

# Play. Pause. Rewind. Measuring local entropy production and extractable work in active matter

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Ro, Guo, ..., **SM**, PRL, 129 (22), 220601 (2022)

Anand, ... **SM\***, Cheng\*, arXiv:2308.08421 (2024)

# What defines nonequilibrium?

We must start by defining **equilibrium systems**:

- (a) intensive properties are independent of time
- (b) no current of matter or energy exists in the system's interior or at its boundaries

Kirkwood, J.G., Oppenheim, I. (1961)

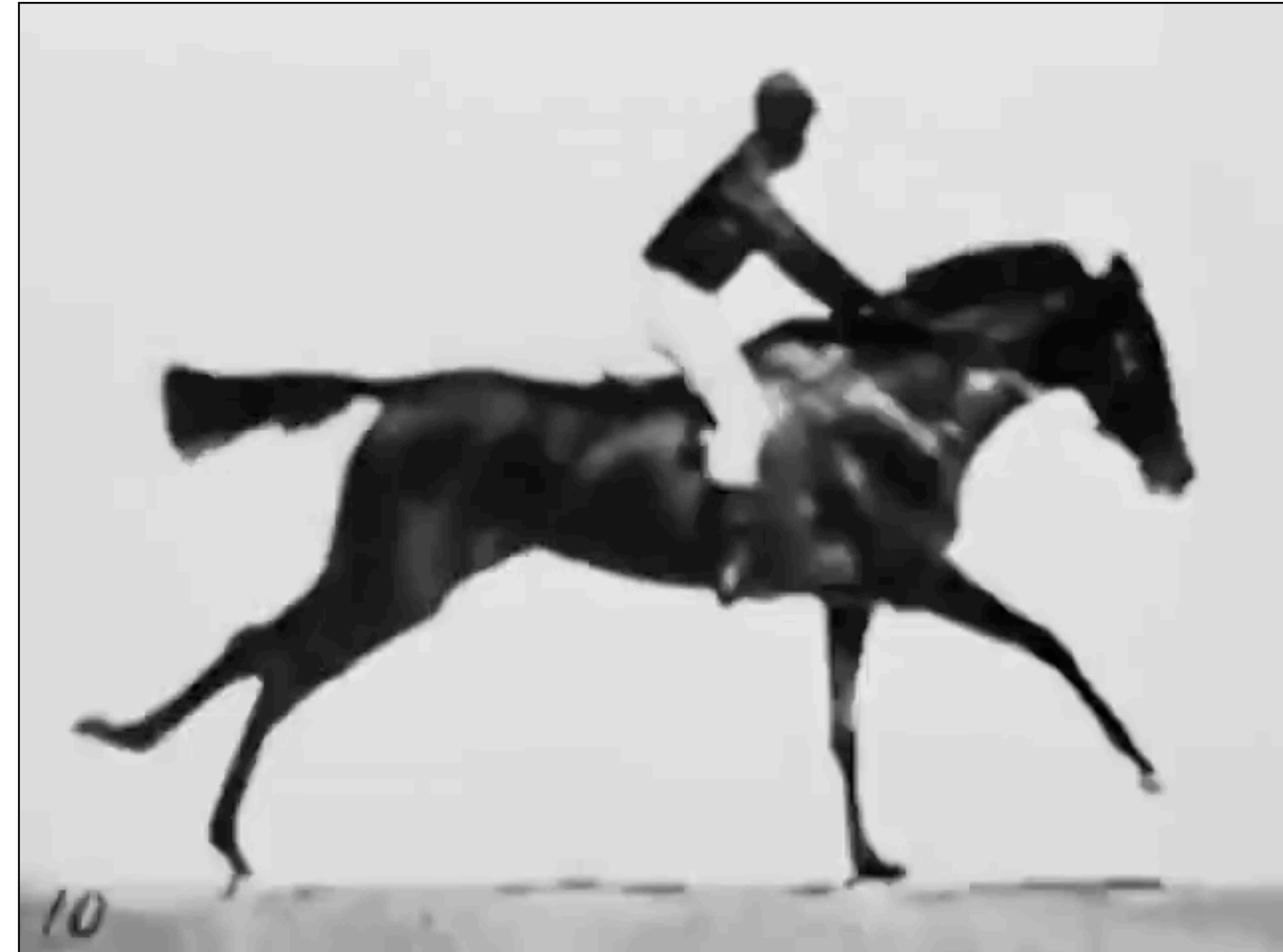
So, being **out of equilibrium** means that these conditions do not hold, but **is there a quantifiable signature of how far from equilibrium a system is?**

# Time reversal symmetry breaking (TRSB)

Forward trajectory  $\vec{X}$



Reverse trajectory  $\vec{X}^R$



$$\frac{P(\vec{X})}{P(\vec{X}^R)} = e^{\Sigma(\vec{X})/k_B} > 1$$

$$\Sigma(\vec{X}) > 0$$

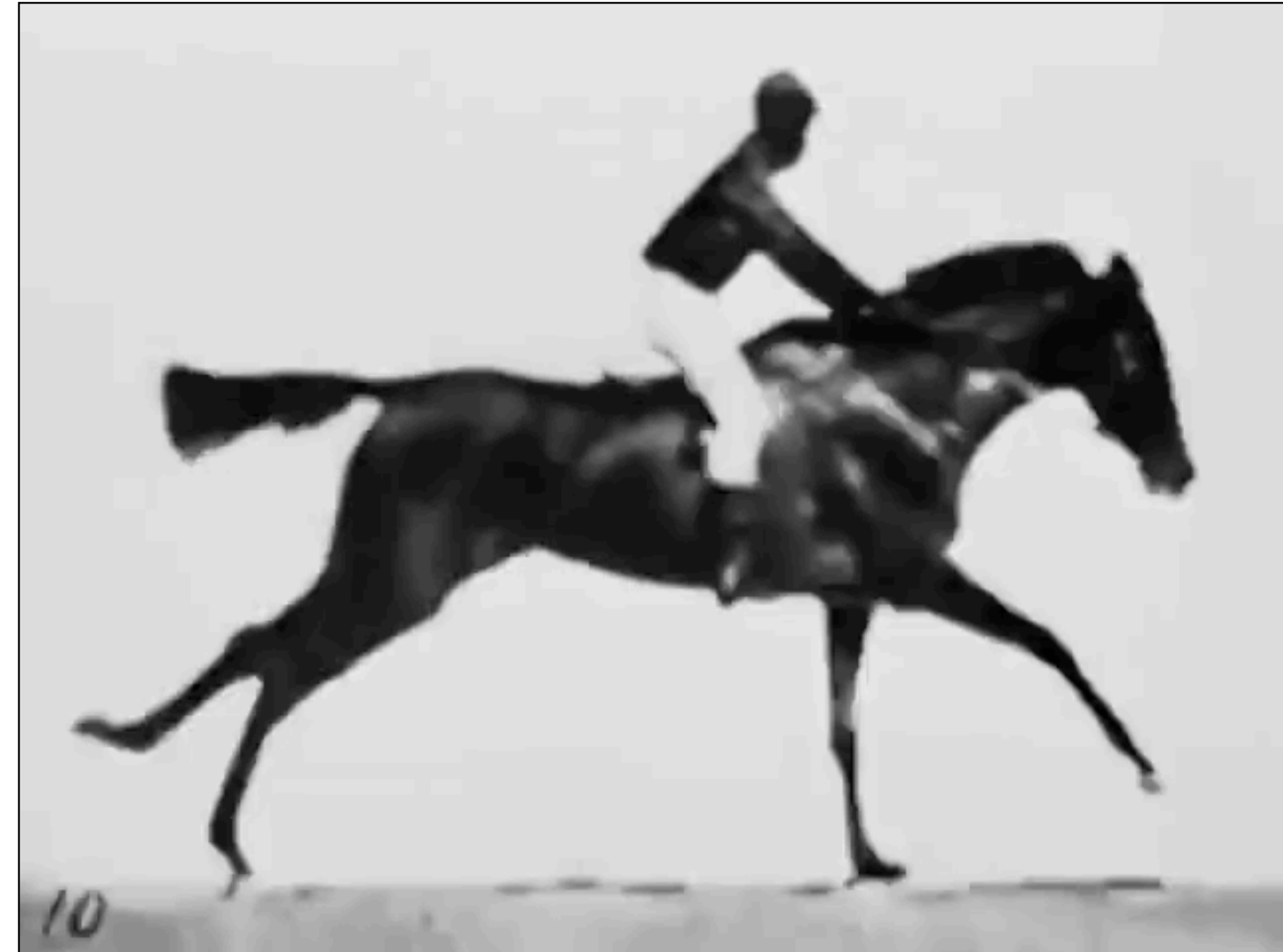
Fluctuation theorem

# Time reversal symmetry breaking (TRSB)

Forward trajectory  $\vec{X}$



Reverse trajectory  $\vec{X}^R$



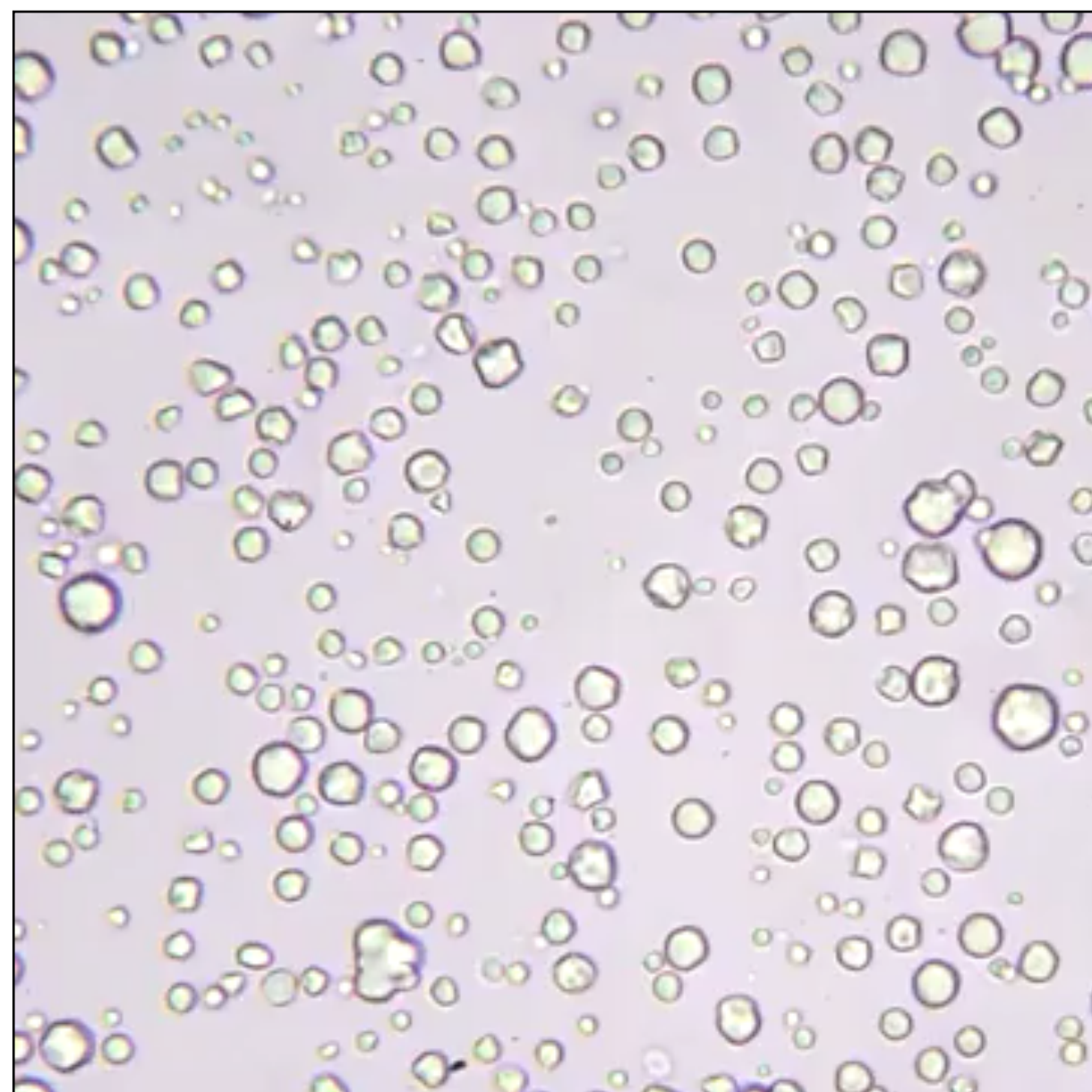
Entropy production quantifies departure from equilibrium, degree of TRSB, and the thermodynamic cost of maintaining the system out of equilibrium

$$\Sigma(\vec{X}) > 0$$

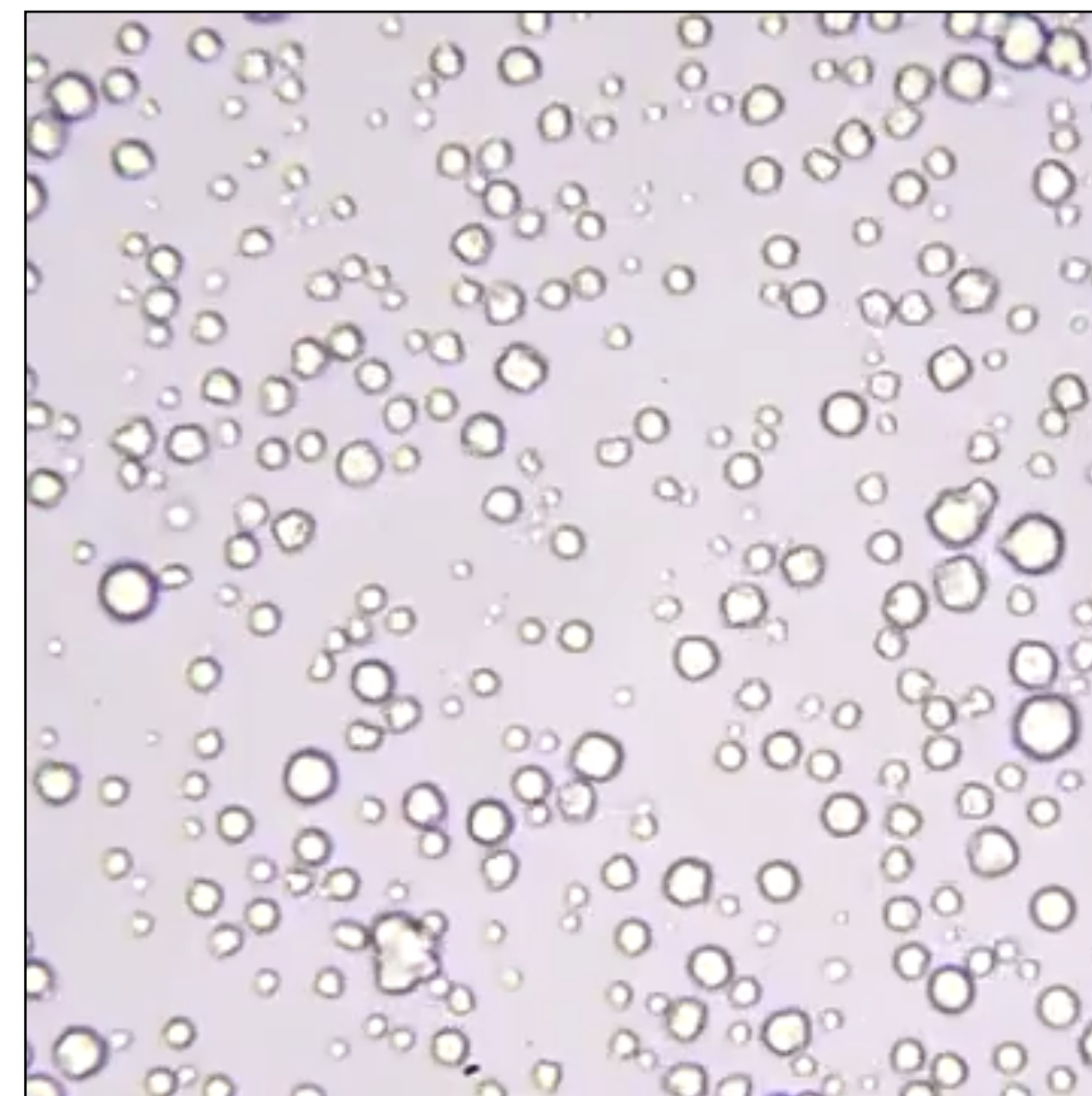
# Play. Pause. Rewind.

For an equilibrium system

Forward trajectory

 $\vec{X}$ 

Reverse trajectory

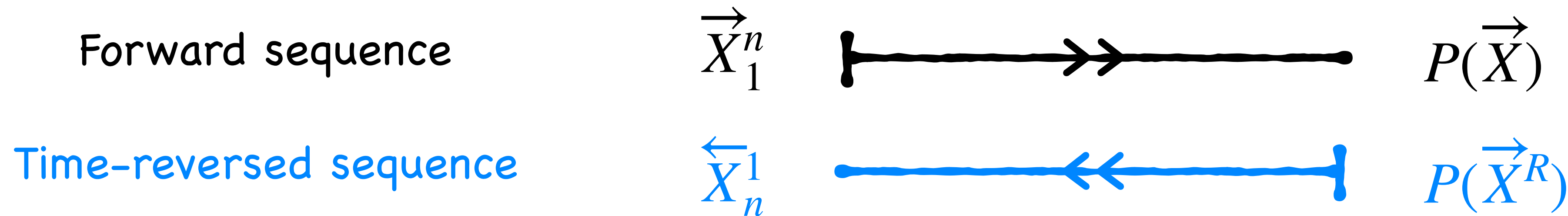
 $\vec{X}^R$ 

$$\frac{P(\vec{X})}{P(\vec{X}^R)} = e^{\Sigma(\vec{X})/k_B} = 1$$

Entropy production  $\Sigma(\vec{X}) = 0$  since dynamics are **symmetric** under **time reversal** (i.e., forward and backward trajectories are indistinguishable)

# Quantifying time reversal symmetry breaking

## Relative Entropy/KL Divergence



KL divergence

$$D_{\text{KL}}(P(\vec{X}) || P(\vec{X}^R)) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\vec{X}} P(\vec{X}) \log \frac{P(\vec{X})}{P(\vec{X}^R)}$$

$$= \underbrace{H[P(\vec{X}), P(\vec{X}^R)]}_{\text{Cross entropy}} - \underbrace{H[P(\vec{X})]}_{\text{Entropy}}$$

Measure of time reversal symmetry breaking

← Remember!

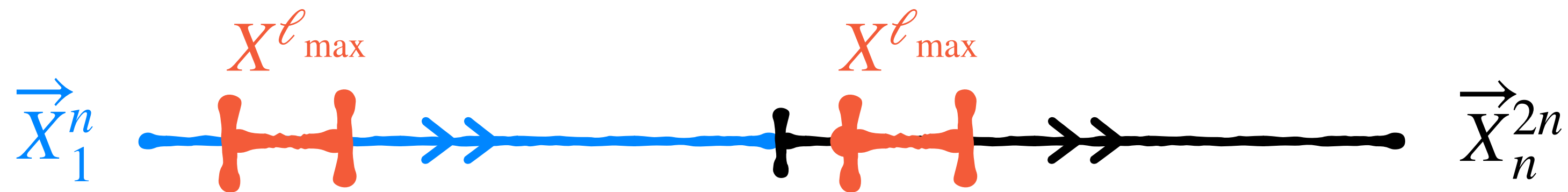
$$D_{\text{KL}}(P(\vec{X}) || P(\vec{X}^R)) = \frac{1}{n} \left\langle \ln \frac{P(\vec{X})}{P(\vec{X}^R)} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{n} \langle \Sigma(\vec{X}) \rangle$$

Entropy production

# Quantifying time reversal symmetry breaking

## A symmetric estimator

Take a sequence and split it in half



$$D_{\text{KL}}(\vec{p} \parallel \overleftarrow{p}) = \hat{H}(\vec{X}_n^{2n} \parallel \overleftarrow{X}_n^1) - \underbrace{\hat{H}(\vec{X}_n^{2n} \parallel \vec{X}_1^n)}_{\text{Entropy}}$$

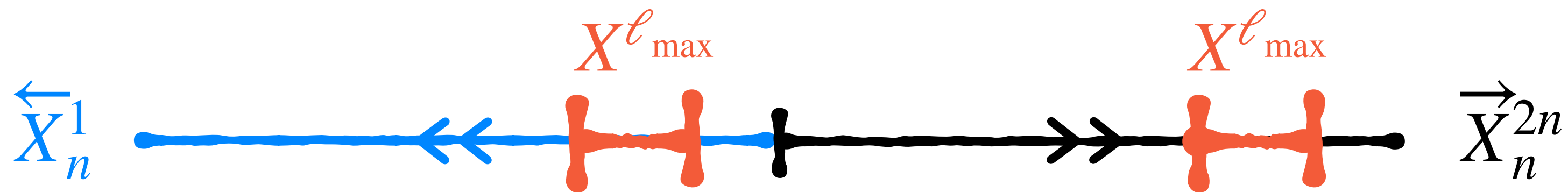
Pattern matching  
estimator

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\log n}{\langle \ell_{\max} \rangle}$$

# Quantifying time reversal symmetry breaking

## A symmetric estimator

Take a sequence and split it in half



$$D_{\text{KL}}(\overrightarrow{p} \parallel \overleftarrow{p}) = \hat{H}(\overrightarrow{X}_n^{2n} \parallel \overleftarrow{X}_n^1) - \hat{H}(\overrightarrow{X}_n^{2n} \parallel \overrightarrow{X}_n^1)$$

Cross entropy

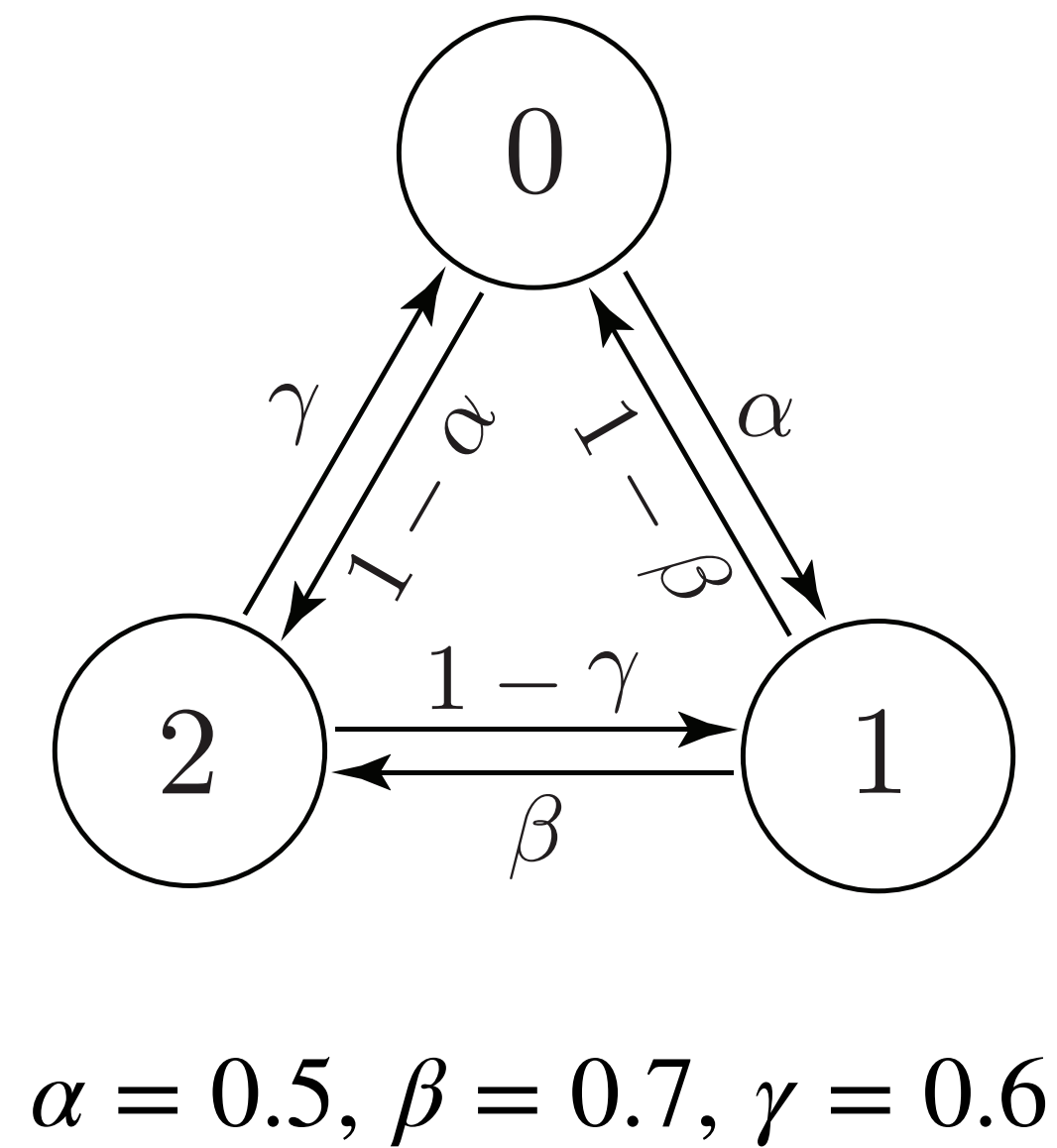
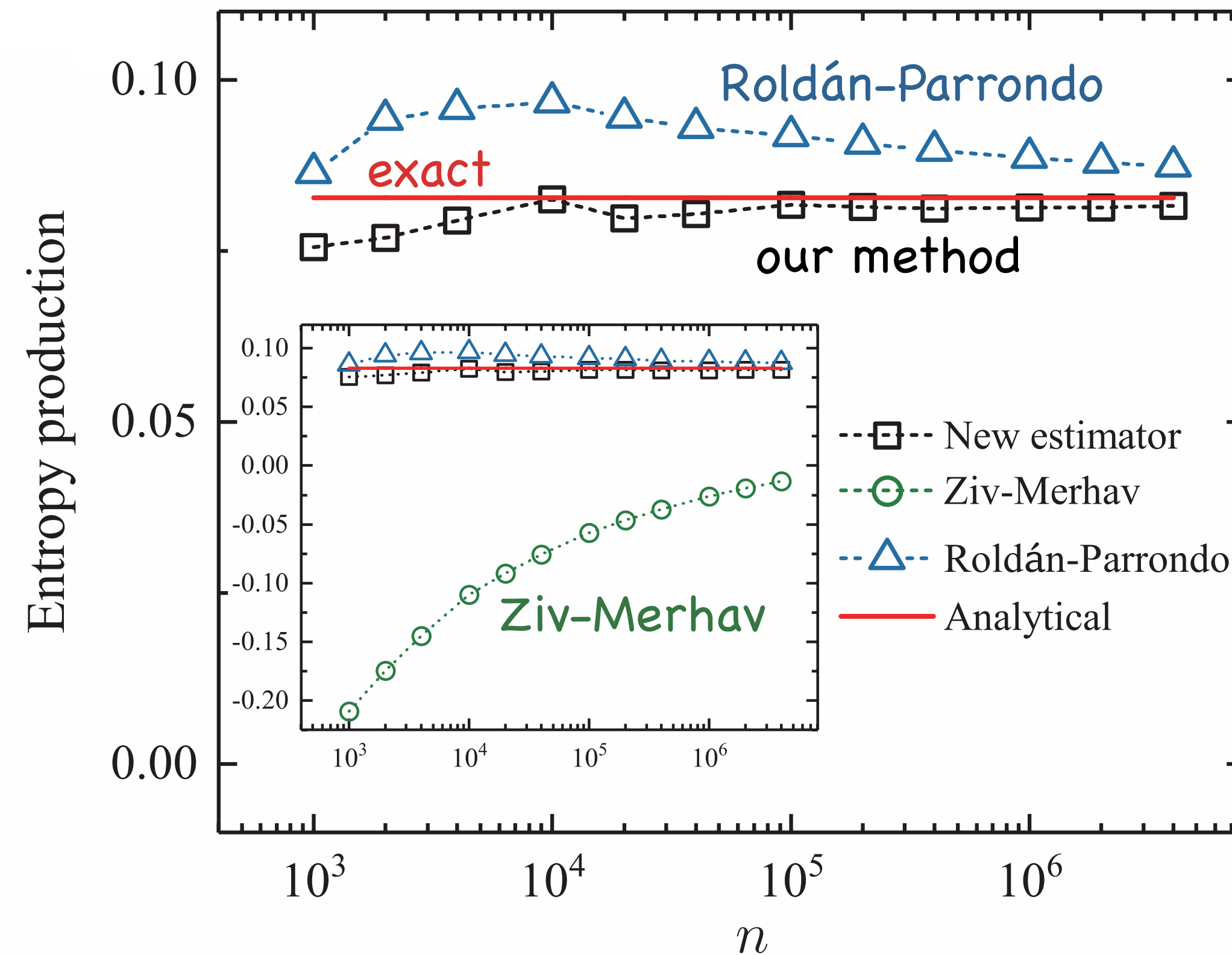
Pattern matching estimator

$$\hat{H} = \frac{\log n}{\langle \ell_{\max} \rangle}$$



# Quantifying time reversal symmetry breaking

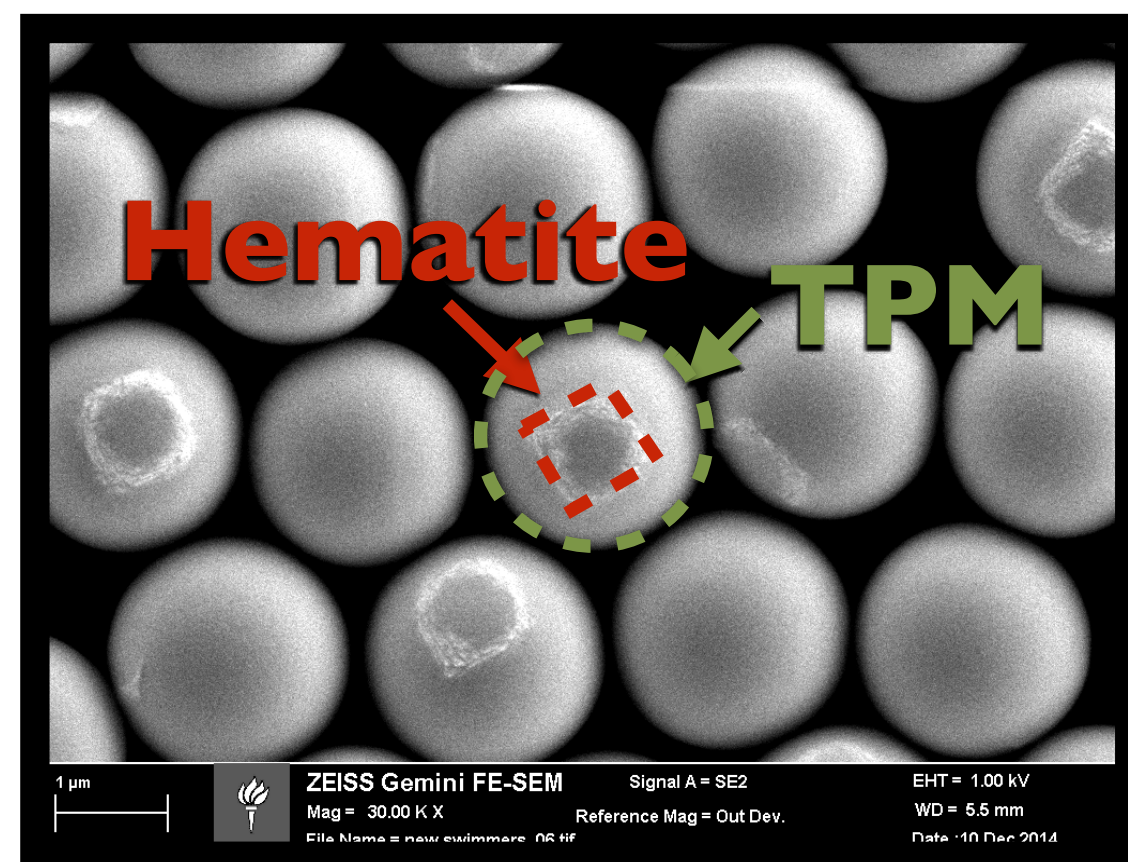
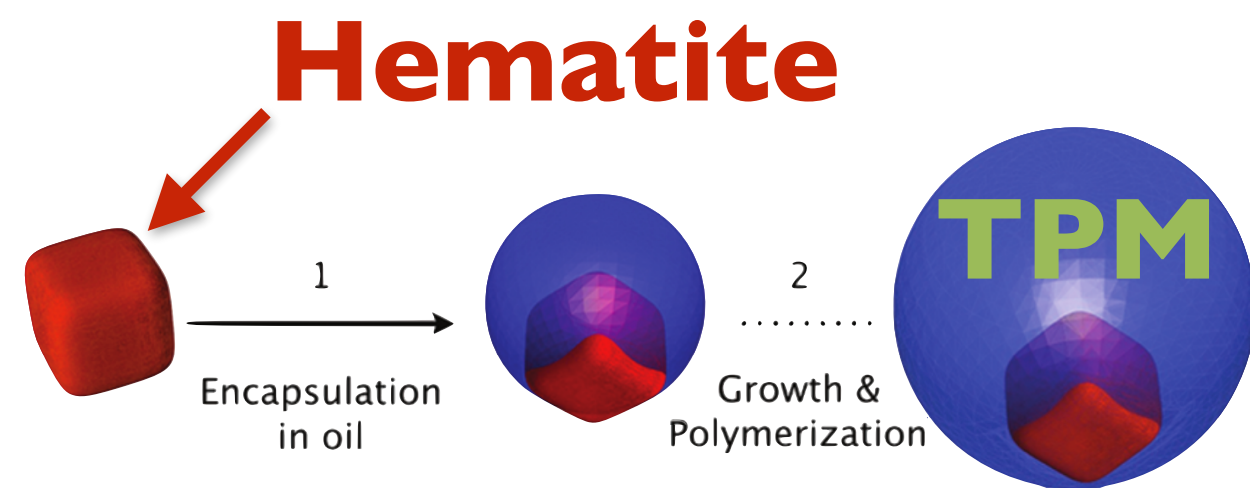
## A symmetric estimator



Our symmetric estimator of KLD converges much more rapidly (at least  $10^3 \times$  on 3-state MM) than those proposed by Ziv & Merhav, and Roldán & Parrondo.

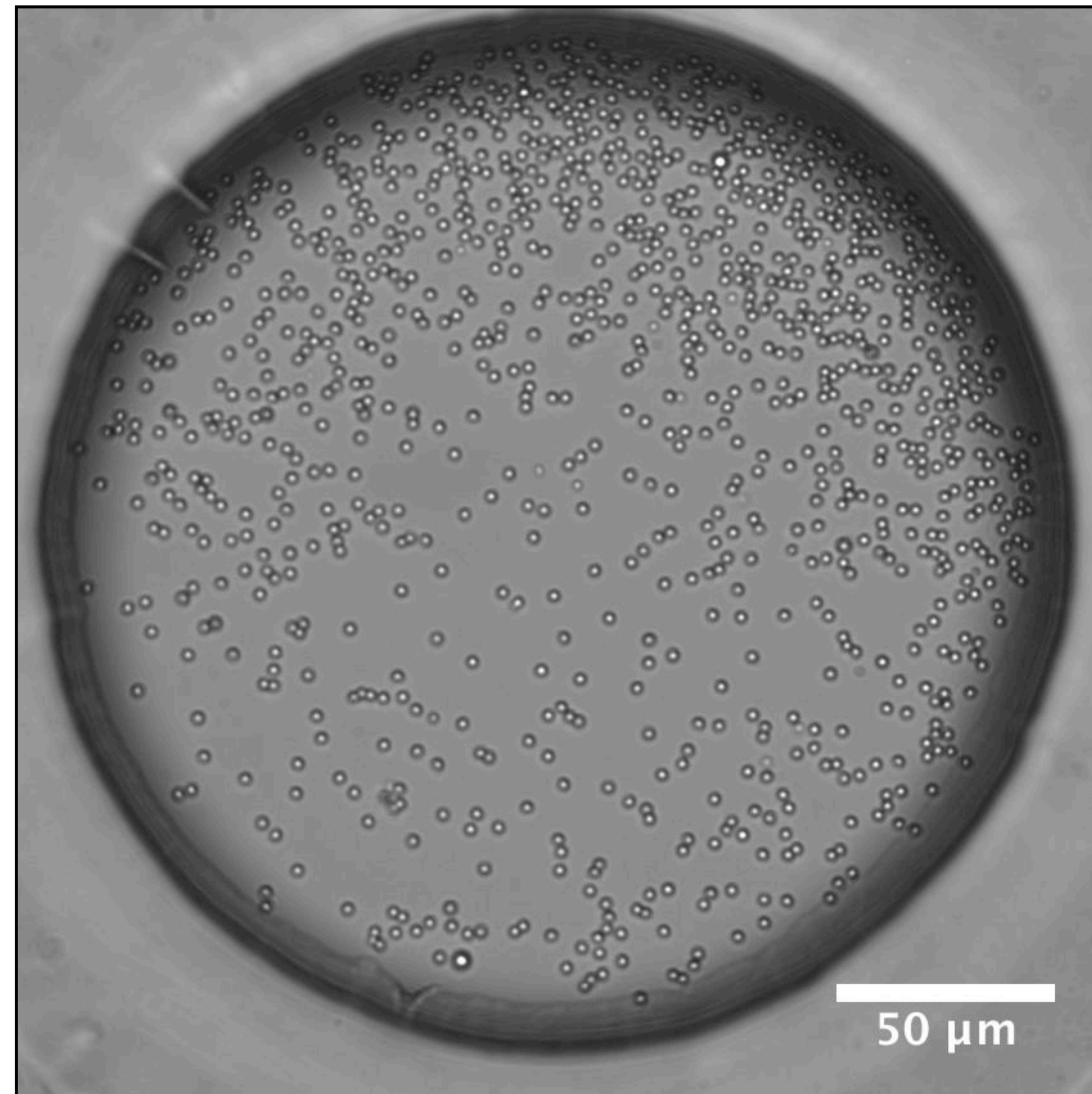
# Motility Induced Phase Separation of Active Colloids

Interacting assemblies of self-propelled colloids give rise to cohesive states of matter in the absence of cohesive forces



TPM = 3-(Trimethoxysilyl)propyl methacrylate

Sacanna et al., JACS (2012)

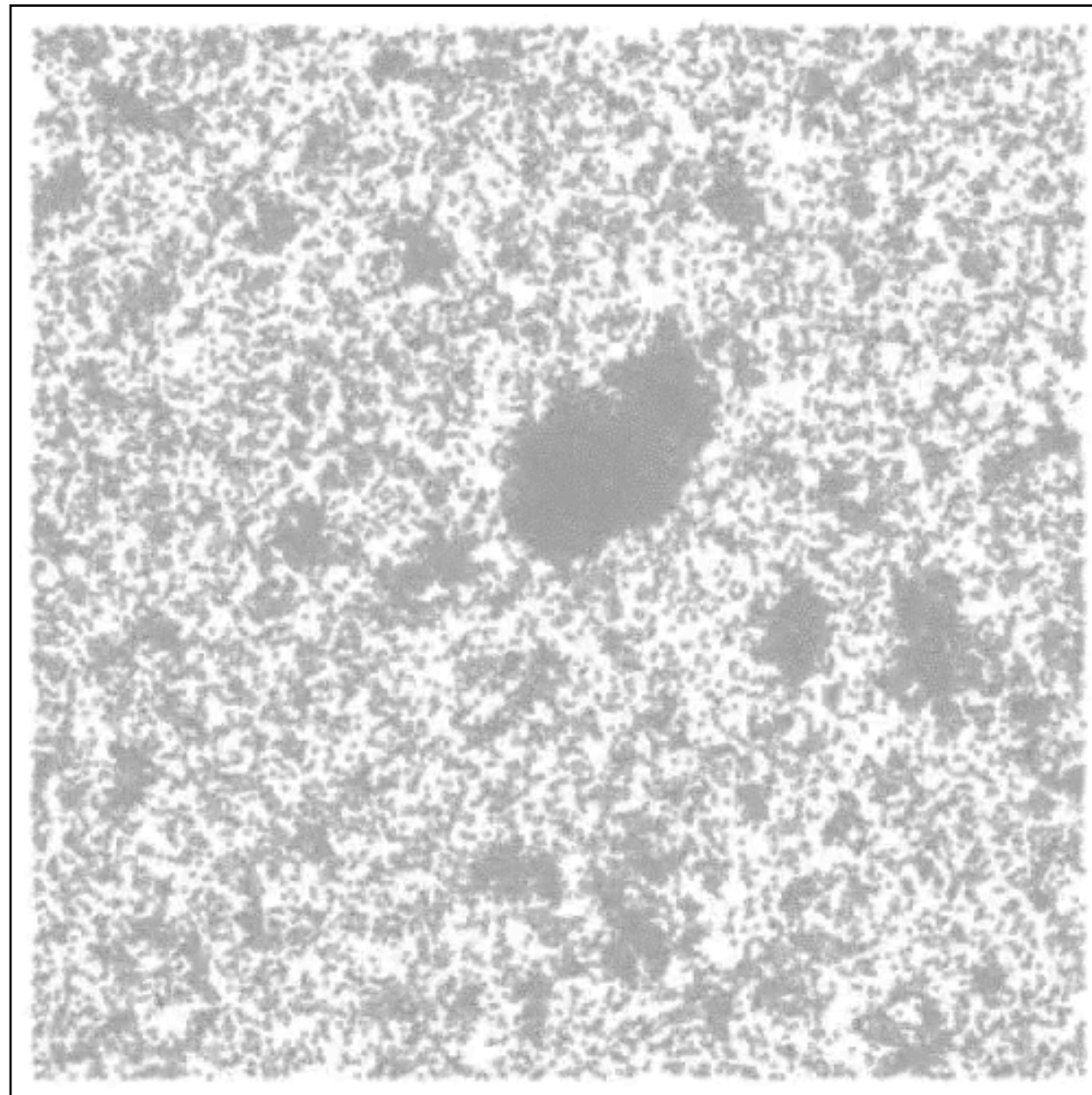


Light activated  
 $\mu\text{m}$  swimmers propelled  
by photocatalytic  
decomposition of  
hydrogen peroxide

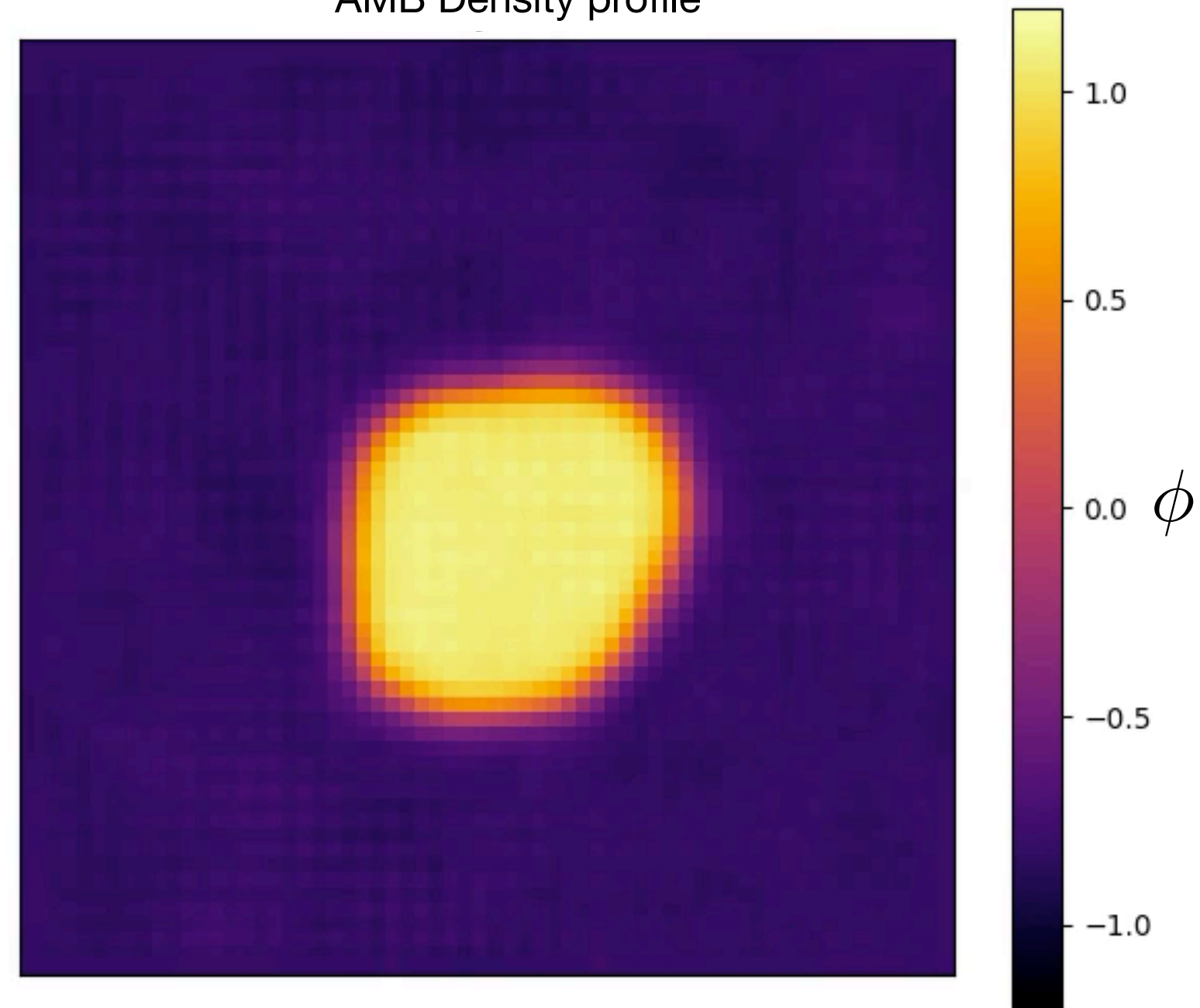
# Active Model B (MIPS)

On large scales behavior akin to equilibrium phase separation, but...

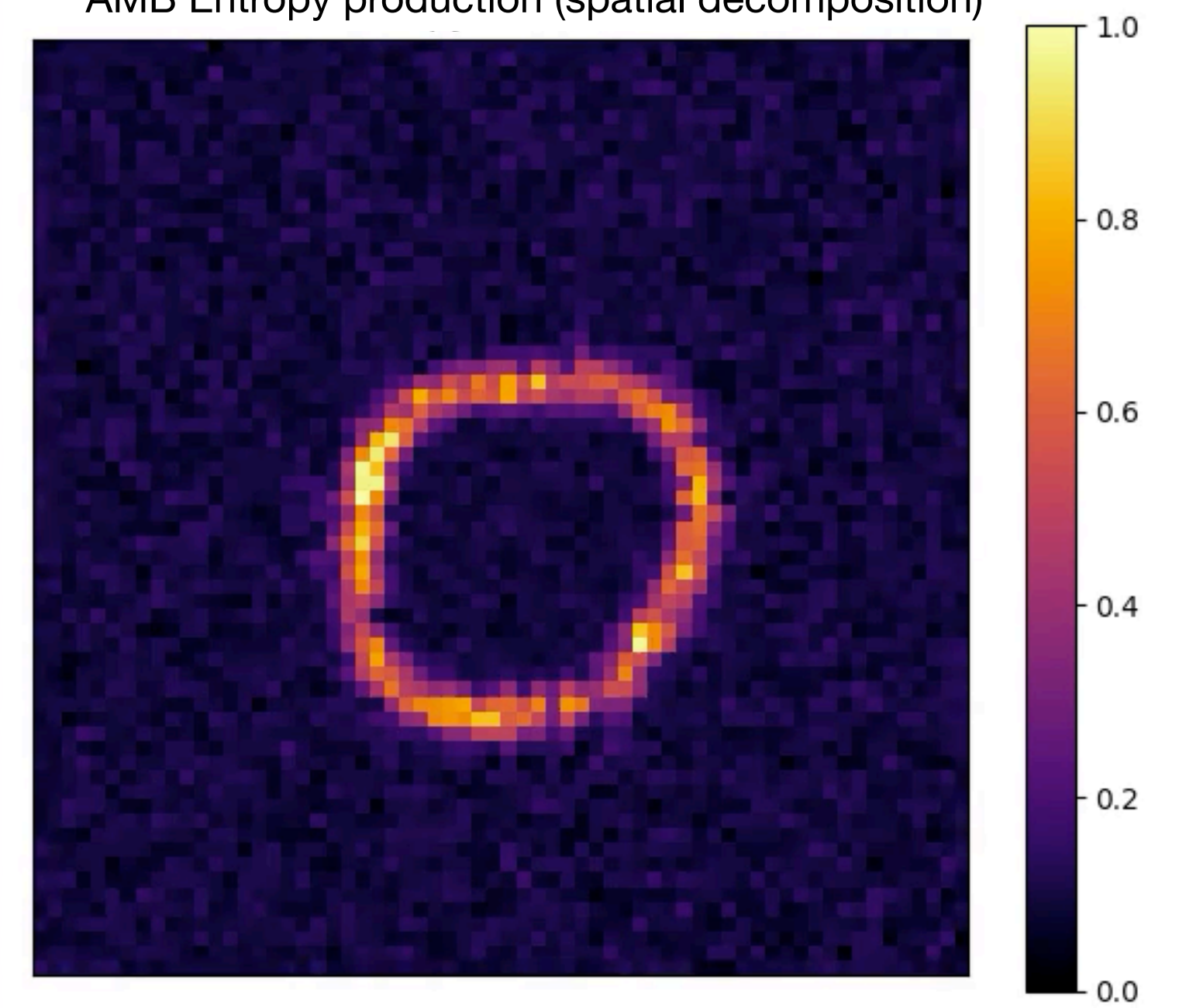
ABP Brownian dynamics



AMB Density profile



AMB Entropy production (spatial decomposition)



$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (\mathbf{J} + \sqrt{2DM}\mathbf{\Lambda})$$

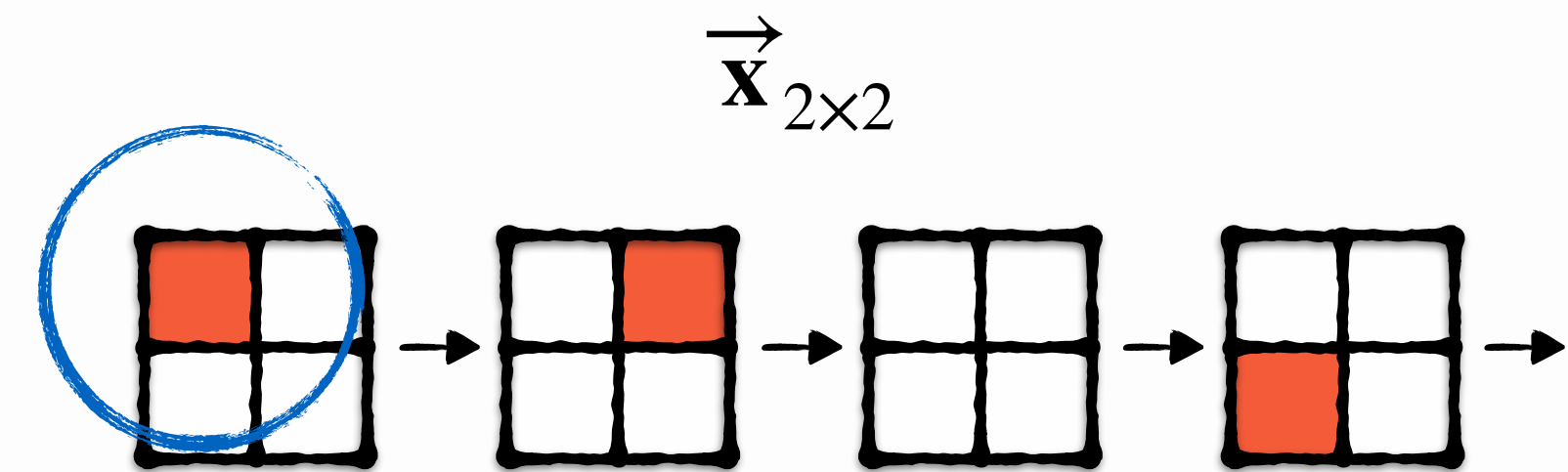
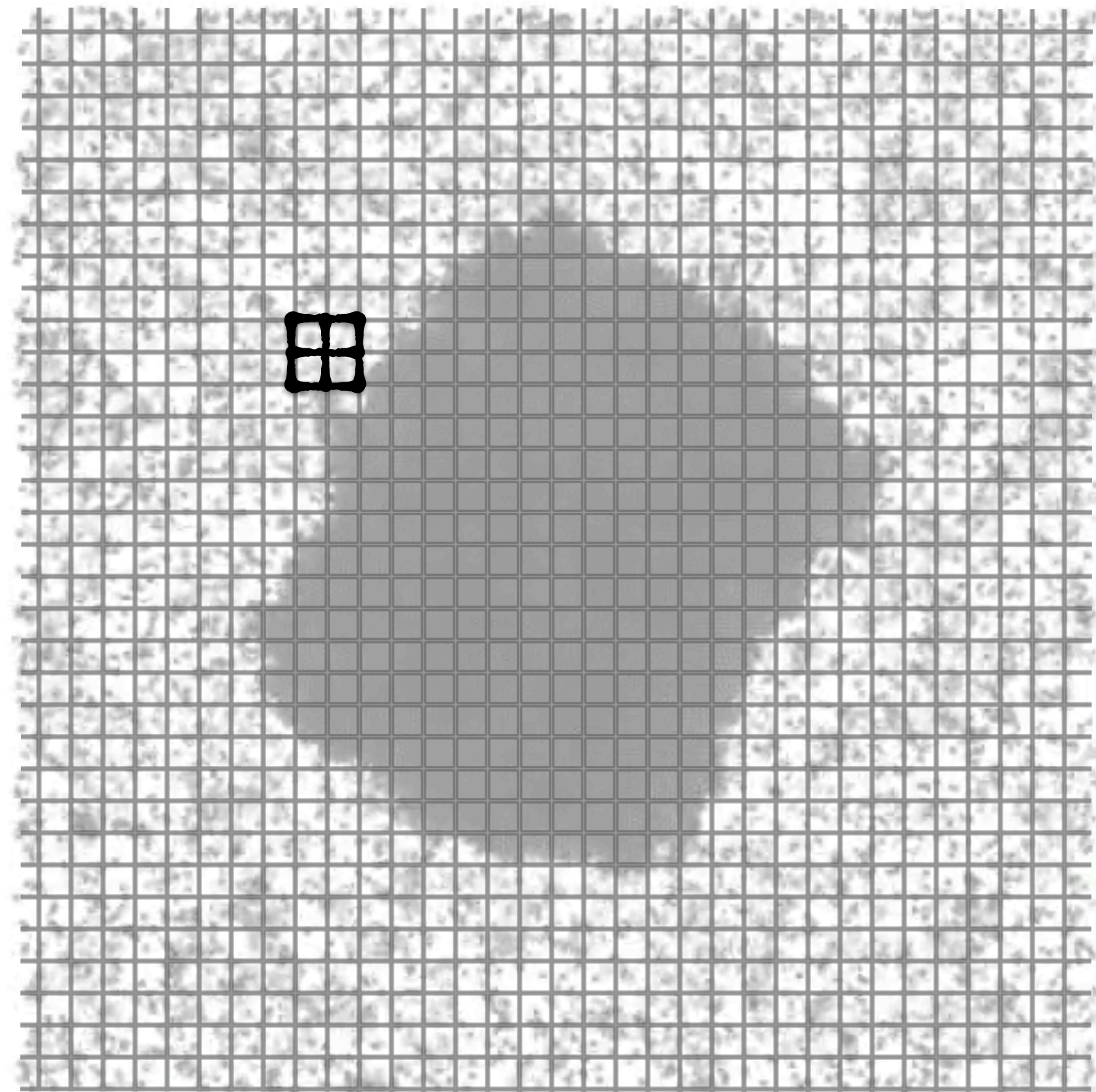
$$\mathbf{J} = -M\nabla\mu$$

$$\mu = \mu_{eq} + \mu_A$$

# Spatially decomposing entropy production

## An information theoretic approach

ABP Brownian dynamics

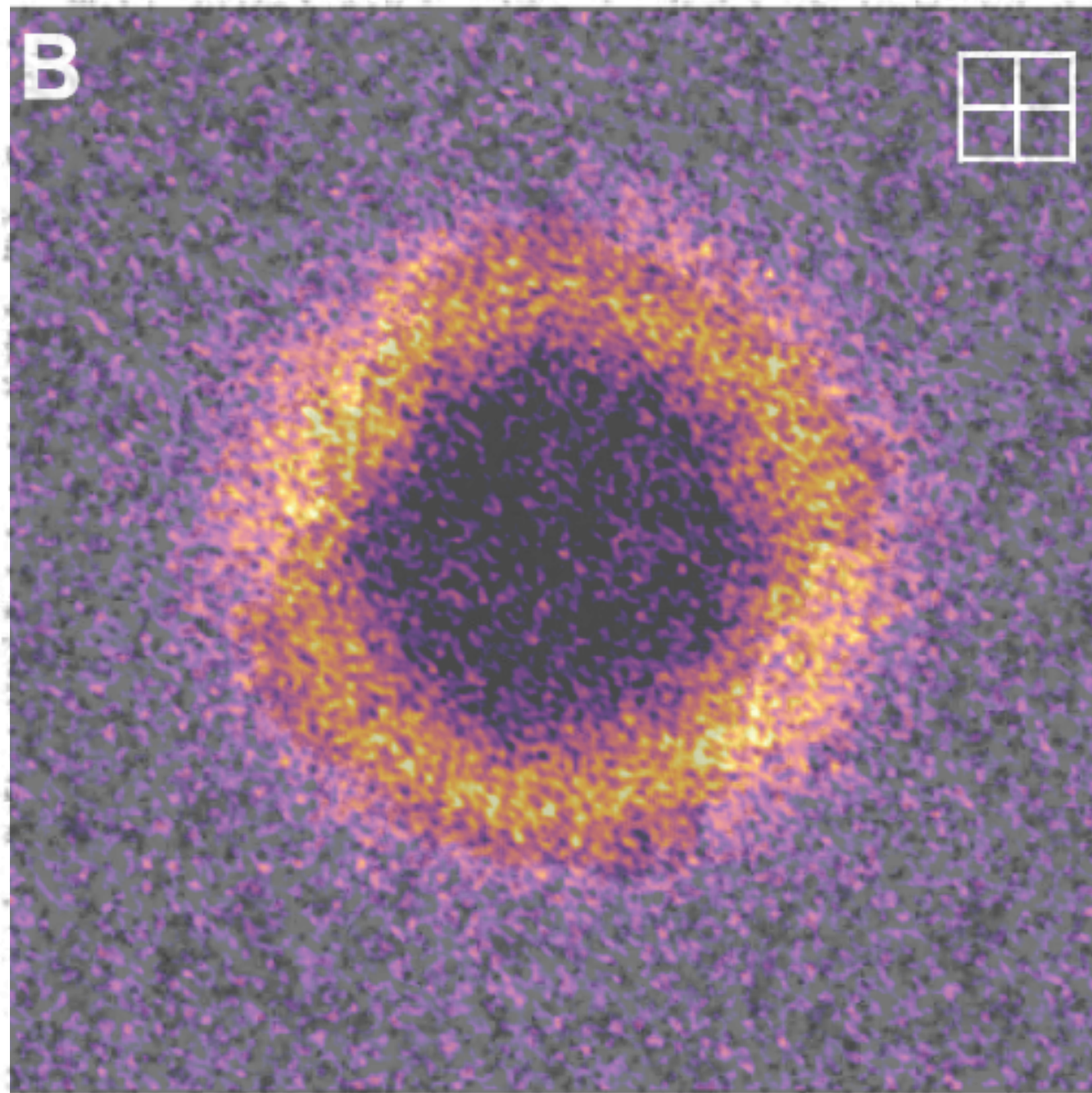


$$D_{KL}(\vec{x}_{2 \times 2} \| \overleftarrow{x}_{2 \times 2}) = \hat{H}(\vec{x}_{2 \times 2} \| \overleftarrow{x}_{2 \times 2}) - \hat{H}(\vec{x}_{2 \times 2} \| \vec{x}_{2 \times 2})$$

# Spatially decomposing entropy production

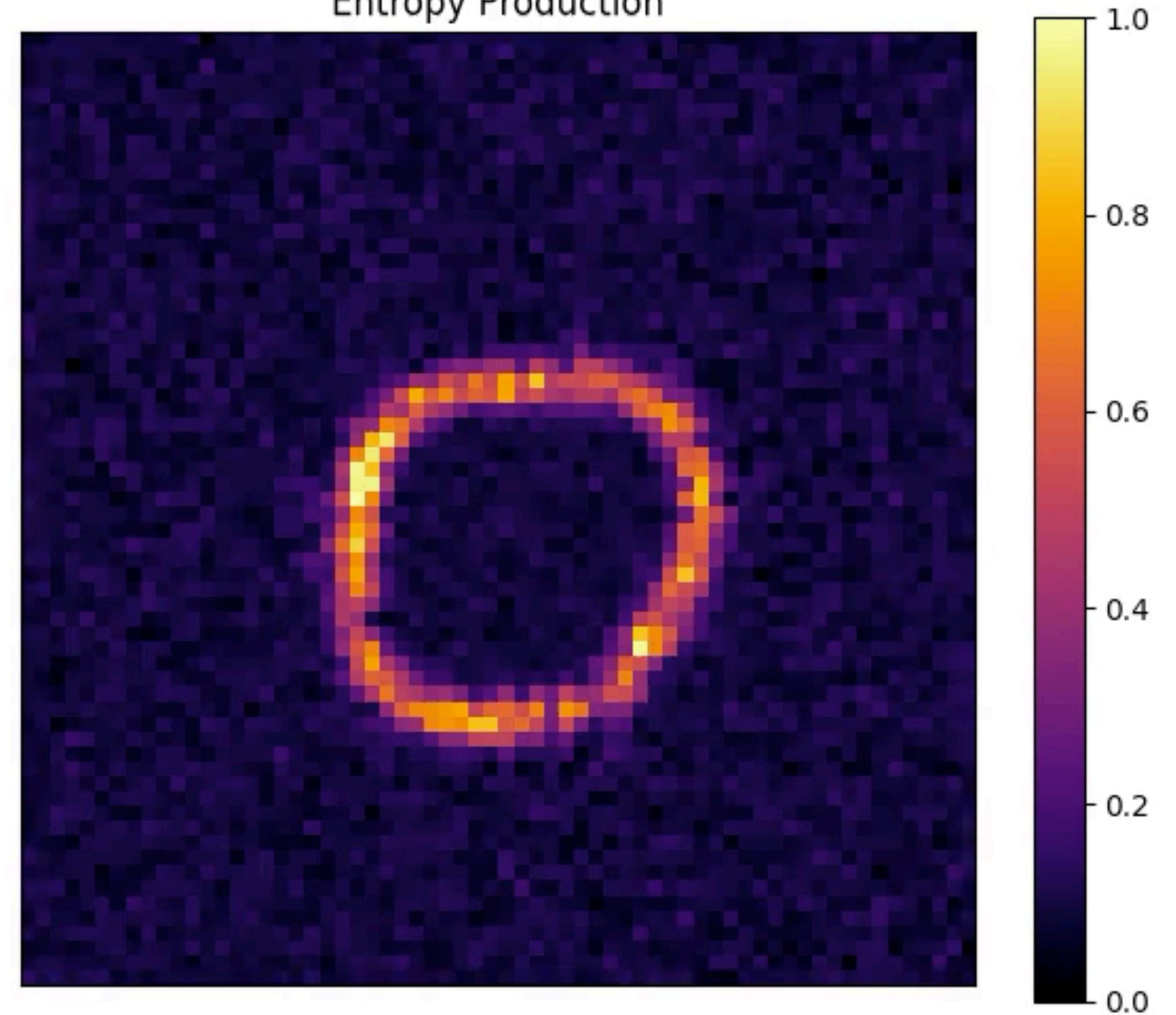
## An information theoretic approach

ABP Brownian dynamics



Model-free Measurement

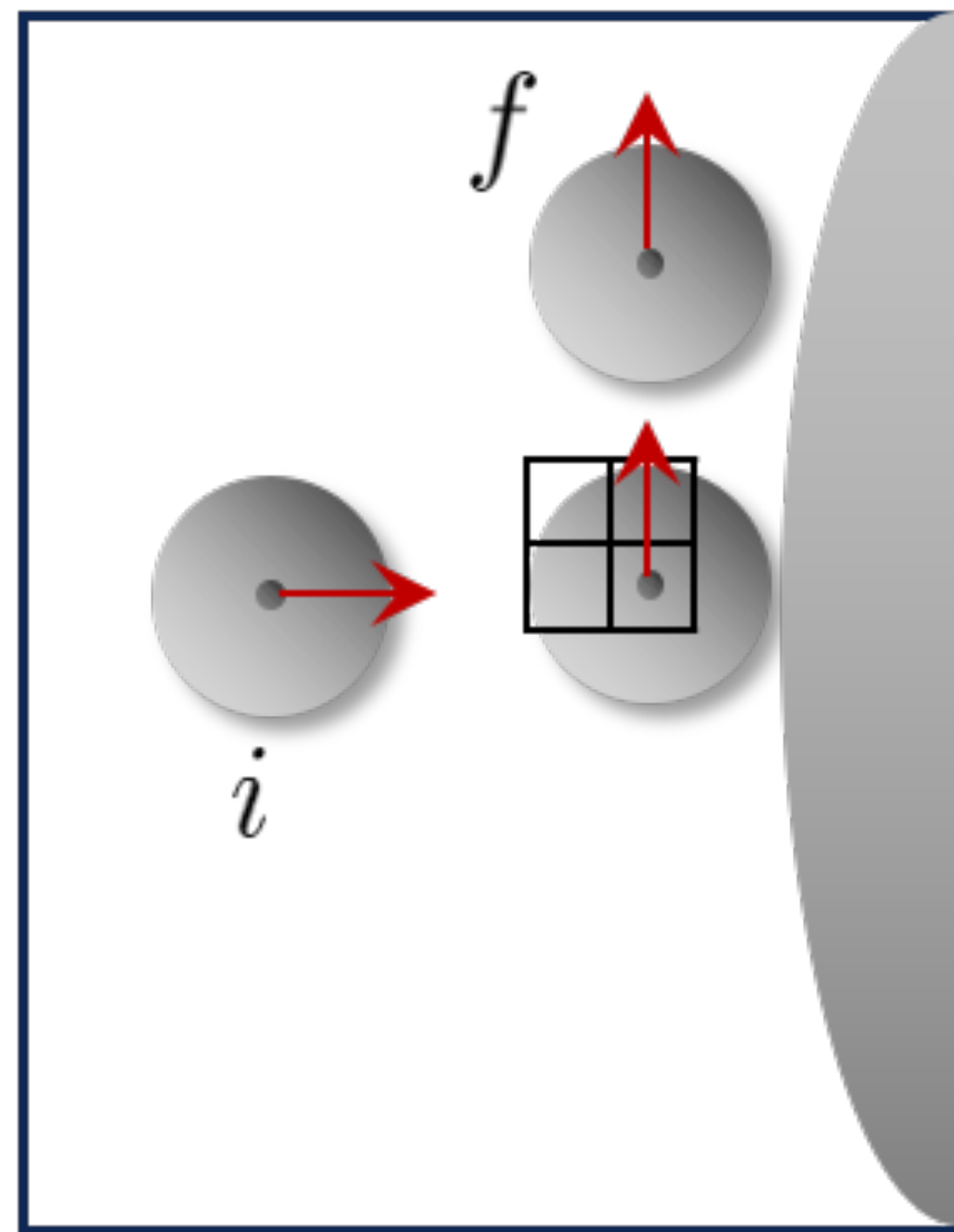
Entropy Production



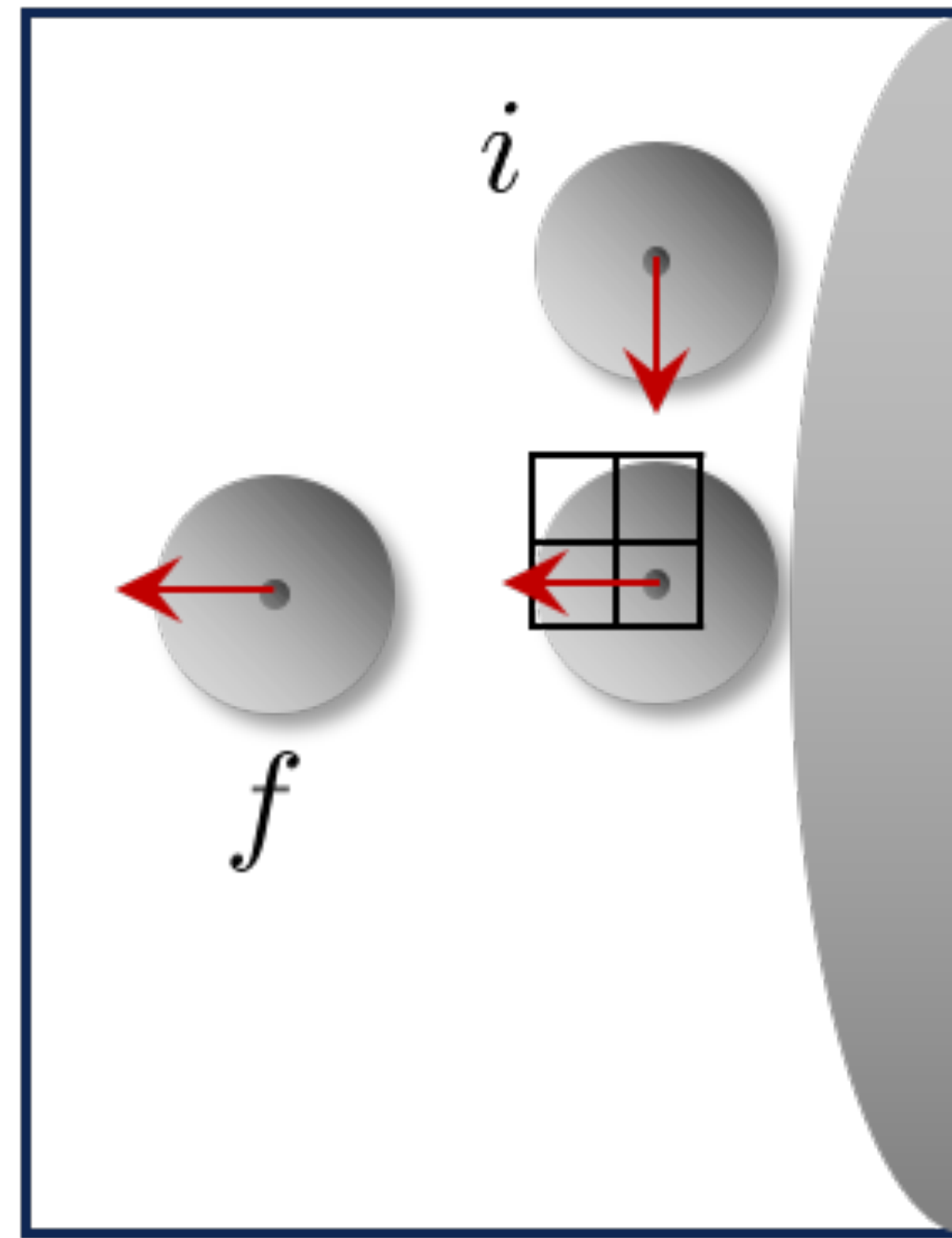
Field Theory

# Spatially decomposing entropy production

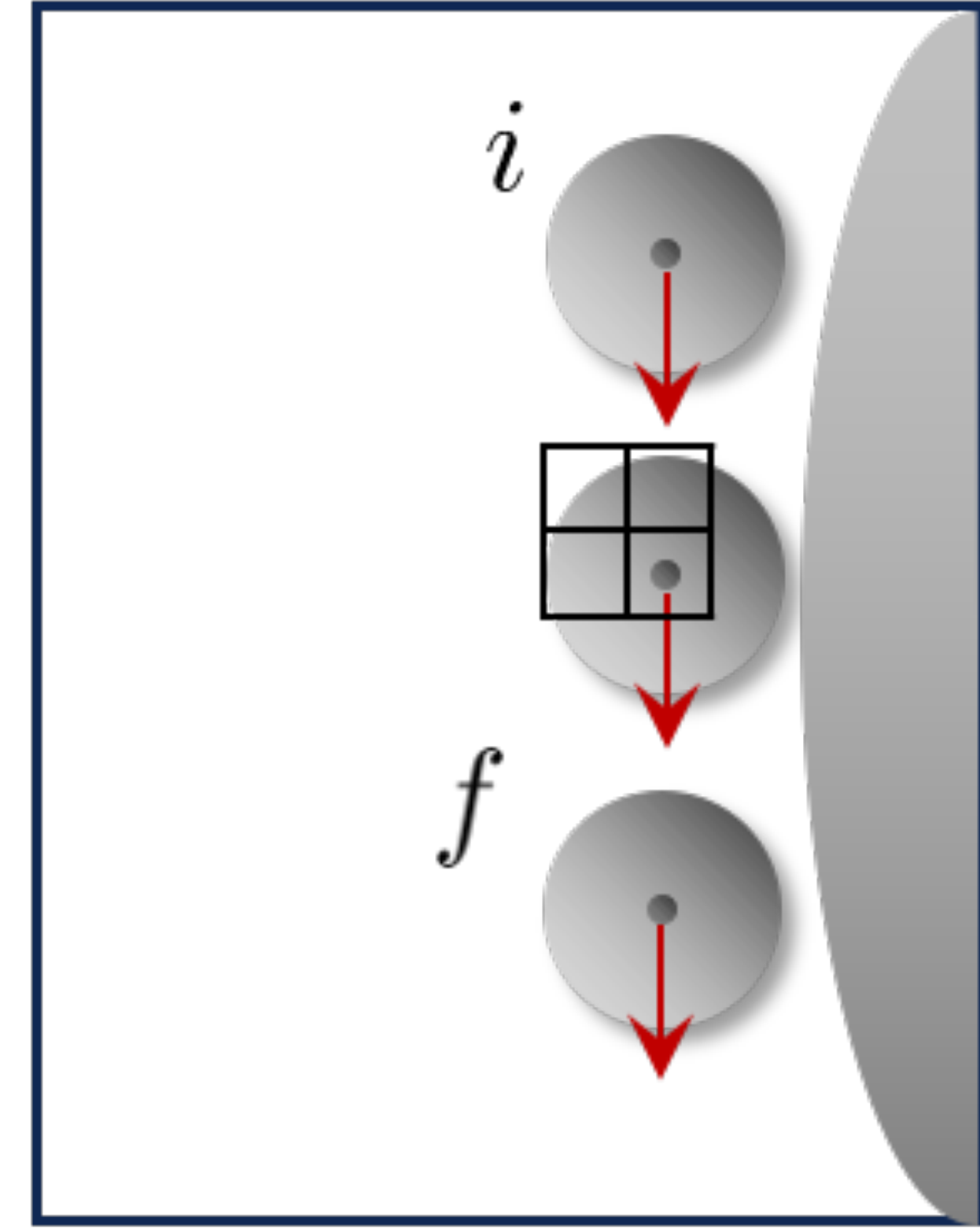
## TRSB at the single particle level near interfaces



Forward



Reverse  
(less likely)

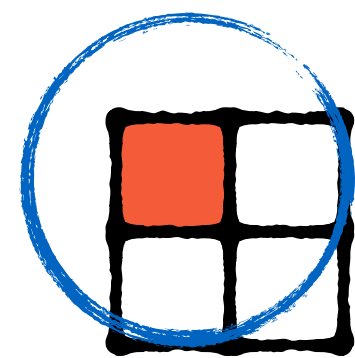
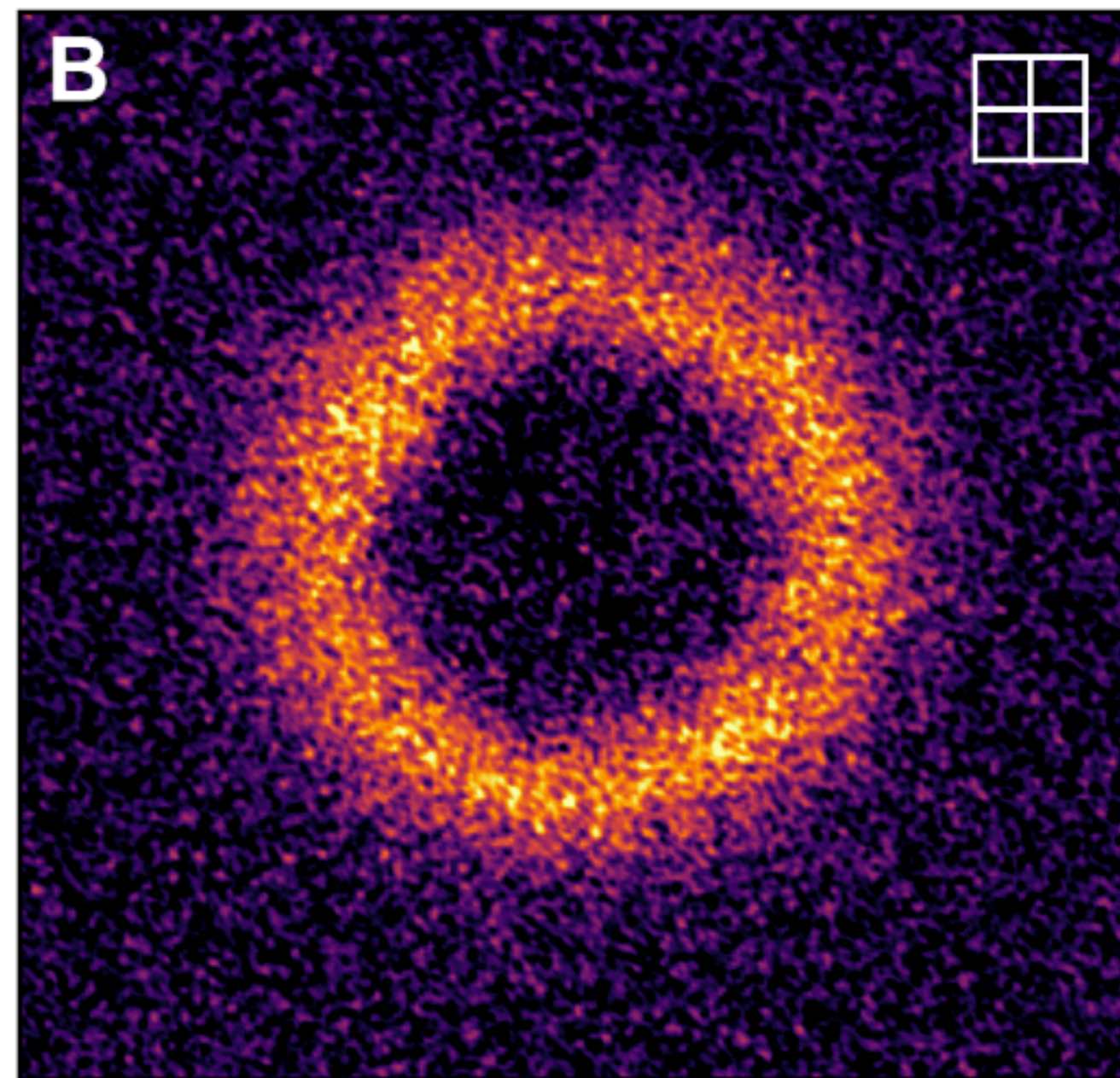


Typical  
trajectory

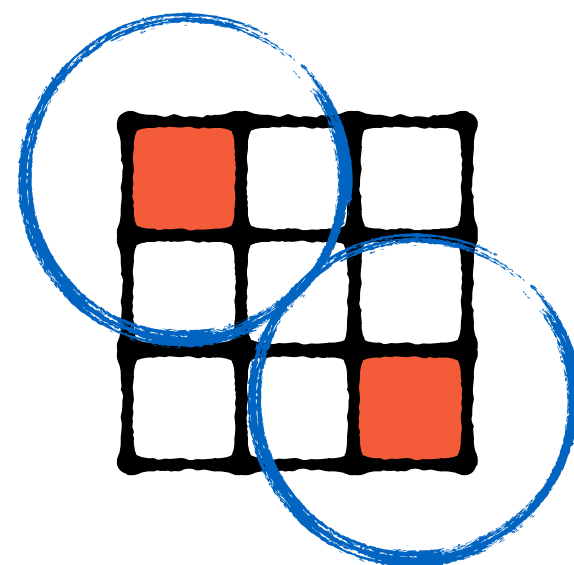
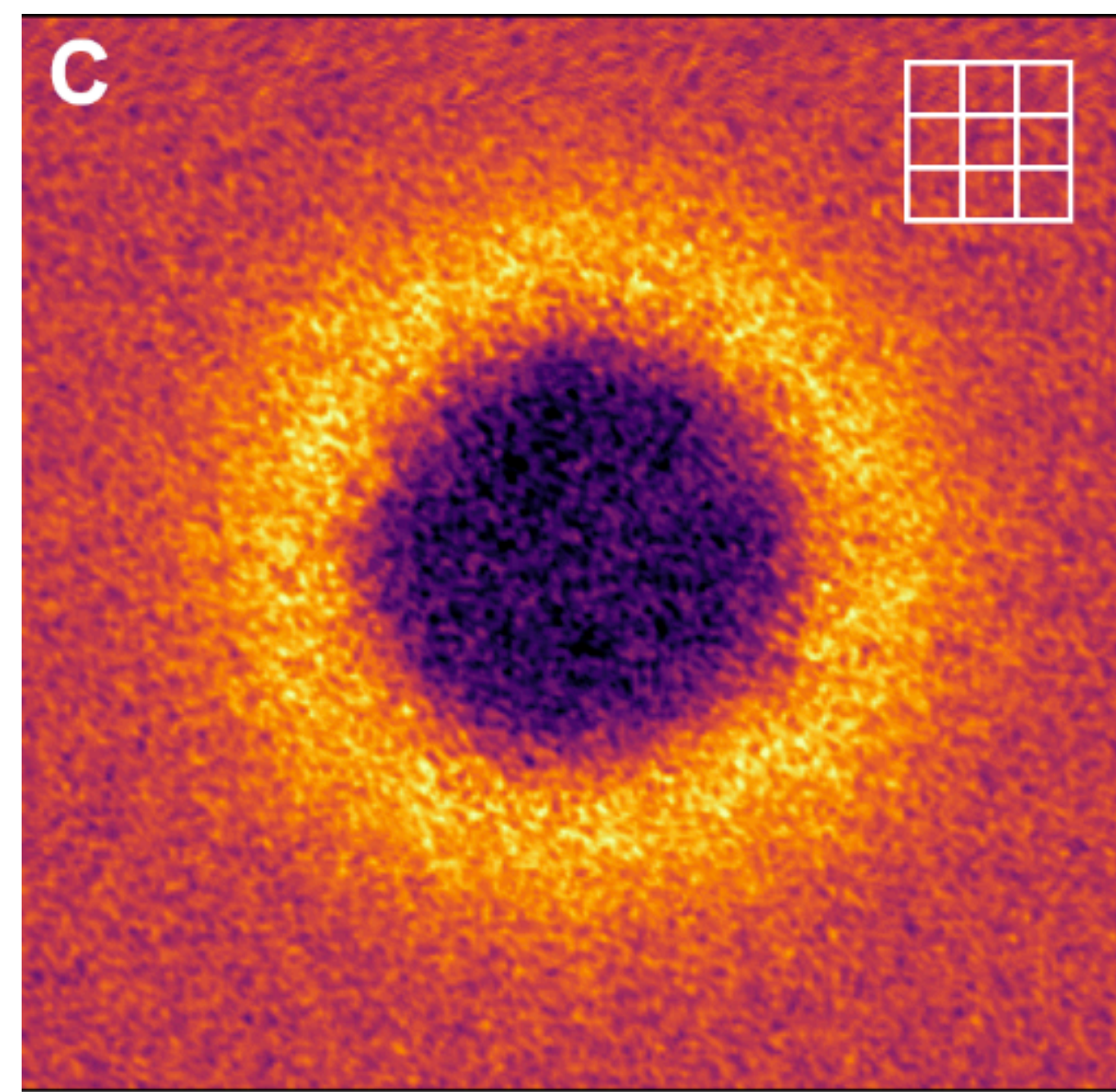
# Spatially decomposing entropy production

## Dependence on length scale

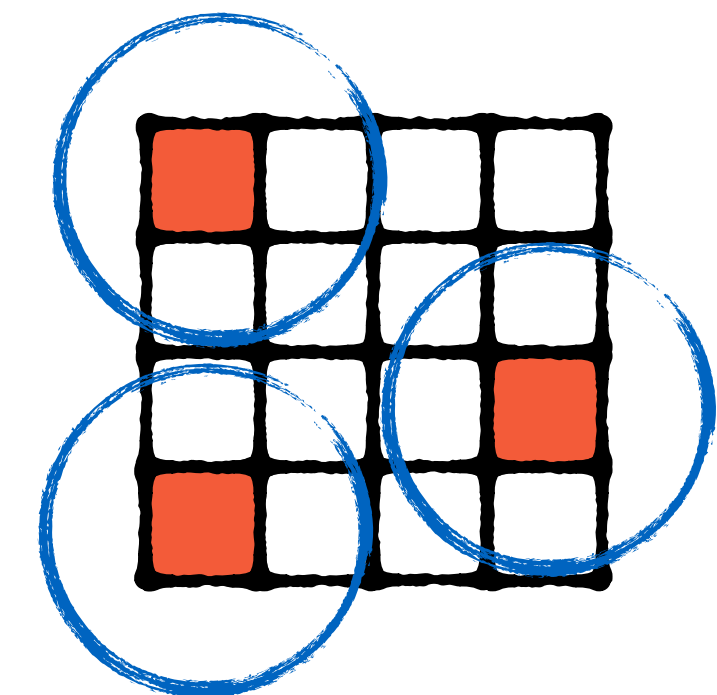
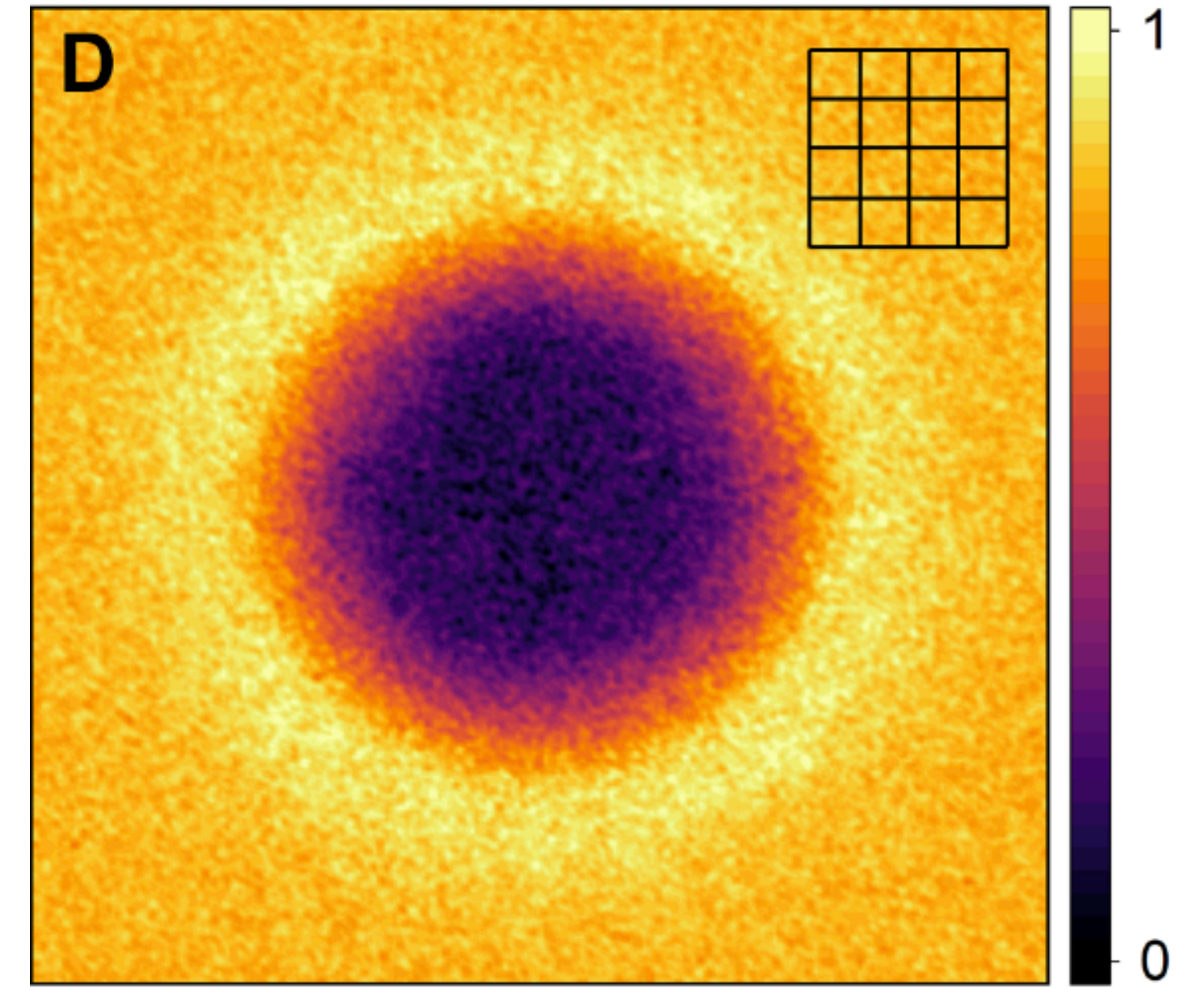
$$D_{KL}(\vec{\mathbf{x}}_{2 \times 2} \| \overleftarrow{\mathbf{x}}_{2 \times 2})$$



$$D_{KL}(\vec{\mathbf{x}}_{3 \times 3} \| \overleftarrow{\mathbf{x}}_{3 \times 3})$$



$$D_{KL}(\vec{\mathbf{x}}_{4 \times 4} \| \overleftarrow{\mathbf{x}}_{4 \times 4})$$

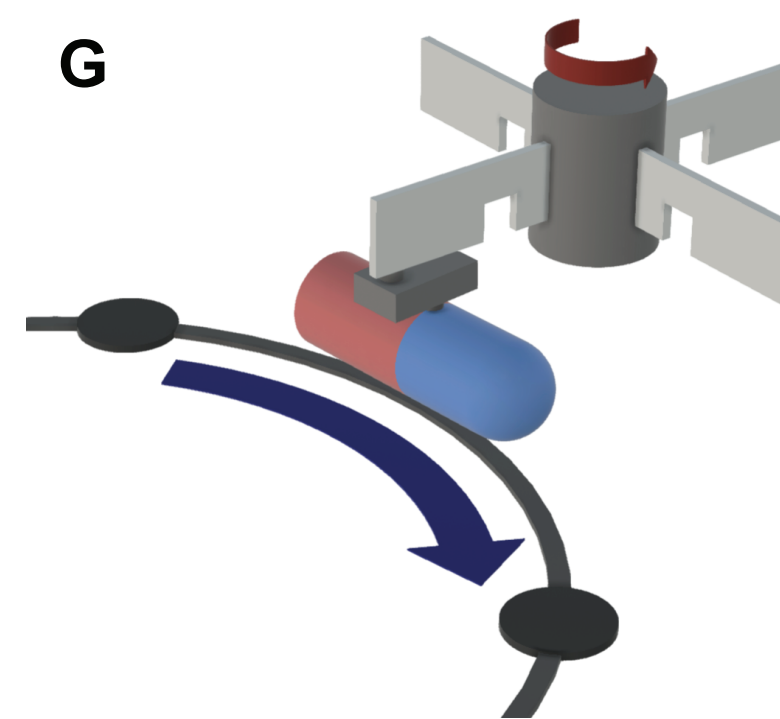
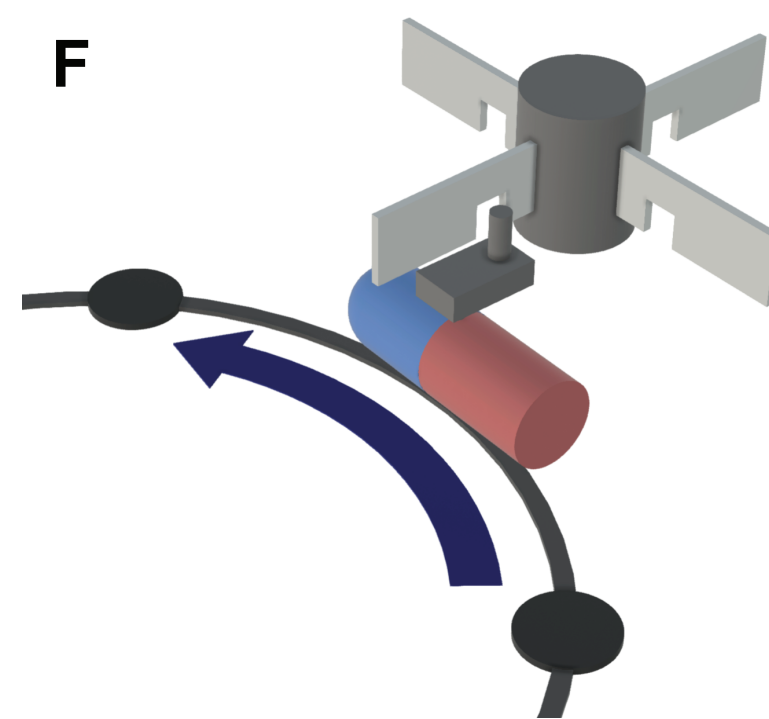
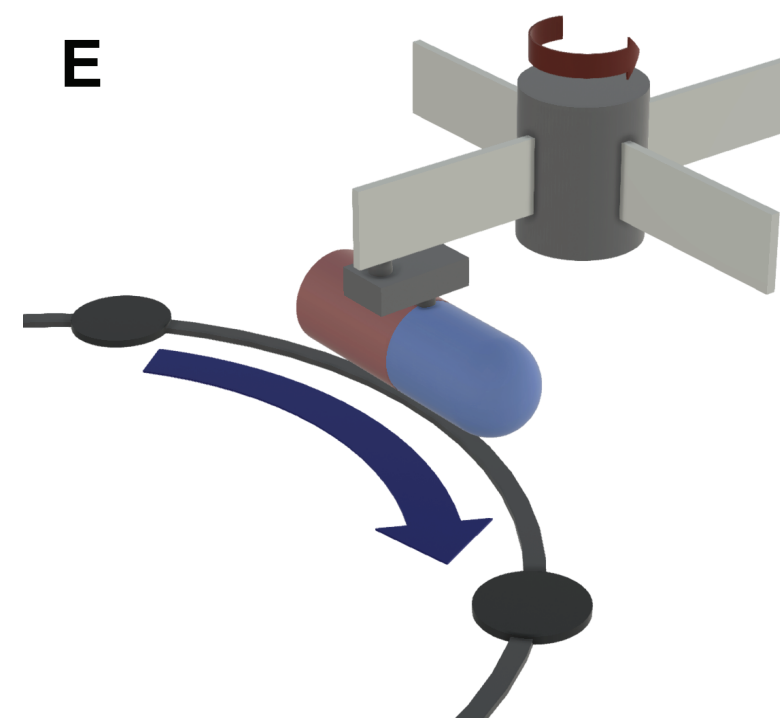
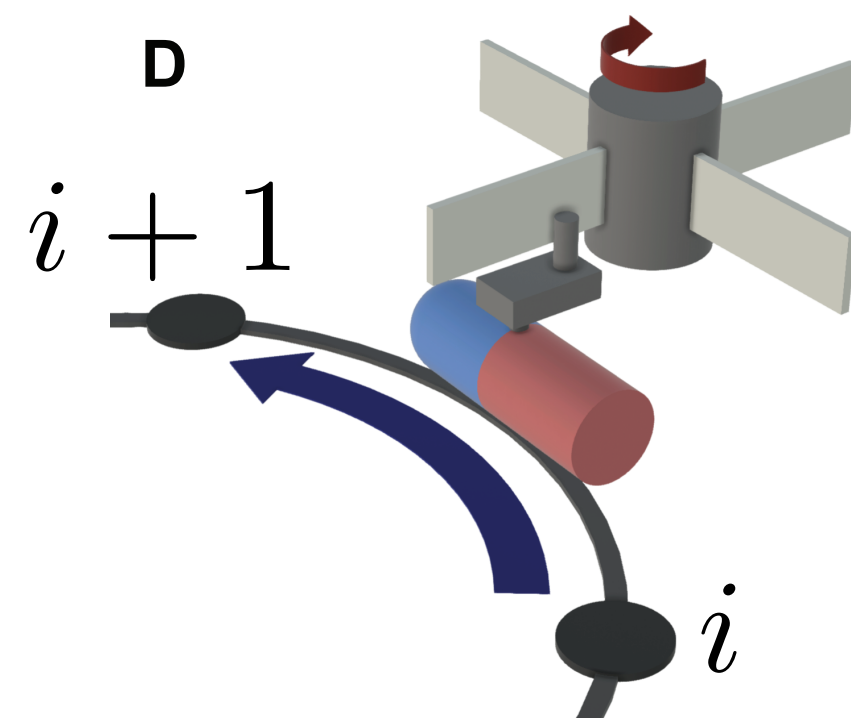
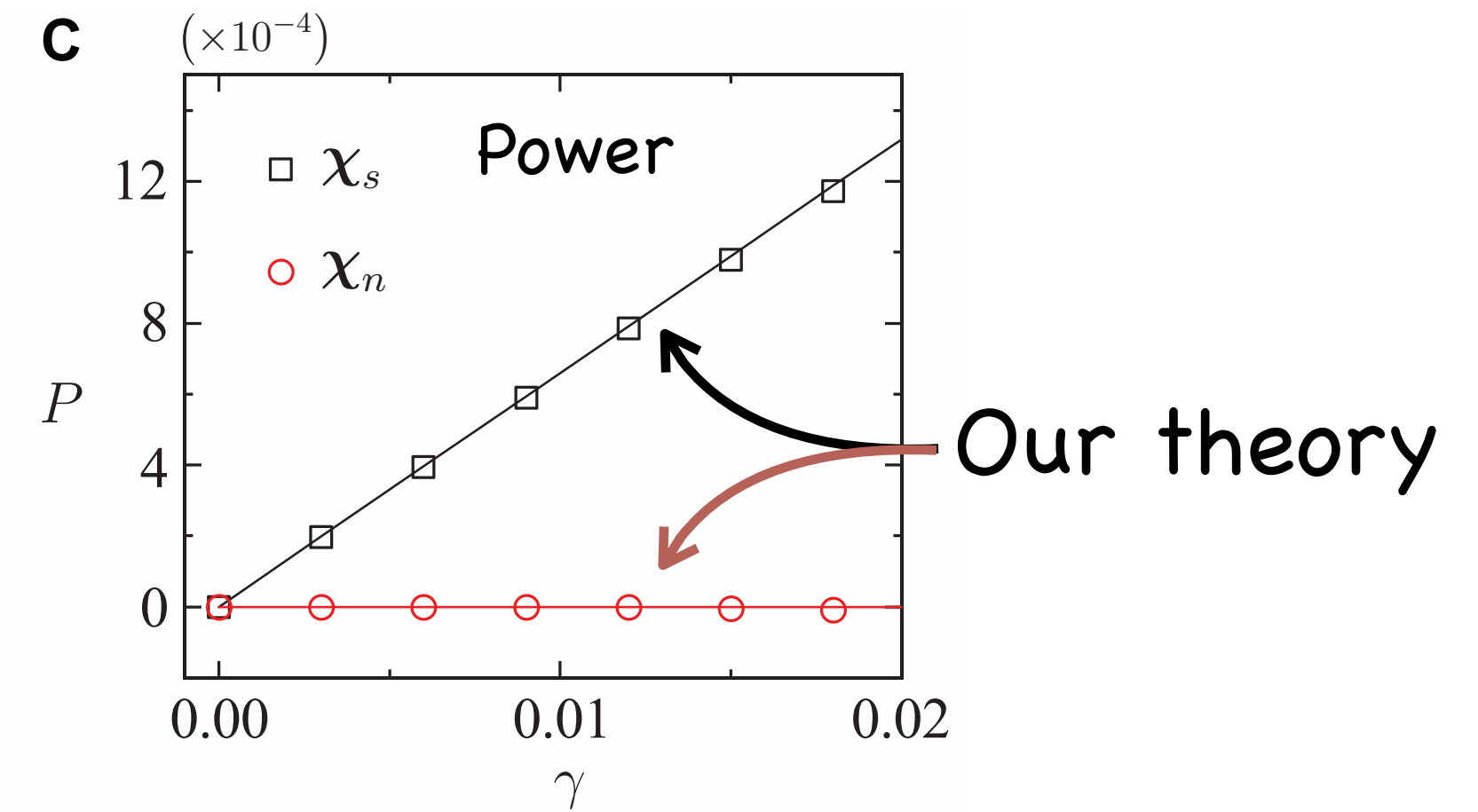
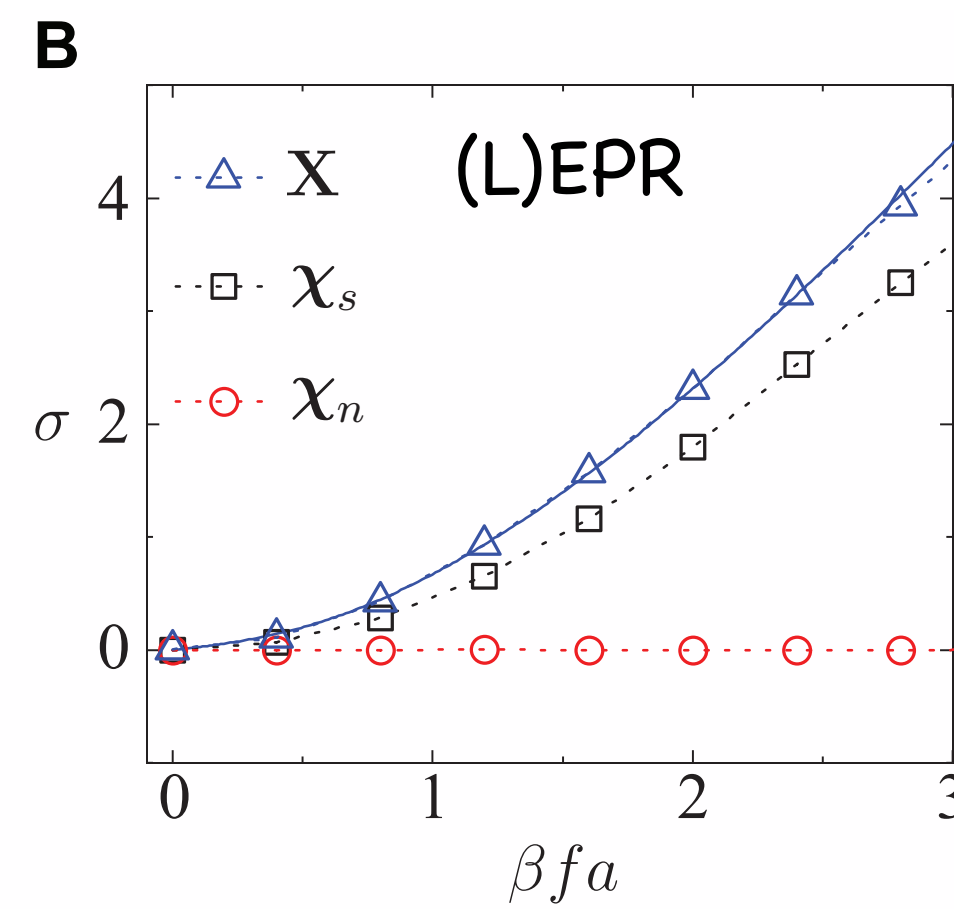
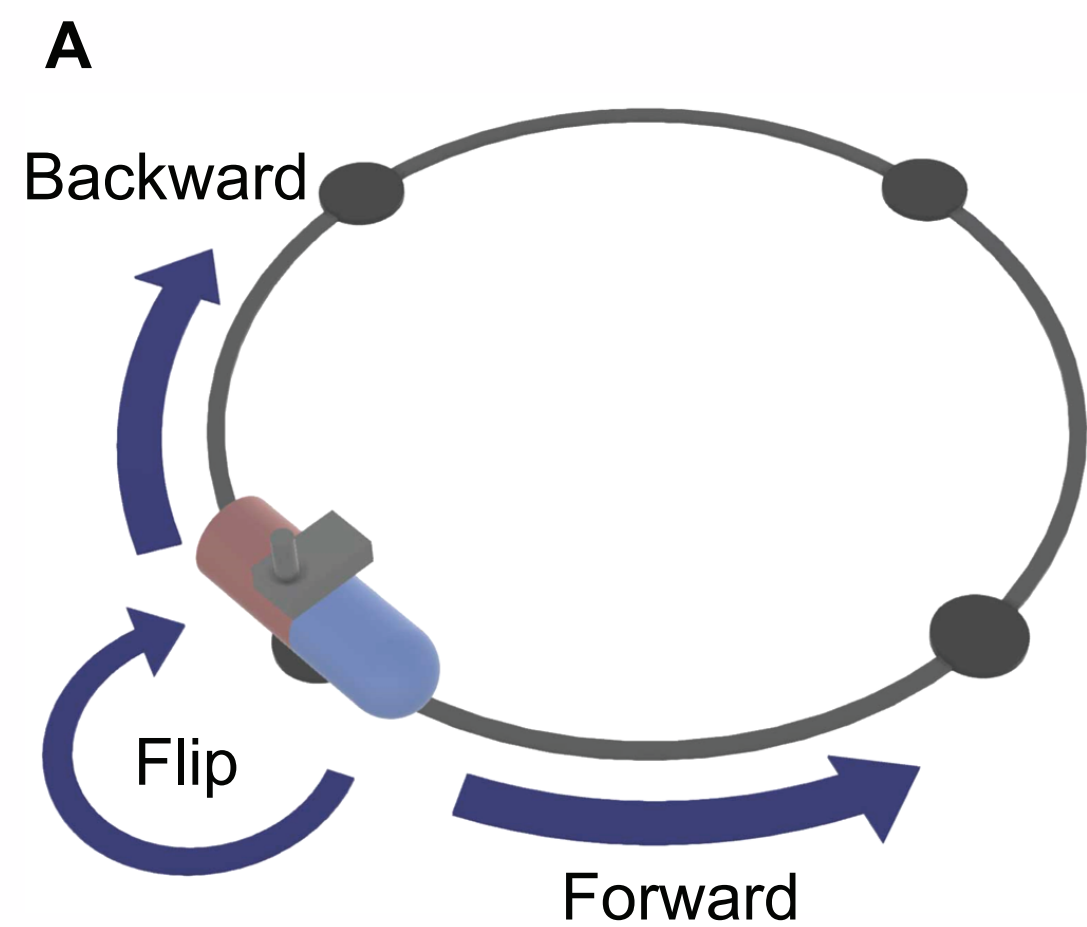


# Work extraction

By weakly coupling a given d.o.f. to a work extraction mechanism we show that average power recorded by the mechanism is

$$\langle P \rangle = \frac{\gamma}{2} \langle \sigma(\chi) \tilde{W}(\chi) \rangle_{\chi} \quad \text{Extractable work is 0 if EP is 0}$$

RTP on a track



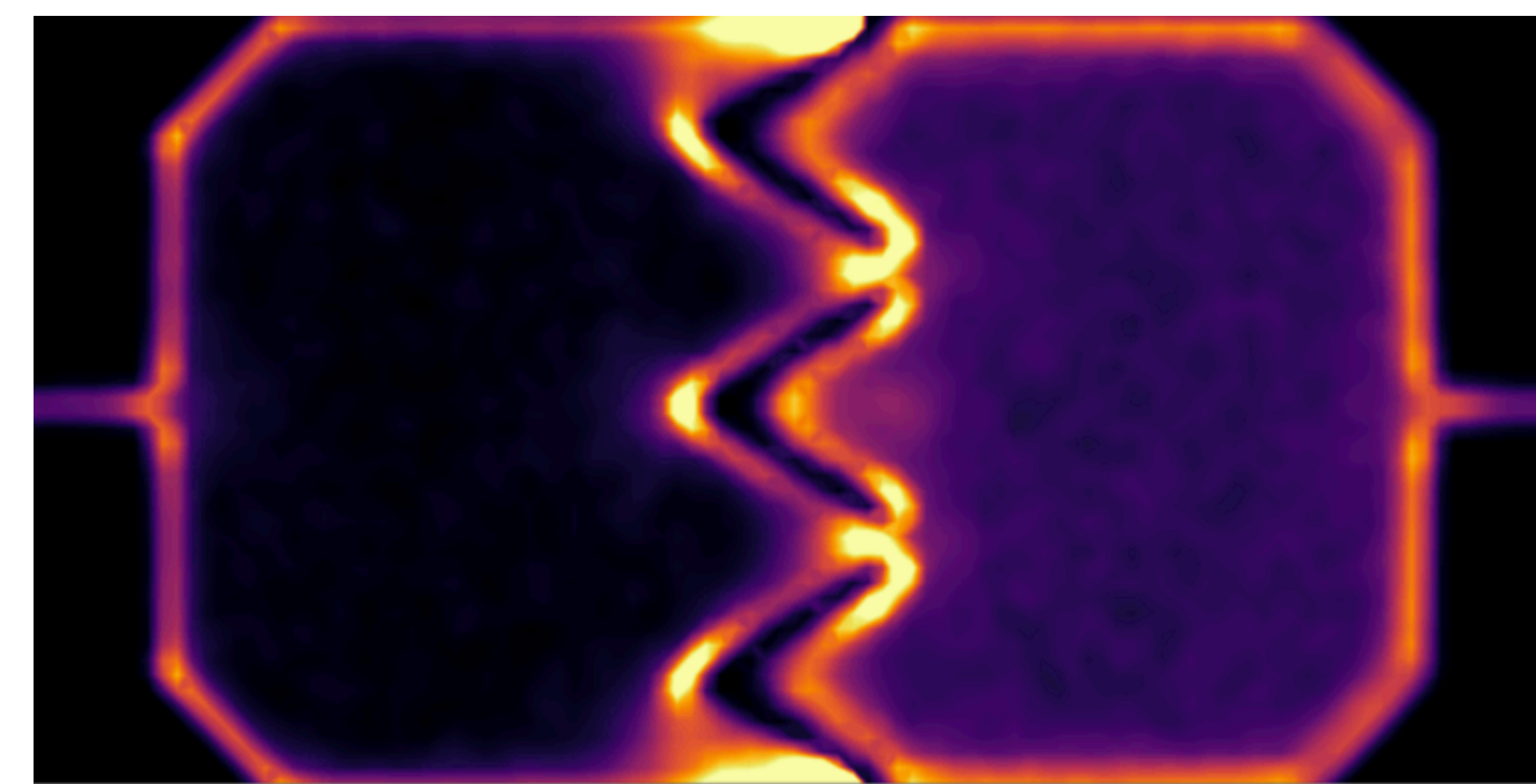
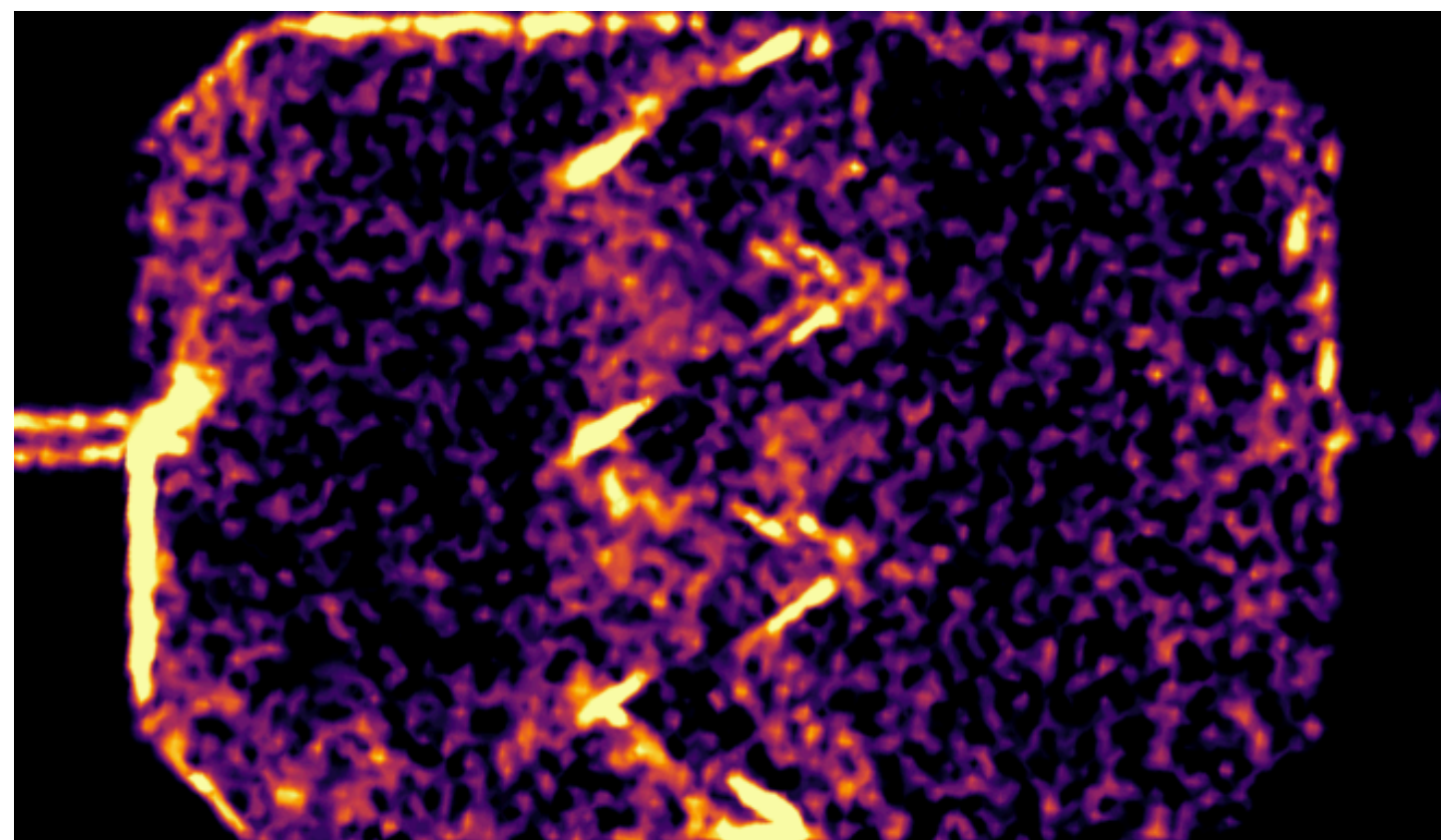
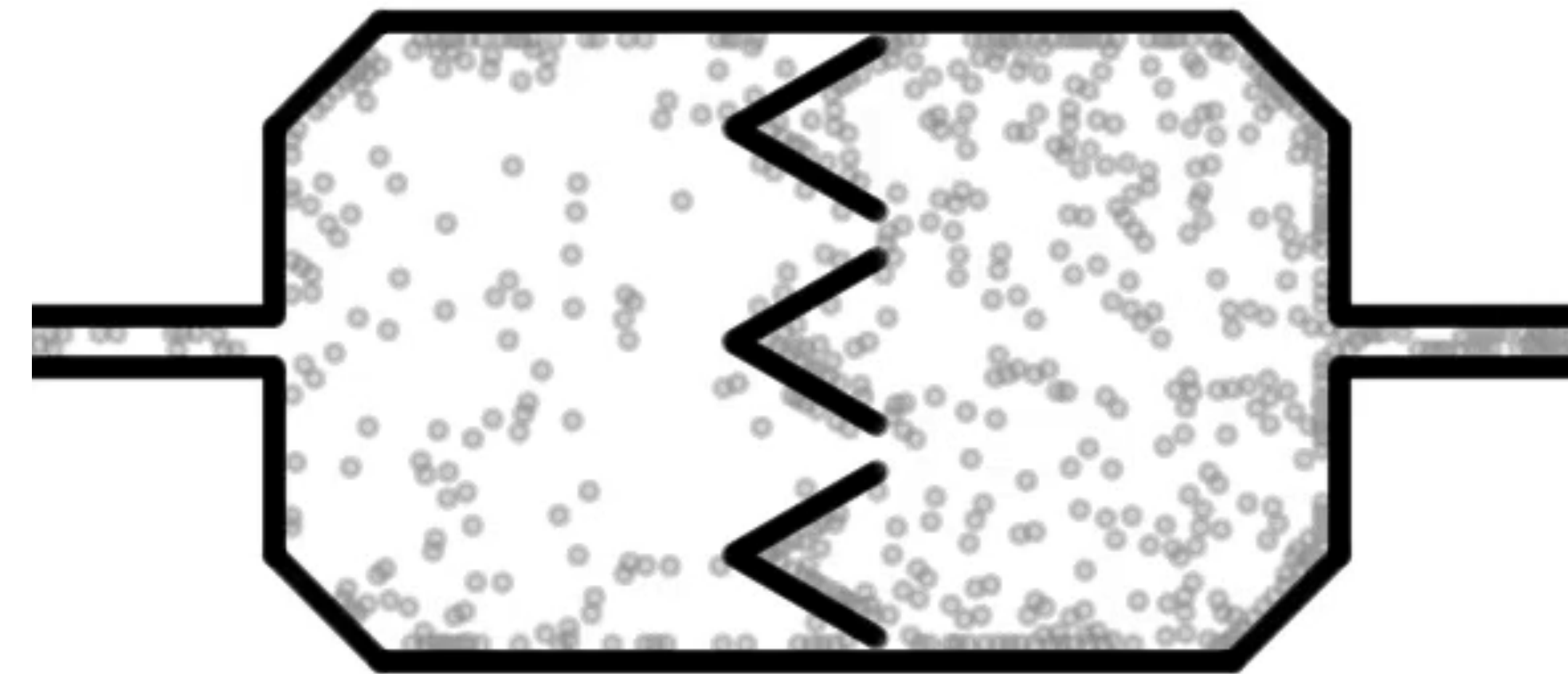
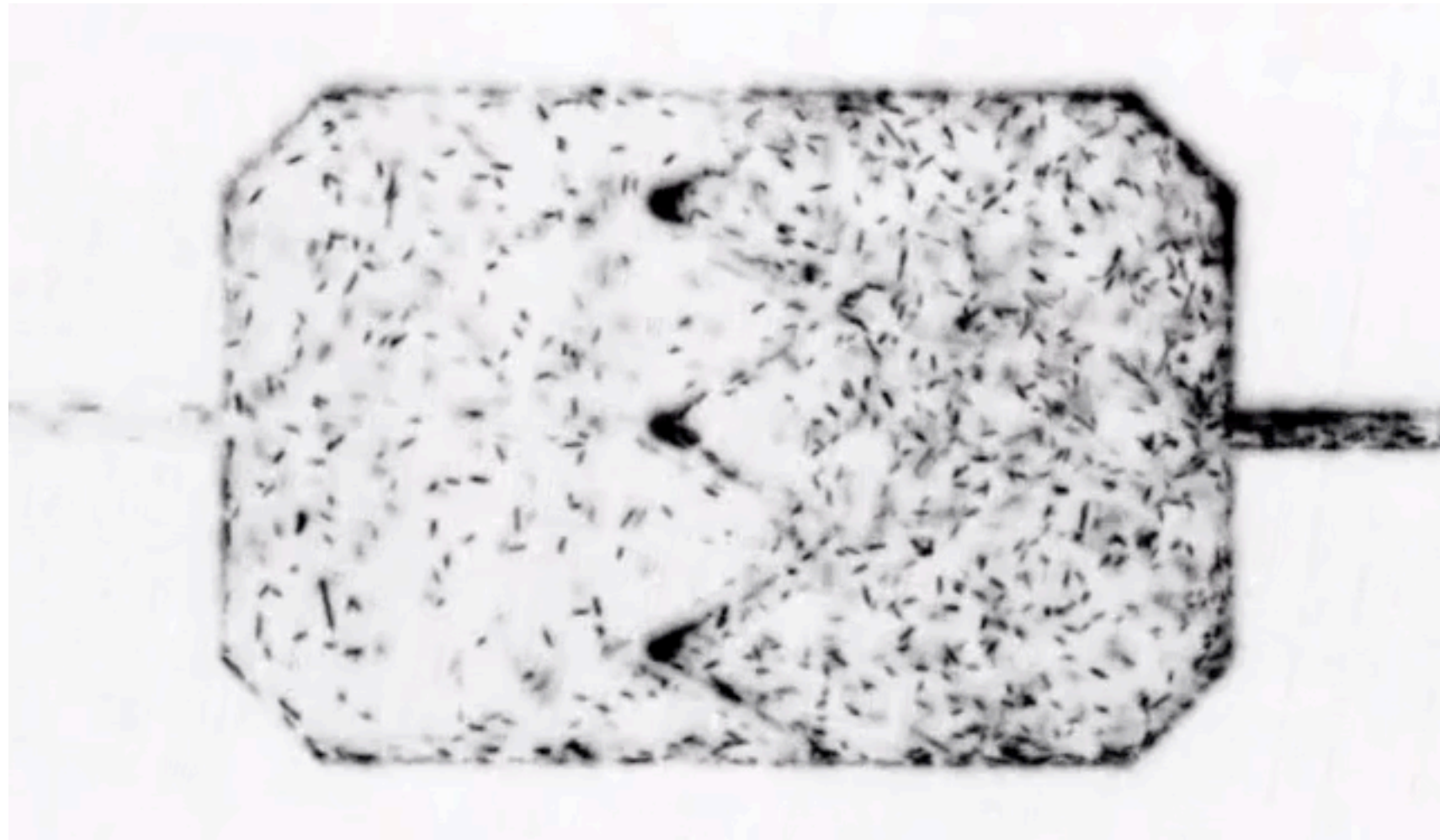
$$\chi_n = (|s_i|, |s_{i+1}|)$$

$$\chi_s = (s_i, s_{i+1})$$



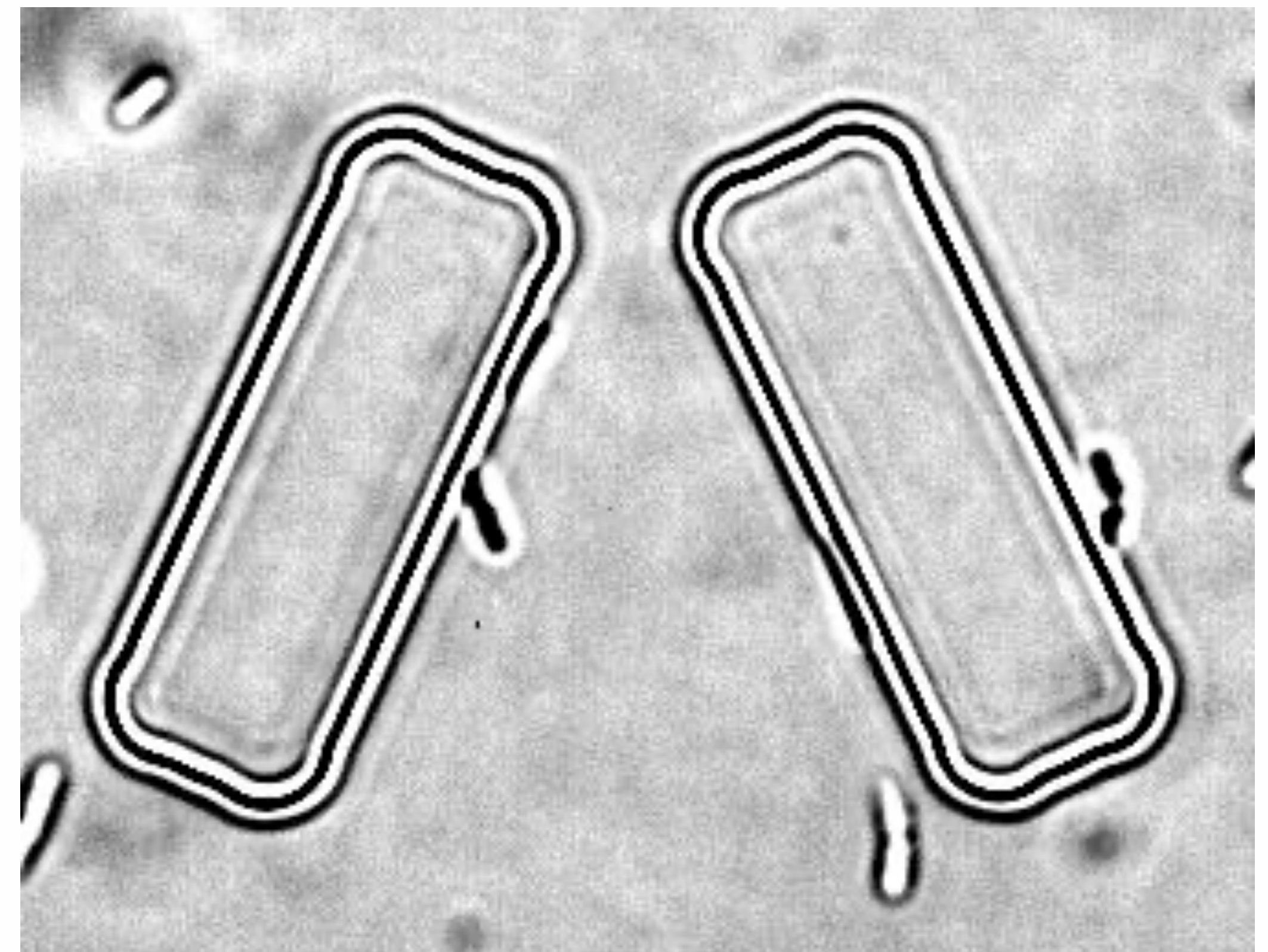
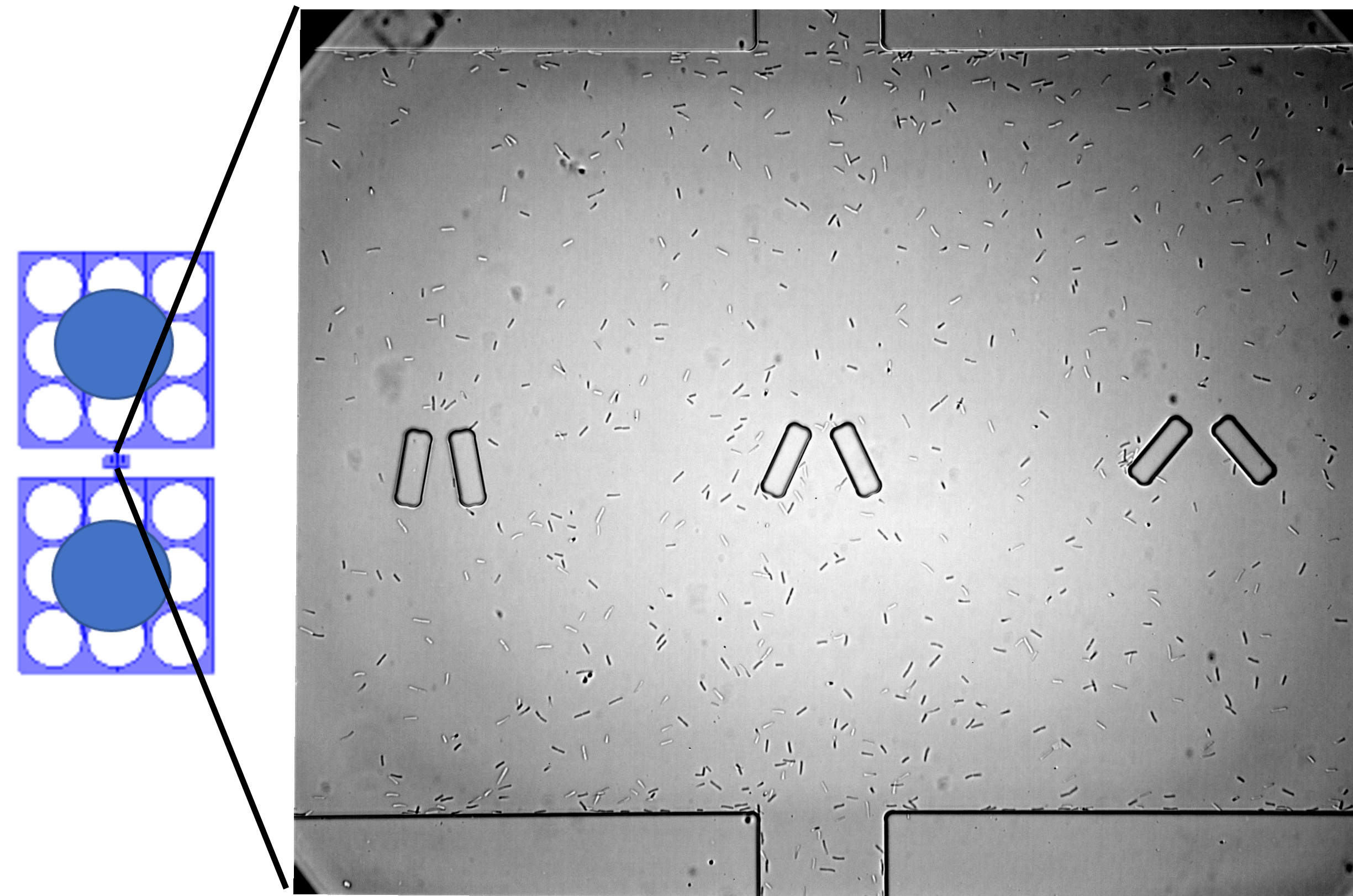
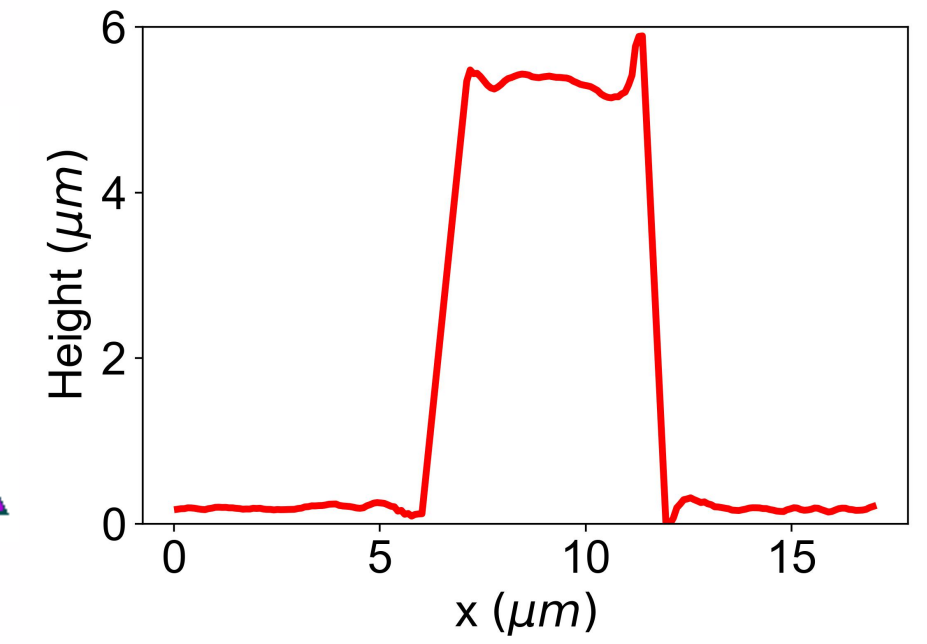
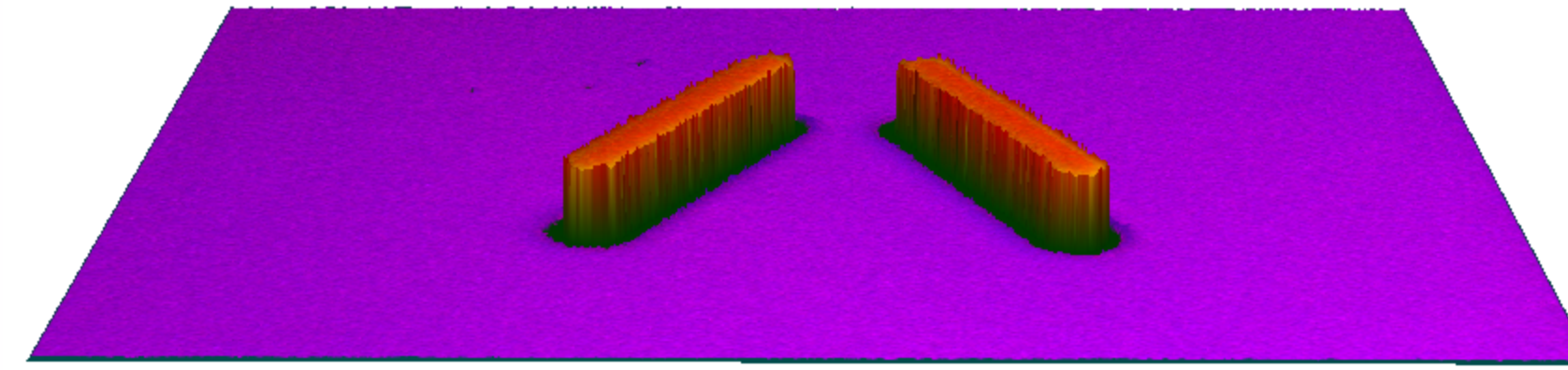
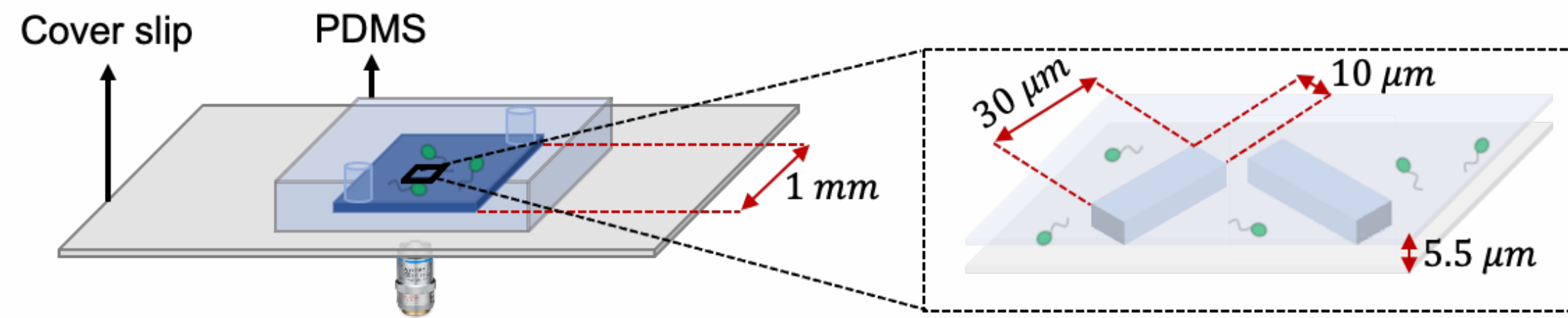
# Rectification in active matter

The asymmetry emerges from **spatial symmetry breaking** (provided by the wall) accompanied by **time-reversal asymmetry** in the trajectories



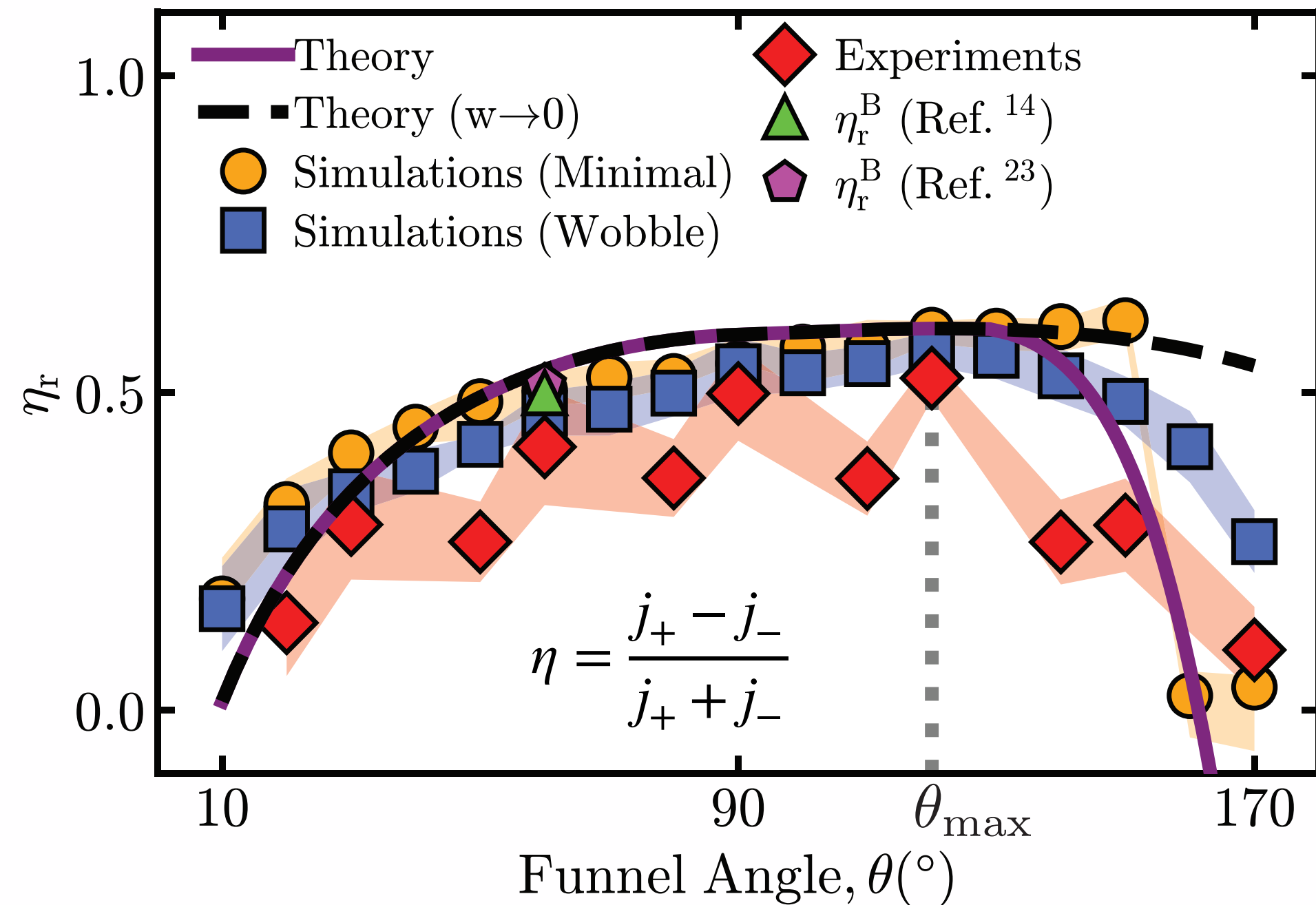
# A mechanical model of rectification in active matter

## Experimental setup



# A mechanical model of rectification in active matter

Parameter-free analytical model



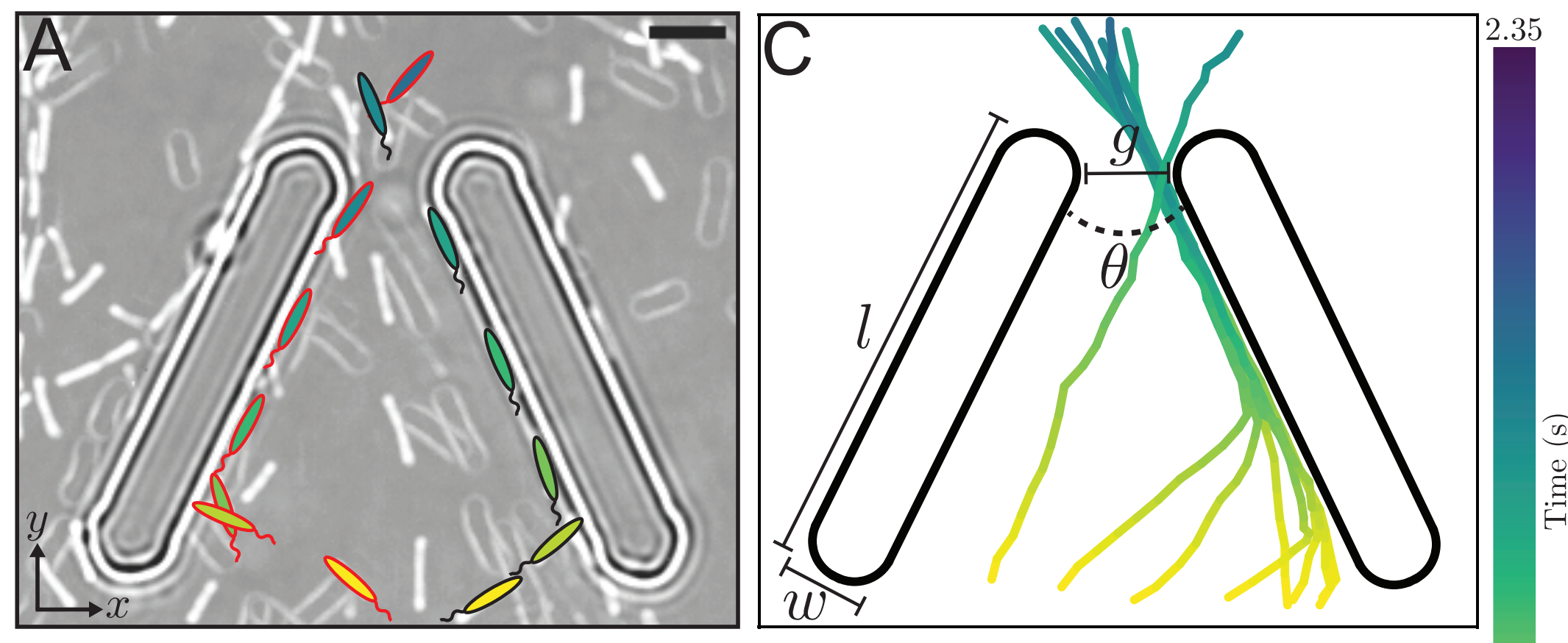
3 factors control bacterial rectification:

> A universal distribution of self-propulsion angles at gate

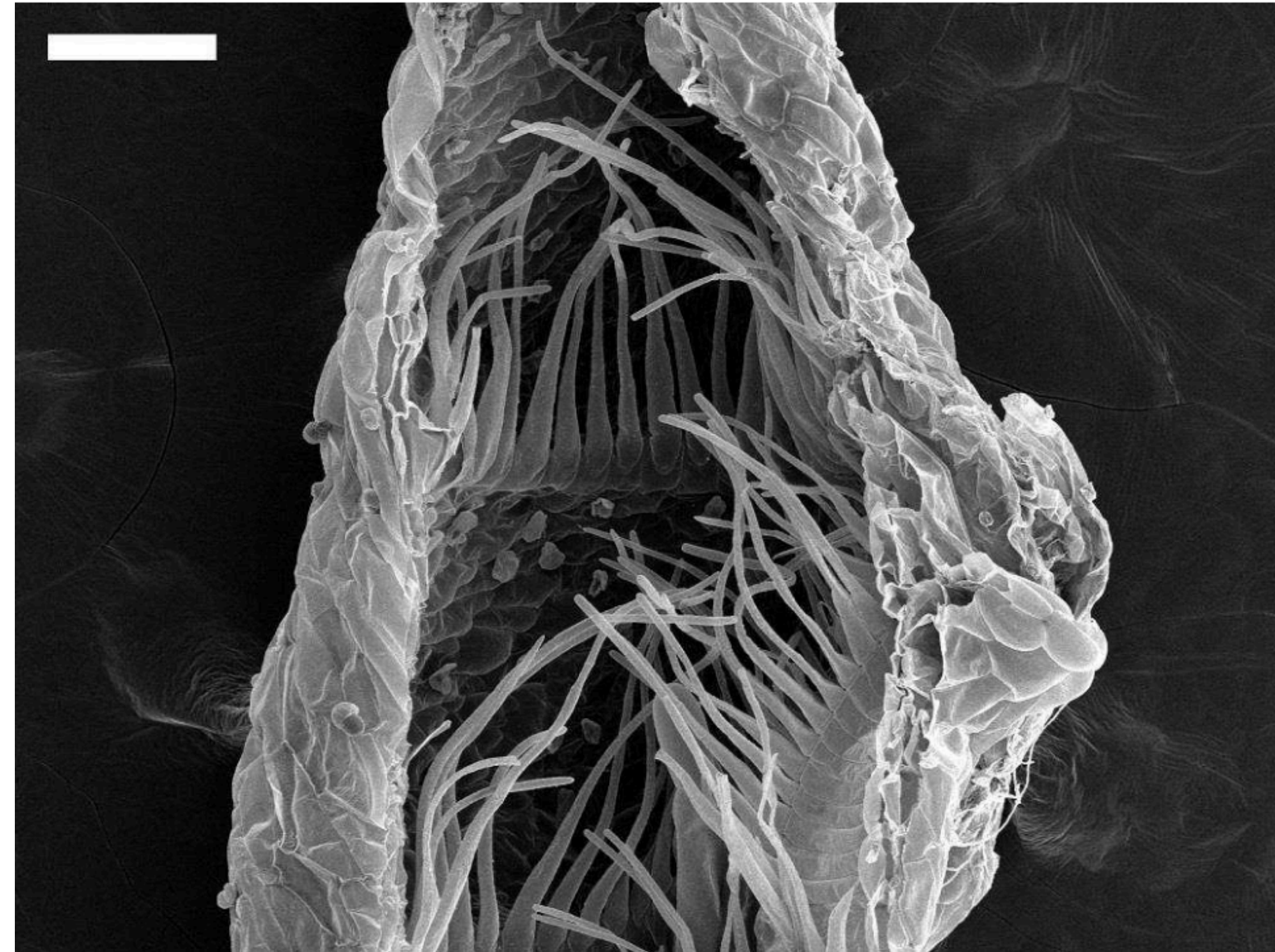
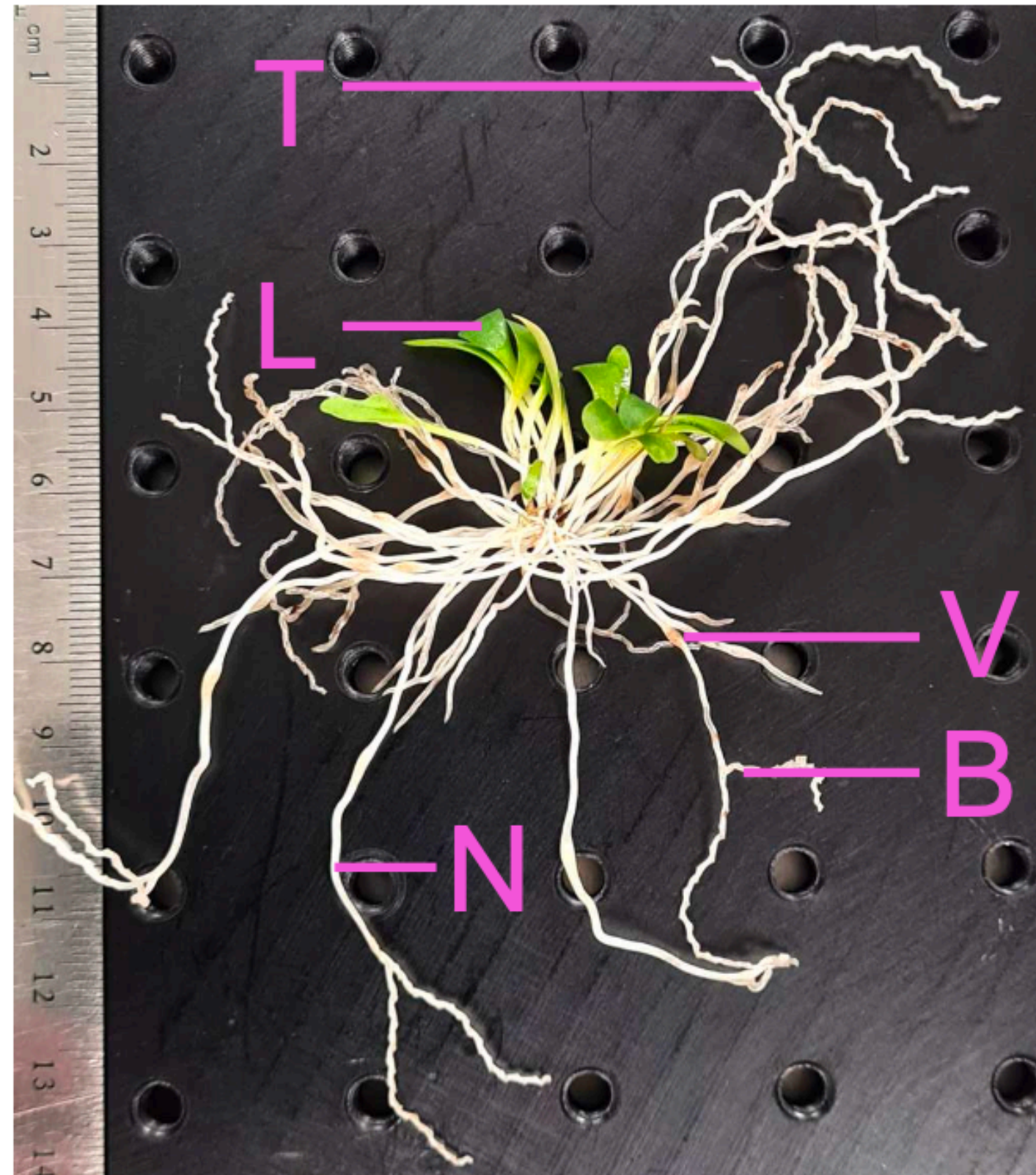
> Realignment along solid boundaries

> Bacterial wobbling

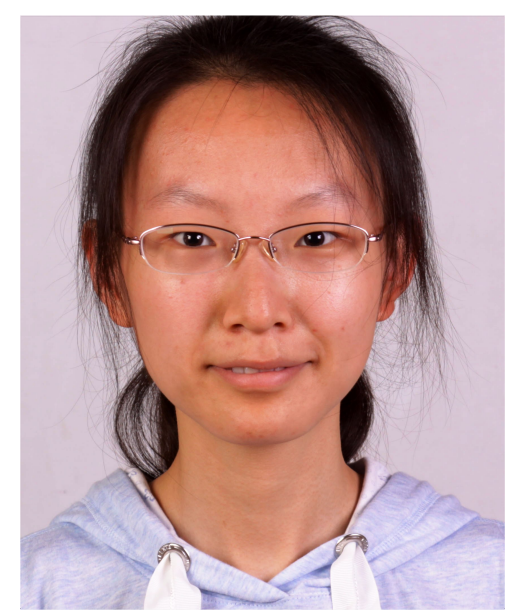
We can thus build a parameter-free model that predicts experimental and simulation results



# Active rectification is leveraged by carnivorous plants



**Genlisea** uses modified subterranean leaf structures (rhizophylls) to feed on microorganisms in the soil. The interior of **rhizophylls** present **hairs with a 45-70° half angle**, consistent with the 60° optimum that we predicted.



Buming Guo  
NYU



Satyam Anand  
NYU

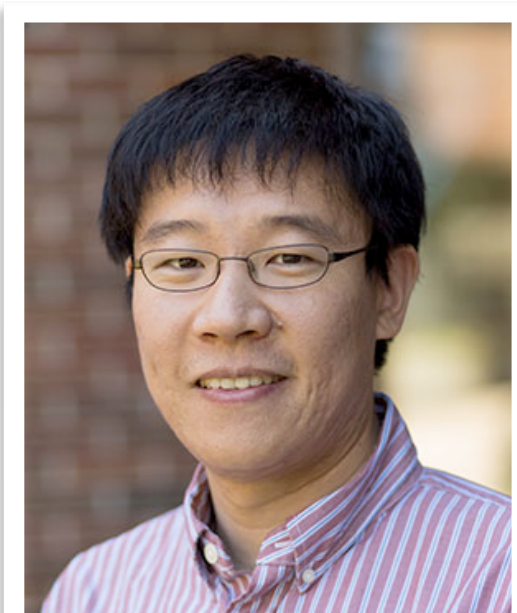


Aaron Shih  
NYU

**SIMONS**  
FOUNDATION



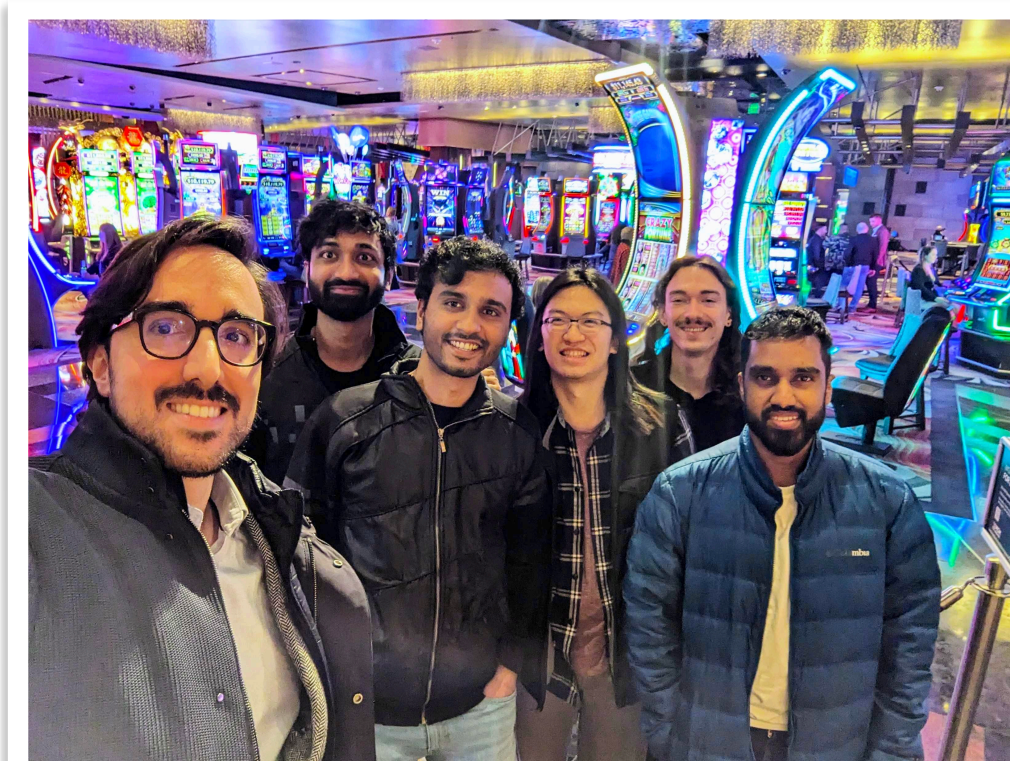
Sunghan Ro  
Harvard



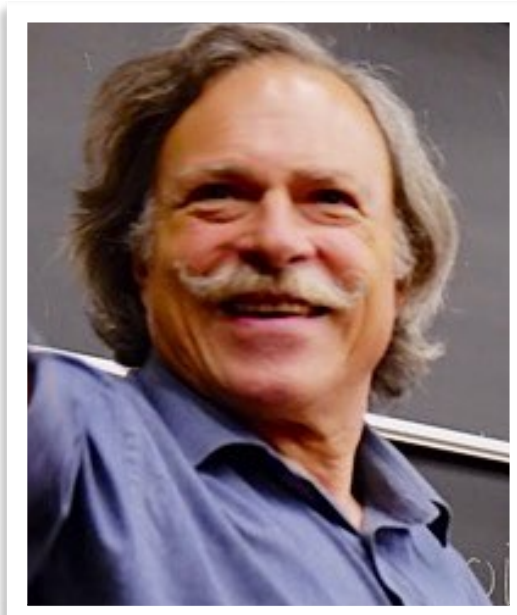
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Dov Levine  
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Daan Frenkel  
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