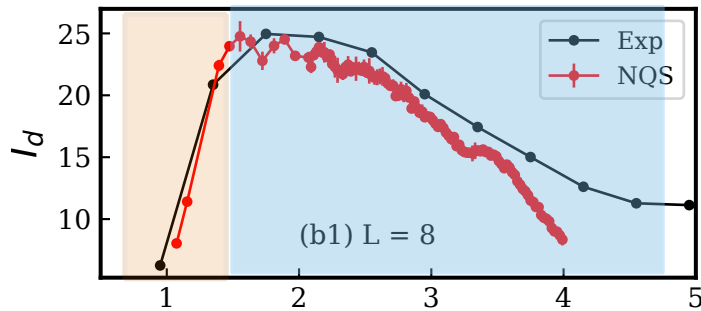
# Data mining Rydberg atom arrays: crossing a phase transition



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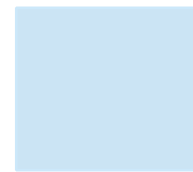
# Physics: emergent simplicity across Kibble-Zurek



Crossing a quantum phase transition  
(Kibble-Zurek-like regime)



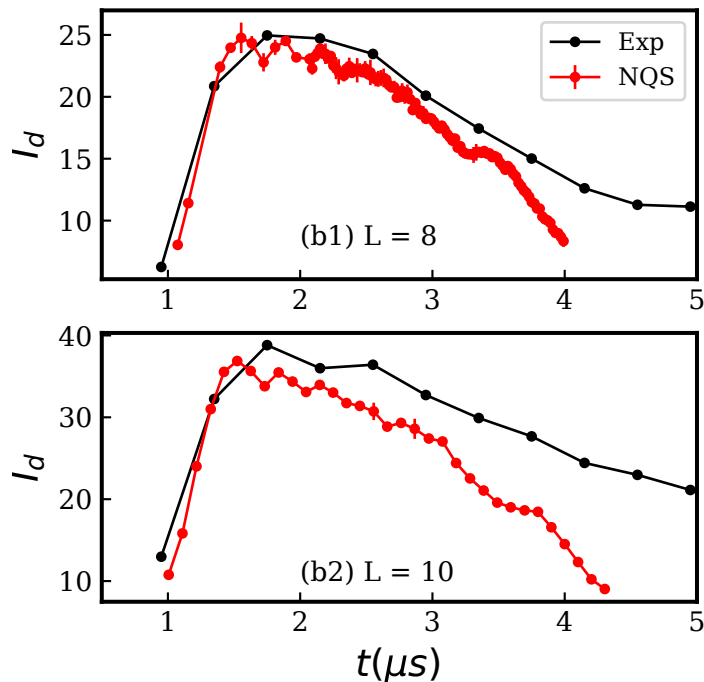
Short times: random  
network,  $I_d$  not really  
informative



KZ-like regime: scale-free  
network,  $I_d$  corresponds  
to Kolmogorov  
complexity

Observation of **emergent simplicity**, a consequence of universal behavior on information propagation

# Physics: emergent simplicity



Q: Why is Kolmogorov complexity informative about experiments?

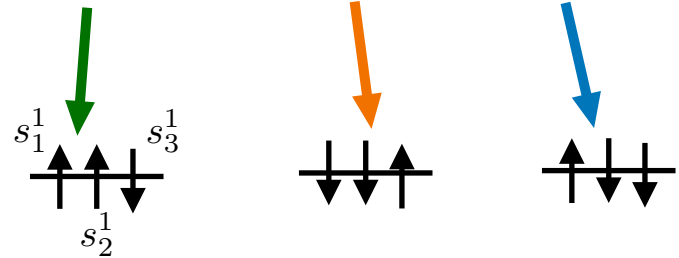
Our approach: full stochastic wave function characterization

# New tool: wave function networks

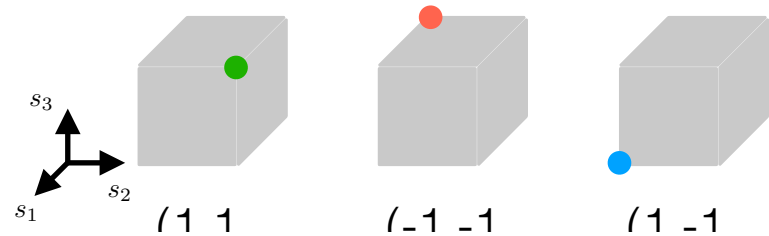
## Collection of **wave function snapshots**

(Stochastic sampling of a wave function)

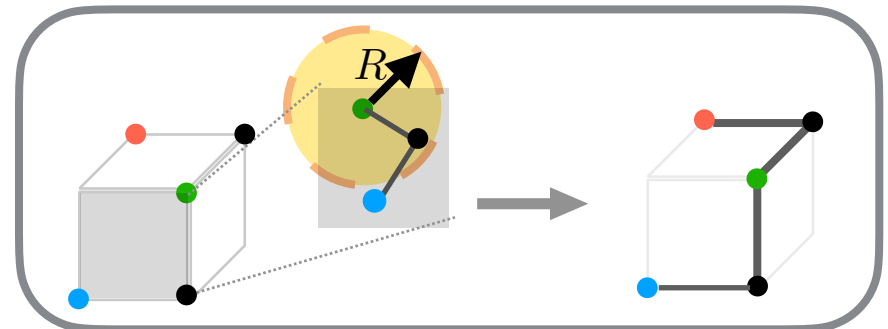
$$|\psi\rangle = c_1 |\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\rangle \dots + c_j |\downarrow\downarrow\uparrow\rangle + c_k |\uparrow\downarrow\downarrow\rangle + \dots$$



Interpretation of those in data space (e.g.: Fock space)

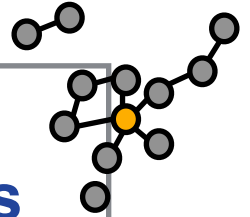


Mapping to **networks**  
Definition of a metric and 'cut-off' scale in data space



# Scale-free network conjecture

The wave function snapshots of strongly correlated quantum matter are described by **scale-free networks**



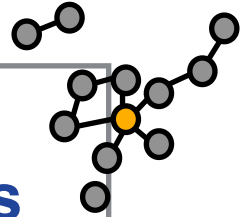
Quantum Computers/  
simulators:

- Spin systems
- Hubbard models
- Lattice gauge theories
- All architectures alike  
(cQED, atoms, ions, etc.)



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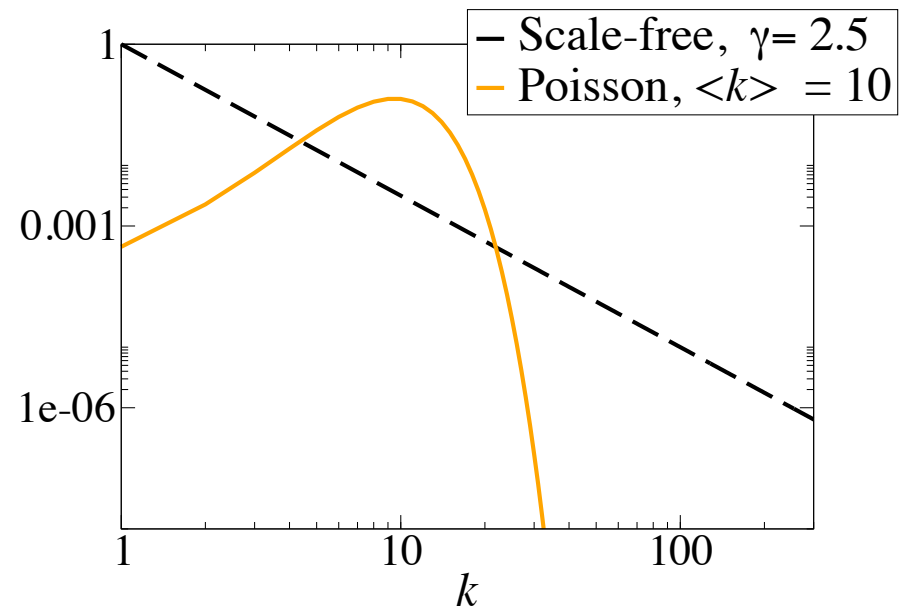


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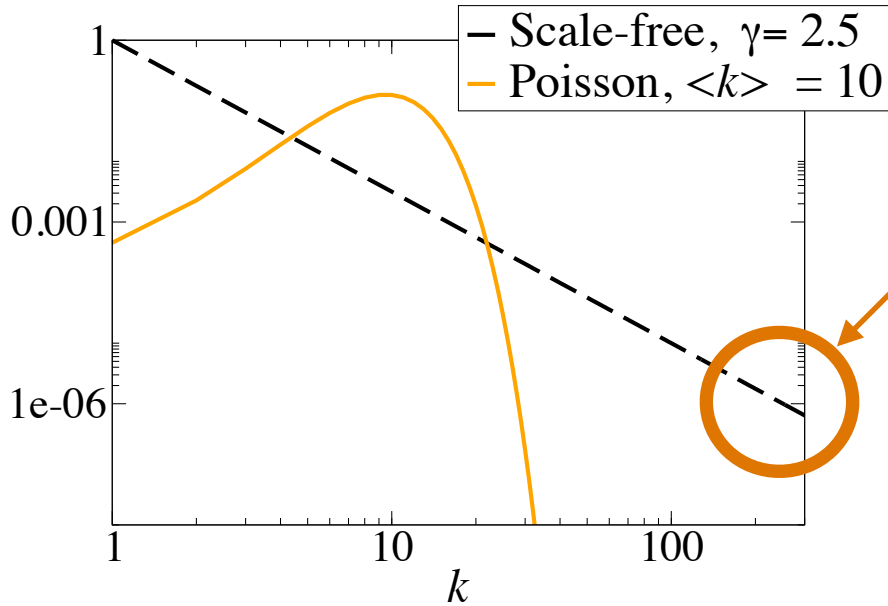
Barabasi, *Network Science*

Fraction of nodes with  $k$  neighbors



# What is a scale free network?

Fraction of nodes with  $k$  neighbors



(1) Large number of hubs!

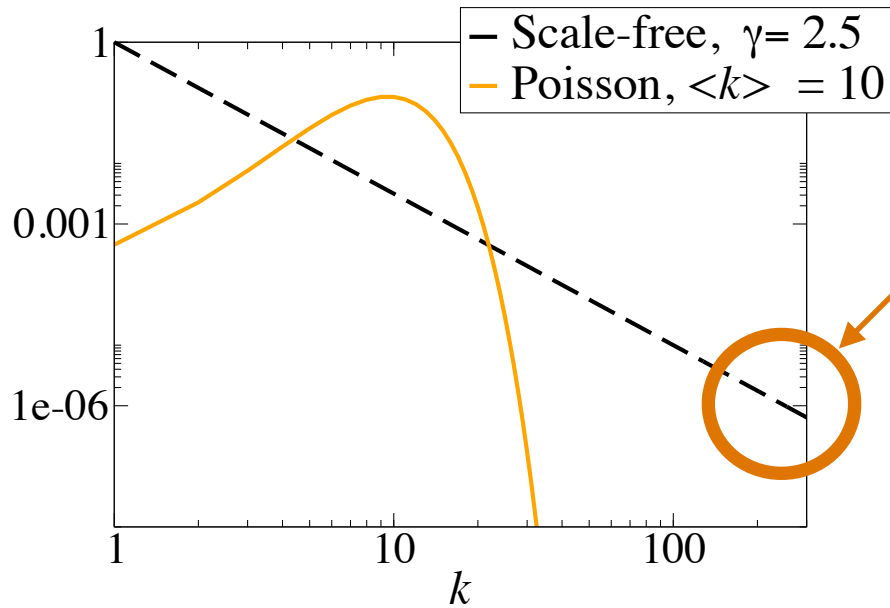
(2) Strong fluctuations

$$\sigma^2 / \langle k \rangle \gg 1$$

(Example: friends on Facebook)

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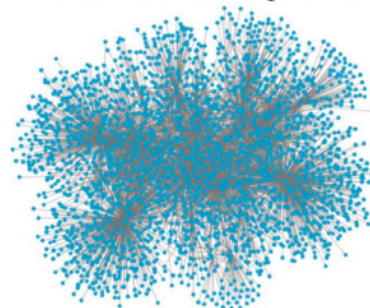
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A Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer



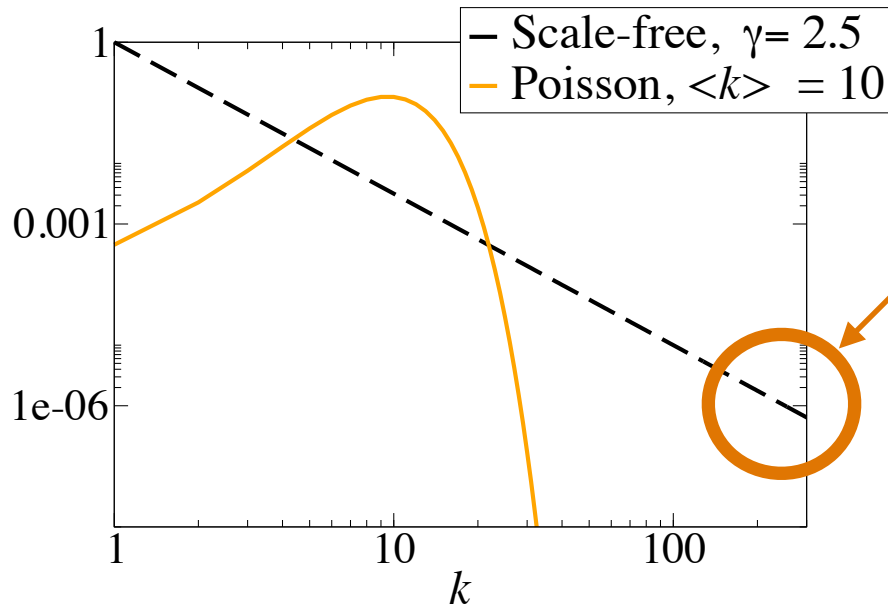
Nodes - 2473  
Edges - 4369

Known examples:

- Social networks
- Power grids
- Airports
- Ecological systems
- Cell dynamics...

# What is a scale free network?

Fraction of nodes with  $k$  neighbors

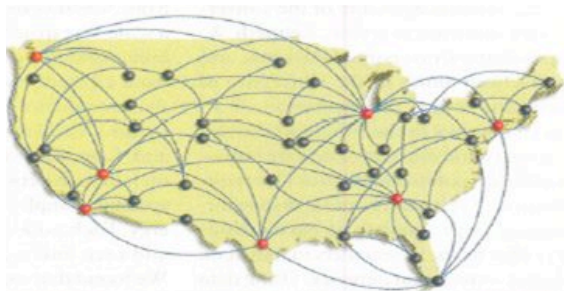


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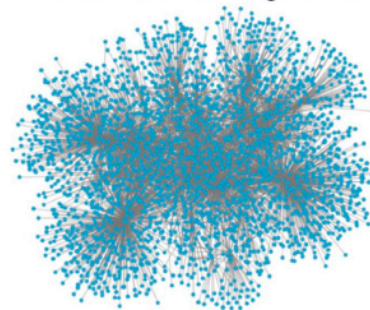
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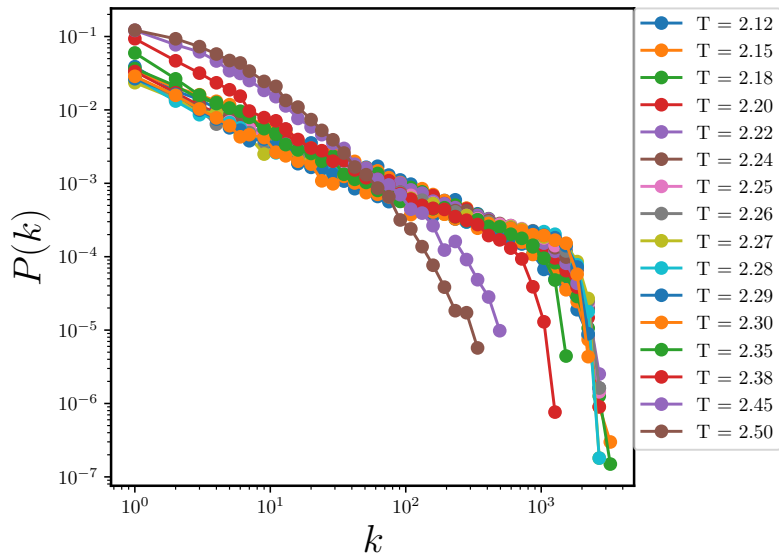
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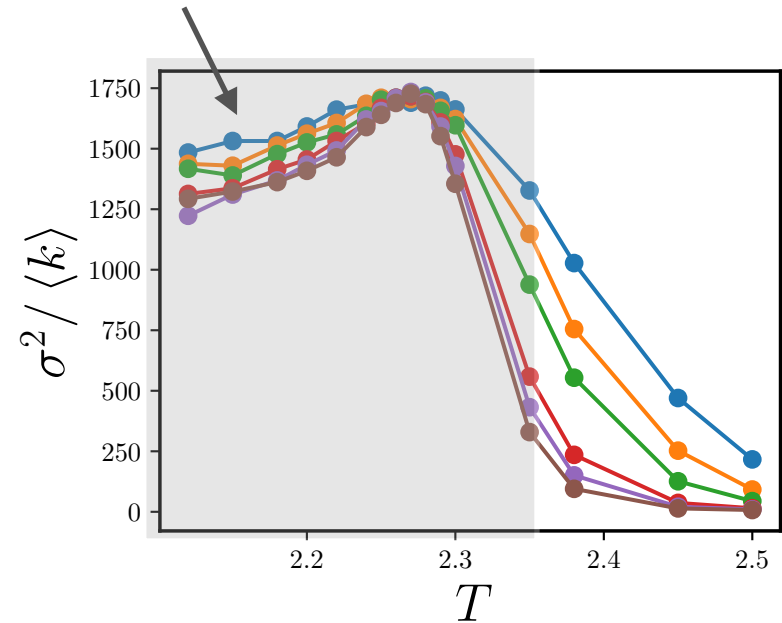
- Social networks
- Power grids
- Airports
- Ecological systems
- Cell dynamics...
- **Quantum computers and simulators!**

# Emergence of scale-free networks: classical sanity checks

Classical statmech / 2D Ising

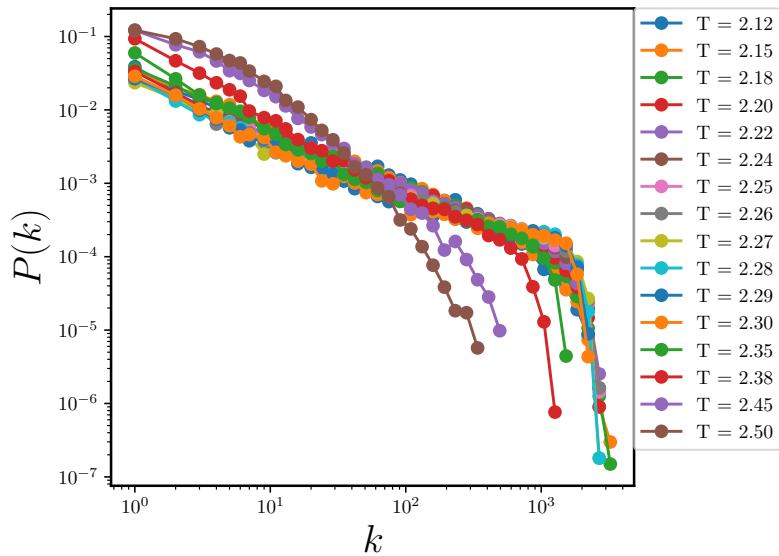


Both critical and ordered regimes are **scale free!**

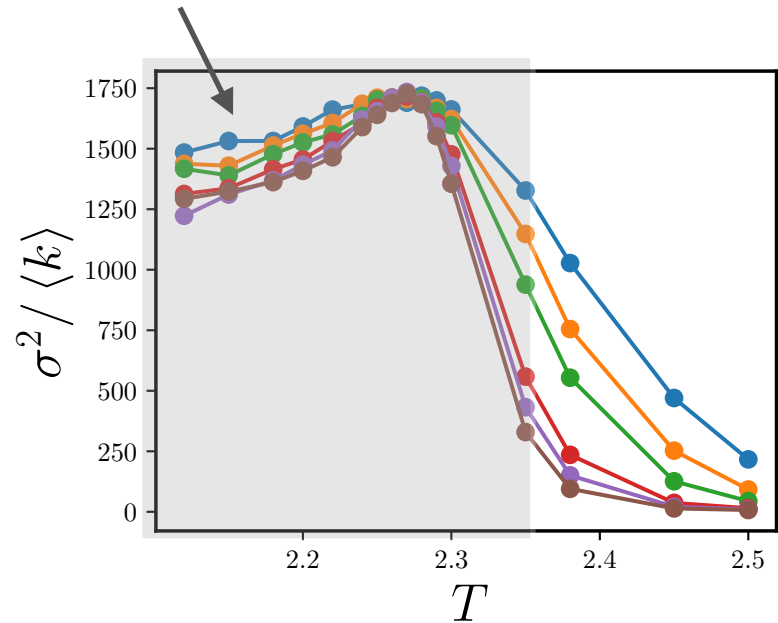


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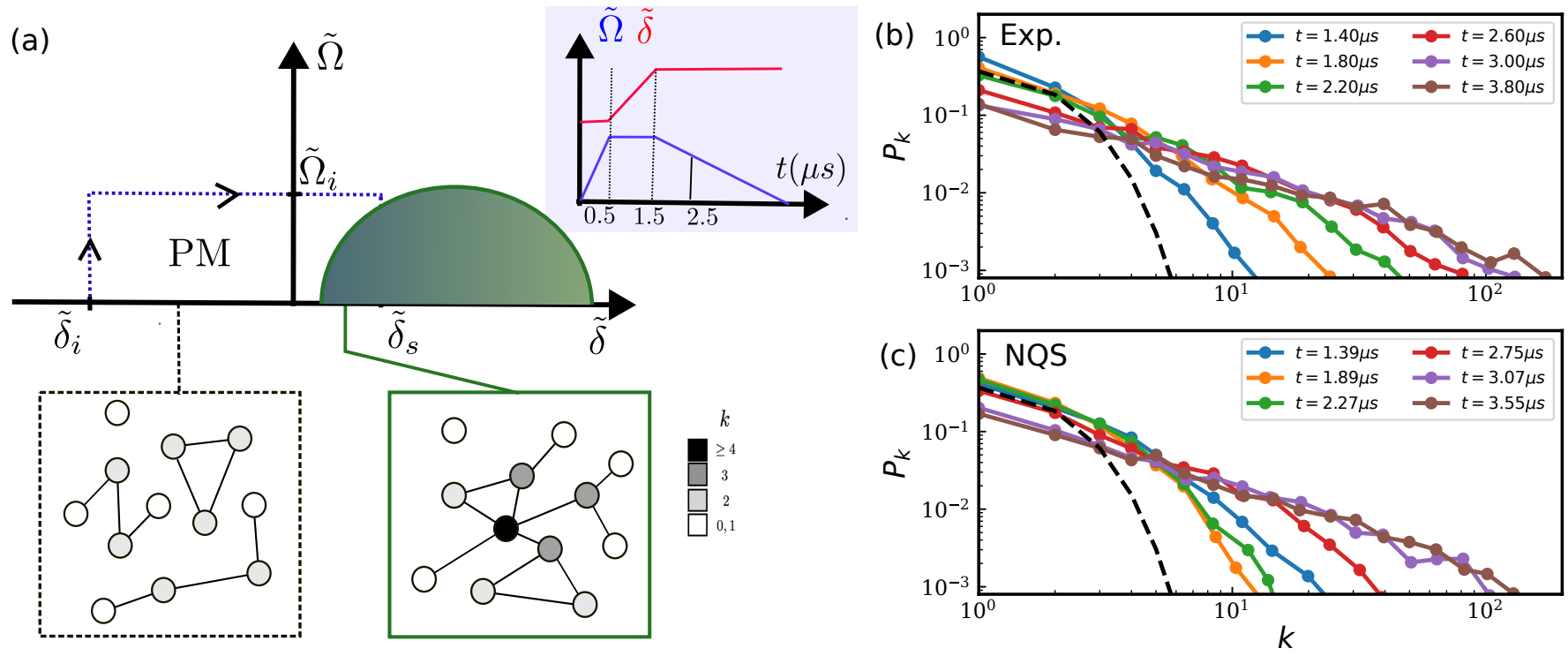
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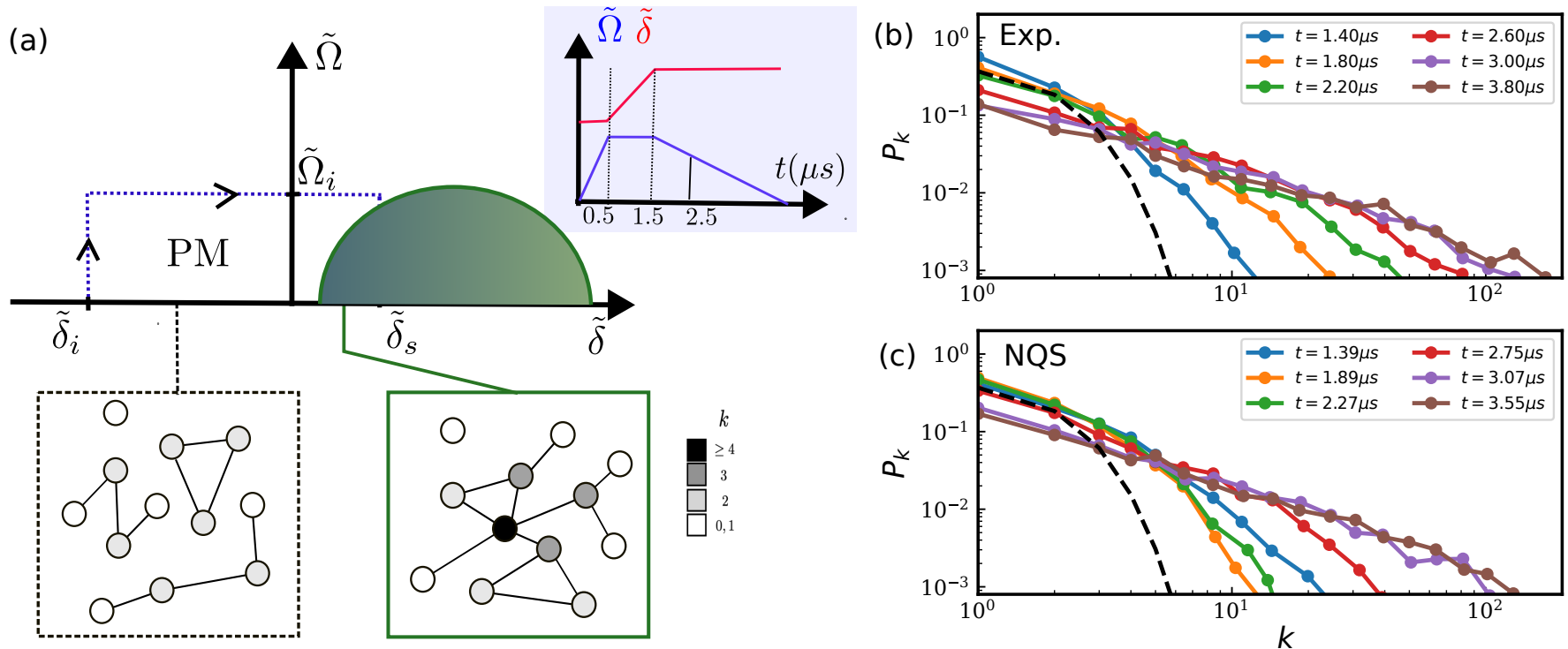
Strongly correlated regimes indeed described by **scale-free networks!**

Situation is ubiquitous - quantum Ising, classical 3D, etc. . However, exact applicability regime yet to be determined

# Emergence of scale-free networks: experiments



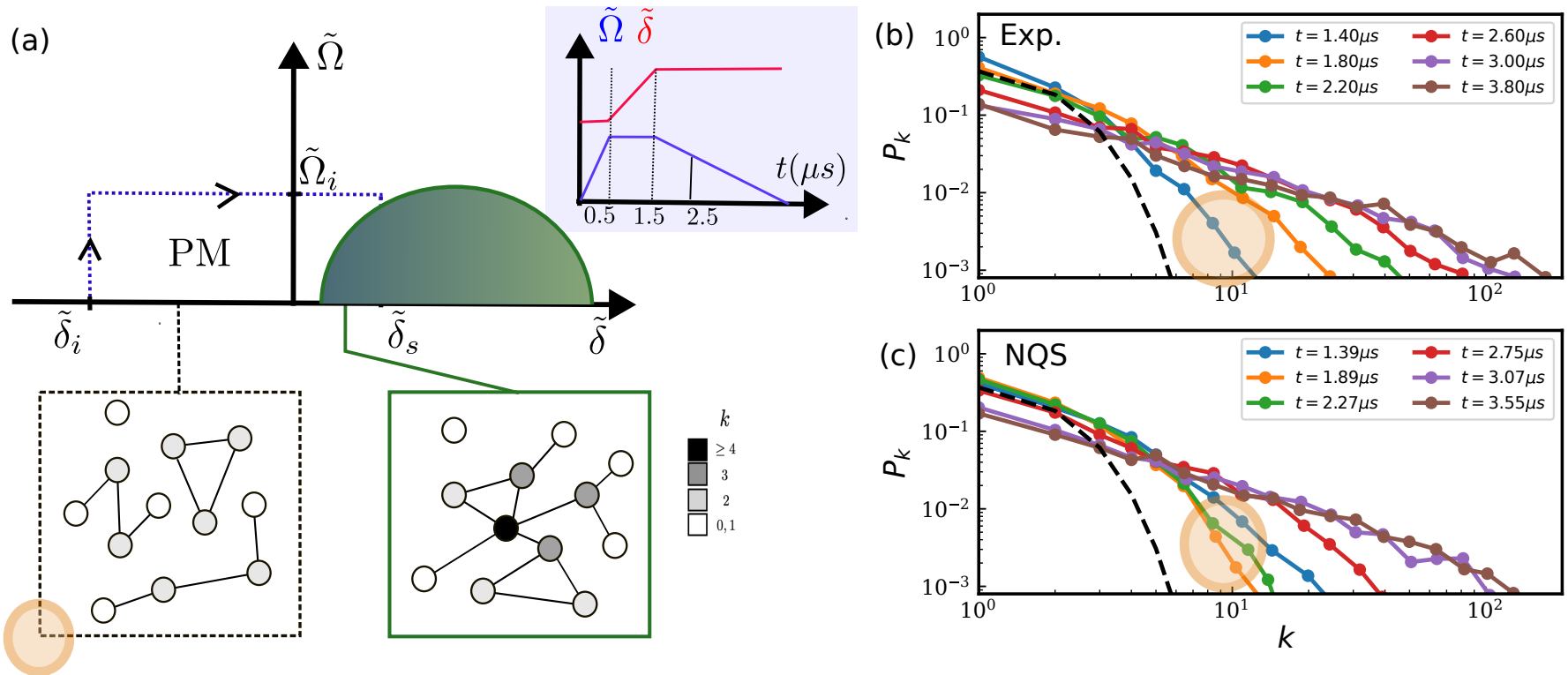
# Emergence of scale-free networks: experiments



Short times: random network  
After that: emergent scale-free network



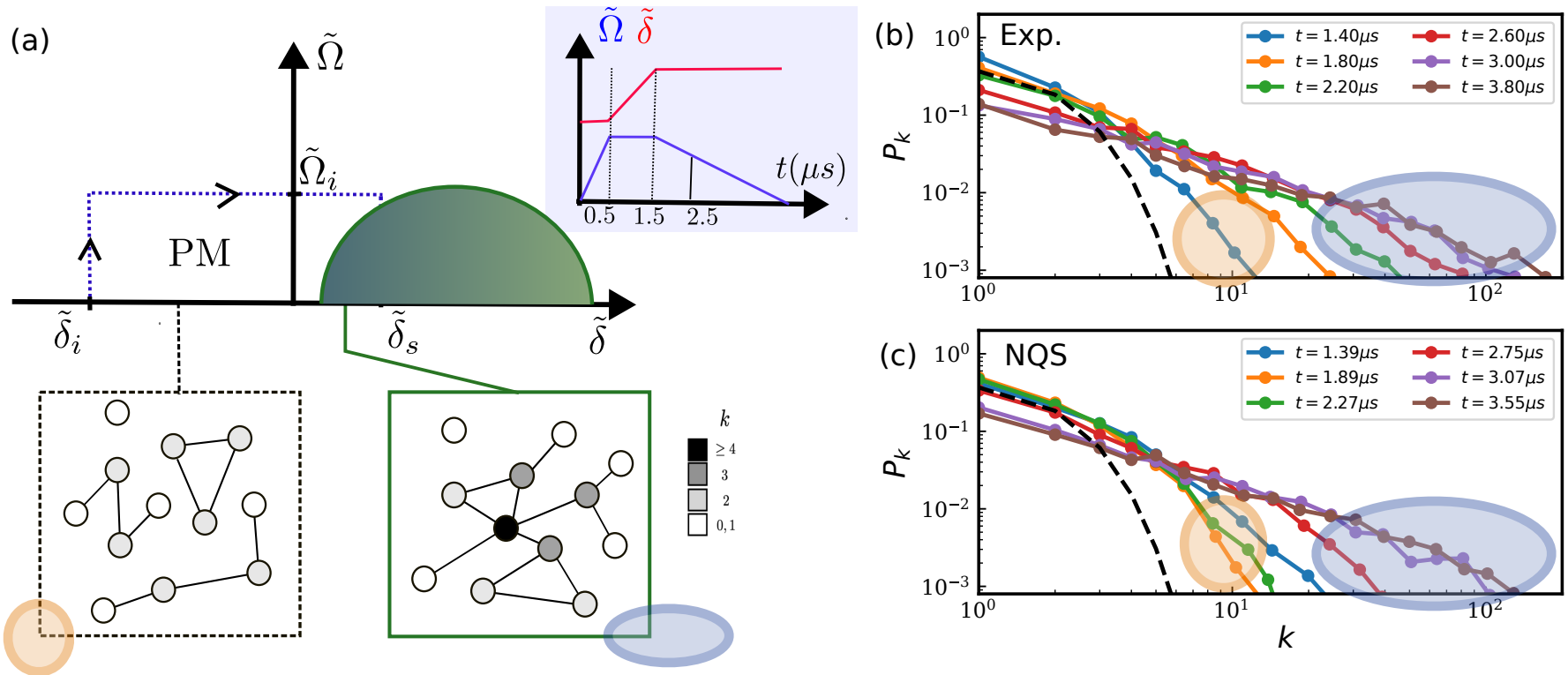
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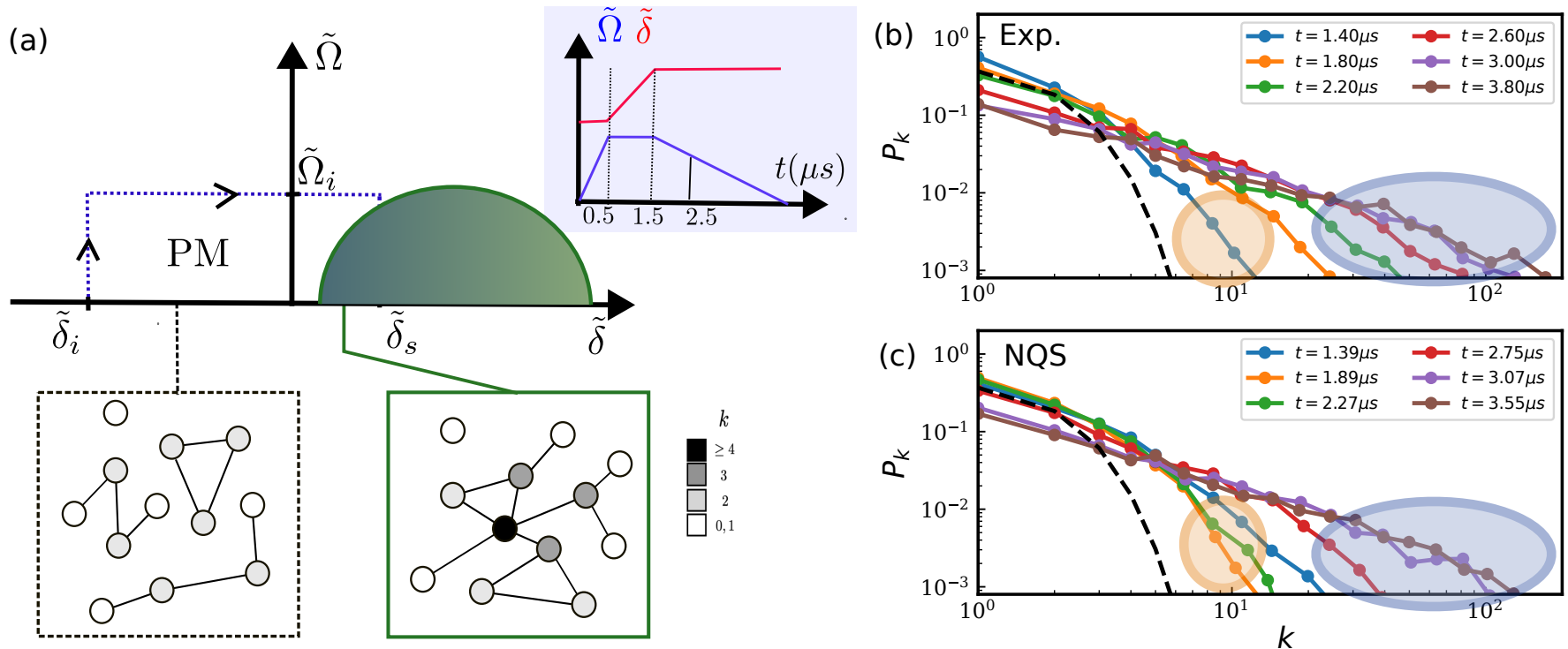
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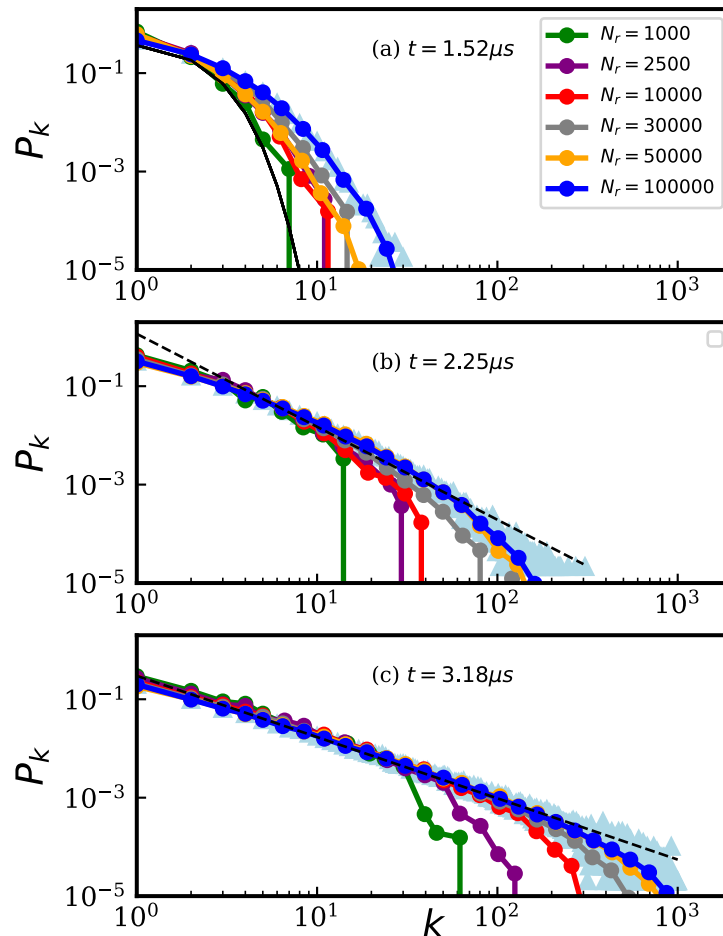
# Emergence of scale-free networks: experiments



Short times: random network

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# Is this an effect of finite sampling?

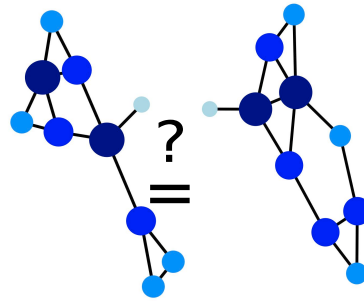


Scale-free is a robust feature, at least according to our simulations based on Neural network states

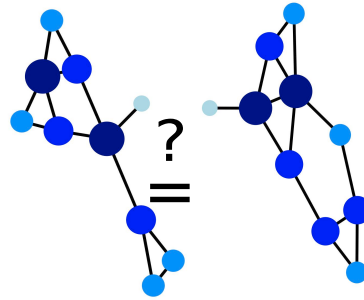


Markus Schmitt

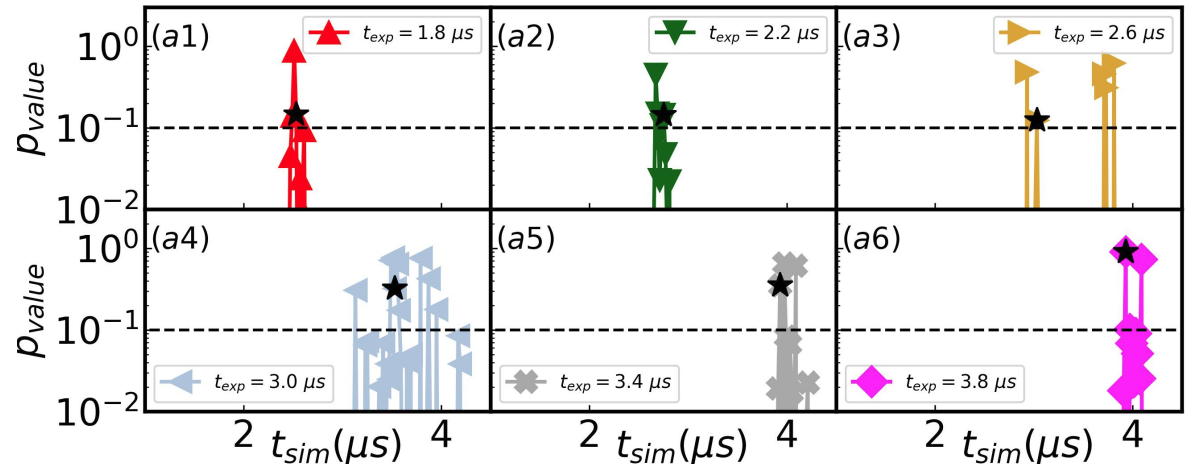
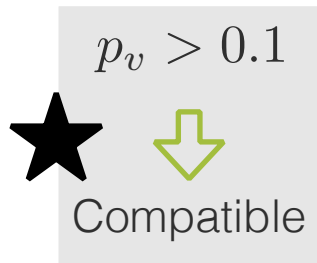
# Quantum information tools: cross-platform verification



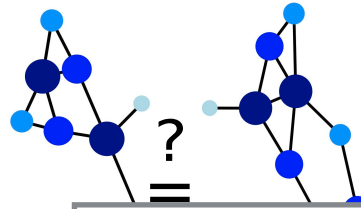
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Epps-Singleton test  
of compatibility  
between probability  
distributions

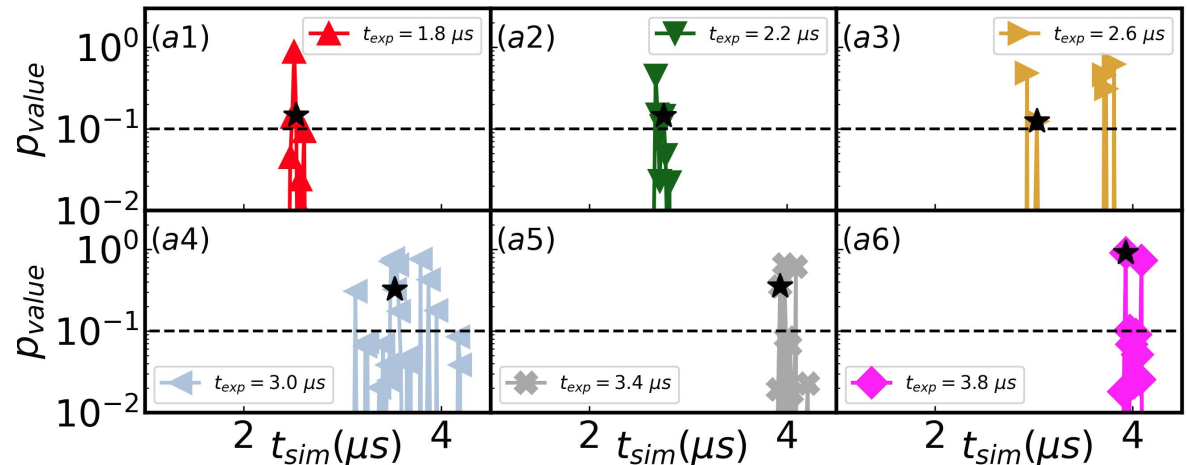
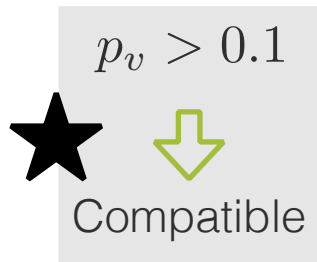


# Quantum information tools: cross-platform verification



**Cross-platform verification** up to timescales where simulations become not fully reliable

Epps-Singleton test of compatibility between probability distributions



# Statements

For classical stat mech sampling,

**Kolmogorov complexity  $\leftrightarrow$  intrinsic dimension**

$$I_d \simeq \frac{1}{\xi}$$

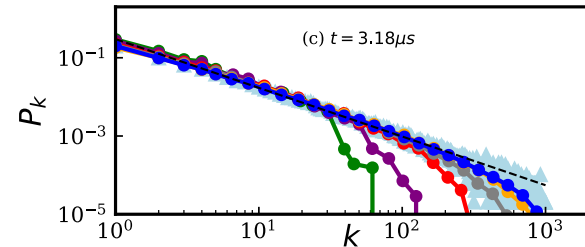
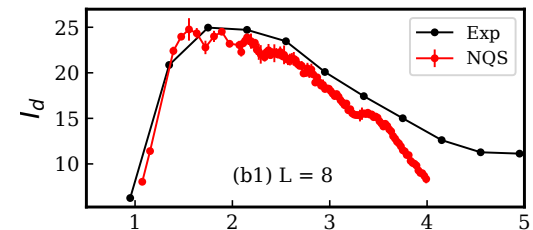
Complexity is minimal for field theories / critical points

$\rightarrow$  **Emergent simplicity**

Emergent simplicity for quantum stat mech (only numerics so far)

**Observation of decreasing complexity** in quantum simulators (Kibble-Zurek)

*New math* to understand wave function stochastically: **wave function networks**





# Outline

Complexity warm-up

Sampling states and **intrinsic dimension**

Data mining partition functions / **criticality as minimal complexity**

*Many-body /  
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Complexity and topology in many-body systems

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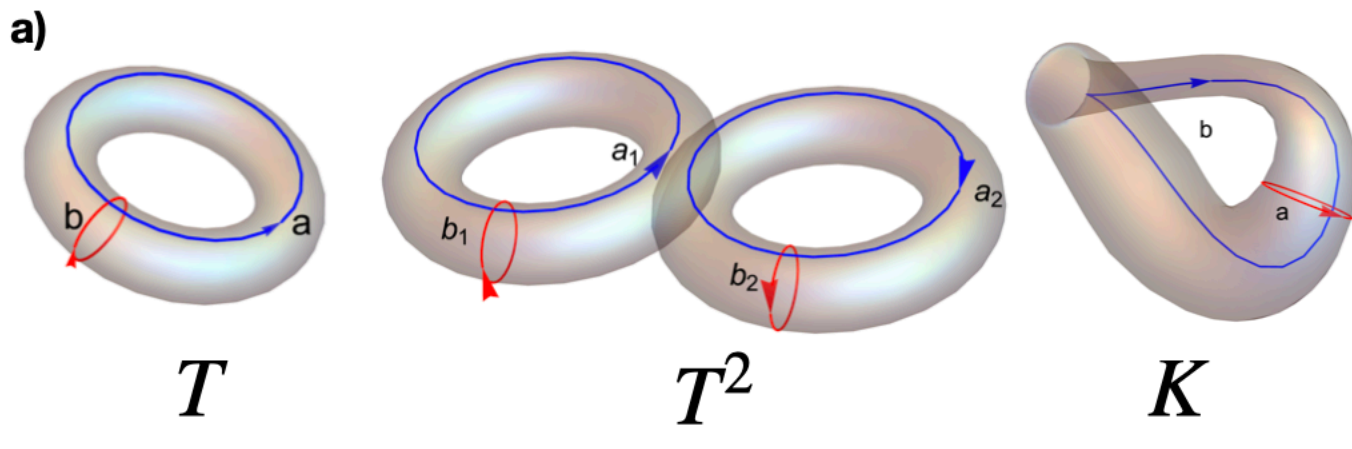
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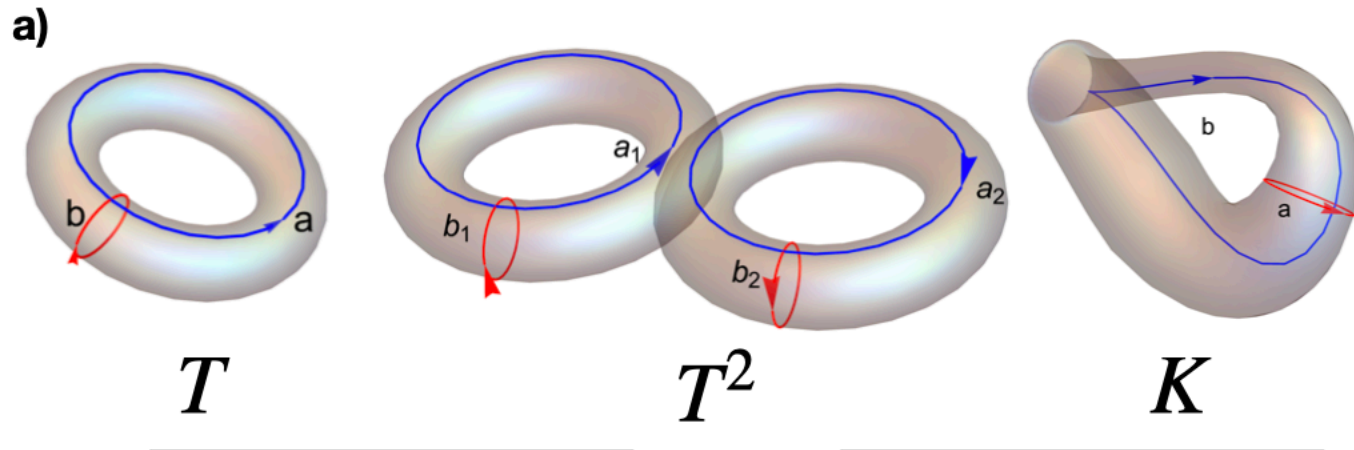
**Complexity and topology** in many-body systems

*Many-body*

# A glimpse of on-going work: complexity and topology

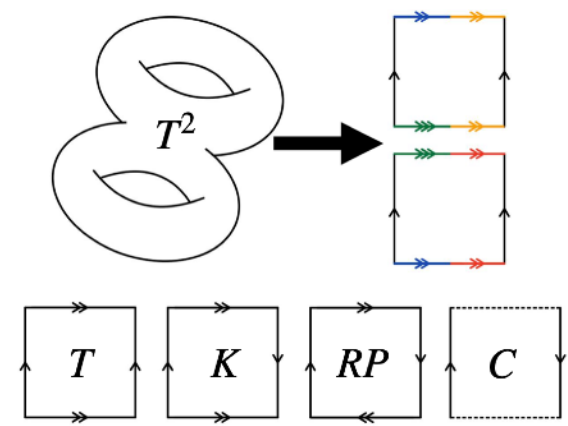
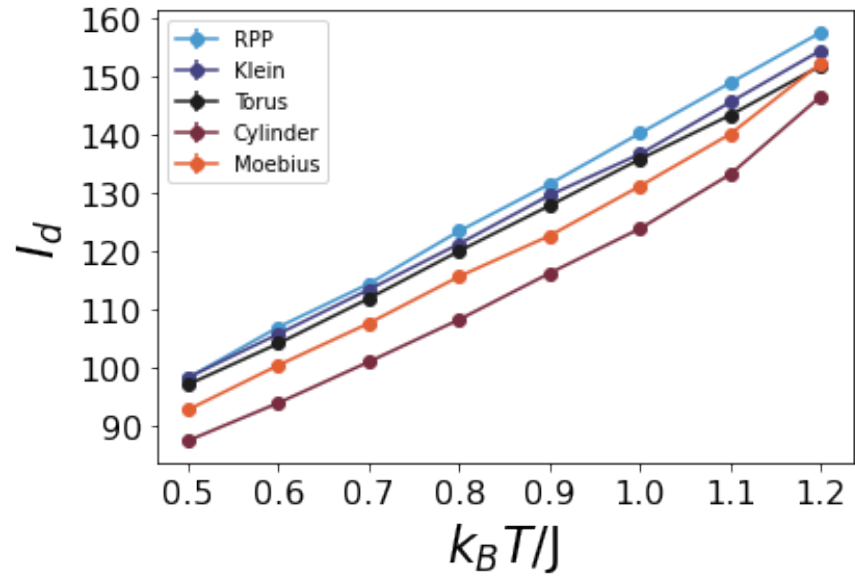


# A glimpse of on-going work: complexity and topology

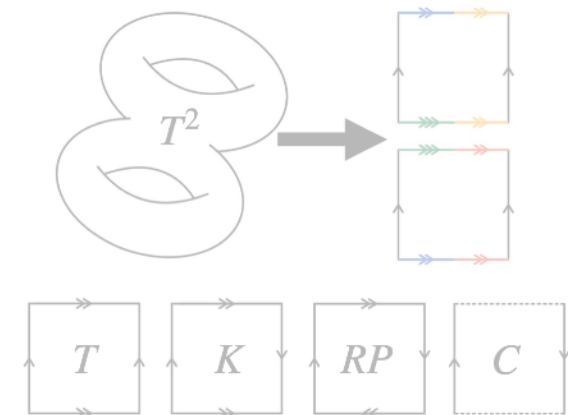
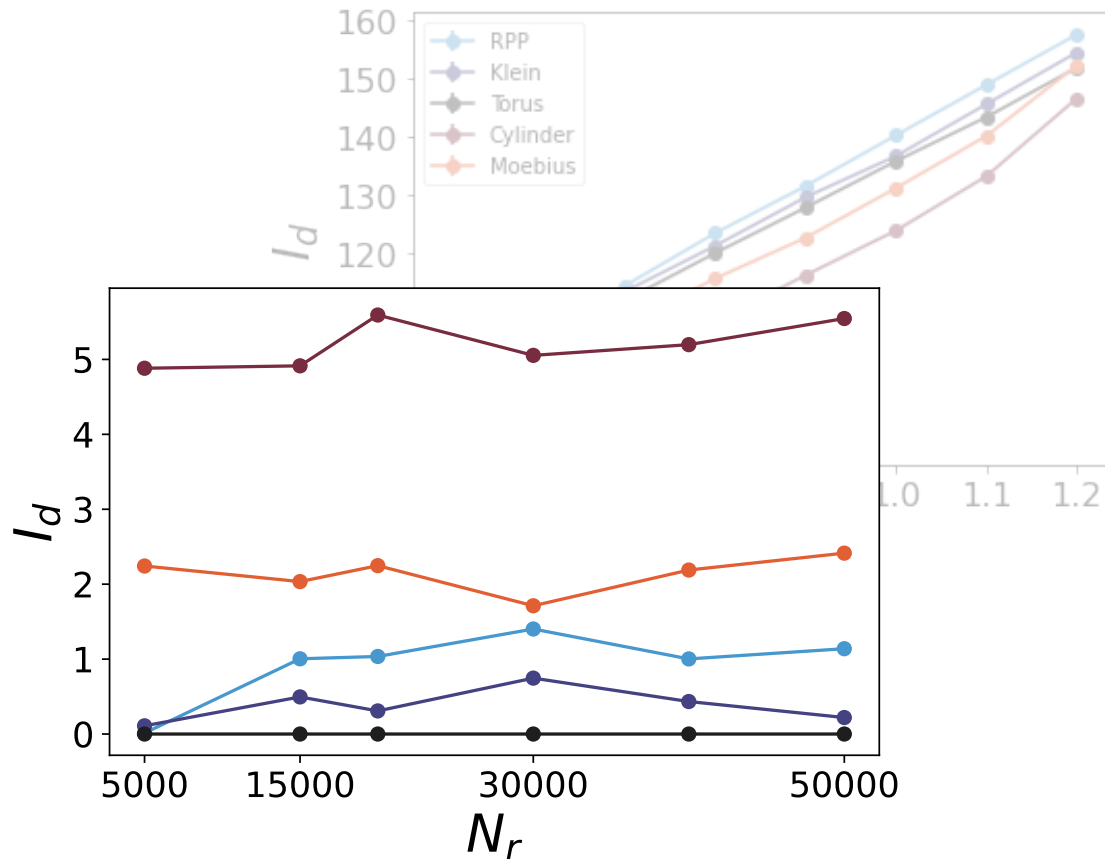


Can we determine whether the **complexity of physical phenomena** is dictated by **topological properties**?

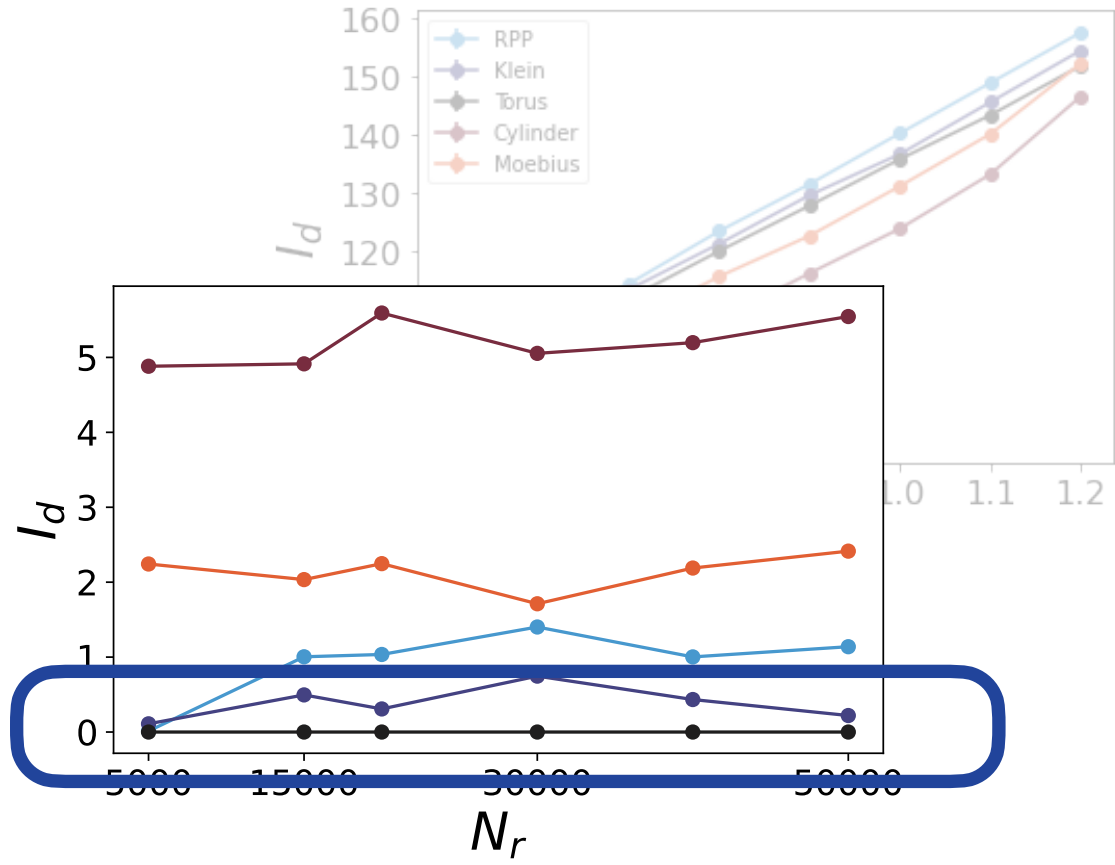
# Example: Berezinskii-Kosterlitz-Thouless mechanism in the 2D XY model



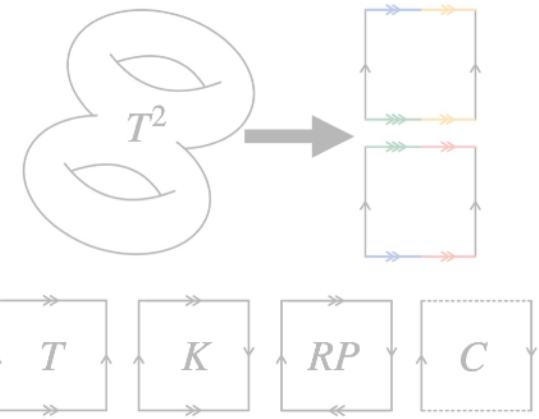
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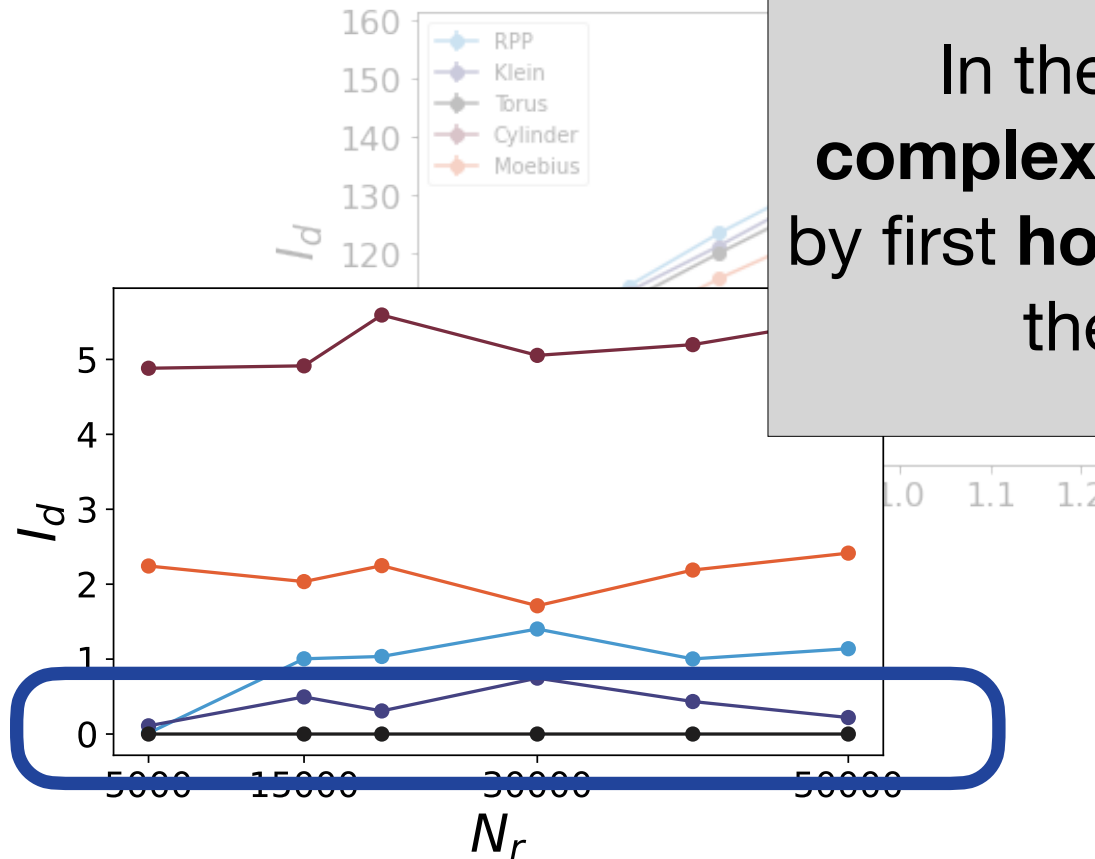
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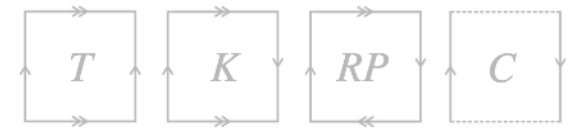
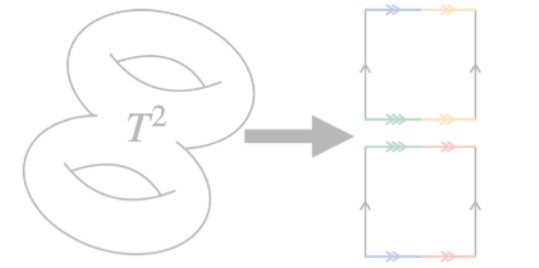
$$Id_T = Id_K \neq Id_{T^2}$$



# Example: Berezinskii-Kosterlitz-Thouless mechanism in the 2D XY model



In the BKT phase, **complexity** is determined by first **homotopy group** of the manifold



$$Id_T = Id_K \neq Id_{T^2}$$



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For classical stat mech sampling,

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$$I_d \simeq \frac{1}{\xi}$$

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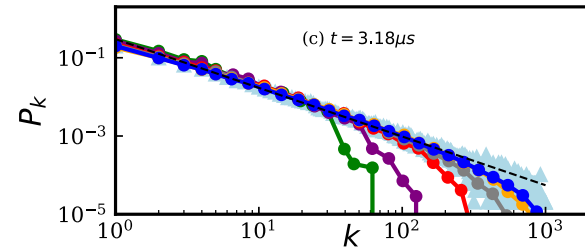
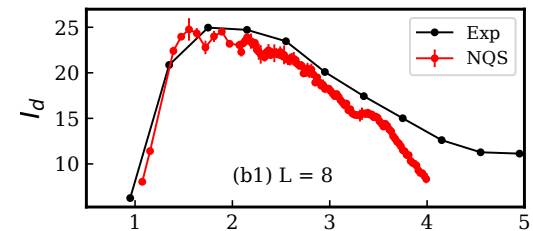
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Emergent simplicity for quantum stat mech (only numerics so far)

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*New math* to understand wave function stochastically: **wave function networks**

**KC and topology intertwined** (example: BKT)



# Outlook

- Are computational and Kolmogorov complexity connected?
- Are states of matter classified by their Kolmogorov complexity and/or network structure? Or are they not?
- Does complexity bound correlations (entanglement/discord/magic)?
- Is KC related to general / universal properties of a field theory (beyond CFTs)?

# ICTP and SISSA



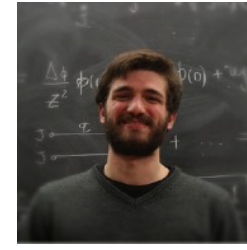
Adriano  
Angelone  
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Saro Fazio



Alex  
Rodriguez



Xhek Turkeshi  
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e)

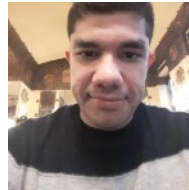


Markus  
Schmitt  
(Julich)

# Thank you!



Vittorio Vitale  
(-> Grenoble)



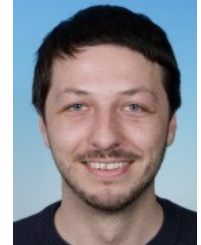
Tiago Mendes-  
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Markus  
Heyl  
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Key collaborations with  
Browayes's and  
Oberthaler's groups

Classical stat mech: Phys. Rev. X 11, 011040 (2021) and unpublished  
Quantum stat mech: Phys. Rev. X Quantum 2, 030332 (2021)  
Topology and data spaces: 2305.05396  
Rydberg experiments: 2301.13216 (Augsburg-Julich-Palaiseau-Trieste)  
Cold atom experiments - 2307.10040