Quantum effects in glasses

- Phase diagram: two universality classes
- MBL in glasses?
- On adiabatic quantum computing
- Short time dynamics: spectral function of mean field models
- Rotor model, Ising glass and Heisenberg glass
- Long range glasses in optical cavities localization vs glassiness

$$H_p = -\sum_{(i_1...i_p)} J_{i_1...i_p} \hat{\sigma}_{i_1}^z \cdots \hat{\sigma}_{i_p}^z - \Gamma \sum_{i=1}^N \hat{\sigma}_{i}^x$$

Adding a transverse field Γ

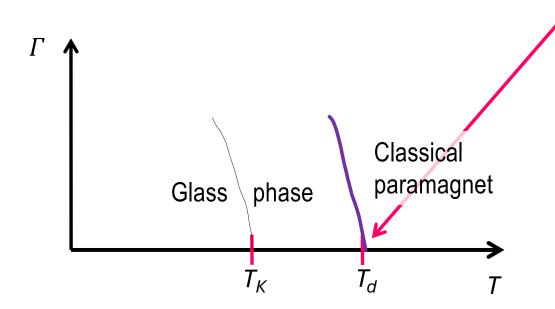
Phase diagram?

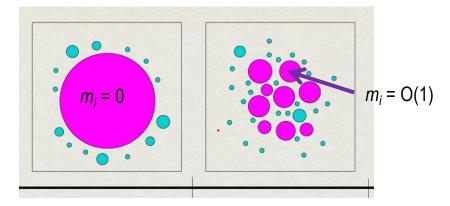
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Recall: At dynamical transition at T_d sudden jump in ordering: $m_i = O(1)$

$$p > 2, m \ll 1$$

Energy gain: $O(m^p)$ \ll Entropic cost: $O(m^2)$





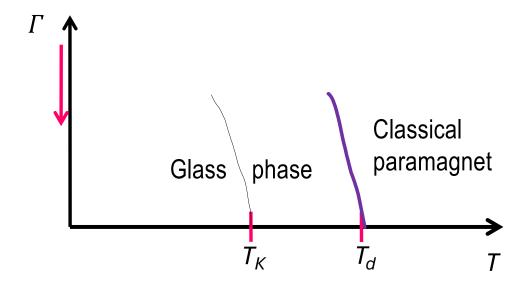
Breakup of paramagnet into ordered states

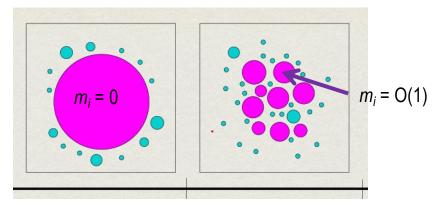
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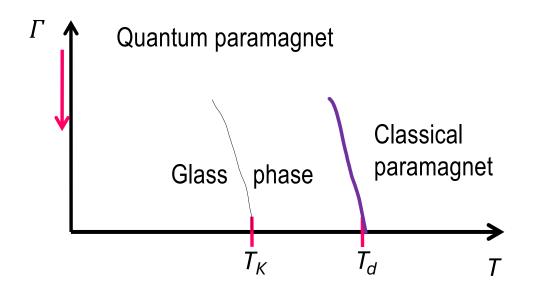
Can expectation value m_i emerge smoothly?

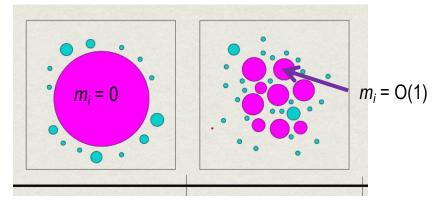
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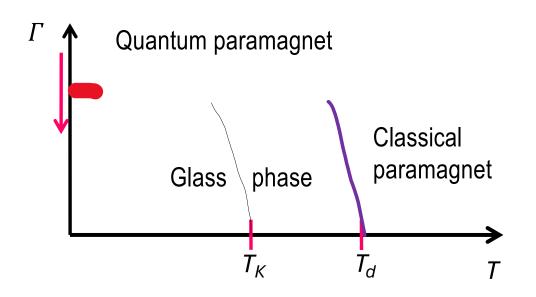
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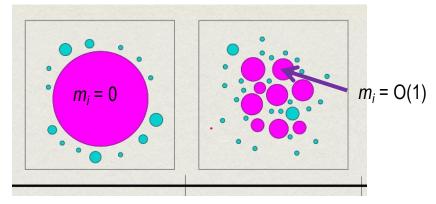
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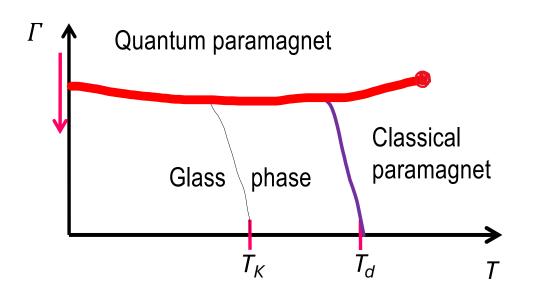
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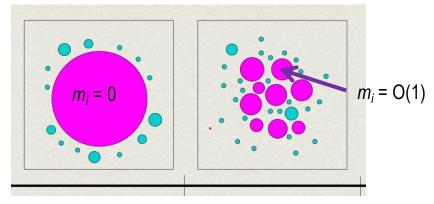
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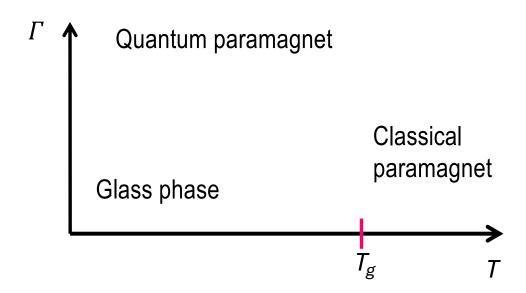
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Example: transverse field Ising glass

$$H = -\Gamma \sum_{i} s_i^x - \sum_{i,j} J_{i,j} s_i^z s_j^z$$

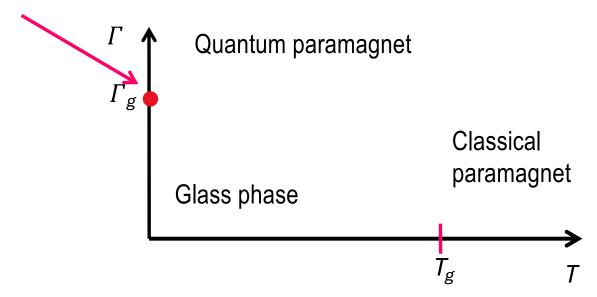


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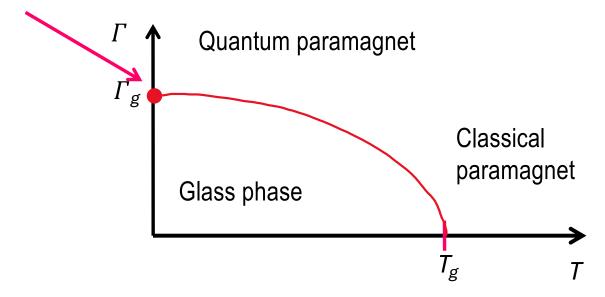


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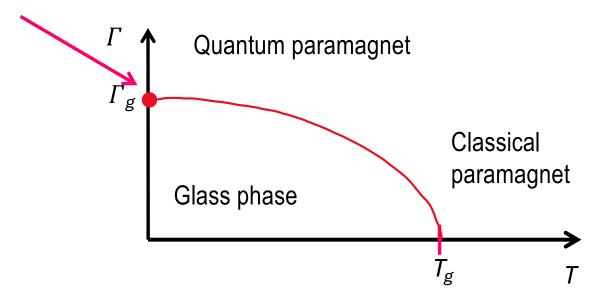


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Confirmed (see below):

- Rotor model
- SK model

Many-body localization in states?



Many-body localization in states?

Within a state:

No reason for non-ergodic dynamics *among* the configurations forming a state (dimension is high, connectivity is large, etc)

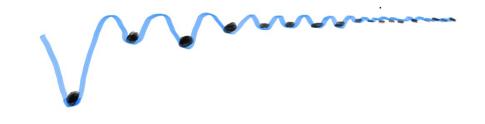


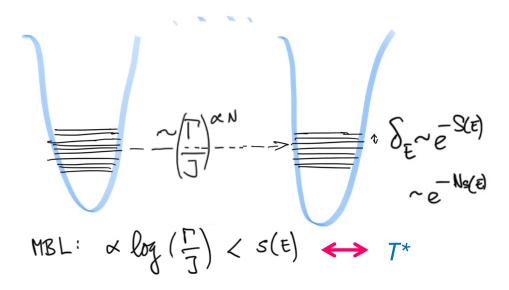
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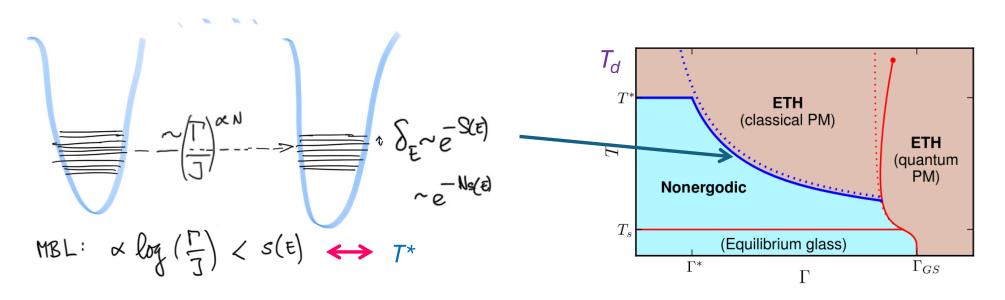


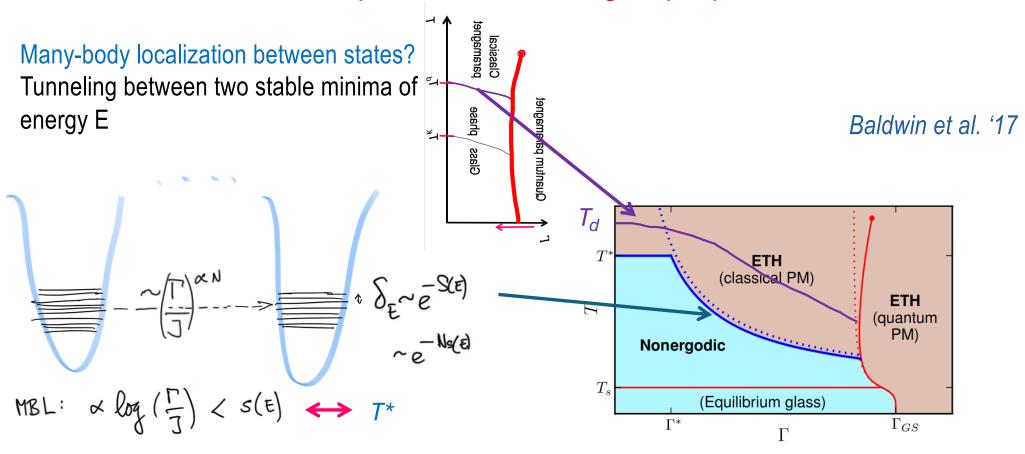


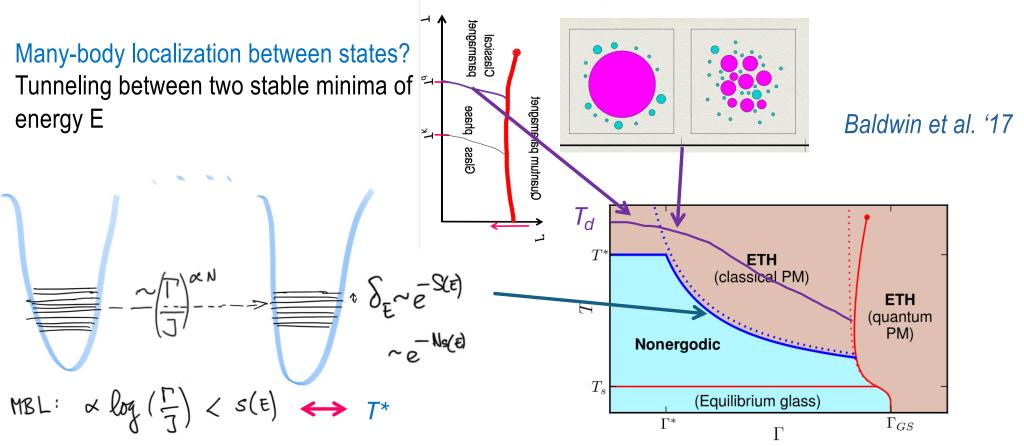
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Note: this transition constitutes an energy-dependent mobility edge.

Most likely this only exists in mean field models without spatial structure!

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If you can solve it in polynomial time, you can solve all other NP-hard problems in polynomial time.

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Quantum or thermal annealing?

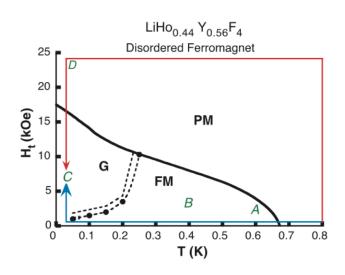
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Quantum Annealing of a Disordered Magnet

J. Brooke, D. Bitko, T. F. Rosenbaum, * G. Aeppli



If spin glasses are NP-complete:
Use classical «analogue computer» to solve complex problems:

- Translate your complex problem into a spin glass and build the glass with all its couplings
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The glass gets trapped in local minima, separated by extensive barriers from the ground state → exponential relaxation times

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«Adiabatic algorithm» Kadowaki and Nishimori, 1998

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$$h_x \to h_x + \delta h_x$$

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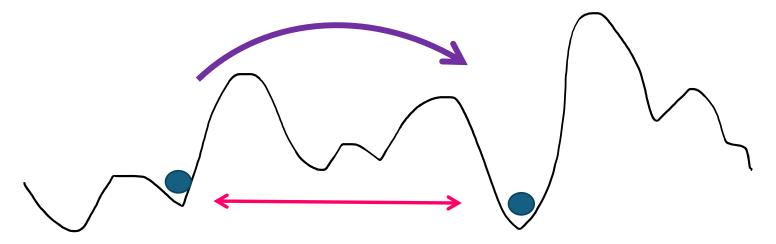
Problem: As bottoms of low states cross the gap becomes exponentially small (nearly no level repulsion)!

How good is this idea?

Conclusion

In the glass phase: High barriers between minima.

Thermal activation and quantum tunneling are both exponentially slow.



Short time quantum dynamics

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Approaches:

Landscape approach: Self-consistent dynamical mean field equations for

$$m_i$$

$$\chi_i(au) = \langle S_i(au'+ au) S_i(au')
angle - m_i^2$$
 G. Biroli, L. Cugliandolo '02

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• Path integral over imaginary time for $S_{i,a}(0 \le \tau \le \beta)$ e.g. A. Bray, M. Moore '80's Replica approach + disorder average, saddle point method

Saddle point properties in quantum glasses

Order parameter $Q_{ab}(\tau, \tau') = \overline{\langle S_a(\tau) S_b(\tau') \rangle} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\cdot} \overline{\langle S_{ia}(\tau) S_{ib}(\tau') \rangle}$

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Different replica: before disorder average the replica are uncoupled

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Different replica: before disorder average the replica are uncoupled

$$Q_{ab}(\tau, \tau') = \overline{\langle S_a(\tau) \rangle \langle S_b(\tau') \rangle} = \overline{\langle S_a \rangle \langle S_b \rangle} = Q_{ab}$$

Replica off-diagonal is time-independent!

• Short time quantum dynamics: encoded in $Q_{aa}(au- au')$

$$Q_{aa}(\tau-\tau')$$

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[see later:

Analytic continuation to real time yields dynamic susceptibility and the spectral function = information on collective excitations]

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- Quantum fluctuations reduce the value of q_{EA} and eventually melt the glass (at Γ_c)
- Long time dynamics (slow floating over the landscape; aging) occurs well after quantum coherence is lost → identical to classical dynamics
- Replica symmetry breaking structure Q_{ab} and P(q) and landscape : mostly insensitive to quantum fluctuations (they just reduce the amplitude of possible q's).

The simplest quantum 'spin' glass: Mean field rotor model Ye, Sachdev, Read '93

Rigid rods, described by *M*-component unit vectors \hat{n}_i



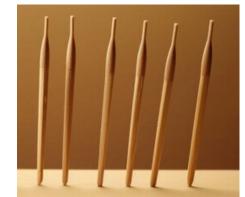
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$$\hat{n}_i^2 = 1$$
 Factors of \emph{M} and \emph{N} chosen such that $\emph{H} \sim \emph{O(MN)}$



$$[n_{i\mu}, n_{j\nu}] = 0$$

Commuting components - unlike quantum spins

$$P(J_{ij}) \sim \exp(-J_{ij}^2/(2J^2))$$

Gaussian all-to-all couplings

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$$[n_{i\mu}, n_{j\nu}] = 0$$

$$L_{i\mu\nu} = -i \left(n_{i\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial n_{i\nu}} - n_{i\nu} \frac{\partial}{\partial n_{i\mu}} \right)$$

$$1 < \mu < \nu < M$$

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Commuting components - unlike quantum spins

Generators of rotations in $\mu\nu$ -plane of rotor ig: generates quantum fluctuations

Gaussian all-to-all couplings

Path integral representation in Matsubara time.

Replicate *n* times, disorder average.

Take a saddle point, assuming O(M) invariance of saddle-point

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i} \langle \hat{n}_{i\alpha}^{a}(\tau) \hat{n}_{i\beta}^{b}(\tau') \rangle = Q_{\alpha\beta}^{ab}(\tau, \tau')$$
$$= \frac{\delta_{\alpha\beta}}{M} Q^{ab}(\tau - \tau')$$

$$Z_0 = \int \mathcal{D}\hat{n}^a(\tau)\delta\left(\hat{n}^{a2}(\tau) - 1\right)\exp\left(-\frac{M}{2g}\int_0^\beta d\tau (\partial_\tau \hat{n}^a)^2 + \frac{MJ^2}{2}\int_0^\beta d\tau d\tau' Q^{ab}(\tau - \tau')\hat{n}^a(\tau) \cdot \hat{n}^b(\tau')\right)$$

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$$Q(i\omega_n) = g\left(\omega_n^2 + \lambda - gJ^2Q(i\omega_n)\right)^{-1}$$

RHS: Inverse of the replica (n x n) matrix!

Paramagnetic phase: $Q^{a \neq b} = 0$

Solve quadratic equation for
$$Q^{aa}(i\omega)$$
: $Q^{aa}(\omega=i\omega_n)=\frac{\omega_n^2+\lambda-\sqrt{(\omega_n^2+\lambda)^2-(2gJ)^2}}{2gJ^2}$

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Insert a sum over eigenstates ψ_m . Take imaginary part and obtain the spectral function (here at T = 0)

$$\operatorname{Im}[\chi(\omega)] \equiv \chi''(\omega) = \frac{\pi}{N} \sum_{i} \sum_{m} |\langle \psi_m | \hat{n}_i^{\alpha} | \psi_0 \rangle|^2 \left[\delta(\omega - E_m + E_0) - \delta(\omega + E_m - E_0) \right] = \pi \rho(\omega),$$

Paramagnetic phase: $Q^{a \neq b} = 0$

Solve quadratic equation for
$$Q^{\rm aa}(i\omega)$$
: $Q^{aa}(\omega=i\omega_n)=\frac{\omega_n^2+\lambda-\sqrt{(\omega_n^2+\lambda)^2-(2gJ)^2}}{2gJ^2}$

Analytically continue $Q^{aa}(i\omega_n)=\chi(i\omega_n)$ to real frequencies $\omega_n\to\omega/i$ to obtain $\chi(\omega)$

$$\chi(\omega) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{\alpha=1}^{M} \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \chi_{ii}^{\alpha\alpha}(t) e^{i(\omega+i\eta)t}$$

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Information about strength and energy of excitations created by acting with \hat{n}_i^{lpha} !

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$$\chi''(\omega) = \operatorname{sgn}(\omega) \frac{\left[(\omega^2 - \lambda + 2Jg)(\lambda + 2Jg - \omega^2) \right]^{1/2}}{2J^2g}$$

for
$$\lambda - 2Jg < \omega^2 < \lambda + 2Jg$$

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Determine $\lambda(g,T)$ from equal time constraint $\hat{n}^{a2}=1$ \longleftrightarrow $\int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{\pi} \chi''(\omega) \coth(\beta\omega/2)=1$

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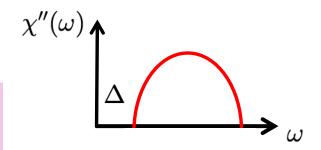
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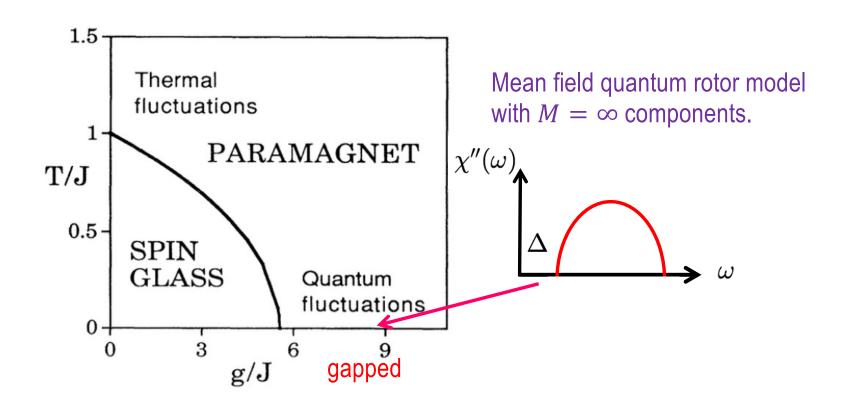
Spectral gap:

$$\Delta = \sqrt{\lambda - 2Jg} \ge 0$$

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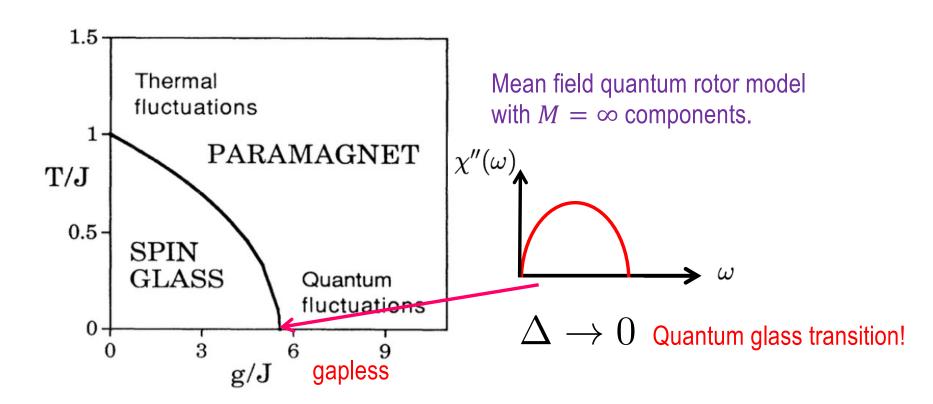
Phase diagram

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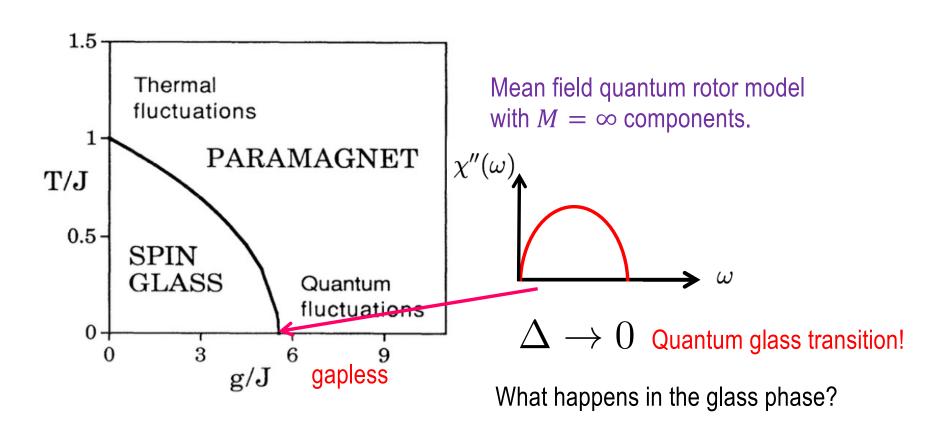
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Phase diagram

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Glass phase: $Q^{a \neq b} = q_{EA}$

Find: off-diagonal is constant (replica symmetric, no RSB) (peculiarity of large M limit – similar to p = 2 spherical spins)

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but now with different λ !

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$$Q^{ab} = A \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} + B \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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General replica matrix algebra: $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix}^2 = n \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \to 0$

$$f(Q) = f(A) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} + f'(A)B \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} + O(n)$$

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$$\to f(Q_{\text{reg},0}) = f'(Q_{\text{reg},0}) = 0$$

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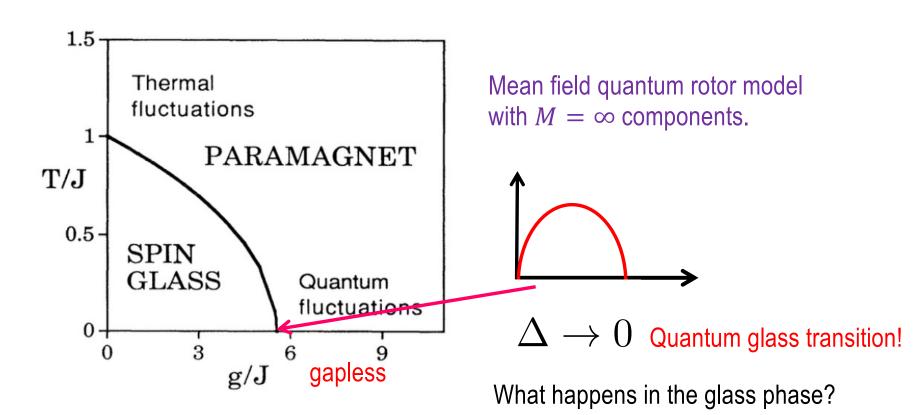
$$f(Q_0) \equiv Q_0(\lambda - gJ^2Q_0) - g = 0$$

$$Q_{\mathrm{reg},0} \text{ is a double zero of } \mathit{f}(Q_0) \ (\rightarrow \text{ critical!})$$

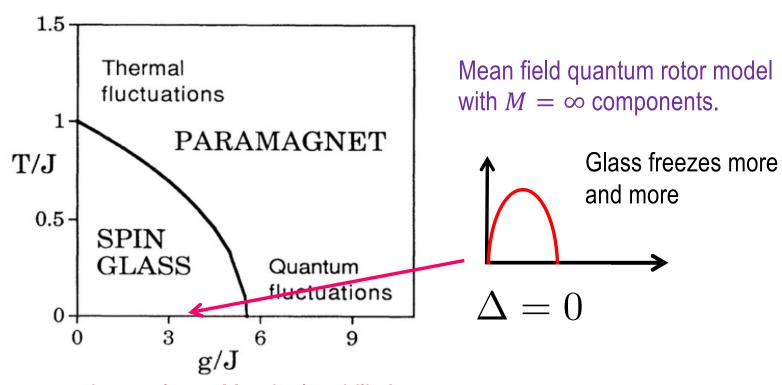
$$\to \mathit{f}(Q_{\mathrm{reg},0}) = \mathit{f}'(Q_{\mathrm{reg},0}) = 0 \qquad \to Q_{\mathrm{reg}}(\omega = 0^+) \text{ immediately has imaginary part}$$

→ finite spectral weight → gapless state

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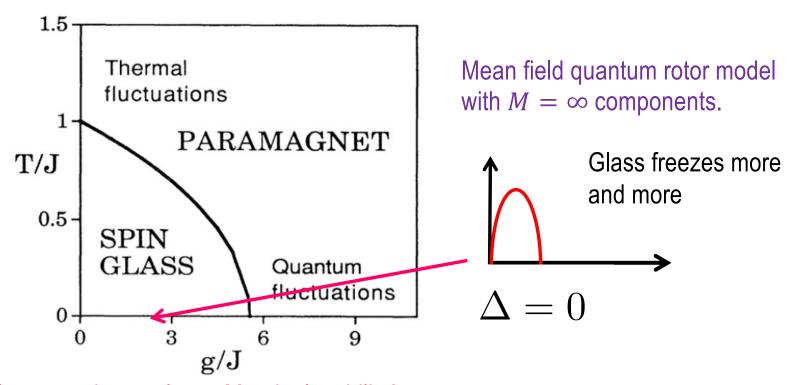


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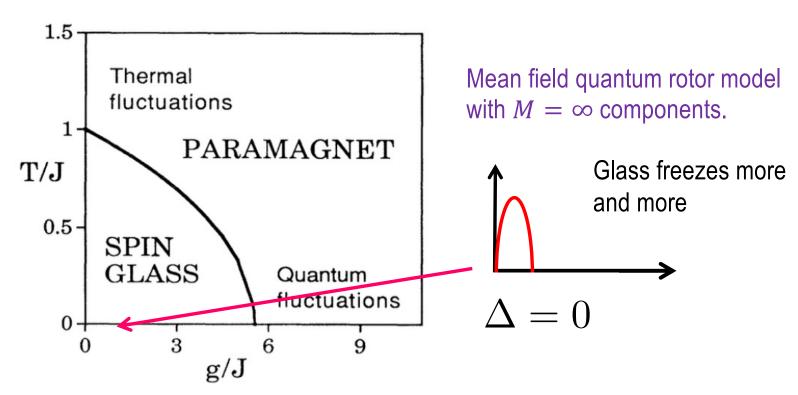
Glass remains gapless: Marginal stability!

J. Ye, S. Sachdev, and N. Read, PRL 1993



Glass remains gapless: Marginal stability!

J. Ye, S. Sachdev, and N. Read, PRL 1993



Glass remains gapless: Reflects marginal stability of replica saddle point and landscape.

Solved mean field models:

Transverse field Ising glass (SK model)

$$H_{\text{Ising}} = -\Gamma \sum_{i} s_i^x + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} s_i^z s_j^z$$



Heisenberg glass:

$$H_{\rm Hb} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

Difference:

Ising: all interaction terms commute

Heisenberg: interactions do not commute

How much does this matter?

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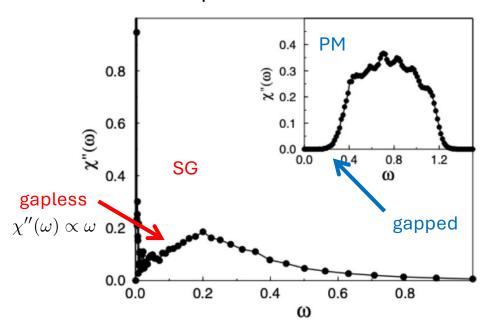
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Numerics suggested a significant difference

TFSK model, N = 17 (exact diagonalization)

Spectral function at T = 0



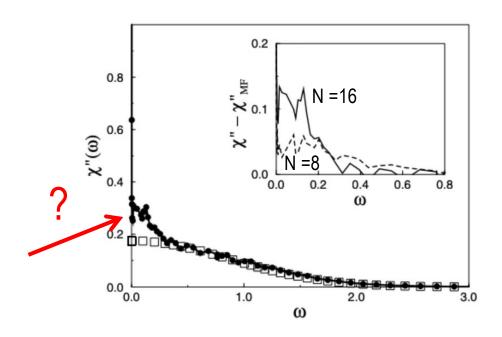
$$\chi''(\omega) \propto \omega/J^2$$

FIG. 1. The dynamical response $\chi''(\omega)$ of the RITF model at $\Gamma = 0.2$ for N = 17. The spectral function shows a $\delta(\omega)$ part plus a regular contribution at finite frequencies with a maximum at $\omega \approx \Gamma$. Inset: gapped $\chi''(\omega)$ in the paramagnetic phase at $\Gamma = 0.8 > \Gamma_c$.

L. Arrachea and M. J. Rozenberg '01

Heisenberg model, N = 16 (exact diagonalization)

Spectral function at T = 0

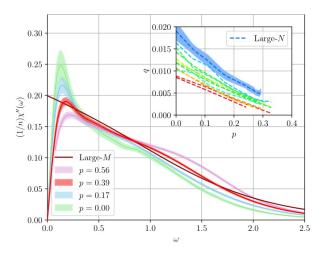


L. Arrachea and M. J. Rozenberg '01

$$\chi''(\omega) \propto {\rm sign}(\omega)$$
 ?? as in SYK ??

Unclear! Finite-size broadened $\delta(\omega)$ blurs low frequency behavior

$$H = rac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i
eq j=1}^{N} t_{ij} P c_{ilpha}^{\dagger} c_{jlpha} P + rac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i < j=1}^{N} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$



Shackleton, Wietek, Georges, Sachdev '21

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• Heisenberg glass:

How much does this matter?

Numerics suggested a significant difference but the truth is different!

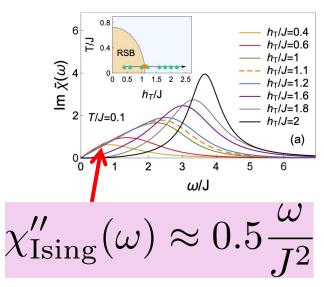
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Transverse field Ising glass (SK model)

Same universality class as rotors in the $M \to 1$ limit But: full continuous RSB:

Many states, all marginal, gapless

A. Andreanov, MM '11
A. Kiss, G.Zarand, I. Lovas, '24



Solved mean field models:

Heisenberg glass: - SU(M >> 1) "spins" (Sachdev,Ye '93; Parcollet Georges '00)
 - SU(2) spins (Kavokine, MM, Parcollet Georges, '24)

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{NM}} \sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$
 Solvability in the limit $M \to \infty$!

SY-pre-K model(s)

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Different representations of SU(M) = different models / loc Hilbert space

Schwinger bosons

$$\leftrightarrow$$

$$S_{\alpha\beta} = f_{\alpha}^{\dagger} f_{\beta}$$

+ Constraint:

$$\Sigma_{\alpha}b_{\alpha}^{\dagger}b_{\alpha}=SM \ (0 \leq S)$$

$$S_{\alpha\beta} = b_{\alpha}^{\dagger} b_{\beta} - S \delta_{\alpha\beta} \qquad \longleftrightarrow \qquad S_{\alpha\beta} = f_{\alpha}^{\dagger} f_{\beta}$$

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Abrikosov fermions

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$$\leftrightarrow$$

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High T: Famous SY(-K) physics (partons are no quasiparticles) $\chi''(\omega) \propto {
m sign}(\omega)$

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Low T: Bosons condense discontinuously, like p=4 spins (structural-glass like), in threshold states: $\chi''(\omega) \propto \omega/J^2$

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Low T: Fermions require finite M to order: continuous spin-glass transition $T_g \sim \exp[-c\sqrt{M}]$ Full RSB - but again: $\chi''(\omega) \propto \omega/J^2$

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Heisenberg glass: - SU(M >> 1) "spins" (Sachdev,Ye '93; Parcollet Georges '00)

- SU(2) spins (Kavokine, MM, Parcollet Georges, '24)

$$\mathcal{H} = -\sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

RSB solution + continuous time QMC

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RSB solution + continuous time QMC

Again:

$$\chi''_{\mathrm{Hb}}(\omega) \approx 3.5 \frac{\omega}{J^2}$$

Solved mean field models:

Heisenberg glass: - SU(M >> 1) "spins" (Sachdev,Ye '93; Parcollet Georges '00)
 - SU(2) spins (Kavokine, MM, Parcollet Georges, '24)

$$\mathcal{H} = -\sum_{i < j} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j$$

RSB solution + continuous time QMC

Again:

$$\chi''_{
m Hb}(\omega) \approx 3.5 \frac{\omega}{J^2} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \chi''_{
m Ising}(\omega) \approx 0.5 \frac{\omega}{J^2}$$

Heisenberg glasses have lower T_c and more soft excitation spectrum than Ising systems with the same coupling. But the spectral density has the same linear frequency scaling.

Interpretation?

A. Andreanov, MM '11 L. Cugliandolo, MM '23 (Review on Quantum glasses)

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Physical interpretation: [applies to ALL insulating meanfield glasses]

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Marginally stable energy landscape $G(\{m_i\})$ Minima: gapless semicircular spectrum of Hessian $\mathcal{H}_{ij}=\frac{\delta^2 G}{\delta m_i \delta m_j}$ $\rho(\lambda) \sim \frac{\sqrt{\lambda \Gamma}}{J^2}$

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-> Collective harmonic oscillators of mass $M\sim \Gamma^{-1}$ $\omega=\sqrt{\lambda/M}$ $\to \rho(\omega)\sim \frac{\omega^2}{\Gamma I^2}$

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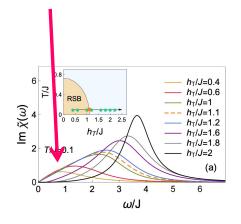
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$$\rightarrow \rho(\omega) \sim \frac{\omega^2}{\Gamma J^2}$$
 $\langle x_\omega^2 \rangle = (M\omega)^{-1}$

Gapless spectral function

$$\chi''(\omega) \sim x_\omega^2 \rho(\omega) \sim rac{Z}{\omega} rac{\omega^2}{Z^2} \sim rac{\omega}{J^2}$$
 Independent of transverse field $\Gamma!$

$$M \sim \Gamma^{-1} \quad \omega = \sqrt{\lambda/M}$$

$$\langle x_{\omega}^2 \rangle = (M\omega)^{-1}$$

Non-trivial check: Independent of

Quantum glasses beyond mean field?

L. Vitteriti, ..., G. Carleo, A. Scardicchio, arXiv:2507.05073

Promising prospect: Numerics on Heisenberg glass (spin 1/2) in 2d

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Neural network variational wavefunctions that are adapted to arbitrary disorder

→ Efficient numerics

Results:

- There **is** a glass at T = 0, despite strong quantum fluctuations: Random ordering of spins
- Large S analysis allows to study low frequency spectrum and spatial mode properties (localization of spin waves)

Back to mean field: Metallic glasses

Is there any escape from the super-universal spectral function? $~\chi^{\prime\prime}(\omega)\propto\omega/J^2$

Back to mean field: Metallic glasses

Is there any escape from the super-universal spectral function? $\chi''(\omega) \propto \omega/J^2$

Yes: If the spins interact with a gapless bath (e.g. conduction electrons)

- → The collective oscillators (landscape normal modes) are overdamped
- → yet slower modes

$$ightarrow$$
 more spectral weight at low frequency, $~\chi^{\prime\prime}(\omega)\propto\omega^{lpha}~~lpha=0.5$

Sengupta, Georges; Read, Sachdev;

or even
$$lpha=0$$

Glass in a doped Mott insulator

Kavokine et al., Sachdev et al

Interplay of glassiness and localization



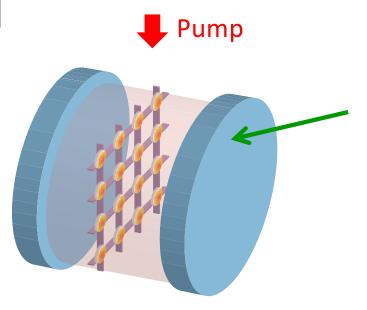
Long range frustrated quantum glasses?

Infinite range quantum glasses = a theorists' toy fantasy?



MM, P. Strack, S. Sachdev '12

Lattice fermions in laser cavity



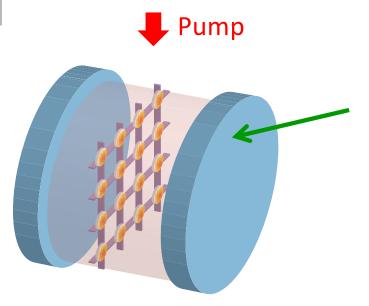
Three building blocks:

- 1) Fermionic atoms in optical lattice
- 2) Laser cavity with multiple photon modes
- 3) Classical pump laser, driving transitions between fermion ground and excited state (sufficiently off resonance)



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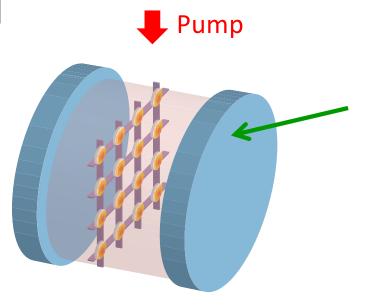
Integrating out pump and cavity photons:

$$\longrightarrow H\left[c^{\dagger},c\right] = -t\sum_{\langle i,j\rangle} \left(c_{i}^{\dagger}c_{j} + h.c.\right) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\varepsilon_{i} - \mu\right)n_{i} - \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i,j=1}^{N} V_{ij}n_{i}n_{j}$$



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Random couplings

Integrating out pump and cavity photons:

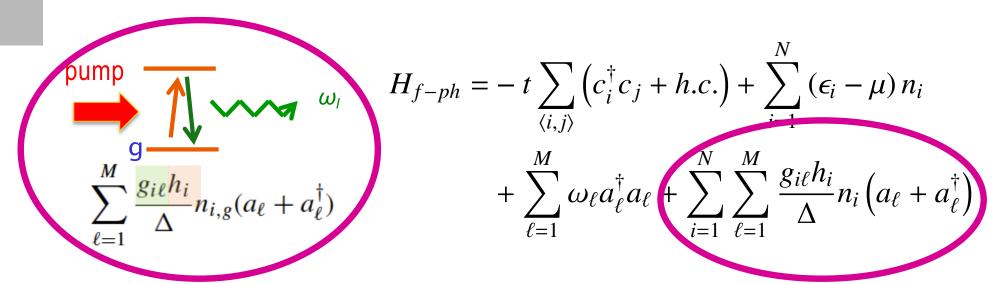
$$V_{ij}(\Omega) = 2 \sum_{\ell=1}^{M} \frac{g_{i\ell}g_{j\ell}h_ih_j}{\Delta^2} \frac{\omega_{\ell}}{\Omega^2 + \omega_{\ell}^2}$$

$$\longrightarrow H\left[c^{\dagger},c\right] = -t\sum_{\langle i,j\rangle} \left(c_{i}^{\dagger}c_{j} + h.c.\right) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\varepsilon_{i} - \mu\right)n_{i} - \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i,j=1}^{N} V_{ij}n_{i}n_{j}$$



MM, P. Strack, S. Sachdev '12

Pumped optical cavities create mean field quantum Fermi glasses





MM, P. Strack, S. Sachdev '12

Pumped optical cavities create mean field quantum Fermi glasses

$$\mu_{f-ph} = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \left(c_i^{\dagger} c_j + h.c. \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\epsilon_i - \mu) n_i$$

$$+ \sum_{\ell=1}^{M} \omega_{\ell} a_{\ell}^{\dagger} a_{\ell} + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{\ell=1}^{M} \frac{g_{i\ell} h_i}{\Delta} n_i \left(a_{\ell} + a_{\ell}^{\dagger} \right)$$

Integrating out the cavity photons:

$$H\left[c^{\dagger},c\right] = -t\sum_{\langle i,j\rangle} \left(c_{i}^{\dagger}c_{j} + h.c.\right) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\varepsilon_{i} - \mu\right)n_{i} - \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i,j=1}^{N} V_{ij}n_{i}n_{j}$$

Long range, frustrated interactions + short range hopping!

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MM, P. Strack, S. Sachdev '12

Basic mechanisms:

can be made weak

$$H\left[c^{\dagger},c\right] = -t\sum_{\langle i,j\rangle} \left(c_{i}^{\dagger}c_{j} + h.c.\right) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\varepsilon_{i} - \mu\right)n_{i} - \frac{1}{2}\sum_{i,j=1}^{N} V_{ij}n_{i}n_{j}$$



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Short range hopping
Long range interaction



MM, P. Strack, S. Sachdev '12

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Glassy density order → effective, selfgenerated disorder potential → possibly Anderson localization of single fermion modes



MM, P. Strack, S. Sachdev '12

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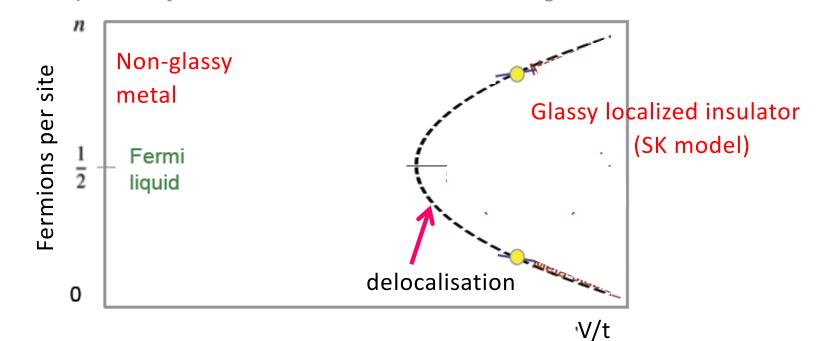
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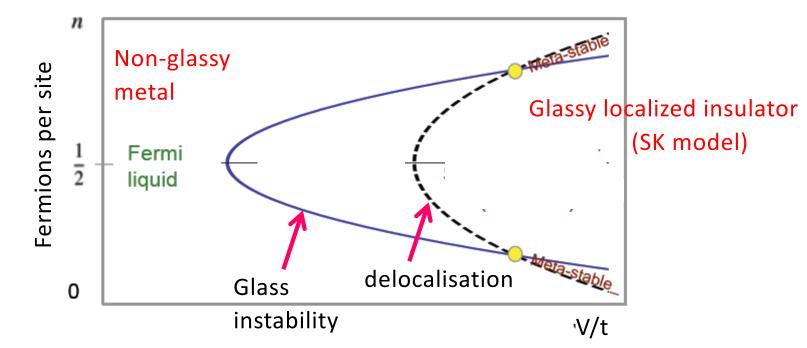
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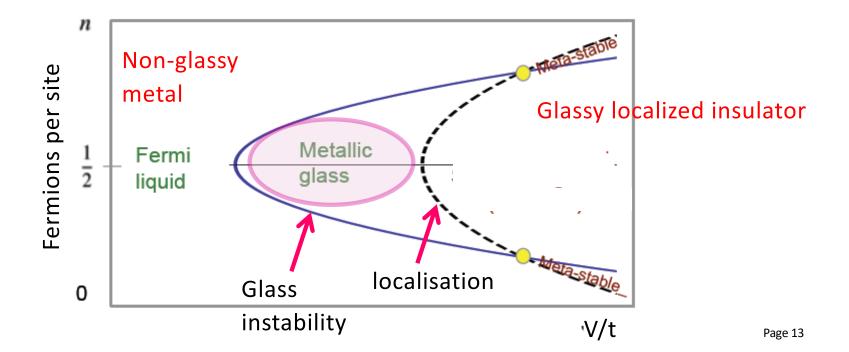
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 $n \sim \frac{1}{2}$ \rightarrow Intermediate phase: both glassy & delocalized!





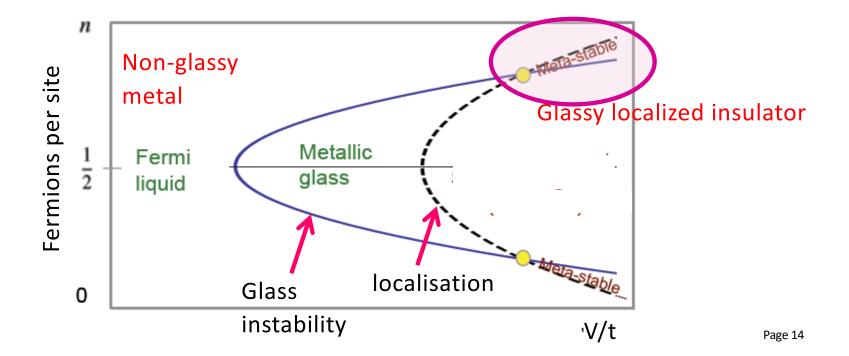
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 $n \rightarrow 0.1 \rightarrow Instabilities cross: \rightarrow 1st order transition, metastability!$





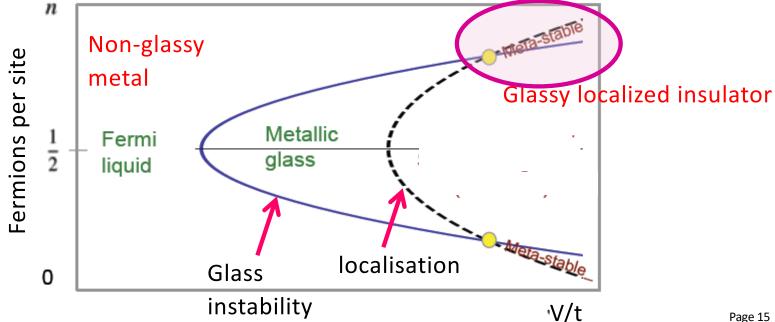
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 $n \rightarrow 0.1 \rightarrow Instabilities cross: \rightarrow 1st order transition, metastability!$ Dynamics across the transition? Nucleation of delocalised phase?

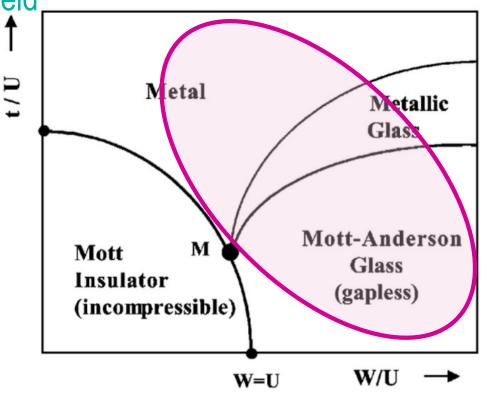


Adding on-site disorder: Perturbing the Anderson transition

Dobrosavljevic, Tanaskovic, Pastor '03

Analogous phase diagram proposed in electron glasses (d=2,3)





$$V_{ij} = \frac{e^2}{r_{ij}}$$

$$H_{\text{eff}} = -t \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \left(c_i^{\dagger} c_j + h.c. \right) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} \left(\varepsilon_i - \mu \right) n_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^{N} V_{ij} n_i n_j$$