

# Experimental studies of percolation phenomena in driven-dissipative Rydberg gases

Oliver Morsch

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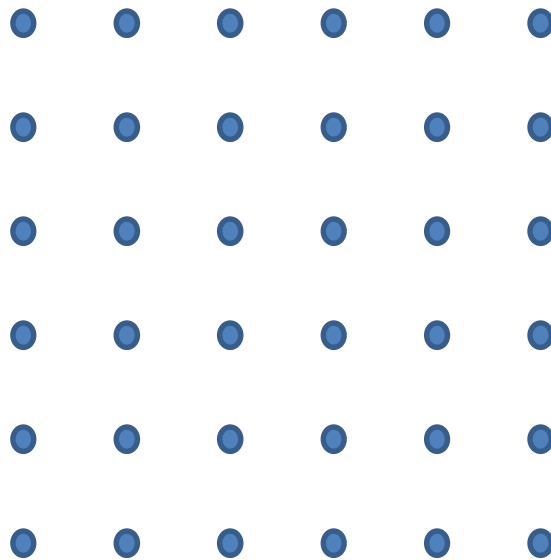


C. Simonelli, M. Archimi, E. Arimondo, D. Ciampini

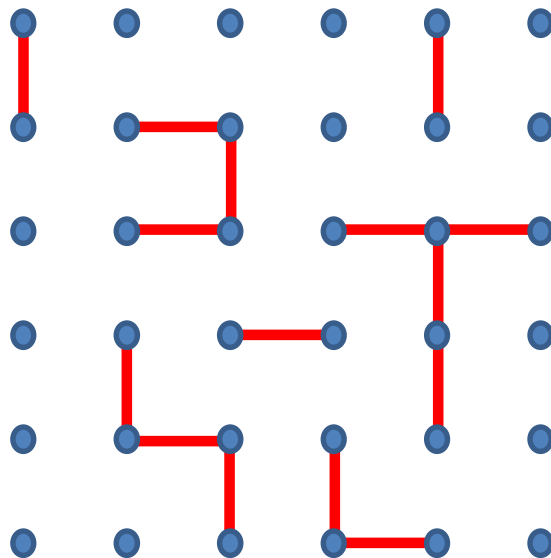
**Collaboration:** R. Gutierrez, M. Marcuzzi, I. Lesanovsky



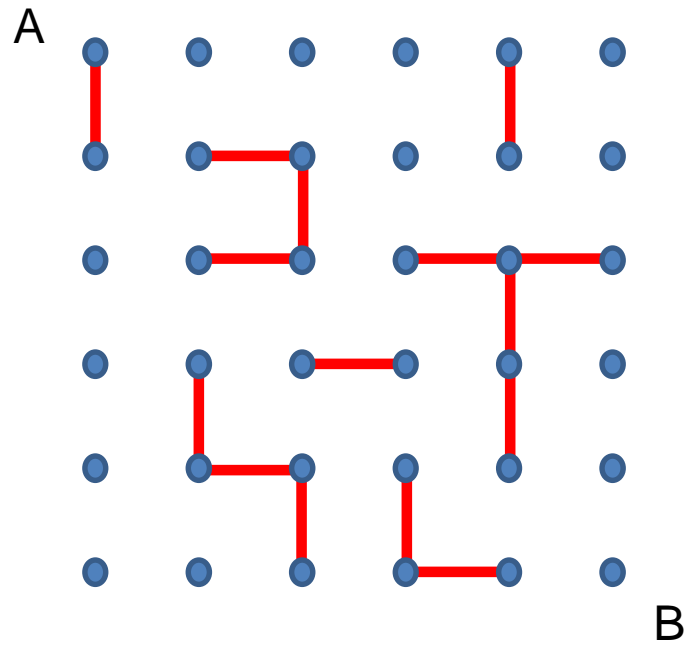
# Percolation



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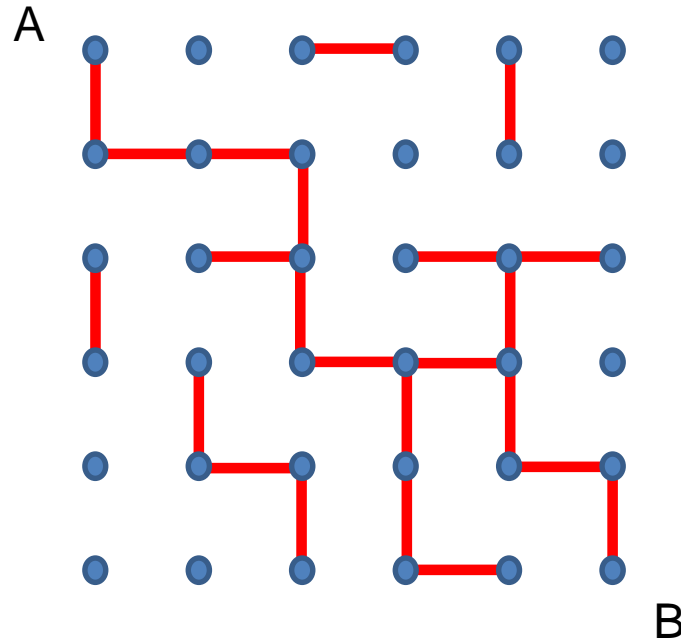


# Percolation



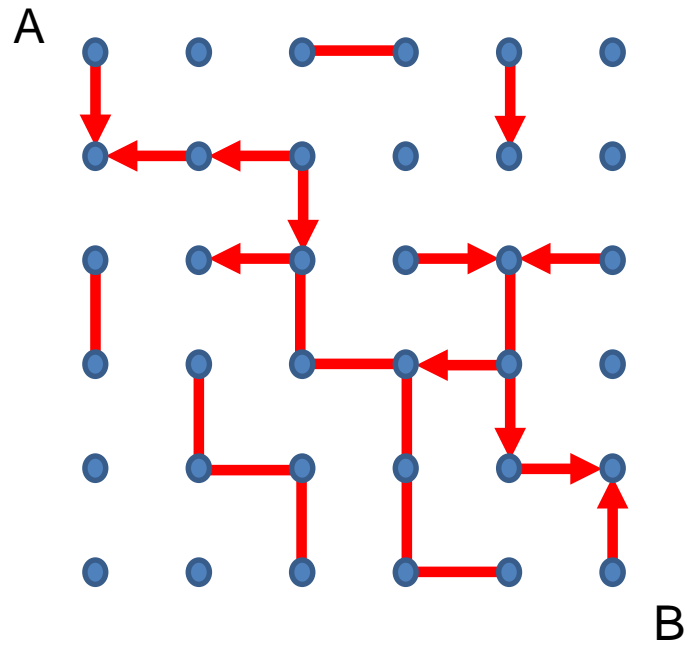
link probability  $p < p_{\text{crit}}$

# Percolation

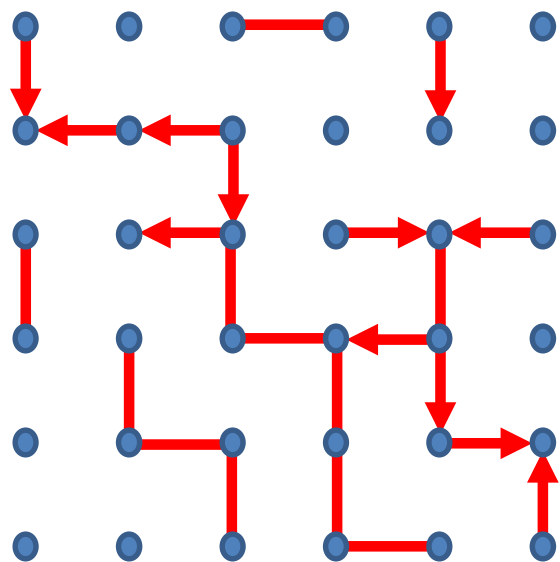


link probability  $p > p_{\text{crit}} \Rightarrow$  system «percolates»

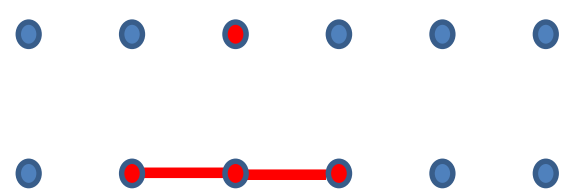
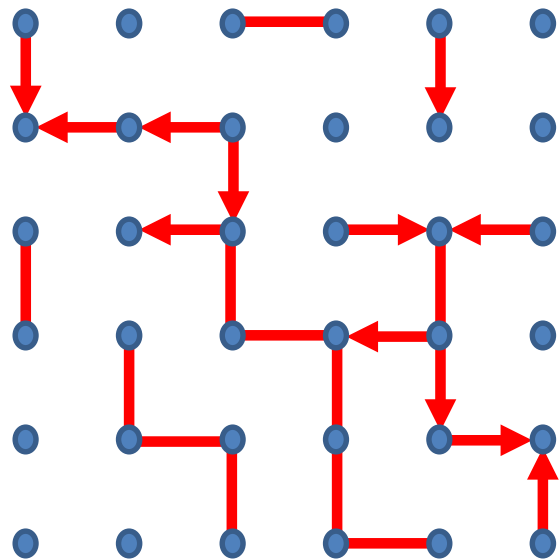
# «Directed» percolation



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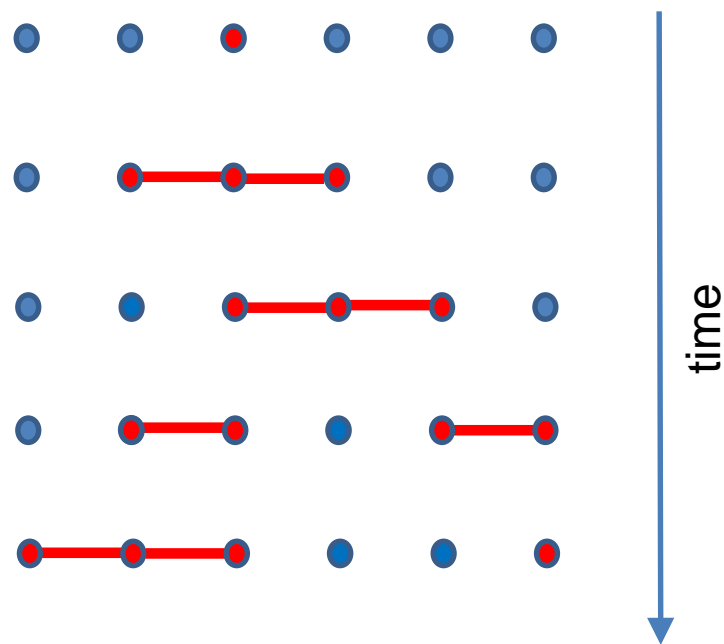
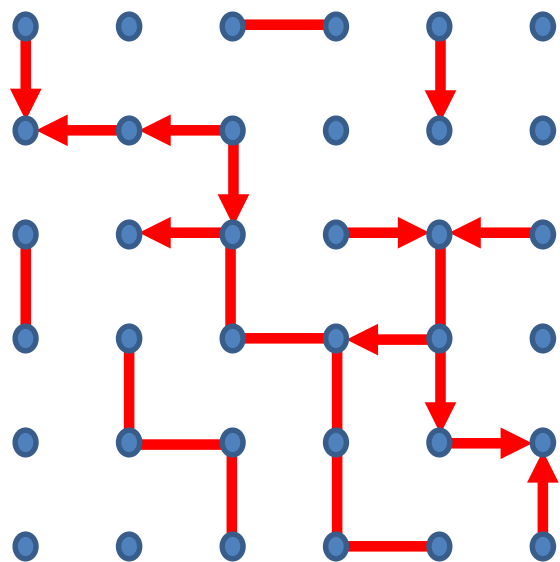


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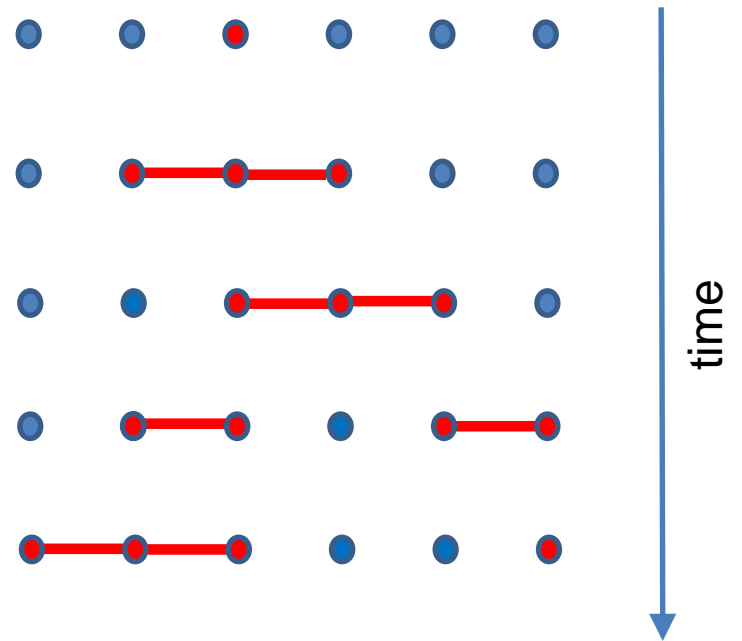
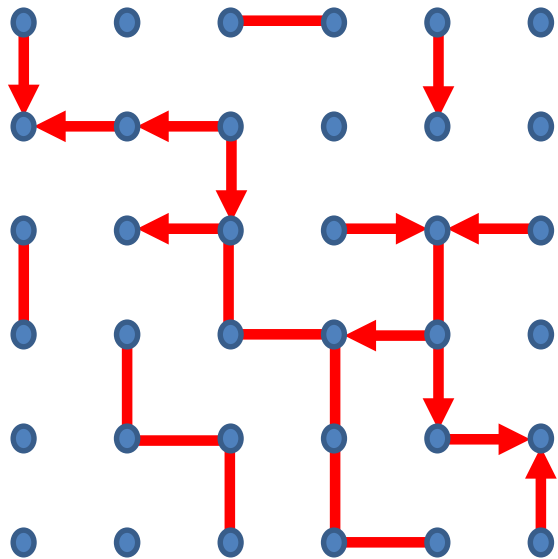




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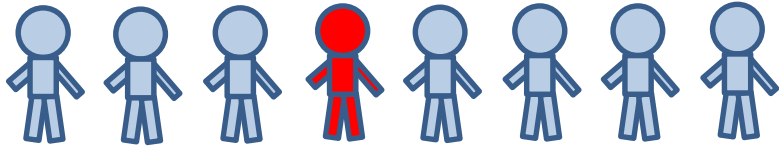
# «Directed» percolation



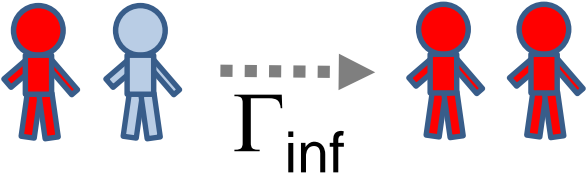
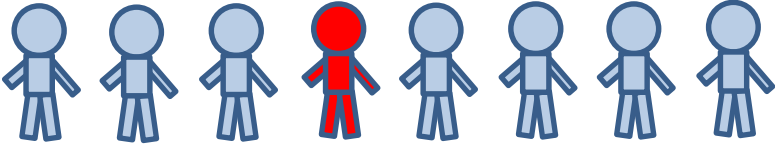
## Non-equilibrium phase transition

Examples: wildfires, turbulence, spreading of infectious diseases

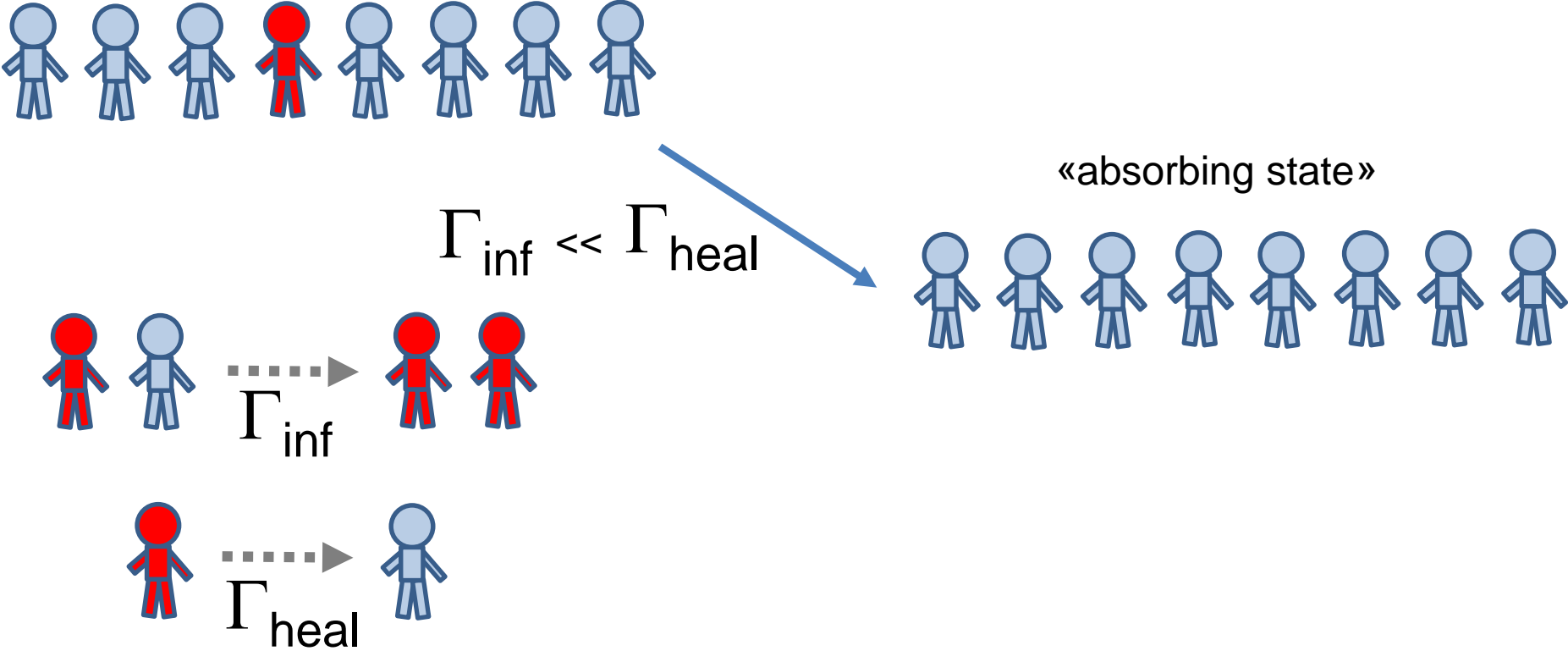
«Infection model» exhibits absorbing state phase transition



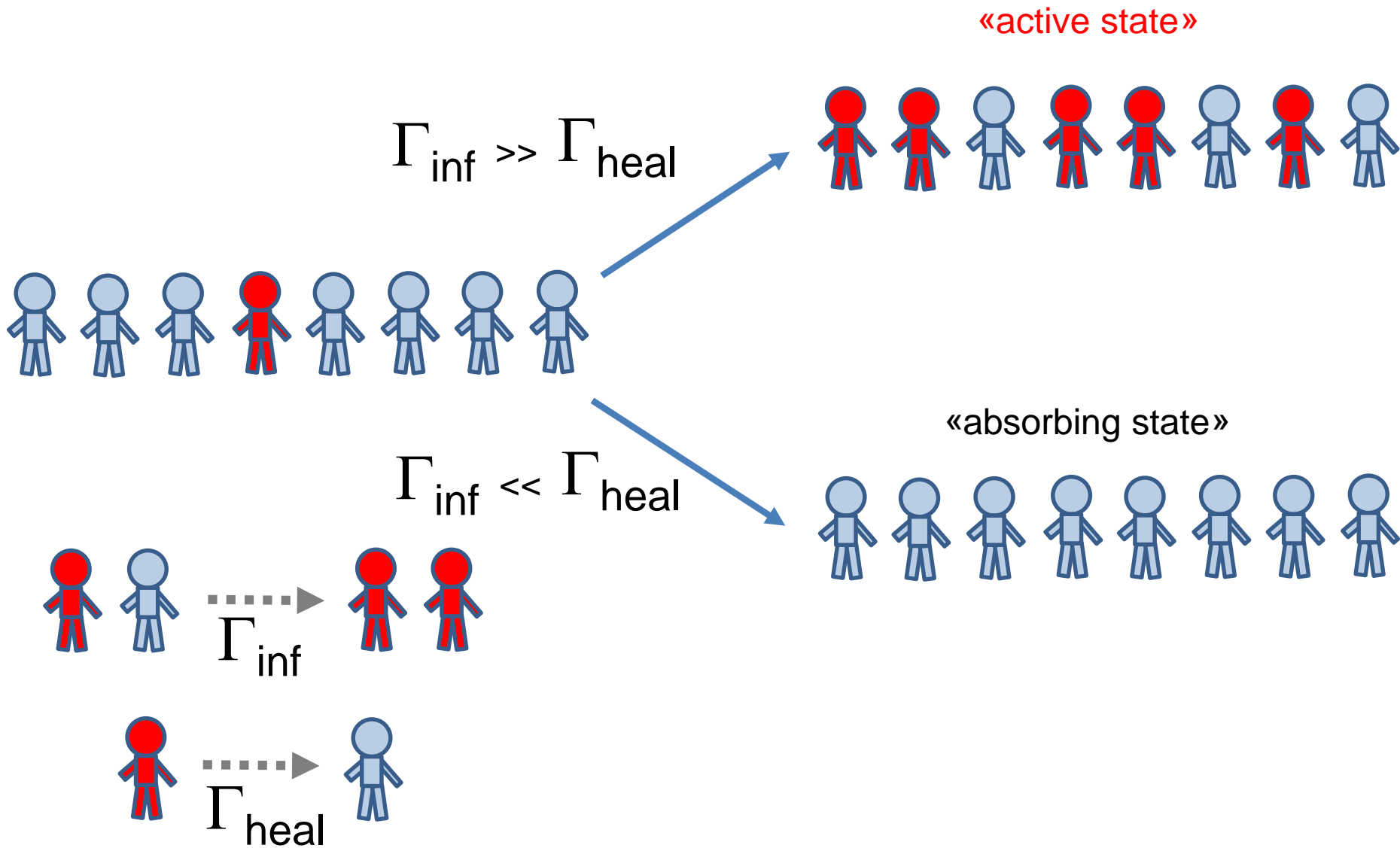
# «Infection model» exhibits absorbing state phase transition



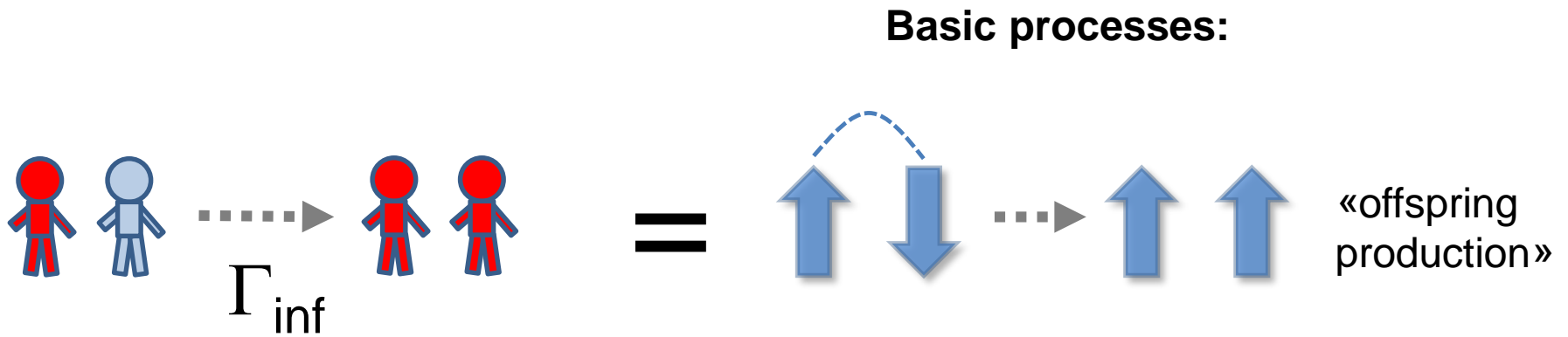
# «Infection model» exhibits absorbing state phase transition



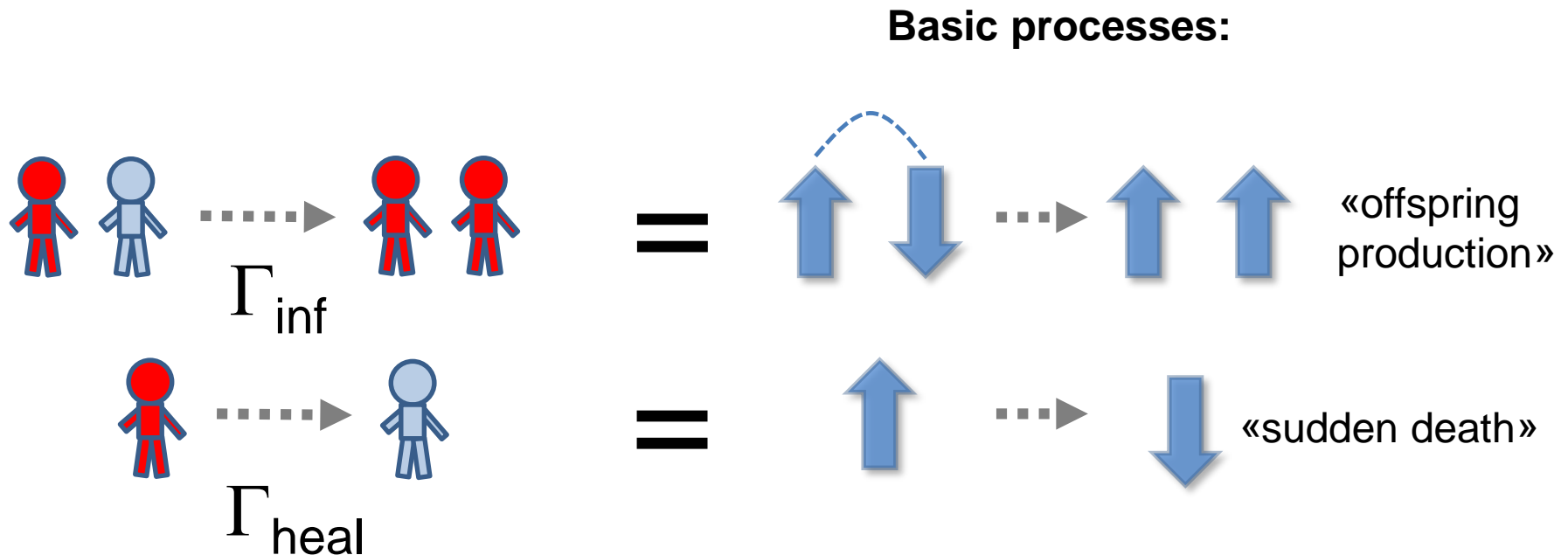
# «Infection model» exhibits absorbing state phase transition



# Basic processes leading to an absorbing state phase transition



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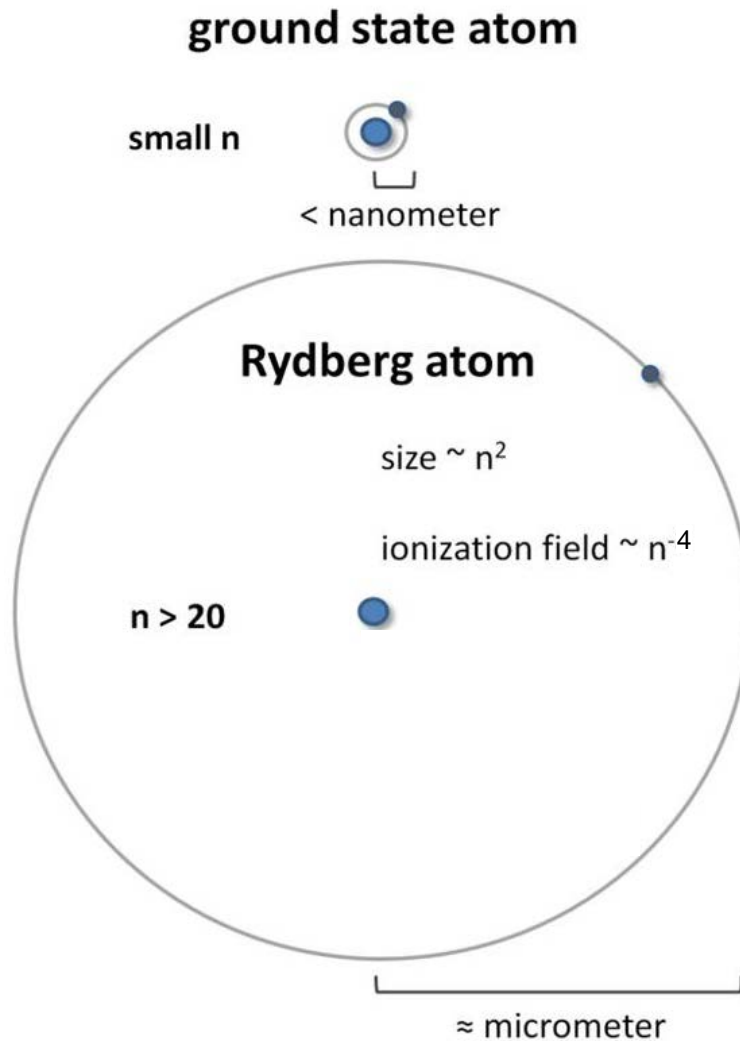


# Rydberg atoms are long-lived and interact strongly

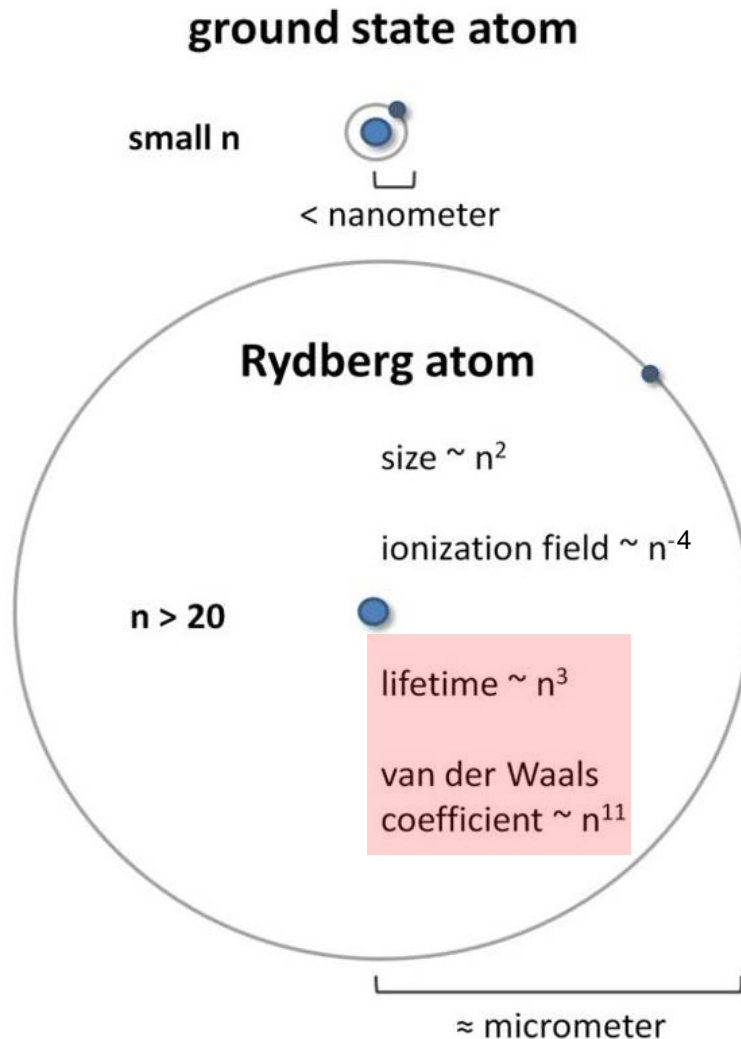
**ground state atom**



# Rydberg atoms are long-lived and interact strongly

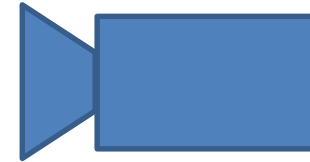
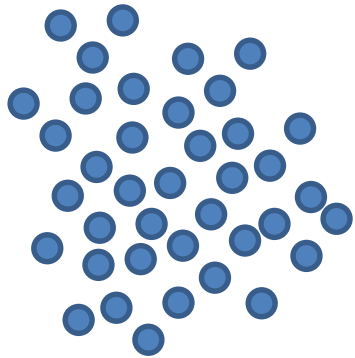


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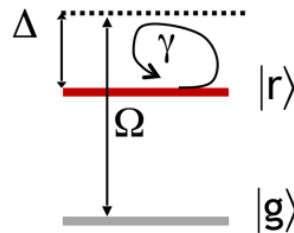
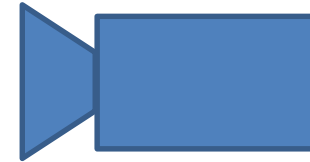
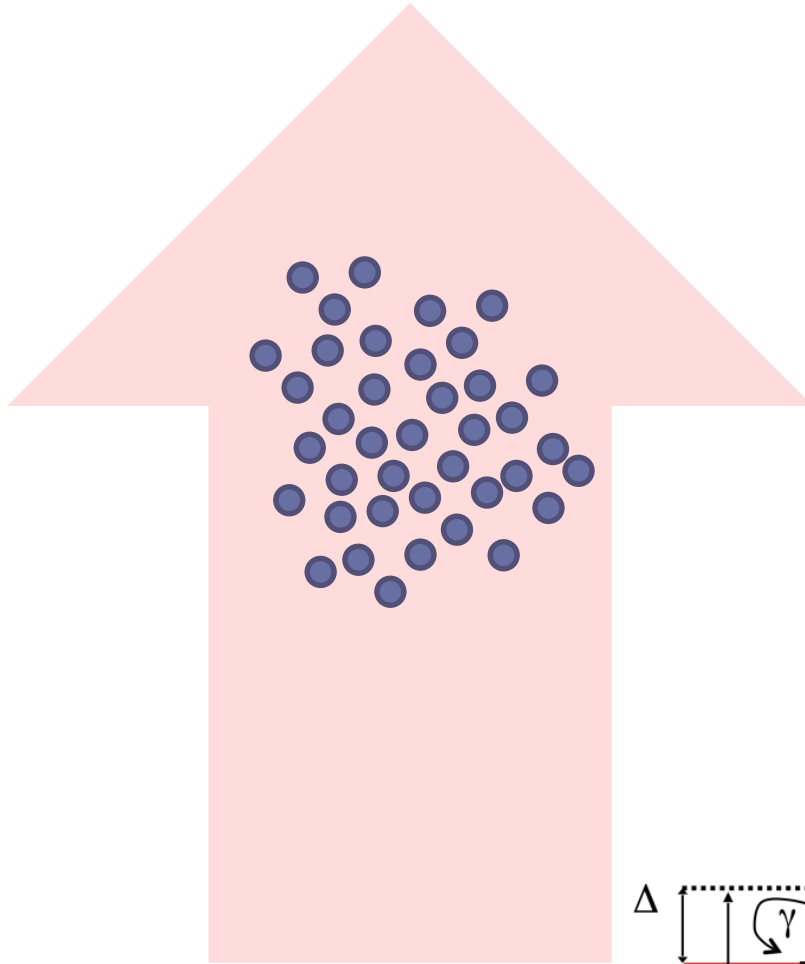
Ex.: Rb  $n=70$ ,  $\sim$  MHz at  $10 \mu\text{m}$   
lifetime around  $150 \mu\text{s}$

# Rydberg atoms are excited in a MOT...

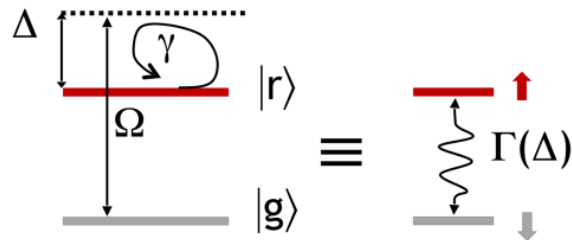
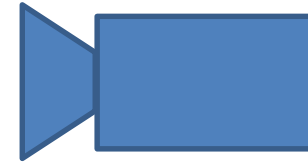
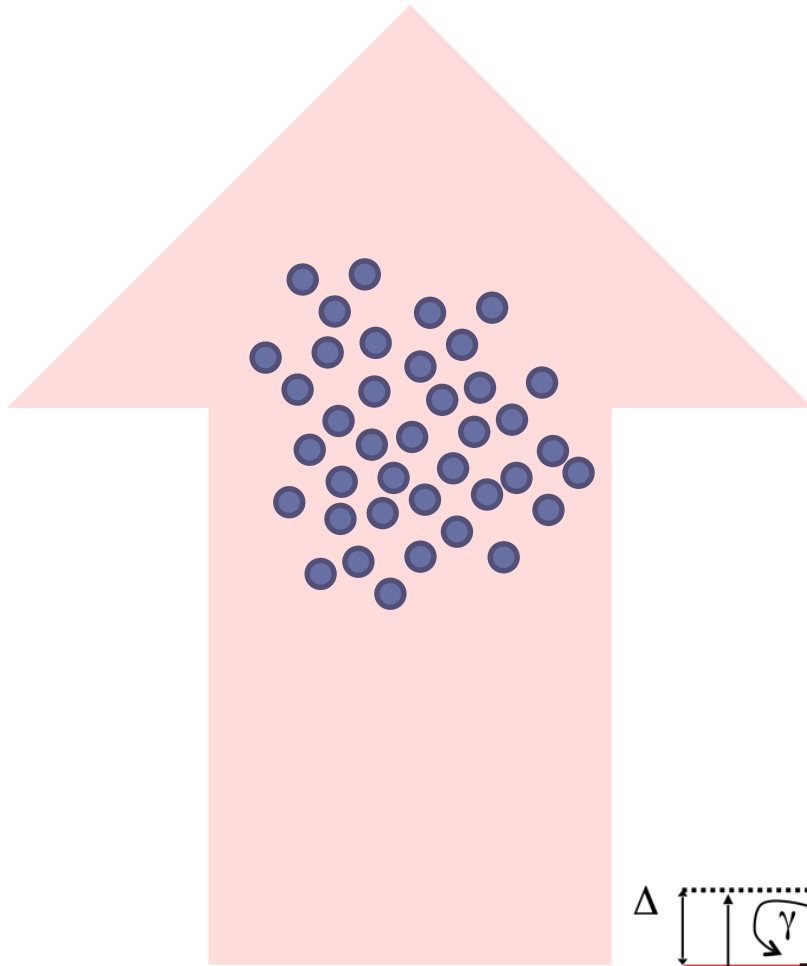


$^{87}\text{Rb}$  atoms in a MOT  
T ~ 150 micro Kelvin («frozen gas»)  
N ~ few  $10^5$   
size around 150 microns

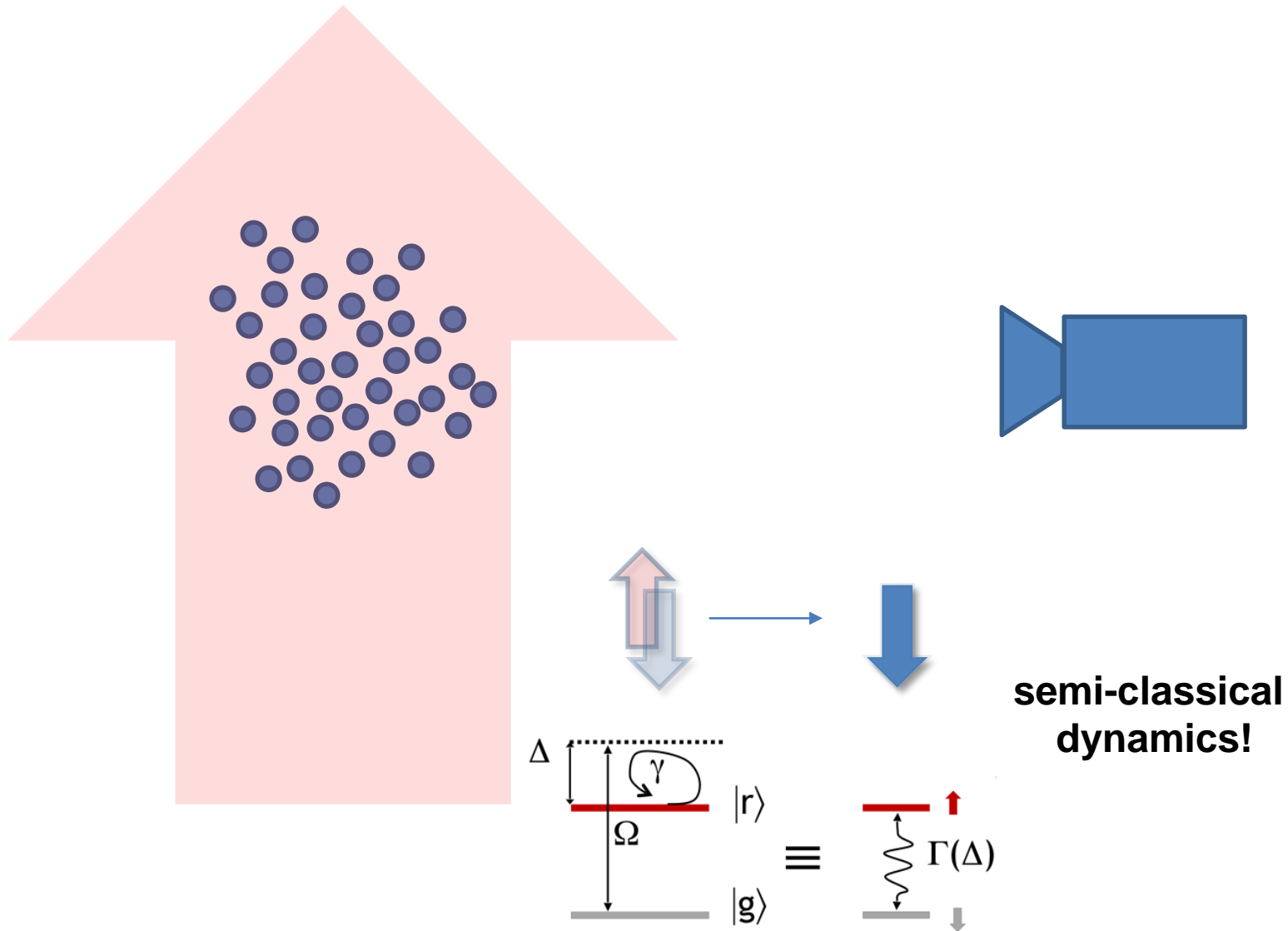
Rydberg atoms are excited in a MOT...



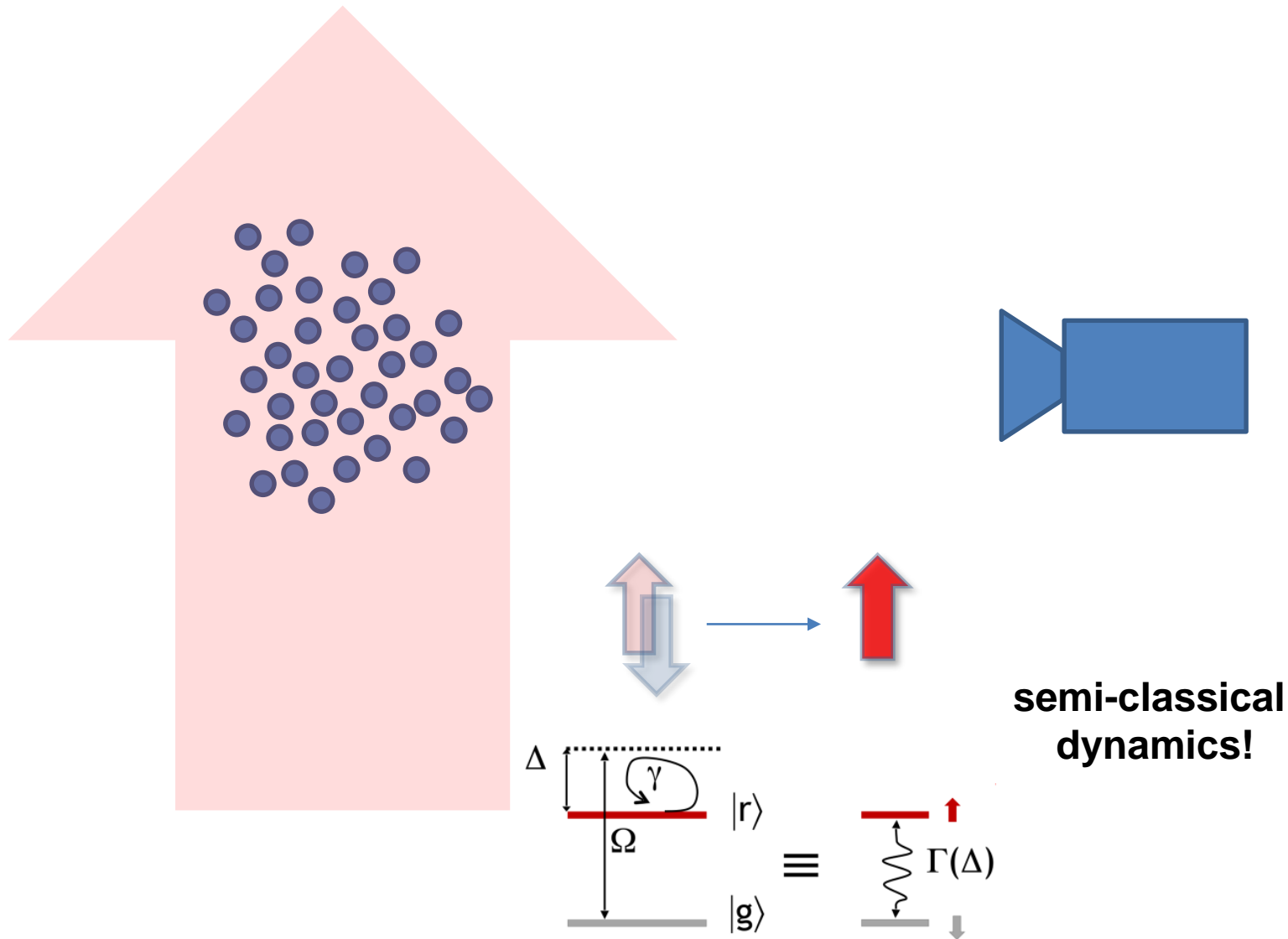
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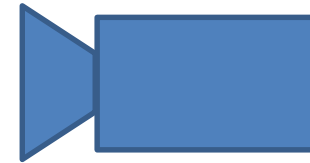
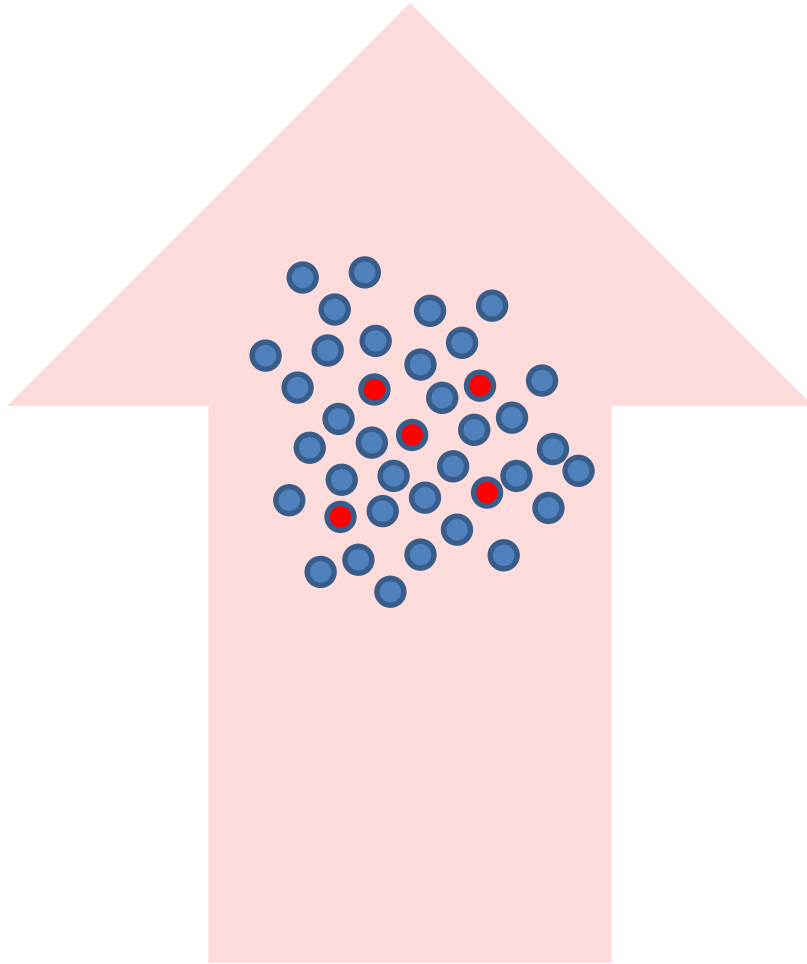


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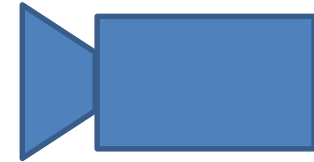
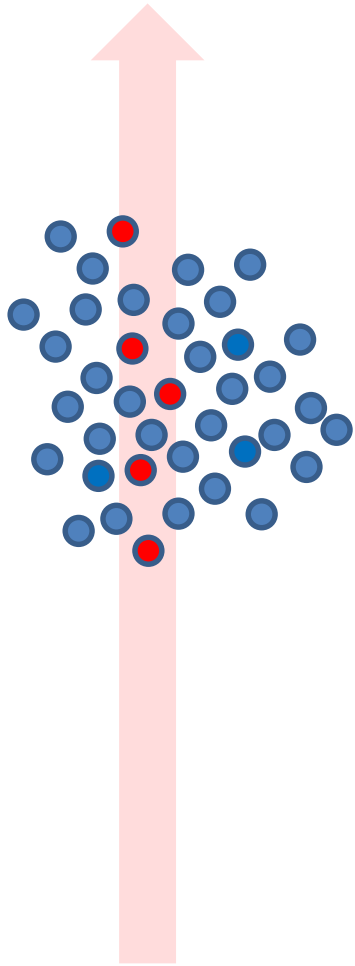




... many-body dynamics takes place...

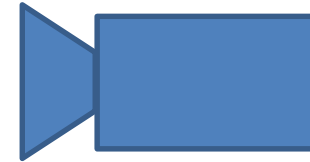
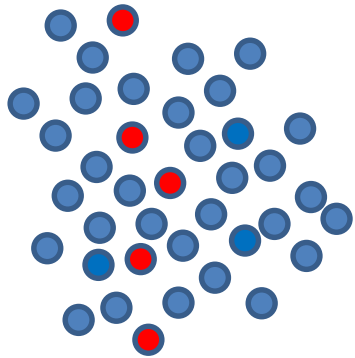


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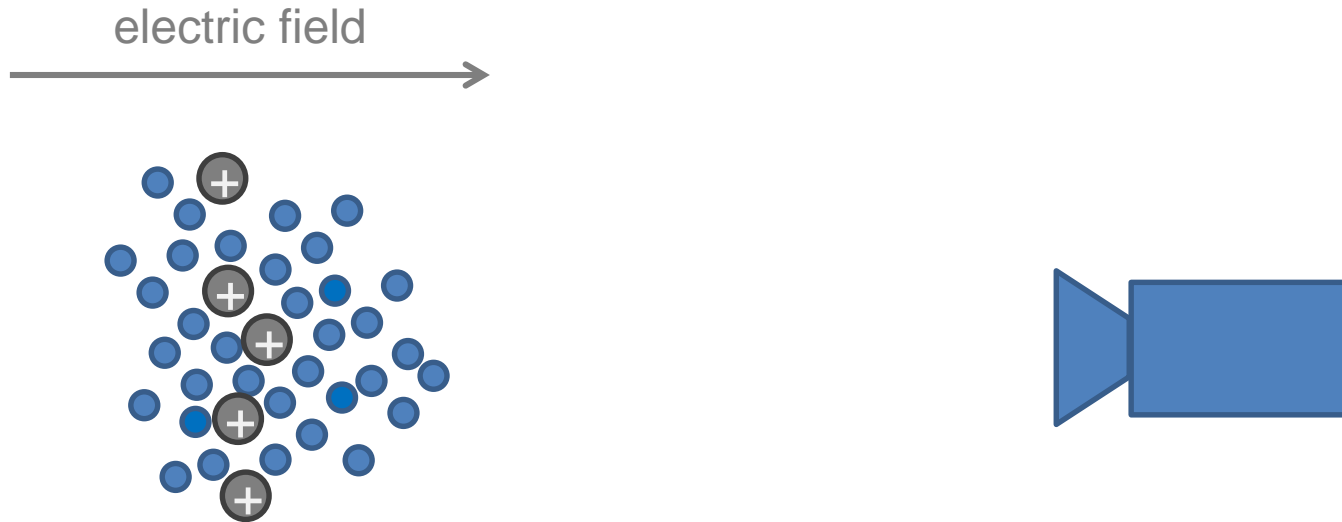


effective 1D dynamics

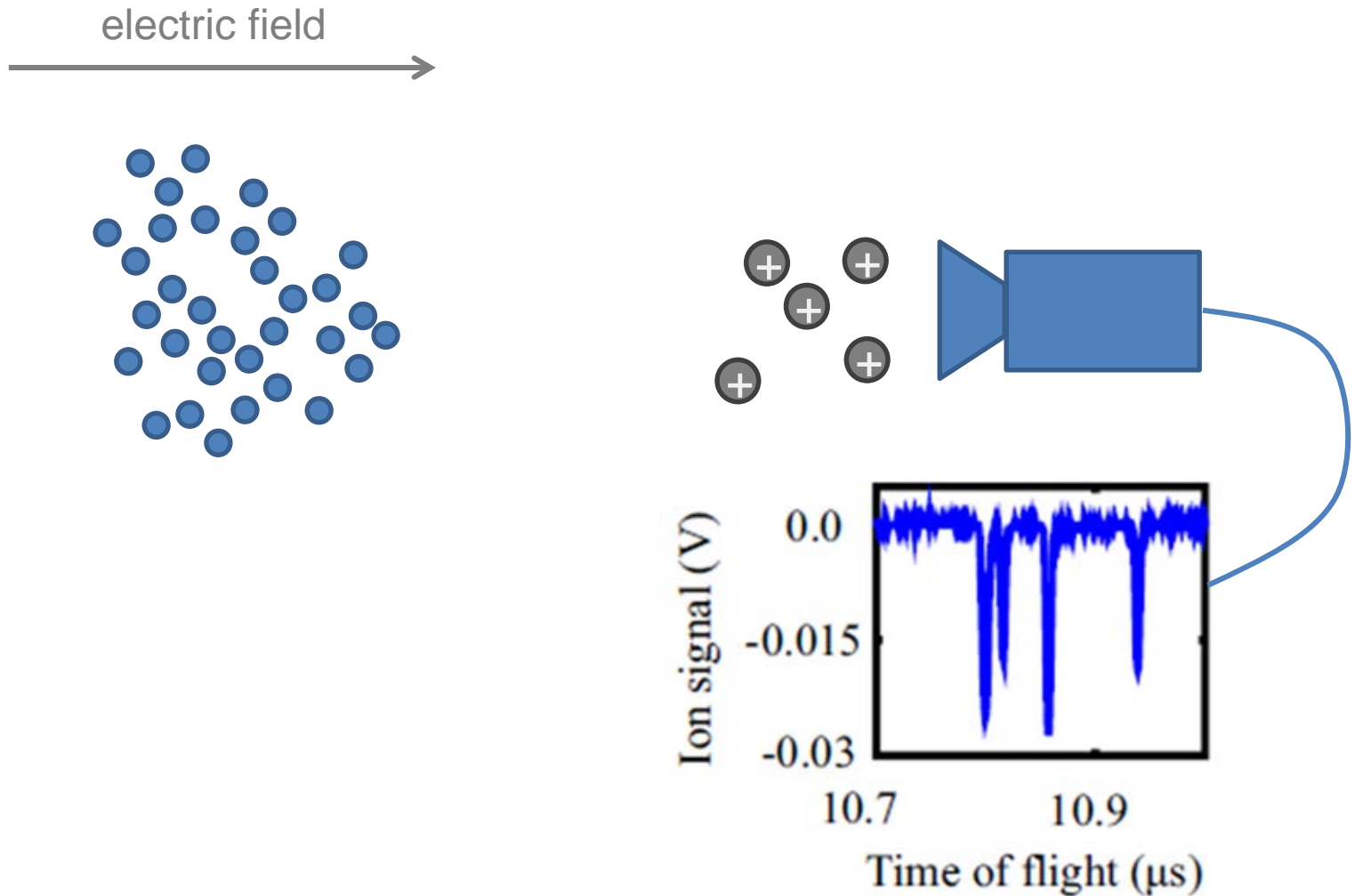
... then the system is probed using field ionization



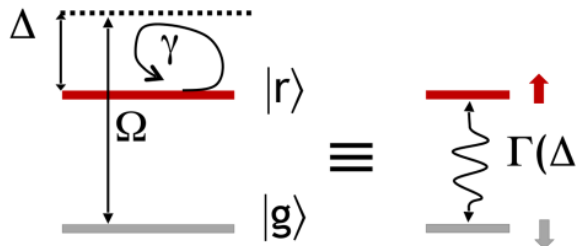
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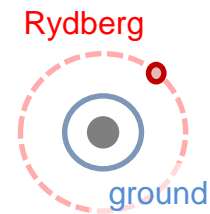


# Off-resonant driving leads to facilitated excitation



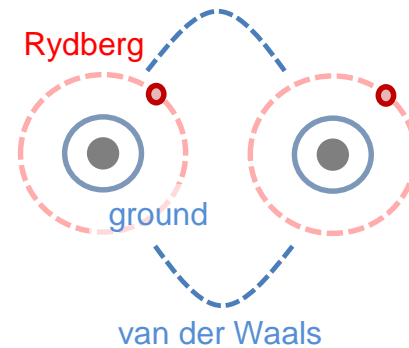
The diagram illustrates the energy levels and transitions. On the left, a ground state  $|g\rangle$  (grey bar) and a Rydberg state  $|r\rangle$  (red bar) are shown. The detuning  $\Delta$  is the energy difference between  $|g\rangle$  and a virtual level (dotted line). The Rabi frequency  $\Omega$  is the energy difference between  $|g\rangle$  and  $|r\rangle$ . A circular arrow labeled  $\gamma$  indicates the decay rate from  $|r\rangle$ . This is equivalent to a spring symbol labeled  $\Gamma(\Delta)$  connecting  $|g\rangle$  and  $|r\rangle$ .

$$\Gamma_i(\Delta) = \frac{\Omega^2}{2\gamma} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\Delta}{\gamma} \right)^2 \right]^{-1}$$

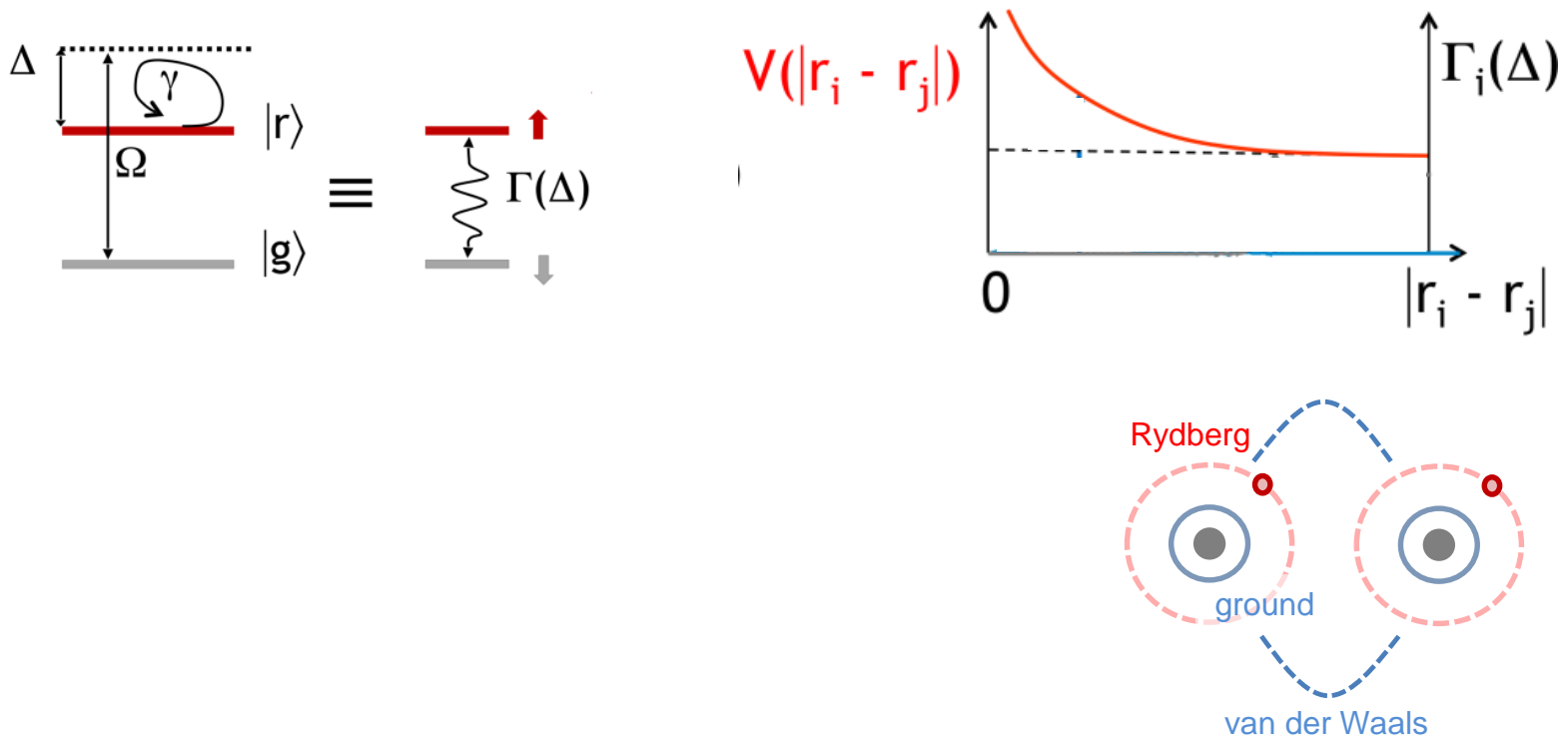


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$$\Gamma_i(\Delta) = \frac{\Omega^2}{2\gamma} \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{\Delta - \frac{1}{\hbar} \sum_{i \neq j} V_{ij} n_j}{\gamma} \right)^2 \right]^{-1}$$

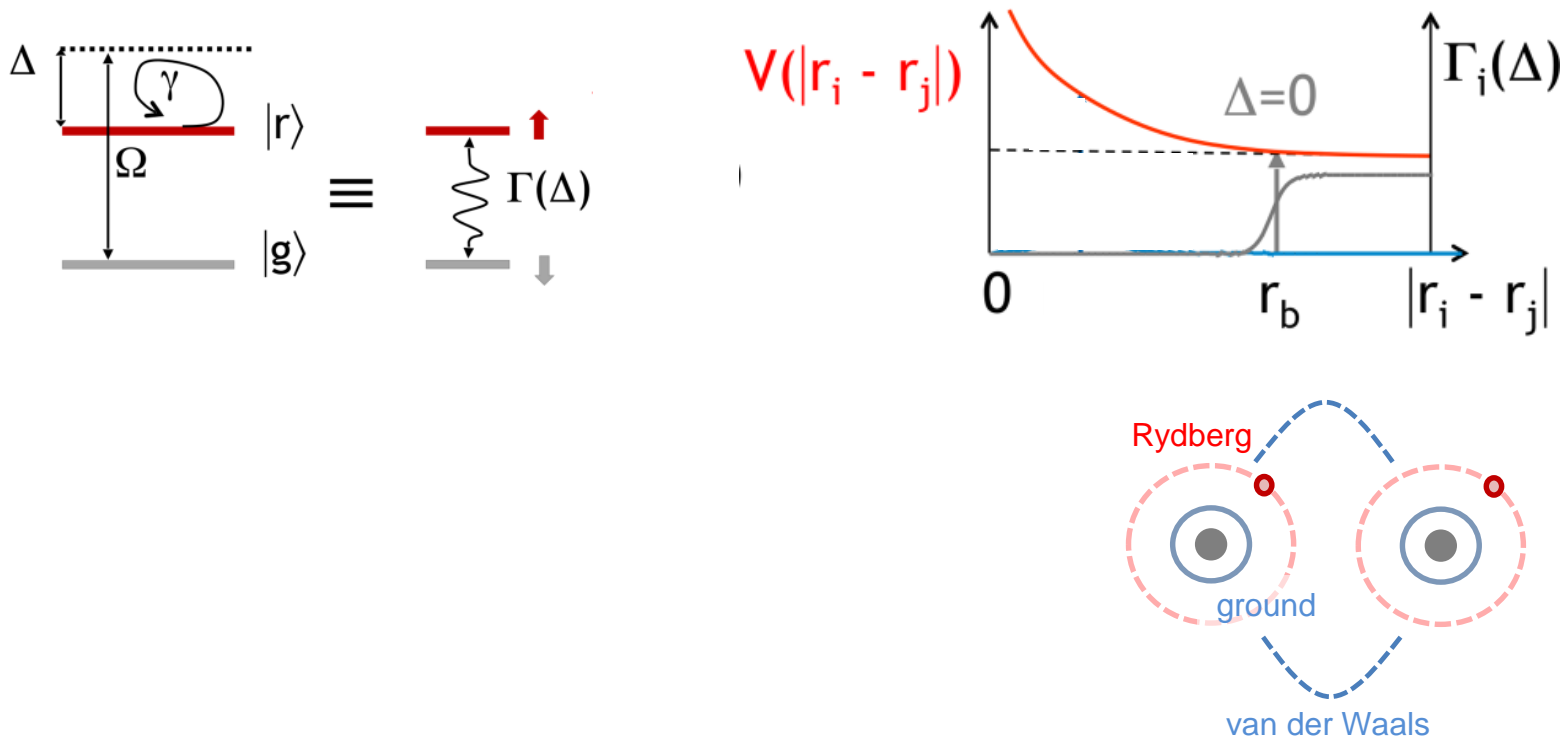


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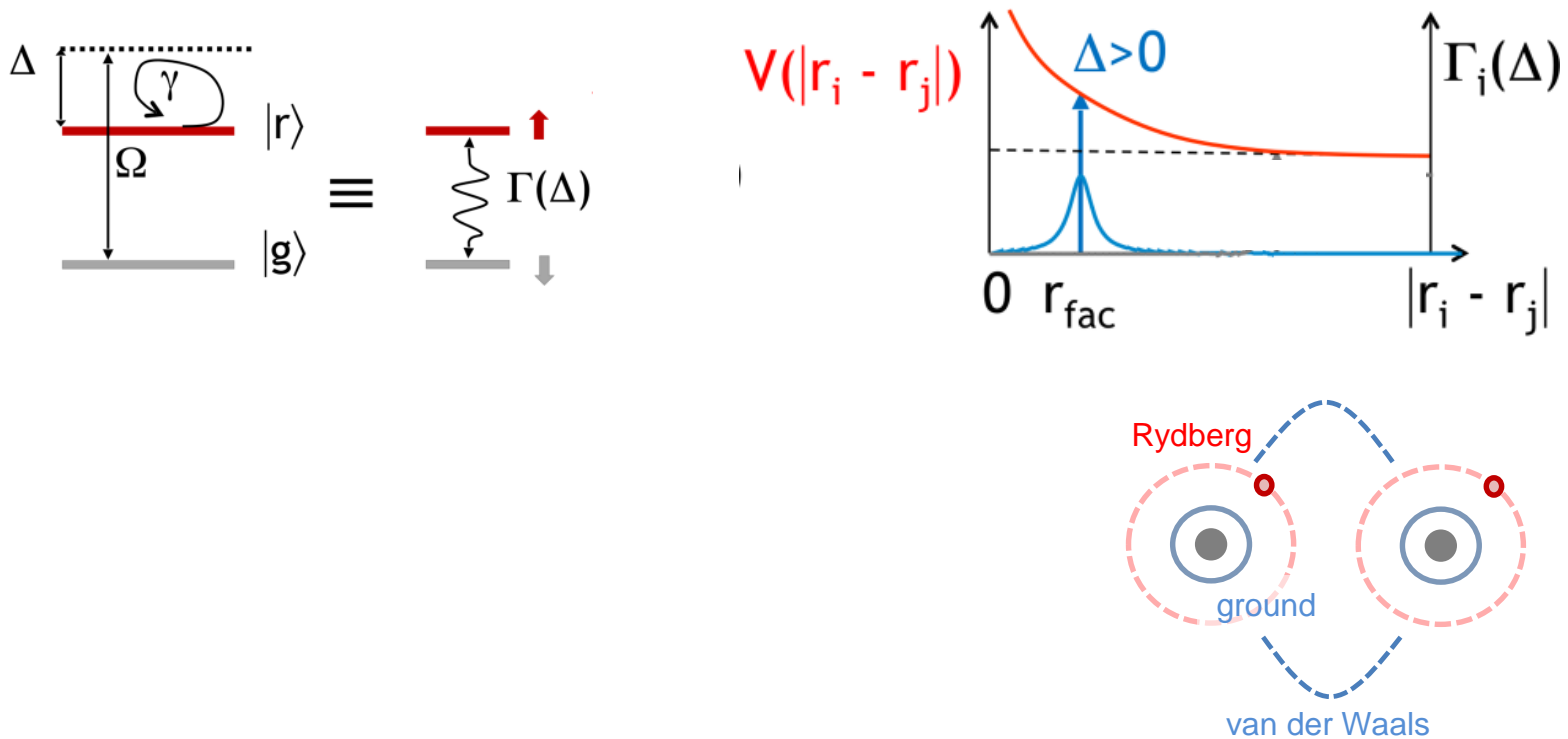




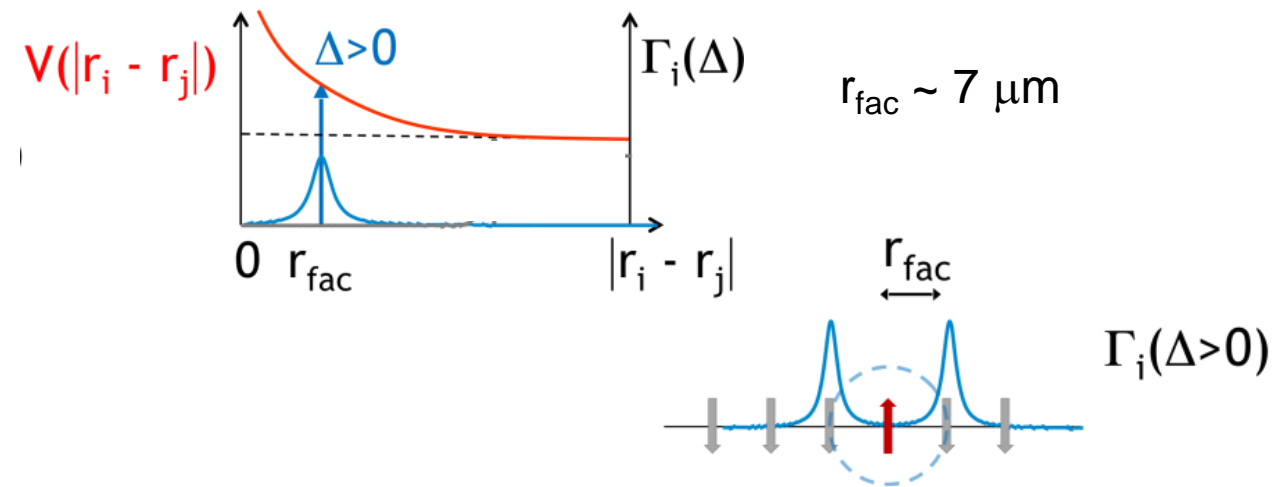
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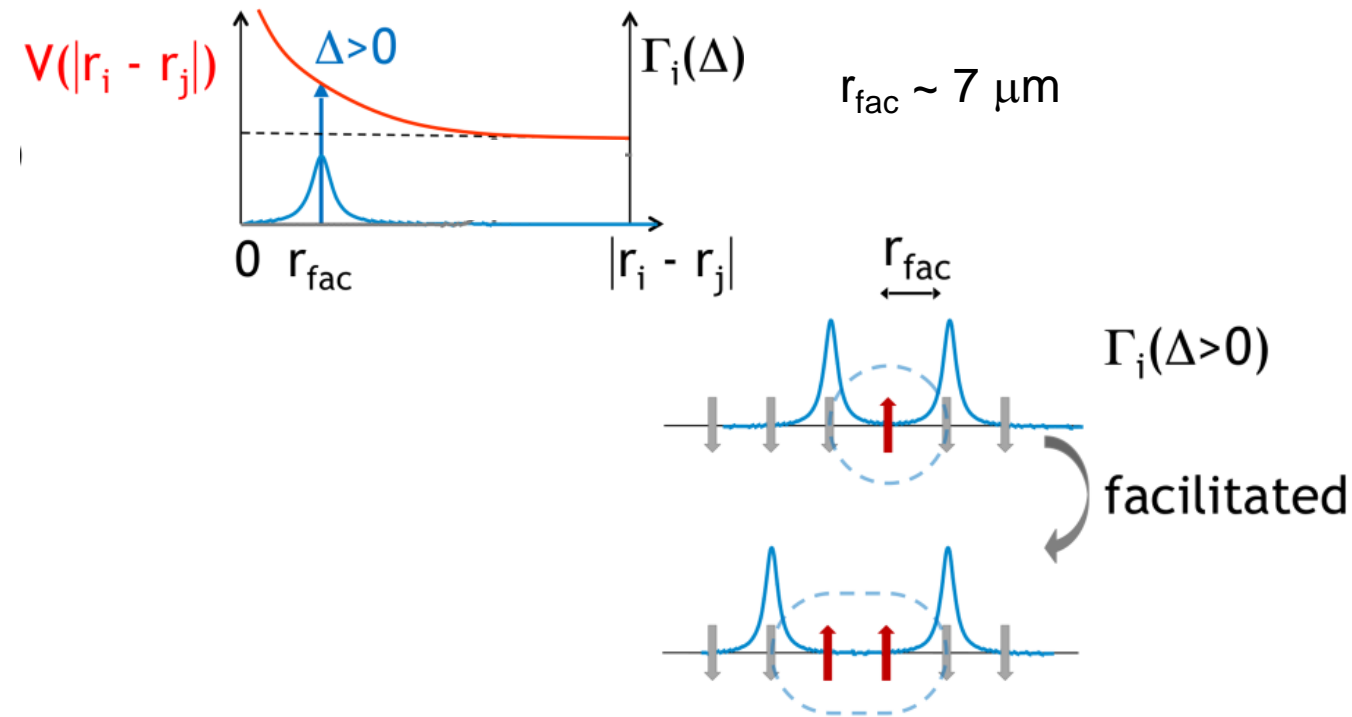
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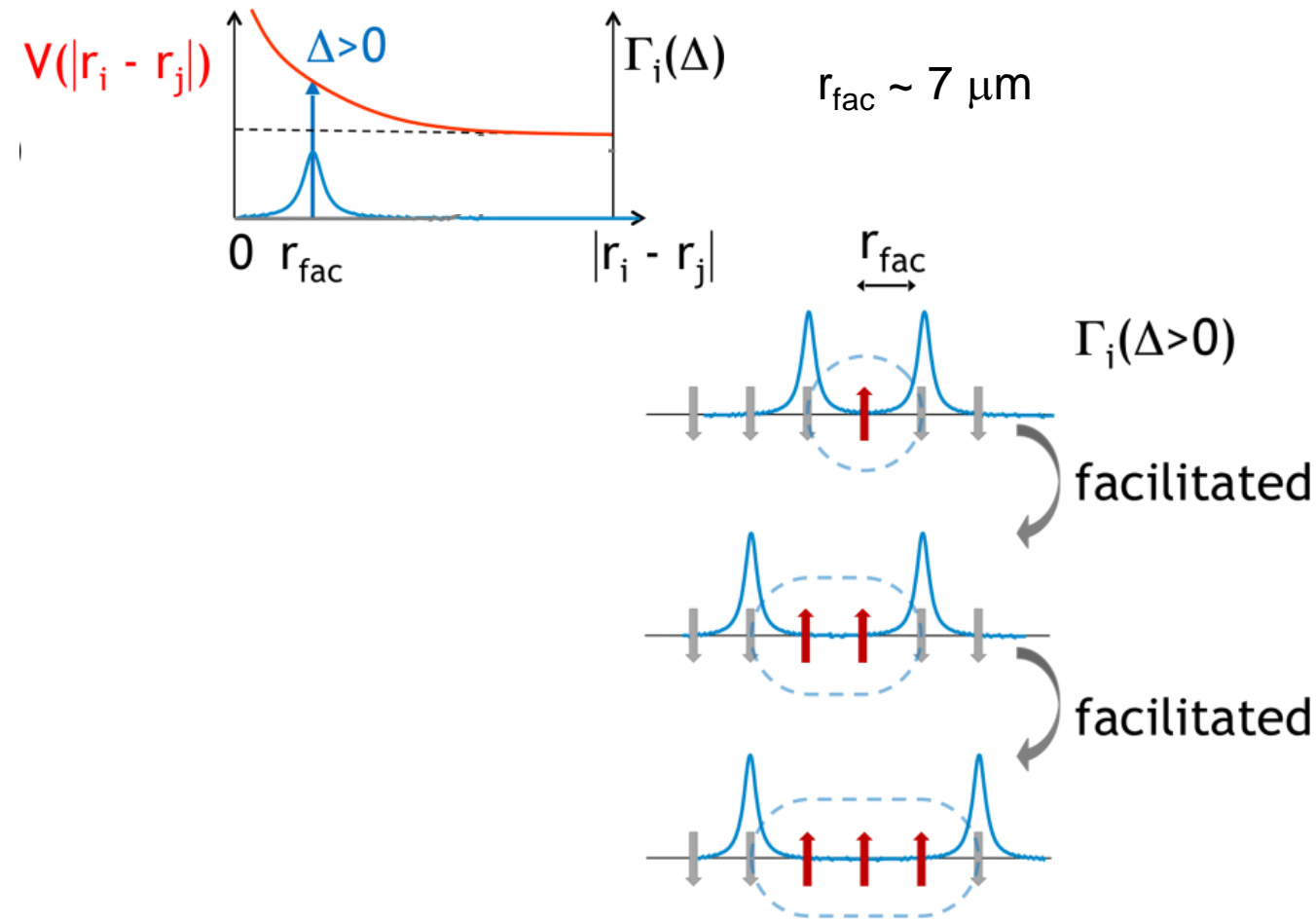
# Facilitation dynamics = «offspring production»



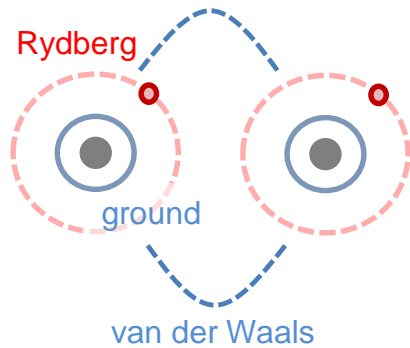
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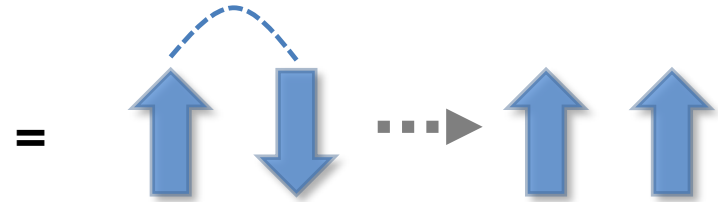
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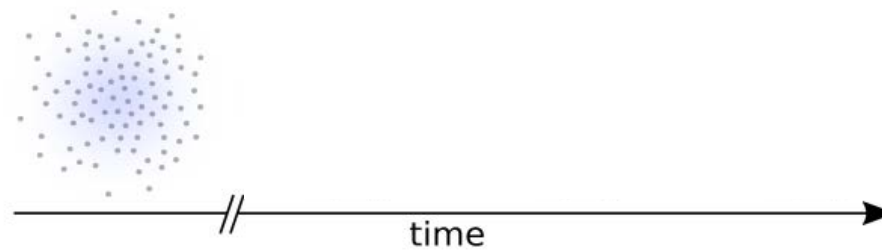
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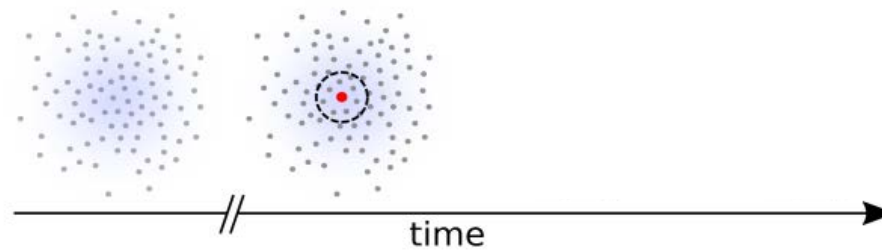
facilitated  
excitation



# Facilitation dynamics needs to be seeded

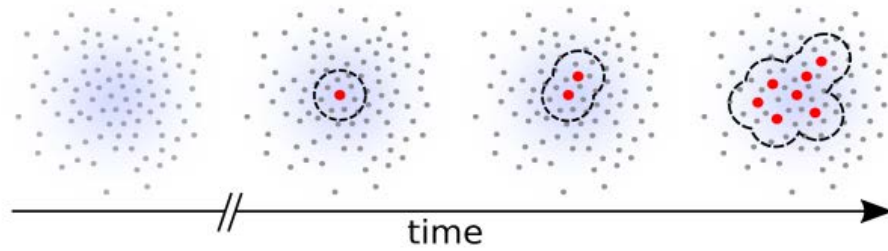


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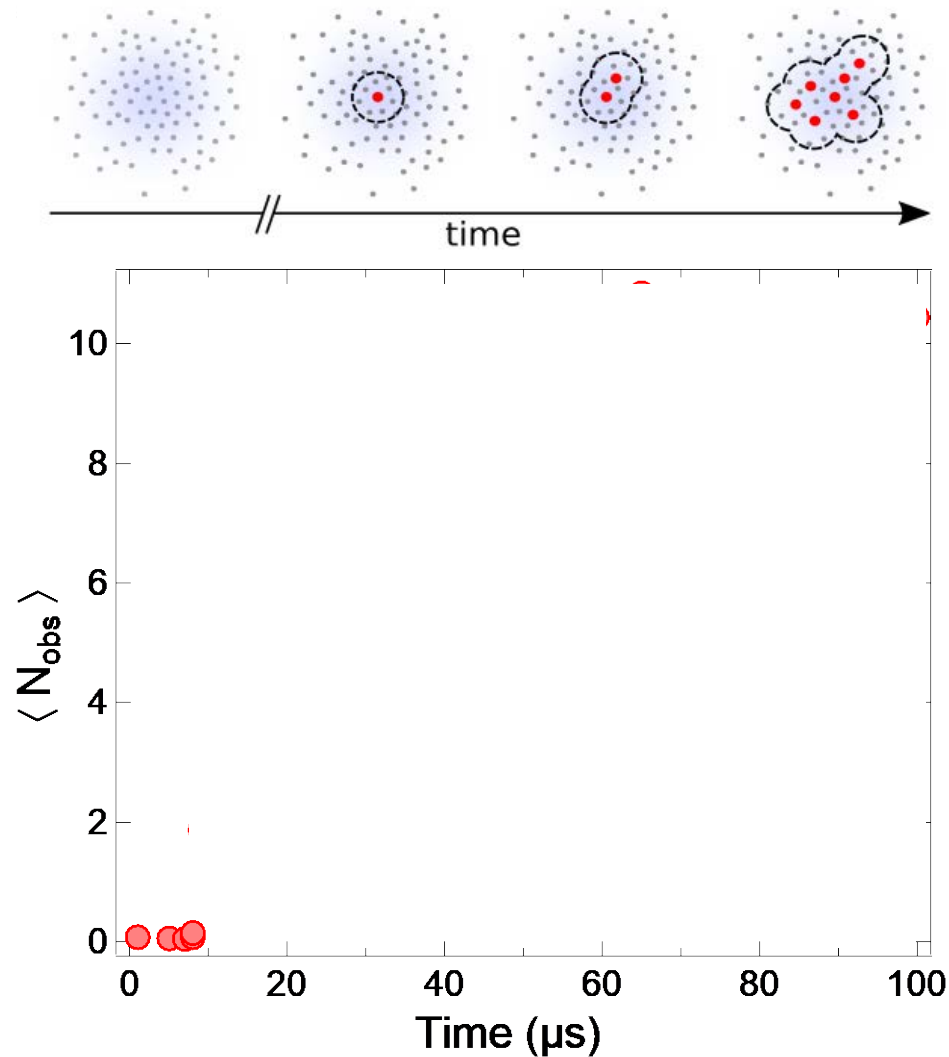




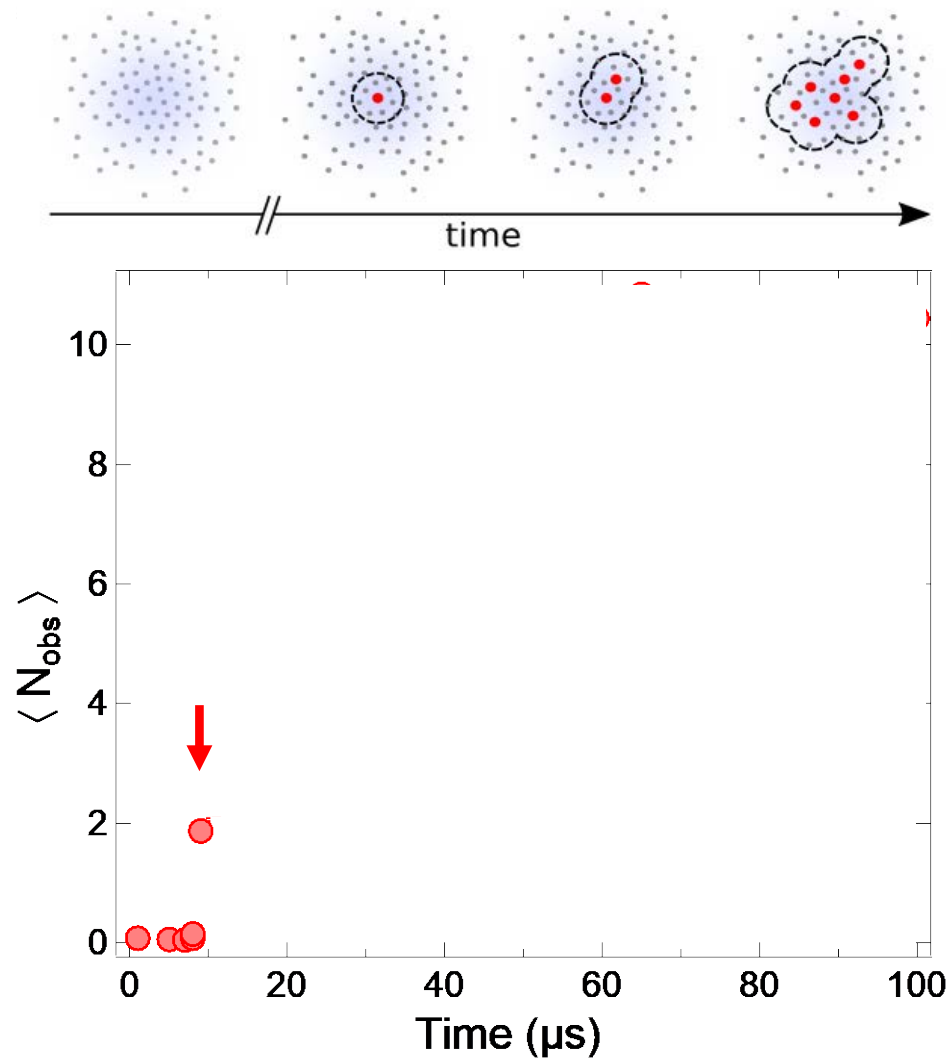
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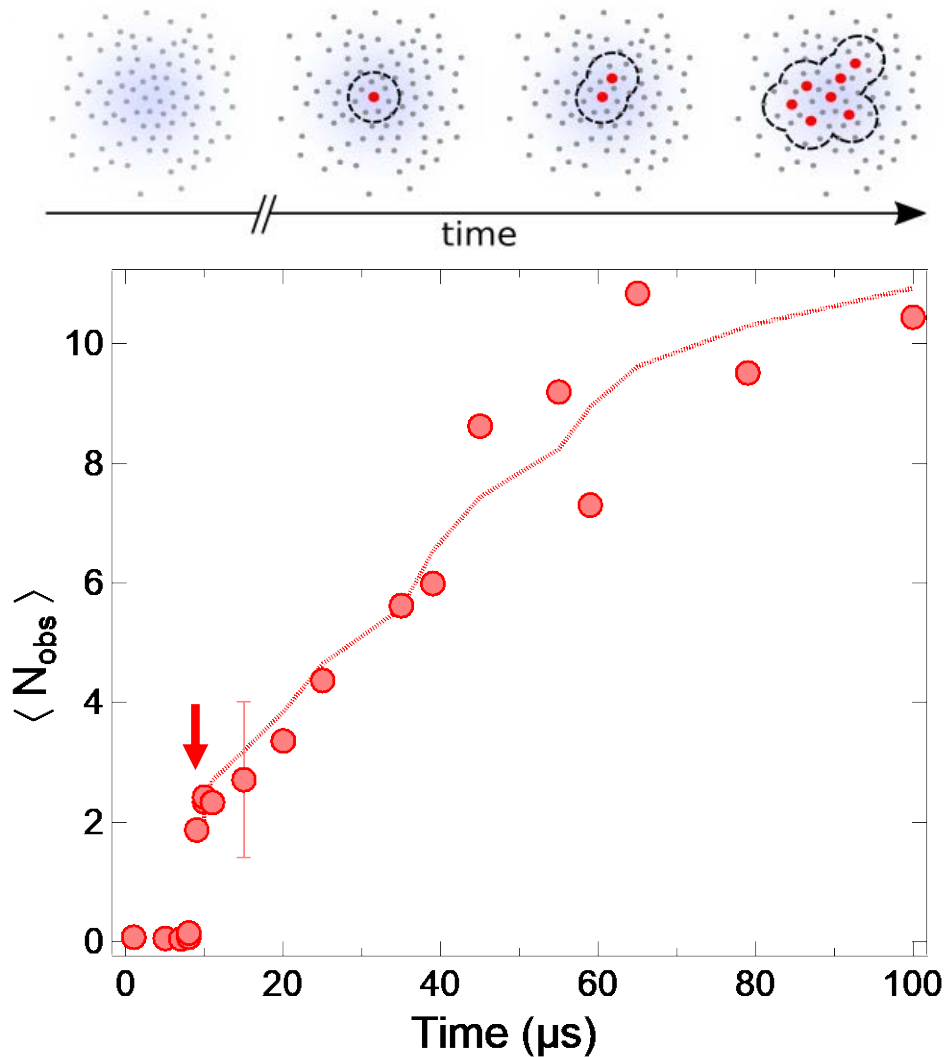
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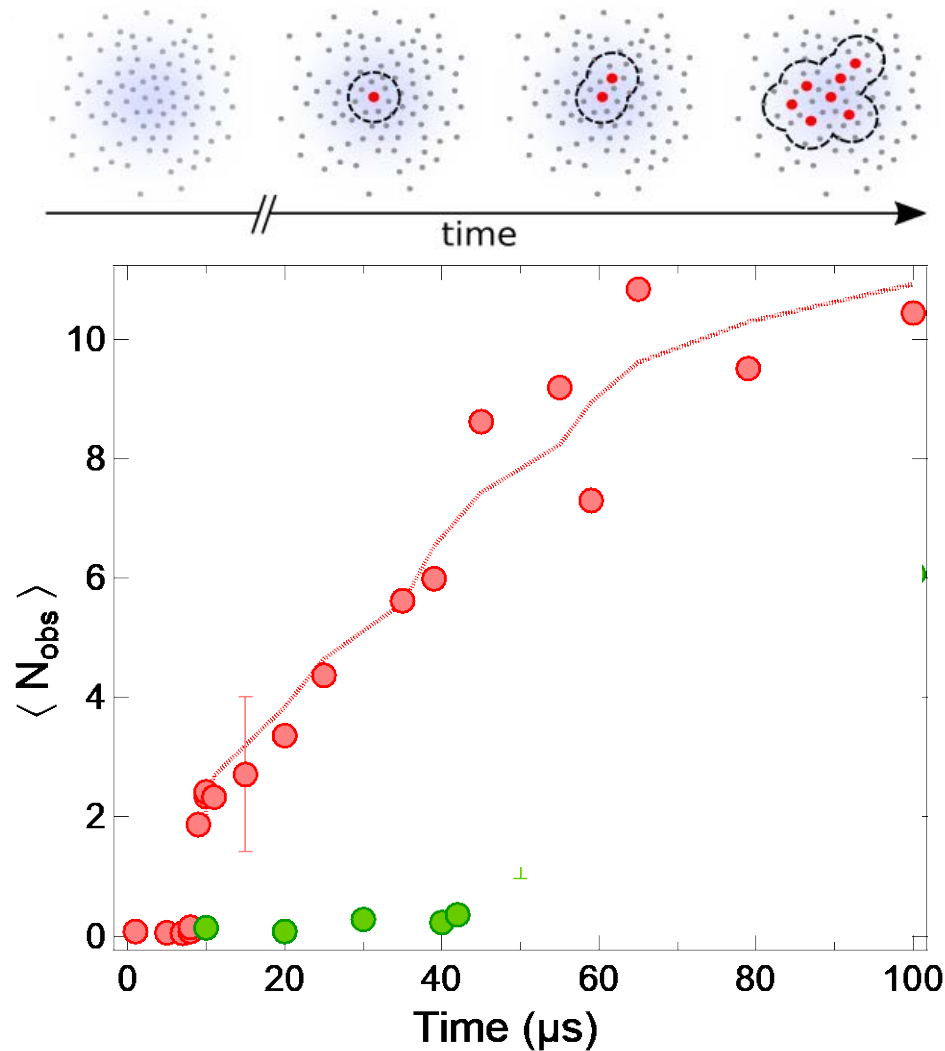
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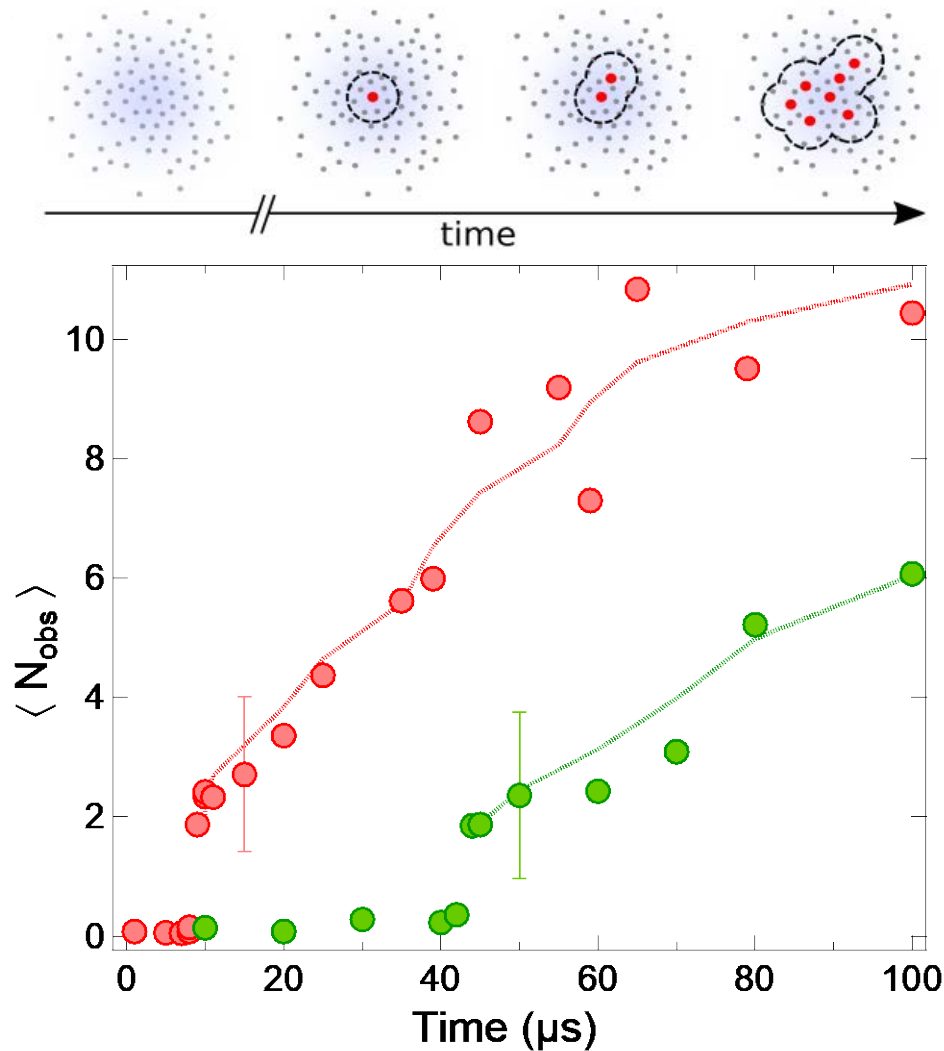
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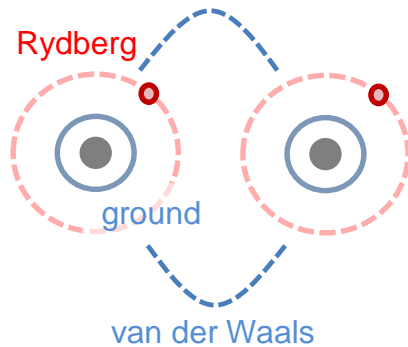


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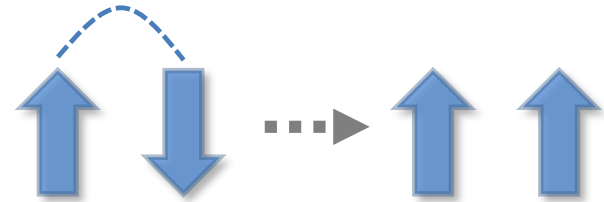
(see also work by  
R. Löw (Stuttgart))

# Facilitation and decay realize the basic processes for absorbing state phase transition

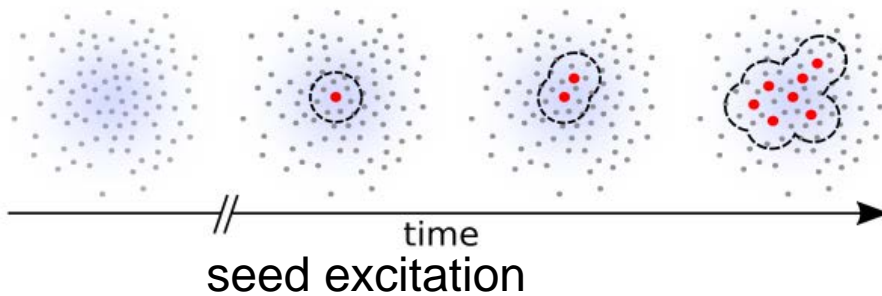


facilitated  
excitation

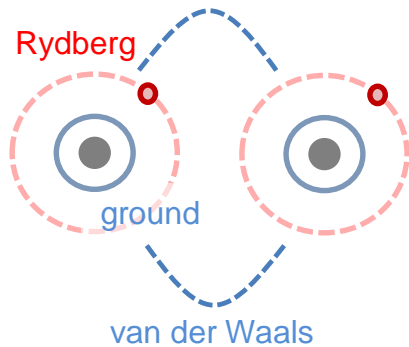
=



*needed to prepare the system  
away from the absorbing state*

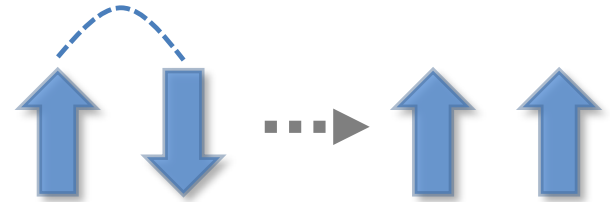


# Facilitation and decay realize the basic processes for absorbing state phase transition

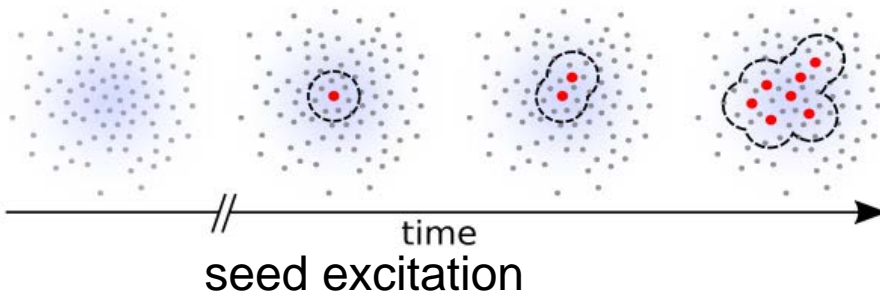


facilitated excitation

=

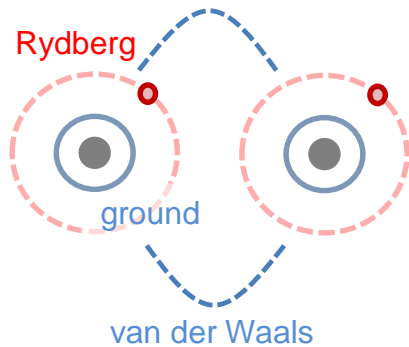


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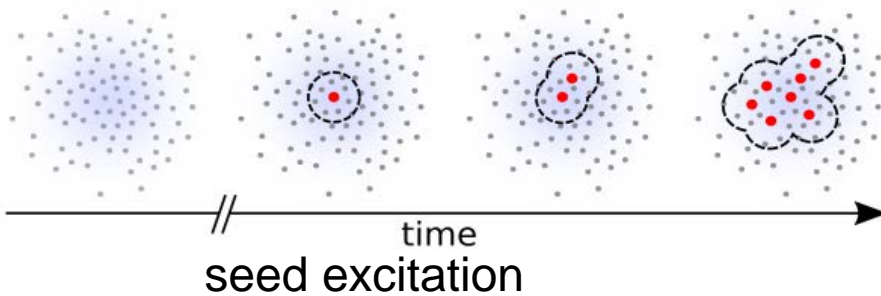
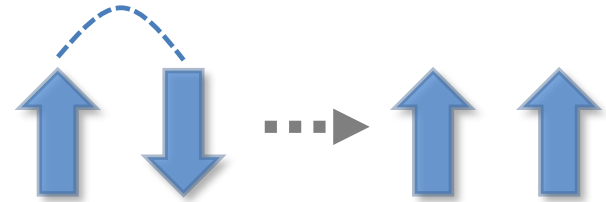


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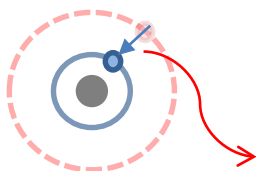


facilitated excitation

=



*needed to prepare the system away from the absorbing state*



spontaneous decay

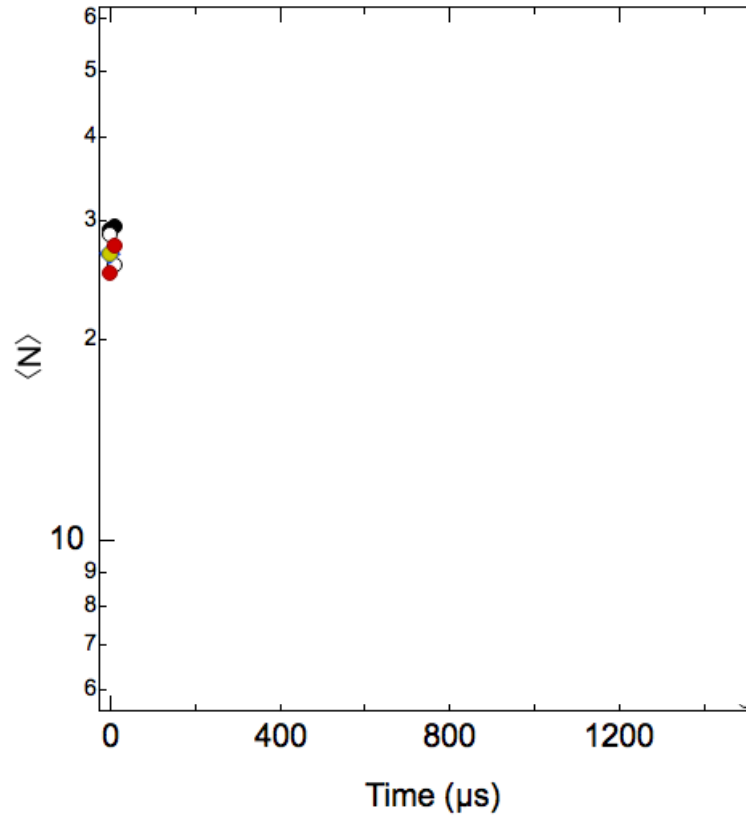
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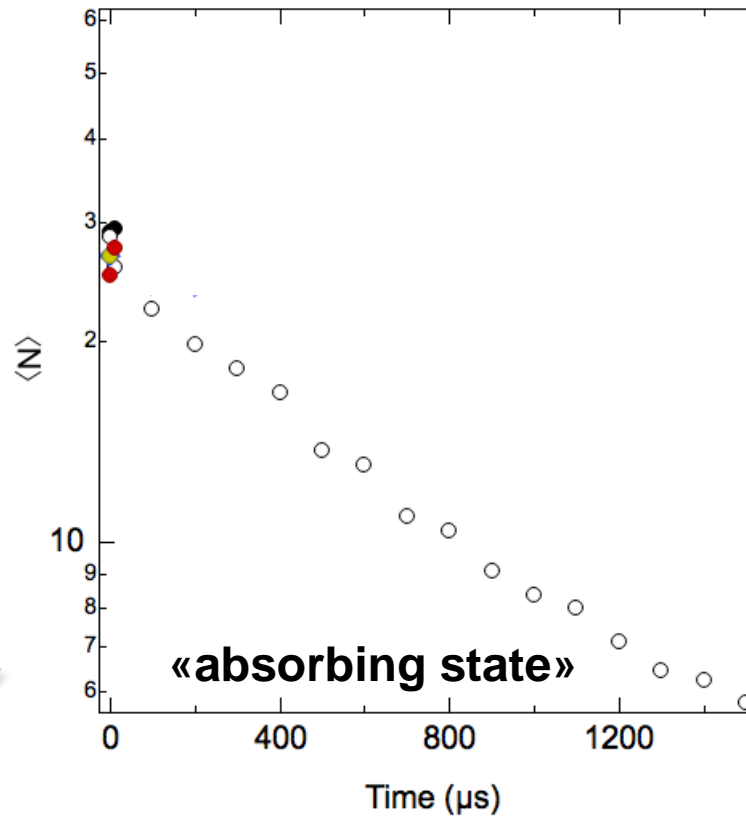
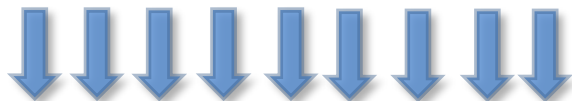
# Absorbing state phase transition probed by varying the driving (facilitation) strength



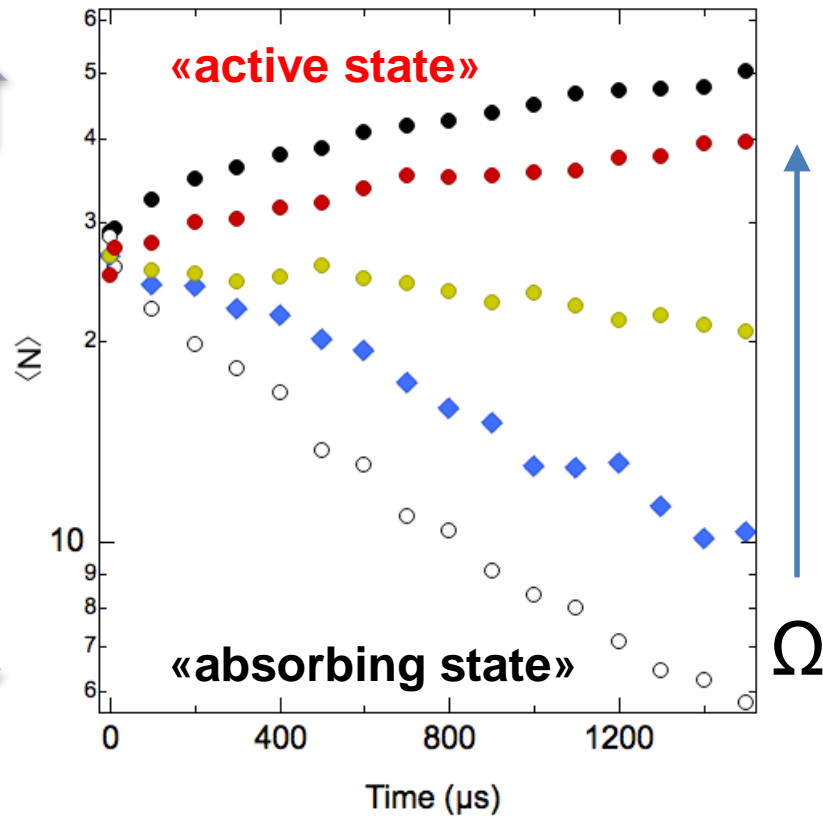
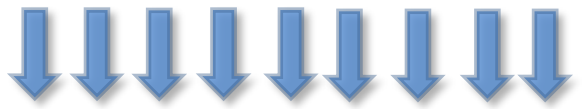
system is initially seeded



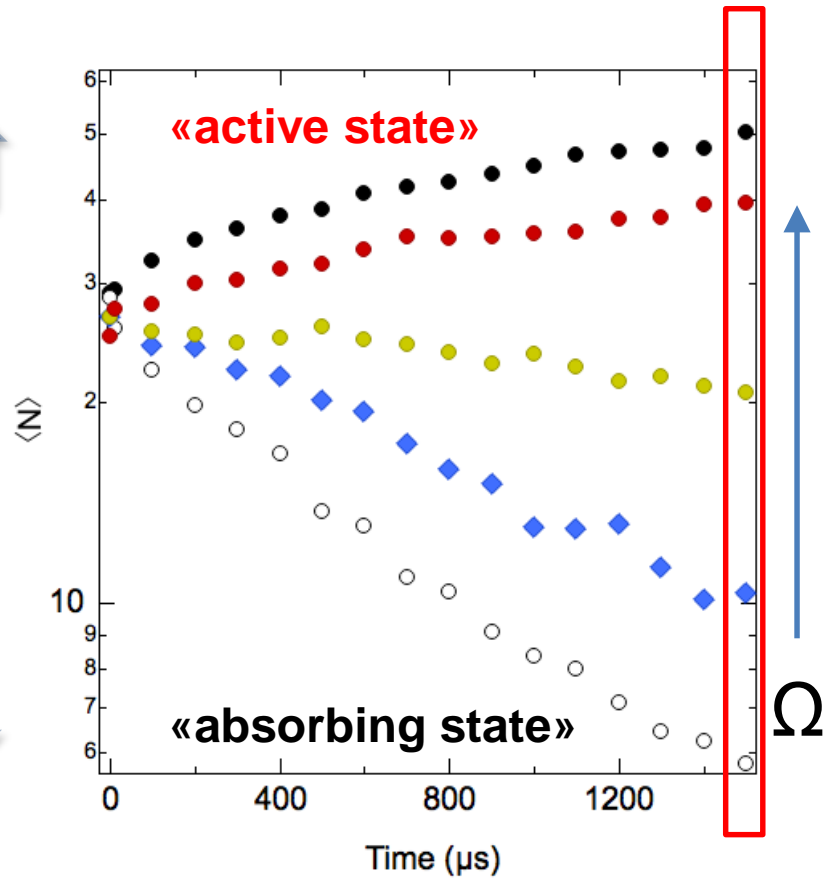
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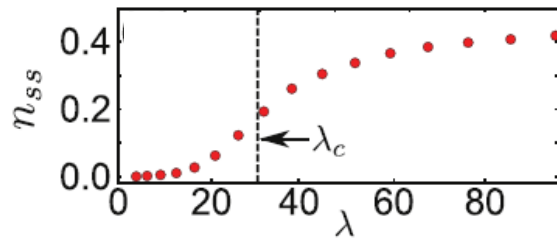
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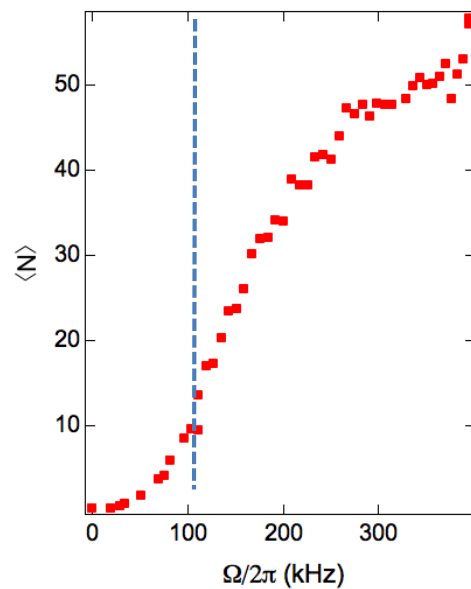
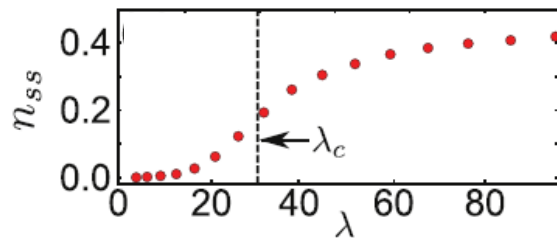
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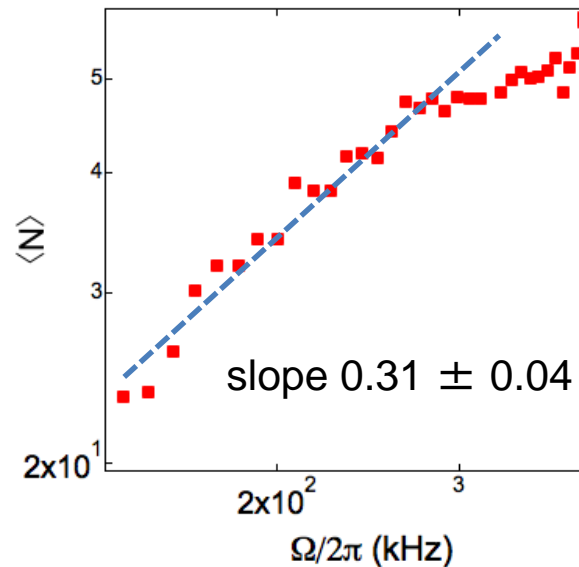
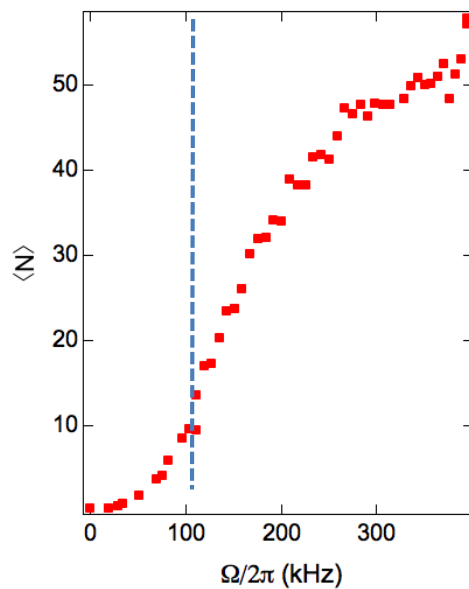
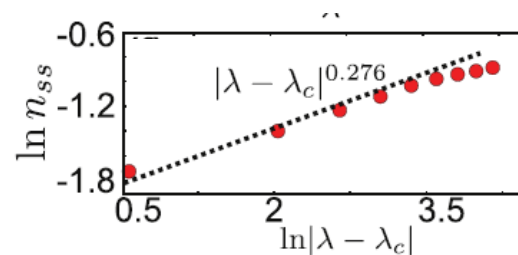
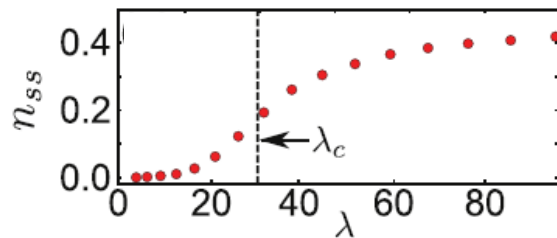
A crossover between absorbing and active states is observed



# A crossover between absorbing and active states is observed



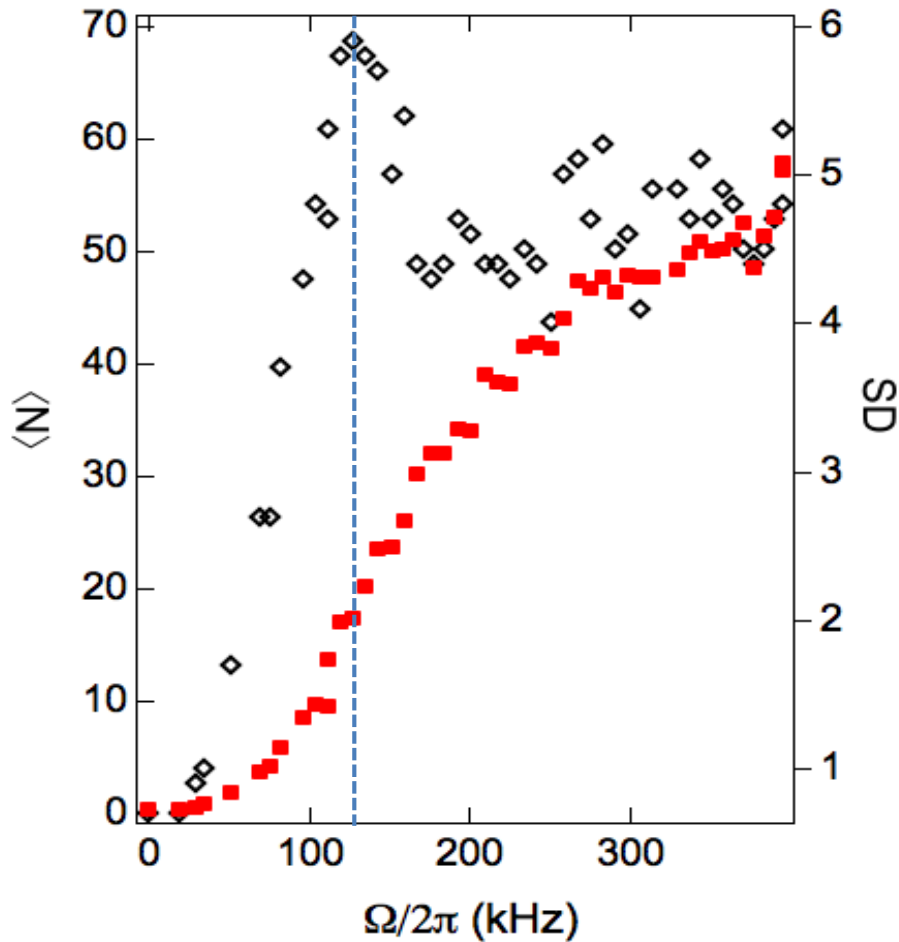
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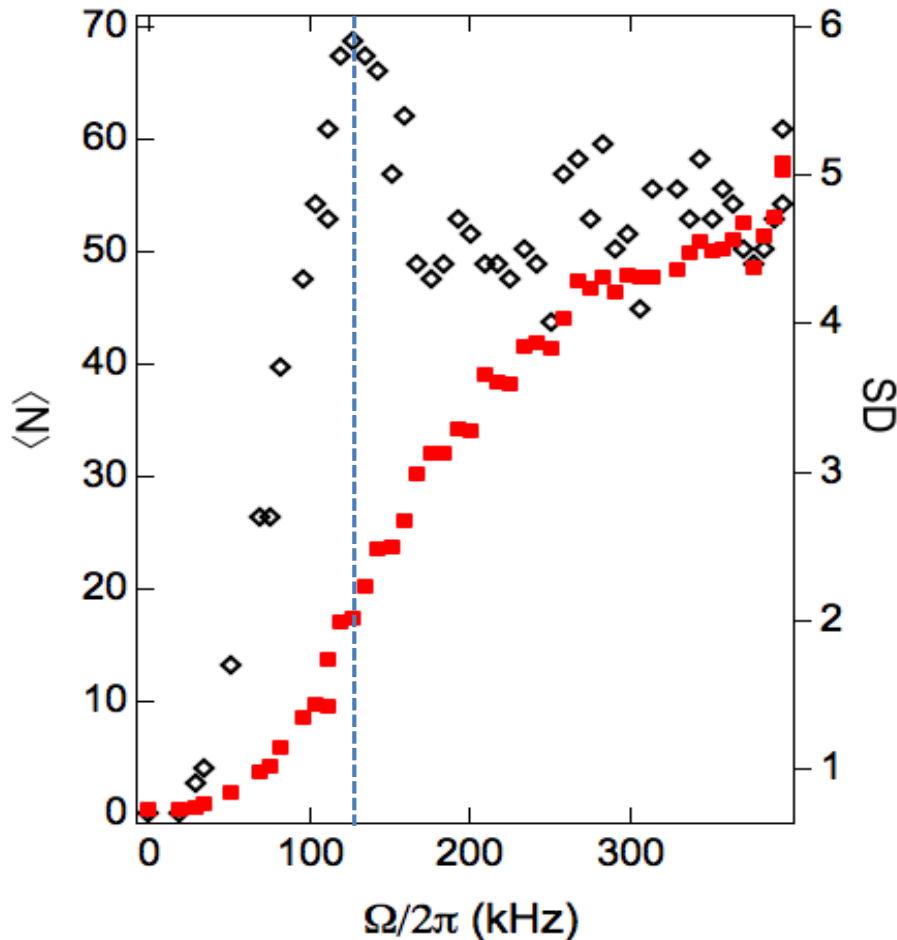
Compatible with 1D directed percolation ( $\beta \leftrightarrow 0.276$ )



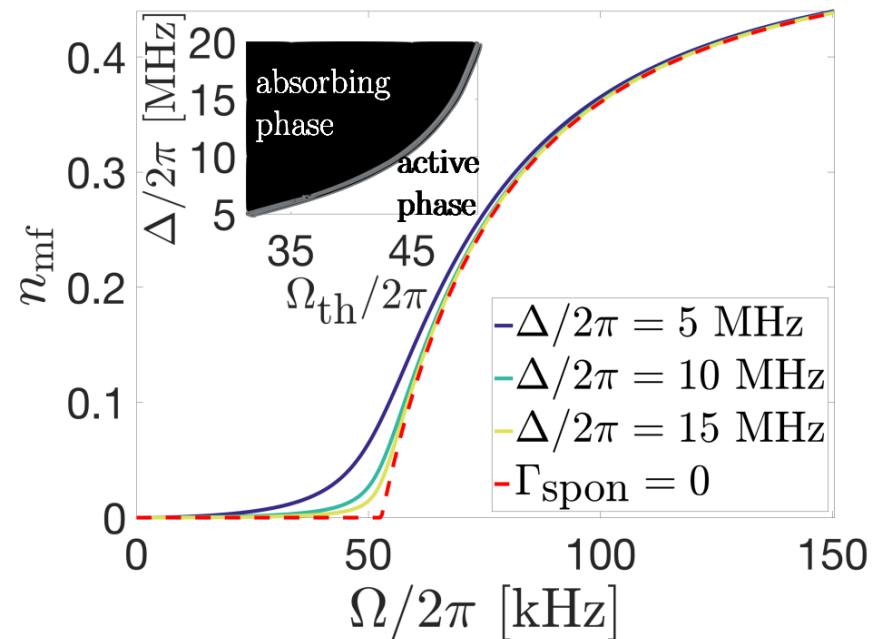
The phase transition is signalled by a peak in the fluctuations



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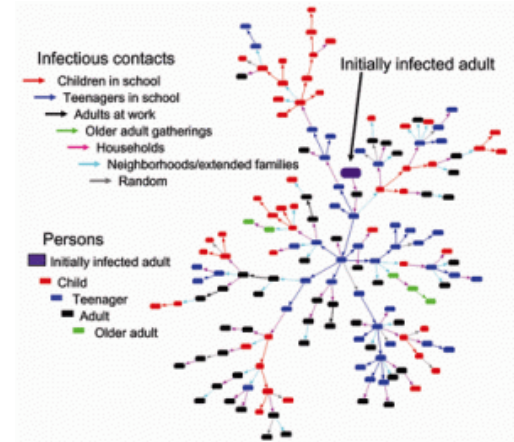


Refinements:

- spontaneous excitations
- atomic motion

(see also work by S. Whitlock)

# Outlook: towards quantum percolation

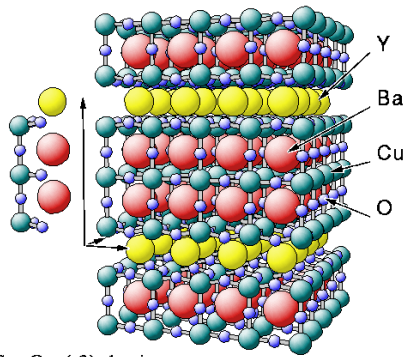


Percolation

*classical*

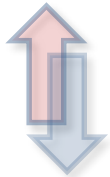
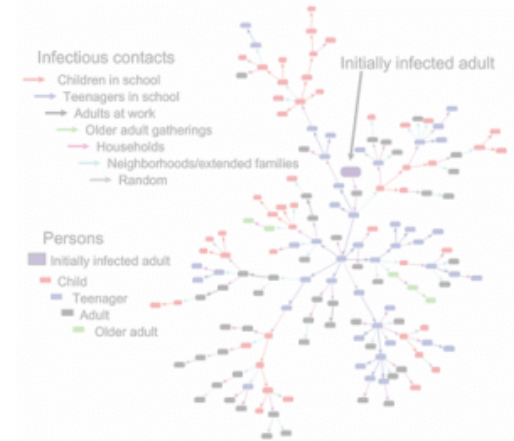


# Outlook: towards quantum percolation



$\text{YBa}_2\text{Cu}_3\text{O}_7$  (.3) lattice

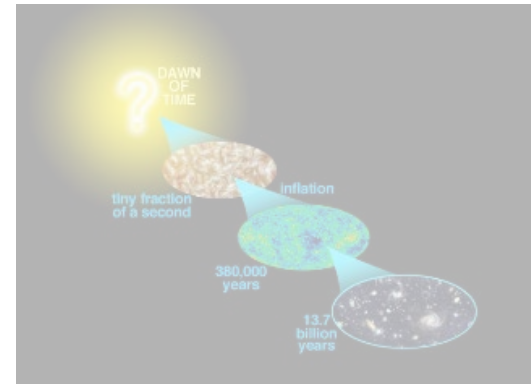
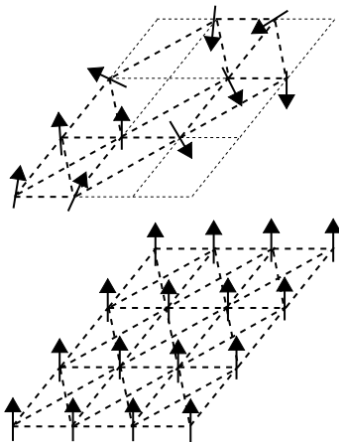
BRASAC p48



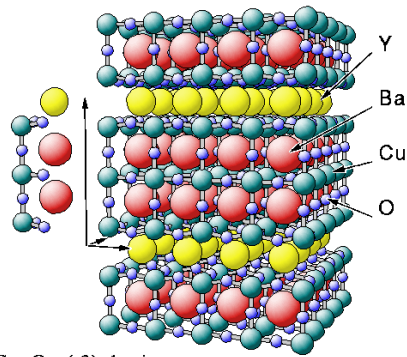
*quantum*

Percolation

*classical*



# Outlook: towards quantum percolation



YBa<sub>2</sub>Cu<sub>3</sub>O<sub>7</sub> (.3) lattice



*quantum*

Percolation

*classical*

