

# Using Quantum Computer to Simulate Systems in Plasma

Xiaojun Yao  
MIT

W.A.de Jong, K.Lee,  
J.Mulligan, M.Ploskon  
F.Ringer and XY, 2106.08394

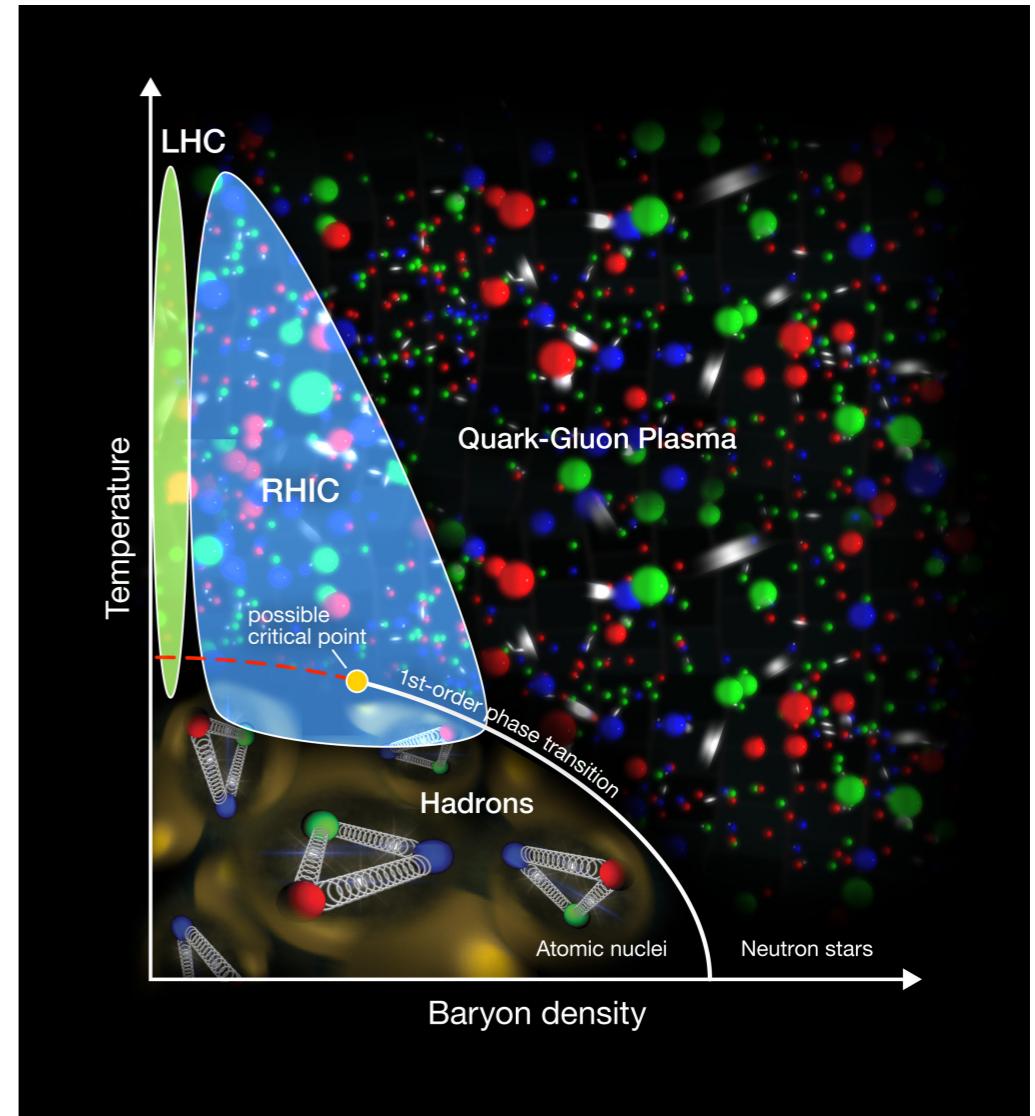
XY, 2205.xxxxx  
(appear tonight)

Margaret Island Symposium 2022 on Vacuum Structure, Particles and  
Plasmas

May 17, 2022

# Why Quantum Computing

- Usefulness of Euclidean lattice QCD at finite temperature: QCD matter crossover at zero chemical potential, transport coefficients (e.g. heavy quark diffusion)
- Challenges of Euclidean lattice QCD, sign problem (signal-to-noise ratio): fermion at finite chemical potential, real-time observables



- Use quantum computers to simulate quantum systems

*“Simulating physics with computers” R. P. Feynman, 1982*

- Quantum computing devices are developing quickly: superconducting circuits (IBM Q, Google, rigetti), trapped ion (Ion Q)

*“Quantum supremacy using a programmable superconducting processor” Google AI Quantum, 2019*

# Example 1: Schwinger Model in Thermal Bath

- **U(1) gauge theory in 1+1D**  $\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(iD^\mu\gamma_\mu - m)\psi - \frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu}$

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma^0 &= \sigma_z \\ \gamma^1 &= -i\sigma_y\end{aligned}$$

- **Hamiltonian formulation in axial gauge**  $A_0 = 0$

**Staggered fermion**

**Jordan-Wigner transform**

J. B. Kogut and L. Susskind  
Phys. Rev. D11(1975) 395–408

**E field and gauge link solved by ladder**

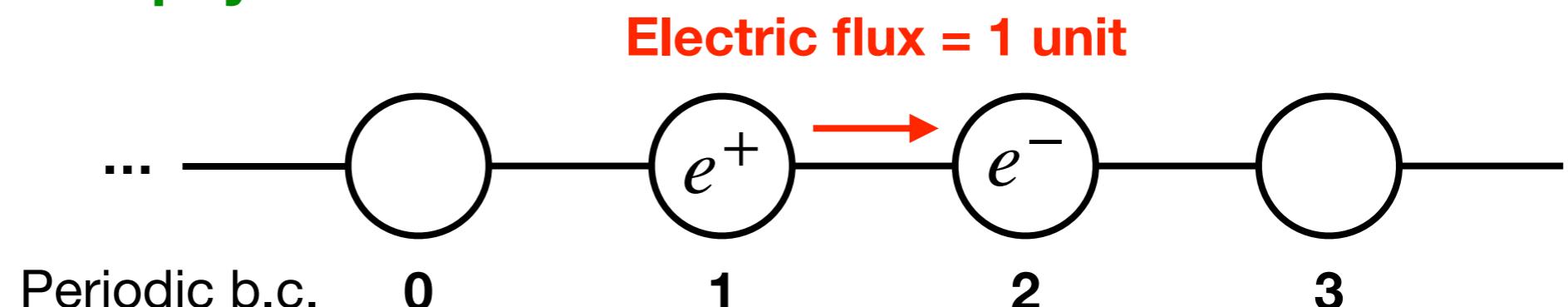
$$[E(n), U(n+1, n)] = eU(n+1, n)$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \ell_n & & L_n^+ \end{array}$$

$$H_S = \frac{1}{2a} \sum_n \left( \sigma^+(n)L_n^- \sigma^-(n+1) + \sigma^+(n)L_{n-1}^+ \sigma^-(n-1) \right) + \frac{m}{2} \sum_n (-1)^n (\sigma_z(n) + 1) + \frac{ae^2}{2} \sum_n \ell_n^2$$

- **Impose Gauss law for physical states**

$$\partial_1 E = e\psi^\dagger\psi$$



Even sites: fermion, odd sites: anti-fermion

# Schwinger Model Coupled w/ Thermal Scalars

- **Hamiltonians**  $H = H_S + H_E + H_I$

$$H_E = \int dx \left[ \frac{1}{2} \Pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_\phi^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{4!} \lambda \phi^4 \right]$$
$$H_I = \lambda \int dx \phi(x) \bar{\psi}(x) \psi(x) = \int dx O_E(x) O_S(x)$$

- **Trace out environment  $\rightarrow$  time evolution of reduced density matrix**

$$\rho_S(t) = \text{Tr}_E \left[ U(t, 0) (\rho_S(t=0) \otimes \rho_E) U^\dagger(t, 0) \right]$$

- **Lindblad equation in quantum Brownian motion limit** XY, 2102.01736

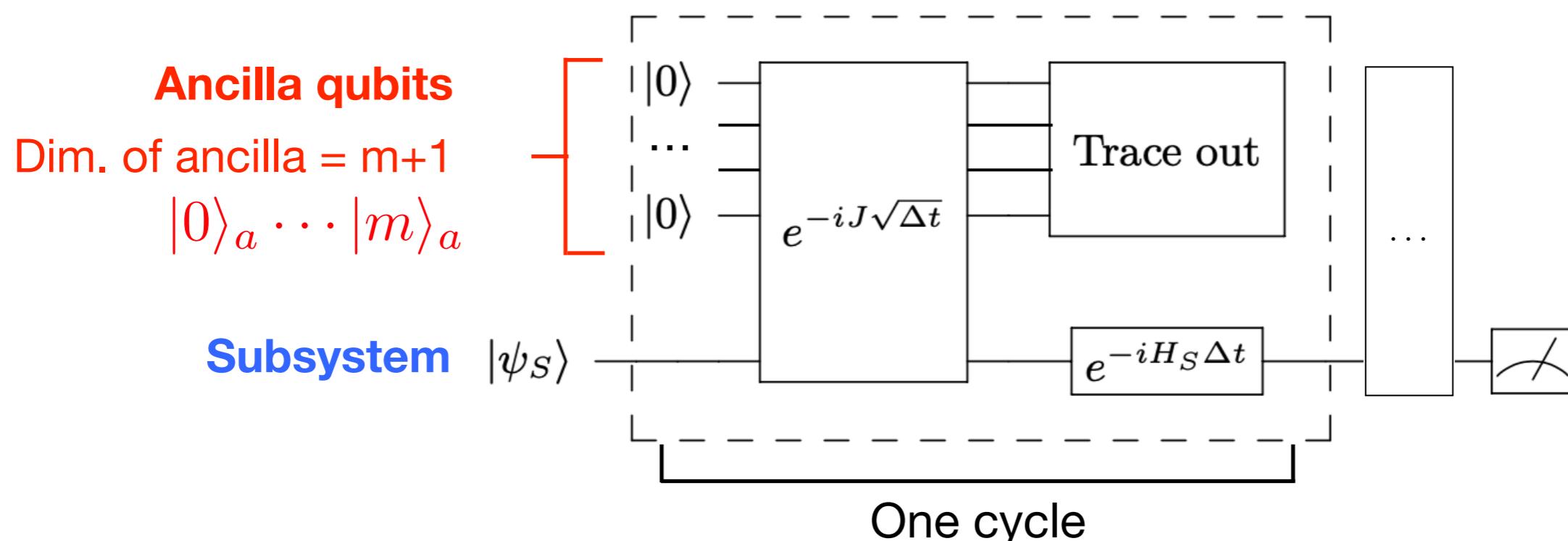
$$\frac{d\rho_S(t)}{dt} = -i [H_S, \rho_S(t)] + L \rho_S(t) L^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \{ L^\dagger L, \rho_S(t) \}$$

Only one Lindblad operator:  $L = \sqrt{2aN D(k_0 = 0, k = 0)} \left( O_S - \frac{1}{4T} [H_S, O_S] \right)$

# Quantum Circuit for Non-unitary Evolution

- Lindblad evolution = unitary evolution of subsystem coupled with ancilla with ancilla traced out

$$\frac{d\rho_S}{dt} = -i[H_S, \rho_S] + \sum_{j=1}^m \left( L_j \rho_S L_j^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \{L_j^\dagger L_j, \rho_S\} \right)$$



Reproduce Lindblad equation if expanded to linear order in  $\Delta t$

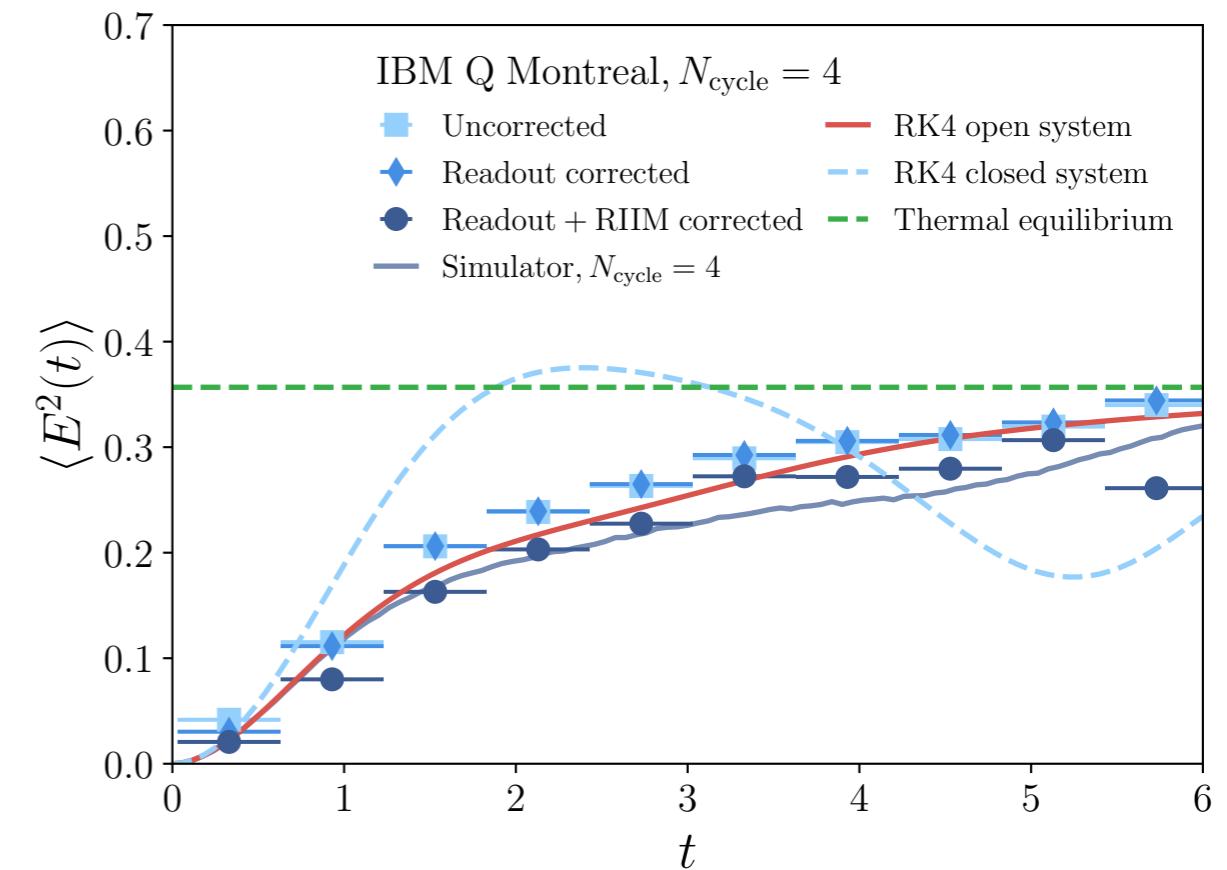
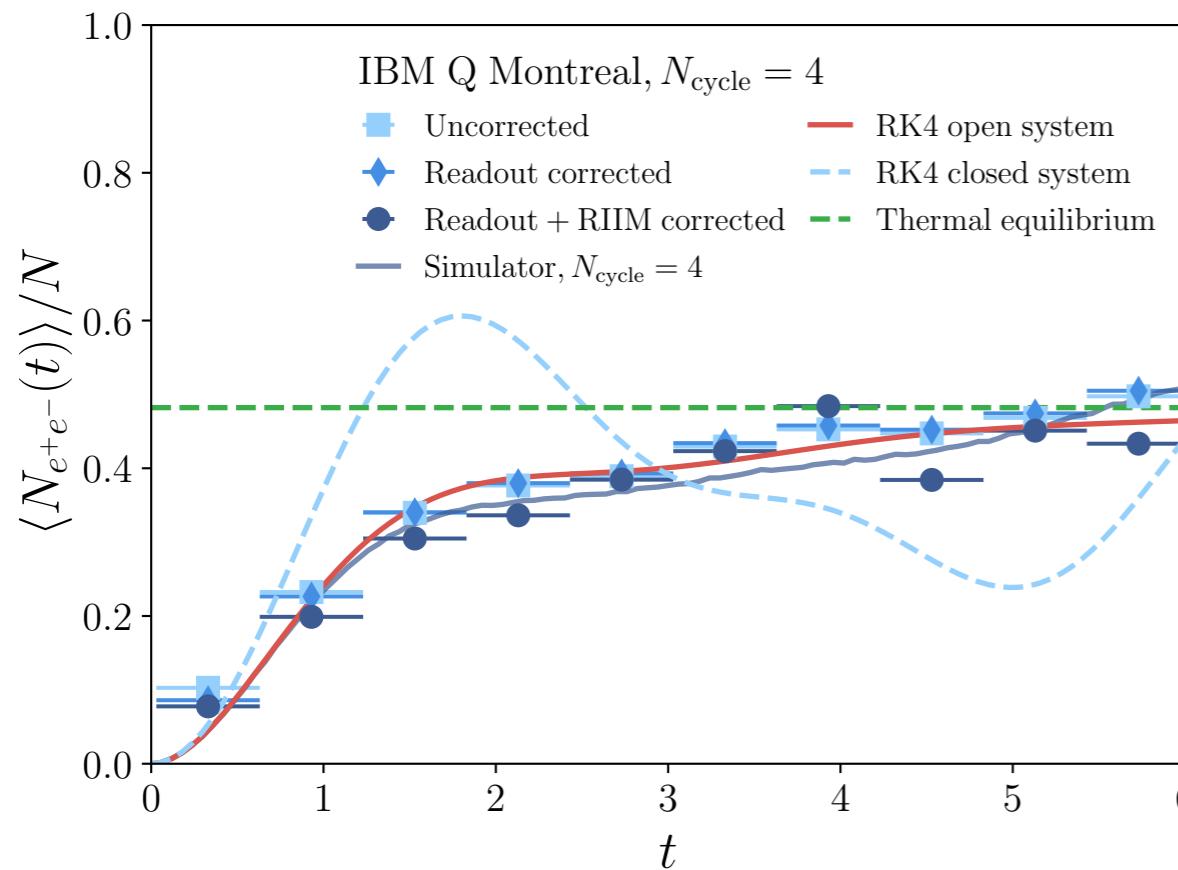
$$J = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & L_1^\dagger & \dots & L_m^\dagger \\ L_1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ L_m & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\rho(0) = |0\rangle_a \langle 0|_a \otimes \rho_S(0) = \begin{pmatrix} \rho_S(0) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Results from Real Quantum Devices

$N = 2$  spatial sites (4 fermion sites)

$$e = \frac{1}{a}, m = \frac{0.1}{a}, \beta = 0.1a, a = 1$$



Possible to run more cycles to reach closer to equilibrium

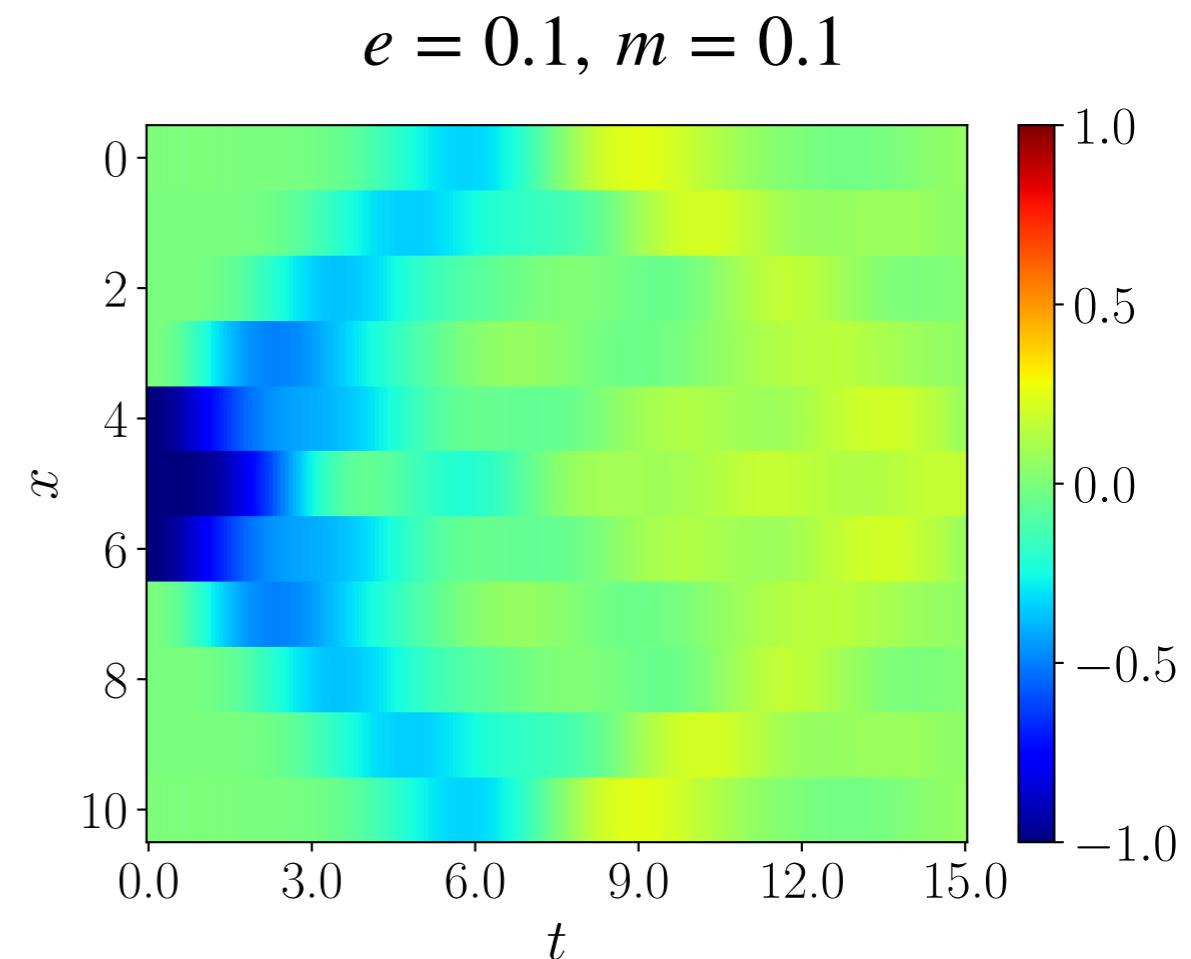
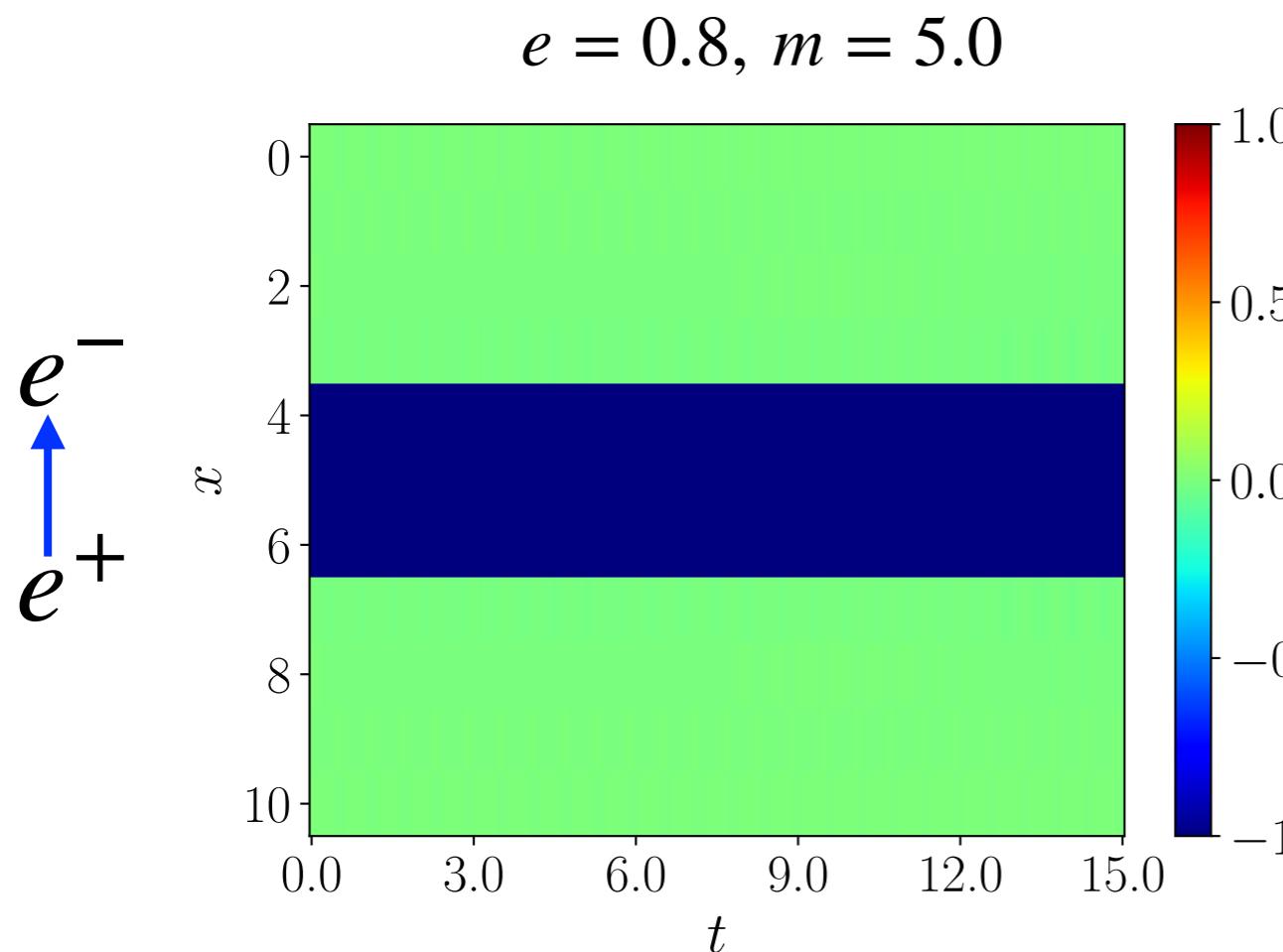
Provide a way to compute observables close to thermal equilibrium

# String Breaking in Vacuum

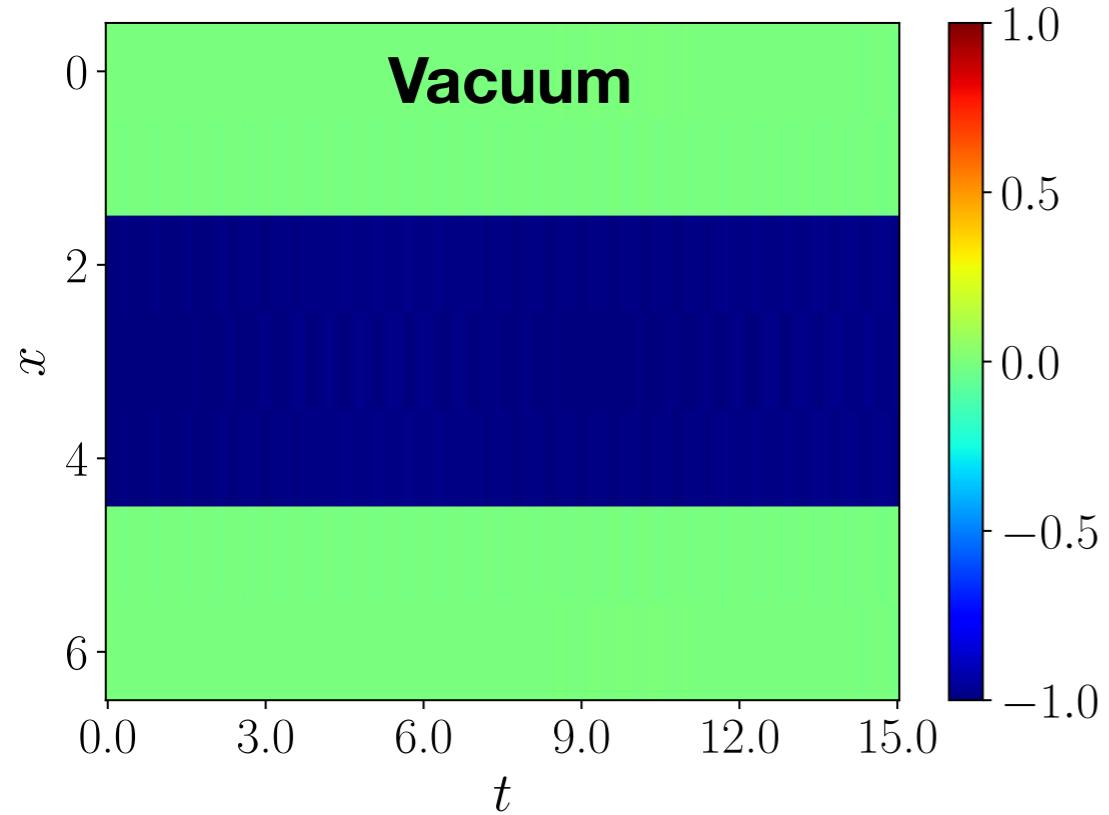
- **Closed Schwinger model with open boundary condition**

Initialize a pair of electron and positron, time evolve

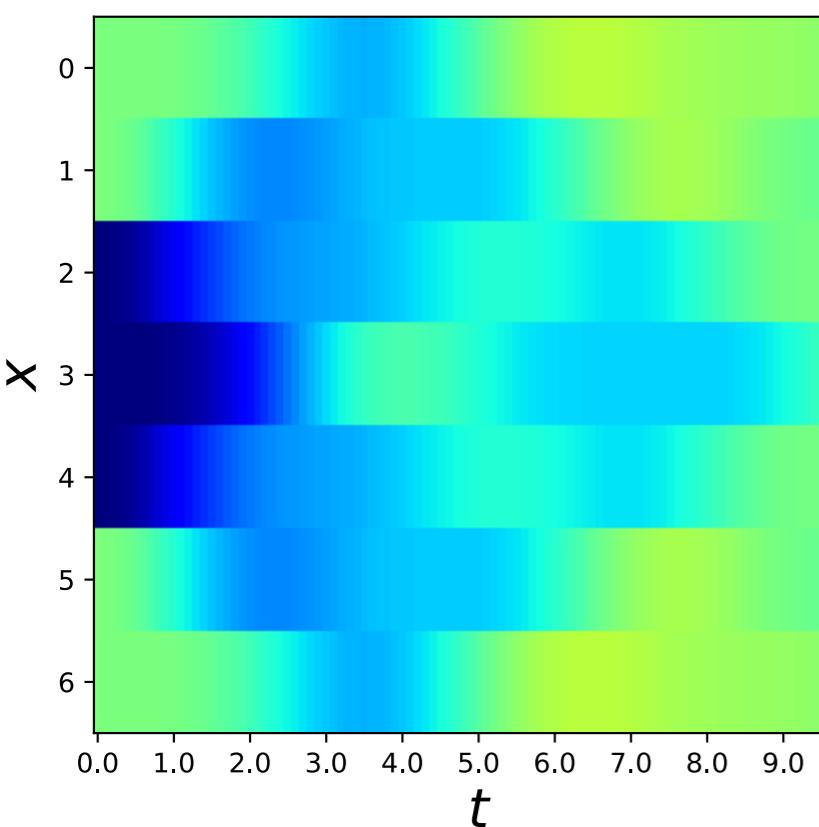
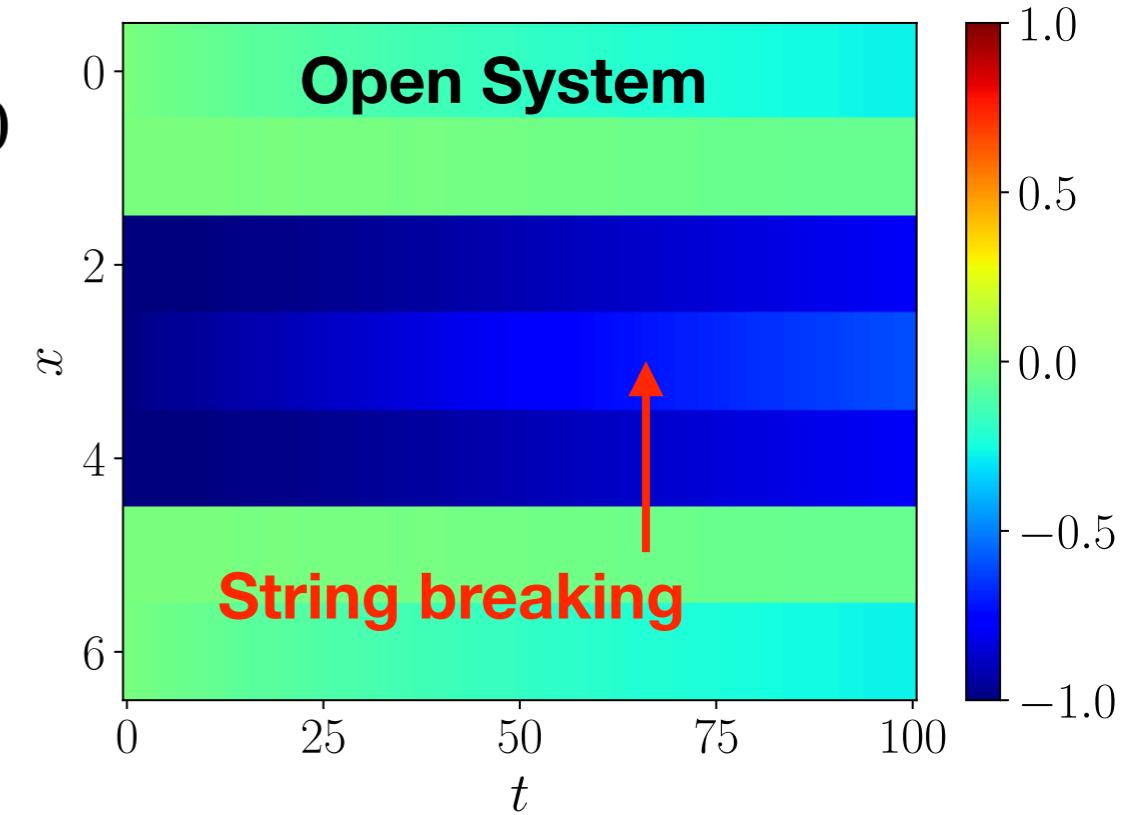
Calculate electric flux at each site (with vacuum contribution subtracted)



# String Breaking/Reconnection in Medium



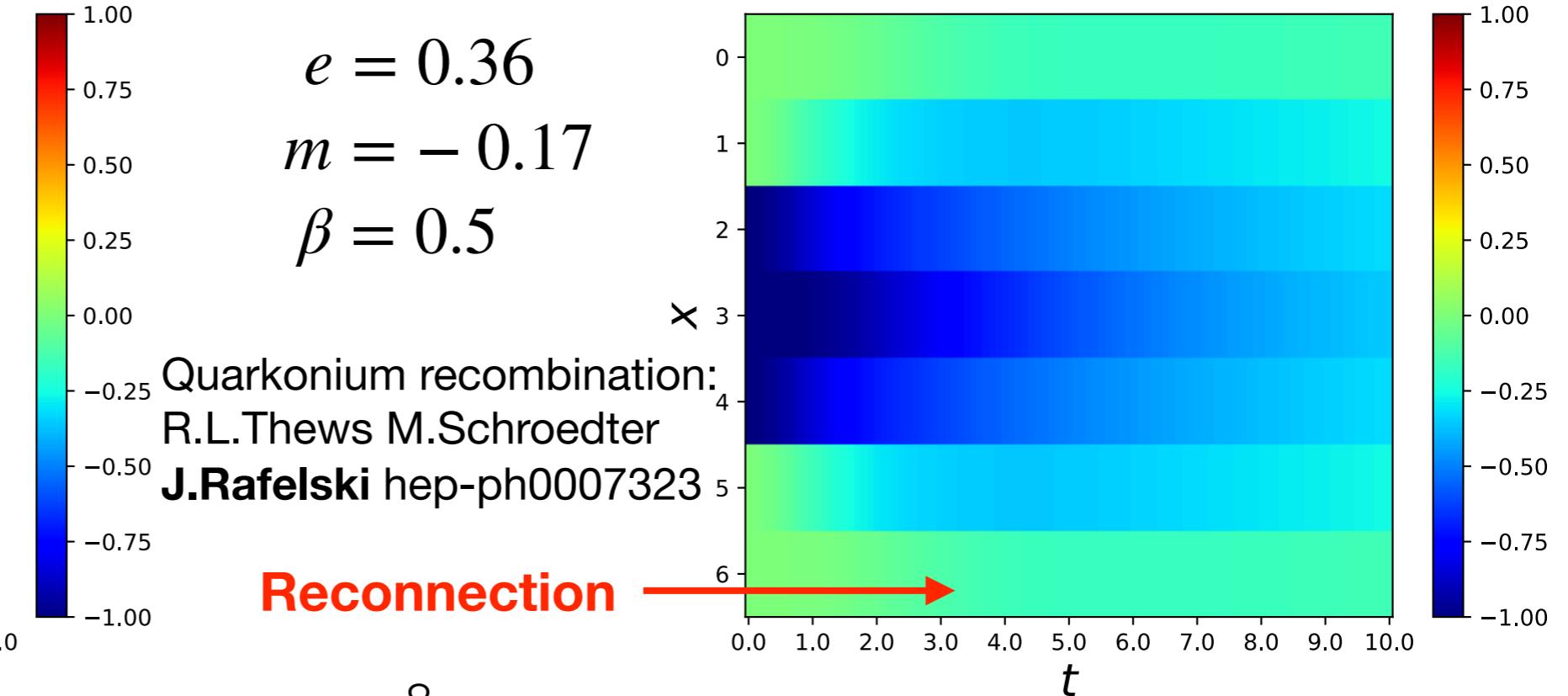
$$e = 0.8, m = 5.0$$
$$\beta = 0.1$$



$$e = 0.36$$
$$m = -0.17$$
$$\beta = 0.5$$

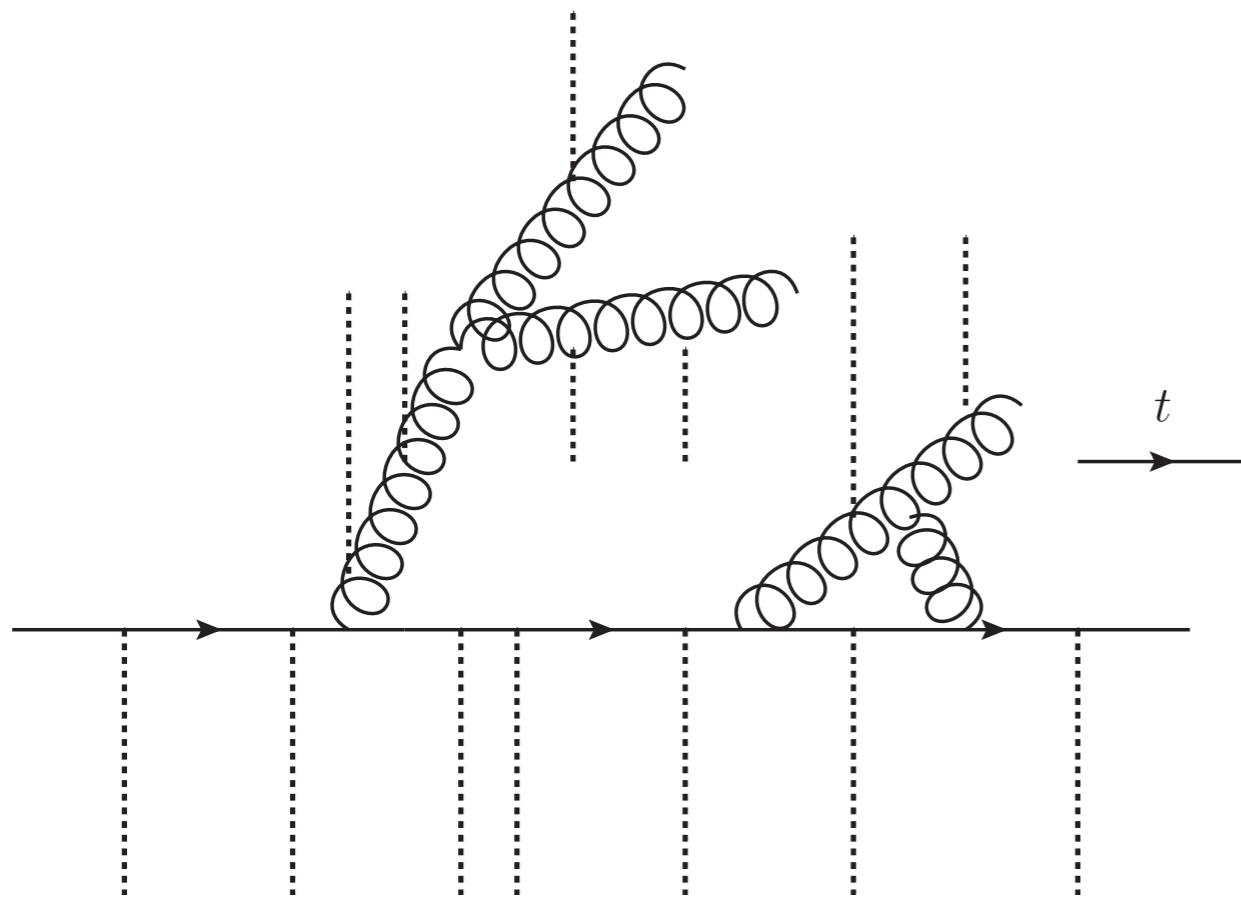
Quarkonium recombination:  
R.L.Thews M.Schroedter  
**J.Rafelski** hep-ph0007323

Reconnection



# Example 2: Quantum Simulation of Jet Quenching

- In-medium radiation: Landau-Pomeranchuk-Migdal (LPM) effect



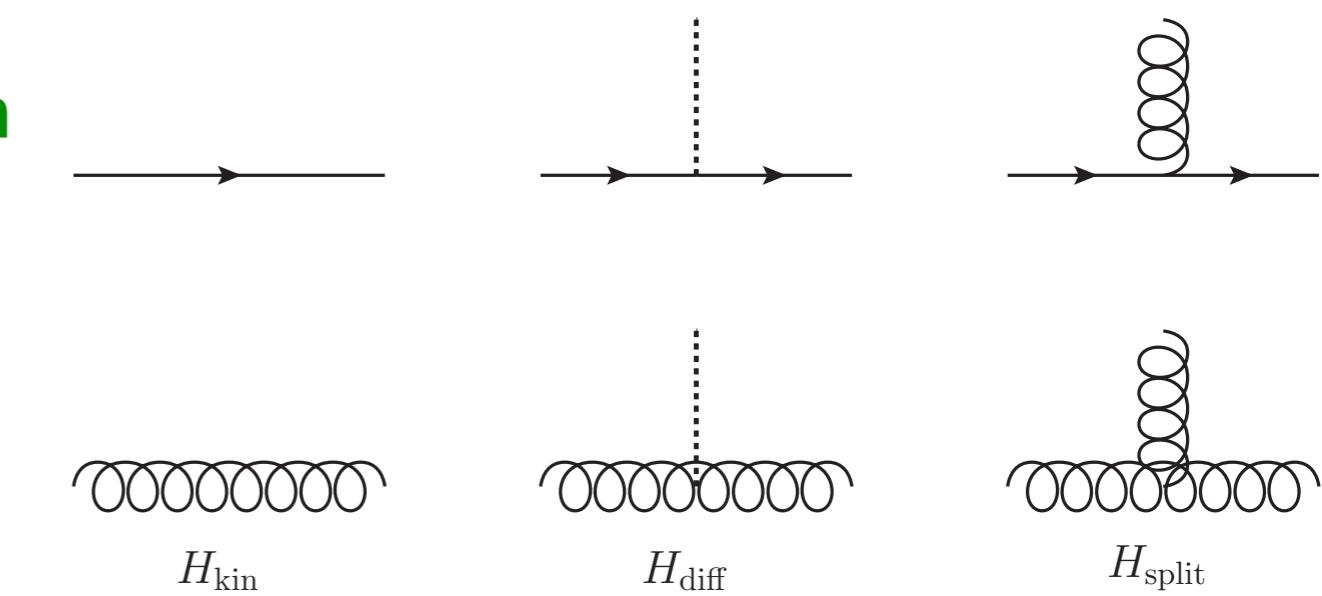
In-medium time evolution of high energy partons:  
kinetic evolution  
transverse momentum exchange  
parton splitting/recombination

Transverse momentum exchange changes kinetic energy randomly —> **random phase in time evolution** —> destructive interference suppresses radiation

- Using light-front QCD Hamiltonian

Diffusion Hamiltonian depends on classical background field  $\bar{A}^{-a}(x^+, x_\perp)$

$$\langle \bar{A}^{-a}(x^+, k_\perp) \bar{A}^{-b}(y^+, -k_\perp) \rangle = \delta^{ab} \delta(x^+ - y^+) \gamma(k_\perp)$$



# Toy Model for LPM Effect

- **Scalar particles in 2+1D**

$$k^+ \in K_{\max}^+ \{0.5, 1\}$$

$$k_\perp \in K_{\max}^\perp \{0, 1\}$$

$$|00\rangle : k^+ = 0.5, k_\perp = 0$$

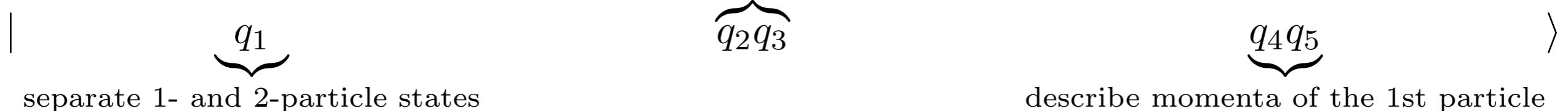
$$|01\rangle : k^+ = 0.5, k_\perp = 1$$

$$|10\rangle : k^+ = 1, k_\perp = 0$$

$$|11\rangle : k^+ = 1, k_\perp = 1$$

- **LPM effect in cases with one initial particle, one splitting**

describe momenta of the 2nd particle



separate 1- and 2-particle states

describe momenta of the 1st particle

1-particle state

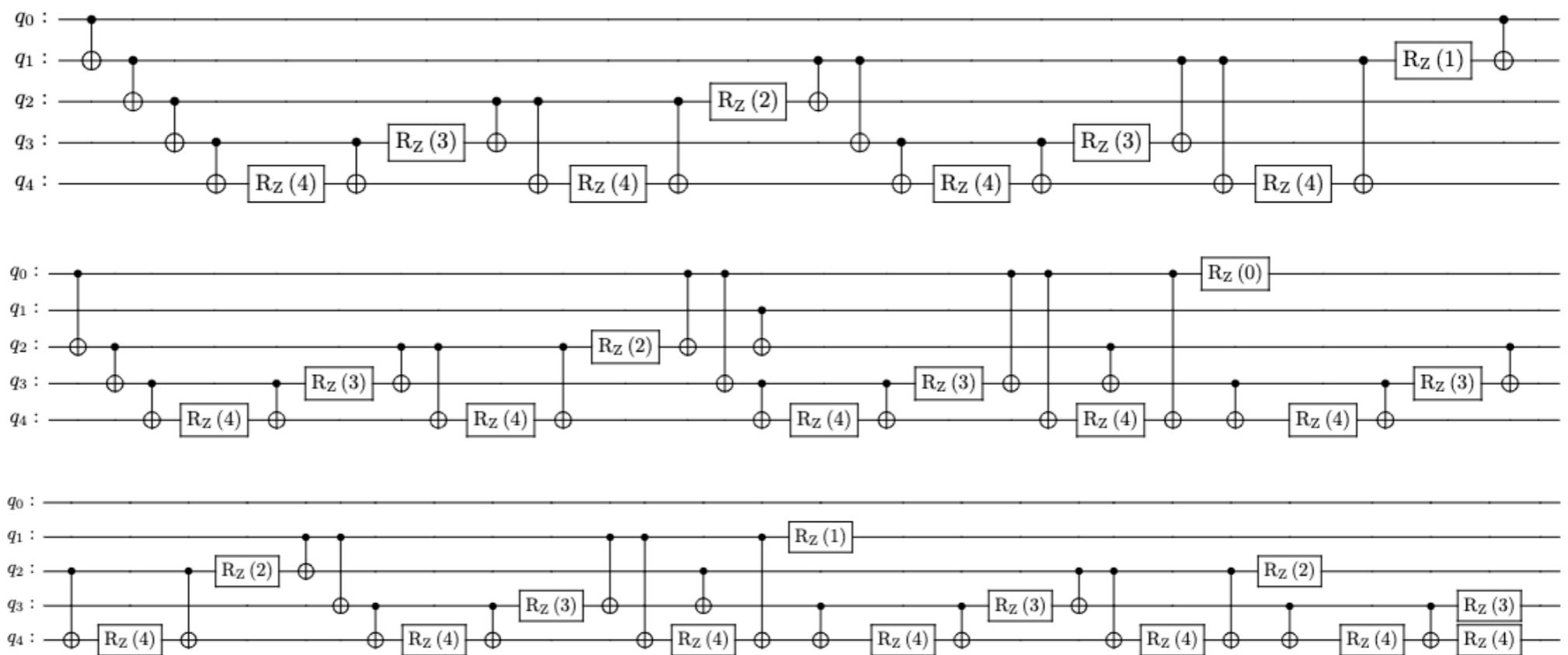
$$|000q_4q_5\rangle$$

2-particle state

$$|1q_2q_3q_4q_5\rangle$$

# Kinetic Energy Hamiltonian

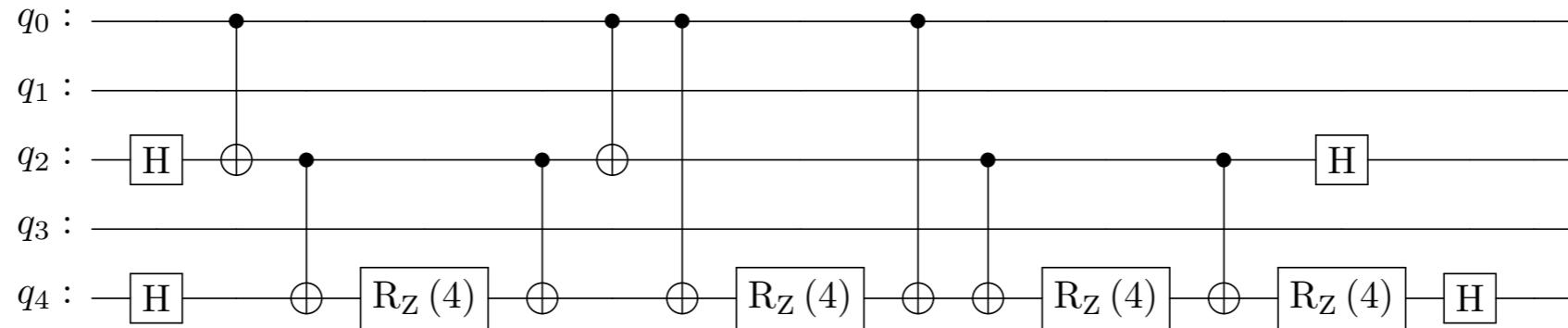
$$\begin{aligned}
H_{\text{kin}} = & \frac{(K_{\max}^{\perp})^2}{32K_{\max}^{+}} \left( -\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^z \otimes \sigma_5^z + \sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^z - 3\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_5^z \right. \\
& + 3\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z + \sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_4^z \otimes \sigma_5^z - \sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_4^z + 3\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_5^z - 3\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_2^z \\
& - 3\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^z \otimes \sigma_5^z + 3\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^z - 9\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_5^z + 9\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_3^z - \sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_4^z \otimes \sigma_5^z \\
& + \sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_4^z - 3\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_5^z + 3\sigma_1^z + \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^z \otimes \sigma_5^z - \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^z + 3\sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_5^z \\
& - 3\sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z - \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_4^z \otimes \sigma_5^z + \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_4^z - 3\sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_5^z + 3\sigma_2^z + 3\sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^z \otimes \sigma_5^z - 3\sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^z \\
& \left. + 9\sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_5^z - 9\sigma_3^z - 7\sigma_4^z \otimes \sigma_5^z + 7\sigma_4^z - 21\sigma_5^z \right)
\end{aligned}$$



**Quantum circuit**

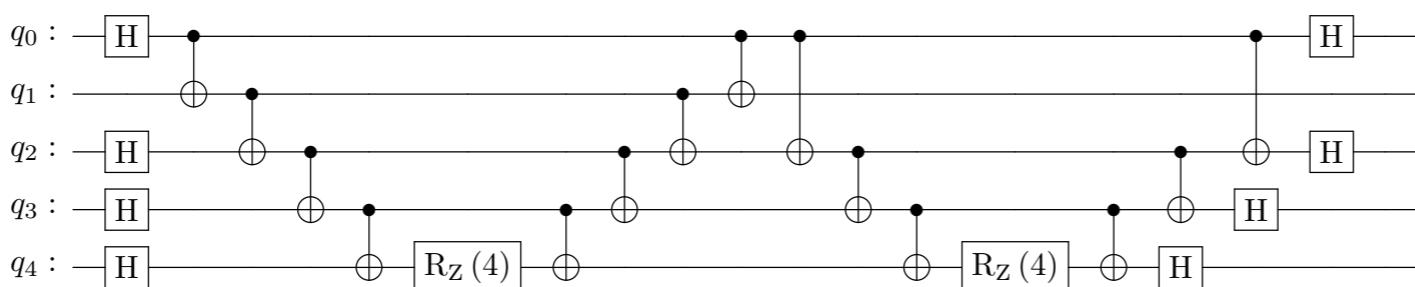
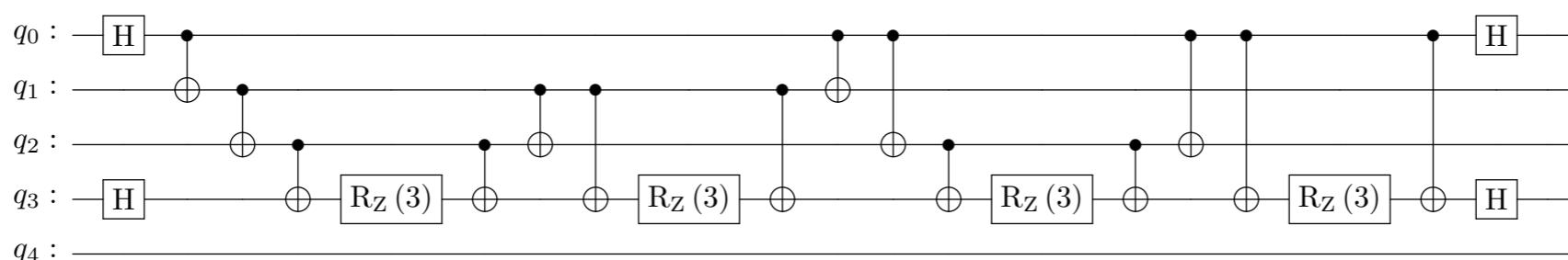
# Diffusion and Splitting Parts of Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{diff}} = \frac{g_d}{2} \bar{A}^{-}(K_{\max}^{\perp}) \left( -\sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_3^x \otimes \sigma_5^x + \sigma_1^z \otimes \sigma_5^x + \sigma_3^x \otimes \sigma_5^x + \sigma_5^x \right)$$



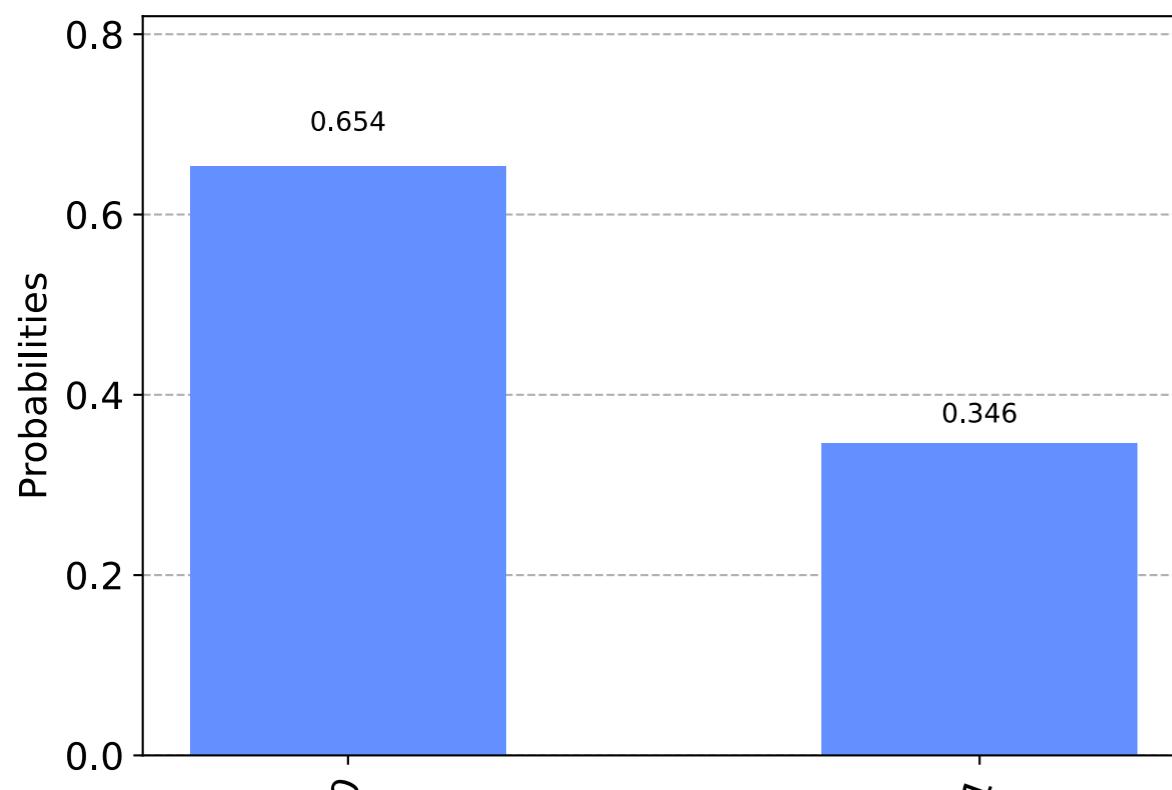
$$H_{\text{split1}} = \frac{g_s}{4} \left( \sigma_1^x \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^x + \sigma_1^x \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_4^x + \sigma_1^x \otimes \sigma_3^z \otimes \sigma_4^x + \sigma_1^x \otimes \sigma_4^x \right)$$

$$H_{\text{split2}} = \frac{g_s}{2} \left( \sigma_1^x \otimes \sigma_2^z \otimes \sigma_3^x \otimes \sigma_4^x \otimes \sigma_5^x + \sigma_1^x \otimes \sigma_3^x \otimes \sigma_4^x \otimes \sigma_5^x \right)$$



# LPM Effect in Toy Model

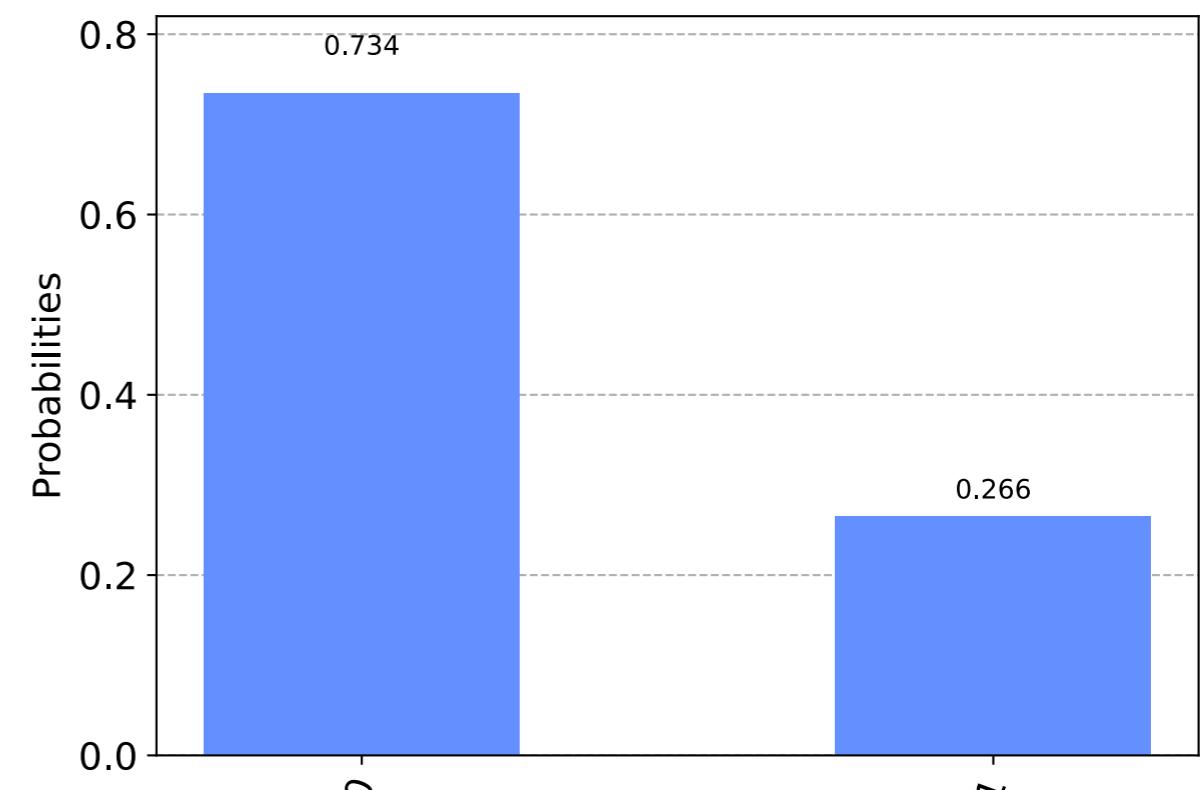
Radiation probability in vacuum



1-particle final state

2-particle final state

Radiation probability in the medium



500 quantum trajectories are averaged,  
each trajectory has a different set of  
classical background fields sampled

# Summary

- Quantum simulation for systems in thermal plasma
  - Schwinger model in thermal scalar bath, similar to quarkonium in quark-gluon plasma
  - Jet quenching in quark-gluon plasma, LPM effect seen in toy model with a few hundred fault-tolerant qubits, we can simulate LPM effect for more than two splittings and go beyond scope of state-of-the-art analyses