

# Dynamics in Quantum Systems - Metrology and Time Crystals

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**Universidade Federal Fluminense**

# Outline

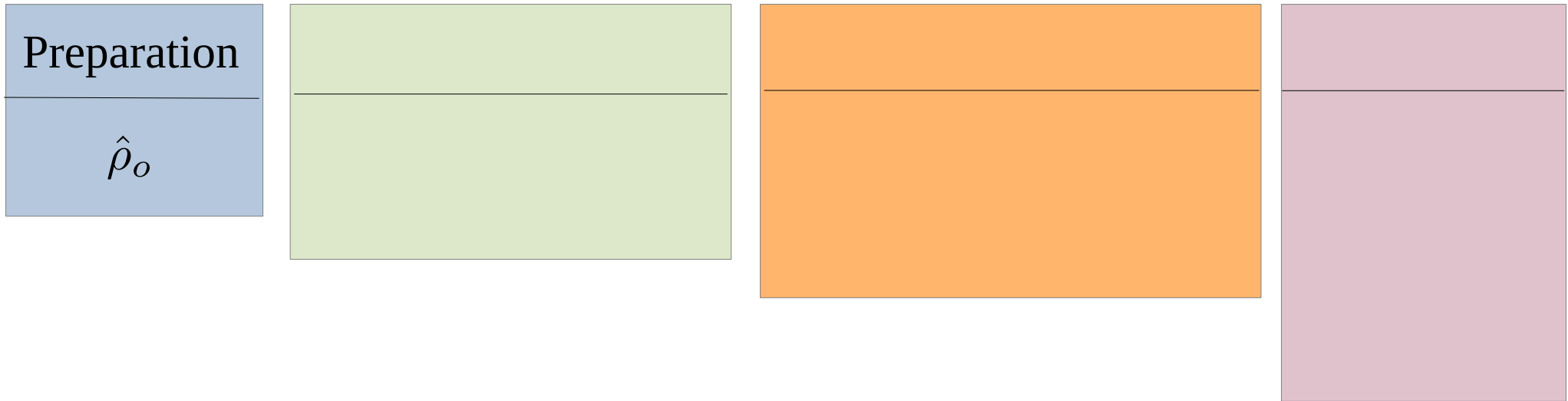
- Metrology;
- Sensing with Time Crystals;

# Metrology

**Goal:** estimate a physical quantity - electric/magnetic fields, frequencies, temperature...

basic steps: use a sensor (quantum system) to interact with the physical signal, and then read out the sensor and estimate it.

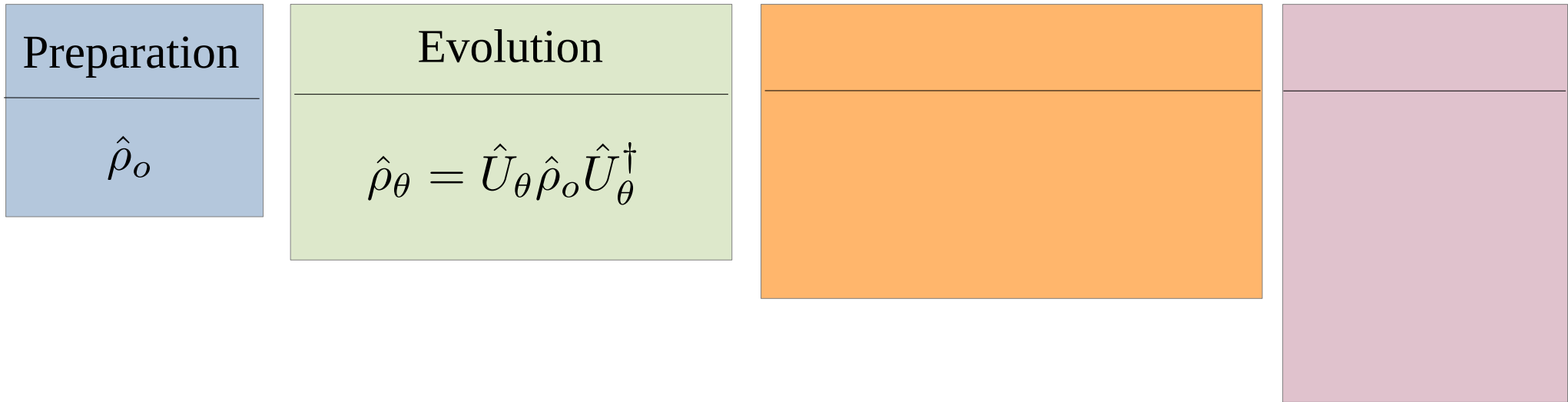
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# Metrology

Preparation

$$\hat{\rho}_o$$

Evolution

$$\hat{\rho}_\theta = \hat{U}_\theta \hat{\rho}_o \hat{U}_\theta^\dagger$$

Measurements

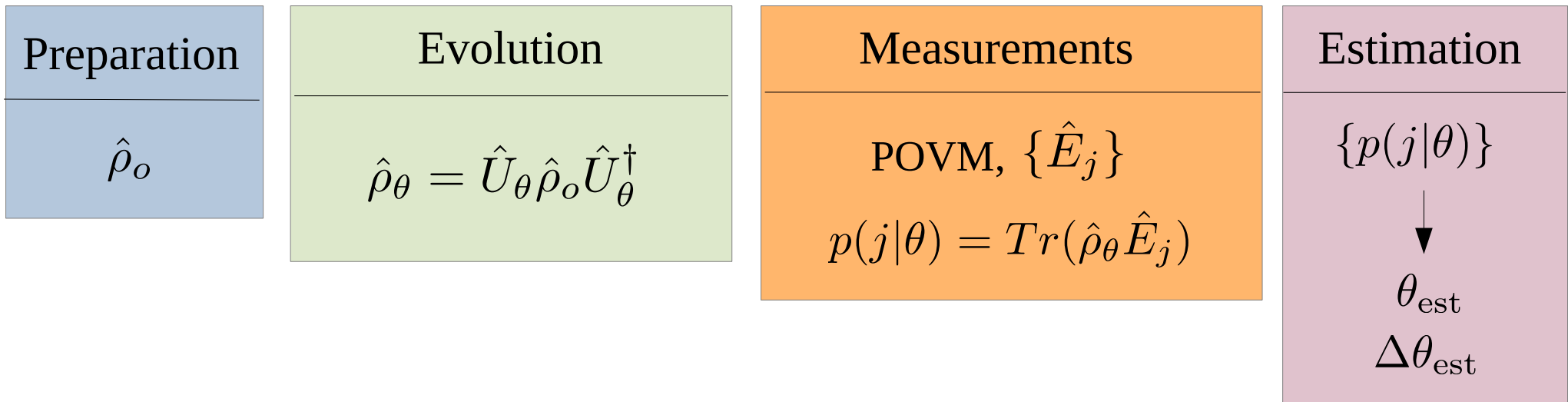
POVM,  $\{\hat{E}_j\}$

$$p(j|\theta) = \text{Tr}(\hat{\rho}_\theta \hat{E}_j)$$

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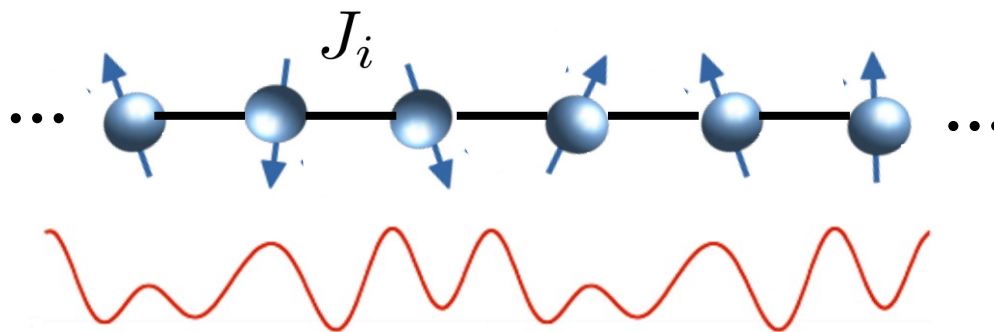


# Floquet time-crystals

[Dominic V. Else, Bela Bauer, and Chetan Nayak, PRL 117, 090402 (2016)]

Combining **Floquet dynamics** + **MBL** (many-body localization) can support a **DTC**:

$$\hat{H}(t) = \hat{H}_{MBL} + \hat{X} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \delta(t - nT)$$



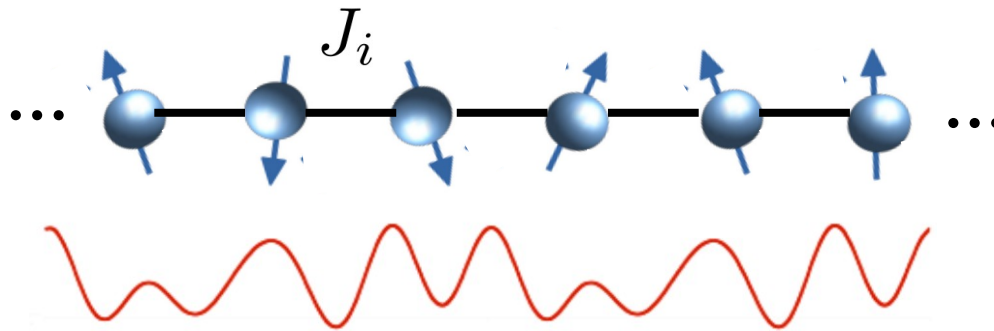
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$$\hat{X} = \phi \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\sigma}_i^x / 2 \quad (\text{global spin flip})$$
$$\phi \sim \pi$$



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- Floquet evolution:

$$|\psi(nT)\rangle = \left( e^{-i\hat{X}} e^{-i\hat{H}_{MBL}T} \right)^n |\psi(0)\rangle$$

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$$\phi = \pi : e^{-i\hat{X}} = \prod_{i=1}^N \hat{\sigma}_i^x$$

$$|\psi(0)\rangle = |\uparrow\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow\dots\rangle$$

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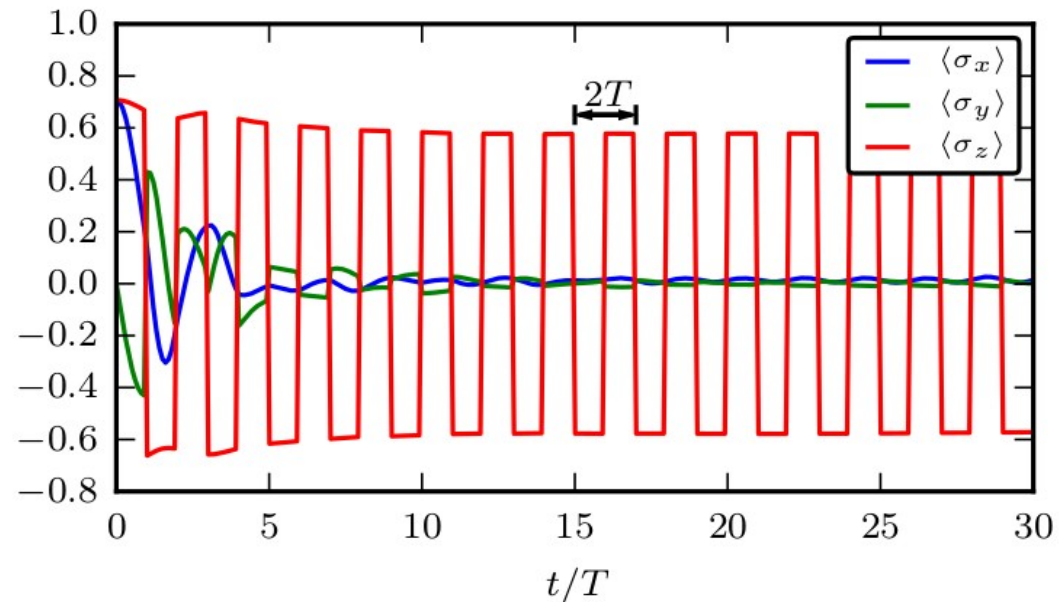
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*period doubling for magnetization*



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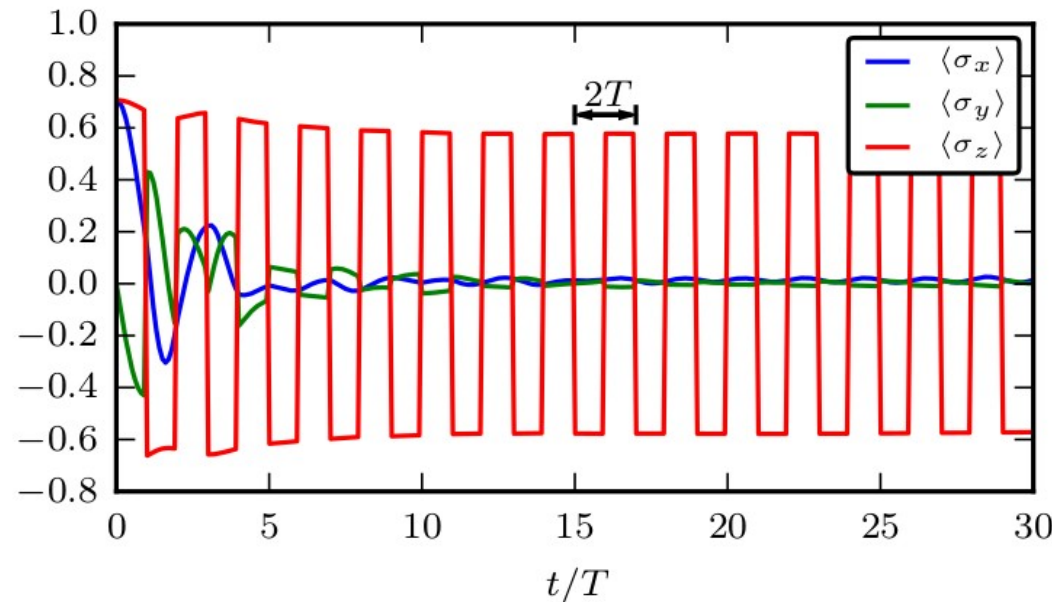
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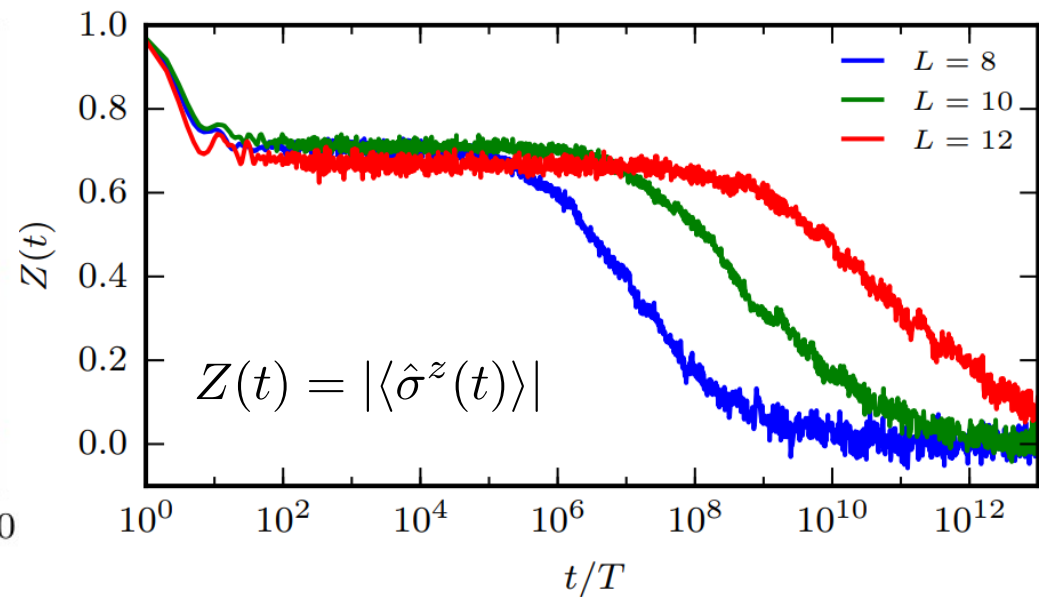
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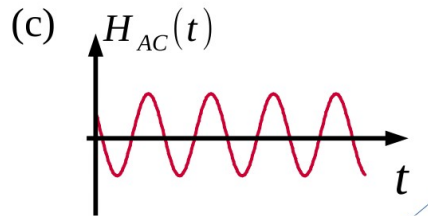
*period doubling for magnetization*



*persistence **only** in the thermodynamic limit*



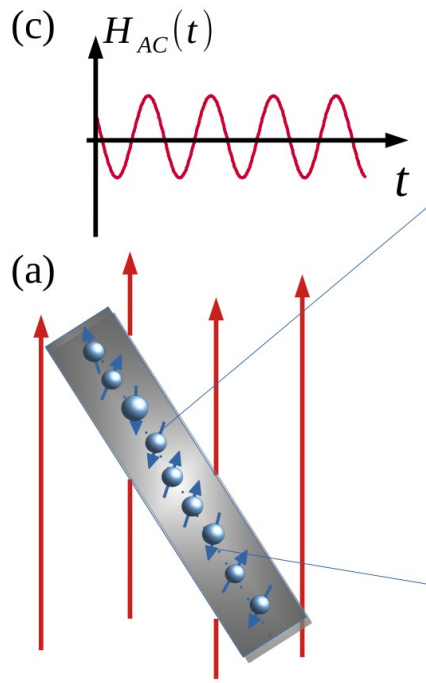
# Sensing AC fields



$$\hat{H}_{AC} = \hat{h}_{ac} \sin(\omega_{ac}t + \phi_{ac}) \hat{S}^z$$

???

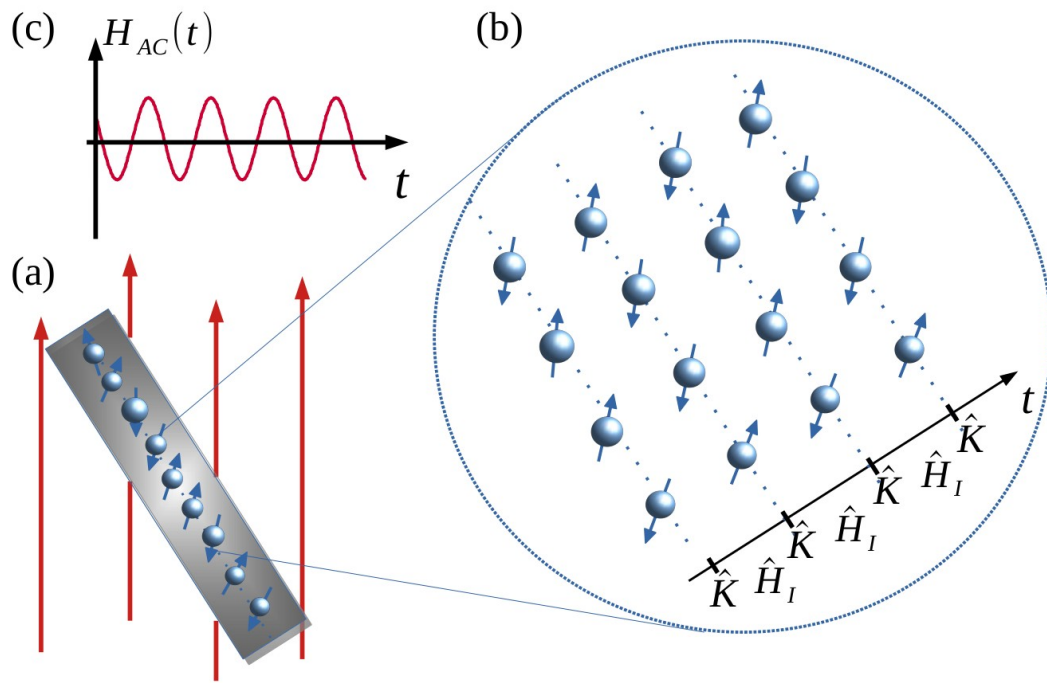
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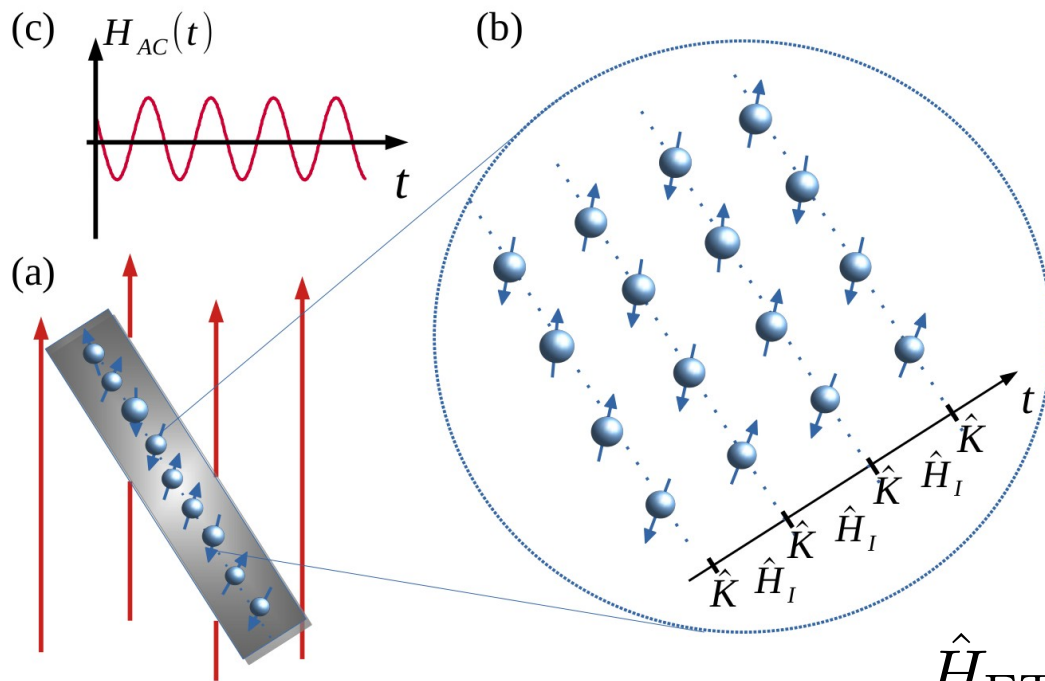
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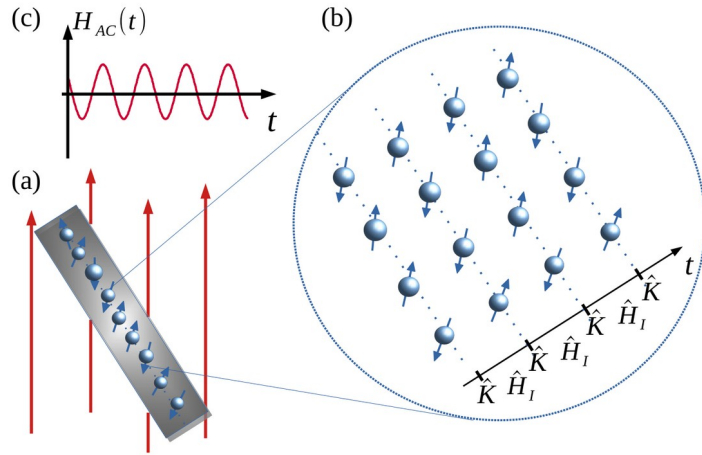
$$\hat{H}_{FTC}(t) = \hat{H}_{MBL} + \hat{X} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \delta(t - nT)$$

## FTC sensor

exploit long-range spatial and time ordering for enhanced metrological protocols.

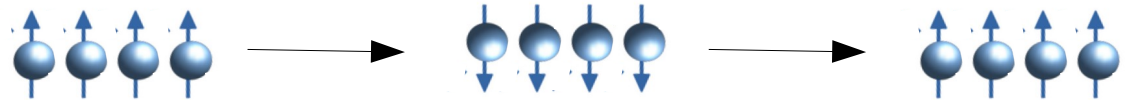
$$\hat{H}(t) = \hat{H}_{FTC}(t) + \hat{H}_{AC}(t)$$

# Sensing AC fields

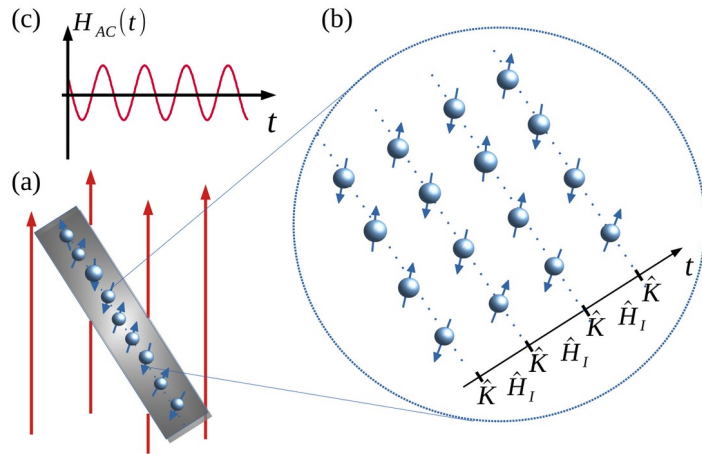


$$\hat{H}(t) = \hat{H}_{\text{FTC}}(t) + \hat{H}_{\text{AC}}(t)$$

Physical picture



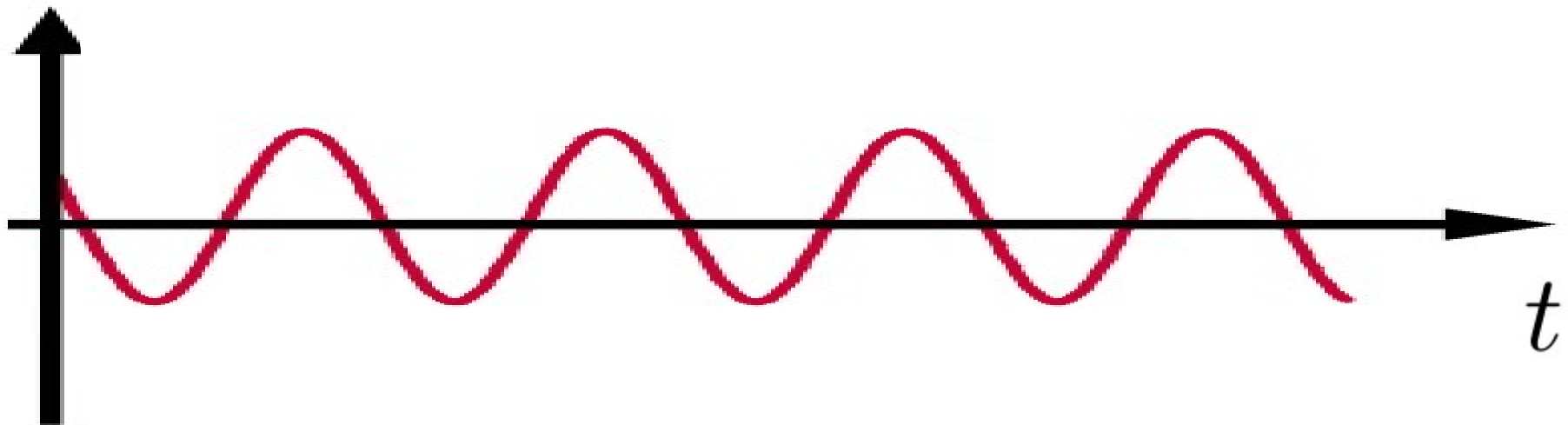
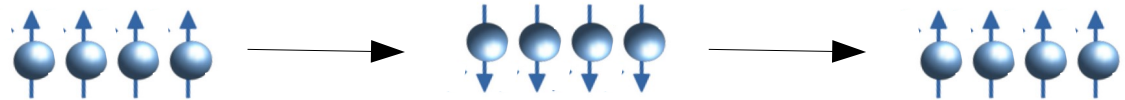
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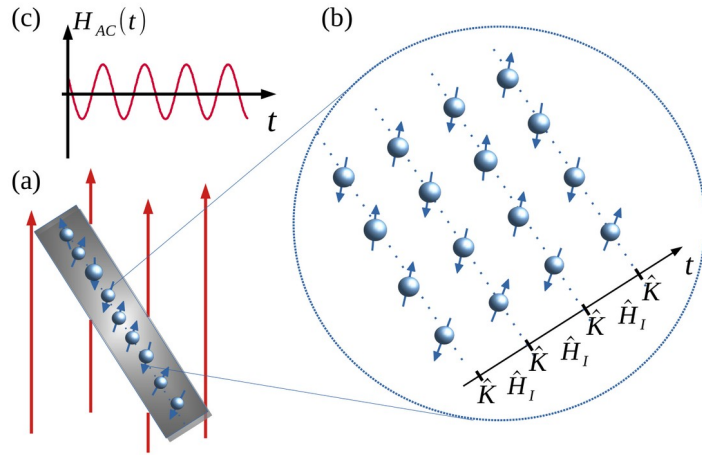
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Physical picture

$\hat{H}_{\text{AC}}(t)$

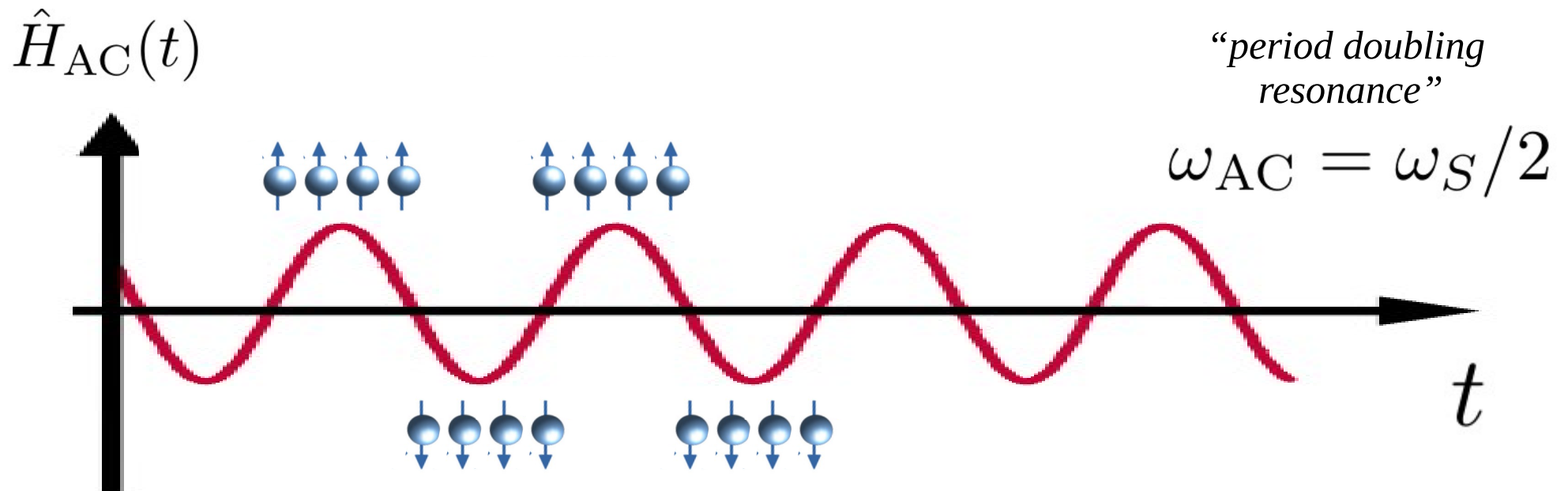


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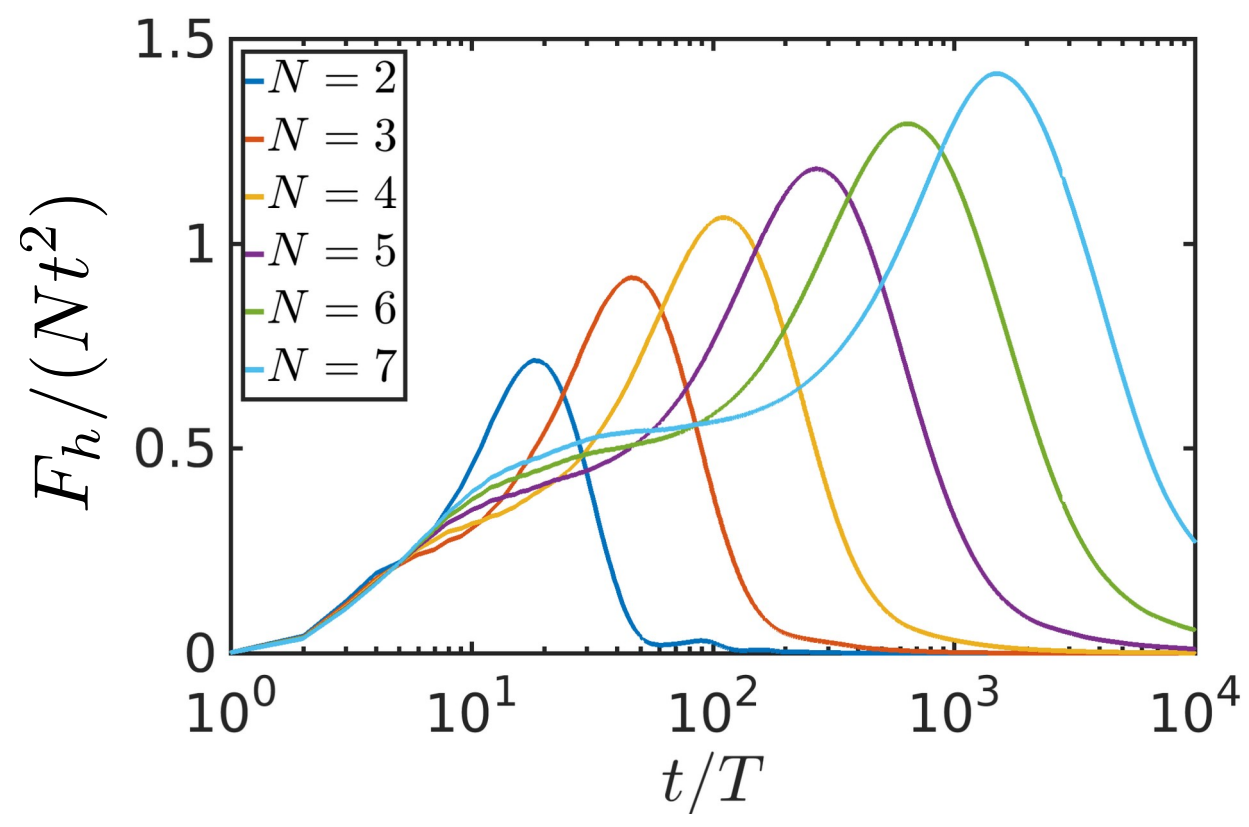


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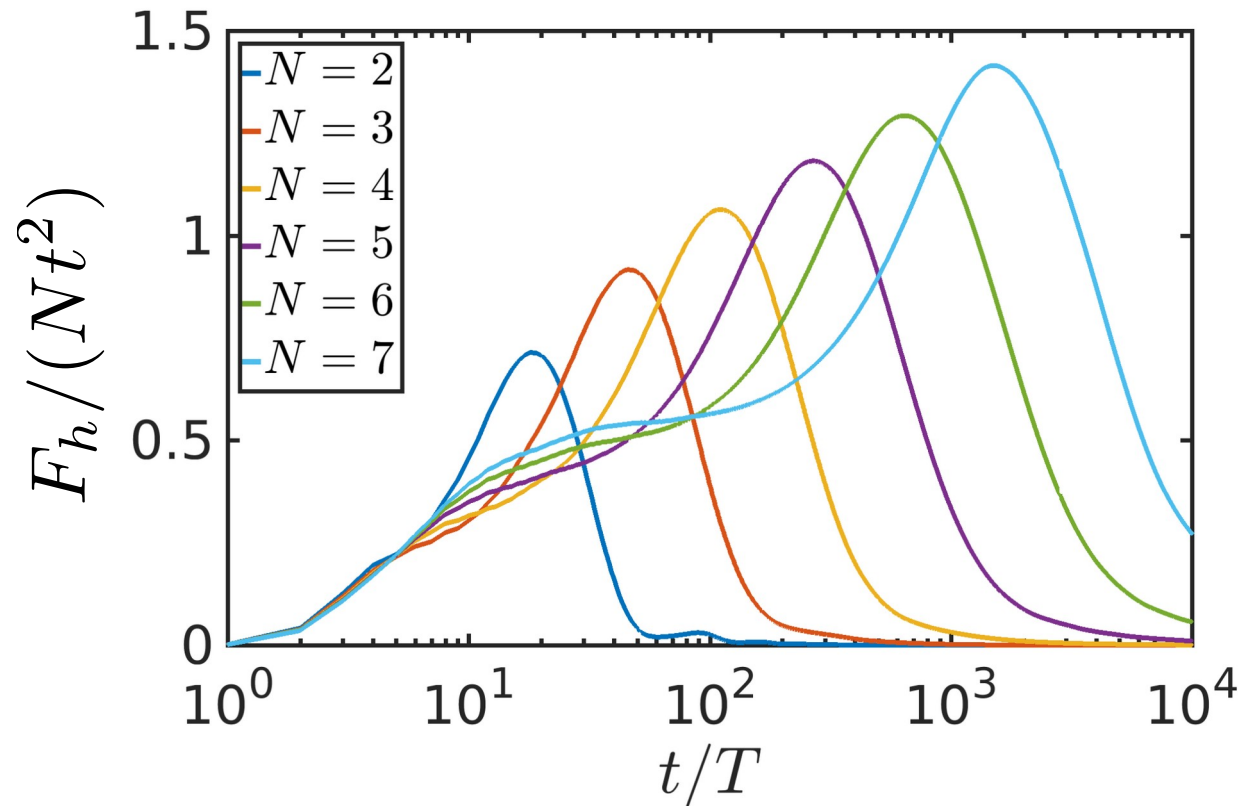
Physical picture



Sensor performance:  $\phi \neq \pi$ ,  $h_i^x \neq 0$ , (linear response  $h_{AC} \rightarrow 0$ ),  $\omega_{AC} = \omega_S/2$



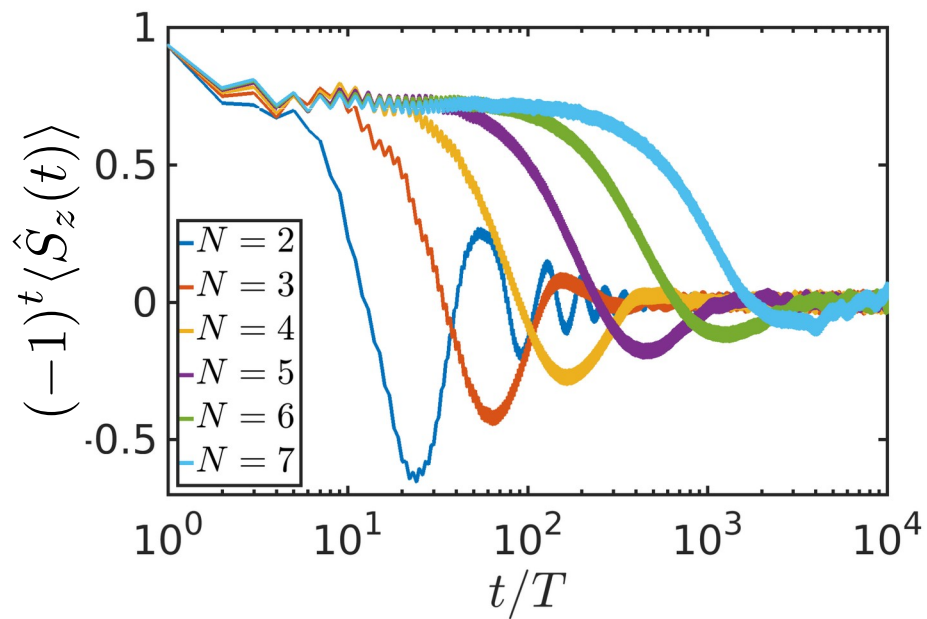
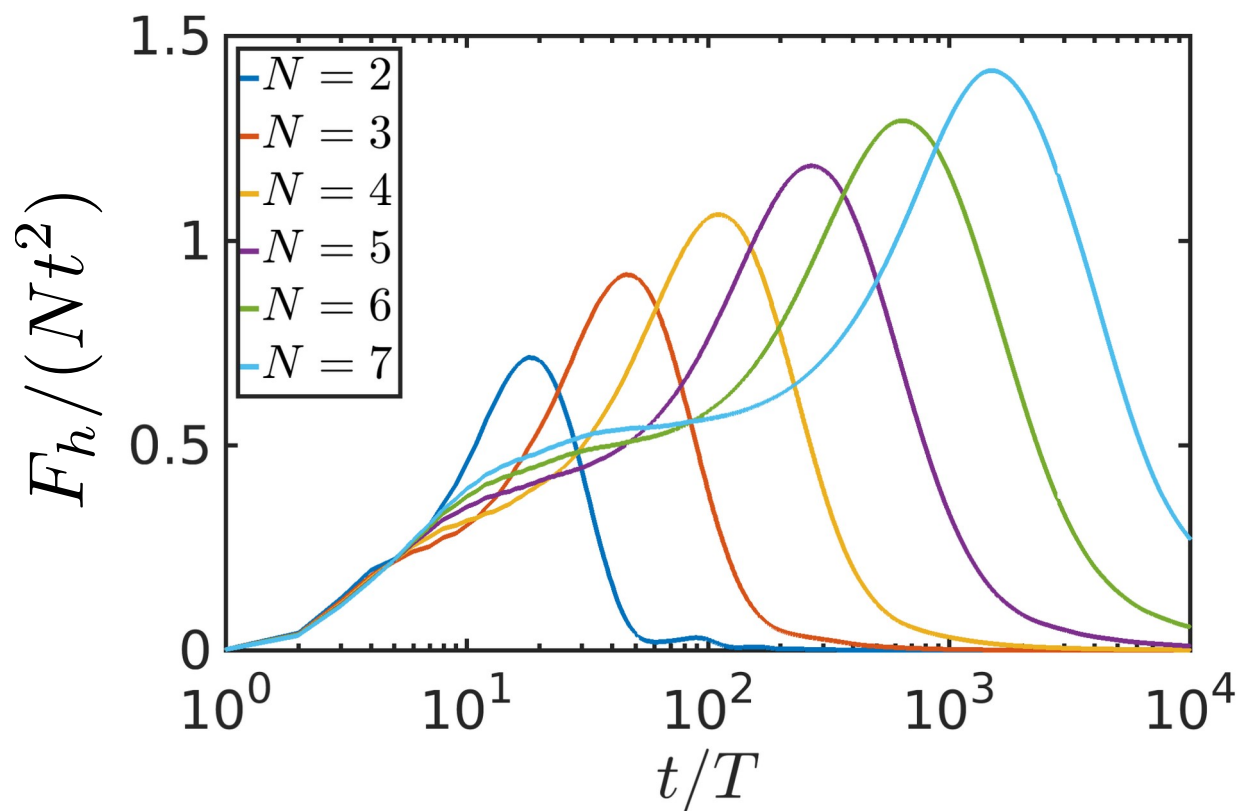
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- . saturates SQL for a plateau time;
- . beyond SQL for exponentially long time;
- . exponentially large sensing protocol,

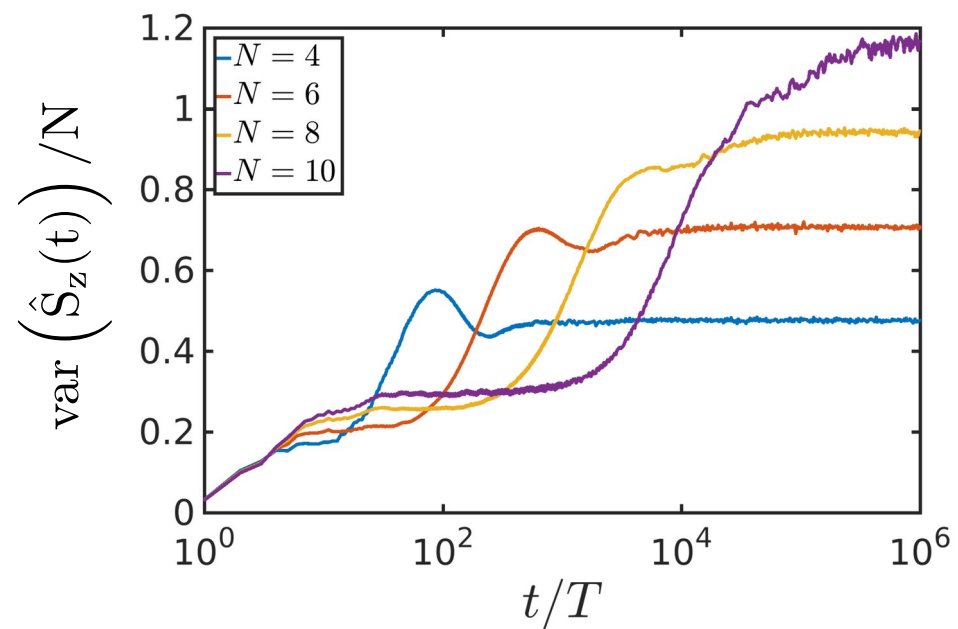
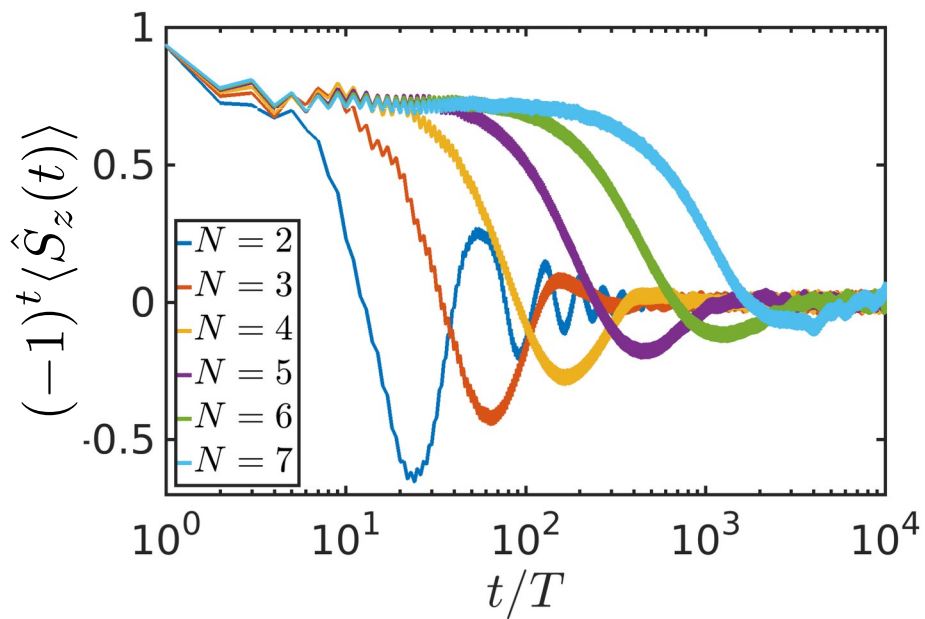
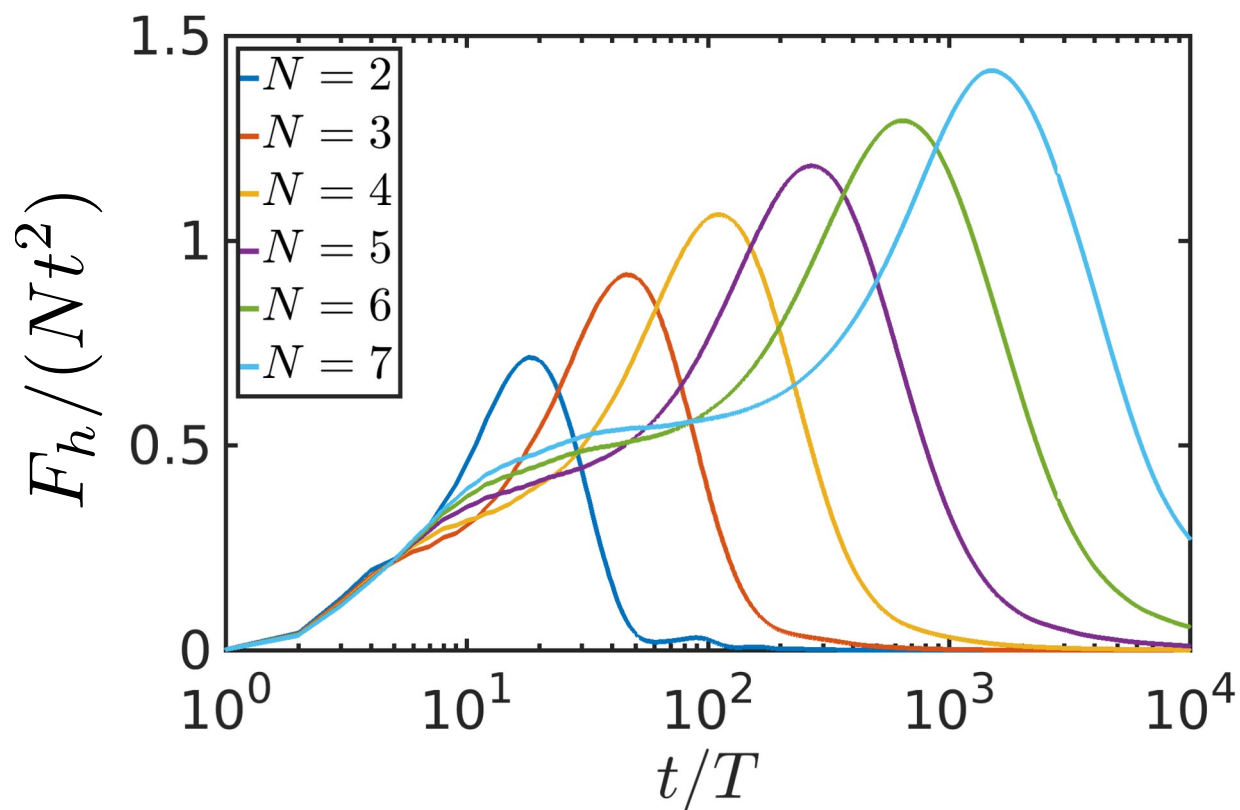
$$t^* \sim e^{\gamma N}$$

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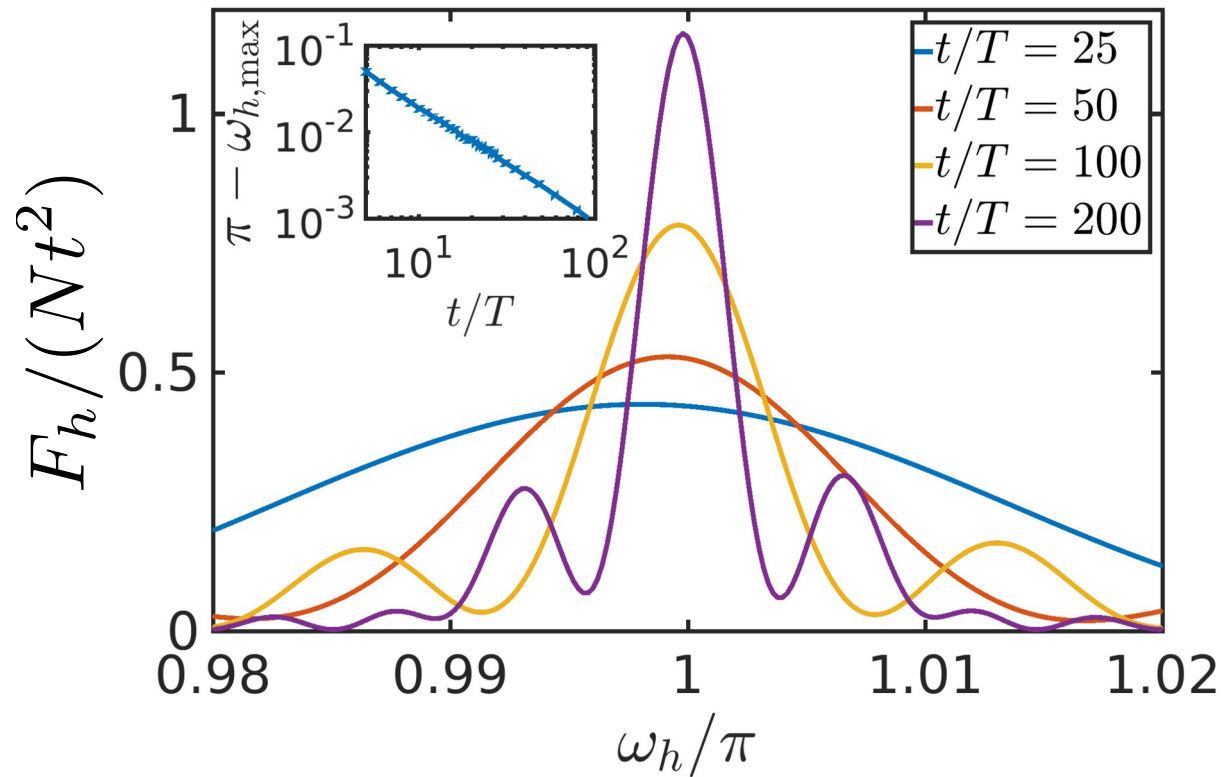




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. scanning frequency:



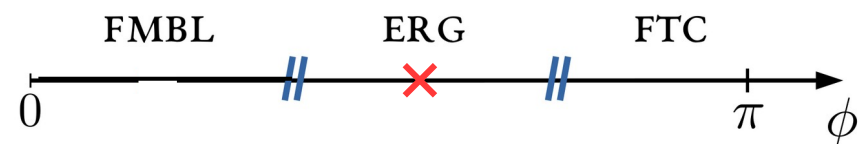
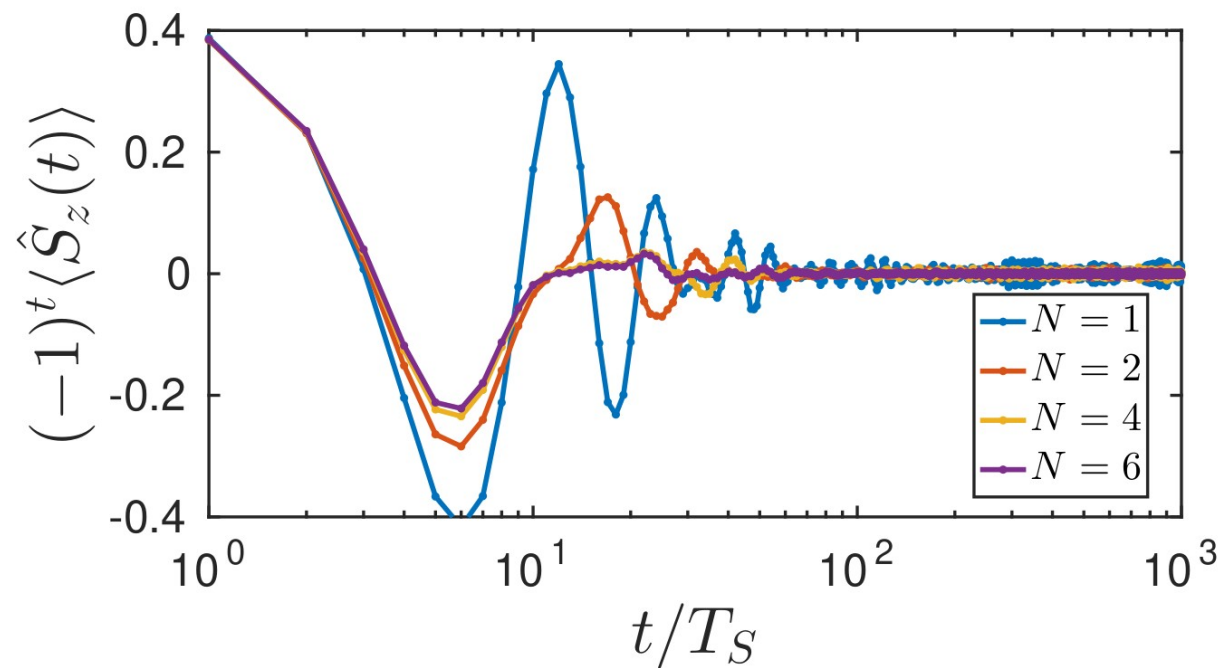
. structured response, robust to decoherence/noise;

. characteristic time scale:

$$t^* \sim |\omega - \pi|^{-1}$$

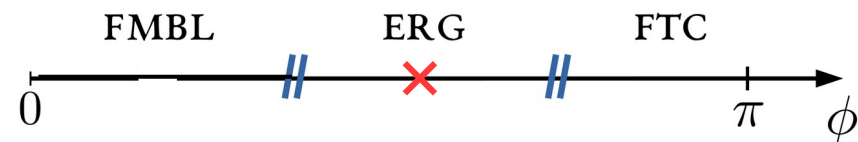
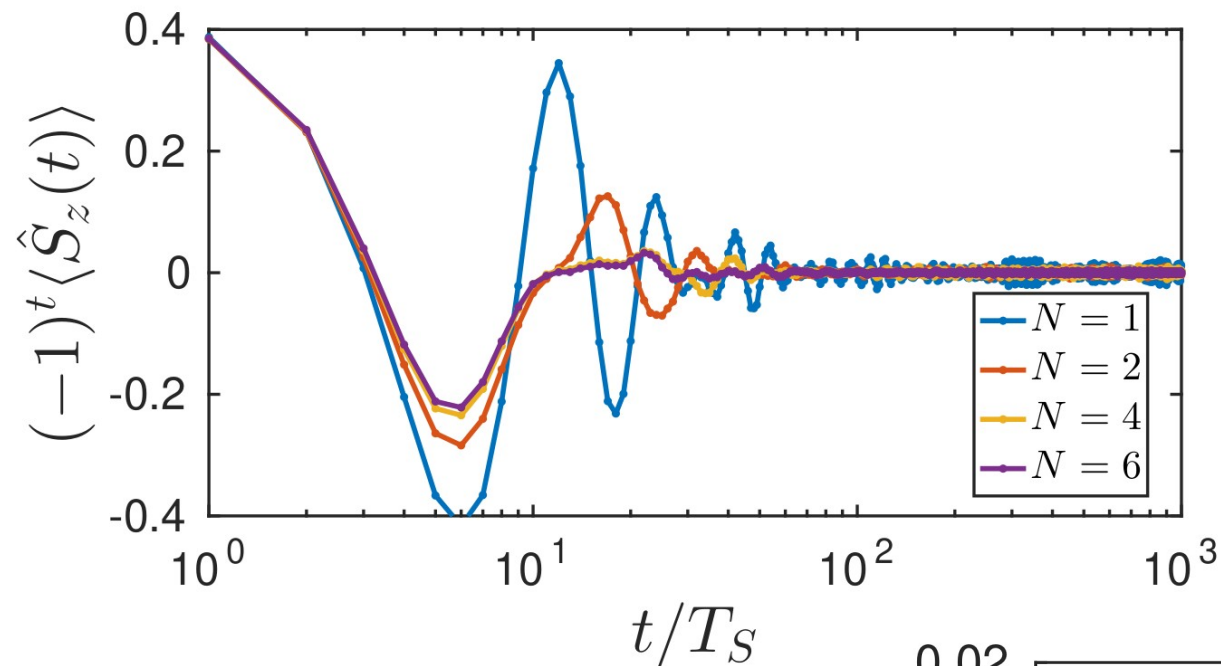
. dual role for the sensor.

# Ergodic Sensor



- fast thermalization time  $\sim O(T)$ ;

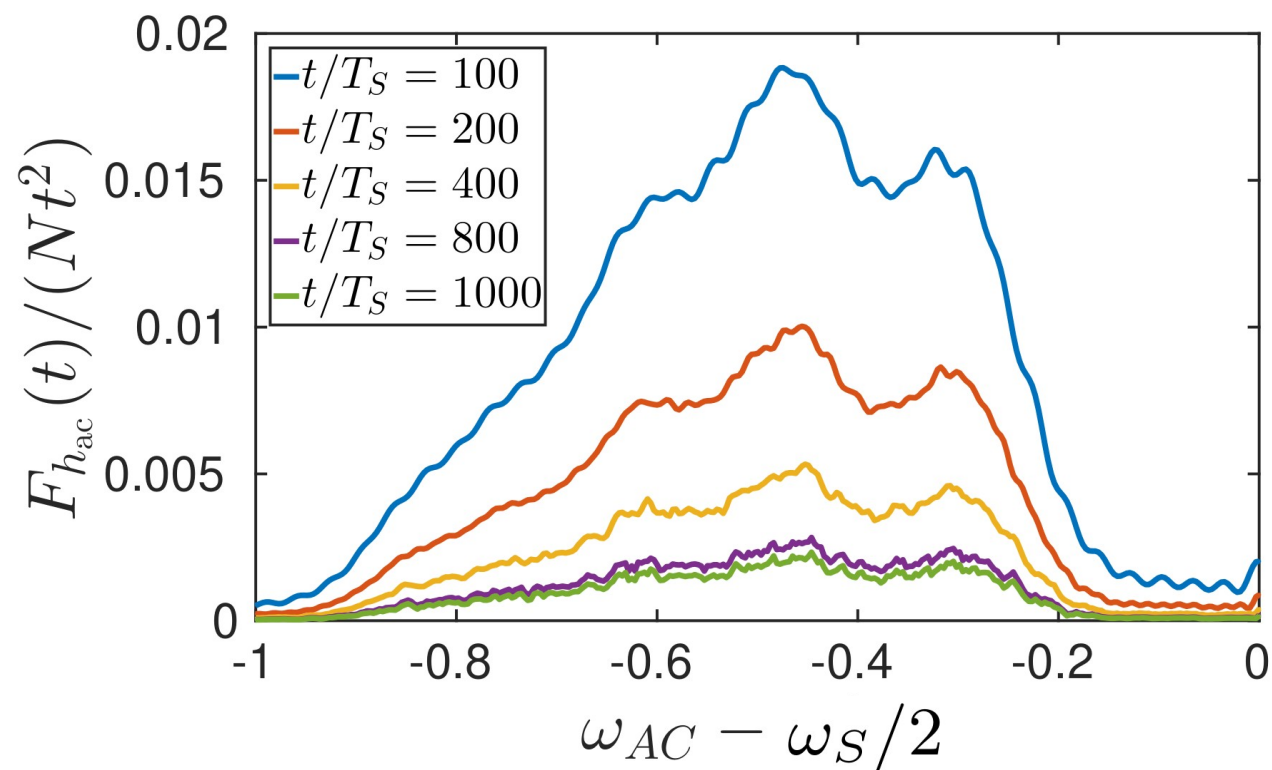
# Ergodic Sensor



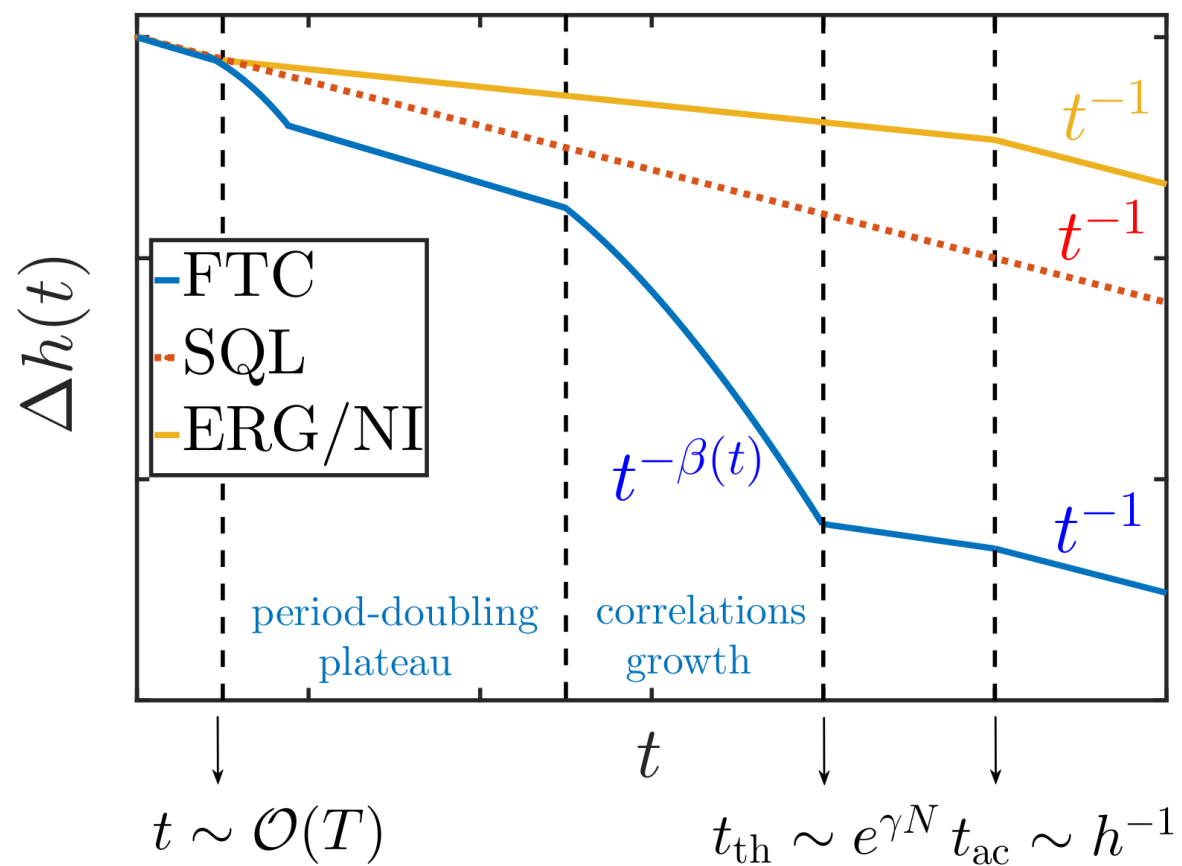
- fast thermalization time  $\sim O(T)$ ;

- noisy response;

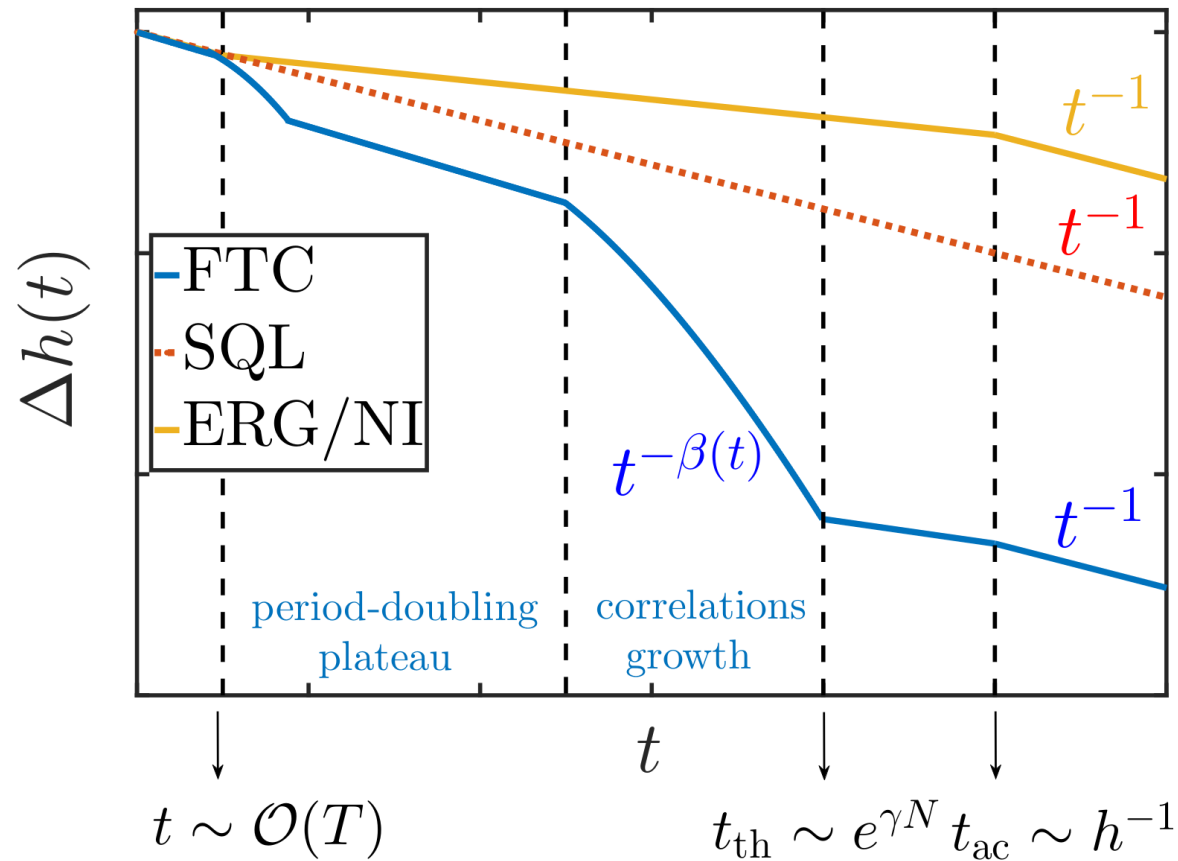
- below standard quantum limit (SQL);



# Summary



# Summary

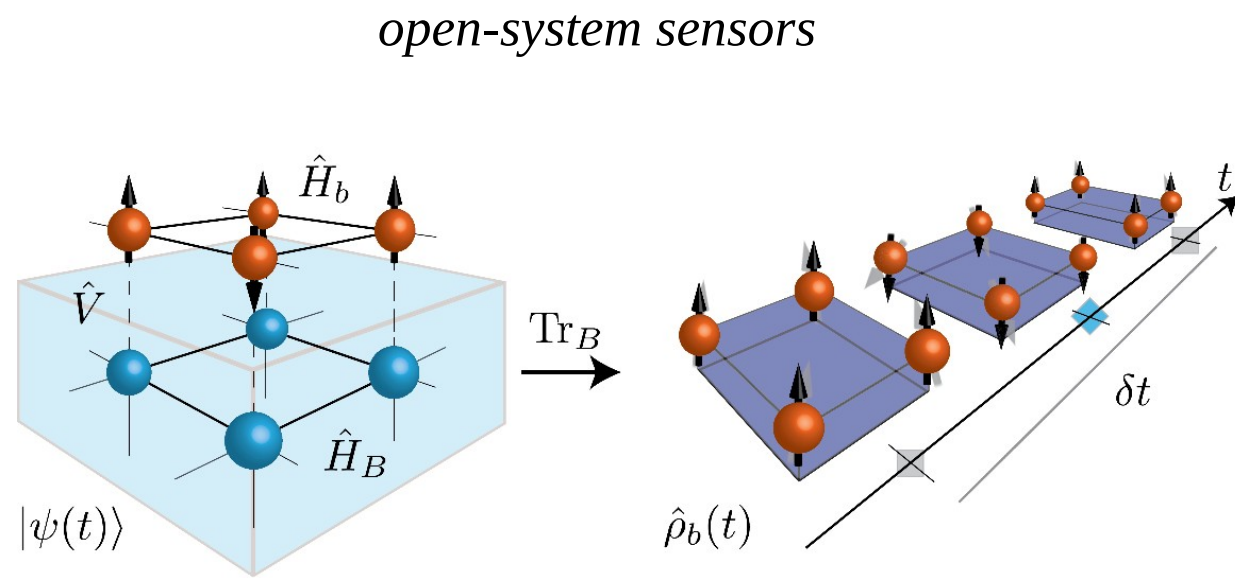


Floquet Time Crystal sensors offer several advantages:

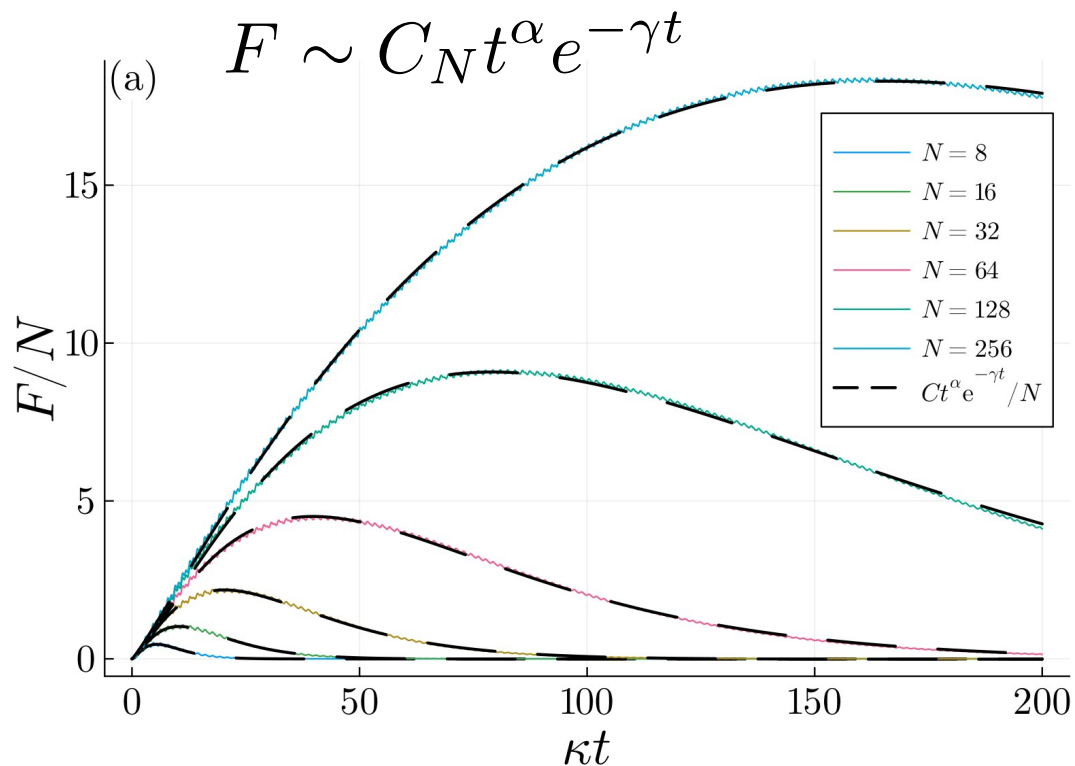
- **slow heating** – exponentially slow with system size  $N$
- useful quantum correlations - **overcome classical limit;**
- **robust** protocol.

# Boundary Time Crystal

Dominic Gribben, Anna Sanpera,  
Rosario Fazio, Jamir Marino,  
F. Iemini, arXiv:2406.06273  
(2024)

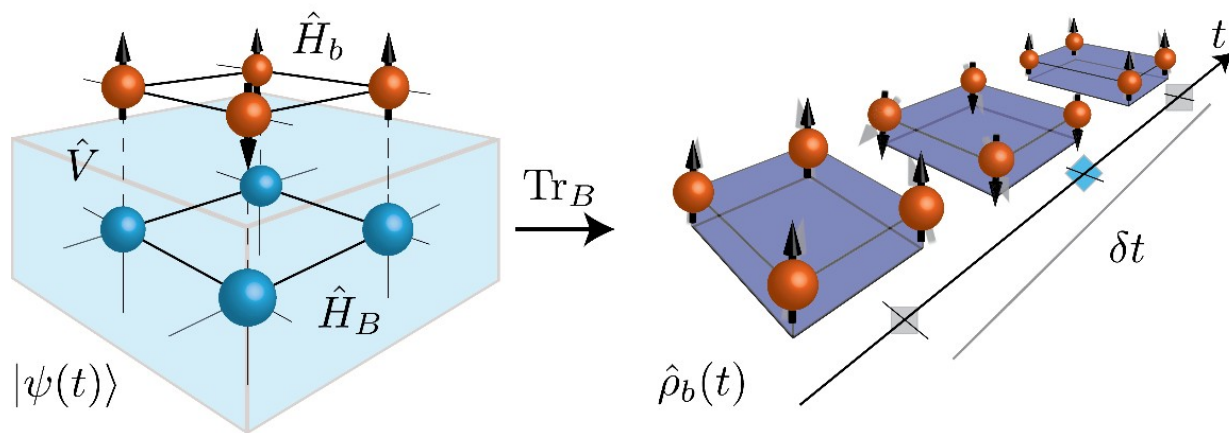


# Boundary Time Crystal



*BTC in **resonance** to the AC probing field*

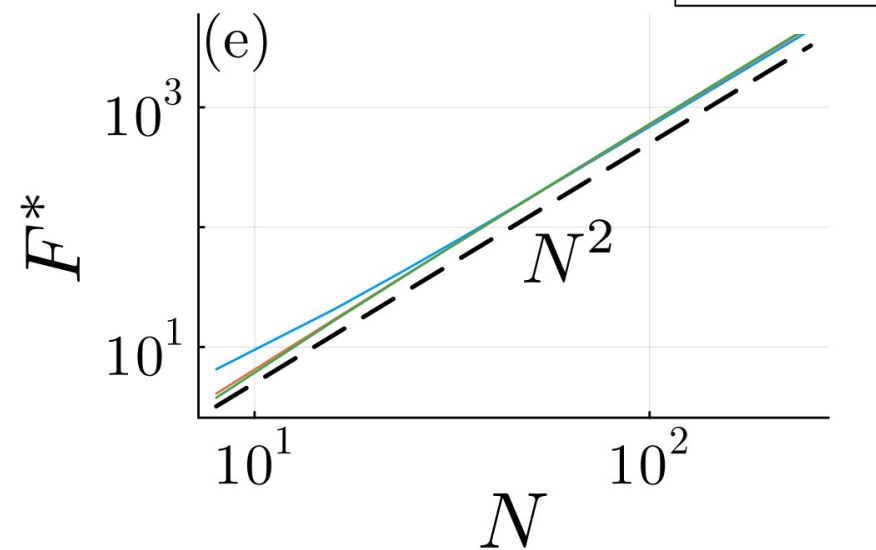
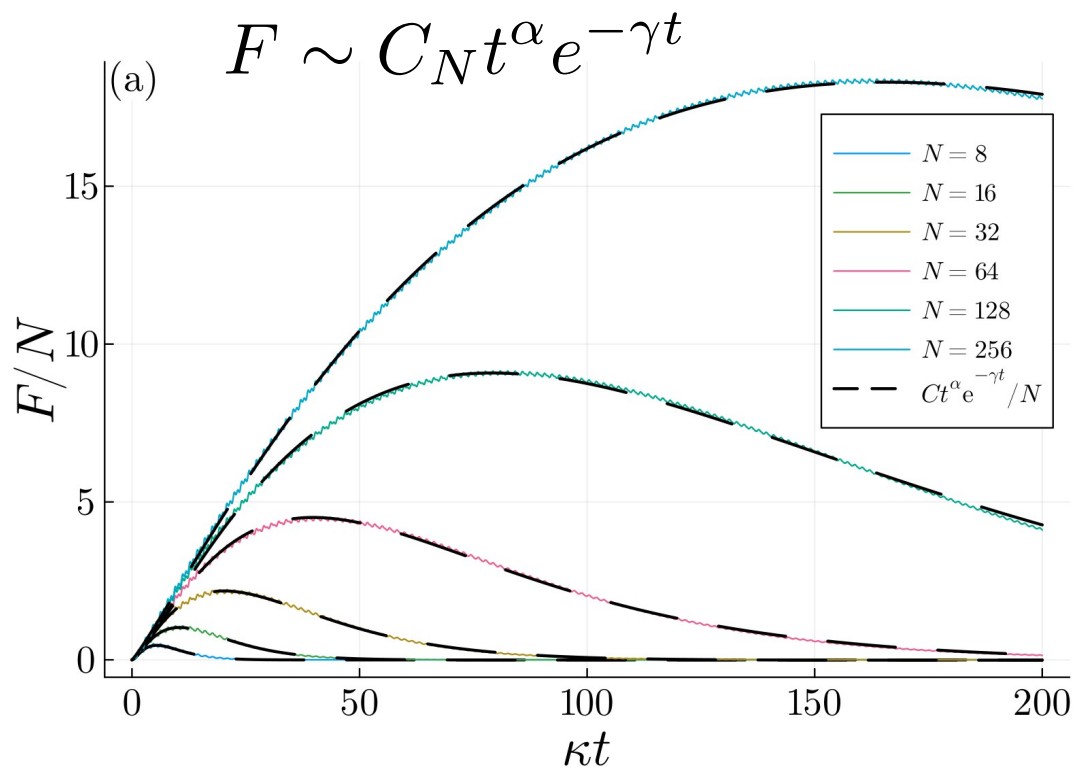
*open-system sensors*



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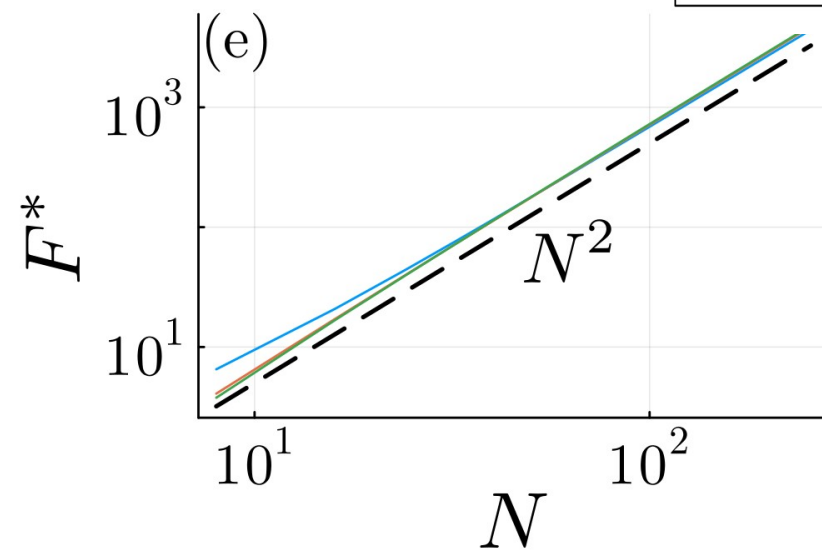
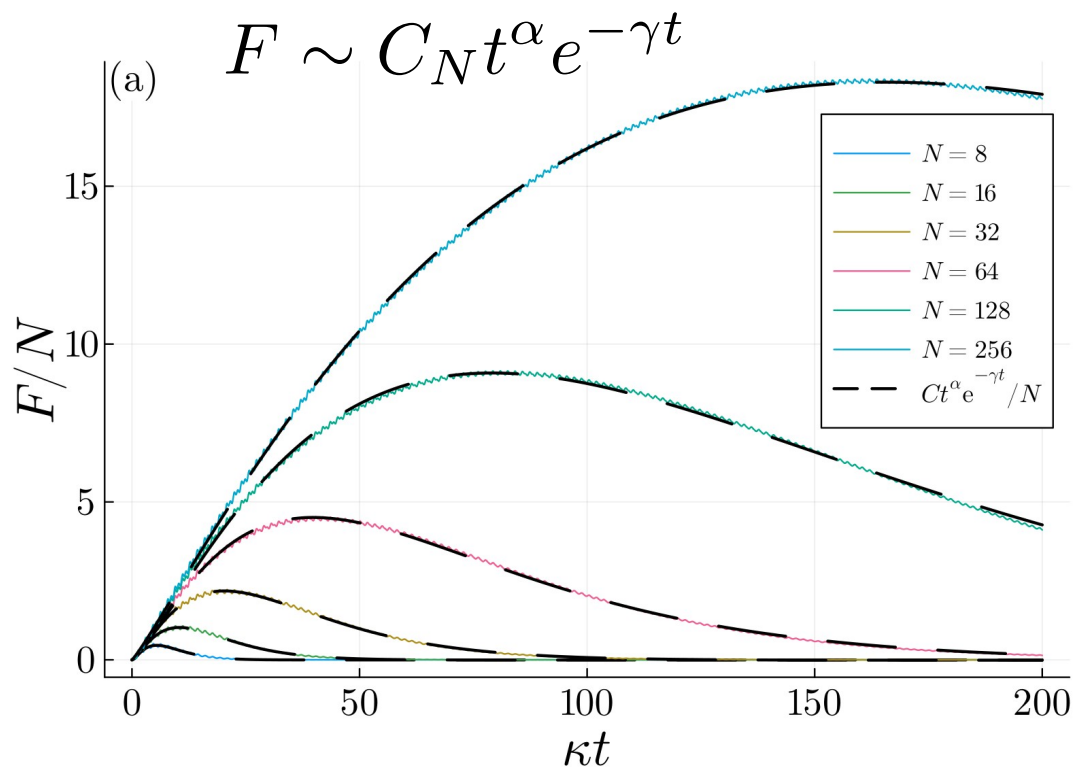


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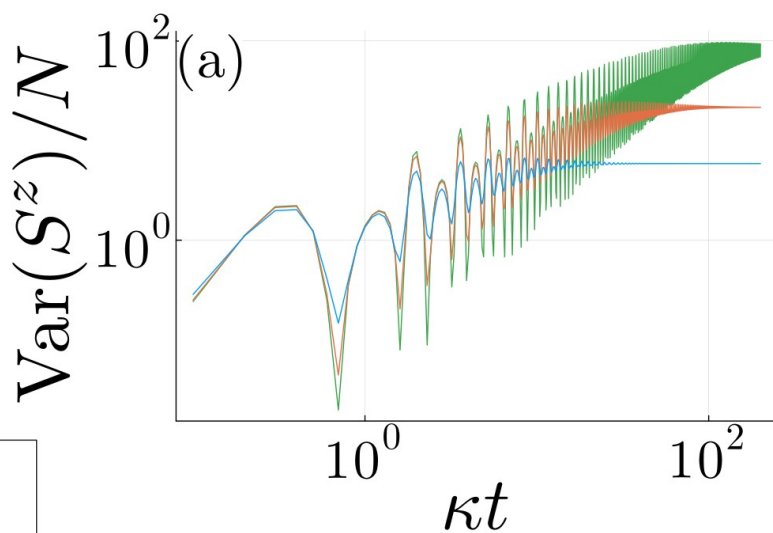


single-shot runs:  
collective enhancement

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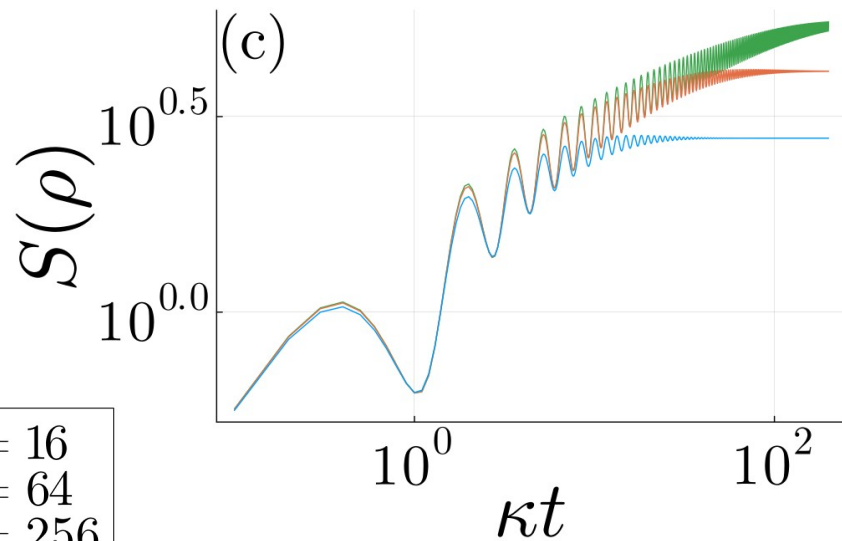
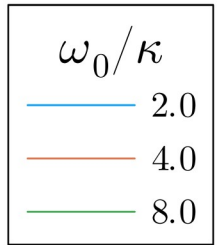
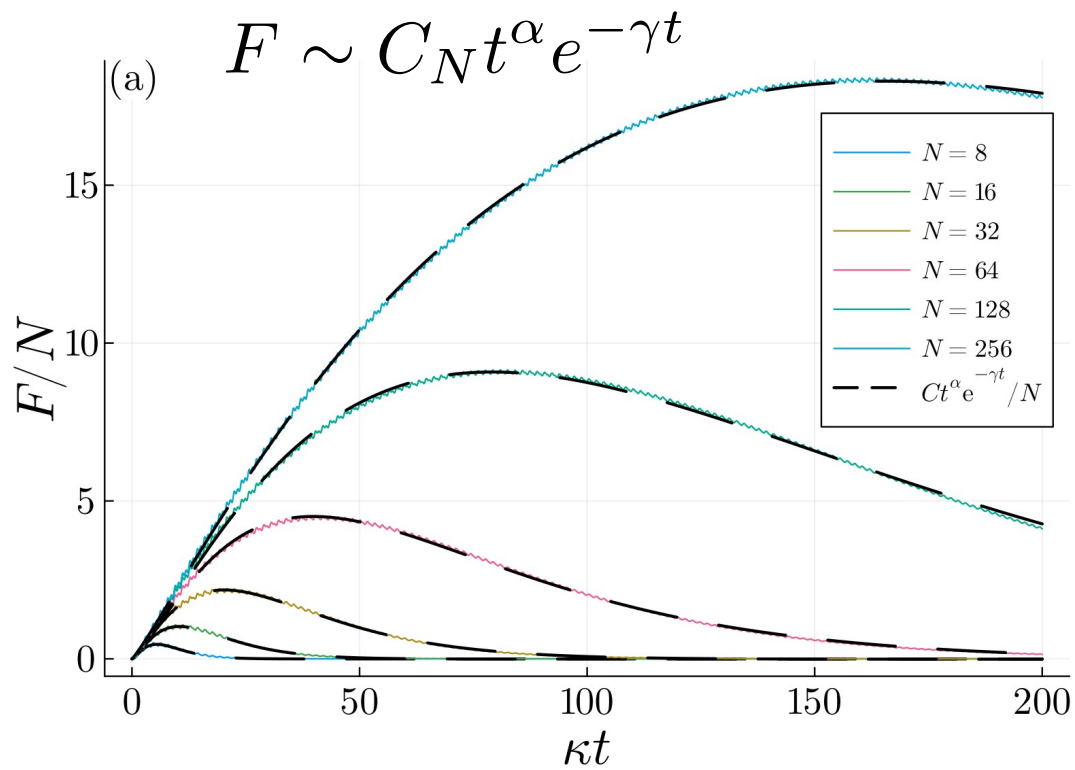


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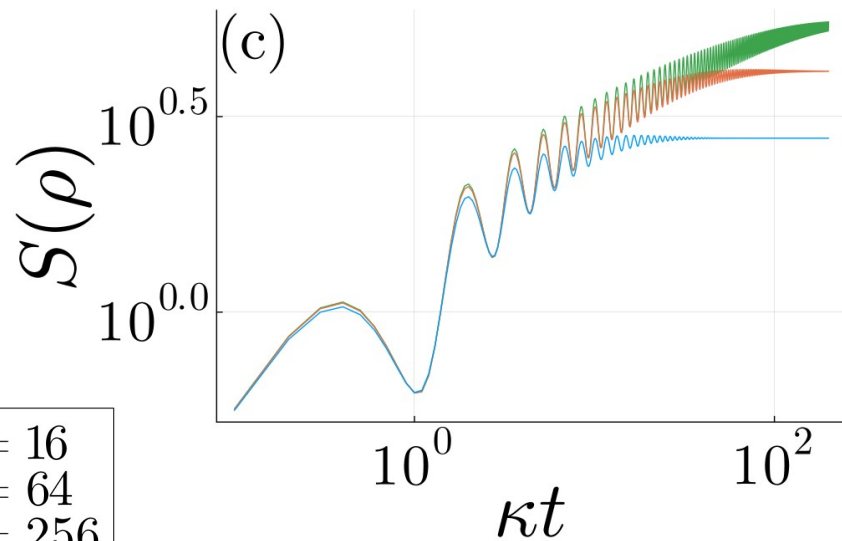
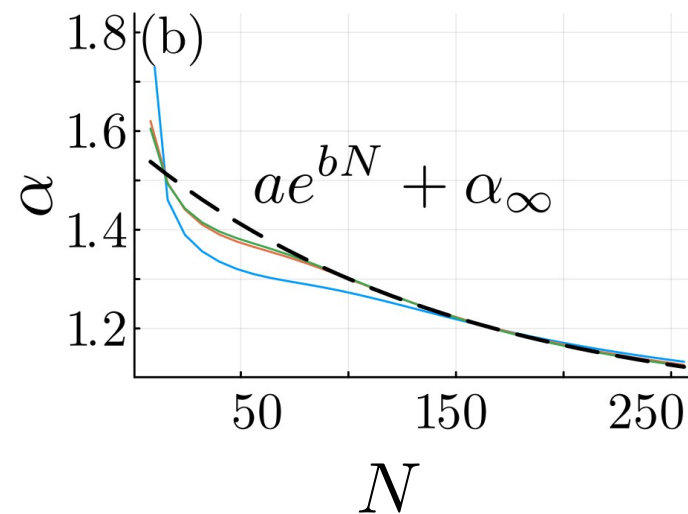
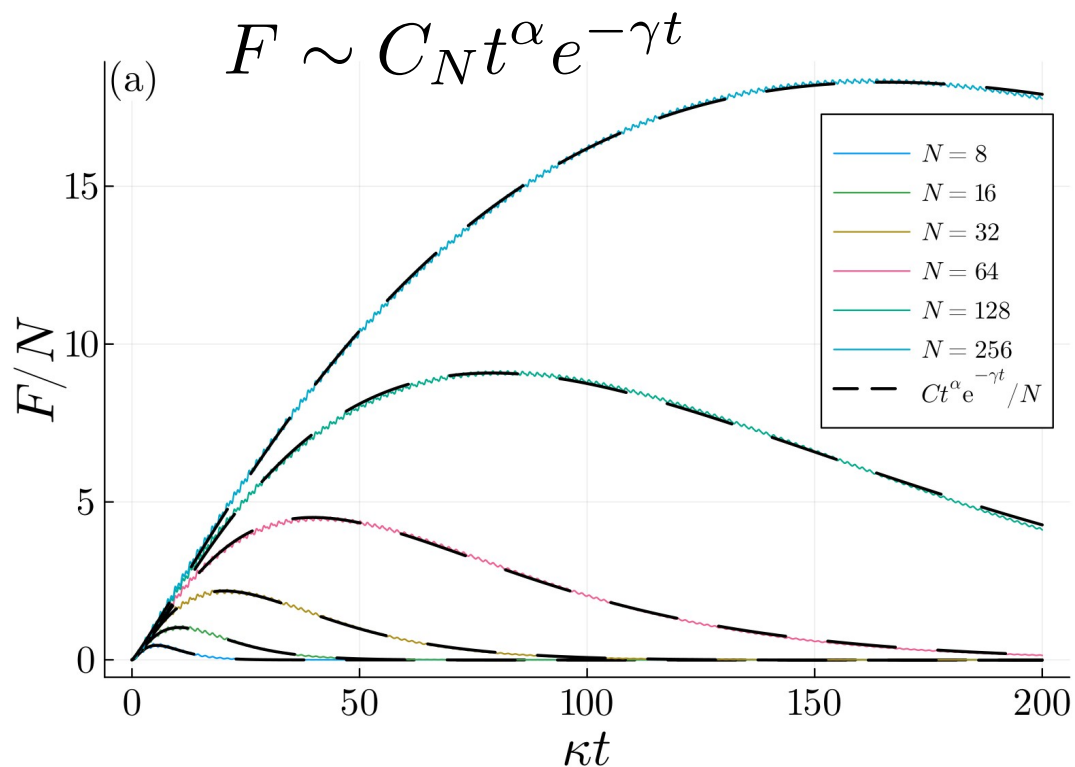
- long coherence time + correlations

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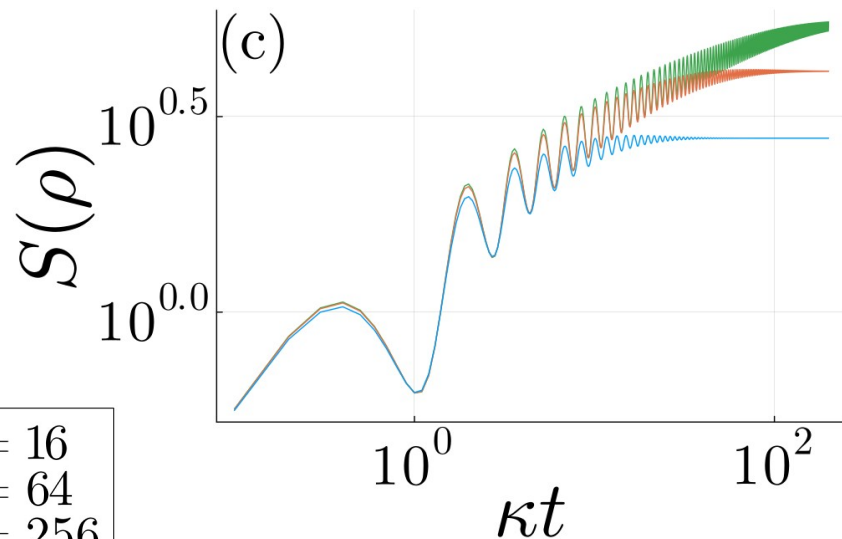
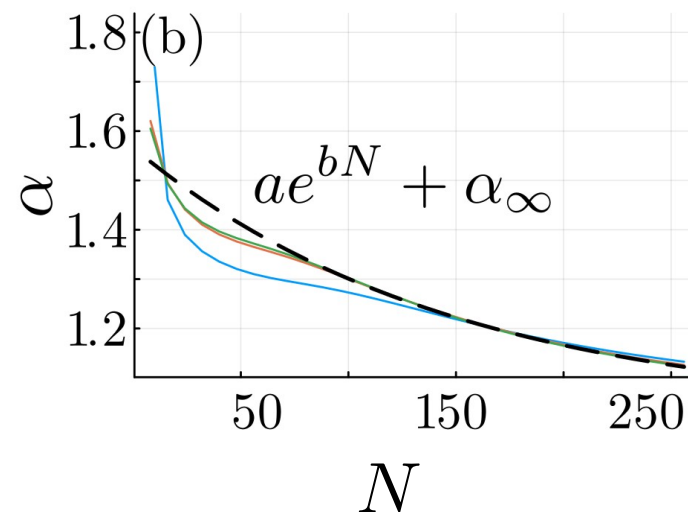
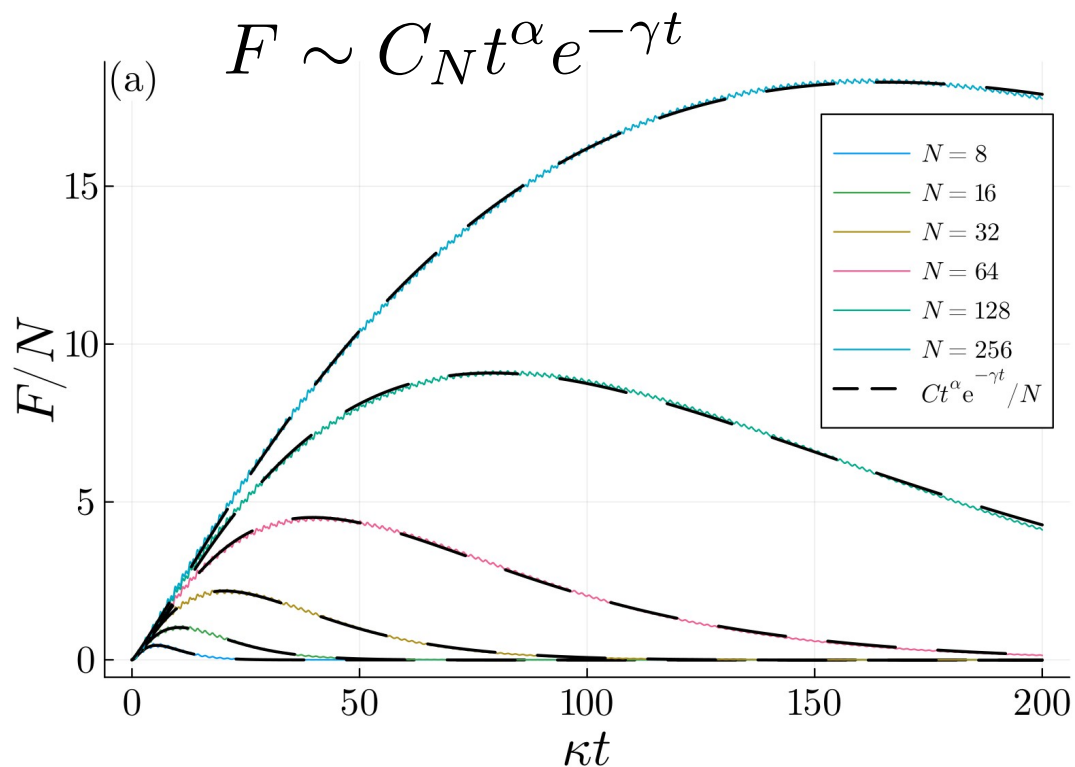
- long coherence time + correlations  
vs  
entropic constraints?

# Boundary Time Crystal



- long coherence time + correlations  
vs  
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# Boundary Time Crystal



- long coherence time + correlations

**vs**

entropic constraints?

- overcome classical bounds

- however, far from Heisenberg

***Improve it?***

# Conclusions

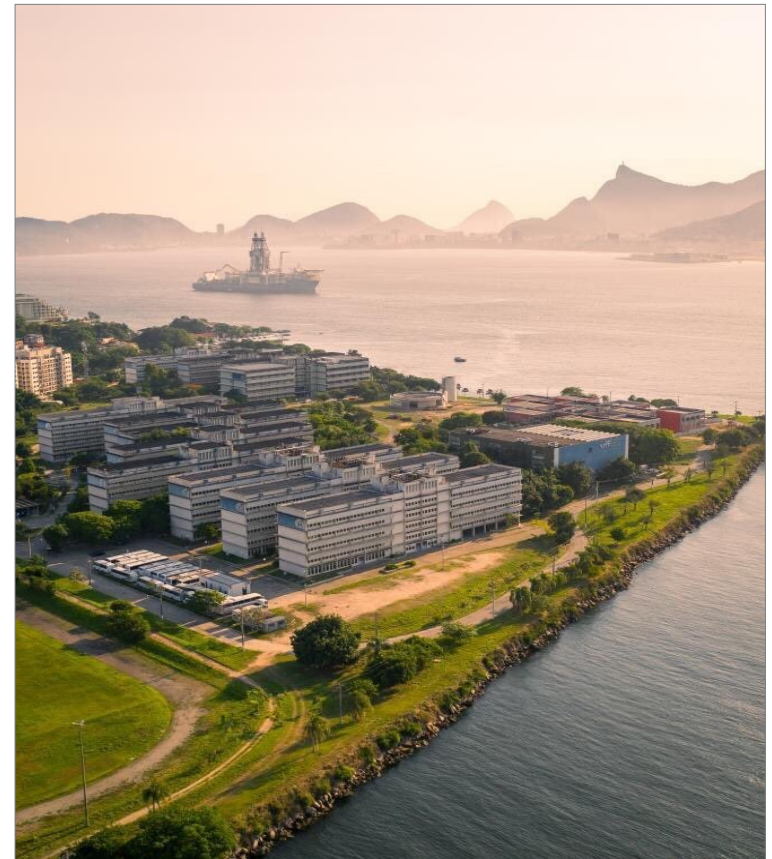
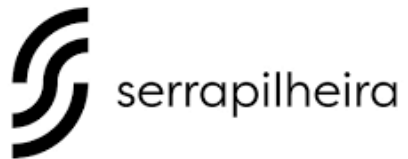
- We discussed about
  - . metrology,
  - . estimation theory,
  - . bounds - classical/quantum CRLB, classical limit, standard quantum limit, Heisenberg limit...
  - . Fisher information
- Application of TCs in metrology:
  - . improved performance of sensors: correlations + robust long-time sensing protocol;
- Perspectives:
  - . other TC's: higher n-tuples TC's, ...
  - . device measurement protocol
  - . enhance correlations
  - . ***Clocks!* What are the fundamental limits in our ability to measure time (within the laws of quantum thermodynamics and many-body theory)?**  
(in collaboration with Serrapilheira Institute)

# Thanks for your attention!

If you are interested...  
contact: [fernandoiemini@id.uff.br](mailto:fernandoiemini@id.uff.br)

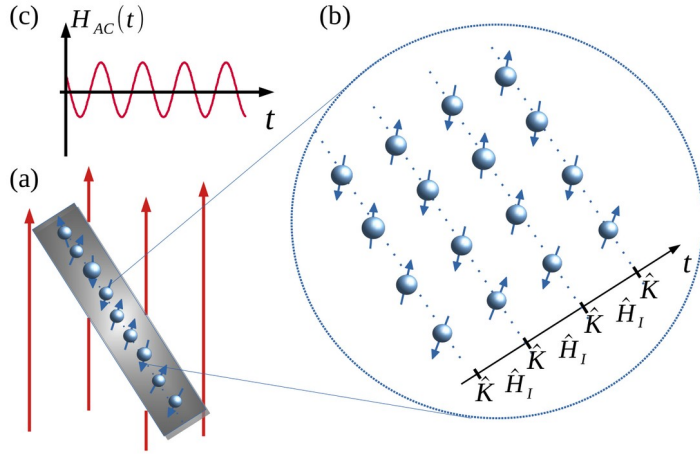


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Universidade Federal Fluminense



UFF, Niterói, Brazil

# Sensing AC fields



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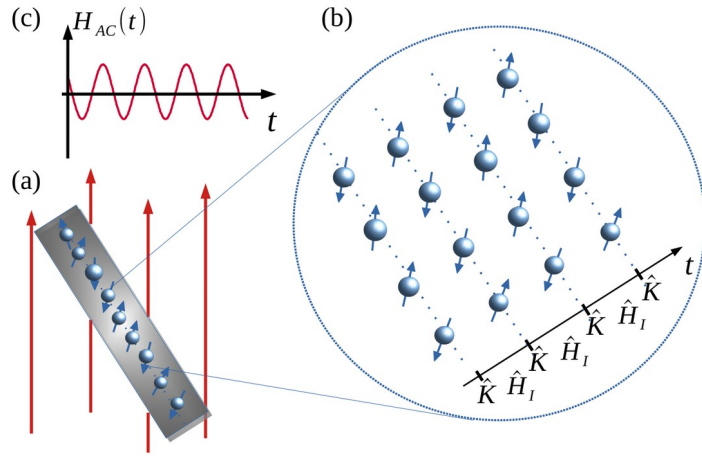
$$\hat{H}_{AC}(t) = h_{AC} \sin(\omega_{AC} t + \theta_{AC}) \hat{S}_z$$

*Case with  $\phi = \pi$ ,  $h_i^x = 0$ ,  $h_{ac} \rightarrow 0$*

. Fisher information:  $F_{h_{ac} \rightarrow 0}(t) \sim \varphi(t)^2 \text{var}(\hat{S}_z(0))$



# Sensing AC fields

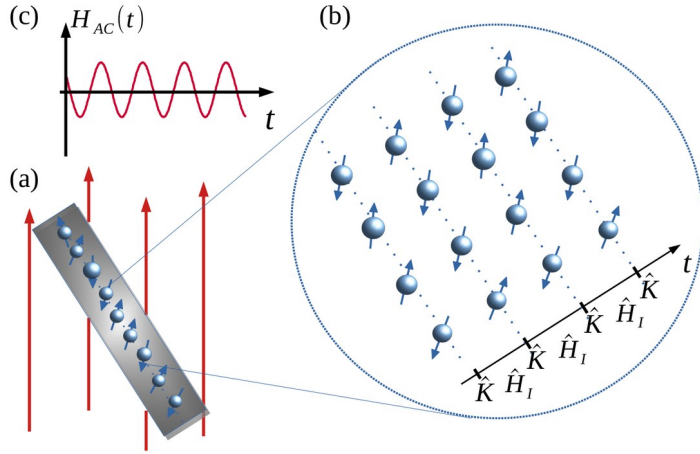


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*Case with  $\phi = \pi$ ,  $h_i^x = 0$ ,  $h_{ac} \rightarrow 0$*

# Sensing AC fields



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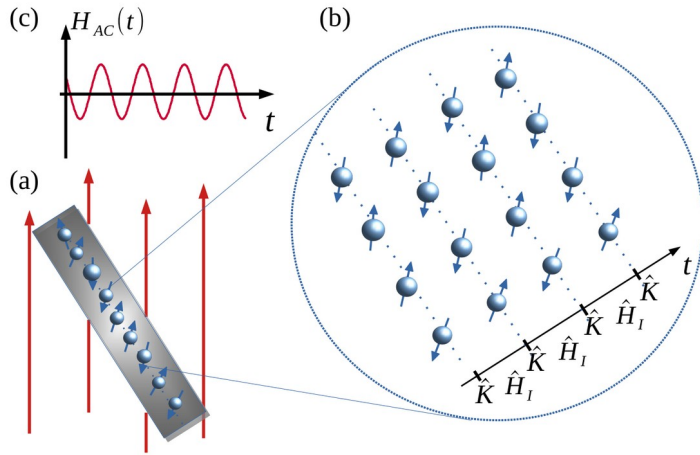
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. Fisher information:  $F_{h_{ac} \rightarrow 0}(t) \sim \varphi(t)^2 \text{var}(\hat{S}_z(0))$

$$\text{var}(\hat{S}_z(0)) = \langle \hat{S}_z^2 \rangle_{\psi_0} - \langle \hat{S}_z \rangle_{\psi_0}^2$$

(i) enhancement due to the correlations;

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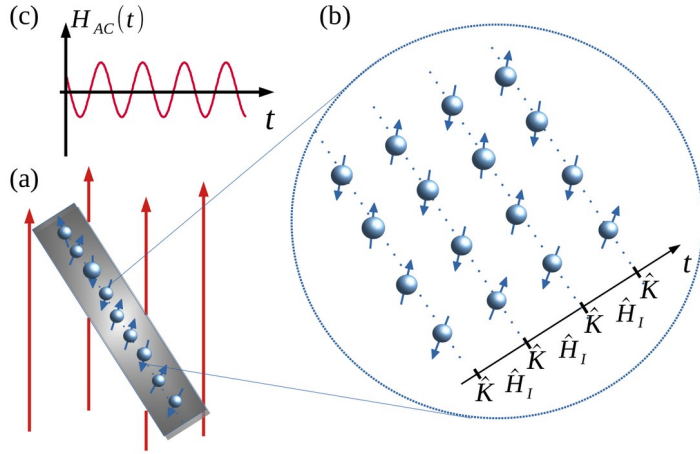
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# Sensing AC fields



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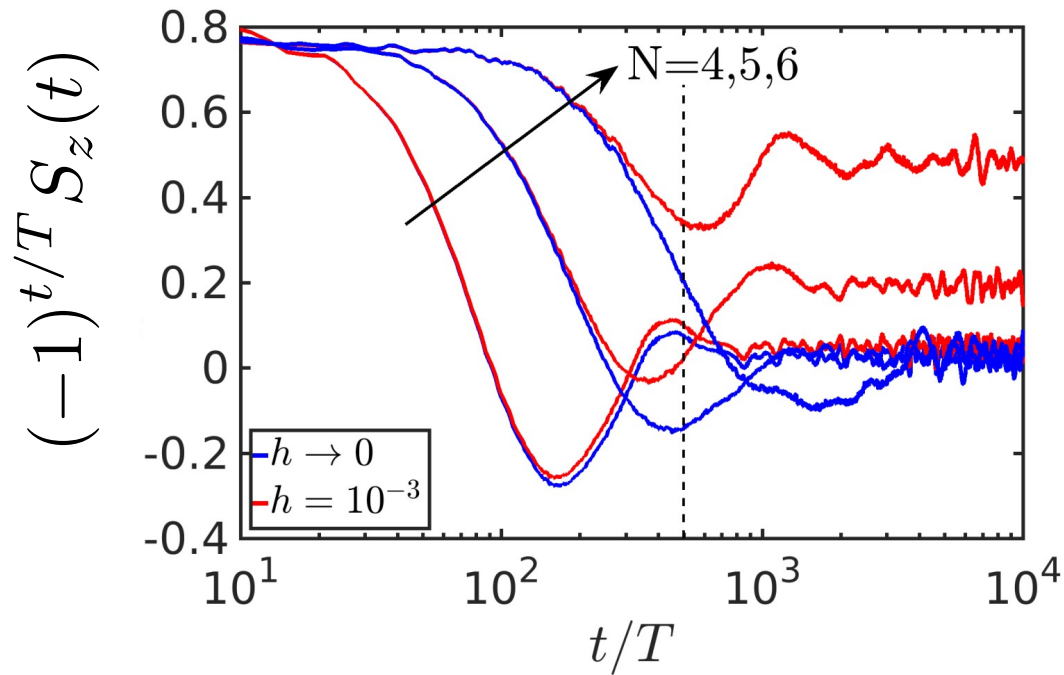
$$\varphi|_{\omega_S=2\omega_{AC}} \sim t$$

(ii) saturates SQL in time,

$$\varphi|_{\omega_S=2\omega_{AC}+\epsilon} : t^* \sim \theta_{AC}/\epsilon$$

(iii) off-resonance time scale for the optimal growth of Fisher information.

beyond linear response:  $h_{AC} \neq 0$ ,  $\omega_{AC} = \omega_S/2$

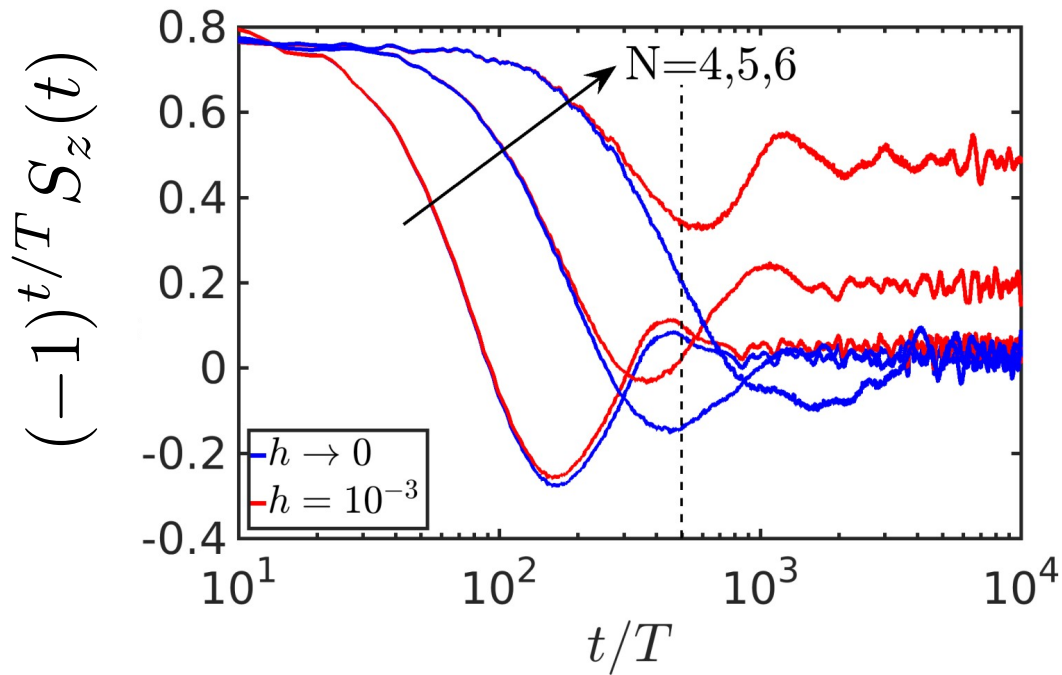


- sets a characteristic time scale,

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(dominant AC fields over  
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- sets a characteristic time scale,

$$t_{AC} \sim h_{ac}^{-1}$$

(dominant AC fields over dynamics)

- recovers Fisher quadratic growth,

$$F_{h_{ac}}(t) \sim Nt^2$$

