



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO  
DIPARTIMENTO DI FISICA



*Fundamental Problems  
in Quantum Physics*  
**BELL**

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Università degli Studi di Milano

*Consiglio di Sezione INFN*

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INFN  
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- Involved units:

Trieste

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Pavia

Genova

Cosenza



# BELL

- Members of Milan unit:



UNIVERSITÀ  
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DI MILANO

Physics Department (open quantum systems)

Bassano Vacchini

Andrea Smirne

Nina Megier (AvH Fellow)

# BELL

- **Members of Milan unit:**



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**Mathematics Department** (field theory and general relativity)

**Livio Pizzocchero**

← **Davide Fermi (left, presently RTDa Roma 3)**



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

**Mathematics Department** (quantum probability)

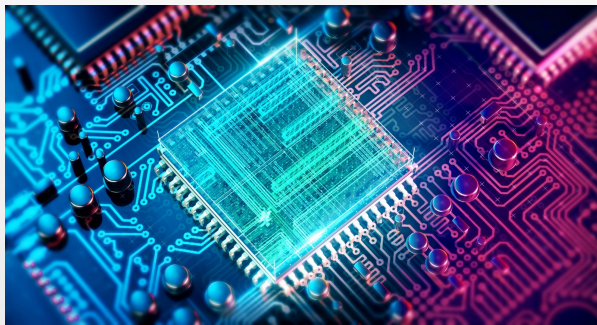
**Alberto Barchielli**

**Alessandro Toigo**

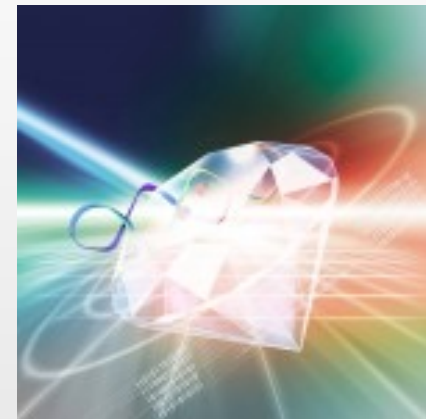
# Open quantum systems: from foundations to applications

- The systems we want to control and manipulate are subjected to interaction with the surrounding environment, i.e., they are open systems
- Quantum properties (such as entanglement and coherences) are particularly fragile under such an interaction

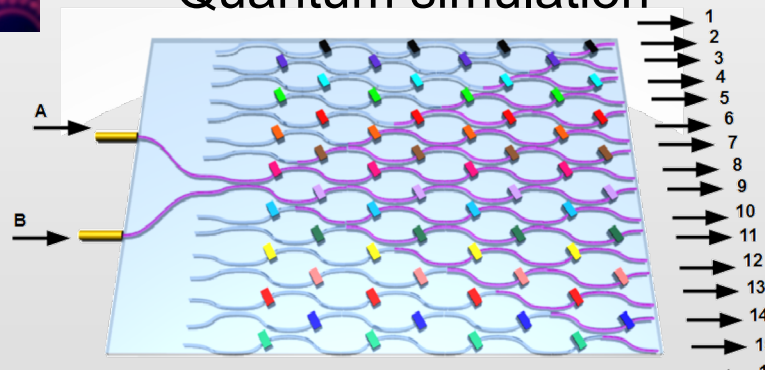
## Quantum computation & communication



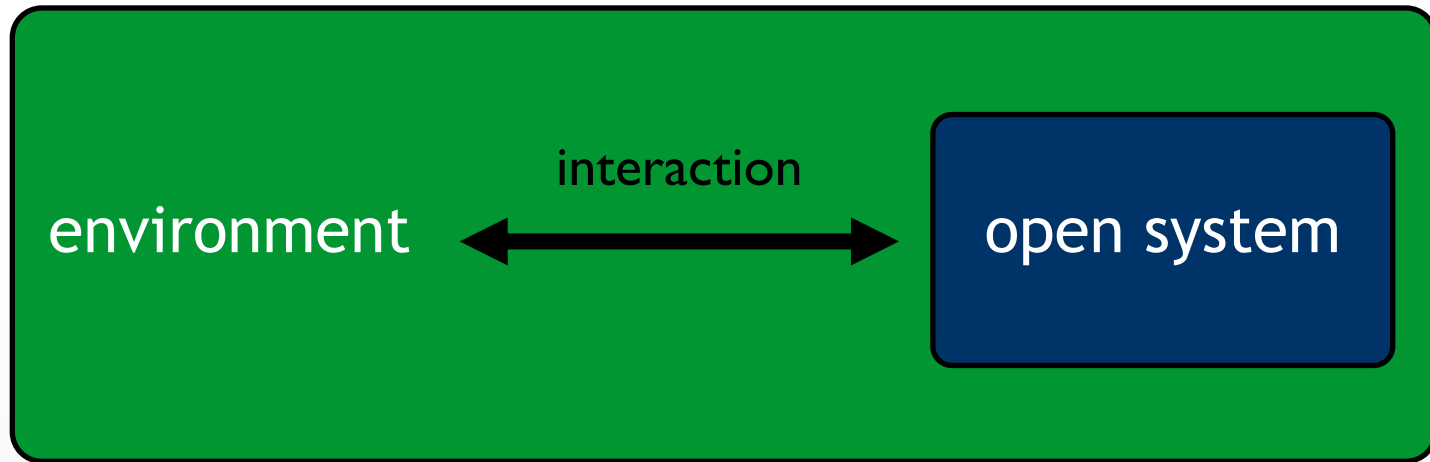
## Quantum metrology and sensing



## Quantum simulation



# Theoretical framework



## Bipartite setting

$$H = H_S + H_E + H_I$$

$$H \in \mathcal{B}(\mathcal{H}_S \otimes \mathcal{H}_E) \quad \rho_{SE} \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H}_S \otimes \mathcal{H}_E)$$



### Reduced dynamics

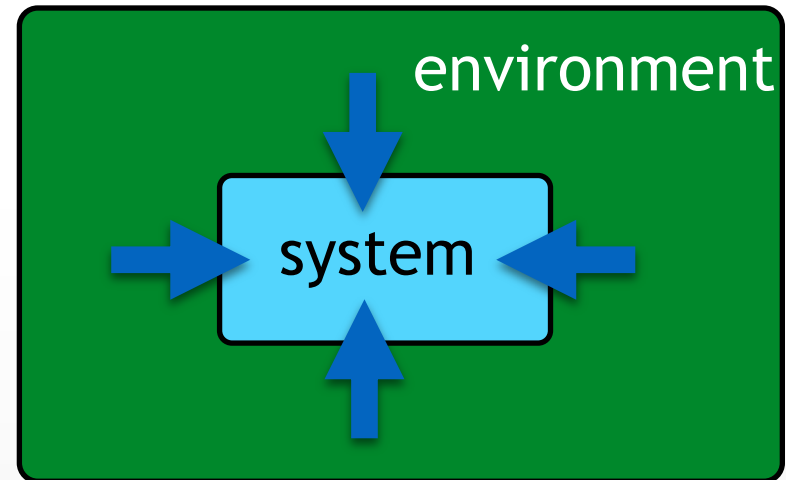
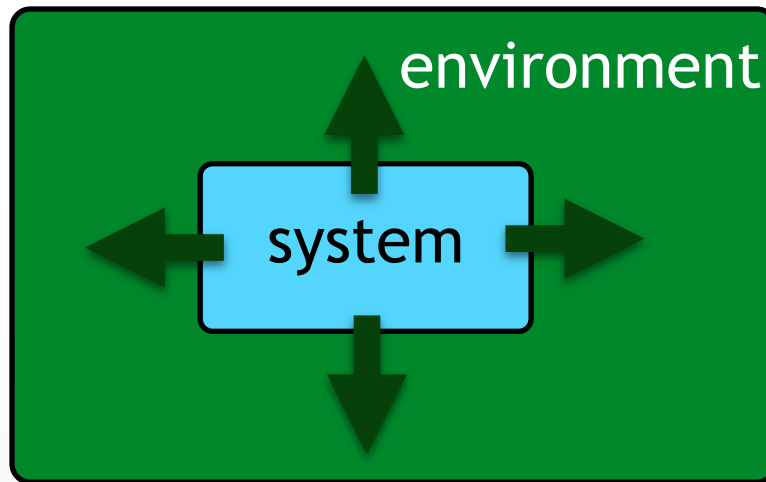
$$\rho_S(0) \mapsto \rho_S(t) = \Phi(t)\rho_S(0)$$

### Correlations

$$\rho_{SE}(t) \neq \rho_S(t) \otimes \rho_E(t)$$

[Davies, 1976; Alicki & Lendi, 1987; Breuer & Petruccione, 2002; Rivas & Huelga, 2012]

# Non-Markovianity - a physical picture



[Breuer, Laine & Piilo, PRL 2009; Breuer, Laine, Piilo & B.V. RMP 2016]

- Correlations imply bidirectional information flow: memory effects
- Quantitative foundation based on entropic quantifiers

[Megier, Smirne & Vacchini, arXiv 2101.02720 \(2021\), to appear in Phys. Rev. Lett.](#)

- Variety of analytical and numerical methods

Master equations

Numerical ab initio methods

Stochastic methods

Path integrals

Perturbative techniques

....and many more!

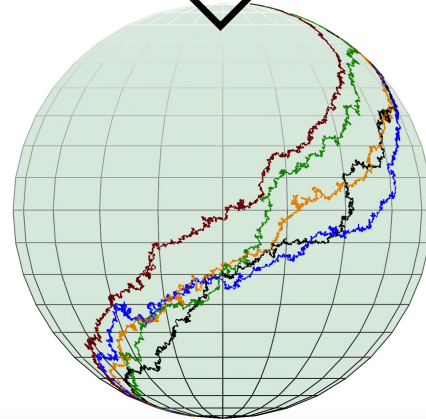
# Stochastic unraveling - Quantum jumps

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho(t) = -i[H_S(t), \rho(t)] + \sum_{\alpha=1}^{n^2-1} c_{\alpha}(t) \left( L_{\alpha}(t)\rho(t)L_{\alpha}(t)^{\dagger} - \frac{1}{2} \{L_{\alpha}^{\dagger}(t)L_{\alpha}(t), \rho(t)\} \right)$$



Infinitely many possible mappings

Stochastic trajectories  
on the set of pure states

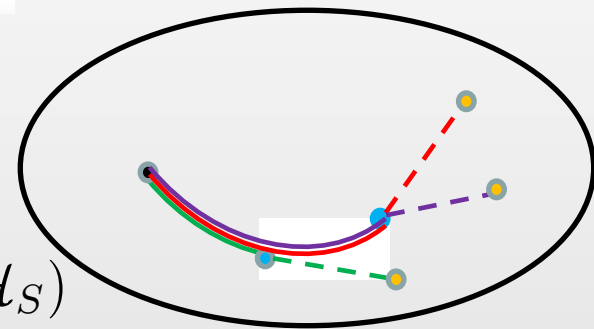


Average of the trajectories

$$\rho(t) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |\psi_i(t)\rangle \langle \psi_i(t)|$$

- Deterministic evolution interrupted by random jumps

$\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{H}_S)$



- Quantum jumps experimentally observed in several platforms

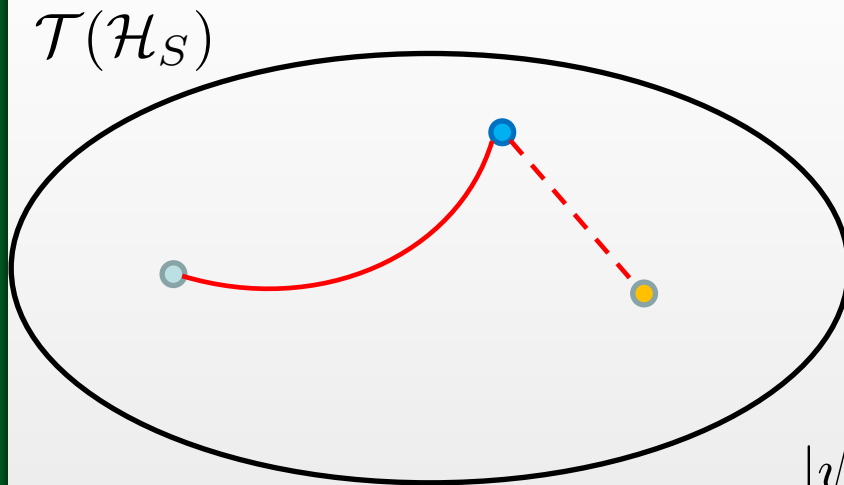
Basche et al. *Nature* **373** (1995); Jelezko et al. *APL* **81** (2002); Gleyzes et al. *Nature* **446** (2007)

# Rate operator quantum jumps

Rate Operator (RO) 
$$W_{\psi(t)}^J = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{n^2-1} c_{\alpha}(t) (L_{\alpha}(t) - \ell_{\psi(t),\alpha}) |\psi(t)\rangle \langle \psi(t)| (L_{\alpha}(t) - \ell_{\psi(t),\alpha})^{\dagger}$$

$$\ell_{\psi(t),\alpha} = \langle \psi(t) | L_{\alpha}(t) | \psi(t) \rangle$$

[Smirne, Caiaffa & Piilo, Phys. Rev. Lett. \*\*124\*\*, 190402 \(2020\)](#)



- Deterministic evolution fixed by

$$H_{eff} = H_S - \frac{i}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{n^2-1} c_{\alpha} \left( L_{\alpha}^{\dagger} L_{\alpha} - 2\ell_{\psi(t),\alpha}^{*} L_{\alpha} + |\ell_{\psi(t),\alpha}|^2 \right)$$

- Interrupted by jumps

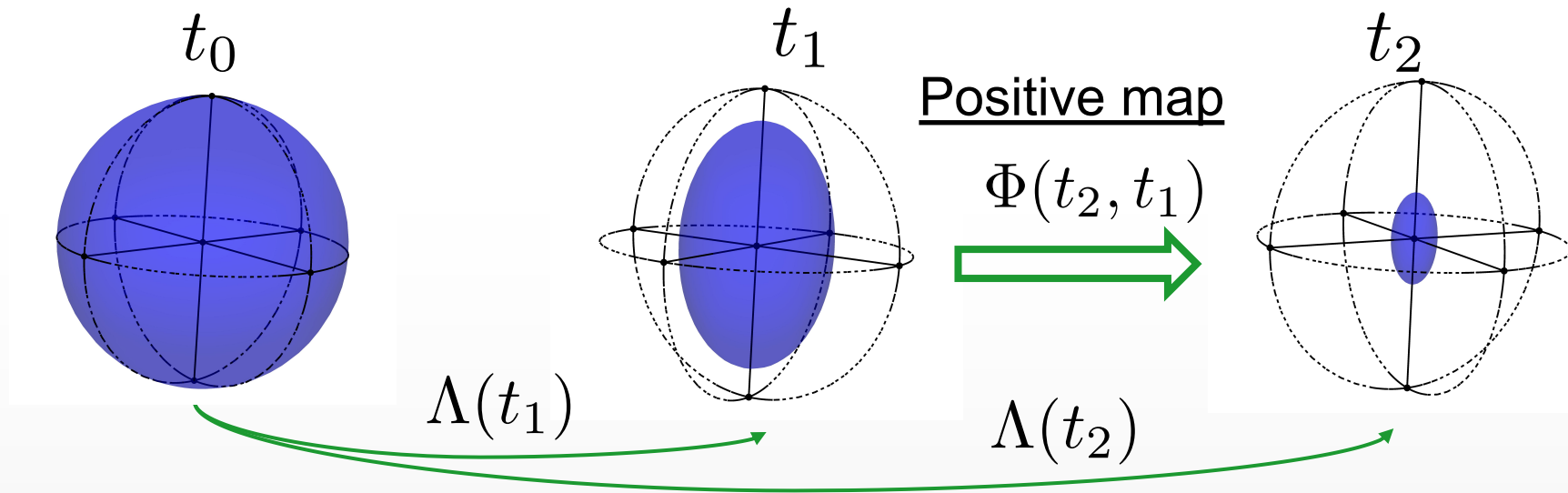
$$|\psi(t)\rangle \mapsto |\varphi_{\psi(t),j}\rangle \quad p_j(t) = \lambda_{\psi(t),j} dt$$

RO eigenvectors and eigenvalues

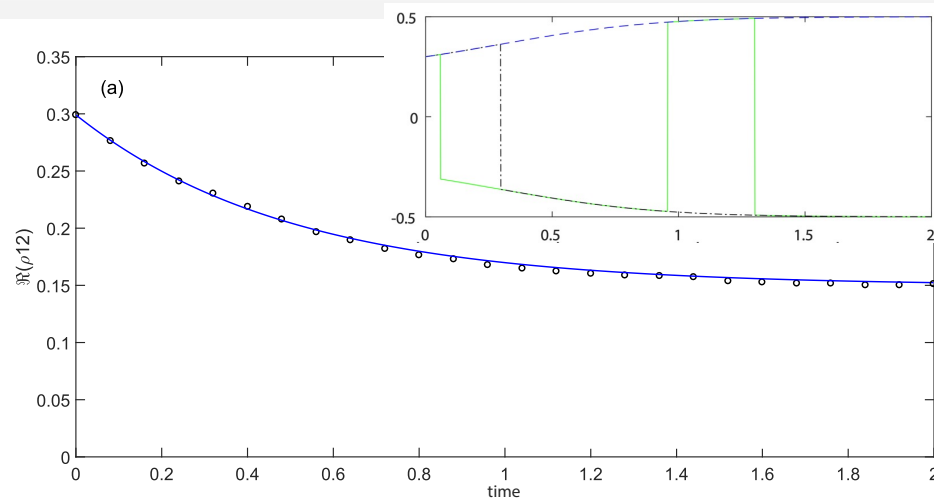


Positive probabilities guaranteed by a **positive RO**

# Divisible dynamics



➤ Negative coefficients included – standard jumps do not apply

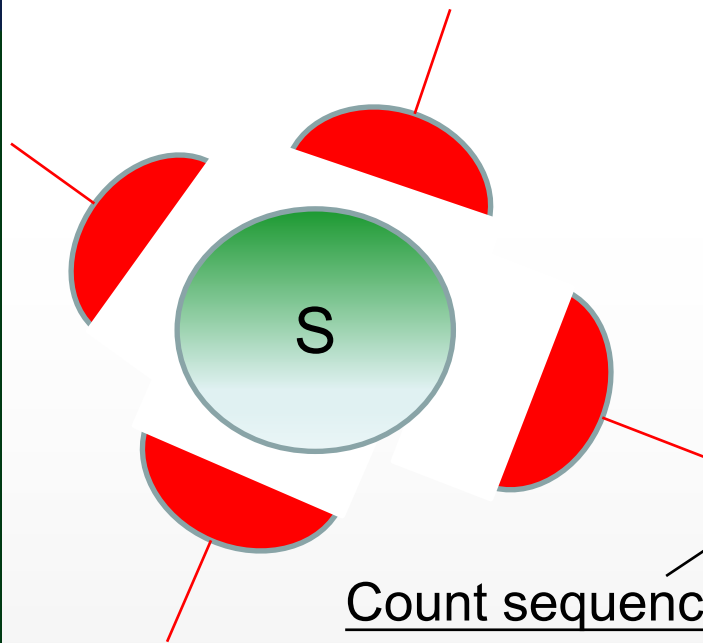


$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho(t) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^3 \gamma_k(t) [\sigma_k \rho(t) \sigma_k - \rho(t)]$$

$$\gamma_1 = \gamma_2 = 1 \quad \underline{\gamma_3 = -\tanh t}$$

- Solid line: exact solution
- Circles: average over  $10^4$  trajectories
- Inset: example trajectories

# Continuous measurement framework



The system is continuously monitored by  $n$  detectors: every  $dt$  two kinds of events

- No detector clicks: *null count*  $\emptyset$
- The  $j$ -th detector clicks

$$\omega_t = (t_1, j_1; t_2, j_2; \dots t_m, j_m)$$

Count sequence: Instants and types of the (non-null) counts

It fixes the system state  $|\psi(\omega_t)\rangle$

- Transformations and probabilities by postulates of quantum mechanics

$$\rho \mapsto \frac{\mathcal{I}_{\omega_t, j(\emptyset)} \rho}{\text{Tr} \{ \mathcal{I}_{\omega_t, j(\emptyset)} \rho \}}$$

$$p_{j(\emptyset)}(t) = \text{Tr} \{ \mathcal{I}_{\omega_t, j(\emptyset)} \rho \}$$

If we identify the count sequence with the sequence of jumps, we get the same trajectories and associated probabilities as the unraveling!!

# Extension to fully general non-Markovian dynamics

$$W_{\psi(t)}^J = \sum_{j^+} \lambda_{\psi(t),j^+} |\varphi_{\psi(t),j^+}\rangle \langle \varphi_{\psi(t),j^+}| - \sum_{j^-} |\lambda_{\psi(t),j^-}| |\varphi_{\psi(t),j^-}\rangle \langle \varphi_{\psi(t),j^-}|$$

Positive eigenvalues: as before  $|\psi(t)\rangle \mapsto |\varphi_{\psi(t),j^+}\rangle \quad p_{j^+}(t) = \lambda_{\psi(t),j^+} dt$

# Extension to fully general non-Markovian dynamics

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Positive eigenvalues: as before  $|\psi(t)\rangle \mapsto |\varphi_{\psi(t),j^+}\rangle \quad p_{j^+}(t) = \lambda_{\psi(t),j^+} dt$

Negative eigenvalues: we define **reversed jumps**, to avoid  $p_{j^-}(t) < 0$

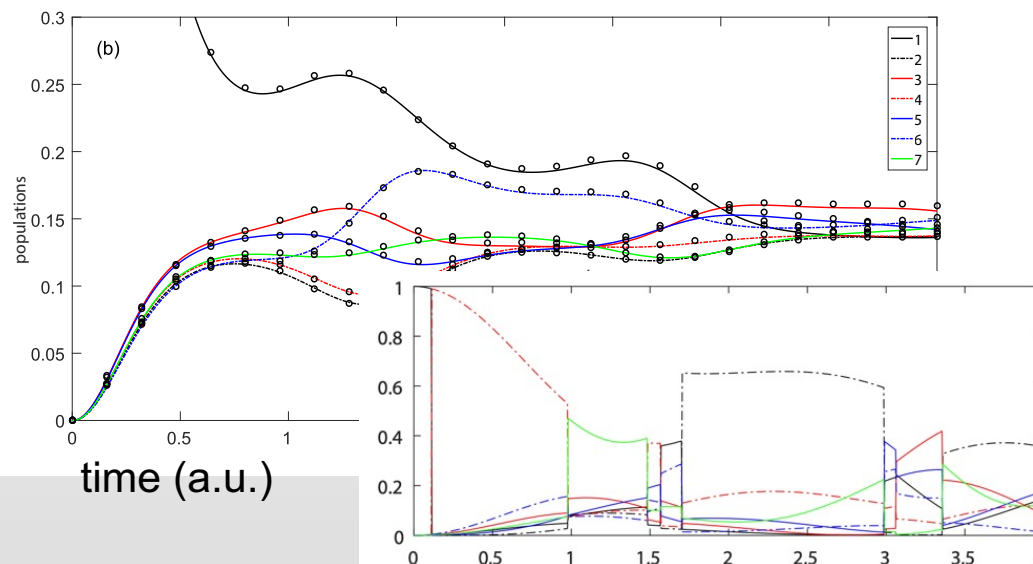
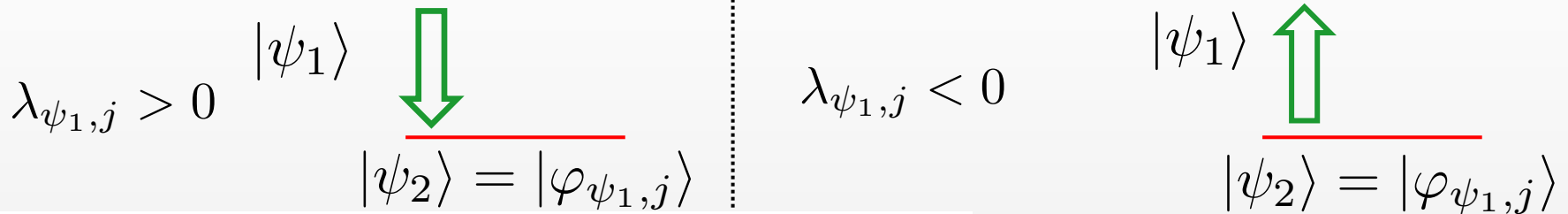
$$|\psi_k(t)\rangle = |\varphi_{\psi_{k'}(t),j^-}\rangle \mapsto |\psi_{k'}(t)\rangle \quad p_{j^-}^{(k \rightarrow k')}(t) = \frac{N_{k'}(t)}{N_k(t)} |\lambda_{\psi_{k'}(t),j^-}| dt$$

# Extension to fully general non-Markovian dynamics

$$W_{\psi(t)}^J = \sum_{j^+} \lambda_{\psi(t),j^+} |\varphi_{\psi(t),j^+}\rangle \langle \varphi_{\psi(t),j^+}| - \sum_{j^-} |\lambda_{\psi(t),j^-}| |\varphi_{\psi(t),j^-}\rangle \langle \varphi_{\psi(t),j^-}|$$

Positive eigenvalues: as before  $|\psi(t)\rangle \mapsto |\varphi_{\psi(t),j^+}\rangle$   $p_{j^+}(t) = \lambda_{\psi(t),j^+} dt$

Negative eigenvalues: we define reversed jumps, to avoid  $p_{j^-}(t) < 0$



- 7 coupled sites: transport, ..
- Different site populations
- Trajectory of populations with reversed jumps
- average  $3 \times 10^4$  trajectories

# Collaborations

-  H.-P. Breuer - Uni Freiburg - Germany
-  M. Paternostro - Uni Belfast - United Kingdom
-  S. Campbell - University College Dublin - Ireland
-  F. Ciccarello, S. Lorenzo & G. Palma - Uni Palermo
-  J. Piilo & K. Luoma - Uni Turku - Finland
-  D. Chruscinski - Uni Torun - Poland
-  S. Huelga - Uni Ulm - Germany

# Publications of Milan unit (2019-2021)

| Authors                                     | Article Title                                                                                               | Source Title                                     |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Smirne, A; Megier, N; Vacchini, B           | On the connection between microscopic description and memory effects in open quantum systems                | QUANTUM                                          |
| Megier, N; Smirne, A; Vacchini, B           | The interplay between local and non-local master equations: exact and approximated dynamics                 | NEW JOURNAL OF PHYSICS                           |
| Megier, N; Smirne, A; Vacchini, B           | Evolution Equations for Quantum Semi-Markov Dynamics                                                        | ENTROPY                                          |
| Pizzocchero, L                              | On the global stability of smooth solutions of the Navier-Stokes equations                                  | APPLIED MATHEMATICS LETTERS                      |
| Milz, S; Egloff, D; Taranto, P; Theurer, F  | When Is a Non-Markovian Quantum Process Classical?                                                          | PHYSICAL REVIEW X                                |
| Fermi, D; Gengo, M; Pizzocchero, L          | Integrable scalar cosmologies with matter and curvature                                                     | NUCLEAR PHYSICS B                                |
| Puebla, R; Smirne, A; Huelga, SF; Plenio, M | Universal Anti-Kibble-Zurek Scaling in Fully Connected Systems                                              | PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS                          |
| Carmeli, C; Heinosaari, T; Toigo, A         | Quantum random access codes and incompatibility of measurements                                             | EPL                                              |
| Pizzocchero, L; Tassi, E                    | On approximate solutions of the equations of incompressible magnetohydrodynamics                            | NONLINEAR ANALYSIS-THEORY METHODS & APPLICATIONS |
| Cremona, F; Pizzocchero, L; Sarbach, D      | Gauge-invariant spherical linear perturbations of wormholes in Einstein gravity minimally coupled to matter | PHYSICAL REVIEW D                                |
| Hashimoto, K; Vacchini, B; Uchiyama, M      | Lower bounds for the mean dissipated heat in an open quantum system                                         | PHYSICAL REVIEW A                                |
| Smirne, A; Caiaffa, M; Piilo, J             | Rate Operator Unraveling for Open Quantum System Dynamics                                                   | PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS                          |
| Barchielli, A; Gregoratti, M                | Entropic measurement uncertainty relations for all the infinite components of a spin vector                 | JOURNAL OF PHYSICS COMMUNICATIONS                |
| Diaz, MG; Desef, B; Rosati, M; Egloff, F    | Accessible coherence in open quantum system dynamics                                                        | QUANTUM                                          |
| Vacchini, B                                 | Quantum renewal processes                                                                                   | SCIENTIFIC REPORTS                               |
| Carmeli, C; Heinosaari, T; Miyadera, T      | Witnessing incompatibility of quantum channels                                                              | JOURNAL OF MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS                  |
| Cialdi, S; Benedetti, C; Tamascelli, D      | Experimental investigation of the effect of classical noise on quantum non-Markovian dynamics               | PHYSICAL REVIEW A                                |
| Carmeli, C; Heinosaari, T; Miyadera, T      | Noise-Disturbance Relation and the Galois Connection of Quantum Measurements                                | FOUNDATIONS OF PHYSICS                           |
| Carmeli, C; Cassinelli, G; Toigo, A         | Constructing Extremal Compatible Quantum Observables by Means of Two Mutually Unbiased Bases                | FOUNDATIONS OF PHYSICS                           |
| Campbell, S; Popovic, M; Tamascelli, D      | Precursors of non-Markovianity                                                                              | NEW JOURNAL OF PHYSICS                           |
| Campbell, S; Cakmak, B; Mustecaplioglu, H   | Collisional unfolding of quantum Darwinism                                                                  | PHYSICAL REVIEW A                                |
| Carmeli, C; Heinosaari, T; Toigo, A         | Quantum Incompatibility Witnesses                                                                           | PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS                          |
| Amato, G; Breuer, HP; Vacchini, B           | Microscopic modeling of general time-dependent quantum Markov processes                                     | PHYSICAL REVIEW A                                |
| Fermi, D; Gengo, M; Pizzocchero, L          | On the Necessity of Phantom Fields for Solving the Horizon Problem in Scalar Cosmologies                    | UNIVERSE                                         |
| Cakmak, B; Campbell, S; Vacchini, B         | Robust multipartite entanglement generation via a collision model                                           | PHYSICAL REVIEW A                                |
| Cremona, F; Pirotta, F; Pizzocchero, L      | On the linear instability of the Ellis-Bronnikov-Morris-Thorne wormhole                                     | GENERAL RELATIVITY AND GRAVITATION               |

# Spare slide: definition of the quantum instrument

Quantum instrument: map from the set of outcomes to CP maps on  $S(\mathcal{H}_S)$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\omega_t, \emptyset} \rho = F_{\omega_t, \emptyset} \rho F_{\omega_t, \emptyset}^\dagger \quad F_{\omega_t, \emptyset} = (Id - iH_{\omega_t}^{eff} dt) |\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)|$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\omega_t, j} \rho = V_{\omega_t, j} \rho V_{\omega_t, j}^\dagger dt \quad V_{\omega_t, j} = \sqrt{\lambda_{\psi(\omega_t), j}} |\varphi_{\psi(\omega_t), j}\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)|$$

○ When applied to the state  $|\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)|$  fixed by the count sequence  $\omega_t$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\omega_t, j} |\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)| = V_{\omega_t, j} |\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)| V_{\omega_t, j}^\dagger dt \left\{ \begin{array}{l} |\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)| \mapsto |\varphi_{\psi(\omega_t), j}\rangle\langle\varphi_{\psi(\omega_t), j}| \\ p_j(t) = \lambda_{\psi(\omega_t), j} dt \end{array} \right.$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\omega_t, \emptyset} |\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)| = F_{\omega_t, \emptyset} |\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)| F_{\omega_t, \emptyset}^\dagger \left\{ \begin{array}{l} |\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)| \mapsto \frac{1}{P(t)} (1 - iH_{\omega_t}^{eff} dt) |\psi(\omega_t)\rangle\langle\psi(\omega_t)| (1 + iH_{\omega_t}^{eff, \dagger} dt) \\ P(t) = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^n p_j(t) \end{array} \right.$$