

# Challenges and prospects of first principles simulations of materials *out of equilibrium*

Vojtech Vlcek

Workshop for AI-Powered Materials Discovery — June 24, 2025

# Motivation 1: *driven* materials properties

- **Transient/Driven states:** Floquet-Bloch, IMT/MIT, magnetic ordering, exciton-magnon coupling ...

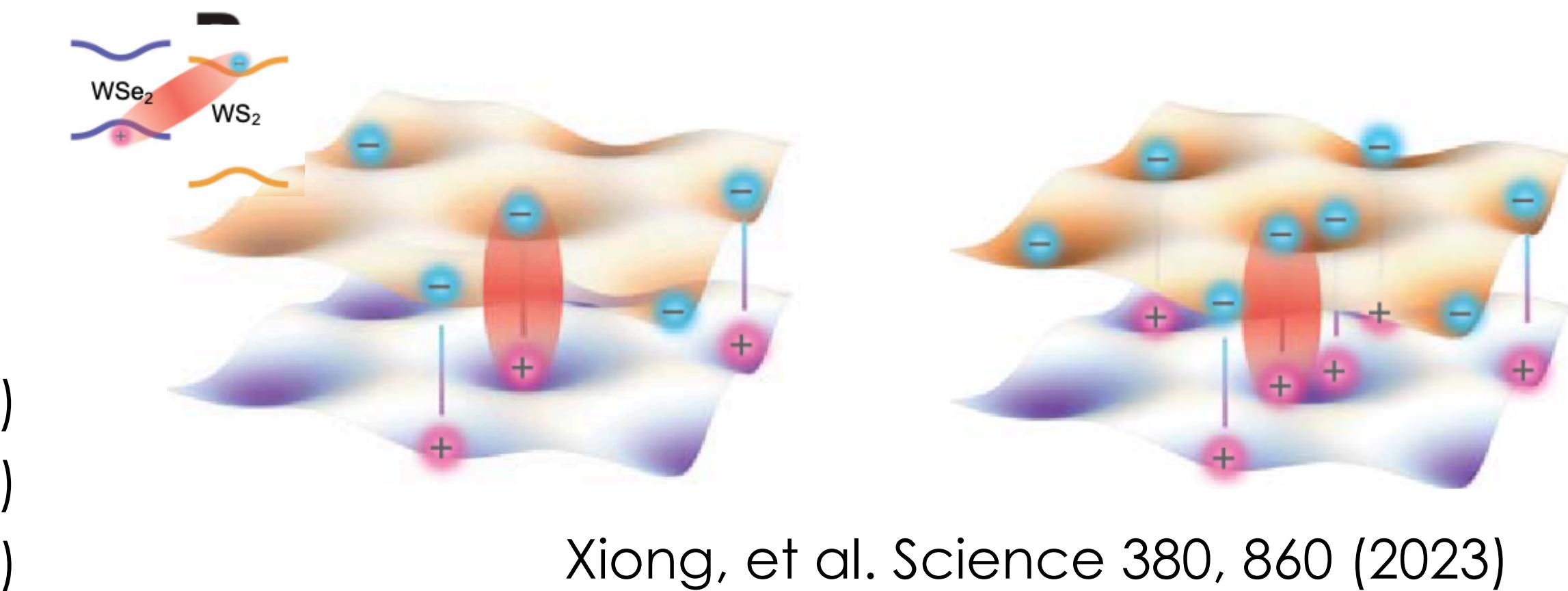
Mahmood et al., Nature Physics 12, 306 (2016)

Afanasiev et al. Nature Physics 20, 607 (2021)

Wang et al, Nature 604, 468 (2022)

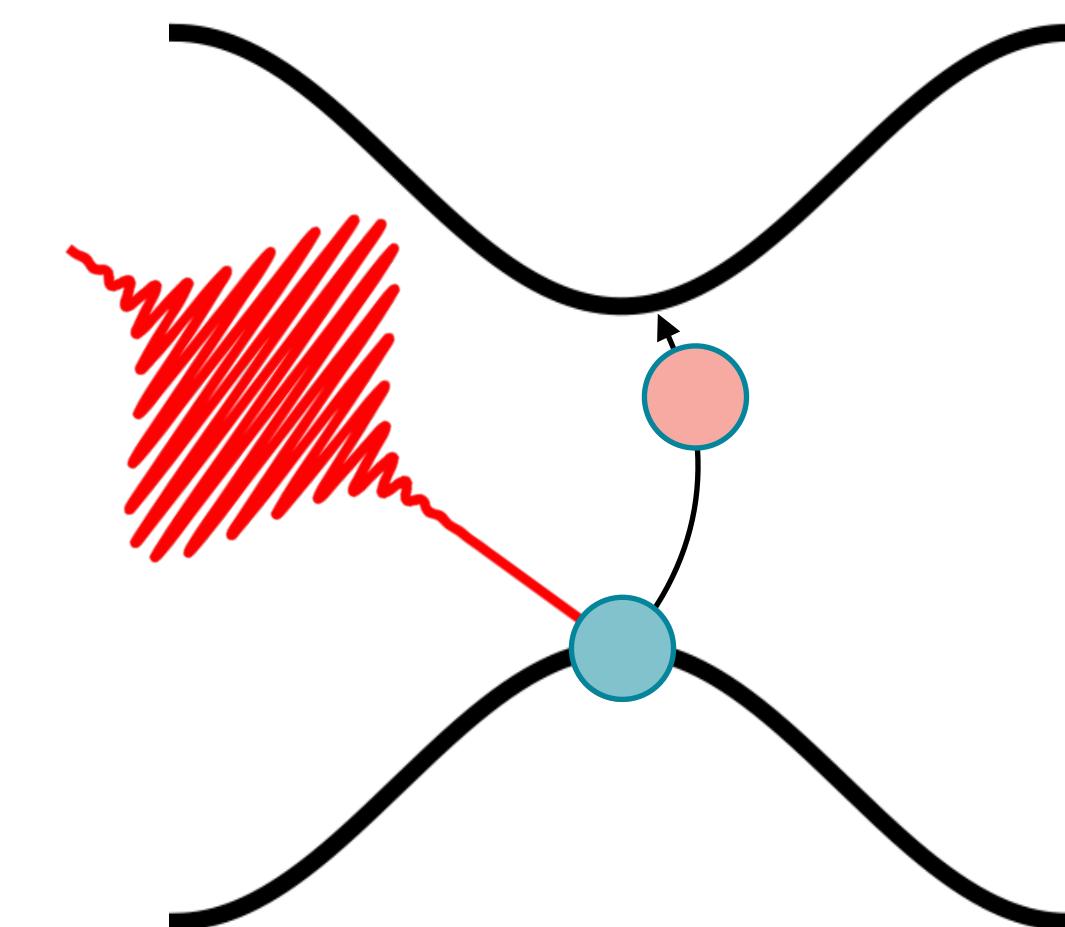
Rowe et al. Nature Physics 19, 1821 (2023)

Mehio et al, Nature Physics 19, 1876(2023)



Xiong, et al. Science 380, 860 (2023)

- Diverse **applications of transient properties:**  
on-chip photonic computation, condensate-based optoelectronics, exciton-polariton mediated high-T superconductivity, & QIS...
  - FET (100GHz)  $\Rightarrow$  Optical: THz  $\Rightarrow$  PHz



# Motivation 1: driven materials properties

- **Transient/Driven states:** Floquet-Bloch, IMT/MIT, magnetic ordering, exciton-magnon coupling ...

Mahmood et al., Nature Physics 12, 306 (2016)

Afanasiev et al. Nature Physics 20, 607 (2021)

Wang et al, Nature 604, 468 (2022)

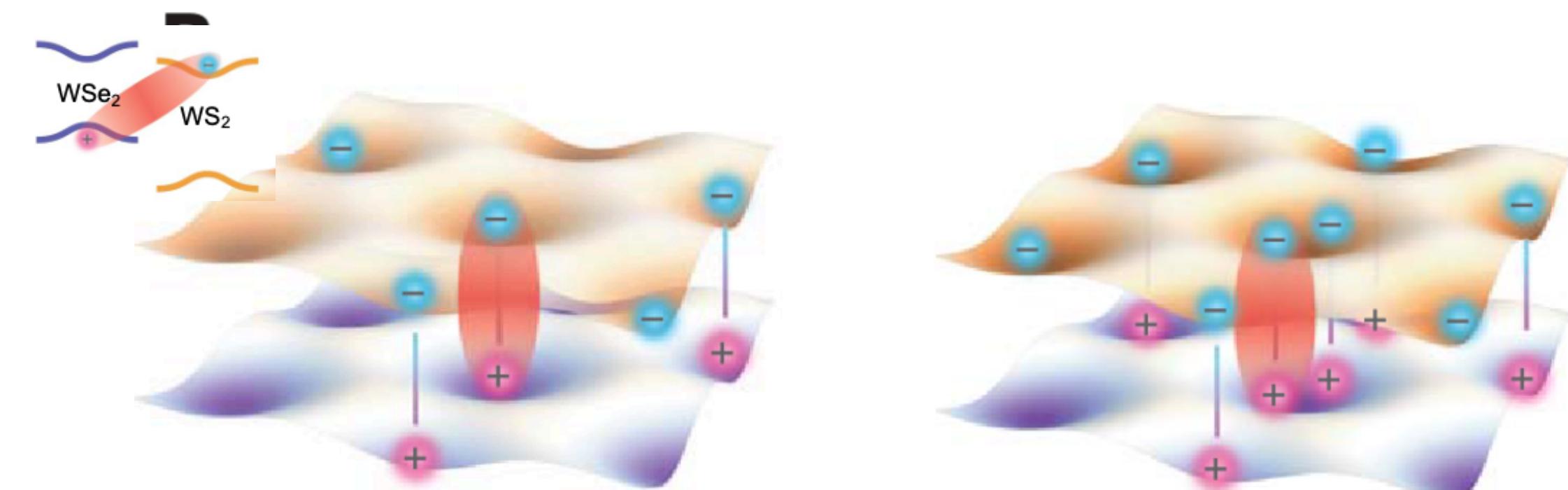
Rowe et al. Nature Physics 19, 1821 (2023)

Mehio et al, Nature Physics 19, 1876(2023)

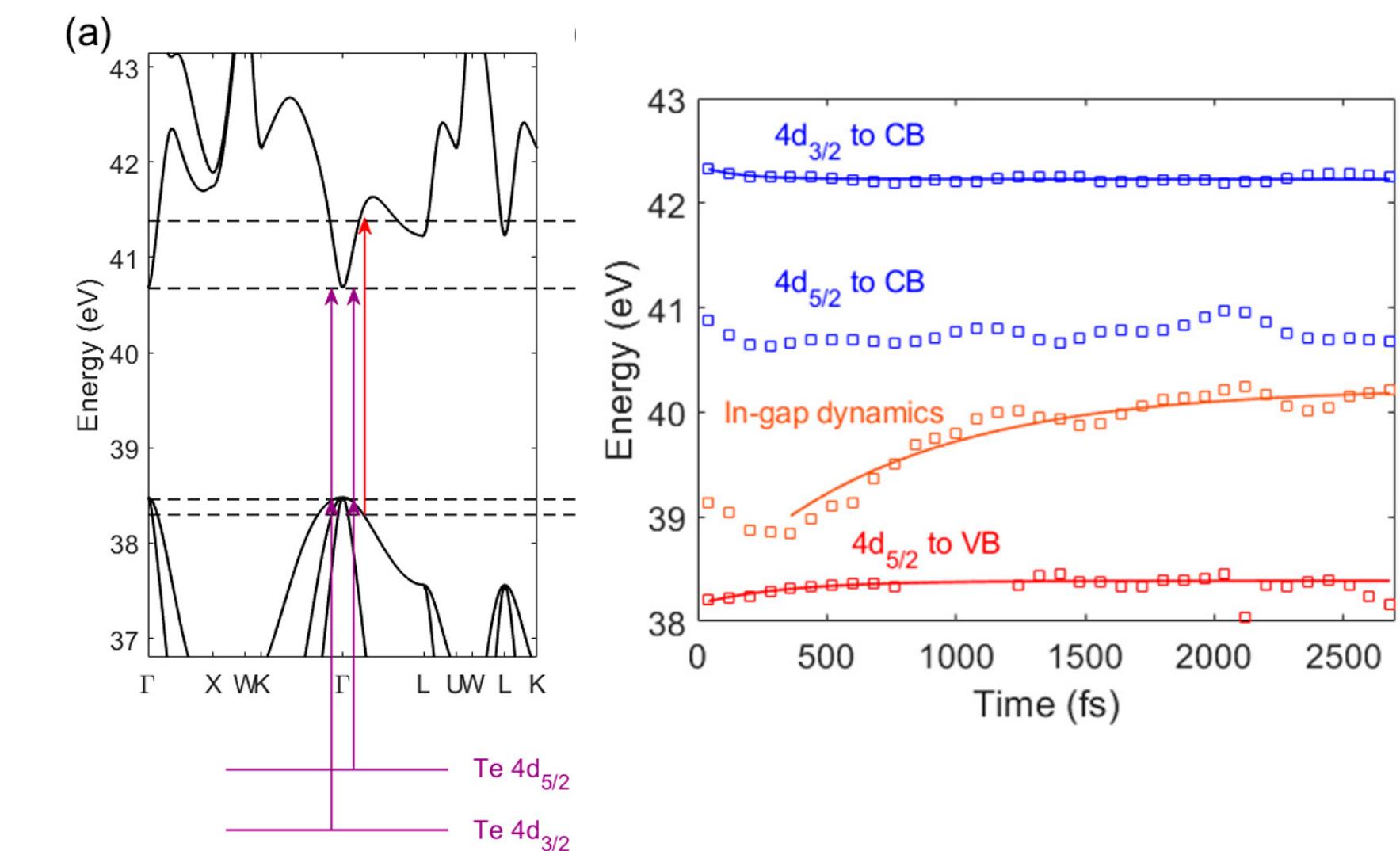
⋮

- Diverse **applications of transient properties:**  
on-chip photonic computation, condensate-based optoelectronics, exciton-polariton mediated high-T superconductivity, & QIS...

- FET (100GHz)  $\Rightarrow$  Optical: THz  $\Rightarrow$  PHz



Xiong, et al. Science 380, 860 (2023)



H. Liu et al. J. Phys. Chem. Lett., 14, 2106 (2023)

# Motivation 1: driven materials properties

- **Transient/Driven states:** Floquet-Bloch, IMT/MIT, magnetic ordering, exciton-magnon coupling ...

Mahmood et al., Nature Physics 12, 306 (2016)

Afanasiev et al. Nature Physics 20, 607 (2021)

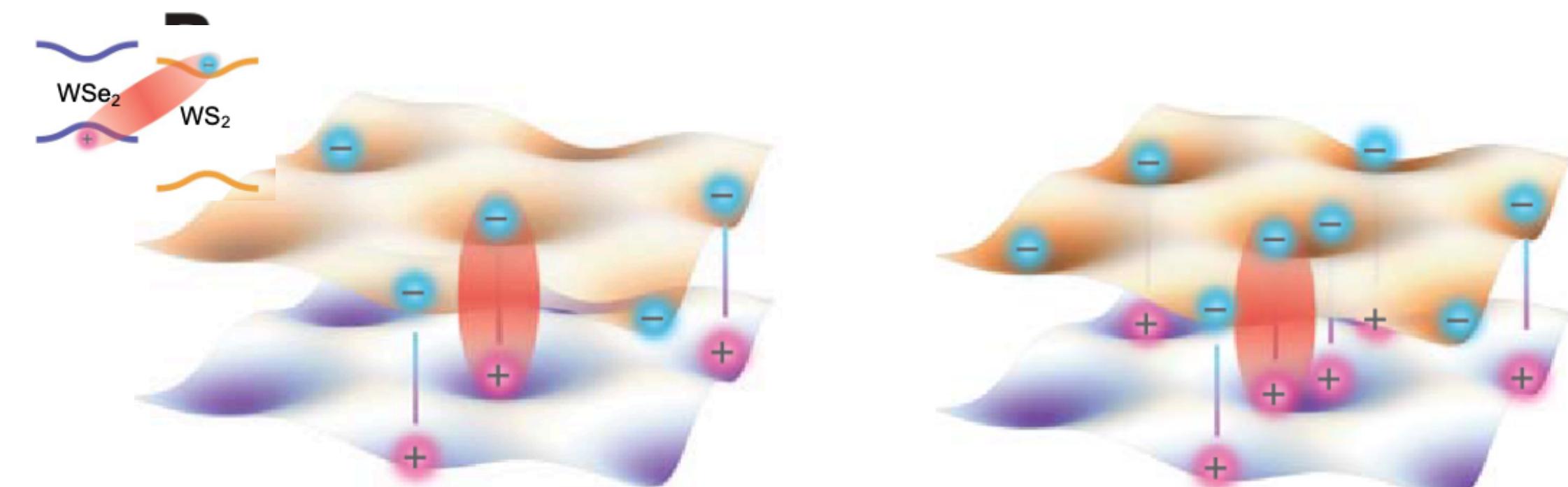
Wang et al, Nature 604, 468 (2022)

Rowe et al. Nature Physics 19, 1821 (2023)

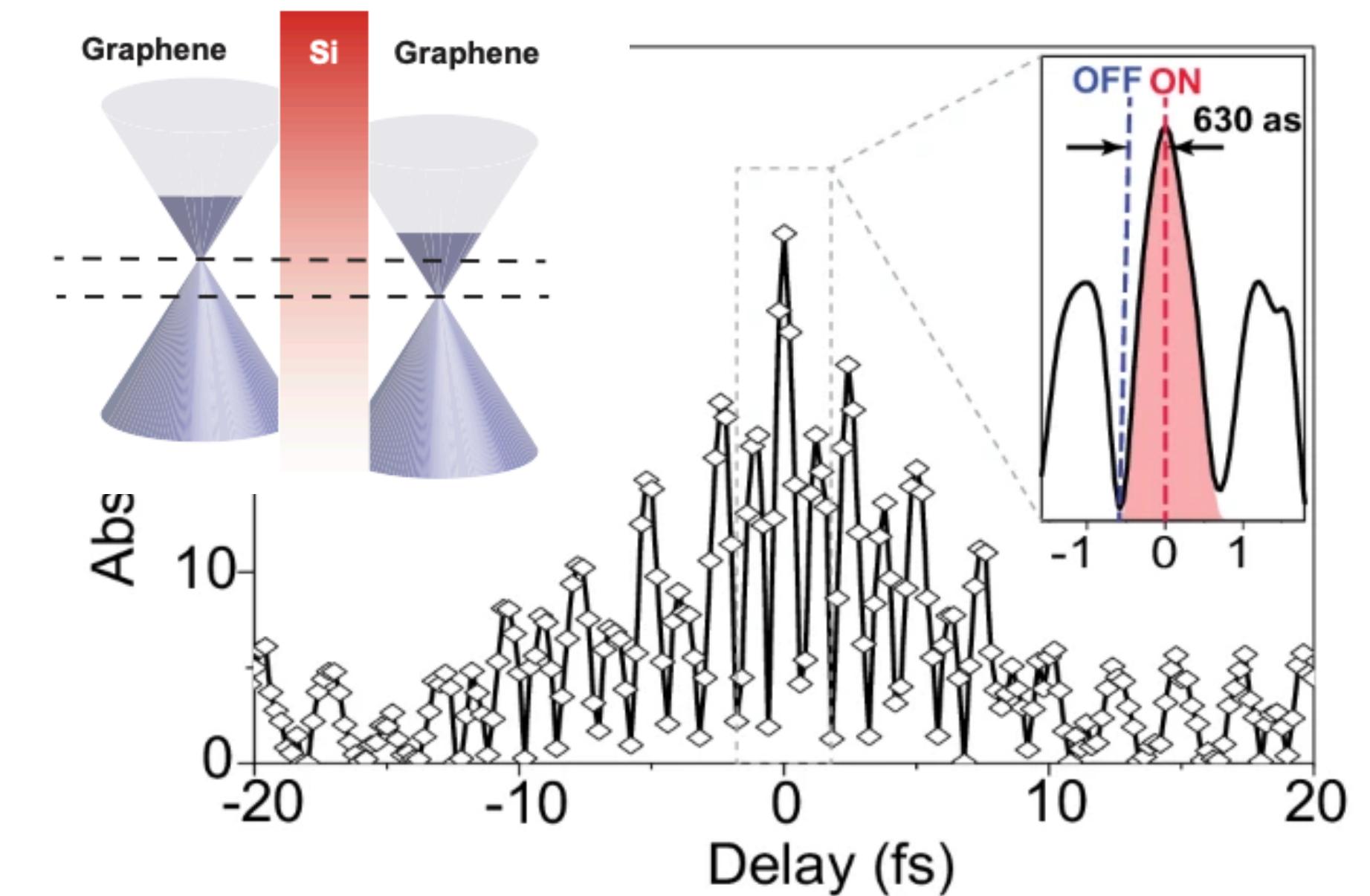
Mehio et al, Nature Physics 19, 1876(2023)

⋮

- Diverse **applications of transient properties:**  
on-chip photonic computation, condensate-based optoelectronics, exciton-polariton mediated high-T superconductivity, & QIS...
- FET (100GHz)  $\Rightarrow$  Optical: THz  $\Rightarrow$  PHz



Xiong, et al. Science 380, 860 (2023)



Sennary et al., Nature Comm, 16, 4335 (2025)

UC SANTA BARBARA

# Motivation 2: witnessing electronic structure dynamics

G Inzani and M Lucchini, J. Phys. Photonics 7 022001 (2025)

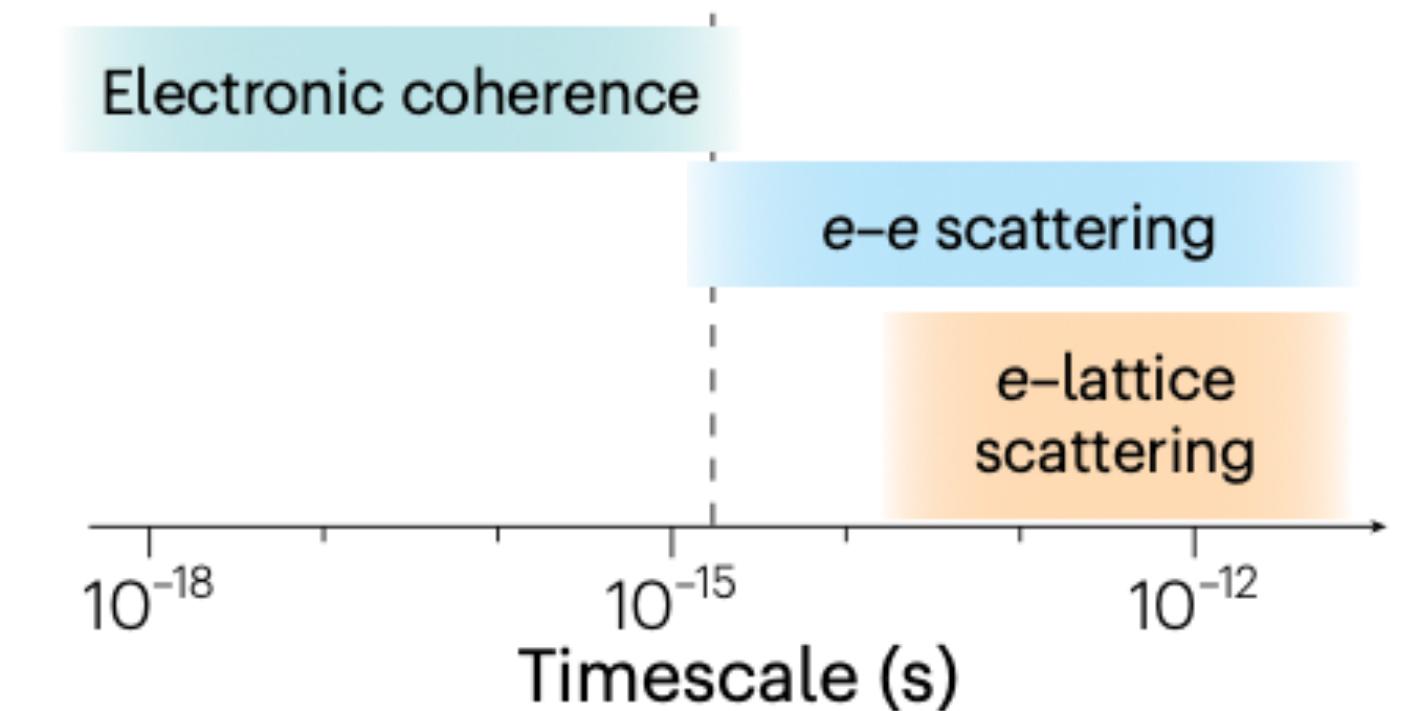
- Optical (pump-probe) UV-VIS + TR-CD + ...

- time resolution of 5 fs (2017)  $\Rightarrow$  <1 fs (2022)

Zuerch et al, Nature Comm, 8, 15734 (2017)

Kretschmar et al., Sci. Adv. 10, eadk9605 (2024)

- sHHG microscopy: <1 fs & pm resolution



Heide et al, Nat Physics 20 1546 (2024)

Hsieh et al, Nature (2019)

# Motivation 2: witnessing electronic structure dynamics

G Inzani and M Lucchini, J. Phys. Photonics 7 022001 (2025)

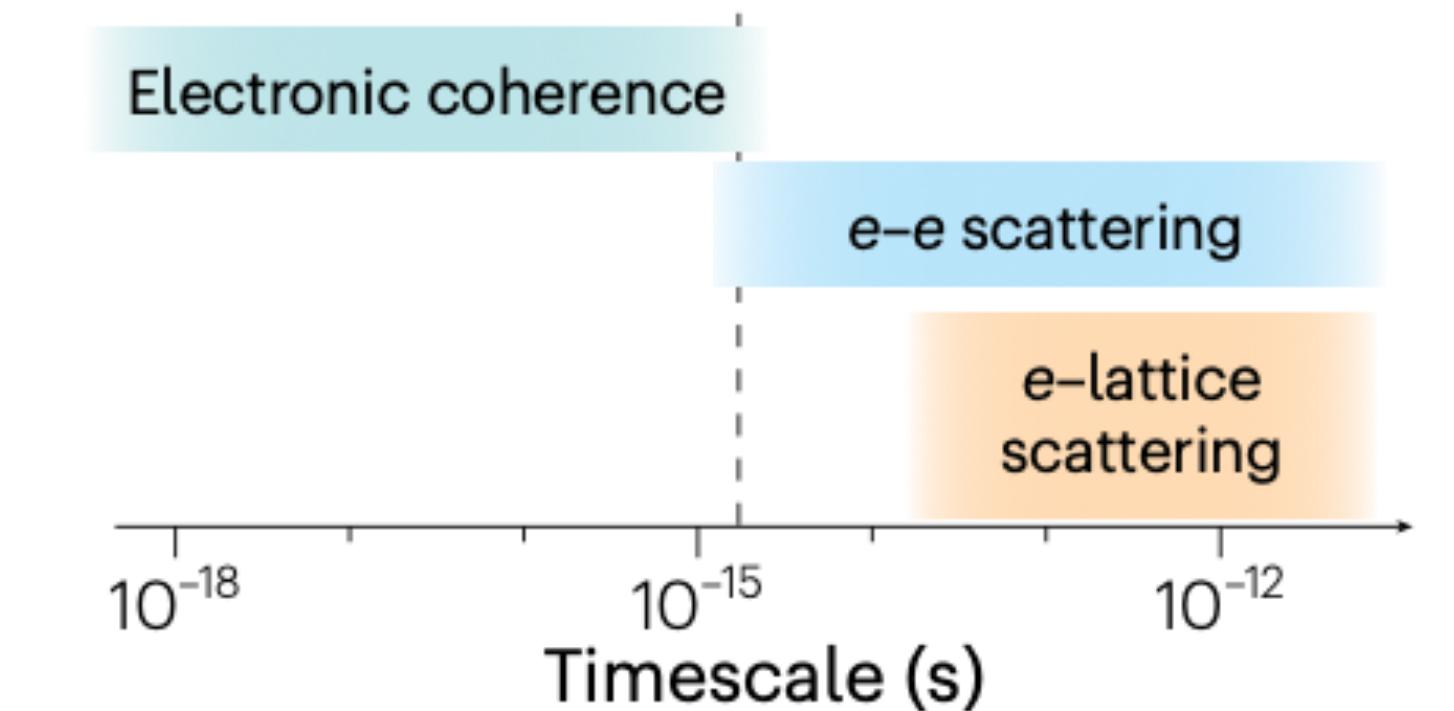
- Optical (pump-probe) UV-VIS + TR-CD + ...

- time resolution of 5 fs (2017)  $\Rightarrow$  <1 fs (2022)

Zuerch et al, Nature Comm, 8, 15734 (2017)

Kretschmar et al., Sci. Adv. 10, eadk9605 (2024)

- sHHG microscopy: <1 fs & pm resolution



Heide et al, Nat Physics 20 1546 (2024)

- Time-Resolved Photoemission

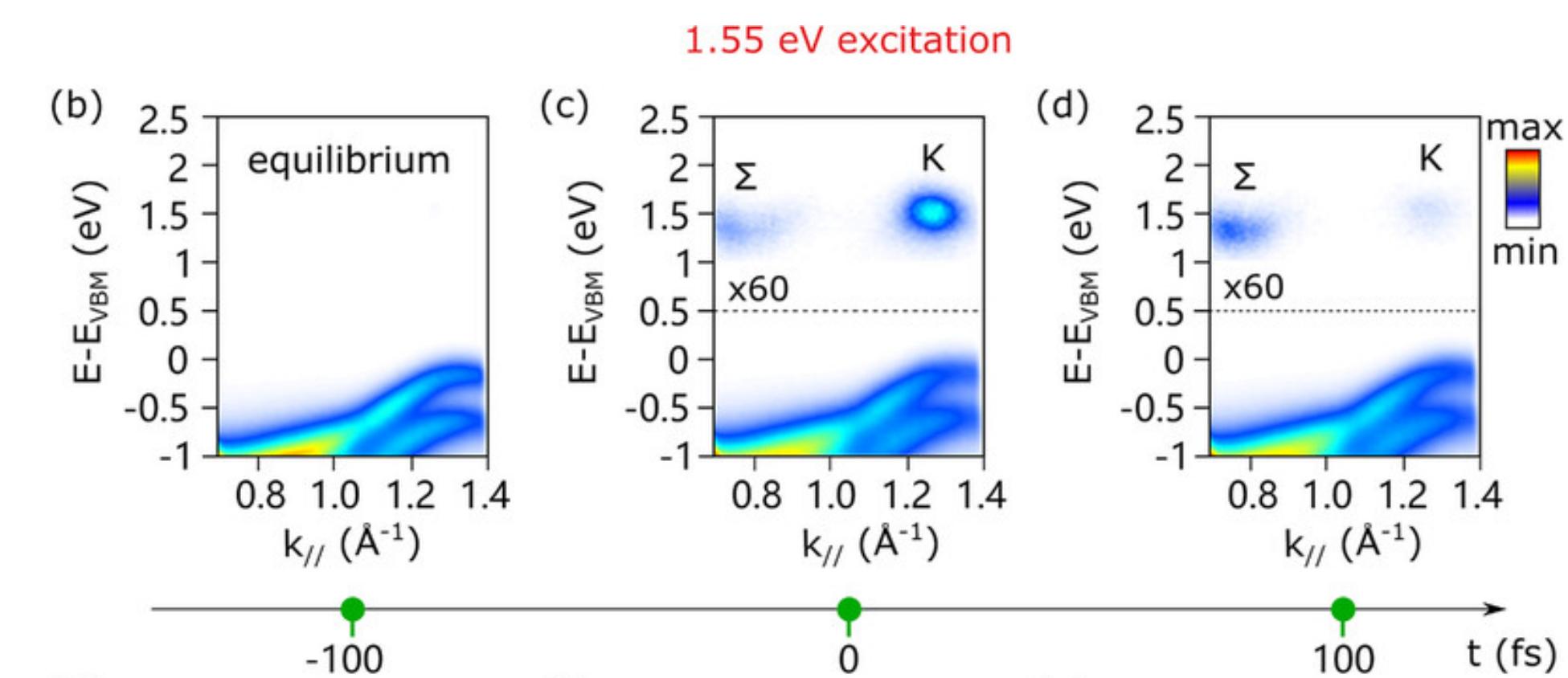
Boschini, Zonno, Damascelli Rev. Mod. Phys. 96, 01500 (2024)

- 200 fs in 2019  $\Rightarrow$  <49 fs in 2025

Sie, Rohwer, Lee, Gedik, Nature Comm , 10, 3535 (2019)

- STARPES: 100 fs (2020) Schiller Sci Rep 15, 3611 (2025)

Fanciulli et al, Phys. Rev. Research 2, 013261 (2024)



Dong , Puppin et al. Natural sciences (2021)

# Motivation 2: witnessing electronic structure dynamics

G Inzani and M Lucchini, J. Phys. Photonics 7 022001 (2025)

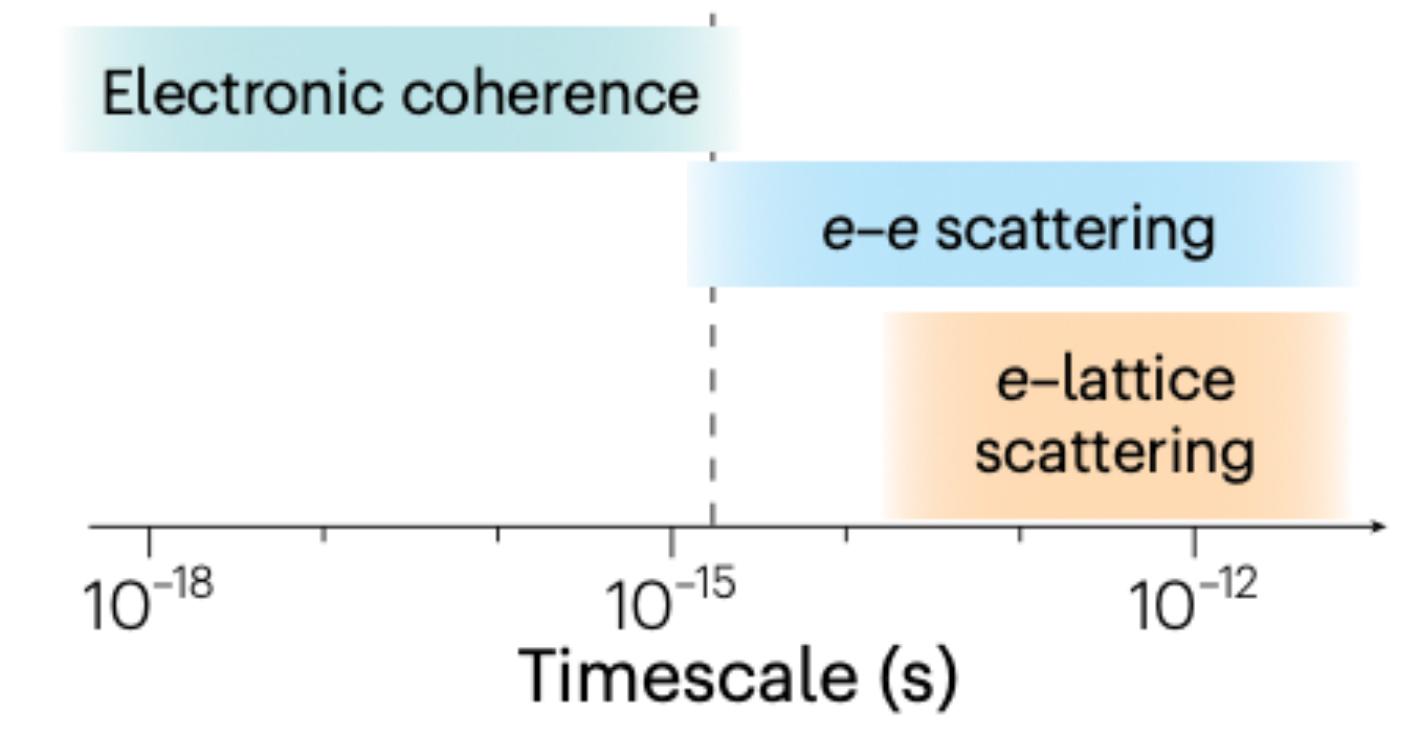
- Optical (pump-probe) UV-VIS + TR-CD + ...

- time resolution of 5 fs (2017)  $\Rightarrow$  <1 fs (2022)

Zuerch et al, Nature Comm, 8, 15734 (2017)

Kretschmar et al., Sci. Adv. 10, eadk9605 (2024)

- sHHG microscopy: <1 fs & pm resolution



Heide et al, Nat Physics 20 1546 (2024)

- Time-Resolved Photoemission

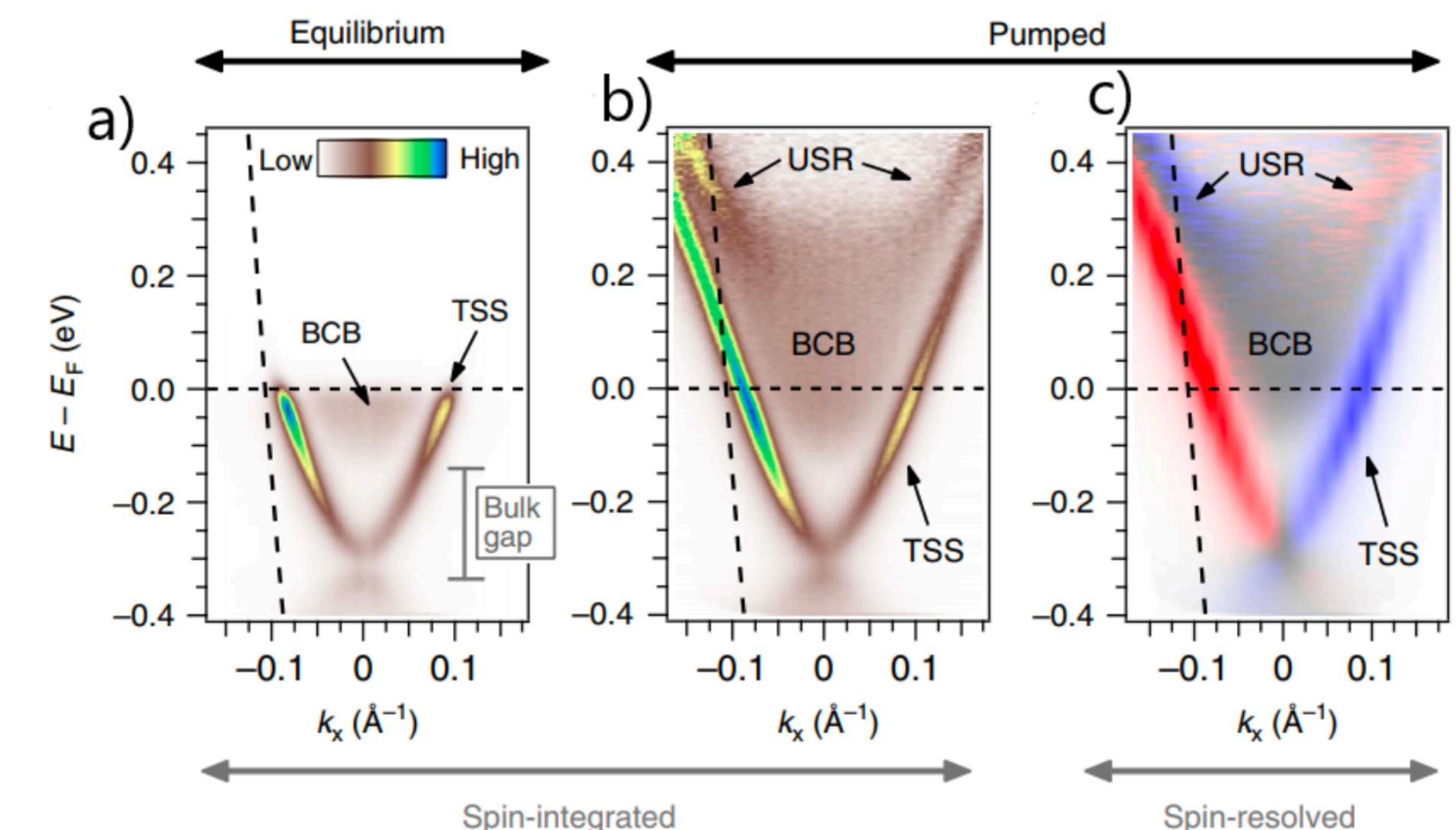
Boschini, Zonno, Damascelli Rev. Mod. Phys. 96, 01500 (2024)

- 200 fs in 2019  $\Rightarrow$  <49 fs in 2025

Sie, Rohwer, Lee, Gedik, Nature Comm , 10, 3535 (2019)

- STARPES: 100 fs (2020) Schiller Sci Rep 15, 3611 (2025)

Fanciulli et al, Phys. Rev. Research 2, 013261 (2024)

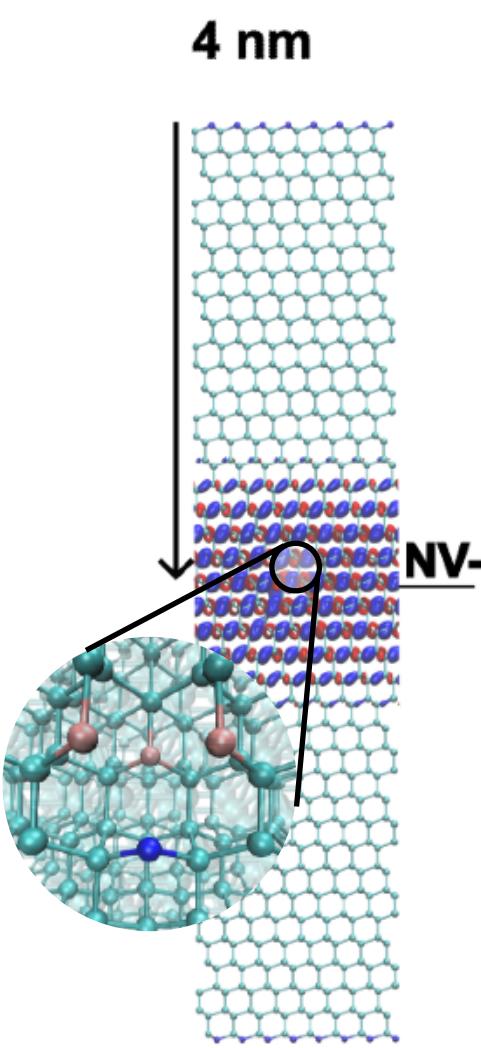


Hsieh et al, Nature (2019)

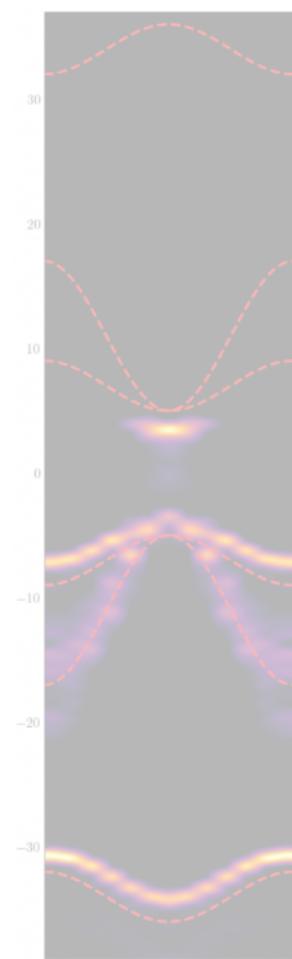
UC SANTA BARBARA

# First Principles Materials Simulations - challenges (& prospects)

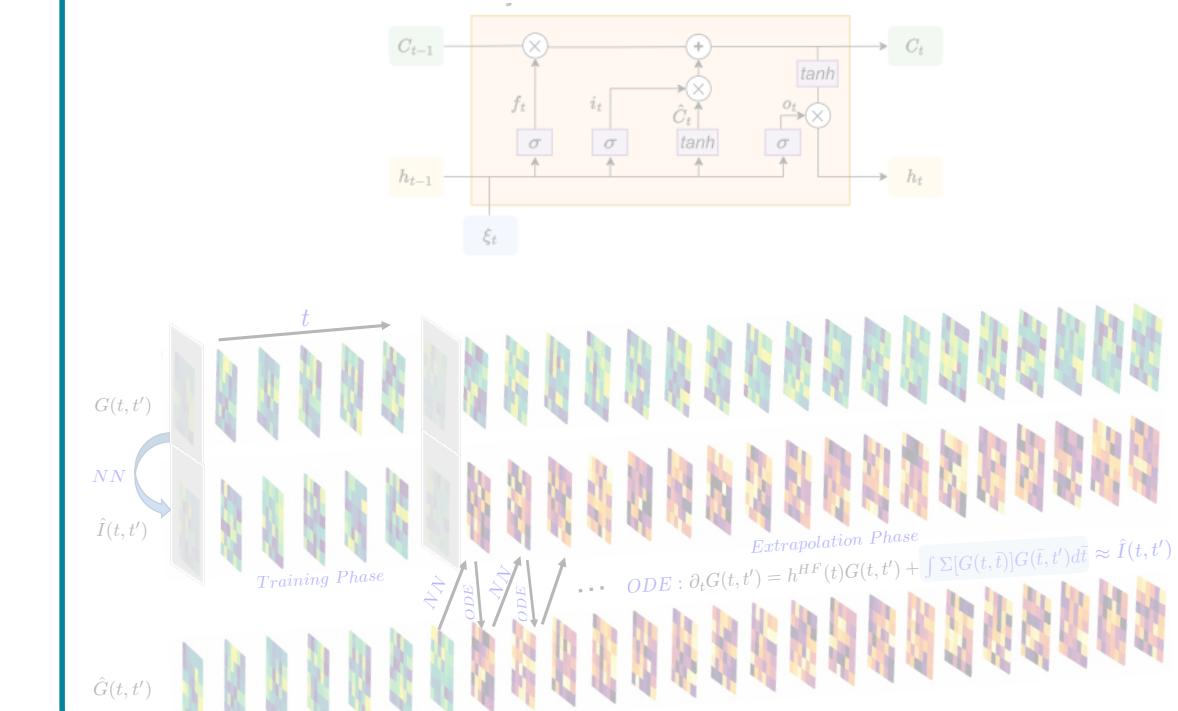
## Inspirational tale: equilibrium



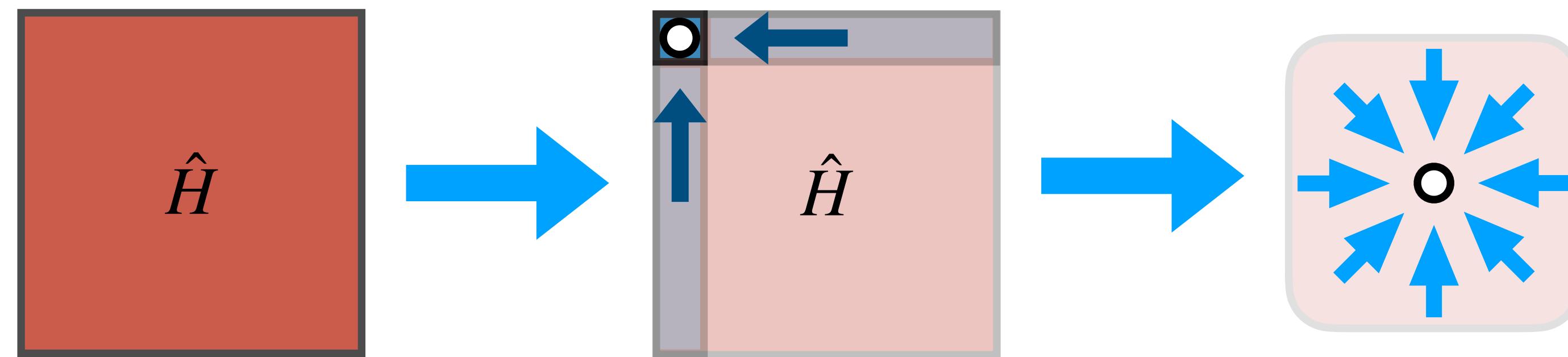
## Extending current frameworks to non- equilibrium



## Opportunities for *new* approaches



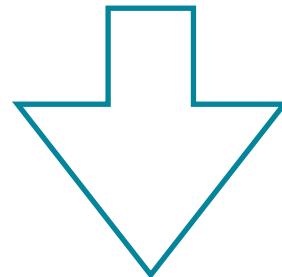
# Theory Framework - complexity reduction



- direct evolution of observables, i.e., correlation functions
  - One body space-time correlator  
 $\Leftrightarrow$  (S)TARPES
  - Two-body correlators and observables
    - $\Leftrightarrow$  particle-hole, i.e., optical (contracted)
    - $\Leftrightarrow$  particle-particle in 2E ARPES

“Complexity conservation”

large dimensionality

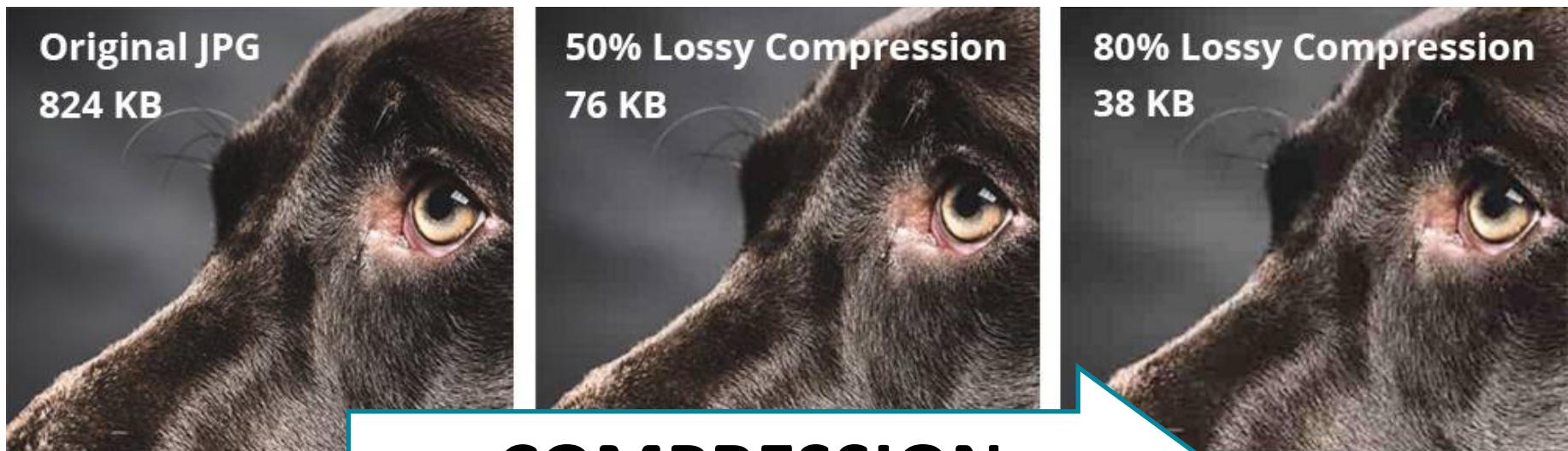


downfolded energy/time dependence

# Efficient Implementation of Equilibrium Simulations:

- Scaling Up Many-Body Calculations:
  - ***intrinsic vs apparent complexity (Kolmogorov)***
- Exploiting compression techniques:

adapted from: John, arXiv:2102.06968 (2021)



# Efficient Implementation of Equilibrium Simulations:

- Scaling Up Many-Body Calculations:
  - ***intrinsic vs apparent complexity (Kolmogorov)***
  - Exploiting compression techniques:
    - response functions and basis
    - randomized samplings

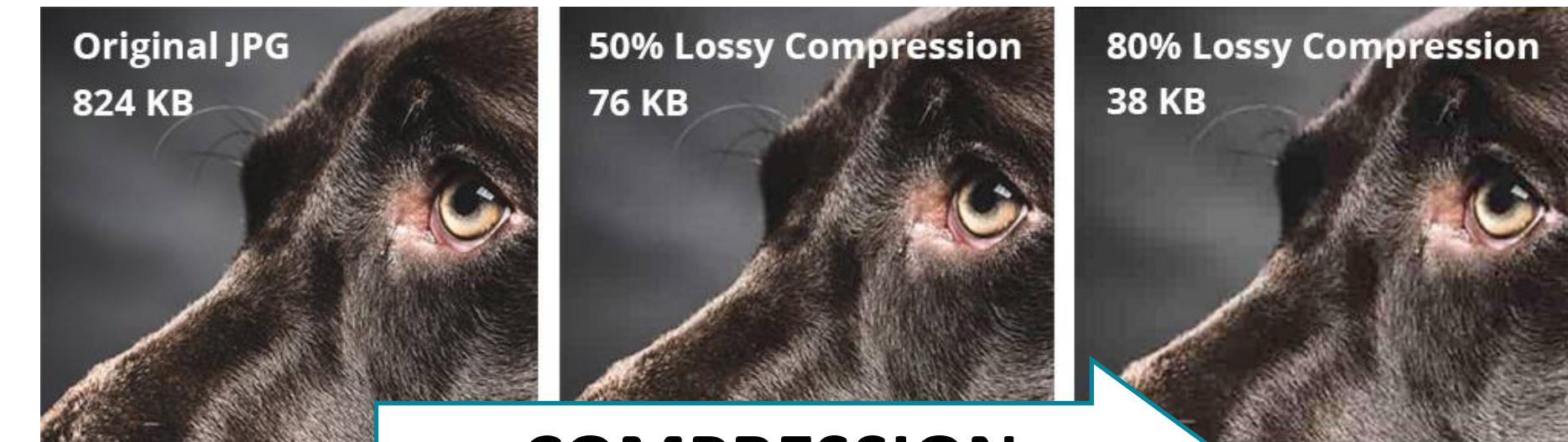
Govoni, Galli J Chem Theory Comput 11(6), 2680 (2015)

Wilhelm, Golze et al J Phys Chem Lett 9(2), 306 (2018)

Neuhauser et al Phys Rev Lett 113 (7), 076402 (2014)

VV, J Chem Theory Comput 15 (11), 6254 (2019)

adapted from: John, arXiv:2102.06968 (2021)



- Systematic improvement: inclusion of higher order correlations
- ⇒ *Excited state calculations for systems with thousands of electrons*

# Efficient Implementation of Equilibrium Simulations:

4 nm

- Scaling Up Many-Body Calculations:
  - ***intrinsic vs apparent complexity (Kolmogorov)***
  - Exploiting compression techniques:
    - response functions and basis
    - randomized samplings

Govoni, Galli J Chem Theory Comput 11(6), 2680 (2015)

Wilhelm, Golze et al J Phys Chem Lett 9(2), 306 (2018)

Neuhäuser et al Phys Rev Lett 113 (7), 076402 (2014)

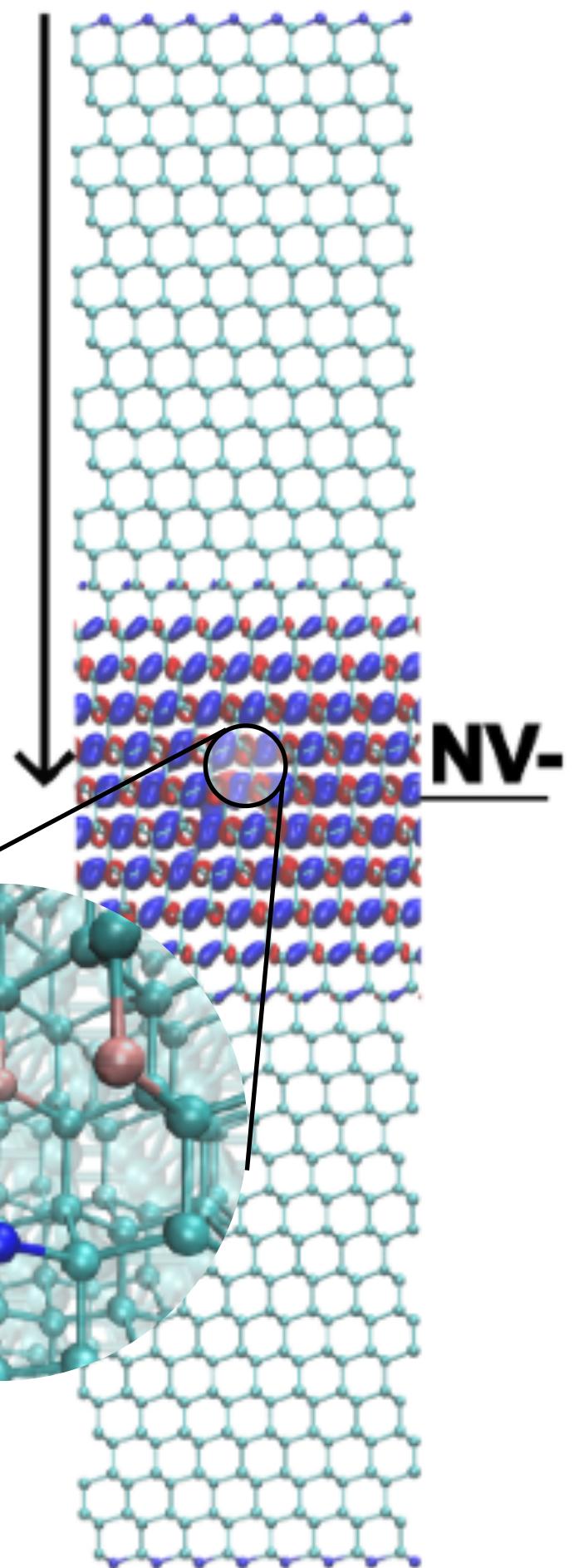
VV, J Chem Theory Comput 15 (11), 6254 (2019)

- Systematic improvement: inclusion of higher order correlations
- ⇒ *Excited state calculations for systems with thousands of electrons*

Apelian, Canestraro, Liu, VV, Nano Letters 24 (38), 11882 (2024)

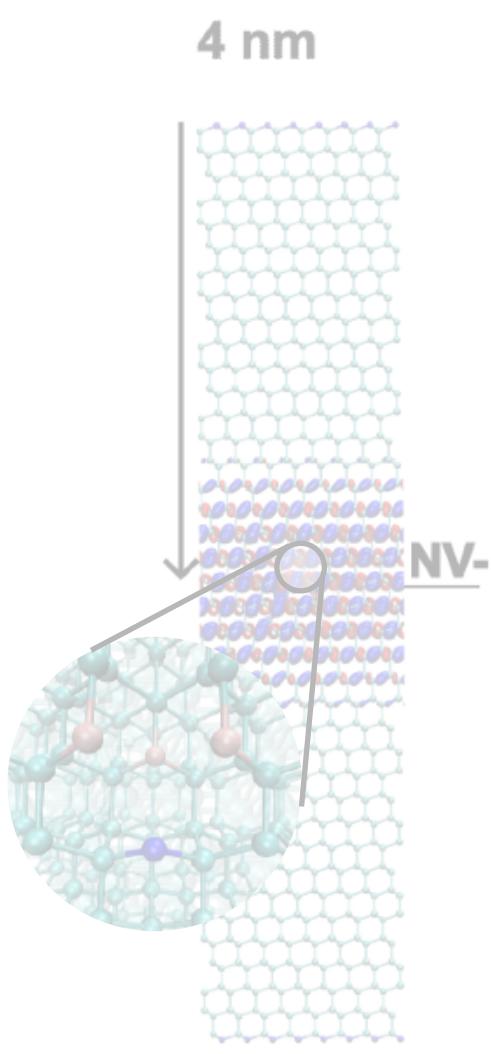
Apelian, Romanova, Vlcek arXiv:2505.10866 (2025)

UC SANTA BARBARA

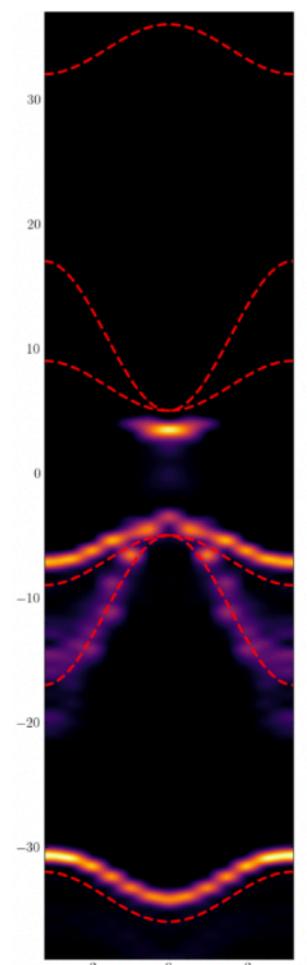


# First Principles Materials Simulations - challenges (& prospects)

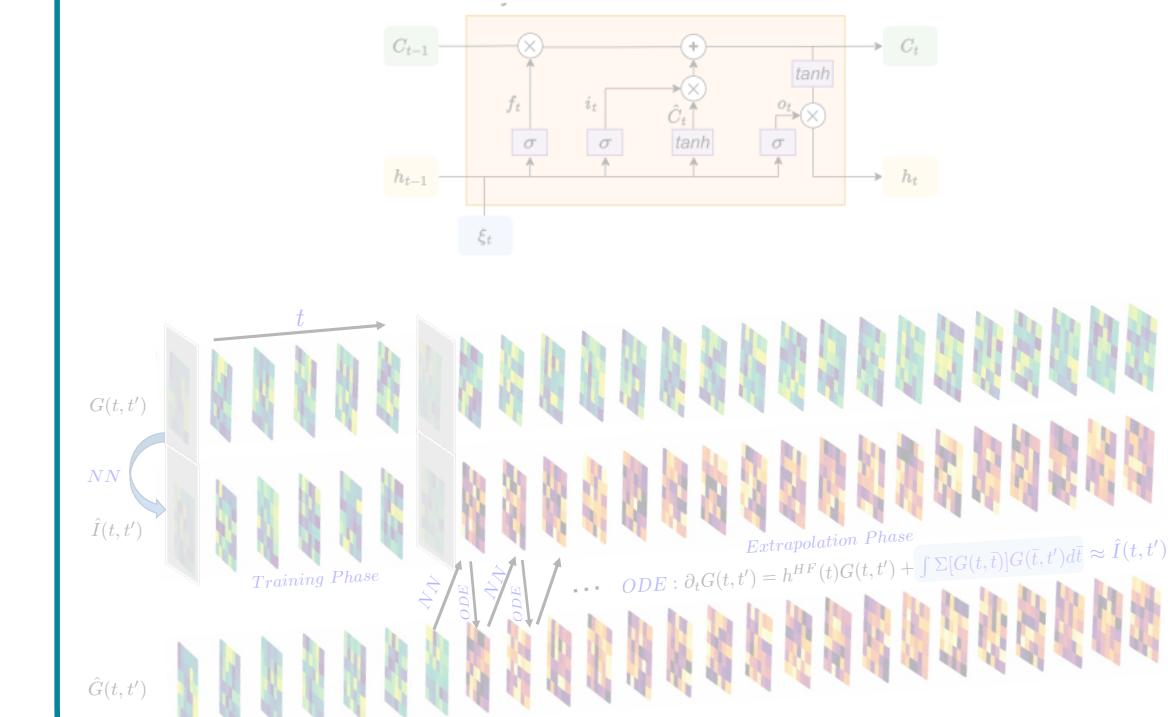
Inspirational tale:  
equilibrium



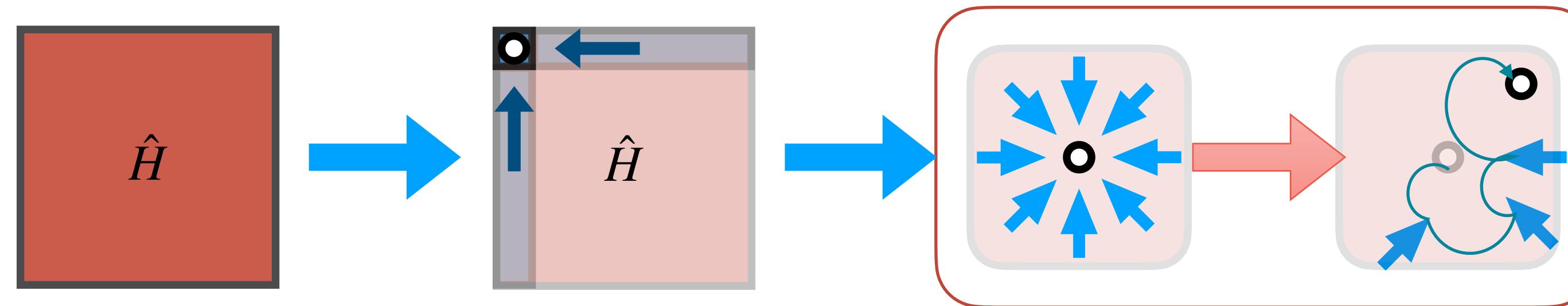
Extending current  
frameworks to non-  
equilibrium



Opportunities for  
*new* approaches

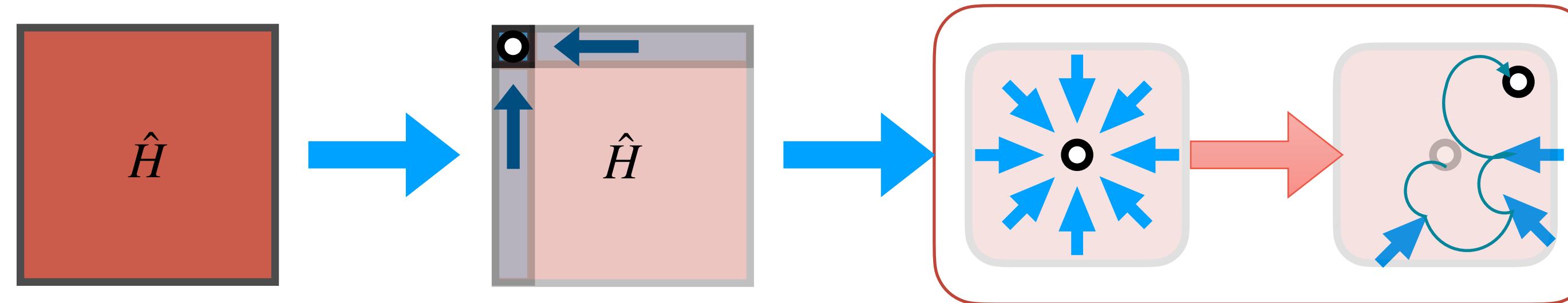


# Non-equilibrium theory extension and its challenges



$$[i\partial_t - h^{(0)}(t)] G(t, t') = \delta(t, t') + I(t, t')$$

# Non-equilibrium theory extension and its challenges



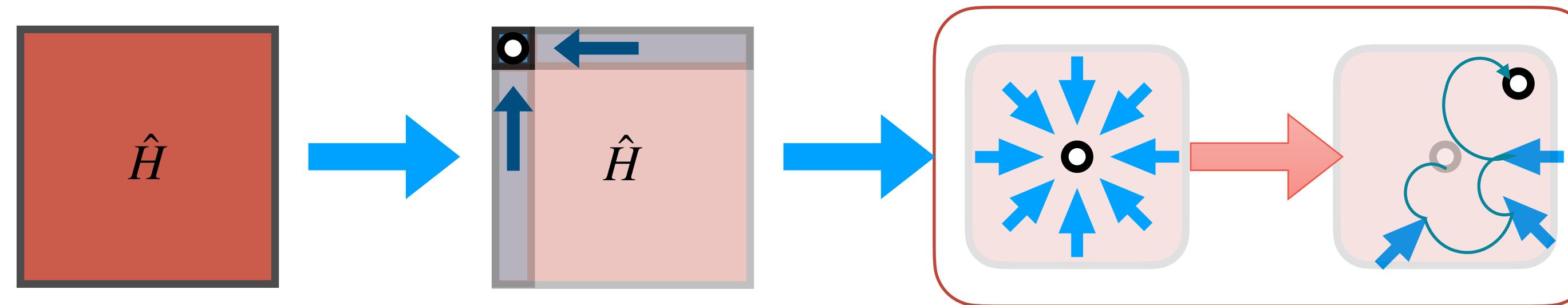
$$[i\partial_t - h^{(0)}(t)] G(t, t') = \delta(t, t') + I(t, t')$$

Balzer & Bonitz, Springer (2013)

Stefanucci & van Leeuwen, Cambridge (2013 & 2025)

- Information about *time* and energy  $\Rightarrow$  A tale of **two times**

# Non-equilibrium theory extension and its challenges



$$[i\partial_t - h^{(0)}(t)] G(t, t') = \delta(t, t') + I(t, t')$$

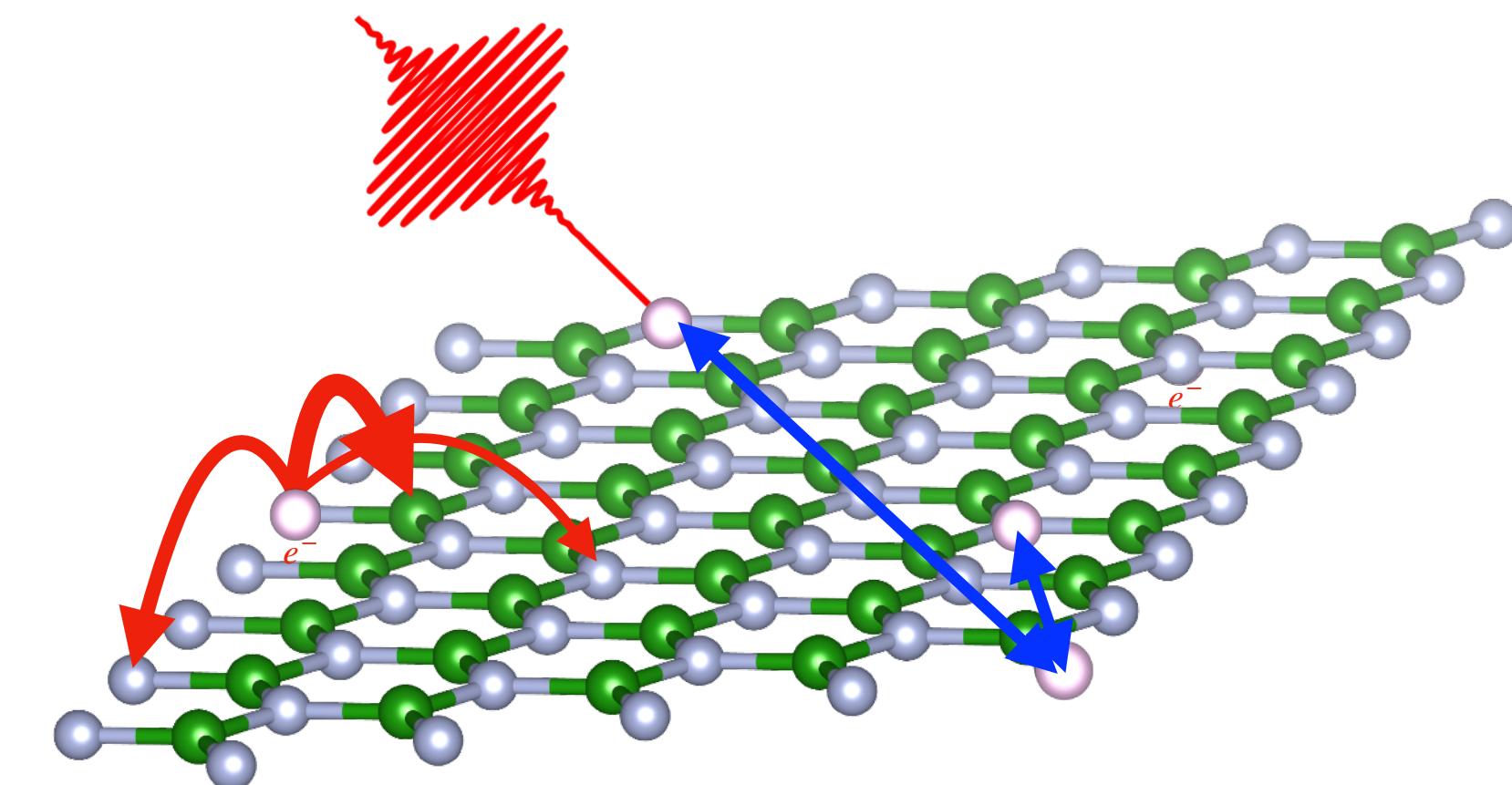
Balzer & Bonitz, Springer (2013)

Stefanucci & van Leeuwen, Cambridge (2013 & 2025)

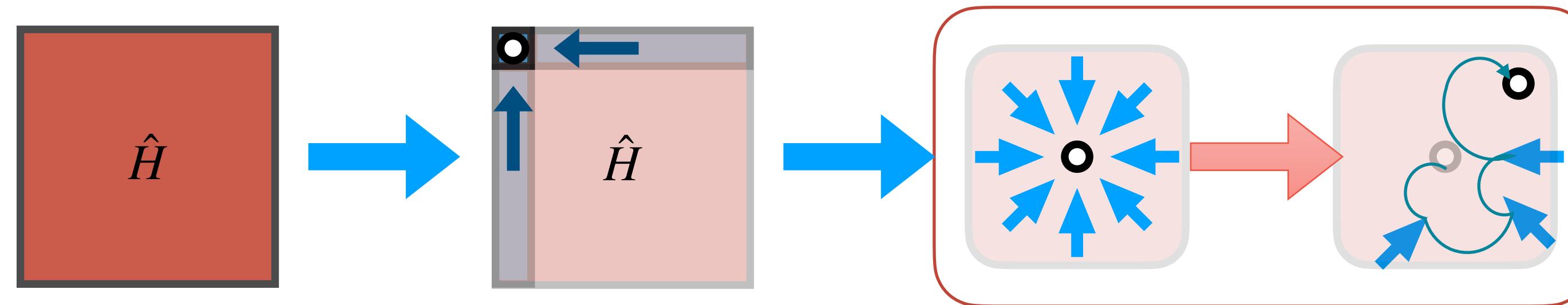
- Information about *time* and energy  $\Rightarrow$  A tale of **two times**
- Factors determining the memory “extent” and effects
  - Property of Interest (Observables & Correlators)
  - Intrinsic Interaction Strength
  - External Driving/Interaction Modulation

Reeves, Zhu, Yang, **VV** Phys Rev B 108 (11), 115152 (2023)

Reeves, Harsha, Shee, ... **VV** Phys Rev Research 7 (2), 023002 (2025)



# Non-equilibrium theory extension and its challenges



$$[i\partial_t - h^{(0)}(t)] G(t, t') = \delta(t, t') + I(t, t')$$

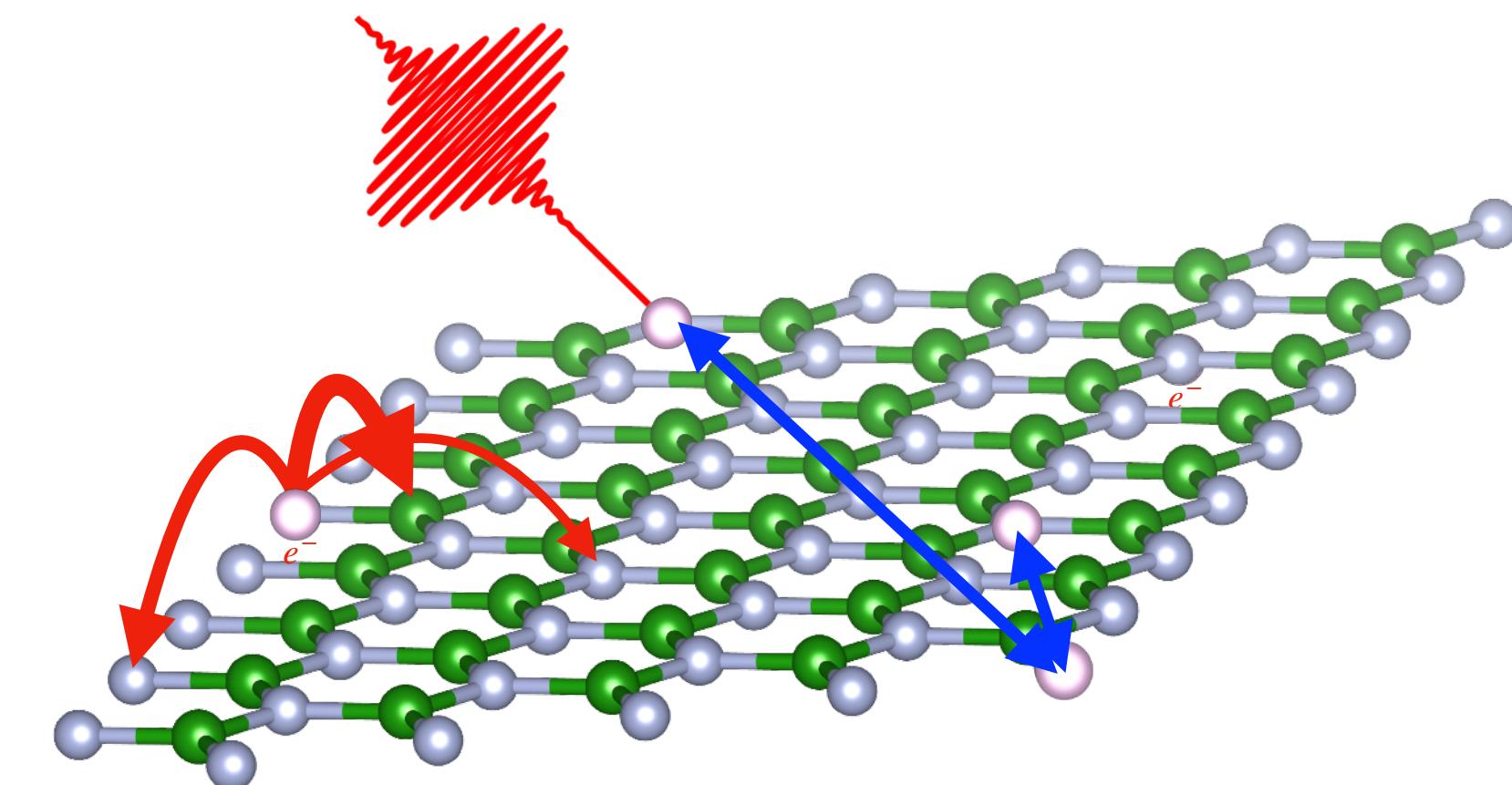
Balzer & Bonitz, Springer (2013)

Stefanucci & van Leeuwen, Cambridge (2013 & 2025)

- Information about *time* and energy  $\Rightarrow$  A tale of **two times**
- Factors determining the memory “extent” and effects
  - **Property of Interest (Observables & Correlators)**
  - Intrinsic Interaction Strength
  - External Driving/Interaction Modulation

Reeves, Zhu, Yang, **VV** Phys Rev B 108 (11), 115152 (2023)

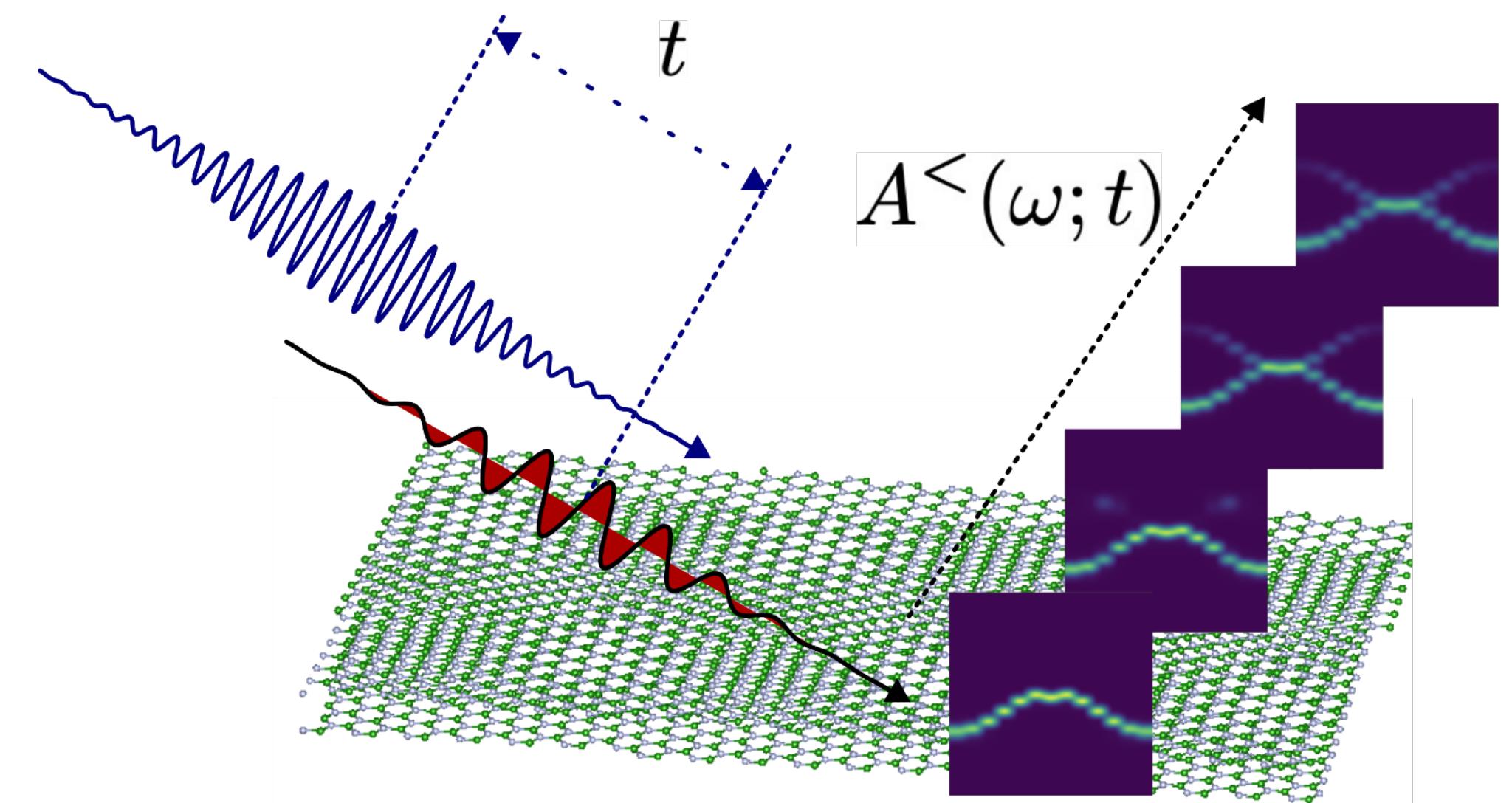
Reeves, Harsha, Shee, ... **VV** Phys Rev Research 7 (2), 023002 (2025)



# Time-resolved photoemission spectra — “two time” correlations

- Time-Resolved Spectra:
  - Spectra directly depend on **two times**

$$A^<(\omega, t_p) = \iint dt dt' e^{-i\omega(t-t')} \mathcal{S}(t - t_p) \mathcal{S}(t' - t_p) \text{Tr}[G^<(t, t')]$$



# Time-resolved photoemission spectra — “two time” correlations

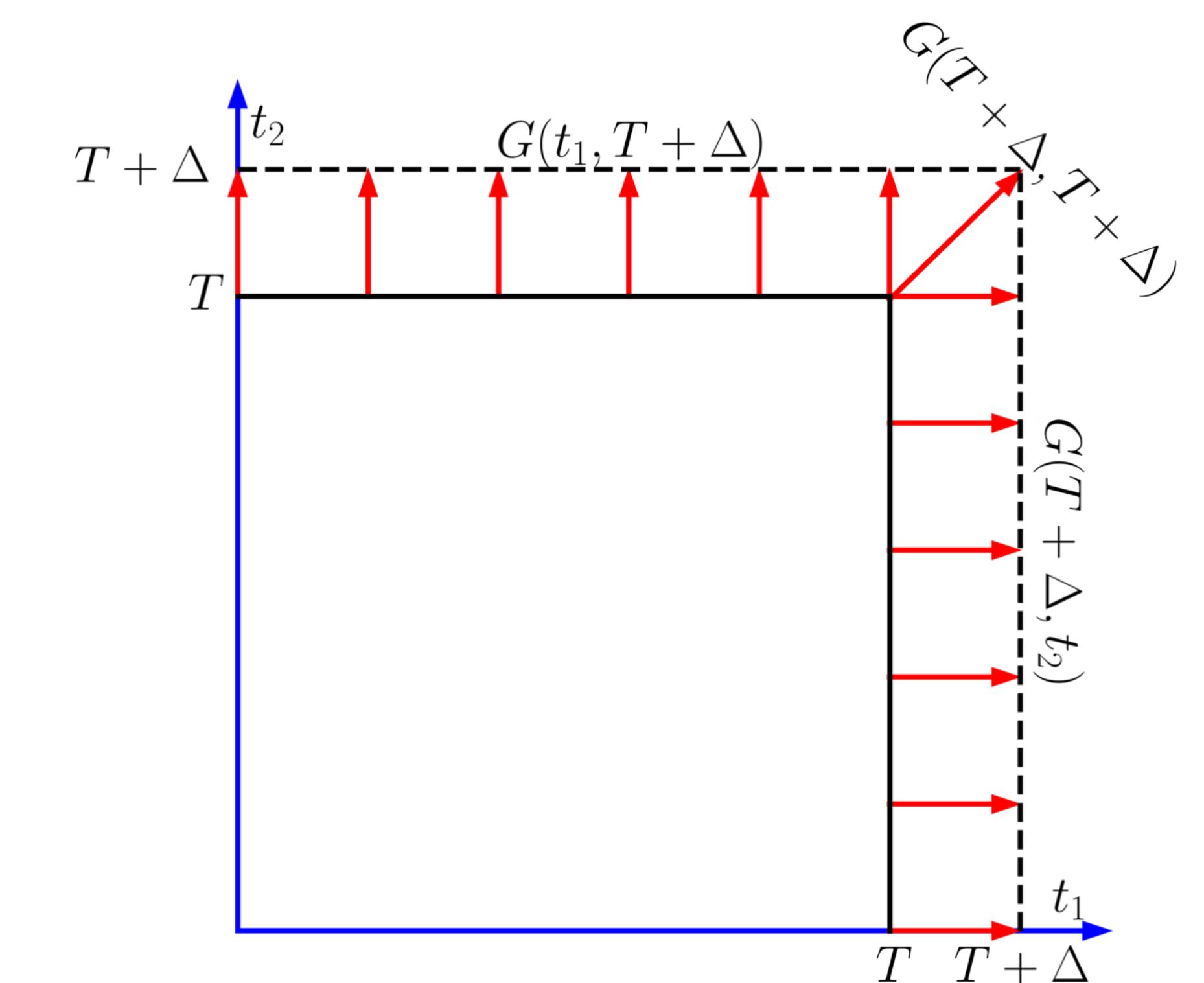
- Time-Resolved Spectra:

- Spectra directly depend on **two times**

$$A^<(\omega, t_p) = \iint dt dt' e^{-i\omega(t-t')} \mathcal{S}(t - t_p) \mathcal{S}(t' - t_p) \text{Tr}[G^<(t, t')]$$

- most techniques: “time domain compression”

Lipavsky, Spicka, Velicky Phys. Rev. B 34, 6933 (1986)



:

Joost, Schlunzen, Bonitz Phys. Rev. B 101, 245101 (2020)

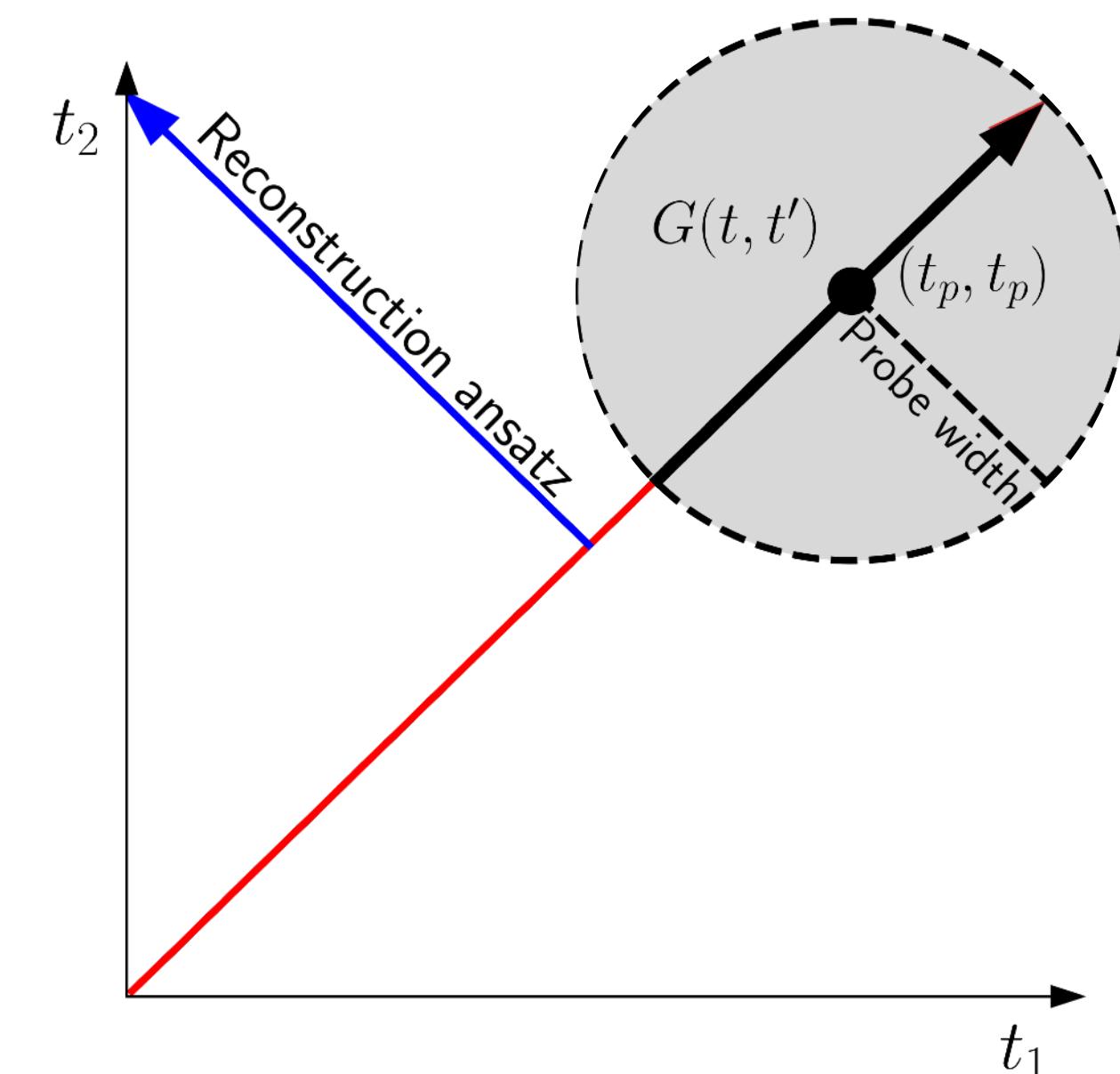
Perfetto, Pavlyukh, Stefanucci Phys. Rev. Lett. 128, 016801 (2022)

Blommel, Kaye, Murakami, Gull, Golež Phys. Rev. B 111, 094502 (2025)

# Time-resolved photoemission spectra — “two time” correlations

- Time-Resolved Spectra:
  - Spectra directly depend on **two times**

$$A^<(\omega, t_p) = \iint dt dt' e^{-i\omega(t-t')} \mathcal{S}(t - t_p) \mathcal{S}(t' - t_p) \text{Tr}[G^<(t, t')]$$

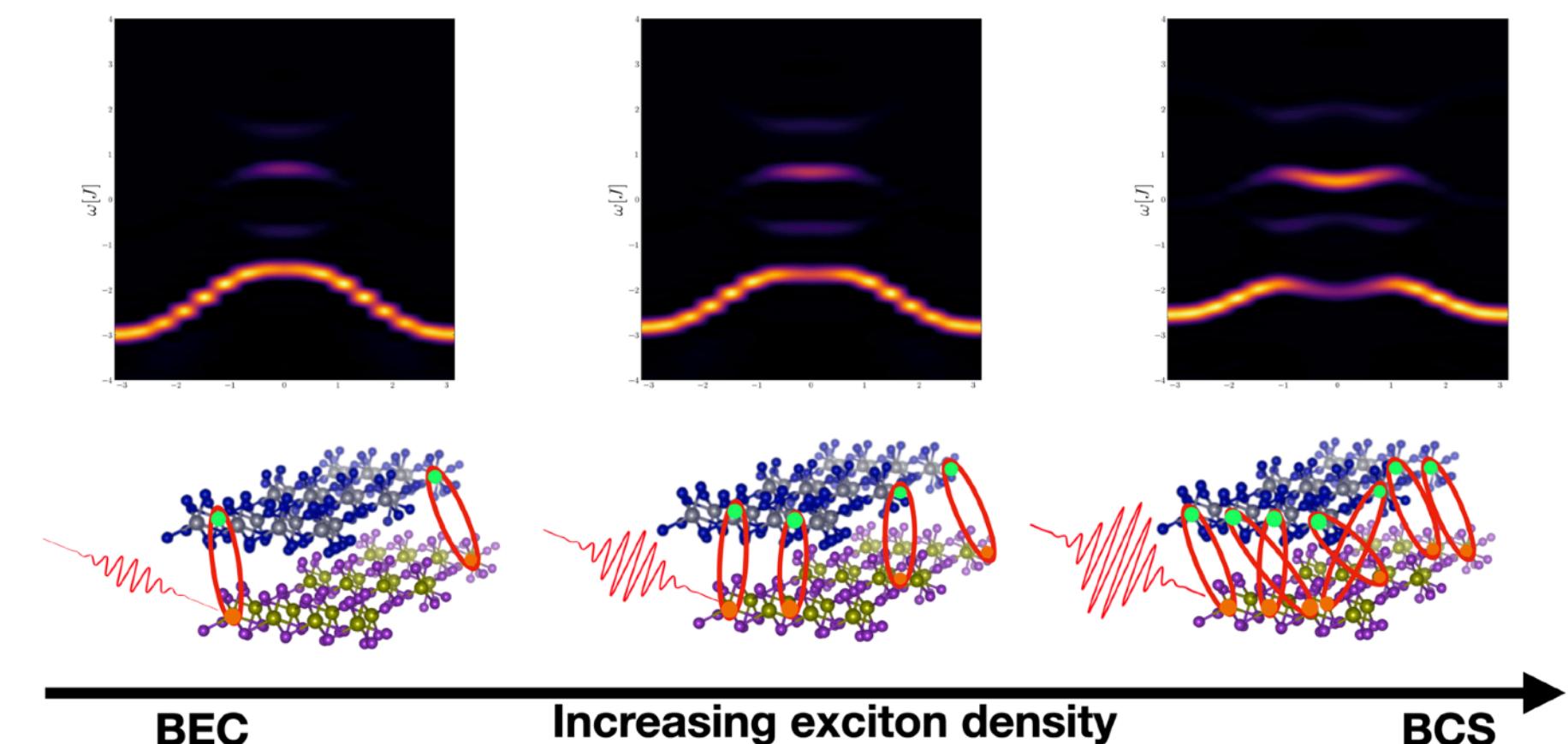


- most techniques: “time domain compression”

- **Real Time Dyson Expansion**

- reconstruction for weak memory effects

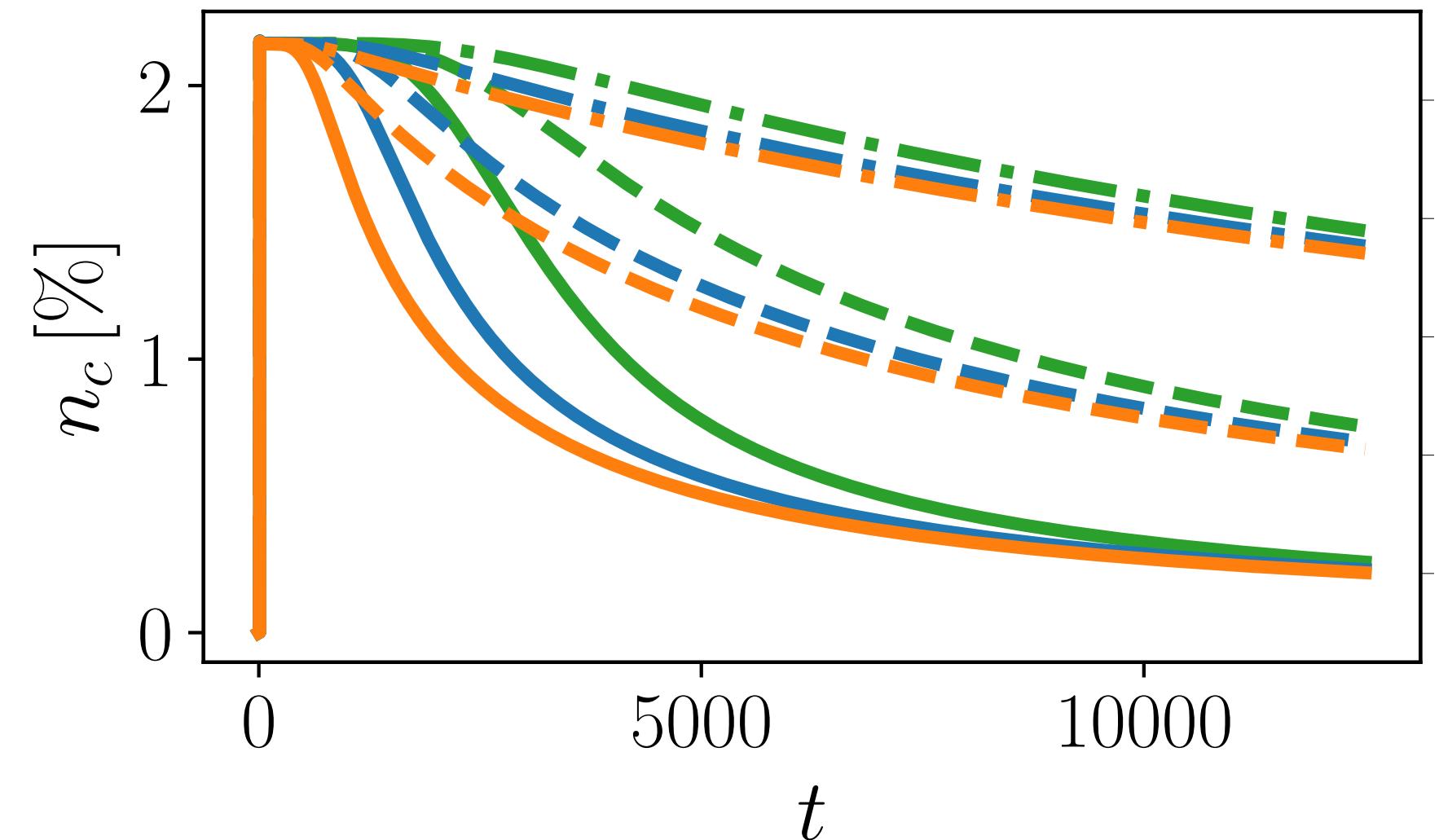
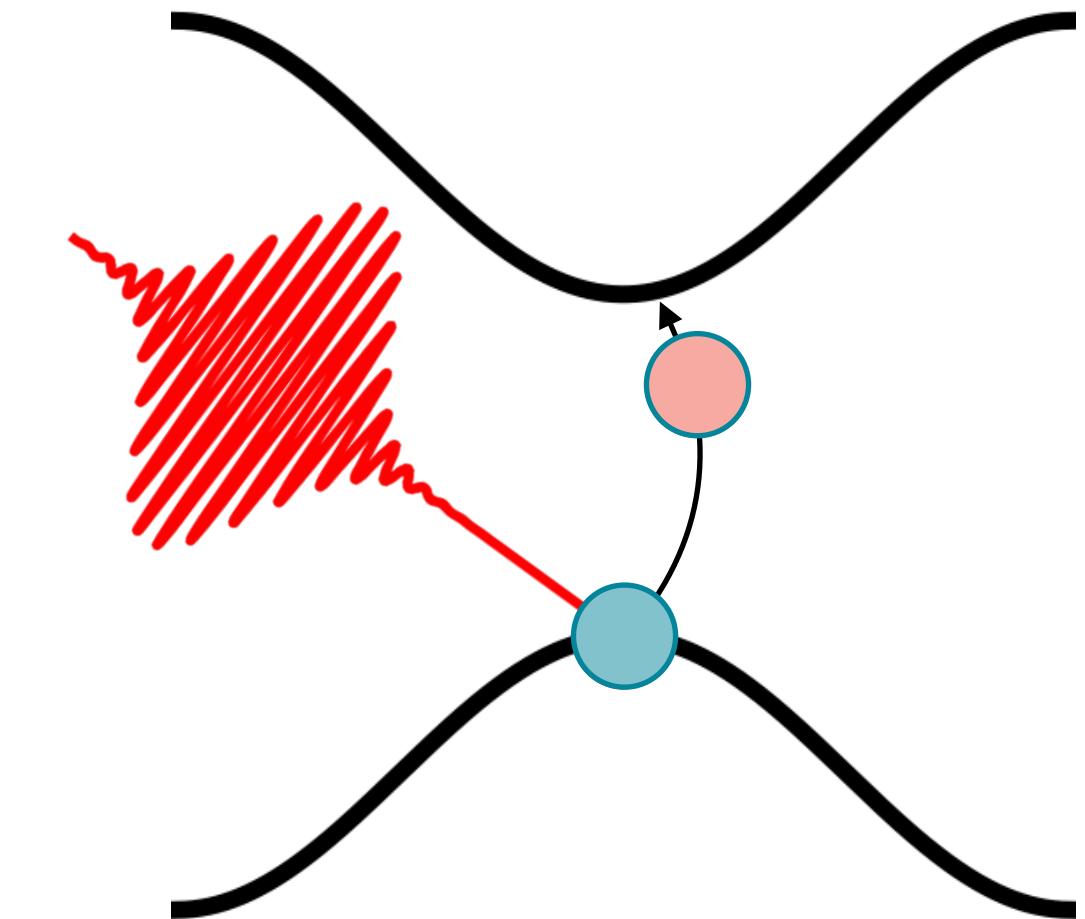
Reeves, **VV** Phys Rev Lett 133, 226902 (2024)



# Time-resolved photoemission spectra — “two time” correlations

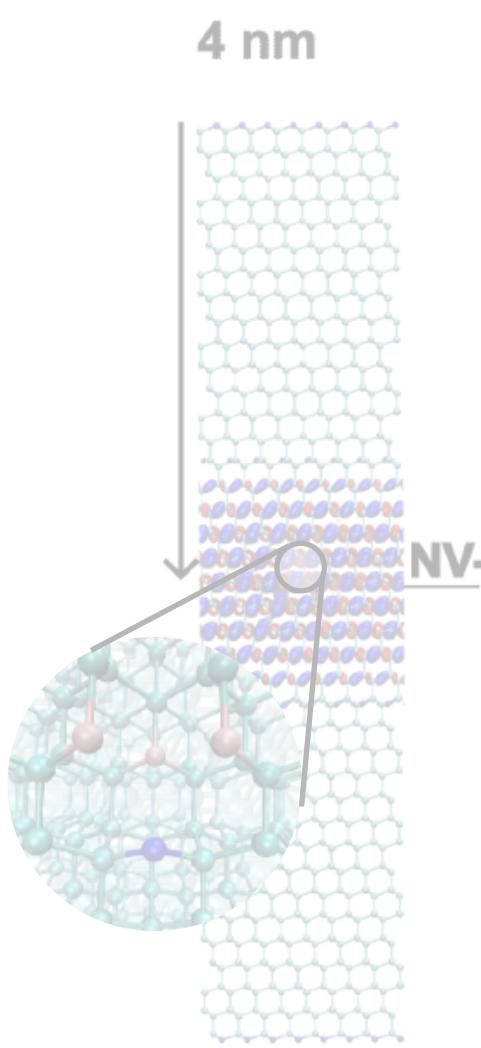
- Time-Resolved Spectra:
  - Spectra directly depend on **two times**
- most techniques: “time domain compression”
- **Real Time Dyson Expansion**
  - reconstruction for weak memory effects
  - inclusion of dissipative coupling to the bath

Reeves, **VV** Phys Rev Lett 133, 226902 (2024)

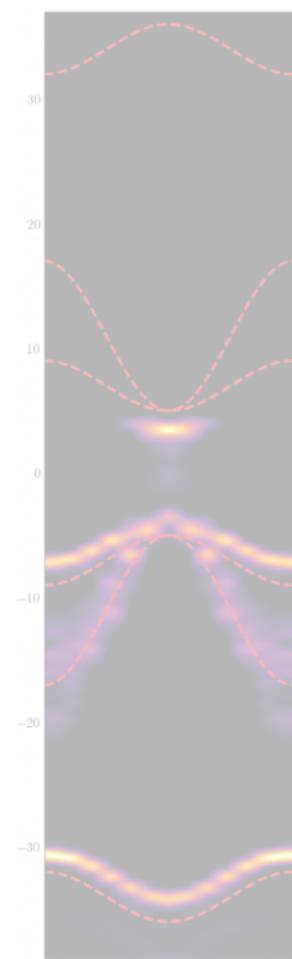


# First Principles Materials Simulations - challenges (& prospects)

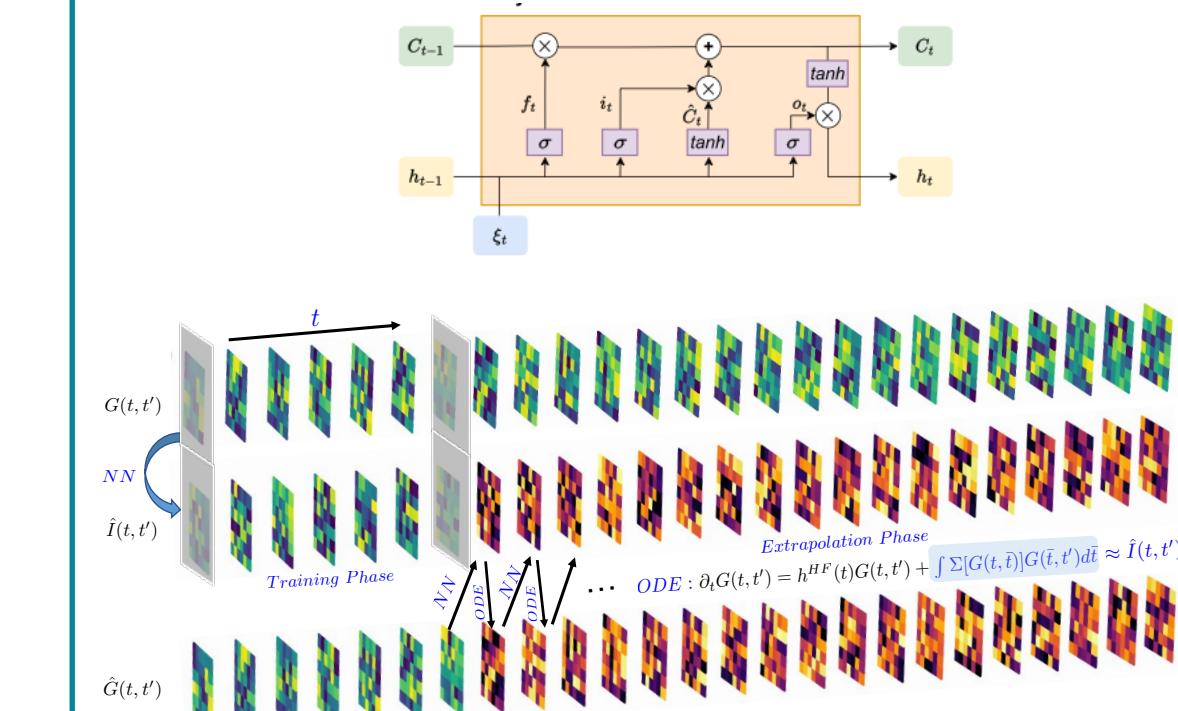
Inspirational tale:  
equilibrium



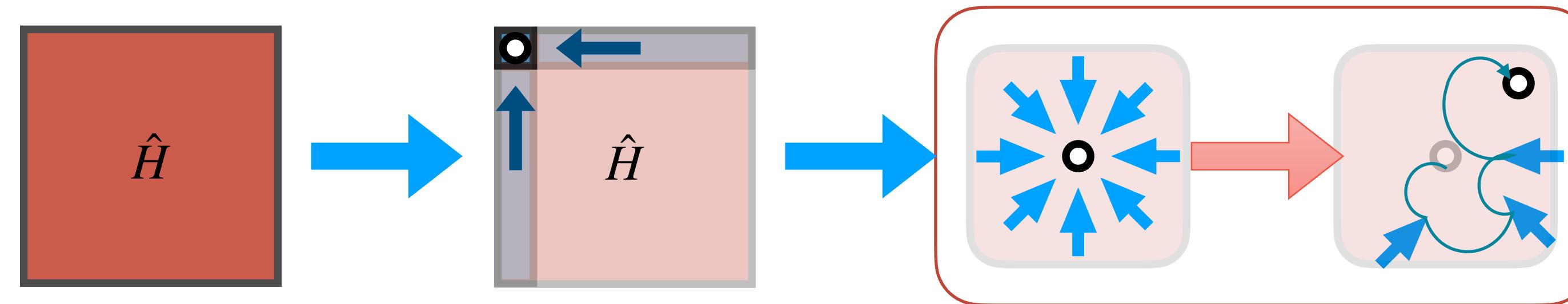
Extending current  
frameworks to non-  
equilibrium



Opportunities for  
***new approaches***



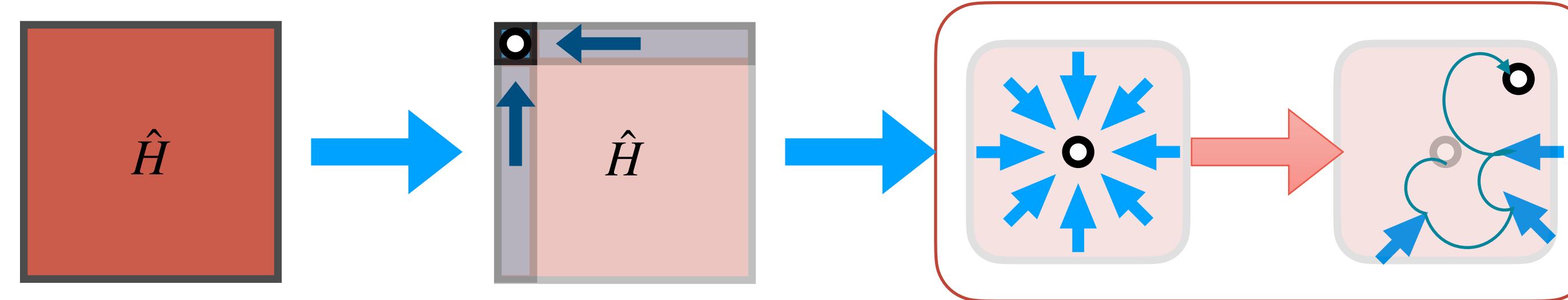
# Numerical and Data-driven methods



- Numerical construction of a “reduced-order model”

Carleo, Troyer, Science 355.6325 (2017)

# Numerical and Data-driven methods



- Numerical construction of a “reduced-order model”

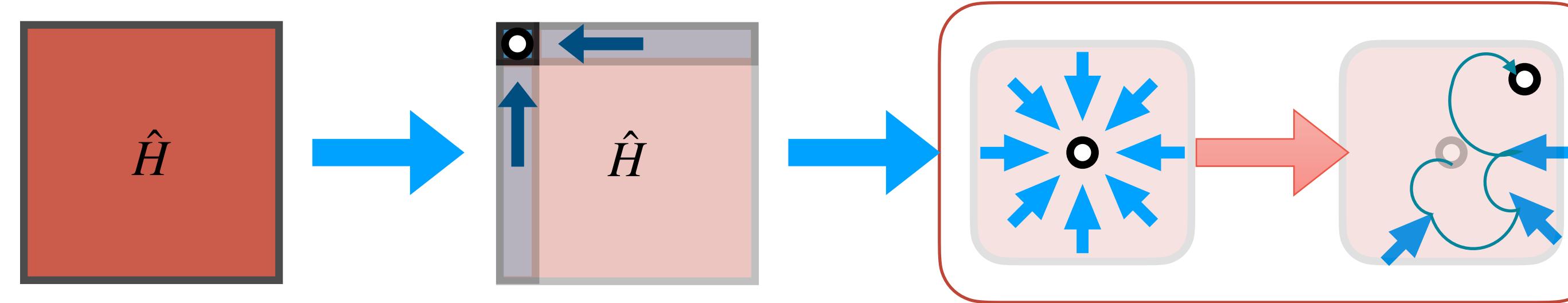
Carleo, Troyer, Science 355.6325 (2017)

- reproducing known low-order many-body approximations

Dong, Gull, Wang, Phys. Rev. B 109, 075112 (2024)

Hou, Wu, Qiu, Nature Comm 15, 9481 (2024)

# Numerical and Data-driven methods



- Numerical construction of a “reduced-order model”

Carleo, Troyer, Science 355.6325 (2017)

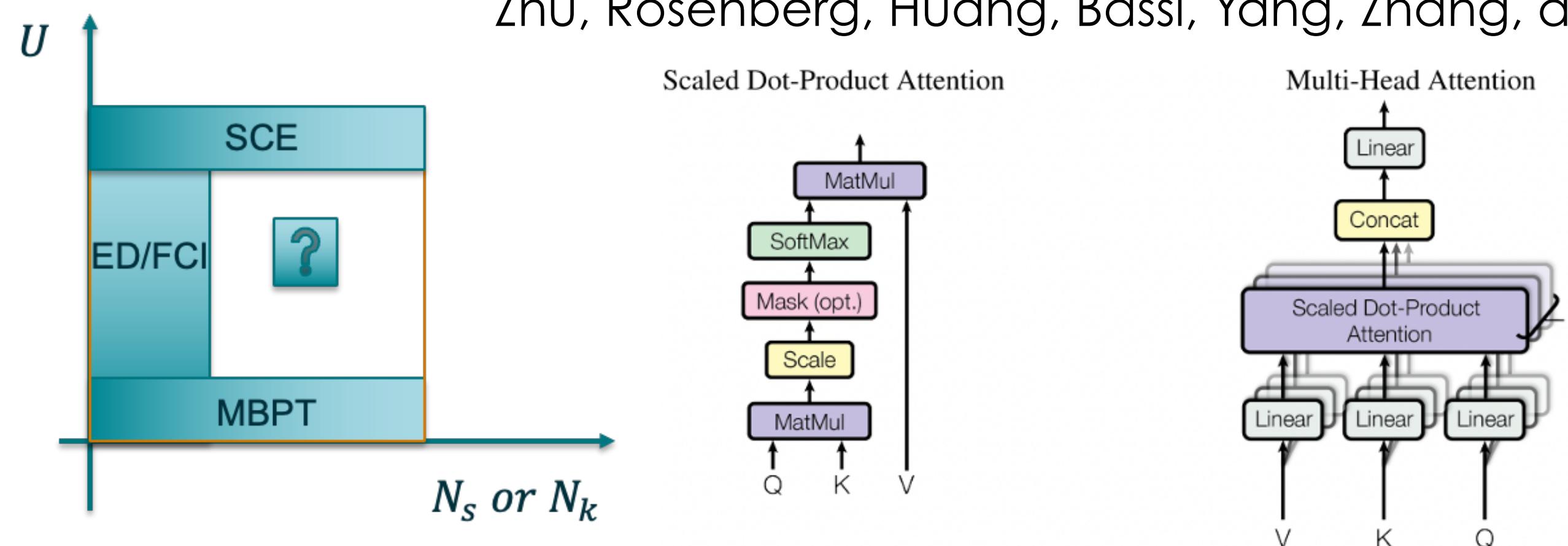
- reproducing known low-order many-body approximations

Dong, Gull, Wang, Phys. Rev. B 109, 075112 (2024)

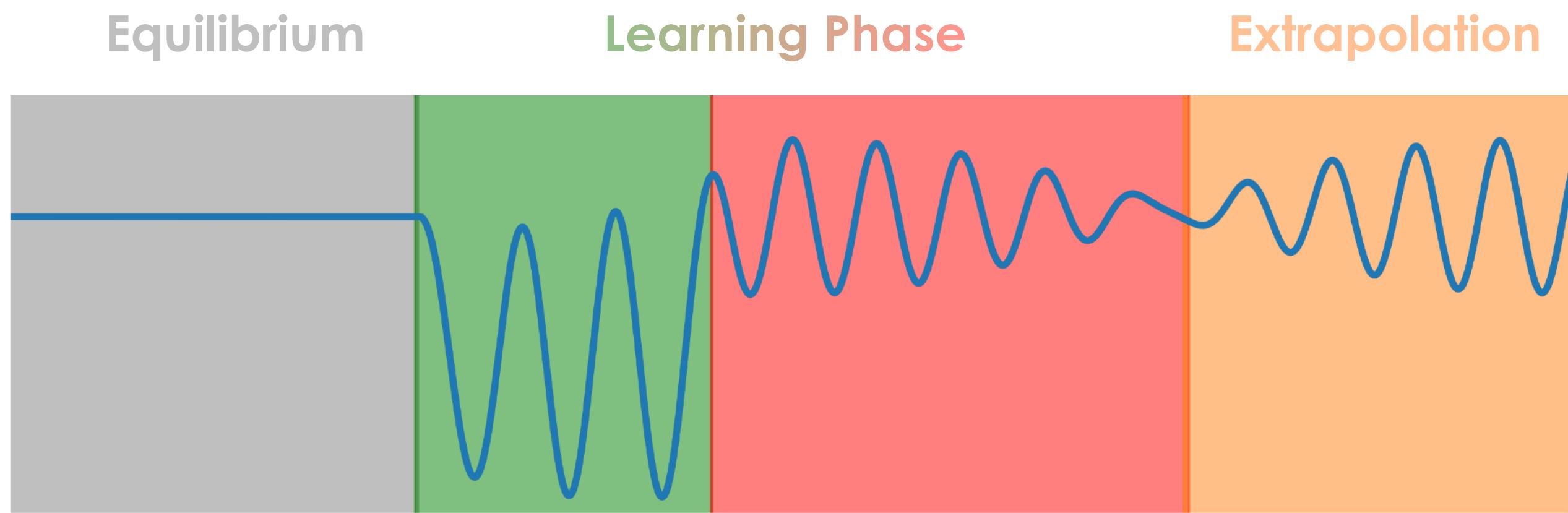
Hou, Wu, Qiu, Nature Comm 15, 9481 (2024)

- constructing new downfolding via  $\Sigma$ -attention

Zhu, Rosenberg, Huang, Bassi, Yang, Zhang, arXiv:2504.14483 (2025)

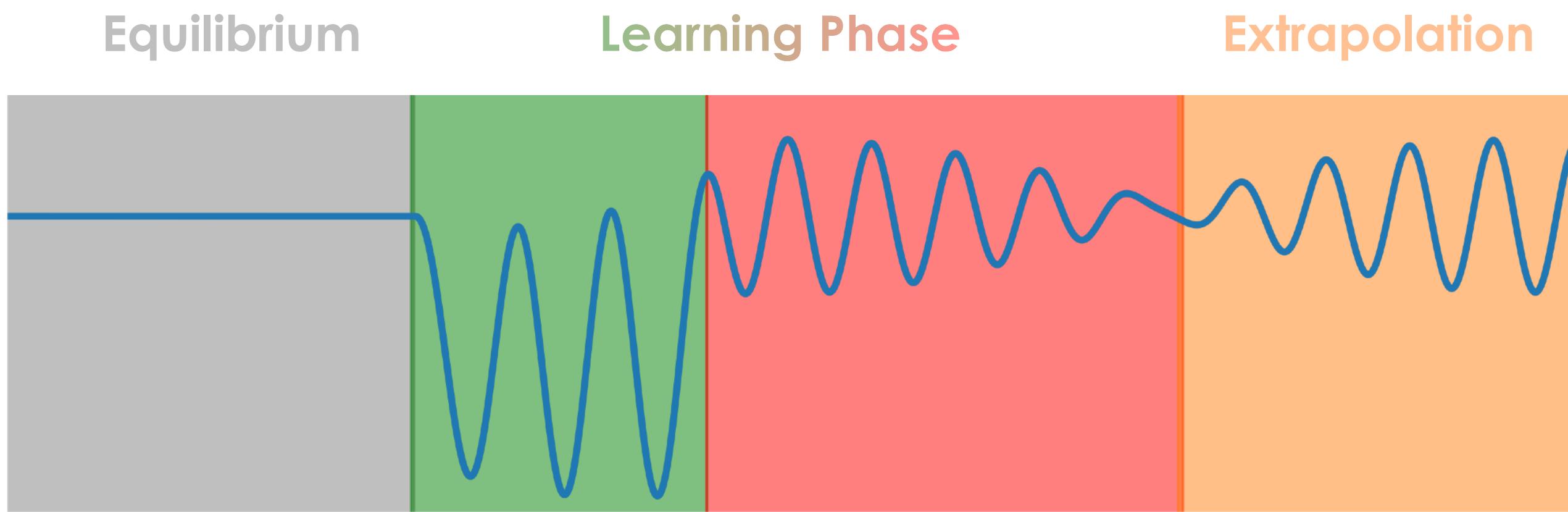


# Numerical extrapolations — mapping on generalized linear dynamics



Reeves, Yin, Zhu, Ibrahim, Yang, **VV** Phys Rev B 7, 075107 (2023)

# Numerical extrapolations — mapping on generalized linear dynamics



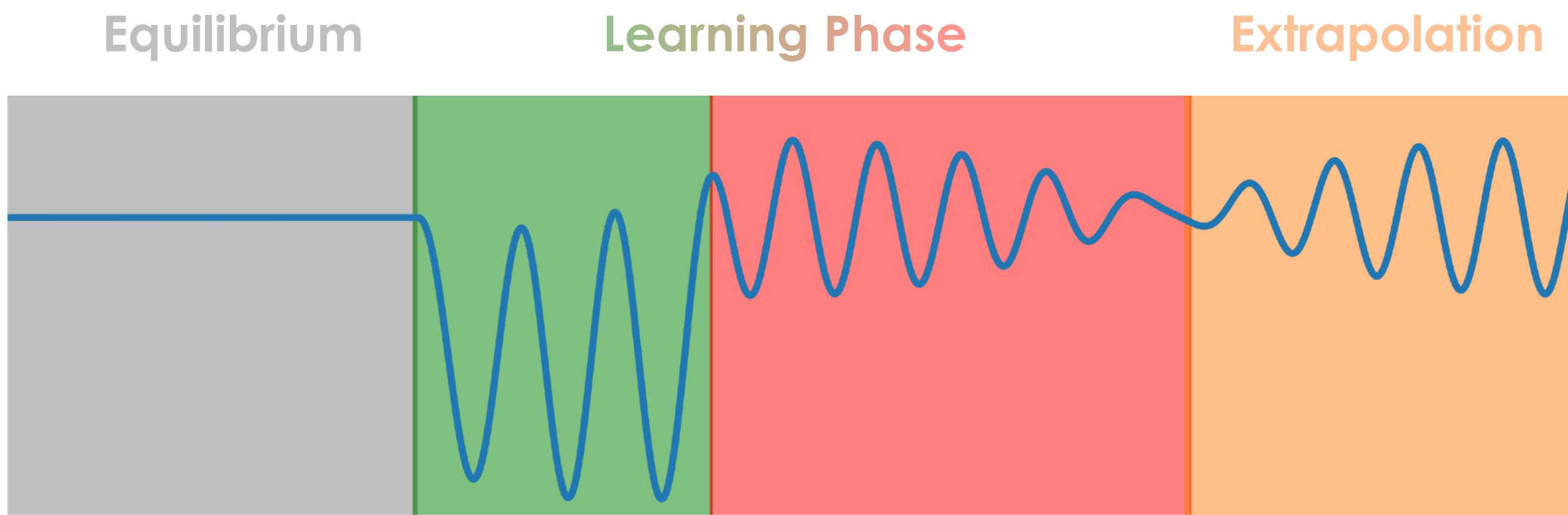
- The time evolution of the problem is recast as an **Approximated Koopman operator**

Koopman PNAS 17, 315–8 (1931)

$$\frac{d\hat{G}(t)}{dt} = \hat{f}(\hat{G}(t), t)$$

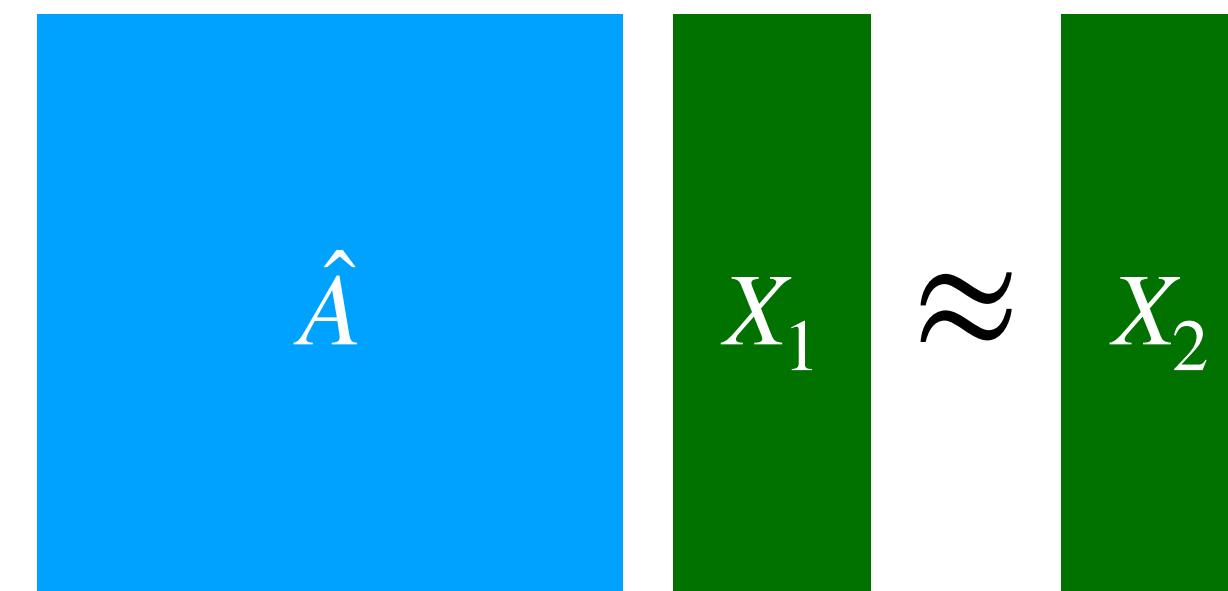
Reeves, Yin, Zhu, Ibrahim, Yang, **VV** Phys Rev B 7, 075107 (2023)

# Numerical extrapolations — mapping on generalized linear dynamics



- The time evolution of the problem is recast as an **Approximated Koopman operator**

$$\frac{d\hat{G}(t)}{dt} = \hat{f}(\hat{G}(t), t) \underset{\substack{\text{DMD} \\ \text{assumption}}}{\Rightarrow} \hat{G}(t + \Delta t) \approx \hat{A}\hat{G}(t)$$

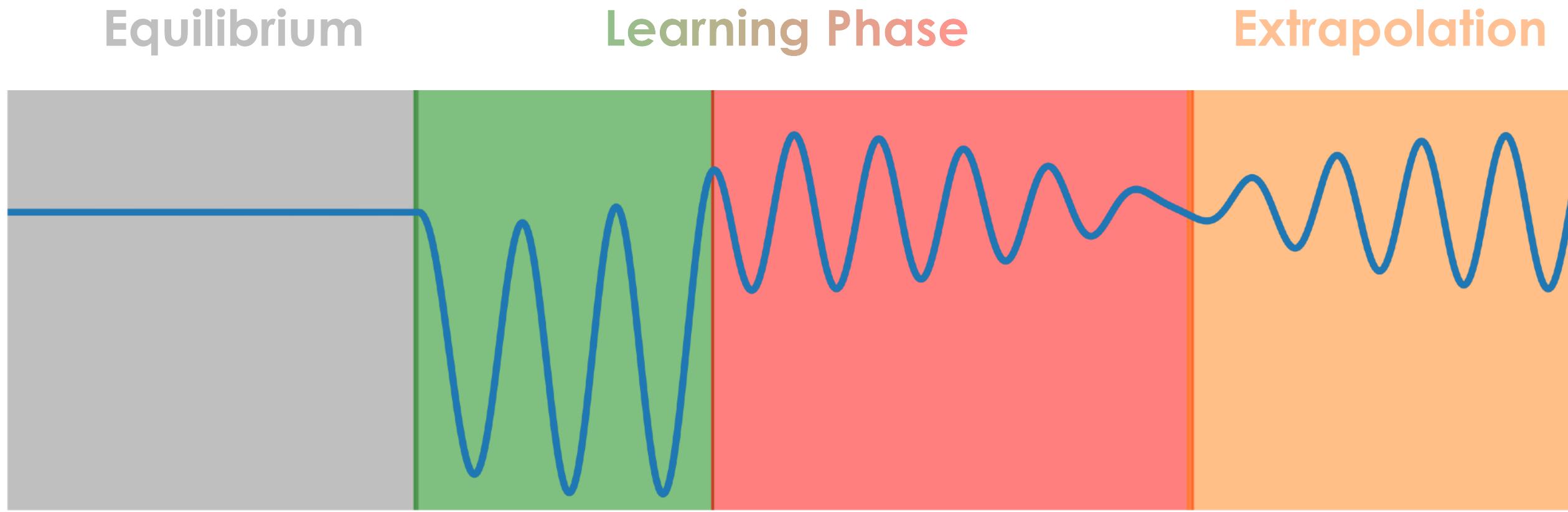


Koopman PNAS 17, 315–8 (1931)

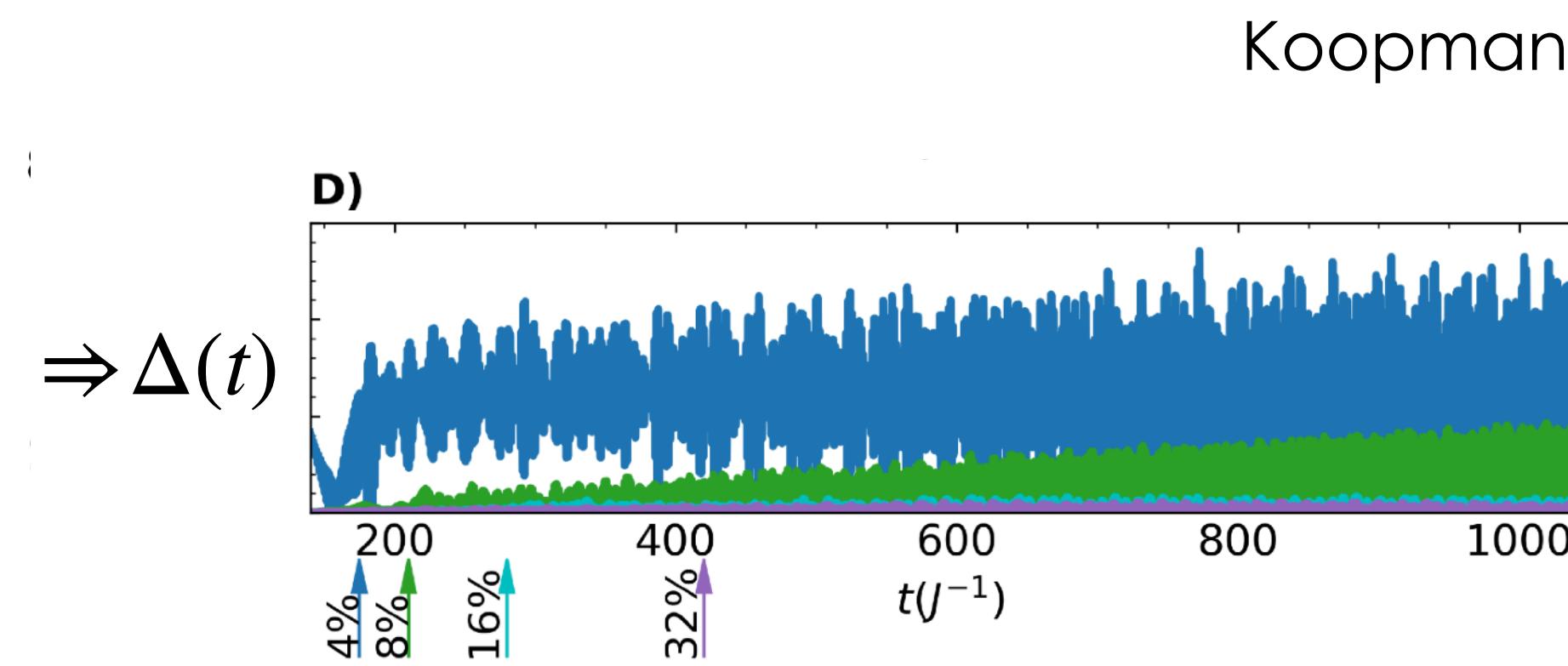
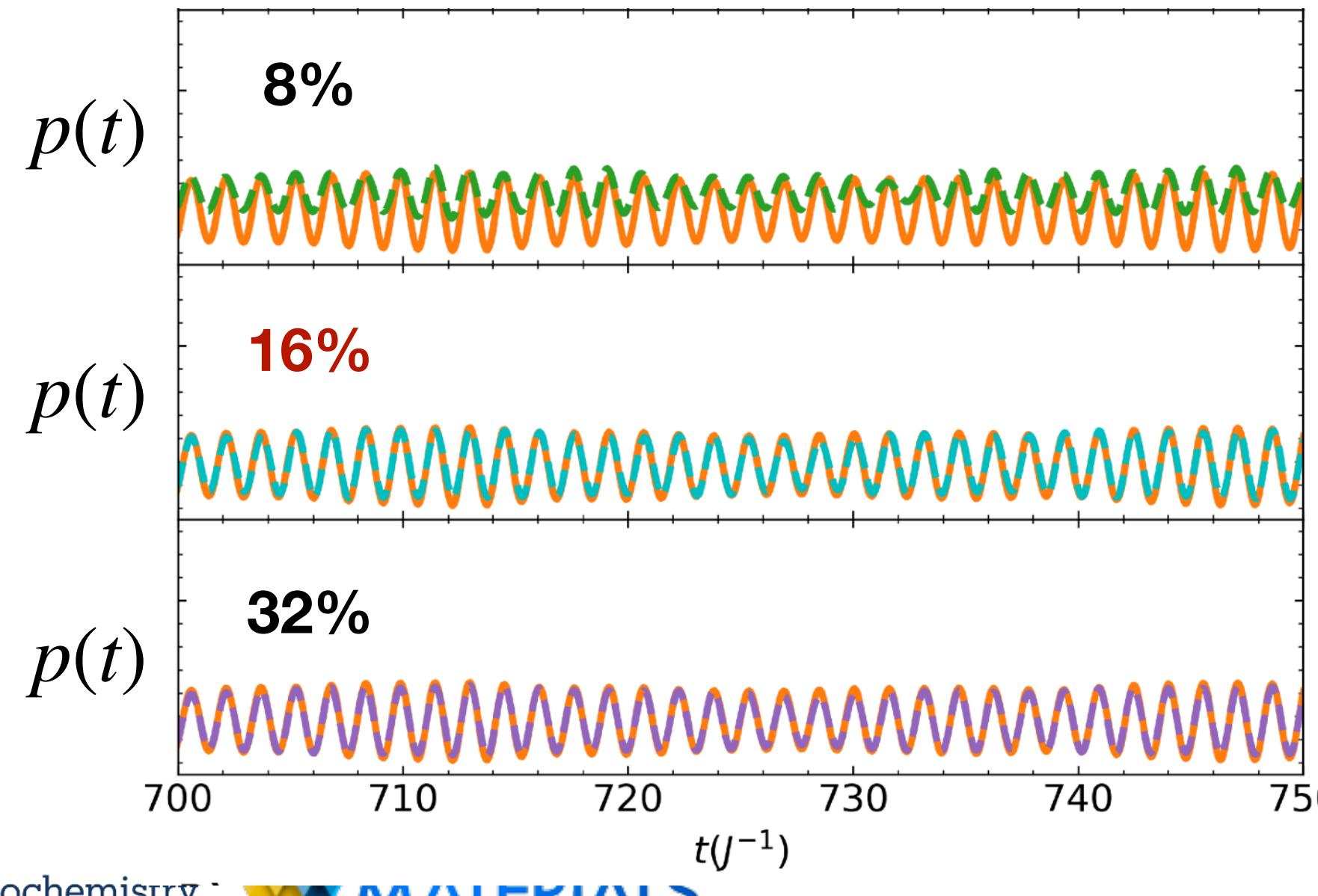
$$X_1^T = [G(t_0), \dots, G(t_m)] \quad X_2^T = [G(t_1), \dots, G(t_{m+1})]$$

Reeves, Yin, Zhu, Ibrahim, Yang, **VV** Phys Rev B 7, 075107 (2023)

# Numerical extrapolations — mapping on generalized linear dynamics



- The time evolution of the problem is recast as an **Approximated Koopman operator**

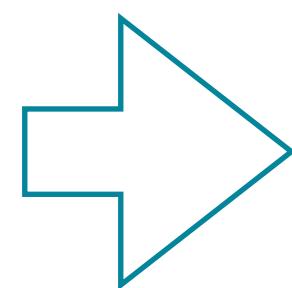


Reeves, Yin, Zhu, Ibrahim, Yang, **VV** Phys Rev B 7, 075107 (2023)

# From Equations to Operators: Rethinking Dynamics

- Similar to the equilibrium self-energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  dynamics as operator learning:

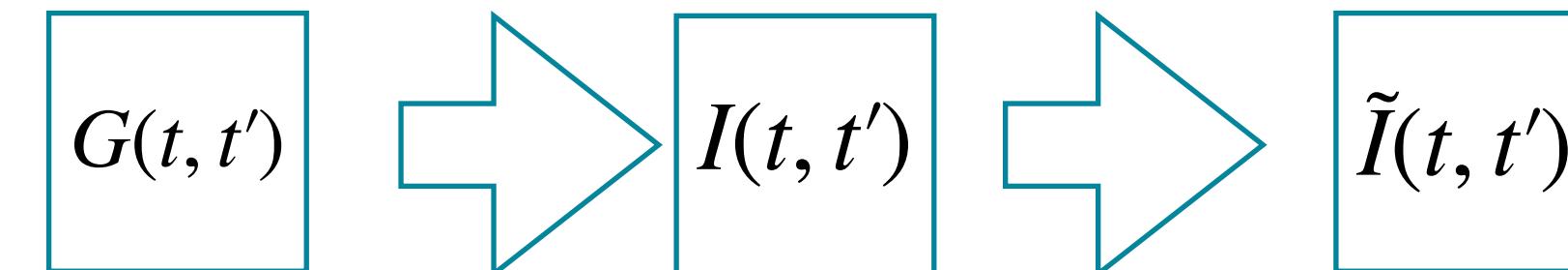
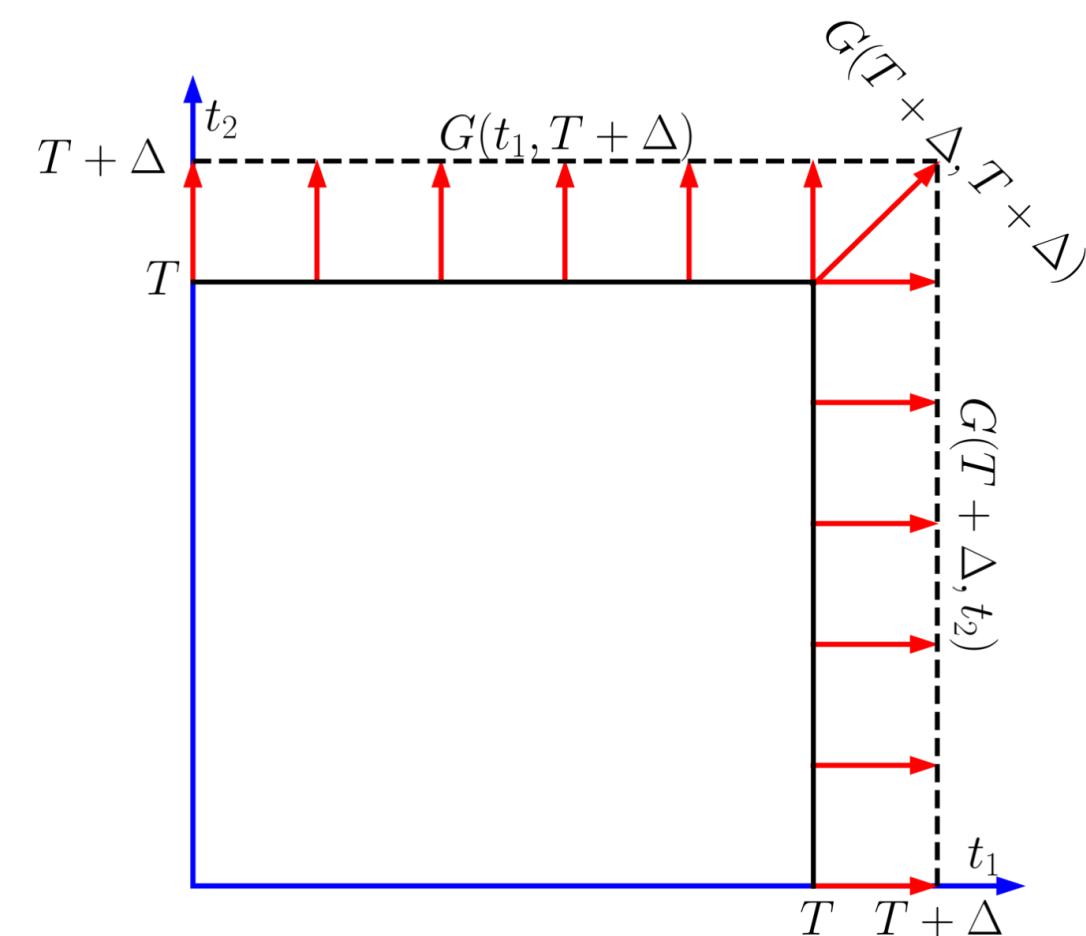
$$[i\partial_t - h^{(0)}(t)] G(t, t') = \delta(t, t') + I(t, t')$$



$$i\partial_t G(t, t') = A[G(t, t')] + \tilde{I}[G(t, t')]$$

integro-differential equations

functional operator



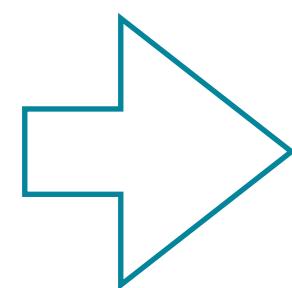
Bassi, et al. Machine Learning with Applications 15, 100524 (2024)  
Zhu, Yin, Reeves, Yang, **VV** Machine Learning Science Technol, 6, 015027 (2025)

# From Equations to Operators: Rethinking Dynamics

- Similar to the equilibrium self-energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  dynamics as operator learning:

$$[i\partial_t - h^{(0)}(t)] G(t, t') = \delta(t, t') + I(t, t')$$

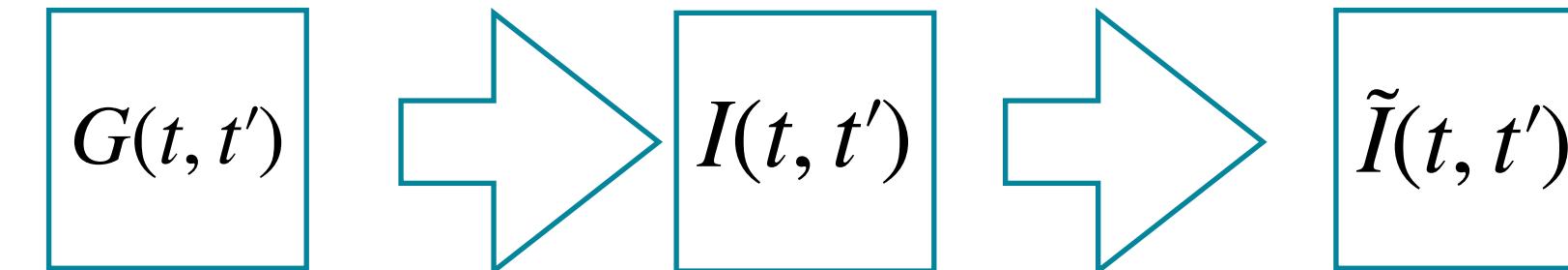
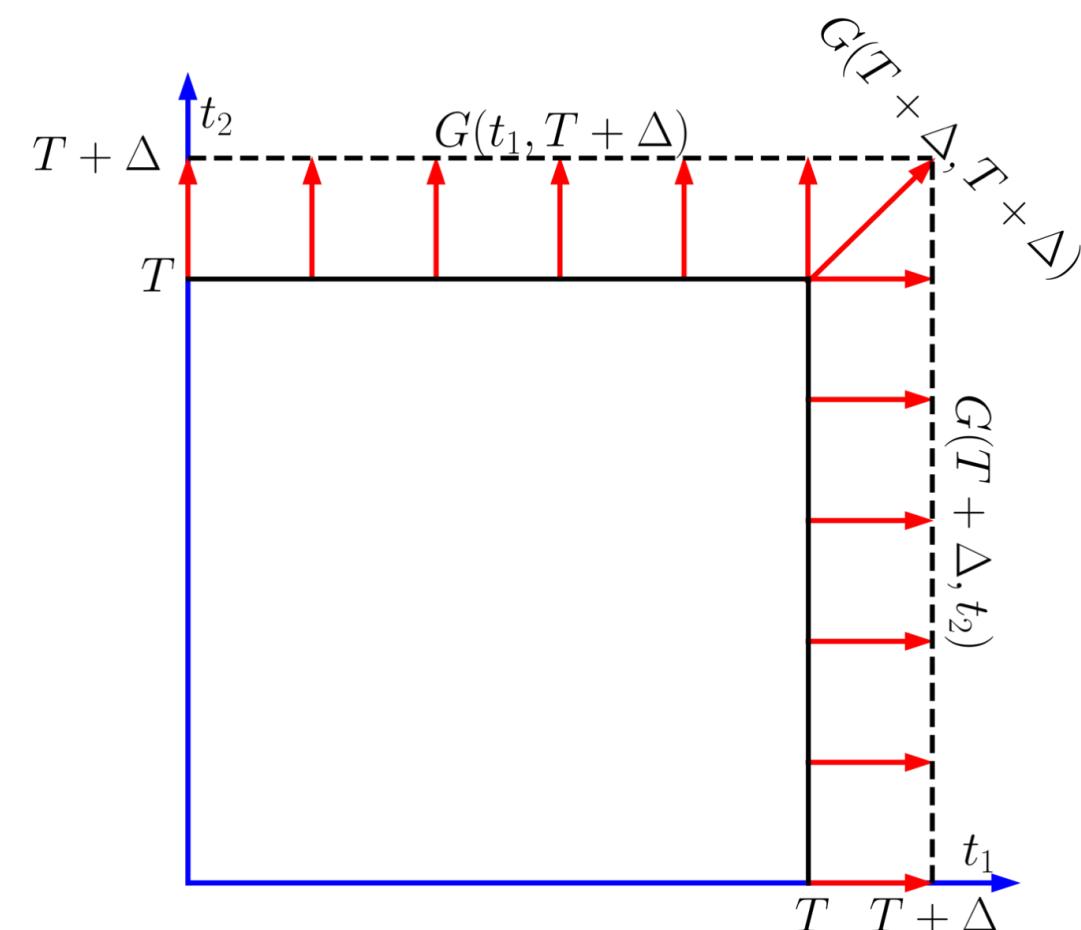
integro-differential equations



$$i\partial_t G(t, t') = A[G(t, t')] + \tilde{I}[G(t, t')]$$

driving

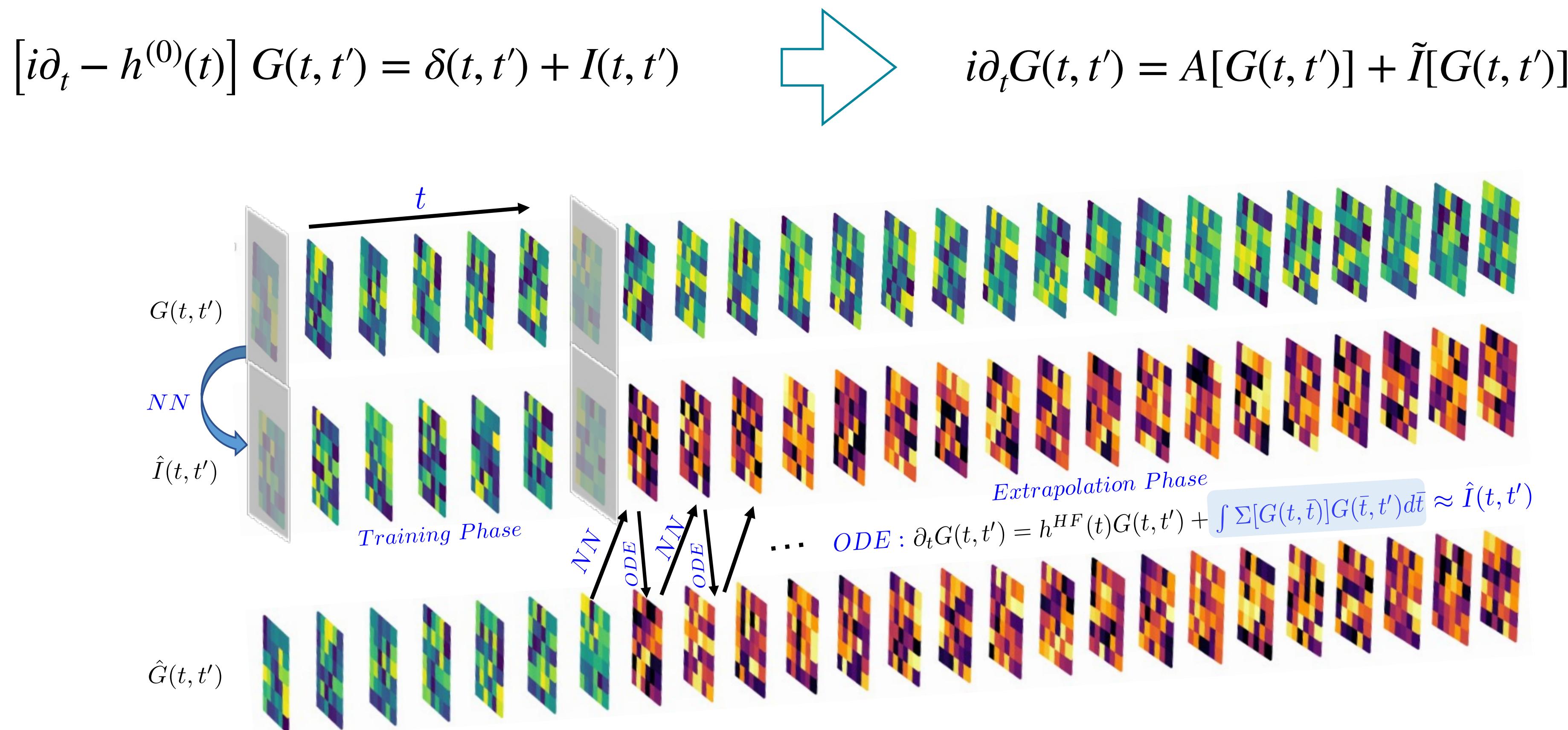
functional operator



Bassi, et al. Machine Learning with Applications 15, 100524 (2024)  
Zhu, Yin, Reeves, Yang, **VV** Machine Learning Science Technol, 6, 015027 (2025)

# The Engine: Recurrent Neural Networks as Integral Operators

- Similar to the equilibrium self-energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  dynamics as operator learning:



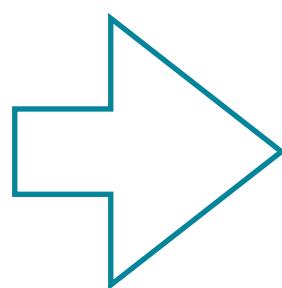
Bassi, et al. Machine Learning with Applications 15, 100524 (2024)

Zhu, Yin, Reeves, Yang, **VV** Machine Learning Science Technol, 6, 015027 (2025)

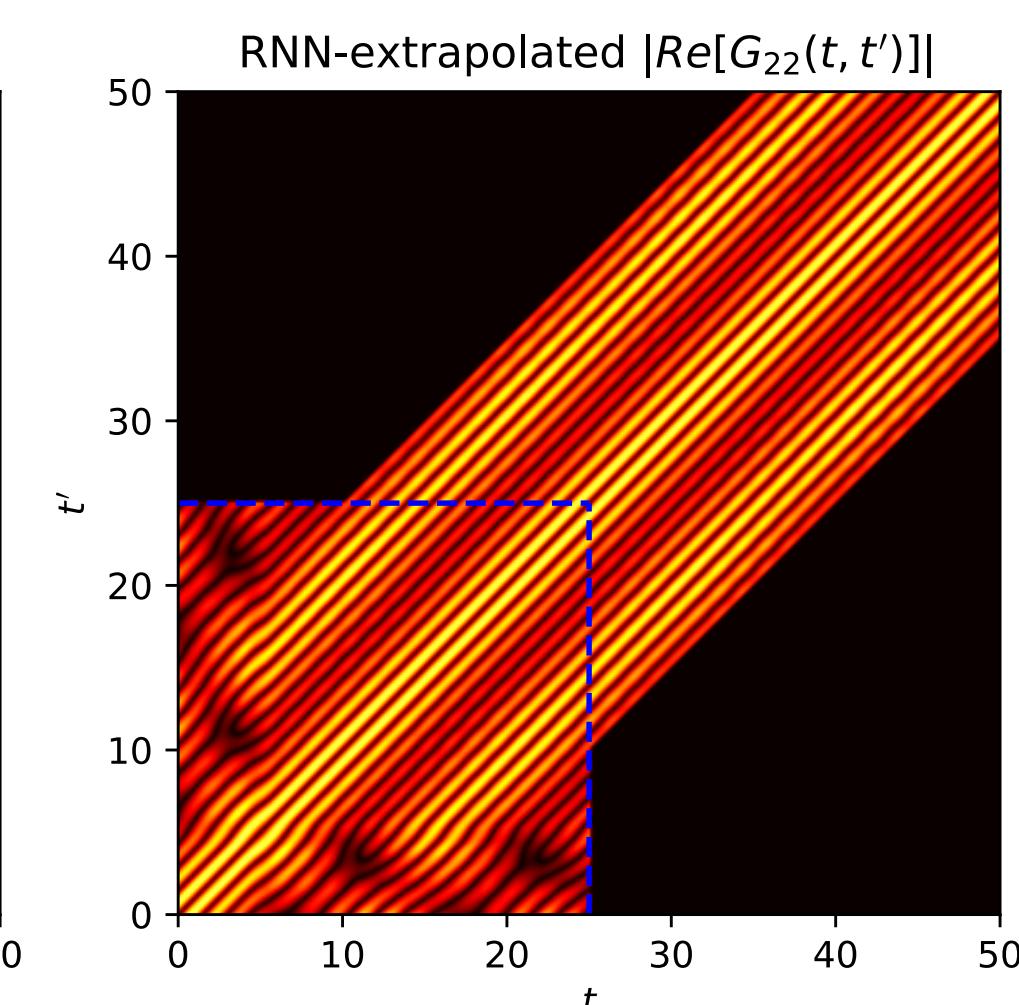
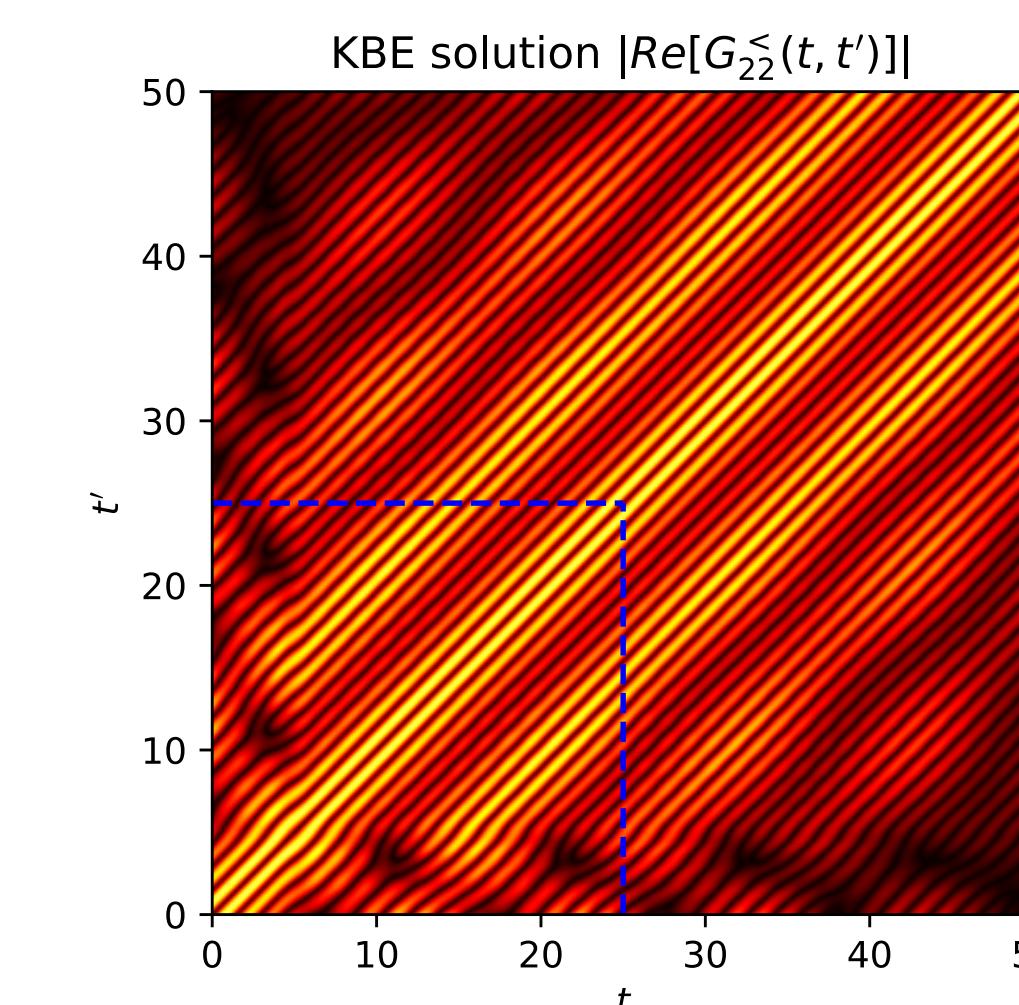
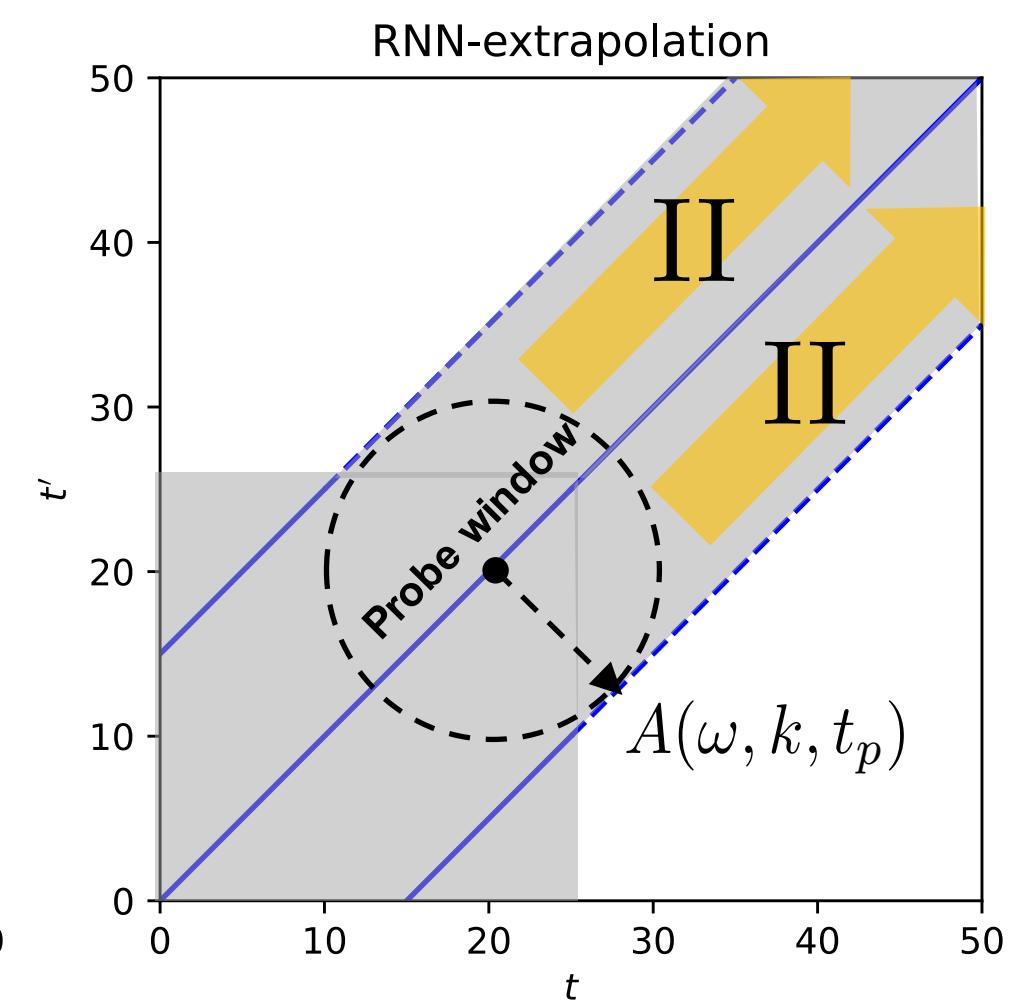
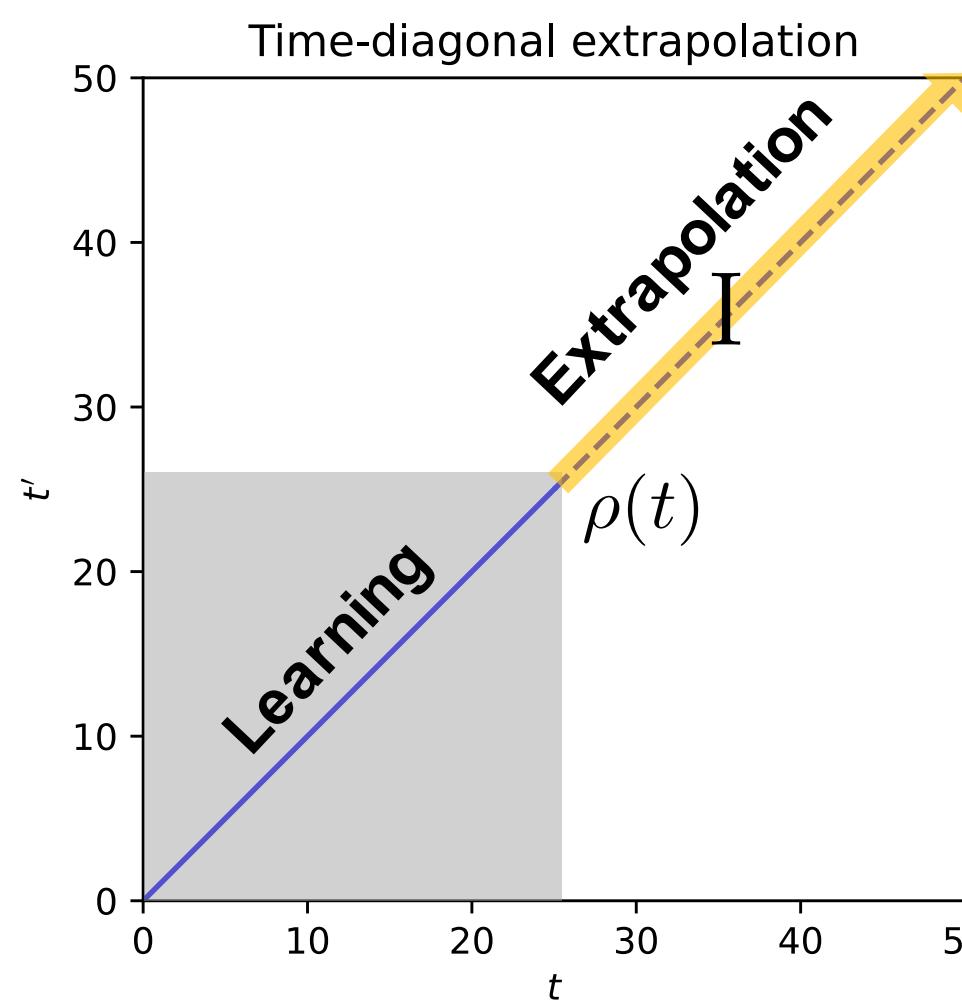
# The Engine: Recurrent Neural Networks as Integral Operators

- Similar to the equilibrium self-energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  dynamics as operator learning:

$$[i\partial_t - h^{(0)}(t)] G(t, t') = \delta(t, t') + I(t, t')$$



$$i\partial_t G(t, t') = A[G(t, t')] + \tilde{I}[G(t, t')]$$



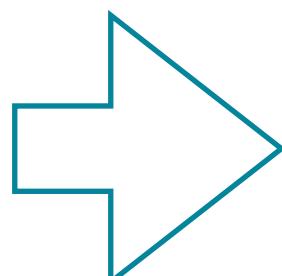
Bassi, et al. Machine Learning with Applications 15, 100524 (2024)

Zhu, Yin, Reeves, Yang, **VV** Machine Learning Science Technol, 6, 015027 (2025)

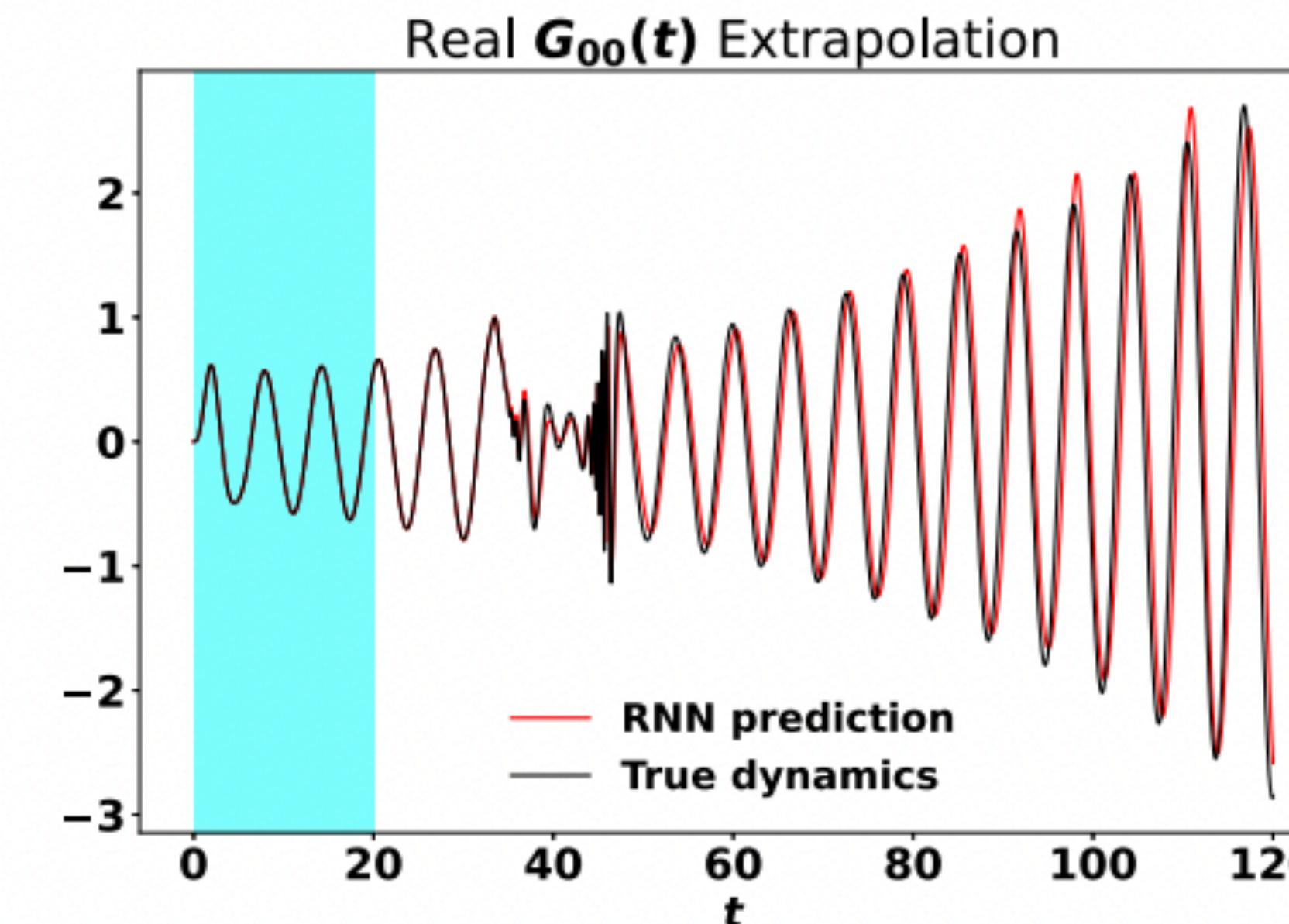
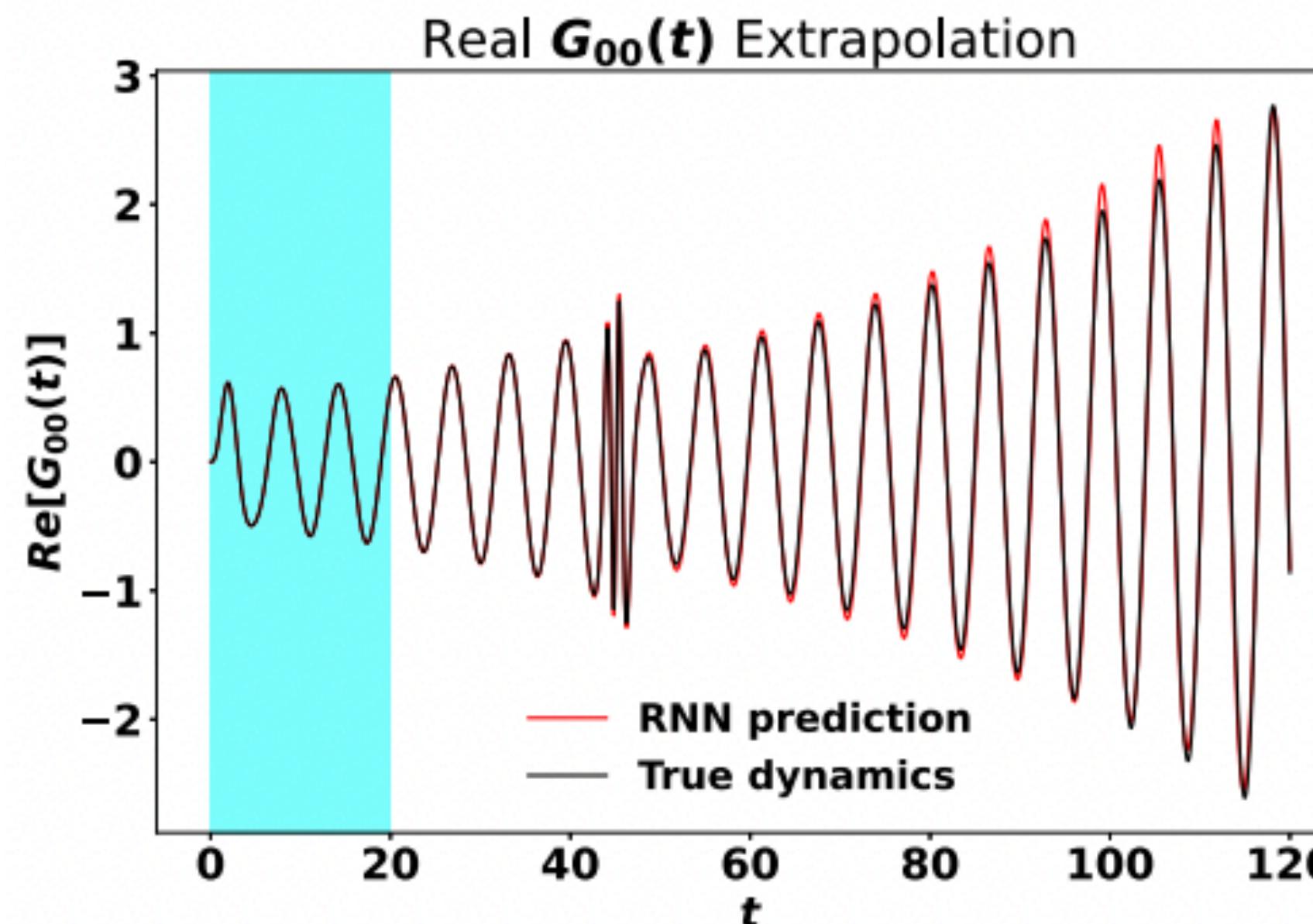
# The Engine: Recurrent Neural Networks as Integral Operators

- Similar to the equilibrium self-energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  dynamics as operator learning:

$$[i\partial_t - h^{(0)}(t)] G(t, t') = \delta(t, t') + I(t, t')$$



$$i\partial_t G(t, t') = A[G(t, t')] + \tilde{I}[G(t, t')]$$

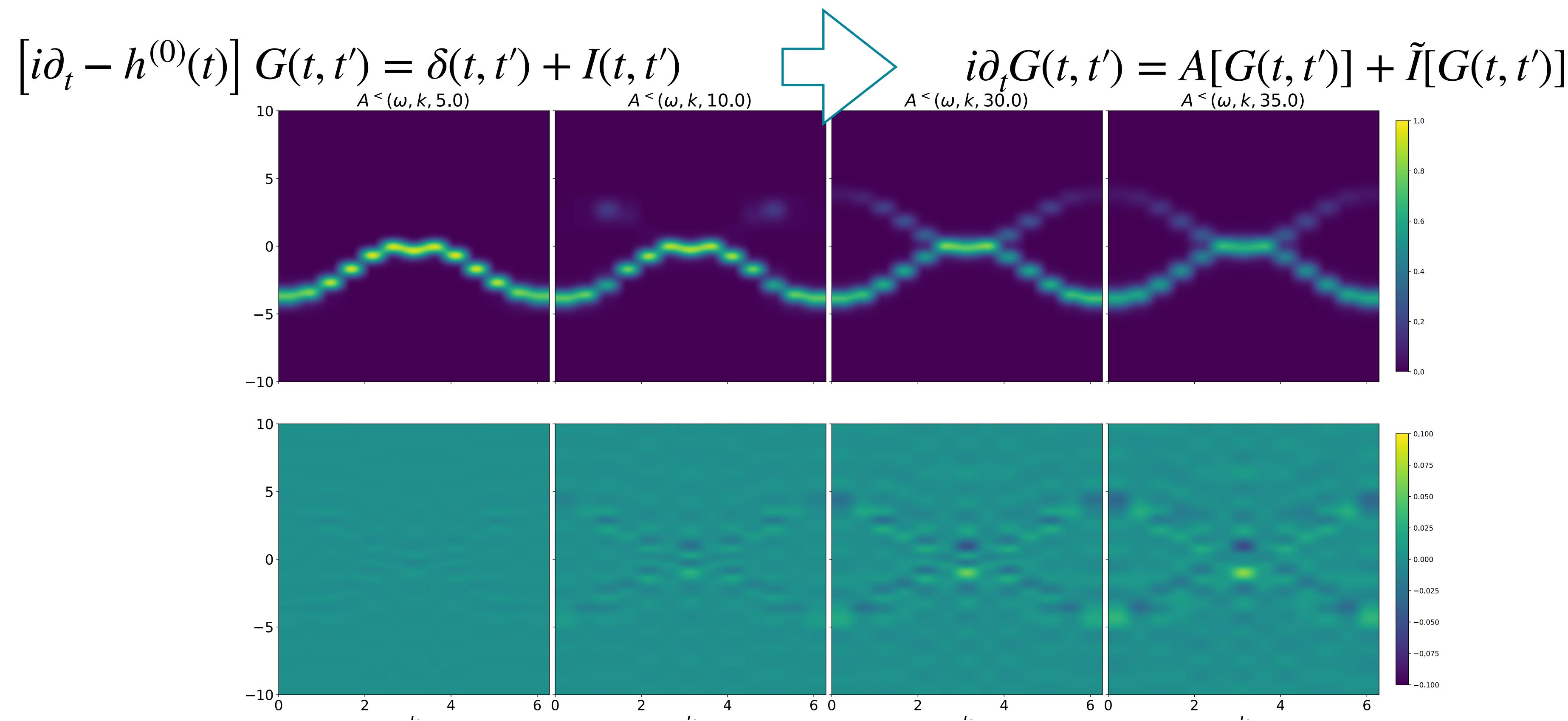


Bassi, et al. Machine Learning with Applications 15, 100524 (2024)

Zhu, Yin, Reeves, Yang, **VV** Machine Learning Science Technol, 6, 015027 (2025)

# The Engine: Recurrent Neural Networks as Integral Operators

- Similar to the equilibrium self-energy  $\Leftrightarrow$  dynamics as operator learning:



Bassi, et al. Machine Learning with Applications 15, 100524 (2024)

Zhu, Yin, Reeves, Yang, **VV** Machine Learning Science Technol, 6, 015027 (2025)

## Many Questions and Even More Opportunities:

- Empirically: a great deal of transferability within and across different classes of problems
  - How to translate between a general interacting system and a dissipative description?
  - What is the learned “kernel” and what “physics” (=interactions) does it contain?
  - How are the NNs related to the complexity of, e.g., the underlying MPS/TT?

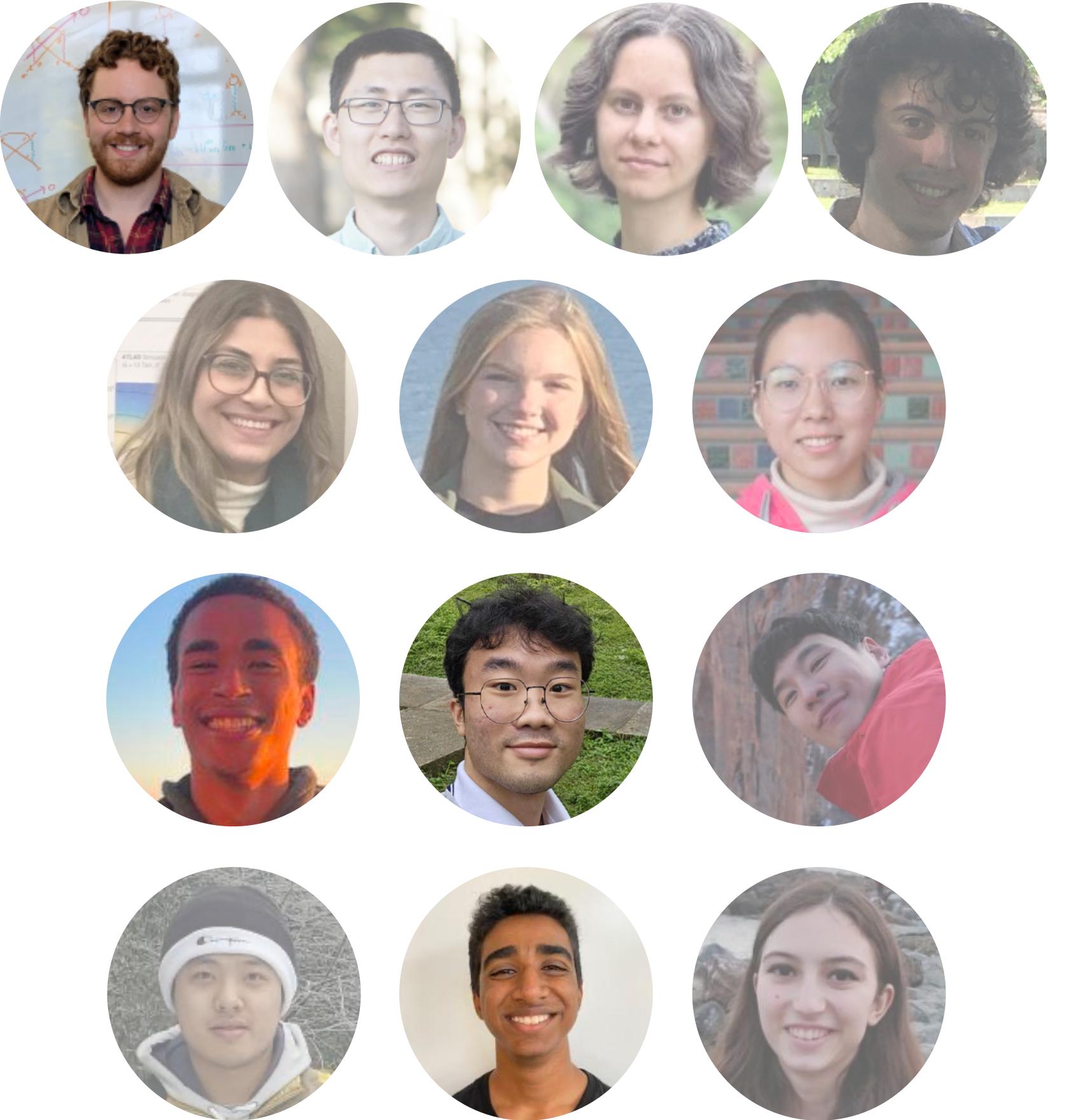
# Many Questions and Even More Opportunities:

- Empirically: a great deal of transferability within and across different classes of problems
  - How to translate between a general interacting system and a dissipative description?
  - What is the learned “kernel” and what “physics” (=interactions) does it contain?
  - How are the NNs related to the complexity of, e.g., the underlying MPS/TT?
- Final thought: **Hardware acceleration** ⇒ speeds up target algebraic operations and learning
  - GPUs, TPUs, FPGAs?
  - Stochastic and Neuromorphic computing?

Morningstar et al., PRX Quantum 3, 020331 (2022)

Czischek et al., SciPost Phys. 12, 039 (2022)

# Acknowledgments



+ G Stefanucci, E Perfetto, Y Zhu, C Yang, K Ibrahim, ...



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



CAREER Award



**ALFRED P. SLOAN**  
FOUNDATION



United States – Israel  
Binational Science Foundation

This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research and Office of Basic Energy Sciences, Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) program under Award Number DE-SC0022198. This research used resources of the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center, a DOE Office of Science User Facility supported by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of Energy under Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231 using NERSC award BES-ERCAP0029462