

# *QCD and statistical physics*

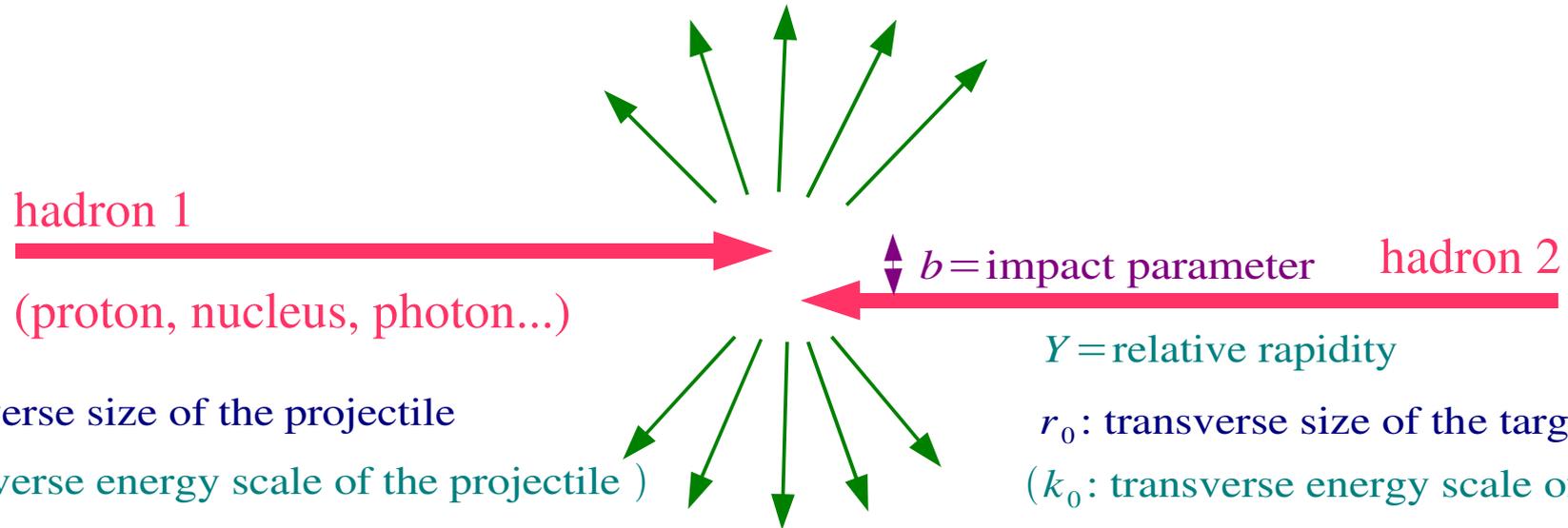
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Palaiseau, France*



Florence, February 1

# High energy QCD



$$A(Y, r) = \int d^2 b A(b, Y, r) = \text{elastic amplitude}$$

$$A(b, Y, r) = \text{fixed impact parameter amplitude} \leq 1$$

(High) energy dependence of QCD amplitudes?

# The Balitsky equation

Balitsky (1996)

Rapidity evolution of the scattering amplitude:

$$\bar{\alpha} = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{\pi} \quad \text{BFKL kernel; acts on transverse coordinates}$$

$$T = \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr}(U \bar{U}), \langle T \rangle = A$$

$$\partial_{\bar{\alpha} Y} A = \chi * (A - \langle T T \rangle)$$

*Infinite hierarchy, more complex operators at each step*

$$\partial_{\bar{\alpha} Y} \langle T T \rangle = \chi * (\langle T T \rangle - \langle T T T \rangle) + \chi_2 * \langle \text{Tr}(U \bar{U} U \bar{U} U \bar{U}) \rangle + \text{source terms}$$

...

A "mean field" approximation gives the Balitsky-Kovchegov (simpler) equation:

$$\langle T T \rangle = \langle T \rangle \langle T \rangle = A \cdot A \quad \Rightarrow \quad \partial_{\bar{\alpha} Y} A = \chi * (A - A \cdot A)$$

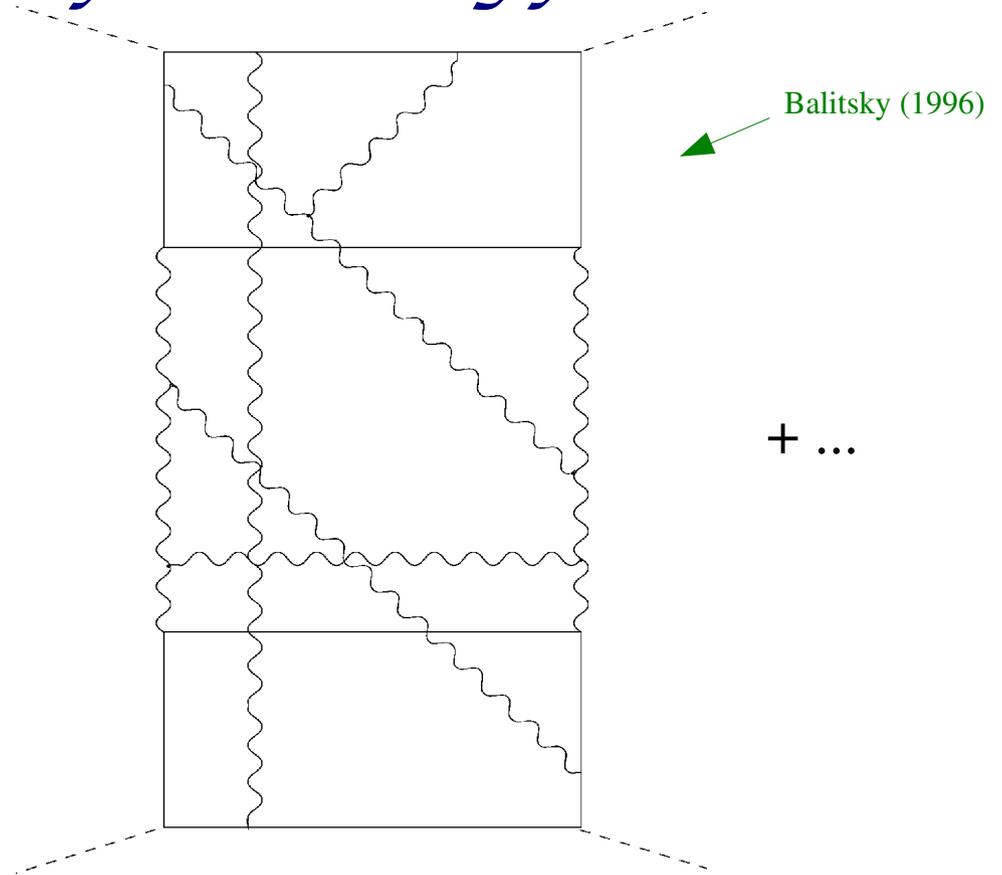
Balitsky (1996);  
Kovchegov (1999)

Understand and solve the full high energy evolution equations!

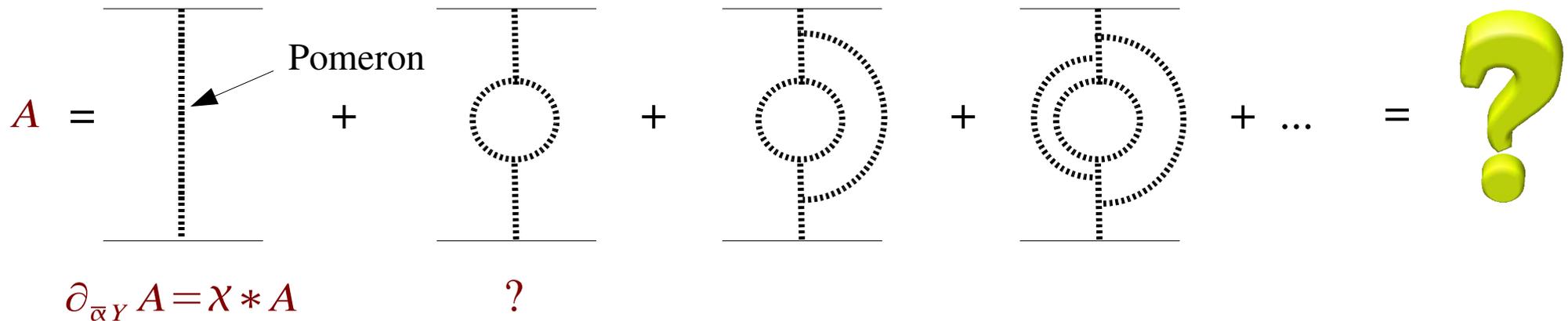
See also JIMWLK and further developments  
Jalilian-Marian, Iancu, McLerran, Weigert, Leonidov, Kovner

# High energy QCD in the field-theory formulation

Inside the Balitsky equation:



Effective formulation:  
"Pomeron" diagrams



# *Alternative philosophy*

Breakthrough by **Mueller and Shoshi**, 3 years ago:

*"Small  $x$  physics beyond the Kovchegov equation"*

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## **This talk:**

Subsequent interpretation of their calculation in the light of some models well-known in statistical mechanics (namely **reaction-diffusion processes**).

- ☆ go beyond the Mueller-Shoshi results
- ☆ **simple picture**, based on the **parton model**
- ☆ connects the QCD problem to more general physics and mathematics

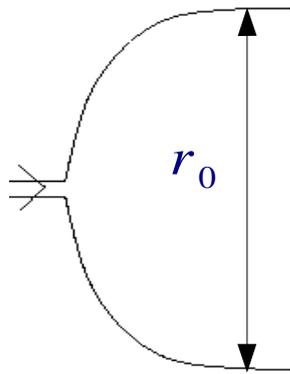
*Instead of a direct approach, identify the universality class from the physics of the parton model, then apply general results!*

# *Outline*

- ★ High energy QCD and reaction-diffusion
- ★ Field theory versus statistical methods for a simple particle model
- ★ Statistical methods and application to QCD

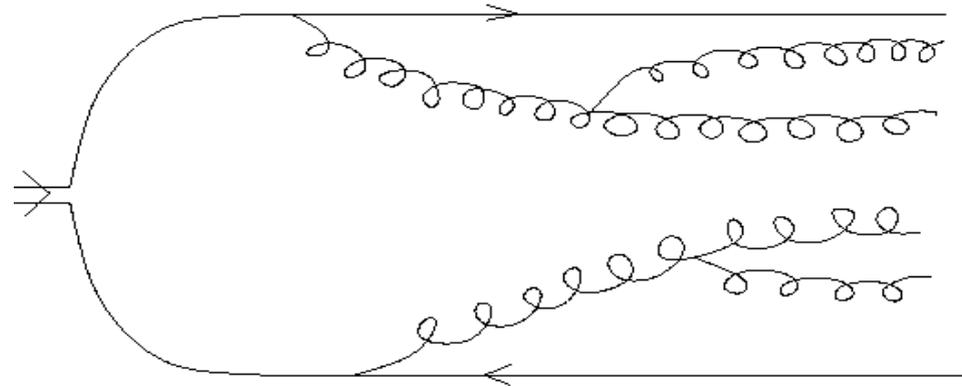
# How a high rapidity hadron looks

observer



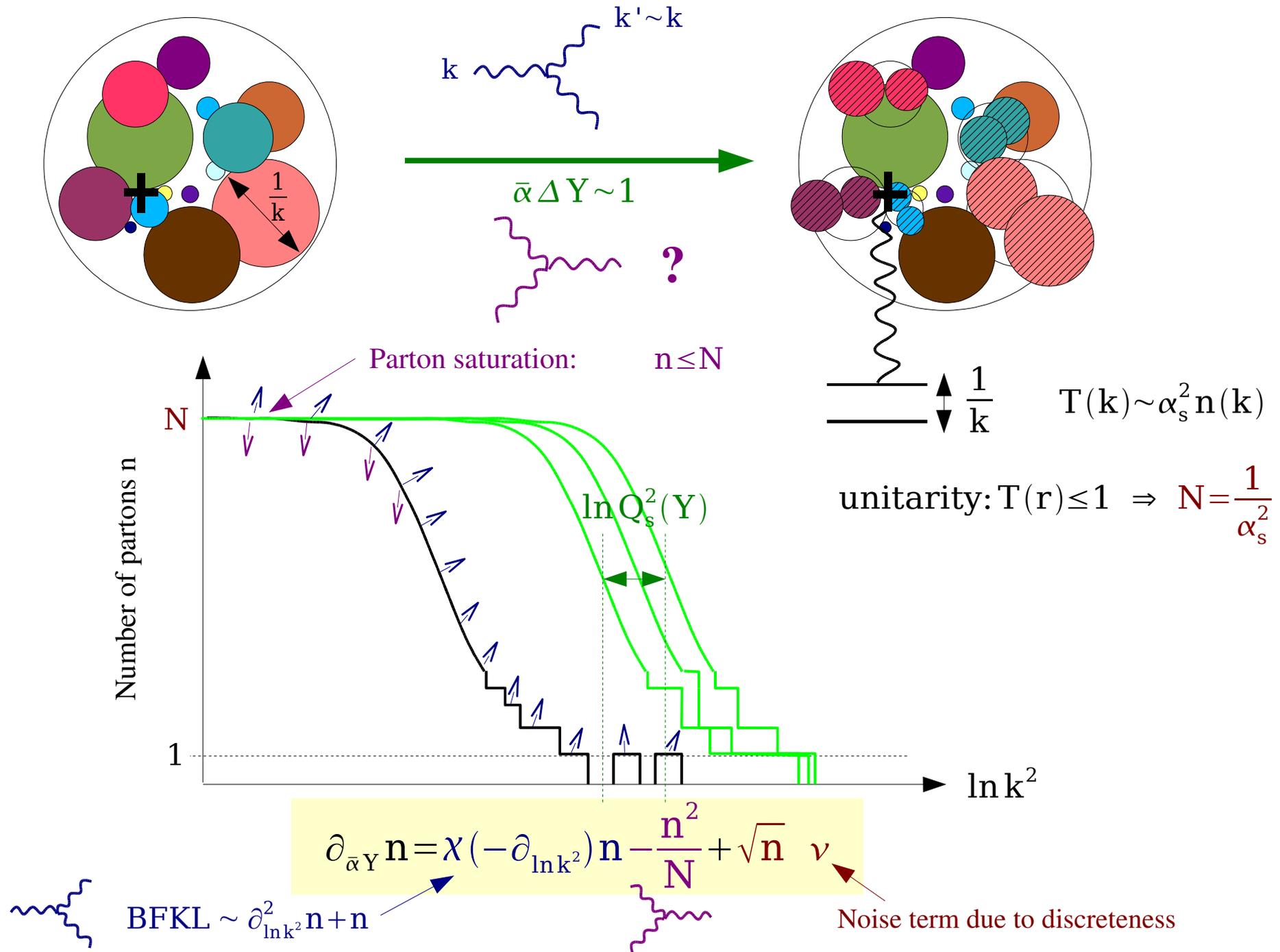
$$Y_0 = 0$$

rapidity in the frame  
of the observer

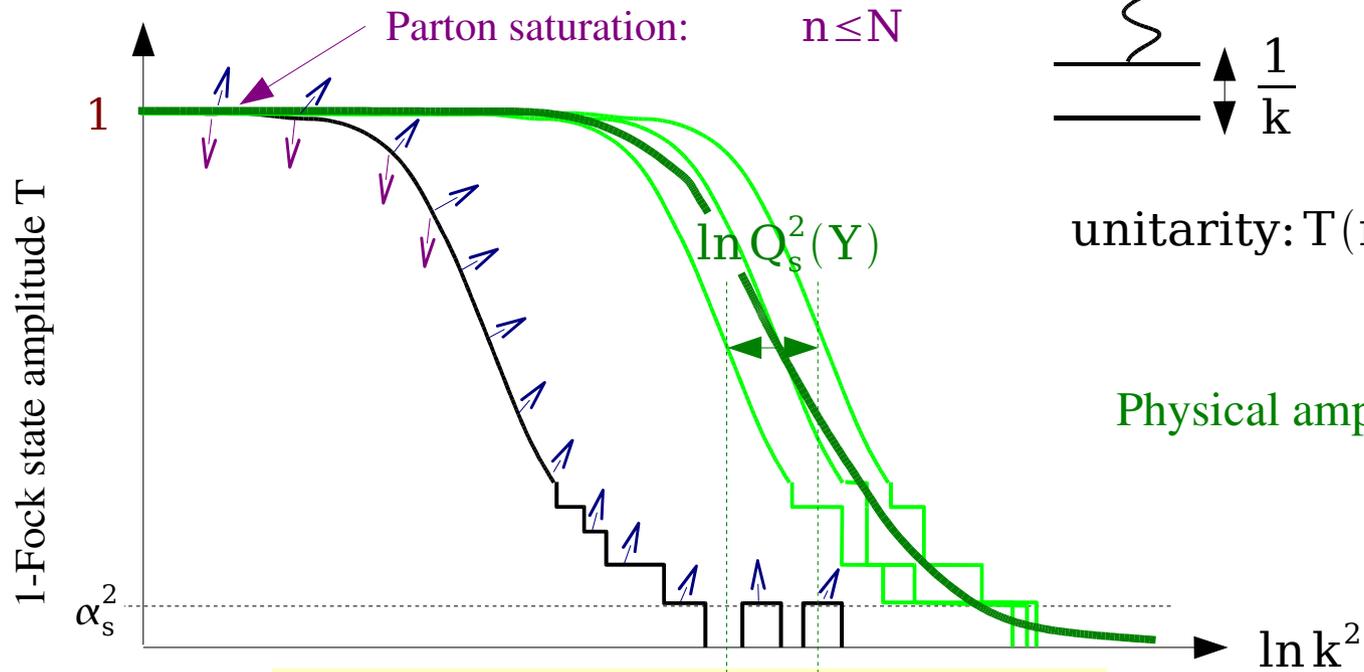
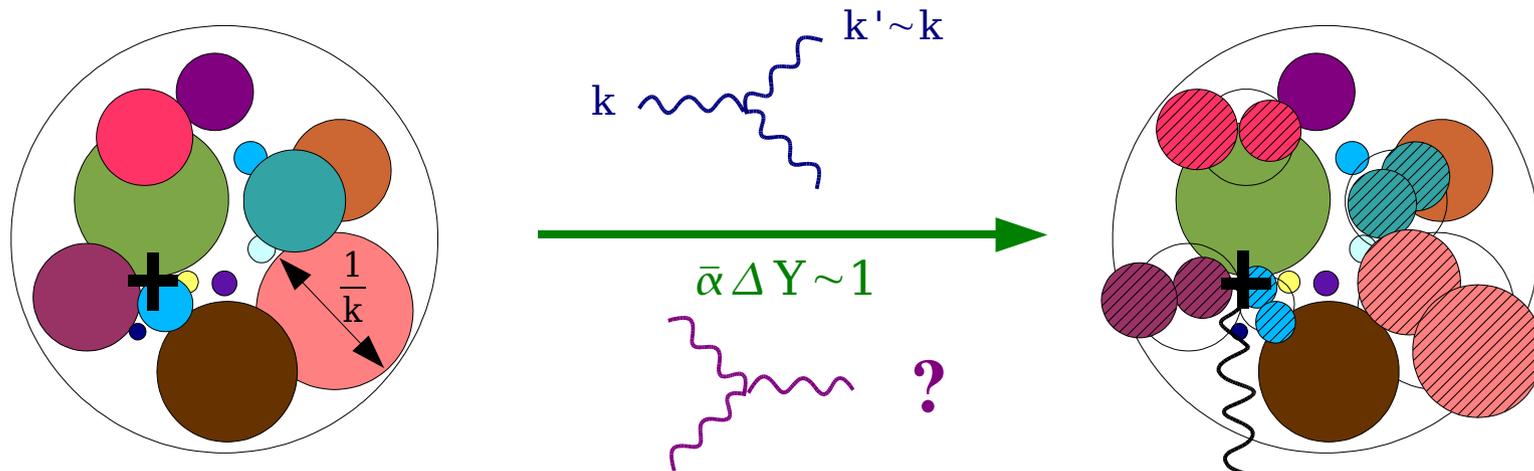


$$Y_1 > Y_0$$

# How a high rapidity hadron looks



# How a high rapidity hadron looks

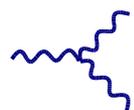


$$T(k) \sim \alpha_s^2 n(k)$$

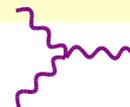
$$\text{unitarity: } T(r) \leq 1 \Rightarrow N = \frac{1}{\alpha_s^2}$$

$$\text{Physical amplitude: } A = \langle T \rangle$$

$$\partial_{\bar{\alpha} Y} T = \chi (-\partial_{\ln k^2}) T - T^2 + \alpha_s \sqrt{T} \nu$$

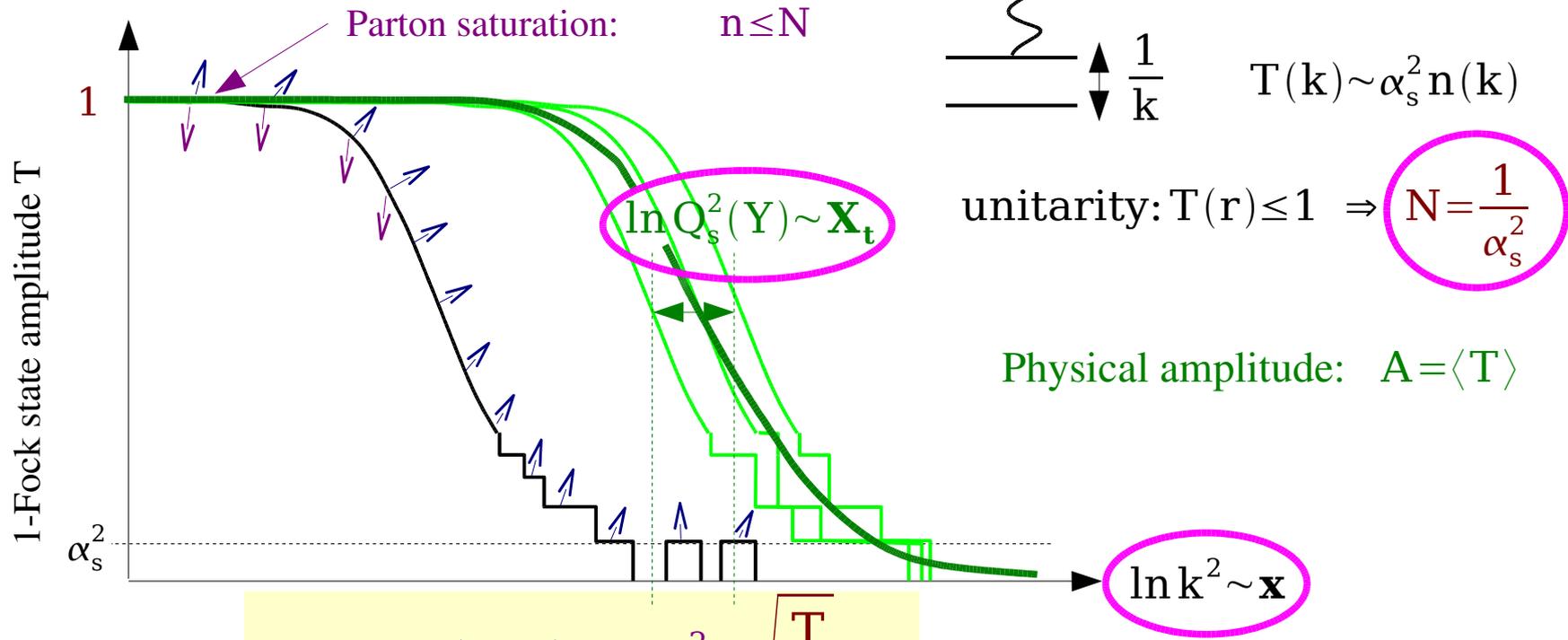
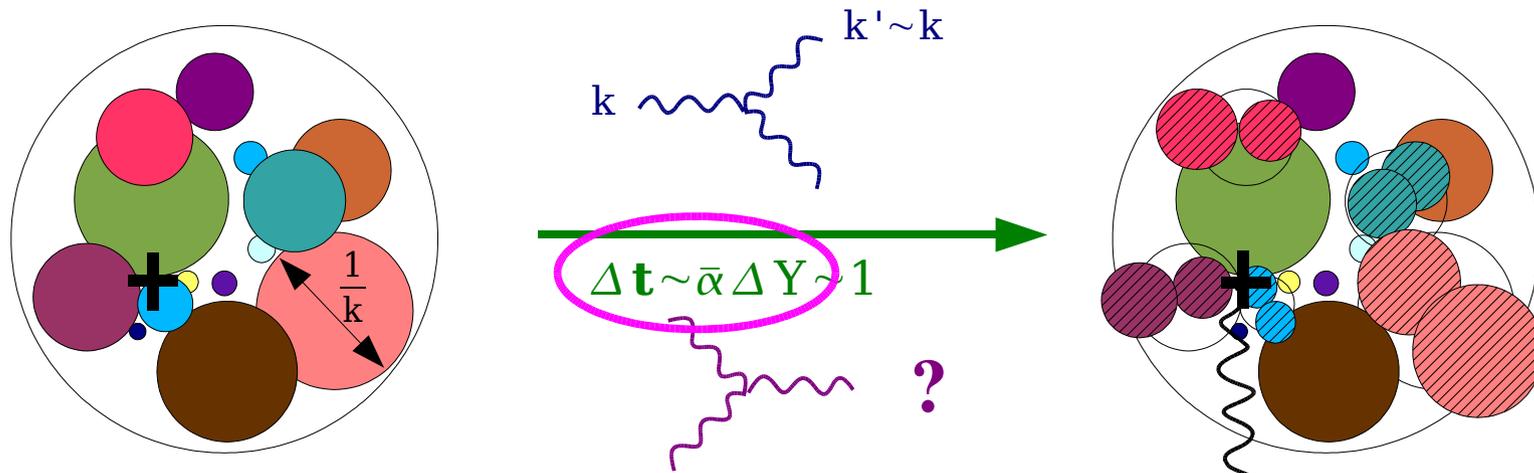


$$\text{BFKL} \sim \partial_{\ln k^2}^2 T + T$$



Noise term due to discreteness

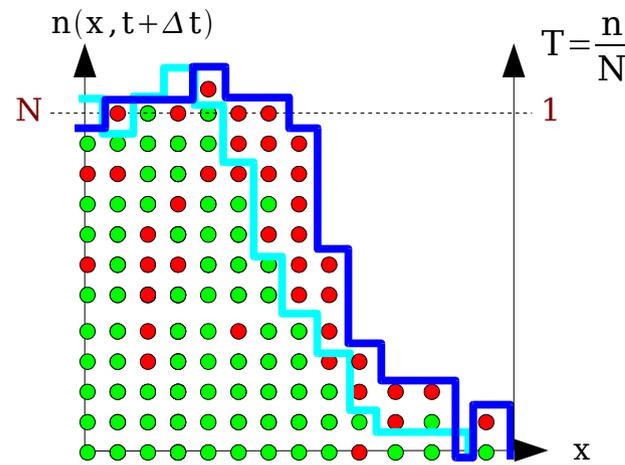
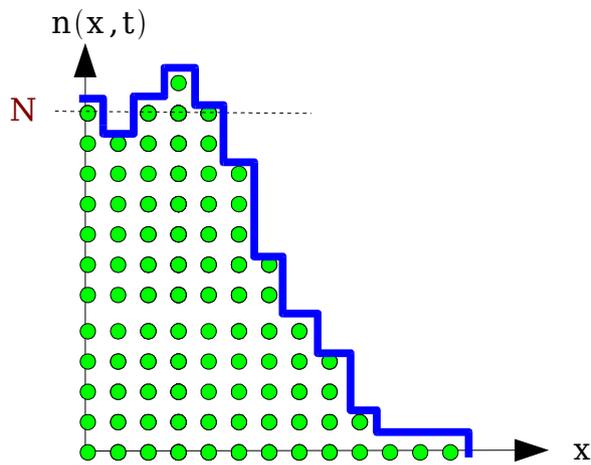
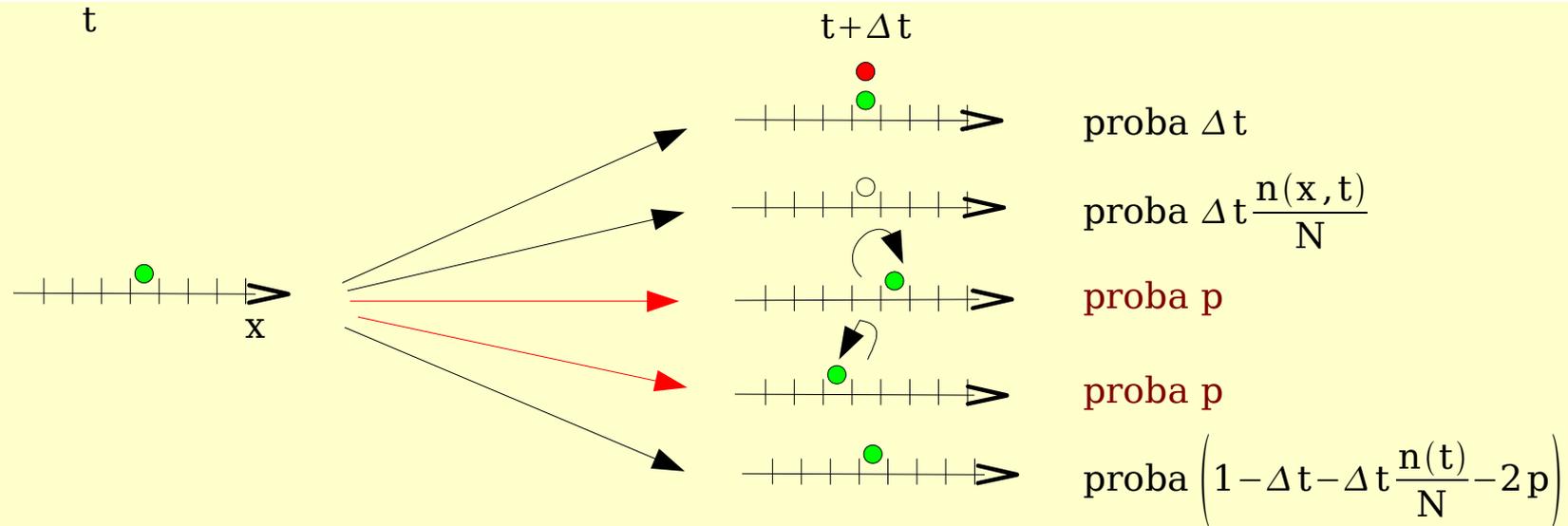
# How a high rapidity hadron looks



branching diffusion  $\sim \partial_x^2 T + T$

Noise term due to discreteness

# Reaction-diffusion



$$T(x, t + \Delta t) = T(x, t) + p(T(x + \Delta x, t) + T(x - \Delta x, t) - 2T(x, t)) + \Delta t T(x, t) - \Delta t T^2(x, t) + \Delta t \sqrt{\frac{T}{N}} v(x, t + \Delta t)$$

$$\partial_t T = \chi(-\partial_x) T - T^2 + \sqrt{\frac{T}{N}} v$$

Prototype equation: sFKPP equation  $\partial_t T = \partial_x^2 T + T - T^2 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{N} T(1-T)} v$

Fisher; Kolmogorov, Petrovsky, Piskunov (1937)

# Dictionary

## Reaction-diffusion

## High energy QCD

Position  $x$

$\ln(k^2/k_0^2)$

Time  $t$

$\bar{\alpha} Y$

Particle density  $T$

Partonic amplitude  $T$



Maximum/equilibrium  
number of particles  $N$

$\frac{1}{\alpha_s^2}$

Position of the wave front  $X$

Saturation scale  $\ln(Q_s^2/k_0^2)$

### sFKPP equation

$$\partial_t T = \partial_x^2 T + T - T^2 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}} T(1-T) v$$

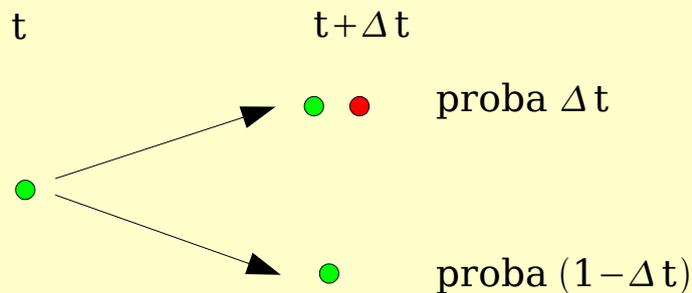
### QCD evolution in the parton model

$$\partial_{\bar{\alpha} Y} T = \chi(-\partial_{\ln k^2}) T - T^2 + \alpha_s \sqrt{T} v$$

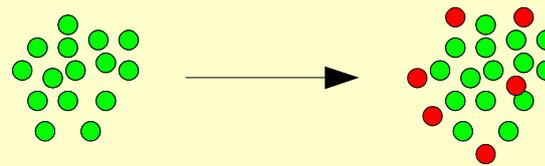
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- ★ High energy QCD and reaction-diffusion
- ★ Field theory versus statistical methods for a simple particle model
- ★ Statistical methods and application to QCD

# Simple particle model



$t$   $t + \Delta t$   
 k particles added: k particles split, n-k do not split



proba  $P_n(k) = \binom{n}{k} (\Delta t)^k (1 - \Delta t)^{n-k}$

$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \langle k \rangle &= n \Delta t \\ \sigma^2 &= \langle (k - \langle k \rangle)^2 \rangle = n \Delta t \end{aligned} \right.$

$\langle k \rangle$   $k$

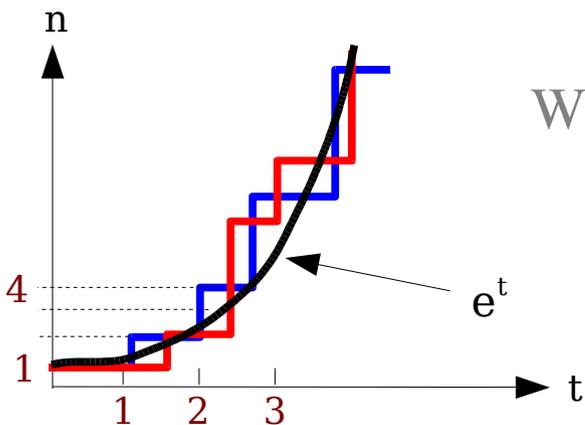
define  $v = \frac{k - \langle k \rangle}{\sigma} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Delta t}}$

such that  $\sum_t^{t+1} v \sim \pm 1$

$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \langle v \rangle &= 0 \\ \langle v^2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{\Delta t} \end{aligned} \right.$

$n(t + \Delta t) = n(t) + \Delta t (n(t) + \sqrt{n(t)} v(t + \Delta t))$

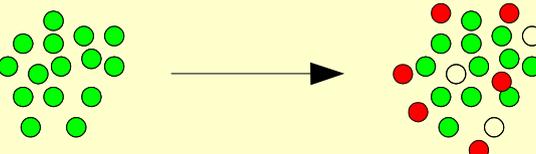
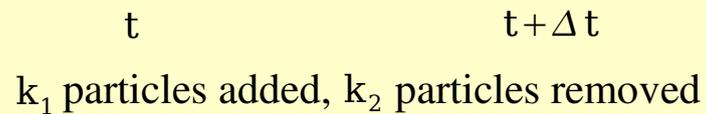
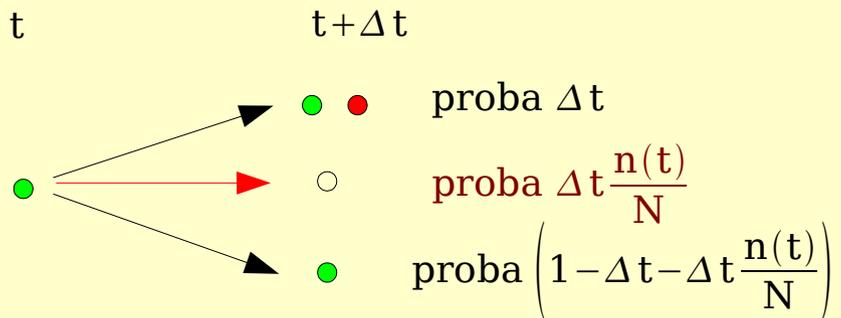
$\xrightarrow{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{dn}{dt} = n + \sqrt{n} v$



What is, *in average*, the number of particles at time  $t$ ?

$\langle n(t) \rangle$  obtained by solving the trivial equation  $\frac{d\langle n \rangle}{dt} = \langle n \rangle$

# Simple particle model

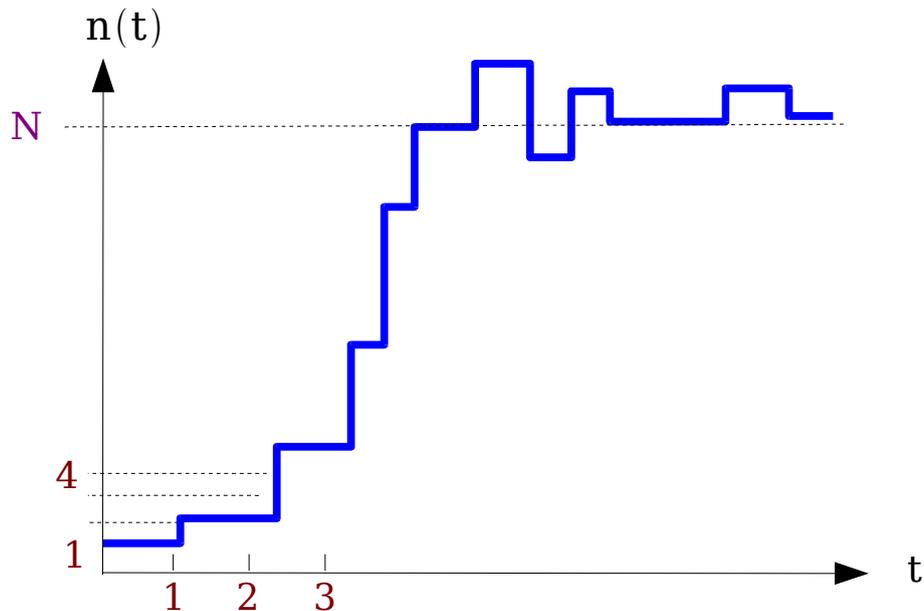


$$n(t) \quad n(t + \Delta t) = n(t) + k_1(t + \Delta t) - k_2(t + \Delta t)$$

$$\text{proba } P_n(k_1, k_2) = \binom{n}{k_1 k_2} (\Delta t)^{k_1} \left(\Delta t \frac{n(t)}{N}\right)^{k_2} \left(1 - \Delta t - \Delta t \frac{n(t)}{N}\right)^{n - k_1 - k_2}$$

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N} + \sqrt{n \left(1 + \frac{n}{N}\right)} v$$

$$\begin{cases} \langle v \rangle = 0 \\ \langle v^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{dt} \end{cases}$$



$\langle n(t) \rangle$  is **not** obtained by solving a trivial equation!

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\langle n \rangle}{dt} = \langle n \rangle - \frac{1}{N} \langle n^2 \rangle \\ \frac{d\langle n^2 \rangle}{dt} = \dots \end{cases} \quad \dots \text{infinite hierarchy!}$$

similar to the Balitsky equation in 0D

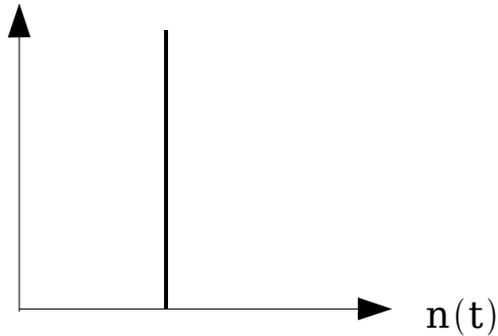
Mean field approximation:  $\frac{d\langle n \rangle}{dt} = \langle n \rangle - \frac{\langle n \rangle^2}{N}$

similar to the Balitsky-Kovchegov equation

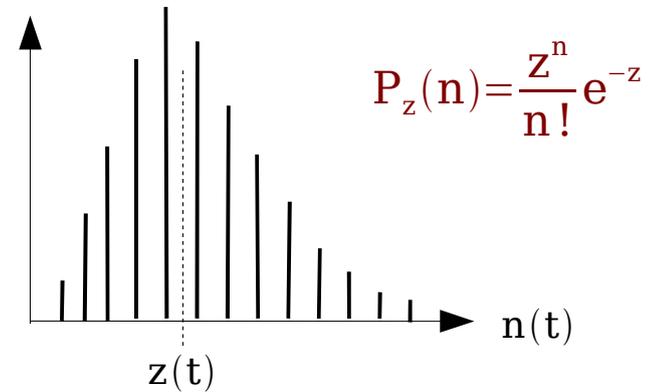
# Field-theoretical formulation

Doi (1975)  
Mueller (1995)  
Shoshi, Xiao (2005)

**Statistical formulation:**  
evolution of fixed particle number states



**Evolution of Poissonian states**



$$P_z(n) = \frac{z^n}{n!} e^{-z}$$

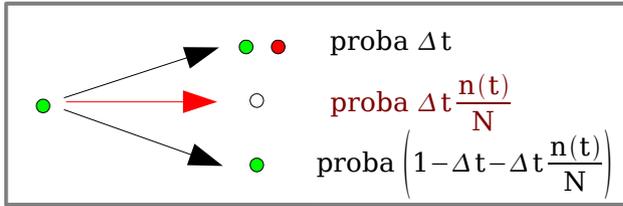
$\langle n(t) \rangle = \langle z(t) \rangle$  ← Path integral average, with weight  $\exp\left(-\int dt \left[ \bar{z} \left( \frac{d}{dt} - 1 \right) z - \bar{z} \bar{z} z + \frac{1}{N} (\bar{z} z z + \bar{z} \bar{z} z) \right]\right)$

$$\langle n(t) \rangle = e^t + \left(-\frac{2}{N}\right) e^{2t} + \left(\frac{6}{N^2}\right) e^{3t} + \left(-\frac{24}{N^3}\right) e^{4t} + \dots$$

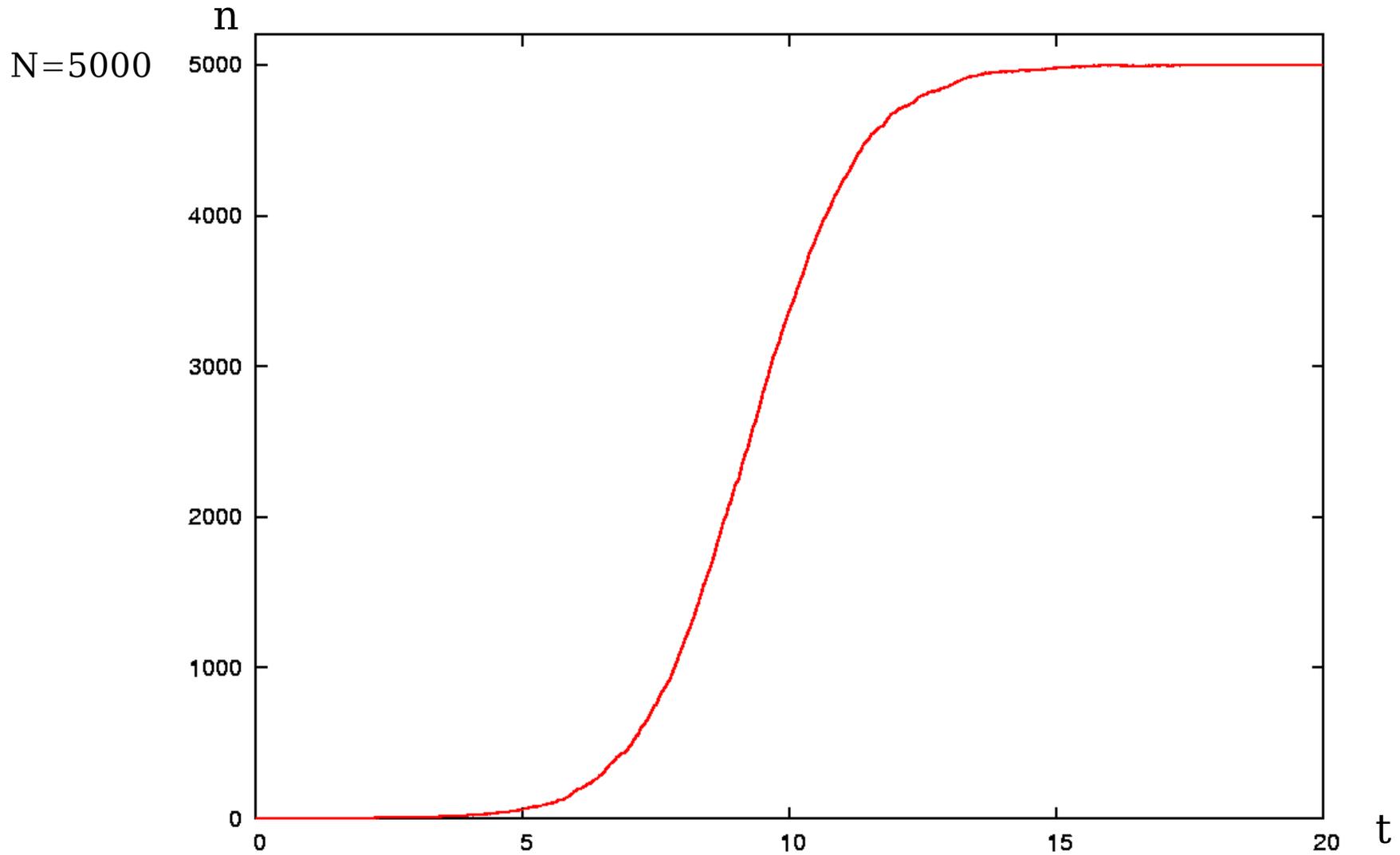
After Borel resummation:

$$\langle n(t) \rangle = N \left( 1 - N e^{-t} \int_0^\infty \frac{db}{1+b} e^{-N \exp(-t)b} \right)$$

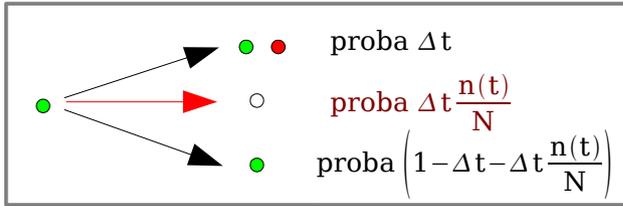
# Statistical method



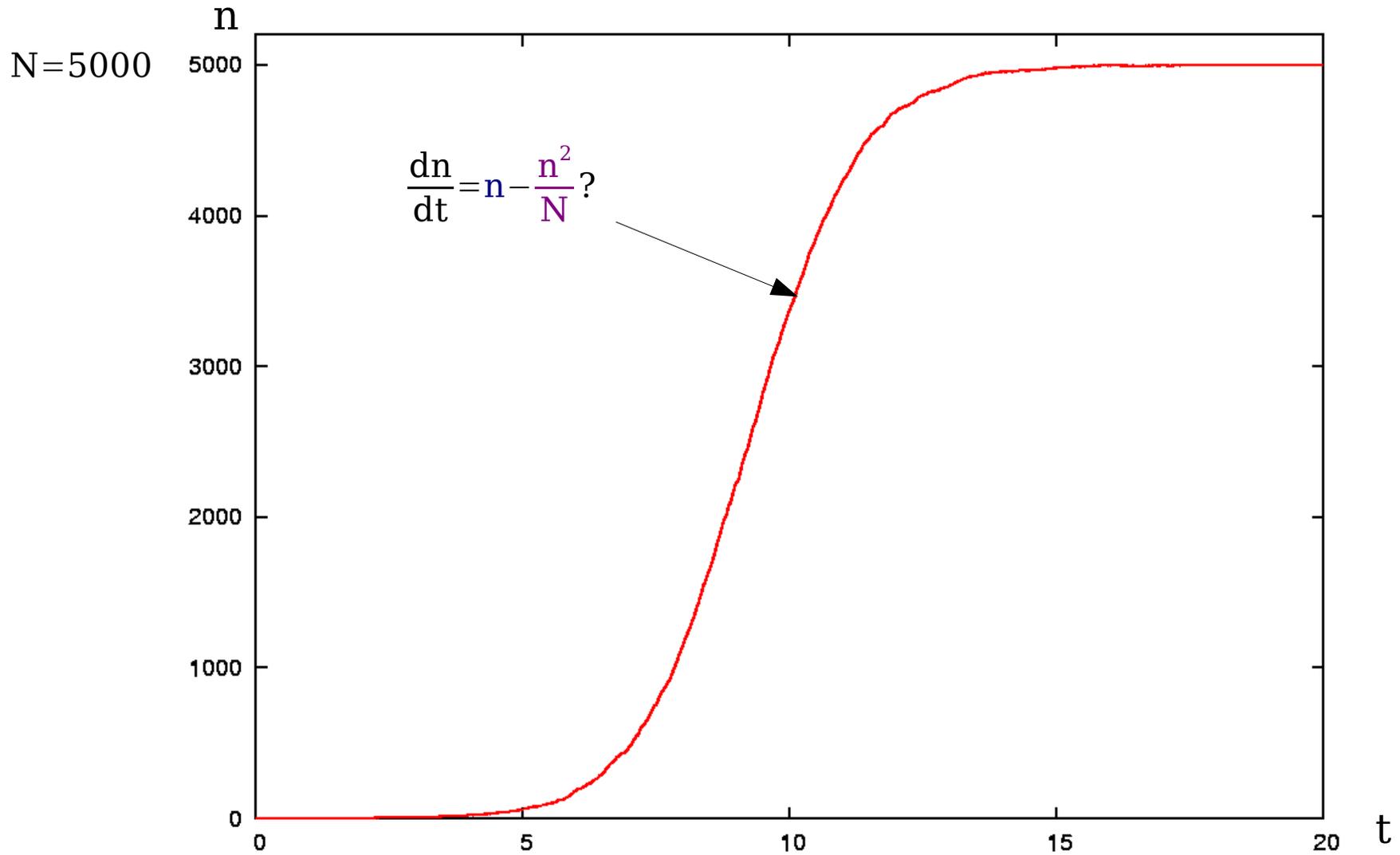
$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N} + \sqrt{n \left(1 + \frac{n}{N}\right)} \nu$$



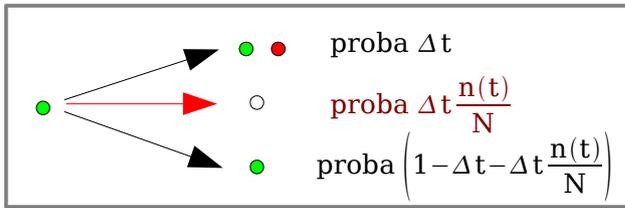
# Statistical method



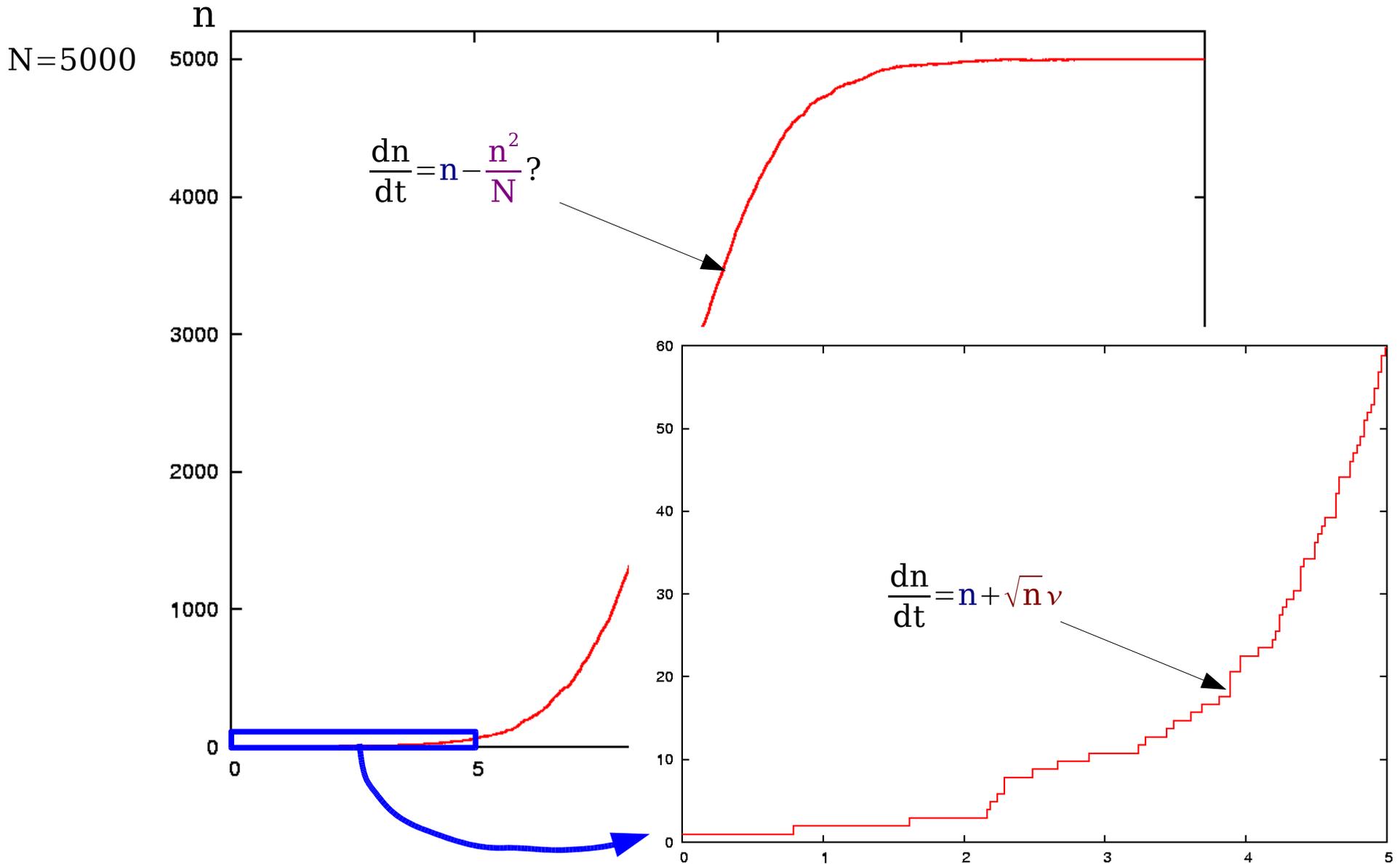
$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N} + \sqrt{n \left(1 + \frac{n}{N}\right)} \nu$$



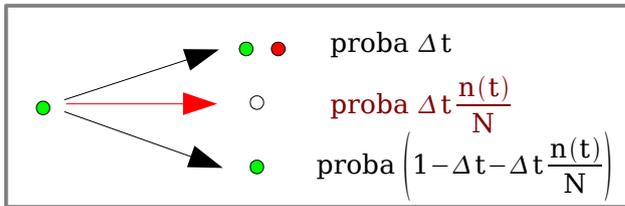
# Statistical method



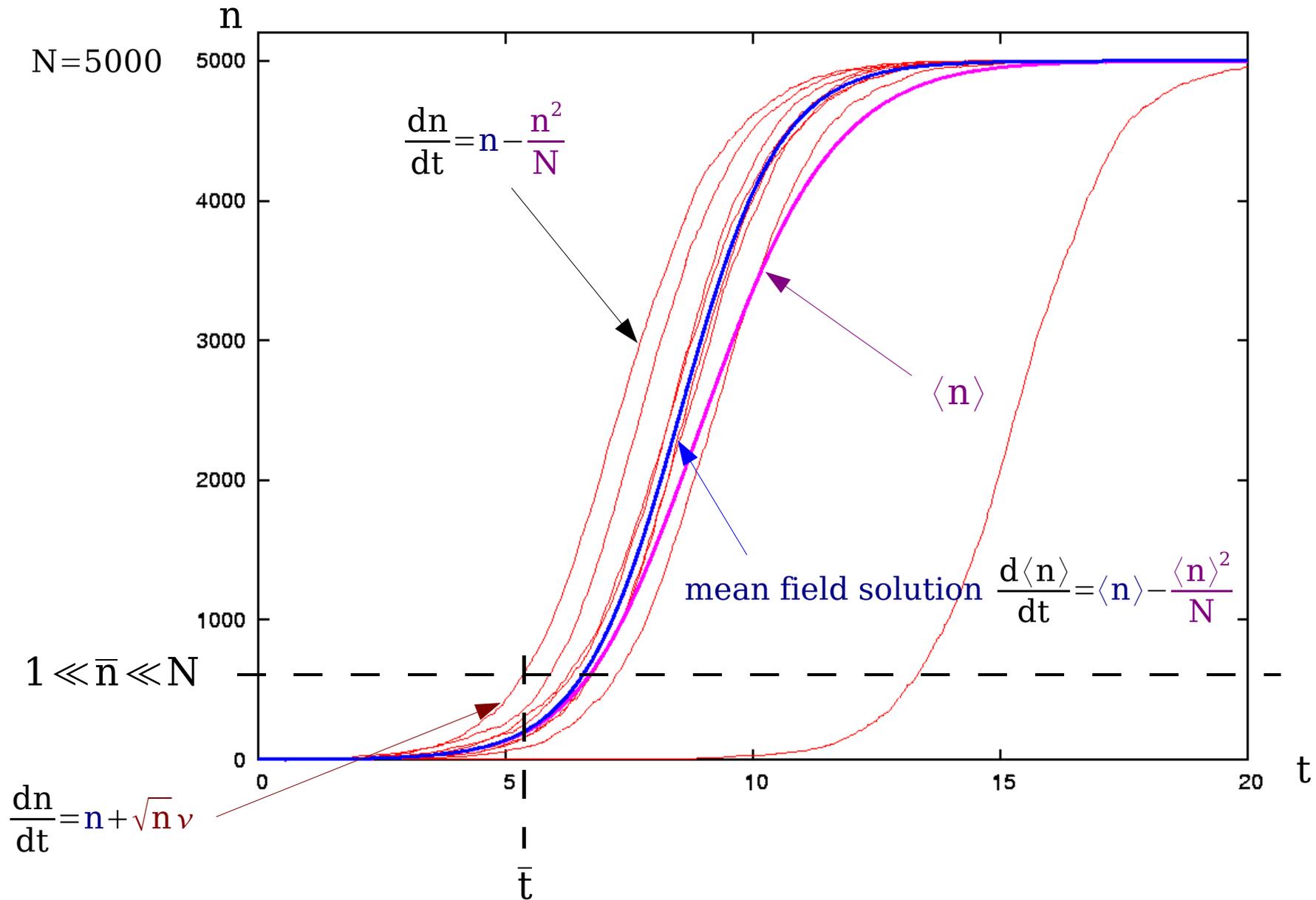
$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N} + \sqrt{n \left(1 + \frac{n}{N}\right)} v$$



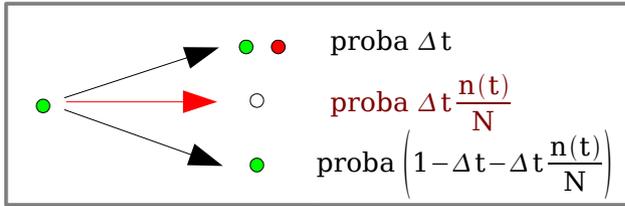
# Statistical method



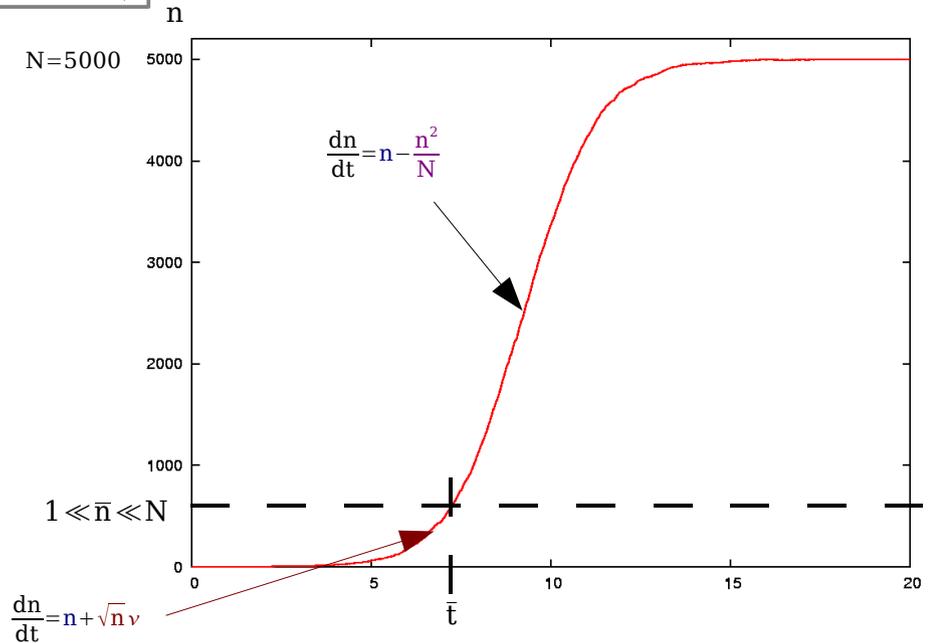
$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N} + \sqrt{n \left( 1 + \frac{n}{N} \right)} \nu$$



# Statistical method



$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N} + \sqrt{n \left(1 + \frac{n}{N}\right)} \nu$$



Solution of  $\frac{dn}{dt} = n + \sqrt{n} \nu$  for  $\bar{t}$

Solution of the mean-field equation  $\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N}$  with the initial condition  $n(\bar{t}) = \bar{n}$

$$\langle n(t) \rangle = \int_0^\infty d\bar{t} \bar{n} e^{-\bar{t} - \bar{n} \exp(-\bar{t})} \frac{N}{1 + \frac{N}{\bar{n}} e^{-(t-\bar{t})}}$$



**Field-theoretical result:**

$$\langle n(t) \rangle = N \left( 1 - N e^{-t} \int_0^\infty \frac{db}{1+b} e^{-N \exp(-t)b} \right)$$

- + Well-established systematics
- Complex, abstract

- + Simple, intuitive
- No systematics

# Summary of the part on simple particle models

We have considered a model that evolve according to **nonlinear stochastic differential equations** of the form

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N} + \sqrt{n \left( 1 + \frac{n}{N} \right)} \nu$$

For the nonlinearity,  $\langle n \rangle$  does not obey a closed equation, but **an infinite hierarchy** of equations of the Balitsky type. A field-theoretical resolution is difficult, on the other hand, the simple mean field solution completely fails!

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**However, there is a simple factorization at the level of individual realizations:**

If  $N$  is large enough, realizations evolve first through the ***stochastic but linear equation***

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n + \sqrt{n} \nu$$

until  $n$  is **large enough** for the noise term to be small, and continues evolving through the ***nonlinear but deterministic equation***

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = n - \frac{n^2}{N} \quad \text{when } n \gg 1.$$

Then,  $\langle n \rangle$  is obtained from the **averaging of many such realizations**

# Outline

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- ★ Field theory versus statistical methods for a simple particle model
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# *QCD as a reaction-diffusion process*

## *Reaction-diffusion*

## *High energy QCD*

Position  $x$

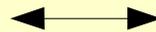
$\ln(k^2/k_0^2)$

Time  $t$

$\bar{\alpha} Y$

Particle density  $T$

Partonic amplitude  $T$



Maximum/equilibrium  
number of particles  $N$

$\frac{1}{\alpha_s^2}$

Position of the wave front  $X$

Saturation scale  $\ln(Q_s^2/k_0^2)$

### **sFKPP equation**

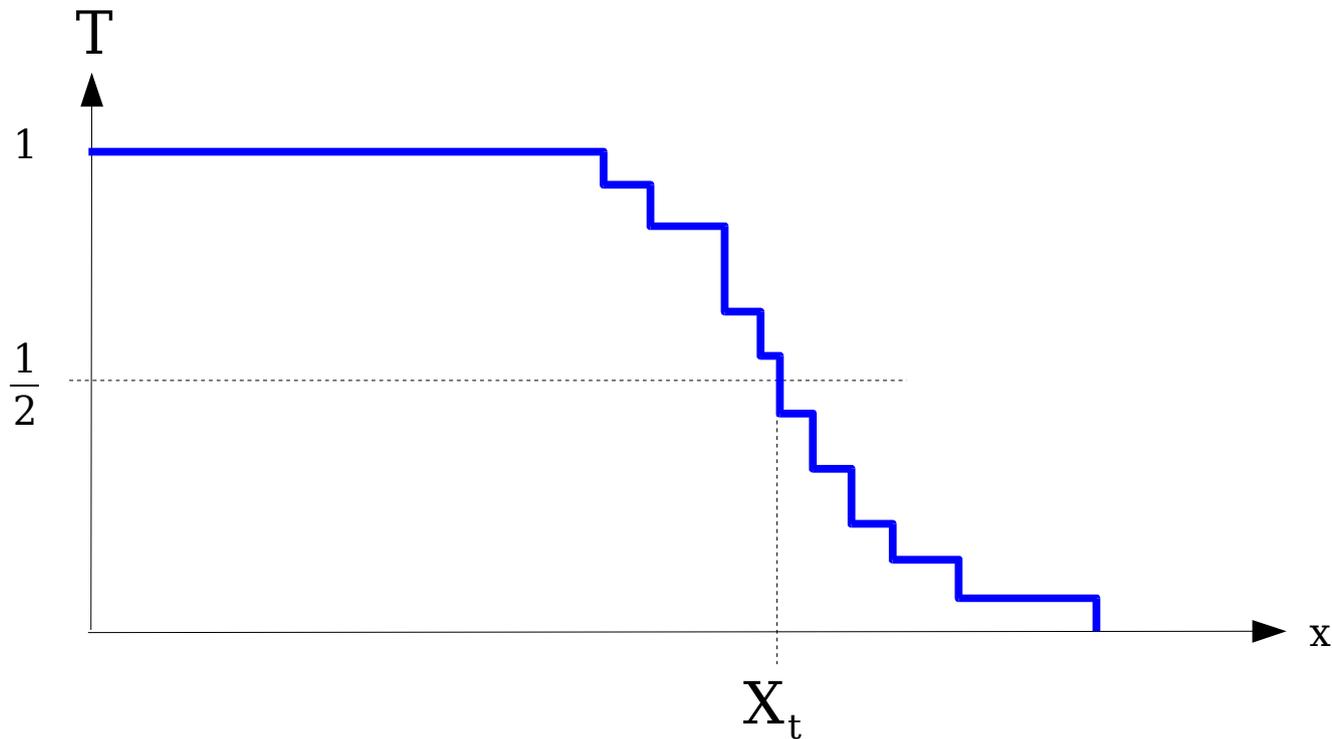
$$\partial_t T = \partial_x^2 T + T - T^2 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}} T(1-T) v$$

### **QCD evolution in the parton model**

$$\partial_{\bar{\alpha} Y} T = \chi(-\partial_{\ln k^2}) T - T^2 + \alpha_s \sqrt{T} v$$

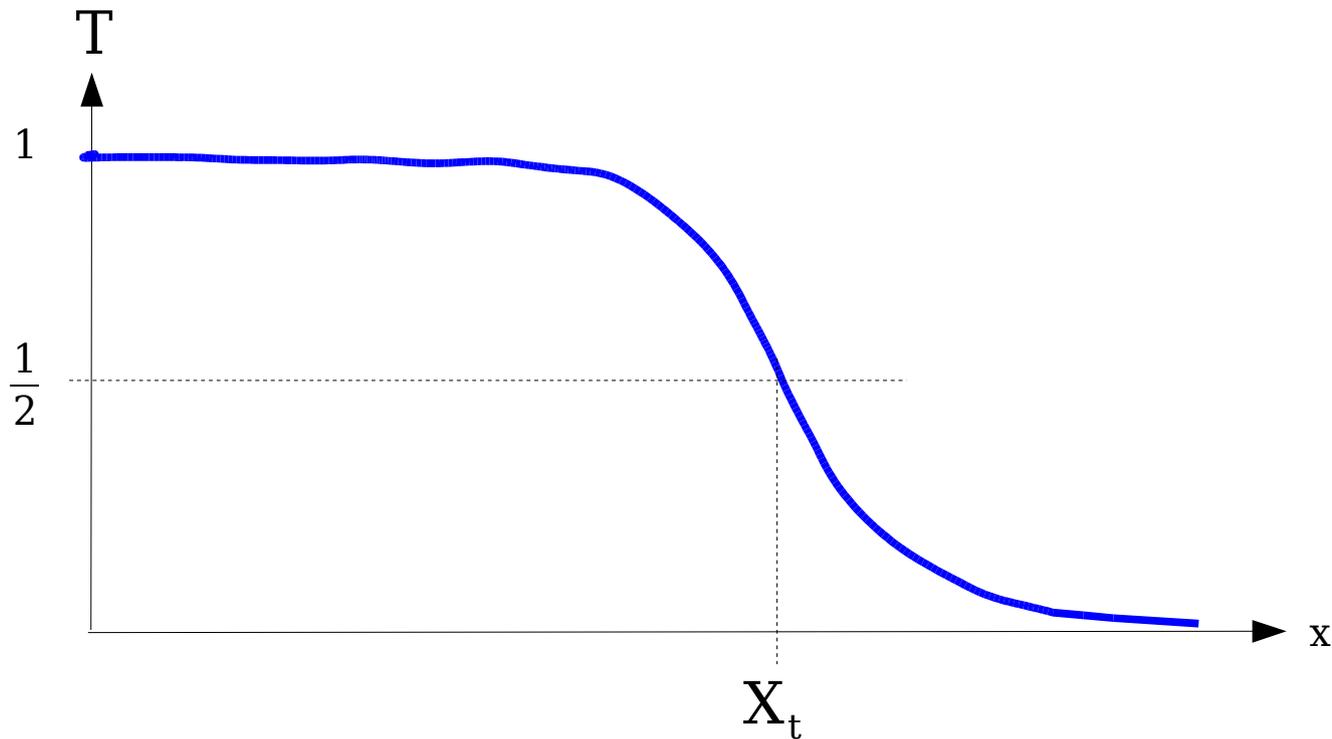
# *The infinite particle number limit*

$$\partial_t T = \partial_x^2 T + T - T^2 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{N} T(1-T)} v$$



# *The infinite particle number limit*

$$\partial_t T = \partial_x^2 T + T - T^2 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{N} T(1-T)} v$$



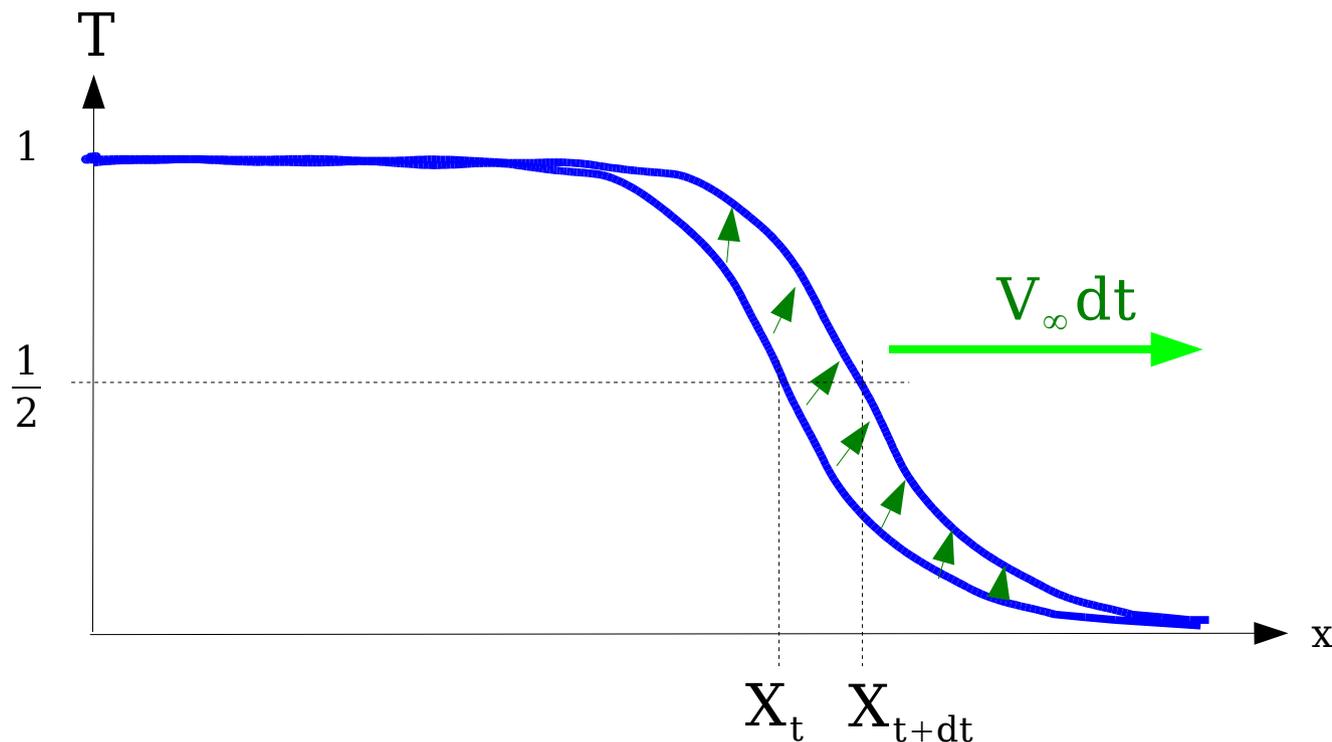
# The infinite particle number limit

$$\partial_t T = \partial_x^2 T + T - T^2 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{N}} T(1-T) v$$

The large time asymptotics are exact traveling waves.

Mathematical result by Bramson (1984)

The evolution of  $T$  is driven by the (linear) branching diffusion part.  
The nonlinearity only tames the growth when  $T \sim 1$



# The infinite particle number limit

$$\partial_t T = \underbrace{\partial_x^2 T + T(-\partial_x)T}_{\chi(y) = y^2 + 1} - T^2 + \sqrt{\frac{2}{N} T(1-T)} v$$

$\chi(y) = y^2 + 1$  characteristic function of the diffusion kernel

Look for solutions of the form  $T_y = \exp(-y(x - v(y)t))$

Solution:

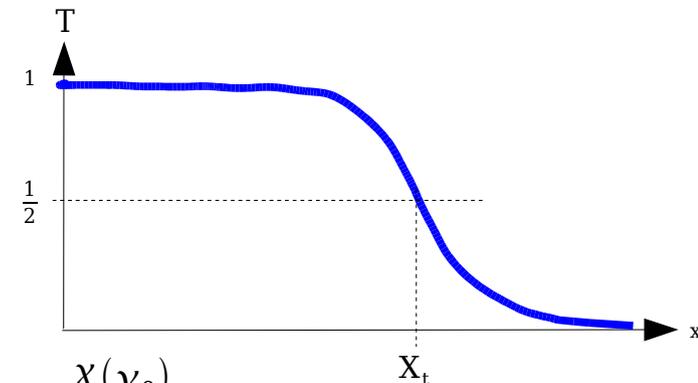
$$v(y) = \frac{\chi(y)}{y}$$

$v(y) = y + \frac{1}{y}$  in the F-KPP case

**General solution:** arbitrary superposition of different wave numbers

$$T = \int dy f(y) T_y = \int dy f(y) \exp(-y(x - v(y)t))$$

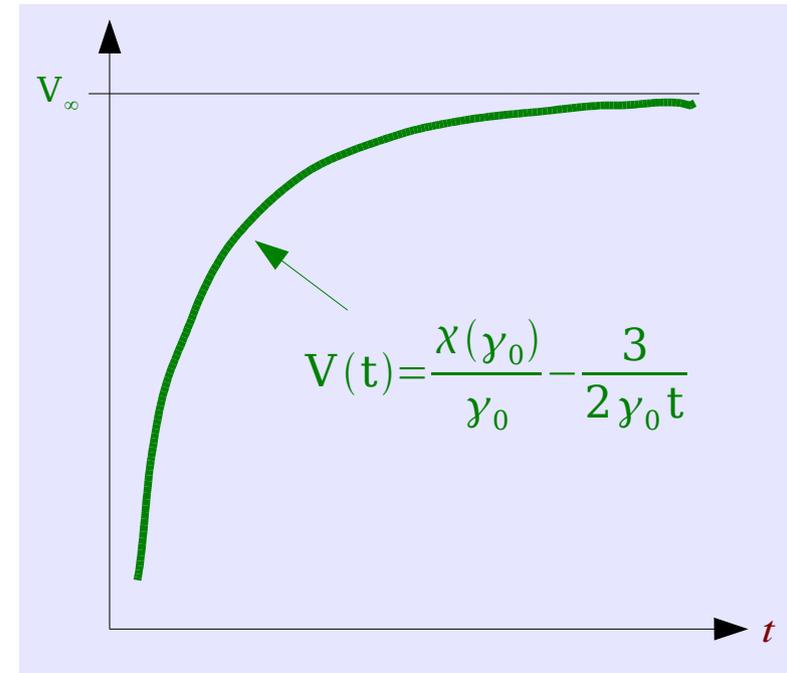
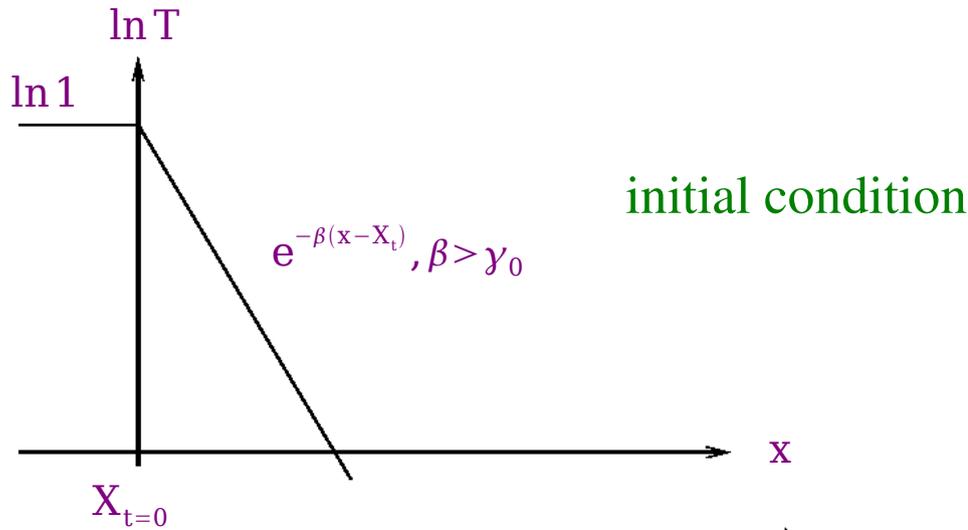
**Large times** (saddle point *at constant* T), select the wave that travels with **minimum** velocity:



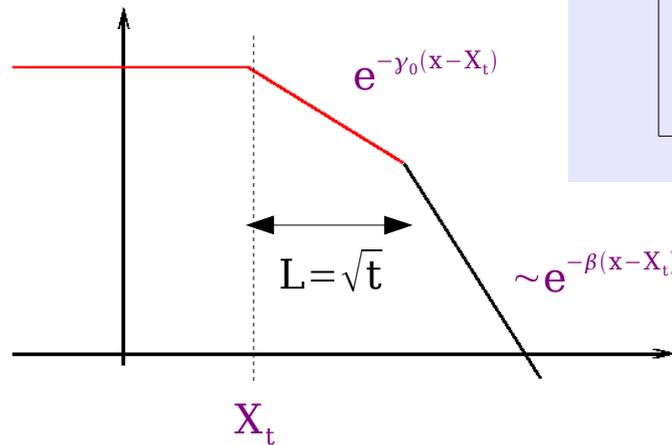
$$v'(y_0) = 0 \Rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} V_\infty = \frac{dX_t}{dt} = v(y_0) = \frac{\chi(y_0)}{y_0} \\ T(x, t) \sim e^{-y_0(x - X_t)} \end{array} \right.$$

$y_0 = 1, V_\infty = 2$  in the F-KPP case

# Transition to the asymptotics

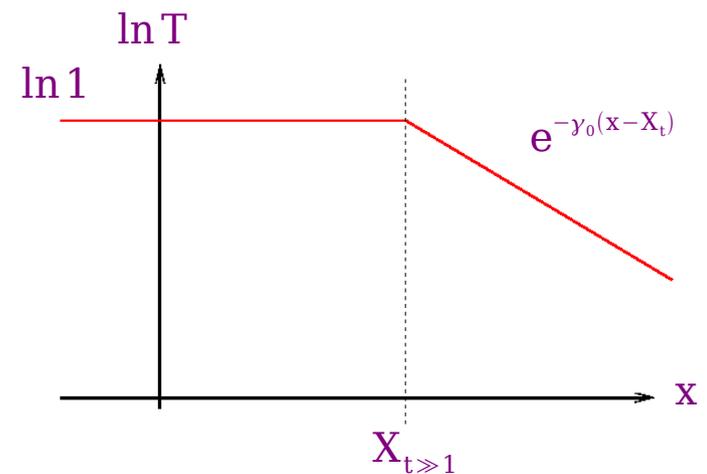


transients:

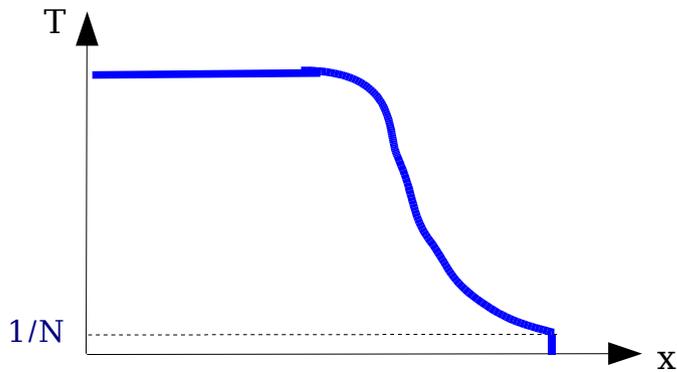


traveling wave, asymptotic velocity:

$$V_\infty = \frac{\chi(\gamma_0)}{\gamma_0}$$



# Accounting for discreteness



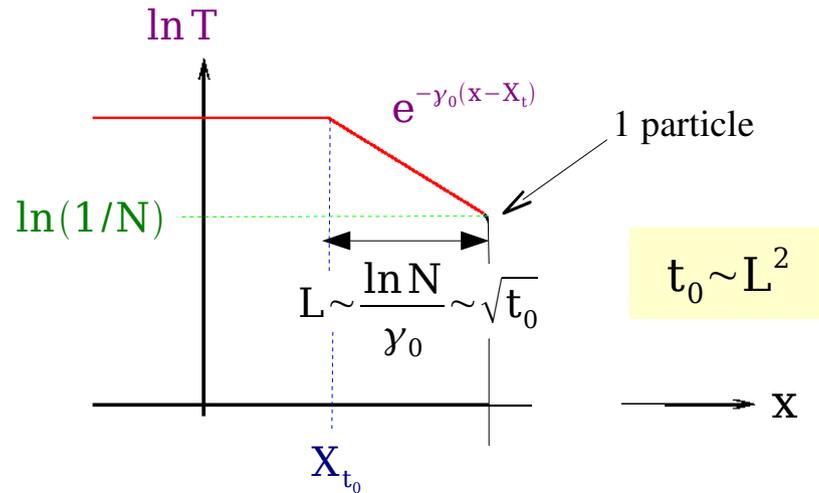
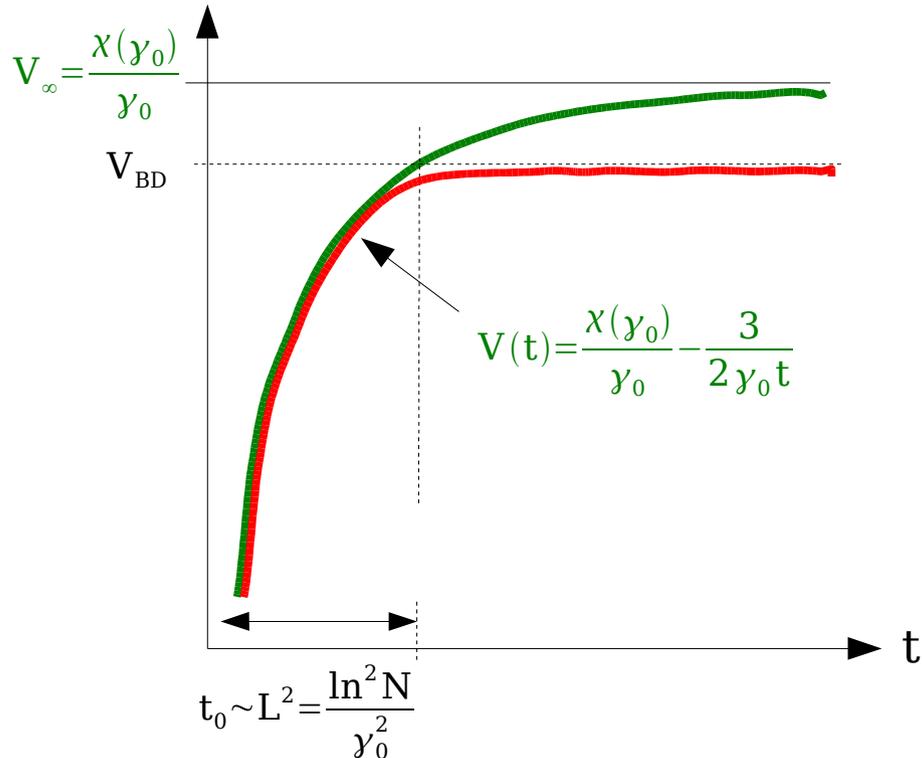
**Observation:**  $T$  is either 0 or larger than  $1/N$

**Recipe:** Whenever there is more than 1 particle on a site apply the mean field evolution

Brunet, Derrida (1997)

Infinite  $N$  equation + cut-off  
(still deterministic)

$$\partial_t T = (\partial_x^2 T + T - T^2) \Theta(T - 1/N)$$



$$V_{BD} = \frac{x(\gamma_0)}{\gamma_0} - \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_0 x''(\gamma_0)}{2 \ln^2 N}$$

Velocity of a front of size  $L = \frac{\ln N}{\gamma_0}$

# Summary of the mean field approach

The FKPP equation  $\partial_t T = \partial_x^2 T + T - T^2$

admits asymptotic traveling wave solutions, of shape  $e^{-\gamma_0(x-X_t)}$

and velocity  $V_\infty = \frac{dX_t}{dt} = \frac{\chi(\gamma_0)}{\gamma_0}$  where  $\chi(\gamma) = \gamma^2 + 1$  and  $\gamma_0$  minimizes  $v(\gamma) = \frac{\chi(\gamma)}{\gamma}$   
in the F-KPP case

Gribov, Levin, Ryskin (1980)

The traveling wave builds up diffusively from a given initial condition

and its velocity during that phase reads  $V(t) = \frac{\chi(\gamma_0)}{\gamma_0} - \frac{3}{2\gamma_0 t}$

Bramson (1984)

Mueller, Triantafyllopoulos (2002)

The FKPP equation may be modified to take into account the fact that in real particle models, occupation numbers are discrete,  $0, 1, 2, \dots$  :  $\partial_t T = (\partial_x^2 T + T - T^2) \Theta(T - 1/N)$

The front reaches its asymptotic shape of width  $L = \frac{\ln N}{\gamma_0}$

after a time  $L^2$  and the corresponding velocity is  $V_{BD} = \frac{\chi(\gamma_0)}{\gamma_0} - \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_0 \chi''(\gamma_0)}{2 \ln^2 N}$

Brunet, Derrida (1997)

Mueller, Shoshi (2004)

**Confirmed to be the right average front velocity  
in numerical simulations of fully stochastic models!**

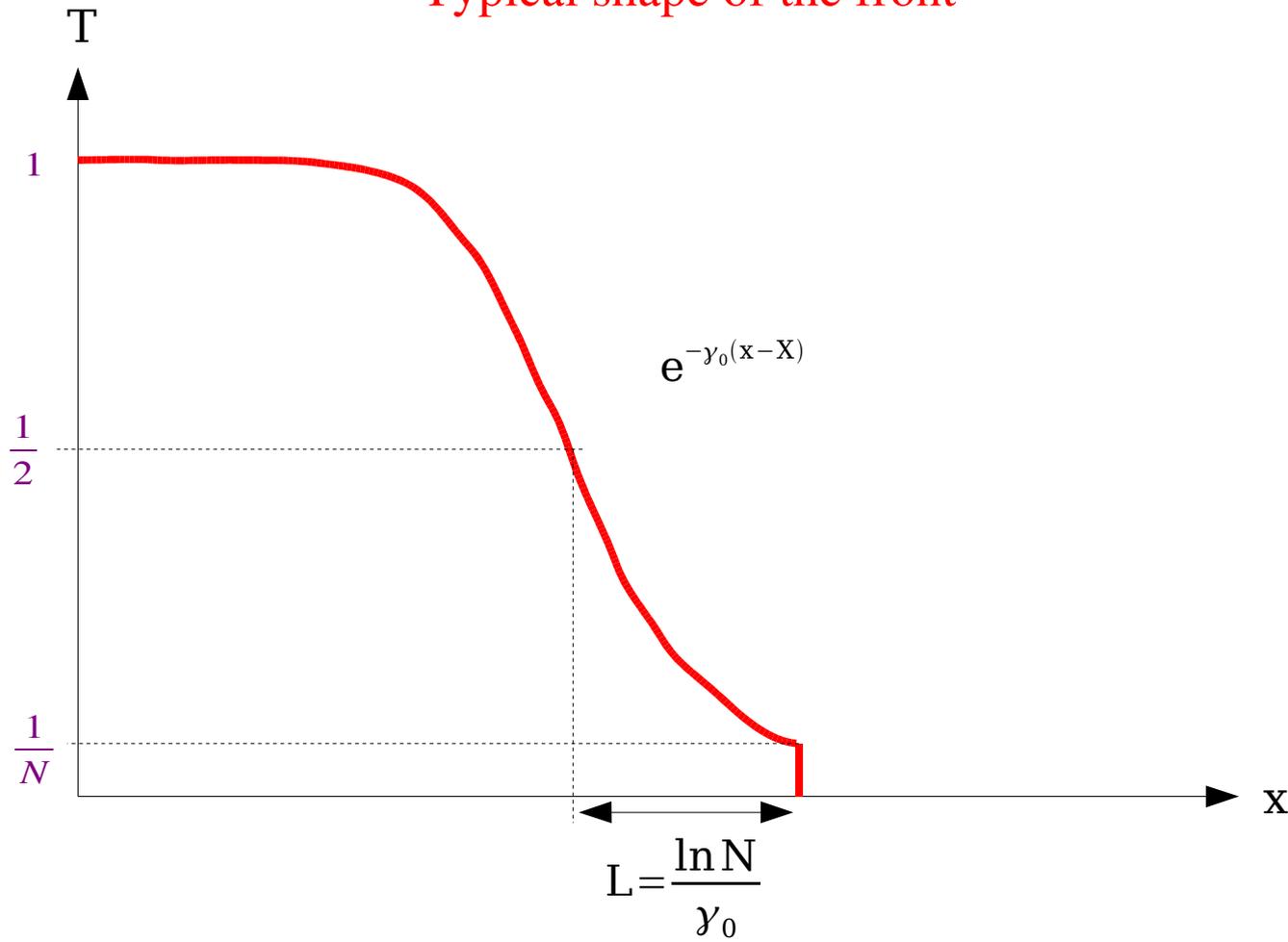
Brunet, Derrida; Moro;  
Pechenik, Levine; Panja...

# Accounting for fluctuations

Brunet, Derrida, Mueller, SM (2005)

**Assumption #1:** the evolution of the stochastic front is essentially deterministic

Typical shape of the front



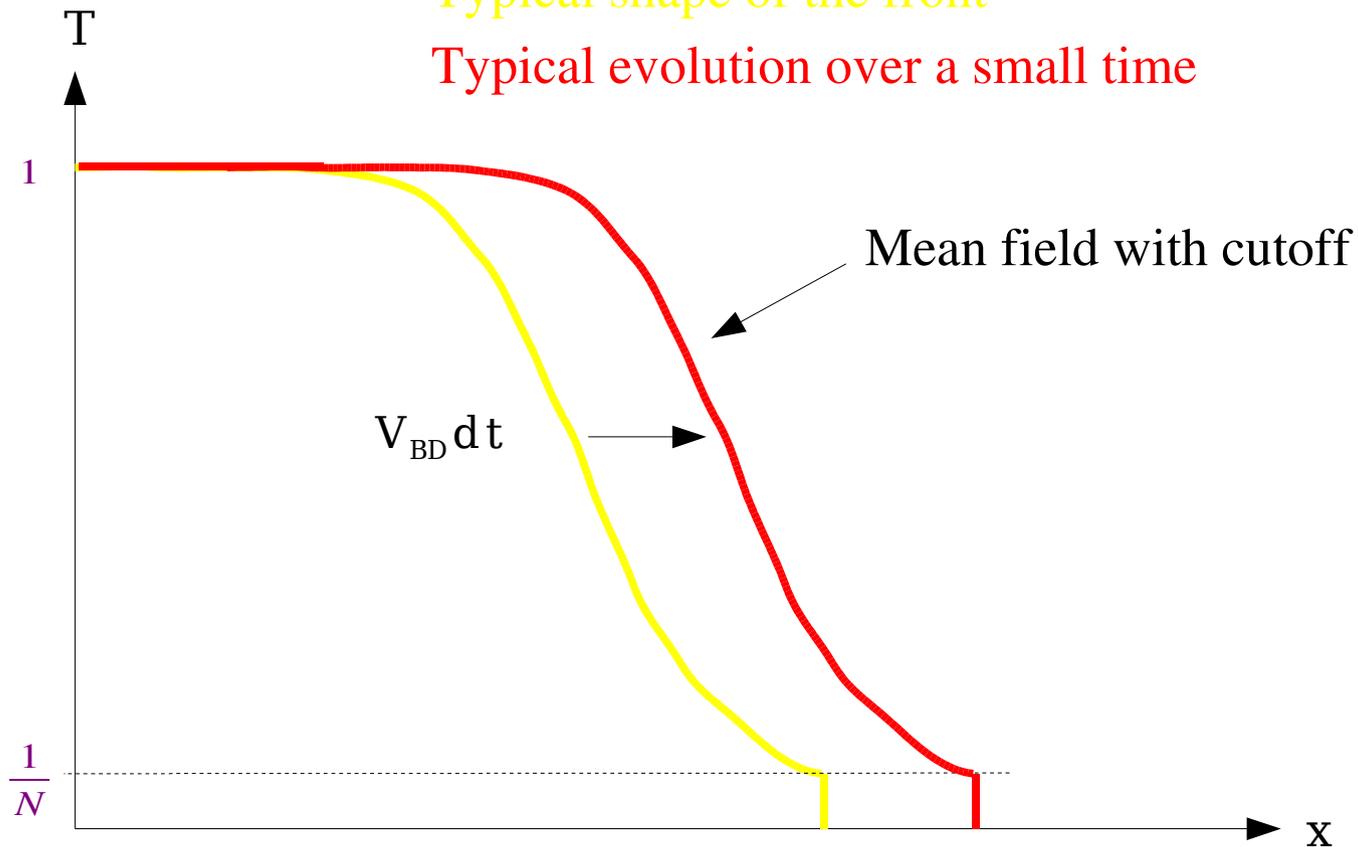
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Brunet, Derrida, Mueller, SM (2005)

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Typical shape of the front

Typical evolution over a small time

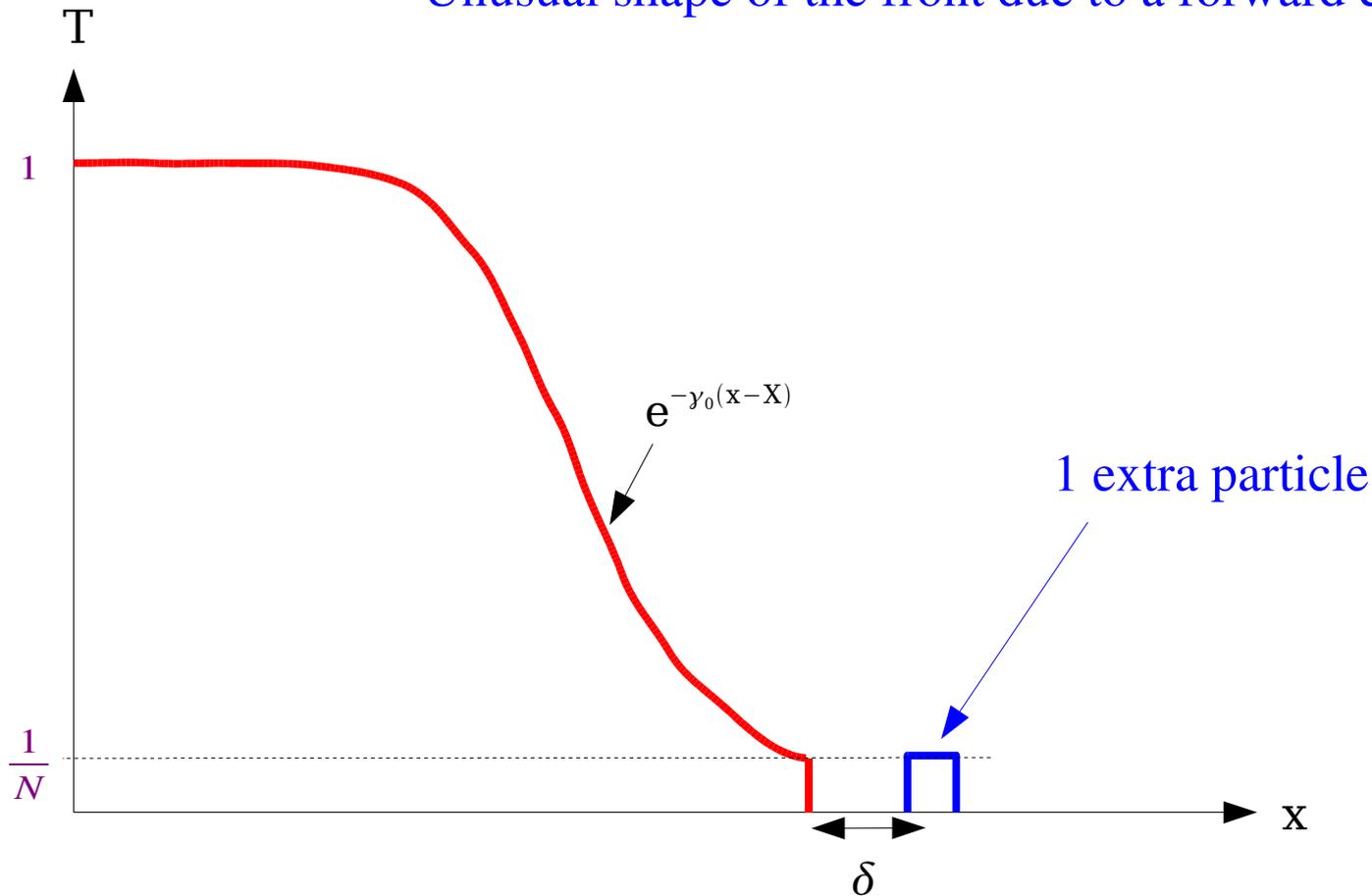


# Accounting for fluctuations

Brunet, Derrida, Mueller, SM (2005)

**Assumption #1:** the evolution of the stochastic front is essentially deterministic, *except for some occasional extra-particles in the tail*

Unusual shape of the front due to a forward extra particle



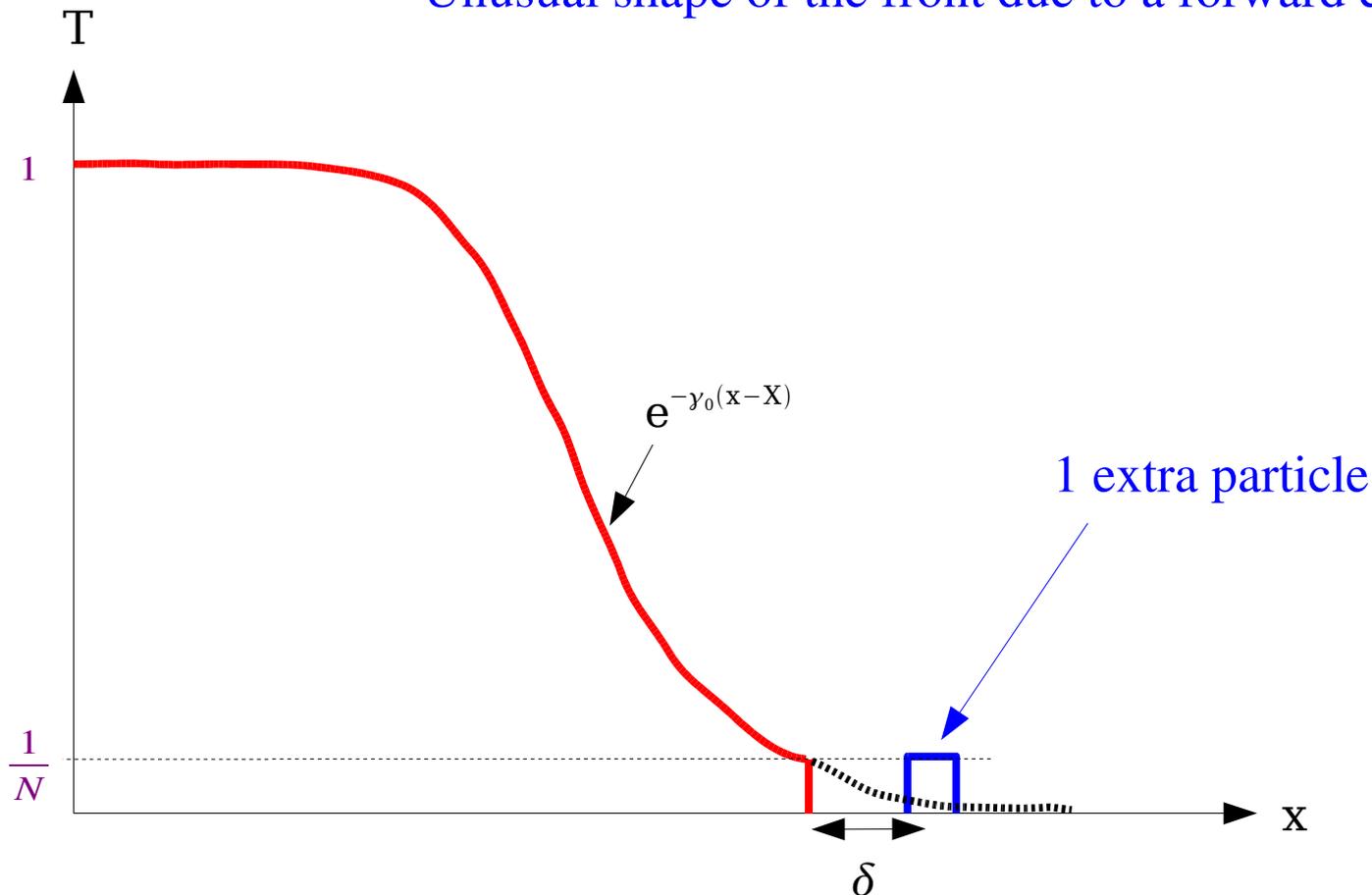
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**Assumption #1:** the evolution of the stochastic front is essentially deterministic, *except for some occasional extra-particles in the tail*

**Assumption #2:** the probability for such extra-particles is  $p(\delta)d\delta dt = C_1 e^{-\gamma_0 \delta} d\delta dt$

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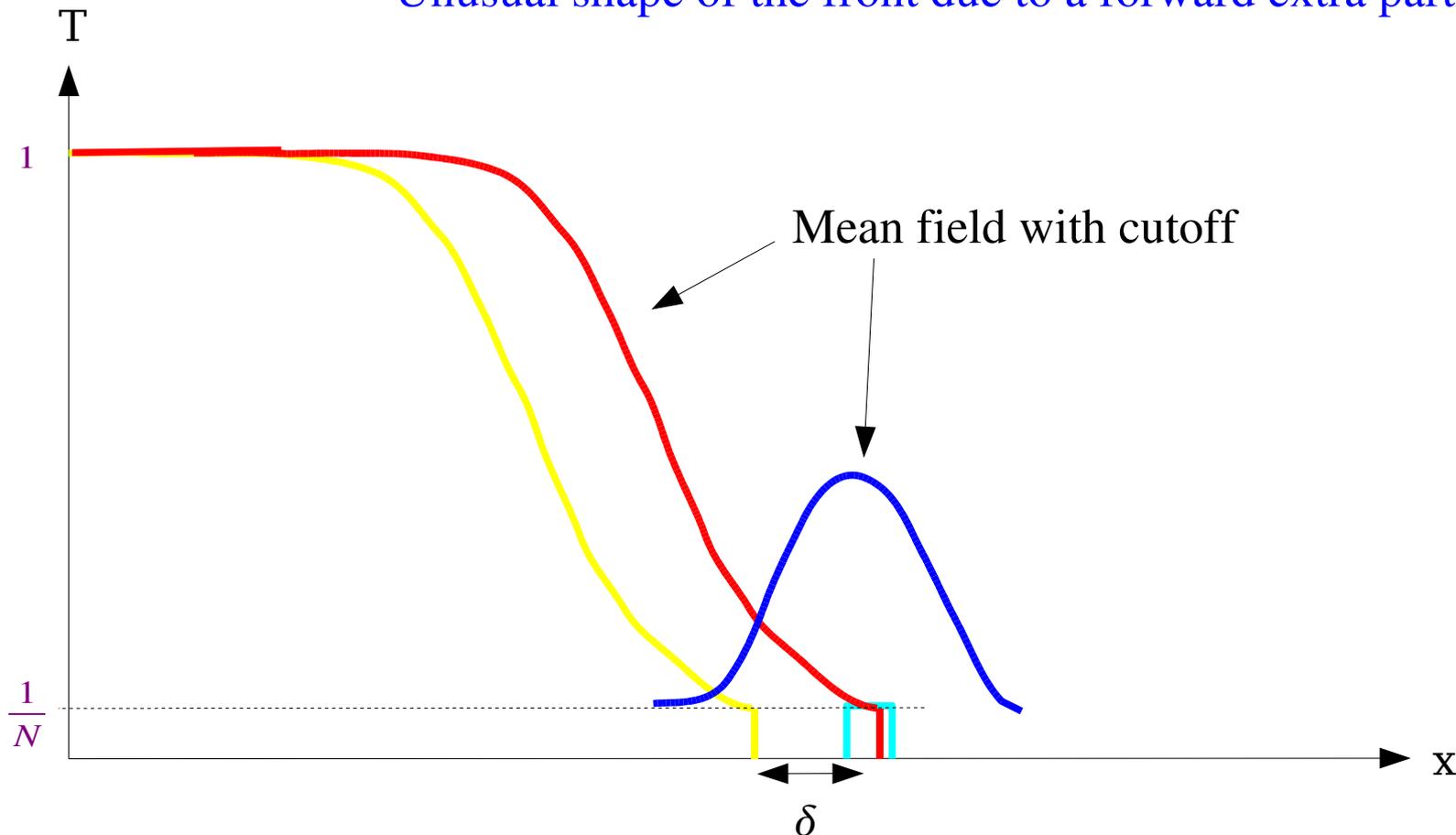
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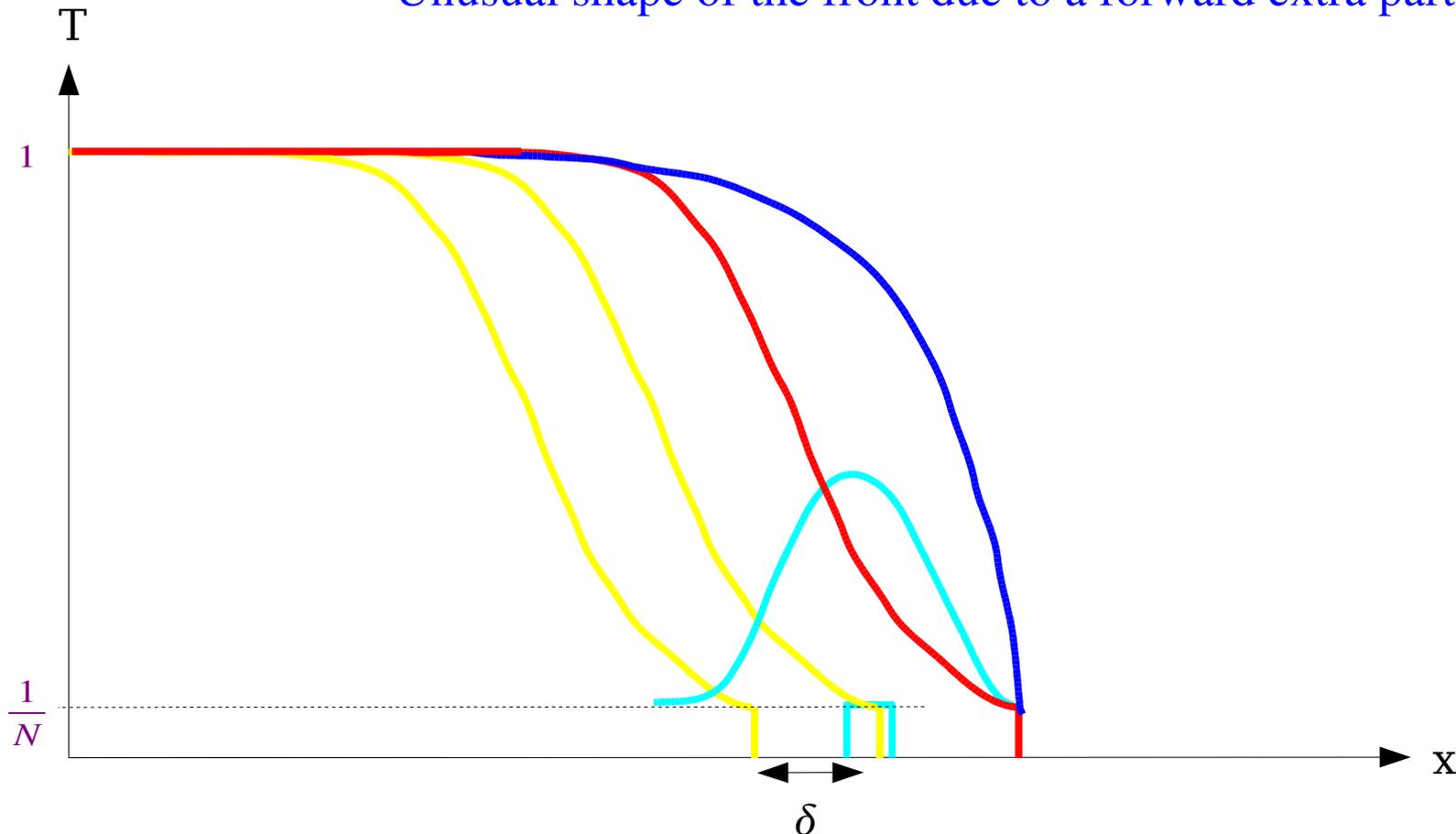
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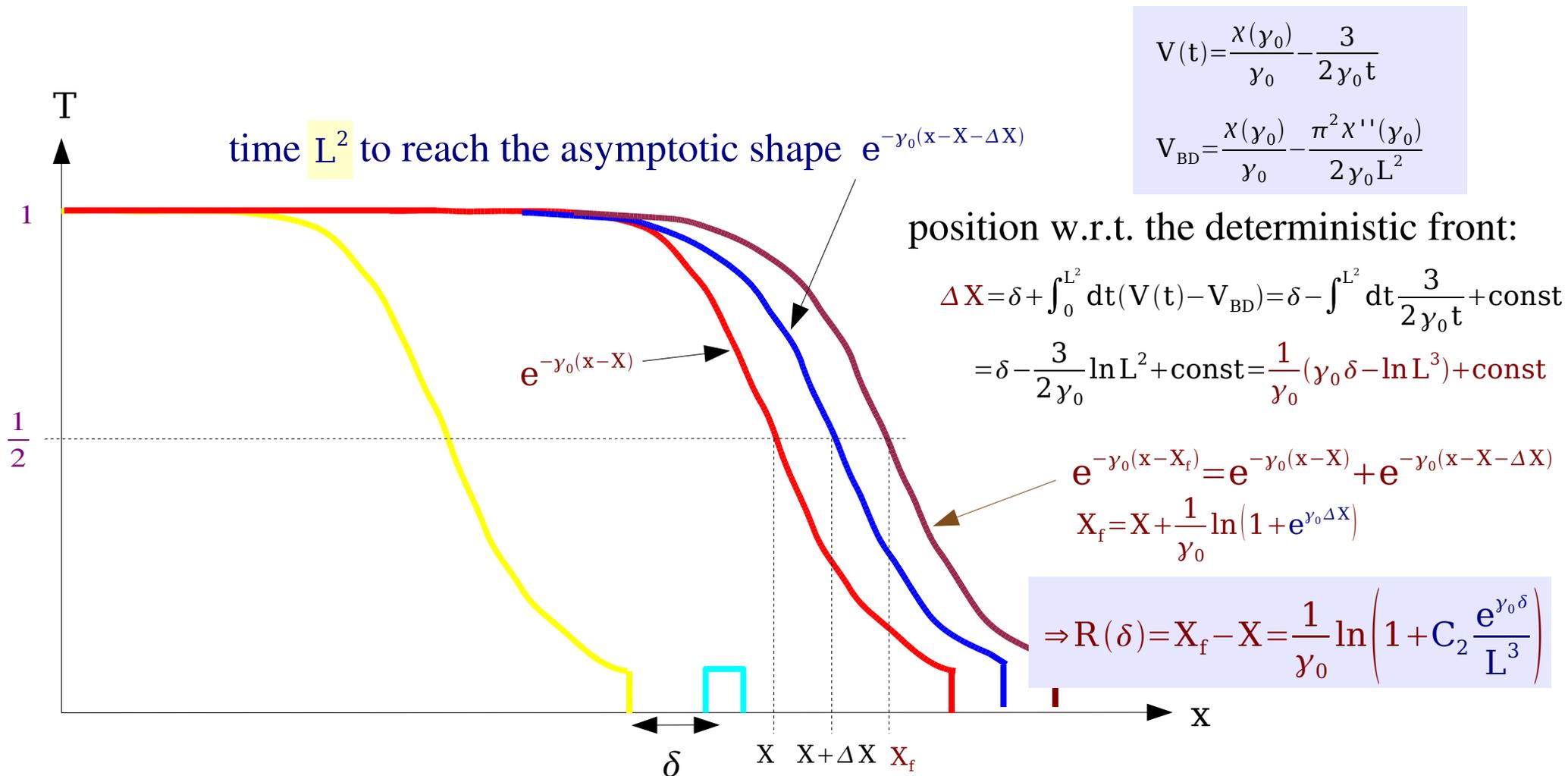


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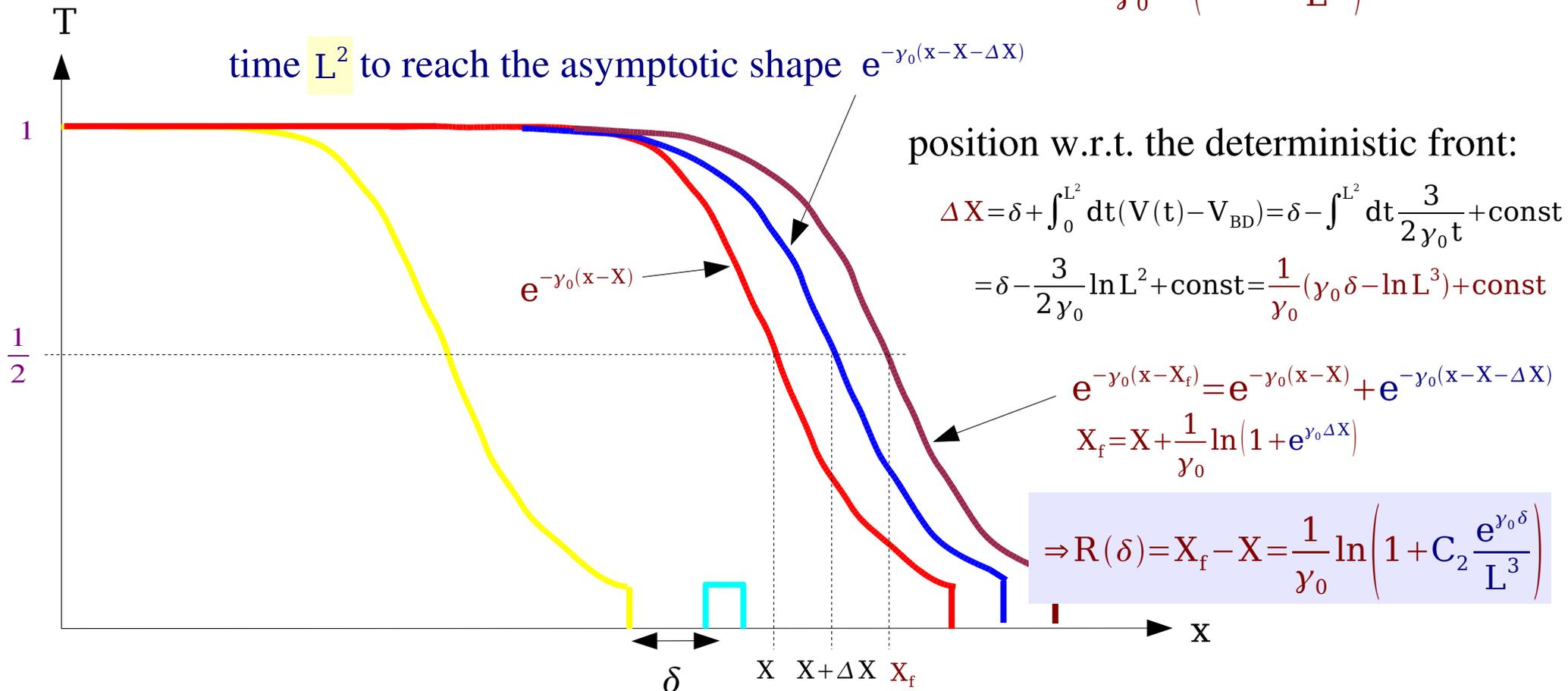
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**Assumption #3:** their effect on the front position is  $R(\delta) = X_f - X = \frac{1}{\gamma_0} \ln \left( 1 + C_2 \frac{e^{\gamma_0 \delta}}{L^3} \right)$



# Accounting for fluctuations

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**Stochastic rules for the effective evolution of the position of the front:**

$$X_{t+dt} = \begin{cases} X_t + V_{BD} dt, & \text{if no fluctuation occurs} \\ X_t + V_{BD} dt + R(\delta), & \text{with proba } p(\delta) d\delta dt \end{cases}$$

$$V - V_{BD} = \int d\delta p(\delta) R(\delta) = \frac{C_1 C_2}{\gamma_0} \frac{3 \ln L}{\gamma_0 L^3}$$

$$\frac{[\text{n-th cumulant}]}{t} = \int d\delta p(\delta) R^n(\delta) = \frac{C_1 C_2}{\gamma_0} \frac{n! \zeta(n)}{\gamma_0^n L^3}$$

$$L = \frac{\ln N}{\gamma_0}$$

# Summary of the effect of fluctuations

Brunet, Derrida, Mueller, SM (2005)

We proposed a phenomenological model for the propagation stochastic fronts, that we expect to be valid in the weak noise limit (for a large enough number of particles).

This model is summarized in the following assumptions:

**Assumption #1:** the evolution of the stochastic front is essentially deterministic, except for some occasional extra-particles in the tail

**Assumption #2:** the probability for such extra-particles is  $p(\delta) d\delta dt = C_1 e^{-\gamma_0 \delta} d\delta dt$

**Assumption #3:** their effect on the front position is  $R(\delta) = \frac{1}{\gamma_0} \ln \left( 1 + C_2 \frac{e^{\gamma_0 \delta}}{L^3} \right)$

(**Assumption #4:** needed to get the constant  $C_1 C_2$ )

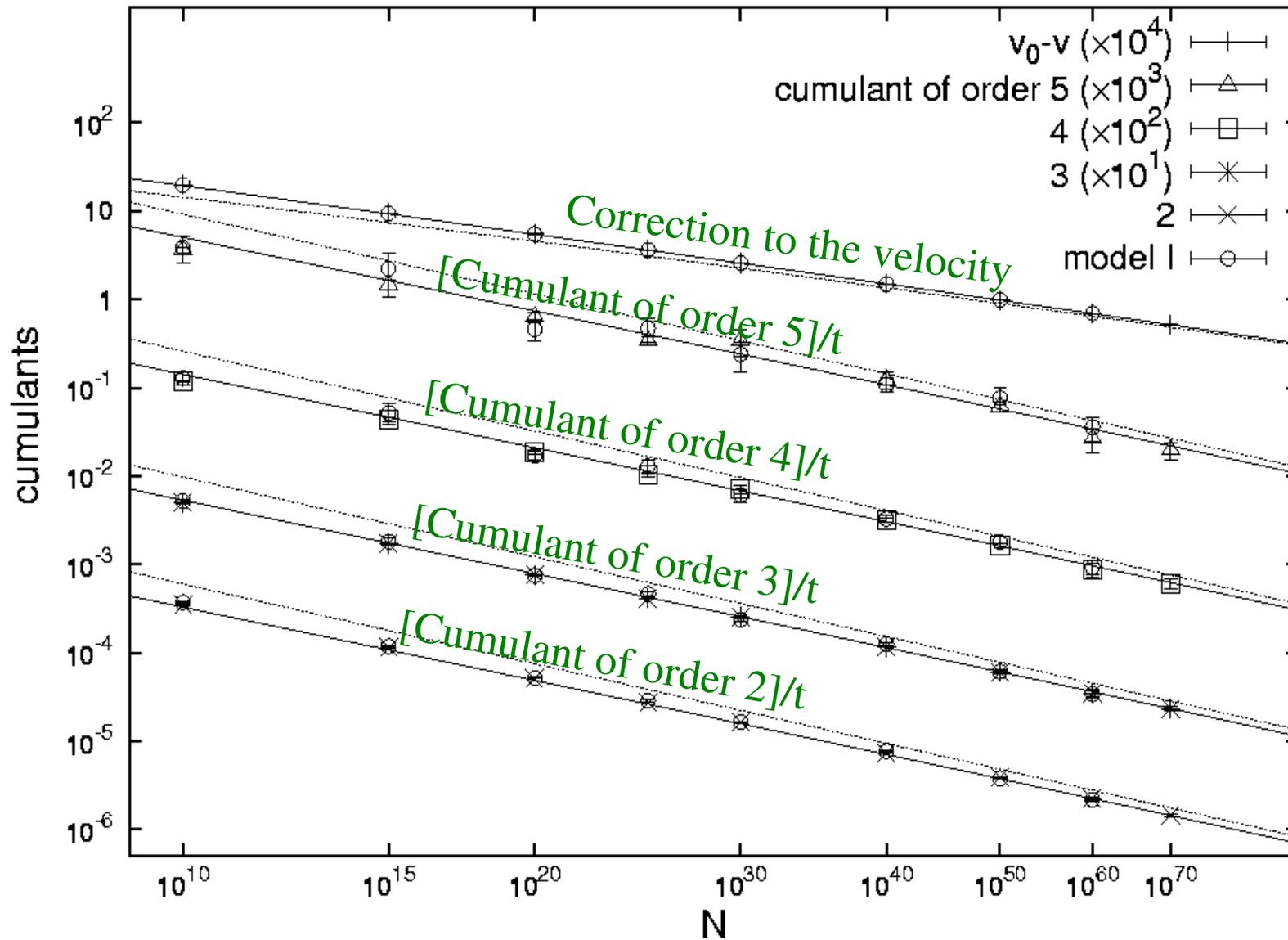
It leads to *quantitative* predictions for the position of the front:

$$V = \frac{\chi(\gamma_0)}{\gamma_0} - \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_0 \chi''(\gamma_0)}{2 \ln^2 N} + \pi^2 \gamma_0^2 \chi''(\gamma_0) \frac{3 \ln \ln N}{\gamma_0 \ln^3 N}$$

$$\frac{[\text{n-th cumulant}]}{t} = \pi^2 \gamma_0^2 \chi''(\gamma_0) \frac{n! \zeta(n)}{\gamma_0^n \ln^3 N}$$

$$\ln N \gg 1$$

# Numerical checks



Reaction-diffusion model, discrete in space and time

# Use the dictionary...

Position $x$		$\ln(k^2/k_0^2)$
Time $t$		$\bar{\alpha} Y$
Particle density $T$	$\longleftrightarrow$	Partonic amplitude $T$
Maximum/equilibrium number of particles $N$		$\frac{1}{\alpha_s^2}$
Position of the wave front $X$		Saturation scale $\ln(Q_s^2/k_0^2)$

...to get predictions for QCD!

Shape of the *partonic* amplitude:  $T \sim (r^2 Q_s^2(Y))^{y_0}$

Saturation scale:  $\frac{d}{d(\bar{\alpha} Y)} \langle \ln Q_s^2 \rangle = \frac{\chi(y_0)}{y_0} - \frac{\pi^2 y_0 \chi''(y_0)}{2 \ln^2(1/\alpha_s^2)} + \pi^2 y_0^2 \chi''(y_0) \frac{3 \ln \ln(1/\alpha_s^2)}{y_0 \ln^3(1/\alpha_s^2)}$

$$\langle \ln^n Q_s^2 \rangle_{\text{cumulant}} = \pi^2 y_0^2 \chi''(y_0) \frac{n! \zeta(n)}{y_0^n} \left[ \frac{\bar{\alpha} Y}{\ln^3(1/\alpha_s^2)} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow A \sim A \left( \frac{r^2 Q_s^2(Y)}{\sqrt{\frac{\bar{\alpha} Y}{\ln^3(1/\alpha_s^2)}}} \right)$$

## Validity

A priori,  $Y \gg 1, \ln(1/\alpha_s^2) \gg 1$

In practice: analytical results reliable for  $\alpha_s \ll 10^{-5}$

But we believe the picture itself for  $\alpha_s < 0.1$

# Summary

Instead of solving the full QCD evolution equations, we have identified, from the physics, **the universality class of high energy QCD as the one of reaction-diffusion processes.**

This lead us to study the shape and weight of **individual Fock states**, and a stochastic traveling wave equation of the F-KPP type:

$$\partial_{\bar{\alpha}Y} T = \chi(-\partial_{\ln k^2}) T - T^2 + \alpha_s \sqrt{T} \nu$$

The properties of these QCD traveling waves (shape and position, i.e. form of the amplitude and rapidity dependence of the saturation scale) may be obtained directly **by solving simpler equations in the universality class of the sF-KPP equation.**

# Outlook

## Understand the limits of the statistical approach

- how well does it reproduce QCD? What is beyond?
- can one derive more universal analytical results?
- can one get close to phenomenology from numerics?
- ...

"Statistical" approach

Replica approach



Field-theoretical approach

Itakura, in progress



$$V = \frac{\chi(\gamma_0)}{\gamma_0} - \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_0 \chi''(\gamma_0)}{2 \ln^2 N} + \pi^2 \gamma_0^2 \chi''(\gamma_0) \frac{3 \ln \ln N}{\gamma_0 \ln^3 N}$$
$$\frac{[n\text{-th cumulant}]}{t} = \pi^2 \gamma_0^2 \chi''(\gamma_0) \frac{n! \zeta(n)}{\gamma_0^n \ln^3 N}$$