

# Strange metals and black holes

The Society of Physics  
St. Xavier's College, Mumbai  
August 26, 2021

Subir Sachdev

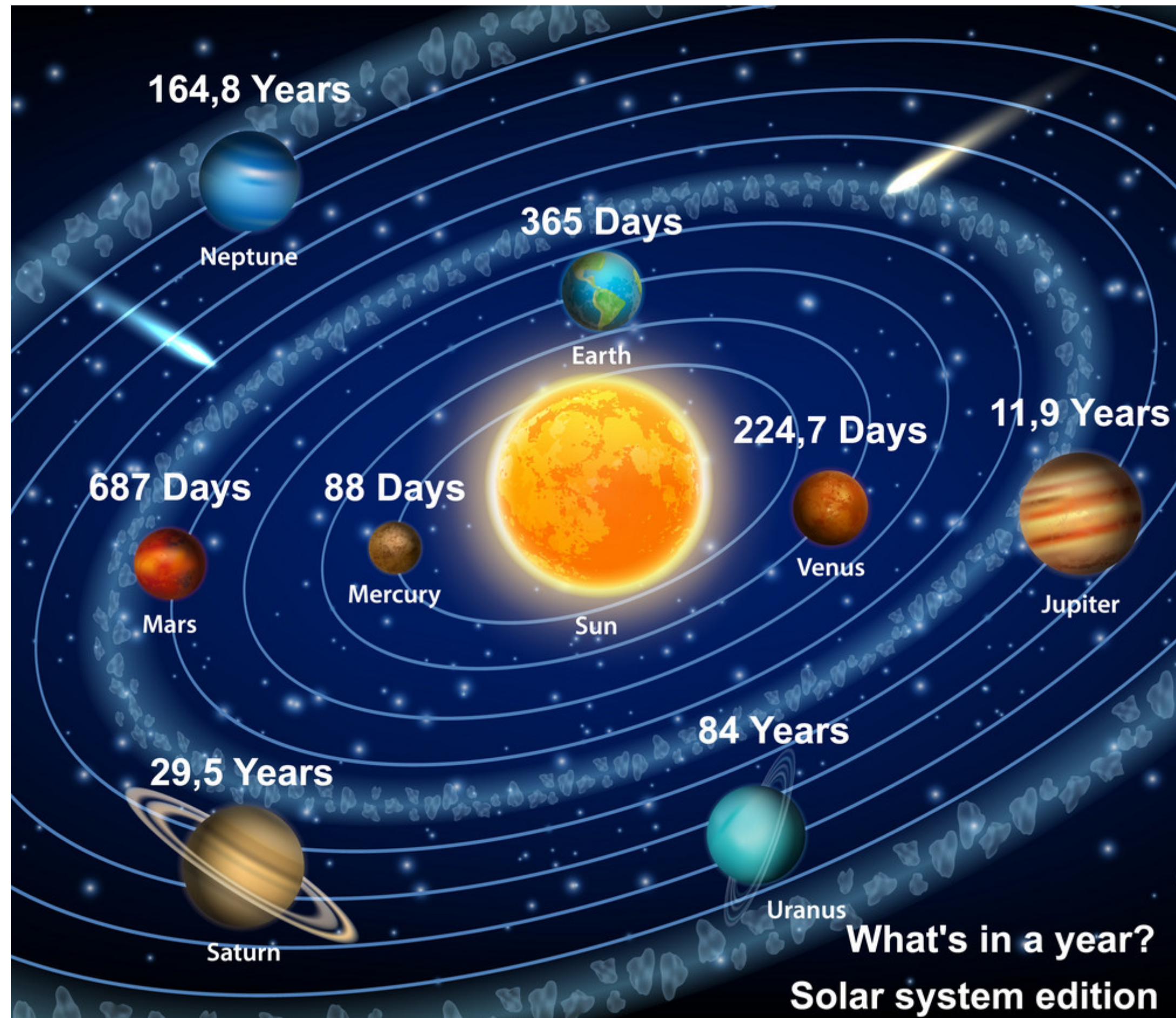
Talk online: [sachdev.physics.harvard.edu](https://sachdev.physics.harvard.edu)



INSTITUTE FOR  
ADVANCED STUDY

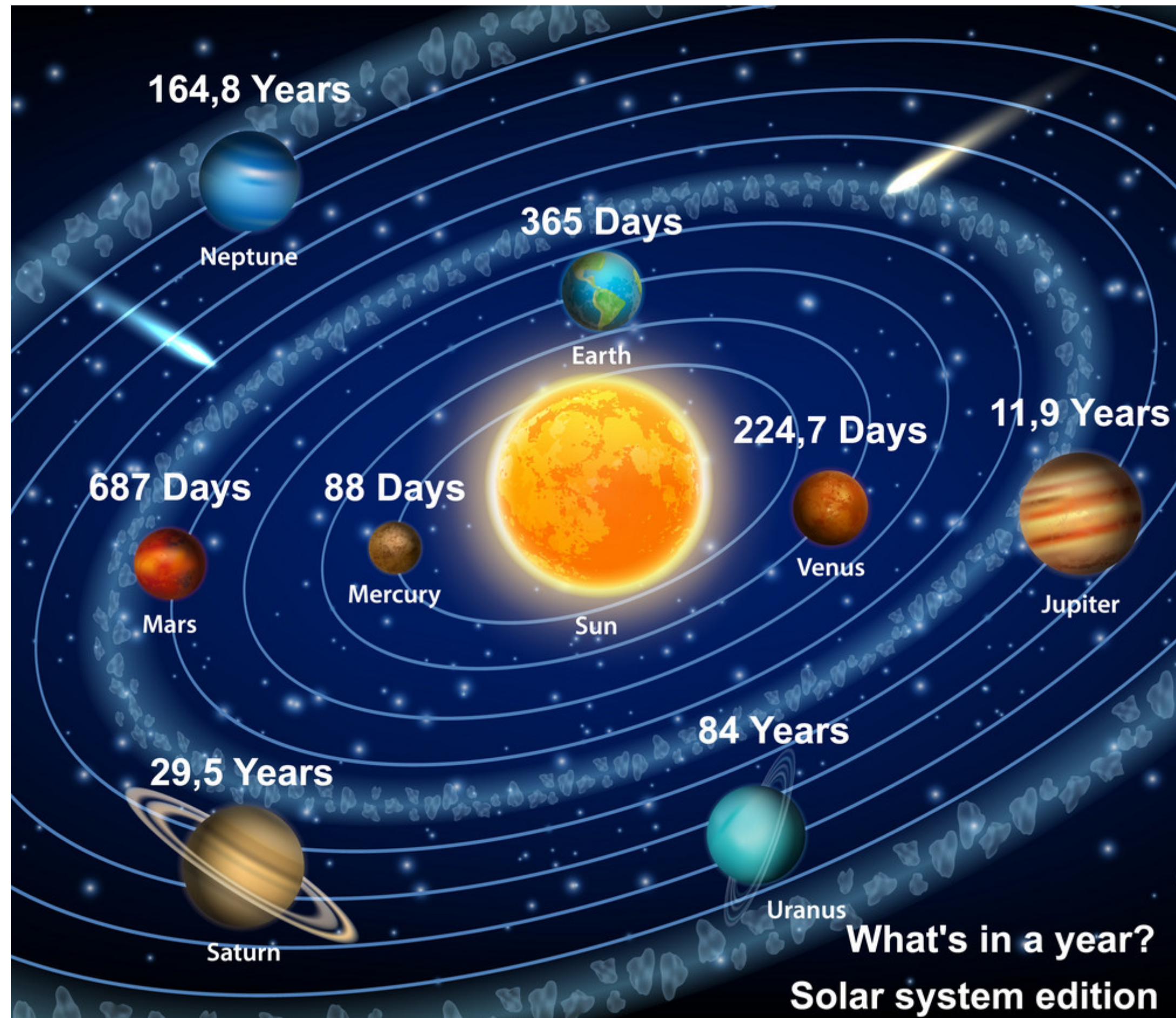






Newton showed (1687) that the same laws of motion applied on planetary length scales ( $\sim 1$  trillion meters) and the length scale of an apple tree (1 meter).





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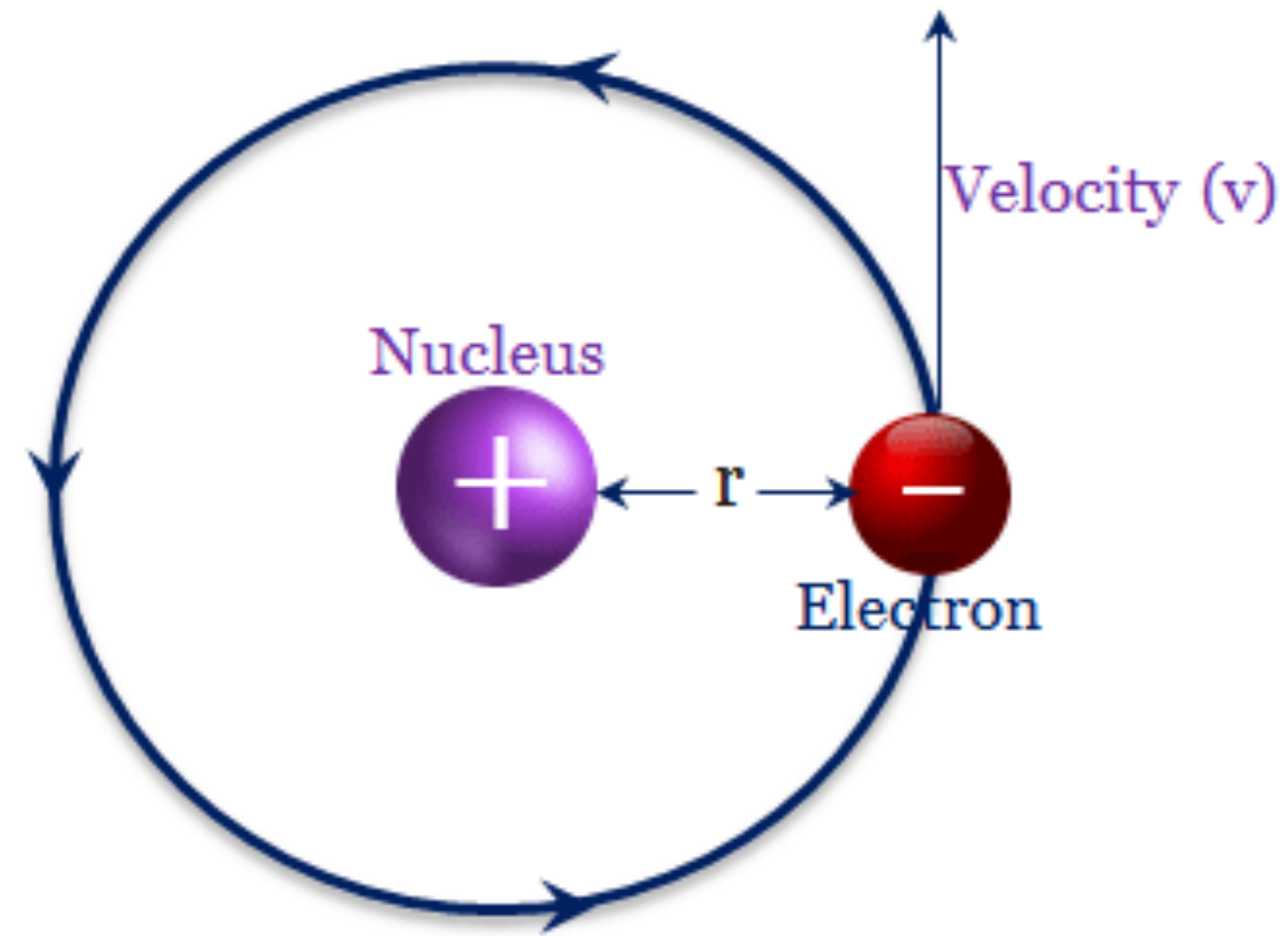
**What happens on smaller distances ?**



Quantum theory of electrons,  
one at a time:  
metals and insulators



# Hydrogen atom

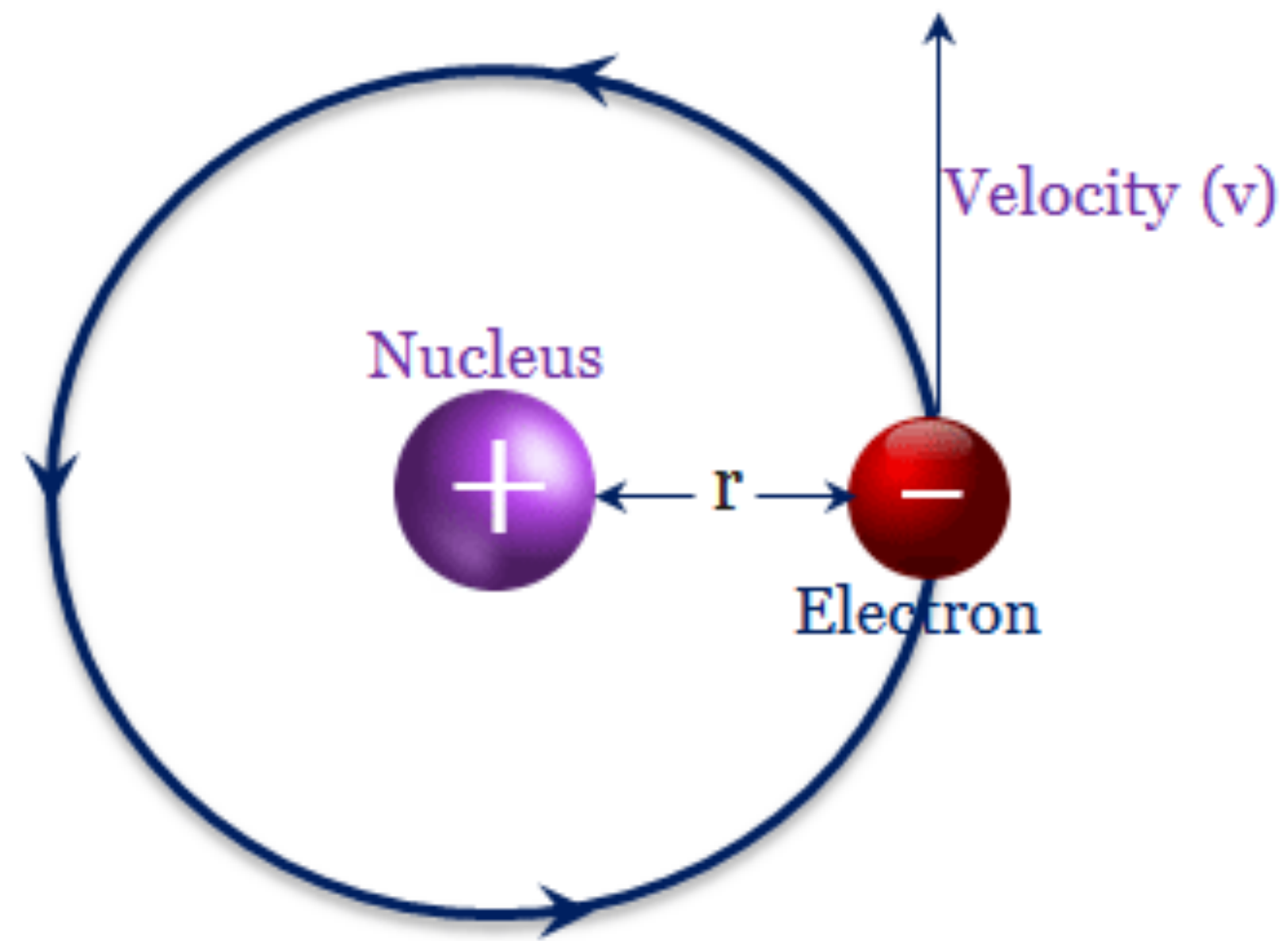


$\Rightarrow 10^{-10}$  meters  $\Leftarrow$

The motion of the electron around the proton is *not* described by the same theory as the motion of the planets around the sun.



# Hydrogen atom



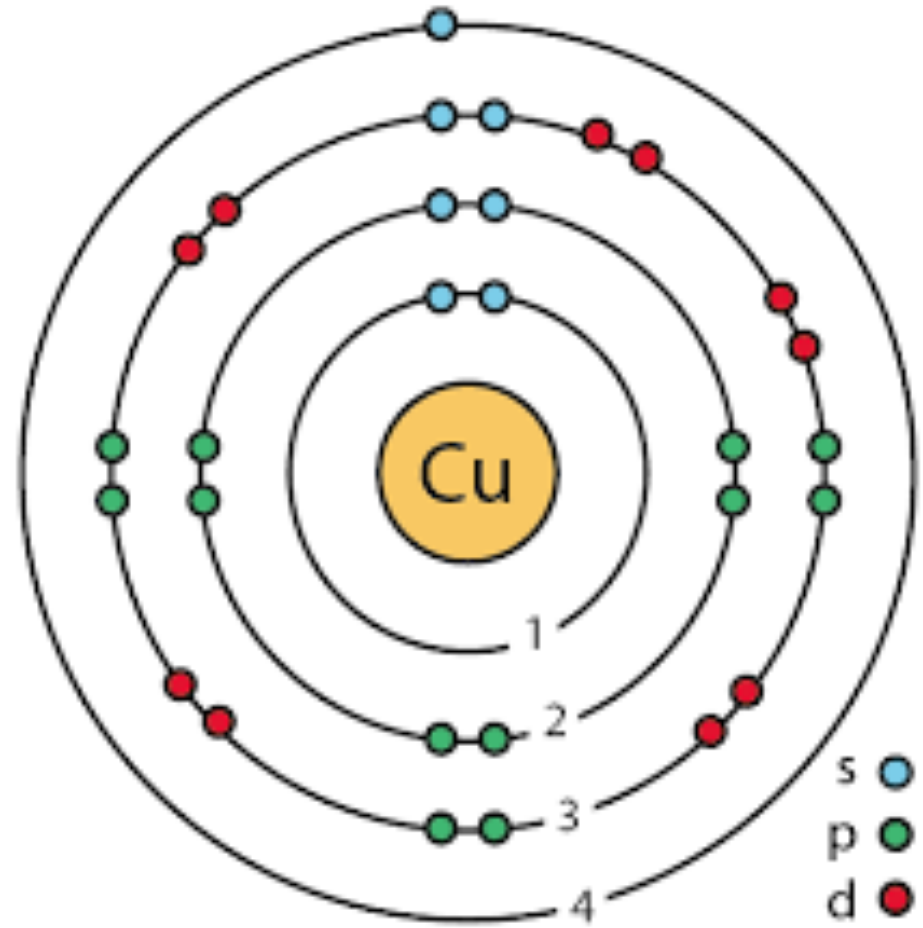
$\Rightarrow 10^{-10}$  meters  $\Leftarrow$

The motion of the electron around the proton is *not* described by the same theory as the motion of the planets around the sun.

It is described by the quantum theory of Schrödinger and Heisenberg (1925).



# Other atoms



Period	Group	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
1		H 1 1s																		He 1 1s	
2		Li 1 2s	Be 2 2s											B 1 2p	C 2 2p	N 3 2p	O 4 2p	F 5 2p		Ne 6 2p	
3		Na 1 3s	Mg 2 3s											Al 1 3p	Si 2 3p	P 3 3p	S 4 3p	Cl 5 3p		Ar 6 3p	
4		K 1 4s	Ca 2 4s	Sc 1 3d	Ti 2 3d	V 3 3d	Cr 4 3d	Mn 5 3d	Fe 6 3d	Co 7 3d	Ni 8 3d	Cu 9 3d	Zn 10 3d	Ga 1 4p	Ge 2 4p	As 3 4p	Se 4 4p	Br 5 4p		Kr 6 4p	
5		Rb 1 5s	Sr 2 5s	Y 1 4d	Zr 2 4d	Nb 3 4d	Mo 4 4d	Tc 5 4d	Ru 6 4d	Rh 7 4d	Pd 8 4d	Ag 9 4d	Cd 10 4d	In 1 5p	Sn 2 5p	Sb 3 5p	Te 4 5p	I 5 5p		Xe 6 5p	
6		Cs 1 6s	Ba 2 6s	La *1 5d	Hf 2 5d	Ta 3 5d	W 4 5d	Re 5 5d	Os 6 5d	Ir 7 5d	Pt 8 5d	Au 9 5d	Hg 10 5d	Tl 1 6p	Pb 2 6p	Bi 3 6p	Po 4 6p	At 5 6p		Rn 6 6p	
7		Fr 1 7s	Ra 2 7s	Ac **1 6d	Rf 2 6d	Db 3 6d	Sg 4 6d	Bh 5 6d	Hs 6 6d	Mt 7 6d	Ds 8 6d	Rg 9 6d	Cn 10 6d	Uut	Fl	Uup	Lv	Uus		Uuo	
	*	Ce 1 4f	Pr 2 4f	Nd 3 4f	Pm 4 4f	Sm 5 4f	Eu 6 4f	Gd 7 4f	Tb 8 4f	Dy 9 4f	Ho 10 4f	Er 11 4f	Tm 12 4f	Yb 13 4f	Lu 14 4f						
	**	Th 1 5f	Pa 2 5f	U 3 5f	Np 4 5f	Pu 5 5f	Am 6 5f	Cm 7 5f	Bk 8 5f	Cf 9 5f	Es 10 5f	Fm 11 5f	Md 12 5f	No 13 5f	Lr 14 5f						

The periodic table follows from (i) the exclusion principle, and (ii) each electron has 2 spin states  $|\uparrow\rangle$ , and  $|\downarrow\rangle$ .



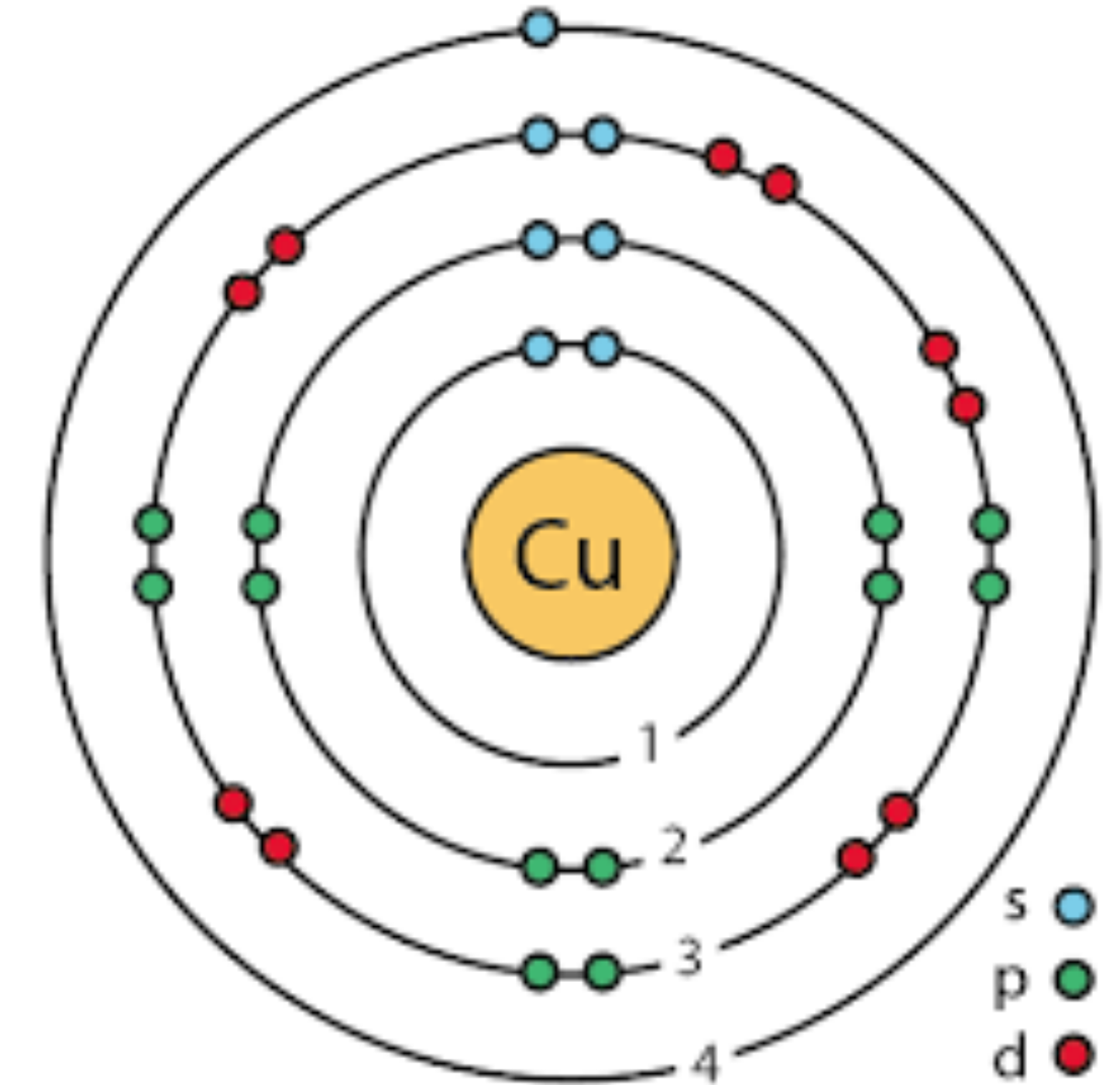
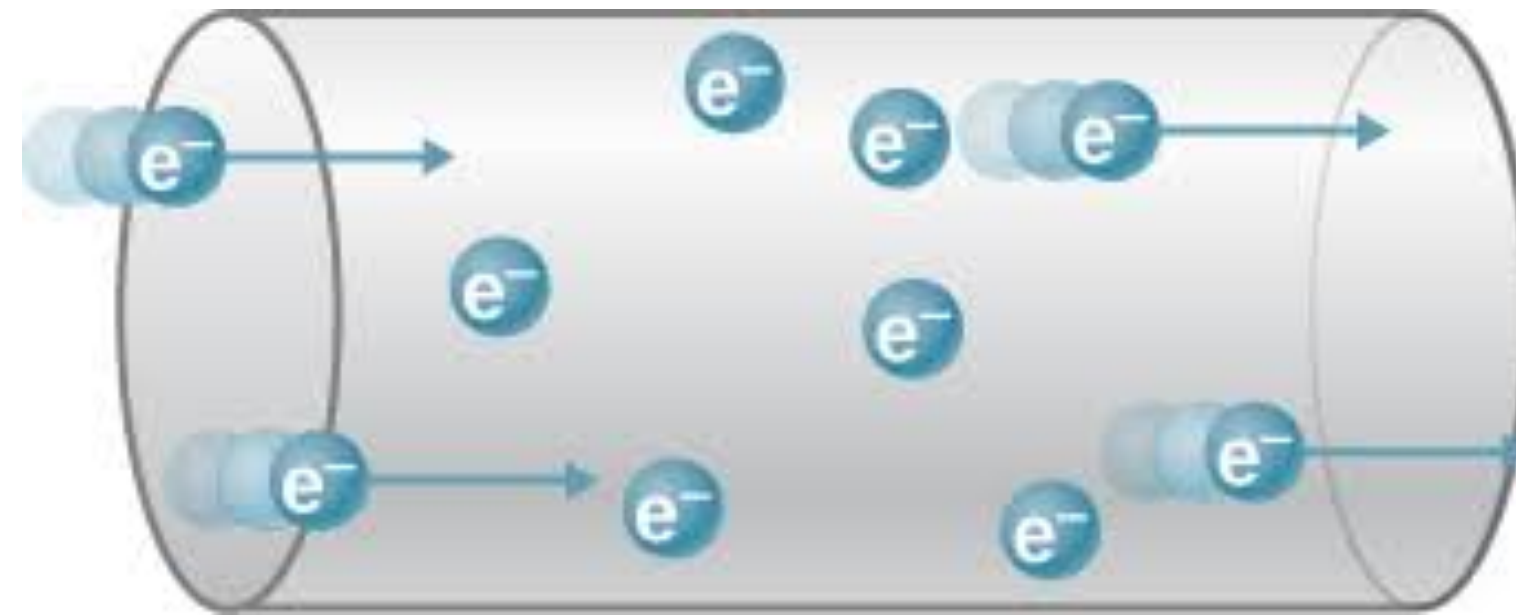
## Ordinary metals



Ordinary metals are shiny, and they conduct heat and electricity efficiently. Each atom donates electrons which are delocalized throughout the entire crystal



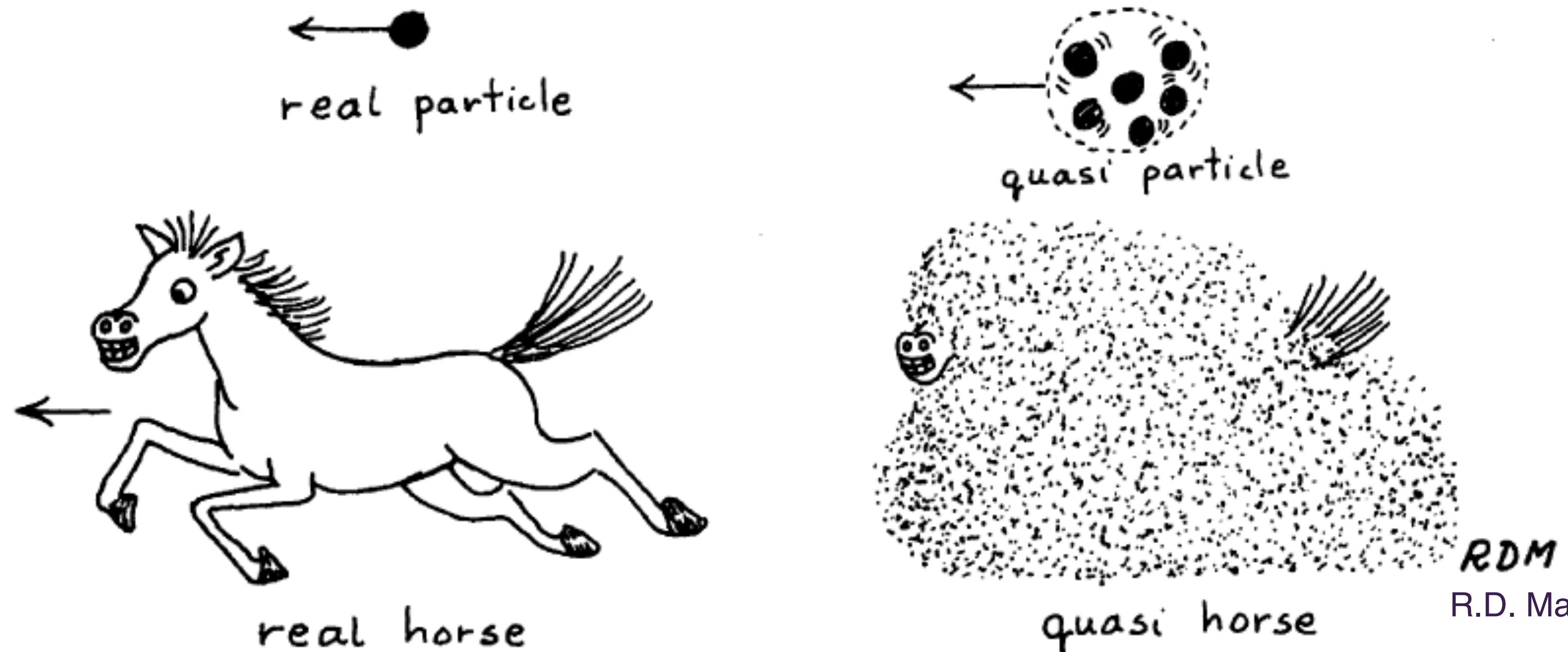
# Copper



Each copper atom donates its outermost electron  
These electrons move freely throughout the crystal and carry current



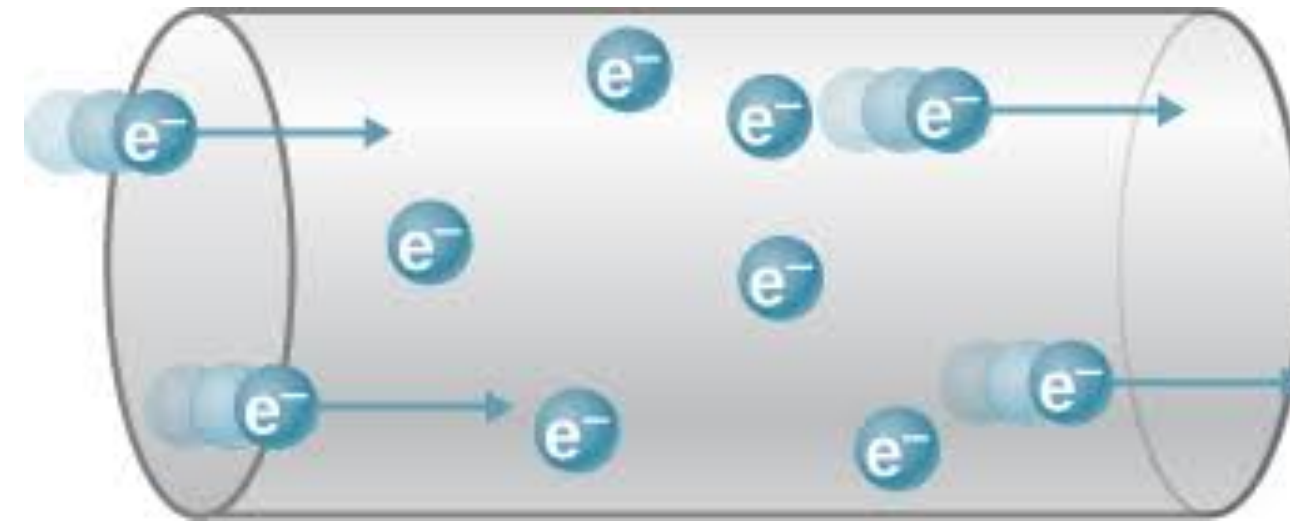
*Almost all many-electron systems are described by the quasiparticle concept: a quasiparticle is an “excited lump” in the many-electron state which responds just like an ordinary particle. The existence of quasiparticles implies limited many-particle entanglement*



R.D. Mattuck



## Current flow with quasiparticles in Copper



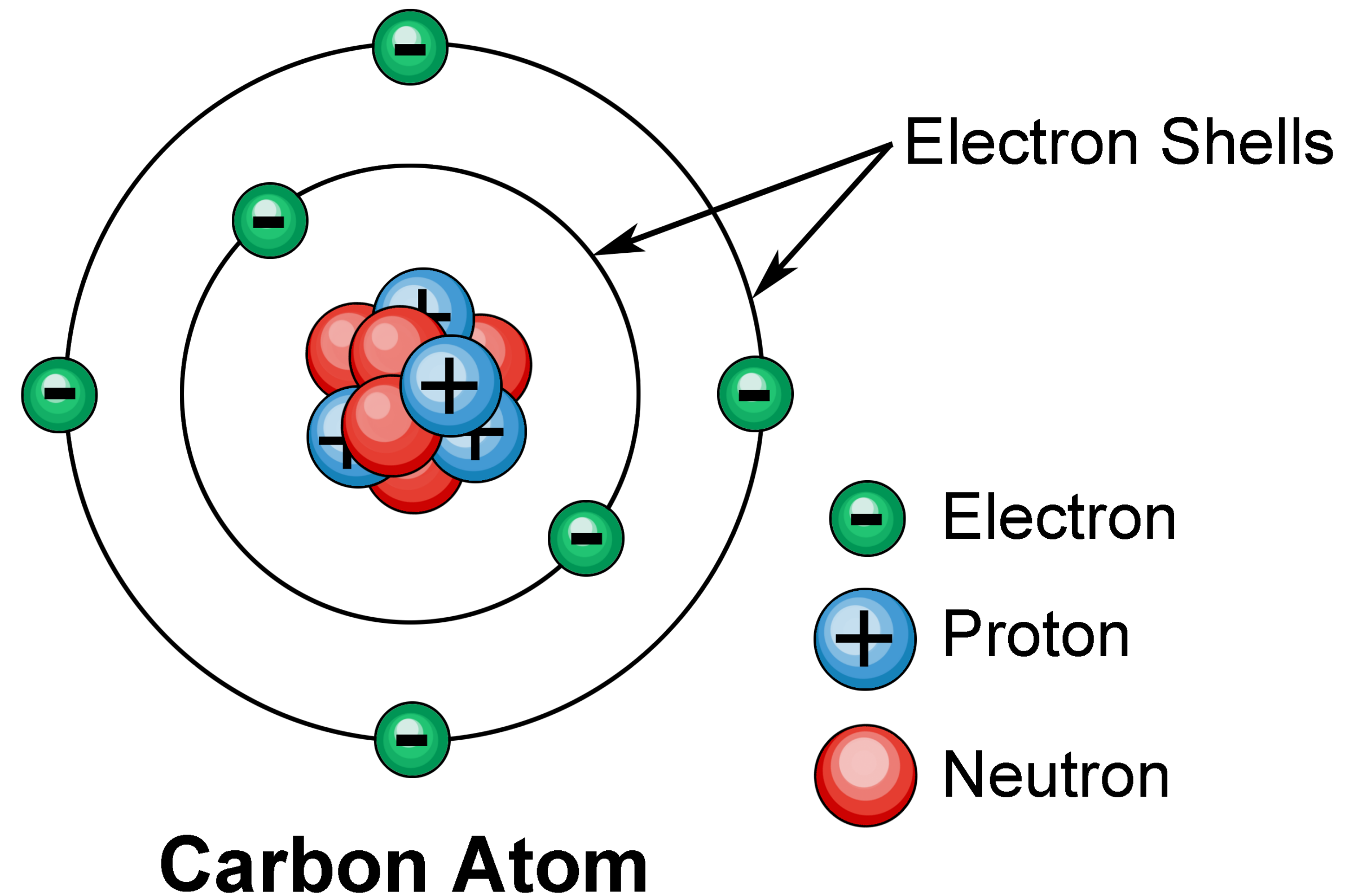
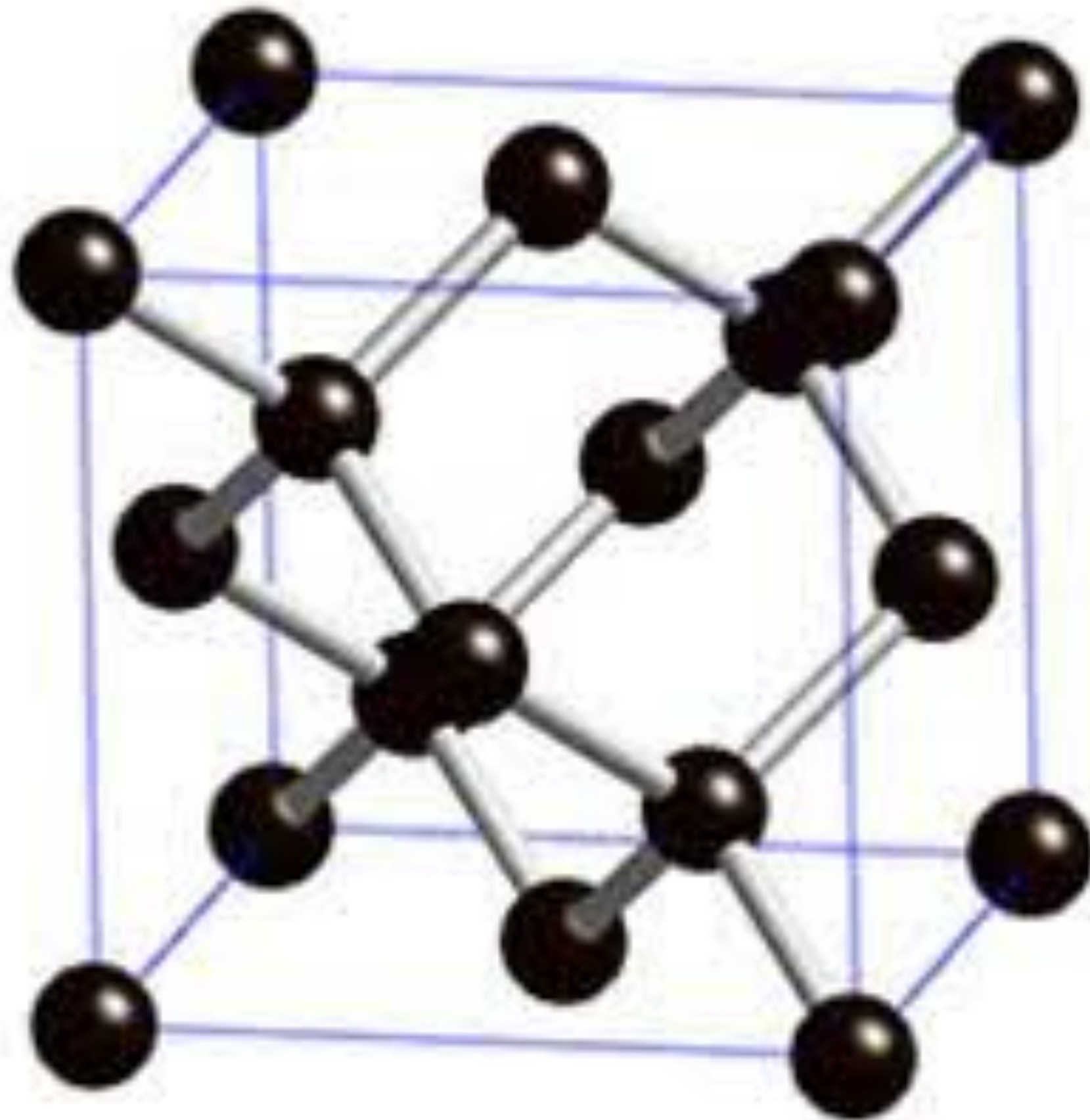
Flowing quasiparticles scatter off each other in a typical scattering time  $\tau$

This time is much longer than a limiting  
'Planckian time'  $\frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$ .

The long scattering time implies that quasiparticles are well-defined.



*Diamond - a very good insulator*



Each carbon atom donates 4 electrons

These electrons occupy filled “bands” and are not able to carry current



Quantum entanglement of  
electron pairs:  
superconductivity

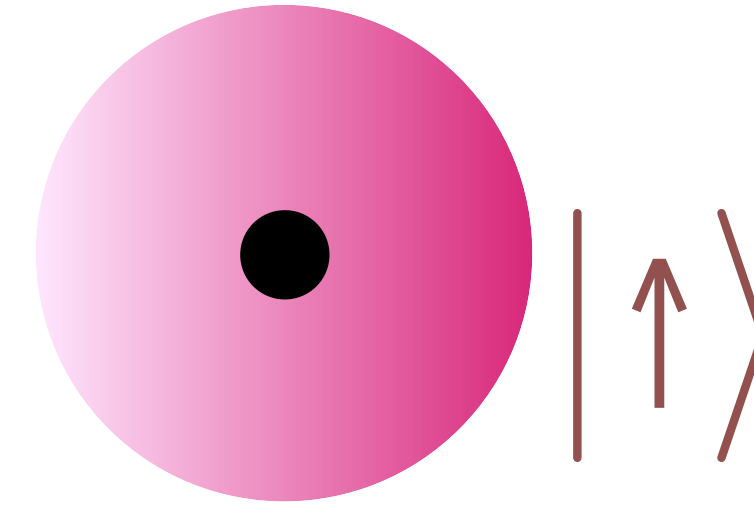


The most remarkable new idea in the quantum theory is the  
*principle of superposition:*  
a physical system can be in a  
superposition of two (or more) distinct states.



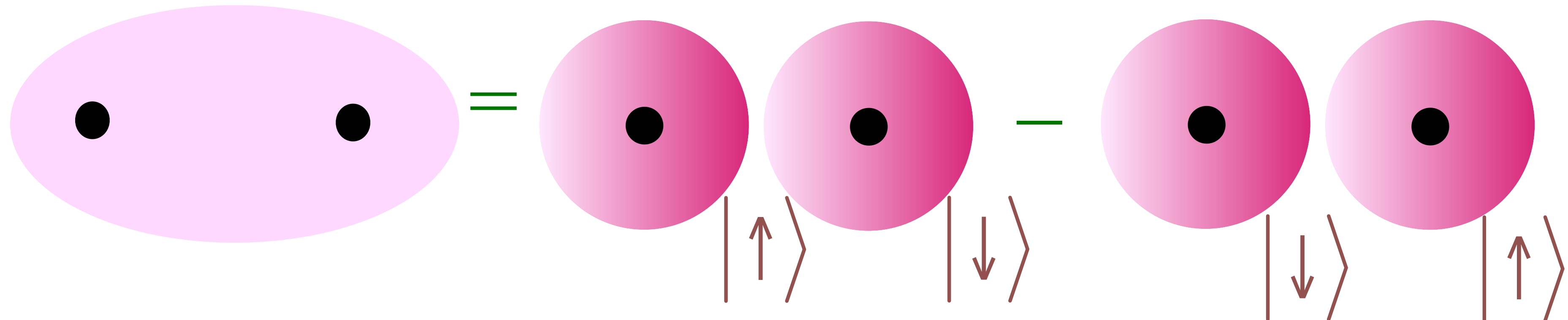
# Molecules

Hydrogen atom:



# Covalent bond

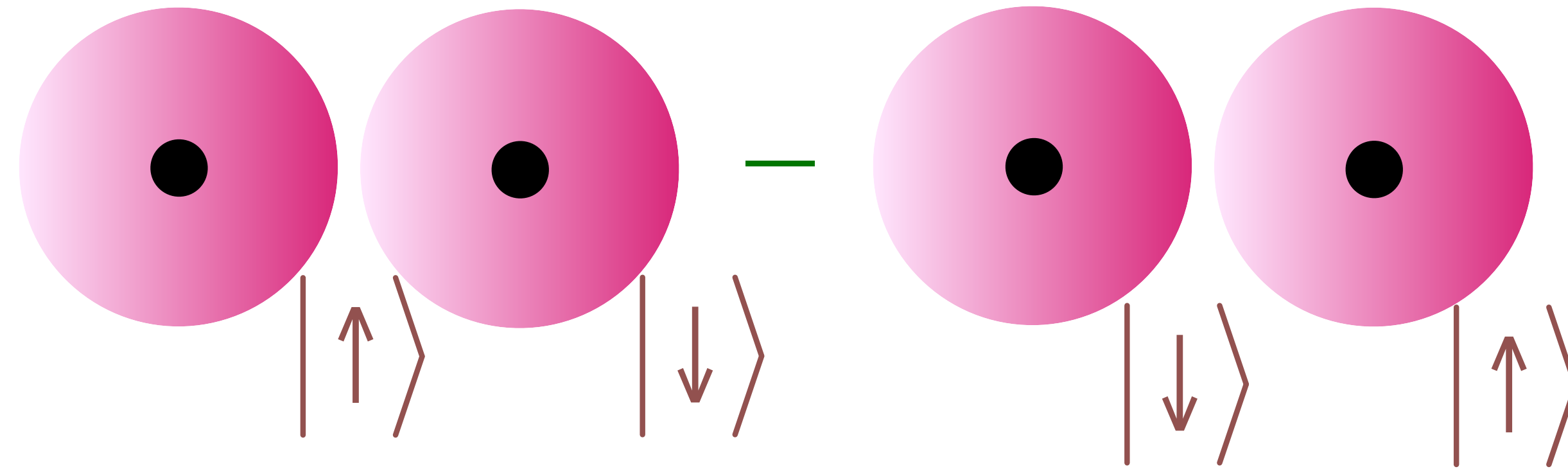
Hydrogen molecule:





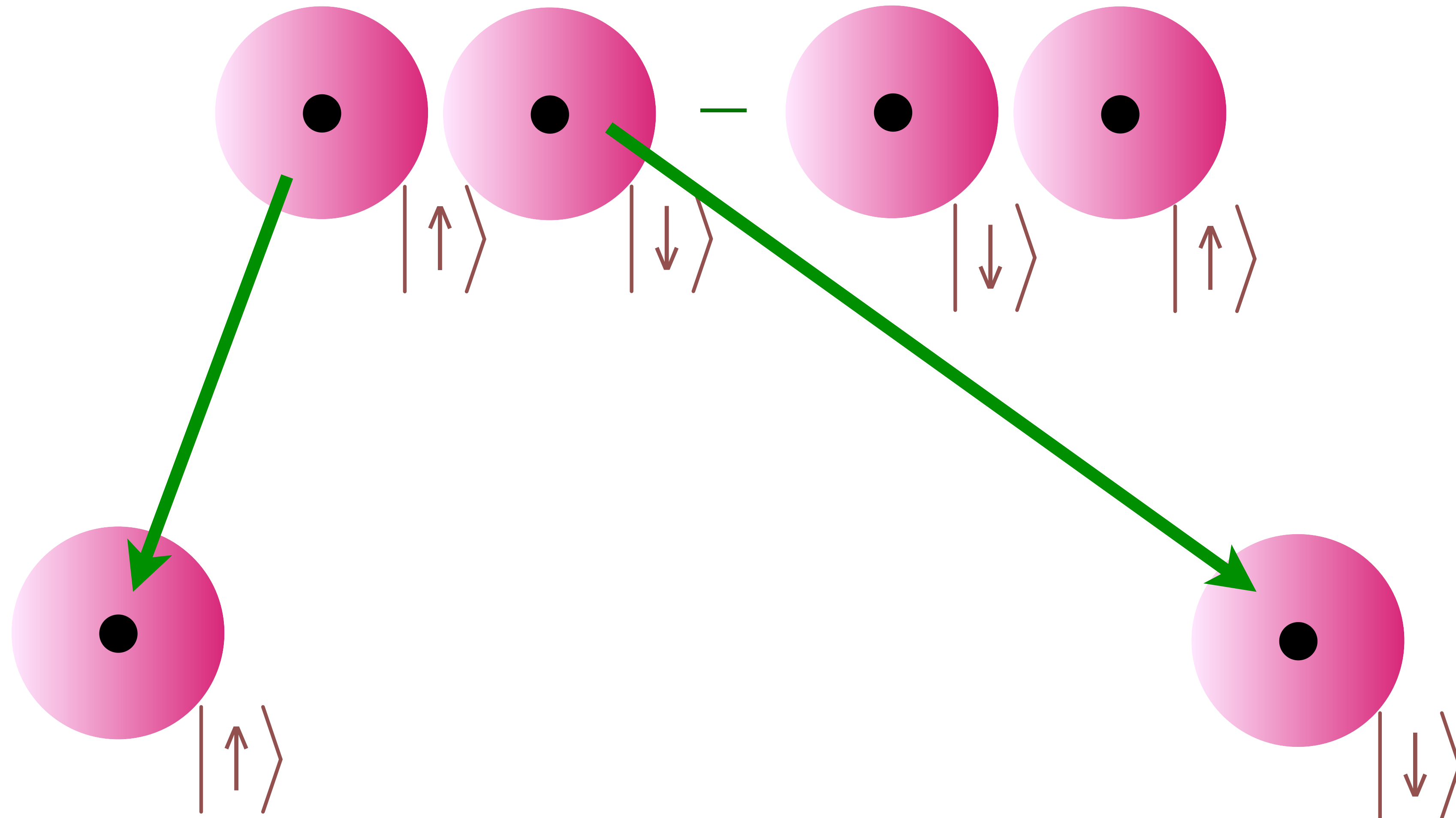
# Quantum Entanglement

Einstein, Podolsky, Rosen (1935)



# Quantum Entanglement

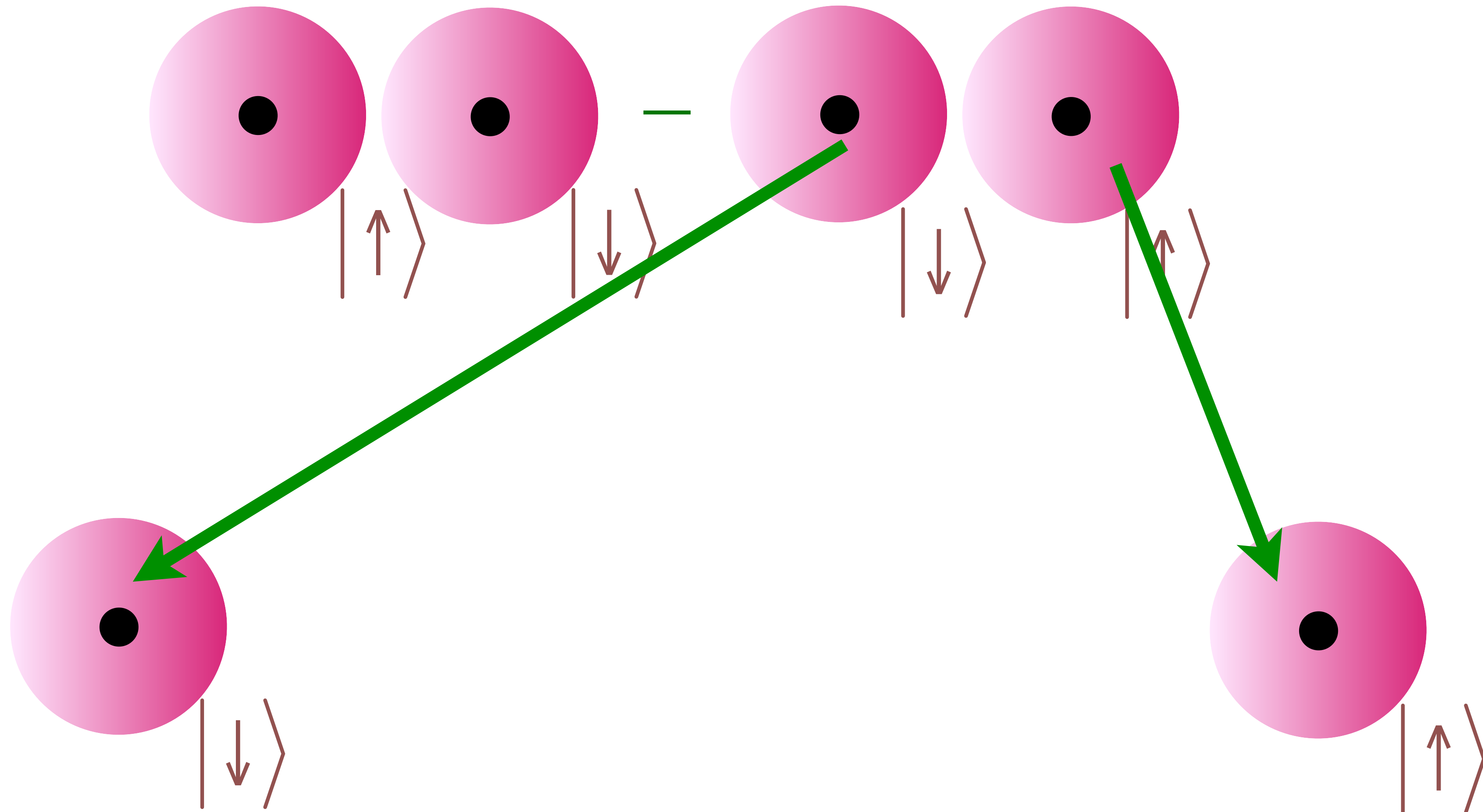
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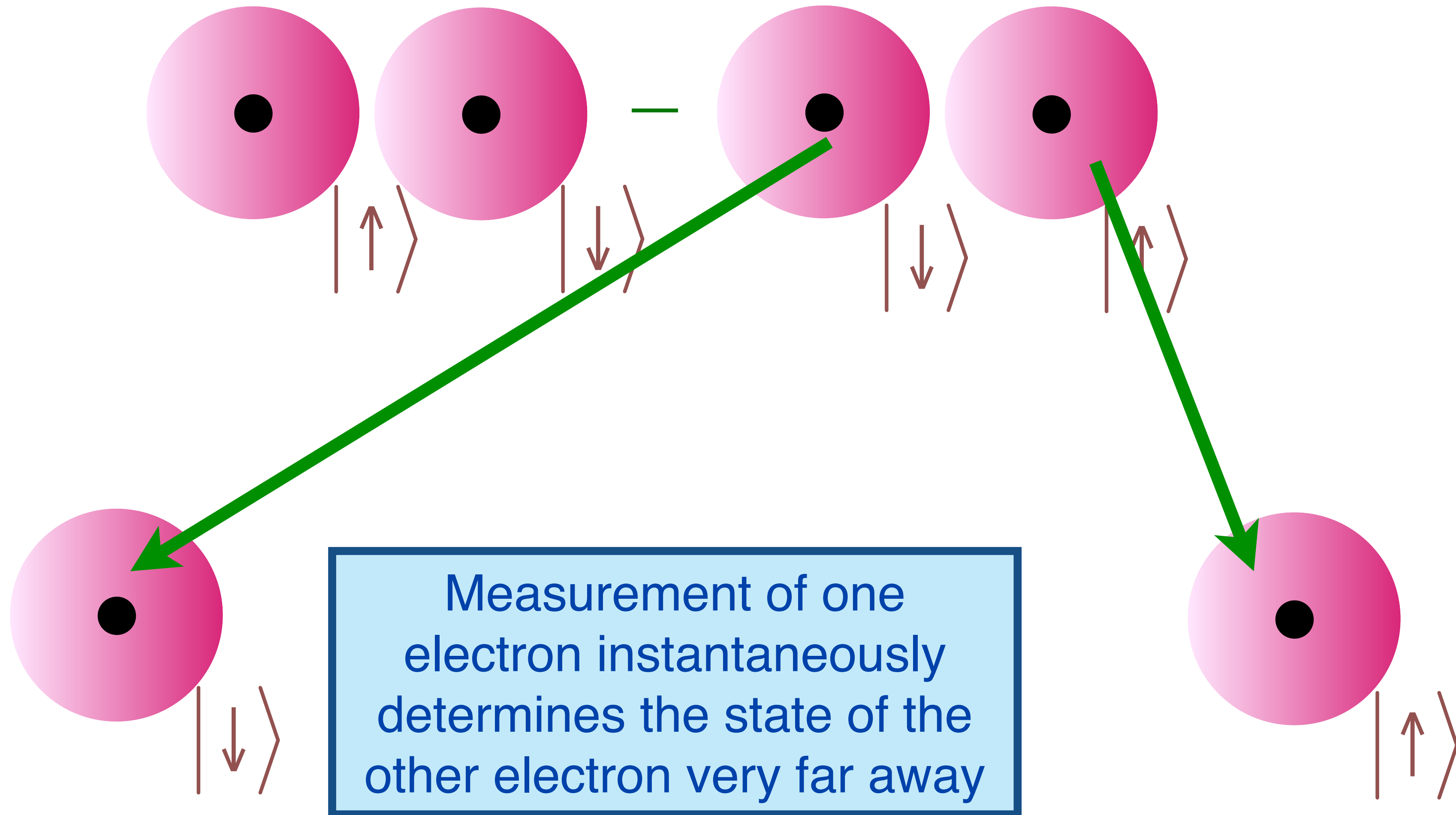
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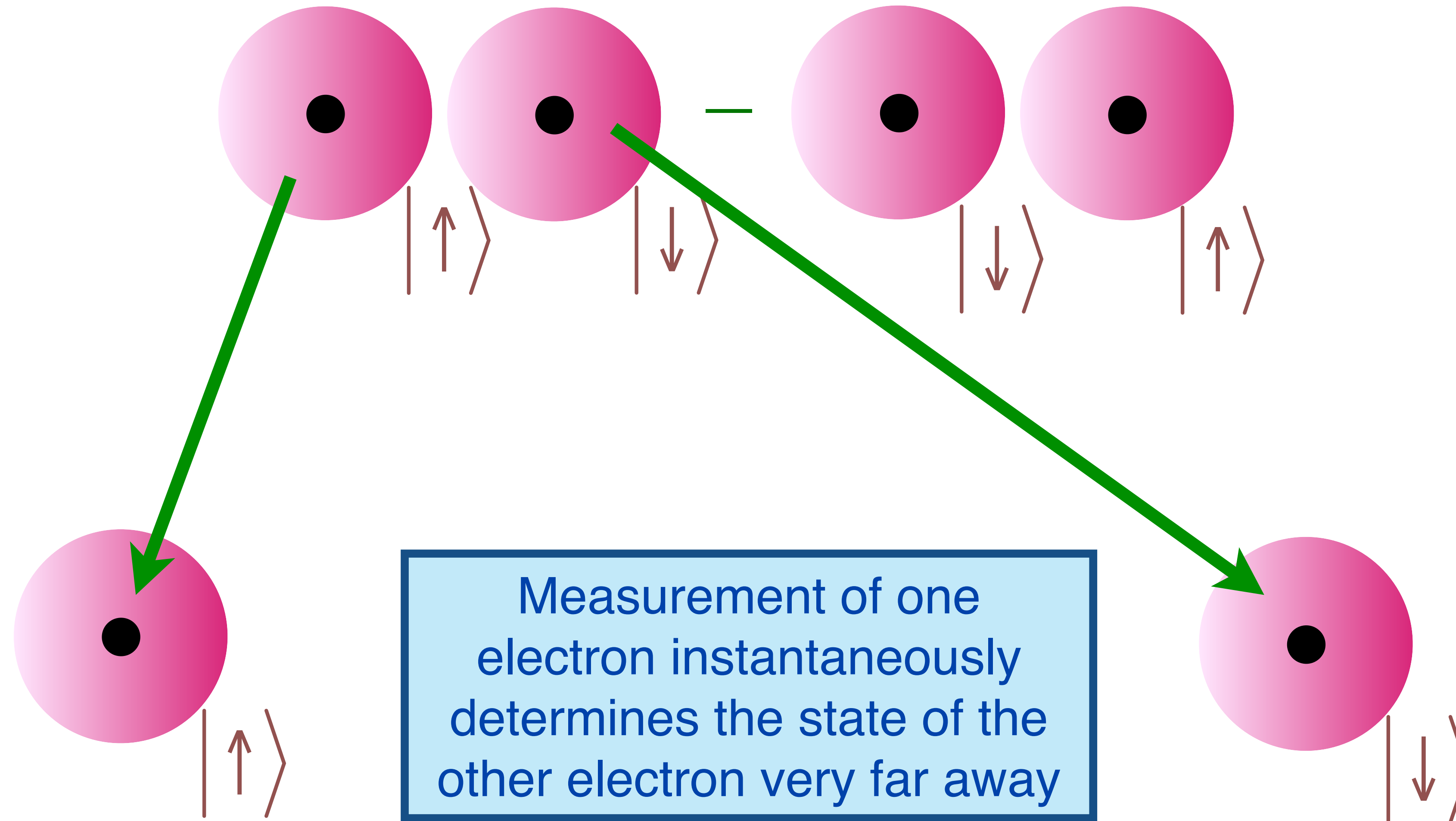
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Einstein, Podolsky, Rosen (1935)

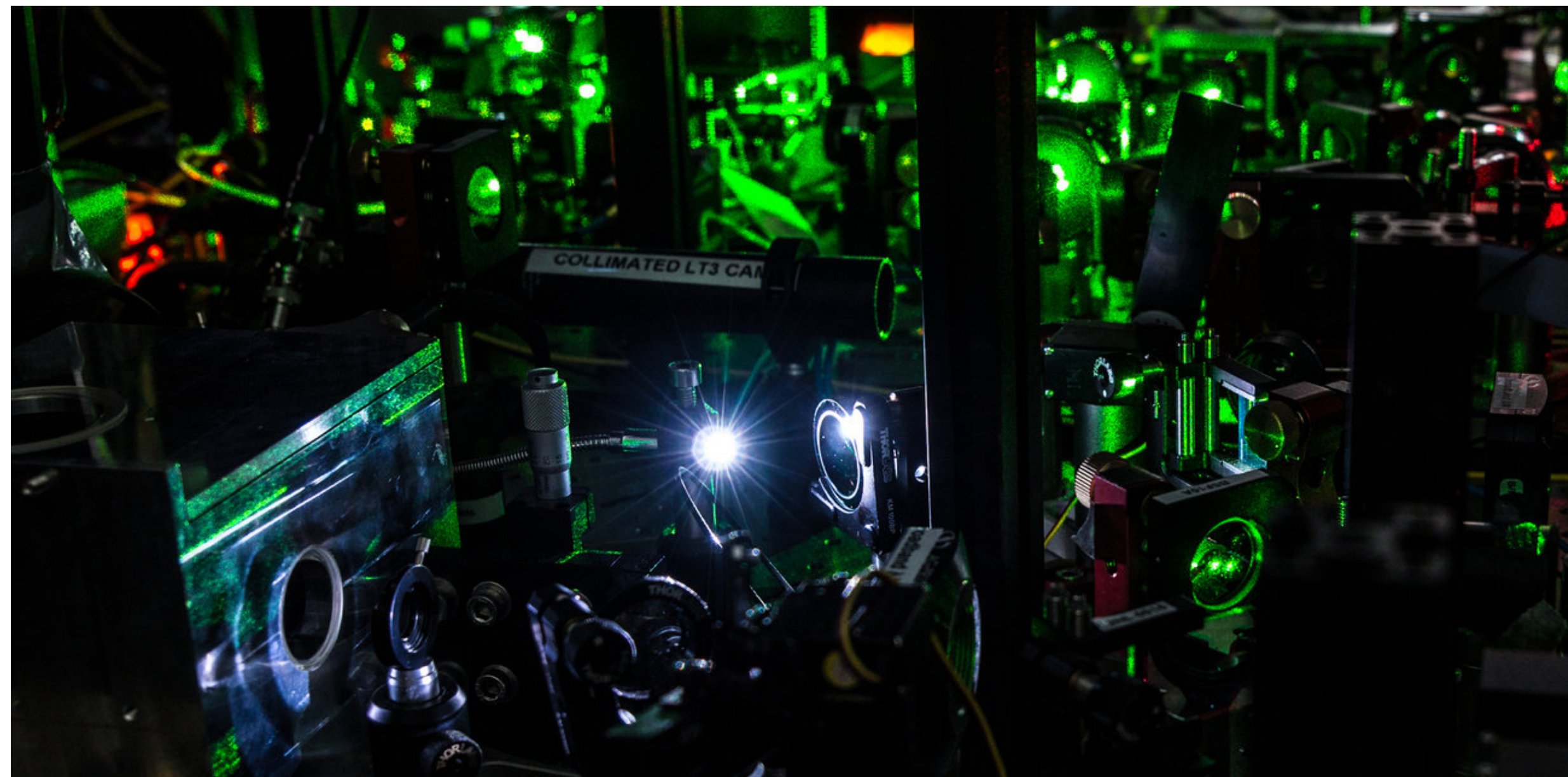


# The New York Times

## Sorry, Einstein. Quantum Study Suggests ‘Spooky Action’ Is Real.

By JOHN MARKOFF    OCT. 21, 2015

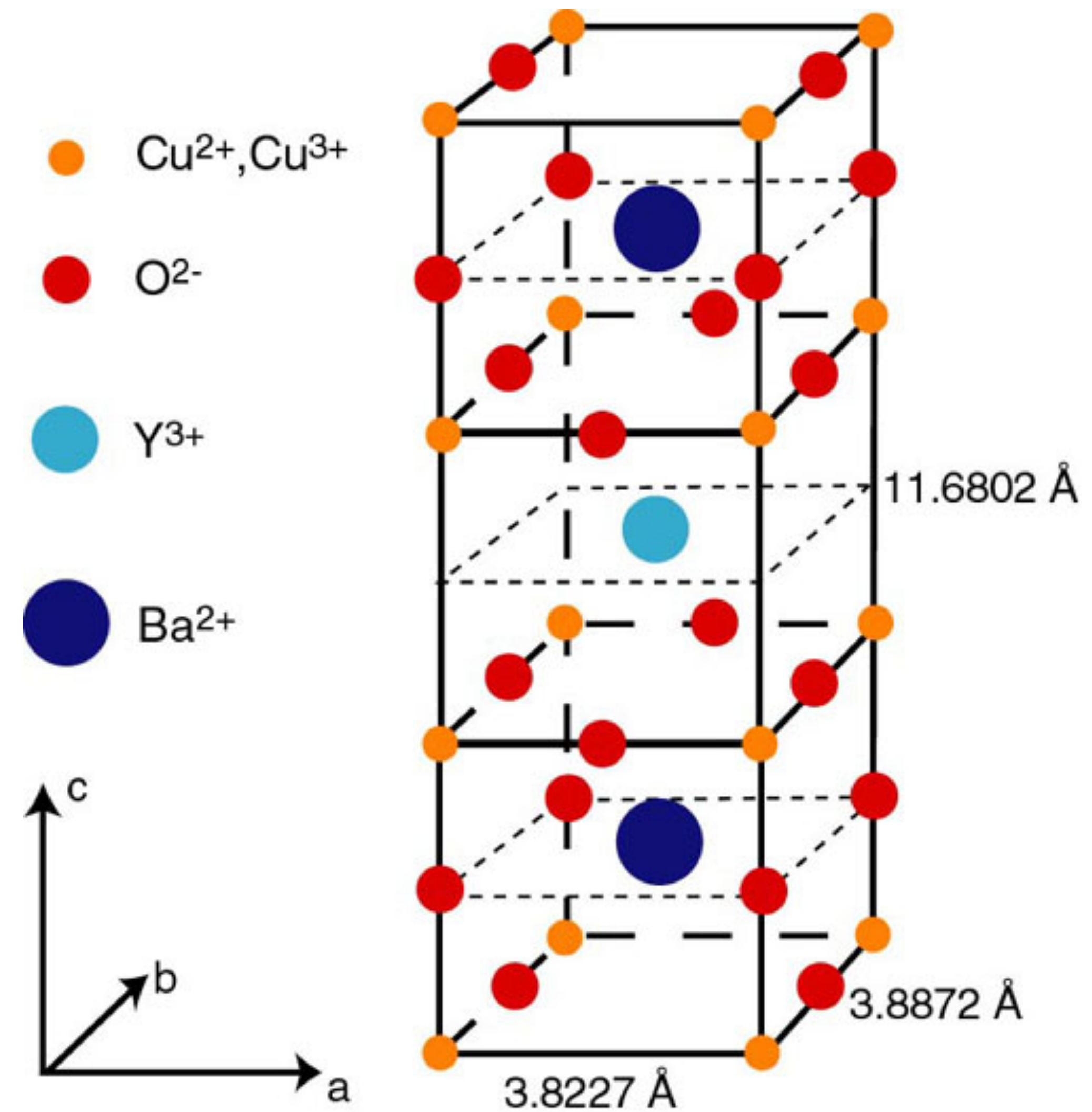
In a landmark study, scientists at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands reported that they had conducted an experiment that they say proved one of the most fundamental claims of quantum theory — that objects separated by great distance can instantaneously affect each other’s behavior.



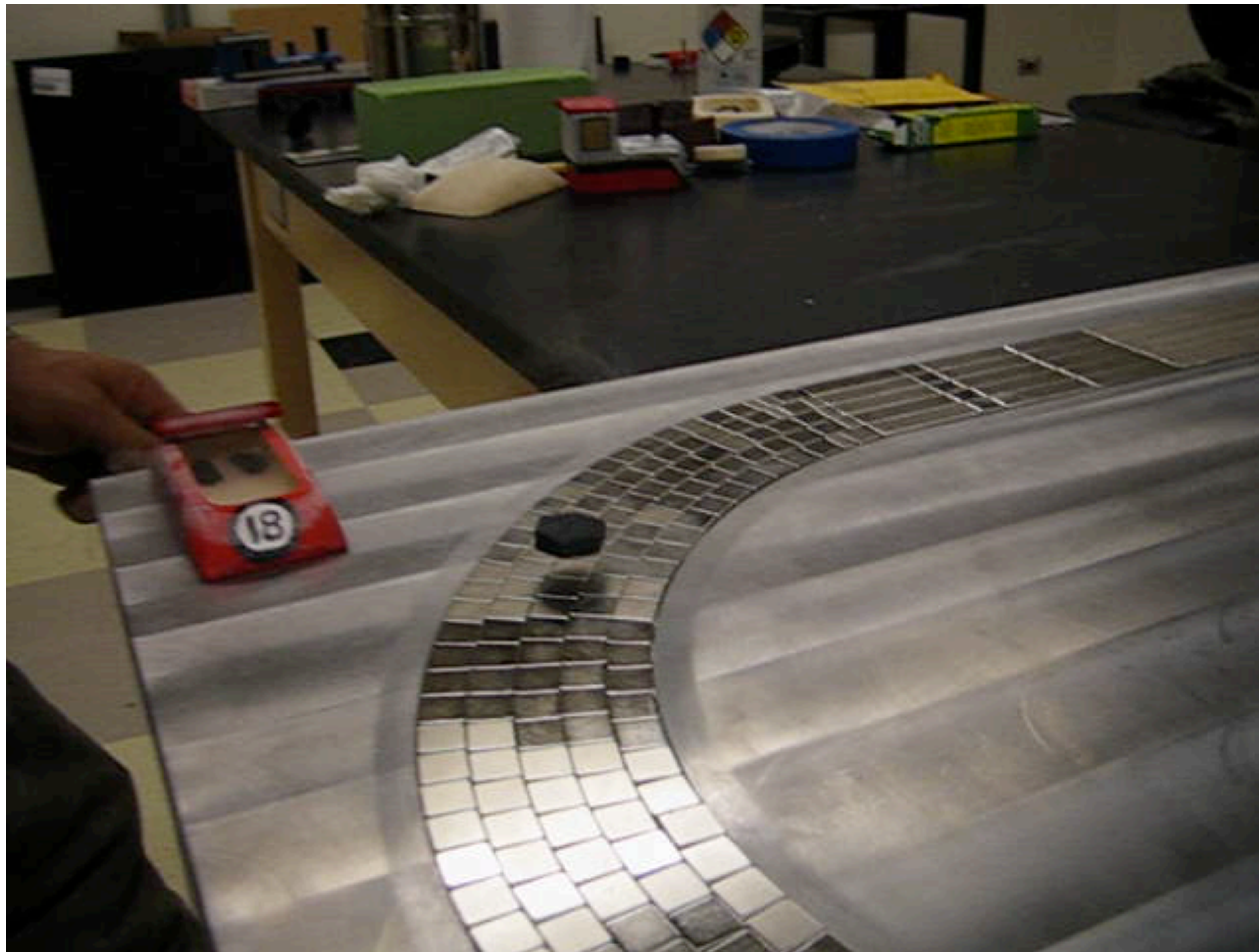
Part of the laboratory setup for an experiment at Delft University of Technology, in which two diamonds were set 1.3 kilometers apart, entangled and then shared information.



# High temperature superconductors





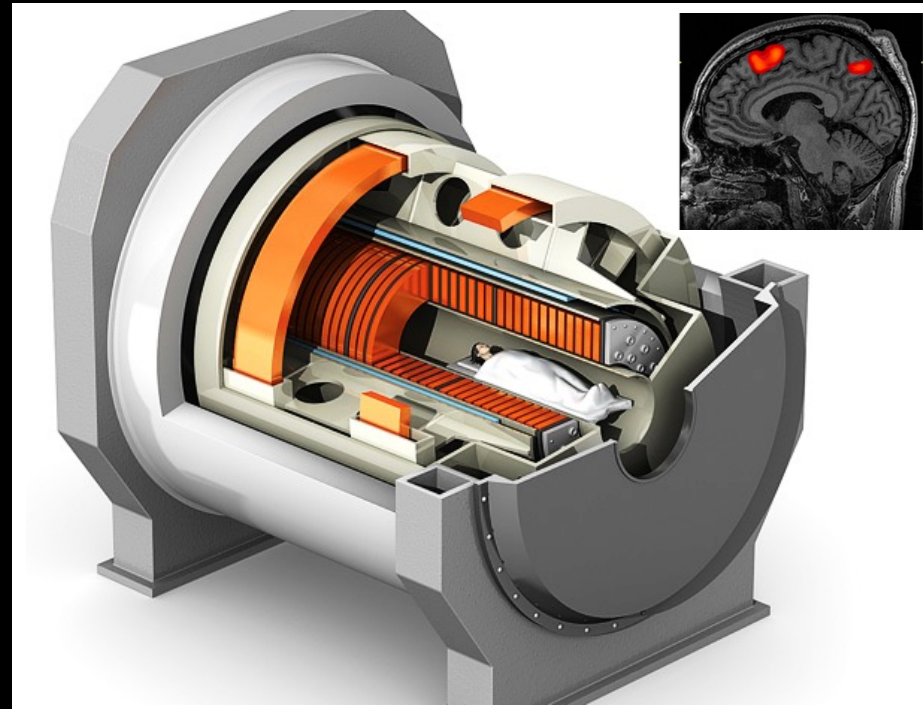


Nd-Fe-B magnets, YBaCuO superconductor

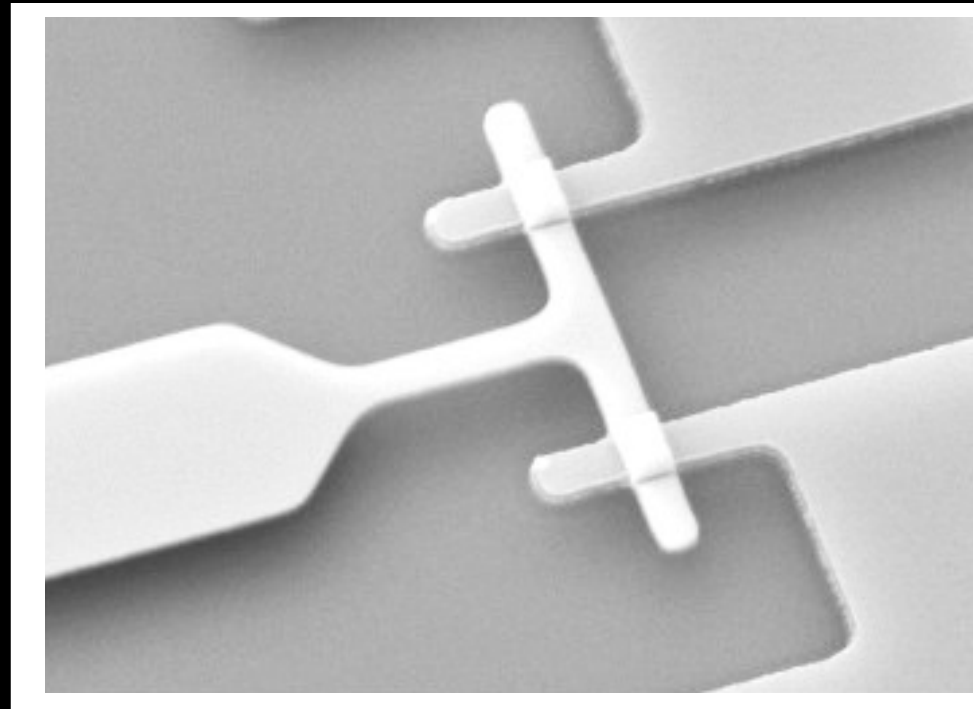
Julian Hetel and Nandini Trivedi, Ohio State University



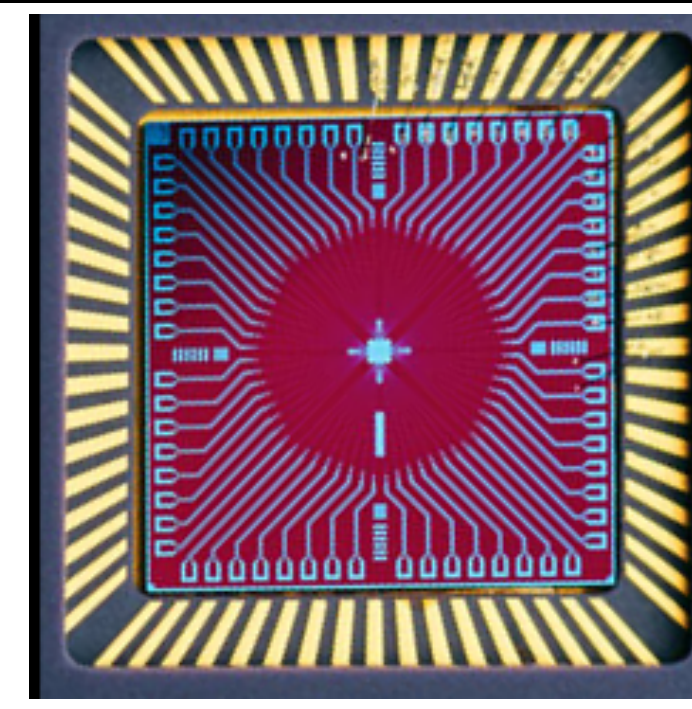
# SUPERCONDUCTIVITY: SCIENTIFIC APPLICATIONS



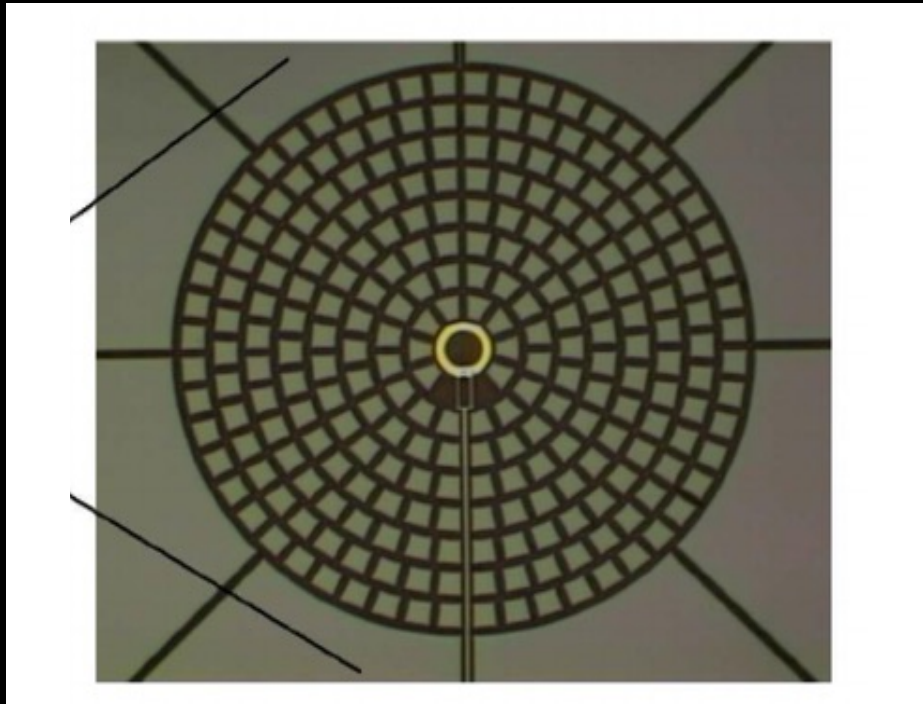
FUNCTIONAL MRI



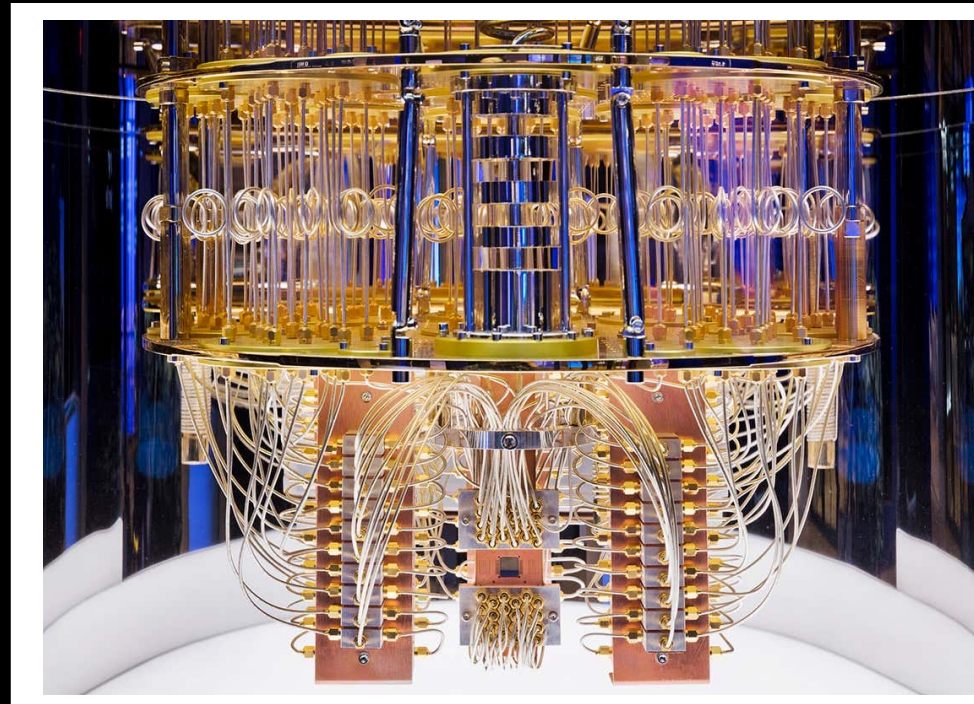
SQUID SENSORS



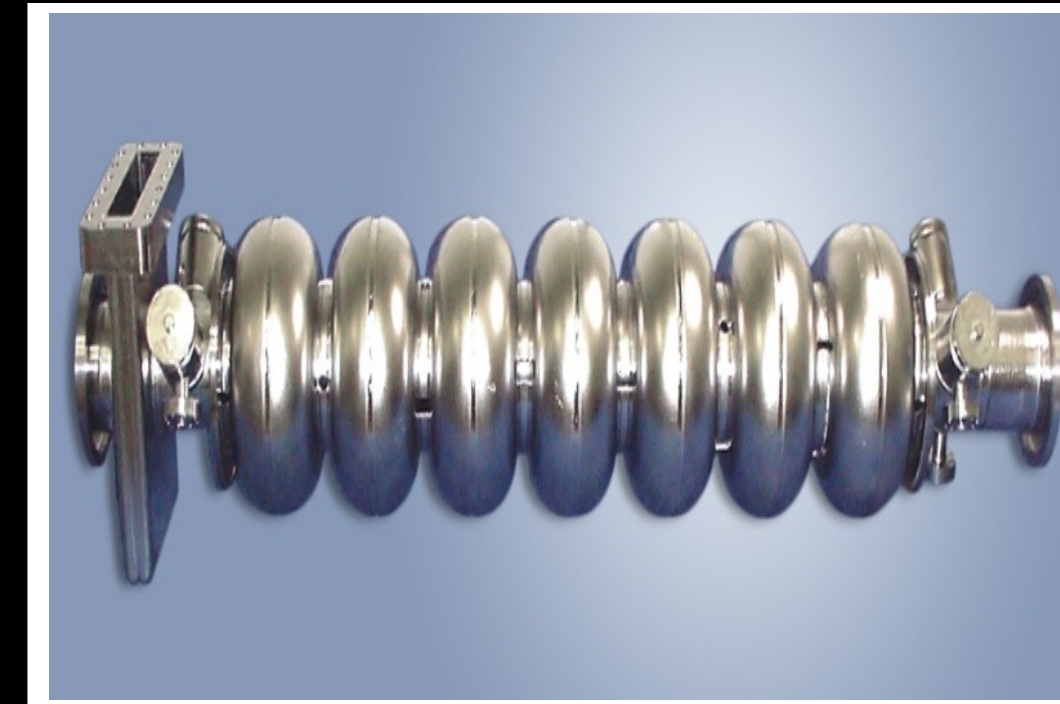
SINGLE PHOTON IMAGING



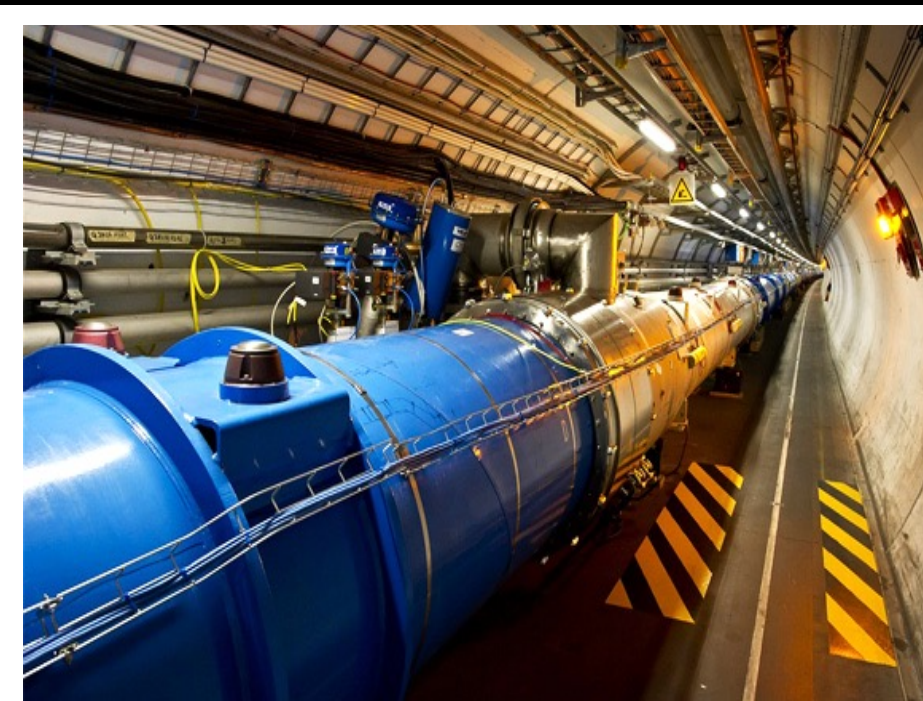
TRANS. EDGE BOLOMETER



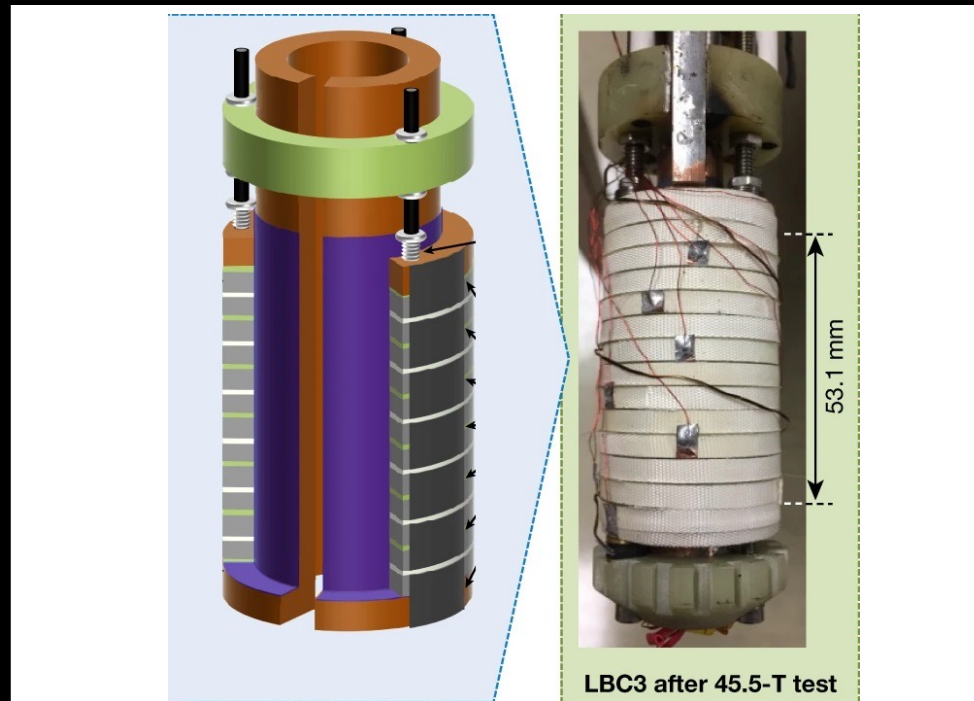
QUANTUM INFO. TECH.



HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS



ACCELERATORS



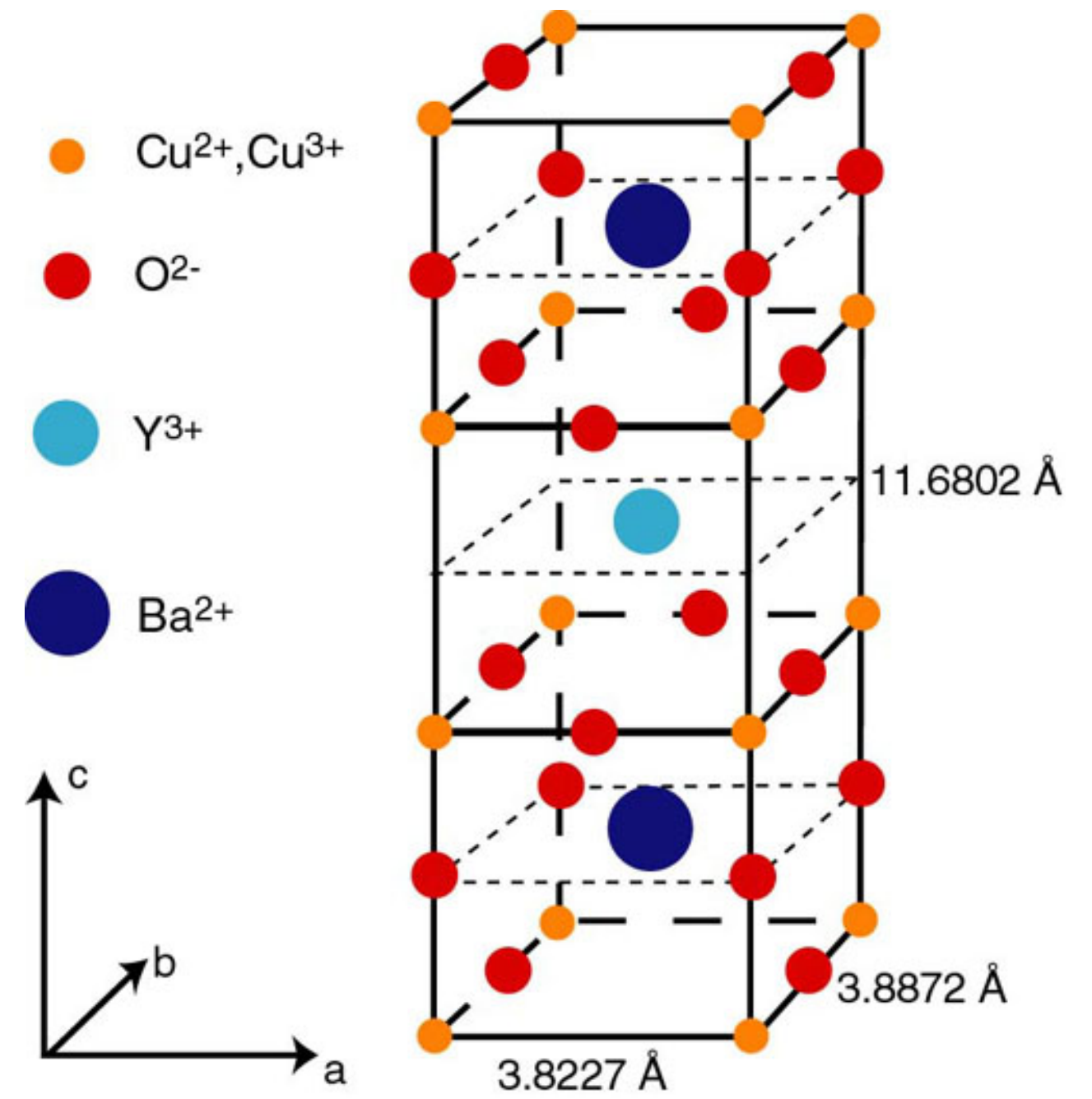
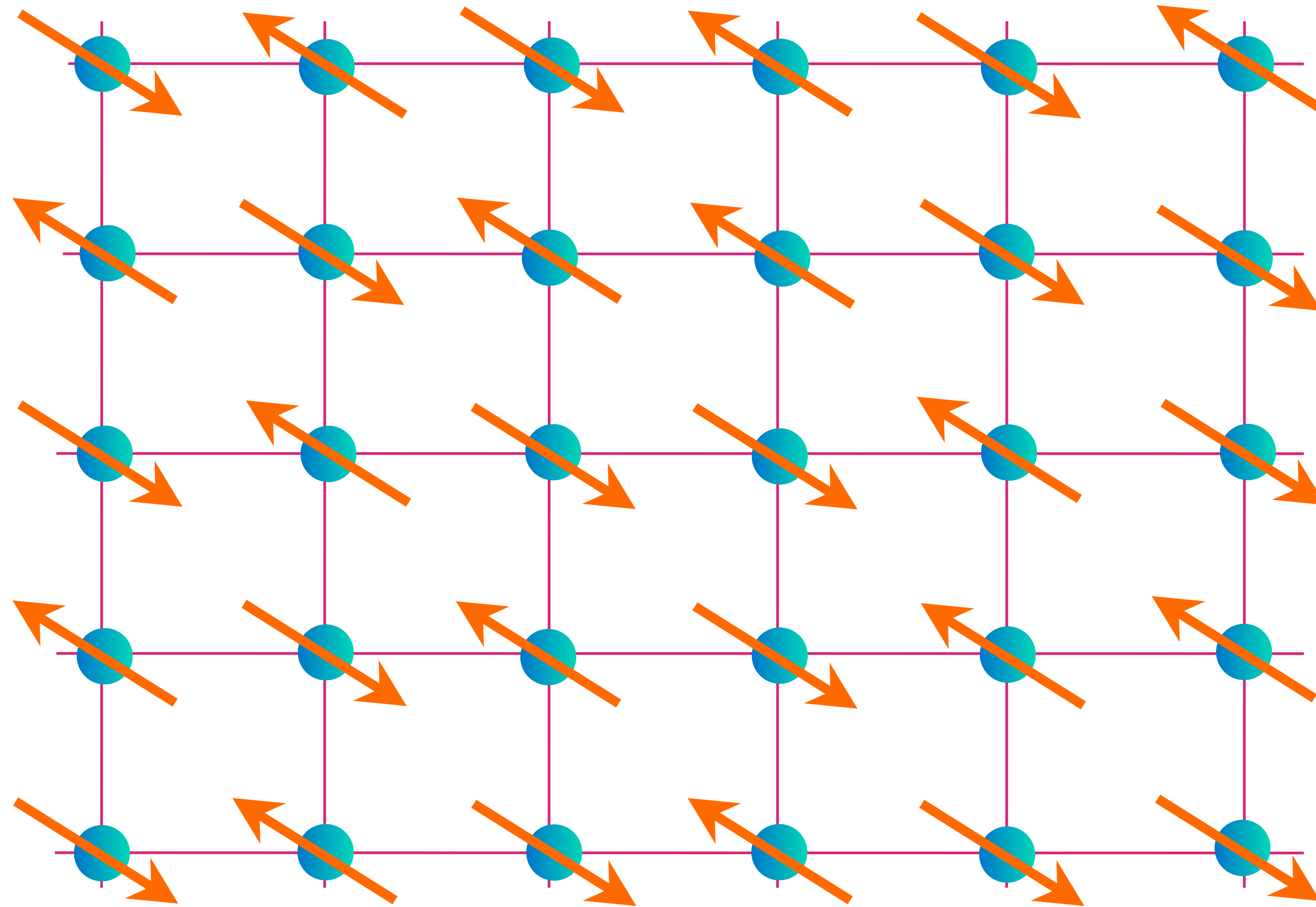
50+ TESLA MAGNETS



TOKOMAK FUSION

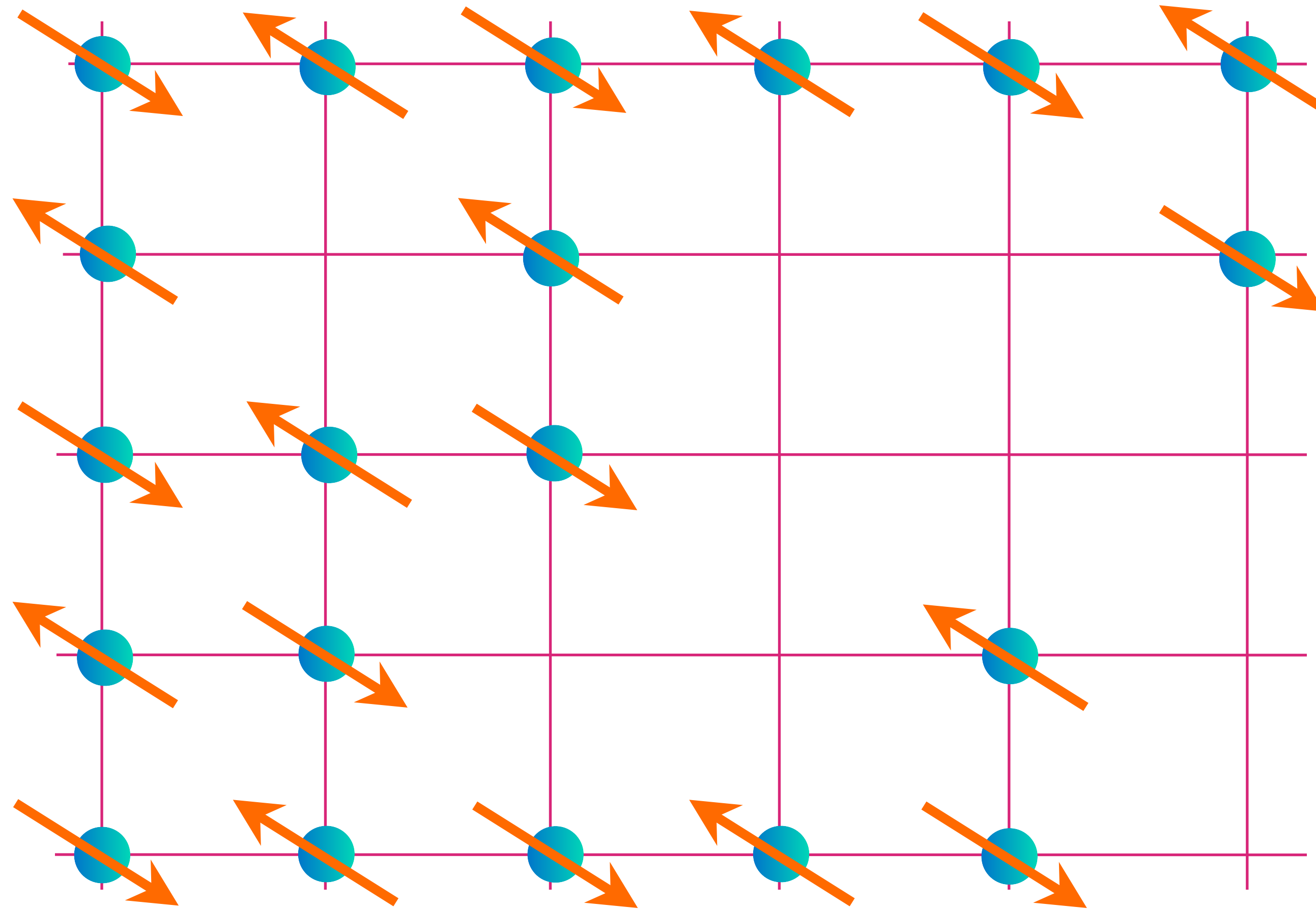


# Insulating antiferromagnet



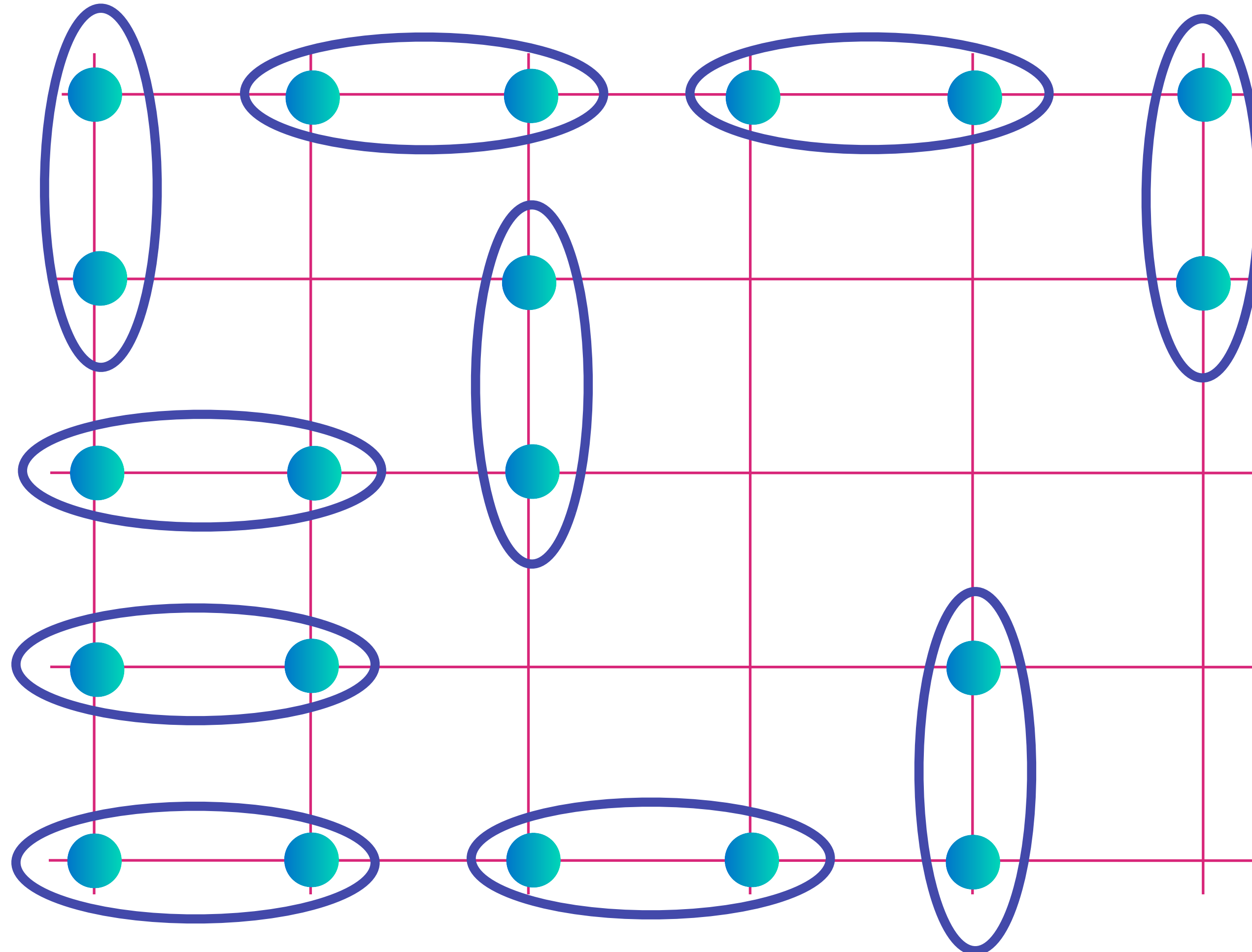


# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$



Remove  
fraction  $p$   
electrons

# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$

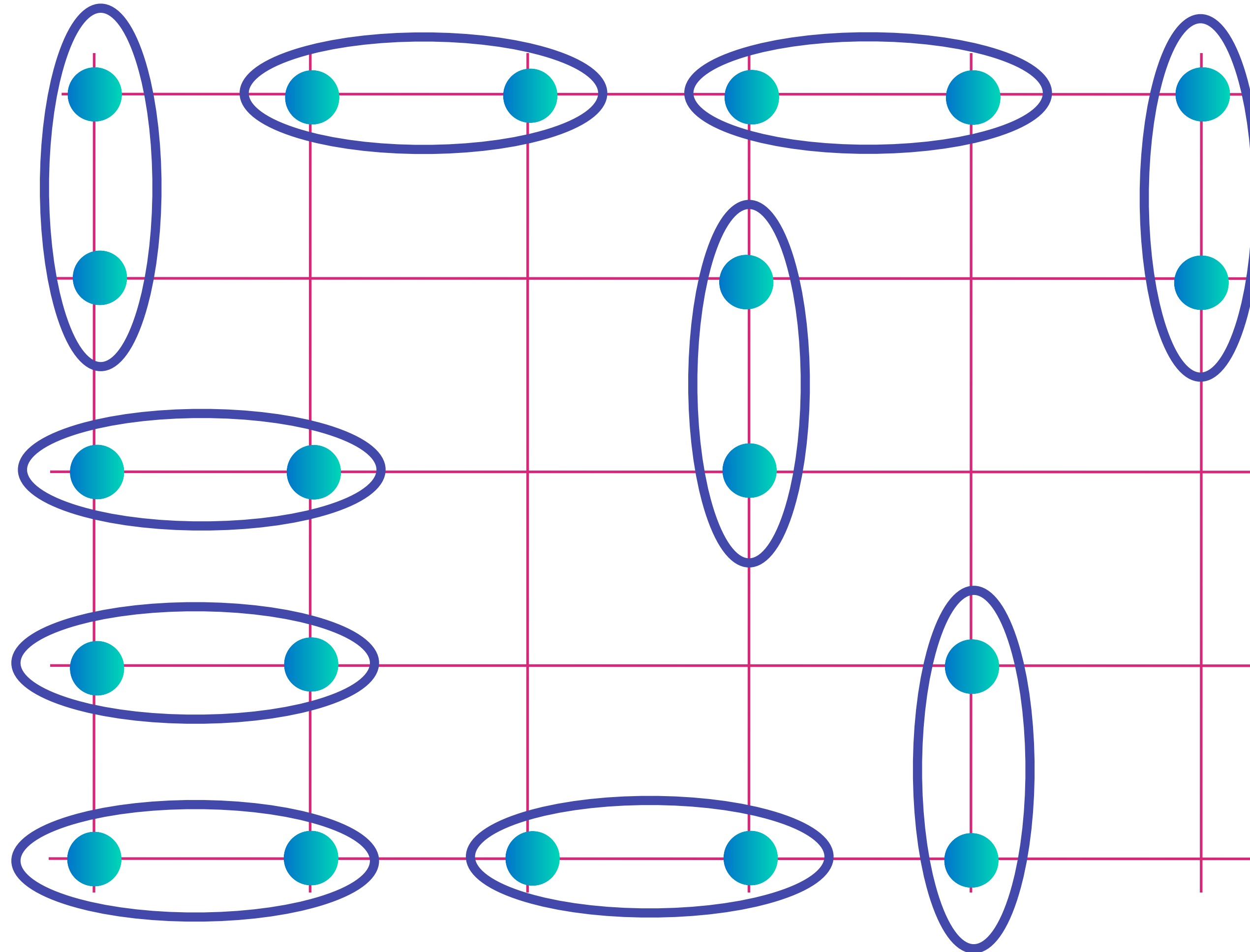


Motion of  
electron pairs  
leads to  
Bose-Einstein  
condensation  
and  
superconductivity

$$\text{[Diagram of a pair of red dots in a blue oval]} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$



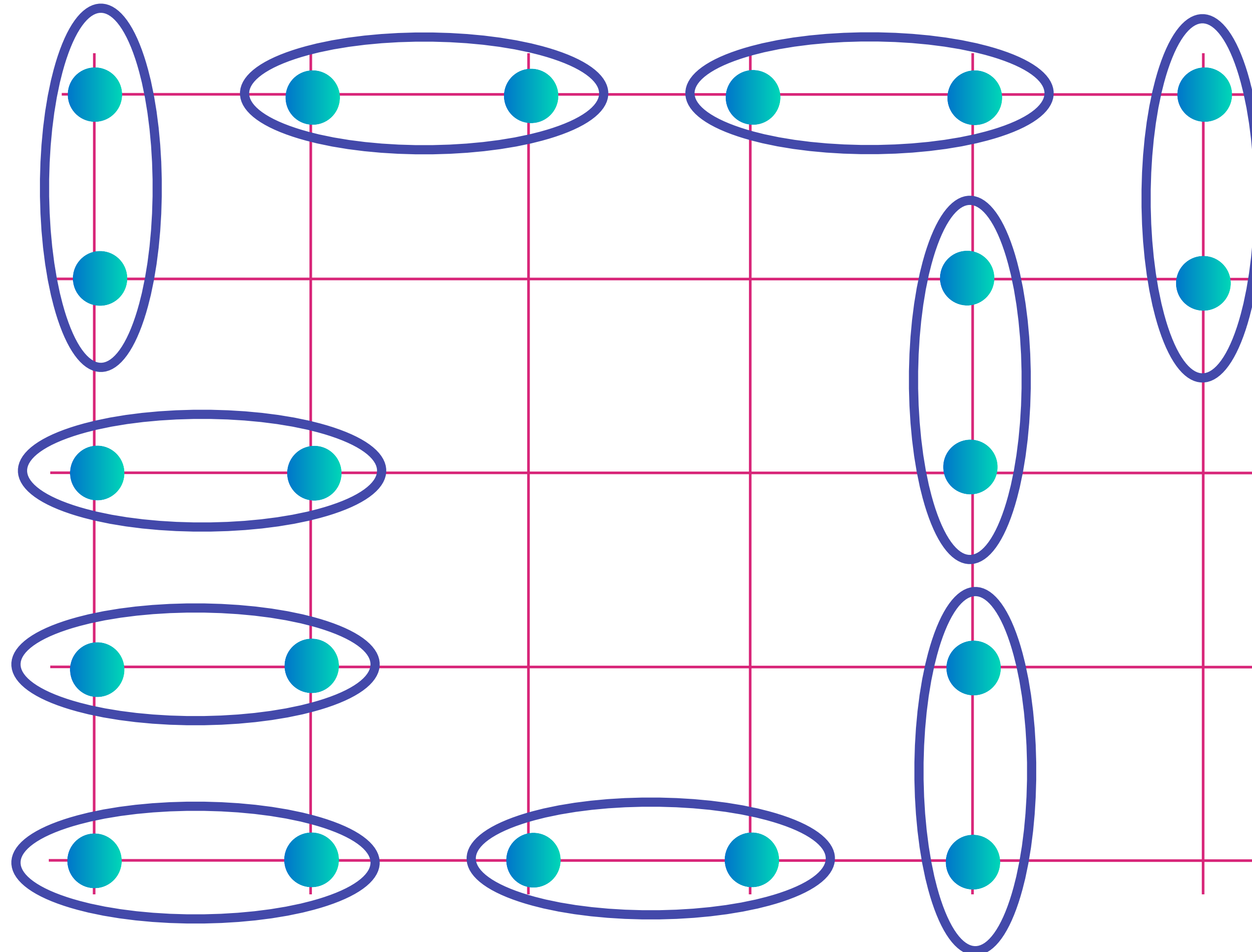
# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$



Motion of  
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$$\text{[Diagram of a pair]} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$

# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$

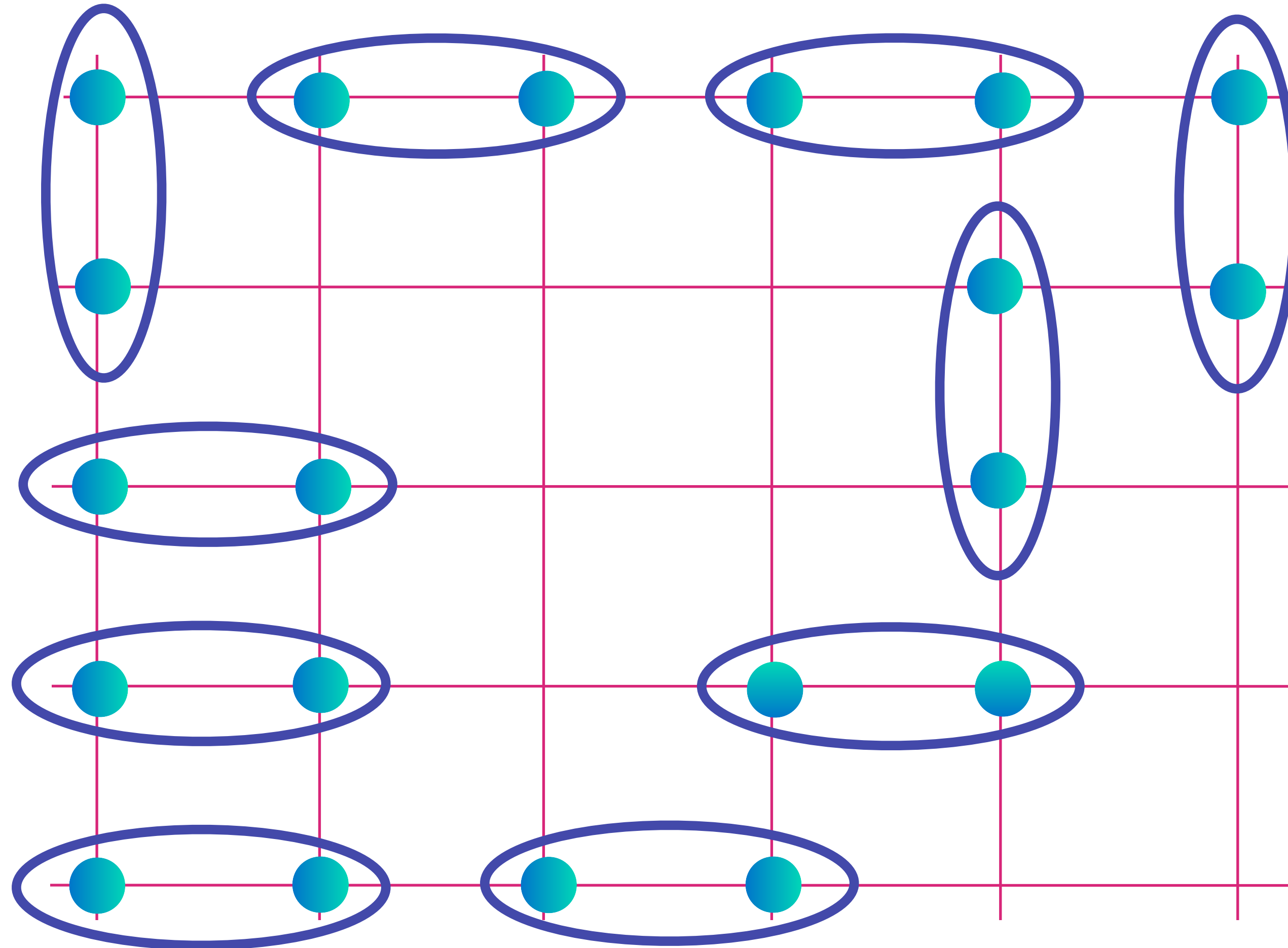


Motion of  
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superconductivity

$$\text{[Diagram of two electrons in adjacent sites]} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$



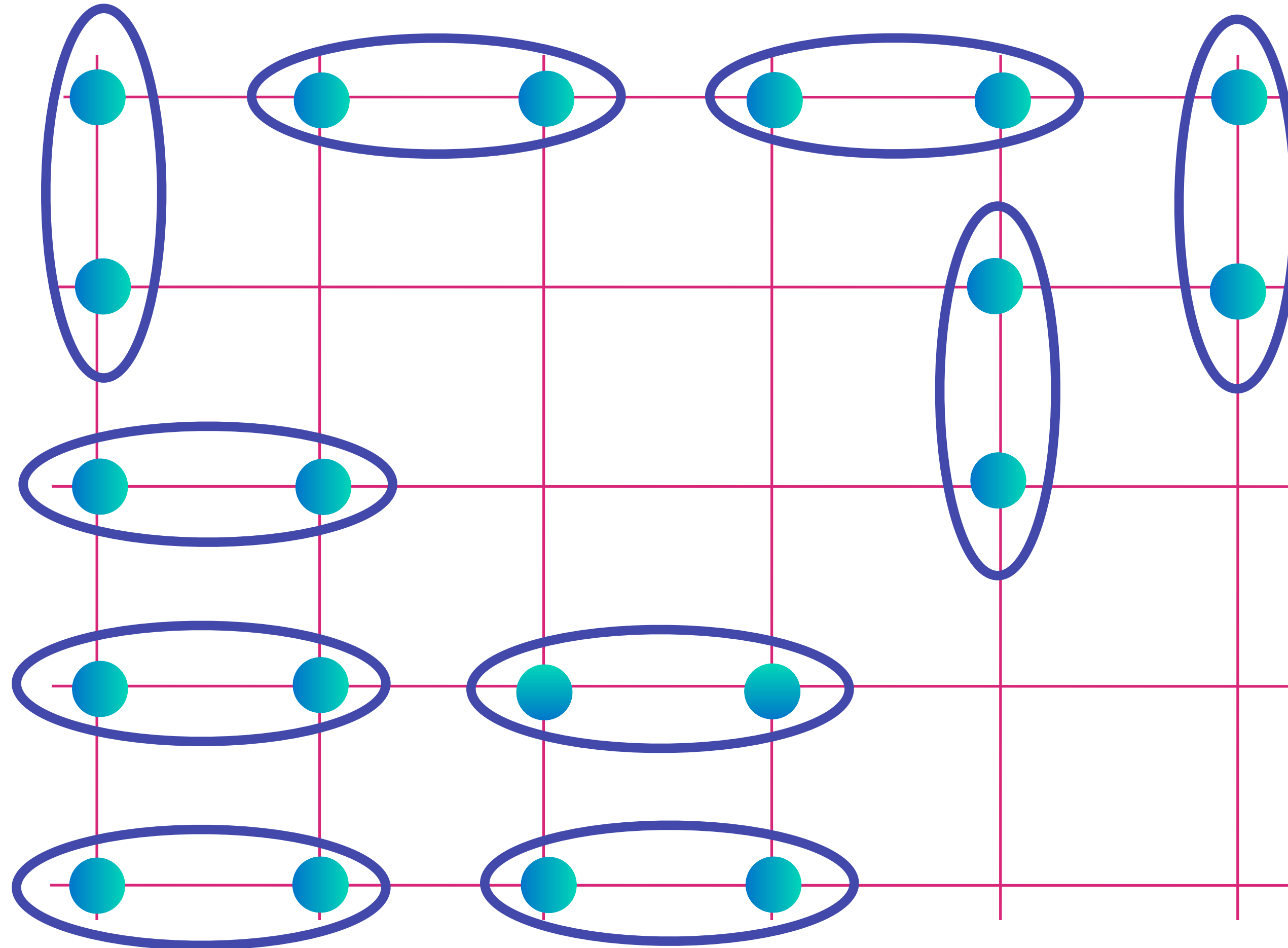
# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$



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$$\text{[Diagram of a pair of sites]} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$

# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$

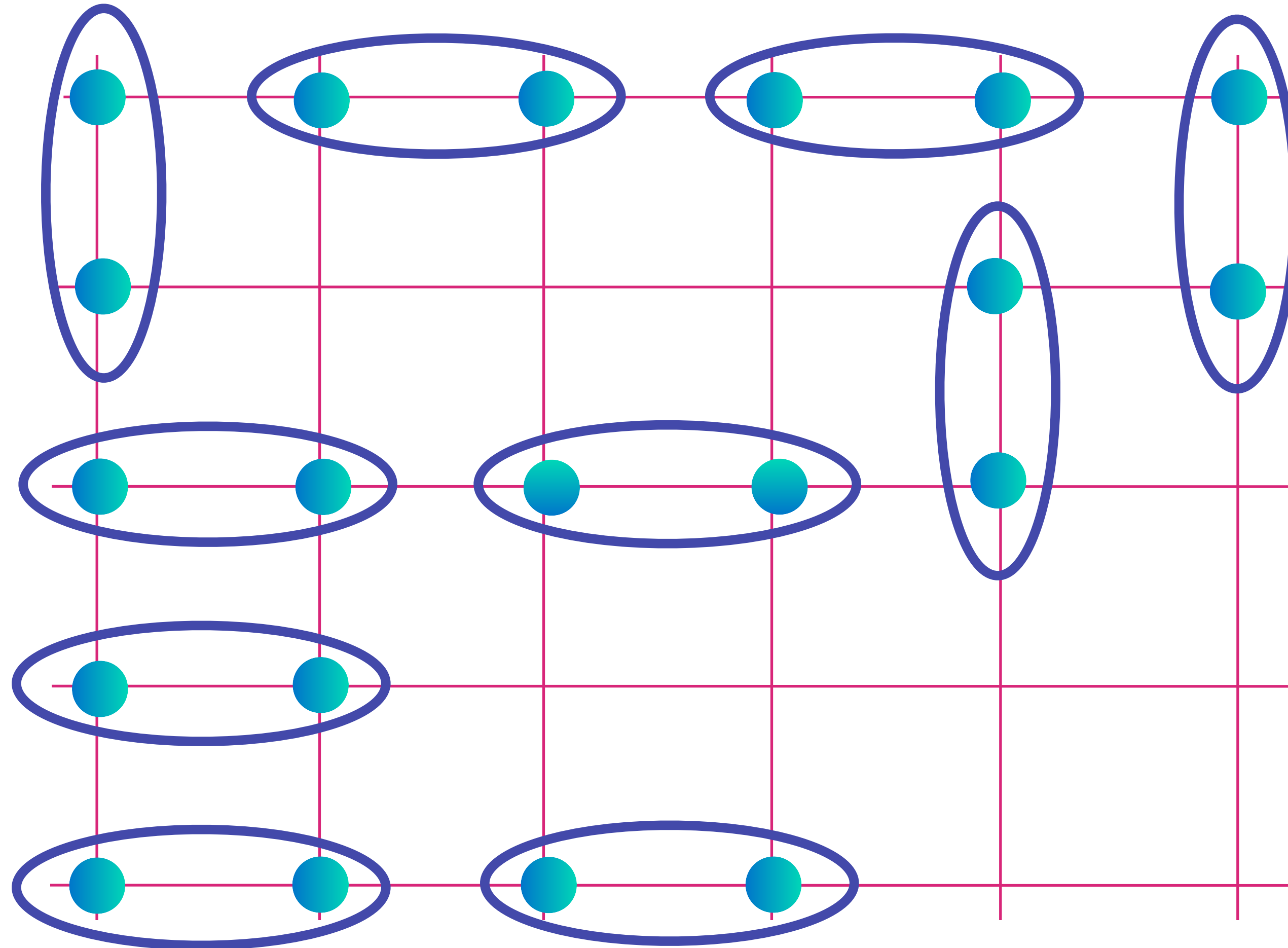


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$$\text{[Diagram of a pair of electrons]} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$



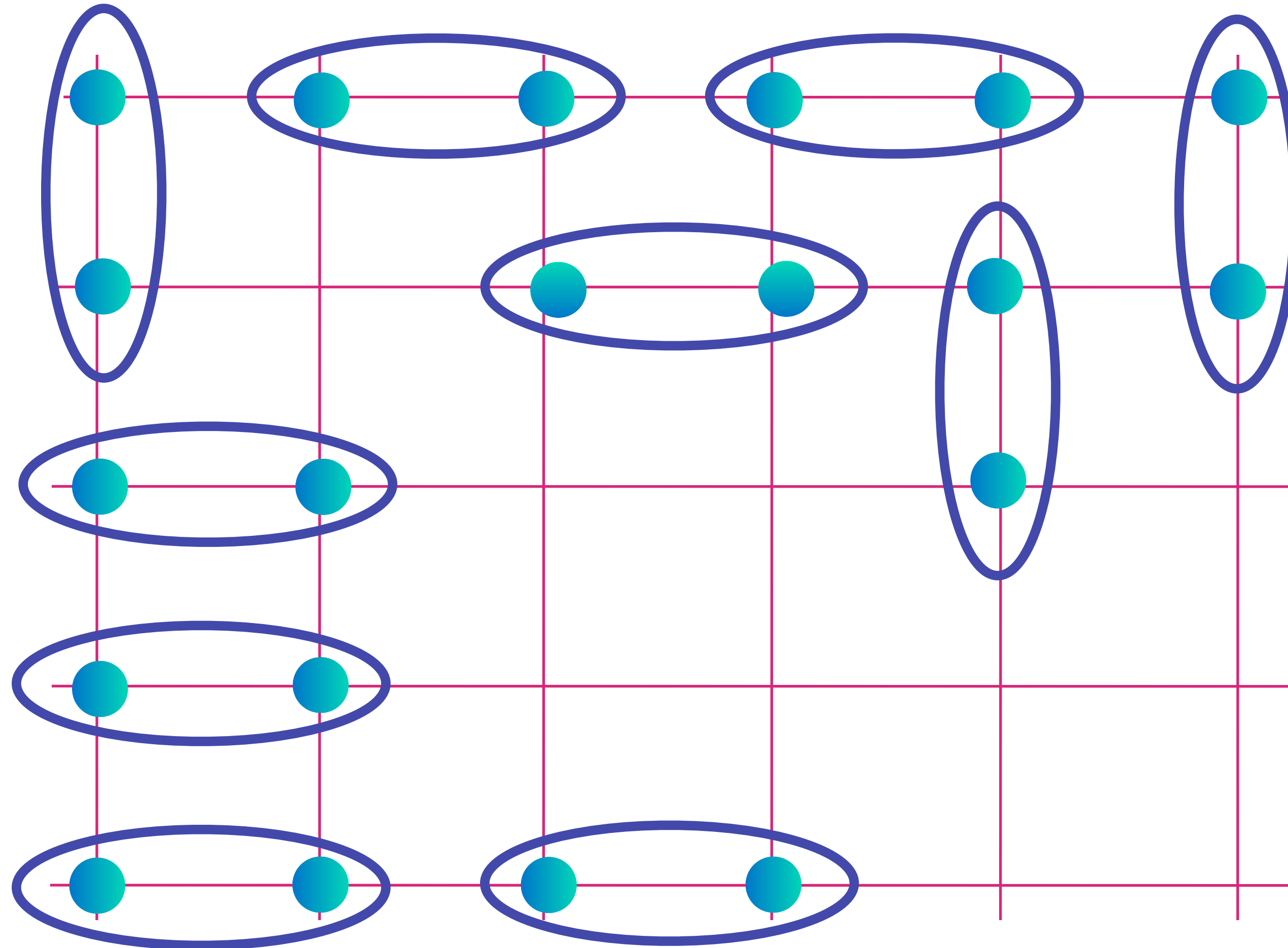
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# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$

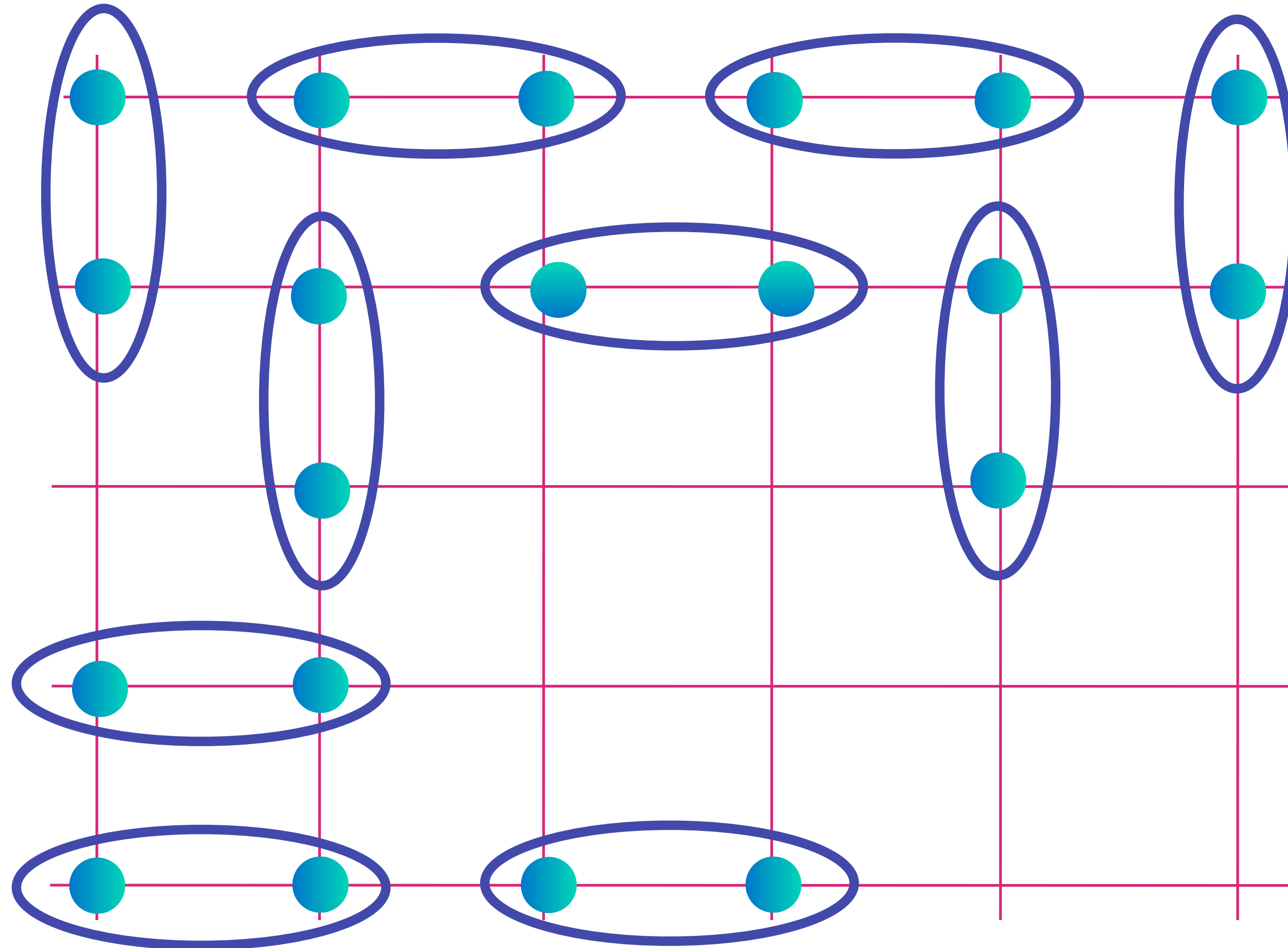


Motion of  
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$$\text{Cooper pair} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$



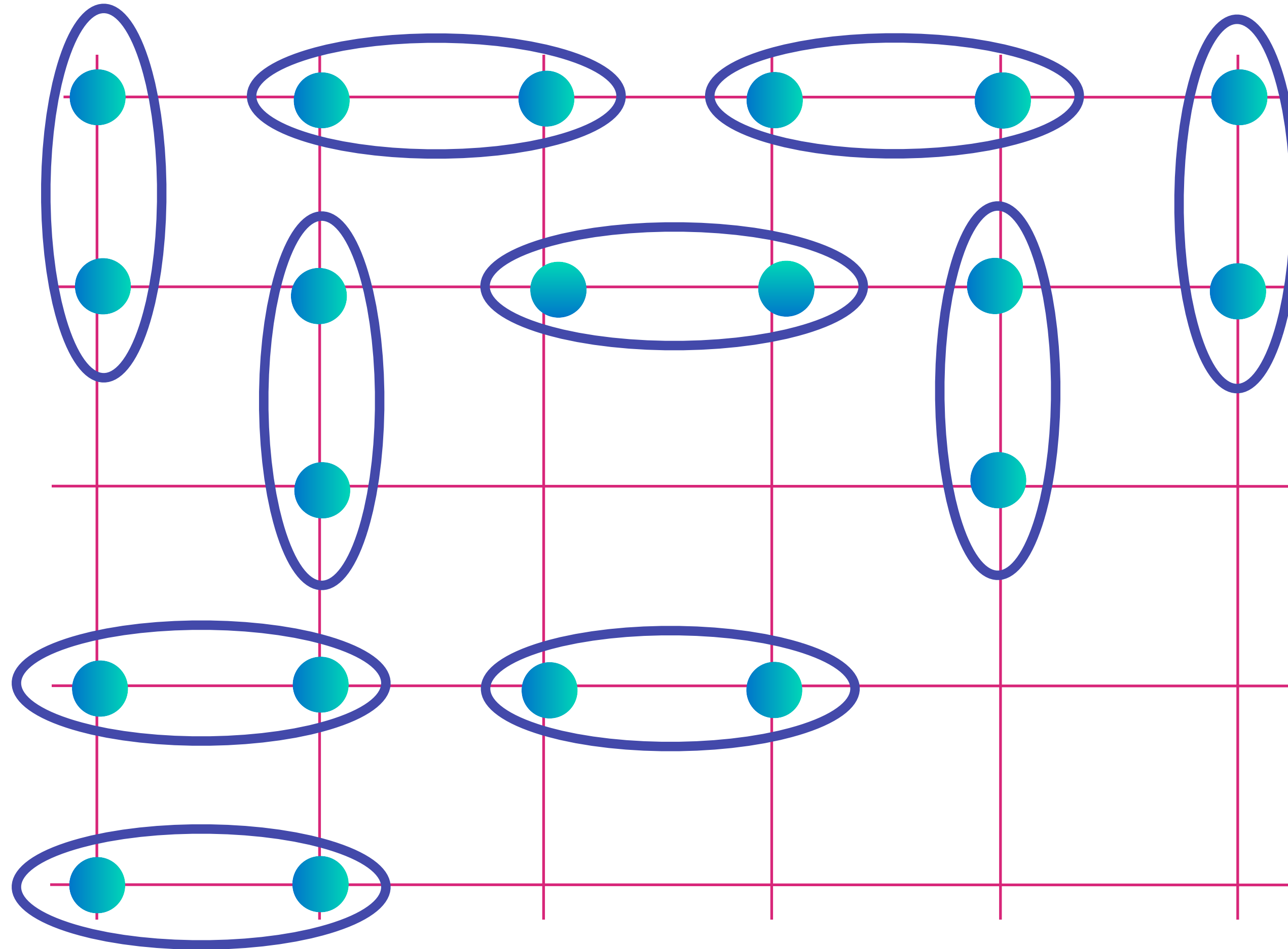
# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$



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$$\text{[Diagram of a pair]} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$

# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$



Motion of  
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and  
superconductivity

$$\text{[Diagram of a pair of electrons in a blue oval]} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$



Quantum entanglement of  
2, 3, 4, ..... $\infty$  electrons:  
strange metals

The most remarkable new idea in the quantum theory is the

*principle of superposition:*

a physical system can be in a  
superposition of two (or more) distinct states.

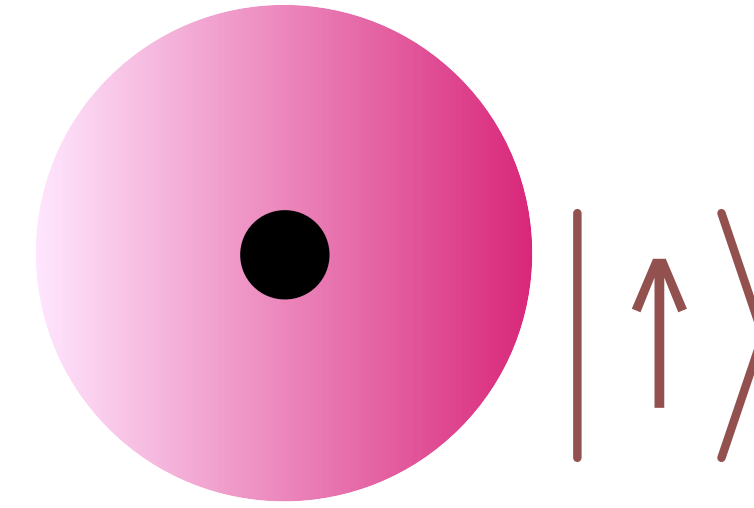


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Can we entangle more than two electrons ?

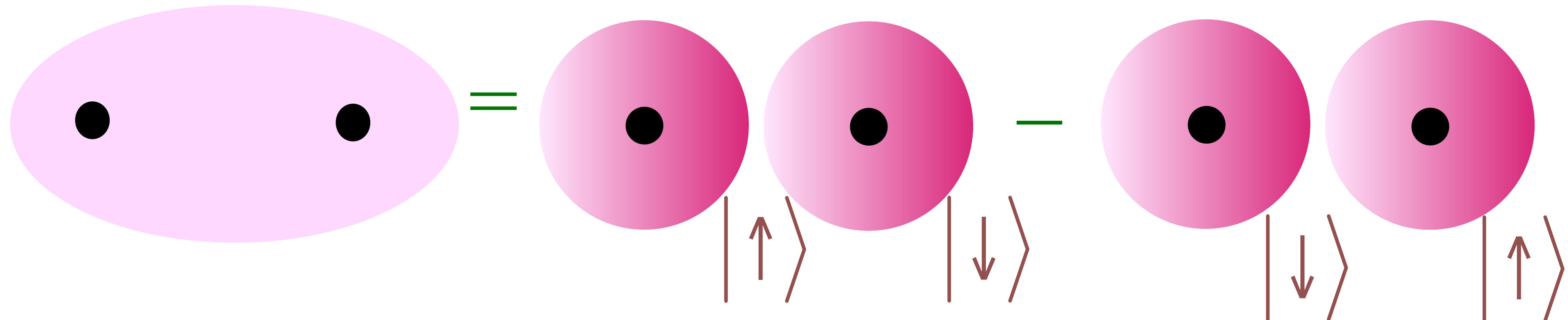
# Molecules

Hydrogen atom:

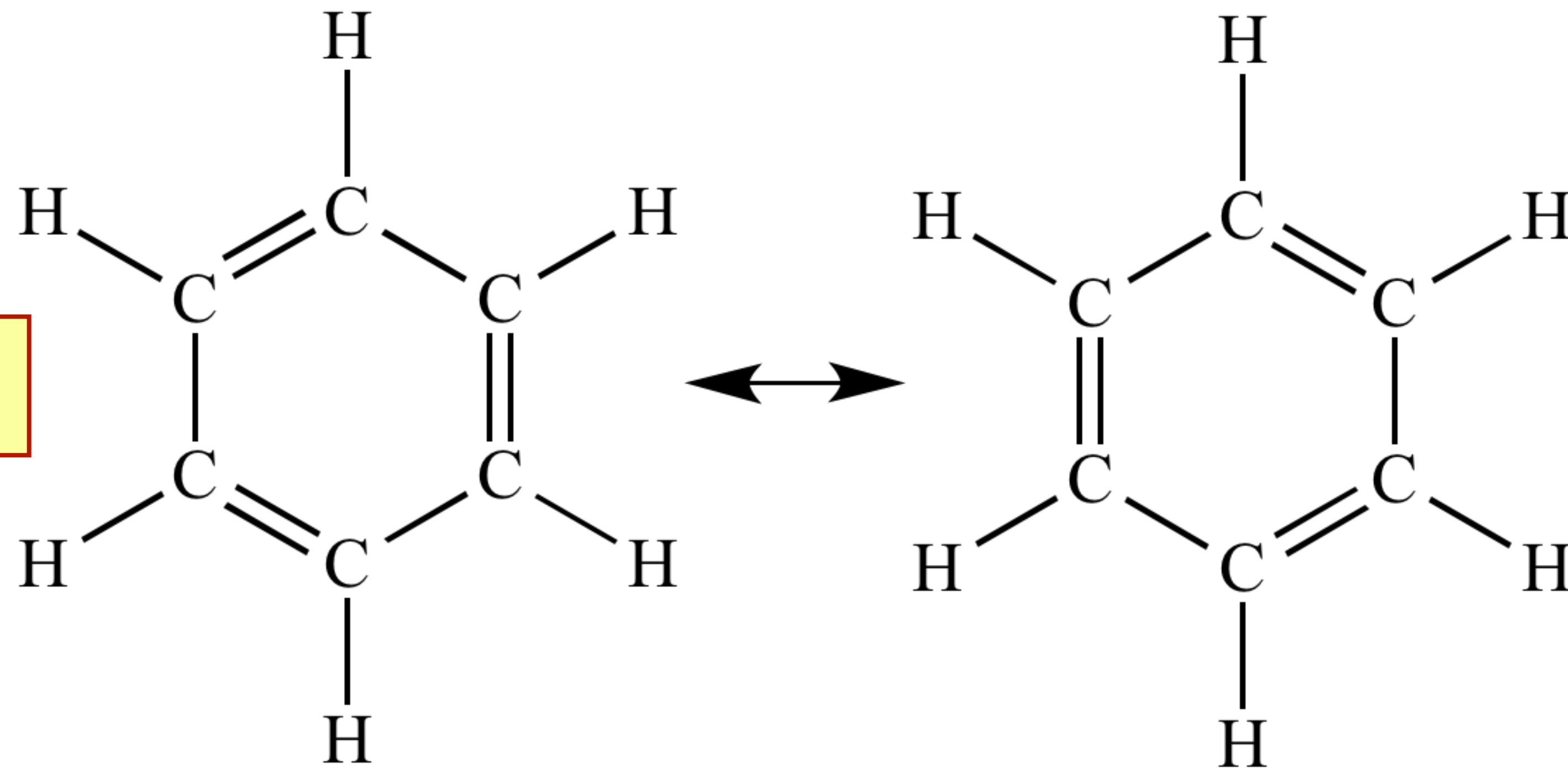


# Covalent bond

Hydrogen molecule:



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Benzene

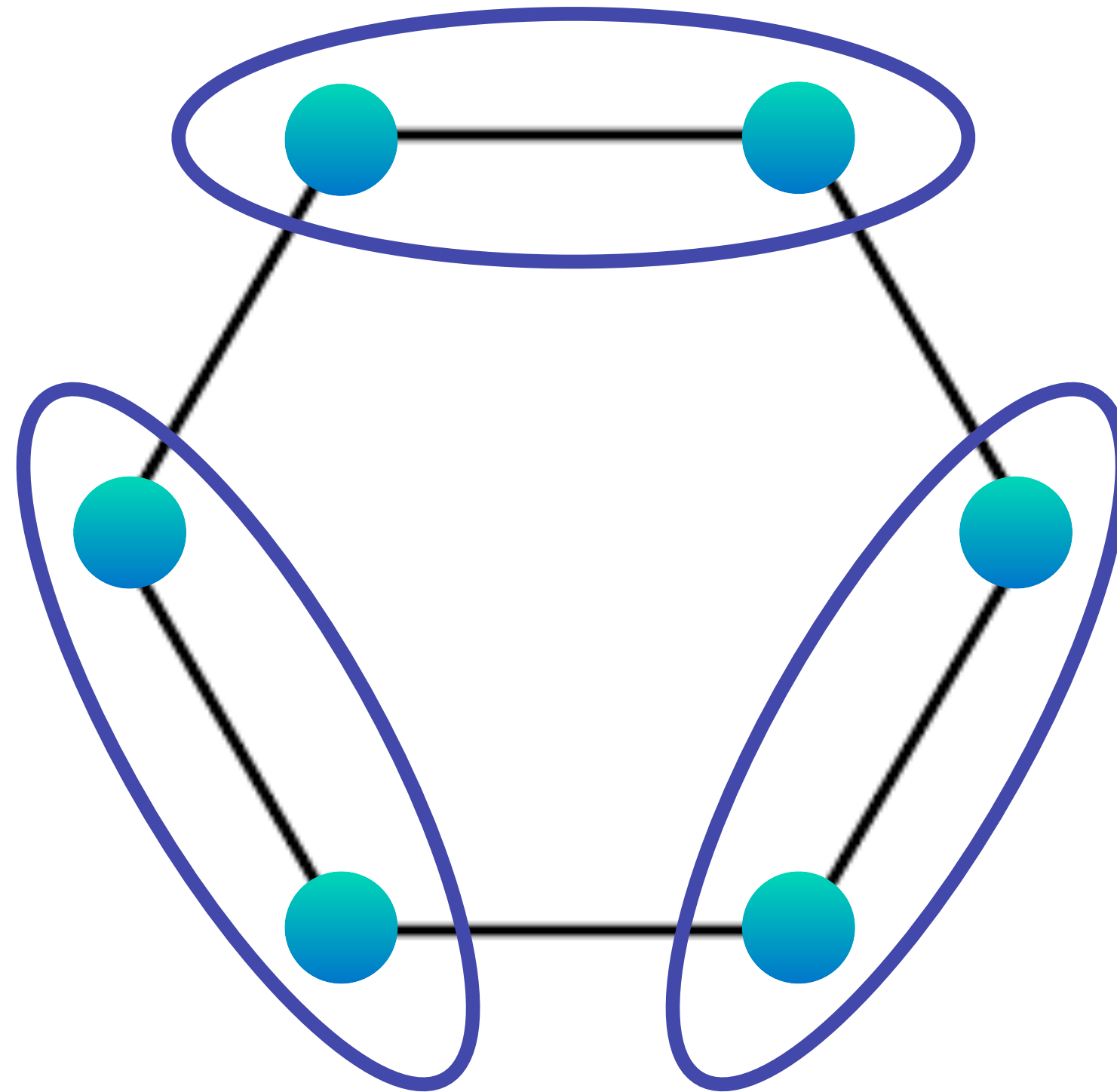
“Resonating”  
covalent  
bonds

Benzene has a superposition of *covalent bonds*,  
each of which is a superposition of a pair of electrons!



The most remarkable new idea in the quantum theory is the *principle of superposition*:  
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Benzene

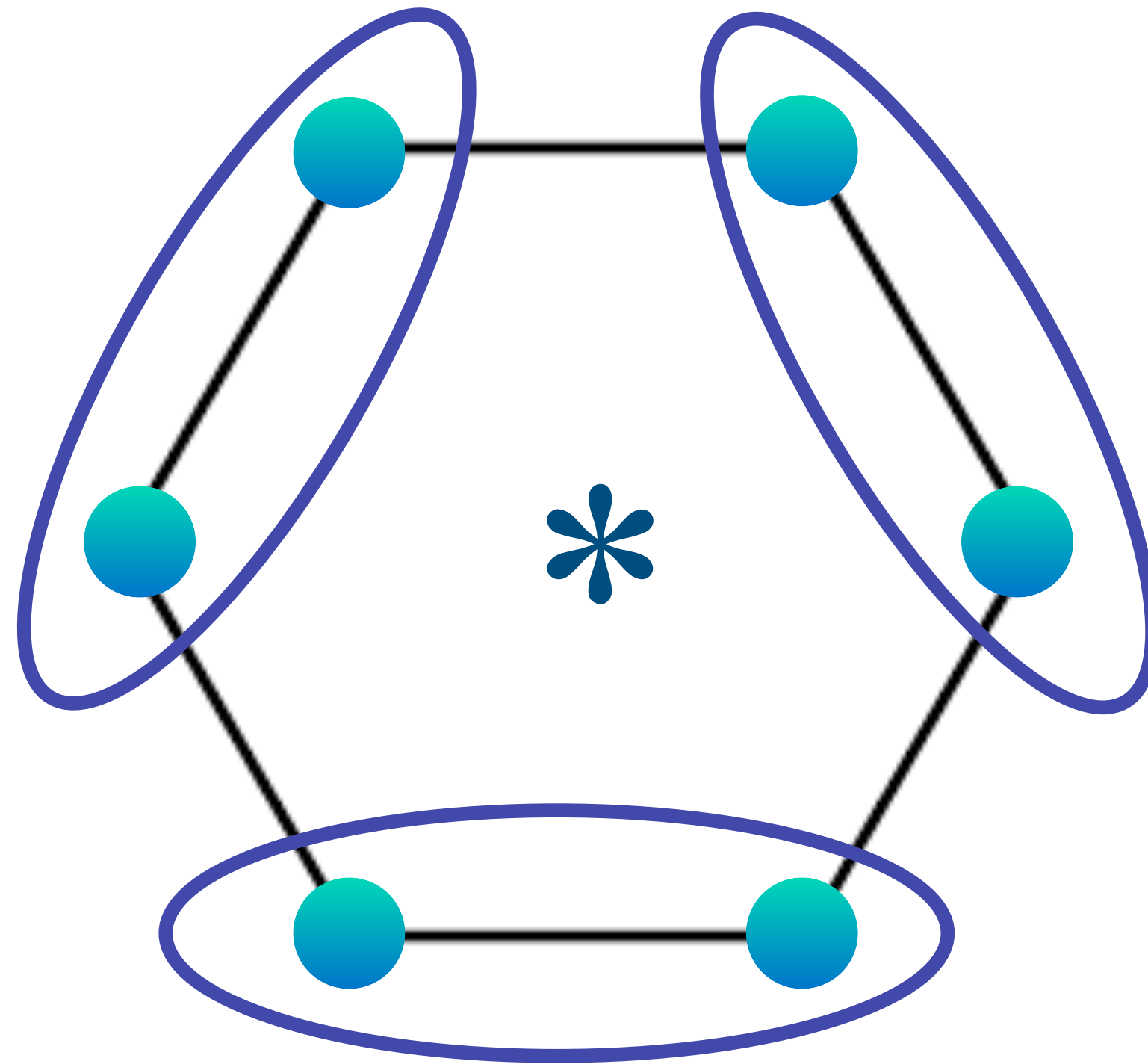


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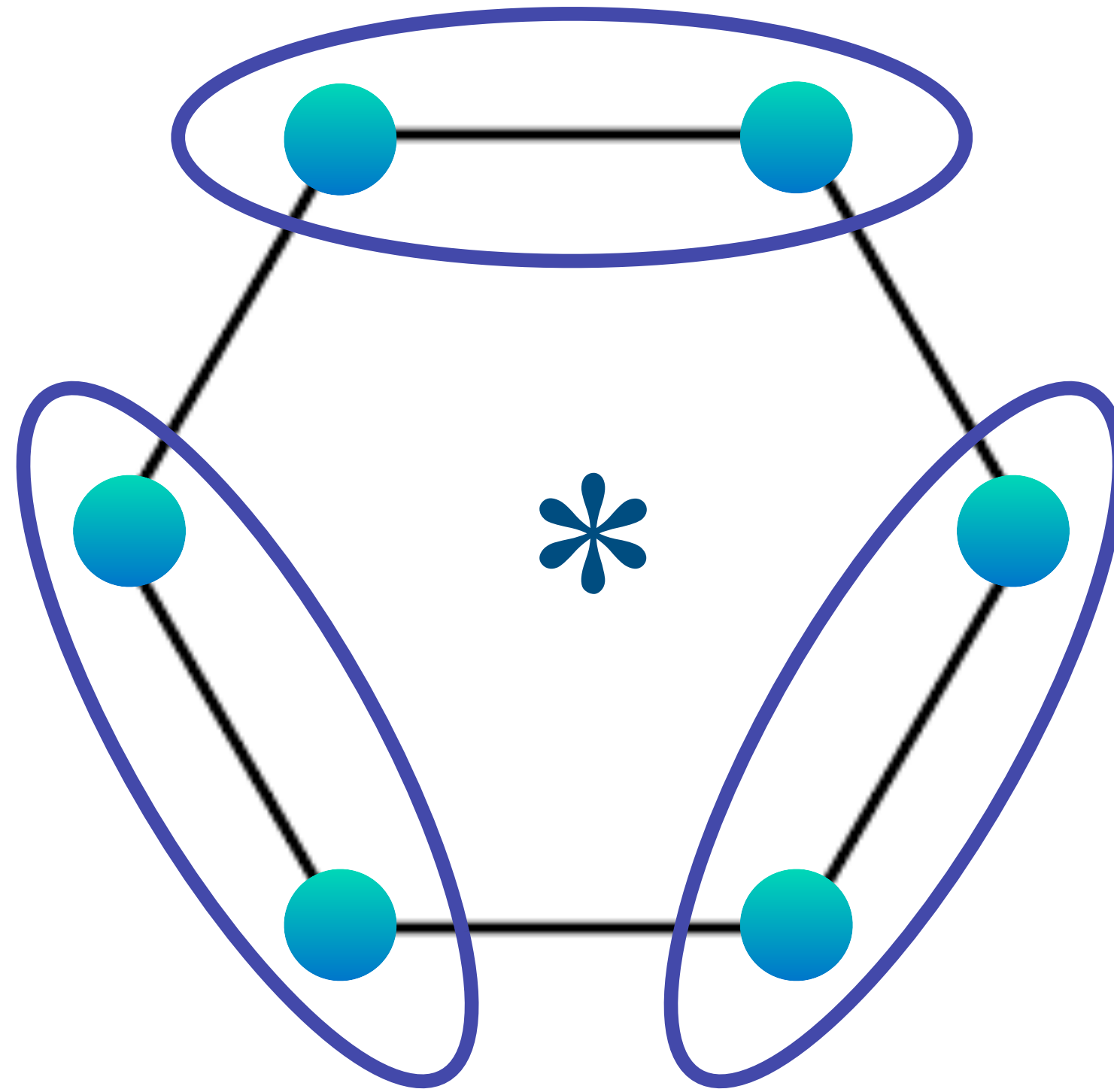


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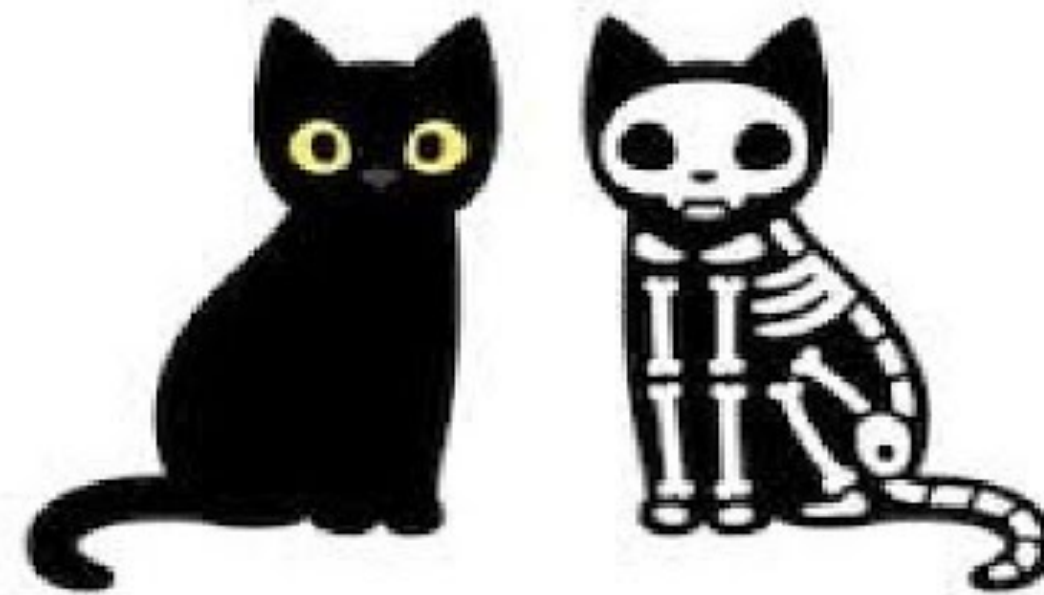
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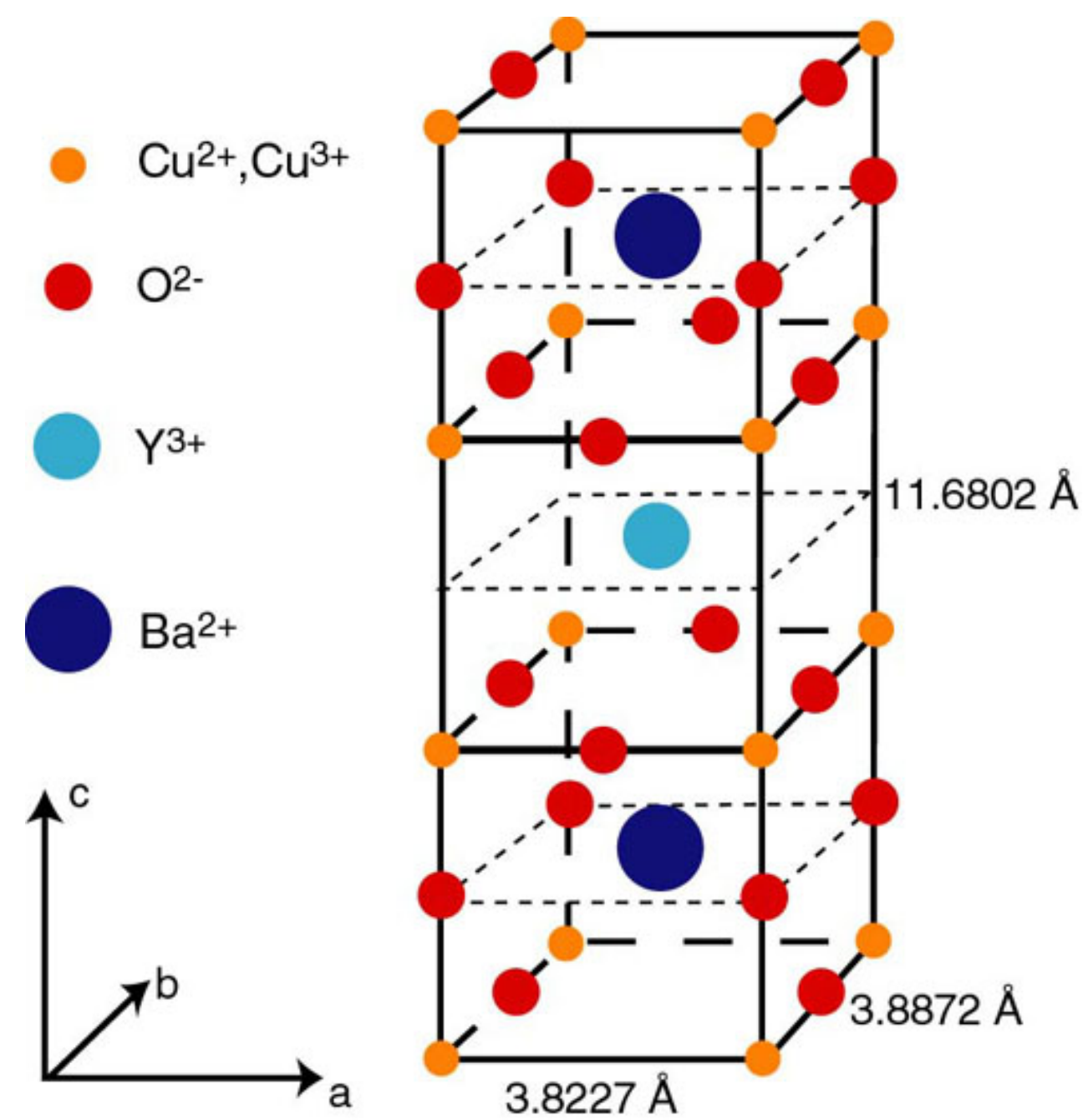
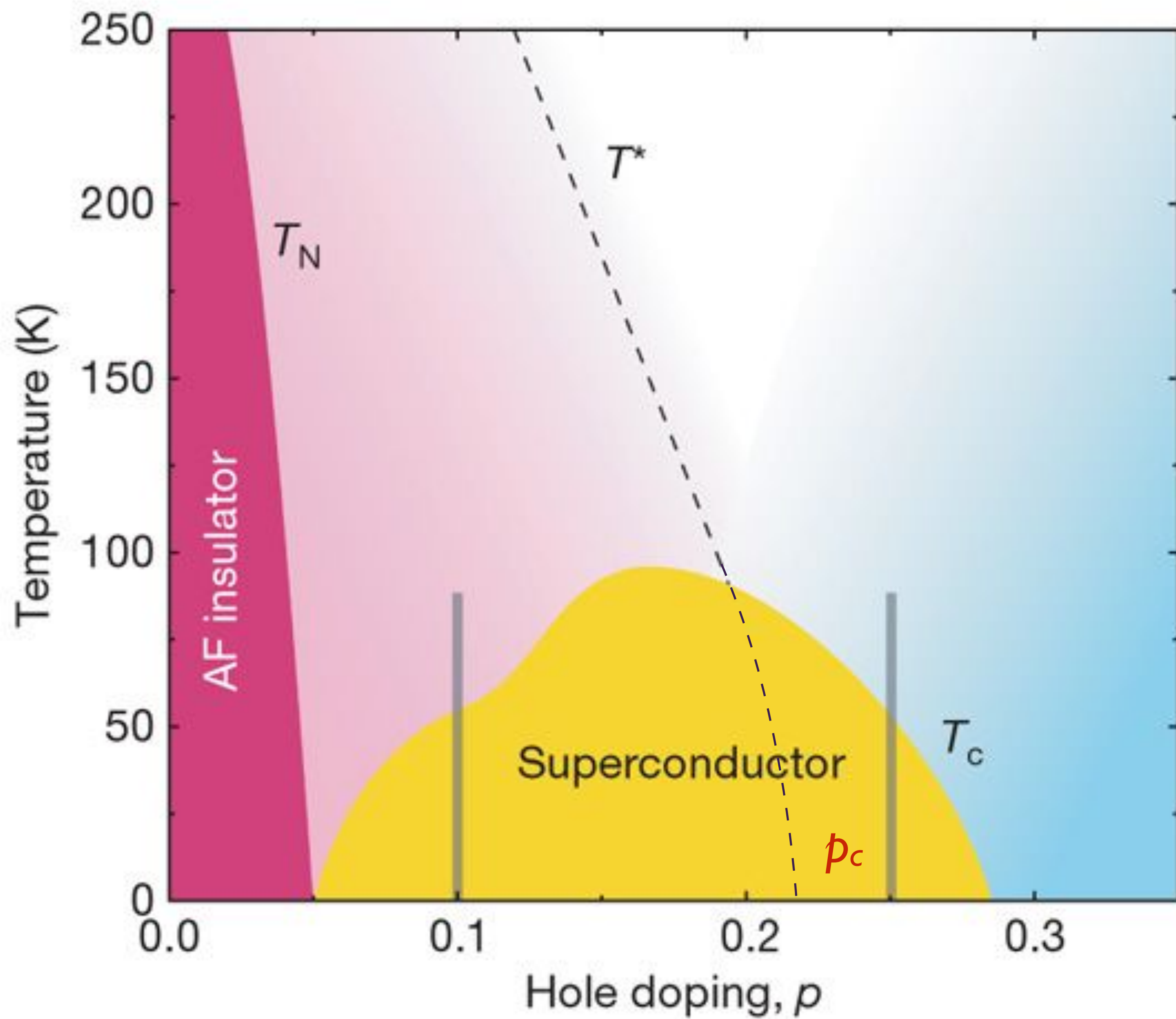


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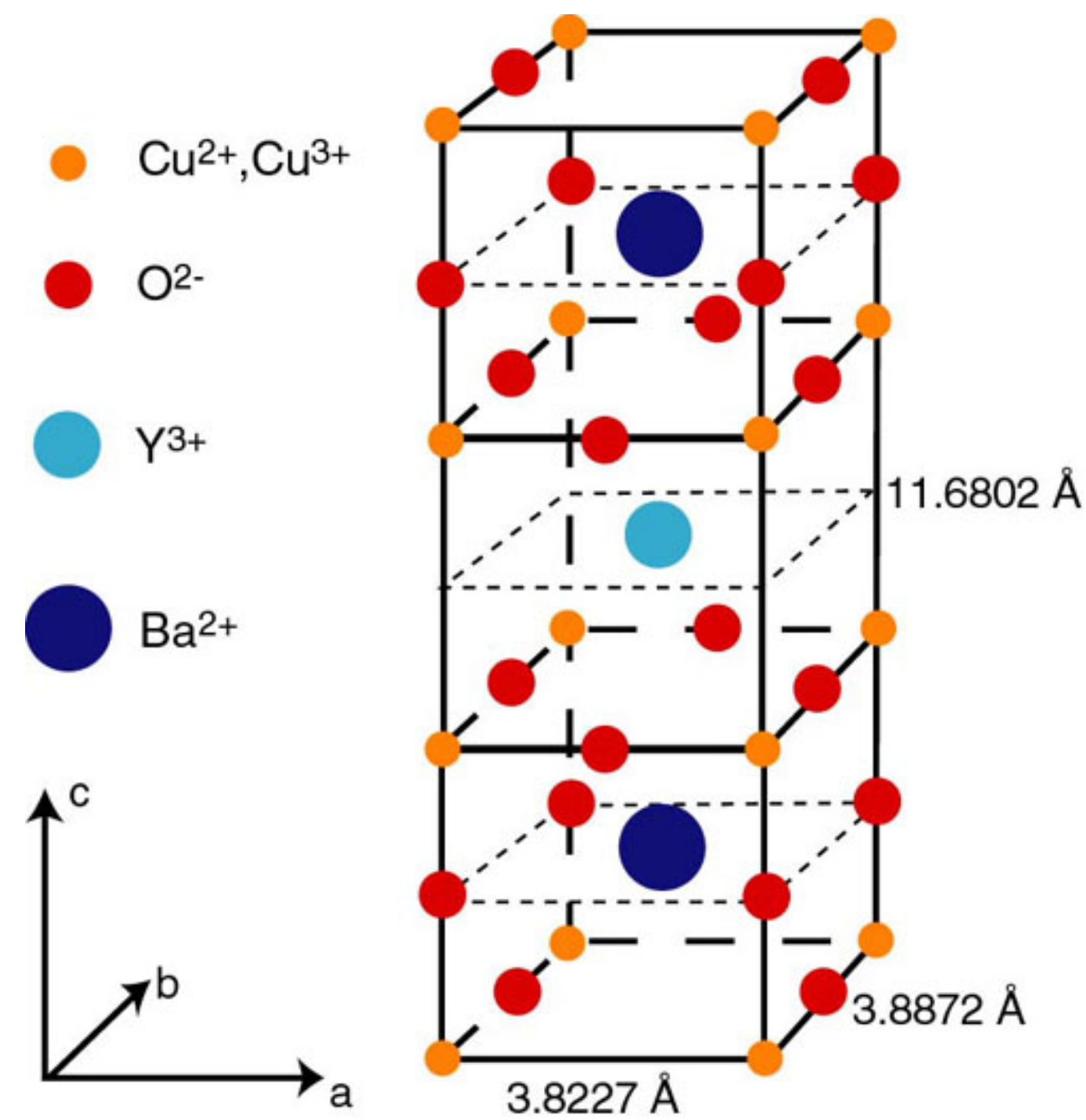
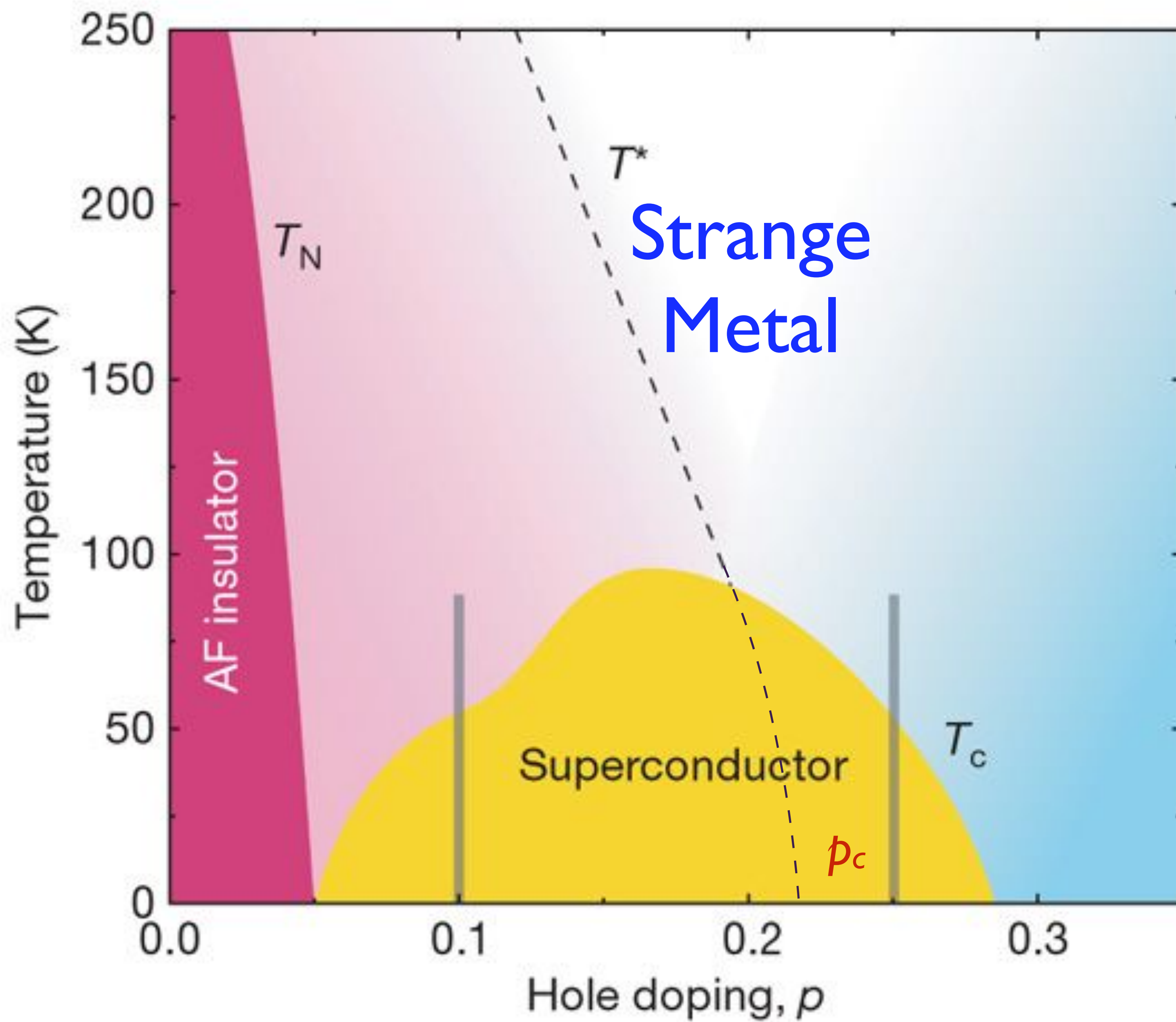
## Schrodinger's Cat



$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\text{alive cat}\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\text{dead cat}\rangle$$

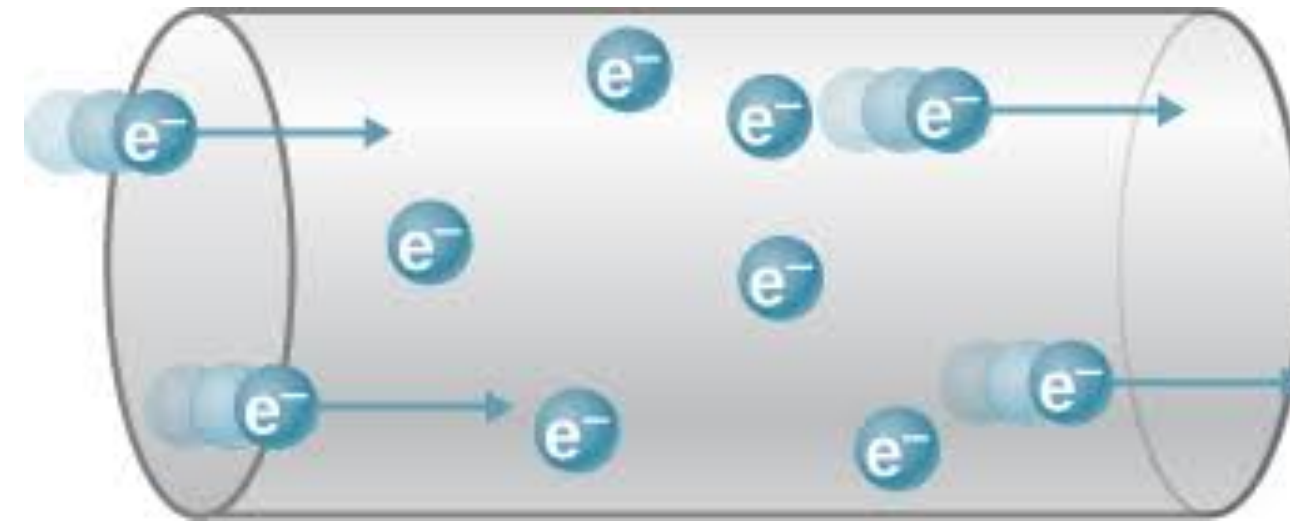








## Current flow with quasiparticles in Copper



Flowing quasiparticles scatter off each other in a typical scattering time  $\tau$

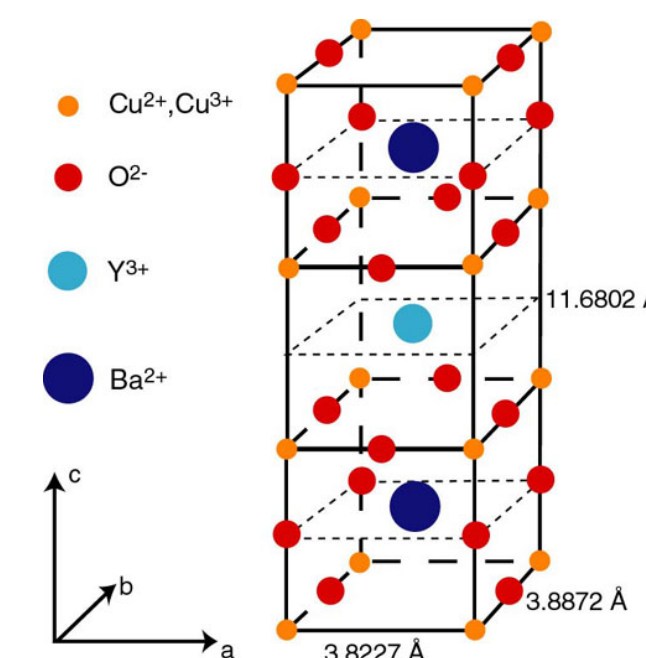
This time is much longer than a limiting  
'Planckian time'  $\frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$ .

The long scattering time implies that quasiparticles are well-defined.

Material		$n$ ( $10^{27} \text{ m}^{-3}$ )	$m^*$ ( $m_0$ )	$A_1 / d$ ( $\Omega / \text{K}$ )	$h / (2e^2 T_F)$ ( $\Omega / \text{K}$ )	$\alpha$
Bi2212	$p = 0.23$	6.8	$8.4 \pm 1.6$	$8.0 \pm 0.9$	$7.4 \pm 1.4$	$1.1 \pm 0.3$
Bi2201	$p \sim 0.4$	3.5	$7 \pm 1.5$	$8 \pm 2$	$8 \pm 2$	$1.0 \pm 0.4$
LSCO	$p = 0.26$	7.8	$9.8 \pm 1.7$	$8.2 \pm 1.0$	$8.9 \pm 1.8$	$0.9 \pm 0.3$
Nd-LSCO	$p = 0.24$	7.9	$12 \pm 4$	$7.4 \pm 0.8$	$10.6 \pm 3.7$	$0.7 \pm 0.4$
PCCO	$x = 0.17$	8.8	$2.4 \pm 0.1$	$1.7 \pm 0.3$	$2.1 \pm 0.1$	$0.8 \pm 0.2$
LCCO	$x = 0.15$	9.0	$3.0 \pm 0.3$	$3.0 \pm 0.45$	$2.6 \pm 0.3$	$1.2 \pm 0.3$
TMTSF	$P = 11 \text{ kbar}$	1.4	$1.15 \pm 0.2$	$2.8 \pm 0.3$	$2.8 \pm 0.4$	$1.0 \pm 0.3$

Electron scattering time  $\tau$  in 7 different strange metals

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \alpha \frac{k_B T}{\hbar}$$

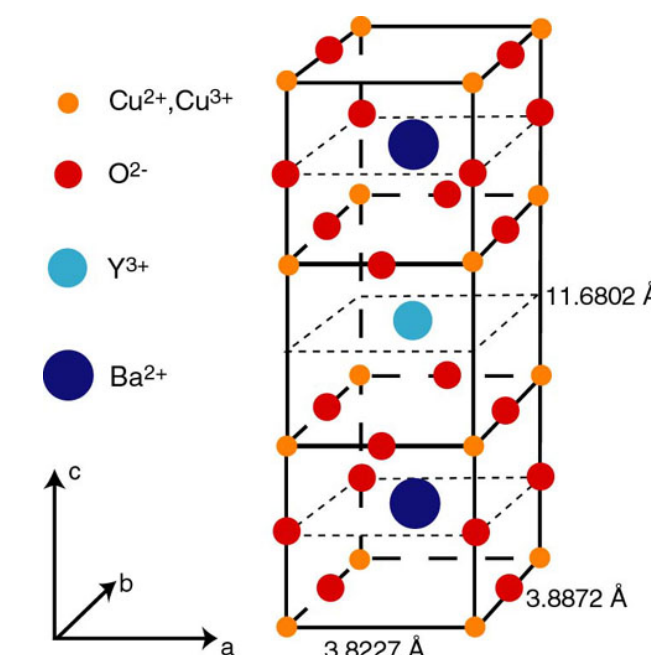


Material		$n$ ( $10^{27} \text{ m}^{-3}$ )	$m^*$ ( $m_0$ )	$A_1 / d$ ( $\Omega / \text{K}$ )	$h / (2e^2 T_F)$ ( $\Omega / \text{K}$ )	$\alpha$
Bi2212	$p = 0.23$	6.8	$8.4 \pm 1.6$	$8.0 \pm 0.9$	$7.4 \pm 1.4$	$1.1 \pm 0.3$
Bi2201	$p \sim 0.4$	3.5	$7 \pm 1.5$	$8 \pm 2$	$8 \pm 2$	$1.0 \pm 0.4$
LSCO	$p = 0.26$	7.8	$9.8 \pm 1.7$	$8.2 \pm 1.0$	$8.9 \pm 1.8$	$0.9 \pm 0.3$
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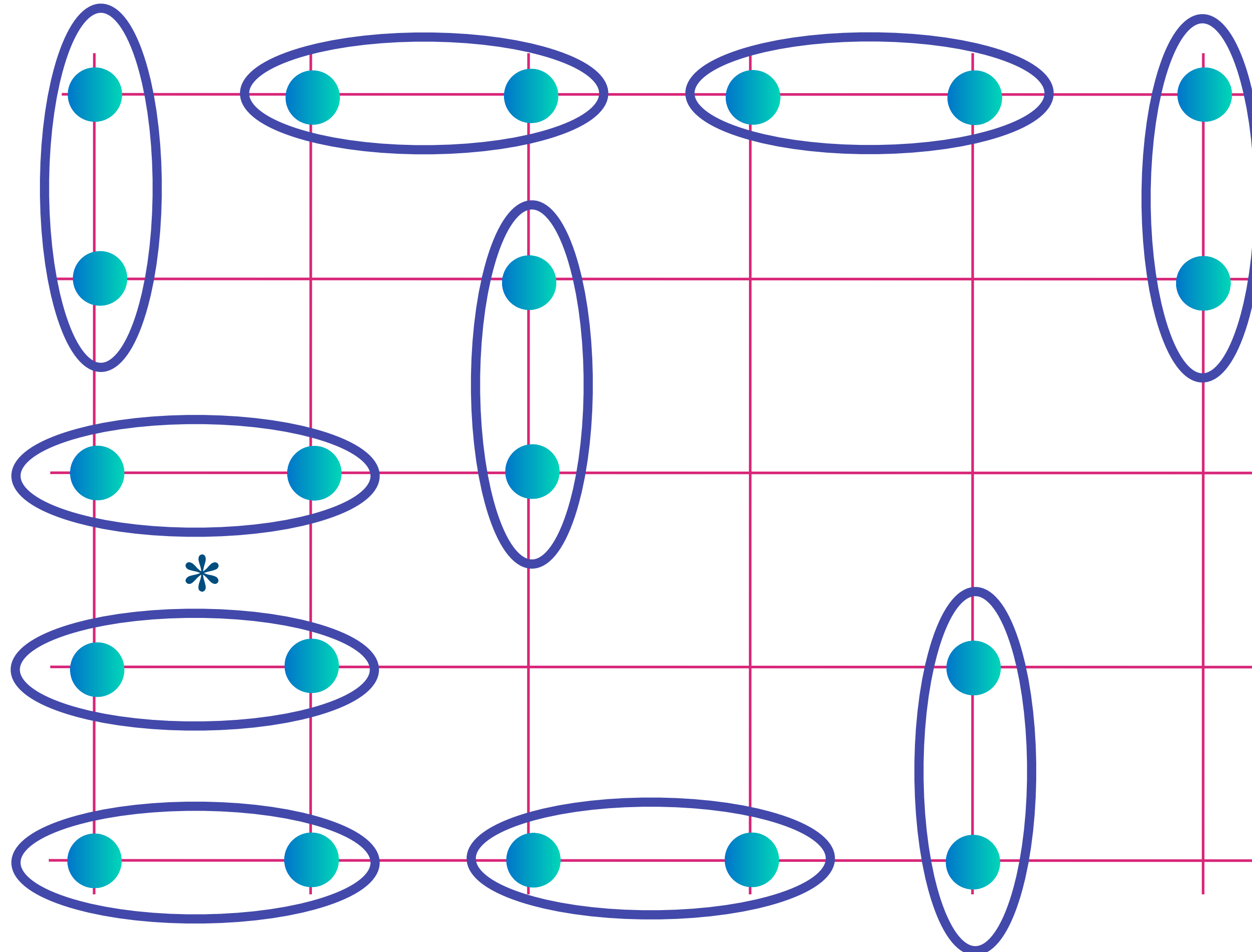
$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \alpha \frac{k_B T}{\hbar}$$

Current flow without quasiparticles





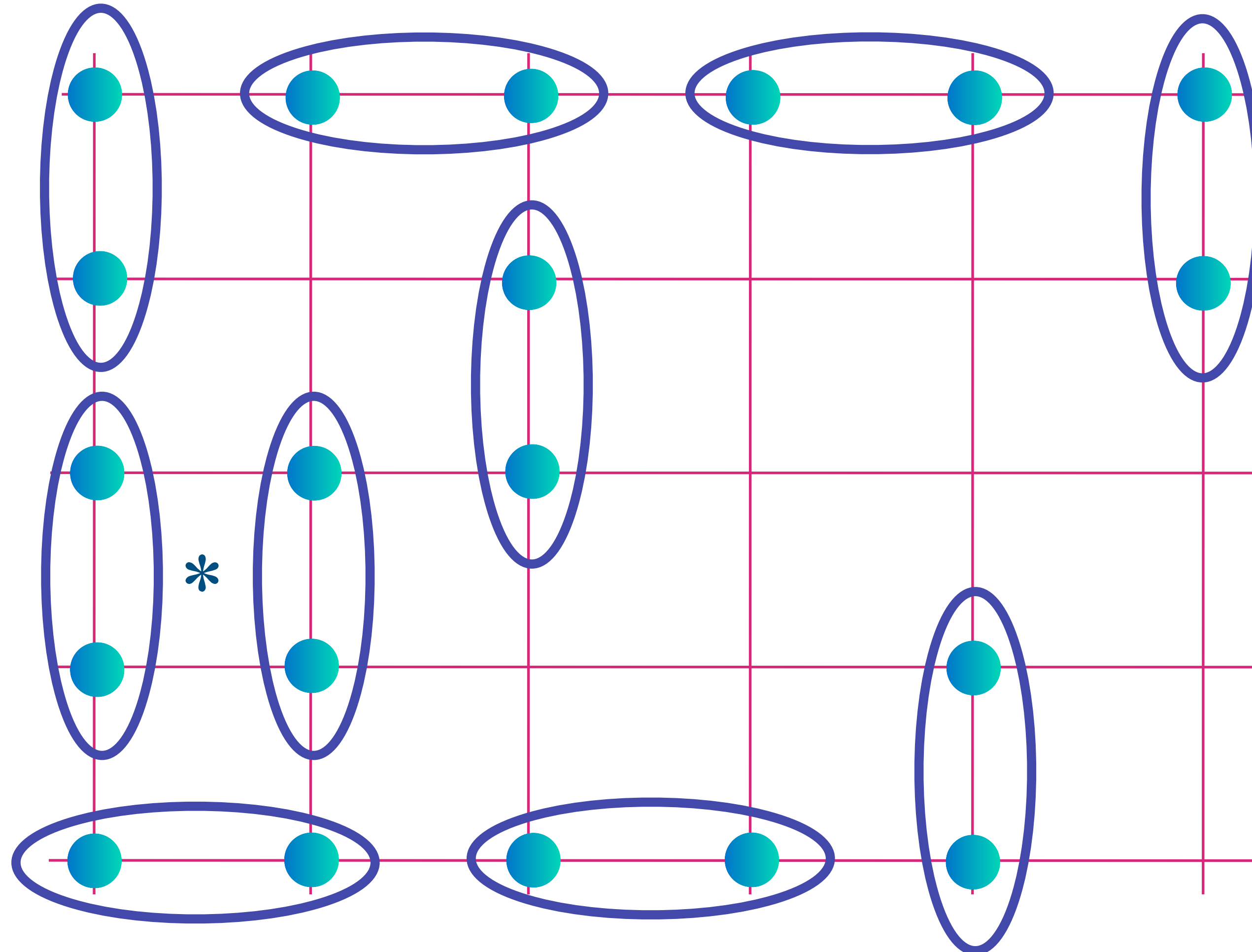
# Antiferromagnet doped with hole density $p$



Electrons entangle “en masse” by exchanging partners, and there is long-range quantum entanglement

$$\text{[Diagram of two electrons in a pair]} = |\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$

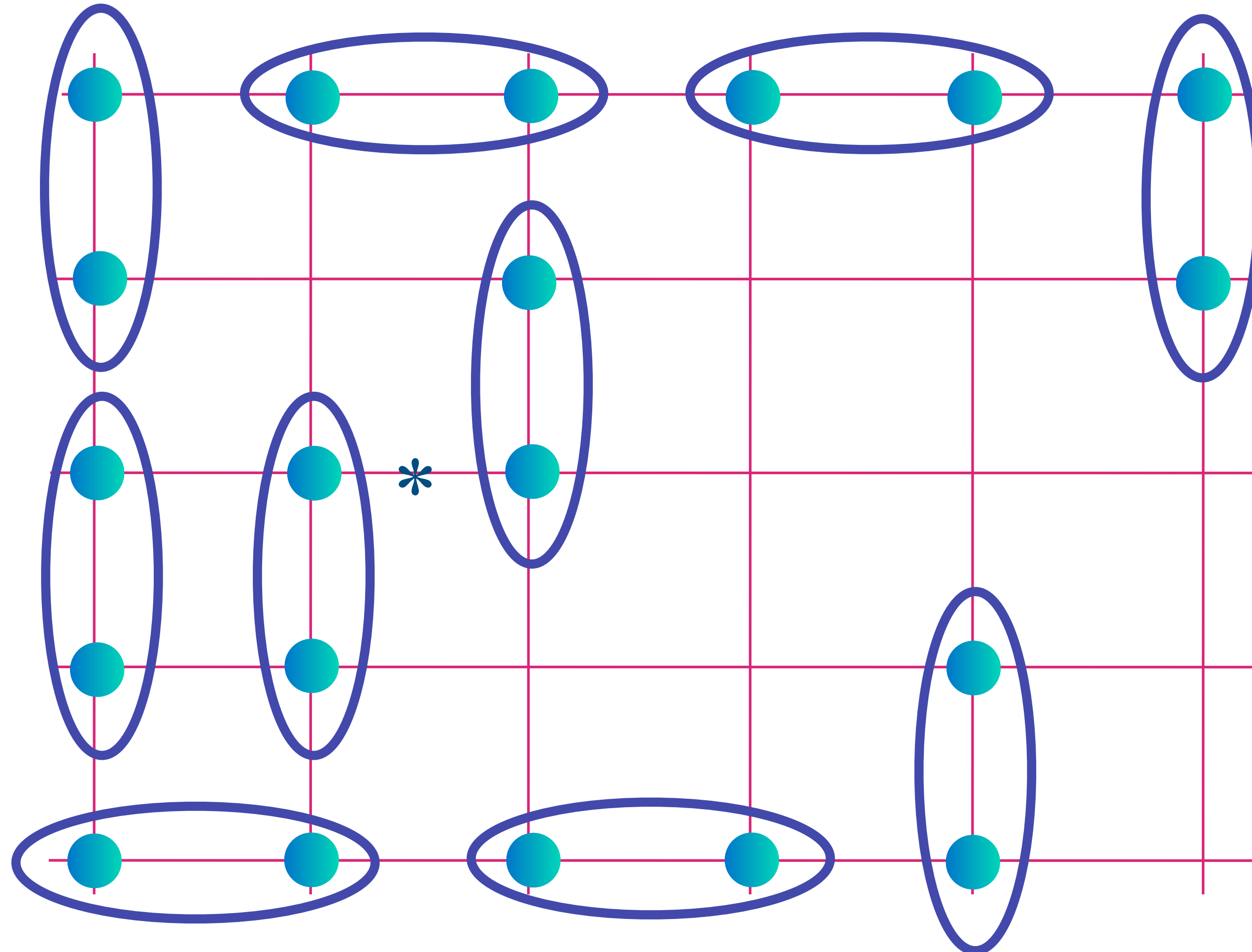
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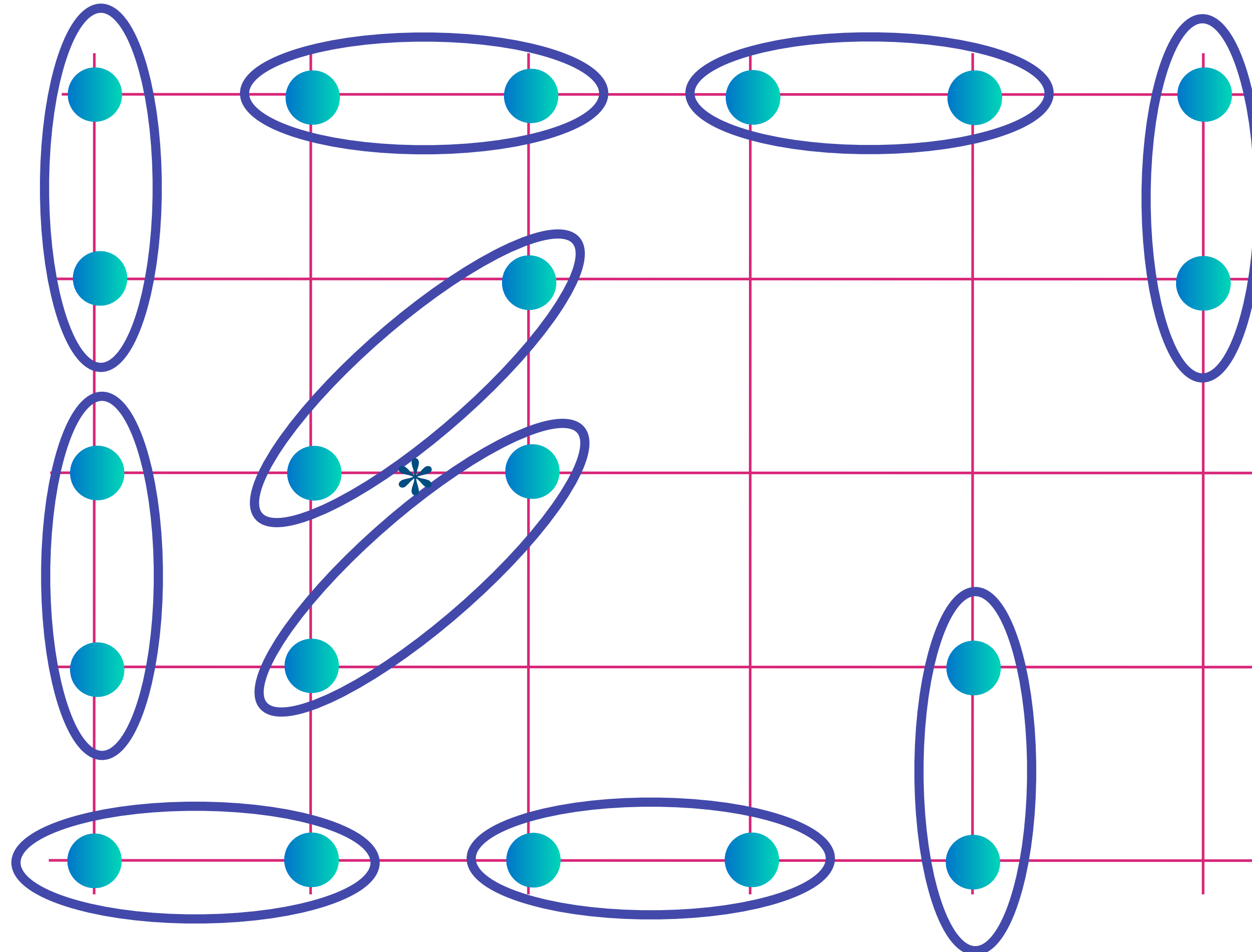


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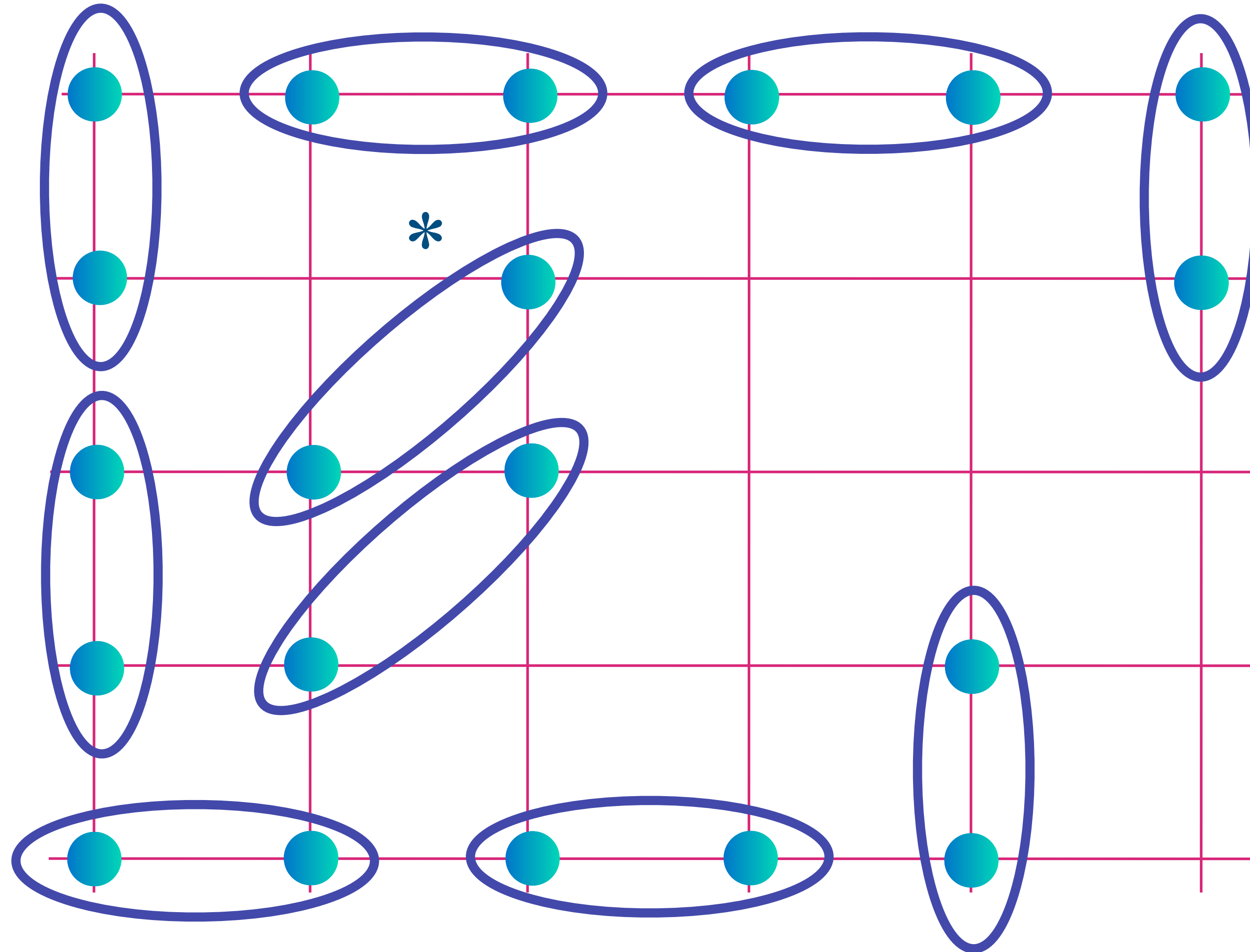
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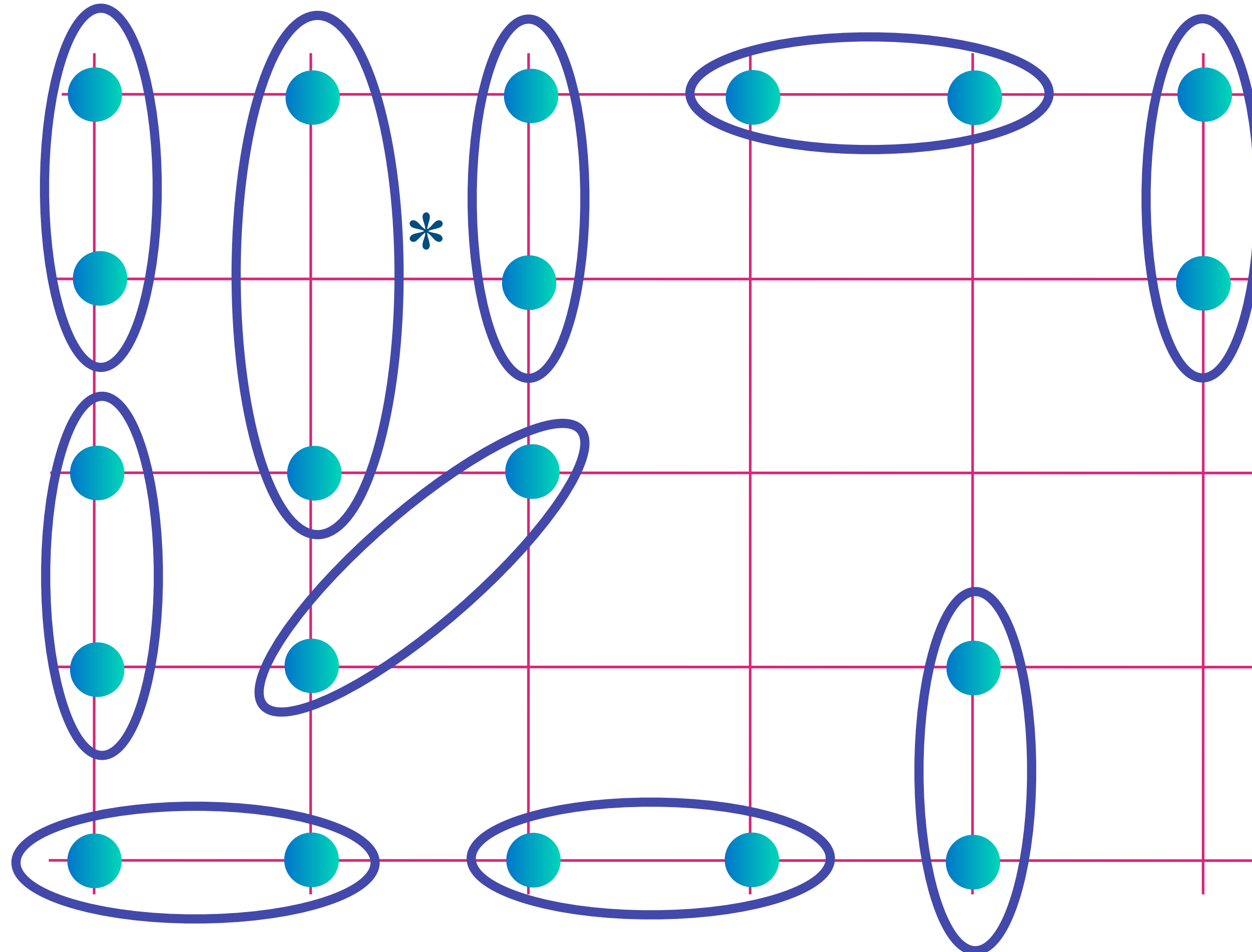
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## The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

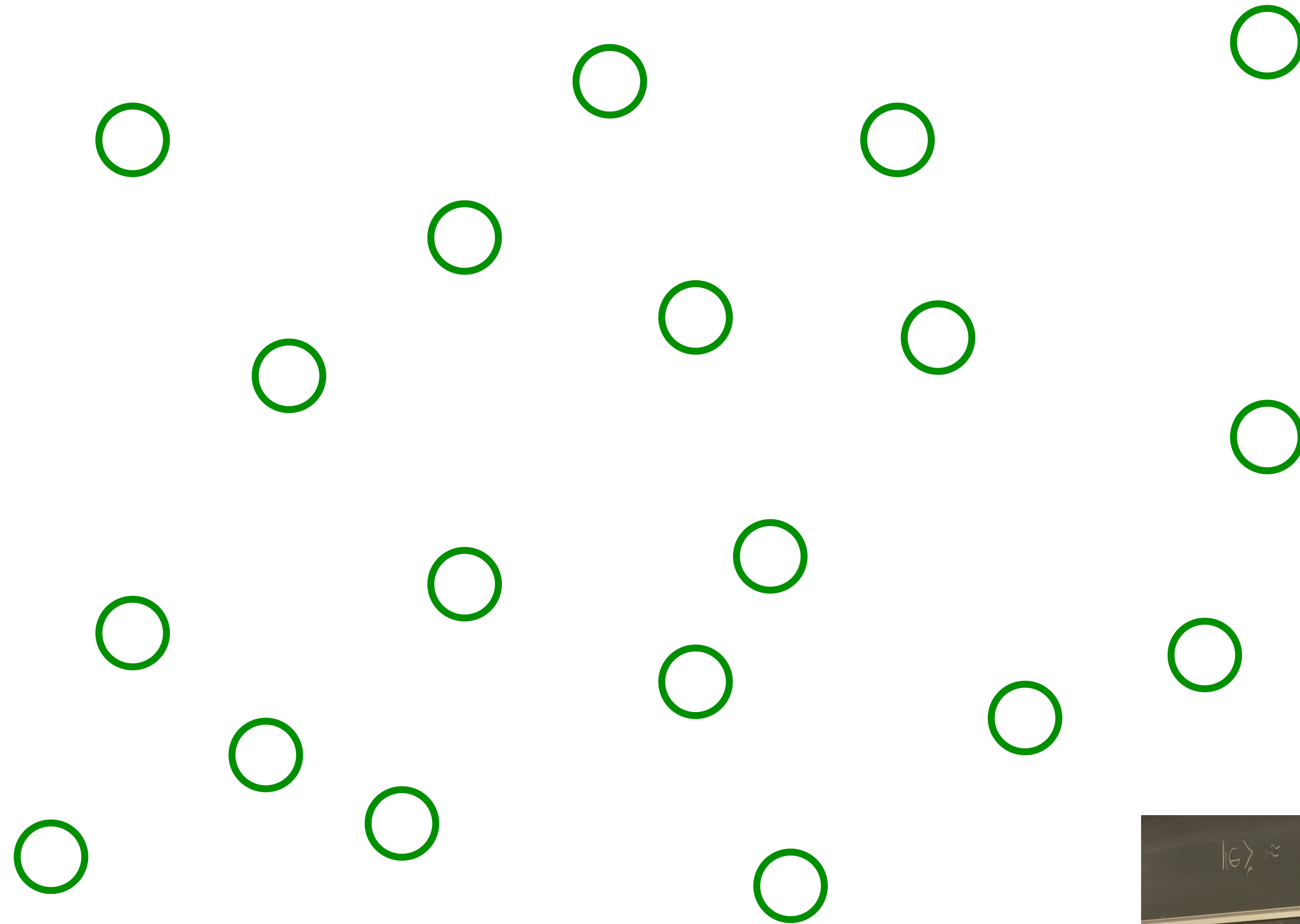
The SYK model has a scale-invariant entanglement structure:  
i.e. electrons are entangled at all distance and time scales

It describes  
certain ***strange metals***

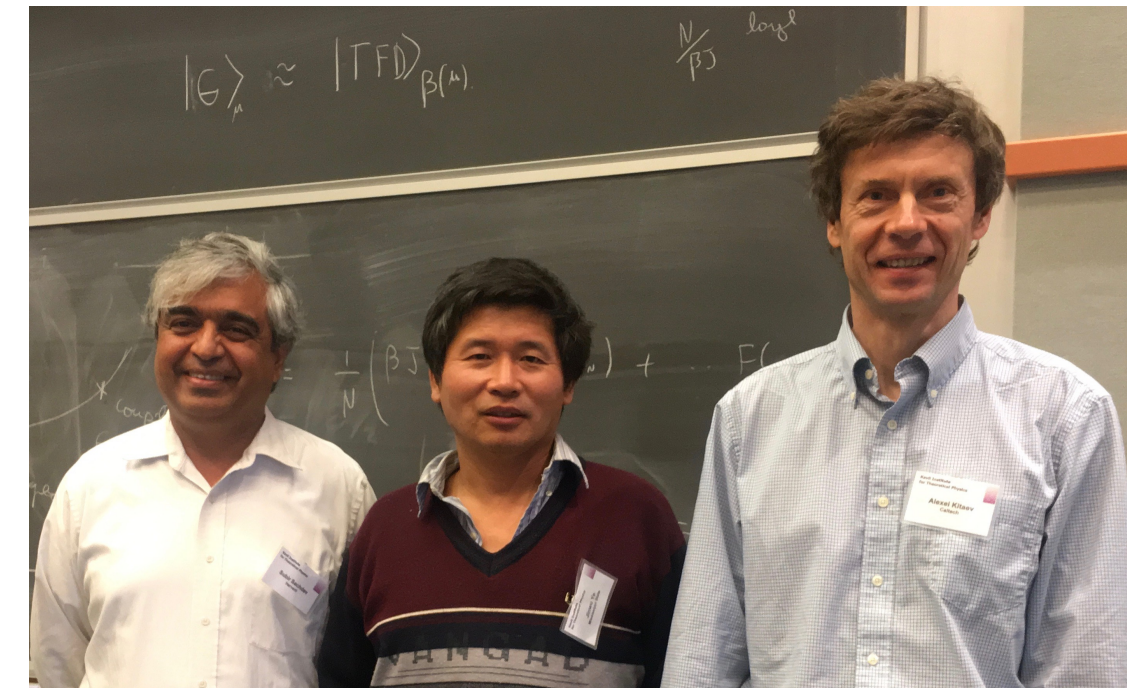
Sachdev, Ye (1993)

# The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)

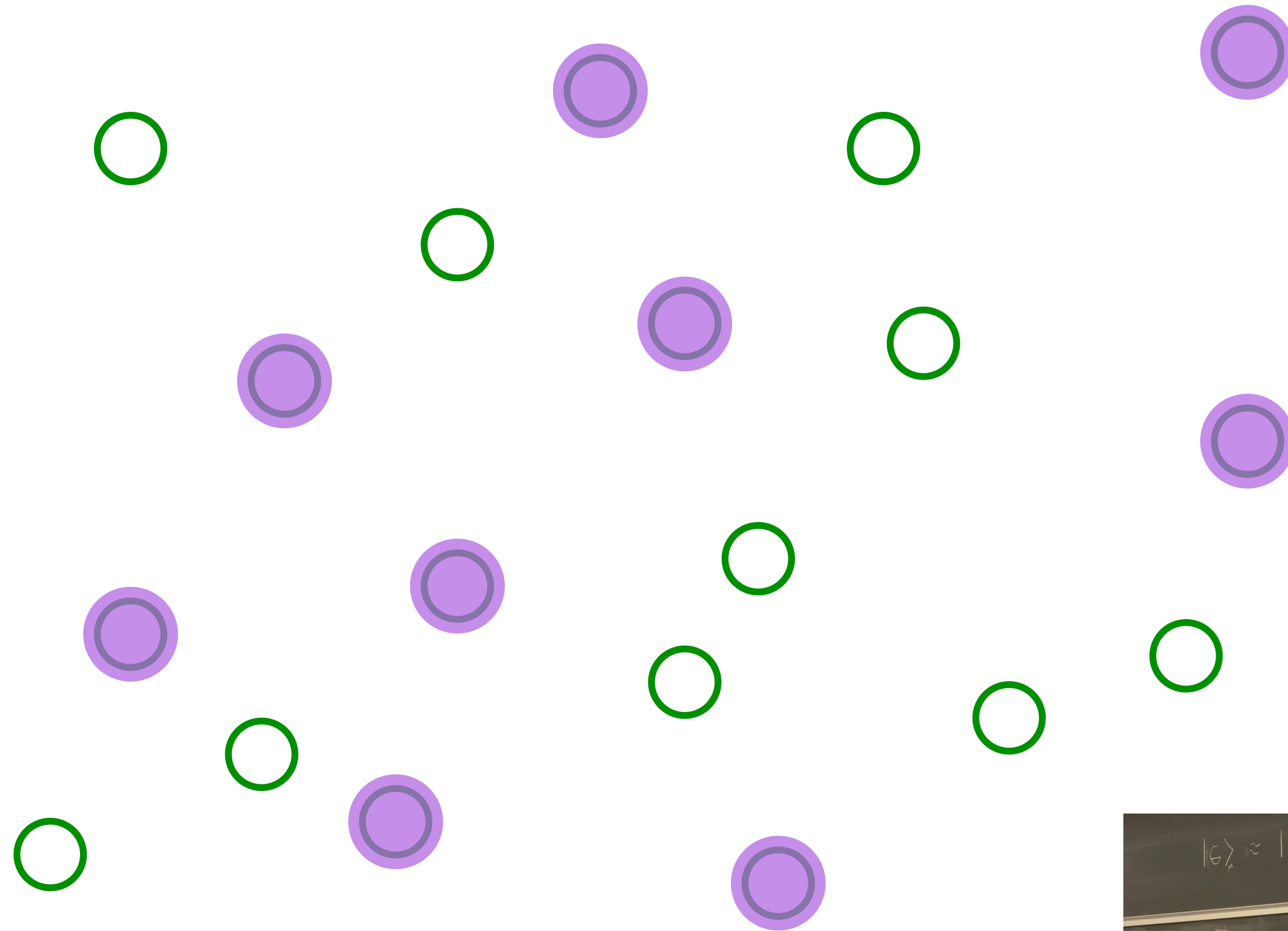


Pick a set of random positions

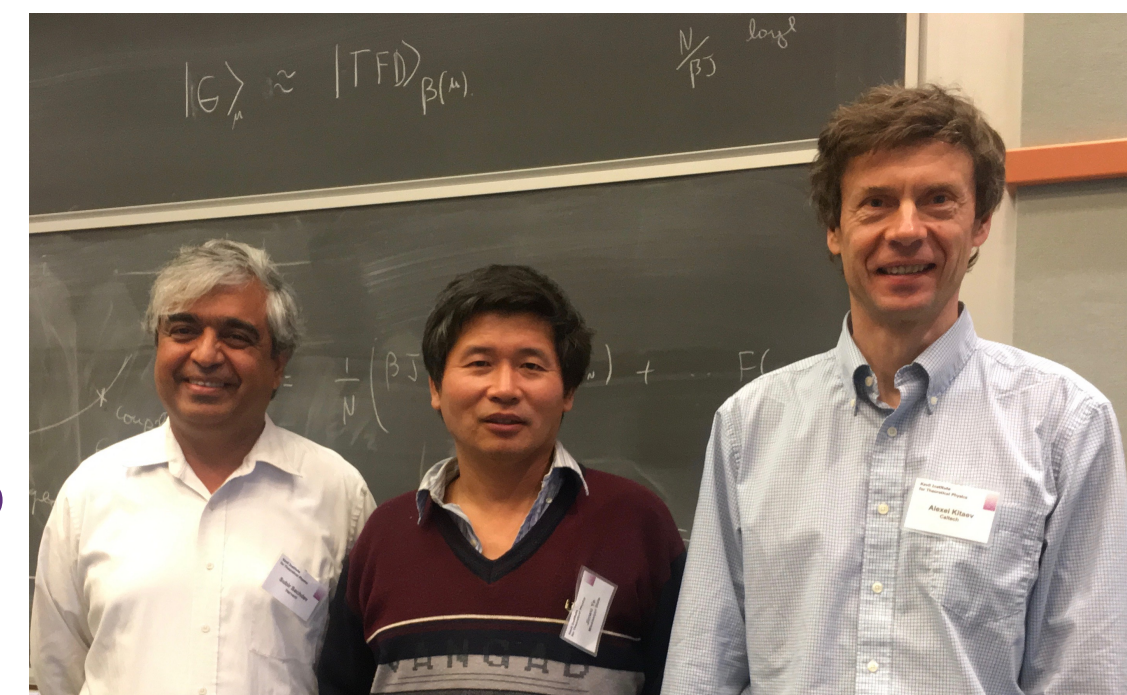


# The SYK model

Sachdev, Ye (1993); Kitaev (2015)



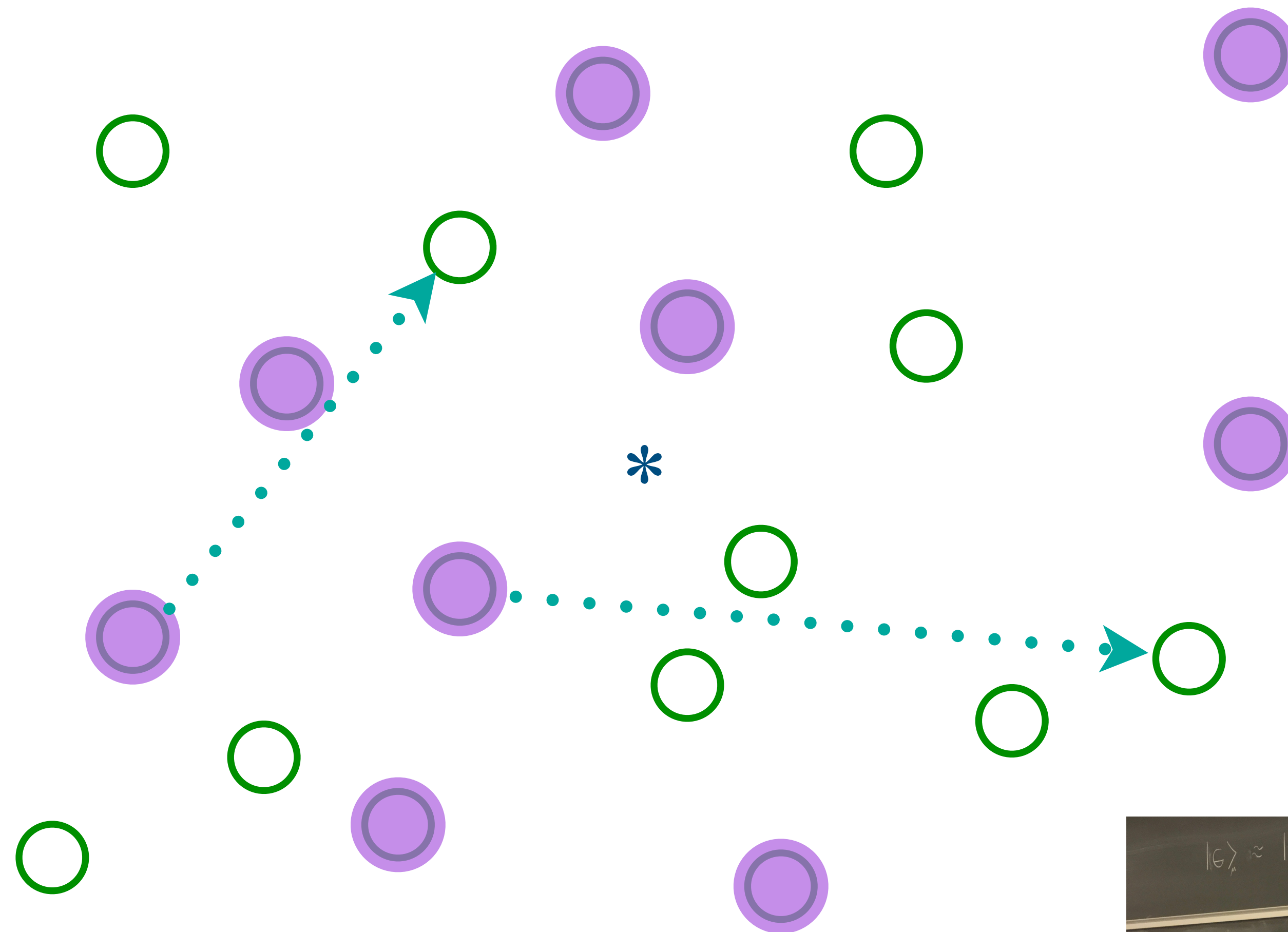
Place electrons randomly on some sites



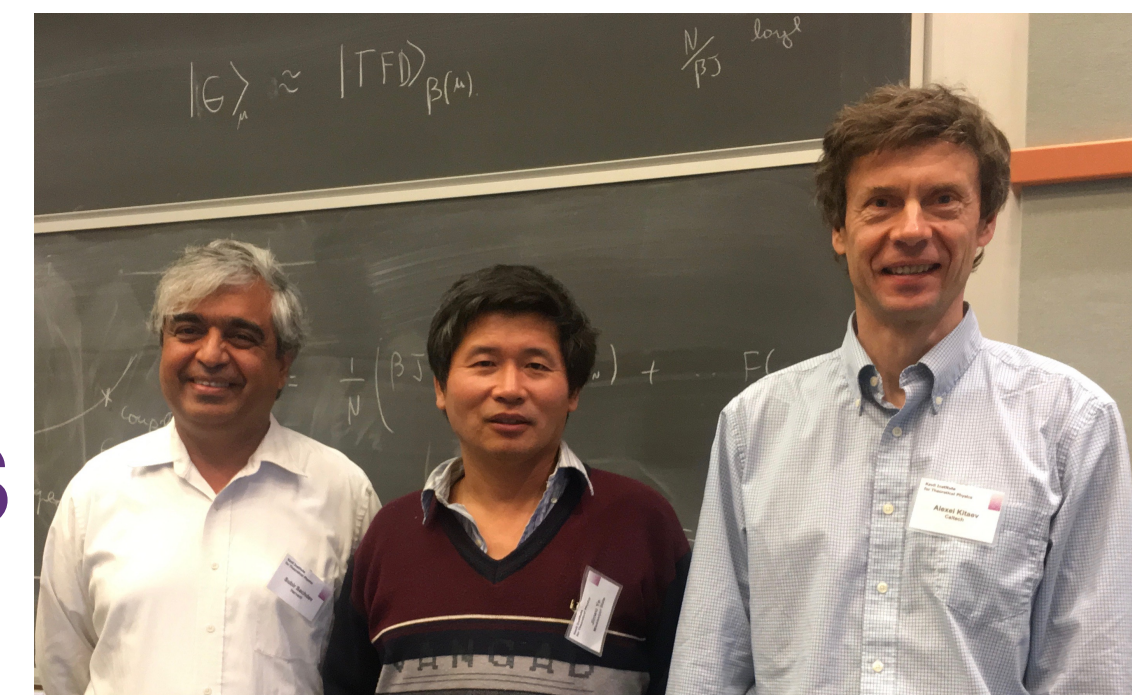


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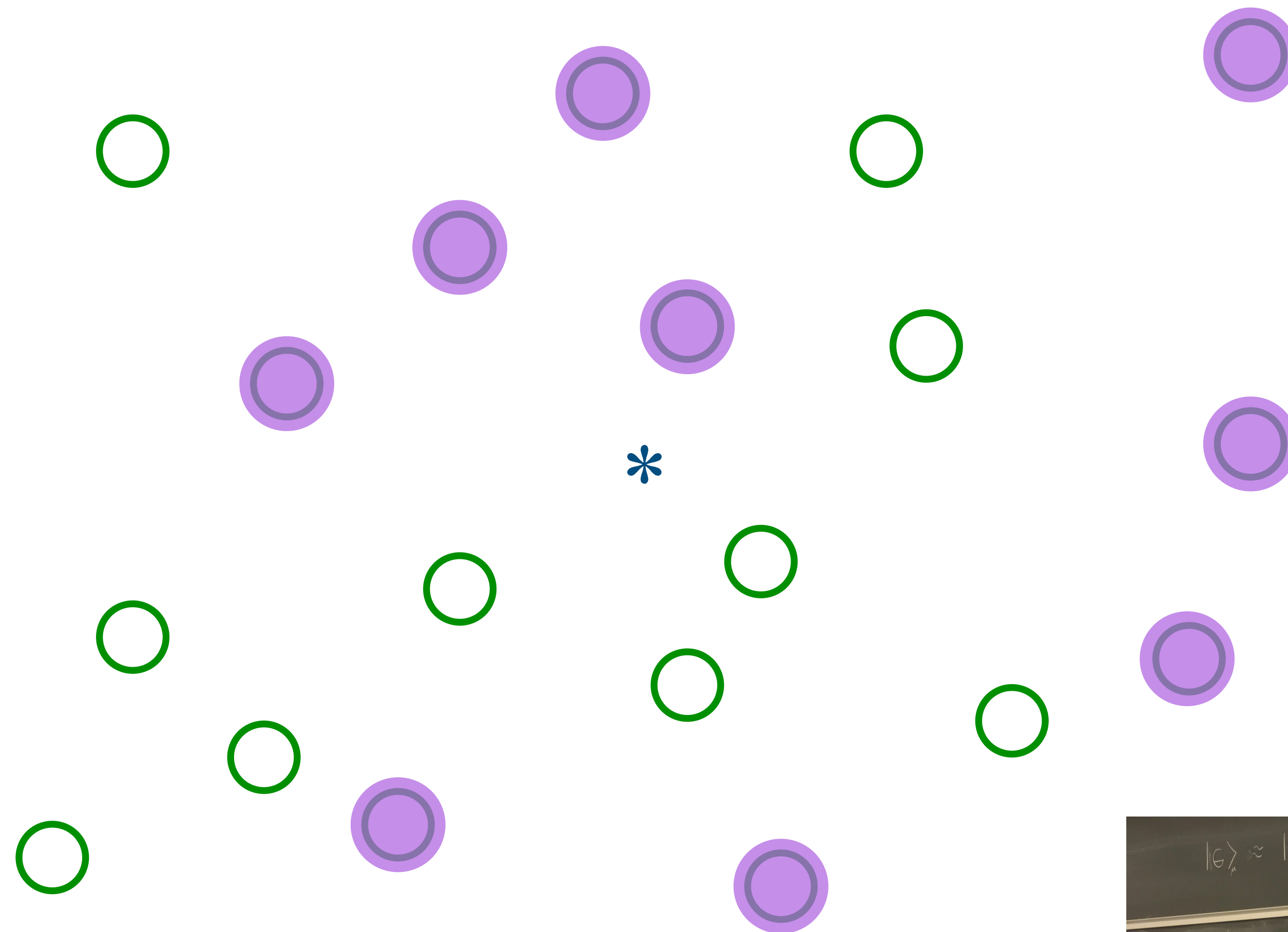


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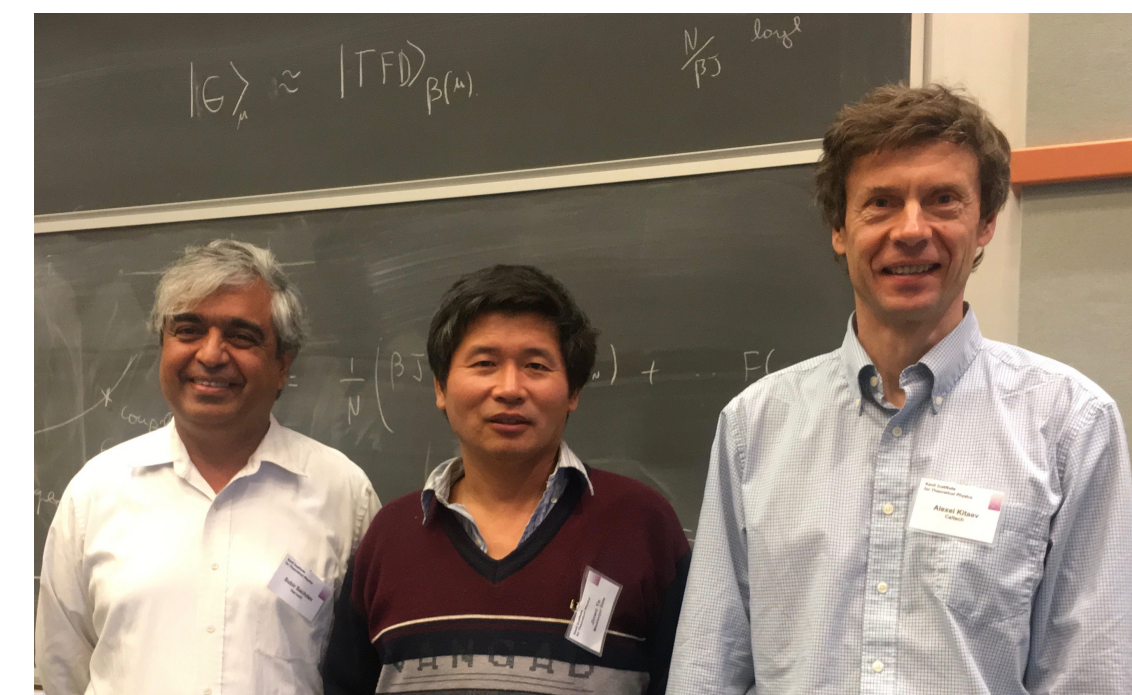


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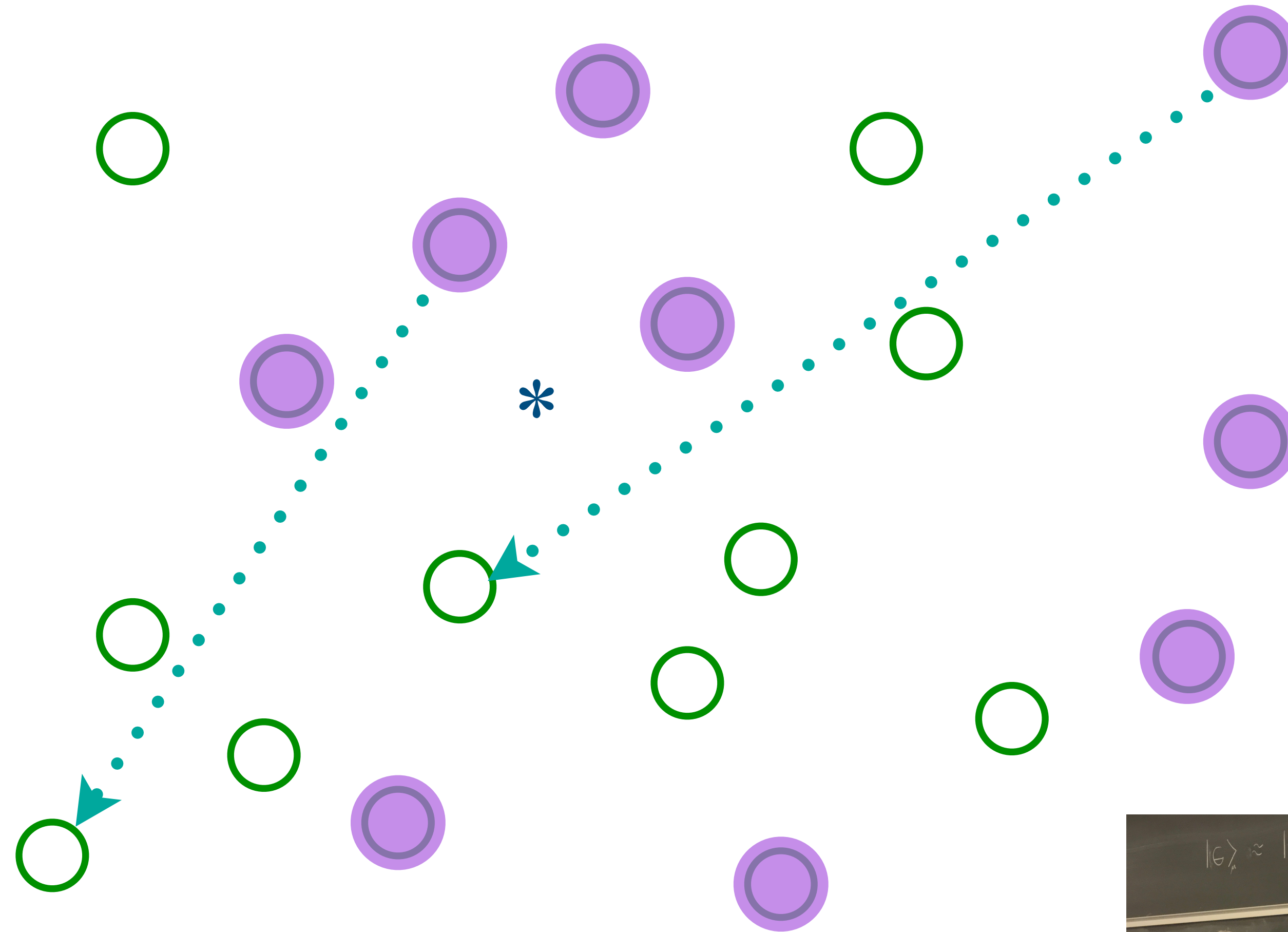
Entangle electrons pairwise randomly



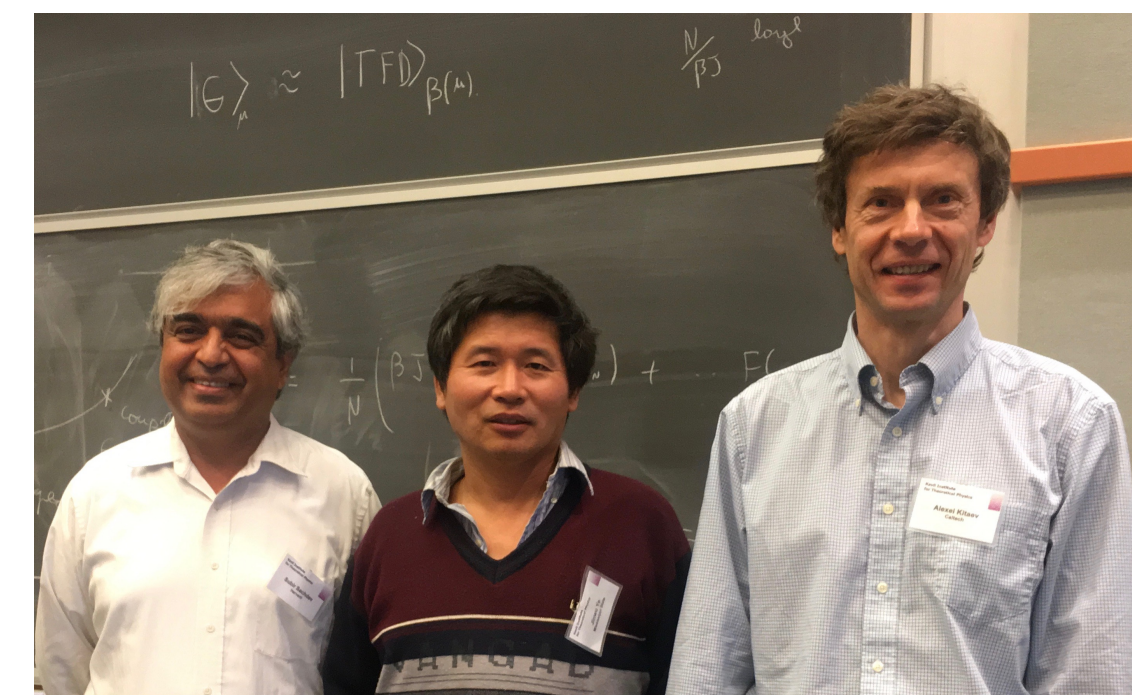


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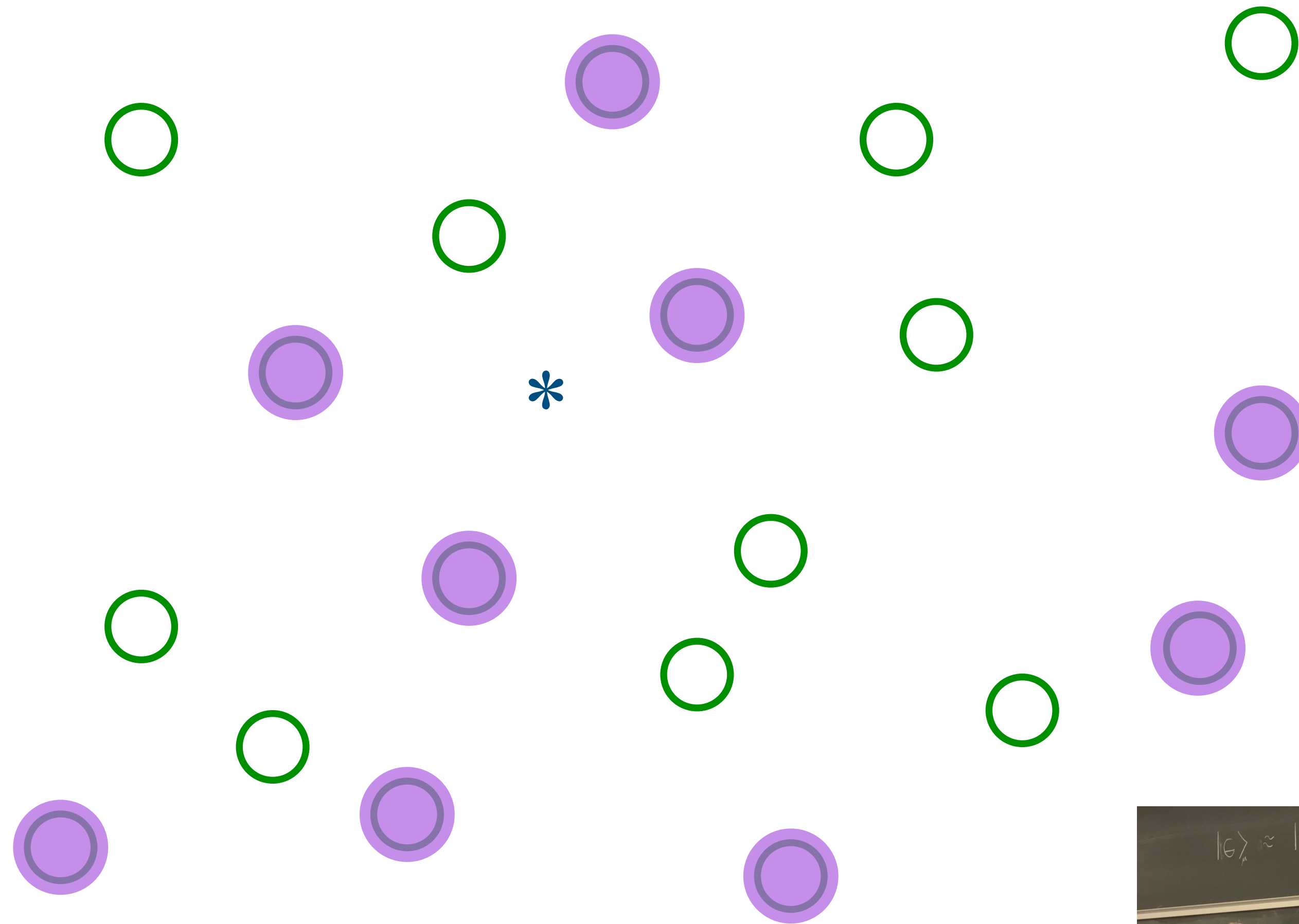
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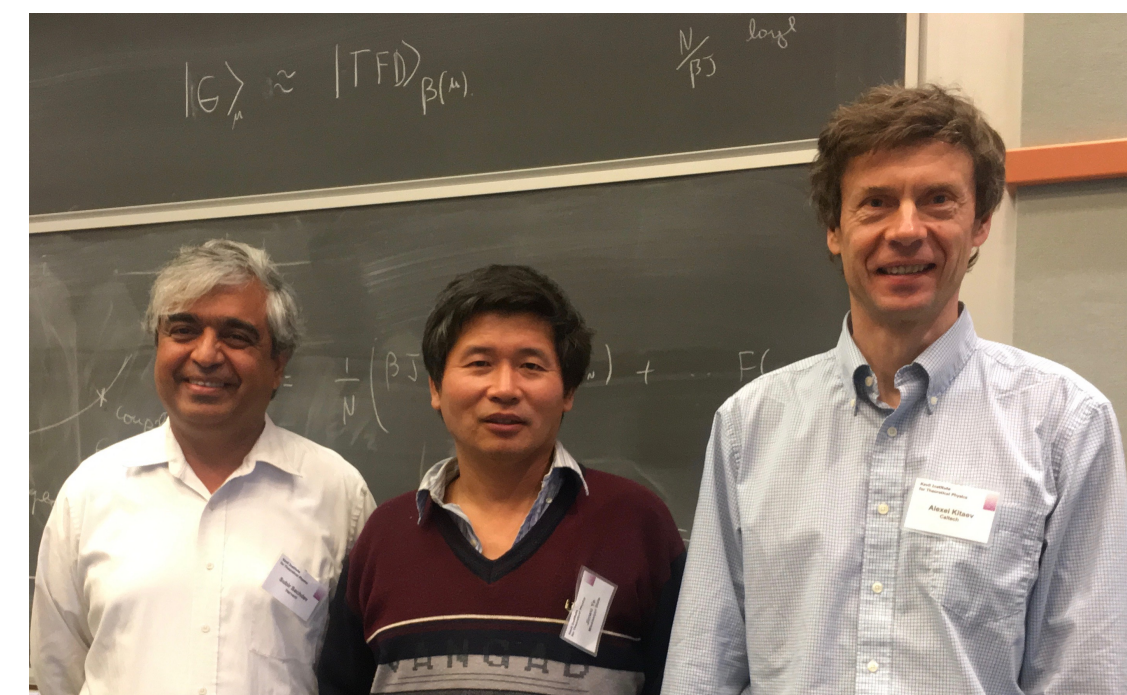


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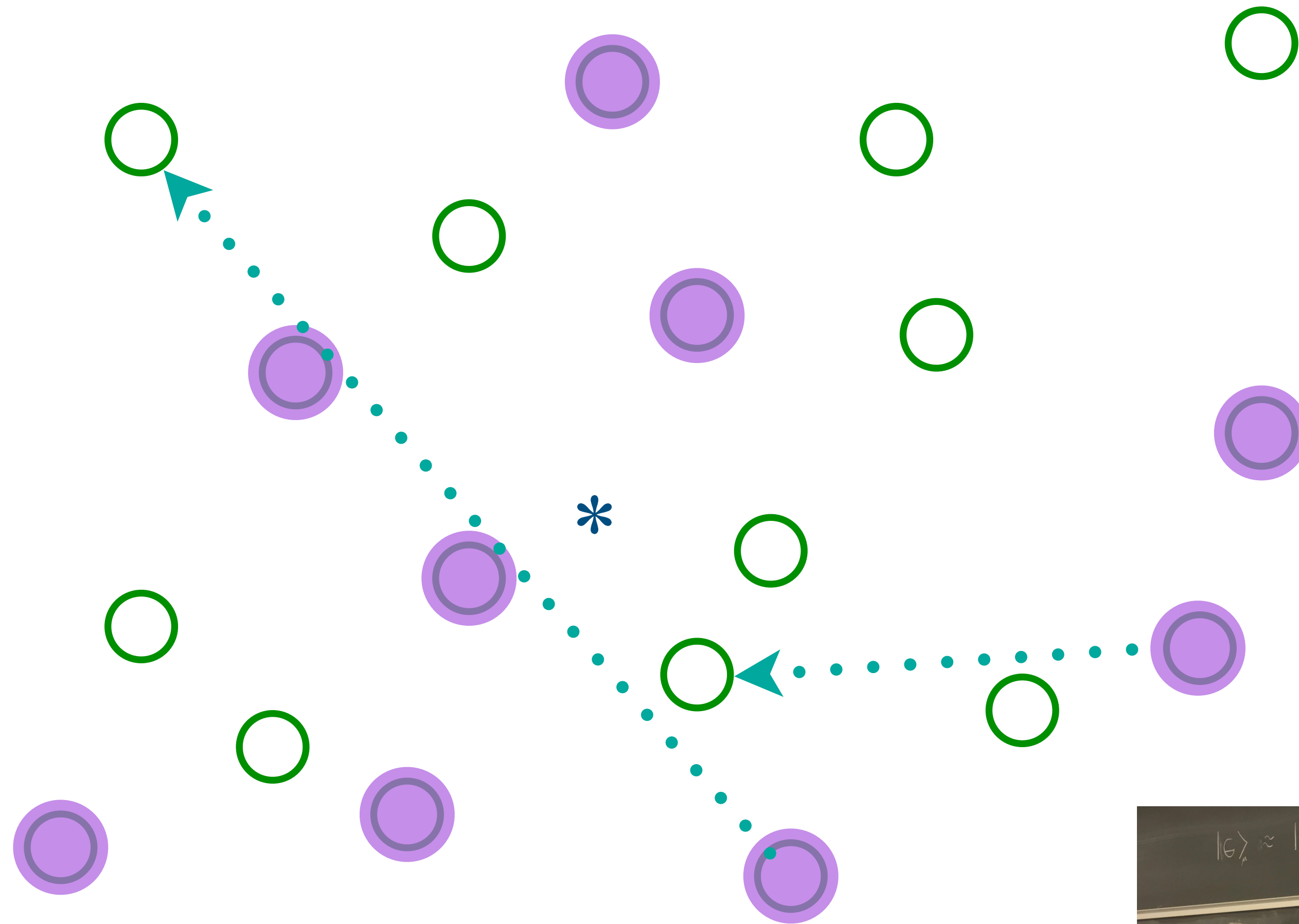


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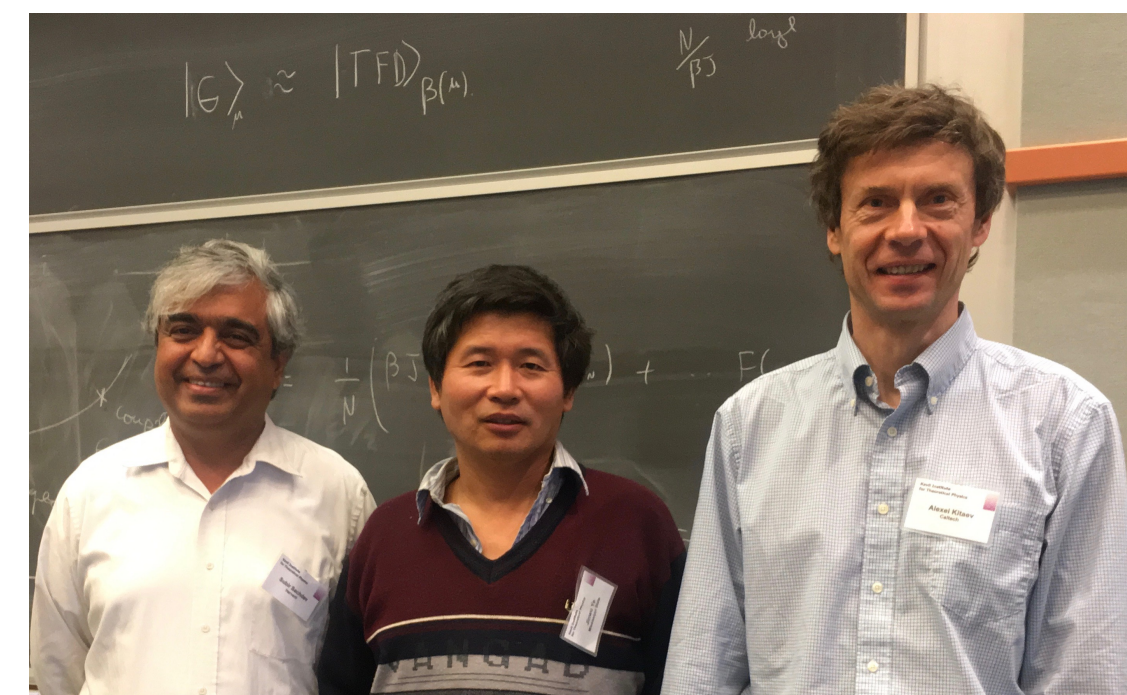


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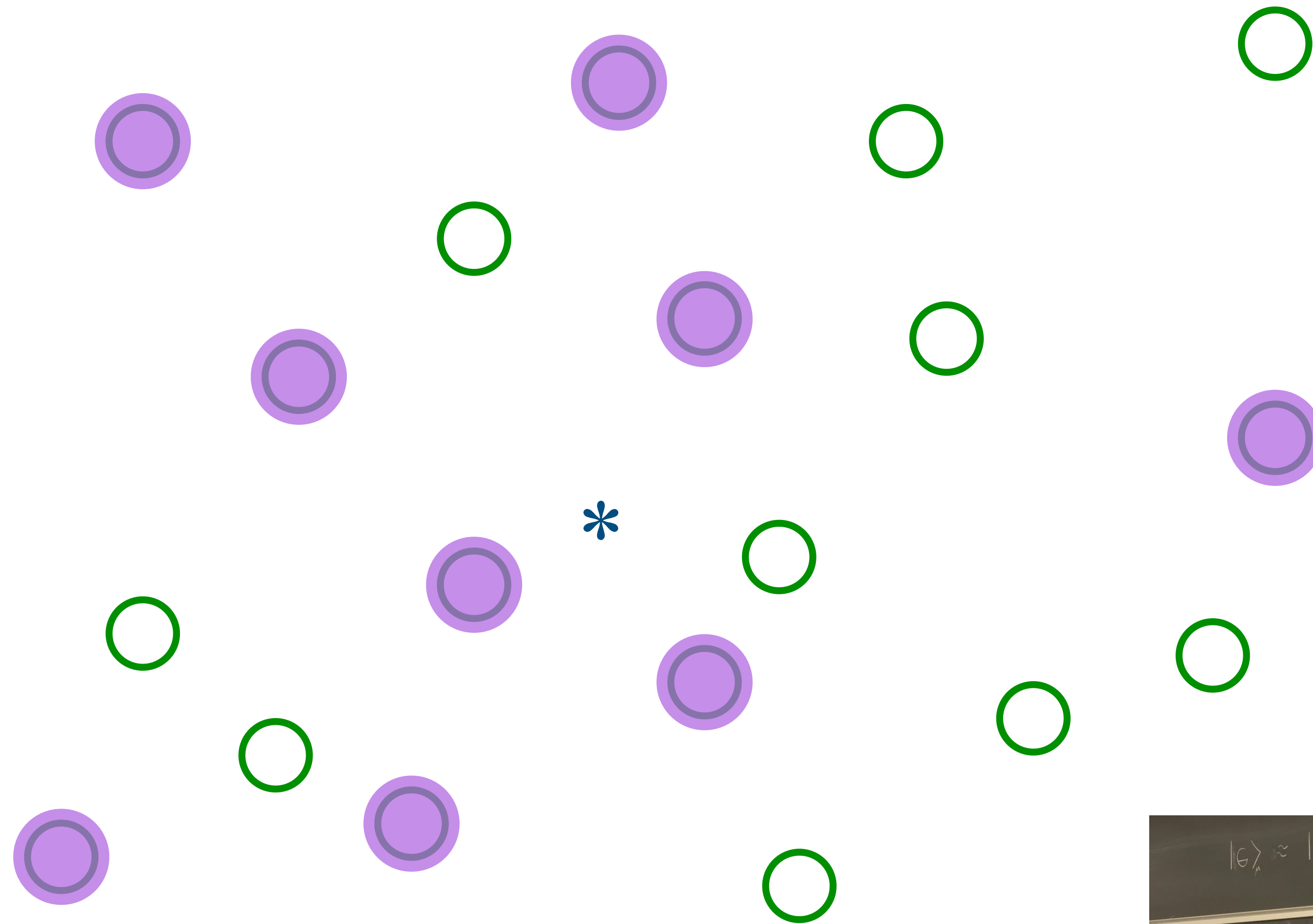
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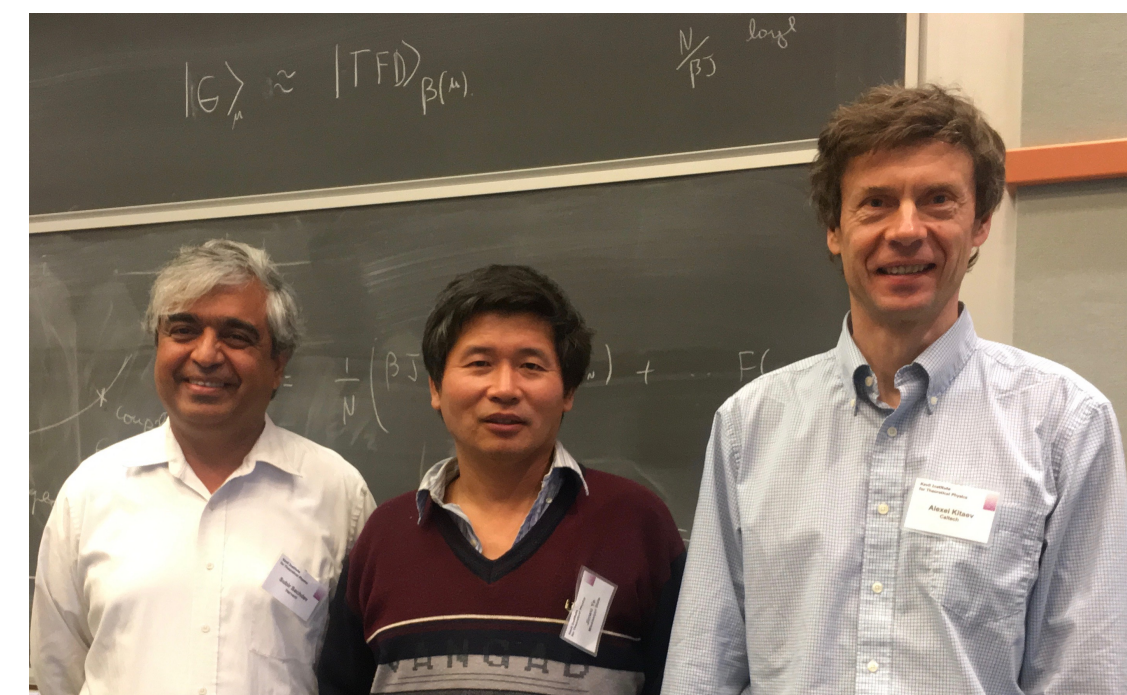


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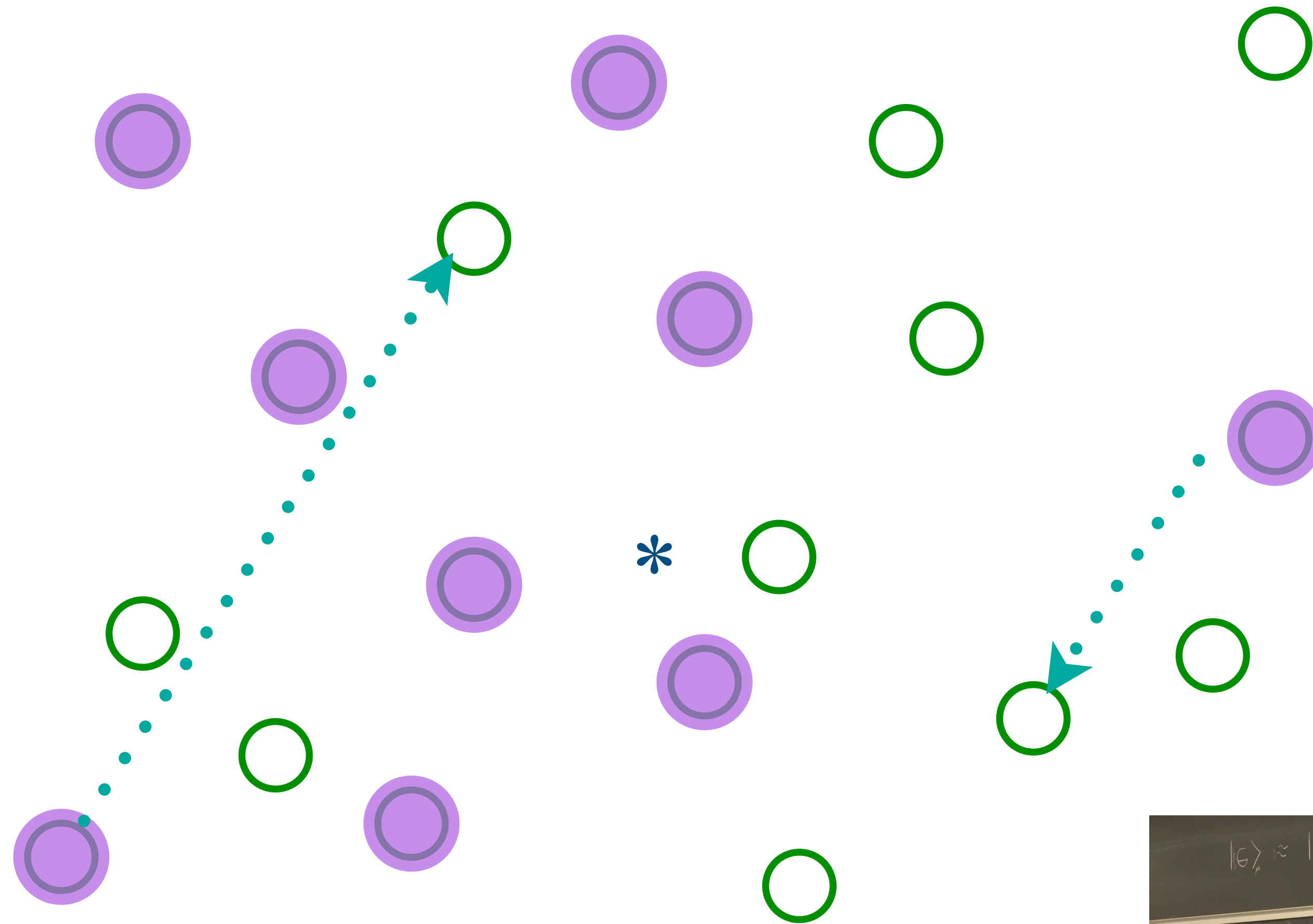
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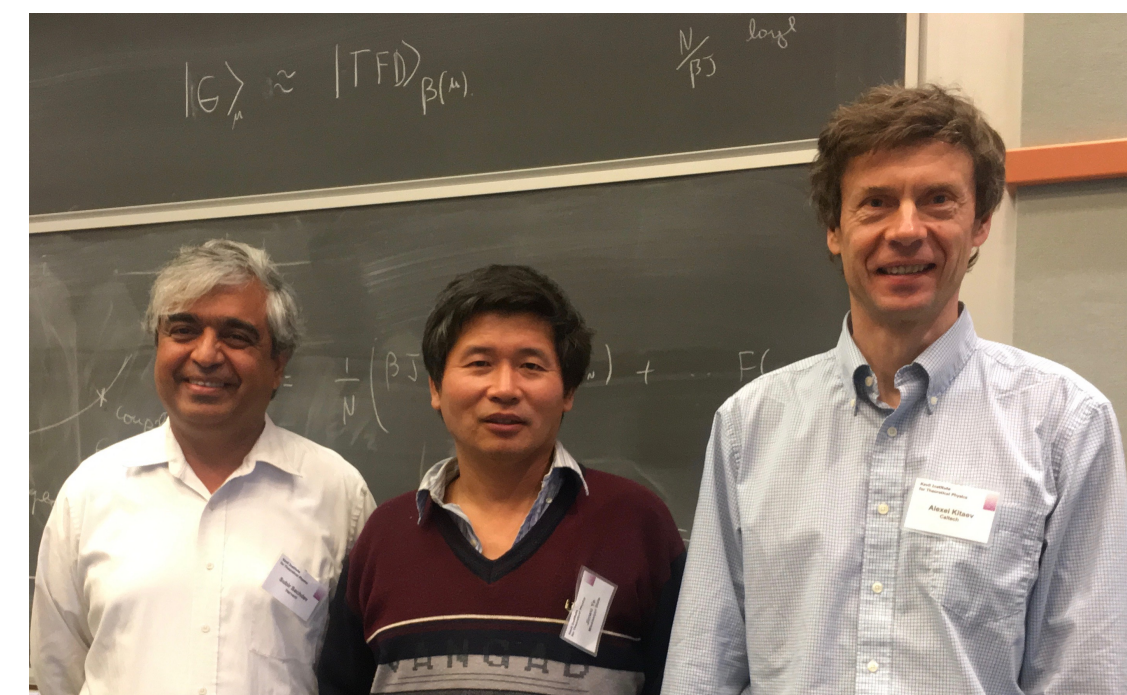


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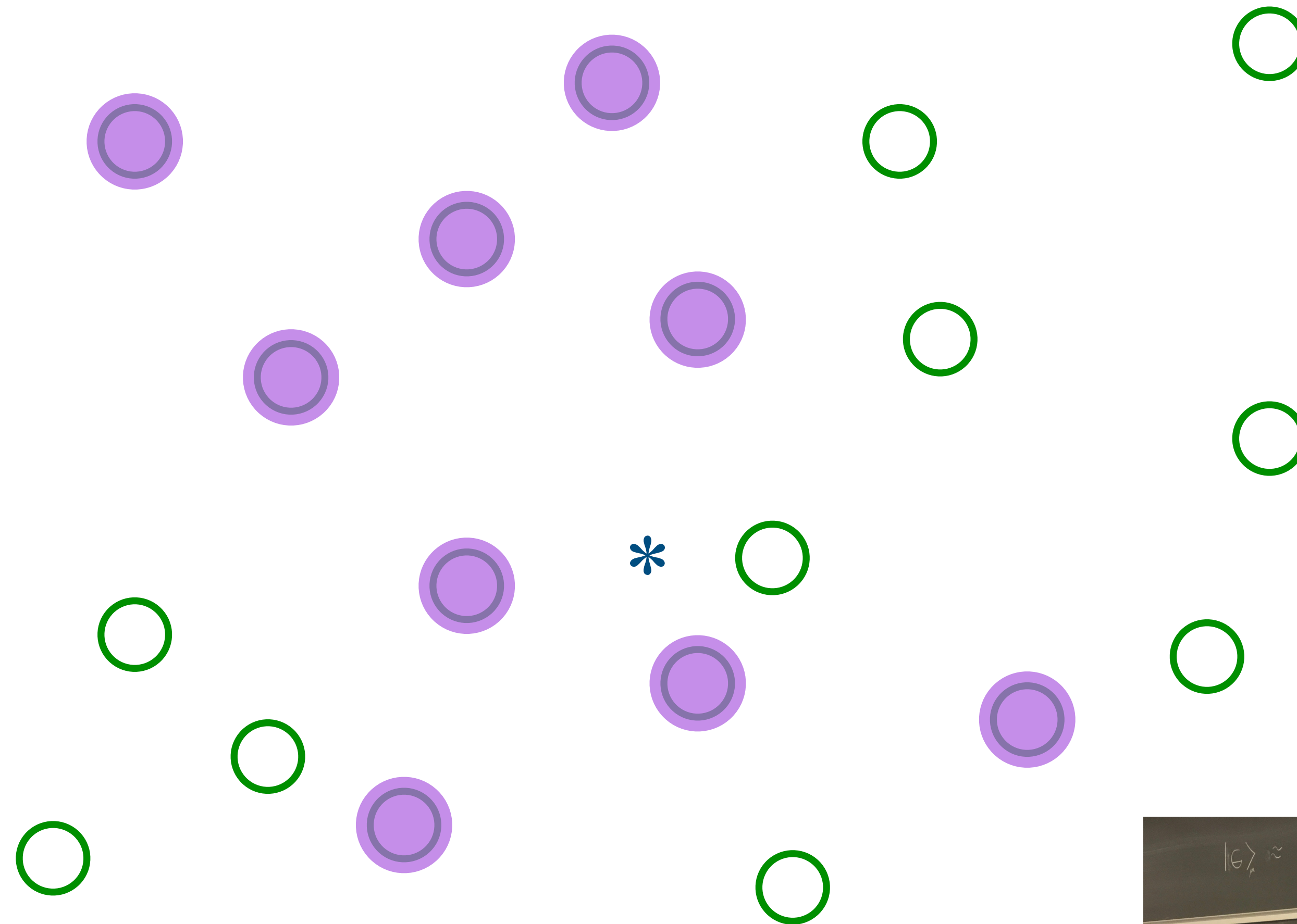


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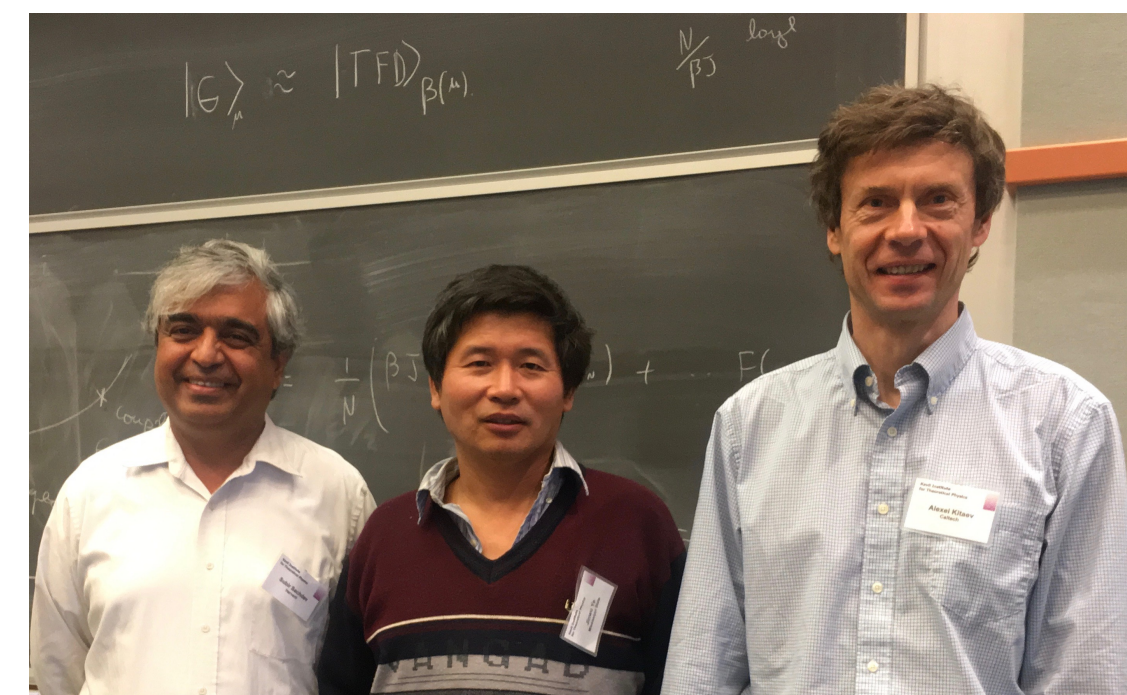


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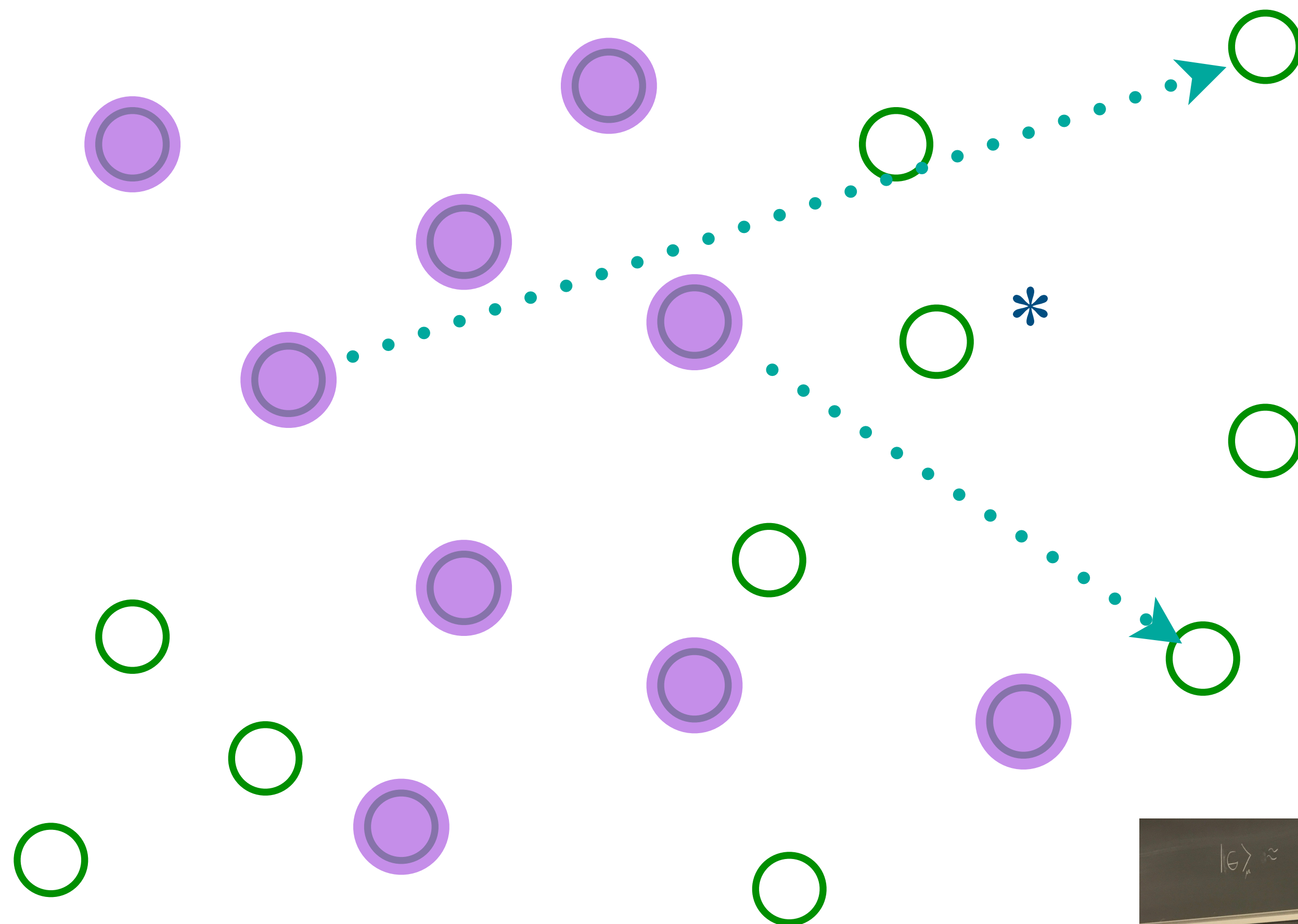
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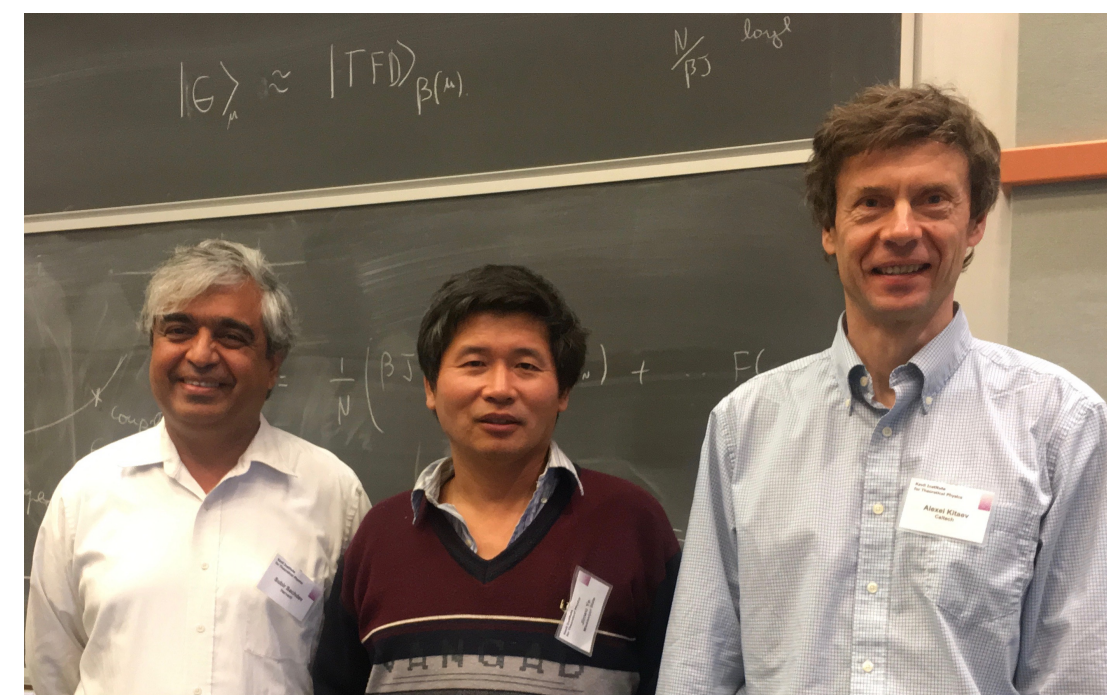


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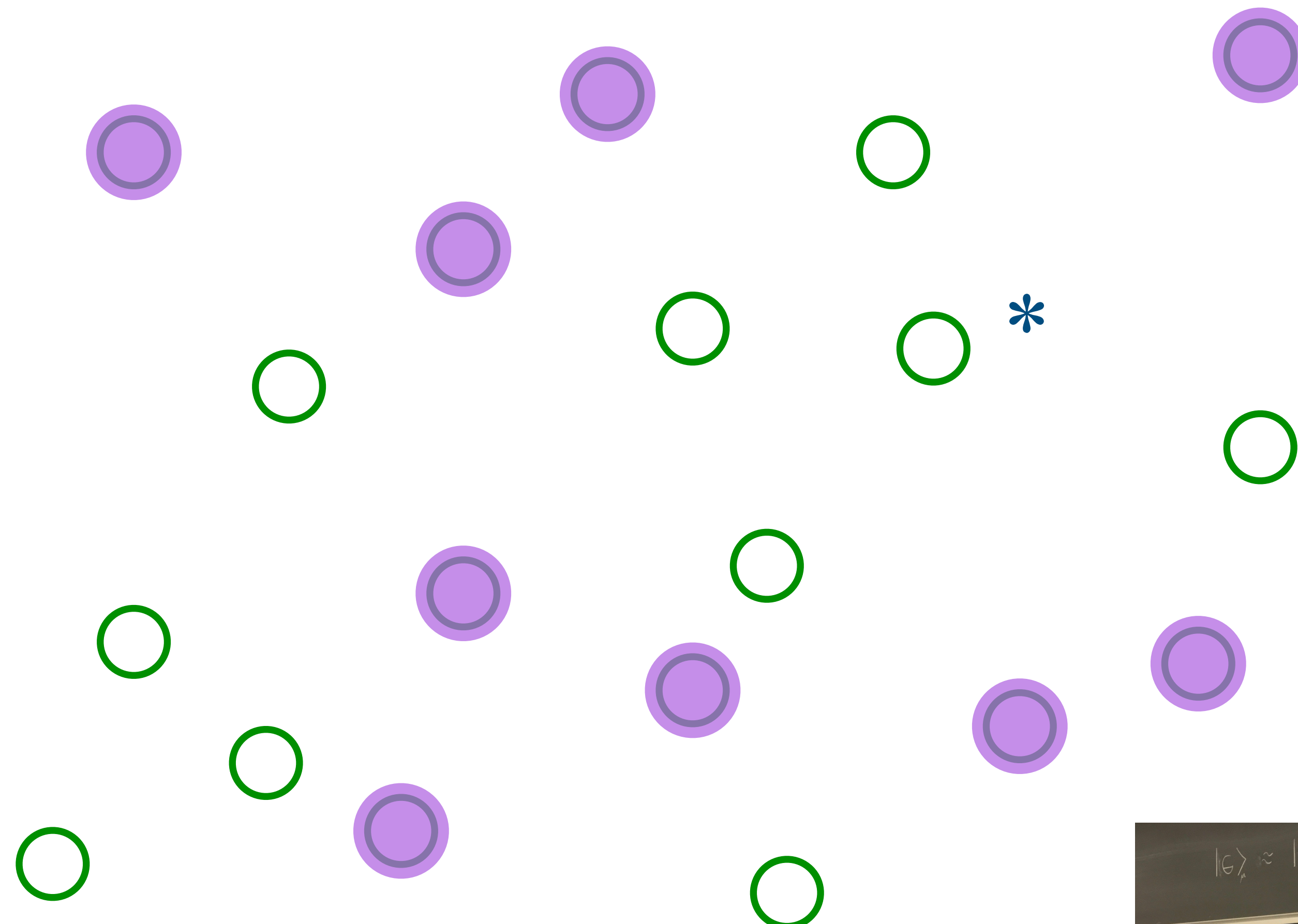
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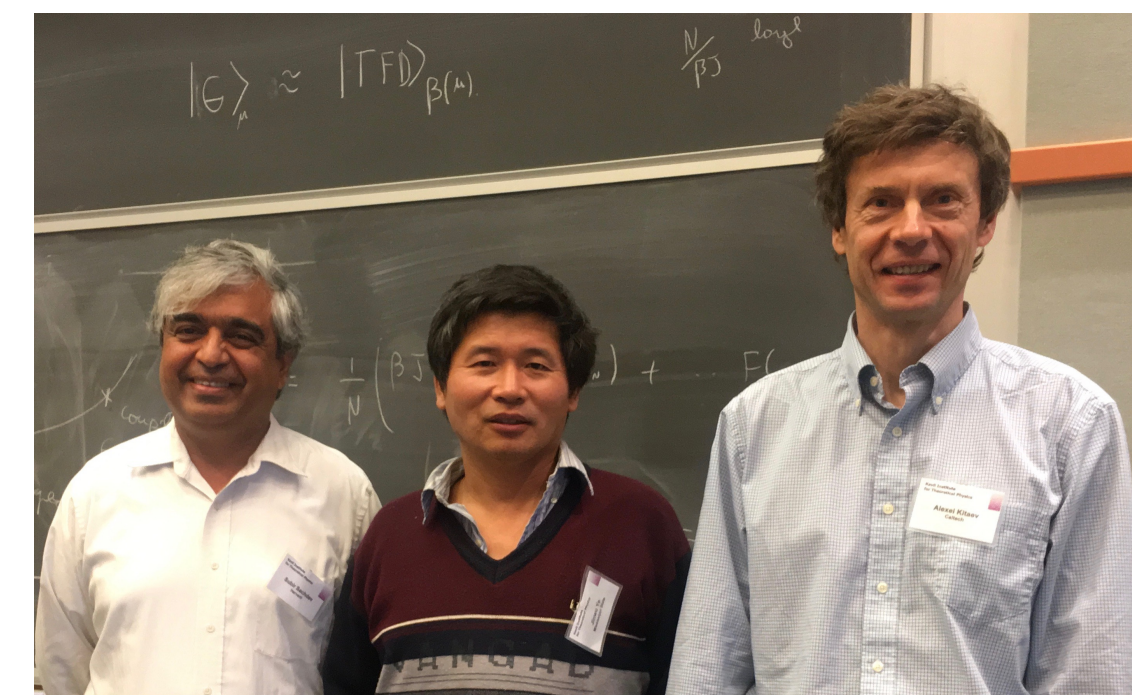


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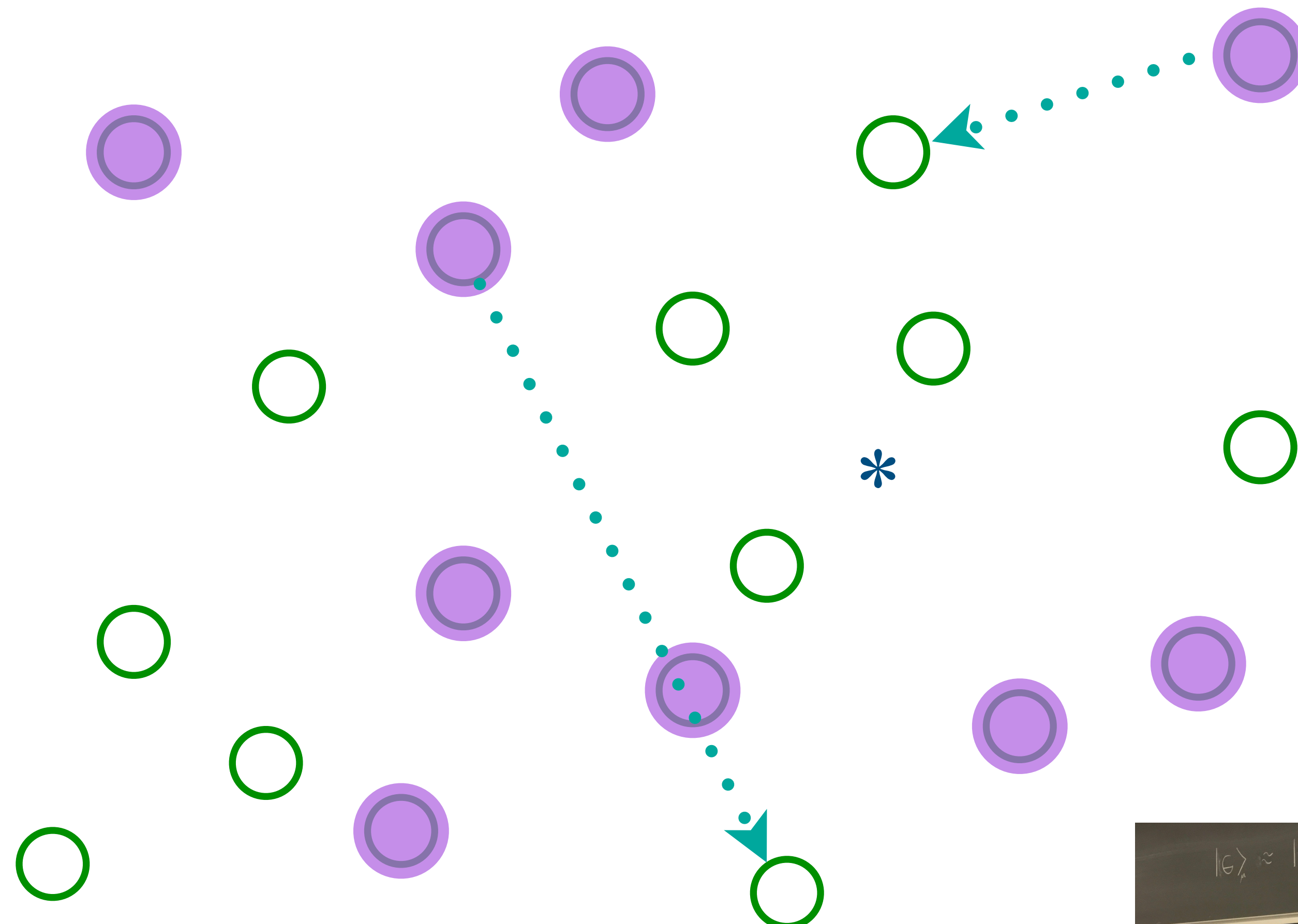


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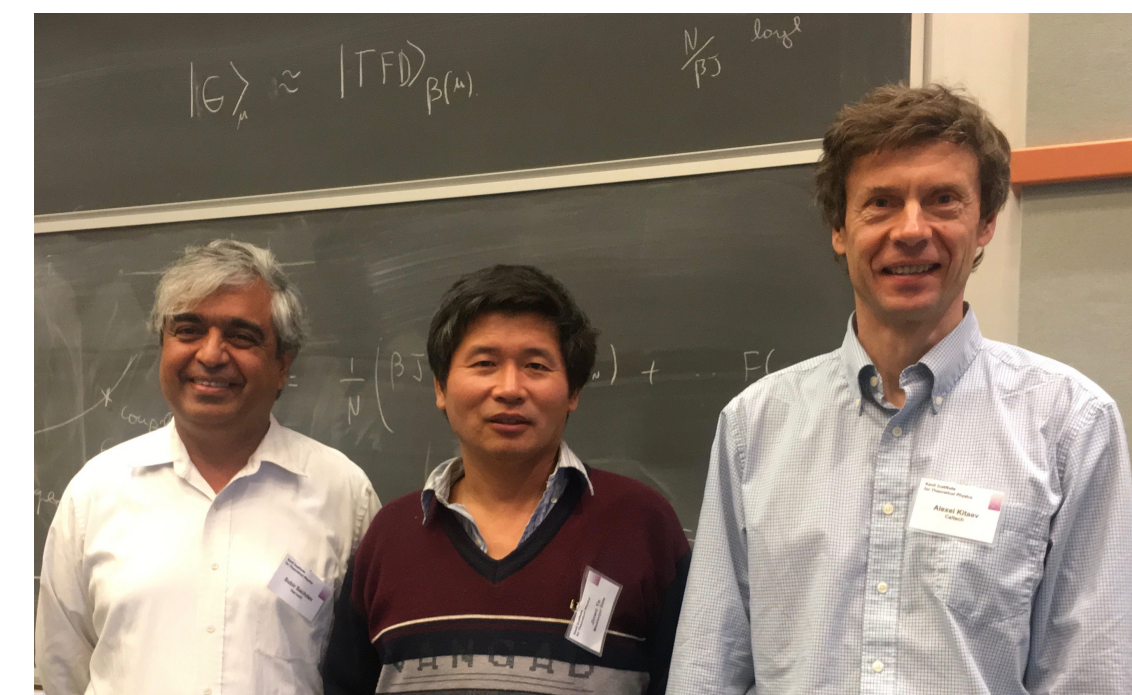


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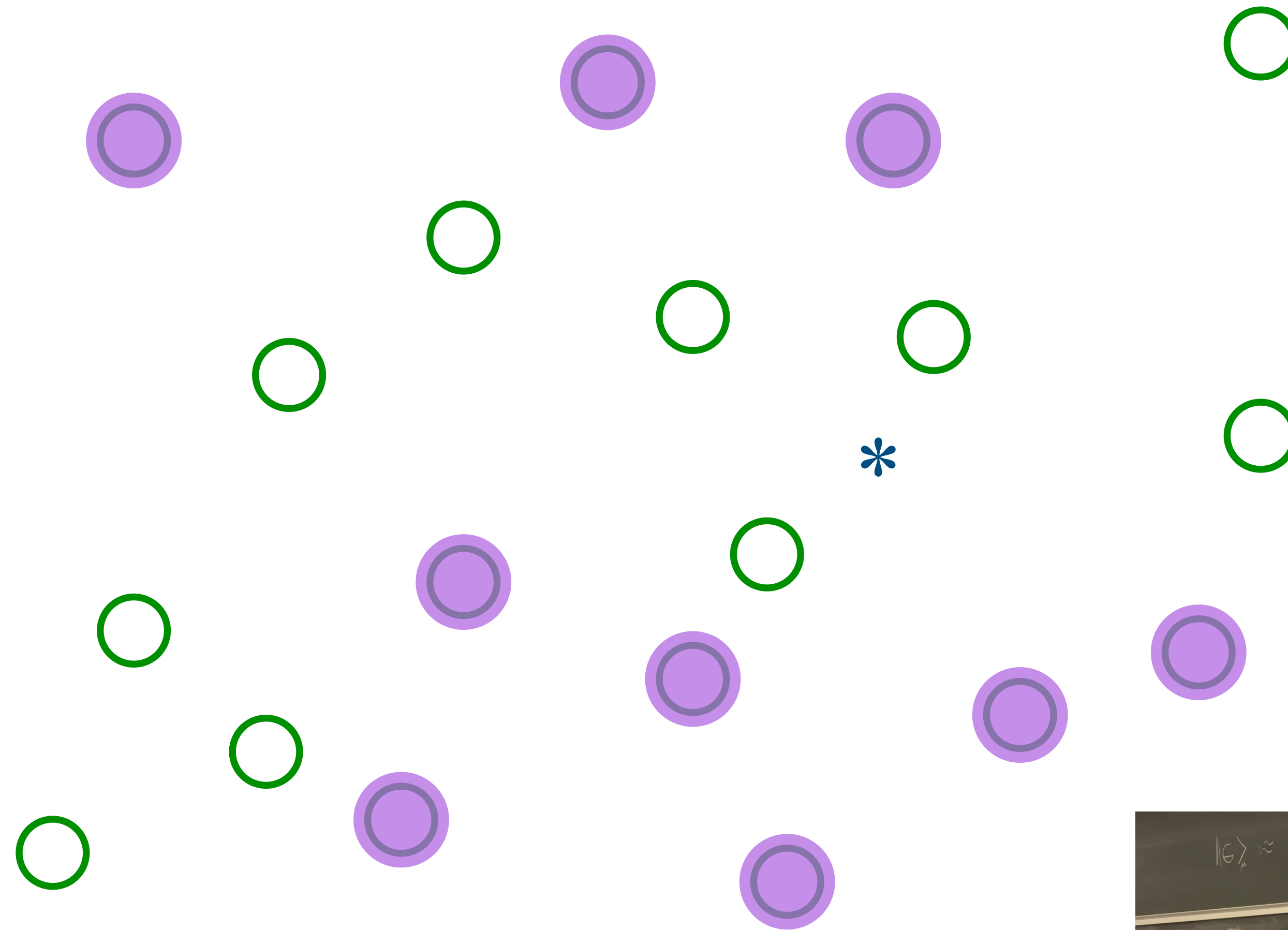
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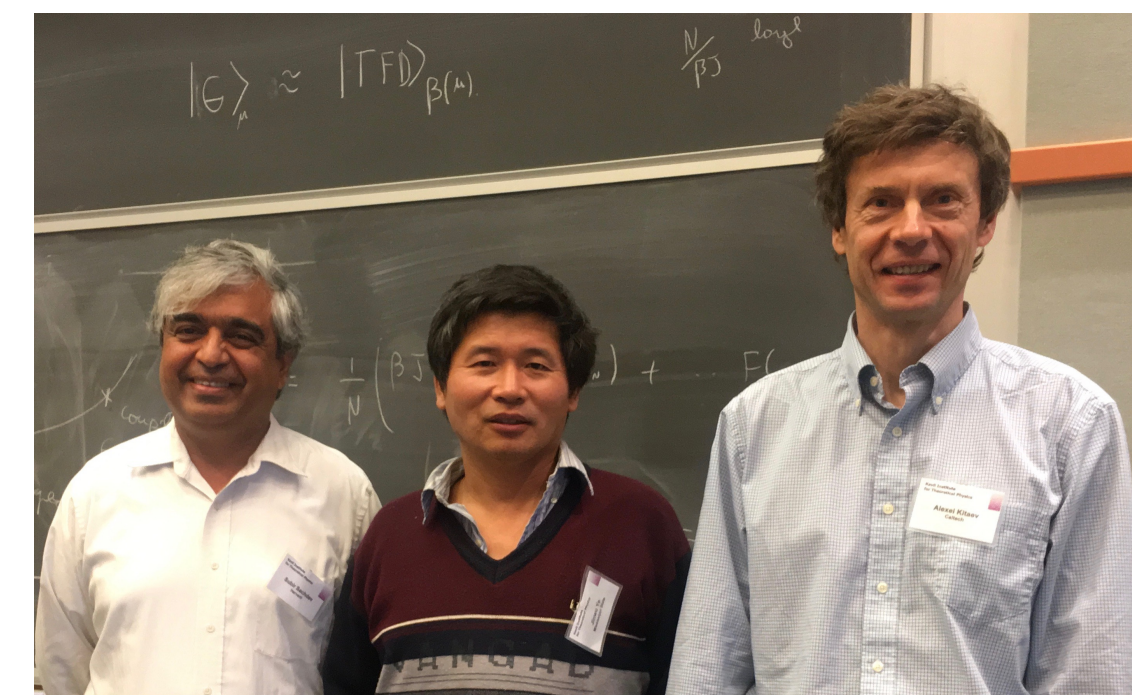


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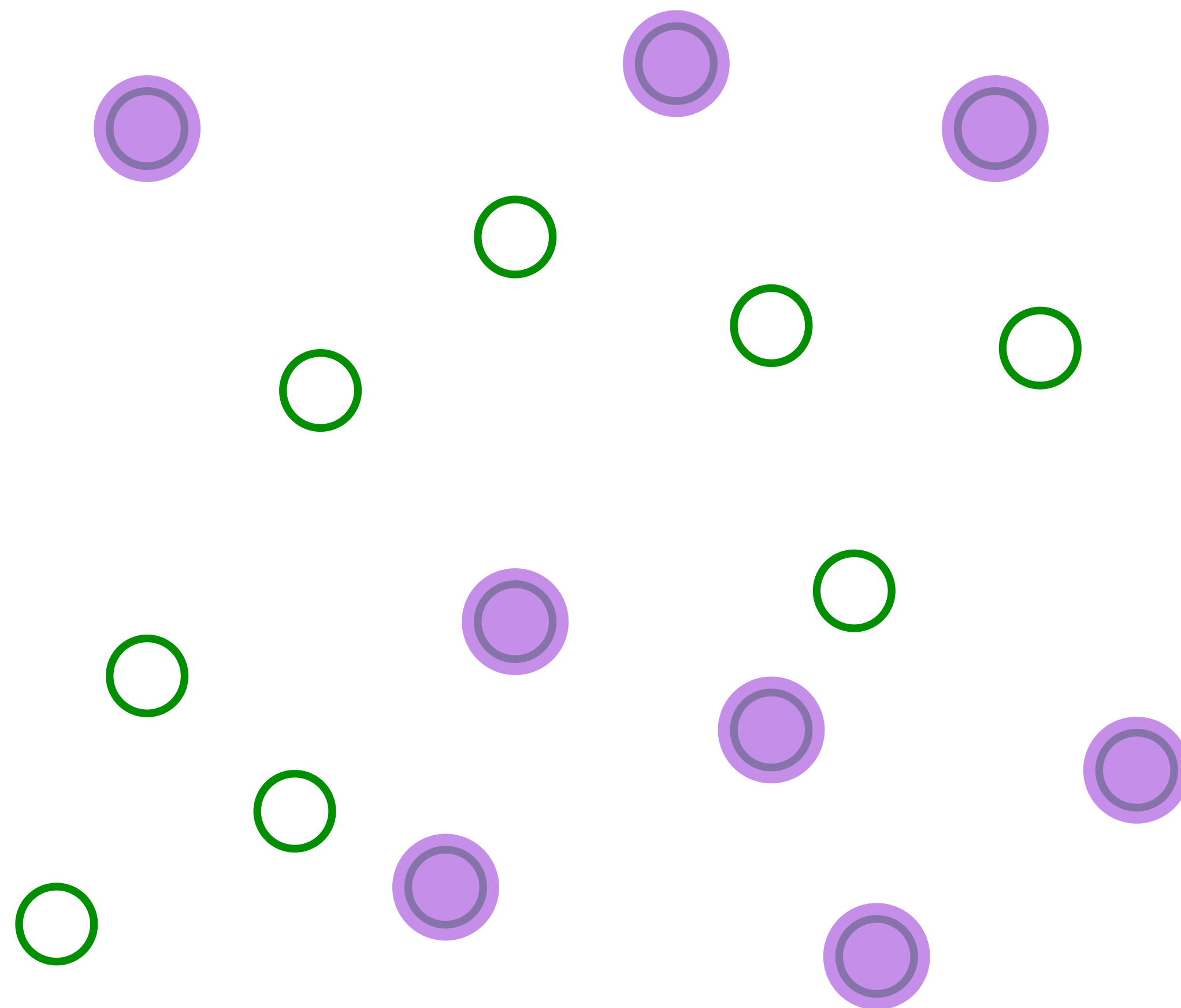
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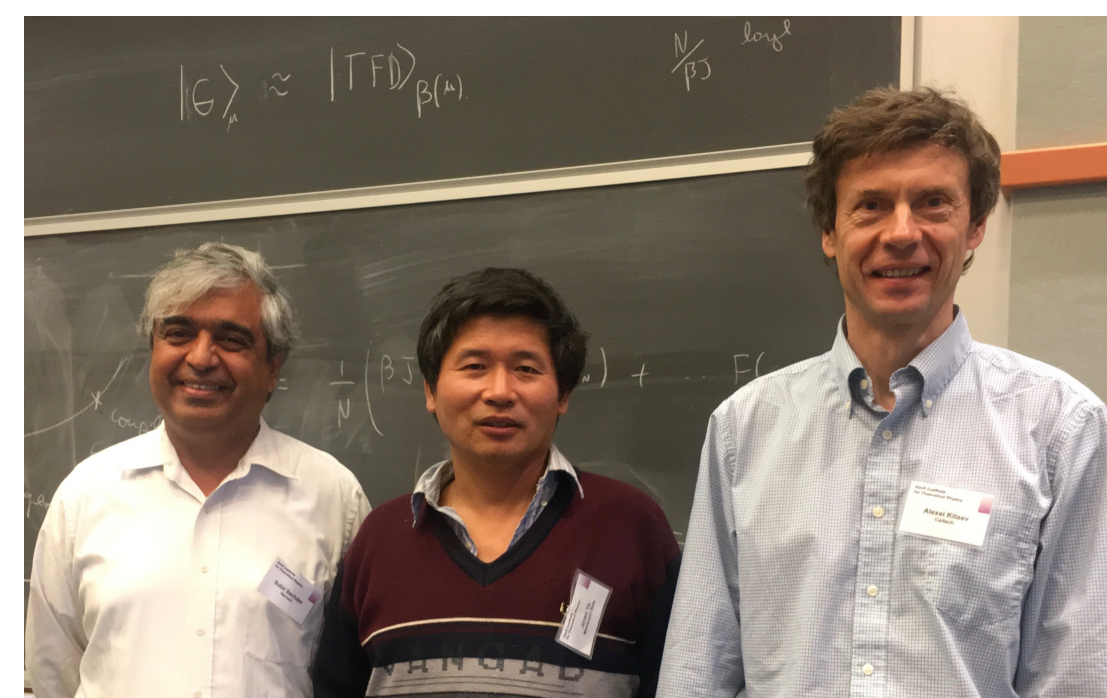
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○ Electron scattering time  $\tau$  in the SYK model

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \alpha \frac{k_B T}{\hbar}$$

Entangle electrons pairwise randomly

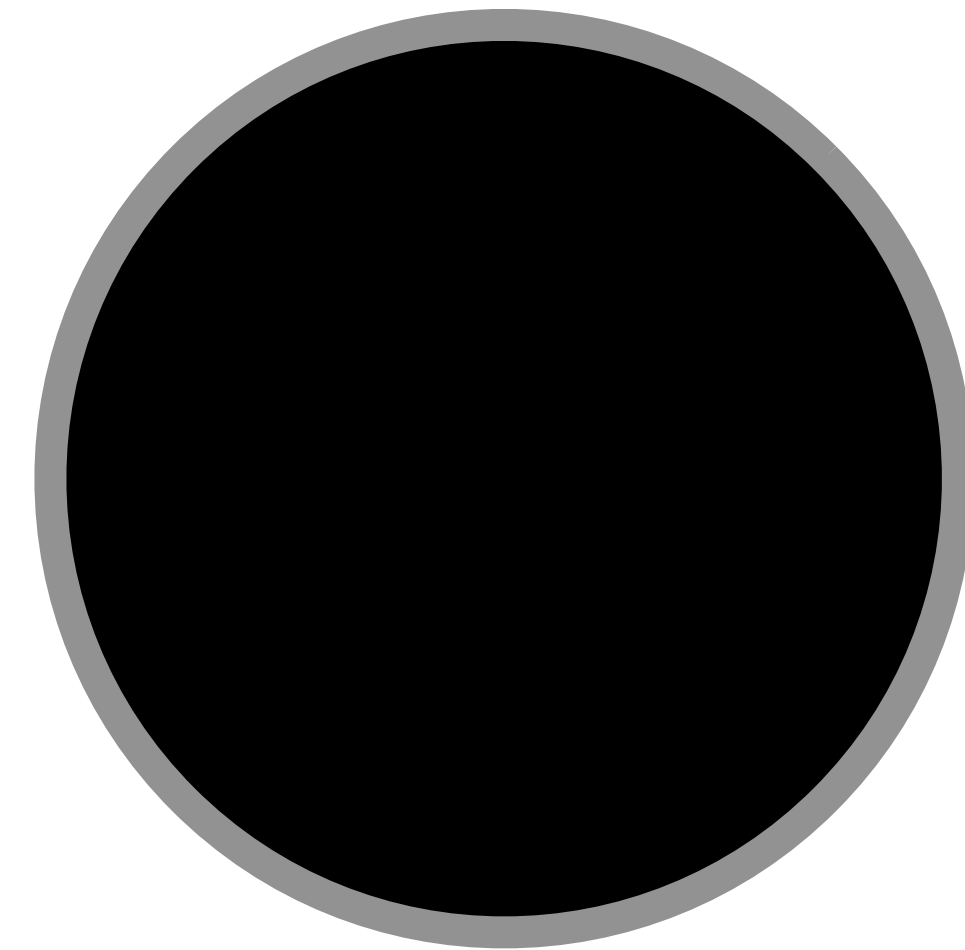


**Complex quantum entanglement in black holes**

# Black Holes

Objects so dense that light is gravitationally bound to them.

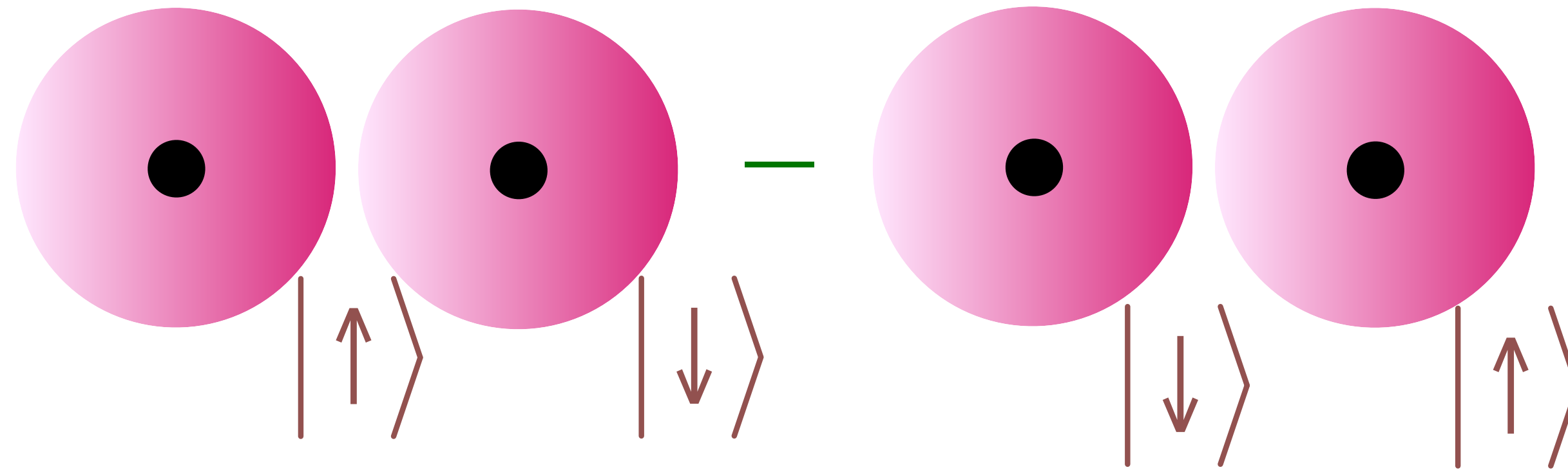
Horizon radius  $R = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$



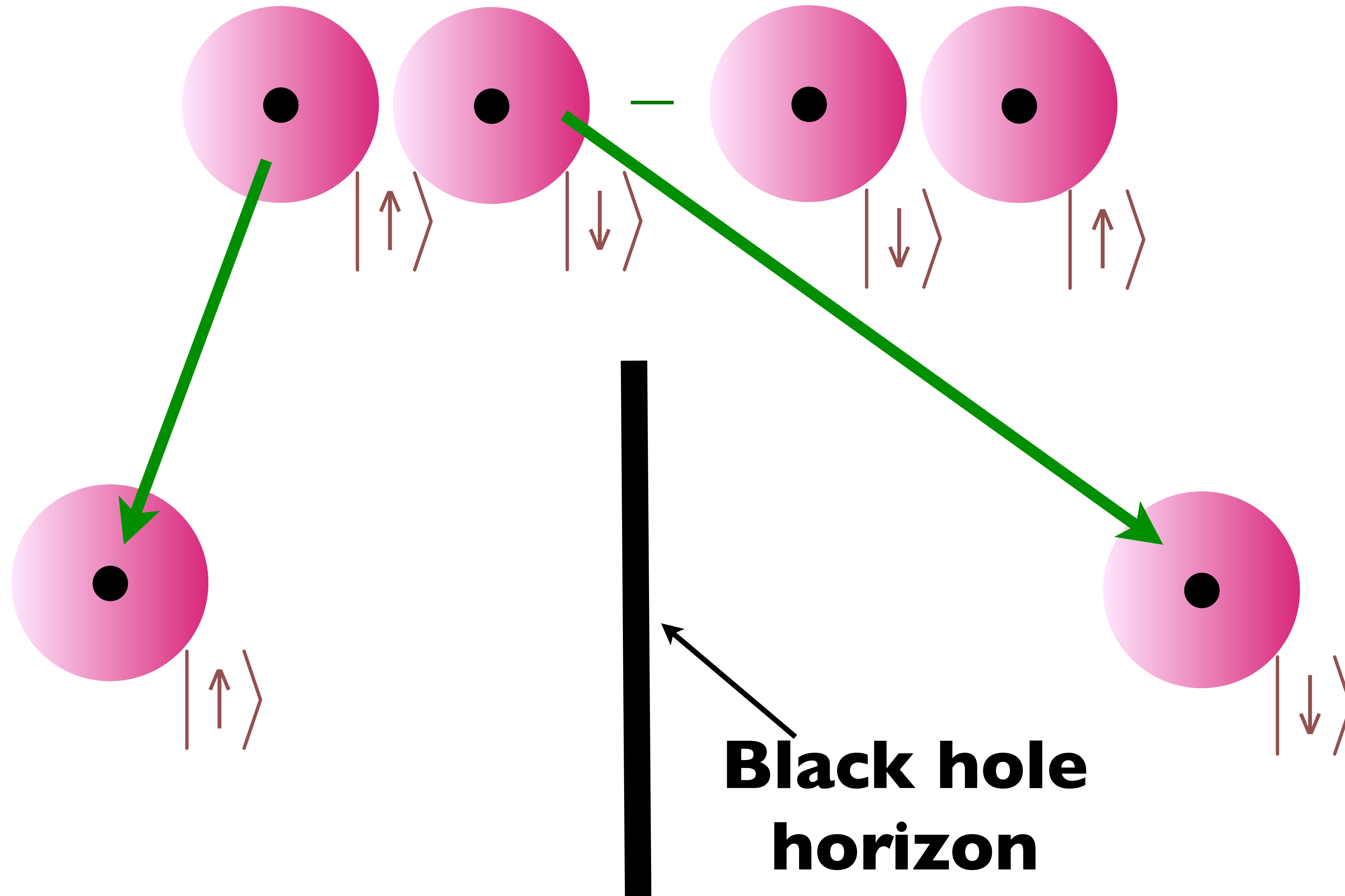
$G$  Newton's constant,  $c$  velocity of light,  $M$  mass of black hole  
For  $M = \text{earth's mass}$ ,  $R \approx 9 \text{ mm}$ !



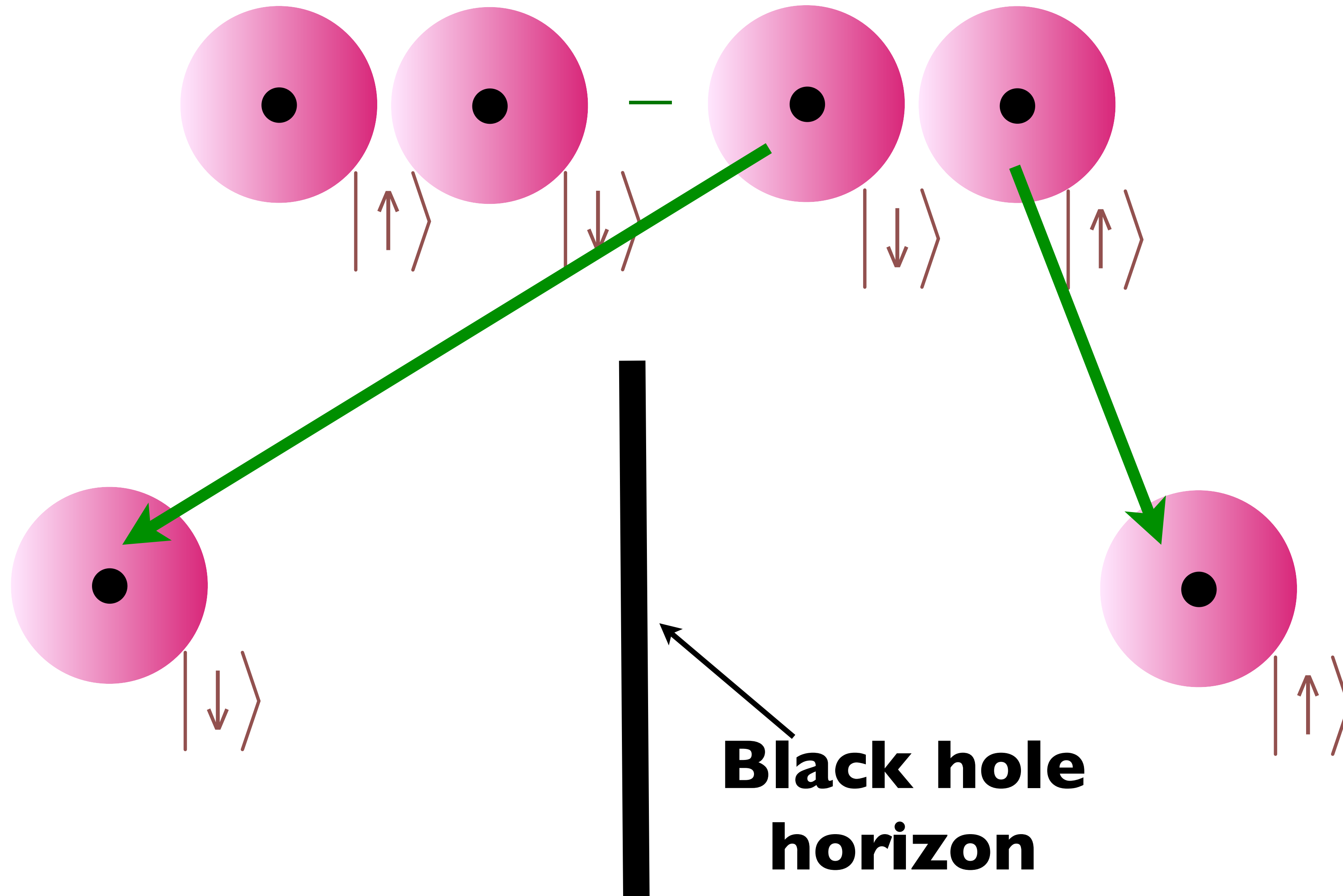
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon



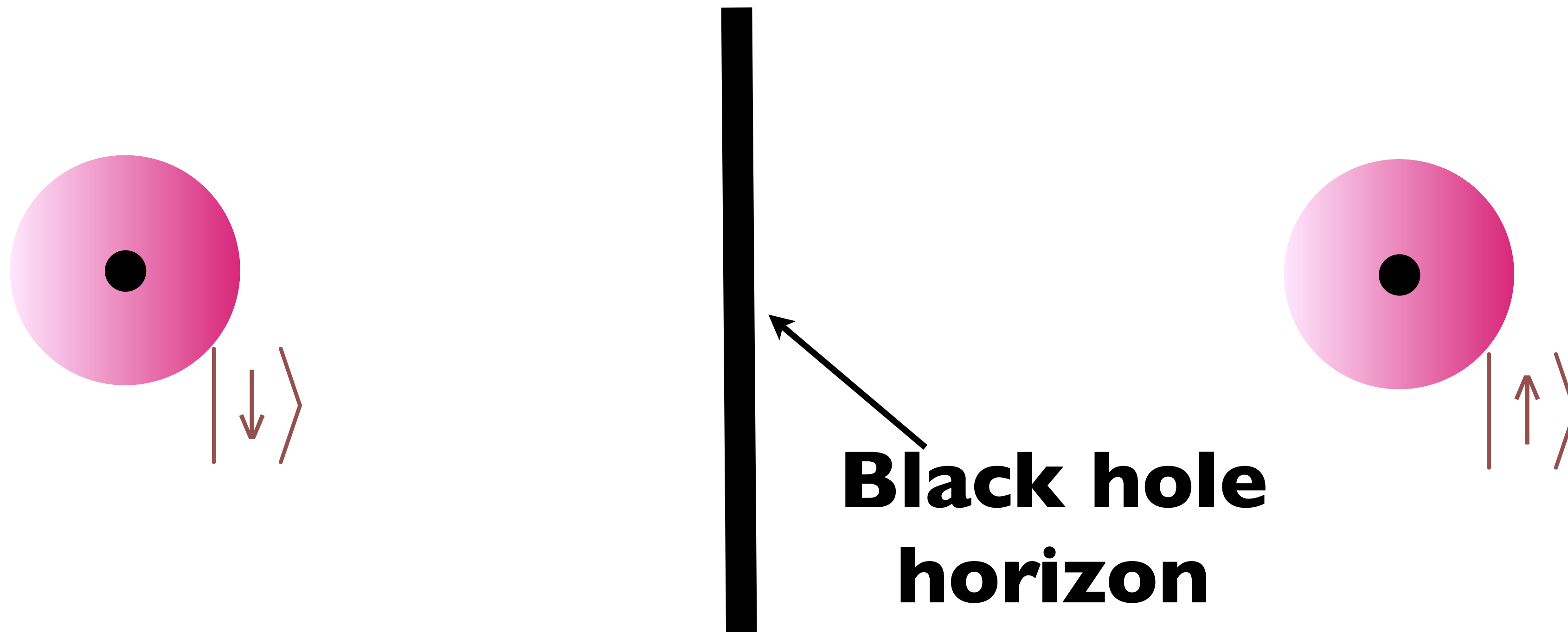
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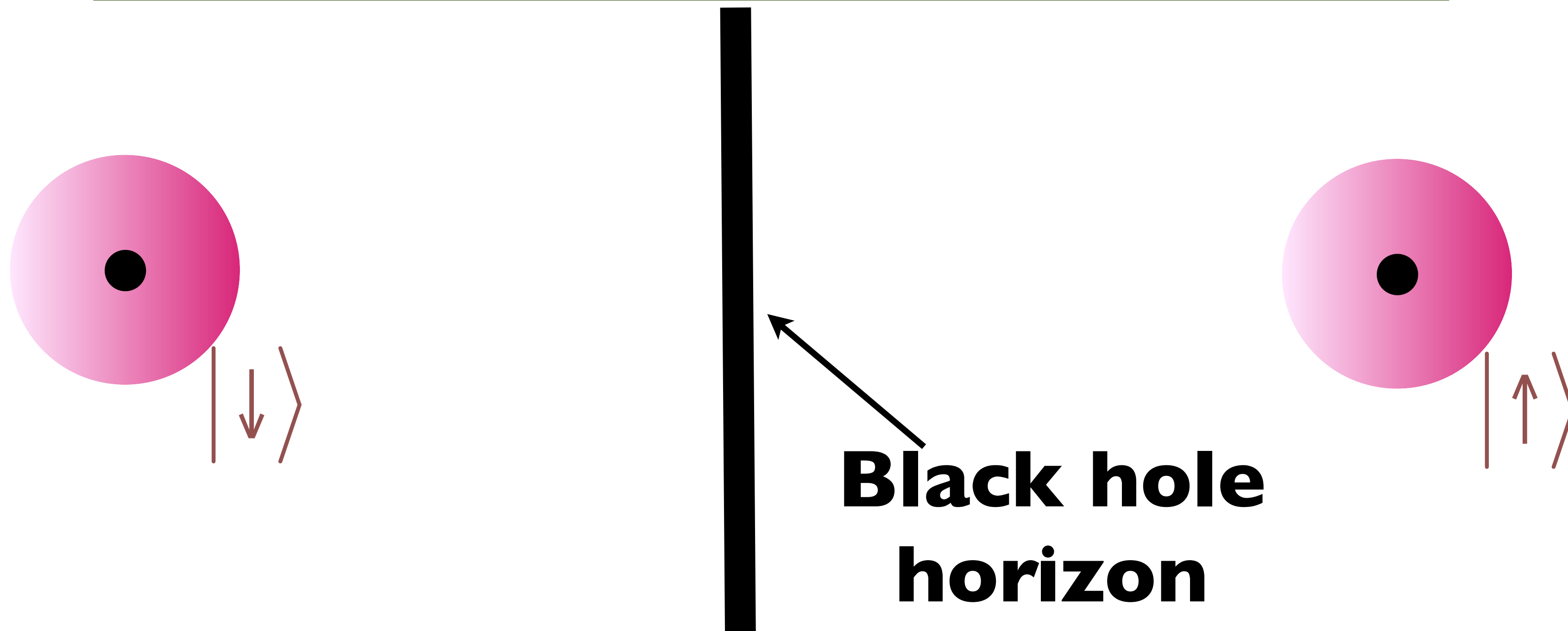
# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

There is quantum entanglement between the inside and outside of a black hole



# Quantum Entanglement across a black hole horizon

Hawking (1975) used other arguments to show that black hole horizons have a temperature  
(The entanglement reasoning: to an outside observer, the state of the electron inside the black hole cannot be known, and so the outside electron is in a random state.)



# Quantum Black holes

- Black holes have an entropy and a temperature,  $T_H$
- The entropy is proportional to their surface area.

J. D. Bekenstein, PRD **7**, 2333 (1973)  
S.W. Hawking, Nature **248**, 30 (1974)



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All many-body quantum systems  
(without quantum gravity)  
have an entropy  
proportional to their volume !?!?

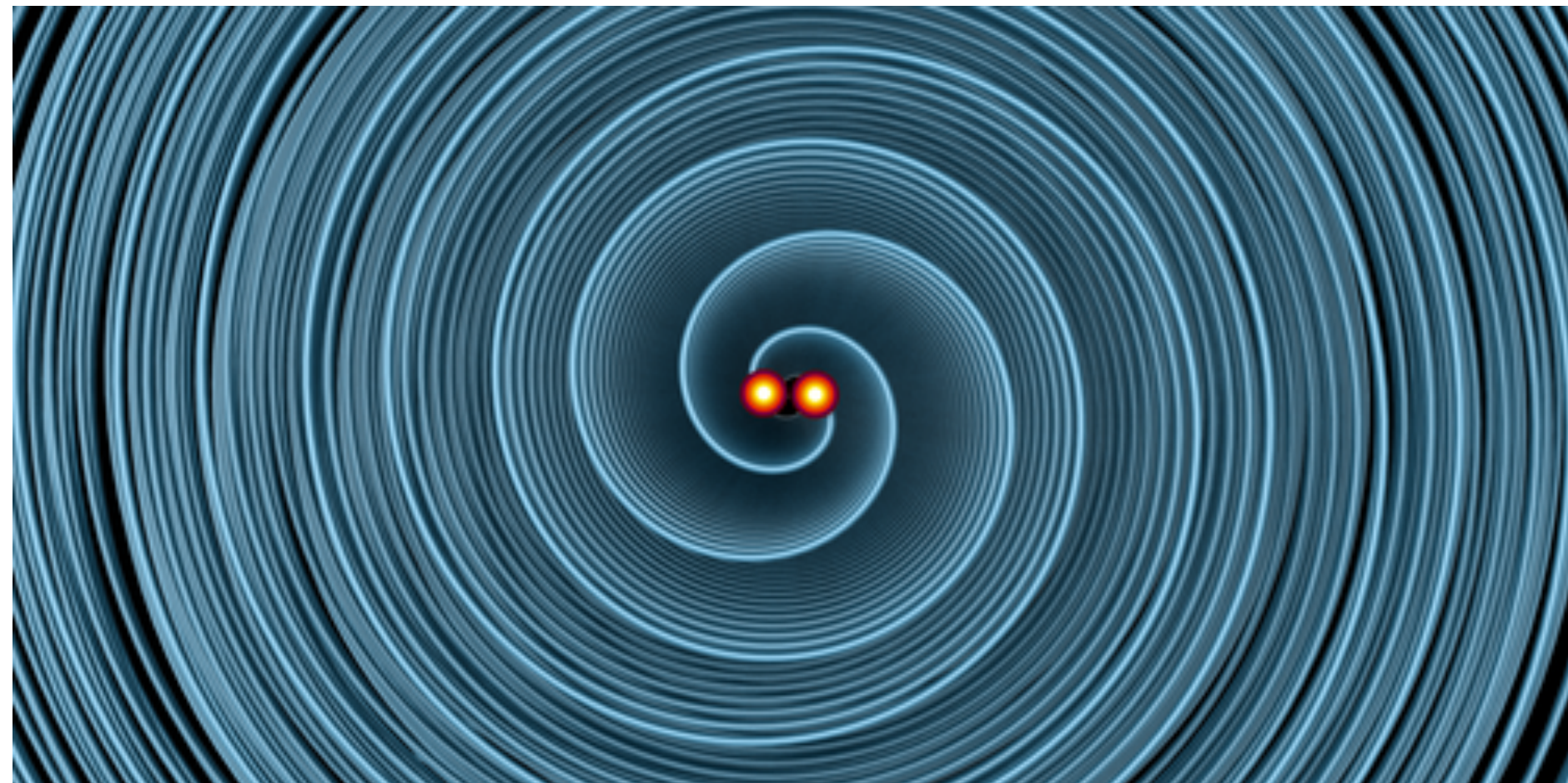
# Black Holes Obey Information-Emission Limits

## Limits

April 22, 2021 • *Physics* 14, s47 –Christopher Crockett

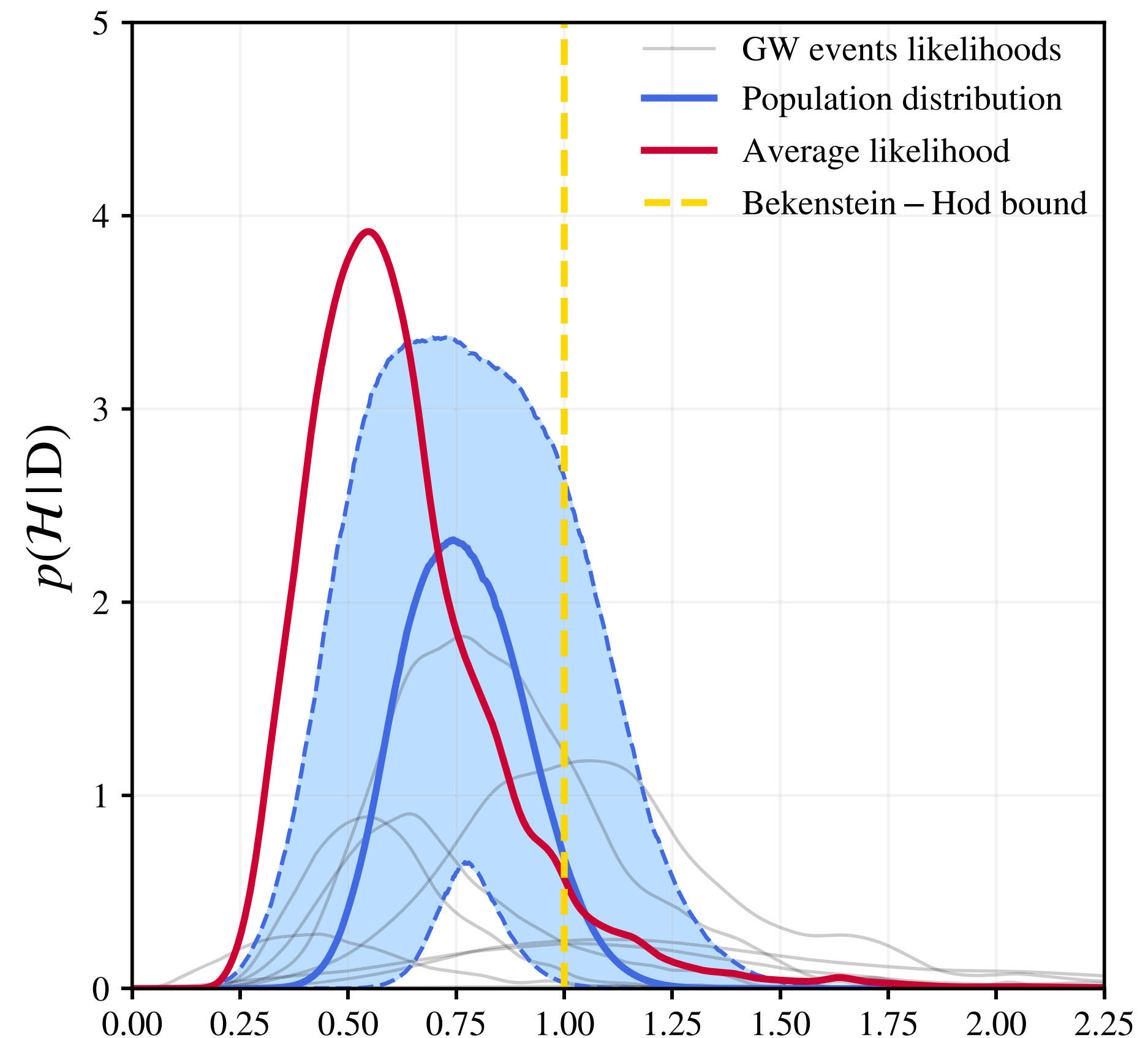
G. Carullo, D. Laghi, J. Veitch, W. Del Pozzo, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **126**, 161102 (2021)

An analysis of the gravitational waves emitted from black hole mergers confirms that black holes are the fastest known information dissipaters.



Gravity wave observations of 8 different black holes show a relaxation time

$$\tau \sim \frac{\hbar}{k_B T}$$



$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\hbar/\tau}{k_B T}$$



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Black holes are represented as a '*hologram*' by a quantum many-body system in one lower dimension.

*Duality*: a '*change of variables*' between the many-particle configurations and the metric of spacetime

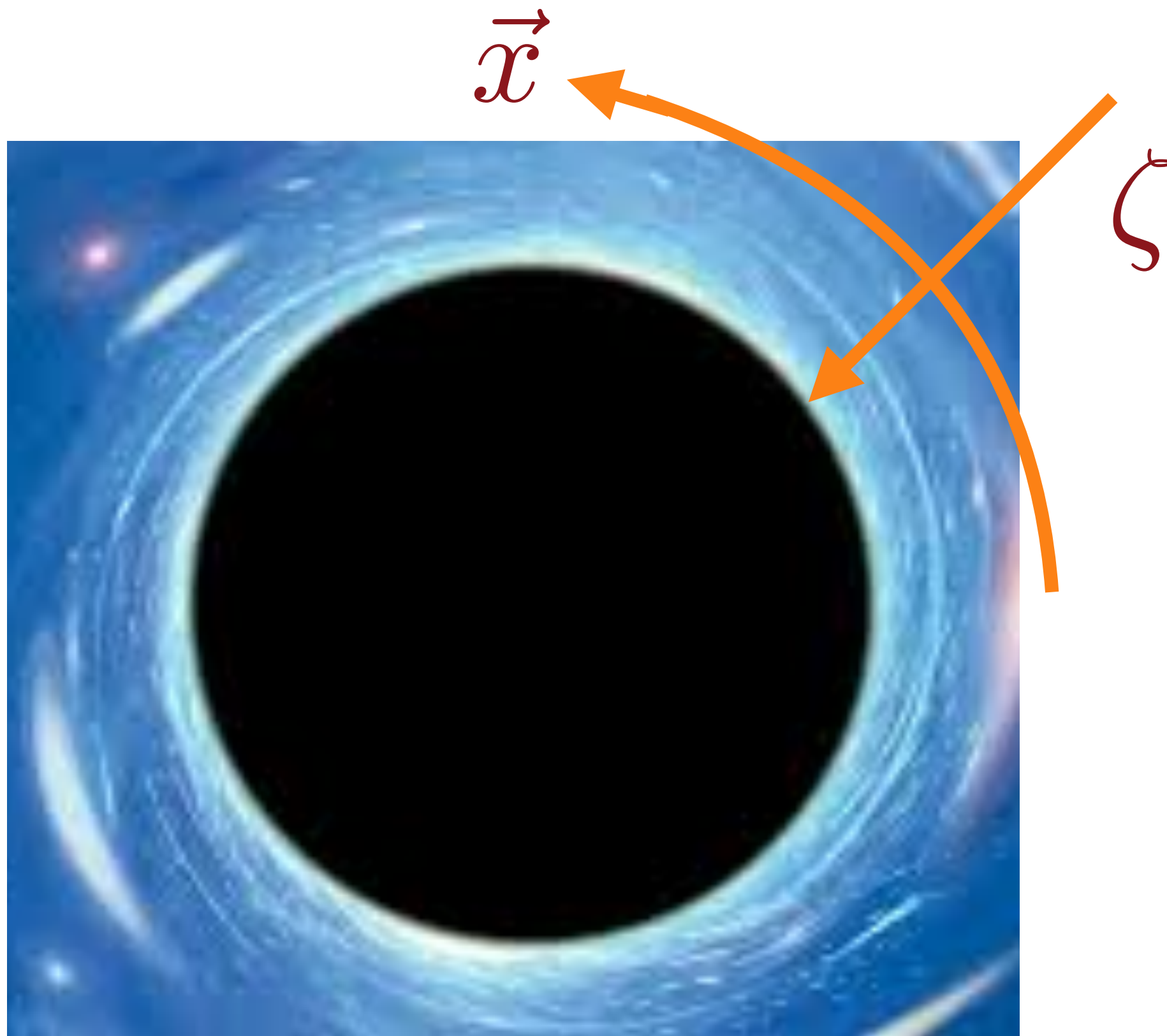
# Quantum Black holes

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The hologram of a black hole  
in  $d$  dimensions  
is a quantum many-particle system  
in  $(d - 1)$  dimensions  
which relaxes to thermal equilibrium  
in a Planckian time  $\sim \hbar/(k_B T)$



Maxwell's electromagnetism  
and Einstein's general relativity  
allow black hole solutions with a net charge

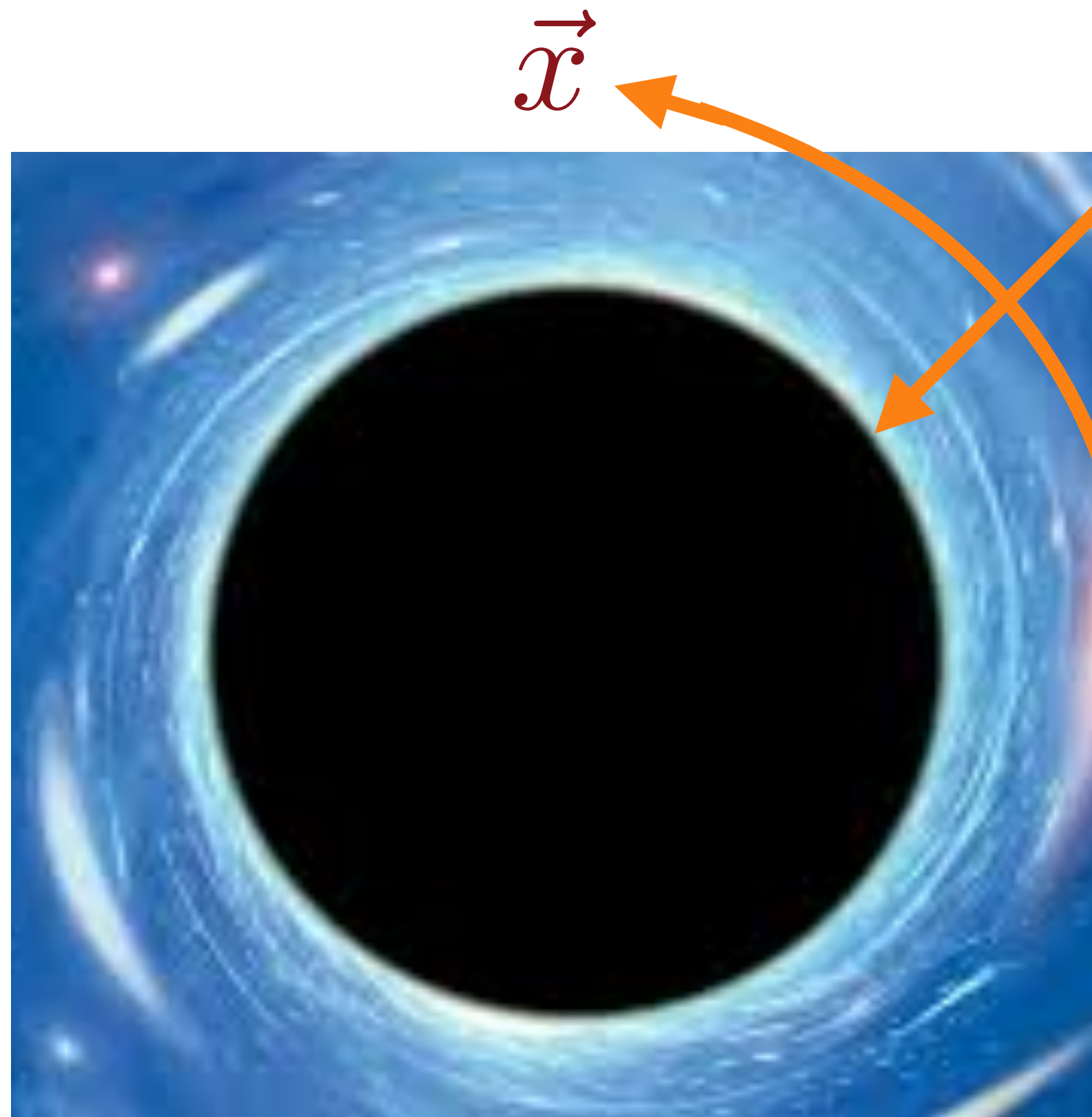


The near-horizon  
geometry of a  
charged black hole is  
one-dimensional ( $\zeta$ )





Maxwell's electromagnetism  
and Einstein's general relativity  
allow black hole solutions with a net charge



The hologram of the  
 $1+1$  dimensional  
gravity near the  
horizon of a charged  
black hole is the  $0+1$   
dimensional SYK  
model

## The Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model

The SYK model has a scale-invariant entanglement structure:  
i.e. electrons are entangled at all distance and time scales

It describes  
certain ***strange metals***

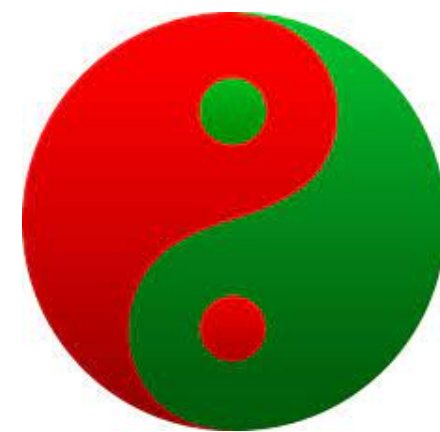
Sachdev, Ye (1993)

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i.e. electrons are entangled at all distance and time scales

In one set of variables, it describes certain ***strange metals***

Sachdev, Ye (1993)



In a ***dual*** set of variables it describes certain ***black holes***

Sachdev (2010), Kitaev (2015), Maldacena Stanford (2015)



Quantum theory of electrons,  
one at a time:  
metals and insulators

Quantum entanglement of  
electron pairs:  
superconductivity

Quantum entanglement of  
2, 3, 4, ..... $\infty$  electrons:  
strange metals

Complex quantum entanglement in black holes