

Multiscale Structure of Eigenstates Thermalization in Integrable Systems

Pavel Orlov

Based on
[arXiv:2605.08079](https://arxiv.org/abs/2605.08079)

In collaboration with:
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My scientific gang



Rustem Sharipov

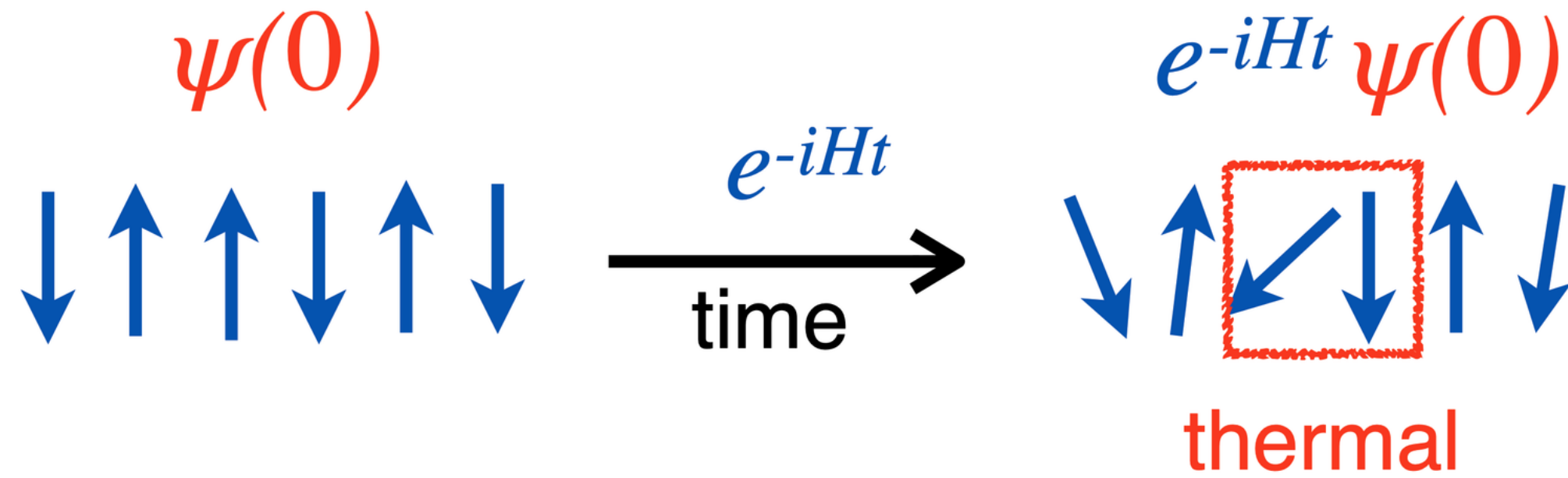


Enej Ilievski

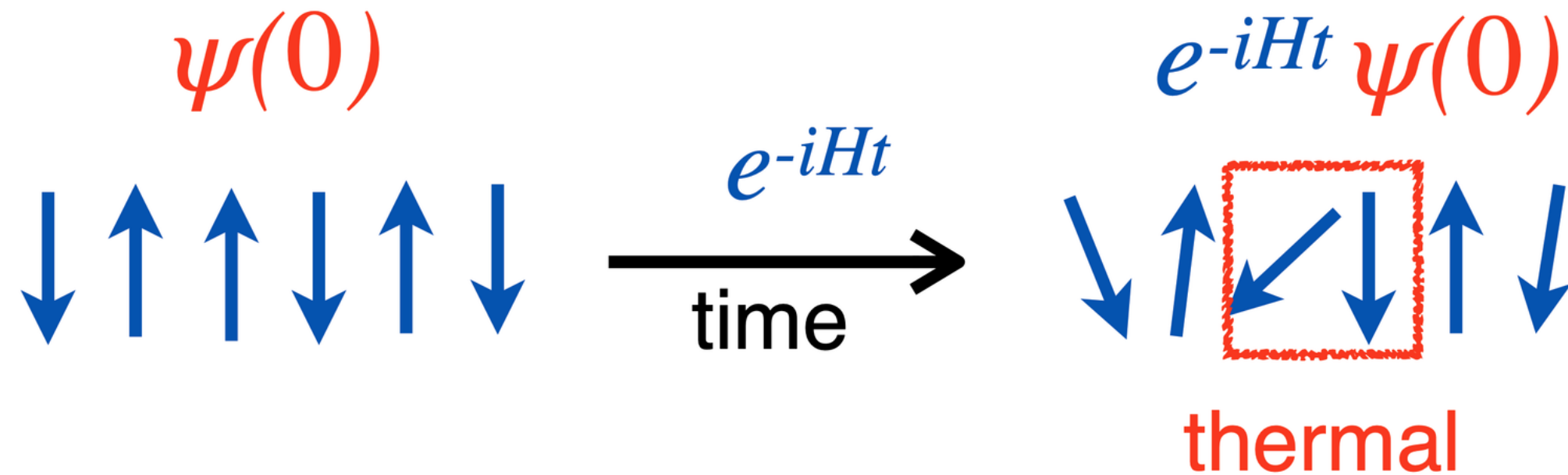
Plan:

- ◆ Quantum thermalization and the ETH ansatz
- ◆ Integrable systems: can they help to study ETH?
- ◆ A minimal model for probing matrix elements:
 - what we want to study
 - where we study these questions
 - what are the results

Thermalization in quantum systems



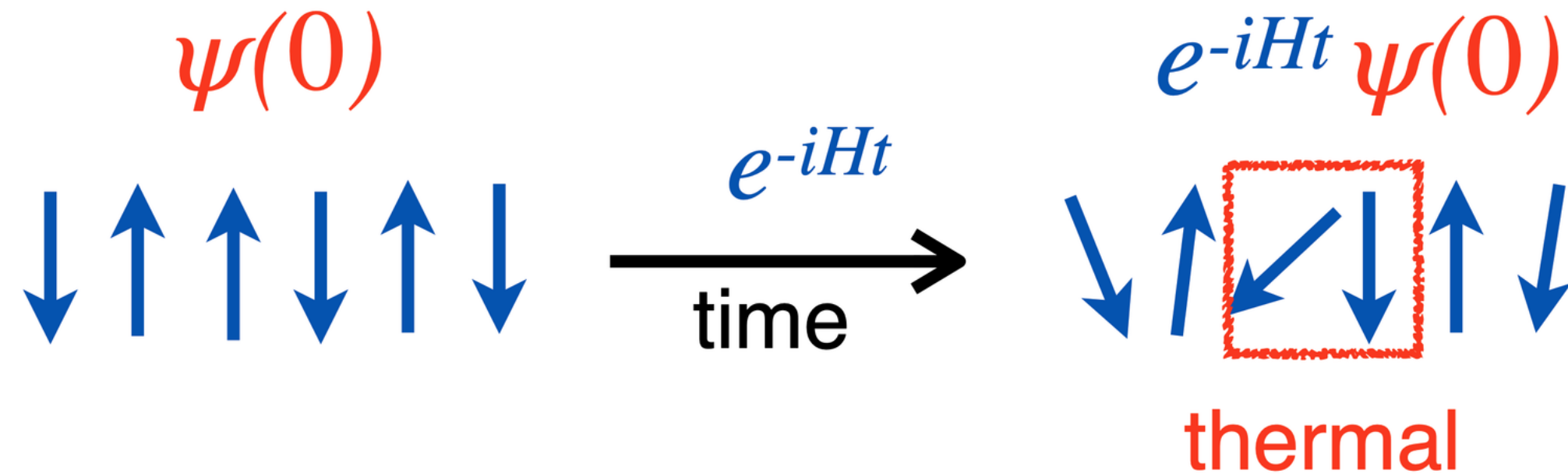
Thermalization in quantum systems



For any $|\psi(0)\rangle = \sum_n c_n |n\rangle$ the dynamics is explicit:

$$\langle \psi(t) | \hat{A} | \psi(t) \rangle = \sum_n |c_n|^2 A_{nn} + \sum_{n \neq m} e^{-i(E_m - E_n)t} c_m^* c_n A_{mn}$$

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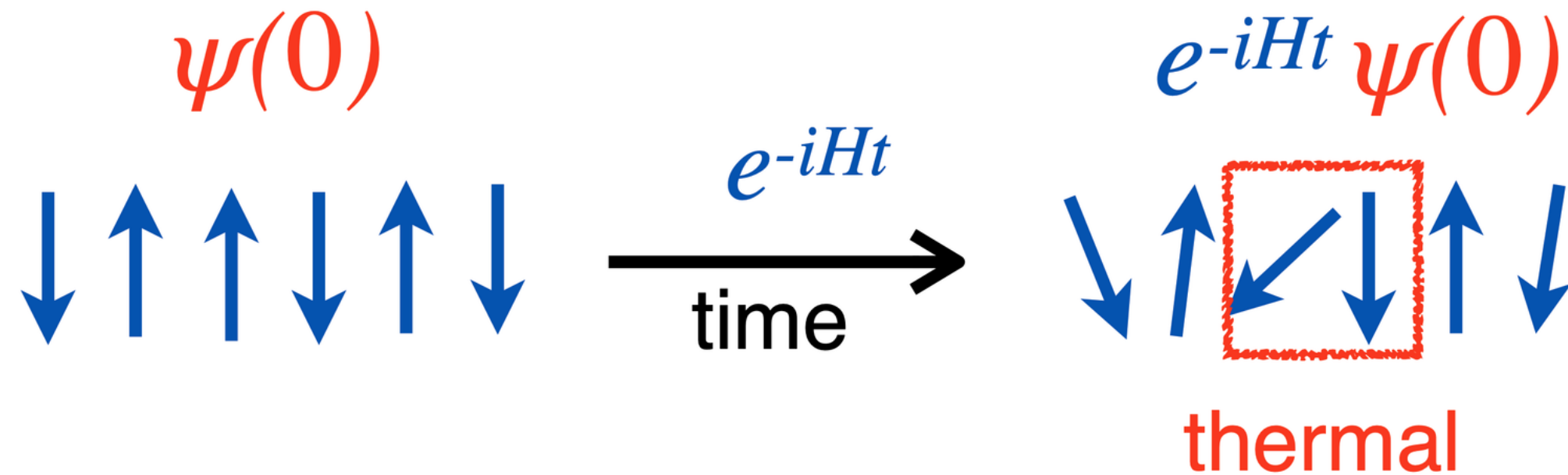
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Diagonal ensemble
for long-time average:

$$\overline{A}_\psi = \sum_n |c_n|^2 A_{nn}$$

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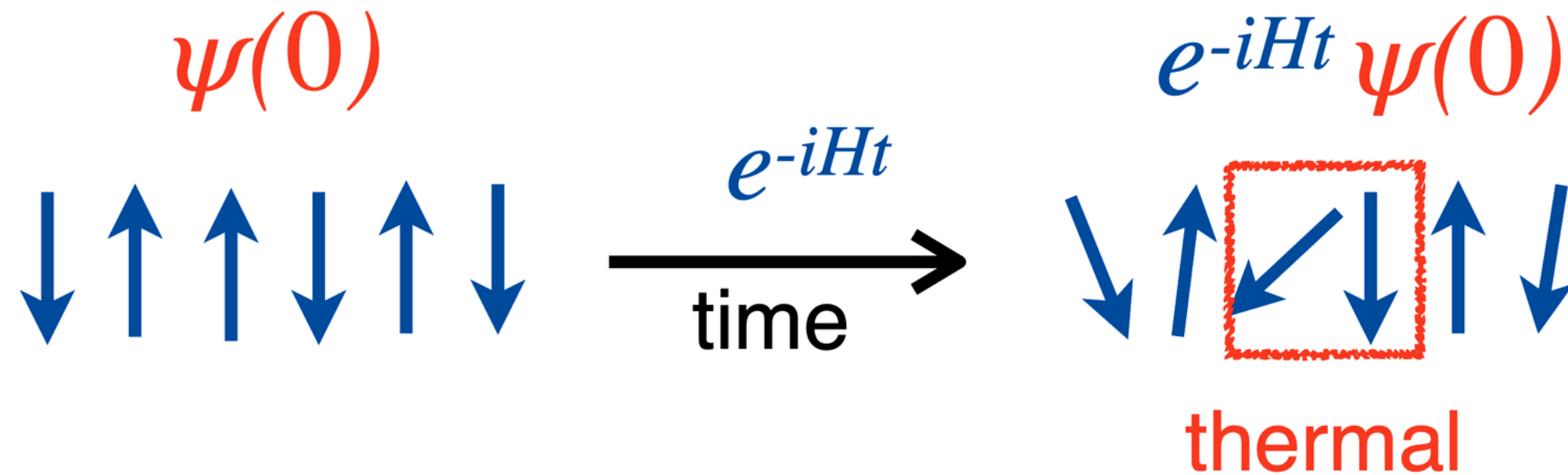
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How system can forget
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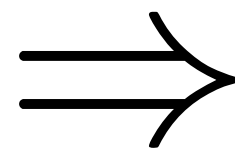
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Hint: Good clustering properties of $|\psi(0)\rangle$



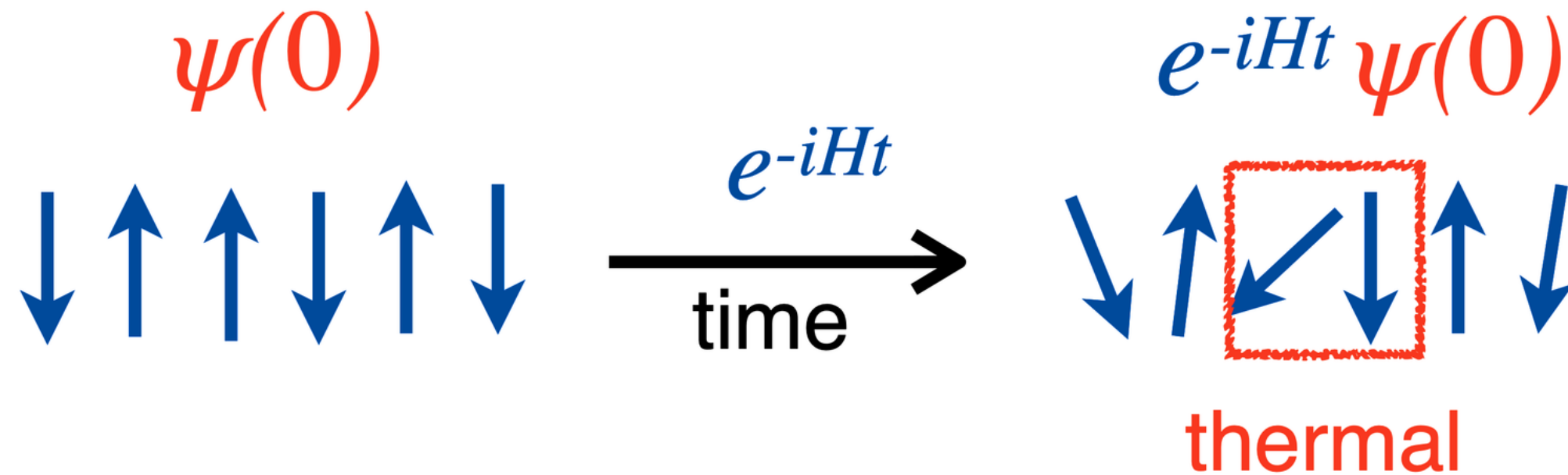
$$\overline{E}_\psi = e_\psi L$$

extensive mean

$$\delta E_\psi \sim L^\gamma$$

sub-extensive variance
($\gamma < 1$)

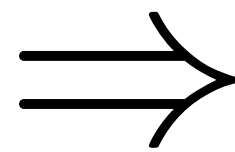
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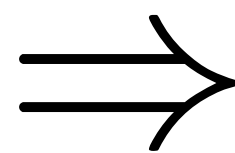
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$$\begin{aligned} \overline{E}_\psi &= e_\psi L && \text{extensive mean} \\ \delta E_\psi &\sim L^\gamma && \text{sub-extensive variance} \\ &&& (\gamma < 1) \end{aligned}$$

Diagonal ETH: $A_{nn} = \mathcal{A}(e) + o(1)$
for states sampled from the same macro-state



$$\overline{A}_\psi = \mathcal{A}(e_\psi) + o(1)$$

The ETH ansatz

Diagonal ETH:

$$A_{nn} = \mathcal{A}(e) + o(1)$$

for states sampled from
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- explains thermalization of
long-time average

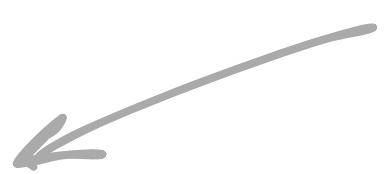
Off-diagonal ETH:

$$A_{mn} = e^{-S(e)/2} f_A(e, \omega) R_{mn}$$

for $\omega = E_n - E_m = O(1)$

- bounds temporal fluctuations
- encodes corr. function

Usually normally distributed
pseudo-random numbers



The ETH ansatz = “RMT on steroids”

Matrix
elements
in RMT:

$$\overline{A} = \frac{1}{N} \text{tr} A, \quad \sigma_A^2 = \frac{1}{N} \text{tr} A^2 - \overline{A}^2$$
$$A_{mn} = \delta_{mn} \overline{A} + N^{-1/2} \sigma_A R_{mn} + o(N^{-1/2})$$

ETH ansatz:

$$A_{mn} = \delta_{mn} \mathcal{A}(e) + e^{-S(e)/2} f_A(e, \omega) R_{mn}$$

$$\mathcal{A}(e) = A_{\text{mc}}$$

$$\langle A(t) A(0) \rangle_{\beta, c} = \int d\omega e^{i\omega t} e^{-\beta\omega/2} |f_A(e_\beta, \omega)|^2$$

How to verify ETH?

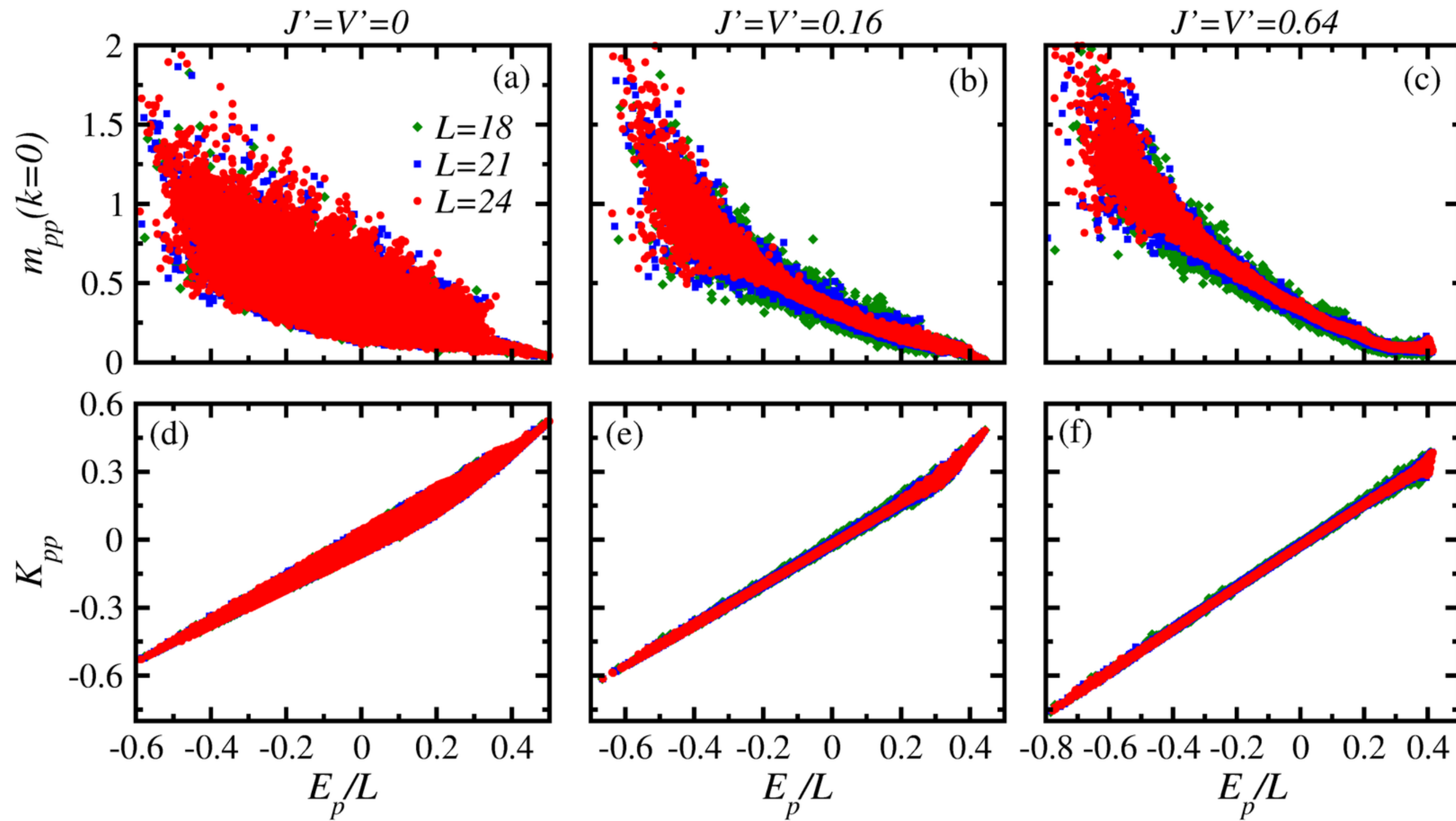
Physical systems: **spin chains**, since Hilbert space is finite-dim

Main tool: **Exact Diagonalization** of the Hamiltonian

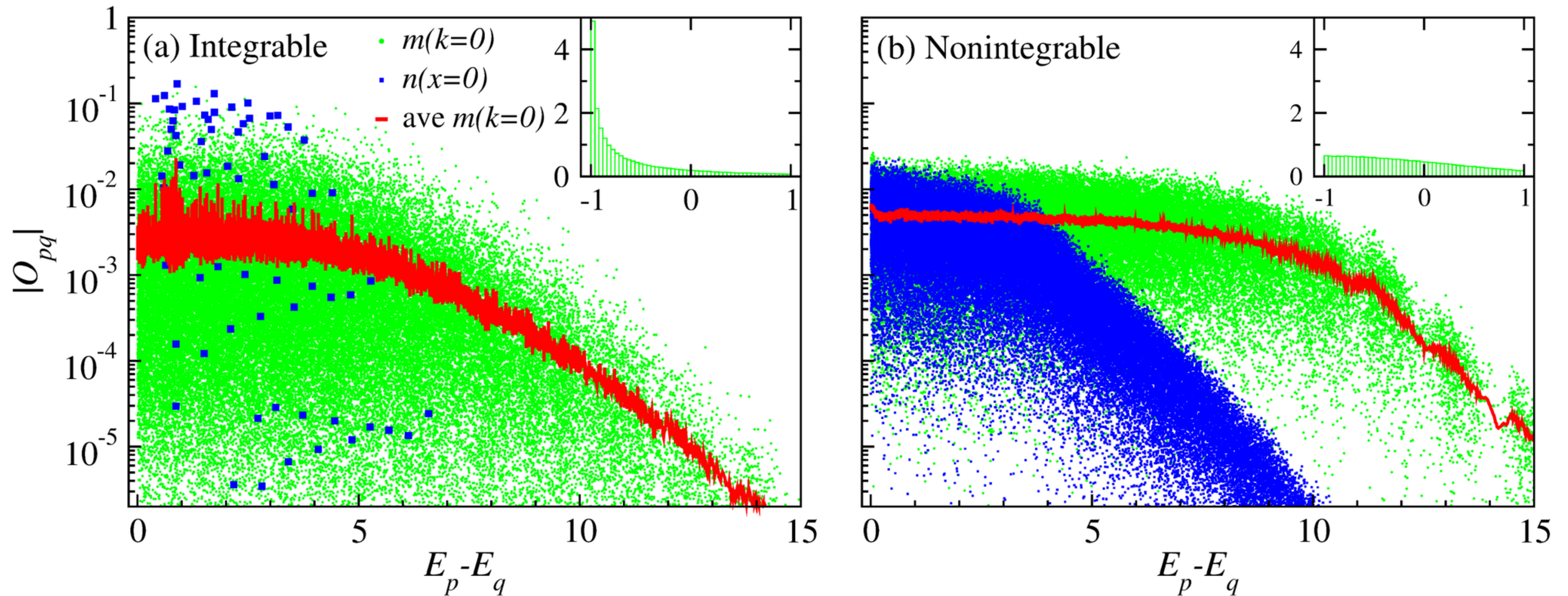
Bottlenecks:

- 1) ETH is about $L \rightarrow \infty$, ED is about $L \sim 20$
- 2) No analytical control

How to verify ETH? Diagonal



How to verify ETH? Off-diagonal



How to verify ETH?

**What about such structures
in integrable systems?**

1. If similar $\Rightarrow$ integrable systems as toy models to probe ETH
2. If different $\Rightarrow$ a way to understand chaos/integrability interplay

Towards ETH in integrable systems

Do integrable systems
thermalize (equilibrate)?

Well, maybe **not to Gibbs** $\hat{\rho}_{Gibbs} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\beta \hat{H}},$
but **to GGE**: $\hat{\rho}_{GGE} = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\sum_k \mu_k \hat{Q}^{(k)}}.$

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Can we explain this
in a similar manner to the ETH?

Yes, but keep in mind
what the macrostate is.

The ETH ansatz in integrable systems

**Diagonal
ETH:**

$$A_{nn} = \mathcal{A}(\{q^{(k)}\}) + o(1)$$

for states sampled from
the same macro-state

- explains equilibration to GGE
of long-time average

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**Off-diagonal
ETH:**

?

The off-diagonal ETH in integrable systems

In all existing studies so far **only energy difference** between eigenstates **was taken into account...**

The most recent “Bethe ansatz” studies:

- **Lieb-Liniger**, Essler and de Klerk, PRX **14** (2024)
- **XXX chain**, Rottoli and Alba, PRB **113** (2026)

Structure **incompatible with** conventional **ETH**:

$$A_{mn} \sim \exp \left(-c_A L \log L - L M_{mn}^A \right)$$

But what is the “distance” between eigenstates?

Just keep in mind **what the macrostate is** in your system!

**Macrostate
defined by:**

**Distance
between states:**

Chaotic system

Energy

$$\text{dist}(n, m) = |E_n - E_m| = |\omega_{nm}|$$

Integrable system

Local charges

$$\text{dist}(n, m) = \frac{1}{N_Q} \sum_{k=1}^{N_Q} |Q_n^{(k)} - Q_m^{(k)}|$$

Ensembles with different fluctuation scales

An **ensemble of states** $\mathcal{E}_\gamma$ corresponds to a macrostate $\{q^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^{N_Q}$ and has a **fluctuation scale** $\gamma < 1$ if:

$$Q^{(k)} = \langle \hat{Q}^{(k)} \rangle_{\mathcal{E}_\gamma} = Lq^{(k)} + o(1)$$

$$\delta Q^{(k)} = \sqrt{\langle (\hat{Q}^{(k)})^2 \rangle_{\mathcal{E}_\gamma} - \langle \hat{Q}^{(k)} \rangle_{\mathcal{E}_\gamma}^2} \sim L^\gamma \quad (\text{dist}_{\mathcal{E}_\gamma} \sim L^\gamma)$$

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Example in chaotic case:

microcanonical $\rho_{mc} \sim \sum_{n: |E_n - eL| < d} |n\rangle \langle n|$
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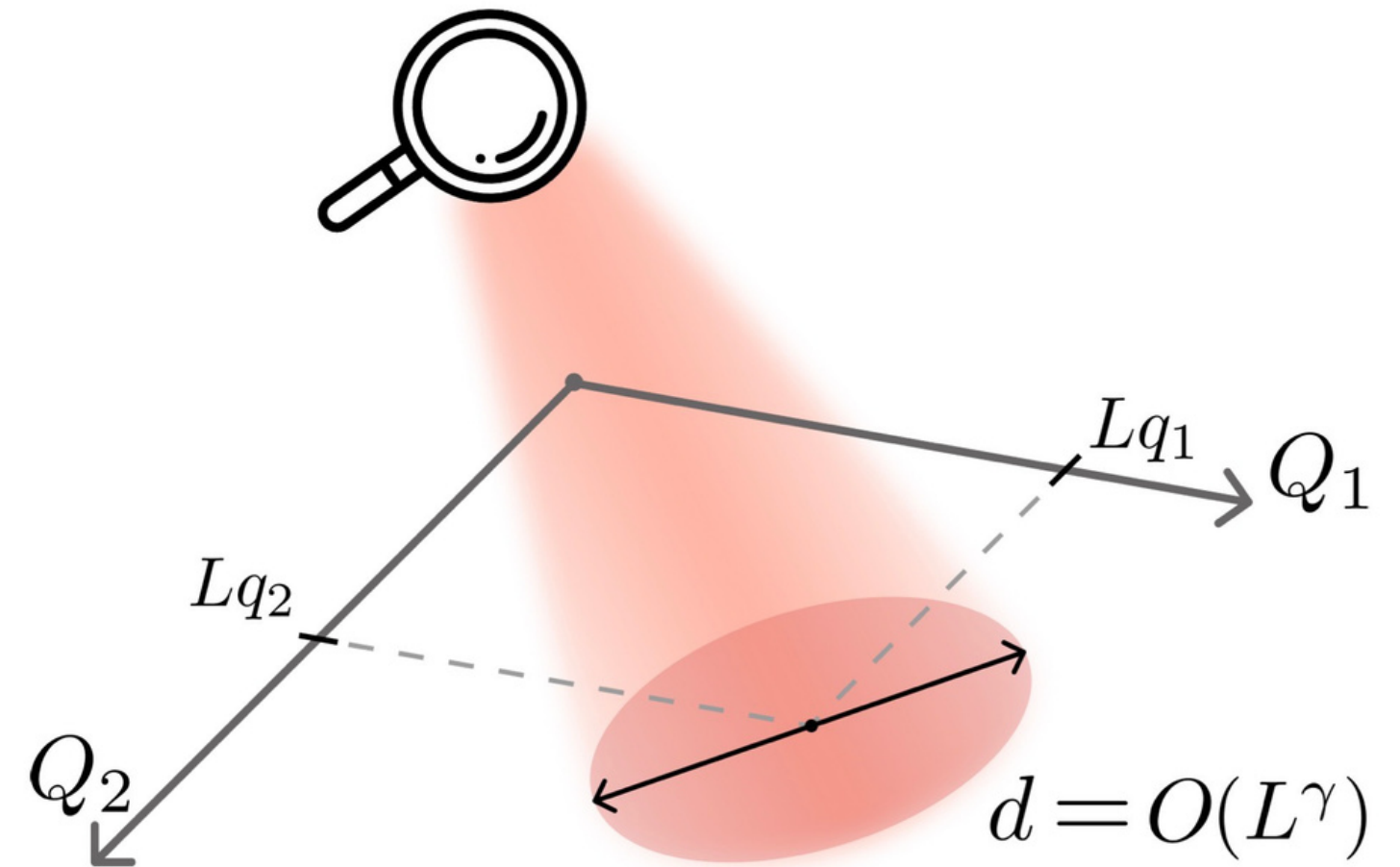
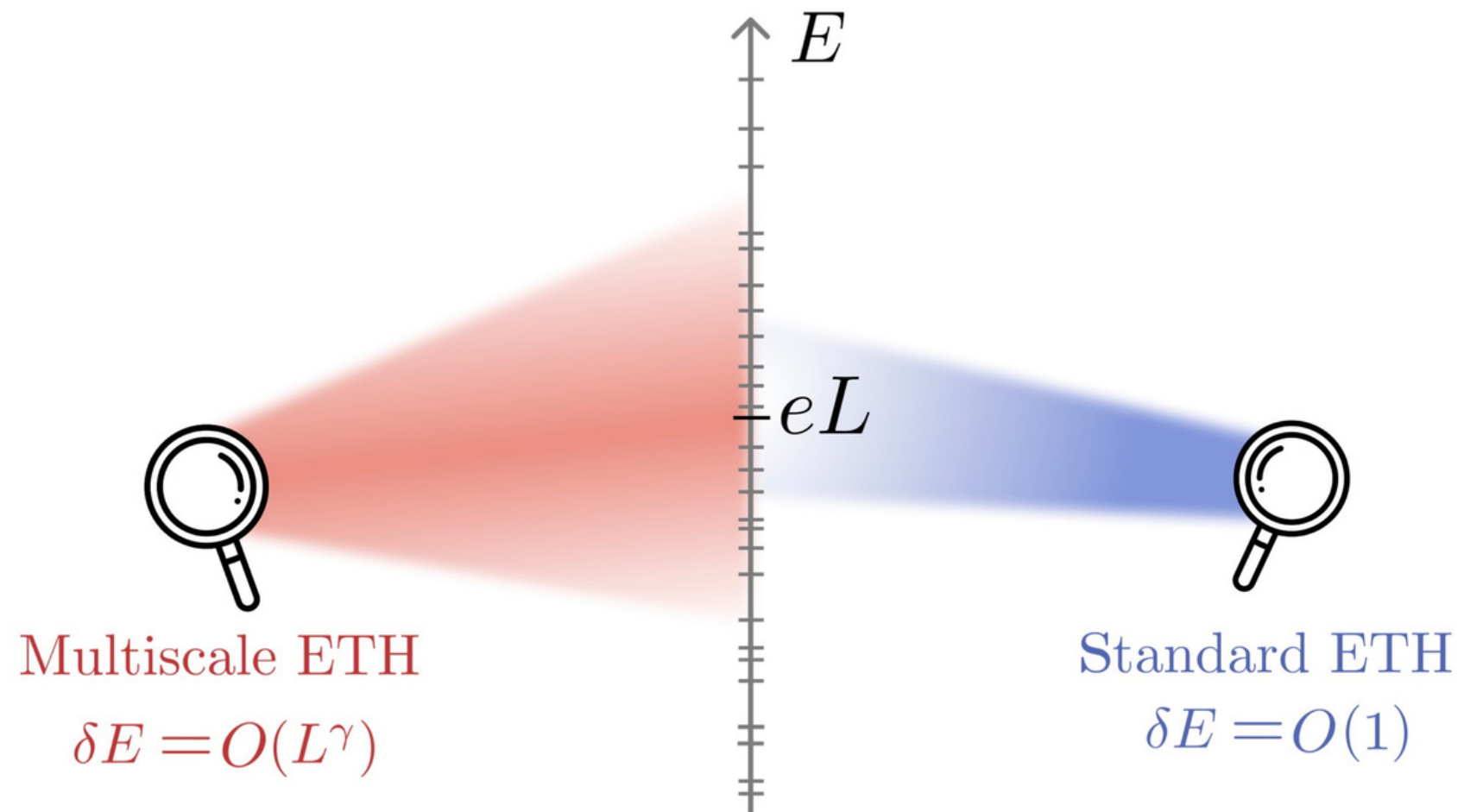
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Example in integrable case:

generalized microcanonical
with extra widths for all other charges

Note! All studies before dealt with microcan. ensemble, **even for integrable systems!**

Ensembles with different fluctuation scales



Matrix elements at different fluctuation scales

Having an ensemble of states $\mathcal{E}_\gamma$, we are interested in:

$$\kappa_{mn} = -\frac{1}{L} \log |A_{mn}|^2 \quad (\text{expected to be of order 1})$$

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distribution width

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and their
scaling exponents

$$p(\gamma) \equiv \frac{\partial \log(\kappa)}{\partial \log(L)}, \quad q(\gamma) \equiv \frac{\partial \log(\delta\kappa)}{\partial \log(L)}$$

About the Model

To study questions we ask requires:

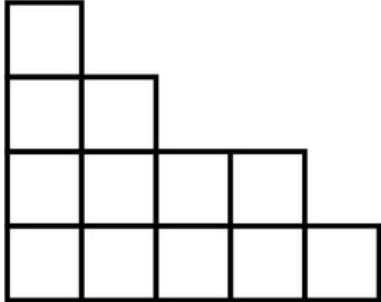
- to be able **to define ensembles** $\mathcal{E}_\gamma$ from which states can be effectively sampled for any γ ,
- to have **access to the matrix elements** of some local observables.

About the Model – Quantum Benjamin-Ono (qBO)

1. **qBO** - integrable hierarchy defined in CFTs

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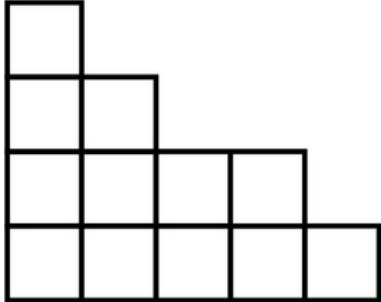
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combinatorics of these small objects:  - **Young diagrams!**

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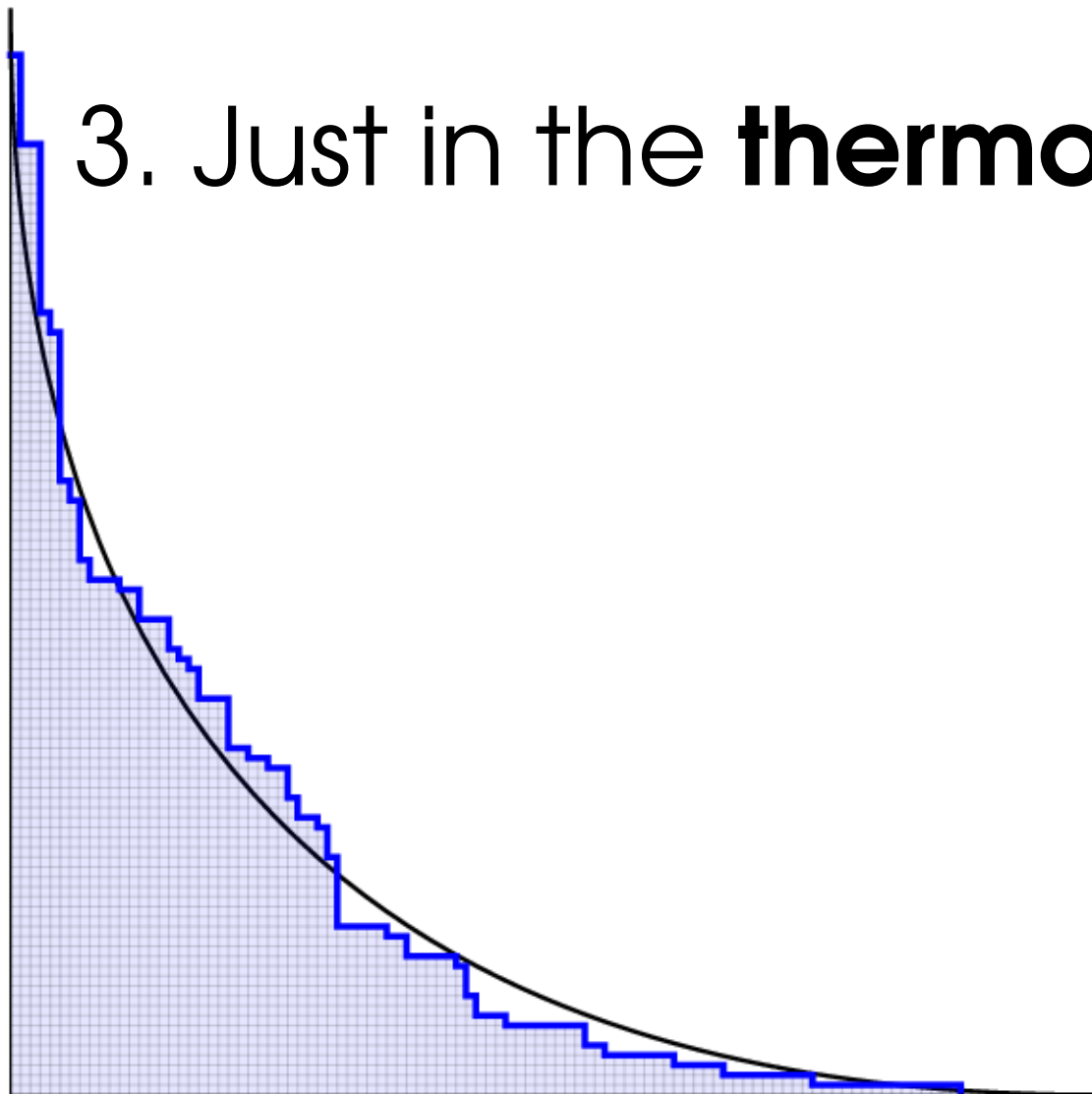
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combinatorics of these small objects:  - **Young diagrams!**

3. Just in the **thermodynamic limit** they are **not as small** anymore,

but still tractable
both analytically and numerically!



Benjamin-Ono hierarchy

To define charges we need **a single bosonic field**

$$\hat{\varphi}(\mathbf{x}) = -i \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{\hat{a}_n}{n} e^{-i(2\pi n/L)\mathbf{x}} \quad \text{with} \quad [\hat{a}_n, \hat{a}_m] = n \delta_{n,-m}$$

and associated **U(1) current**

$$\hat{J}(\mathbf{x}) = -\partial_{\mathbf{x}} \hat{\varphi}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{2\pi}{L} \sum_{n \neq 0} \hat{a}_n e^{-i(2\pi n/L)\mathbf{x}}$$

Benjamin-Ono hierarchy

Using U(1) current one can build a family of charges $\hat{Q}^{(k)} = \int_0^L dx \hat{q}^{(k)}(x)$
with **the first densities**

$$\hat{q}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{4\pi} : J^2 :, \quad \hat{q}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(\frac{1}{3} : J^3 : - \frac{1}{2} (\beta - \beta^{-1}) : J' \mathbb{H}[J] : \right)$$

with Hilbert transform $\mathbb{H}[f](x) = \frac{1}{L} \text{p.v.} \int_0^L dy f(y) \text{ctg} \left(\frac{\pi}{L} (x - y) \right)$

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Or in modes:

$$\hat{Q}^{(1)} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{L} \right) \sum_{n>0} \hat{a}_{-n} \hat{a}_n$$
$$\hat{Q}^{(2)} = \left(\frac{2\pi}{L} \right)^2 \left(\frac{1}{6} \sum_{i+j+k=0} : \hat{a}_i \hat{a}_j \hat{a}_k : + \frac{1}{4} (\beta - \beta^{-1}) \sum_{n \neq 0} |n| : \hat{a}_{-n} \hat{a}_n : \right)$$

Why qBO? System with known spectrum

1) Eigenstates are labeled by **partitions** $\lambda = (\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_l > 0)$
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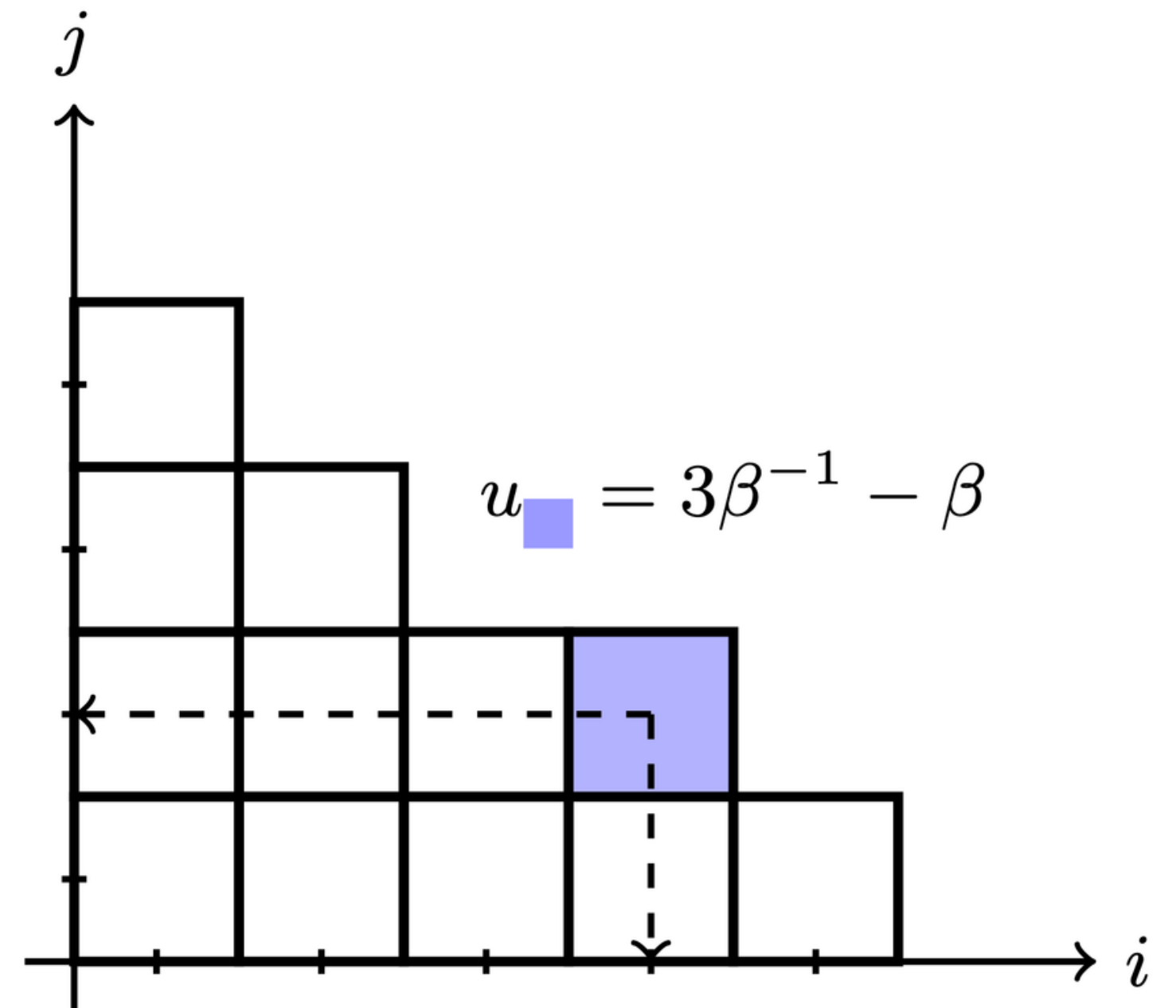


Fig. Young diagram for $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (5, 4, 2, 1)$

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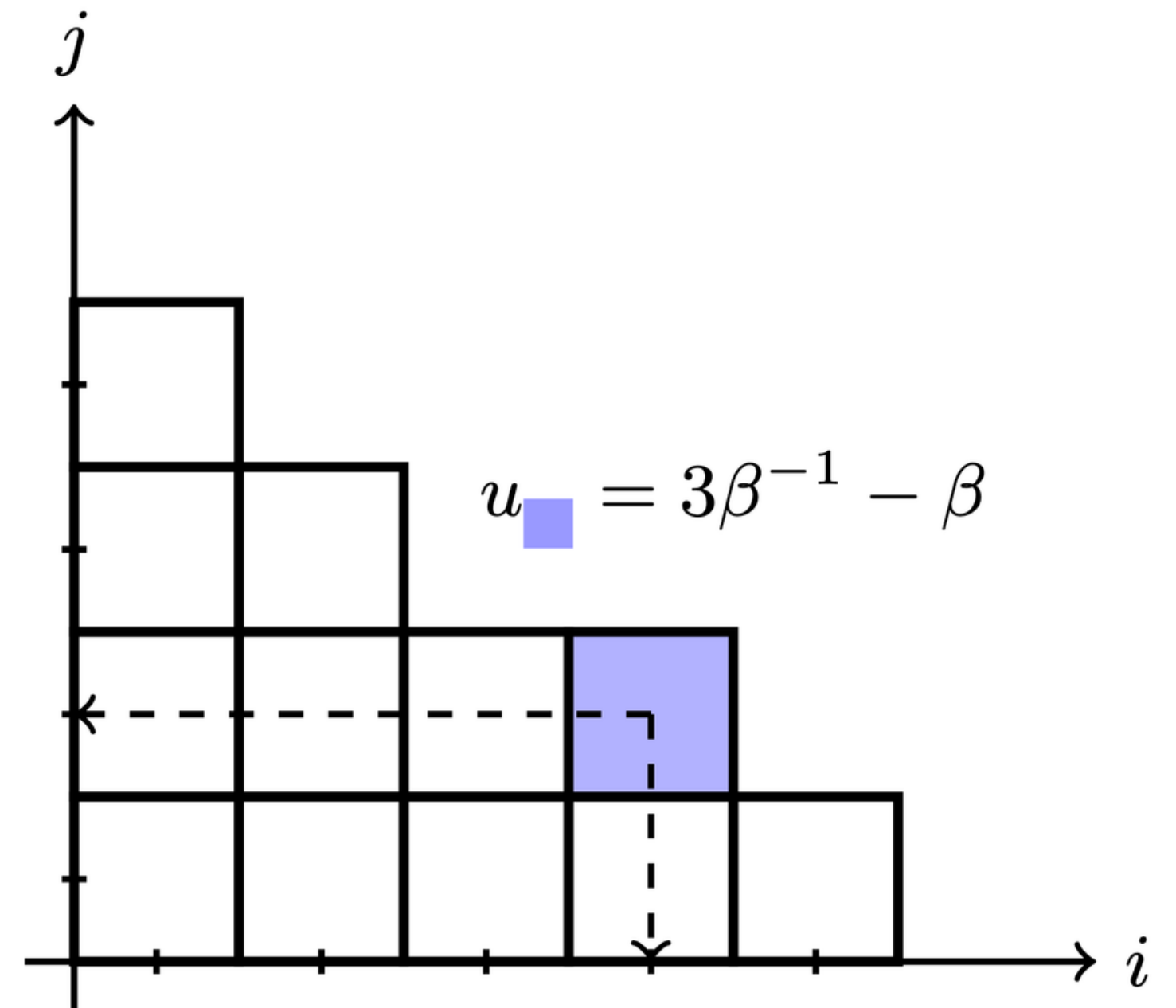


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Modified vertex operators: $V_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}) = e^{i(\alpha+\alpha_0)\varphi_-} e^{i\alpha\varphi_+}$

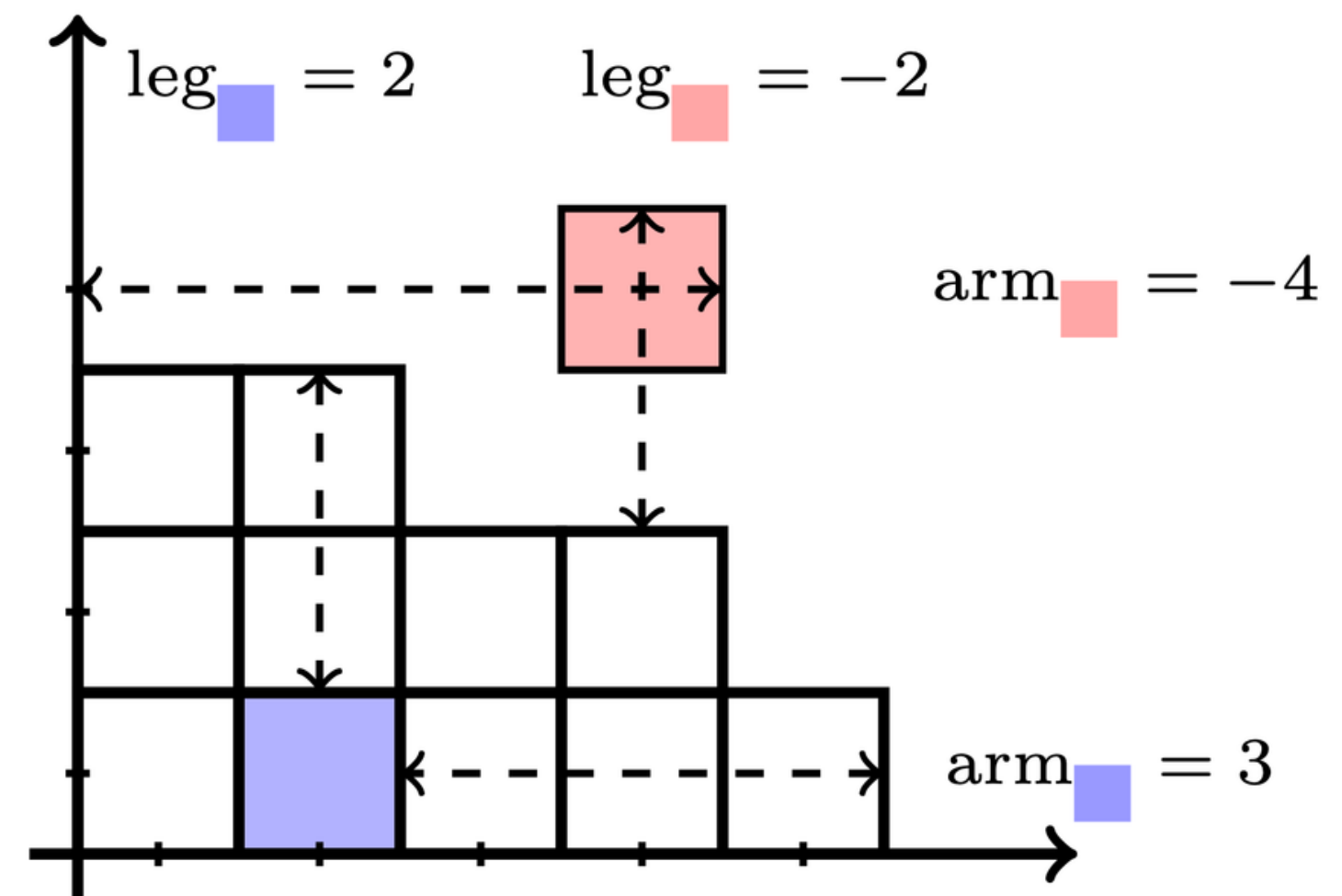
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Matrix elements of such operators, again, expressed using combinatorics of diagrams:
legs and arms



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Diagonal element: $\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} | V_\alpha(0) | \boldsymbol{\lambda} \rangle = \prod_{\square \in \boldsymbol{\lambda}} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha}{F_1^\lambda(\square)} \right) \left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{F_2^\lambda(\square)} \right)$

with $F_1^\lambda = \beta \operatorname{arm}_\lambda(\square) + \beta^{-1} (\operatorname{leg}_\lambda(\square) + 1)$
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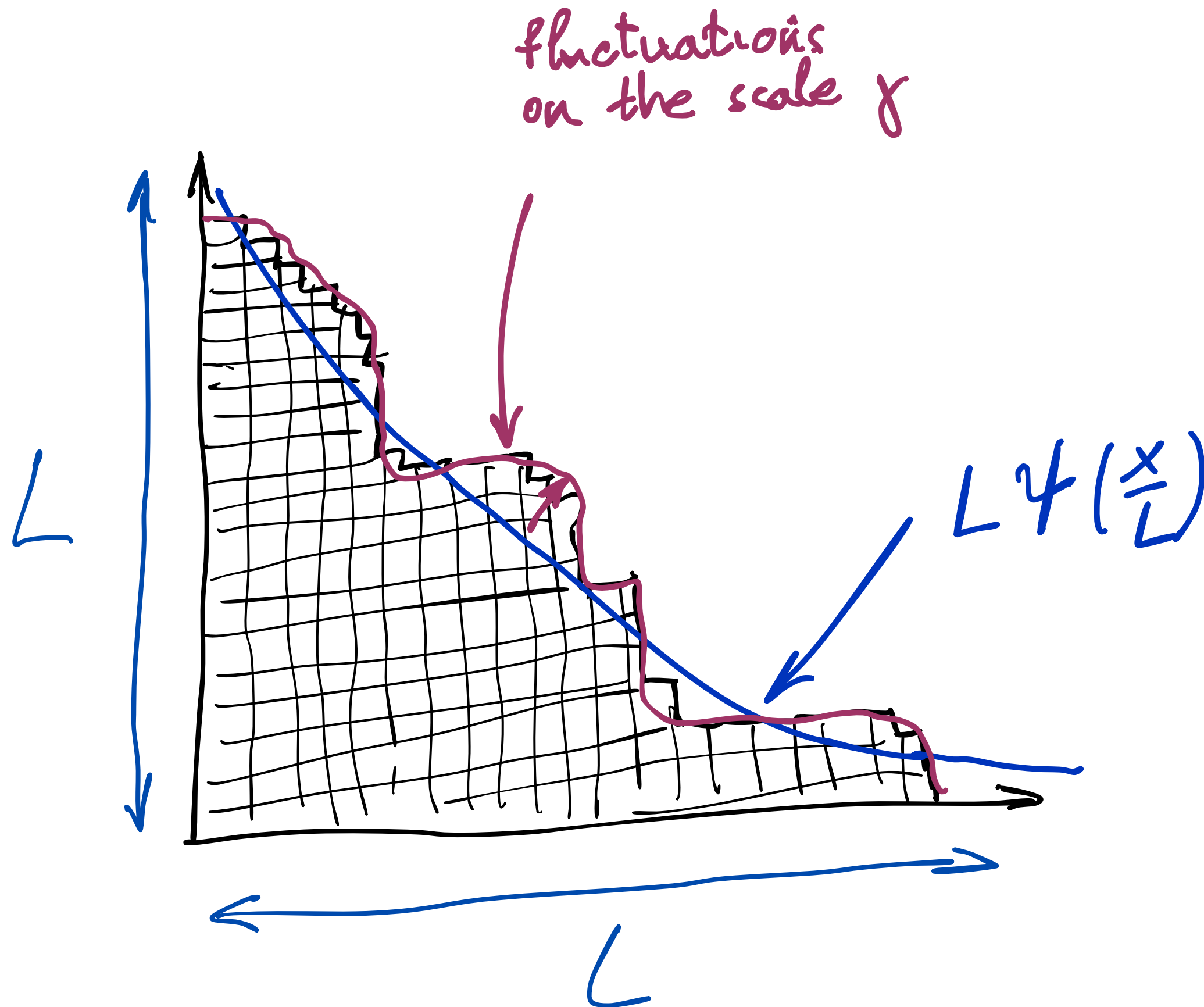
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Off-diagonal element: $|\langle \boldsymbol{\lambda} | V_\alpha(1) | \boldsymbol{\mu} \rangle|^2 = \prod_{\square \in \boldsymbol{\lambda}} \frac{(F_1^{\lambda\mu} - \alpha)^2}{F_1^\lambda F_2^\lambda} \prod_{\square \in \boldsymbol{\mu}} \frac{(F_2^{\lambda\mu} + \alpha)^2}{F_1^\mu F_2^\mu}$

with $F_1^{\lambda\mu}(\square) = \beta \operatorname{arm}_\mu(\square) + \beta^{-1} (\operatorname{leg}_\lambda(\square) + 1)$
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Towards ensembles



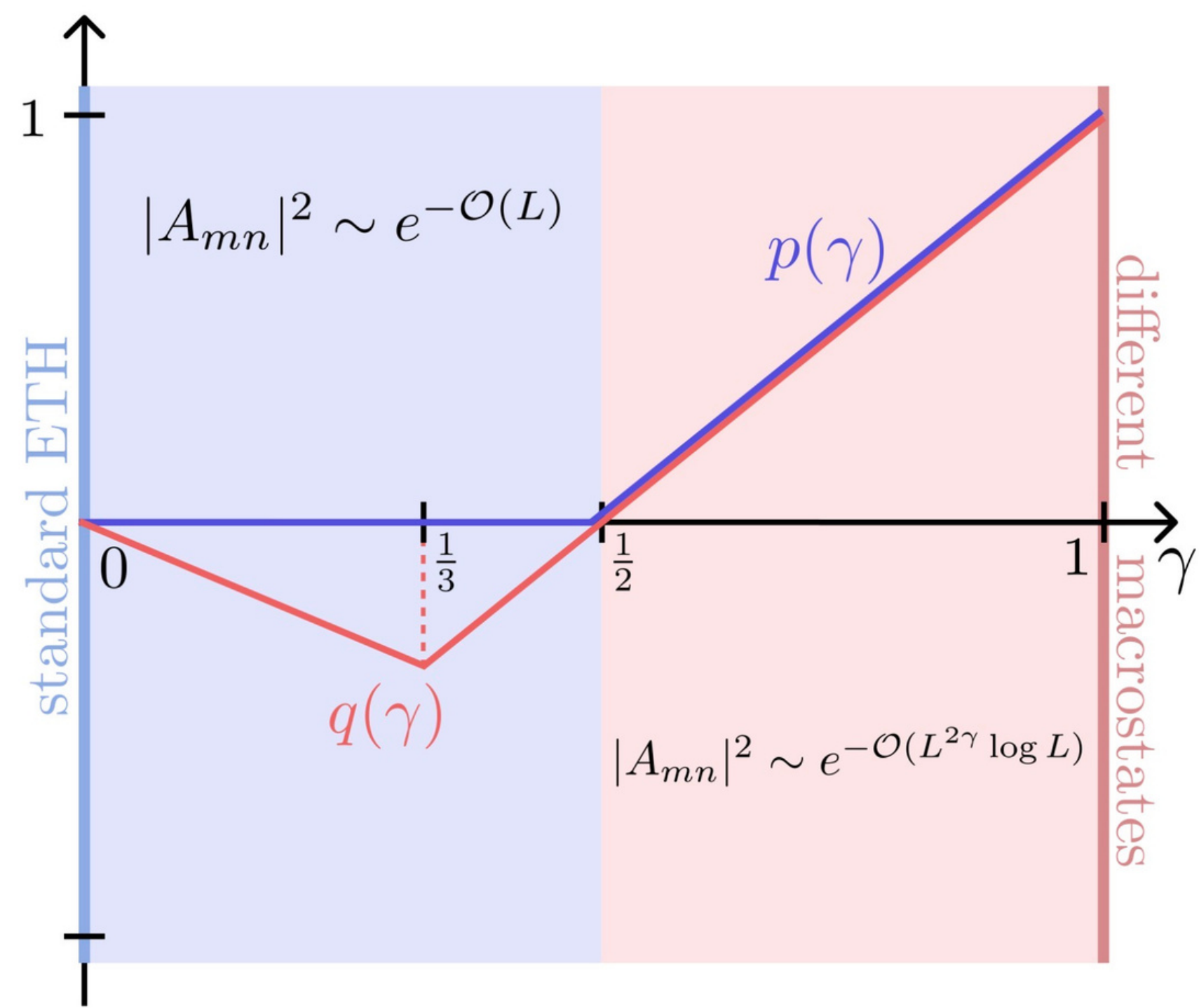
1. Macrostate = limit shape

2. Ensemble — fluctuations on top of the limit shape with a given scale

3. For simplest Gibbs state both the limit shape and the fluctuations are known analytically

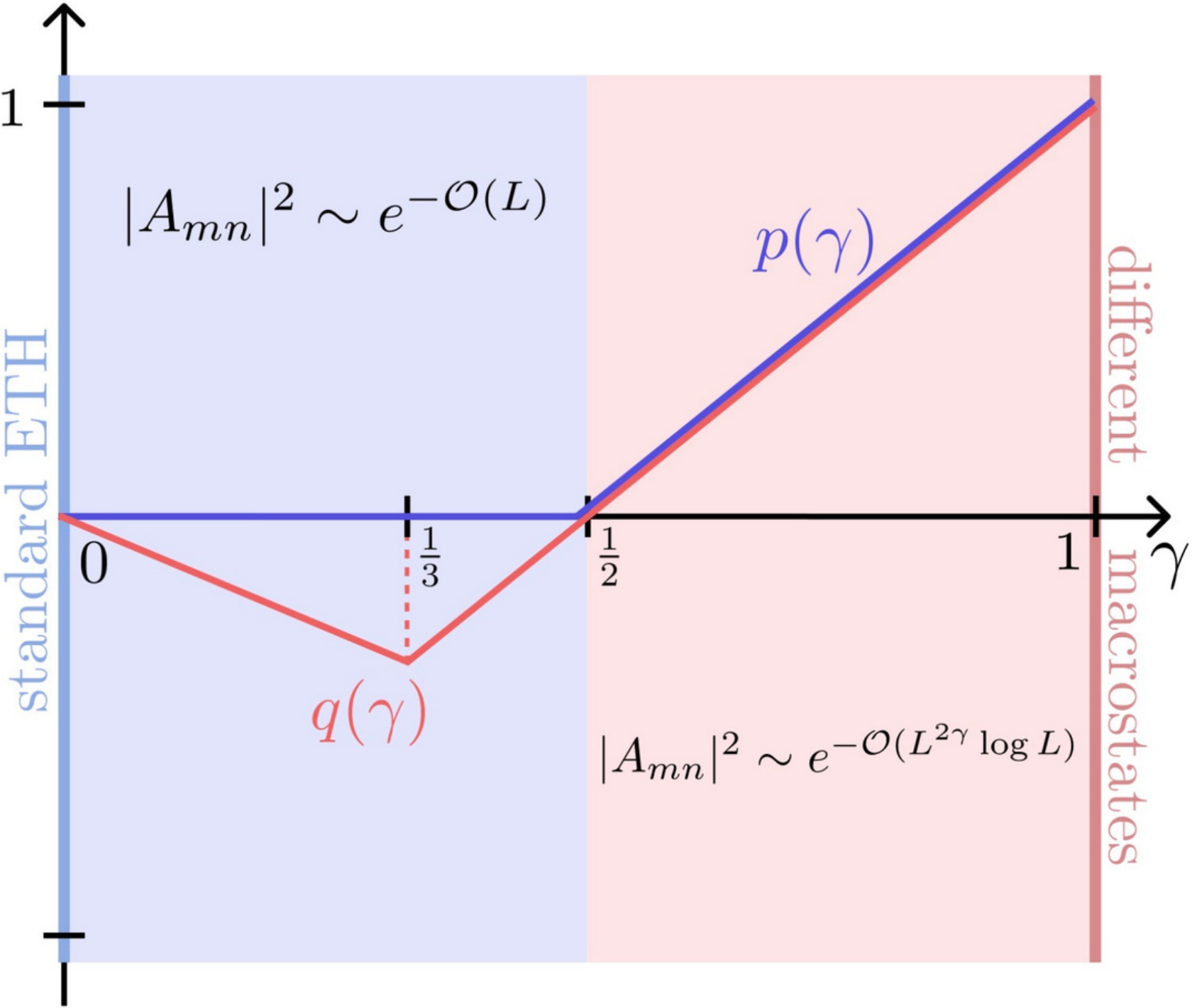
Summary of main results

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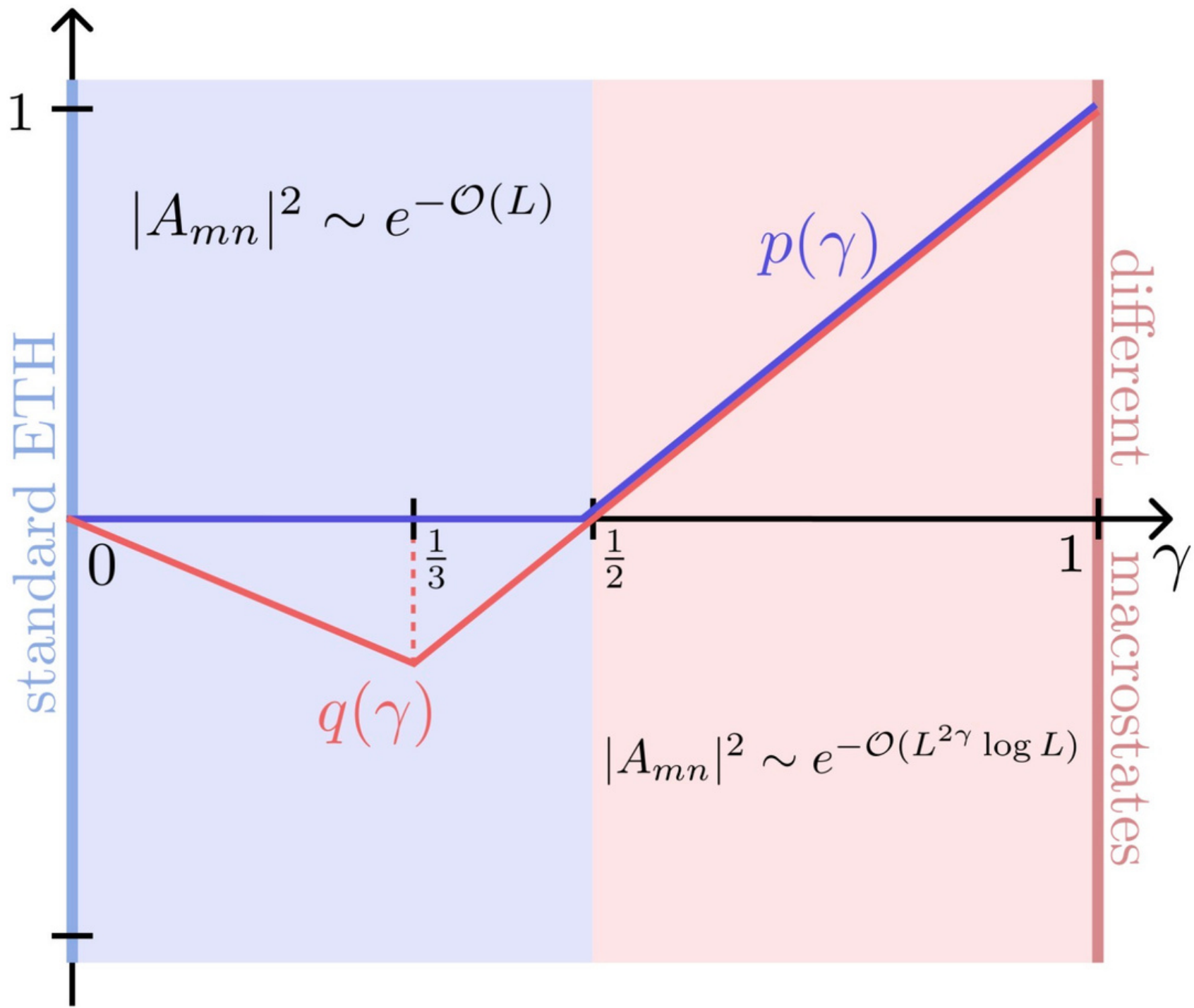
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1. $p(\gamma)$ - analytics and numerics
 $q(\gamma)$ - numerics, **but** $L_{spins} \sim 10^6$

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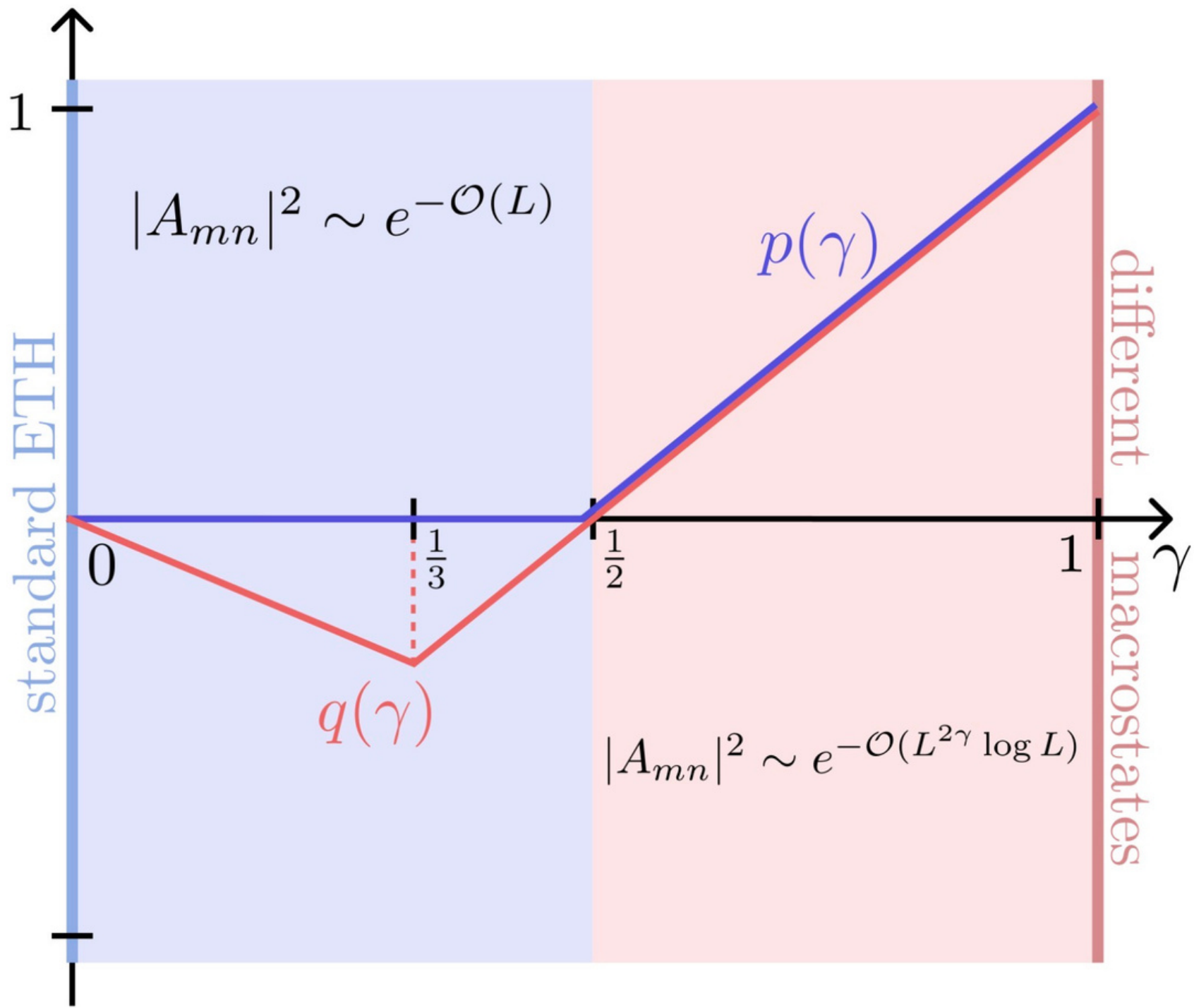
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 $q(\gamma)$ - numerics, **but** $L_{spins} \sim 10^5$
2. $\gamma < 1/2$ phase of **exp suppression**
 $\gamma \geq 1/2$ suppression is **more than exp**

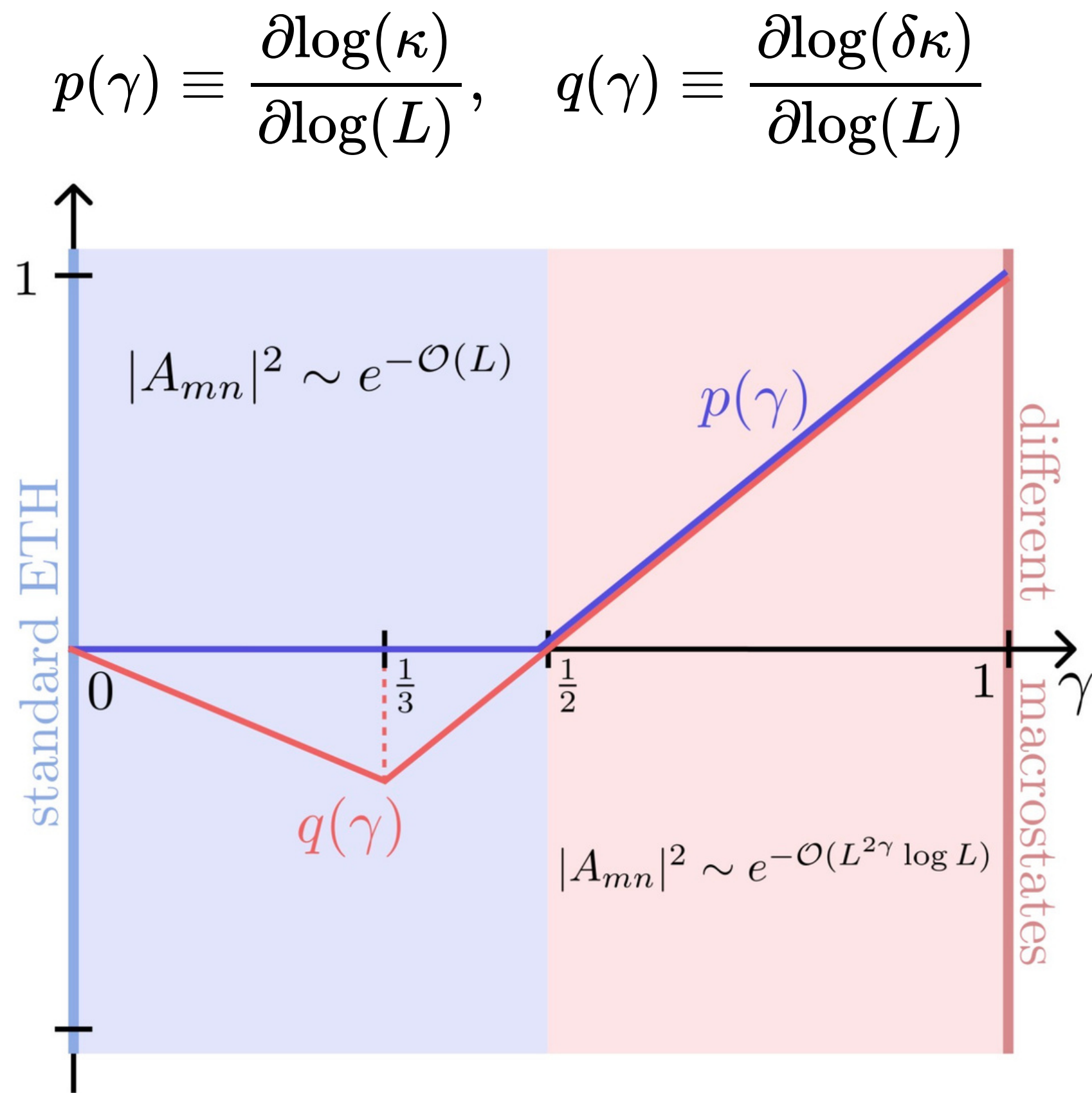
Summary of main results

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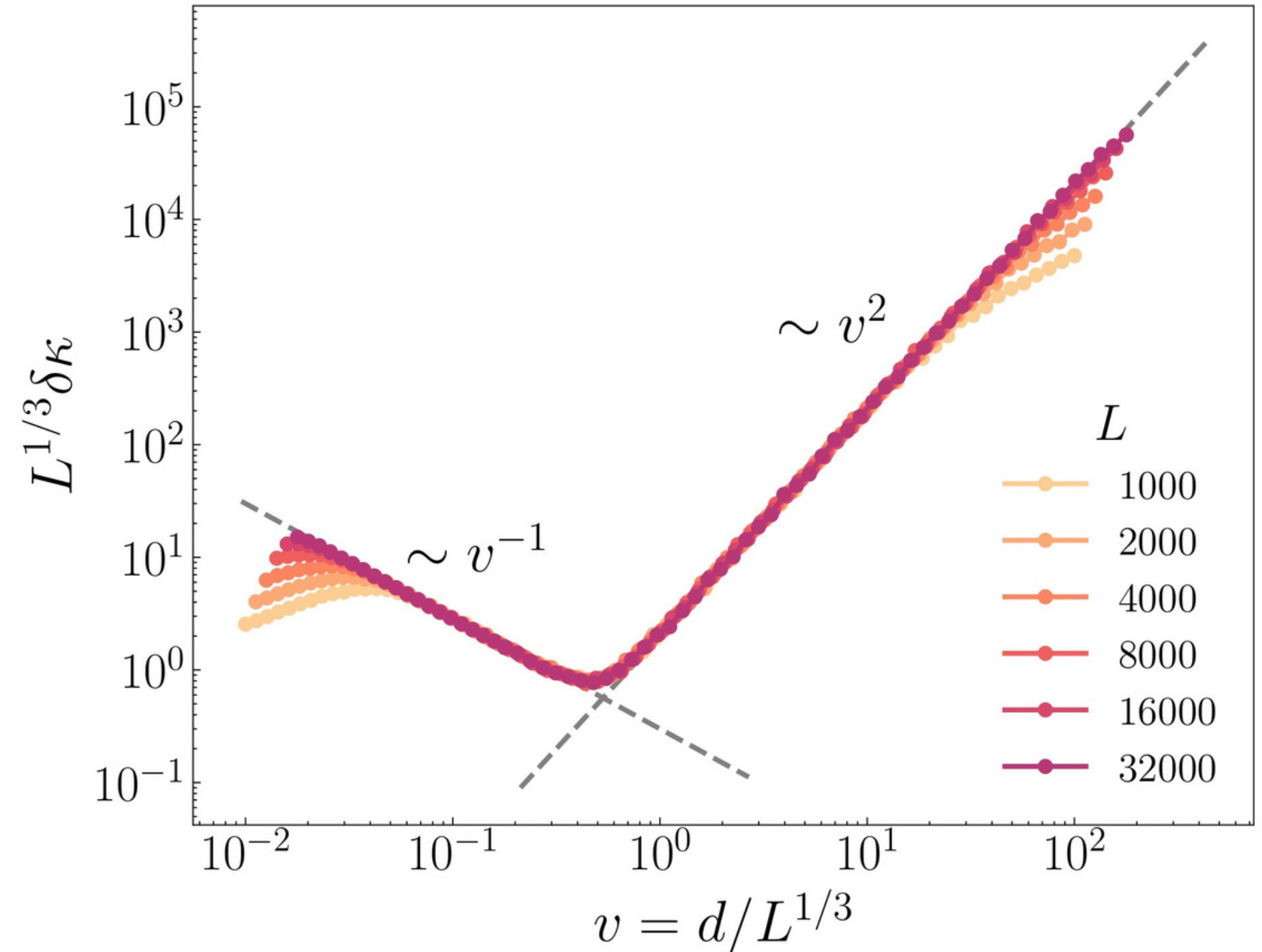
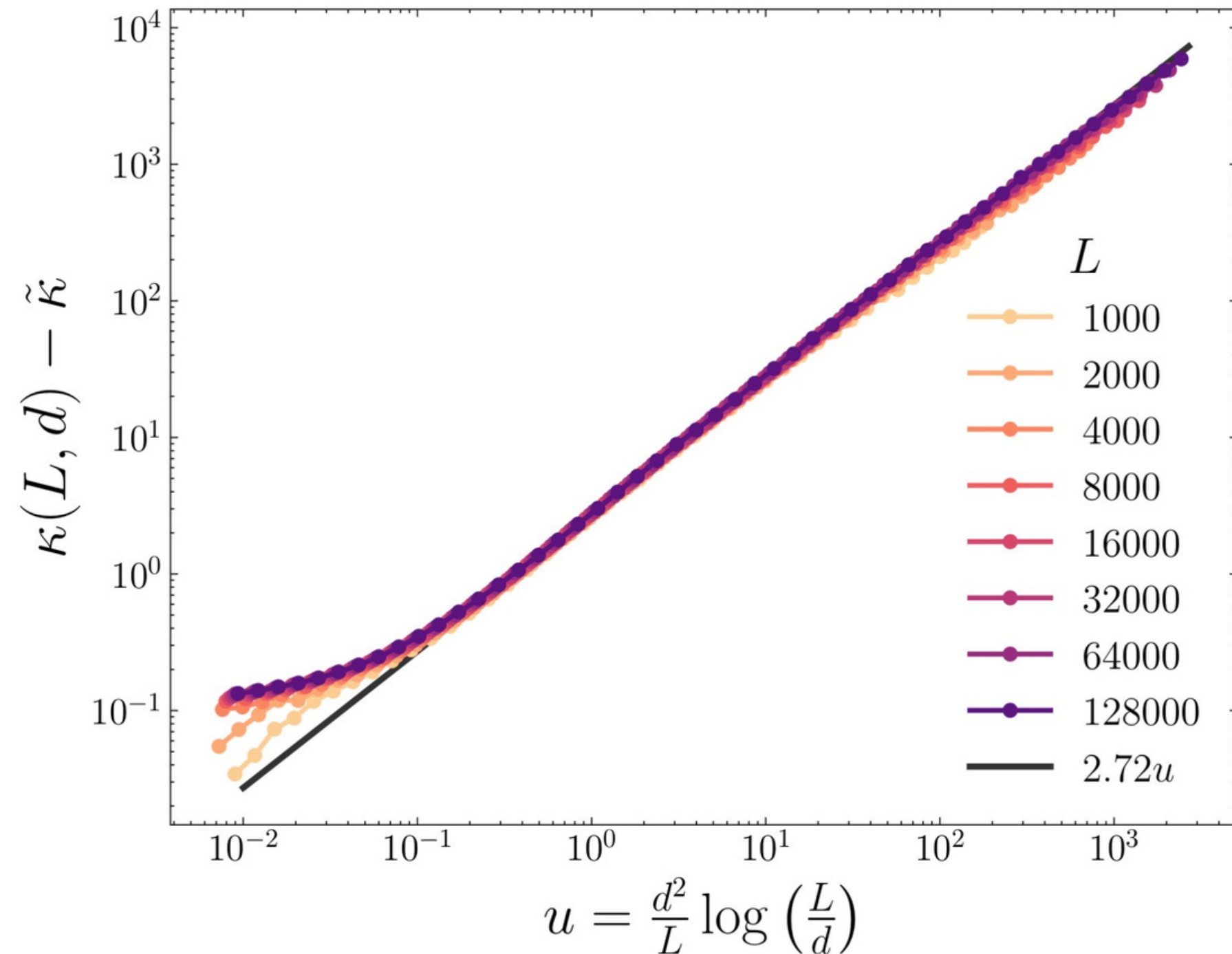
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4. Two scales $\gamma = 1/2, 1$ match with previous studies in XXX and LL models

From scaling functions to scaling exponents

If d is a fluctuation magnitude in the ensemble of states

$$\kappa = f_{\kappa} \left(d^2 / L \log(L/d) \right)$$

$$\delta\kappa = L^{-1/3} f_{\delta\kappa} (d/L^{1/3})$$



Summary

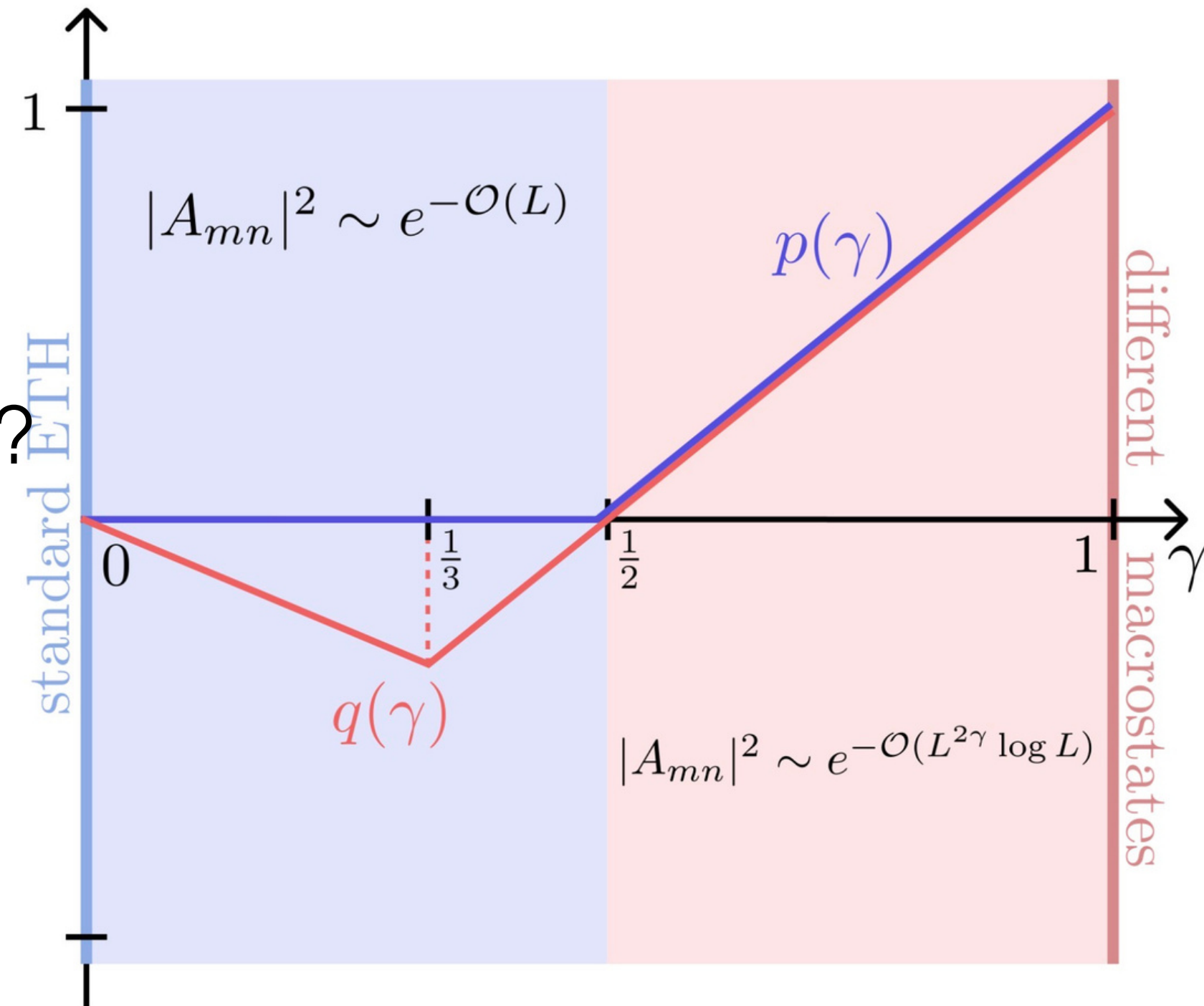
1. **ETH ansatz** = “RMT on steroids”.

A lot of numerical evidence that it holds in systems without conservation laws.

2. What about **ETH in integrable systems**?

3. An attempt to study this question incorporating **proper distance**.

4. The **fluctuation scale** influences the scaling of matrix elements.



Outlook

1. **Universality** on the level of m.el.?

2. Is it even useful for **corr. functions**?