

EXPLOITING THE PACKING-FIELD ROUTE TO CRAFT CUSTOM TIME CRYSTALS

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Departamento de Electromagnetismo y Física de la Materia
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Y COMPUTACIONAL



Condensed Matter and Material Physics (CMMP) Seminar
University College London, April 9 (2024)

CAN WE DO SOMETHING (USEFUL?) WITH A RARE FLUCTUATION?

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Sketch of the talk

- 1) A glimpse at time crystals
- 2) Dynamical phase transitions and time crystals
- 3) Time crystal phase in WASEP
- 4) Packing field mechanism
- 5) Exploiting the packing field route



SYMMETRY BREAKING AND TIME CRYSTALS

- Most **symmetries** in nature can be **spontaneously broken**
- **Example**: spatial-translation symmetry and crystals

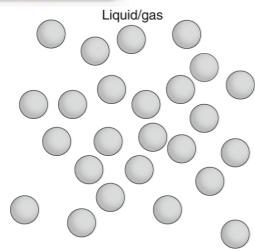


Lowering
→
temperature

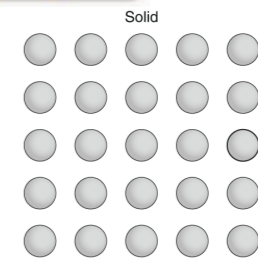


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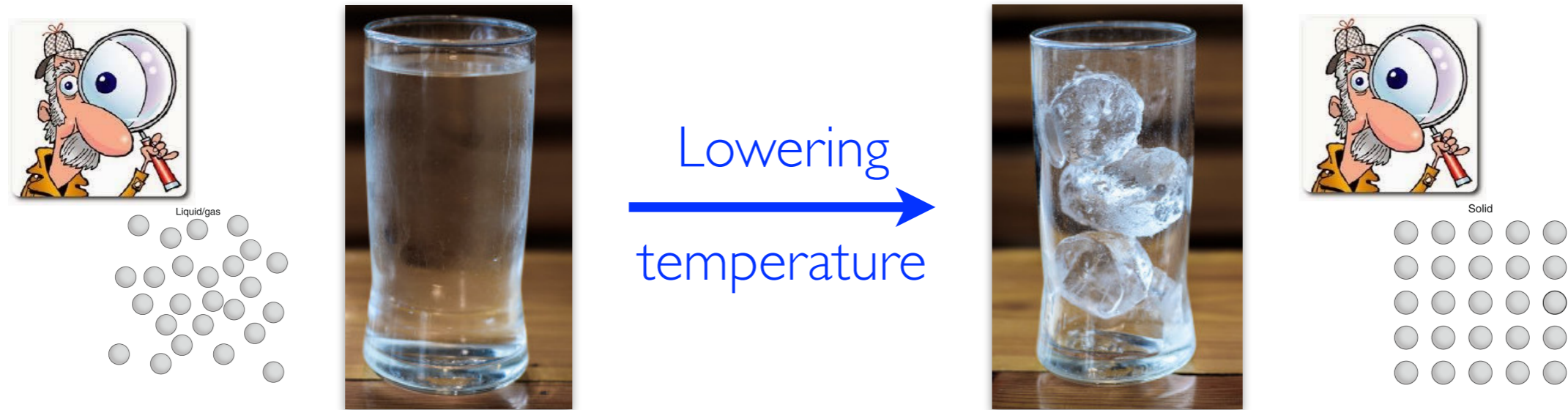


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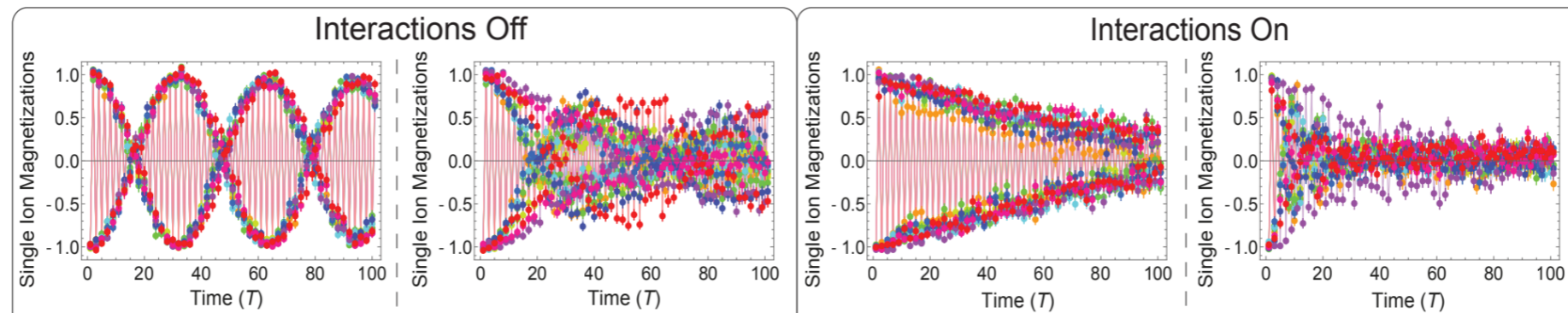
- But **time-translation symmetry** seems to be special and fundamentally unbreakable
- **Time crystal**: systems whose ground state spontaneously breaks time-translation symmetry and thus exhibits long-range temporal order & robust periodic motion
[Wilczek, Shapere PRL 2012]
- Caveats: no-go theorems in equilibrium, but **possible out of equilibrium**
[Bruno (2013), Watanabe et al (2015), Sacha et al (2018), Moessner et al (2017), Yao&Nayak (2018)]
- Periodically driven (Floquet) systems: discrete time-translation symmetry breaking via subharmonic entrainment → **discrete time crystals**

TIME CRYSTALS IN EXPERIMENTS

[Zhang et al, Nature **543**, 217 (2017)]

- First observation of **discrete time crystals** in a **interacting spin chain of trapped atomic ions**. Also observed in **disordered ensemble of spin impurities in diamond**

[Choi et al, Nature **543**, 221 (2017)]



- **Since then, multiple observations** of quantum discrete time crystals reported

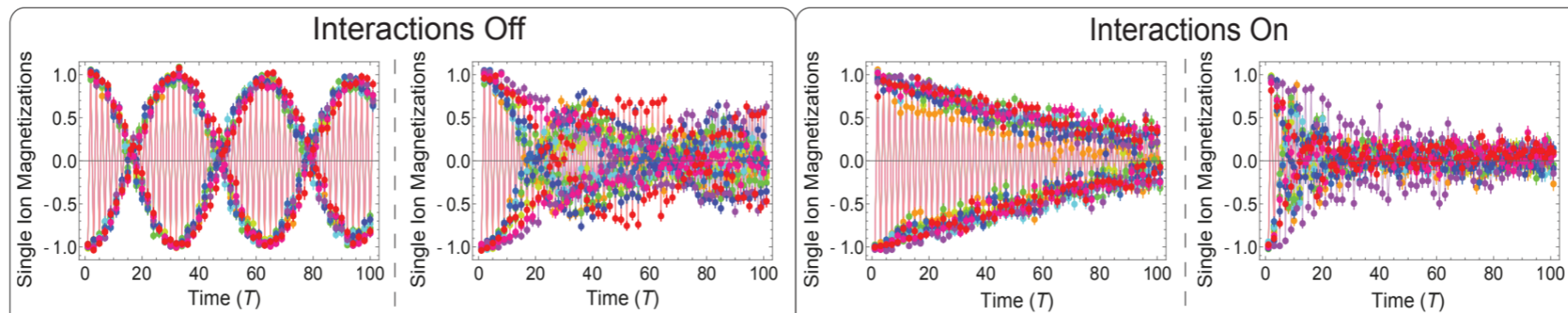
[Rovny et al, PRL (2018); Smits et al, PRL (2018); Autti et al, PRL (2018); O'Sullivan et al, NJP (2020); Kyprianidis et al, Science (2021); Randall et al, Science (2021), Keßler et al, PRL (2021); Kongkhambut et al. PRL (2021); Xiao et al, Nature (2022); etc.]

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- First measurement of the **interaction between two discrete time crystals**

[Autti et al, Nature Mat. **20**, 171 (2020)]

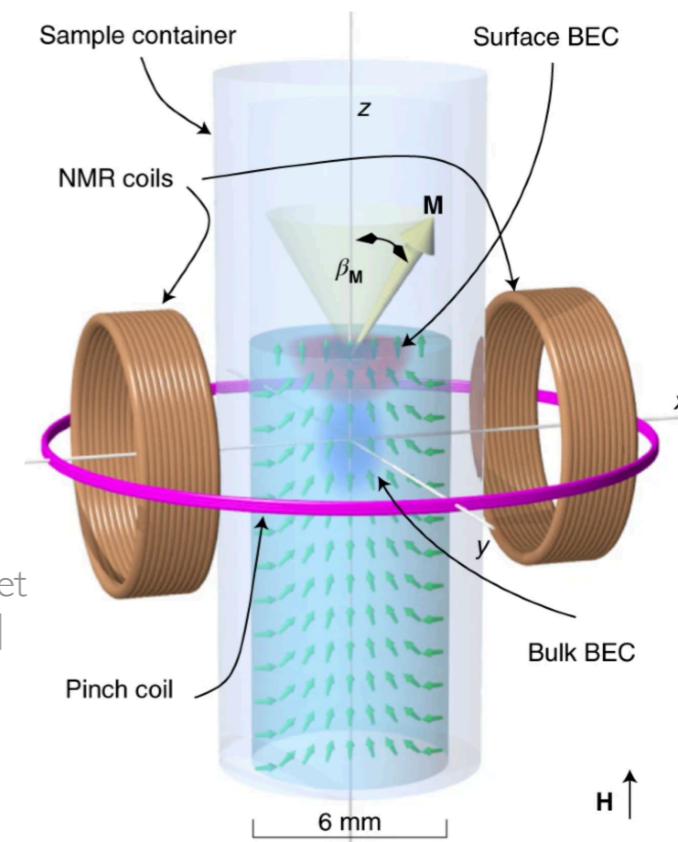
- **Dissipative continuous time crystal** reported in **atom-cavity** experiment

[Kongkhambut et al, Science **377**, 670 (2023)]

- **Discrete and continuous time crystals** also proposed and observed in **classical systems**

[Gambetta et al, PRE (2019); Heugel et al, PRL (2019); Yao et al, Nature Physics (2020); Liu et al, Nature Physics (2023)]

- However, a **general approach to engineer custom continuous time-crystal phases** remains elusive so far



DYNAMICAL PHASE TRANSITIONS

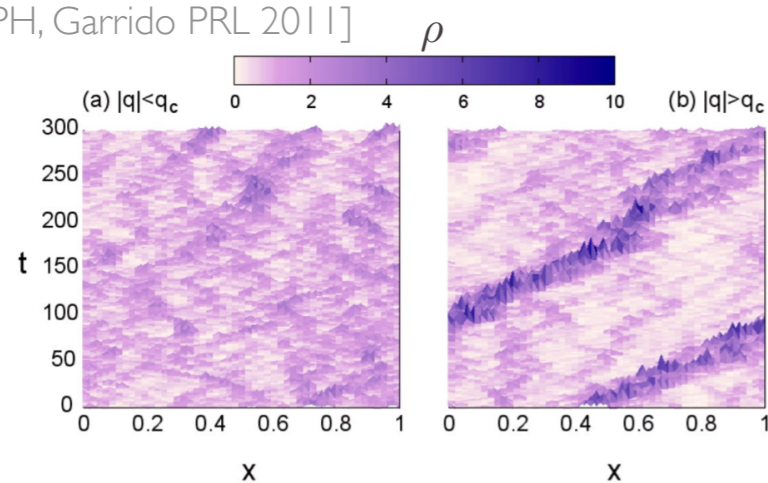
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Ideas extended to **fluctuations**, where **dynamical phase transitions (DPTs)** have been found in the **trajectory statistics** of **classical and quantum systems**
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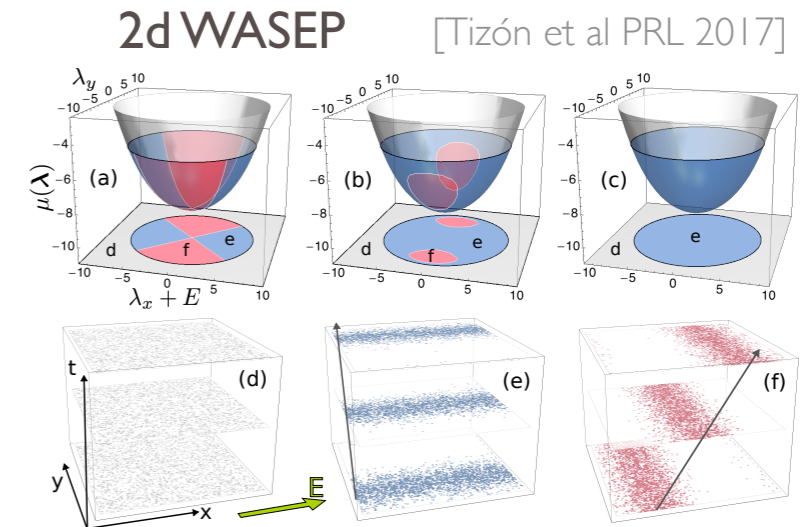
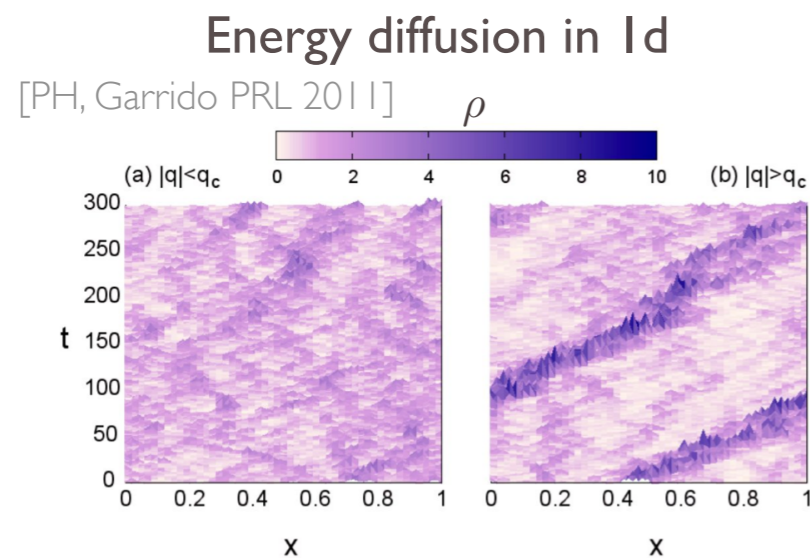
Energy diffusion in $1d$

[PH, Garrido PRL 2011]



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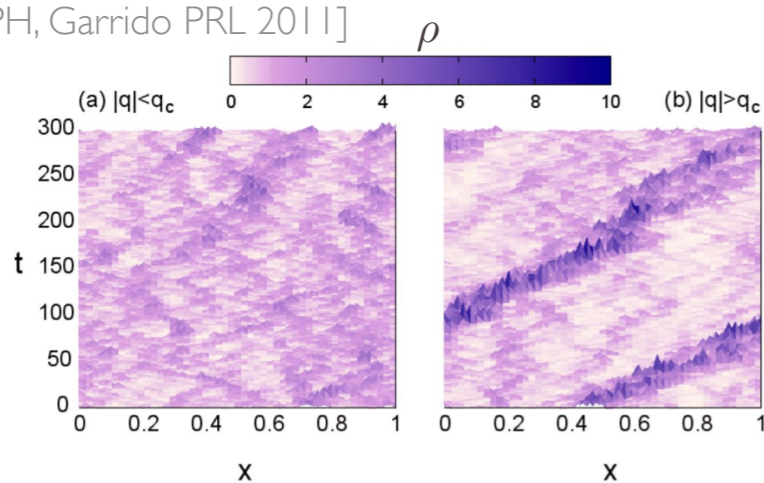


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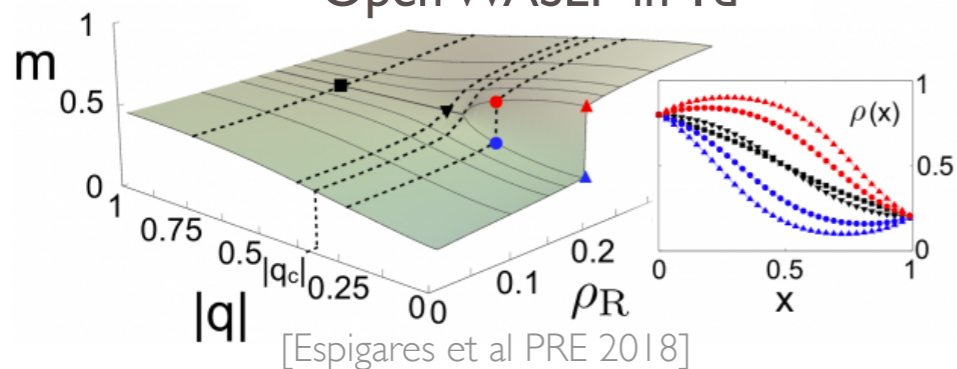
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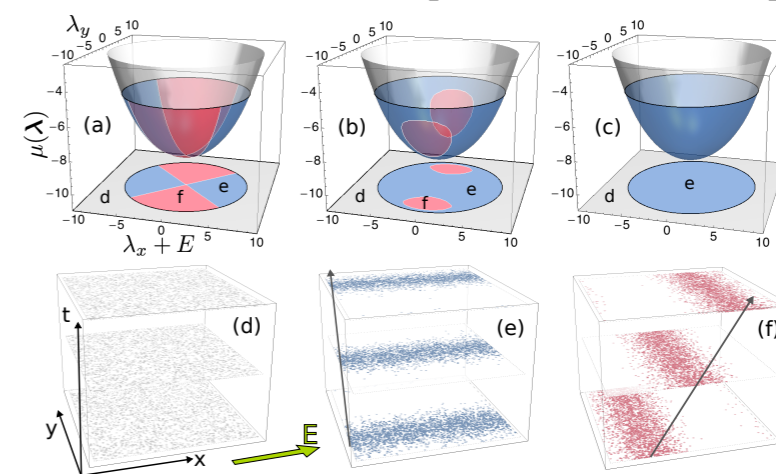
Open WASEP in 1d



[Espigares et al PRE 2018]

2d WASEP

[Tizón et al PRL 2017]

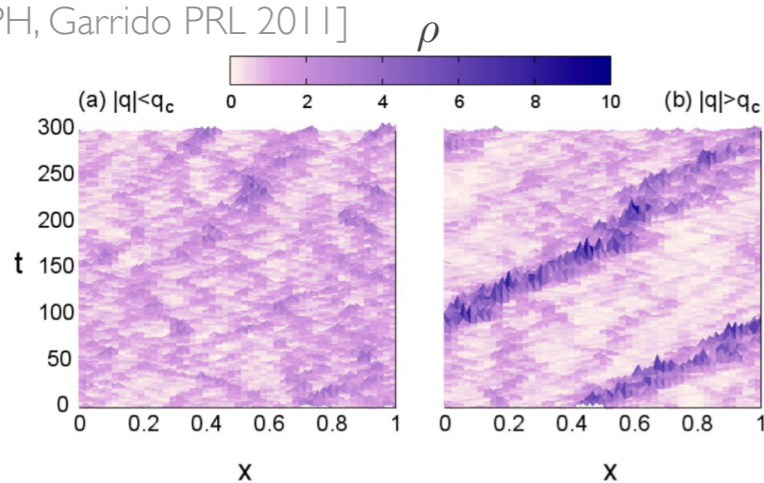


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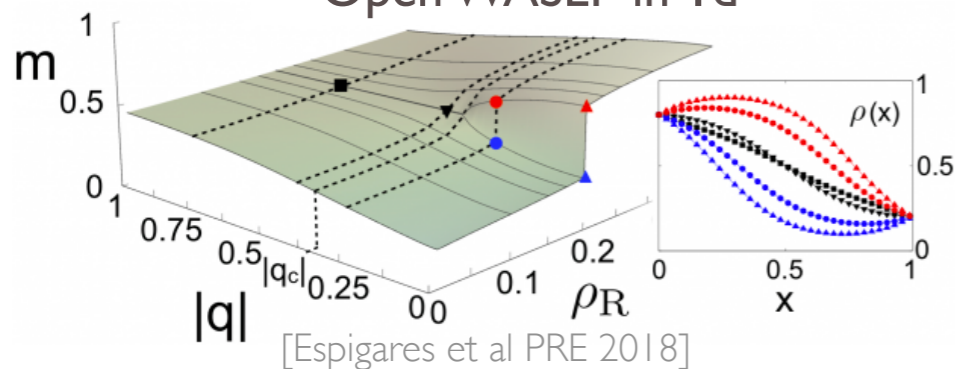
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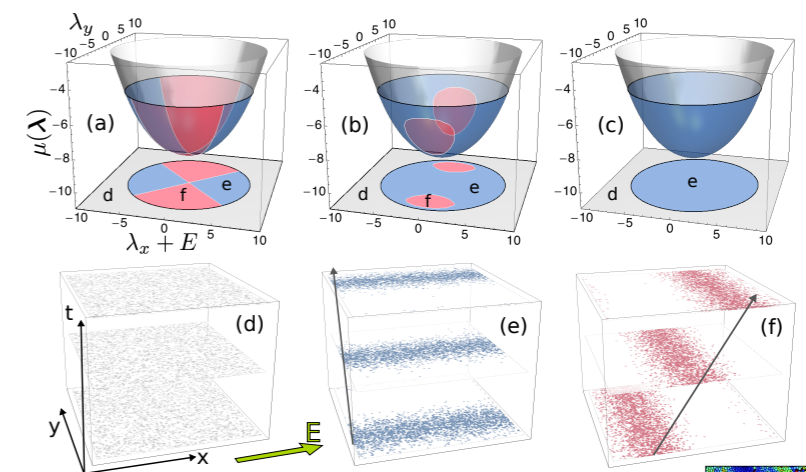
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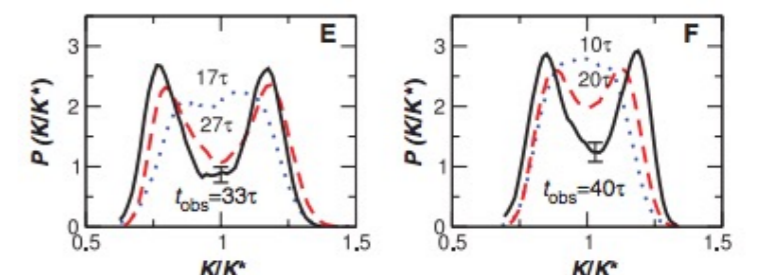
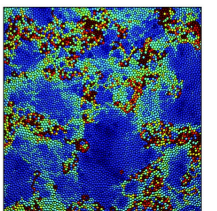
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Activity DPT in glasses

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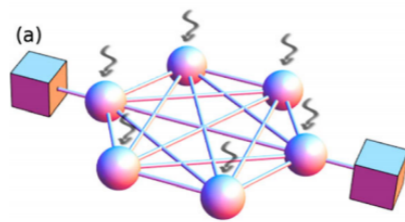
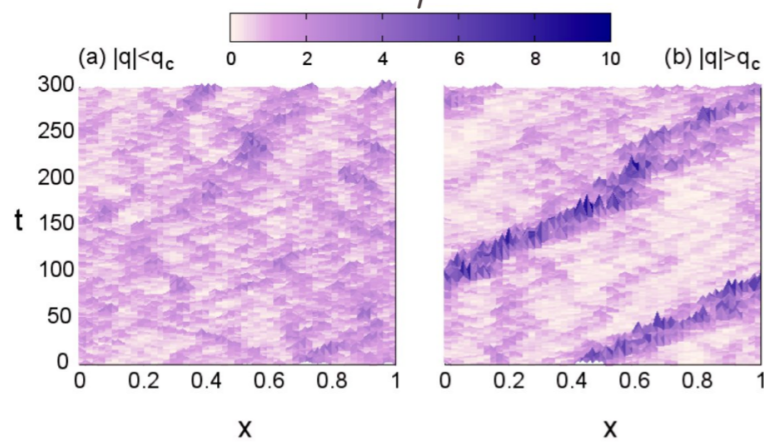


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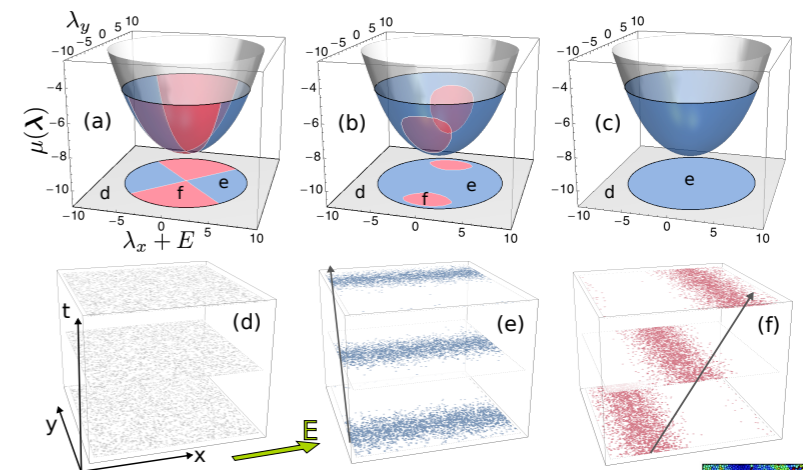
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Symmetry-induced DPTs in open quantum systems

2d WASEP [Tizón et al PRL 2017]

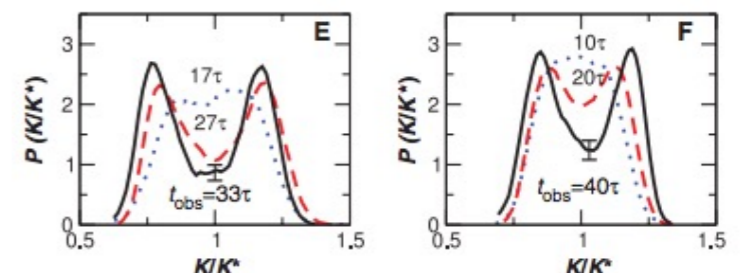
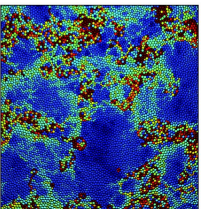
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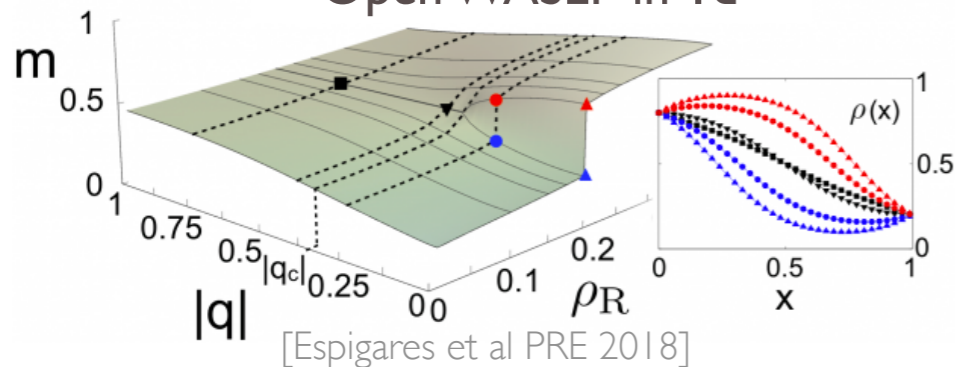
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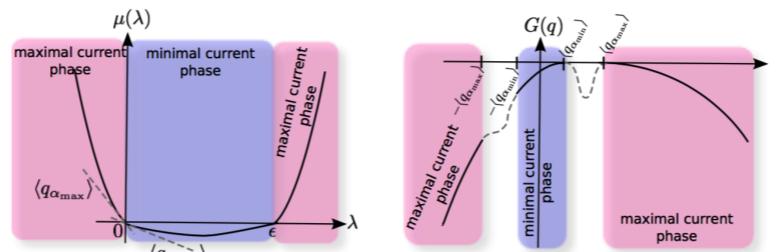
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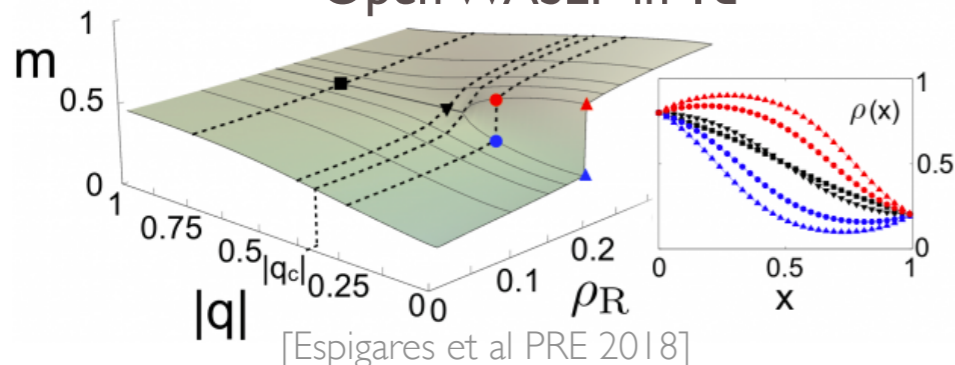
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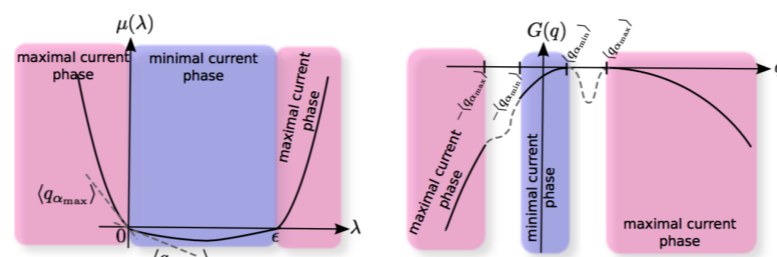
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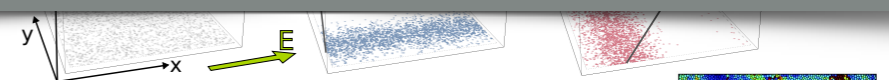
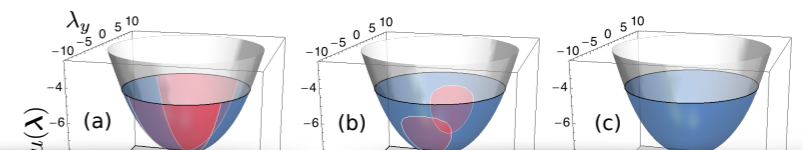
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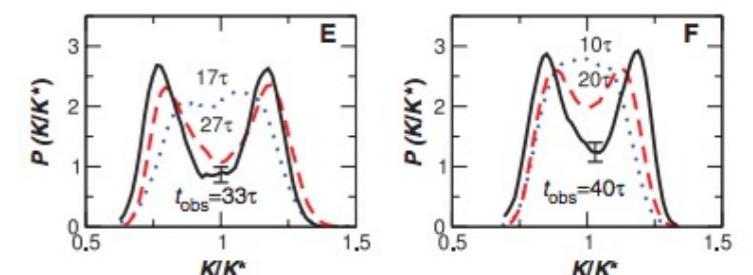
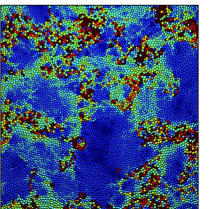
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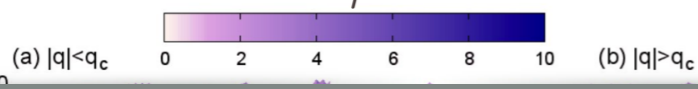


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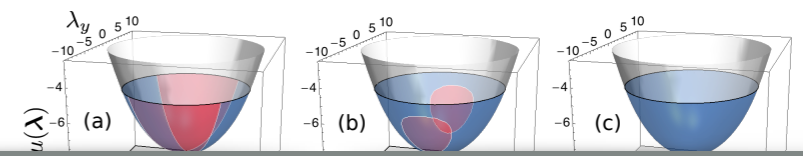
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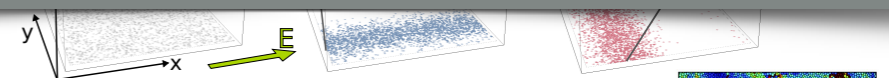
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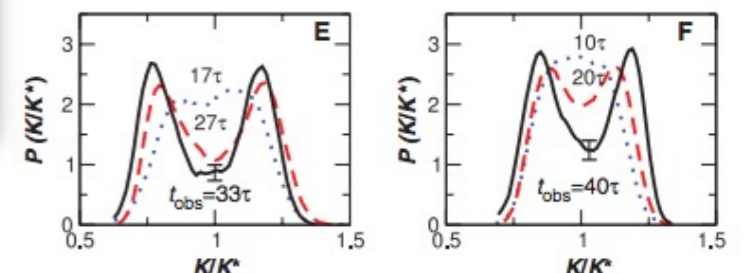
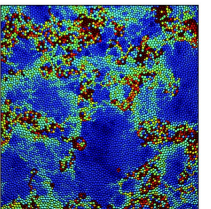


open quantum systems

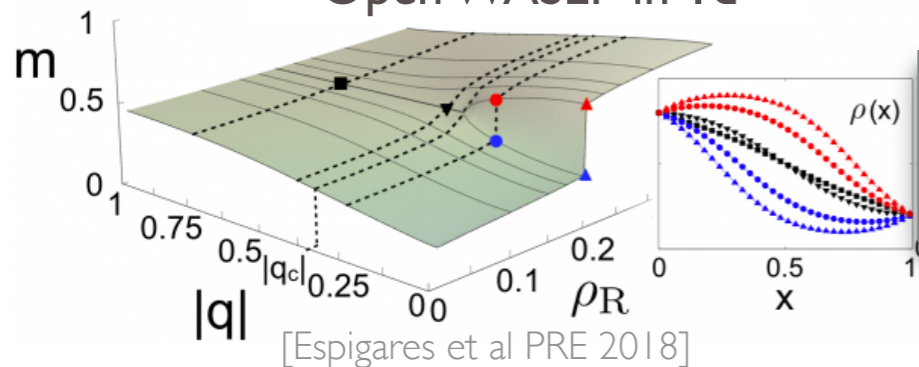


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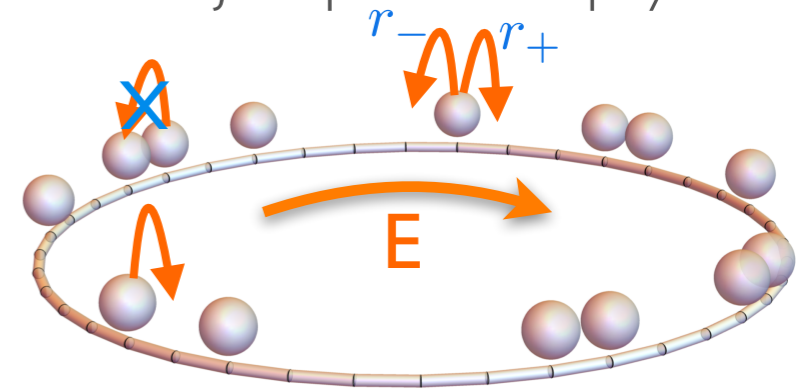
Time crystals in the fluctuations of driven systems?

[Manzano, PH PRB 2014]

WEAKLY ASYMMETRIC SIMPLE EXCLUSION PROCESS

- **WASEP:** 1d lattice with occupation numbers $n_i=0,1$ & particle jumps to empty neighbors with rates

$$r_{\pm} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \exp(\pm E/L)$$



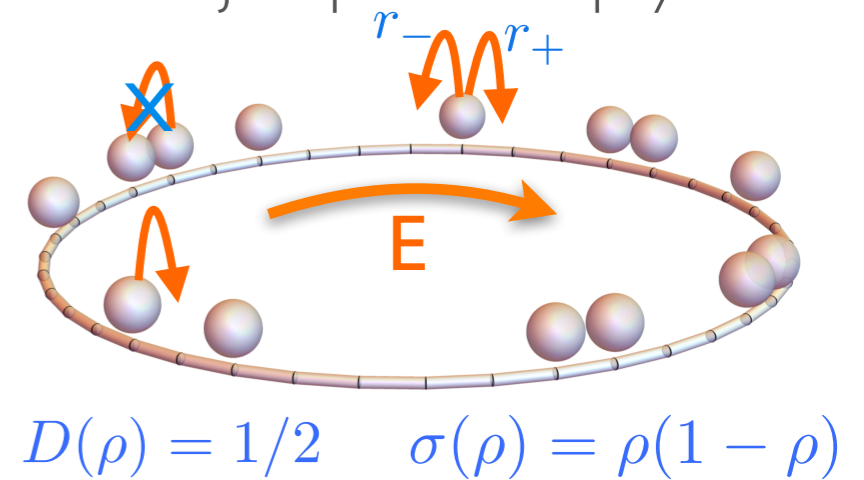
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$$\partial_t \rho = -\partial_x \left(-D(\rho) \partial_x \rho + \sigma(\rho) E + \sqrt{\sigma(\rho)} \xi(x, t) \right)$$



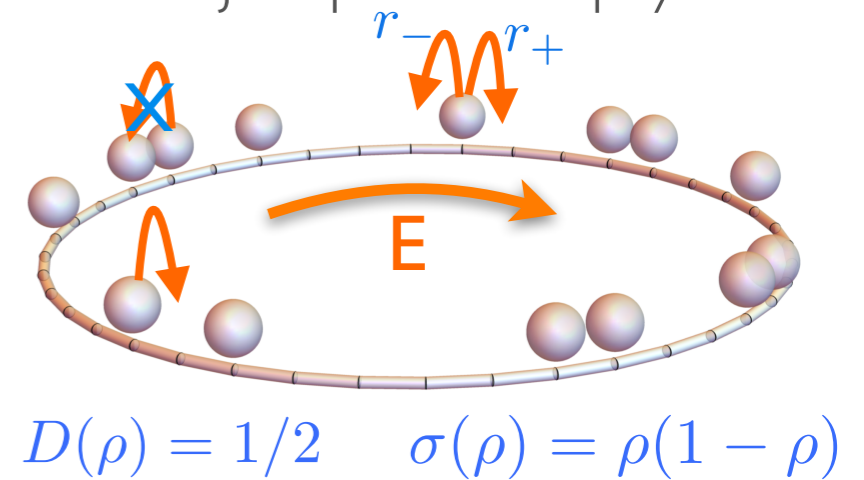
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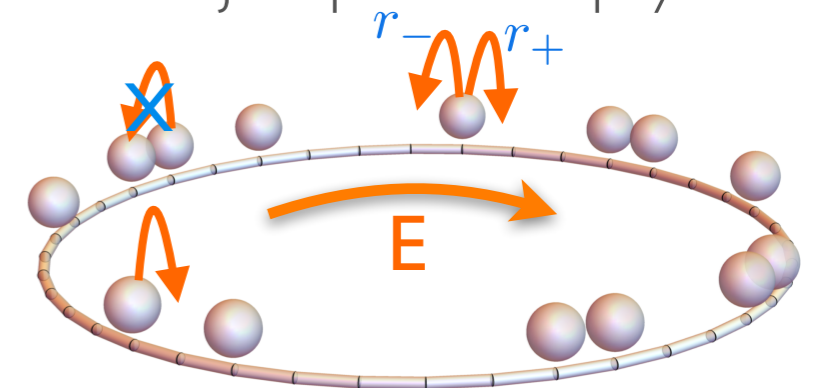
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$$D(\rho) = 1/2 \quad \sigma(\rho) = \rho(1 - \rho)$$

- Question: probability of a current fluctuation $q = \tau^{-1} \int_0^\tau dt \int_0^1 dx j(x, t)$?

$$P(q) \sim e^{-\tau L G(q)}$$

$$G(q) = \lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \tau^{-1} \min_{\{\rho, j\}_0^\tau} \mathcal{I}_\tau[\rho, j] \quad [\text{MFT, Bertini et al Rev. Mod. Phys. 2015}]$$

$$\mathcal{I}_\tau[\rho, j] = \int_0^\tau dt \int_0^1 dx \frac{(j + D(\rho) \partial_x \rho - \sigma(\rho) E)^2}{2\sigma(\rho)}$$

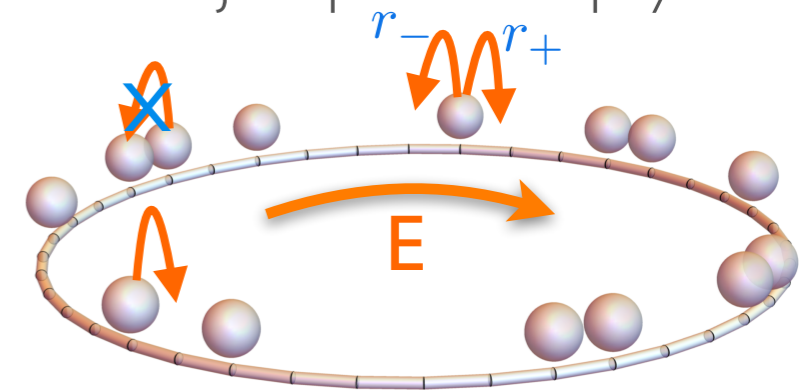
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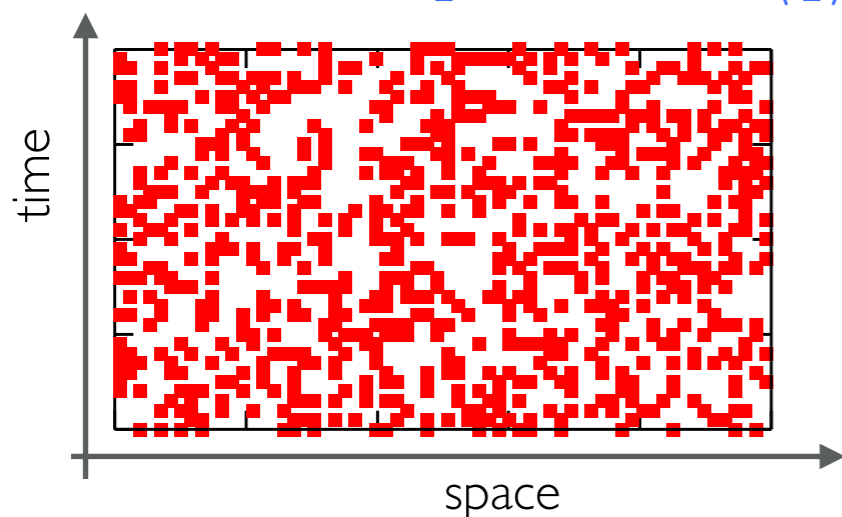
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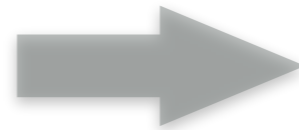
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- **Dynamical phase transition** for $|q| < q_c$

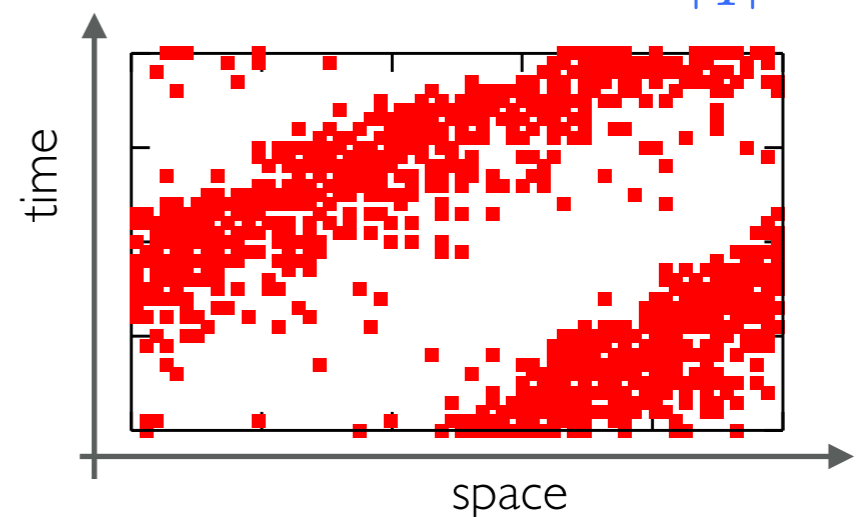
Typical trajectory: $q = \sigma E = \langle q \rangle$



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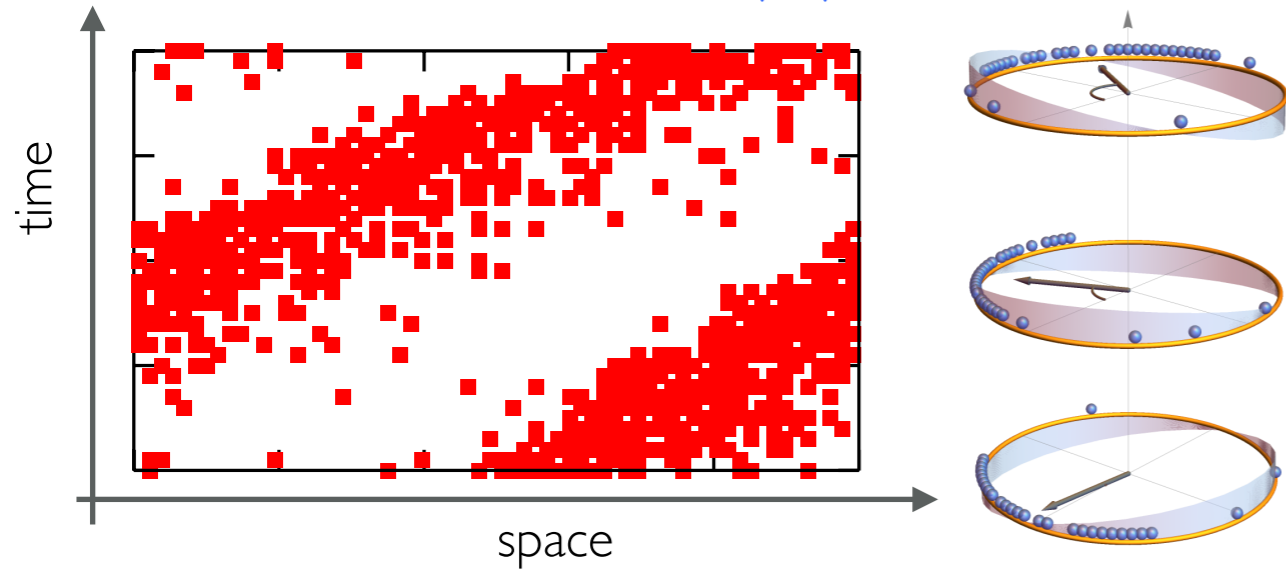


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IS THIS A TIME CRYSTAL? [Wilczek, Shapere PRL 2012]

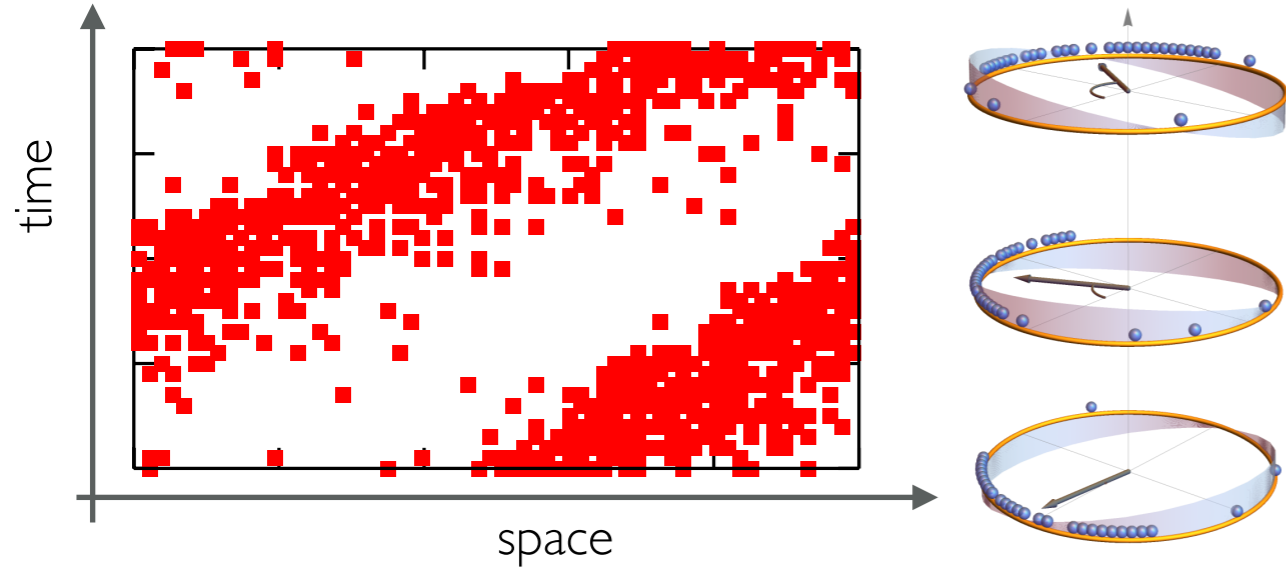
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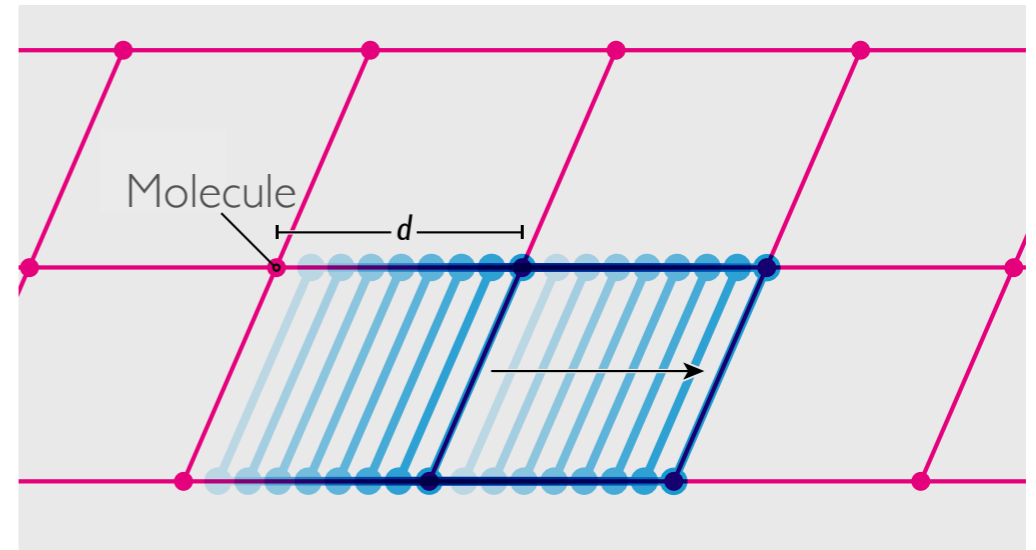
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SPACE CRYSTAL

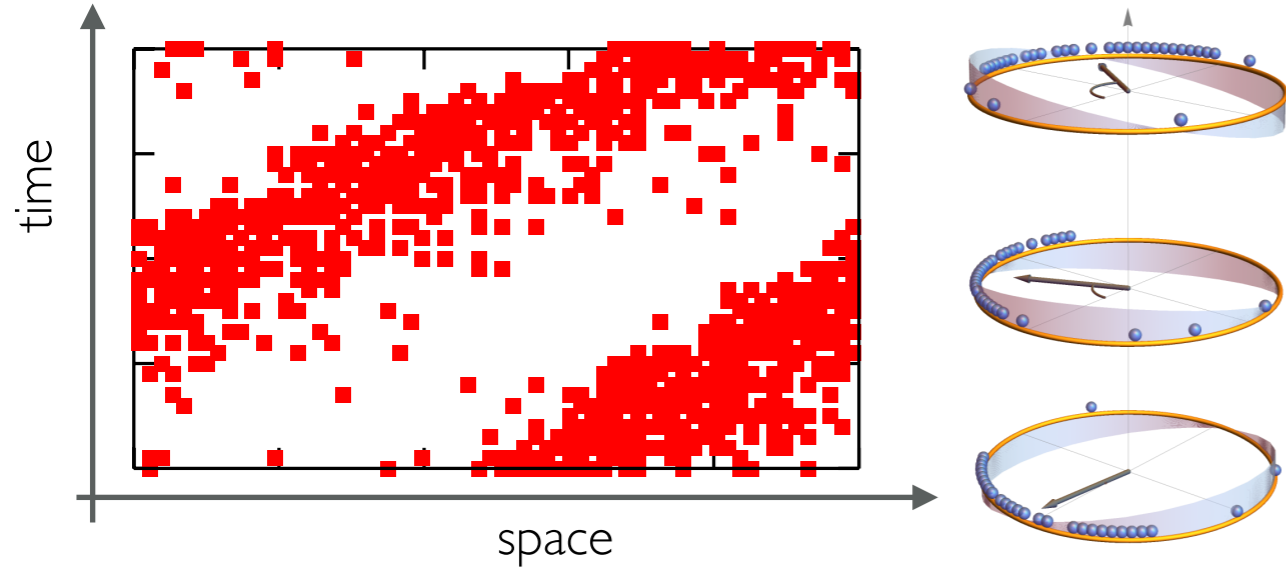
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[Wilczek Sci. Am. 2019]



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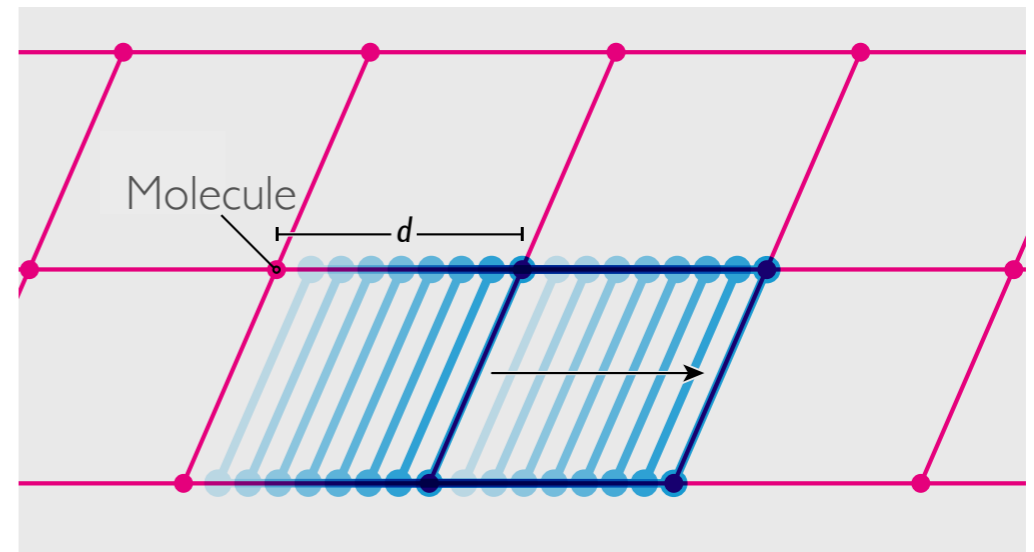
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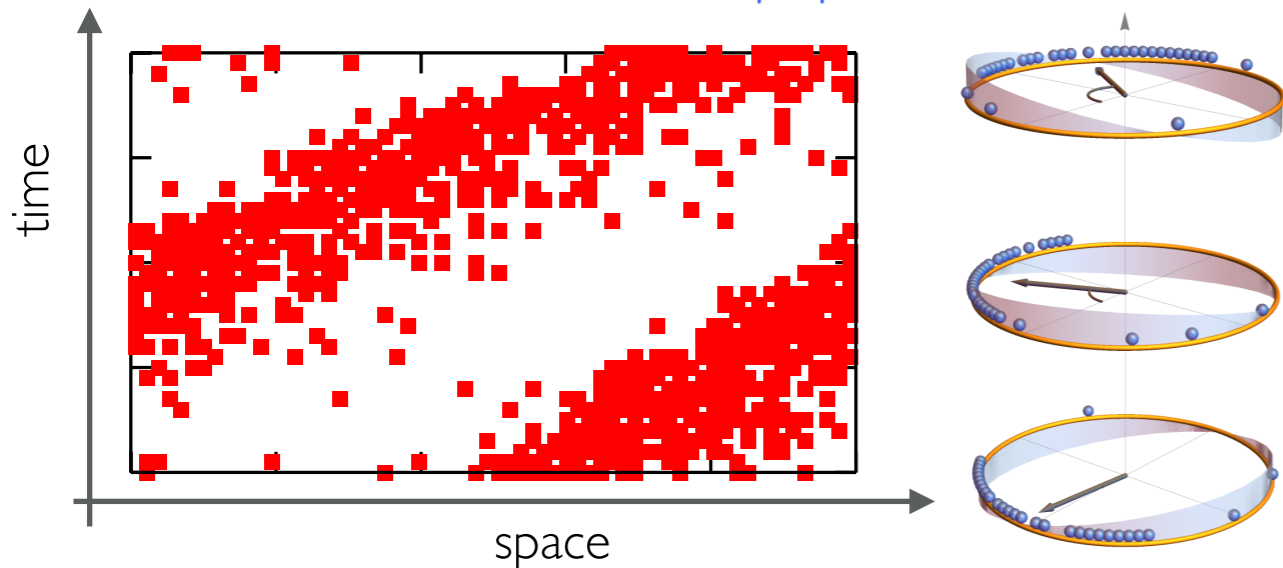


- Space-periodic structure
- Symmetric for **discrete space translations** d (or nd)
- Breaks spontaneously **continuous space-translation symmetry**

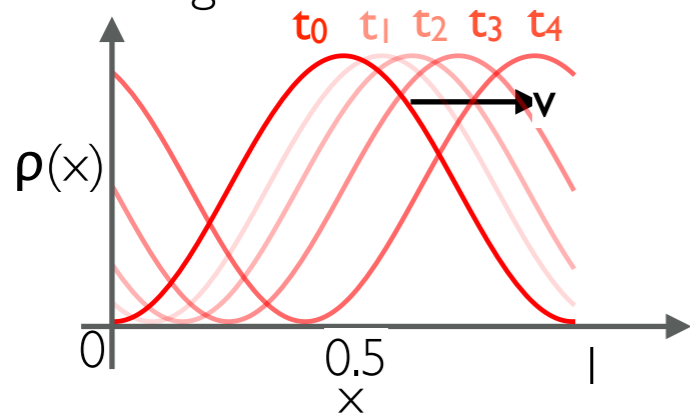
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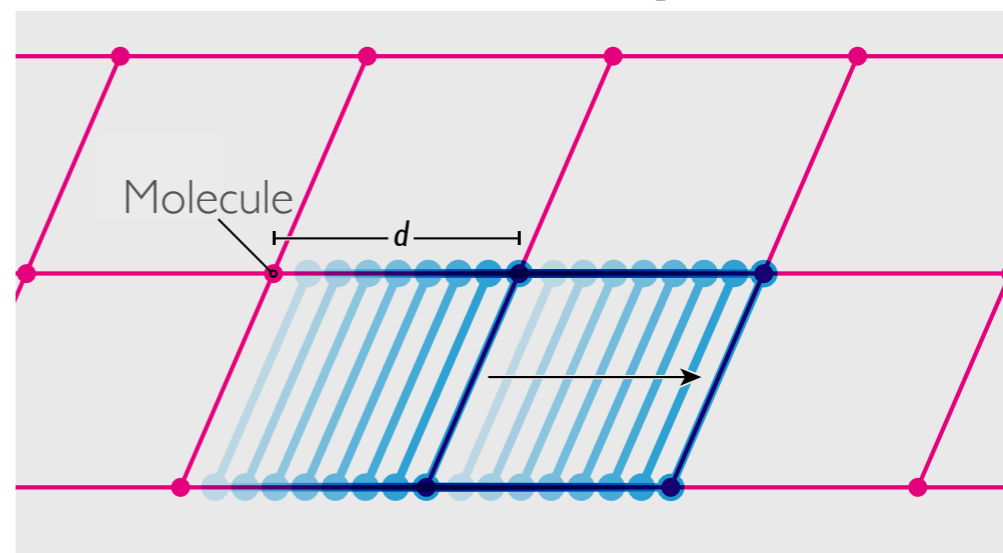
rotating condensate or density wave



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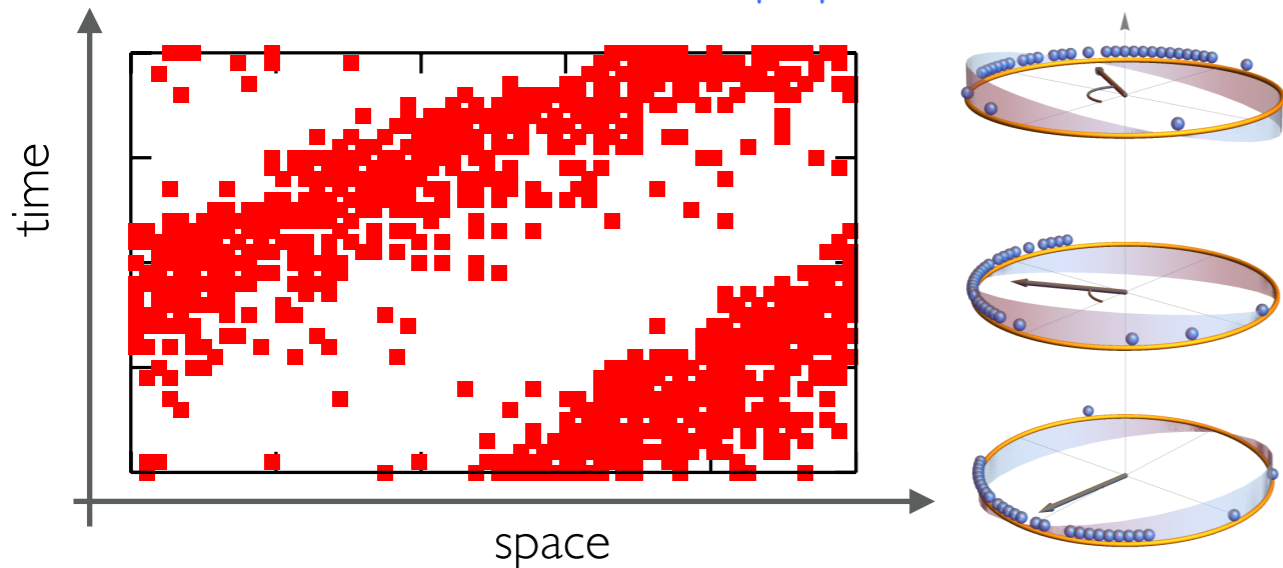
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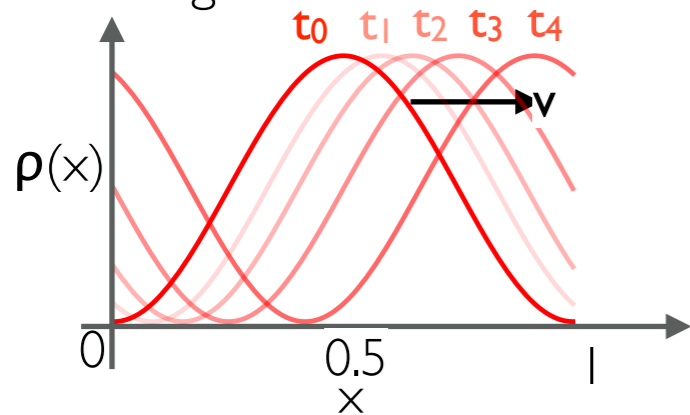
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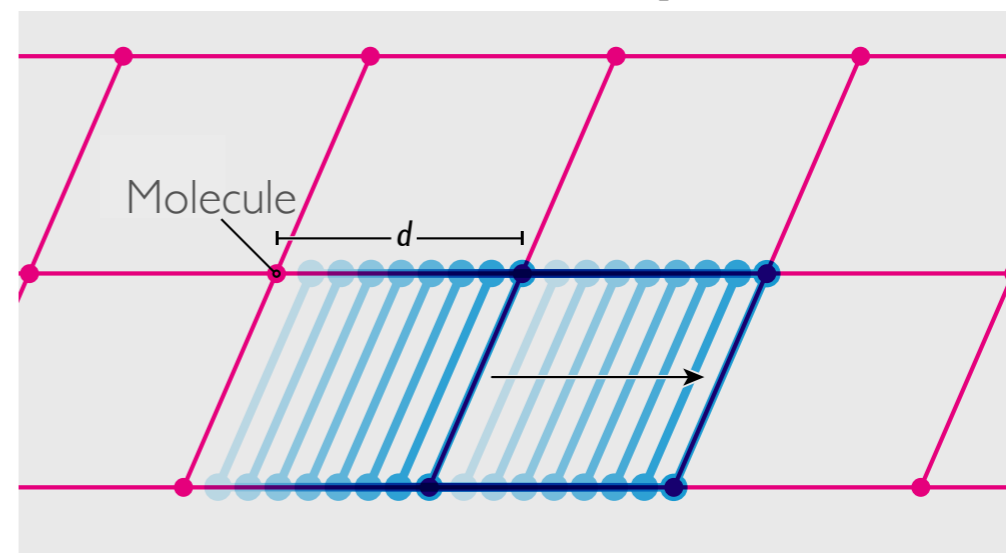


- Time-periodic density wave
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SPACE CRYSTAL

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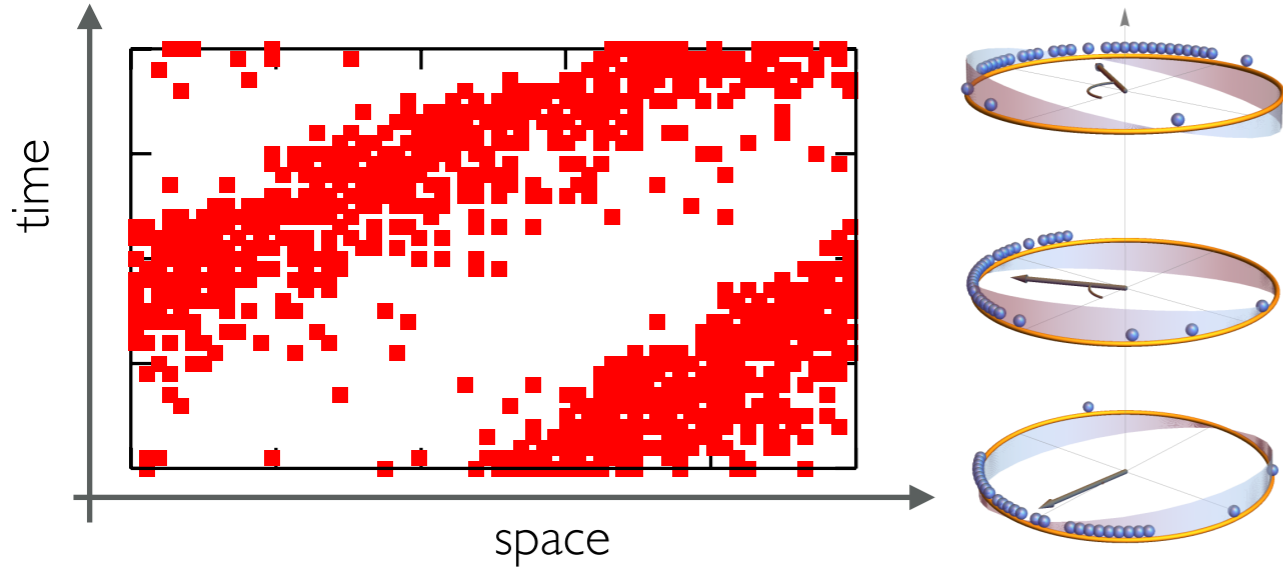


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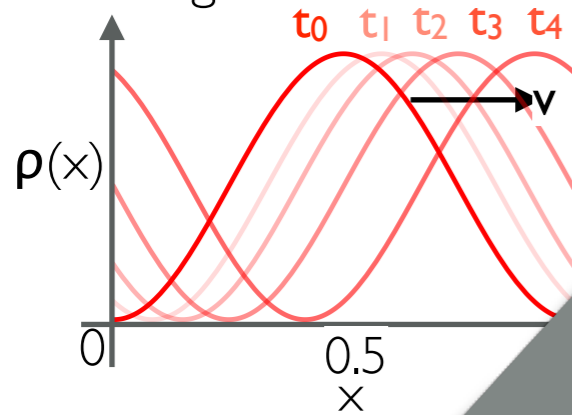
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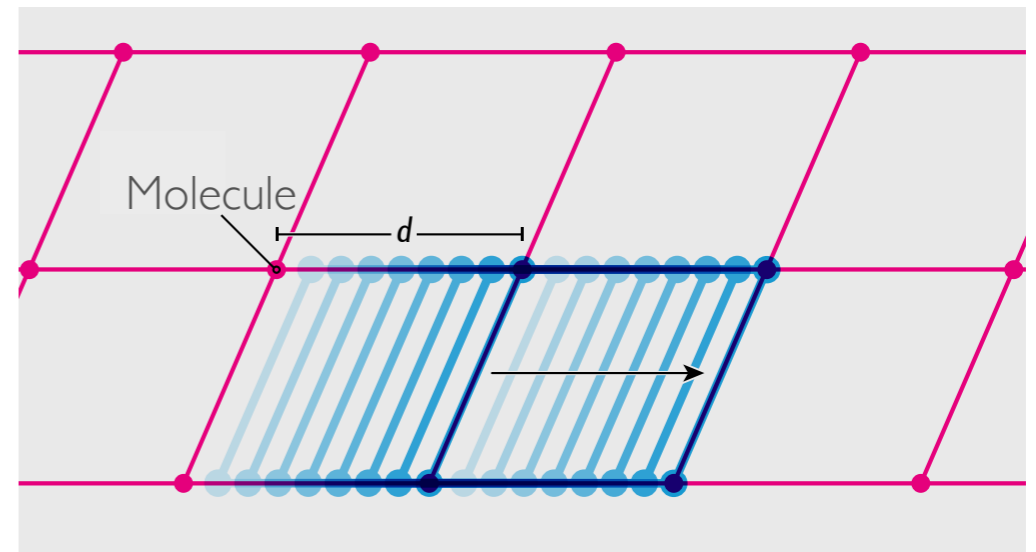
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But it's a rare fluctuation!

SPACE CRYSTAL

For low temperatures

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CURRENT FLUCTUATIONS FROM MICROSCOPICS

- **Quantum hamiltonian formalism** for the master equation $|P(t)\rangle = \sum_C P(C, t) |C\rangle$

$$\partial_t |P(t)\rangle = \mathbb{W} |P(t)\rangle$$
- **Markov generator** $\mathbb{W} = \sum_{C, C' \neq C} W_{C \rightarrow C'} |C'\rangle \langle C| - \sum_C R(C) |C\rangle \langle C|$

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 Exit rate

- **Ensemble of trajectories** conditioned on the **current** $Q = \sum_i q_{C_i C_{i-1}}$

$$P_t(Q) \sim e^{-tG(Q/t)}$$
 [Ruelle, Gartner&Ellis, Lebowitz&Spohn, Lecomte et al, and many others]

- **Dynamical partition function:**

$$Z_t(\lambda) = \sum_Q P_t(Q) e^{\lambda Q} \sim e^{t\theta(\lambda)}$$

- **Dynamical free energy** $\theta(\lambda) = -\min_q [G(q) - \lambda q]$ largest eigenvalue of biased generator

$$\mathbb{W}^\lambda = \sum_{C, C' \neq C} \boxed{e^{\lambda q_{C'C}} W_{C \rightarrow C'} |C'\rangle \langle C|} - \boxed{\sum_C R_C |C\rangle \langle C|}$$

Biased jumps

No conservation of probability

- **Spectrum of \mathbb{W}^λ :**

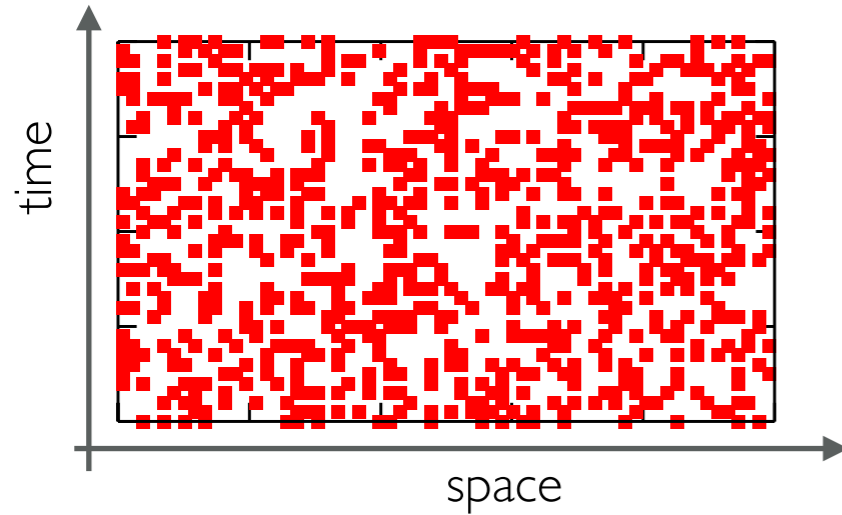
$$\mathbb{W}^\lambda |R_i^\lambda\rangle = \theta_i(\lambda) |R_i^\lambda\rangle \quad \langle L_i^\lambda | \mathbb{W}^\lambda = \theta_i(\lambda) \langle L_i^\lambda | \quad \theta(\lambda) = \theta_0(\lambda)$$

SPECTRAL SIGNATURES OF THE DPT

[Hurtado-Gutierrez et al,
PRE **108**, 014107 (2023)]

$L=24, \rho_0=1/3, E=10$

Typical trajectory: $q = \sigma E = \langle q \rangle$



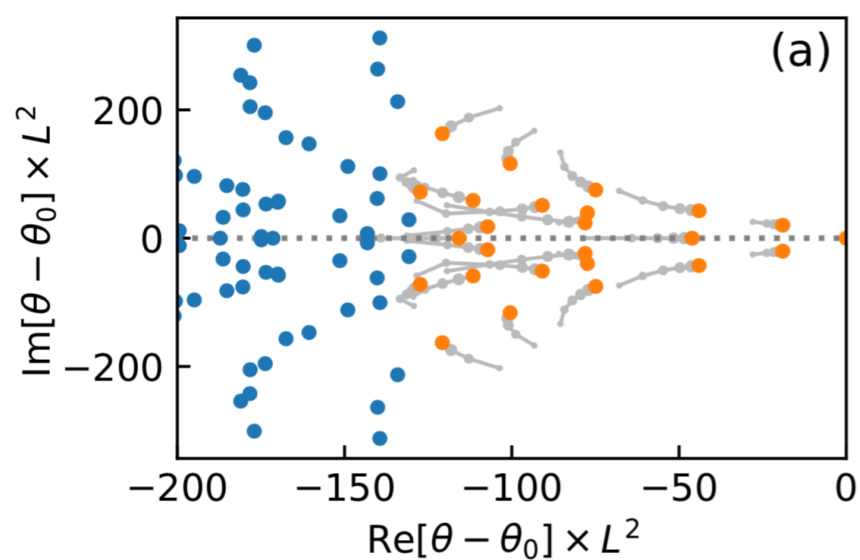
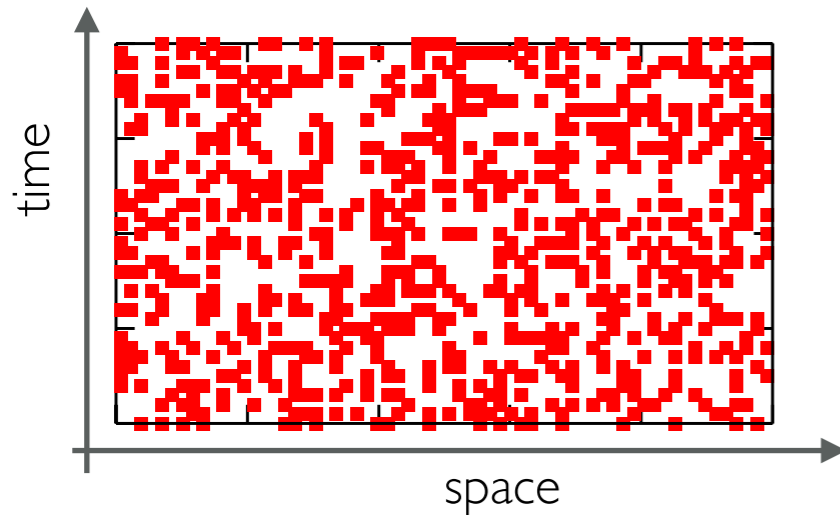
W^λ spectrum
changes radically
across the DPT

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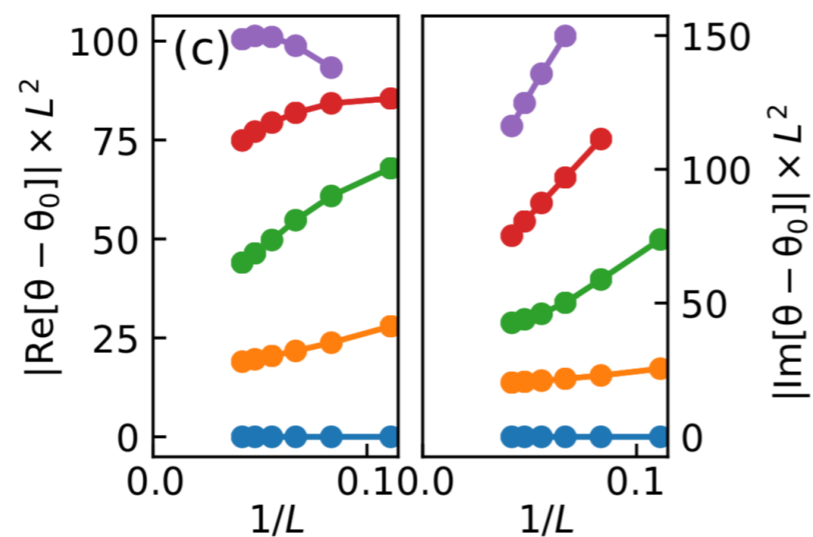
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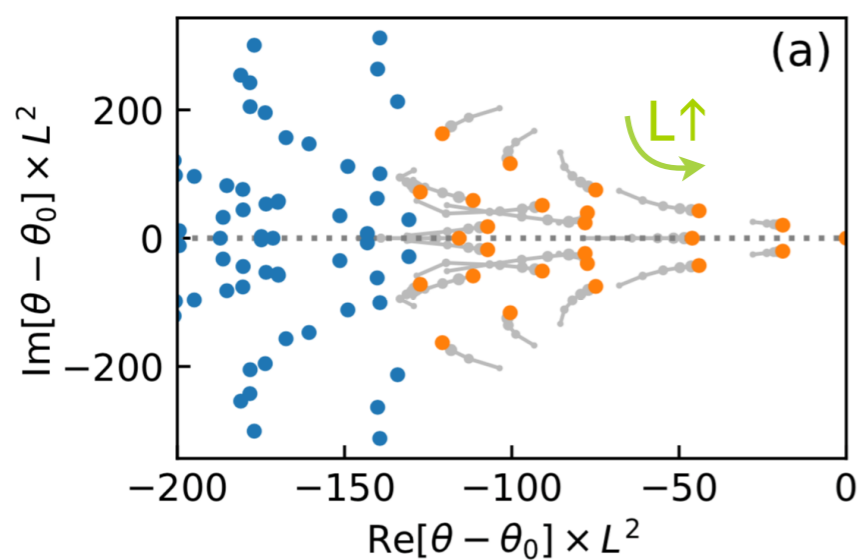
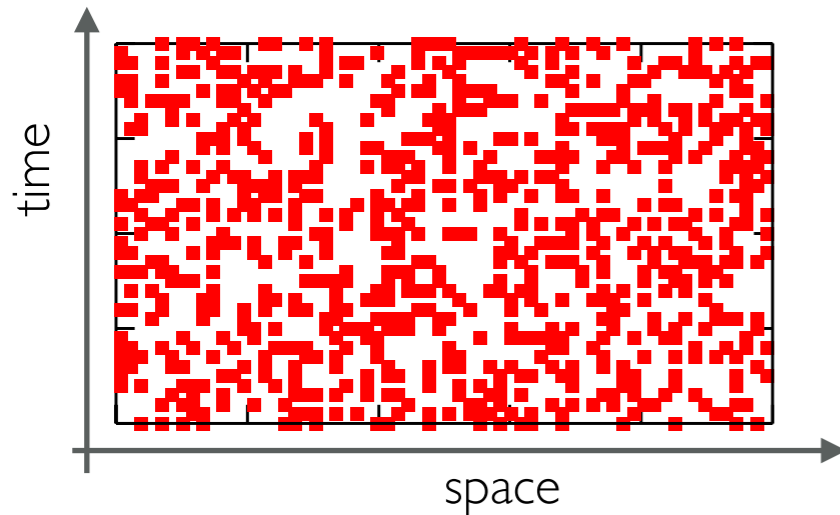


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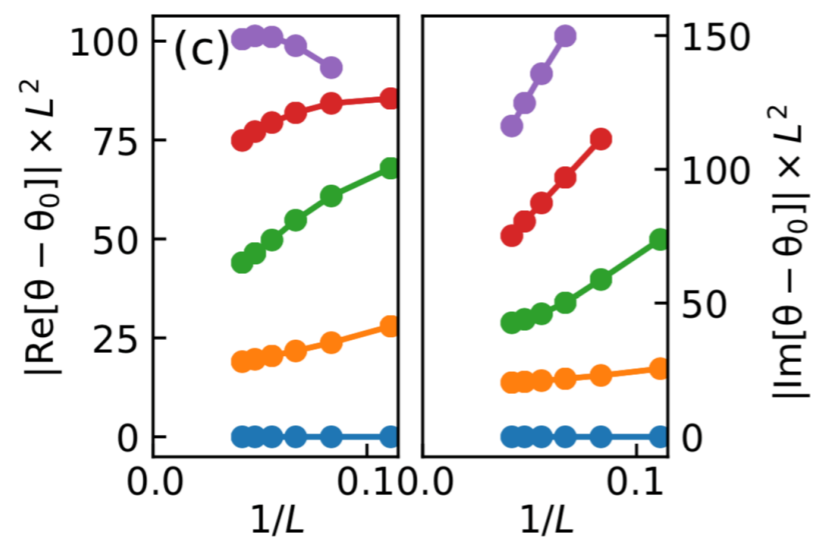
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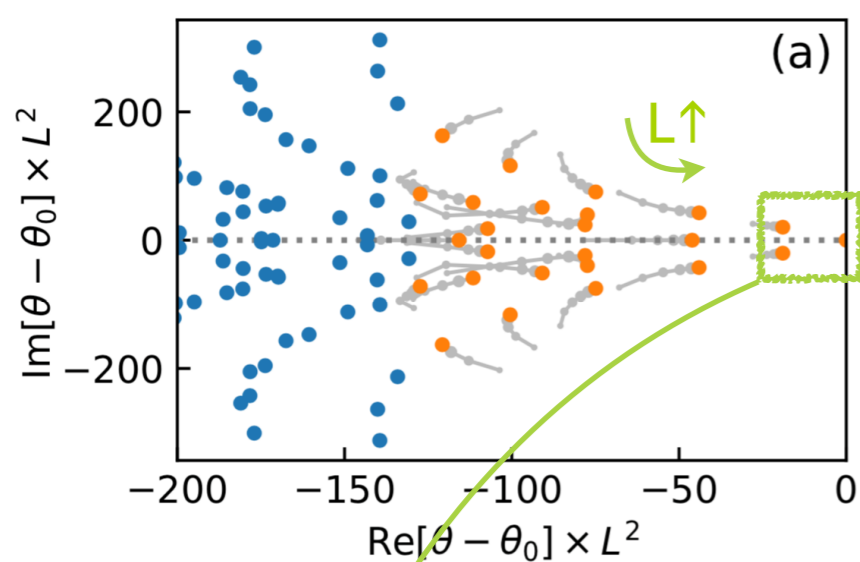
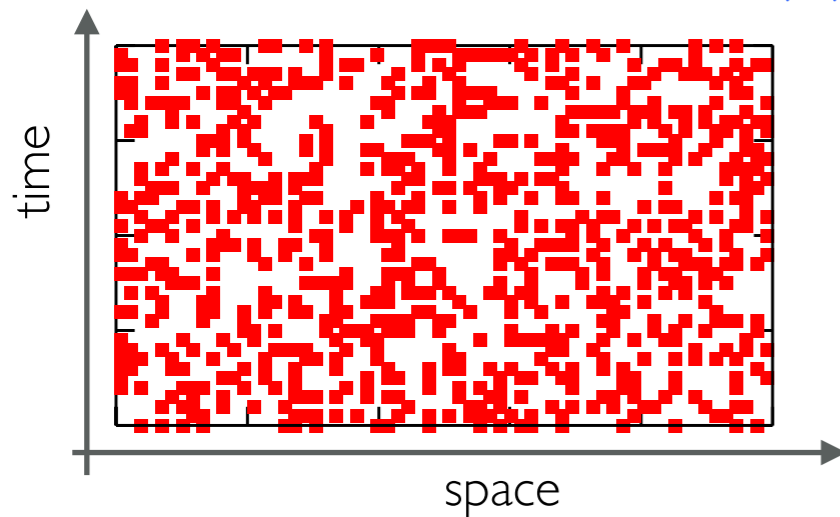


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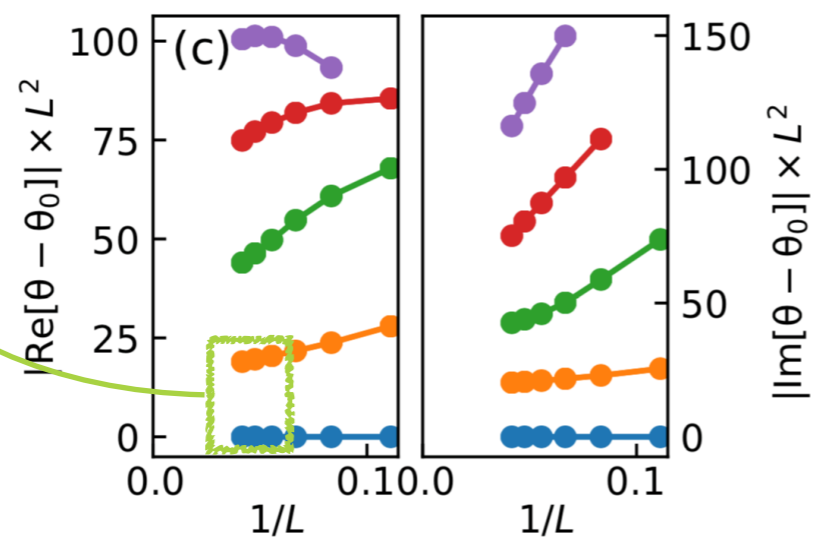
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\mathbb{W}^λ spectrum changes radically across the DPT

\mathbb{W}^λ is gapped
 \Downarrow
 unique steady state $|P_{st}\rangle$

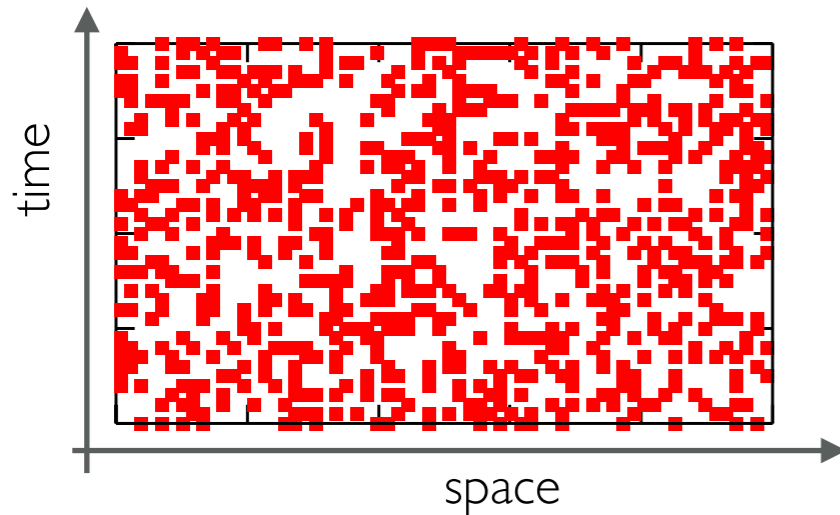


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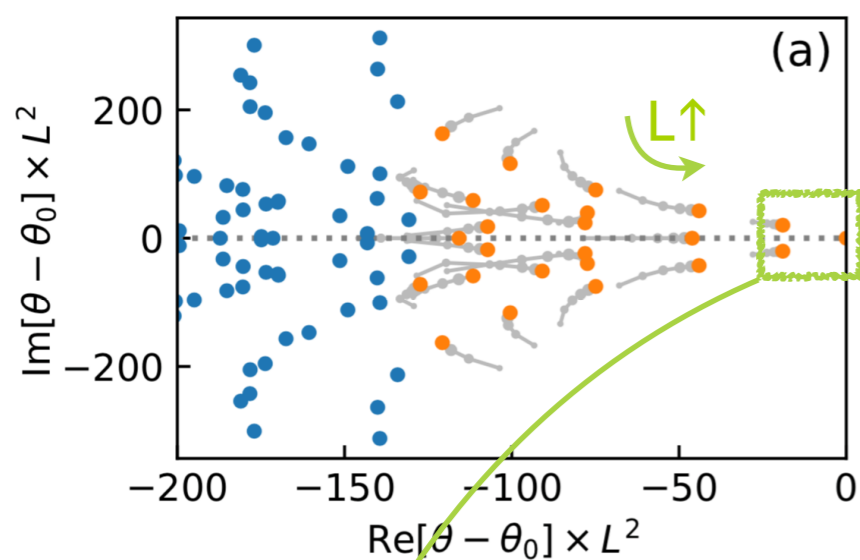
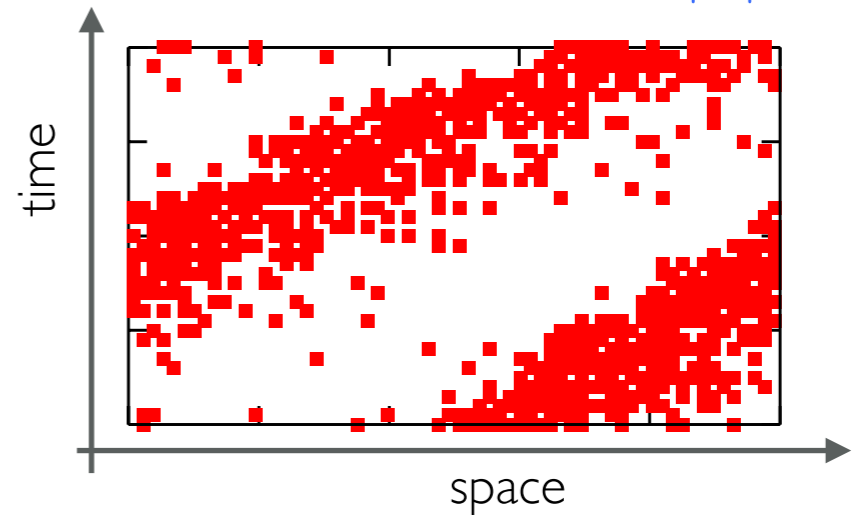
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Dynamical phase transition

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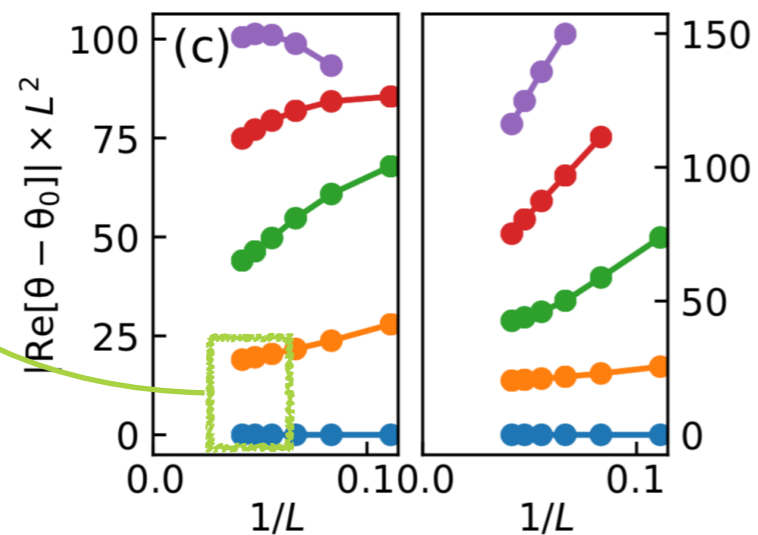
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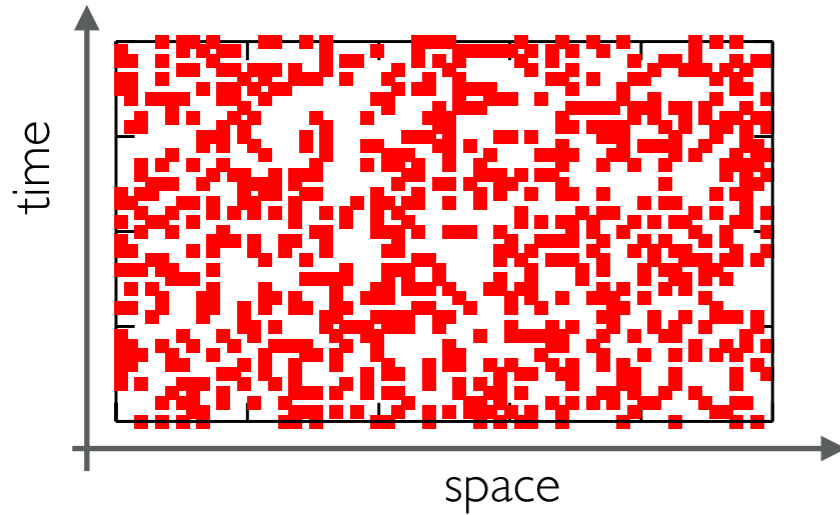


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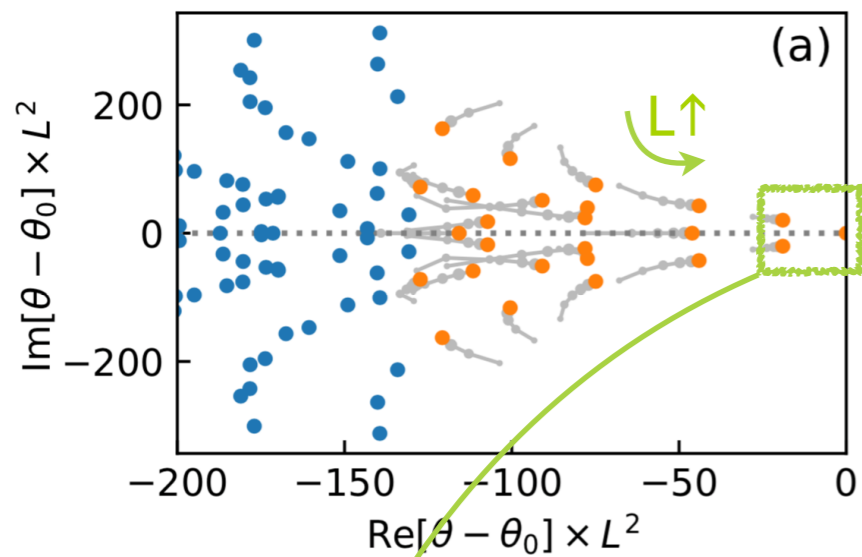
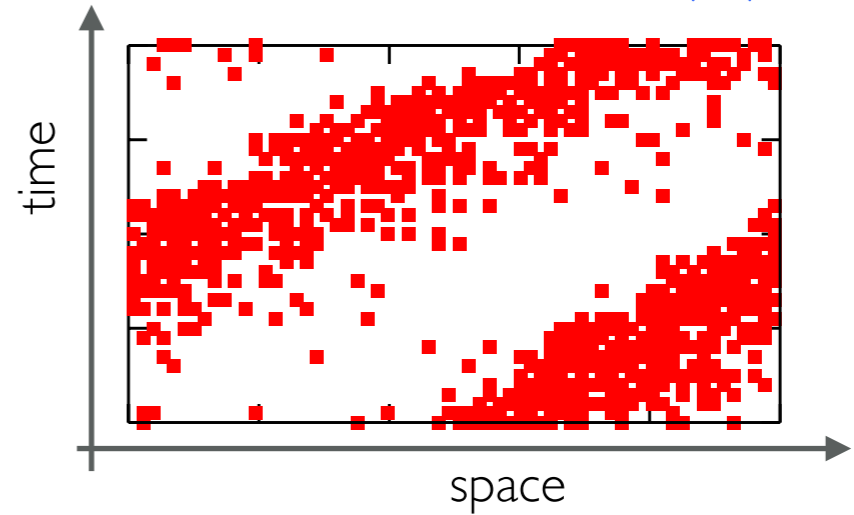
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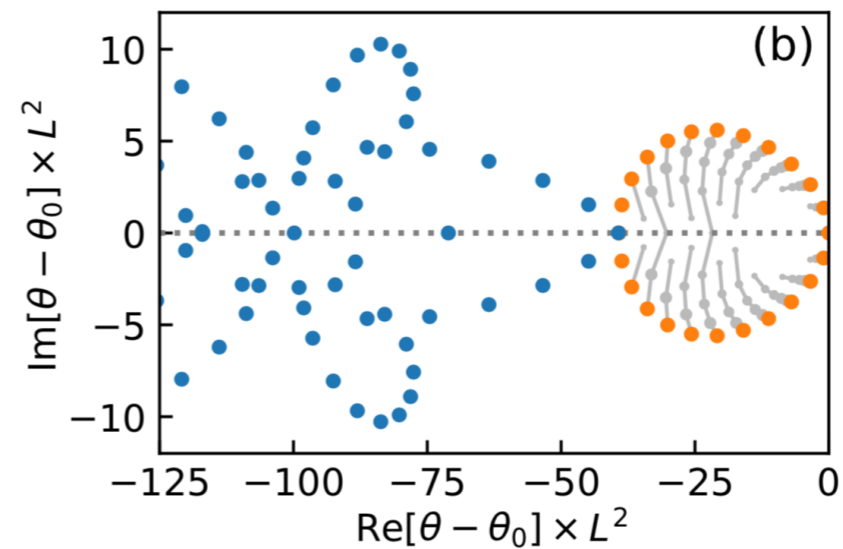
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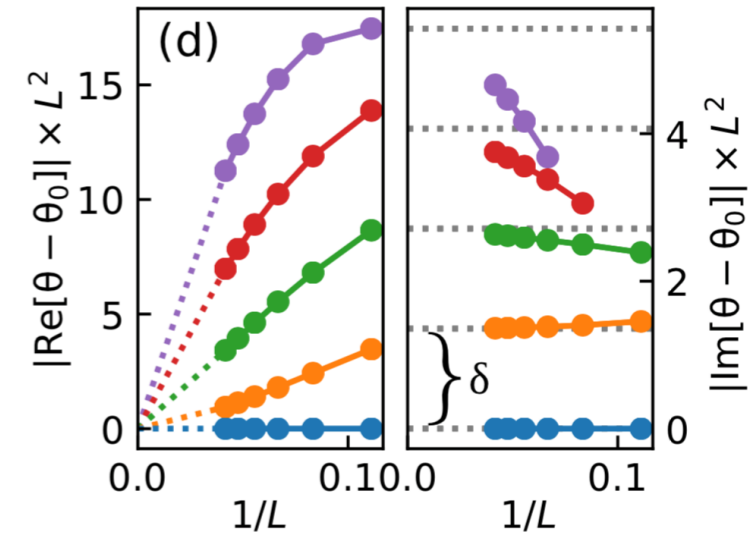
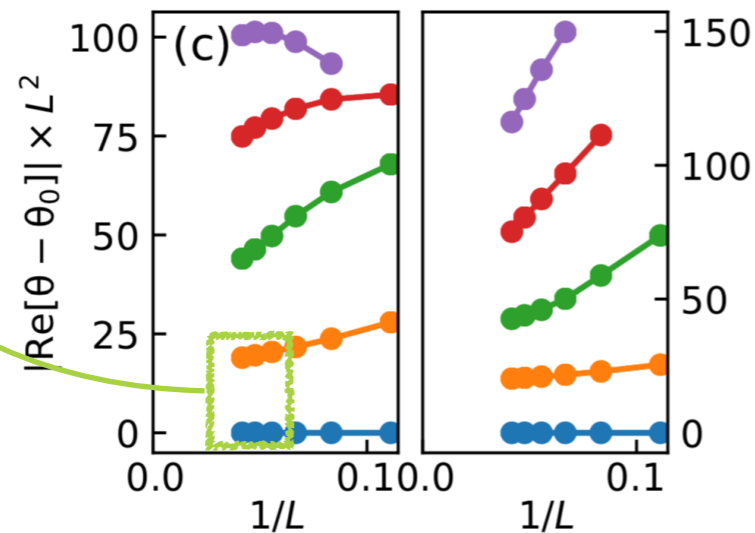
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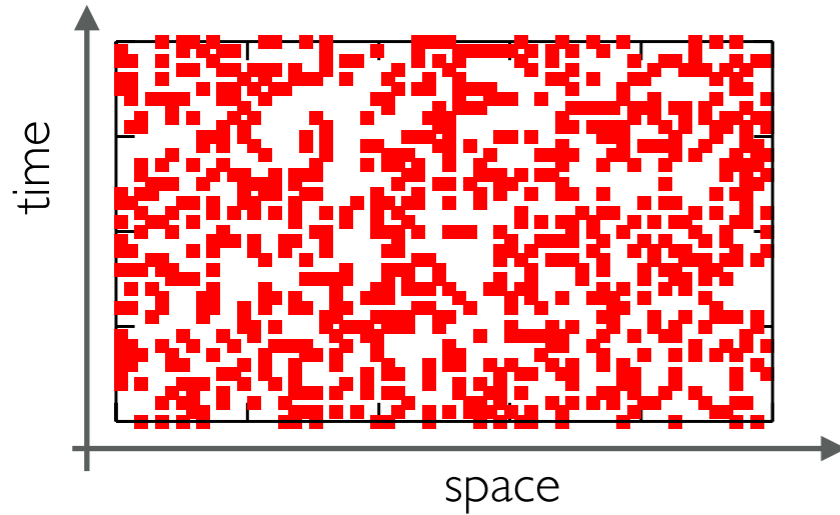


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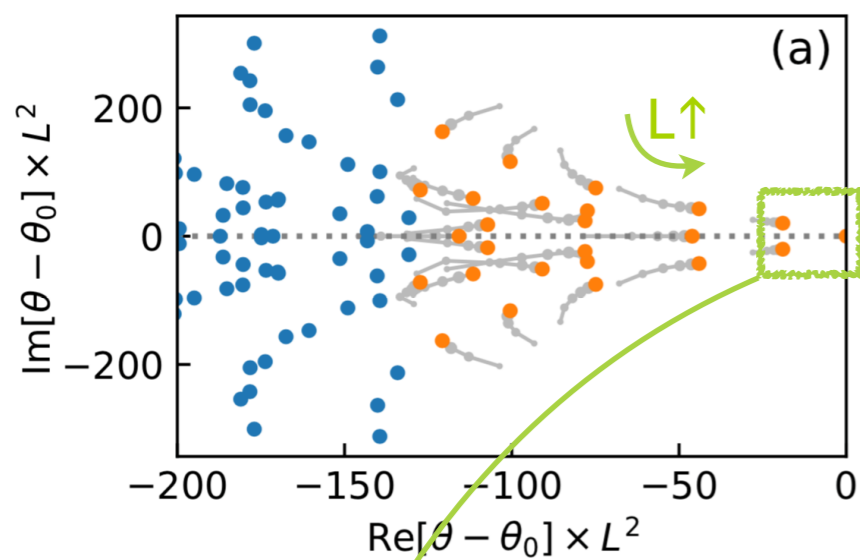
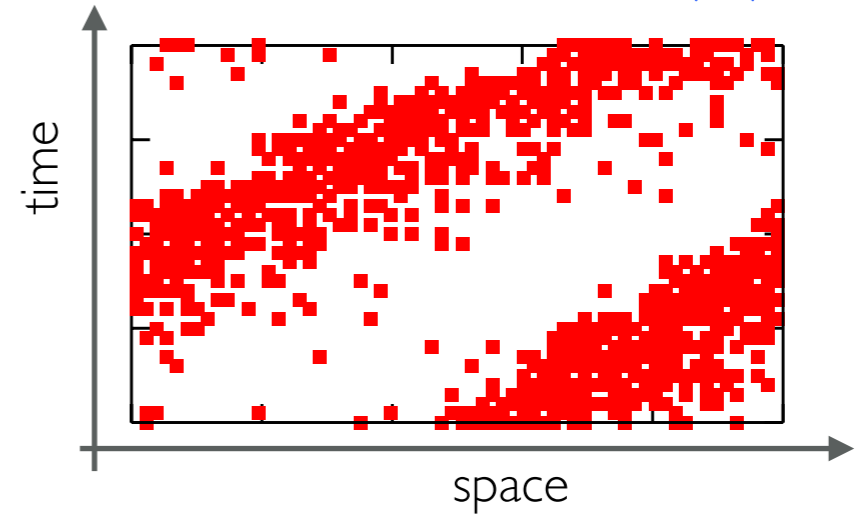
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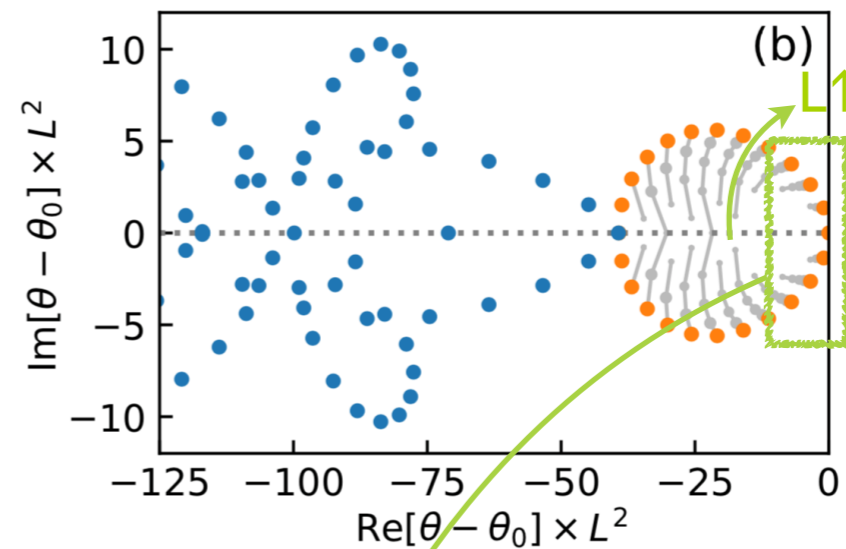
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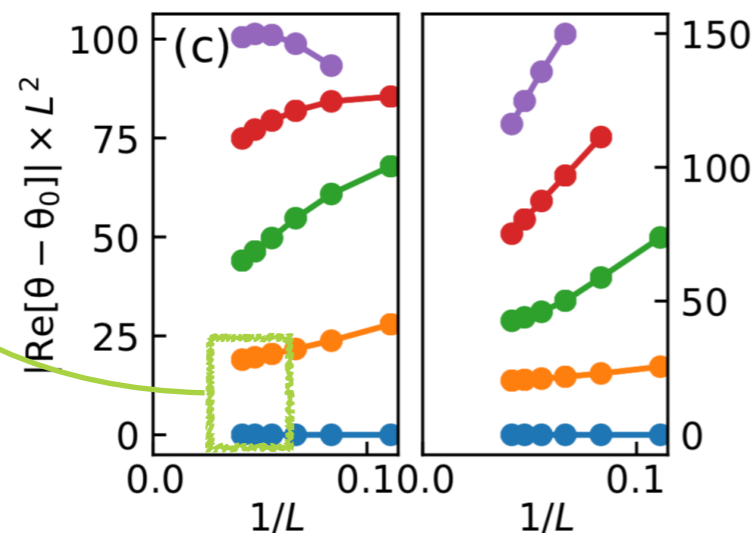
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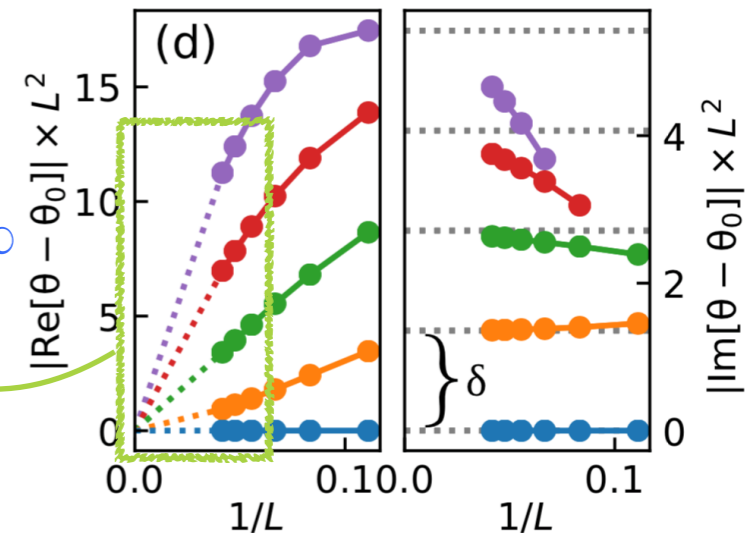


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Vanishing spectral gap of \mathbb{W}^λ as $L \rightarrow \infty$

Power-law decay as $L \uparrow$

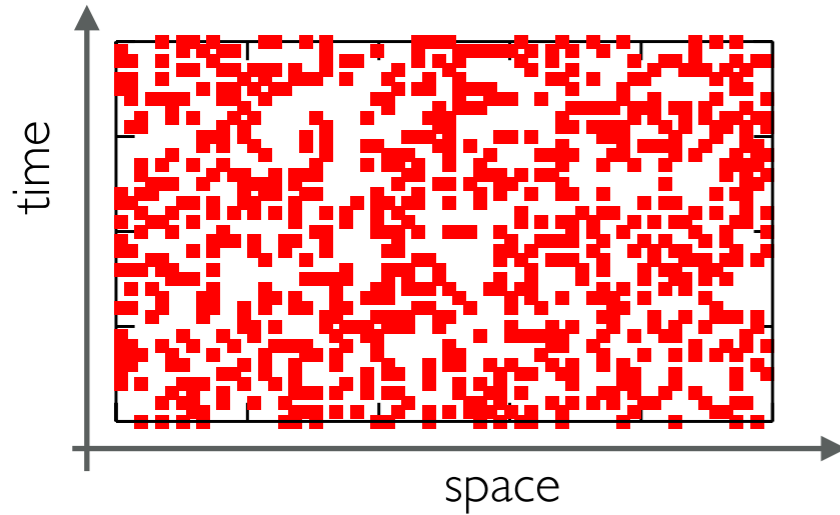


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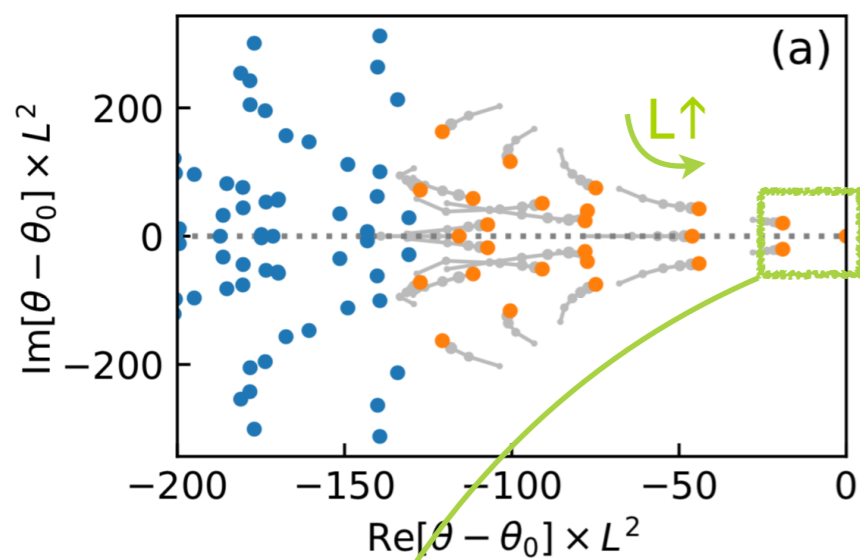
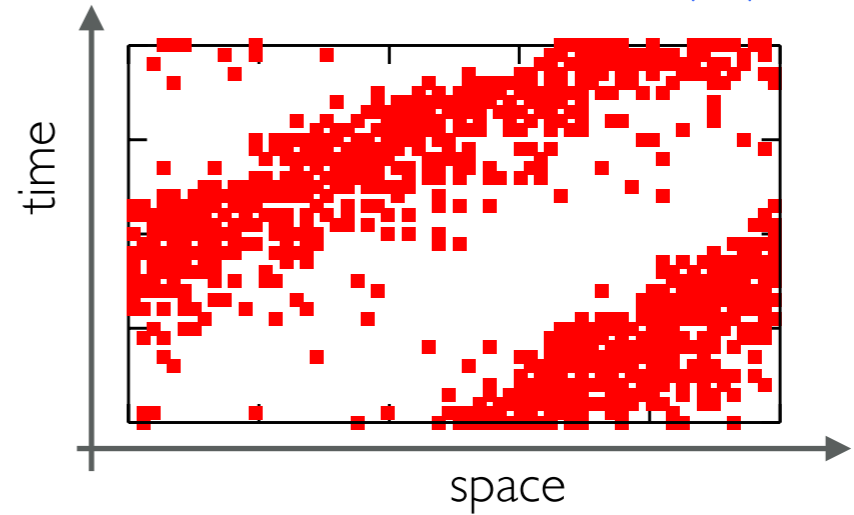
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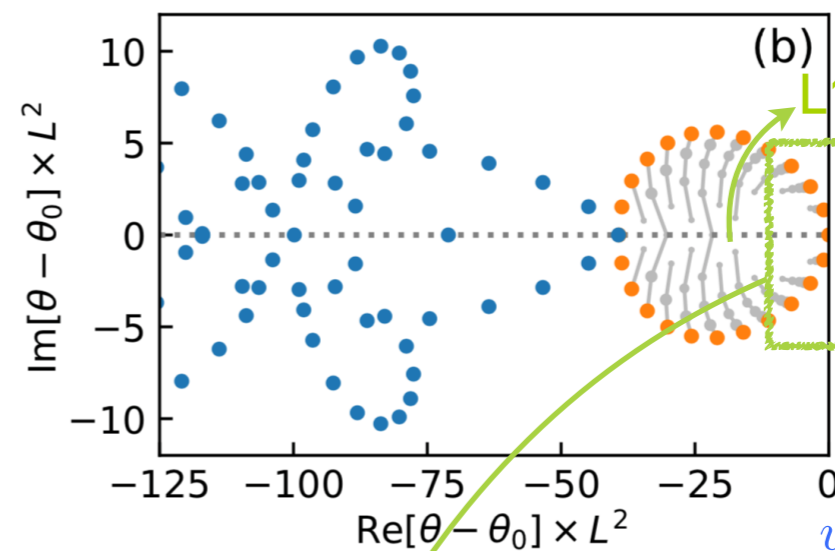
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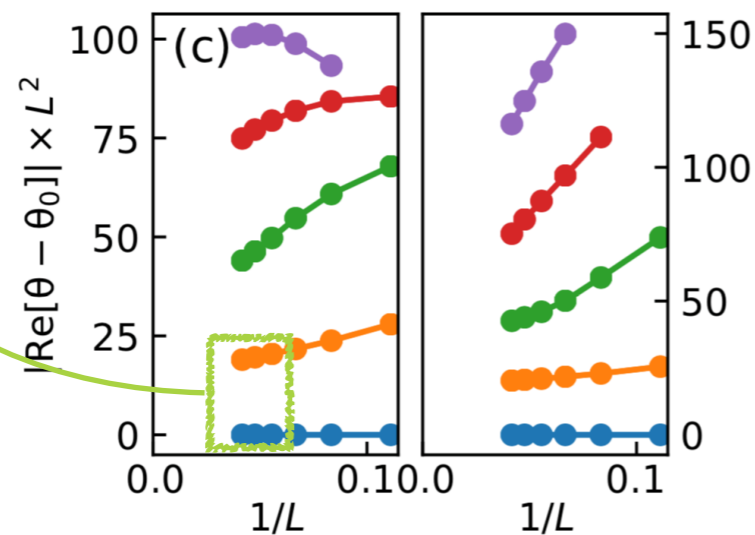


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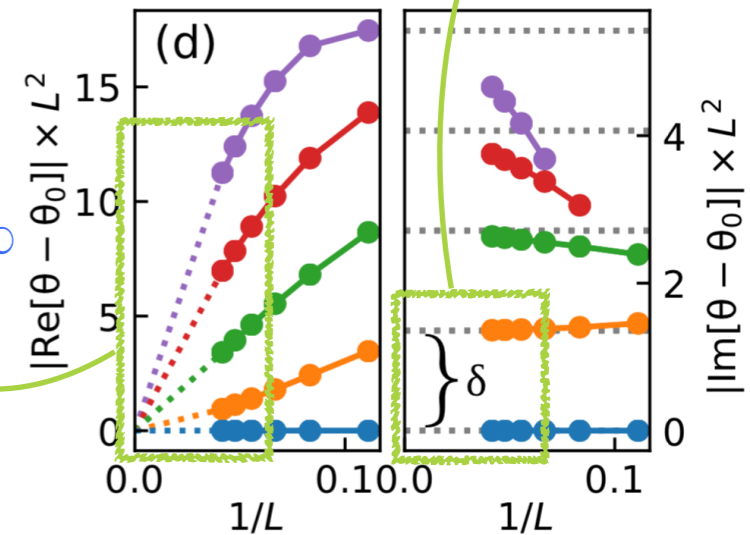
$|P(t)\rangle = |P(t+T)\rangle$
 $T = \frac{2\pi}{\delta}$
 Band structure in imaginary part of gap-closing eigenvals

\mathbb{W}^λ is gapped
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Vanishing spectral gap of \mathbb{W}^λ as $L \rightarrow \infty$

Power-law decay as $L \uparrow$



$$v = L/T = L\delta/2\pi$$

MAKING RARE EVENTS TYPICAL

- We have a **time crystal** for rare current fluctuations ... **WHO CARES?**
- \mathbb{W}^λ generates **atypical trajectories** but $\sum_C \langle C | \mathbb{W}^\lambda \neq 0$ (**non-physical!**)

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- We can make rare events **TYPICAL** using **Doob's transform:** [Jack & Sollich 2010, Popkov et al 2010, Chetrite & Touchette 2015]

$$\mathbb{W}_D^\lambda \equiv \mathbb{L}_0 \mathbb{W}^\lambda \mathbb{L}_0^{-1} - \theta_0(\lambda) \quad \text{with } (\mathbb{L}_0)_{ij} = (\langle L_0^\lambda |)_i \delta_{ij}$$

- \mathbb{W}_D^λ now **conserves probability** (physical!)

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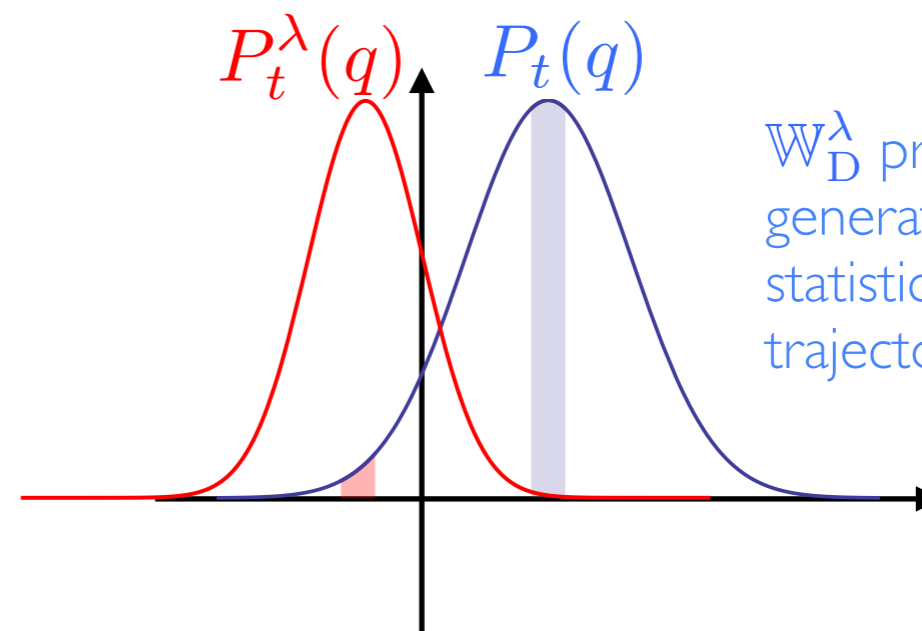
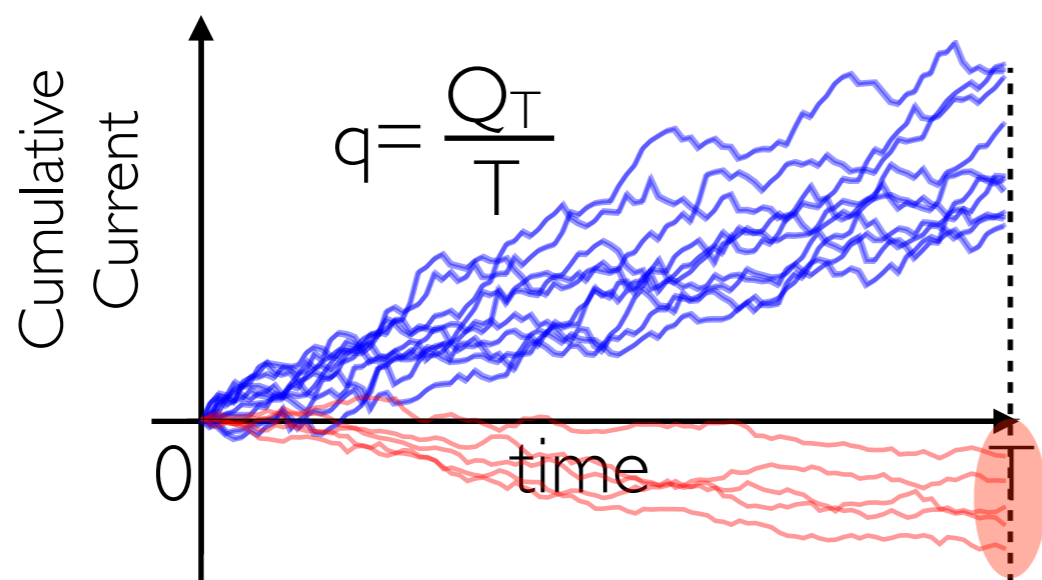
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\mathbb{W}_D^λ proper stochastic generator for the statistics of atypical trajectories

DOOB'S SMART FIELD

- Write **Doob's dynamics** in terms of original **WASEP dynamics + smart field** E_λ^D

$$(W_D^\lambda)_{C \rightarrow C'} = W_{C \rightarrow C'} e^{\pm E_\lambda^D / L} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (E_\lambda^D)_{C \rightarrow C'} = \lambda \pm L \ln \left(\frac{\langle L_0^\lambda | C' \rangle}{\langle L_0^\lambda | C \rangle} \right)$$

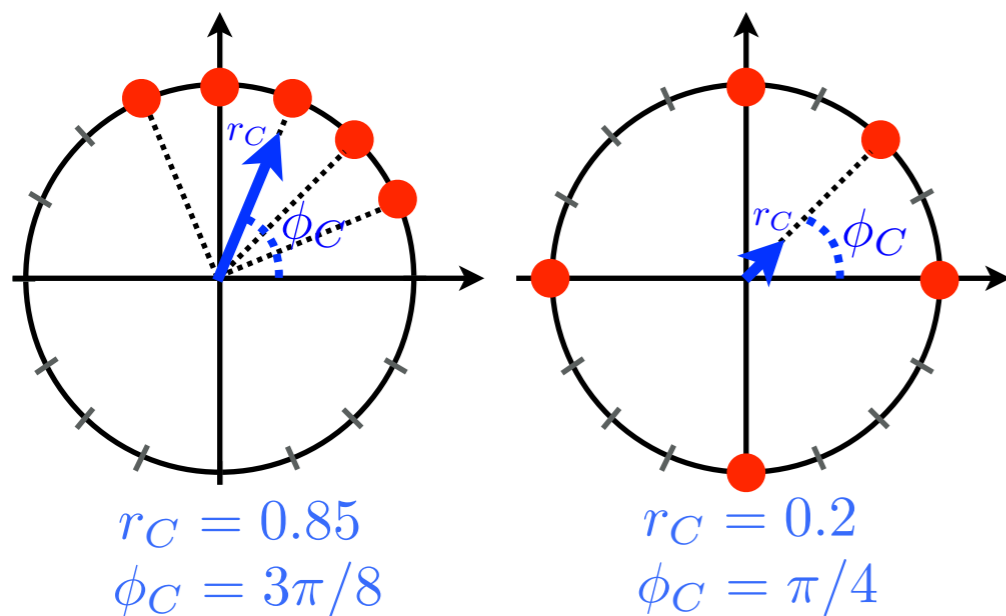
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- Study dependence of E_λ^D on the **packing order parameter** $r_C \equiv |z_C|$

$$z_C = N^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^L n_k(C) e^{i2\pi k/L} = r_C e^{i\phi_C}$$



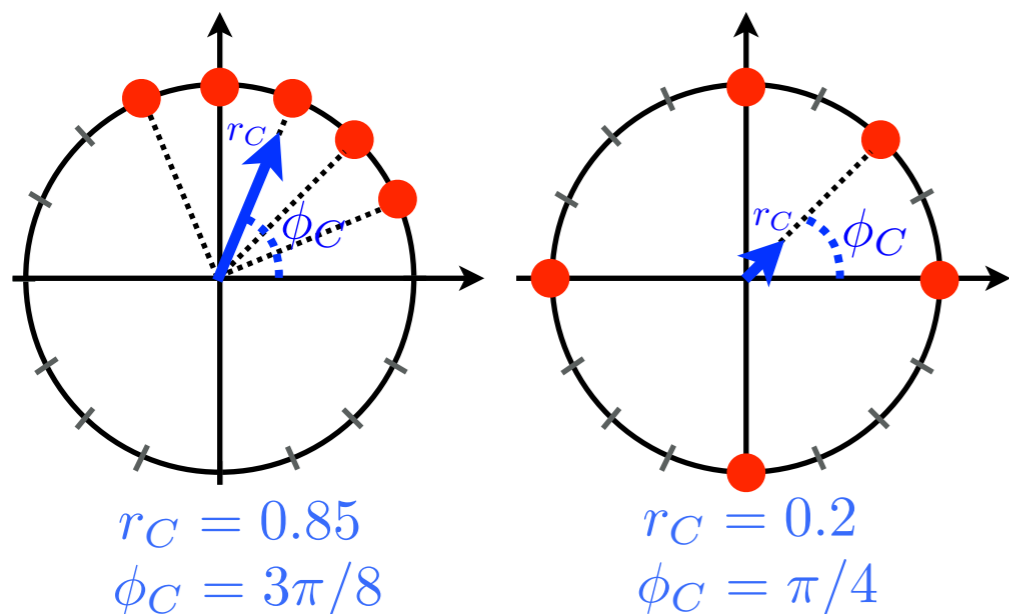
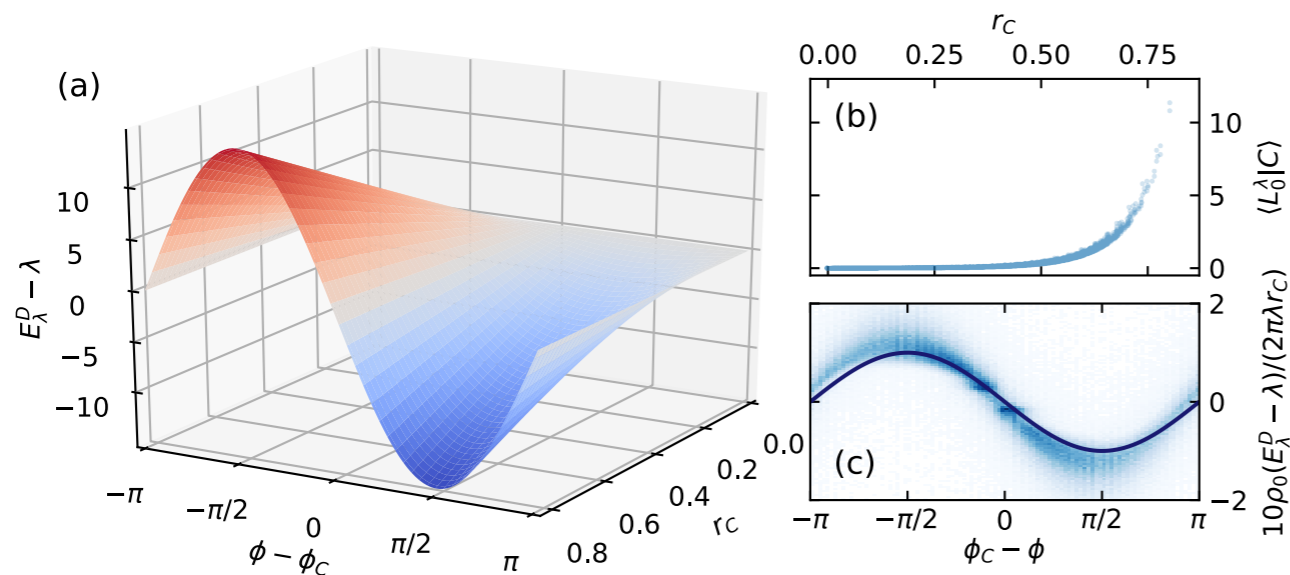
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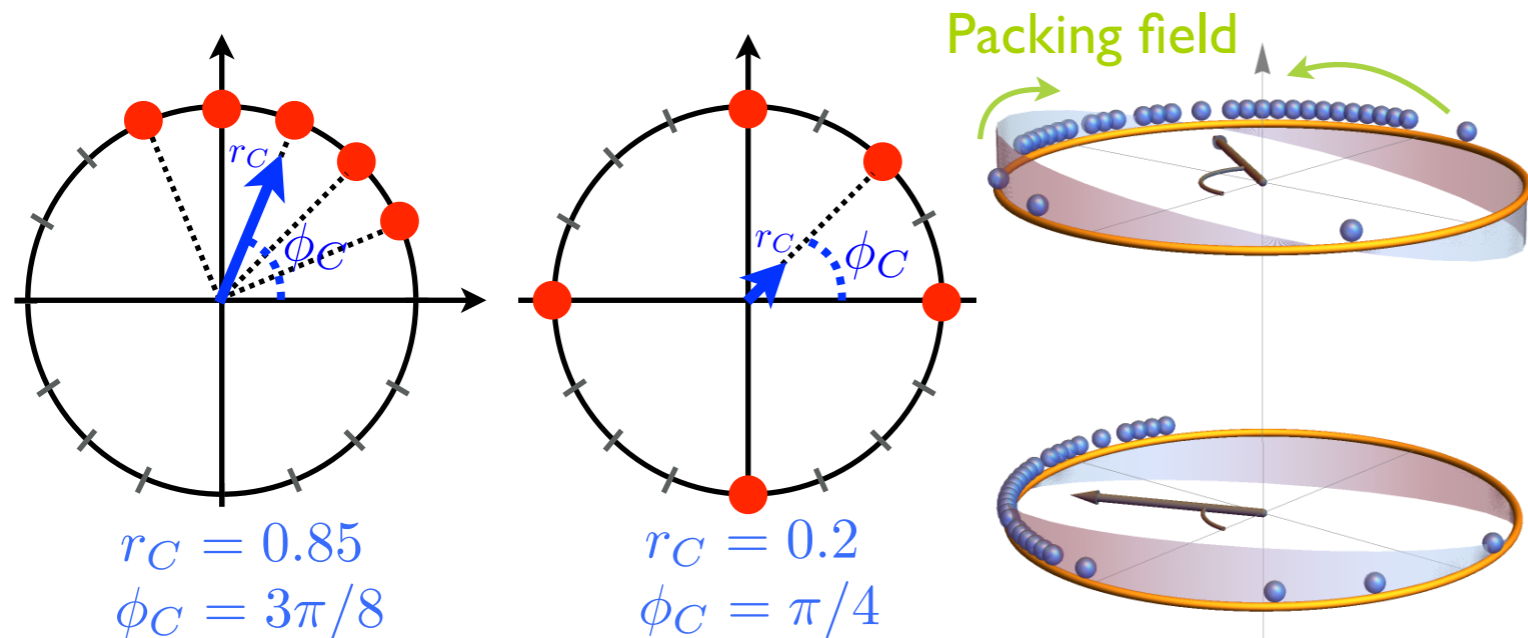
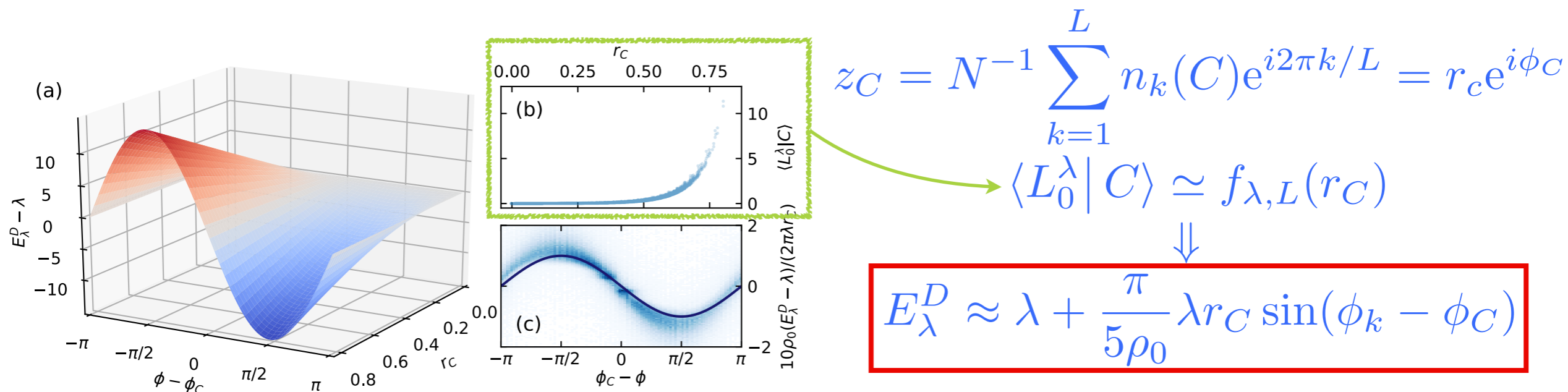


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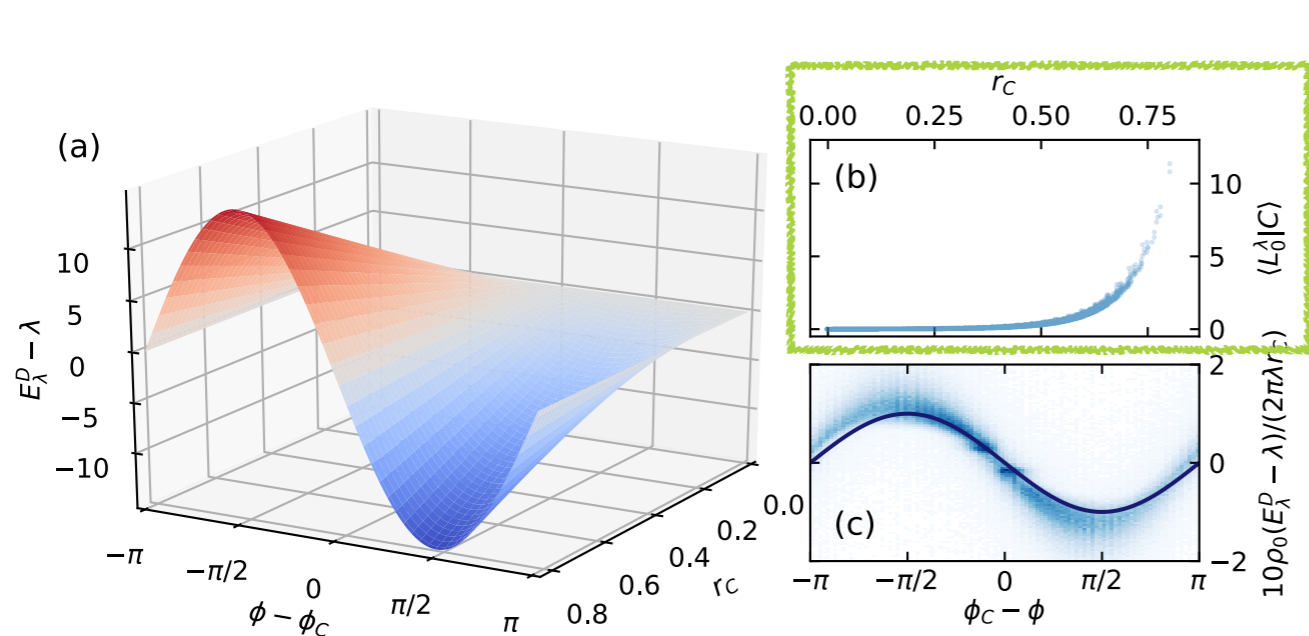


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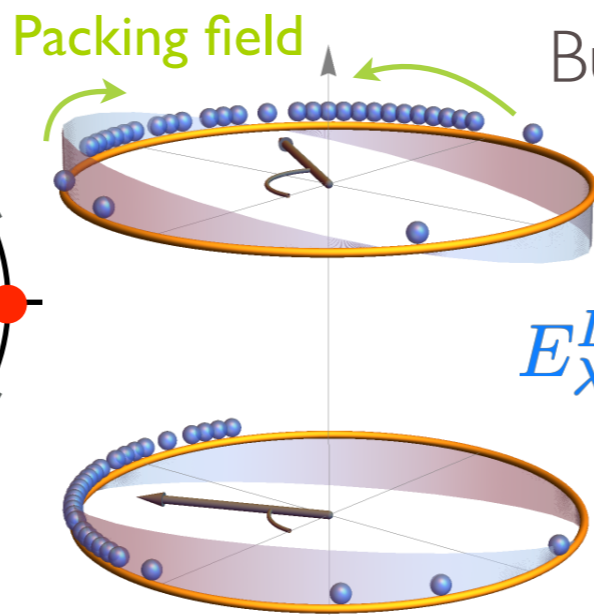
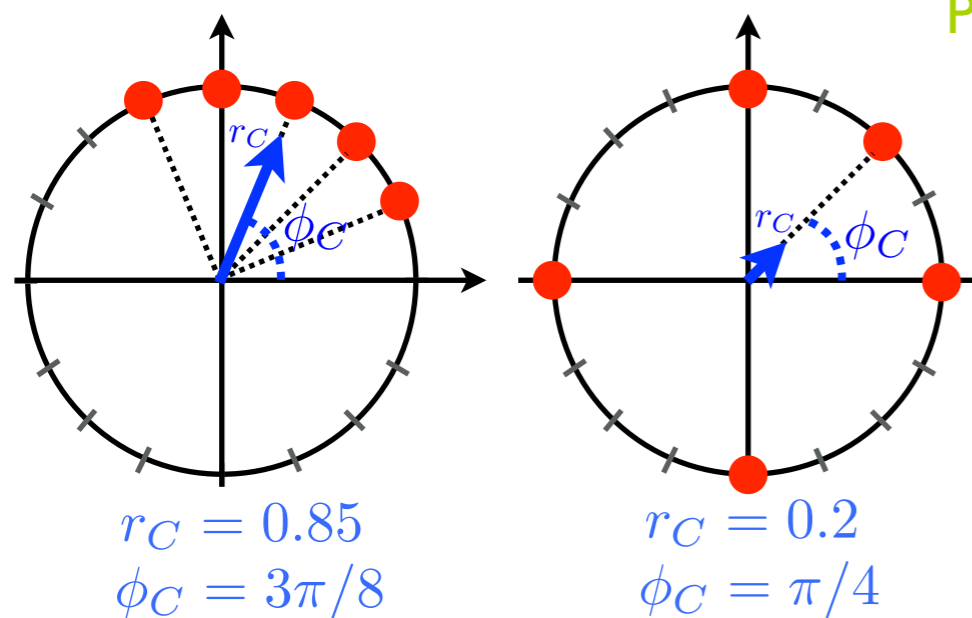


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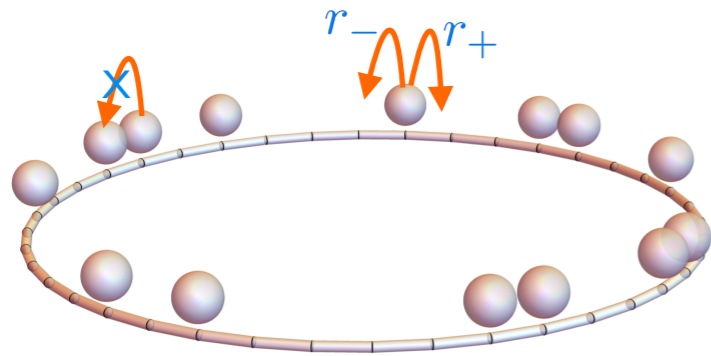
But this is **Kuramoto interaction!!**



$$E_\lambda^D \approx \lambda + \frac{\pi \lambda}{5\rho_0 N} \sum_{j \neq k} \sin(\phi_k - \phi_j)$$

PACKING FIELD MECHANISM

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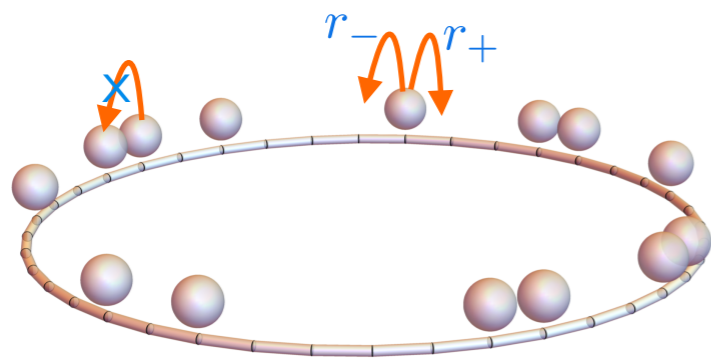


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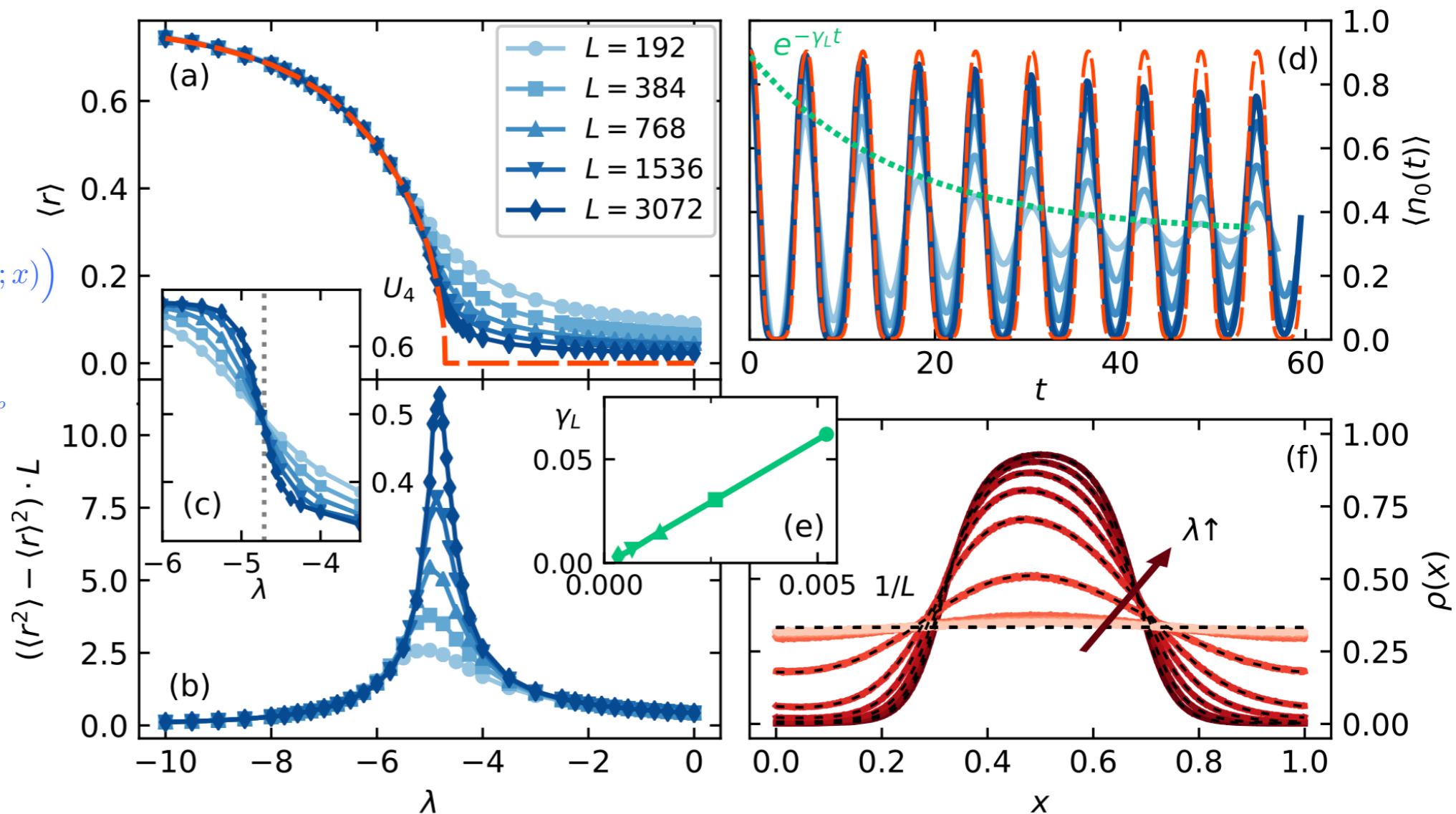
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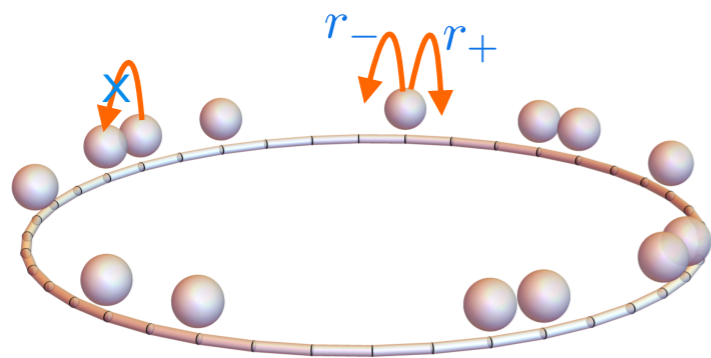
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Steady-state phase transition to time-crystal phase

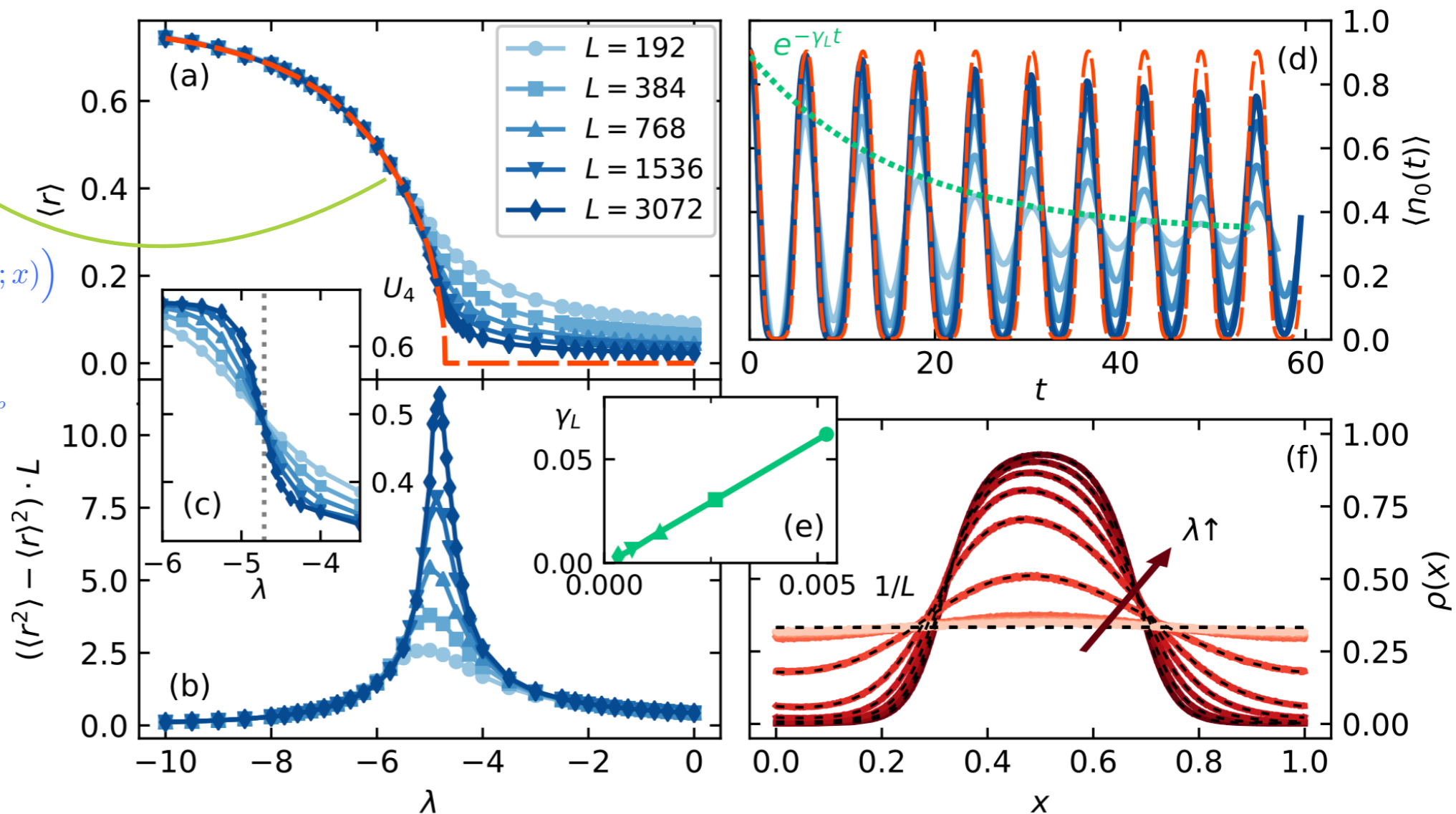
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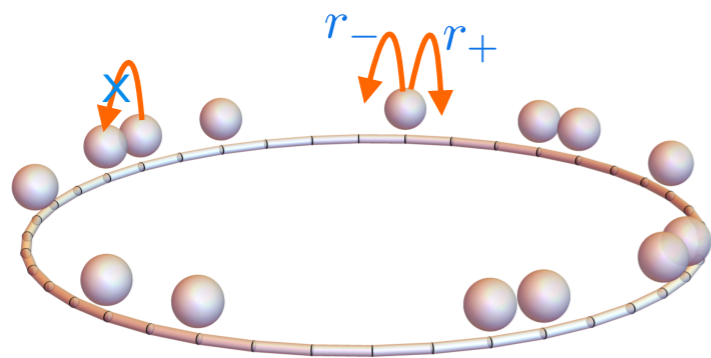
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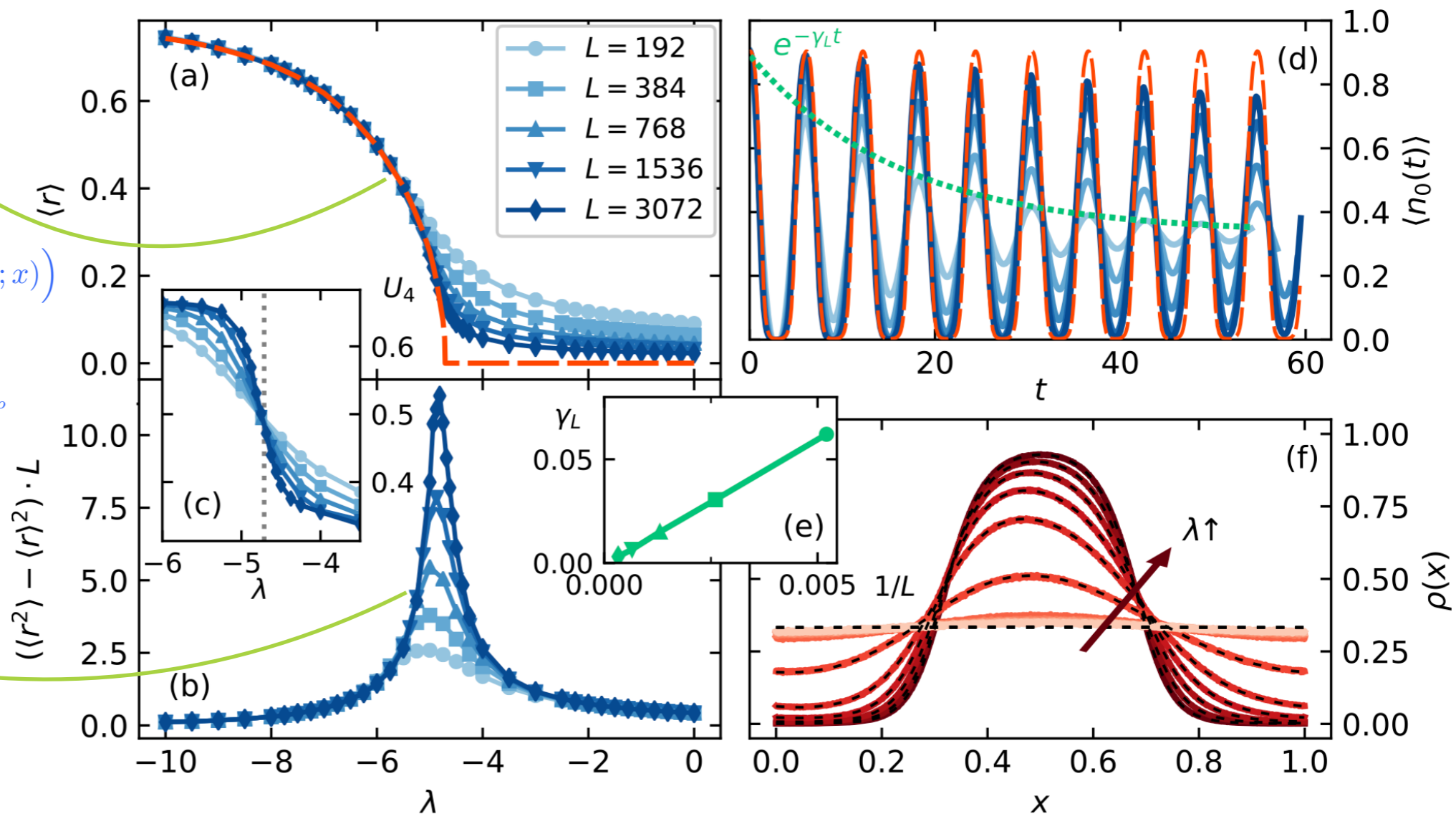
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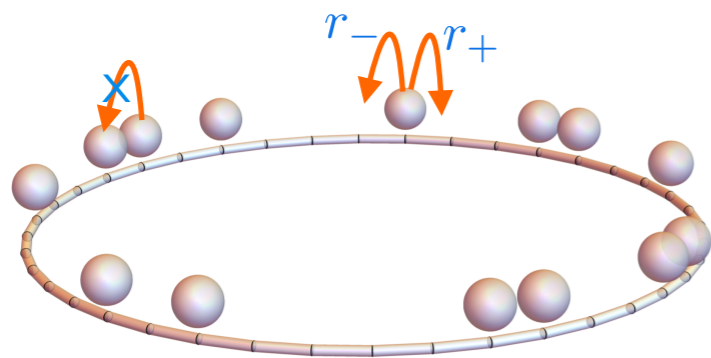
Divergent susceptibility as L grows



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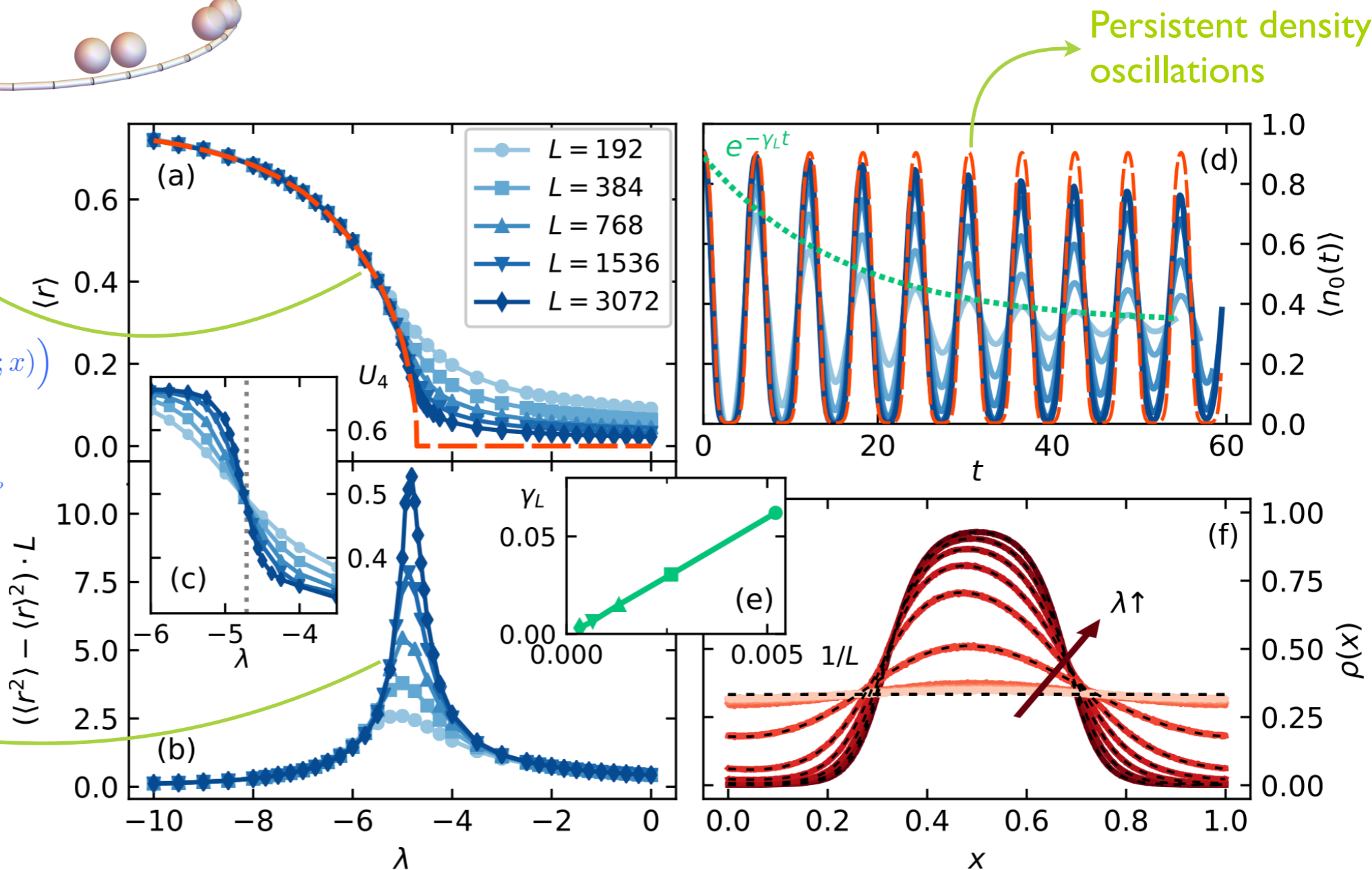
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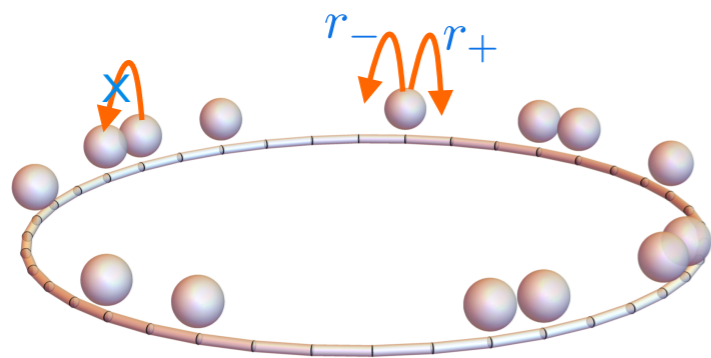
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Rigidity of long-range spatiotemporal order

Persistent density oscillations

Steady-state phase transition to time-crystal phase

Hydrodynamic limit

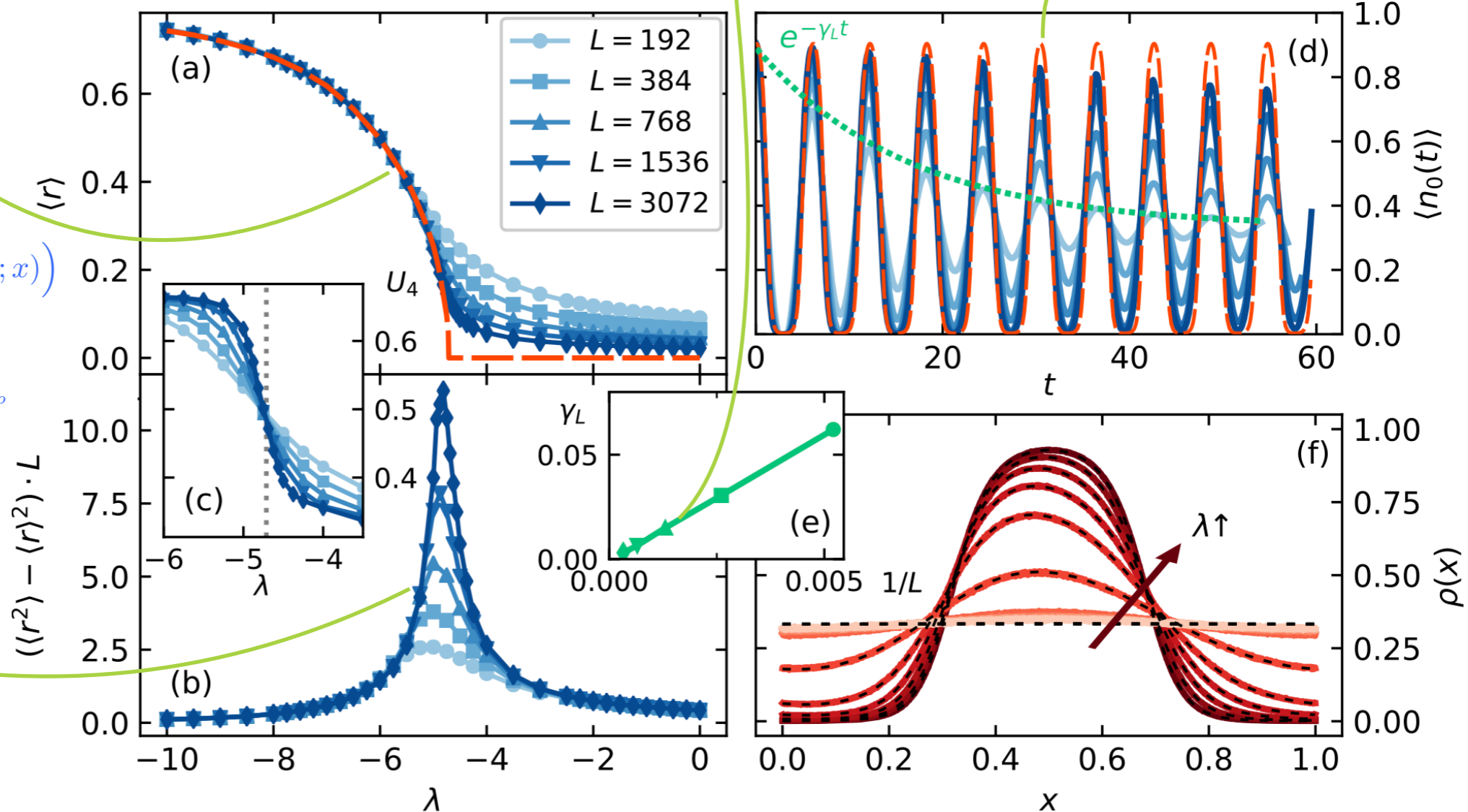
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Driven diffusive fluid with **mth-order packing field** $E_\lambda^{(m)}(\rho; x)$

$\mathcal{E}^{(m)}$ pushes particles locally towards **m** equidistant **emergent localization centers**

Located at the complex arguments of the **mth-roots** of z_m

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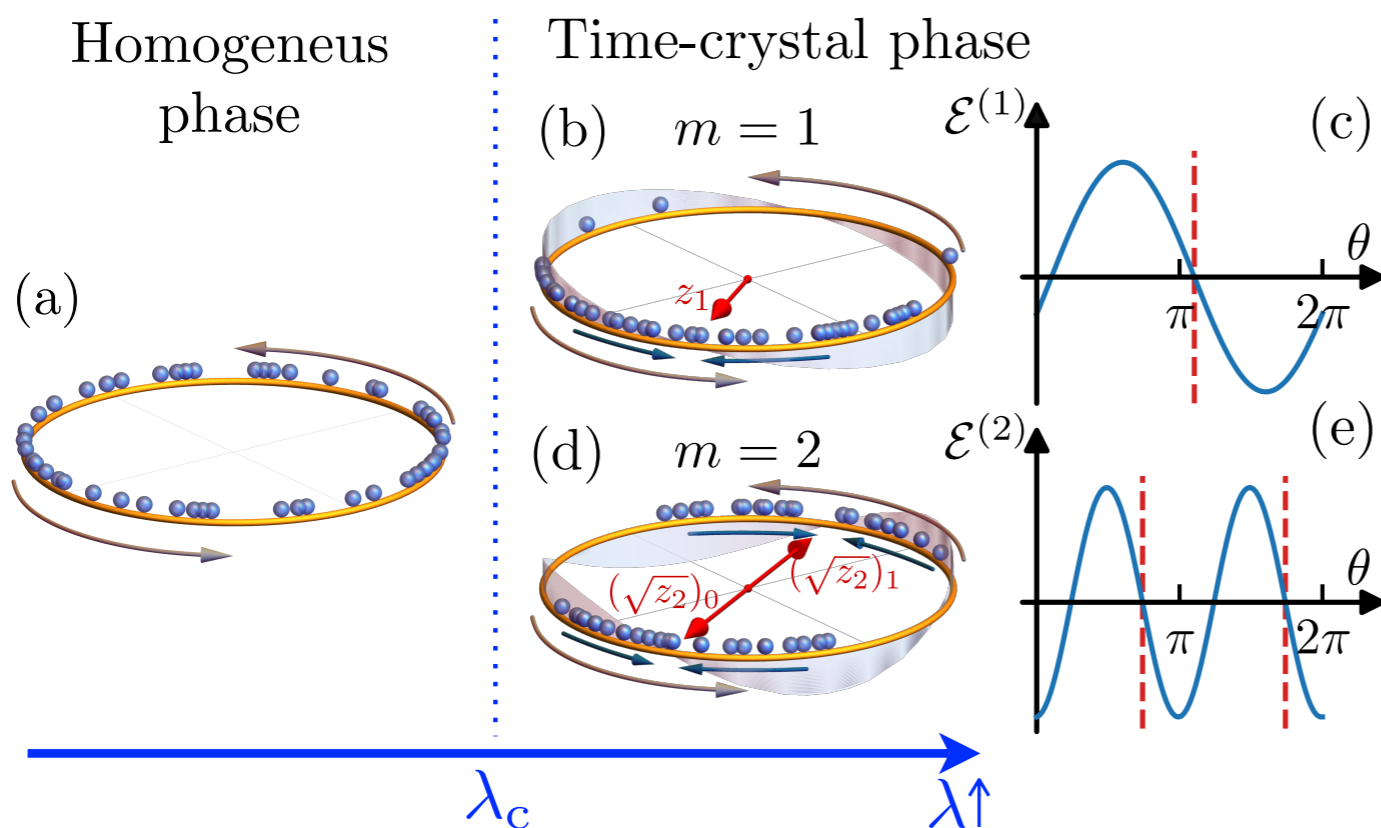
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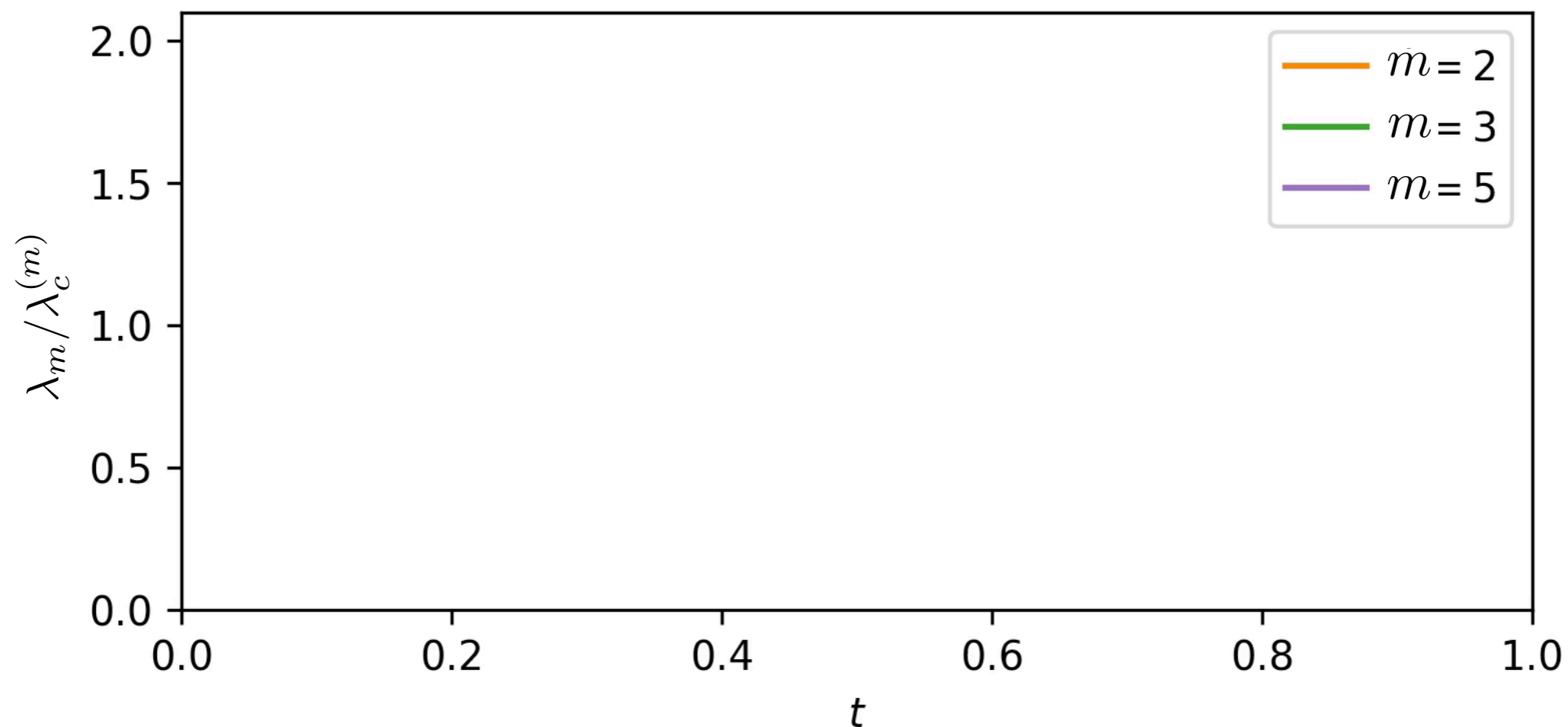
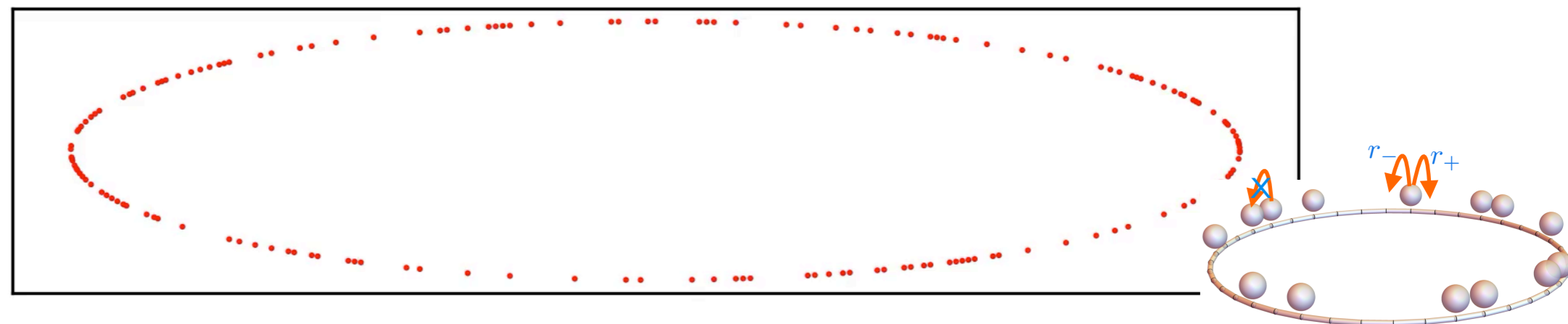
- Bingo!!** We can engineer **custom multi-mode and fully-controllable continuous time crystals**



MULTIMODE AND CONTROLLABLE TIME CRYSTALS

- Example: **switching between different number of condensates in time**

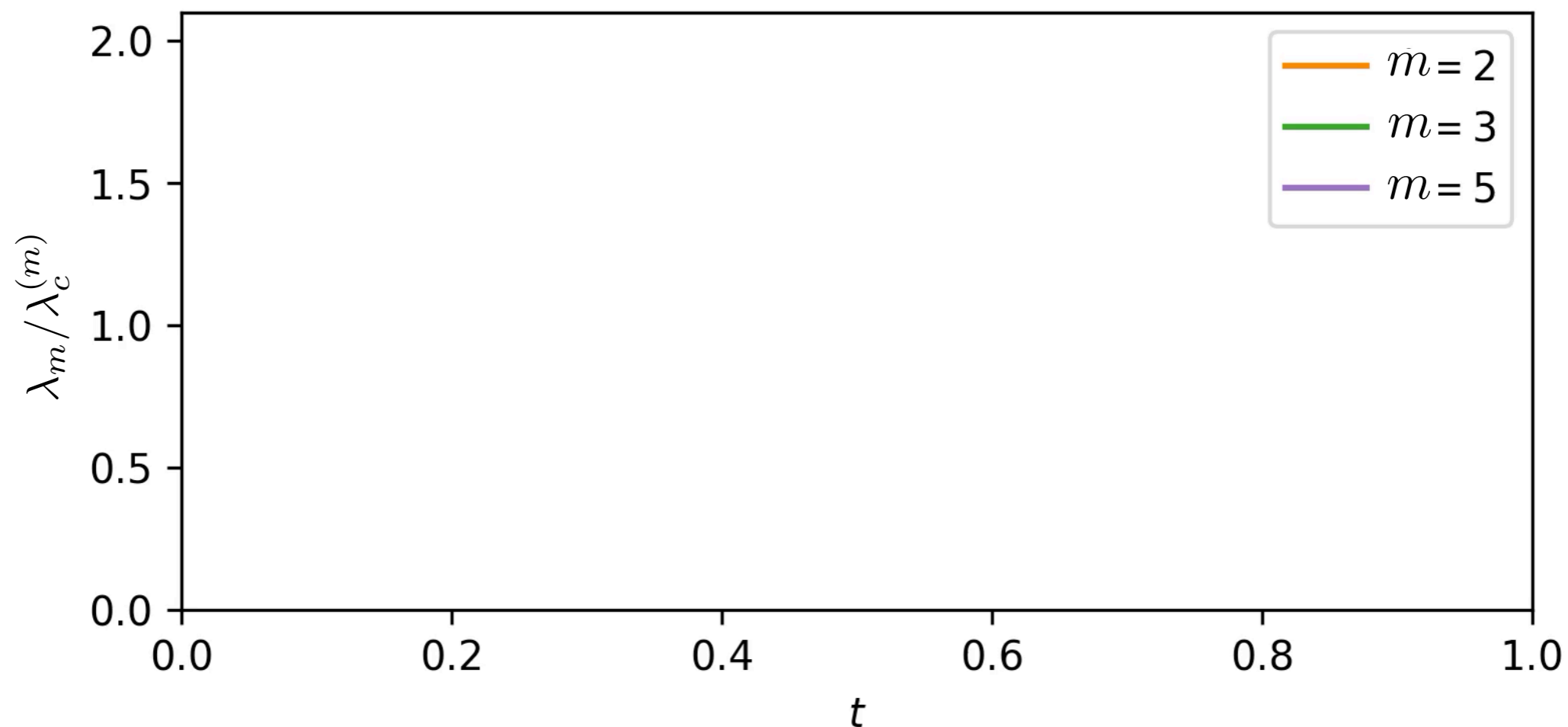
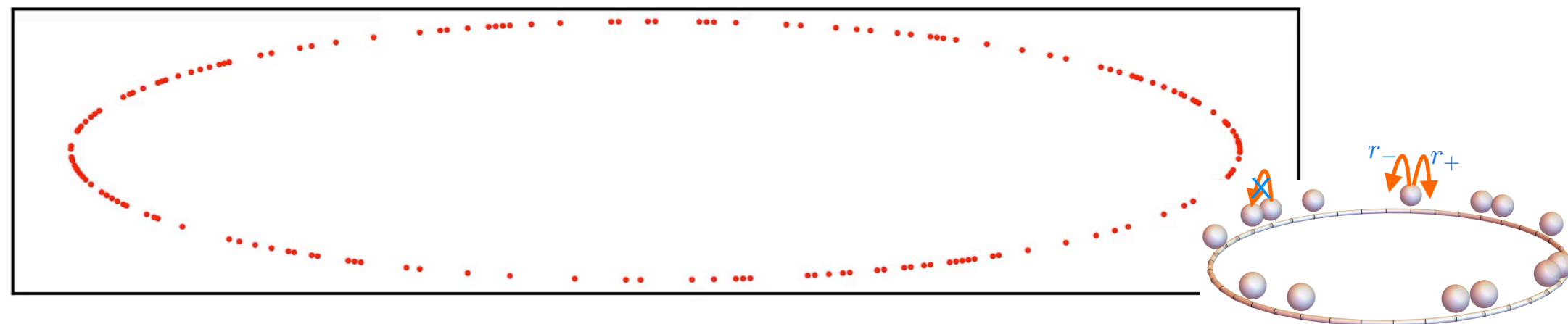
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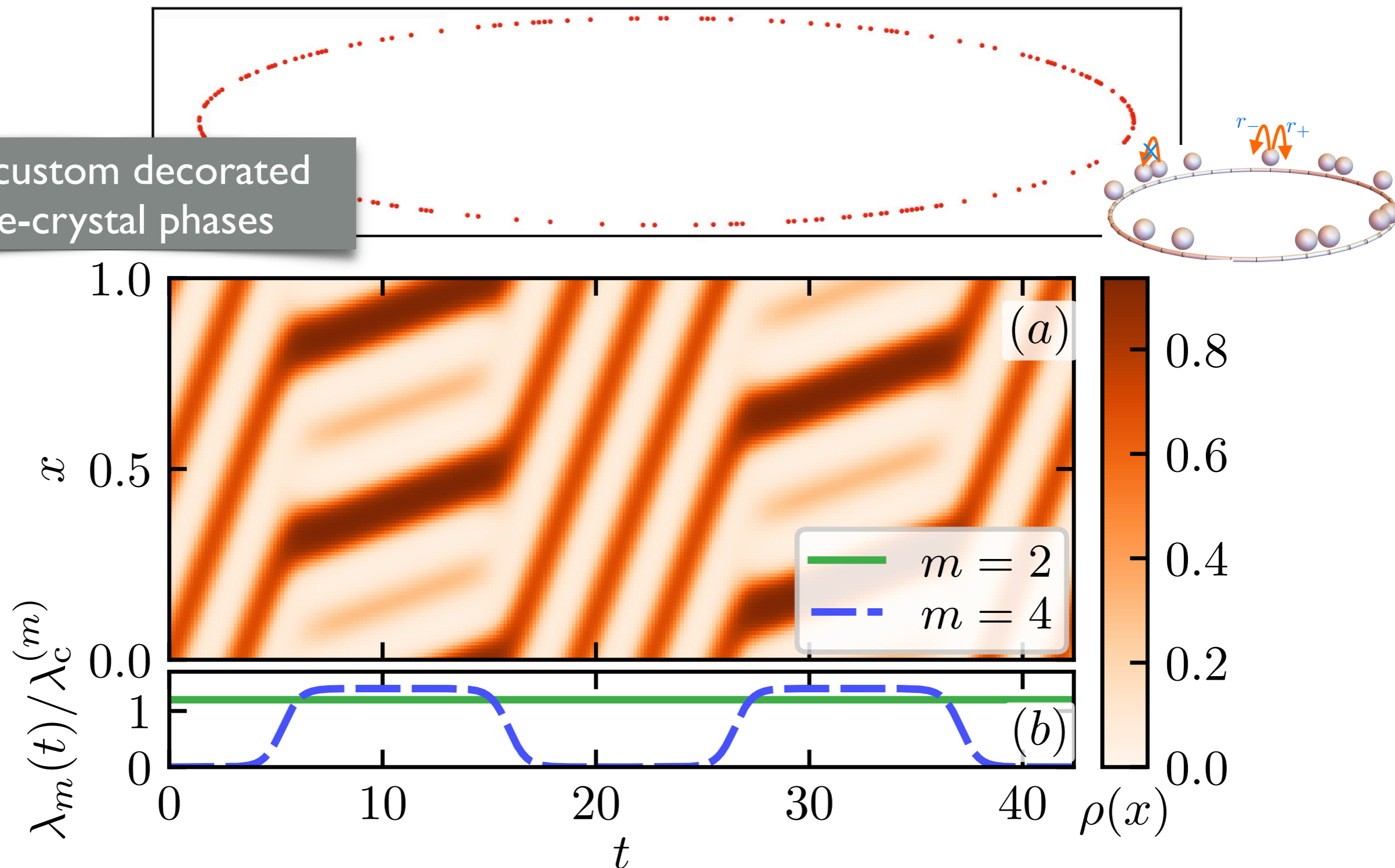


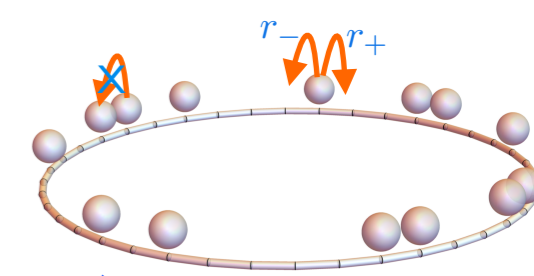
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Also custom decorated time-crystal phases





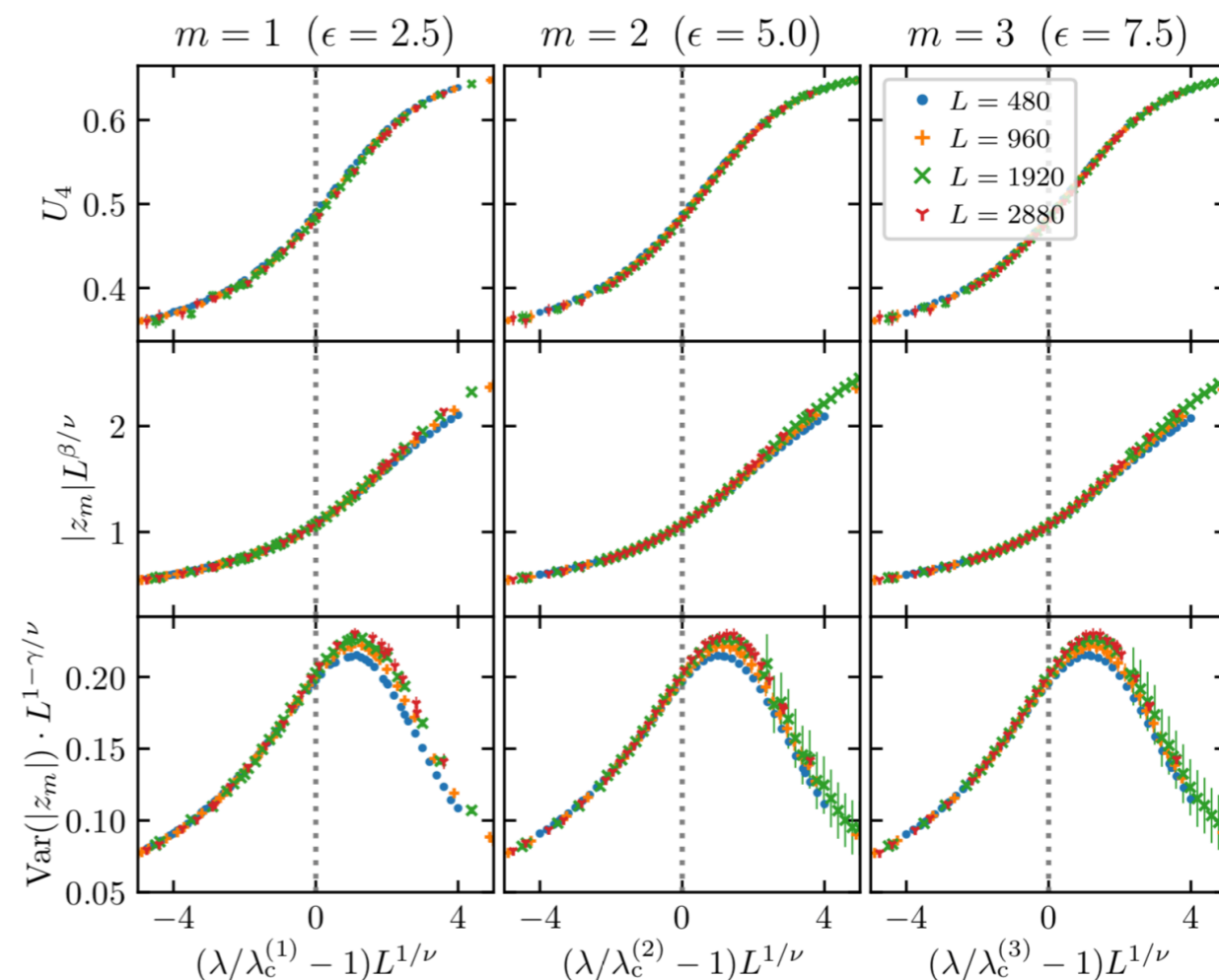
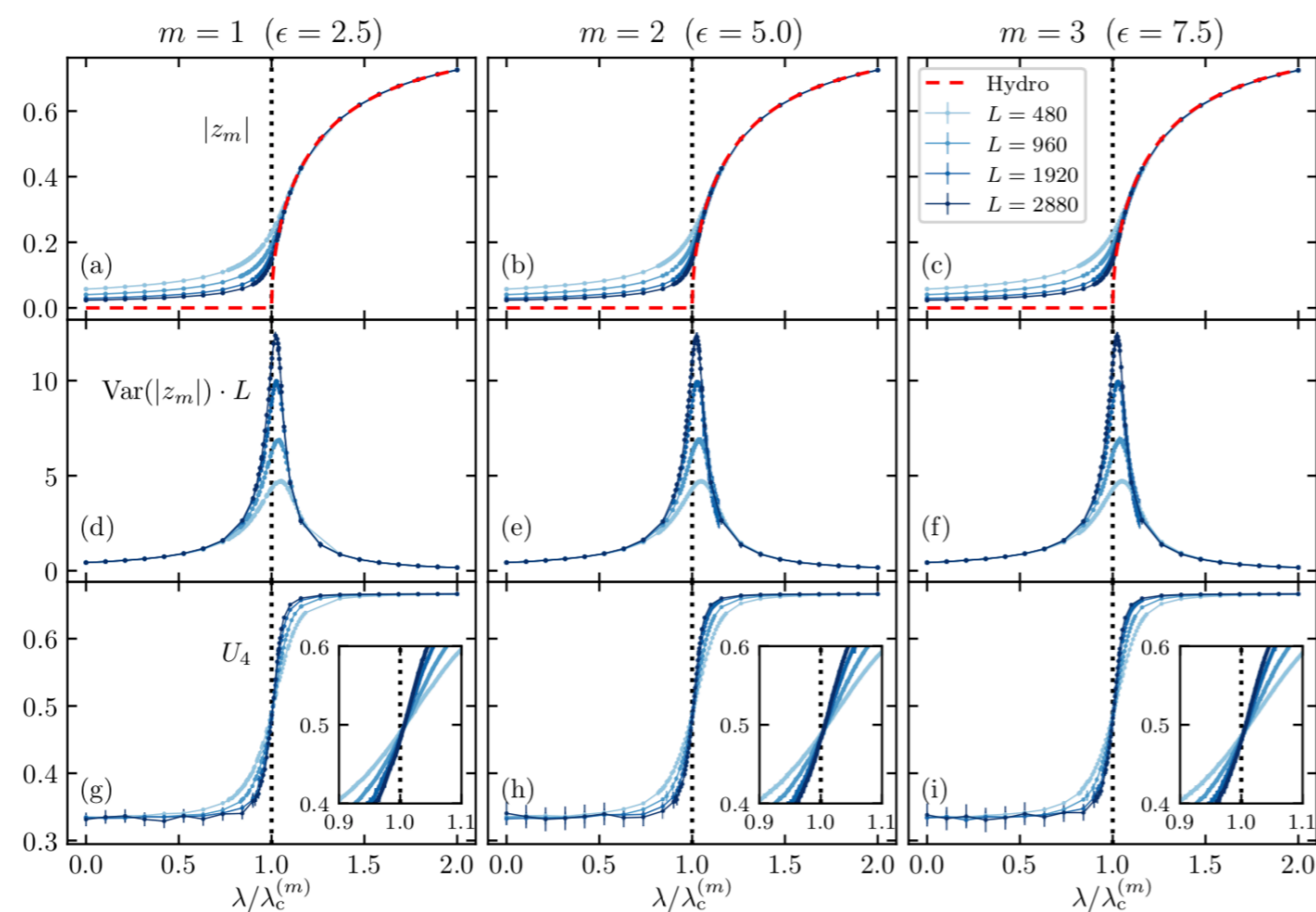
PHASE TRANSITION

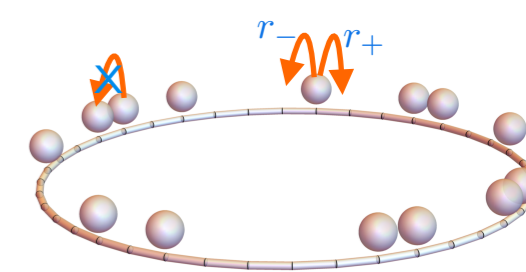
- A **linear stability analysis** of the homogeneous density solution $\rho(x, t) = \rho_0$ yields the **critical threshold for the phase transition**

$$\rho(x, t) = \rho_0 + \delta\rho(x, t) \quad \rightarrow \quad \lambda_c^{(m)} = 4\pi m \frac{D(\rho_0)\rho_0}{\sigma(\rho_0)}$$

- Finite-size scaling analysis: **Kuramoto universality class**

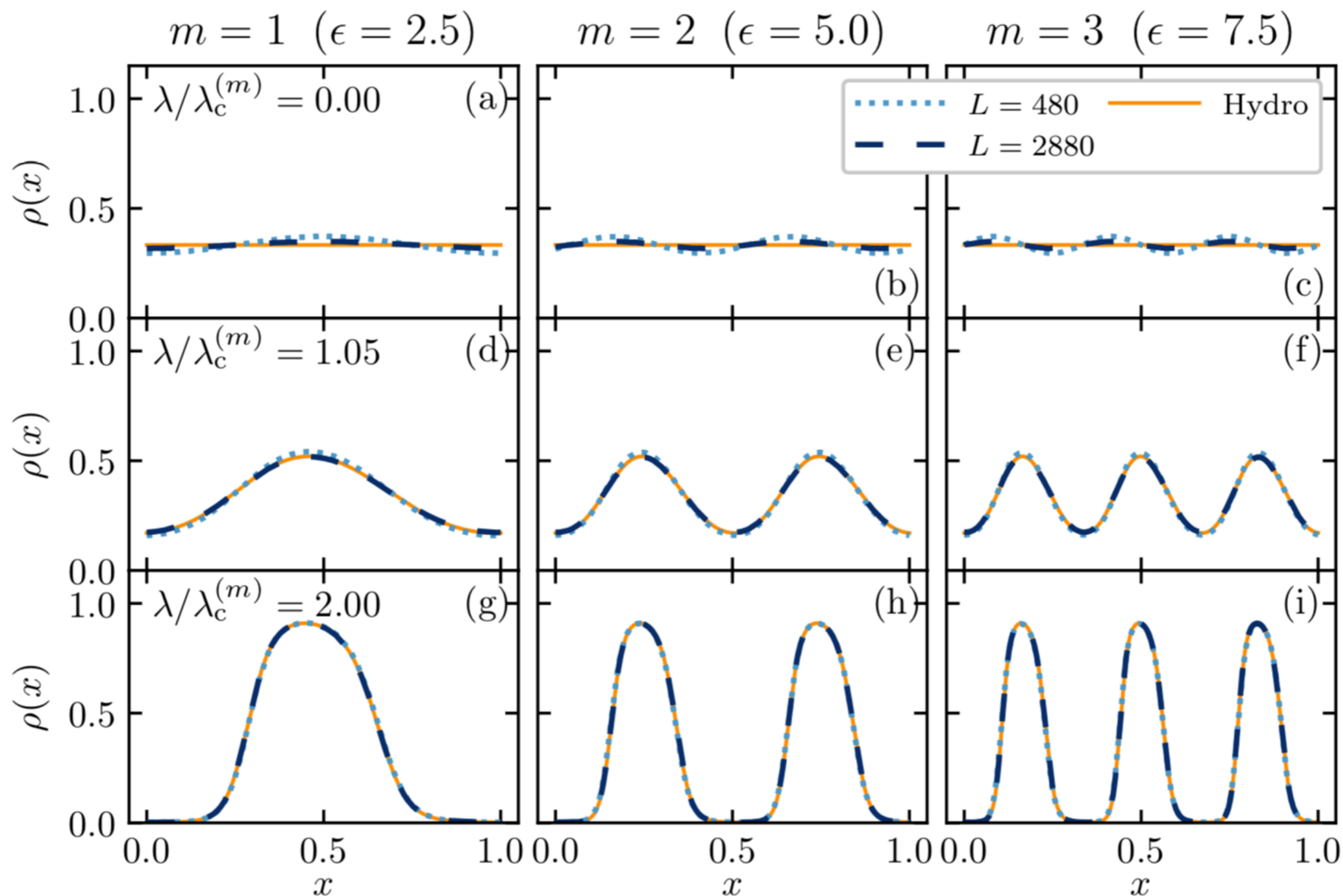
$$\beta = 1/2, \quad \gamma = 1, \quad \nu = 2$$

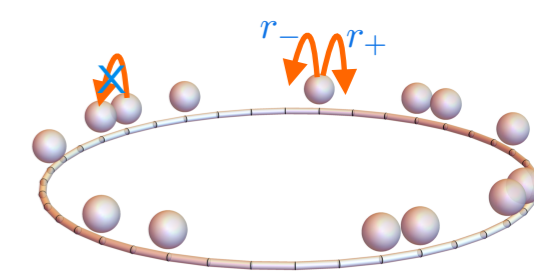




CONDENSATE EQUIVALENCE

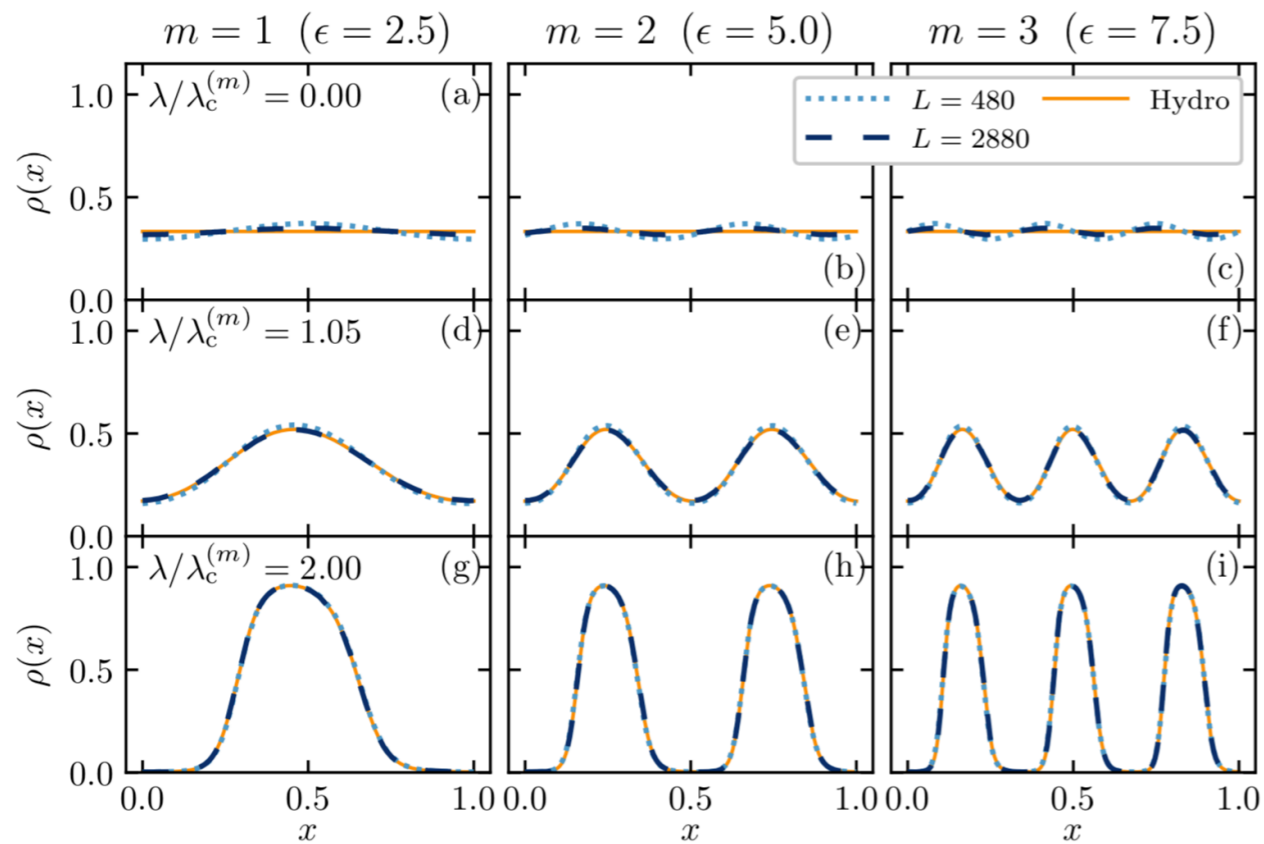
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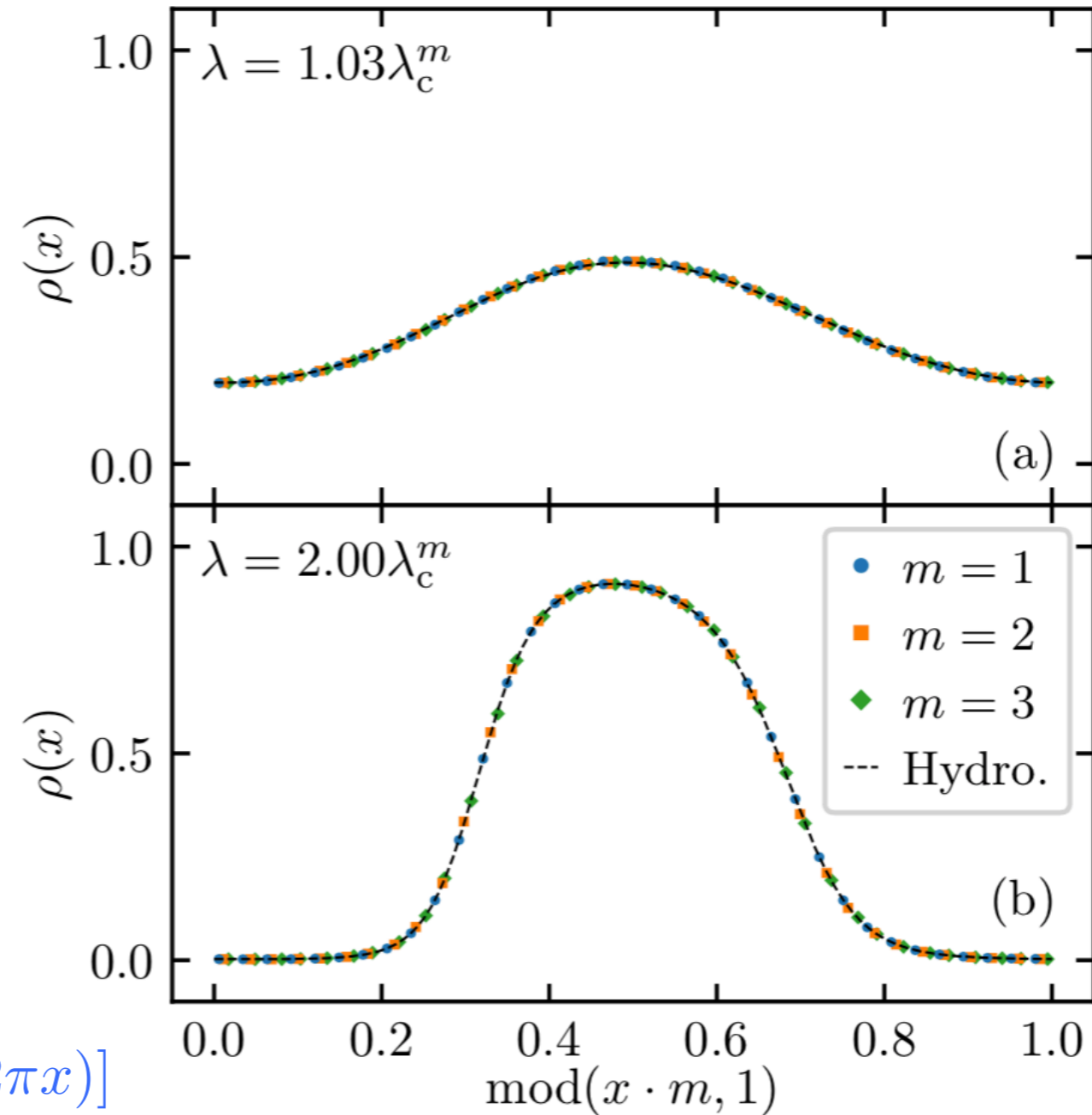
- Condensate equivalence for different m

$$m = 1, \epsilon_1, \lambda_1$$

$$m, m\epsilon_1, m\lambda_1$$

$$\rho(x, t) = \mathcal{T}(\omega t - 2\pi x)$$

$$\rho(x, t) = \mathcal{T}[m(\omega t - 2\pi x)]$$



EXAMPLES

- To illustrate these ideas, we apply them to **4 paradigmatic lattice gas models**

$$\partial_t \rho = - \left(- D(\rho) \partial_x \rho + \sigma(\rho) E_\lambda^{(m)}(\rho; x) \right) \quad E_\lambda^{(m)}(\rho; x) = \epsilon + \lambda r_m(\rho) \sin(2\pi m x - \phi_m(\rho))$$

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$$D(\rho) = 1/2, \quad \sigma(\rho) = \rho$$

Kipnis-Marchioro-Presutti (**KMP**)

heat transport model

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Katz-Lebowitz-Spohn (**KLS**) lattice gas

$$D(\rho) = \mathcal{J}(\rho)/\chi(\rho), \quad \sigma(\rho) = 2D(\rho)\chi(\rho)$$

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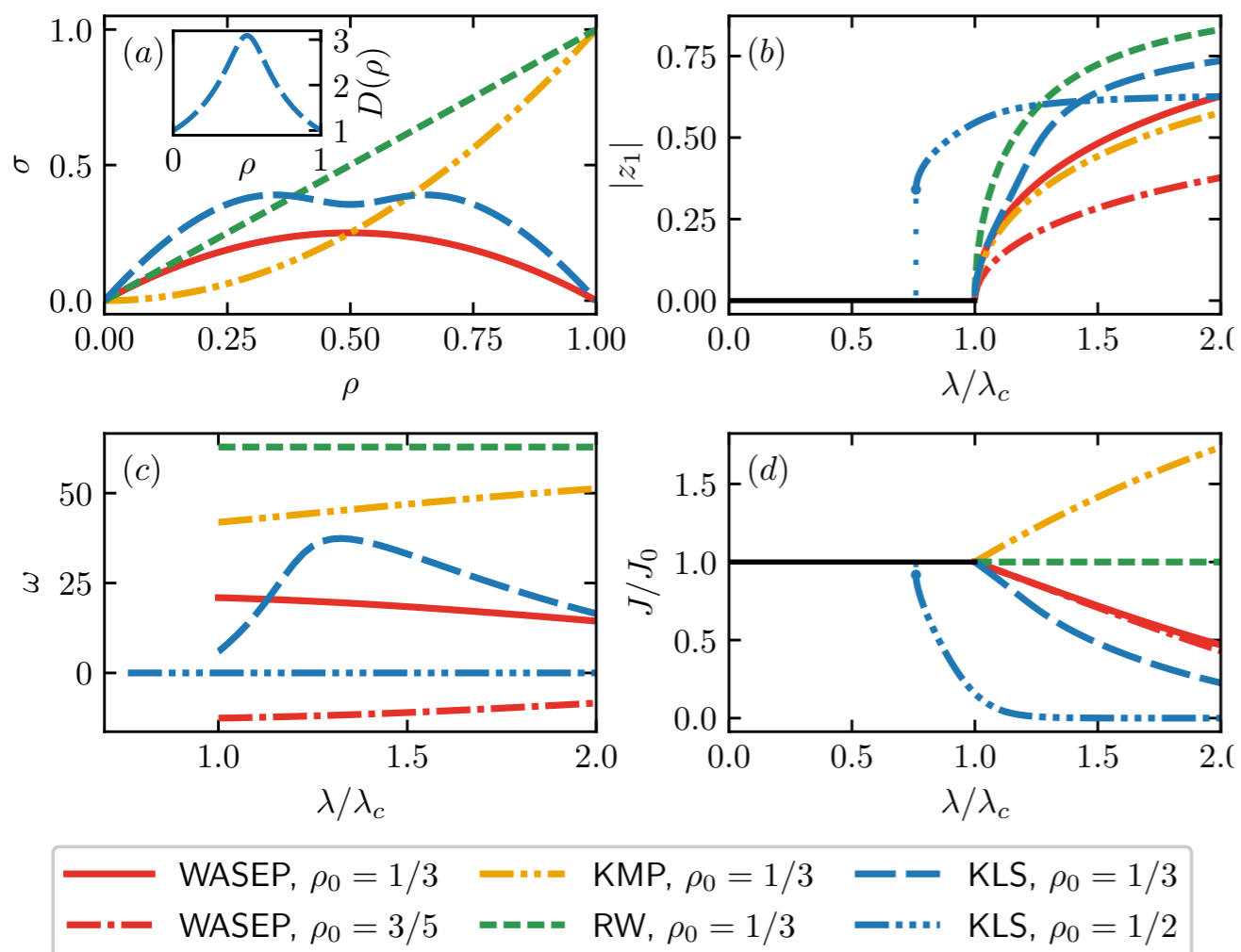
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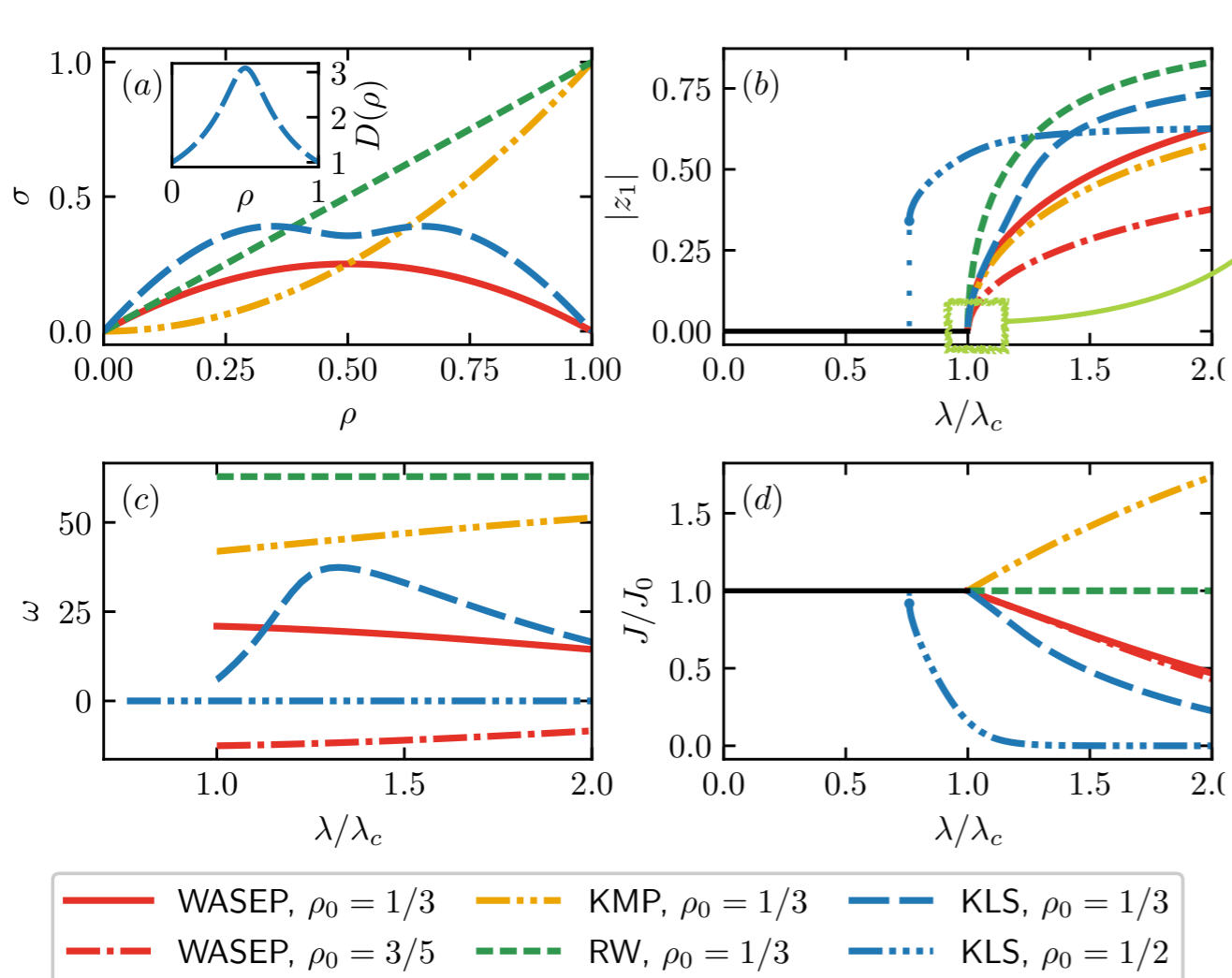
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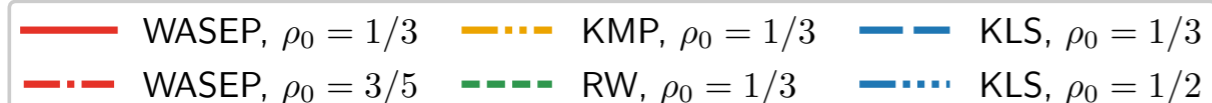
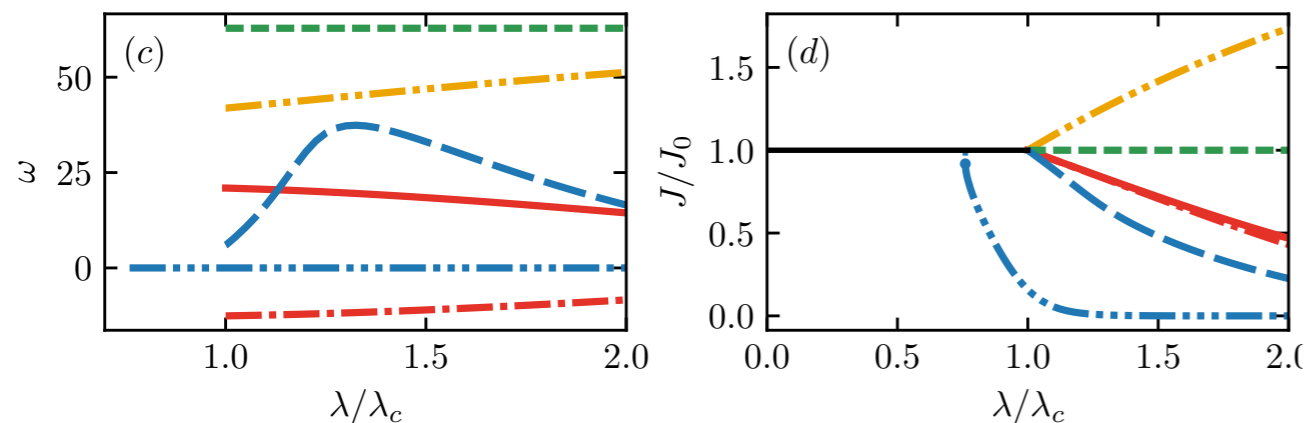
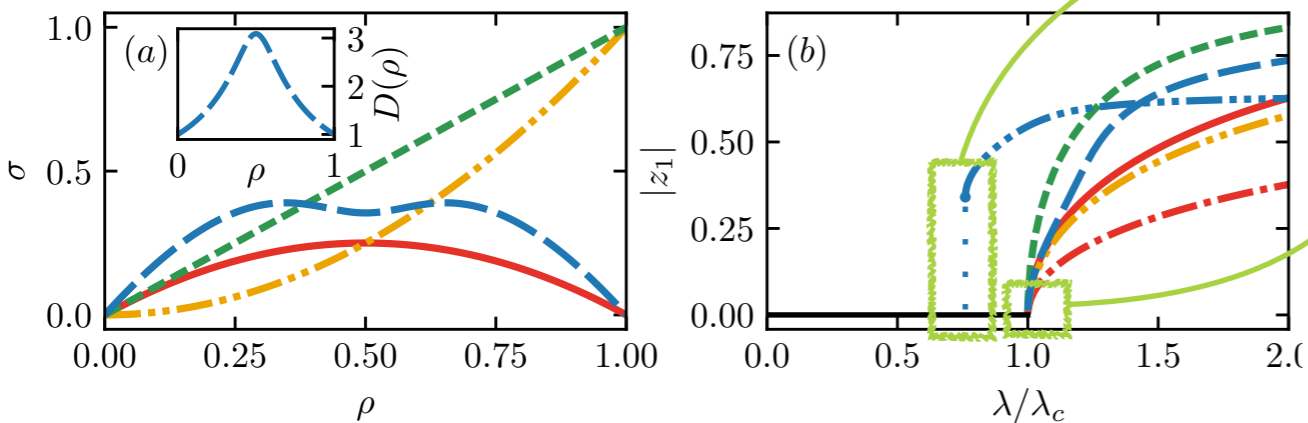
$$E_\lambda^{(m)}(\rho; x) = \epsilon + \lambda r_m(\rho) \sin(2\pi m x - \phi_m(\rho))$$

- Katz-Lebowitz-Spohn (**KLS**) lattice gas
 $D(\rho) = \mathcal{J}(\rho)/\chi(\rho), \sigma(\rho) = 2D(\rho)\chi(\rho)$

- Weakly asymmetric simple exclusions
 process (**WASEP**)
 $D(\rho) = 1/2, \sigma(\rho) = \rho(1 - \rho)$

Discontinuous PT

Continuous phase transition



EXAMPLES

$$\mathcal{J}(\rho) = \frac{\nu[1 + \delta(1 - 2\rho)] - \eta\sqrt{4\rho(1 - \rho)}}{\nu^3}$$

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$$e^{4\beta} \equiv \frac{1 + \eta}{1 - \eta}$$

• To illustrate these ideas, we apply them to **4 paradigmatic lattice gas models**

$$\partial_t \rho = - \left(-D(\rho) \partial_x \rho + \sigma(\rho) E_\lambda^{(m)}(\rho; x) \right)$$

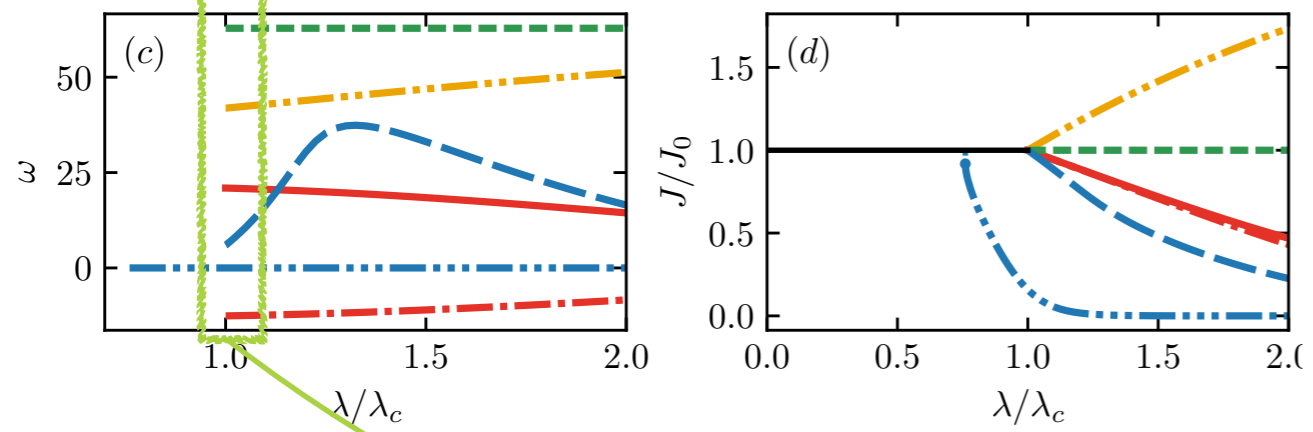
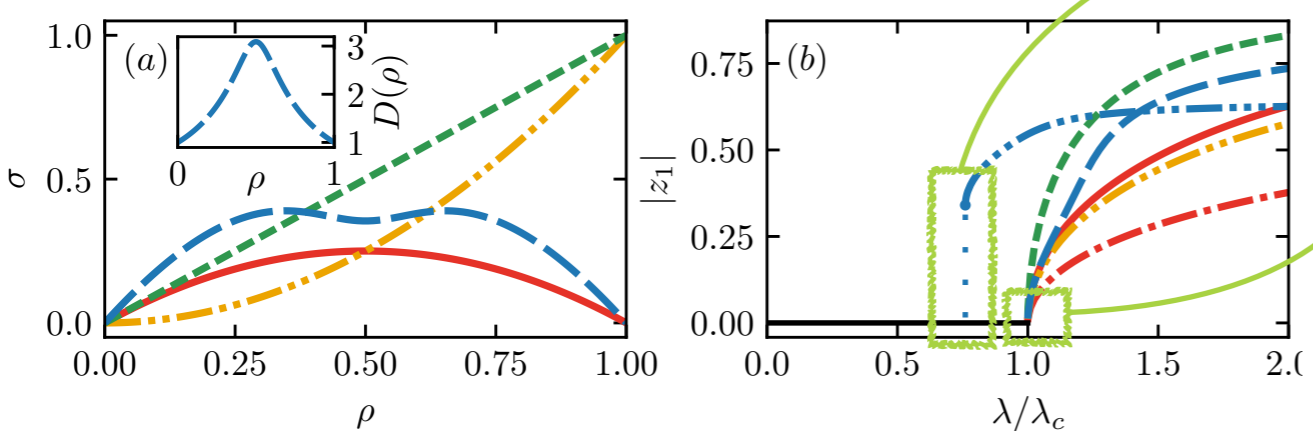
Random walk (**RW**) fluid
 $D(\rho) = 1/2, \sigma(\rho) = \rho$

Kipnis-Marchioro-Presutti (**KMP**)
 heat transport model
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— WASEP, $\rho_0 = 1/3$ - - - KMP, $\rho_0 = 1/3$ - - - KLS, $\rho_0 = 1/3$
 - · - WASEP, $\rho_0 = 3/5$ - - - RW, $\rho_0 = 1/3$ - · - KLS, $\rho_0 = 1/2$

Discontinuous PT

Continuous phase transition

Velocity ω initially proportional to $\sigma'(\rho_0)$

EXAMPLES

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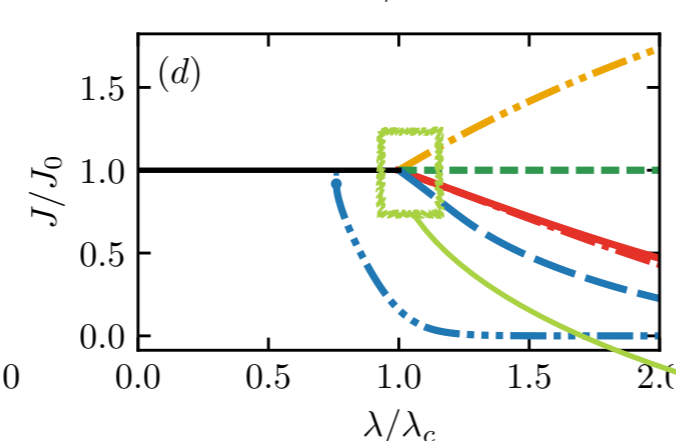
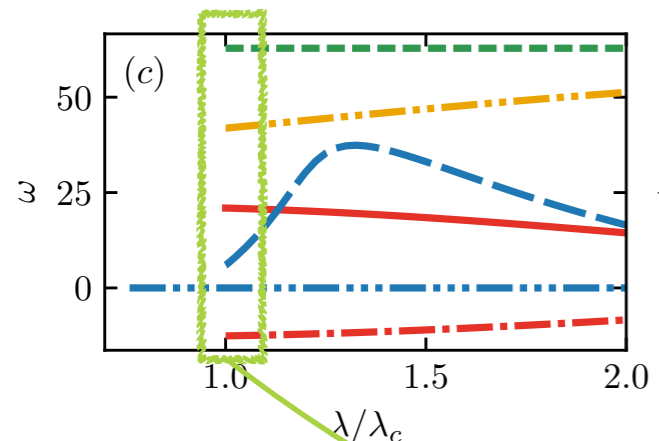
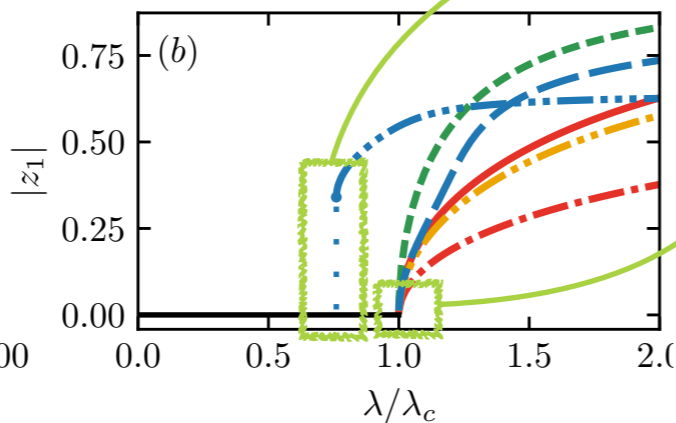
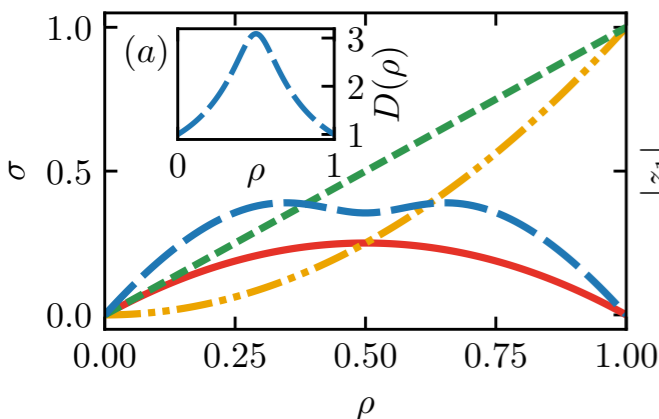
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Weakly asymmetric simple exclusions process (**WASEP**)

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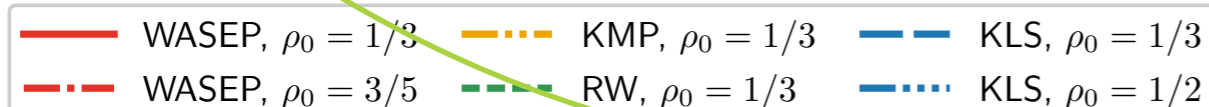
Discontinuous PT

Continuous phase transition



Current J initially proportional to $\sigma''(\rho_0)$

Velocity ω initially proportional to $\sigma'(\rho_0)$



EXAMPLES

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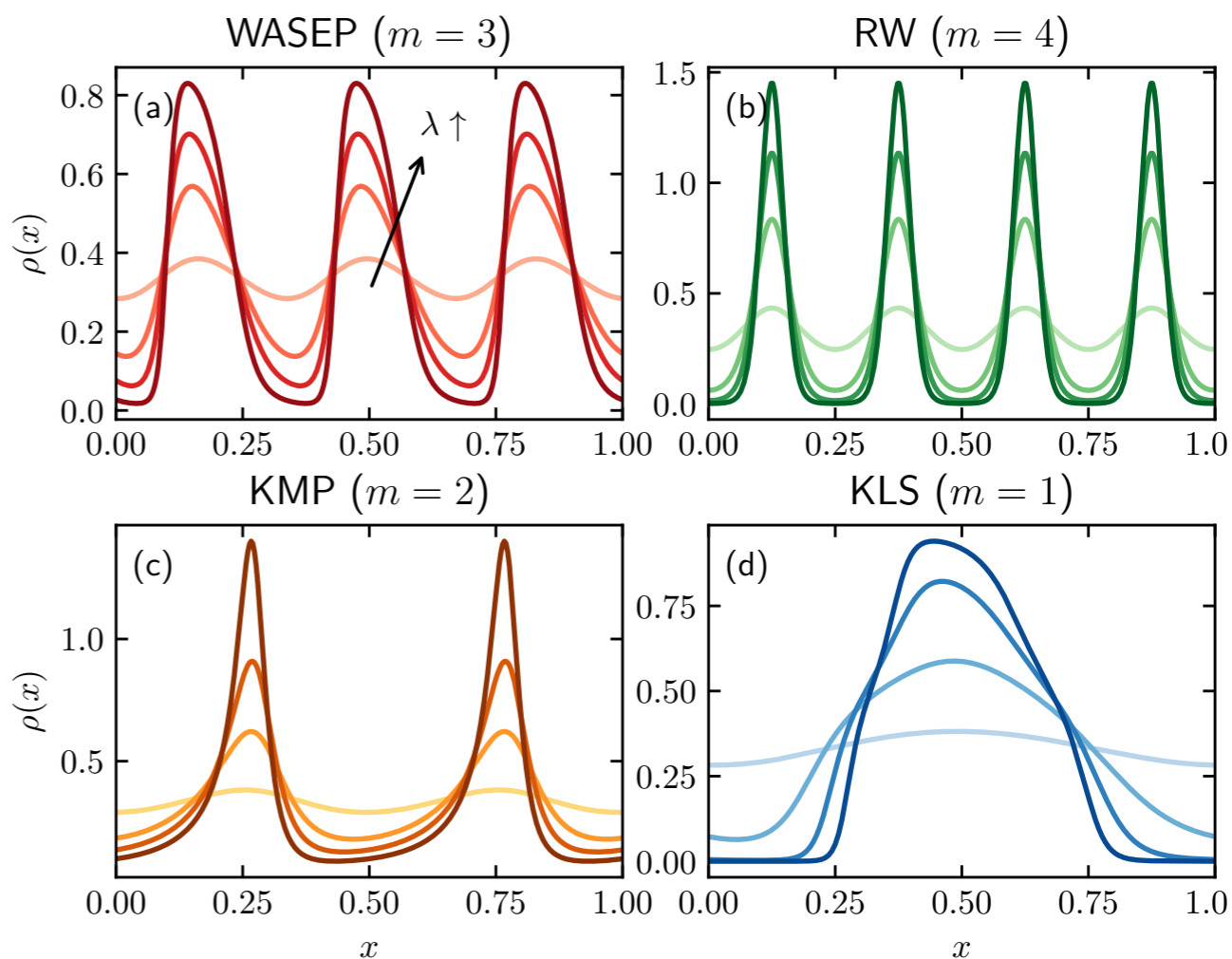
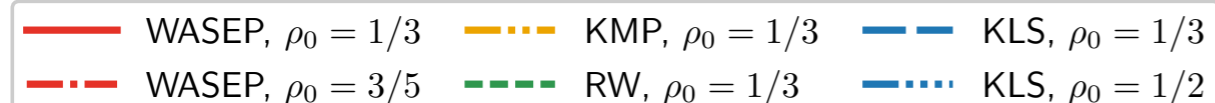
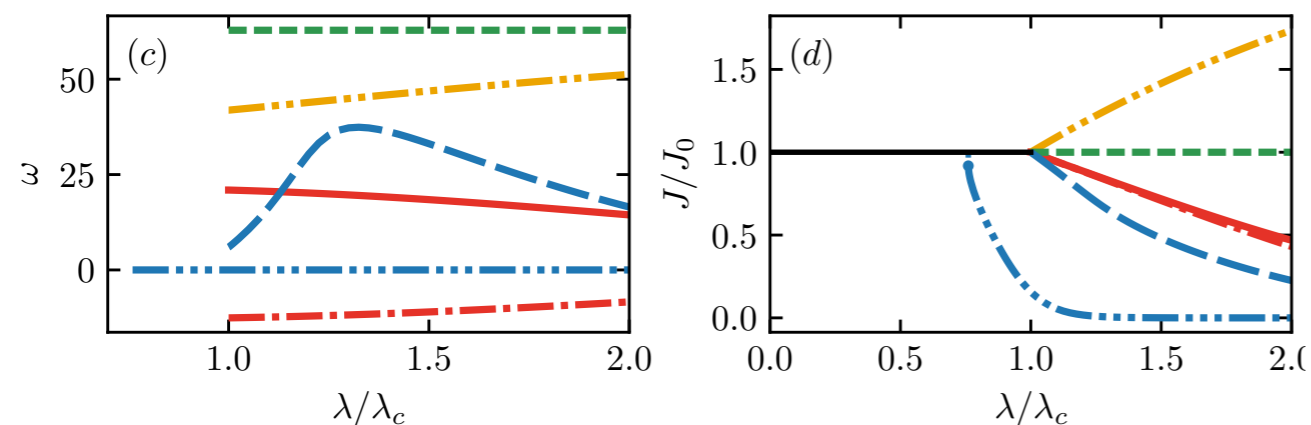
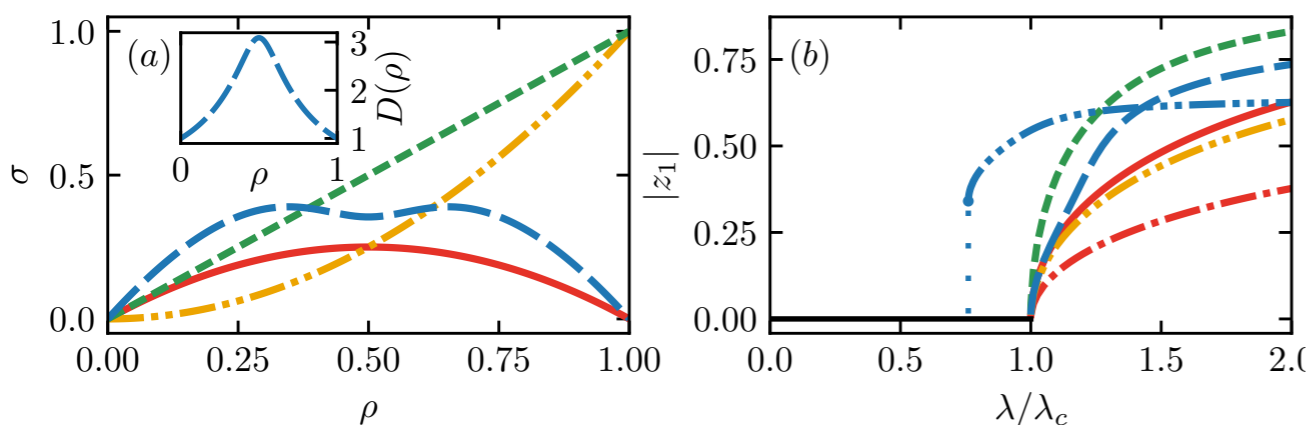
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SUMMARY

- Phase transitions forbidden in equilibrium might be present at the level of **nonequilibrium fluctuations**
- **Time-crystal phases** have been identified for **unlikely currents** in simple diffusive systems (e.g. WASEP, KMP, etc.)
- These phenomena **can be made typical** (observed in the stationary state), and their origin can be traced back to an **instability triggered by a packing field mechanism**
- This leads to a systematic way of **'building'** these intriguing dynamical regimes
- We have shown how to **exploit the packing-field route to craft engineer and control on demand custom continuous time crystals** with m rotating condensates, which can be further enhanced with higher-order modes
- Overall, these results demonstrate the **versatility and broad possibilities of this promising route to time crystals**
- Similar approach could be exploited in **open quantum systems** (at last, $\hbar \neq 0$)

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arXiv 2404.xxxx (2024)



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Thanks for your attention



ugr

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