

# Concentration of measure and the mean energy ensemble

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see also [arXiv:1003.4982](#)

# Outline of the talk

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## I. Motivation from statistical mechanics

- Problem: single instances vs. ensembles?
- Concentration of measure

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## 2. Typicality in mean energy ensemble

- Main result: Concentration of measure
- Typical reduced density matrix
- No concentration in Ising model

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- Main result: Concentration of measure
- Typical reduced density matrix
- No concentration in Ising model

## 3. Conclusions

# I. Motivation from statistical mechanics

## Foundational questions on statistical physics

Two kinds of missing information:

- **Observer's lack of knowledge:** knows only volume, temperature, ...
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Statistical physics: makes *objective predictions*, based on *subjective lack of knowledge*.

"Postulate of equal a priori probabilities":

Why does it work?



# I. Motivation from statistical mechanics

## What about ergodicity?

**Idea:** Time evolution explores all accessible phase space uniformly.

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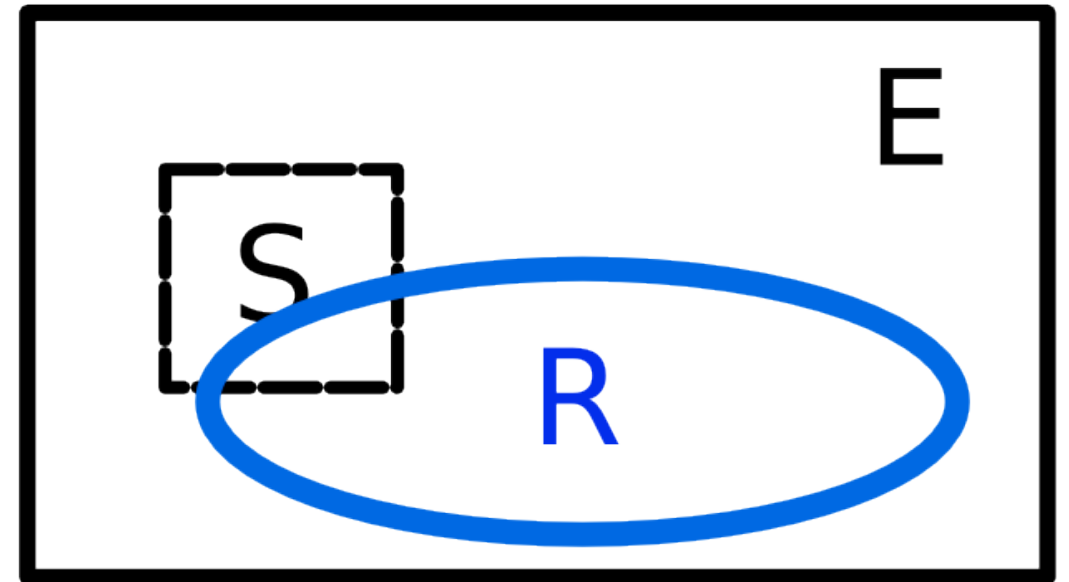
Is there another justification?



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$$\mathcal{H}_R \subset \mathcal{H}_S \otimes \mathcal{H}_E$$

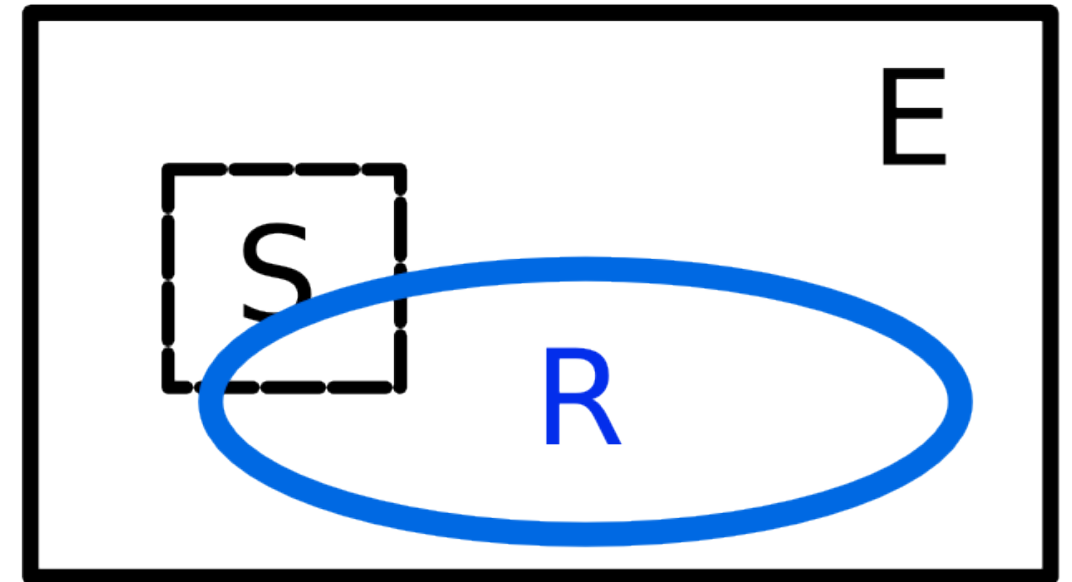


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$\mathcal{H}_R$ : subspace; restricted set of physically allowed q-states;  
 $\mathcal{H}_S \otimes \mathcal{H}_E$ : the "universe".



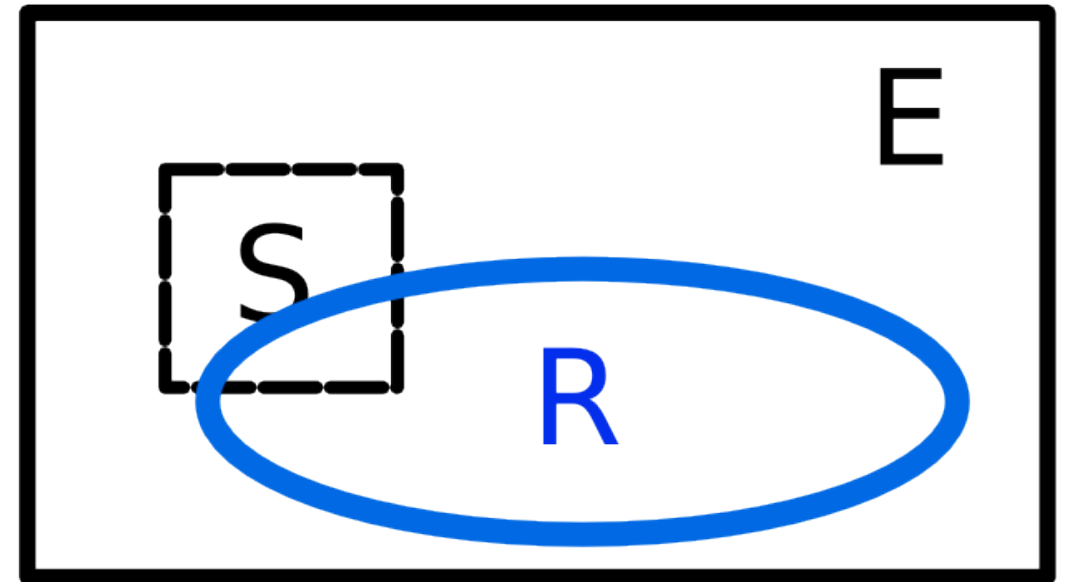
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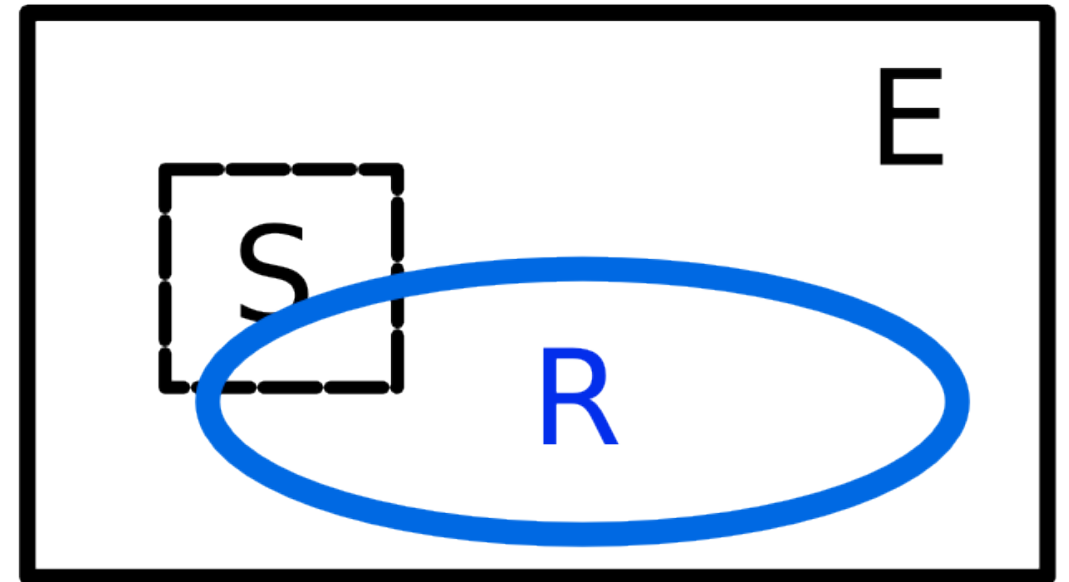


**Example:** S=system, E=bath, R=subspace spanned by global energy eigenstates in  $[E - \Delta E, E + \Delta E]$

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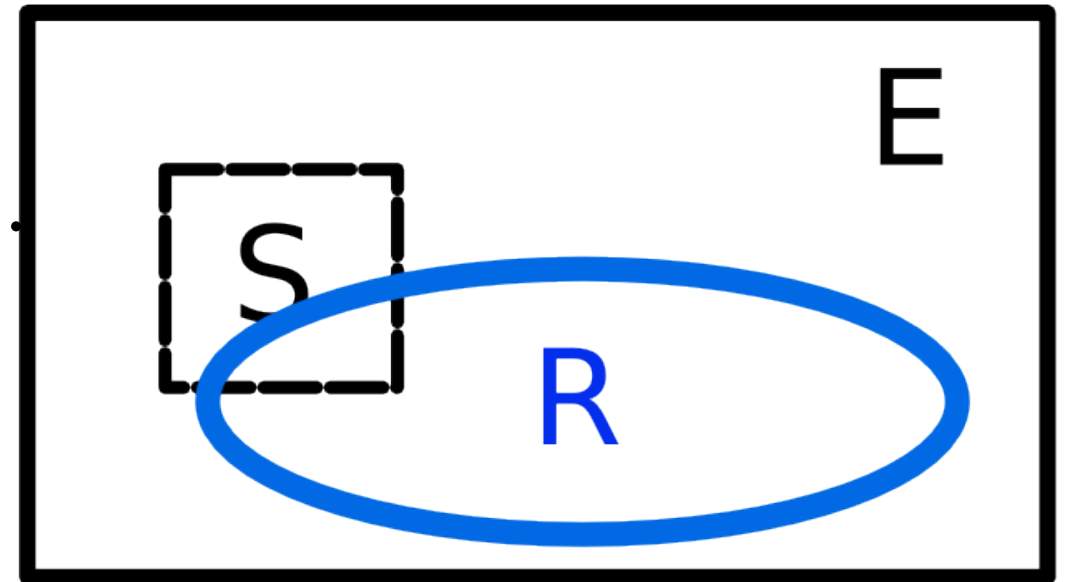
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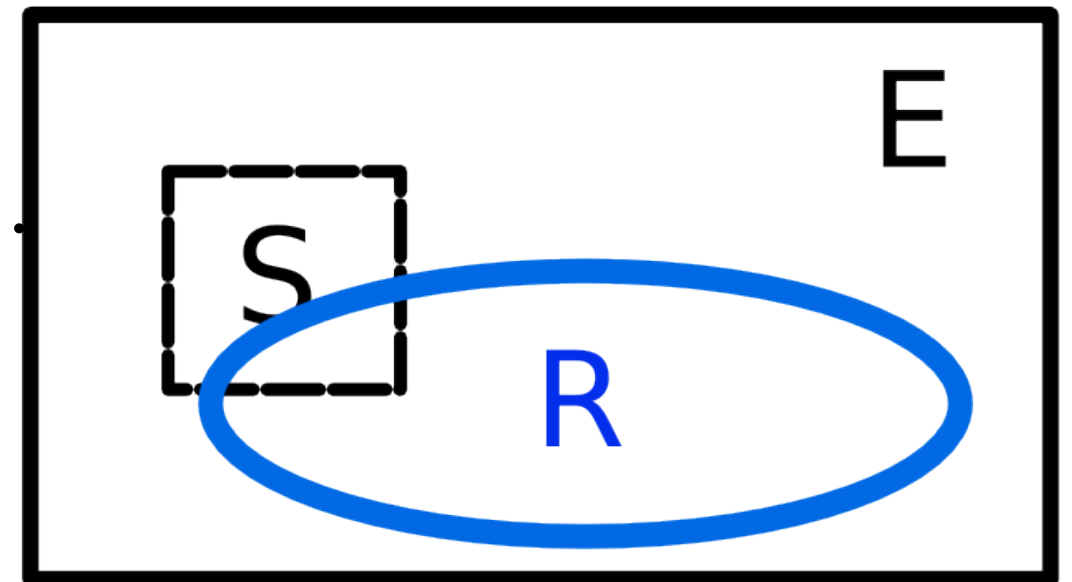
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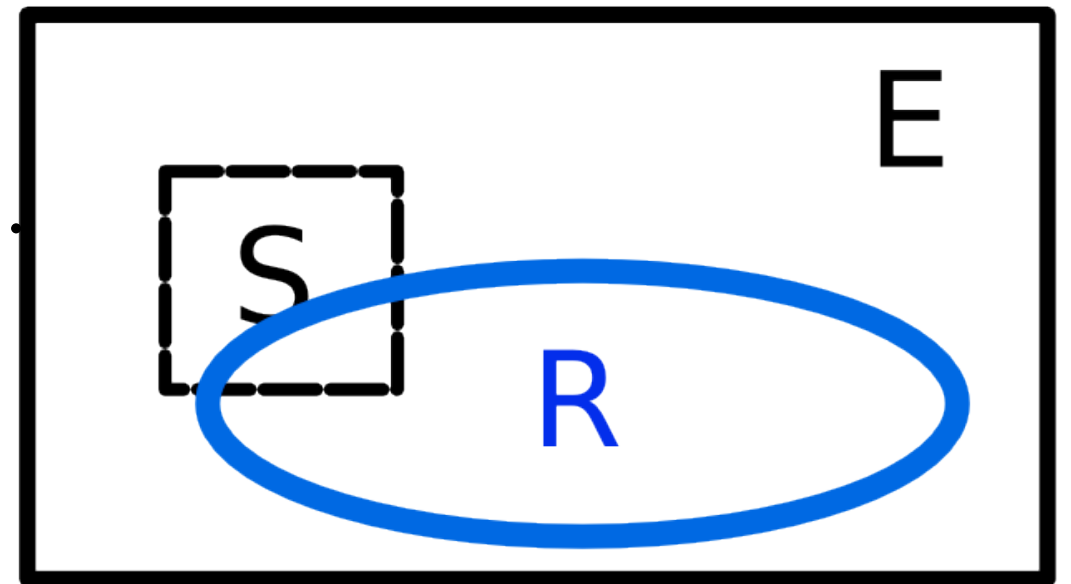
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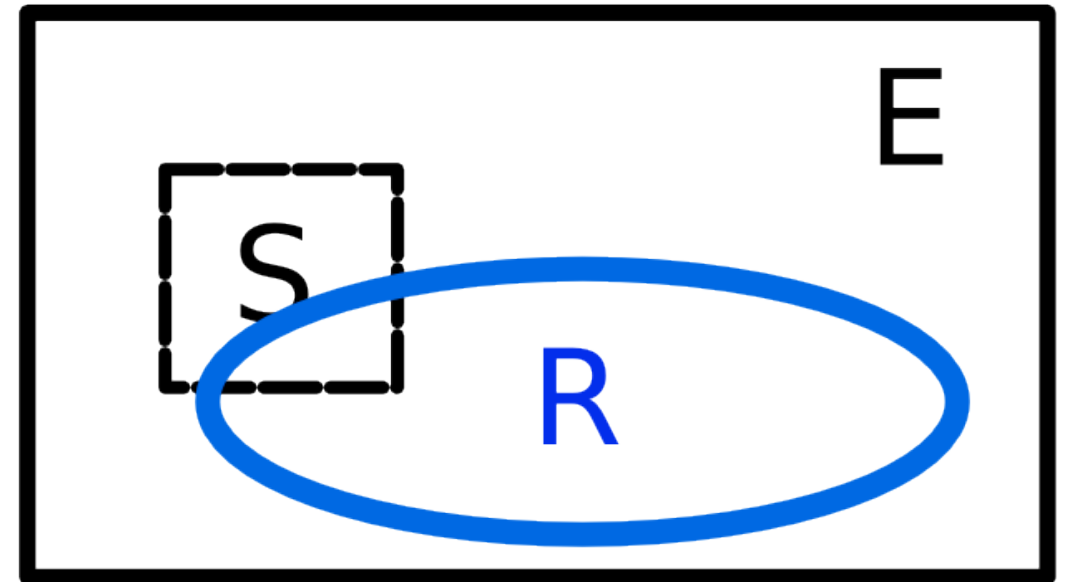
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$$\text{Prob} \left[ \|\rho_S - \Omega_S\|_1 \geq \varepsilon + \frac{d_S}{\sqrt{d_R}} \right] \leq 2 \exp(-C d_R \varepsilon^2),$$

where  $C = 1/18\pi^3$ ,  $d_R = \dim \mathcal{H}_R$ ,  $d_S = \dim \mathcal{H}_S$ ,  $\Omega_S = \text{Tr}_E (\mathbf{1}_S / d_S)$ .

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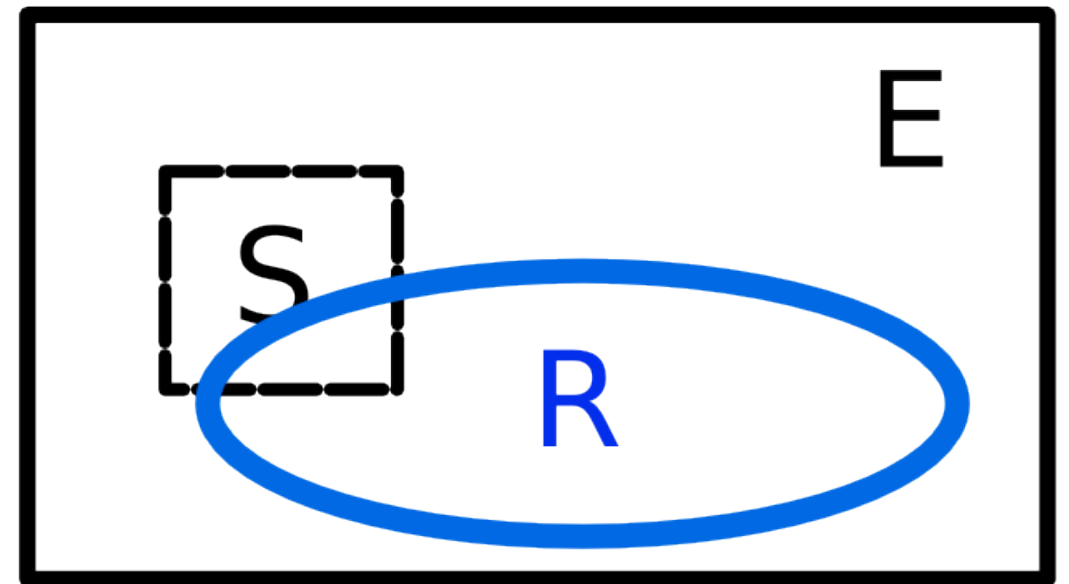
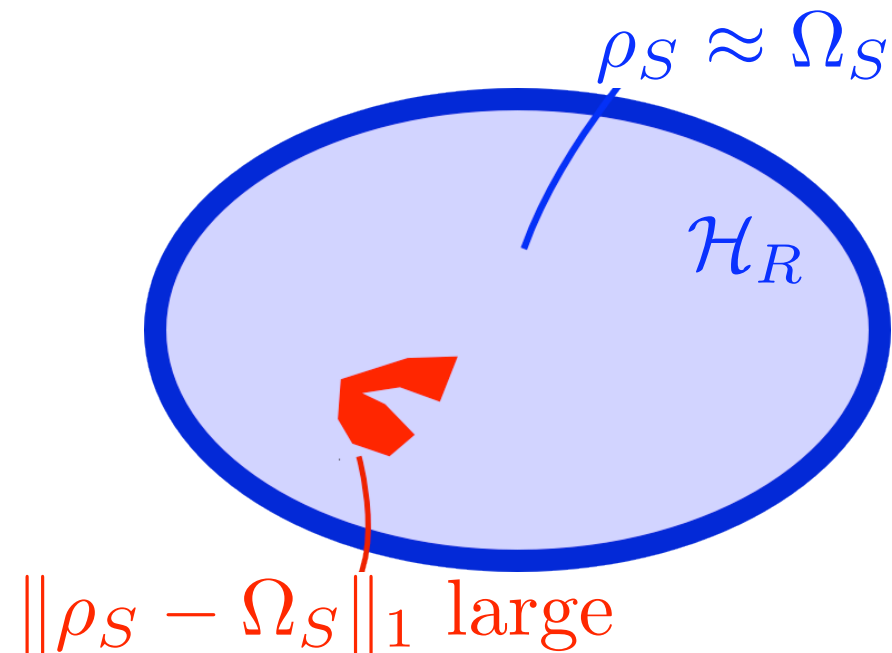
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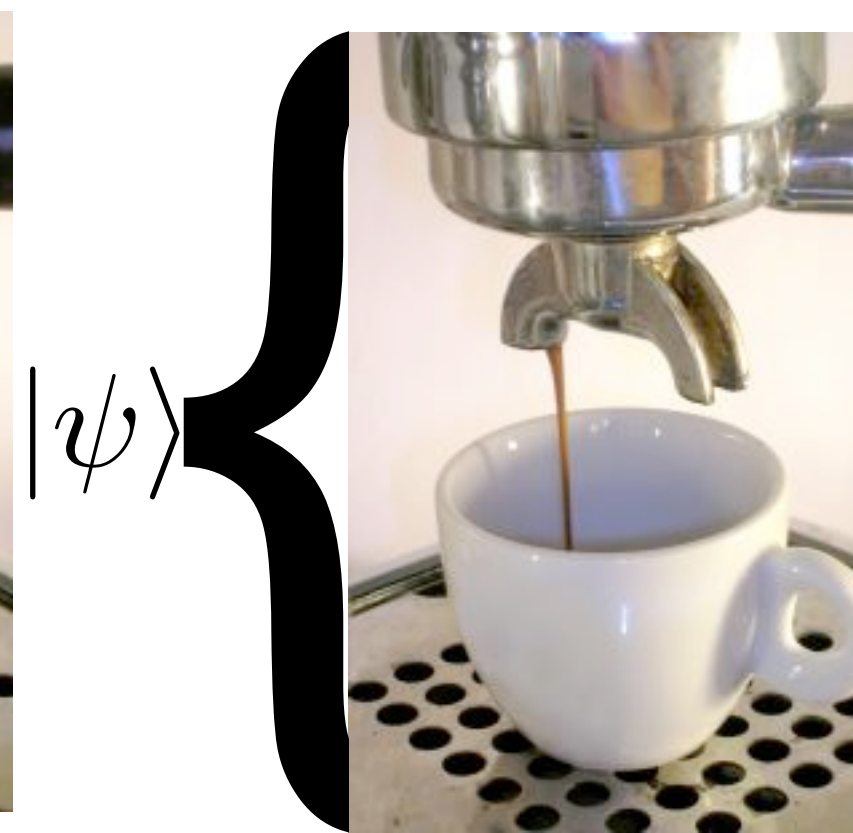
## The perfect coffee machine



$n = 1$



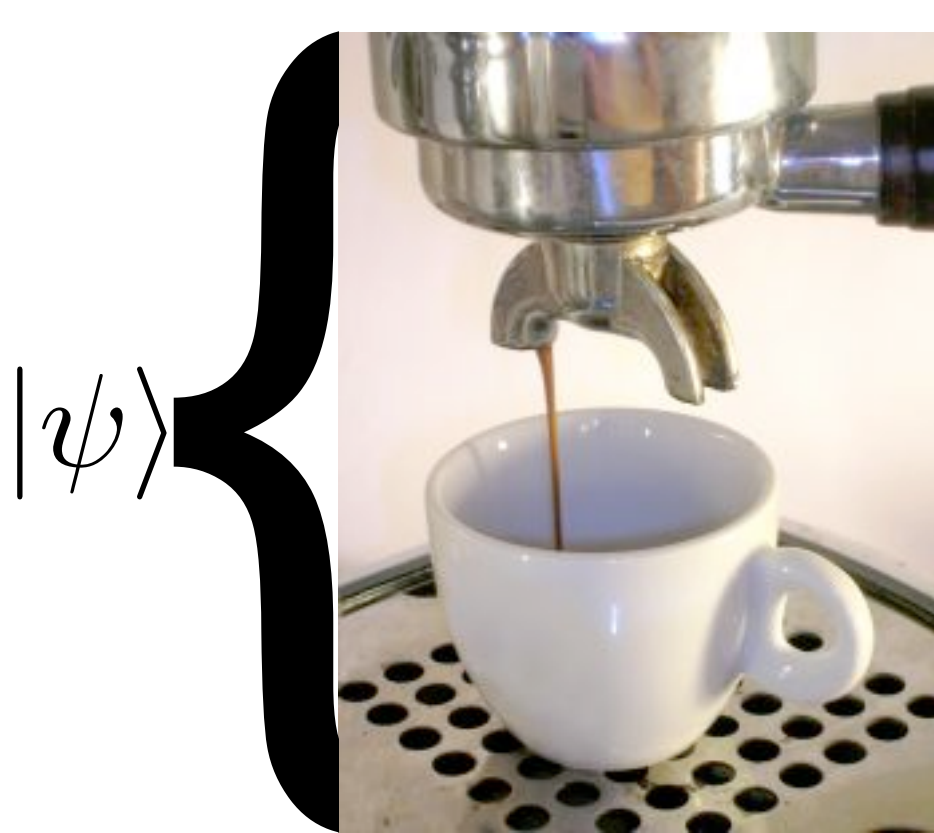
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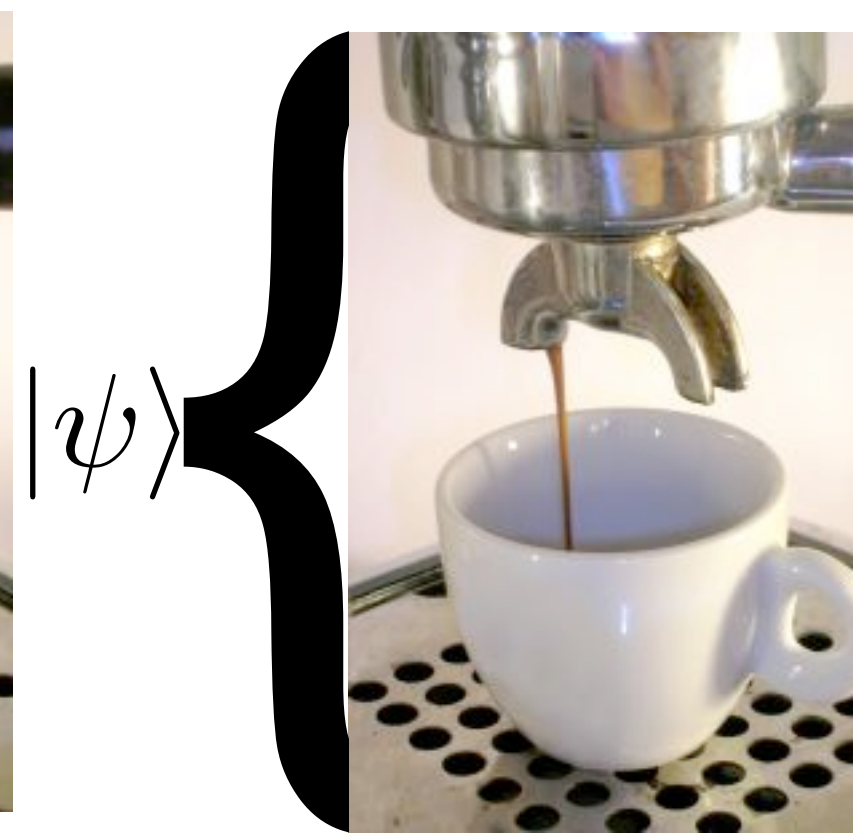
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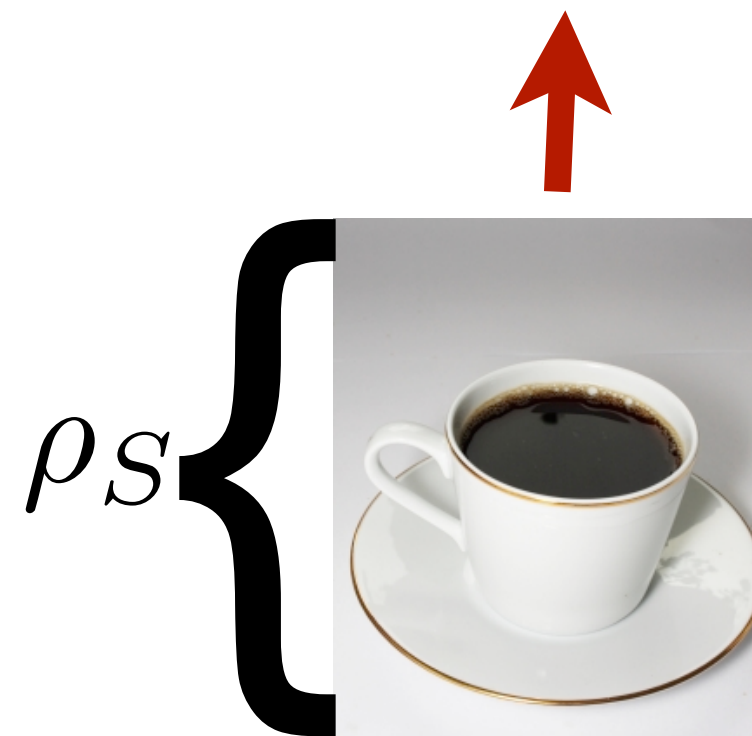
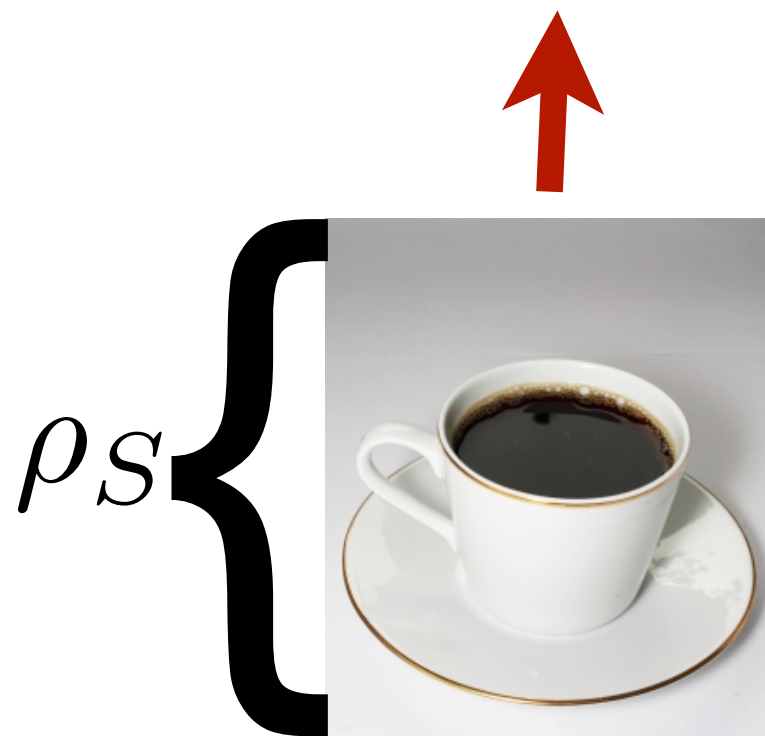
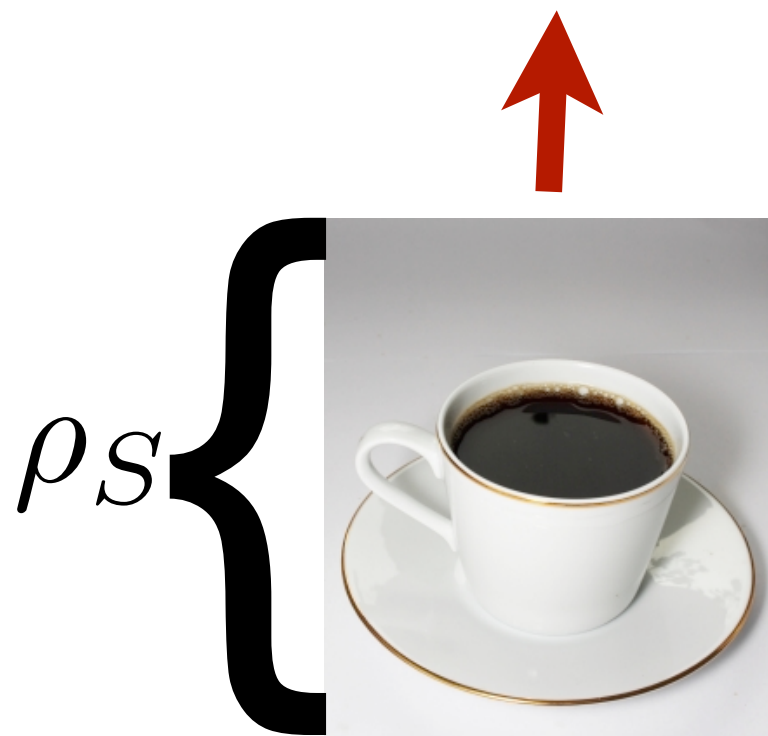




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## The perfect coffee machine

measurements ("coffee tomography")





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## The perfect coffee machine

Reveals  $\rho_S$ . But  $\rho_S \approx \Omega_S$  (microcanonical ensemble) for "almost all"  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_R$ .  
Hence, almost all coffee machines (compatible with restrictions) prepare the microcanonical ensemble.

measurements ("coffee tomography")



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## Form of the reduced density matrix

- Exact form of  $\Omega_S$  is not given by Popescu et al. (generality!).
- Goldstein, Lebowitz, Tumulka, Zanghi, PRL **96** (2006):  
no interaction  $H = H_S + H_{env}$ , fixed energy  $E$ ,  
subspace  $\mathcal{H}_R$  spanned by spectral window  $[E - \Delta, E + \Delta]$ ,  
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What if the constraint is *not* given by a subspace?

## 2. Typicality in mean energy ensemble

### Going beyond subspaces

- Observers may have **knowledge on systems** that is different from "*being element of a subspace*".
- Example: given Hamiltonian  $H$ , the **energy expectation value**  $\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle = E$  might be known instead.

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- Several authors (e.g. Brody et al., Proc. R. Soc. A **463** (2007)) proposed the set
$$M_E = \{ |\psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid \langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle = E, \|\psi\| = 1 \}$$
(not a subspace!) as a "quantum microcanonical ensemble".

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Goal of our work:

- Prove typicality (=measure concentration) for *m.e.e.*,
- analyze its role in **quantum statistical mechanics**.

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Our result

Here is a simple **example application** of our result:



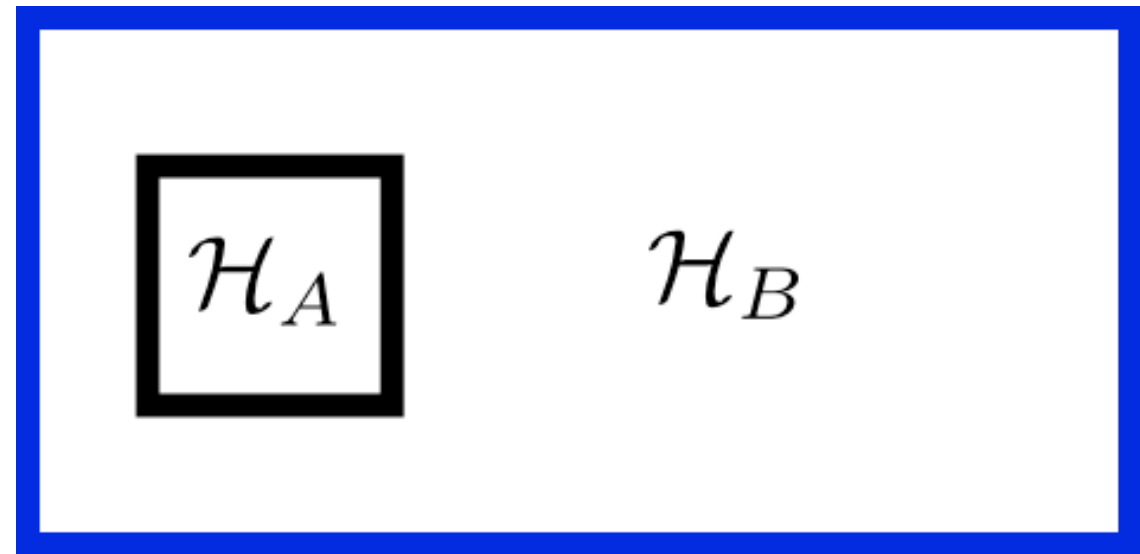
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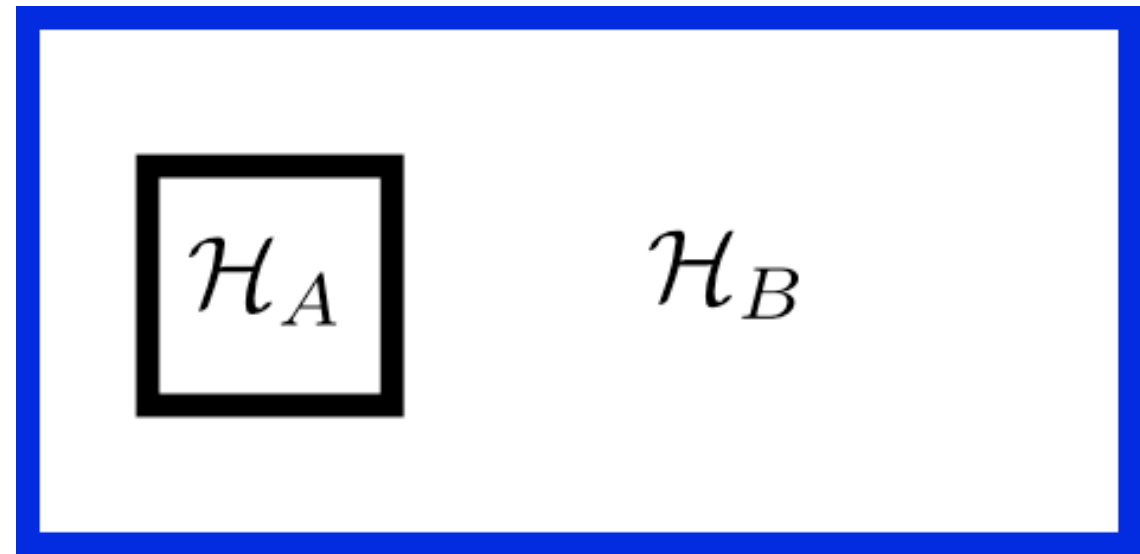
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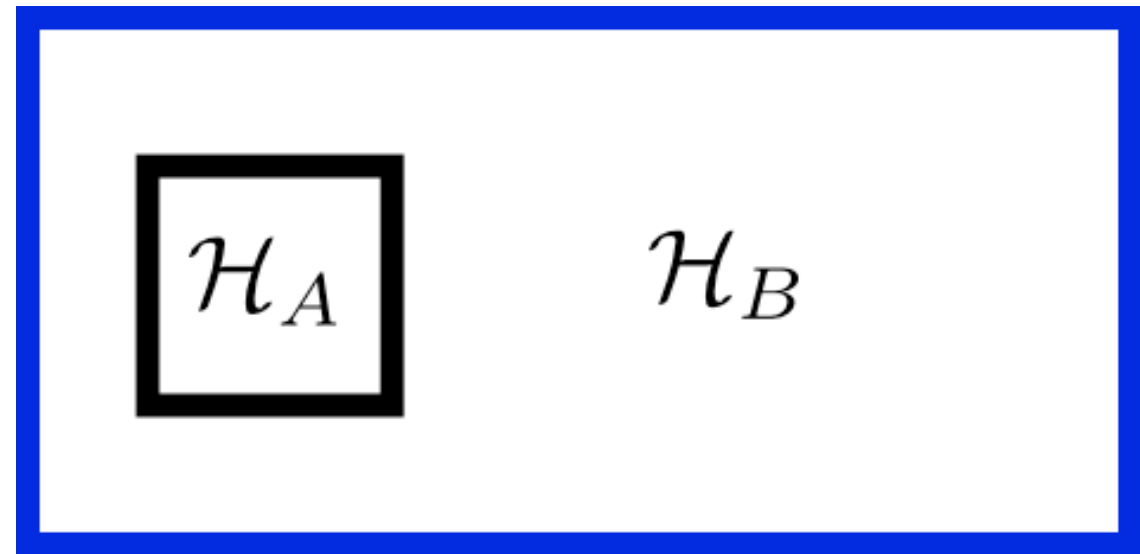
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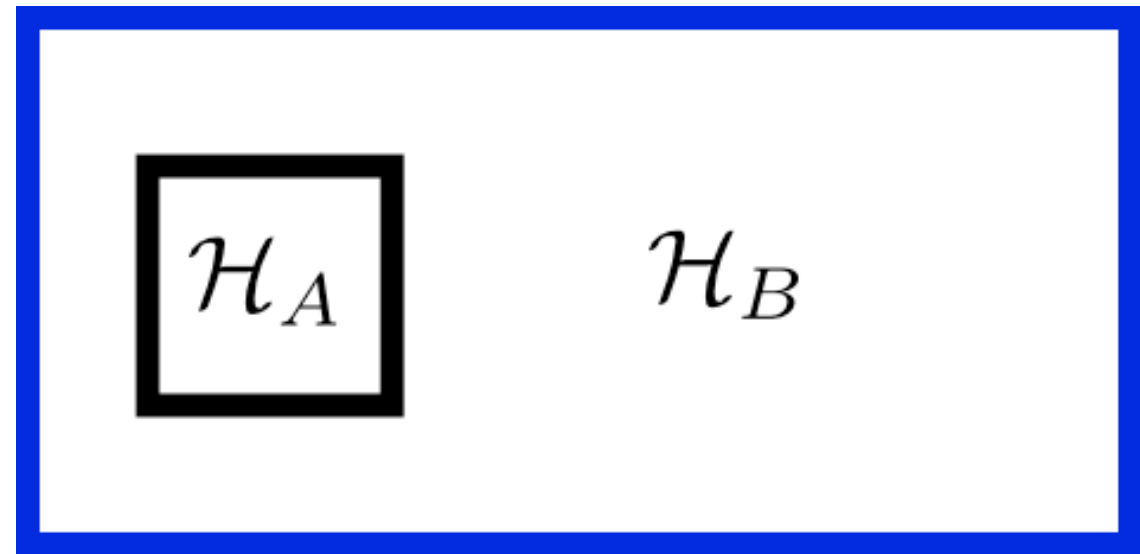
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Draw  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$  randomly under  $\|\psi\| = 1$  and  $\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle = 3/2$  and compute  $\psi^A := \text{Tr}_B |\psi\rangle\langle \psi|$ . Then, with high probability,

$$\psi^A \approx \frac{1}{12} \begin{pmatrix} 5 + \sqrt{7} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2(4 - \sqrt{7}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 + \sqrt{7} \end{pmatrix}$$

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More in detail,

$$\text{Prob} \left\{ \|\psi^A - \rho_c\|_2 > 3\sqrt{8} \left( \varepsilon + \frac{59}{\sqrt[4]{n}} \right) \right\} \leq 369960 n^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-\frac{3}{64} n (\varepsilon - \frac{1}{4n})^2 + 4\sqrt{n}}.$$

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- Concentration of measure = **typicality** for energy ensemble
- Note that  $[\psi^A, H_A] = 0$  but  $\psi^A \neq \exp(-\beta H_A)$ . Not Gibbs!

## 2. Typicality in mean energy ensemble

### Our result

General result (arXiv:1003.4982): On a bipartite Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$  with Hamiltonian  $H = H_A + H_B$ , draw a pure state  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathcal{H}$  randomly under  $\|\psi\| = 1$  and  $\langle\psi|H|\psi\rangle = E$ . Compute  $\psi^A := \text{Tr}_B |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ . Then, with high prob. (made precise)

$$\psi^A \approx \rho_c \quad \text{where} \quad \rho_c = \frac{1}{\dim \mathcal{H}} \sum_{k=1}^{\dim \mathcal{H}_B} \frac{E + s}{H_A + E_k^B + s}$$

where  $s \in \mathbb{R}$  is given by an algebraic equation, and  $E_k^B$  are the eigenvalues of  $H_B$ .

The amount of concentration and  $s$  depend on the spectrum!



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This follows from an even more general result:

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Main Theorem (arXiv:1003.4982): Let  $H$  be any observable on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , and draw a pure normalized state  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^n$  **randomly** under the constraint  $\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle = E$ .

If  $f$  is any real function (on states) with  $|f(x) - f(y)| \leq \lambda \|x - y\|$

then  $\text{Prob} \{ |f(\psi) - \bar{f}| > \lambda \varepsilon \} \leq a \cdot n^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-cn(\varepsilon - \frac{1}{4n})^2 + 2\delta\sqrt{n}}$

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The median  $\bar{f}$  can be approximated by integration over a high-dimensional ellipsoid.

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Main Theorem (arXiv:1003.4982): Let  $H$  be any observable on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , and draw a pure normalized state  $|\psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^n$  **randomly** under the constraint  $\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle = E$ .

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then  $\text{Prob} \{ |f(\psi) - \bar{f}| > \lambda \varepsilon \} \leq a \cdot n^{\frac{3}{2}} e^{-cn(\varepsilon - \frac{1}{4n})^2 + 2\delta\sqrt{n}}$

where the constants  $a, c, \delta$  **depend on the spectrum** (with some freedom of choice), and  $\bar{f}$  is the median of  $f$  on the mean energy ensemble.

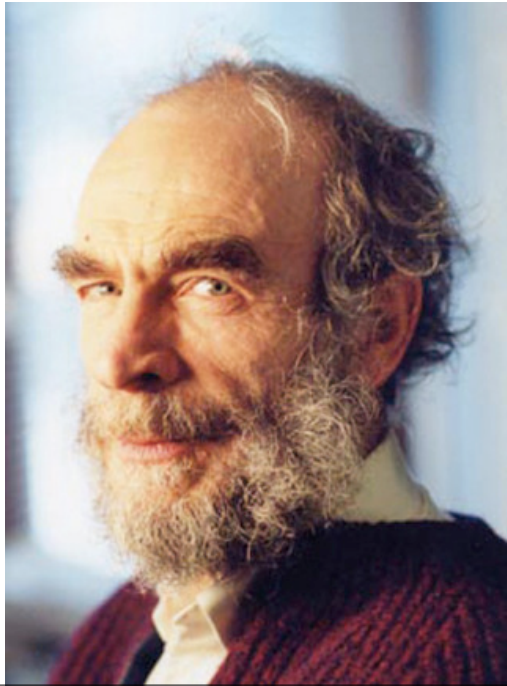
The median  $\bar{f}$  can be approximated by integration over a high-dimensional ellipsoid.

**Typicality in mean energy ensemble!**

For some spectra, this result can be trivial (e.g.  $c \approx 0$ )!

## 2. Typicality in mean energy ensemble

Idea of proof: integral geometry



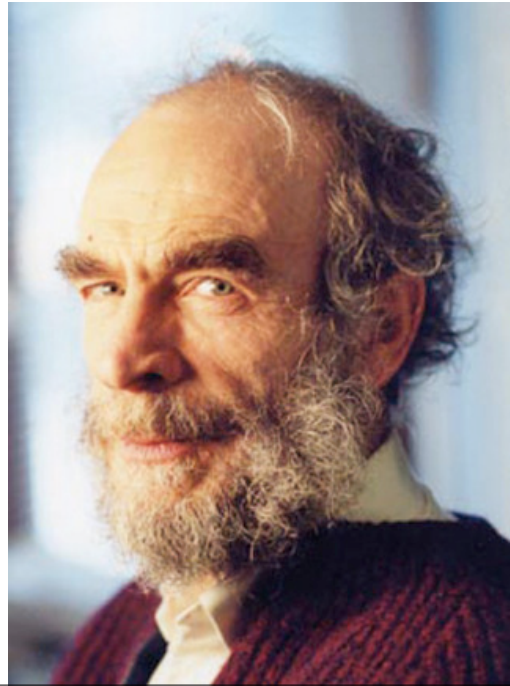
M. Gromov, *Metric Structures for Riemannian and Non-Riemannian Spaces* (Birkhäuser '01).

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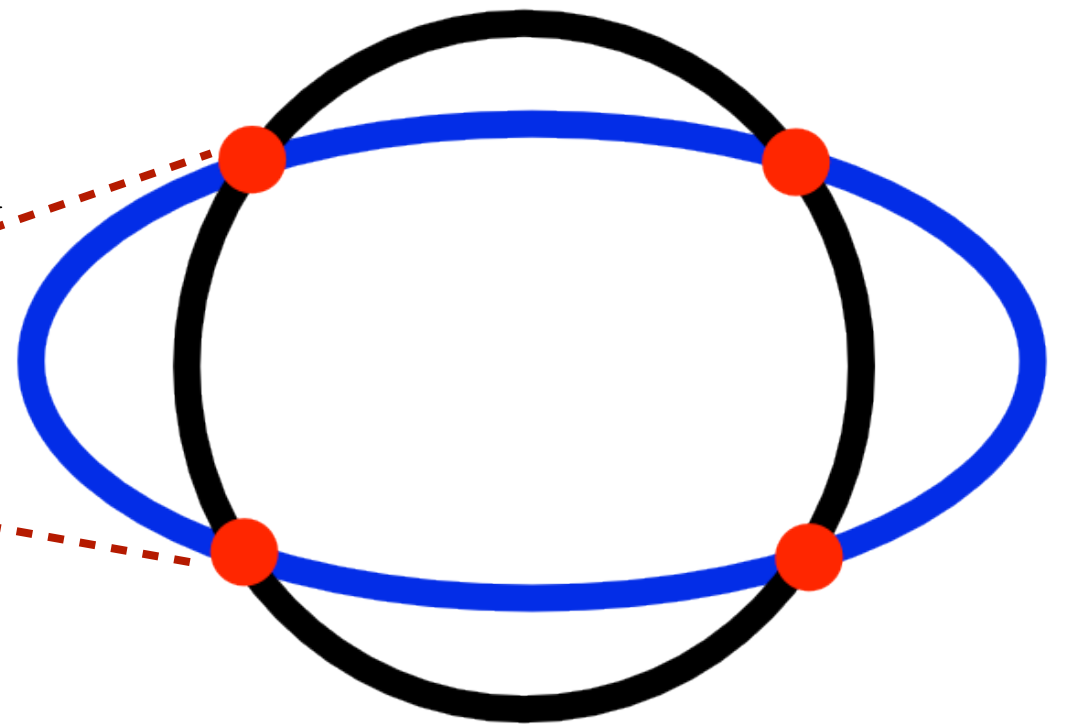
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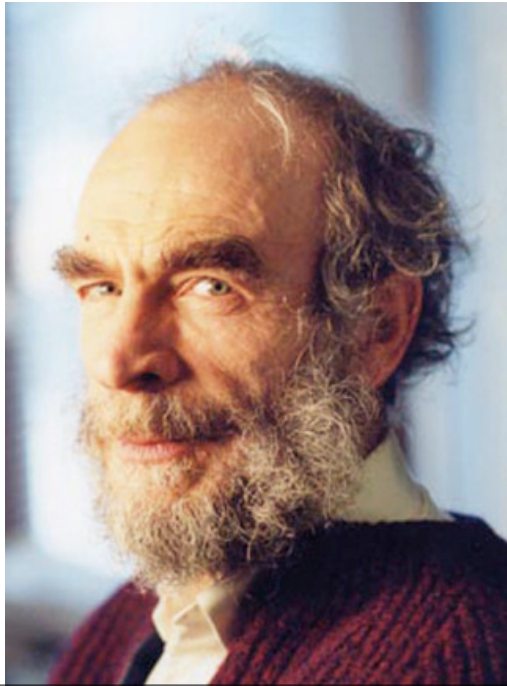
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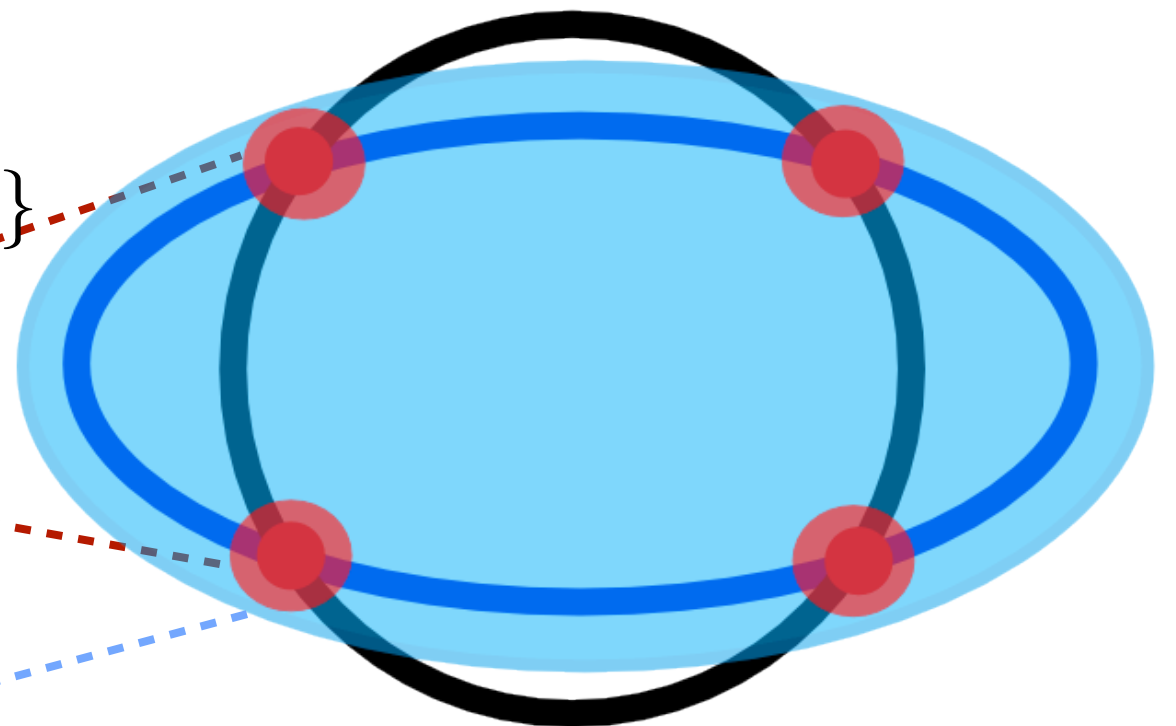
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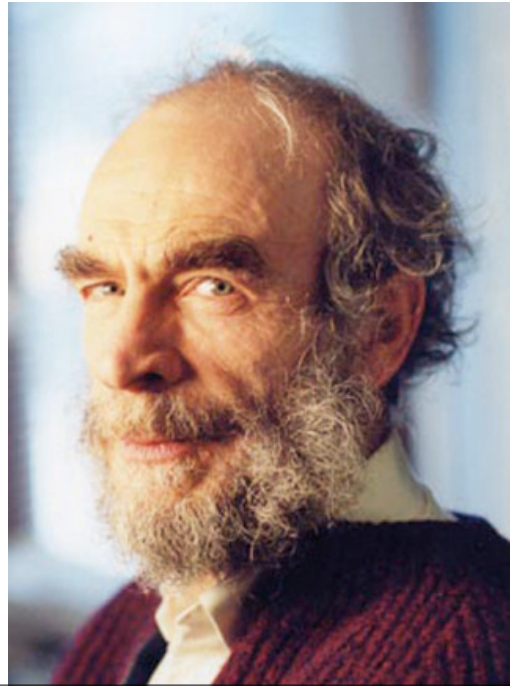
$$U_\varepsilon(M_E)$$



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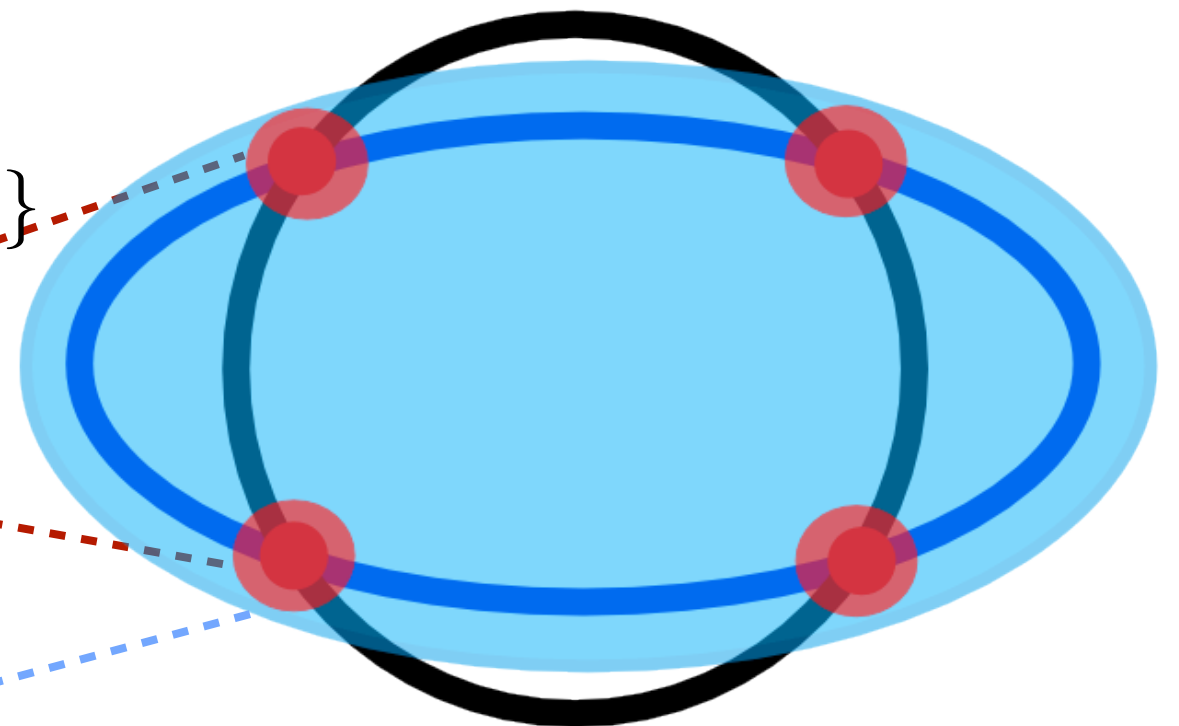
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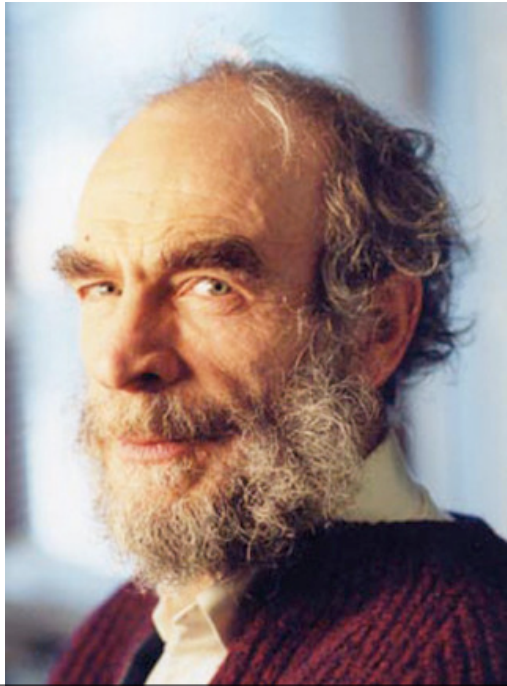
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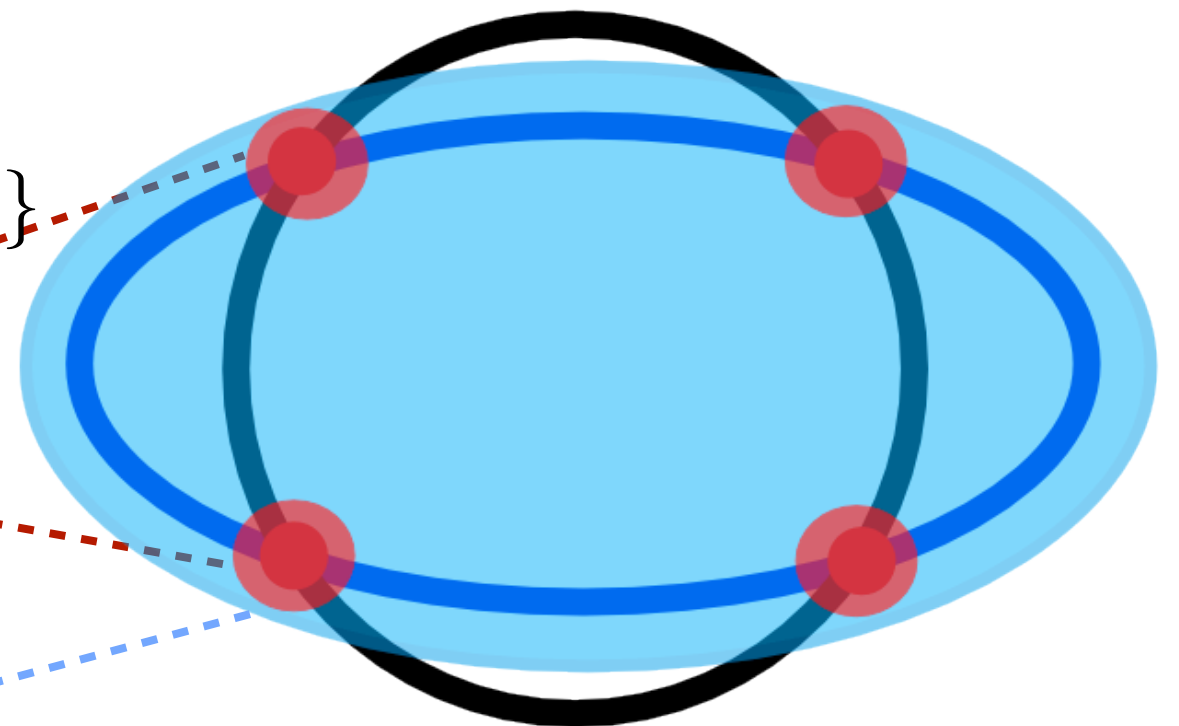
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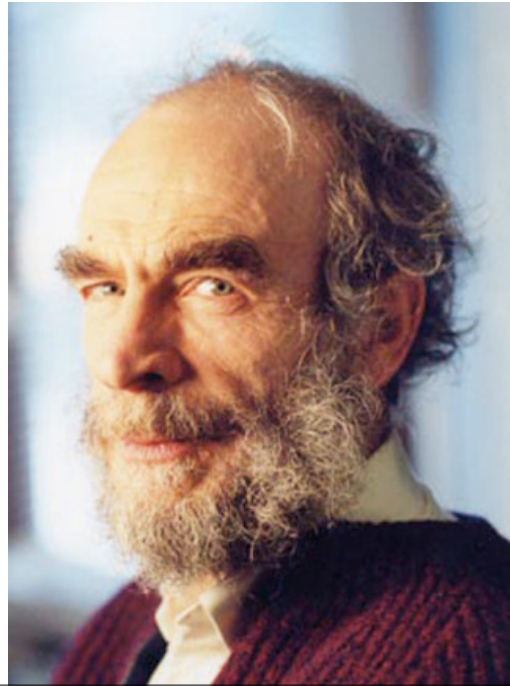
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Mean energy manifold inherits concentration of measure from surrounding ellipsoid.

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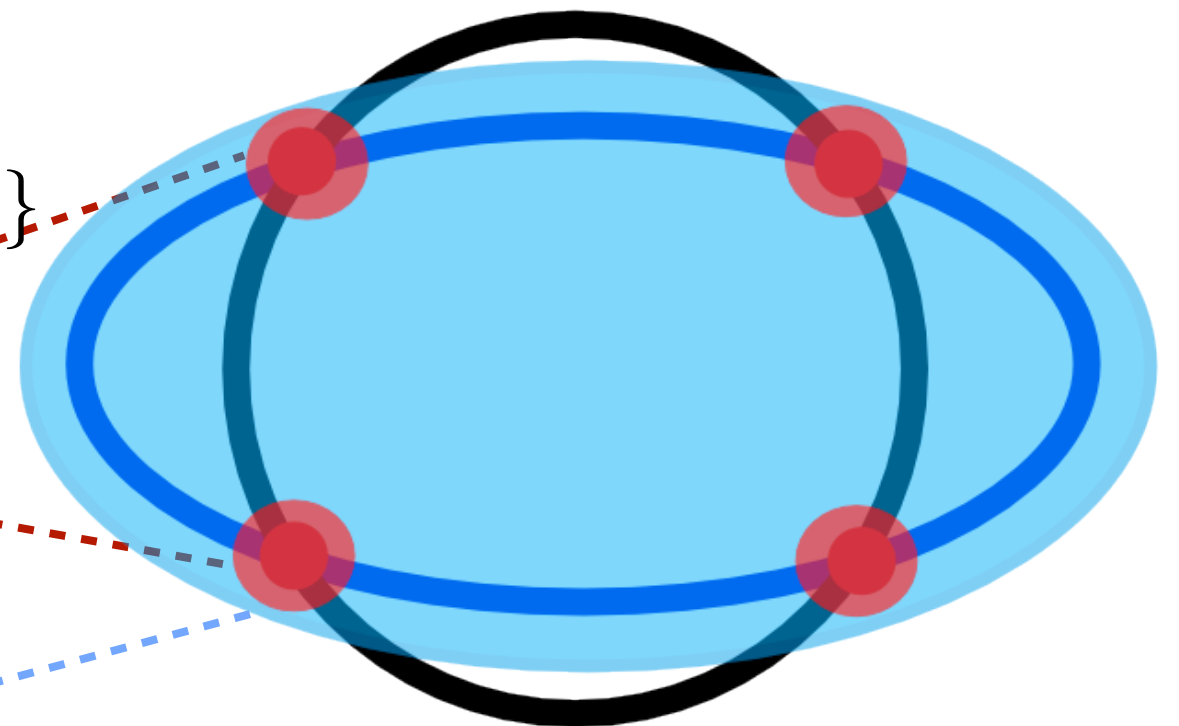
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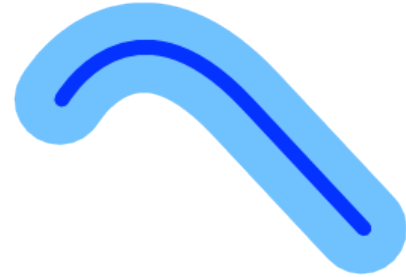




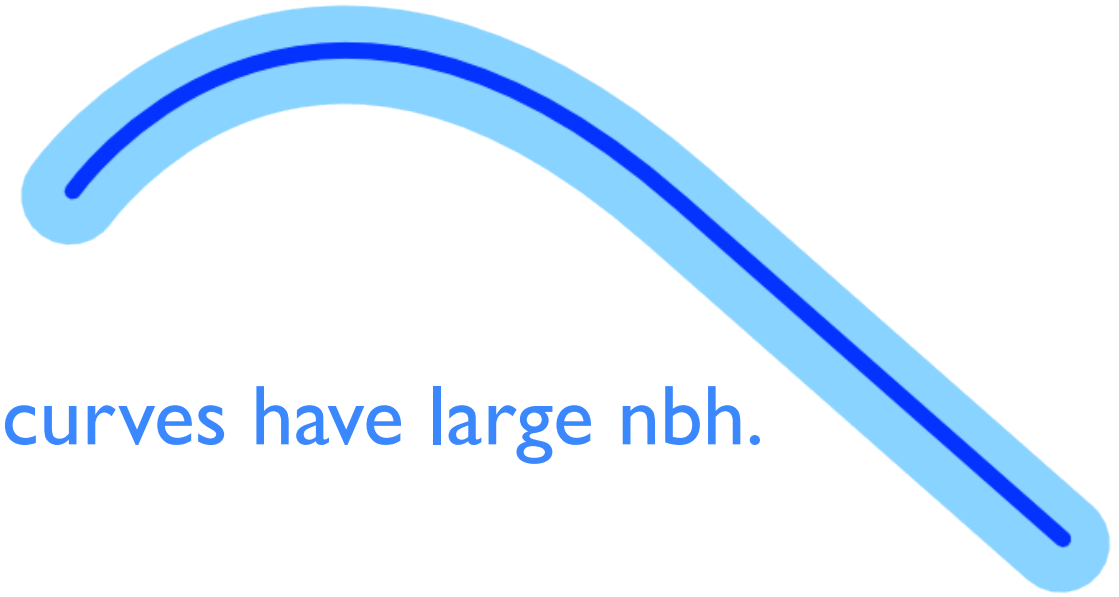
## 2. Typicality in mean energy ensemble

Proof: how to estimate neighborhood volume

Intuition:



short curves have small nbh...

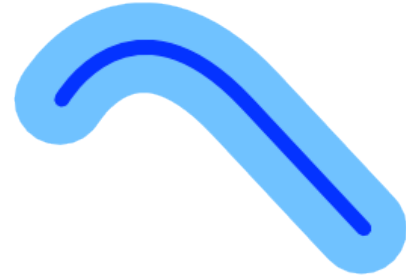


... long curves have large nbh.

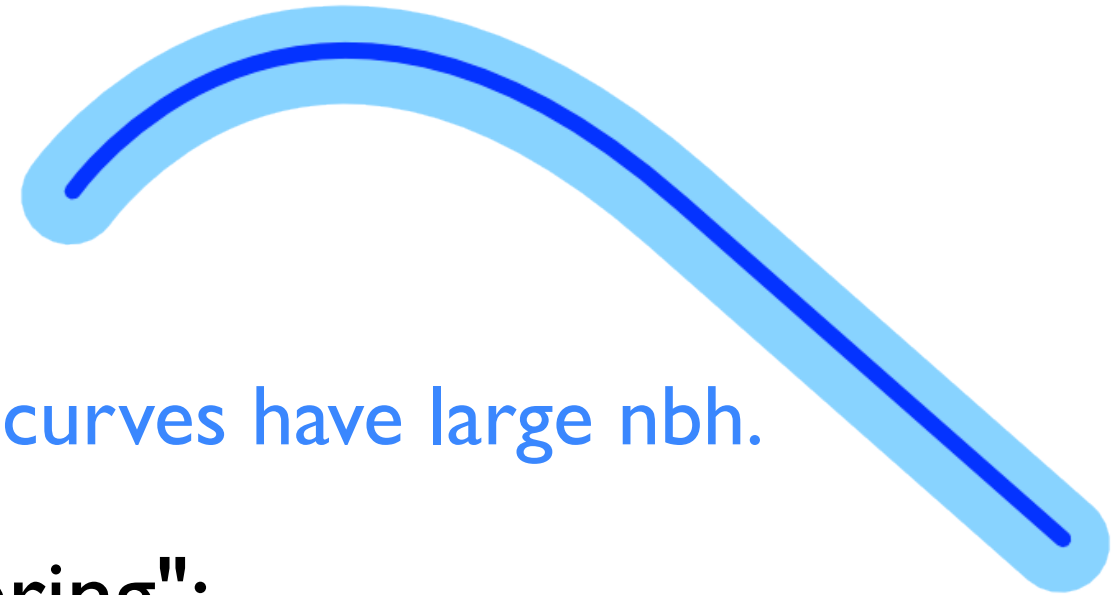
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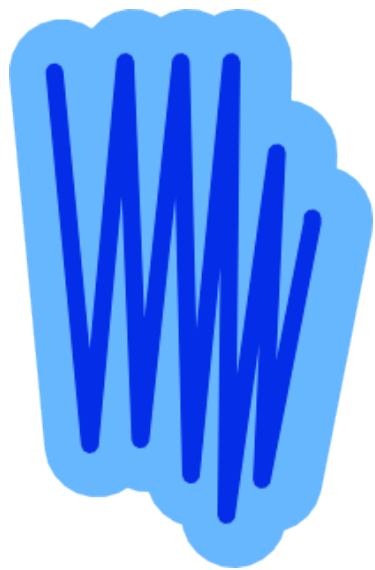


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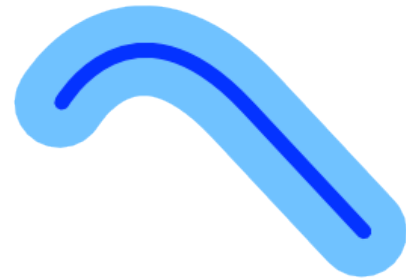


→ How to bound the nbh. volume from below??

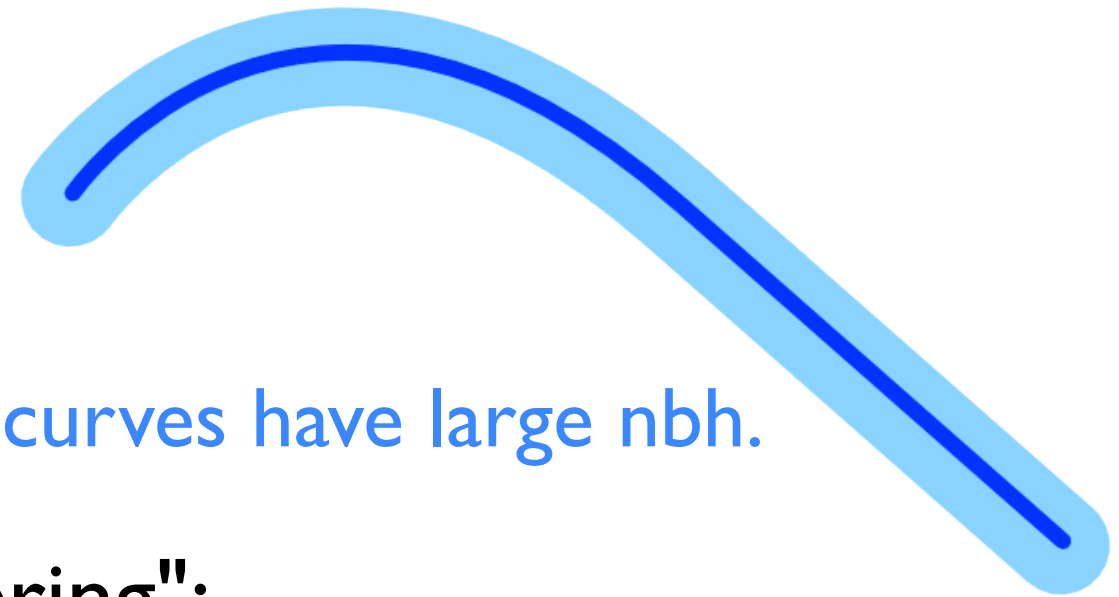
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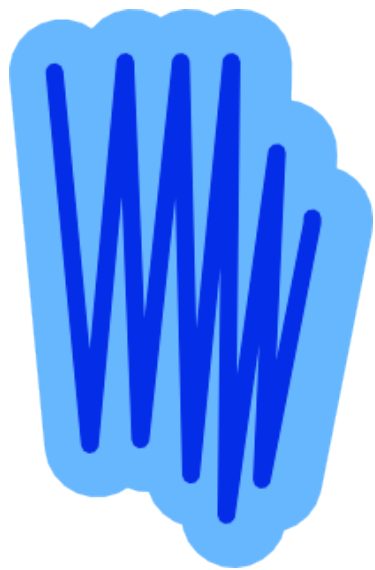


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→ How to bound the nbh. volume from below??

Cauchy-Crofton formula ("Buffon's needle experiment"):

**C**: curve, **D**: domain (e.g.  $D = U_\varepsilon(C)$ )

$$\int_{\text{lines } L} \#(L \cap C) dL = 2 \cdot \text{length}(C)$$

$$\int_{\text{lines } L} \text{length}(L \cap D) dL = \pi \cdot \text{area}(D)$$

## 2. Typicality in mean energy ensemble

No concentration in the Ising model



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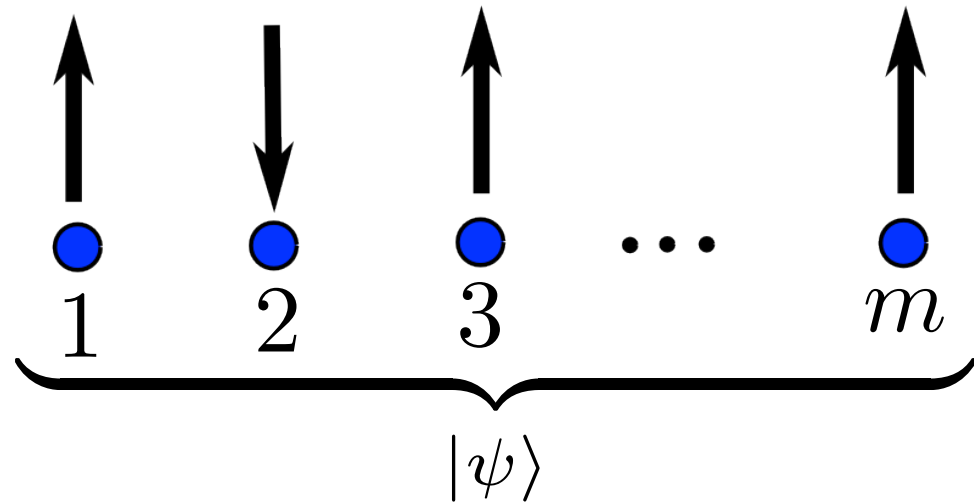
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## 2. Typicality in mean energy ensemble

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$$H = \frac{1}{2} \left( m\mathbf{1} + \sum_{i=1}^m Z_i \right)$$

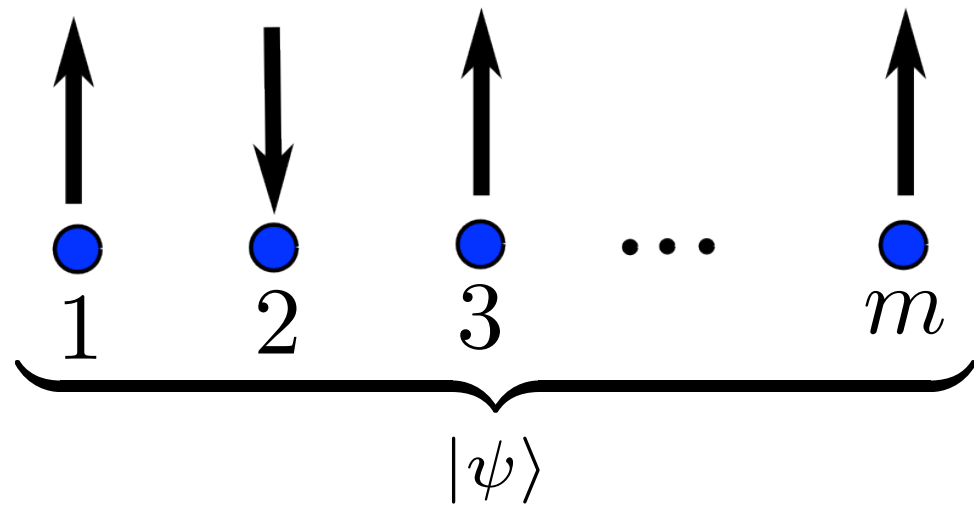
Ground state energy 0, infinite temperature: energy  $m/2$ .

$\dim \mathcal{H} = 2^m =: n$ . Draw  $|\psi\rangle$  randomly under  $\langle \psi | H | \psi \rangle \stackrel{!}{=} \alpha \cdot m$   
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Observation: Bound from our theorem gets useless:

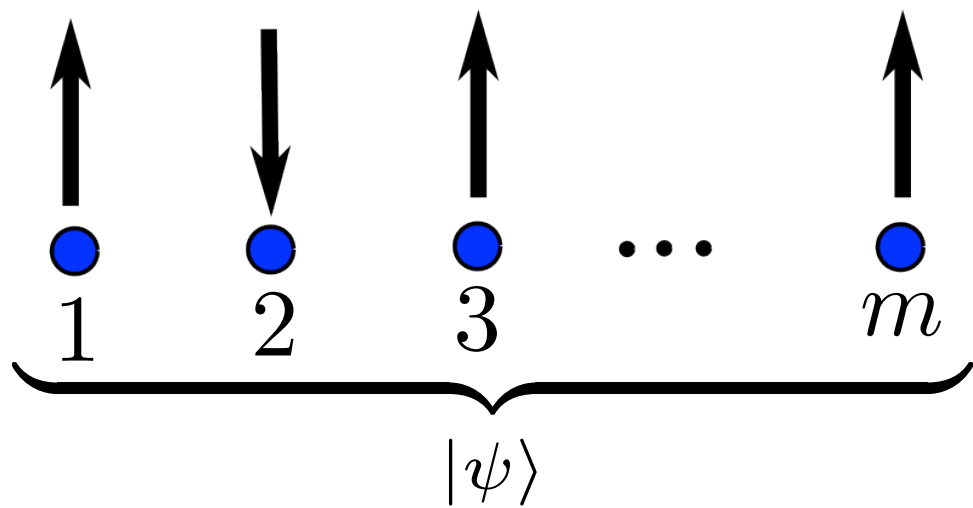
$$\text{Prob} \{ |f(\psi) - \bar{f}| > \lambda \varepsilon \} \lesssim \exp(-c n \varepsilon^2 + 2\delta \sqrt{n})$$

For Ising spectrum, we get  $c \approx 1/n$ . Why is that?

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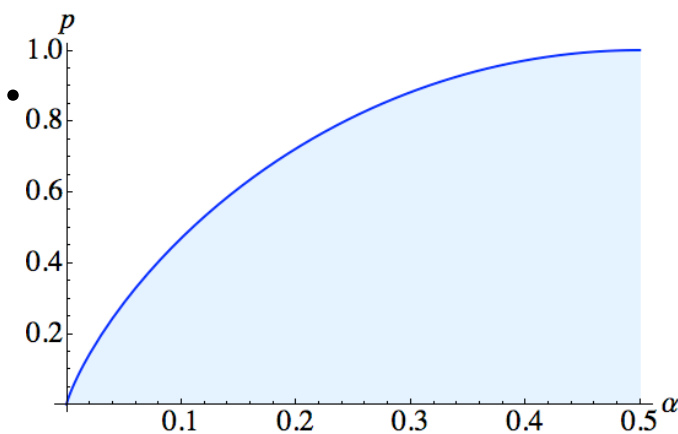
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Theorem: There is no exponential concentration.

Best possible concentration bound is

$$\text{Prob} \{ |f - \bar{f}| > \lambda \varepsilon \} \lesssim \exp(-c n^p \varepsilon^2)$$

with  $p \equiv p(\alpha) < 1$ , see graph.



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- We have proven **typicality** (**exponential concentration**) in the mean energy ensemble (*m.e.e.*) for large class of  $H$ 's.
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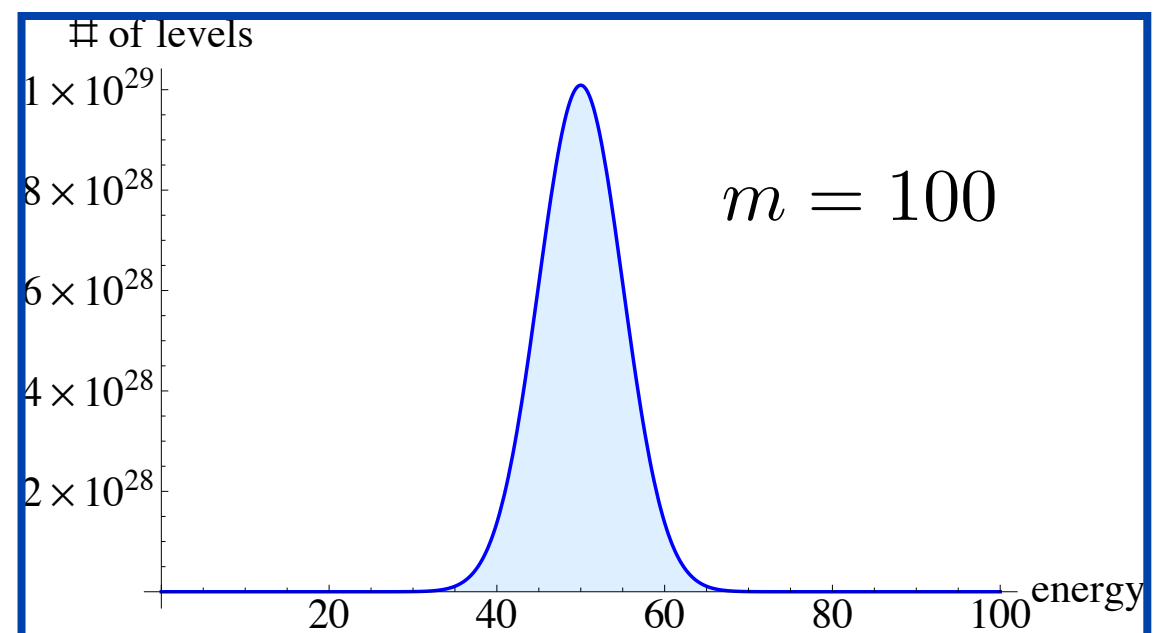
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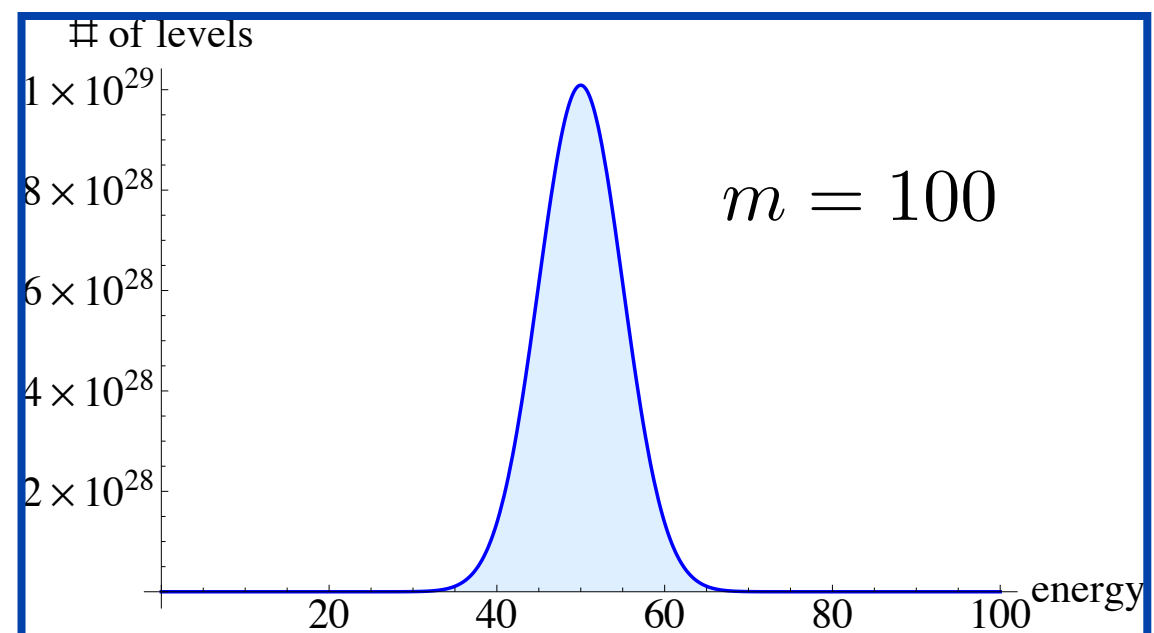




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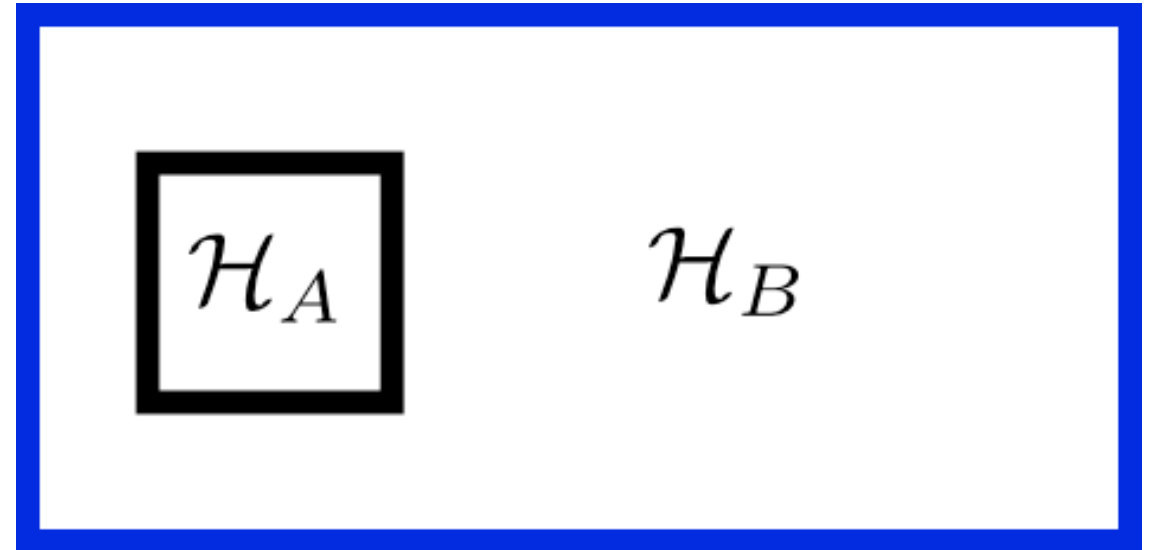
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- If  $|\psi\rangle$  is to have much smaller energy, then it "does not see" most of the levels  $\Rightarrow$  **effectively lives in smaller dim.**



## 2. Typicality in mean energy ensemble

### Physical interpretation

- In those cases where *m.e.e.* concentrates, typical reduced density matrix is **not of Gibbs form**. Instead, a sum of terms  $(H_A + s)^{-1}$  with some  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ .  
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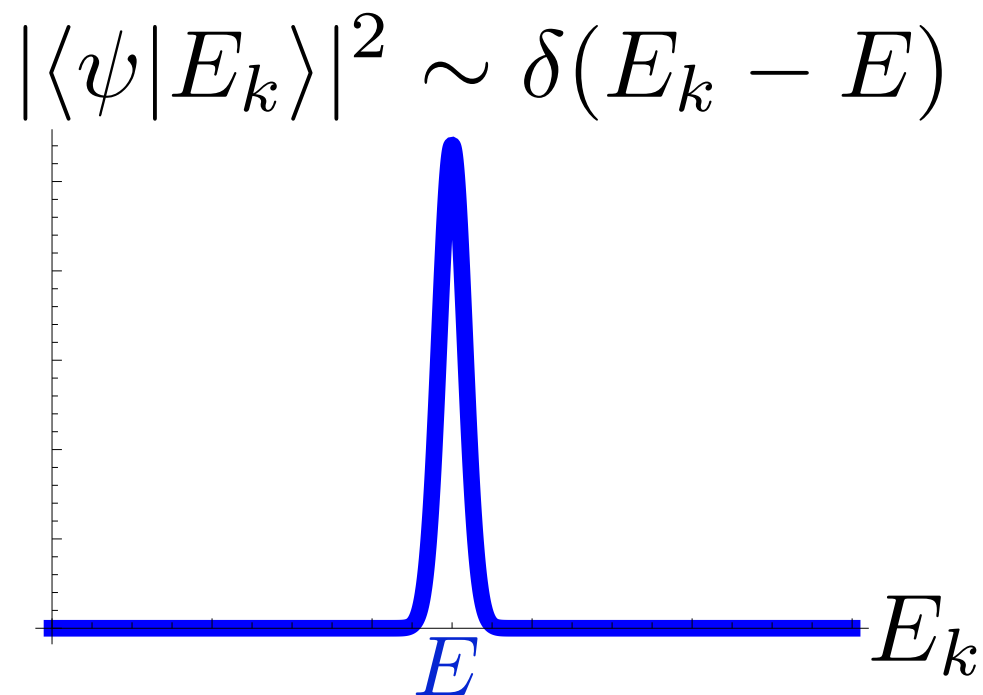
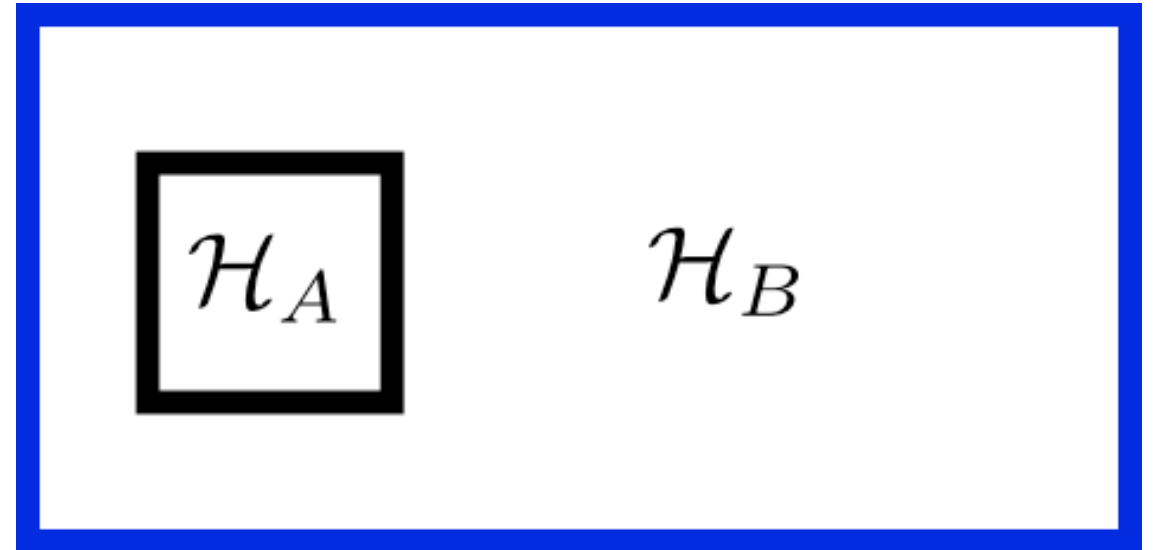


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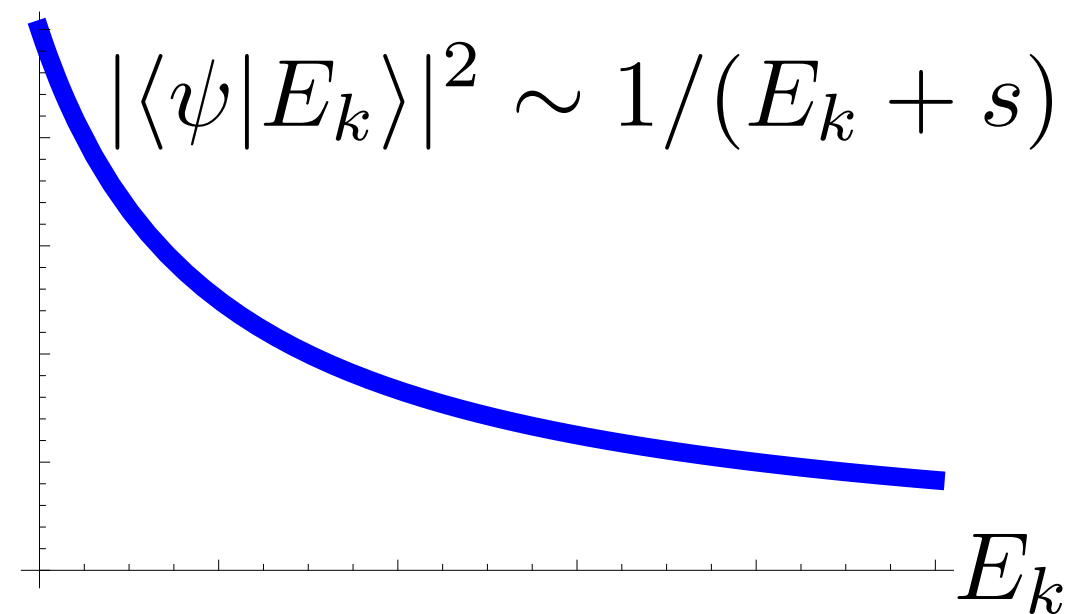
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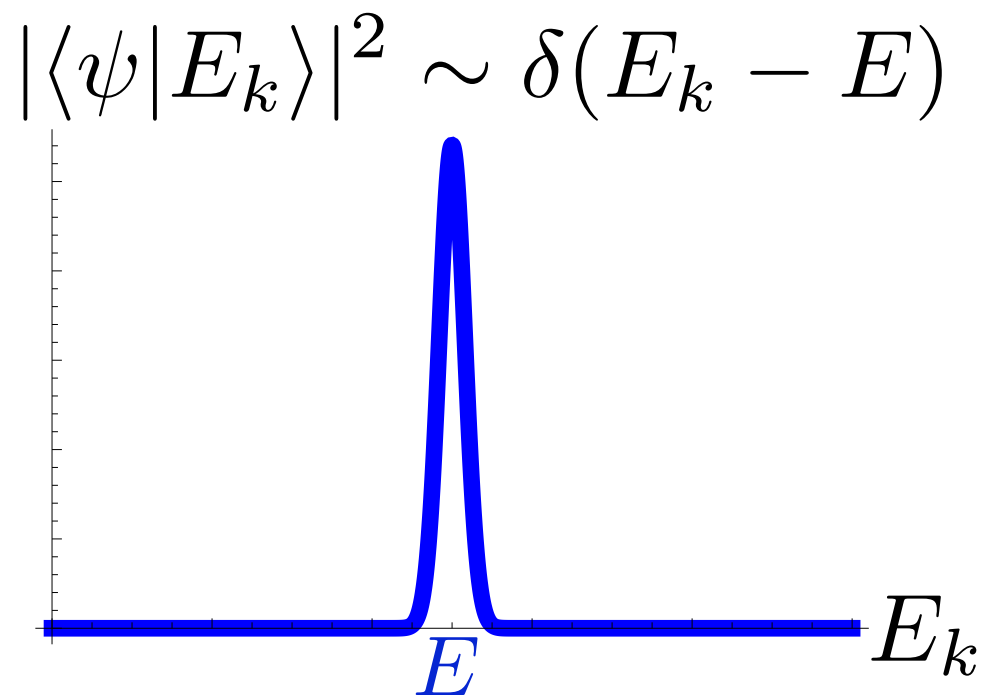
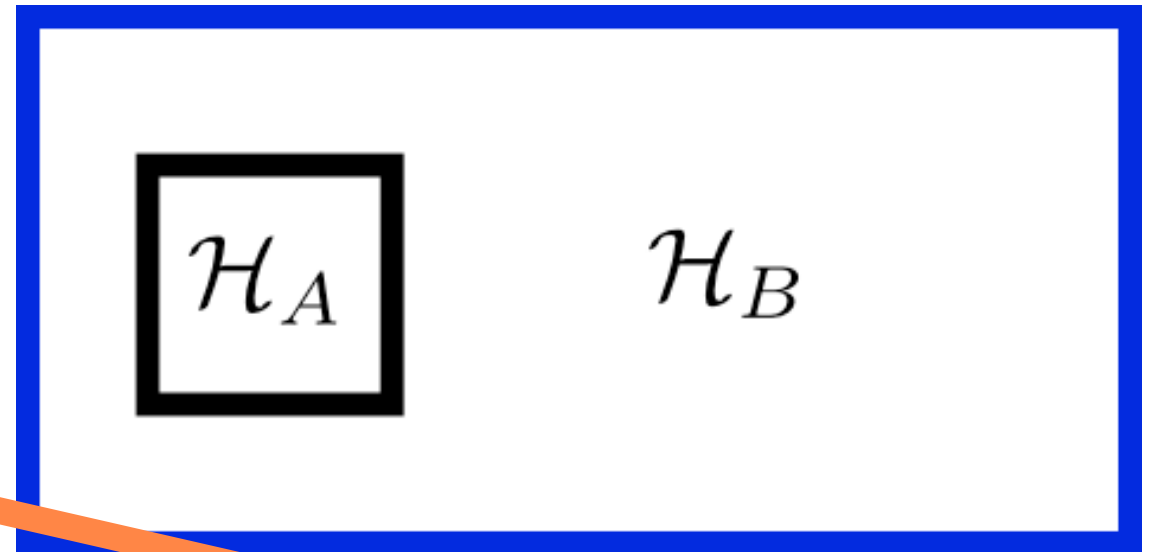
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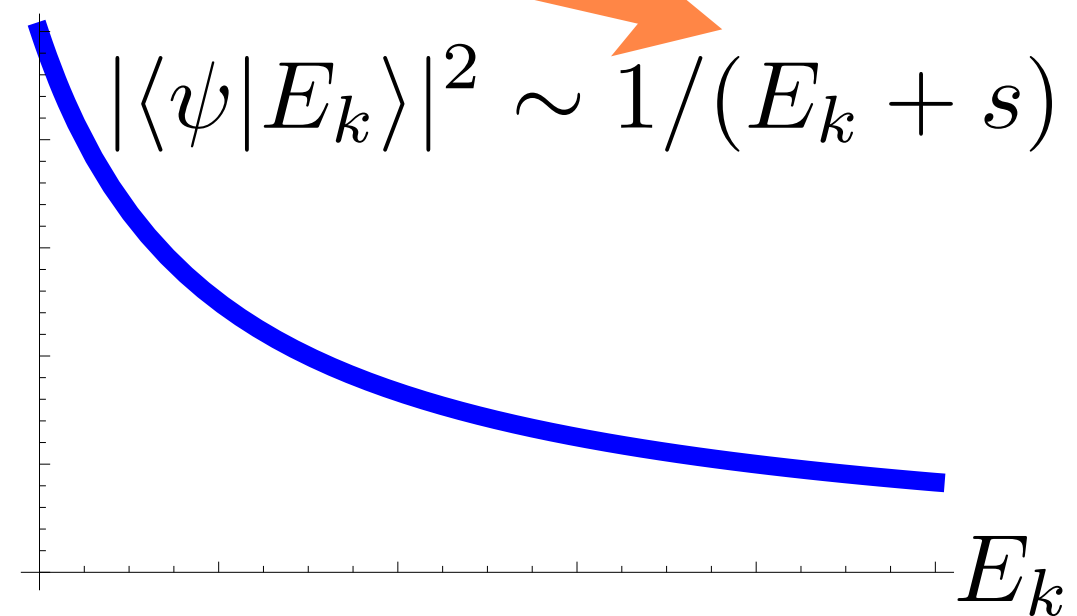
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M. P. Müller, D. Gross, J. Eisert, *Concentration of measure for quantum states with a fixed expectation value*, Commun. Math. Phys. 303/3, 785--824 (2011), arXiv:1003.4982