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# Theory of robust quantum many-body scars in long-range interacting systems

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Collaboration:

arxiv 2309.xxxxx  
(to appear soon)

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\$\$\$\$



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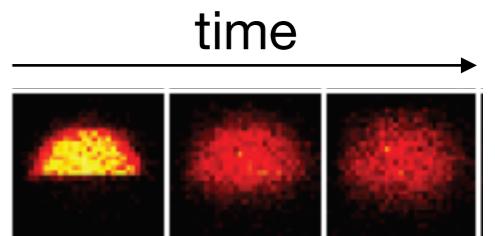
# Synthetic matter

- Ultracold atoms
- Rydberg atom arrays
- Trapped ions
- Superconducting qubits
- ...



Beyond “traditional” quantum many-body physics:

- Isolated (no phonon/heat bath) → **Coherent quantum dynamics**



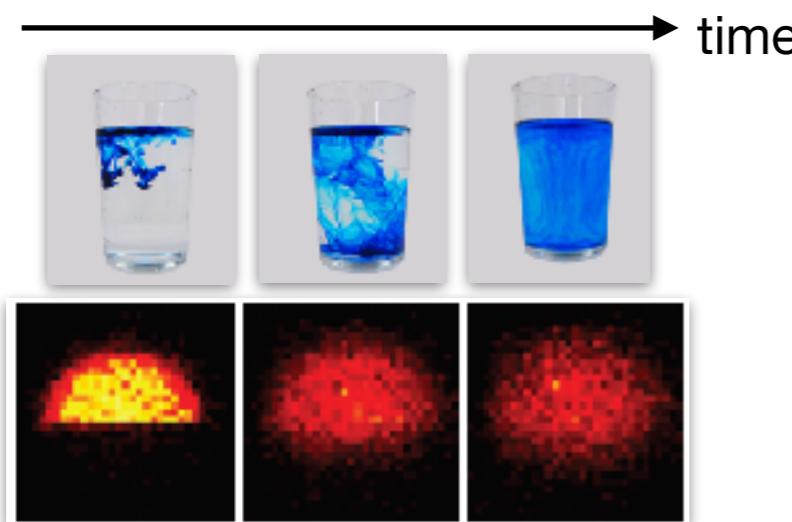
- Long timescales:  $\sim 10^{-3} \text{ s}$  vs  $10^{-12} \text{ s}$  → **Single-site, real-time resolution**



- Design dimensionality, lattice, interactions,... → **Tunability**

*pictures: I. Bloch group @ Munich*

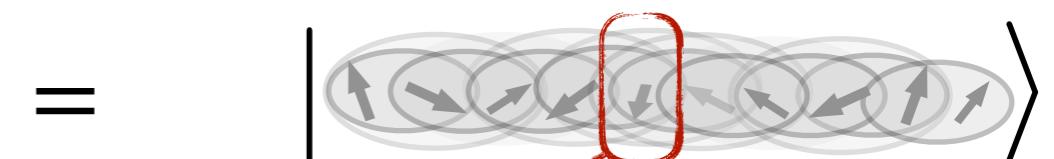
# Thermalization of isolated systems?



experiments:

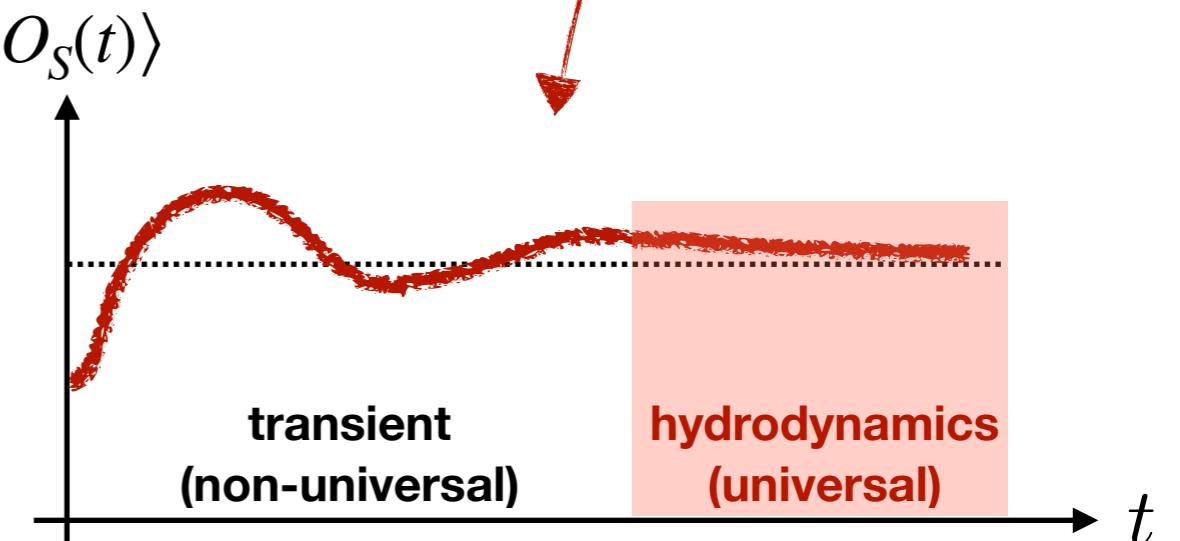
*Kinoshita et al. - Nature (2006)*   *Langen et al. - Nat. Phys. (2013)* ...  
*Trotzky et al. - Nat. Phys. (2012)*   *Kaufman et al. - Science (2016)* ...

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = e^{-iHt} \left| \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \uparrow \right\rangle$$

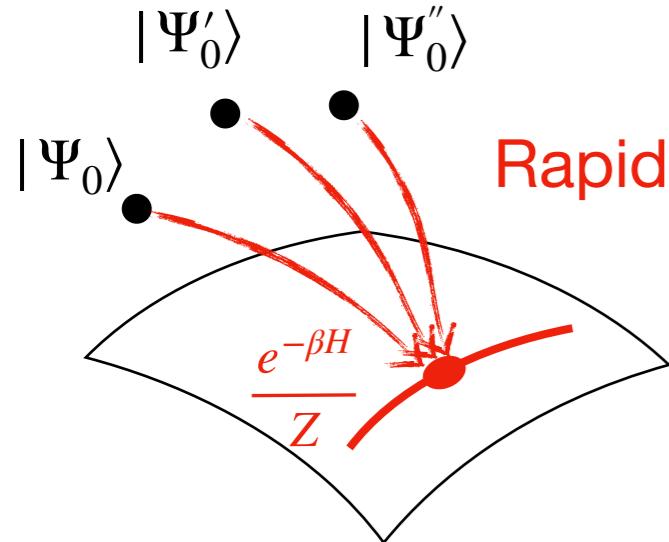


$$\langle O_S(t) \rangle$$

$$\langle \psi(t) | O_S | \psi(t) \rangle \xrightarrow[t \rightarrow \infty]{} \text{Tr} \left( O_S \frac{e^{-\beta H}}{Z} \right)$$

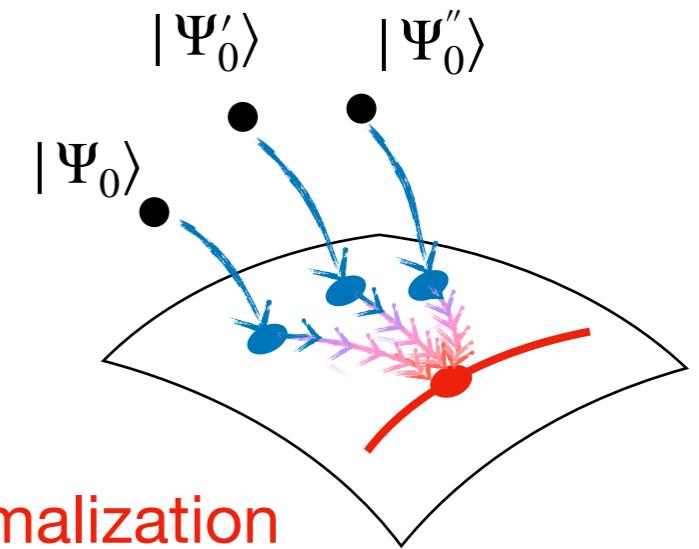


# Nonequilibrium states/phases of matter



Rapid thermalization

Suppressed/Slow thermalization



Many-body localization

Quantum glasses

*review:*  
Abanin et al. - RMP (2020)

Prethermalization

Metastability

Disorder-free localization

Quantum many-body scars

...

Quantum many-body chaos

*review:*  
D'Alessio et al. - Adv. Phys. (2016)

**THIS TALK**

# Experimental discovery of quantum many-body scars

Two states per atom:

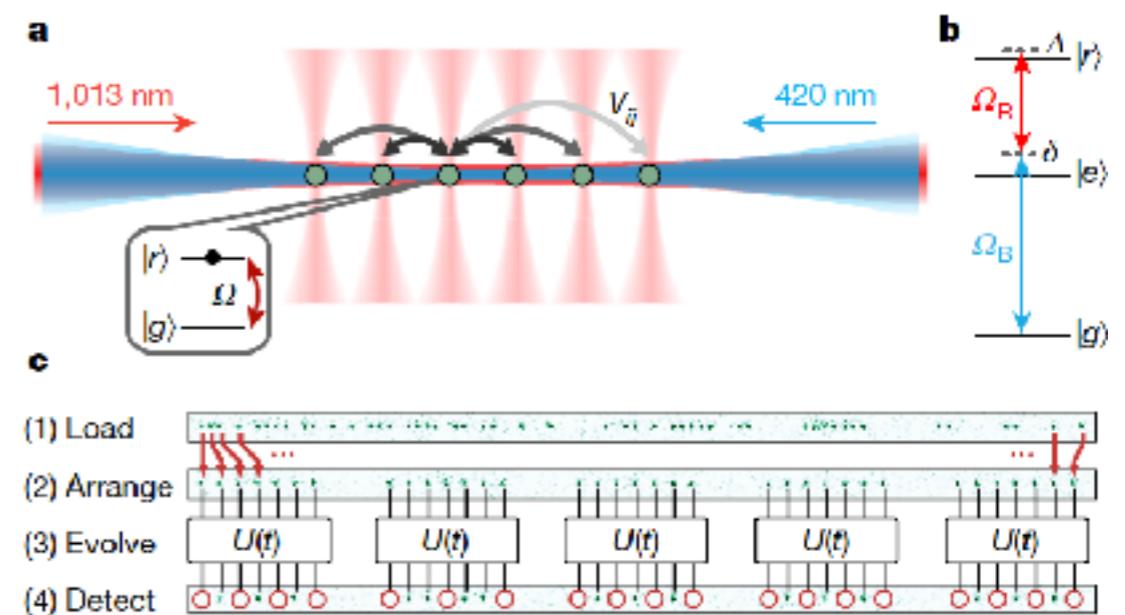
$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{ground} & | \circ \rangle \\ \text{Rydberg} & | \bullet \rangle \end{array}$$

Initial state:

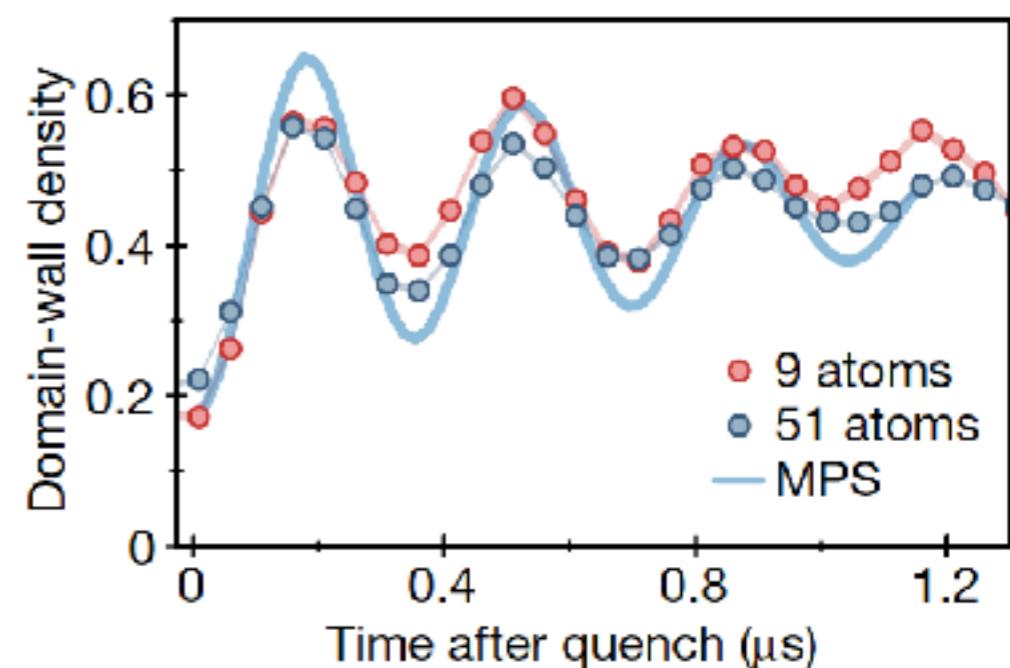
$$\circ \bullet \circ \bullet \circ \bullet \circ \bullet \circ \bullet \circ \bullet \quad L$$

1

Bernien et al. - Nature (2017)

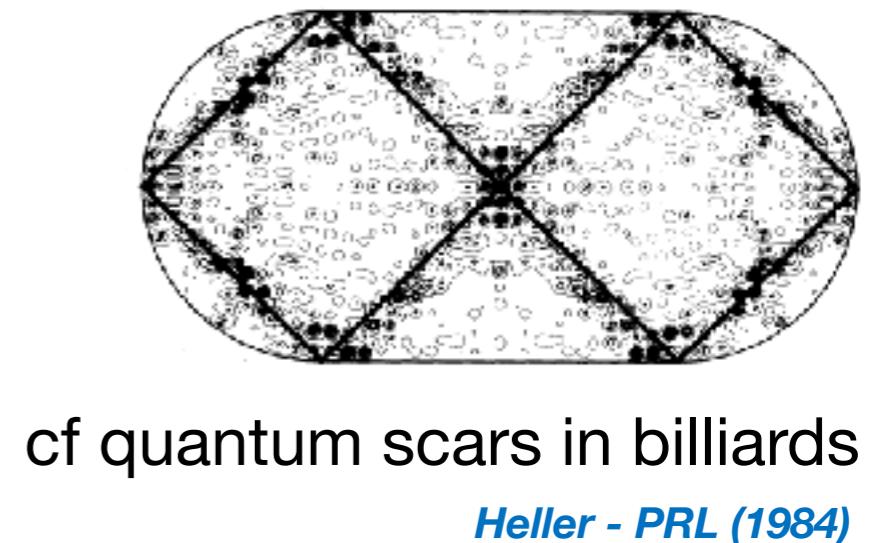
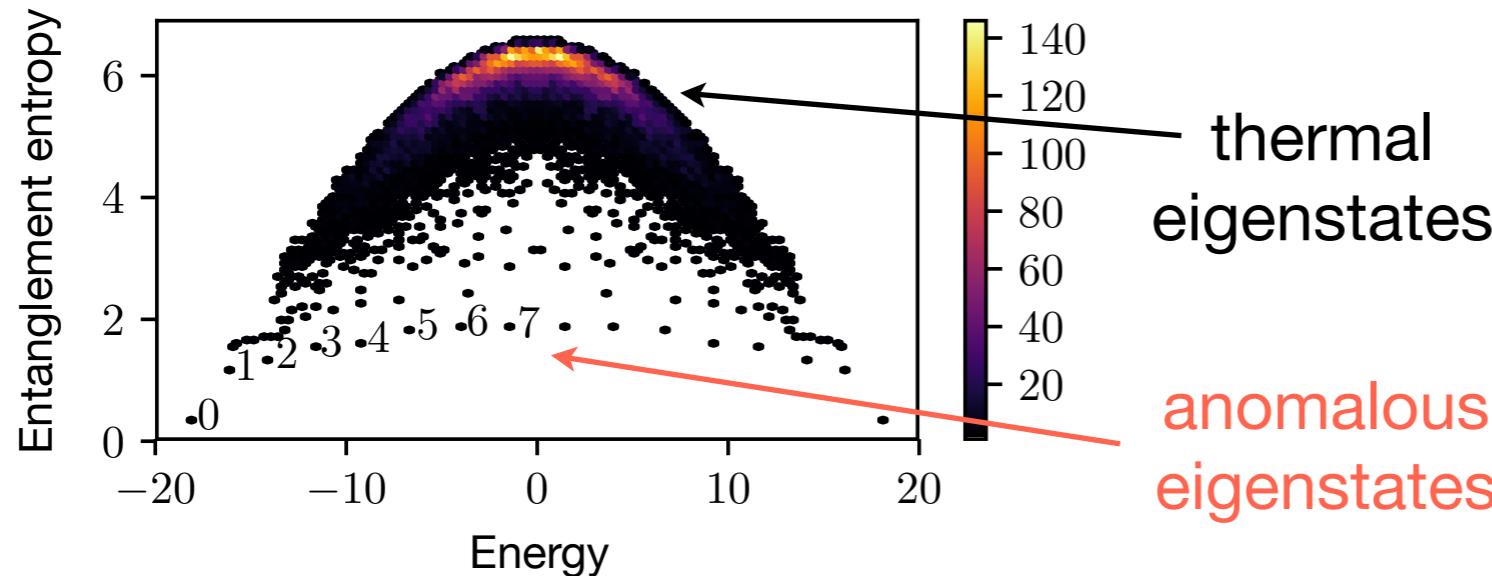


Surprising long-lived revivals



# Theory of quantum many-body scars

Turner et al. - Nat. Phys. (2018)



Construction of local  $H$  with exact scars

Shiraishi & Mori - PRL (2017)

Motrunich et al., Bernevig et al., Iadecola et al., Surace et al. ...

Instability to generic perturbations

Lin et al. - PRR (2020), Surace et al. - PRB (2021)

**Q1: Is there a class of systems with *robust* scars?**

# Long-range interactions in synthetic matter

- Two-level systems (“spins-1/2”/“qubits”)
- Interactions mediated by spatially delocalized degrees of freedom



## Variable-range quantum Ising chain

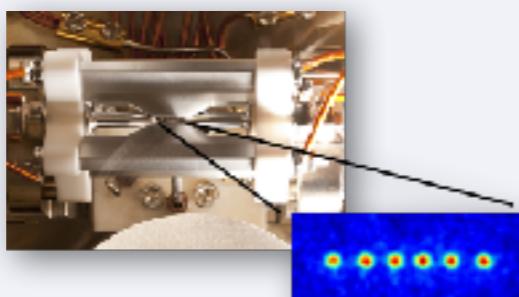
$$H = - \sum_{i < j}^L J_{ij} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x - h \sum_i^L \sigma_i^z$$

$$J_{ij} \sim \frac{J}{|i-j|^\alpha}$$

### Trapped ions

#### Paul trap

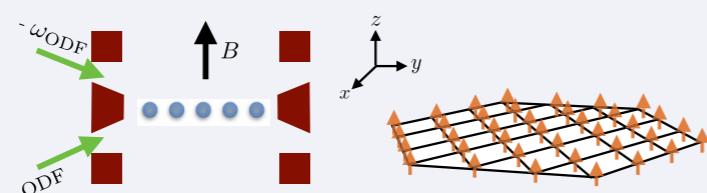
Maryland (C. Monroe)  
Innsbruck (R. Blatt)



$$0 < \alpha < 3$$

#### Penning trap

Boulder (J. Bollinger)



$$0.02 < \alpha < 0.2$$

### Dipolar atoms

$$\alpha = 3 \text{ or } 6$$

### Polar molecules

$$\alpha = 3$$

### Spinor condensates

$$\alpha = 0$$

### Atoms in cavity

$$\alpha \approx 0$$

### Nuclear spins

$$\alpha = 3$$

### Diamond NV-centers

$$\alpha = 3$$

...

# Mean-field dynamics $\alpha = 0$

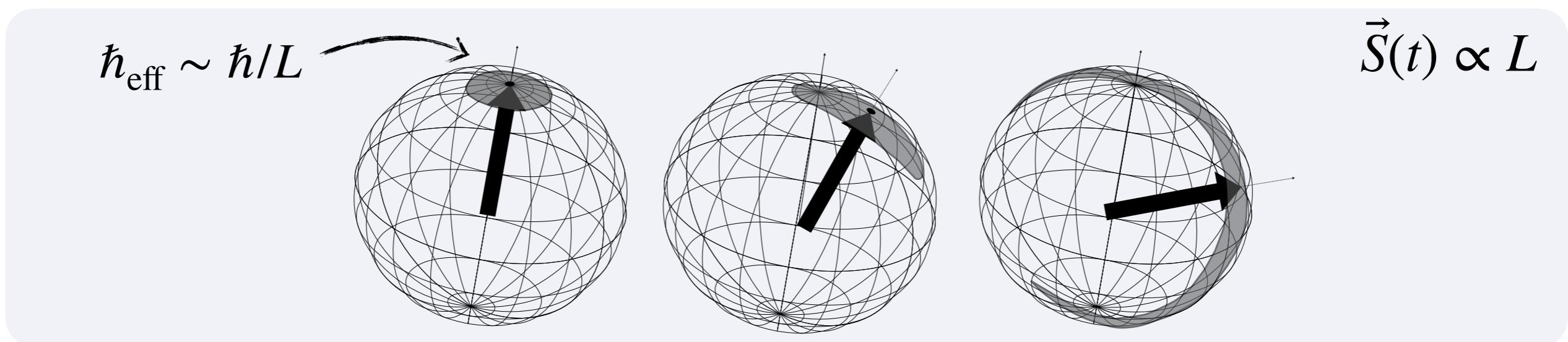
$$H = -J \sum_{i,j} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x - g \sum_i \sigma_i^z$$

$S^z$

$(S^x)^2$

Single-body dynamics  $\implies$  Solvable

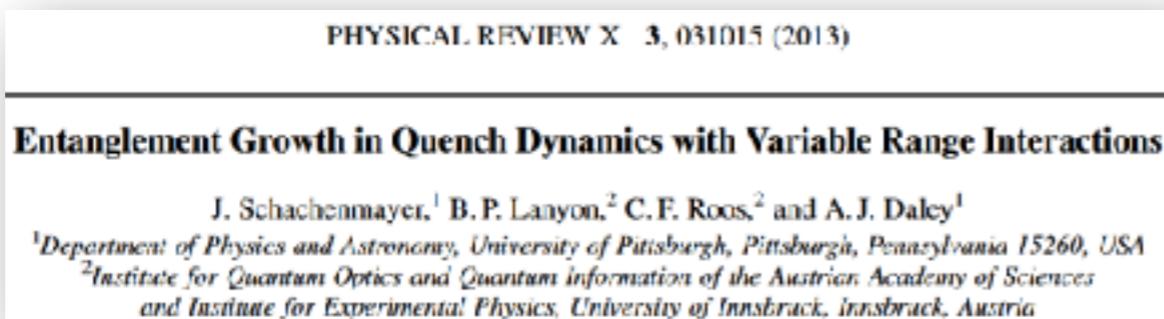
Semiclassical picture of **collective spin squeezing**



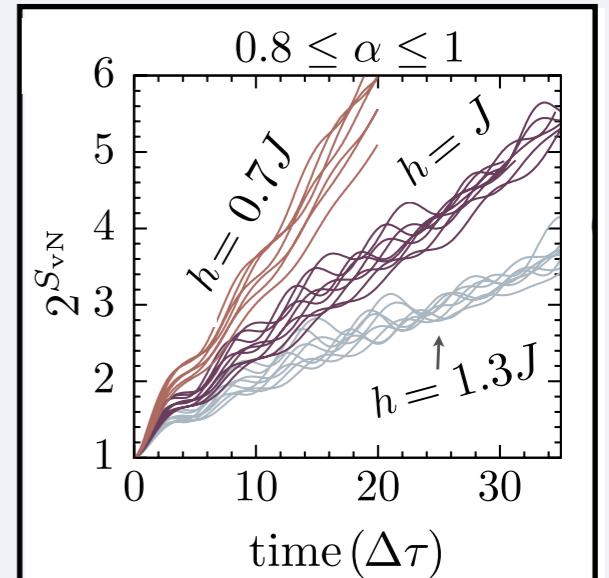
$\implies$  Thermalization impossible (spin size conserved)

# Thermalization with finite-range interactions $\alpha \neq 0$ ?

2013:



different behavior. Counterintuitively, quenches above the critical point for these long-range interactions lead only to a logarithmic increase of bipartite entanglement in time, so that in this regime, long-range interactions produce a slower growth of entanglement than short-range interactions.



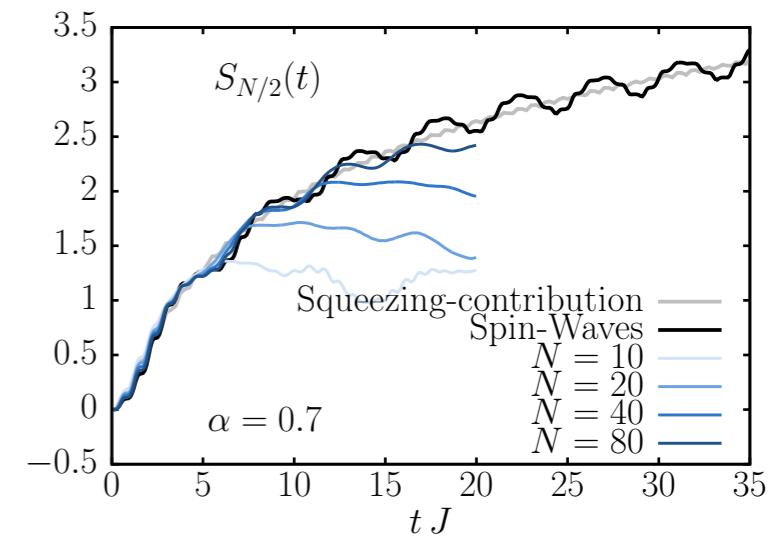
$N = 30, 40, 50$   $D_{MPS} = 120$

...

2020: **Theory of entanglement entropy growth for  $0 \leq \alpha \leq d$**

**AL & Pappalardi - PRR (2020)**

- ⇒ Slow (logarithmic) growth for  $0 < t \ll N^\beta$   
in absence of semiclassical chaos
- ⇒ Fast (linear) growth for  $0 < t \ll \log N$   
in presence of semiclassical chaos



**Q2: Do long-range systems ultimately thermalize?**

This talk:

# *Long-range interacting quantum spin systems*



## *Robust quantum many-body scars*

- No thermalization for strongly polarized initial states
- Robust non-equilibrium states with useful entanglement properties

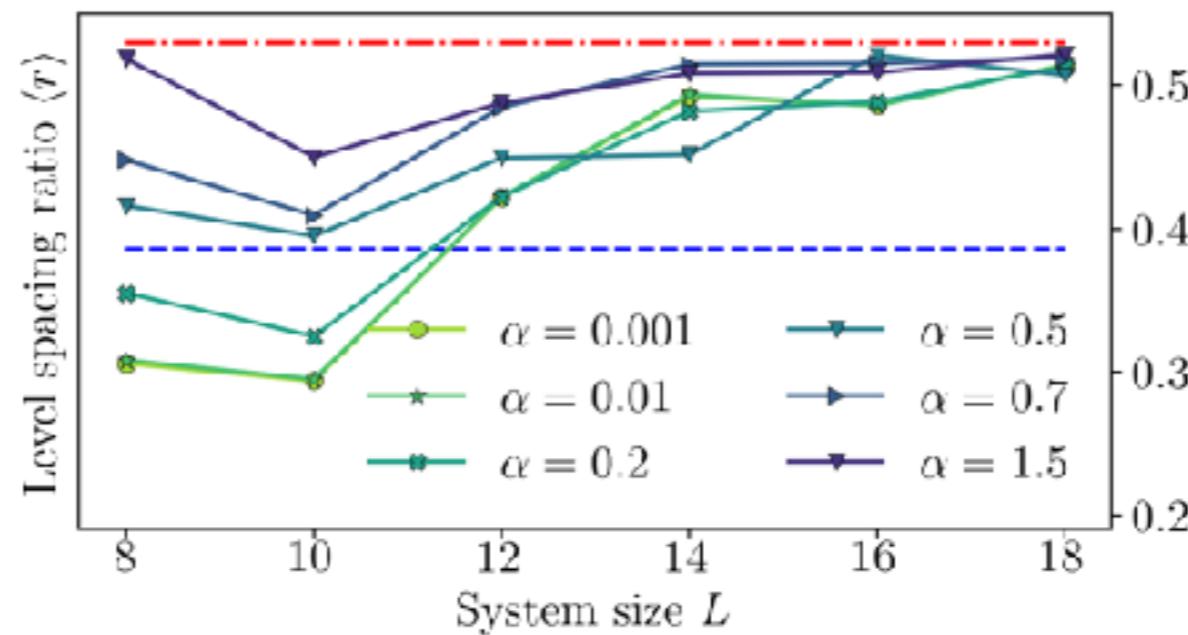
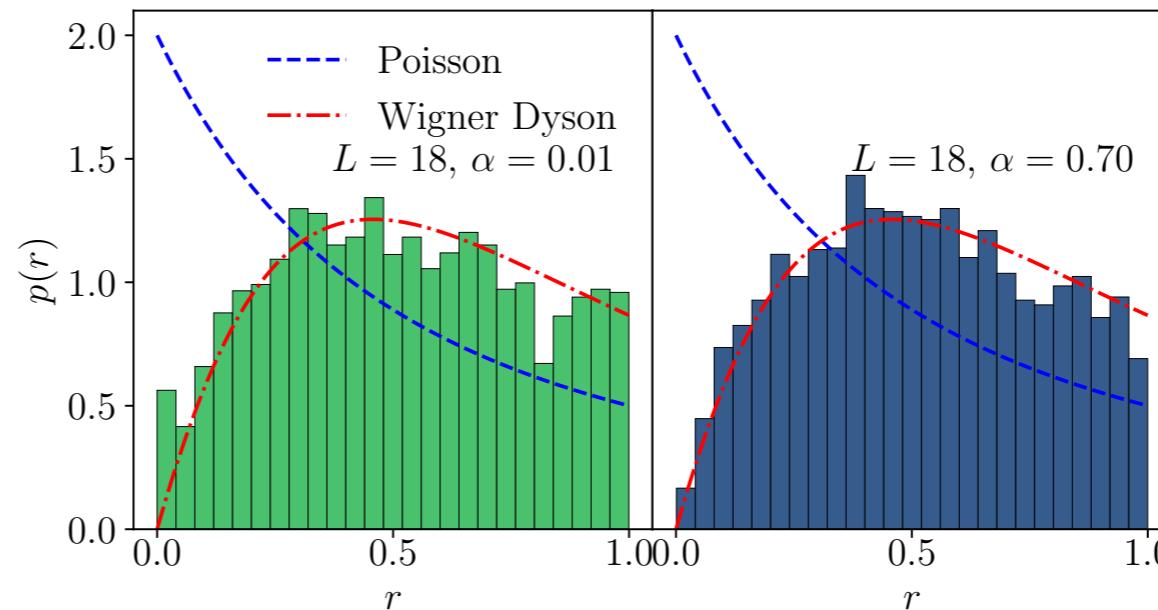
- I. Numerical analysis of spectrum
- II. Analytical theory of eigenstate localization
- III. Verification of new theory predictions
- IV. Summary and conclusions

# Numerics: Level statistics

Level spacing ratio

$$r_n = \frac{\min(\Delta E_{n+1}, \Delta E_n)}{\max(\Delta E_{n+1}, \Delta E_n)}$$

Std metric of quantum chaos

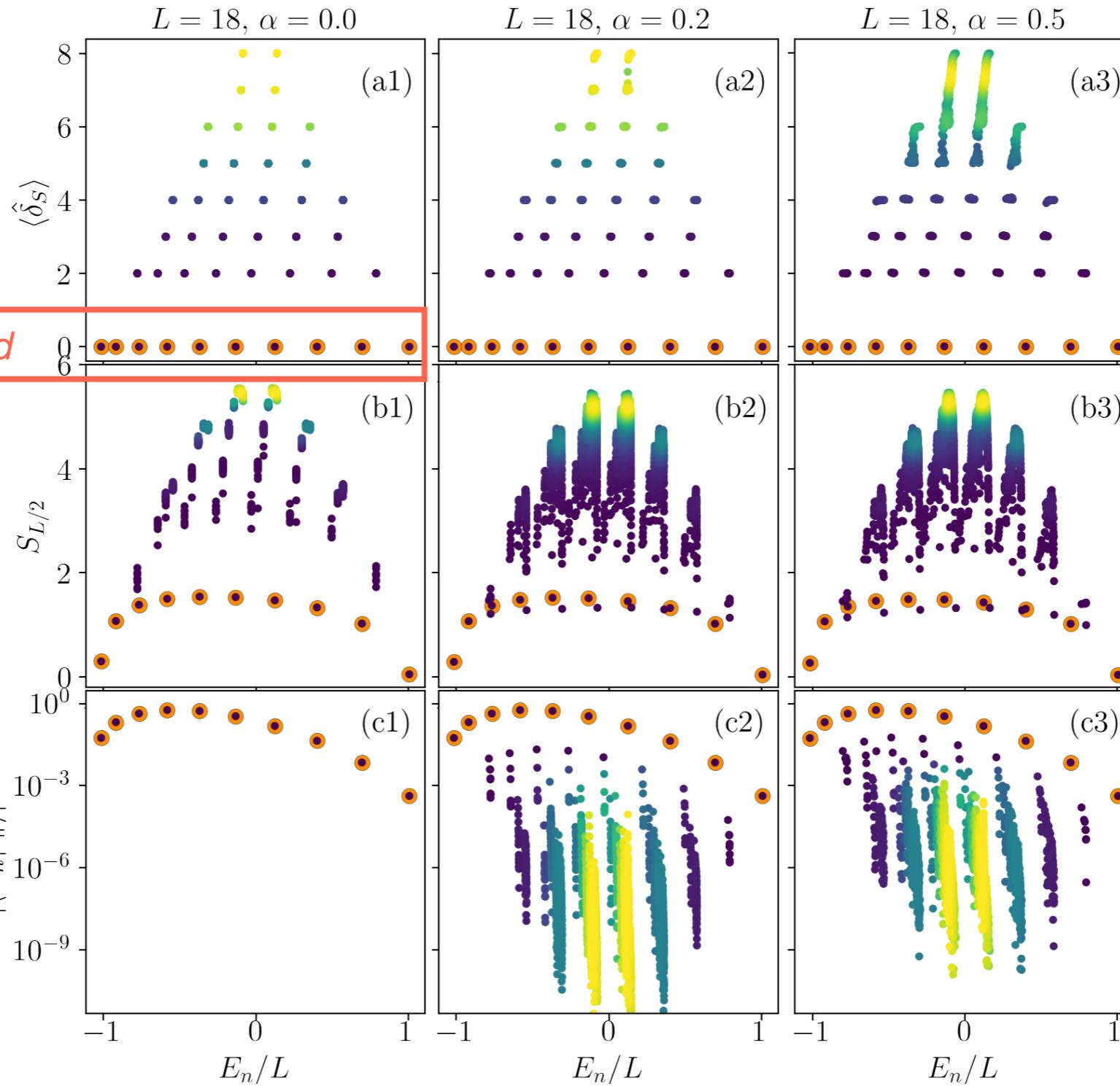


**Level repulsion (quantum chaos) for infinitesimal  $\alpha > 0$**

# Thermalization metrics

i) Collective spin size depletion

$$\delta_S = L/2 - S$$



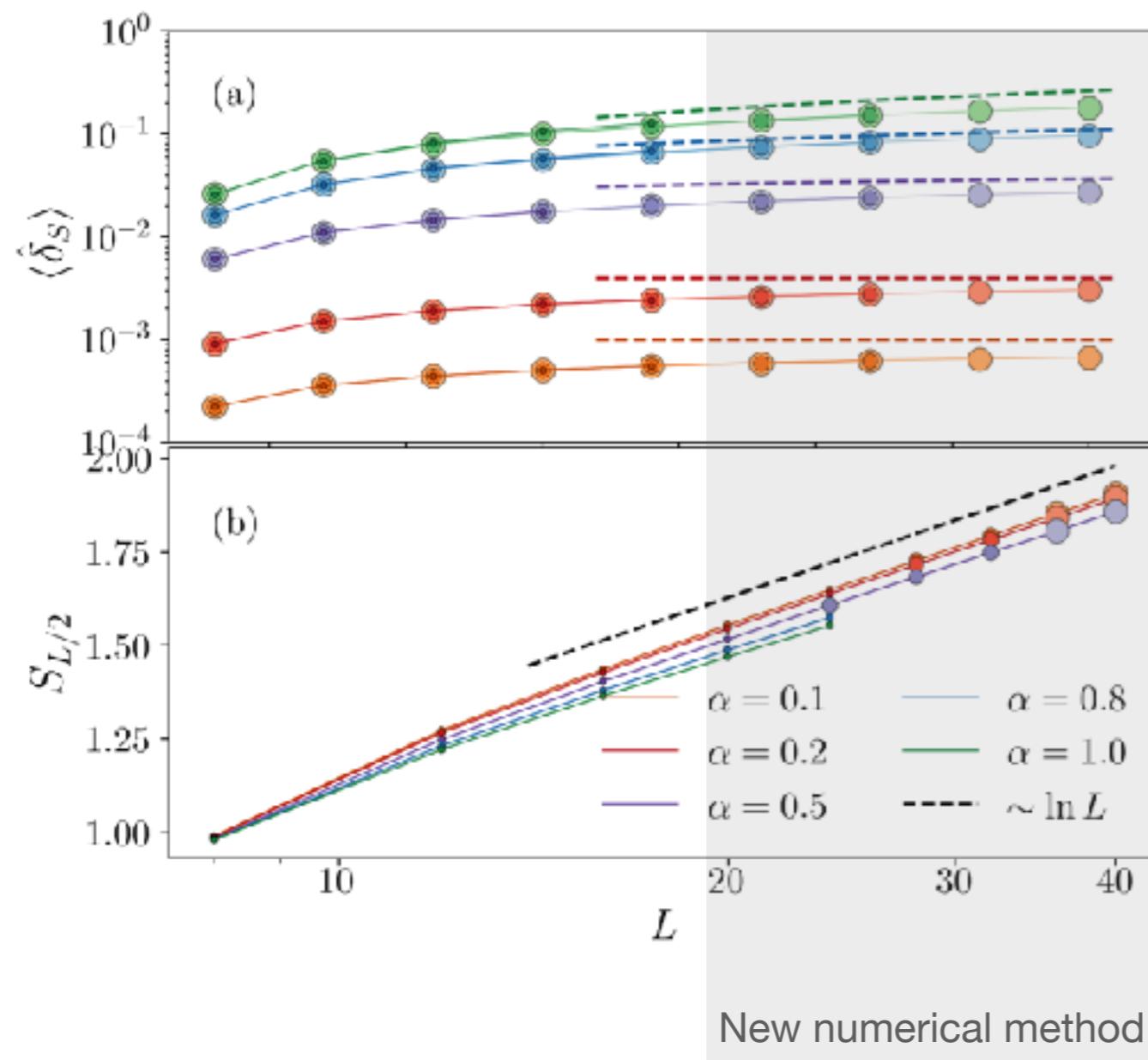
ii) Half-chain entanglement entropy

$$S_{L/2} = \text{Tr}(\rho_{L/2} \log \rho_{L/2})$$

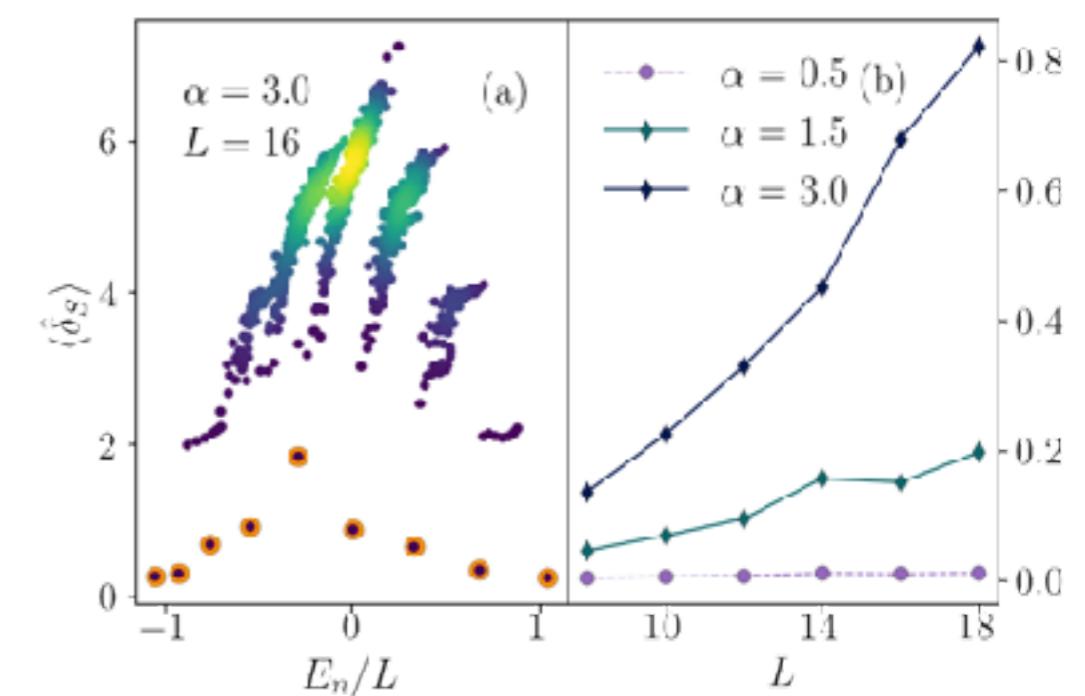
iii) Overlap with spin-coherent state

**Large-spin scars vs chaotic spectrum**

# Scaling with system size?



Larger  $\alpha$ :



Stability of scars for  $0 < \alpha \lesssim 1$  ?

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# Theory: $\alpha = 0$ spectrum

$$H = -J \sum_{i,j} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x - g \sum_i \sigma_i^z \rightarrow S^z$$

$(S^x)^2$

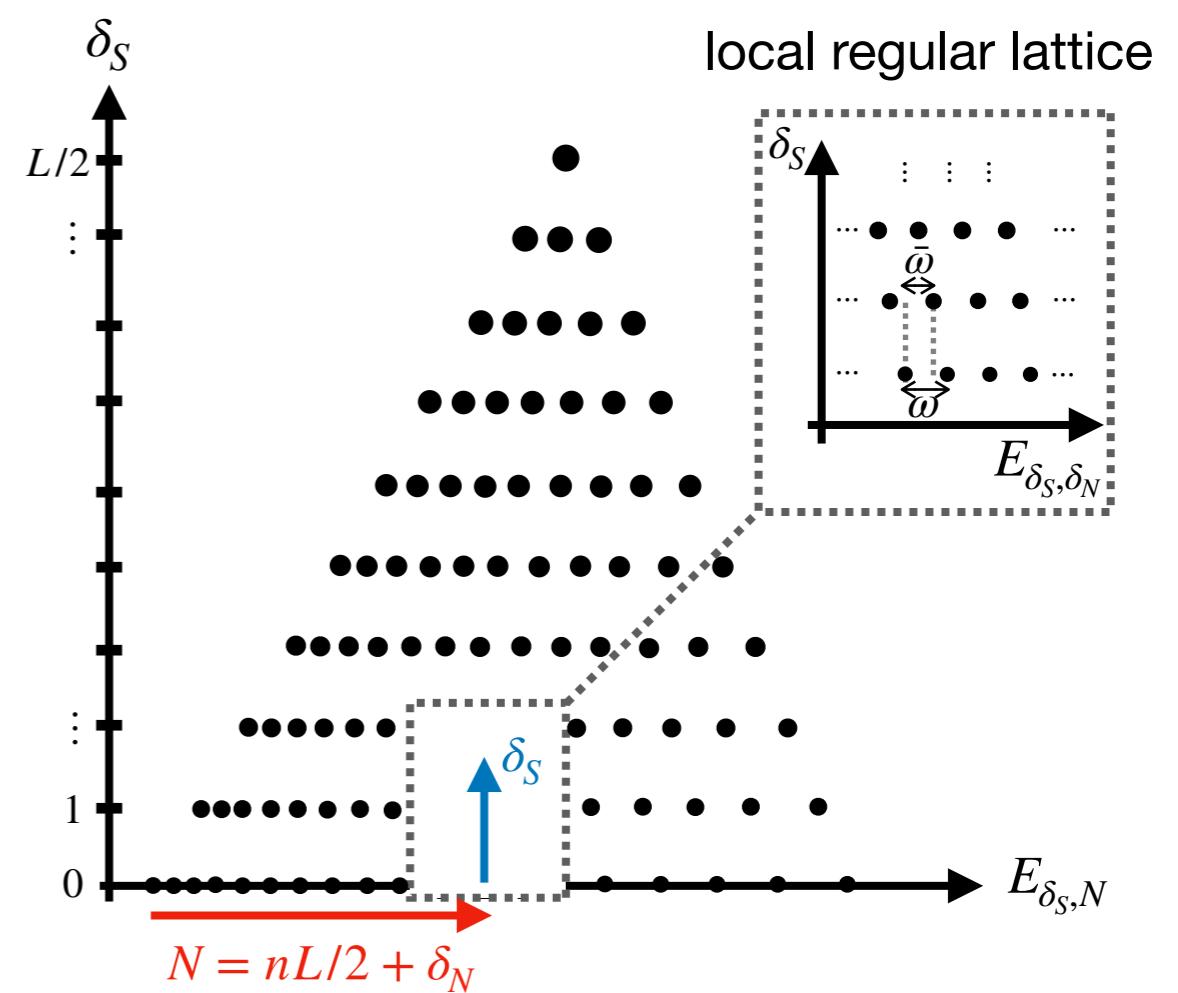
Quantum numbers:

$$\delta_S = L/2 - S$$

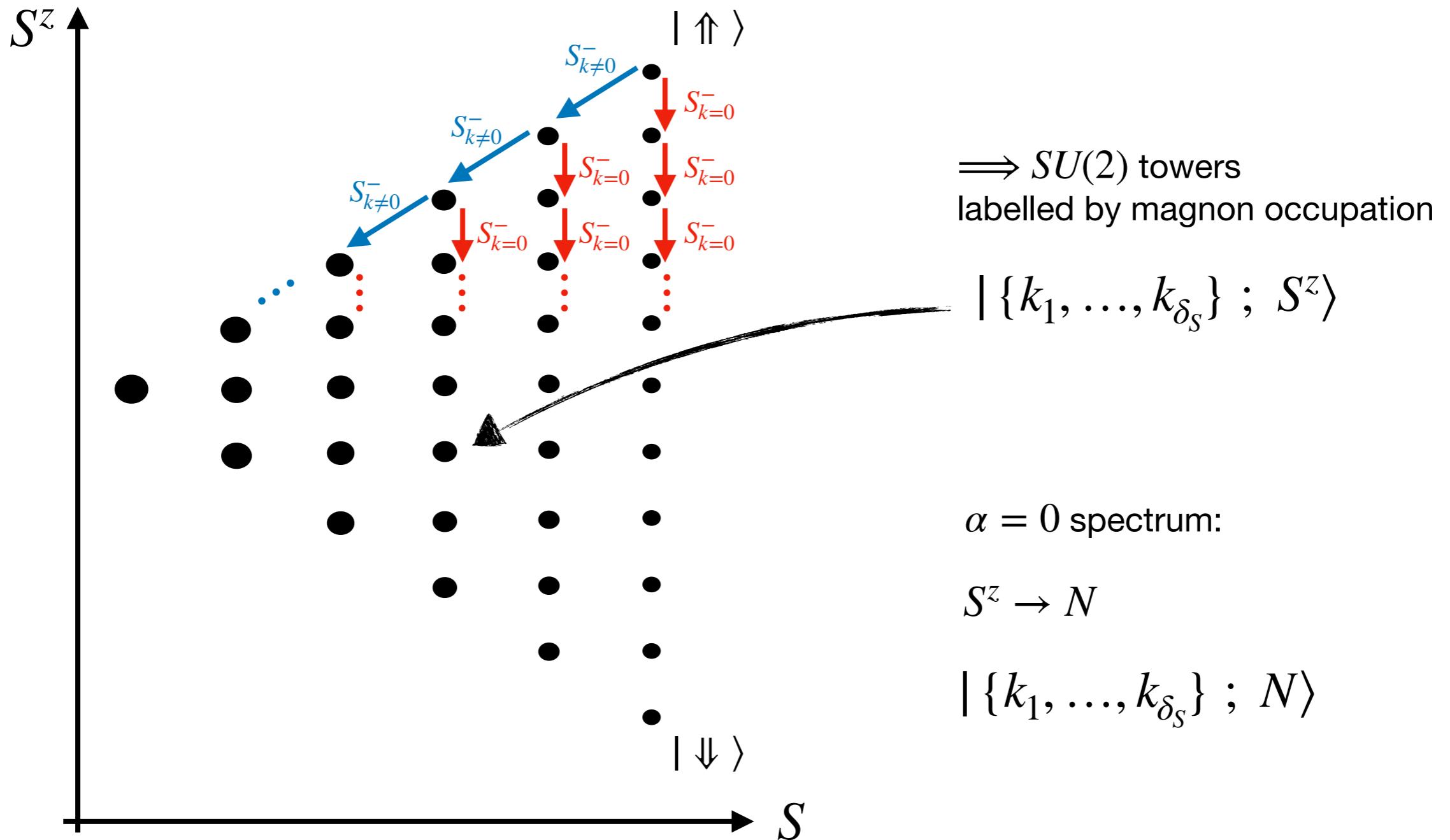
$$N = 0, 1, \dots, 2S$$

Large- $L$  semiclassical spectrum:

$$E_{\delta_S, N} \sim L \mathcal{E}(n) + \omega(n) \delta_N + \bar{\omega}(n) \delta_S + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{L}\right)$$

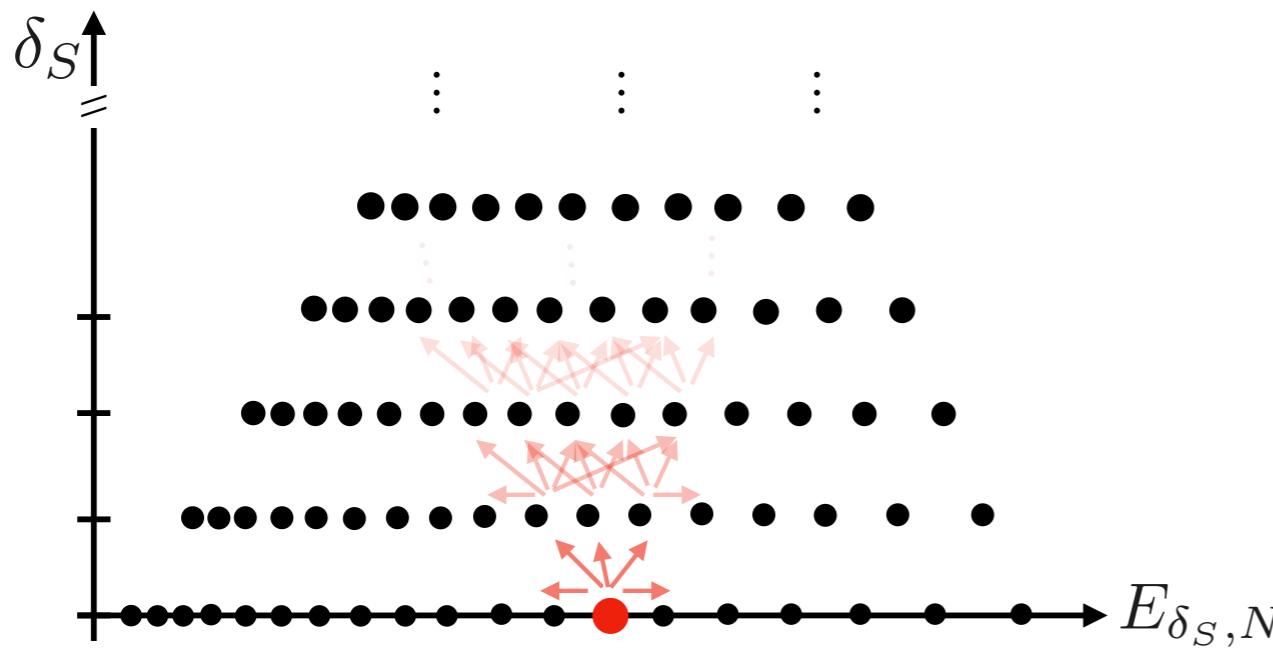


# Magnon labelling of unperturbed states



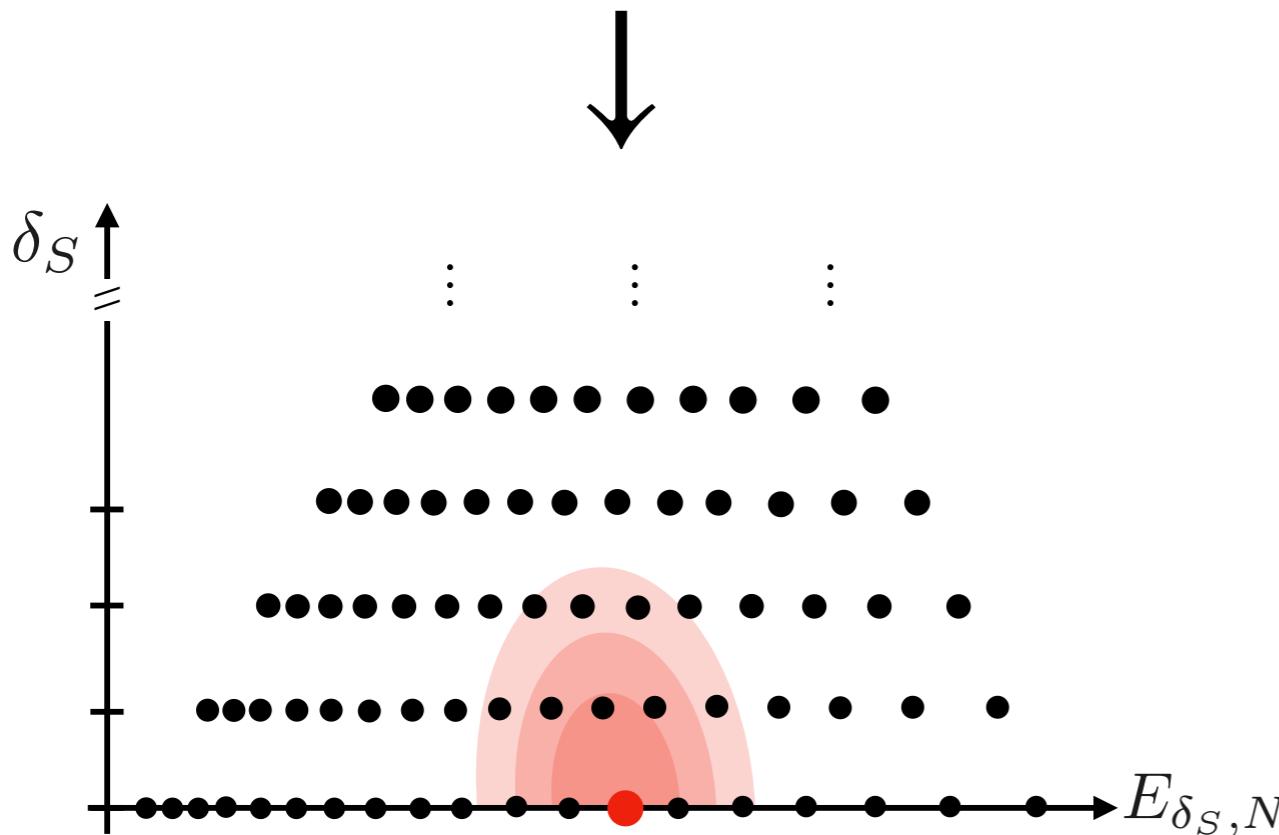
**$\alpha = 0$  eigenstates labelled by “inert” magnons**

# Intuition for eigenstate localization



$H_{\alpha \neq 0} :$

**off-resonant** creation/destruction of magnons



small  $\alpha$  :

**eigenstate localization** in subspace

$$\delta_S \ll L/2, \quad |\delta_N| \ll L$$

# Collective spin and spin-waves

$$H_\alpha = -J \sum_{i < j}^L \frac{\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x}{|i-j|^\alpha} - h \sum_i^L \sigma_i^z$$

Fourier space:  $H_\alpha = H_{\alpha=0} + V_\alpha$

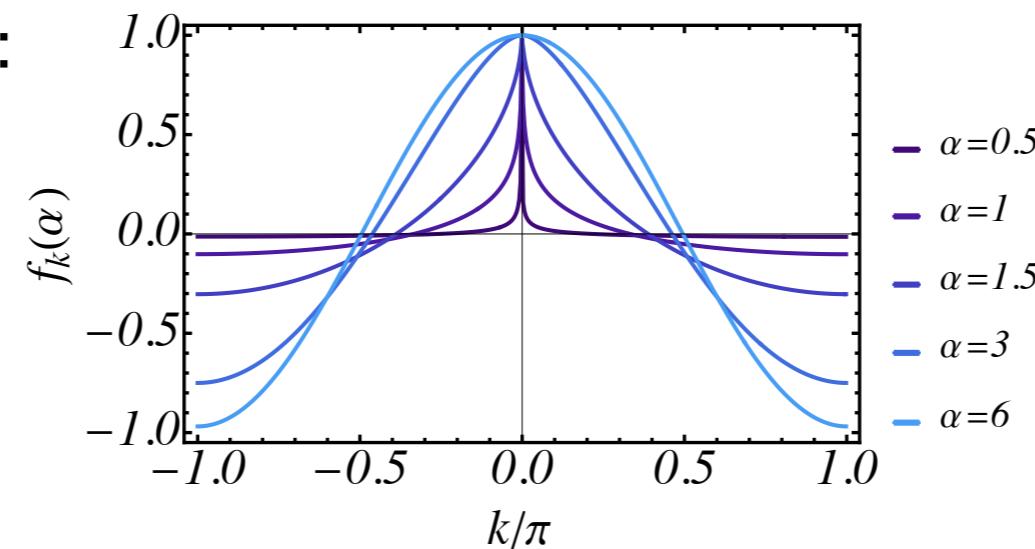
$$H_{\alpha=0} = -J(S^x)^2 - gS^z$$

$k = 0$  part

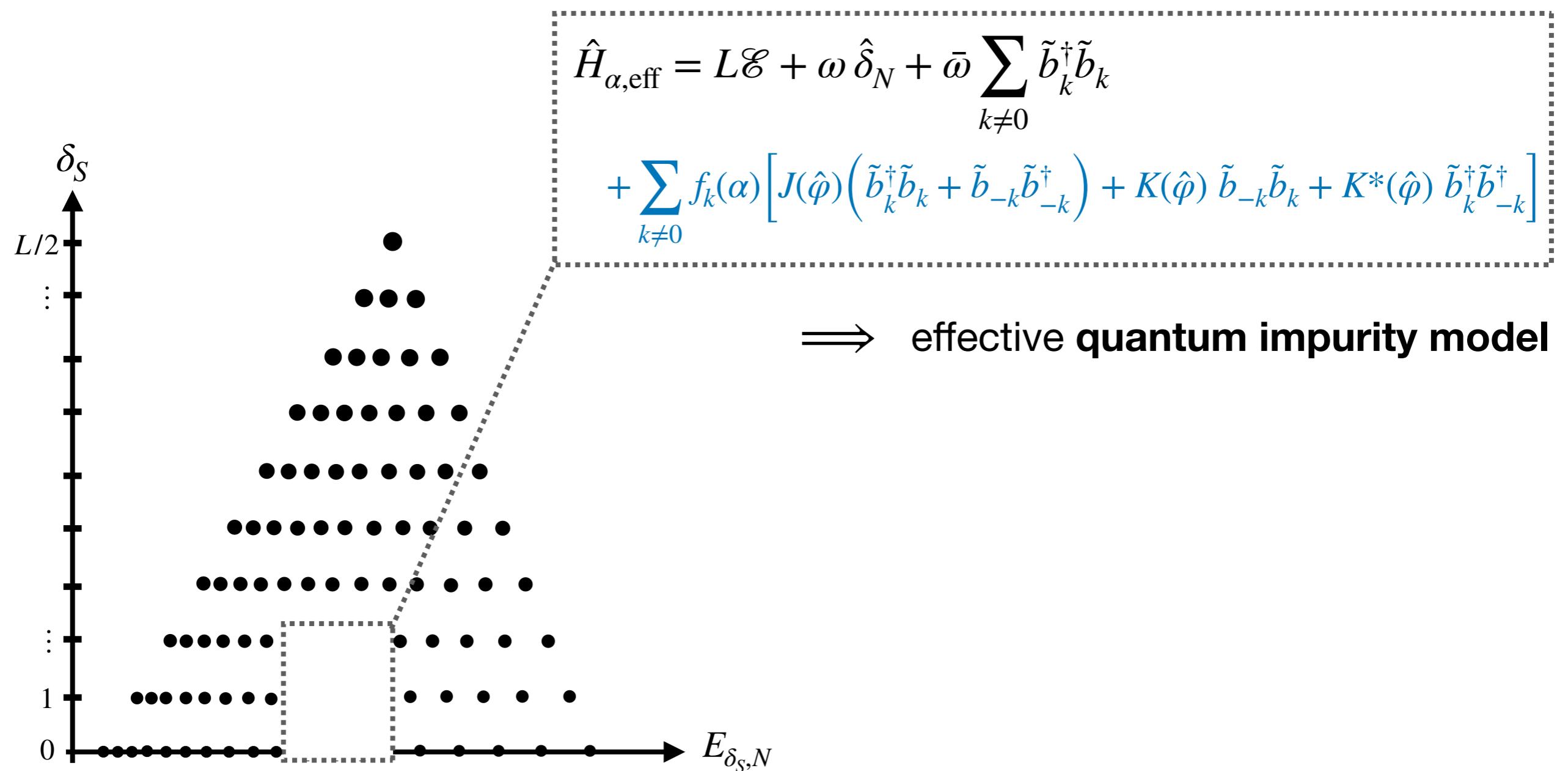
$$V_\alpha = -J \sum_{k \neq 0} f_k(\alpha) \left( \tilde{S}_k^+ \tilde{S}_{-k}^- + \tilde{S}_k^- \tilde{S}_{-k}^+ + \tilde{S}_k^+ \tilde{S}_{-k}^+ + \tilde{S}_k^- \tilde{S}_{-k}^- \right)$$

$k \neq 0$  part

$\alpha$ -dependent couplings:



# Effective rotor-magnon Hamiltonian



# Analytical diagonalization of the rotor-magnon $H_{\text{eff}}$

$\hat{H}_{\alpha,\text{eff}}$  exactly solvable away from resonances ( $\omega \neq p\bar{\omega}$ )

entangling ansatz       $\hat{S} = \sum_{k \neq 0} \left[ F_k(\hat{\phi}) \left( \tilde{b}_k^\dagger \tilde{b}_k + \tilde{b}_{-k} \tilde{b}_{-k}^\dagger \right) + G_k(\hat{\phi}) \tilde{b}_{-k} \tilde{b}_k + G_k^*(\hat{\phi}) \tilde{b}_k^\dagger \tilde{b}_{-k}^\dagger \right]$

$$e^{i\hat{S}} \hat{H}_{\alpha,\text{eff}} e^{-i\hat{S}} = L\mathcal{E}(\alpha) + \omega \hat{\Delta}_N + \sum_{k \neq 0} \bar{\omega}_k(\alpha) \tilde{\beta}_k^\dagger \tilde{\beta}_k$$

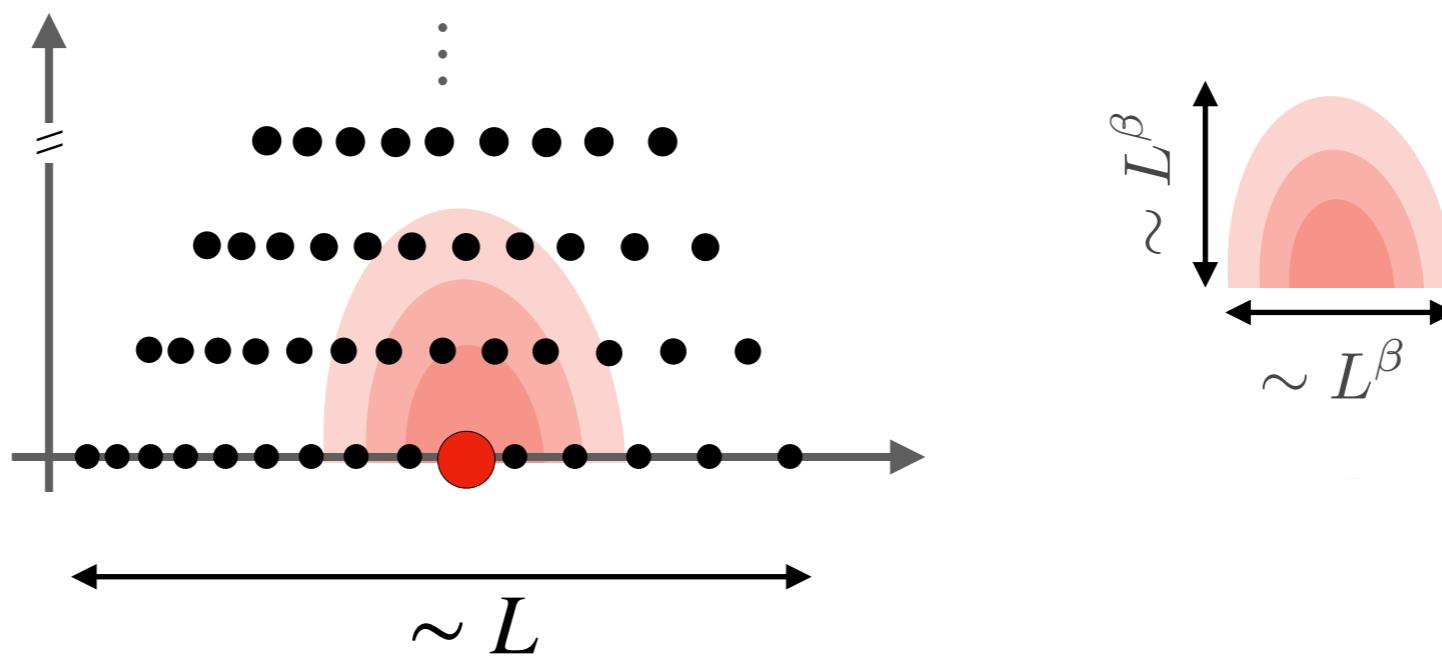
⇒ Continuity in  $\alpha$  !

# Self-consistency of eigenstate localization

Calculation:

$$\langle \hat{\delta}_S \rangle \sim \sqrt{\langle \hat{\delta}_N^2 \rangle} \sim \sum_{k \neq 0} |f_k(\alpha)|^2 \sim \begin{cases} \text{finite} & \text{for } 0 < \alpha < 1/2, \\ \log L & \text{for } \alpha = 1/2, \\ L^{2\alpha-1} & \text{for } 1/2 < \alpha < 1. \\ c(\alpha) \cdot L & \text{for } \alpha > 1 \end{cases}$$

**Eigenstate self-consistency**  $\delta_S \ll L/2, |\delta_N| \ll L \iff 0 < \alpha < 1$



**Self-consistent quantum many-body scars for  $0 < \alpha < d$**

- I. Numerical analysis of spectrum
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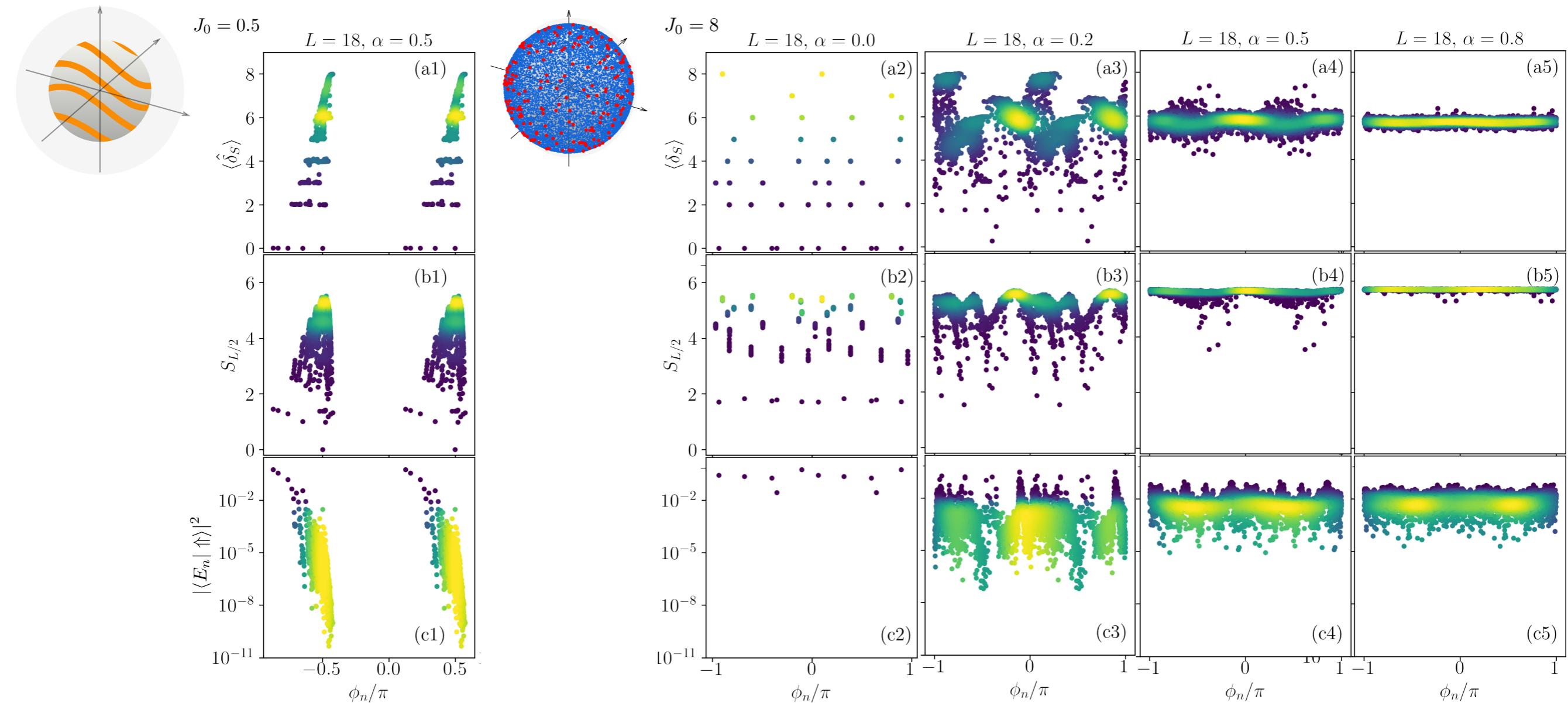
# Prediction: Instability of scars from mean-field chaos

Quantum many-body kicked top:

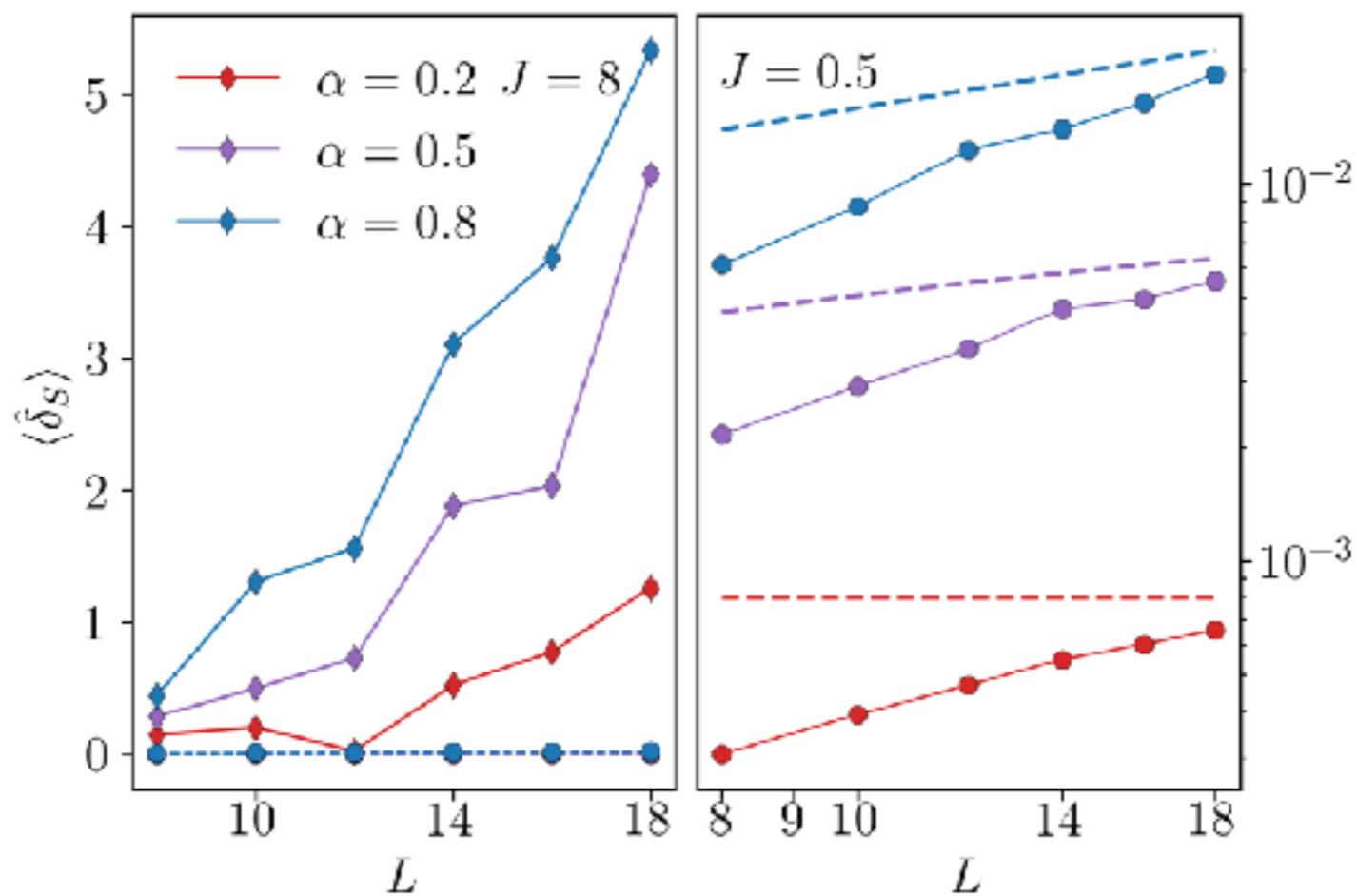
$$\hat{H}_\alpha(t) = \begin{cases} -\frac{J_0}{\mathcal{N}_{\alpha,L}} \sum_{j=1}^L \sum_{r=1}^{L/2} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_j^x \hat{\sigma}_{j+r}^x}{r^\alpha} & t \in \left[-\frac{T}{4}, \frac{T}{4}\right] \bmod T \\ -h \sum_{j=1}^L \hat{\sigma}_j^z & t \in \left[\frac{T}{4}, \frac{3}{4}T\right] \bmod T \end{cases}$$

$\alpha = 0$  : semiclassical integrability-chaos crossover

[Haake, ...](#)



# Scaling vs system size



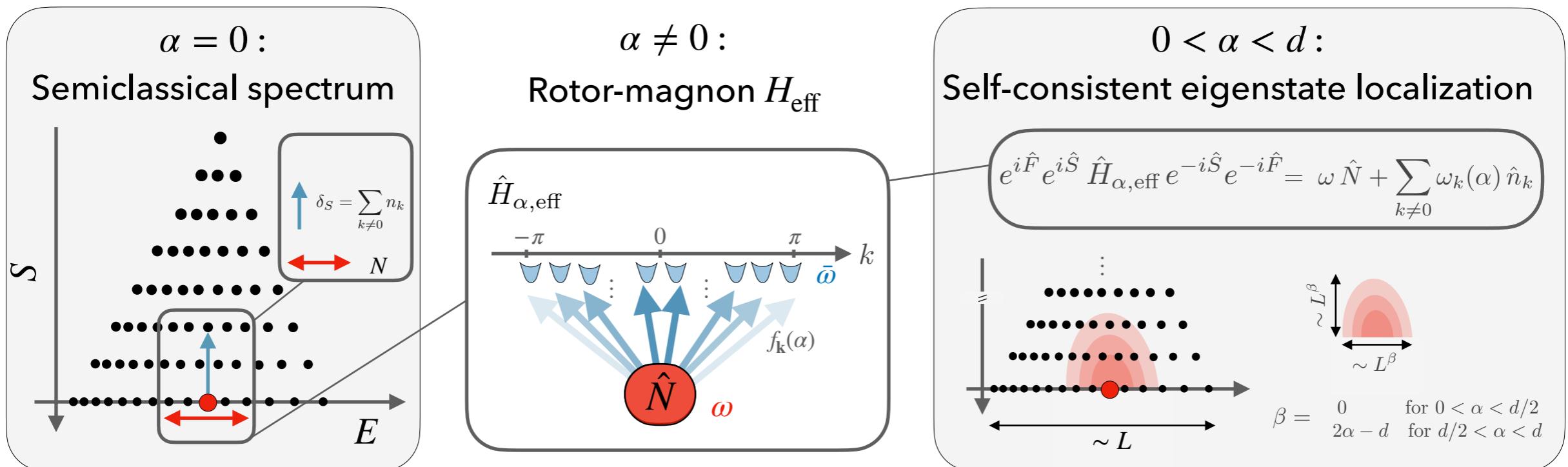
**Semiclassical chaos destroys  $\alpha \neq 0$  quantum many-body scarring**

- I. Numerical analysis of spectrum**
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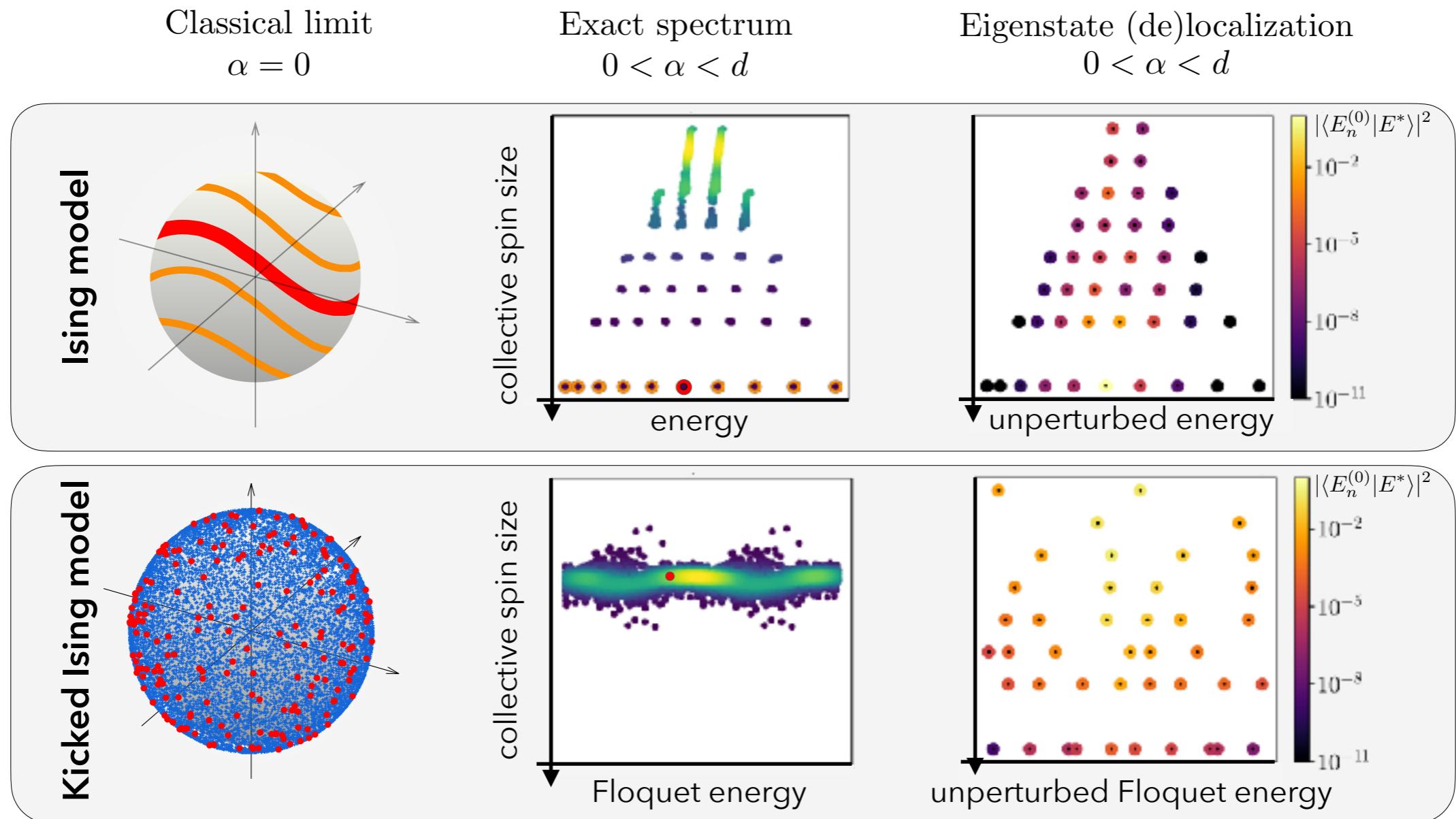
# Summary and conclusions (1)

General conditions for robust scars:

- Classical integrability of mean-field Hamiltonian
- Slowly decaying interactions  $0 < \alpha < d$



# Summary and conclusions (2)



**Robust Dicke-like states with  $\alpha \neq 0 \rightarrow$  Useful metrological applications?**