

**PSI**

Center for Scientific Computing,  
Theory and Data

# Exact solution of the classical and quantum Heisenberg mean field spin glasses

- Markus Müller
- Inhomogeneous Random systems IRS 2025,  
IHP Paris Jan 28/29, 2025



**Nikita Kavokine**

(CCQ Flatiron NY, MPI Mainz)



**Antoine Georges**

(Paris, CCQ Flatiron NY, Uni Genève)



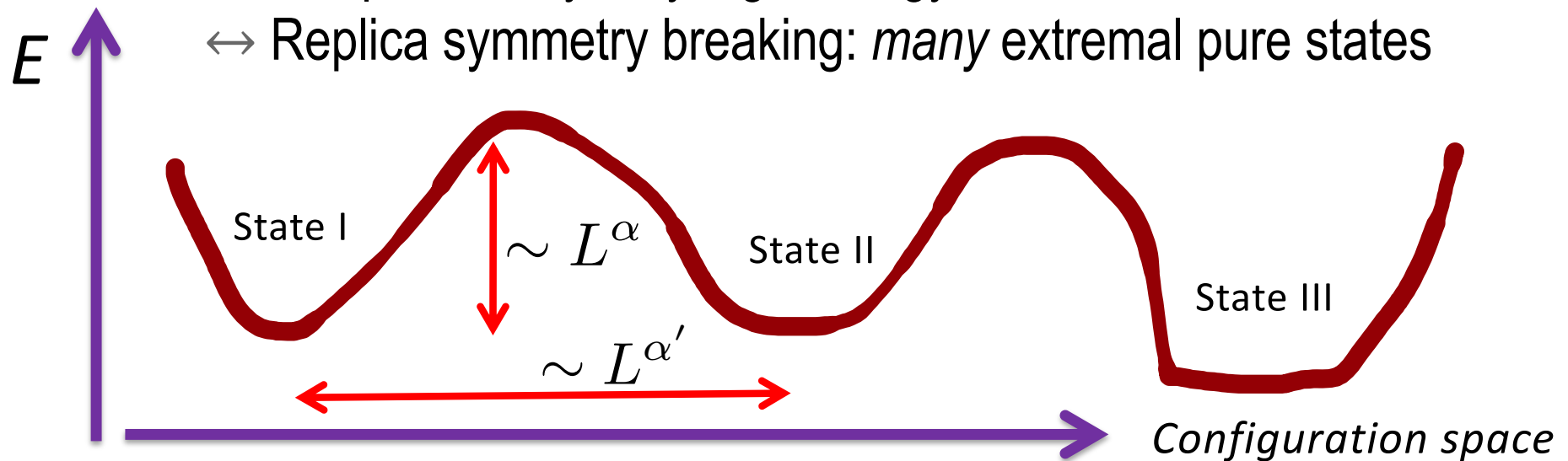
**Olivier Parcollet**

(CCQ Flatiron NY)

## Glass phases: Frustration and disorder

Fragmentation of phase space: many low energy minima, separated by very high energy barriers

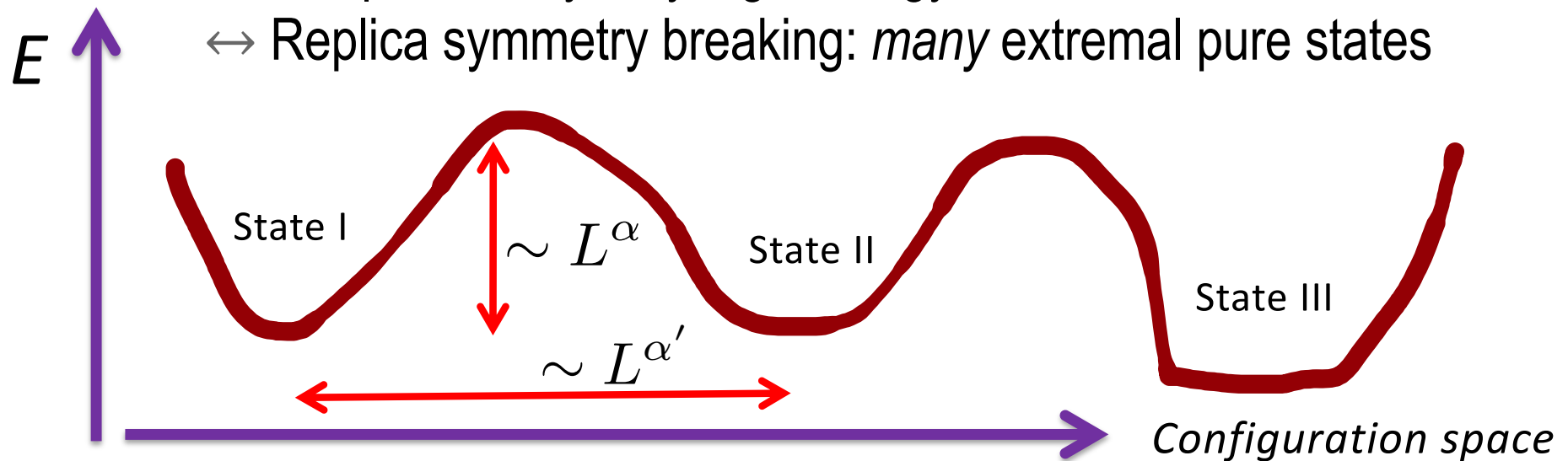
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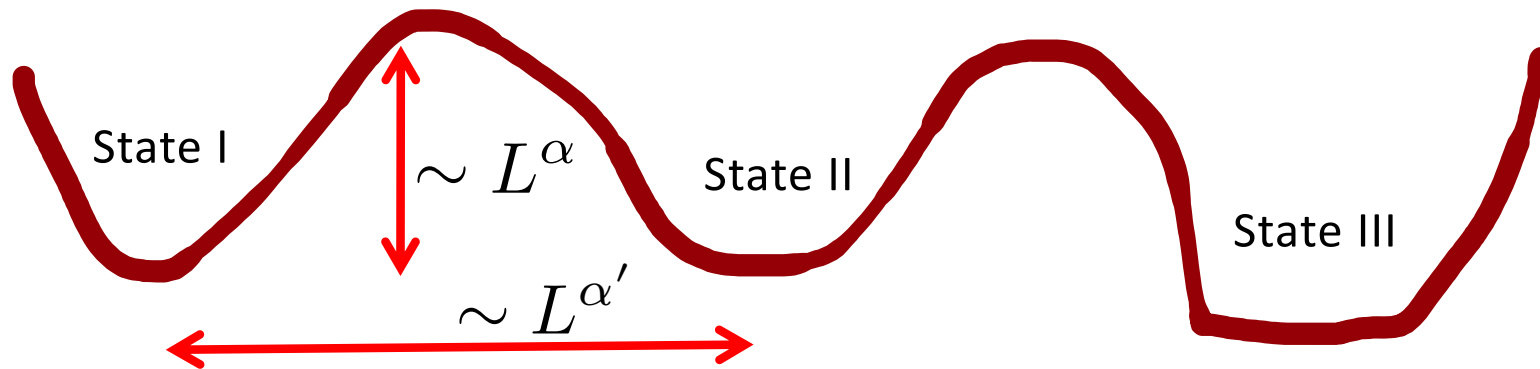


+ Quantum fluctuations / dynamics?

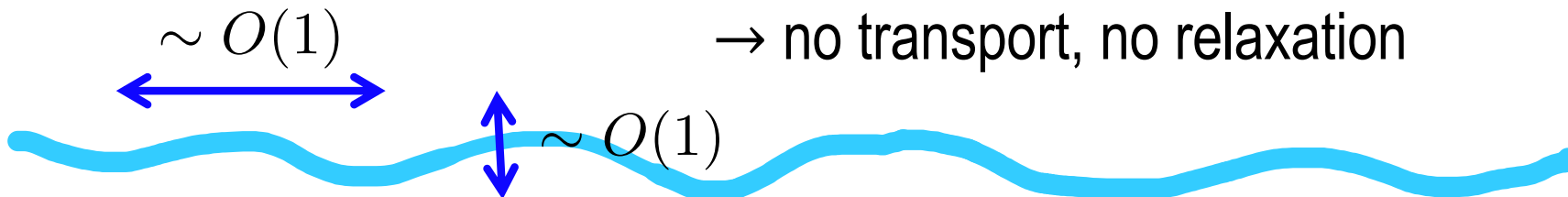
## Glass phases: Frustration and disorder

Fragmentation of phase space: many low energy minima, separated by very high energy barriers

↔ Replica symmetry breaking: *many* extremal pure states



↔ Anderson & many-body localization: Disorder + weak tunneling/interaction:  
 → *local* moves almost never resonant:  
 → no transport, no relaxation

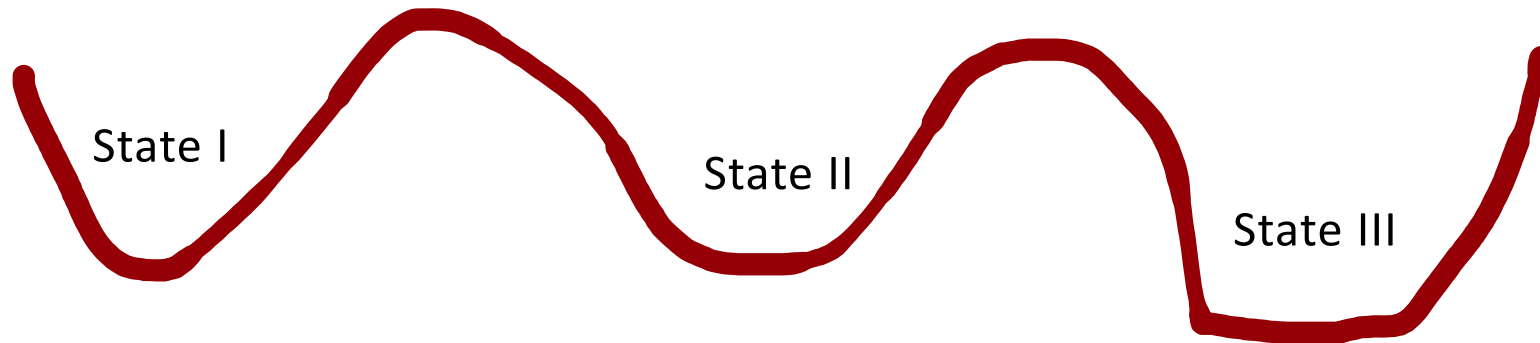


## Interesting question:

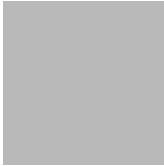
How does a glass phase impact the quantum excitations?

Collective «spin waves» of a quantum glass?

Is there localization?



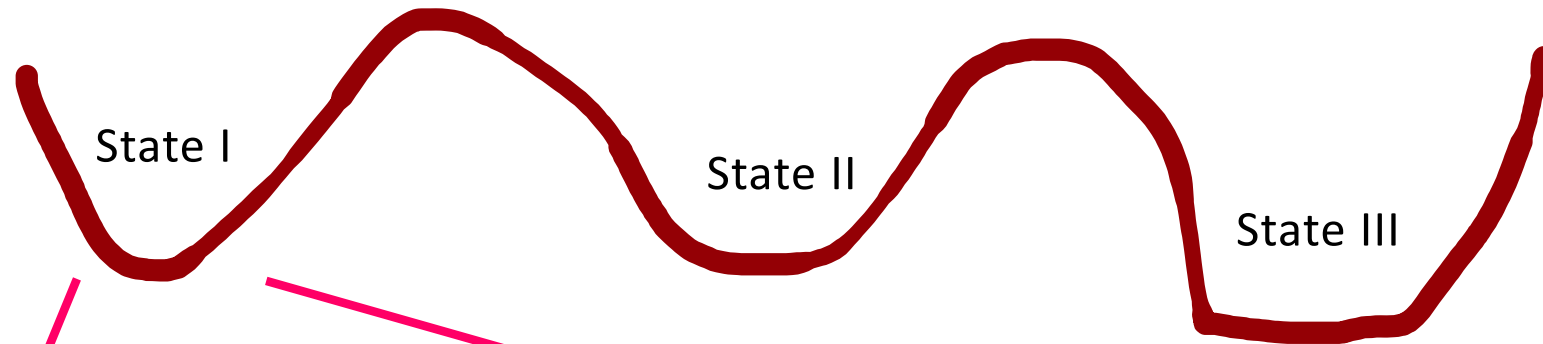
# Interesting question:



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Collective «spin waves» of a quantum glass?

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Localization?  
Usually: no - on the contrary!

$\sim O(1)$



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## Motivation

- *Ising* glasses well understood (at mean field level):

Classical Sherrington-Kirkpatrick (SK) model;

Quantum SK with **transverse field**

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} S_i^z S_j^z - \Gamma \sum_i S_i^x$$



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$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i<j} J_{ij} S_i^z S_j^z - \Gamma \sum_i S_i^x$$

- Much less known about **vector spins**, both **classical and quantum**

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i<j} J_{ij} (S_i^z S_j^z + S_i^x S_j^x + S_i^y S_j^y)$$

(E.g.: local moments in randomly doped Mott insulators)

# Sachdev-Ye approach: Can the glass be avoided?



Can the quantum spins form a spin fluid that does not break time-reversal symmetry?

*S. Sachdev and J. Ye,  
PRL 70, 3339 (1993)*

*A. Georges, O. Parcollet,  
and S. Sachdev,  
PRL 85, 840 (2000); PRB  
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↔ Random spin *chains* (D. Fisher '85), solvable in 1d:

Spin liquid: random singlet phase, strong disorder fixed point;

**What happens in the opposite limit of high connectivity?**

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Gaussian, all-to-all

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} (S_i^z S_j^z + S_i^x S_j^x + S_i^y S_j^y)$$

Goal today: Understand physics of **mean field** limit & compare with Ising

# The Heisenberg spin glass

## Mean field model

$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

### Classical model

(Large S)

$$|\mathbf{S}_i| = 1/2$$

### Quantum model

Non-commuting spin components, S=1/2

$$[S_i^\alpha, S_j^\beta] = i\epsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma} \delta_{ij} S_i^\gamma$$

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Continuous glass transition at  $T_g$

$$T_g = JS^2/3$$

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*Gabay, Garel, De Dominicis, JPC 15, 7165 (1982)*

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$$T_g = JS^2/3$$

$$T_g \approx J\langle \mathbf{S}^2 \rangle / 3\sqrt{3}$$

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# Sachdev-Ye approach: Can the glass be avoided?

Challenge of quantum spins: Hard to deal with, even in mean field!

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Promote  $SU(2)$  spins to  $SU(M)$  spins  
→ solvable in the limit of large  $M$ !

# Sachdev-Ye approach: Can the glass be avoided?

  $SU(2) \rightarrow SU(M)$  spins

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{NM}} \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

Solvability in the limit

$$M \rightarrow \infty !$$

$$\mathbf{S} = \{S_{\alpha\beta}\} \quad 1 \leq \alpha, \beta \leq M$$

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Different representations of SU(M) = different models / loc Hilbert space

Abrikosov fermions

$$S_{\alpha\beta} = f_{\alpha}^{\dagger} f_{\beta}$$

$$\sum_{\alpha} f_{\alpha}^{\dagger} f_{\alpha} = q_0 M \quad (0 \leq q_0 \leq 1)$$

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$$S_{\alpha\beta} = b_{\alpha}^{\dagger} b_{\beta} - S \delta_{\alpha\beta}$$

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→ solvable equations for “parton” Green’s functions as  $M \rightarrow \infty$

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Spin fluid region: (high T or low spin)

Parton Green's function  $G_B^{ab}(\tau) = -\overline{\langle T b^a(\tau) b^{\dagger b}(0) \rangle}$

Large-M Dyson equation  
(almost identical for fermions)

$$(G_B^{-1})^{ab}(i\nu_n) = i\nu_n \delta_{ab} + \lambda^a \delta_{ab} - \Sigma_B^{ab}(i\nu_n),$$

$$\Sigma_B^{ab}(\tau) = J^2 [G_B^{ab}(\tau)]^2 G_B^{ab}(-\tau),$$

$$G_B^{aa}(\tau=0^-) = -S.$$

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**→**  $\chi_{\text{loc}}(\tau) = \langle S(\tau) S(0) \rangle = G_B^{aa}(\tau) G_B^{aa}(-\tau)$

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$G_B^{aa}(\tau) \sim 1/(J\tau)^{1/2}$  Very slow decay: Non-Fermi liquid of partons



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$\longrightarrow \chi_{\text{loc}}(\tau) = \langle S(\tau) S(0) \rangle = G_B^{aa}(\tau) G_B^{aa}(-\tau) \sim 1/(J\tau)^{1 \equiv \theta}$

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# Sachdev-Ye approach

SU(2) → SU(M) spins

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Solvability in the limit  
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→ Model of (constrained) 4-parton interactions

Kitaev (2015): Generalize to random 4-Majorana interactions!

$$H = \frac{6}{N^3} \sum_{i < j < k < l} J_{ijkl} \chi_i \chi_j \chi_k \chi_l$$

→ SYK model:

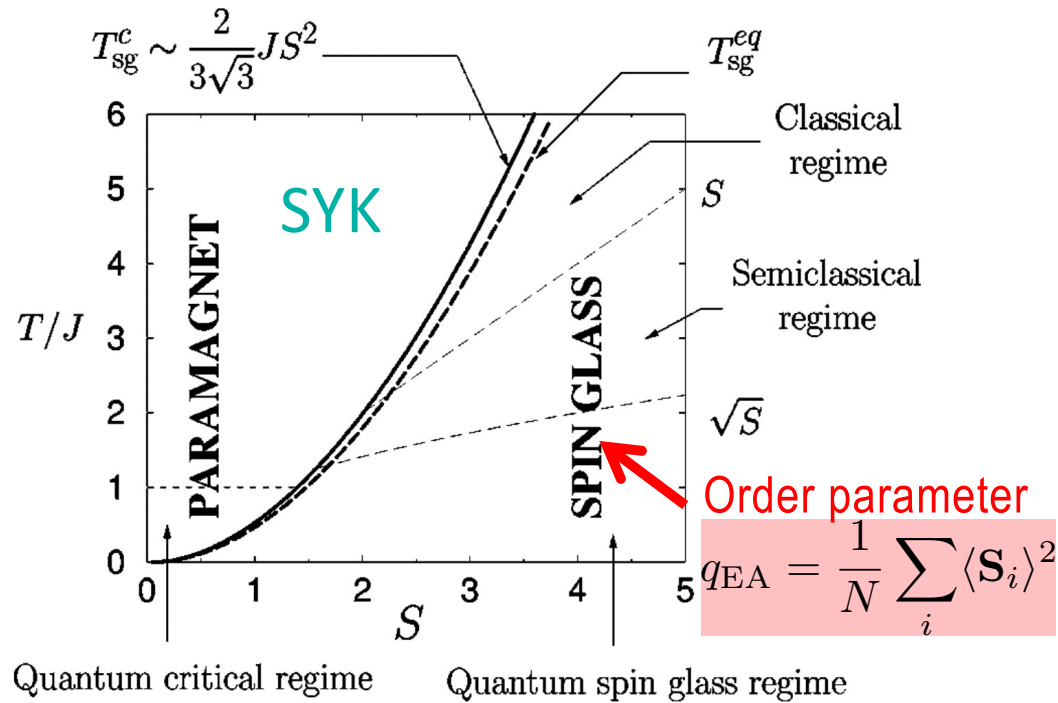
- Fast scrambler: saturating bound for chaos exponent  $\sim k_B T / \hbar$
- Holographically dual to a low dimensional black hole
- etc ...

# Bosonic SU(M)

Phase diagram (large M): Is there a glass transition?

in mean field  $\leftrightarrow$  replica symmetry breaking

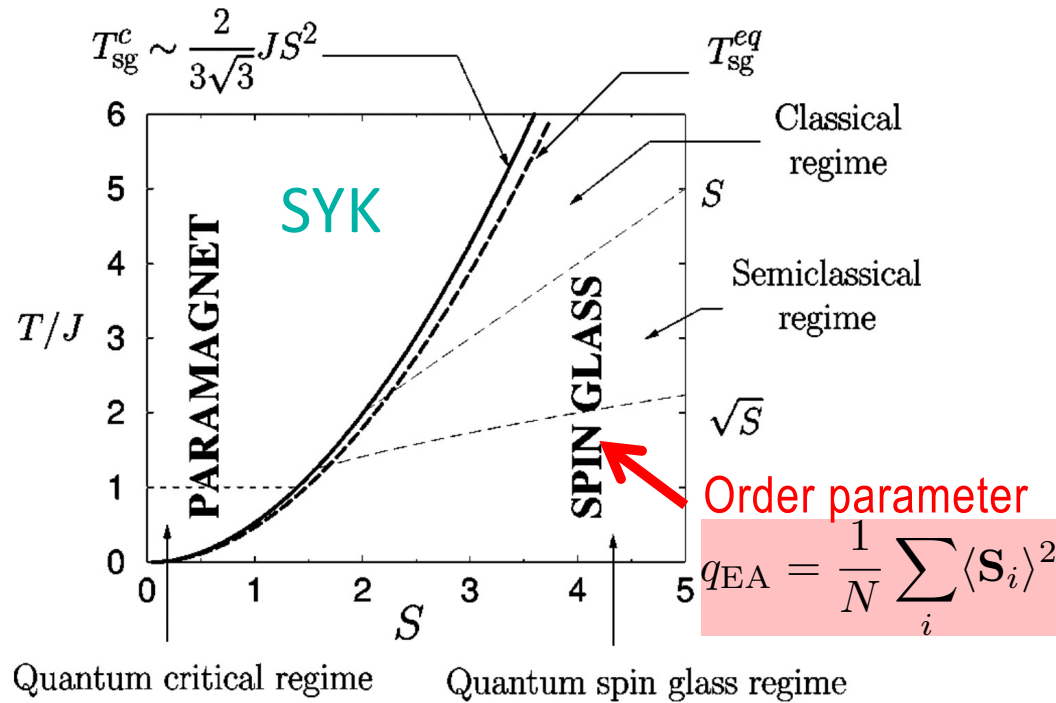
## Phase diagram (large M) for bosonic representation



Glass transition: bosons condense

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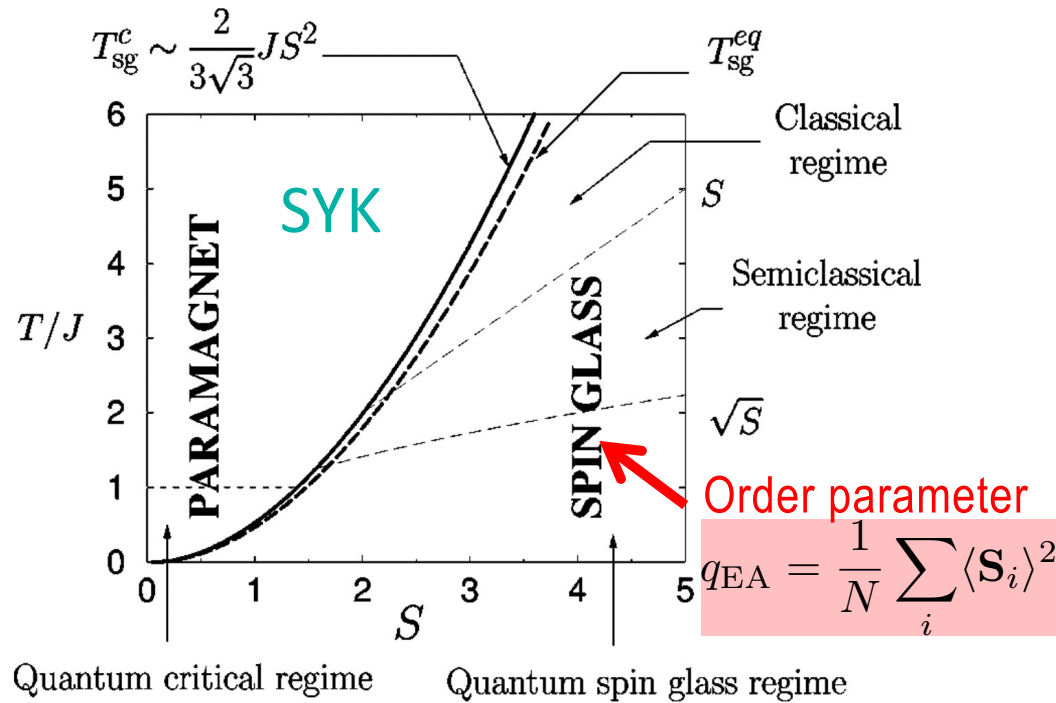
Glass transition:  
 one-step RSB  
 (dynamic transition  
 due to phase space  
 clustering)

Equilibrium states:  
 gapped; inaccessible

Marginal states:  
 gapless

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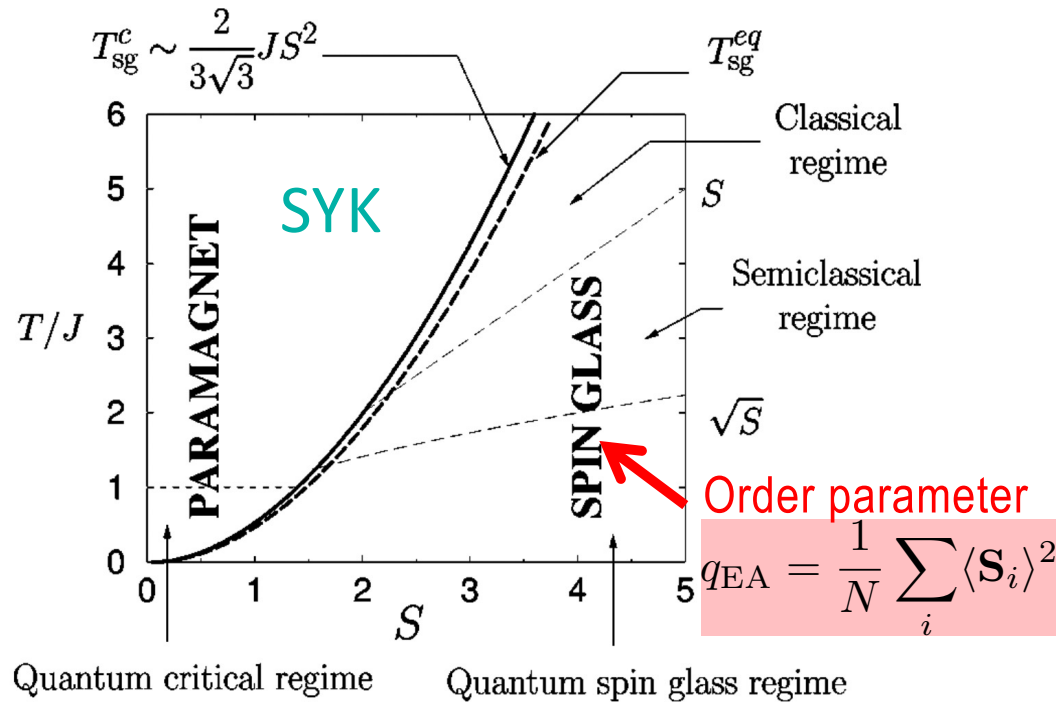
Glass transition: bosons condense

Crossover in dynamics (in gapless marginal states)

$$G_B(\tau)G_B(-\tau) \sim q_{EA} \longrightarrow \tau^* = (\omega^*)^{-1} = (q_{EA}J)^{-1}$$

$$G_B^{aa}(\tau) \sim 1/(J\tau)^{1/2}$$

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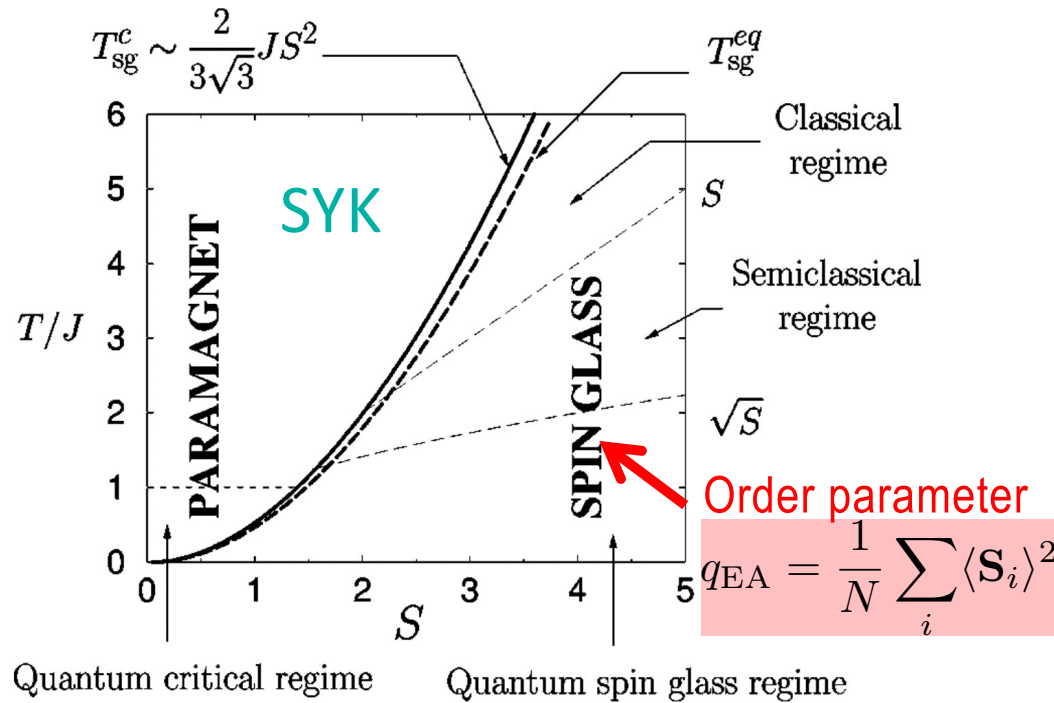
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$$G_B^{aa}(\tau) \sim 1/(J\tau)^{1/2} \xrightarrow{\text{red arrow}} \tau > \tau^* \quad Q(\tau) - q_{EA} \sim \tau^*/(J\tau^2) \equiv \theta$$

Faster decay  
 typical of MF  
 glasses

# Bosonic SU(M)

## Phase diagram (large M) for bosonic representation



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↔ No glass at all for fermionic representation: too strong quantum fluctuations for  $M \rightarrow \infty$ !



## Phase diagram (large M) for fermionic representation

*Christos, Haehl, Sachdev,  
PRB 105, 085120 (2022)*

1/M expansion for  
fermions:

Glass phase appears at

$$T_g \sim \exp[-c\sqrt{M}]$$

but with rather different  
properties!

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Glass transition:

Full RSB instability  
(continuous freezing,  
no extensive set of  
local minima)

Even equilibrium  
states are marginal  
and thus gapless

→ Quantum glass is  
a critical phase

↔ No glass at all for fermionic representation: too strong  
quantum fluctuations for  $M \rightarrow \infty$ !

## Open questions

- Does any of the large  $M$  descriptions capture  $SU(2)$ ?  
And if so, how?
- Is SYK dynamics found for  $M = 2$ ? (especially  $\theta = 1$ )
- Dynamics in the glassy phase?
  - Nature of its collective modes / spin waves?
  - Difference from Ising case  
(where interactions commute)?

## Recent progress

*N. Kavokine, MM, A. Georges, O. Parcollet,  
PRL **133**, 016501 (2024)*



New answers due to:

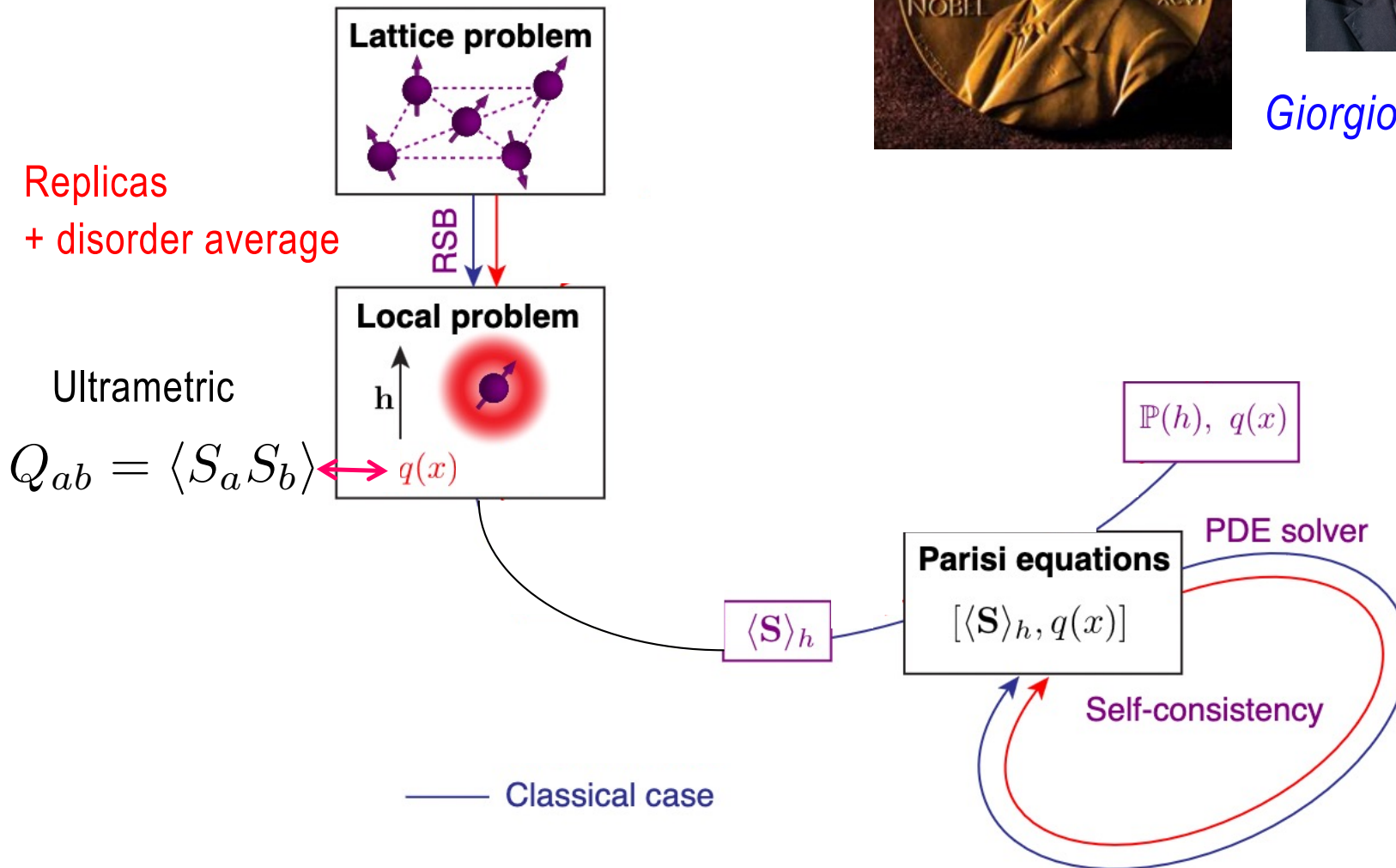
- Advanced numerical tools for quantum impurity problems for  $SU(2)$  spins  
(cont. time quantum Monte Carlo without sign problem)
- High precision solver for replica symmetry breaking

# Self-consistent solution of the MF equations

## Classical glass



Giorgio Parisi, Nobel 2021



# Self-consistent solution of the MF equations

## Magnetization response to a frozen field

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{s}}{\partial x} = -\frac{J^2}{2} \frac{dq}{dx} (\nabla^2 \mathbf{s} + 2\beta x (\mathbf{s} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{s})$$

$$\mathbf{s}(1, \mathbf{h}) = \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle_{\mathcal{S}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{h})} = \beta \mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{S}$$

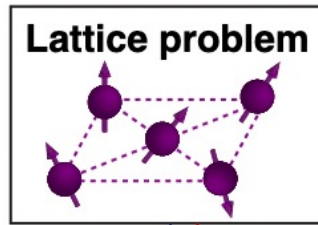
$$0 \leq x \leq 1$$

### Classical glass

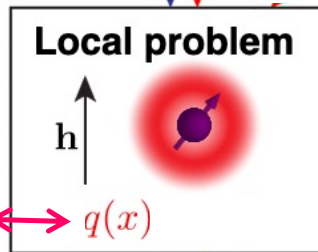
Replicas  
+ disorder average

Ultrametric

$$Q_{ab} = \langle S_a S_b \rangle$$



RSB



$$\mathbb{P}(h), q(x)$$

**Parisi equations**

$$[\langle \mathbf{S} \rangle_h, q(x)]$$

PDE solver

Self-consistency

$$\langle \mathbf{S} \rangle_h$$

— Classical case

# Self-consistent solution of the MF equations

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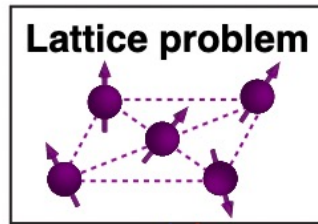
## Classical glass

## Distribution of frozen fields

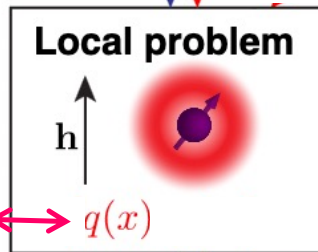
$$\frac{\partial \mathbb{P}}{\partial x} = \frac{J^2}{2} \frac{dq}{dx} (\nabla^2 \mathbb{P} - 2\beta x \nabla (\mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbb{P}))$$

$$\mathbb{P}(0, \mathbf{h}) = \delta(\mathbf{h})$$

Replicas  
+ disorder average



RSB



Ultrametric

$$Q_{ab} = \langle S_a S_b \rangle$$

$$\langle \mathbf{S} \rangle_h$$

**Parisi equations**

$$[\langle \mathbf{S} \rangle_h, q(x)]$$

$$\mathbb{P}(h), q(x)$$

PDE solver

Self-consistency

— Classical case

## Quantum glass

Extra complication: self-consistent *dynamic* susceptibility  $\chi(\tau)$  within every metastable state

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{h}, \chi) = \frac{J^2}{2} \iint_0^\beta d\tau d\tau' \chi(\tau - \tau') \mathbf{S}(\tau) \cdot \mathbf{S}(\tau') - \mathbf{h} \int_0^\beta d\tau \mathbf{S}(\tau),$$

$$\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{h}) = \langle \mathbf{S} \rangle_{\mathcal{S}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{h}, \chi)}$$

$$\chi(\tau) = \frac{1}{\ell} \int d\mathbf{h} \mathbb{P}(\mathbf{h}) \langle \mathbf{S}(0) \mathbf{S}(\tau) \rangle_{\mathcal{S}_{\text{loc}}(\mathbf{h}, \chi)} - q(1)$$

Observables  
computed with  
continuous time  
Quantum Monte  
Carlo (CT-QMC)



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Power law interactions in time!

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cf. Grempel and Rozenberg, PRL **80**, 389 (1998) for paramagnetic regime

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## Quantum glass

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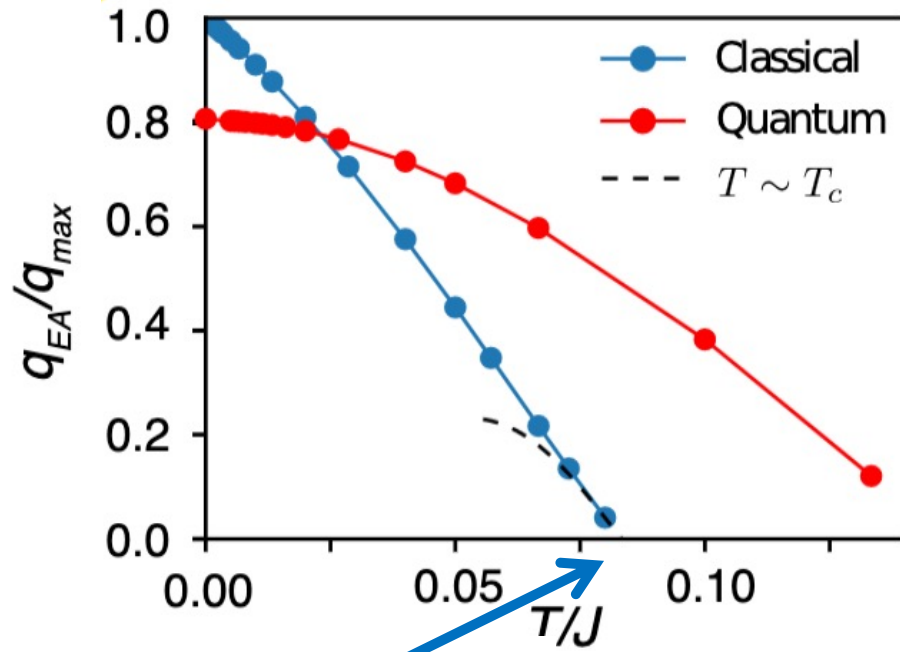
Similar technique developed previously for other quantum glasses:

- Bethe lattice quantum Coulomb glass *I. Lovas et al., Phys. Rev. Res.* **4**, 023067, 2022
- Transverse field Ising model, *A. Kiss, et al., Phys. Rev. B* **109**, 024431, 2024

## 1. Glass transition and Edwards-Anderson order parameter

Continuous transition, with *continuous* replica symmetry breaking

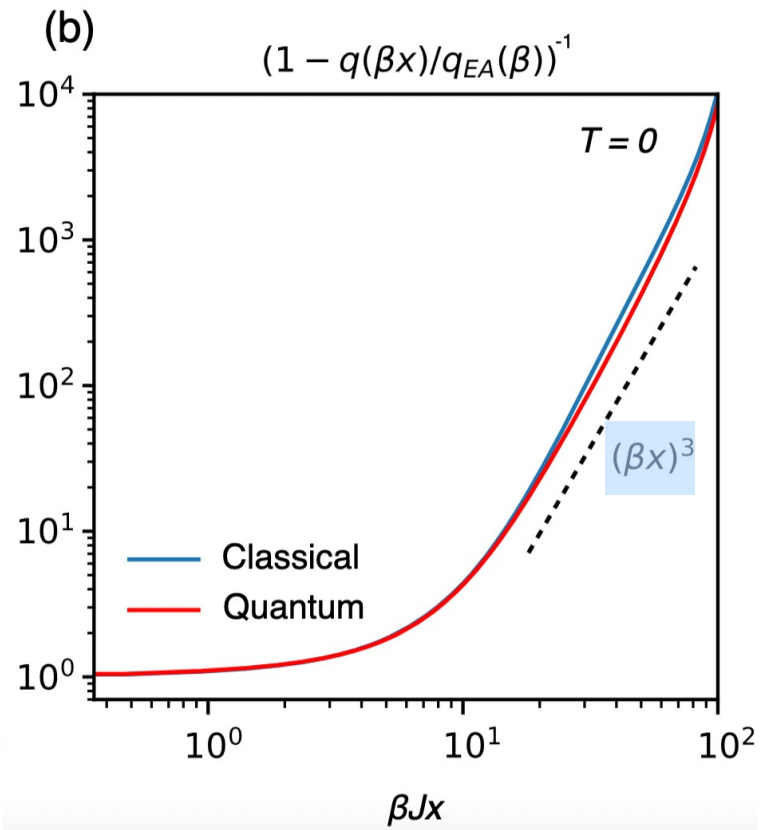
$$q_{EA} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \langle \mathbf{S}_i \rangle^2$$



$$T_g = JS^2/3$$

$$T_g \approx J\langle \mathbf{S}^2 \rangle / 3\sqrt{3}$$

## 2. Structure of replica symmetry breaking:

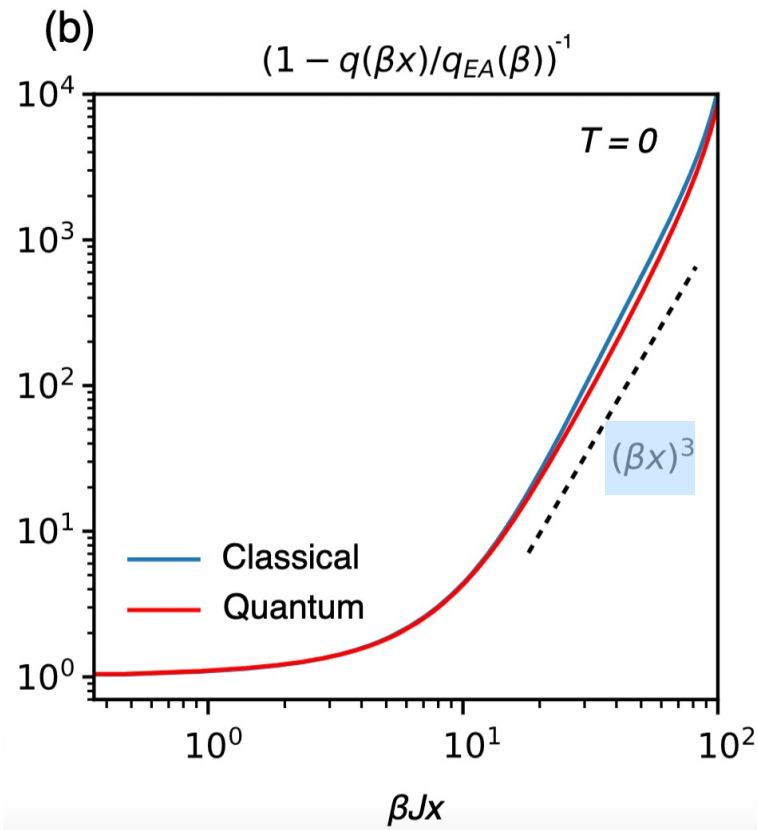


Approach to the plateau  $q_{EA} = q(x \rightarrow 1)$

$$1 - \tilde{q}(x)/q_{EA} \sim 1/(\beta x)^\alpha$$

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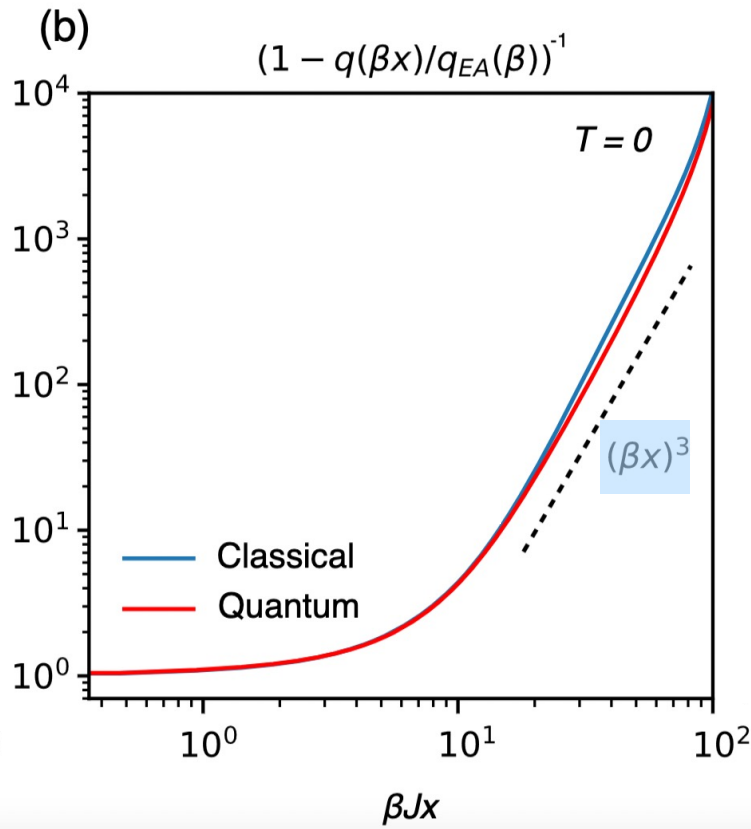
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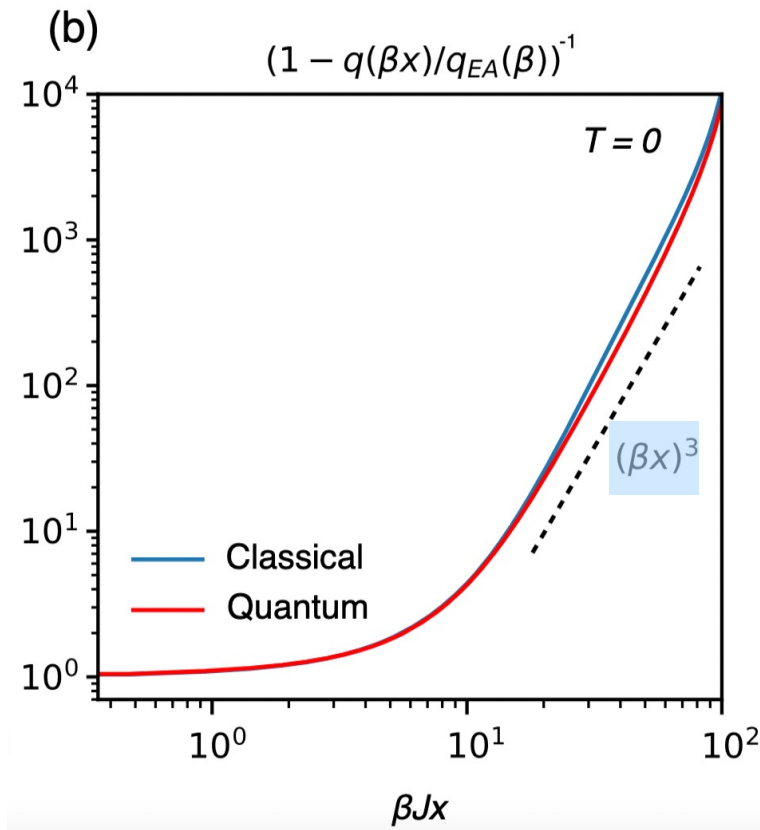
captures distribution of low energy states, and hence controls jumps

$\Delta m$  of magnetization in a field ramp

$$\rho(\Delta m) \sim 1/(\Delta m)^{2/\alpha}$$

*Le Doussal, MM, Wiese '10*

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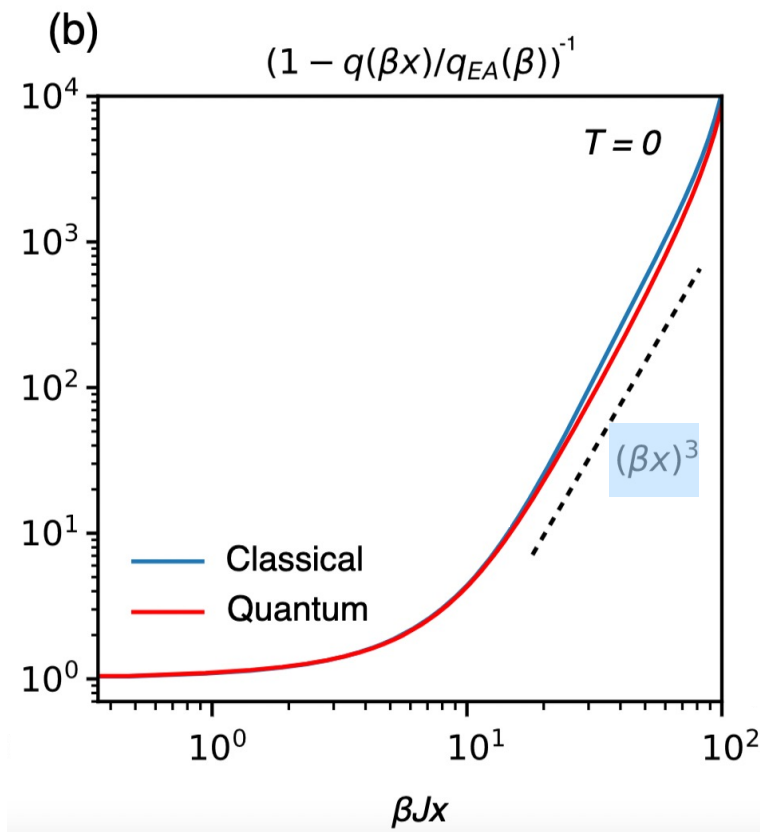
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**Vector spins** ( $n = \alpha > 2$ ): jumps **dominated by large avalanches** *Andreev, Sharma, MM '14*

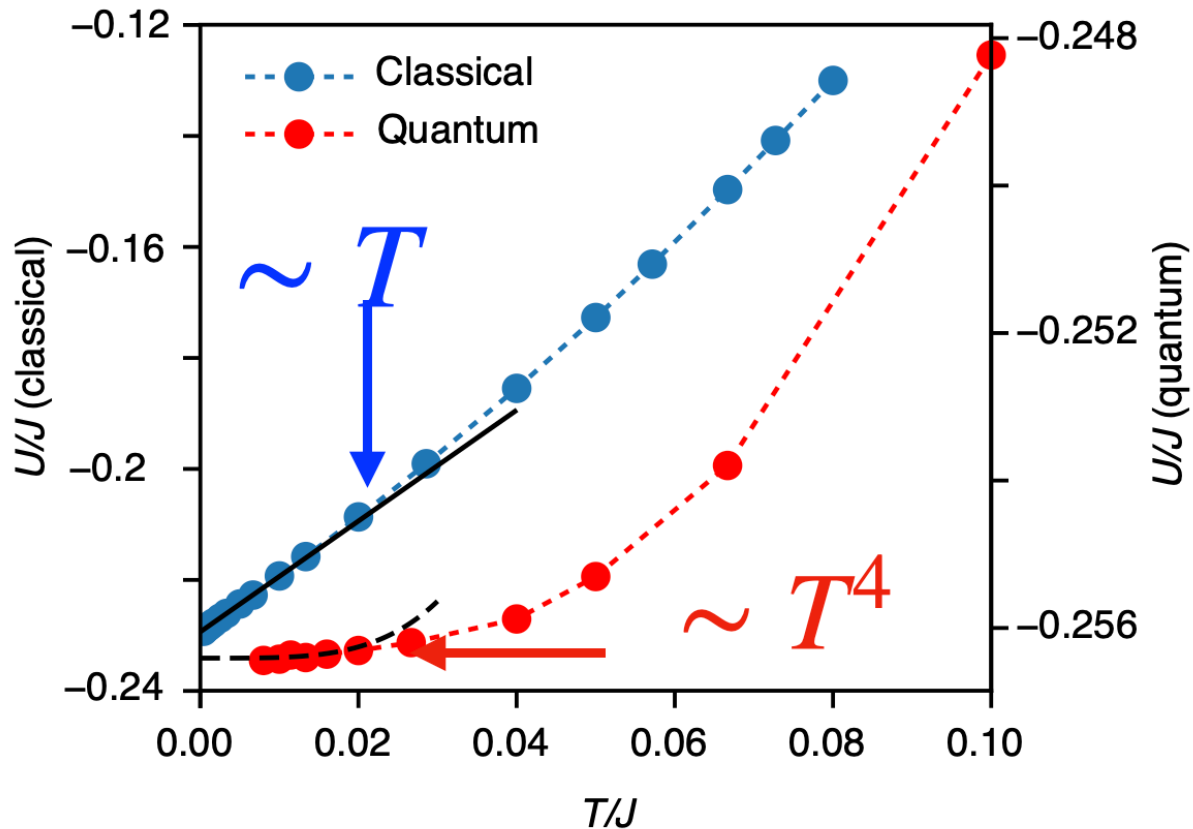
**Ising spins** ( $\alpha = 2$ ): the jumps have a critical power law

*Pazmandi, Zarand, Zimanyi '99*

↔ Avalanche statistics in field ramps at  $T=0$ : **Ising spins differ from vector spins!**

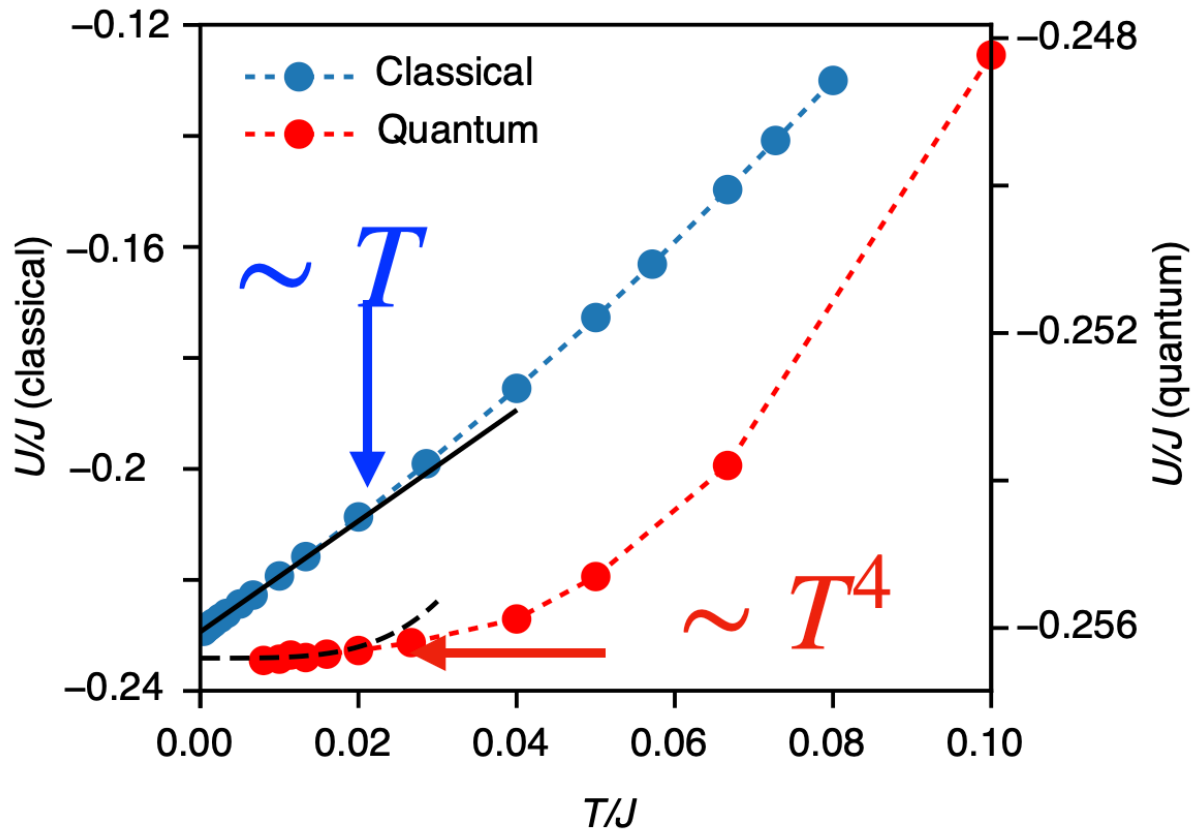


### 3. Thermodynamics: internal energy $U$ and specific heat $C_V$



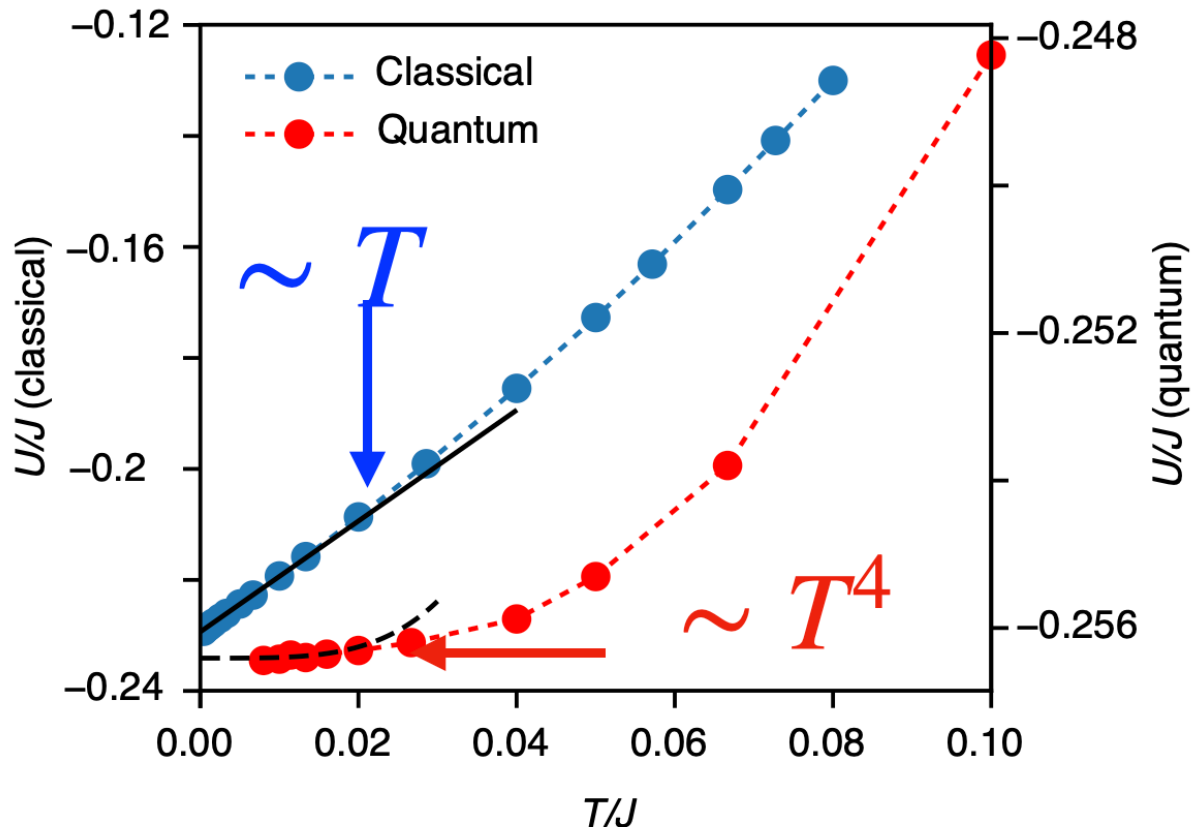
**Classical:** intrastate specific heat:  $C_V \approx 1$  (Du-Long Petit)

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Quantum fluctuations harden the spin waves

Compatible with:  $C_V \sim T^3$   $\longleftrightarrow$

Like in *marginal* states of solvable one-step RSB glasses (*G. Schehr '04,'05*)

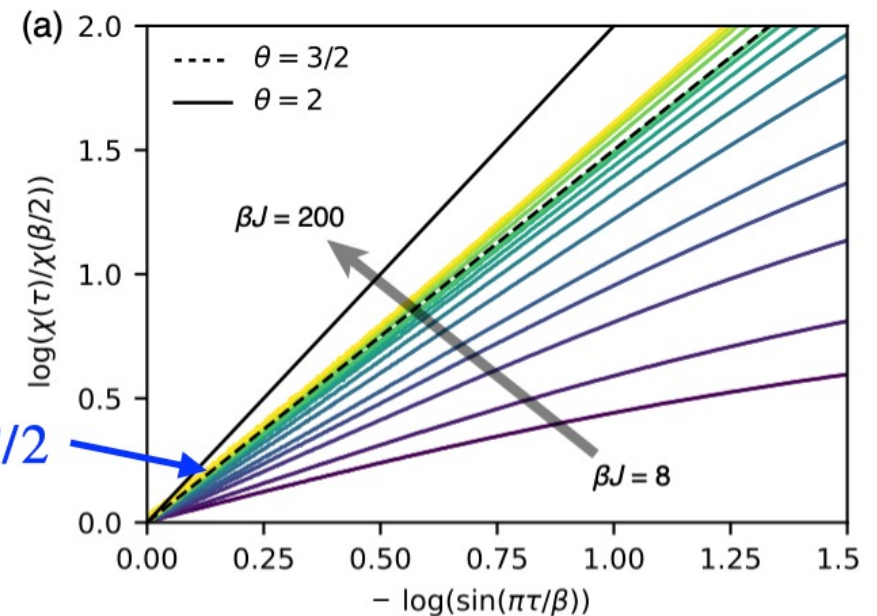
## 4. Dynamic susceptibility

$$\chi(\tau) = \overline{\langle \mathbf{S}_i(\tau) \mathbf{S}_i(0) \rangle}_c$$

- Power law at low energy / long time  $\tau$ ,  
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- Fit to conformal form:

$$\chi(\tau) \approx \chi(\beta/2) \left( \frac{1}{\sin(\pi\tau/\beta)} \right)^{\theta(\tau)}$$

$$\tau \sim \beta/2$$



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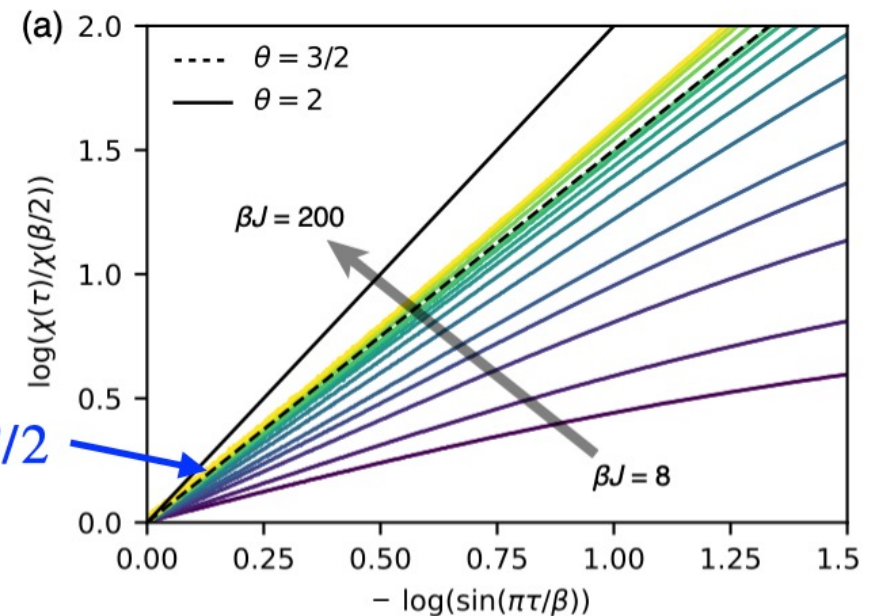
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*Read, Sachdev, Ye ('95)* [Landau exp]  
*Christos, Haehl, Sachdev ('22)* [ $M \gg 1$ ]



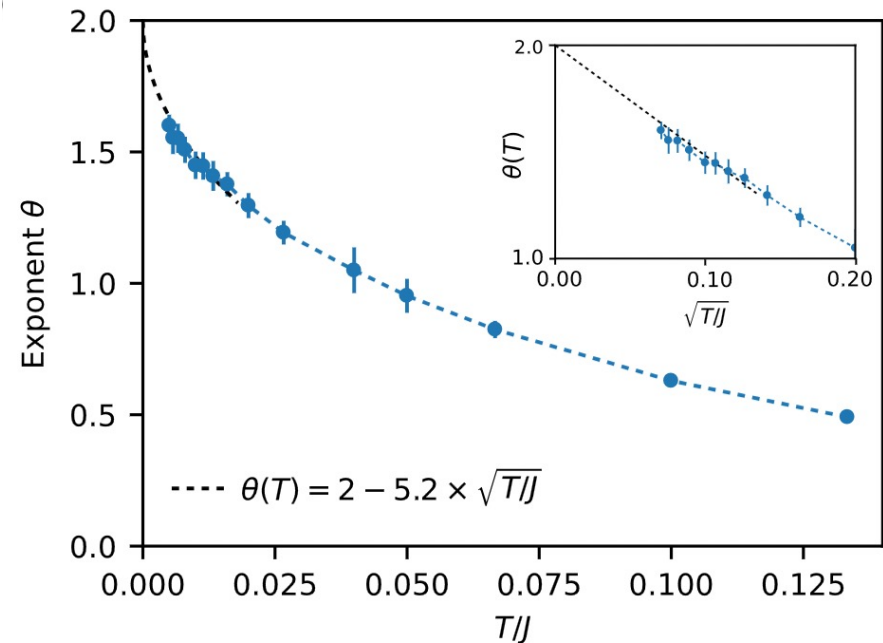
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 Similar as in the Quantum *Ising* SK!

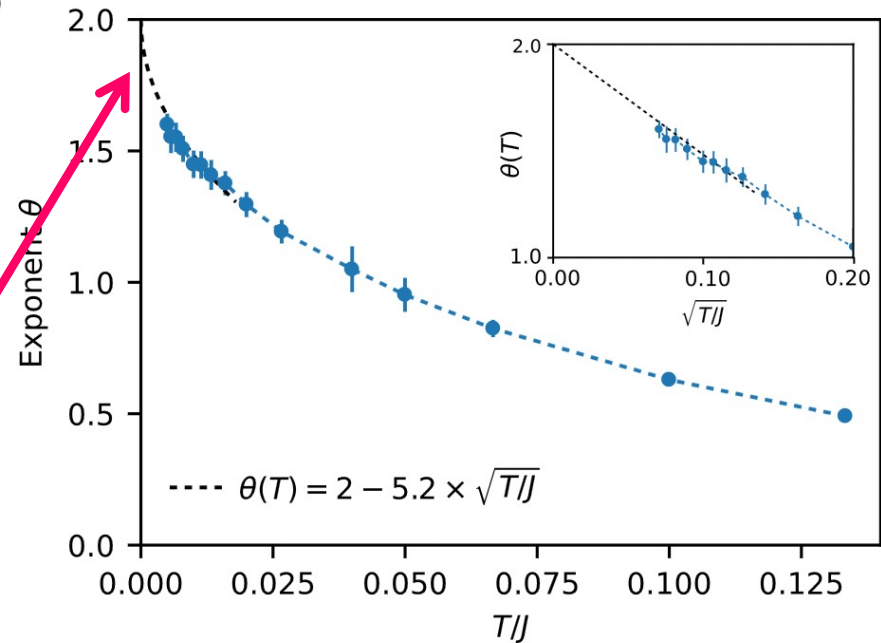
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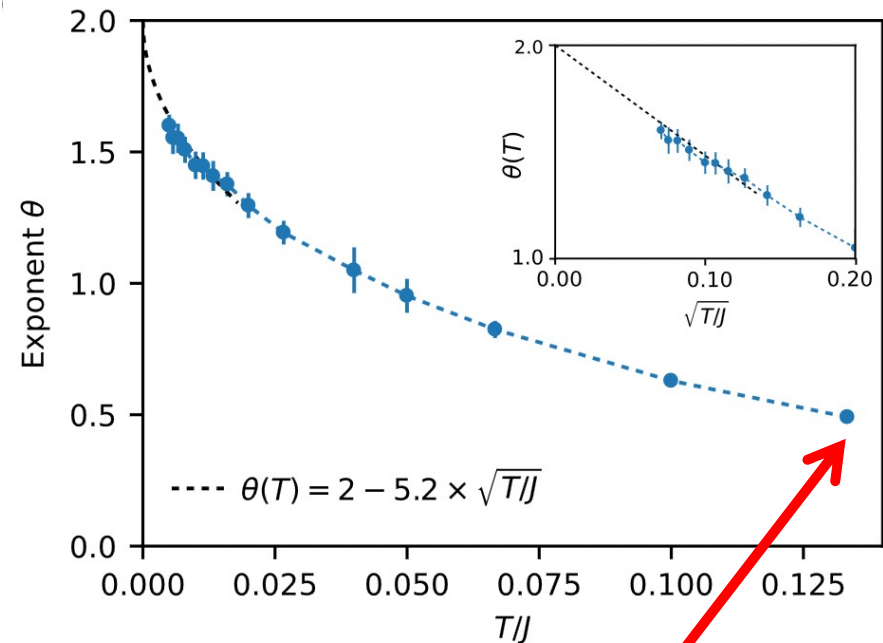
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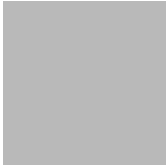
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 Similar as in the Quantum *Ising* SK!

Note: no trace of the SY-K dynamics ( $\theta = 1$ ) above  $T_c \sim 0.14J$





# Interpreting dynamics and specific heat



- 
- What are the collective modes/spin waves of a quantum spin glass?

A wide open question in finite dimensions!

Mean field: some physical insight is possible

- What are the collective modes/spin waves of a quantum spin glass?
- What hides behind the super-universal forms of dynamics

$$\chi(\tau) = \overline{\langle \mathbf{S}_i(\tau) \mathbf{S}_i(0) \rangle_c} \sim \frac{1}{\tau^2}$$

$$\chi''(\omega) \sim \omega \quad (\text{Ohmic spectral function})$$

and the specific heat scaling

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For concreteness and non-trivial predictions:

Consider transverse field Ising SK model

as representative of insulating (non-metallic) spin glasses

# Quantum long range spin glasses: Quantum SK model

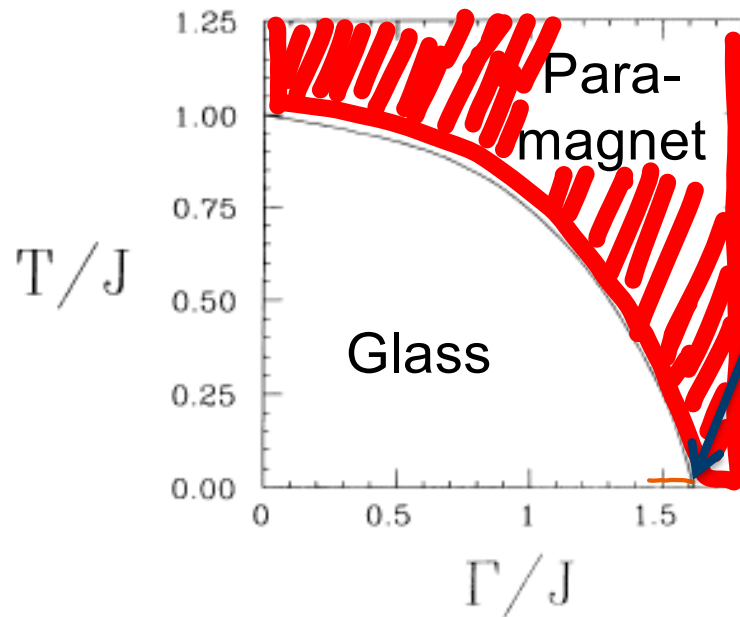
How does marginal stability affect  
quantum dynamics?  
Collective modes?

$$H = -\Gamma \sum_i S_i^x - \sum_{i,j} J_{i,j} S_i^z S_j^z$$

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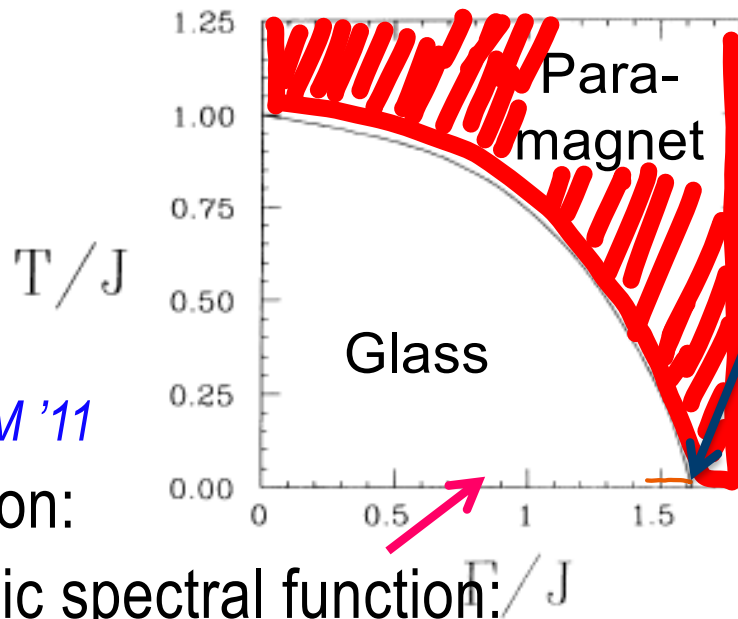
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Read, Sachdev, Ye, PRL (1993)

A. Andreanov, MM '11

Replica solution:

Gapless Ohmic spectral function:

$$\chi''(\omega \rightarrow 0) \equiv \frac{1}{\pi N} \sum_i \text{Im} \langle s_i^z(\omega) s_i^z(-\omega) \rangle |_{\omega \rightarrow \omega - i\delta} = \frac{B\omega}{\pi}$$



## Quantum SK model

*A. Andreev, MM '11*

*L. Cugliandolo, MM '23 (Review  
on Quantum glasses)*

Physical interpretation: [applies to **ALL** insulating meanfield glasses]

*cf P. Urbani's talk !*



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Marginally stable energy landscape  $G(\{m_i\})$

Minima: gapless semicircular spectrum of Hessian  $\mathcal{H}_{ij} = \frac{\delta^2 G}{\delta m_i \delta m_j}$

$$\rho(\lambda) \sim \frac{\sqrt{\lambda\Gamma}}{J^2}$$

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$$U = \int_0^\infty d\omega \rho(\omega) \frac{\hbar\omega}{e^{\hbar\omega/T} - 1} \sim T^4 \quad \longrightarrow \quad C_V \sim T^3$$

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Non-trivial check:  
Independent of  
Q-fluctuation  
strength  $\Gamma$ !!

Physical interpretation: [applies to **ALL** insulating meanfield glasses]

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Gapless spectral function from solving RSB:

$$\chi''_{\text{Ising}}(\omega) \approx 0.5 \frac{\omega}{J^2}$$

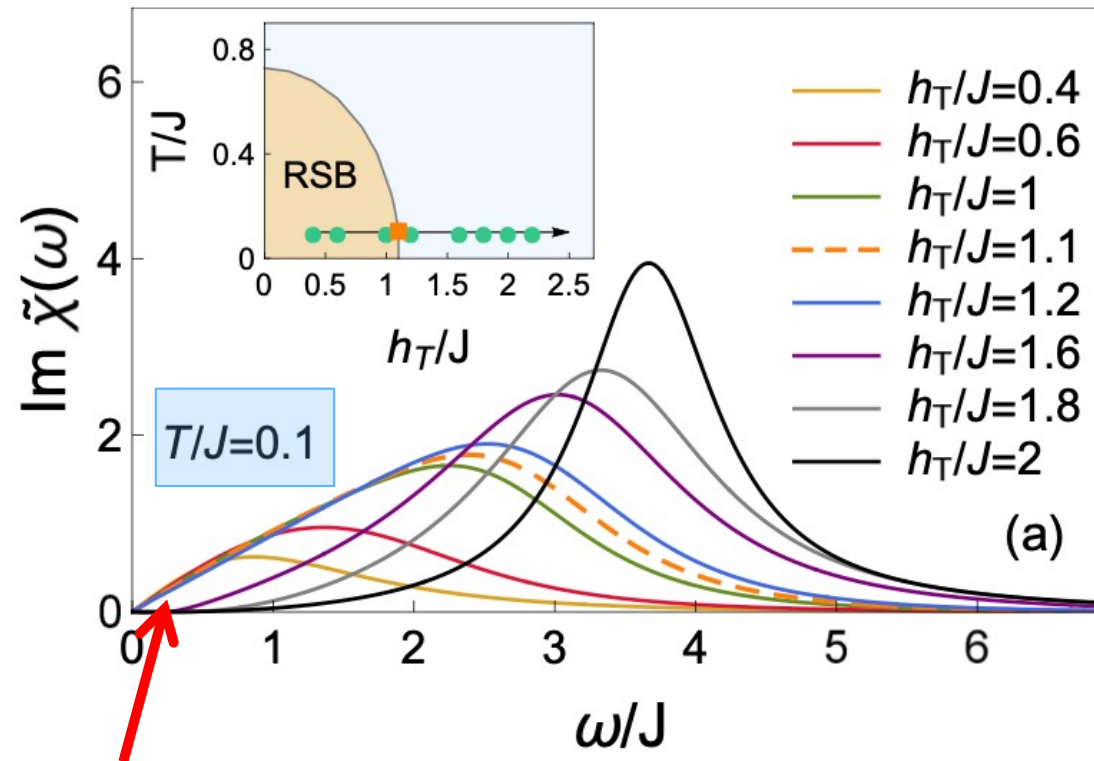


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# Quantum Ising spin glass: spectral function, soft modes

A. Kiss, G.Zarand, I. Lovas, *PRB* 109, 024431 ('24)

Solution combining RSB and DMFT



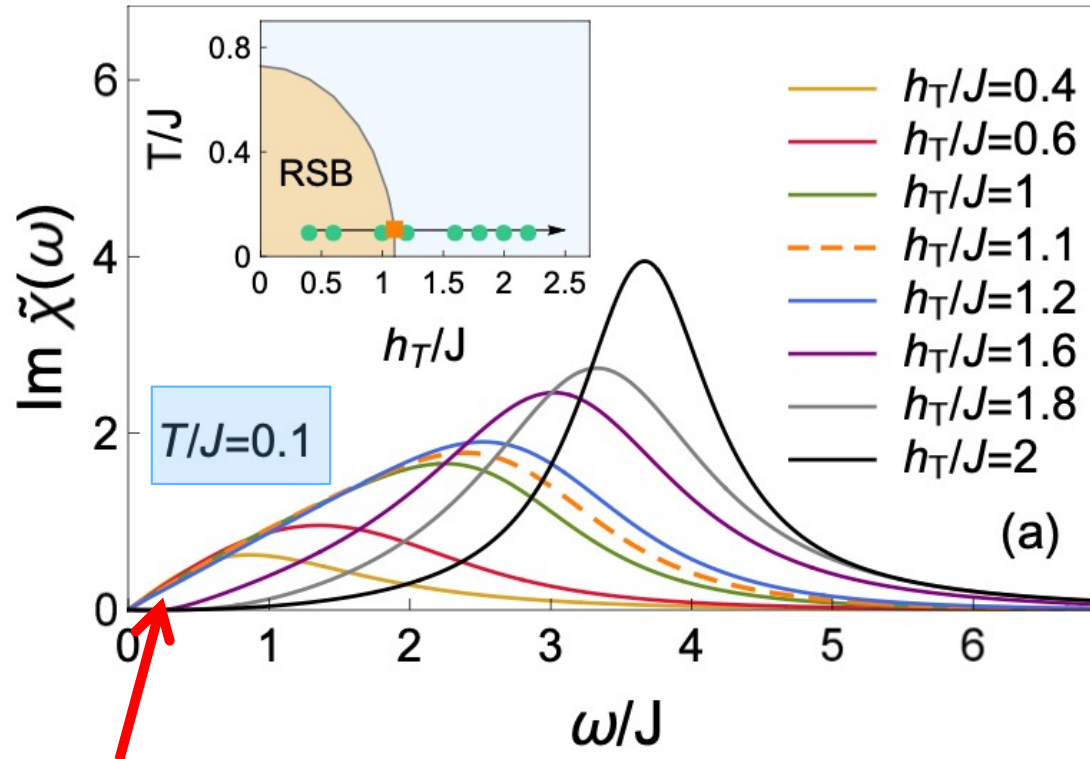
- Spectral function independent of small  $h_T \equiv \Gamma$



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Solution combining RSB and DMFT



- Spectral function independent of small  $h_T \equiv \Gamma$
- Paramagnet  $h_T > h_c$ : gap!
- Glass phase : marginal  $\rightarrow$  everywhere gapless

Substantial spectral transfer to low  $\omega$

# Quantum spin glasses: Heisenberg vs Ising


$$H_{\text{Hb}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad H_{\text{Ising}} = -\Gamma \sum_i s_i^x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} s_i^z s_j^z$$

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$$\chi''_{\text{Hb}}(\omega) \approx 3.5 \frac{\omega}{J^2}$$

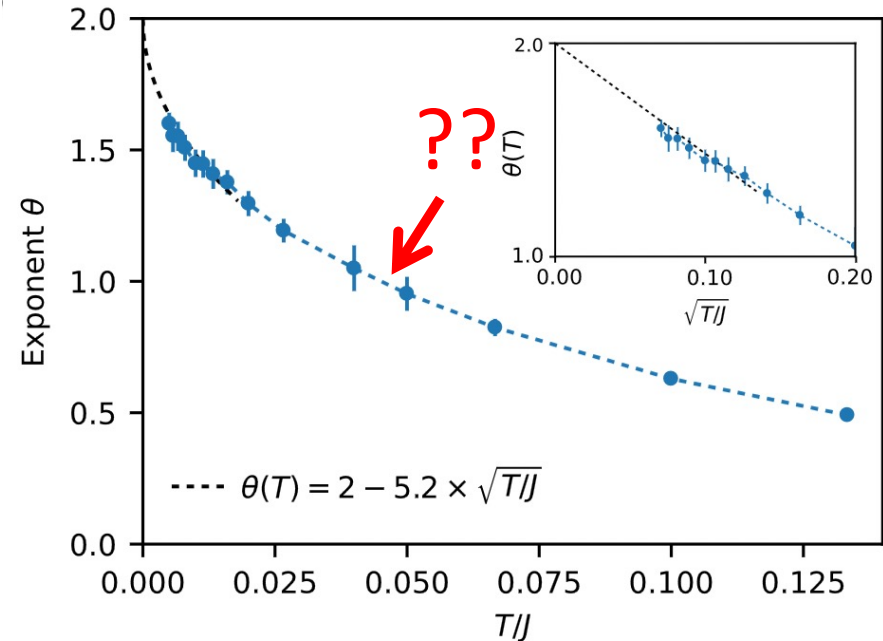
$$\chi''_{\text{Ising}}(\omega) \approx 0.5 \frac{\omega}{J^2}$$

The Heisenberg glass is significantly softer than an Ising glass at equal couplings  $J_{ij}$

## Slow T-dependence of dynamics?

$$\chi(\tau) \approx \chi(\beta/2) \left( \frac{1}{\sin(\pi\tau/\beta)} \right)^{\theta(T)}$$


- Mode coupling and dissipation??
- Effective friction induced by finite mode occupation??



Very slow creep toward  $\theta_{T=0} = 2$

Similar as in the *quantum Ising (SK) mean field glass!*

## Melting the quantum spin glass at $T = 0$ ?

A solid grey square is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the text area.

SYK's marginal Fermi liquid from  
comes back -  
but via a different mechanism

# Melting the quantum spin glass: doping

Doped Mott insulator:  $p = \langle n_{\uparrow} + n_{\downarrow} \rangle - 1$

$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_{ij, \sigma=\uparrow, \downarrow} t_{ij} c_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{j\sigma} + U \sum_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow} - \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

$$n_{i\sigma} = c_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{i\sigma}$$

$$\mathbf{S}_i^a = c_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} \sigma_{\sigma\sigma'}^a c_{i\sigma'}$$

Explicit spin-spin interaction  
added (on top of exchange)

$$: U = 4t \text{ and } J = 0.5t.$$

Solve again with selfconsistent mean field method + RSB.

Previous work in the *paramagnet*: non Fermi liquid,  
Planckian relaxation and  $\theta \approx 1$  close to Q-glass transition!

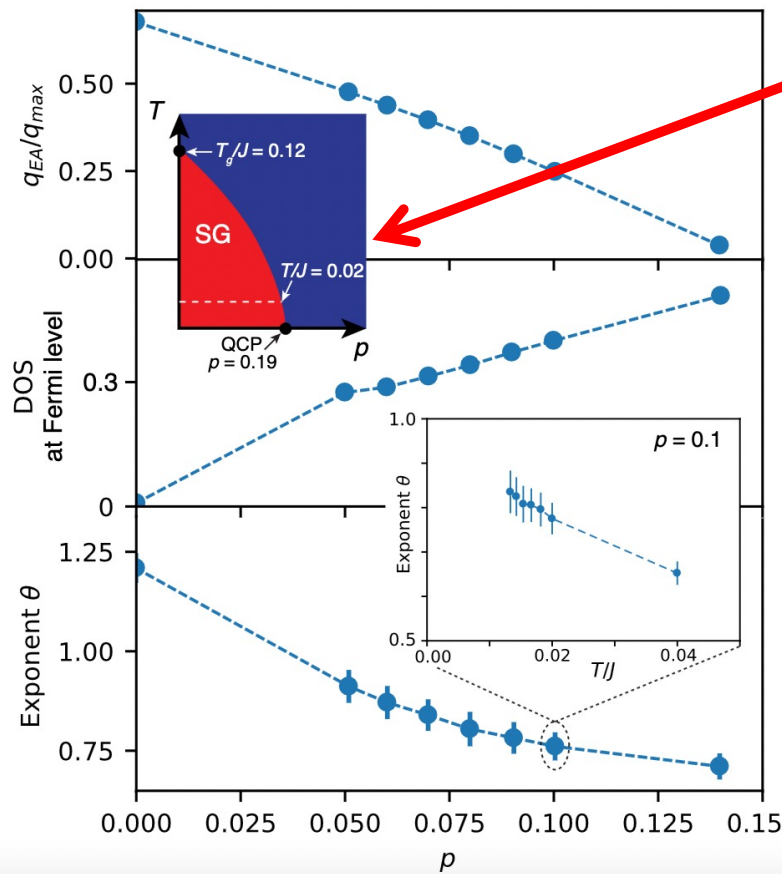
*Dumitrescu, Wentzell, Georges, Parcollet PRB '22*



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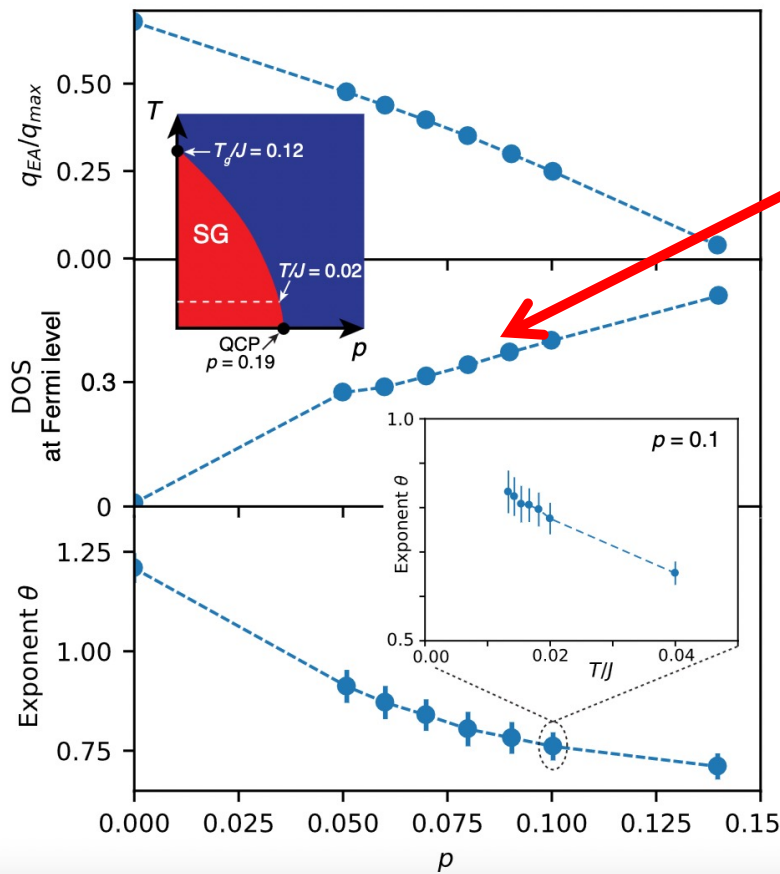
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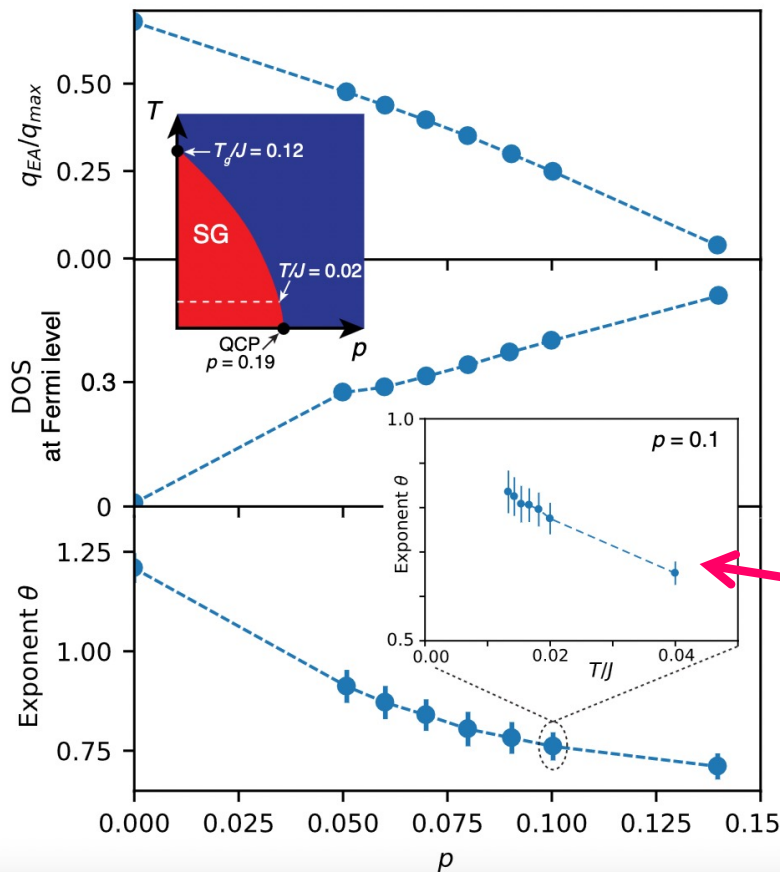
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# Melting the quantum spin glass: doping

Doped Mott insulator:  $p = \langle n_{\uparrow} + n_{\downarrow} \rangle - 1$

$$\mathcal{H} = - \sum_{ij, \sigma=\uparrow, \downarrow} t_{ij} c_{i\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{j\sigma} + U \sum_i n_{i\uparrow} n_{i\downarrow} - \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

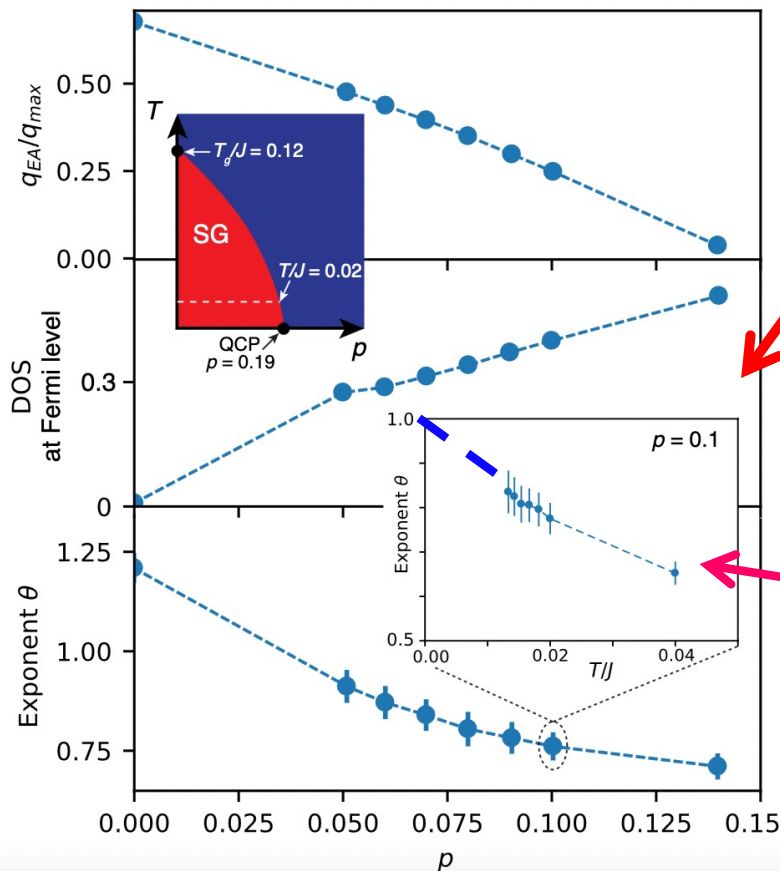


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- **Instead, we find  $\theta \leq 1$ !**

**Yet slower dynamics!**  $\theta(T \rightarrow 0) \rightarrow 1?$

$\rightarrow$  Non-Ohmic friction from a non-Fermi liquid ??

## Self-consistent super-Ohmic bath of oscillators

*MM, unpublished*

Conjectured scenario for entire metallic glass phase:

Could spin waves constitute a dissipative bath for themselves?

Effective friction of bath of oscillators on given oscillator (coupling prop. to doping  $p$  [?])

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Mode density

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$$\rightarrow \theta_{\text{met.gl}} = 1!$$

= marginal Fermi liquid exponent,  
robust in entire metallic glass phase!

Already at mean field level open questions remain:

- origin of finite T spectral function, creeping of  $\theta(T)$
- verification of self-consistently overdamped oscillators

Even more so in real space:

Collective spin waves:

- Spectral density and spatial structure
- Effect on conductivity ( $R(T)$  linear in T?)

...



## Summary

- Solution of MF Heisenberg glass: high precision RSB + CT-QMC
- Rougher landscape than Ising glasses: vector spins feature large avalanches upon perturbation
- Dynamics and  $C_V$  evolve slowly (with  $T \rightarrow 0$ ) to super-universal independent random spin waves
- Doping toward quantum melting: unexpectedly slow dynamics; fermions become non-Fermi liquid

