

The Error–Dissipation Tradeoff when Computing with Time-Symmetric Protocols

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in collaboration with

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Computation

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Beyond 2nd Law

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Error-Dissipation tradeoff

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Examples

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Workaround?

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What are the thermodynamic limits of computation?

What are the thermodynamic limits of computation?

Landauer's bound?

- $k_B T \ln 2$ of heat to compress state space in a binary reset

Essentially restates the Second Law of thermodynamics—that entropy production is expected to be non-negative: $\langle \Sigma \rangle \geq 0$

⇒ The bound can only be achieved in the quasistatic limit, and assumes no control restrictions

Computation
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Beyond 2nd Law
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Error–Dissipation tradeoff
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Examples
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Workaround?
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What are the *nonequilibrium* thermodynamic limits of *realistic* computation?

Computation
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Beyond 2nd Law
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Error-Dissipation tradeoff
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Examples
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Workaround?
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What are the *nonequilibrium* thermodynamic limits of *realistic* computation?

Nonequilibrium: Finite duration

Realistic: Control constraints

Landauer's bound?

Stronger constraints on entropy production?

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Nonequilibrium: Finite duration

Realistic: Control constraints

We will show that
metastable memories and **time-symmetric control**
together imply an
error-dissipation tradeoff for any computation \mathcal{C}

What are the *nonequilibrium* thermodynamic limits of *realistic* computation?

Nonequilibrium: Finite duration

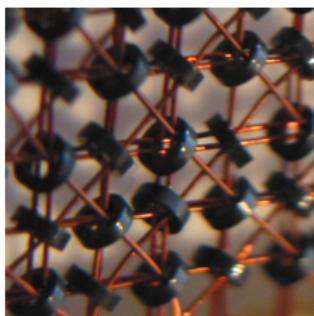
Realistic: Control constraints

We will show that
metastable memories and **time-symmetric control**
together imply an
error-dissipation tradeoff for any computation \mathcal{C}

$$\langle \Sigma_{\min}^{t\text{-sym}} \rangle \sim f(\mathcal{C}, \dagger) \ln(1/\epsilon)$$

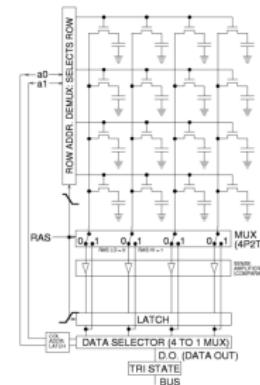
where ϵ is the error tolerance, and \dagger describes the time-reversal symmetries of the memory elements

Memory must be physically embedded; Memory only exists among alternatives



non-volatile memory

$$\dot{Q}_{hk} = 0$$



volatile memory

$$\dot{Q}_{hk} > 0$$

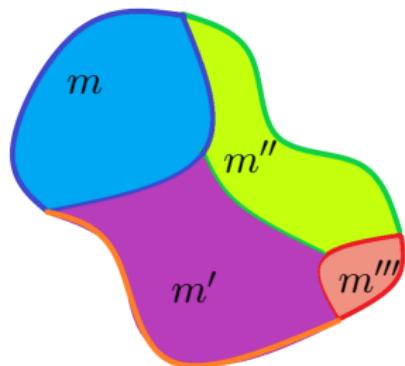
Consider non-volatile memory.
(Add housekeeping penalty for volatile memory.)

Memory must be physically embedded; Memory only exists among alternatives

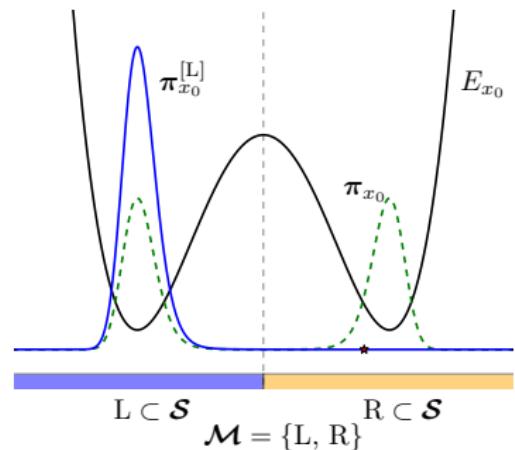
Memory

Memory must be physically embedded.

Memories partition the microstates of a physical memory system.



$$m \subset \mathcal{S}, \quad \bigcup_{m \in \mathcal{M}} m = \mathcal{S}$$

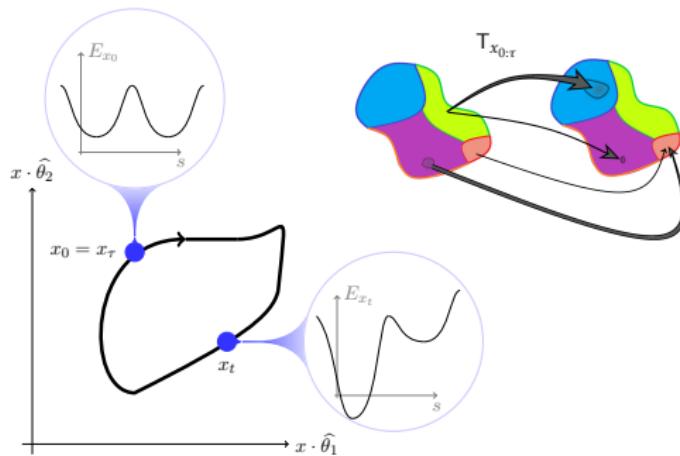


Memory is stored metastably between computations.

Computation is the transformation of memory

Computation

Physical transformation via ephemeral control $x_{0:\tau}$

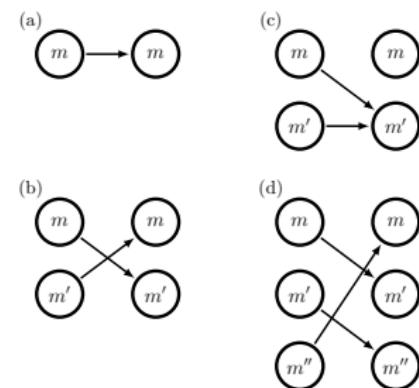
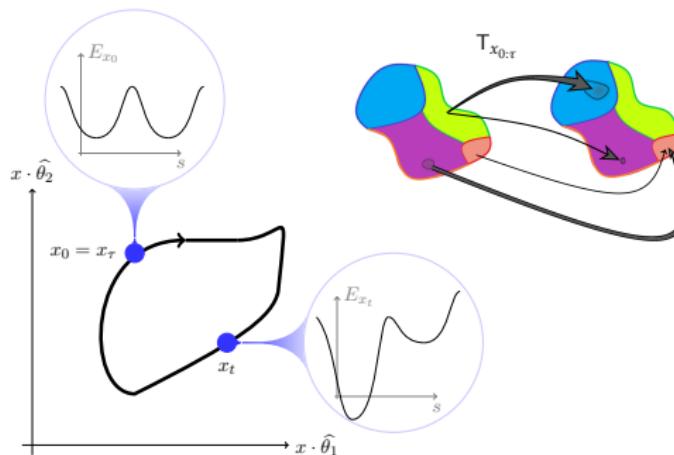


Physical transformation implements
stochastic computation $p(\mathcal{M}_\tau | \mathcal{M}_0)$

Computation is the transformation of memory

Computation

Physical transformation via ephemeral control $x_{0:\tau}$



Physical transformation implements stochastic computation $p(\mathcal{M}_\tau | \mathcal{M}_0)$

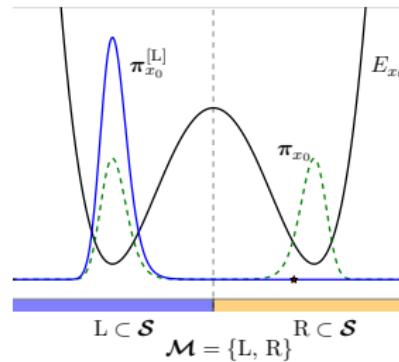
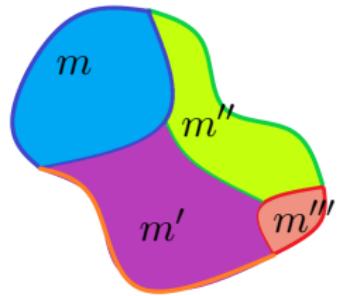
In nearly-deterministic case:
 $\mathcal{C} : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ with error tolerance ϵ

Computation is the transformation of memory

Metastable Memory Storage

Memories are metastable between computations if

$$\mu_0^{[m]} \approx \mu_\tau^{[m]} \approx \pi_{x_0}^{[m]}$$



Then, $\mu_t \approx \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mu_t(m) \pi_{x_0}^{[m]}$ at $t = 0, \tau$

Computation

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Beyond 2nd Law

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Error-Dissipation tradeoff

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Examples

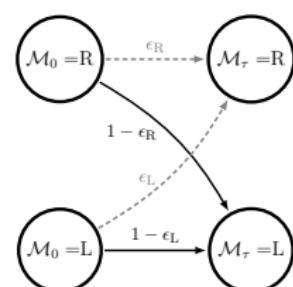
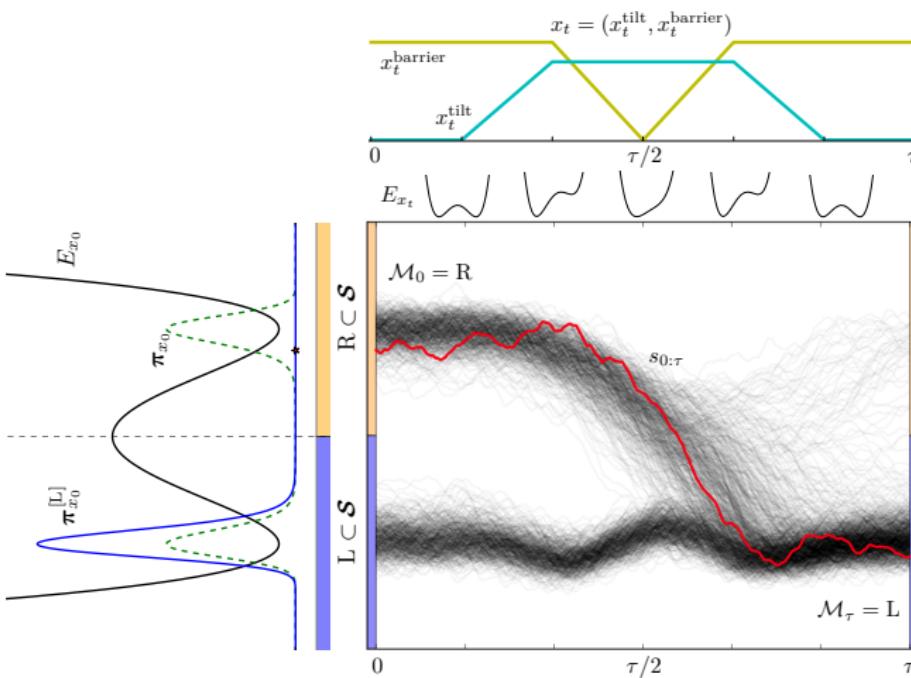
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Workaround?

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Computation is the transformation of memory

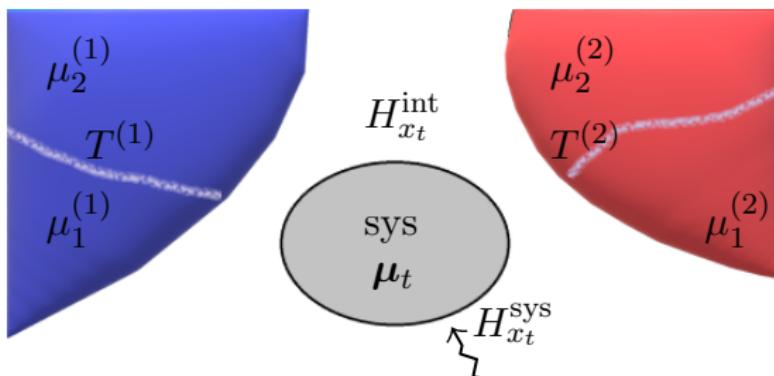
Example: Erasure to L



$$\mu_t \approx \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mu_t(m) \pi_{x_0}^{[m]} \text{ at } t = 0, \tau$$

Main results can be derived in either classical or quantum setting
(will stick with classical limit here)

- System is prepared with an initial distribution μ_0 over microstates
- Each bath is initially in local equilibrium
- Nonequilibrium driving $x_{0:\tau}$ controls Hamiltonian of joint system–baths megasystem



Entropy Flow: $\Phi_{\text{env}} = \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} \frac{Q^{(b)}}{T^{(b)}} - \frac{1}{T^{(b)}} \sum_k \mu_k^{(b)} \Delta N_k^{(b)}$,

Surprisal of System State: $S_{\text{sys}} = -k_{\text{B}} \ln \mu_t(s_t)$

Entropy Production:

$$\Sigma = \Phi_{\text{env}} + \Delta S_{\text{sys}}$$

2nd Law

$$\langle \Sigma \rangle \geq 0$$

\Rightarrow

Landauer's bound

$$\langle \Phi_{\text{env}} \rangle \geq -\Delta \langle S_{\text{sys}} \rangle$$

Tighter than Landauer's bound

Thermodynamic Implications of Memory Transitions

the Detailed Fluctuation Theorem

$$\frac{\Pr_{x_{0:\tau}}(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau}, \Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_0 = s_0)}{\Pr_{\mathbf{J}(x_{0:\tau})}(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}_{0:\tau} = \mathbf{J}(s_{0:\tau}), \tilde{\Phi}_{\text{env}} = -\phi | \tilde{\mathcal{S}}_0 = s_\tau^\dagger)} = e^{\phi/k_B}$$

(Jarzynski, JStatPhys, 2000)

$$s_{0:\tau} = s_0 s_{\tau/N} \dots s_\tau$$

non-Markovianity is non-problematic

Tighter than Landauer's bound

Thermodynamic Implications of Memory Transitions

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$$\frac{\Pr_{x_{0:\tau}}(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau}, \Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_0 = s_0)}{\Pr_{\mathbf{R}(x_{0:\tau})}(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}_{0:\tau} = \underbrace{\mathbf{R}(s_{0:\tau})}_{s_\tau^\dagger \dots s_0^\dagger}, \tilde{\Phi}_{\text{env}} = -\phi | \tilde{\mathcal{S}}_0 = s_\tau^\dagger)} = e^{\phi/k_B}$$

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E.g.,

$$s = (\vec{q}, \vec{\phi}) \rightarrow s^\dagger = (\vec{q}, -\vec{\phi})$$

Thermodynamic Implications of Memory Transitions

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$$\frac{\Pr_{x_{0:\tau}}(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau}, \Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_0 = s_0)}{\Pr_{\mathbf{H}(x_{0:\tau})}(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}_{0:\tau} = \mathbf{H}(s_{0:\tau}), \tilde{\Phi}_{\text{env}} = -\phi | \tilde{\mathcal{S}}_0 = s_\tau^\dagger)} = e^{\phi/k_B}$$

(Jarzynski, JStatPhys, 2000)

$$\rightarrow \Sigma = k_B \ln \frac{\mu_0(s_0) \Pr_{x_{0:\tau}}(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau}, \Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_0 = s_0)}{\mu_\tau(s_\tau) \Pr_{\mathbf{H}(x_{0:\tau})}(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}_{0:\tau} = \mathbf{H}(s_{0:\tau}), \tilde{\Phi}_{\text{env}} = -\phi | \tilde{\mathcal{S}}_0 = s_\tau^\dagger)}$$

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$$= k_B \ln \frac{\rho(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})}{\rho^R(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})} + k_B \ln \frac{\mathcal{P}(\Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})}{\mathcal{R}(\Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})}$$

a new and useful decomposition for entropy production

$$\Sigma = k_B \ln \frac{\rho(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})}{\rho^R(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})} + k_B \ln \frac{\mathcal{P}(\Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})}{\mathcal{R}(\Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})}$$

where

$$\rho(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau}) \equiv \Pr_{x_{0:\tau}} (\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau} | \mathcal{S}_0 \sim \mu_0)$$

$$\rho^R(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau}) \equiv \Pr_{\mathbf{H}(x_{0:\tau})} (\tilde{\mathcal{S}}_{0:\tau} = \mathbf{H}(s_{0:\tau}) | \tilde{\mathcal{S}}_0 \sim \mu_\tau^\dagger)$$

$$\mu_\tau^\dagger(s) = \mu_\tau(s^\dagger)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(\Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau}) \equiv \Pr_{x_{0:\tau}} (\Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau})$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\Phi_{\text{env}} = \phi | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = s_{0:\tau}) \equiv \Pr_{\mathbf{H}(x_{0:\tau})} (\tilde{\Phi}_{\text{env}} = -\phi | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau} = \mathbf{H}(s_{0:\tau}))$$

Tighter than Landauer's bound

a new and useful decomposition for entropy production

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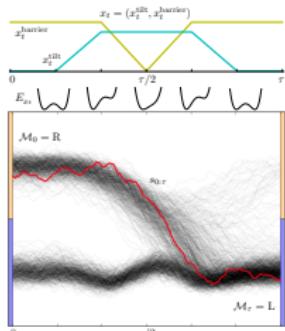
$$\frac{1}{k_B} \langle \Sigma \rangle = D_{\text{KL}} \left[\rho(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau}) \middle\| \rho^R(\mathcal{S}_{0:\tau}) \right] + D_{\text{KL}} \left[\mathcal{P}(\Phi_{\text{env}} | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau}) \middle\| \mathcal{R}(\Phi_{\text{env}} | \mathcal{S}_{0:\tau}) \right]$$

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This is importantly distinct from superficially similar previous results from Jarzynski '06, Kawai '07, Gomez-Marin '08, Parrondo '09, Roldan '10, etc. (Previous results assumed either initial equilibrium—which wipes out memory—or NESS.)

Dependence on μ_0 and μ_τ^\dagger is crucial to address thermodynamics of general memory transformations.

Tighter than Landauer's bound

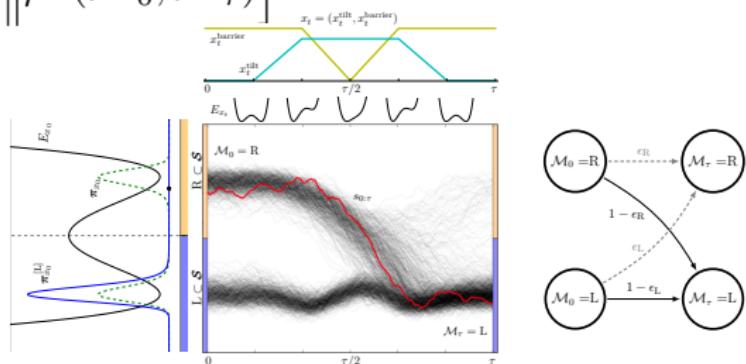
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Coarse grain over both time and state space.

Microstate trajectories
 \mapsto Memory-state bookends



Tighter than Landauer's bound

Requirement for dissipationless computing

Physics, meet computation:

$$\frac{1}{k_B} \langle \Sigma \rangle \geq D_{KL} \left[\underbrace{\rho(\mathcal{M}_0, \mathcal{M}_\tau)}_{\mu_0(m) \Pr(\mu_0^{[m]} \xrightarrow{x_{0:\tau}} m')} \middle\| \underbrace{\rho^R(\mathcal{M}_0, \mathcal{M}_\tau)}_{\mu_\tau(m') \Pr(\mu_\tau^{\dagger[m'\dagger]} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{H}(x_{0:\tau})} m^\dagger)} \right]$$

Zero dissipation requires *density reversibility*:

$$\underbrace{\Pr(\mu_\tau^{\dagger[m'\dagger]} \xrightarrow{\mathbf{H}(x_{0:\tau})} m^\dagger)}_{\text{physics}} = \underbrace{\frac{\mu_0(m) p(m \rightarrow m')}{\mu_\tau(m')}}_{\text{computation}} .$$

Tighter than Landauer's bound

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Positional Storage

$$(\textcolor{blue}{\wedge})^\dagger = \textcolor{blue}{\wedge}$$

$$(\textcolor{blue}{\vee})^\dagger = \textcolor{blue}{\vee}$$

Spin Storage

$$(\uparrow\downarrow)^\dagger = \downarrow\uparrow$$

$$(\downarrow\uparrow)^\dagger = \uparrow\downarrow$$

Time-reversal symmetry of memory elements matters for thermodynamics!

Computation
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Beyond 2nd Law
oooooo

Error-Dissipation tradeoff
●ooooo

Examples
oooooo

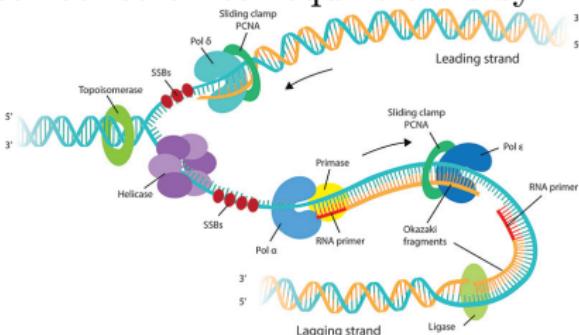
Workaround?
oo

Time-symmetric control

Often, practical constraints require time-symmetric control.

Time-symmetric control

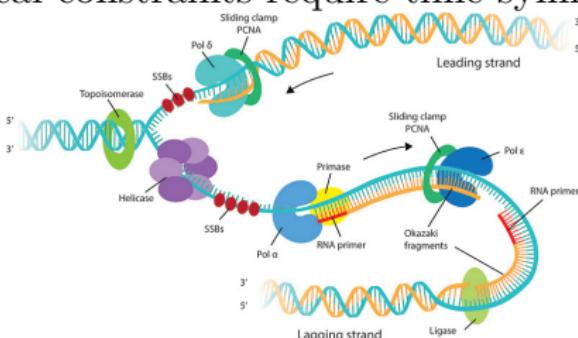
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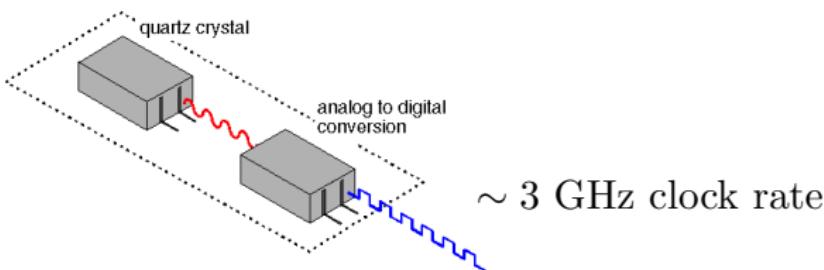
E.g., Biological transformations at very low Reynolds numbers!

Time-symmetric control

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E.g., Biological transformations at very low Reynolds numbers!



This **time-symmetric** signal *drives all logical transformations in a computer* (program, input memory, working memory, etc. are all part of memory system)

Time-symmetric control of metastable memories

Entropy production required for
time-symmetric control of metastable memories:

$$\frac{1}{k_B} \langle \Sigma \rangle \geq D_{KL} \left[\mu_0(m) \Pr(\mu_0^{[m]} \xrightarrow{x_{0:\tau}} m') \middle\| \mu_\tau(m') \Pr(\mu_\tau^{\dagger[m'\dagger]} \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{A}(x_{0:\tau})} m^\dagger) \right]$$

(with probability elements representing their distributions)

Time-symmetric control of metastable memories

Entropy production required for
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$\mathbf{H}(x_{0:\tau}) = x_{0:\tau}$

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Time-symmetric control of metastable memories

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time-symmetric control of metastable memories:

$$\underbrace{\mathbf{H}(x_{0:\tau})}_{\mathbf{x}(x_{0:\tau})=x_{0:\tau}} = \underbrace{x_{0:\tau}}_{\mu_0^{[m]} = \pi_{x_0}^{[m]}, \mu_\tau^{[m]} = \pi_{x_\tau}^{[m]}}$$

$$\frac{1}{k_B} \langle \Sigma \rangle \geq D_{KL} \left[\mu_0(m) \Pr(\pi_{x_0}^{[m]} \xrightarrow{x_{0:\tau}} m') \middle\| \mu_\tau(m') \Pr(\pi_{x_0}^{[m'\dagger]} \xrightarrow{x_{0:\tau}} m^\dagger) \right]$$

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where $\{p(m \rightarrow m')\}_{m,m'}$ are the actual transition probabilities
between memory states of the computer!

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$$= \Delta H(\mathcal{M}_t) + \sum_{m, m' \in \mathcal{M}} \mu_0(m) p(m \rightarrow m') \ln \frac{p(m \rightarrow m')}{p(m'^\dagger \rightarrow m^\dagger)}$$

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Nearly-deterministic computations

Allow a maximal error rate of ϵ in the implementation of an intended deterministic computation $\mathcal{C} : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ for any possible memory input $m \in \mathcal{M}$. For any such reliable computation:

$$p(m \rightarrow m') \begin{cases} \geq 1 - \epsilon & \text{if } m' = \mathcal{C}(m) \\ \leq \epsilon & \text{if } m' \neq \mathcal{C}(m) \end{cases}.$$

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The four cases

$$p(m \rightarrow m') = \begin{cases} 1 - \epsilon_m \geq 1 - \epsilon & \text{if } m' = \mathcal{C}(m) \\ \epsilon_{m \rightarrow m'} \leq \epsilon_m \leq \epsilon & \text{if } m' \neq \mathcal{C}(m) \end{cases}$$

Let $d(m, m') \equiv p(m \rightarrow m') \ln \frac{p(m \rightarrow m')}{p(m'^{\dagger} \rightarrow m^{\dagger})}$

① $\mathcal{C}(m) = m'; \mathcal{C}(m'^{\dagger}) = m^{\dagger}:$

$$-\epsilon \leq d^{(1)}(m, m') \leq \epsilon + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3) .$$

② $\mathcal{C}(m) = m'; \mathcal{C}(m'^{\dagger}) \neq m^{\dagger}:$

$$\ln(\epsilon^{-1}) \lesssim d^{(2)}(m, m') \leq \ln(\epsilon_{m'^{\dagger} \rightarrow m^{\dagger}}^{-1}) .$$

③ $\mathcal{C}(m) \neq m'; \mathcal{C}(m'^{\dagger}) = m^{\dagger}:$

$$\epsilon_{m \rightarrow m'} \ln \epsilon_{m \rightarrow m'} < d^{(3)}(m, m') < 0 .$$

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Main result

$$\frac{1}{k_B} \langle \Sigma^{(t\text{-sym})} \rangle + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon \ln \epsilon) > \Delta H(\mathcal{M}_t) + \ln(1/\epsilon) \sum_{m \neq \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C}(m)^\dagger)^\dagger} \mu_0(m)$$

PM Riechers, AB Boyd, GW Wimsatt, JP Crutchfield, “Balancing Error and Dissipation in Highly-Reliable Computing”, arXiv:1909.06650

For nonreciprocated transitions:
dissipation must *diverge* as $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$!

Main result (assuming a single thermal bath: $W_{\text{diss}} = W - \Delta\mathcal{F}_t$)

$$\beta \langle W_{\text{diss}}^{(t\text{-sym})} \rangle + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon \ln \epsilon) > \Delta H(\mathcal{M}_t) + \ln(1/\epsilon) \sum_{m \neq \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C}(m)^\dagger)^\dagger} \mu_0(m)$$

PM Riechers, AB Boyd, GW Wimsatt, JP Crutchfield, “Balancing Error and Dissipation in Highly-Reliable Computing”, arXiv:1909.06650

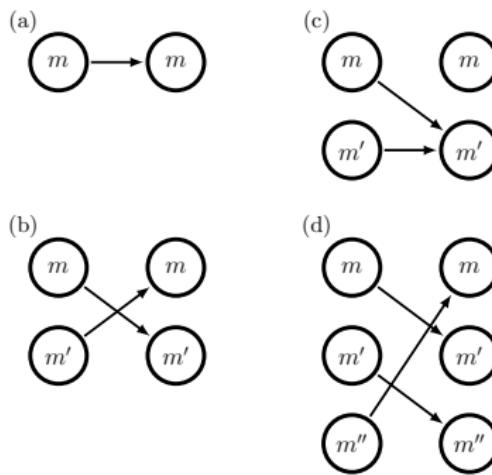
Alternatively

(if memory states have equal local-equilibrium free energy):

$$\langle W_{\text{min}}^{(t\text{-sym})} \rangle + \mathcal{O}(k_B T \epsilon \ln \epsilon) = k_B T \ln(1/\epsilon) \sum_{m \neq \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C}(m)^\dagger)^\dagger} \mu_0(m)$$

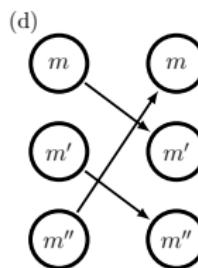
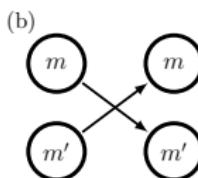
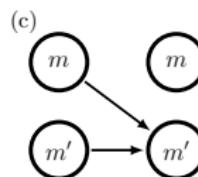
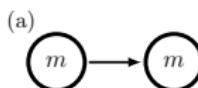
For nonreciprocated transitions:
significant work is necessary to ensure reliability

Nearly-Deterministic Computing

Reciprocity \neq logical reversibility

$$\text{Minimal Work } \langle W_{\min}^{\text{t-sym}} \rangle \approx k_B T \ln(1/\epsilon) \sum_{m \neq \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C}(m)^\dagger)^\dagger} \mu_0(m)$$

Nearly-Deterministic Computing

Reciprocity \neq logical reversibility

Reciprocated

Non-reciprocated

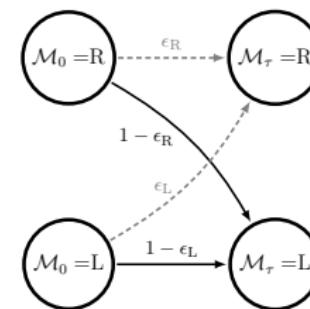
$$\text{Minimal Work } \langle W_{\min}^{t\text{-sym}} \rangle \approx k_B T \ln(1/\epsilon) \sum_{m \neq \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{C}(m))} \mu_0(m)$$

(assuming $m^\dagger = m$)

Erasure, by any means

Exact analysis:

$$\beta \langle W^{t\text{-sym}} \rangle \geq (\mu_0(R) - \langle \epsilon_m \rangle) \ln \frac{1 - \epsilon_R}{\epsilon_L}$$

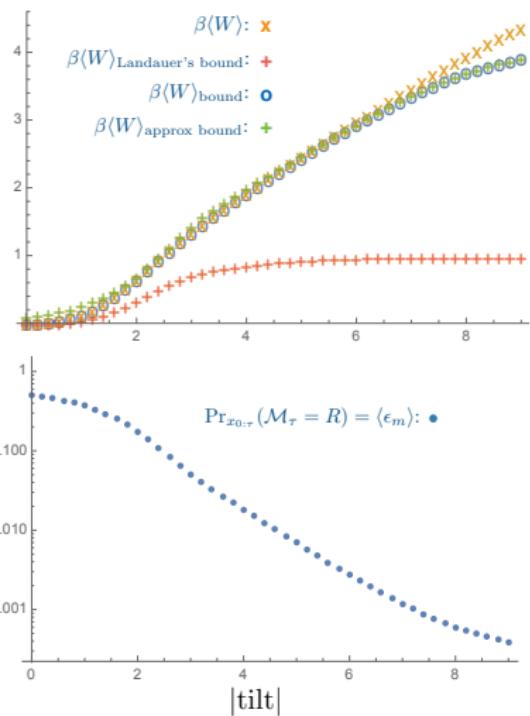
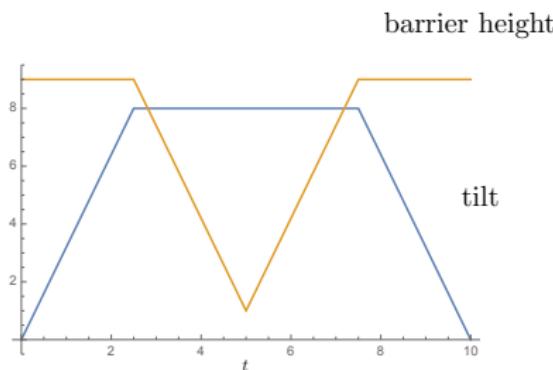


Low- ϵ analysis:

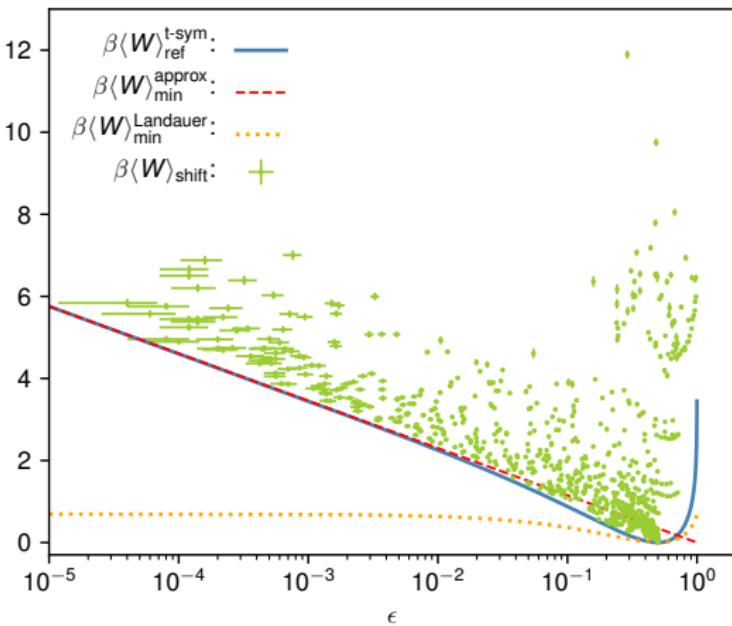
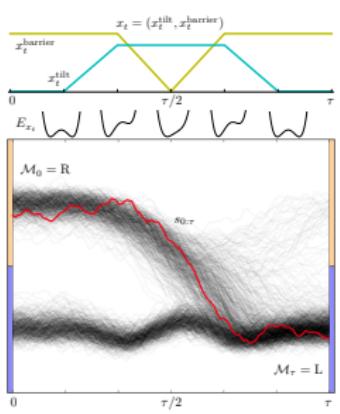
$$\sum_{m \neq \mathcal{C}_{\text{erase}}(\mathcal{C}_{\text{erase}}(m))} \mu_0(m) = \mu_0(R)$$

$$\implies \langle W_{\min}^{t\text{-sym}} \rangle \approx \mu_0(R) \ln(1/\epsilon) k_B T$$

Erasure via Arrhenius rate dynamics

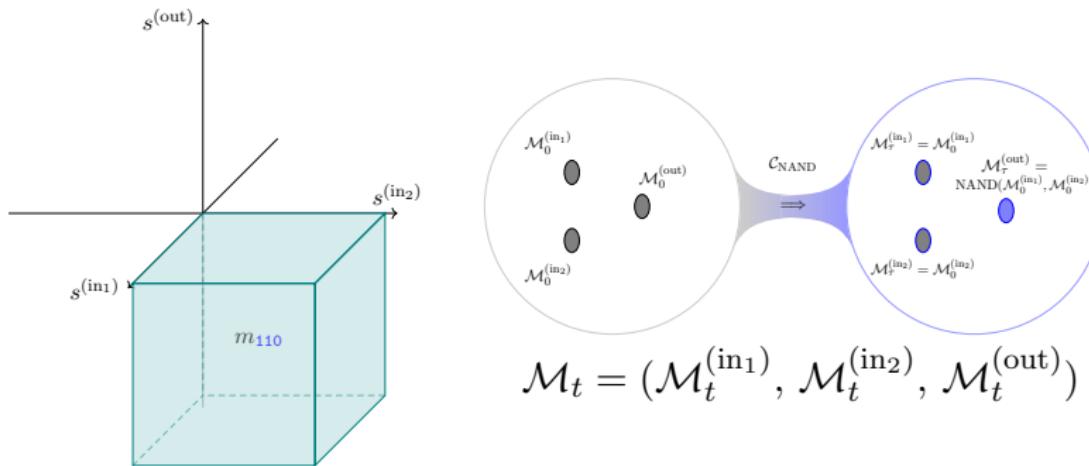


Erasure via underdamped Langevin dynamics



Universal Computing

NAND gate

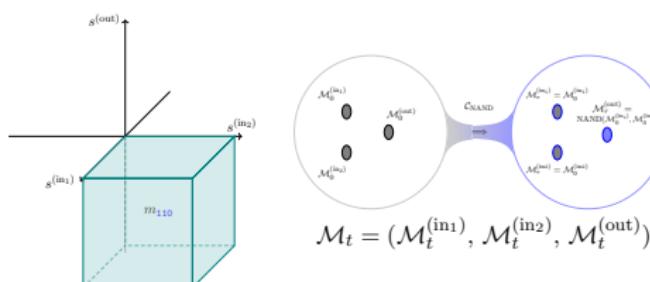


The NAND computation $\mathcal{C}_{\text{NAND}}$ is given by the mappings:

$$\begin{array}{ll} 000 \mapsto 001 & 001 \mapsto 001 \\ 010 \mapsto 011 & 011 \mapsto 011 \\ 100 \mapsto 101 & 101 \mapsto 101 \\ 111 \mapsto 110 & 110 \mapsto 110 \end{array}$$

Universal Computing

NAND gate



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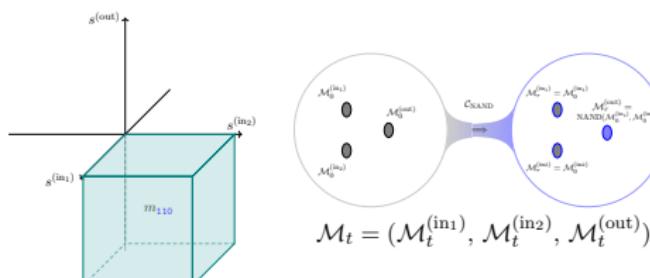
$$\begin{array}{ll}
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$$\sum_{m \neq \mathcal{C}_{\text{NAND}}(\mathcal{C}_{\text{NAND}}(m))} \mu_0(m) = \mu_0(m_{000}) + \mu_0(m_{010}) + \mu_0(m_{100}) + \mu_0(m_{111})$$

$$\implies \langle W_{\min}^{\text{t-sym}} \rangle \approx k_B T (\mu_0(m_{000}) + \mu_0(m_{010}) + \mu_0(m_{100}) + \mu_0(m_{111})) \ln(1/\epsilon)$$

Universal Computing

NAND gate



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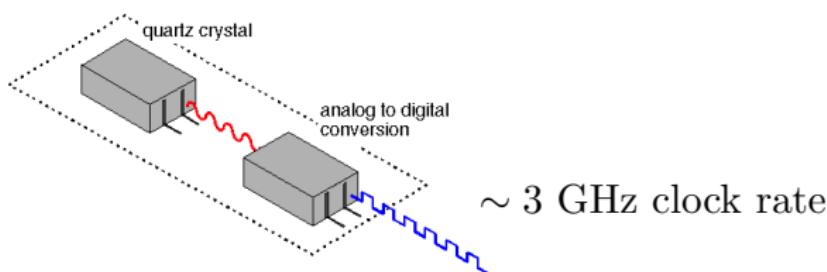
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$$\text{vs. } \langle W_{\min}^{\text{Landauer}} \rangle = -k_B T \Delta H(\mathcal{M}_t) \approx k_B T H(\mathcal{M}_0^{(out)} | \mathcal{M}_0^{(in1)}, \mathcal{M}_0^{(in2)}) .$$

Is time-symmetric control relevant?

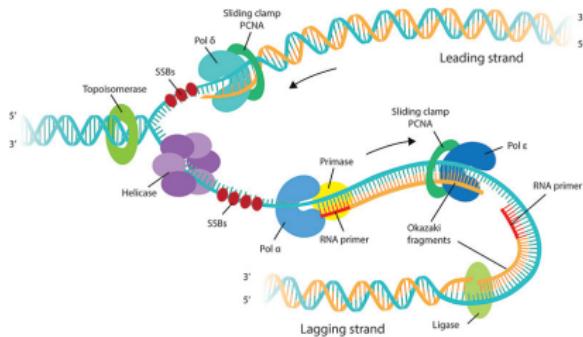


This **time-symmetric** signal *drives all logical transformations in a computer*
(program, input memory, working memory, etc. are all part of memory system)

Extreme reliability → ~ **30k_BT** dissipation per logic transformation

≥ 40 times the Landauer bound

Biological Systems



Consequence for reliable biological functionality.

$\text{ATP} \rightarrow \text{ADP} + \text{P}_i$ yields $\sim 30 \text{ kJ / mol} \approx 12 - 25 \text{ } k_B T$ per ATP

- Biological systems in NESS
- Biological system transitioning *between* NESSs

Avoiding the Error–Dissipation tradeoff

Use less reliable components with error correction?

Avoiding the Error–Dissipation tradeoff

~~Use less reliable components with error correction?~~
(Doesn't help)

Avoiding the Error–Dissipation tradeoff

Three ways to avoid the error–dissipation tradeoff

- ① Engineer the time-reversal symmetries of the memory elements for special purpose computations
(How? Alec Boyd's talk, tomorrow!)
- ② Use time-asymmetric control
(Hidden costs of time asymmetry?)
- ③ Intertial computing—avoid metastability
(Problematic but interesting!)

Thanks!

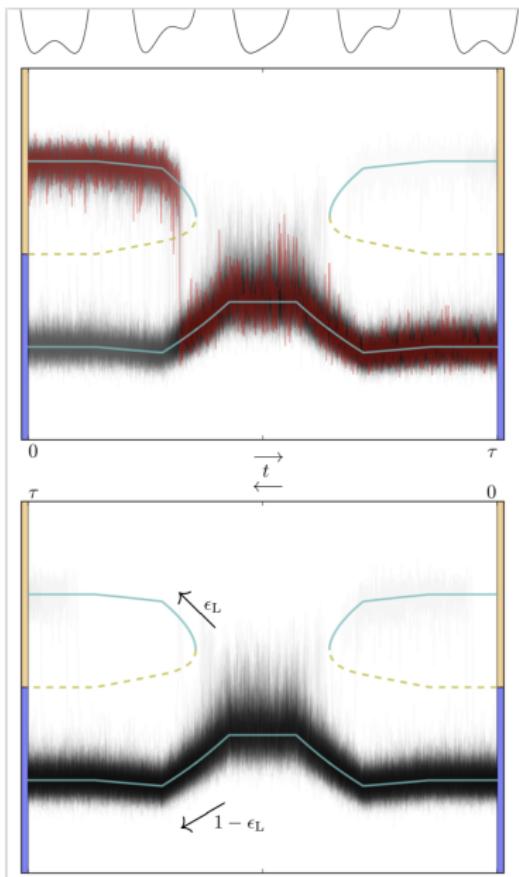
This talk is based on:

PM Riechers, AB Boyd, GW Wimsatt, and JP Crutchfield, “Balancing Error and Dissipation in Highly-Reliable Computing”, arXiv:1909.06650

... and related work in progress.

Also relevant to this workshop:

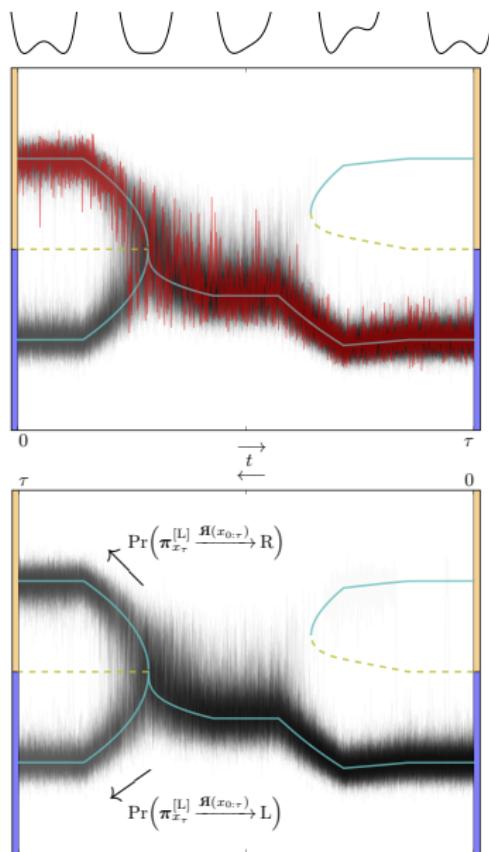
Paul M. Riechers and Mile Gu, “Initial-State Dependence of Thermodynamic Dissipation for any Quantum Process”, arXiv:2002.11425



Time-symmetric control of metastable memories can only achieve reliable nonreciprocated transitions via loss of stability and subsequent dissipation.

**This trouble is
topologically guaranteed!**

Bifurcation-theoretic explanation



Time-*asymmetric* control can be used to guide the probability density reliably, while maintaining metastability.

$$W_{\min}^{t\text{-sym}}(m \rightarrow m') = F_{x_0}^{(m')} - F_{x_0}^{(m)} + k_B T \ln \frac{p(m \rightarrow m')}{p(m'^\dagger \rightarrow m^\dagger)}$$