

# Quantum entanglement and the phases of matter

University of Toronto  
March 22, 2012

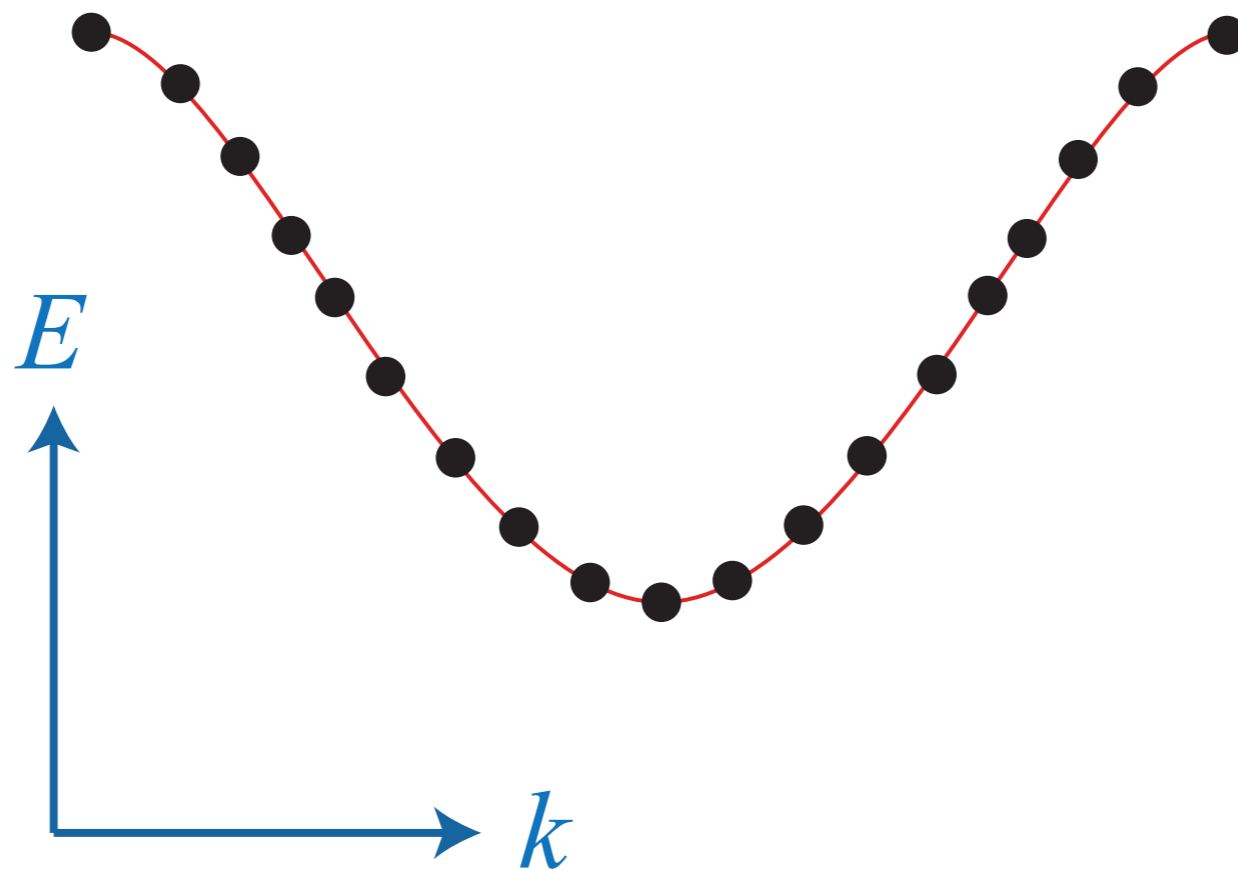
[sachdev.physics.harvard.edu](mailto:sachdev.physics.harvard.edu)



Sommerfeld-Bloch theory of  
metals, insulators, and superconductors:  
many-electron quantum states are adiabatically  
connected to independent electron states

Sommerfeld-Bloch theory of metals, insulators, and superconductors: many-electron quantum states are adiabatically connected to independent electron states

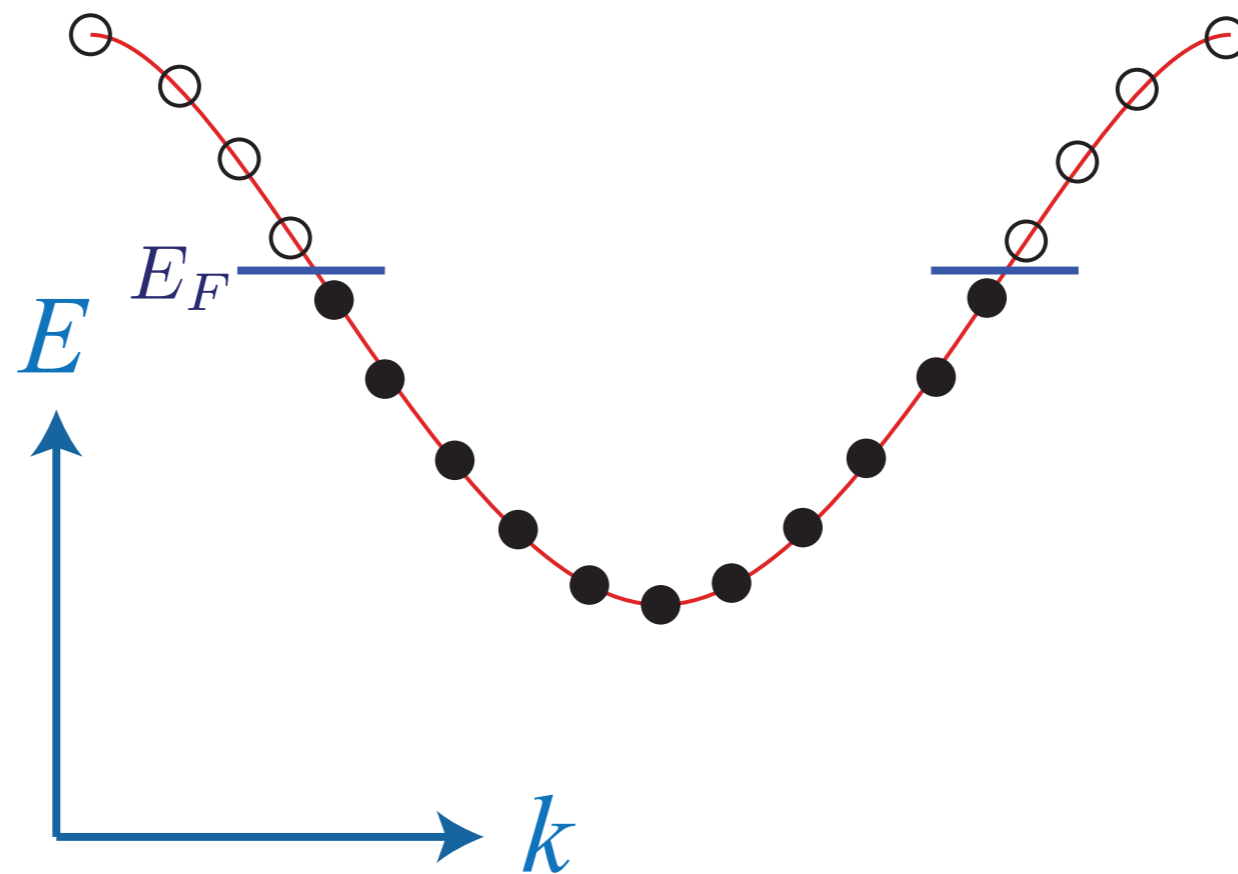
## Band insulators



An even number of electrons per unit cell

Sommerfeld-Bloch theory of metals, insulators, and superconductors: many-electron quantum states are adiabatically connected to independent electron states

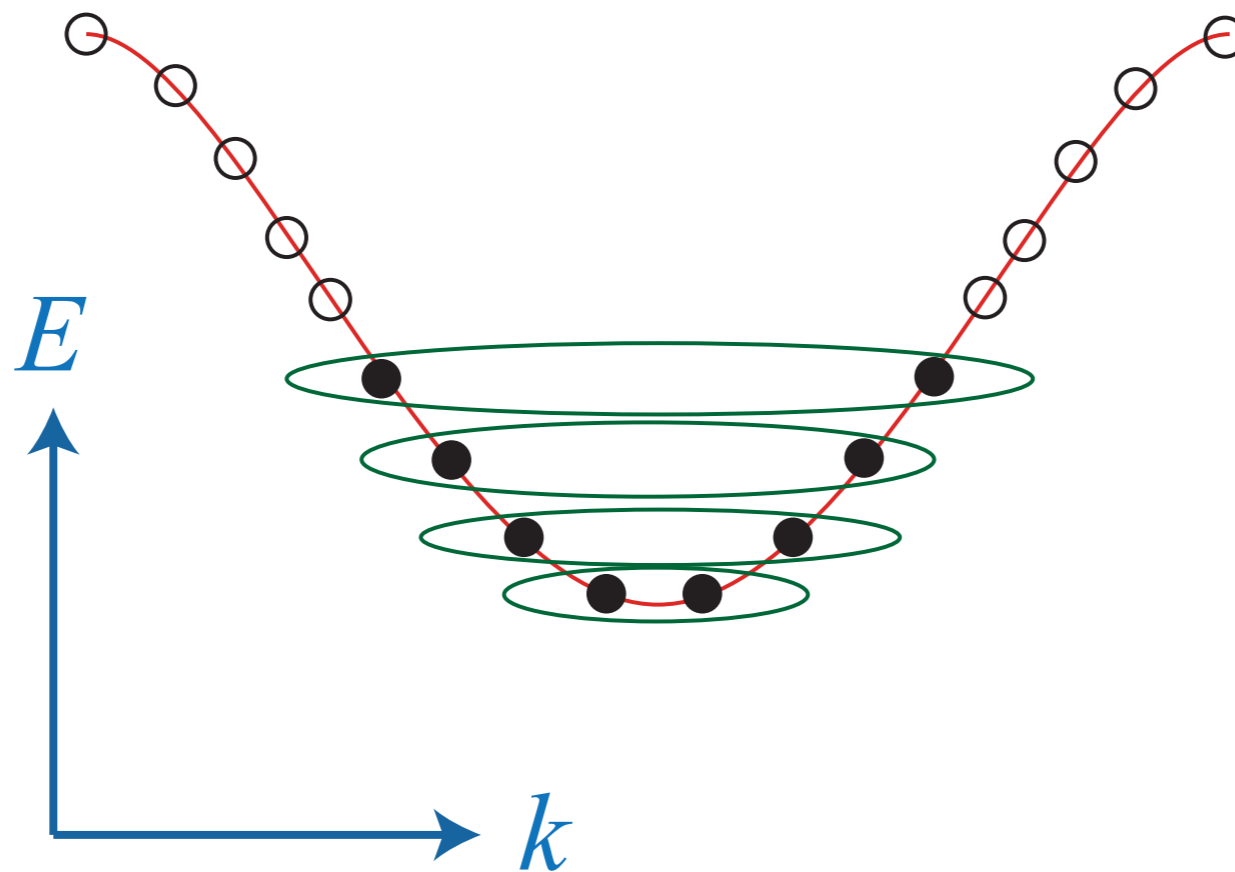
## Metals



An odd number of electrons per unit cell

Sommerfeld-Bloch theory of  
metals, insulators, and superconductors:  
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connected to independent electron states

## Superconductors



**Sommerfeld-Bloch theory of  
metals, insulators, and superconductors:  
many-electron quantum states are adiabatically  
connected to independent electron states**

## Modern phases of quantum matter

Not adiabatically connected to independent electron  
states:

*many-particle quantum entanglement*

**Quantum  
superposition and  
entanglement**



# Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle

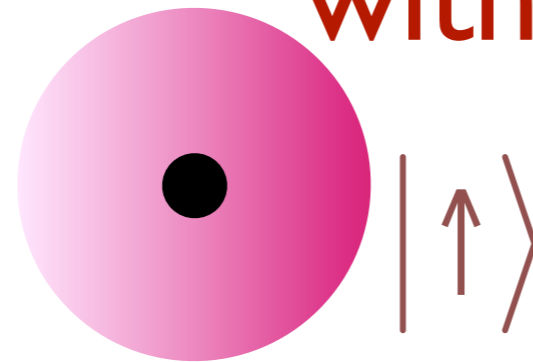
# Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle

Hydrogen atom:

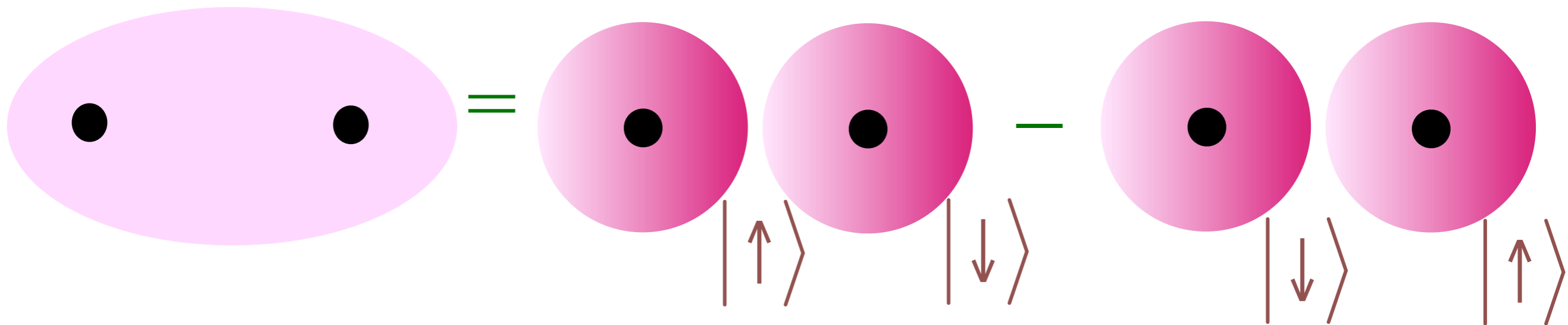


# Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle

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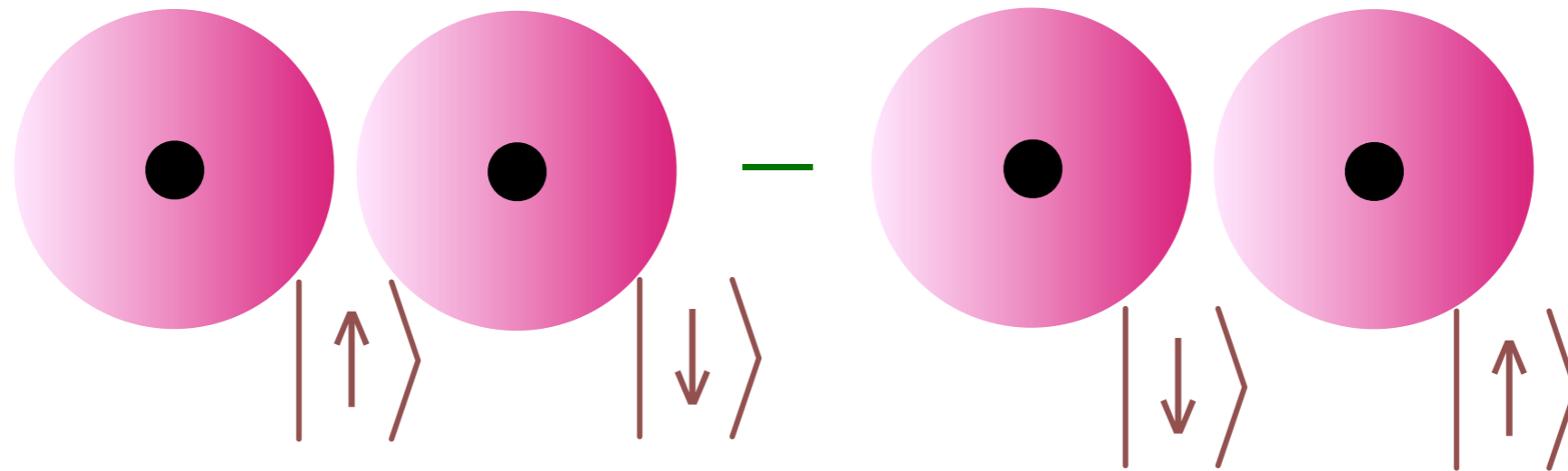
Hydrogen molecule:



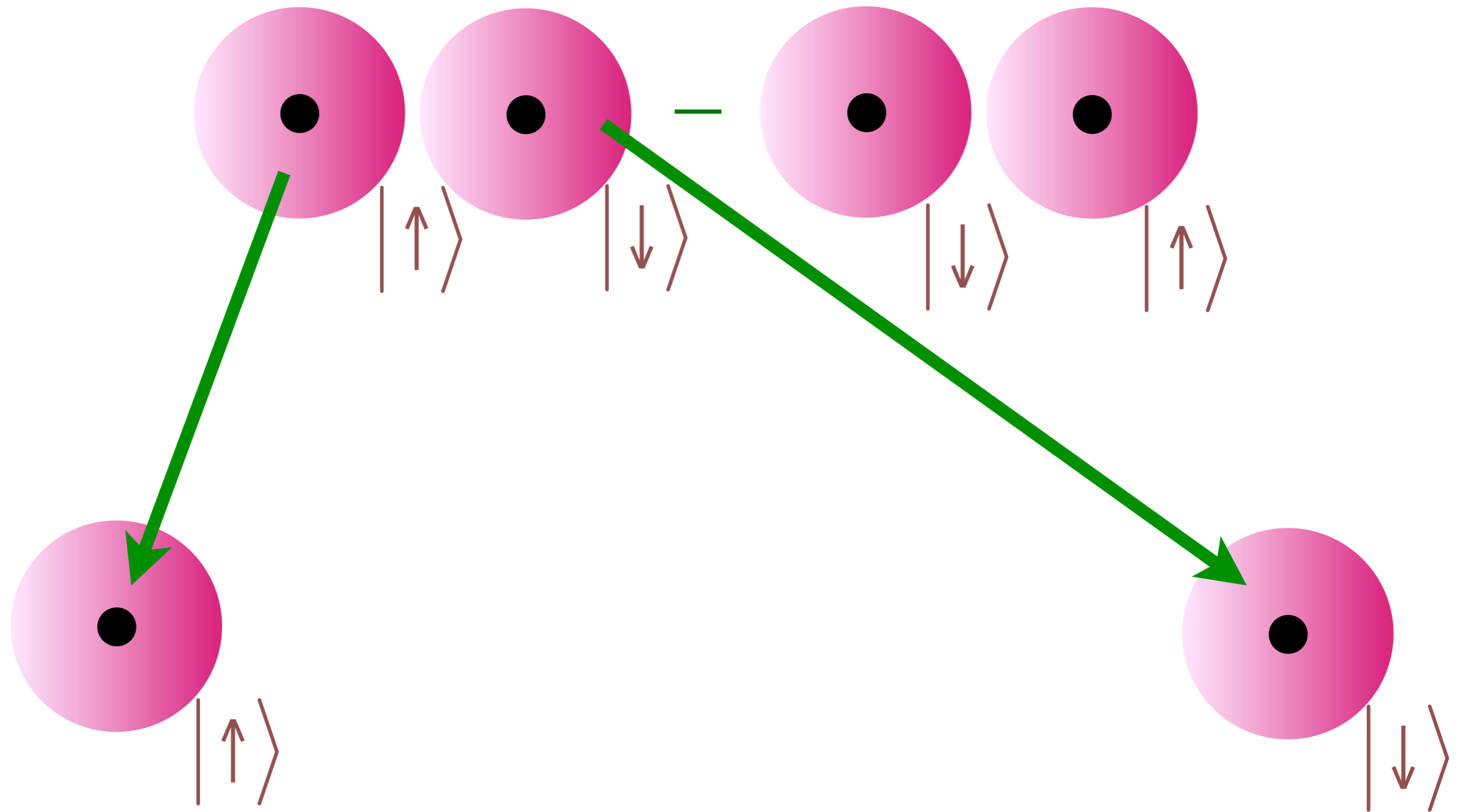
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$

Superposition of two electron states leads to non-local  
correlations between spins

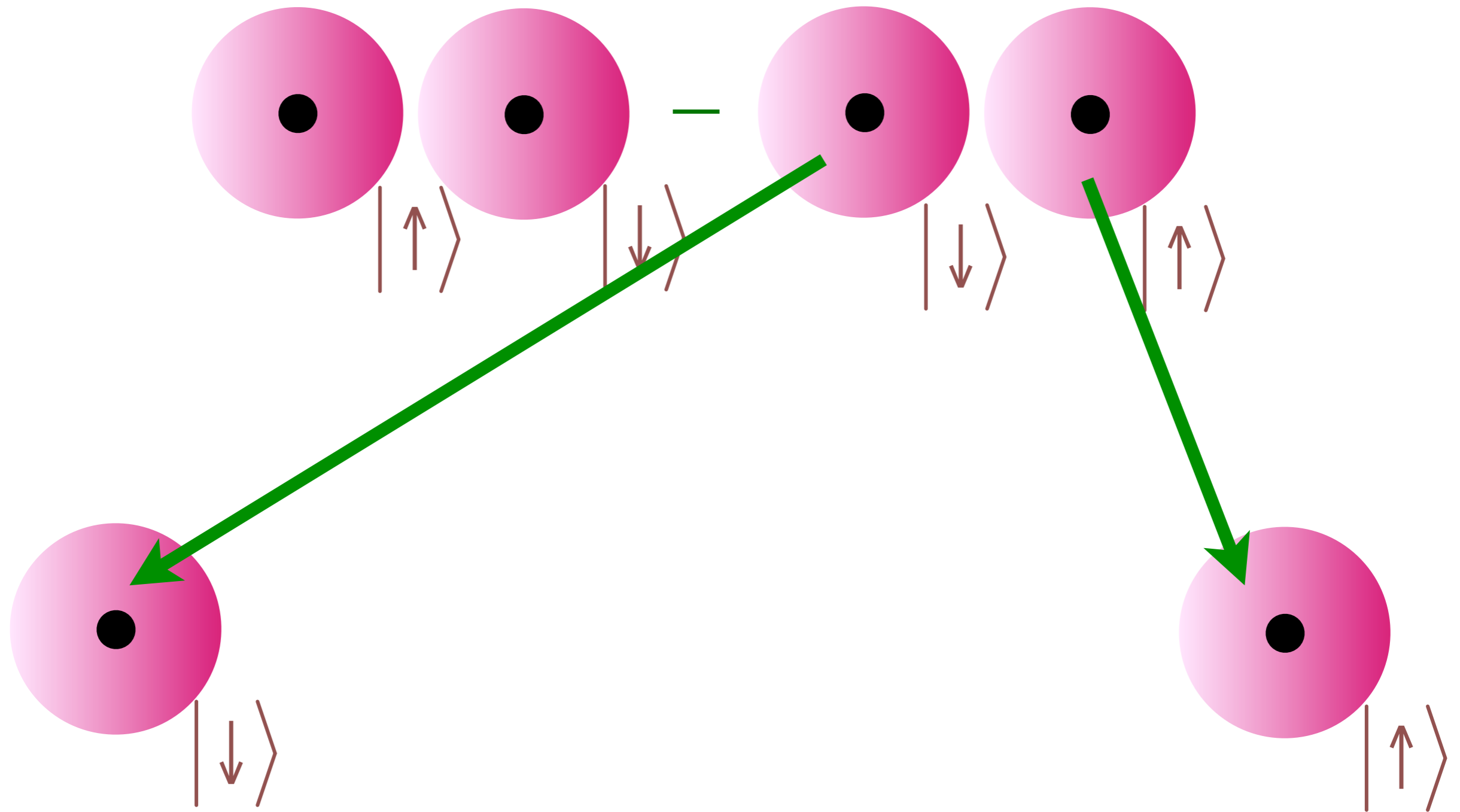
# Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle



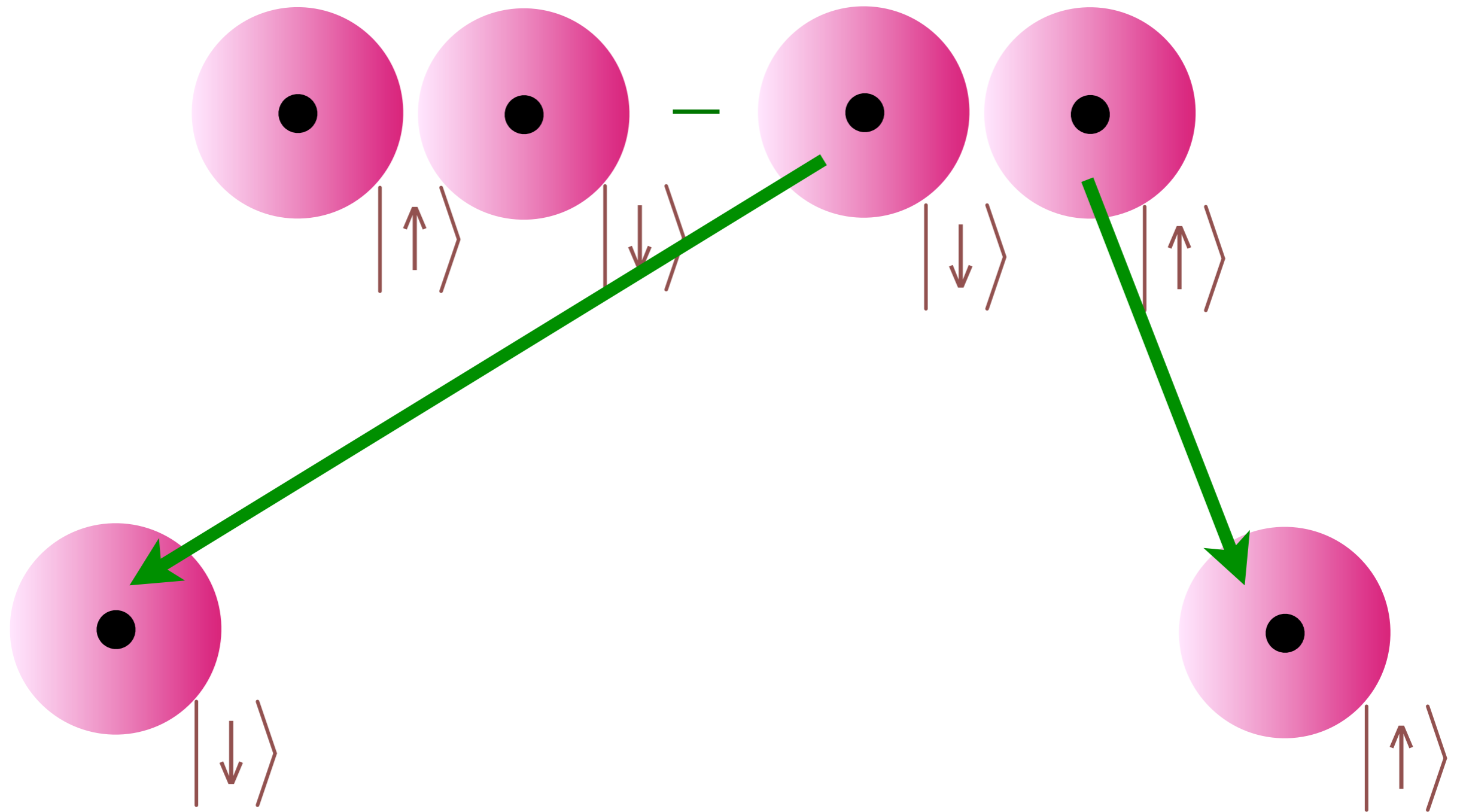
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# Quantum Entanglement: quantum superposition with more than one particle



Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen “paradox”: Non-local correlations between observations arbitrarily far apart

**Quantum  
superposition and  
entanglement**

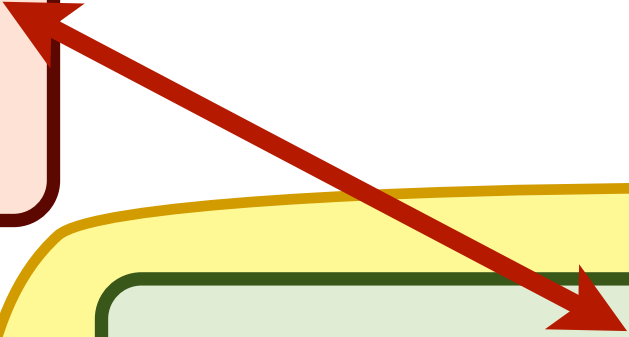


**Quantum  
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**Quantum critical  
points of electrons  
in crystals**

**String theory  
and black holes**

**Quantum  
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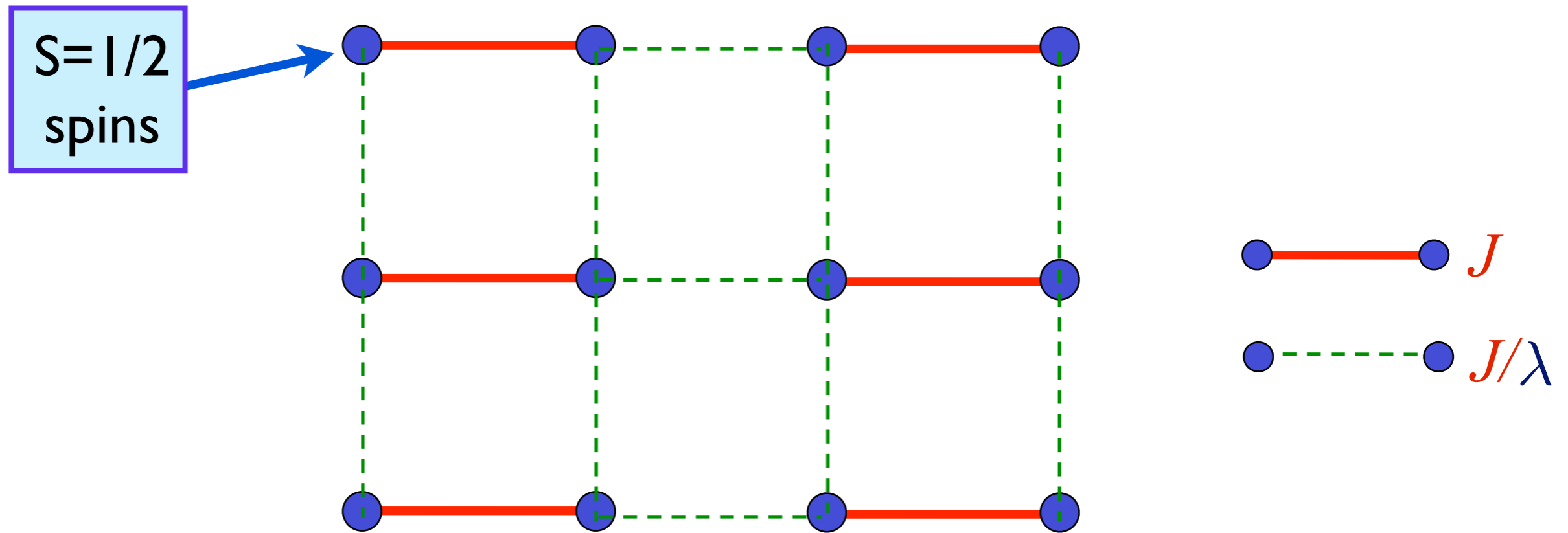


**Quantum critical  
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# Spinning electrons localized on a square lattice

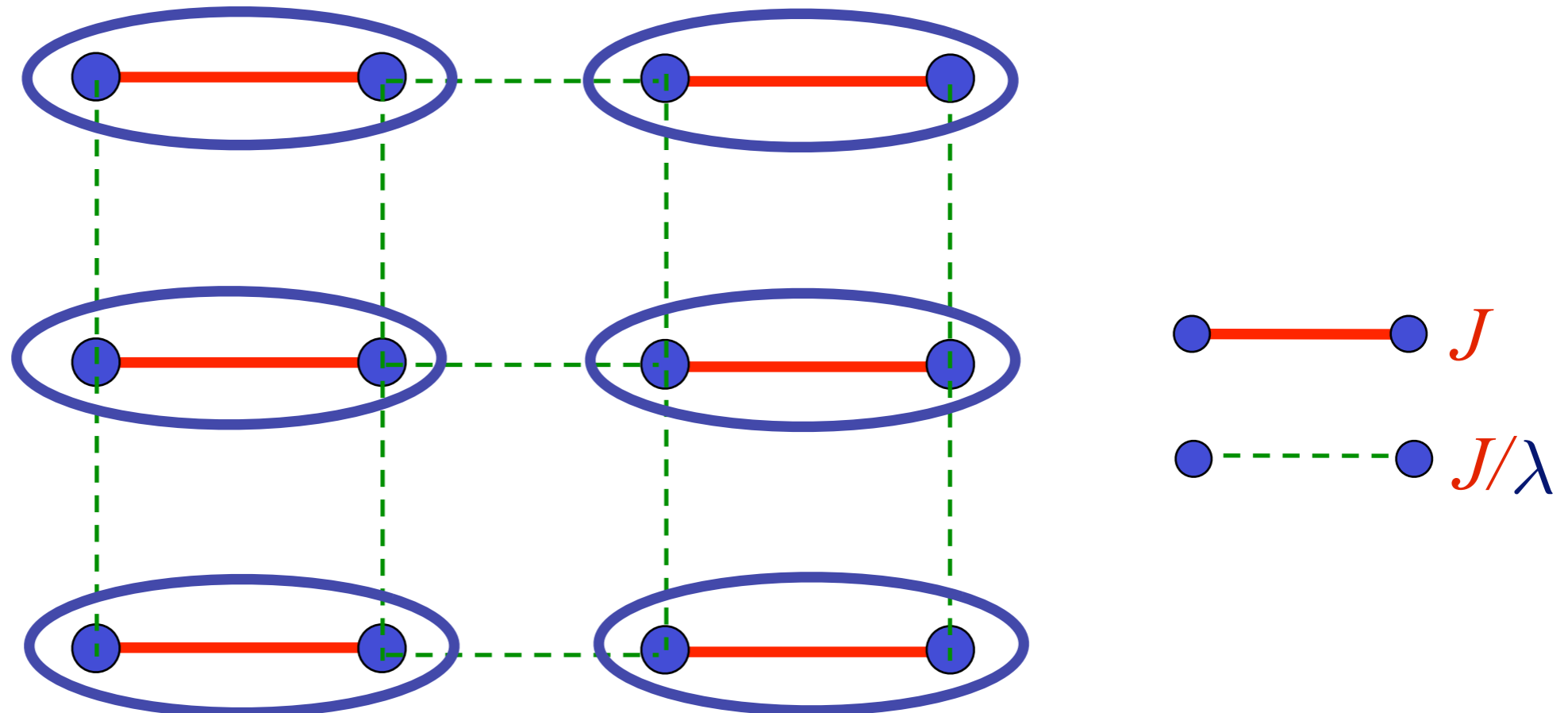
$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$



Examine ground state as a function of  $\lambda$

# Spinning electrons localized on a square lattice

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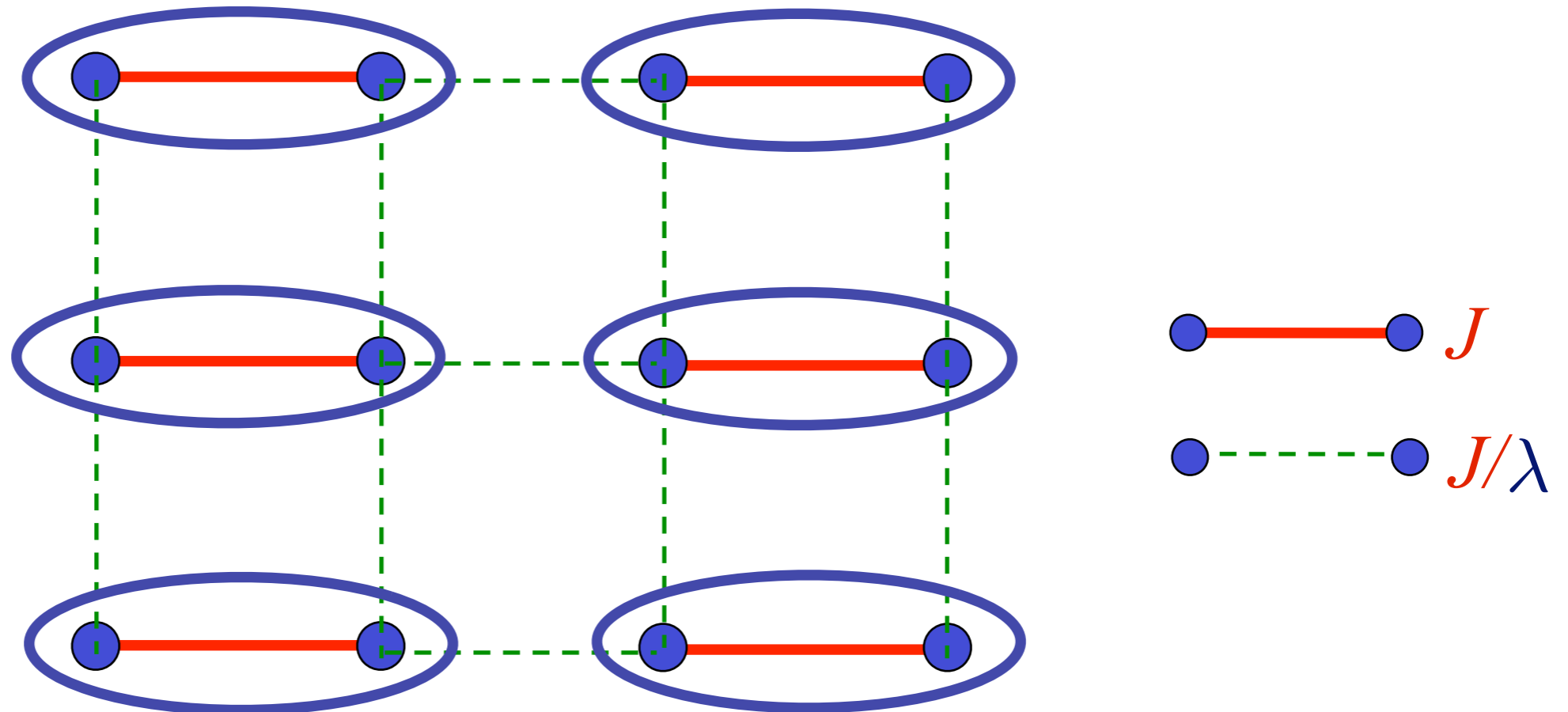


$$\text{Valence bond singlet} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$

At large  $\lambda$  ground state is a “quantum paramagnet” with spins locked in valence bond singlets

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$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j$$

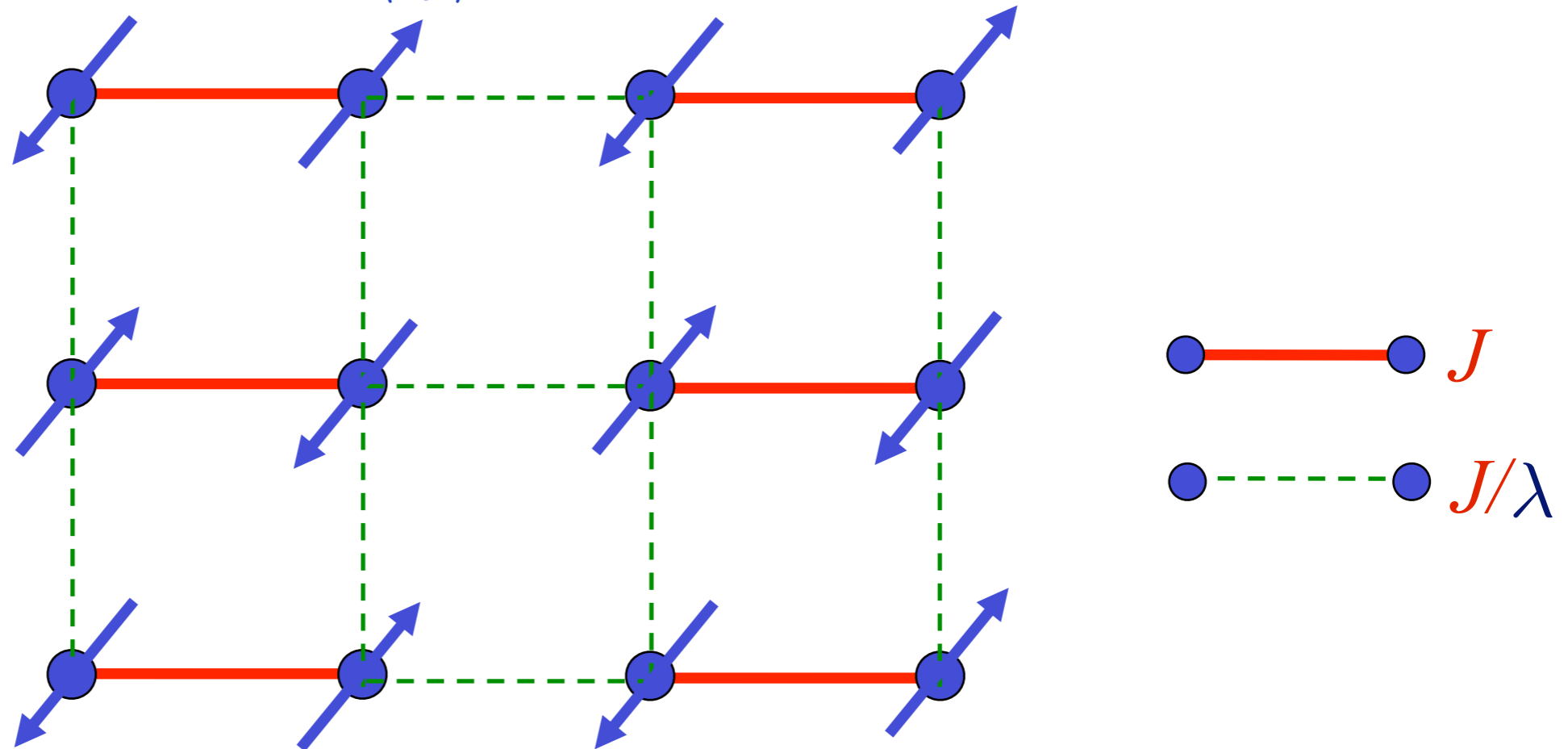


$$\text{[Pair of spins]} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$

Nearest-neighbor spins are “entangled” with each other.  
Can be separated into an Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen (EPR) pair.

# Spinning electrons localized on a square lattice

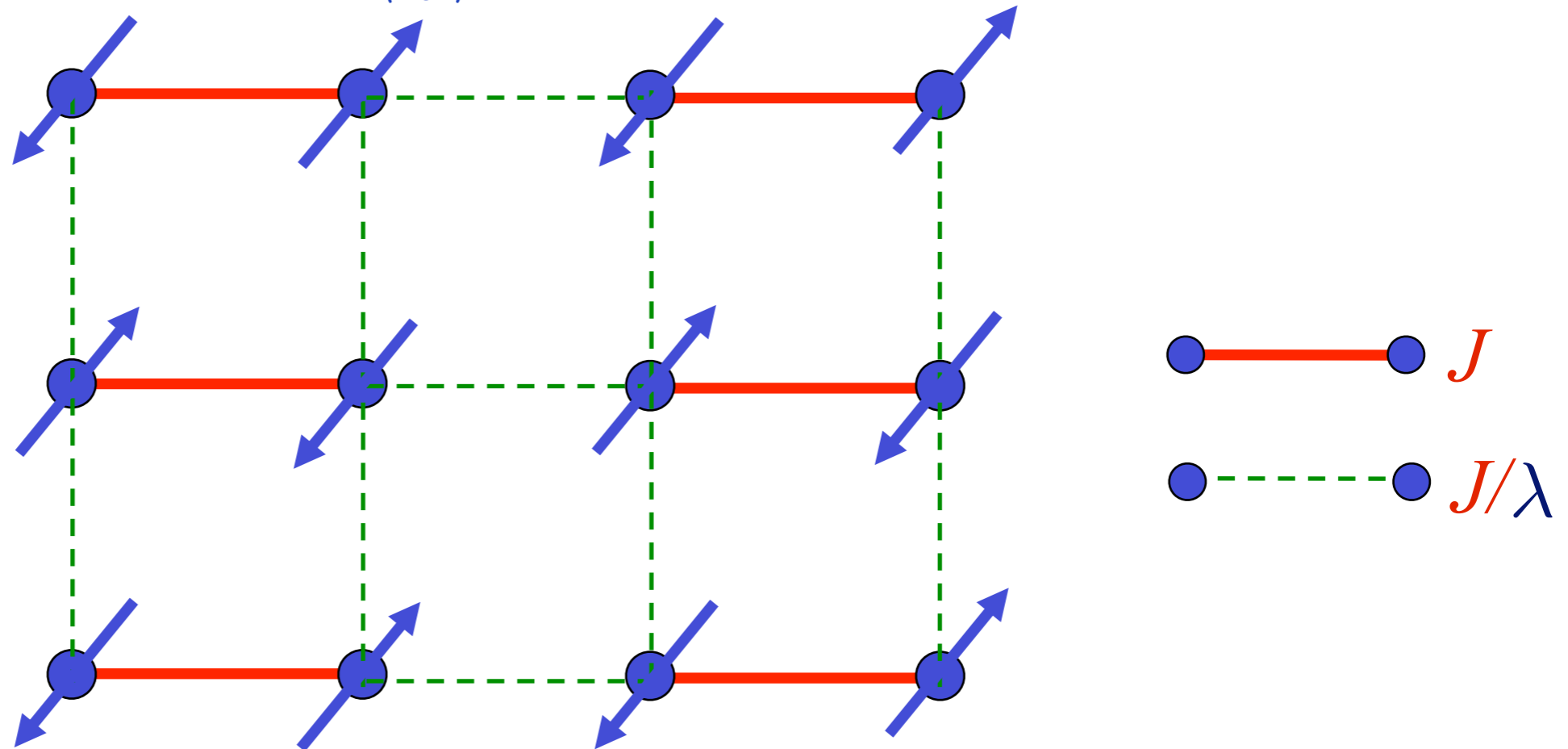
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For  $\lambda \approx 1$ , the ground state has antiferromagnetic (“Néel”) order, and the spins align in a checkerboard pattern

# Spinning electrons localized on a square lattice

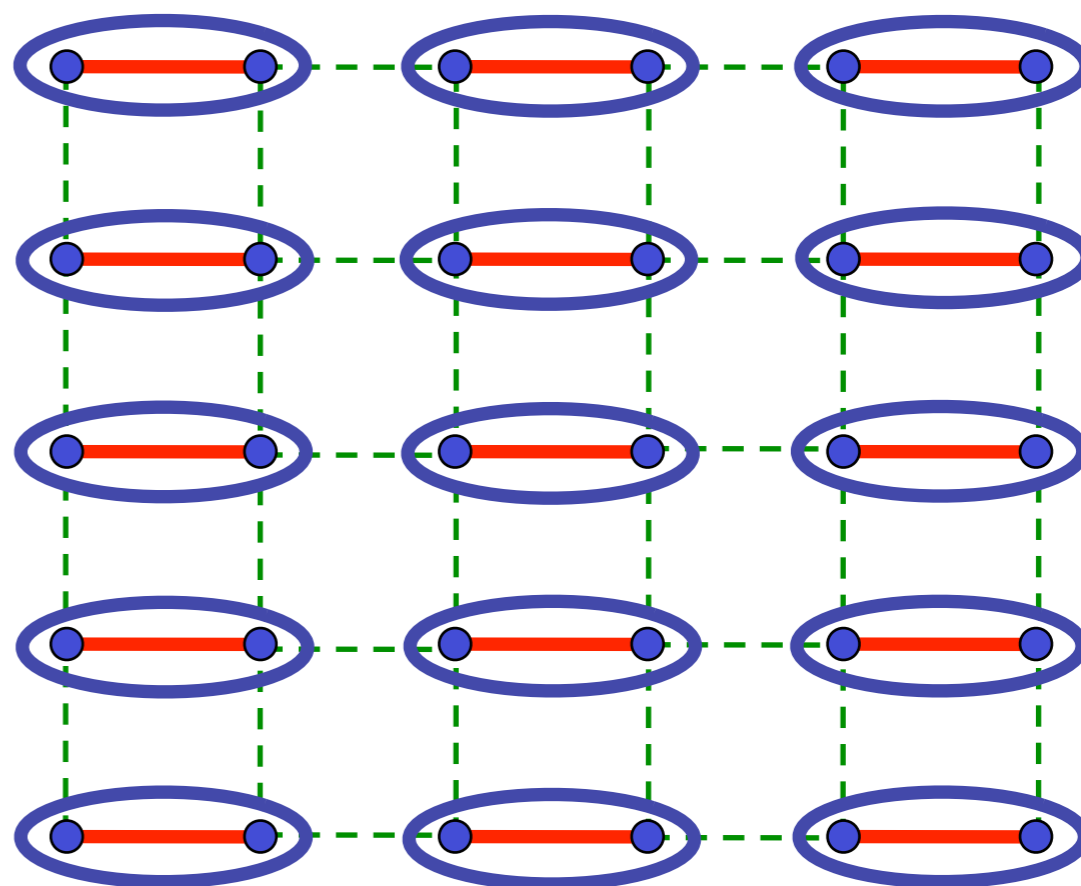
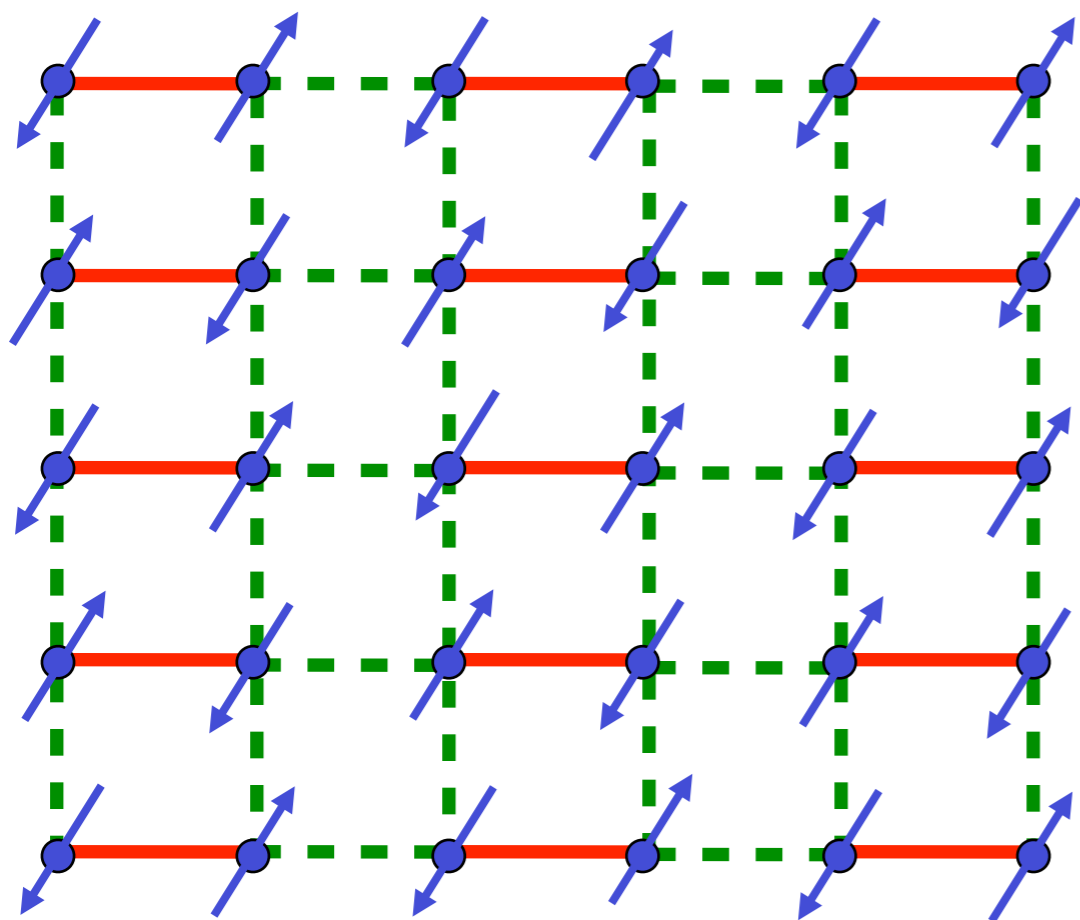
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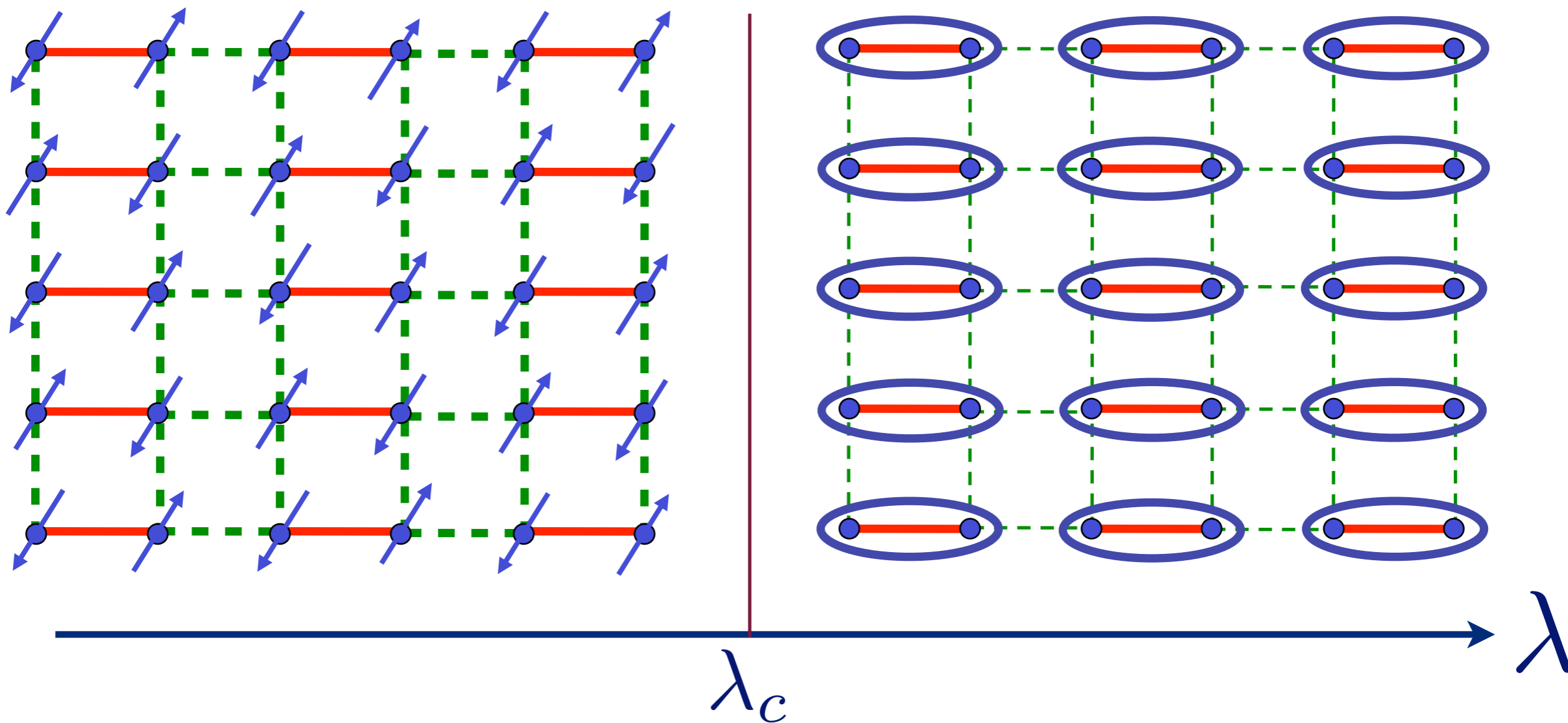
**No EPR pairs**

$$\text{Diagram of two blue spheres connected by a red line, enclosed in a blue oval} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$





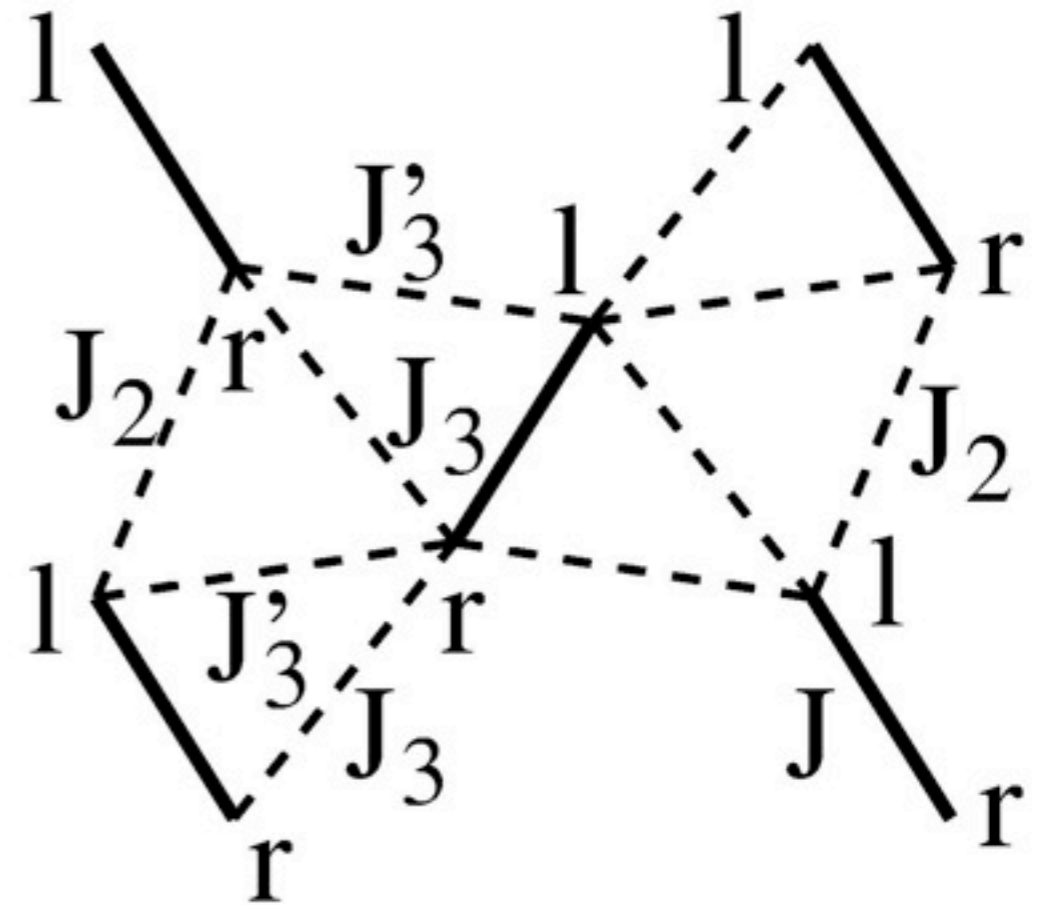
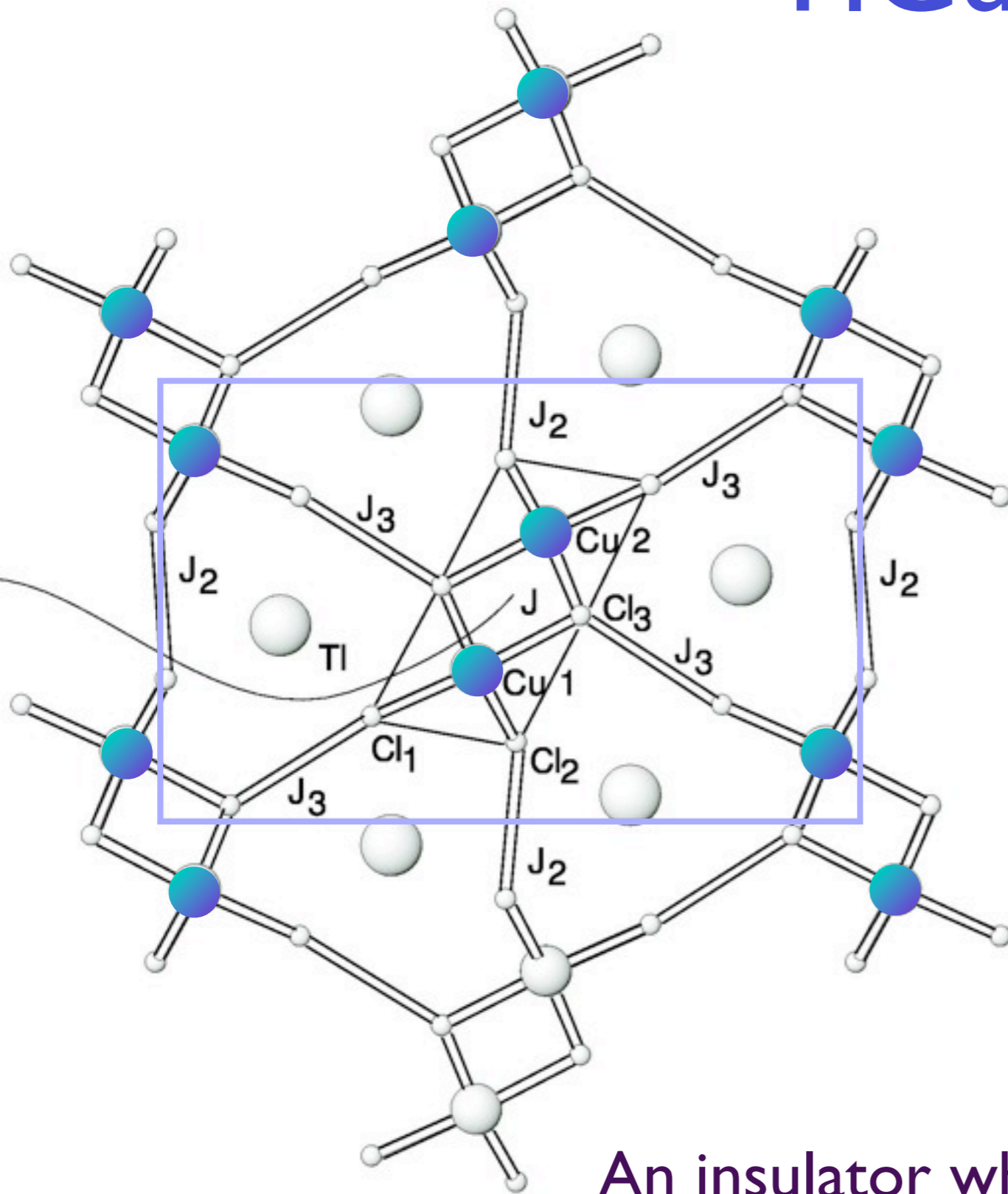
$$\text{Diagram of two blue spheres connected by a red line, enclosed in a blue oval} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$



Pressure in  $\text{TlCuCl}_3$

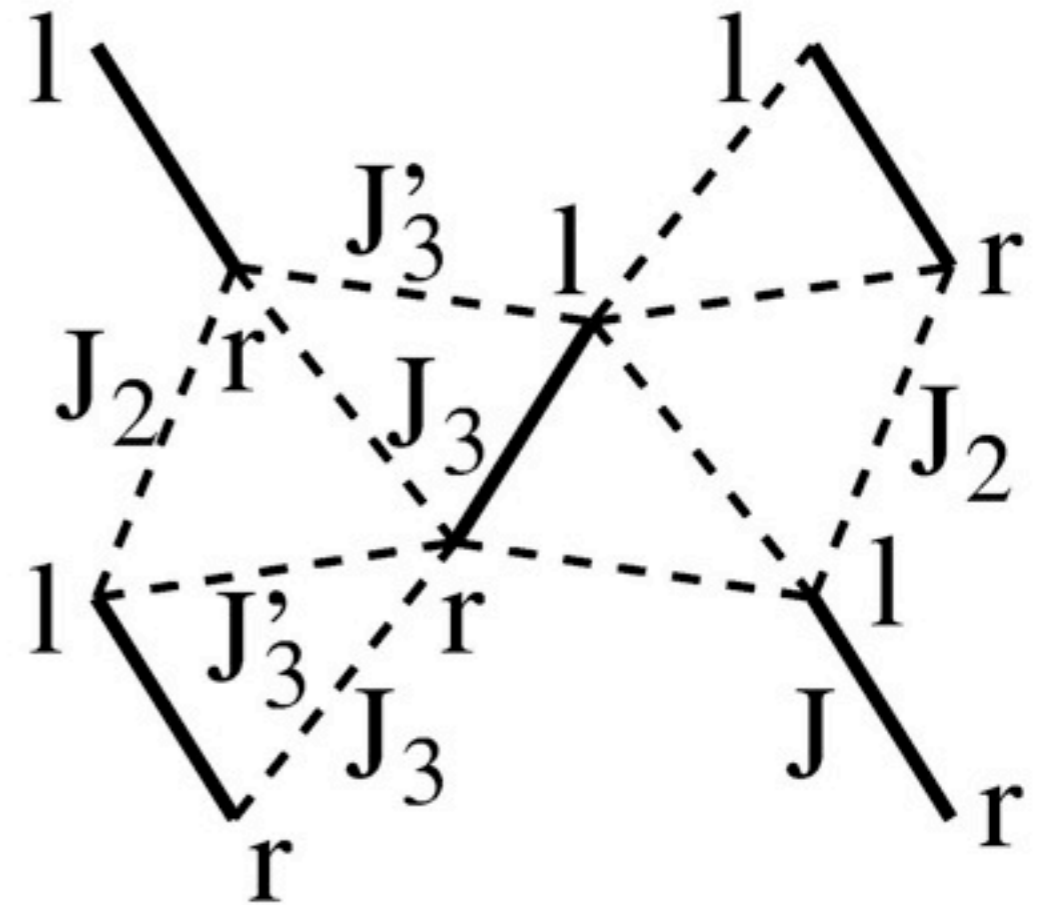
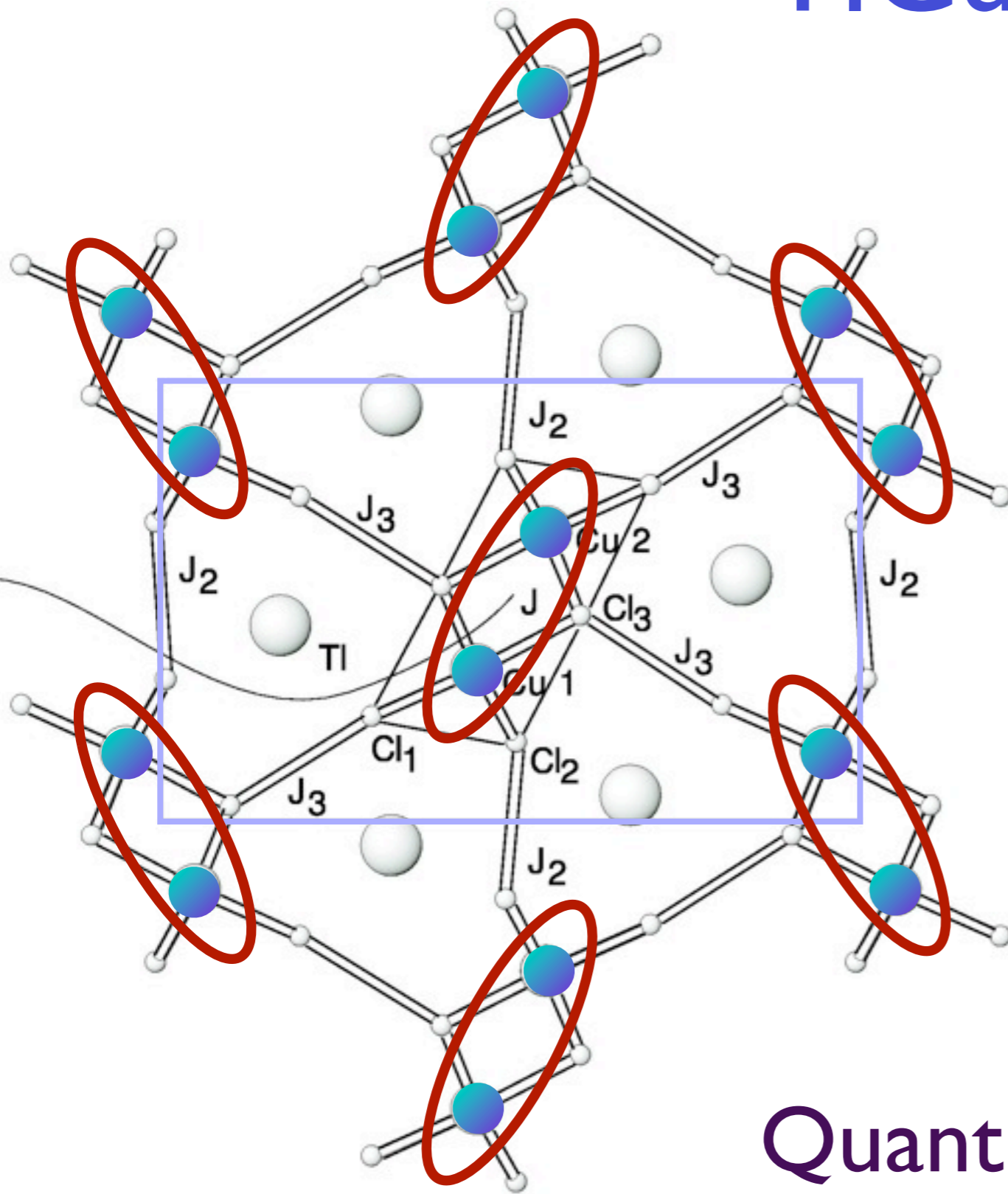
A. Oosawa, K. Kakurai, T. Osakabe, M. Nakamura, M. Takeda, and H. Tanaka,  
*Journal of the Physical Society of Japan*, **73**, 1446 (2004).

# TlCuCl<sub>3</sub>



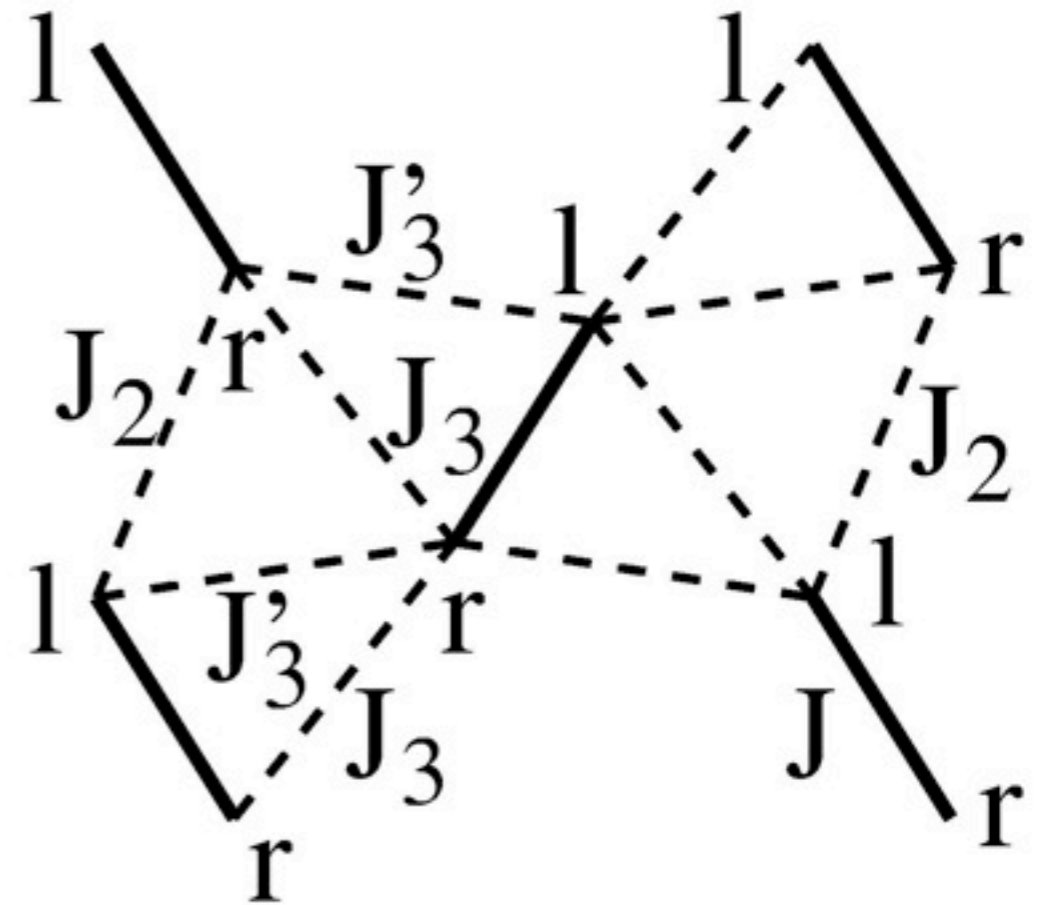
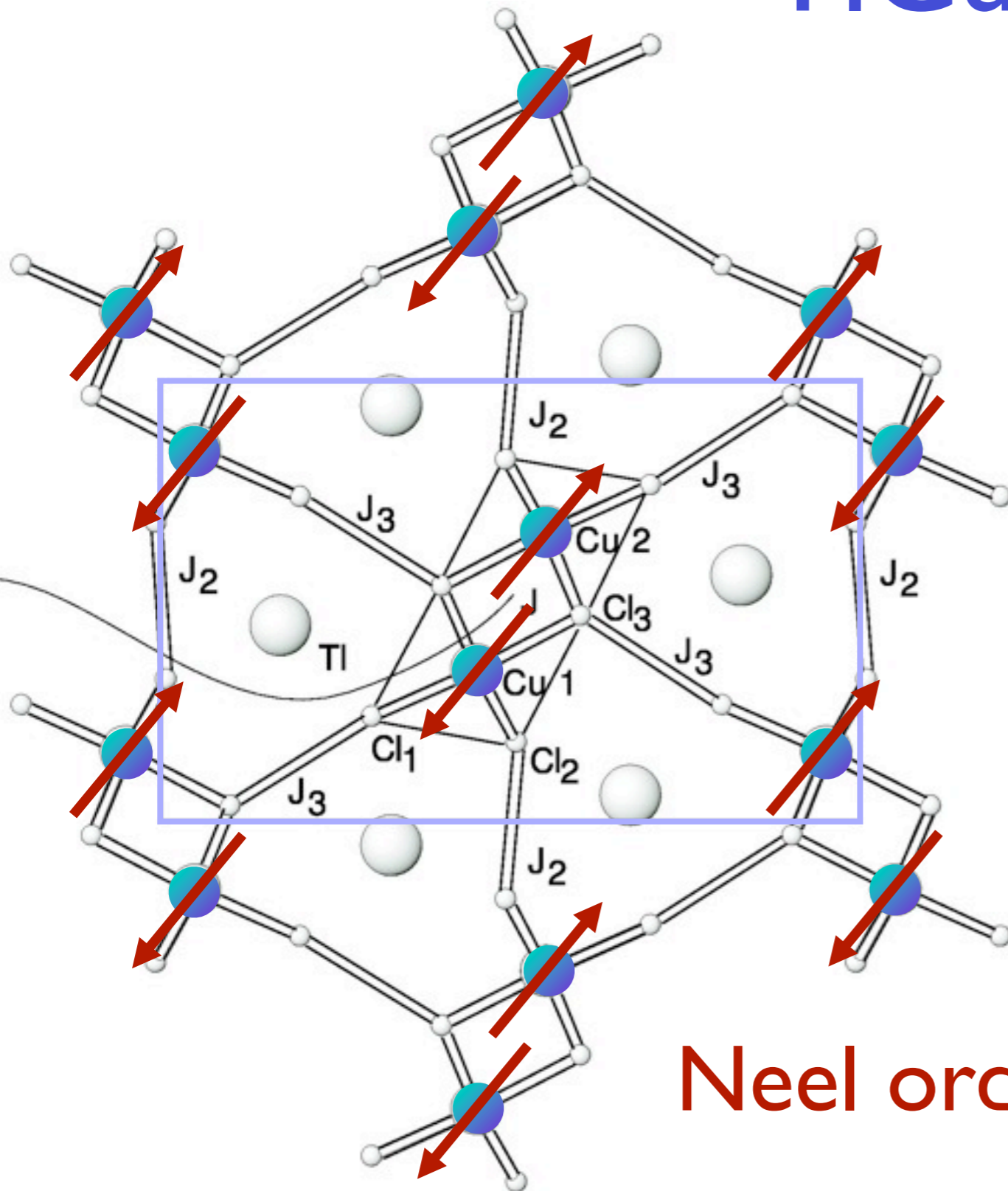
An insulator whose spin susceptibility vanishes exponentially as the temperature  $T$  tends to zero.

# TlCuCl<sub>3</sub>



Quantum paramagnet at  
ambient pressure

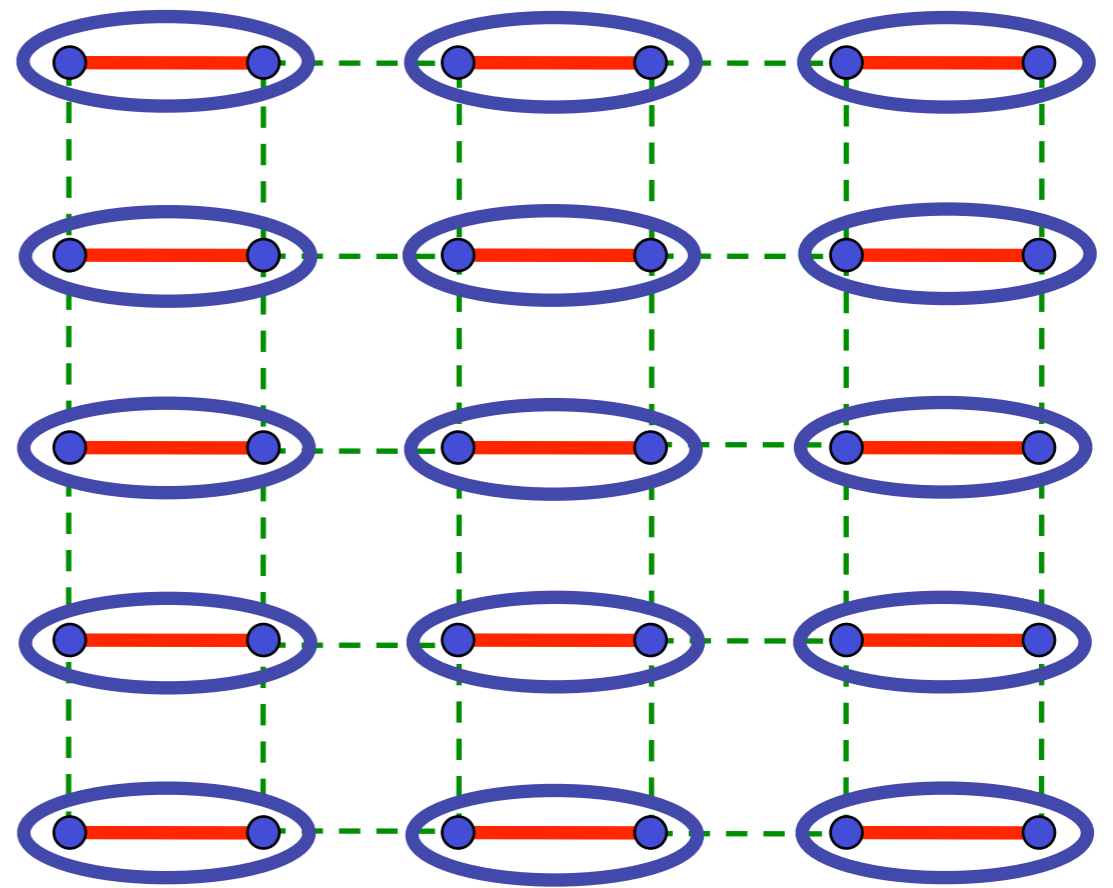
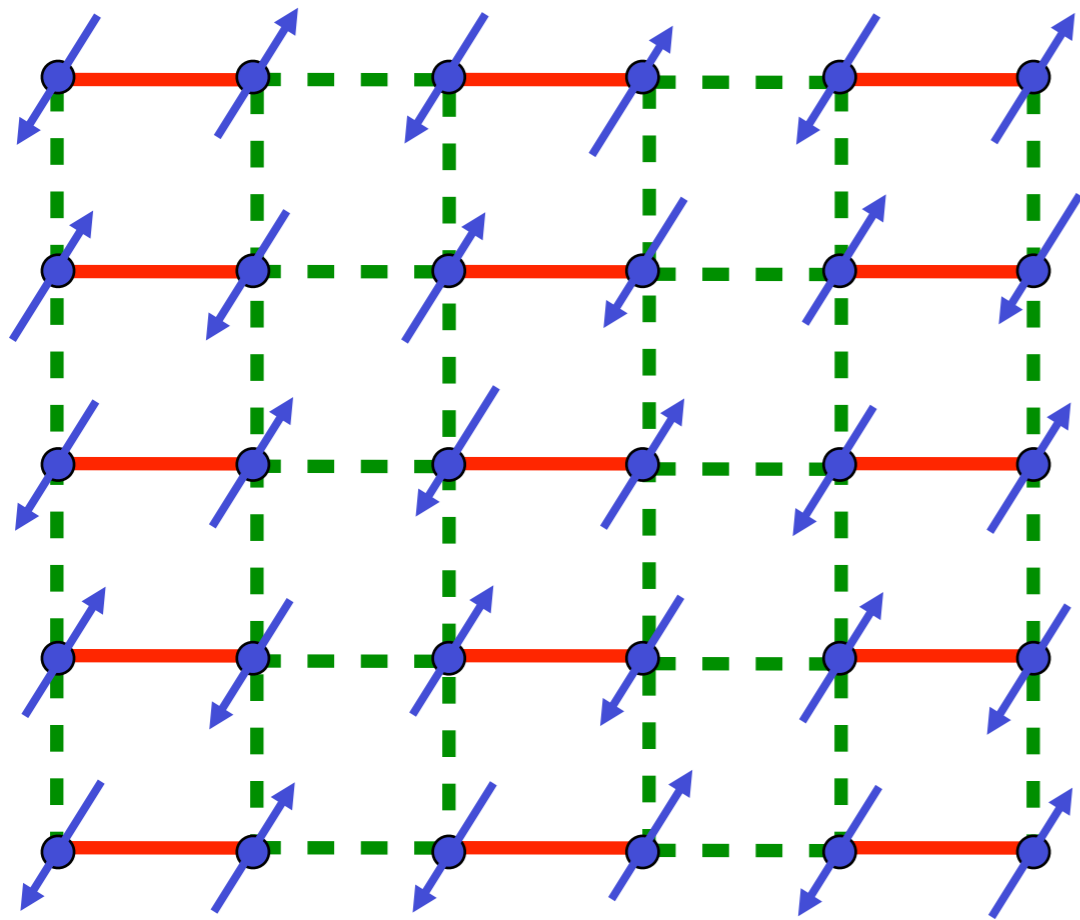
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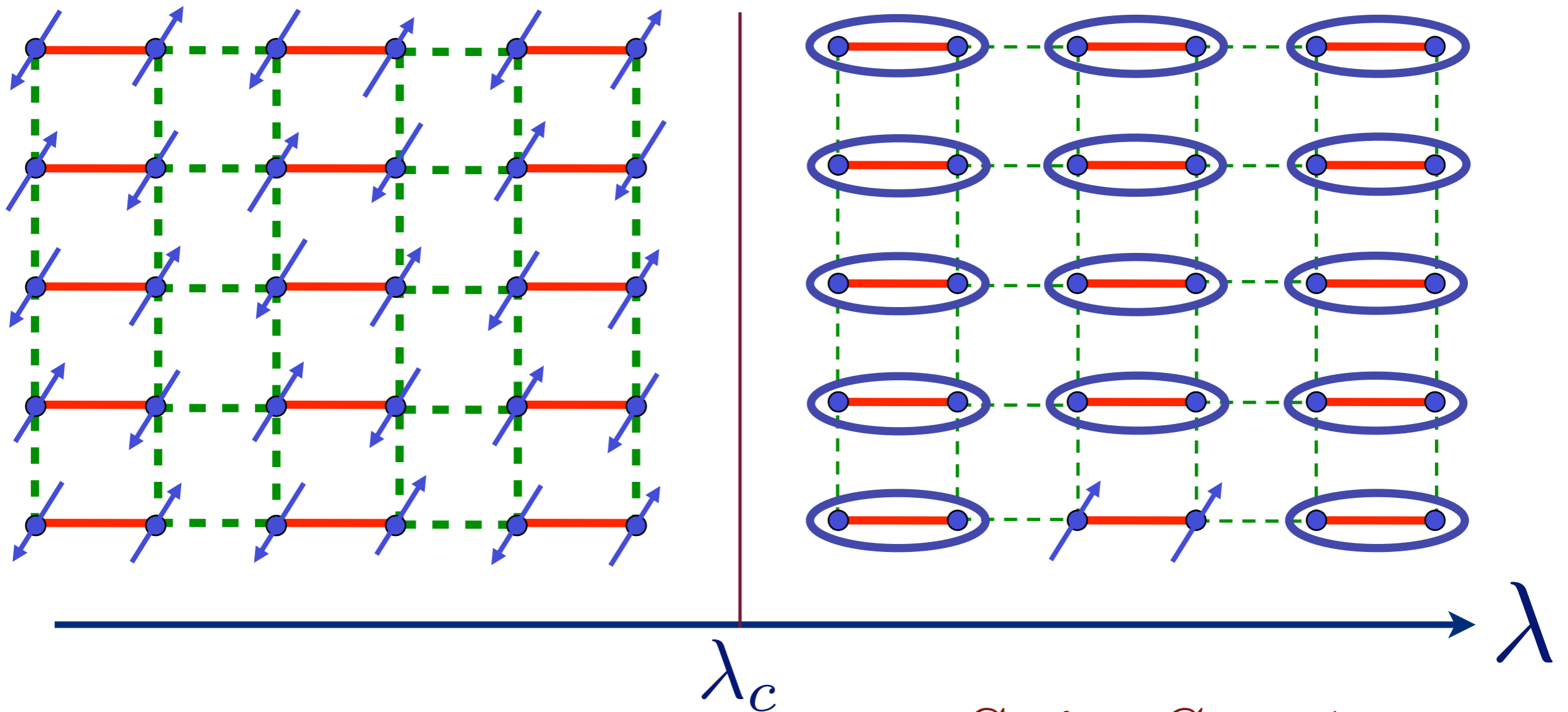
Neel order under pressure

A. Oosawa, K. Kakurai, T. Osakabe, M. Nakamura, M. Takeda, and H. Tanaka, *Journal of the Physical Society of Japan*, **73**, 1446 (2004).

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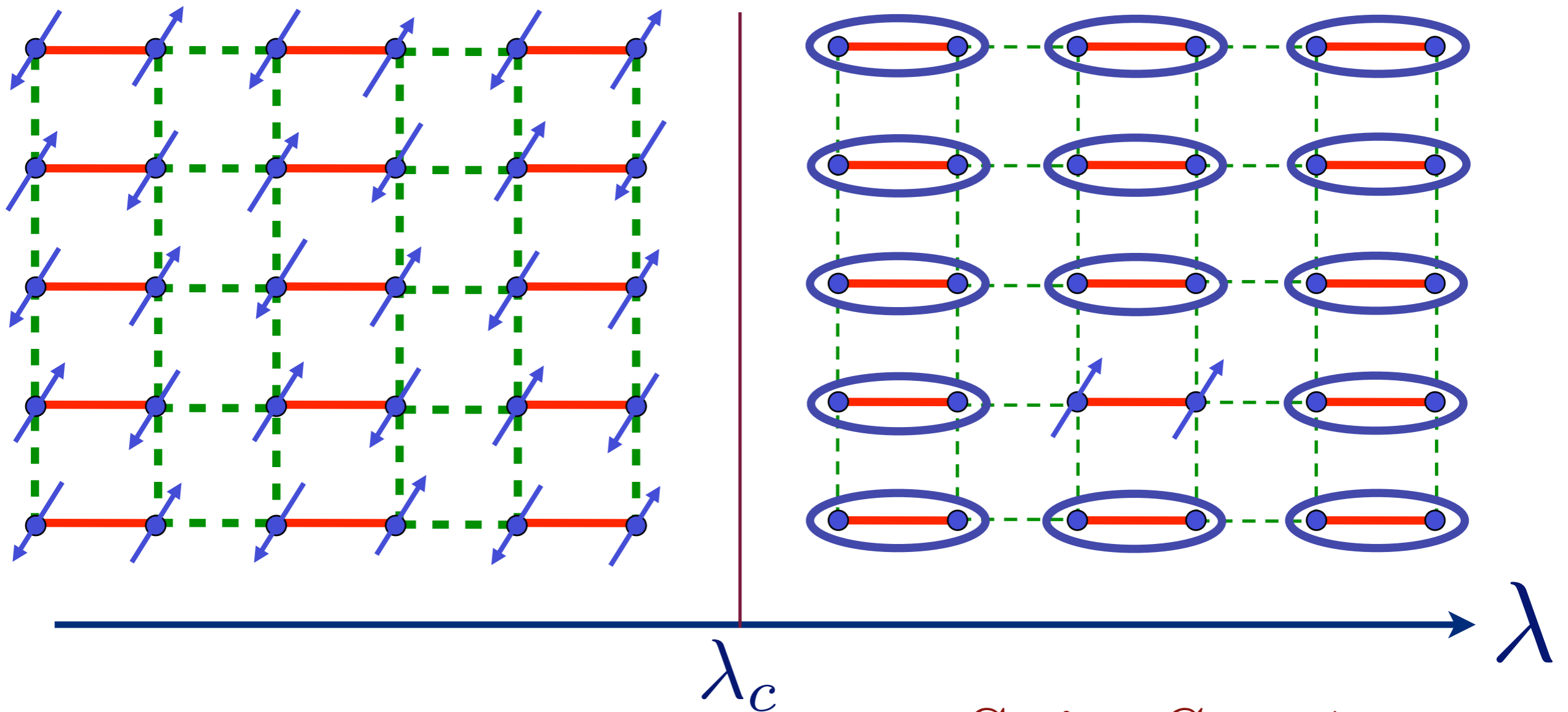


# Excitation spectrum in the paramagnetic phase



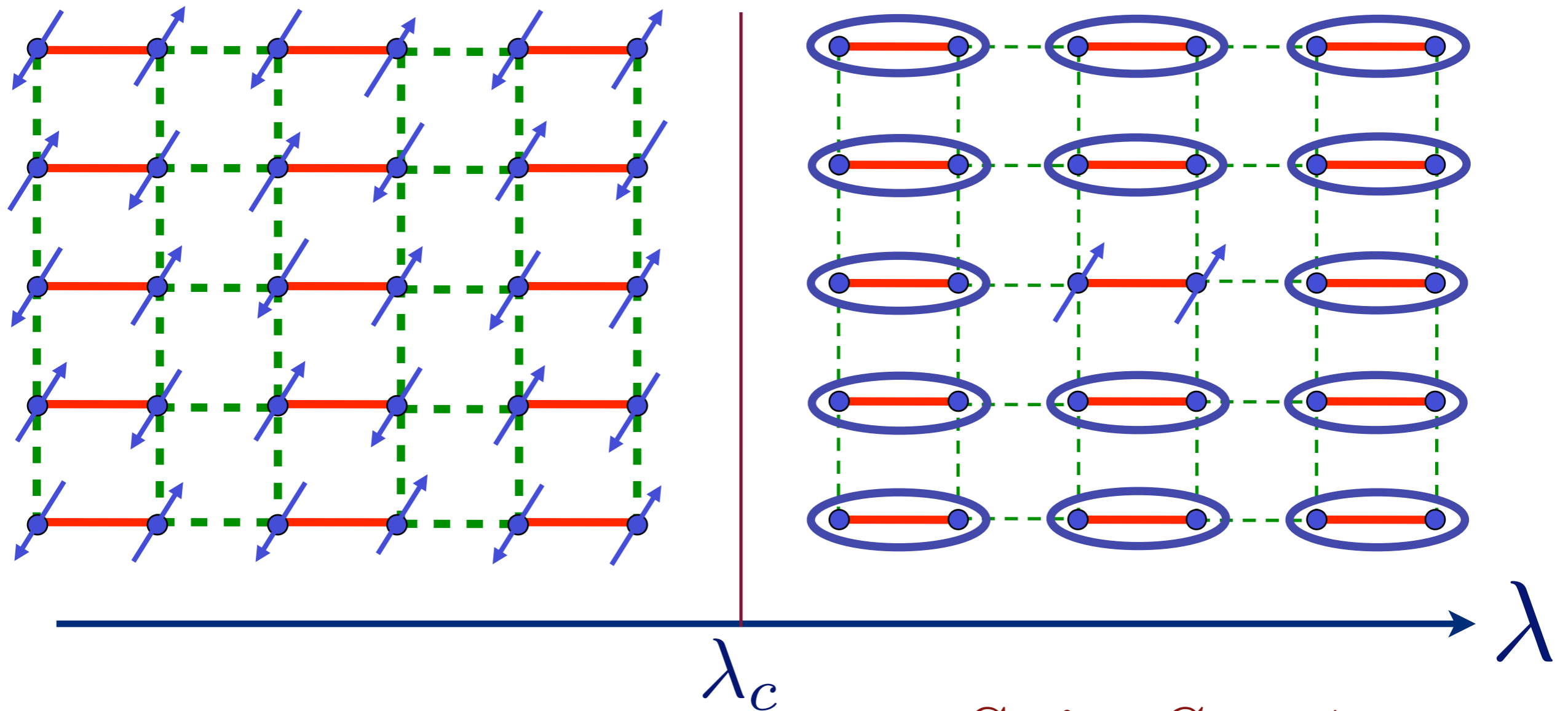
Spin  $S = 1$   
“triplon”

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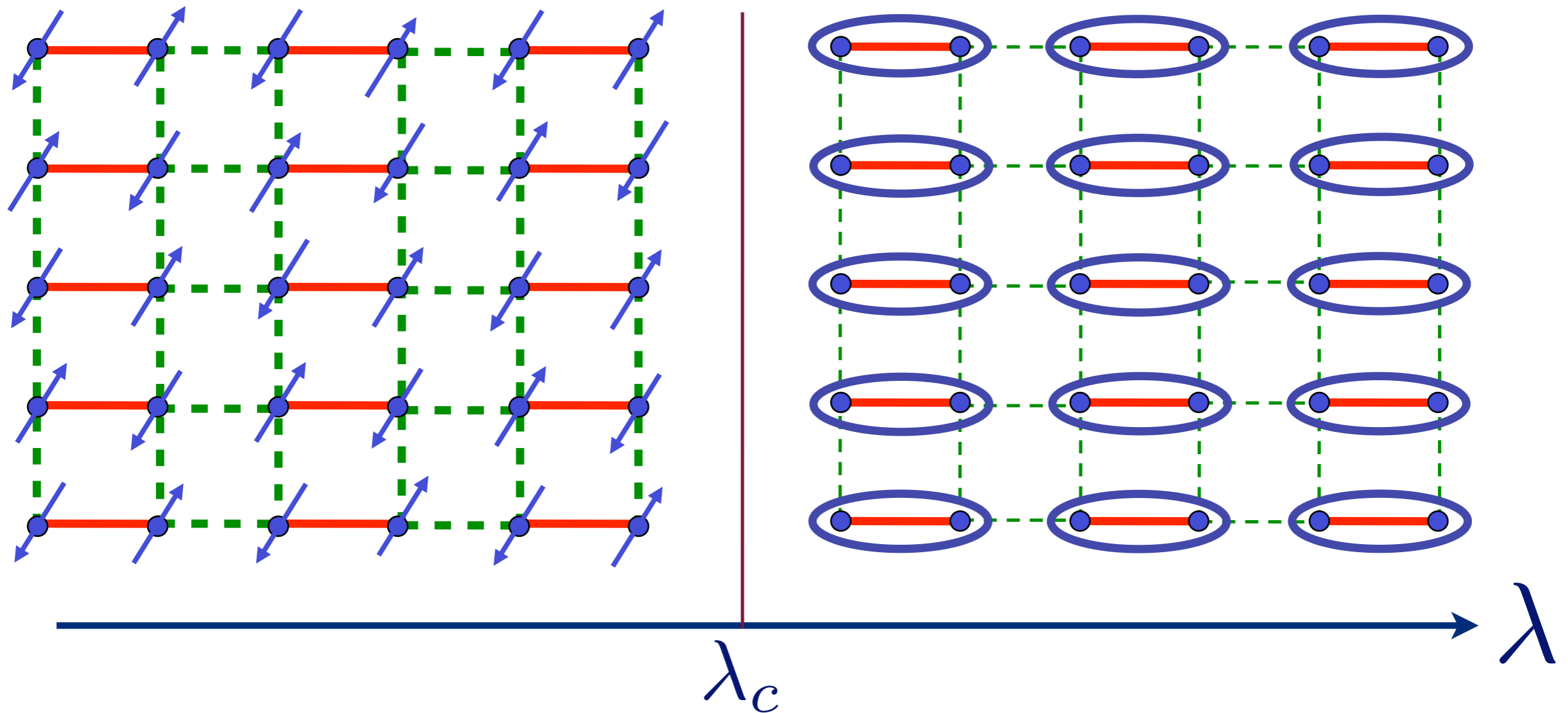
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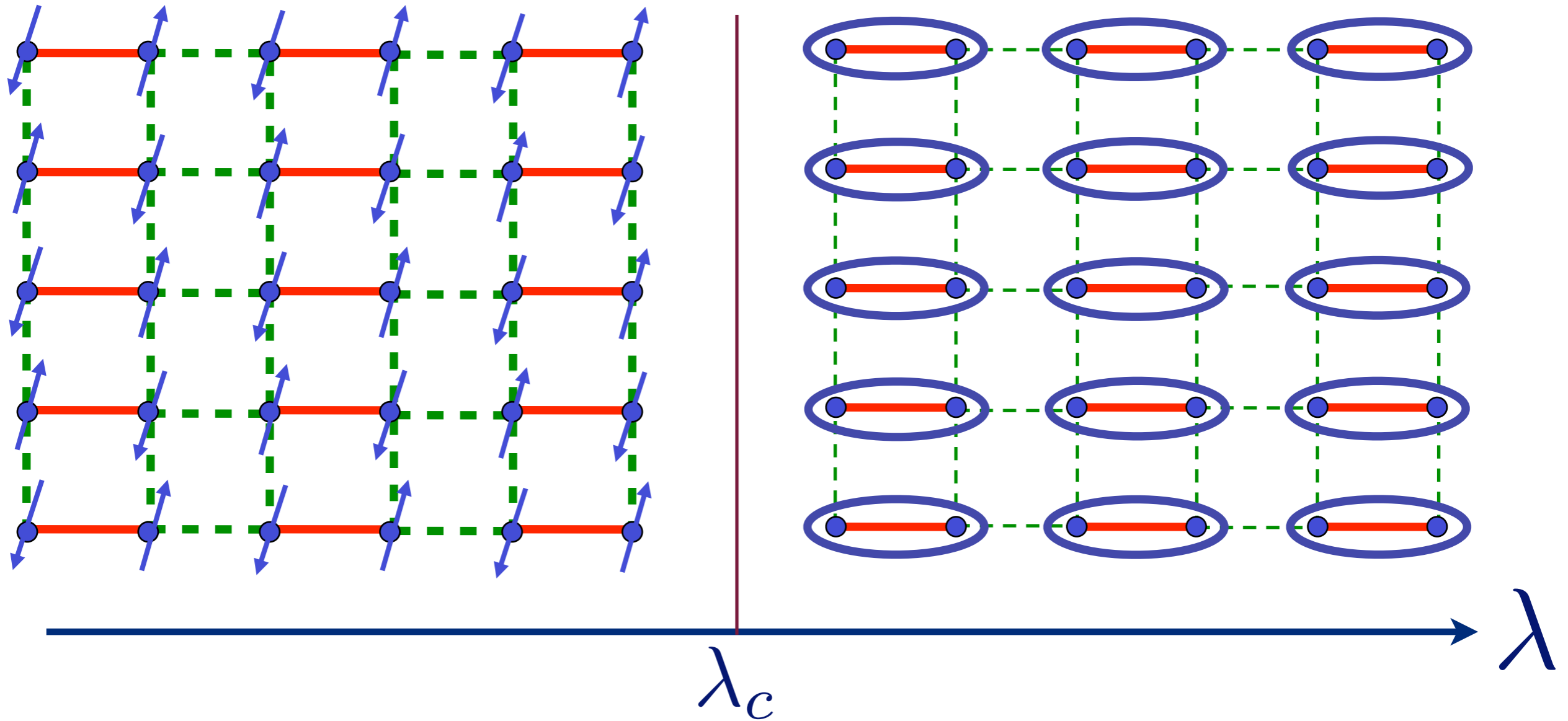


# Excitation spectrum in the Néel phase



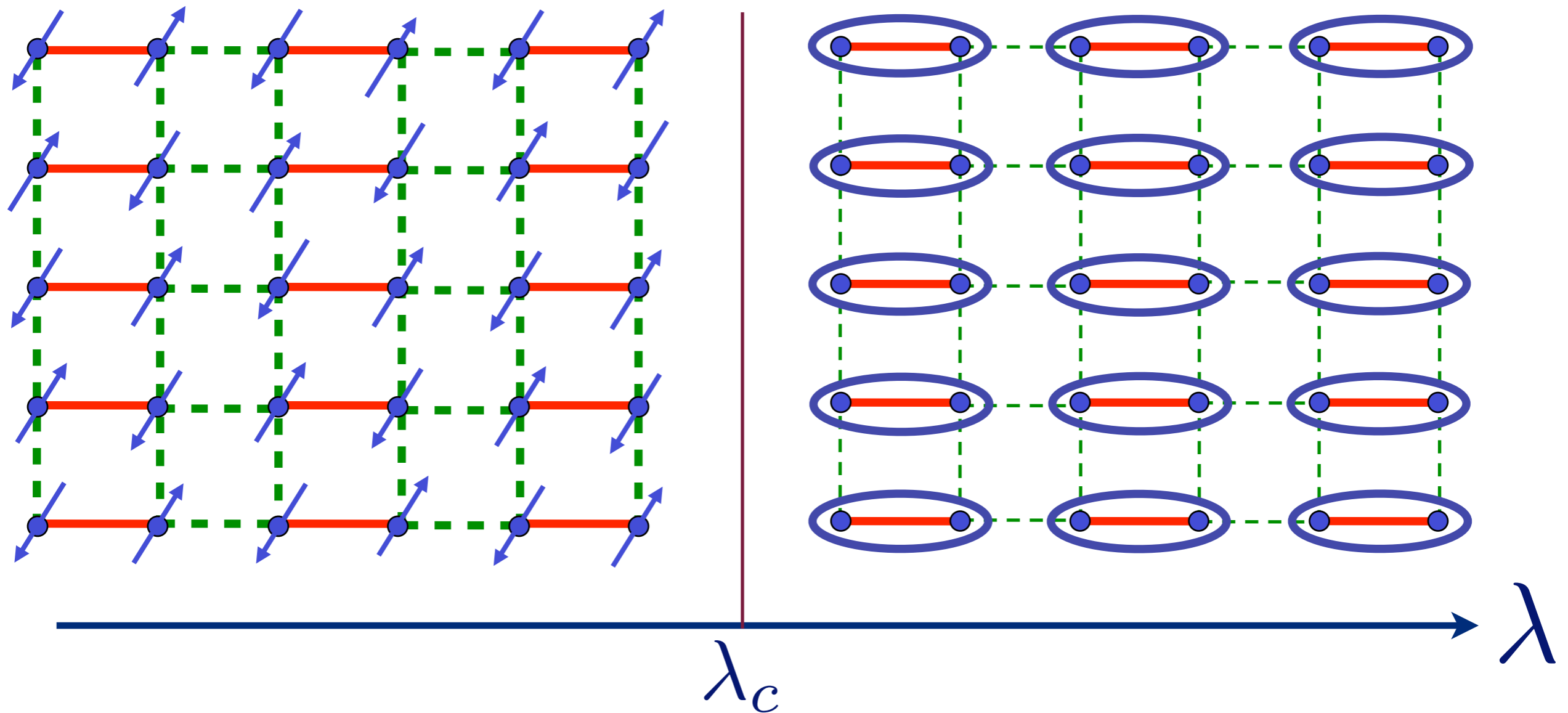
Spin waves

# Excitation spectrum in the Néel phase



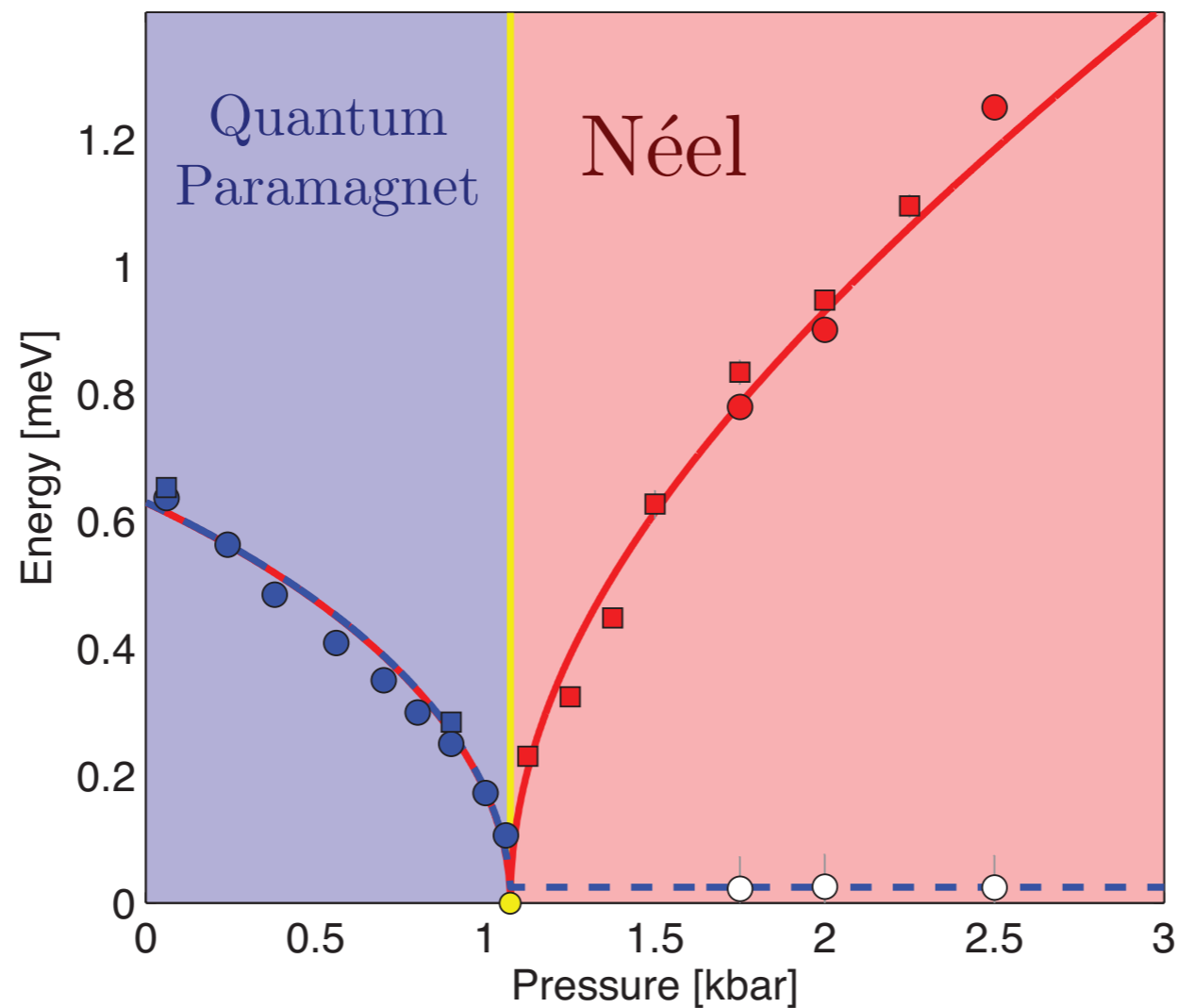
Spin waves

# Excitation spectrum in the Néel phase



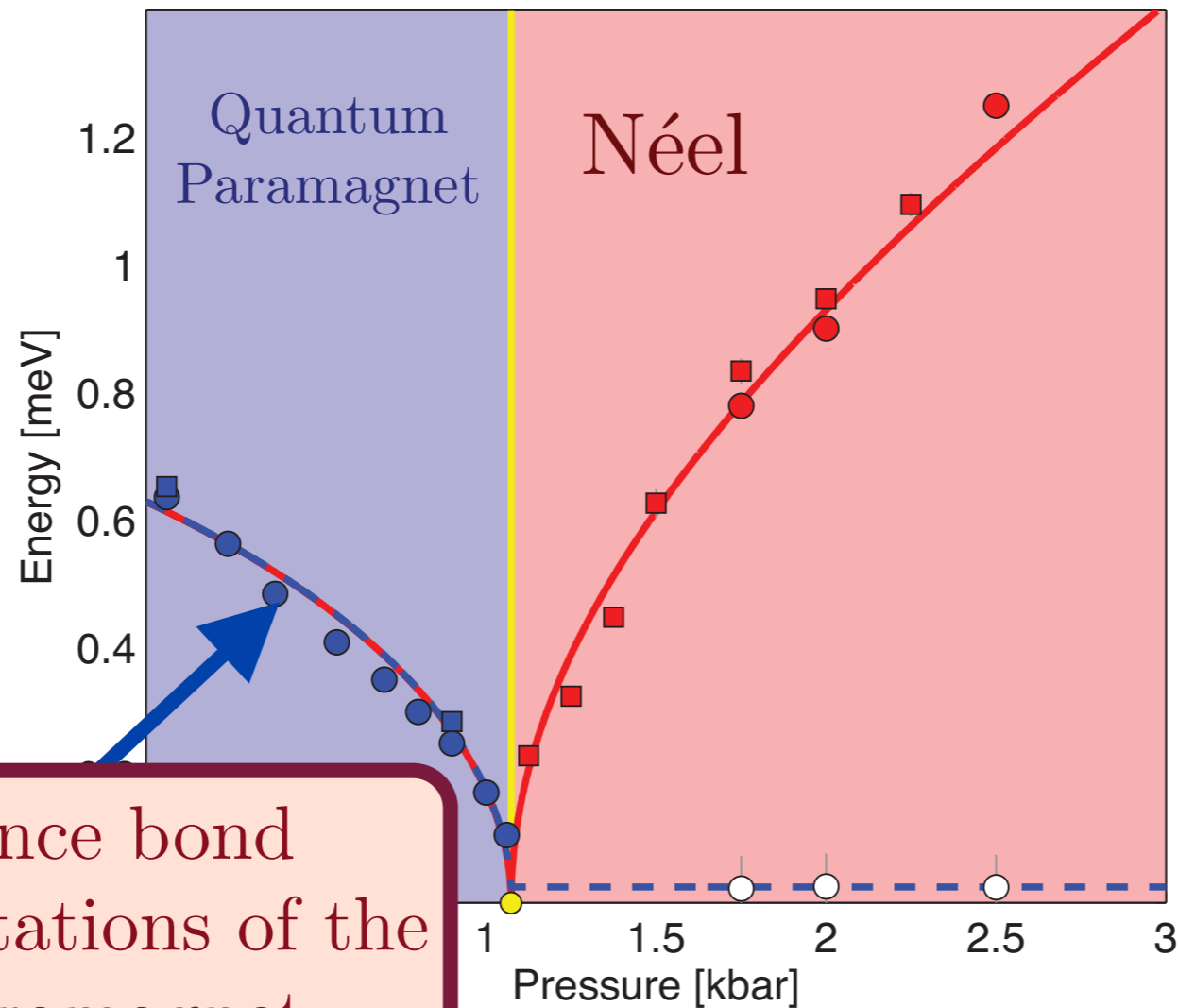
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# Excitations of $\text{TlCuCl}_3$ with varying pressure



Christian Ruedg, Bruce Normand, Masashige Matsumoto, Albert Furrer, Desmond McMorro, Karl Kramer, Hans-Ulrich Gudel, Severian Gvasaliya, Hannu Mutka, and Martin Boehm, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **100**, 205701 (2008)

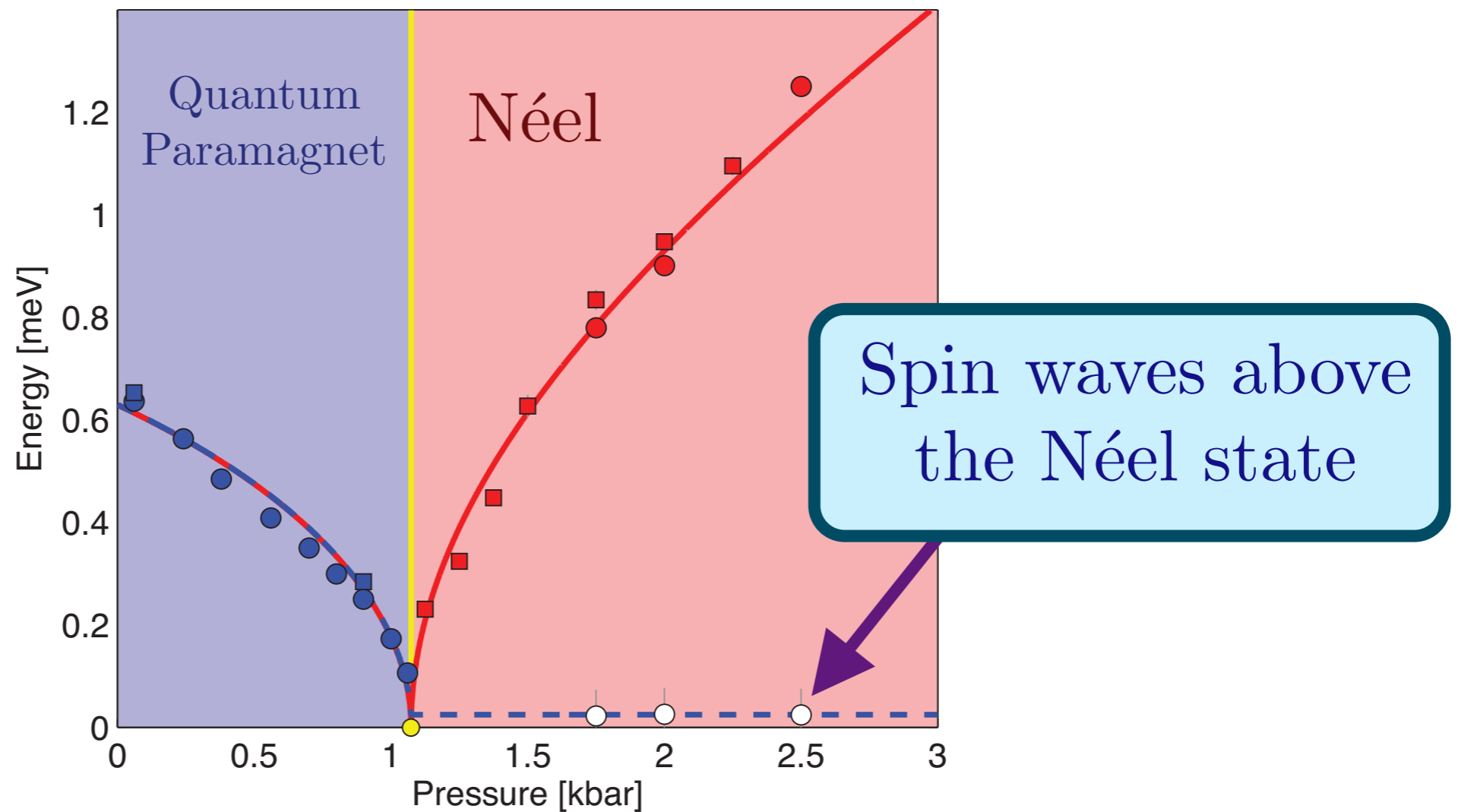
# Excitations of $\text{TlCuCl}_3$ with varying pressure



Broken valence bond (“triplon”) excitations of the quantum paramagnet

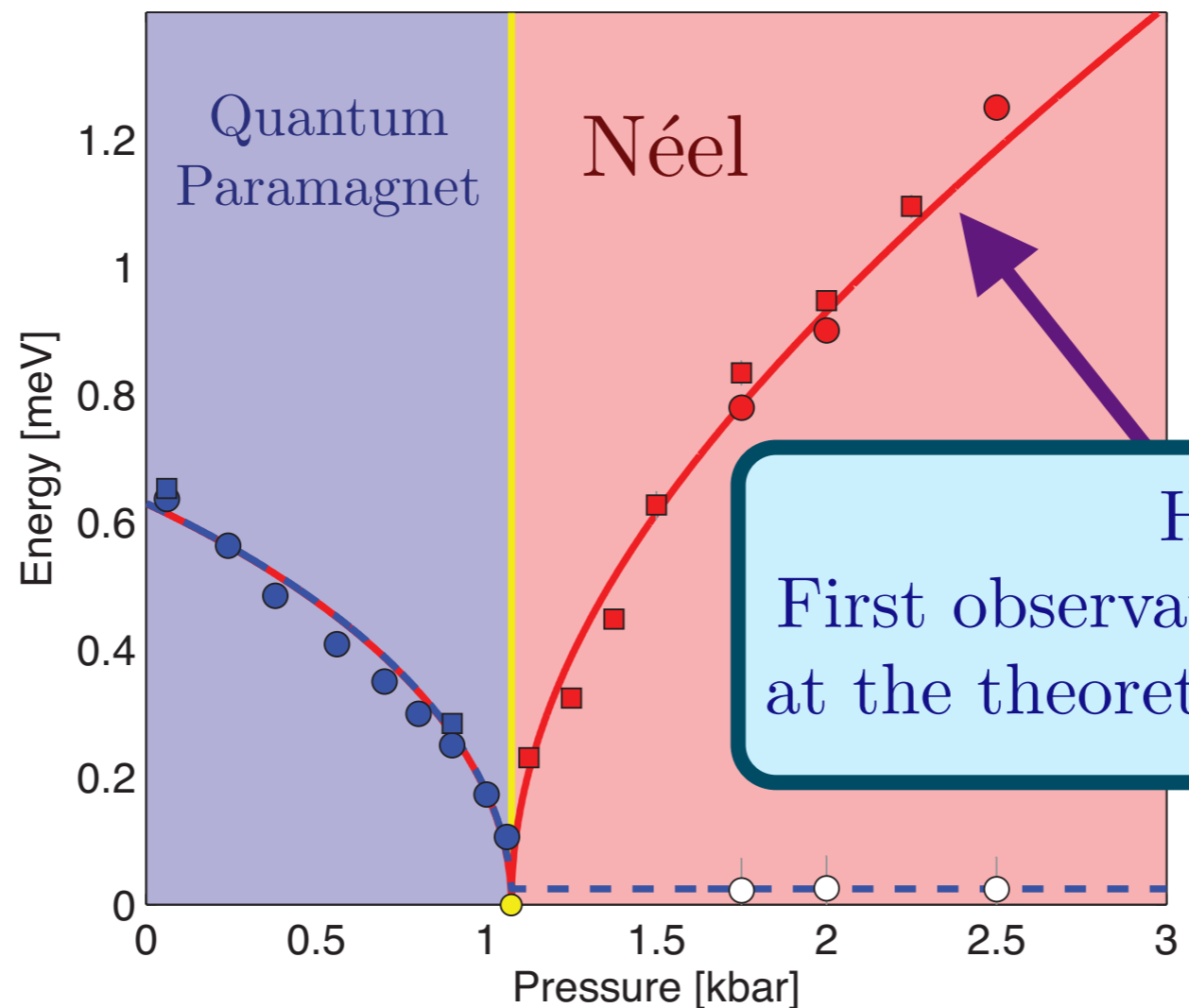
Christian Ruedg, Bruce Normand, Masashige Matsumoto, Albert Furrer, Desmond McMorrow, Karl Kramer, Hans-Ulrich Gudel, Severian Gvasaliya, Hannu Mutka, and Martin Boehm, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **100**, 205701 (2008)

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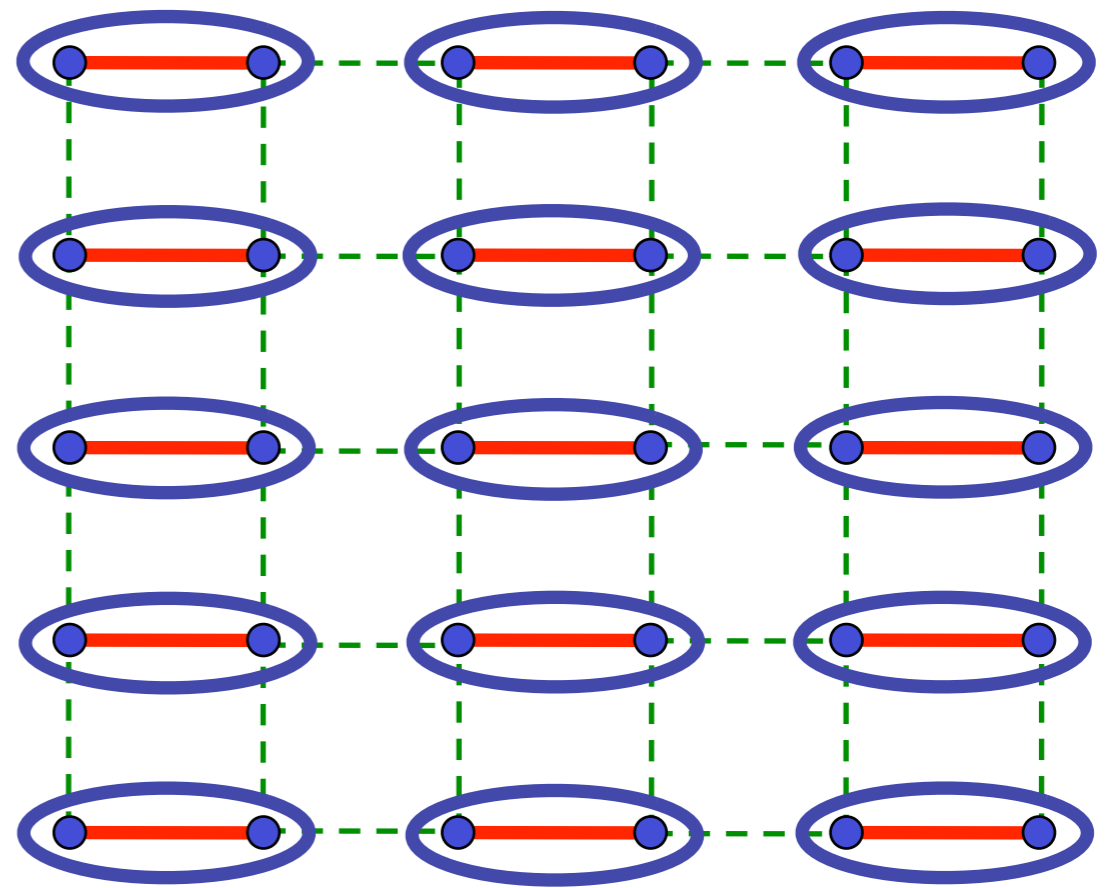
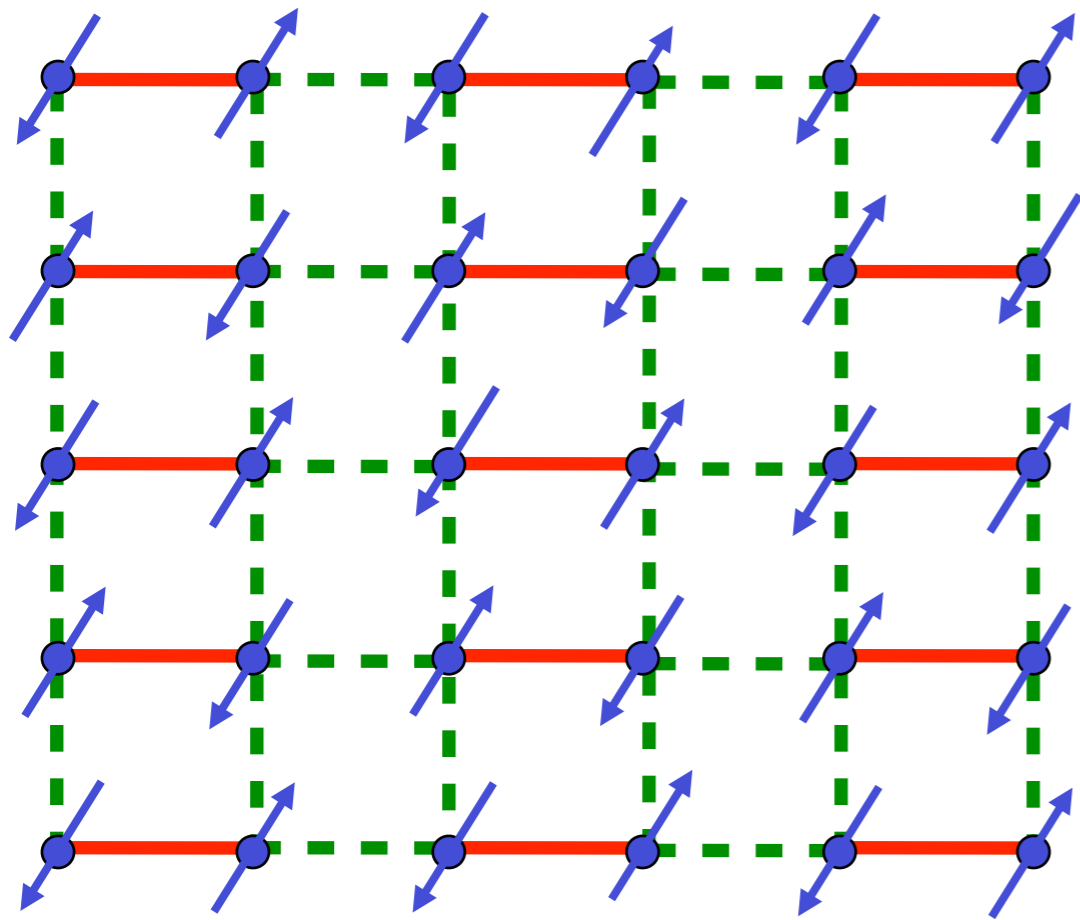
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S. Sachdev,  
arXiv:0901.4103

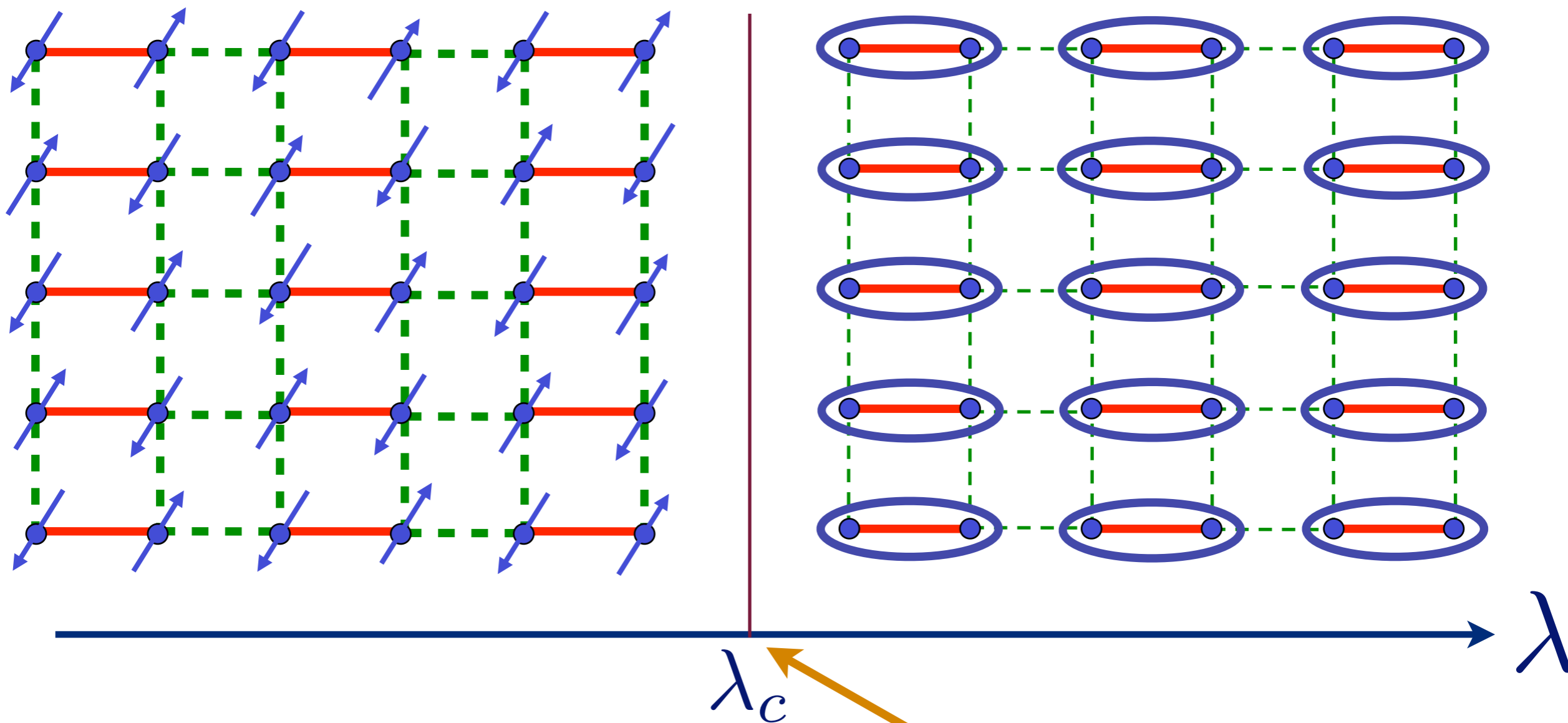
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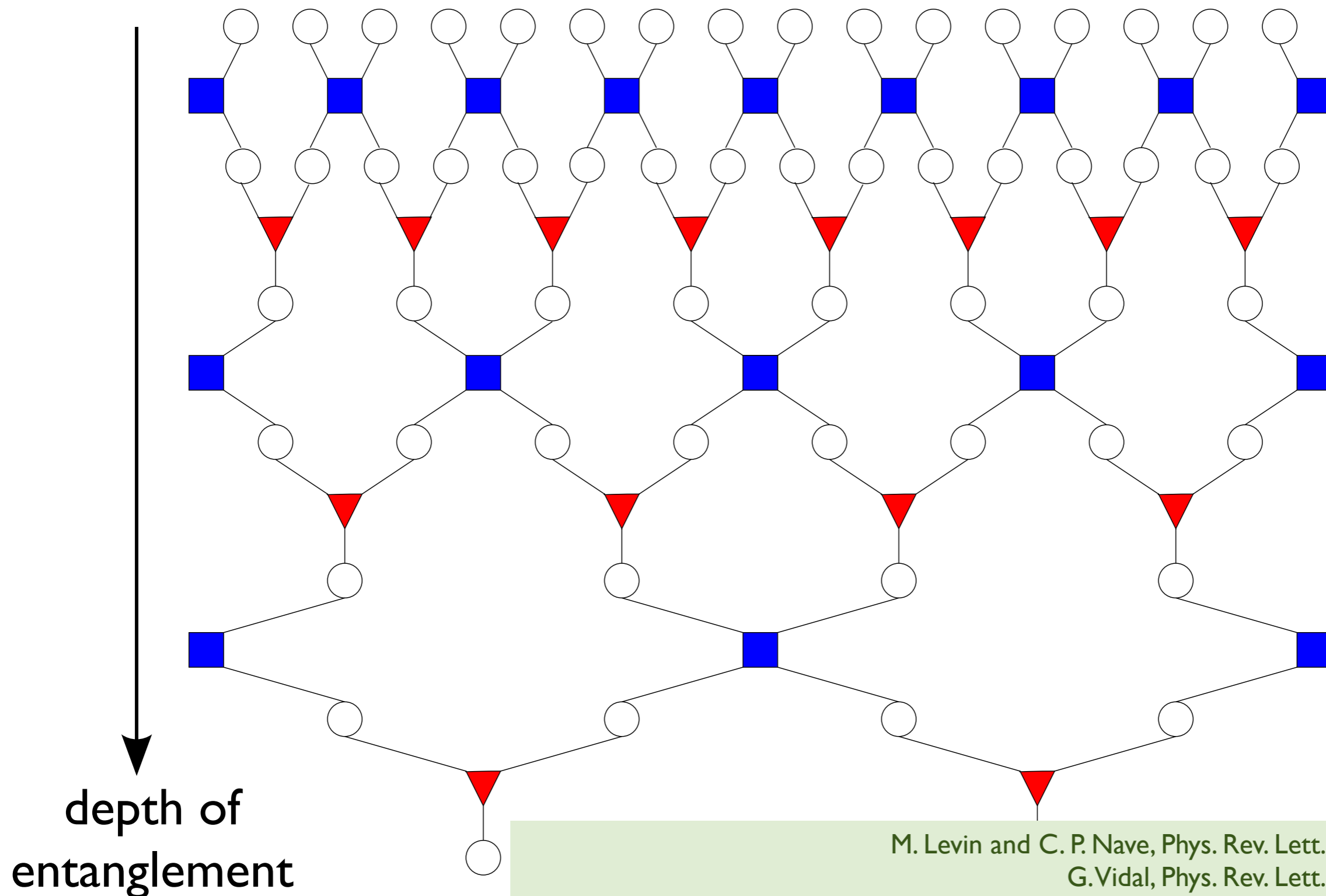
$$\text{Diagram of two blue dots connected by a red line, enclosed in a blue oval} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$



Quantum critical point with non-local entanglement in spin wavefunction

# Tensor network representation of entanglement at quantum critical point

$D$ -dimensional  
space



M. Levin and C. P. Nave, Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 120601 (2007)  
G. Vidal, Phys. Rev. Lett. 99, 220405 (2007)  
F. Verstraete, M. M. Wolf, D. Perez-Garcia, and J. I. Cirac, Phys. Rev. Lett. 96, 220601 (2006)

## Characteristics of quantum critical point

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**String theory  
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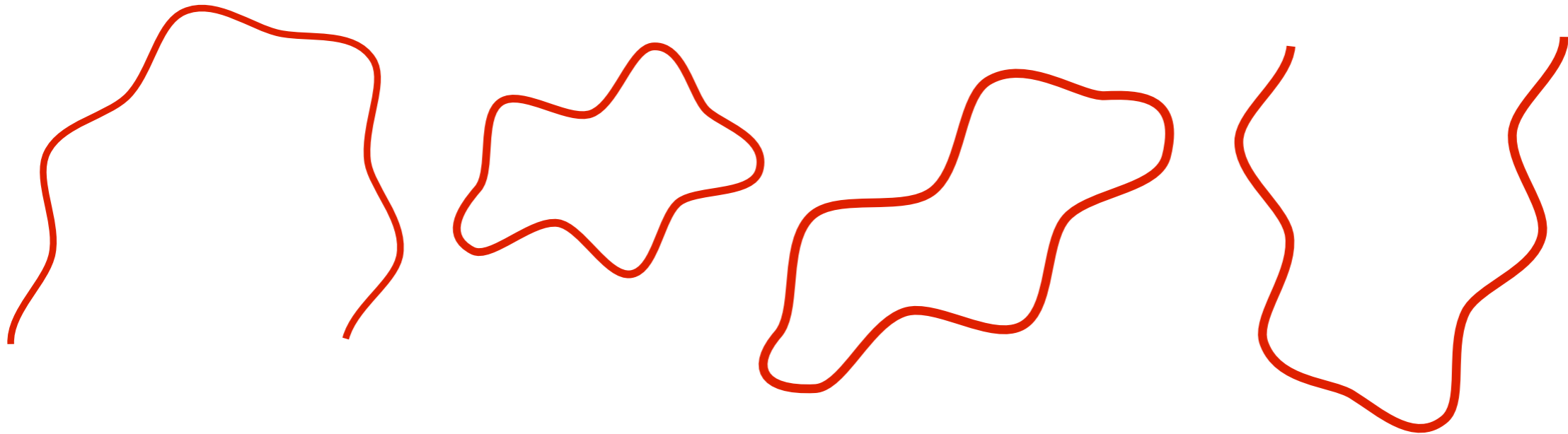
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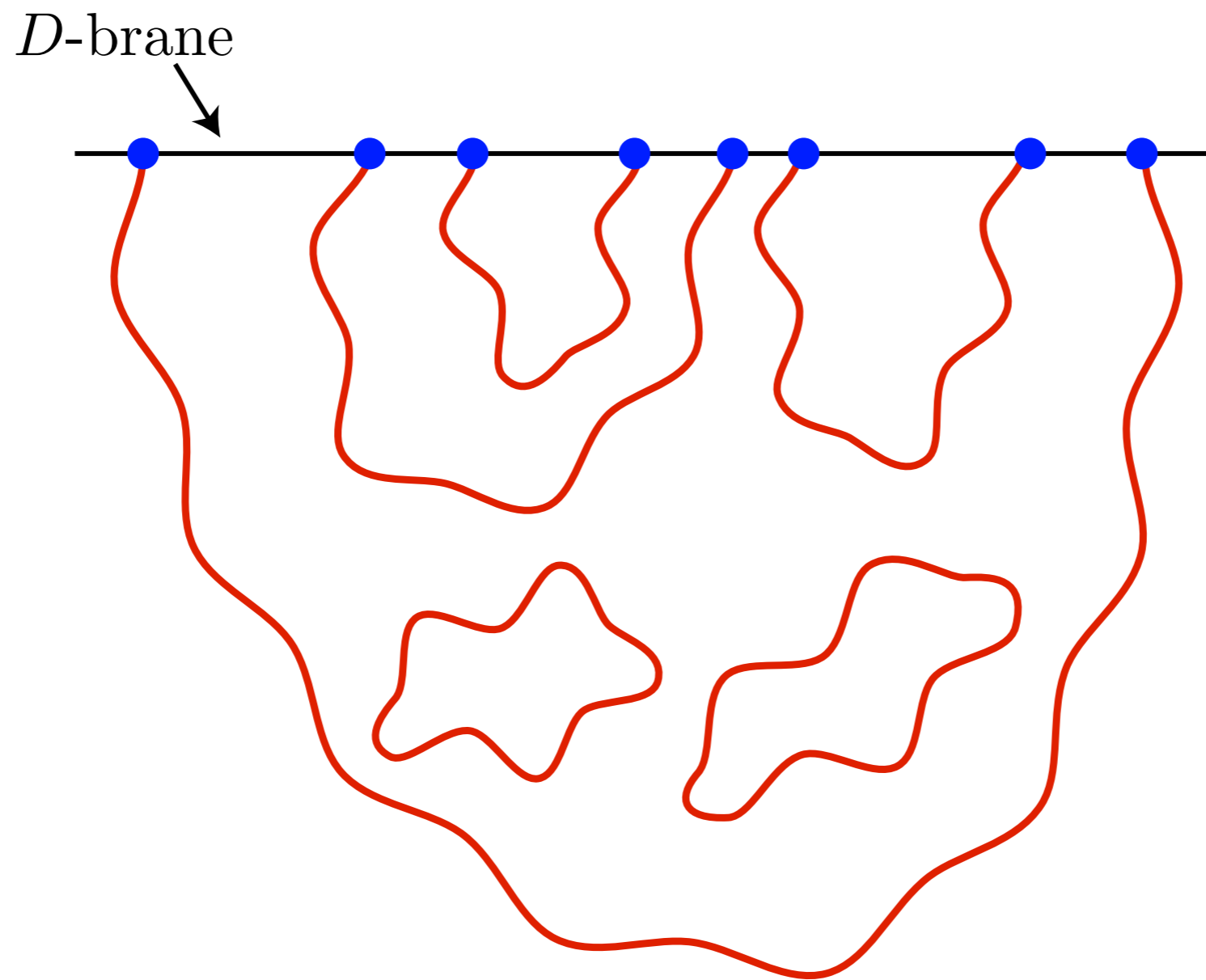
**String theory  
and black holes**



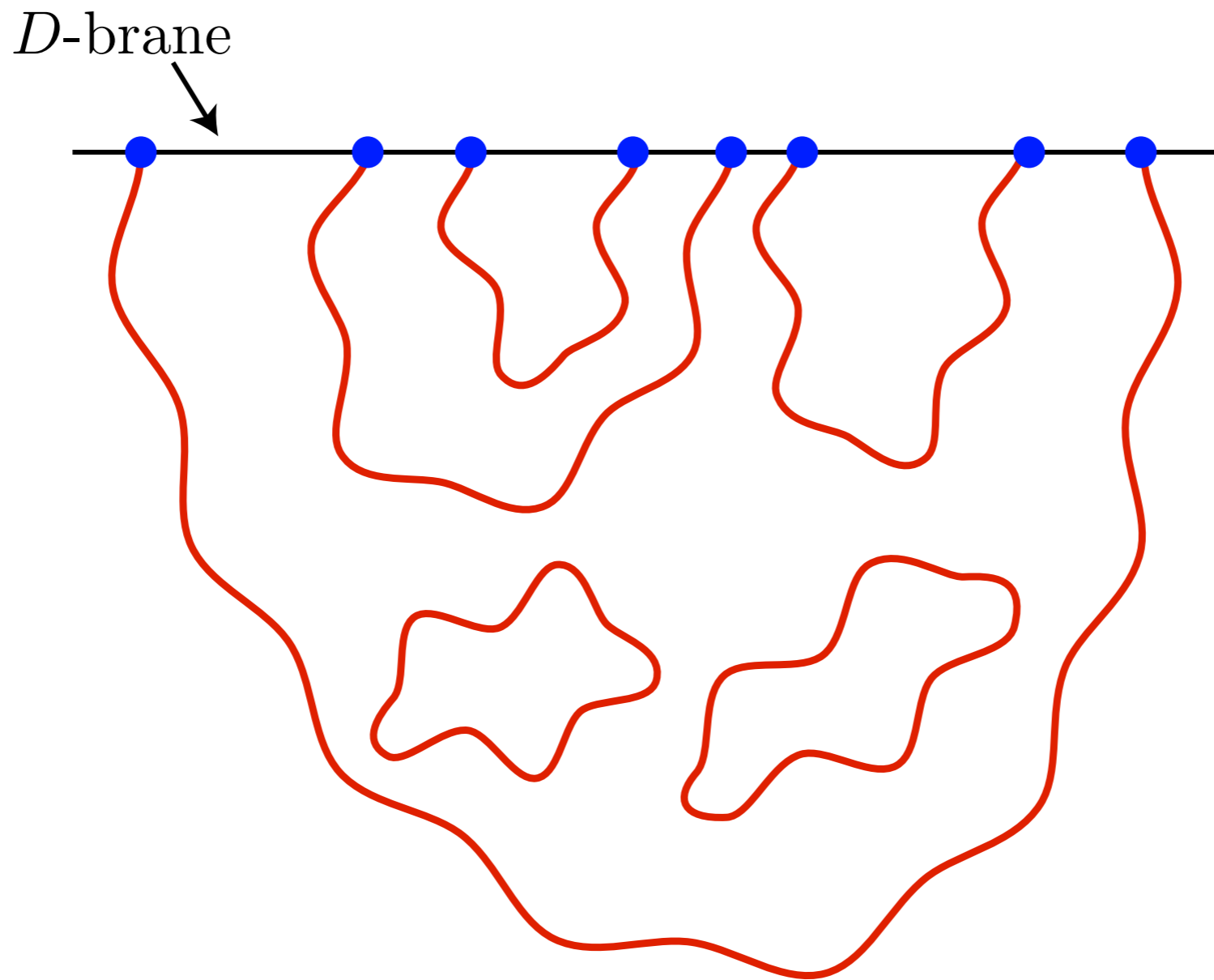
## String theory



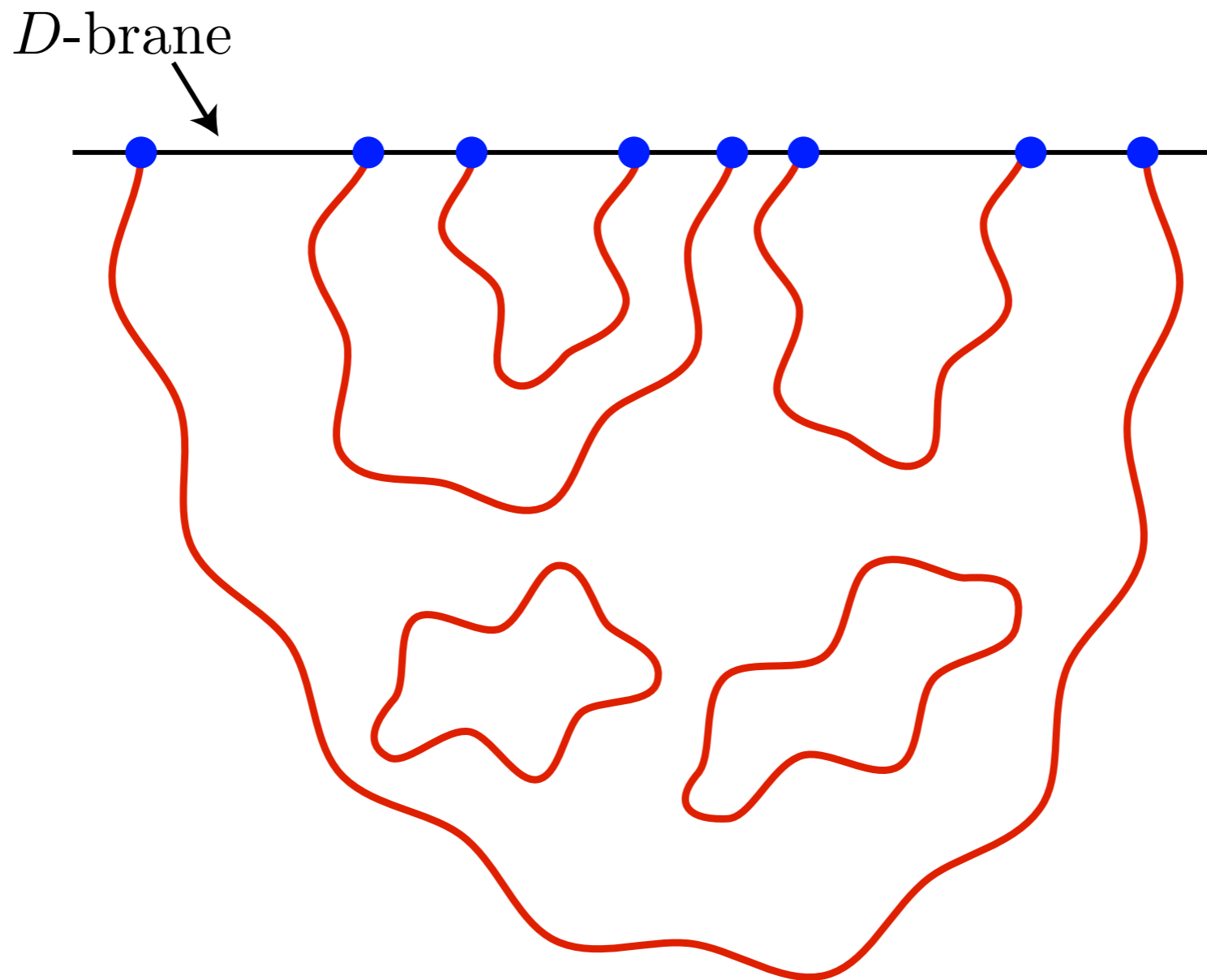
- Allows unification of the standard model of particle physics with gravity.
- Low-lying string modes correspond to gauge fields, gravitons, quarks ...



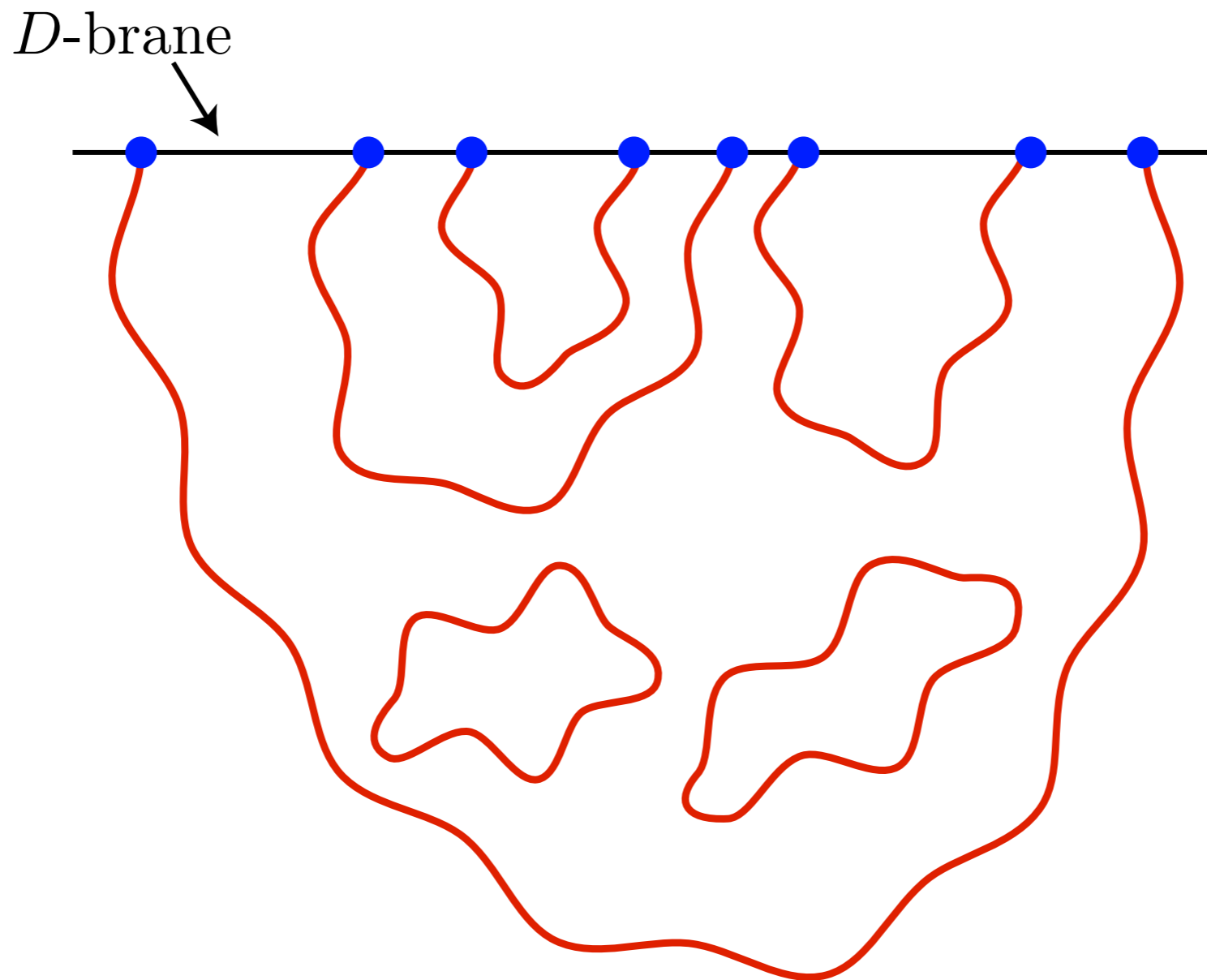
- A  $D$ -brane is a  $d$ -dimensional surface on which strings can end.



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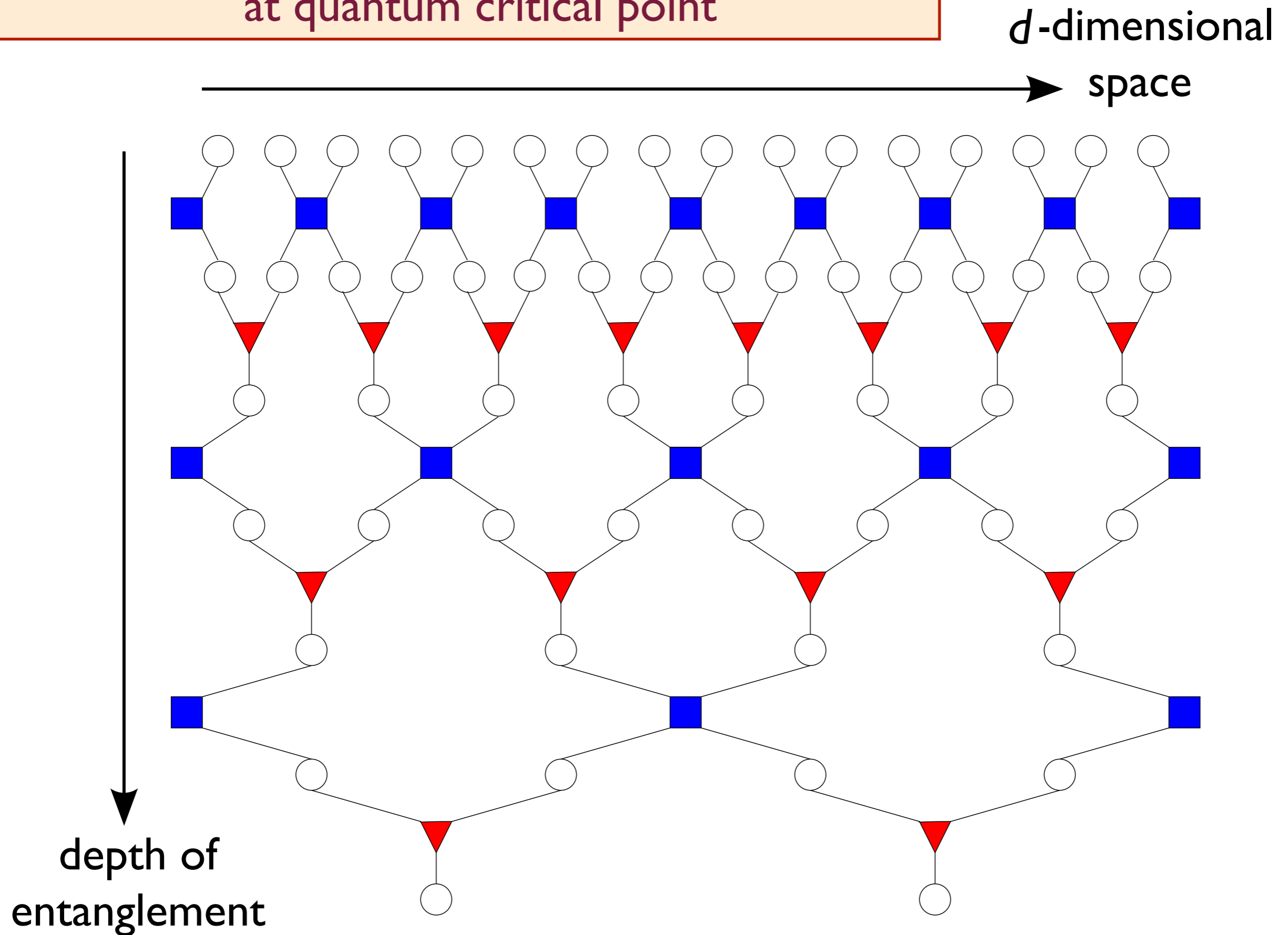


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- In  $d = 2$ , we obtain strongly-interacting **CFT3s**. These are “dual” to string theory on anti-de Sitter space: **AdS4**.



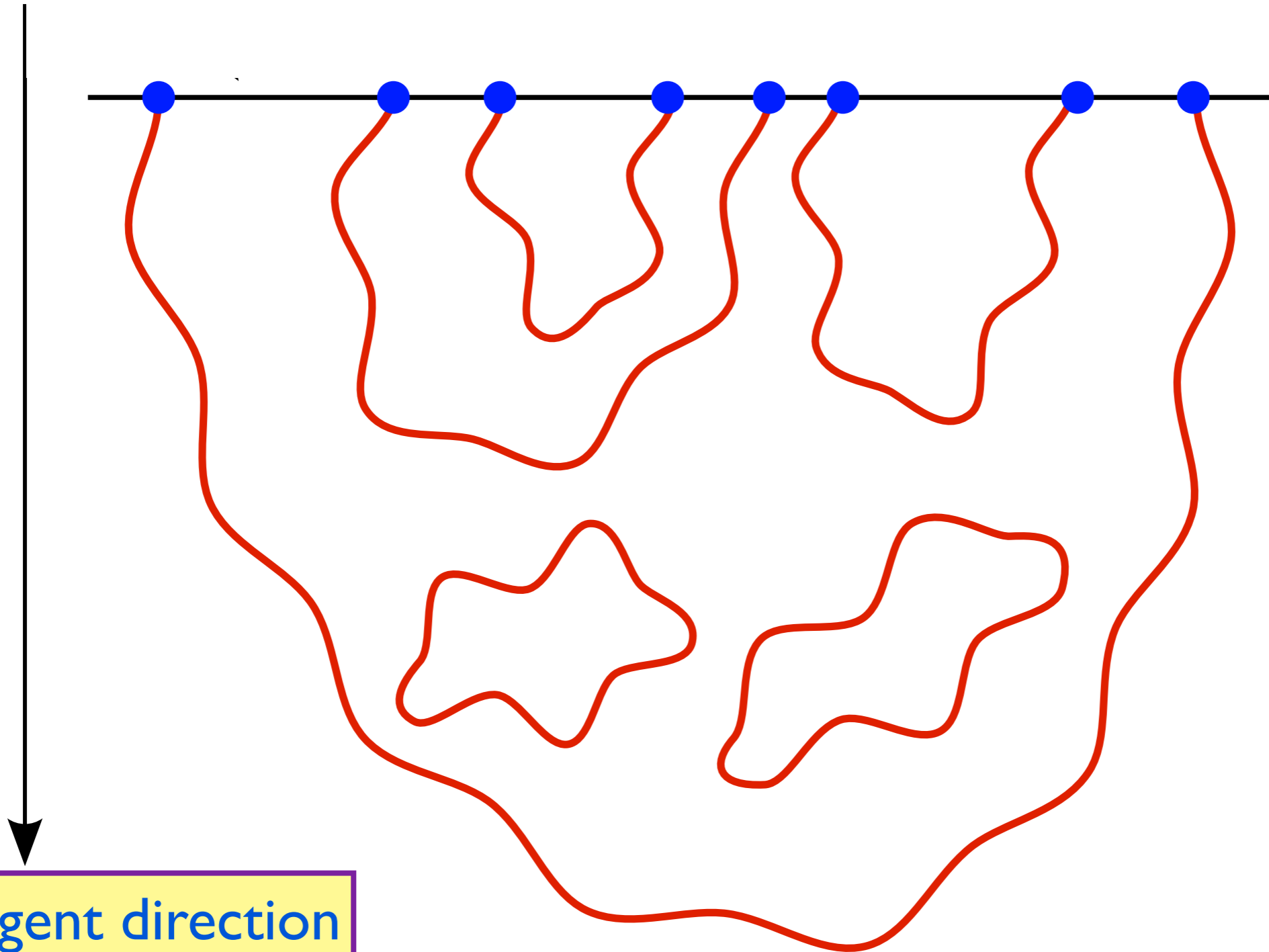
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# Tensor network representation of entanglement at quantum critical point



String theory near  
a D-brane

$d$ -dimensional  
space

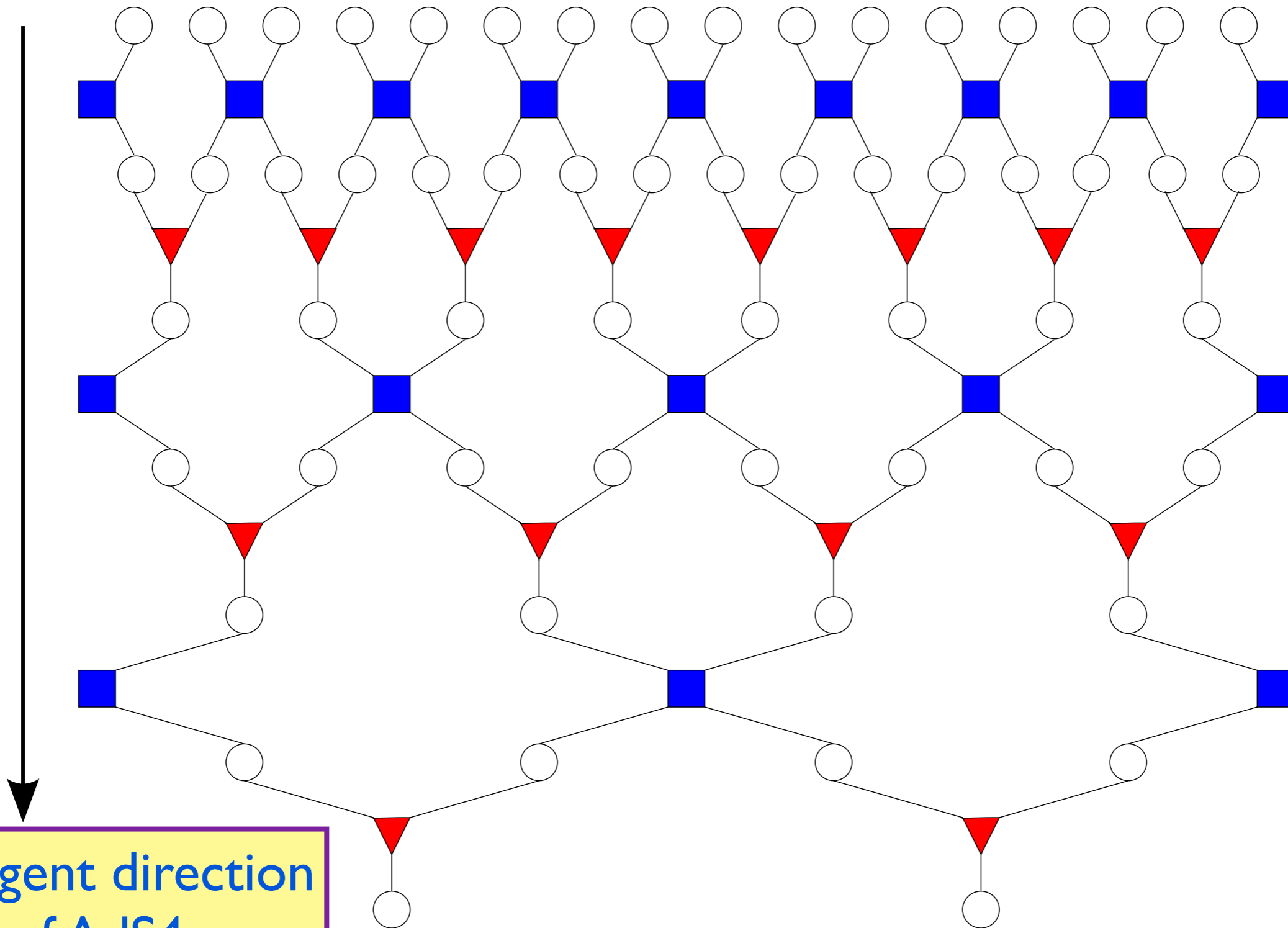


Emergent direction  
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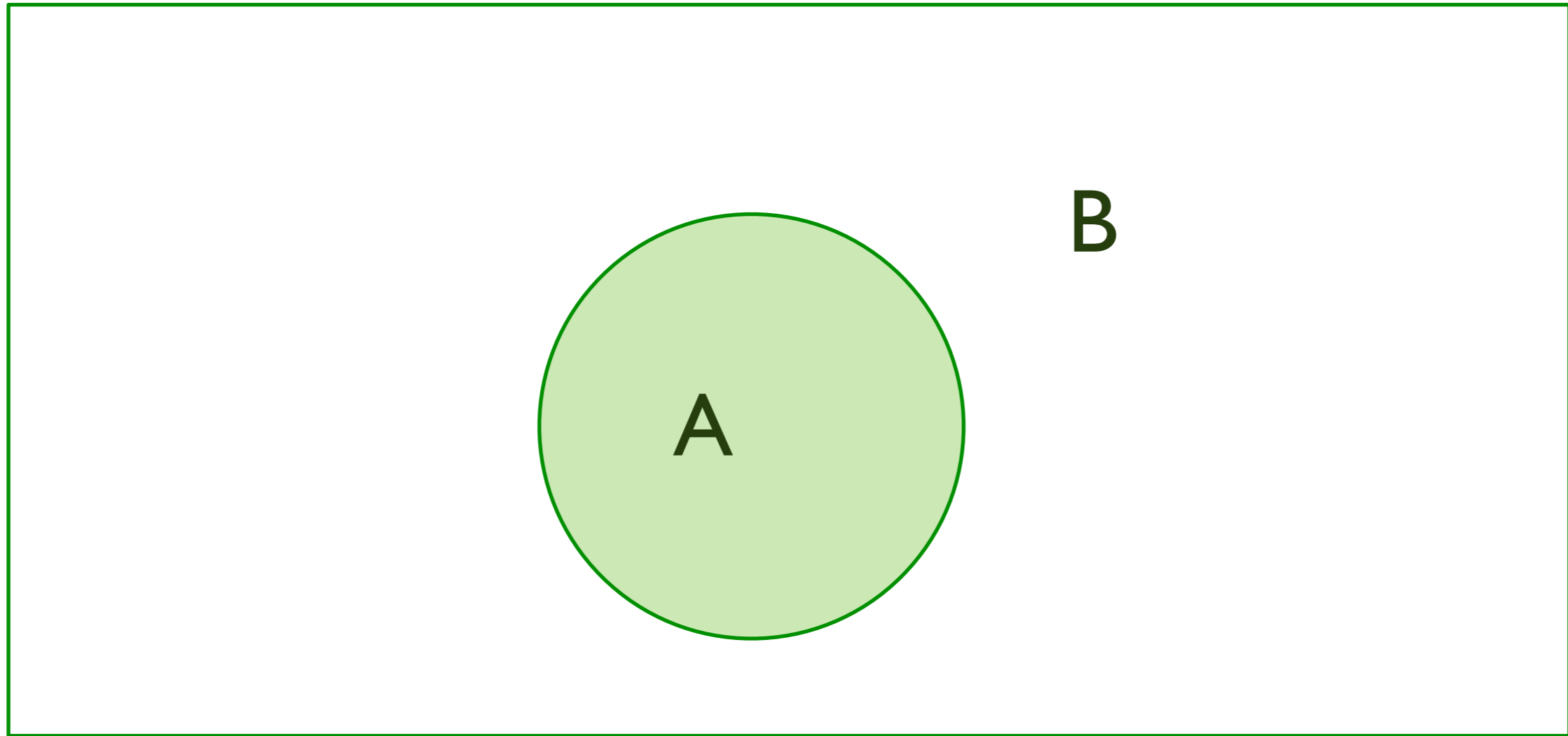
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Emergent direction  
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Brian Swingle, arXiv:0905.1317

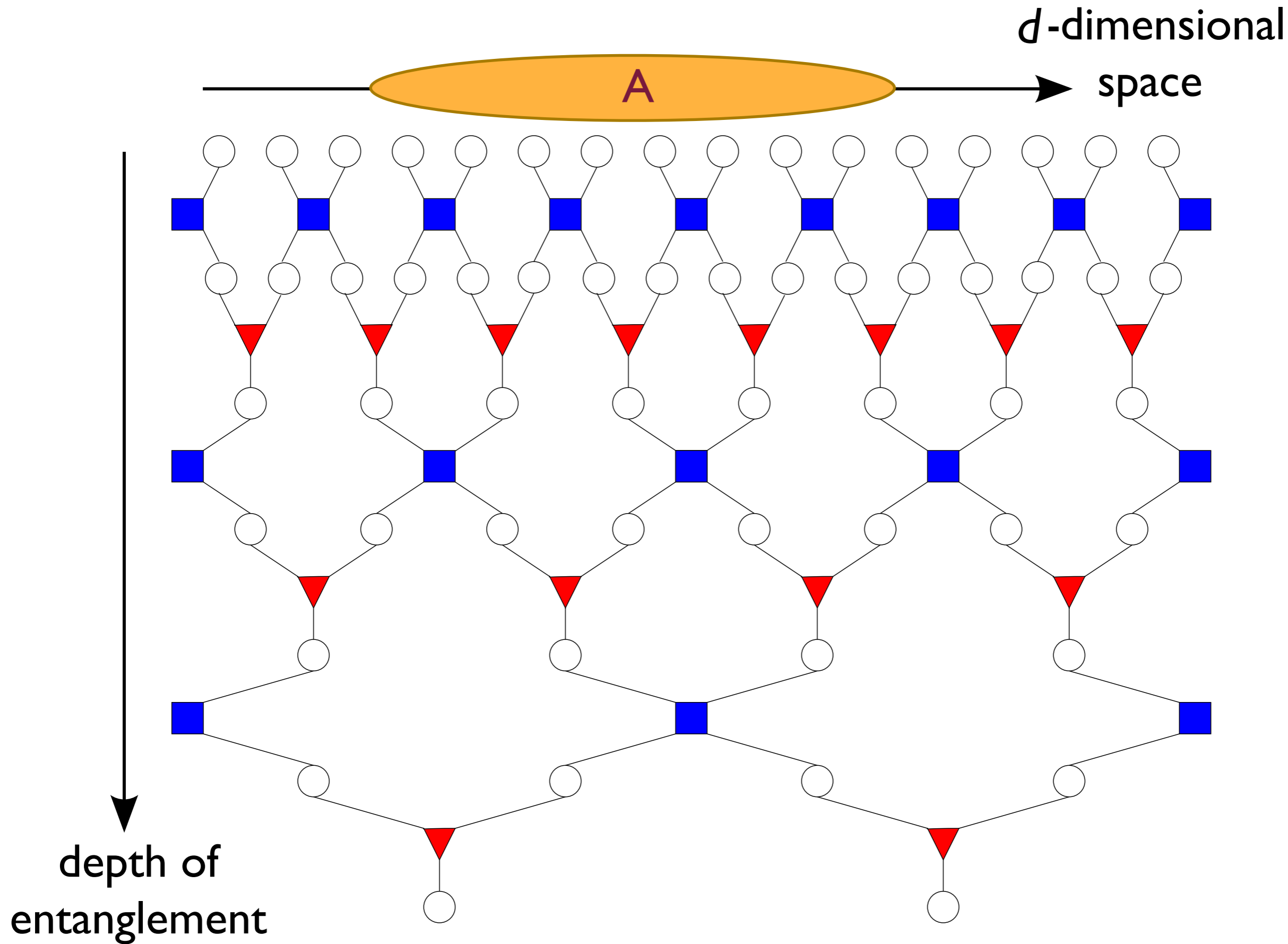
## Entanglement entropy



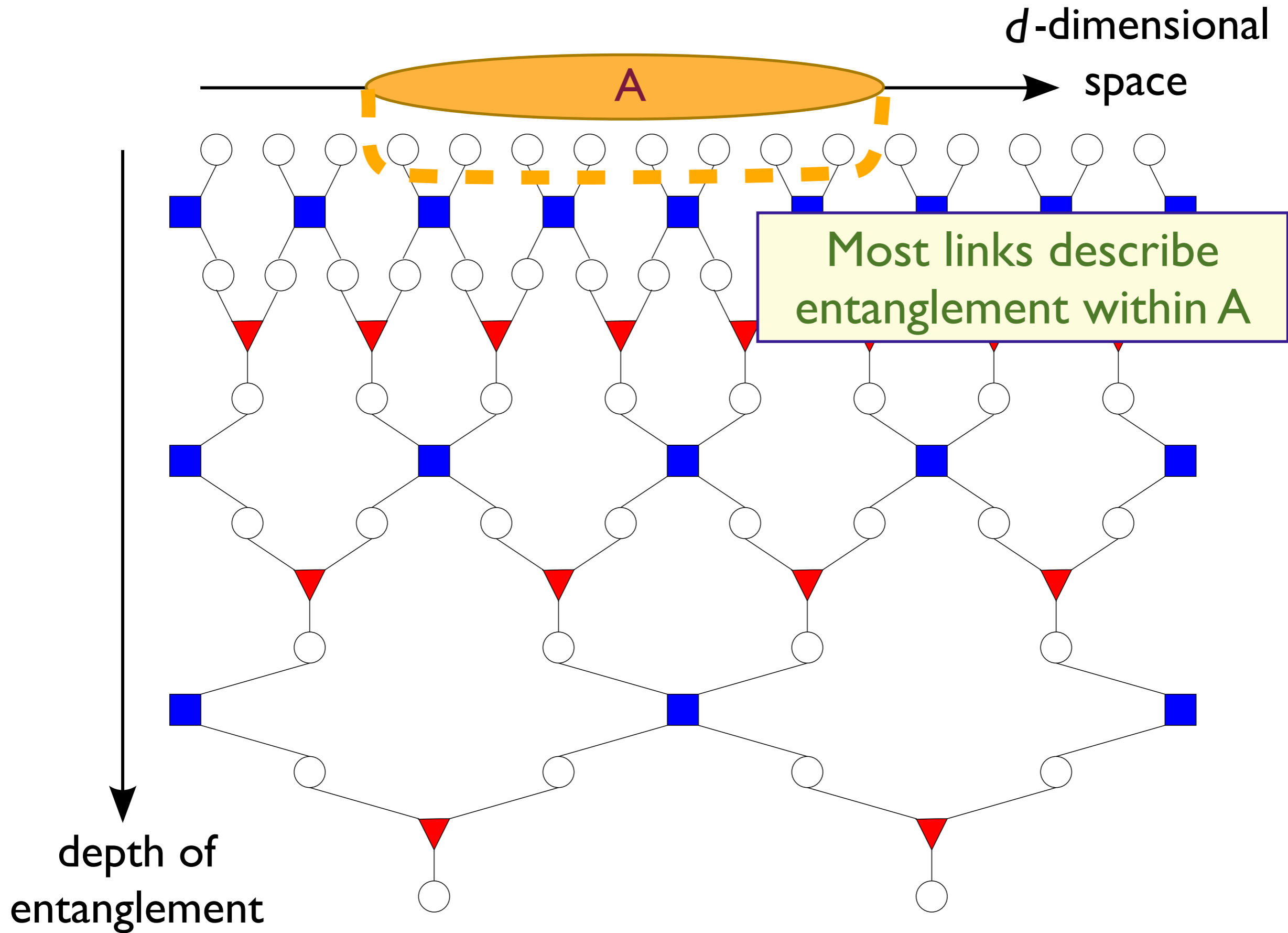
Measure strength of quantum entanglement of region  $A$  with region  $B$ .

$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B \rho =$  density matrix of region  $A$   
Entanglement entropy  $S_{EE} = -\text{Tr}(\rho_A \ln \rho_A)$

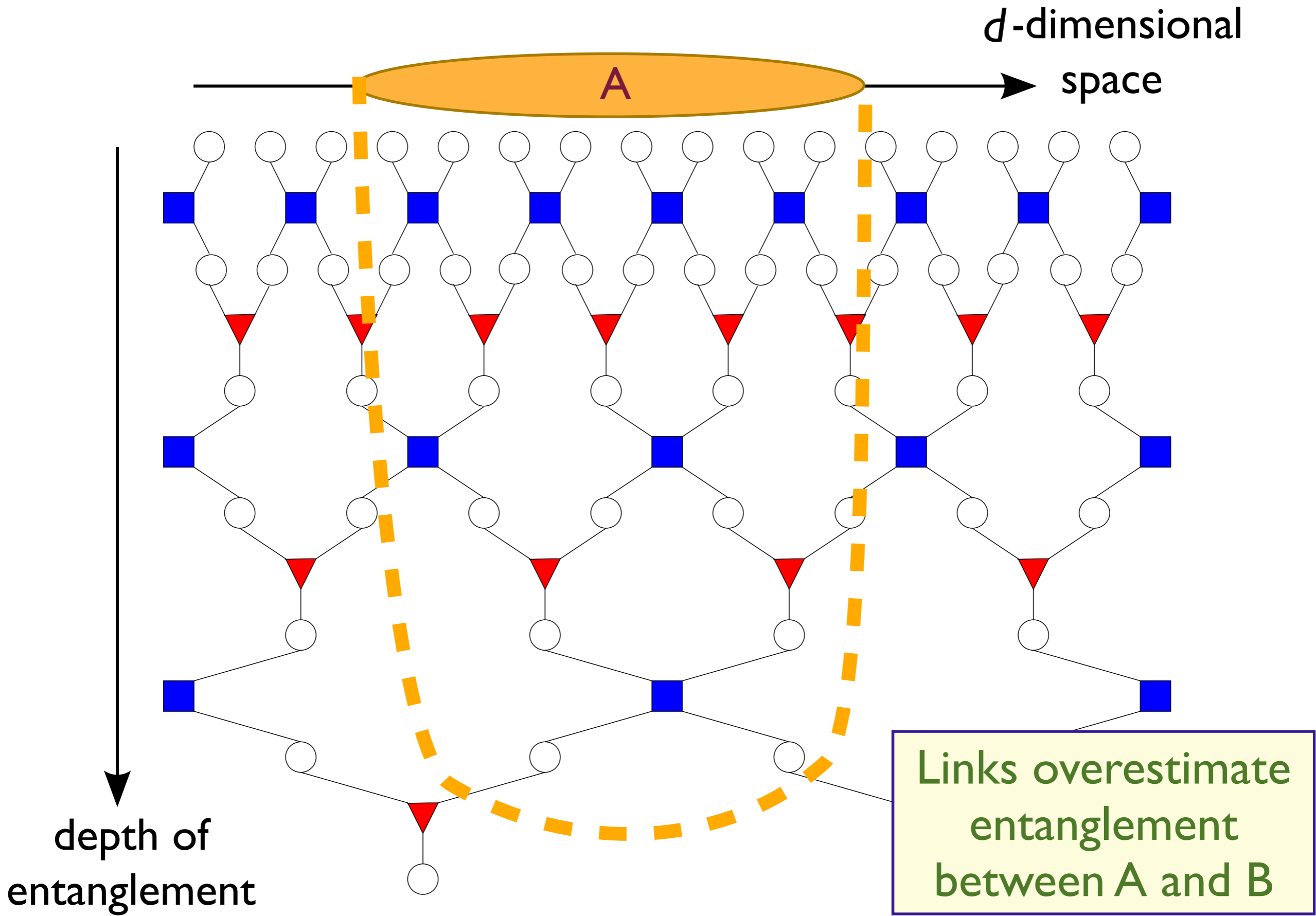
# Entanglement entropy



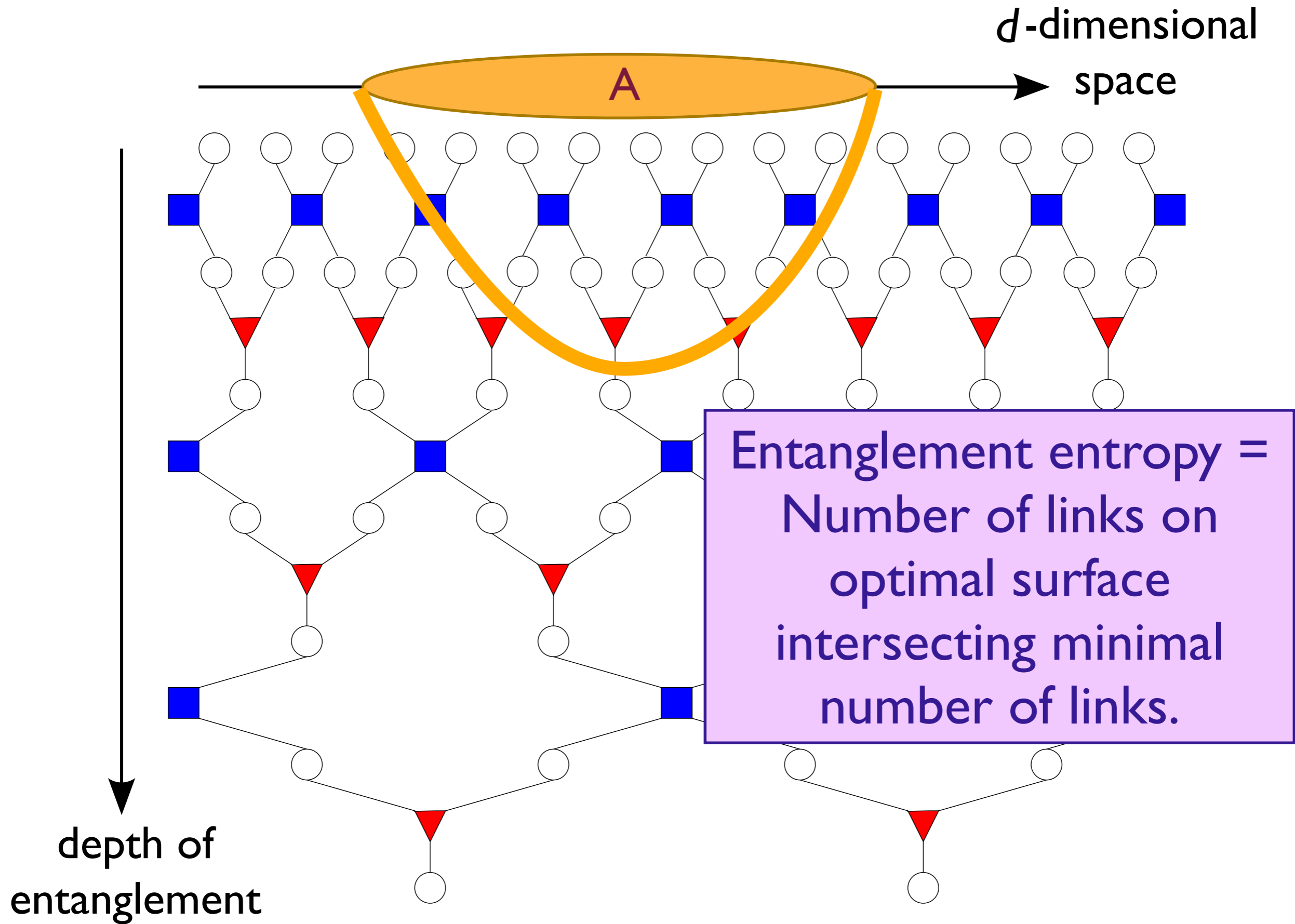
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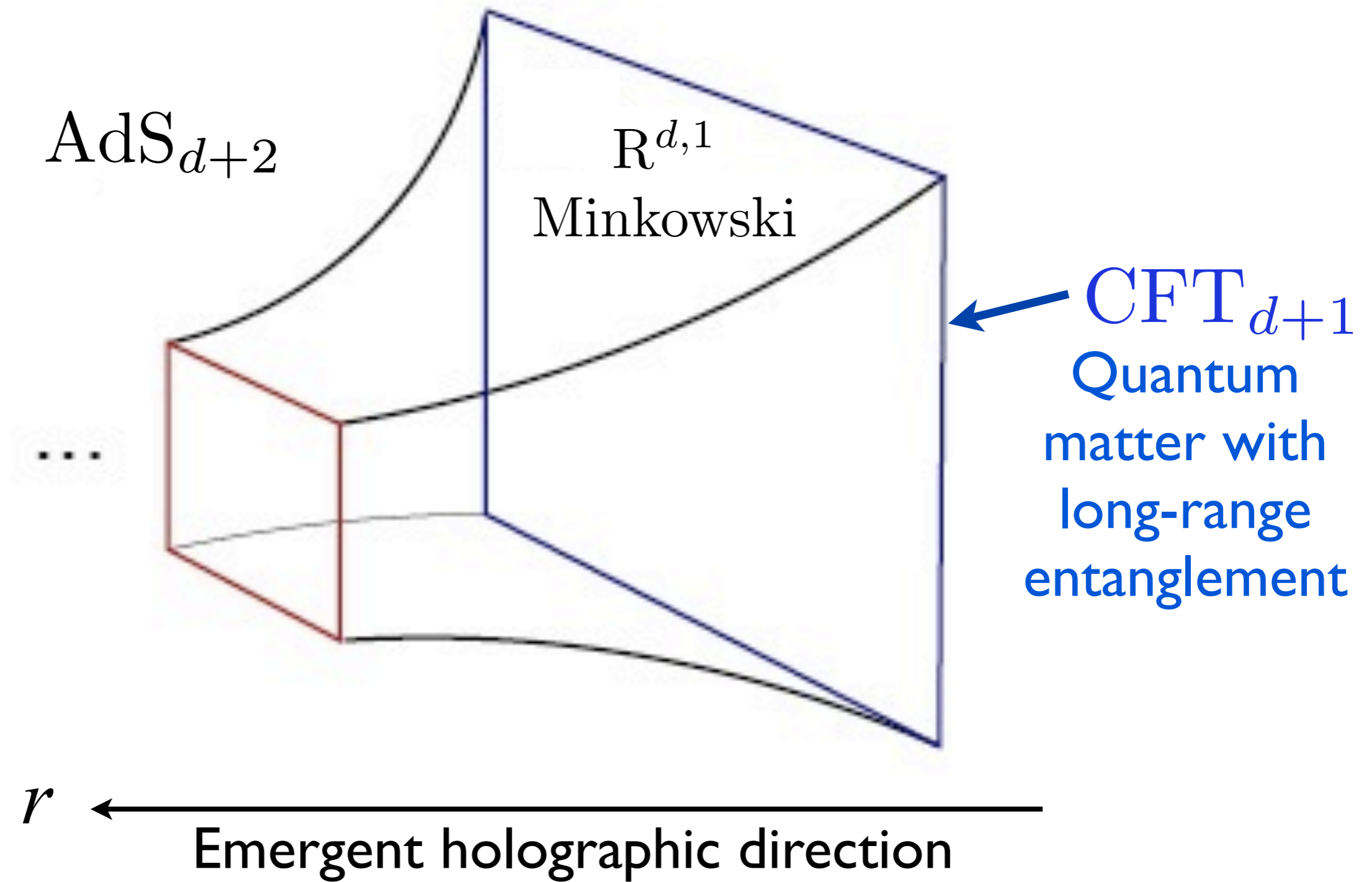
## Entanglement entropy

The entanglement entropy of a region  $A$  on the boundary equals the minimal area of a surface in the higher-dimensional space whose boundary co-incides with that of  $A$ .

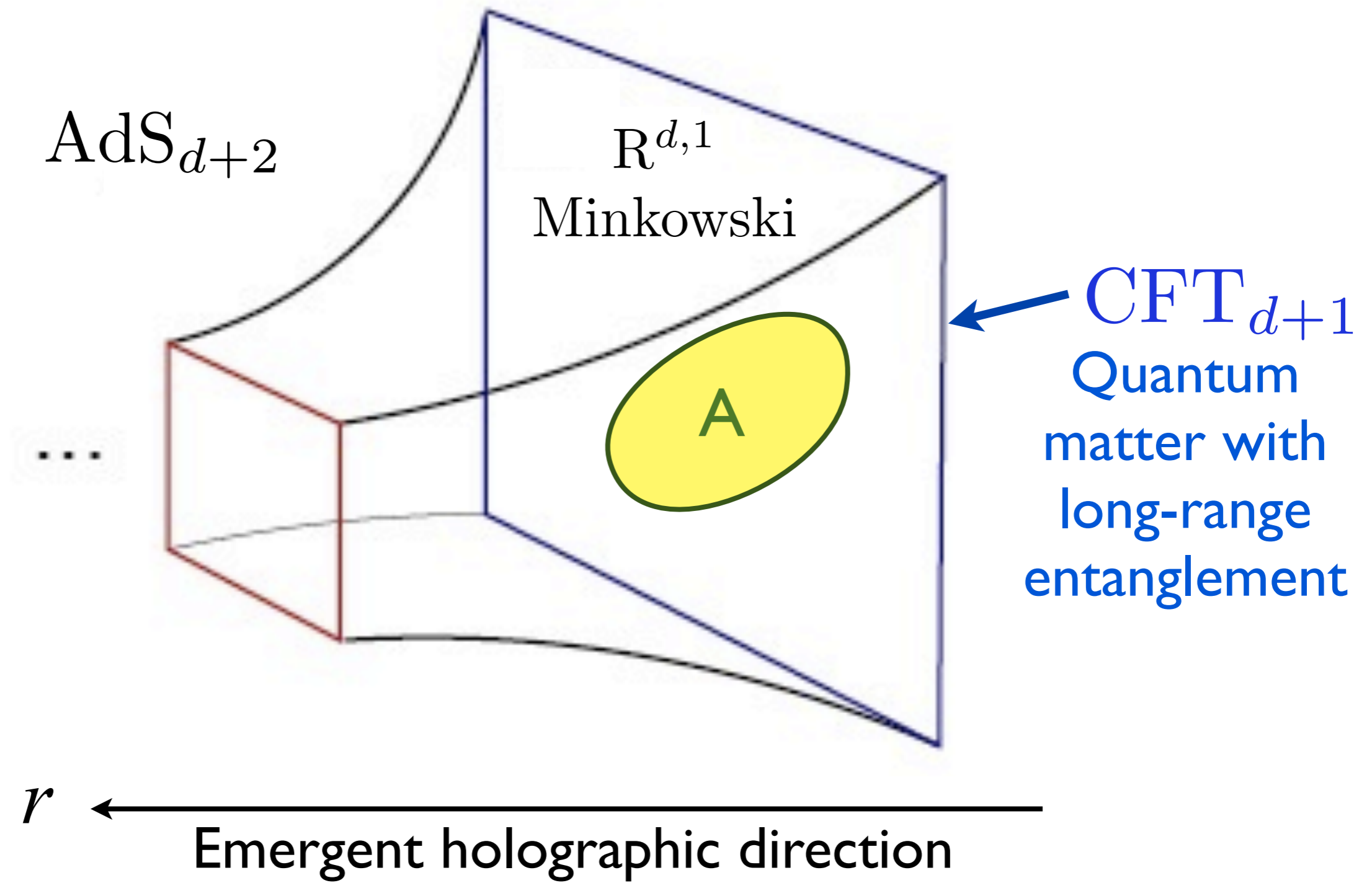
This can be seen both the string and tensor-network pictures

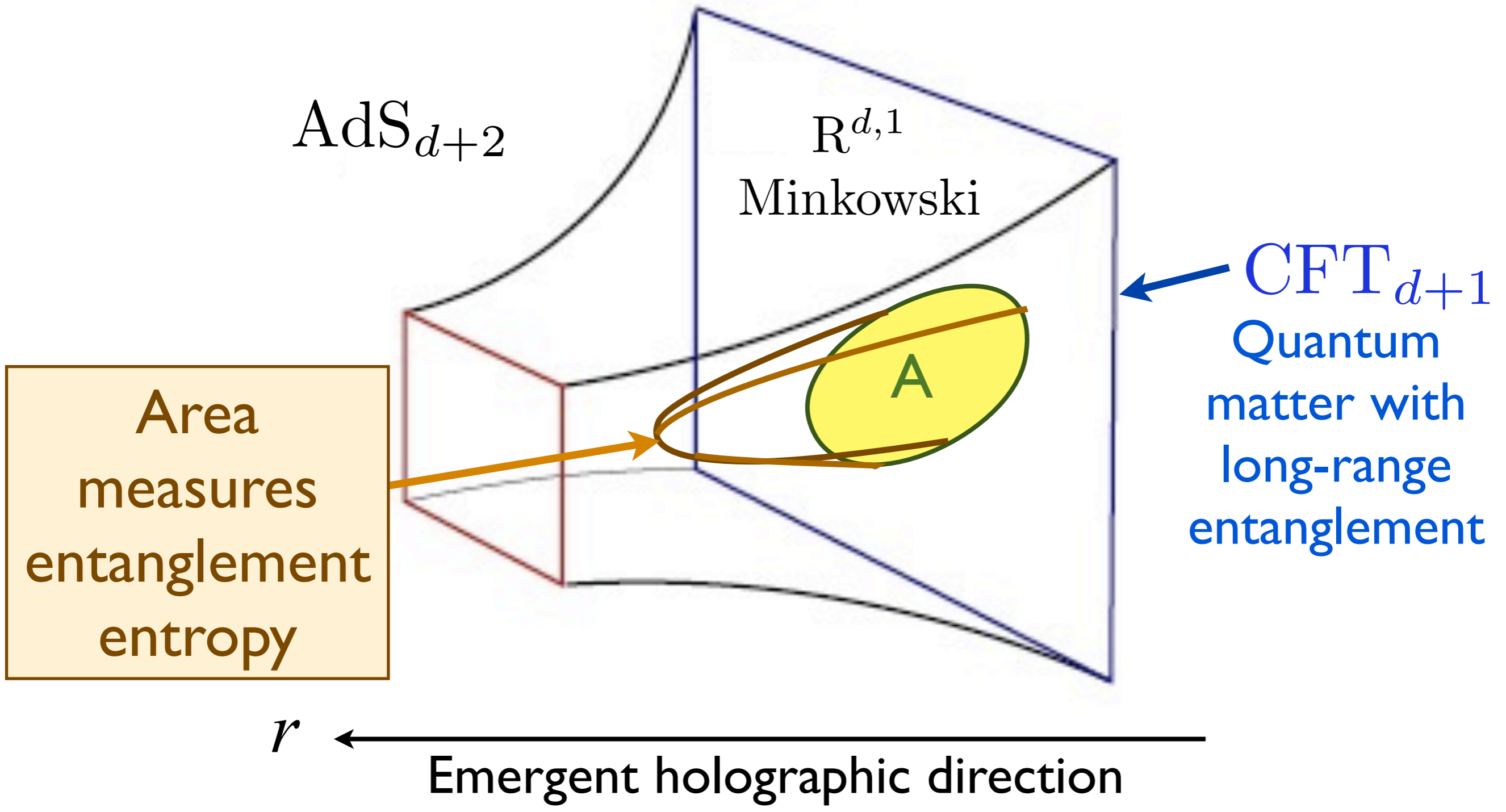
S. Ryu and T. Takayanagi, Phys. Rev. Lett. 96, 18160 (2006).

Brian Swingle, arXiv:0905.1317









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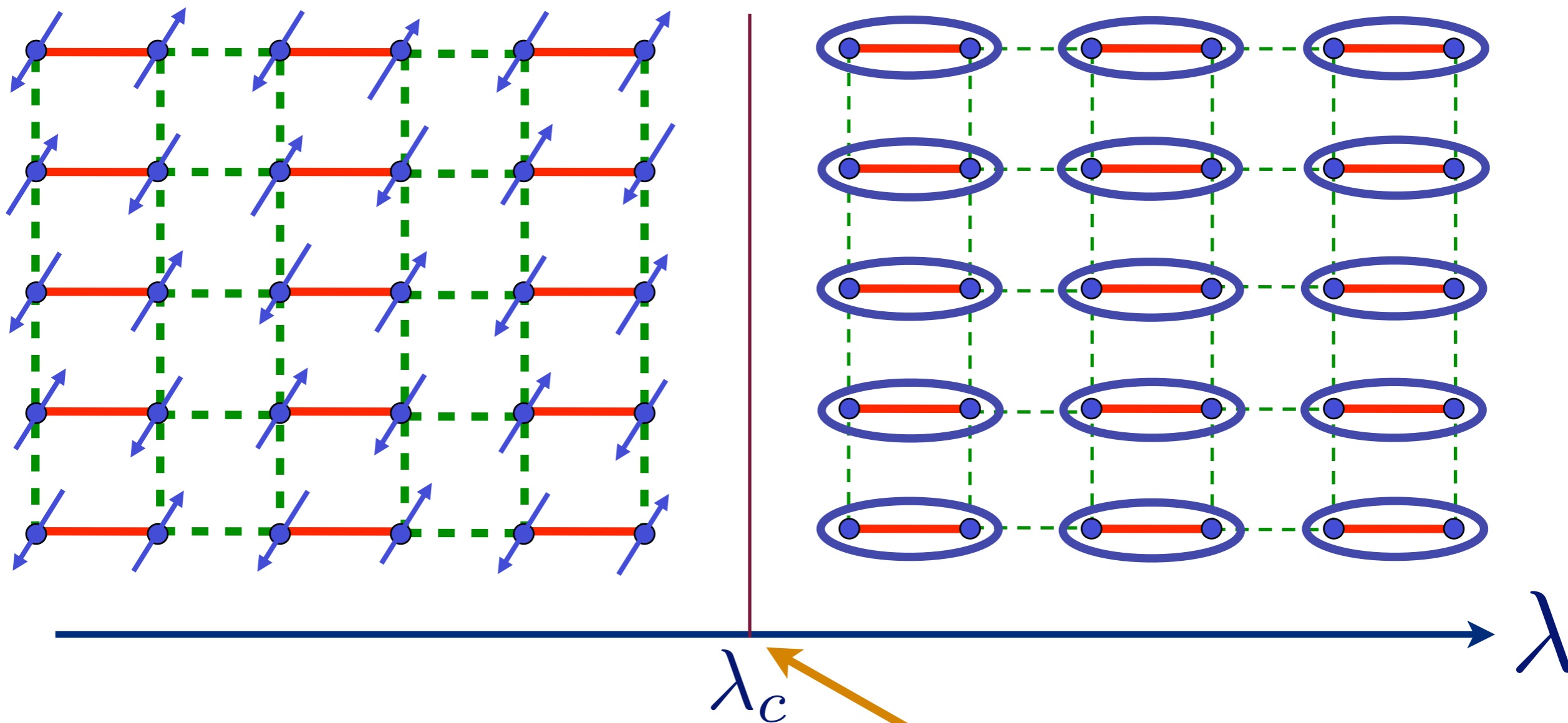
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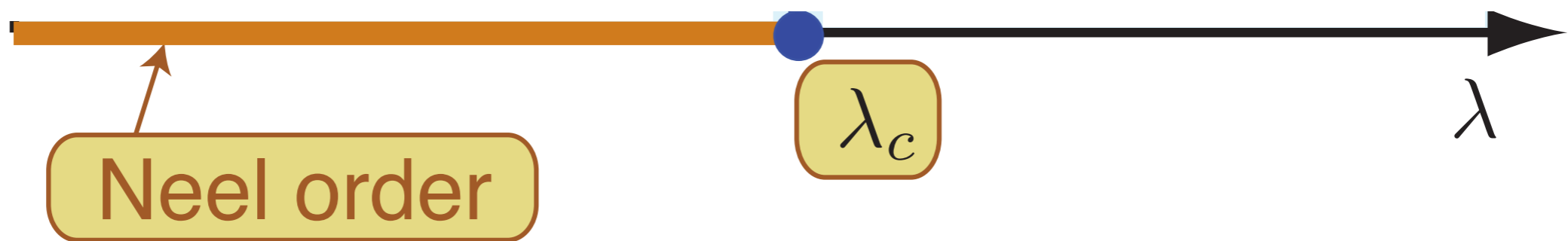
**Quantum critical  
points of electrons  
in crystals**

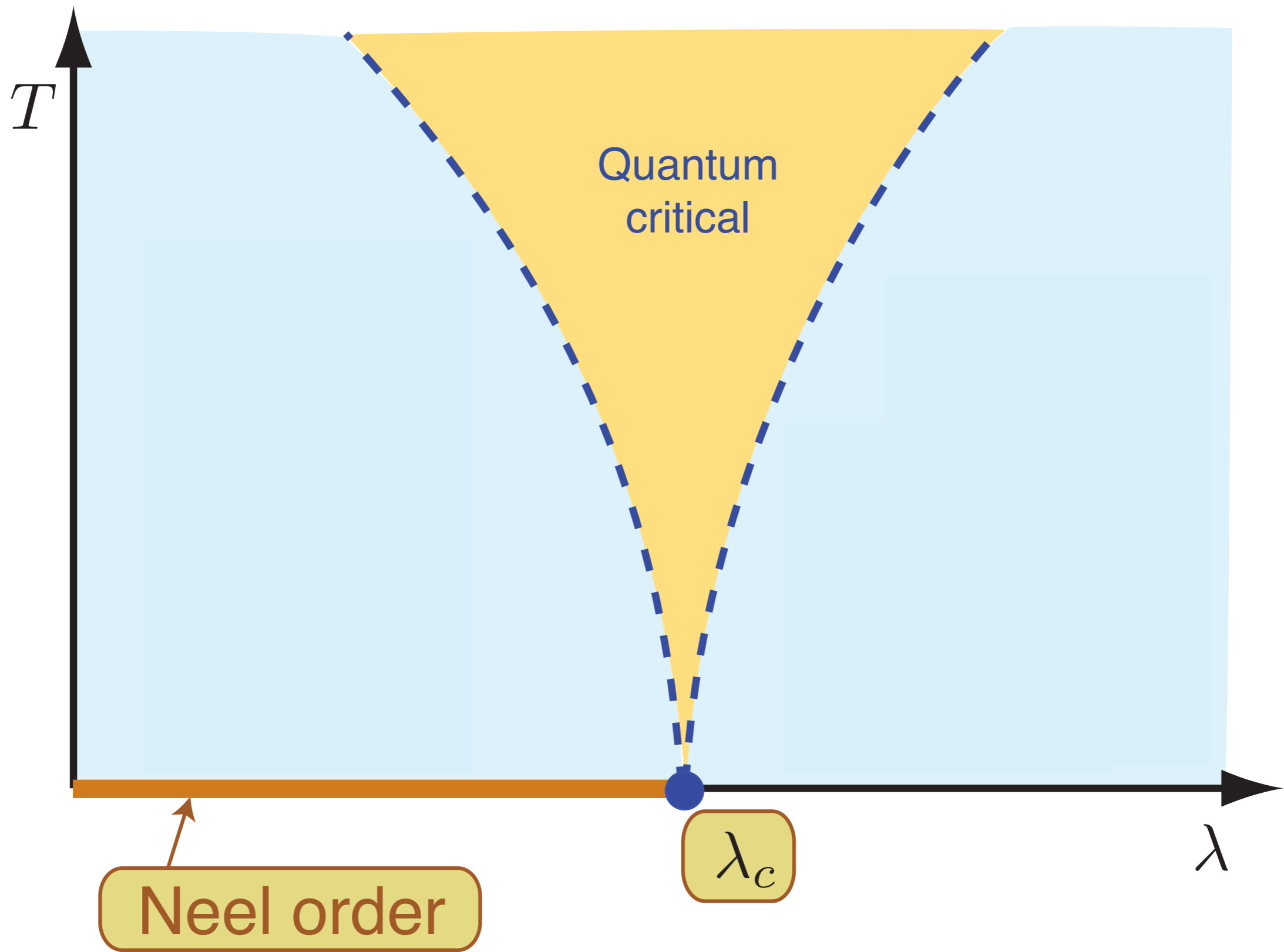
**String theory  
and black holes**

$$\text{[Diagram: Two blue dots connected by a red line, enclosed in a blue oval]} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle \right)$$

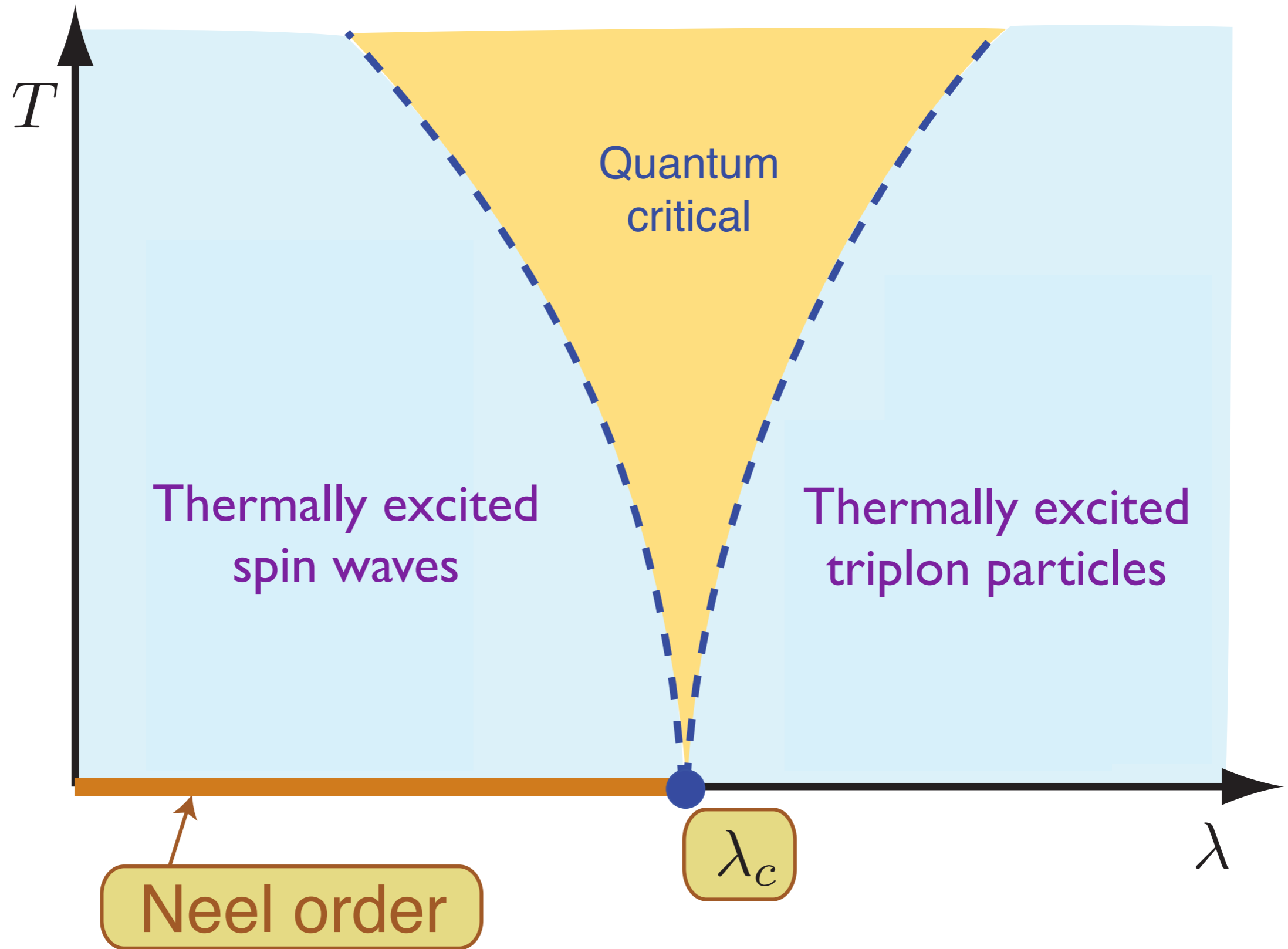


Quantum critical point with non-local entanglement in spin wavefunction



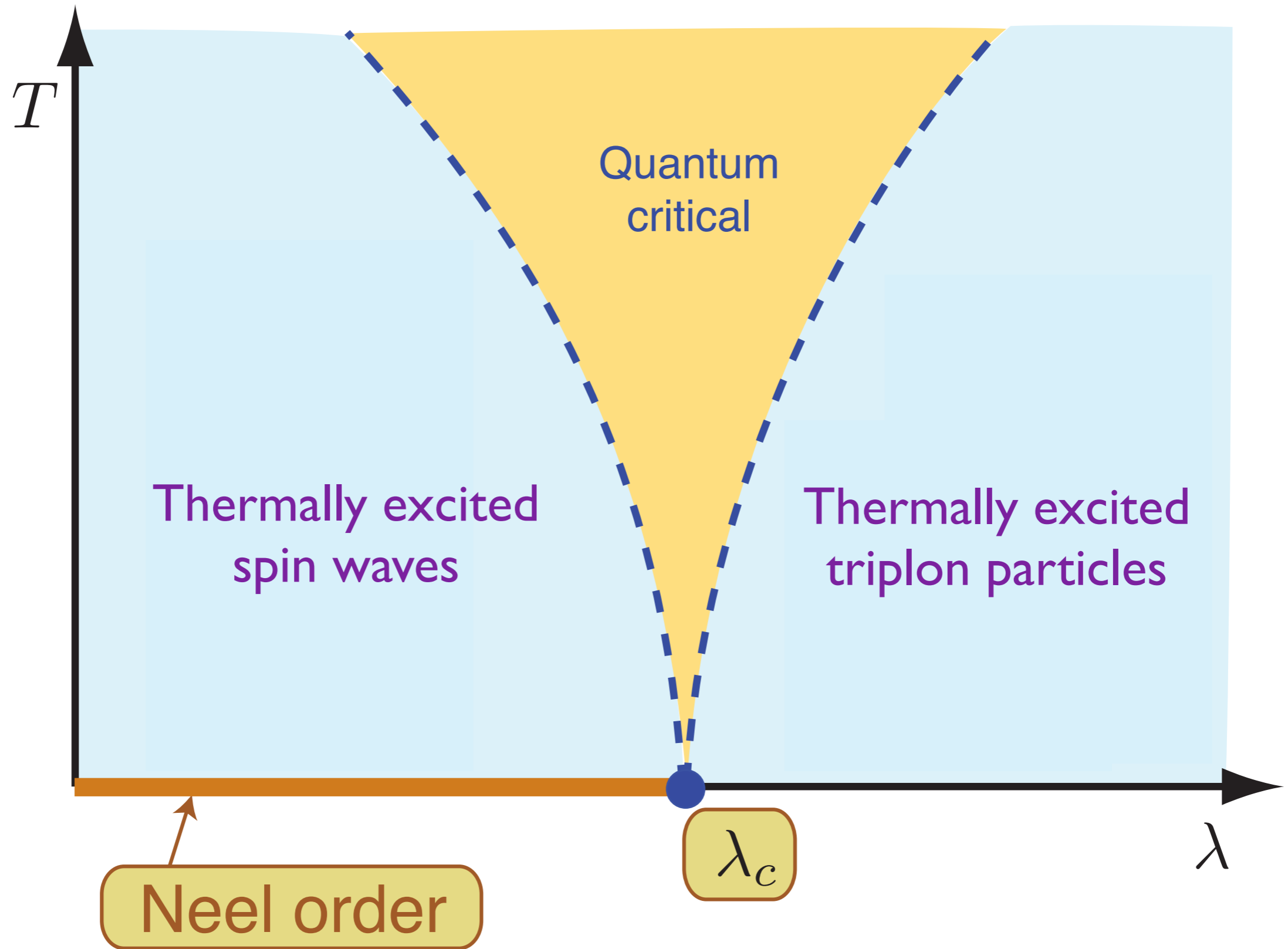


S. Sachdev and J. Ye, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **69**, 2411 (1992).  
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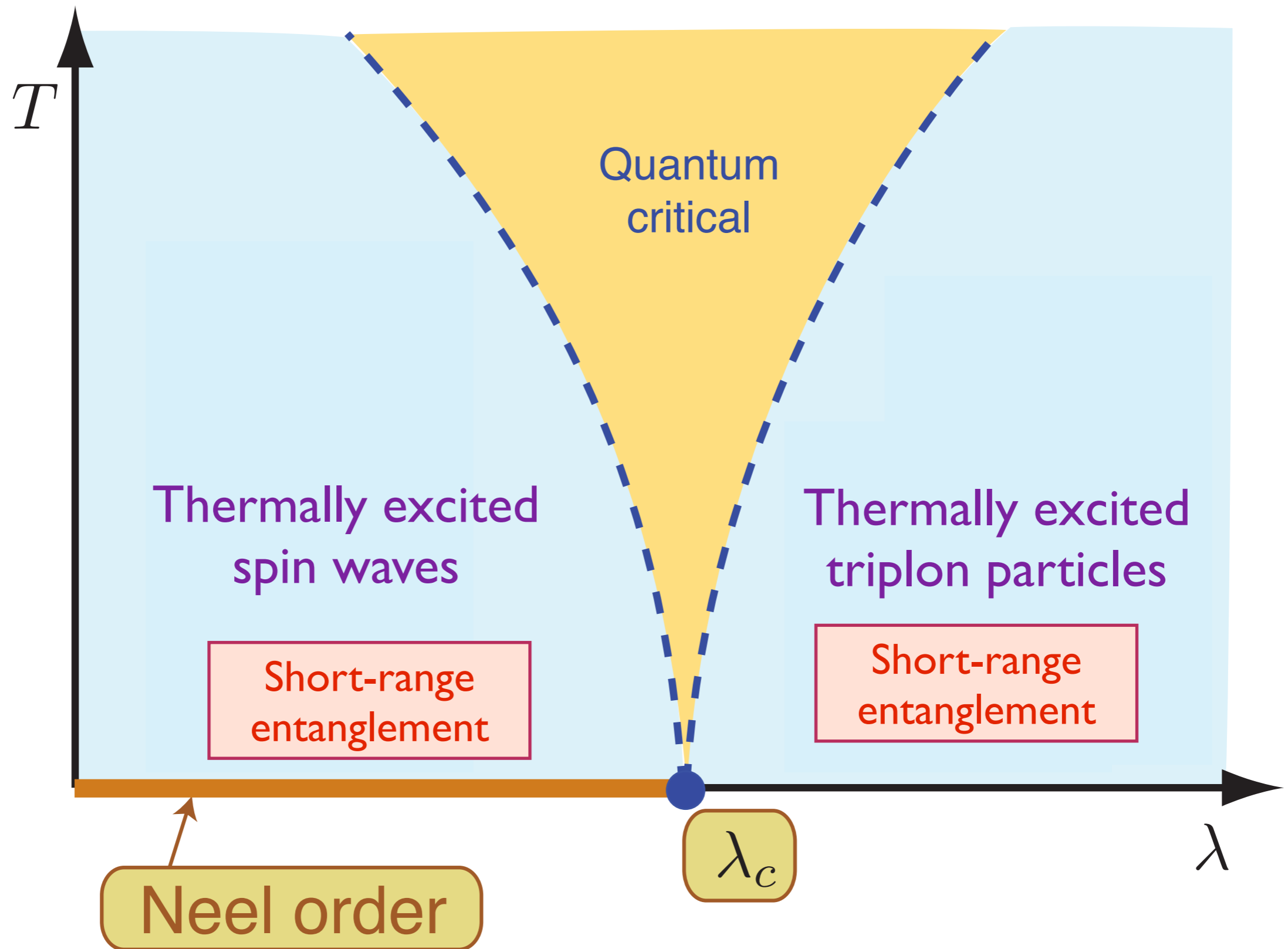




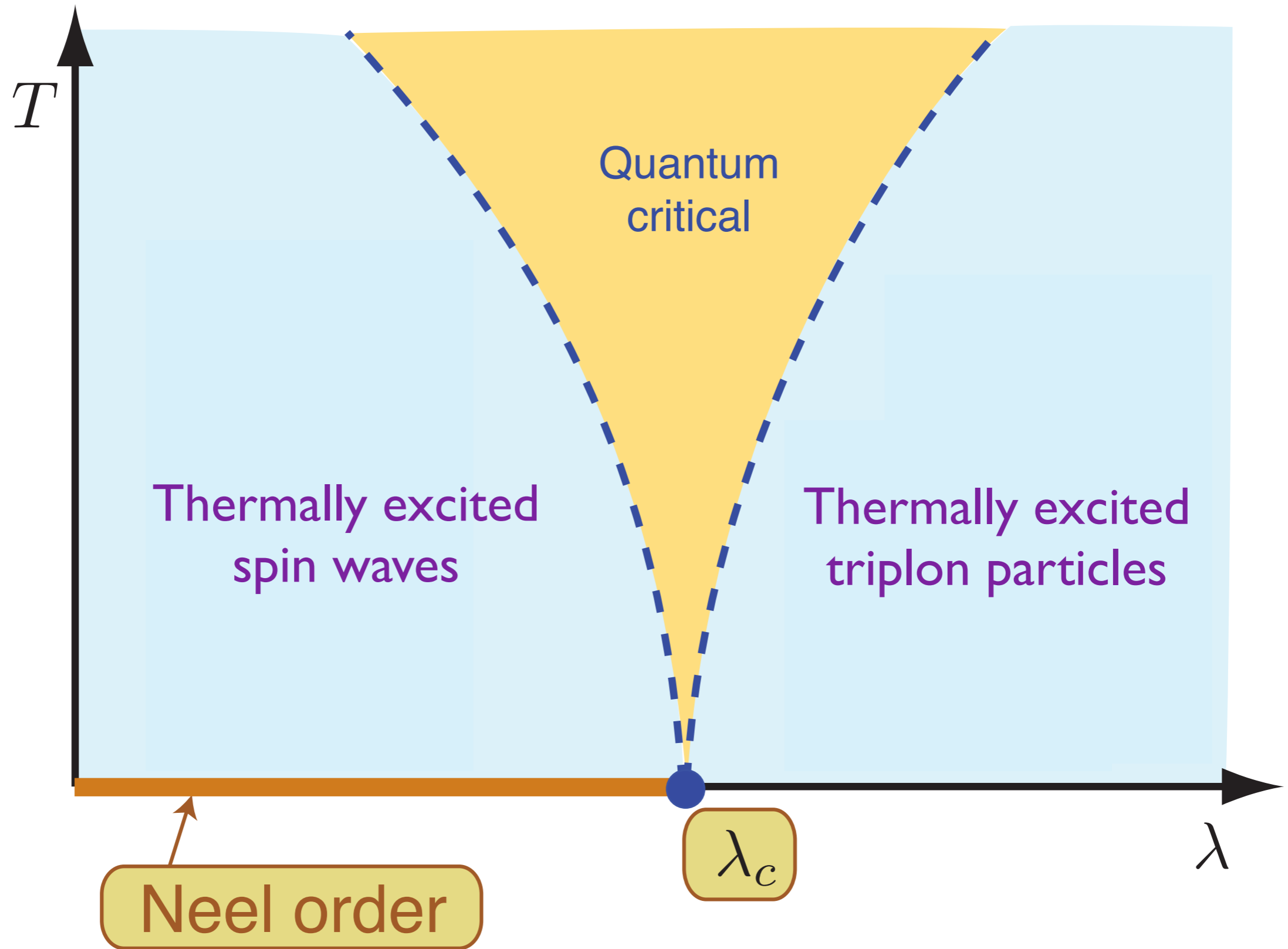
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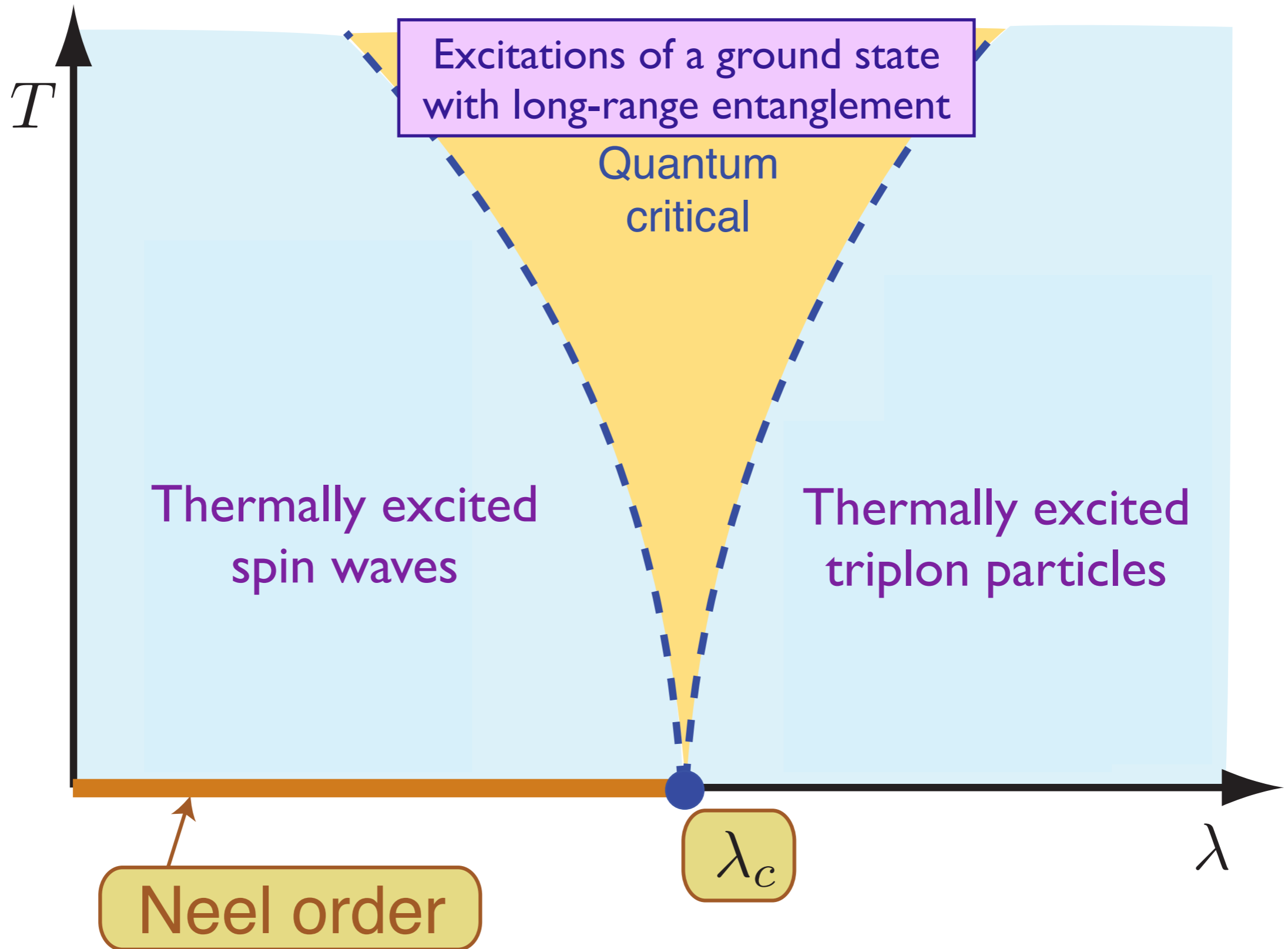
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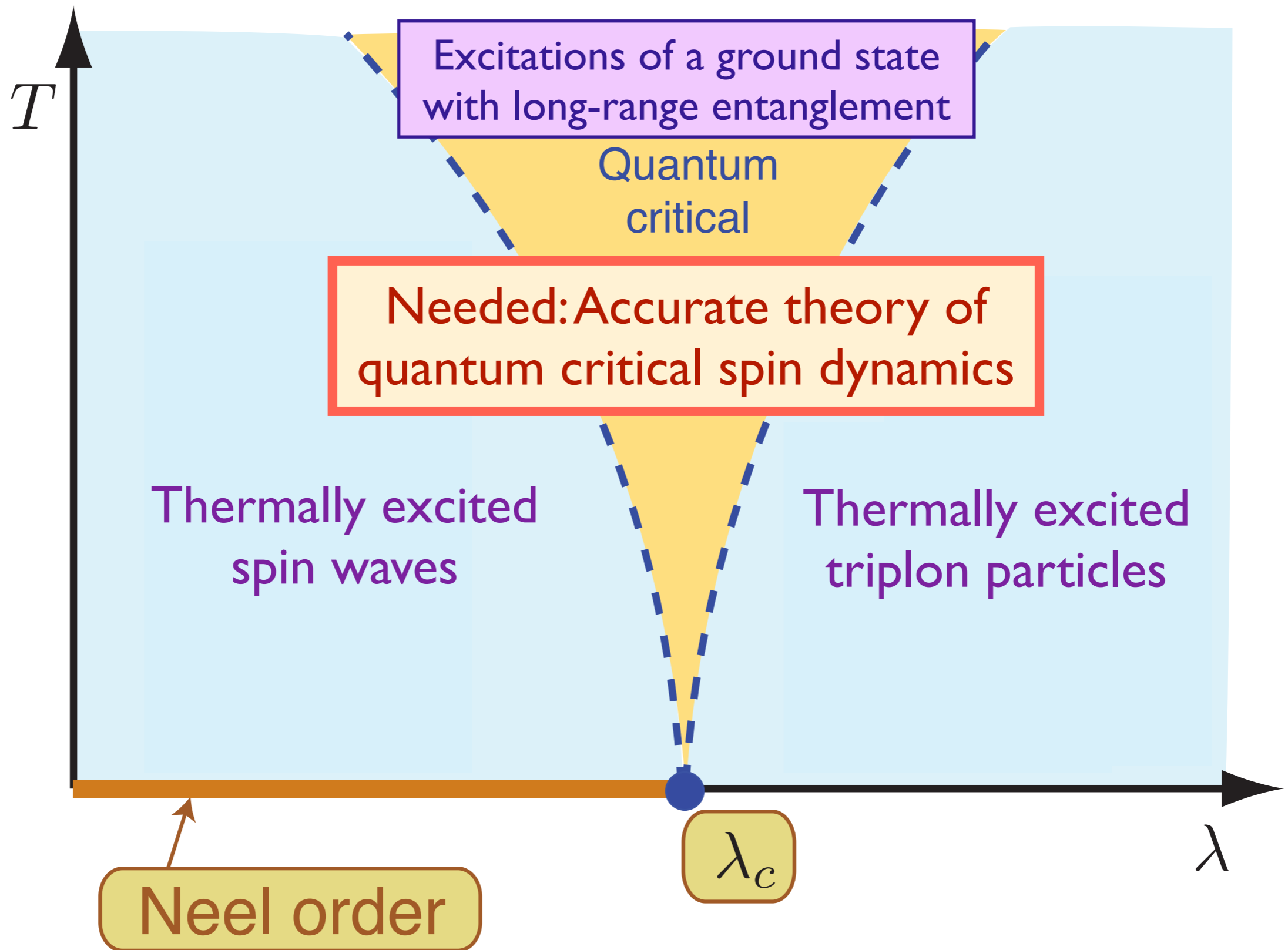
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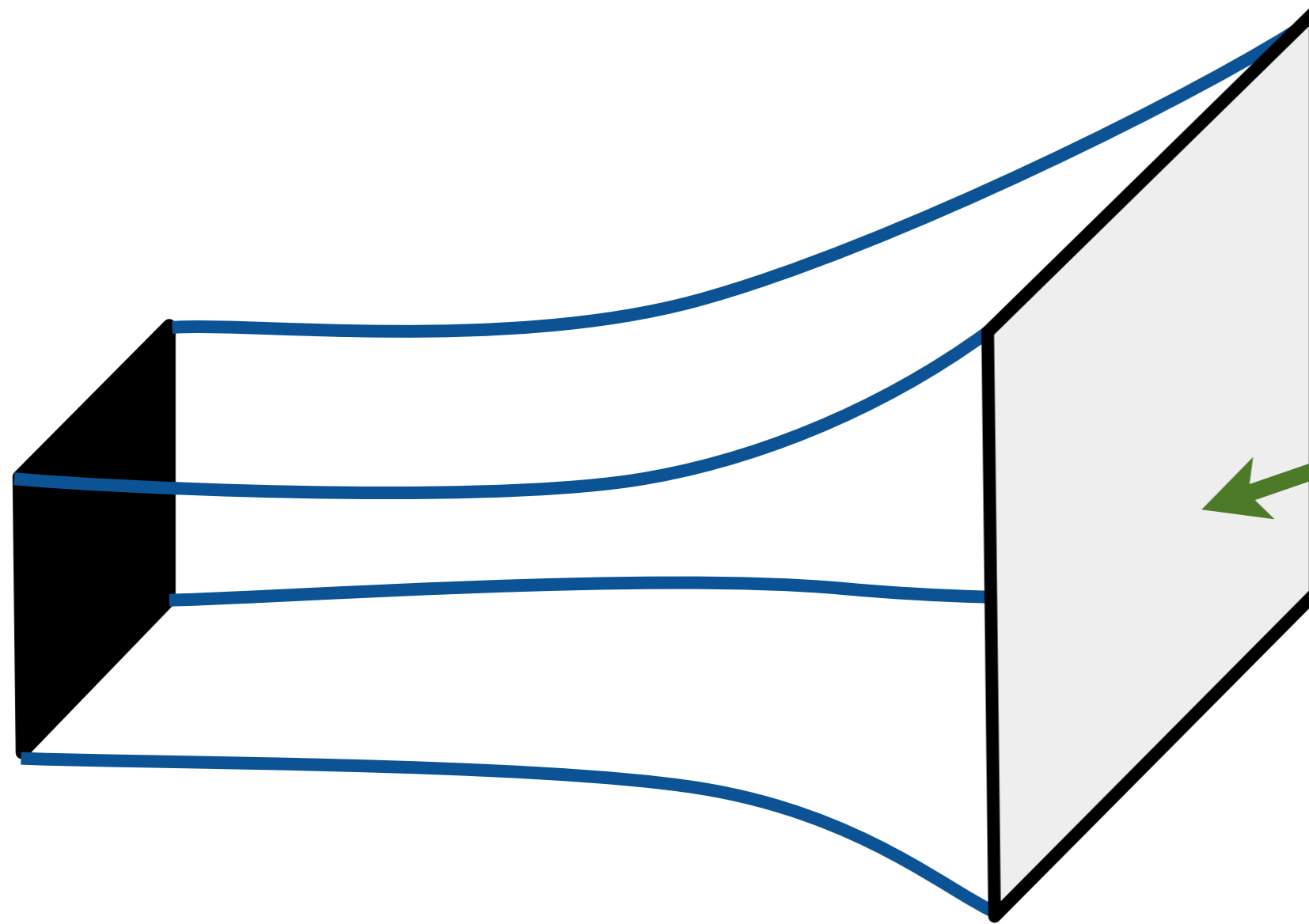
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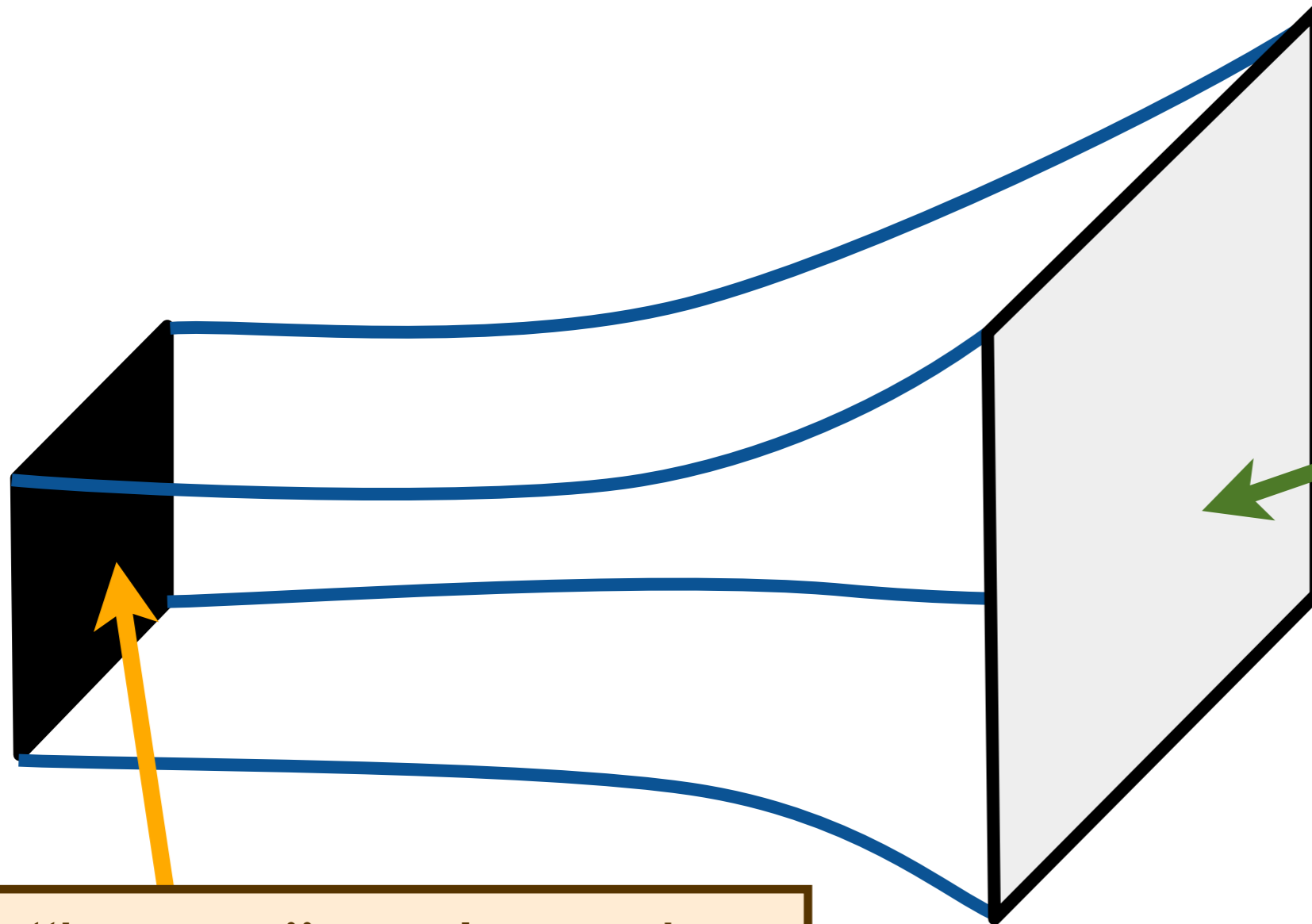


# String theory at non-zero temperatures



A 2+1 dimensional system at its quantum critical point

# String theory at non-zero temperatures

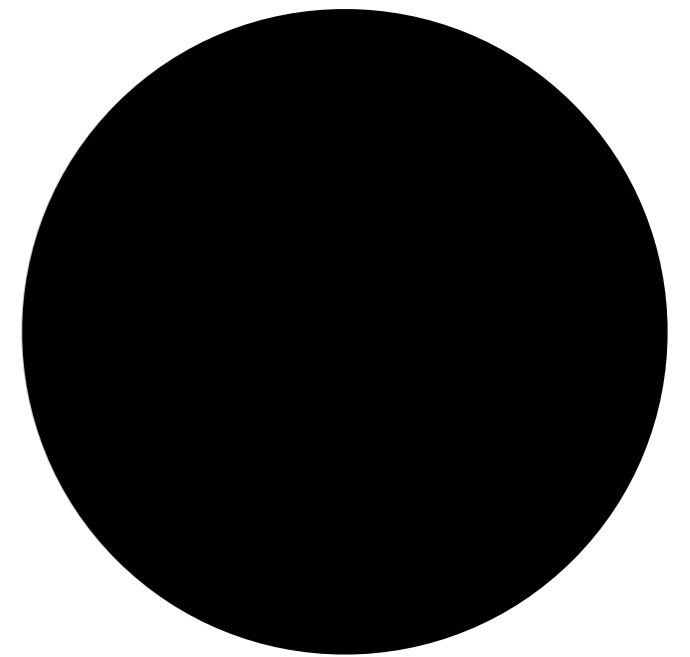


A “horizon”, similar to the surface of a black hole !

A 2+1 dimensional system at its quantum critical point

# Black Holes

Objects so massive that light is gravitationally bound to them.



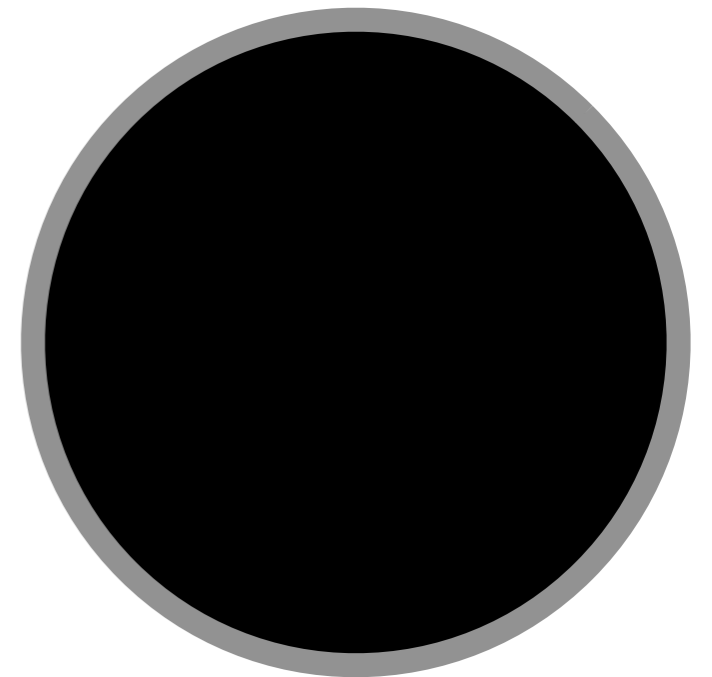


# Black Holes

Objects so massive that light is gravitationally bound to them.

In Einstein's theory, the region inside the black hole **horizon** is disconnected from the rest of the universe.

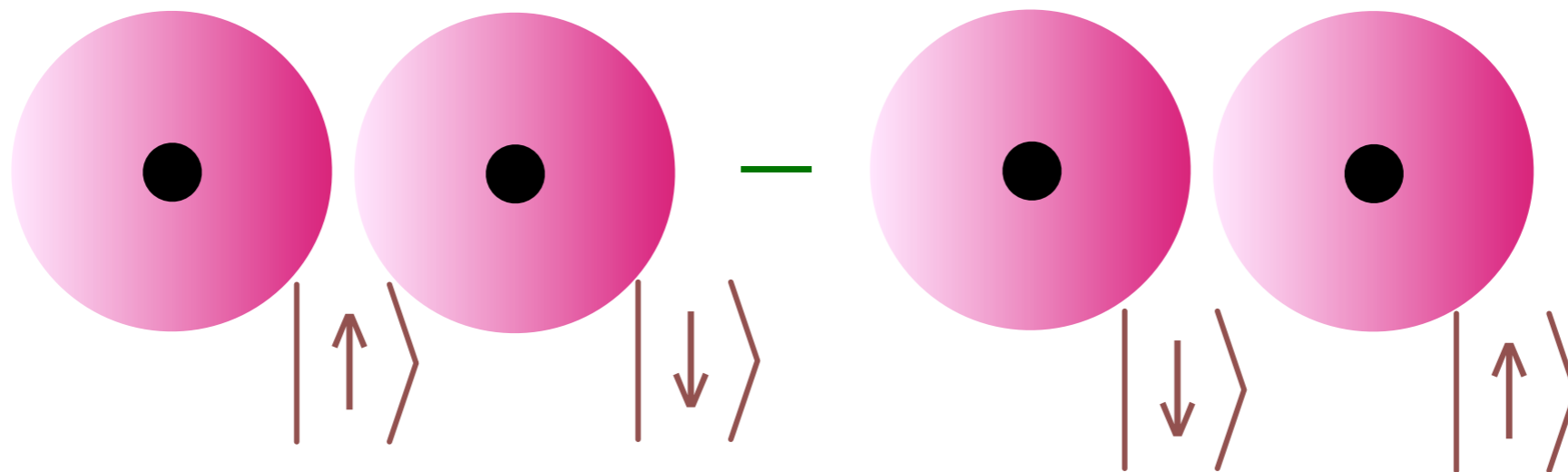
$$\text{Horizon radius } R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$



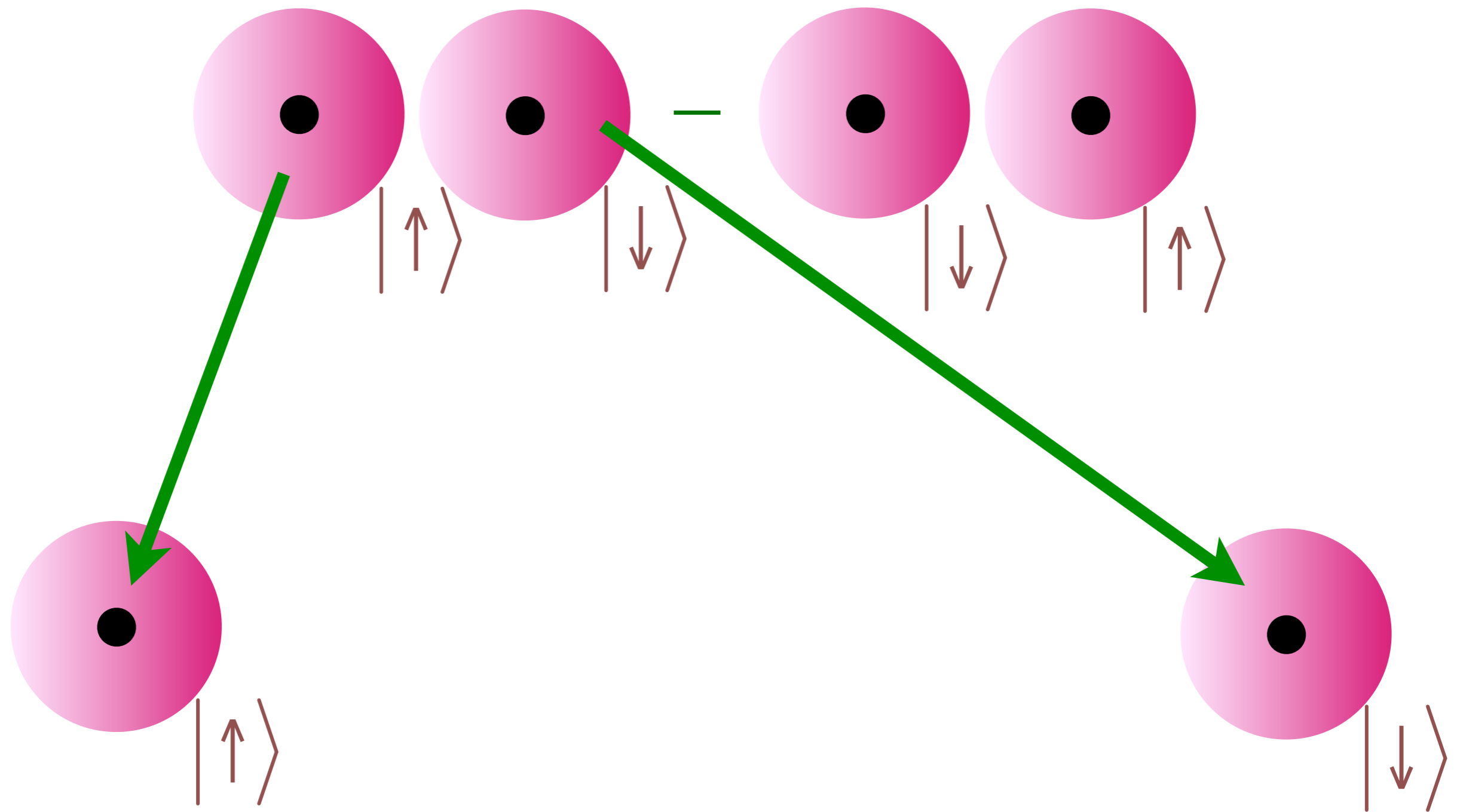
# Black Holes + Quantum theory

Around 1974, Bekenstein and Hawking showed that the application of the quantum theory across a black hole horizon led to many astonishing conclusions

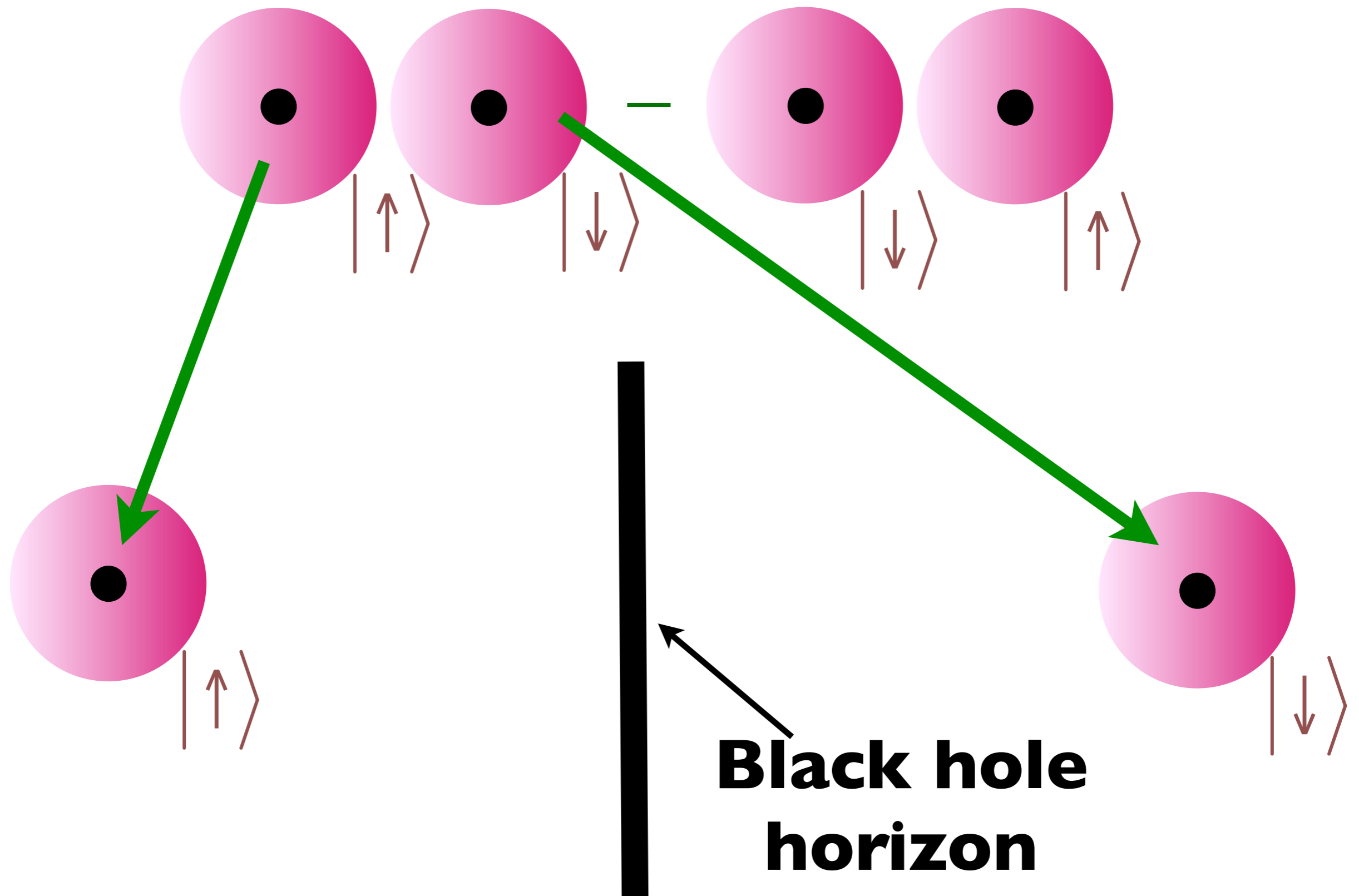
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



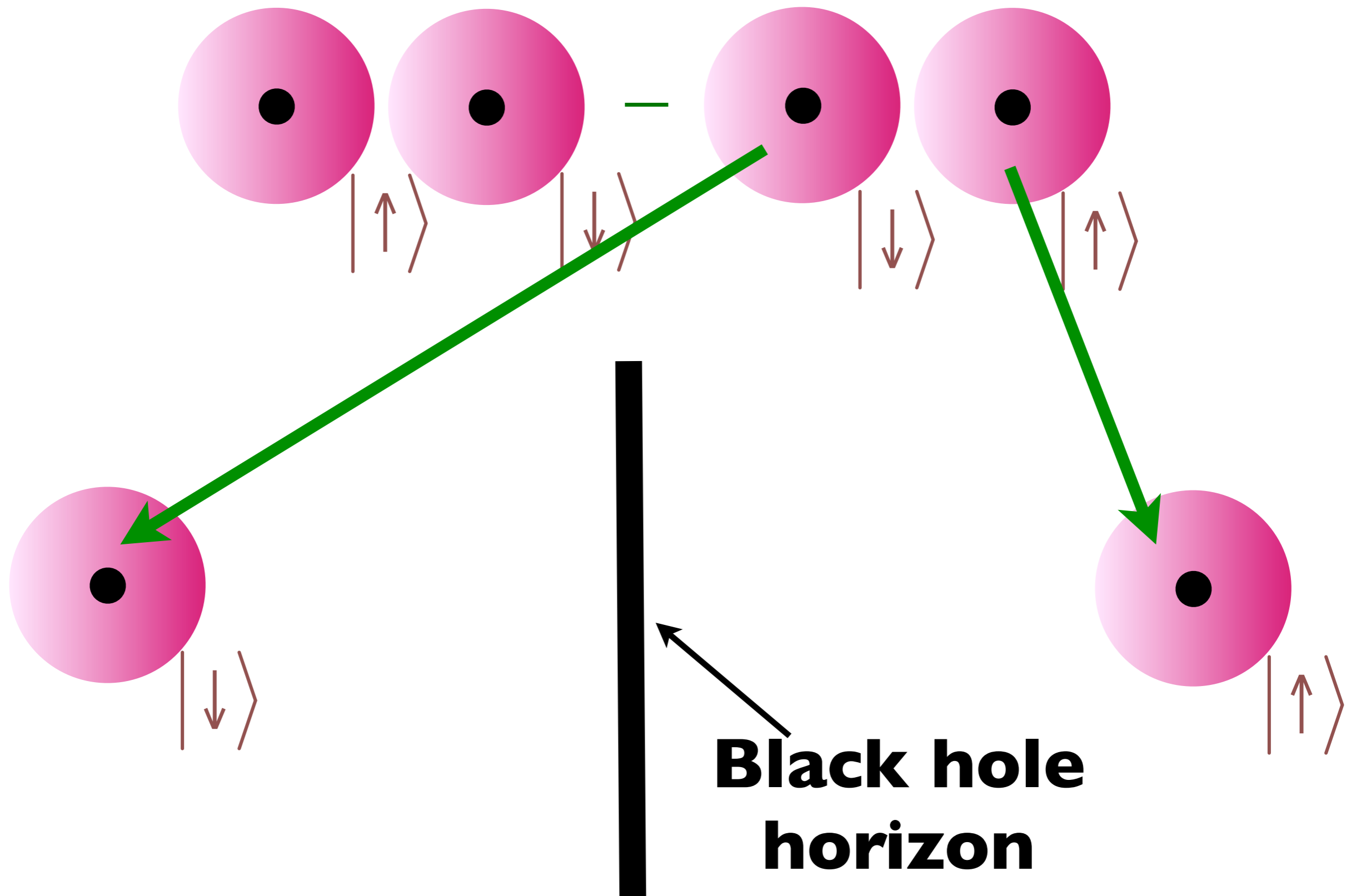
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

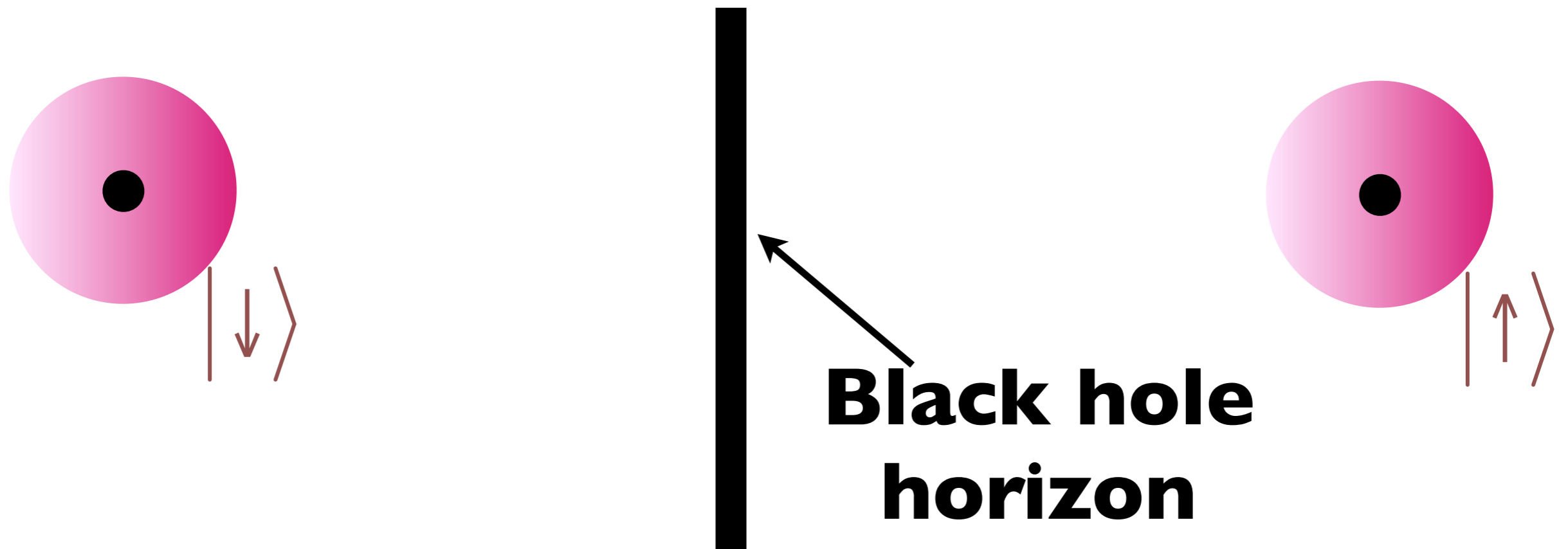


# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



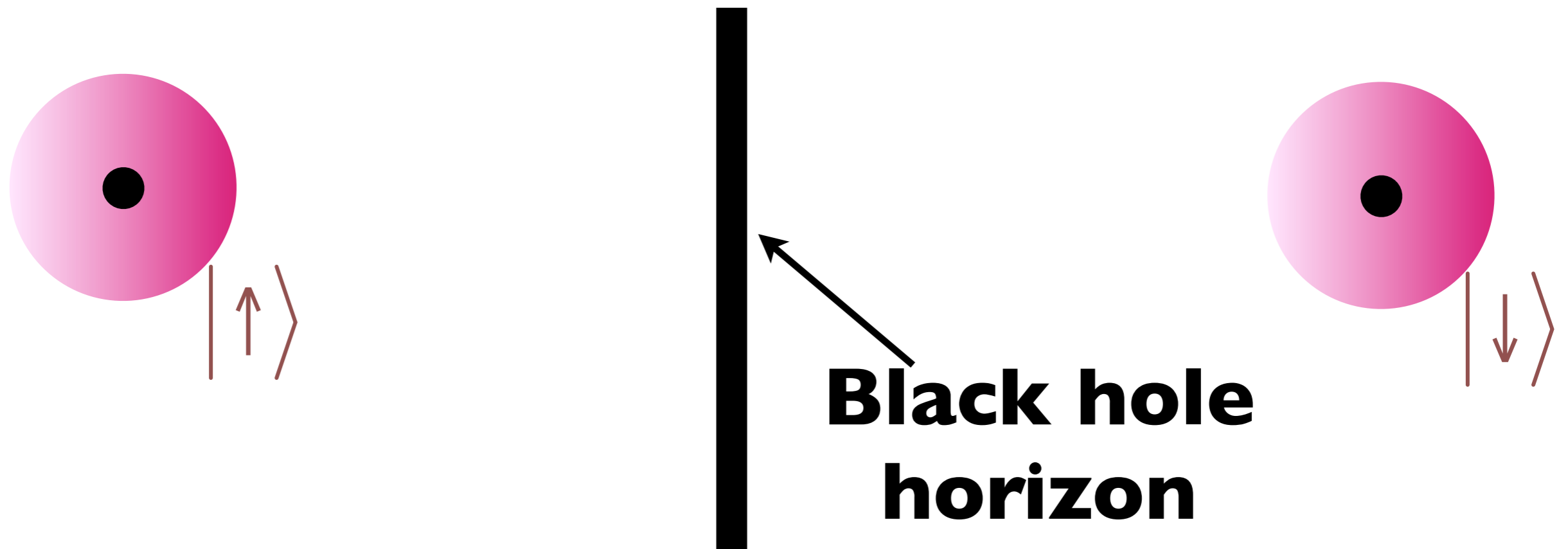
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

There is a non-local quantum entanglement between the inside and outside of a black hole



# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

There is a non-local quantum entanglement between the inside and outside of a black hole



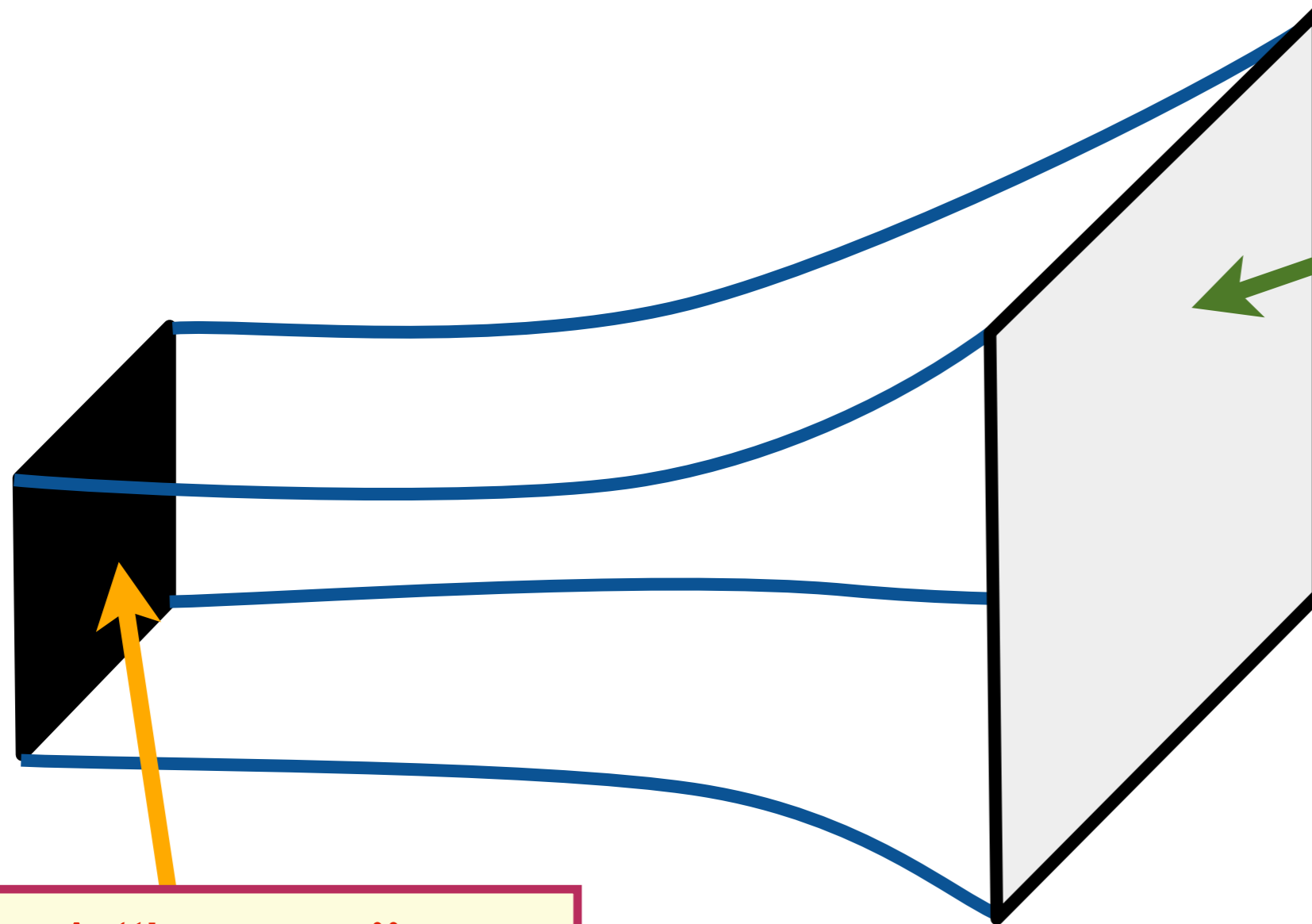


# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

There is a non-local quantum entanglement between the inside and outside of a black hole

This entanglement leads to a black hole temperature (the Hawking temperature) and a black hole entropy (the Bekenstein entropy)

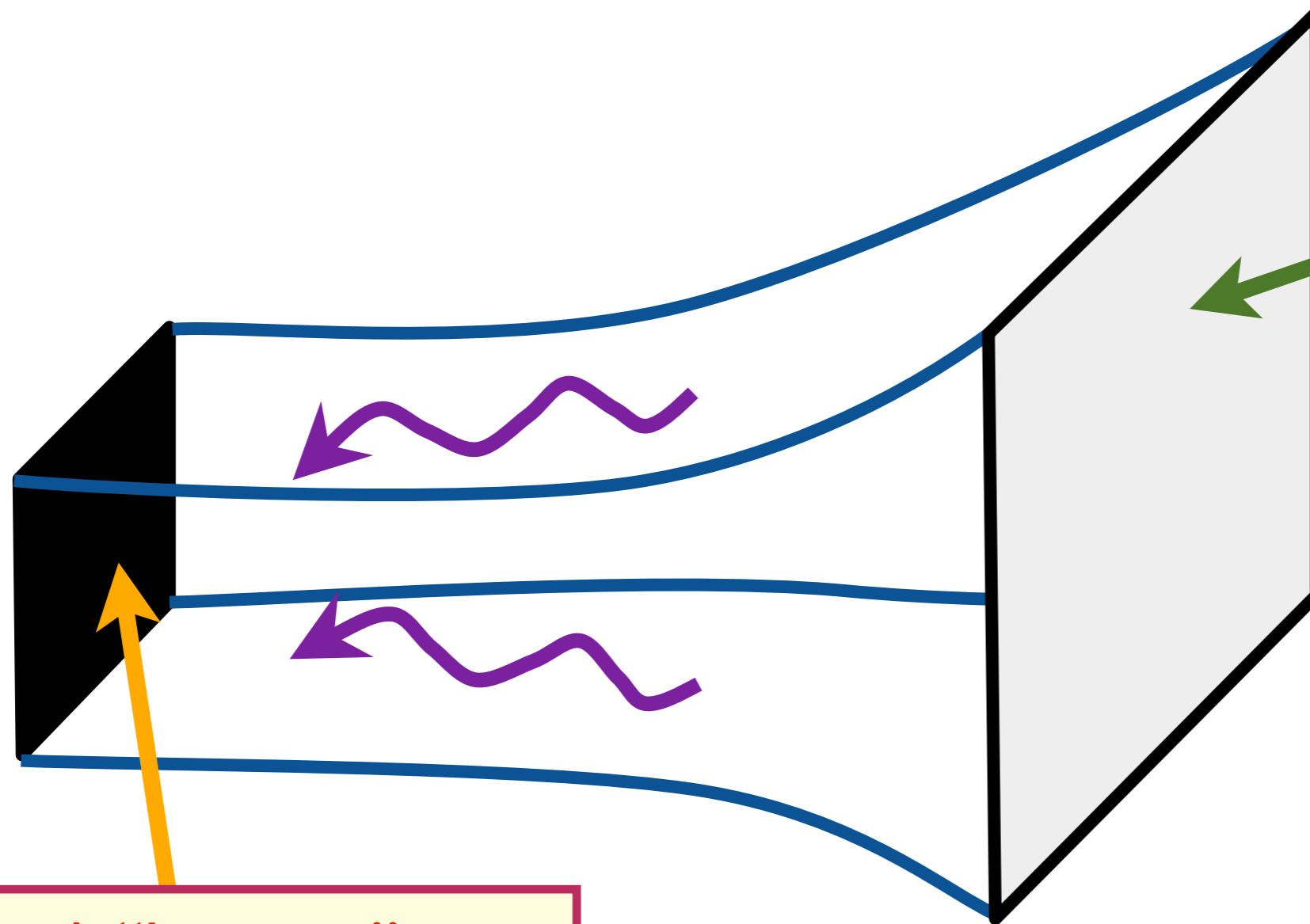
# String theory at non-zero temperatures



A “horizon”,  
whose temperature  
and entropy equal  
those of the quantum  
critical point

A 2+1  
dimensional  
system at its  
quantum  
critical point

# String theory at non-zero temperatures

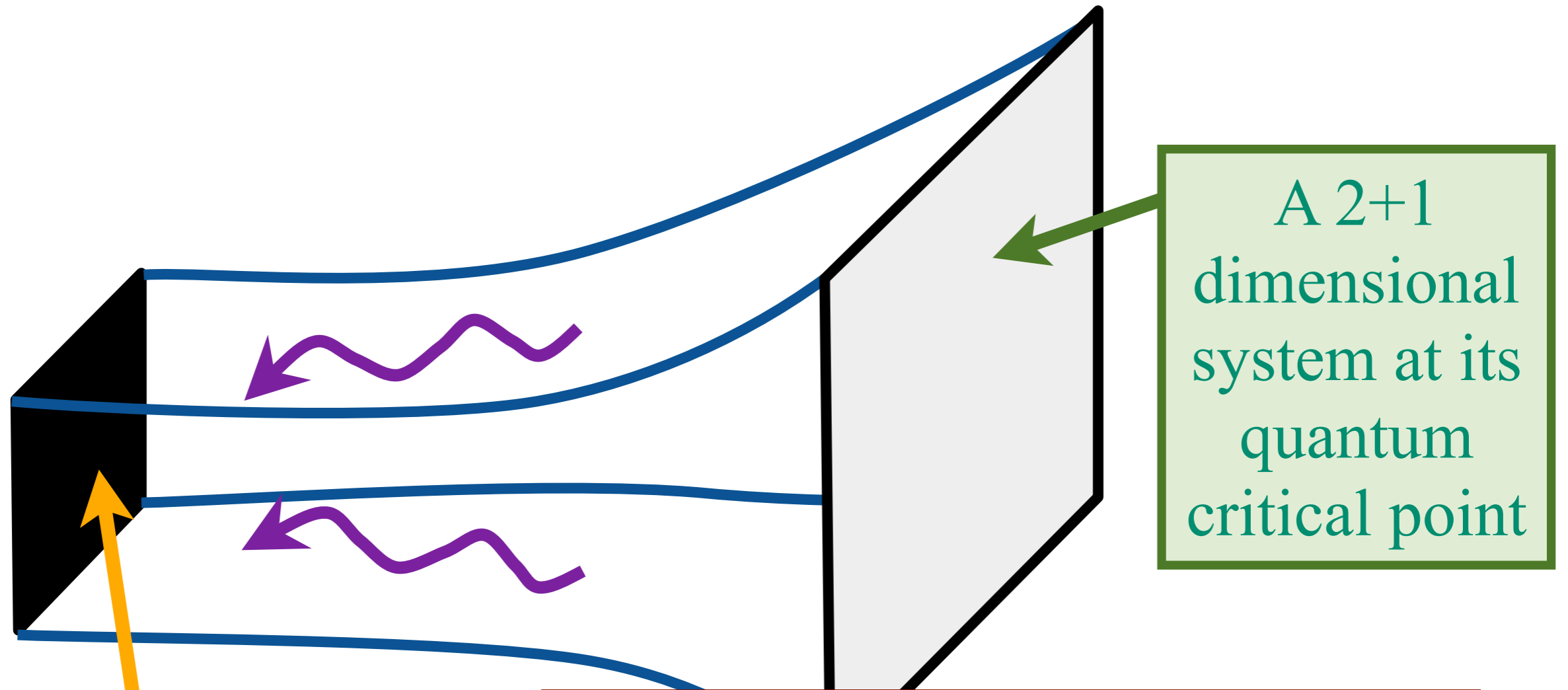


A 2+1  
dimensional  
system at its  
quantum  
critical point

A “horizon”,  
whose temperature  
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those of the quantum  
critical point

Friction of quantum  
criticality = waves  
falling into black brane

# String theory at non-zero temperatures



A “horizon”,  
whose temperature  
and entropy equal  
those of the quantum  
critical point

An (extended) Einstein-Maxwell  
provides successful description of  
dynamics of quantum critical  
points at non-zero temperatures  
(where no other methods apply)

A 2+1  
dimensional  
system at its  
quantum  
critical point

**Quantum  
superposition and  
entanglement**

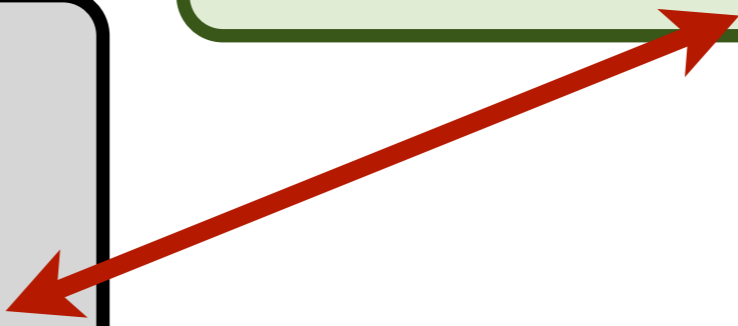
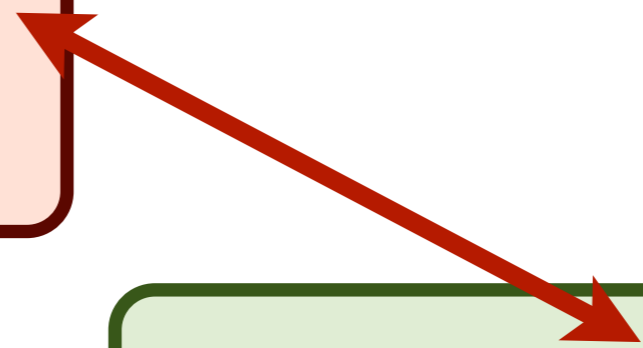
**Quantum critical  
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**String theory  
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**Quantum  
superposition and  
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**Quantum critical  
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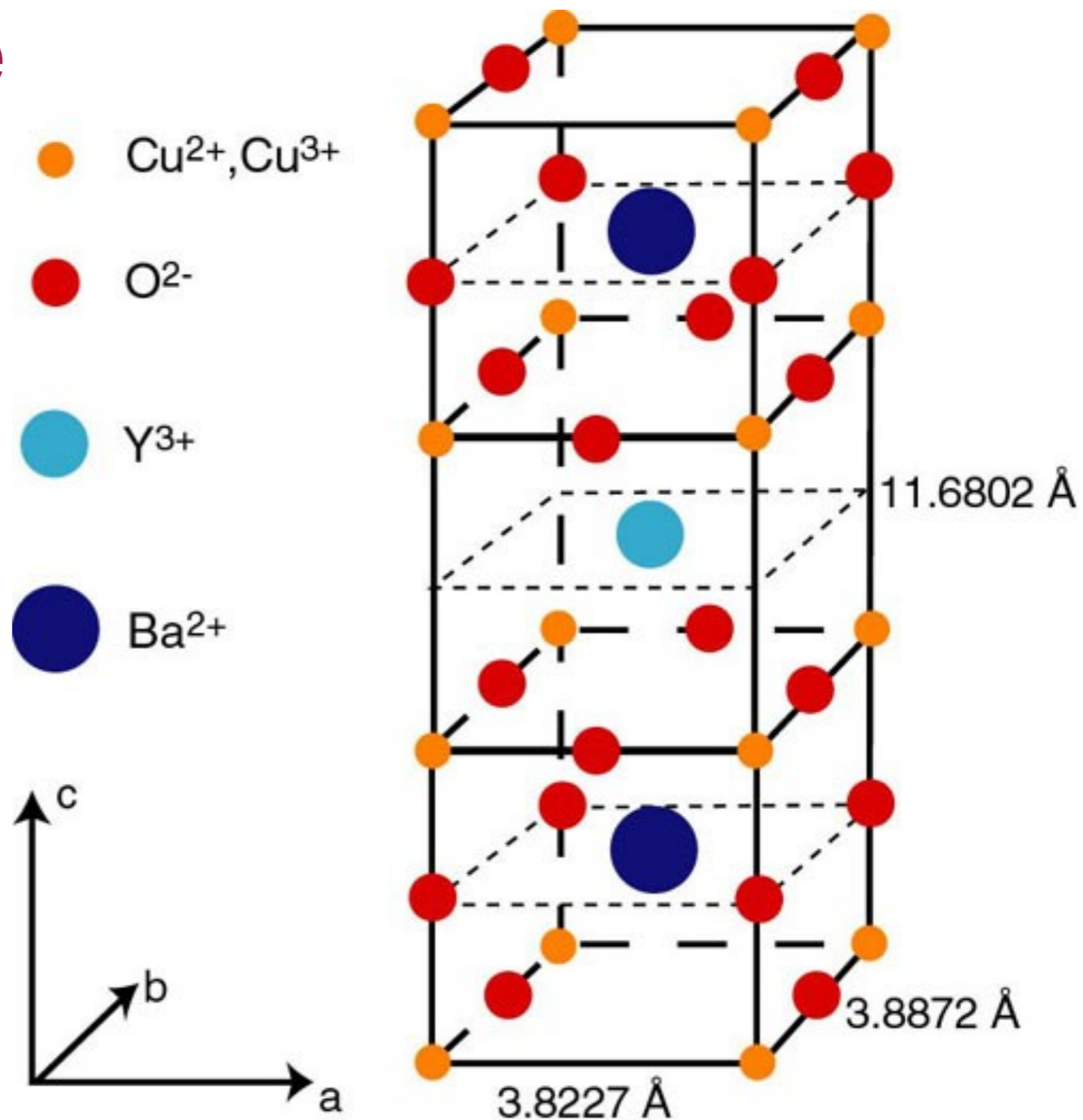
**String theory  
and black holes**



**Metals, "strange metals", and  
high temperature  
superconductors**

**Insights from gravitational  
"duals"**

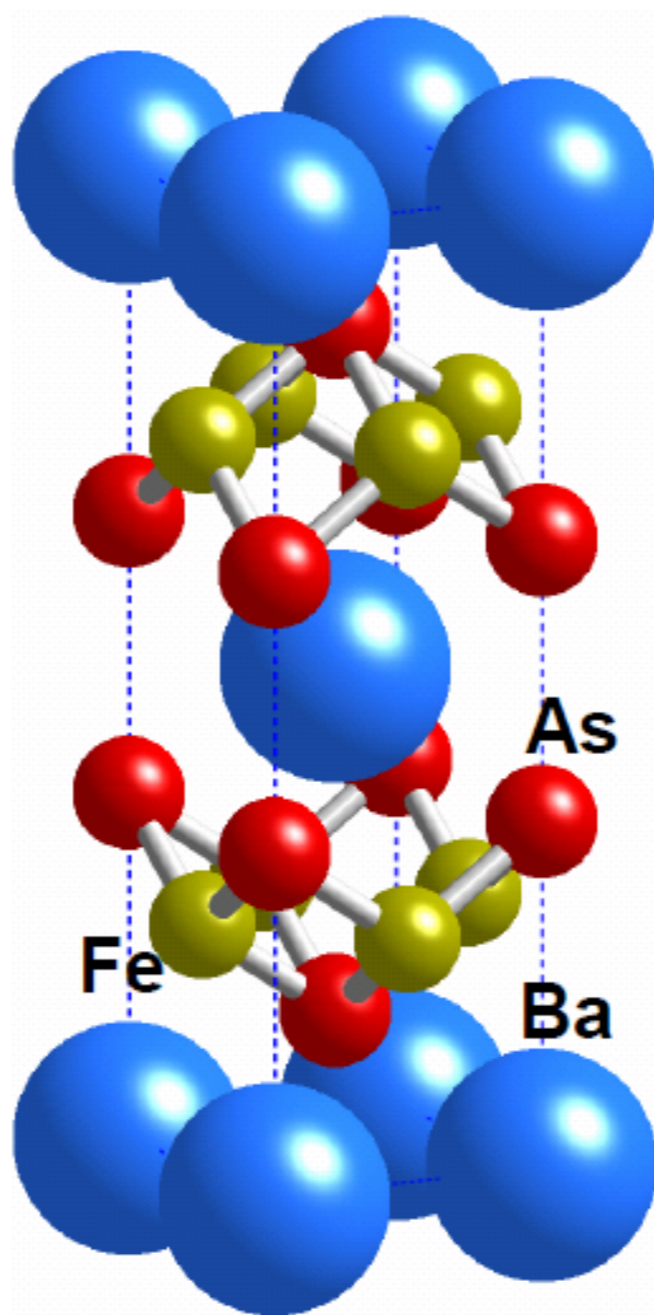
# High temperature superconductors



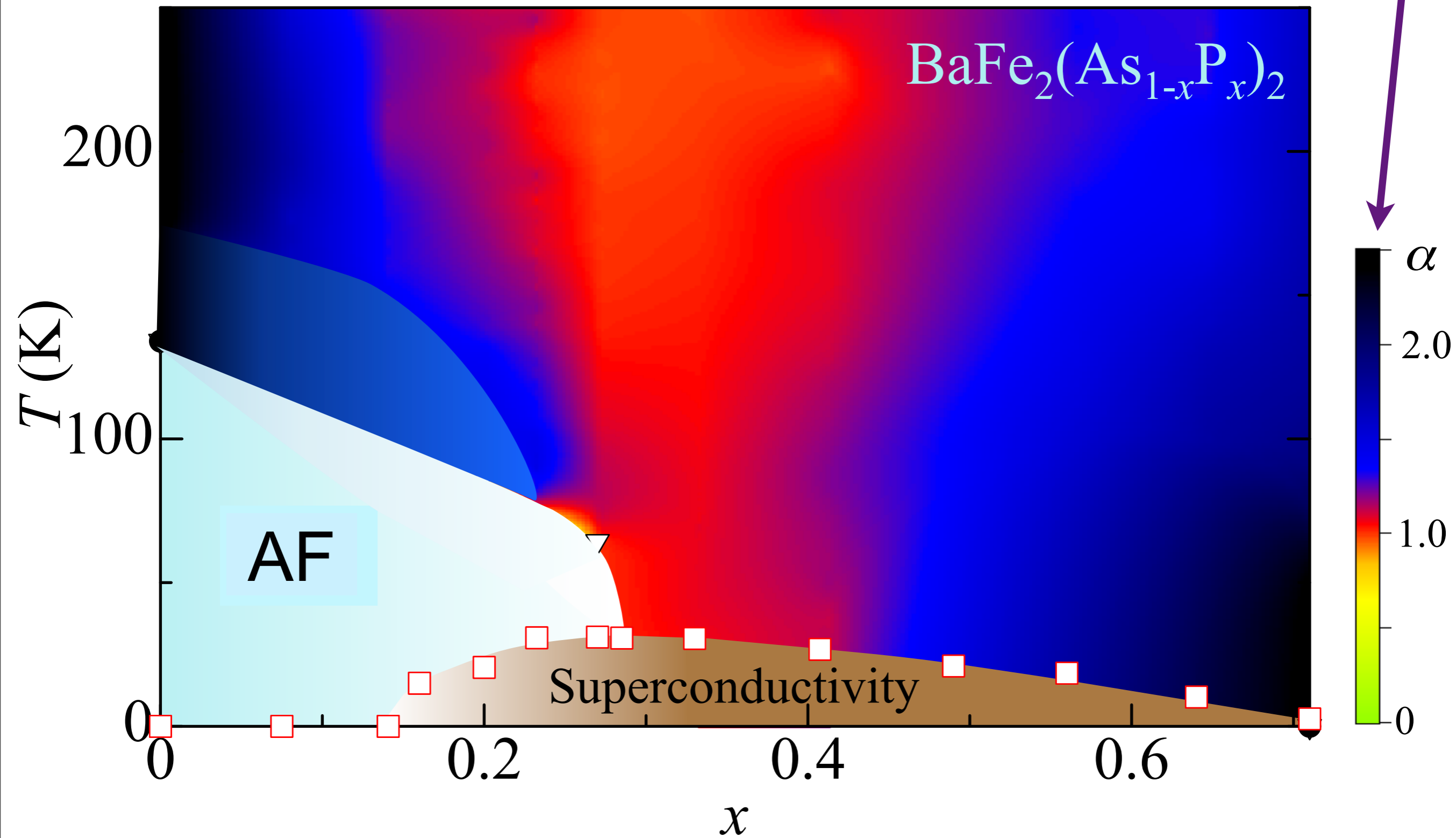


# Iron pnictides:

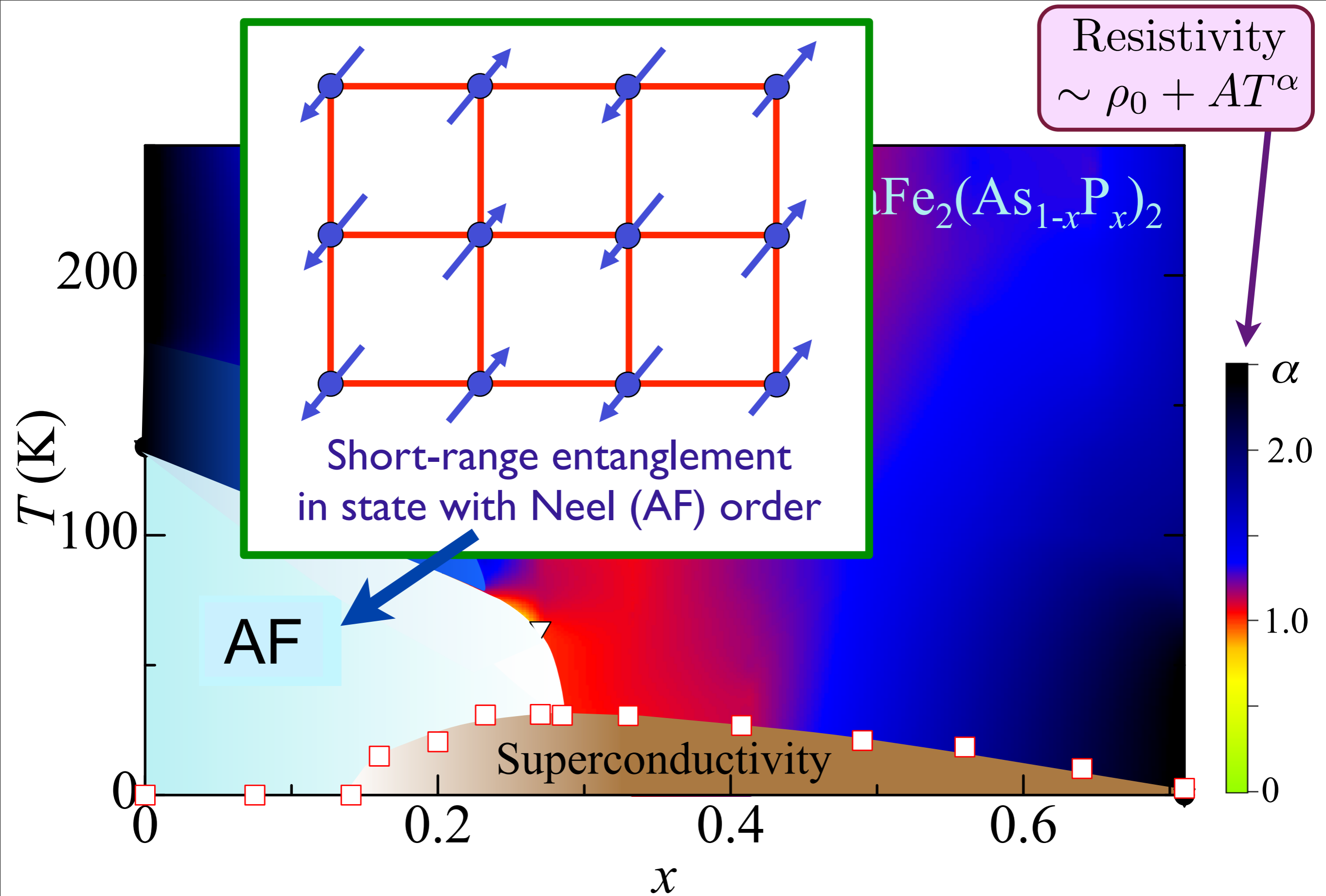
a new class of high temperature superconductors



Resistivity  
 $\sim \rho_0 + AT^\alpha$

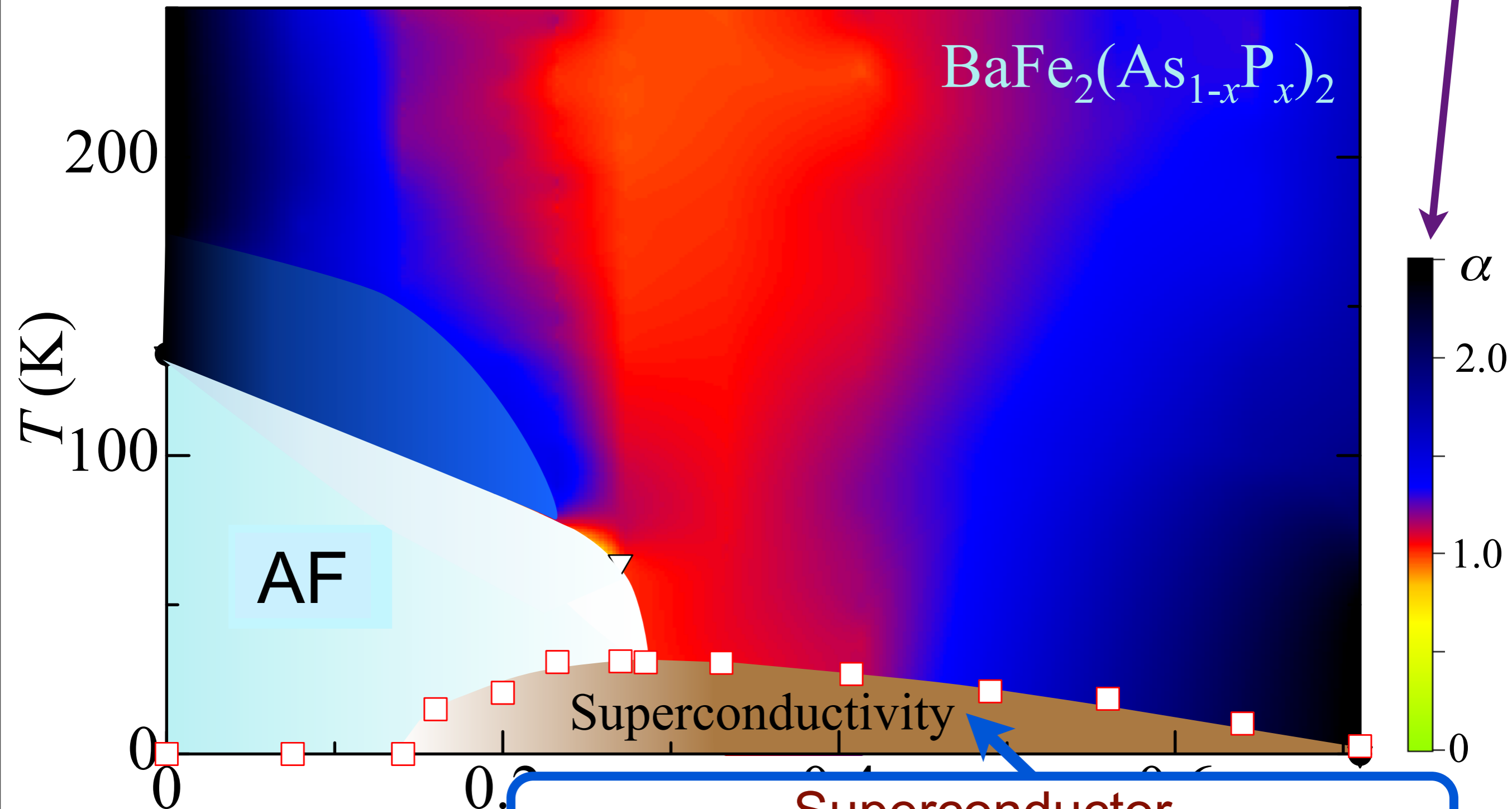


S. Kasahara, T. Shibauchi, K. Hashimoto, K. Ikada, S. Tonegawa, R. Okazaki, H. Shishido,  
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*Physical Review B* **81**, 184519 (2010)



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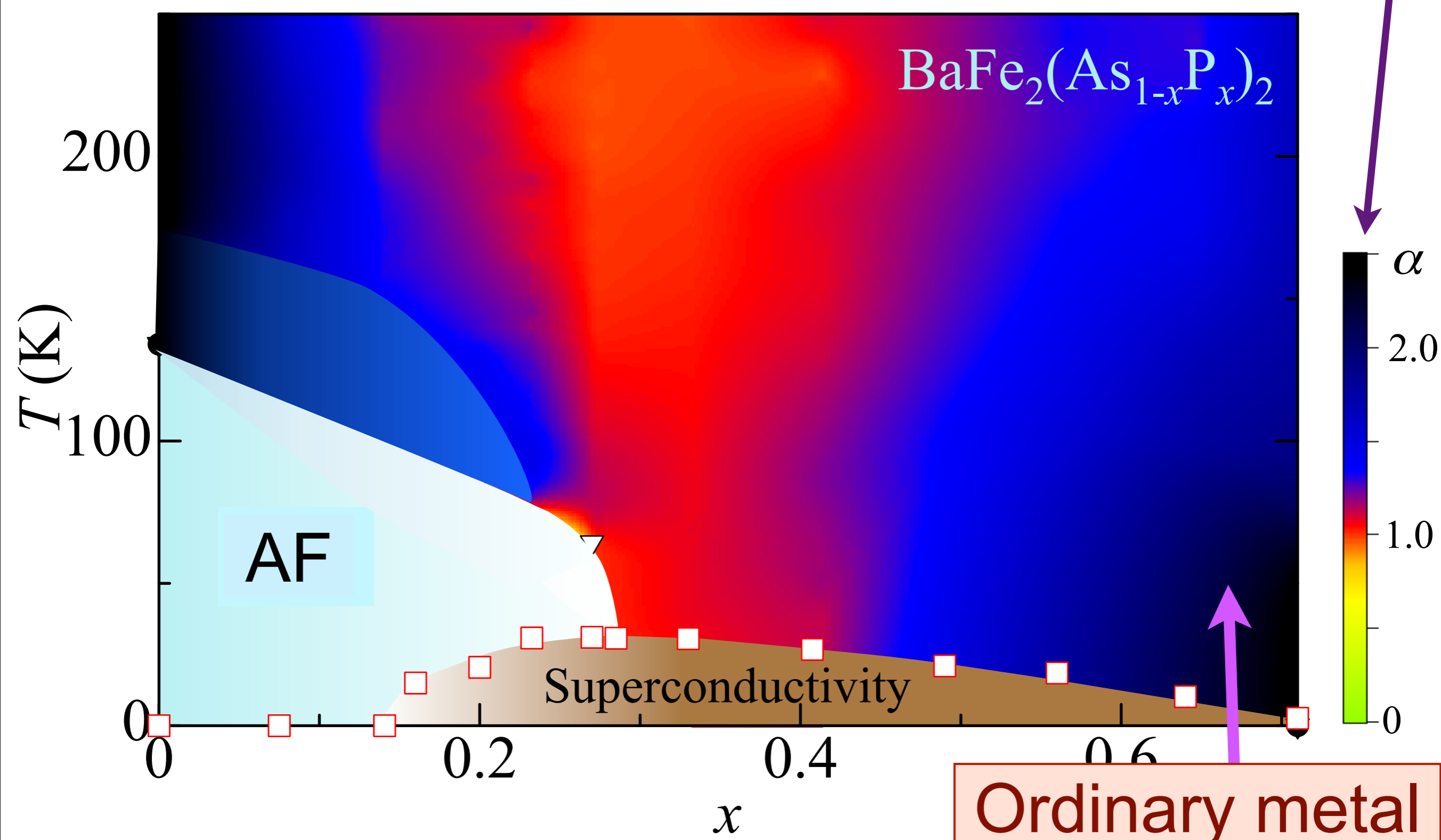
Resistivity  
 $\sim \rho_0 + AT^\alpha$



**Superconductor**  
Bose condensate of pairs of electrons  
Short-range entanglement

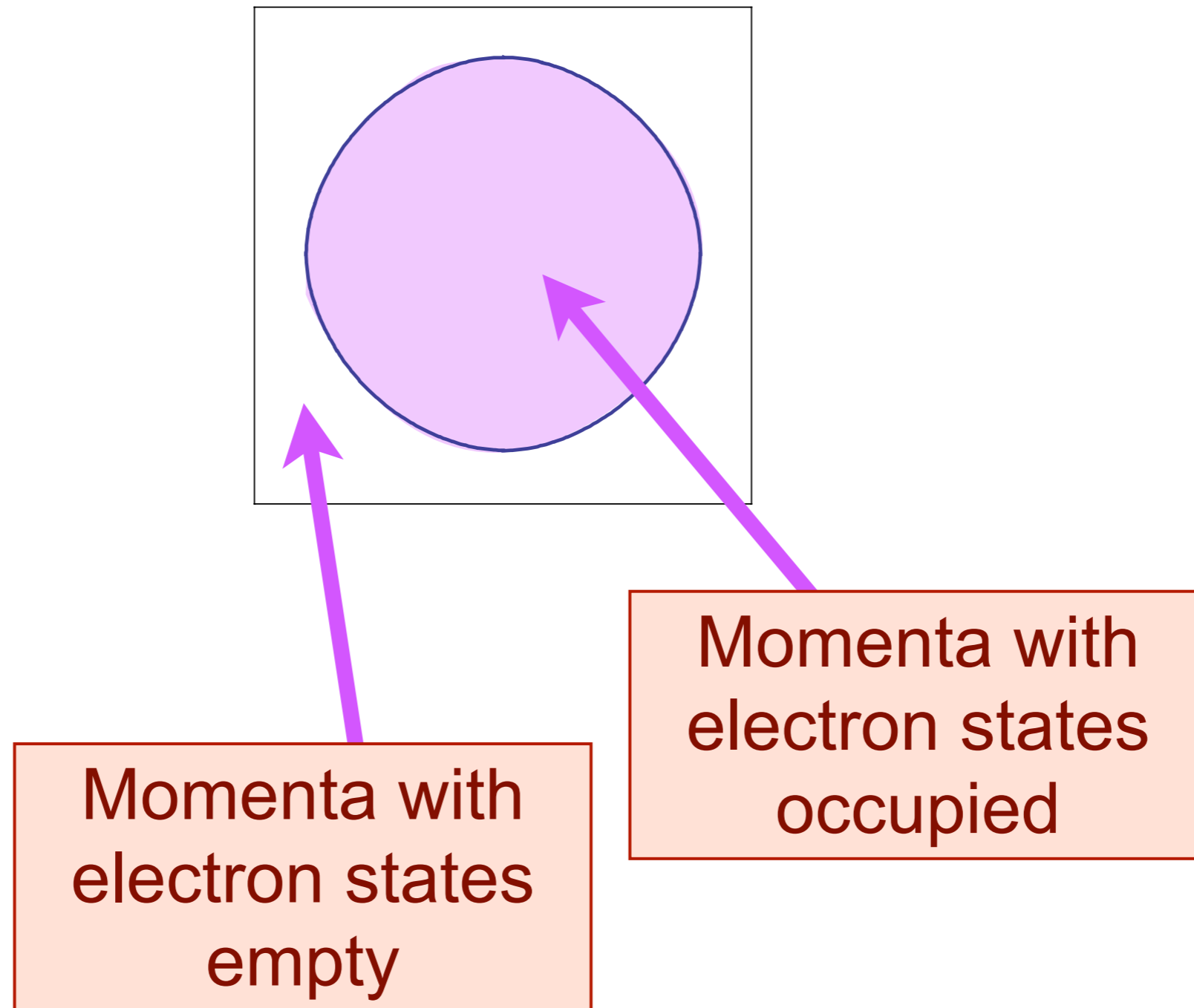
S. Kasahara, T. Shiba  
H. Ike

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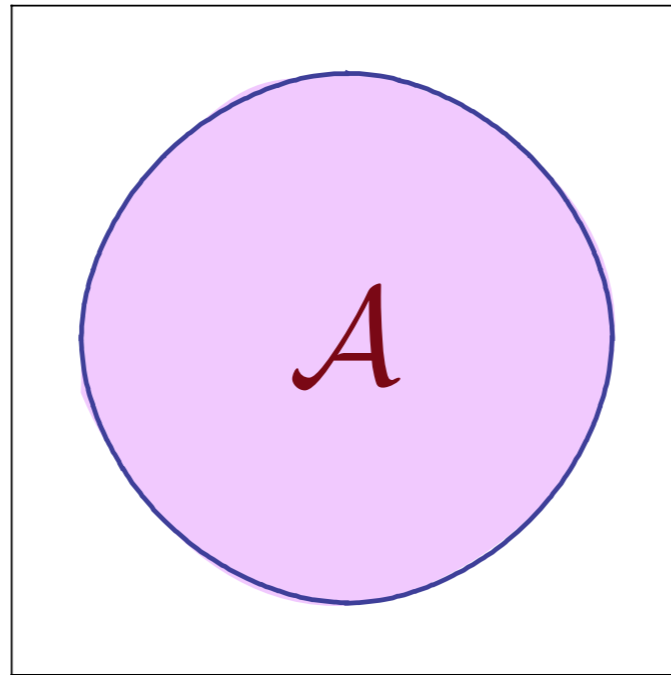


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# Sommerfeld-Bloch theory of ordinary metals



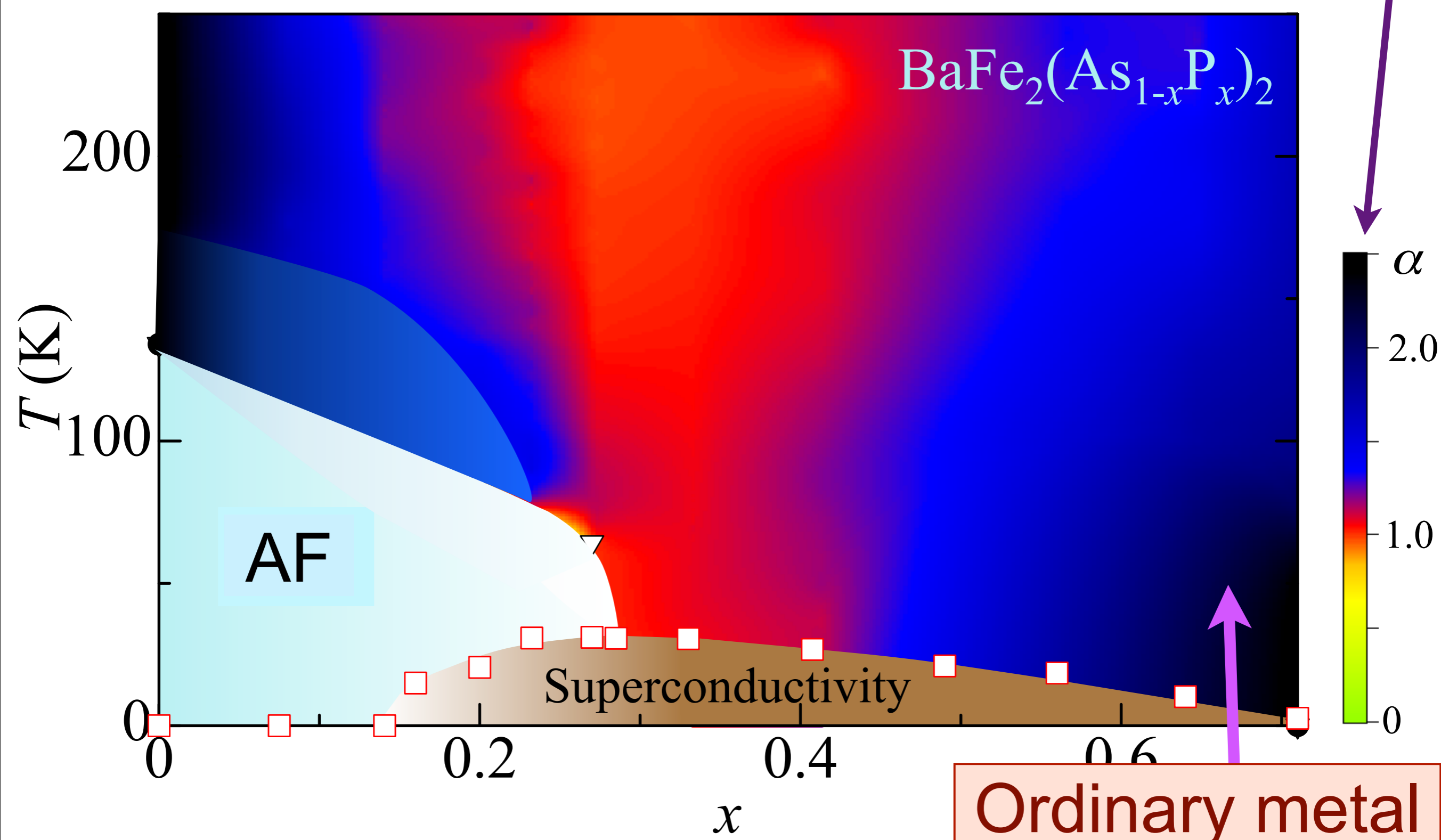
# Sommerfeld-Bloch theory of ordinary metals



**Key feature of the theory:  
the Fermi surface**

- Area enclosed by the Fermi surface  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{Q}$ ,  
the electron density
- Excitations near the Fermi surface are responsible for the familiar properties of ordinary metals, such as resistivity  $\sim T^2$ .

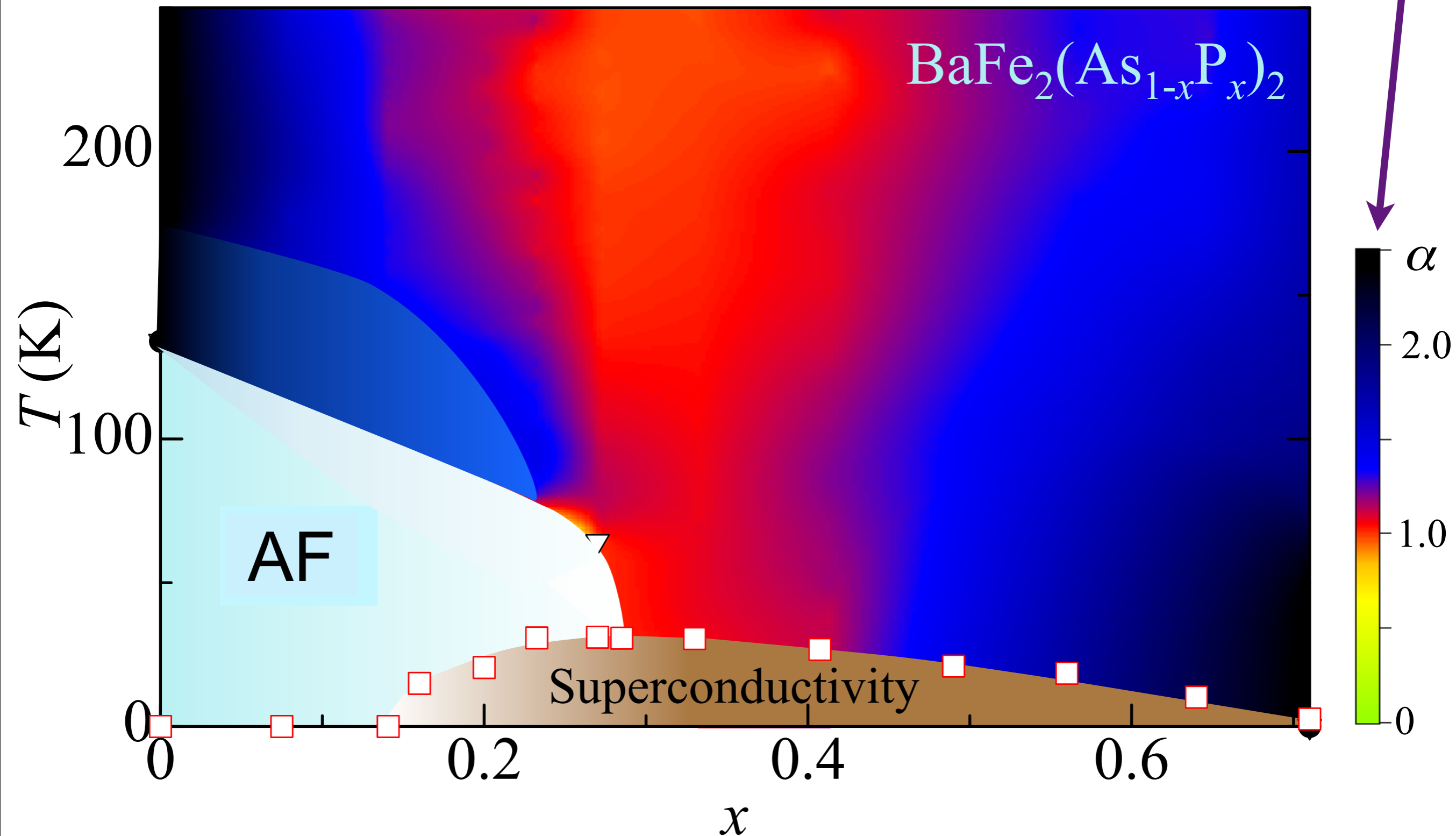
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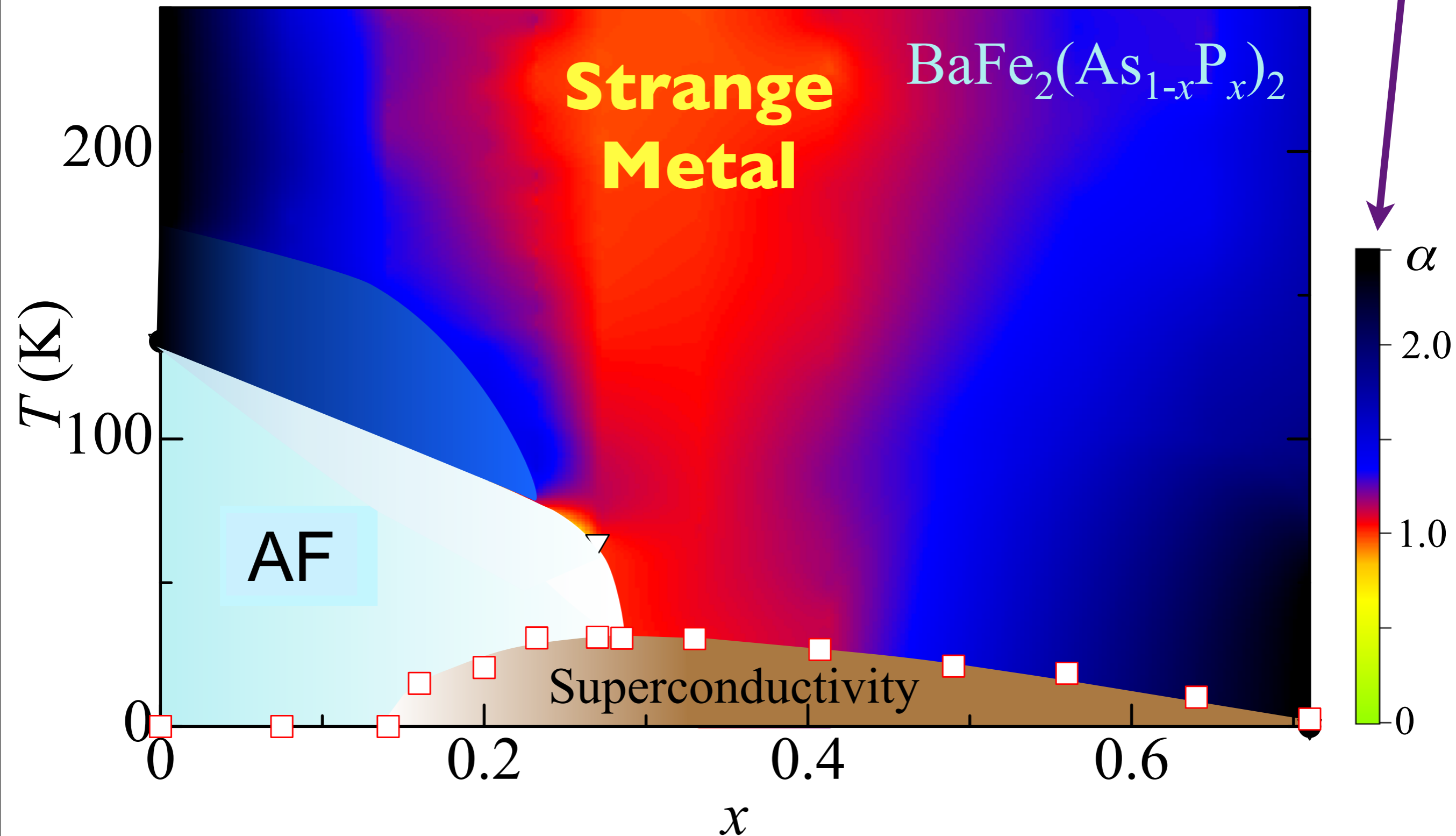


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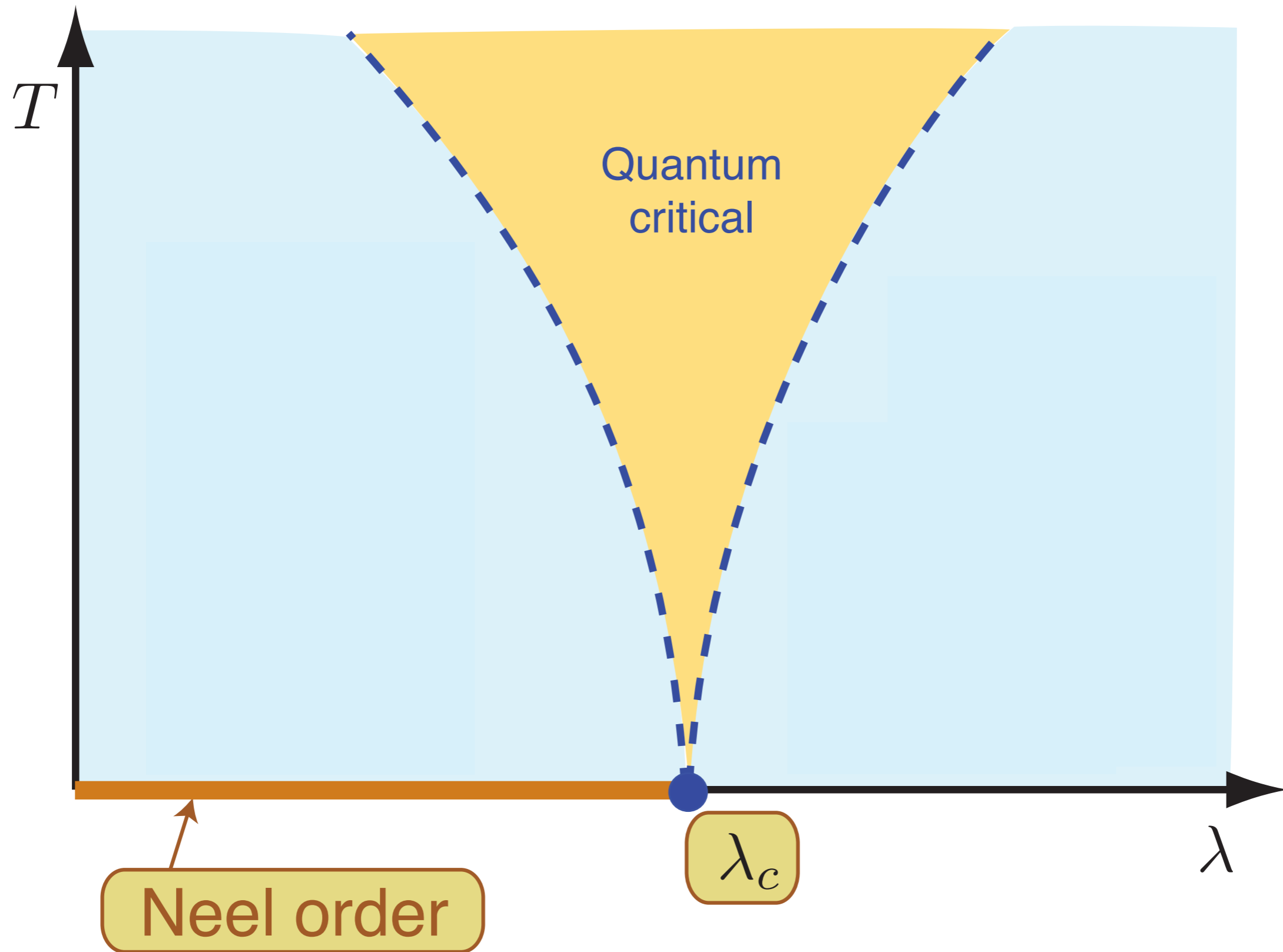
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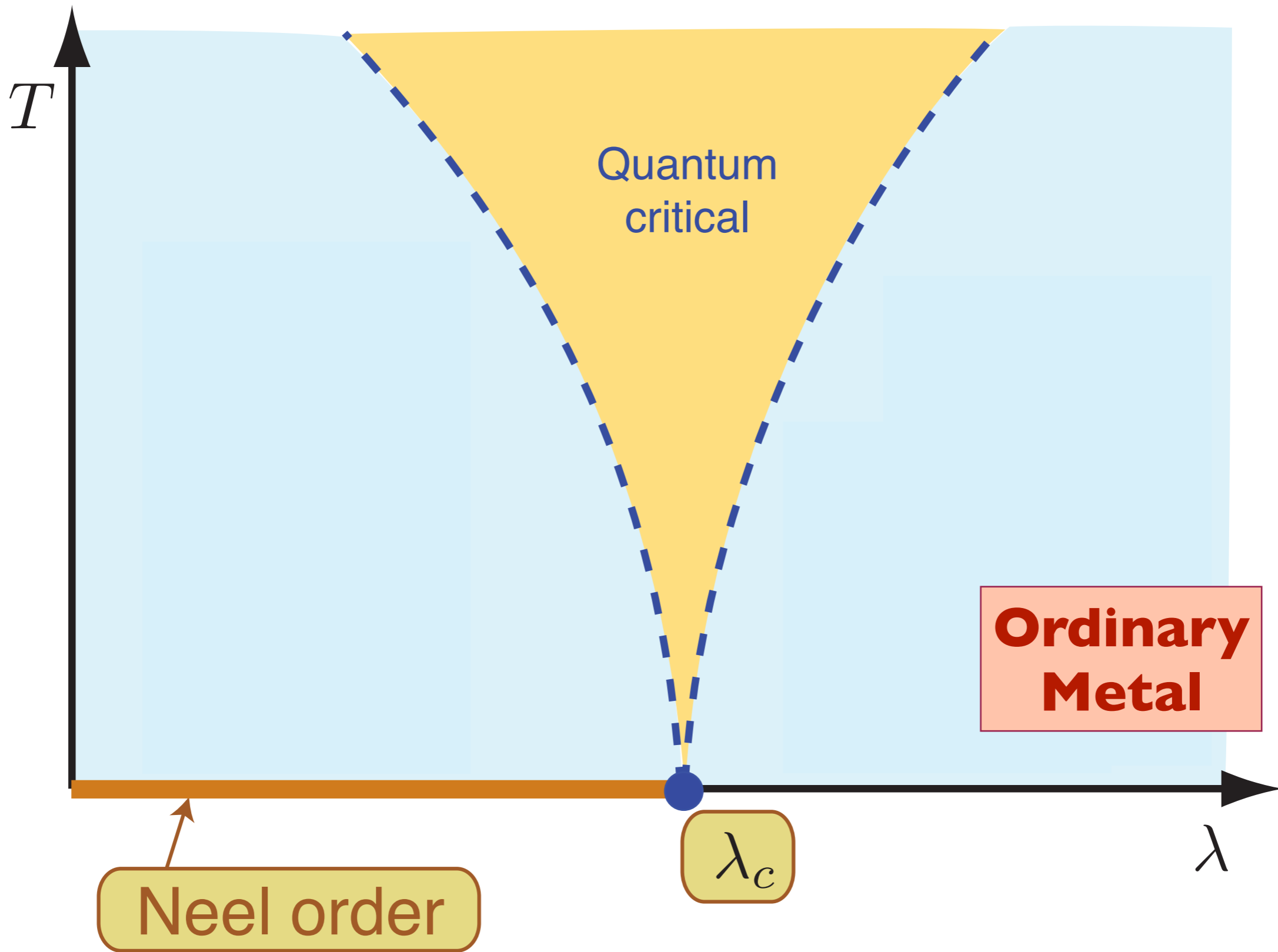
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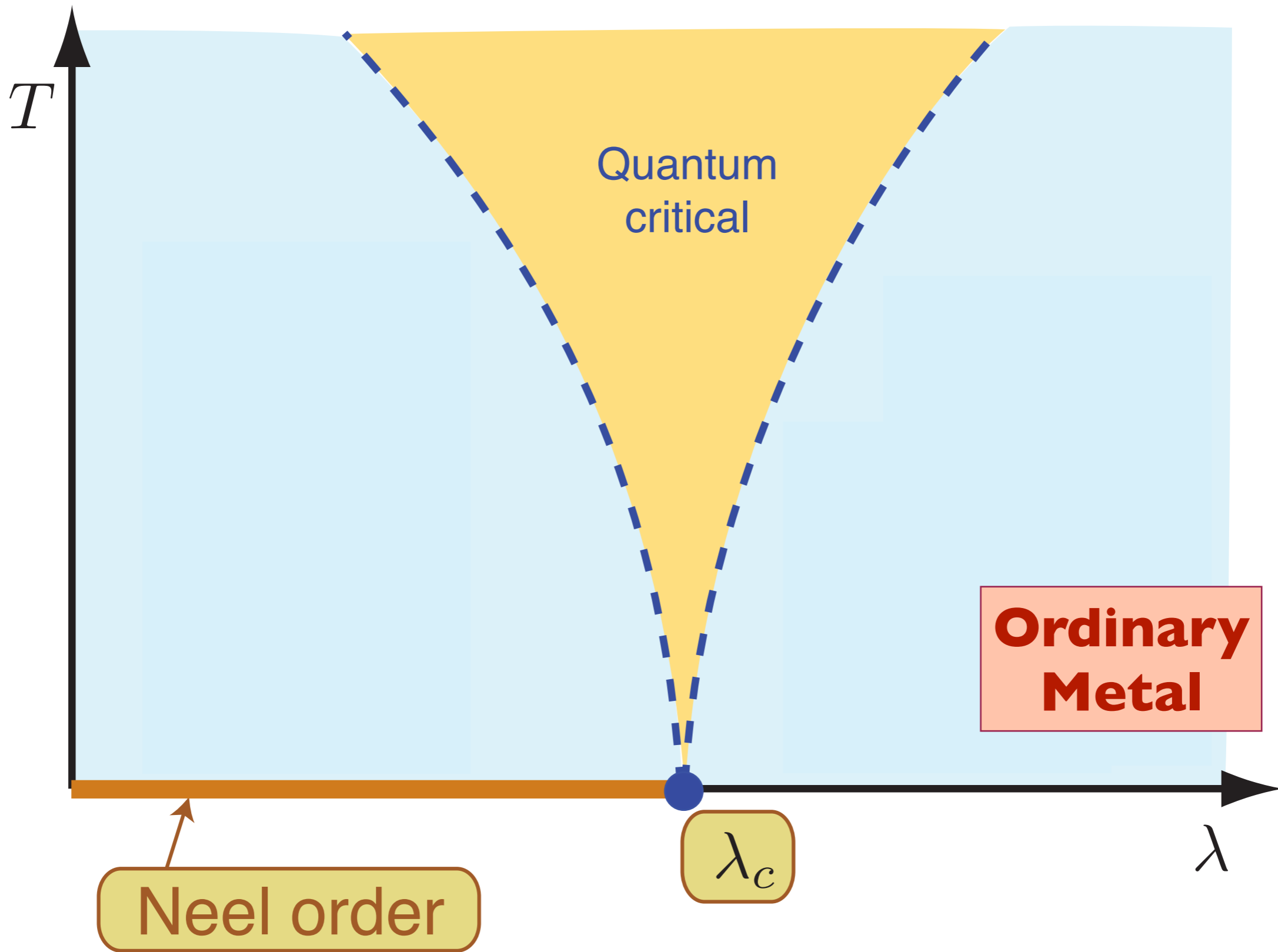


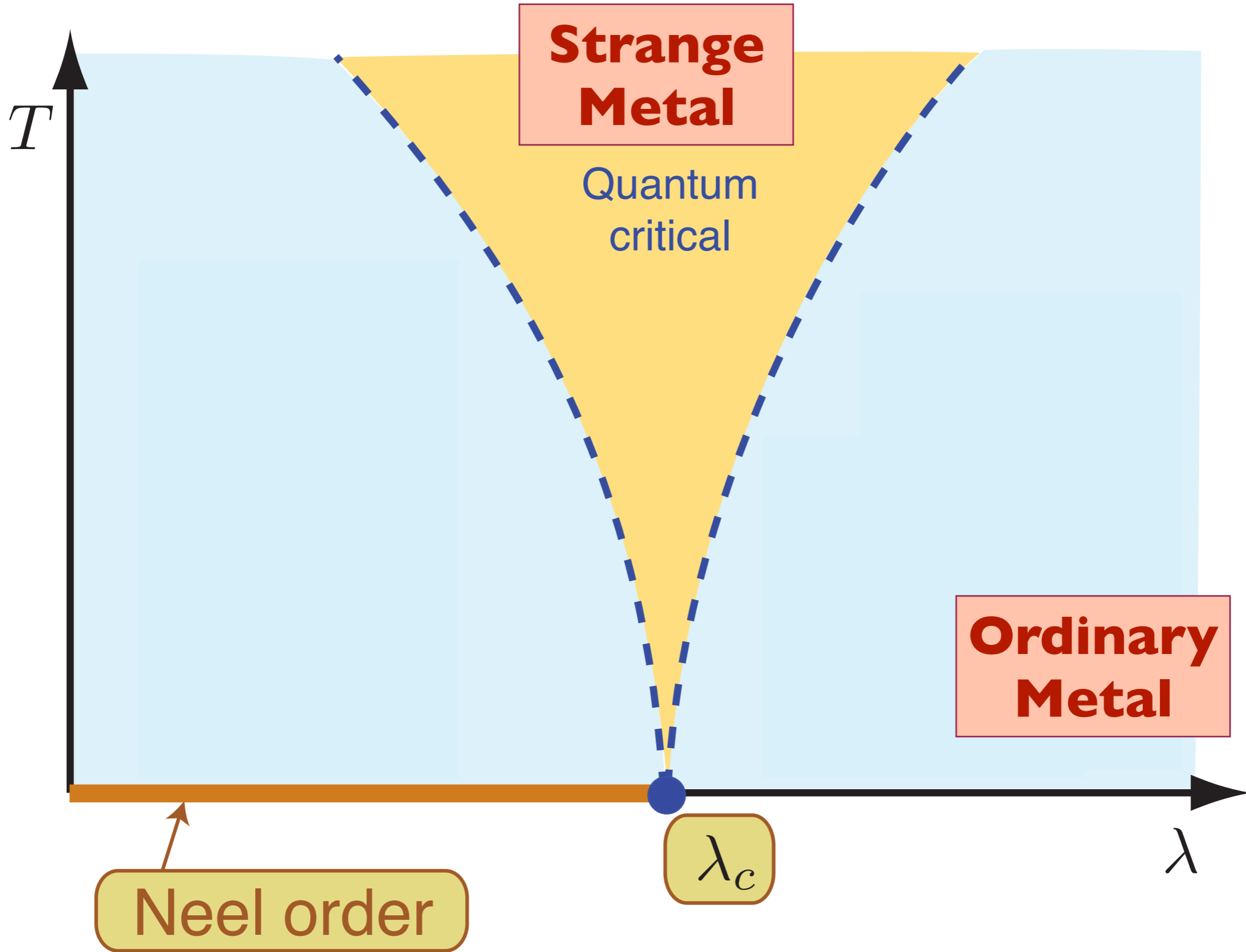
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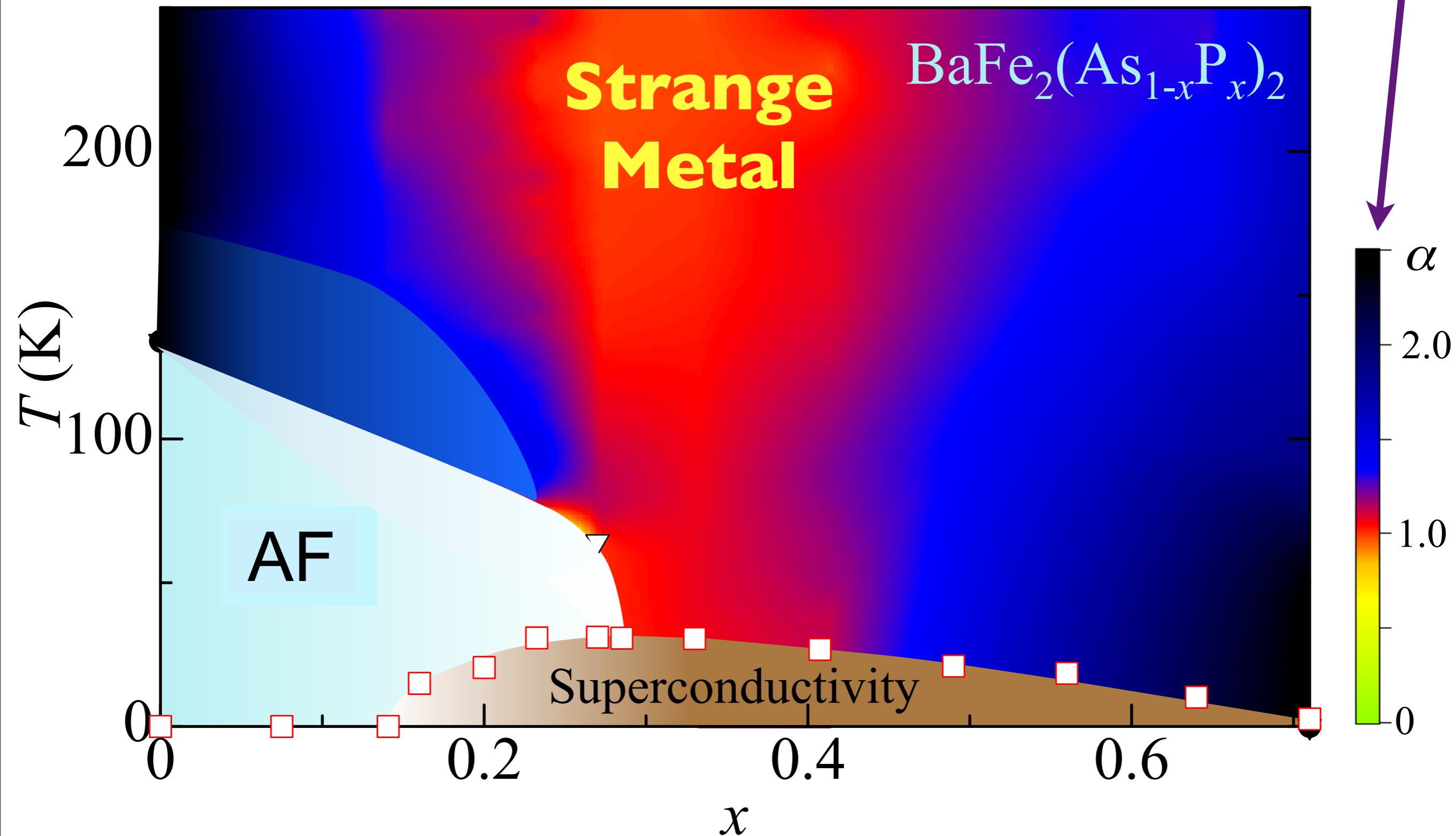






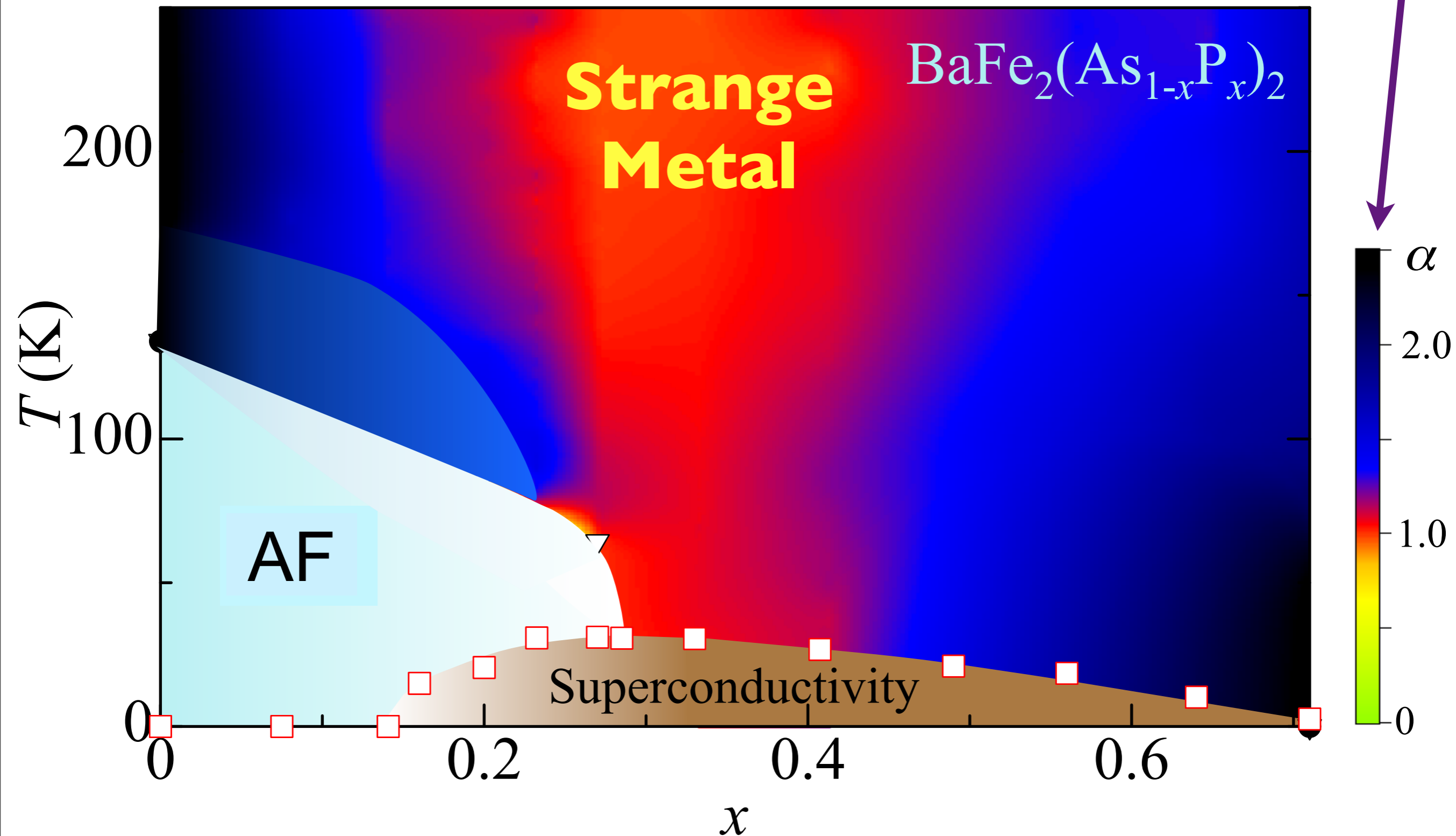


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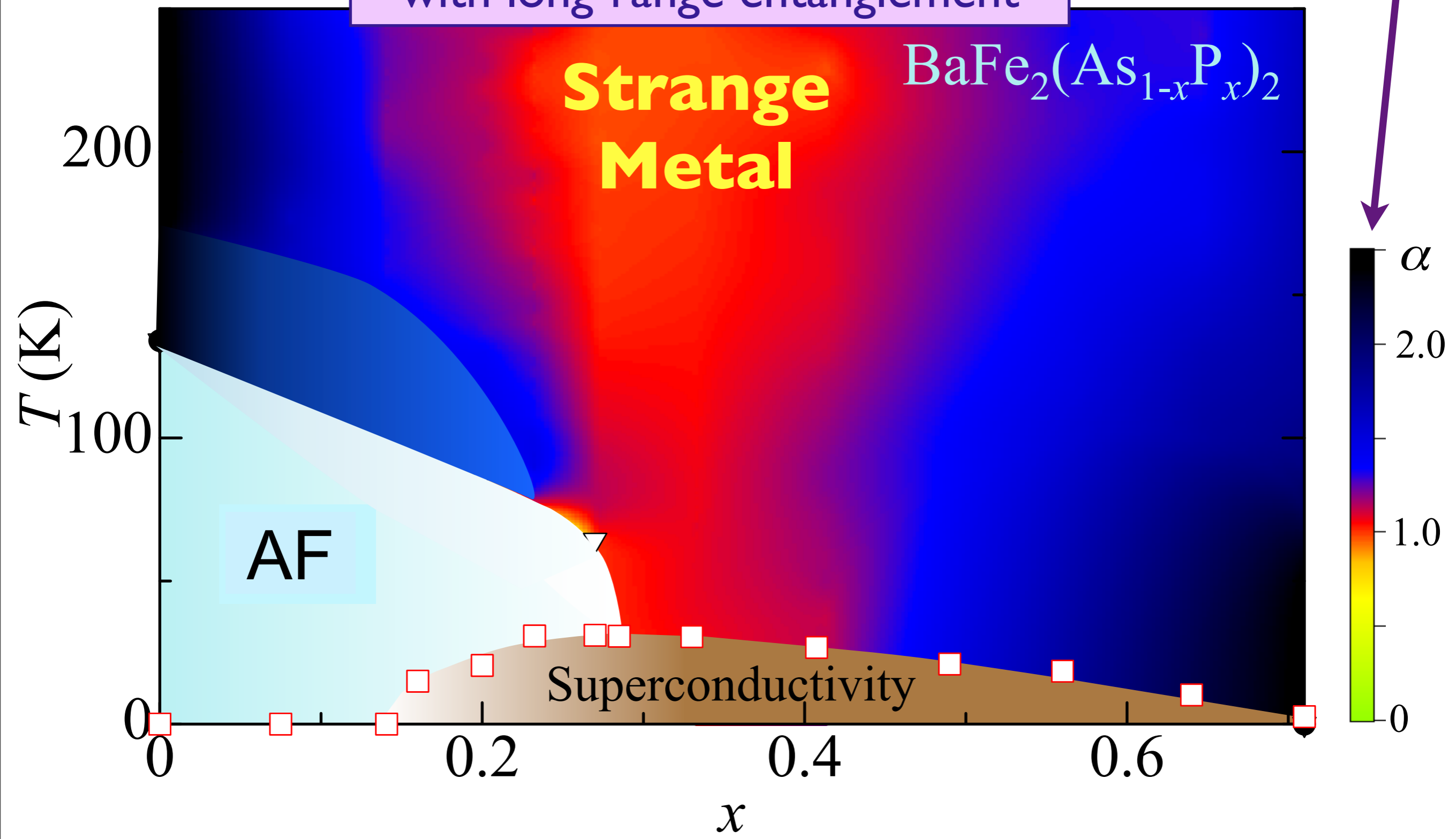


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Excitations of a ground state with long-range entanglement

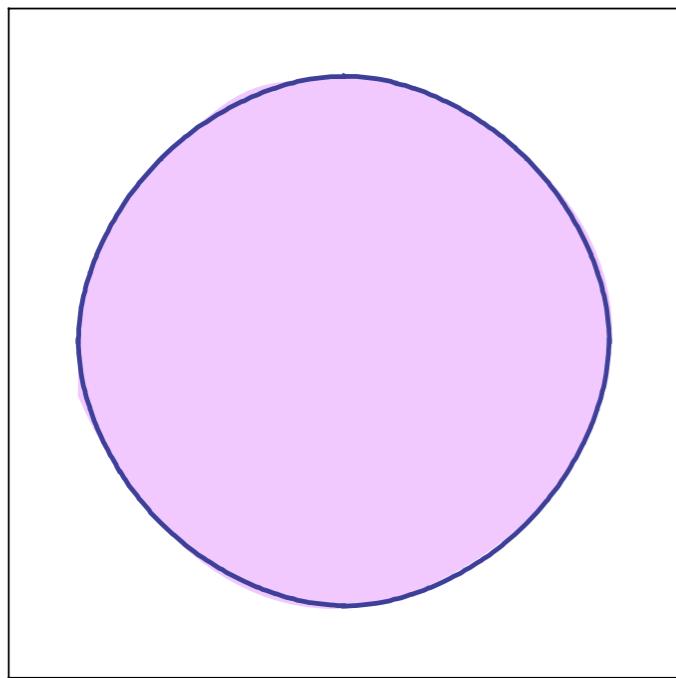
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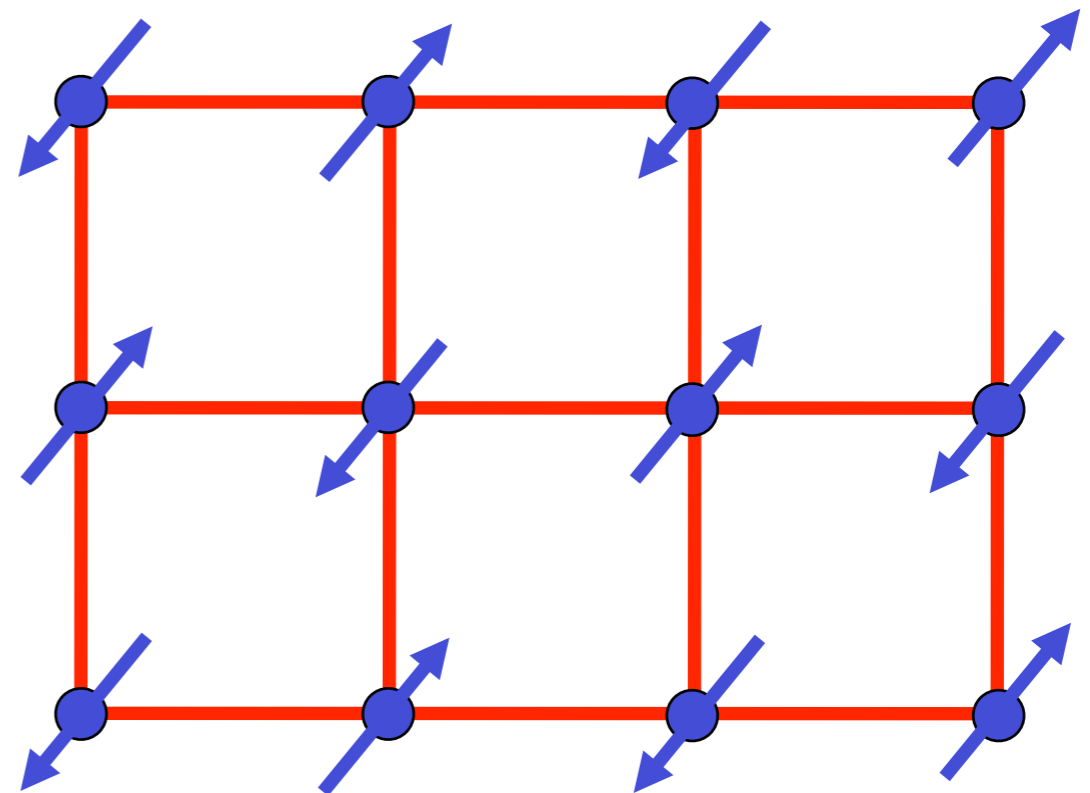
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## Key (difficult) problem:

Describe quantum critical points and phases of systems with Fermi surfaces leading to metals with novel types of long-range entanglement



+



## Challenge to string theory:

Describe quantum critical points  
and phases of metals

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Can we obtain gravitational theories  
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Can we obtain gravitational theories  
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Yes

T. Nishioka, S. Ryu, and T. Takayanagi, JHEP **1003**, 131 (2010)

G.T. Horowitz and B. Way, JHEP **1011**, 011 (2010)

S. Sachdev, Physical Review D **84**, 066009 (2011)

## Challenge to string theory:

Describe quantum critical points  
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Do the “holographic” gravitational theories  
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## Challenge to string theory:

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Do the “holographic” gravitational theories  
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Yes, lots of them, with  
many “strange” properties !

## Challenge to string theory:

Describe quantum critical points  
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How do we discard artifacts, and choose the  
holographic theories applicable to condensed matter physics ?



## Challenge to string theory:

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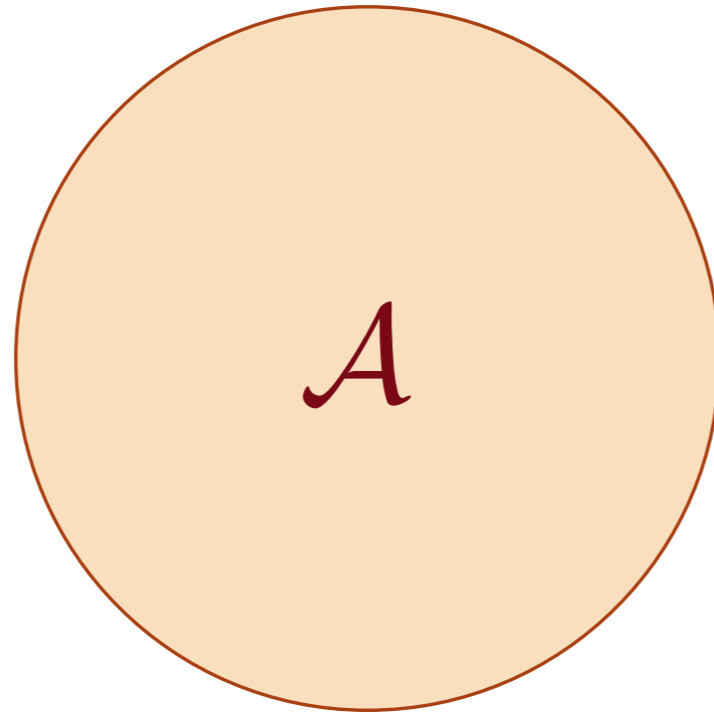
Choose the theories with the  
proper entropy density

Checks: these theories also have the  
proper entanglement entropy and  
Fermi surface size !

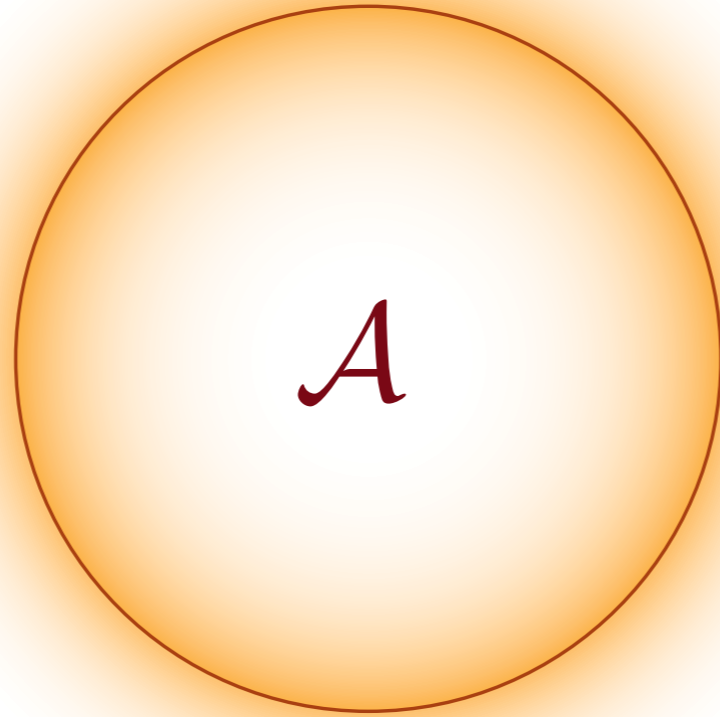
L. Huijse, S. Sachdev, B. Swingle, Physical Review B **85**, 035121 (2012)

The simplest example of  
a “strange metal”  
is realized by  
fermions with a Fermi surface  
coupled to an Abelian  
or non-Abelian gauge field.

# Fermi surface of an ordinary metal



# Fermions coupled to a gauge field



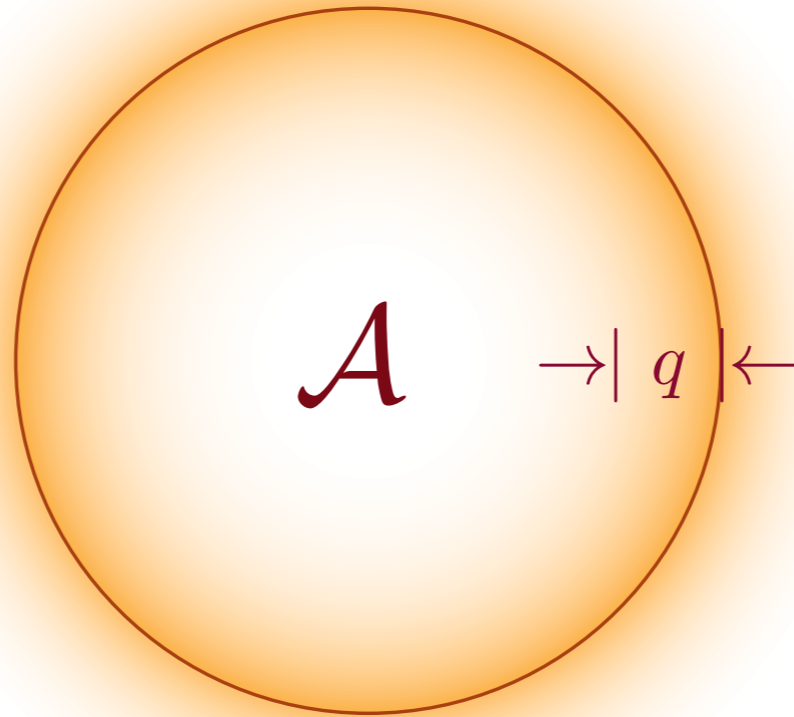
- Area enclosed by the Fermi surface  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{Q}$ , the fermion density

S.-S. Lee, Phys. Rev. B **80**, 165102 (2009)

M. A. Metlitski and S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. B **82**, 075127 (2010)

D. F. Mross, J. McGreevy, H. Liu, and T. Senthil, Phys. Rev. B **82**, 045121 (2010)

# Fermions coupled to a gauge field



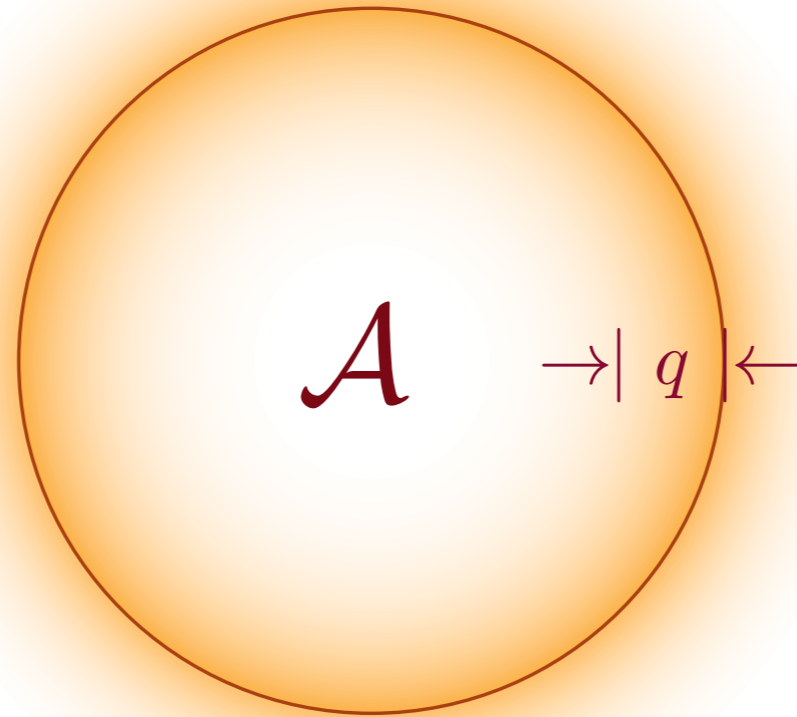
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# Fermions coupled to a gauge field



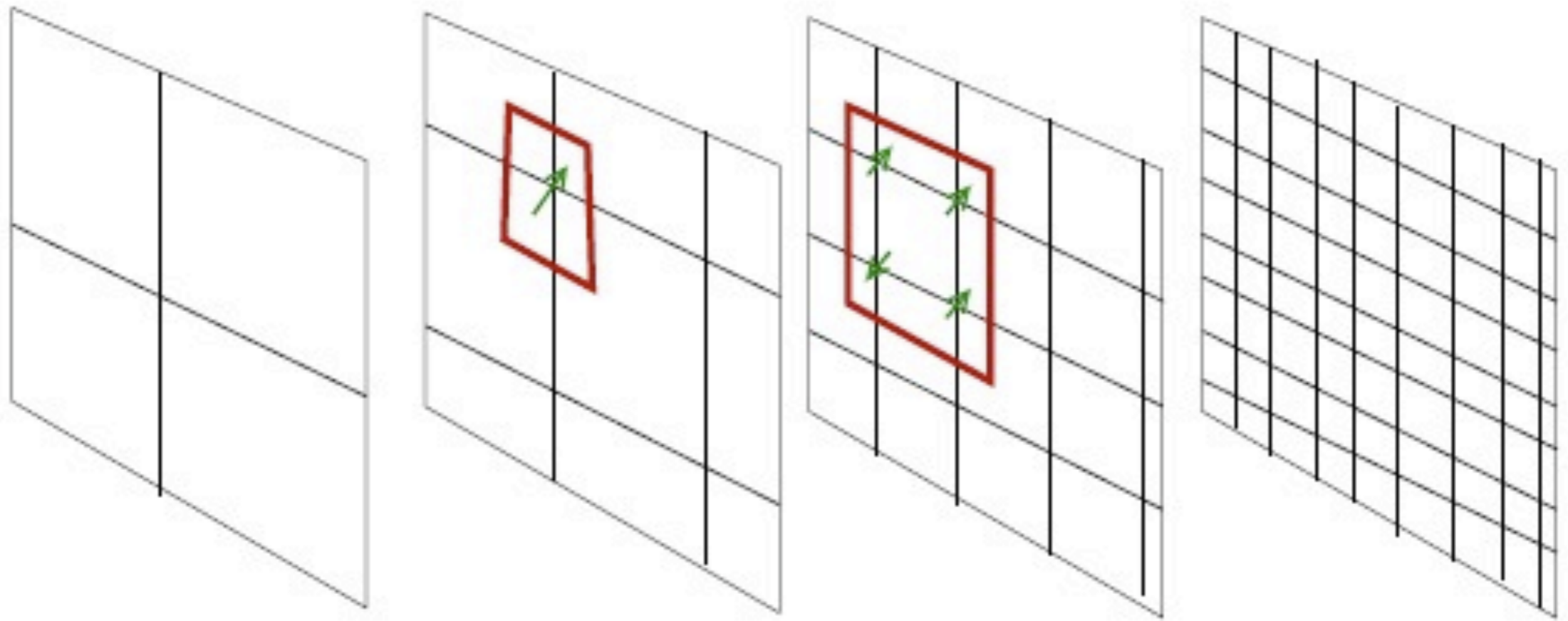
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- The phase space density of fermions is effectively one-dimensional, so the entropy density  $S \sim T^{d_{\text{eff}}/z}$  with  $d_{\text{eff}} = 1$ .

S.-S. Lee, Phys. Rev. B **80**, 165102 (2009)

M. A. Metlitski and S. Sachdev, Phys. Rev. B **82**, 075127 (2010)

D. F. Mross, J. McGreevy, H. Liu, and T. Senthil, Phys. Rev. B **82**, 045121 (2010)

# Holography of “strange metals”



$r$

J. McGreevy, arXiv0909.0518

## Holography of “strange metals”

Consider the following (most) general metric for the holographic theory

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{r^2} \left( -\frac{dt^2}{r^{2d(z-1)/(d-\theta)}} + r^{2\theta/(d-\theta)} dr^2 + dx_i^2 \right)$$



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This metric transforms under rescaling as

$$\begin{aligned} x_i &\rightarrow \zeta x_i \\ t &\rightarrow \zeta^z t \\ ds &\rightarrow \zeta^{\theta/d} ds. \end{aligned}$$

This identifies  $z$  as the dynamic critical exponent ( $z = 1$  for “relativistic” quantum critical points).

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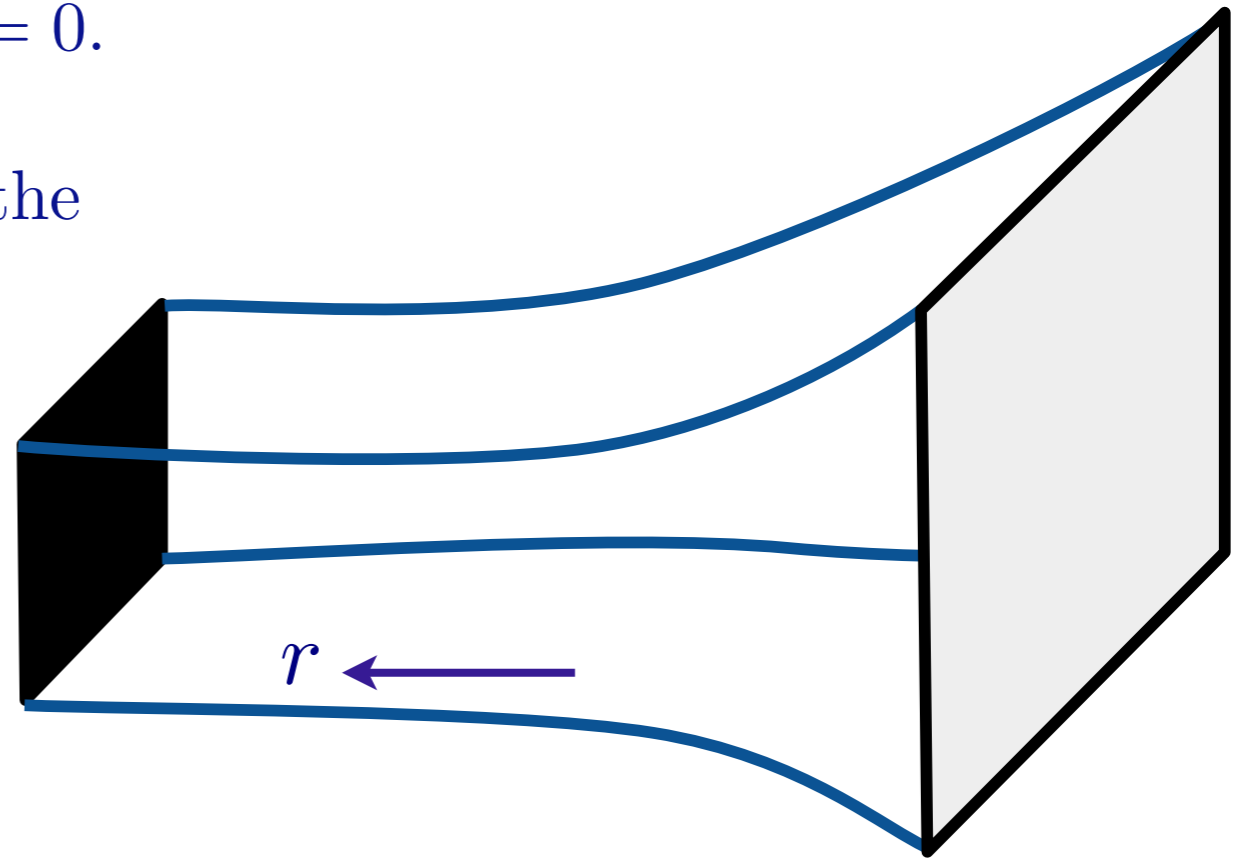
This identifies  $z$  as the dynamic critical exponent ( $z = 1$  for “relativistic” quantum critical points).

What is  $\theta$ ? ( $\theta = 0$  for “relativistic” quantum critical points).

At  $T > 0$ , there is a “black-brane” at  $r = r_h$ .

The Bekenstein-Hawking entropy of the black-brane is the thermal entropy of the quantum system  $r = 0$ .

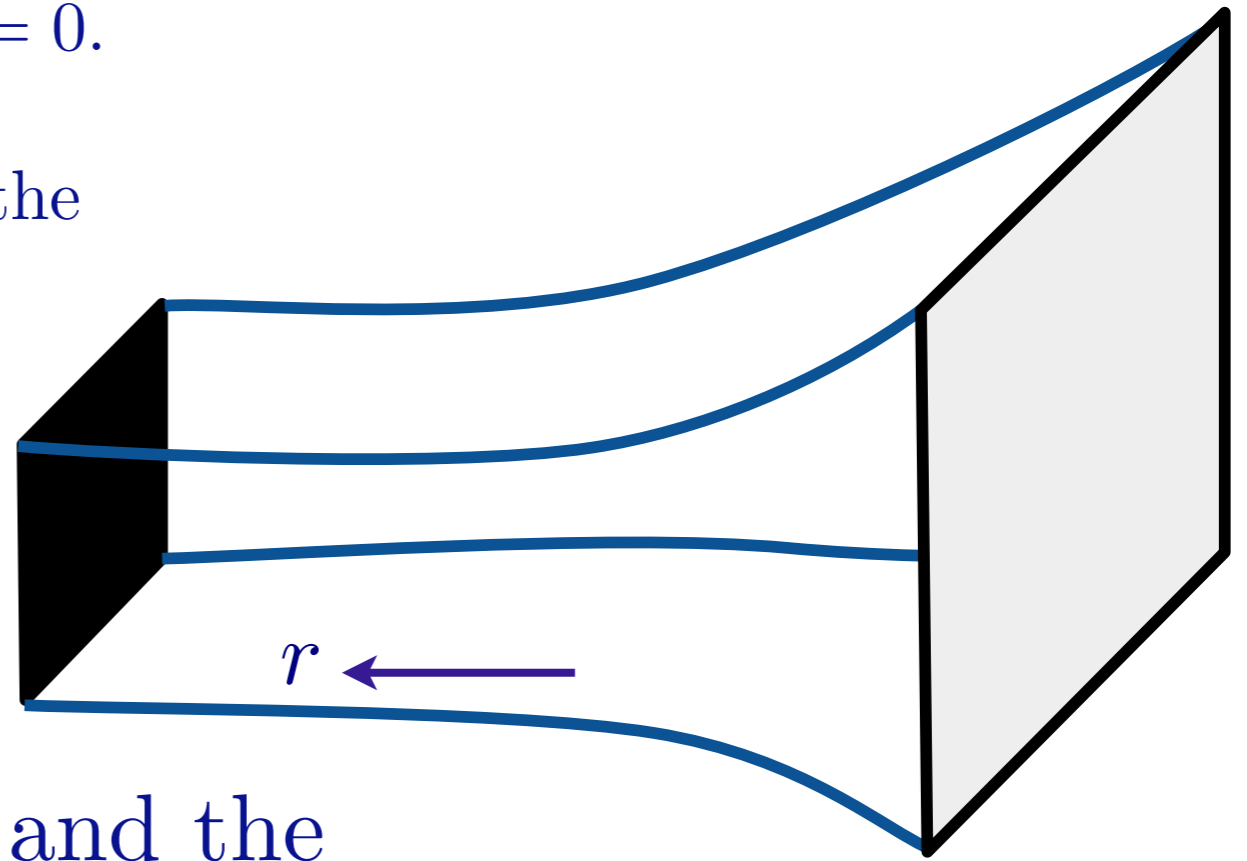
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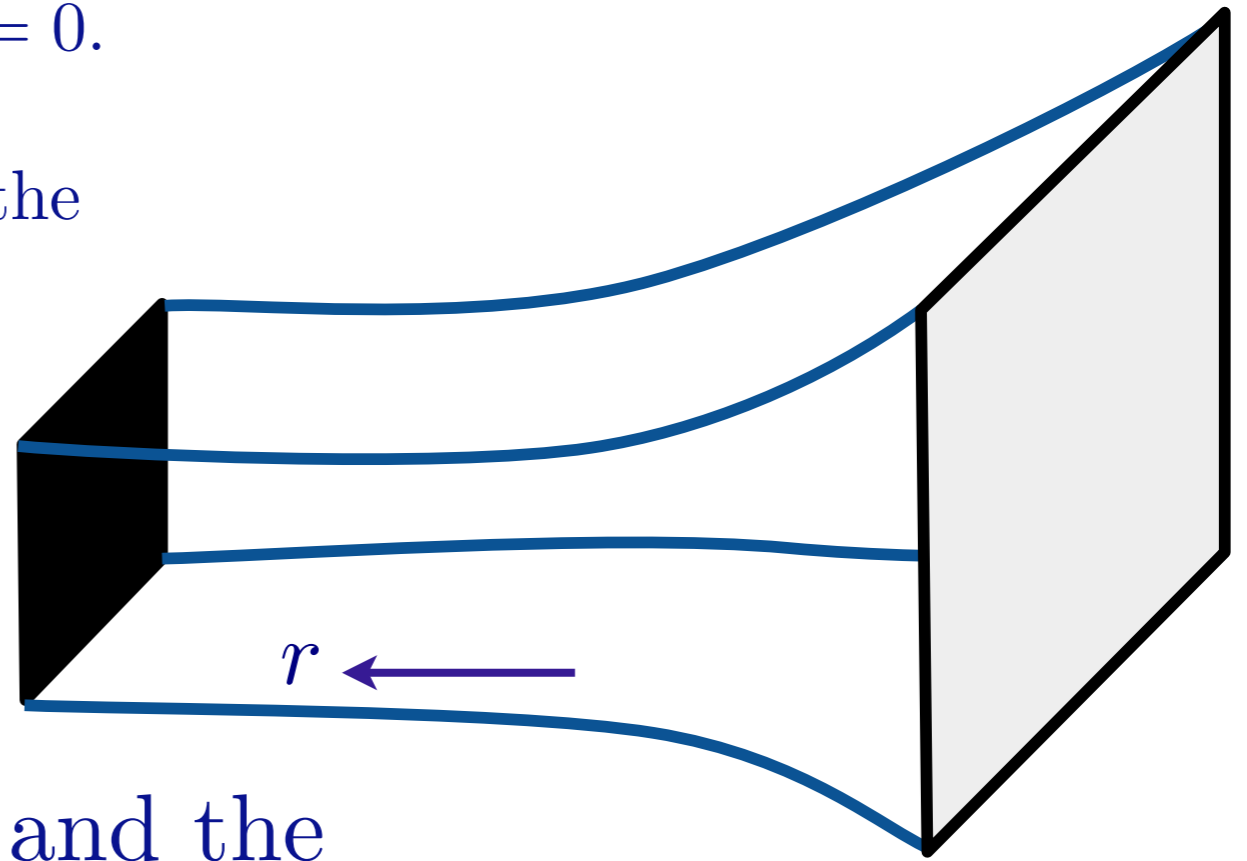
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For a strange metal should choose  $\theta = d - 1$ .

## Holography of “strange metals”

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{r^2} \left( -\frac{dt^2}{r^{2d(z-1)/(d-\theta)}} + r^{2\theta/(d-\theta)} dr^2 + dx_i^2 \right)$$

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- The entanglement entropy exhibits logarithmic violation of the area law, expected for systems with Fermi surfaces, only for this value of  $\theta$  !

N. Ogawa, T. Takayanagi, and T. Ugajin, arXiv:1111.1023

L. Huijse, S. Sachdev, B. Swingle, Physical Review B **85**, 035121 (2012)

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- Many other features of the holographic theory are consistent with a boundary theory which has “hidden” Fermi surfaces of gauge-charged fermions.

L. Huijse, S. Sachdev, B. Swingle, *Physical Review B* **85**, 035121 (2012)

# Conclusions

Phases of matter with long-range quantum entanglement are prominent in numerous modern materials.

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Simplest examples of long-range entanglement are at quantum-critical points of insulating antiferromagnets

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More complex examples in metallic states are experimentally ubiquitous, but pose difficult strong-coupling problems to conventional methods of field theory

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String theory and gravity in emergent dimensions offer a remarkable new approach to describing states with long-range quantum entanglement.

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String theory and gravity in emergent dimensions offer a remarkable new approach to describing states with long-range quantum entanglement.

Much recent progress offers hope of a holographic description of “strange metals”