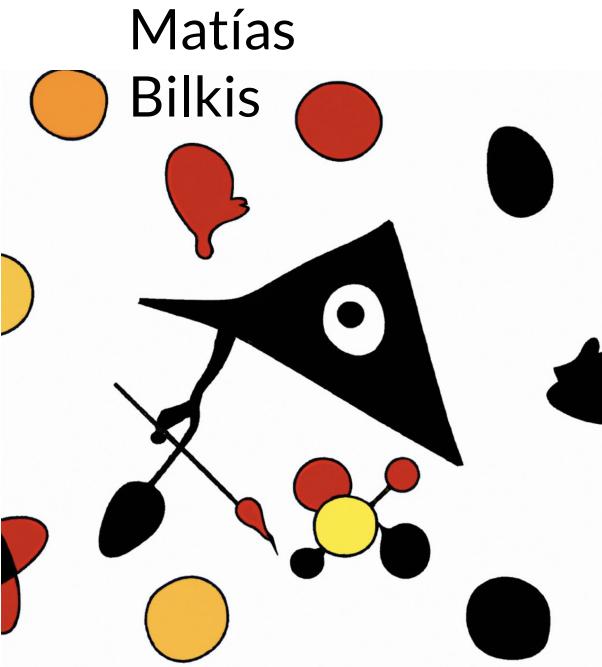


Decision-making in quantum environments

From model-free to model-aware learning of quantum controls



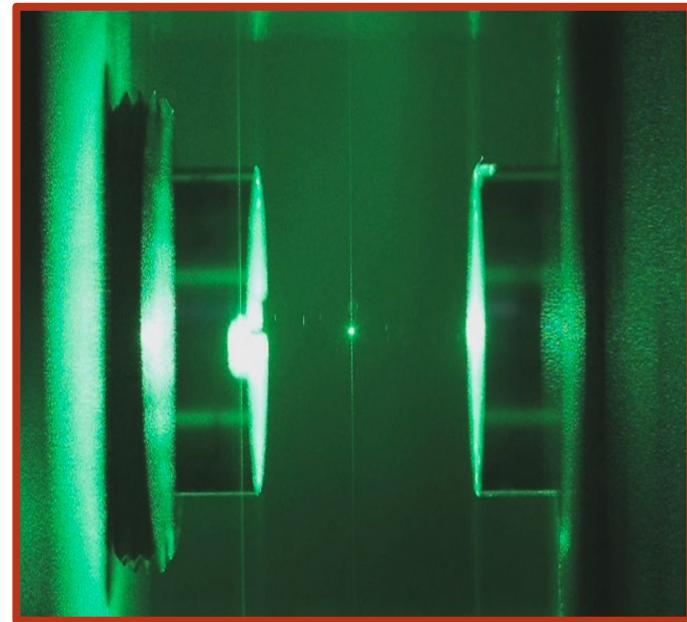
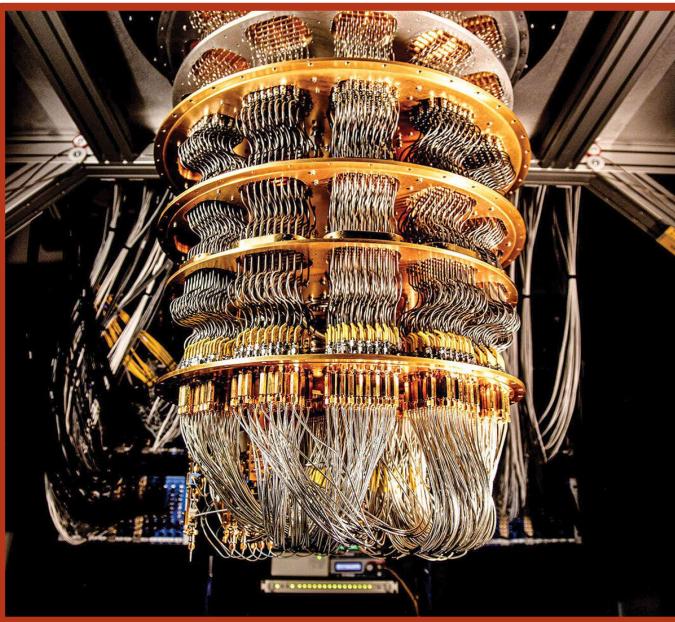
SCAN ME



github.com/matibilkis/PhD-thesis

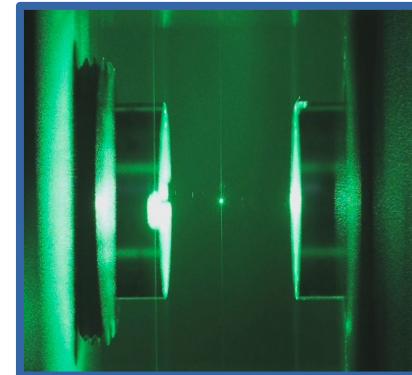
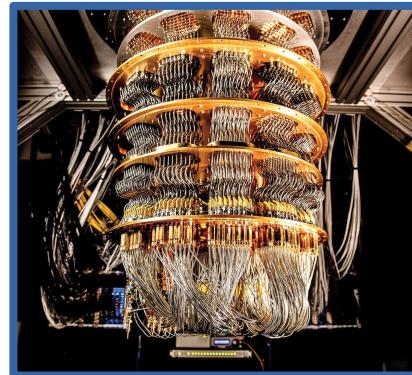
Supervisor: Prof. John Calsamiglia

Quantum-technology toolbox



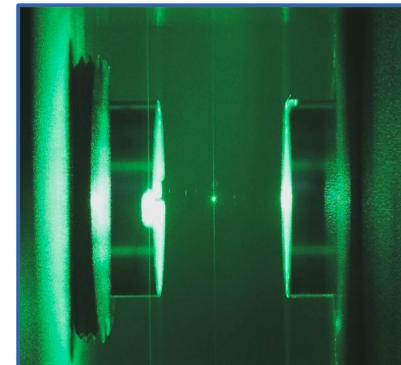
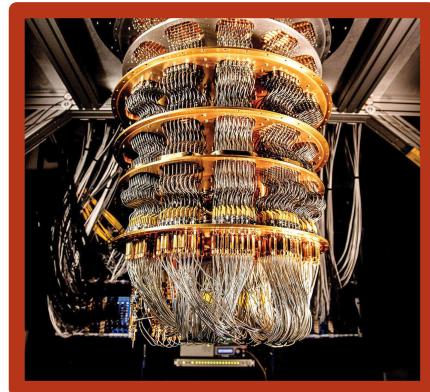
Long-distance quantum communication

- Light as an information carrier
- Which quantum measurement?
- Calibrate measurement under unknown sources of noise.



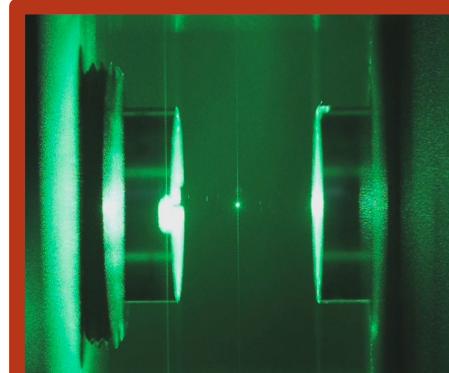
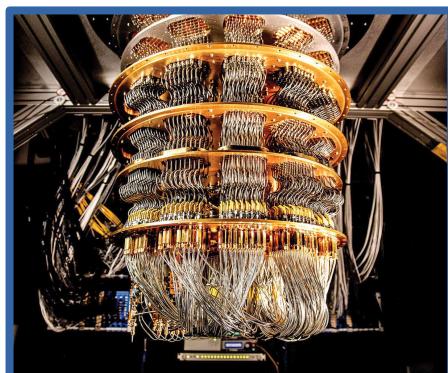
Quantum computing

- Noisy Intermediate-Scale Quantum (NISQ) devices
- Quantum advantage experimentally observed for specific task
- How to use them for something else?

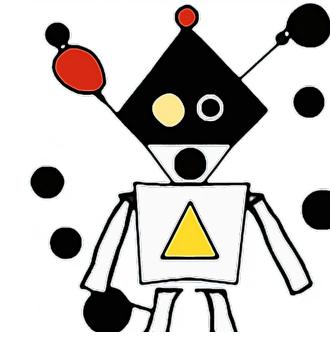
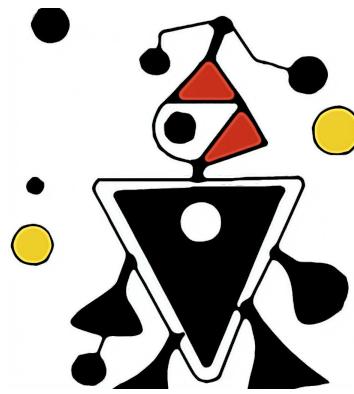
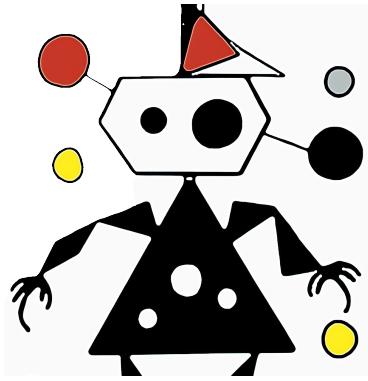


Quantum sensing

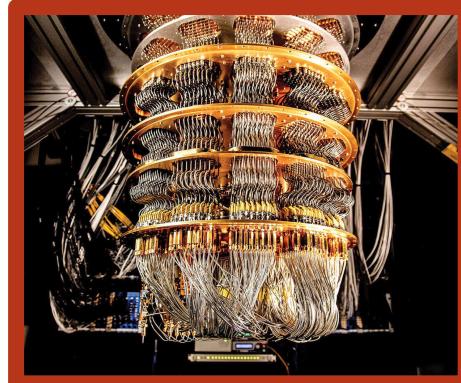
- Precise experimental control of quantum systems
- Continuous-monitoring → measurement signal
- How to best process the data acquired ?



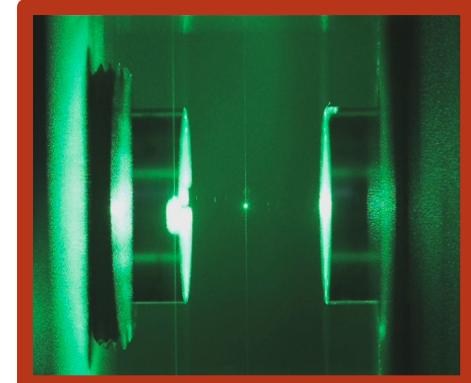
Decision-making in quantum environments



Measurement
calibration

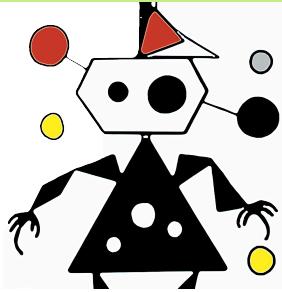


Circuit design



Data processing

Artificial intelligence



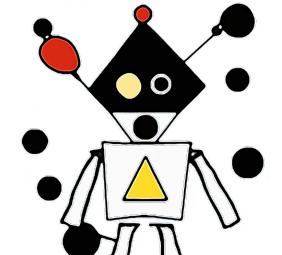
- Reinforcement-learning

[\[Sutton2018Reinforcement\]](#)



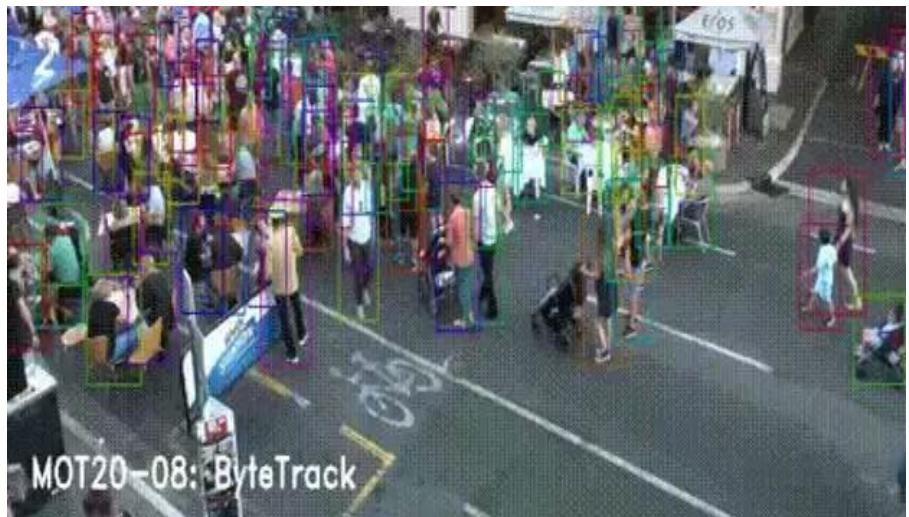
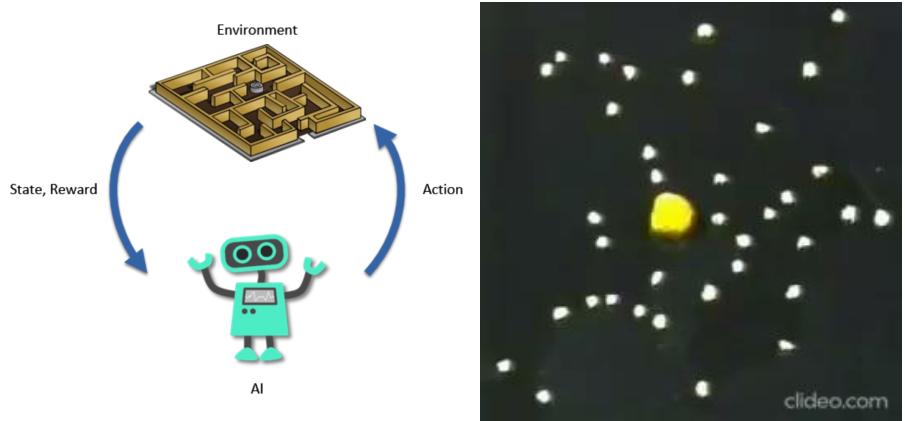
- Optimization

[\[Wong2010Ride\]](#)

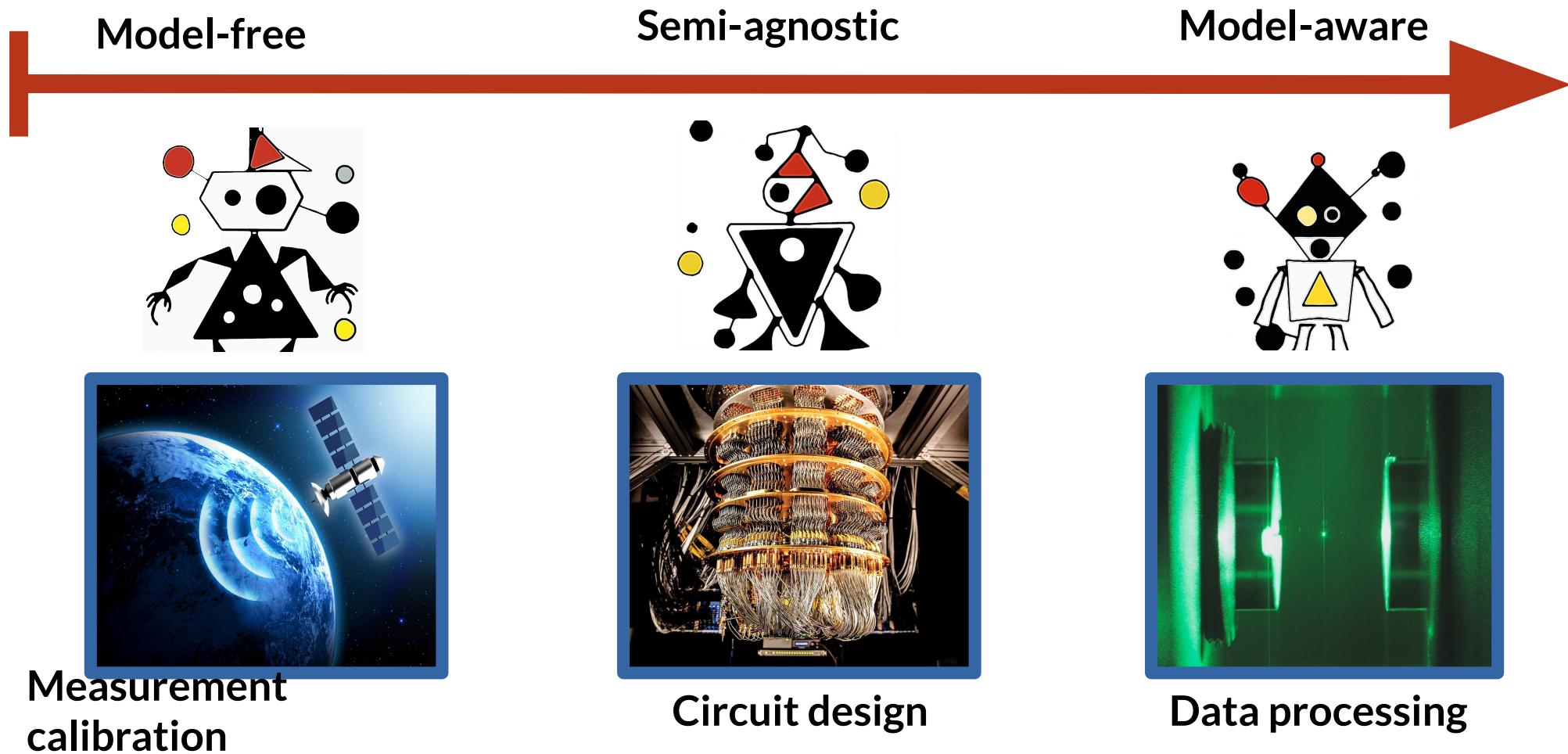


- Classification

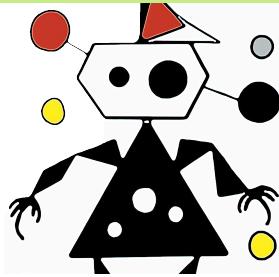
[\[Bewley2017Simple\]](#)



Awareness degree



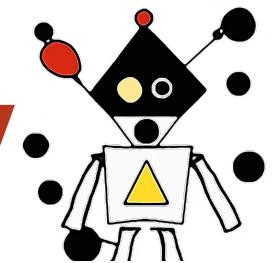
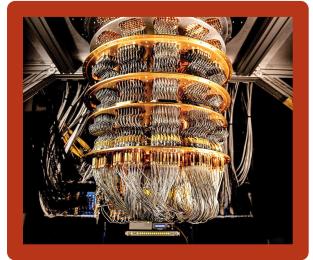
Outline



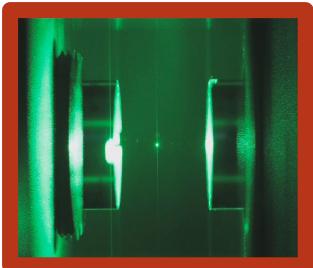
Learning in the darkness



Learning in the twilight



Learning in the daylight



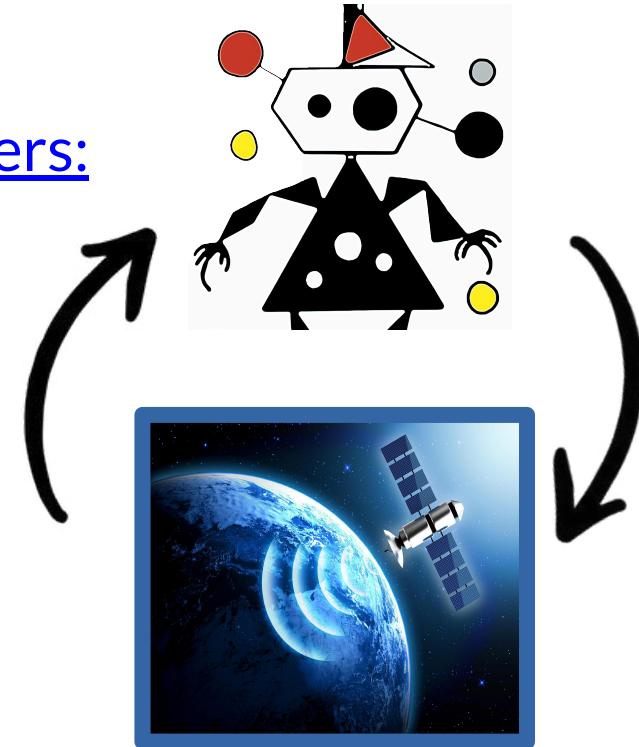
This chapter in a nutshell

Works:

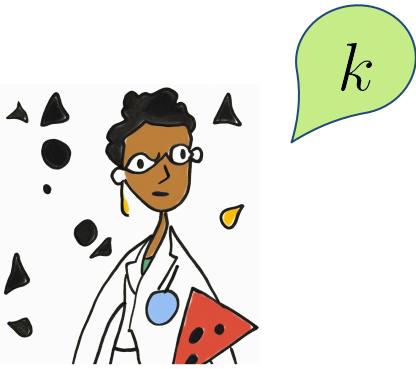
→ [Real-time calibration of coherent-state receivers:
Learning by trial and error](#) - Bilkis et.al.

→ [Reinforcement-learning calibration of
coherent-state receivers on variable-loss
optical channels](#) - Bilkis et.al.

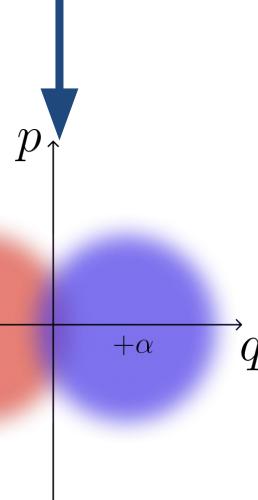
- Discrimination of coherent states
- Scenario: long-distance communication
- Model-free calibration of a measurement device



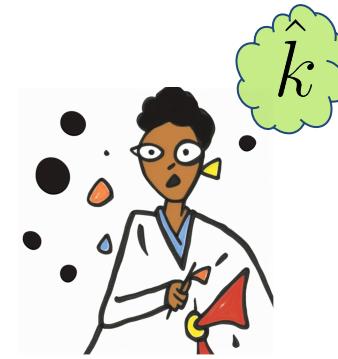
Coherent-state discrimination



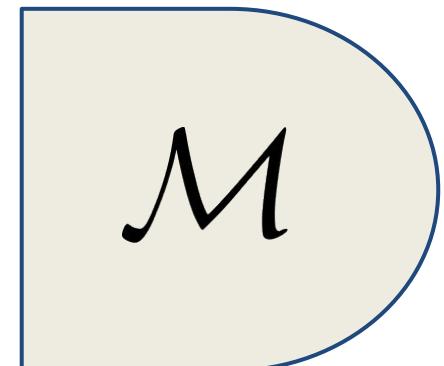
$$|\alpha_k\rangle = e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{((-1)^k \alpha)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$$



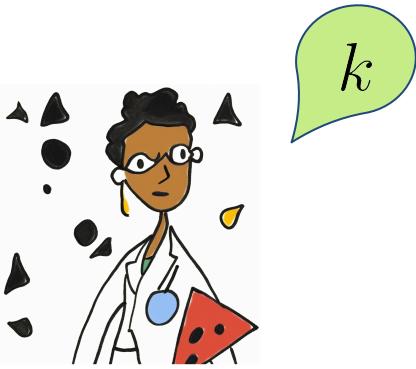
- Distinguish between $\{|\alpha\rangle, |-\alpha\rangle\}$
- POVM $\mathcal{M} = \{M_0, M_1\}$
- $p(n|\alpha_k) = \text{Tr}(M_n \Phi[|\alpha_k\rangle\langle\alpha_k|])$



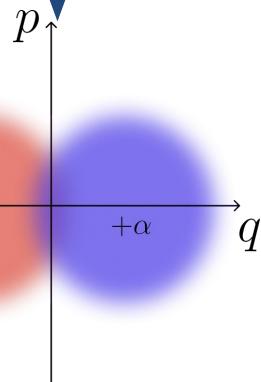
$$n \sim p(n|\alpha_k)$$



Success probability & Helstrom bound



$$|\alpha_k\rangle = e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{((-1)^k \alpha)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$$



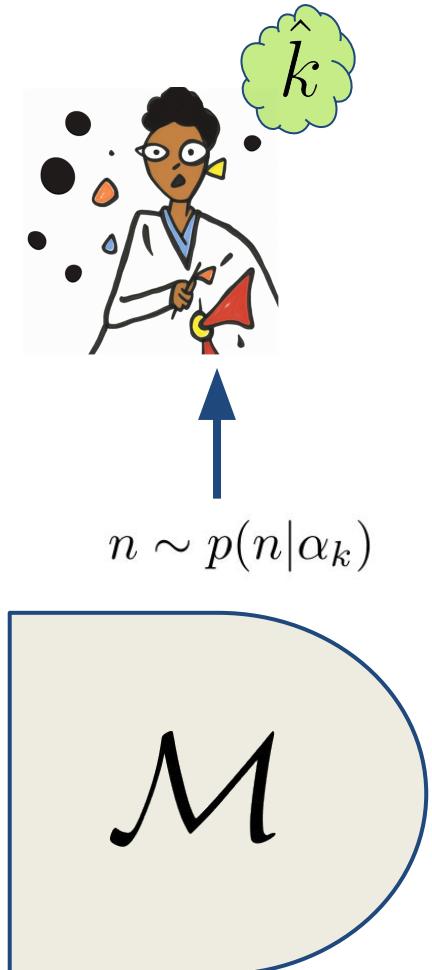
- Success probability; $g(n)$ guessing rule

$$P_s(\mathcal{M}, g) = \sum_n p(n|\alpha_{\hat{k}}) \text{pr}(\alpha_{\hat{k}})|_{\hat{k}=g(n)}$$

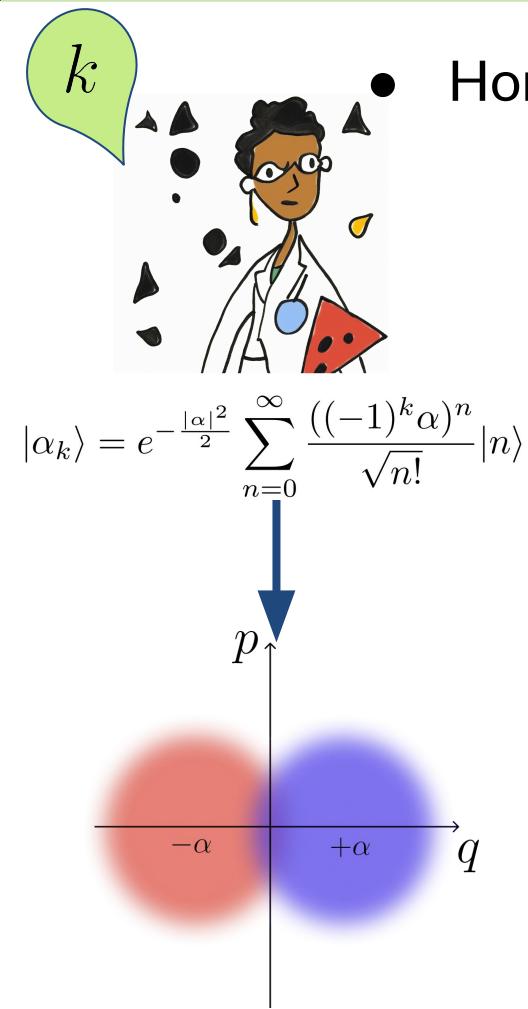
- Helstrom bound

$$\begin{aligned} P_s(\mathcal{M}, g) &\leq P_s(\mathcal{M}^*, g^*) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \|p_0 \rho_0 - p_1 \rho_1\|_1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

- Optimal measurement projection over cat-like states $\sim |\alpha\rangle + |-\alpha\rangle$



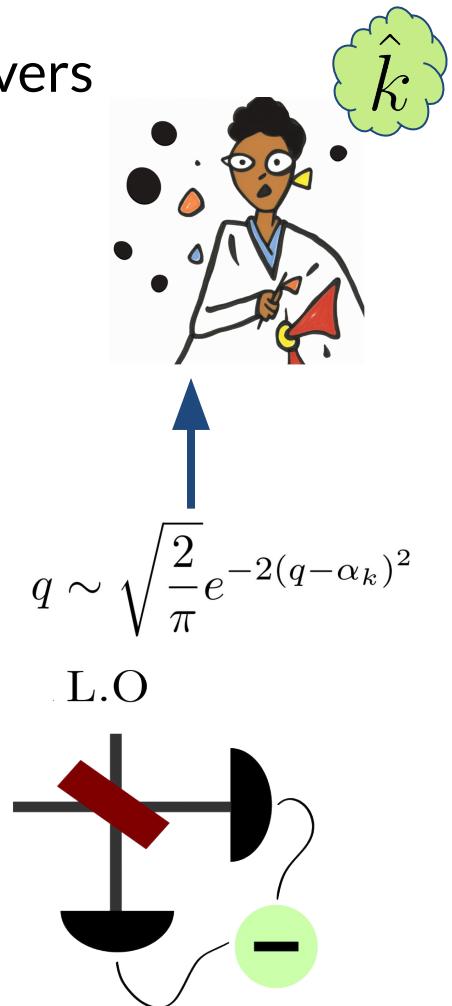
Homodyne measurement



- Homodyne is optimal among all Gaussian receivers

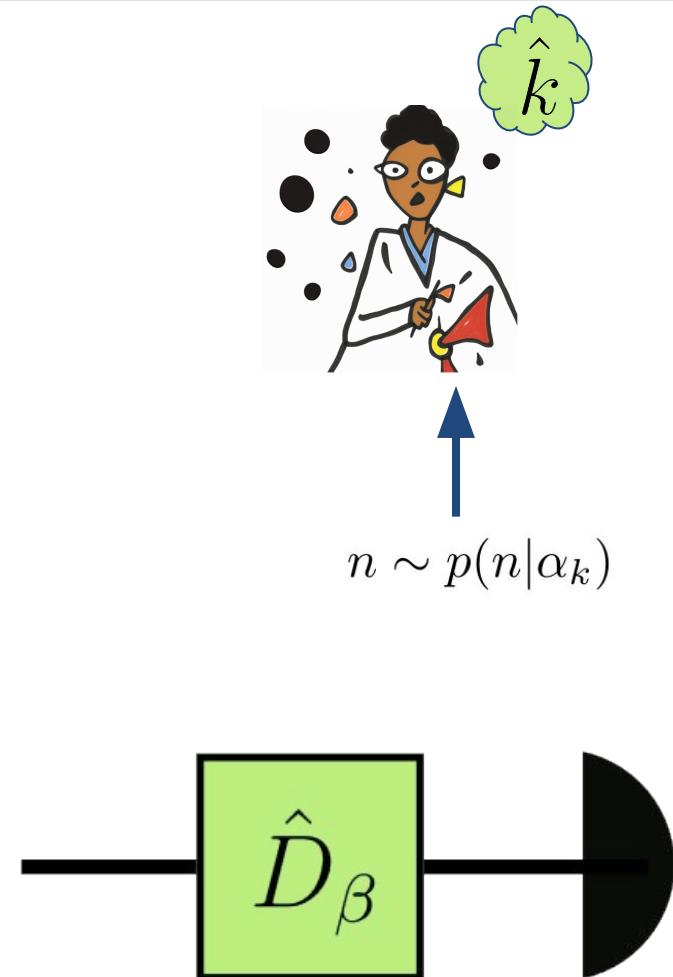
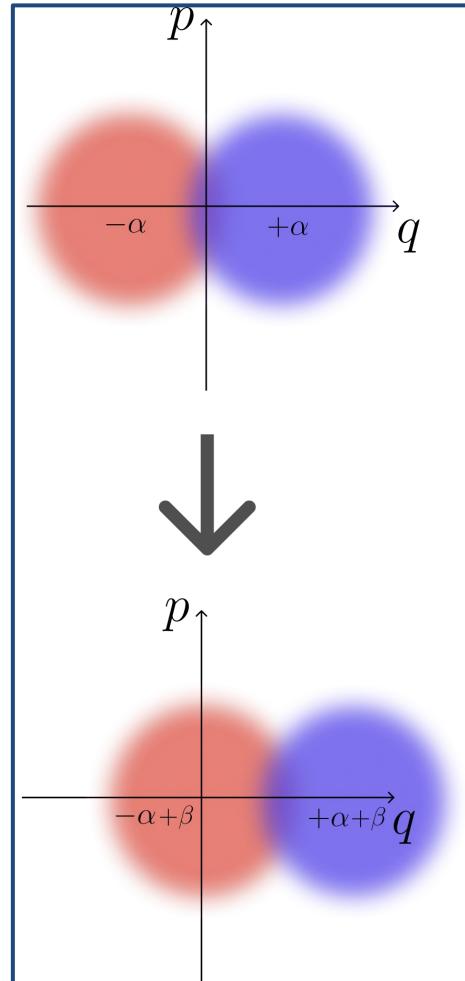
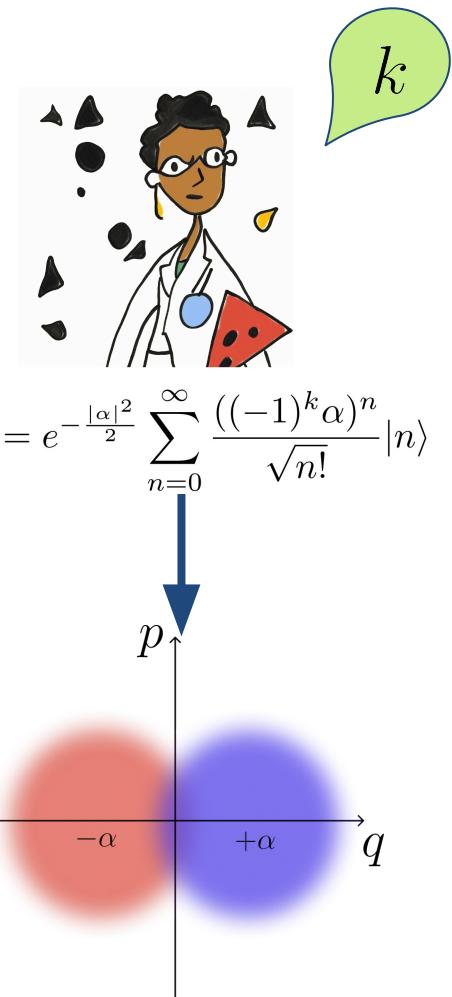
[\[Takeoka2008Discrimination\]](#)

[\[Sabapathy2020Bosonic\]](#)

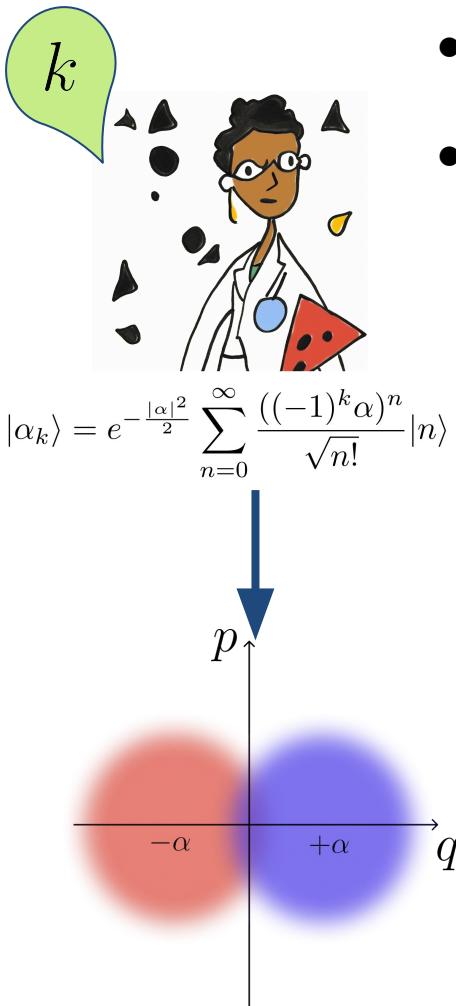


Kennedy receiver

[Kennedy1973Near]

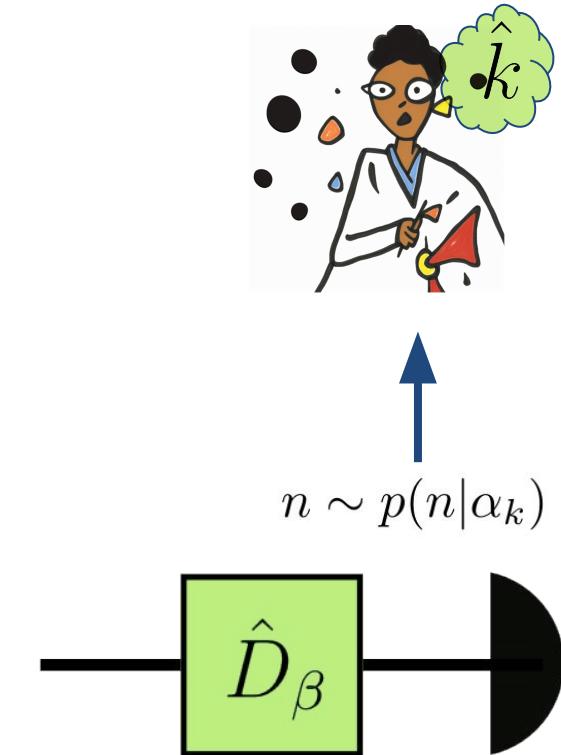
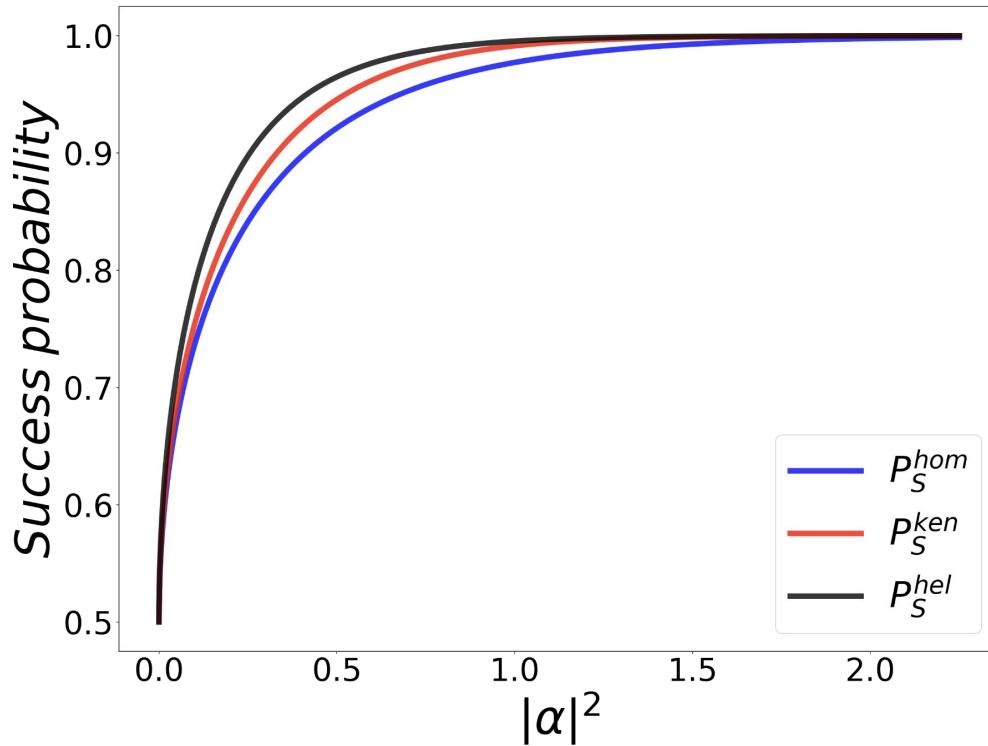


Kennedy receiver



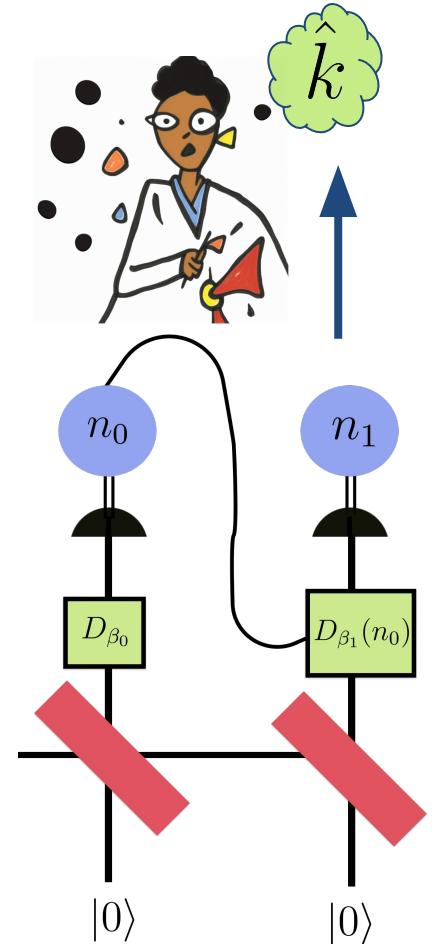
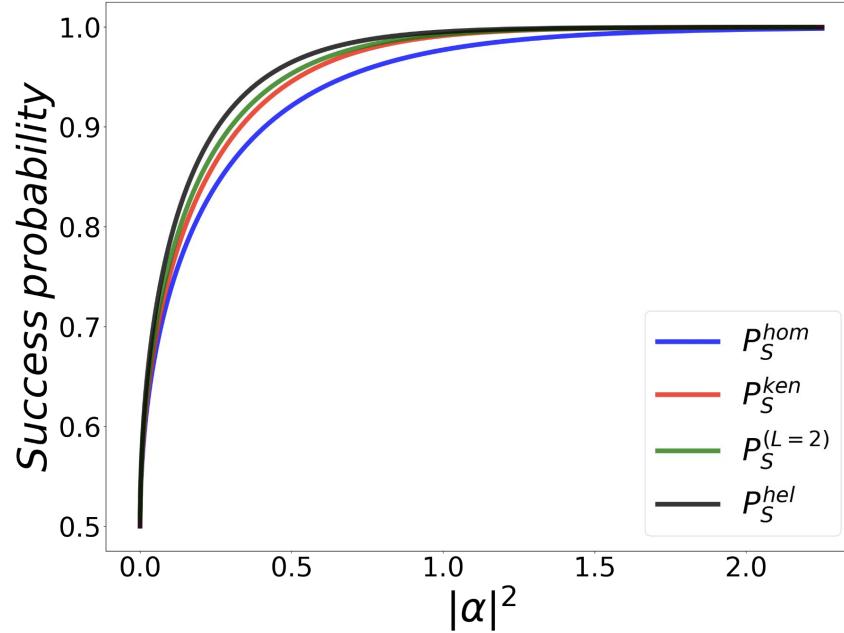
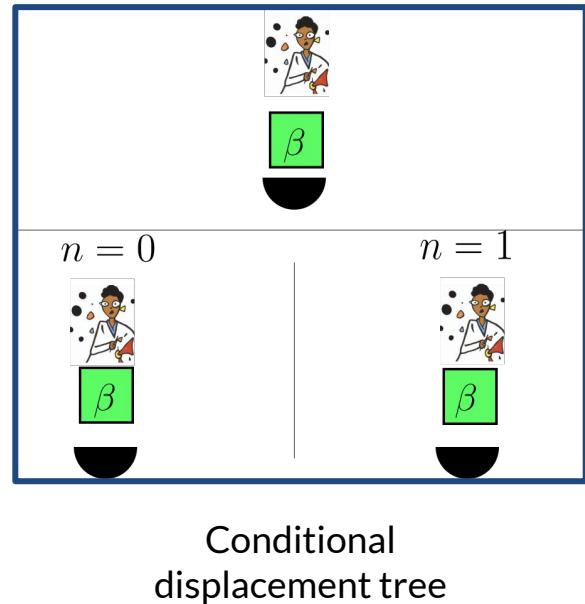
- Photon-detection measurement (**non-gaussian**) $\{|0\rangle\langle 0|, I - |0\rangle\langle 0|\}$

- $P_s^{ken} = \sum_{o=0,1} \max_k p_k p(n|\alpha^{(k)})$



Dolinar-like receiver

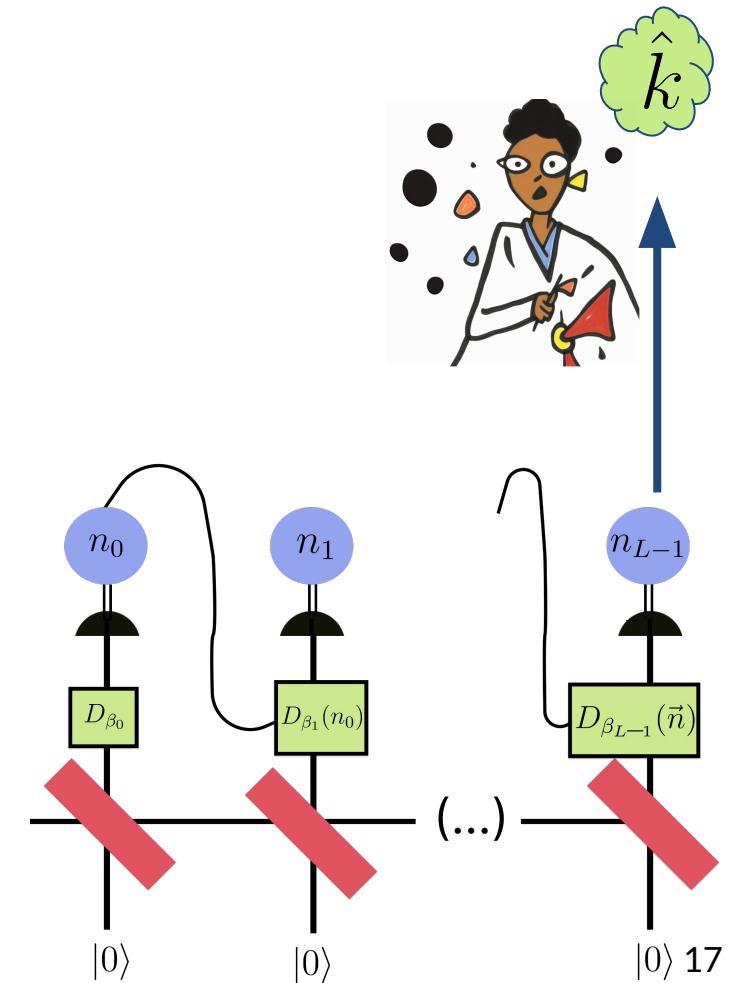
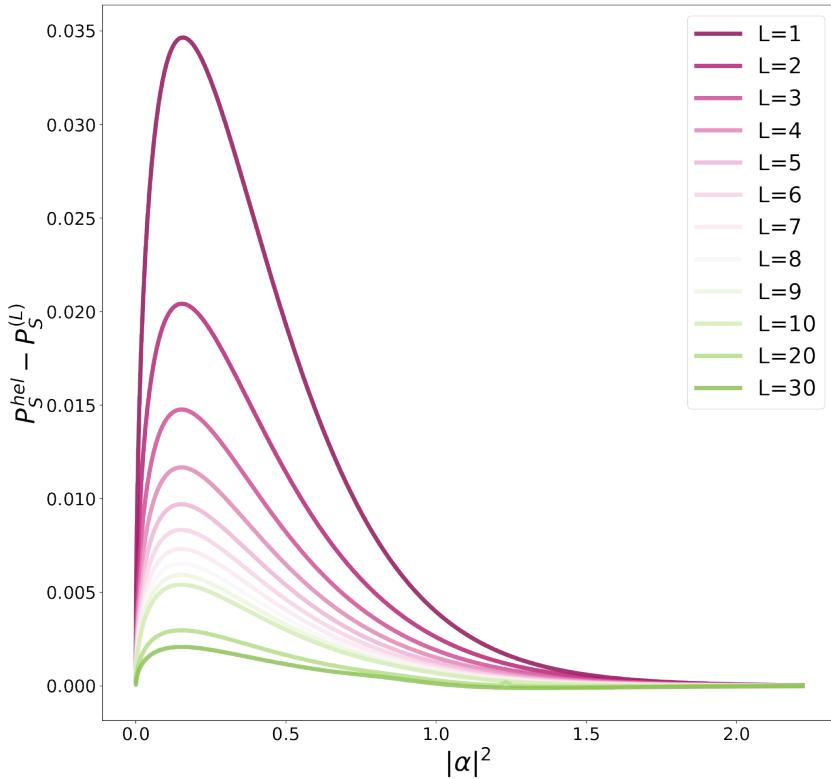
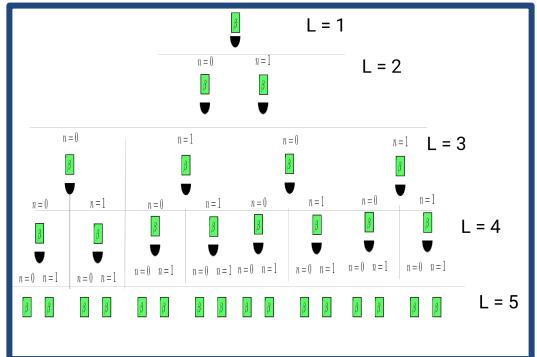
- Adaptive: next displacement value depends on previous outcome observed



Dynamic programming Dolinar receiver

- In the limit of $L \rightarrow \infty$ optimal

[Dolinar 1974 Optimum¹](#)



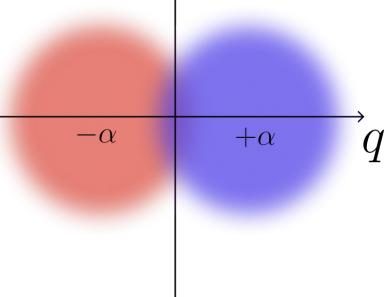
Highlights & Issues

k



$$|\alpha_k\rangle = e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{((-1)^k \alpha)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$$

p



- Dolinar made out of simple linear optic elements + on/off detectors.

Experimental proofs of concepts of Dolinar in labs

[\[Cook2007Optical\]](#)



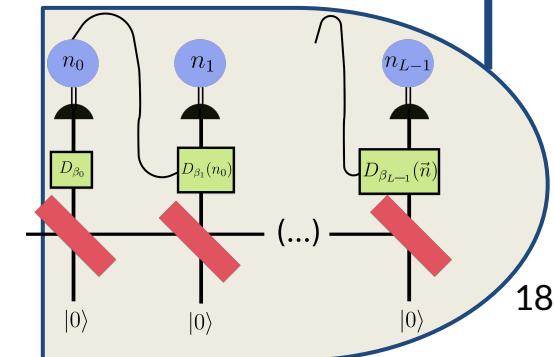
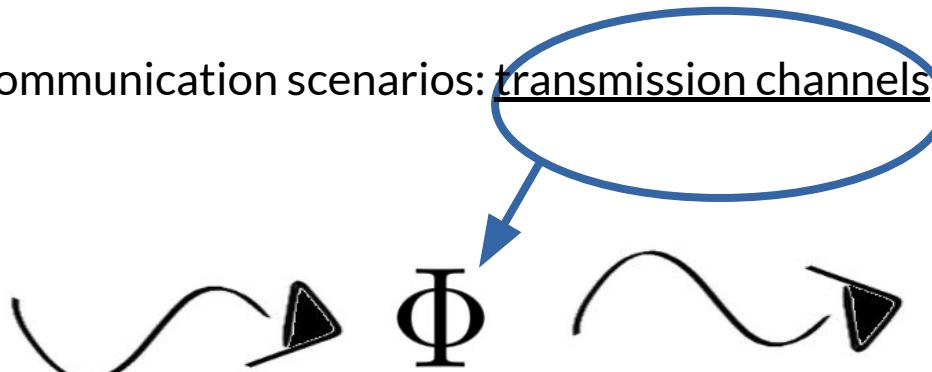
\hat{k}



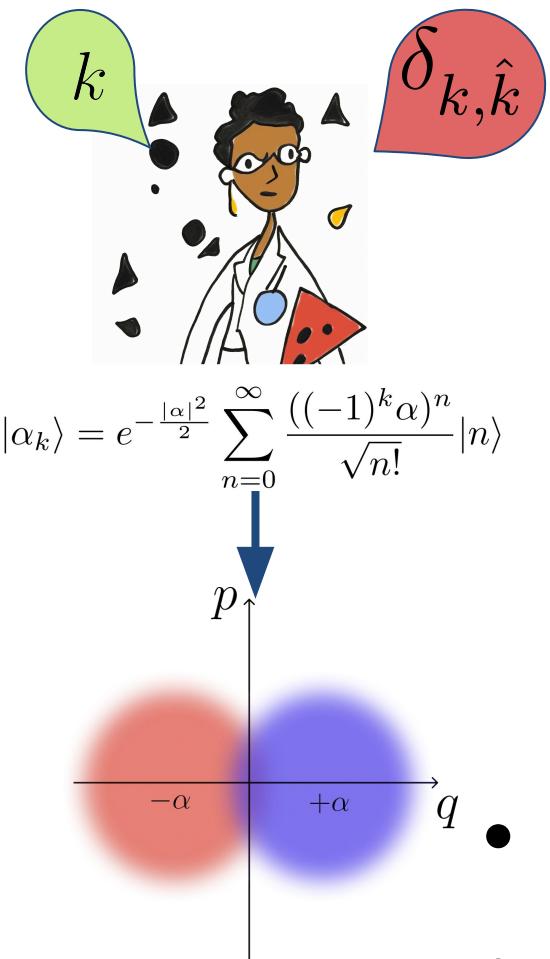
- Performance severely limited by noise



- Communication scenarios: transmission channels hard-to-model

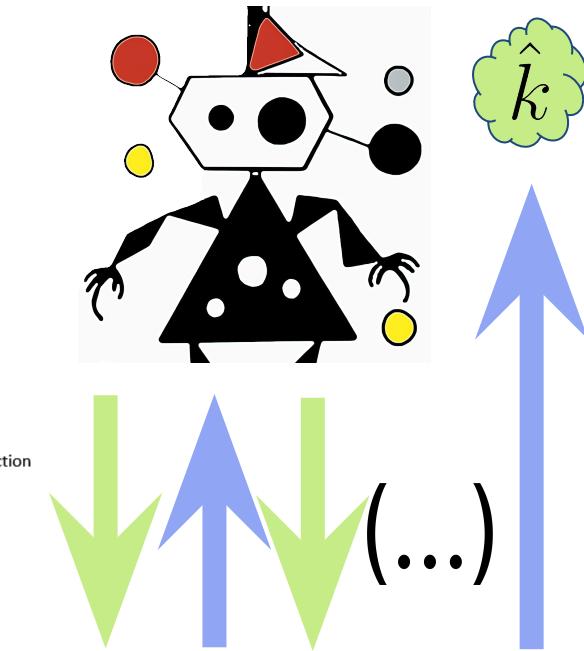
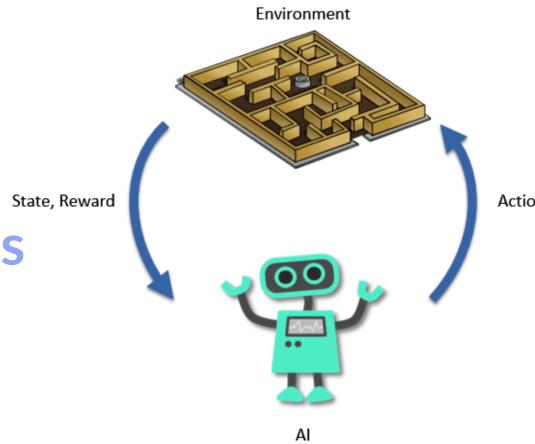


Model-free calibration of Dolinar receiver

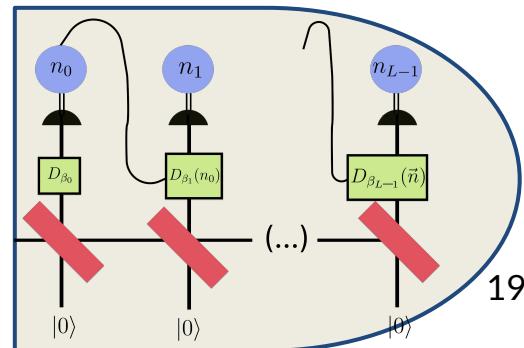


Reinforcement learning

- Actions
- Observations
- Rewards



- Goal: use the receiver as best as possible
- Agent is agnostic: unaware of $\alpha, p(n|\alpha)$

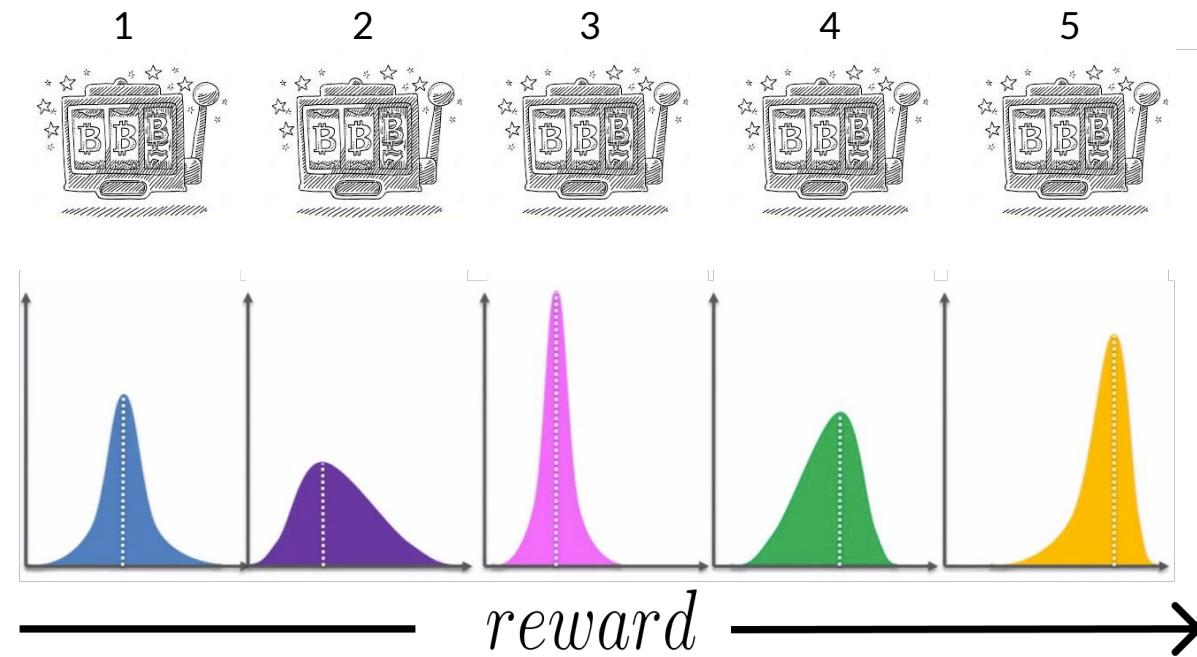


Bandit problem

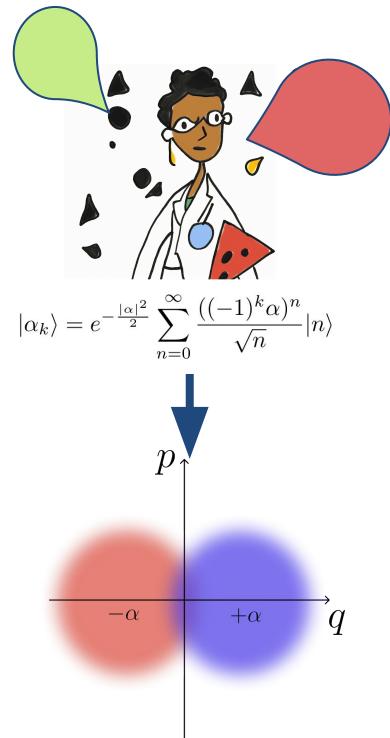
- Exploration-exploitation tradeoff: actively get as much reward as possible
- Reward obtained from black-box; sample strategies?
- Greedy strategy



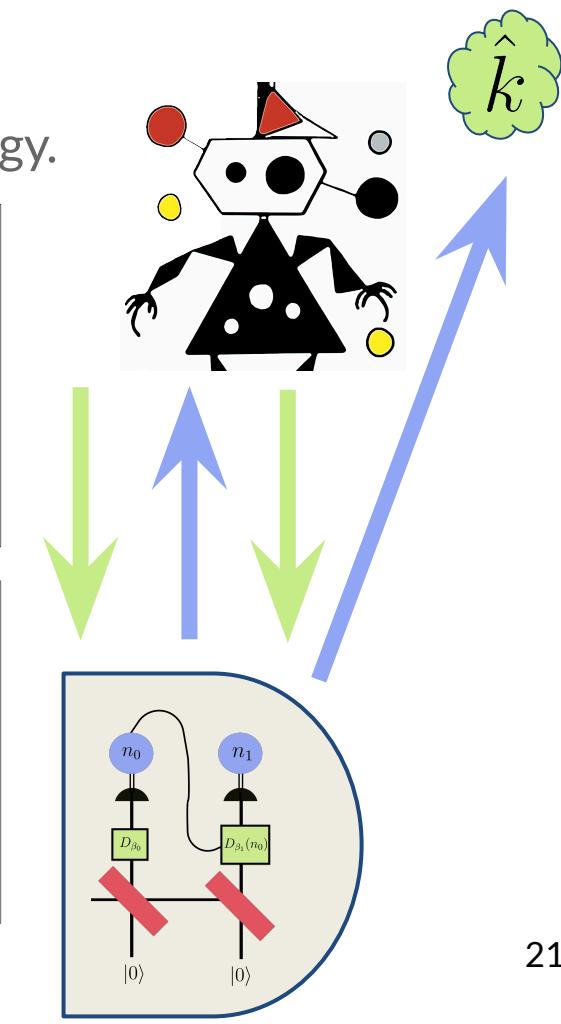
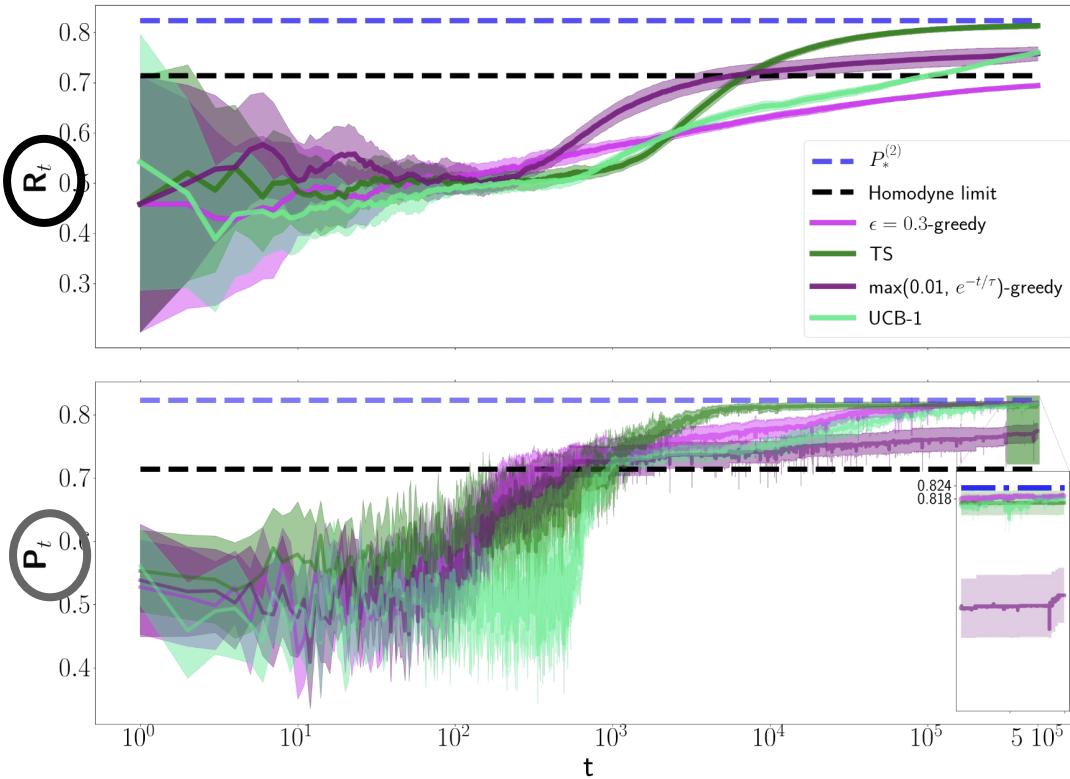
reward probability



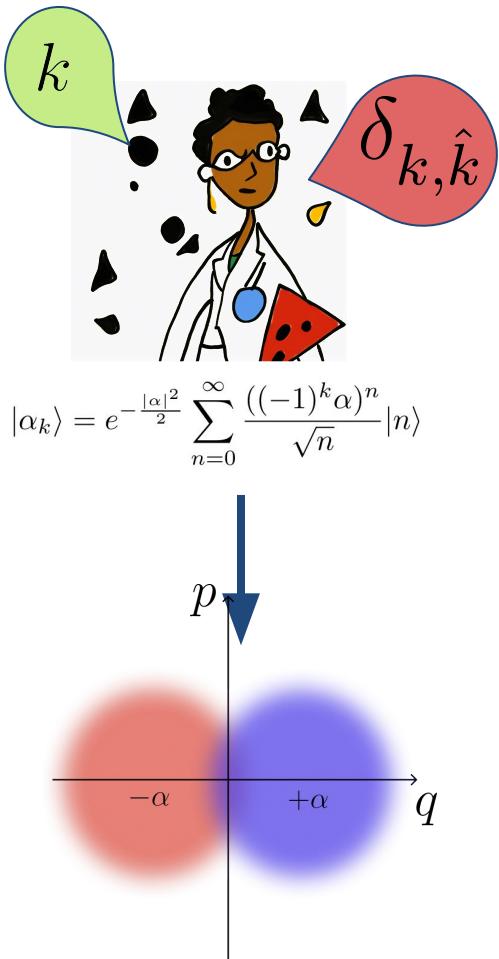
Q-learning curves



- Empirical success rate at t^{th} experiment
- Success probability of agent's favorite strategy.

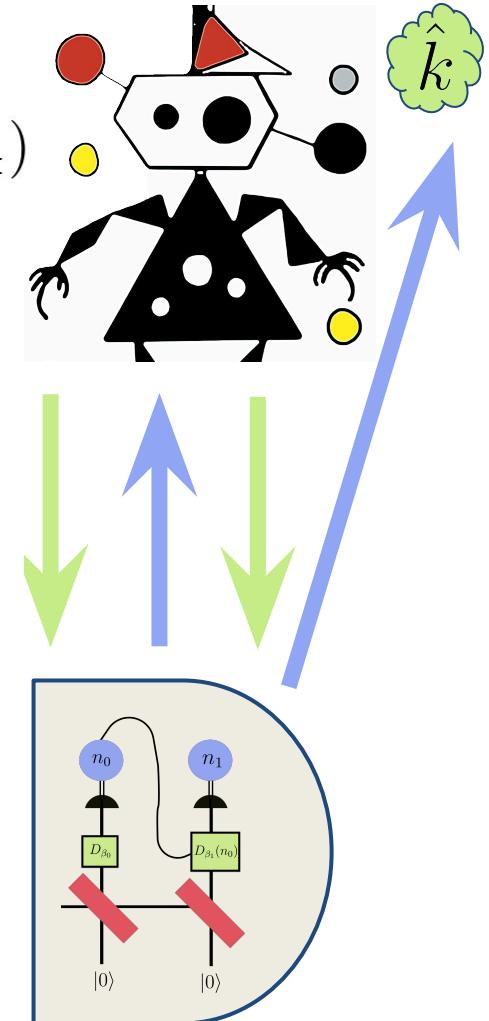
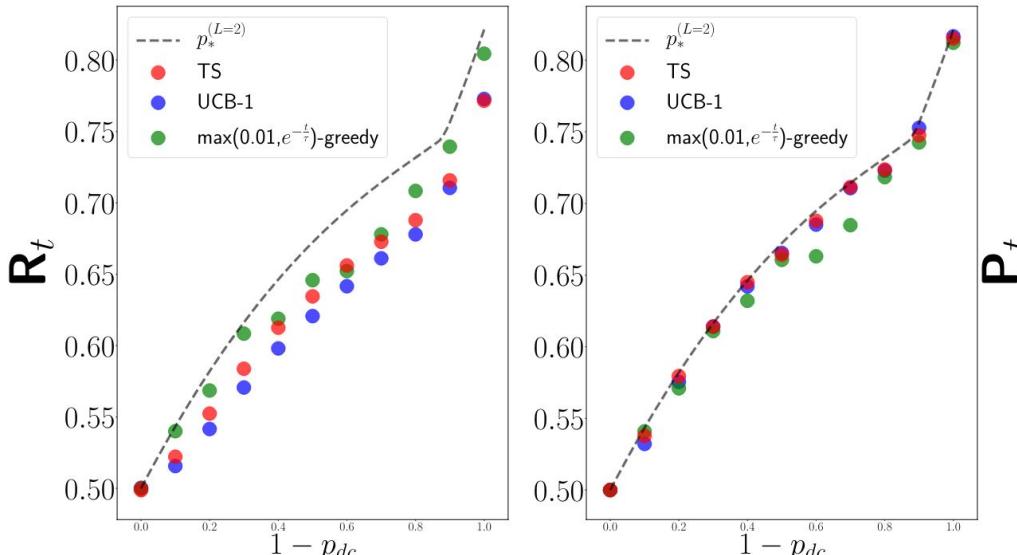


Noise robustness

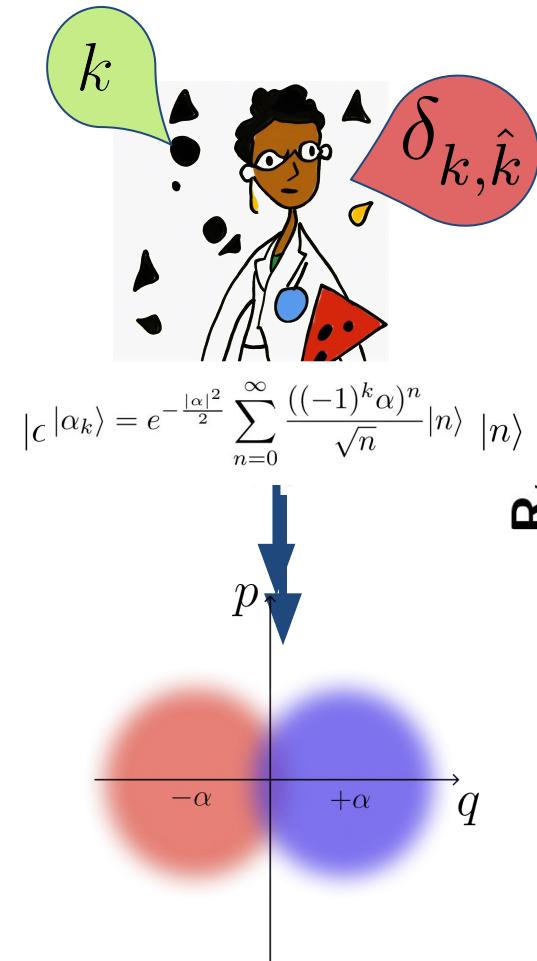


- Dark counts

$$p(n_\ell = 0 | \alpha_\pm) \rightarrow (1 - p_{dc}) p(n_\ell = 0 | \alpha_\pm)$$



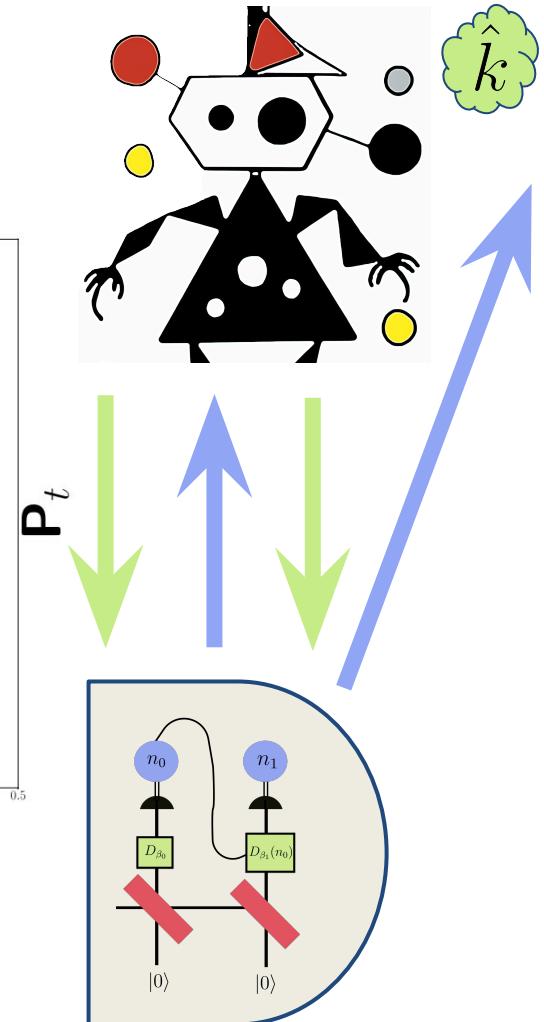
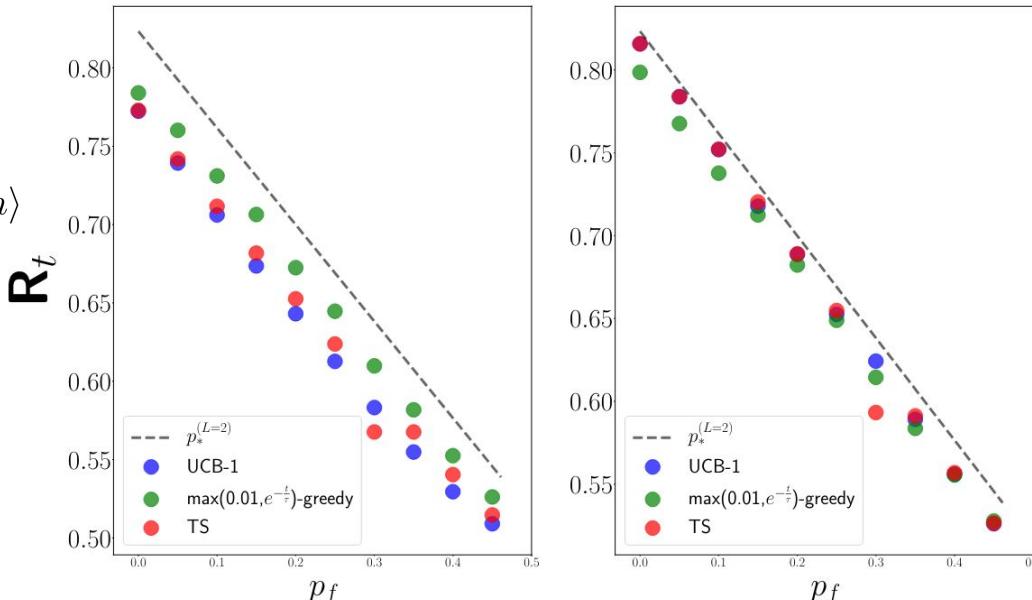
Noise robustness



$$|c|\alpha_k\rangle = e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{((-1)^k \alpha)^n}{\sqrt{n}} |n\rangle |n\rangle$$

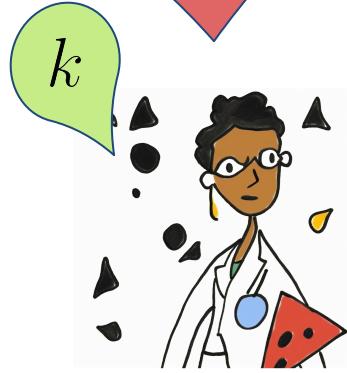
- Phase flips

$$p(\vec{n}|\alpha) \rightarrow (1 - p_f)p(\vec{n}|\alpha) + p_f p(\vec{n}|-\alpha)$$

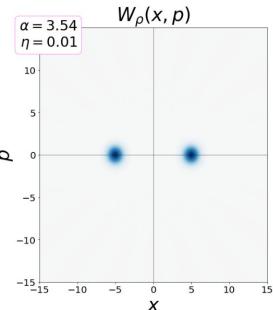


Noise robustness

$$\delta_{k,\hat{k}}$$

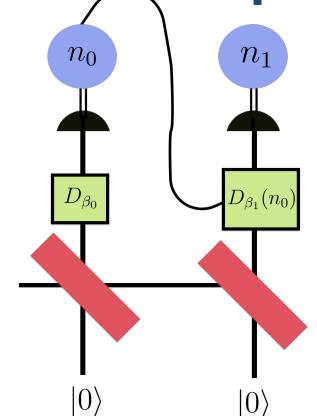
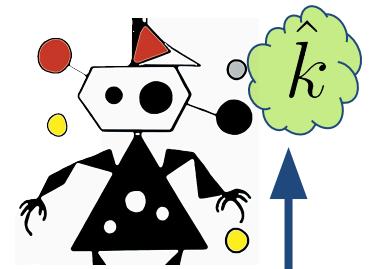
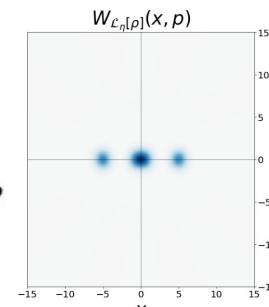
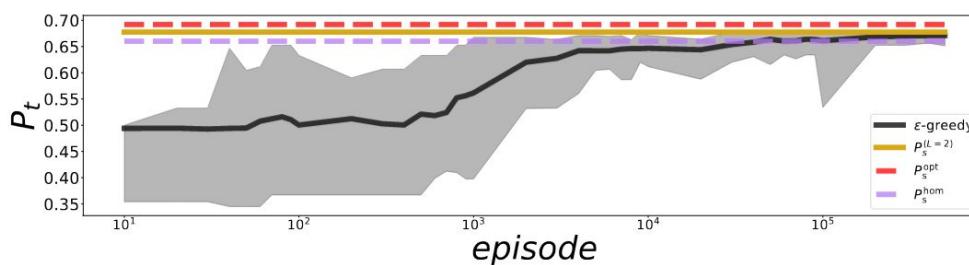
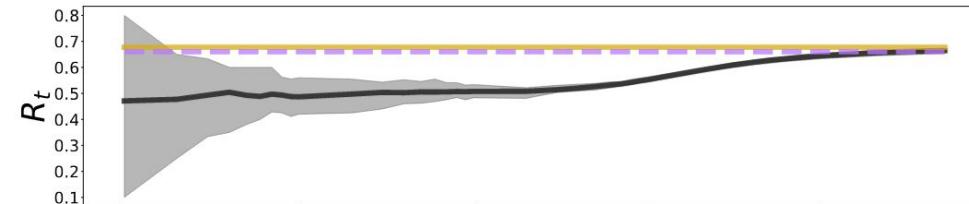


$$|\alpha_k\rangle = e^{-\frac{|\alpha|^2}{2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{((-1)^k \alpha)^n}{\sqrt{n!}} |n\rangle$$



$$\Phi$$

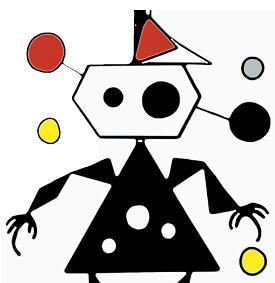
- Variable-loss lossy channel $\rho_{atm} = \frac{| \text{ } \rangle \langle \text{ } | + | \text{ } \rangle \langle \text{ } |}{2}$



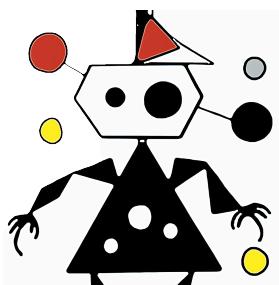
Recap



- We tackle binary coherent-state discrimination
- Optimal measurement implementable by simple optical elements
- Noise hinders a successful experimental implementation
- Model-free calibration: agent ignores everything of the experiment
- Our method can adapt to a variety of scenarios



Highlights and next steps



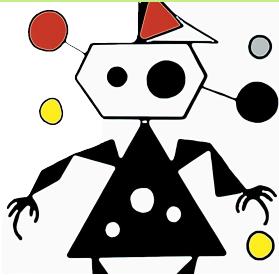
Novelties

- First application of RL techniques to communication setting
- Agent trained solely using measurement outcomes
- Incorporation of bandit methods to Q-learning

Next steps

- Increase number of candidate states and L
- Optimization landscape (in particular for more phases and/or $L > 2$)
- Incorporation of deep learning methods (Esté & Crosta thesis)

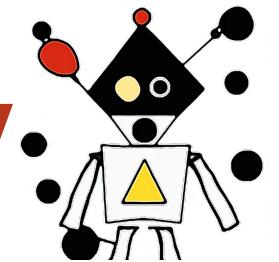
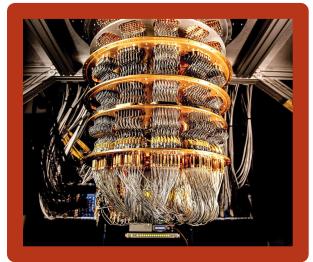
Talk outline



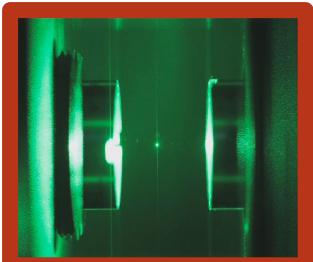
➤ Learning in the darkness



➤ Learning in the twilight



➤ Learning in the daylight

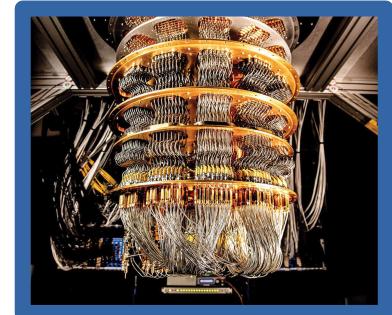
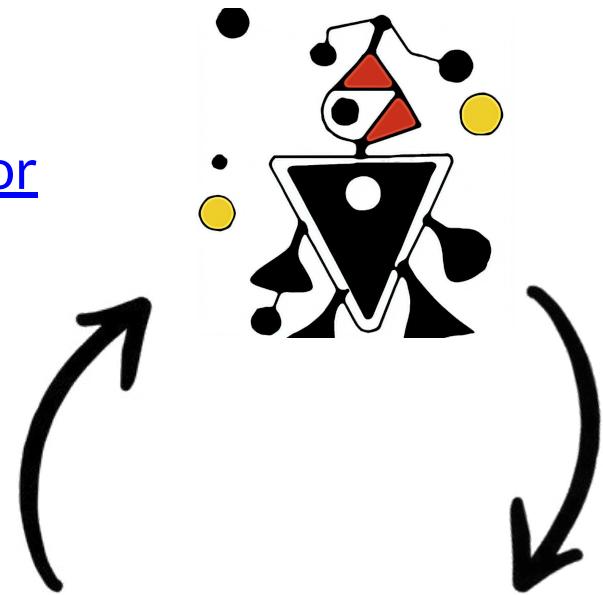


This chapter in a nutshell

Work:

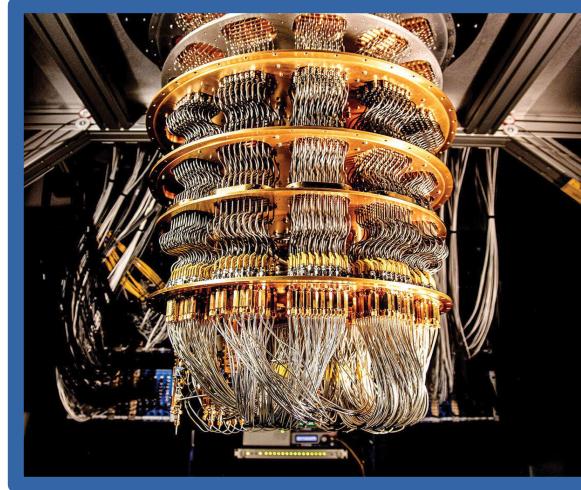
→ [A semi-agnostic ansatz with variable structure for quantum machine learning](#) - Bilkis et.al.

- Quantum circuit structure learning
- We propose a variable-circuit structure method

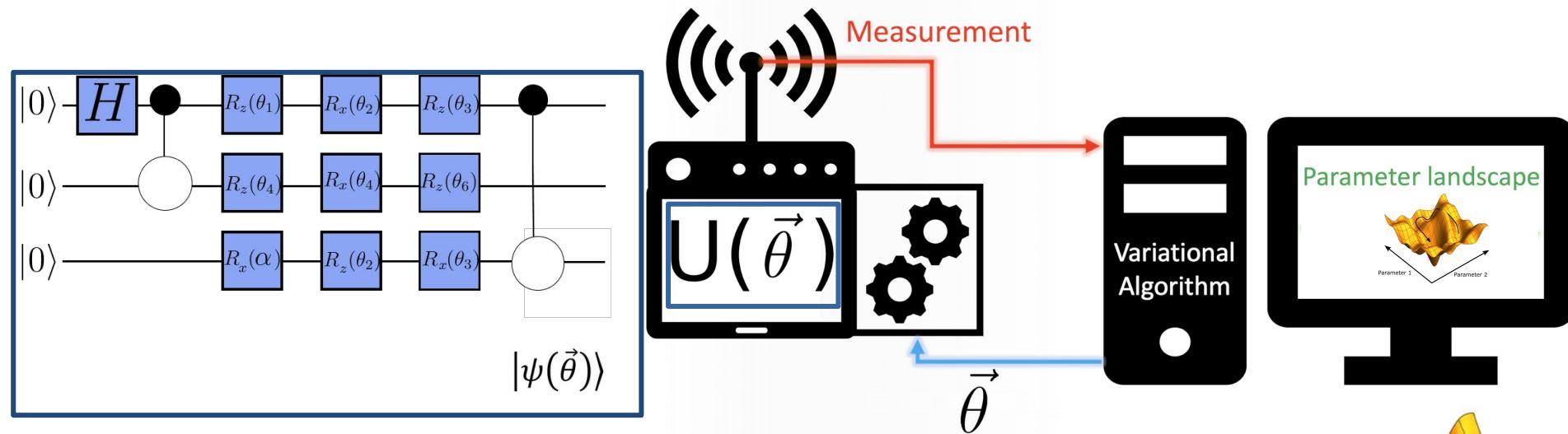


NISQ computers

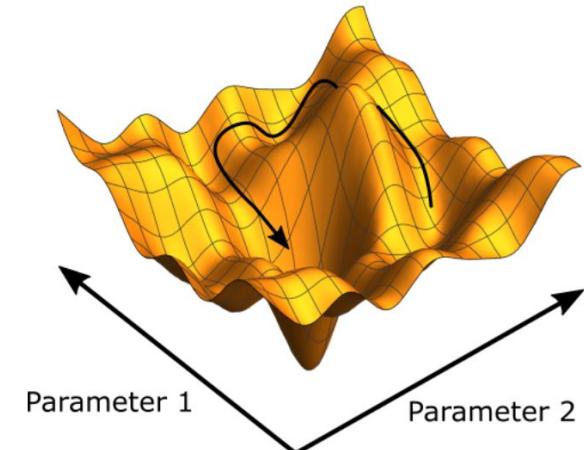
- Extremely noisy.
- However we can prepare a genuinely quantum state.
- Can we use them to accomplish some task?



Variational Quantum Algorithms (VQAs)



- VQAs' ingredients {
- Quantum circuit (ansatz)
 - Cost function
 - Optimization procedure



Gradient-shift rules

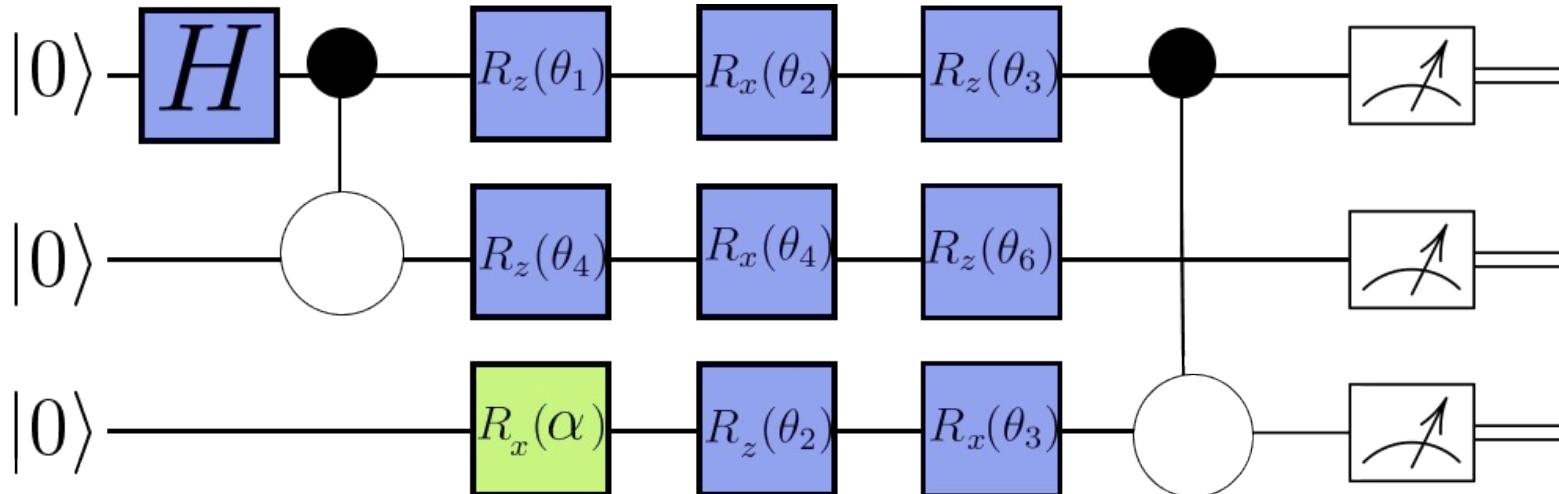
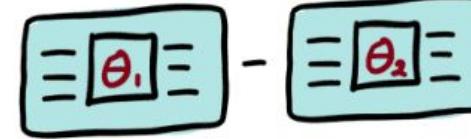
- The gradient can be estimated using the same circuit

$$C_{\text{VQE}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \langle 0 | U^\dagger(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \hat{H} U(\boldsymbol{\theta}) | 0 \rangle$$

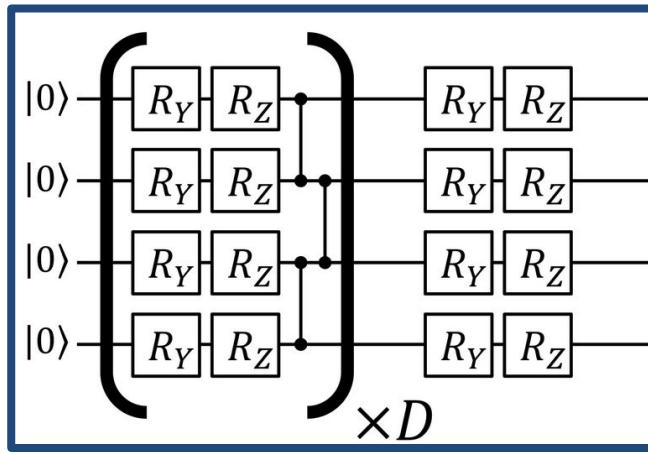
$$\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} f = f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_1) - f(\boldsymbol{\theta}_2)$$

- Analytical result

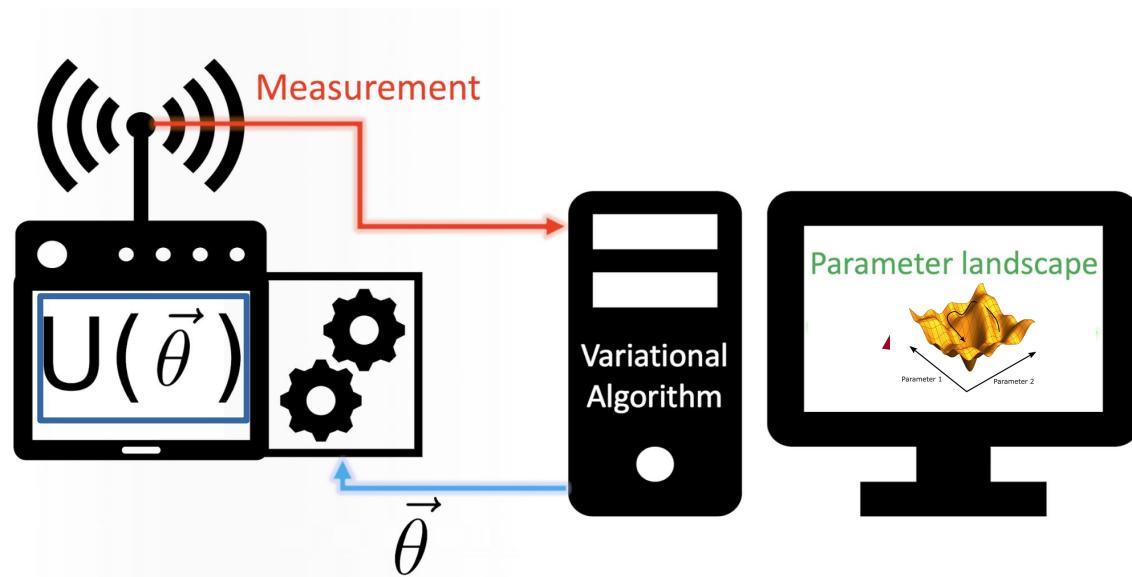
$$\partial_\alpha C(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2} (C(\boldsymbol{\theta})|_{\alpha \leftarrow \alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}} - C(\boldsymbol{\theta})|_{\alpha \leftarrow \alpha - \frac{\pi}{2}})$$



Variational Quantum Algorithms (VQAs)



$|\psi(\vec{\theta})\rangle$



- VQAs' ingredients {
- Quantum circuit (ansatz)
 - Cost function
 - Optimization procedure

But do they work?

VQAs' shortcomings

- Which layout should be used for a given task? non-trivial question
- Barren-plateaus: exponentially many measurements to estimate cost-minimizing direction (for sufficiently random quantum circuits)

[McClean2018Barren]

$$\text{Var}[\partial_\alpha C_{\text{VQE}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})] \leq F(n) = \mathcal{O}(2^{-n})$$



$$\Pr[|\partial_\alpha C(\boldsymbol{\theta})| \geq c] \leq \frac{\text{Var}[\partial_\alpha C(\boldsymbol{\theta})]}{c^2} = \mathcal{O}(2^{-n})$$

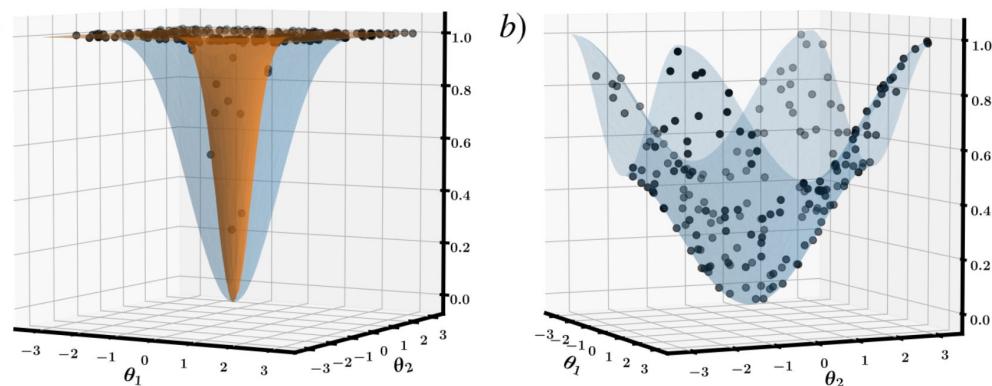


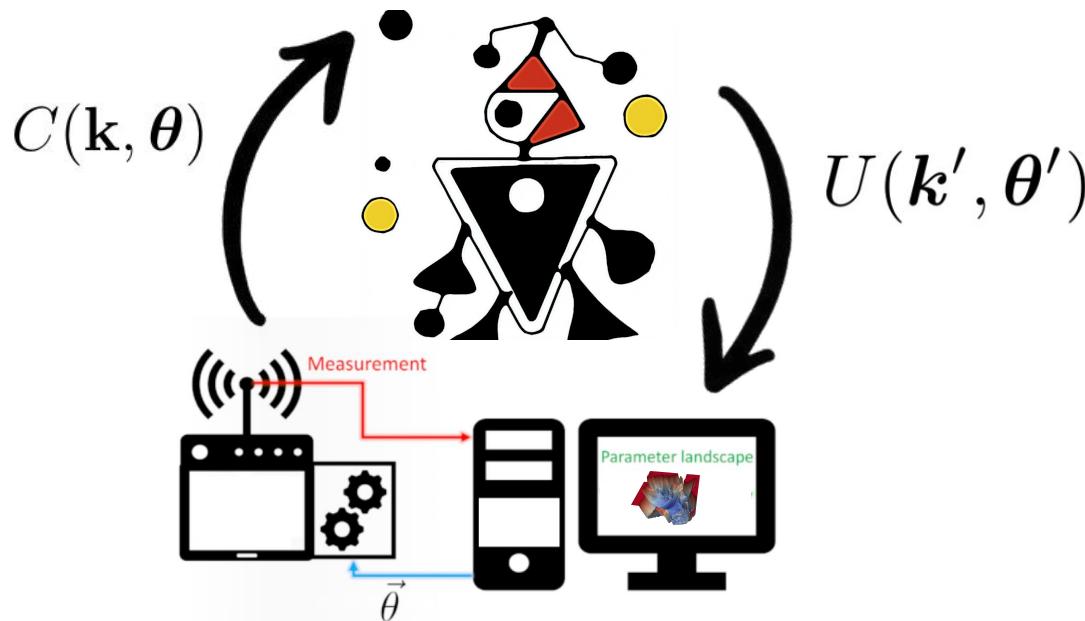
Fig. 2. from [Cerezo2021Cost]

- Noise-induced Barren Plateaus

[Noise2021Wang]

VANs algorithm

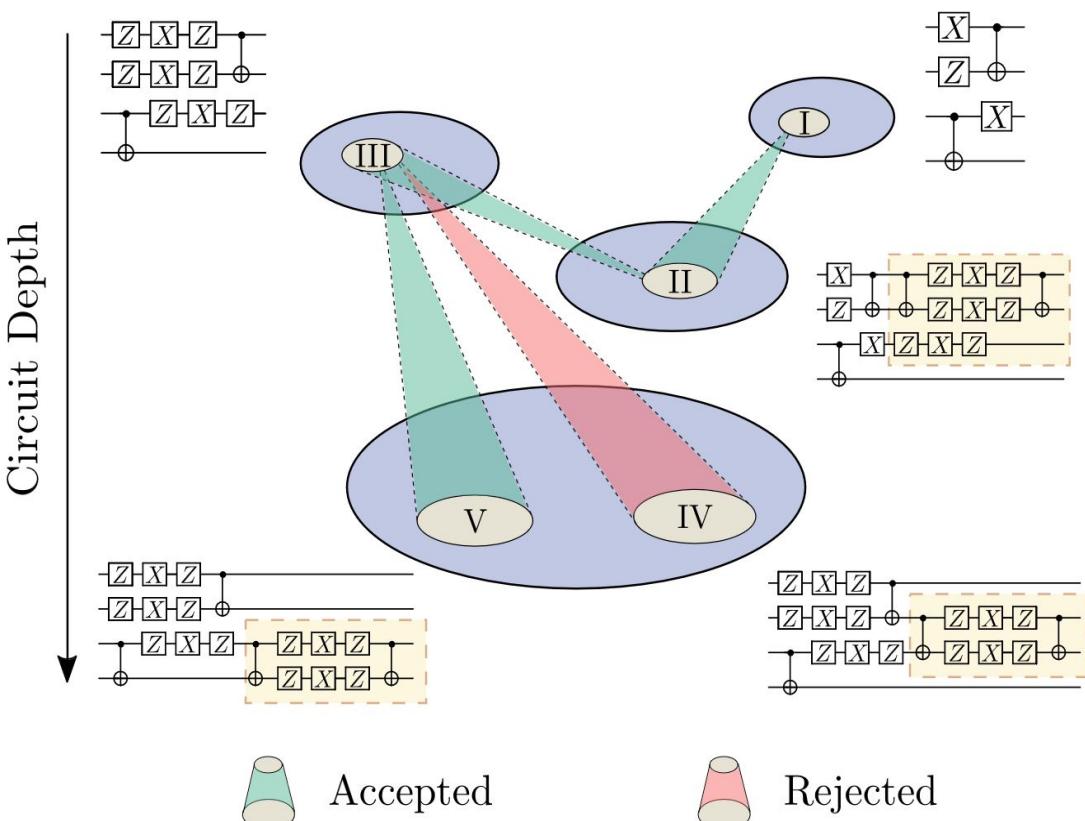
- Exploit NISQ devices as much as possible: go beyond fixed-structured ansatz



- Nested optimization loop: parameters → **ansatz** (denoted by k)

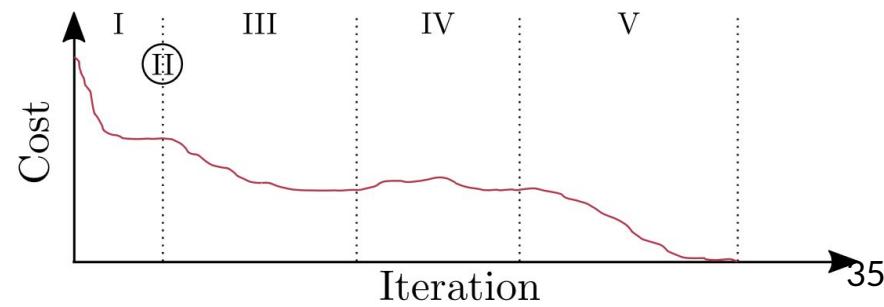
VAns algorithm

Architecture Hyperspace



$Z(X)$ = Parametrized rotation about $z(x)$ axis

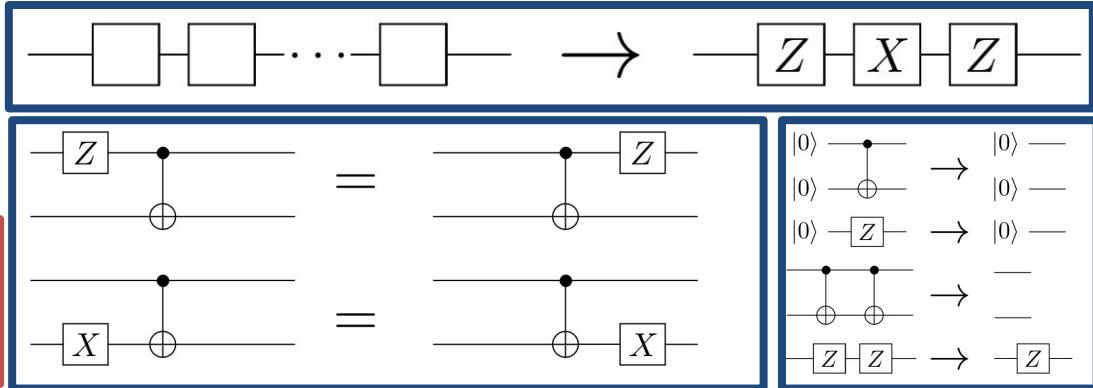
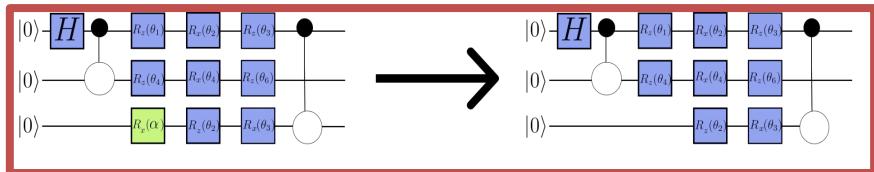
- I **optimize** initial circuit + accept vs. reject
- II **insert** identity resolution(s)
- III **optimize** + **simplify** + accept vs. reject
- III → IV **insert** identity resolution(s)
- IV **optimize** + accept vs. reject
- IV → V **insert** identity resolution(s)
- V **optimize**



VAns' rules in a nutshell

Simplification rules

- active & passive

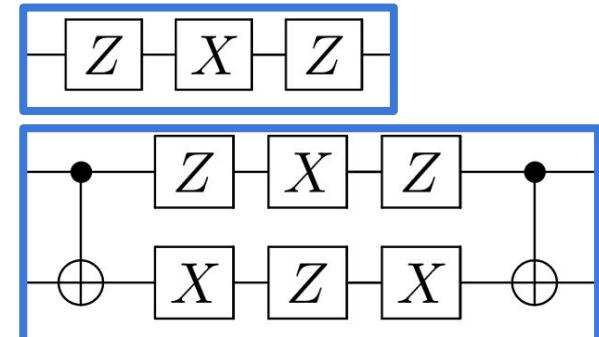


Insertion rules

- randomly insert one/two body identity resolutions

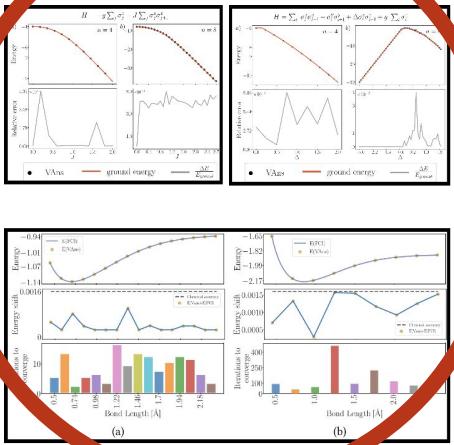
Acceptance/rejection rules

- with low probability, accept a cost-increasing circuit

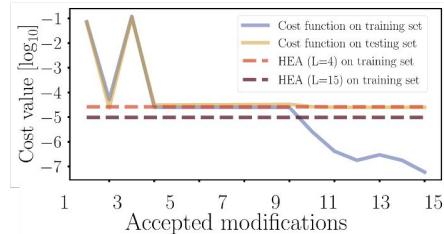
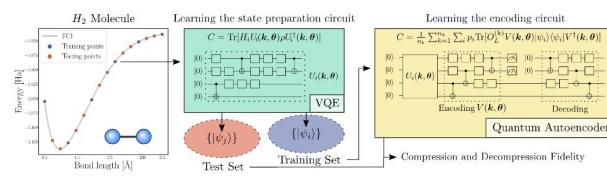


Using VAns

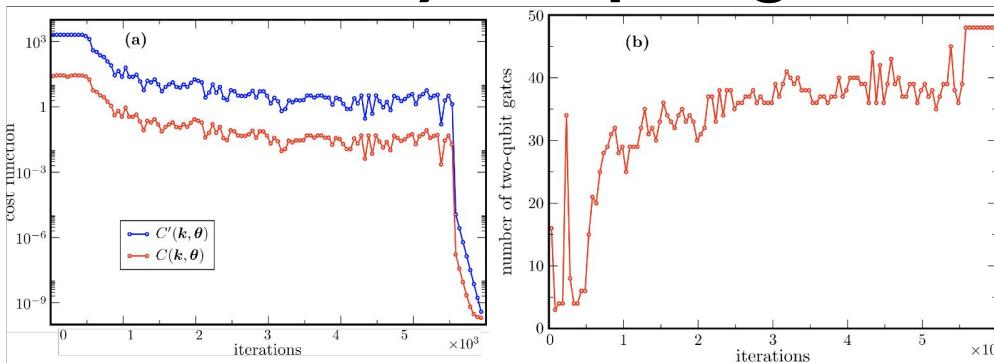
VQE



Quantum autoencoder



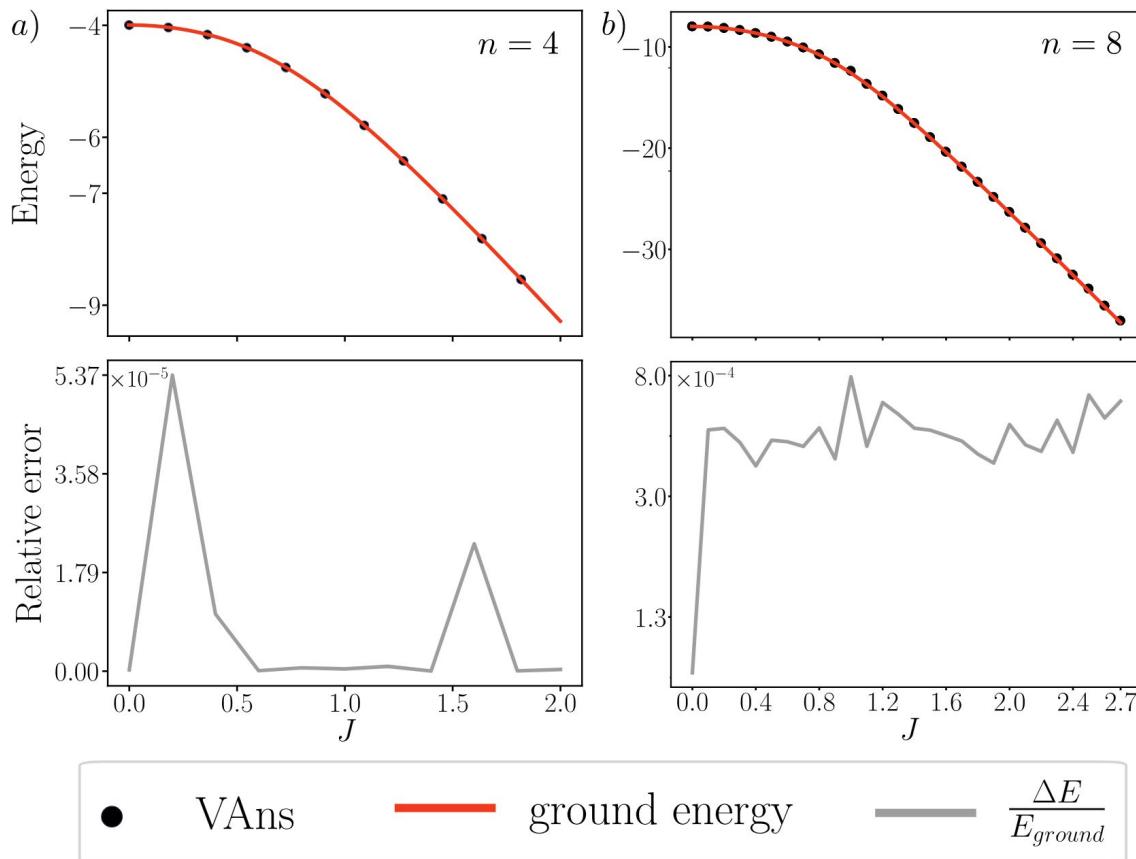
Unitary compiling



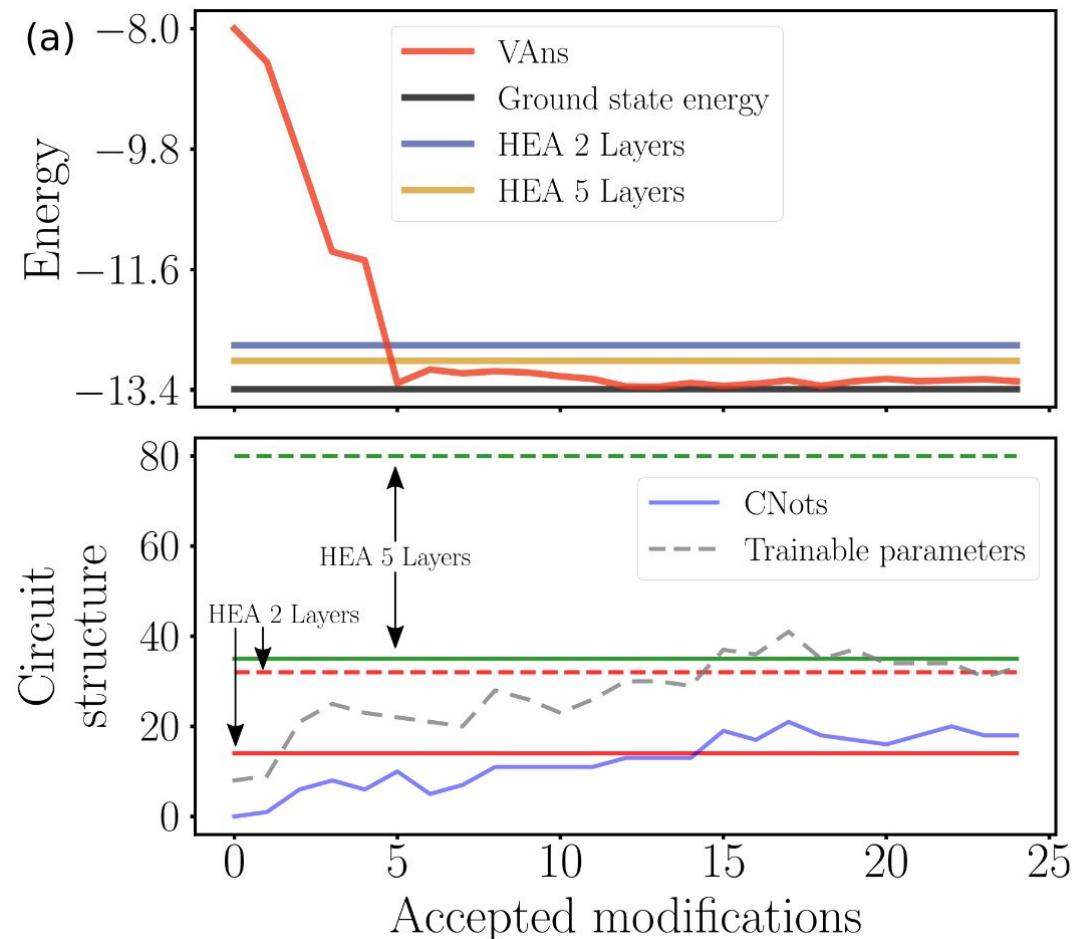
[Bilkis2021Semi]

Using VAns: TFIM

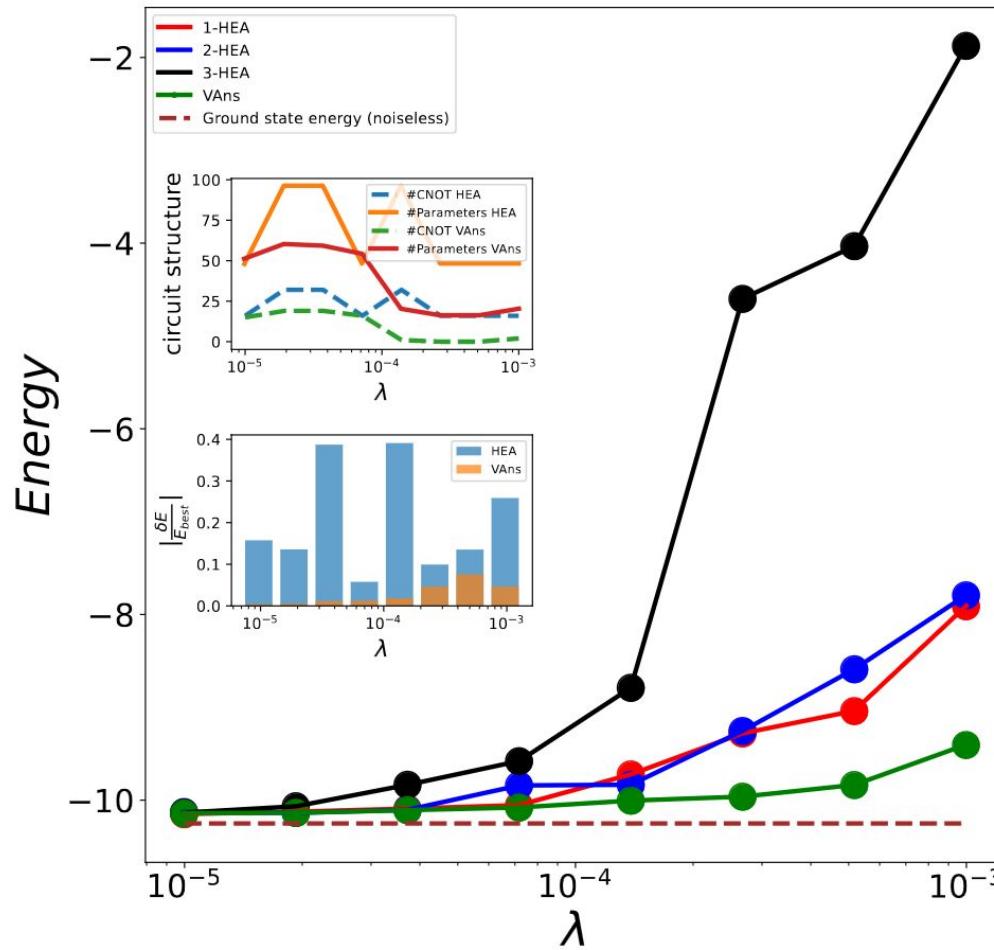
$$H = -g \sum_j \sigma_j^z - J \sum_j \sigma_j^x \sigma_{j+1}^x$$



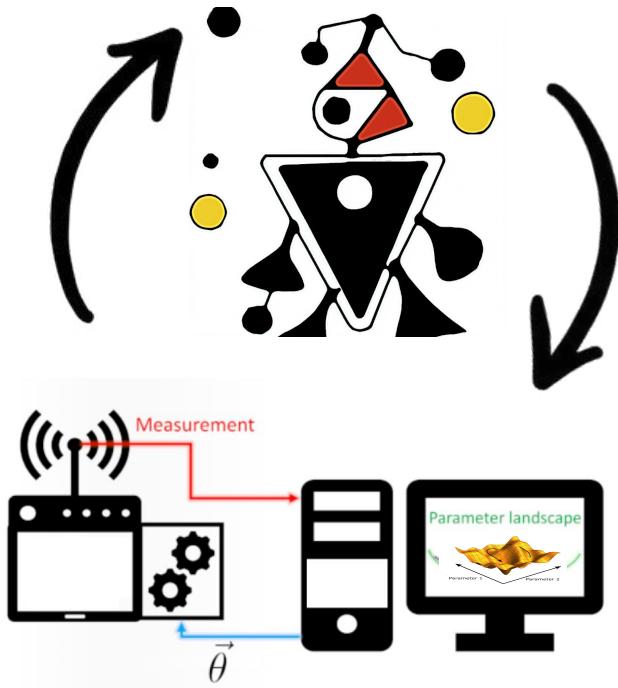
Using VAns: TFIM



Using VAns: TFIM under the λ -model



Recap



- We tackle quantum circuit structure discovery for VQAs
- We introduce a variable-ansatz approach, called VAns
- VAns sequentially grows the quantum circuit by randomly inserting identity resolutions across it
- VAns prevents the circuit to grow by usage of semi-agnostic simplification rules
- We show that VAns is able to adapt the circuit layout to hardware constraints at hand.

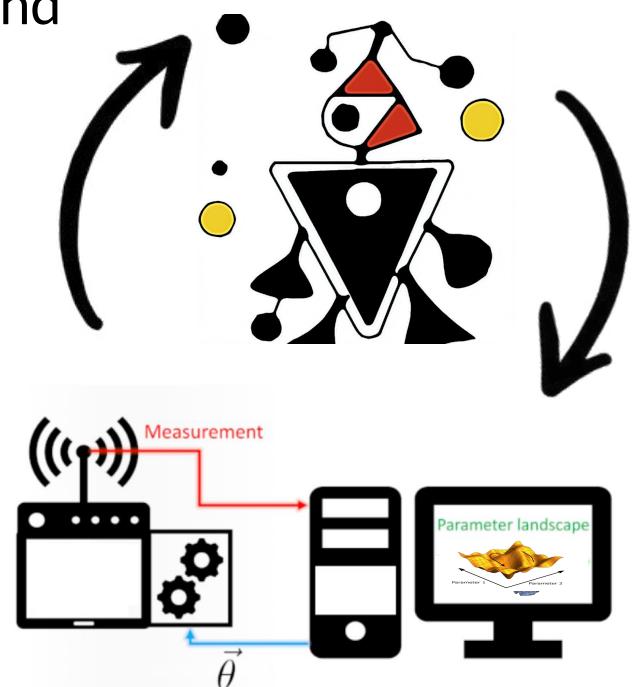
Highlights and next steps

Novelties

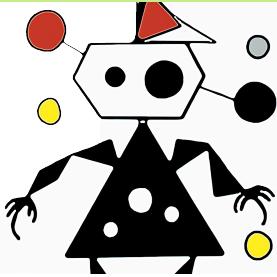
- VAns works for general cost-functions
- It adapts the quantum circuit layout to setting at hand

Next steps

- Knowledge injection for insertion rules
- Extend VAns to CV systems and use it to search for new receiver architectures



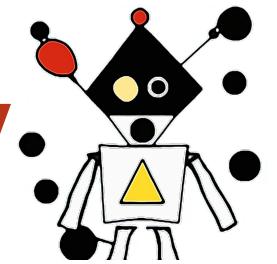
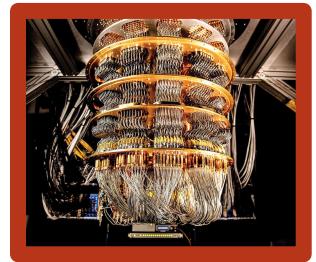
Talk outline



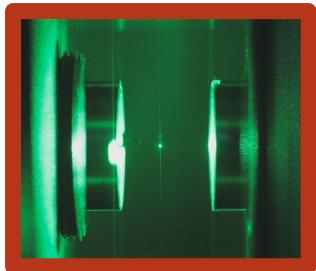
➤ Learning in the darkness



➤ Learning in the twilight



➤ Learning in the daylight



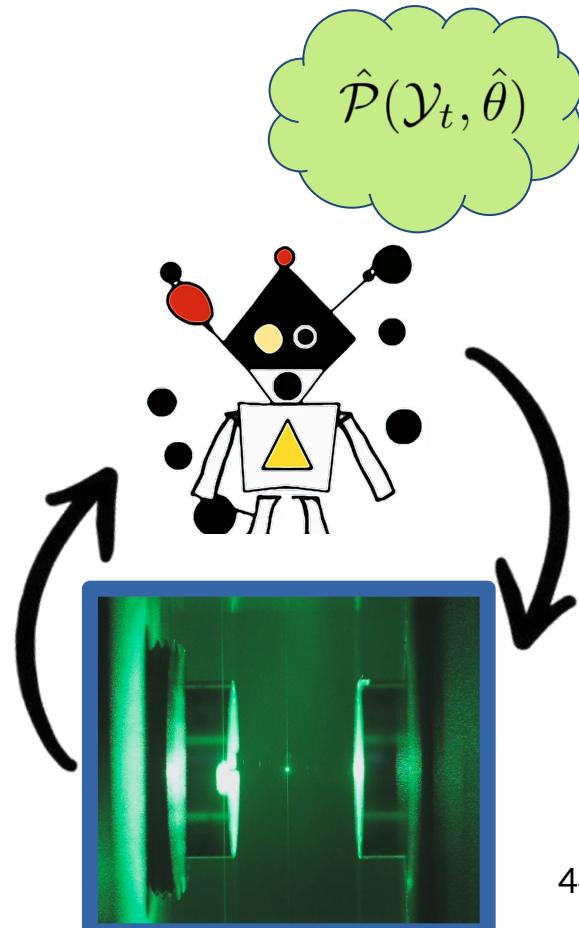
This chapter in a nutshell

Works:

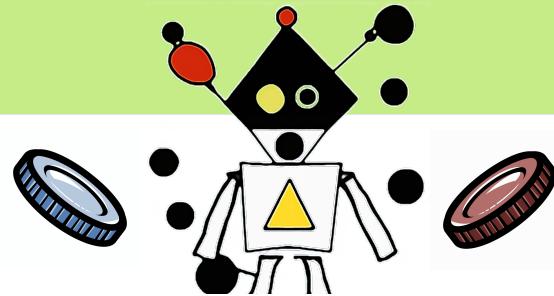
→ Sequential testing for continuously monitored quantum systems - *to be submitted* - Gasbarri, Bilkis, Calsamiglia

→ Machine-learning dynamics in continuously-monitored quantum systems - *in progress* - Bilkis, Gasbarri, Calsamiglia

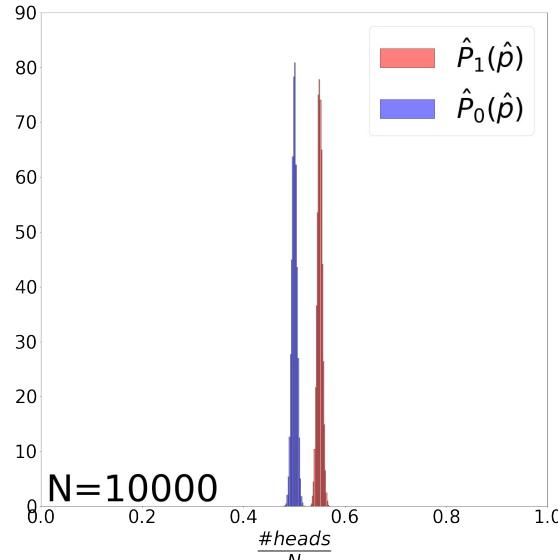
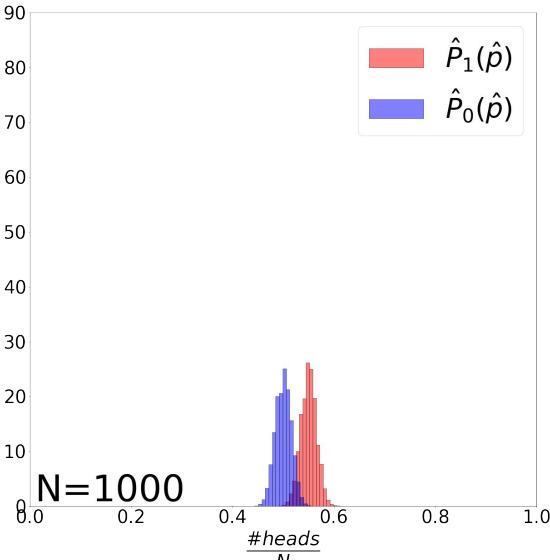
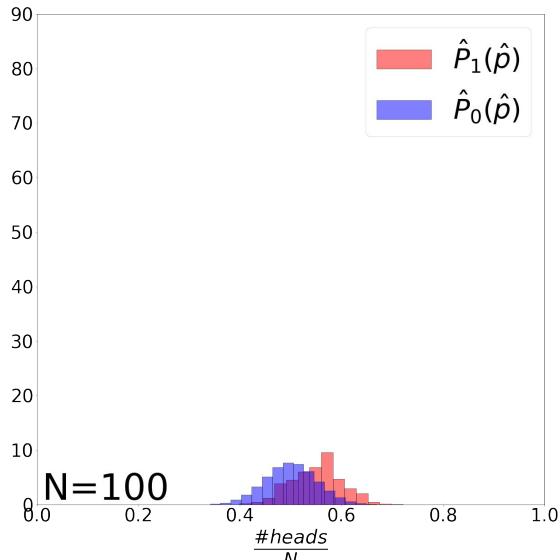
- Statistical inference in continuously-monitored systems
- Hypothesis testing: introduce sequential strategies
- Parameter estimation: machine-learning dynamics



Hypothesis testing



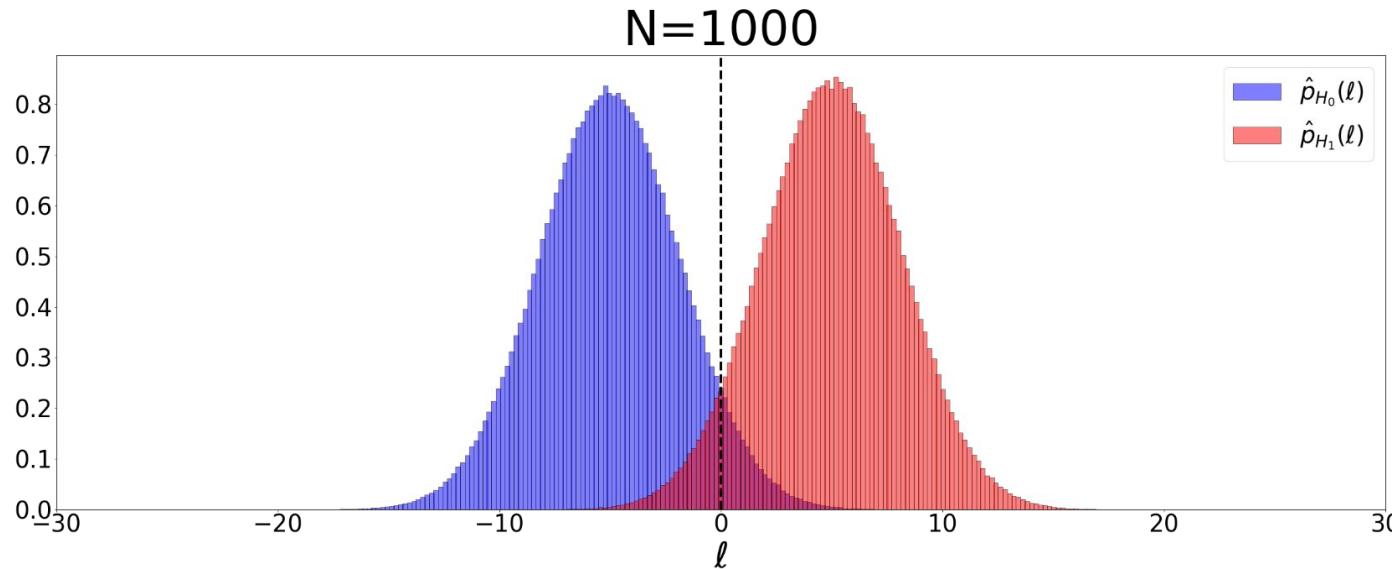
- Example: identify coin kind H_0 (bias p_0) vs. H_1 (bias p_1)
- After tossing the coin N times:



$$\mathcal{Y}_N \in \{0, 1\}^{\otimes N} \quad \mathcal{P}_k(\mathcal{Y}_N) = \binom{N}{n} p_k^n (1 - p_k)^{N-n}$$

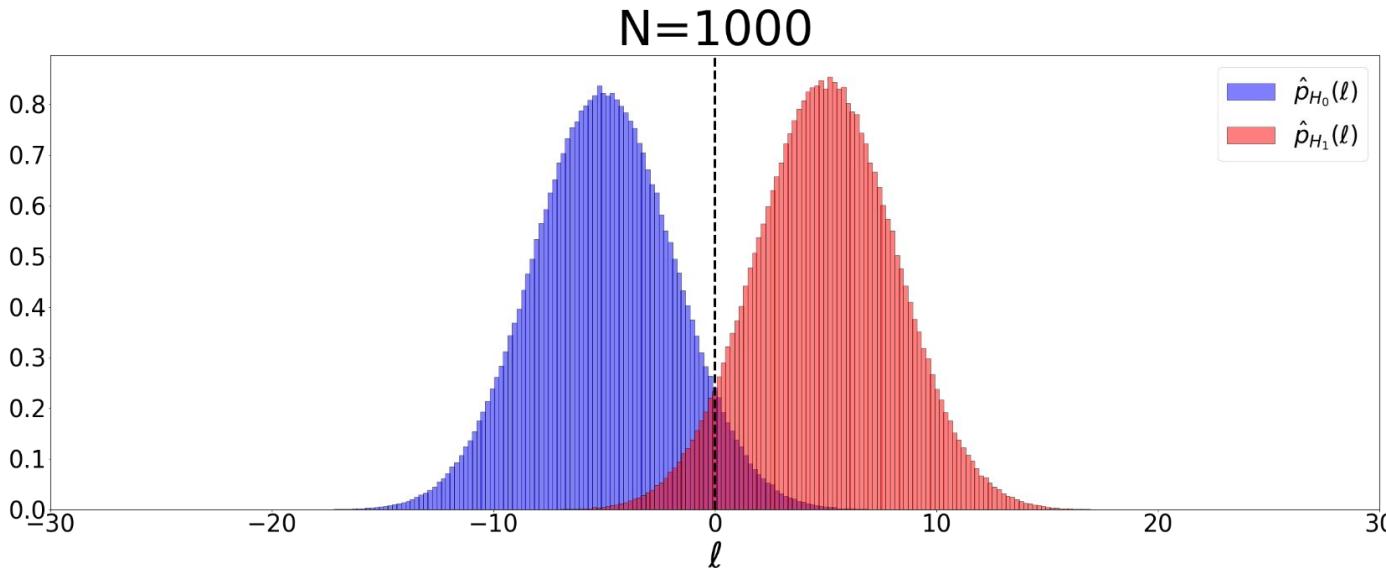
Hypothesis testing: deterministic test

- Likelihood distribution $\ell(\mathcal{Y}_N) = \log \frac{P_1(\mathcal{Y}_N)}{P_0(\mathcal{Y}_N)}$



Hypothesis testing: deterministic test

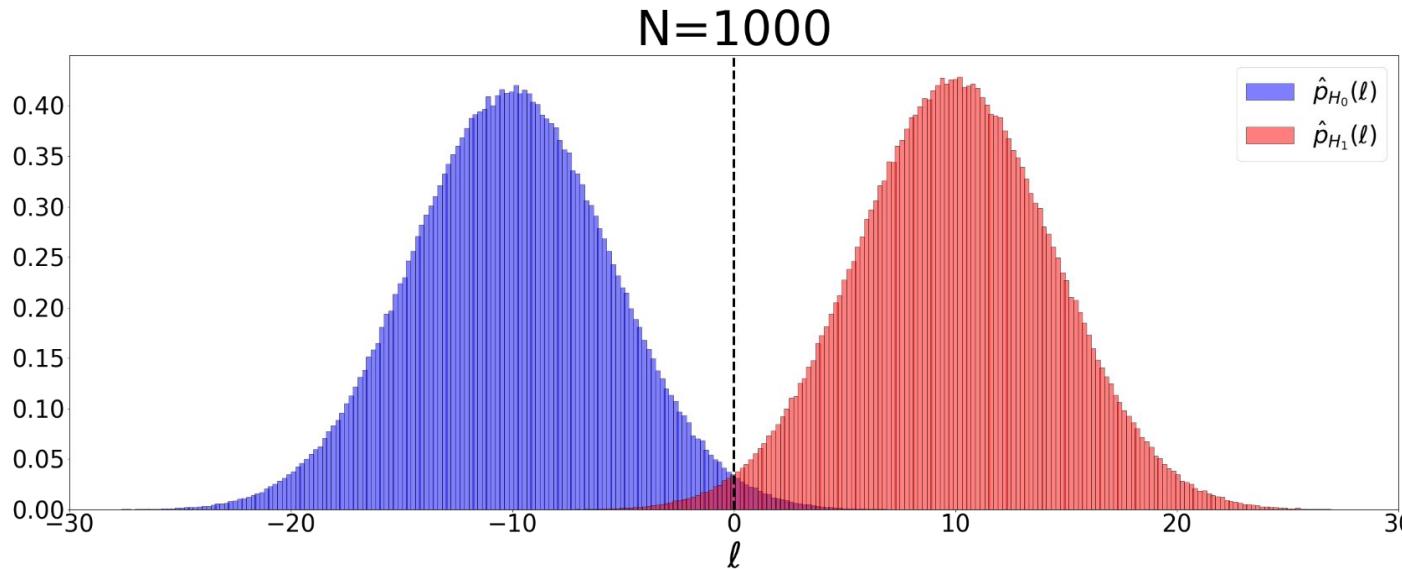
- Error probability $P_e = \frac{1}{2}p(\hat{H}_1|H_0) + \frac{1}{2}p(\hat{H}_0|H_1)$



- Deterministic test: acquire N samples → provide a guess

Hypothesis testing: deterministic test

- Error probability $P_e = \frac{1}{2}p(\hat{H}_1|H_0) + \frac{1}{2}p(\hat{H}_0|H_1)$



- Exponentially decaying errors with N

Sequential probability ratio test

- Instead of fixing N and get an error \rightarrow fix error and get N
- Strong error condition: correct identification of H_k guaranteed for each \mathcal{Y}_N

$$p(H_1|\mathcal{Y}_N) \geq 1 - \epsilon$$



$$p(H_0|\mathcal{Y}_N) \geq 1 - \epsilon$$

N becomes stochastic

- SPRT casts these conditions in terms of

$$\ell(\mathcal{Y}_N)$$

$$a := \log\left(\frac{1 - \epsilon}{\epsilon}\right)$$

- $\ell(\mathcal{Y}_N) \notin [-a, a]$



ask new sample

- $\ell(\mathcal{Y}_N) \geq a$



Decide for H_1

- $\ell(\mathcal{Y}_N) \leq -a$

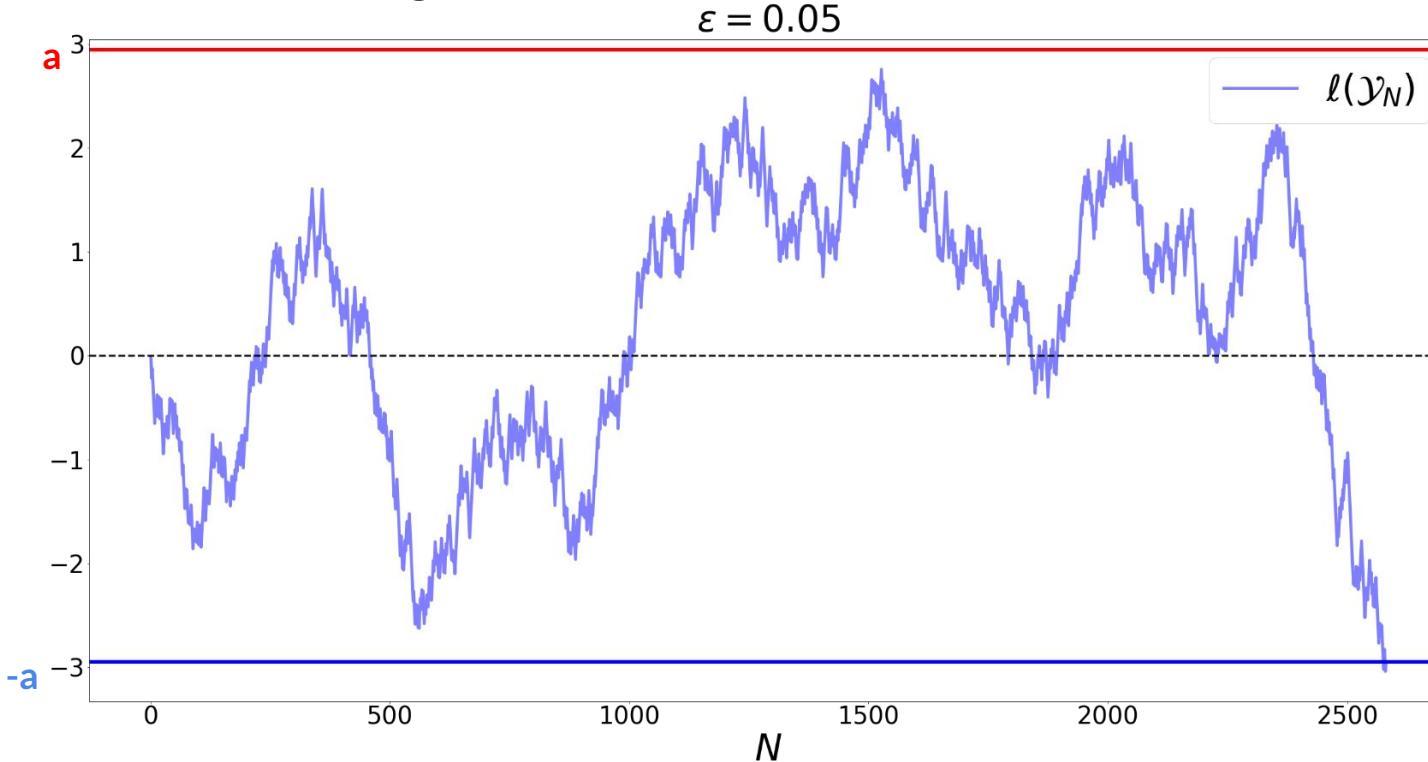


Decide for H_0

[\[Wald1945Sequential\]](#)

Sequential probability ratio test

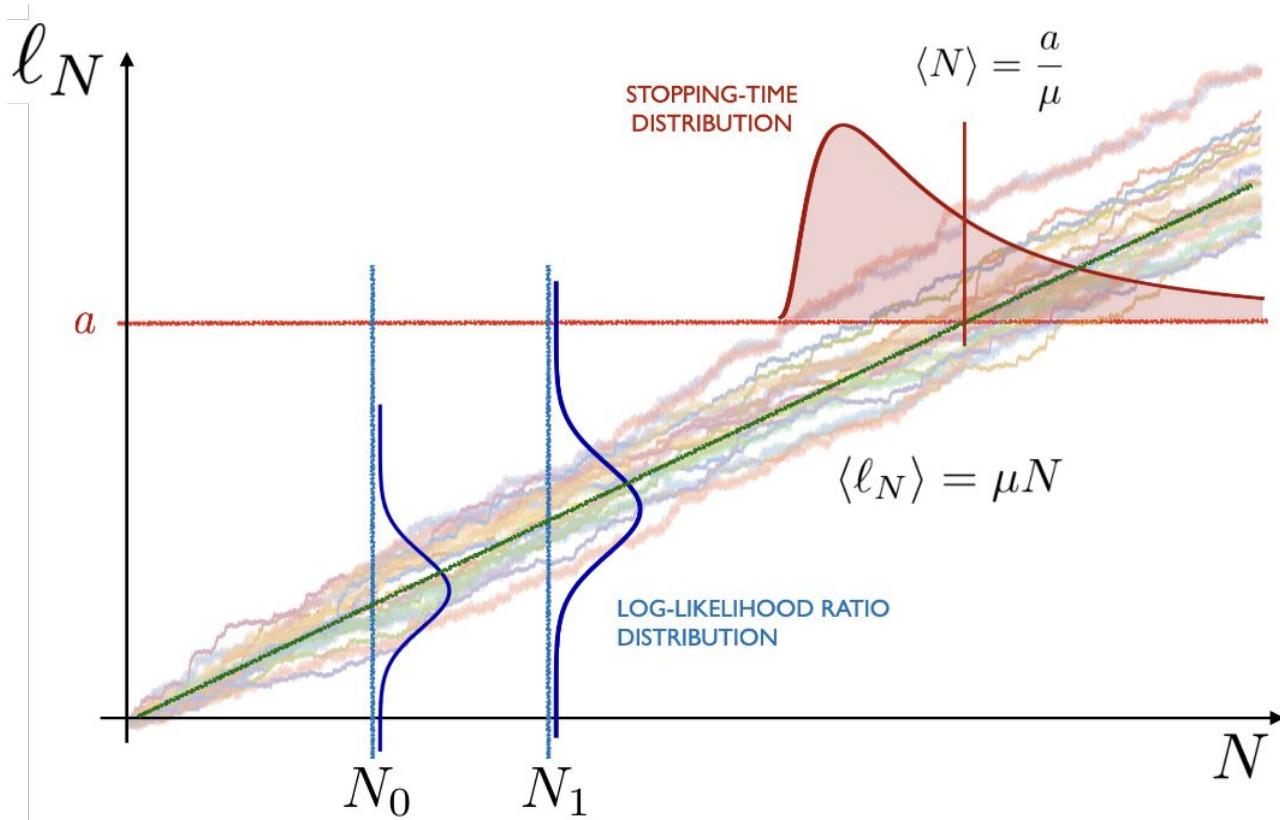
- Measurement length N (time) becomes a random variable



- In sequential analysis we aim to characterize the behaviour of N

Sequential probability ratio test

- We aim to characterize *stopping-time* distribution



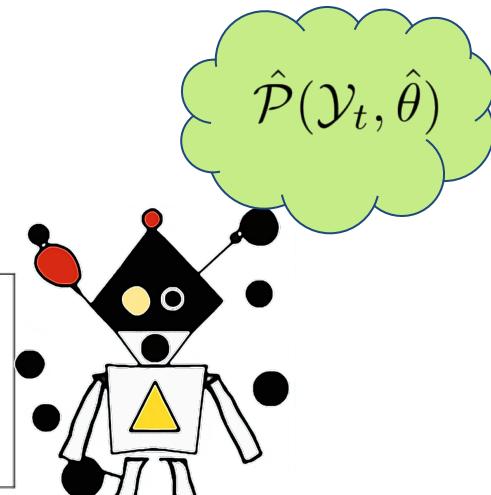
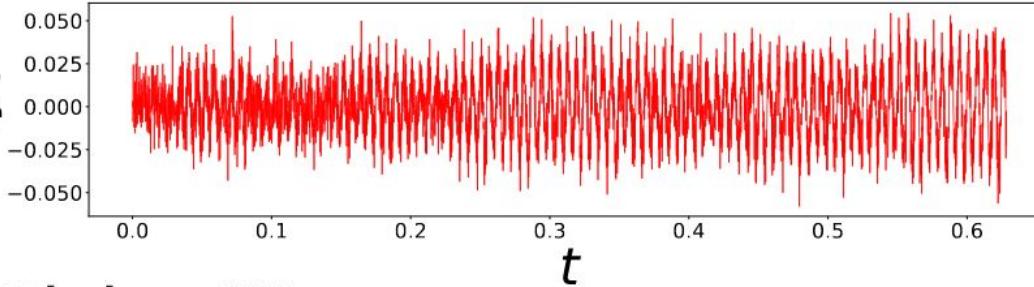
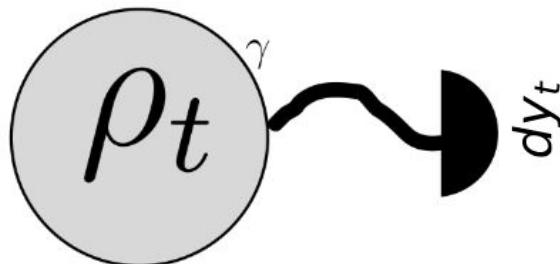
Sequential strategies for quantum systems

- Wald → classical probability distributions (iid) [\[Wald1945Sequential\]](#)
- GIQ → measure on different copies of a quantum state (iid) [\[Vargas2021Sequential\]](#)
- Here: repeated measurements done on quantum state (non-iid)

Continuously-monitored systems

- Continuous homodyne measurement model [\[Wiseman2009Book\]](#)
- Measurement signal $d\mathbf{y}_{t|k} = \text{Tr}[\mathcal{H}_{\eta\mathbf{c}}[\rho_{t,k}]]dt + d\mathbf{W}_t$

$$\rho_E$$



$$d\rho_t = \mathcal{L}_\theta[\rho_t]dt + \mathcal{H}[\eta\mathbf{c}]\rho_t \cdot d\mathbf{W}_t$$

$$\mathcal{L}[\rho] = -i [H, \rho] + \mathcal{D}[\mathbf{c}]\rho$$

$$\mathcal{D}[\mathbf{c}]\rho = \mathbf{c}\rho\mathbf{c}^\dagger - \left\{ \frac{\mathbf{c}^\dagger\mathbf{c}}{2}, \rho \right\}$$

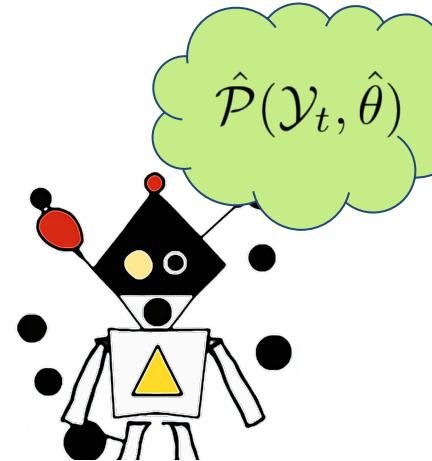
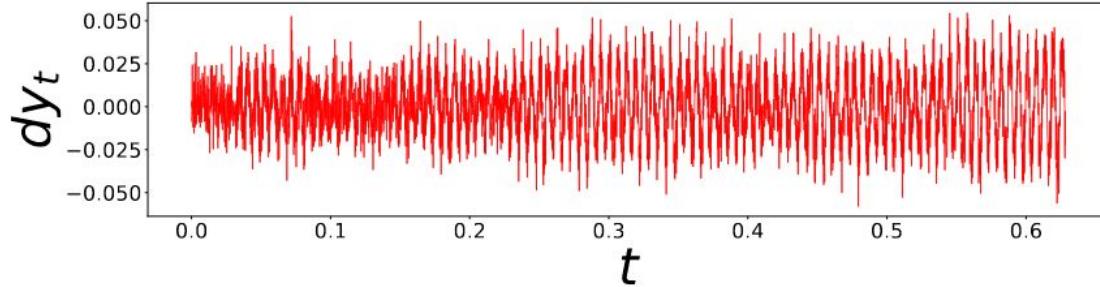
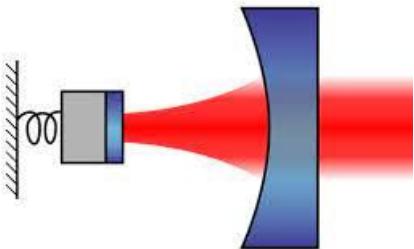
$$\mathcal{H}[\eta\mathbf{c}]\rho = \mathcal{H}_{\eta\mathbf{c}}[\rho] - \text{Tr}[\mathcal{H}_{\eta\mathbf{c}}[\rho]]$$

$$\mathcal{H}_{\eta\mathbf{c}}\rho = \sqrt{\eta}\mathbf{c}\rho + \rho\sqrt{\eta}\mathbf{c}^\dagger$$

- Stochastic master equation w/ backaction term
- Physical systems:
 - atomic sensors [\[Martínez2018Signal\]](#)
 - optomechanical cavities [\[Aspelmeyer2010Cavity\]](#)

Gaussian case

- Mechanical-mode dynamics: damped oscillator + Wiener noise
- Gaussian measurement model given $d\mathbf{y}_t = C\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t dt + d\mathbf{W}_t$



$$d\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t = (A - \chi(\Sigma_t)C)\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t dt + \chi(\Sigma_t)d\mathbf{y}_t$$

$$d\Sigma_t = A\Sigma_t + \Sigma_t A^T + D - \chi(\Sigma_t)^T \chi(\Sigma_t) \quad \chi(\Sigma) = \Sigma C^T$$

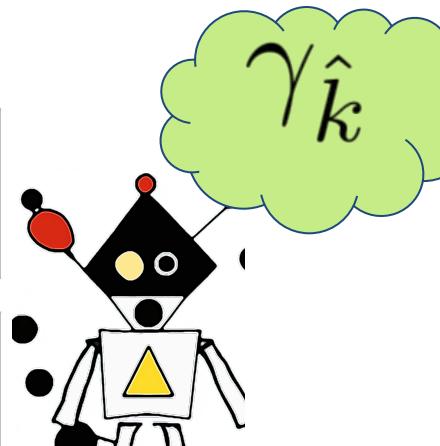
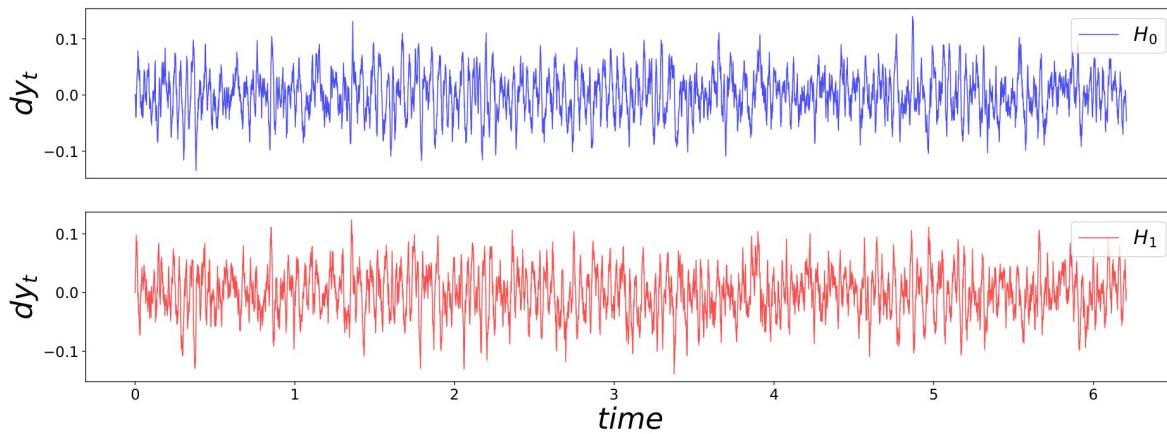
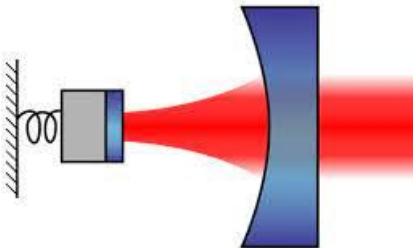
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\gamma}{2} & -\omega \\ \omega & -\frac{\gamma}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \quad D = \left[\gamma(n + \frac{1}{2}) + \kappa \right] \mathbb{I}_2, \quad C = \sqrt{4\eta\kappa} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

[\[Genoni2016Conditional\]](#)

Hypothesis testing

- Contrast two values of damping rate γ out of measurement signal
- From previous discussion → we need to study ℓ_t

$$d\mathbf{y}_t = C\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t dt + d\mathbf{W}$$



$$d\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t = (A - \chi(\Sigma_t)C)\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t dt + \chi(\Sigma_t)d\mathbf{y}_t = A\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t dt + \chi(\Sigma_t)dW_t$$

$$d\Sigma_t = A\Sigma_t + \Sigma_t A^T + D - \chi(\Sigma_t)^T \chi(\Sigma_t)$$

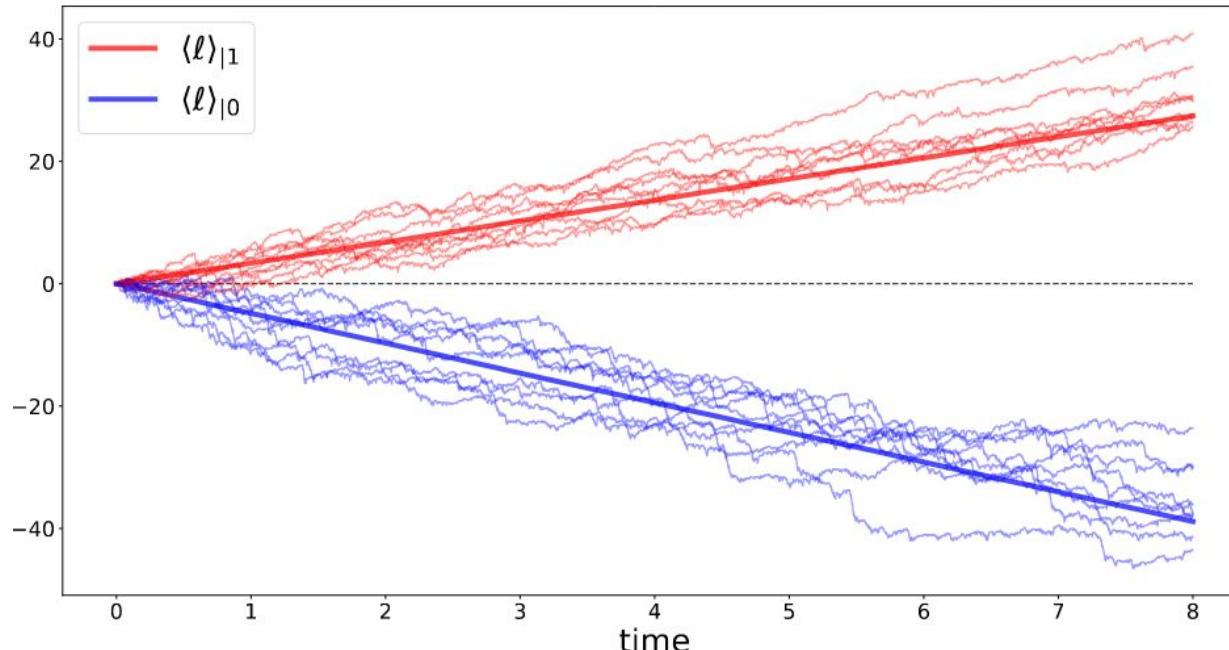
Moving frame

$$C \rightarrow 2\sqrt{\eta\kappa} \mathbb{I}_2, \quad A \rightarrow -\frac{\gamma}{2} \mathbb{I}_2$$

Log-likelihood ratio evolution

- Hypothesis H_k associated to a physical parameter value θ_k

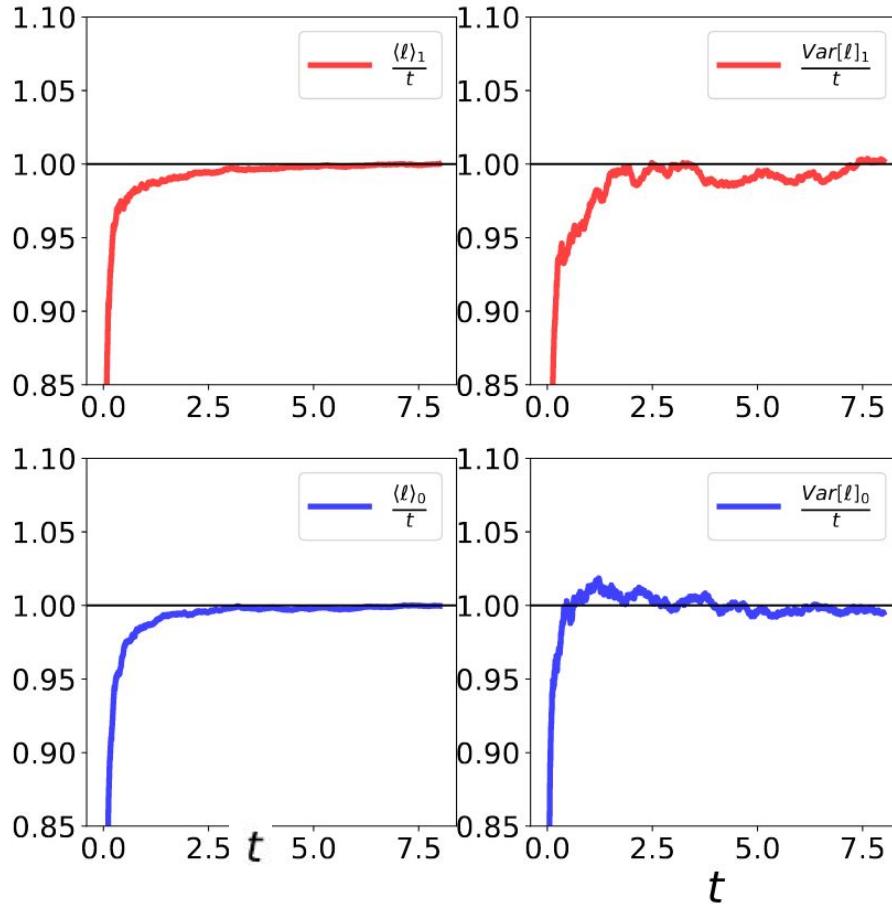
$$d\ell(\mathcal{Y}_{t|k}) = \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{2} \|C\Delta\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t\|^2 dt + C\Delta\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t \cdot d\mathbf{W}_t \quad \Delta\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t = \bar{\mathbf{r}}_1(\mathcal{Y}_{t|k}, t) - \bar{\mathbf{r}}_0(\mathcal{Y}_{t|k}, t)$$



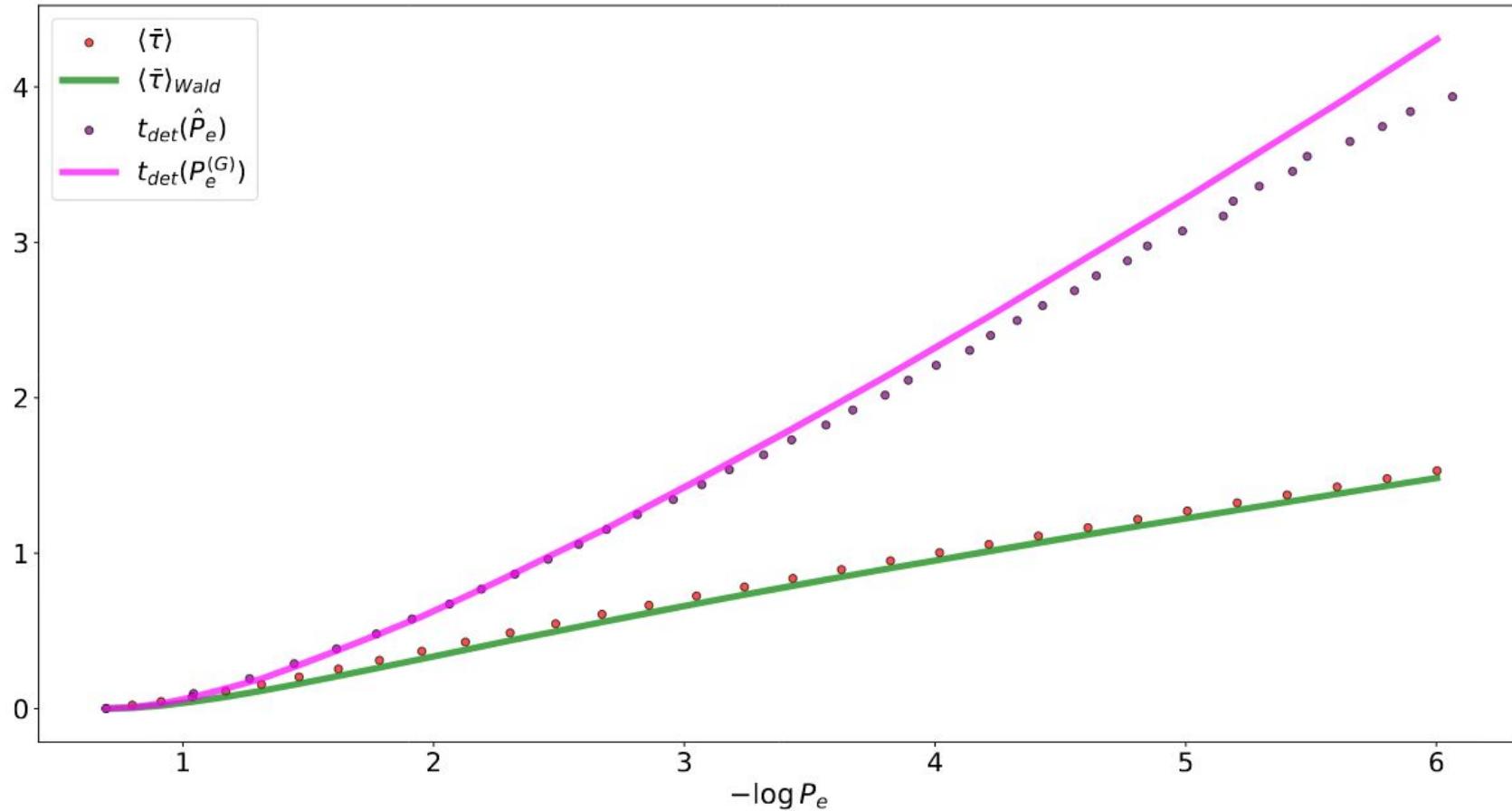
Log-likelihood ratio evolution

$$d\ell(\mathcal{Y}_{t|k}) = \frac{(-1)^{k+1}}{2} \|C\Delta\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t\|^2 dt + C\Delta\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t \cdot d\mathbf{W}_t$$

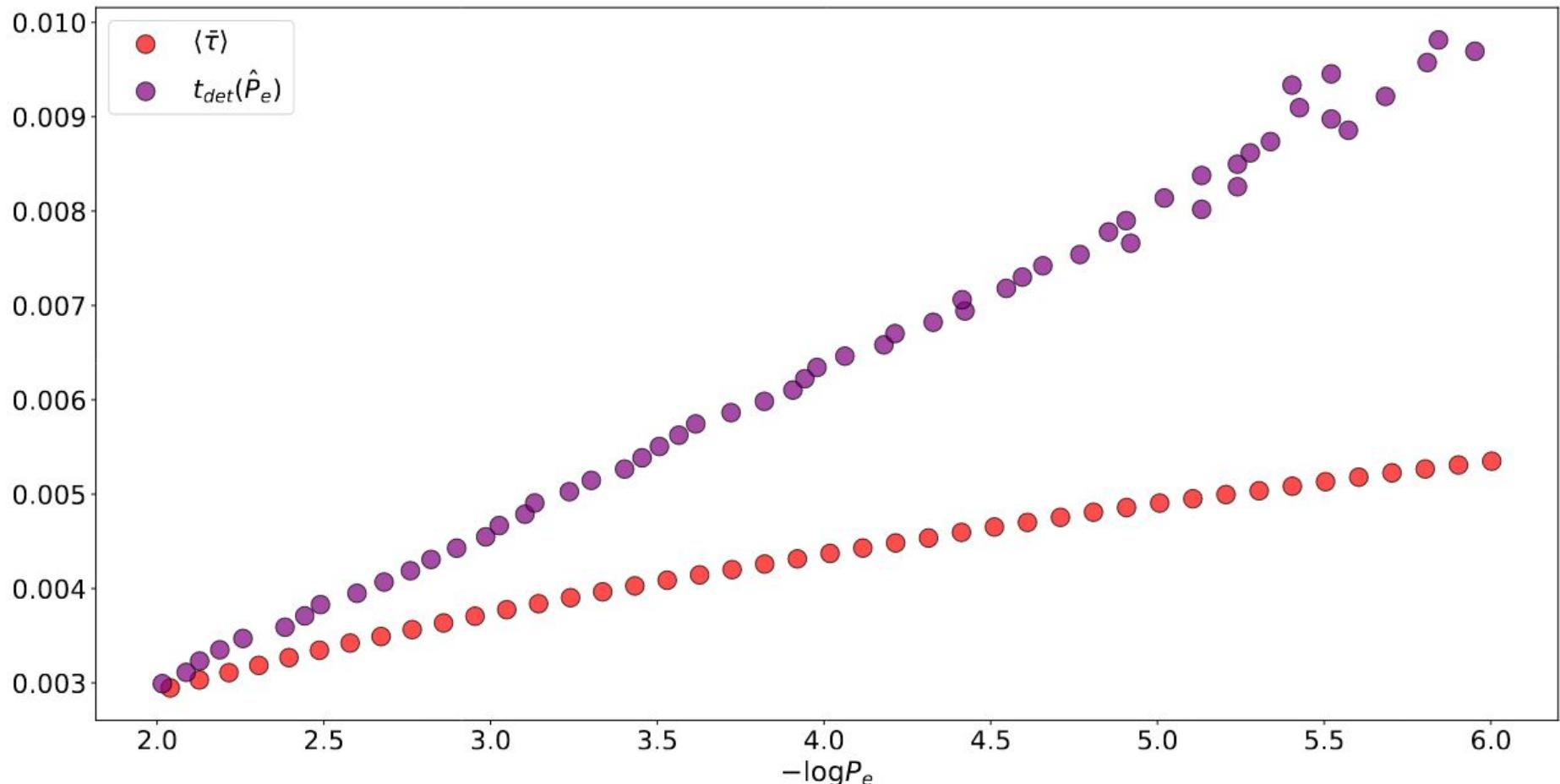
$$\Delta\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t = \bar{\mathbf{r}}_1(\mathcal{Y}_{t|k}, t) - \bar{\mathbf{r}}_0(\mathcal{Y}_{t|k}, t)$$



Comparing both tests



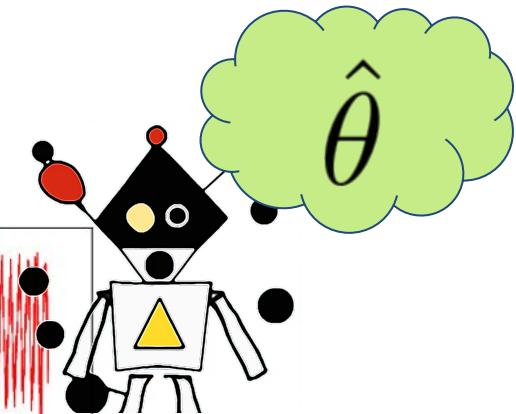
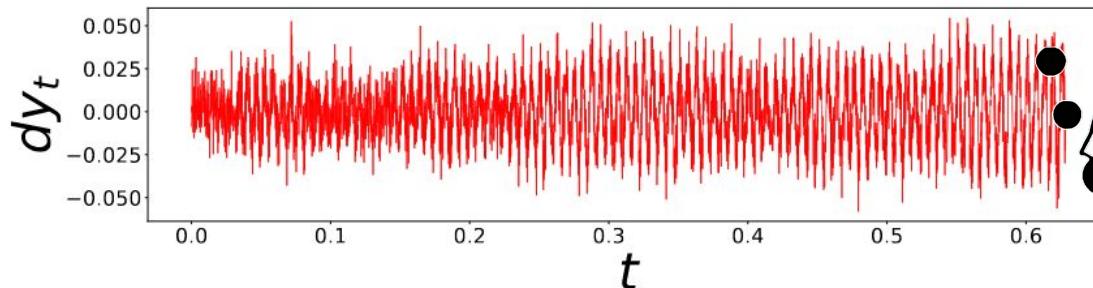
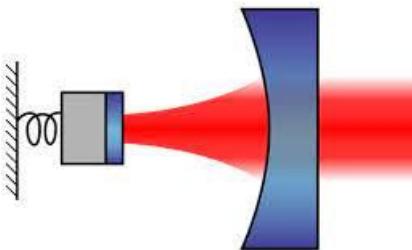
Comparing both tests: frequency



Parameter estimation

- Given measurement samples → tell parameter value

$$d\mathbf{y}_t = C\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t dt + d\mathbf{W}_t$$



$$P(\mathcal{Y}_t|\theta) = e^{\lambda(\mathcal{Y}_t|\theta)} P_W(\mathcal{Y}_t)$$

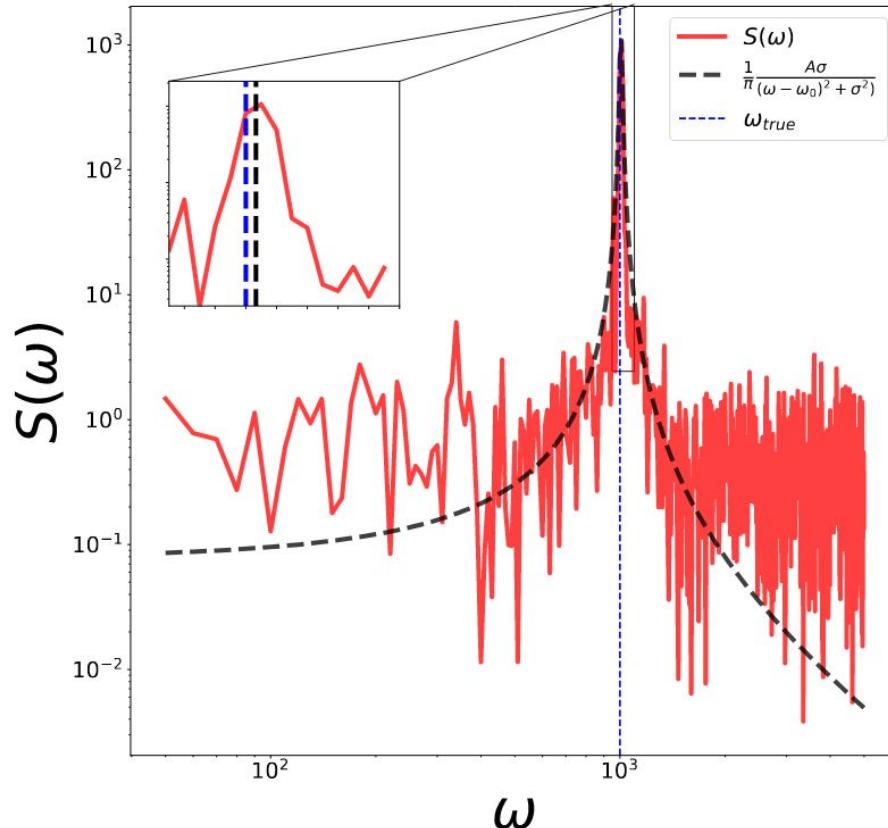
$$I_t(\theta) = \langle (\partial_\theta \lambda(\mathcal{Y}_t; \theta))^2 \rangle = \langle -\partial_\theta^2 \lambda(\mathcal{Y}_t, \theta) \rangle$$

$$\text{Var}[\hat{\theta}] \geq \frac{1}{NI(\theta)}$$

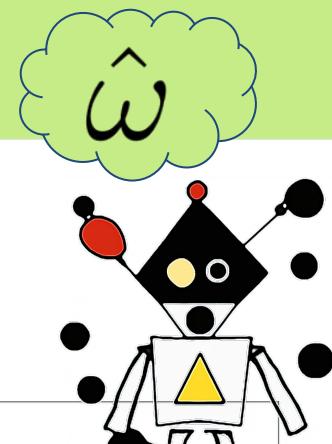
- Likelihood distribution → Fisher info
- Cramer-Rao bound
- Construct an estimator

Parameter estimation

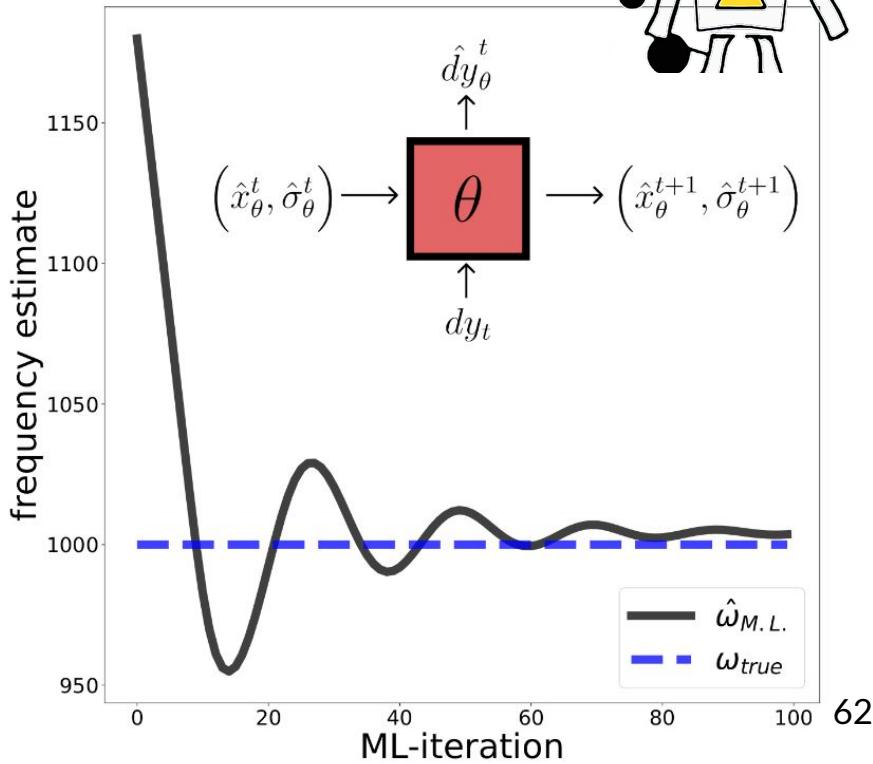
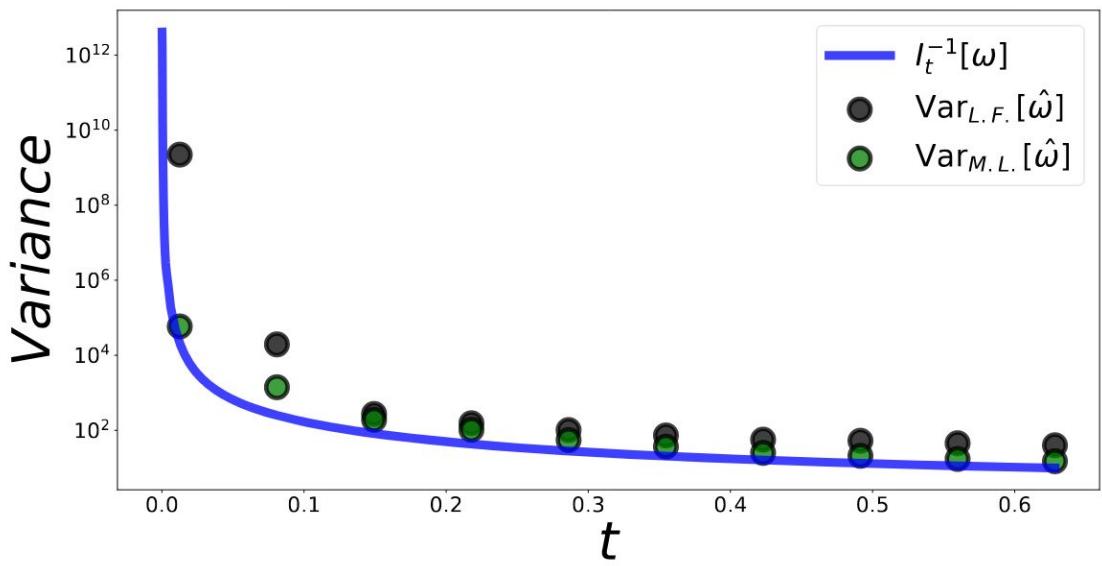
- Experimentally → Lorenztian fit on power spectrum



Parameter estimation: us

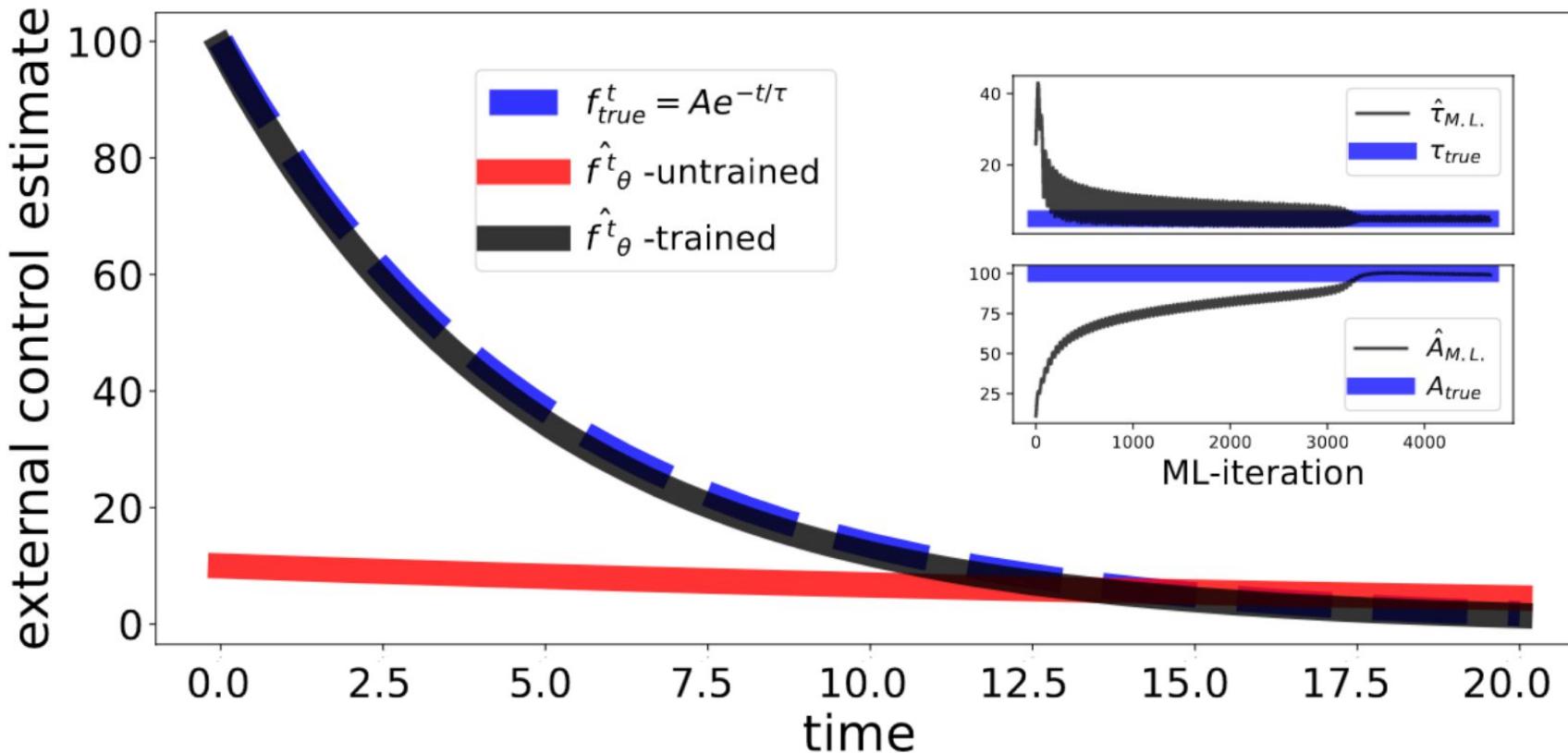
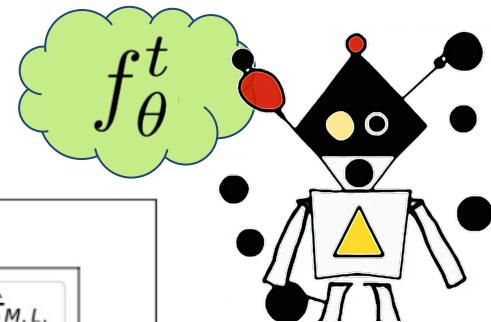


- We use recurrent structured optimized by automatic differentiation.
- Internally integrates the hidden state using current parameter guess
- Maximum likelihood $\hat{\theta} = \operatorname{ArgMax}_{\theta} \lambda(\mathcal{Y}_t, \theta)$



External-force estimation

$$d\bar{\mathbf{r}}_t = \left(A - \chi(\Sigma) \right) \bar{\mathbf{r}}_t dt + \chi(\Sigma) d\mathbf{y}_t + f_\theta^t dt$$

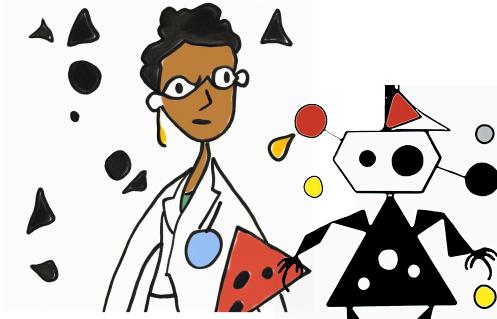


Recap

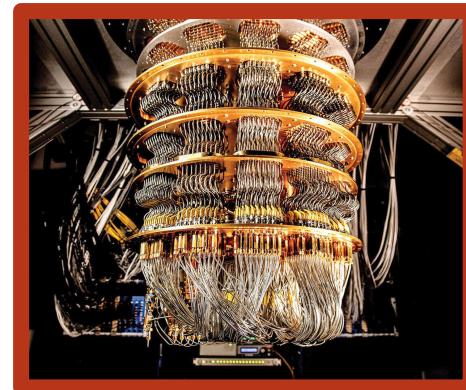
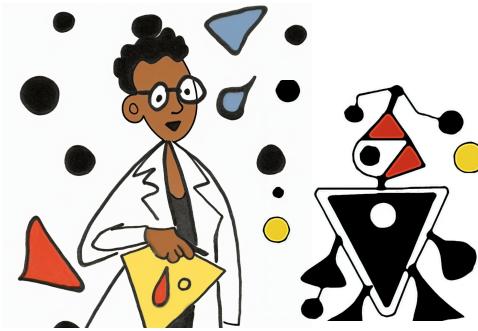
- Hypothesis testing
 - Deterministic test: pre-defined measurement time → error
 - Sequential test:
 - Is data conclusive enough? → stochastic measurement time
 - Strong error condition guarantees (for each trajectory)
 - Advantage in favour of sequential tests.
- Parameter estimation
 - Recurrent cell → maximum likelihood
 - Apply this for frequency estimation & external signal that varies in time

Conclusions

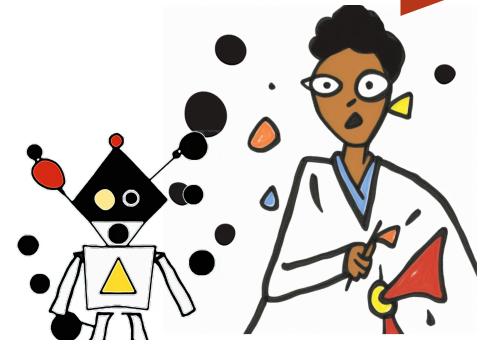
Model-free



Semi-agnostic



Model-aware



Thanks everyone!

