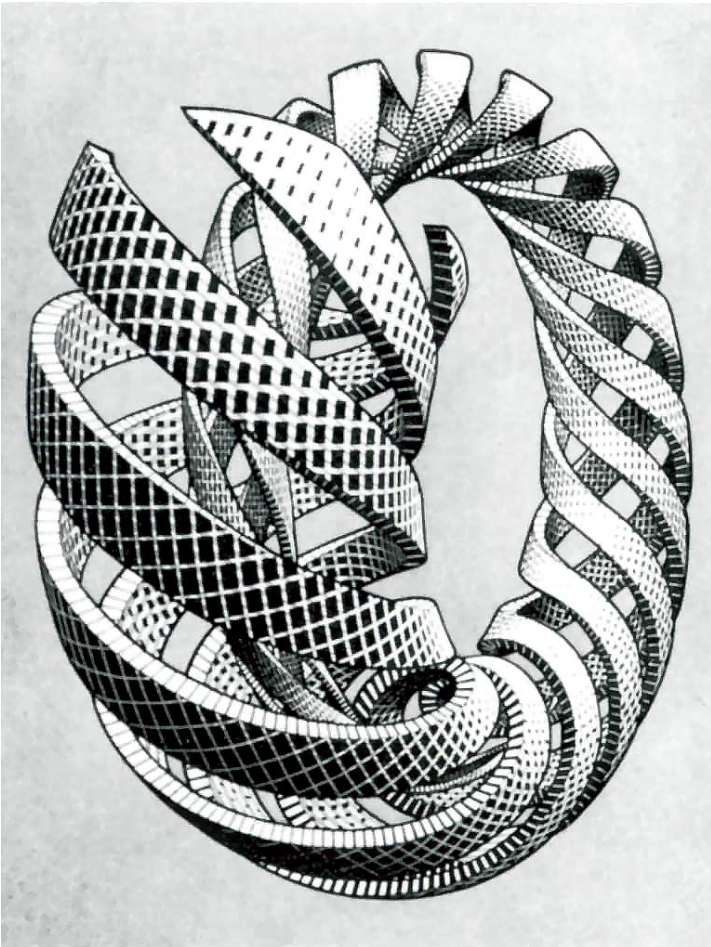


Digital Rydberg simulation of dynamical quantum phase transitions in the Schwinger model

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THE PROBLEM: real time out-of-equilibrium dynamics on noisy quantum hardware



Gauge theories are hard

Physical states must obey Gauss-law constraints; noise can leak states outside the gauge-invariant subspace.

DQPTs are delicate

They are detected through zeros of the Loschmidt echo; noise and finite-time errors can wash out sharp signatures.

Rydberg platforms are promising

Neutral atoms offer high gate fidelity, but pulses are slow enough that circuit duration matters.

in collaboration with S. Pascazio, P. Facchi, F.V. Pepe,
G. Magnifico, D. Pomarico, R. Cioli, F. Dell'Anna

the model –
static phase diagram & real-time dynamics

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **98**, 074503 (2018)

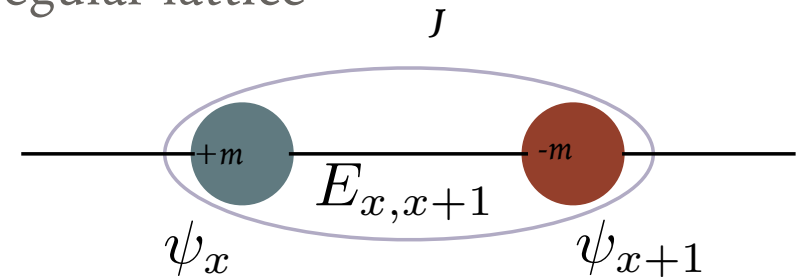
1d QED: lattice $\mathbb{Z}_n$ Schwinger model

Lattice discretization: continuum space is replaced by a regular lattice

- fermions defined on lattice sites
- gauge fields on links

Schwinger's *staggered fermions*: index J for a “physical site”
is split in two, $+/-$ energy solutions

$$\Psi_J = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_x \\ \psi_{x+1} \end{pmatrix}$$



$\mathbb{Z}_n$ Quantum Model: Weyl quantisation scheme, unitary finite-dim representation

$$\mathcal{H}_{x,x+1} = \{|v_k\rangle, k = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$$

$$U_{x,x+1}(\eta) = e^{-i\eta A_{x,x+1}}$$

$$V_{x,x+1}(\xi) = e^{+i\xi E_{x,x+1}}$$

$$V(x, x+1)|v_k\rangle = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{n}k}|v_k\rangle$$

$$U(x, x+1)|v_k\rangle = |v_{k+1}\rangle$$

staggered fermions

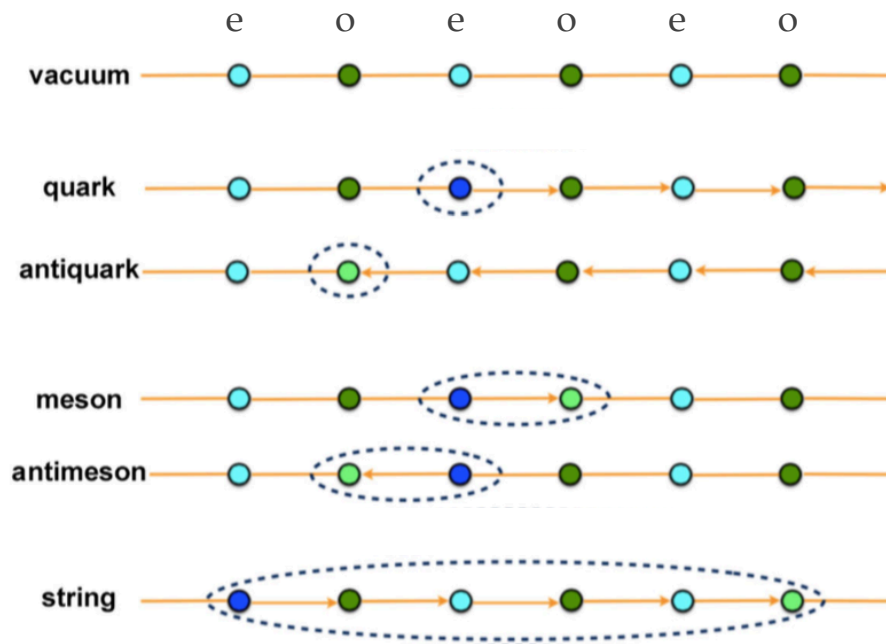
even site, empty 
 even site, occupied 
 odd site, empty 
 odd site, occupied 

(x,x+1)
 = vacuum
 = quark
 = anti-quark
 = meson

$\mathbb{Z}_3$
 electric field

 $-\sqrt{2\pi/3}$
 0
 $+\sqrt{2\pi/3}$

$$G_x \equiv \psi_x^\dagger \psi_x + \frac{1}{2}[(-1)^x - 1] - (E_{x,x+1} - E_{x-1,x}) \approx 0$$



$$H = - \overset{J}{\boxed{\frac{t}{2a}}} \sum_x (\psi_x^\dagger U_{x,x+1} \psi_{x+1} + \text{H.c.})$$

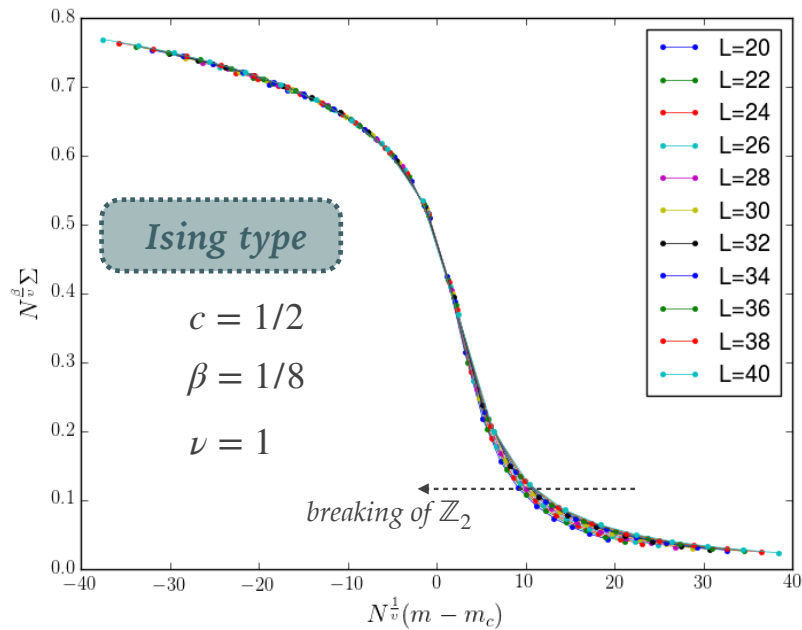
$$+ \boxed{m} \sum_x (-1)^x \psi_x^\dagger \psi_x + \boxed{g^2 a} \sum_x E_{x,x+1}^2$$

PHASE DIAGRAM

$\mathbb{Z}_n$ fixed

($\mathbb{Z}_2 \cdots \mathbb{Z}_8$)

$$\Sigma = \frac{1}{N} \sum_x \langle E_{x,x+1} \rangle \quad \text{order parameter}$$



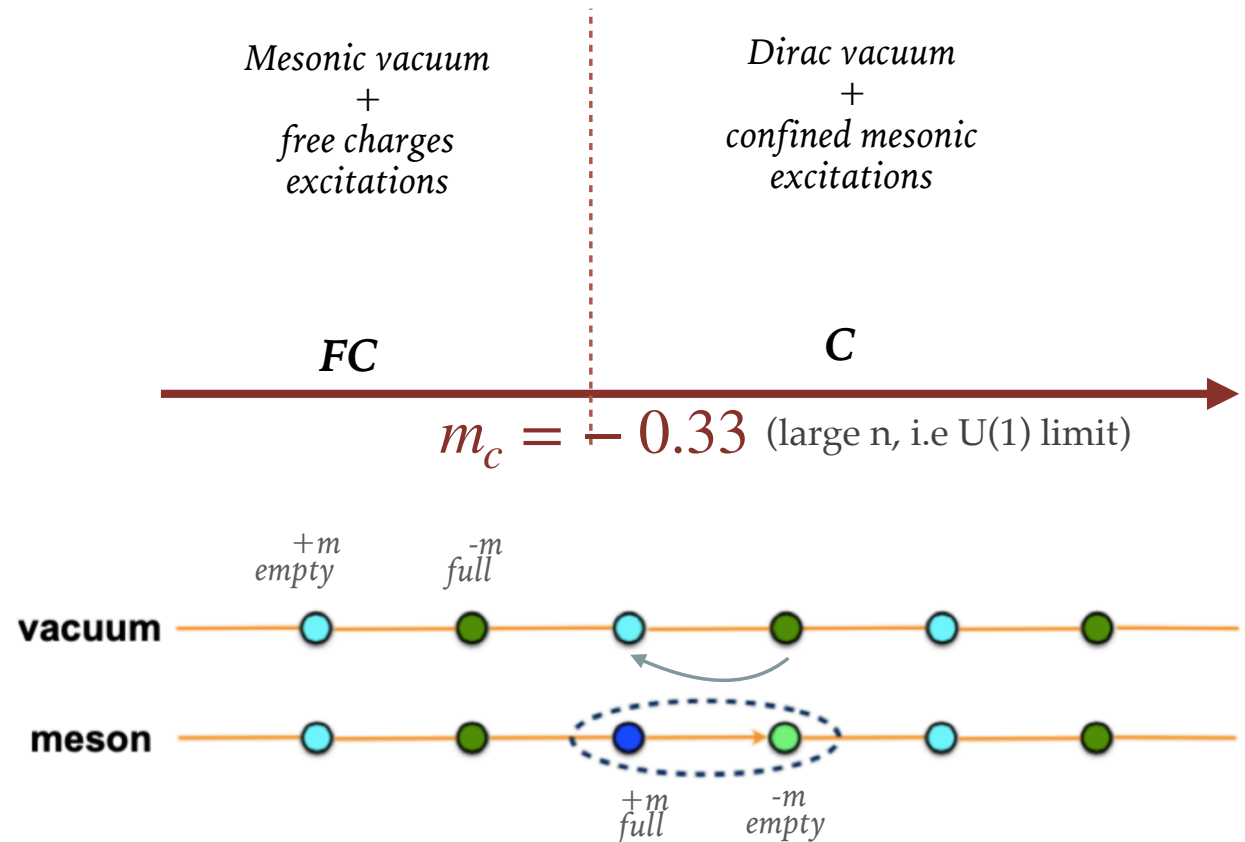
Density Matrix Renormalization Group Algorithm (**DMRG**)

The DMRG code strictly enforces Gauss law

We work up to $L=N/2=40$ couples of sites & 1000 DMRG states

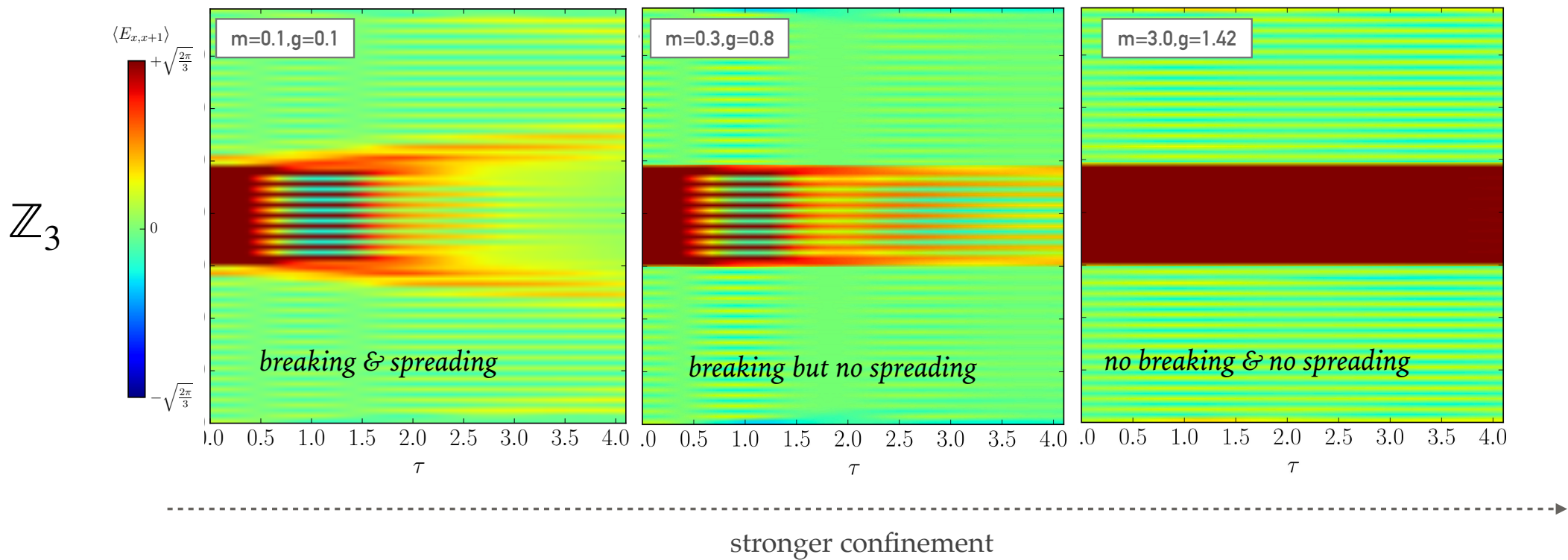
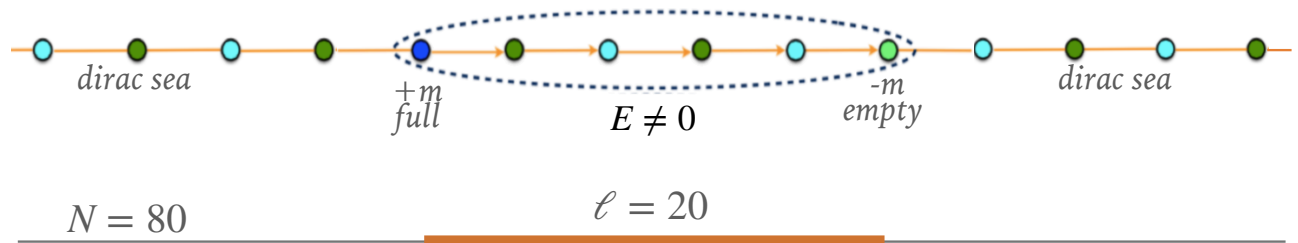
Open boundary conditions

PHASE DIAGRAM

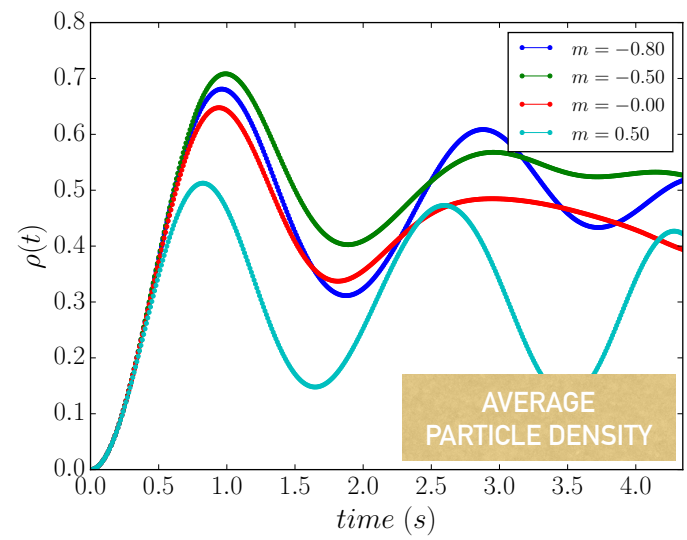


STRING BREAKING

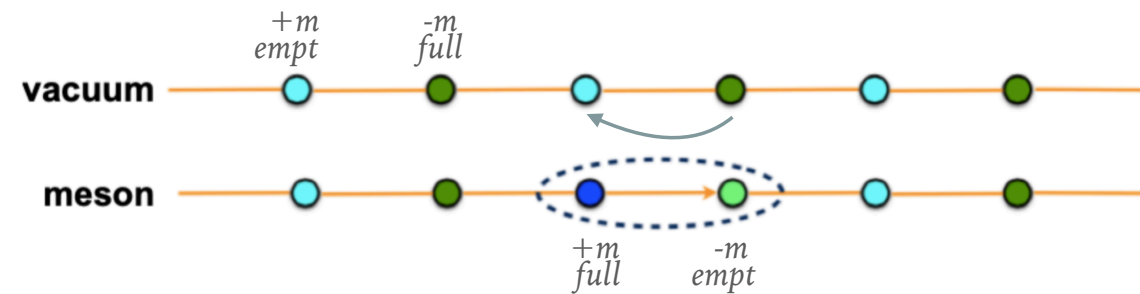
Real time evolution of the string excitation:
does it break?



DYNAMICS OF PAIR PRODUCTION

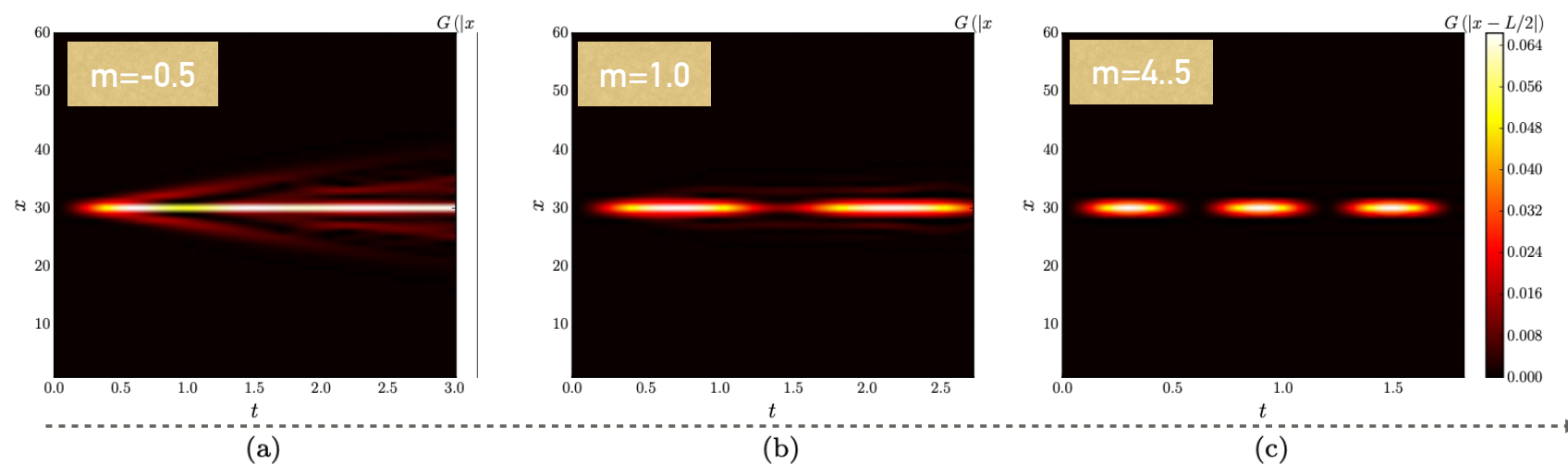


Quench protocol: system prepared in Dirac vacuum (m large)
evolving with H with a chosen value of m



DENSITY-DENSITY CORRELATIONS

$\mathbb{Z}_3$



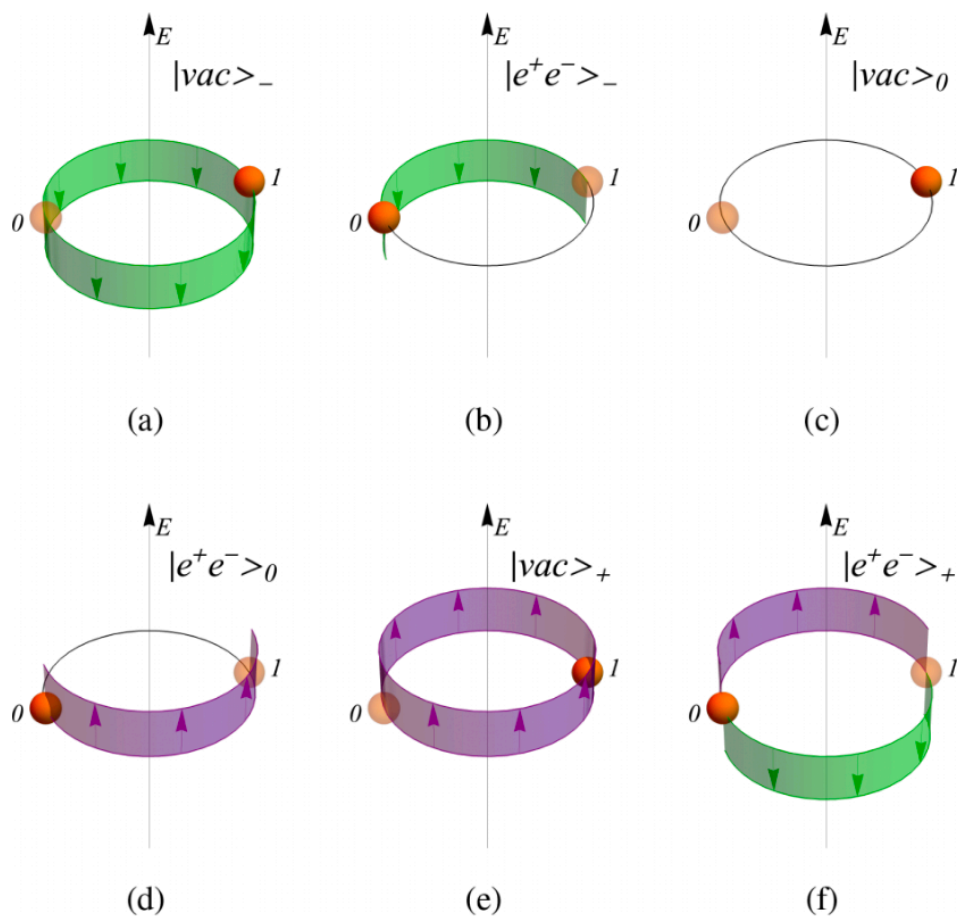
stronger coupling $\sim$ stronger confinement

non-equilibrium dynamics &
dynamical phase transitions
on noisy Rydberg platform

PHYSICAL REVIEW RESEARCH **8**, 013177 (2026)

$\mathbb{Z}_3$ Schwinger model on 2 sites

gauge-invariant subspace



$\mathcal{H}$ commutes with parity

$$[\mathcal{H}, P] = 0$$

We consider only the even sector,
to which Dirac vacuum belongs

$$|\psi_1^+\rangle = |vac\rangle_0, \quad |\psi_2^+\rangle = \frac{|e^+e^-\rangle_0 + |e^+e^-\rangle_-}{\sqrt{2}},$$

$$|\psi_3^+\rangle = \frac{|vac\rangle_+ + |vac\rangle_-}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad |\psi_4^+\rangle = |e^+e^-\rangle_+,$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{H}}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} -\mu & \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2}} & & \\ \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2}} & \mu + \frac{\pi}{3} & & \\ & \frac{\xi}{2} & \frac{\xi}{2} & \\ & & -\mu + \frac{2\pi}{3} & \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2}} \\ & & \frac{\xi}{\sqrt{2}} & \mu + \frac{2\pi}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

LOSCHDIMIT ECHO & DYNAMICAL PHASE TRANSITIONS

Quench protocol: $\mathcal{G}(t) = \langle \psi_0 | e^{i\mathcal{H}_1 t} | \psi_0 \rangle$

L.E = probability to return to initial state, in terms of dynamical free energy density $\lambda(t)$

$$\mathcal{L}(t) = |\mathcal{G}(t)|^2 = e^{-N\lambda(t)}$$

DPTs = points of non-analyticity of $\lambda(t)$ $\rightarrow$ isolated zeros of $\mathcal{L}(t)$

Signatures of QDPTs, such as Zeros of the L.E.,
can be identified already for *very small lattice sizes*,
whose dynamics can be simulated with high fidelity
on a realistic noisy quantum computer

NON-INTERACTING CASE ($g = 0$)

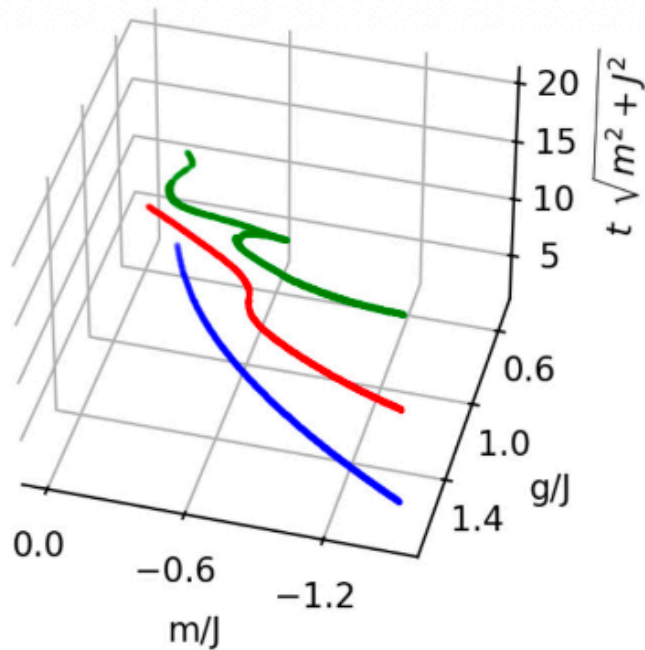
quench: $\bar{m} \rightarrow m$ - it can be solved exactly

$$\mathcal{G}(t) = \cos(\omega t) + i \frac{\bar{m}m + J^2}{\bar{\omega}\omega} \sin(\omega t),$$

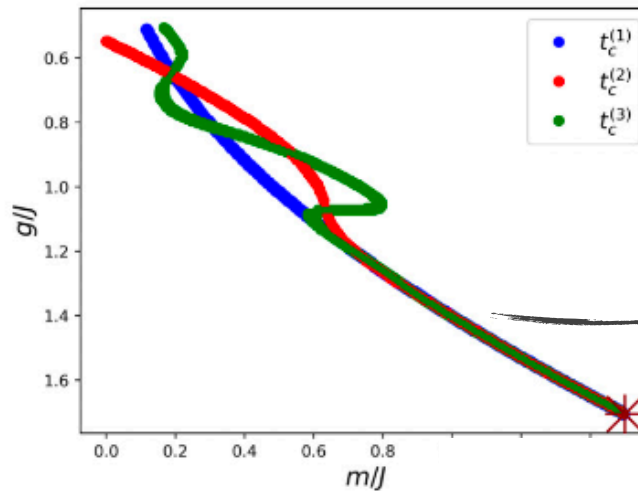
$$\omega = \sqrt{m^2 + J^2}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(t_c) \sim 0 \Leftrightarrow \bar{m}m + J^2 = 0, t_c \omega \sim 1$$

INTERACTING – CASE 1



long-time
dynamics



periodic Rabi oscillations:
the initial Dirac vacuum evolving
only in the subspace spanned
by itself and the
mesonic ground state

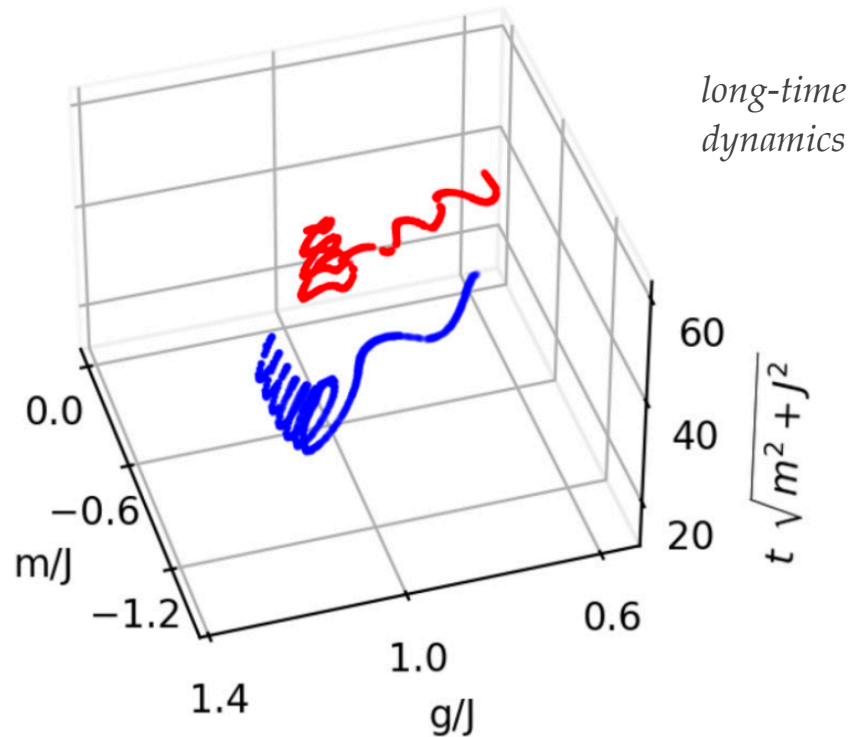
loci for $\mathcal{L} = 0$

$$|\psi_0\rangle = |\text{vac}\rangle_0$$

$$\mathcal{H}^+ \equiv \frac{g^2}{J} \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{J}{2} & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & \frac{J}{2} & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{J}{2} & \frac{J}{2} & 2\Delta & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} & \Delta \end{pmatrix} - m\mathbf{1},$$

$$\Delta = -2m$$

INTERACTING – CASE 2



loci for $\mathcal{L} = 0$
 $|\psi_0\rangle = |\text{vac}\rangle_0$

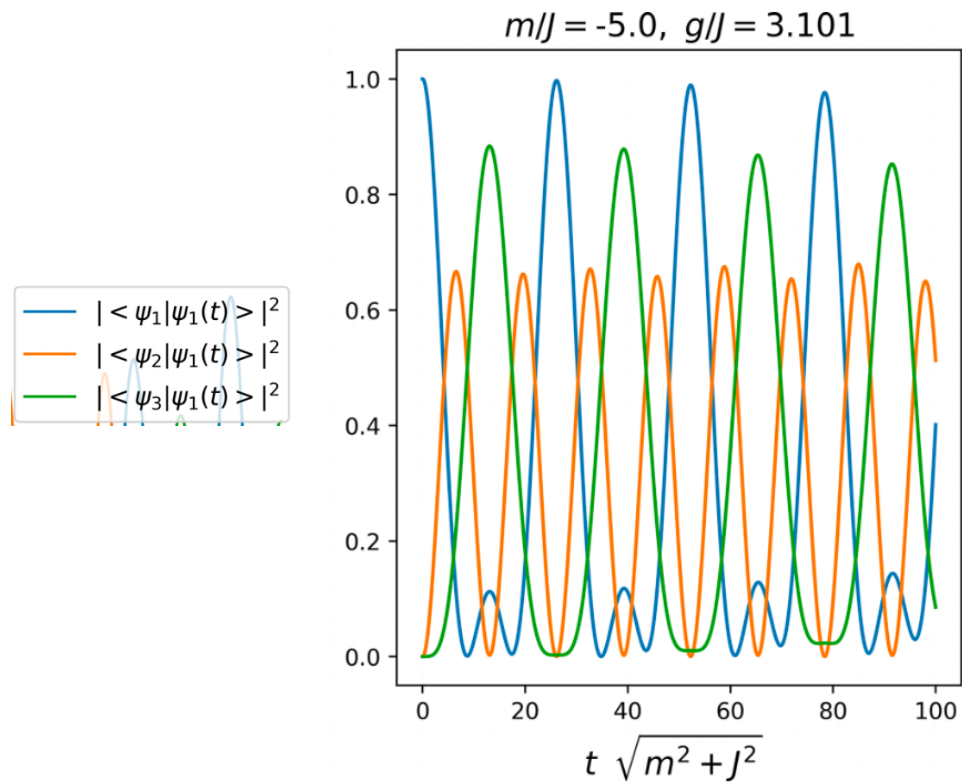
periodic Rabi oscillations:
 additional oscillation of the
 initial Dirac vacuum,
 evolving in the subspace
 spanned by itself and the
 fourth state

$$\mathcal{H}^+ \equiv \frac{g^2}{J} \tilde{\mathcal{H}}^+ = \begin{pmatrix} -m & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} & & \\ \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 & \frac{J}{2} & \\ & \frac{J}{2} & -3m & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} \\ & & \frac{J}{\sqrt{2}} & -m \end{pmatrix} - m\mathbf{1},$$

INCREASING THE SIZE

$$N=4 \quad \dim \mathcal{H}^+ = 7$$

CASE 1 3-states
Rabi oscillations



2-states
Rabi oscillations

CASE 2 between 1st and 4th

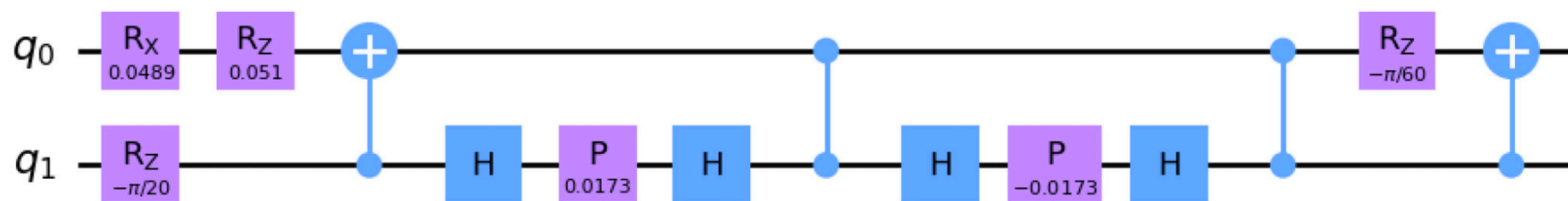
CASE 2' between 1st and 6th

CASE 2'' between 1st and 7th

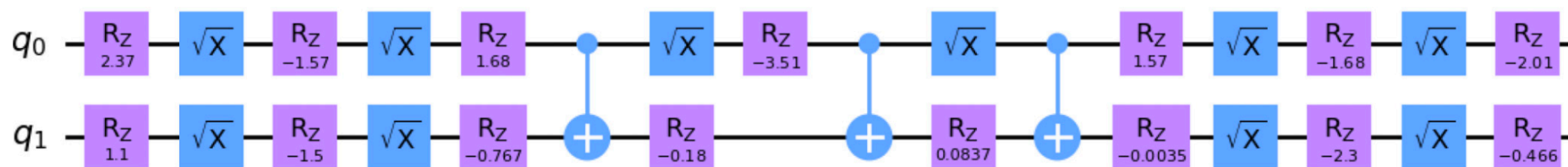
simulations on a noisy Rydberg atom device

CIRCUIT DESIGN

Trotter evolution on positive-parity sector, by writing $\mathcal{H}^+$ as composition of Pauli strings
Circuit compression with Qiskit



(a) ONE TROTTER STEP

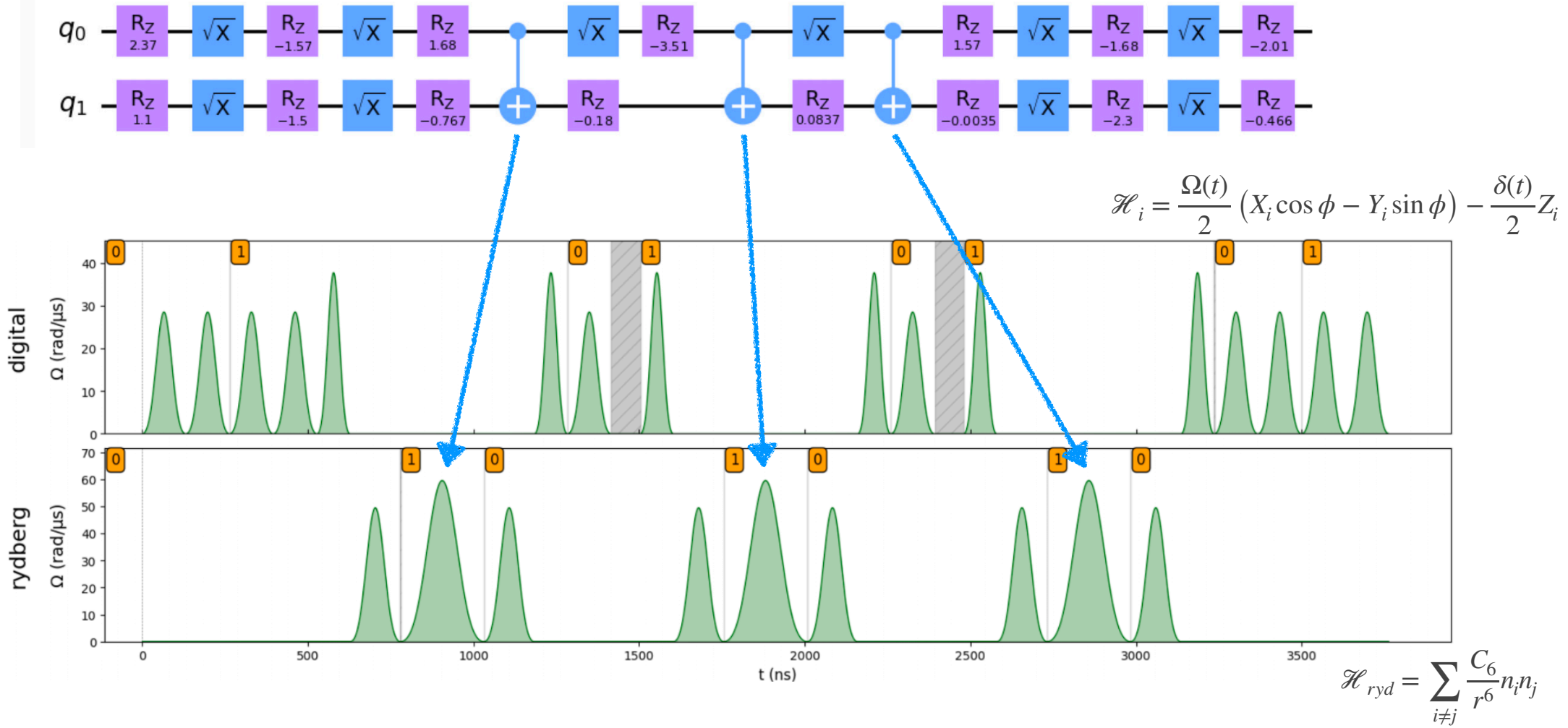


(b) ARBITRARY TROTTER STEPS (stable structure, different parameters)

G. Vidal and C. M. Dawson, Universal quantum circuit for two-qubit transformations with three controlled-not gates, [Phys. Rev. A](#) **69**, 010301(R) (2004)

PULSE SEQUENCE DESIGN

PASQAL's platform, PULSER emulator



EMULATION

PASQAL's platform, PULSER emulator

NOISE MODEL (100 realizations)

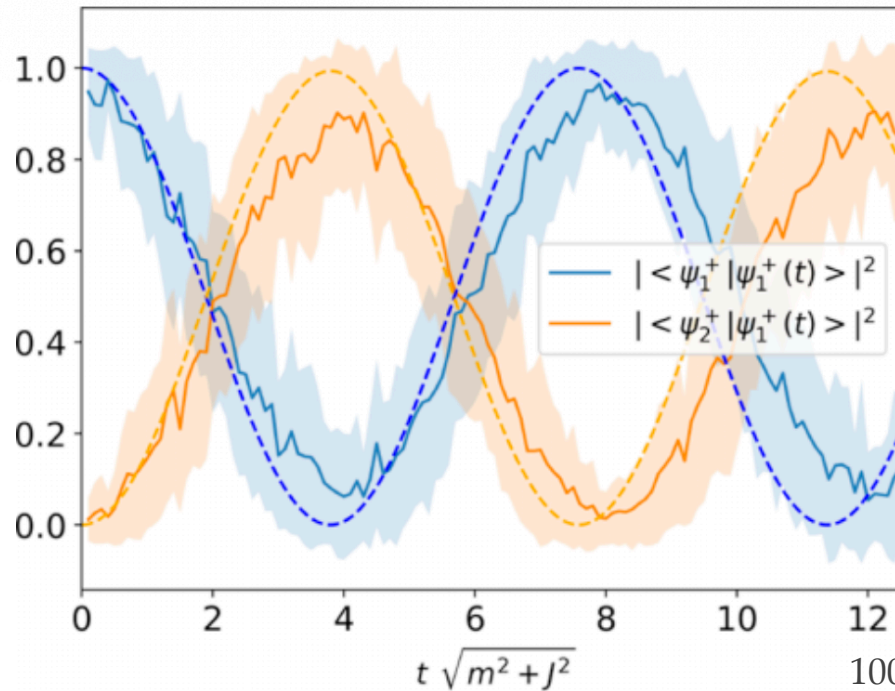
state preparation errors (with probability $\eta = 5 \times 10^{-3}$)

measurement errors (with false negative rates $\epsilon = 10^{-2}$ and false positive rates $\epsilon' = 5 \times 10^{-2}$)

Doppler damping ($T \sim 50 \mu K$ that induces a Doppler shift due to thermal motion)

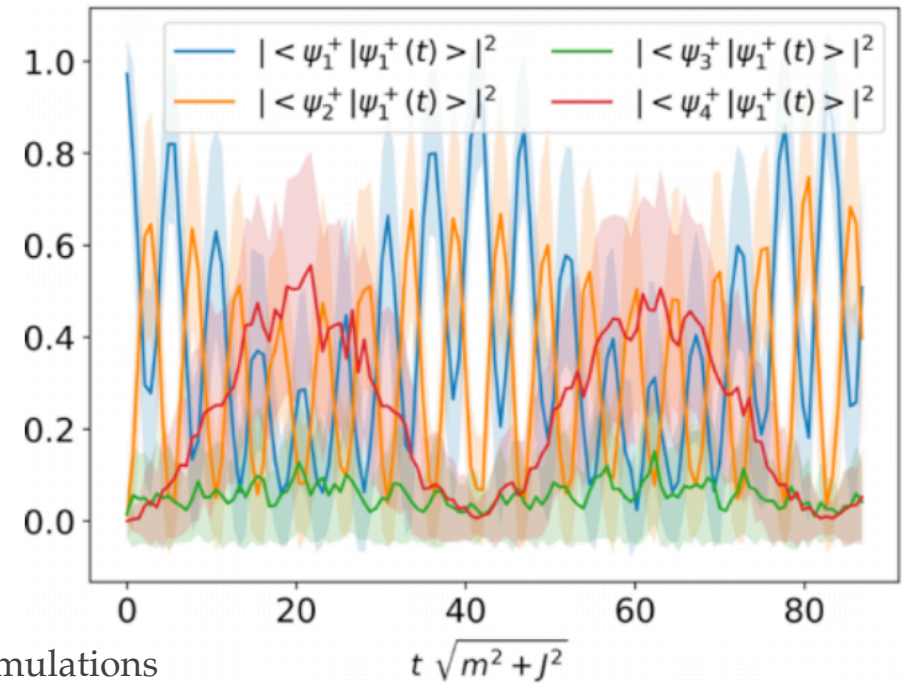
Amplitude fluctuations (standard deviation of $0.05 \mu m$)

CASE 1 $m/J \approx -1.49, g/J = 1.7$



100 noisy simulations

CASE 2 $m/J \approx -0.87, g/J = 1.05$



FINAL REMARKS

- Proof of concepts validation
- Encouraging preliminary results
- Extending to larger sizes
- Experiment on a real device

== THANK YOU ==