

# **Quarkonium transport in strongly coupled plasmas**

**and a comparison with heavy quark transport**

**38th Winter Workshop on Nuclear Dynamics  
Marriott Puerto Vallarta Resort & Spa  
February 9, 2023**

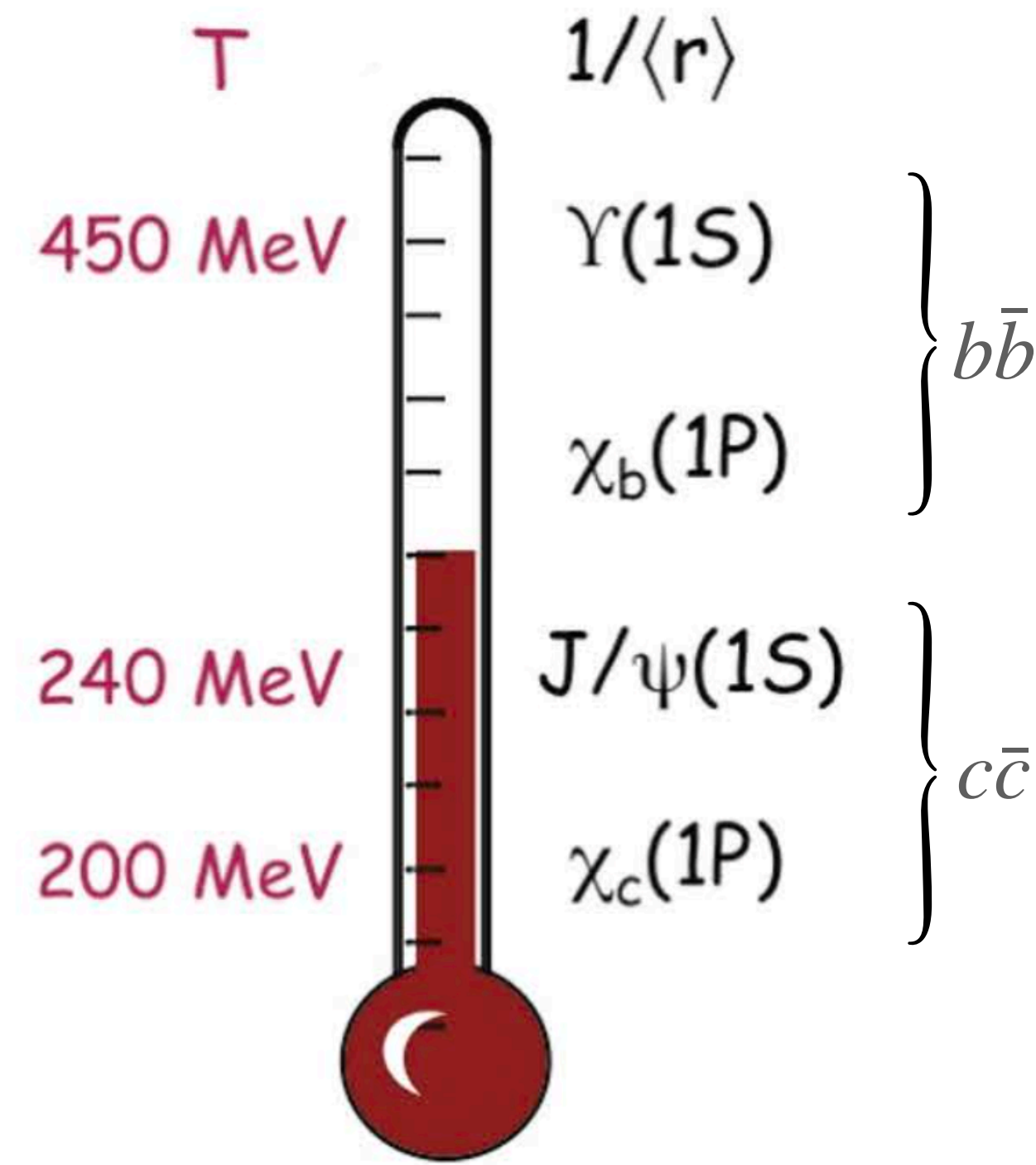
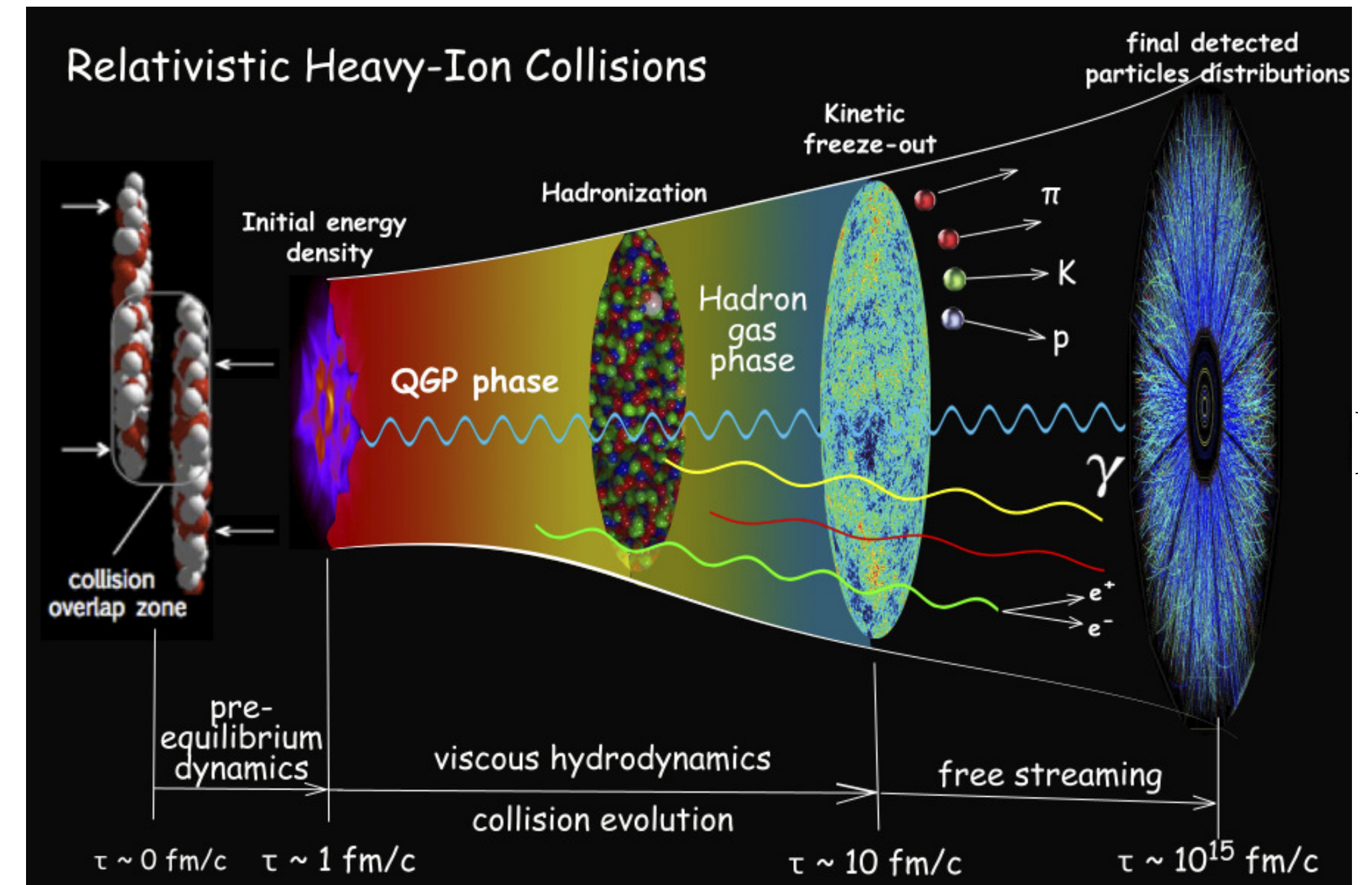
**Bruno Scheiing-Hitschfeld (MIT)  
with Xiaojun Yao (UW) and Govert Nijs (MIT)  
based on 2107.03945, 2205.04477, 2302.XXXXX**



# Quarkonium in Heavy-Ion Collisions

- Heavy quarks and quarkonia are amongst the most informative probes of the QGP.
- To interpret the full wealth of data, we need a precise theoretical understanding of heavy quarks in a thermal medium,
  - as single open heavy flavors, and
  - as pairs of heavy flavors that can bind into quarkonia.

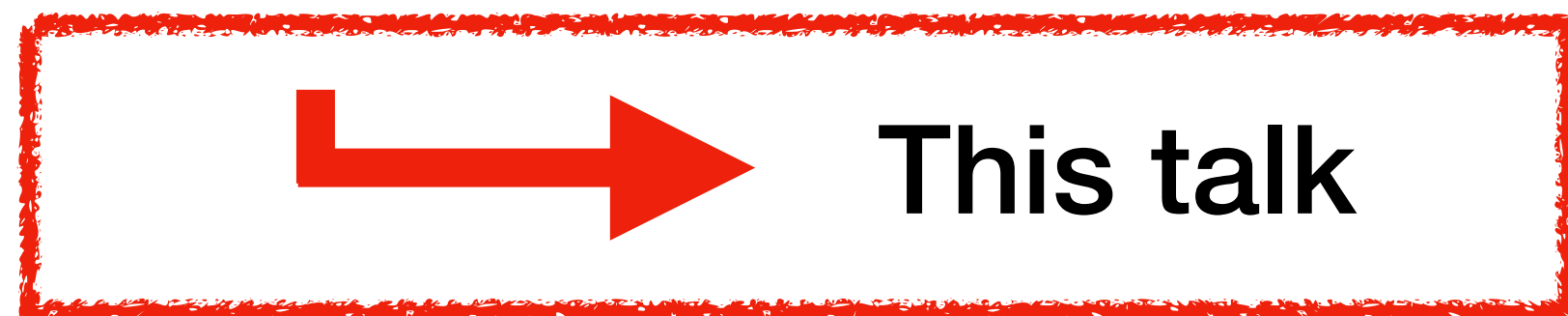
credit: Paul Sorensen and Chun Shen, 1304.3634



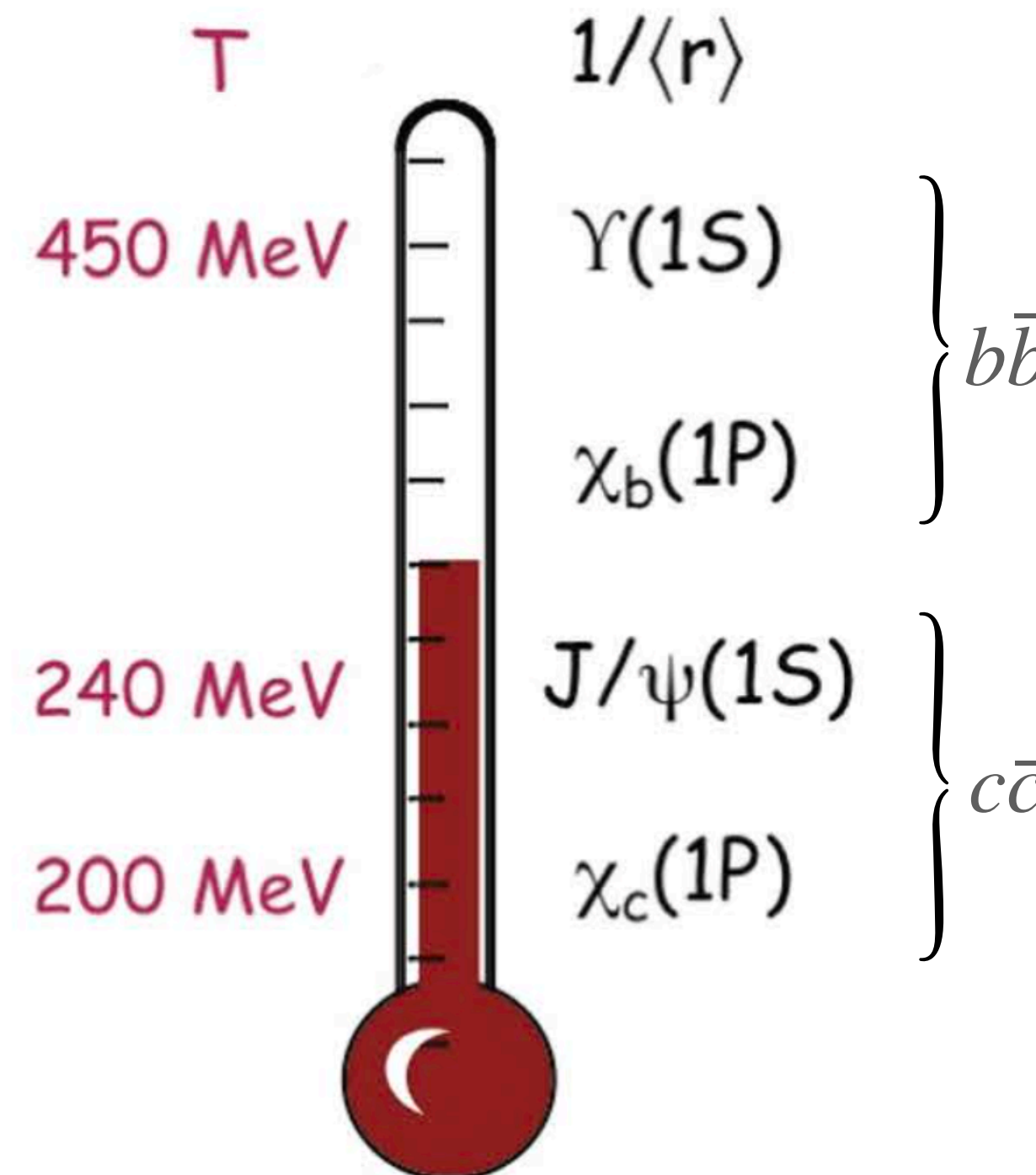
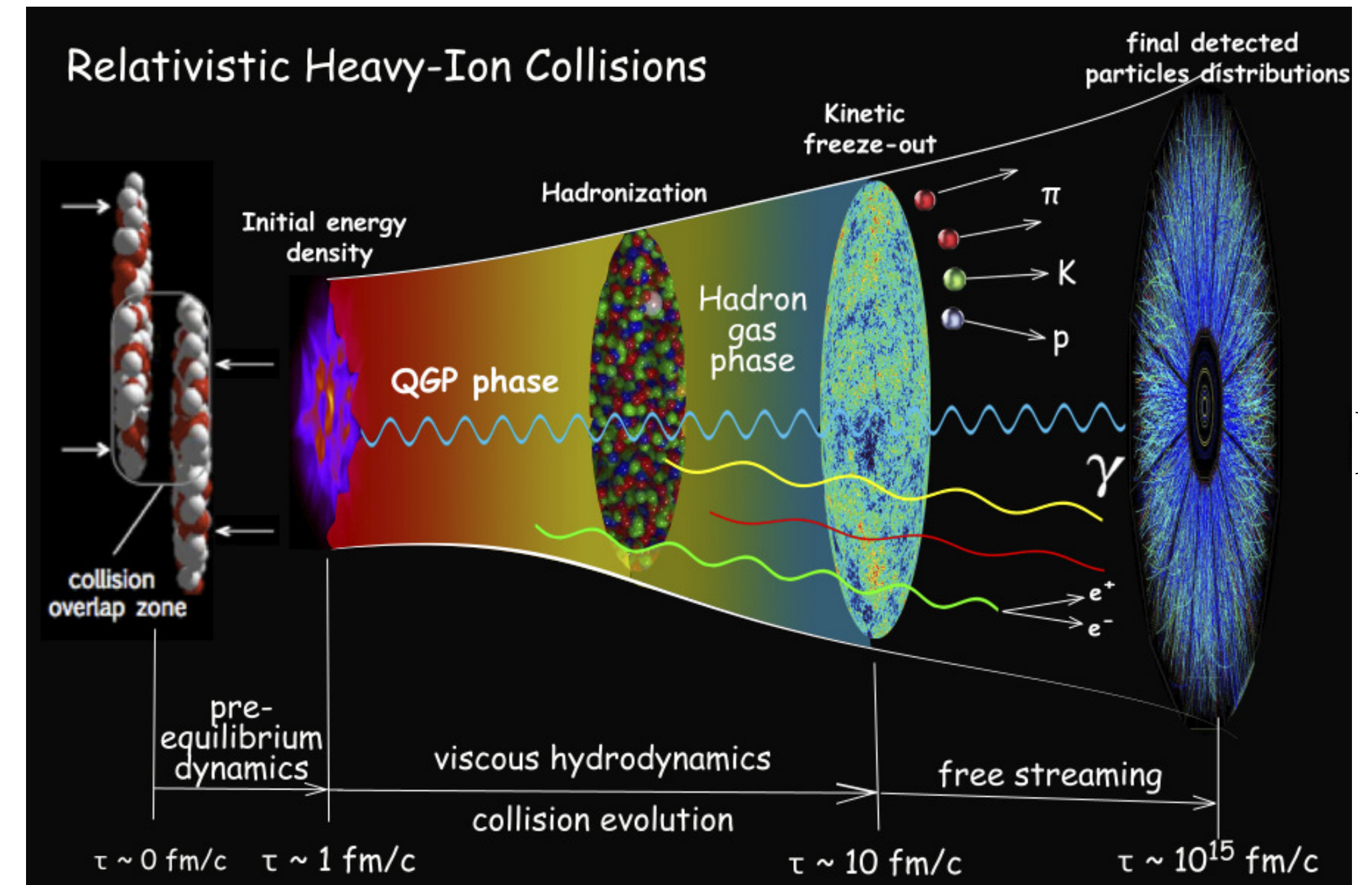
credit: Mocsy, Petreczky, Strickland, 1302.2180

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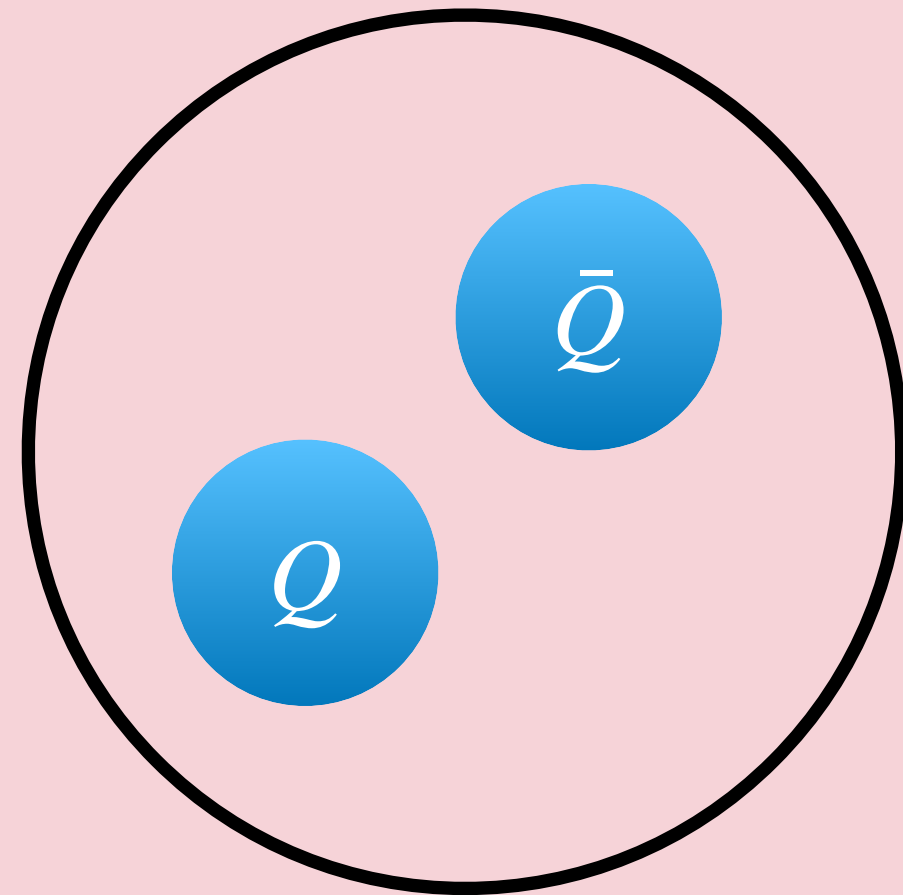


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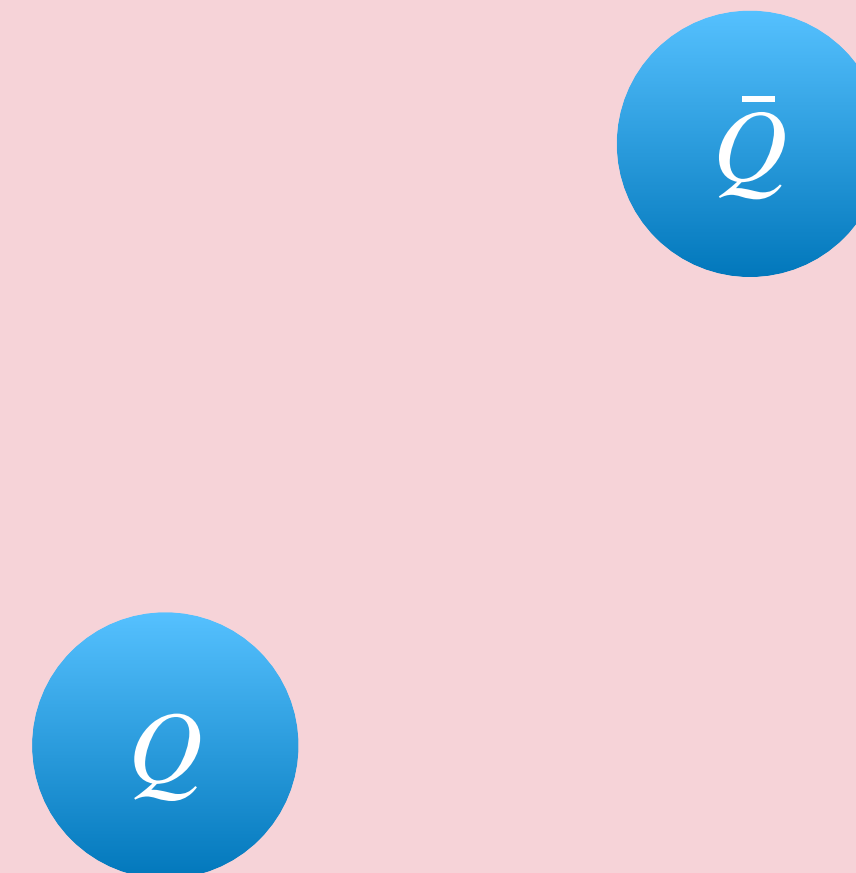
# Quarkonium in medium

$$M \gg Mv \gg Mv^2$$

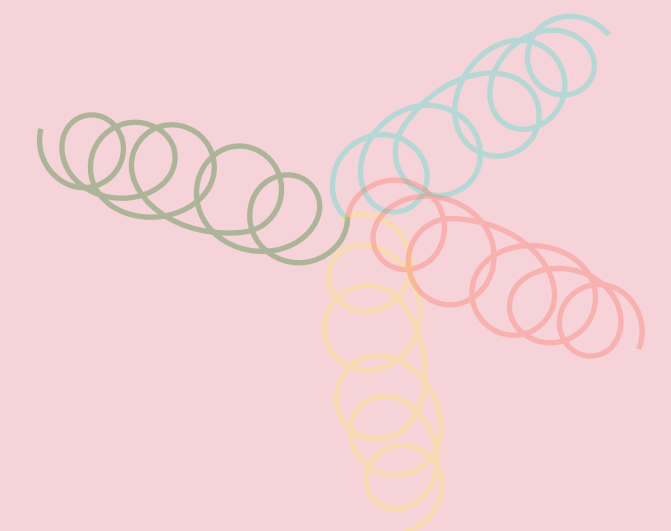
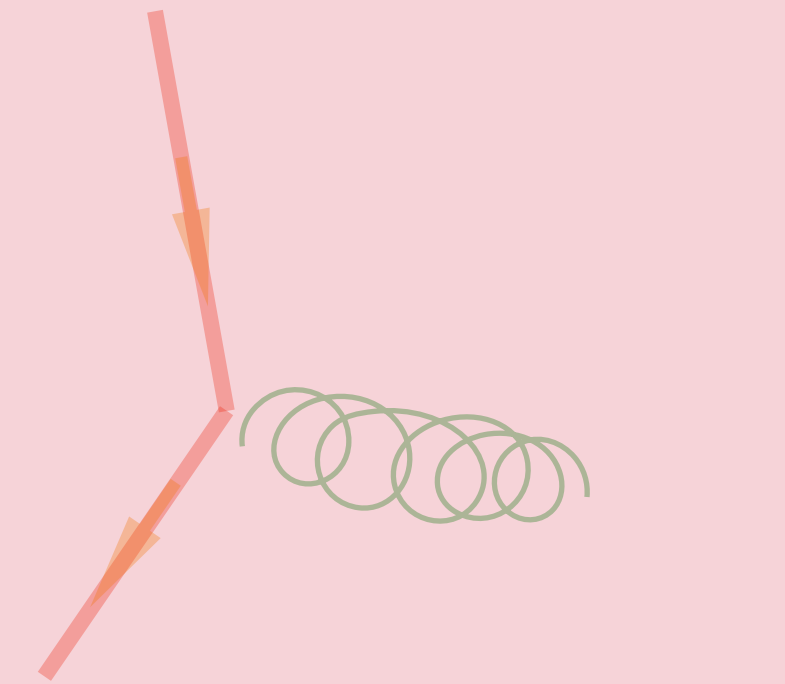
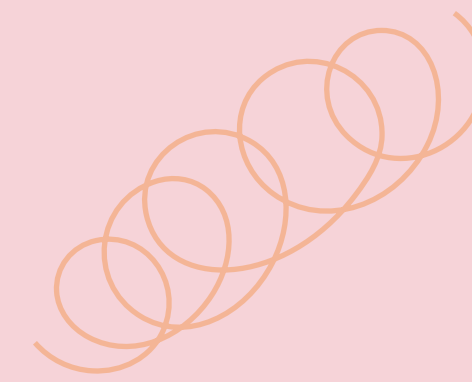
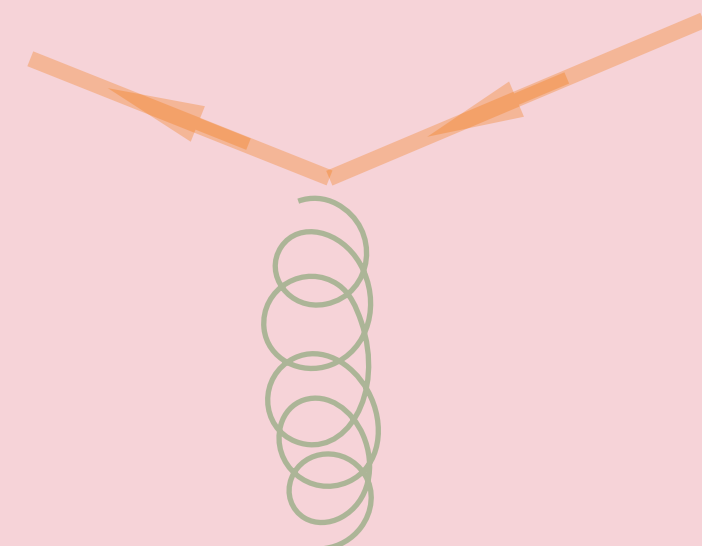
$M$ : heavy quark mass  
 $v$ : typical relative speed



color singlet;  
bound state



color octet;  
unbound state

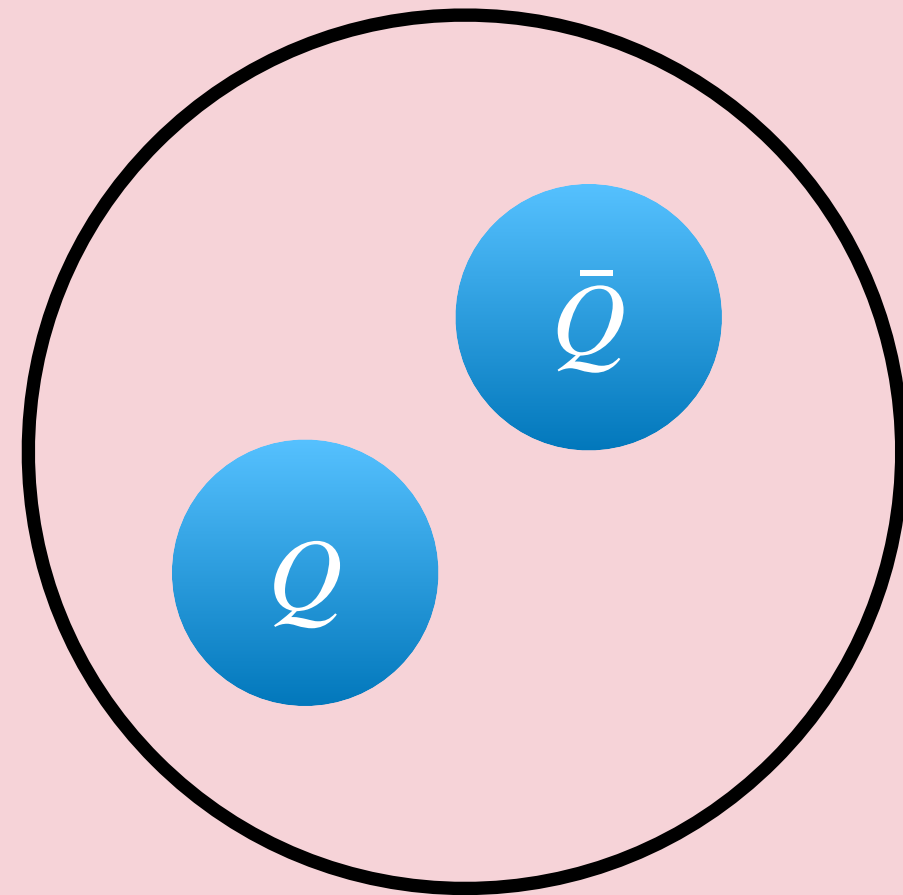


$Q$ :  $c$  or  $b$  quark  
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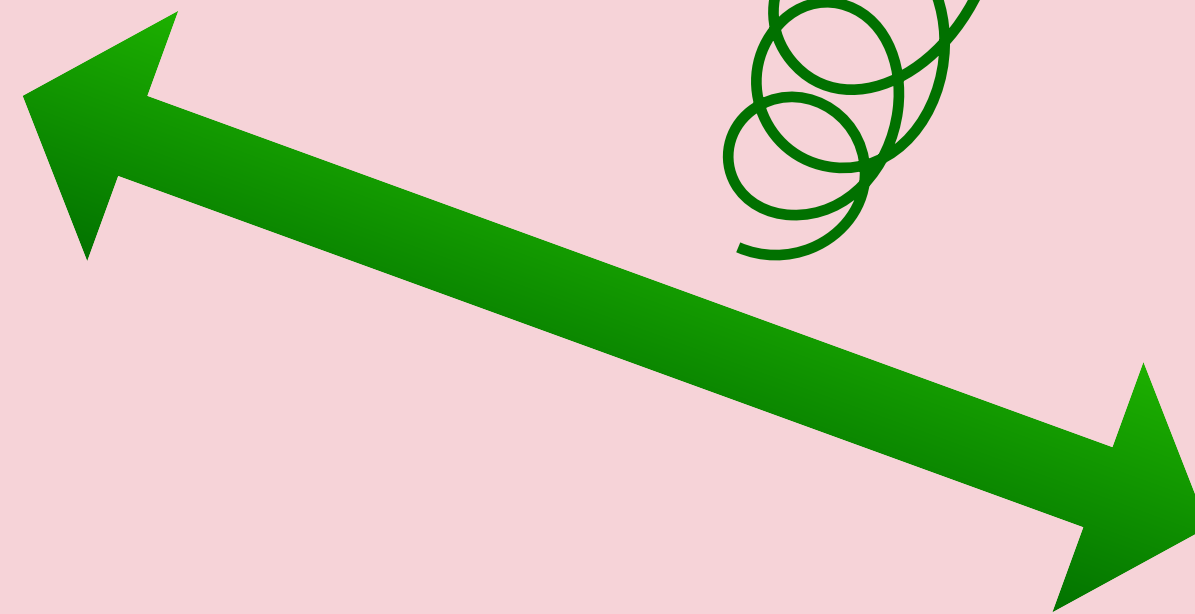
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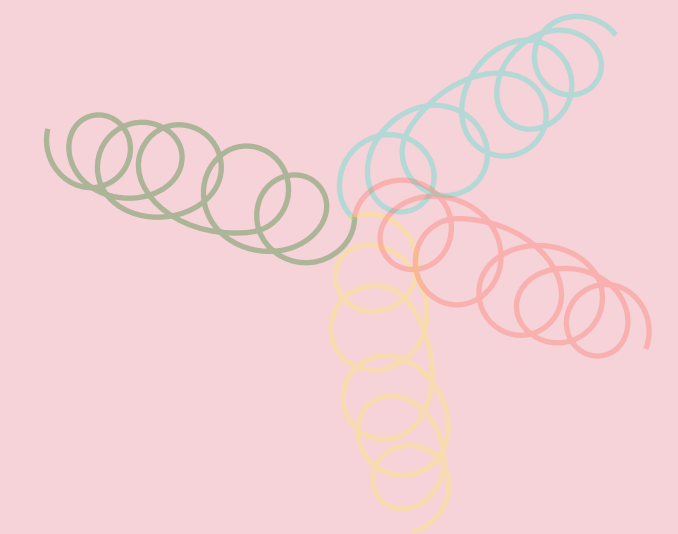
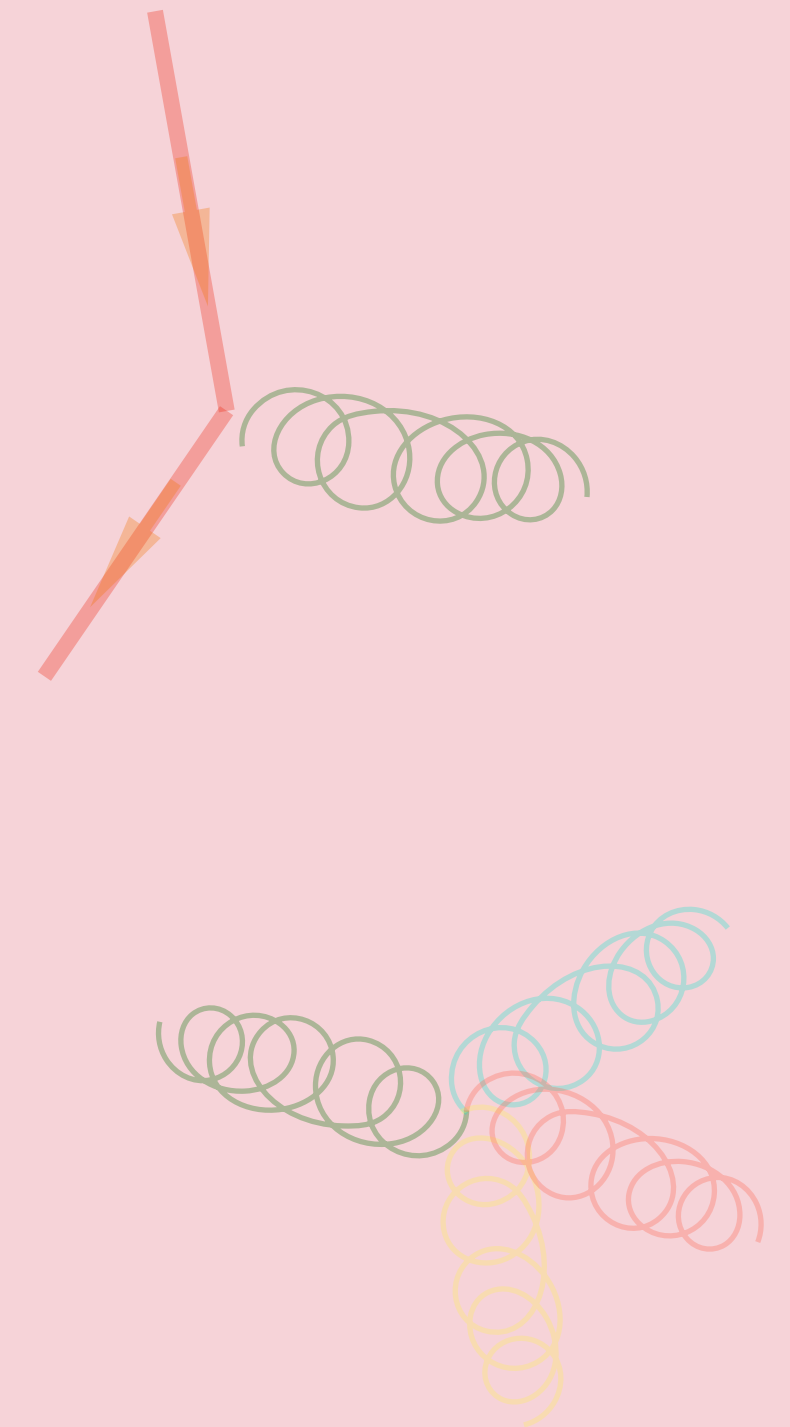
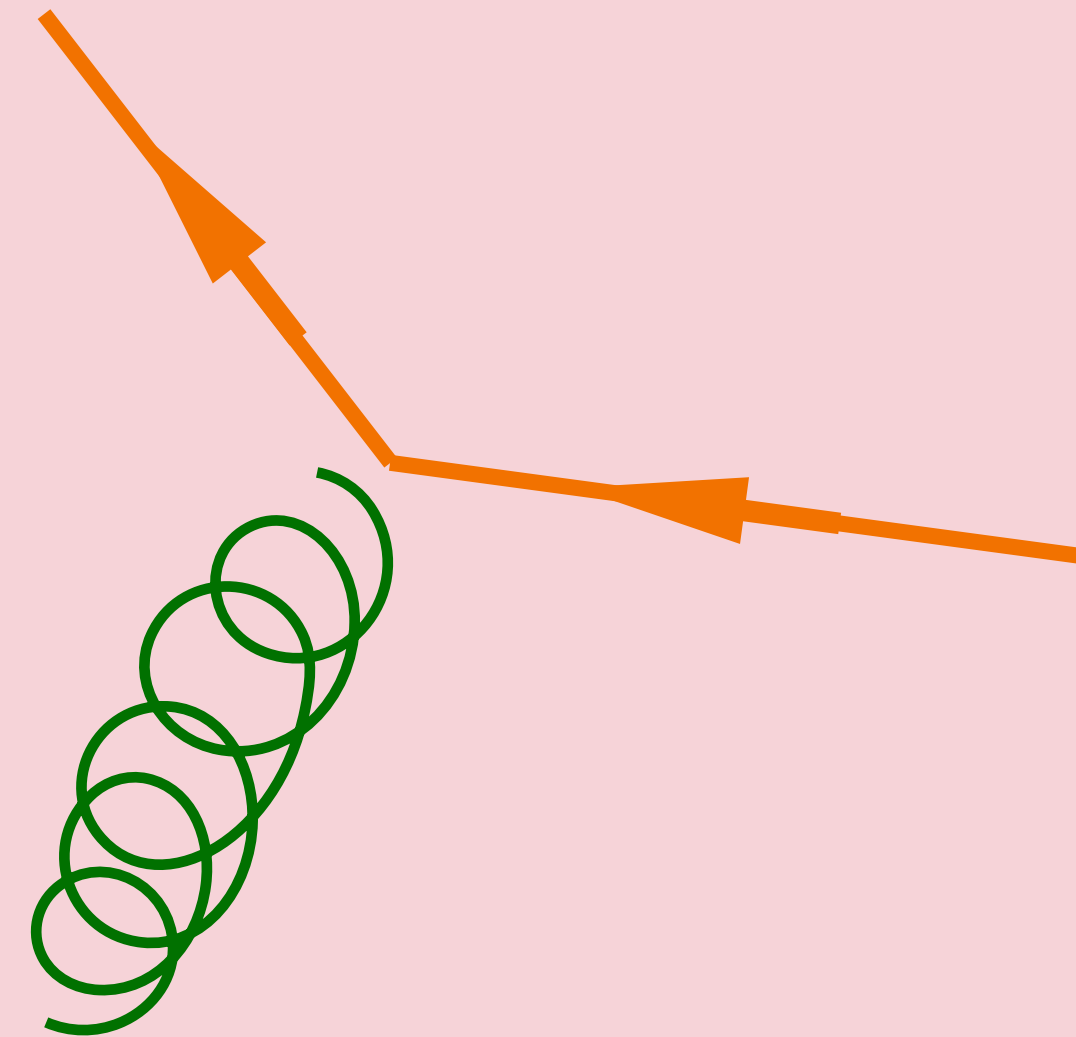
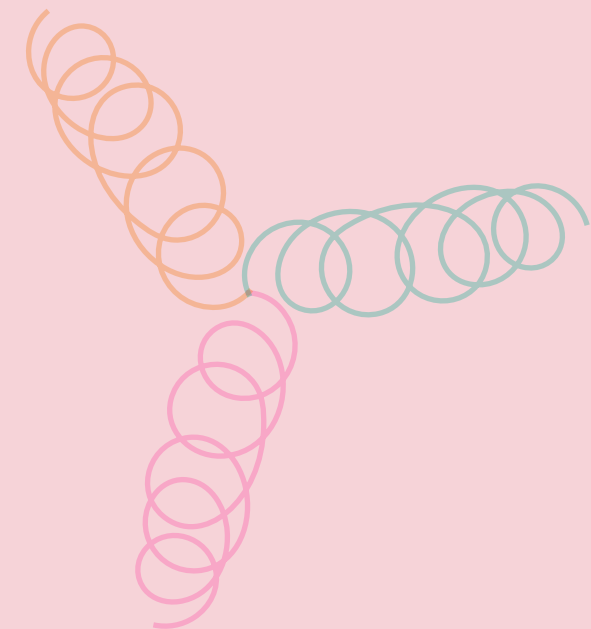
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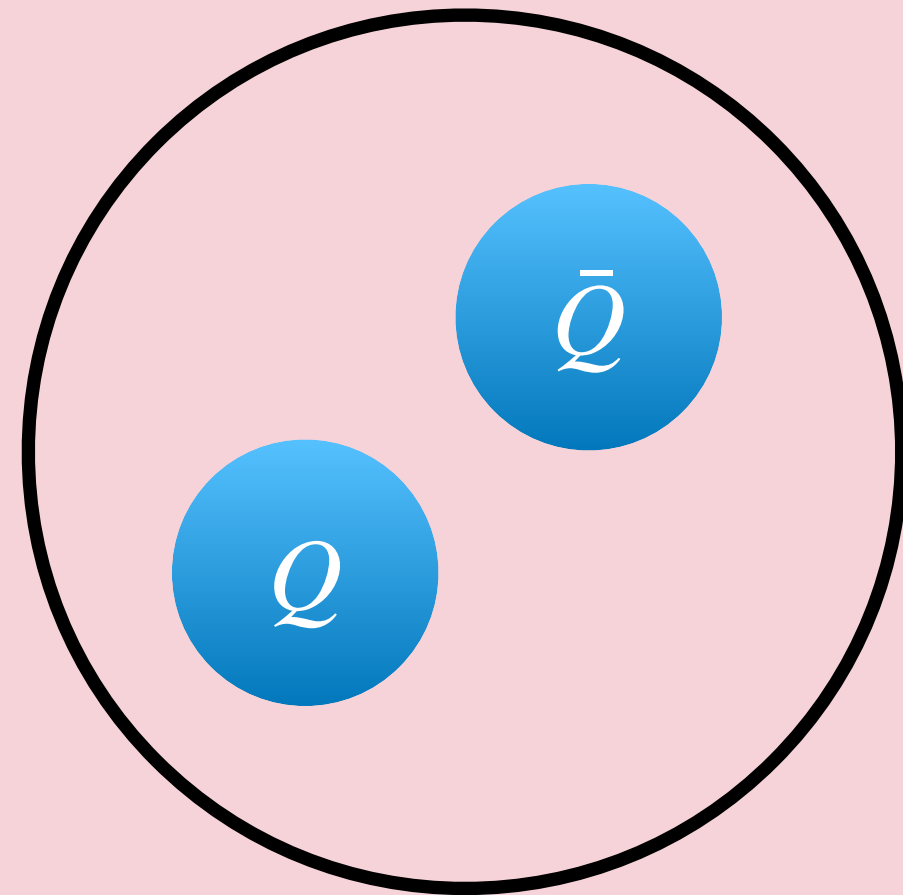


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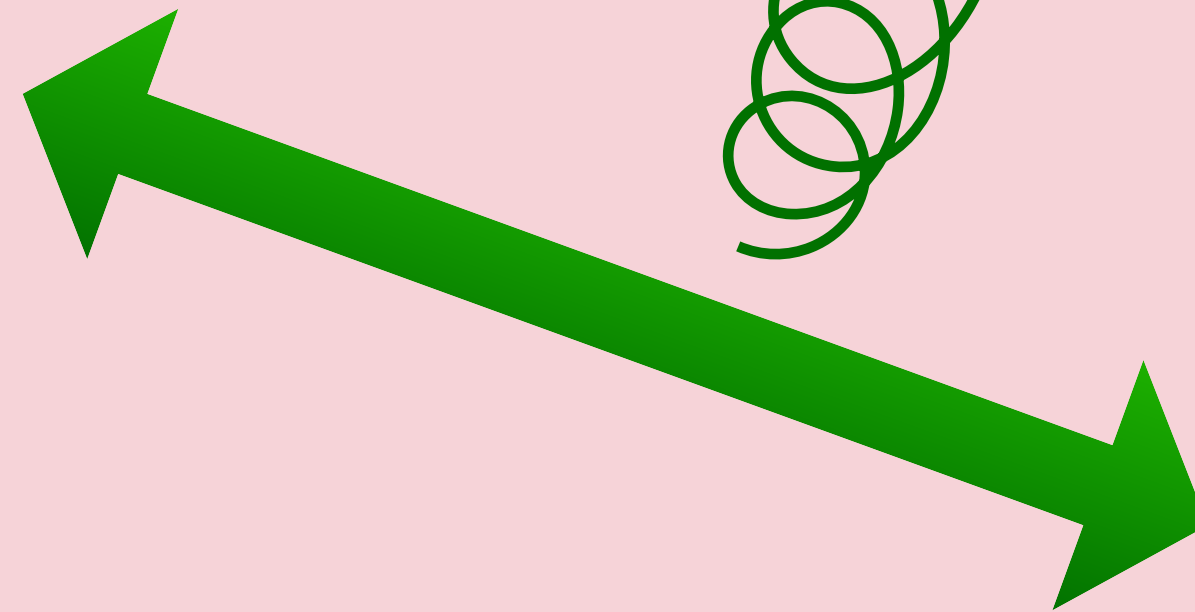
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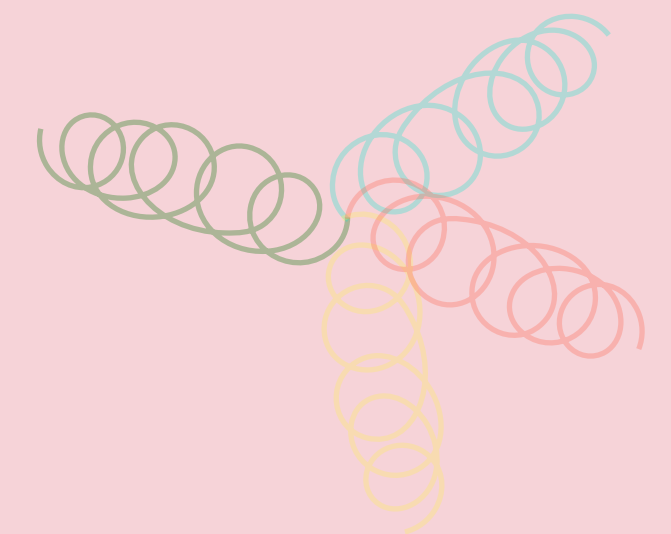
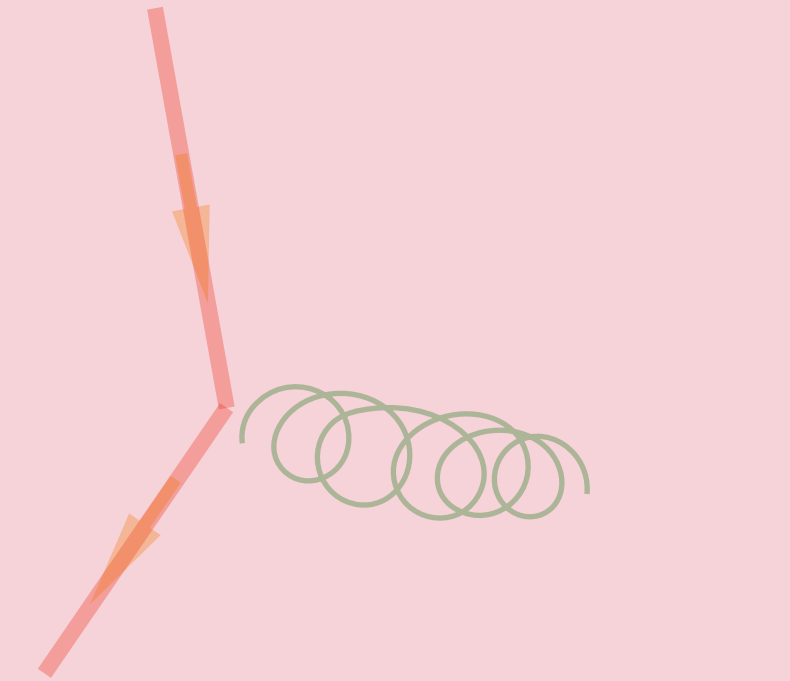
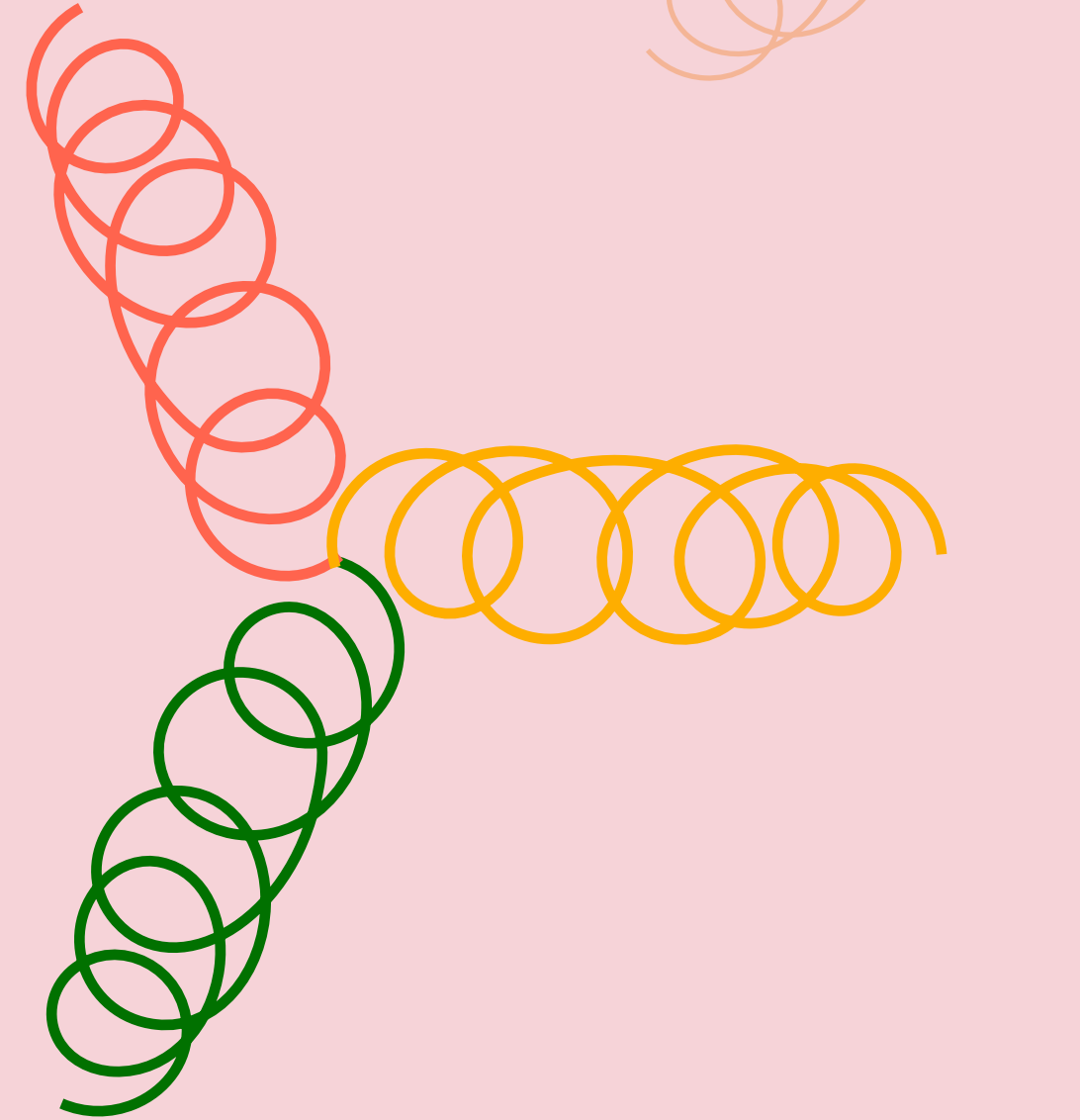
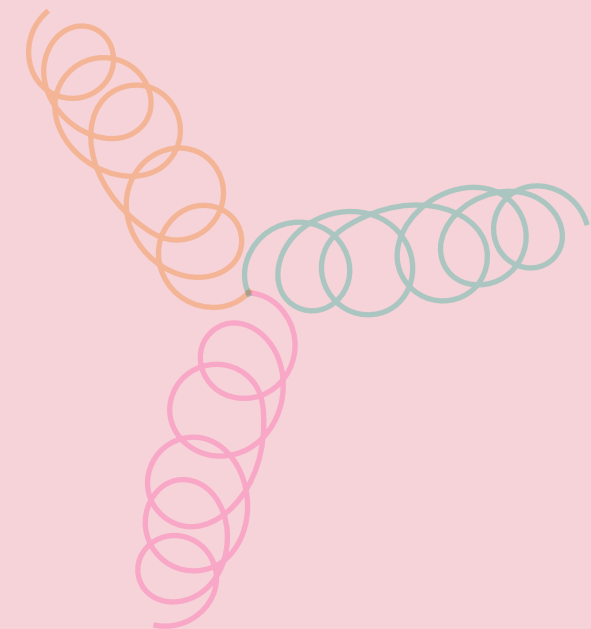
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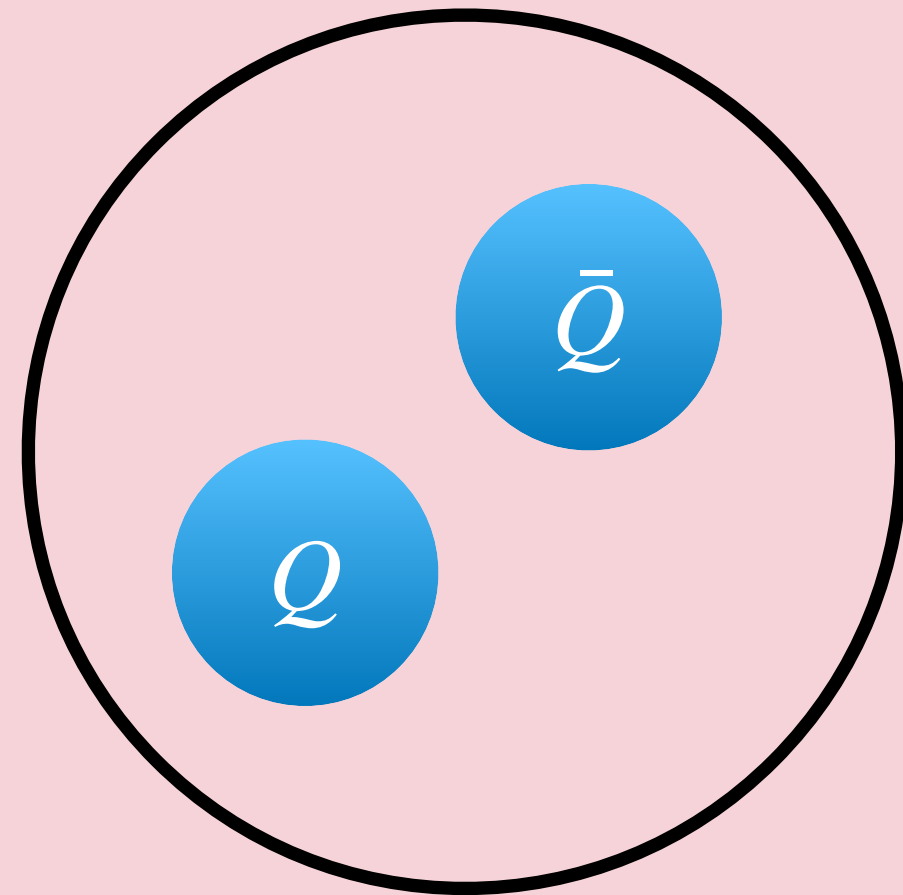


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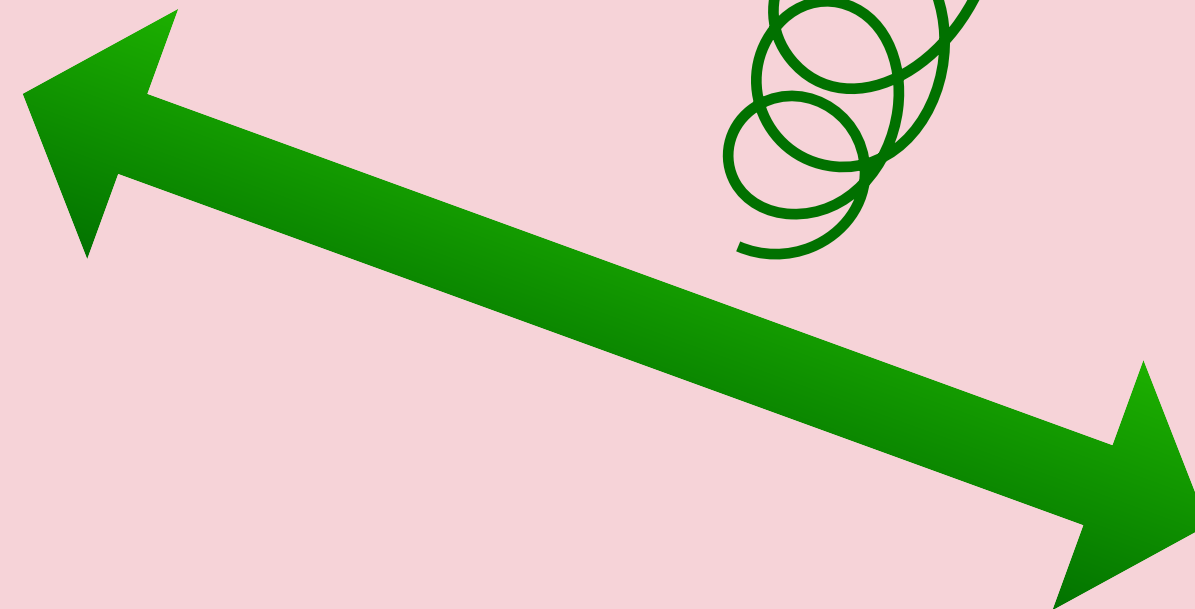
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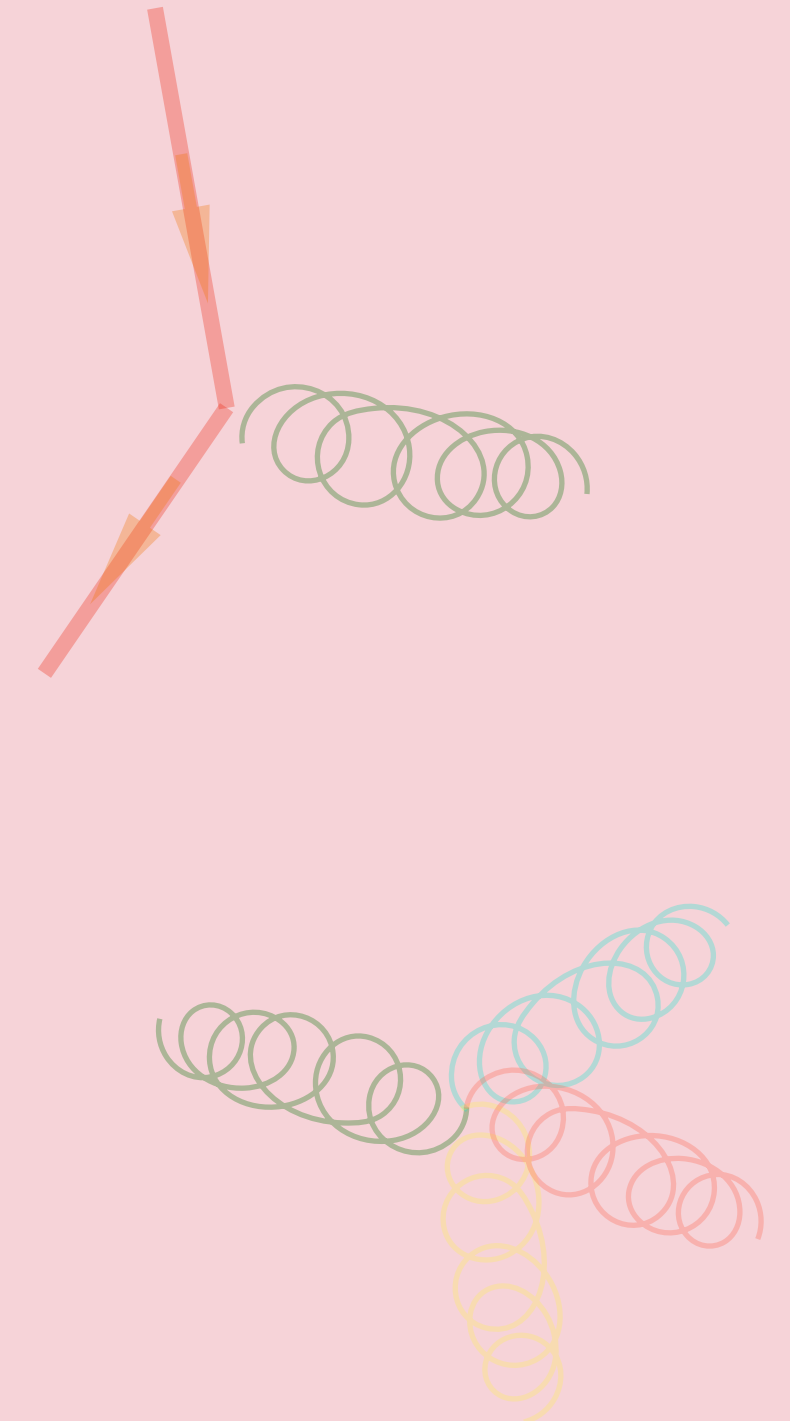
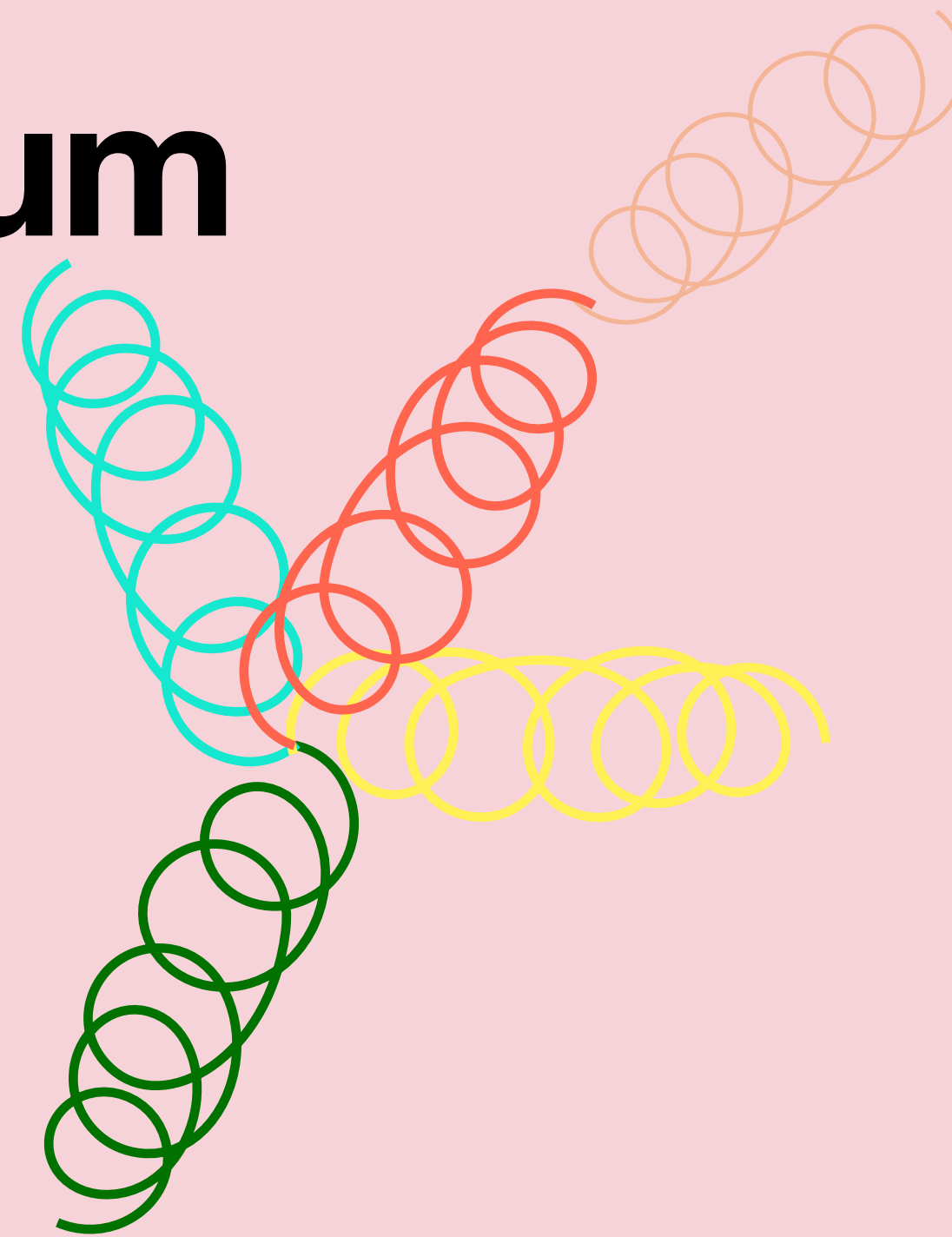
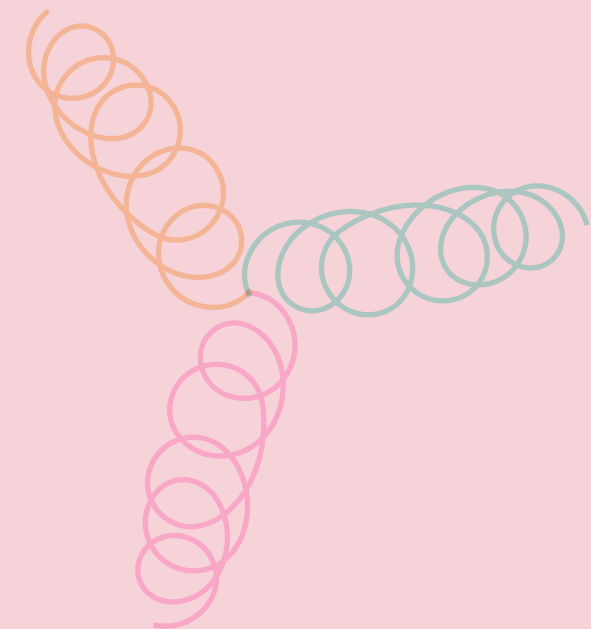
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At high  $T$ , quarkonium “melts”  
because the medium screens the  
interactions between heavy  
quarks (Matsui & Satz 1986)

$$Q\bar{Q} \text{ melts if } r \sim \frac{1}{Mv} \gg \frac{1}{T}$$



color octet;  
unbound state

$T > 0$

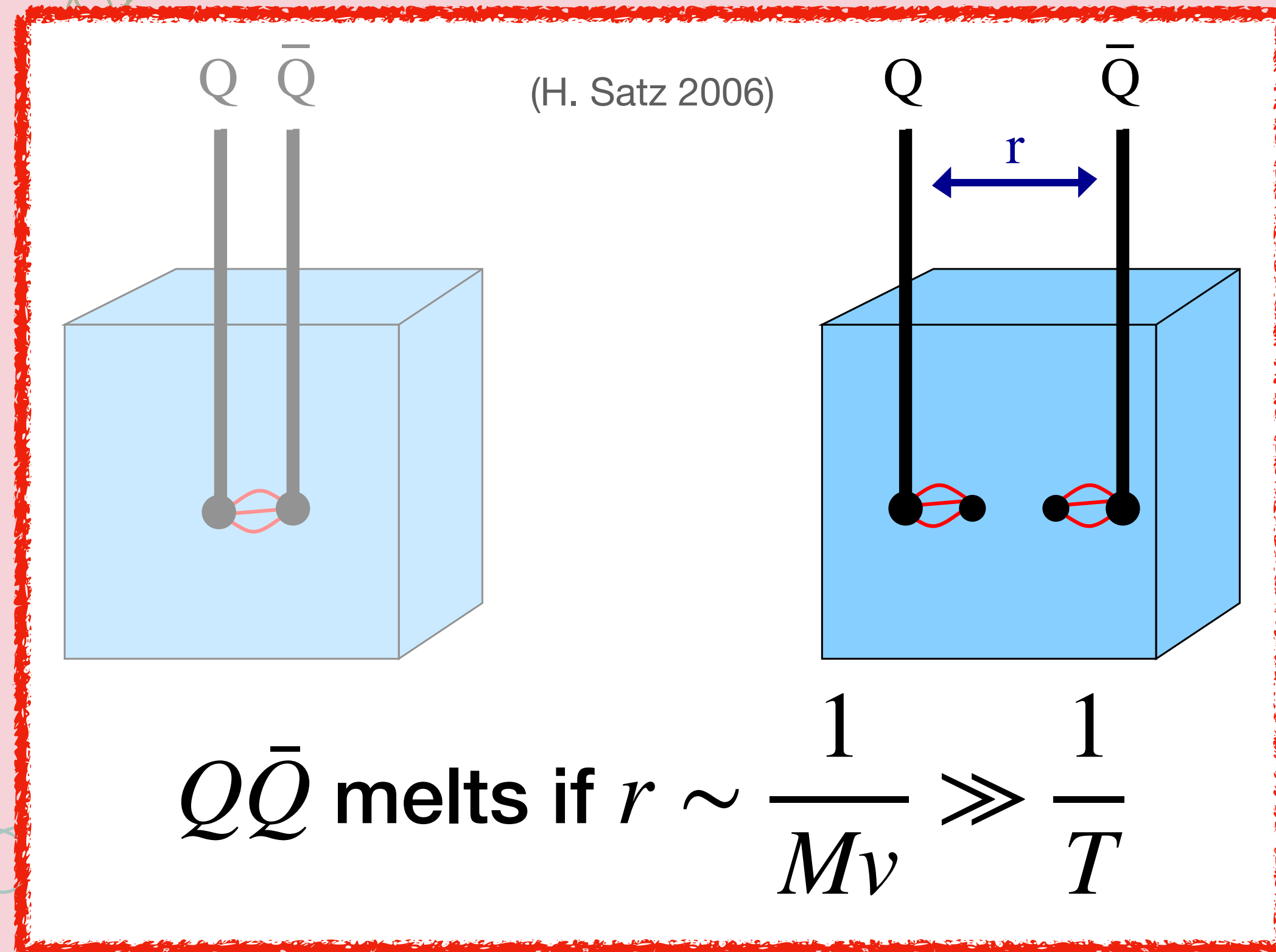
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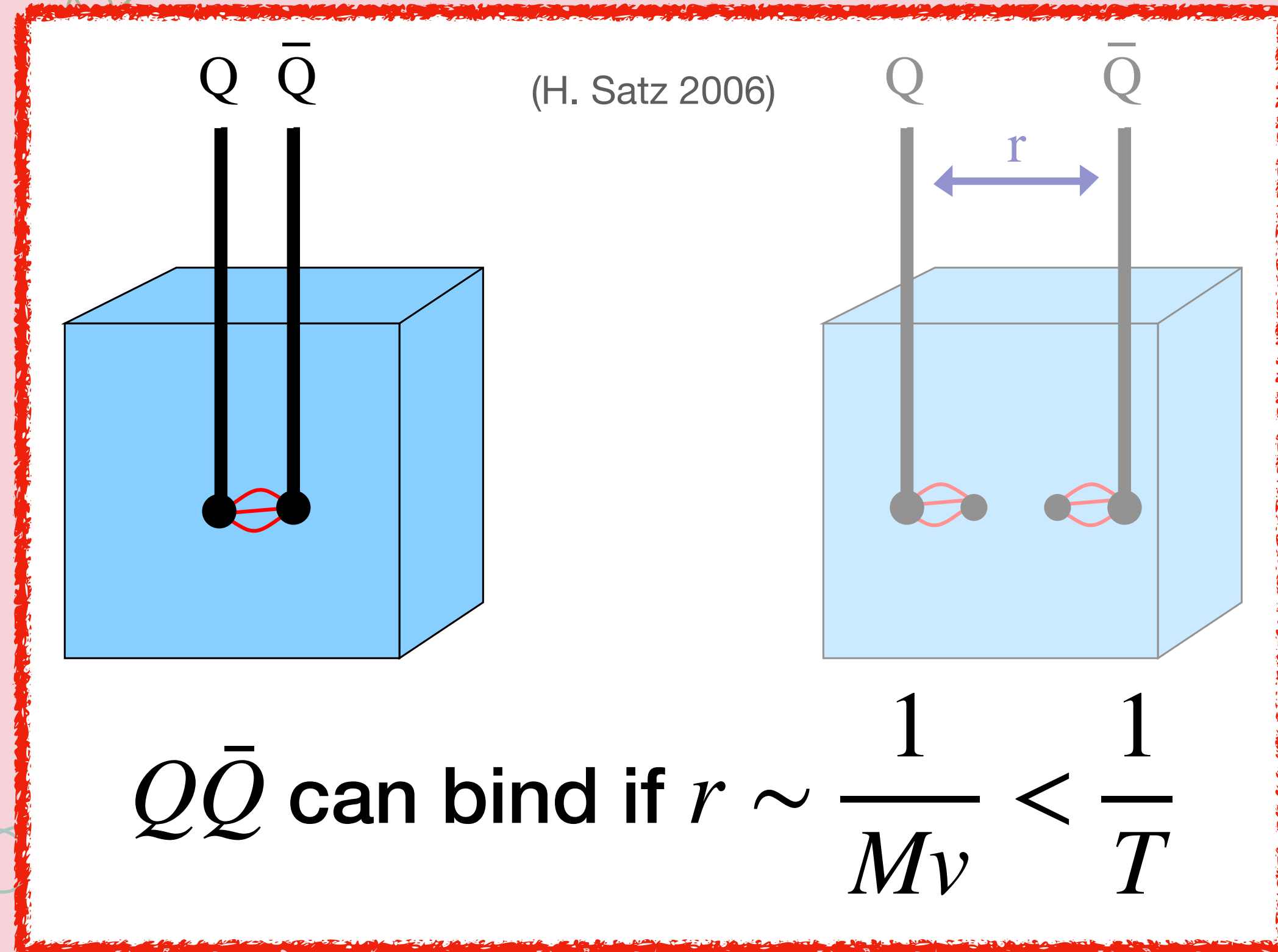
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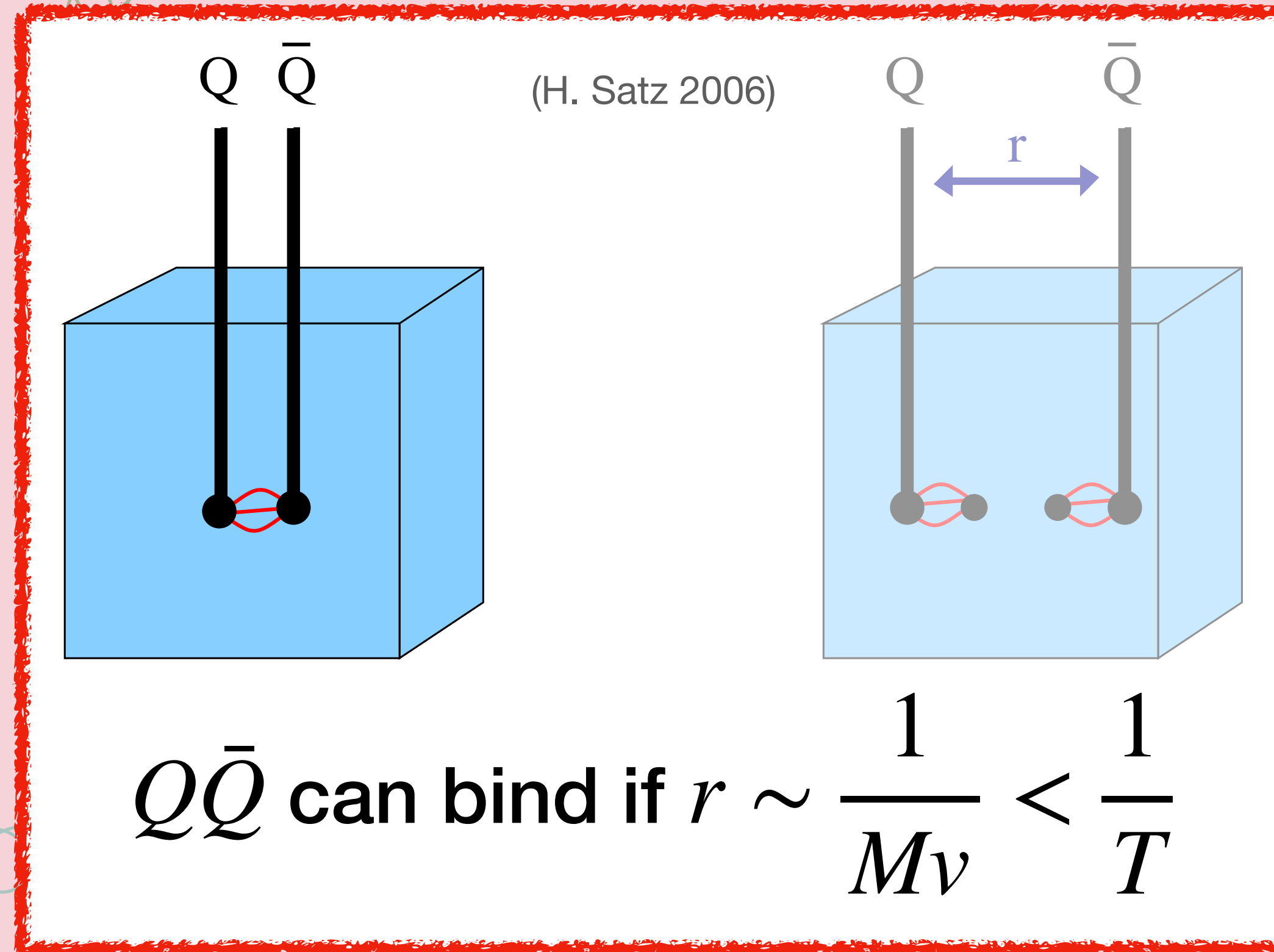
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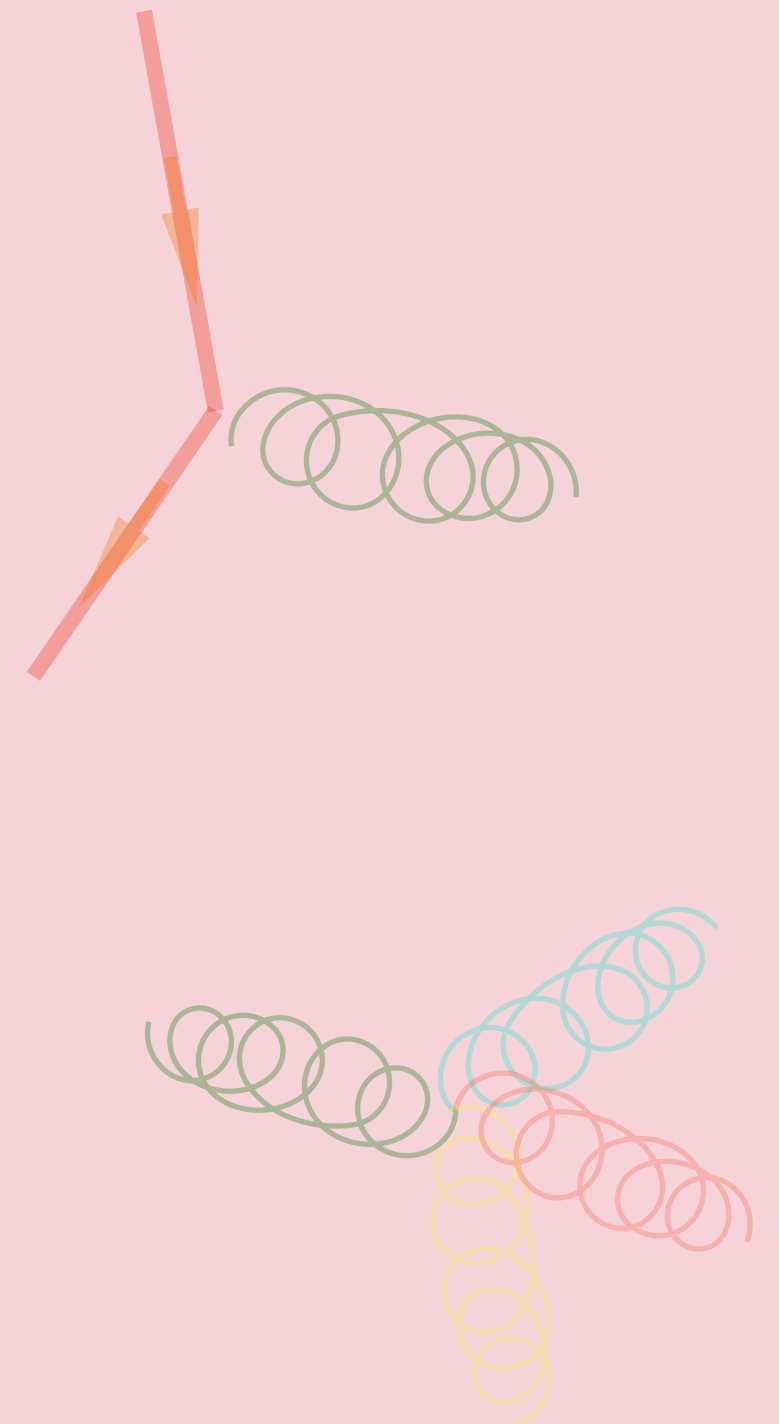
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$\implies$  most of quarkonium starts to form when  $Mv \gtrsim T$



color octet;  
unbound state



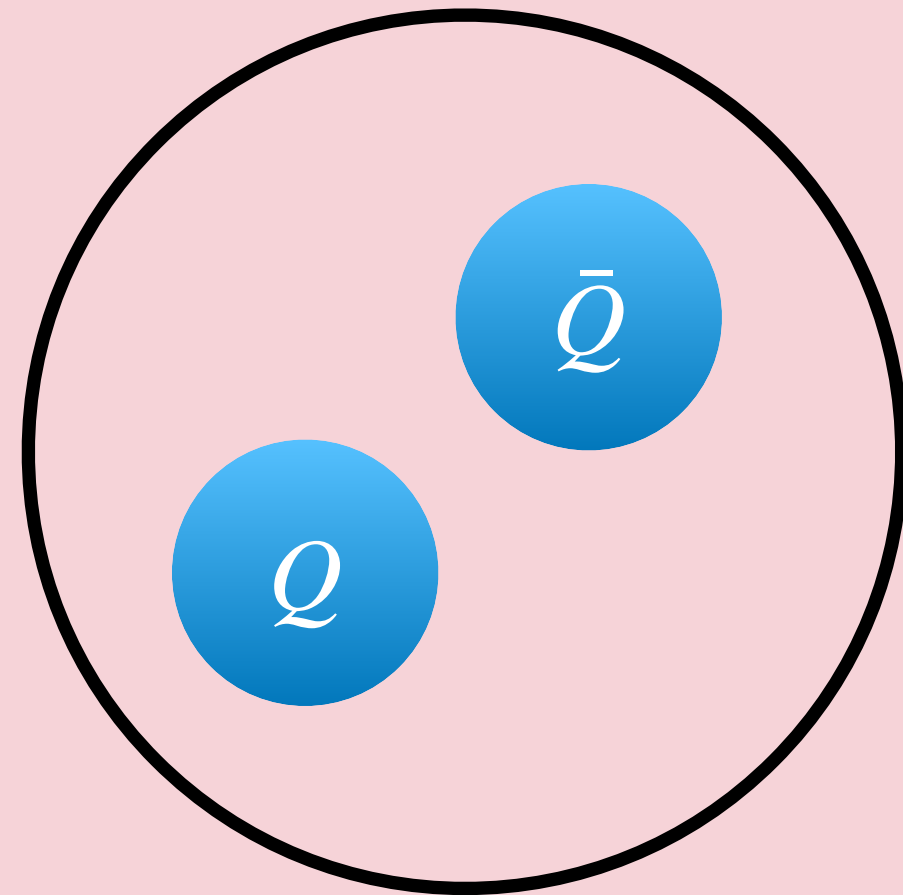
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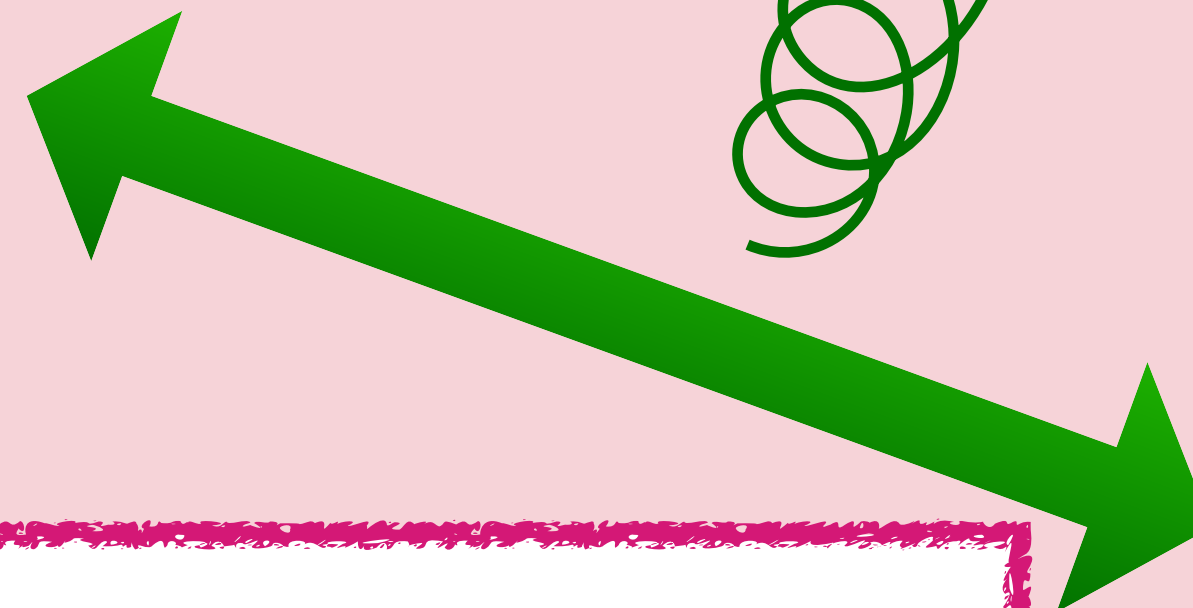
# Quarkonium in medium

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color singlet;  
bound state



$\implies$  We need to  
understand the above  
dynamics in the hierarchy

$$Mv \gg T$$

$\implies$  pNRQCD [\*]

3



color octet;  
unbound state

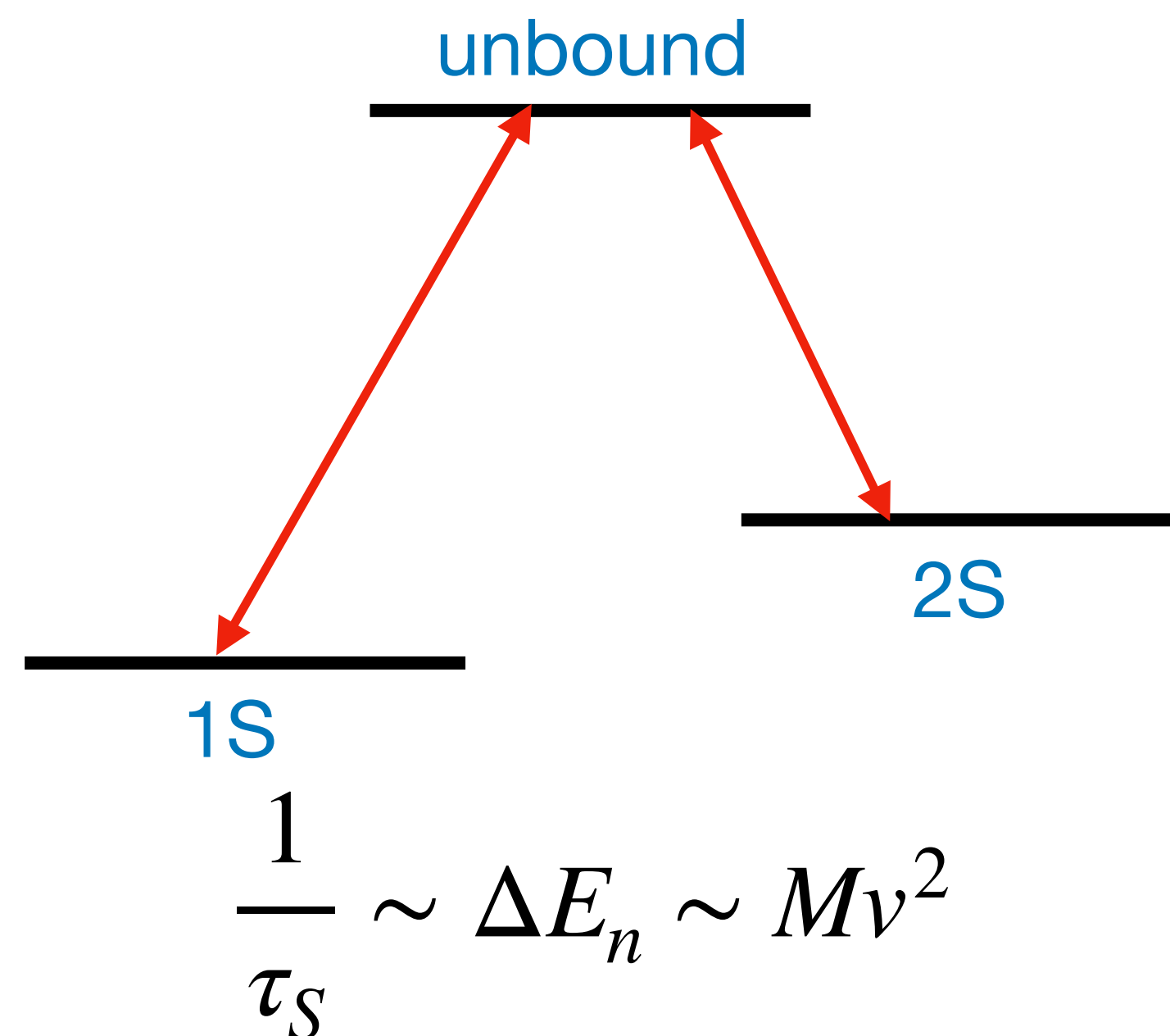
[\*] N. Brambilla, A. Pineda, J. Soto. A. Vairo  
hep-ph/9907240, hep-ph/0410047

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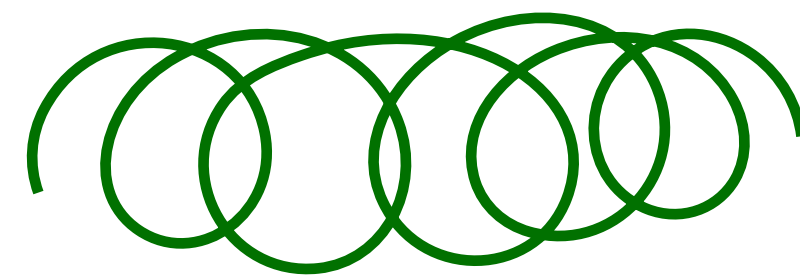
$T > 0$

# Time scales of quarkonia

Transitions between  
quarkonium energy levels  
(the system)



Interaction with the  
environment



$$\frac{1}{\tau_I} \sim \frac{H_{\text{int}}^2}{T} \sim T \frac{T^2}{(Mv)^2}$$

QGP  
(the environment)

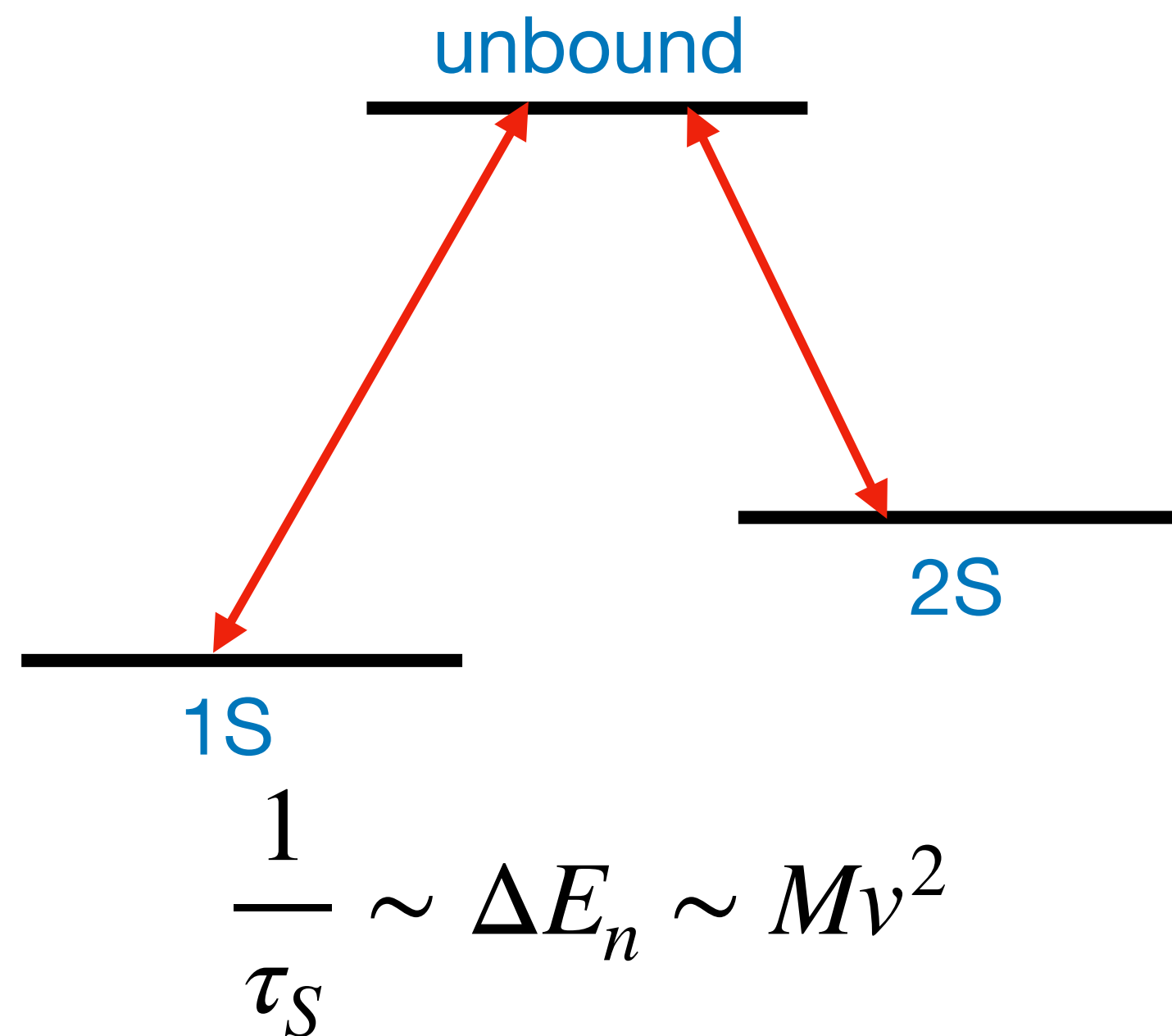


$$\frac{1}{\tau_E} \sim T$$

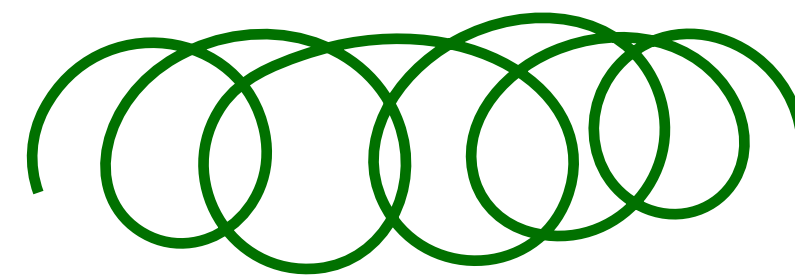
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pNRQCD}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{light quarks}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{gluon}} + \int d^3r \text{Tr}_{\text{color}} \left[ S^\dagger (i\partial_0 - H_s) S + O^\dagger (iD_0 - H_o) O \right. \\ \left. + {}_4V_A (O^\dagger \mathbf{r} \cdot g\mathbf{E} S + \text{h.c.}) + \frac{V_B}{2} O^\dagger \{ \mathbf{r} \cdot g\mathbf{E}, O \} + \dots \right]$$

# Time scales of quarkonia

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QGP (the environment)

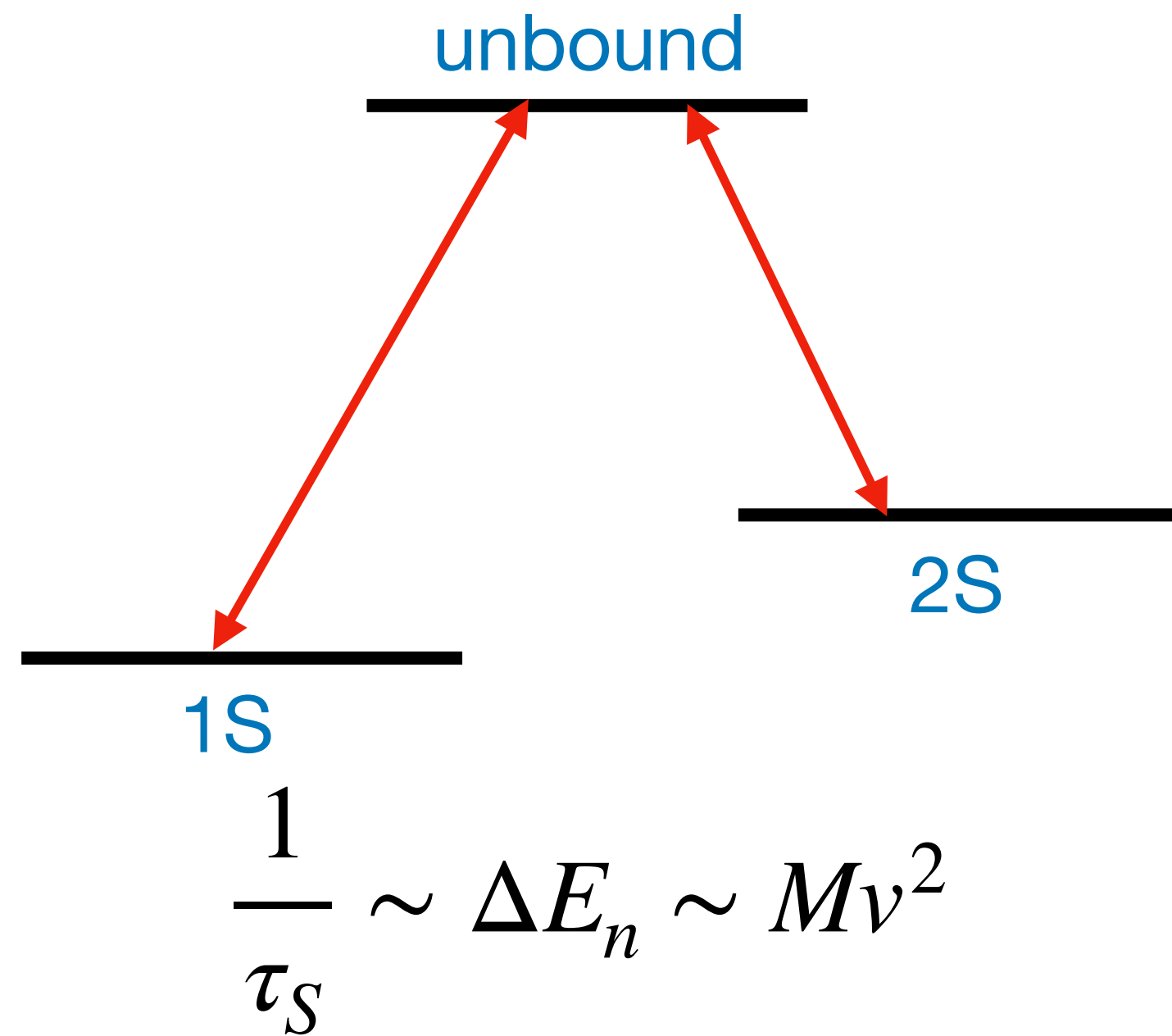


$$\frac{1}{\tau_E} \sim T$$

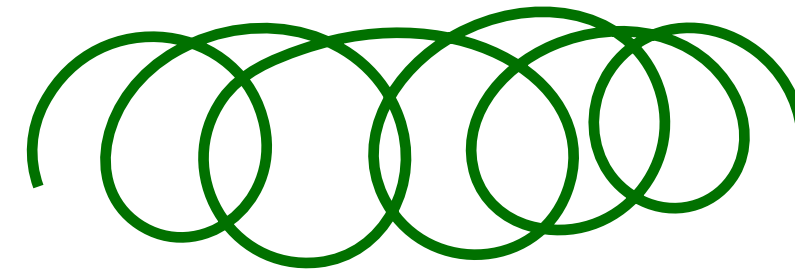
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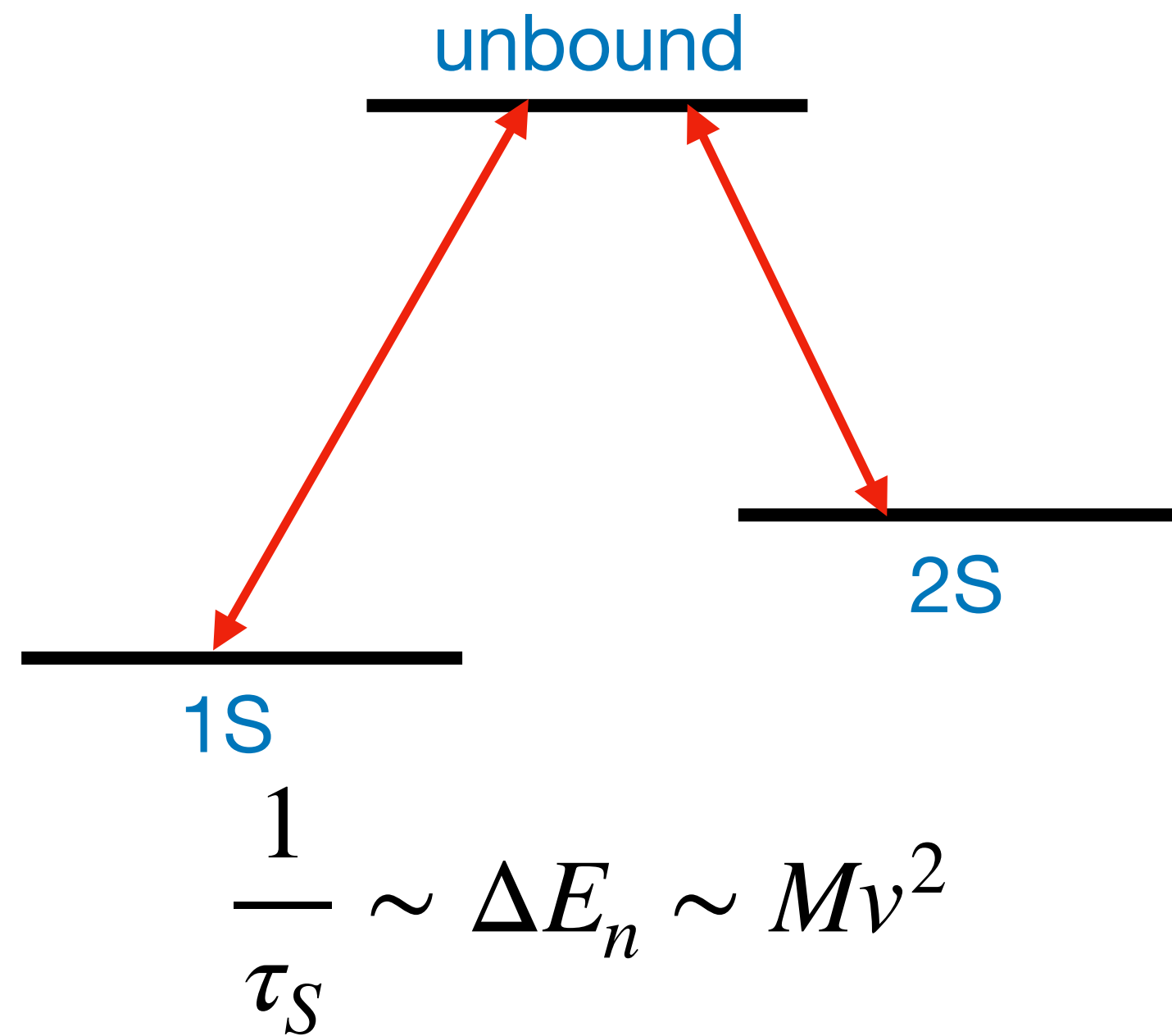


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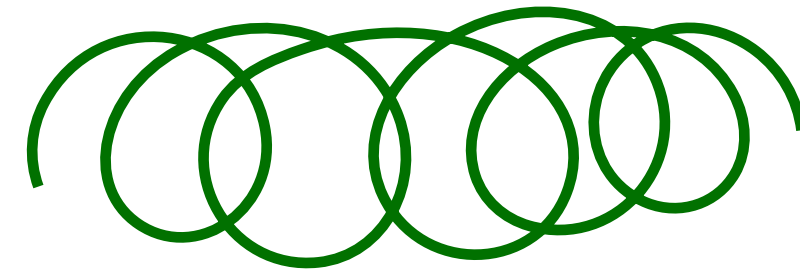
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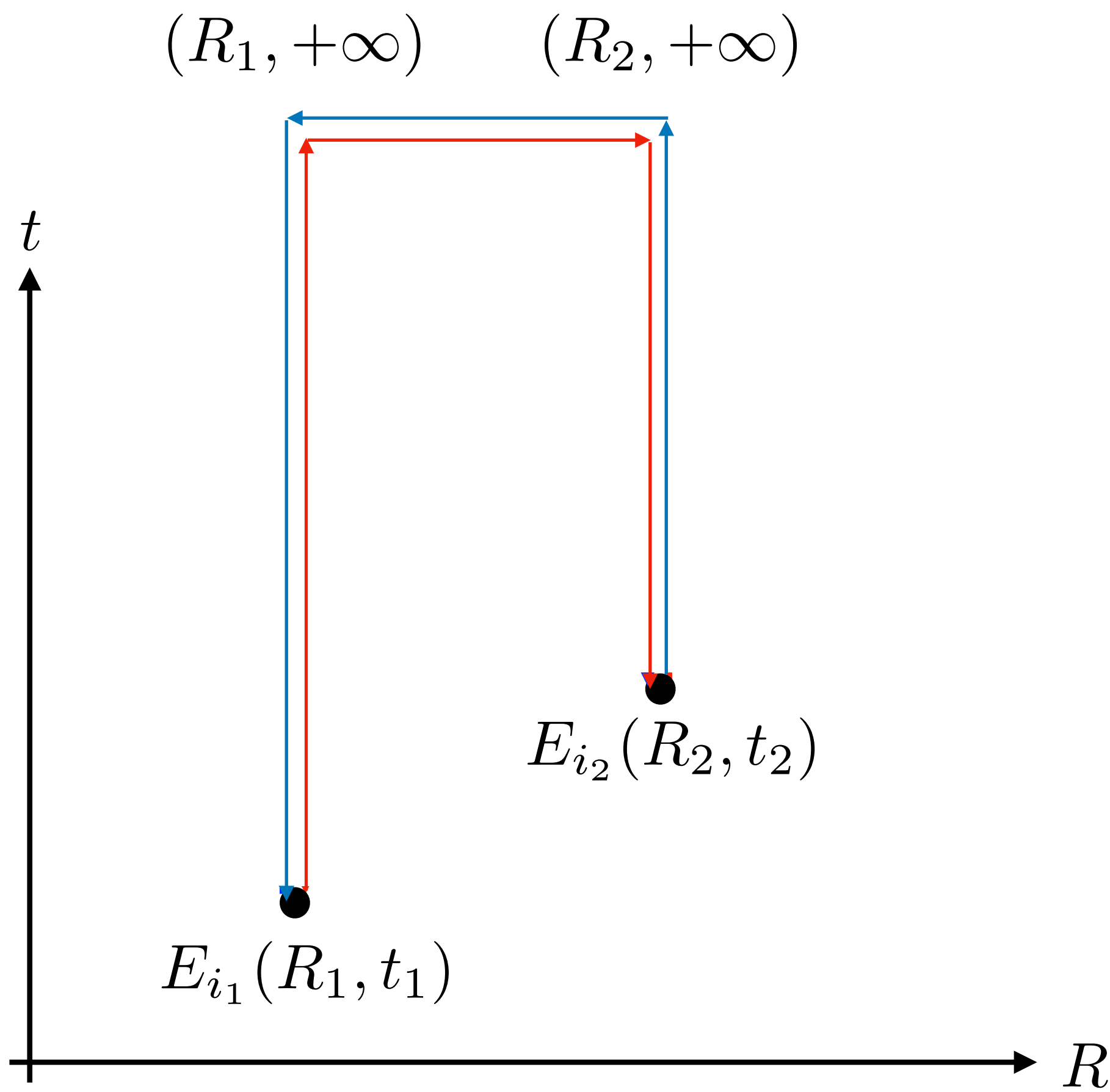


**What do we need to calculate?**

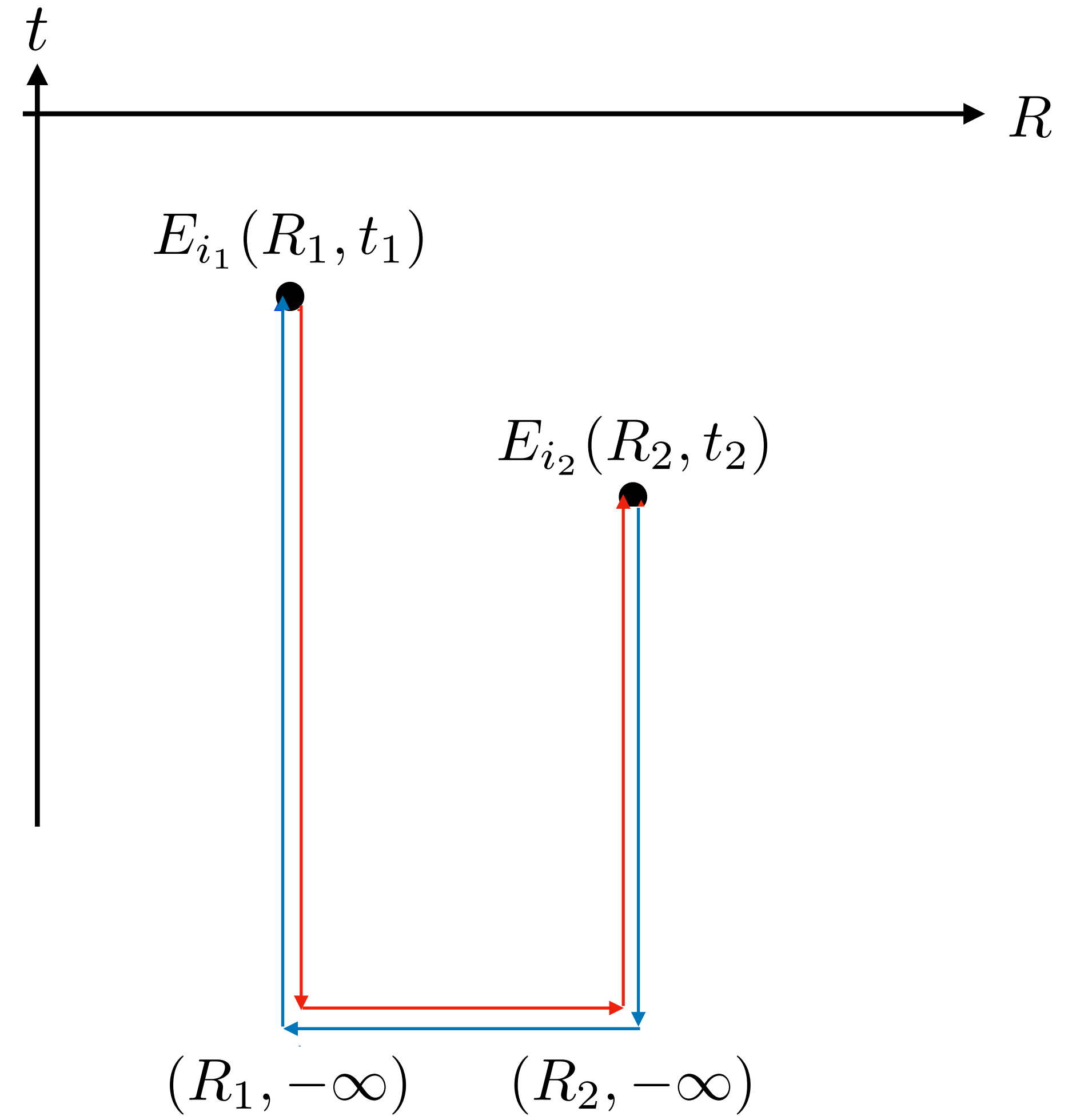
# QGP chromoelectric correlators

for quarkonium transport

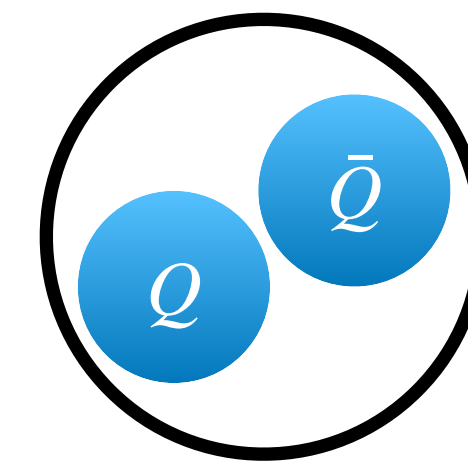
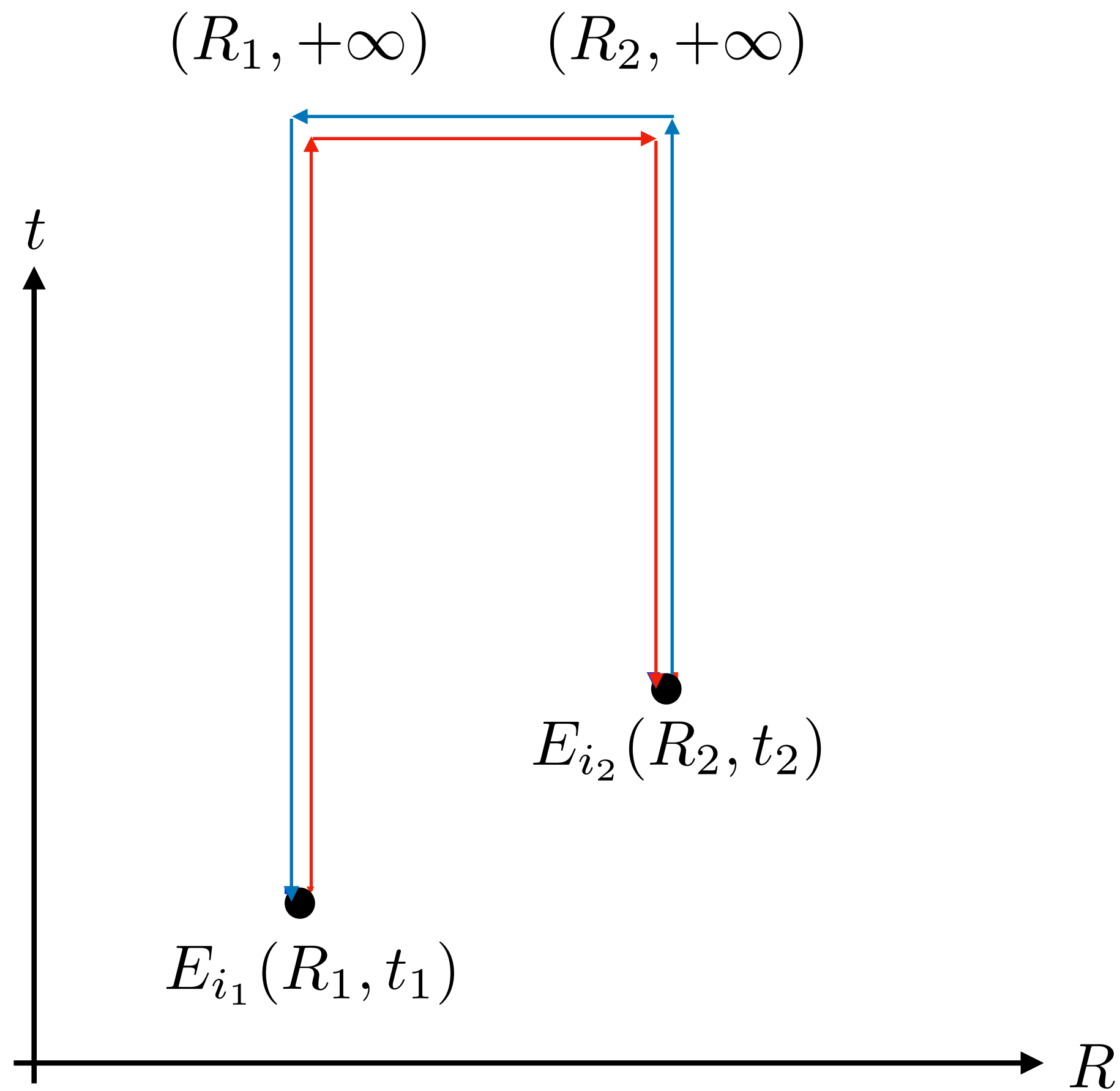
$$[g_E^{--}]_{i_2 i_1}^>(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \mathbf{R}_1) = \langle (\mathcal{W}_{2'} E_{i_2}(\mathbf{R}_2, t_2))^a (E_{i_1}(\mathbf{R}_1, t_1) \mathcal{W}_{1'})^a \rangle_T$$



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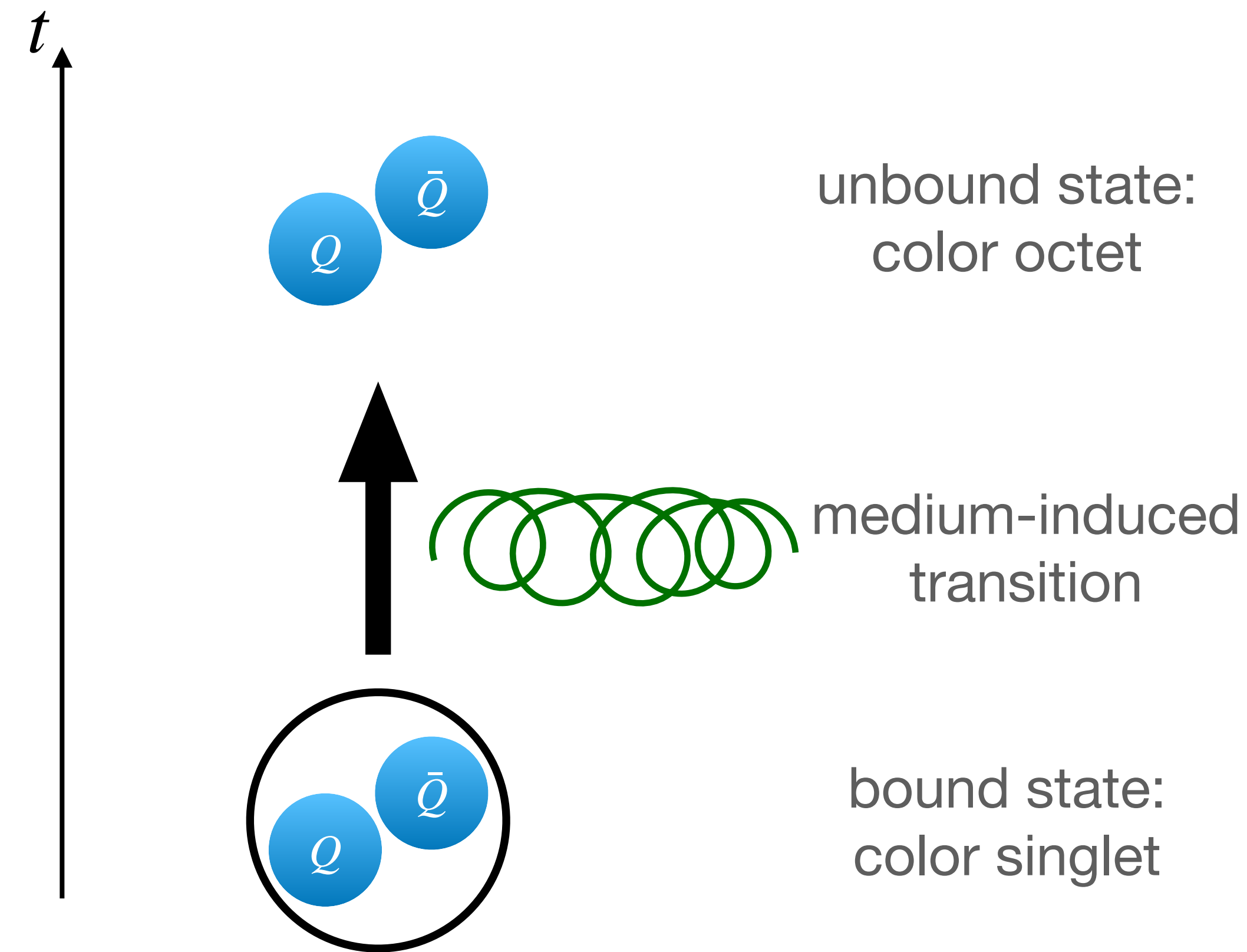
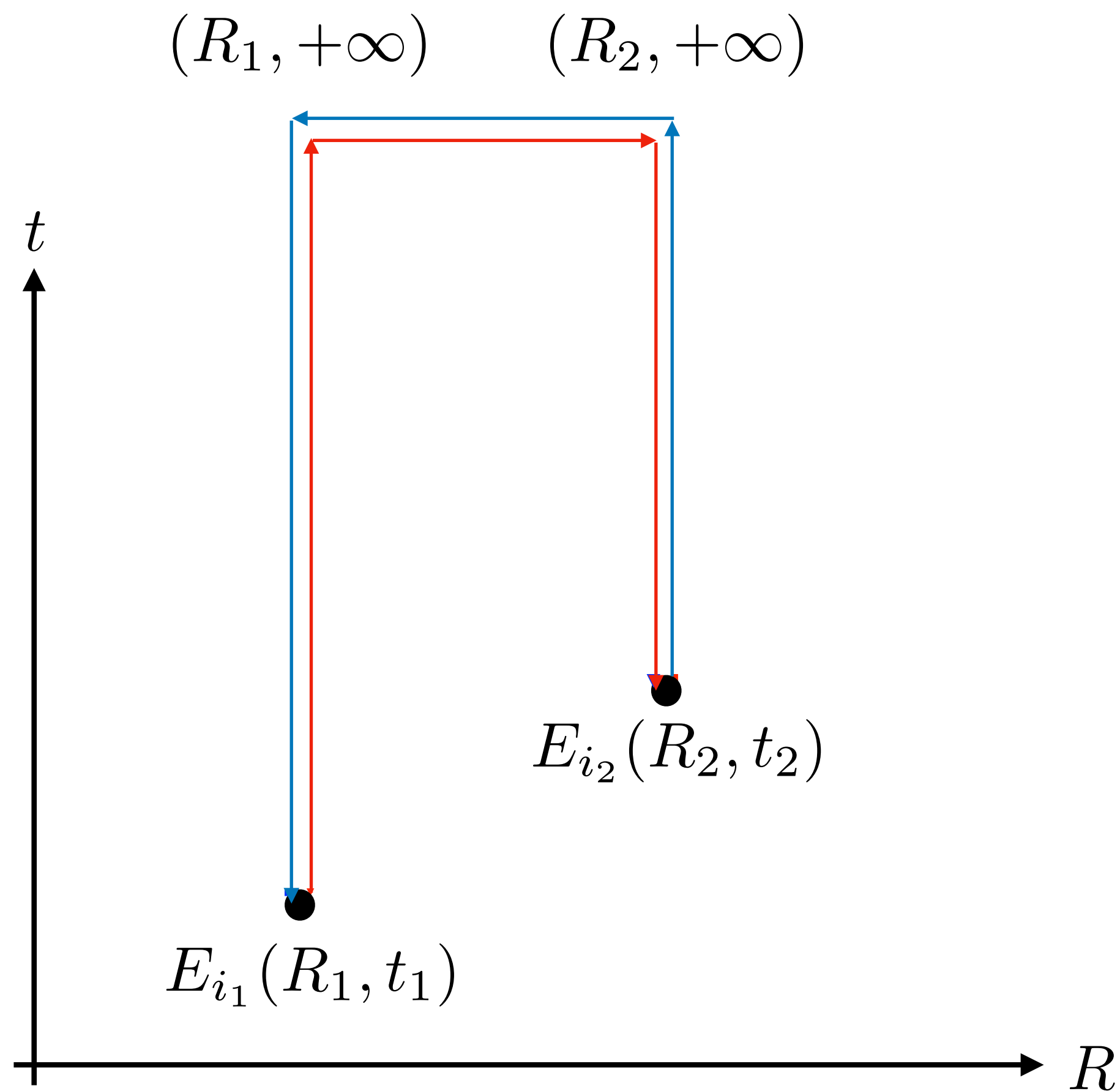
# QGP chromoelectric correlators for quarkonium transport



bound state:  
color singlet

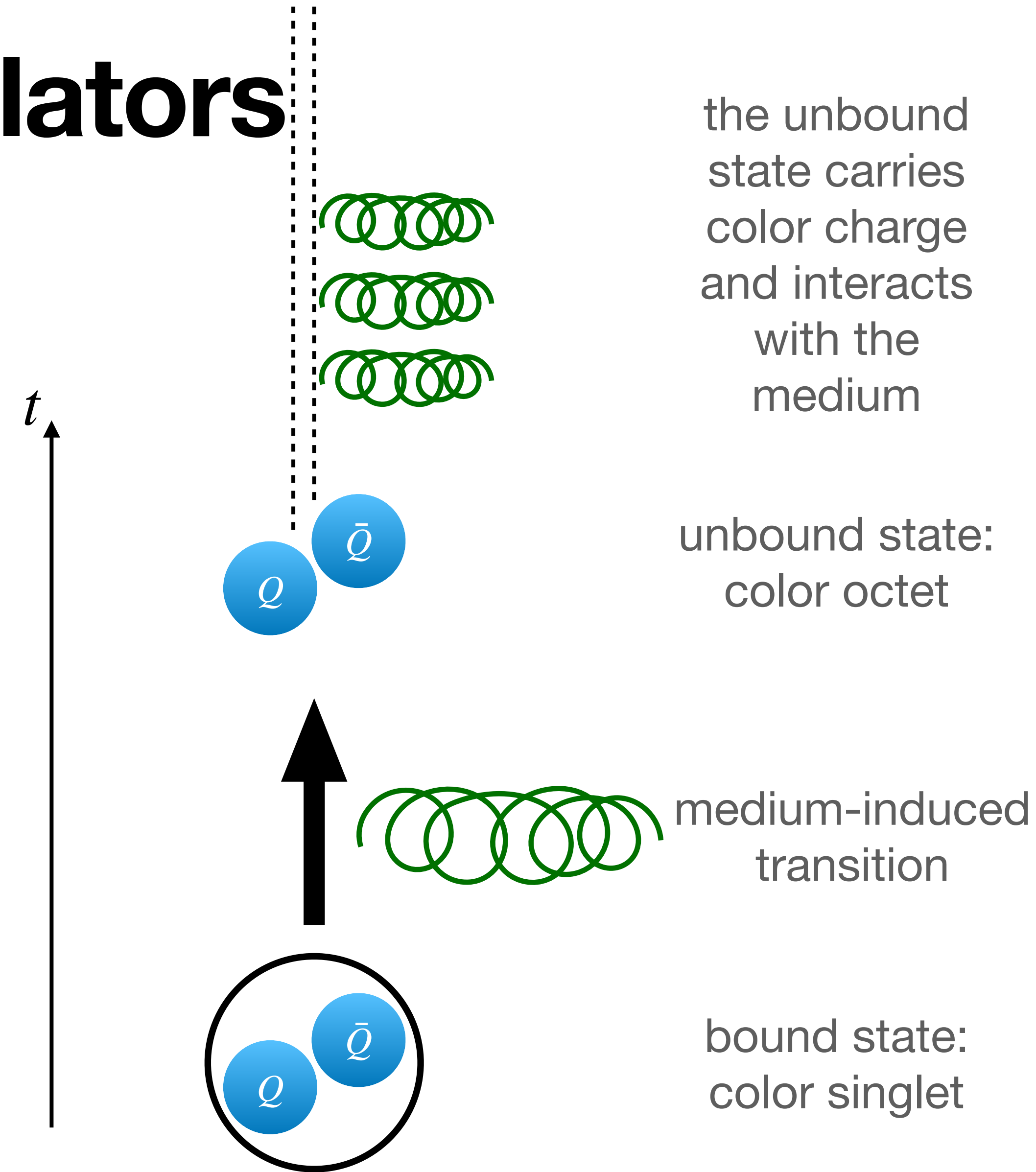
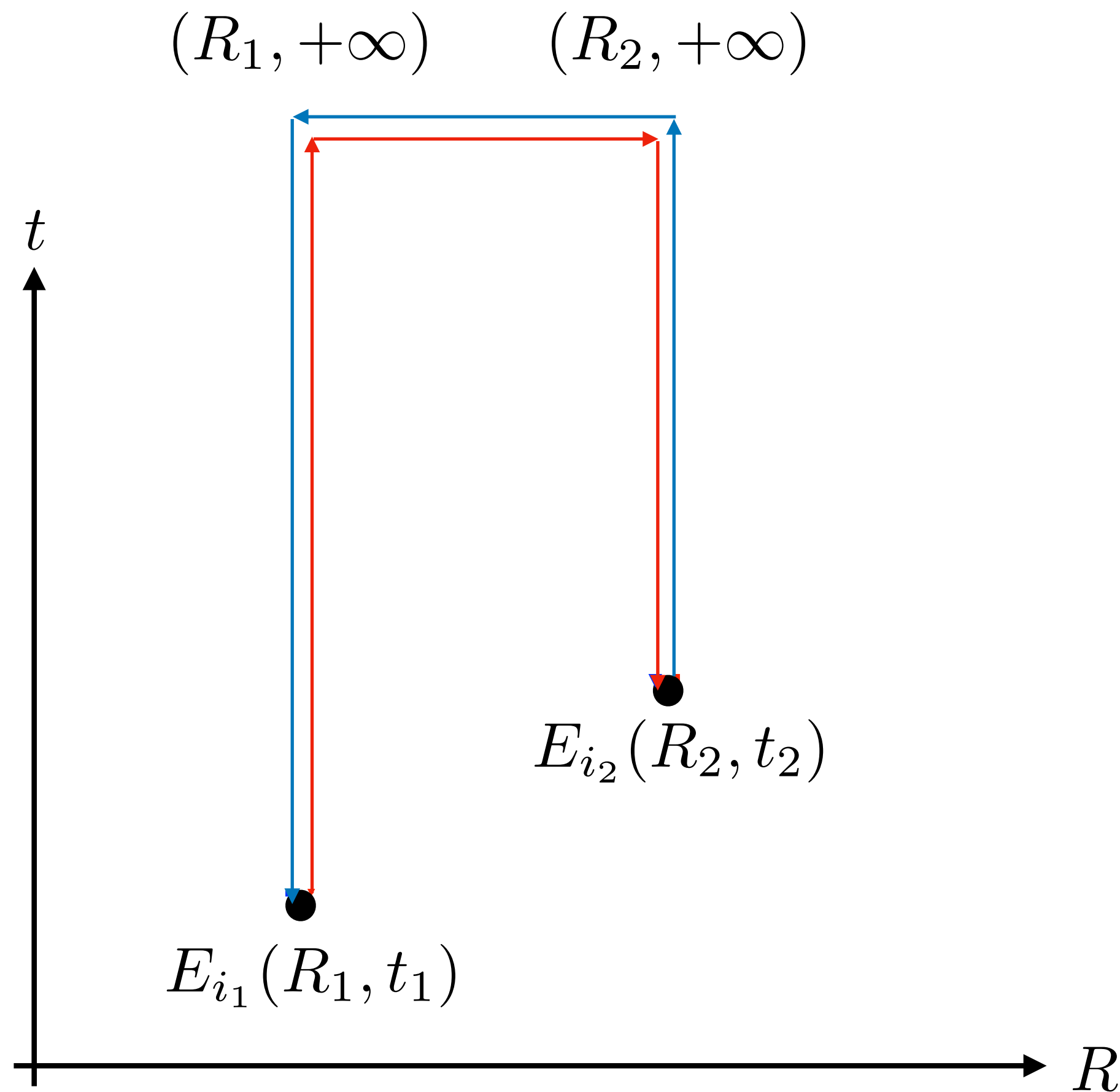
$$[g_E^{++}]_{i_2 i_1}^>(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \mathbf{R}_1) = \left\langle \left( E_{i_2}(\mathbf{R}_2, t_2) \mathcal{W}_2 \right)^a \left( \mathcal{W}_1 E_{i_1}(\mathbf{R}_1, t_1) \right)_6^a \right\rangle_T$$

# QGP chromoelectric correlators for quarkonium transport



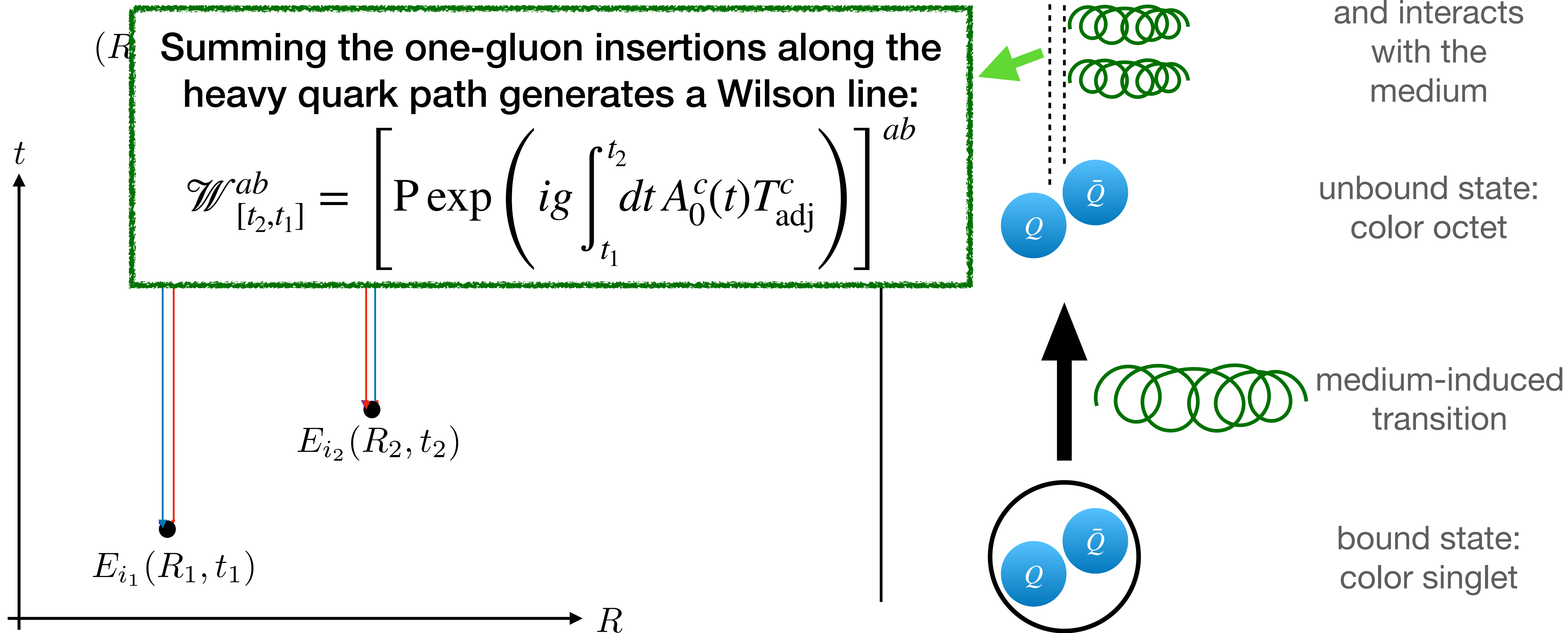
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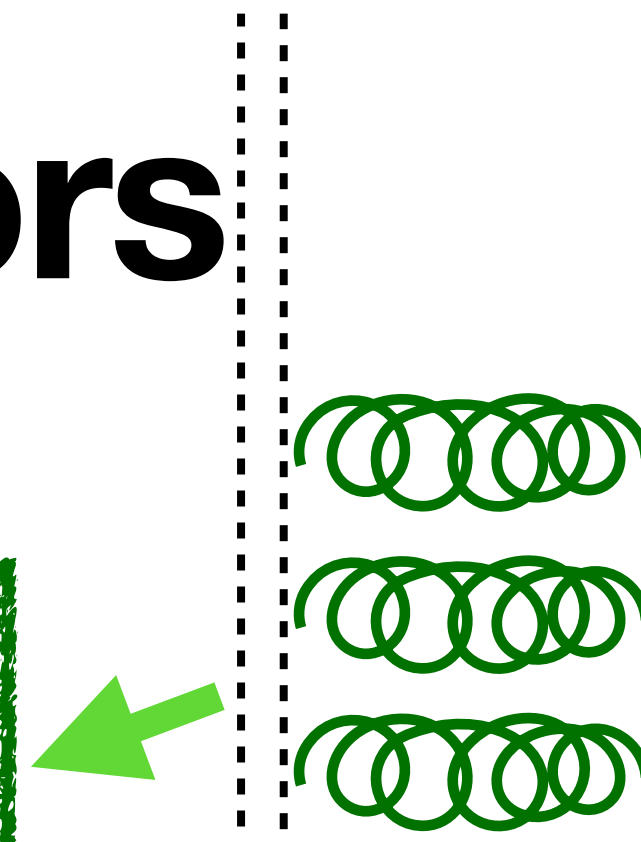
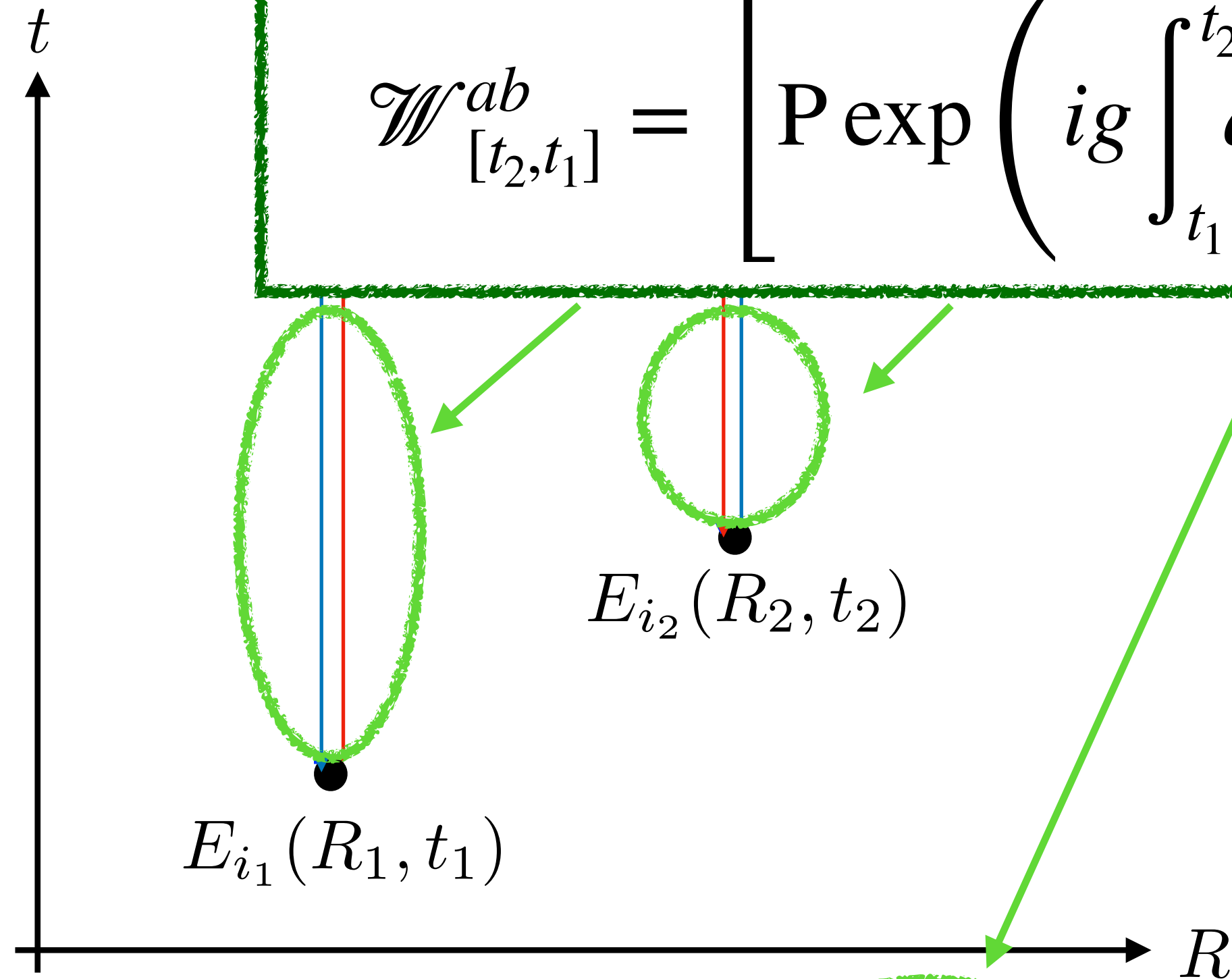


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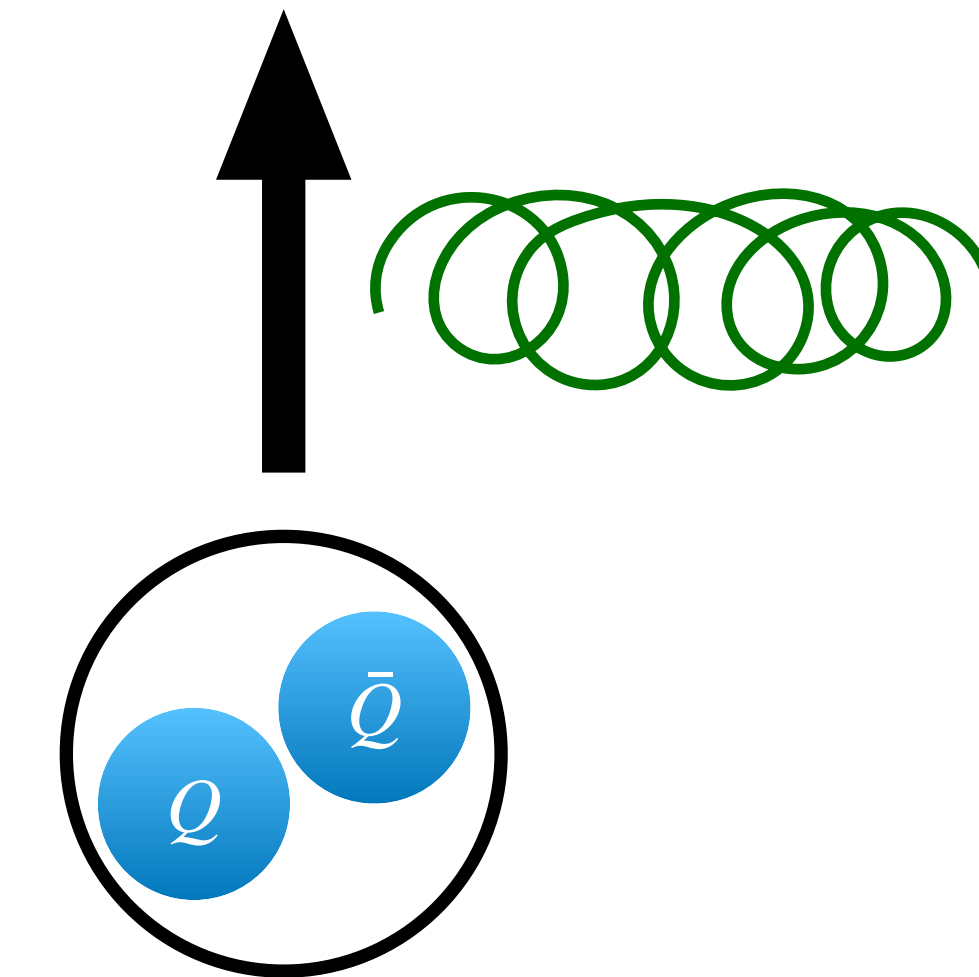
(R) Summing the one-gluon insertions along the heavy quark path generates a Wilson line:

$$\mathcal{W}_{[t_2, t_1]}^{ab} = \left[ \text{P exp} \left( ig \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt A_0^c(t) T_{\text{adj}}^c \right) \right]^{ab}$$



the unbound state carries color charge and interacts with the medium

unbound state: color octet

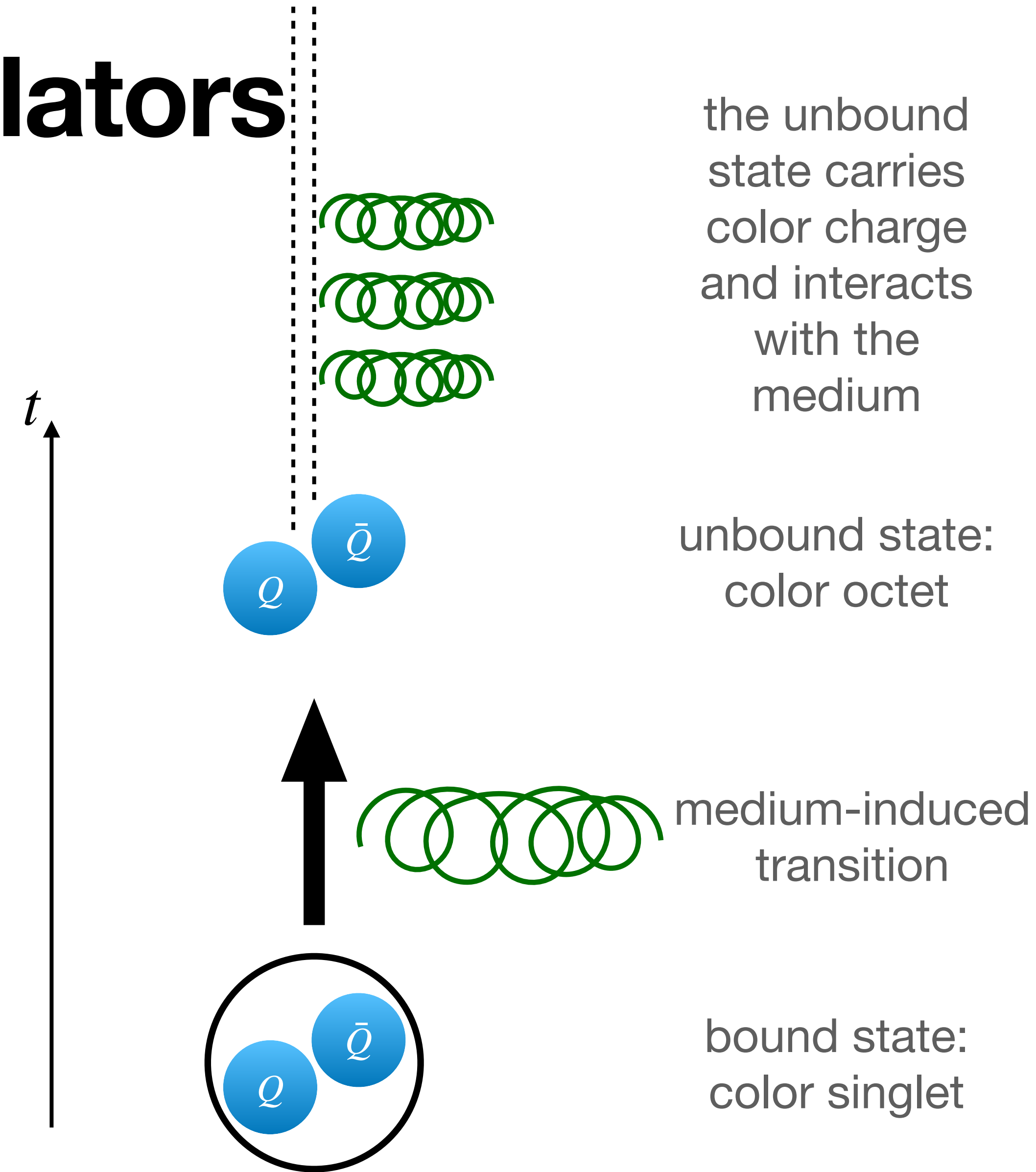
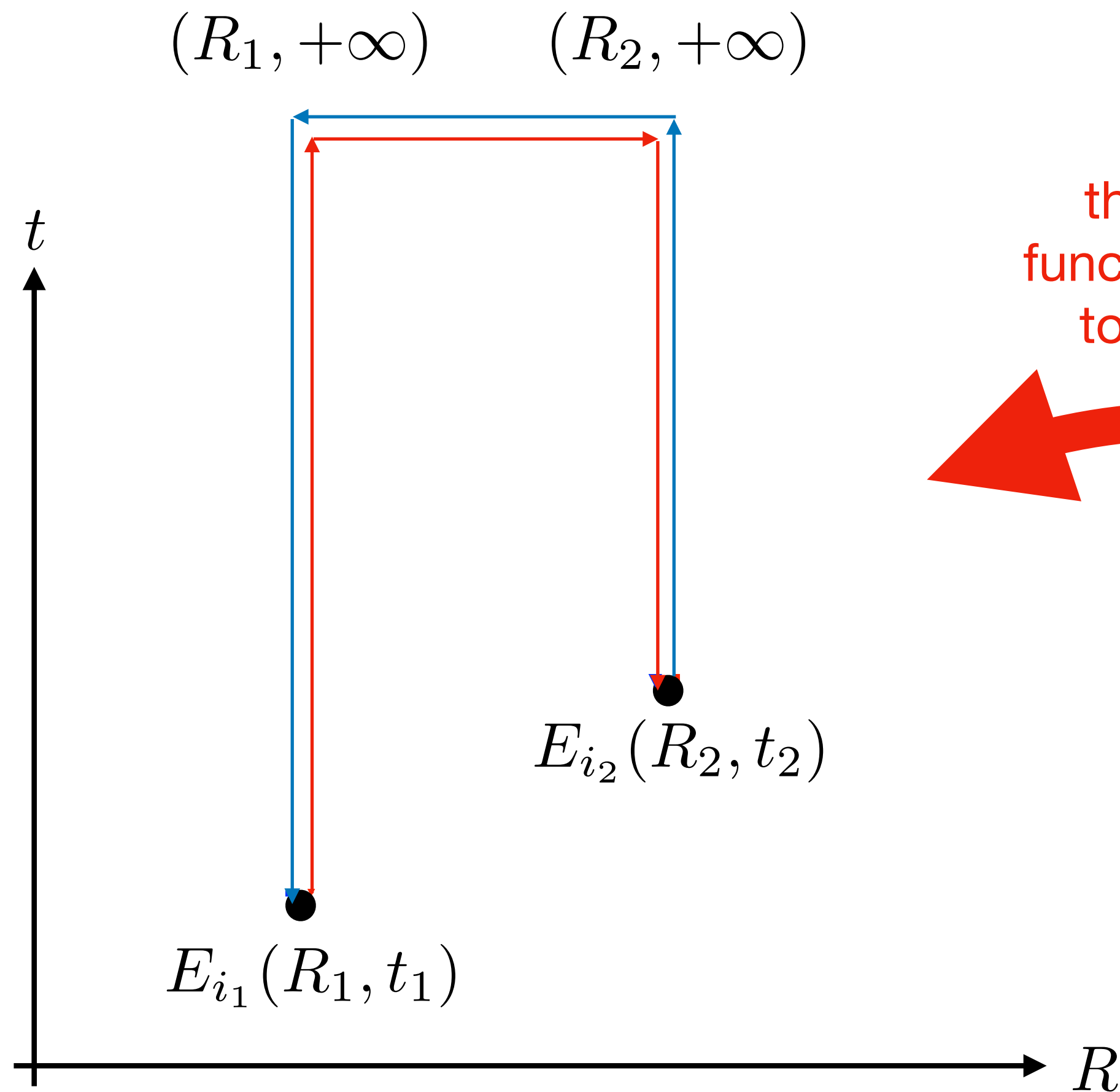


medium-induced transition

bound state: color singlet

$$[g_E^{++}]_{i_2 i_1}^>(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \mathbf{R}_1) = \left\langle \left( E_{i_2}(\mathbf{R}_2, t_2) \mathcal{W}_2 \right)^a \left( \mathcal{W}_1 E_{i_1}(\mathbf{R}_1, t_1) \right)_6^a \right\rangle_T$$

# QGP chromoelectric correlators for quarkonium transport



$$[g_E^{++}]_{i_2 i_1}^>(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \mathbf{R}_1) = \left\langle \left( E_{i_2}(\mathbf{R}_2, t_2) \mathcal{W}_2 \right)^a \left( \mathcal{W}_1 E_{i_1}(\mathbf{R}_1, t_1) \right)_6^a \right\rangle_T$$



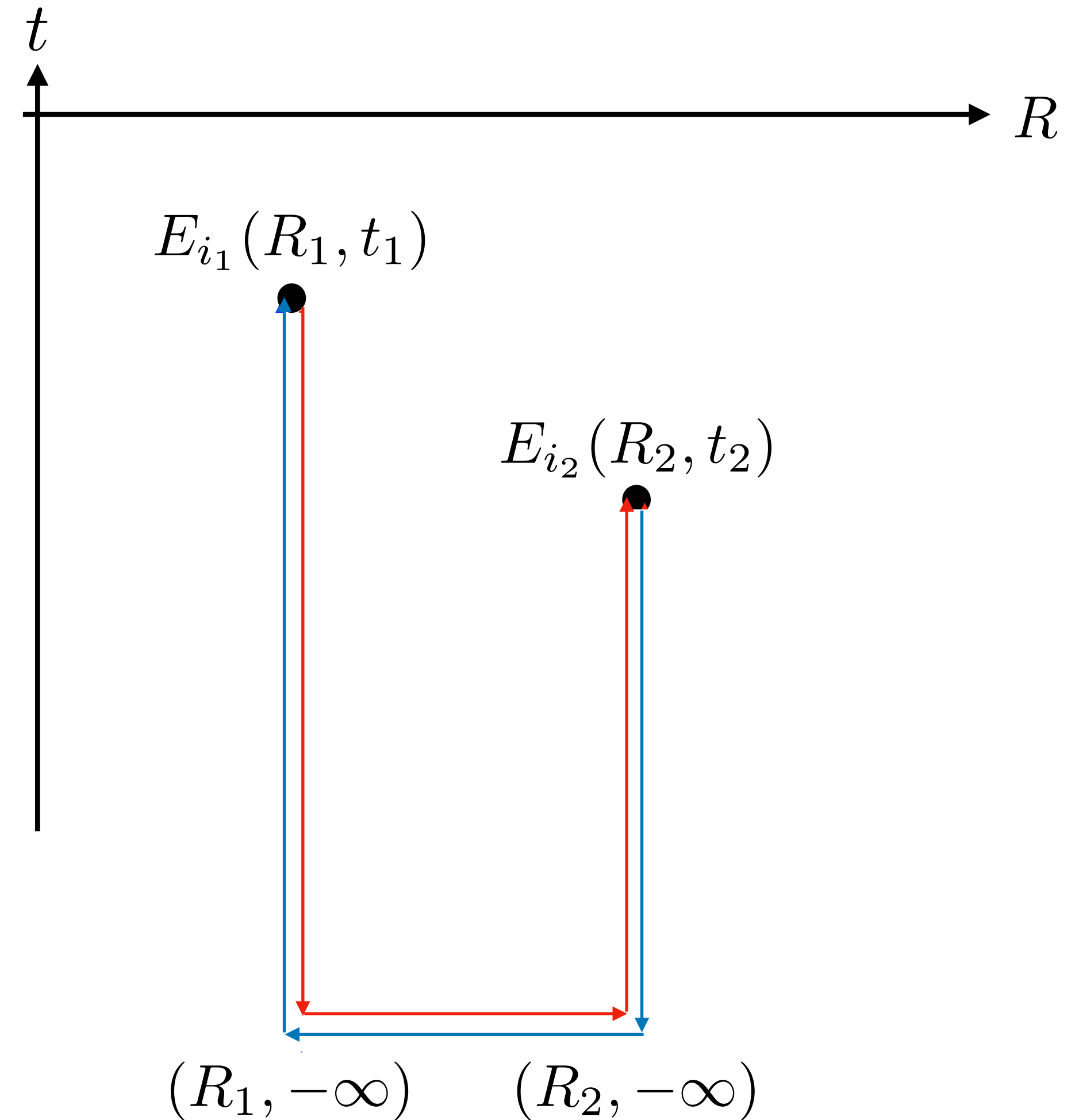
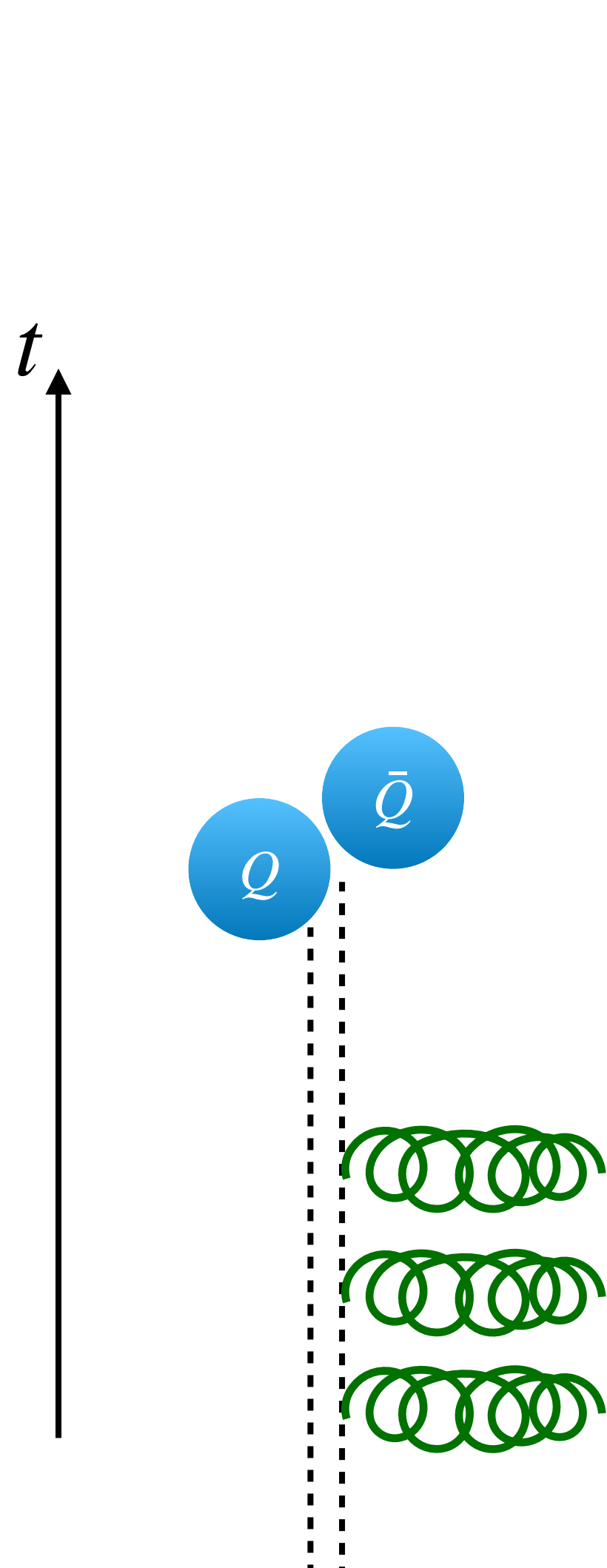
# QGP chromoelectric correlators

## for quarkonium transport

$$[g_E^-]_{i_2 i_1}^>(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \mathbf{R}_1) = \langle (\mathcal{W}_{2'} E_{i_2}(\mathbf{R}_2, t_2))^a (E_{i_1}(\mathbf{R}_1, t_1) \mathcal{W}_{1'})^a \rangle_T$$

unbound state:  
color octet

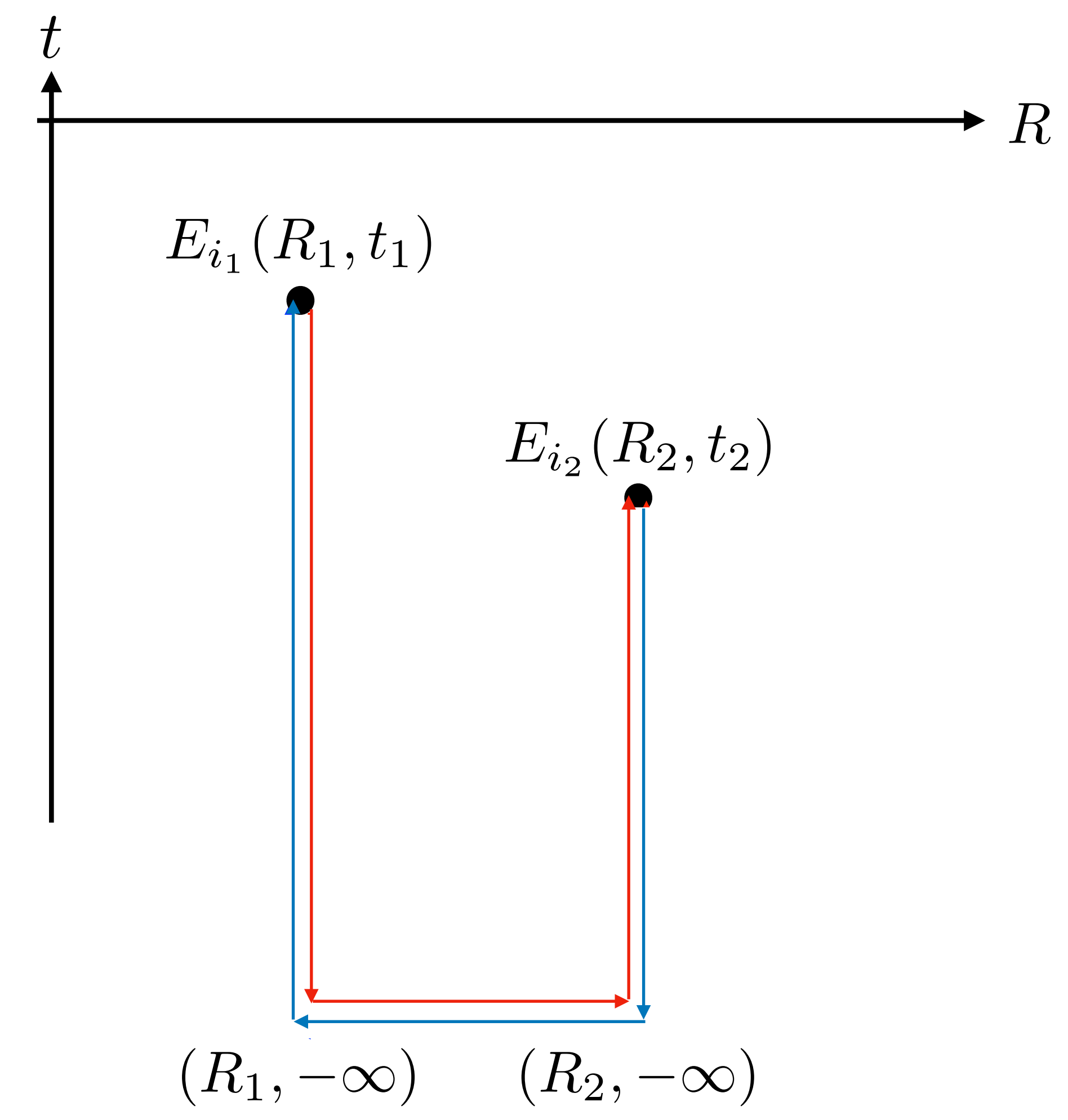
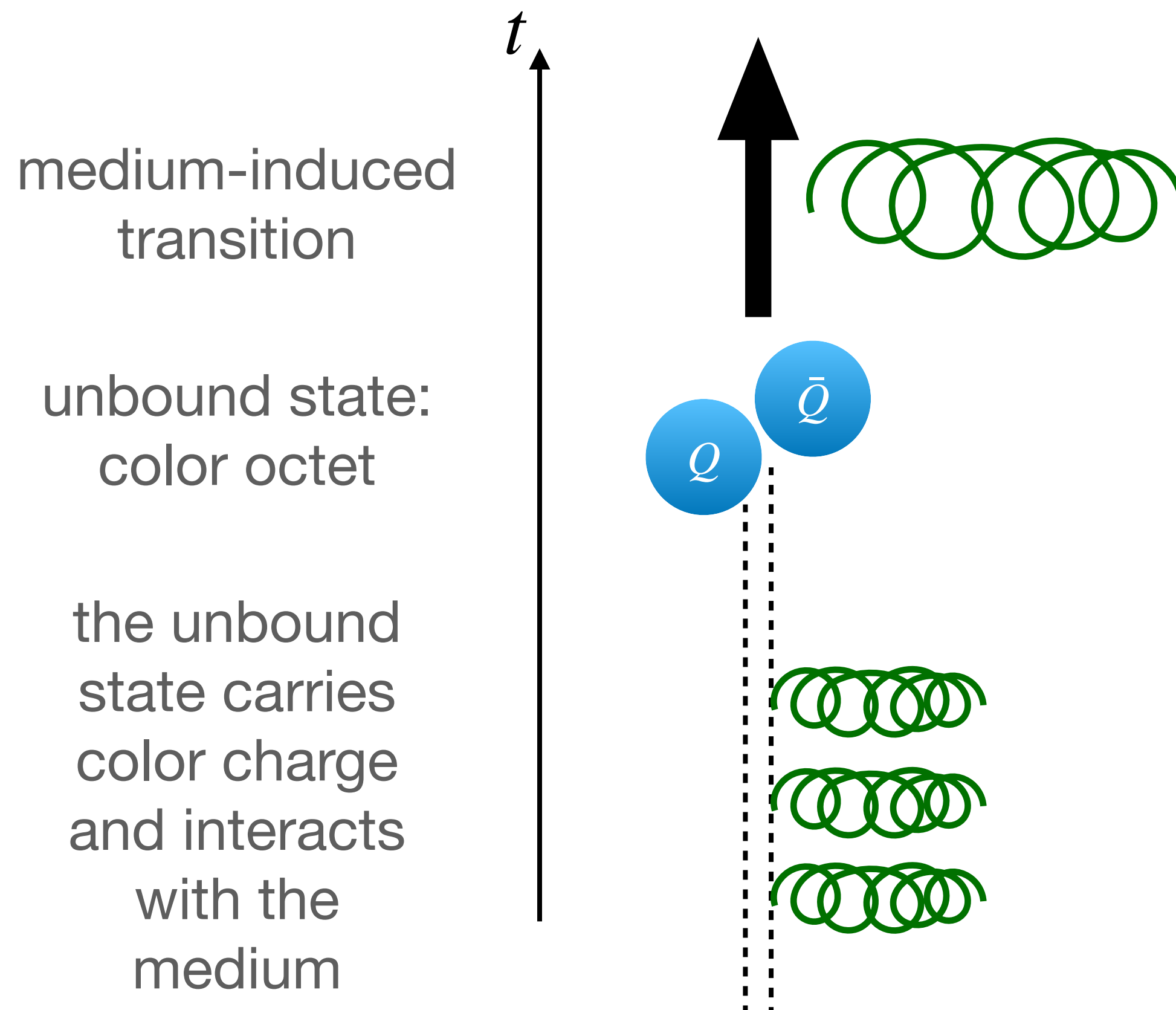
the unbound  
state carries  
color charge  
and interacts  
with the  
medium



# QGP chromoelectric correlators

## for quarkonium transport

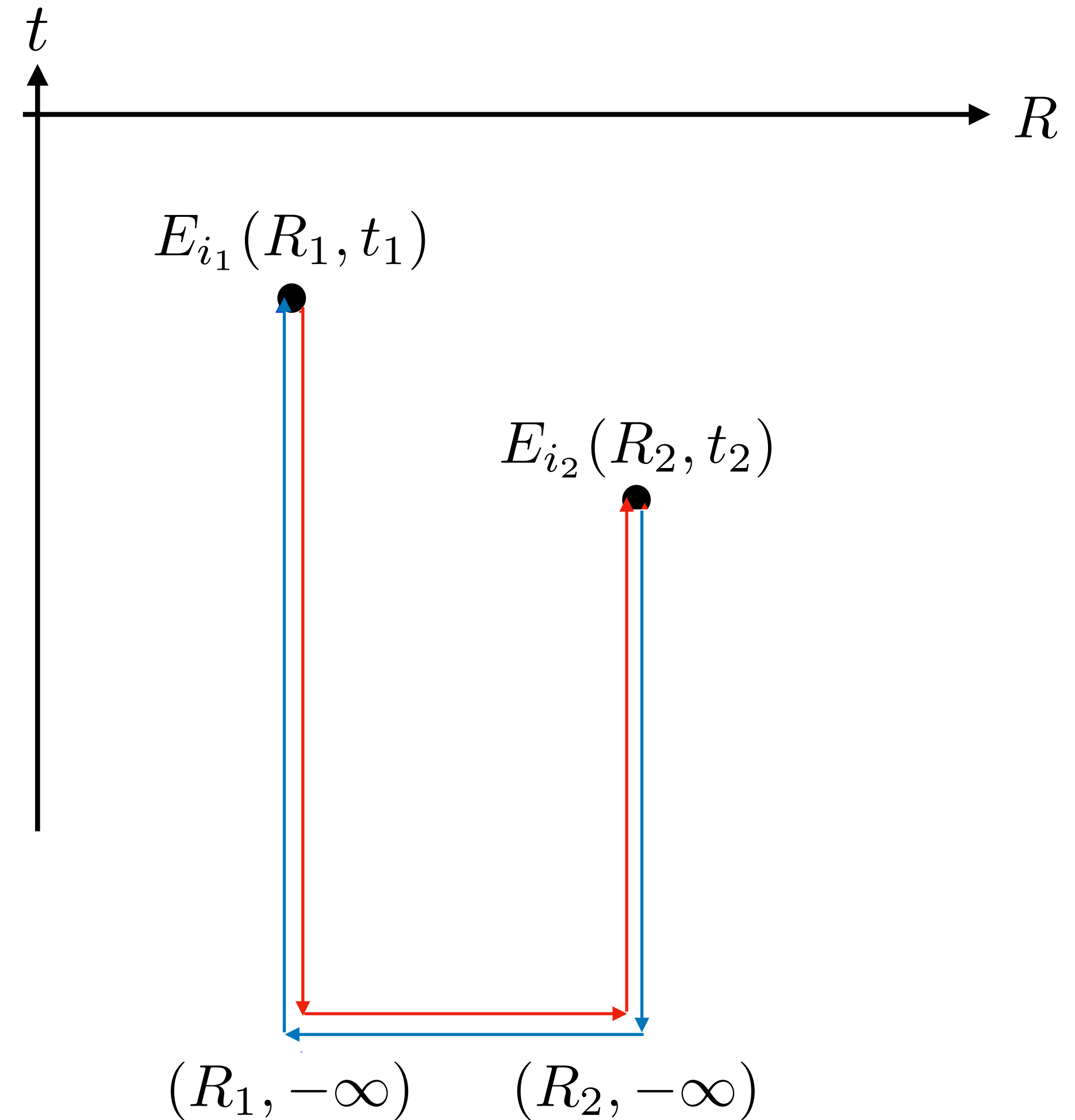
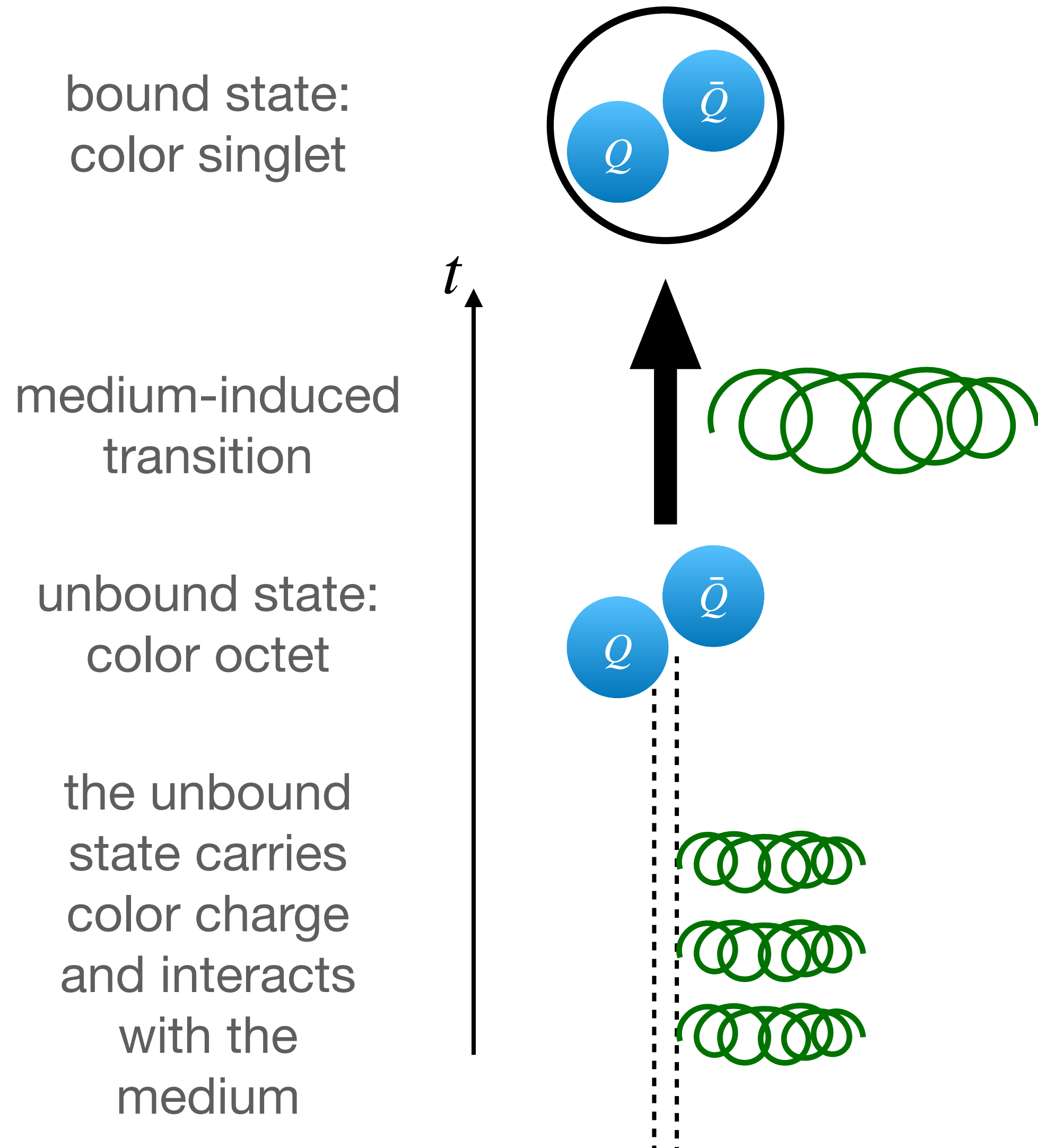
$$[g_E^{--}]_{i_2 i_1}^>(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \mathbf{R}_1) = \langle (\mathcal{W}_{2'} E_{i_2}(\mathbf{R}_2, t_2))^a (E_{i_1}(\mathbf{R}_1, t_1) \mathcal{W}_{1'})^a \rangle_T$$



# QGP chromoelectric correlators

## for quarkonium transport

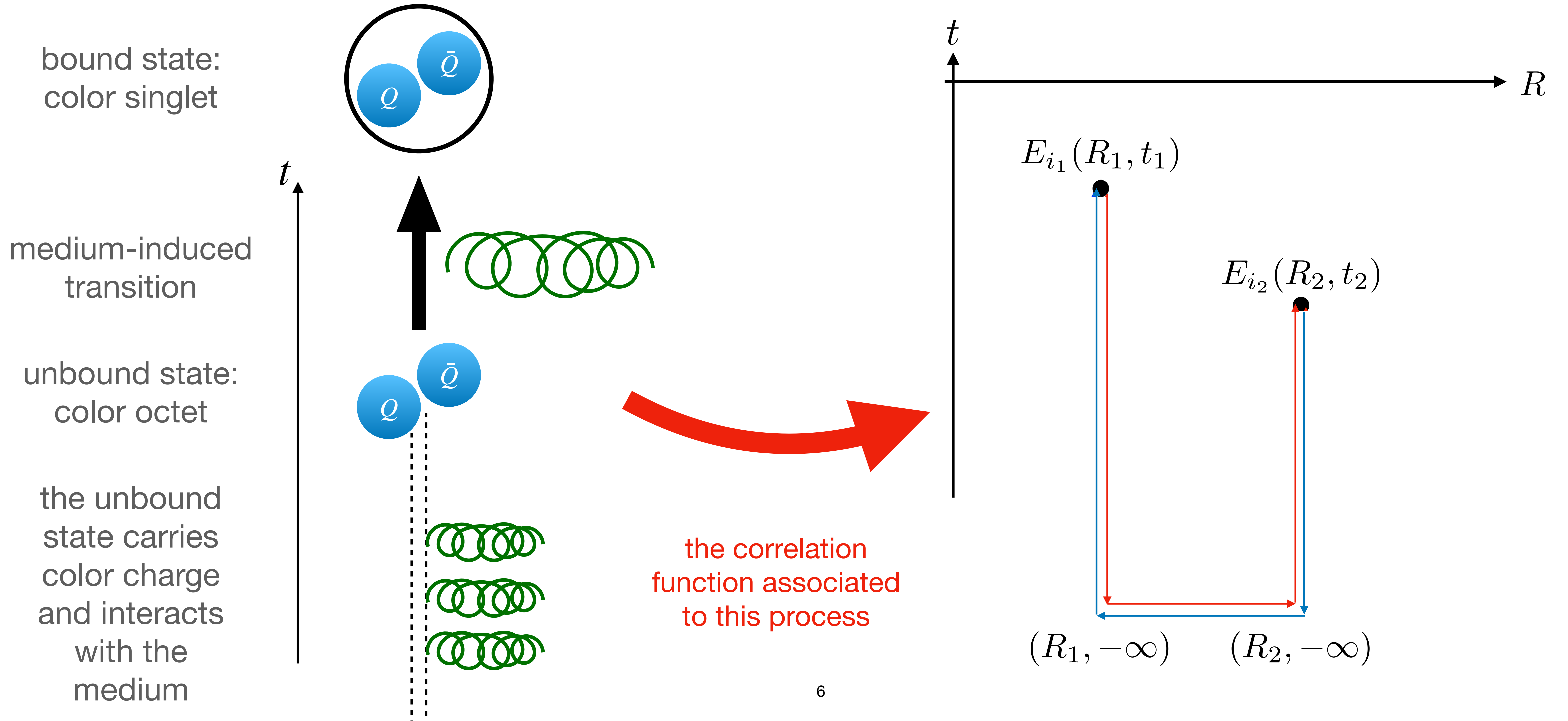
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# QGP chromoelectric correlators

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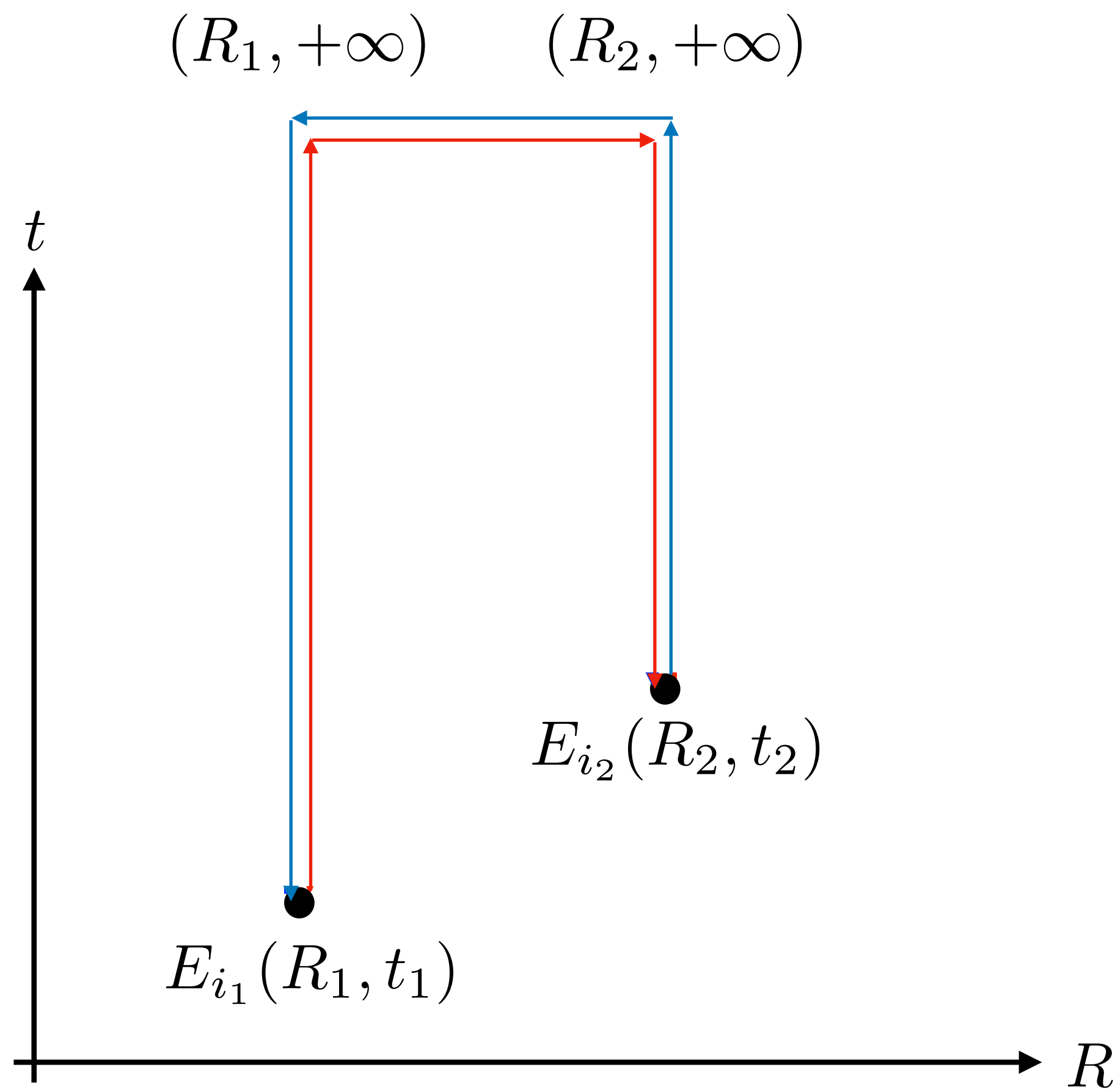
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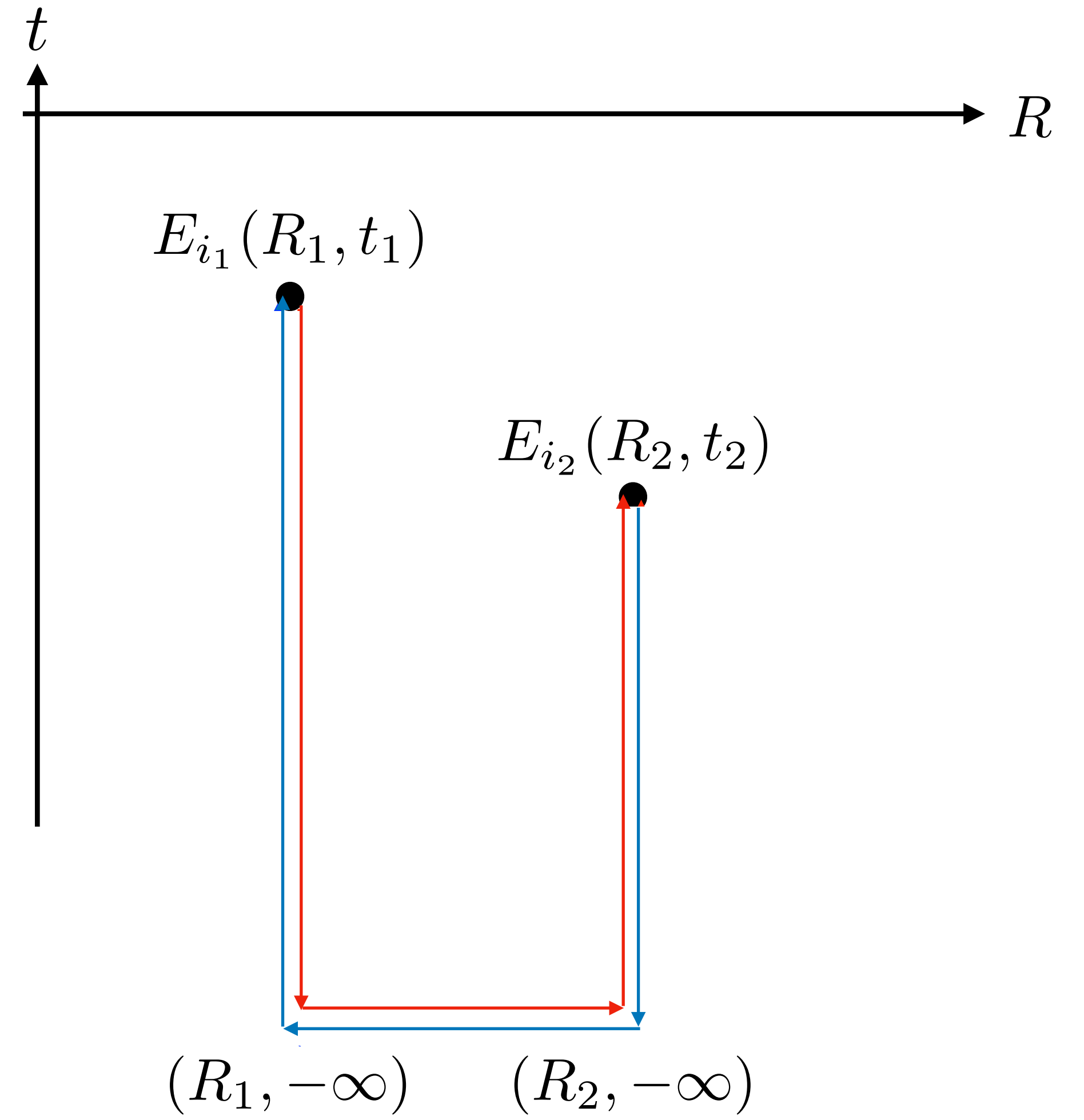
# QGP chromoelectric correlators

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**Why are these correlators  
interesting?**

These determine the dissociation and formation rates of quarkonia (in the quantum optical limit):

$$\Gamma^{\text{diss}} \propto \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}_{\text{rel}}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} |\langle \psi_{\mathcal{B}} | \mathbf{r} | \Psi_{\mathbf{p}_{\text{rel}}} \rangle|^2 [g_E^{++}]_{ii}^{\geq} \left( q^0 = E_{\mathcal{B}} - \frac{\mathbf{p}_{\text{rel}}^2}{M}, \mathbf{q} \right),$$

$$\Gamma^{\text{form}} \propto \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}_{\text{cm}}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}_{\text{rel}}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} |\langle \psi_{\mathcal{B}} | \mathbf{r} | \Psi_{\mathbf{p}_{\text{rel}}} \rangle|^2 [g_E^{--}]_{ii}^{\geq} \left( q^0 = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{\text{rel}}^2}{M} - E_{\mathcal{B}}, \mathbf{q} \right)$$

$$\times f_{\mathcal{S}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}_{\text{cm}}, \mathbf{r} = 0, \mathbf{p}_{\text{rel}}, t).$$

# **A comparison with heavy quark diffusion**

**Different physics with the same building blocks**



# Heavy quark diffusion

## an analogous picture

- The heavy quark diffusion coefficient is also defined from a correlation of chromoelectric fields:

$$\langle \text{Tr} \left[ (U_{[\infty, t]} E_i(t) U_{[t, -\infty]})^\dagger \right. \\ \left. \times (U_{[\infty, 0]} E_i(0) U_{[0, -\infty]}) \right] \rangle$$

- It reflects the typical momentum transfer  $\langle p^2 \rangle$  received from “kicks” from the medium.

$t$



heavy quark

# Heavy quark diffusion

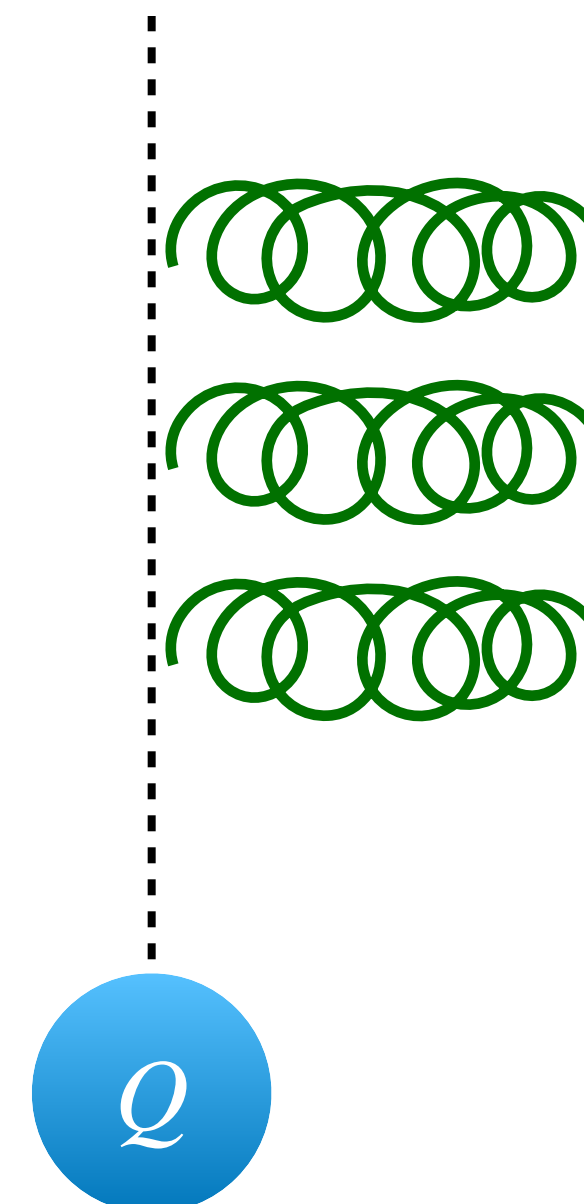
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the heavy quark carries color charge and interacts with the medium

heavy quark

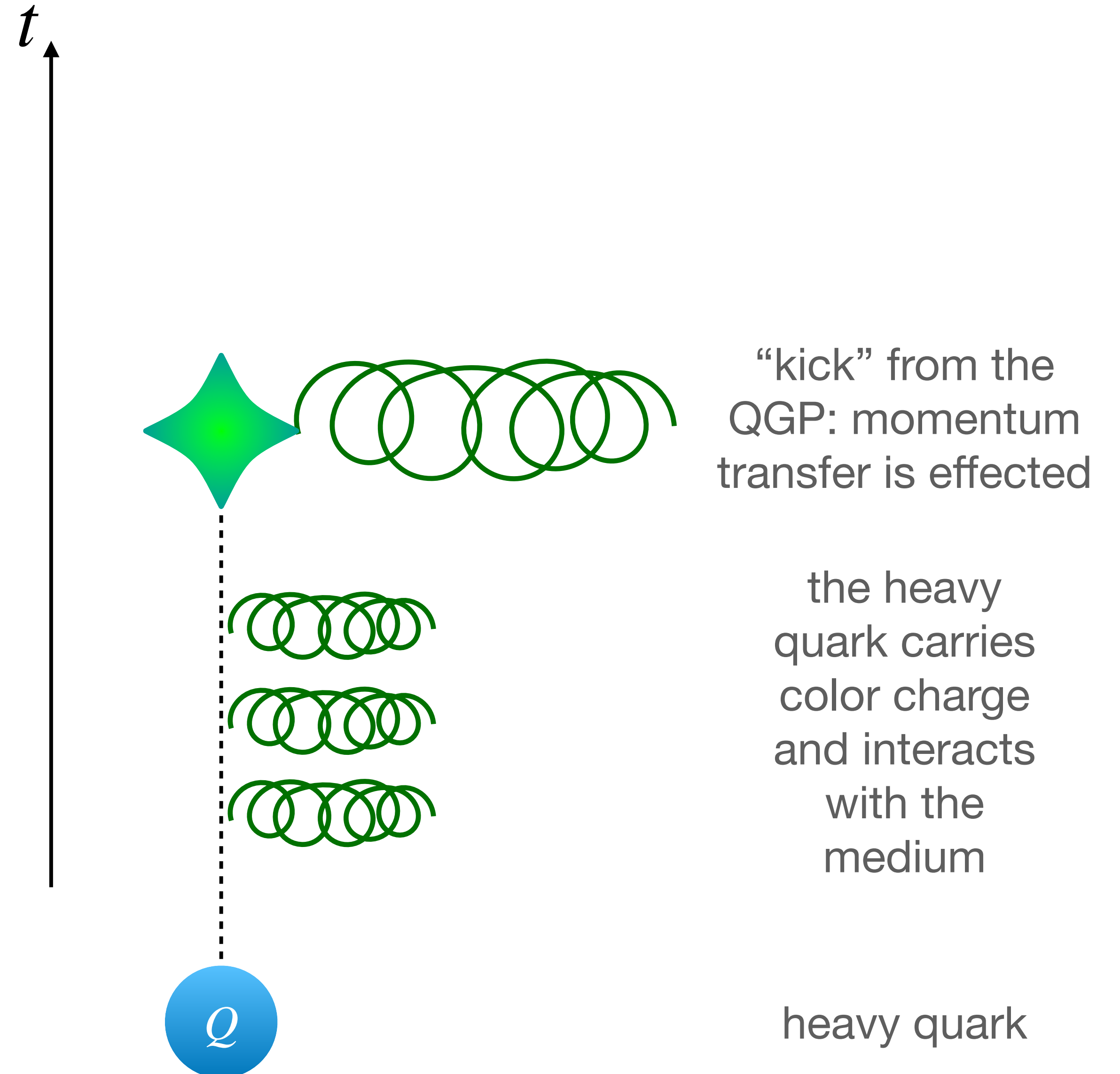
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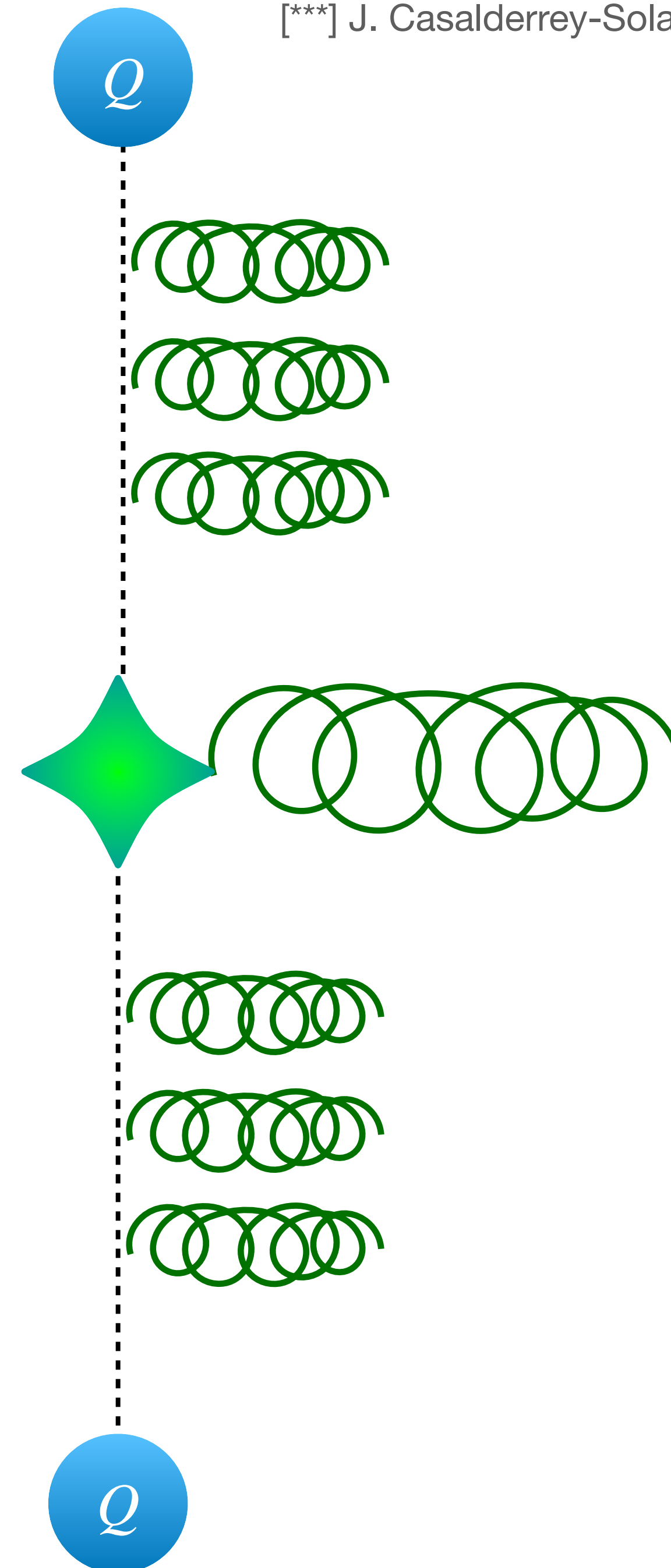
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t



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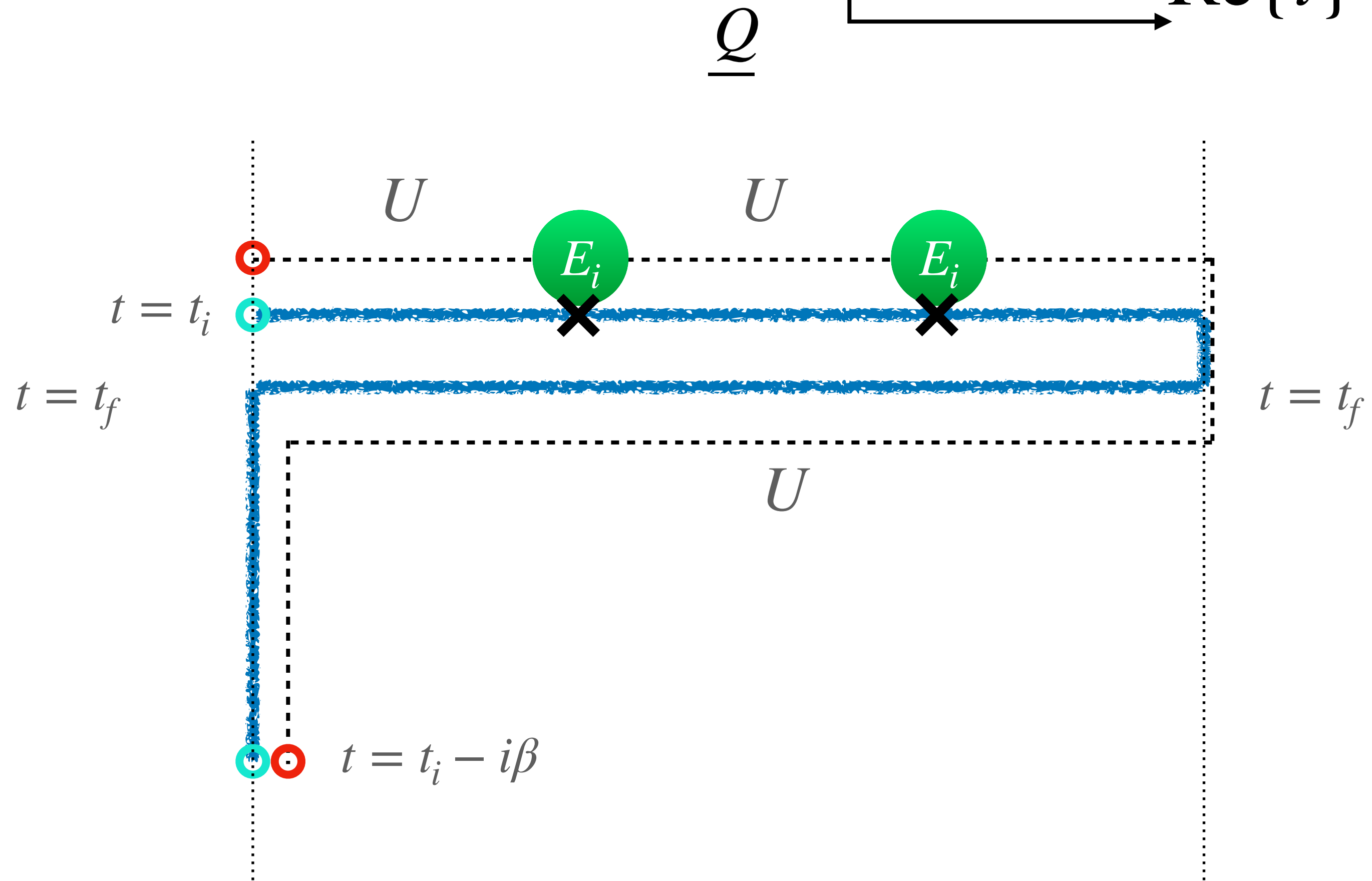
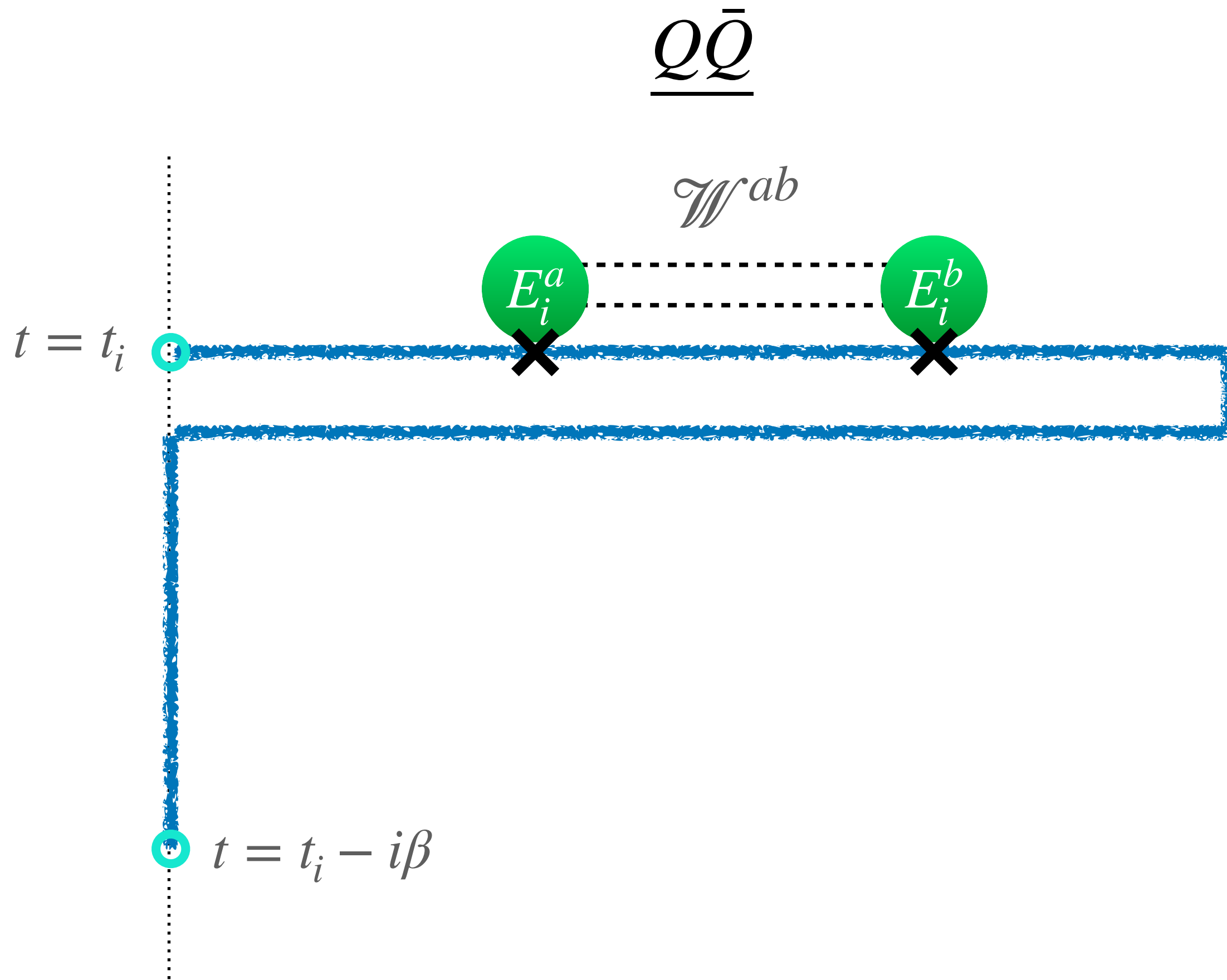
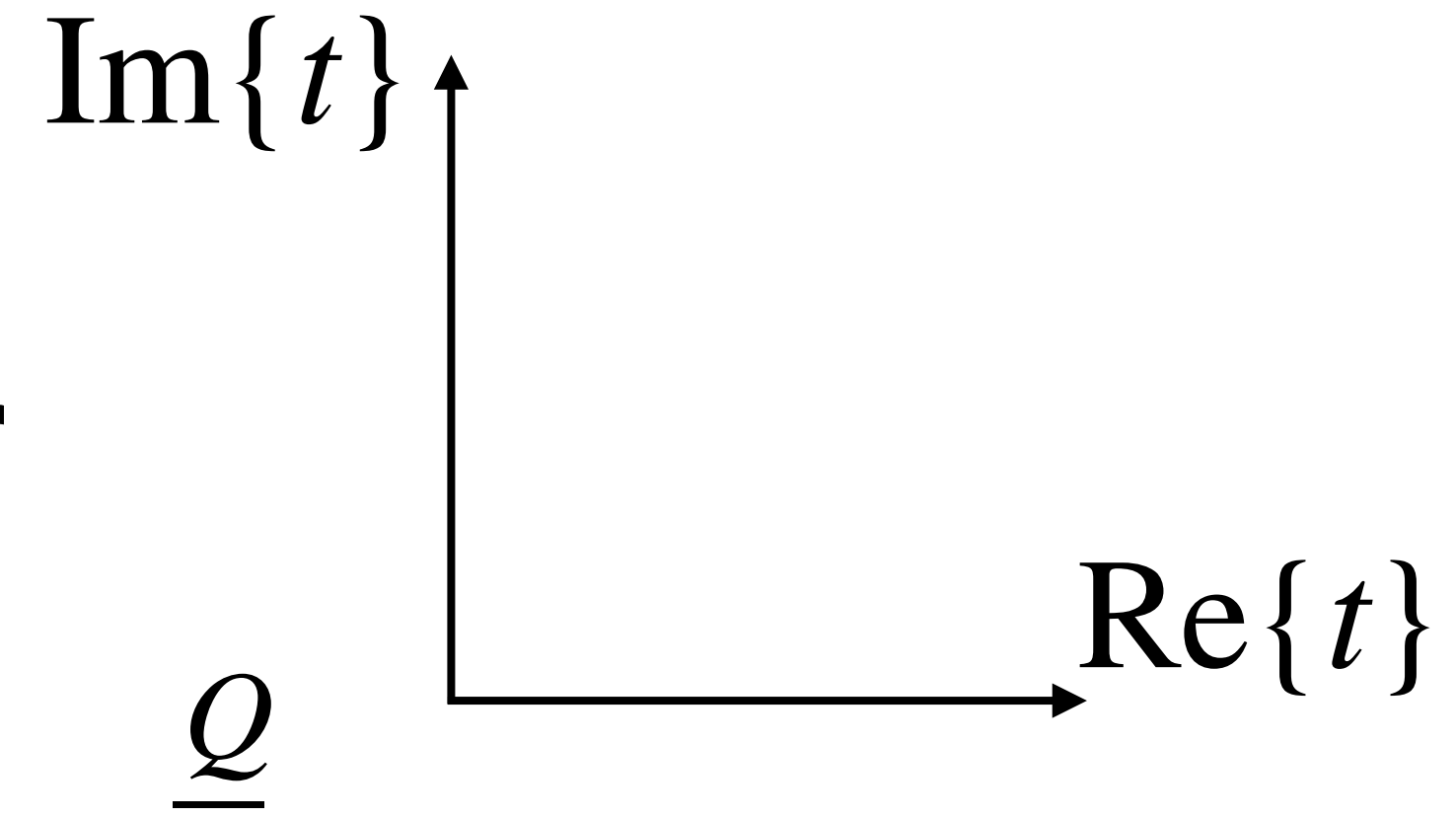
“kick” from the QGP: momentum transfer is effected

the heavy quark carries color charge and interacts with the medium

heavy quark

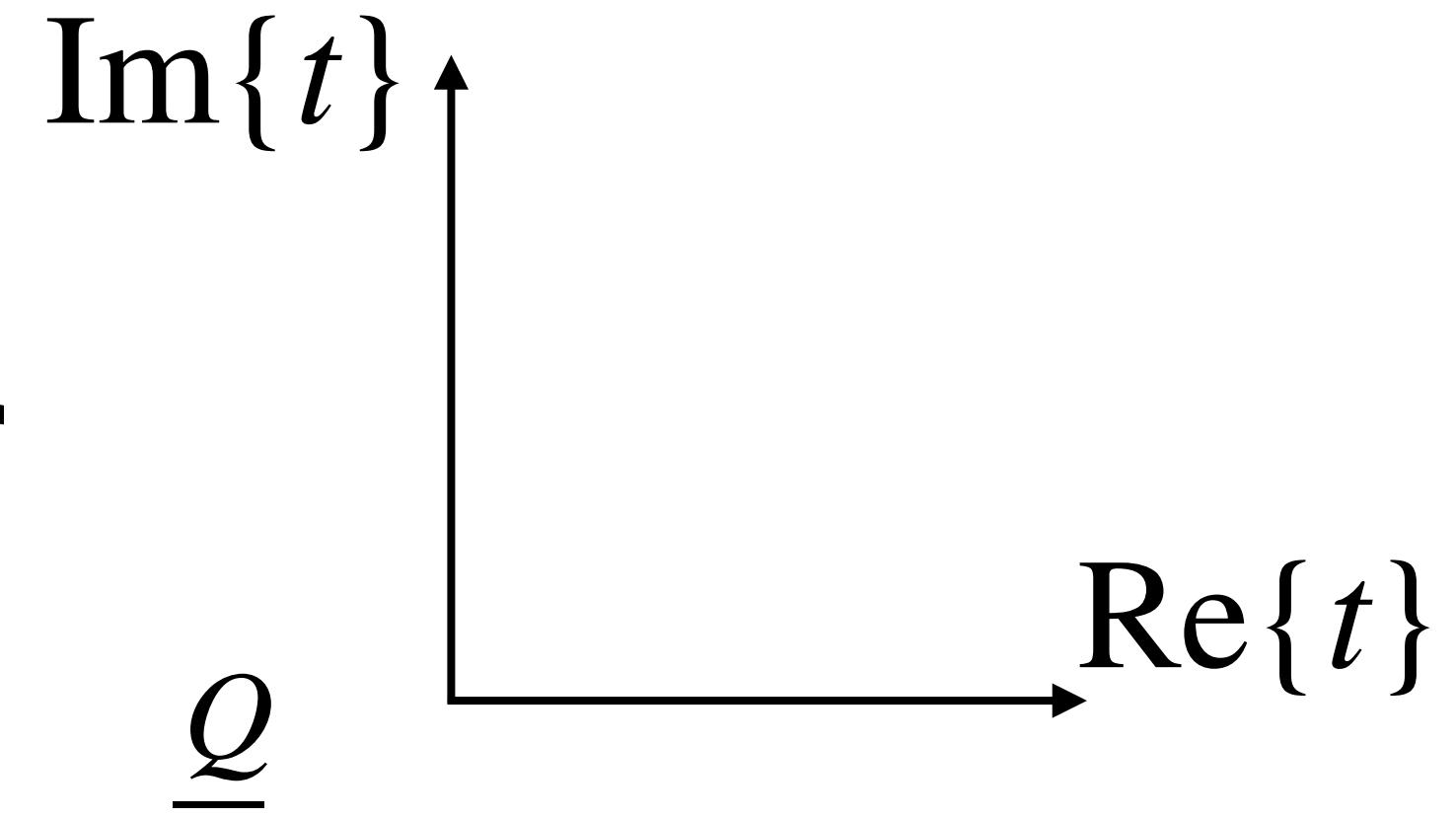
# The difference, qualitatively

## winding around the Schwinger-Keldysh contour

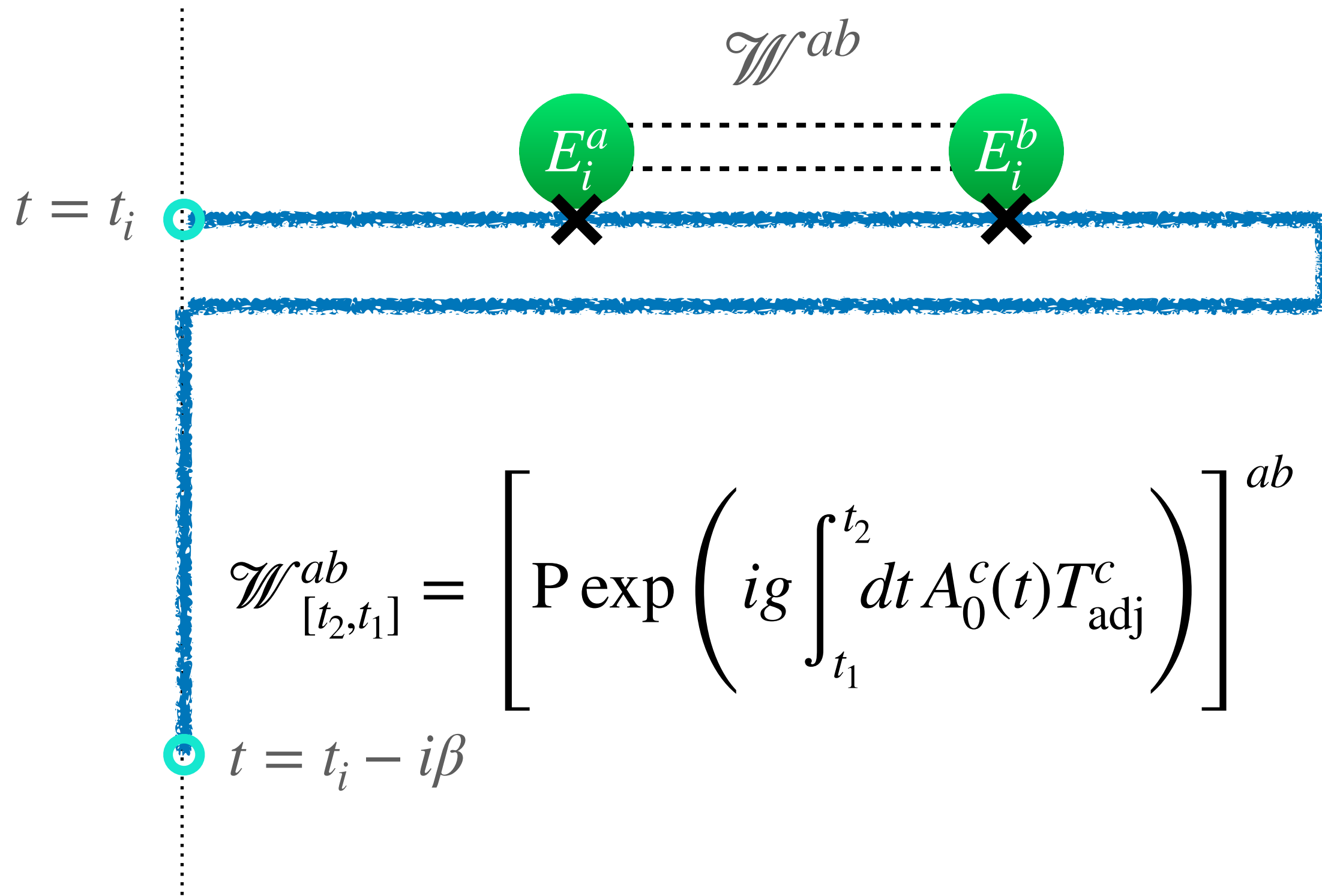


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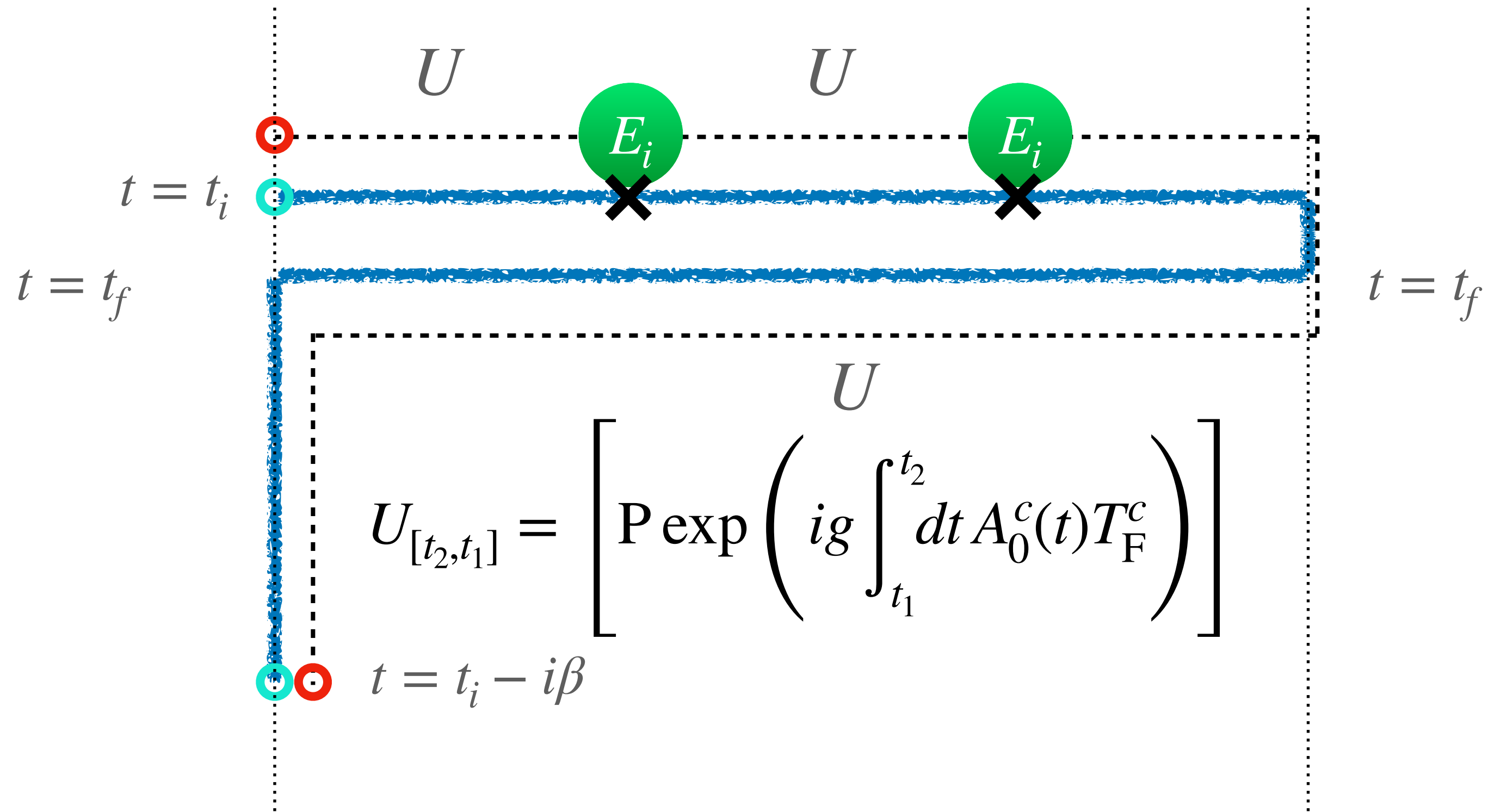
## winding around the Schwinger-Keldysh contour



$\underline{Q\bar{Q}}$



$\underline{Q}$



# How to do calculations the Schwinger-Keldysh contour

- Imaginary time calculations:

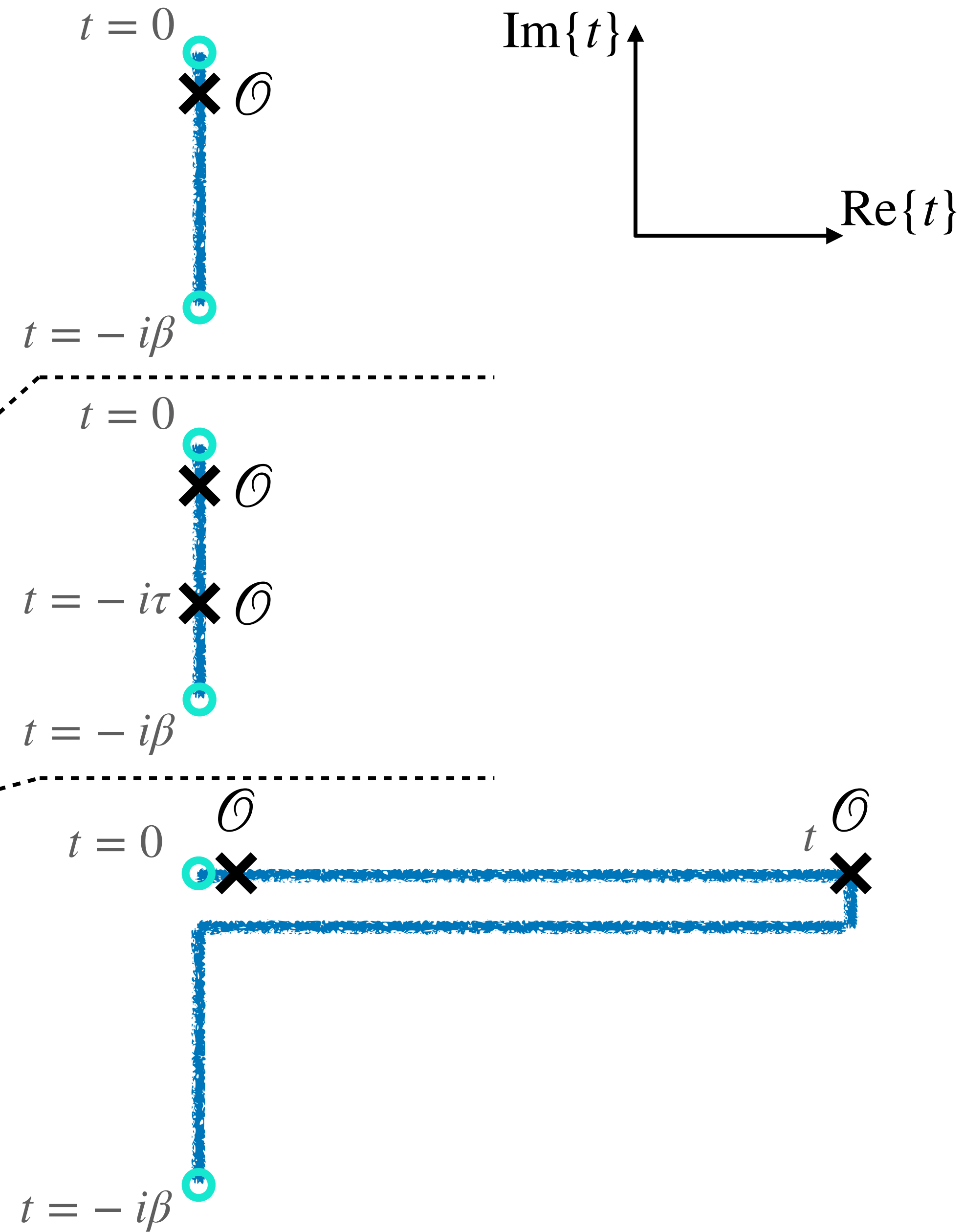
$$\text{equilibrium \#}: \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = Z^{-1} \text{Tr} [\mathcal{O} e^{-\beta H}] ,$$

and also two-point functions:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\tau) \mathcal{O}(0) \rangle = Z^{-1} \text{Tr} [\mathcal{O}(0) e^{-\tau H} \mathcal{O}(0) e^{-(\beta-\tau)H}]$$

- Real time calculations:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}(0) \rangle = Z^{-1} \text{Tr} [e^{iHt} \mathcal{O}(0) e^{-iHt} \mathcal{O}(0) e^{-\beta H}]$$



# How to do calculations the Schwinger-Keldysh contour

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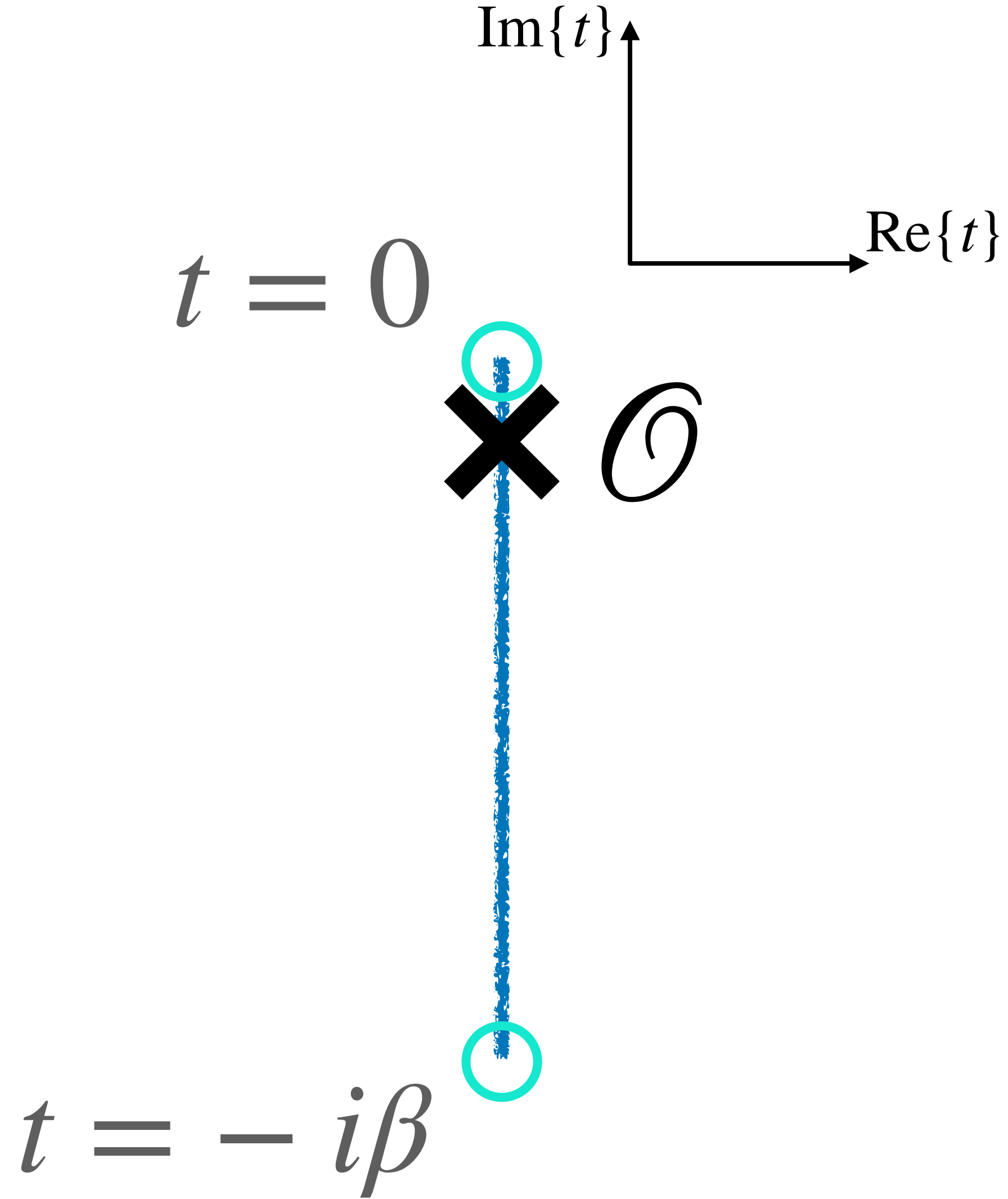
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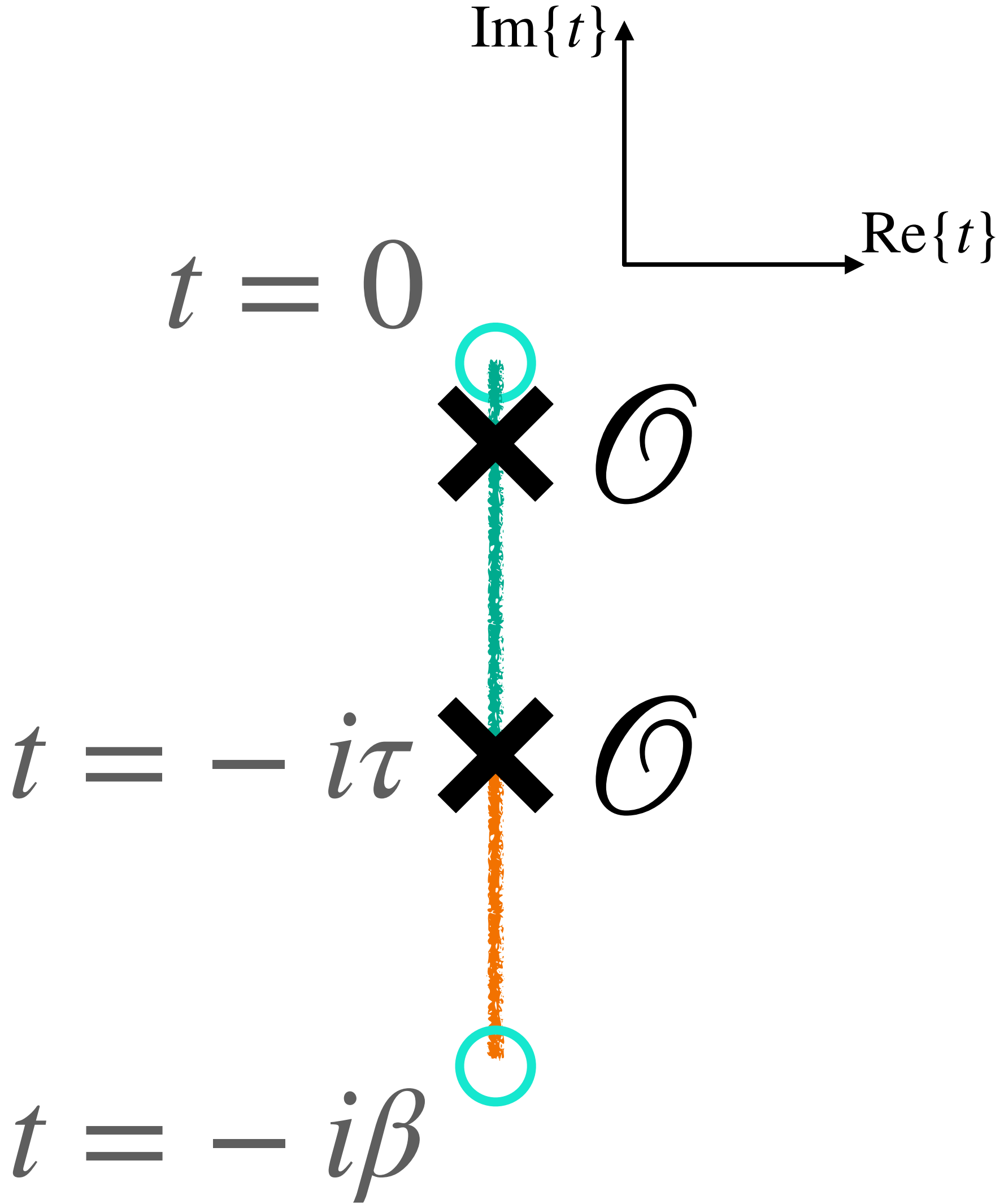
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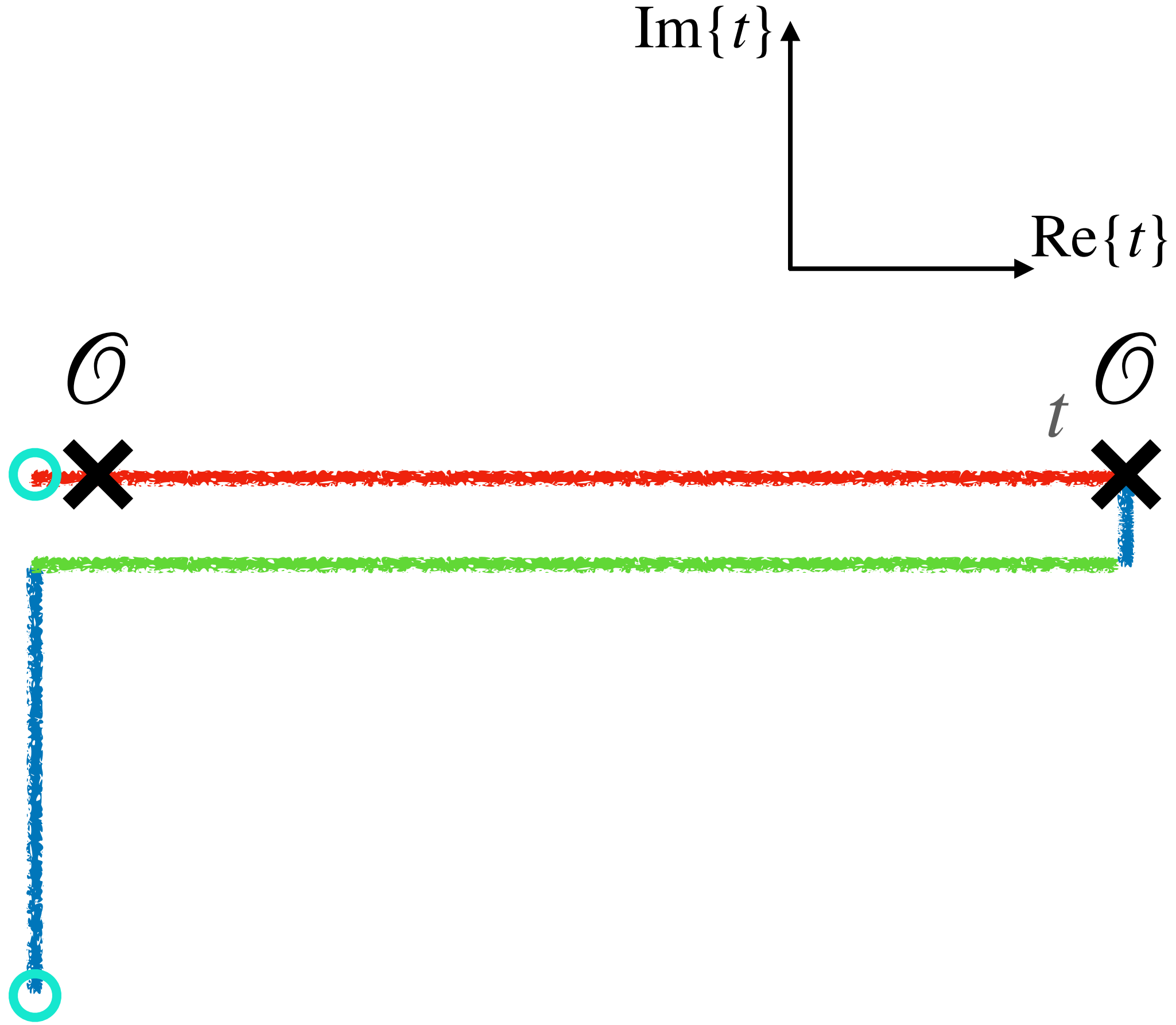
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- Real time calculations:

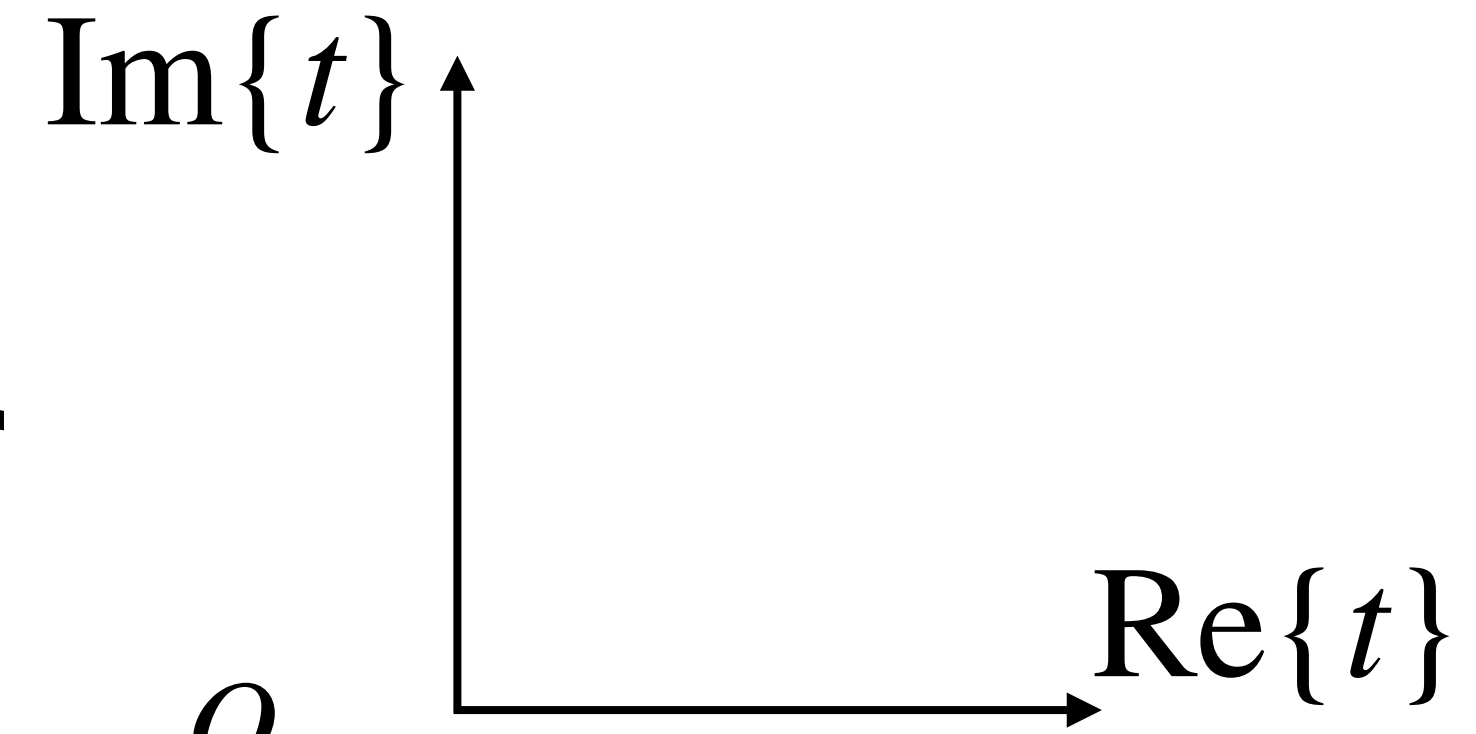
$$t = -i\beta$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}(0) \rangle = Z^{-1} \text{Tr} [ \underbrace{e^{iHt}}_{\text{green}} \mathcal{O}(0) \underbrace{e^{-iHt}}_{\text{red}} \mathcal{O}(0) \underbrace{e^{-\beta H}}_{\text{blue}} ]$$

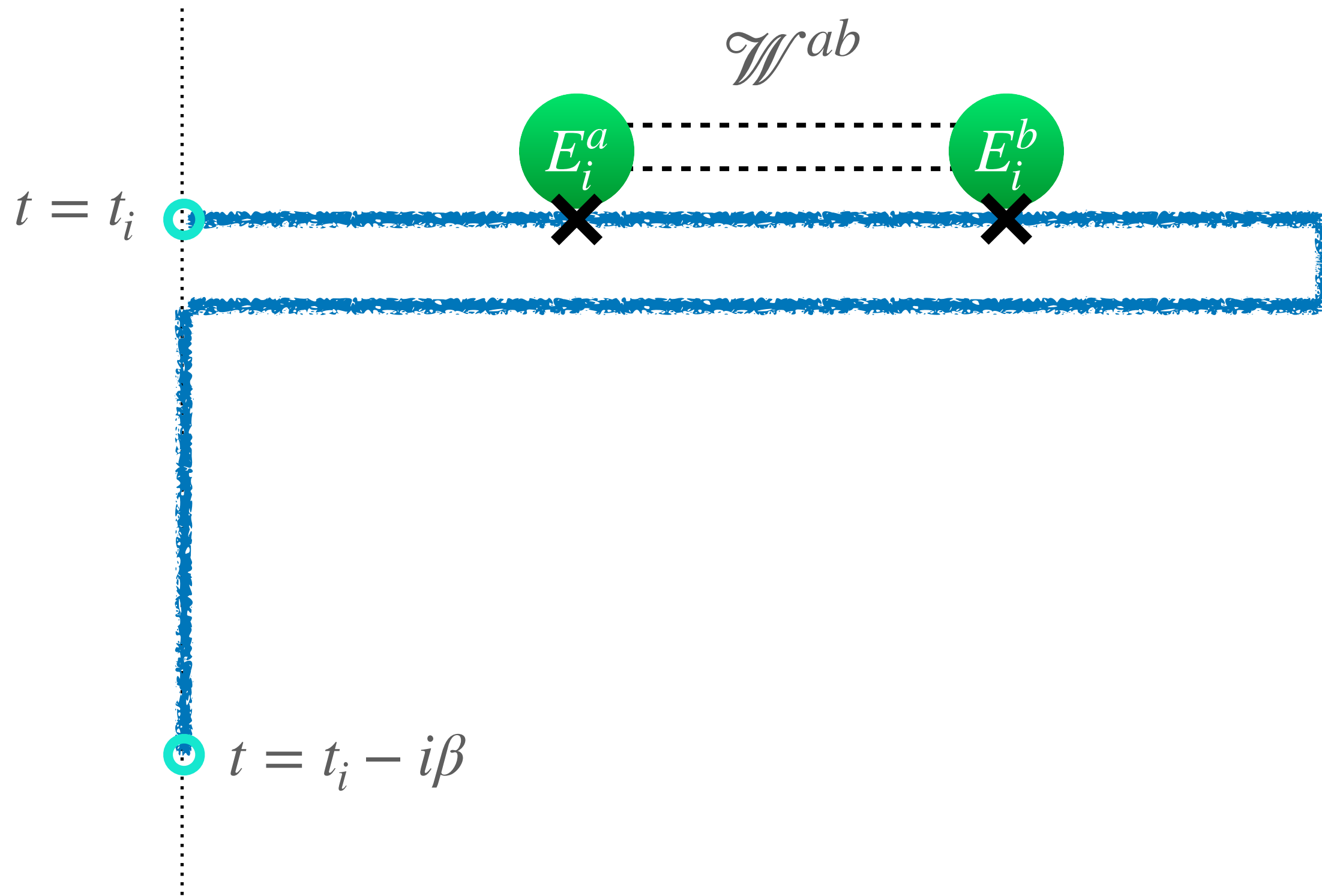


# The difference, qualitatively

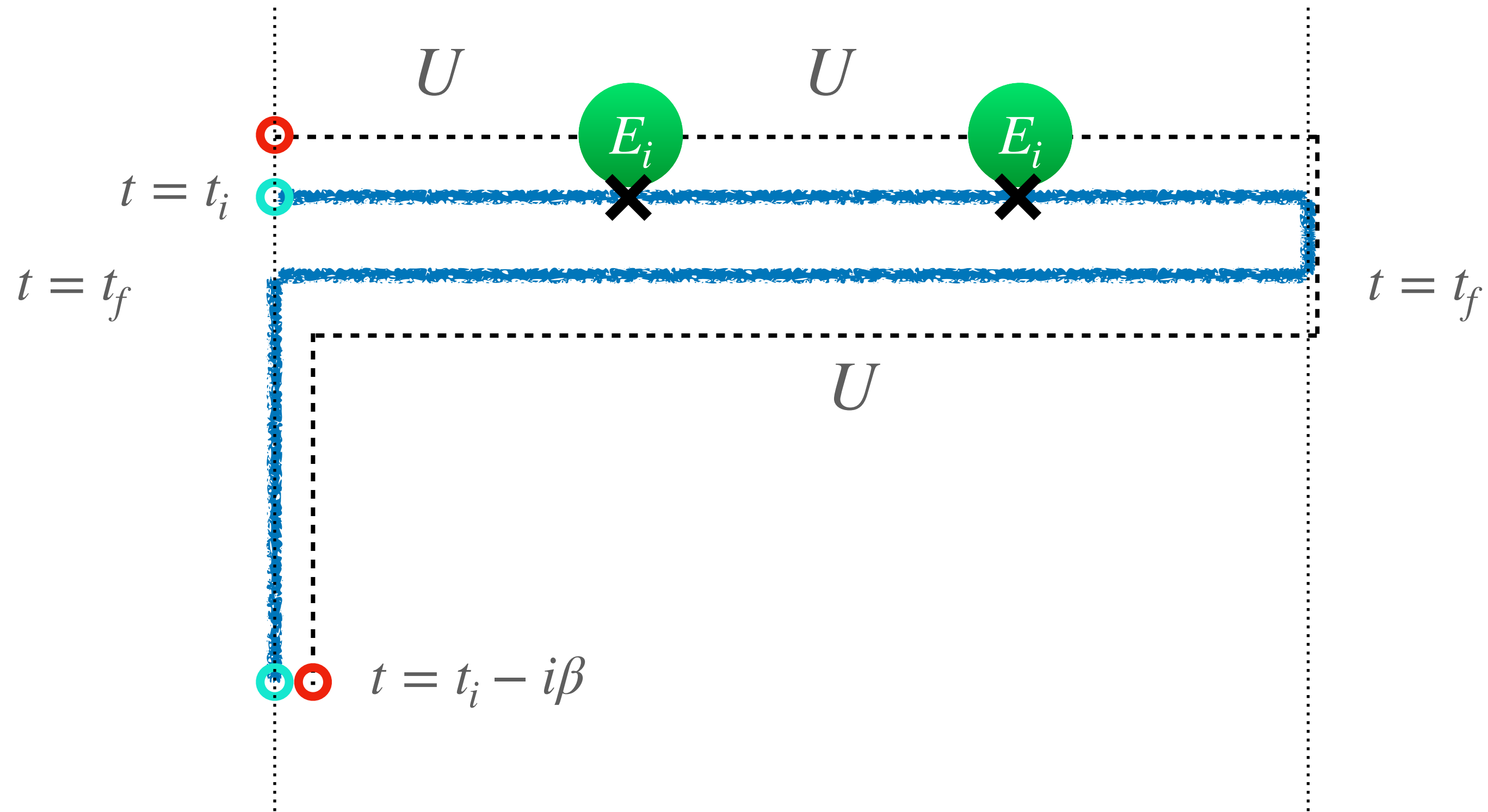
## winding around the Schwinger-Keldysh contour



$\underline{Q\bar{Q}}$



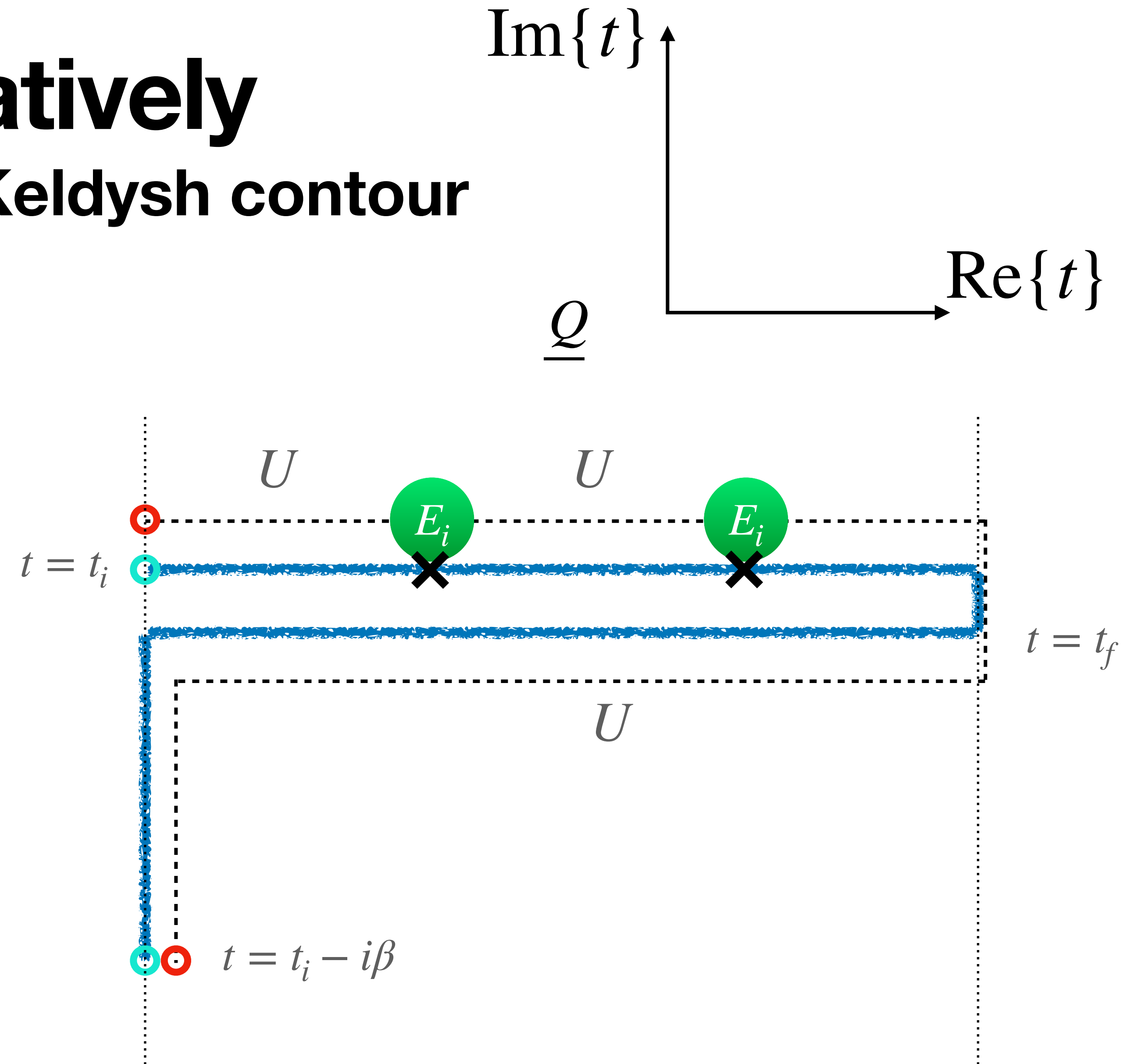
$\underline{Q}$



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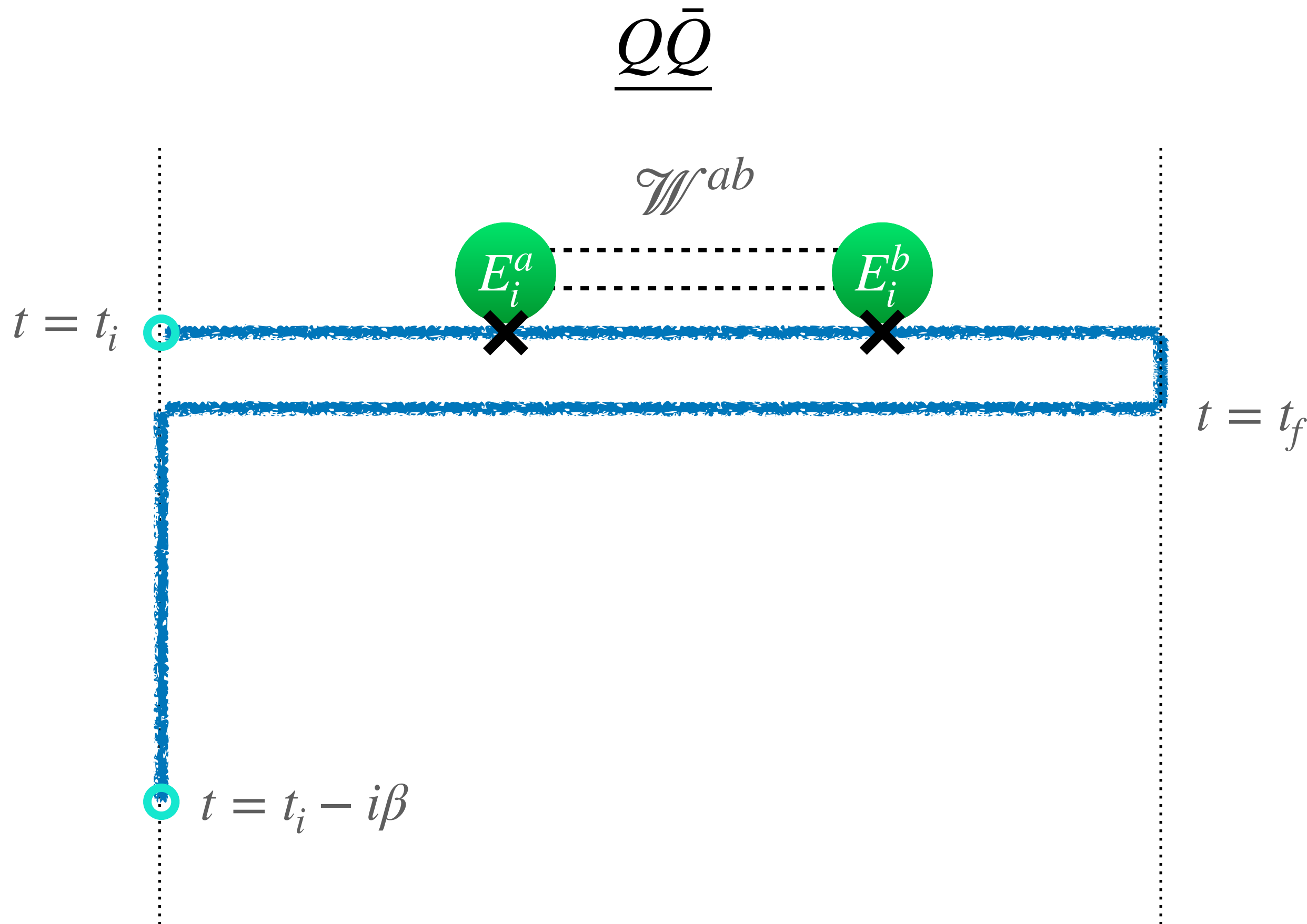
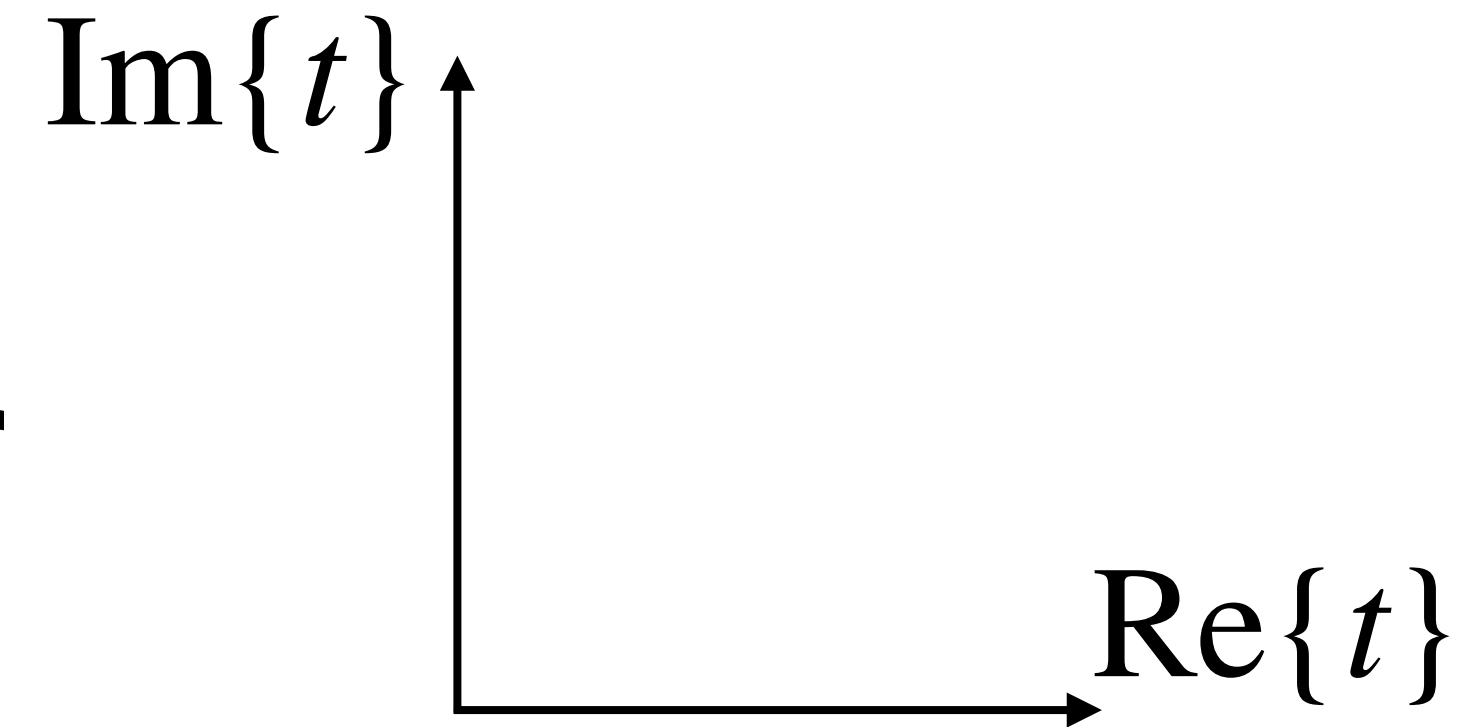
## winding around the Schwinger-Keldysh contour

- The heavy quark is present at all times:
  - It is part of the construction of the thermal state of the QGP.
  - The Wilson line, which enforces the Gauss' law constraint due to the point charge, is also present on the Euclidean segment.



# The difference, qualitatively

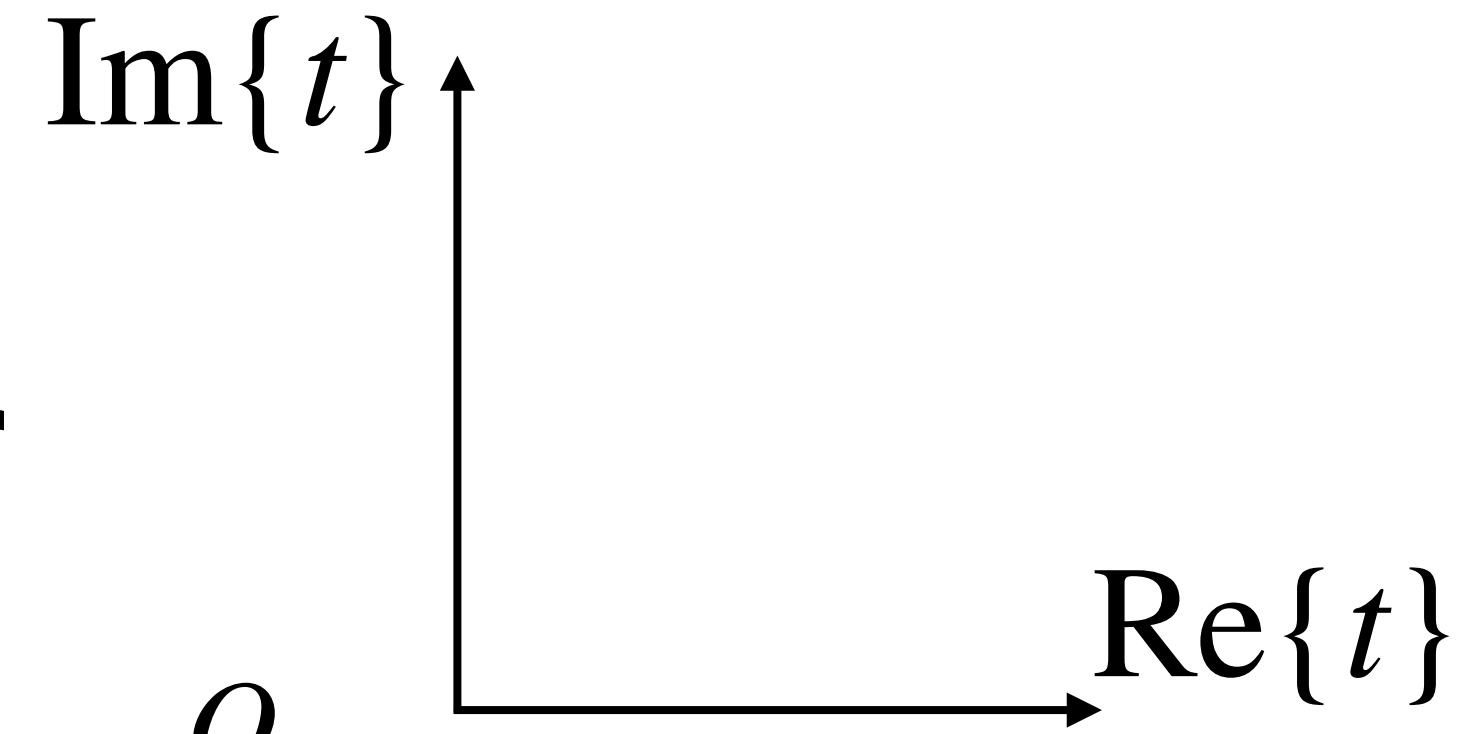
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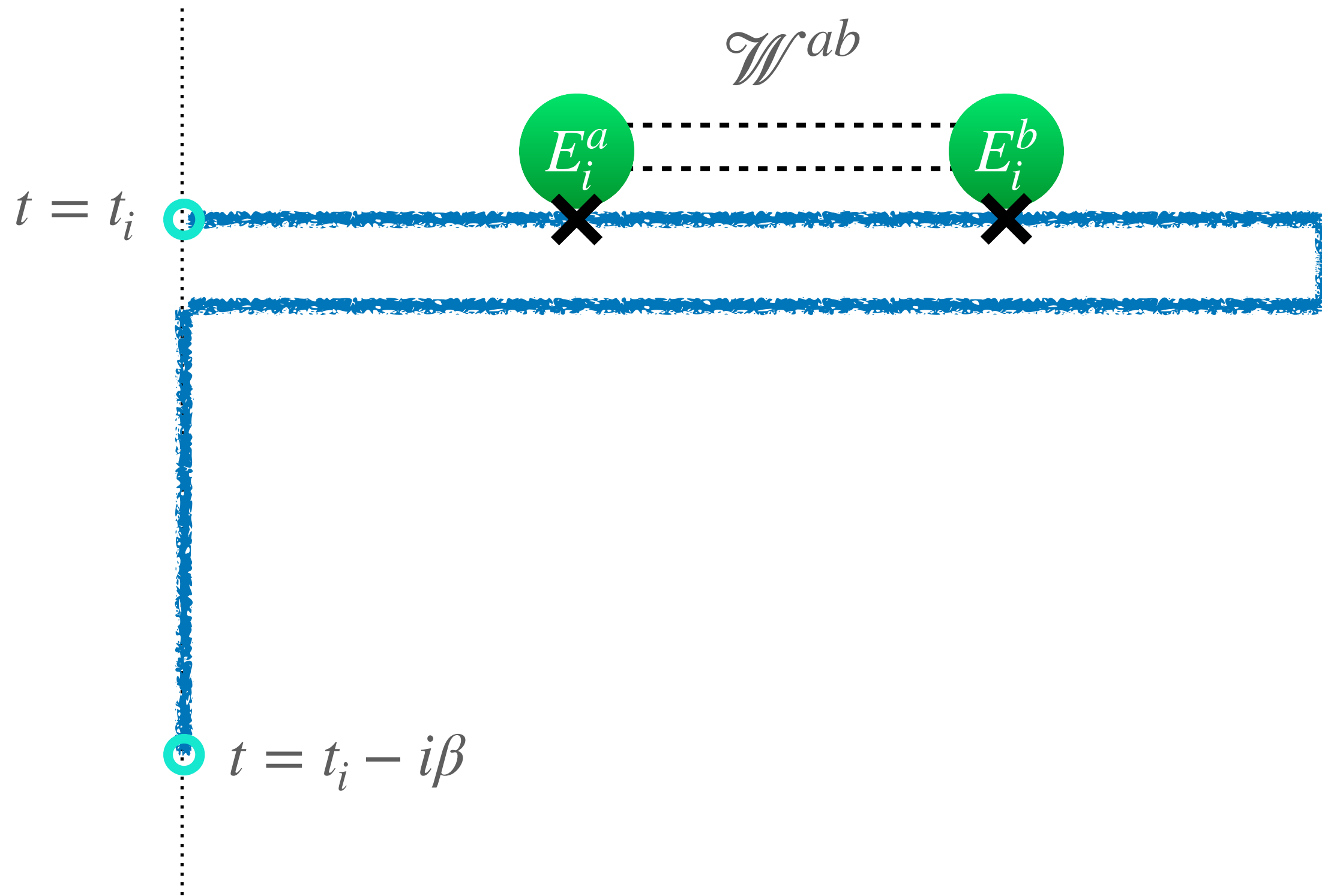
- In this correlator, the heavy quark pair is present at all times, but it is only color-charged for a finite time:
  - It is *not* part of the construction of the thermal state of the QGP.
  - The adjoint Wilson line, representing the propagation of unbound quarkonium (in the adjoint representation), is only present on the real-time segment.

# The difference, qualitatively

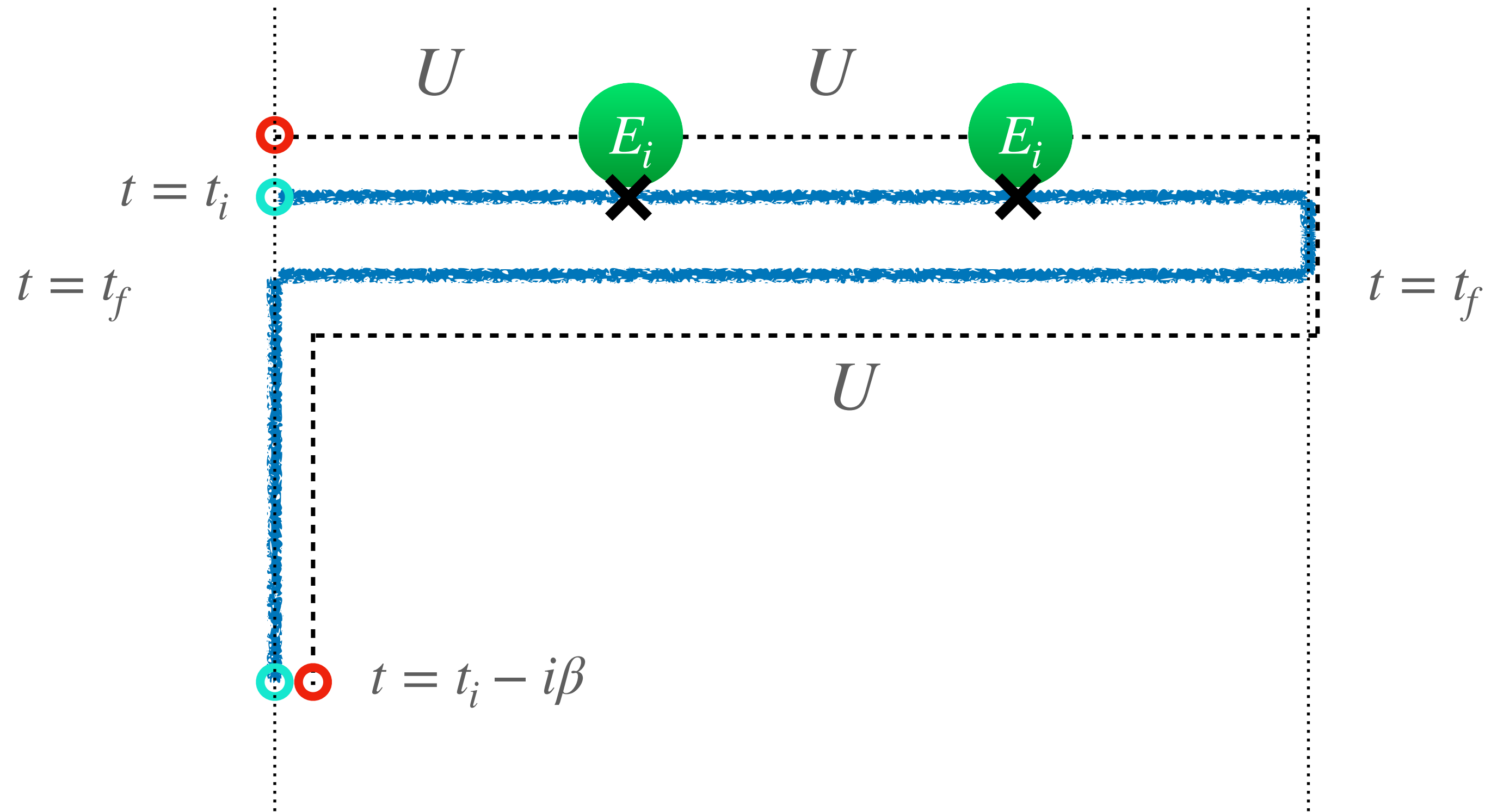
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$\underline{Q\bar{Q}}$



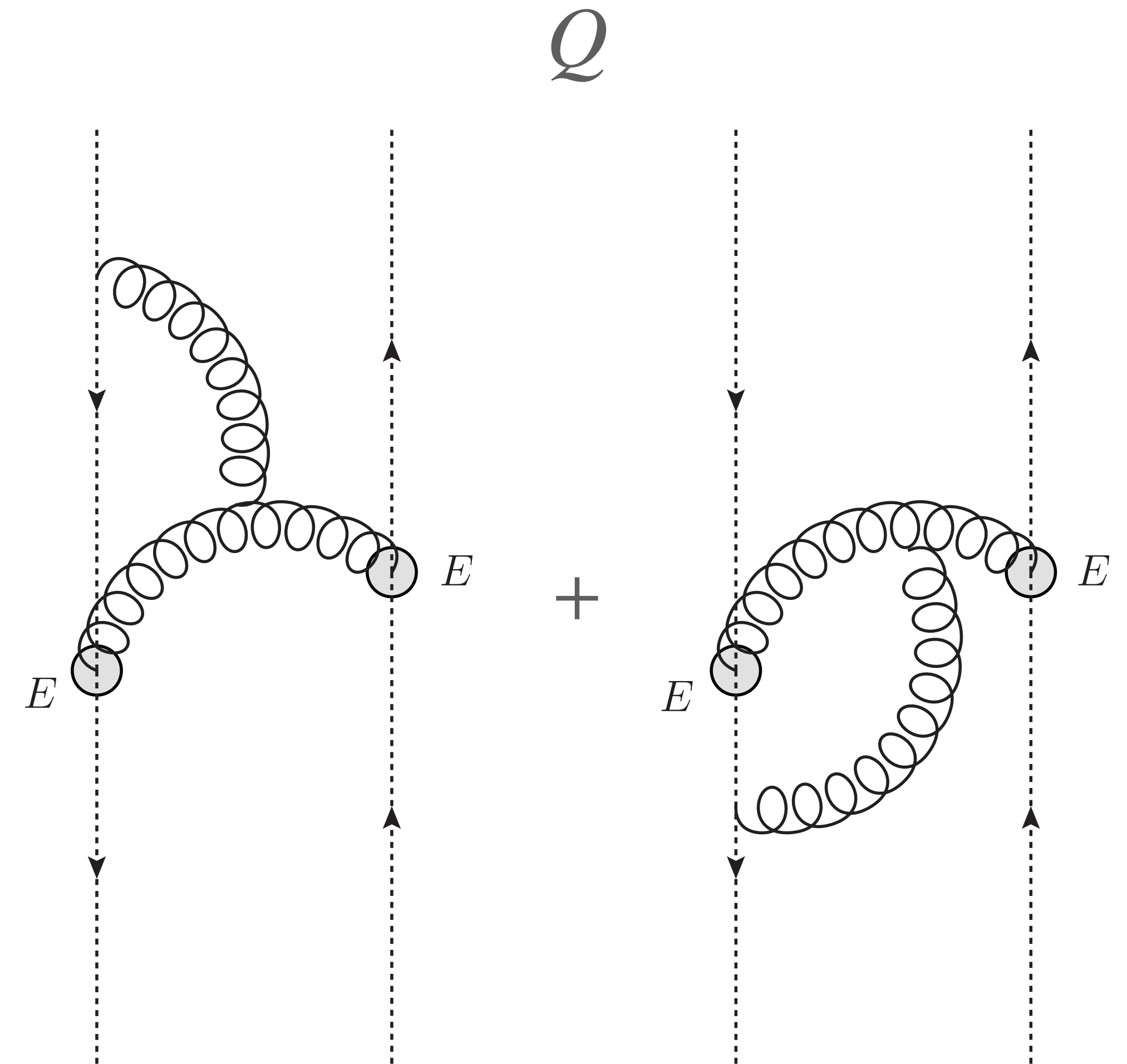
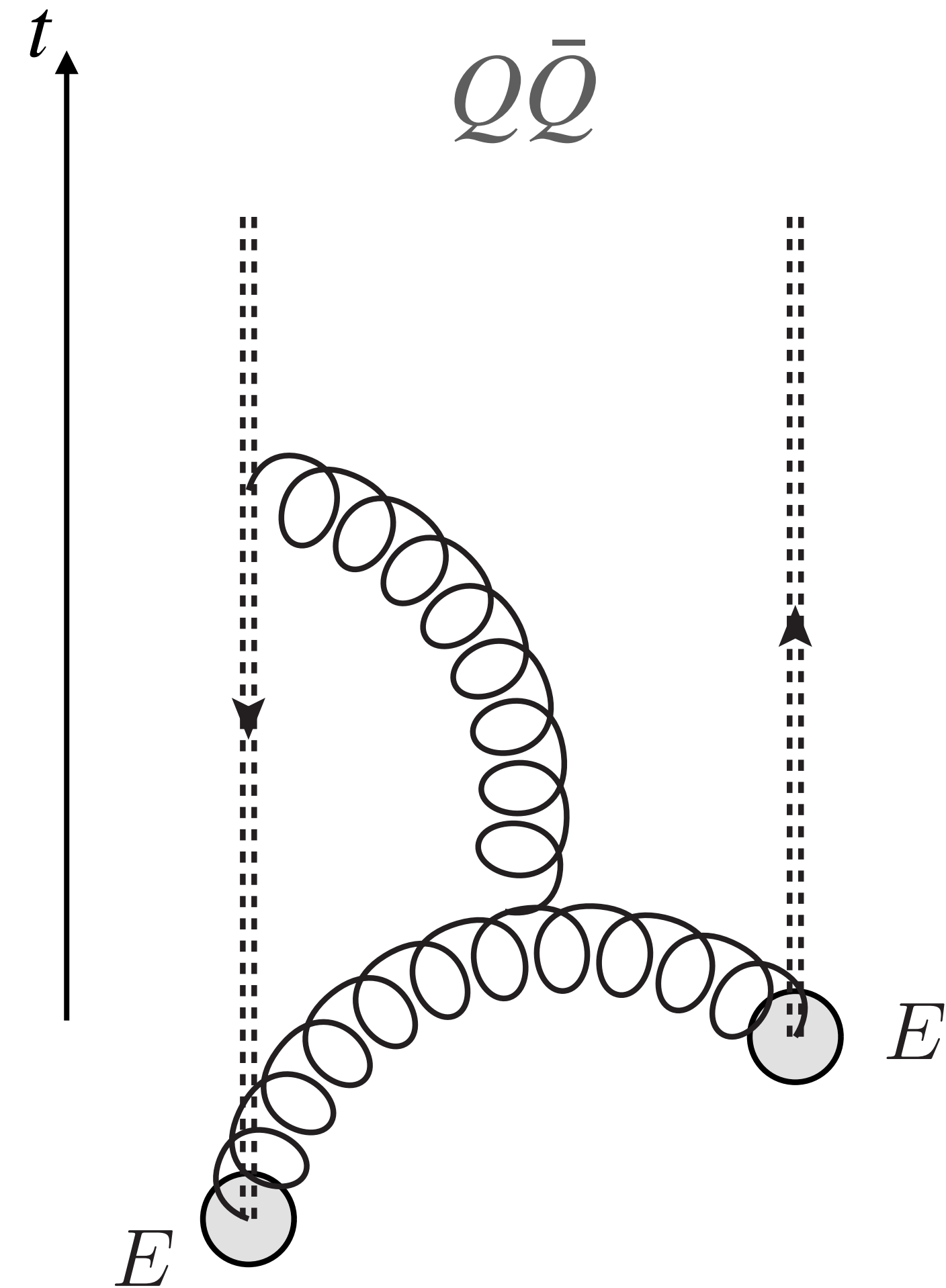
$\underline{Q}$



# The difference in pQCD operator ordering is crucial!

Perturbatively, one  
 can isolate the  
 difference between  
 the correlators to  
 these diagrams.

$$\Delta\rho(\omega) = \frac{g^4 N_c^2 C_F T_F}{4\pi} \omega^3$$



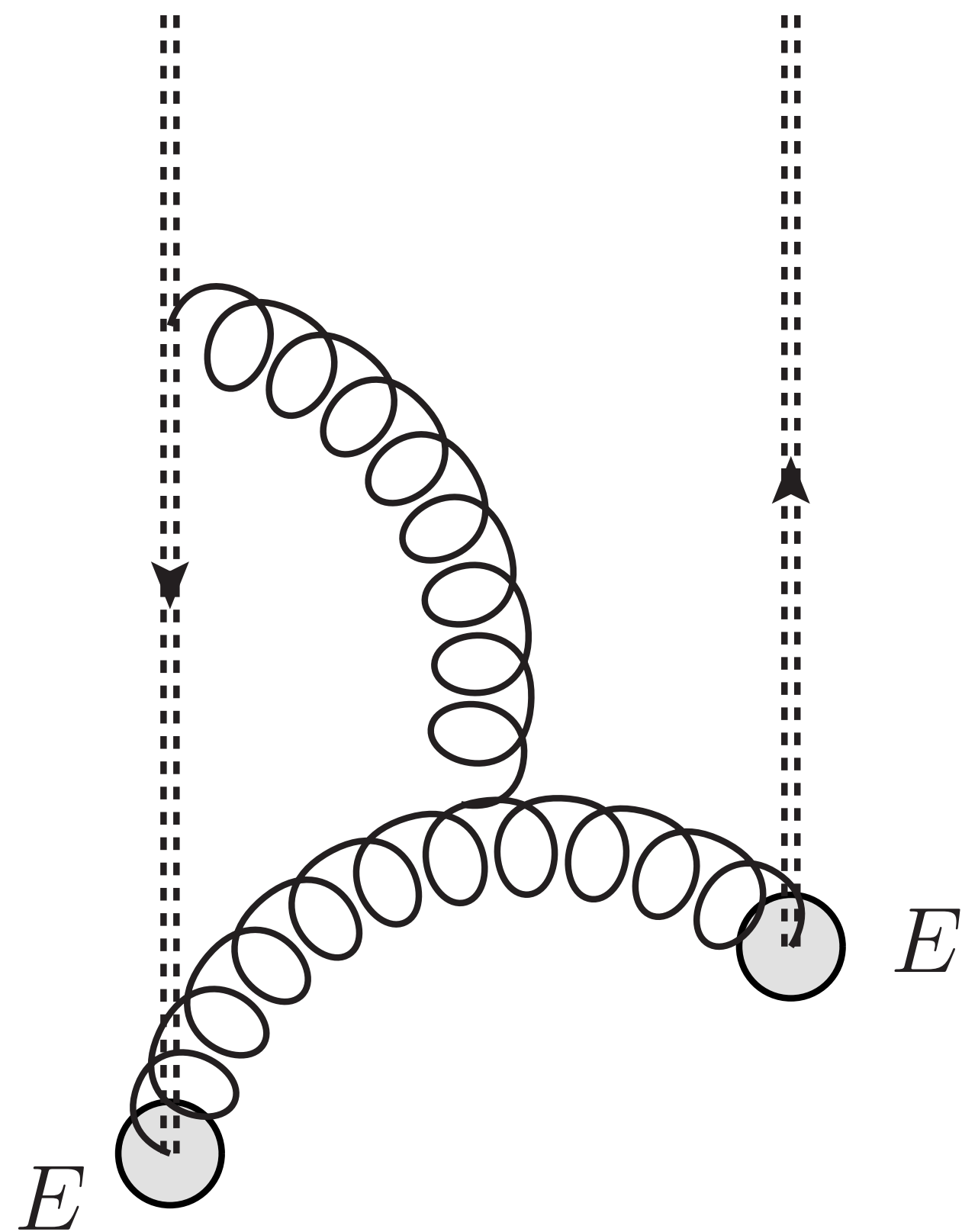
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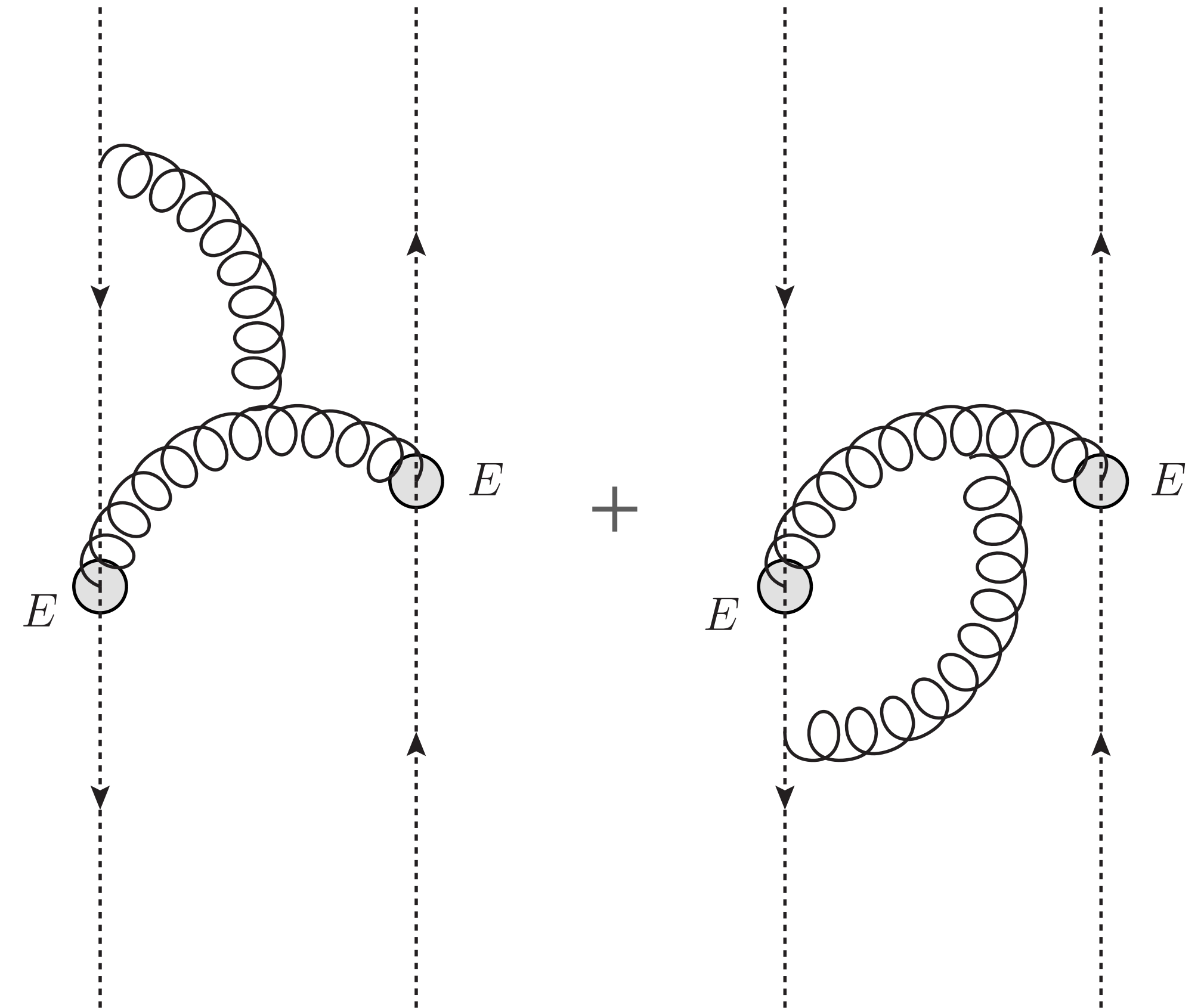
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The difference is due to different operator orderings (different possible gluon insertions).

$Q\bar{Q}$



$Q$





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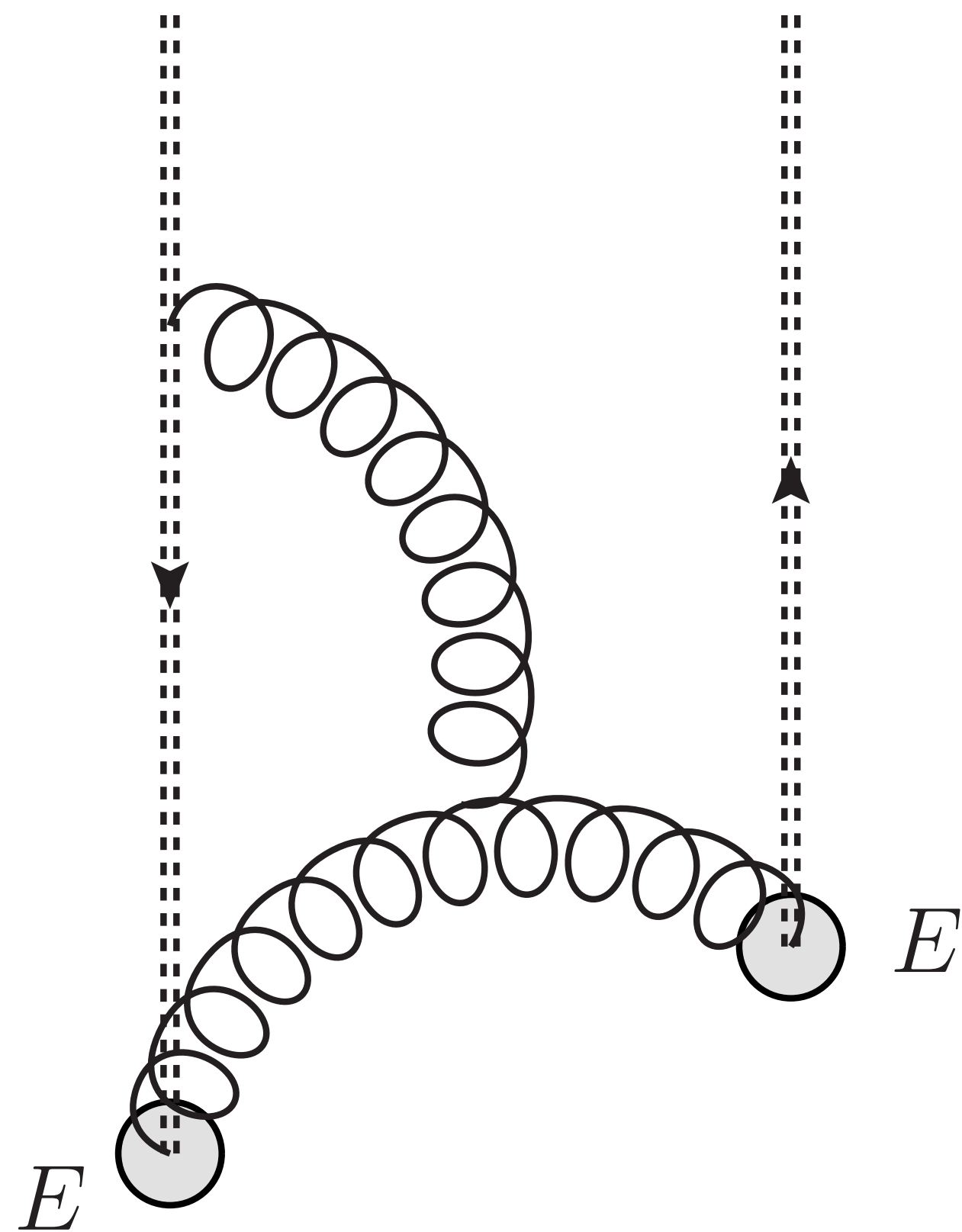
Gauge invariant!

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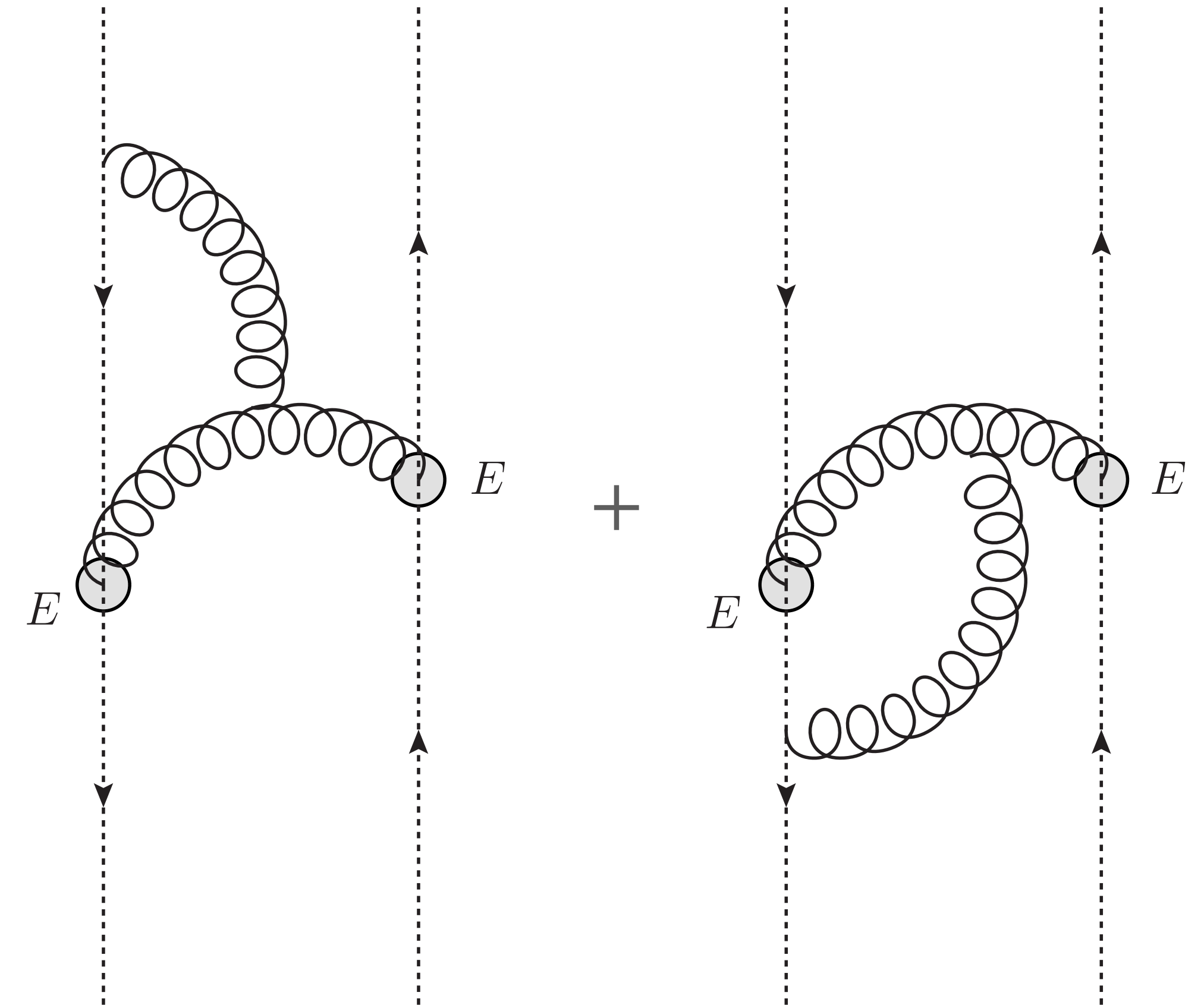
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$Q\bar{Q}$



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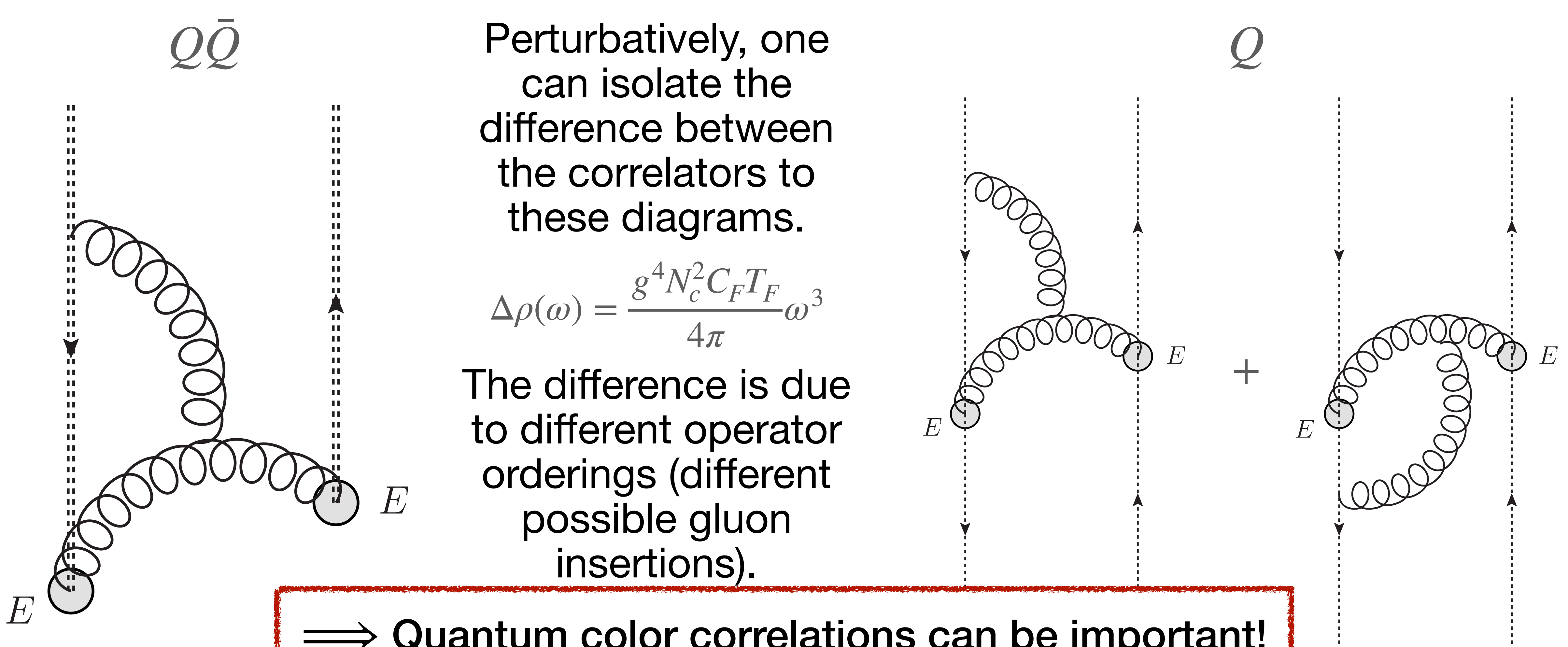
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The difference is due to different operator orderings (different possible gluon insertions).

⇒ Quantum color correlations can be important!

$Q\bar{Q}$

$Q$



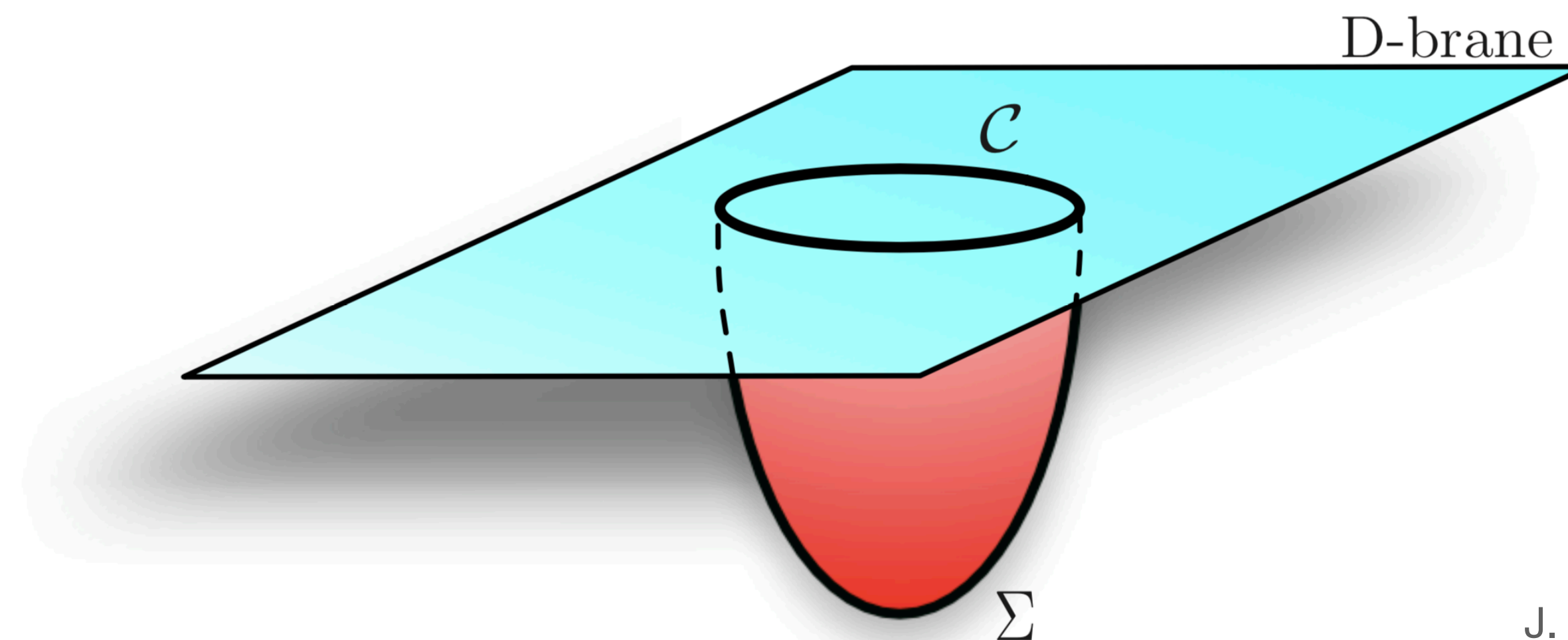
**What about the difference at strong coupling?**

# Wilson loops in AdS/CFT

## setup

- The holographic duality provides a way to formulate the calculation of analogous correlators in strongly coupled theories. [\*\*]
  - Wilson loops can be evaluated by solving classical equations of motion:

$$\langle W[\mathcal{C} = \partial\Sigma] \rangle_T = e^{iS_{\text{NG}}[\Sigma]}$$



# How do Wilson loops help?

## setup – pure gauge theory

- Field strength insertions along a Wilson loop can be generated by taking variations of the path  $\mathcal{C}$ :

$$\left. \frac{\delta}{\delta f^\mu(s_2)} \frac{\delta}{\delta f^\nu(s_1)} W[\mathcal{C}_f] \right|_{f=0} = (ig)^2 \text{Tr}_{\text{color}} \left[ U_{[1,s_2]} F_{\mu\rho}(\gamma(s_2)) \dot{\gamma}^\rho(s_2) U_{[s_2,s_1]} F_{\nu\sigma}(\gamma(s_1)) \dot{\gamma}^\sigma(s_1) U_{[s_1,0]} \right]$$

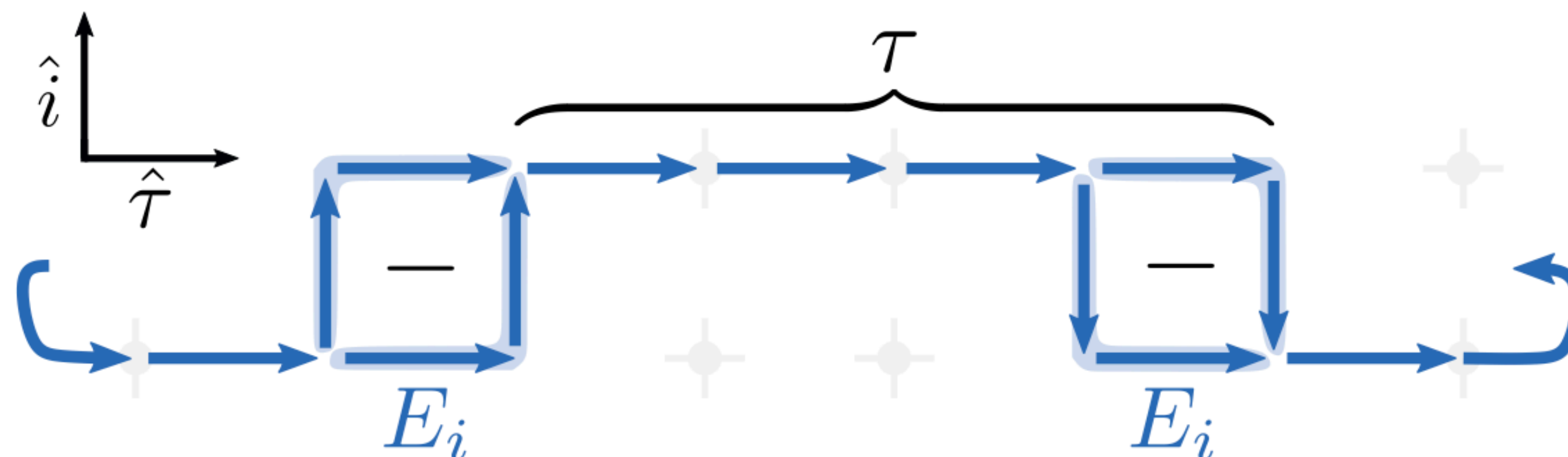
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- Same as the lattice calculation of the heavy quark diffusion coefficient:



# Wilson loops in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

## a slightly different observable

- A holographic dual in terms of an extremal surface exists for

$$W_{\text{BPS}}[\mathcal{C}; \hat{n}] = \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr}_{\text{color}} \left[ \mathcal{P} \exp \left( ig \oint_{\mathcal{C}} ds T^a \left[ A_{\mu}^a \dot{x}^{\mu} + \hat{n}(s) \cdot \vec{\phi}^a \sqrt{\dot{x}^2} \right] \right) \right],$$

which is *not* the standard Wilson loop.

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- $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM has 6 scalar fields  $\vec{\phi}^a$ , which enter the above Wilson loop through a direction  $\hat{n} \in S_5$ . Also, its dual gravitational description is  $\text{AdS}_5 \times S_5$ .



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- $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM has 6 scalar fields  $\vec{\phi}^a$ , which enter the above Wilson loop through a direction  $\hat{n} \in S_5$ . Also, its dual gravitational description is  $\text{AdS}_5 \times S_5$ .
- What to do with this extra parameter? For a single heavy quark, just set  $\hat{n} = \hat{n}_0$ .

# Choosing $\hat{n}$

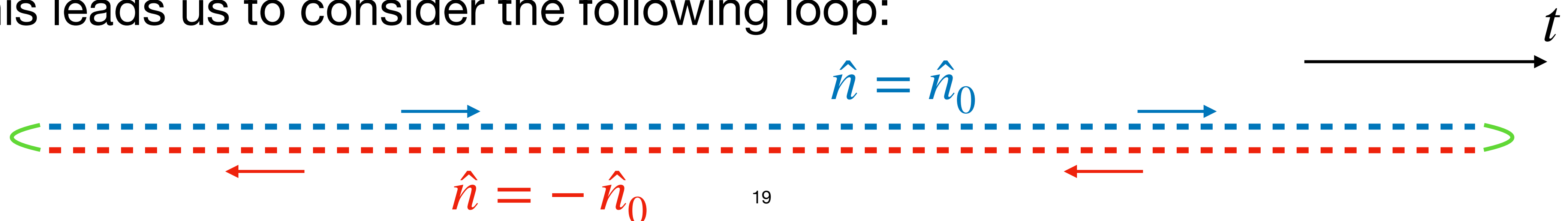
what is the best proxy for an adjoint Wilson line?

- A key property of the adjoint Wilson line is

$$\mathcal{W}_{[t_2, t_1]}^{ab} = \frac{1}{T_F} \text{Tr} \left[ \mathcal{F} \left\{ T^a U_{[t_2, t_1]} T^b U_{[t_2, t_1]}^\dagger \right\} \right],$$

which means that we can obtain the correlator we want by studying deformations of a Wilson loop of the form  $W = \frac{1}{N_c} \text{Tr} [UU^\dagger] = 1$ .

- This leads us to consider the following loop:



# Wilson loops in AdS/CFT

## setup

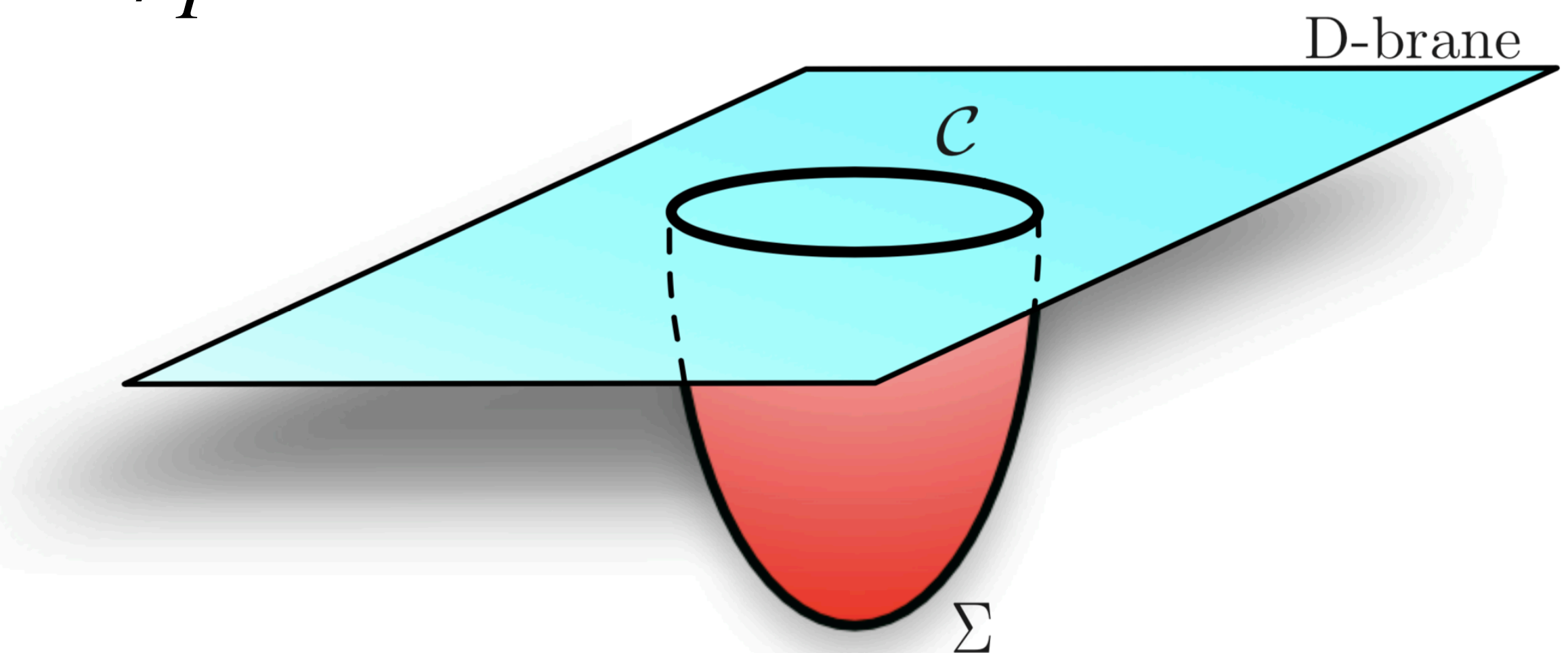
- The holographic duality provides a way to formulate the calculation of analogous correlators in strongly coupled theories. [\*\*]
  - Wilson loops can be evaluated by solving classical equations of motion:

$$\langle W[\mathcal{C} = \partial\Sigma] \rangle_T = e^{iS_{\text{NG}}[\Sigma]}$$

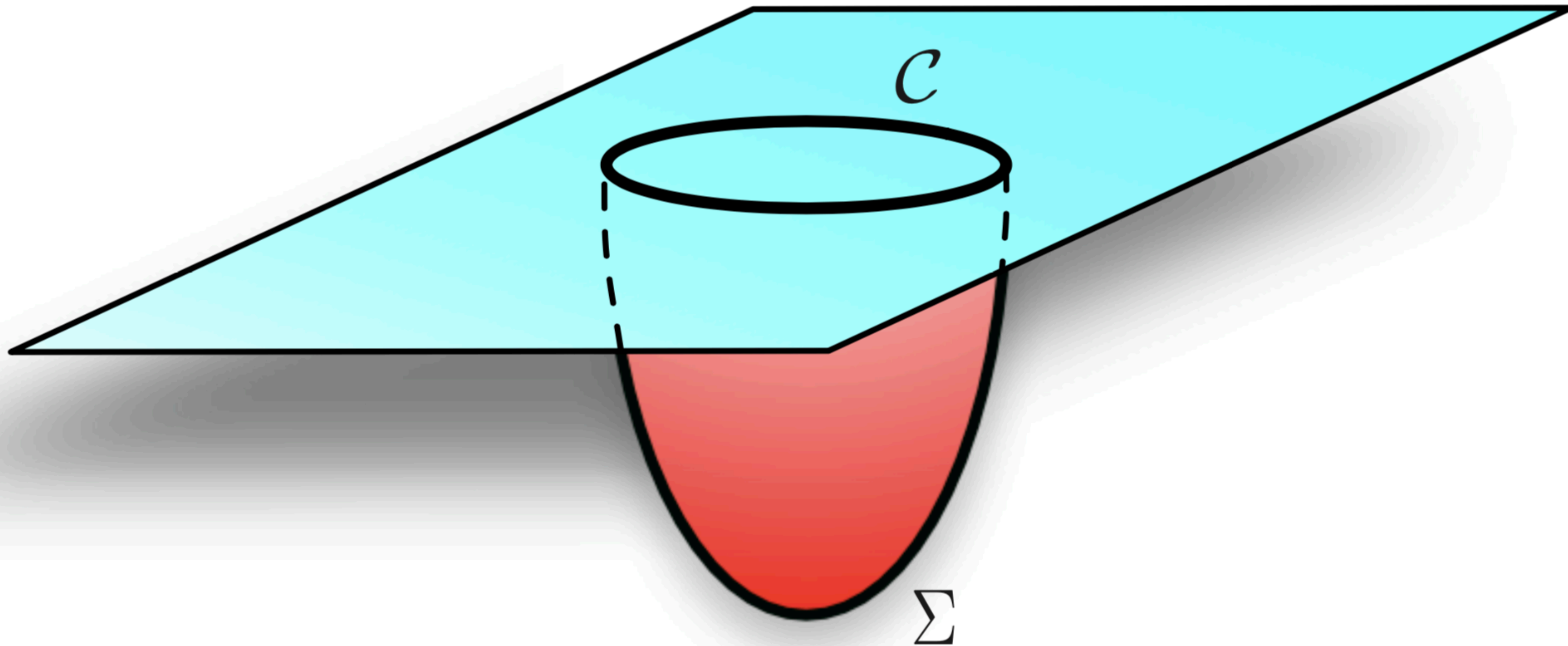
Metric of interest for finite  $T$  calculations:

$$ds^2 = \frac{R^2}{z^2} \left[ -f(z) dt^2 + d\mathbf{x}^2 + \frac{1}{f(z)} dz^2 + z^2 d\Omega_5^2 \right]$$

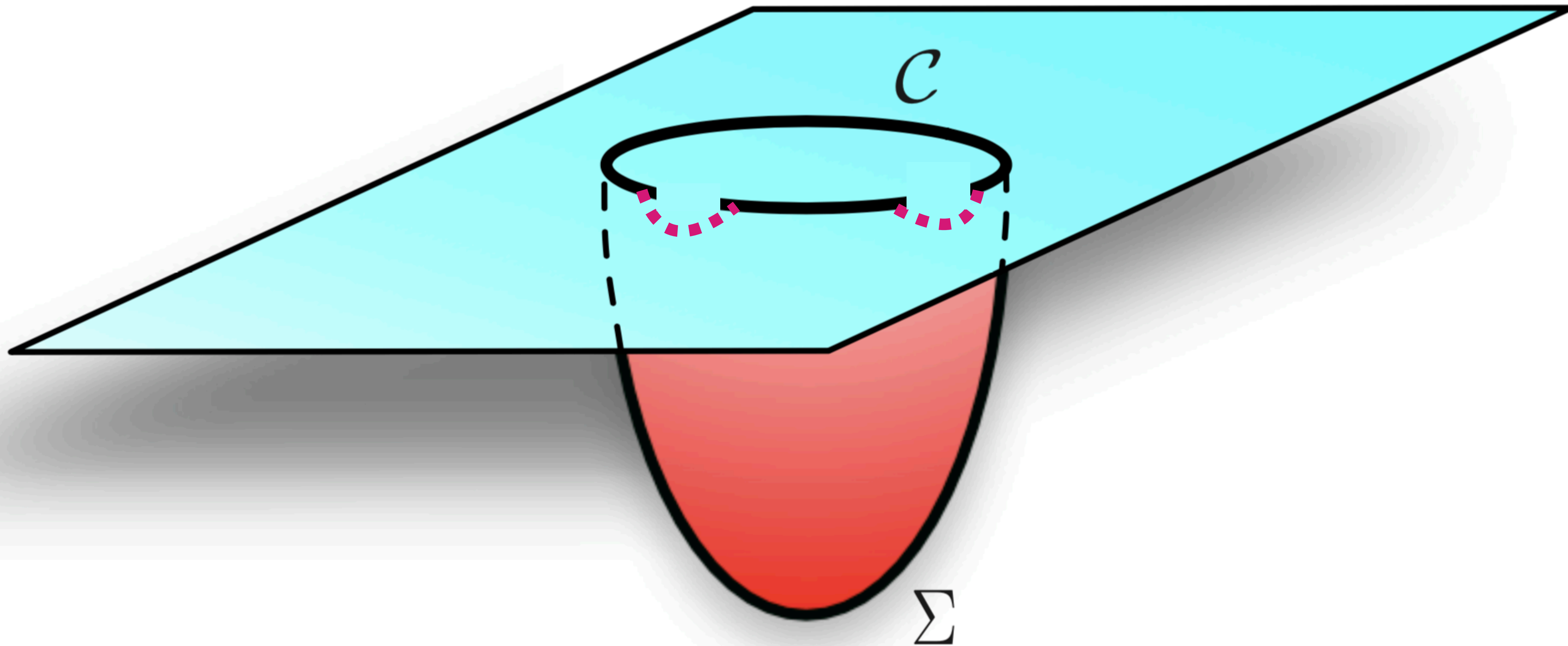
$$f(z) = 1 - (\pi T z)^4$$



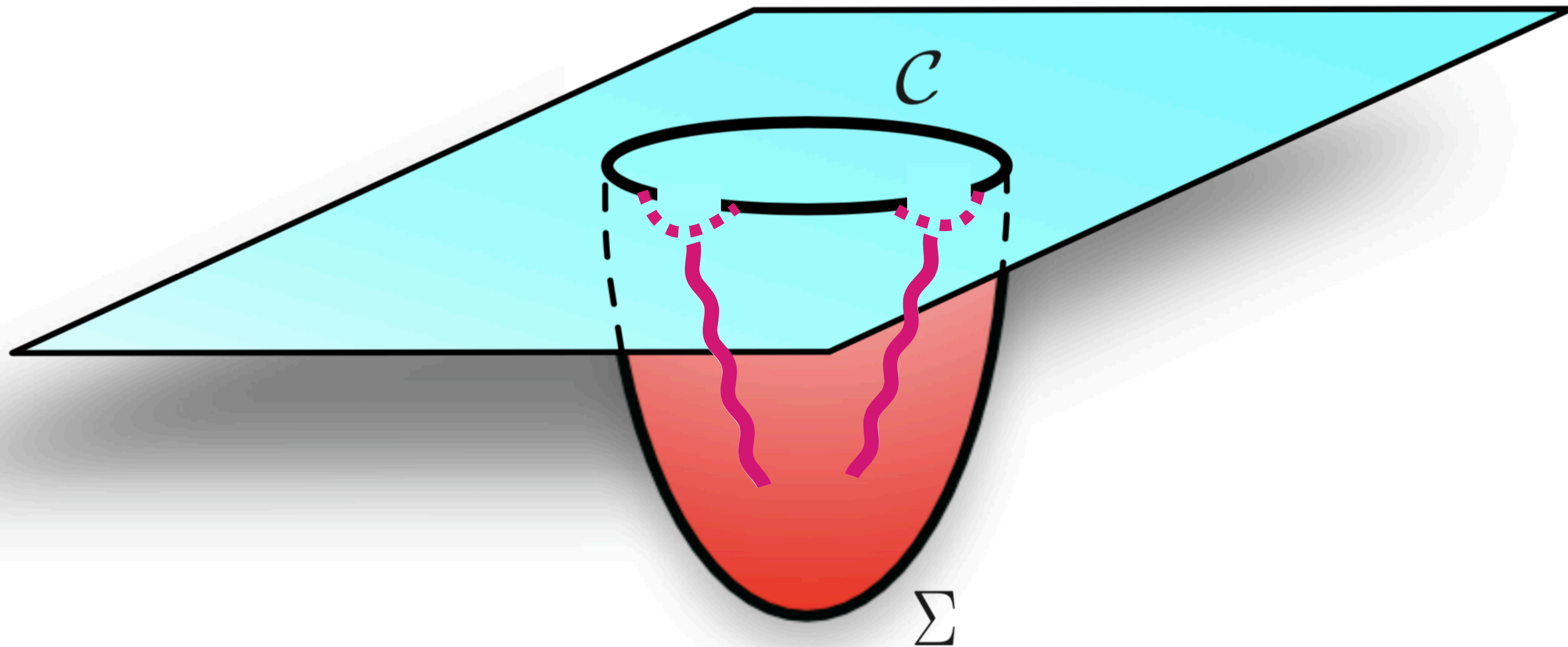
D-brane



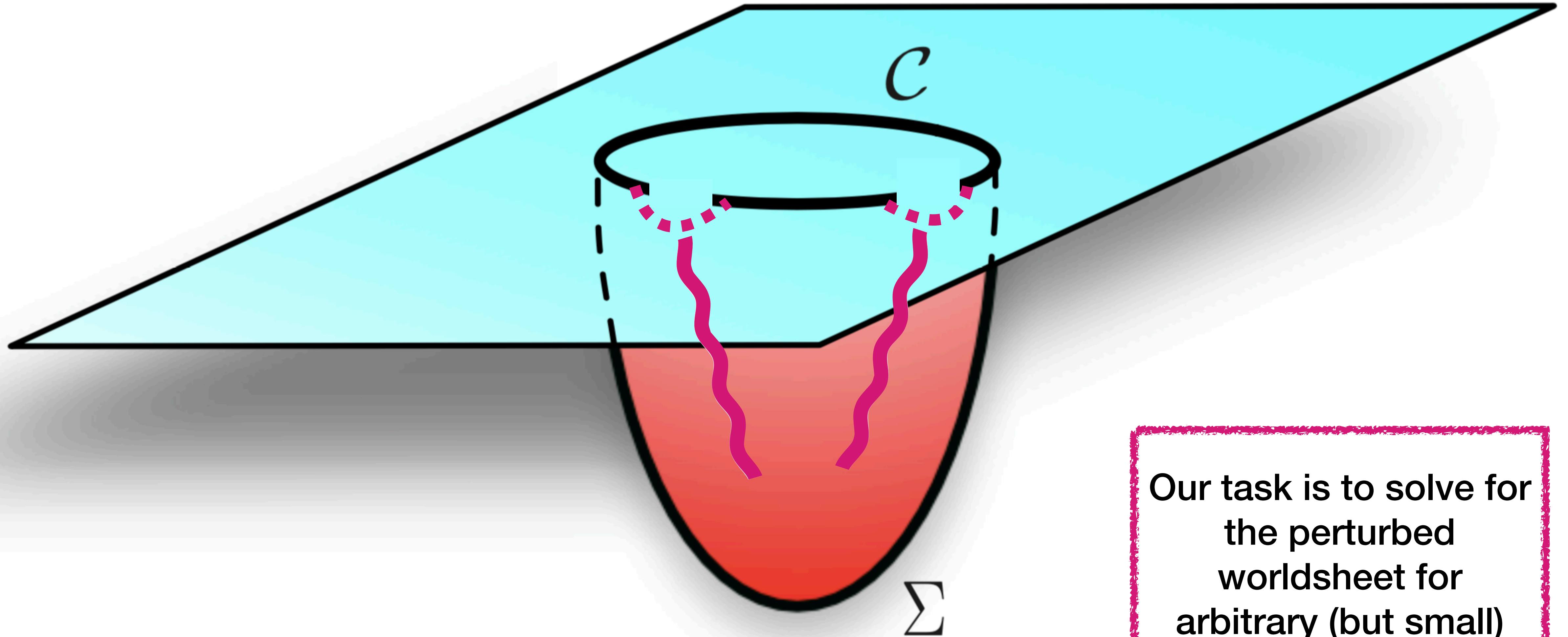
D-brane



D-brane



D-brane



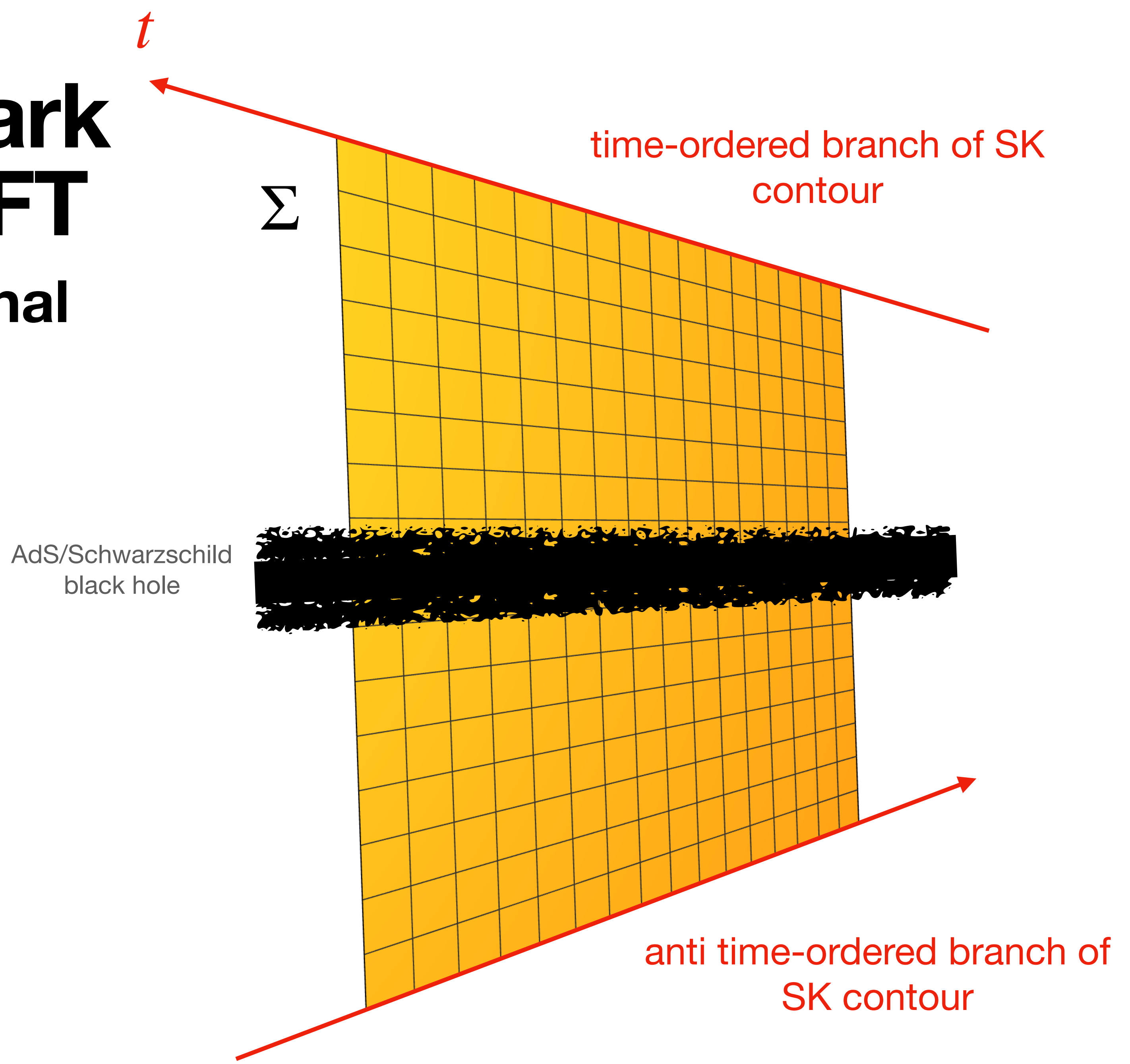
Our task is to solve for the perturbed worldsheet for arbitrary (but small) changes in the loop  $\mathcal{C}$

# Review: Heavy Quark Diffusion in AdS/CFT

using the same computational technique

Steps of the calculation:

1. Find the appropriate background solution



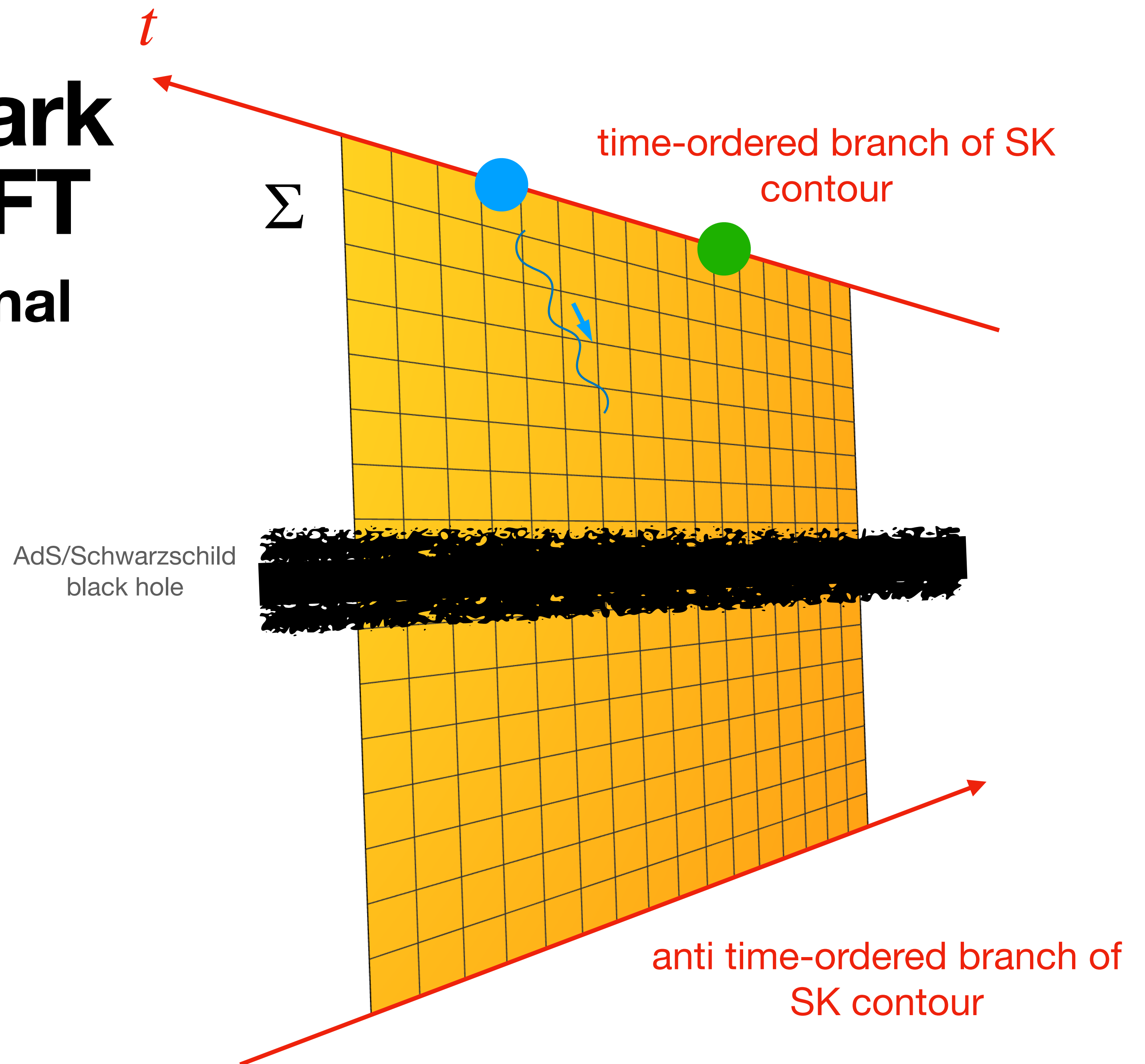


# Review: Heavy Quark Diffusion in AdS/CFT

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Steps of the calculation:

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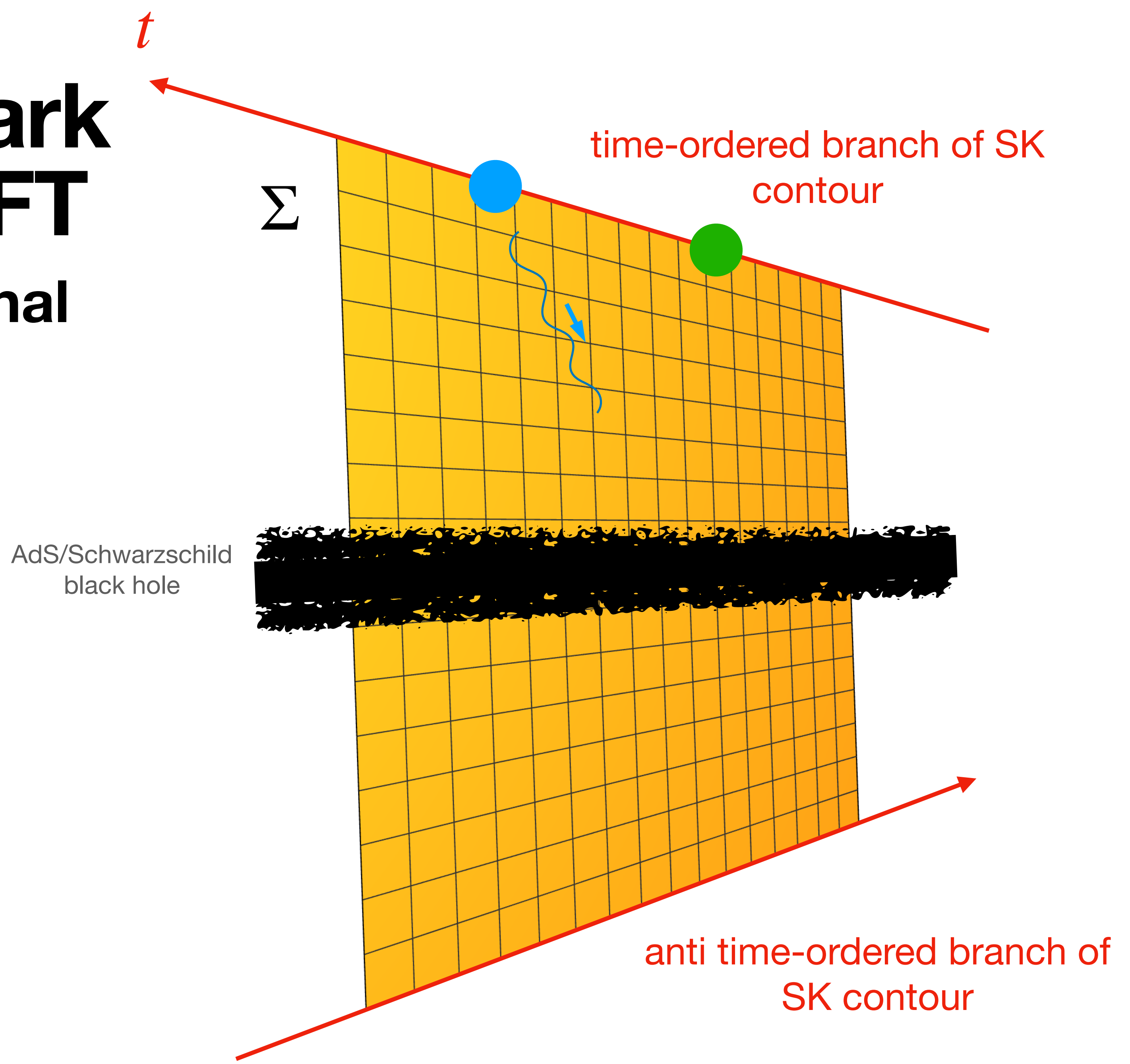


# Review: Heavy Quark Diffusion in AdS/CFT

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Steps of the calculation:

1. Find the appropriate background solution
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3. Evaluate the deformed Wilson loop and take derivatives



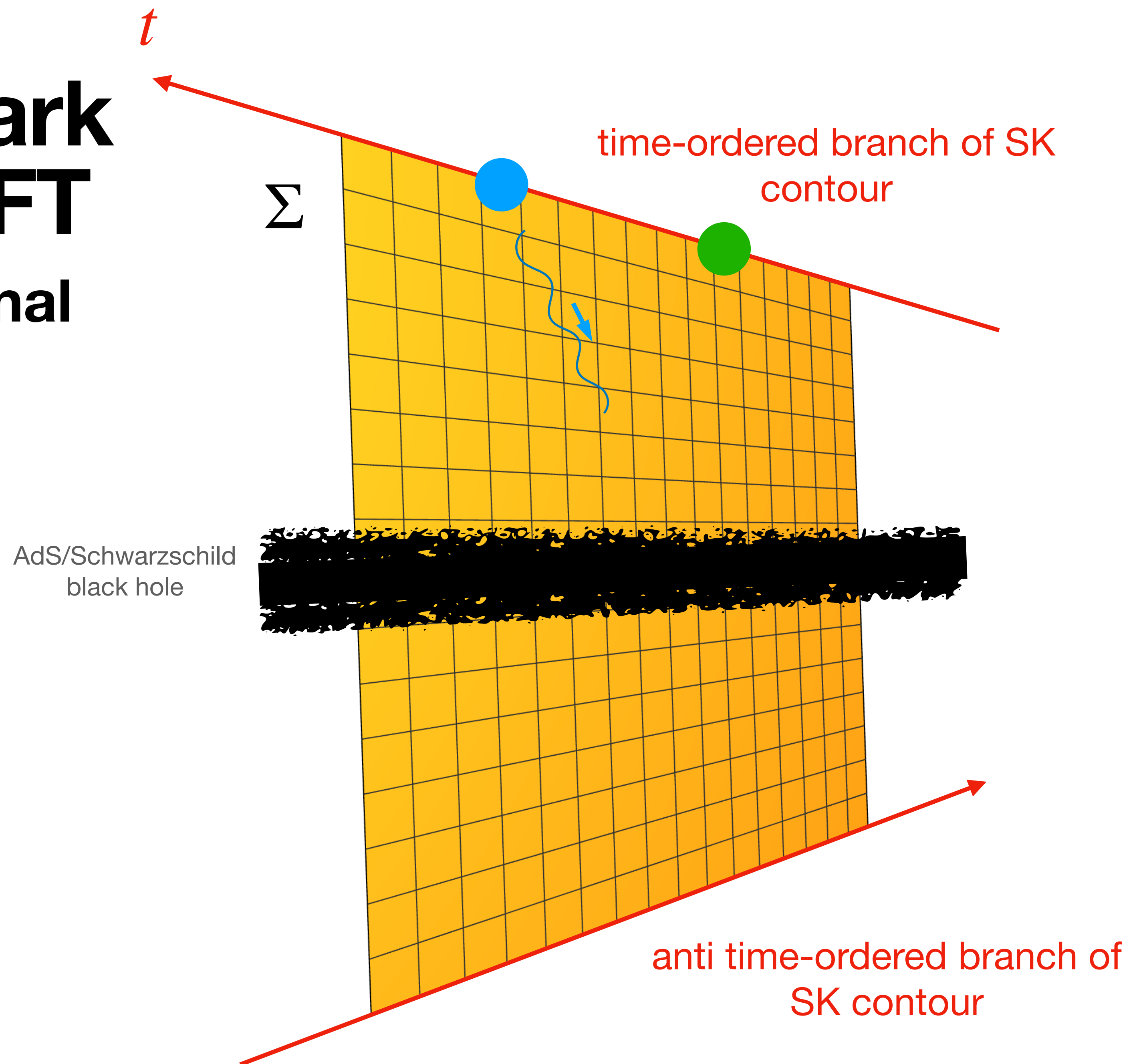
# Review: Heavy Quark Diffusion in AdS/CFT

using the same computational technique

Steps of the calculation:

1. Find the appropriate background solution
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From here:  $\kappa = \pi \sqrt{g^2 N_c T^3}$

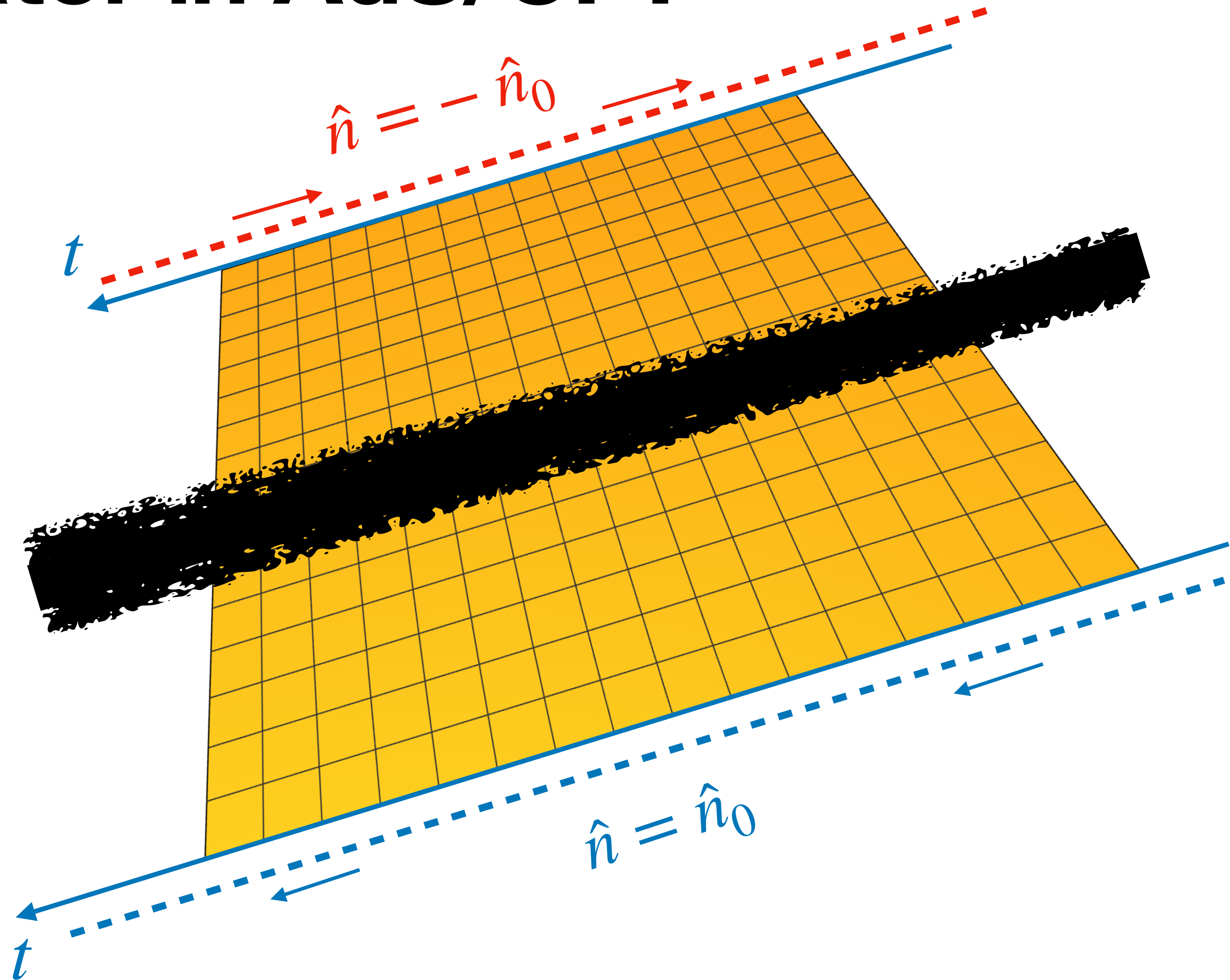


# Quarkonium correlator in AdS/CFT

# Quarkonium correlator in AdS/CFT

a very similar picture

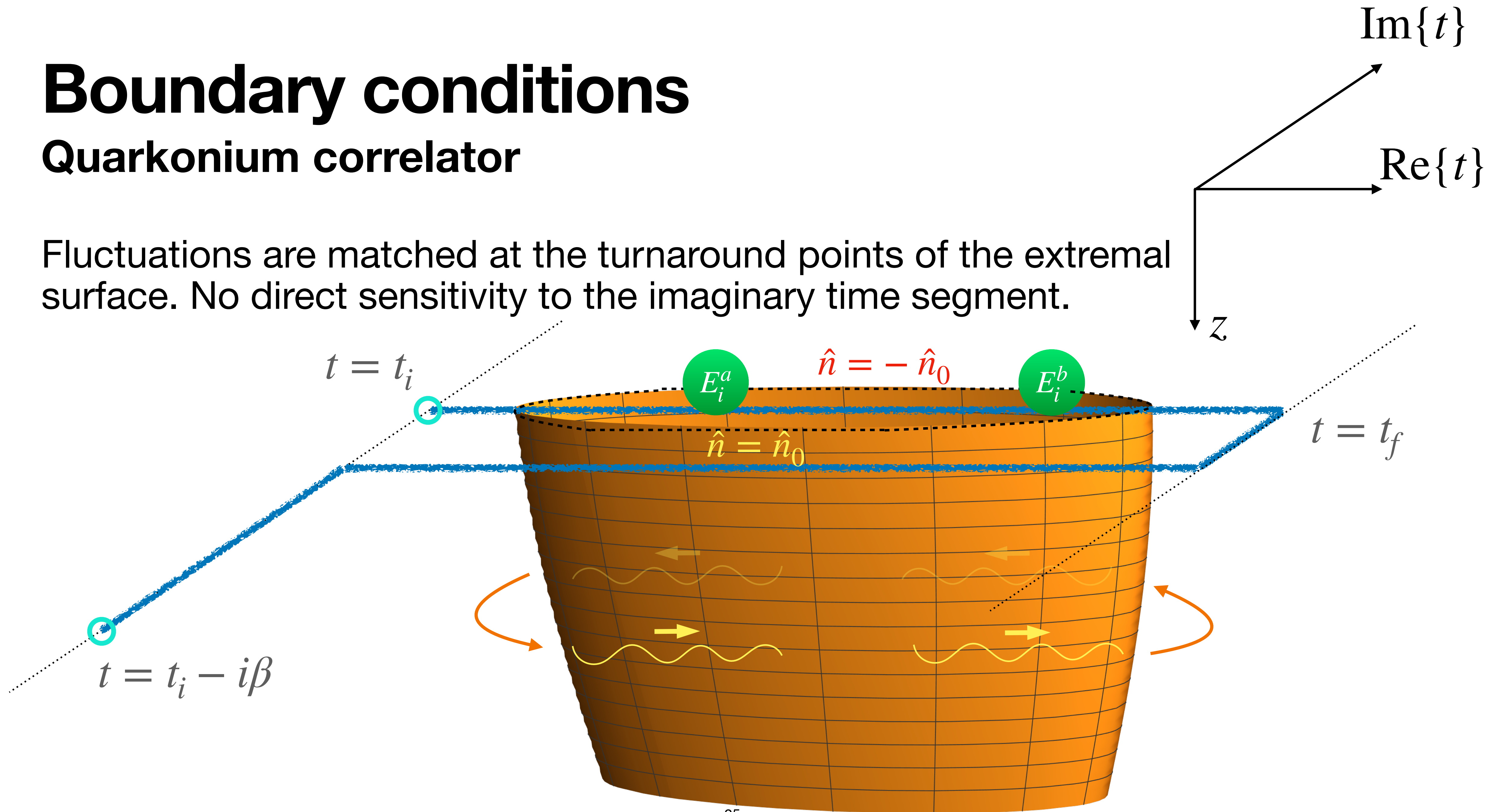
- Same steps as before:
  1. Find background solution
  2. Introduce perturbations
  3. Evaluate the derivatives
- Differences:
  - Boundary conditions
  - Time-ordered correlator; not retarded



# Boundary conditions

## Quarkonium correlator

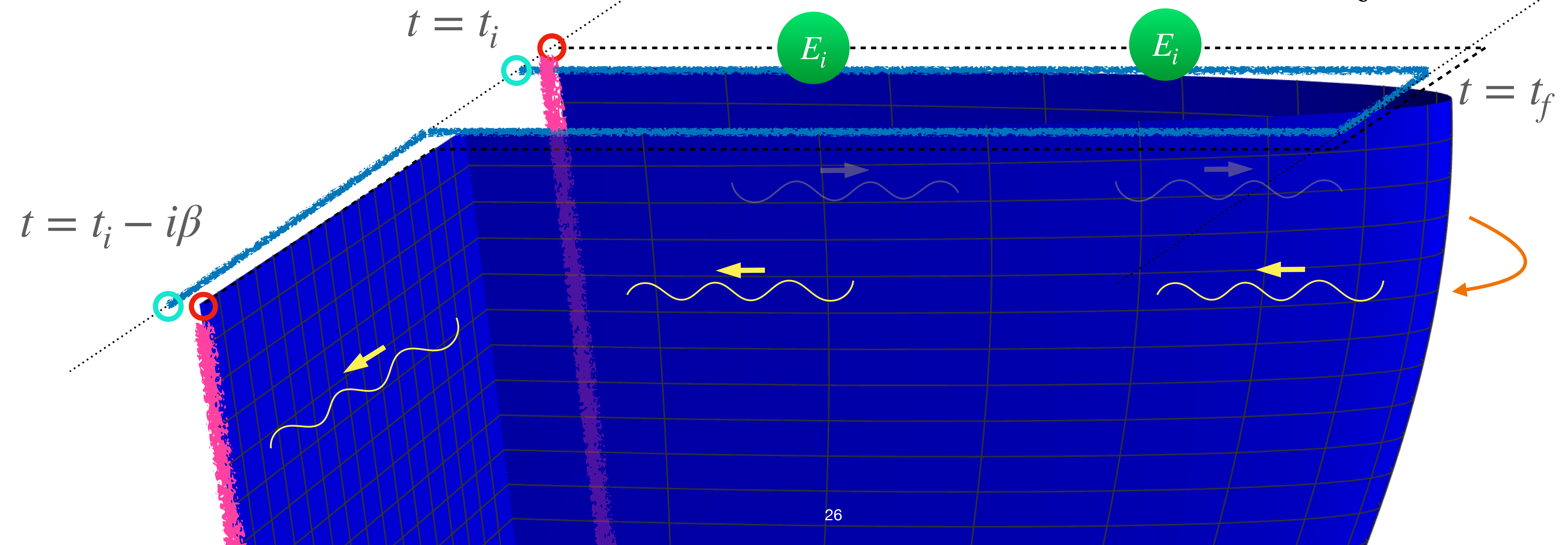
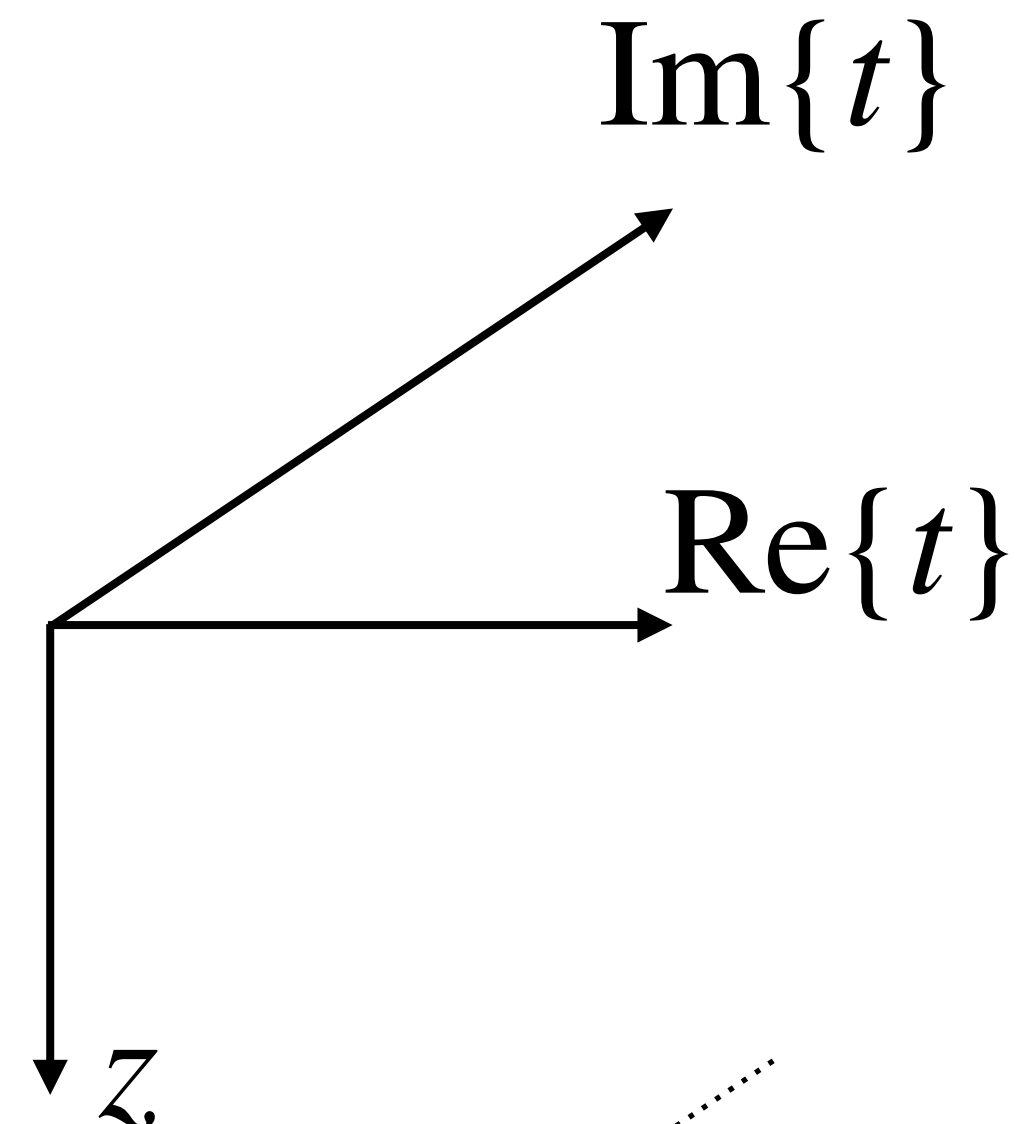
Fluctuations are matched at the turnaround points of the extremal surface. No direct sensitivity to the imaginary time segment.



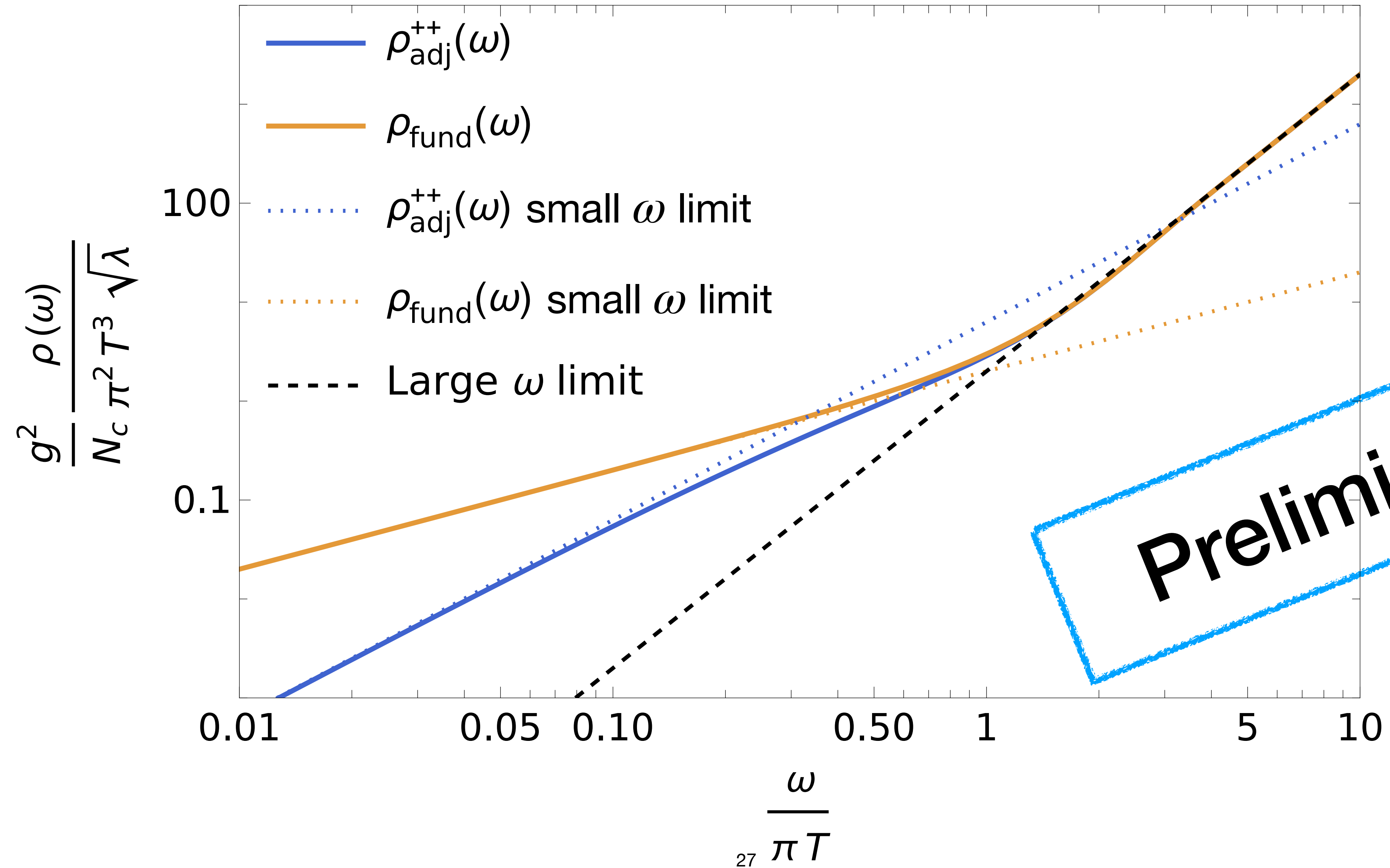
# Boundary conditions

## Quarkonium correlator

Fluctuations are matched through the imaginary time segment solving the equations of motion  $\implies$  factors of  $e^{\beta\omega}$ , KMS relations



# Comparison of spectral functions





# Summary and conclusions

- We have discussed how to calculate the chromoelectric correlators of the QGP that govern quarkonium transport
  - A. at weak coupling in QCD
  - B. at strong coupling in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM
- Next steps:
  - Generalize the calculations to include a boosted medium
  - Use them as input for quarkonia transport codes
- Stay tuned!

# Summary and conclusions

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**Thank you!**

# Extra slides

# Open quantum systems

## “tracing/integrating out” the QGP

- Given an initial density matrix  $\rho_{\text{tot}}(t = 0)$ , quarkonium coupled with the QGP evolves as

$$\rho_{\text{tot}}(t) = U(t)\rho_{\text{tot}}(t = 0)U^\dagger(t).$$

- We will only be interested in describing the evolution of quarkonium and its final state abundances

$$\implies \rho_S(t) = \text{Tr}_{\text{QGP}} \left[ U(t)\rho_{\text{tot}}(t = 0)U^\dagger(t) \right].$$

- Then, one derives an evolution equation for  $\rho_S(t)$ , assuming that at the initial time we have  $\rho_{\text{tot}}(t = 0) = \rho_S(t = 0) \otimes e^{-H_{\text{QGP}}/T} / \mathcal{Z}_{\text{QGP}}$ .

# Open quantum systems

“tracing/integrating out” the QGP: semi-classic description

Unitary evolution of environment + subsystem



Trace out the environment degrees of freedom

OQS:  $\rho_S$  has non-unitary, time-irreversible evolution



Markovian approximation  $\iff$  weak coupling in  $H_I$

OQS: Lindblad equation



Wigner transform:  $f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}, t) \equiv \int_{k'} e^{i\mathbf{k}' \cdot \mathbf{x}} \left\langle \mathbf{k} + \frac{\mathbf{k}'}{2} \left| \rho_S(t) \right| \mathbf{k} - \frac{\mathbf{k}'}{2} \right\rangle$

Semi-classic subsystem: Boltzmann/Fokker-Planck equation

# Lindblad equations for quarkonia at low $T$

## quantum Brownian motion limit & quantum optical limit in pNRQCD

- After tracing out the QGP degrees of freedom, one gets a Lindblad-type equation:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} = -i[H_{\text{eff}}, \rho] + \sum_j \gamma_j \left( L_j \rho L_j^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} \left\{ L_j^\dagger L_j, \rho \right\} \right)$$

- This can be done in two different limits within pNRQCD:

Quantum Brownian Motion:

$$\tau_I \gg \tau_E$$

$$\tau_S \gg \tau_E$$

relevant for  $Mv \gg T \gg Mv^2$

Quantum Optical:

$$\tau_I \gg \tau_E$$

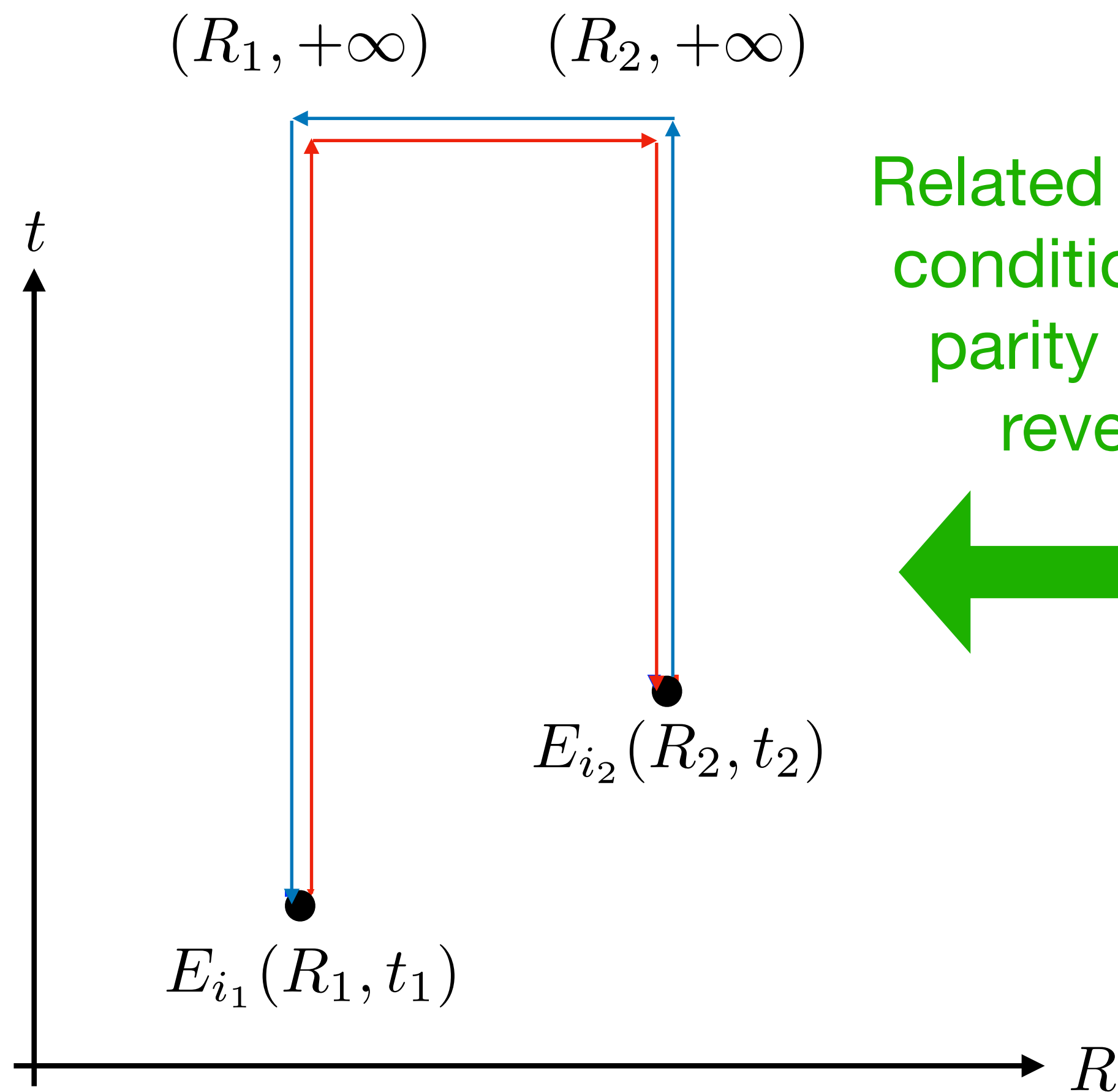
$$\tau_I \gg \tau_S$$

relevant for  $Mv \gg Mv^2, T \gtrsim m_D$

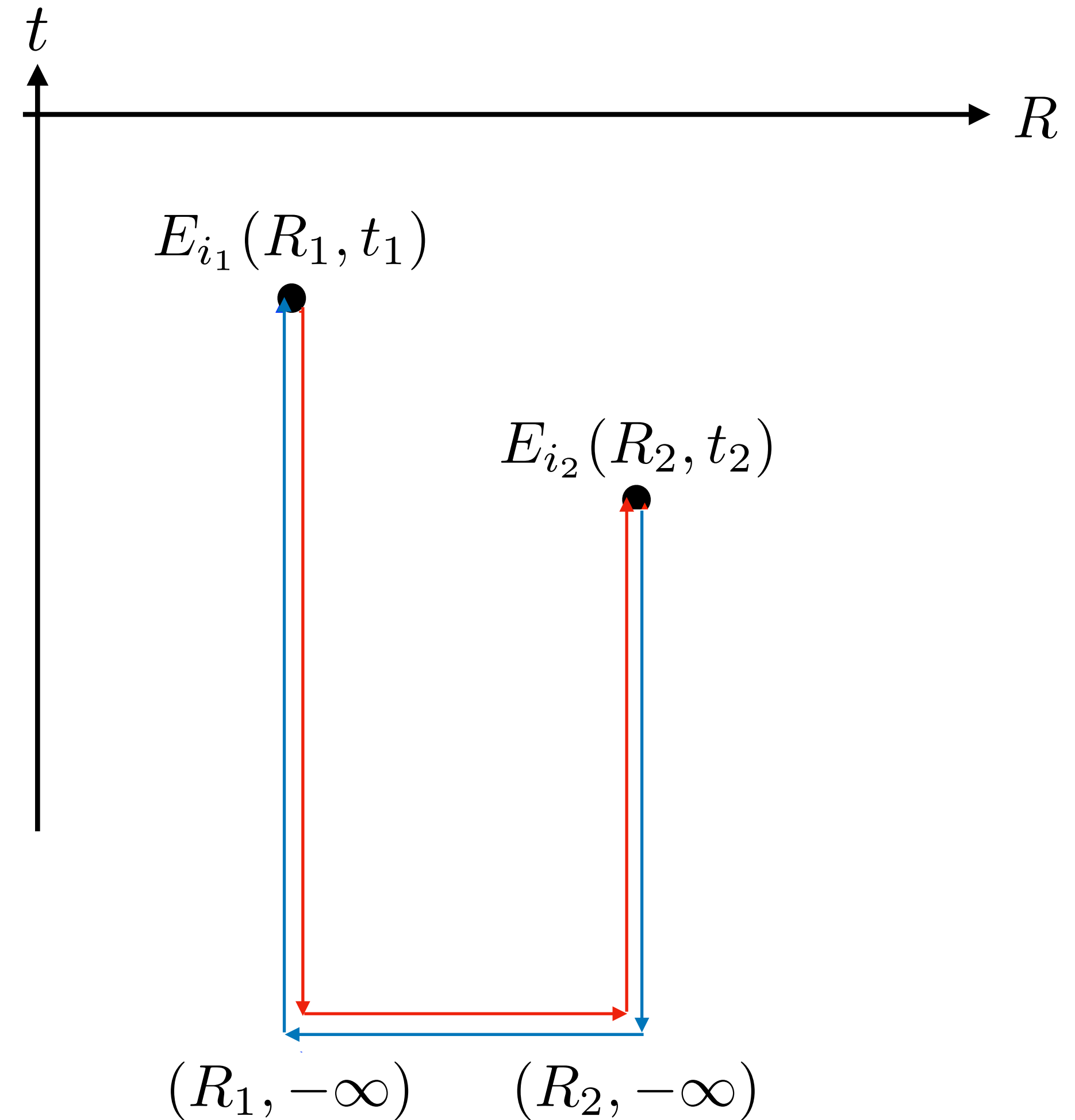
# QGP chromoelectric correlators

for quarkonia transport

$$[g_E^{--}]_{i_2 i_1}^>(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \mathbf{R}_1) = \langle (\mathcal{W}_{2'} E_{i_2}(\mathbf{R}_2, t_2))^a (E_{i_1}(\mathbf{R}_1, t_1) \mathcal{W}_{1'})^a \rangle_T$$



Related by KMS conditions and parity + time reversal



$$[g_E^{++}]_{i_2 i_1}^>(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{R}_2, \mathbf{R}_1) = \langle (E_{i_2}(\mathbf{R}_2, t_2) \mathcal{W}_2)^a (\mathcal{W}_1 E_{i_1}(\mathbf{R}_1, t_1))_{33}^a \rangle_T$$

The correlators we discussed are also directly related to the correlators that define the transport coefficients in the quantum brownian motion limit:

$$\gamma \equiv \frac{g^2}{6N_c} \text{Im} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} ds \langle \mathcal{T} E^{a,i}(s, \mathbf{0}) \mathcal{W}^{ab}[(s, \mathbf{0}), (0, \mathbf{0})] E^{b,i}(0, \mathbf{0}) \rangle ,$$
$$\kappa \equiv \frac{g^2}{6N_c} \text{Re} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} ds \langle \mathcal{T} E^{a,i}(s, \mathbf{0}) \mathcal{W}^{ab}[(s, \mathbf{0}), (0, \mathbf{0})] E^{b,i}(0, \mathbf{0}) \rangle .$$



# The spectral function of quarkonia

## symmetries and KMS relations

The KMS conjugates of the previous correlators are such that

$$[g_E^{++}]_{ji}^>(q) = e^{q^0/T} [g_E^{++}]_{ji}^<(q), \quad [g_E^{--}]_{ji}^>(q) = e^{q^0/T} [g_E^{--}]_{ji}^<(q),$$

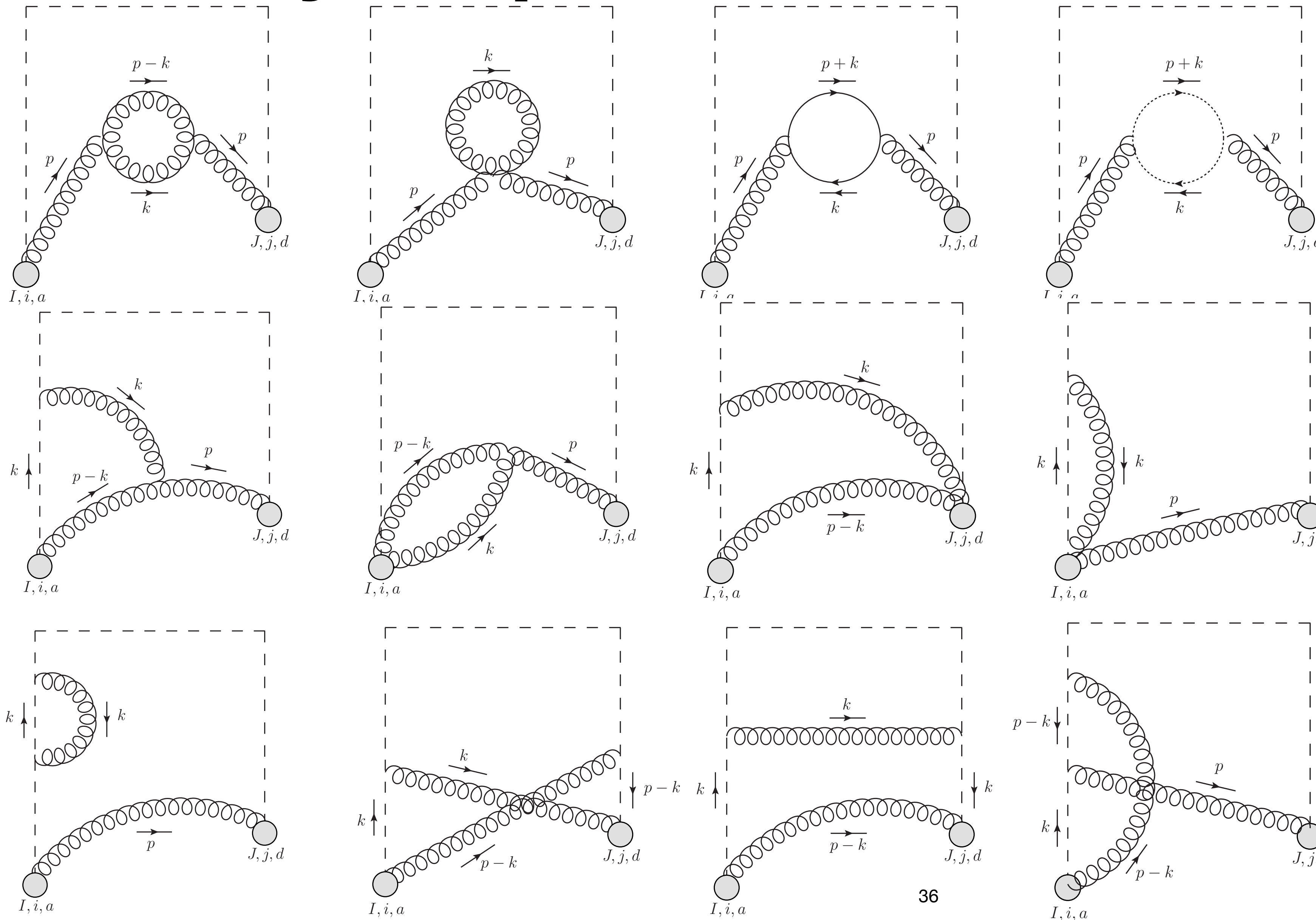
and one can show that they are related by

$$[g_E^{++}]_{ji}^>(q) = [g_E^{--}]_{ji}^<(-q), \quad [g_E^{--}]_{ji}^>(q) = [g_E^{++}]_{ji}^<(-q).$$

The spectral functions  $[\rho_E^{++/--}]_{ji}(q) = [g_E^{++/--}]_{ji}^>(q) - [g_E^{++/--}]_{ji}^<(q)$  are not necessarily odd under  $q \leftrightarrow -q$ . However, they do satisfy:

$$[\rho_E^{++}]_{ji}(q) = - [\rho_E^{--}]_{ji}(-q).$$

# Weakly coupled calculation in QCD



The real-time calculation proceeds by evaluating these diagrams (+ some permutations of them) on the Schwinger-Keldysh contour

# The spectral function at NLO

## and a comparison with its heavy quark counterpart

It is simplest to write the integrated spectral function:

$$Q_E^{++}(p_0) = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \delta^{ad} \delta_{ij} [\rho_E^{++}]_{ji}^{da}(p_0, \mathbf{p}) .$$

We found

$$g^2 Q_E^{++}(p_0) = \frac{g^2(N_c^2 - 1)p_0^3}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ 4\pi^2 + g^2 \left[ \left( \frac{11}{12}N_c - \frac{1}{3}N_f \right) \ln \left( \frac{\mu^2}{4p_0^2} \right) + \left( \frac{149}{36} + \frac{\pi^2}{3} \right) N_c - \frac{10}{9}N_f + F \left( \frac{p_0}{T} \right) \right] \right\}$$

and the heavy quark counterpart is, with the same  $T$ -dependent function  $F(p_0/T)$ ,

Y. Burnier, M. Laine, J. Langelage and L. Mether, hep-ph/1006.0867

$$g^2 \rho_E^{\text{HQ}}(p_0) = \frac{g^2(N_c^2 - 1)p_0^3}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ 4\pi^2 + g^2 \left[ \left( \frac{11}{12}N_c - \frac{1}{3}N_f \right) \ln \left( \frac{\mu^2}{4p_0^2} \right) + \left( \frac{149}{36} - \frac{2\pi^2}{3} \right) N_c - \frac{10}{9}N_f + F \left( \frac{p_0}{T} \right) \right] \right\}$$

# How the calculation proceeds

what equations do we need to solve?

- The classical, unperturbed equations of motion from the Nambu-Goto action to determine  $\Sigma$ :

$$S_{\text{NG}} = -\frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{-\det \left( g_{\mu\nu} \partial_\alpha X^\mu \partial_\beta X^\nu \right)}.$$

- The classical, linearized equation of motion with perturbations in order to be able to calculate derivatives of  $\langle W[\mathcal{C}_f] \rangle_T = e^{iS_{\text{NG}}[\Sigma_f]}$ :

$$S_{\text{NG}}[\Sigma_f] = S_{\text{NG}}[\Sigma] + \int dt_1 dt_2 \left. \frac{\delta^2 S_{\text{NG}}[\Sigma_f]}{\delta f(t_1) \delta f(t_2)} \right|_{f=0} f(t_1) f(t_2) + O(f^3).$$