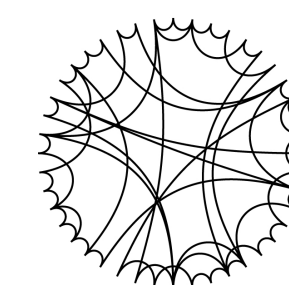
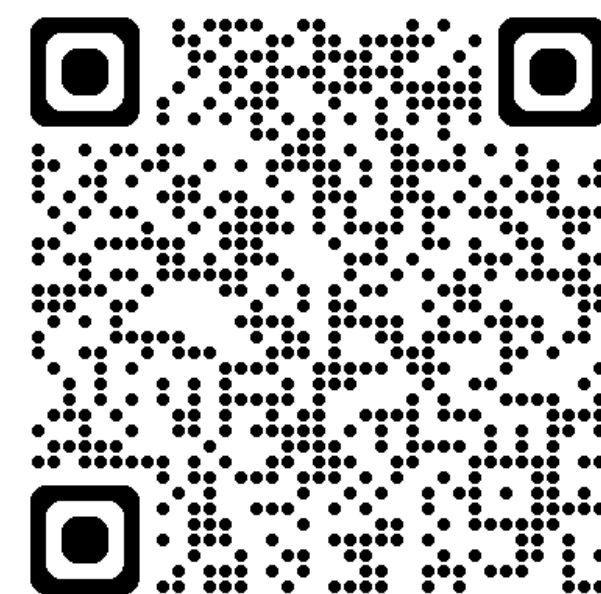
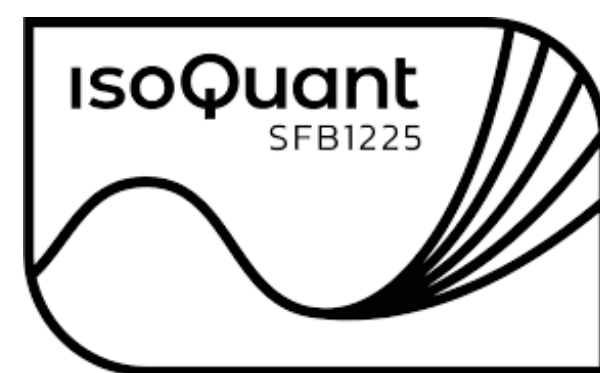


Solving sign problems with physics-informed kernels



STRUCTURES
CLUSTER OF
EXCELLENCE

Friederike Ihssen, **Renzo Kapust**, Jan M. Pawłowski
University of Heidelberg

Sign Problem

Central task in computations of lattice field theories

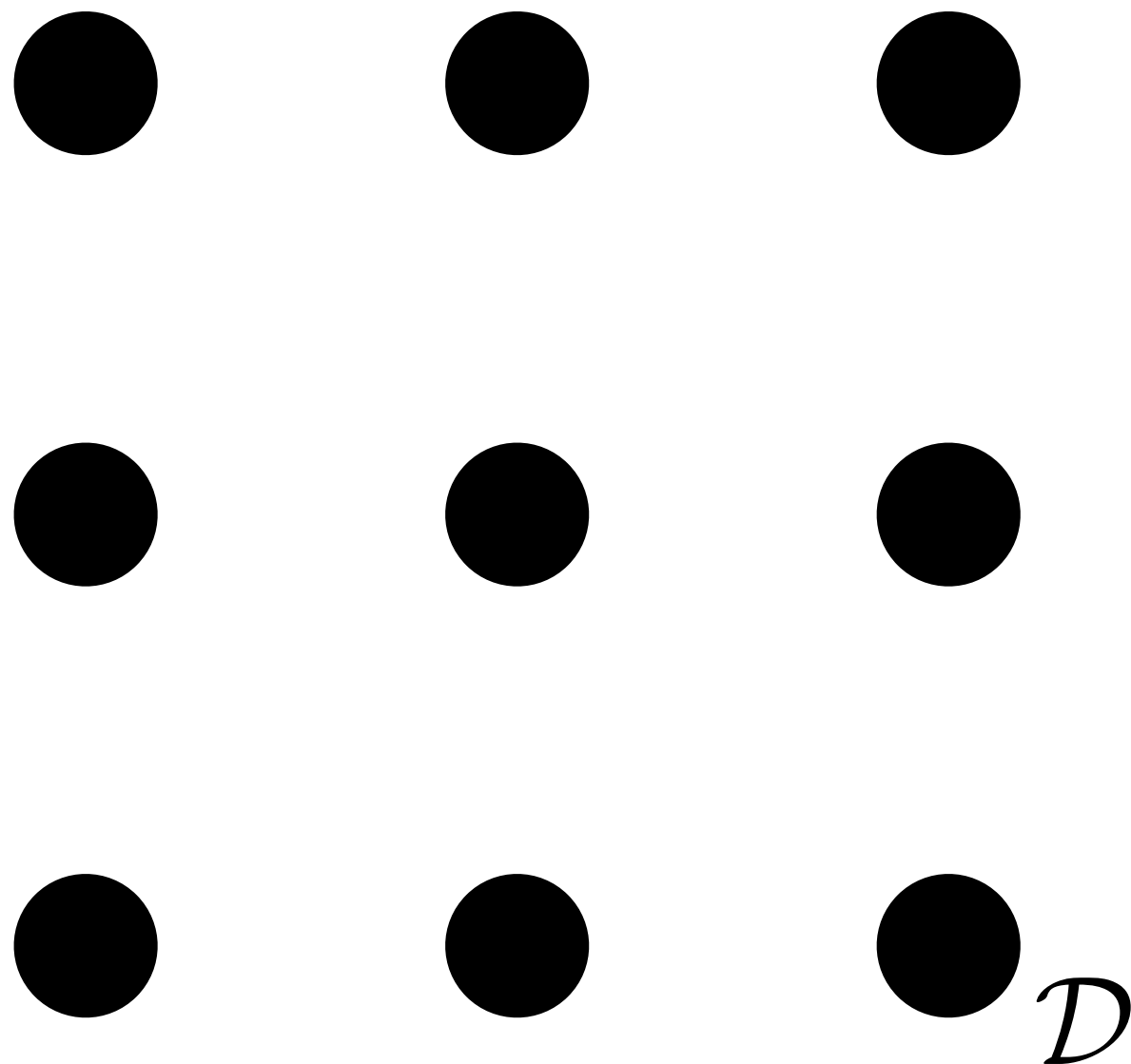
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$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int D\phi p(\phi) \mathcal{O}(\phi) \quad \phi \in \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{D}}$$

using Markov chain Monte Carlo

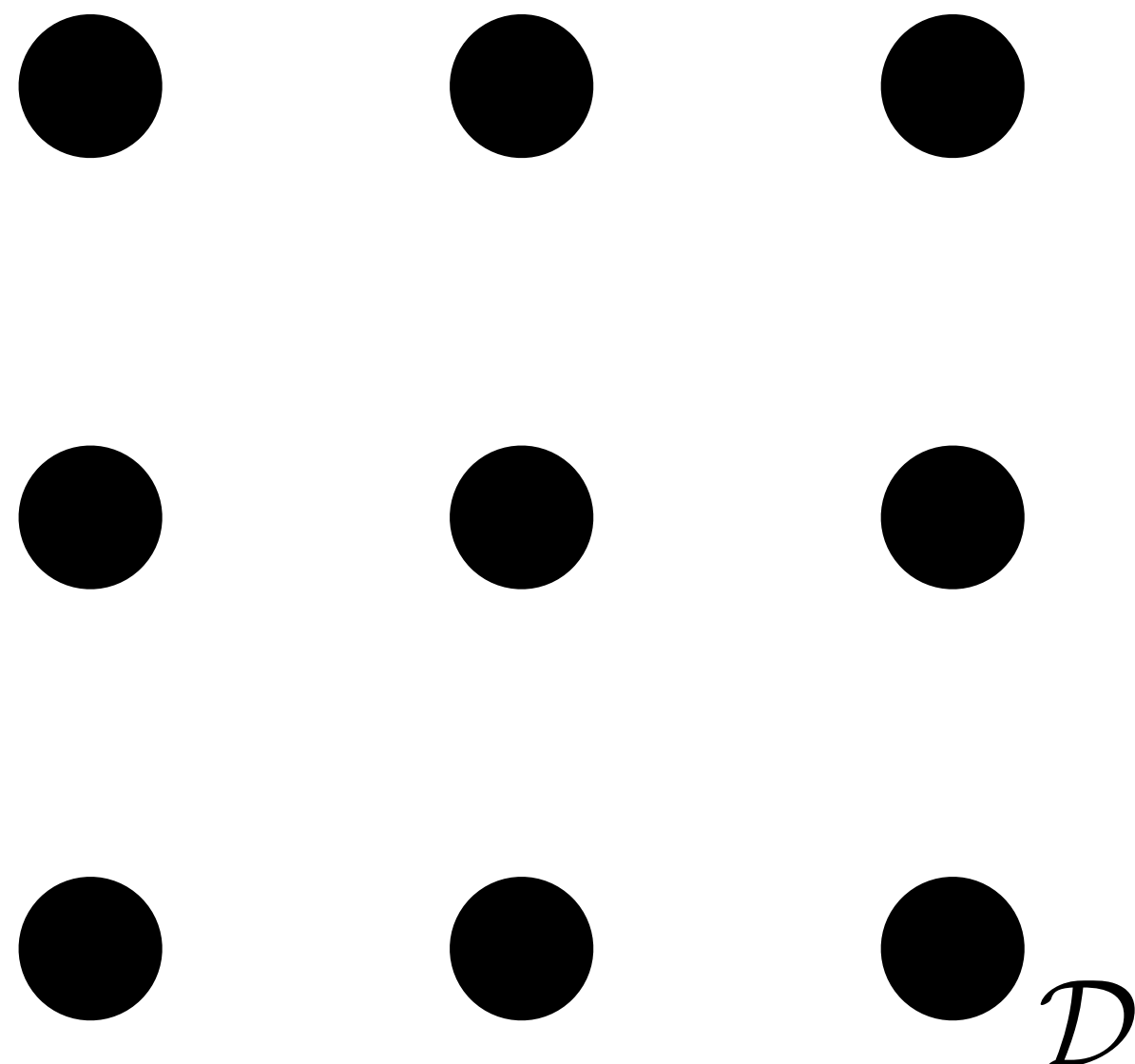


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$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int D\phi p(\phi) \mathcal{O}(\phi) = \mathbb{E}_{\phi \sim p} [\mathcal{O}(\phi)]$$

When p is a probability distribution

But generally $p(\phi) \in \mathbb{C}$ and not $p(\phi) \in [0, 1]$

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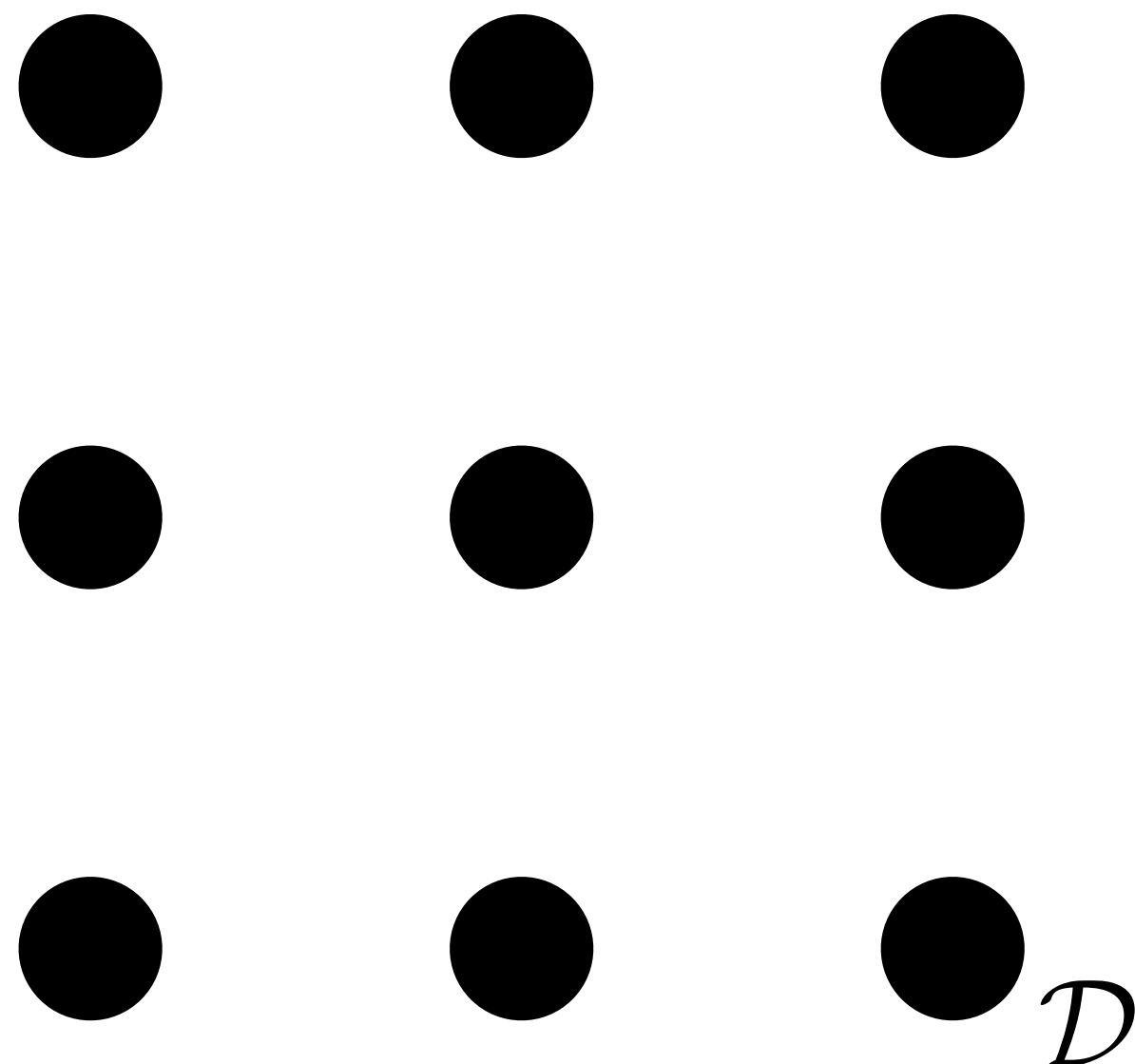
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Euclidean $p(\phi) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} e^{-\hat{S}(\phi)} = e^{-S(\phi)}$

Real-time $p(\phi) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} e^{i\hat{S}(\phi)} = e^{iS(\phi)}$

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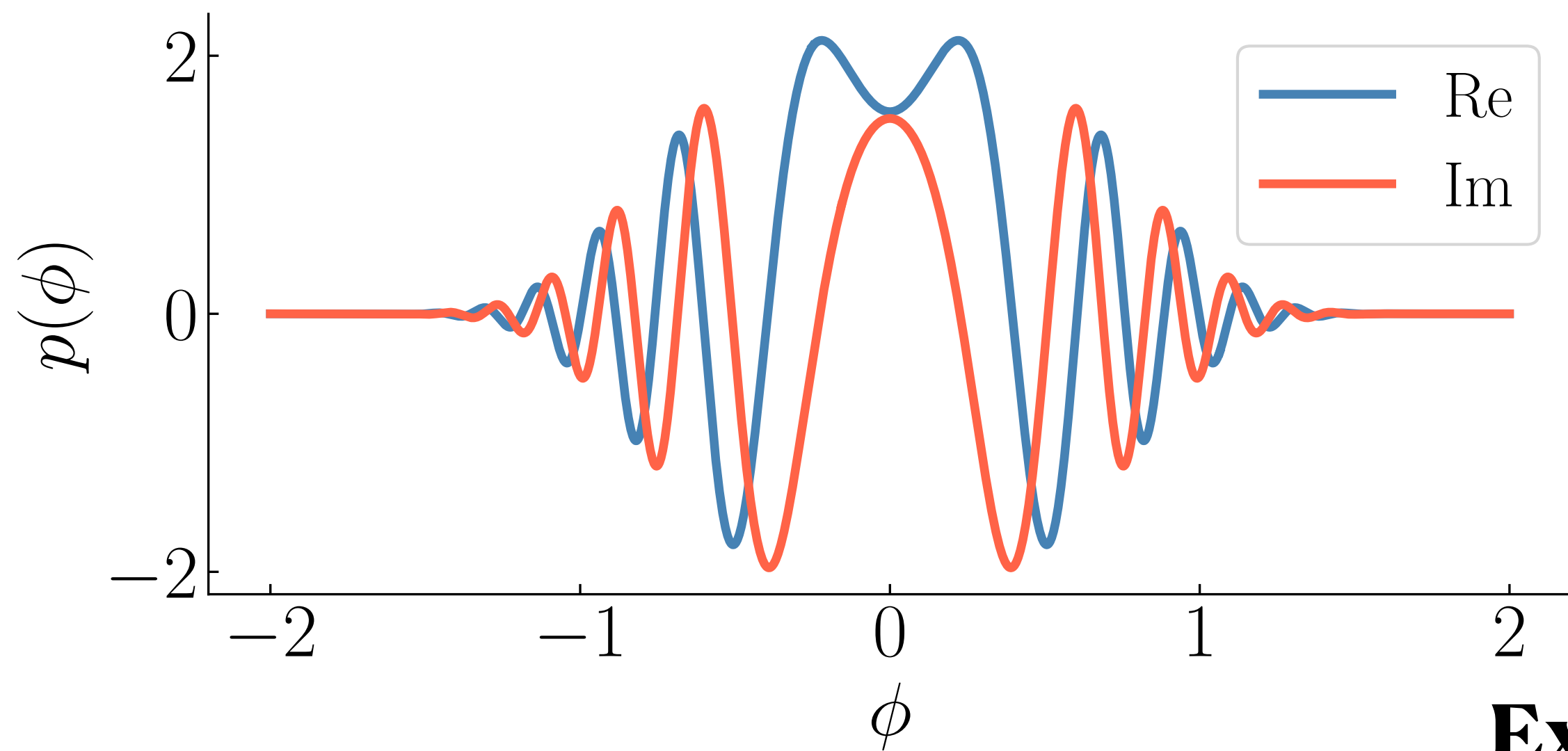
Illustration at the example of naïve reweighting

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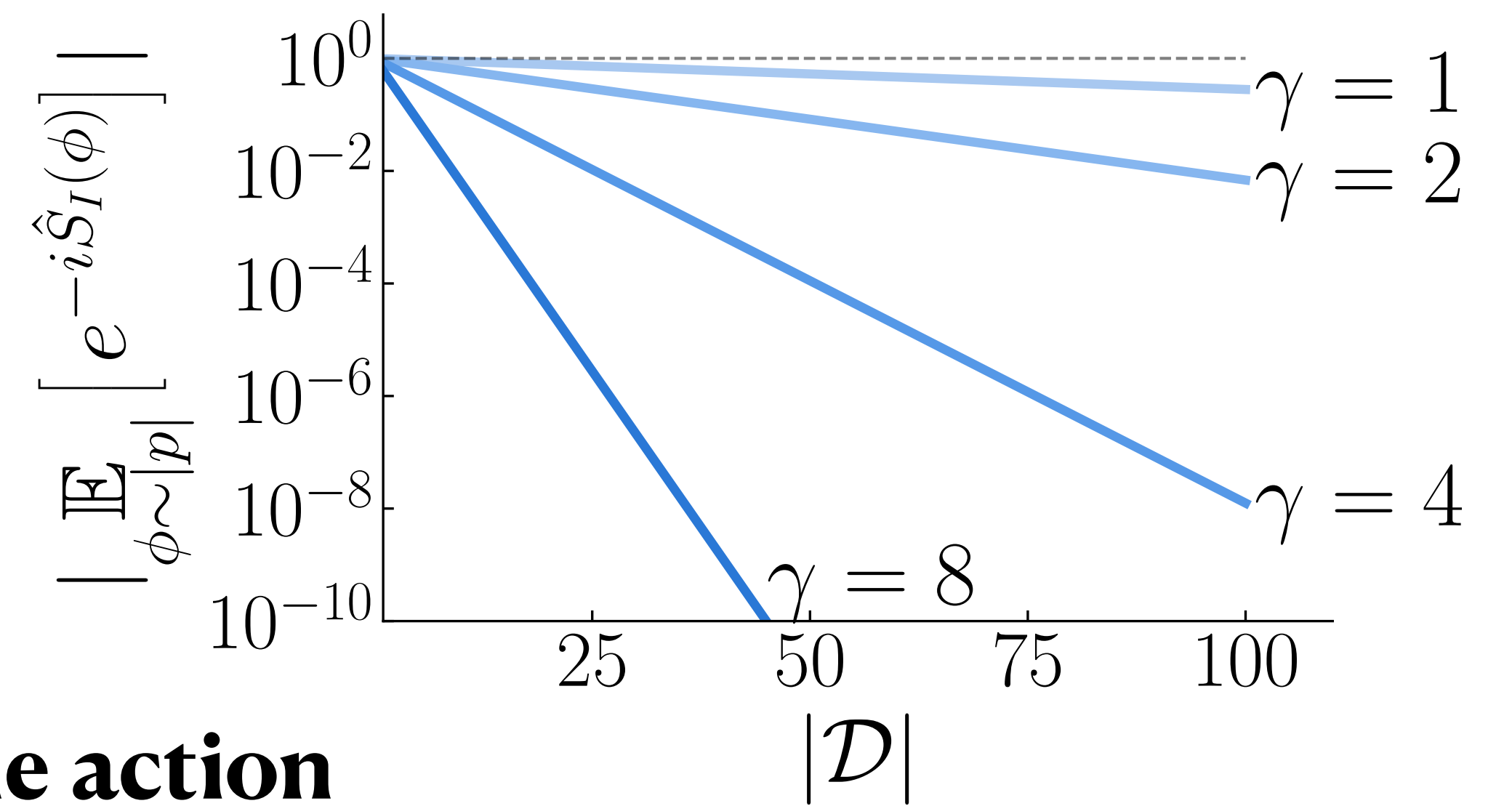
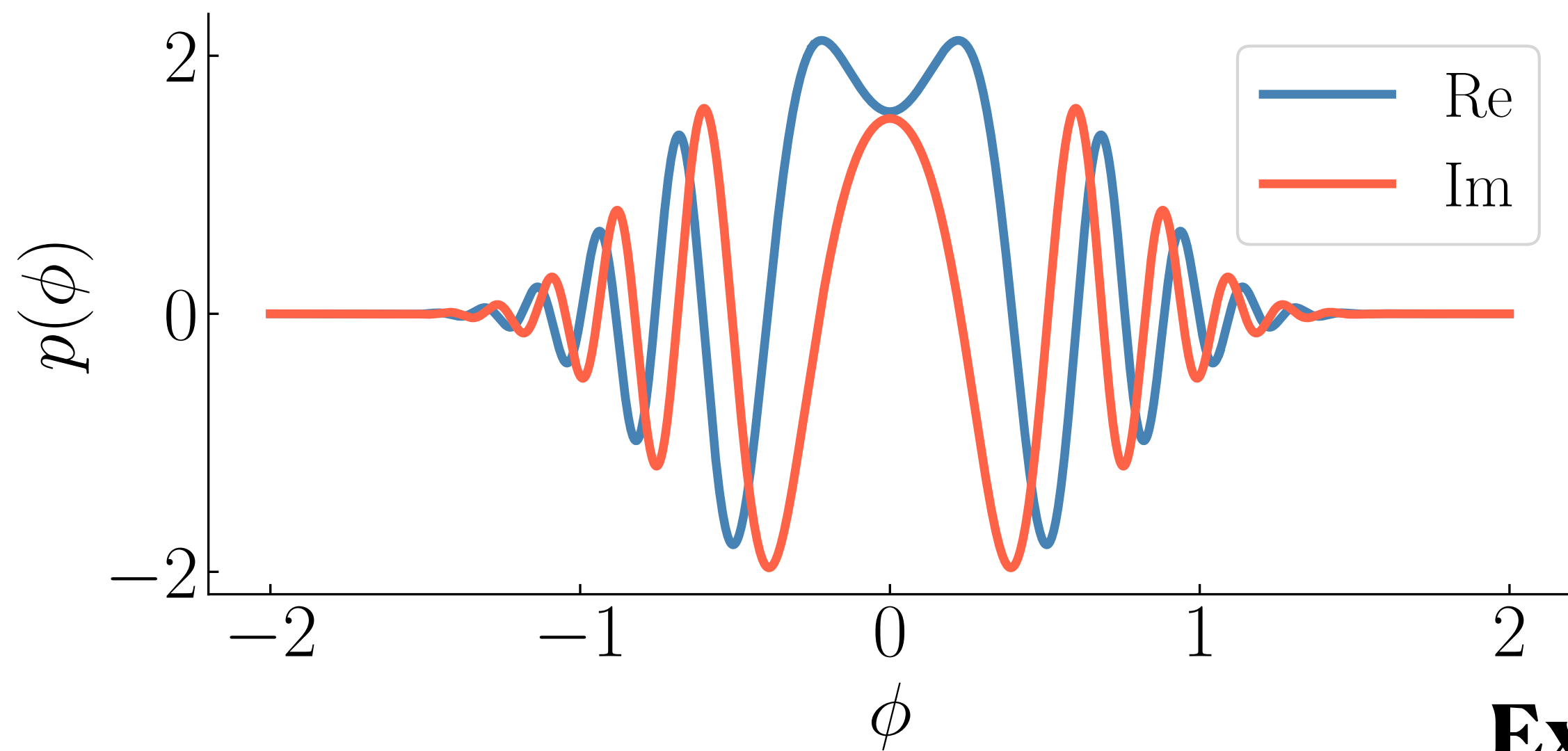
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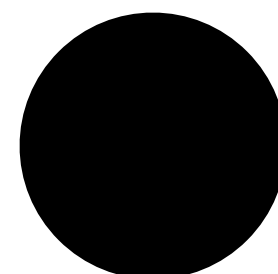
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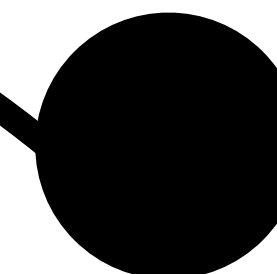
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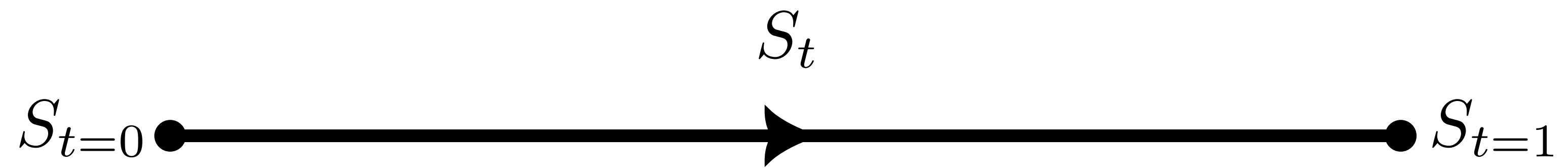
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$S_1 = S$

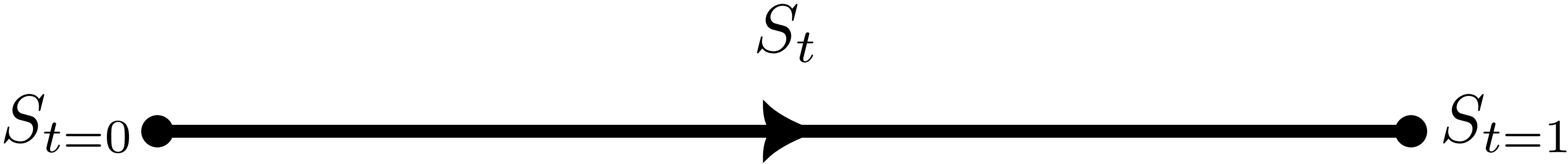
Physics-Informed Kernels



Wegner, J.Phys.C 7 (1974)
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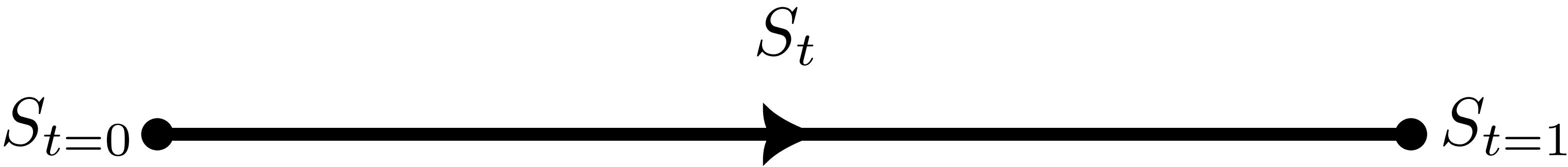


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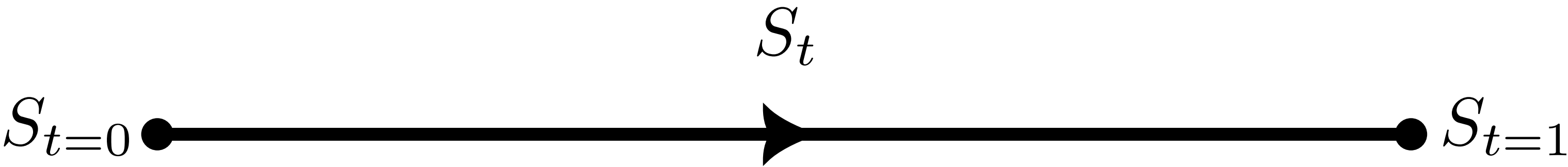


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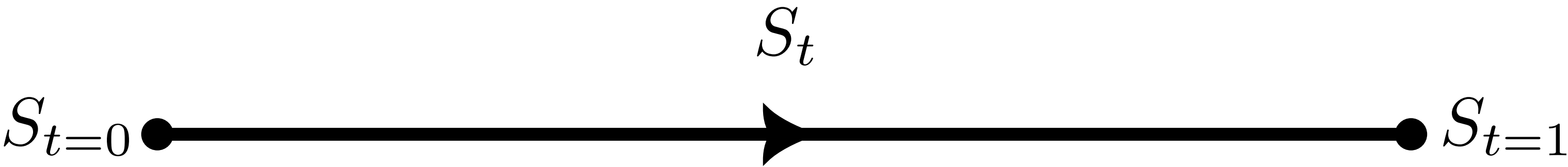
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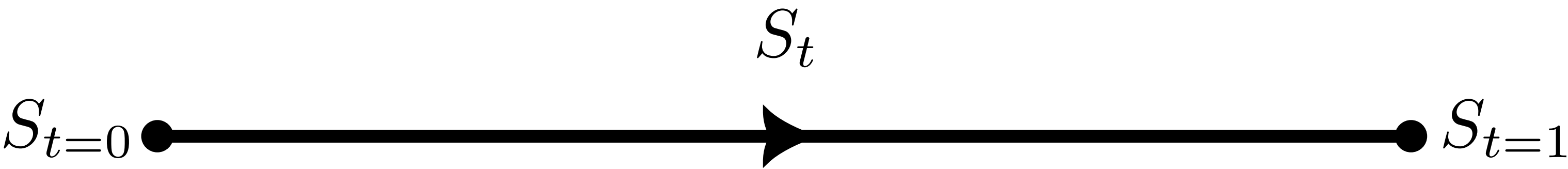
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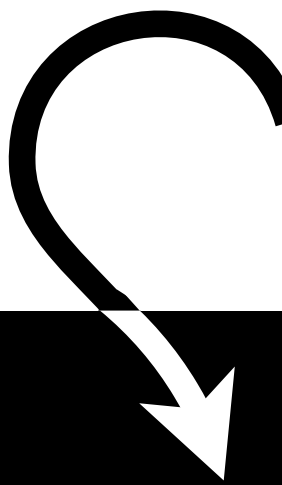
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Analytically set (unnormalised) action path

e.g.
$$\hat{S}_t(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} \phi^T \Sigma^{-1} \phi + t \frac{\lambda}{4} \sum_{i \in \mathcal{D}} \phi_i^4$$

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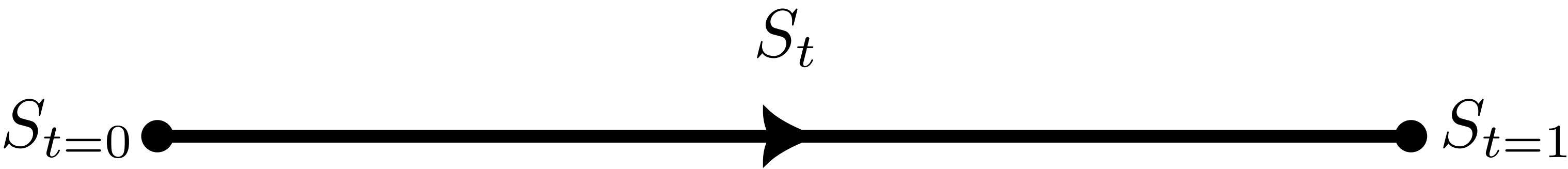


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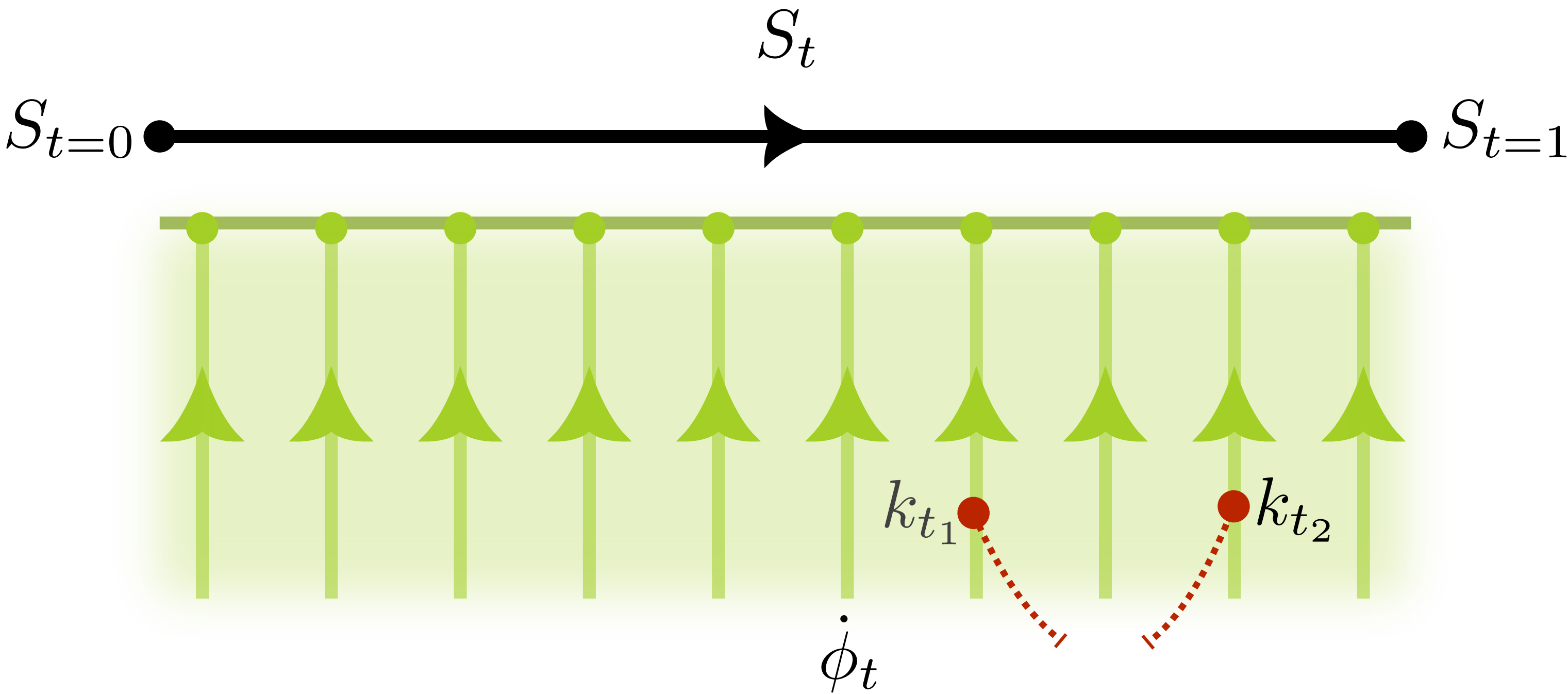
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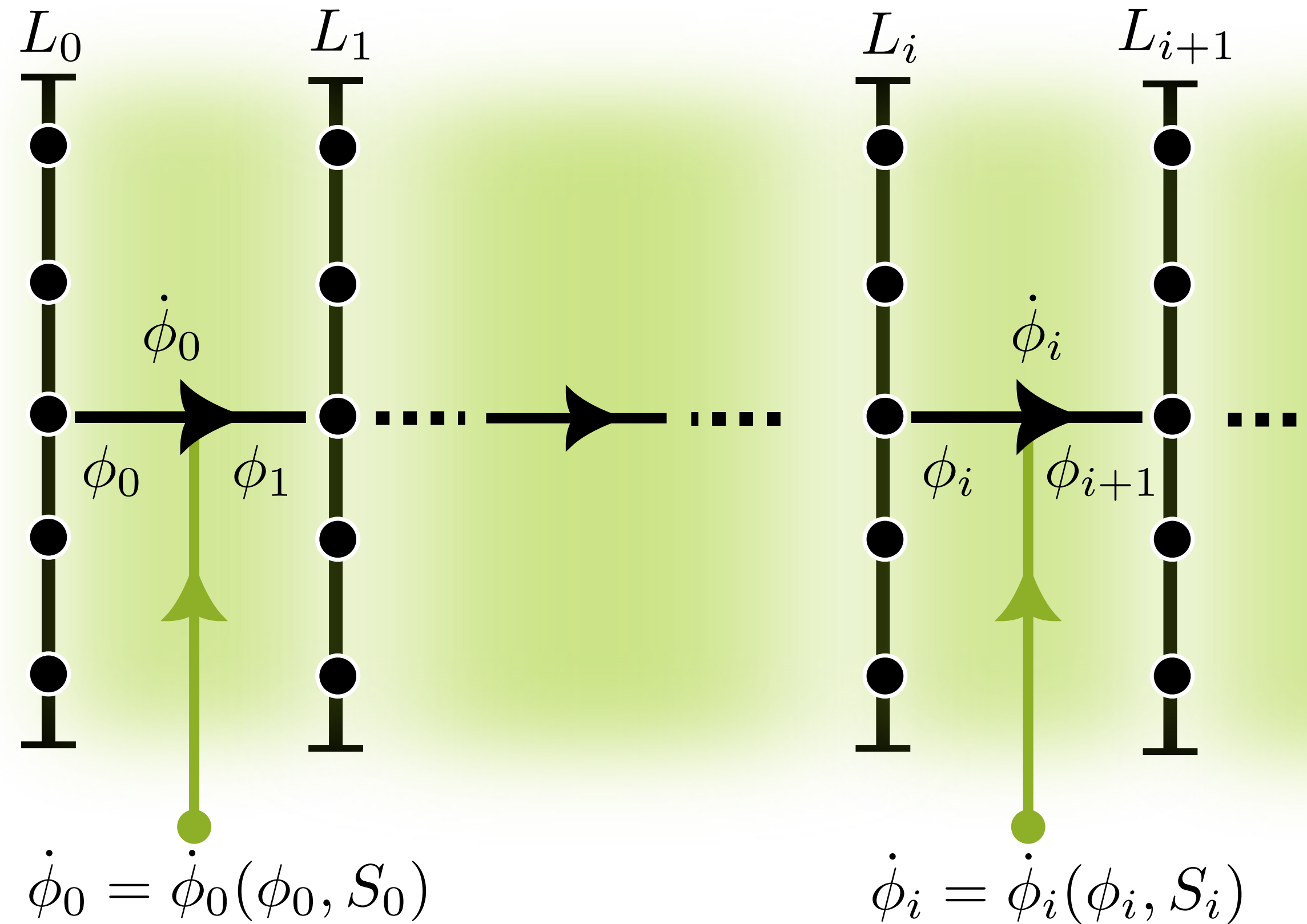


see also
Liu, Wang, arXiv: 1608.04471
Lawrence, Yamauchi, PRD 103(114509), 2021.
Bonanno, Bulgarelli, Cellini et al., arXiv:2601.20708
Albergo, Boffi, Vanden-Eijnden, arXiv:2303.08797
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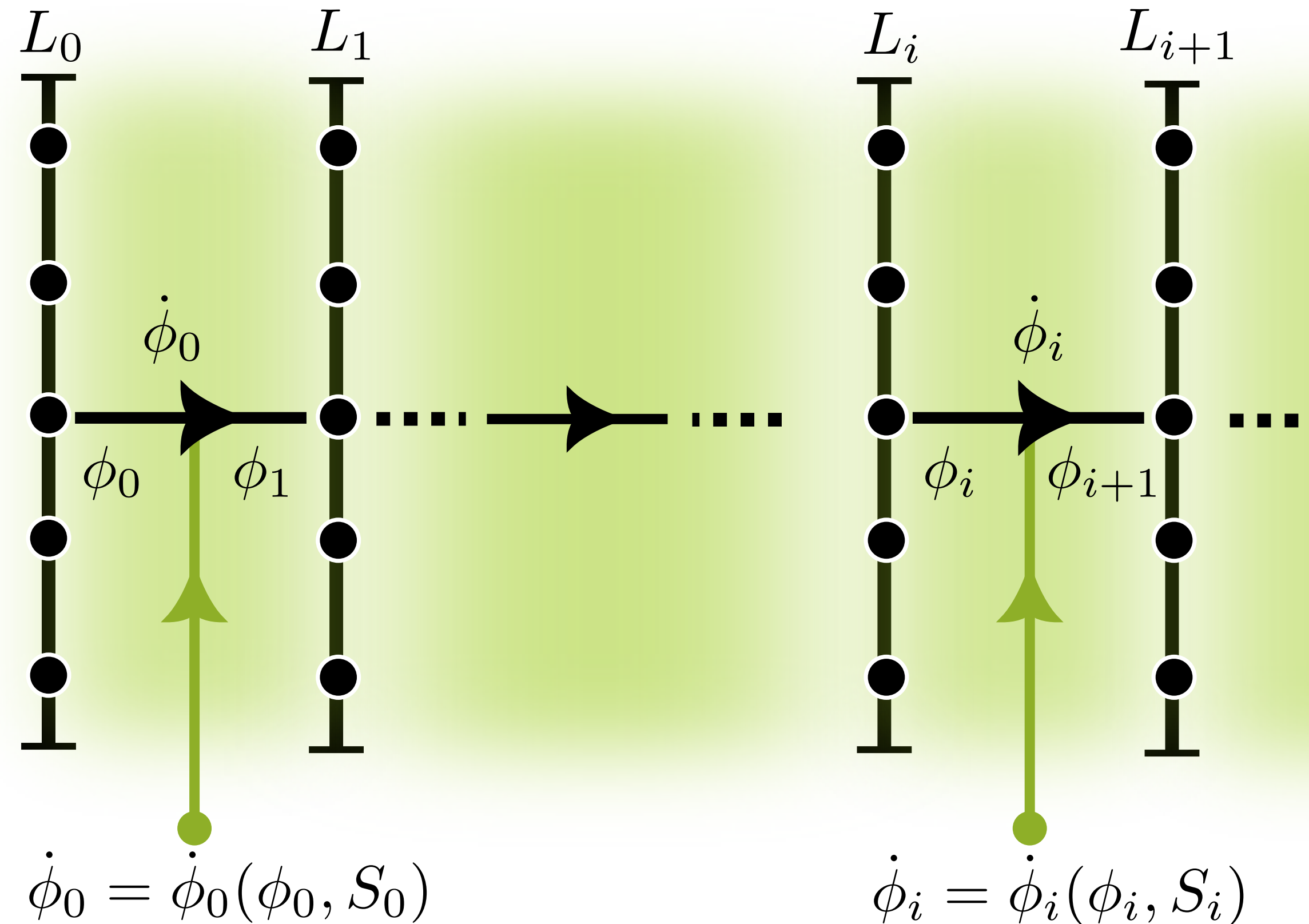
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Dissecting: Measure transport now translated into independent sub-problems.

Physics-Informed Kernels



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Kind of problem: Each sub-problem does not require the notion of a *statistical divergence* but boils down to a *linear high-dimensional PDE*.

PIKfolds: An instructive example

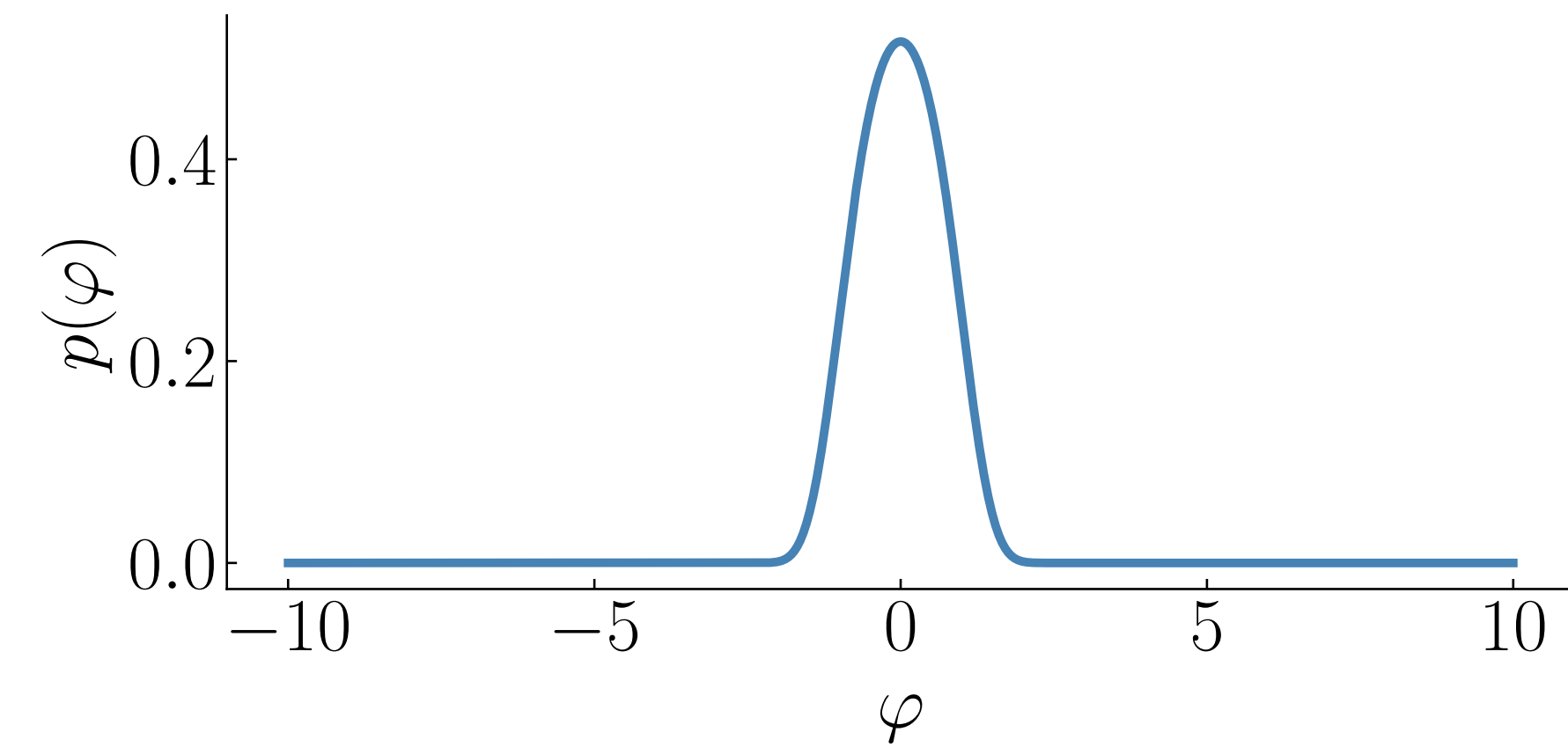
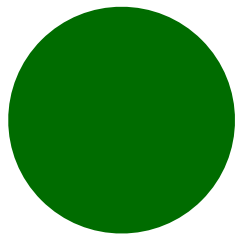
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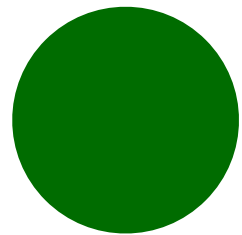


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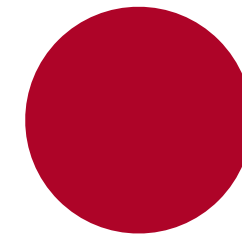
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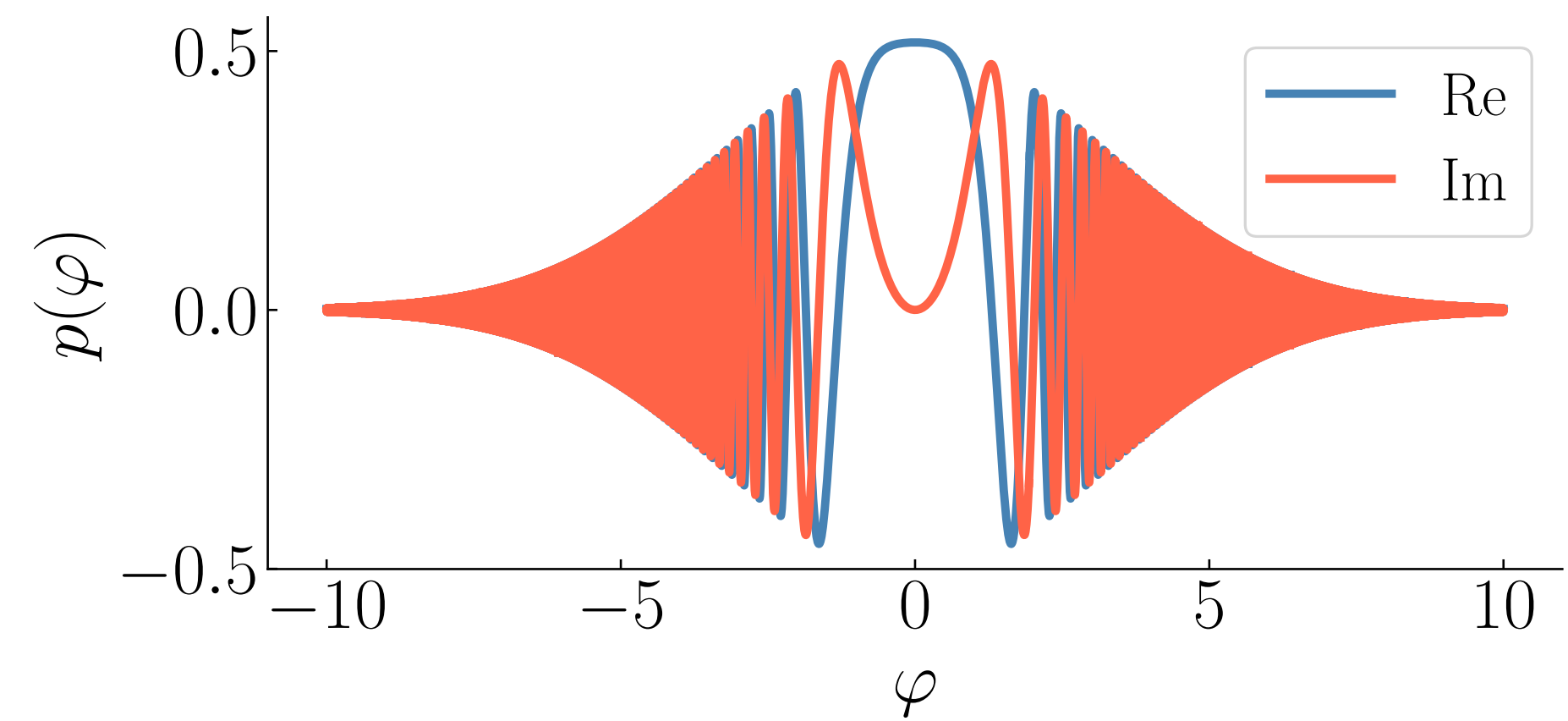
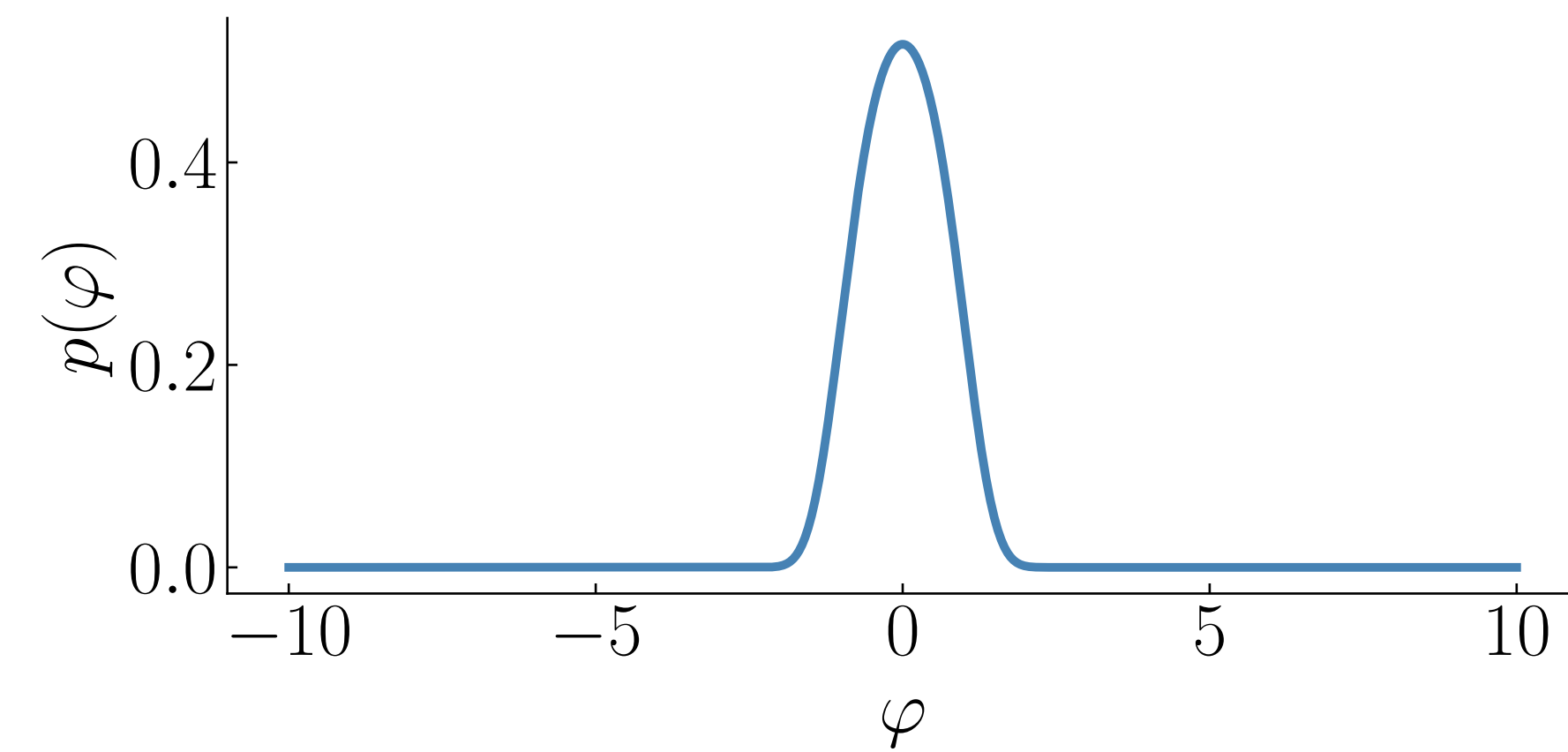
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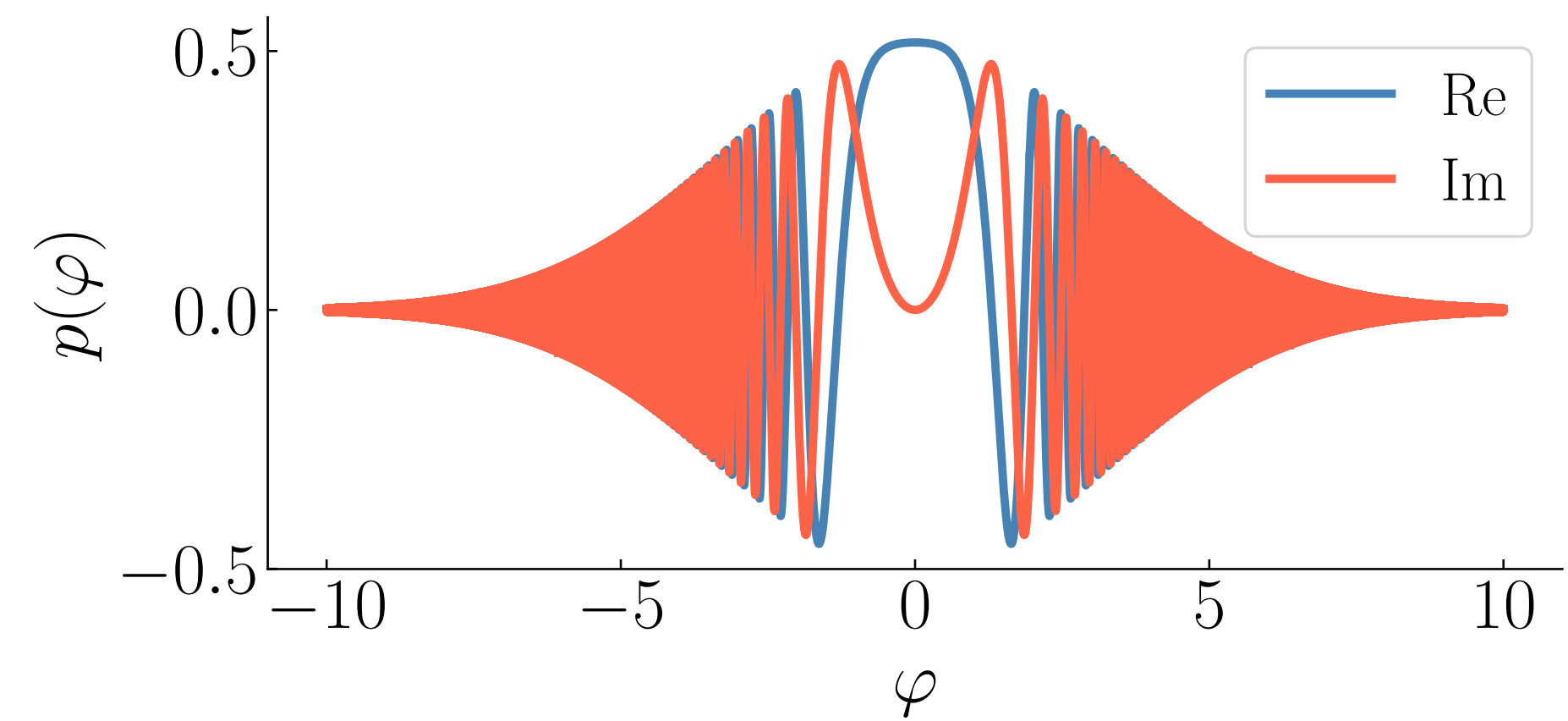
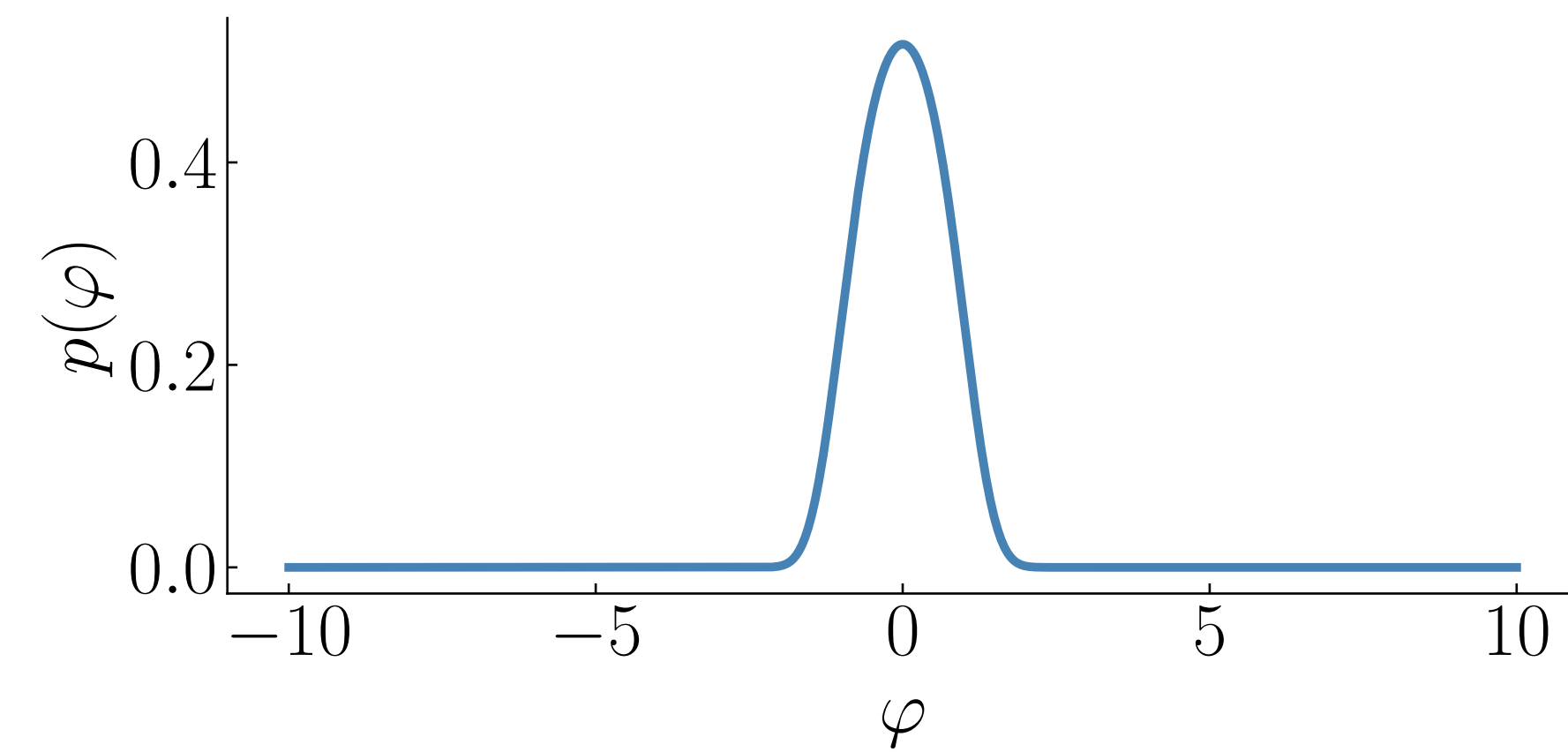


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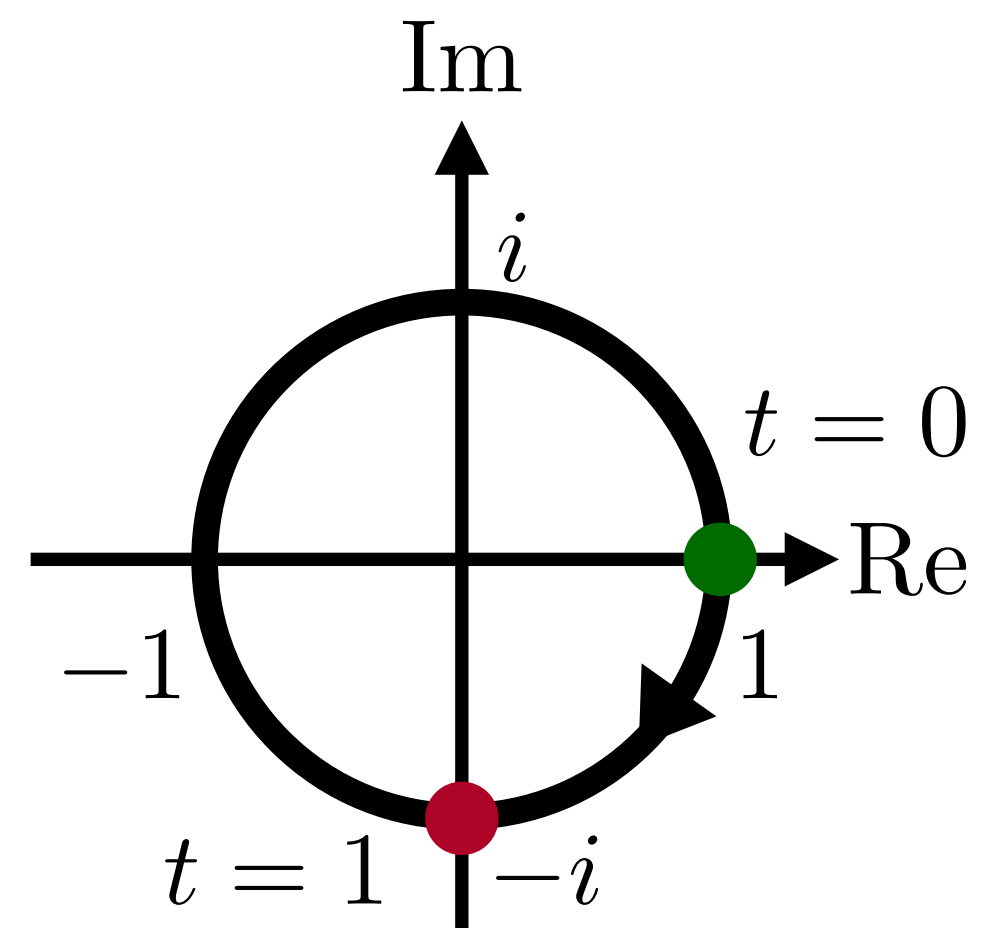
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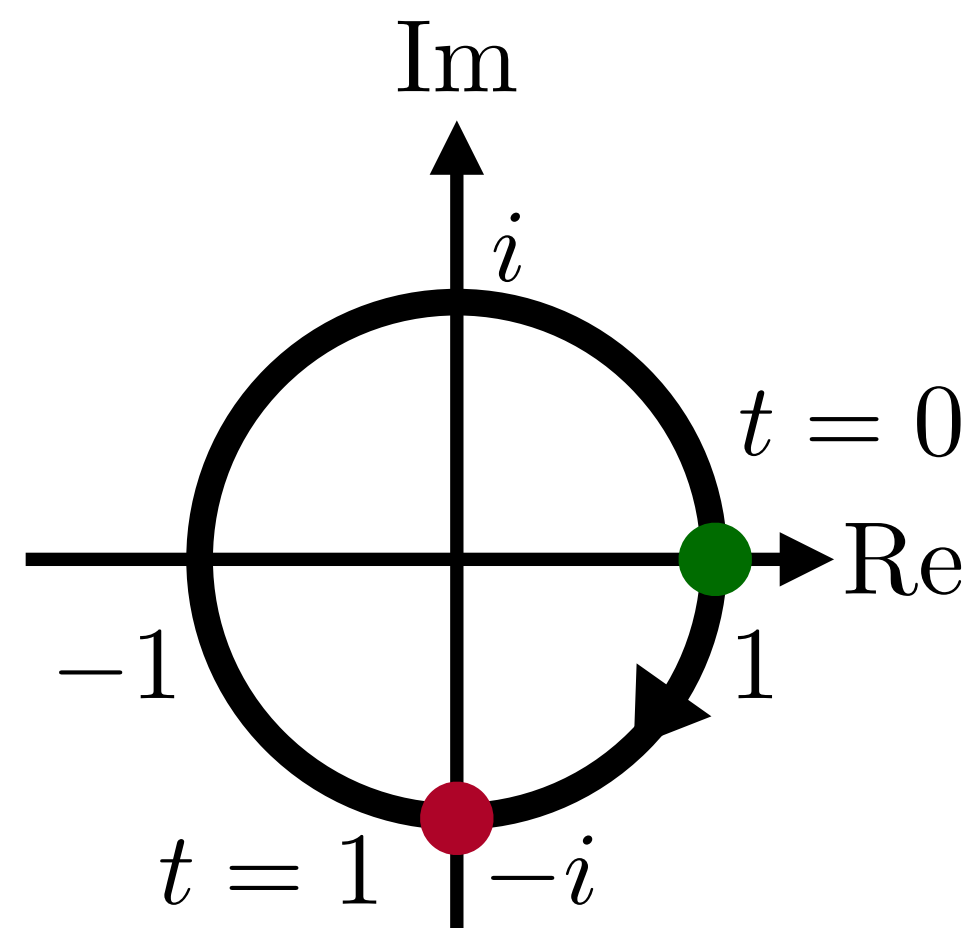
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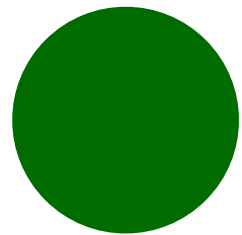
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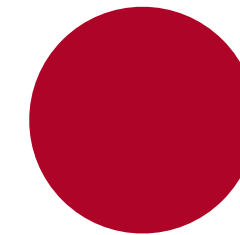
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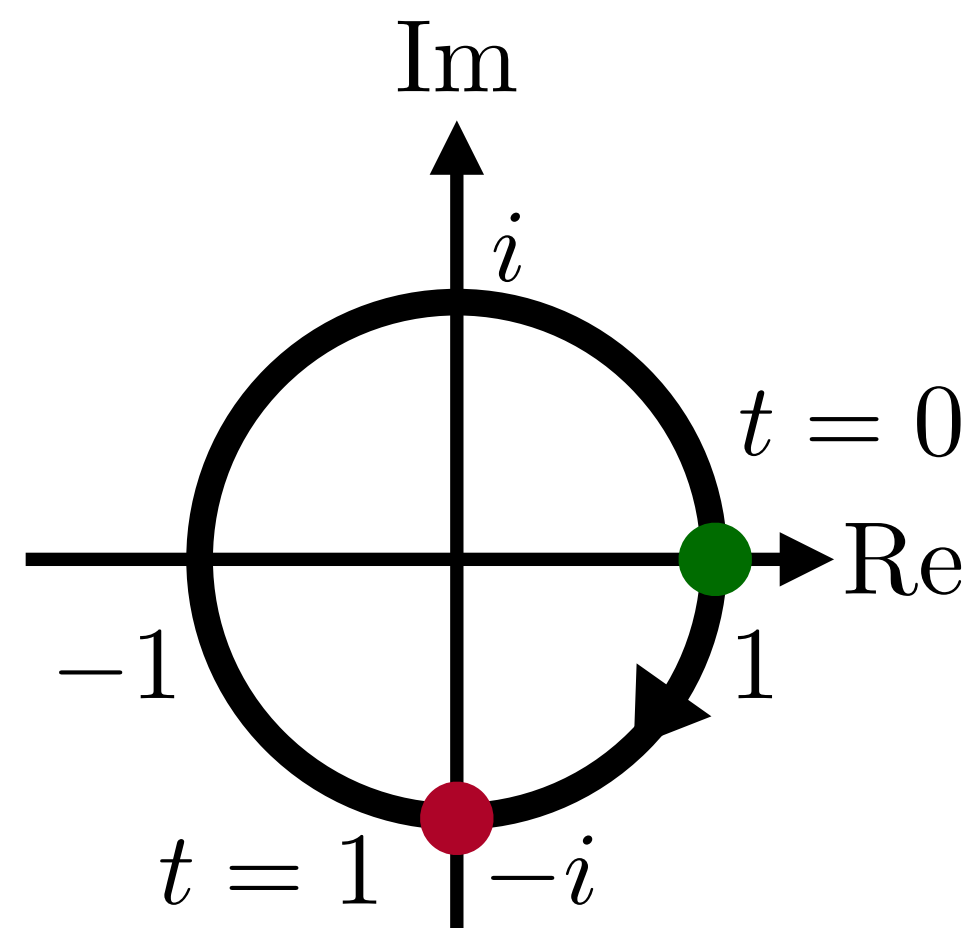
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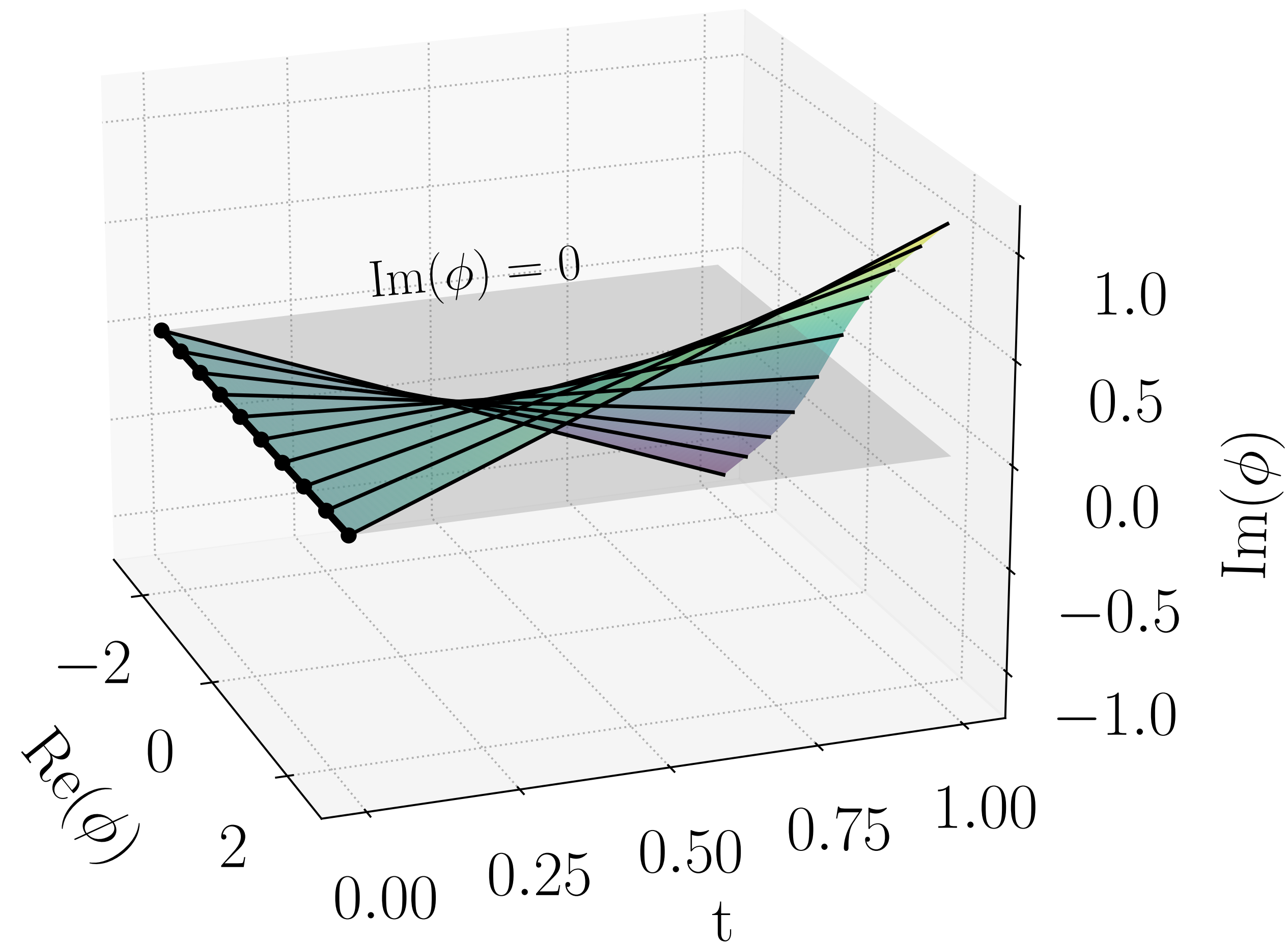


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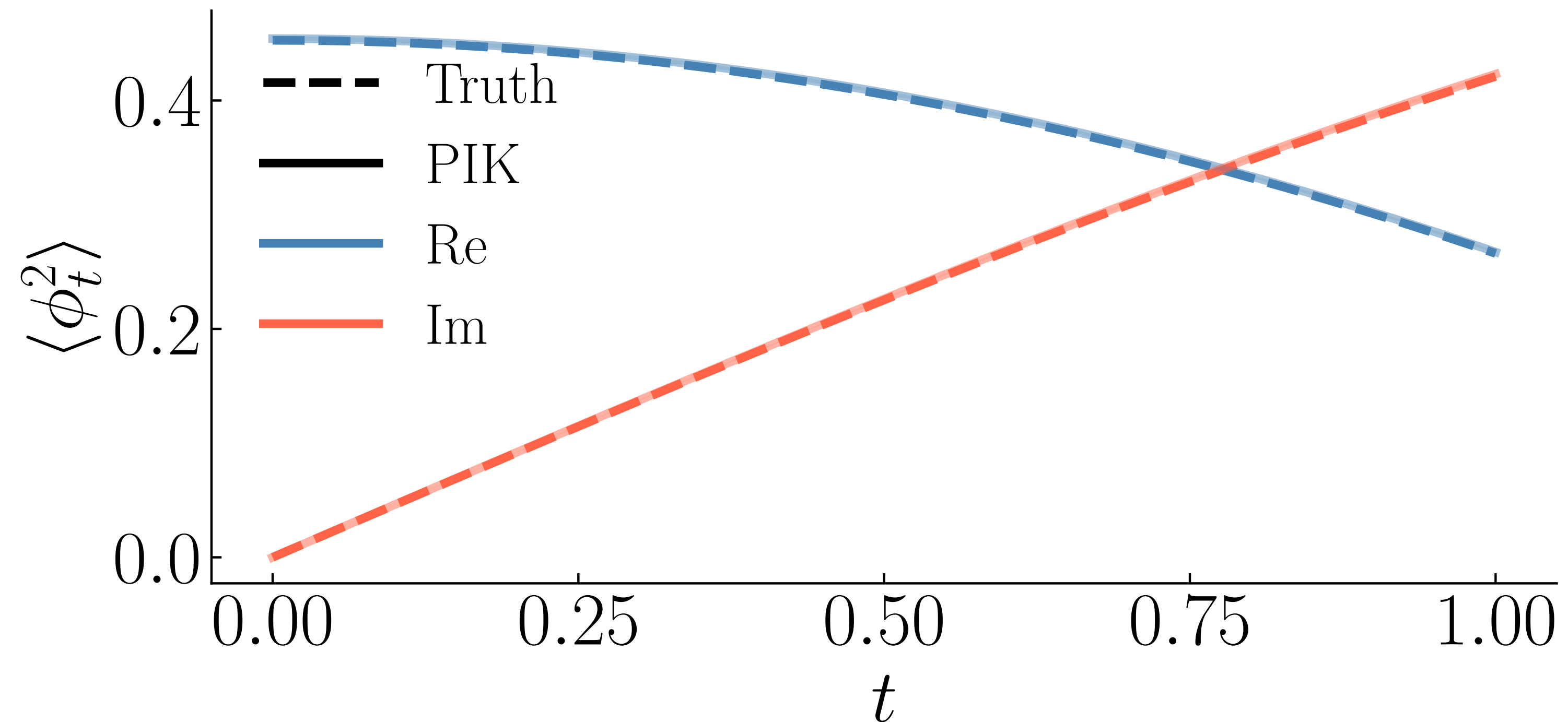
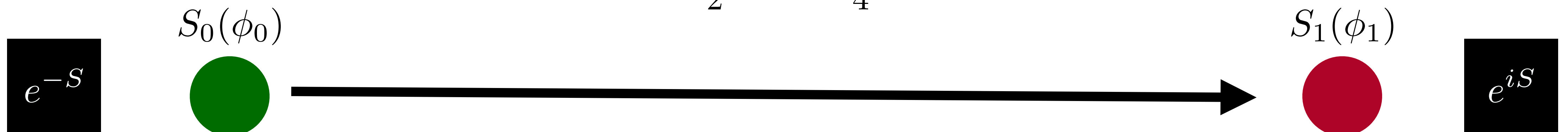
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PIKfolds: An instructive example

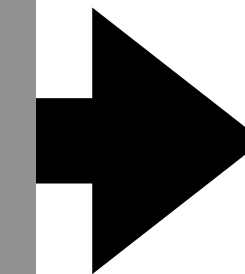
$$\hat{S}_t(\phi) = \frac{1}{2}m_t^2\phi^2 + \frac{1}{4}\lambda_t\phi^4$$



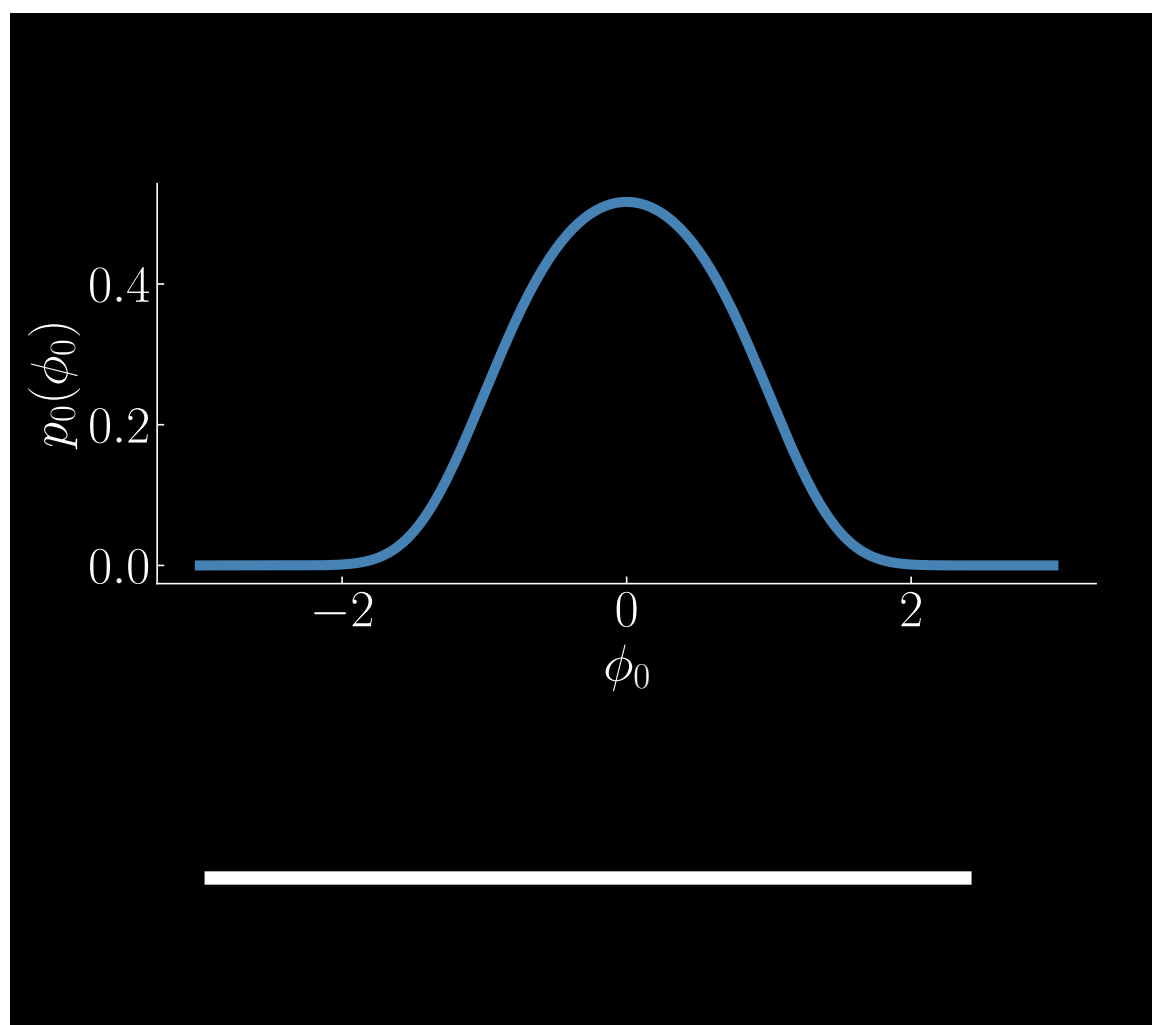
PIKfolds: Taming the Sign Problem

$$\frac{d\phi_t}{dt} = \dot{\phi}_t(\phi)$$

$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} - \frac{\partial S_t(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} \right] \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi)$$



$$(p_t, \mathcal{M}_t)$$



$$(p_0, \mathcal{M}_0)$$

Typically

$$p_0(\phi_0) \in \mathbb{R}$$

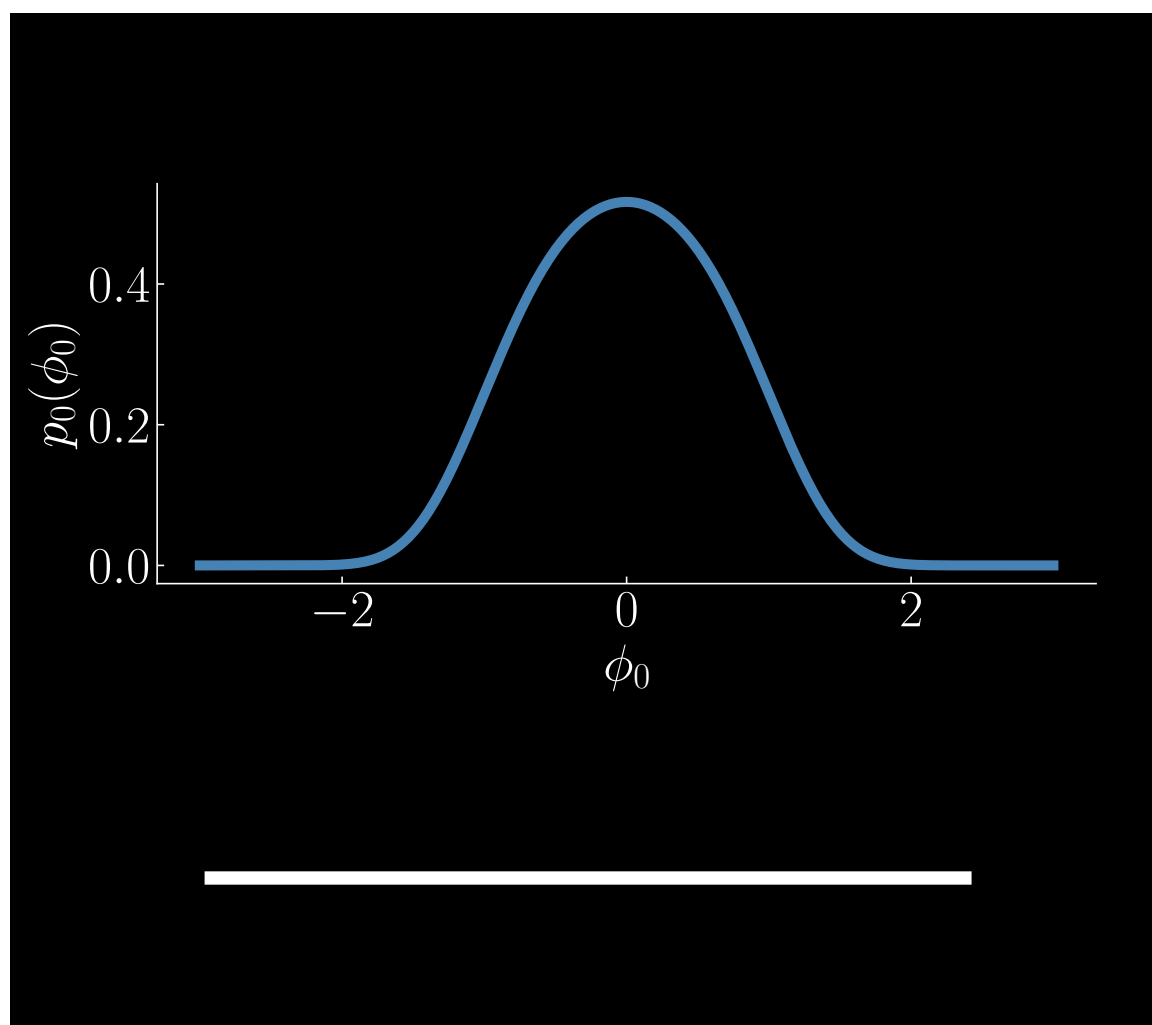
$$\mathcal{M}_0 = \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{D}}$$

PIKfolds: Taming the Sign Problem

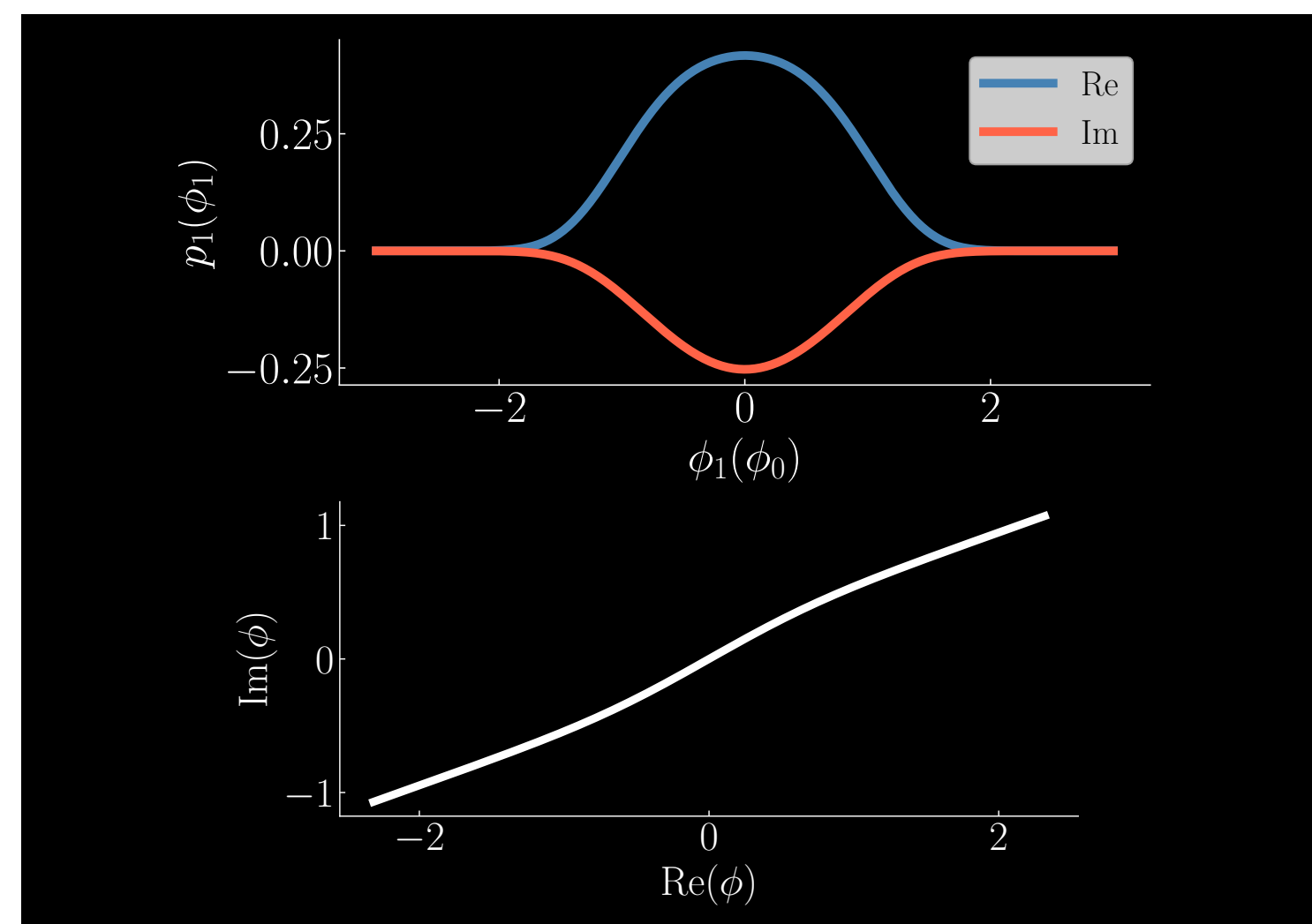
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$(p_t, \mathcal{M}_t)$



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$$p_1 = p$$

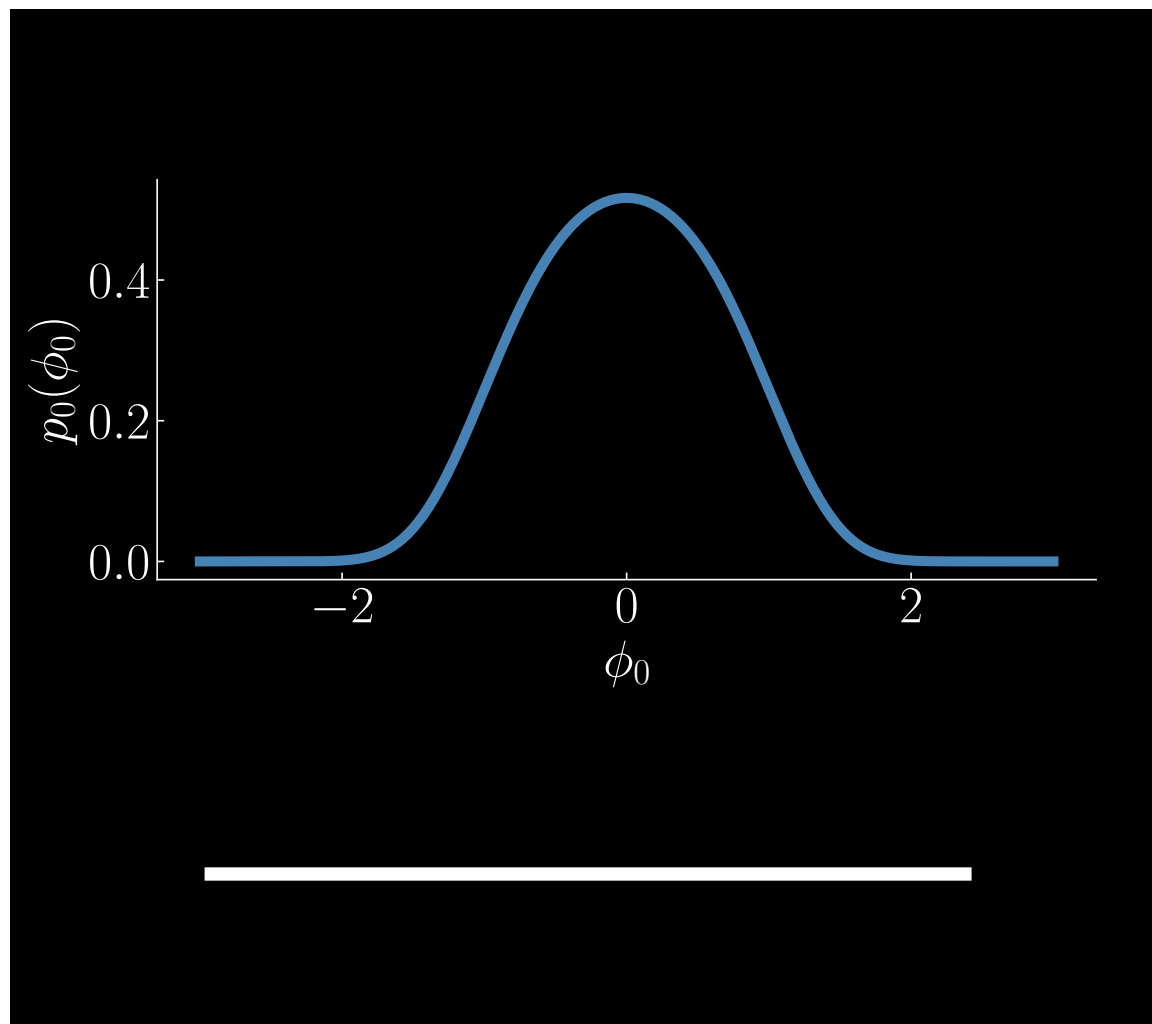
$$\mathcal{M} \subset \mathbb{C}^{\mathcal{D}}$$

PIKfolds: Taming the Sign Problem

$$\frac{d\phi_t}{dt} = \dot{\phi}_t(\phi)$$

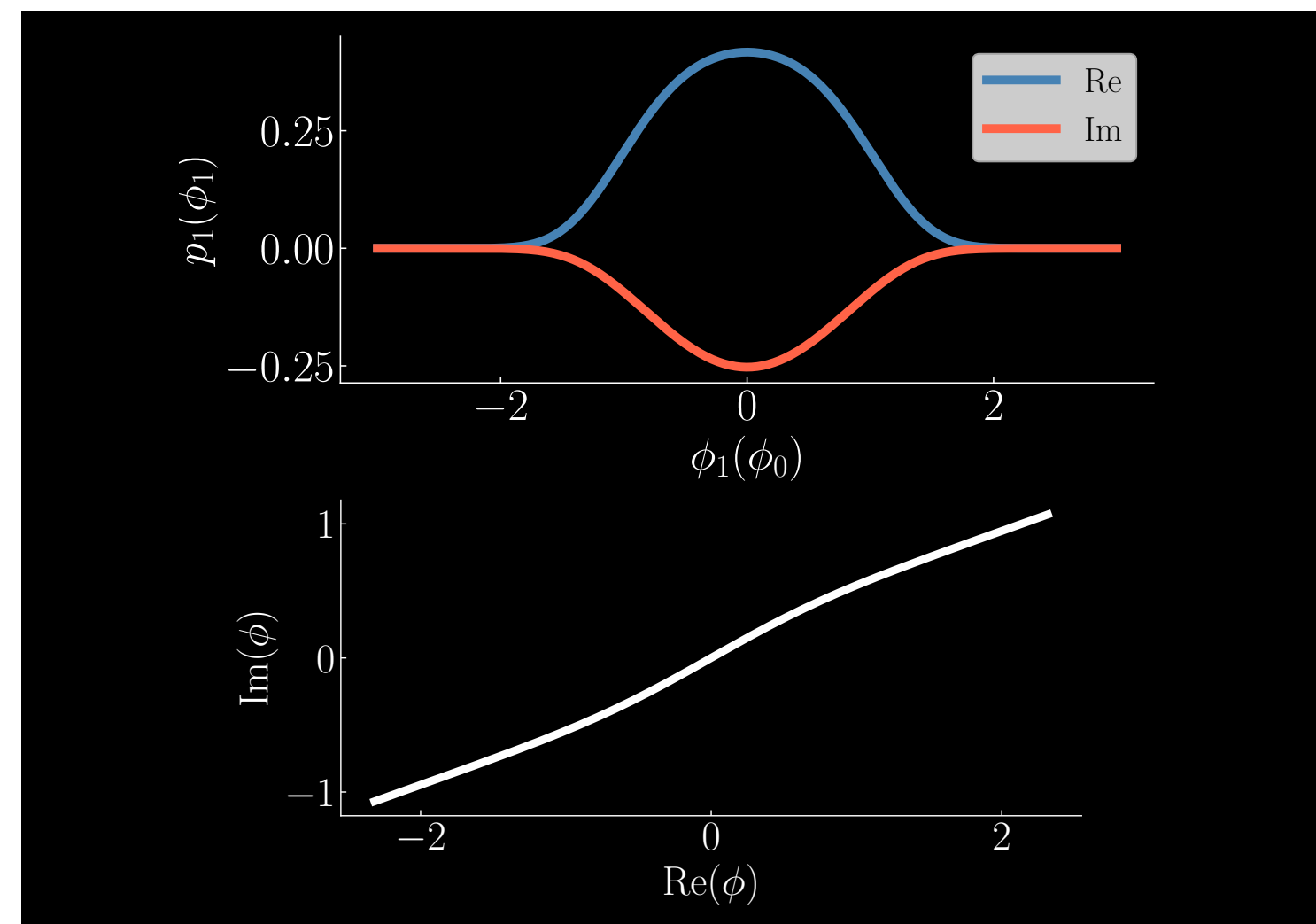
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$$(p_t, \mathcal{M}_t)$$



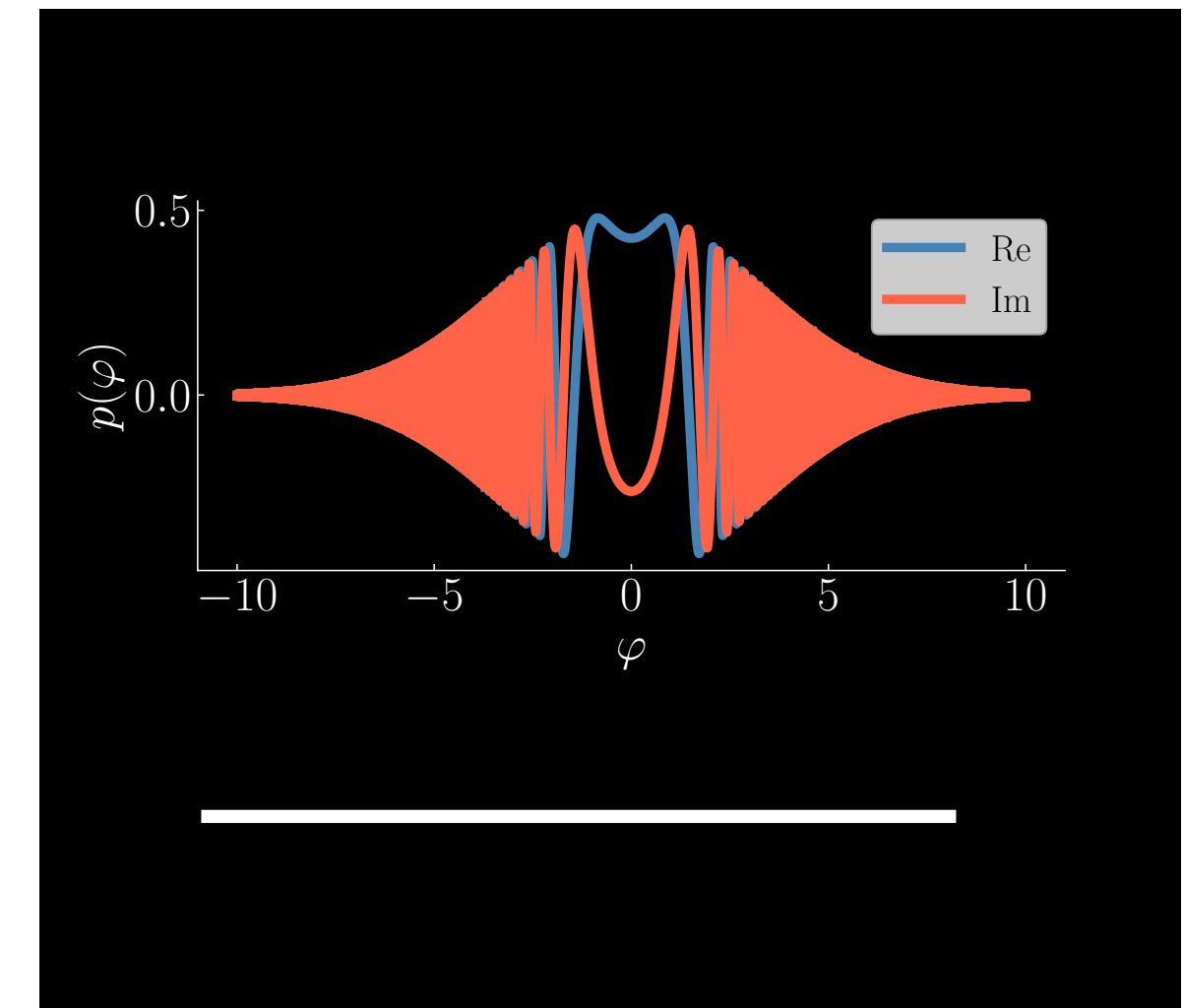
$$(p_0, \mathcal{M}_0)$$

Typically
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 $\mathcal{M}_0 = \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{D}}$



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 $\mathcal{M} \subset \mathbb{C}^{\mathcal{D}}$



$$(p, \mathcal{M})$$

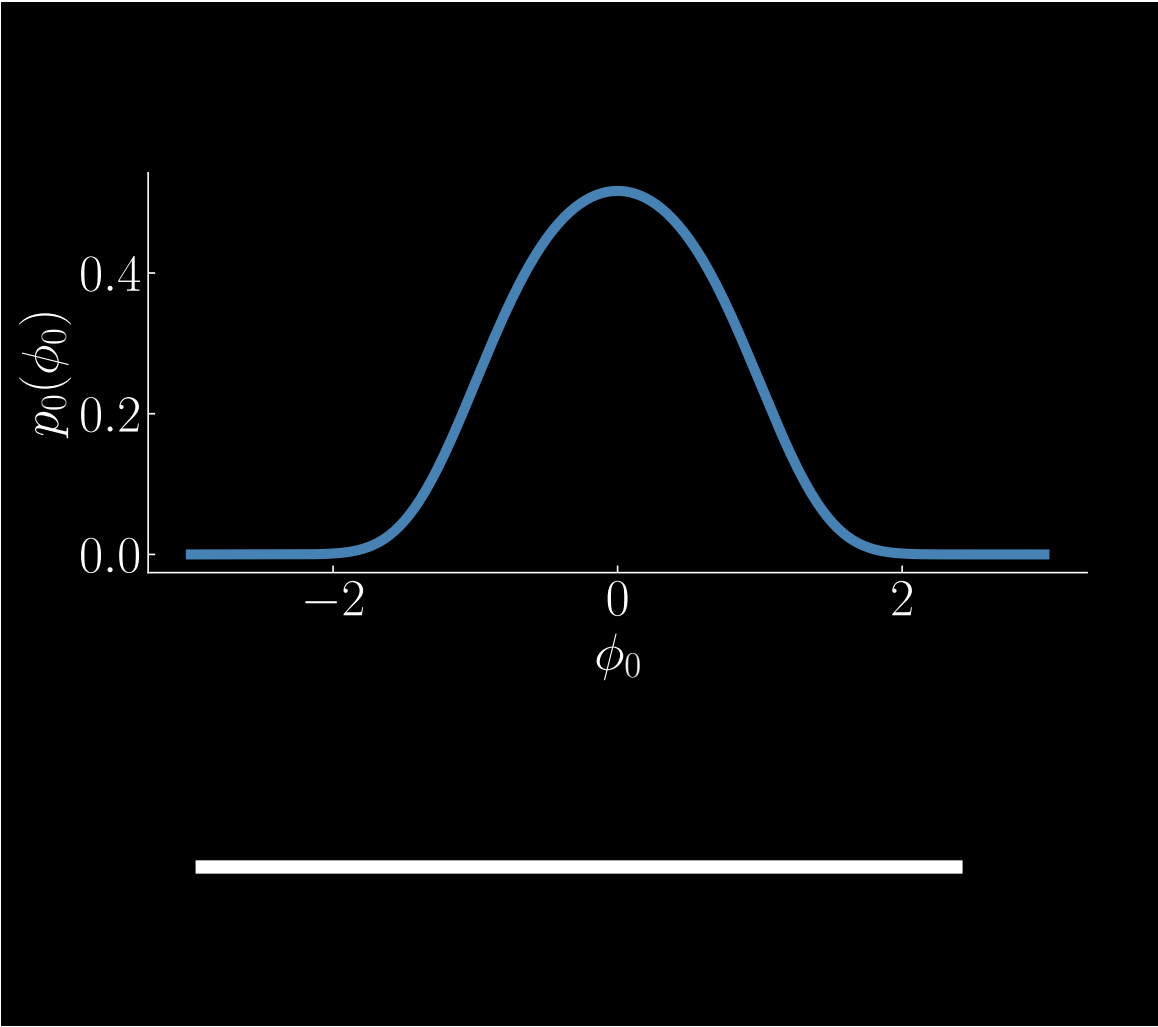
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PIKfolds: Taming the Sign Problem

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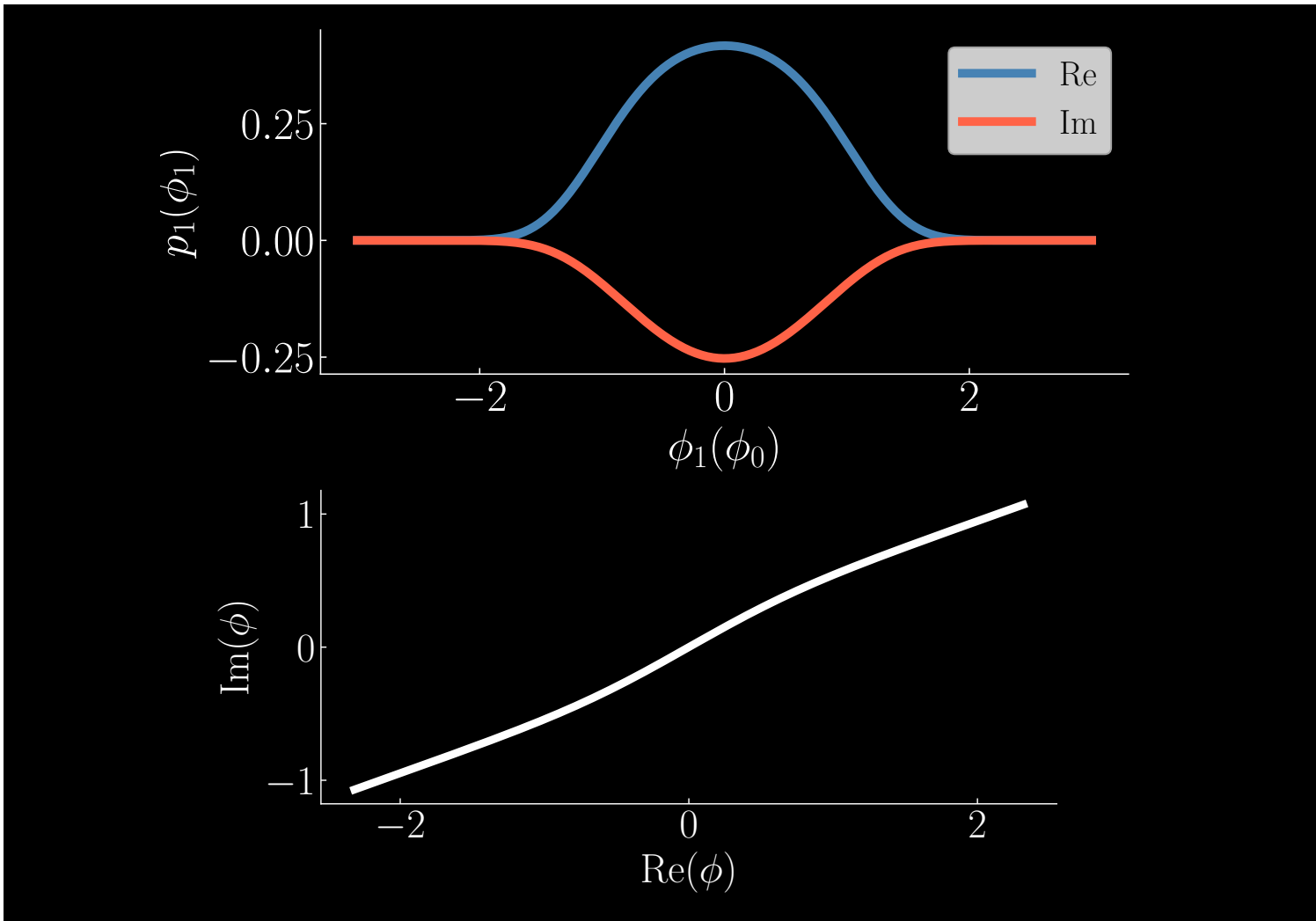


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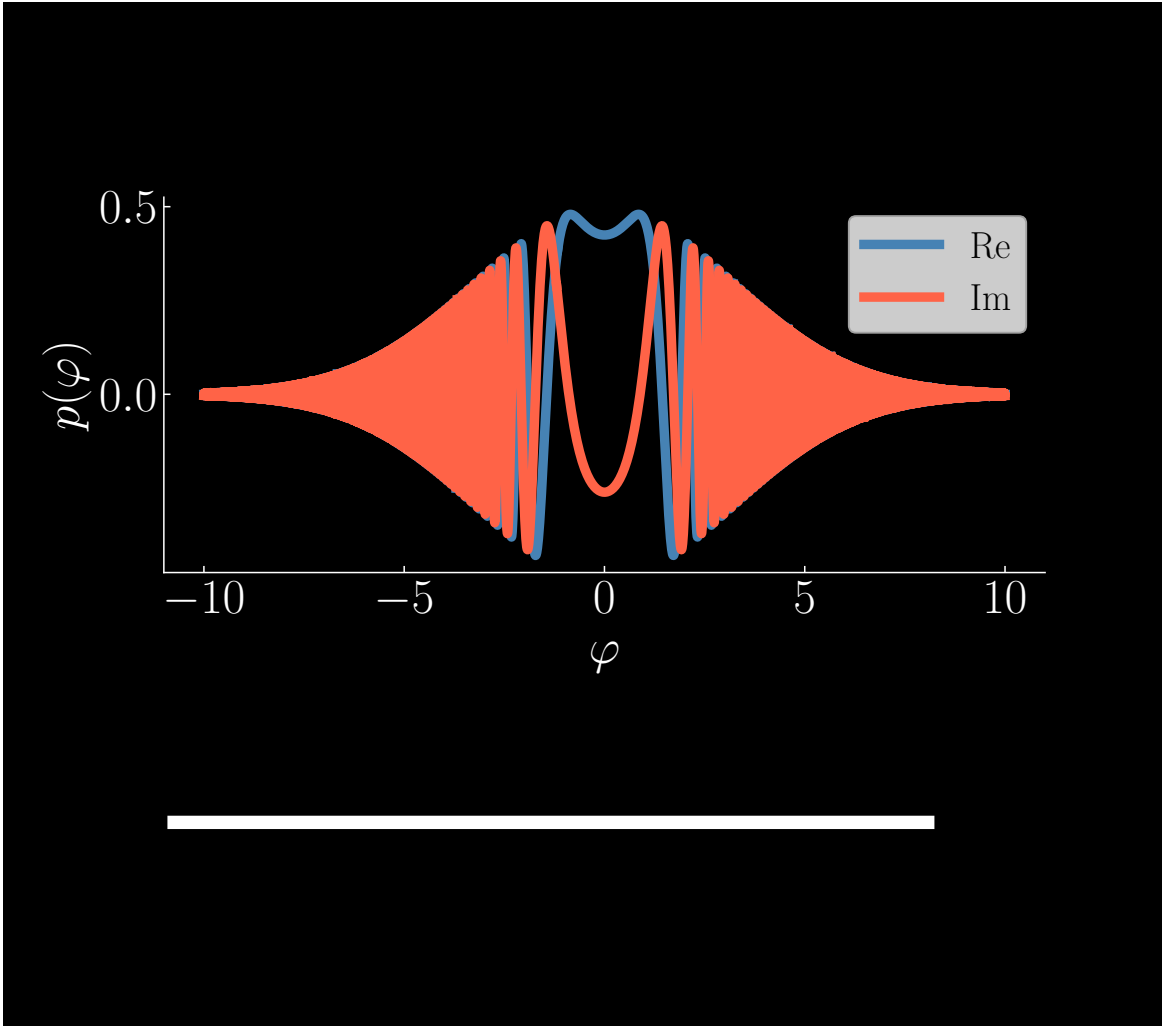
$$\mathcal{M}_0 = \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{D}}$$



$(p_1, \mathcal{M}_1)$

$$p_1 = p$$

$$\mathcal{M} \subset \mathbb{C}^{\mathcal{D}}$$



$(p, \mathcal{M})$

Typically

$$p(\varphi) \in \mathbb{C}$$

$$\mathcal{M} = \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{D}}$$

9

$$\int_{\mathcal{M}_0} d\mu_0 p_0(\phi) \mathcal{O}(\phi_1(\phi))$$

PIK

=

$$\int_{\mathcal{M}_1} d\mu_1 p_1(\phi) \mathcal{O}(\phi)$$

Cauchy

=

$$\int_{\mathcal{M}} d\mu p(\varphi) \mathcal{O}(\varphi) = \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle$$

PIKfolds: Weight-preserving flows

$$P_t(\mathcal{T}_t) = \int_{\mathcal{T}_t} d\mu_t p_t(\phi)$$

For a subset $\mathcal{T}_t \subset \mathcal{M}_t$

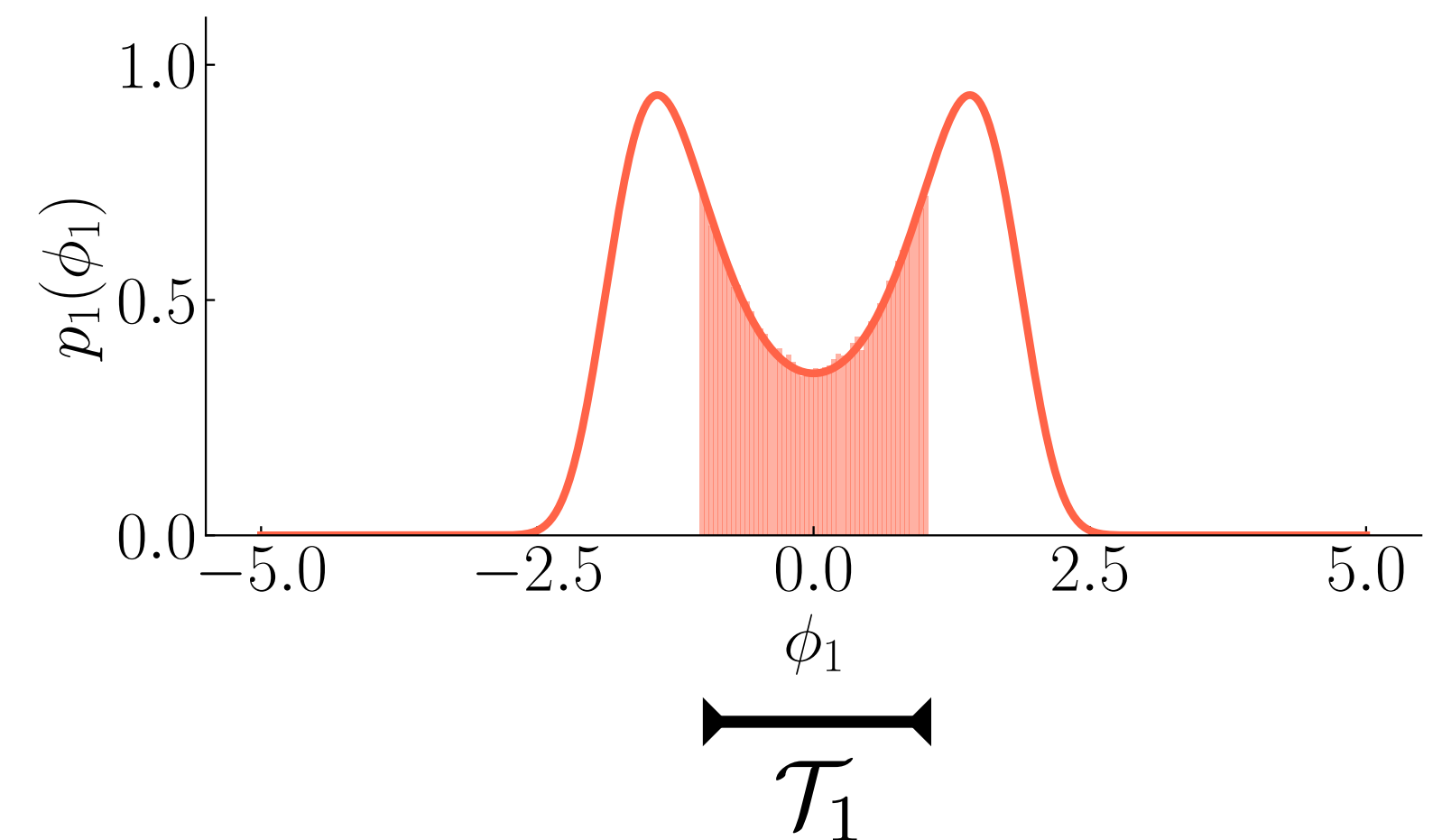
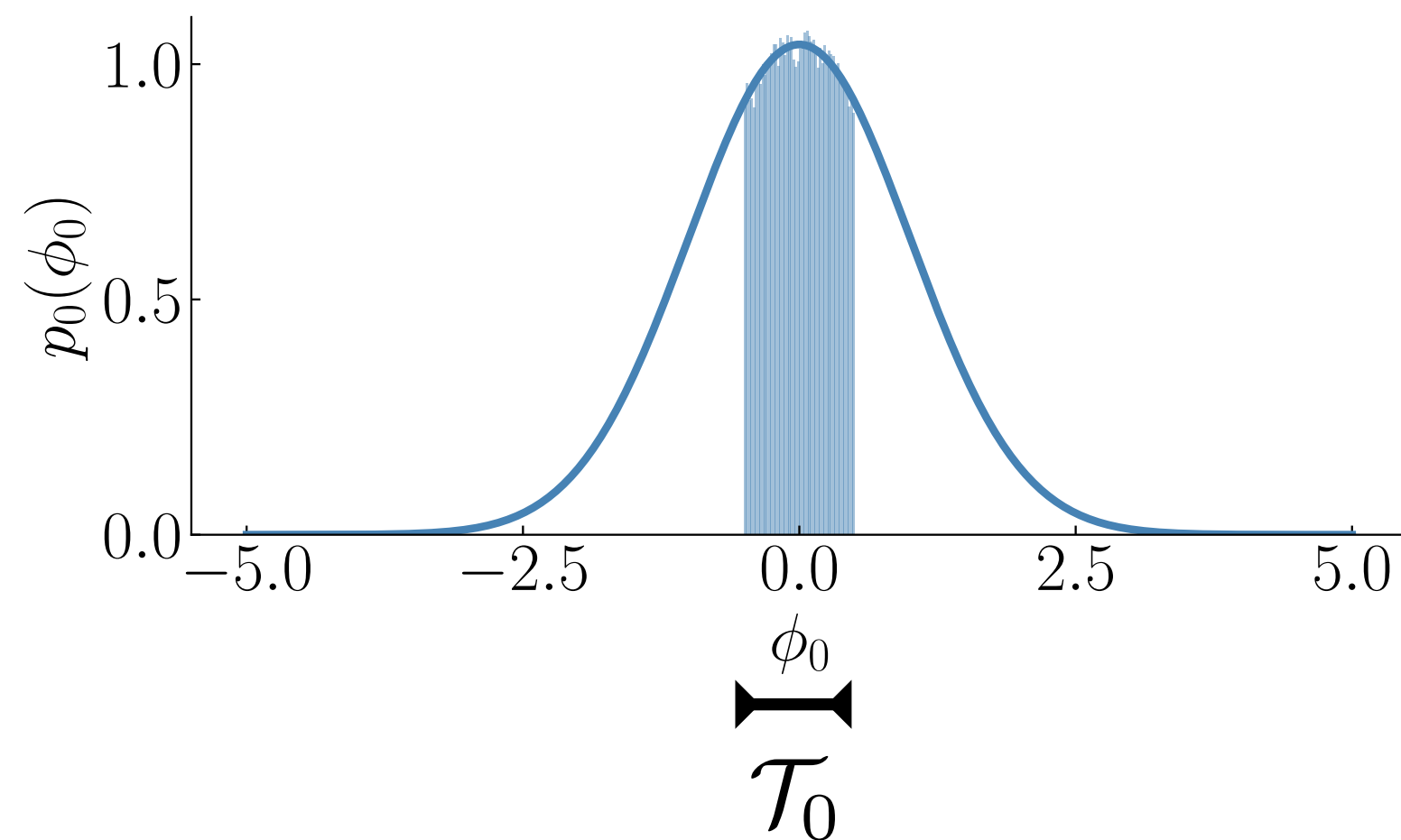
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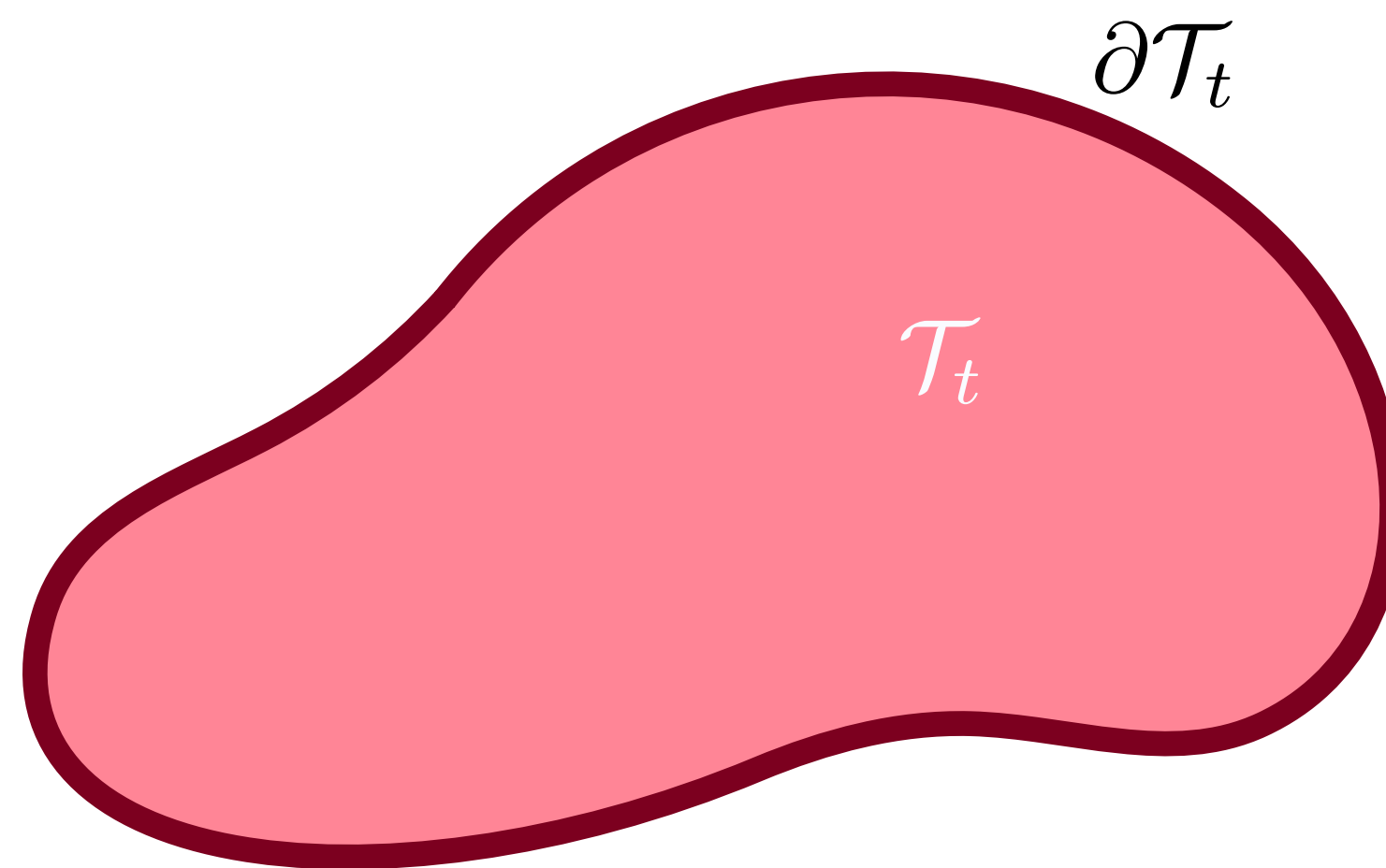


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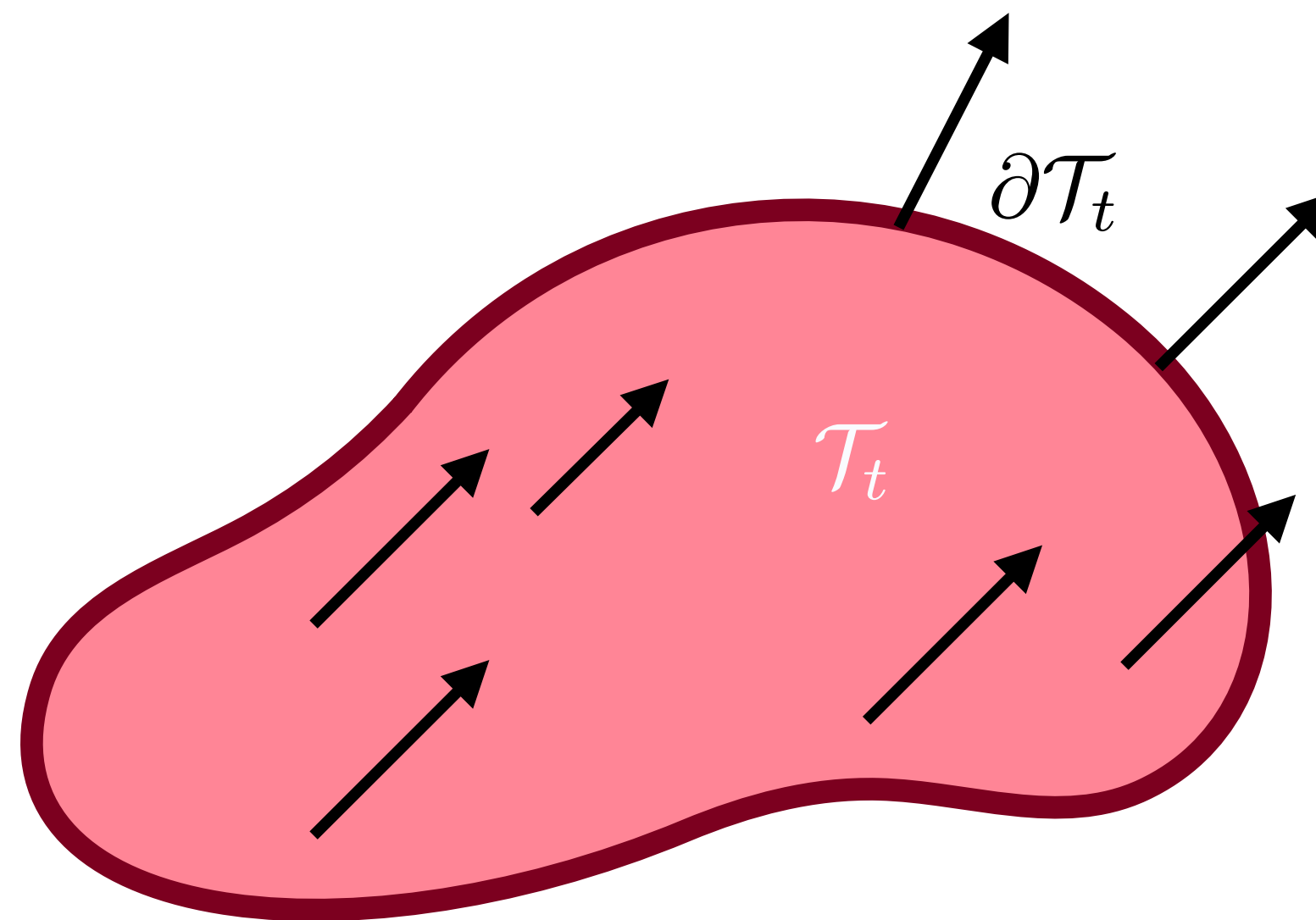
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PIKfolds: Weight-preserving flows

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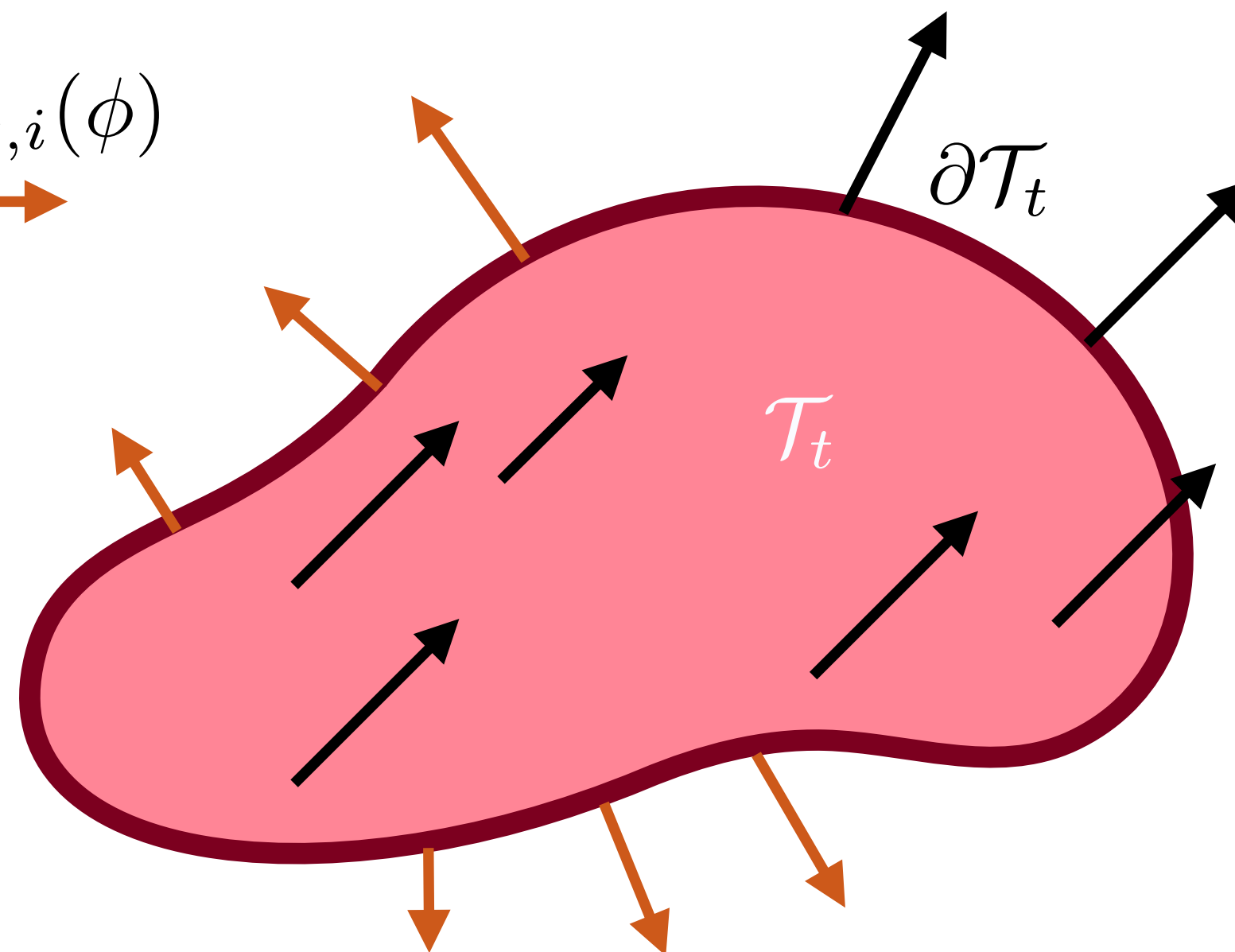
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$$= \int_{\partial \mathcal{T}_t} d\mathcal{S}_i(\phi) \left[\sigma_{t,i}(\phi) - \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi) \right] p_t(\phi)$$

$$\sigma_{t,i}(\phi) = \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi) + \Delta \sigma_{t,i}(\phi)$$



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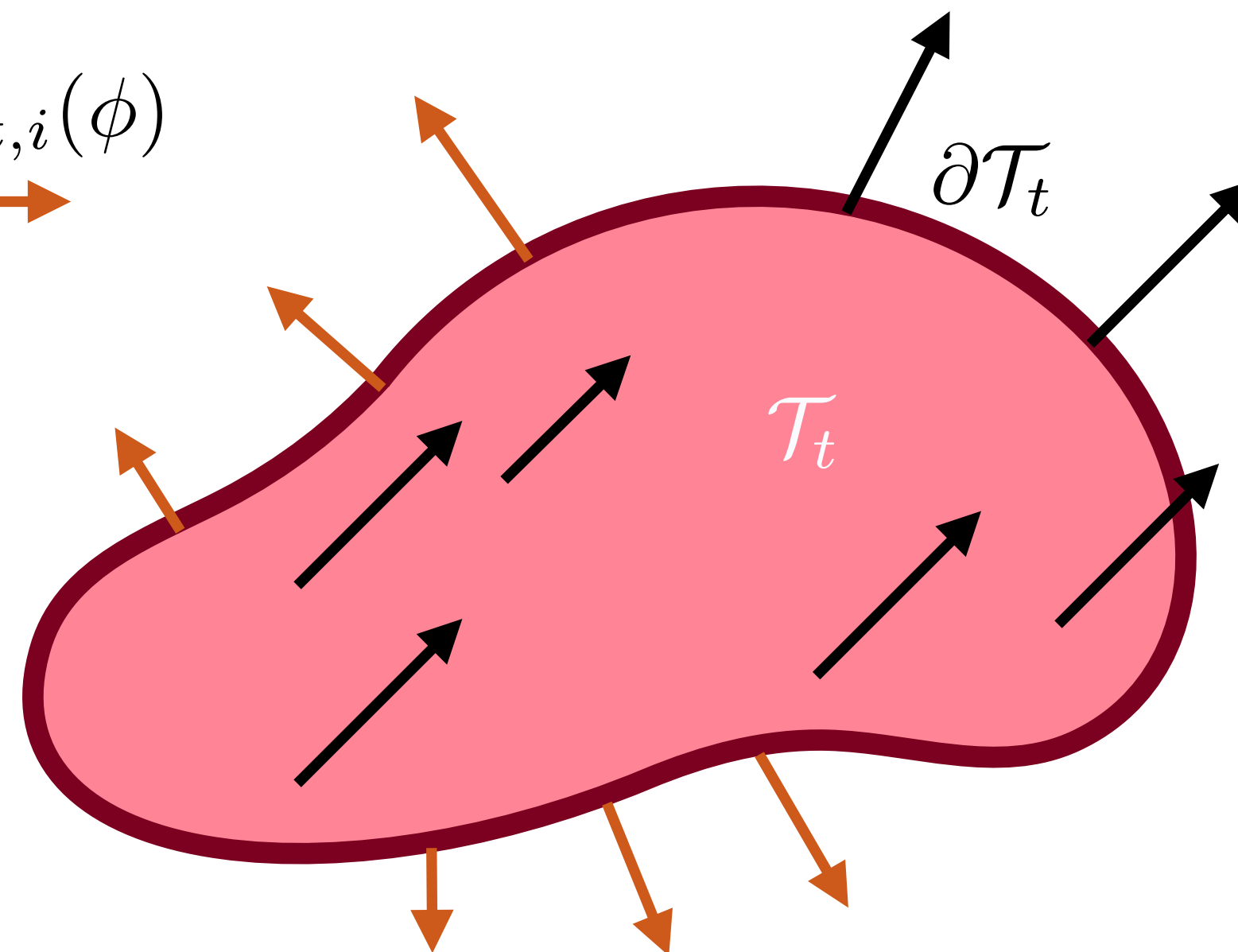
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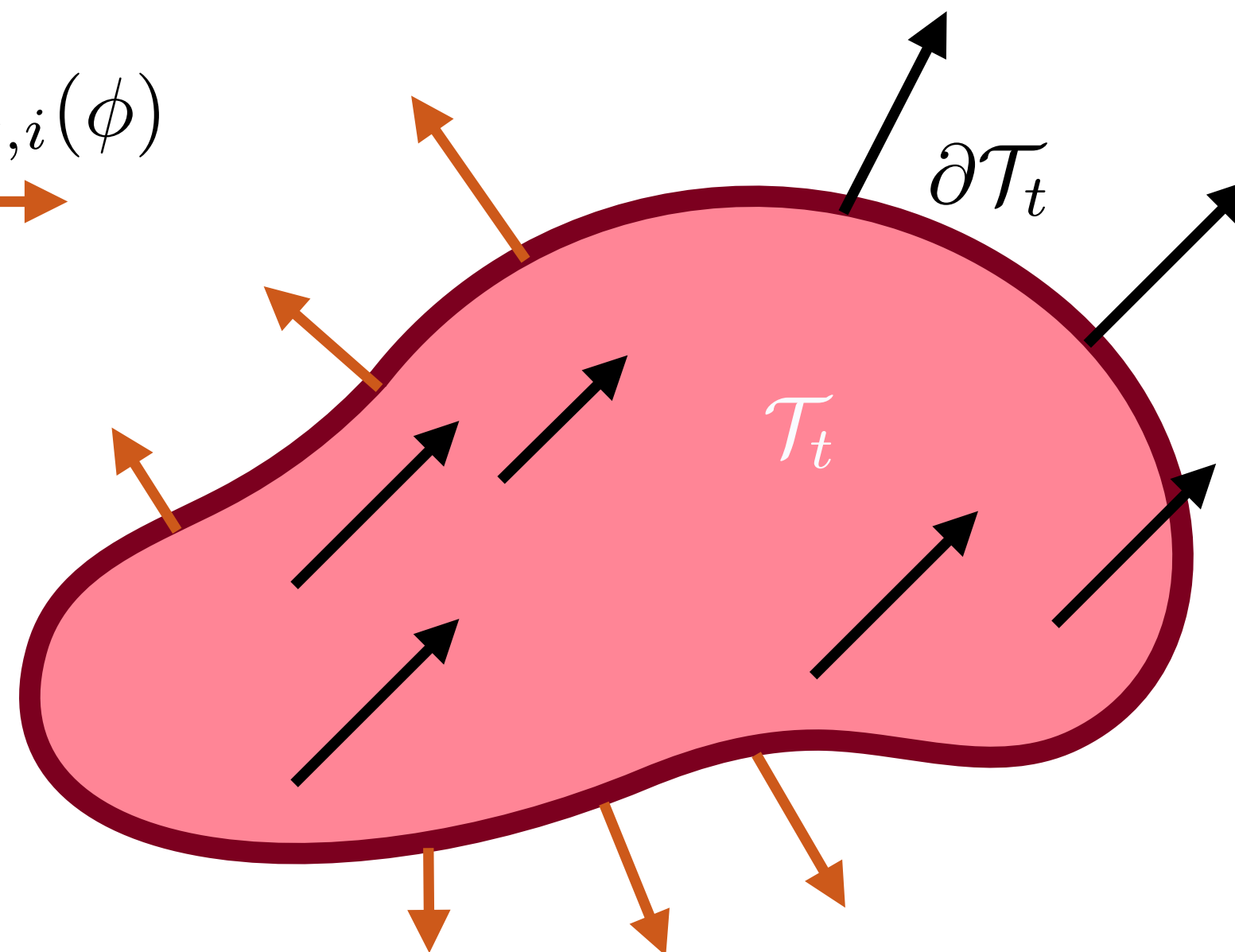
$$\frac{dP_t(\mathcal{T}_t)}{dt} = 0$$

In particular in the complex case

$$d\mu_0 p_0(\phi) \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\sigma_{t,i}(\phi) = \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi) + \Delta\sigma_{t,i}(\phi)$$

$\xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad}$ $\xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad}$



PIKfolds: Weight-preserving flows

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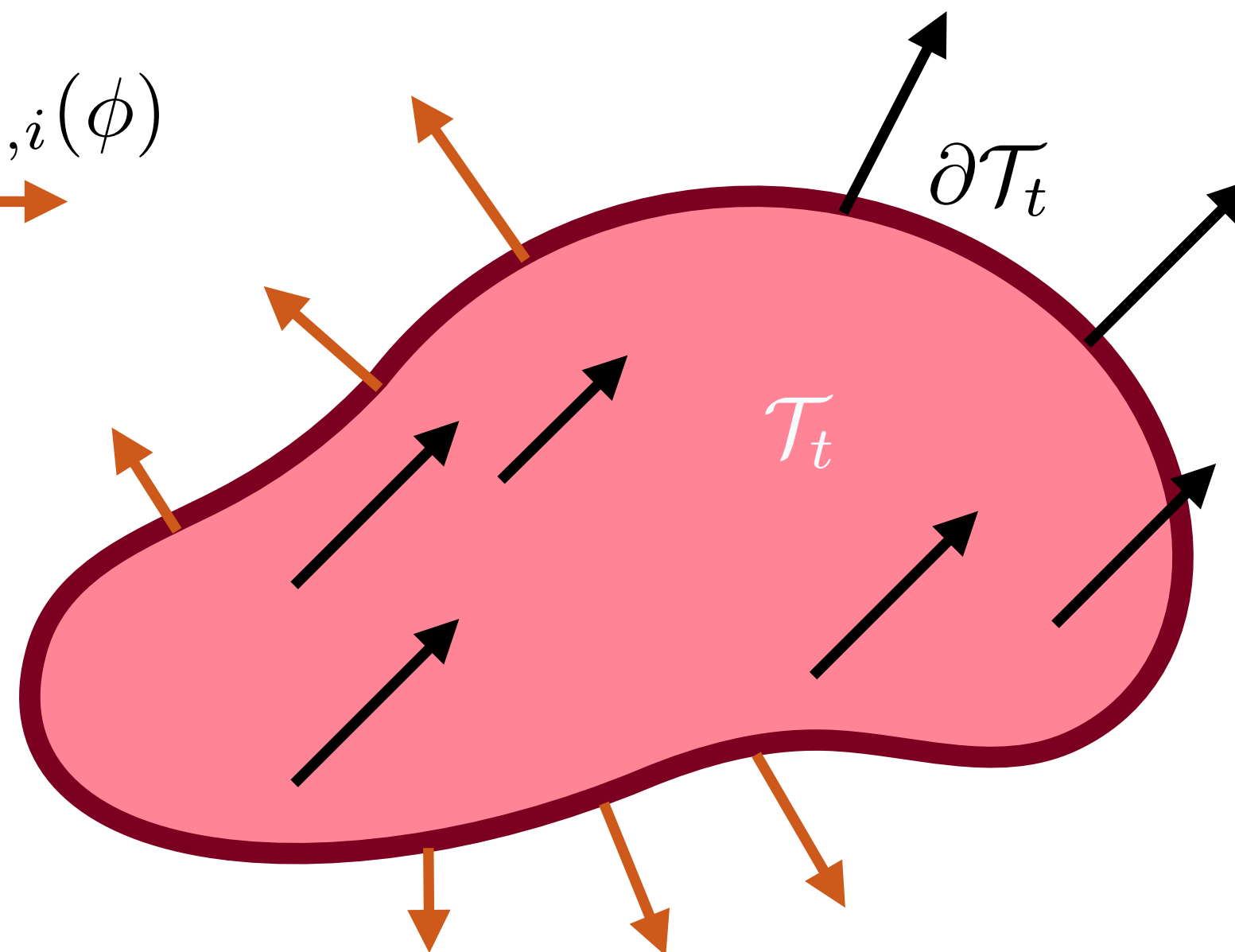
$$d\mu_0 p_0(\phi) \in \mathbb{R}$$



$$d\mu_t p_t(\phi) = [d\phi_R + id\phi_I] [p_R(\phi) + ip_I(\phi)] \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\sigma_{t,i}(\phi) = \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi) + \Delta\sigma_{t,i}(\phi)$$

$\xrightarrow{\text{black arrow}} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{orange arrow}}$



PIKfolds: Weight-preserving flows

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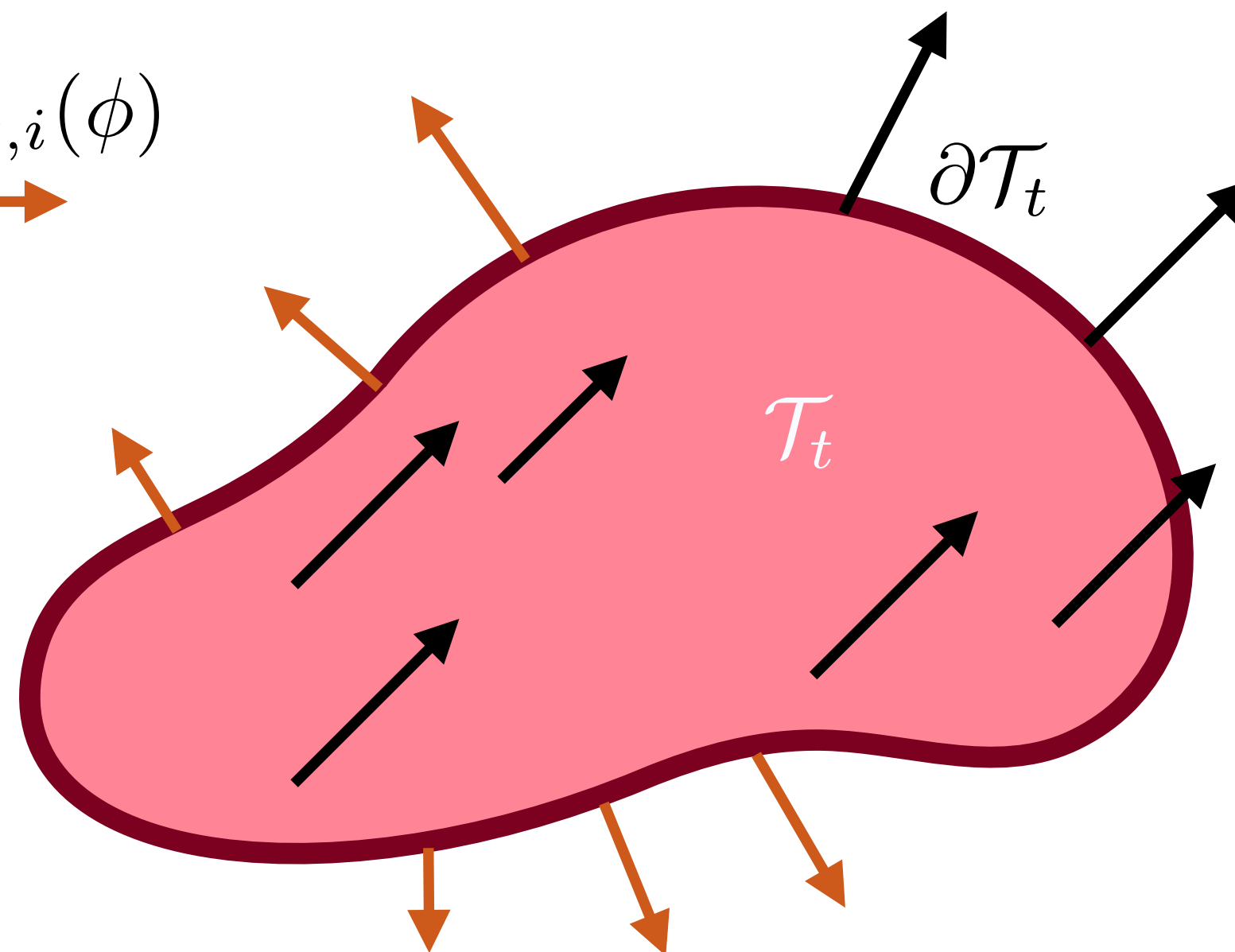
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$$\frac{d\phi_I}{d\phi_R} = -\frac{\text{Im}p_t(\phi)}{\text{Re}p_t(\phi)}$$

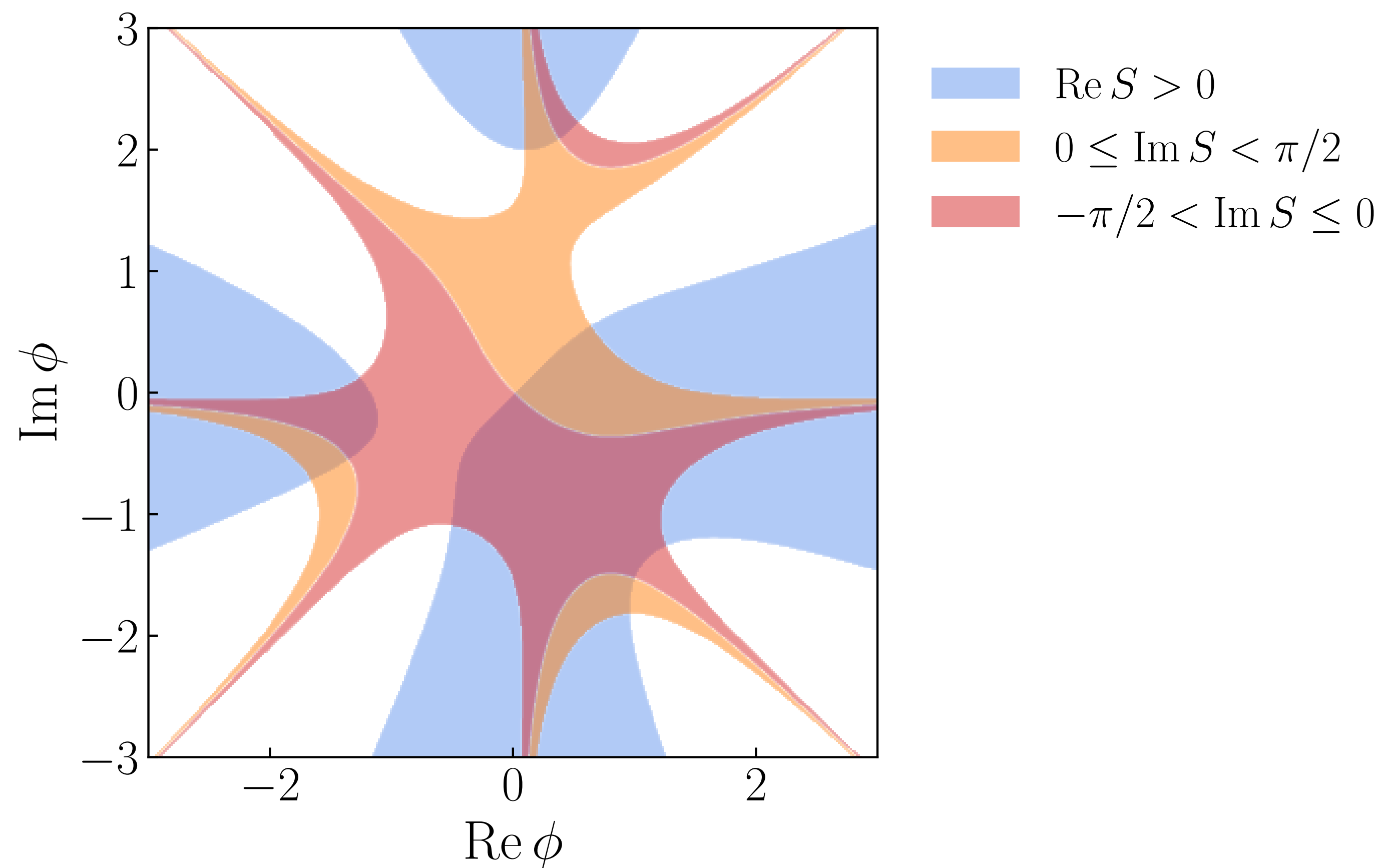
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PIKfolds and Lefschetz Thimbles

Consider their approach to the same theory

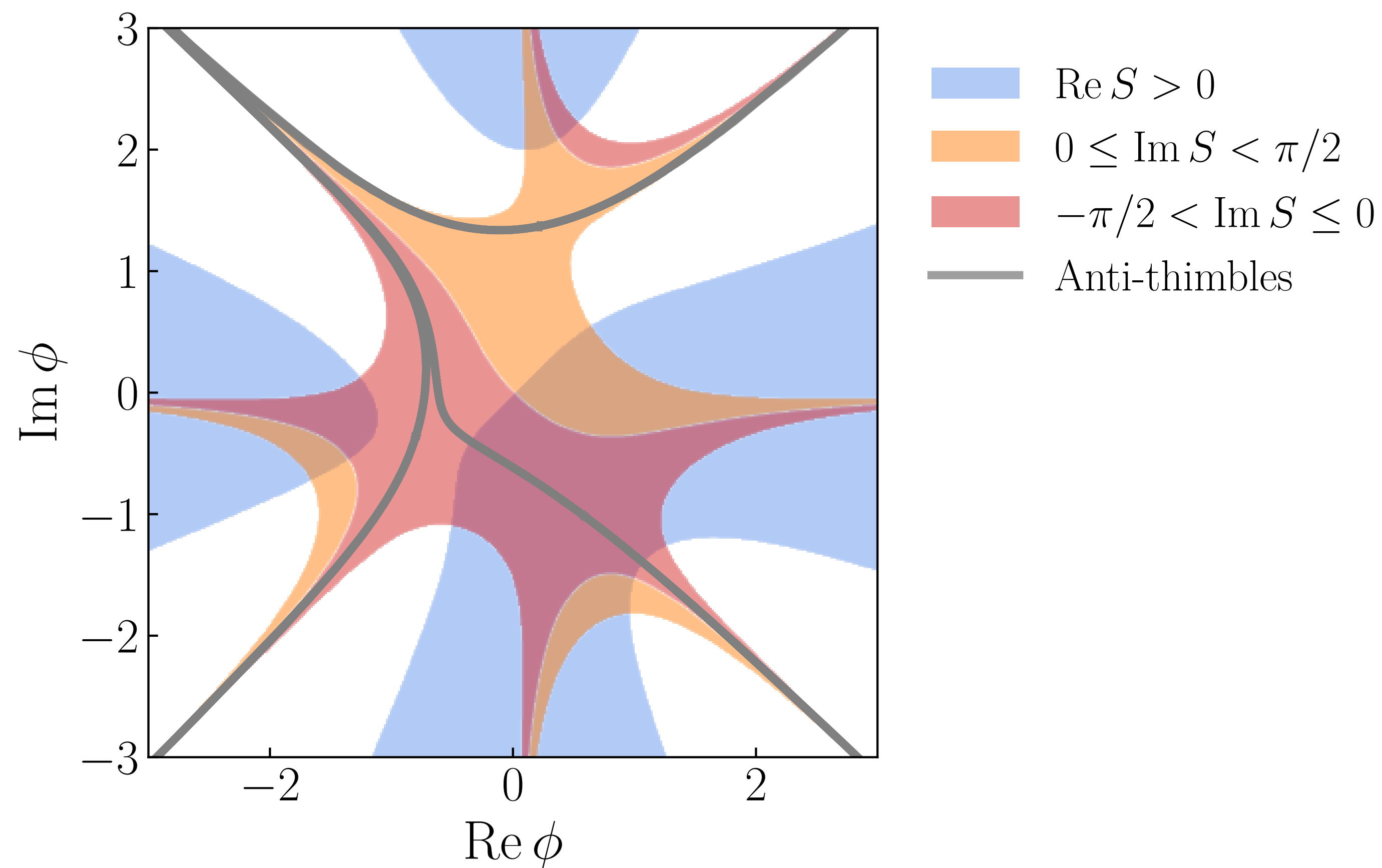
$$\hat{S}_t(\phi) = \frac{1}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{1}{4}\phi^4 + (1 + it)\phi$$



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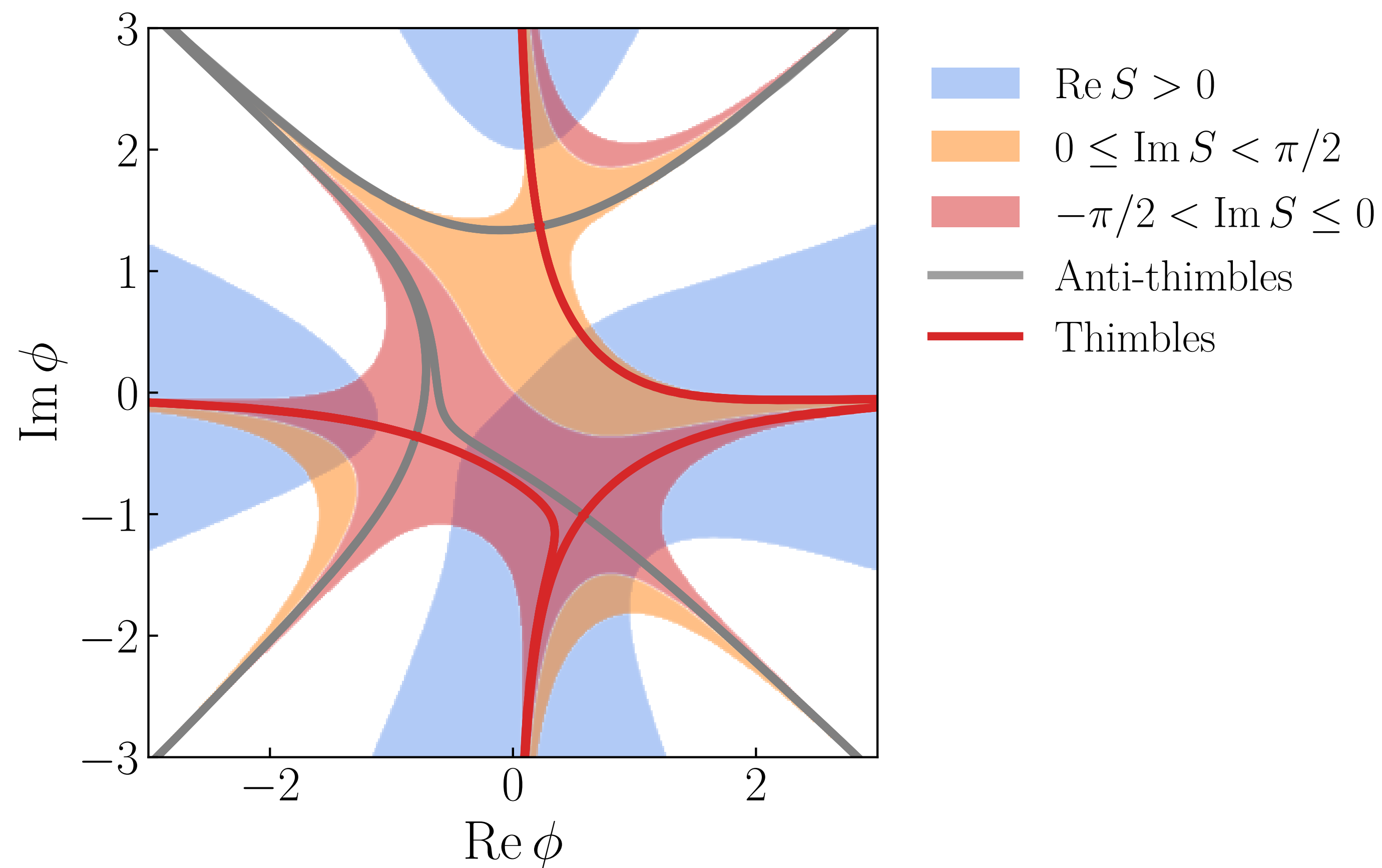
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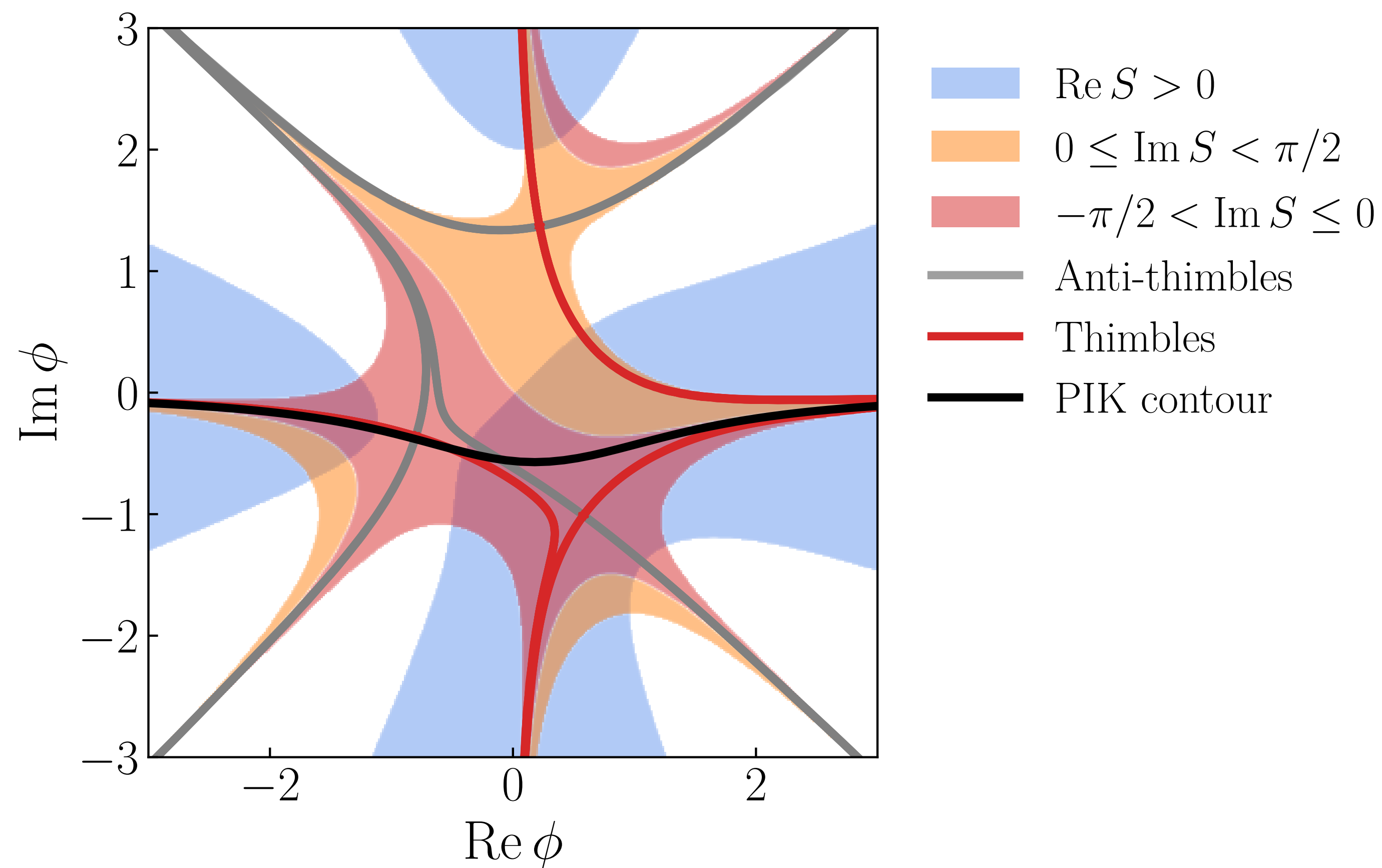
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Solving sign problems with physics-informed kernels

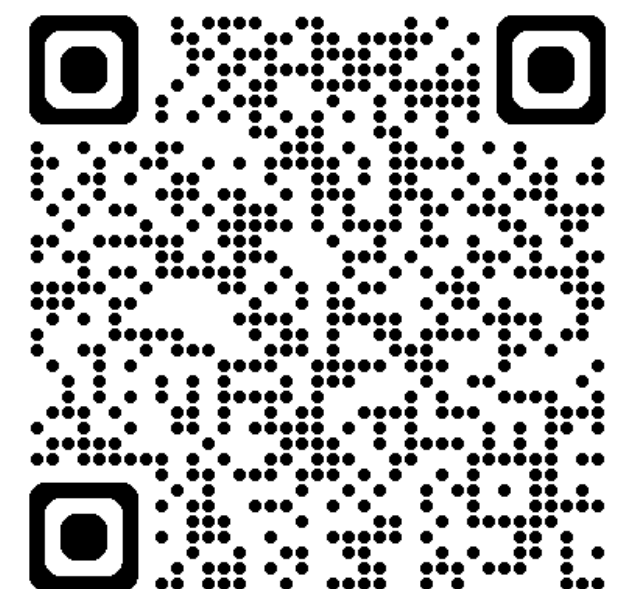
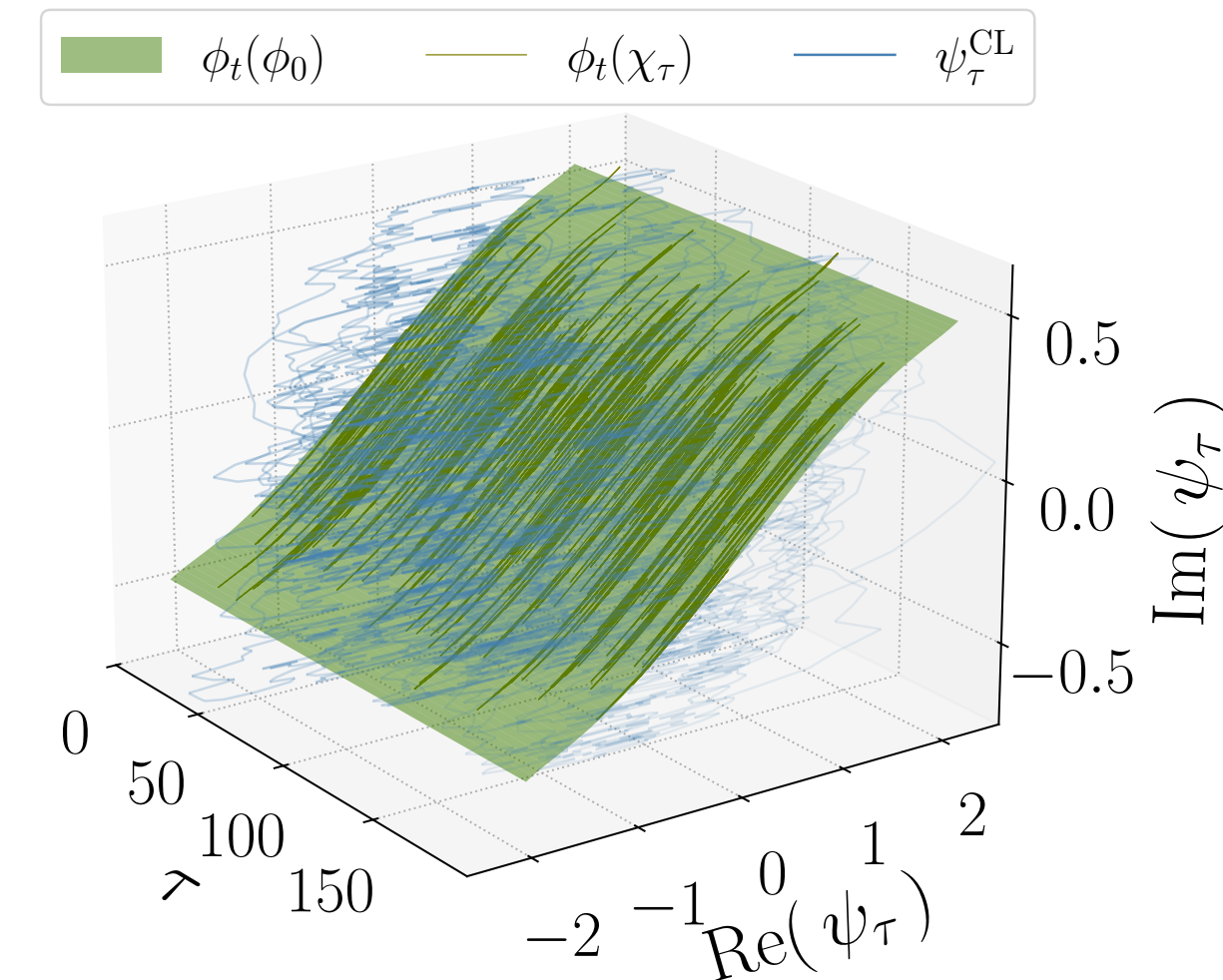
... things to look forward to

Application to higher-dimensional systems
(Stochastic PDE solvers & Tensor networks)

Application to fermionic theories
(Limits of contour deformations)

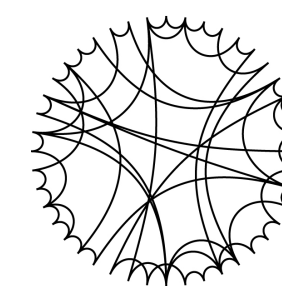
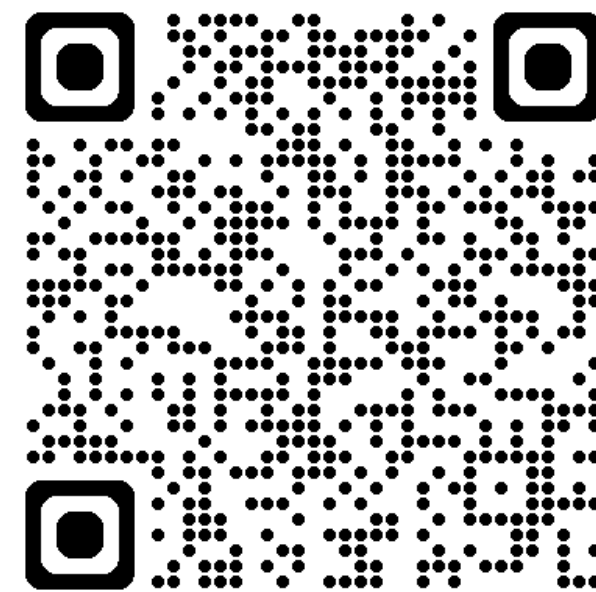
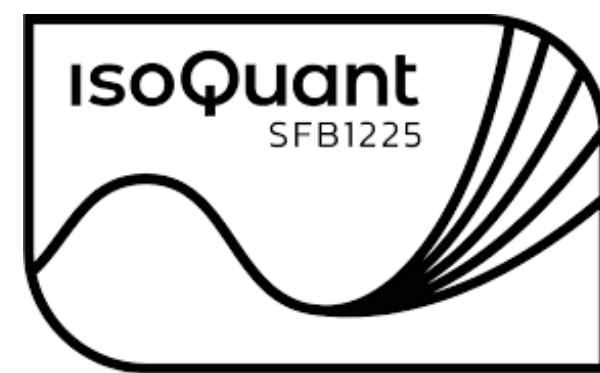
Application to gauge theories

**Combination with existing
sign problem methods**



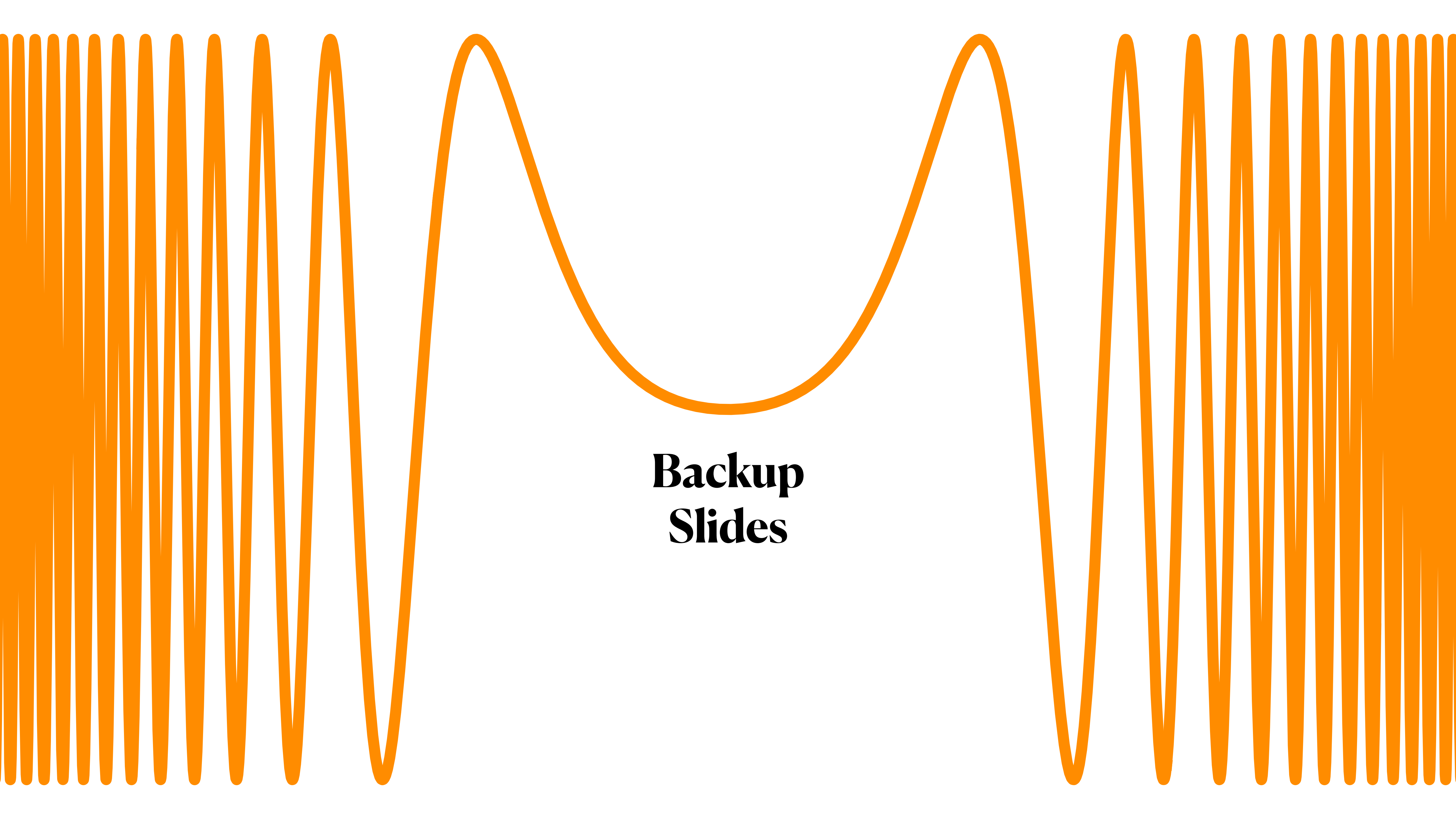
**Thank you very
much for your
attention
&
questions**

**Solving sign problems
with physics-informed kernels**



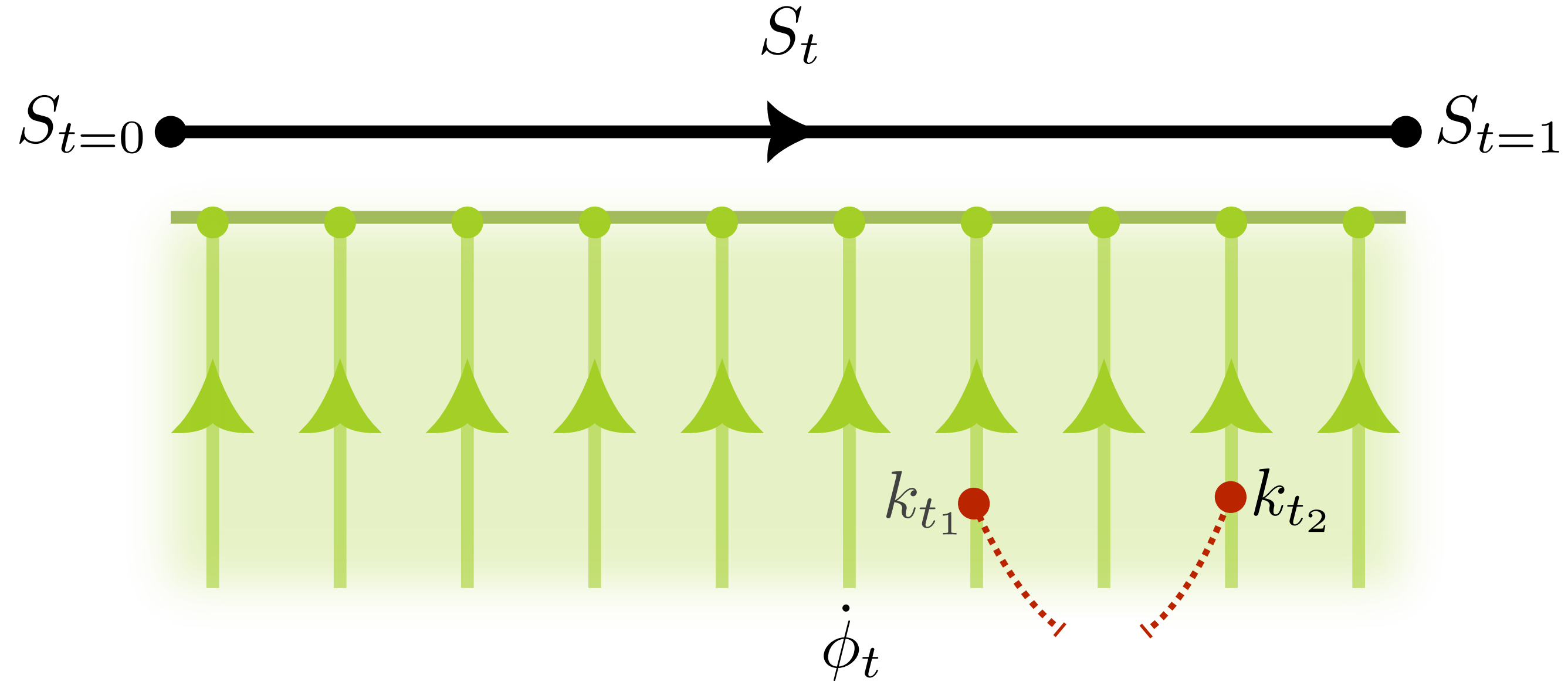
STRUCTURES
CLUSTER OF
EXCELLENCE

Friederike Ihssen, **Renzo Kapust**, Jan M. Pawłowski
University of Heidelberg



**Backup
Slides**

Computing physics-informed kernels

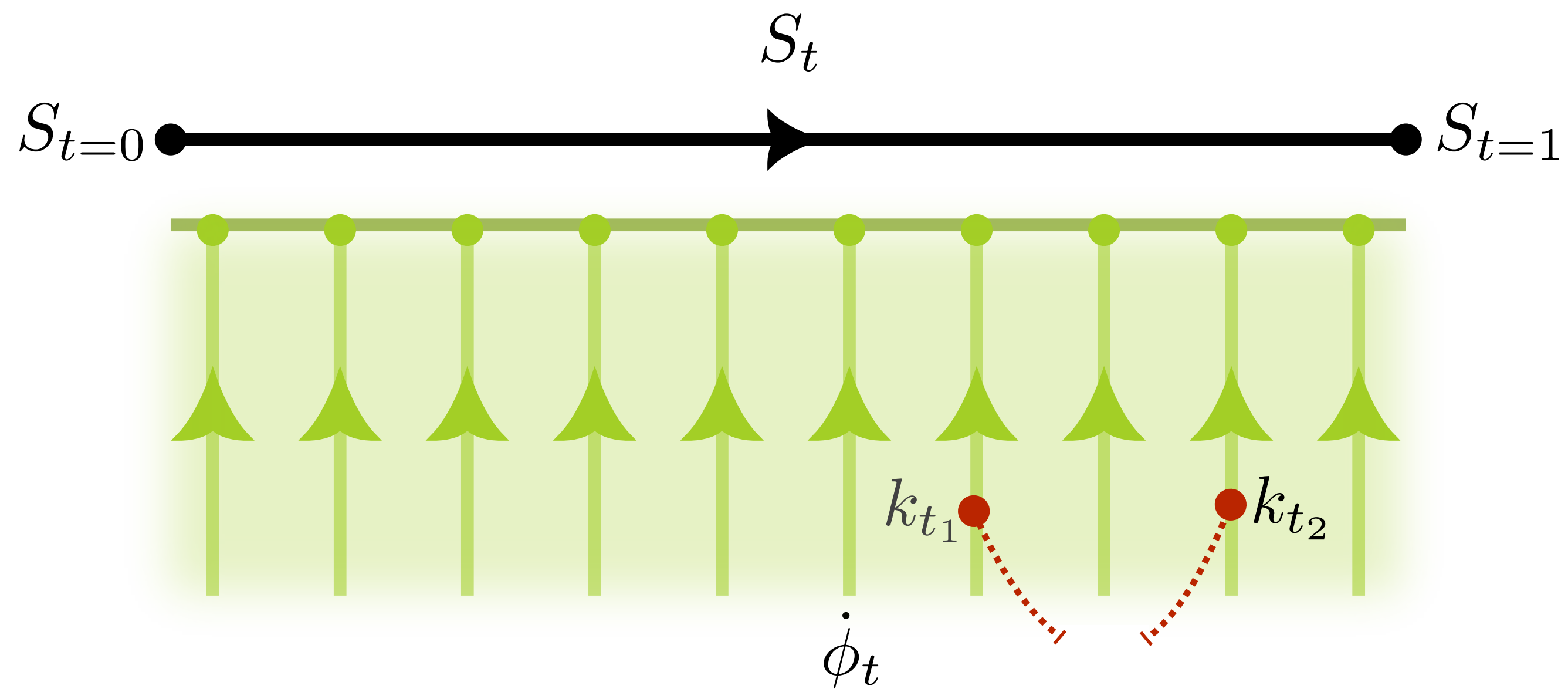


$\langle S \rangle$

$\sigma(\phi)$

S

Computing physics-informed kernels



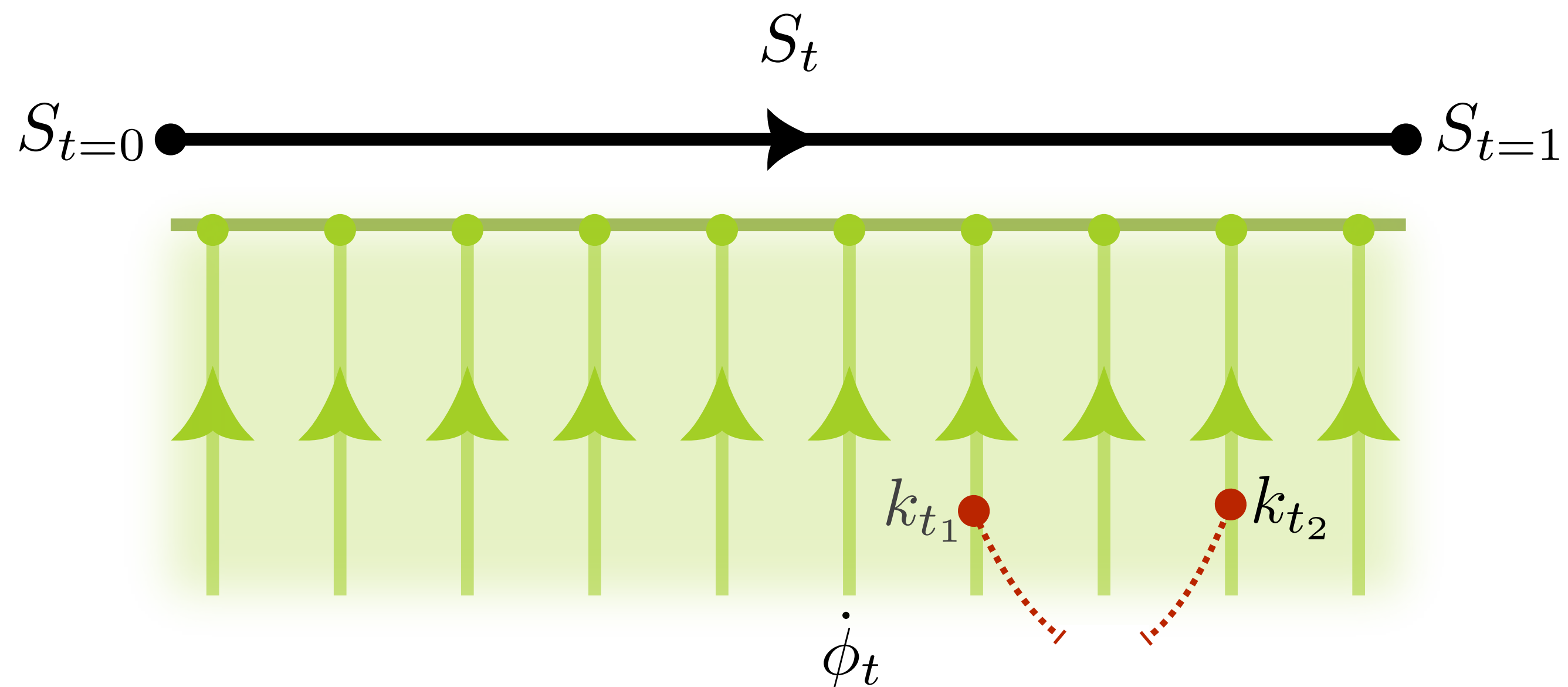
$$S_t(\phi) = \hat{S}_t(\phi) + \log \mathcal{N}_t$$

$$\hat{S}_t(\phi) = \sum_i c_{i,t} O_i(\phi)$$

$$\dot{\phi}_t(\phi) = \sum_i k_{i,t} K_i(\phi)$$

14/19

Computing physics-informed kernels



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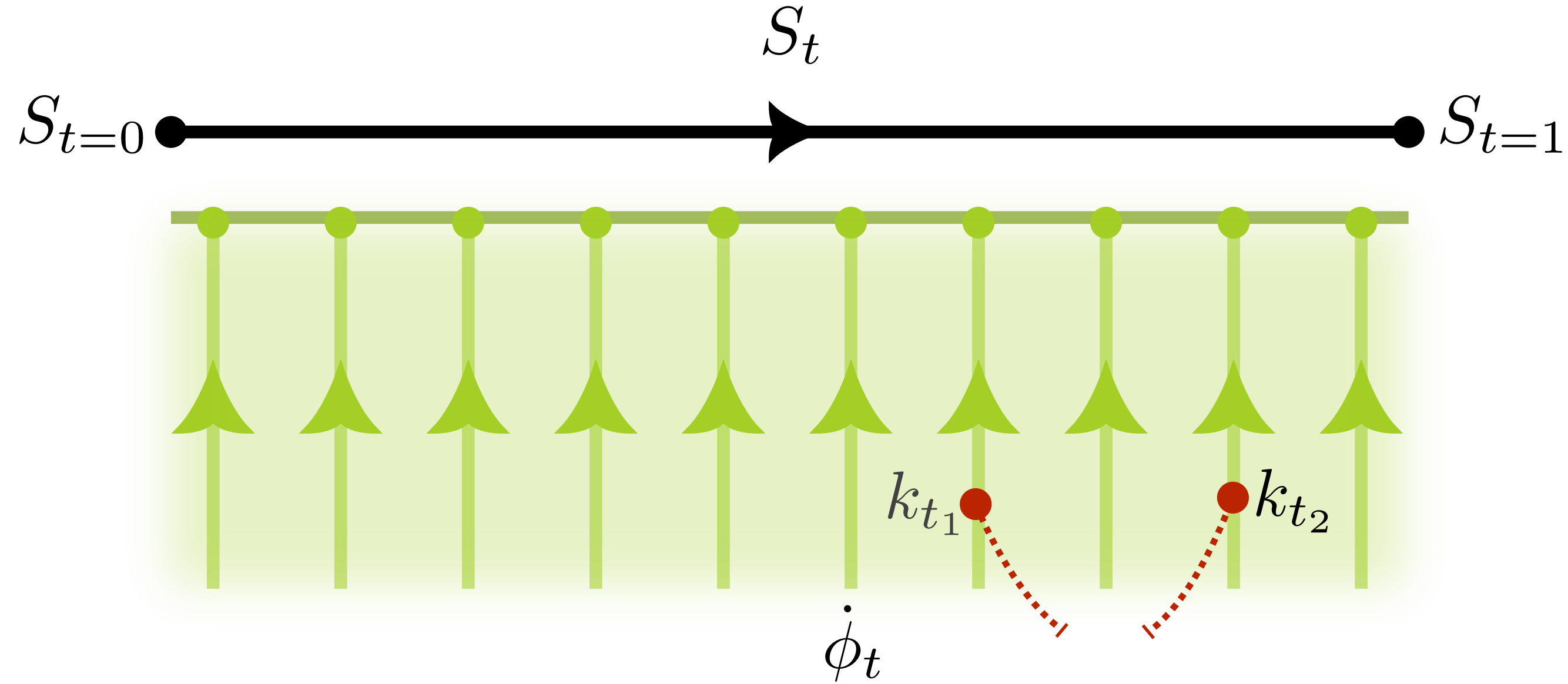
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$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \ell[\hat{S}_t] \quad \dot{\phi}_t(\phi)$$

Computing physics-informed kernels



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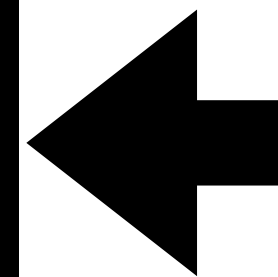
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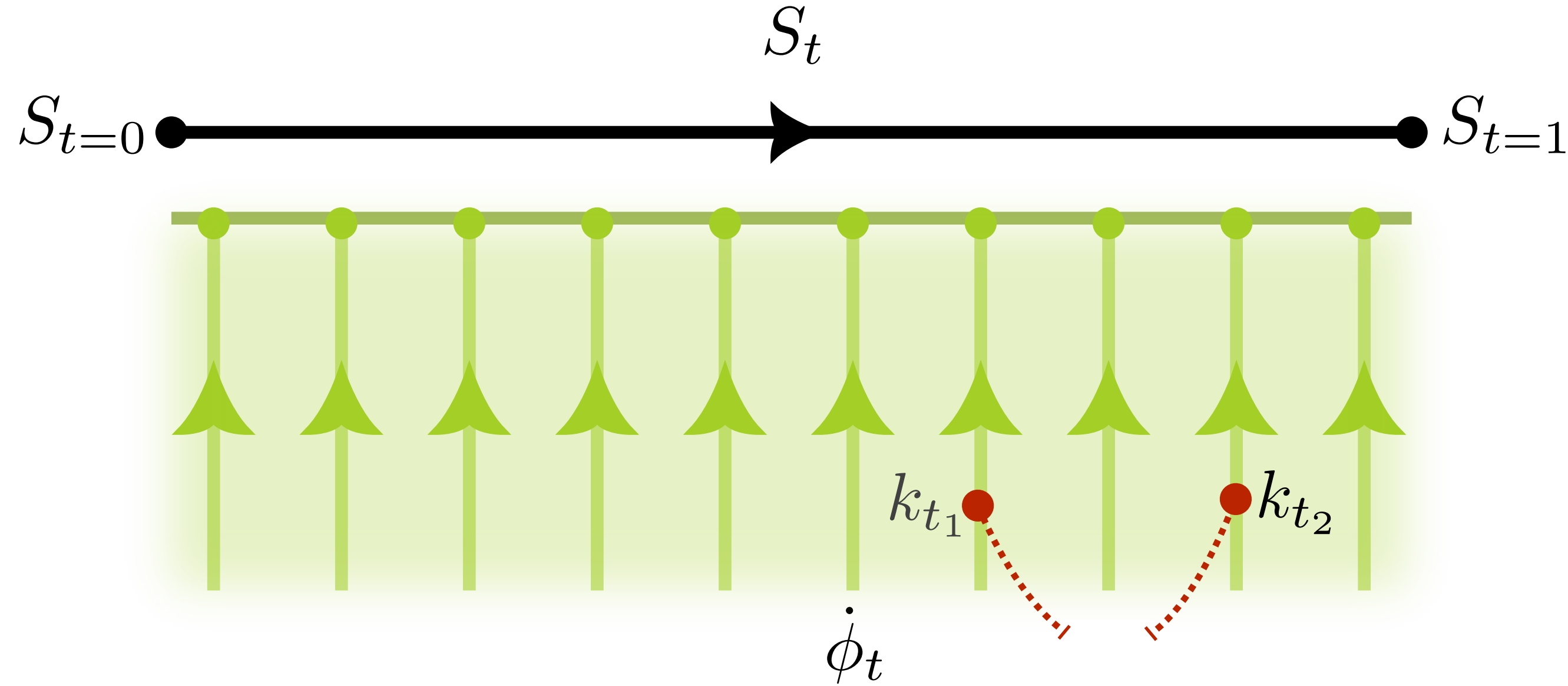
Field-Independence

$$\frac{d \log \mathcal{N}_t}{dt} = \ell[\hat{S}_t] \dot{\phi}_t(\phi) - \frac{d\hat{S}_t(\phi)}{dt}$$

$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \ell[\hat{S}_t] \dot{\phi}_t(\phi)$$



Computing physics-informed kernels



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$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \ell[\hat{S}_t] \dot{\phi}_t(\phi)$$

Cheap to compute

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, \chi) = \frac{d\hat{S}_t(\chi)}{dt} - \frac{d\hat{S}_t(\phi)}{dt} + \ell[\hat{S}_t] \dot{\phi}_t(\phi) - \ell[\hat{S}_t] \dot{\phi}_t(\chi)$$

$$A_t(\phi) k_t = b_t(\phi)$$

$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} - \frac{\partial S_t(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} \right] \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} \Omega_t(\phi) \\ \Omega_t(\phi) &: \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{D}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi_i^2} - \frac{\partial S_t(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} \right] \Omega_t(\phi)$$

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Induces a stochastic process

$$d\psi_\tau = -\frac{\partial S_t(\psi_\tau)}{\partial \phi} d\tau + \sqrt{2}dW_\tau$$

$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} - \frac{\partial S_t(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} \right] \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi)$$

$$\dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} \Omega_t(\phi)$$
$$\Omega_t(\phi) : \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{D}} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

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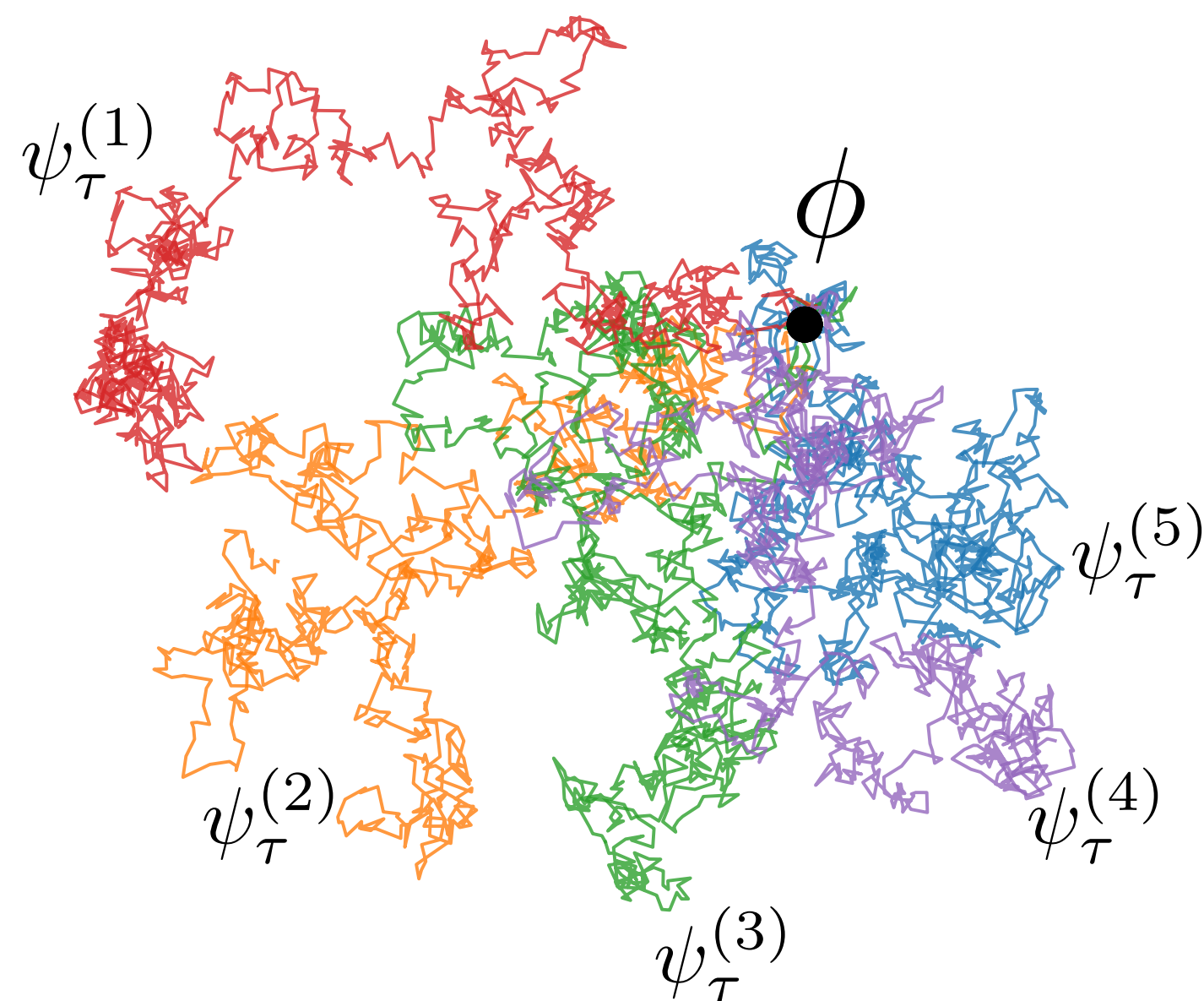
Induces a stochastic process

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Feynman-Kac

$$\Omega_t(\phi) = -\int_0^\infty d\tau \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{dS_t(\psi_\tau)}{dt} \mid \psi_0 = \phi \right]$$

e.g. Albergo, Kanwar, arXiv:2603.00252



$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} - \frac{\partial S_t(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} \right] \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} \Omega_t(\phi) \\ \Omega_t(\phi) : \mathbb{R}^{\mathcal{D}} &\rightarrow \mathbb{R} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi_i^2} - \frac{\partial S_t(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} \right] \Omega_t(\phi)$$

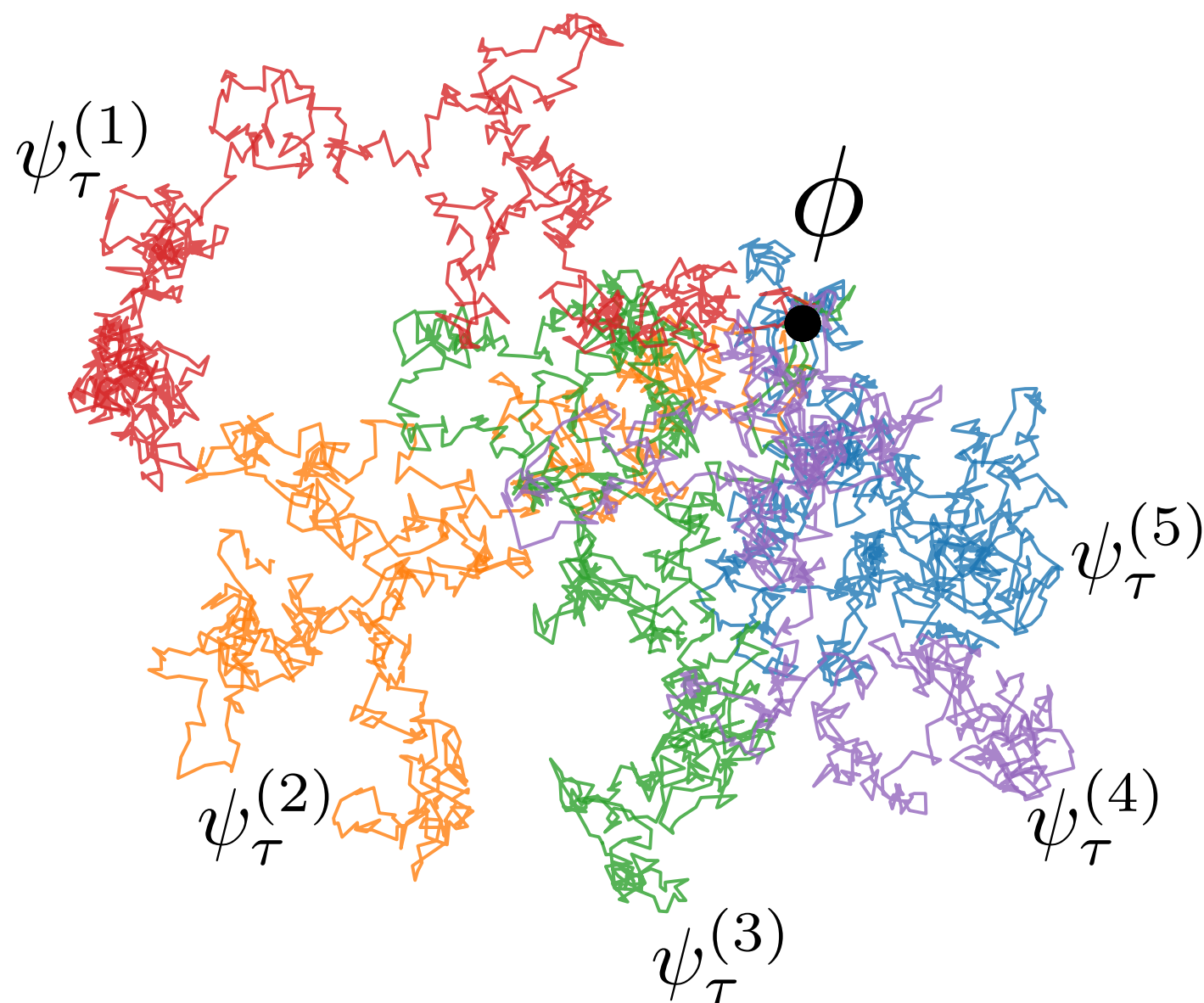
Induces a stochastic process

$$d\psi_\tau = -\frac{\partial S_t(\psi_\tau)}{\partial \phi} d\tau + \sqrt{2}dW_\tau$$

Feynman-Kac

$$\Omega_t(\phi) = - \int_0^\infty d\tau \, \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{dS_t(\psi_\tau)}{dt} \mid \psi_0 = \phi \right]$$

e.g. Albergo, Kanwar, arXiv:2603.00252



Extension to the
Complex-valued case ?

Computing physics-informed kernels

$$\frac{dS_t(\phi)}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} - \frac{\partial S_t(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} \right] \dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi)$$

$$\frac{dS_t(\phi(\phi_0))}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_i} - \frac{\partial S_t(\phi)}{\partial \phi_i} \right] \frac{d\phi_i(\phi_0)}{dt}$$

Computing physics-informed kernels

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Complex-valued case

(I)

(II)

(III)

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Complex-valued case

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$$\dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi_t(\phi_0))$$

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(III)

We are only interested in
transformations on the manifold

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$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_{t,i}} = \frac{\partial \phi_{0,j}}{\partial \phi_{t,i}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_{0,j}}$$

Rewrite derivatives in terms of the initial field

(III)

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$$\dot{\phi}_{t,i}(\phi) = M_{t,ij}(\phi) \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_j} \Omega_t(\phi)$$

Use the freedom to parametrise the kernel

Computing physics-informed kernels

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$$\frac{dS_t}{dt}(\phi_t(\phi_0)) = \left[\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi_{0,i}^2} - \frac{\partial S_0(\phi_0)}{\partial \phi_{0,i}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_{0,i}} \right] \omega_t(\phi_0)$$

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Use the freedom to parametrise the kernel

$$M_t(\phi_t(\phi_0)) = J_t(\phi_0) J_t^T(\phi_0)$$

$$d\chi_\tau = -\frac{\partial S_0}{\partial \phi}(\chi_\tau) d\tau + \sqrt{2} dW_\tau$$

$$\omega_t(\phi_0) = -\int_0^\infty \mathbb{E} \left[\frac{dS_t}{dt}(\chi_\tau) \mid \chi_0 = \phi_0 \right]$$

