

**MaNEP**  
SWITZERLAND

# Dynamics in strongly correlated quantum gases

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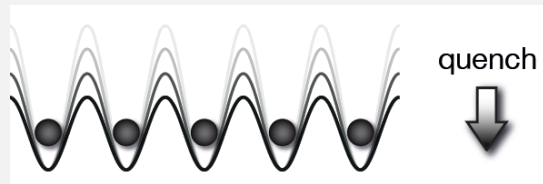
**FNSNF**

FONDS NATIONAL SUISSE  
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS  
FONDO NAZIONALE SVIZZERO  
SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

# Fundamental questions in interacting systems

## ➤ *spreading of correlations*

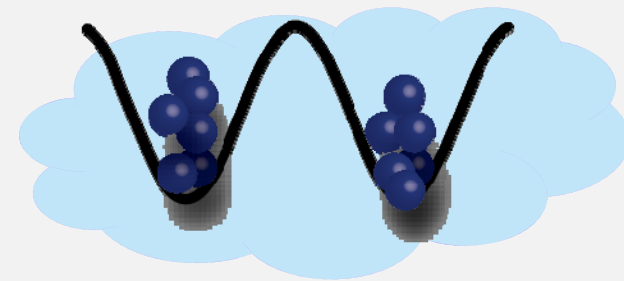
coherent dynamics in a Mott-insulator



- preparation of complex states, e.g. BEC formation
- limit of 'speed of information'

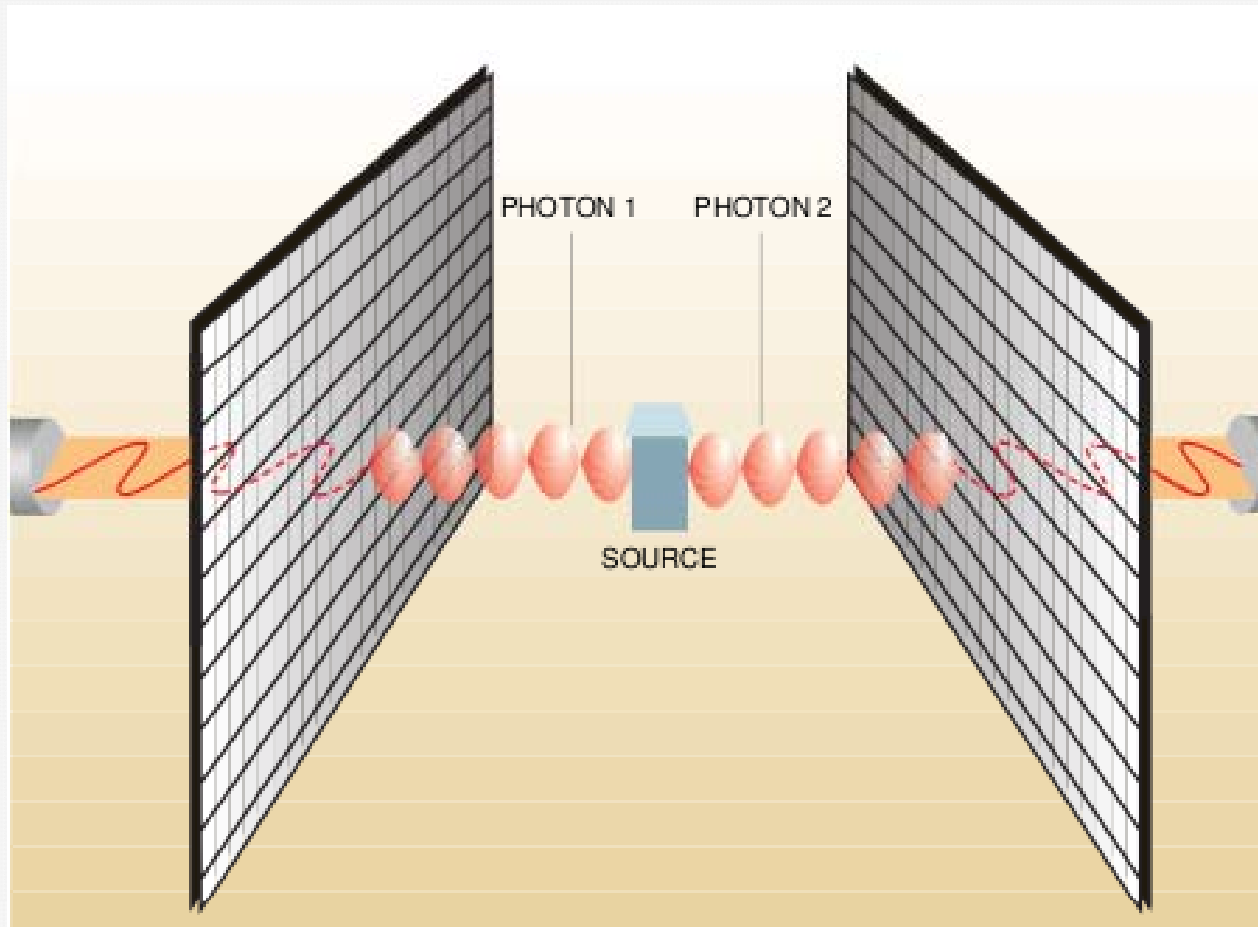
## ➤ **destruction of coherence by dissipation:**

interplay between dissipation and interaction



- heating in optical lattices
- interaction can fight dissipation?
- can dissipation be used to prepare complex quantum states?

# Relativistic quantum mechanics



De Lahaye, Science (1998)

relativistic: correlation propagation maximally with speed of light

non-relativistic: no such maximal velocity build in

# Lieb and Robinson Bound

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## The Finite Group Velocity of Quantum Spin Systems

Elliott H. Lieb\*

Dept. of Mathematics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Derek W. Robinson\*\*

Dept. of Physics, Univ. Aix-Marseille II, Marseille-Luminy, France

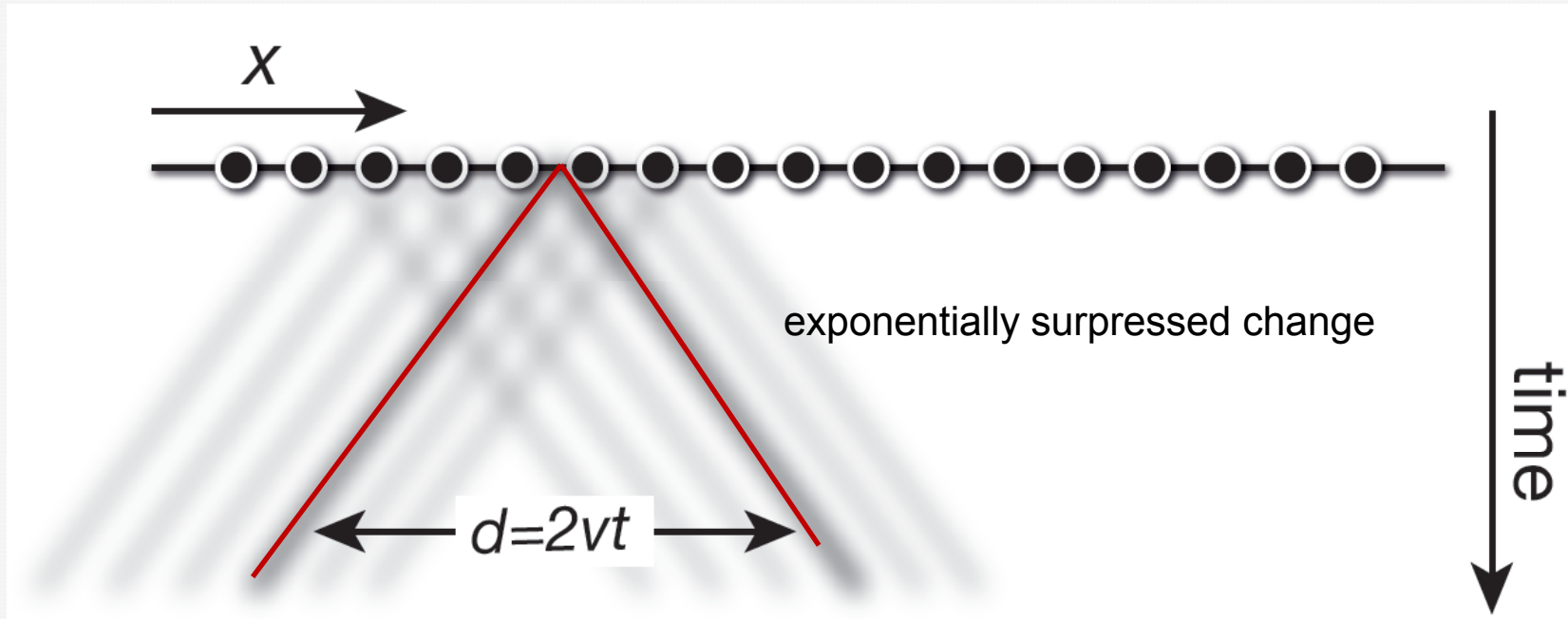
Received May 15, 1972

- **finite group velocity for spreading of correlations**  
outside of a 'light-cone' only exponentially small changes

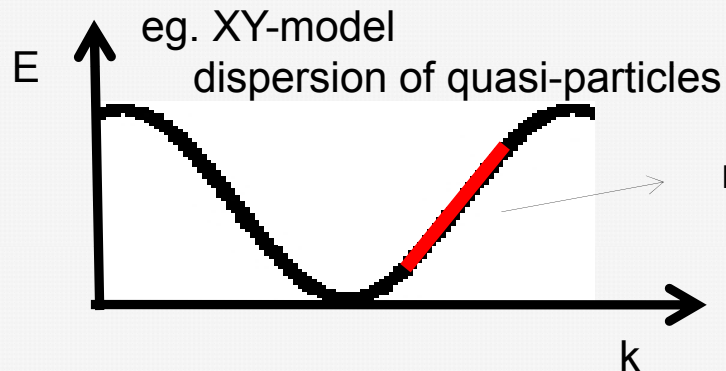
not yet proven in generality for bosonic unbounded systems  
counter example has been constructed

# Quasi-particle interpretation

pairs of entangled quasi-particles carry correlations (CFT)



what is the velocity of quasi-particles?



maximal velocity

$$v(k) = 2 \frac{d}{dk} \omega(k),$$

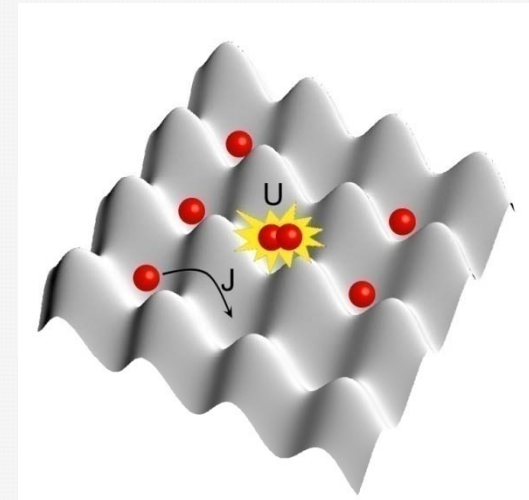
*Calabrese and Cardy (2006)*

*& other specific models*

*(Igloi, Rieger, Laeuchli, Cazalilla, Muramatsu, Manmana, Mathey, Schollwöck, Eisert,...)*

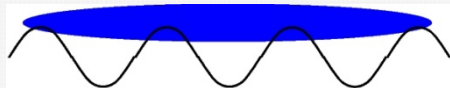
# How fast can correlations spread in an optical lattice?

$$H = \underbrace{-J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} (b_i^\dagger b_j + h.c.)}_{\text{kinetic energy}} + \underbrace{U / 2 \sum_j n_j (n_j - 1)}_{\text{interaction energy}}$$

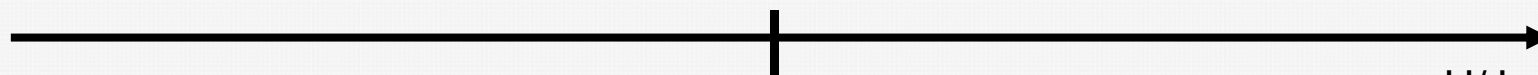
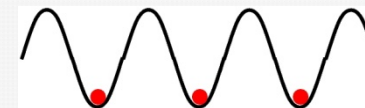


Jaksch et al. (1998)

Superfluid Phase



Mott-Insulating Phase



sound velocity

insulating behaviour

$U/J$

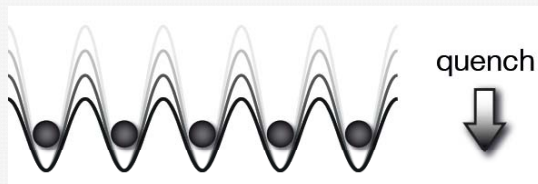
Fisher et al. (1989)

Very different 'characteristic' velocities

# How do correlations spread?

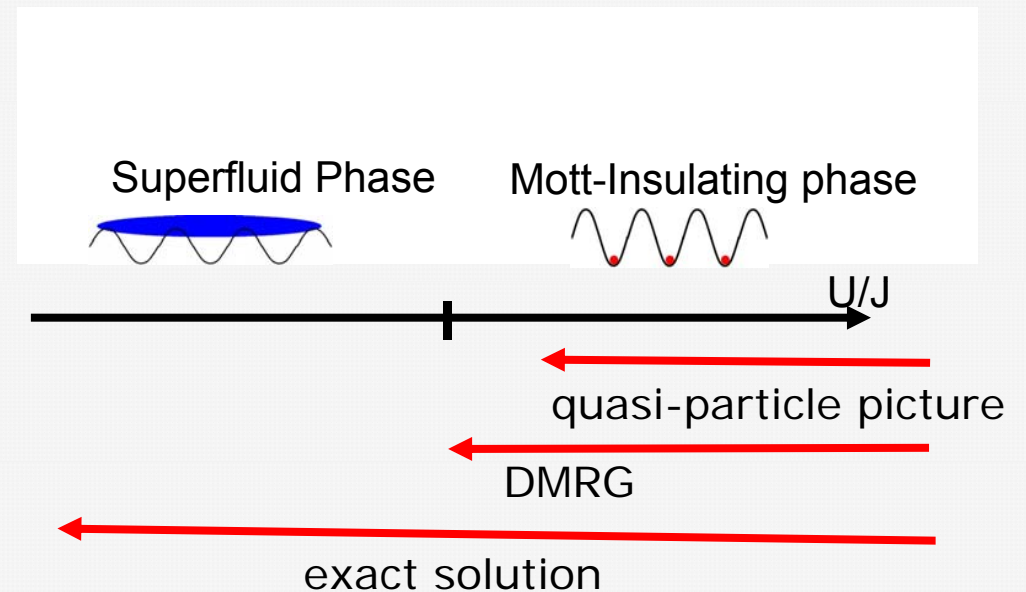
## Experiments:

sudden decrease or increase of the optical lattice height



## Theory:

decrease or increase of ratio  $U/J$



M. Cheneau (MPQ Munich), M. Endres,  
T. Fukuhara, C. Weitenberg,  
P. Schauß, C. Gross,  
I. Bloch (MPQ Munich, LMU Munich)  
S. Kuhr (Strathclyde, Glasgow)

P. Barmettler, D. Poletti, C. Kollath

M. Cheneau et al., Nature (2012)

P. Barmettler et al, PRA (2012)

# Strongly interacting bosons

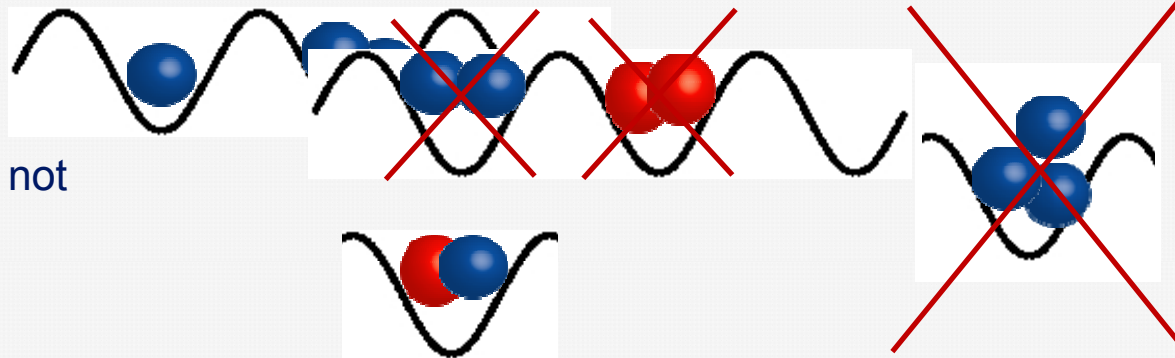
- mapping onto three local states
- introduce **fermionic** operators for holes and doubly occupied sites

-> quadratic Hamiltonian  
(solve by Bogolyubov transformation)

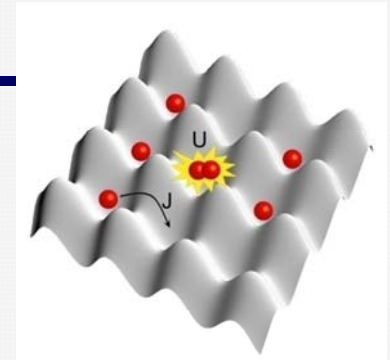
fermionic nature suppresses unphysical states (important!)

(~~made~~ enforced in bosonic approach)

but not



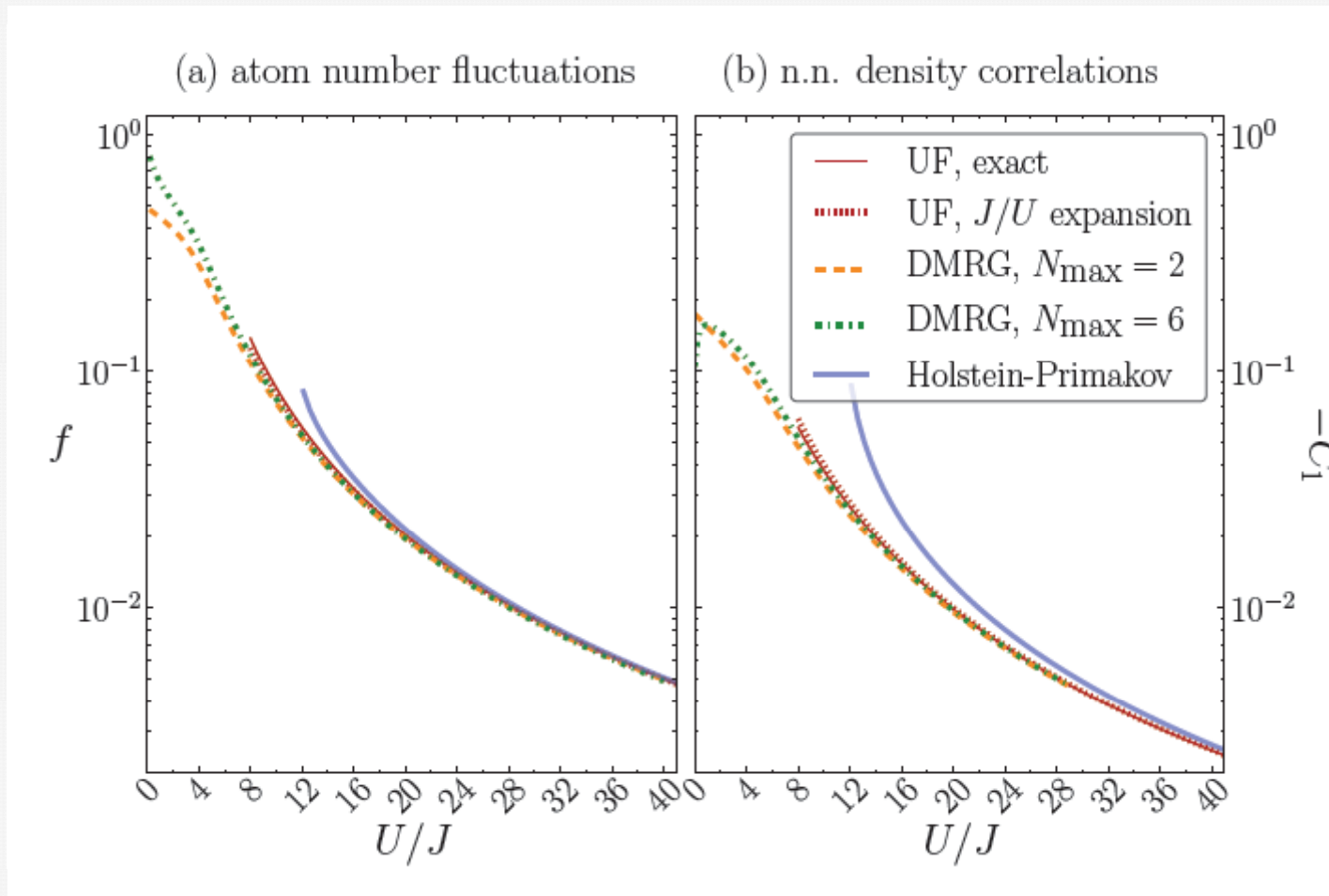
only important for low final interaction strength



P. Barmettler et al. in preparation  
Batista and Ortiz PRL 2001 for spin1 -chains  
**bosonic** approach see E. Altman and Auerbach and  
S. Huber et al.



# Equilibrium local observables



$$C_d(t) \propto \langle n_j n_{j+d} \rangle - \langle n_j \rangle \langle n_{j+d} \rangle$$

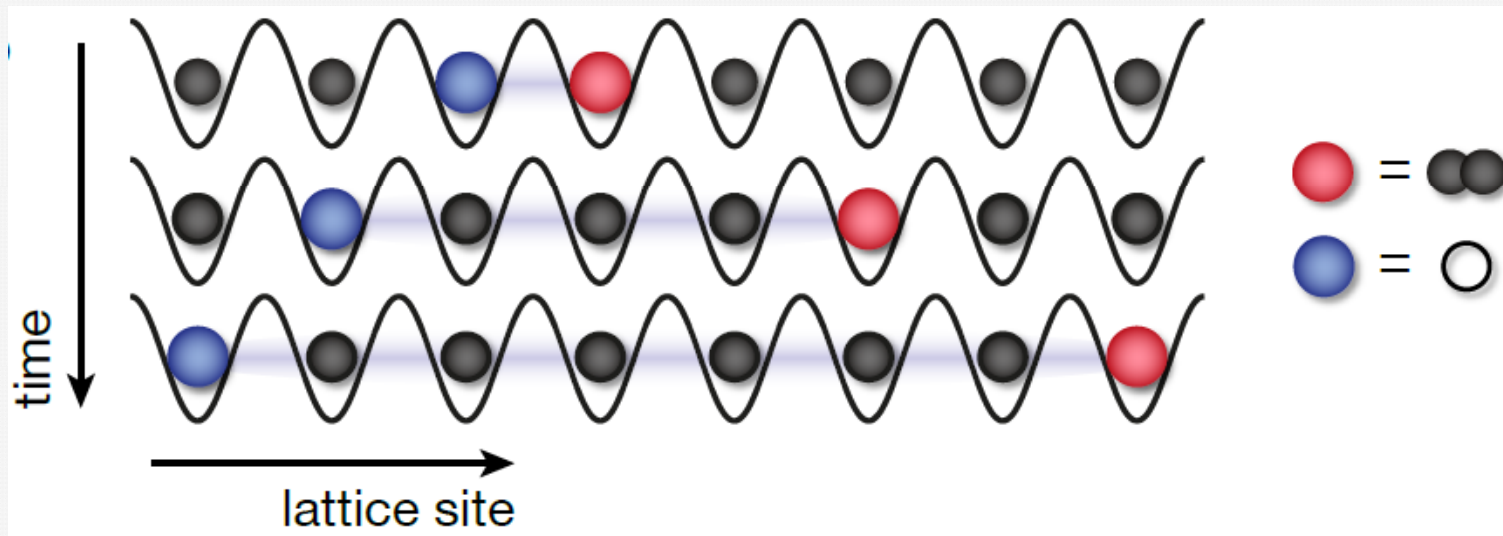
short range quantities well described

both by Fermionic quasi-particles and perturbation theory in  $J/U$

# Dynamic of Fermionic quasi-particles

**large interaction limit:**

symmetric coherent superposition (no change of density!)

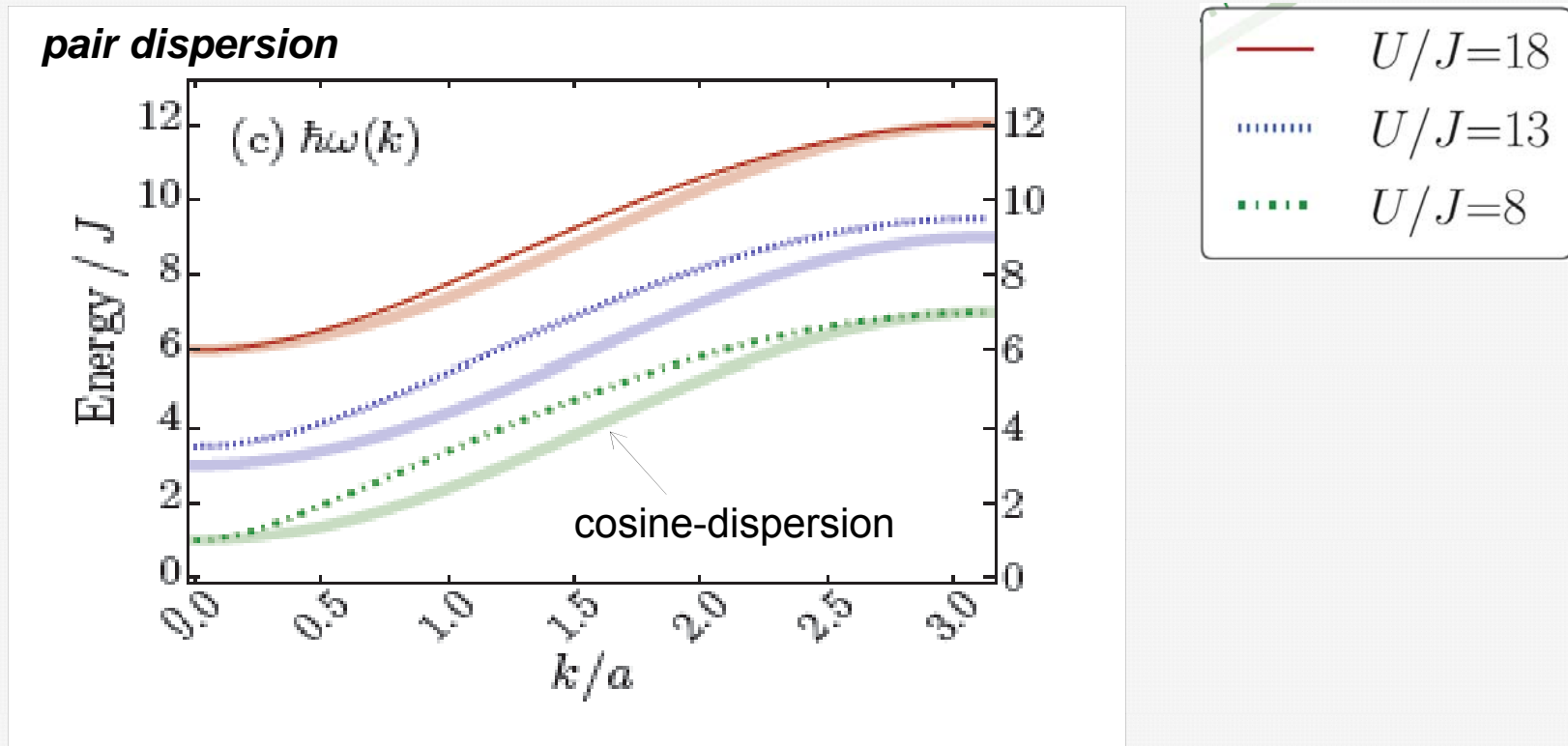


first order perturbation in  $J/U$  (more complicated expression for quasiparticles):

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = |\bar{n}\rangle + i\frac{2\sqrt{2}J}{U} \sum_k \sin(k) c_{k,+}^\dagger c_{-k,-}^\dagger |\bar{n}\rangle - i\frac{2\sqrt{2}J}{U} \sum_k \sin(k) e^{i6J \cos(k)t/\hbar} c_{k,+}^\dagger c_{-k,-}^\dagger |\bar{n}\rangle.$$

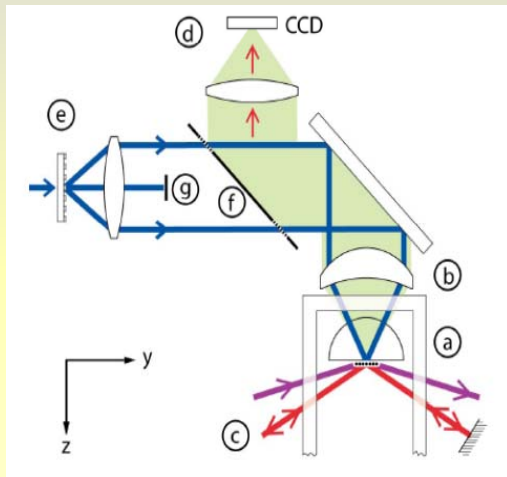
$$= \sum_{j,d} \frac{(-i)^d \hbar d}{3Jt} \mathcal{J}_d(6Jt/\hbar) c_{j,+}^\dagger c_{j+d,-}^\dagger |\bar{n}\rangle$$

# Dispersion of quasi-particles

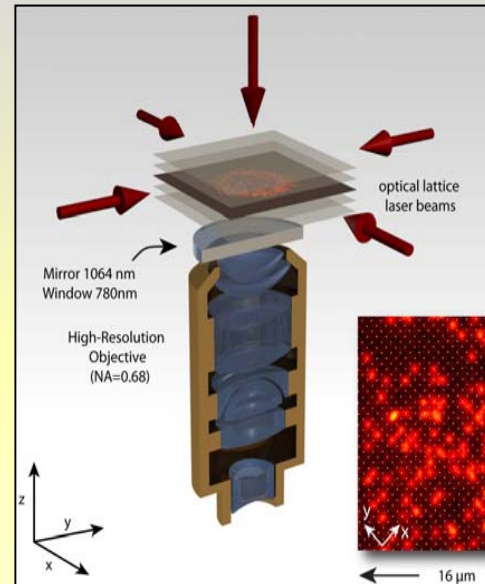


# Real space imaging

## Local fluorescence imaging



Bakr et al. 2009



Sherson et al. Nature 2010

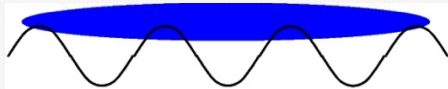
parity distribution in real space

parity correlations

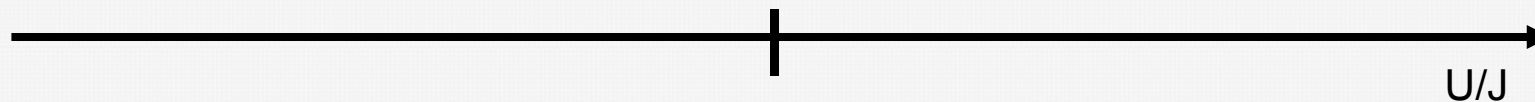
$$C_d(t) \propto \langle n_j^{even} n_{j+d}^{even} \rangle - \langle n_j^{even} \rangle \langle n_{j+d}^{even} \rangle$$

# Parity distribution: Superfluid to Mott-insulator

Superfluid Phase



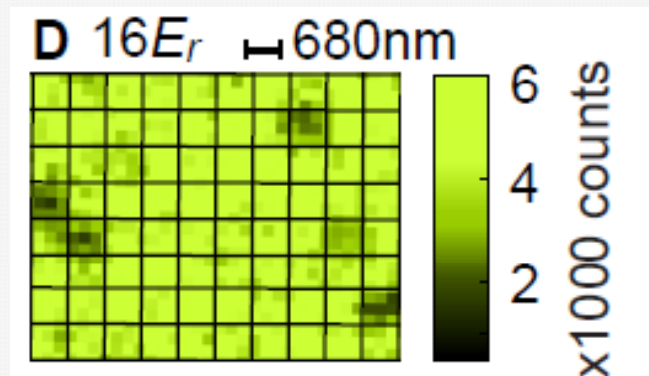
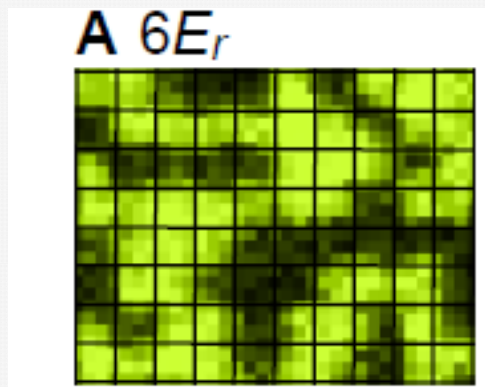
Mott-Insulating Phase



$U/J$

Fisher et al. (1989)

parity distribution in real space  
fluorescence imaging:

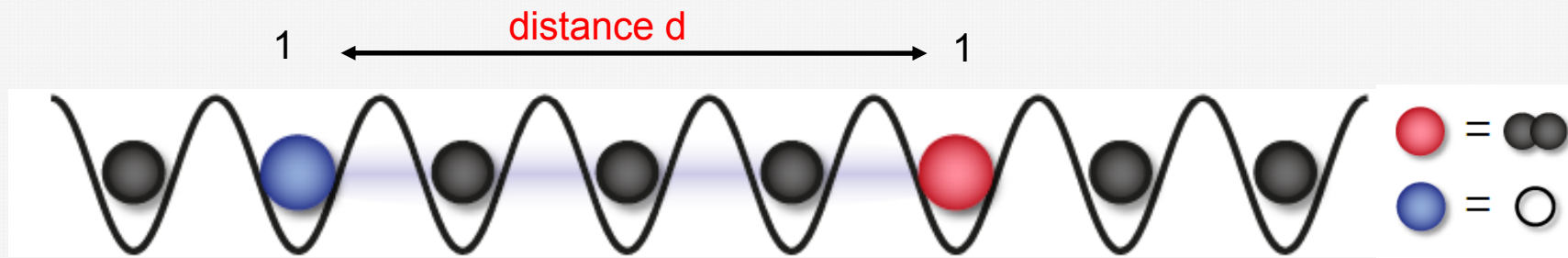


Bakr et al. (2009)

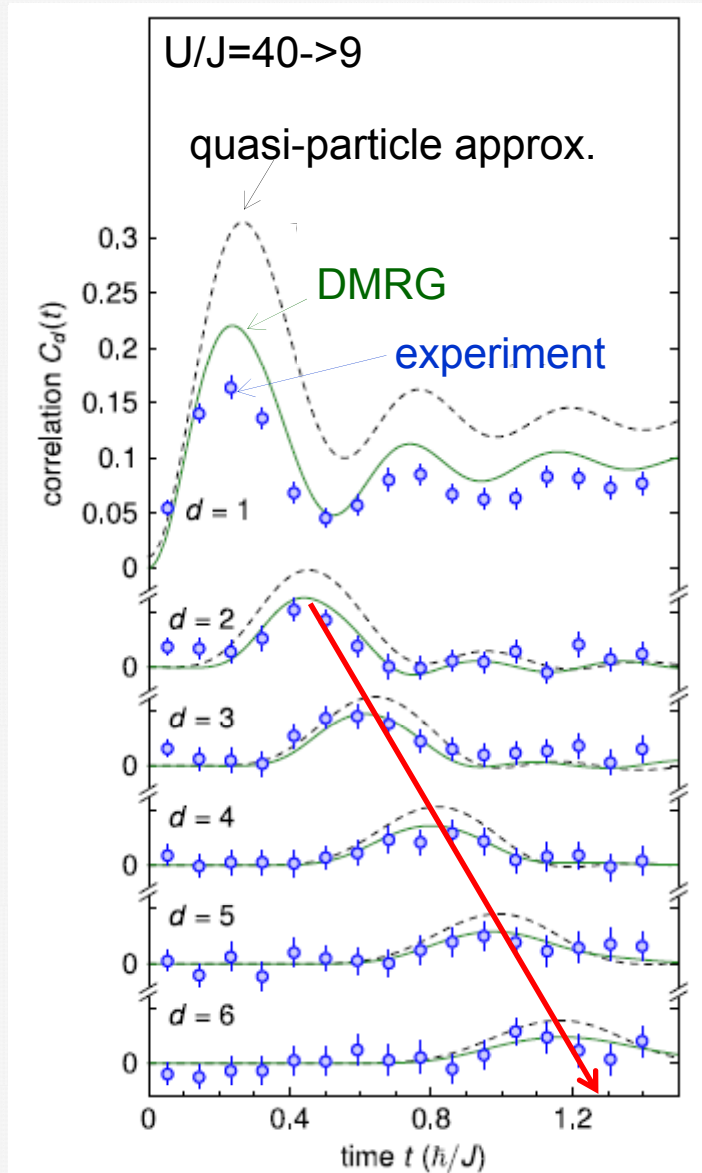
# Real space imaging

equal time parity correlation  
between sites of distance  $d$

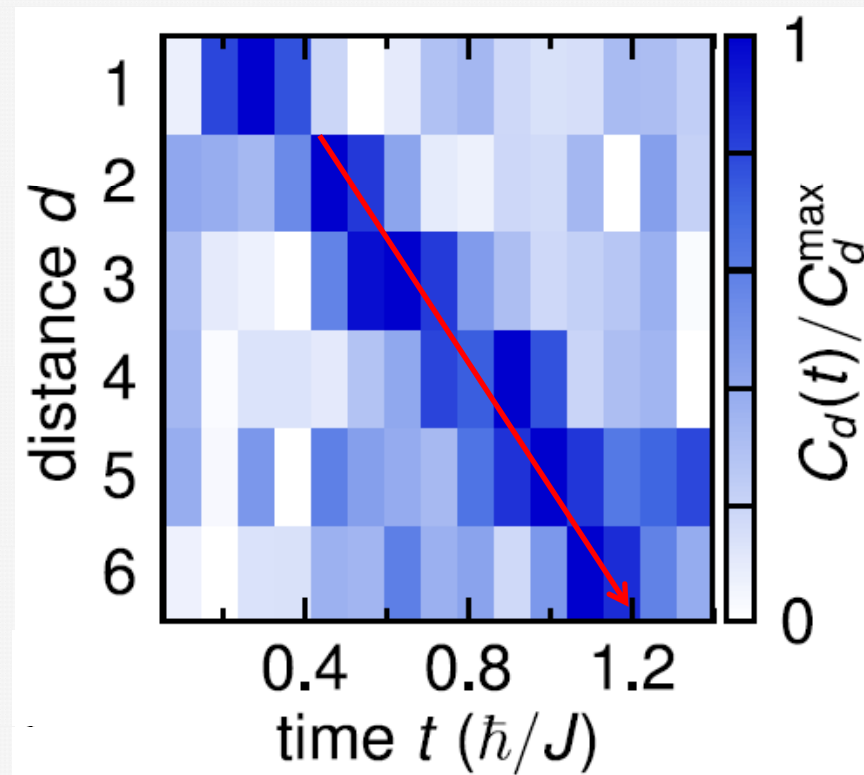
$$C_d(t) \propto \langle n_j^{even} n_{j+d}^{even} \rangle - \langle n_j^{even} \rangle \langle n_{j+d}^{even} \rangle$$



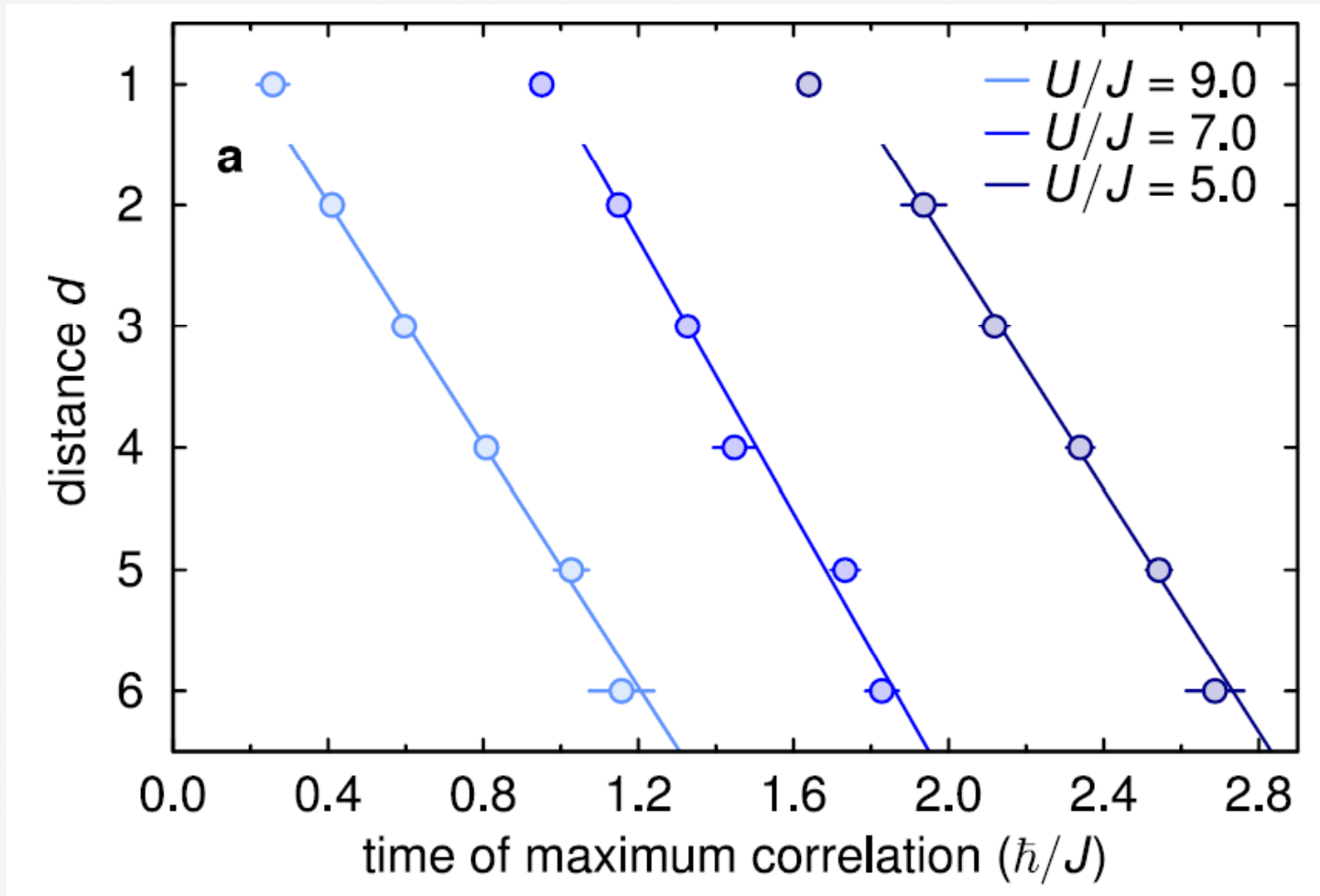
# Propagation of correlations in Mott-insulator



density remains constant!



# Cone-like spreading?



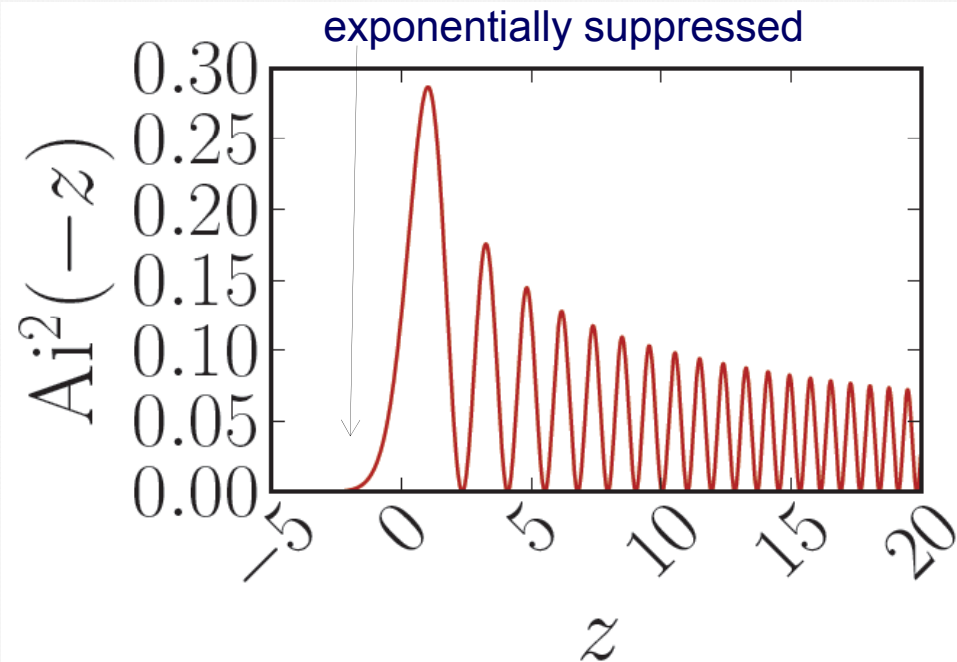
linear spreading

only exponentially small corrections before (Besselfunction)



# Deviations from light cone propagation

$$C_{d \gg 1} \approx - \left( \frac{2d^{2/3} 2^{1/3} J \hbar}{3Ut} \right)^2 \text{Ai}^2 \left( -(2/d)^{1/3} (6Jt/\hbar - d) \right)$$



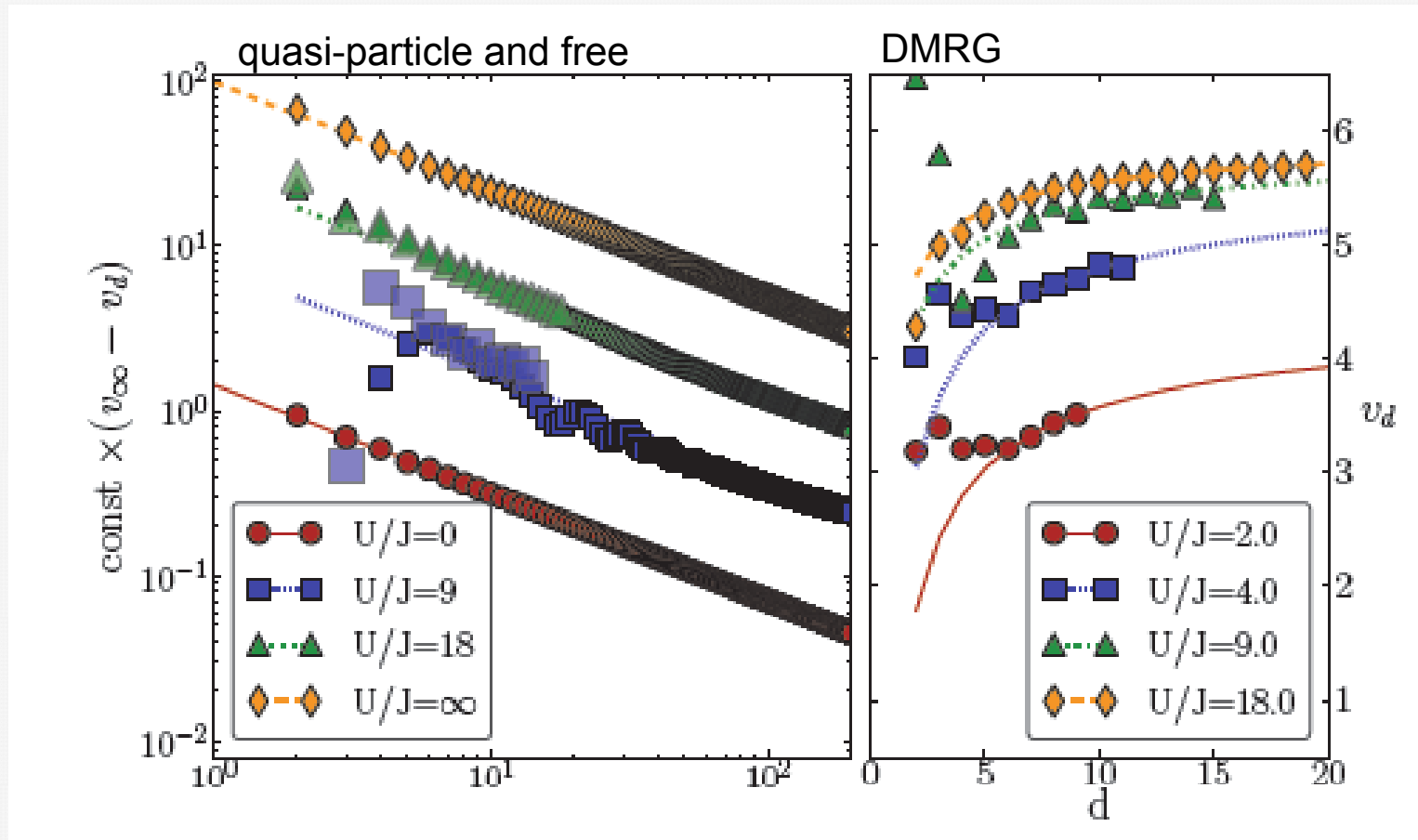
$$v_d = \frac{\hbar}{(t_{\text{peak}}(d+1) - t_{\text{peak}}(d))}$$

$$= v_\infty \left( 1 - \frac{z_0}{2^{1/3} 3} d^{-2/3} \right) + \mathcal{O}(d^{-5/3})$$

algebraic corrections to light cone  
(perturbation theory)

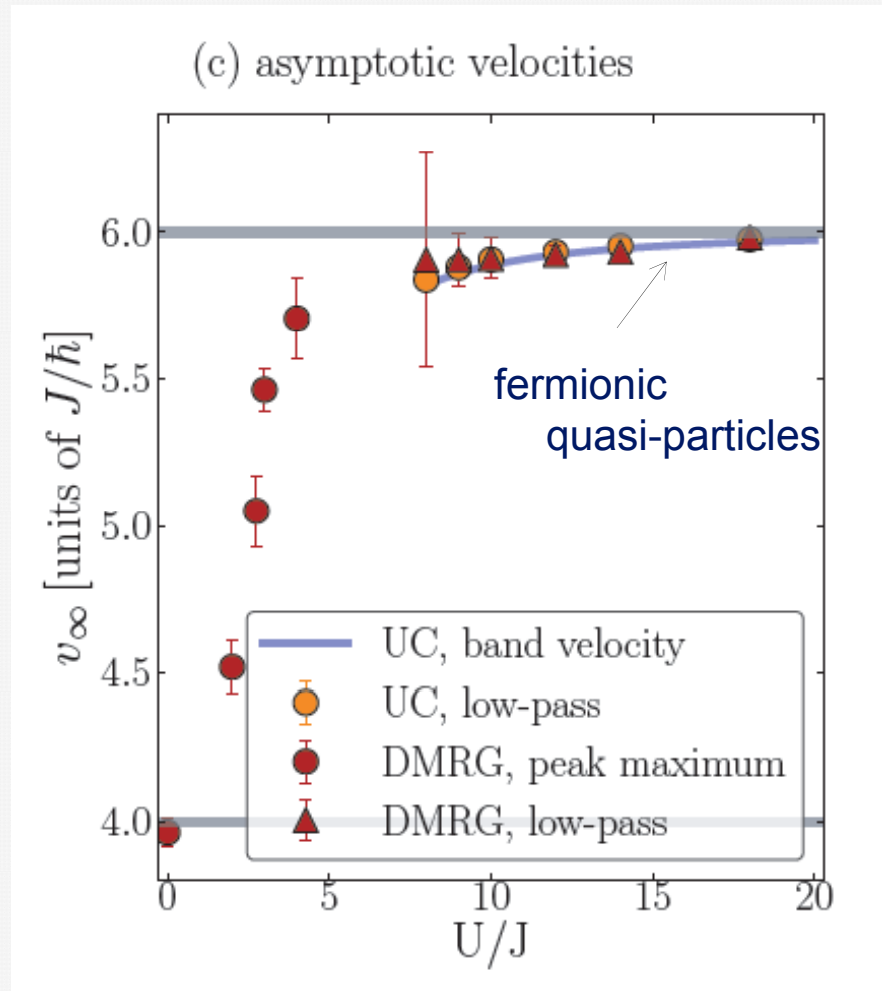
width  $\sim d^{1/3}$

# Velocity at long times



algebraic corrections to linear spreading  
corrections for small distances  $t \sim d + d^{1/3}$

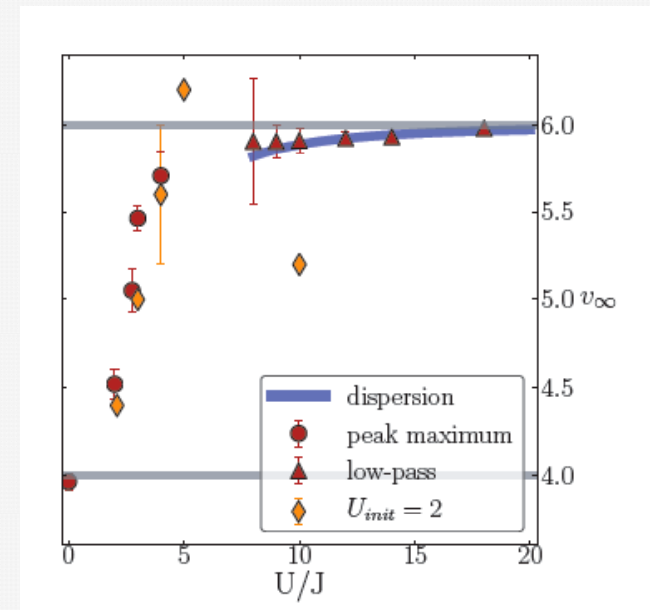
# Velocity of correlation spreading



## velocity:

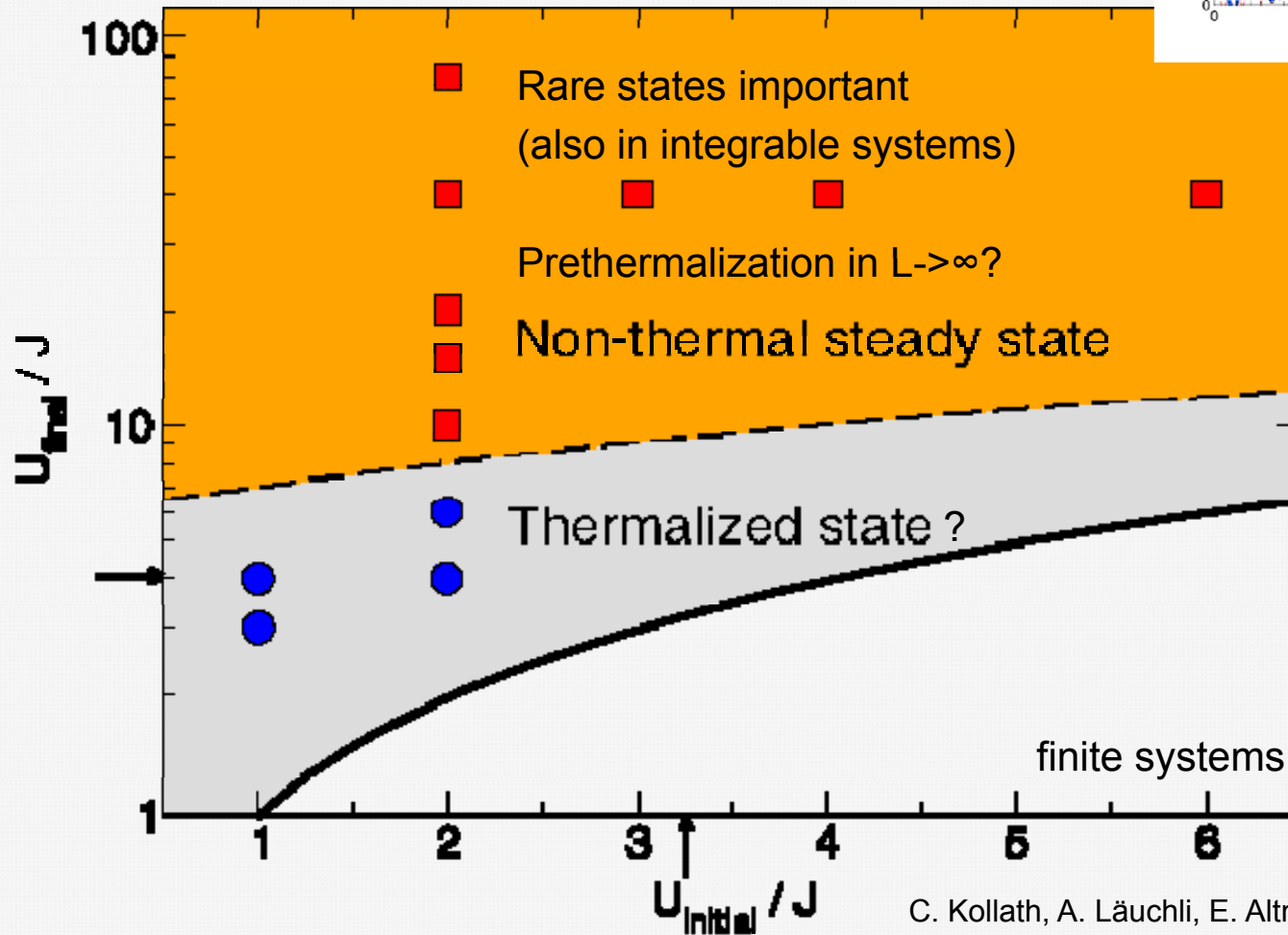
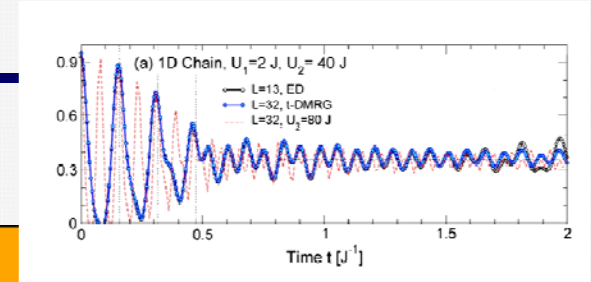
generic maximal velocity in bounded model  
 continuous across equilibrium phase transition  
 (at phase transition difficult to determine)

sf->MI larger velocities found  
 (origin higher bands?)



# Thermalization inside the light cone?

local onsite observables seem thermal, but non-local correlations



C. Kollath, A. Läuchli, E. Altman, PRL (2007)

G. Roux (2009)

G. Biroli, C. Kollath, and A. Läuchli, PRL (2010)

many others in different models:  
cannot cite all names here!

# Fundamental questions in interacting systems

## ➤ coherent spreading of correlations

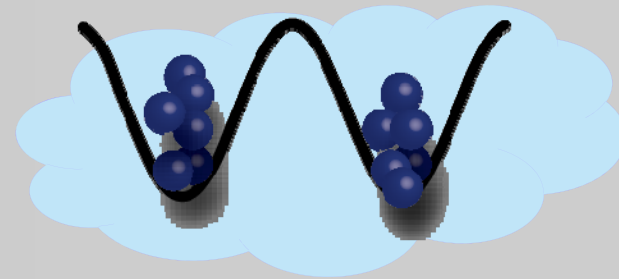


- light-cone like dynamics
- well explained by quasi-particle picture
- **generic** max. velocity in system with bounded spectra

### ***open questions:***

- influence of higher bands
- faster quantum channels?
- approach for higher dimensional systems

## ➤ interplay between dissipation and interaction



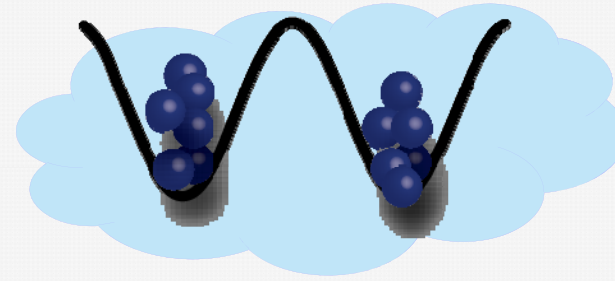
- heating in optical lattices
- interaction can fight dissipation?
- can dissipation be used to prepare complex quantum states?

# Theoretical model for dissipative coupling

## dissipative effects:

scattering with thermal atoms

fluorescence scattering with light fields



described by Markovian master equation:

closed system dynamics

$$i\hbar\partial_t\hat{\rho} = [\hat{H},\hat{\rho}] + i\mathcal{L}(\hat{\rho})$$

dissipative dynamics

$$\mathcal{L}(\hat{\rho}) = \Gamma \sum_{l=1}^L \left( \hat{n}_l \hat{\rho} \hat{n}_l - \frac{1}{2} \hat{n}_l^2 \hat{\rho} - \frac{1}{2} \hat{\rho} \hat{n}_l^2 \right)$$

$\rho$  density matrix  
 $\Gamma$  dissipative coupling  
 $H$  system Hamiltonian

atom detection

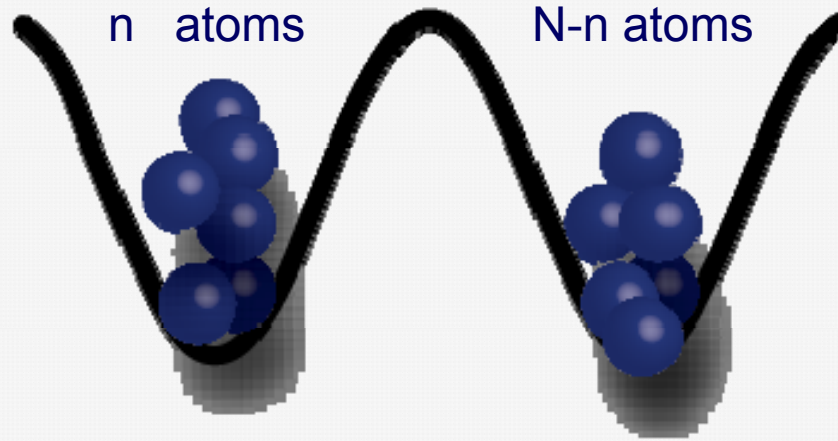
no-detection event

F. Gerbier and Y. Castin (2010)

S. Pichler et al (2010)

# Double well: lowest band approximation

two-site Bose-Hubbard model  
(lowest band only)  
N atoms



start with ground state and apply dissipation at time  $t=0$

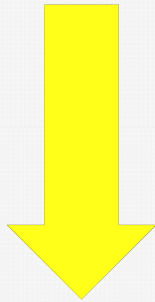
how long does the initial coherence survive?

$$C = \langle \hat{b}_1^\dagger \hat{b}_2 + \hat{b}_2^\dagger \hat{b}_1 \rangle$$

# Localization effects

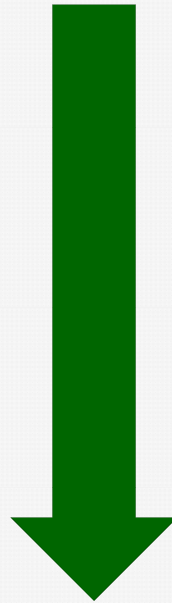
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large interaction



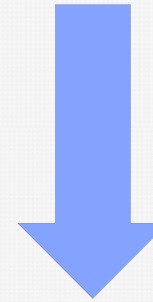
localization of atoms  
destruction of coherence

&



interaction fights dissipation  
slower destruction of coherence

dissipation:  
local measurement  
of particle number

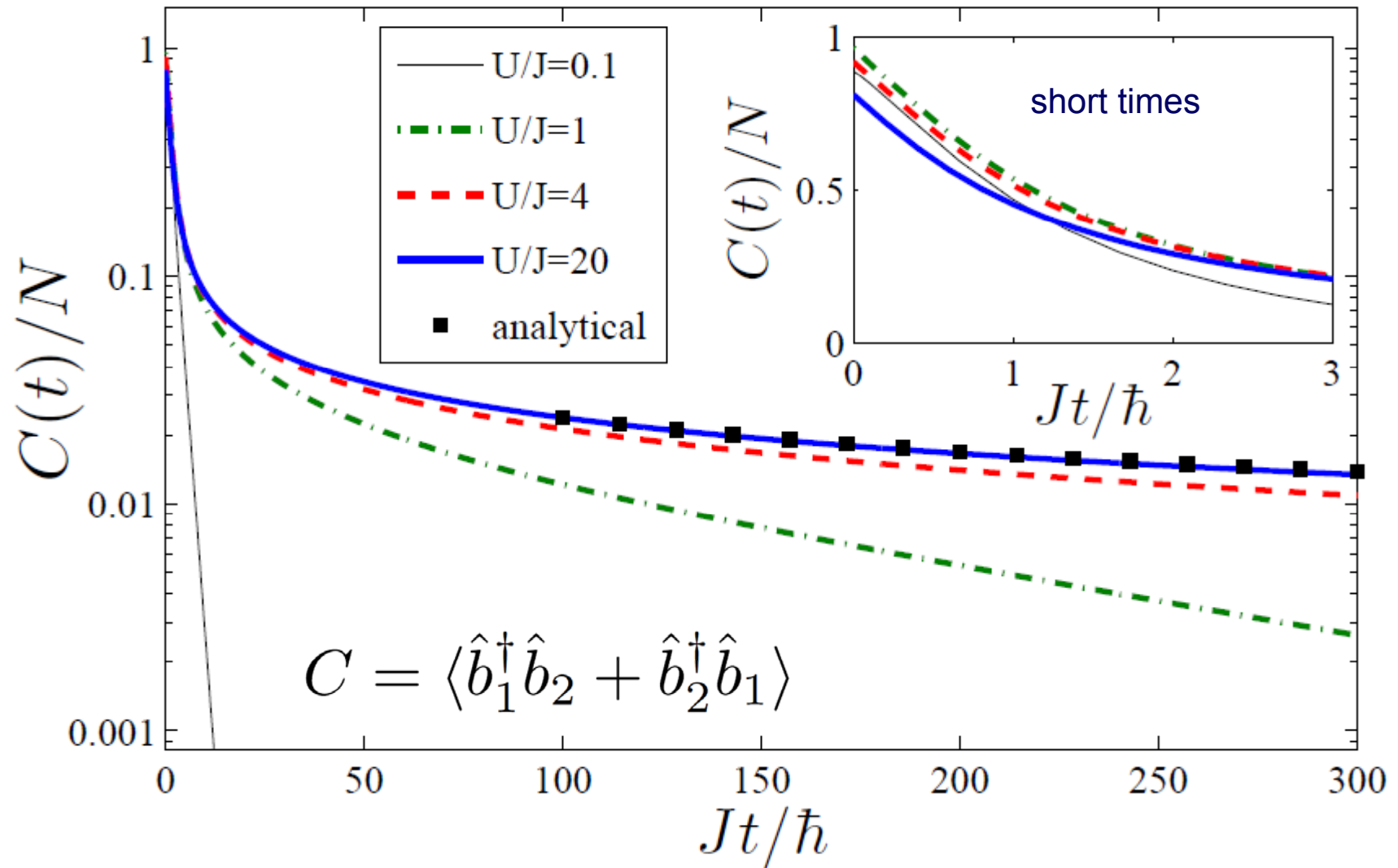


exponentially fast  
destruction of coherence  
long time limit:  
totally mixed state



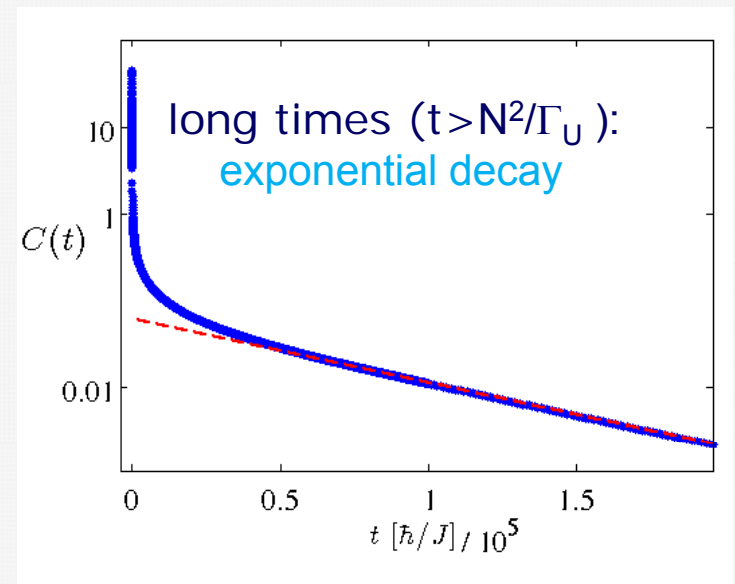
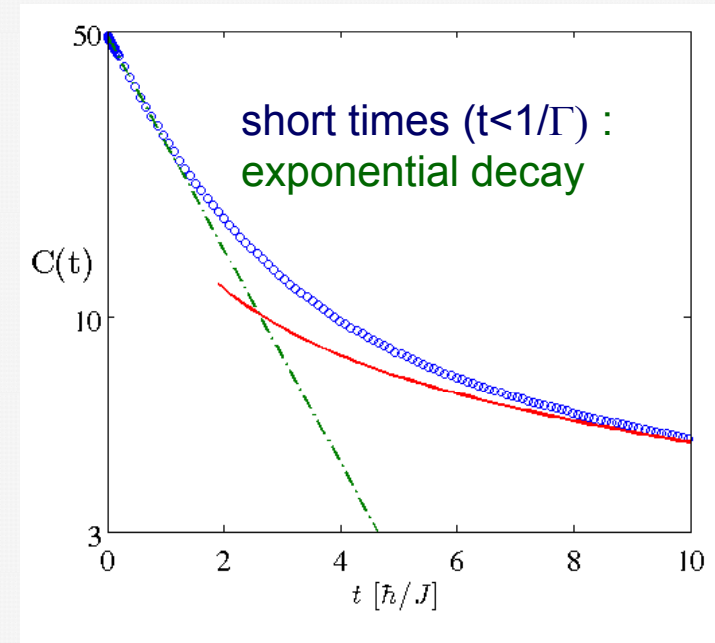
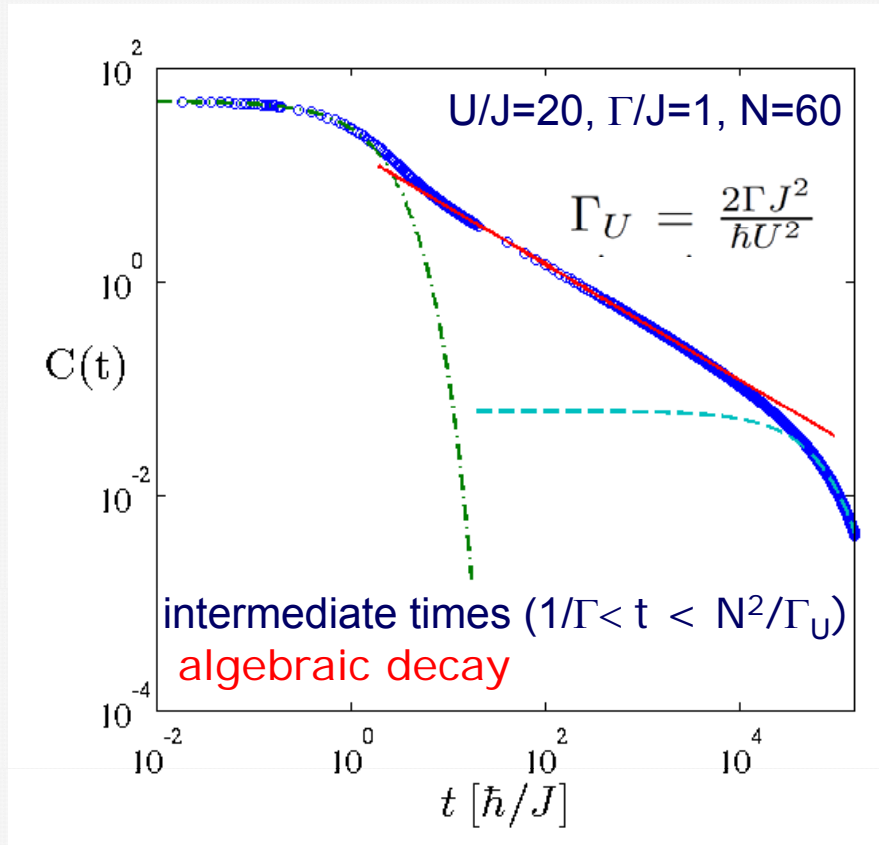
# Interaction saves coherence

$\Gamma/J=1$ ,  $N=60$



# Evolution of coherence for large interaction

3 regimes:



# Mapping to classical diffusion equation (large U, N)

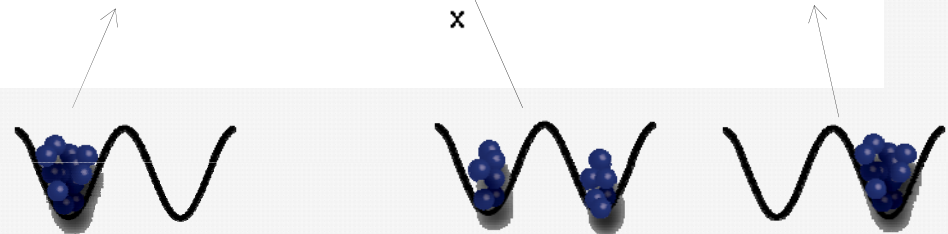
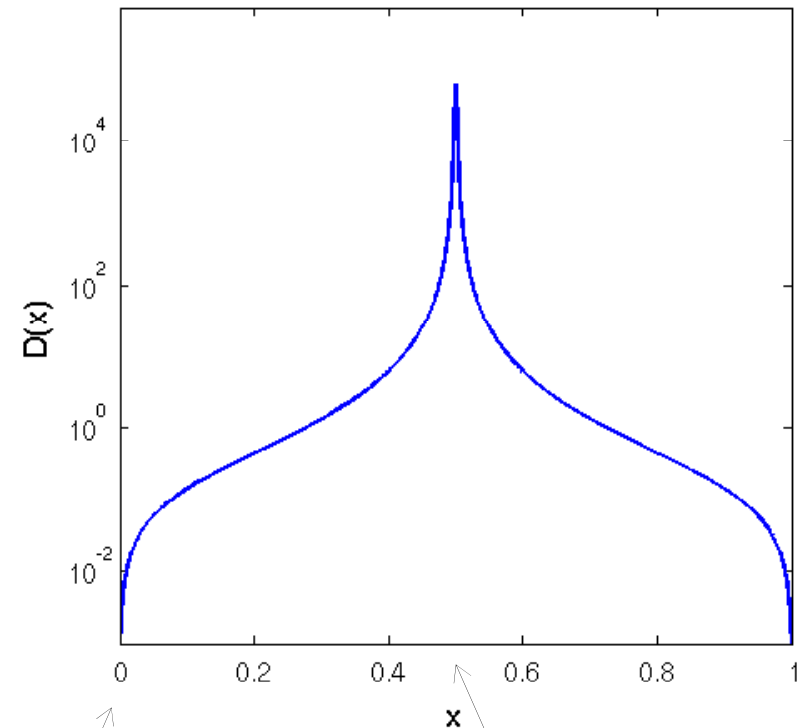
neglecting fast modes ( $t > 1/\Gamma$ ) (adiabatic elimination)  
and performing large N limit

$$\frac{d}{dx} \left( D(x) \frac{d}{dx} \phi(x, \tilde{t}) \right) = \frac{\hbar U^2}{2J^2 \Gamma} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{t}} \phi(x, \tilde{t})$$

$$D(x) = \frac{x(1-x)}{(2x-1)^2}, \quad \tilde{t} = t / N^2$$

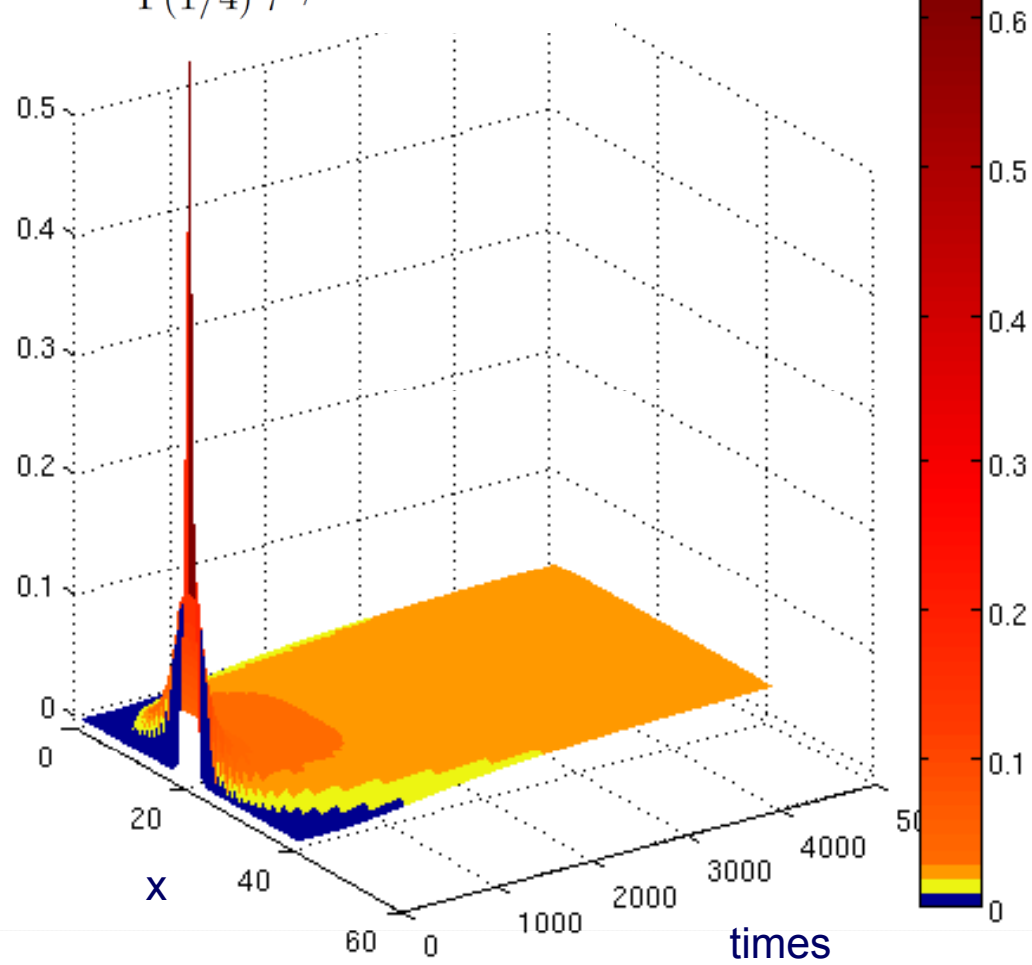
corresponds to  
diagonal density matrix elements

slowly diffusing states at the boundary  
correspond to large imbalance



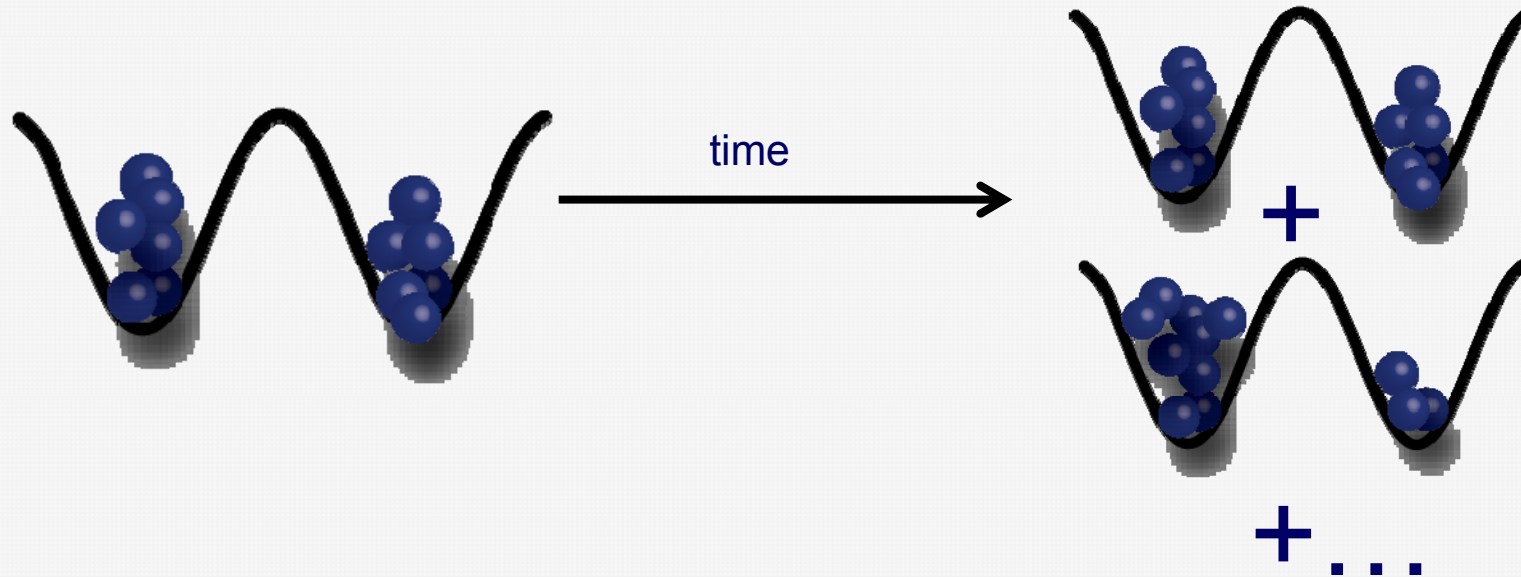
# Diffusion of initial state (non-Brownian)

$$p(x, \tau) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\Gamma(1/4)} \frac{1}{\tau^{1/4}} \exp(-x^4/4\tau)$$



# Slow evolution towards totally mixed state

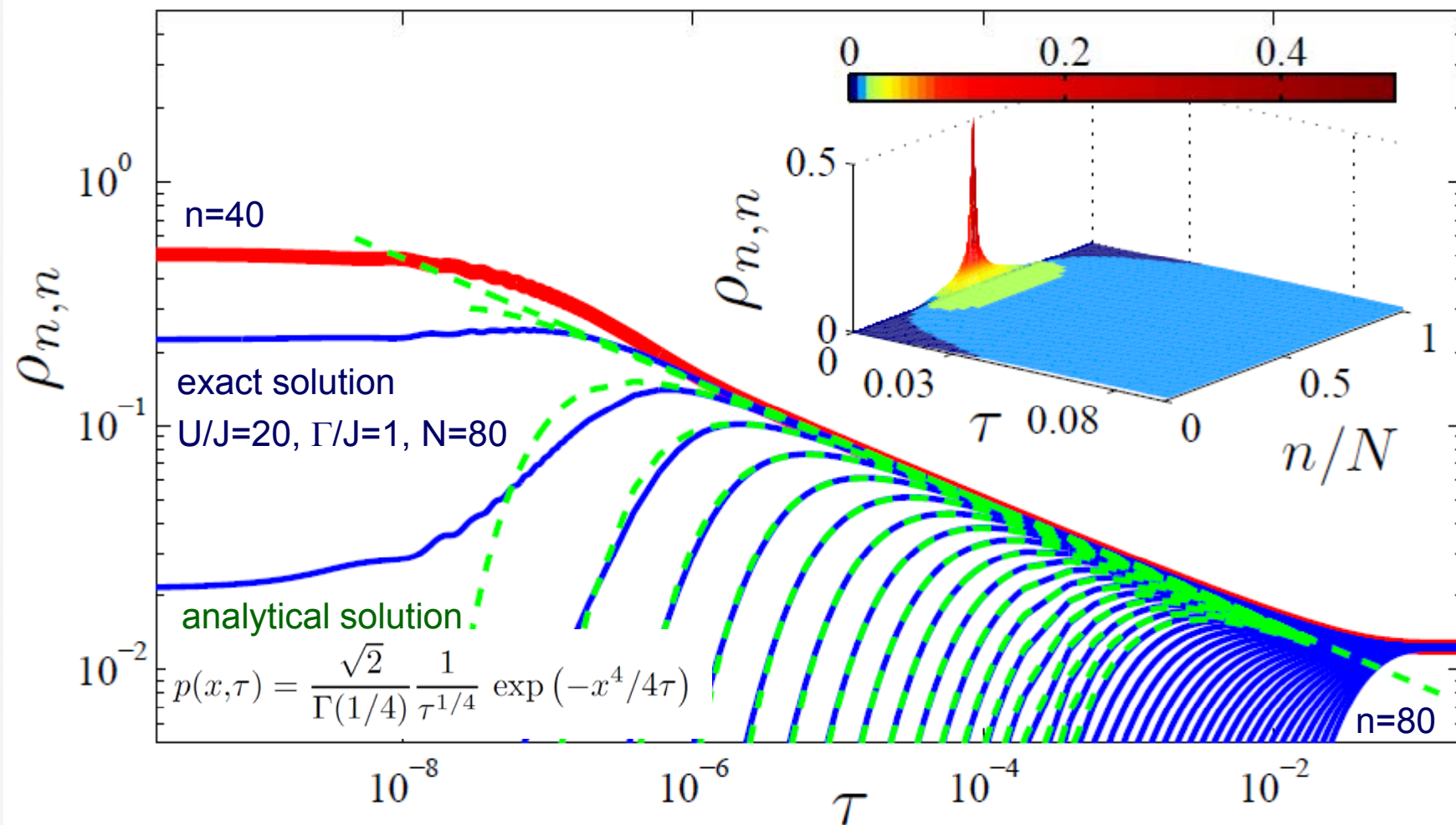
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ground state close to balanced

build up of strongly imbalanced states  
energetically very costly

# Diffusion of initial state (non-Brownian)



# Scaling of coherence

Continuum limes:  $\tilde{t} = t / N^2$

$$C(t) = f(t / N^2)$$

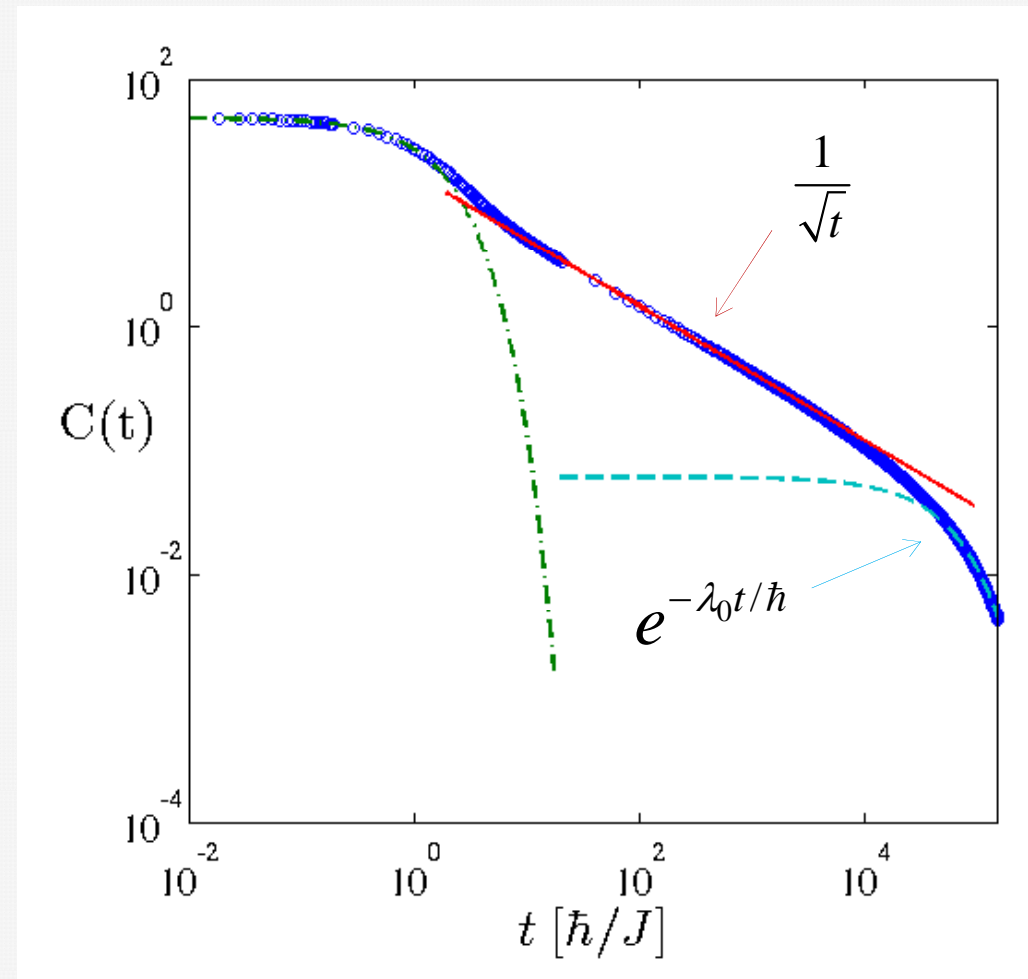
hand-waving:

$C(t)/N$  should not depend on  $N$

$$C(t) / N \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}}$$

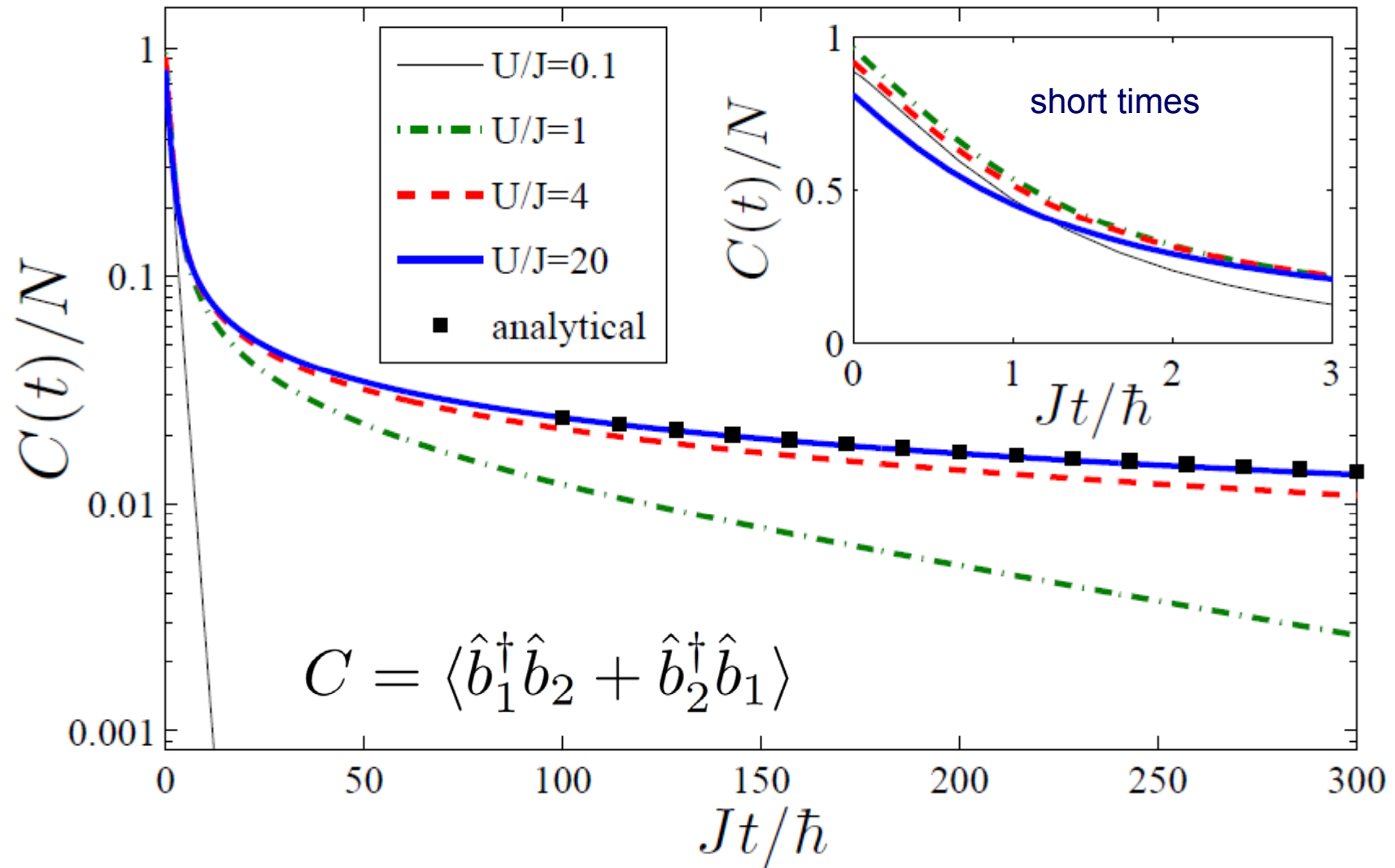
for large times  $t \gg \hbar / \lambda_0$   
can feel discreteness

$$C(t) / N \propto e^{-\lambda_0 t / \hbar}$$



# Interaction saves coherence

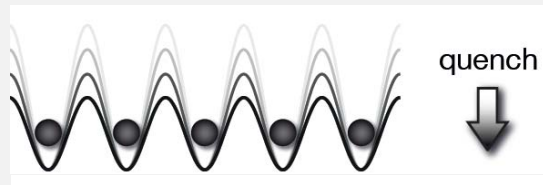
$\Gamma/J=1$ ,  $N=60$





# Fundamental questions in interacting systems

## *spreading of correlations*

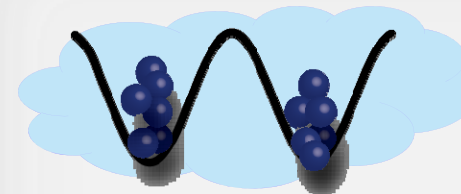


- light-cone like dynamics
- well explained by quasi-particle picture
- **generic** max. velocity in system with bounded spectra

### *open questions:*

- faster quantum channels?
- implications for preparation of complex states in cold gases?
- approach for higher dimensional systems?

## *interplay: dissipation and interaction*



- 3 regimes for decay of coherence
- slow algebraic decay due to interaction blocking
- slow diffusive states in configuration space

### *open questions:*

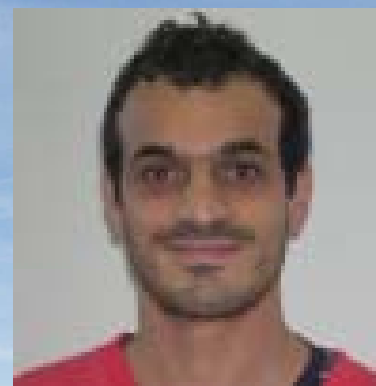
- can interaction be used to prevent dissipation?
- implications for heating of complex states in cold gases?



Jean-Sebastien Bernier  
(CIFAR Junior fellow  
at UBC)



Peter Barmettler



Dario Poletti  
-> faculty position at  
Singapore University  
of Technology and Design

Experimental groups:

M. Chenau (MPQ Munich)  
M. Endres,  
T. Fukuhara,  
C. Weitenberg,  
P. Schauß,  
C. Gross,  
I. Bloch (MPQ Munich, LMU Munich)  
S. Kuhr (Strathclyde, Glasgow)

Theory groups:

A. Georges (Ecole Polytechnique)  
A. Laeuchli (MPI Dresden)  
E. Altman (Weizman Institute)  
G. Biroli (CEA Saclay)