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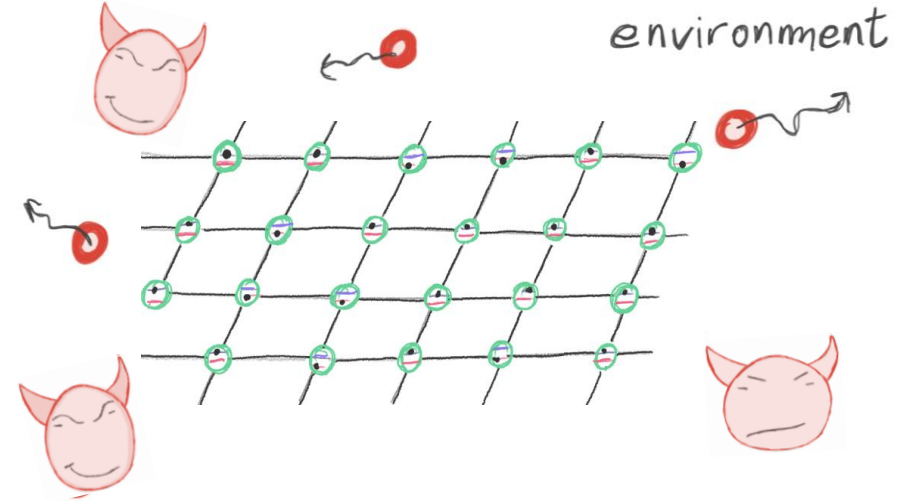
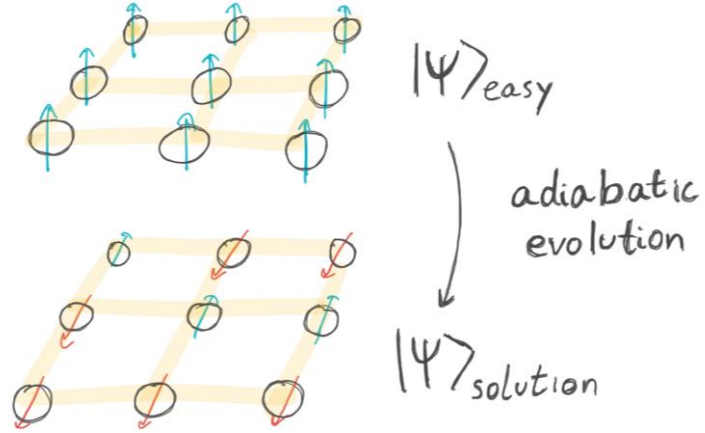
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# Speed Limits: From Thermodynamics to Annealing

Luis Pedro García-Pintos

Los Alamos National Laboratory

# Dynamics of a complex quantum system: *How do we usually solve it?*



~~Simulations, master equations~~

memory constraints

$$\frac{d\rho_t}{dt} \approx -i[H, \rho_t] + \sum_n \gamma_n [L_n [L_n, \rho_t]]$$

approximations  
(weak coupling, Markov)

Today – alternative first-principles analysis:

**general traits of dynamics from minimal assumptions**

$$\boxed{\frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} = ?}$$

I. Introduction: Quantum Speed Limits

II. Speed Limits on Observables

III. An application: Quantum Annealing

I. Introduction: Quantum Speed Limits

II. Speed Limits on Observables

III. An application: Quantum Annealing

# Quantum Speed Limits

Bounds to the speed of evolution of a quantum system

J. Phys. USSR 9, 249–254 (1945)

## The Uncertainty Relation Between Energy and Time in Non-relativistic Quantum Mechanics

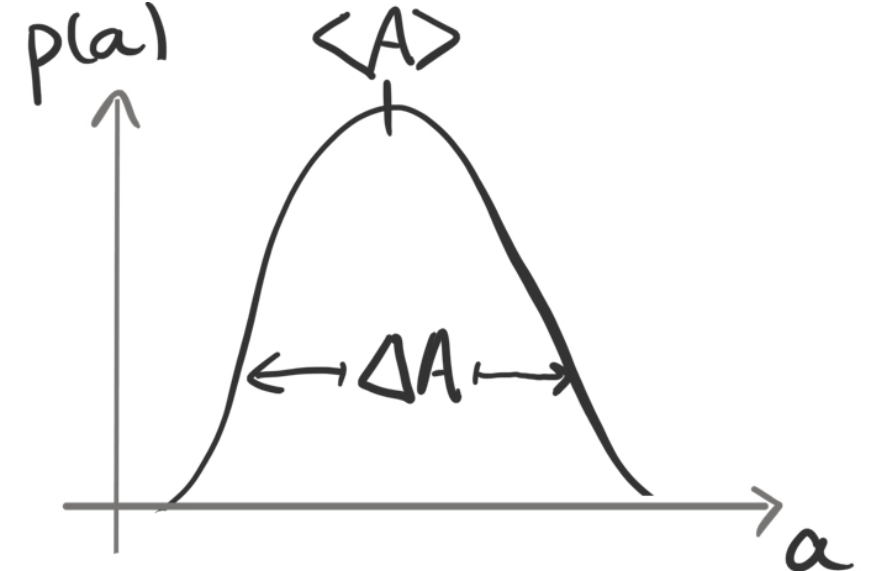
By *L. Mandelstam*<sup>1</sup> and *Ig. Tamm*

For **isolated systems**:

$$\left| \frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} \right| \leq 2 \Delta A \Delta H$$

expectation value  $\Rightarrow \langle A \rangle = \text{Tr} [A \rho_t]$

standard deviations  $\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \Delta A = \sqrt{\langle A^2 \rangle - \langle A \rangle^2} \\ \Delta H = \sqrt{\langle H^2 \rangle - \langle H \rangle^2} \end{cases}$



Mandelstam-Tamm's Uncertainty Relation:  
limits to the speed of any physical process on **isolated quantum systems**

# Quantum Speed Limits

For **isolated systems**:

$$\left| \frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} \right| \leq 2 \Delta A \Delta H$$

Lots of posterior work:  
speed limits on the state  $\dot{\rho}_t$   
of an open quantum system

**Shortcoming**: speed of observables  
can be very different!

J. Phys. USSR 9, 249–254 (1945)

## The Uncertainty Relation Between Energy and Time in Non-relativistic Quantum Mechanics

By *L. Mandelstam*<sup>1</sup> and *Ig. Tamm*

TOPICAL REVIEW

Quantum speed limits: from Heisenberg's uncertainty principle to optimal quantum control

Sebastian Deffner<sup>1</sup>  and Steve Campbell<sup>2</sup> 

Published 10 October 2017 • © 2017 IOP Publishing Ltd

$$|\psi_0\rangle = |\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow\rangle$$

$$|\psi_t\rangle = |\uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \downarrow \rangle$$

First aim: **speed limits on observables for open quantum systems**



I. Introduction: Quantum Speed Limits

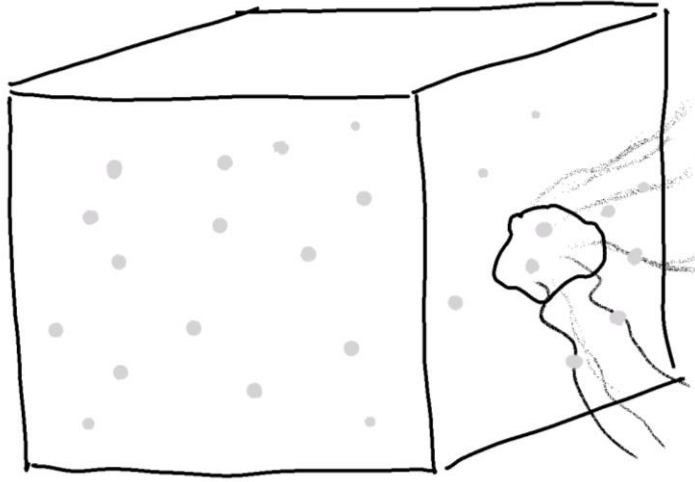
II. Speed Limits on Observables  $\frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} \leq ?$

III. An application : Quantum Annealing

# Classical Stochastic Systems

Classical system with 'states'  $j$  that occur with probabilities  $p_j$

e.g.,  $N$  particles of a gas



(e.g.,  $j$  denotes a point in phase space)

The distribution  $\mathbf{p} = \{p_{x_1}, p_{x_2}, \dots\}$  represents the state of the system

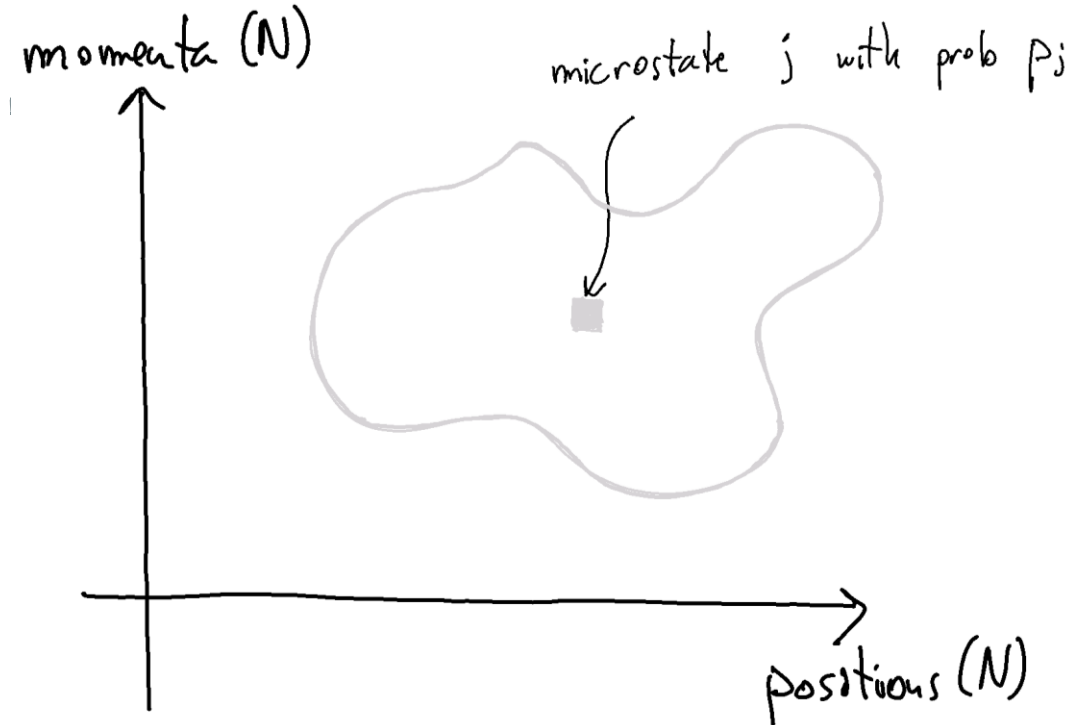
Dynamics:  $\mathbf{p}(t) = \{p_1(t), p_2(t), \dots\}$

Article | Published: 21 September 2020

## Time-information uncertainty relations in thermodynamics

Schuyler B. Nicholson, Luis Pedro García-Pintos, Adolfo del Campo & Jason R. Green

*Nature Physics* **16**, 1211–1215(2020) | [Cite this article](#)



Classical observable  $A$  takes values  $a_j$  for state  $j$  (e.g., particle density, energy)

$$\langle A \rangle = \sum_j p_j(t) a_j$$

# Classical Speed Limits

Classical speed limit on observables

$$\text{surprisal} \longleftarrow I_j := \ln \frac{1}{p_j} \quad \text{cov}(A, B) := \langle AB \rangle - \langle A \rangle \langle B \rangle \quad \text{assumptions: } p_j \neq 0 \quad \& \quad \exists \dot{p}_j$$

$$\left| \frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} \right| = \left| \text{cov}(A, \dot{I}) \right| \leq \Delta A \Delta \dot{I}$$

speed      classical uncertainty      dynamics

Uncertainty relation bounds the speed of classical stochastic processes

(Classical) Fisher Information (~ measure of speed of  $p_j$ )

$$\mathcal{I}_F := (\Delta \dot{I})^2 = \sum_j p_j \left( \frac{d}{dt} \ln p_j \right)^2$$

Compare: quantum bound  $\left| \frac{d\langle \hat{A} \rangle}{dt} \right| \leq 2 \Delta \hat{A} \Delta \dot{\hat{H}}$

Applications to stochastic thermodynamics:

heat flow  $|\dot{Q}|$   
entropy rates  $|\dot{S}|$

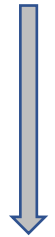
# Dynamics of Open Quantum Systems

Any open quantum system evolves following

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho_t = -i[H, \rho_t] + \mathcal{D}(\rho_t)$$

coherent  
"quantum"

incoherent  
"classical"  
(changes in probabilities)



~ bound similarly to  
Mandelstam-Tamm 1945



~ bound similarly to Nat Phys 2020  
(classical speed limits)

$$\rho_t = U_t \sum_j p_j(t) |j\rangle_0 \langle j| U_t^\dagger; \quad H_t \equiv i\dot{U}_t U_t^\dagger$$

$$\rho_t = \sum_j p_j(t) |j\rangle_t \langle j| \longrightarrow \text{density matrix}$$

$$-i[H, \rho_t] \longrightarrow \text{coherent evolution}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(\rho_t) \longrightarrow \text{incoherent evolution} \\ (\text{dephasing, errors, environment})$$

If  $\mathcal{D}(\rho_t) = 0 \implies$  'Ideal' isolated quantum dynamics

If  $H = 0 \implies$  Classical stochastic dynamics

# Speed Limits for Open Systems

PHYSICAL REVIEW X **12**, 011038 (2022)

## Unifying Quantum and Classical Speed Limits on Observables

Luis Pedro García-Pintos<sup>1,\*</sup>, Schuyler B. Nicholson<sup>2</sup>, Jason R. Green<sup>3,4,5</sup>,  
Adolfo del Campo<sup>6,7,5</sup> and Alexey V. Gorshkov<sup>1</sup>

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho_t = -i[H, \rho_t] + \mathcal{D}(\rho_t)$$

coherent  
"quantum"

incoherent  
"classical"

$$\left| \frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} \right| = \left| \text{cov}(A_C, L_C) + \text{cov}(A_I, L_I) \right|$$

$$\leq \Delta A_C \Delta L_C + \Delta A_I \Delta L_I$$

Coherent Fisher Information  $\mathcal{I}_F^C := (\Delta L_C)^2$

Incoherent Fisher Information  $\mathcal{I}_F^I := (\Delta L_I)^2$

$$\rho_t = \sum_j p_j(t) |j\rangle\langle j|$$

$$A_C = \sum_{j \neq k} A_{jk} |j\rangle\langle k|$$

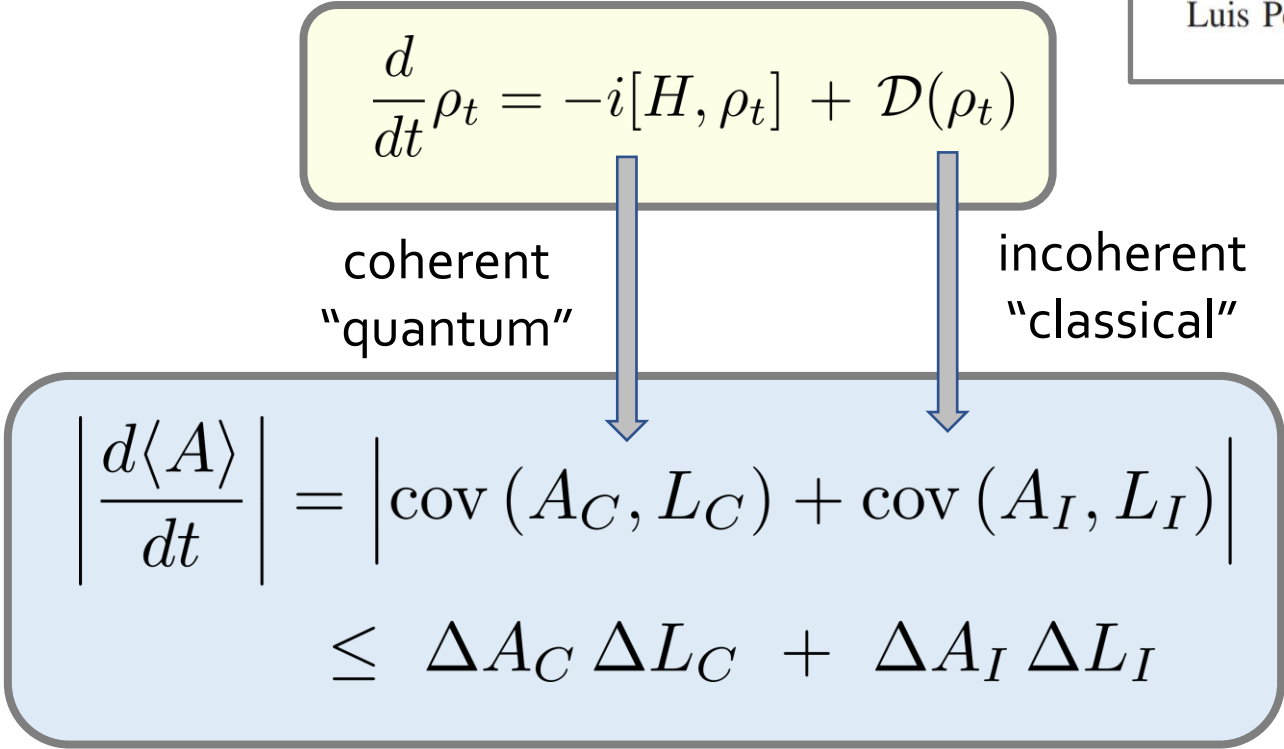
$$A_I = \sum_j A_{jj} |j\rangle\langle j|$$

$$L_C := -2i \sum_{j \neq k} \frac{\langle j| [H_t, \rho_t] |k\rangle}{(p_j + p_k)} |j\rangle\langle k|$$

$$L_I := \sum_j \frac{d \ln p_j}{dt} |j\rangle\langle j|$$

# Speed Limits for Open Systems

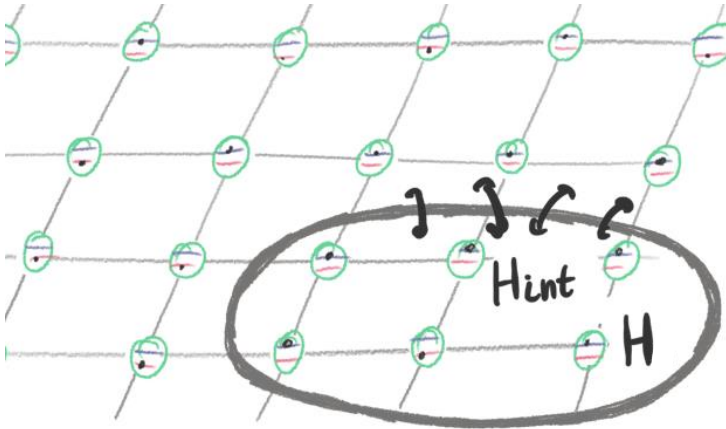
PHYSICAL REVIEW X 12, 011038 (2022)  
**Unifying Quantum and Classical Speed Limits on Observables**  
 Luis Pedro García-Pintos<sup>1,\*</sup> Schuyler B. Nicholson,<sup>2</sup> Jason R. Green<sup>3,4,5</sup>  
 Adolfo del Campo<sup>6,7,5</sup> and Alexey V. Gorshkov<sup>1</sup>



$$\rho_t = \sum_j p_j(t) |j\rangle\langle j|$$

$$A_C = \sum_{j \neq k} A_{jk} |j\rangle\langle k|$$

$$A_I = \sum_j A_{jj} |j\rangle\langle j|$$



Incoherent Fisher Information  $\mathcal{I}_F^I \leq 4(\Delta H_{\text{int}})^2$

# Speed Limits for Open Systems

PHYSICAL REVIEW X **12**, 011038 (2022)

## Unifying Quantum and Classical Speed Limits on Observables

Luis Pedro García-Pintos<sup>1,\*</sup>, Schuyler B. Nicholson<sup>2</sup>, Jason R. Green<sup>3,4,5</sup>,  
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$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho_t = -i[H, \rho_t] + \mathcal{D}(\rho_t)$$

coherent  
"quantum"

incoherent  
"classical"

$$\left| \frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} \right| = \left| \text{cov}(A_C, L_C) + \text{cov}(A_I, L_I) \right|$$

$$\leq \Delta A_C \Delta L_C + \Delta A_I \Delta L_I$$

$$\rho_t = \sum_j p_j(t) |j\rangle\langle j|$$

$$A_C = \sum_{j \neq k} A_{jk} |j\rangle\langle k|$$

$$A_I = \sum_j A_{jj} |j\rangle\langle j|$$

J. Phys. USSR 9, 249–254 (1945)

## The Uncertainty Relation Between Energy and Time in Non-relativistic Quantum Mechanics

By *L. Mandelstam*<sup>1</sup> and *Ig. Tamm*

Lebedev Physical Institute, Academy of Sciences of the USSR

Article | Published: 21 September 2020

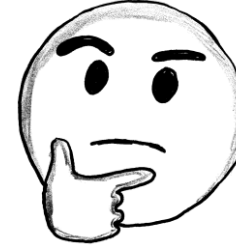
## Time–information uncertainty relations in thermodynamics

Schuyler B. Nicholson, Luis Pedro García-Pintos, Adolfo del Campo & Jason R. Green ✉

*Nature Physics* **16**, 1211–1215(2020) | Cite this article



So, how are these **general** bounds useful anyways?



$$\frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} \leq ?$$

*Can they accurately reflect timescales of evolution?*

Second aim: **characterize regimes where speed limits are saturated**



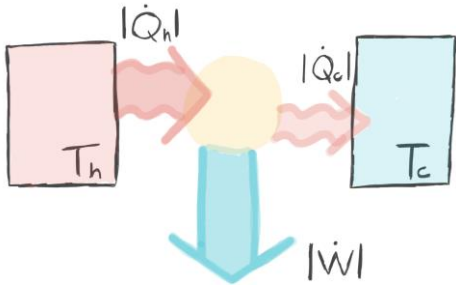
# Classical and quantum thermodynamics

Article | Published: 21 September 2020

## Time–information uncertainty relations in thermodynamics

Schuyler B. Nicholson, Luis Pedro García-Pintos, Adolfo del Campo & Jason R. Green

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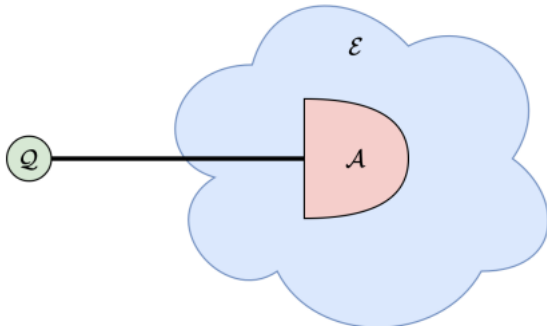


$$\frac{d\langle A \rangle}{dt} \leq ?$$

## Quantum-to-classical transition

### Bounding the Minimum Time of a Quantum Measurement

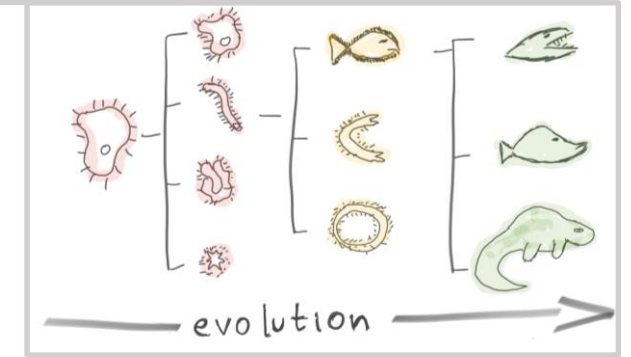
Nathan Shettell,<sup>1</sup> Federico Centrone,<sup>2</sup> and Luis Pedro García-Pintos<sup>3</sup>



## Evolutionary biology\*

### Diversity and Fitness Uncertainty Allow for Faster Evolutionary Rates

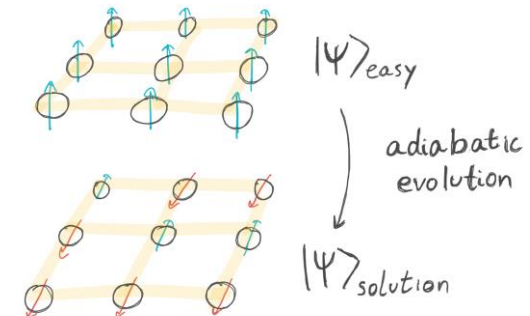
Luis Pedro García-Pintos<sup>1, \*</sup>



## Quantum annealing\*

### Lower Bounds on Quantum Annealing Times

Luis Pedro García-Pintos,<sup>1,2, \*</sup> Lucas T. Brady,<sup>3,4</sup> Jacob Bringewatt,<sup>1,2</sup> and Yi-Kai Liu<sup>1,5</sup>



I. Introduction: Quantum Speed Limits

II. Speed Limits on Observables

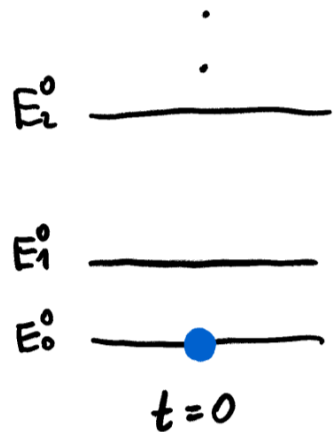
III. An application : Quantum Annealing

# Quantum annealing

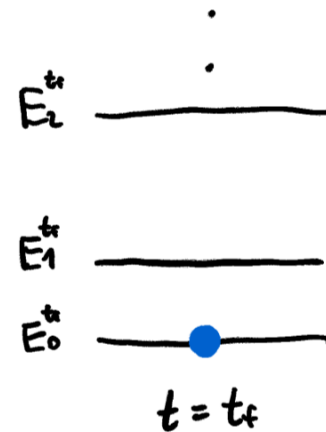
$$H_t = (1 - g_t)H_0 + g_t H_1 \quad g_0 = 0; \quad g_{t_f} = 1$$

$$|\psi\rangle(0) = |E_0^{t=0}\rangle \quad \text{aim: } |\psi\rangle(t_f) = |E_0^{t_f}\rangle$$

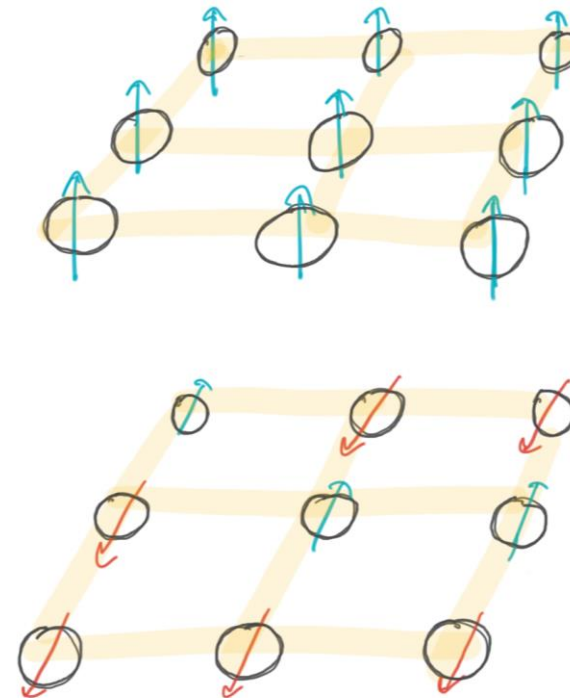
$$H_t = \sum_{j=0}^d E_j^t |E_j^t\rangle\langle E_j^t|$$



$$\langle H_0 \rangle_0 = 0$$



$$\text{aim: } \langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f} = 0$$



$|\psi\rangle_{\text{easy}}$

$|\psi\rangle_{\text{solution}}$

$$\langle H_i \rangle_t = \langle \psi | H_i | \psi \rangle(t) \quad 17$$

# Quantum annealing

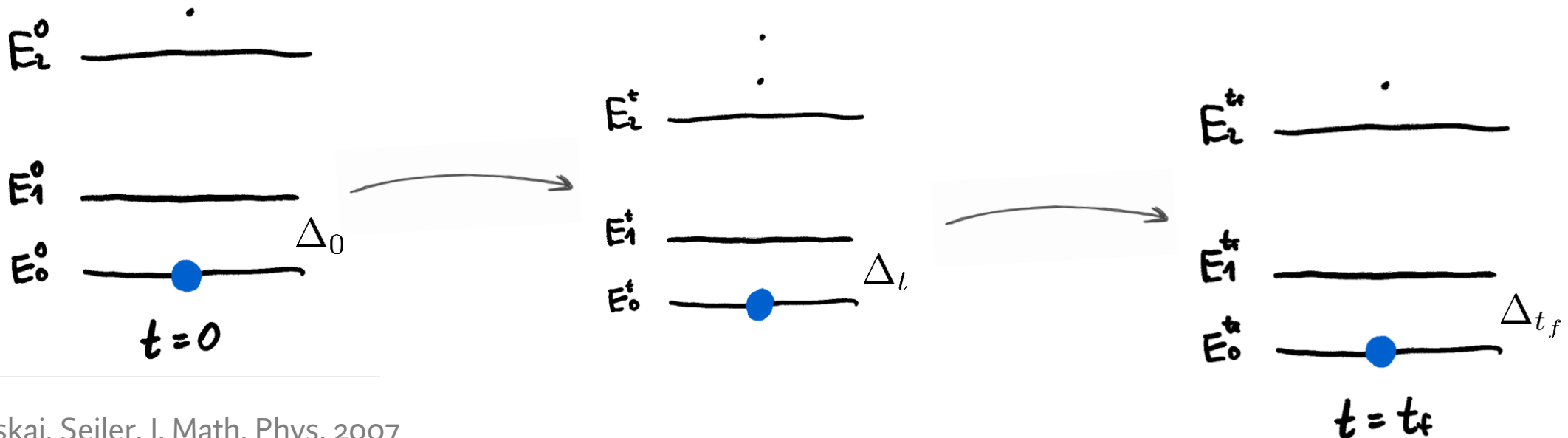
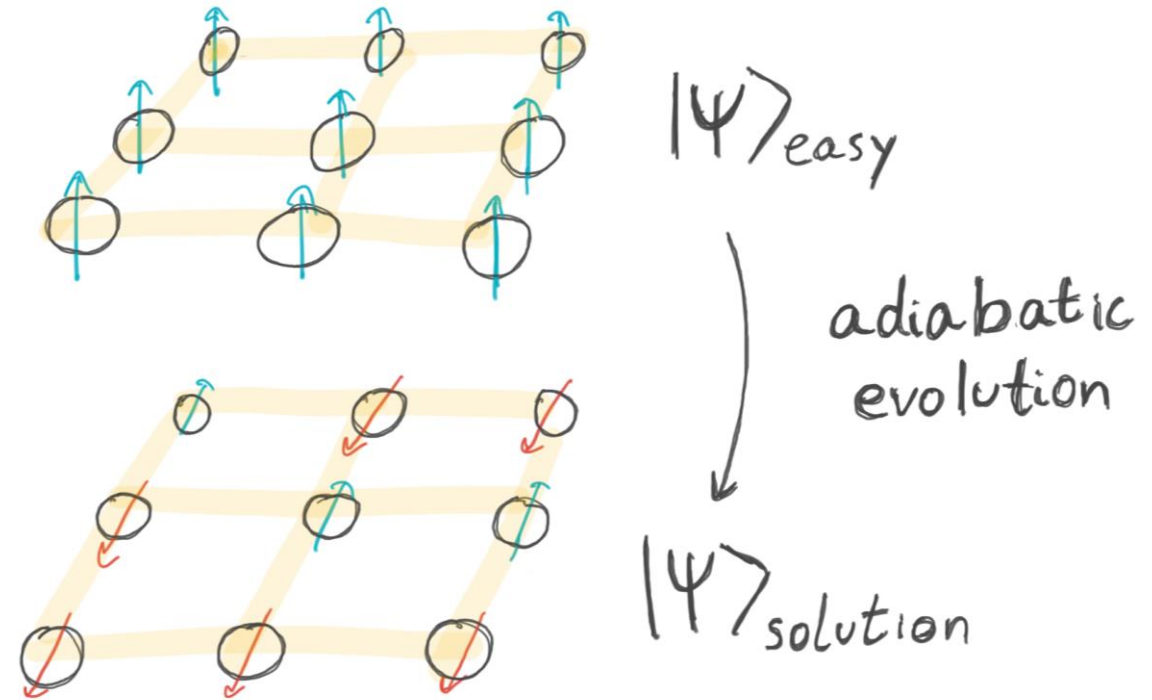
$$H_t = (1 - g_t)H_0 + g_tH_1$$

$$|\psi\rangle(0) = |E_0^{t=0}\rangle$$

$$\text{aim: } |\psi\rangle(t_f) = |E_0^{t_f}\rangle$$

**Adiabatic theorem – sufficient condition:**

system ends close to the target state if the transition is slow enough

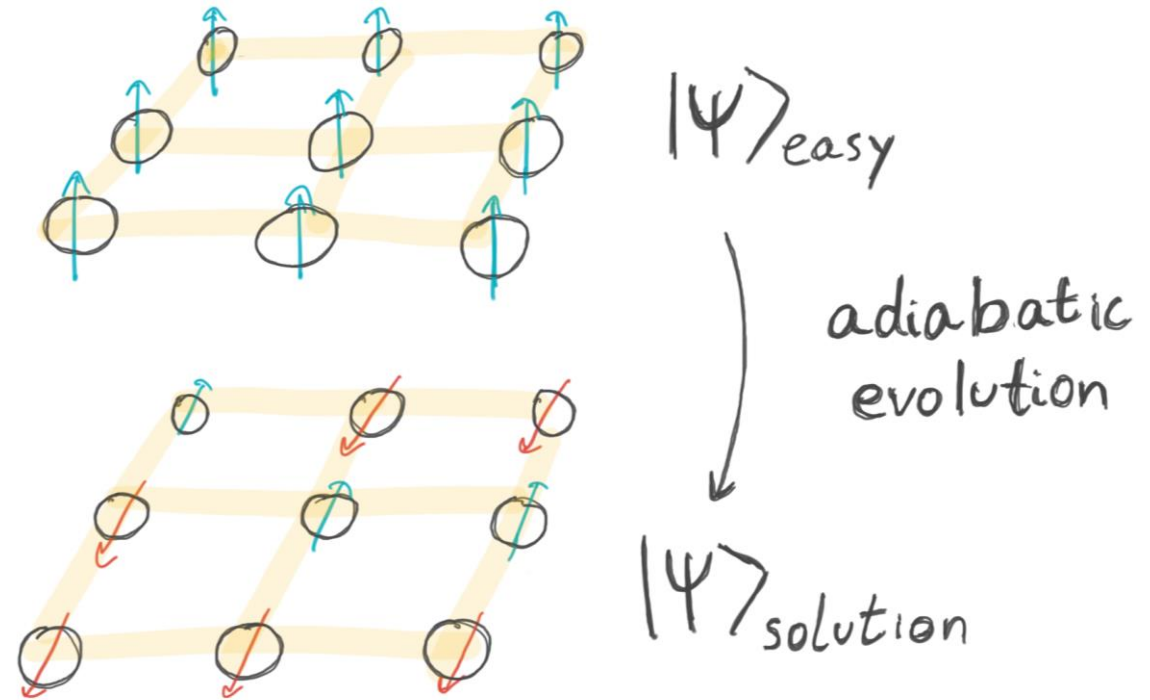


# Quantum annealing

$$H_t = (1 - g_t)H_0 + g_t H_1$$

$$|\psi\rangle(0) = |E_0^{t=0}\rangle \quad \text{aim: } |\psi\rangle(t_f) = |E_0^{t_f}\rangle$$

**Adiabatic theorem – sufficient condition:**  
system ends close to the target state if the  
transition is slow enough



However, *annealing need not be adiabatic!*

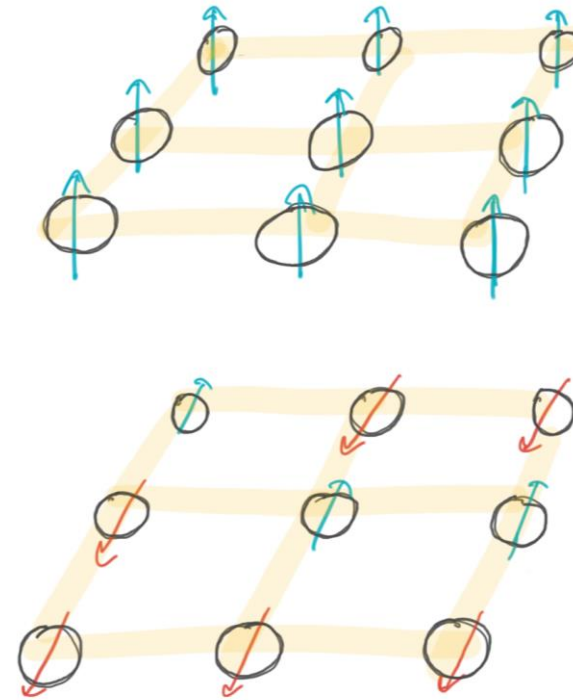
**How fast can it be?**

# Quantum annealing

$$H_t = (1 - g_t)H_0 + g_t H_1$$

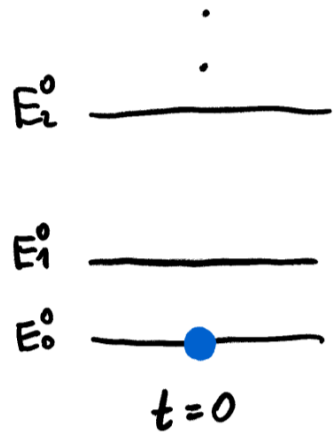
$$|\psi\rangle(0) = |E_0^{t=0}\rangle$$

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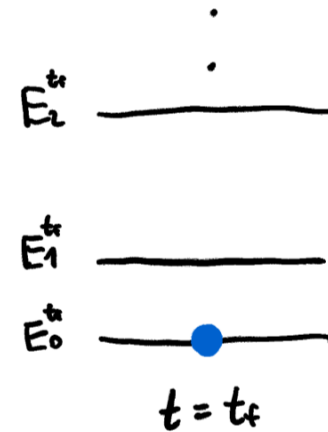
$|\Psi\rangle_{\text{easy}}$

$|\Psi\rangle_{\text{solution}}$



$$\langle H_0 \rangle_0 = 0$$

$$t_f = ?$$



$$\text{aim: } \langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f} = 0$$

$$\langle H_0 \rangle_0 - \langle H_1 \rangle_0 < 0$$

$$\langle H_0 \rangle_{t_f} - \langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f} > 0$$

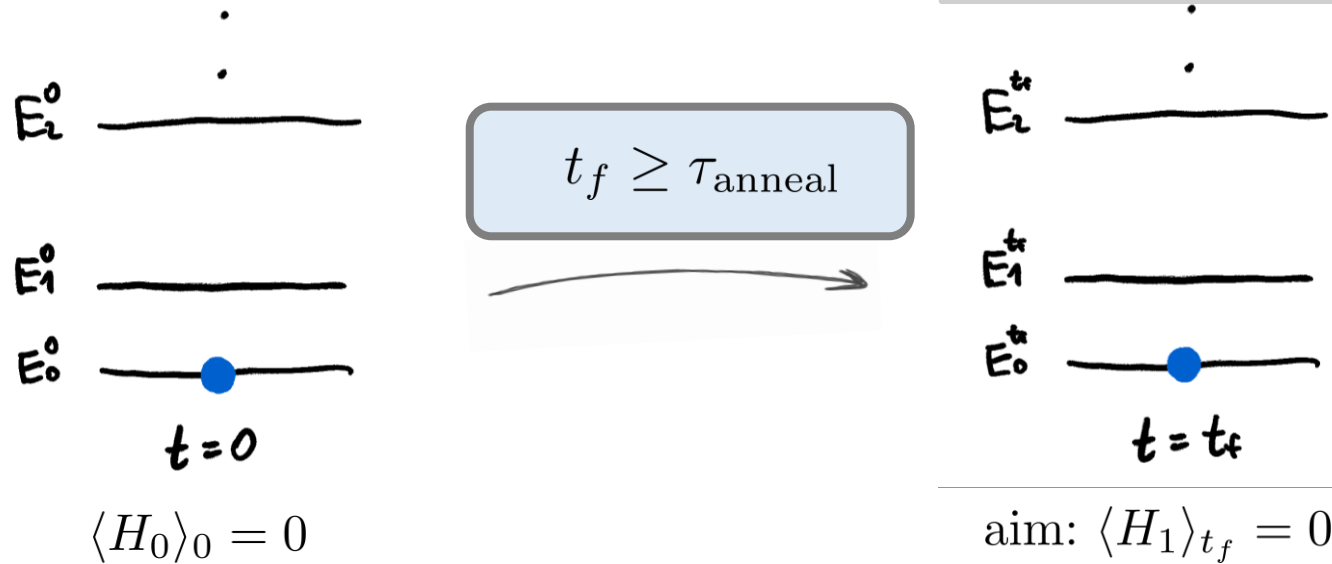
$$\langle H_i \rangle_t = \langle \psi | H_i | \psi \rangle(t) \quad 20$$

# Lower bounds on annealing times

How fast can annealing be?

## Lower Bounds on Quantum Annealing Times

Luis Pedro García-Pintos, Lucas T. Brady, Jacob Bringewatt, and Yi-Kai Liu  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 140601 – Published 5 April 2023



$$\|A\| = \max \text{eigs}(A)$$

$$\langle H_i \rangle_t = \langle \psi | H_i | \psi \rangle (t)$$

*error term*

$$\langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f} = \langle \psi | H_1 | \psi \rangle (t_f)$$

**Necessary condition for annealing:**  $t_f \geq \tau_{\text{anneal}}$

$$\tau_{\text{anneal}} \equiv \frac{\langle H_0 \rangle_{t_f} + \langle H_0 \rangle_0 - \langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f}}{\|[H_1, H_0]\|}$$

# Lower bounds on annealing times

How fast can annealing be?

## Lower Bounds on Quantum Annealing Times

Luis Pedro García-Pintos, Lucas T. Brady, Jacob Bringewatt, and Yi-Kai Liu  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 140601 – Published 5 April 2023

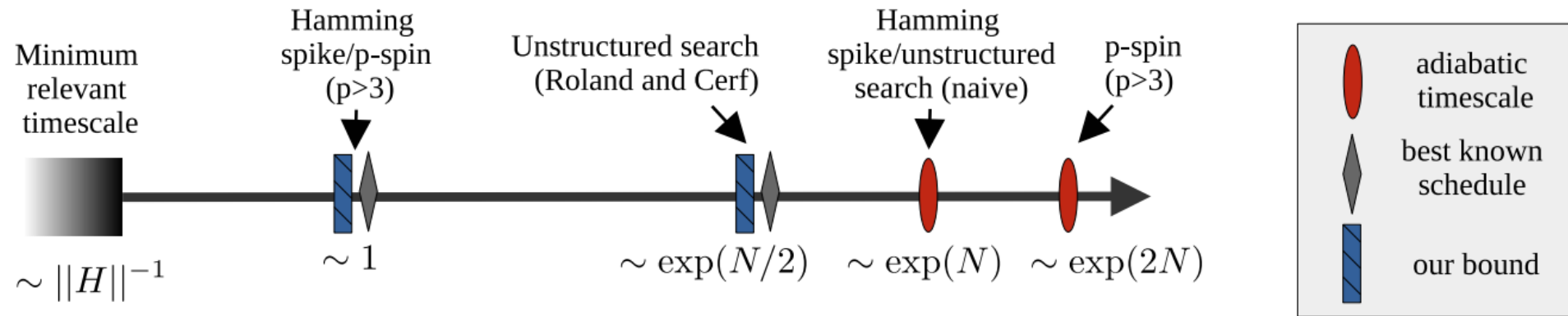


FIG. 1. **Annealing timescales.** An illustration of the range of possible timescales in annealing problems and how our bounds and the adiabatic timescales fit in the picture.

**Necessary condition for annealing:**  $t_f \geq \tau_{\text{anneal}}$

$$\tau_{\text{anneal}} \equiv \frac{\langle H_0 \rangle_{t_f} + \langle H_0 \rangle_0 - \langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f}}{||[H_1, H_0]||}$$



# Lower bounds on annealing times

$$\|A\|_1 = \text{Tr} \left[ \sqrt{AA^\dagger} \right] \quad \|A\| = \max \text{eigs}(A)$$

How fast can annealing be?

## Lower Bounds on Quantum Annealing Times

Luis Pedro García-Pintos, Lucas T. Brady, Jacob Bringewatt, and Yi-Kai Liu  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **130**, 140601 – Published 5 April 2023

Defining

$$\langle H_1 \rangle_0 = \langle \psi_0 | H_1 | \psi_0 \rangle \quad \langle H_0 \rangle_{t_f} = \langle \psi_{t_f} | H_0 | \psi_{t_f} \rangle \quad \langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f} = \langle \psi_{t_f} | H_1 | \psi_{t_f} \rangle$$

$$C_1(|\psi_t\rangle) = \min_{\sigma_t: [\sigma_t, H_t]=0} \| |\psi_t\rangle\langle\psi_t| - \sigma_t \|_1$$

measure of coherence  
in eigenbasis of  $H_t$

## Quantifying Coherence

T. Baumgratz, M. Cramer, and M. B. Plenio  
Phys. Rev. Lett. **113**, 140401 – Published 29 September 2014

**Necessary conditions for annealing:**  $t_f \geq \tau_1 \geq \tau_2$

$$\tau_1 \equiv 2 \frac{\langle H_0 \rangle_{t_f} + \langle H_0 \rangle_0 - \langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f}}{\| [H_1, H_0] \| \frac{1}{t_f} \int_0^{t_f} C_1(|\psi_t\rangle) dt} \quad \tau_2 \equiv \frac{\langle H_0 \rangle_{t_f} + \langle H_0 \rangle_0 - \langle H_1 \rangle_{t_f}}{\| [H_1, H_0] \|}$$

# Summary

- I. General framework to derive bounds on  $\frac{d\langle SA \rangle}{dt}$  and characterize saturation
- II. Speed limits reflect actual dynamics in a range of problems
- III. Saturable lower bounds on annealing times
- IV. Coherence in energy influences annealing times