

# Realizing effective non-Hermitian time evolution with superconducting circuits

*Conference on Quantum Measurement: Fundamentals, Twists,  
and Applications ICTP 2019*

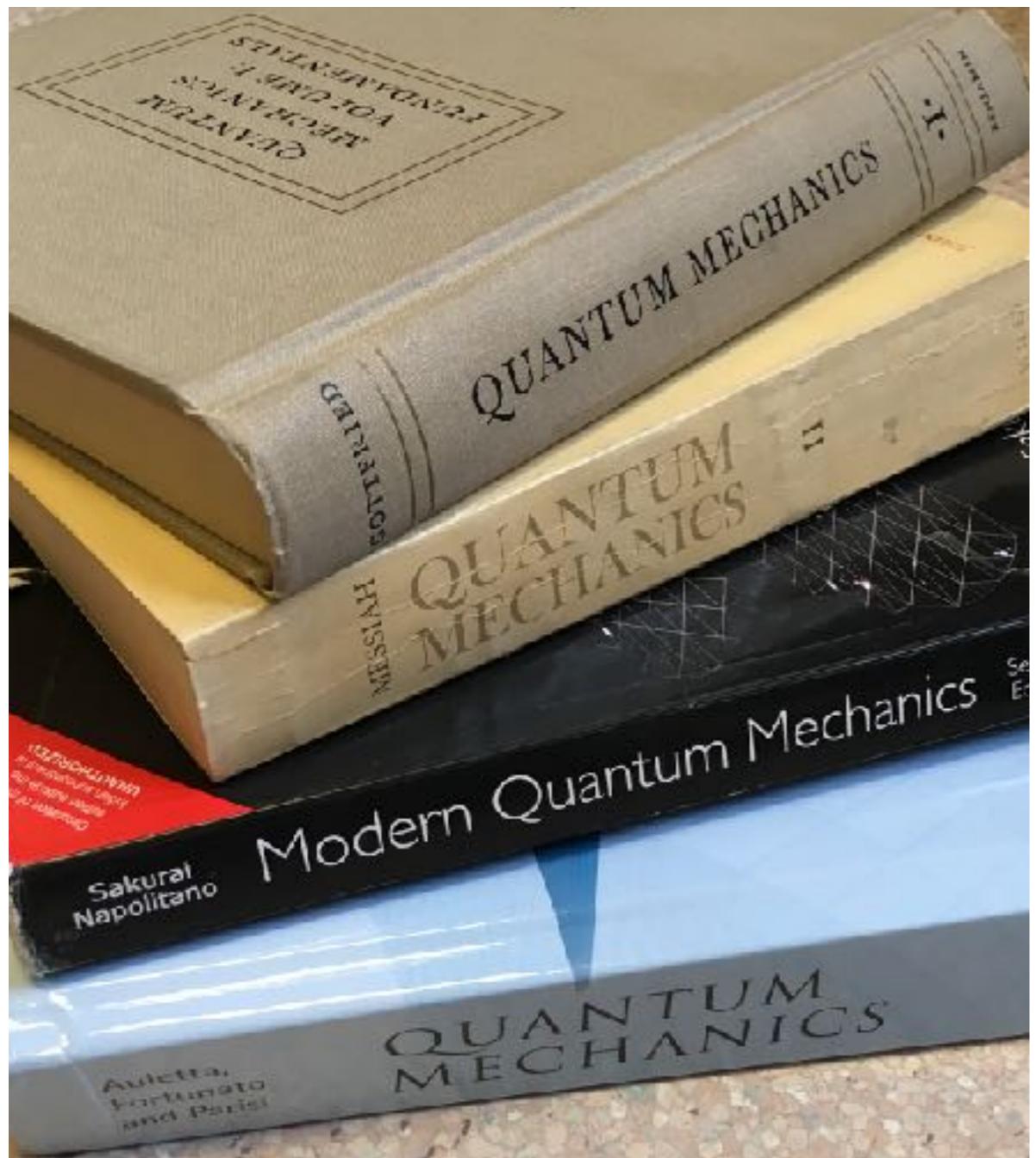
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Collaborators: Yogesh Joglekar (IUPUI)

# A Hamiltonian must be Hermitian



**Hamiltonian described by  
Hermitian operator**

Real eigenvalues

☞ Unitary time evolution

Complete set of eigenvectors

☞ Orthonormal basis

# Or must it?

VOLUME 80, NUMBER 24

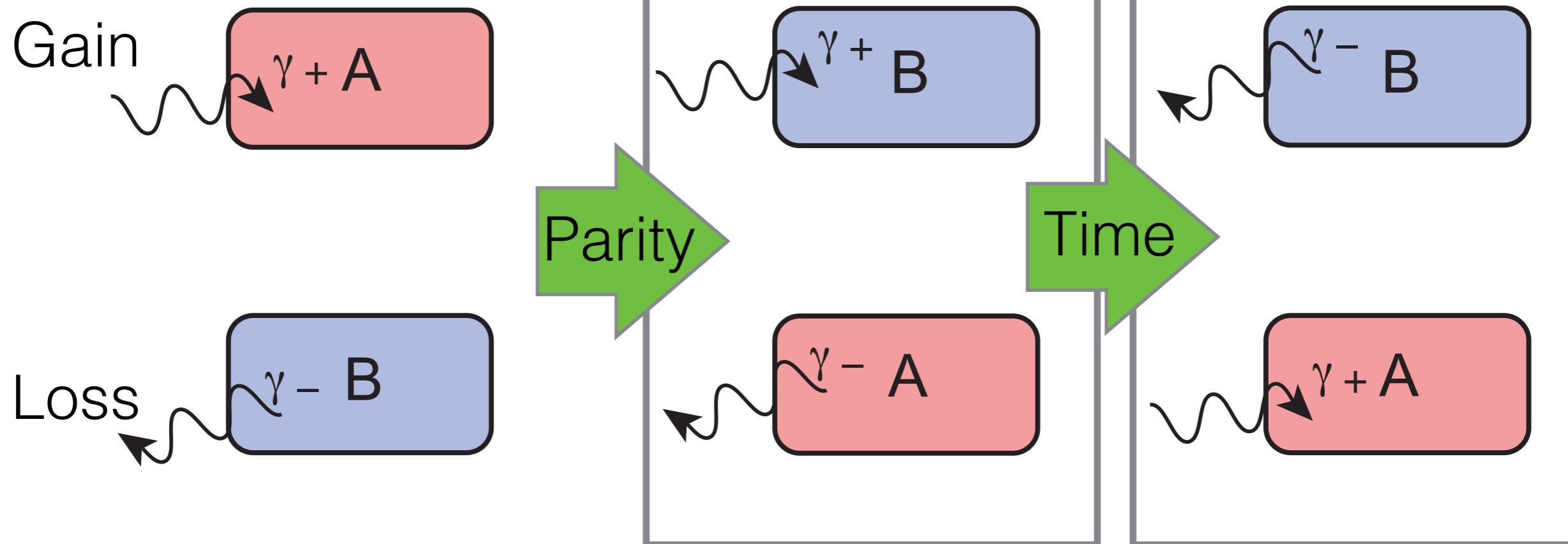
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

15 JUNE 1998

## Real Spectra in Non-Hermitian Hamiltonians Having $\mathcal{PT}$ Symmetry

Carl M. Bender<sup>1</sup> and Stefan Boettcher<sup>2,3</sup>

Can have real eigenvalues with non-Hermitian Hamiltonian  
Canonical example:



# Non-Hermitian Hamiltonian

VOLUME 80, NUMBER 24

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

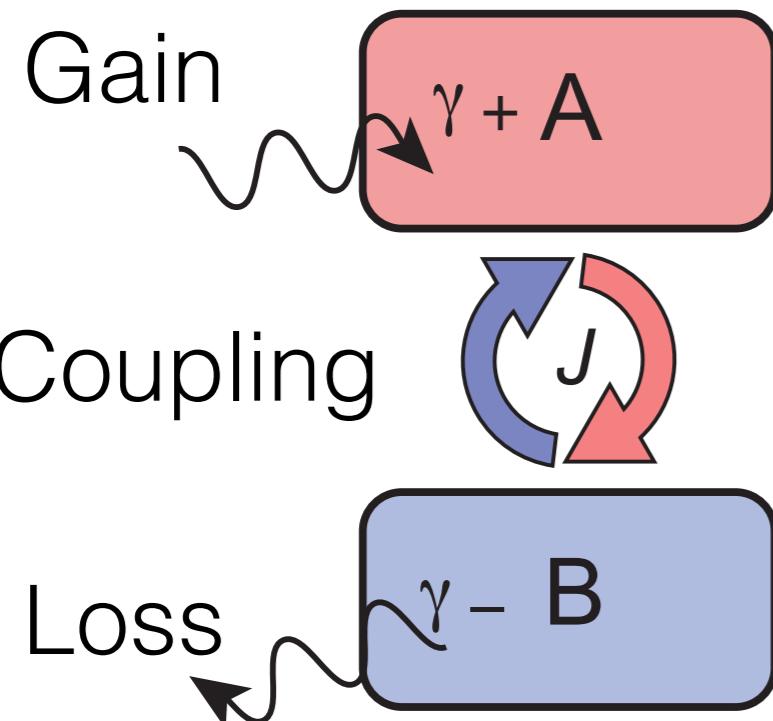
15 JUNE 1998

## Real Spectra in Non-Hermitian Hamiltonians Having $\mathcal{PT}$ Symmetry

Carl M. Bender<sup>1</sup> and Stefan Boettcher<sup>2,3</sup>

Can have real eigenvalues with non-Hermitian Hamiltonian

Cannonical example:      Hamiltonian



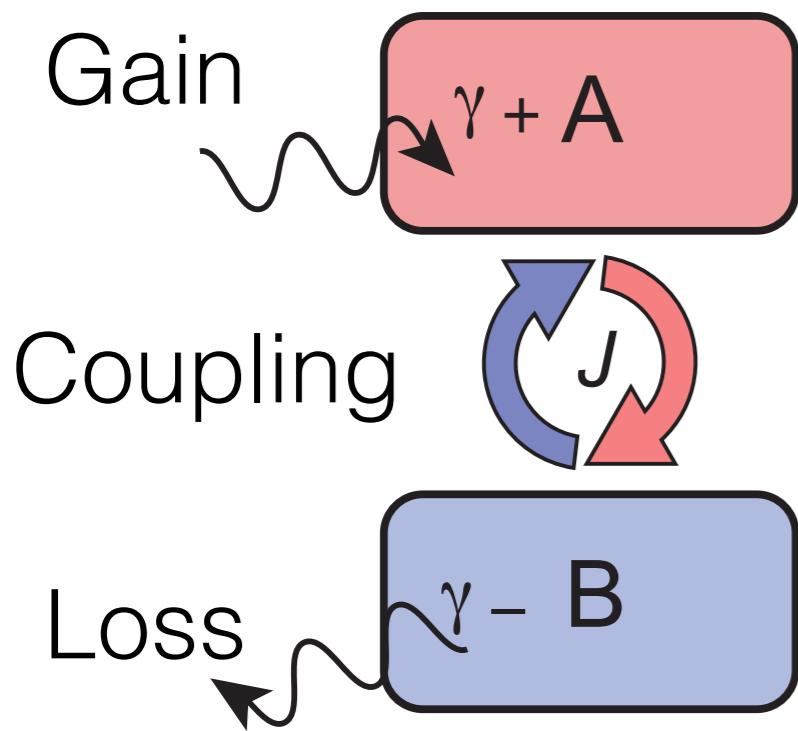
$$i\gamma|A\rangle\langle A| - i\gamma|B\rangle\langle B| + J(|A\rangle\langle B| + |B\rangle\langle A|)$$

Matrix representation

$$\begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma & J \\ J & +i\gamma \end{pmatrix}$$

Eigenvalues:  $\lambda = \pm\sqrt{J^2 - \gamma^2}$

# But who cares?

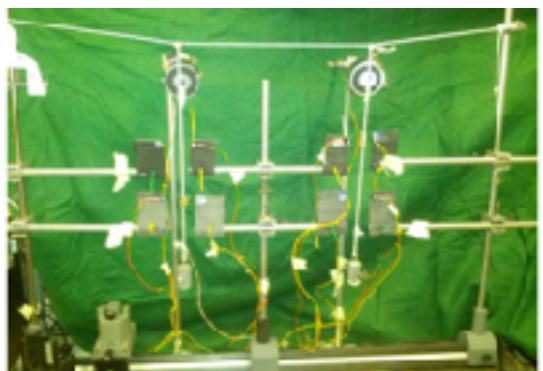


Balanced gain and loss easily achieved in classical systems

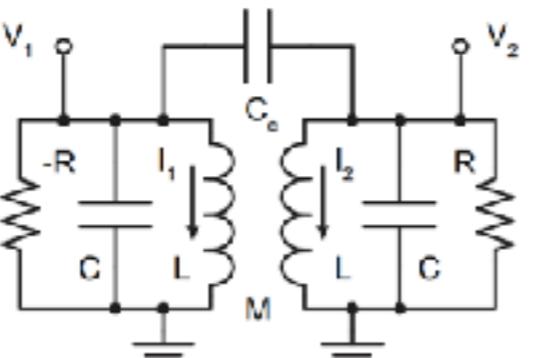
Many experiments...

# Non-Hermitian dissipation-experiments and systems

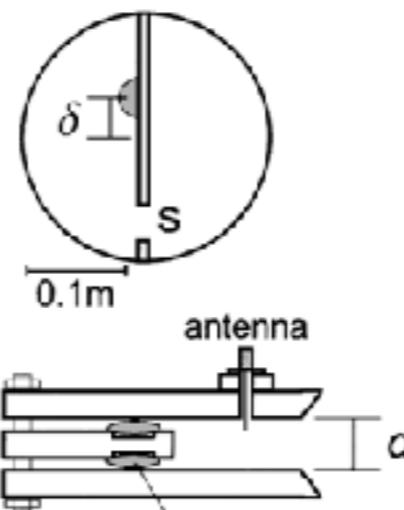
**Platforms for non-Hermitian physics:** coupled mechanical/electrical oscillators



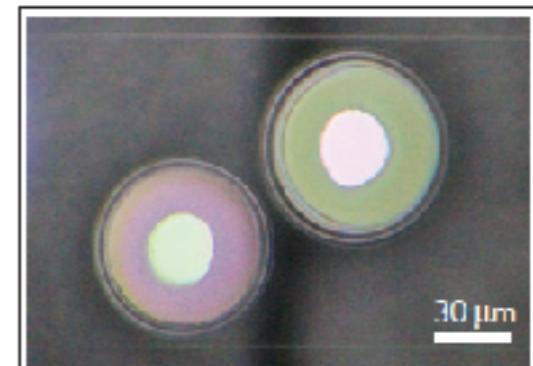
C. M. Bender et al *A. J. Phys.* **81**, 173



J Schindler et al, *JPA* **45**, 444029

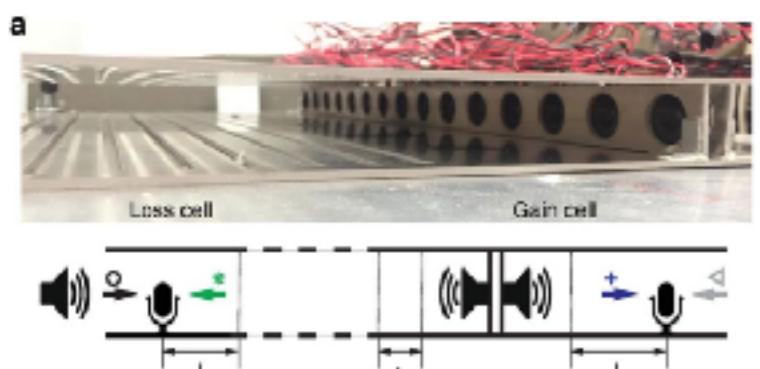


C. Dembowski et al *PRL* **86**, 5 (2001).

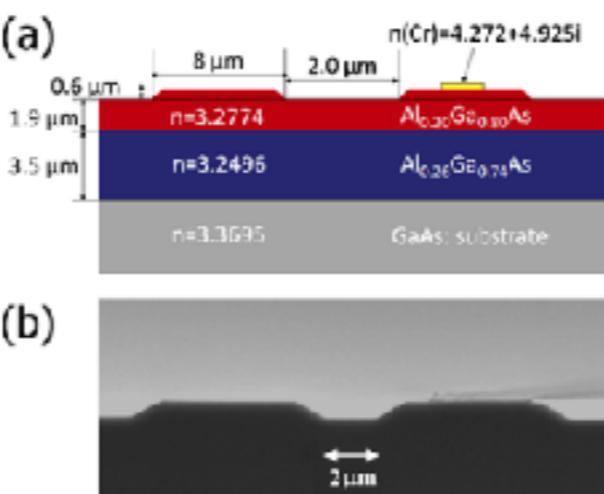


B. Peng et al *Nature Phys.* **10**, 394 (2014).

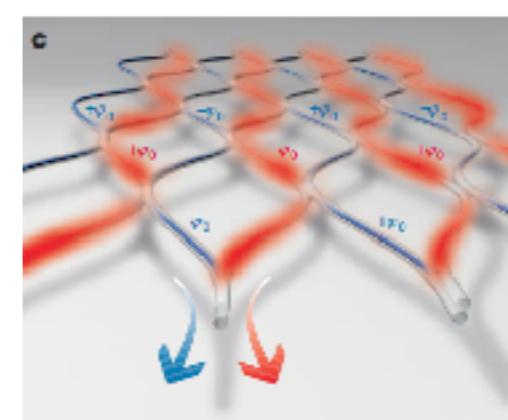
propagating acoustical/optical waves



C. Shi et al *Nat. Commun.* **7**, 11110



A. Guo et al *Phys. Rev. Lett.*



A. Regensburger et al *Nature*

**Lasing:** B. Peng (14),  
M. Brandstetter (14),  
M. Kim (14),  
Z. Wong (16),  
B. Peng (16),  
L. Feng (14),  
H. Hodaei (14)

**Asymmetric mode switching:** J. Doppler (16),

**Topological energy transfer:** Xu (2016)

**Enhanced sensing:**  
W. Chen (2017),  
H. Hodaei (17)

# PT symmetry: 4 Key phenomena

1

PT breaking transition from Re to Im eigenvalues

$$\lambda = \pm \sqrt{J^2 - \gamma^2} \quad \begin{aligned} (J > \gamma) \text{ PT "un-broken" phase} \\ (J < \gamma) \text{ PT "broken" phase} \end{aligned}$$

2

"Exceptional" point degeneracy ( $J = \gamma$ )

Eigenvectors become degenerate

3

Enhanced sensitivity

4

Topological/non-reciprocal

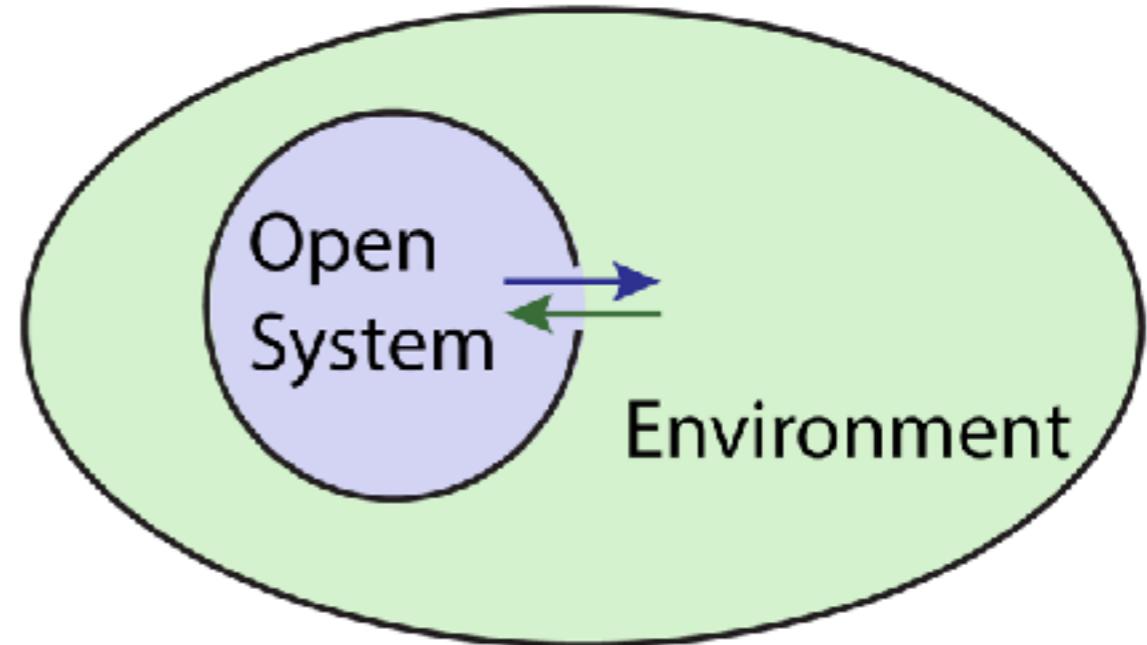
# PT symmetric quantum systems?

## Open systems

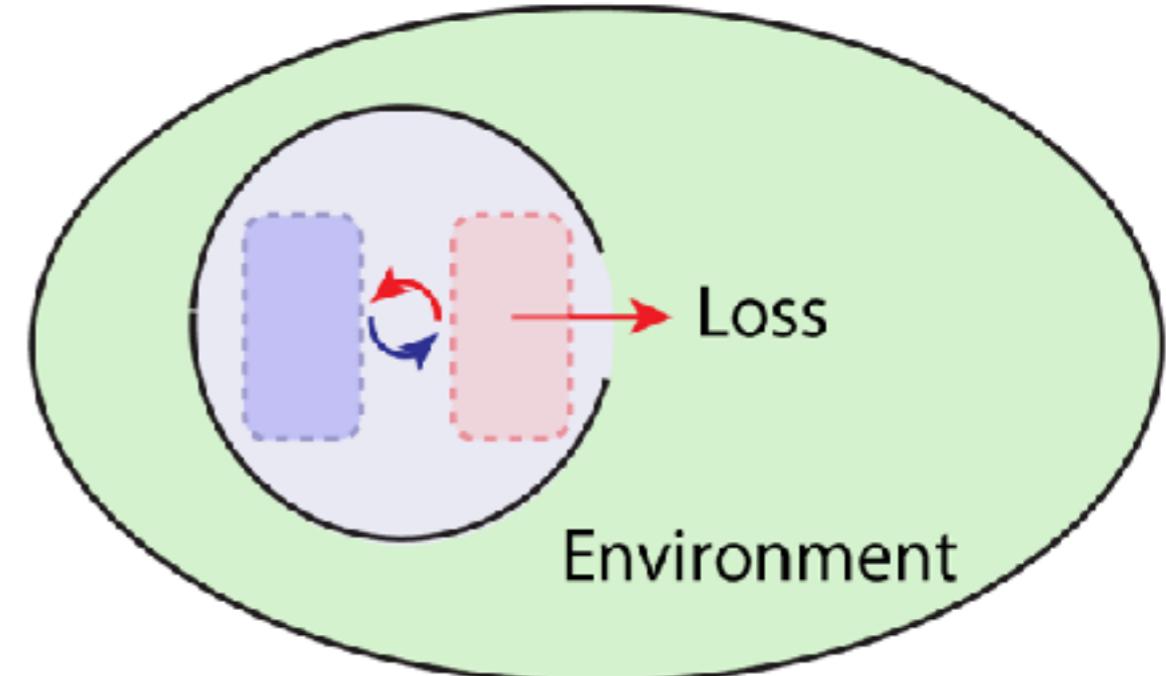
Non-unitary dynamics

Master equations

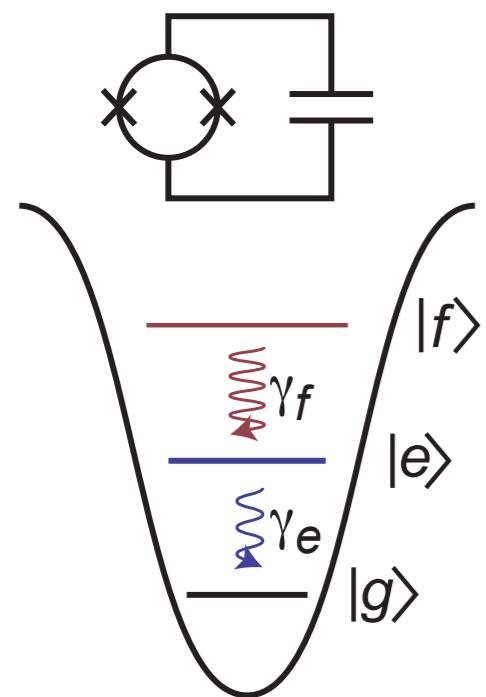
Non-Hermitian Hamiltonian



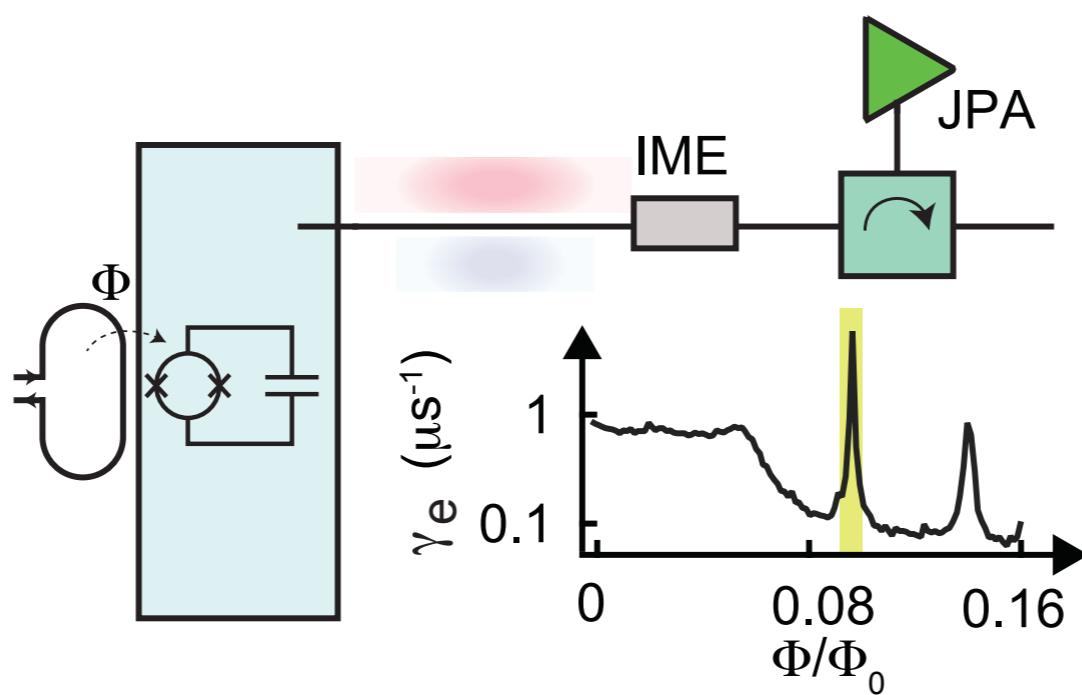
## Mode selective loss (effective PT symmetry)



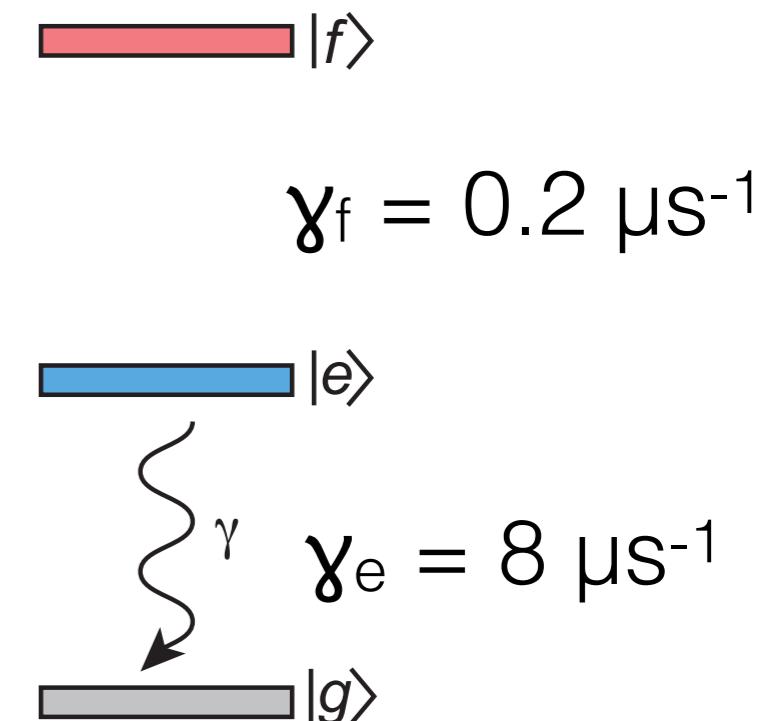
# Effective non-Hermitian qubit



Transmon circuit



Engineered decay rates



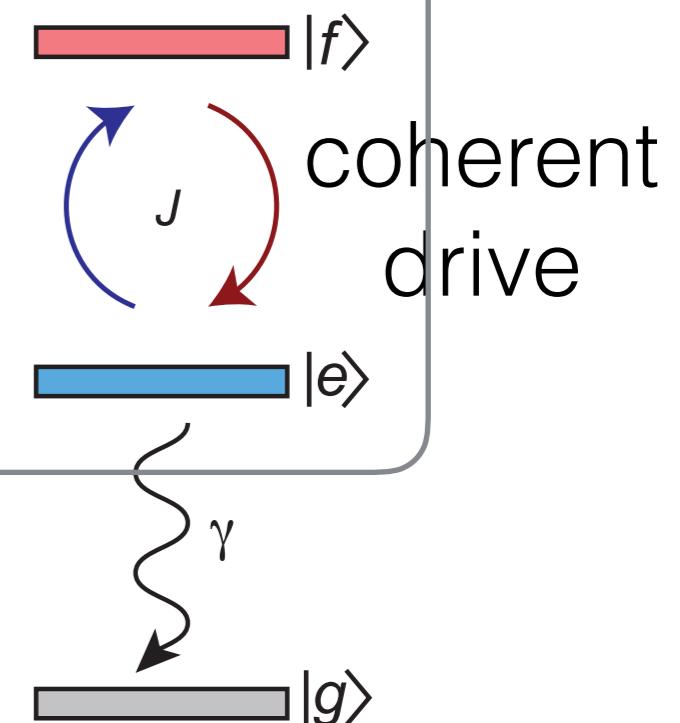
# Effective non-Hermitian qubit

Sub-manifold evolution  
given by non-Hermitian  
Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{eff}} = J(|f\rangle\langle e| + |e\rangle\langle f|) - i\gamma_e/2)|e\rangle\langle e|$$

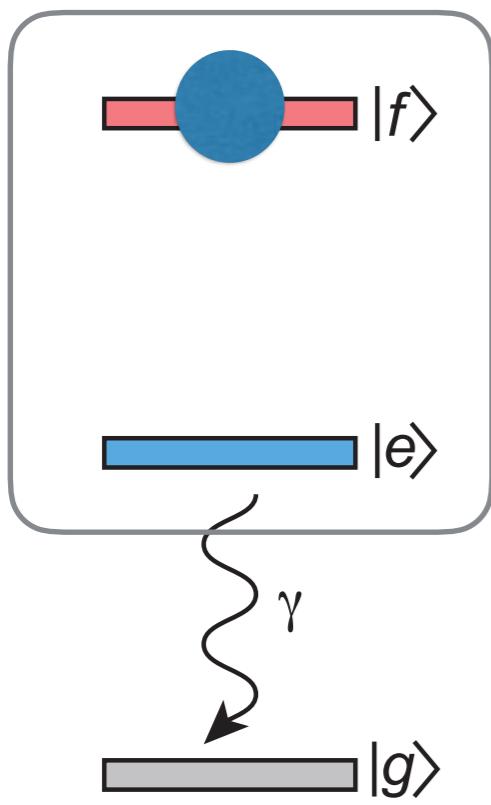
Lindblad Master  
equation:

$$\dot{\rho} = -i[H_c, \rho] + L\rho L^\dagger - \frac{1}{2}\{L^\dagger L, \rho\}$$
$$H_c = \underbrace{J(|e\rangle\langle f| + |f\rangle\langle e|)}_{\text{coherent drive}}$$
$$L = \sqrt{\gamma}|g\rangle\langle e|$$

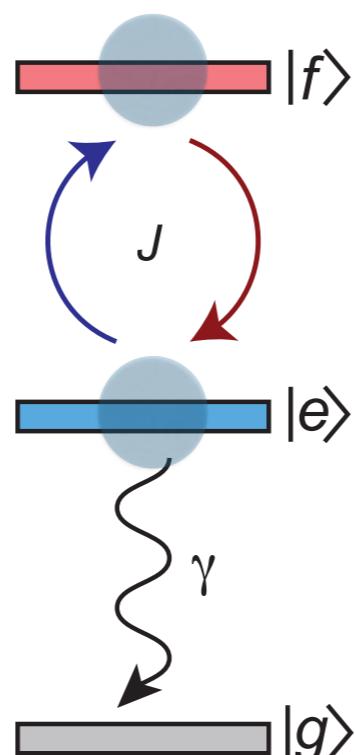


# Dynamics of non-Hermitian qubit

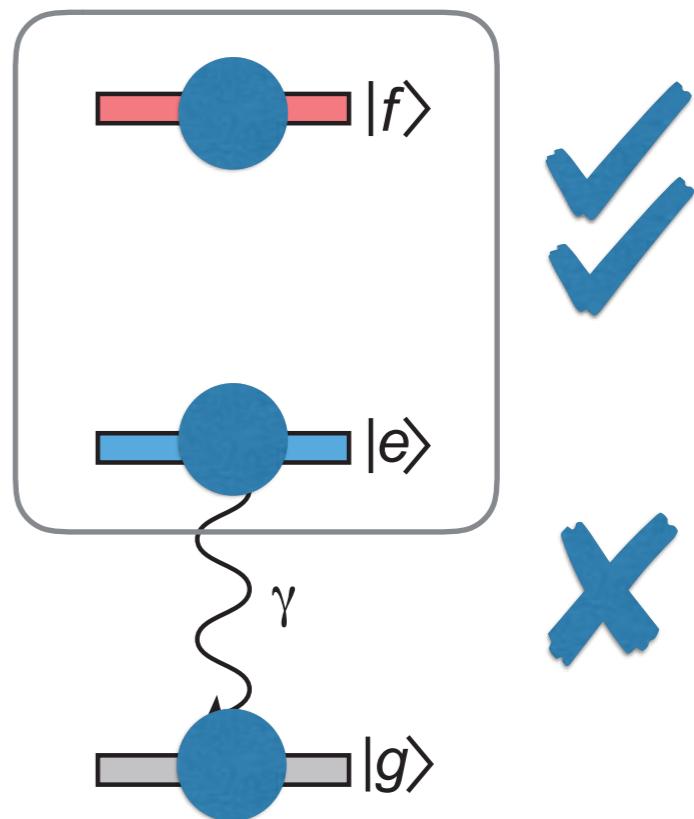
Prepare in  
qubit e-f manifold



Evolve under  $H_{\text{eff}}$



Post-select qubit  
manifold



# Effective PT symmetry

In matrix representation:

$$\begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma/2 & J \\ J & 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -i\gamma/4 & J \\ J & +i\gamma/4 \end{pmatrix} - i\frac{\gamma}{2}\mathbb{1}$$

(EP occurs at  $J = \gamma/4$ )

PT symmetric

Overall loss

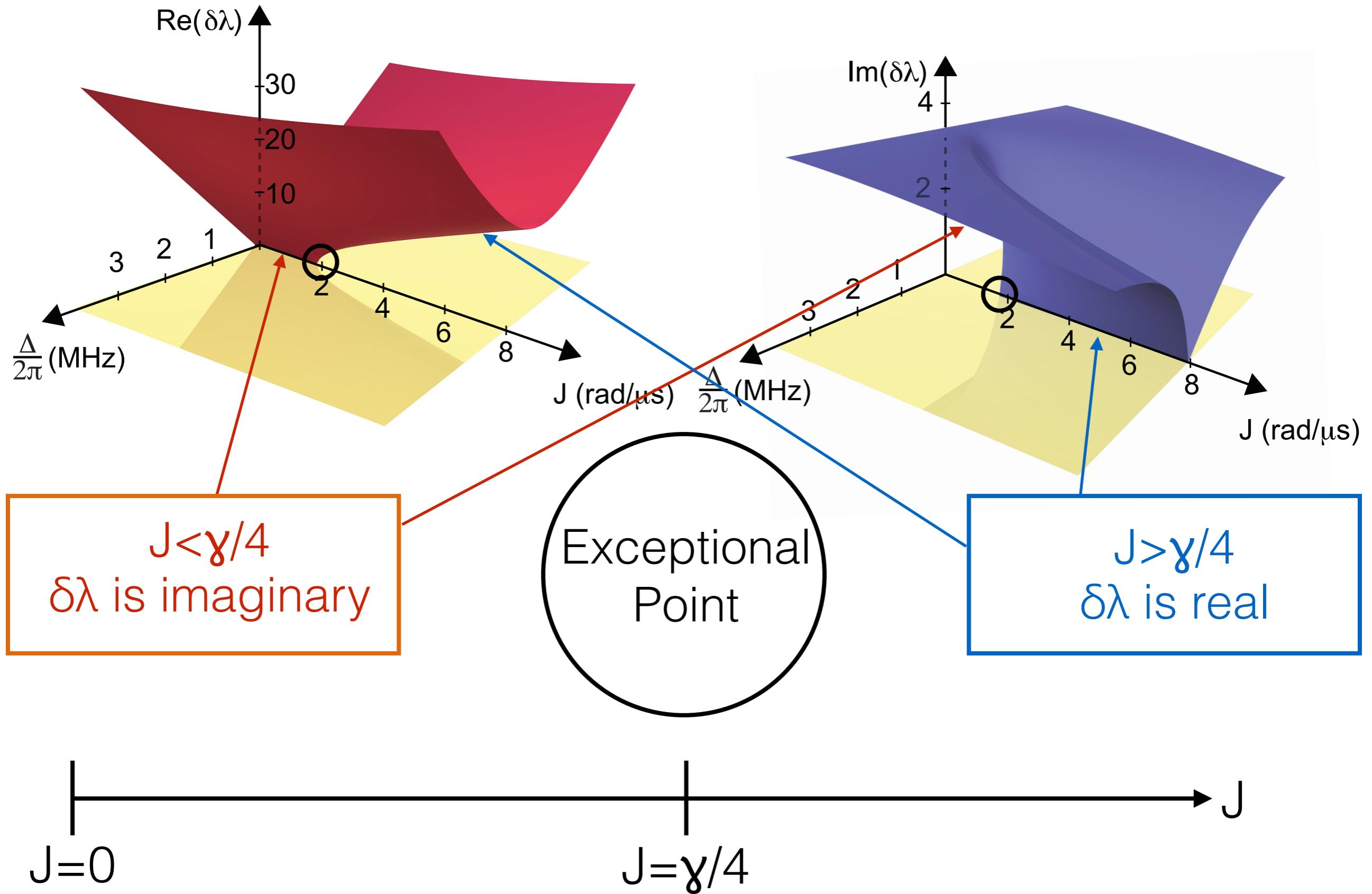
Detuned drive:

$$H_{\text{eff}} = J(|f\rangle\langle e| + |e\rangle\langle f|) + (\Delta - i\gamma_e/2)|e\rangle\langle e|$$

Time evolution under  $H_{\text{eff}}$  is governed by the eigenvalue difference:

$$\delta\lambda = (\lambda_+ - \lambda_-) = \sqrt{4J^2 - (\Delta - i\gamma_e/2)^2}$$

# Effective non-Hermitian qubit overview



# Exceptional point

**Degeneracy:**

**“Diabolic point”**

**“Exceptional Point”**

Hamiltonian:

Hermitian

non-Hermitian

Eigenvalues:

Degenerate

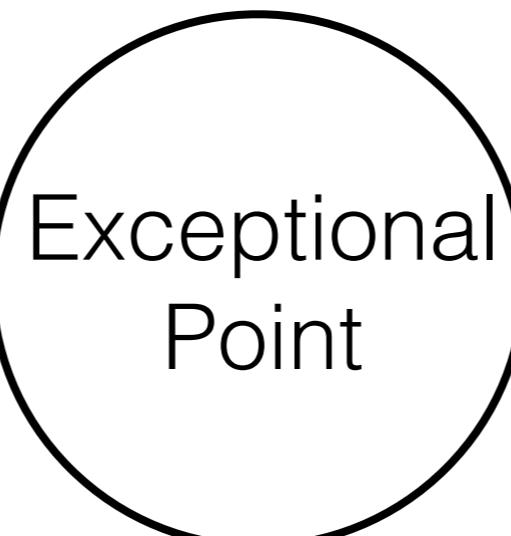
Degenerate

Eigenvectors:

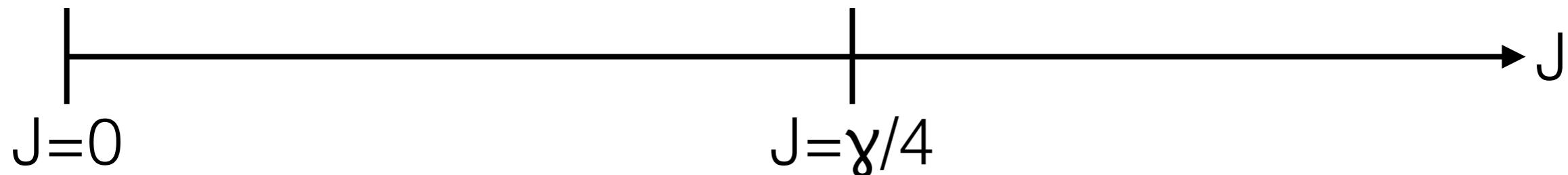
Orthogonal

Degenerate

$J < \gamma/4$   
 $\delta\lambda$  is imaginary



$J > \gamma/4$   
 $\delta\lambda$  is real



# Key phenomena

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PT breaking transition from Re to Im eigenvalues

$$\lambda = \pm \sqrt{J^2 - \gamma^2} \quad \begin{aligned} (J > \gamma) \quad &\text{PT "un-broken" phase} \\ (J < \gamma) \quad &\text{PT "broken" phase} \end{aligned}$$

2

"Exceptional" point degeneracy ( $J = \gamma$ )

Eigenvectors become degenerate

3

Enhanced sensitivity

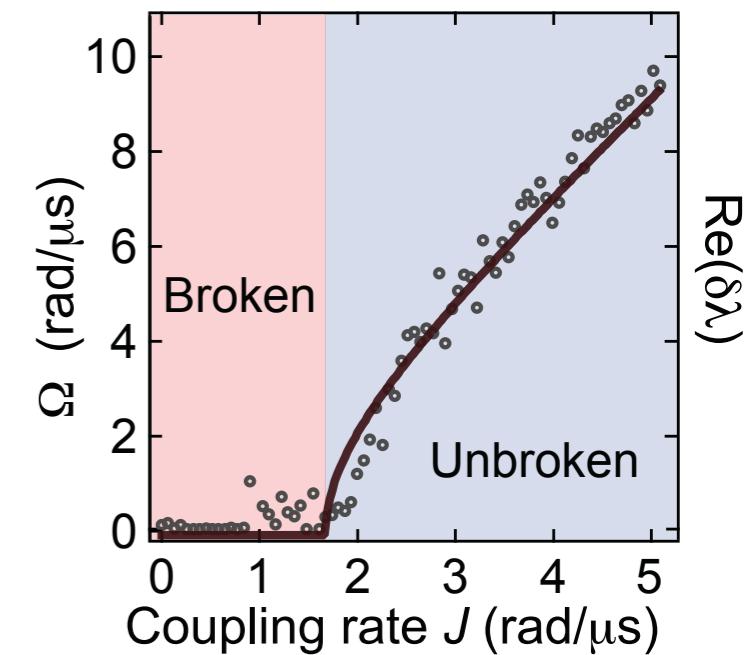
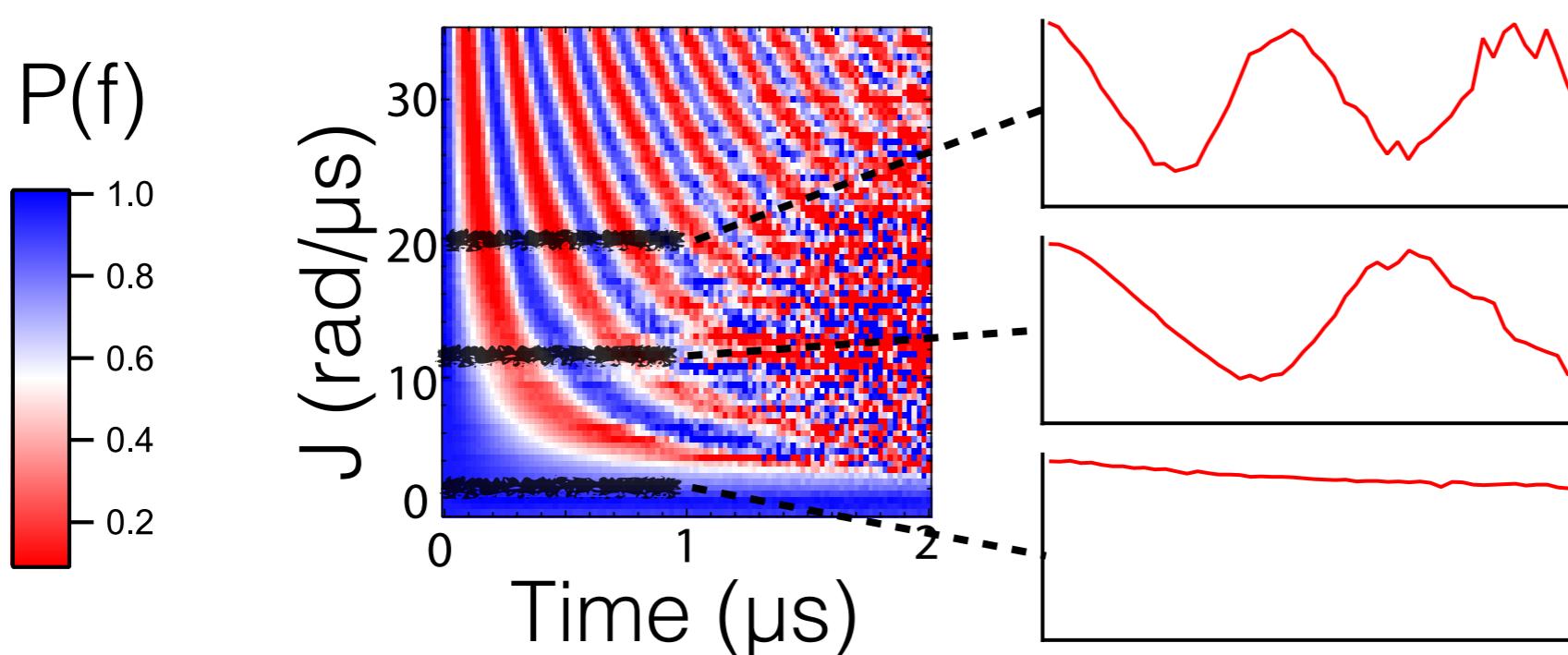
4

Topological/non-reciprocal

1

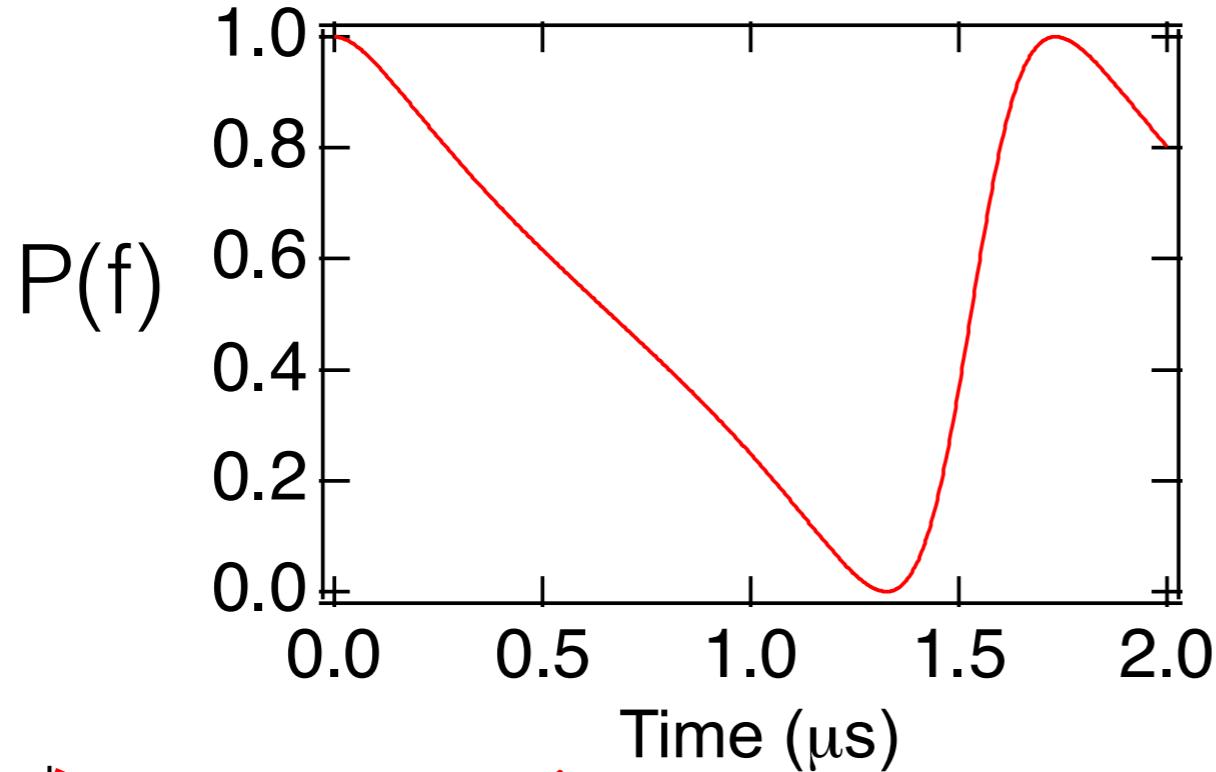
# Probing the PT breaking transition

Measure time evolution under  $H_{\text{eff}}$  (Rabi oscillations)

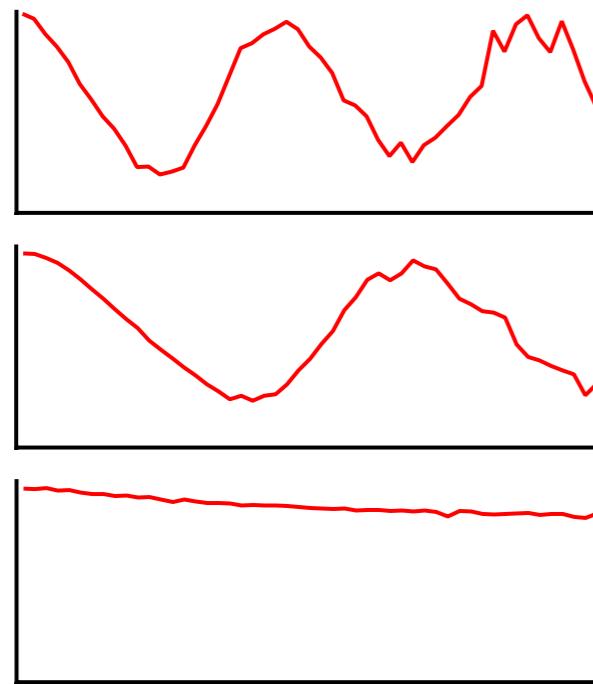


# Distorted Rabi oscillations

(calculation from Lindblad Master Equation)

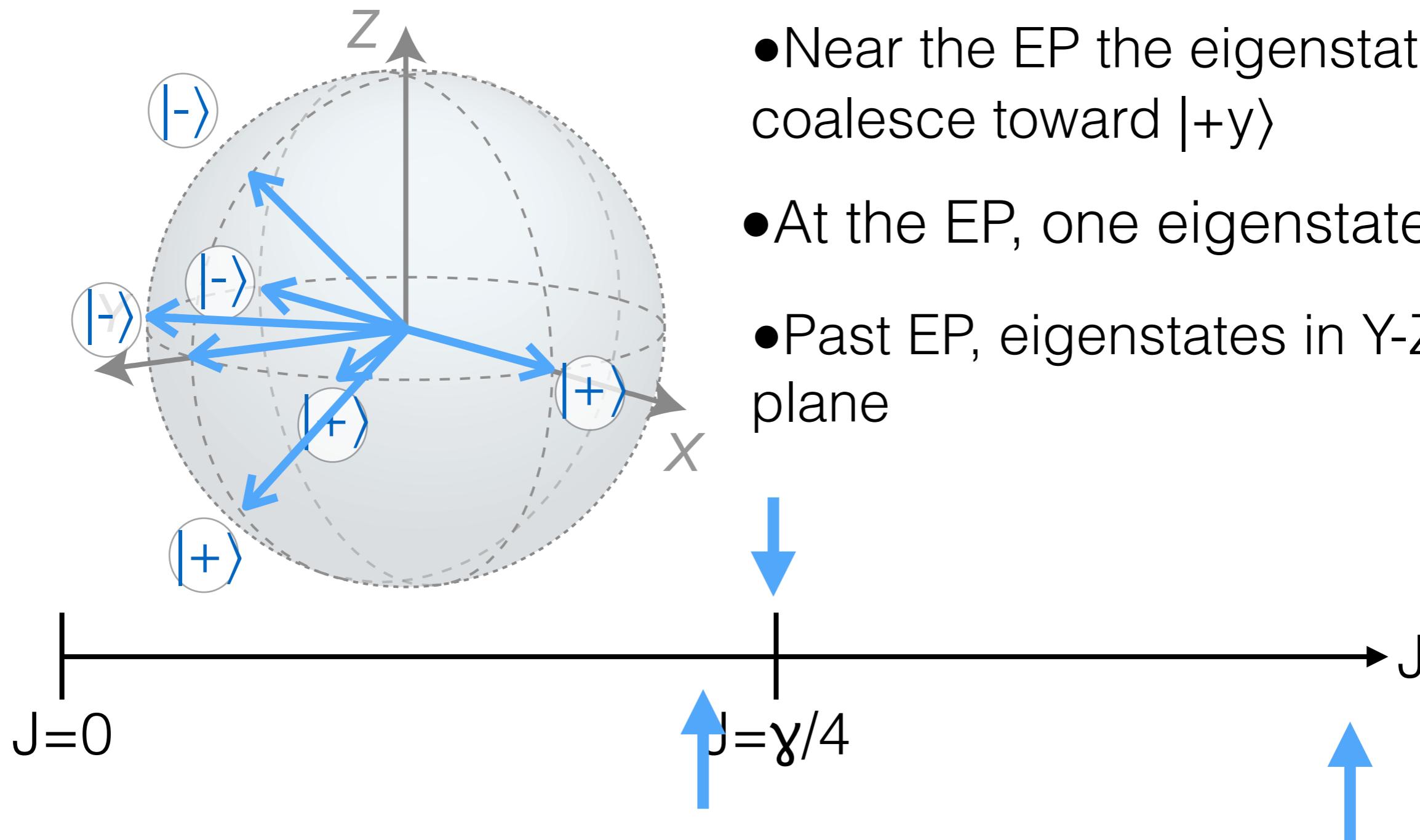


Measurement backaction from post-selection pushes toward  $|f\rangle$  state.



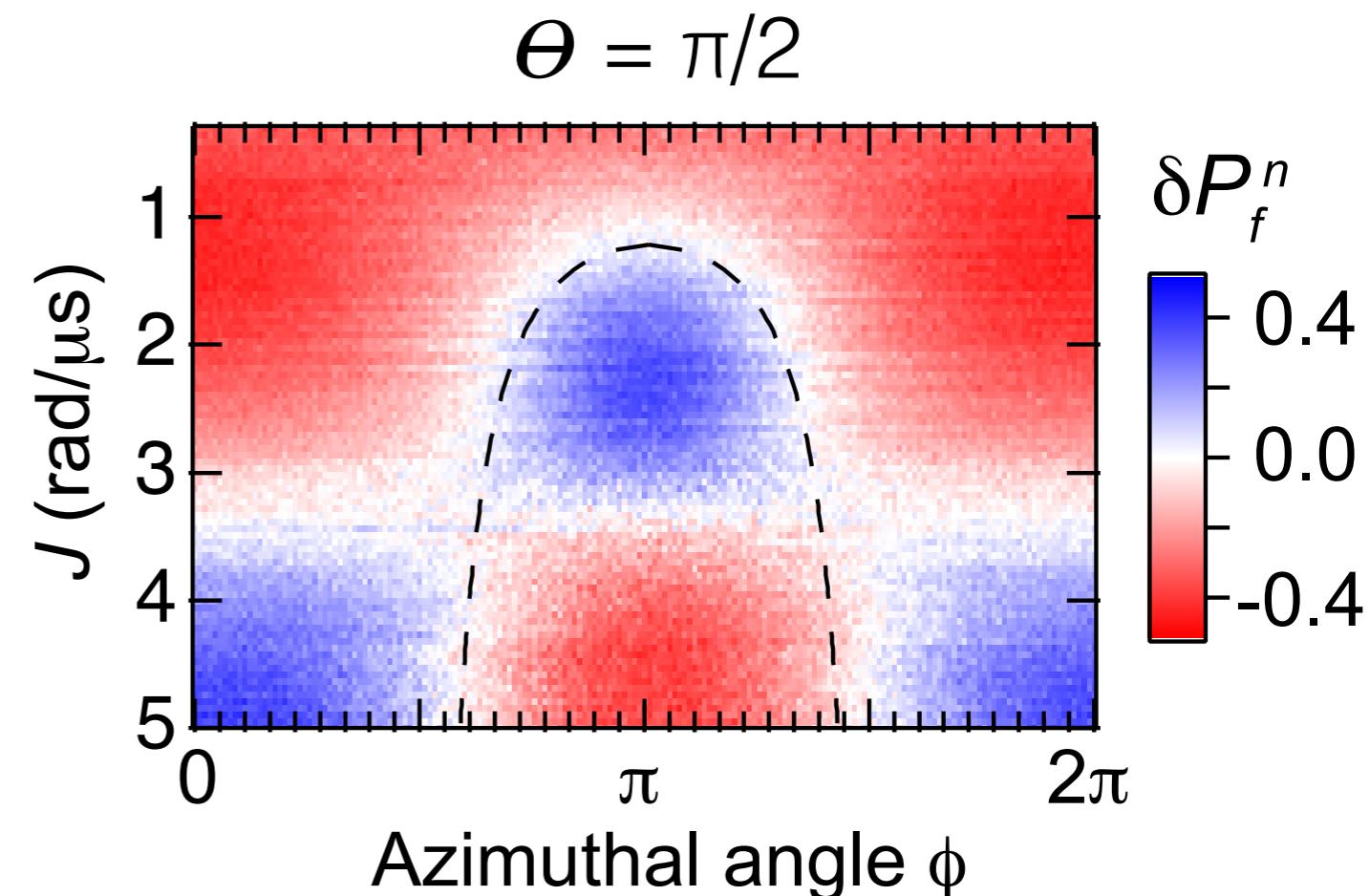
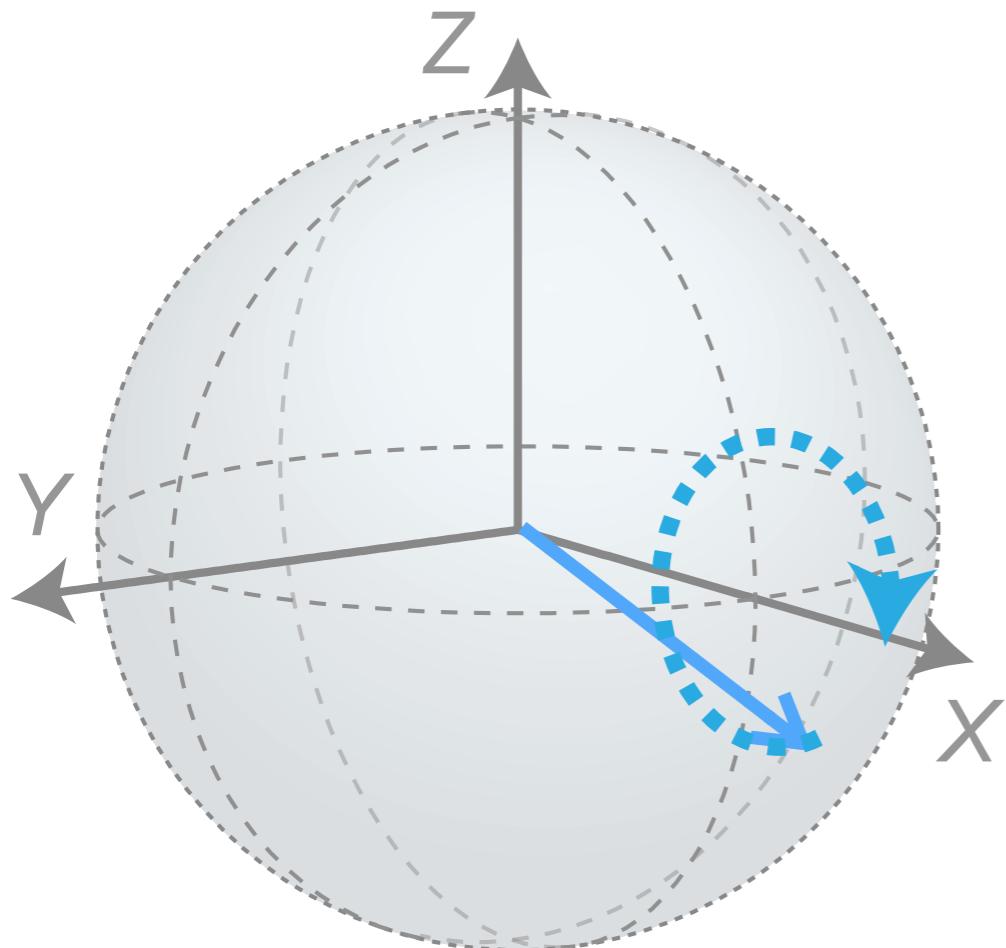
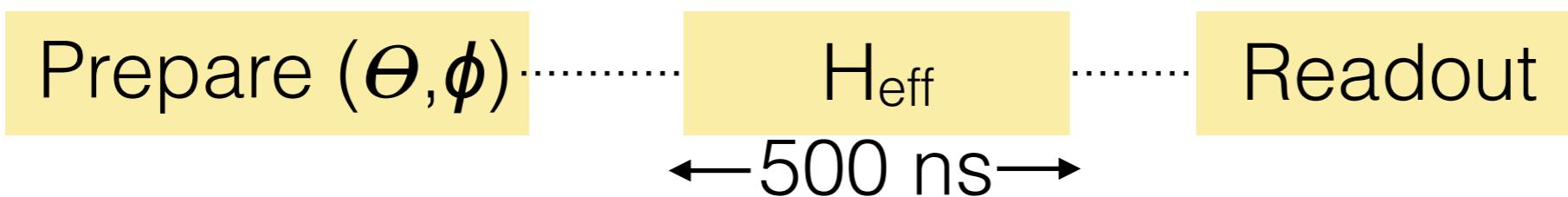
Might seem surprising that we observe abrupt transition at  $J=\gamma/4$  even though the qubit never decays in our data set.

# Degenerate eigenstates at the EP



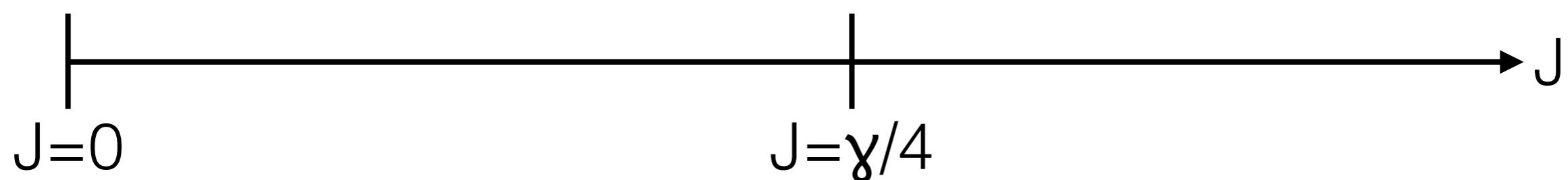
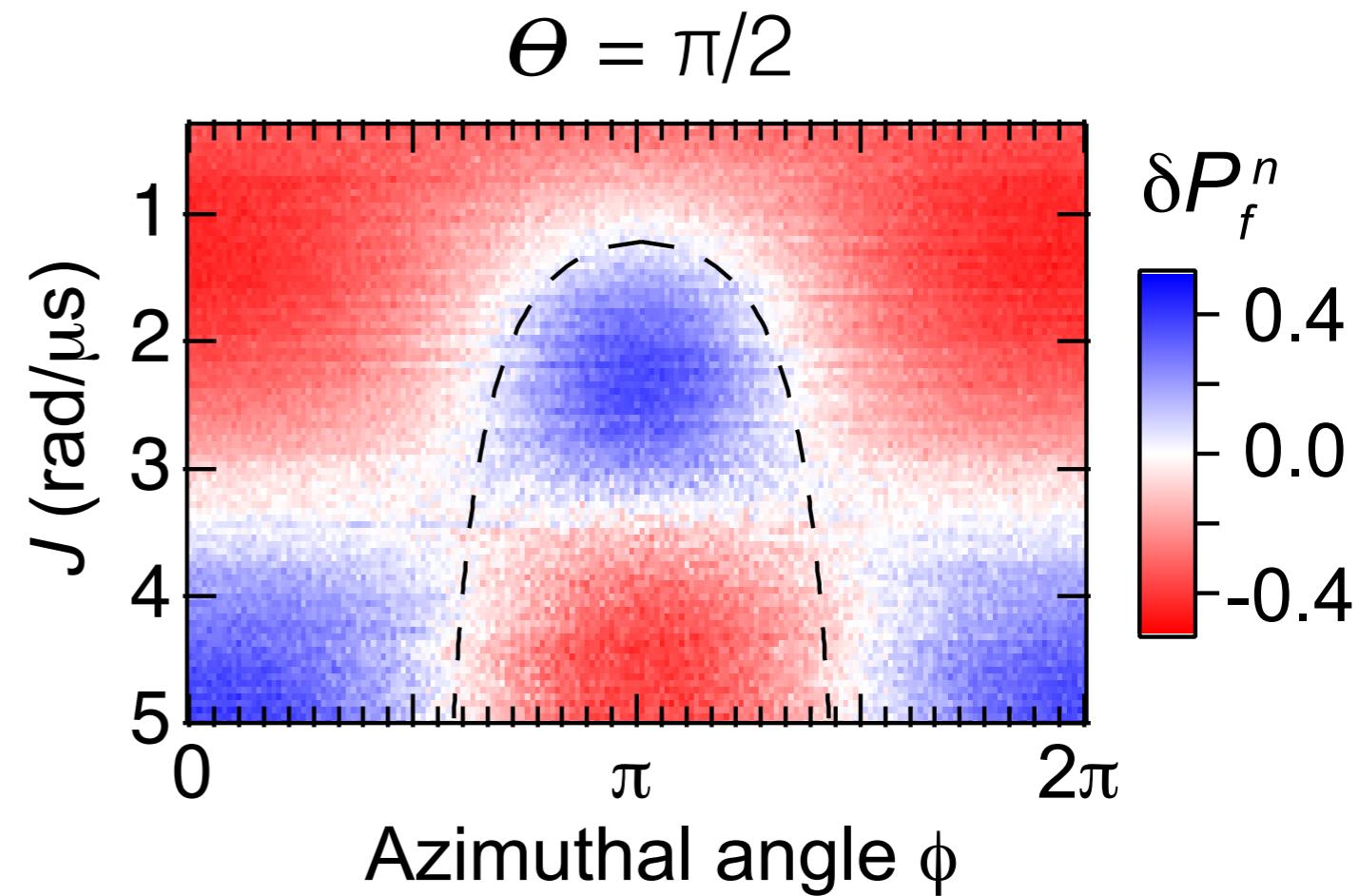
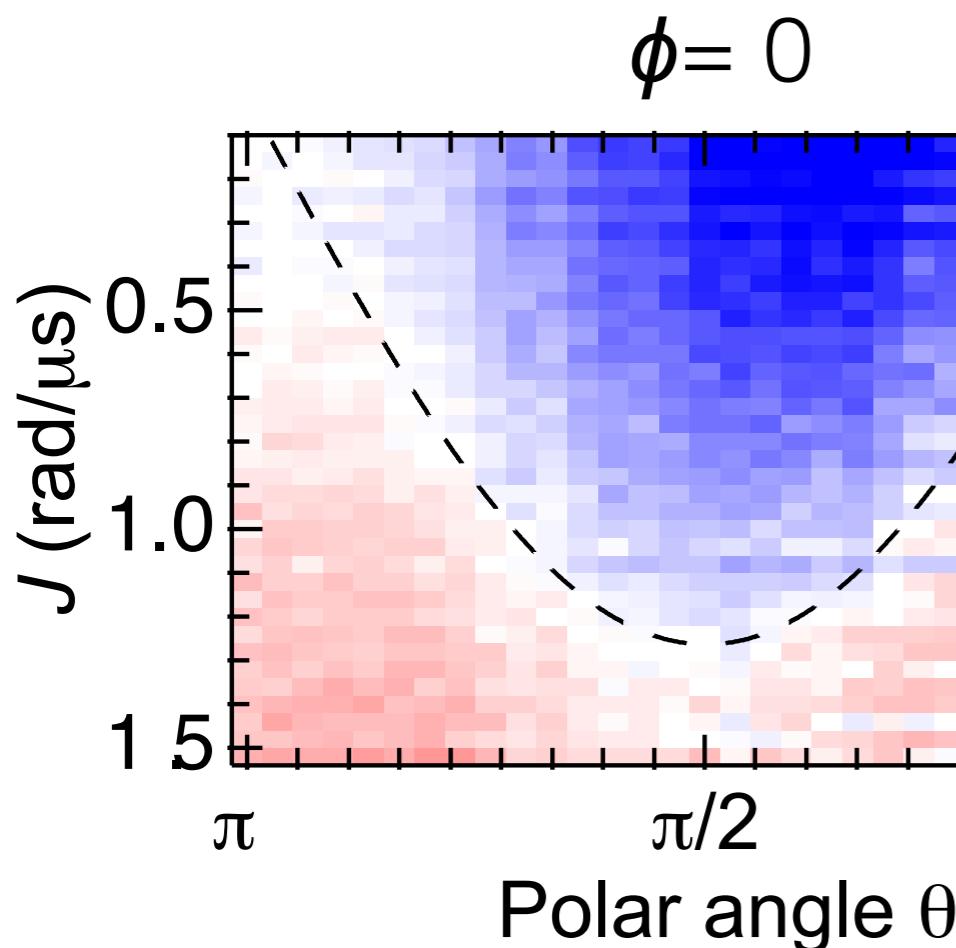
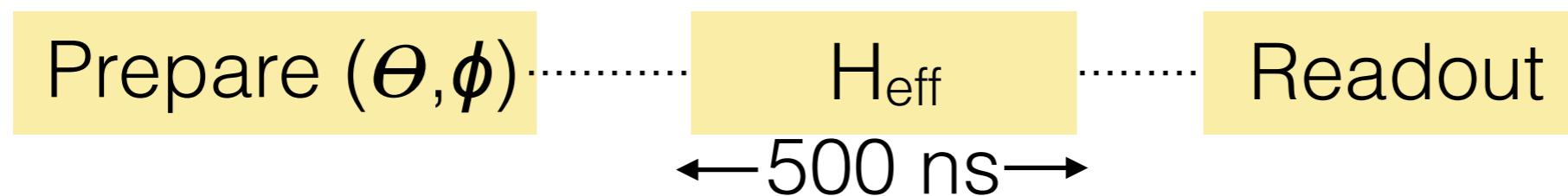
2

# Imaging eigenstates (stationary)

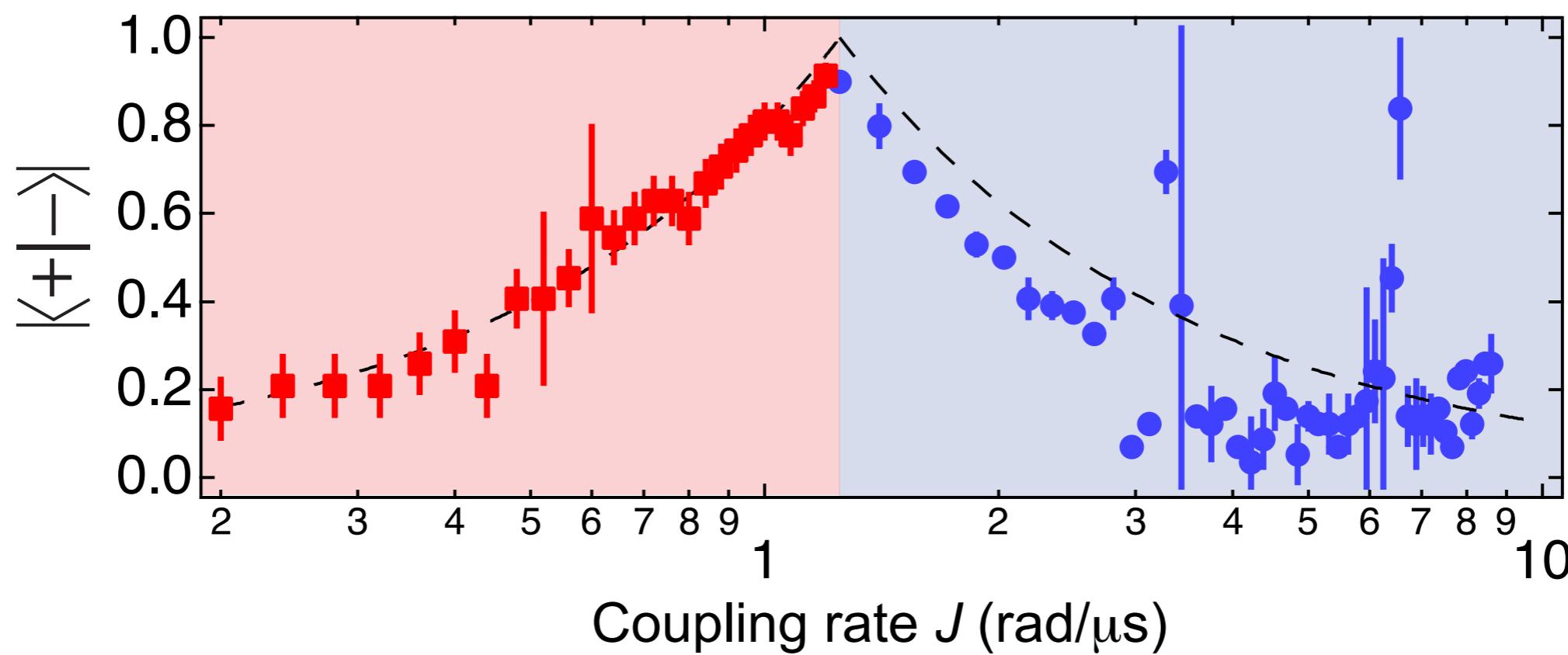
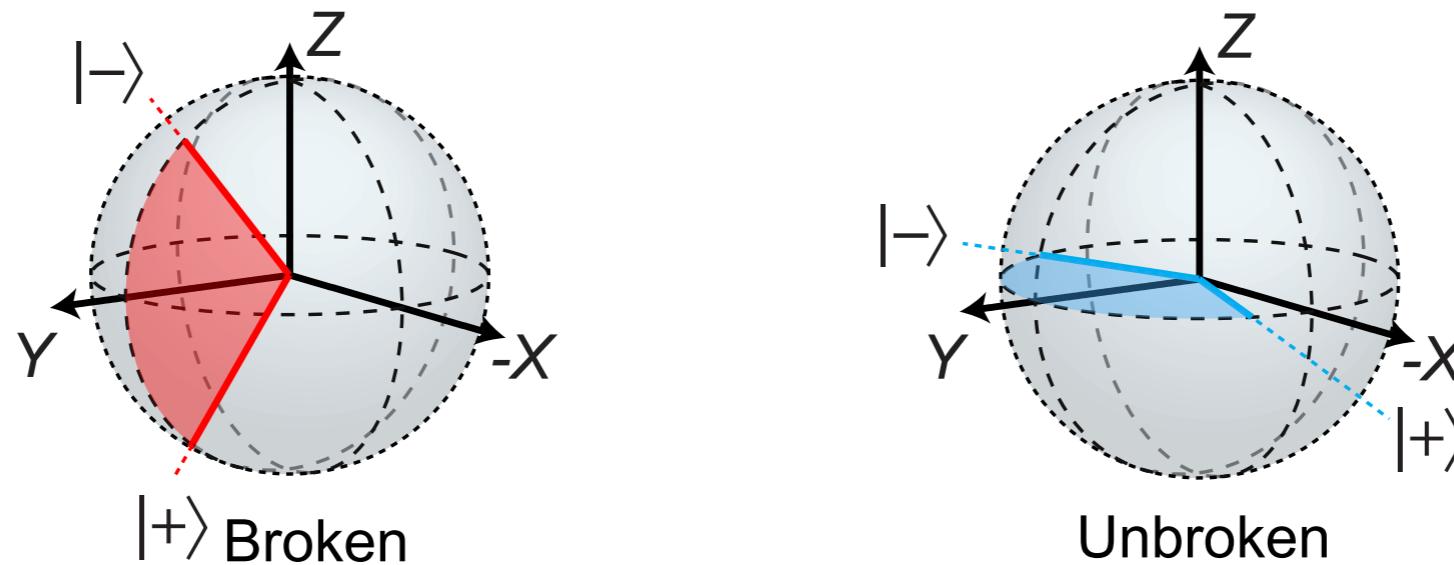


2

# Imaging eigenstates (stationary)



# Non-orthogonal eigenstates



# Sensing advantages with dissipation

**Degeneracy:** “**Diabolic point**”      “**Exceptional Point**”

Hamiltonian:

Hermitian

Eigenvalues:

Degenerate

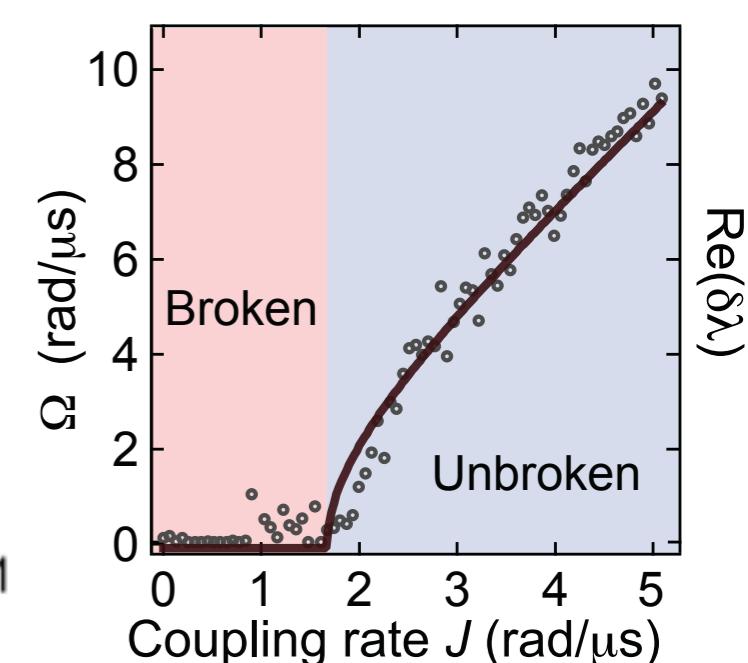
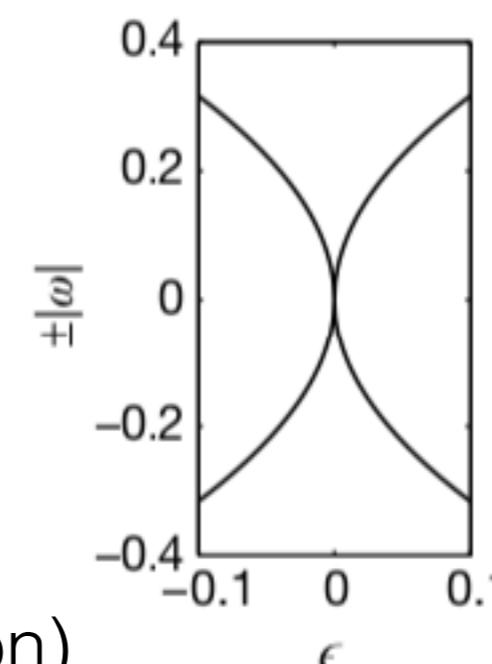
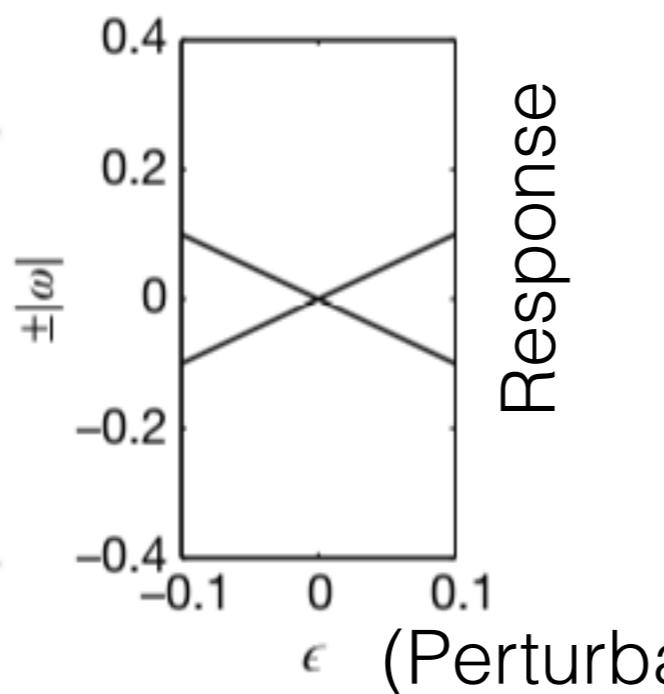
Eigenvectors:

Orthogonal

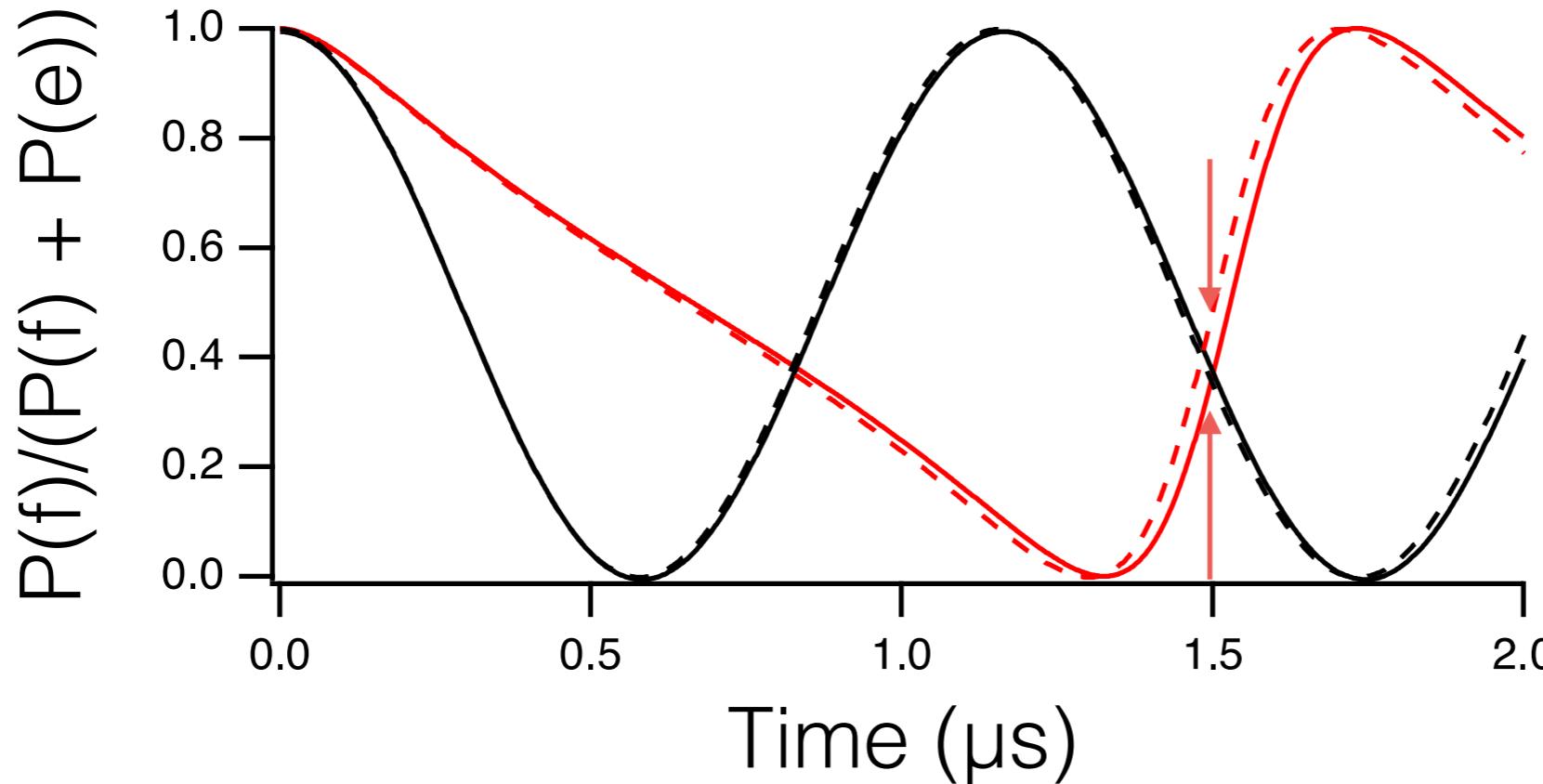
non-Hermitian

Degenerate

Degenerate



# Time evolution of $H_{\text{eff}}$



- Solve Lindblad Master Equation
- $J/\gamma = 0.33$  (EP at 0.25)
- Distorted trajectories due to  $H_{\text{eff}}$  (can think of as measurement back-action)
- Response to a small perturbation ( $\Delta J/J = 0.7\%$ )

# Cramér-Rao Bound

For large data sets, the Cramer-Rao bound sets a limit on the mean squared deviation of some parameter

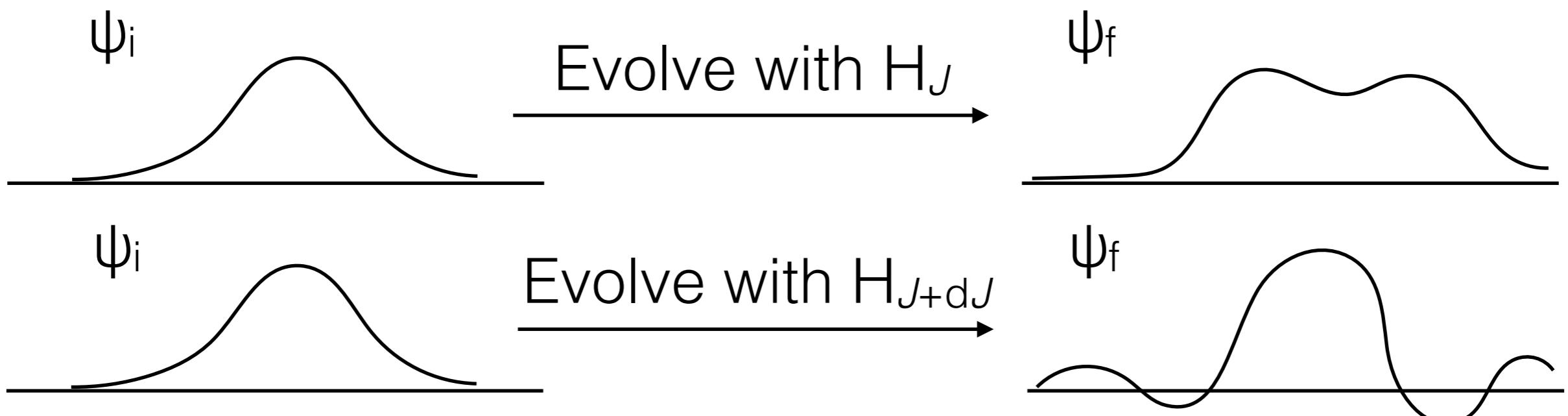
$$\langle \delta^2 \hat{J} \rangle \geq \frac{1}{d I_J^{(Q)}} \quad \begin{array}{l} d \text{ is the amount of data} \\ \hat{J} \text{ is an unbiased estimator of } J \\ I_J^{(Q)} \text{ is the Fisher information} \end{array}$$

Quantum Fisher Information

$$I_J^{(Q)} = 4 \frac{ds}{dJ}$$

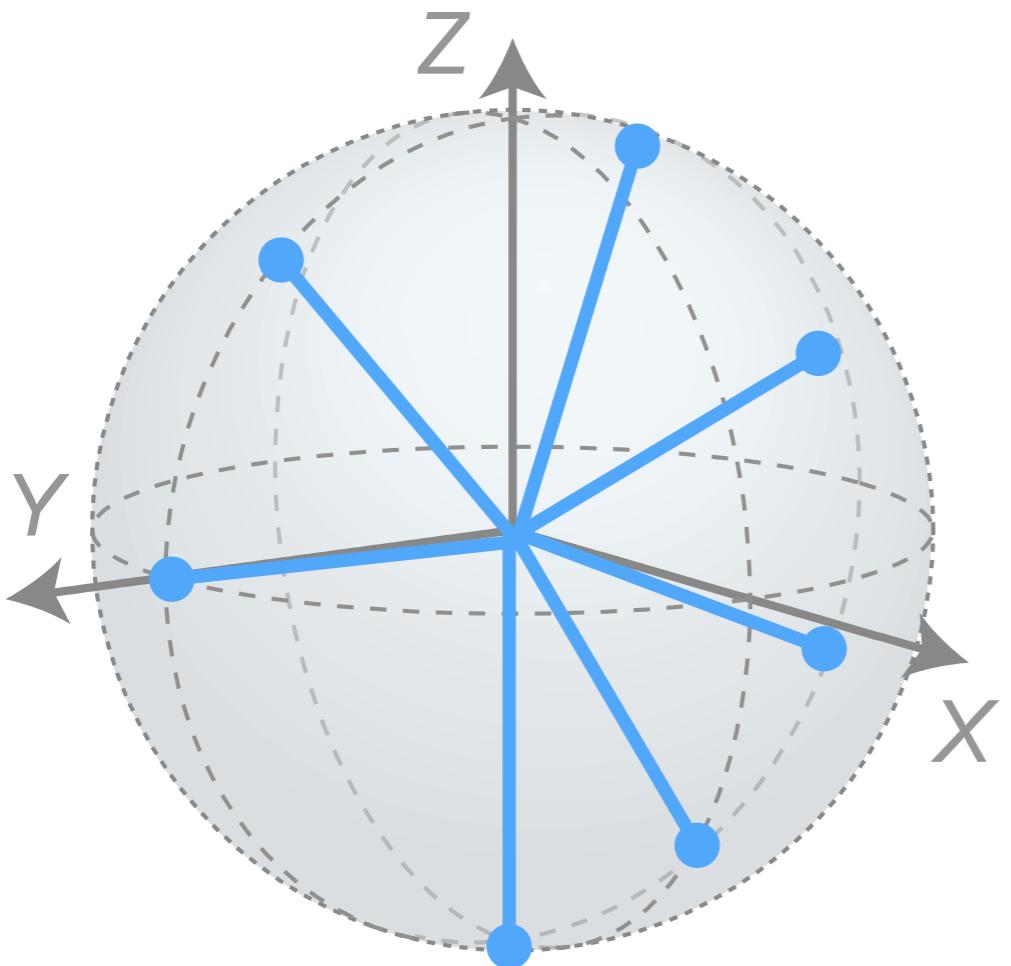
Bures distance:

$$ds = 2(1 - |\langle \psi_J | \psi_{J+dJ} \rangle|)$$

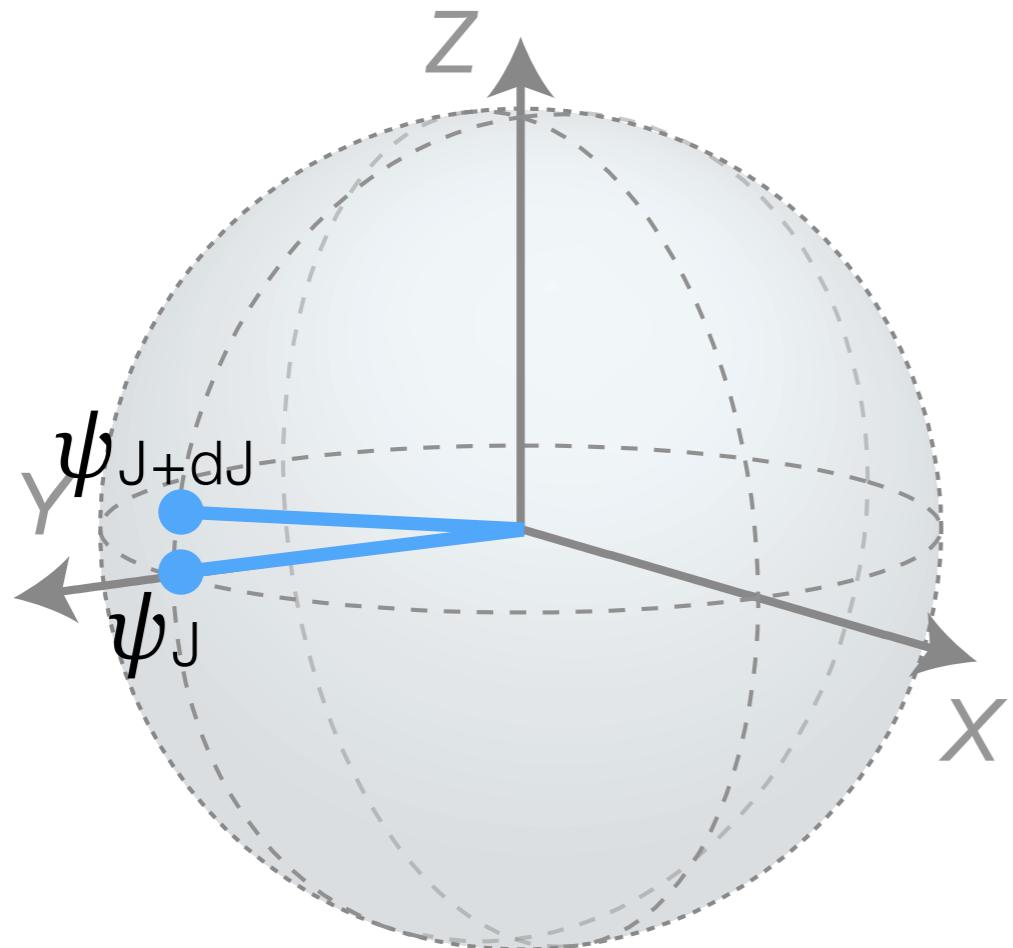


# Quantum Fisher Information

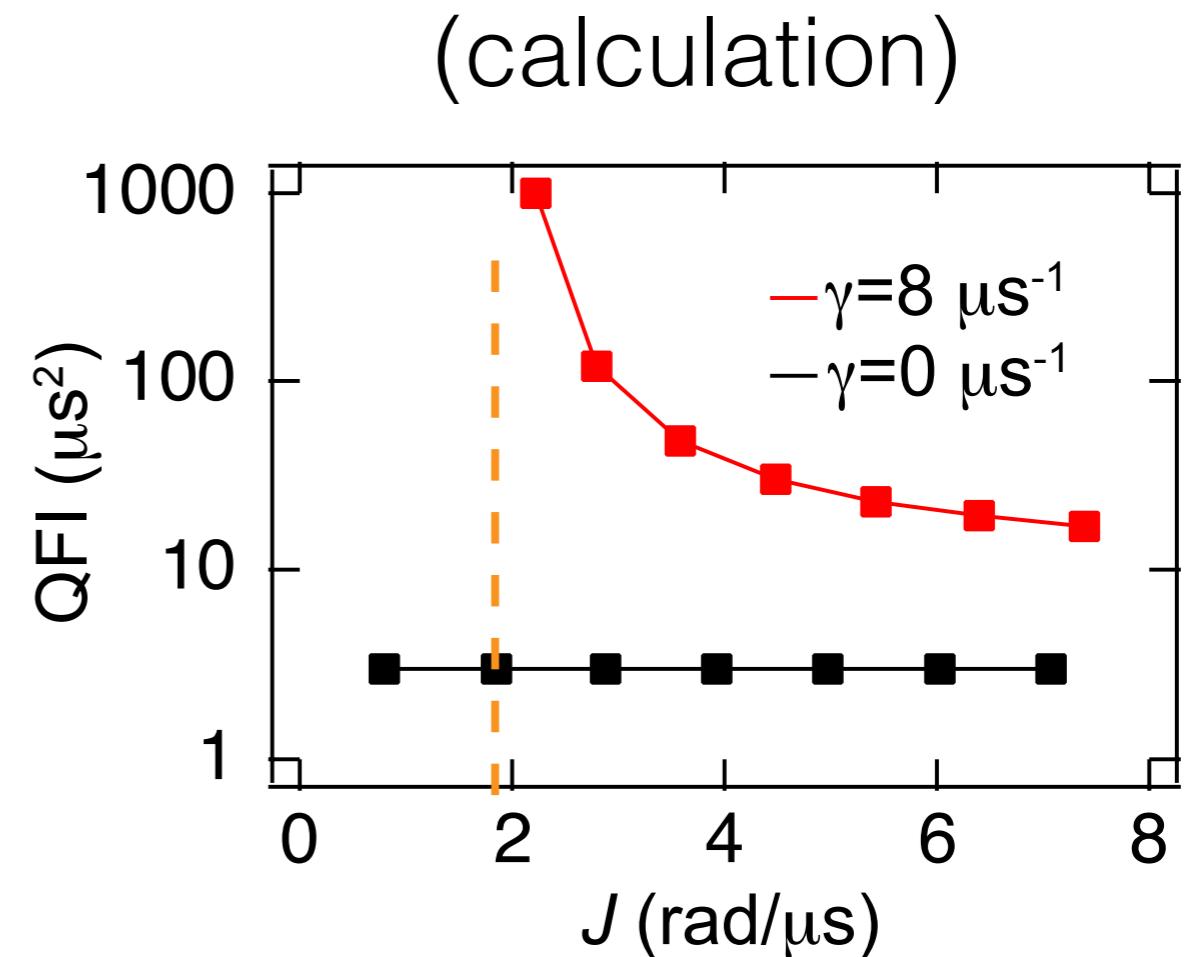
Rabi interferometry



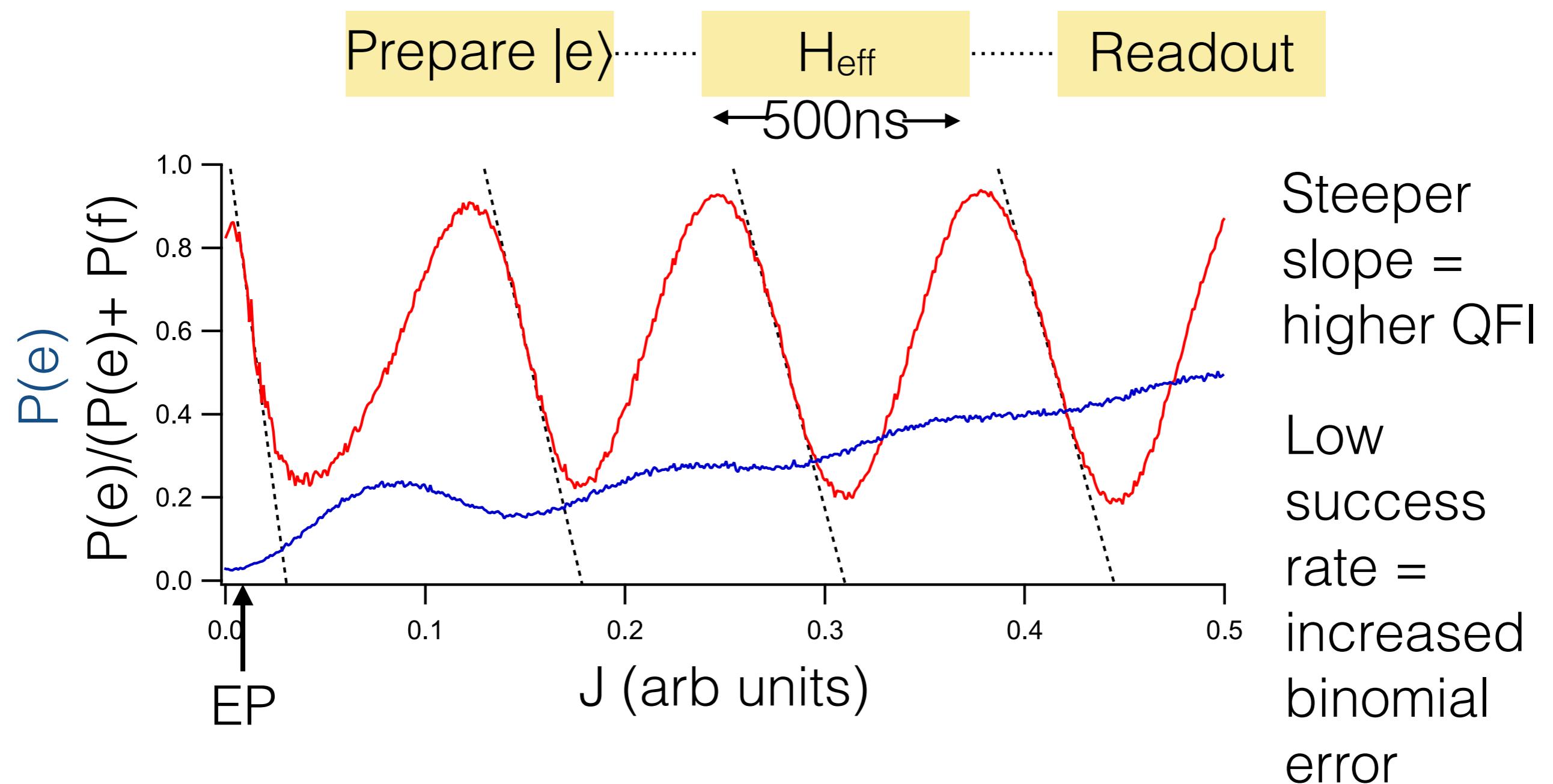
# Quantum Fisher Information



$$\text{QFI} \sim (dP_f/dJ)^2$$



# Measuring the QFI near the EP



### 3 Non-Hermitian qubit sensing summary

Improvement in the QFI about a perturbation  
to non-Hermitian Hamiltonian near EP.

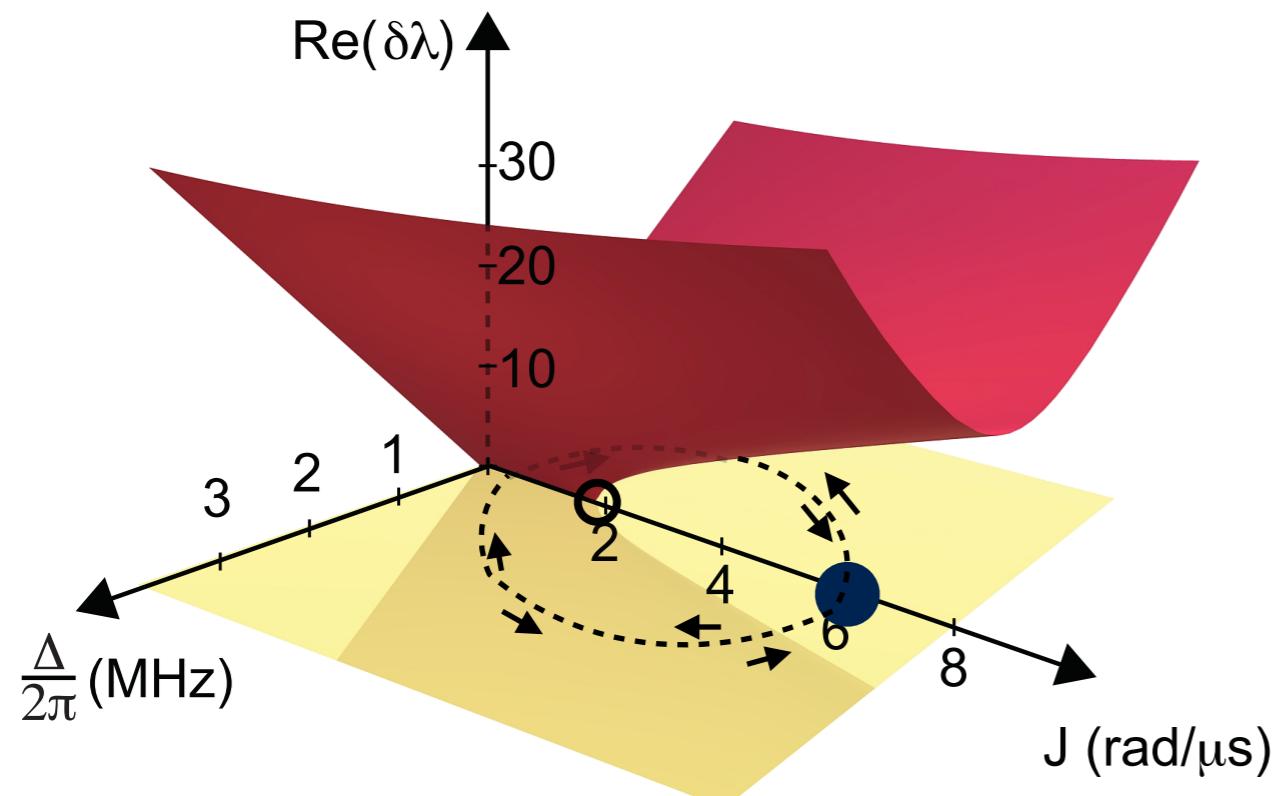
(In the post-selected qubit manifold)

Post-selection introduces a cost due to the  
dissipation.

Can be situations (technical noise) where  
there are still advantages.

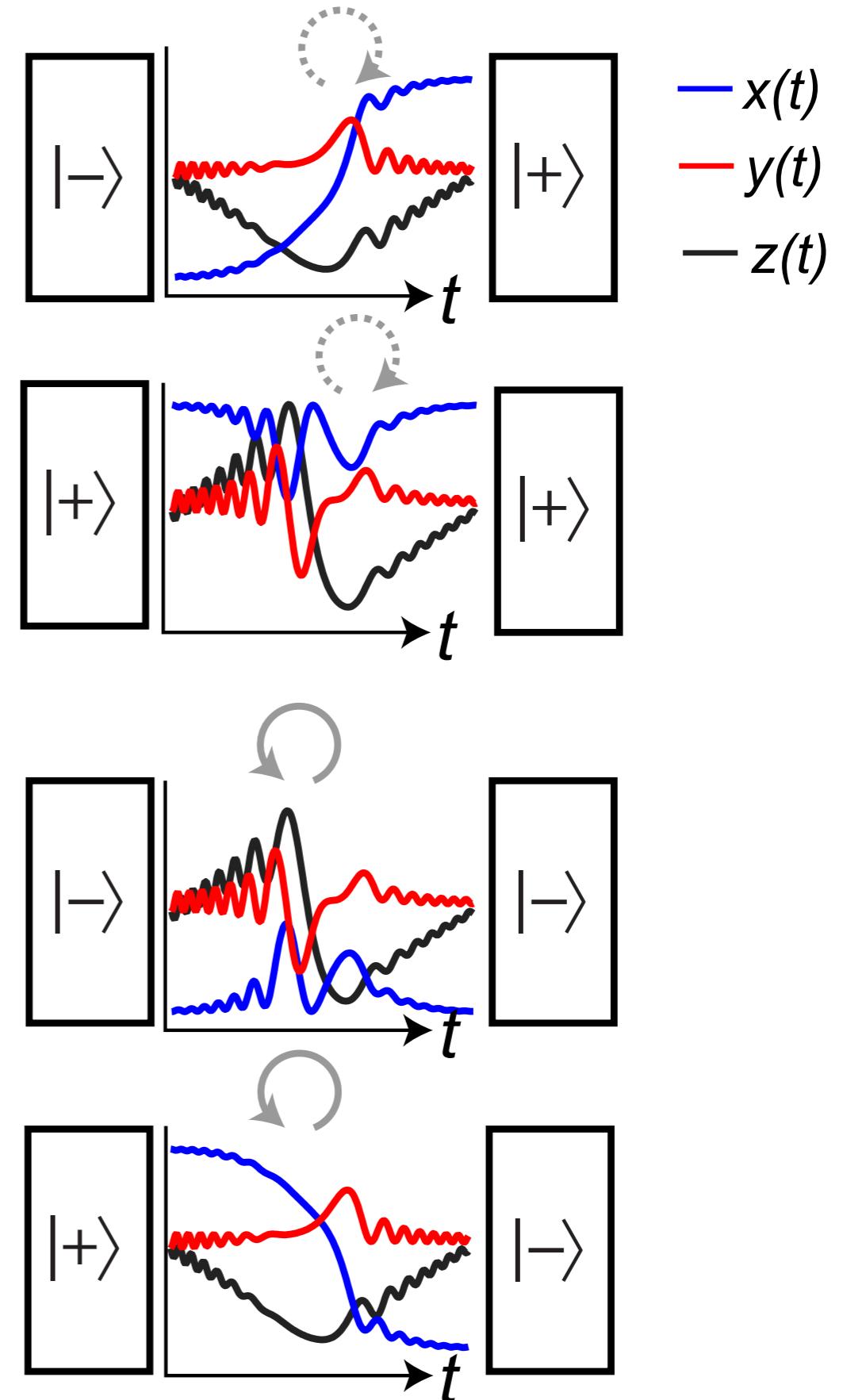
Also inspiration to look at non-lossy systems  
from a new angle.

# Topological features of the EP



Adiabatically tune  
parameters to encircle  
the EP

Non-reciprocal behavior

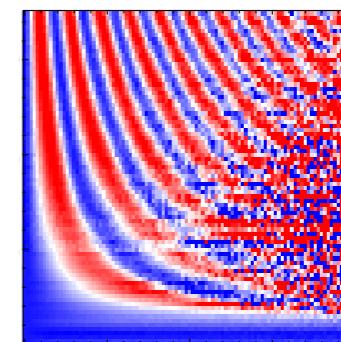


# Non-Hermitian qubit

# Transition from imaginary to real eigenvalues

## (J<γ) PT “broken” phase

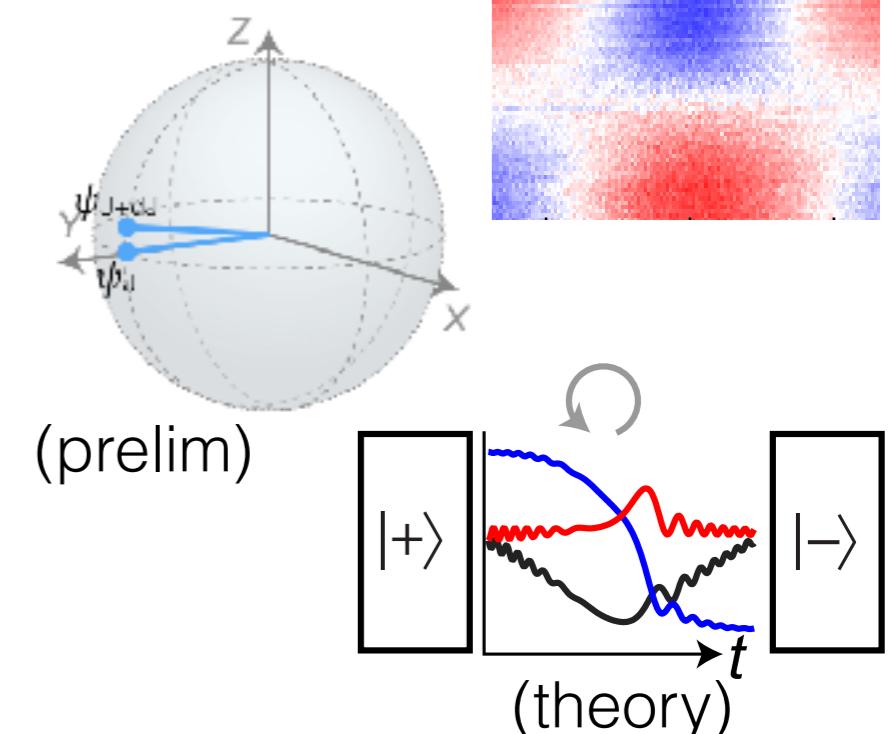
## (J> $\gamma$ ) PT “un-broken” phase



“Exceptional” point degeneracy ( $J=\gamma$ )  
Eigenvectors not orthogonal and become degenerate

## Enhanced sensitivity

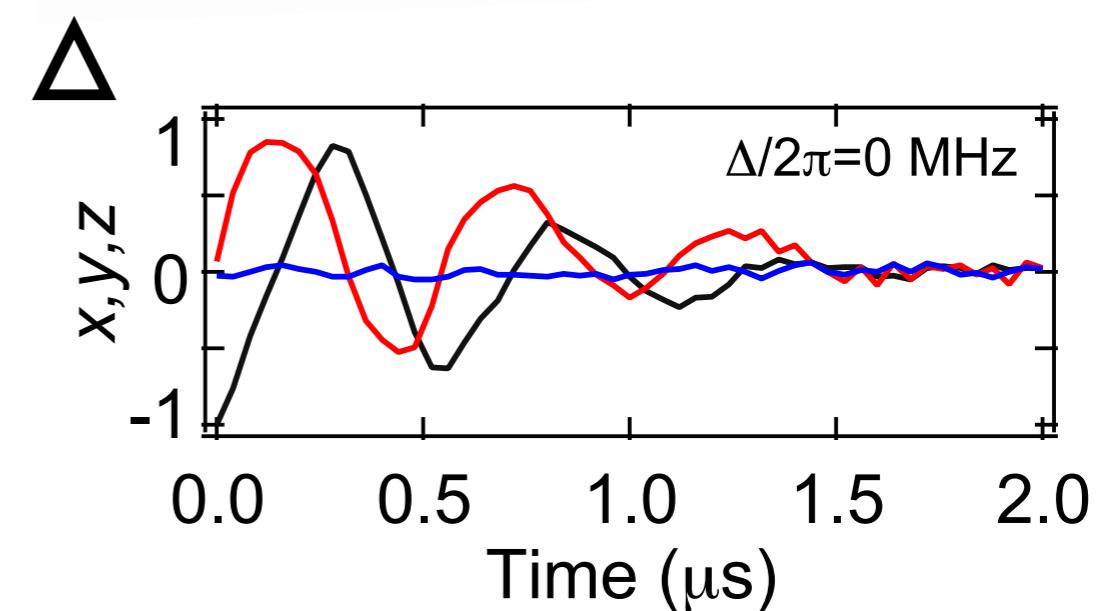
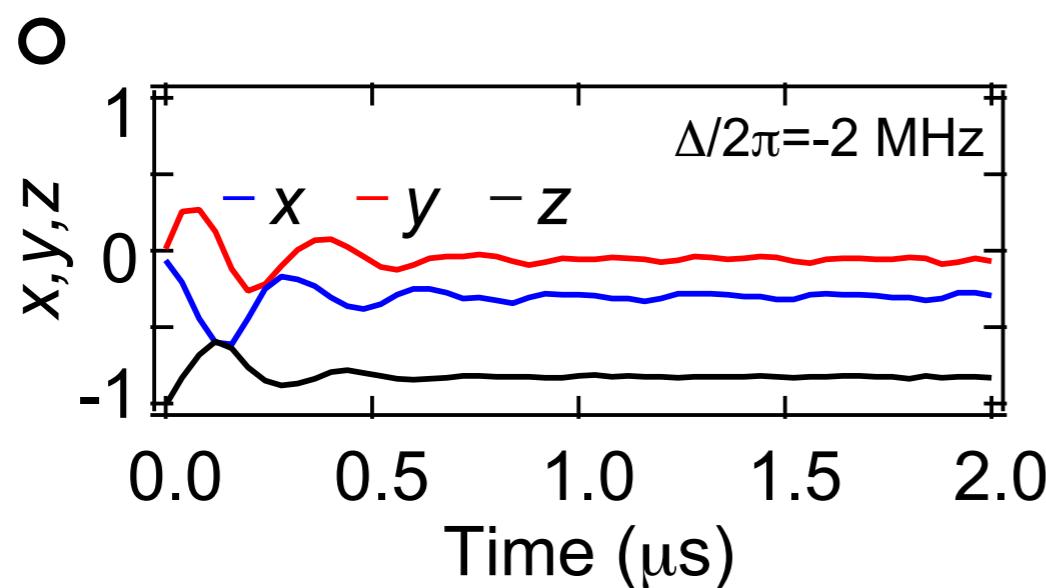
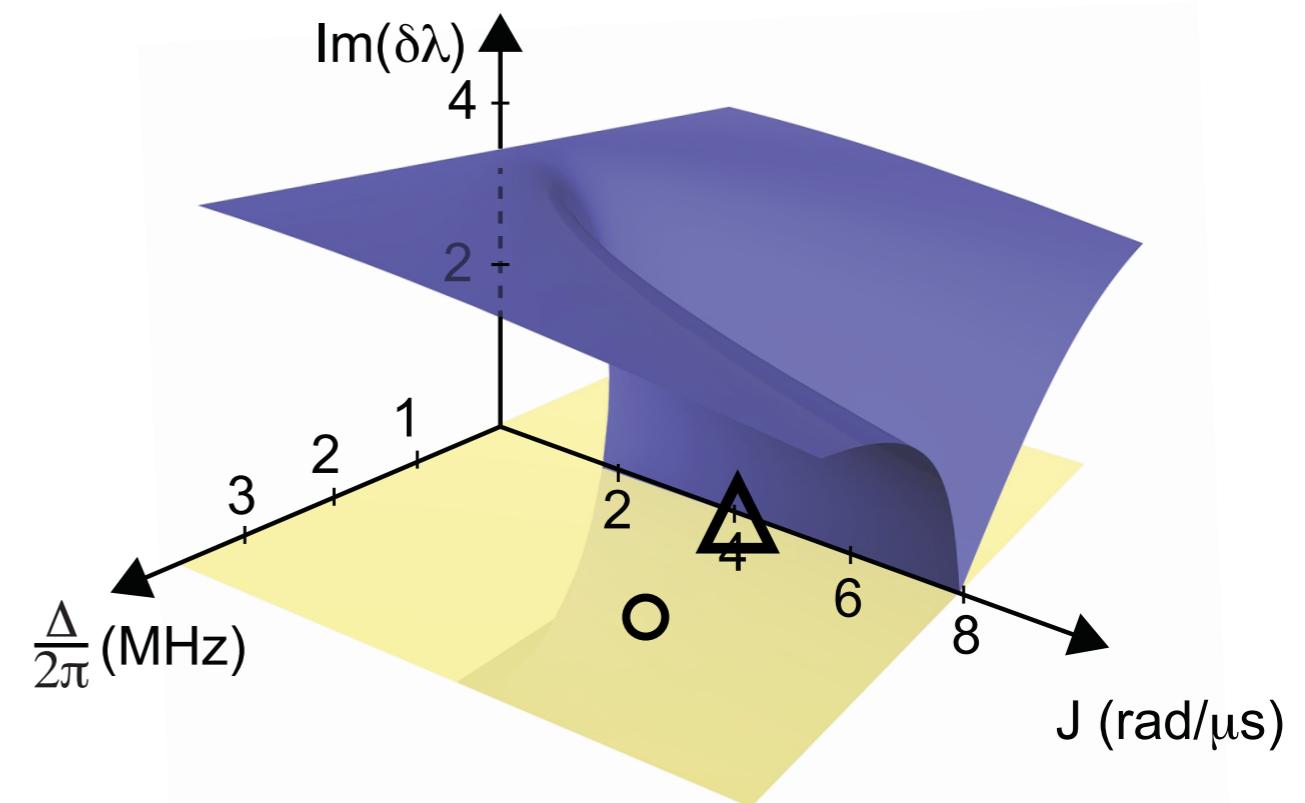
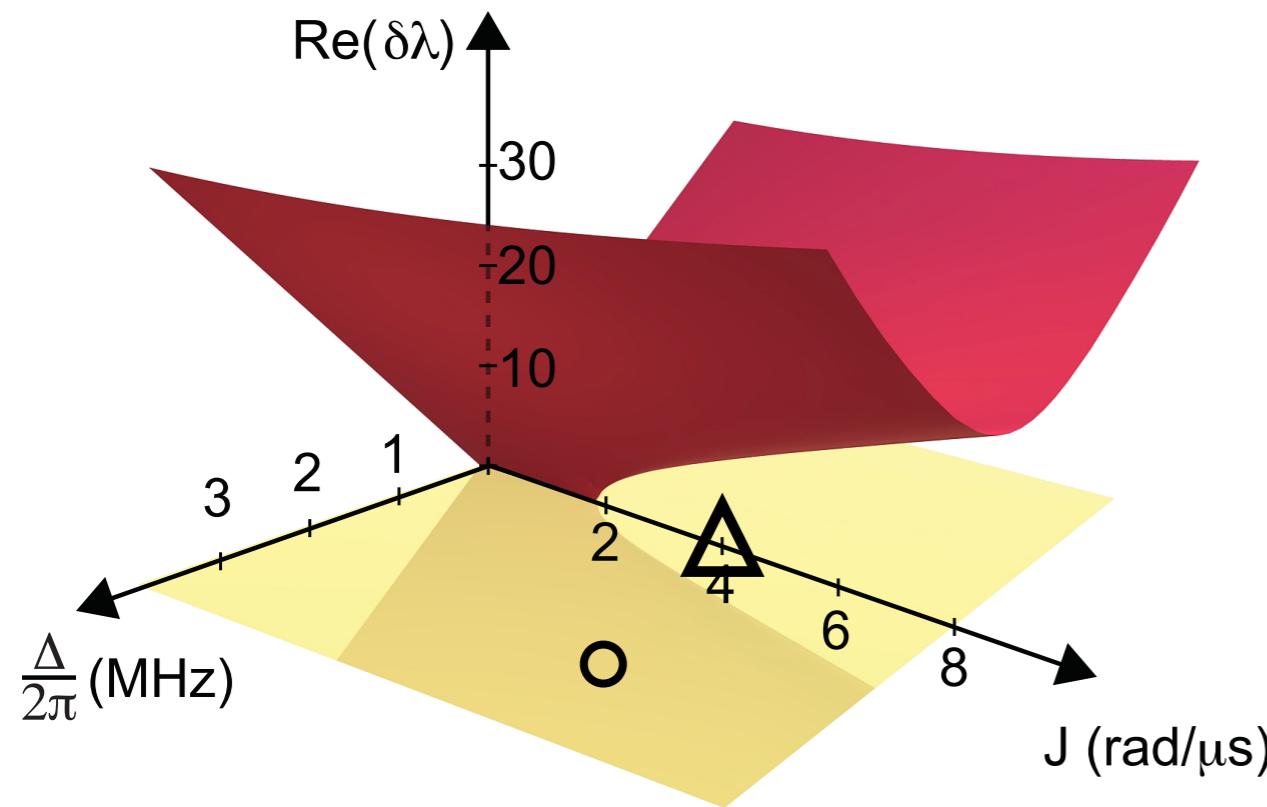
## Topological/non-reciprocal features



# Decoherence!

# Dissipation: Lindblad vs non-Hermitian

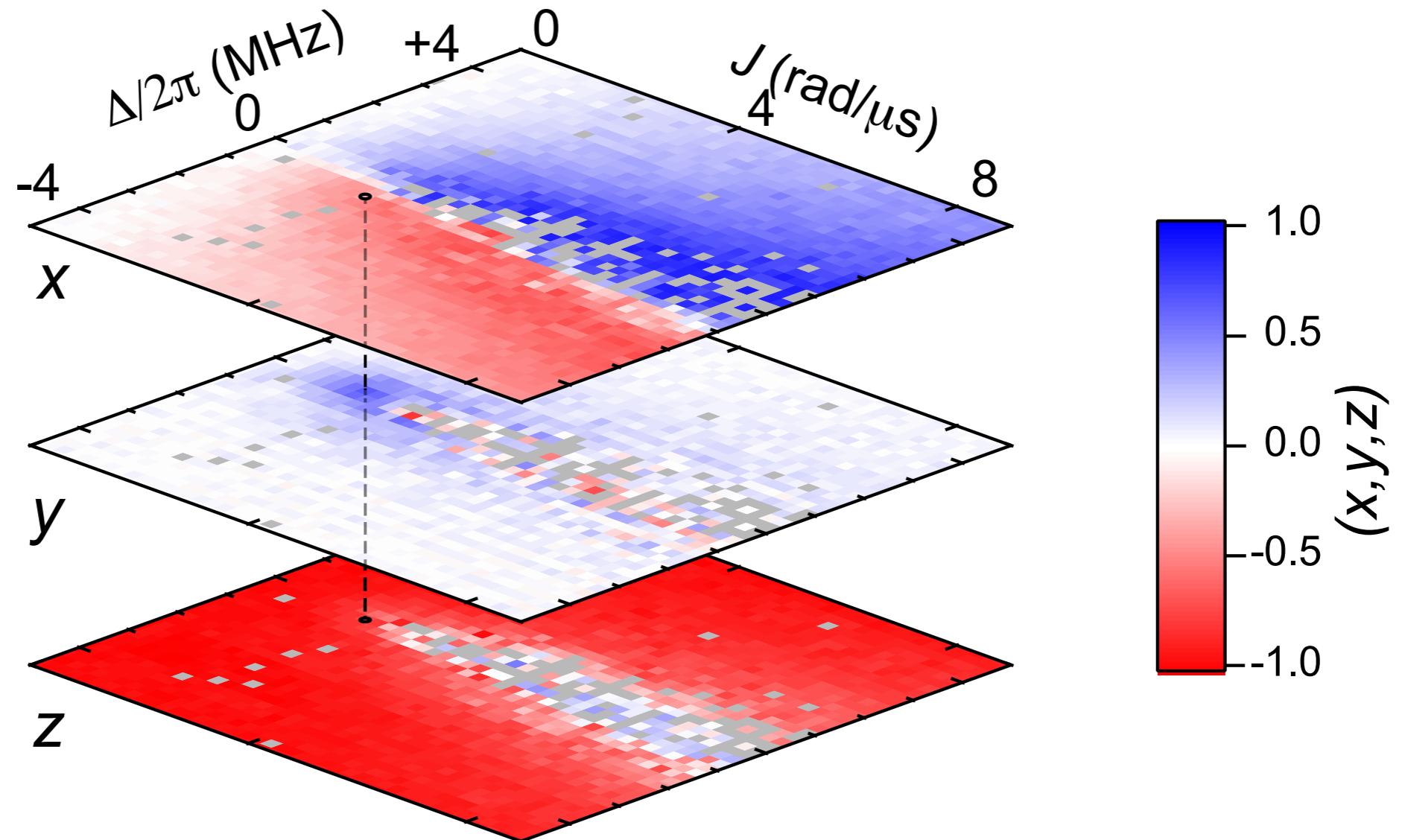
# Interplay of two types of dissipation



(additional decoherence)

# Steady states from dissipation interplay

Quantum state tomography after 4  $\mu\text{s}$  of evolution

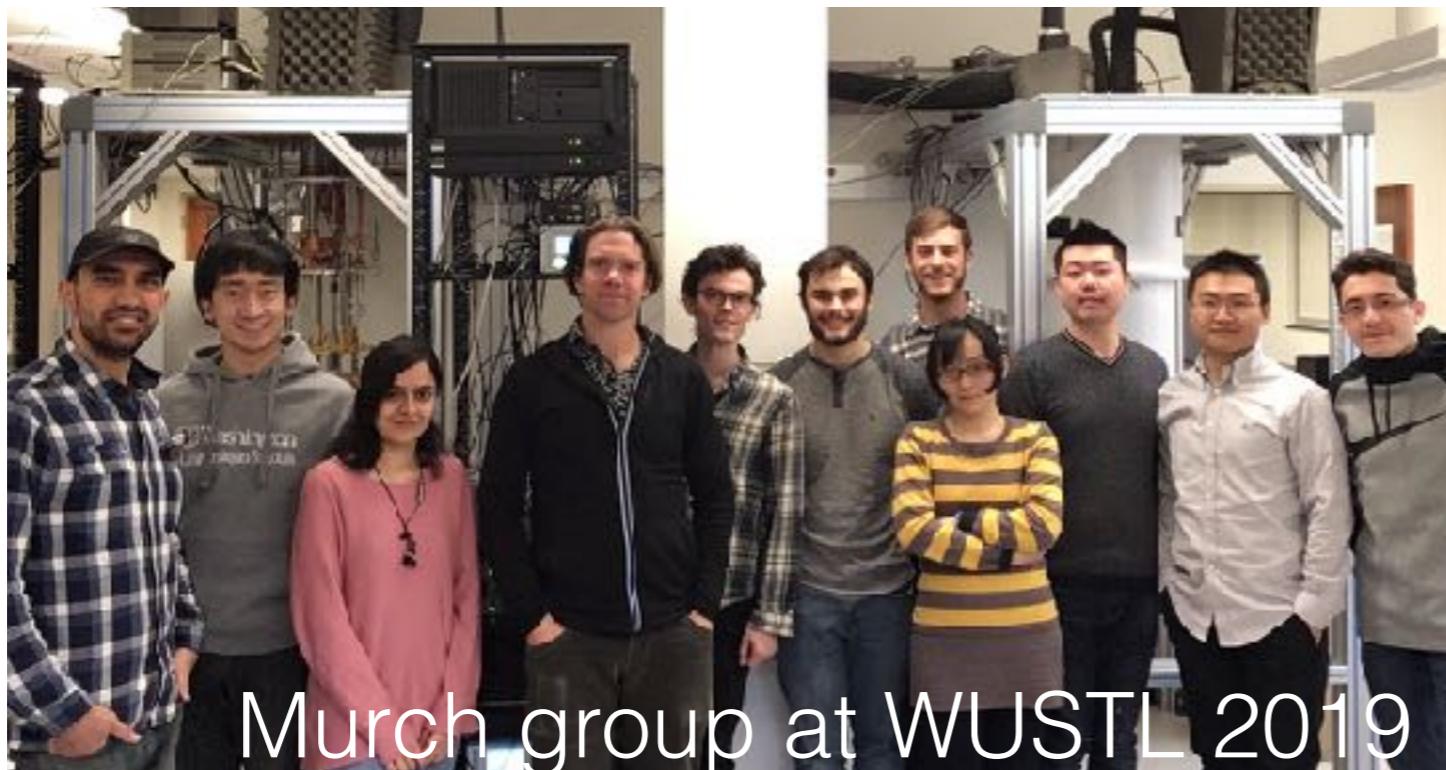


**y bump:** at the EP dissipation drives system to the single eigenstate.

# Summary and thanks

Non-Hermitian qubit: enhanced sensing, non-reciprocal/topological features, interplay of dissipations.

Naghiloo et al 2019 arXiv:1901.07968



**Mahdi Maryam  
Naghiloo Abbasi**

## Collaborators



Yogesh Joglekar  
(IUPUI)

