

**Lecture 4:  
Out-of-equilibrium quantum Monte Carlo  
simulation and quantum annealing**

**Anders W Sandvik, Boston University**

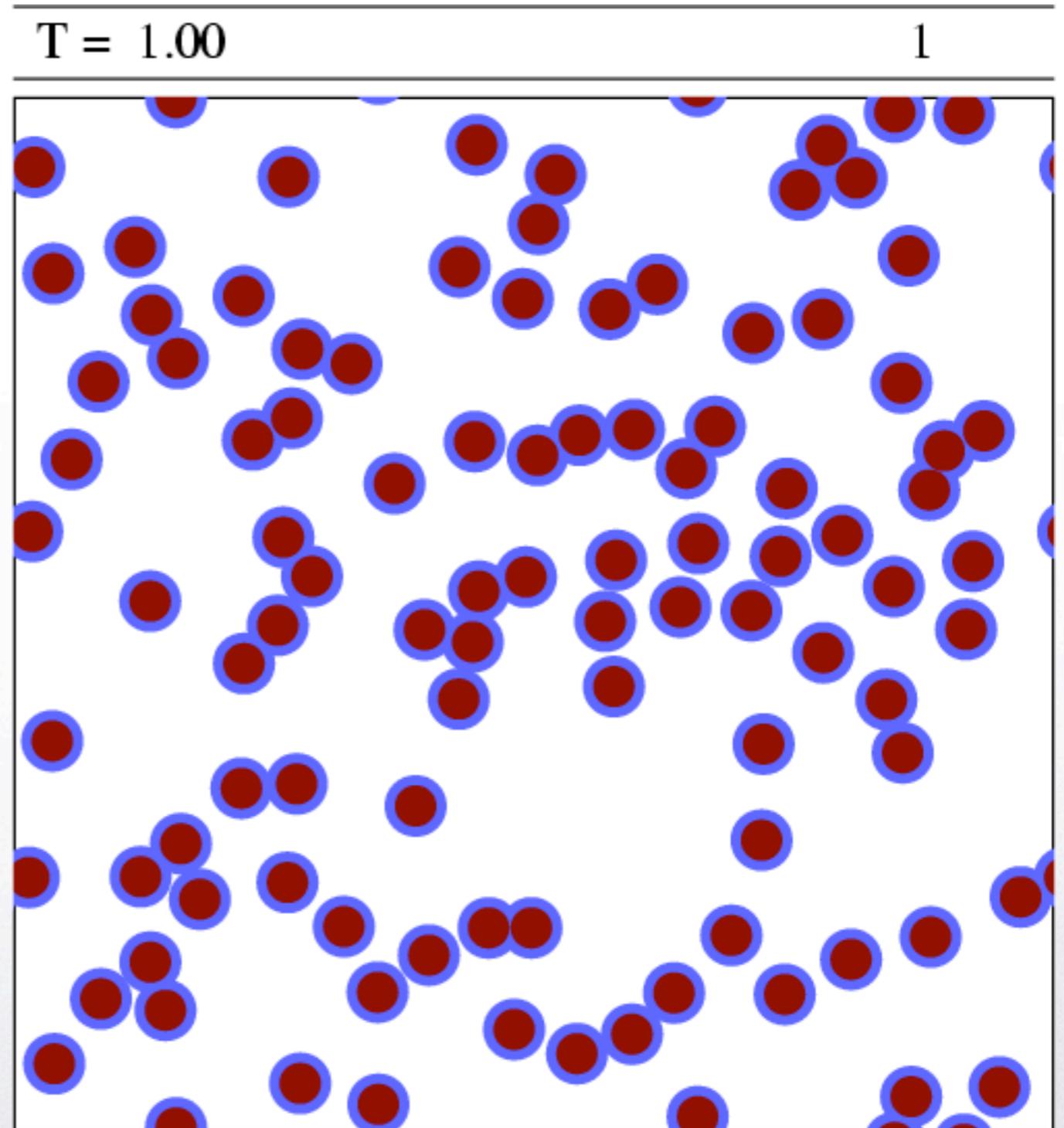
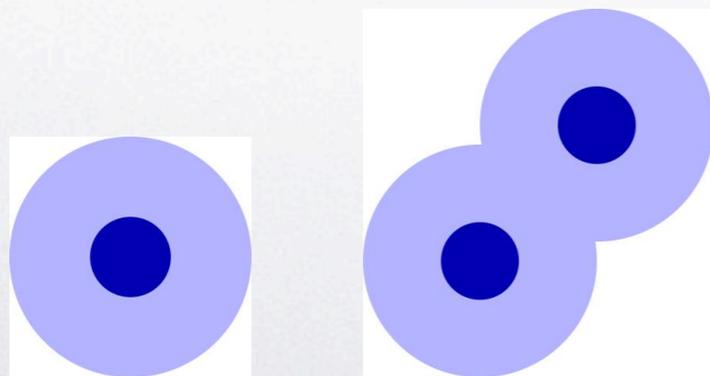


**SIMONS FOUNDATION**  
Advancing Research in Basic Science and Mathematics

# Monte Carlo Simulations

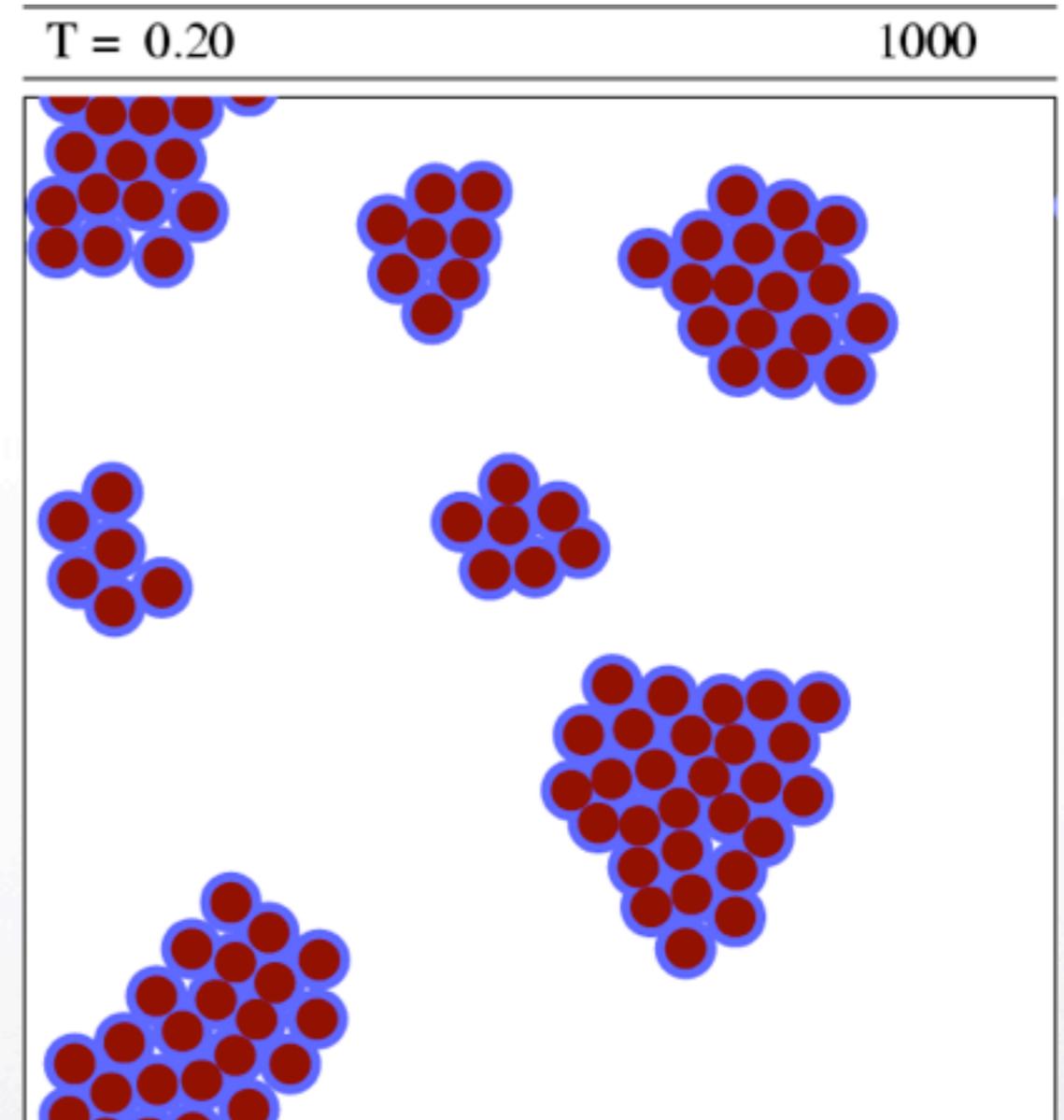
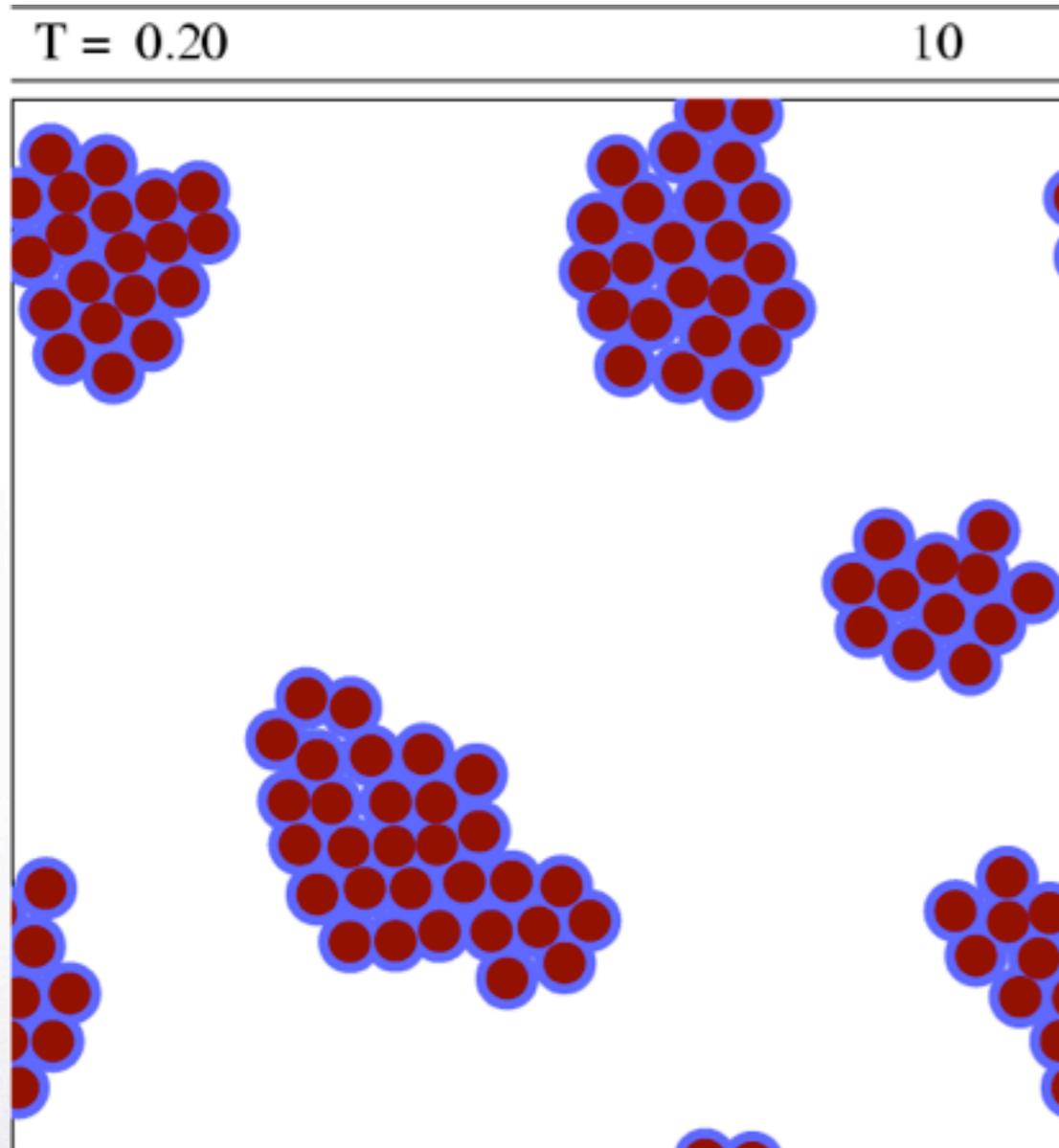
**Example:  
Particles with  
hard and soft  
cores (2 dim)**

$$V(r) = \begin{cases} \infty, & r \leq r_1 \\ -V, & r_1 < r \leq r_2 \\ 0, & r > r_2 \end{cases}$$



**What happens when the temperature is lowered ?**

# Monte Carlo Simulations



**Transition into liquid state has taken place**  
**Slow movement & growth of droplets**  
**- simulation is not strictly equilibrated**

**Is there a better way to reach equilibrium at low T?**

# Simulated Annealing

**Annealing: Removal of crystal defects by heating followed by slow cooling**

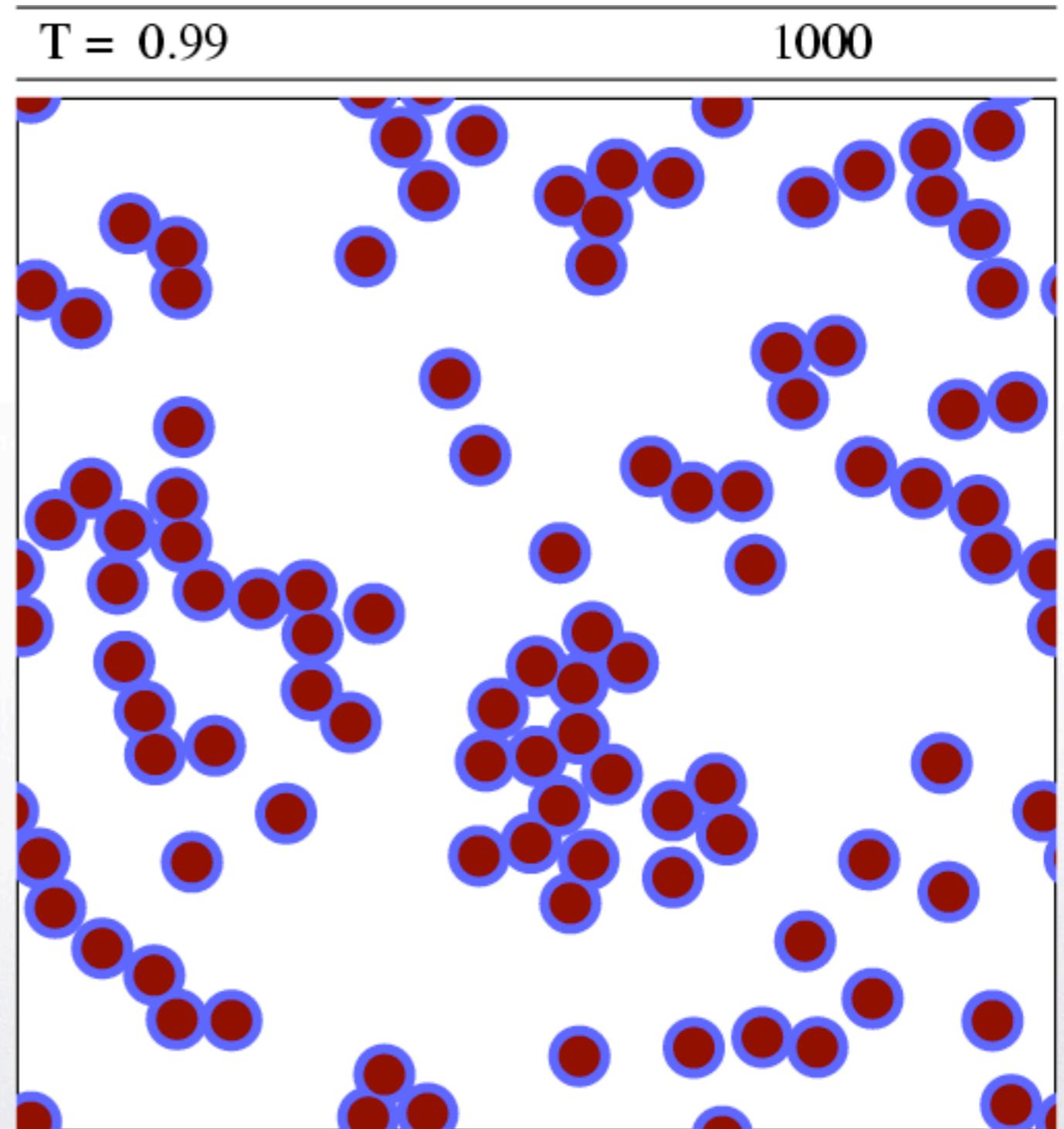
**Simulated Annealing:**

**MC simulation with slowly decreasing  $T$**

**- Can help to reach equilibrium faster**

**Optimization method:**

**express optimization of many parameters as minimization of a cost function, treat as energy in MC simulation**



**Similar scheme in quantum mechanics?**

# Thermal and Quantum Annealing

## Simulated (Thermal) Annealing

Reduce  $T$  as a function of time in a Monte Carlo simulation

- efficient way to equilibrate a simulation
- powerful as optimization algorithm

## Quantum Annealing

Reduce quantum fluctuations as a function of time

- start with simple quantum system  $H_0$  ( $s=0$ ):
- end with a complicated classical potential  $H_1$  ( $s=1$ )

$$H(s) = (1 - s)H_0 + sH_1 \quad [H_0, H_1] \neq 0$$

$$s = s(t) = vt, \quad v = 1/t_{\max}$$

## Adiabatic Theorem:

For small  $v$ , the system stays in the ground state of  $H[s(t)]$

**Can quantum annealing be more efficient than thermal annealing?**

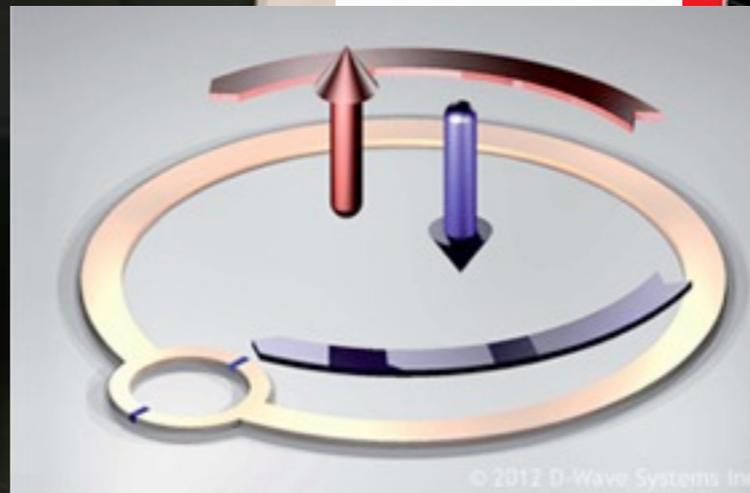
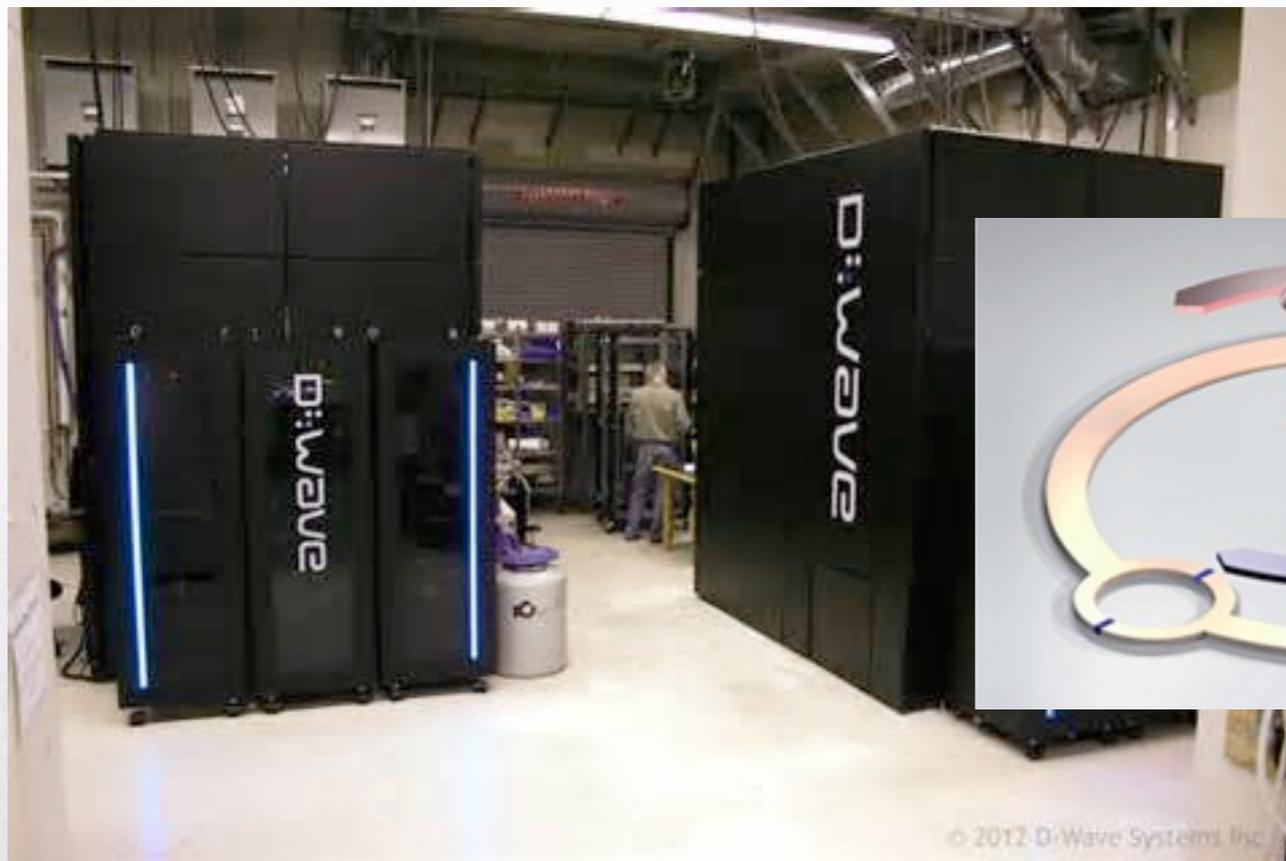
Ray, Chakrabarty, Chakrabarty (PRB 1989), Kadowaki, Nishimory (PRE 1998),...

**Useful paradigm for quantum computing?**

# Quantum Annealing & Quantum Computing

**The D-wave “quantum annealer”; 512 flux qubits**

- **Claimed to solve some hard optimization problems**
- **Is it really doing quantum annealing?**
- **Is quantum annealing really better than simulated annealing (on a classical computer)?**



**Hamiltonian implemented in D-wave quantum annealer...**

# Hamiltonian of the D-Wave Device

**Hard optimization problems map onto frustrated Ising model**

$$H_1 = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N J_{ij} \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z, \quad \sigma_i^z \in \{-1, +1\}$$

**Interactions  $J_{ij}$  are programmable - restricted to “Chimera lattice”**

$$H_0 = - \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^x = - \sum_{i=1}^N (\sigma_i^+ + \sigma_i^-)$$

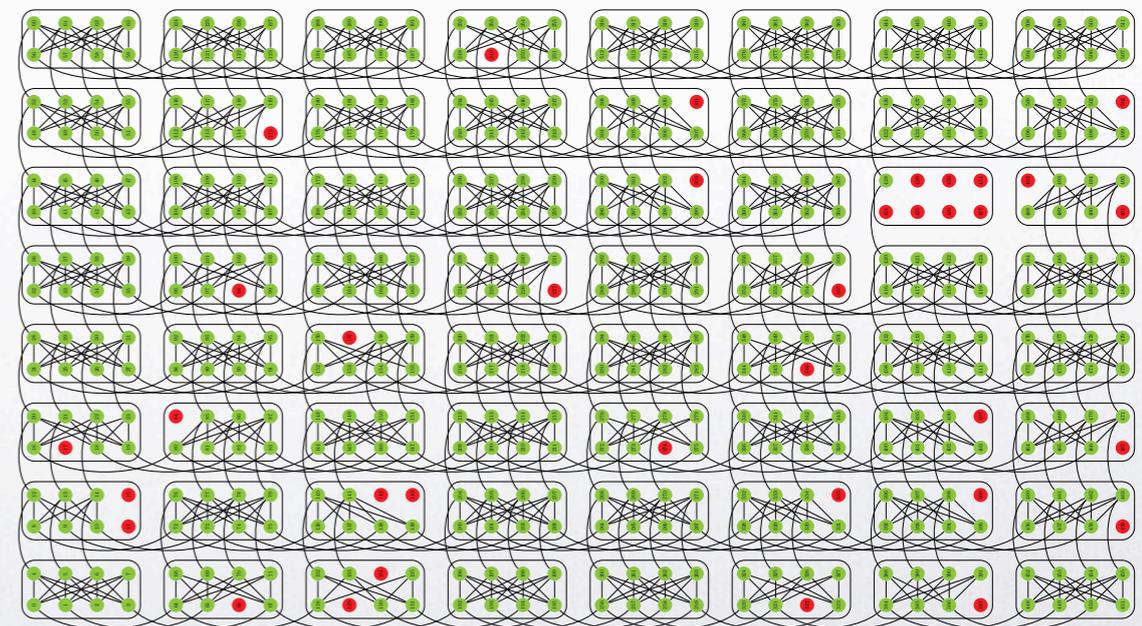
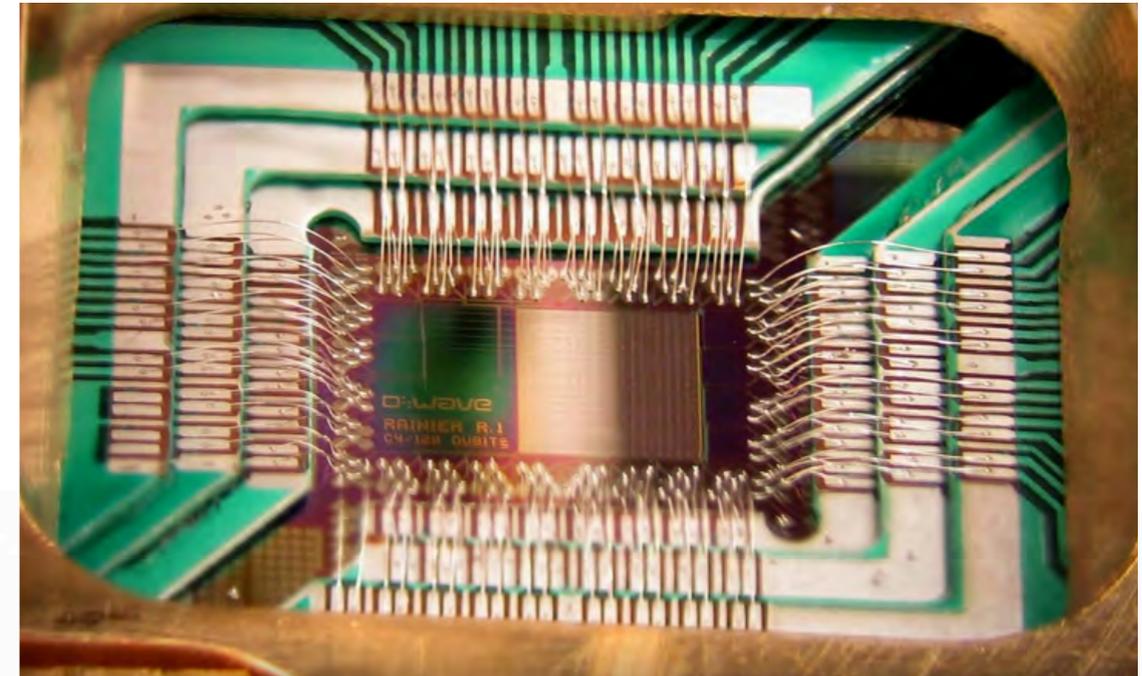
$$[H_0, H_1] \neq 0$$

**Tune the strength of the field**

$$H(s) = (1 - s)H_0 + sH_1$$

$$s = s(t) = vt, \quad v = 1/t_{\max}$$

**adiabatically from  $s=0$  to  $s=1$**



**Chimera lattice, picture from Martin-Mayor & Hen, arXiv:1502.02494**

**→ Studies of dynamics of transverse-field Ising models**

# Quantum Phase Transition

**One can expect a quantum phase transition in the system**

$$H(s) = (1 - s)H_0 + sH_1 \quad [H_0, H_1] \neq 0$$

**Ground state changes qualitatively as s changes**

- **trivial (easy to prepare) for s=0**
- **complex (solution of hard optimization problem) at s=1**
- **expect a quantum phase transition at some s=s<sub>c</sub>**

**as in the clean transverse-field Ising ferromagnet**

$$H(s) = -s \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \sigma_i^z \sigma_{i+1}^z - (1 - s) \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^x \quad (N \rightarrow \infty)$$

- **trivial x-oriented ferromagnet at s=0 (→→→)**
- **z-oriented (↑↑↑ or ↓↓↓, symmetry broken) at s=1**
- **s<sub>c</sub>=1/2 in 1D, appr. 0.25 in 2D**

**Have to pass through s<sub>c</sub> and beyond adiabatically**

**How long does it take (versus problem size N)?**

# Landau-Zener Problem

Single spin in magnetic field, with mixing term

$$H = -h\sigma^z - \epsilon\sigma^x = -h\sigma^z - \epsilon(\sigma^+ + \sigma^-)$$

Eigen energies are

$$E = \pm\sqrt{h^2 + \epsilon^2}$$

Smallest gap:  $\Delta=2\epsilon$

Time-evolution:

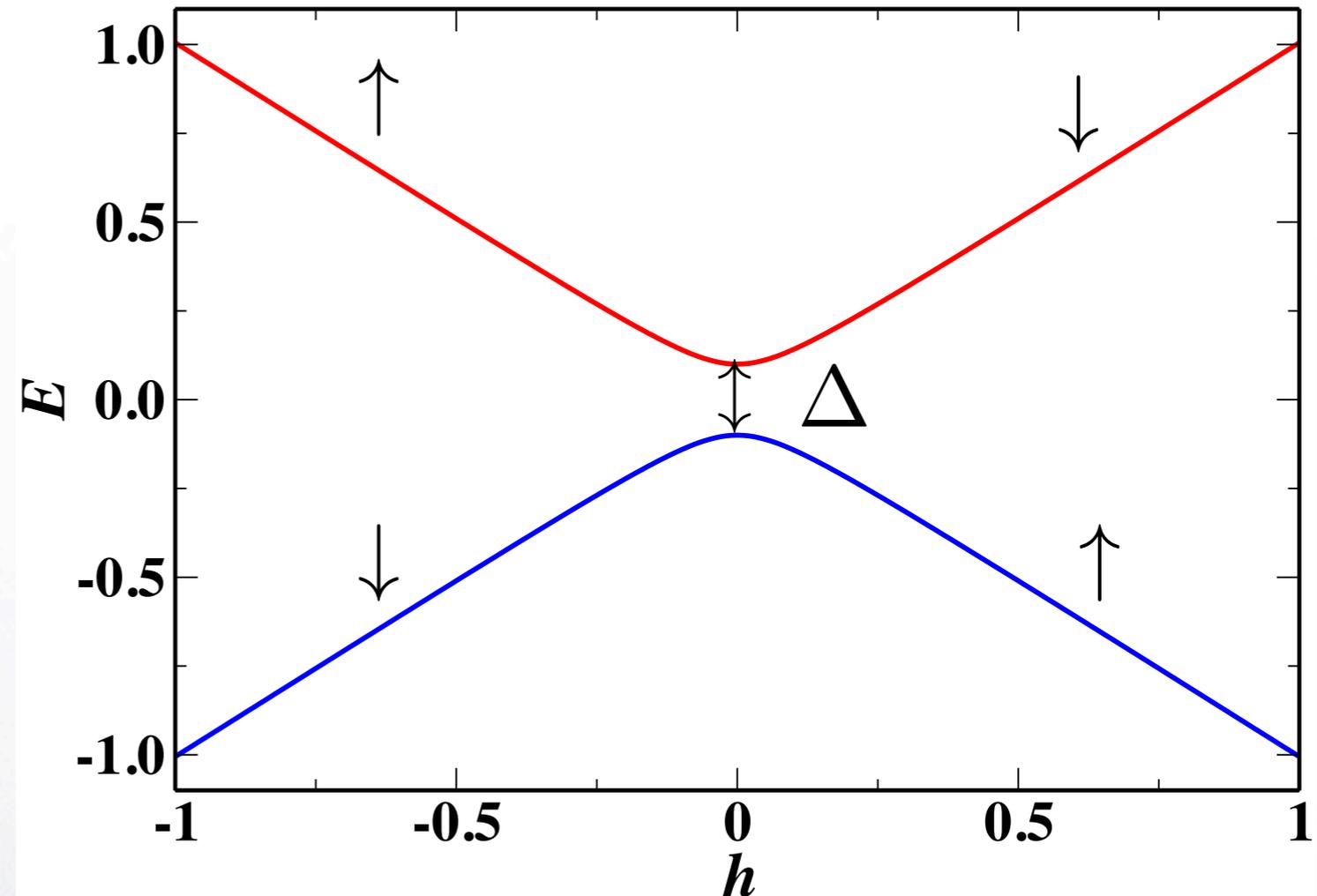
$$h(t) = -h_0 + vt$$

To stay adiabatic  
when crossing  $h=0$ ,  
the velocity must be

$$v < \Delta^2 \quad (\text{time} > \Delta^{-2})$$

Suggests the smallest gap is important in general

- but states above the gap play role in many-body system



**What can we expect at a quantum phase transition?**

# Dynamic Critical Exponent and Gap

## Dynamic exponent $z$ at a phase transition

- relates time and length scales

At a continuous transition (classical or quantum):

- large (divergent) correlation length

$$\xi_r \sim |\delta|^{-\nu}, \quad \xi_t \sim \xi_r^z \sim |\delta|^{-\nu z}$$

$\delta$  = distance from critical point (in  $T$  or other param)

## Continuous quantum phase transition

- excitation gap at the transition

depends on the system size and  $z$  as

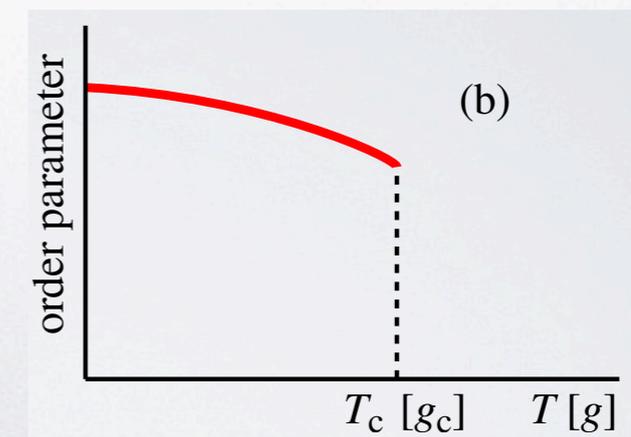
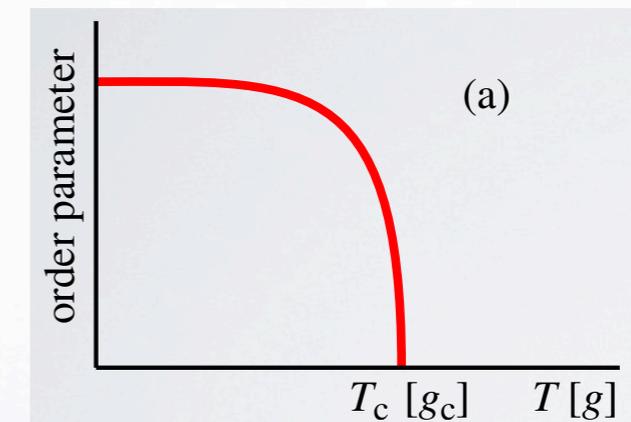
$$\Delta \sim \frac{1}{L^z} = \frac{1}{N^{z/d}}, \quad (N = L^d)$$

Exponentially small gap at a first-order (discontinuous) transition

$$\Delta \sim e^{-aL}$$

**Important issue for quantum annealing!**

P. Young et al. (PRL 2008)



**Exactly how does  $z$  enter in the adiabatic criterion?**

# Kibble-Zurek Velocity and Scaling

**The adiabatic criterion for passing through a continuous phase transition involves exponents  $z$  and  $\nu$ :**

**Must have  $v < v_{KZ}$ , with**

$$v_{KZ} \sim L^{-(z+1/\nu)}$$

**Same criterion for classical and quantum phase transitions**

- adiabatic (quantum)
- quasi-static (classical)

**Kibble 1978**

- defects in early universe

**Zurek 1981**

- classical phase transitions

**Polkovnikov 2005**

- quantum phase transitions

**Generalized finite-size scaling hypothesis**

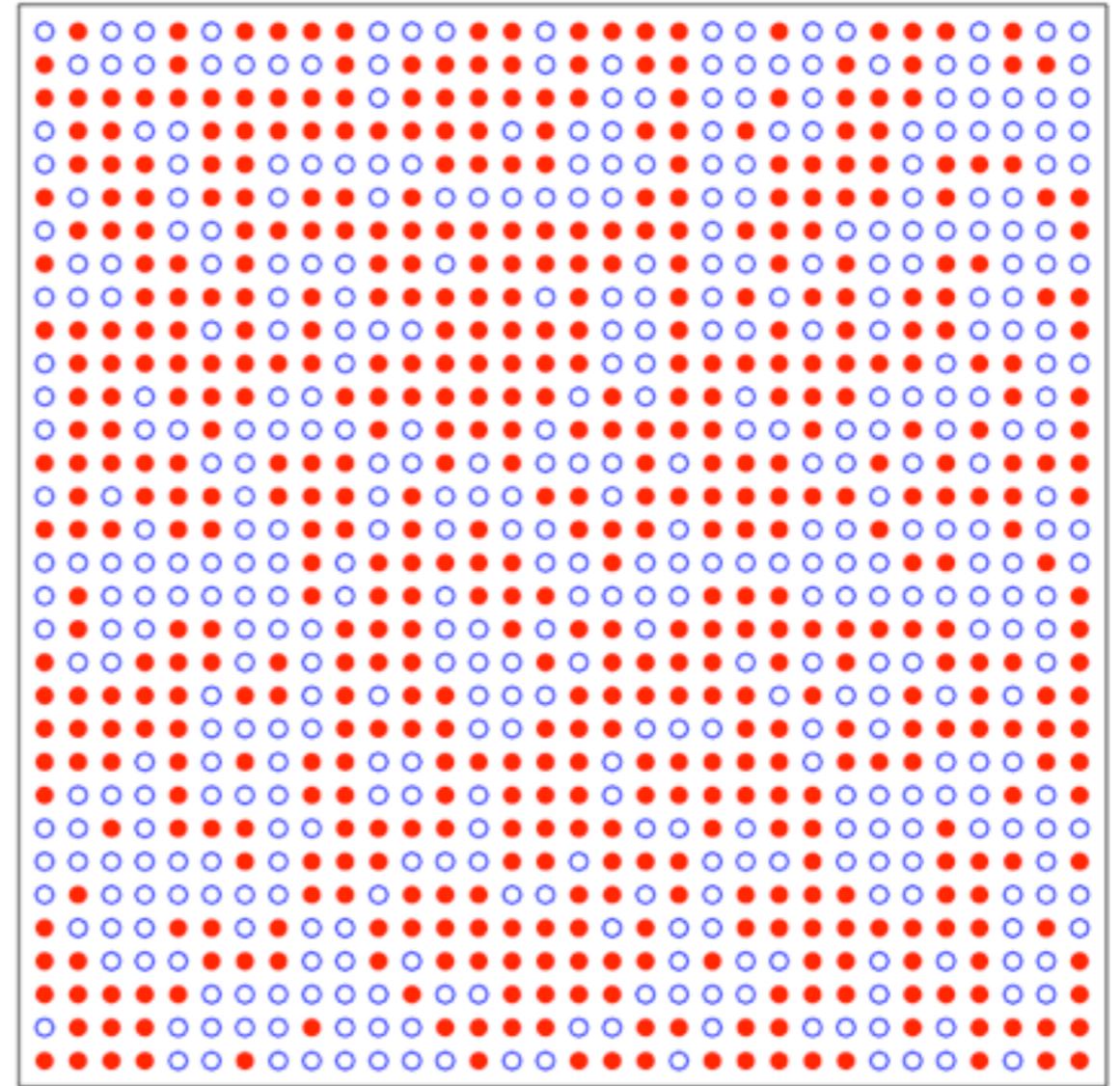
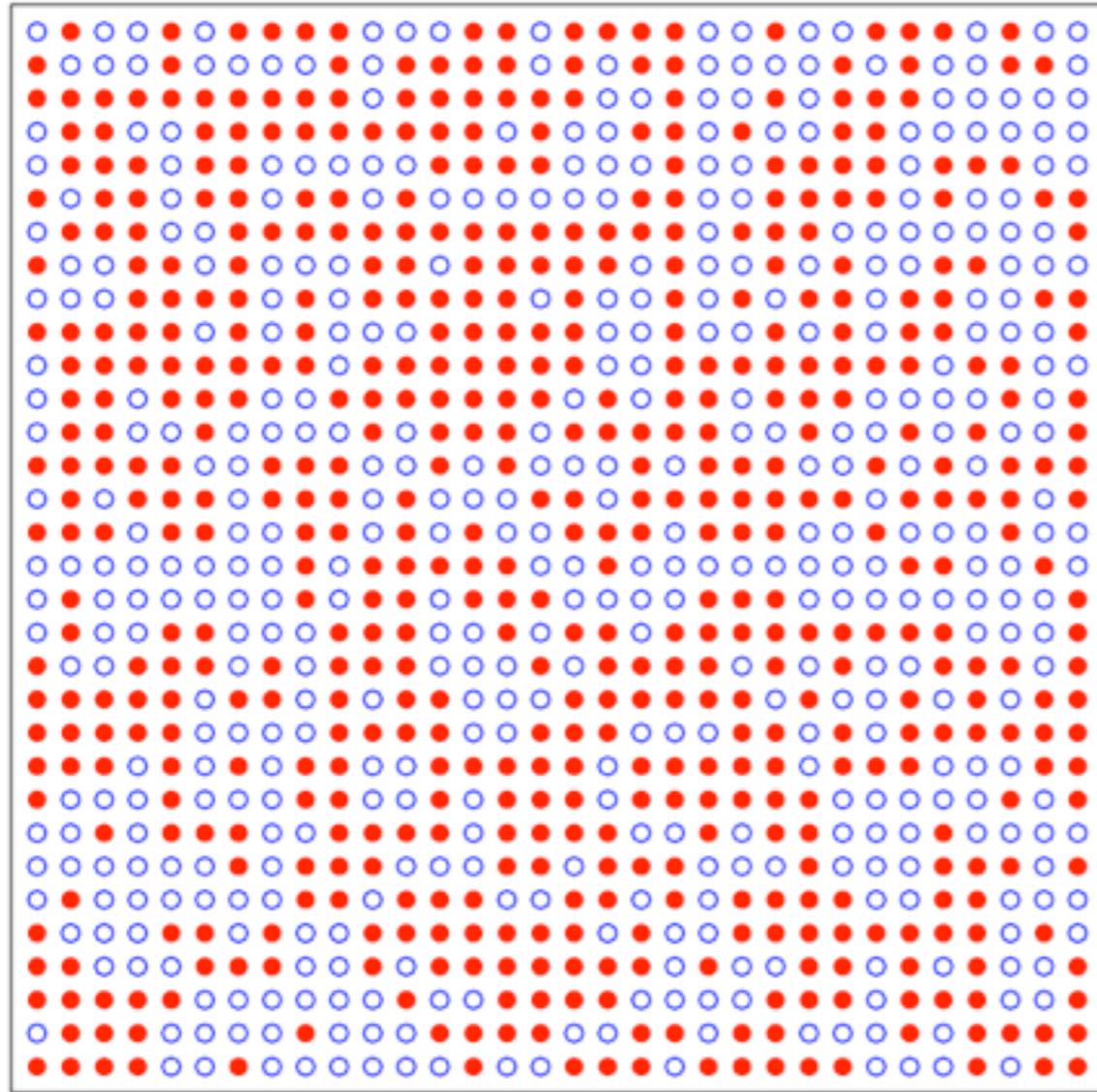
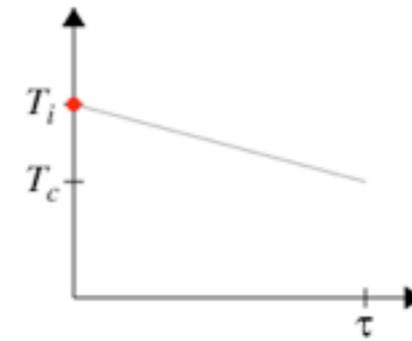
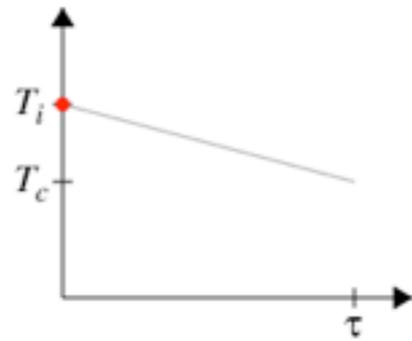
$$A(\delta, v, L) = L^{-\kappa/\nu} g(\delta L^{1/\nu}, v L^{z+1/\nu})$$

$$A(\delta, v, N) = N^{-\kappa/\nu'} g(\delta N^{1/\nu'}, v N^{z'+1/\nu'}), \quad \nu' = d\nu, \quad z = z/d$$

**Will use for spin glasses of interest in quantum computing**

**Apply to well-understood classical system first...**

# Fast and Slow Classical Ising Dynamics

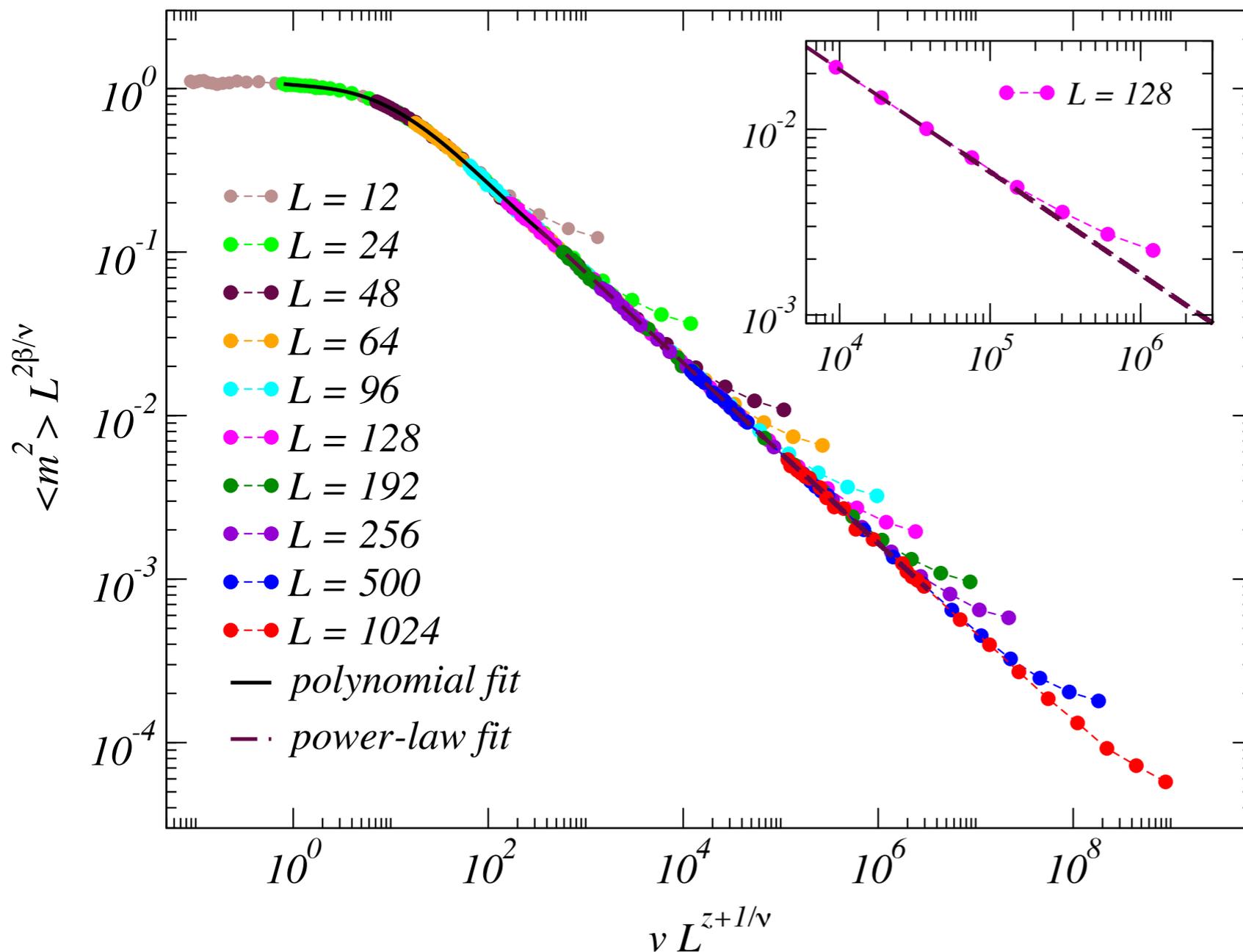


Repeat many times, collect averages, analyze,....

# Velocity Scaling, 2D Ising Model

Repeat process many times, average data for  $T=T_c$

$$\langle m^2(\delta = 0, v, L) \rangle = L^{-2\beta/\nu} f(vL^{z+1/\nu})$$



Used known 2D Ising exponents  $\beta=1/8, \nu=1$

Adjusted  $z$  for optimal scaling collapse

**Result:  $z \approx 2.17$**   
consistent with values obtained in other ways

Liu, Polkovnikov, Sandvik, PRB 2014

Can we do something like this for quantum models?

# Quantum Dynamics

## Time evolution

$$|\Psi(t)\rangle = U(t, t_0)|\Psi(t_0)\rangle$$

## Time evolution operator with time-dependent H

$$U(t, t_0) = T_t \exp \left[ i \int_{t_0}^t dt' H[s(t')] \right]$$

## Difficult to study numerically for a many-body system

- exact diagonalization of small systems
- DMRG for 1D systems (moderate sizes and times)

## Alternative approach:

## Schrödinger dynamics in imaginary time $t=i\tau$

$$|\Psi(\tau)\rangle = U(\tau, \tau_0)|\Psi(\tau_0)\rangle \quad U(\tau, \tau_0) = T_\tau \exp \left[ - \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} d\tau' H[s(\tau')] \right]$$

## Can be implemented in Quantum Monte Carlo

**De Grandi, Polkovnikov, Sandvik, PRB2011**

**What can imaginary time tell us about real-time dynamics?**

# Quantum Dynamics

## Example: linear ramp of transverse-field Ising ferromagnet

$$H(s) = -s \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z - (1-s) \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^x \quad s \in [0, 1], \quad s = vt$$

**2D square-lattice system;  $N=L^2$**

**Start from eigenstate of  $H(s=0)$  at  $t=0$**

- **Instantaneous ground state**  $|\Psi_0(t)\rangle = |\Psi_0(s[t])\rangle$
- **Actual state during evolution**  $|\Psi(t)\rangle$

**Distance between these states given by log-fidelity**

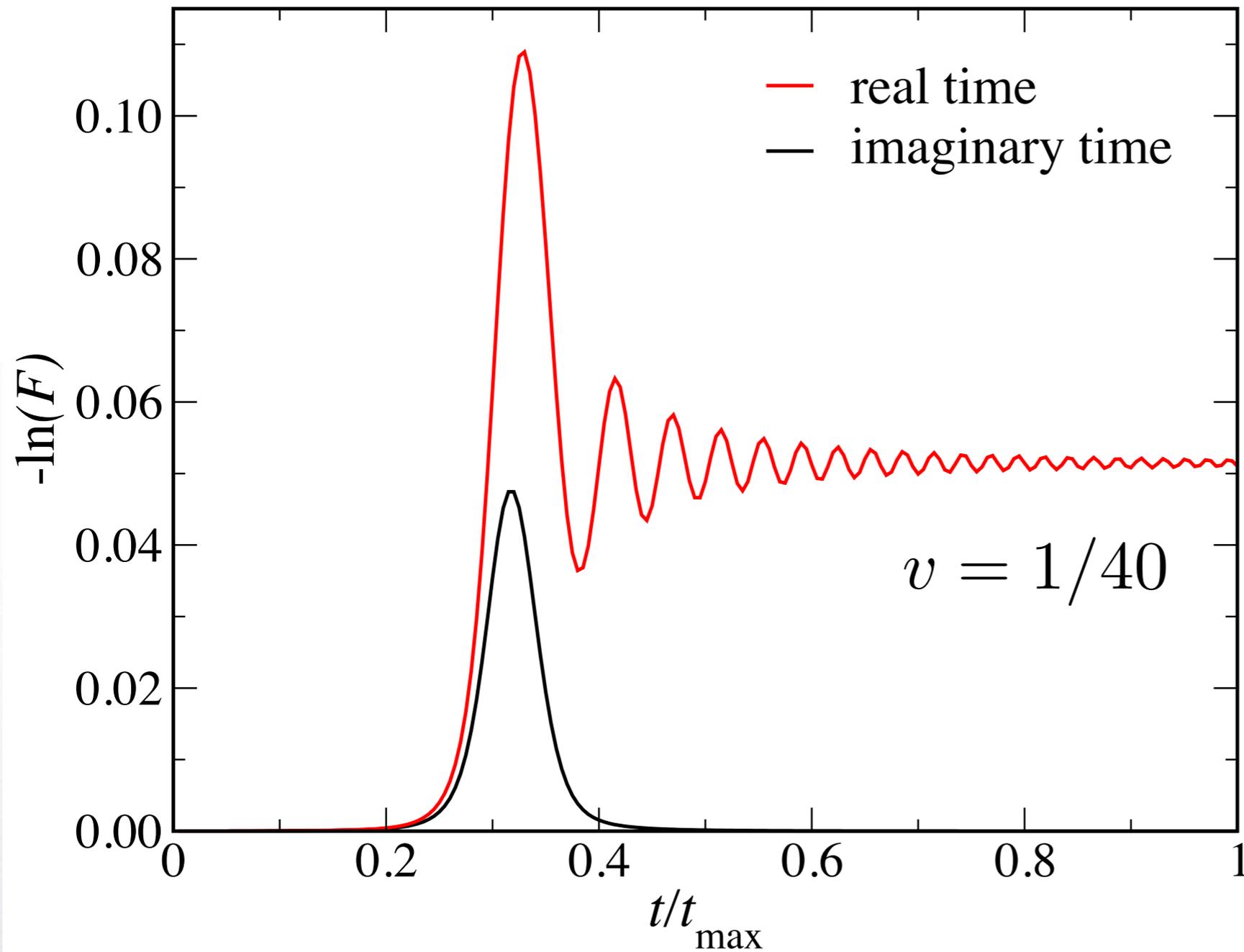
$$-\ln[F(t)] = -\frac{1}{2} \ln(|\langle \Psi_0(t) | \Psi(t) \rangle|^2)$$

**Integrate Schrödinger equation numerically for small  $L$**

- **compare real and imaginary time**

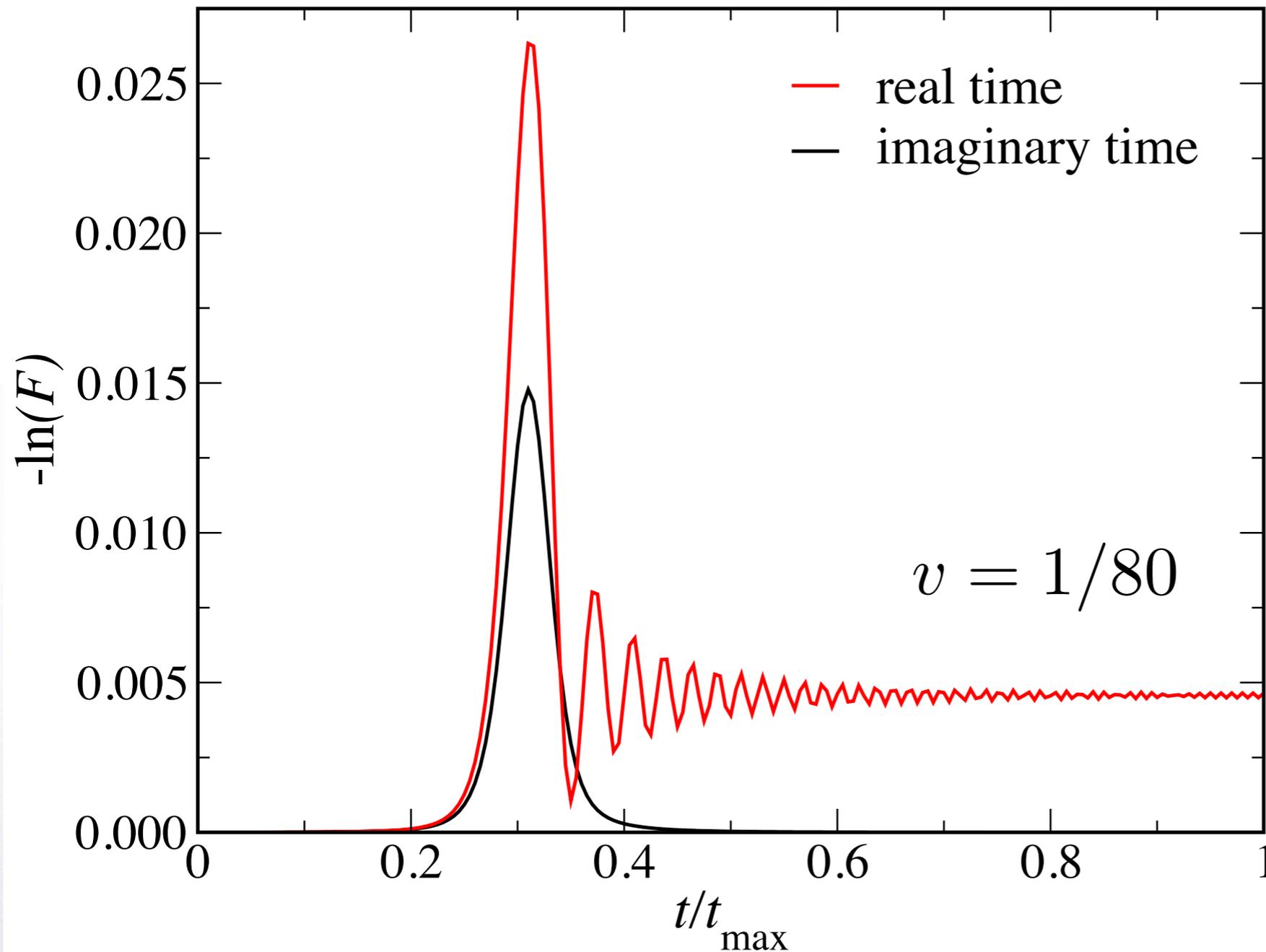
**How different? Which one is more adiabatic?**

# Example: 4×4 lattice



**Main peak  
reflects quantum  
phase transition  
at  $S_c \approx 0.25$**

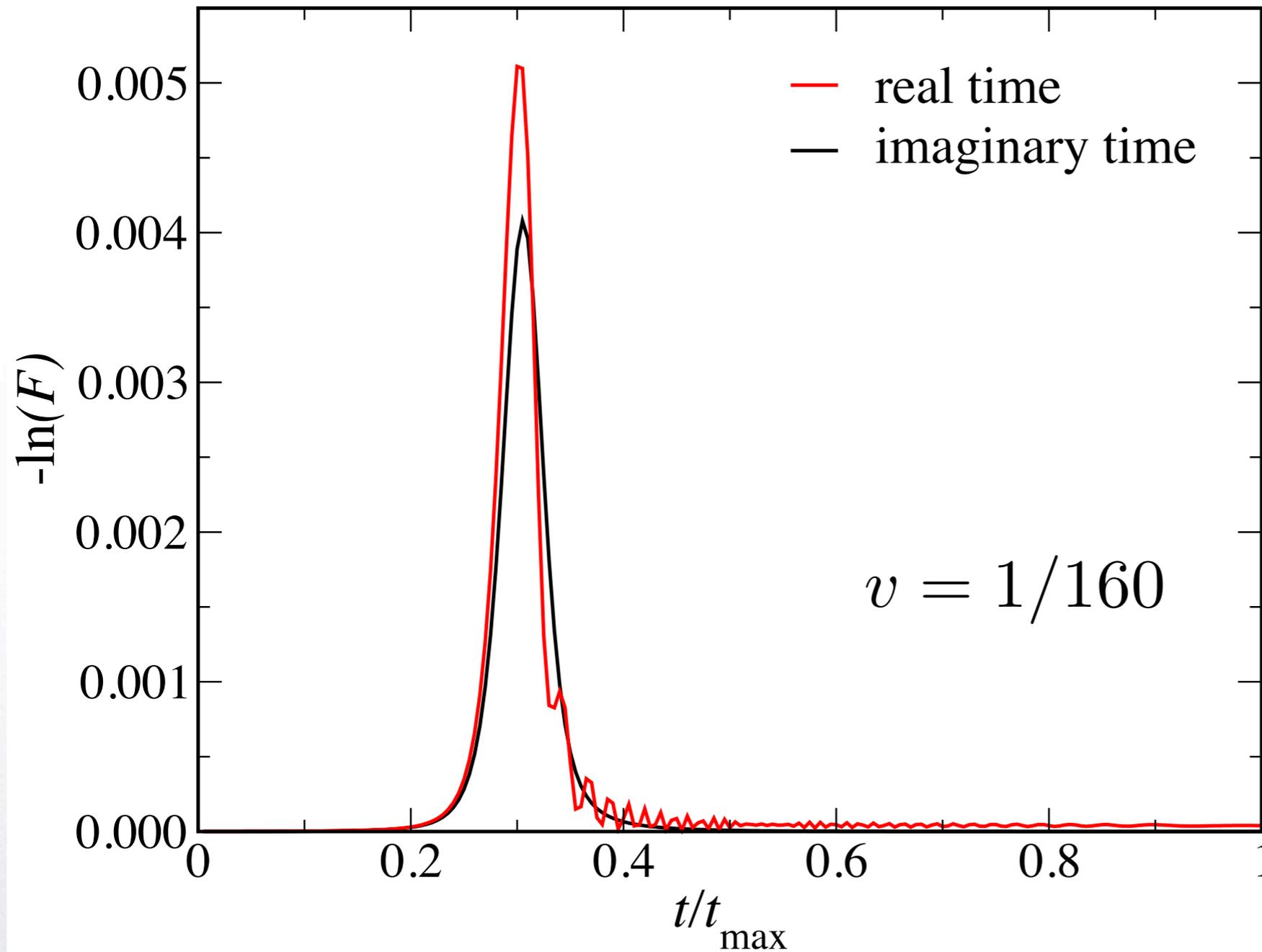
# Example: 4×4 lattice



**Main peak  
reflects quantum  
phase transition  
at  $S_c \approx 0.25$**

**Imaginary time  
more efficient in  
reaching ground  
state for  $s \rightarrow 1$**

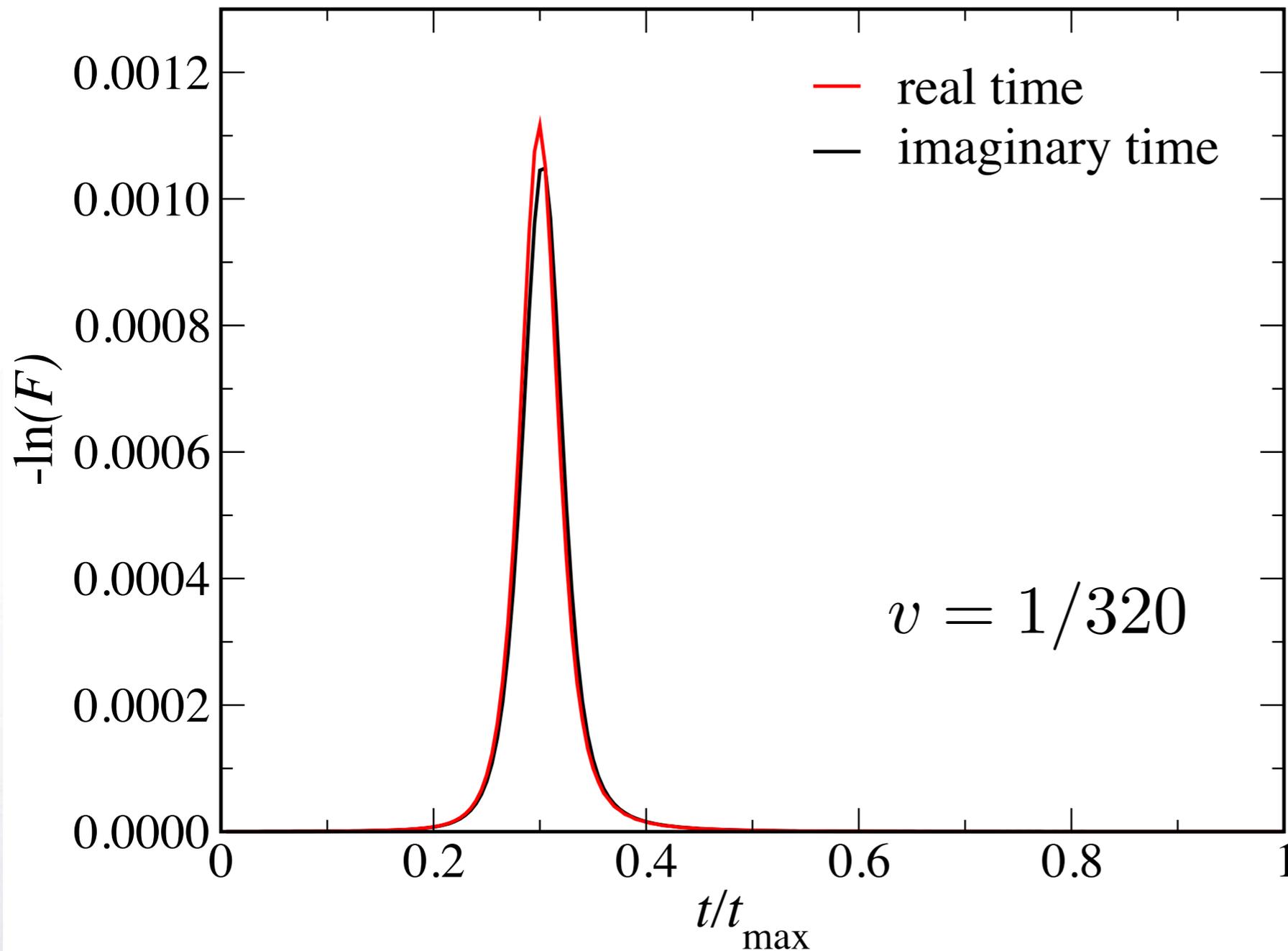
# Example: 4×4 lattice



**Main peak  
reflects quantum  
phase transition  
at  $S_c \approx 0.25$**

**Imaginary time  
more efficient in  
reaching ground  
state for  $s \rightarrow 1$**

# Example: 4×4 lattice



**Differences between real and imaginary time come in only at order  $v^3$**

**Same dynamic susceptibility accessed in real and imaginary time**

**Dynamic exponent  $z$  is same in real and imaginary time!**  
**De Grandi, Polkovnikov, Sandvik, PRB 2011**

**Use imaginary time for large systems**

# Quantum Monte Carlo Algorithm

**Schrödinger dynamic in imaginary time  $t=i\tau$**

$$|\Psi(\tau)\rangle = U(\tau, \tau_0)|\Psi(\tau_0)\rangle \quad U(\tau, \tau_0) = T_\tau \exp \left[ - \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} d\tau' H[s(\tau')] \right]$$

**Implemented in quantum Monte Carlo as:**

$$|\Psi(\tau)\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} d\tau_n \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau_n} d\tau_{n-1} \cdots \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau_2} d\tau_1 [-H(\tau_n)] \cdots [-H(\tau_1)] |\Psi(0)\rangle$$

**Simpler scheme: evolve with just a H-product  
(Liu, Polkovnikov, Sandvik, PRB 2013)**

$$|\Psi(s_M)\rangle = H(s_M) \cdots H(s_2) H(s_1) |\Psi(0)\rangle, \quad s_i = i\Delta_s, \quad \Delta_s = \frac{sM}{M}$$

**Time unit is  $\propto 1/N$ , velocity is  $v \propto N\Delta_s$**

**Difference in  $v$ -dependence between product evolution and imaginary-time Schrödinger dynamics is  $O(v^2)$   
- same critical scaling behavior, dynamic susceptibilities**

**How is this method implemented?**

# QMC Algorithm Illustration

**Transverse-field Ising model: 2 types of operators:**

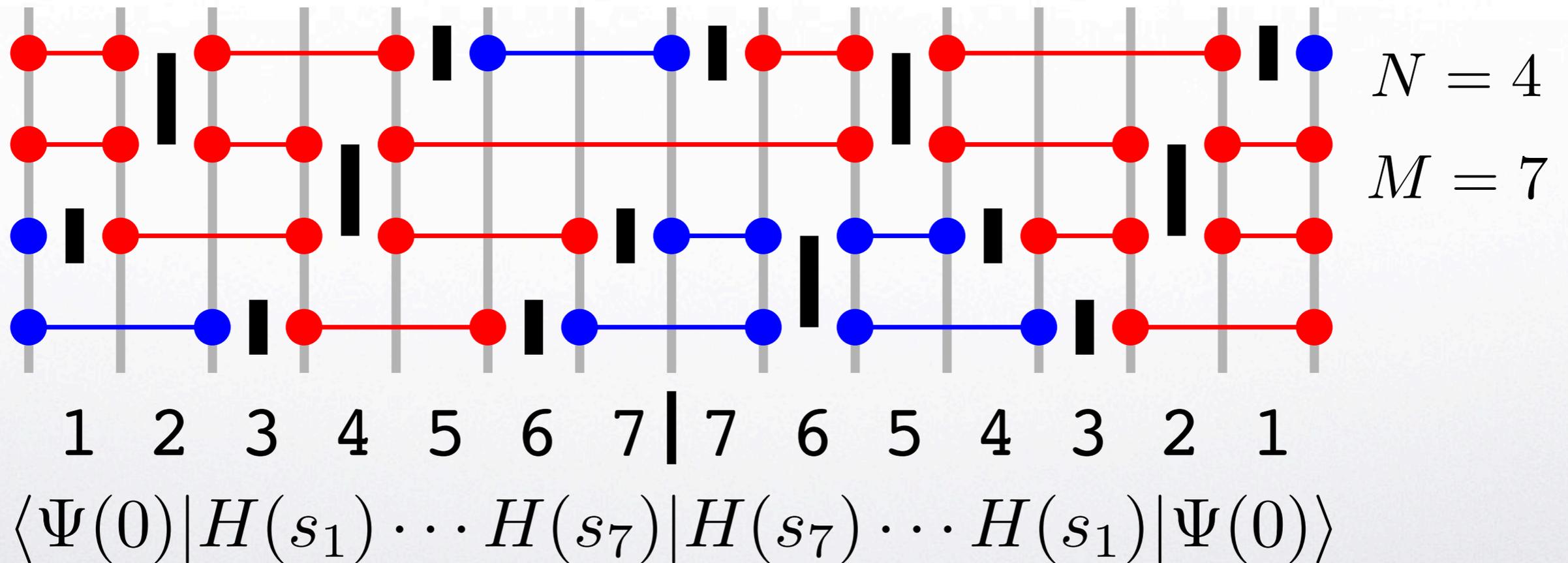
$$H_1(i) = -(1 - s)(\sigma_i^+ + \sigma_i^-)$$

Represented as “vertices”

$$H_2(i, j) = -s(\sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z + 1)$$



**MC sampling of networks of vertices**



**Similar to ground-state projector QMC**

**How to analyze results versus velocity  $v$ ?**

# Dynamic Critical Exponent and Gap

## Dynamic exponent $z$ at a phase transition

- relates time and length scales

At a continuous transition (classical or quantum):

- large (divergent) correlation length

$$\xi_r \sim |\delta|^{-\nu}, \quad \xi_t \sim \xi_r^z \sim |\delta|^{-\nu z}$$

$\delta$  = distance from critical point (in  $T$  or other param)

## Continuous quantum phase transition

- excitation gap at the transition

depends on the system size and  $z$  as

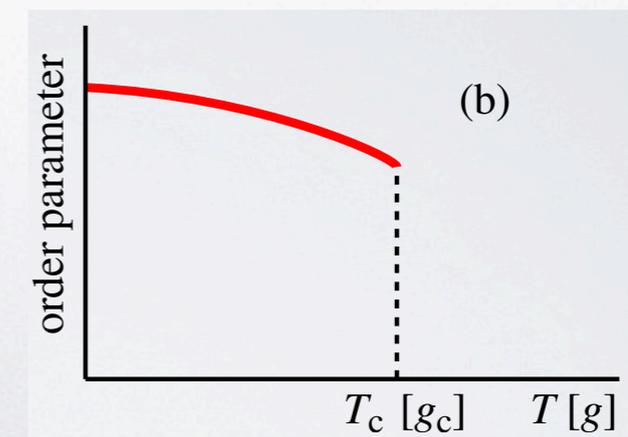
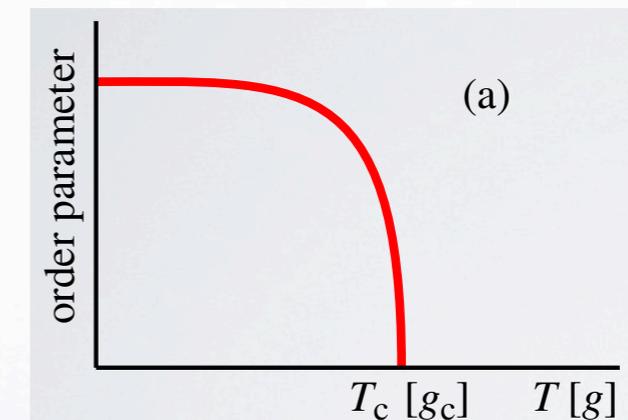
$$\Delta \sim \frac{1}{L^z} = \frac{1}{N^{z/d}}, \quad (N = L^d)$$

Exponentially small gap at a first-order (discontinuous) transition

$$\Delta \sim e^{-aL}$$

**Important issue for quantum annealing!**

P. Young et al. (PRL 2008)



**Exactly how does  $z$  enter in the adiabatic criterion?**

# Kibble-Zurek Velocity and Scaling

The adiabatic criterion for passing through a continuous phase transition involves exponents  $z$  and  $\nu$ :

Must have  $v < v_{KZ}$ , with

$$v_{KZ} \sim L^{-(z+1/\nu)}$$

Same criterion for classical and quantum phase transitions

- adiabatic (quantum)
- quasi-static (classical)

**Kibble 1978**

- defects in early universe

**Zurek 1981**

- classical phase transitions

**Polkovnikov 2005**

- quantum phase transitions

**Generalized finite-size scaling hypothesis**

$$A(\delta, v, L) = L^{-\kappa/\nu} g(\delta L^{1/\nu}, v L^{z+1/\nu})$$

$$A(\delta, v, N) = N^{-\kappa/\nu'} g(\delta N^{1/\nu'}, v N^{z'+1/\nu'}), \quad \nu' = d\nu, \quad z = z/d$$

**Will use for spin glasses of interest in quantum computing**

**Apply to well-understood classical system first...**

# Kibble-Zurek scaling in imaginary time

**Test on clean 2D Ising model  
in transverse field**

**Using H-product dynamics**

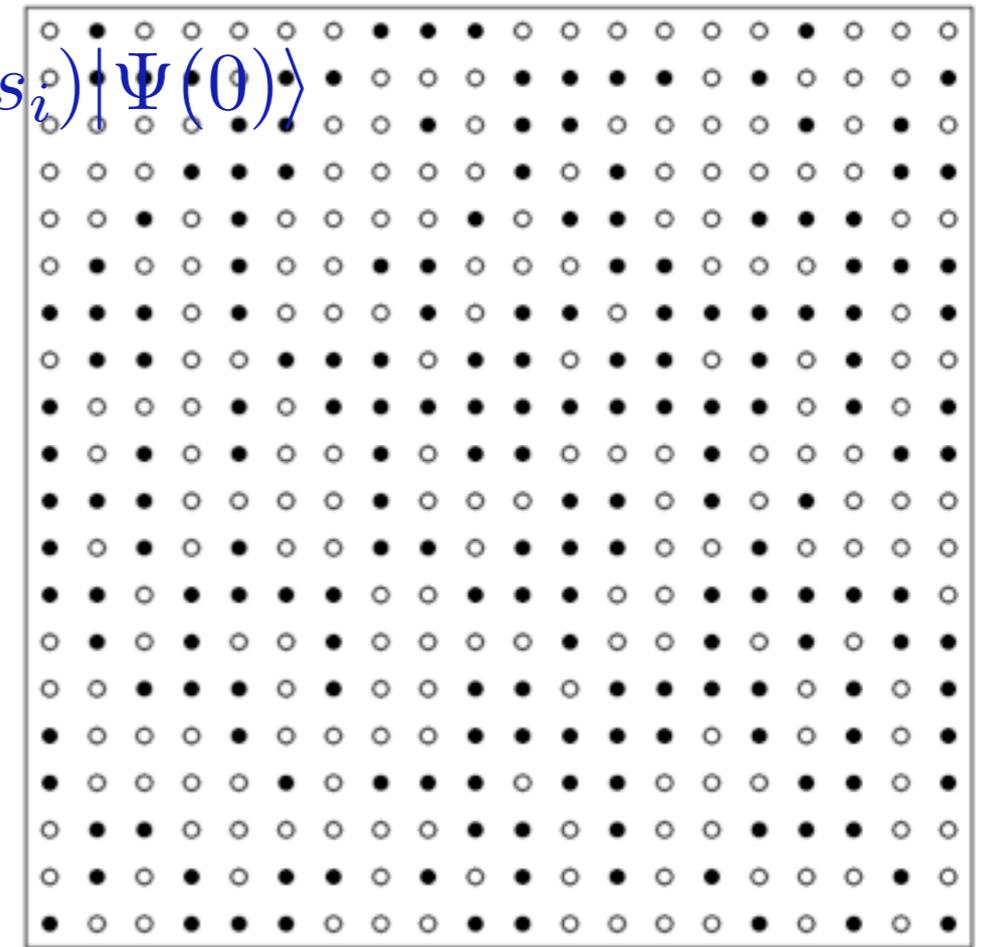
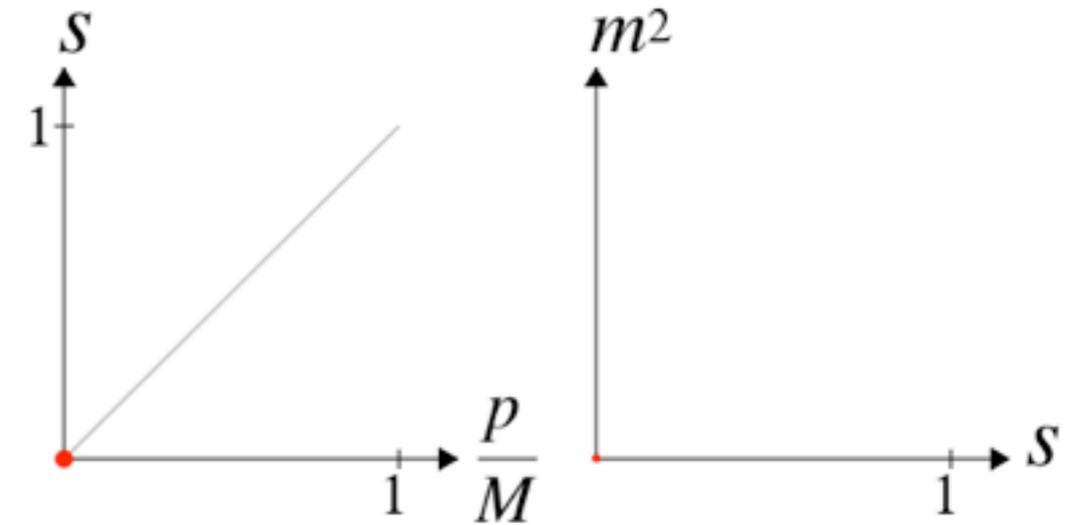
**“Asymmetric” expectation values**

$$\langle \langle A \rangle_k \rangle = \langle \Psi(\Psi) \left( \prod_{i=M}^1 H(s_i) \prod_{i=k}^M H(s_i) A \prod_{i=1}^k H(s_i) \right) | \Psi(0) \rangle$$

**Same leading-order (in  $v$ )  
behavior as conventional  
expectation values**

**Computational advantage:  
All  $s$ -values in one simulation!**

**Animation of single configuration!**



**Collect data, do scaling analysis...**

# 2D Transverse-Ising, Scaling Example

$$A(\delta, \nu, L) = L^{-\kappa/\nu} g(\delta L^{1/\nu}, \nu L^{z+1/\nu}) \quad z = 1, \nu \approx 0.70$$

If  $z, \nu$  known,  $s_c$  not: use

$$\nu L^{z+1/\nu} = \text{constant}$$

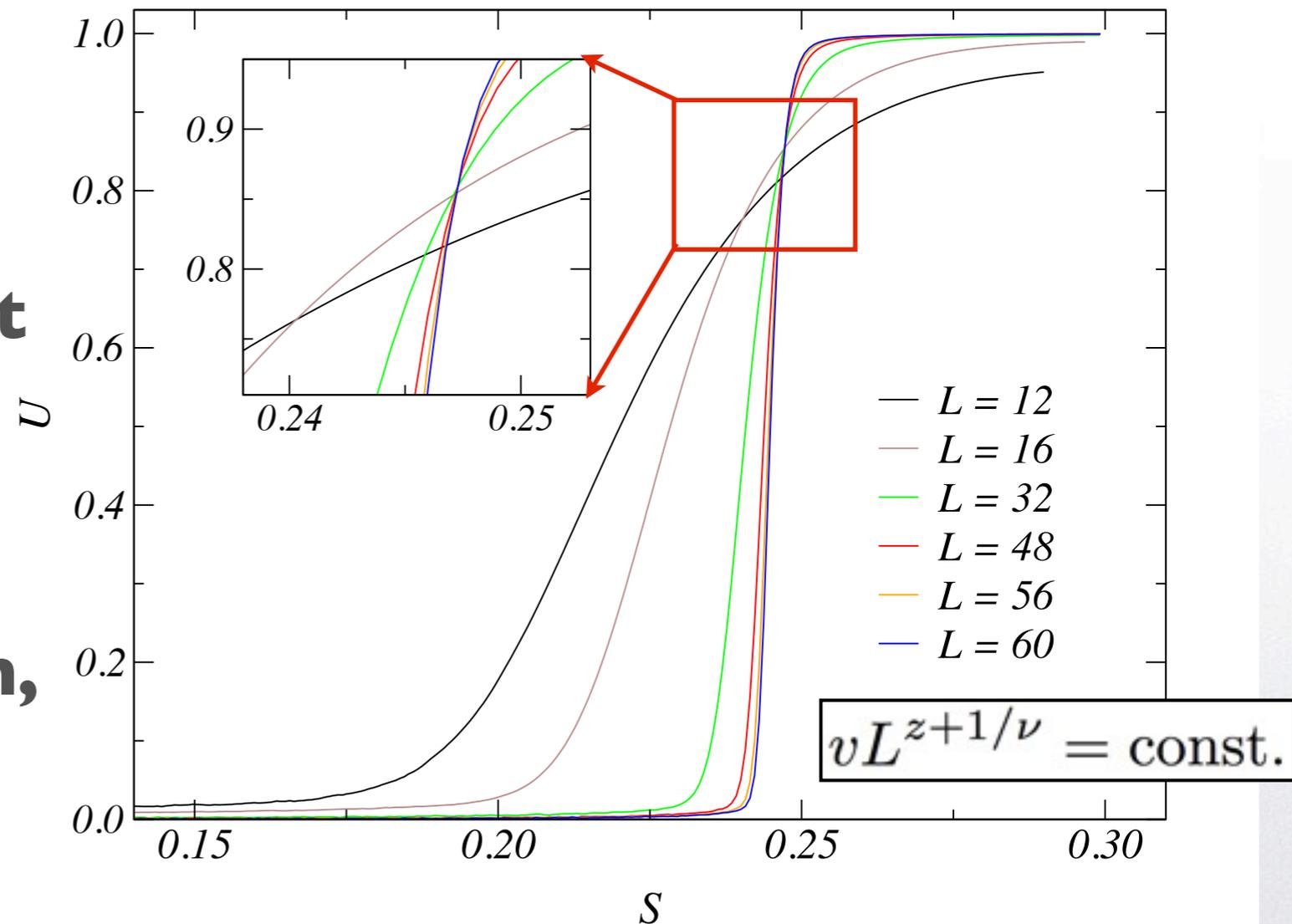
for  $1$ -parameter scaling

Example: Binder cumulant

$$U = \frac{3}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} \frac{\langle m_z^4 \rangle}{\langle m_z^2 \rangle^2} \right)$$

Step function should form,  
jump from  $U=0$  to  $1$  at  $s_c$   
- crossing points for  
finite system size

$$U(s, L, \nu) = U((s - s_c)L^{1/\nu}, \nu L^{z+1/\nu})$$



Do similar studies for quantum spin glasses

# Note on QMC Simulation Dynamics

Recent work claimed the D-wave machine shows behavior similar to “simulated quantum annealing”

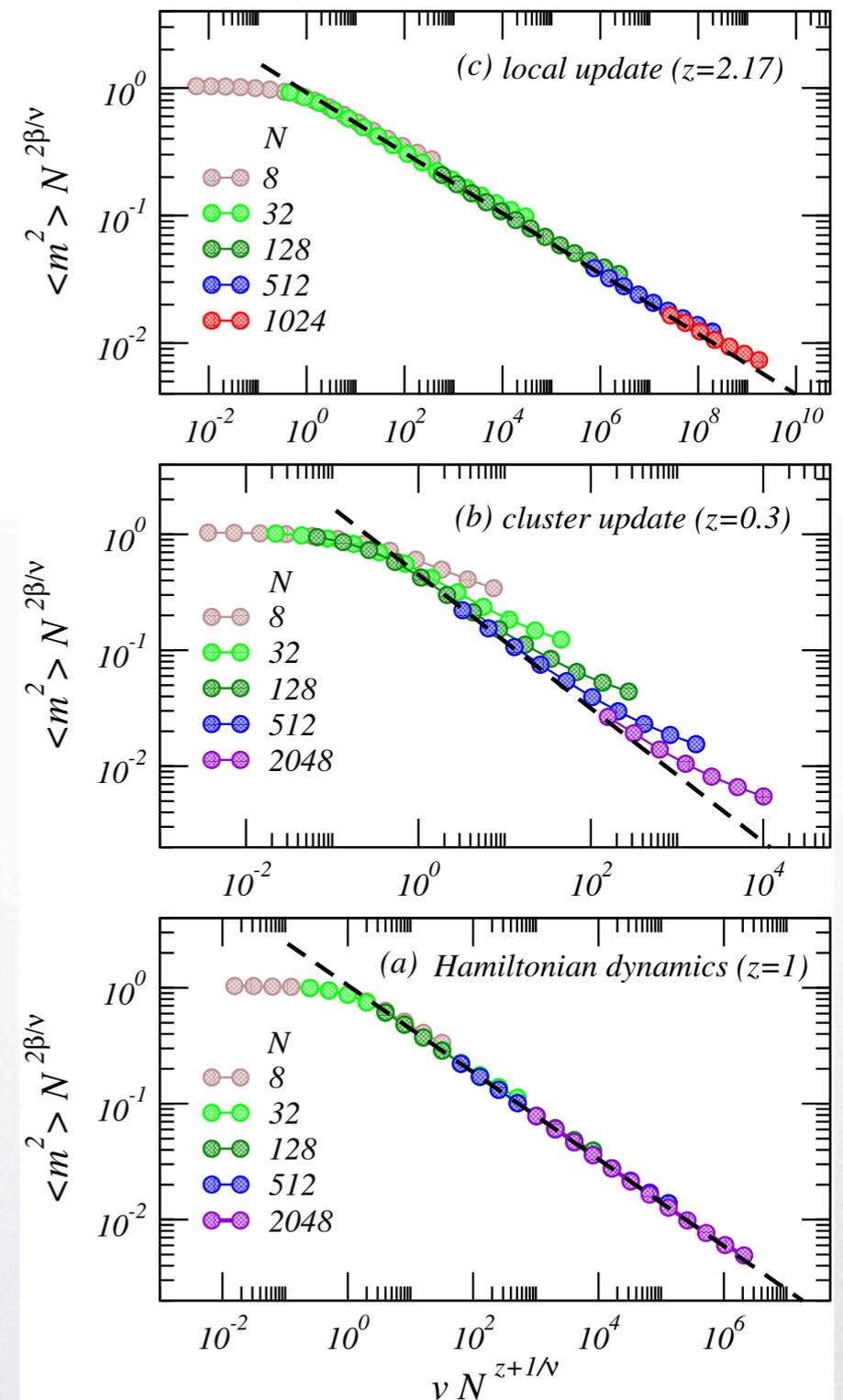
[S. Boixo, M. Troyer et al., Nat. Phys. 2014]

$H(s)$  evolved in simulation time

Is this the same as Hamiltonian quantum dynamics?

**NO! Only accesses the dynamics of the QMC method**

Demonstration for 1D Ising model with transverse field shows this  
 $z = 1$  for true Hamiltonian dynamics  
 $z = 2.17$  or  $z=0.30$  for simulation-time dynamics (local or cluster updates)

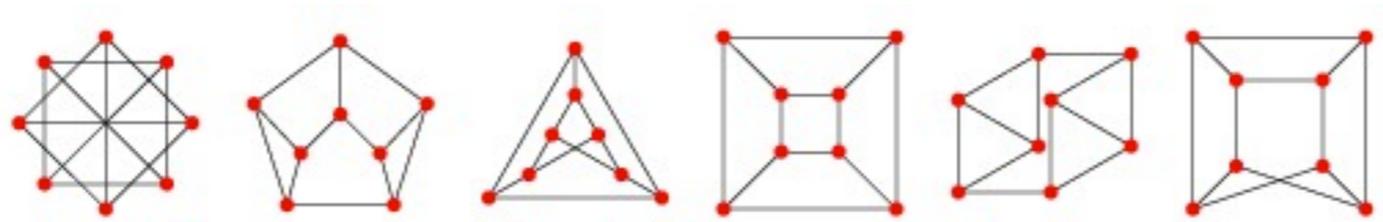


Imaginary-time method = true Hamiltonian dynamics

# 3-regular graphs with anti-ferro couplings

**N spins, randomly connected, coordination-number 3**

N=8



**Classical model has mean-field glass transition**  
**- T<sub>c</sub> known exactly (Krazakala et al.)**

**The quantum model was studied recently:**

**Farhi, Gosset, Hen, Sandvik, Shor, Young, Zamponi, PRA 2012**

- $s_c \approx 0.37$  from quantum cavity approximation
- QMC consistent with this  $s_c$ , power-law gaps at  $s_c$

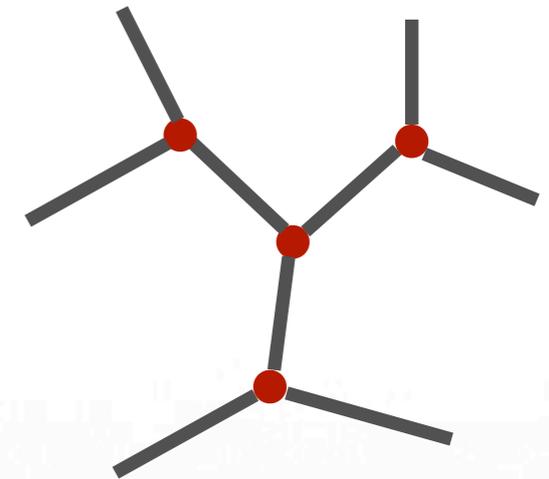
**More detailed studies with quantum annealing**

**Edwards-Anderson spin-glass order parameter**

$$q = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_i^z(1) \sigma_i^z(2)$$

**(1) and (2) are independent simulations (replicas)**

**Analyze  $\langle q^2 \rangle$  using QMC and velocity scaling**



# Extracting Quantum-glass transition

## Using Binder cumulant

$$U(s, v, N) = U[(s - s_c)N^{1/\nu'}, vN^{z'+1/\nu'}]$$

But now we don't know the exponents. Use

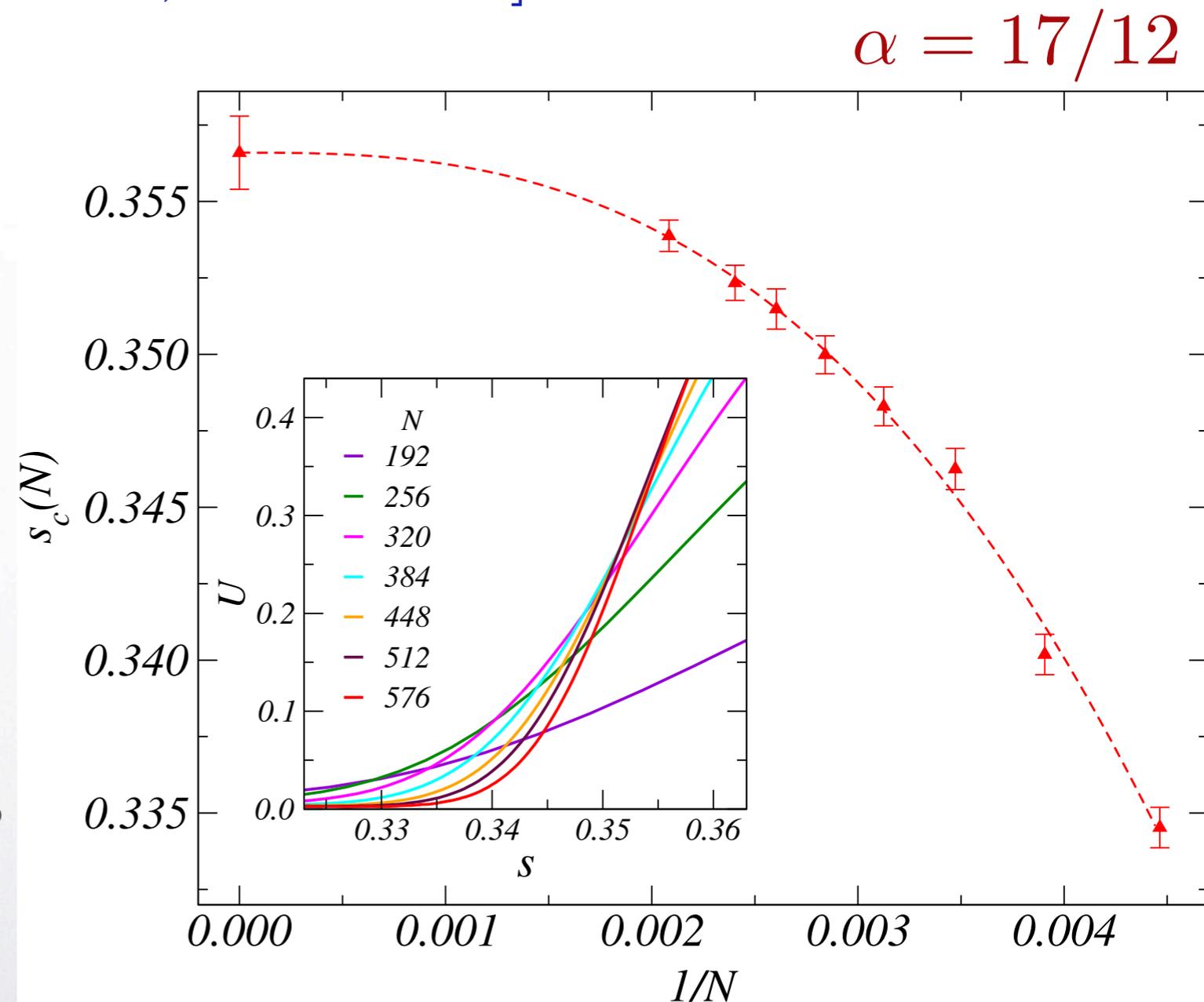
$$v \propto N^{-\alpha}, \quad \alpha > z' + 1/\nu'$$

- do several  $\alpha$
- check for consistency

Best result for  $\alpha=17/12$

$$s_c = 0.3565 \pm 0.0012$$

Consistent with previous work, but smaller errors



Next, critical exponents...

# Velocity Scaling at the Glass Transition

**Study evolution to  $s_c$**

- several system sizes  $N$
- several velocities

$$\beta/\nu' \approx 0.43(2)$$

$$z'+1/\nu' \approx 1.3(2)$$

**Same as fully connected  
(Sherrington-Kirkpatrick)?**

$$\beta/\nu' \approx 0.42(2)$$

$$z'+1/\nu' \approx 1.4(2)$$

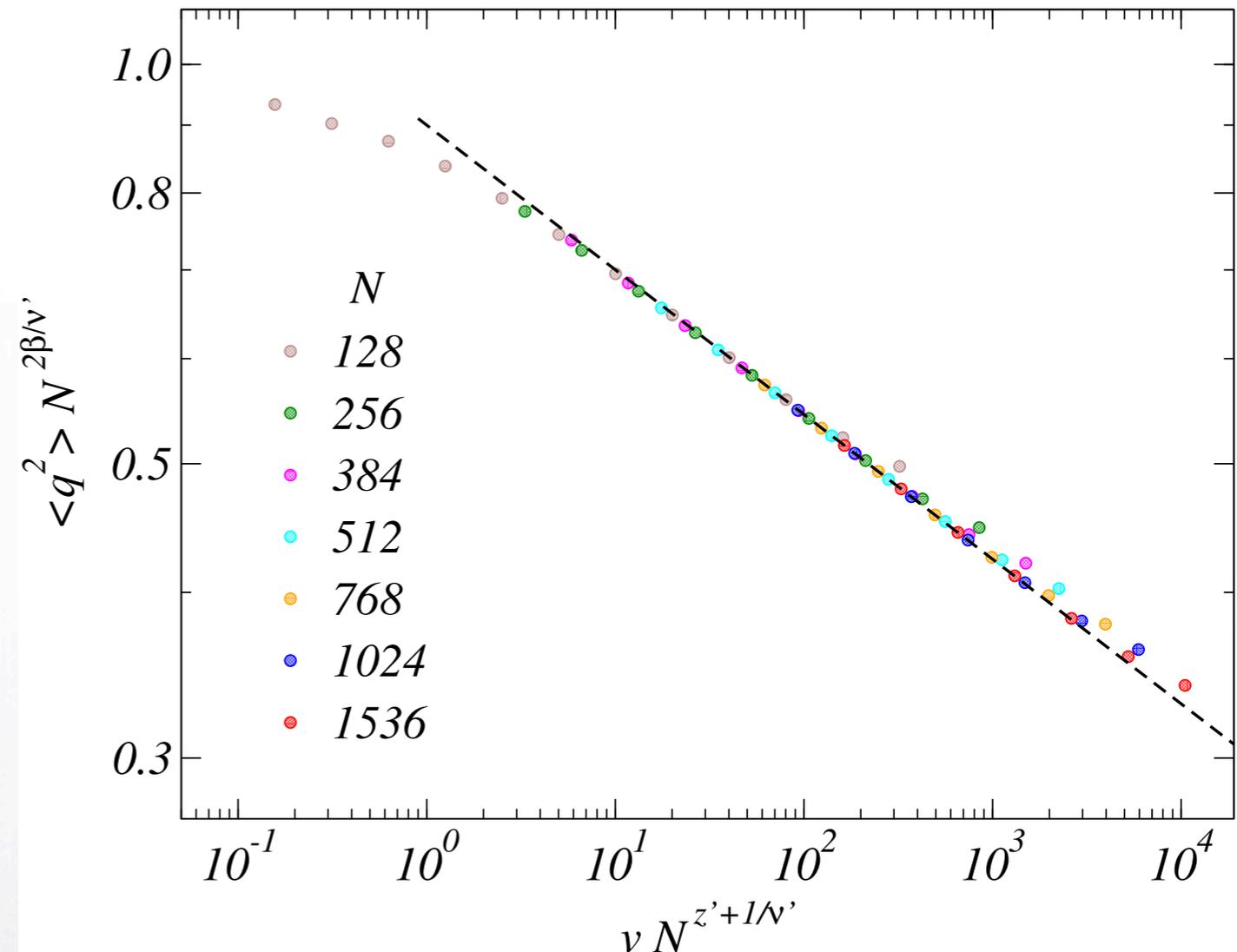
**Differ from values  
expected for  $d=\infty$ :  
(Read, Sachdev, Ye, 1995)**

$$\beta/\nu' \approx 1/2$$

$$z'+1/\nu' \approx 3/4$$

**Why disagreement?  
- log corrections?**

$$\langle q^2(s_c) \rangle \propto N^{-2\beta/\nu'} f(vN^{z'+1/\nu'})$$



**Significance of the exponents**

# Relevance to Quantum Computing

The time needed to stay adiabatic up to  $s_c$  scales as

$$t \sim N^{z'+1/\nu} \quad z' + 1/\nu' \approx 1.3$$

Reaching  $s_c$ , the degree of ordering scales as

$$\sqrt{\langle q^2 \rangle} \sim N^{-\beta/\nu'} \quad \beta/\nu' \approx 0.43$$

Let's compare with the known classical exponents  
(finite-temperature transition of 3-regular random graphs)

## Classical

$$\beta/\nu' = 1/3$$

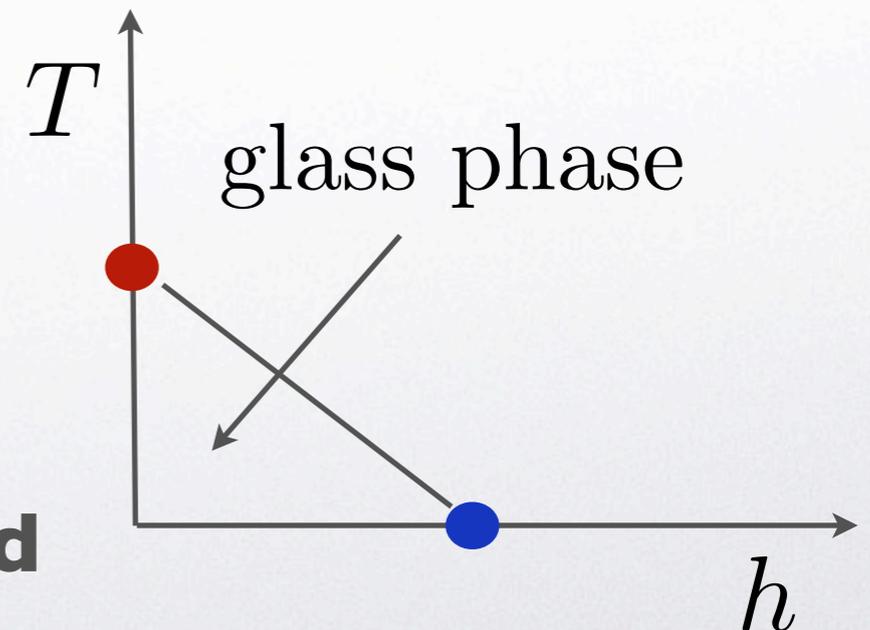
$$z'+1/\nu' = 1$$

## Quantum

$$\beta/\nu' \approx 0.43$$

$$z'+1/\nu' \approx 1.3$$

- It takes longer for quantum annealing to reach its critical point
- And the state is further from ordered (further from the optimal solution)



**Proposal: Do velocity scaling with the D-wave machine!**