

# Polynomial-time preparation of low-temperature Gibbs states for 2D toric code

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Workshop: Mathematical Challenges of Quantum Algorithms  
for Open Quantum Systems

Joint work with Bowen Li, Lin Lin, Ruizhe Zhang  
[arXiv/2410.01206](https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.01206)

# Outlines:

- Motivation

Why we care about this problem?

- Introduction

2D toric code, Davies, Spectral gap

- Main result and implications

New Davies, spectral gap under low temperature

Mixing time of Lindbladian

for

low-temperature Gibbs states  
preparation

# Motivation 1:

Fast mixing implies **efficient state preparation**  
from **any** initial state

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Efficiently implementable Lindbladian:

for general  
(non-commuting) Hamiltonian

- Thermal state:

Cost  $\sim O(\beta t_{\text{mix}} \text{polylog}(1/\epsilon))$

[Chen, Kastoryano, Brandão, Gilyén, arXiv:2303.18224]

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[**Ding**, Li, Lin, arXiv/2404.05998] .....

- Ground state:

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[**Ding**, Chen, Lin, PRR, arXiv/2308.15676]

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Question: What is  $t_{\text{mix}}$ ?

# Existing result:

- General local (commuting) Hamiltonian:

[Kastoryano, Brandao, CMP, 2016], [Bardet, Capel et al, PRL, 2023], [Kochanowasi, Alhambra et al, arXiv/2404.16780, 2024], [Rouze, Franca et al, arXiv:2403.12691, 2024] ...

For high temperature ( $\beta \ll 1$ ), or moderate-temperature 1D commuting ( $\beta = \Theta(1)$ )

Large  $\beta$ -dependence is not clear

**Question:** What is  $t_{\text{mix}}$  for large  $\beta$ ?

# Motivation 2:


Fast low temperature mixing might be helpful for  
[passively protected quantum memory](#)



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Fast low temperature mixing might be helpful for  
**passively protected quantum memory**

$$\partial_t \rho_t = \mathcal{L}_e(\rho_t), \quad \rho(0) \in \mathcal{C} \quad \mathcal{D} : \rho \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$



Noise                      Code space  
(Logic information)                      Decode  
(obtain logic information)

**Self correcting** quantum memory:

$$\inf_t \left\{ \left\| \mathcal{D}(\rho(t)) - \rho(0) \right\| \leq \epsilon \right\} = \Omega(\exp(n))$$

Similar to slow mixing.

# Motivation 2:

Fast low temperature mixing might be helpful for  
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$$\partial_t \rho_t = \mathcal{L}_e(\rho_t) + \mathcal{L}_p(\rho_t), \quad \rho(0) \in \mathcal{C}$$

↑  
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↑  
Protector

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↑  
Noise

↑  
Protector

Passively protected quantum memory:

$$\| \mathcal{D}(\rho_t) - \rho_0 \| \leq \exp(-\Theta(n)) \text{ for any } t > 0$$

Preserve logic information

**Example:** Logic qubits are encoded in ground space  $\mathcal{G}(H)$  of  $H$

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \rho_t = \mathcal{L}_e(\rho_t) + \mathcal{L}_{\beta=\infty}(\rho_t), \\ \rho_0 \in \mathcal{G}(H) \end{cases} \quad \mathcal{D}(\rho) = \frac{P_{\mathcal{G}} \rho P_{\mathcal{G}}}{\text{Tr}(P_{\mathcal{G}} \rho P_{\mathcal{G}})}$$

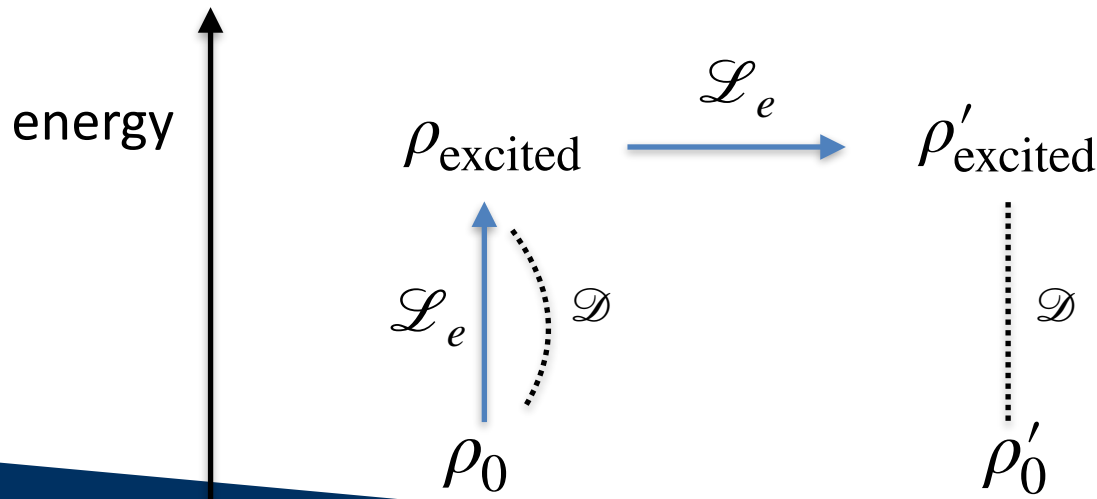
Goal:  $\| \mathcal{D}(\rho_t) - \rho_0 \| \sim \exp(-\Theta(n)), \quad \forall t > 0$

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Goal:  $\left\| \mathcal{D}(\rho_t) - \rho_0 \right\|_{L_t^\infty} \sim \exp(-\Theta(n))$

How does the logic information change?

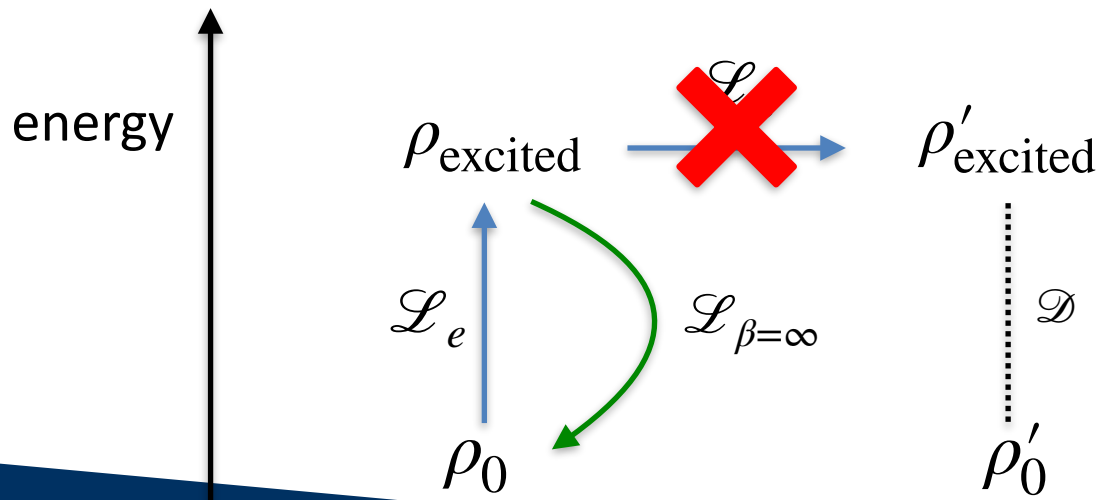


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$\mathcal{L}_{\beta=\infty}$  **prohibits** the transition in the second step:

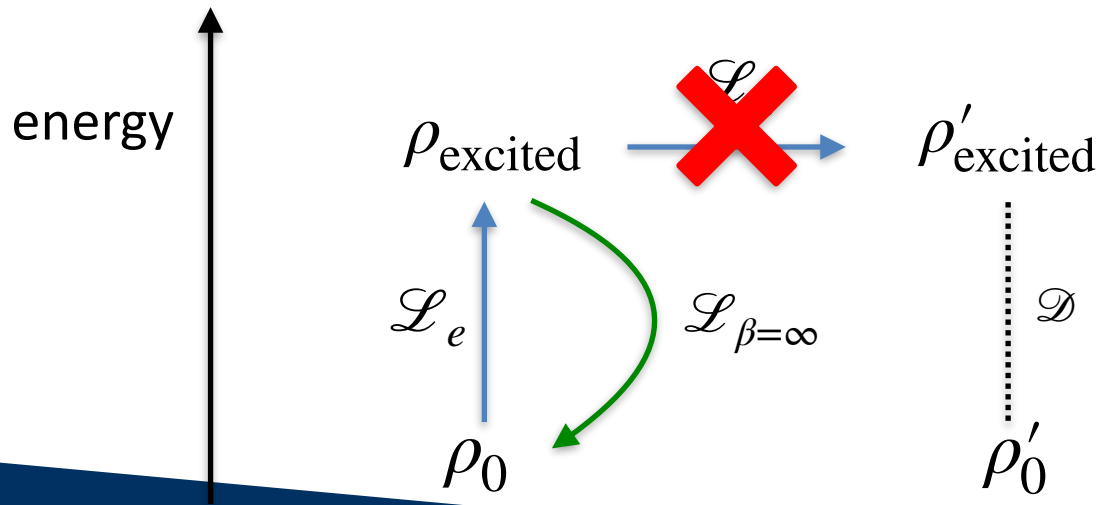


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Spectral gap of Davies generator

for

low-temperature 2D toric code

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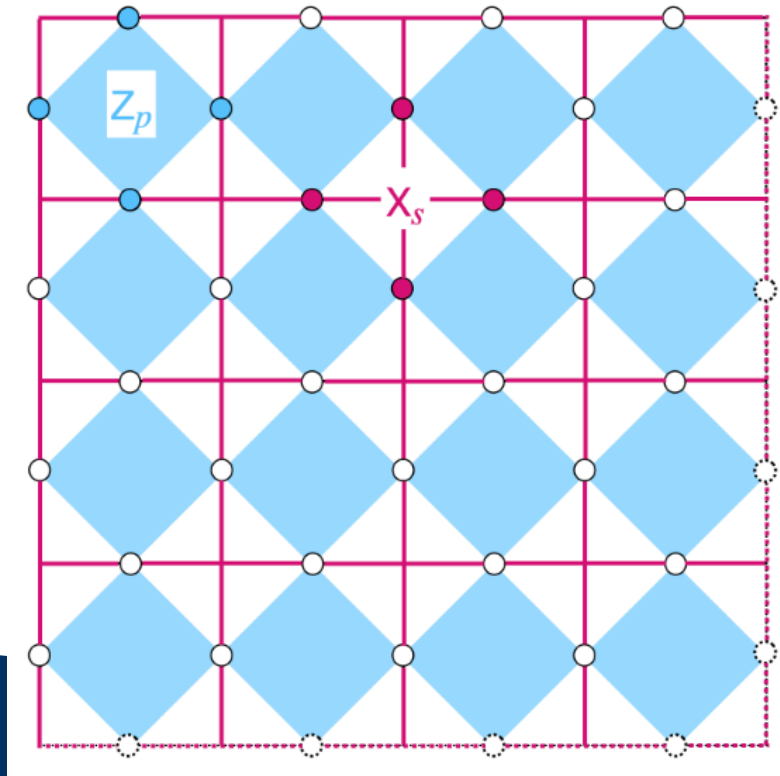
# 2D toric code

$$H^{\text{toric}} = - \sum_s X_s - \sum_p Z_p,$$

$$X_s = \prod_{i \in s} \sigma_i^x,$$

$$Z_p = \prod_{i \in p} \sigma_i^z,$$

$$n = 2L^2$$



# 2D toric code

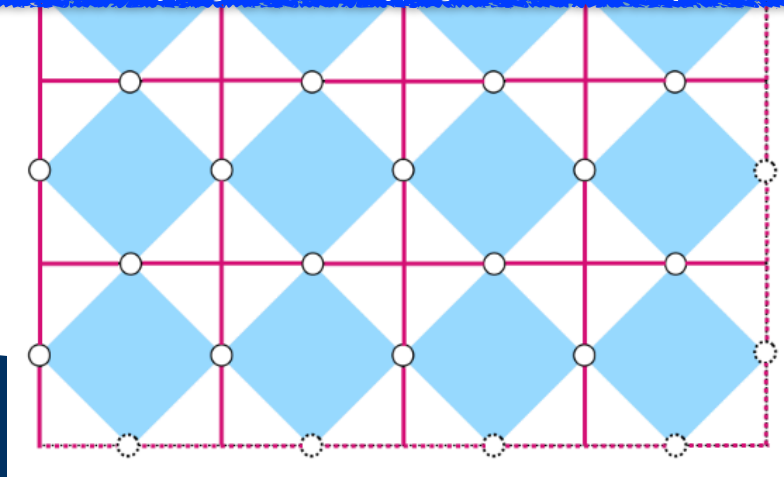
$$H^{\text{toric}} = - \sum_s X_s - \sum_p Z_p,$$

Prepare:

$$X_s = \prod_{i \in s} \sigma_i^x \quad \sigma_\beta \propto \exp(-\beta H^{\text{toric}}), \quad \beta \gg 1$$

$$Z_p = \prod_{i \in p} \sigma_i^z$$

$$n = 2L^2$$



# Davies generator:

$$\partial_t \rho = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{\omega \in B_H} \gamma(\omega) \left( S_a(\omega) \rho S_a^\dagger(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} \{ S_a(\omega)^\dagger S_a(\omega), \rho \} \right)$$

- $S_a(\omega) = \sum_{\lambda_i - \lambda_j = \omega} P_{\lambda_i} A^a P_{\lambda_j}$

Transite  $|\psi_j\rangle$  to  $|\psi_i\rangle$

- $\gamma(\omega) = \exp(-\beta\omega)\gamma(-\omega)$

Transition correction

+  $\{A^a\} = \left\{ \sigma_i^x, \sigma_i^y, \sigma_i^z \right\}_{i=1}^n \Rightarrow \sigma_\beta \propto \exp(-\beta H)$  is the **unique** fixed point

$$\rho(t) \rightarrow \sigma_\beta$$

local Paulis

# GNS detail balance condition:

$$\langle Y, X \rangle_{\sigma_\beta} = \text{tr}(Y^\dagger X \sigma_\beta)$$

GNS inner product

$$\mathcal{L}_\beta(X) = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{\omega \in B_H} \gamma(\omega) \left( S_a^\dagger(\omega) X S_a(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} \{S_a(\omega)^\dagger S_a(\omega), X\} \right)$$

is **self-adjoint** under  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\sigma_\beta}$

**GNS DBC**

# Spectral gap

$$\mathcal{L}_\beta(X) = \sum_{a \in \mathcal{A}} \sum_{\omega \in B_H} \gamma(\omega) \left( S_a^\dagger(\omega) \rho S_a(\omega) - \frac{1}{2} \{S_a(\omega)^\dagger S_a(\omega), \rho\} \right)$$

is self-adjoint under  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_{\sigma_\beta}$

Eigenvalue of  $\mathcal{L}_\beta$ :  $0 = \lambda_0 > \lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots$

$$\text{Ker}(\mathcal{L}_\beta) = \{c\mathbf{I}\}$$

$$\text{Gap}(\mathcal{L}_\beta) = \lambda_0 - \lambda_1 = \inf_{X \neq 0, \text{tr}(\sigma_\beta X) = 0} \frac{\langle X, -\mathcal{L}_\beta(X) \rangle_{\sigma_\beta}}{\langle X, X \rangle_{\sigma_\beta}}$$

characterize the convergence speed of  $\exp(\mathcal{L}^\dagger t)$

# Main Result



# Existing result:

- General local (commuting) Hamiltonian:

[[Kastoryano, Brandao, CMP, 2016](#)], [[Bardet, Capel et al, PRL, 2023](#)], [[Kochanowasi, Alhambra et al, 2024](#)], [[Rouze, Franca et al, 2024](#)] ...

For high temperature ( $\beta \ll 1$ ), or moderate-temperature 1D commuting ( $\beta = \Theta(1)$ )

$\beta$ -dependence is not clear

- For 2D toric code:

[[Alicki et al, 2009](#)]

$$\text{Gap} \left( \mathcal{L}_\beta \right) \geq \exp(-\Theta(\beta))$$

Independent of  
system size

# Existing result:

- For 2D toric code:  
[Alicki et al, 2009]

$$\text{Gap} \left( \mathcal{L}_\beta \right) \geq \exp(-\Theta(\beta))$$

Independent of  
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- Empirical study and energy barrier:  
[Freeman, Herdman, et al, PRB, 2014], [Brown, Loss et al, RMP, 2016],  
[Temme, CMP, 2017], ....

$$\text{Gap} \left( \mathcal{L}_\beta \right) = \exp(-\Theta(\beta))$$

# Existing result:

- For 2D toric code:

Question: Can we modify the local Davies generator such that the gap is **independent of  $\beta$** ?

• Yes. New gap:

$$\text{Gap} \left( \mathcal{L}_\beta \right) \geq \max \left\{ \exp(-\Theta(\beta)), \text{poly}(1/n) \right\}$$

# New Davies:

$$\partial_t \rho = \mathcal{L}^\dagger(\rho) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}^\dagger(\rho) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{global}}^\dagger(\rho)$$

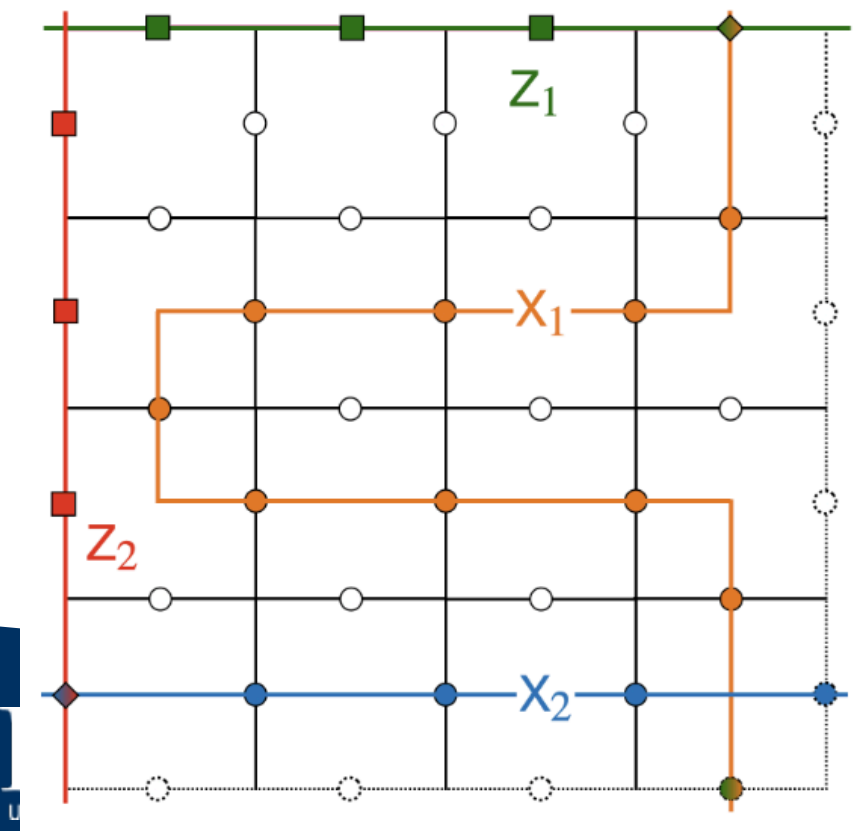


Old:  $\{A^a\} = \{\sigma_i^x, \sigma_i^y, \sigma_i^z\}$

# New Davies:

$$\partial_t \rho = \mathcal{L}^\dagger(\rho) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}^\dagger(\rho) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{global}}^\dagger(\rho)$$

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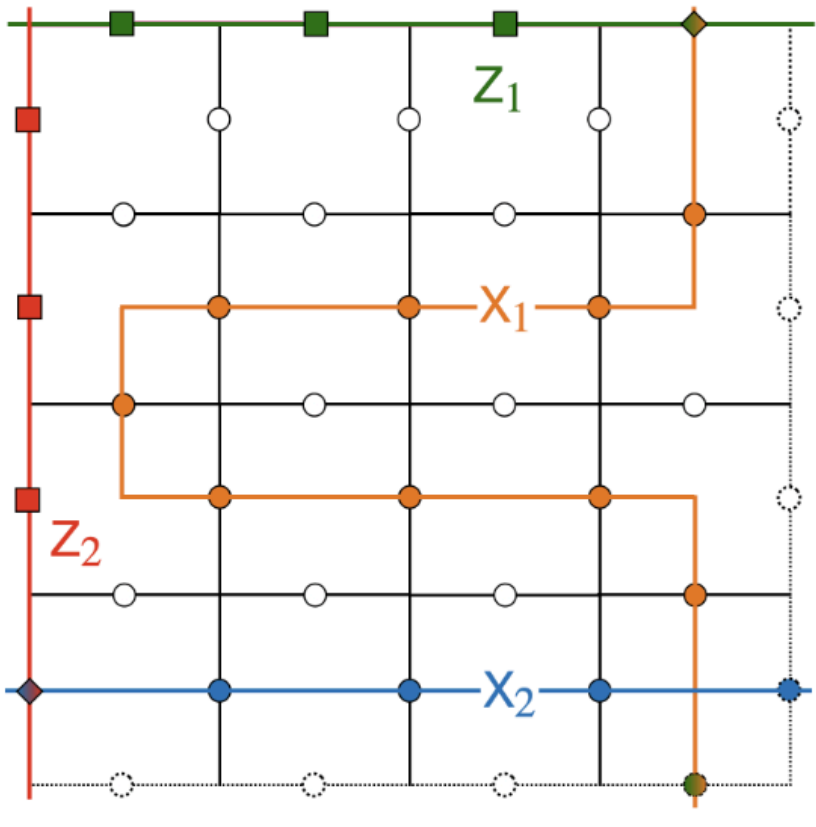
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Thm [Ding, Li, Lin, Zhang, 2024]:

$\text{Gap}(\mathcal{L}) \geq$

$\max \{ \exp(-\Theta(\beta)), \text{poly}(1/n) \}$



# Implications

# Implication 1: Polynomial mixing

$$\text{Gap} \left( \mathcal{L}_\beta \right) \geq \max \left\{ \exp(-\Theta(\beta)), \text{poly}(1/n) \right\}$$

$$t_{\text{mix}}(\epsilon) := \{t \geq 0; \|e^{t\mathcal{L}^\dagger} \rho - \sigma_\beta\|_{\text{tr}} \leq \epsilon, \forall \text{ quantum states } \rho\}$$

$$t_{\text{mix}}(\epsilon) = \mathcal{O}(\beta \text{poly}(n) \log(1/\epsilon))$$

Singularity in  $\chi^2$ -divergence

Re: Thermal state of 2D toric code can be prepared in  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$  time from [maximally mixing state](#) [Hwang, Jiang, arXiv:2410.04909].



Implication 2: Ground state is easy for  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}$

# Hilbert space decomposition:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{H} &= \mathbb{C}^4 \otimes \mathbb{C}^{2^{n-2}} \\ &= \mathbb{C}_1^{2^{n-2}} \oplus \mathbb{C}_2^{2^{n-2}} \oplus \mathbb{C}_3^{2^{n-2}} \oplus \mathbb{C}_4^{2^{n-2}}\end{aligned}$$

$\mathbb{C}_i^{2^{n-2}}$ : syndrome space

Contain **one ground state** and excited states with the same logic information

# Two parts of thermalization:

Part 1: Thermalize across syndrome space

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{H} &= \mathbb{C}^4 \otimes \mathbb{C}^{2^{n-2}} \\ &= \mathbb{C}_1^{2^{n-2}} \oplus \mathbb{C}_2^{2^{n-2}} \oplus \mathbb{C}_3^{2^{n-2}} \oplus \mathbb{C}_4^{2^{n-2}} \end{aligned}$$

Part 2: Thermalize in syndrome space

# Implication 2: Ground state is easy for $\mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}$

Part 1: hard for  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}$

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathbb{C}^4 \otimes \mathbb{C}^{2^{n-2}}$$

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Part 2: easy for  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}$  syndrome space

Thm [Ding, Li, Lin, Zhang, 2024]:

$$\text{Gap} \left( \mathcal{L}_{\text{local}} \Big|_{\text{syndrome}} \right) \geq \max \left\{ \exp(-\Theta(\beta)), \text{poly}(1/n) \right\}$$

First work shows the  $\text{poly}(1/n)$  gap in syndrome space.

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Re: Ground state preparation for 2D toric code is known to be easy.

# Implication 3: Quantum memory

Thm [Ding, Li, Lin, Zhang, 2024]:

$$\text{Gap} \left( \mathcal{L}_{\text{local}} \Big|_{\text{syndrome}} \right) \geq \max \{ \exp(-\Theta(\beta)), \text{poly}(1/n) \}$$

Recall: Fast low temperature mixing might be helpful for **passively protected quantum memory**

Q: Is  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}$  a good candidate for passive protected quantum memory?

# Implication 3: Quantum memory

Thm [Ding, Li, Lin, Zhang, 2024]:

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$$\mathcal{L}(\rho) = \mathcal{L}_e(\rho) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{local}, \beta=\infty}(\rho)$$

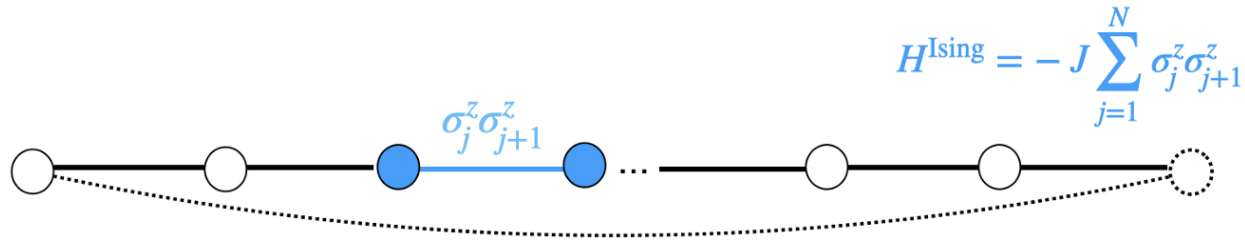
$$\left\| \text{Tr}_{\text{syndrome}} \left( \exp(\mathcal{L}t) \rho(0) \right) - \rho(0) \right\| \leq \exp(-\Theta(n)), \quad \forall t > 0$$

Intuition:  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{local}, \beta=\infty}$  kills the excitation fast and then **preserves the logic (??)**.

# Implication 3: Quantum memory

$$\mathcal{L}(\rho) = \mathcal{L}_e(\rho) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{local}, \beta=\infty}(\rho)$$

Think about 1D Ising:



$$| \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \rangle$$



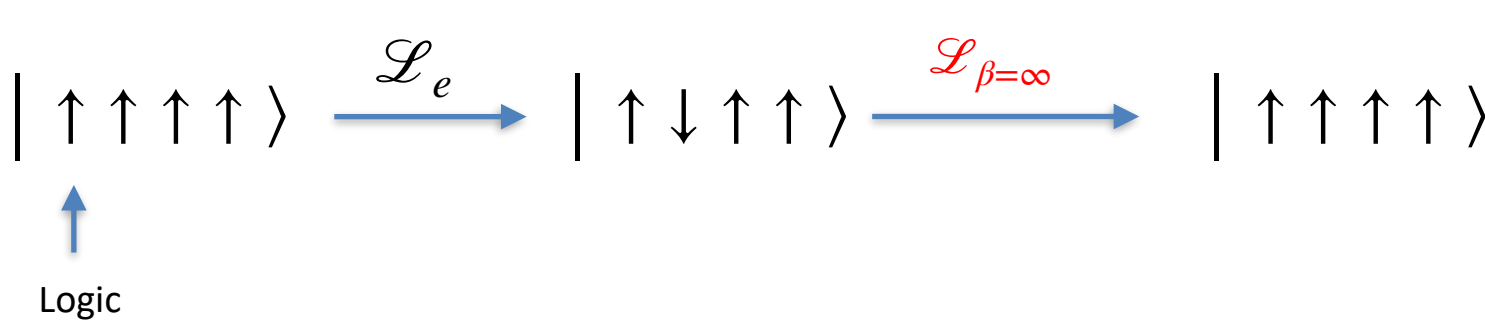
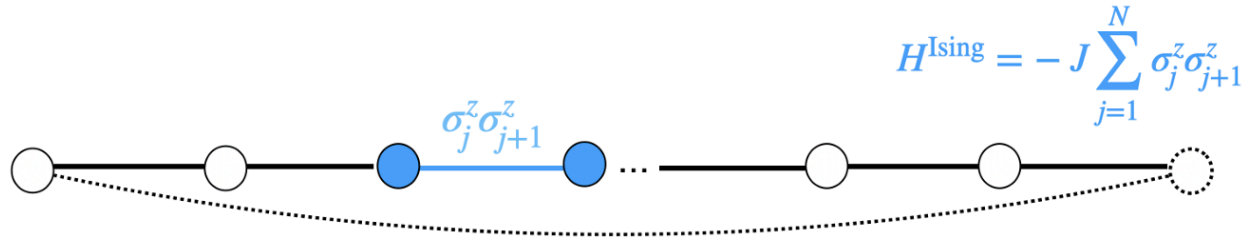
Logic



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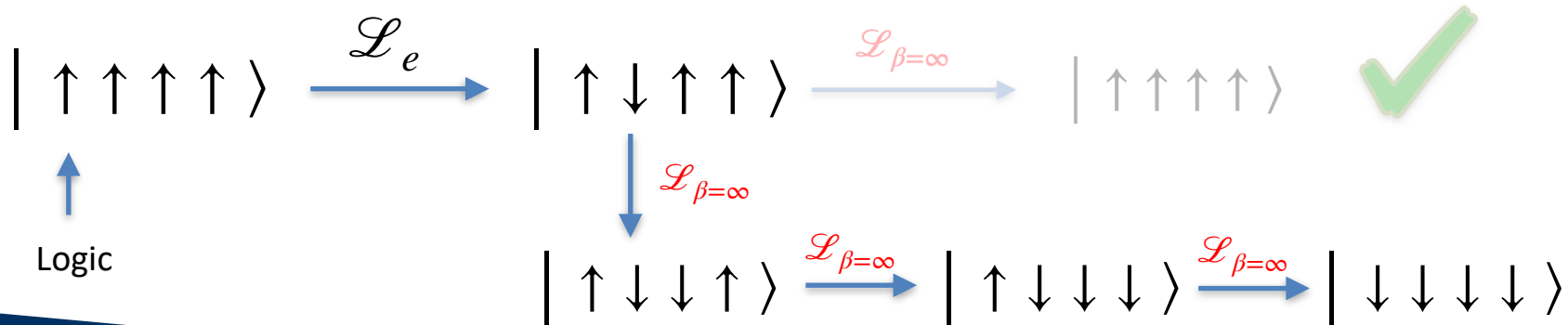
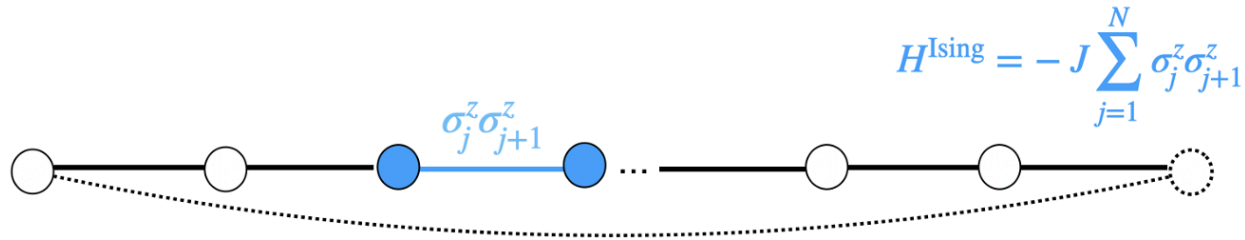
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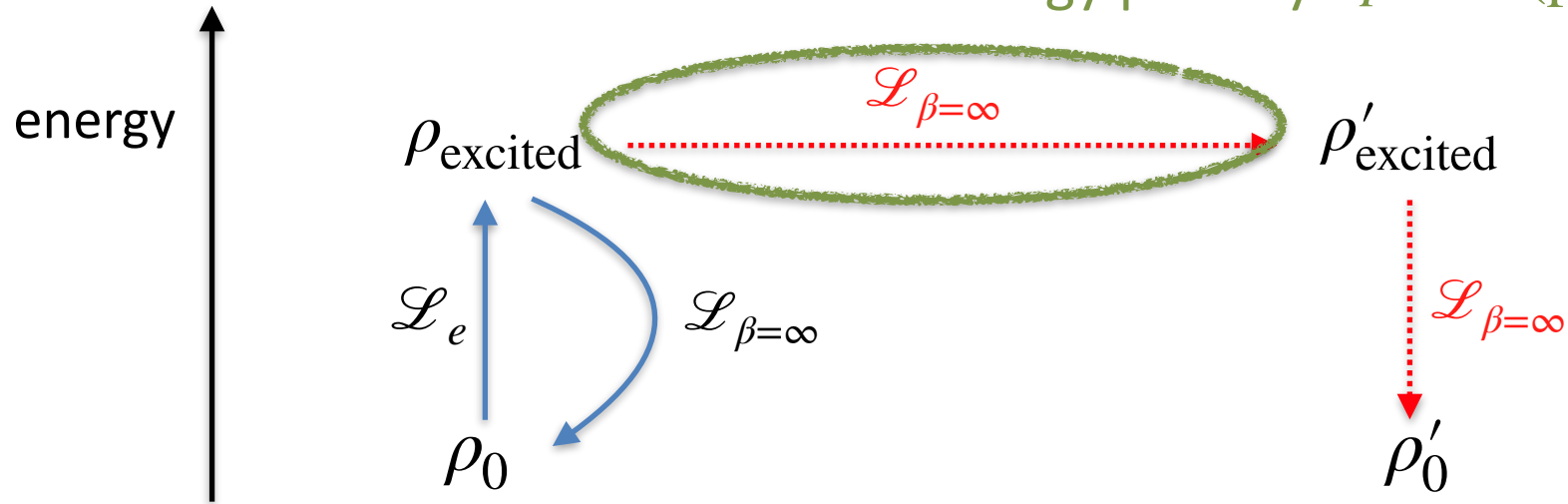


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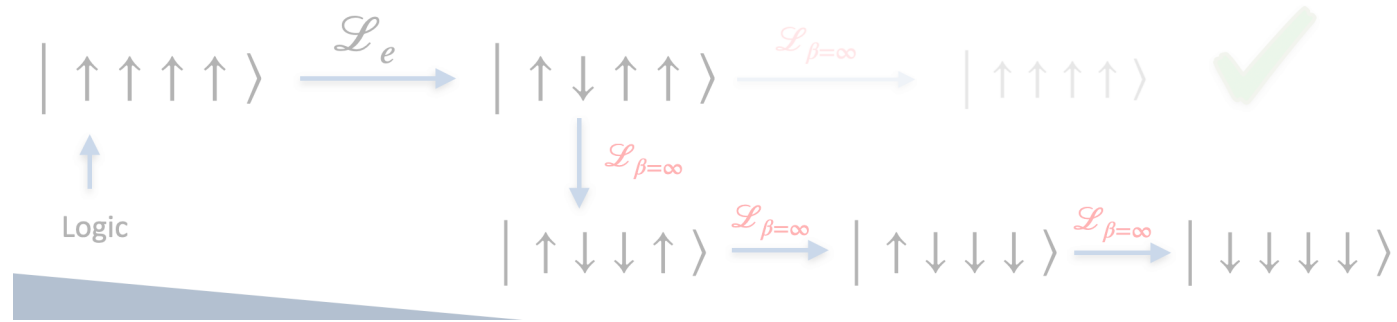
move without energy penalty  $p = \Omega(\text{poly}(1/n))$



# Implication 3: Quantum memory

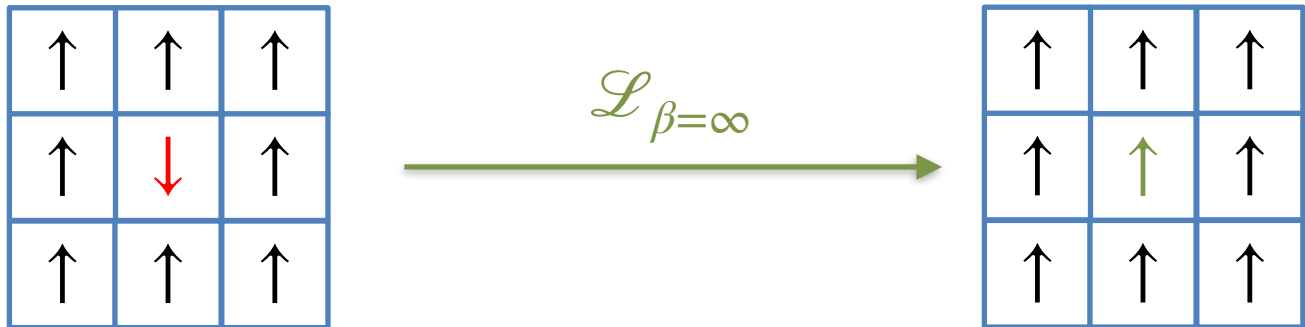
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1D Ising:



2D Ising:

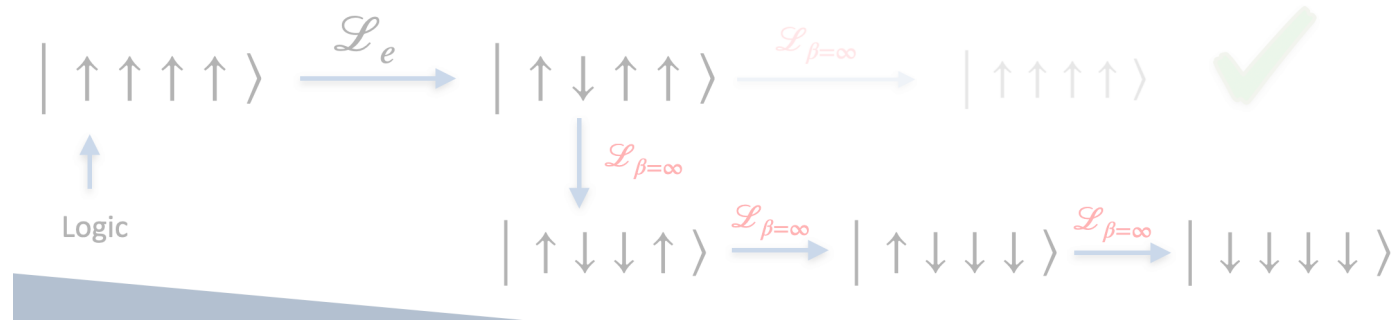
[Lieu, Liu et al,  
PRL, 2024]



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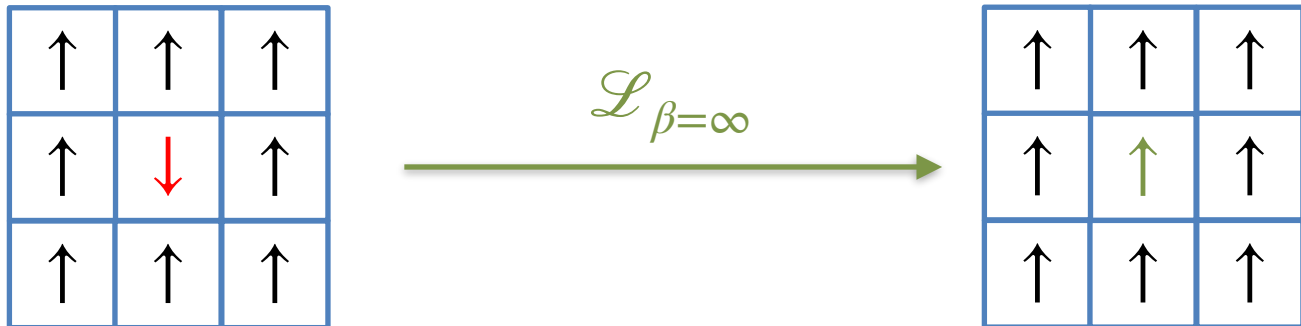
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# Conclusion:

arXiv/2410.01206

- $\mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}^\dagger(\rho) + \mathcal{L}_{\text{global}}^\dagger(\rho)$

Polynomial low temperature thermalization from any initial state

- $\mathcal{L}_{\text{local}}^\dagger(\rho)$

Fast mixing to the ground state

- Passively protected quantum memory?

Still some gaps between fast low temperature mixing and passive quantum memory protection.

Questions?