

Quantum Exceptional Points: challenges and opportunities

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Theory group: 3-4 doctoral, 1-2 undergrad, 1-3 high-school students
Work with experimentalists across different platforms.



What is (is not) non-Hermiticity?

- Coherent, non-unitary evolution: not Lindblad!
- **Exceptional Points: degeneracies of non-Hermitian matrices.**
- Classical EPs and their noise effects are understood.

REVIEW

Exceptional points in optics and photonics

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+ See all authors and affiliations

Science 04 Jan 2019:
Vol. 363, Issue 6422, eaar7709

Article | Published: 04 December 2019

Non-Hermitian ring laser gyroscopes with enhanced Sagnac sensitivity

Mohammad P. Hokmabadi, Alexander Schumer, Demetrios N. Christodoulides & Mercedeh Khajavikhan

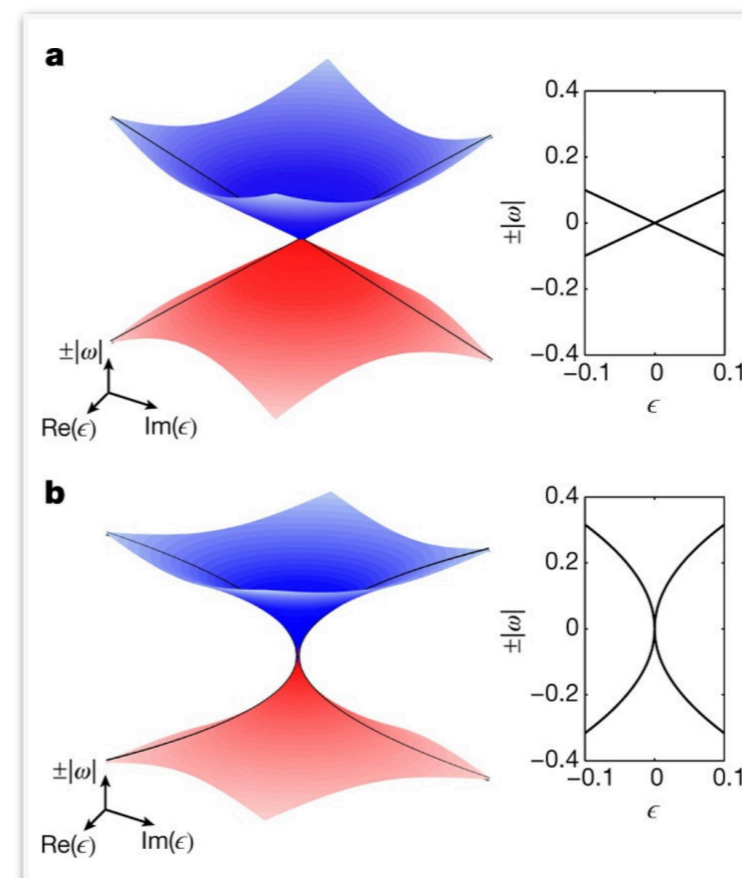
Nature 576, 70–74(2019)

Article | Published: 04 December 2019

Observation of the exceptional-point-enhanced Sagnac effect

Yu-Hung Lai, Yu-Kun Lu, Myoung-Gyun Suh, Zhiqian Yuan & Kerry Vahala

Nature 576, 65–69(2019) | Cite this article



$$\delta\omega \propto \epsilon$$

$$\delta\omega_{EP} \propto \epsilon^{1/2}$$

What are “Quantum” Exceptional Points?

$$i\partial_t \boxed{A} = \boxed{B} \boxed{A} \quad ?$$

A: classical or quantum input and output.

B: classical or quantum “Hamiltonian”.

EPs in coherent, non-unitary evolution.

A: quantum density matrix in Lindblad evolution.

B: Lindblad super-operator (with an extra i).

EP: critically damped (fastest) approach to steady-state.

?: Is this equation a correct description?

Can we make quantum EPs? Yes, across multiple platforms.



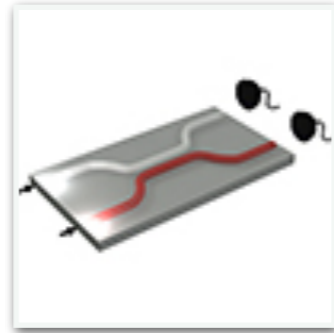
Roberto Leon



Anthony Laing

Quantum input A to “classical devices” B

Passive PT dimer



Use Fock input states;
Use number-resolved output.
Use tomography to measure density matrix.

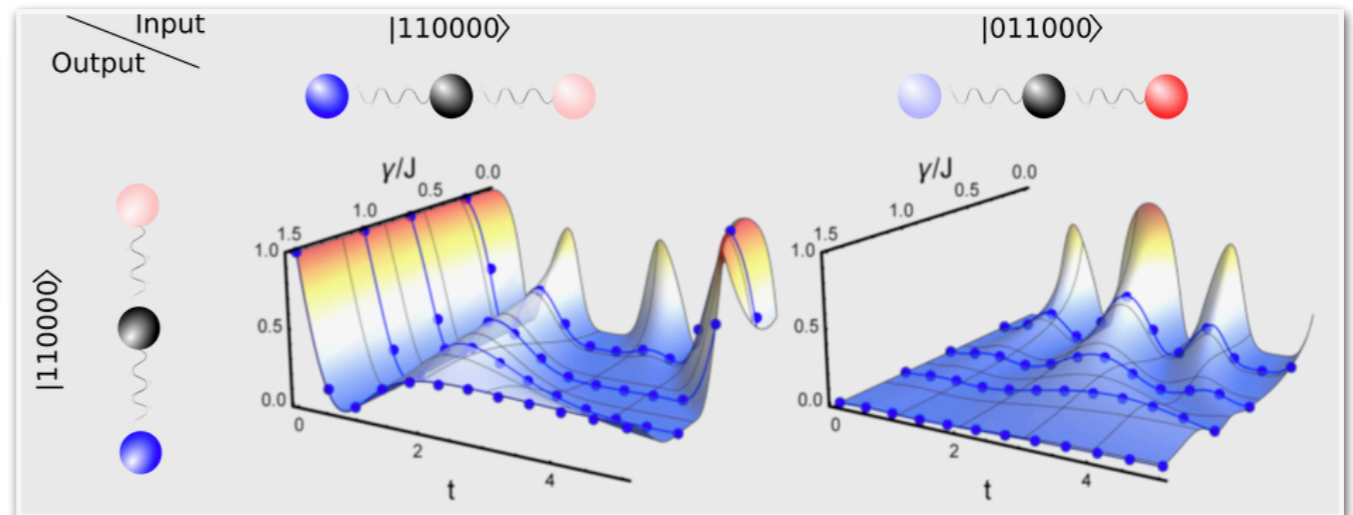
PHOTONICS Research

Exceptional points of any order in a single, lossy waveguide beam splitter by photon-number-resolved detection

Theory proposal: “quantum” EPs

Put in N-photon state in a dimer.
Measure number-resolved output.
Post-select to N-photon manifold.
Get a robust EP of order N+1.

RLM, YNJ *Photonics Research* 7, 862 (2019).



Unitary dilation for non-unitaries.

Multi-photon statistics in PT-trimer.
Thermalization, Lindblad simulations.

YNJ, AL *Nature* 557, 660 (2018); ongoing work.



Kater Murch

“Quantum B”: minimal devices

$$\partial_t \rho = i[H_0, \rho] - \sum_k i \frac{\gamma_k}{2} \left[\{L_k^\dagger L_k, \rho\} + 2L_k \rho L_k^\dagger \right]$$

Lindblad description.
 Ignore quantum jumps.
 Post-select: a non-Hermitian B.

nature physics LETTERS
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41567-019-0652-z>

Quantum state tomography across the exceptional point in a single dissipative qubit

M. Naghiloo¹, M. Abbasi¹, Yogesh N. Joglekar^{2*} and K. W. Murch^{1,3*}

news & views

NON-HERMITIAN PHYSICS

Exceptional quantum behaviour

Non-Hermitian systems with superconducting qubits
 Stefan Rotter

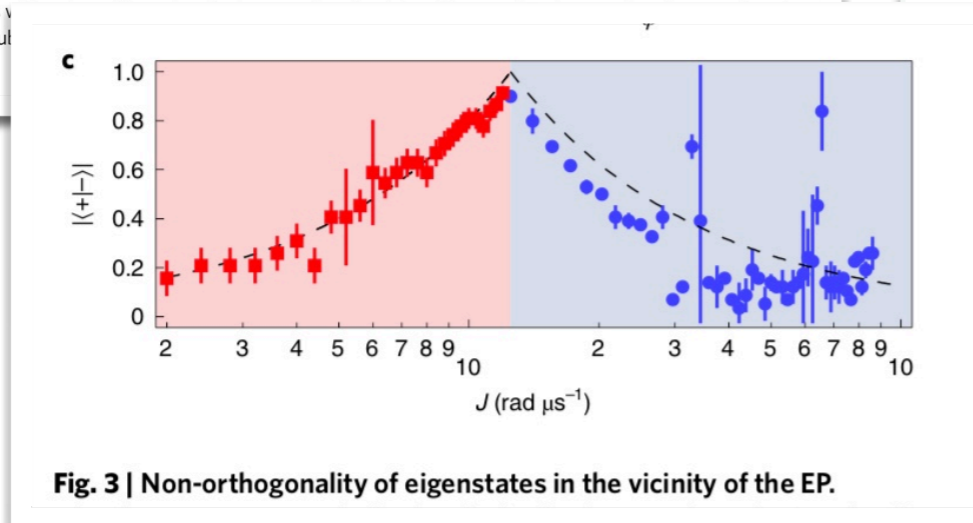
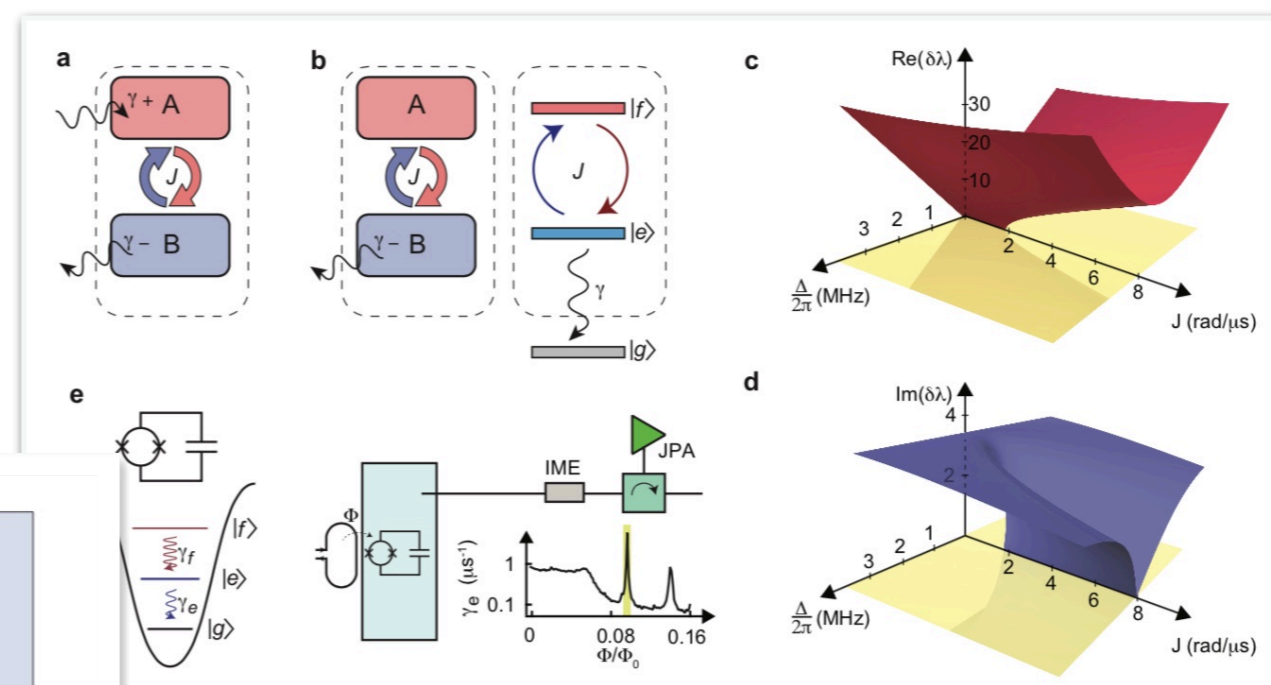
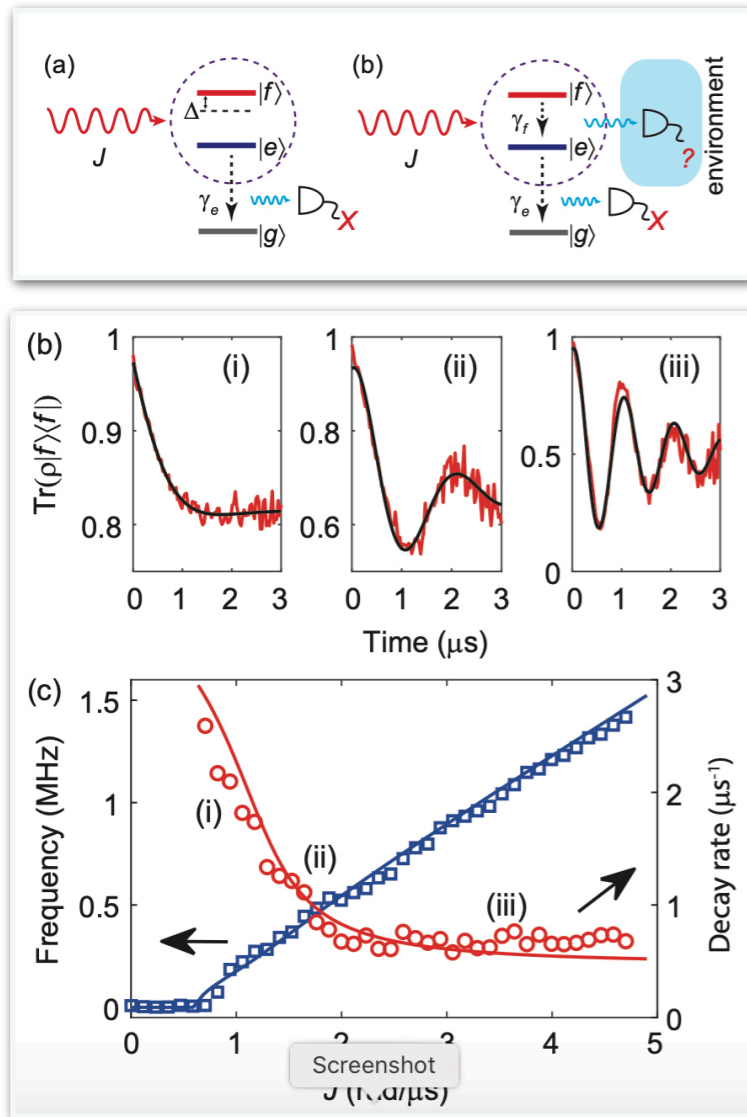


Fig. 3 | Non-orthogonality of eigenstates in the vicinity of the EP.

Lindblad EPs in minimal devices ($A = \rho, B = i\mathcal{L}$)

$$\partial_t \rho(t) = i[H_0(t), \rho(t)] - i \frac{\gamma(t)}{2} \left[\{L_k^\dagger L_k, \rho\} - 2L_k \rho L_k^\dagger \right] = \mathcal{L}(t)\rho(t)$$



Density matrix reaches steady state.

L spectrum: $\{0, \lambda_k, \lambda_k^* \mid \Re \lambda_k < 0\}$

Underdamped or overdamped approach.
Fastest approach occurs at EP.

No post-selection, but decaying signal.

Unphysical density matrix eigenstates.

Encircling mode-switches not possible.



“Quantum B”: interacting materials

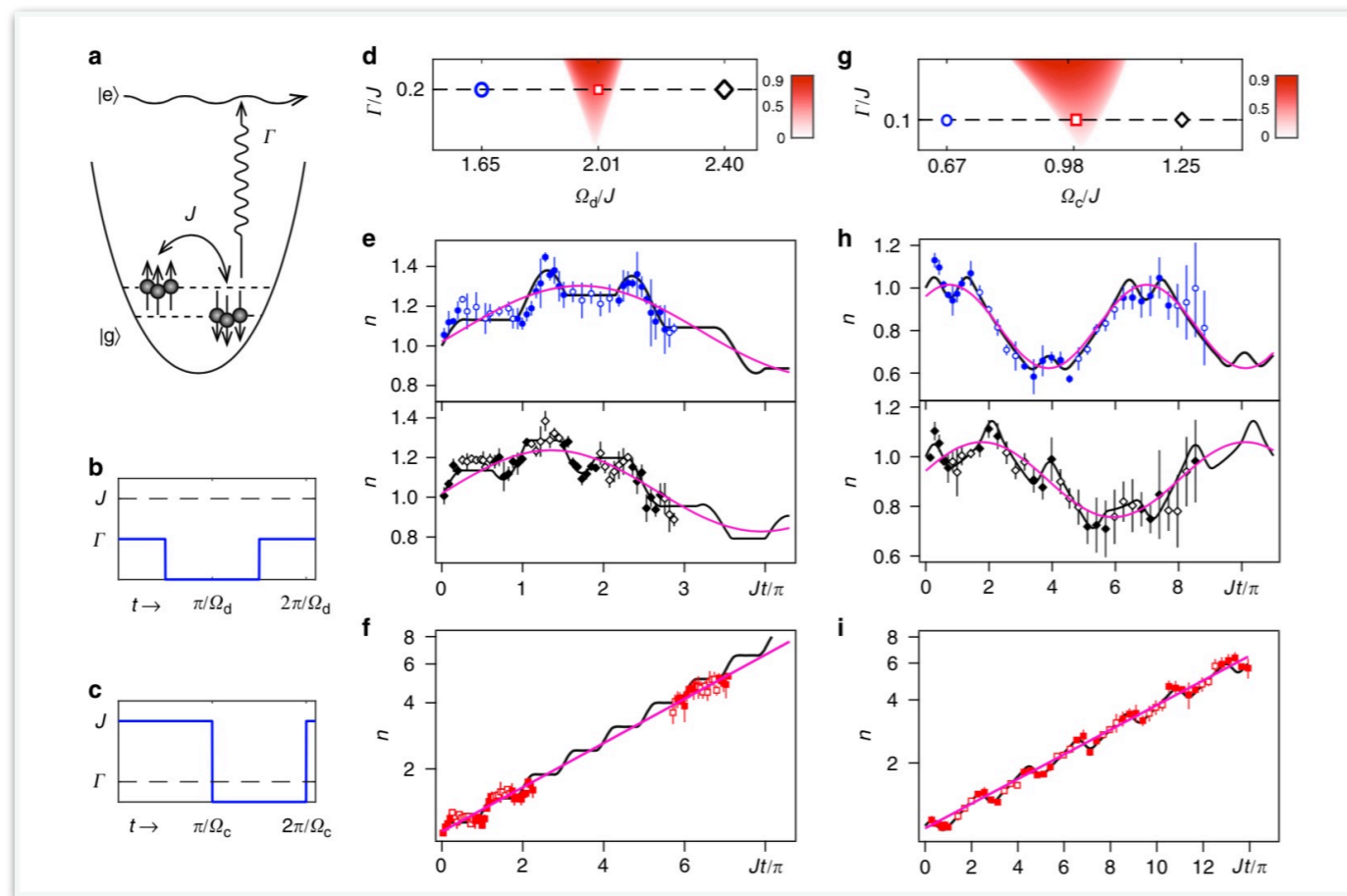


Le Luo

Hermitian systems with QPT (atoms, ions, Rydberg).

No tomography; introduce single-particle losses.

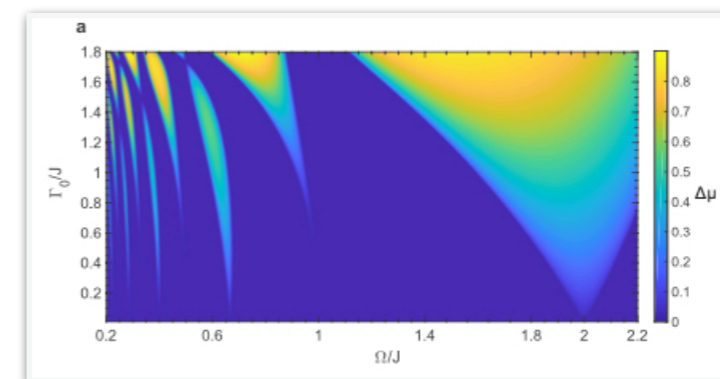
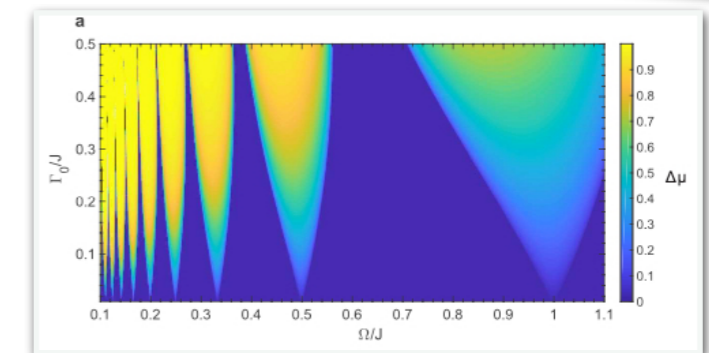
Time-periodic (Floquet) problem: EP contours.



ARTICLE

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-08596-1> OPEN

Observation of parity-time symmetry breaking transitions in a dissipative Floquet system of ultracold atoms



YJ et al., PRA 90, 040101 (2014) Theory.
YNJ, LL Nature Communications 10, 855 (2019).



Roberto Leon

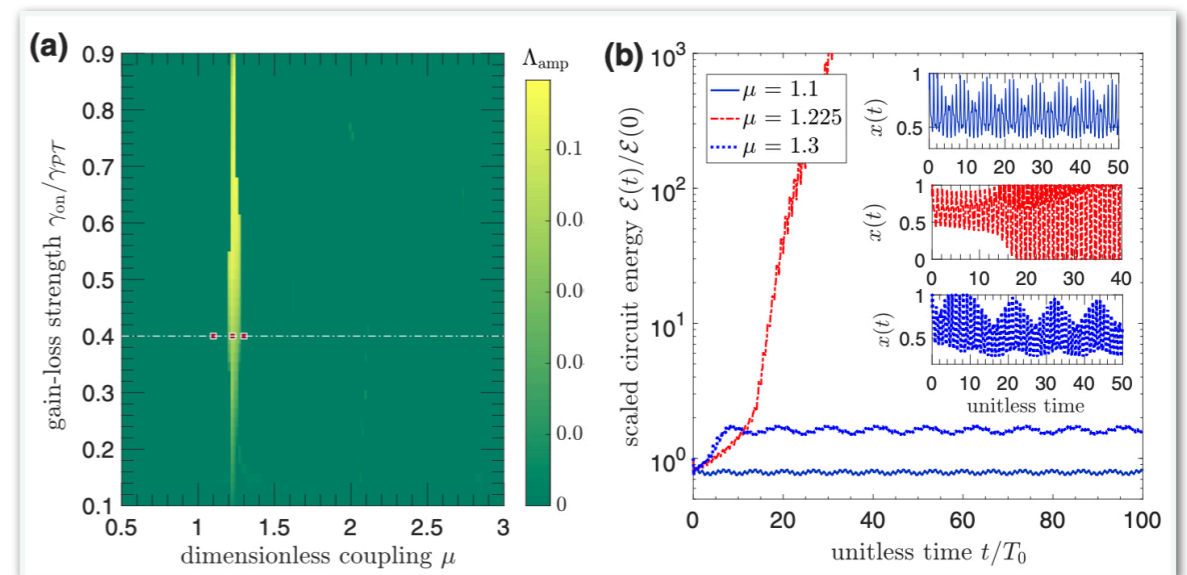
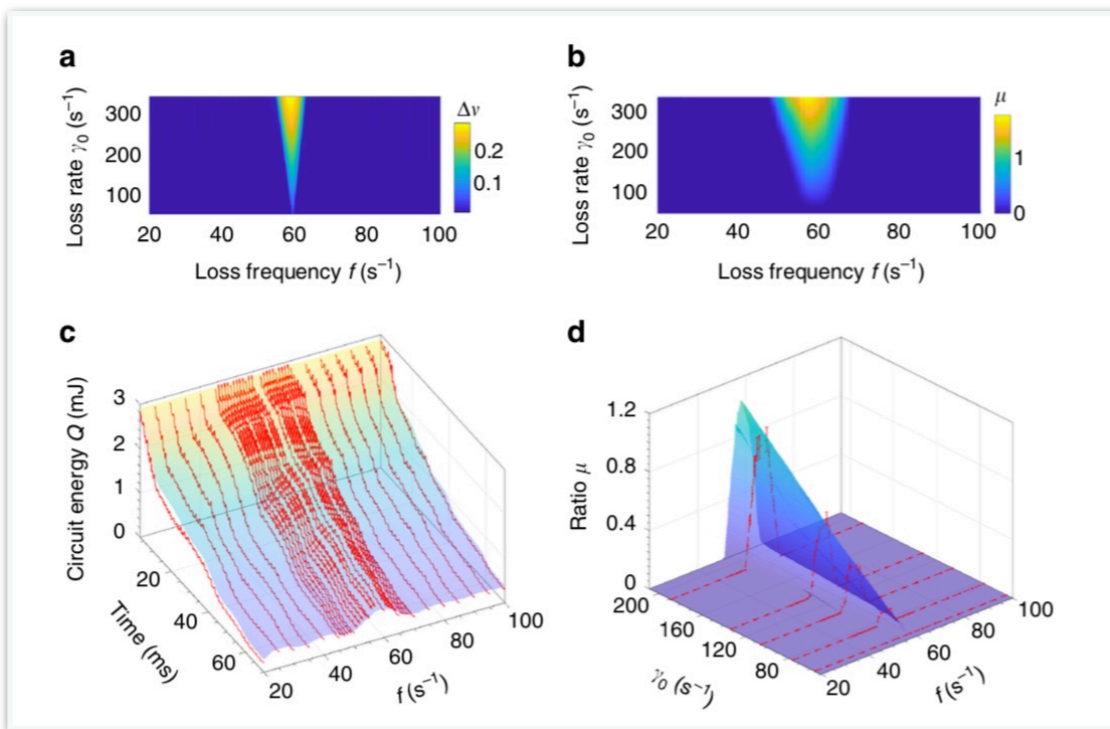
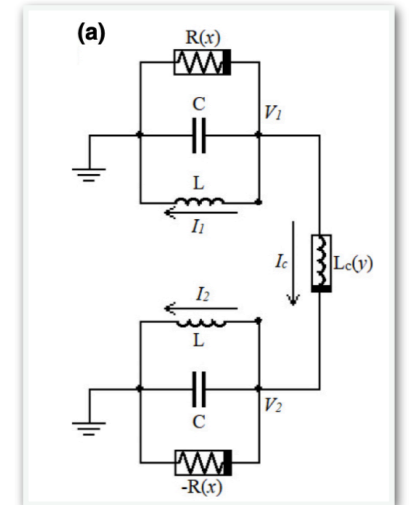
Floquet engineering of EP contours

$$B(t) = H_0(t) + i\Gamma(t) = B(t + T) \text{ with } T = 2\pi/\Omega$$

Static B: isolated EPs near $\Gamma \sim H_0$.

Time-periodic (Floquet) case: EPs become contours.

Valid in both classical and quantum domains.



PHYSICAL REVIEW RESEARCH 3, 013135 (2021)

Parity-time symmetric systems with memory

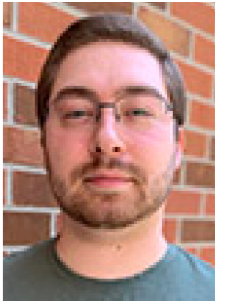
Zachary A. Cochran¹, Avadh Saxena², and Yogesh N. Joglekar¹



YJ, RLM Communications Physics I, 88 (2018).



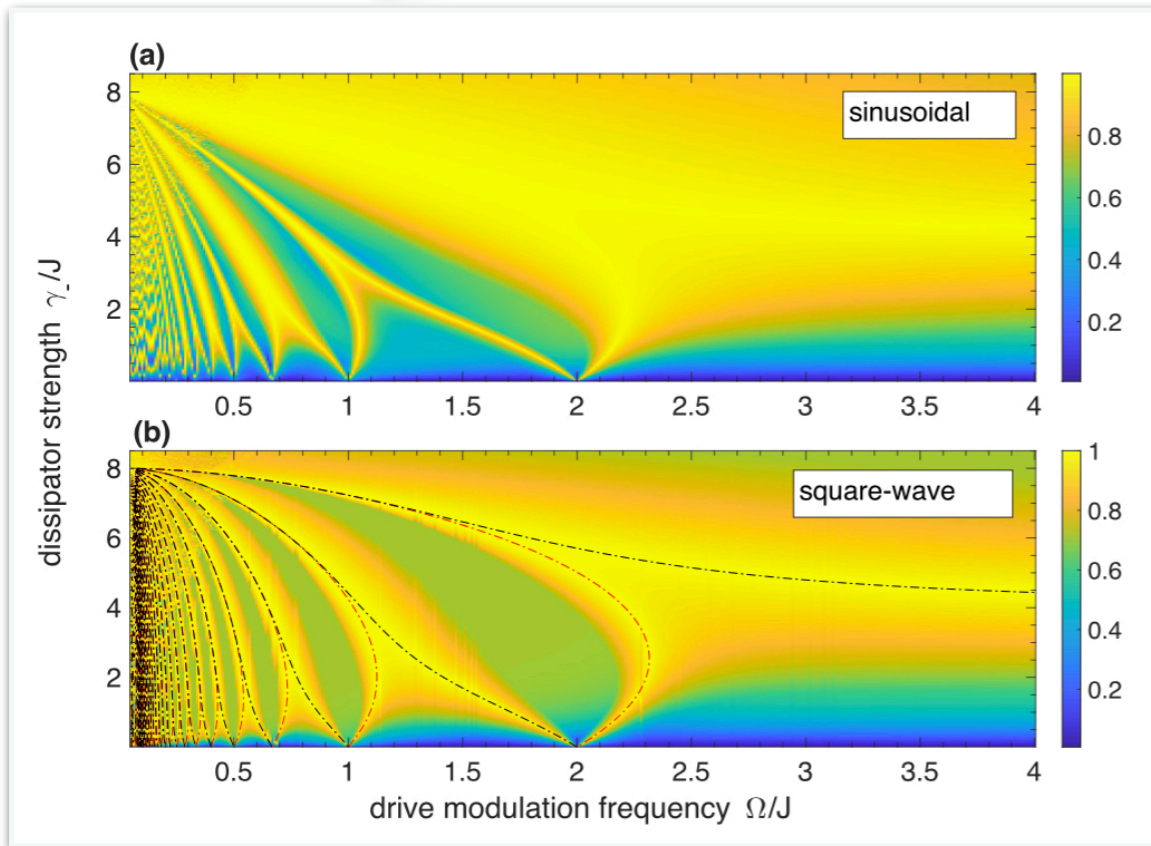
Floquet engineering of Lindblad EP contours



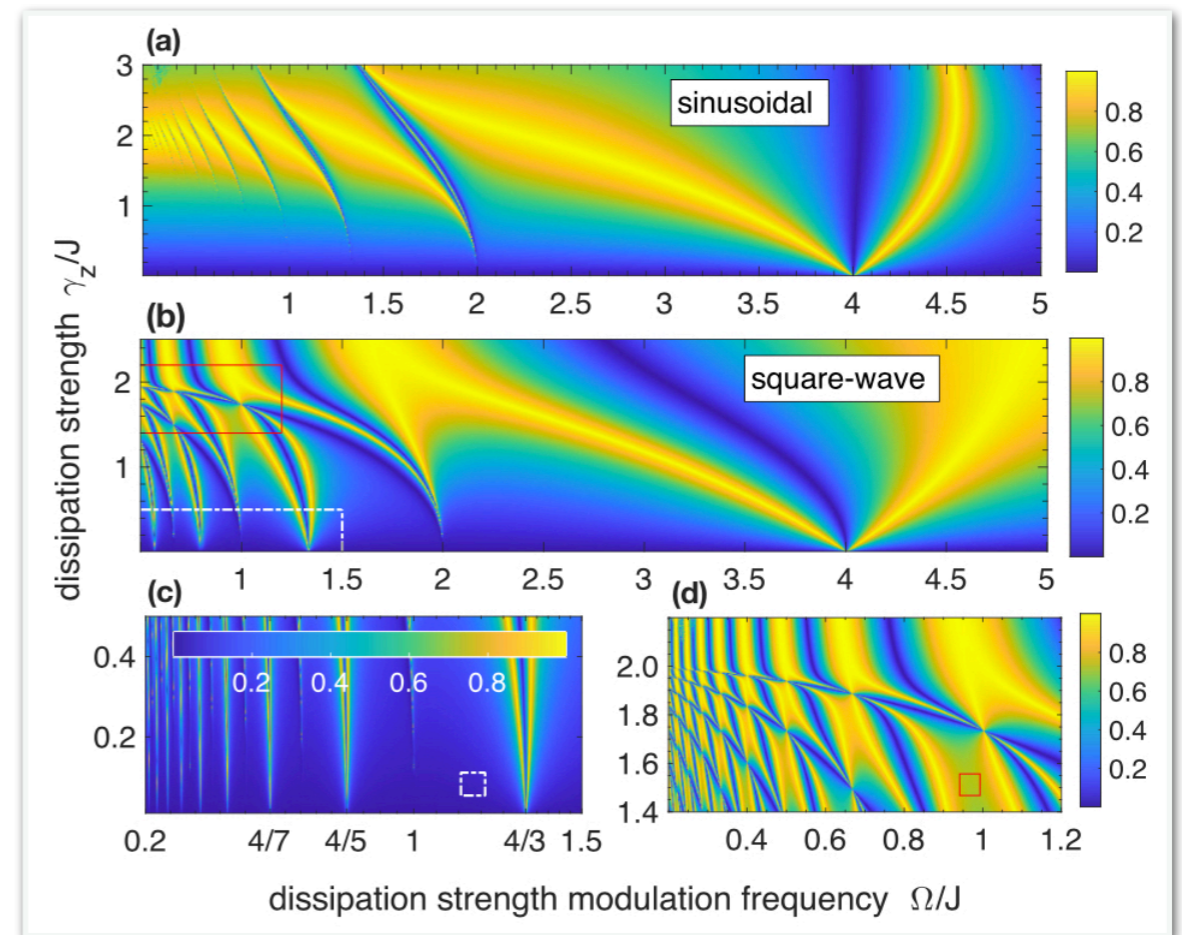
Jacob Muldoon

John Gunderson

$$\mathcal{L}(t) = \mathcal{L}_0(t) + \Gamma(t) = \mathcal{L}(t + T) \text{ with } T = 2\pi/\Omega$$



Time-periodic phase noise $\gamma_z(t)$



Time-periodic drive for the qubit.

Also see poster by Akhil Kumar, IISER, Kolkata.

Gunderson, Jacob Muldoon, KWM, YJ PRA 103, 023718 (2021)

Q: Is this equation a correct description?



Manas Kulkarni



Archak Purkayastha

T=0 losses (allow quantum-jump elimination);
No gain (quantum noise in amplifier).

$$i\partial_t \boxed{A} = \boxed{B} \boxed{A} + \text{noise-terms}$$

Classical: number

Quantum: a^\dagger

- ✗ Equation invalid at the operator level.
- ✓ Ok at quadrature level: EPs in H_{eff} .
- ✗ Not OK for correlations and intensity.

PHYSICAL REVIEW RESEARCH 2, 043075 (2020)

Emergent \mathcal{PT} symmetry in a double-quantum-dot circuit QED setup

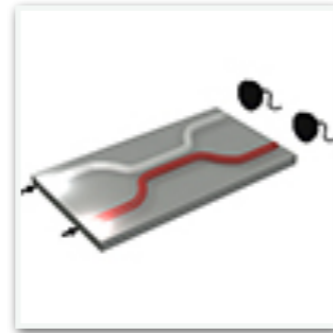
Archak Purkayastha^{1,*}, Manas Kulkarni^{2,†} and Yogesh N. Joglekar^{3,‡}

See: Archak Purkayastha (Today, 18:20)

Open Questions: Do quantum EPs lead to better sensors?
How can we realize many-body systems EPs?
What is the fate of entanglement dynamics across EPs?

Quantum input A to “classical devices” B

Passive PT dimer



$$A = |1_L\rangle \otimes |1_R\rangle$$

$$B = -J(|L\rangle\langle L| + |R\rangle\langle R|) - i\gamma|R\rangle\langle R|$$

2 photon HOM dip (post-selection)

Observation of PT-symmetric quantum interference

F. Klauck, L. Teuber, M. Ornigotti, M. Heinrich, S. Scheel & A. Szameit [✉](#)

Nature Photonics **13**, 883–887(2019) | [Cite this article](#)

Drawbacks: Post-selection means reduced data sets.

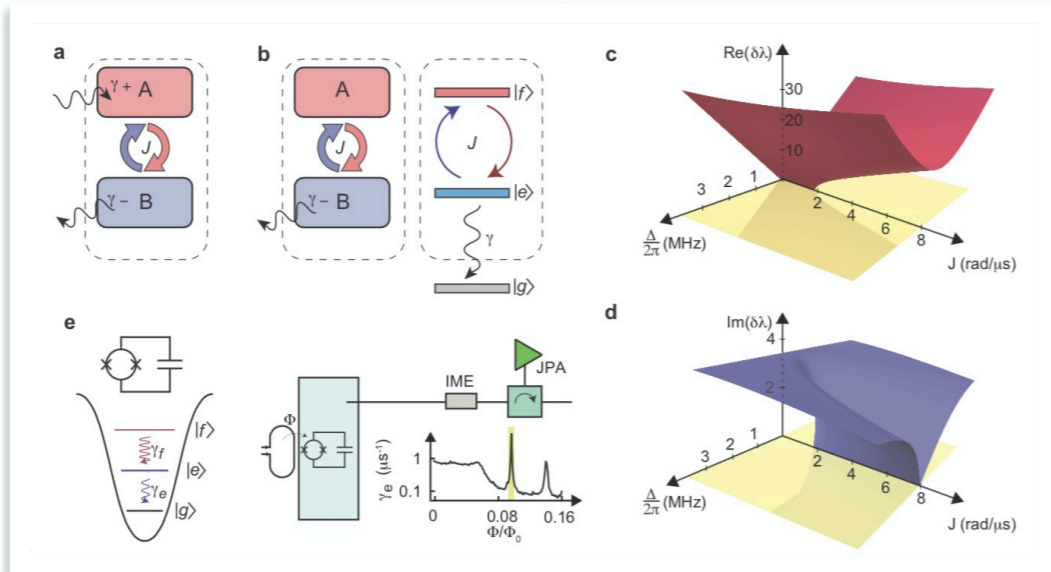
What happens if the quantum input is not Fock states?

Signatures of EPs in non-Gaussian initial states?

Quantum tomography across an EP



Kater Murch, Wash U



nature physics

LETTERS

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41567-019-0652-z>

Quantum state tomography across the exceptional point in a single dissipative qubit

M. Naghiloo¹, M. Abbasi¹, Yogesh N. Joglekar^{2*} and K. W. Murch^{1,3*}

news & views

NON-HERMITIAN PHYSICS

Exceptional quantum behaviour

Non-Hermitian systems with gain and loss give rise to exceptional points with exceptional properties. An experiment with superconducting qubits now offers a first step towards studying these singularities in the quantum domain.

Stefan Rotter

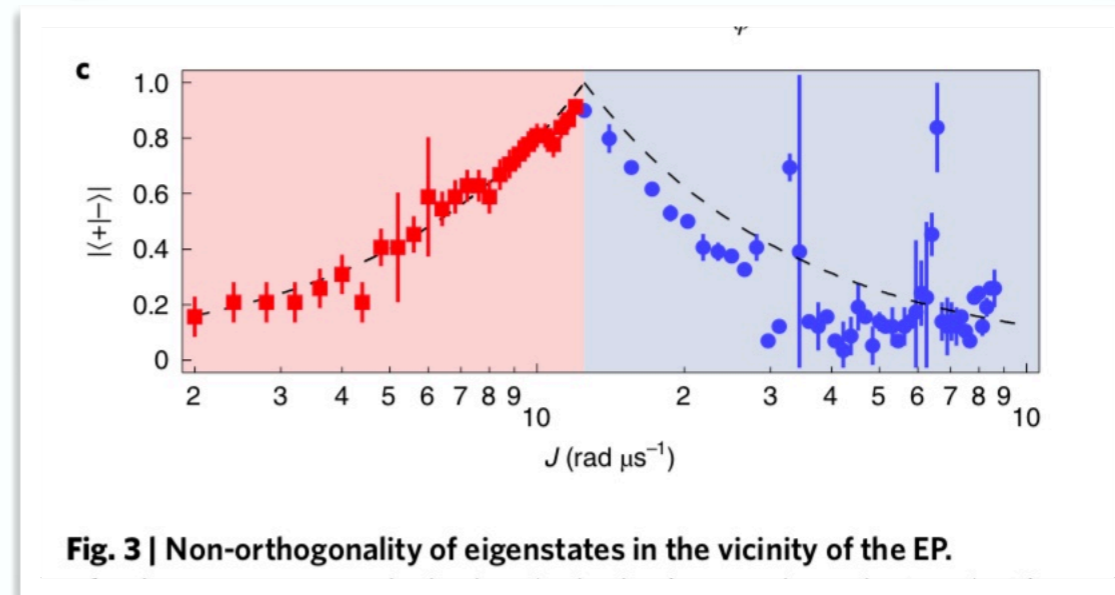
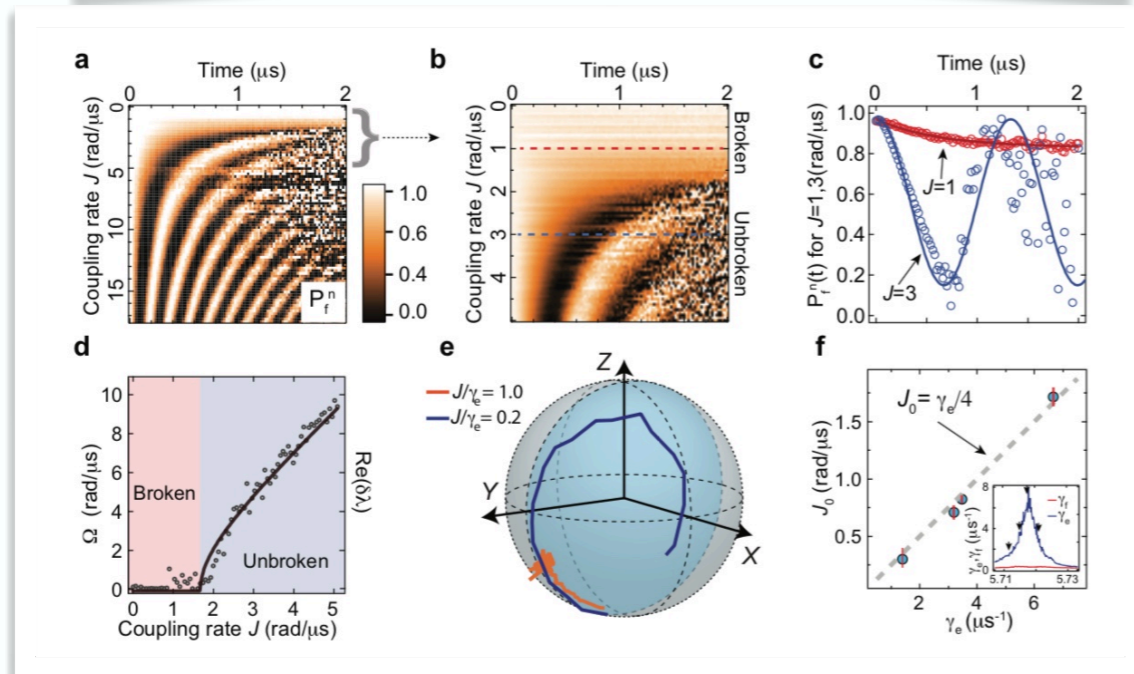


Fig. 3 | Non-orthogonality of eigenstates in the vicinity of the EP.

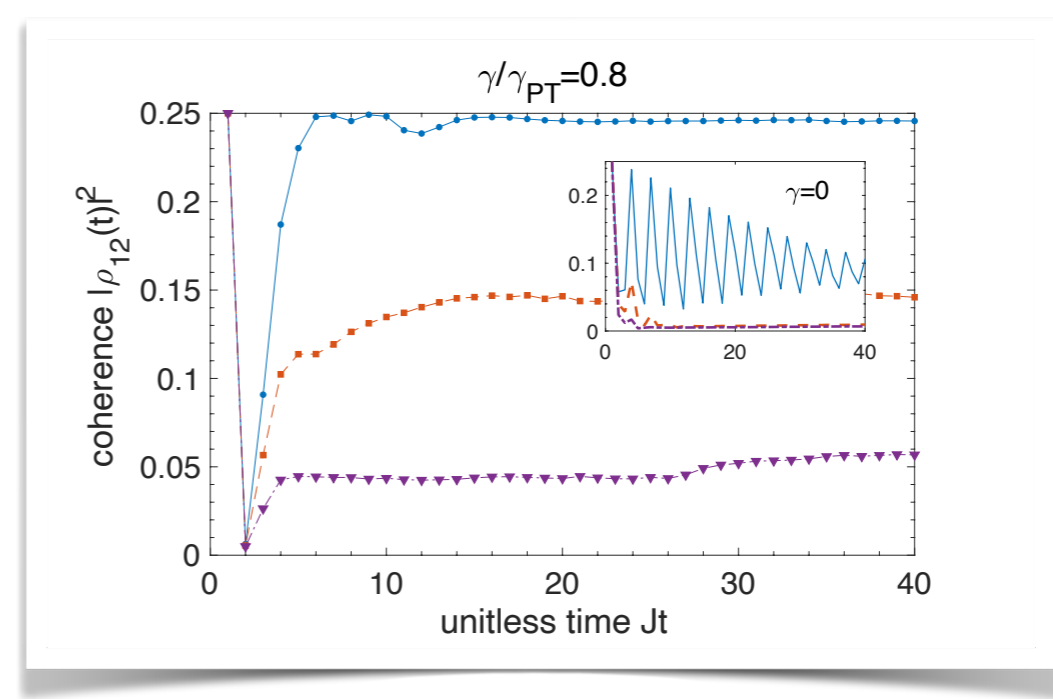
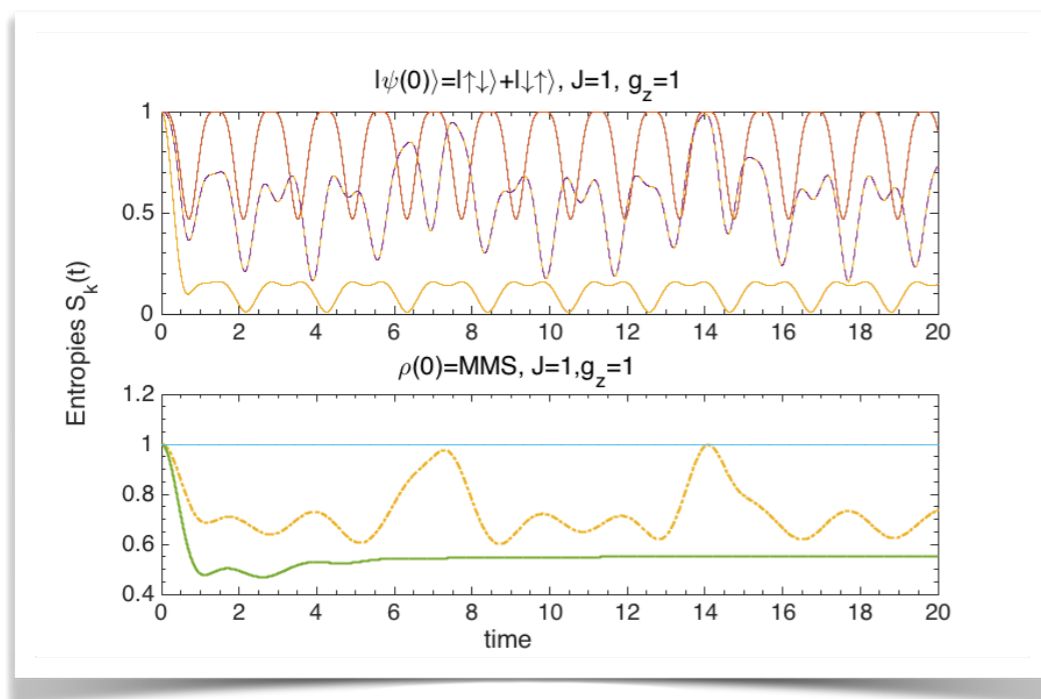
Post-selection on Lindblad gives non-Hermitian H

Non-Hermitian Quantum Simulations

- Interactions+non-Hermiticity: new entanglement dynamics.
- Decoherence vs. non-Hermiticity: new way to control.

$$H = -J(X_1 + X_2) + g_z Z_1 Z_2 - i\Gamma_1(1 - Z_1)/2$$

Lindblad + loss γ



Open question (we can potentially address):

New quantum phases from non-Hermitian interactions.