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# From Quantum to Classical Instability in Relativistic Stars

GR21

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Natural and Human Sciences/  
UFABC)

*In collaboration with W. Lima (York), G. Madsas (ift), and D. Vanzella (usp)*

# **UNSTABLE RELATIVISTIC SYSTEMS**

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Fernando Botero: Equilibrist with Umbrella

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**Amplitude  $\sim \sqrt{\hbar}$**



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**Relativistic stars may become unstable due to quantum effects  
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# **AWAKING THE VACUUM**

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$\Sigma_{t_1}$



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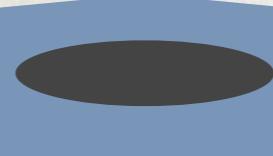
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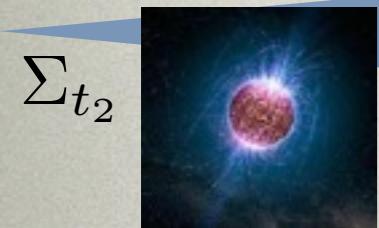
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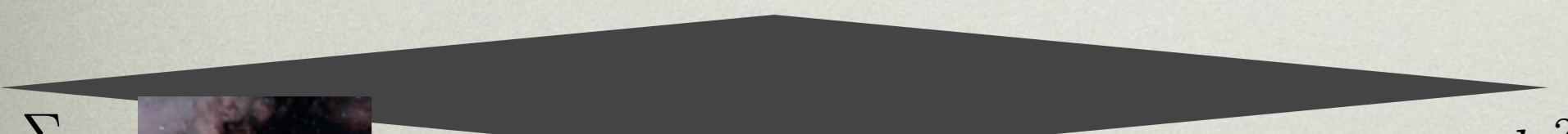
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$$\langle \hat{\Phi}^2 \rangle_{\text{in}} \sim \frac{\kappa e^{2\bar{\Omega}t}}{2\bar{\Omega}} \left( \frac{\bar{F}(\mathbf{x})}{f_{\text{int}}(\mathbf{x})} \right)^2 [1 + \mathcal{O}(e^{-\epsilon t})]$$

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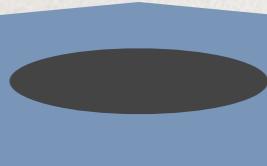
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$$\begin{aligned} \langle \hat{\rho} \rangle_{\text{in}} \sim & \kappa \frac{\bar{\Omega} e^{2\bar{\Omega}t}}{16\pi\sqrt{f}} \left\{ \frac{1-4\xi}{2r^2} \frac{d}{d\chi} \left( r^2 \frac{d}{d\chi} \left( \frac{F_{\bar{\Omega}0}}{\bar{\Omega}r} \right)^2 \right) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{\xi}{\bar{\Omega}^2 r^2} \frac{d}{d\chi} \left( \frac{{F_{\bar{\Omega}0}}^2}{f} \frac{df}{d\chi} \right) \right\} [1 + \mathcal{O}(e^{-\epsilon t})]. \end{aligned}$$

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- The unstable phase must be detained by backreaction effects which should be responsible to bring the vacuum back to some stationary regime.

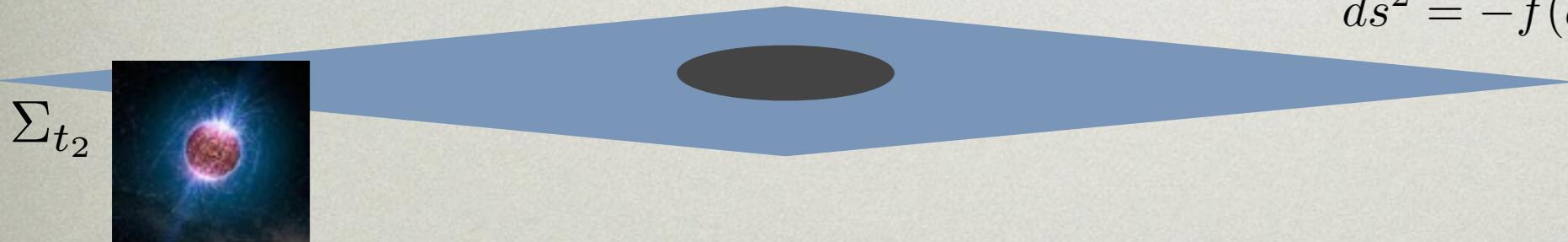
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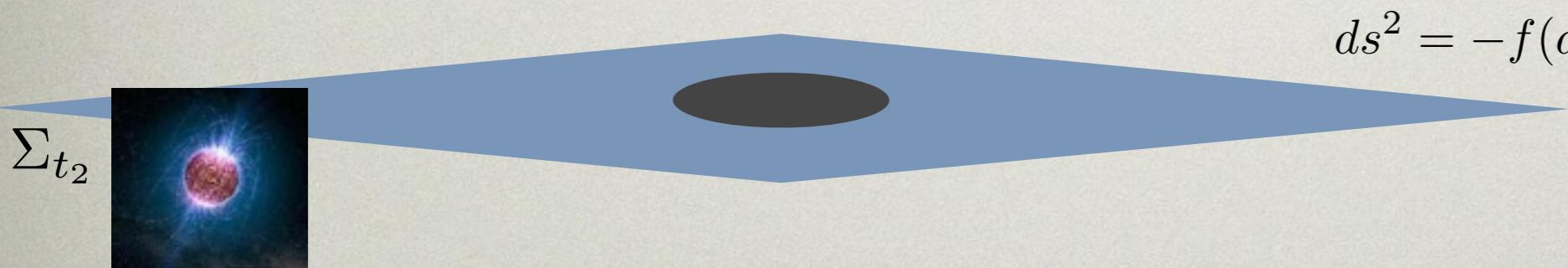
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- \* T. Harada, Prog. Theor. Phys., (1993), PRD (1997)
- \* M. Ruiz et. al., PRD (2012)
- \* R. Mendes and N. Ortiz, PRD (2016)

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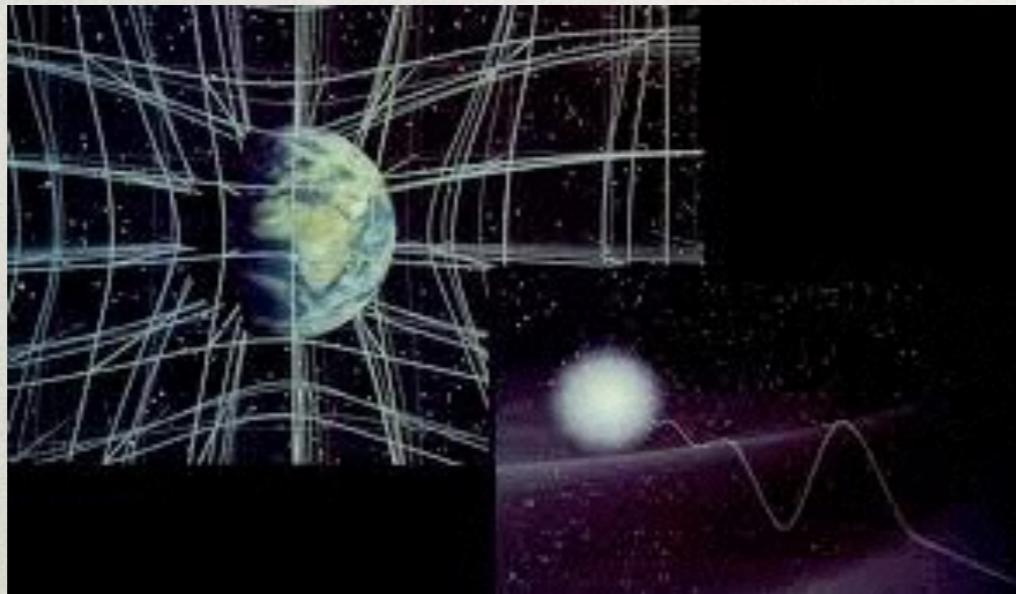
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$$R_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}g_{ab}R = 8\pi\langle T_{ab}\rangle_\omega$$

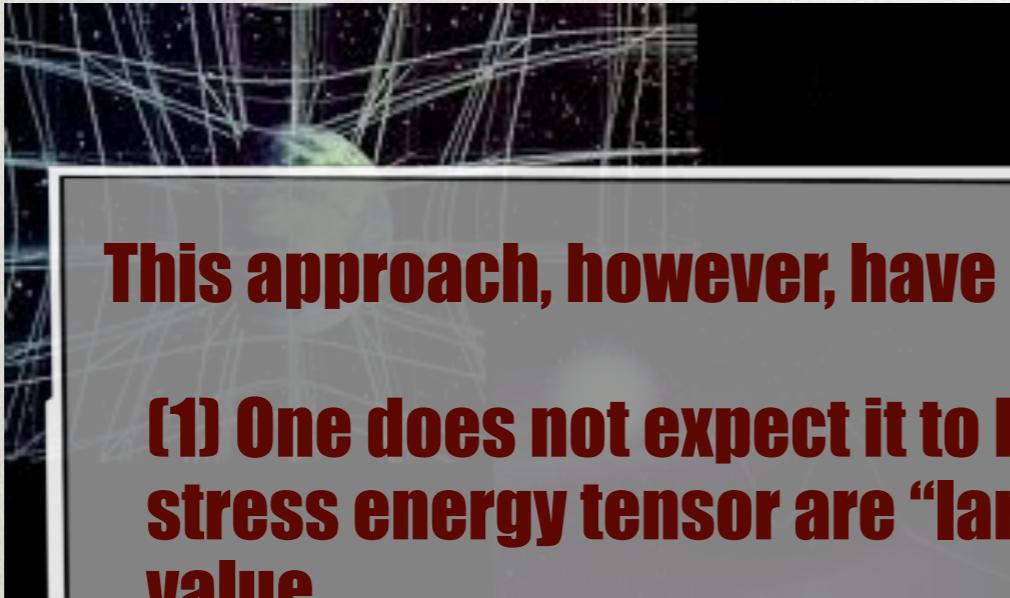


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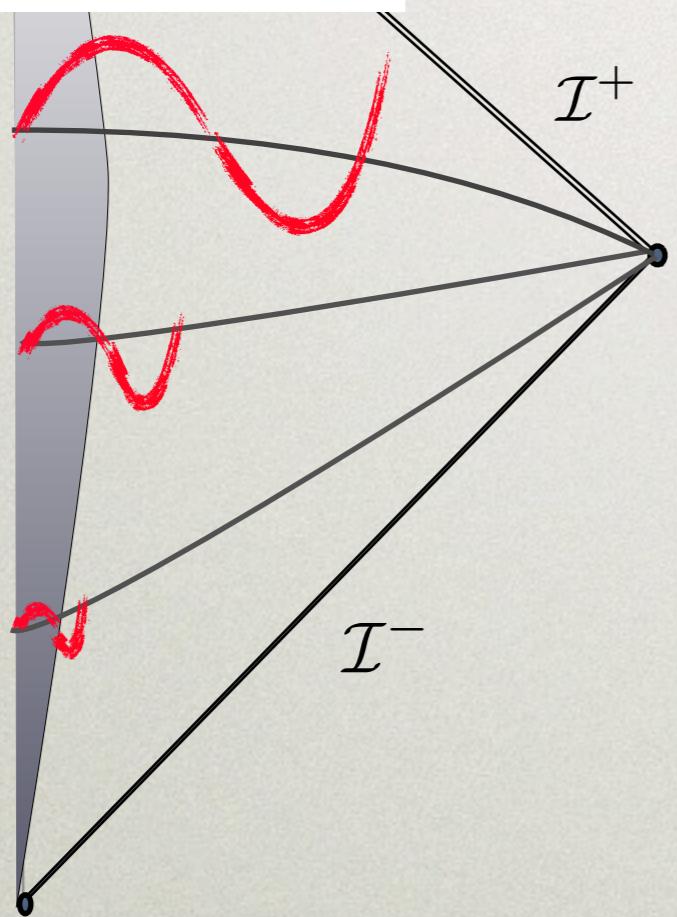
**This approach, however, have many difficulties, e.g.,**

**(1) One does not expect it to be valid when the fluctuations of the stress energy tensor are “large” when compared to its mean value**

**(2) Even if/when it is valid, it is, in general, prohibitively difficult to solve it.**

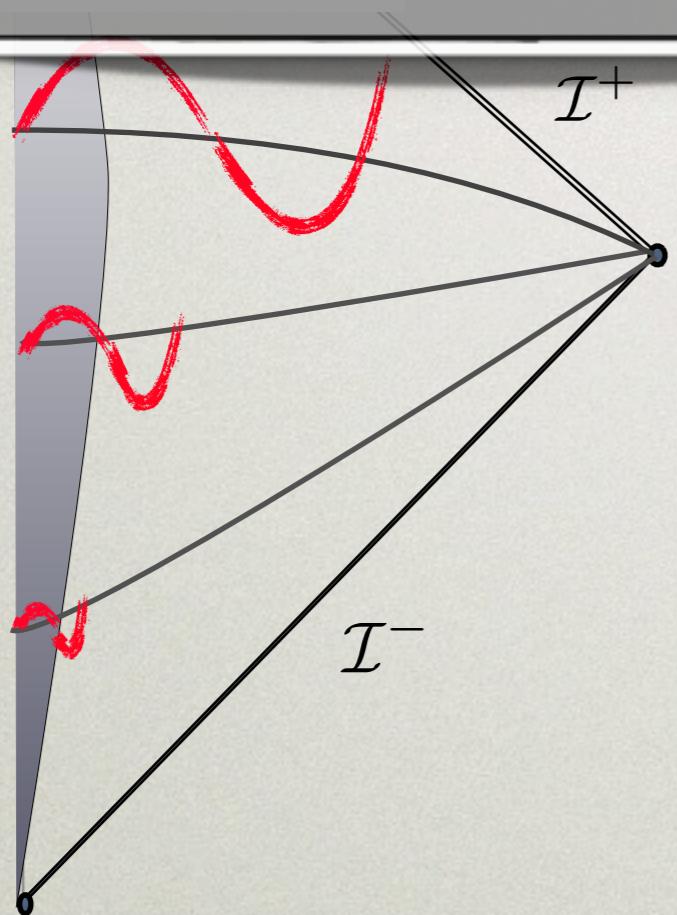
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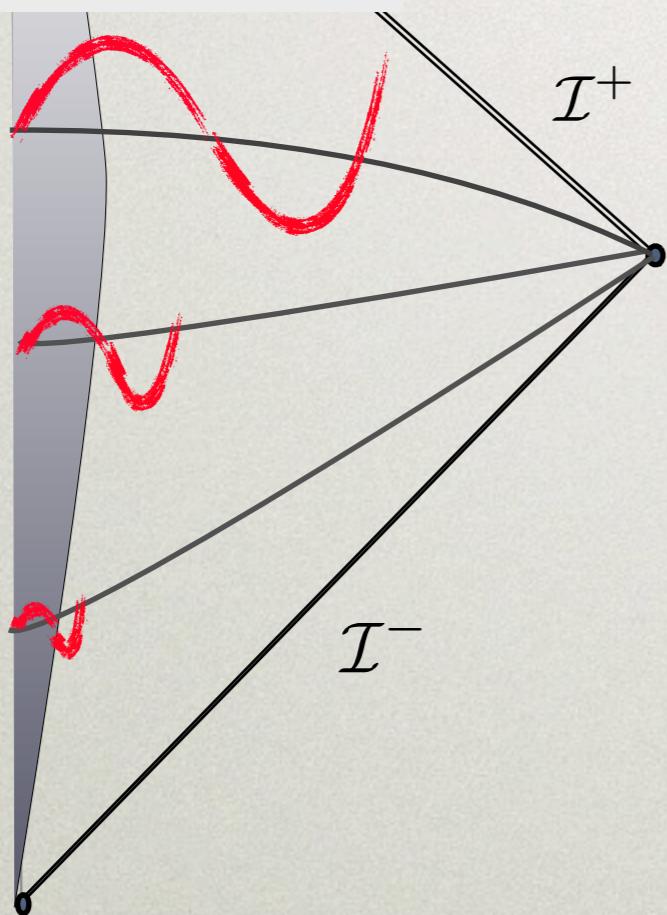
it seems reasonable to believe that quantum fluctuations amplified enough to menace the stability of relativistic stars cannot remain "quantum" for too long.



If the quantum phase ends before vacuum fluctuations dominate the system, we expect backreaction to be well described by the CLASSICAL general-relativistic equations.

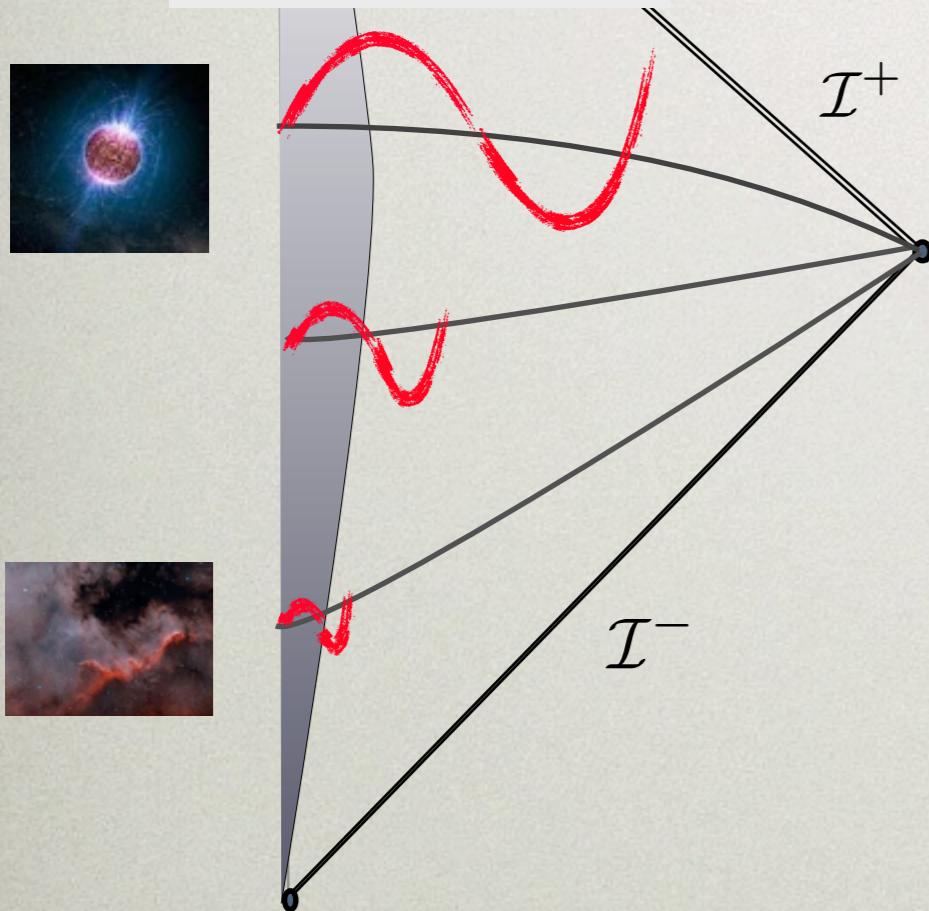
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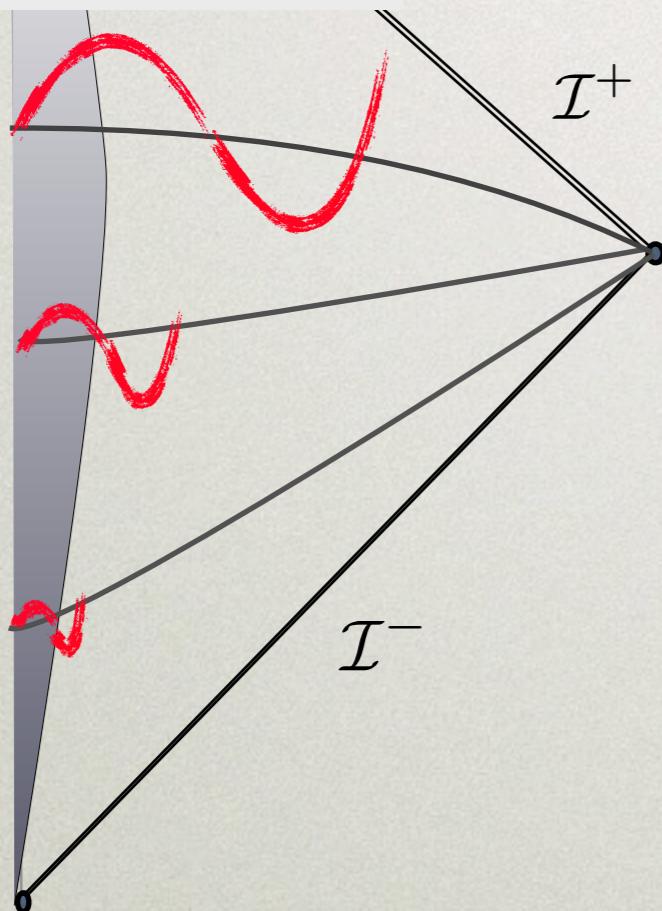
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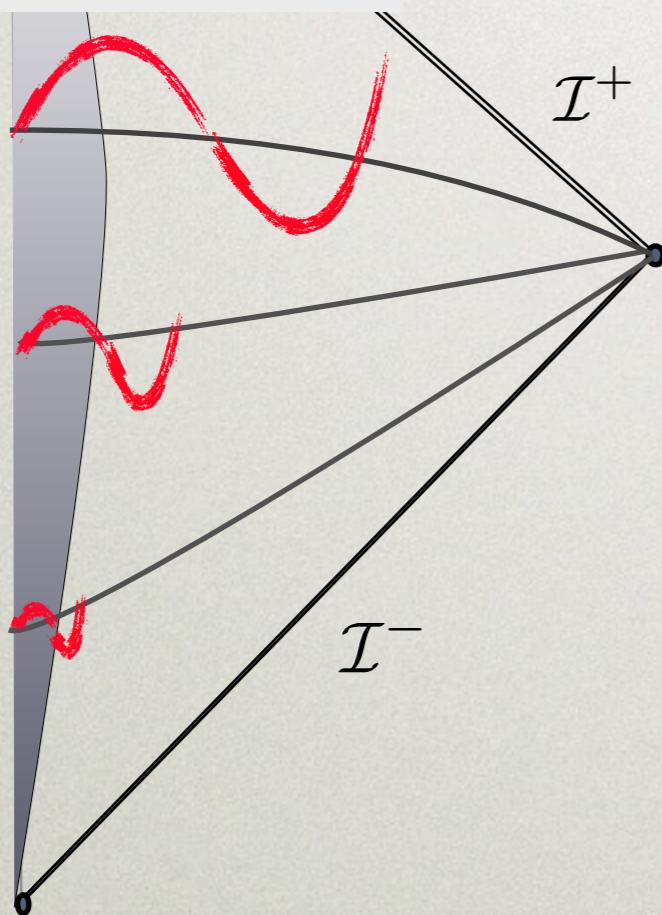
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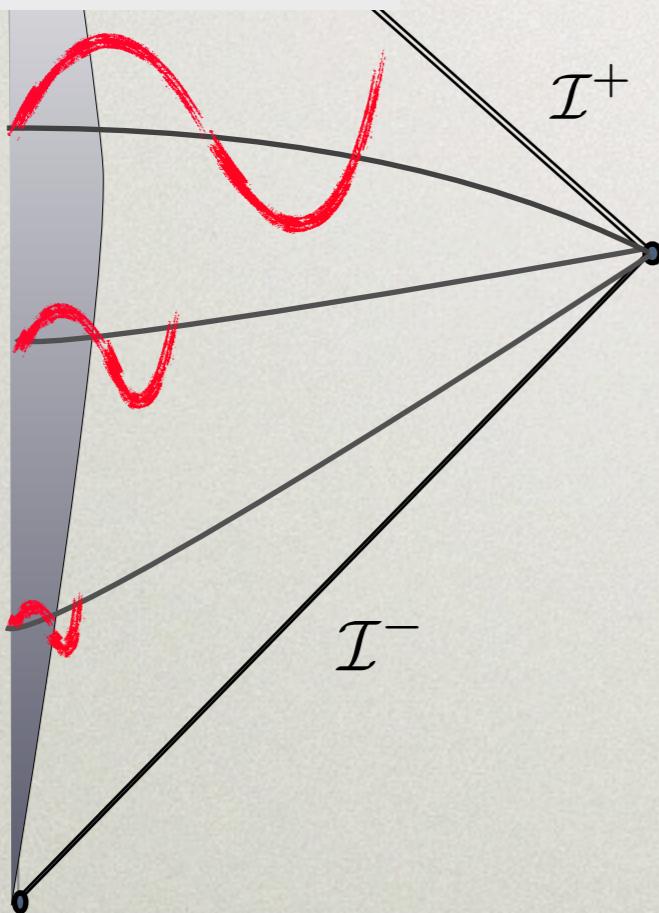
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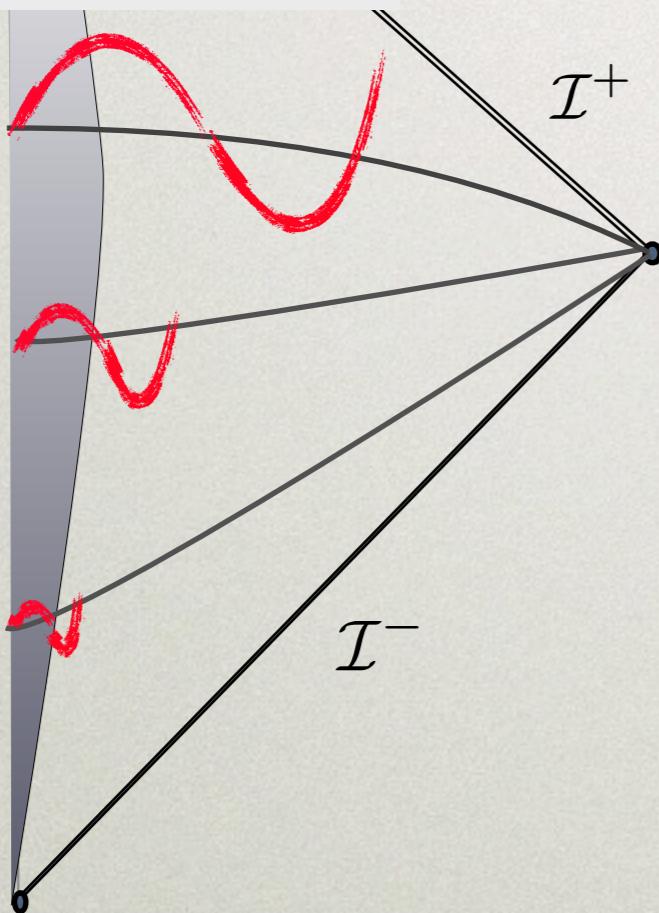
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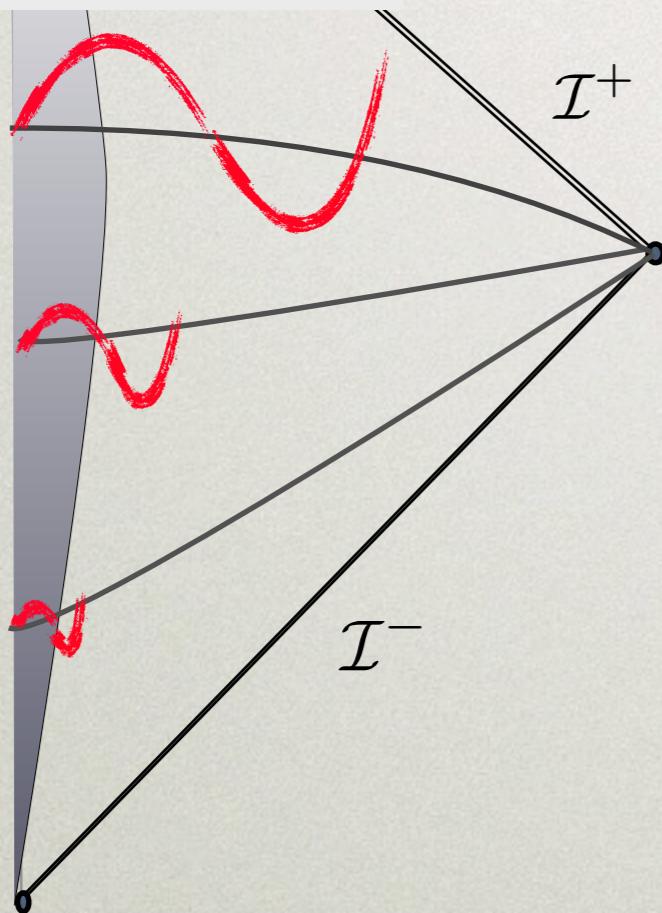
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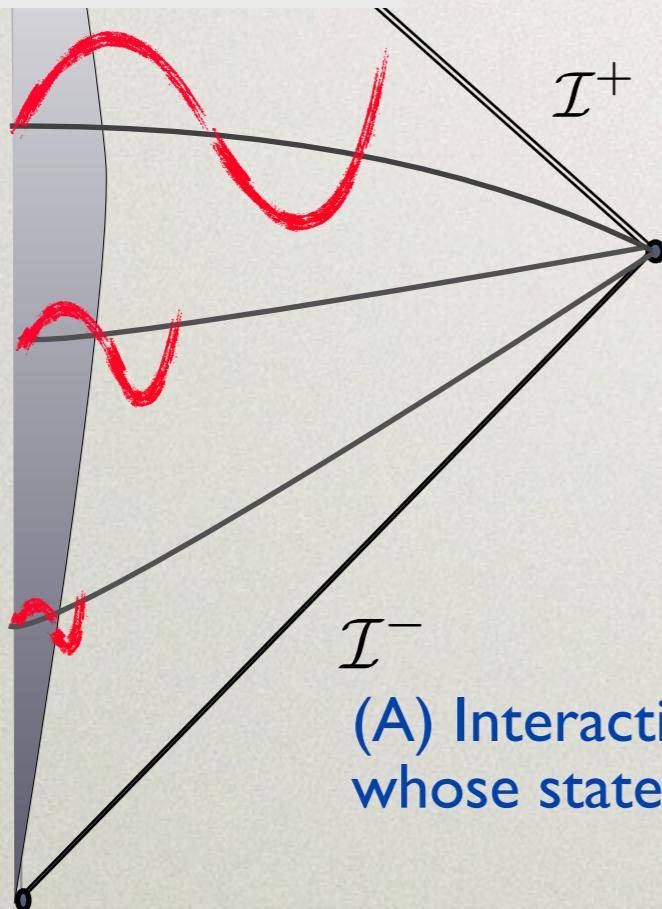
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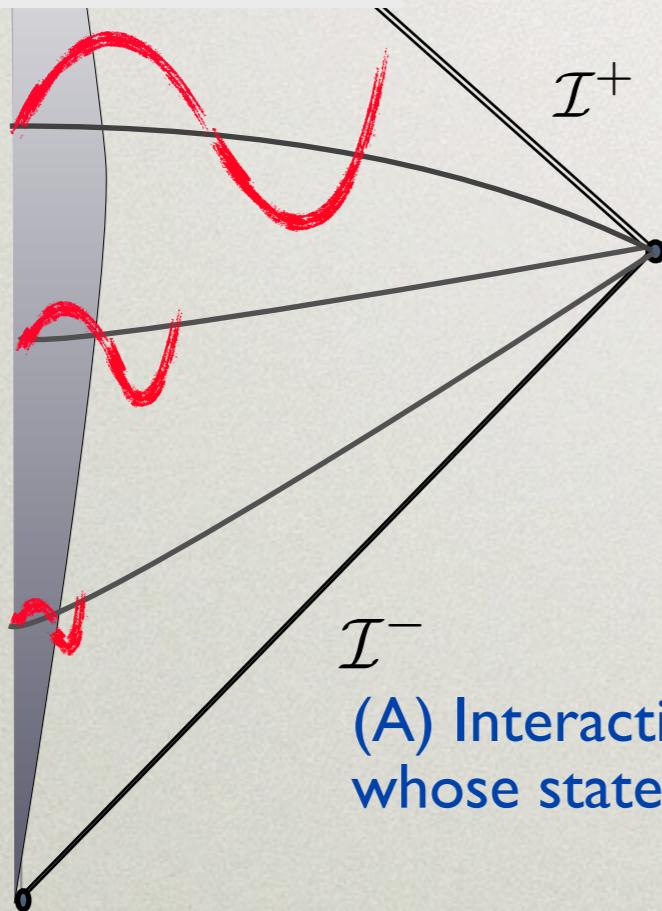
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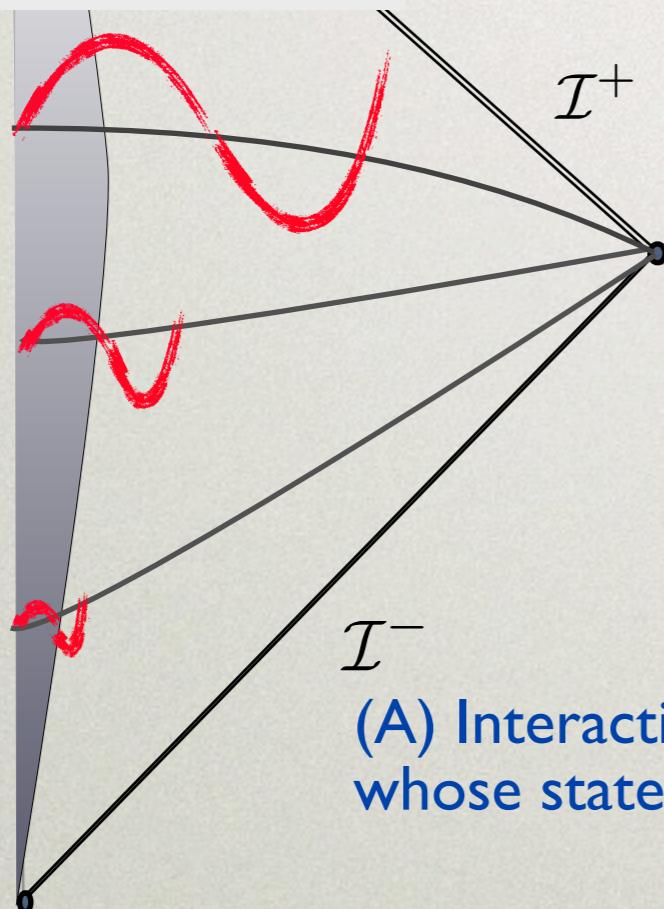
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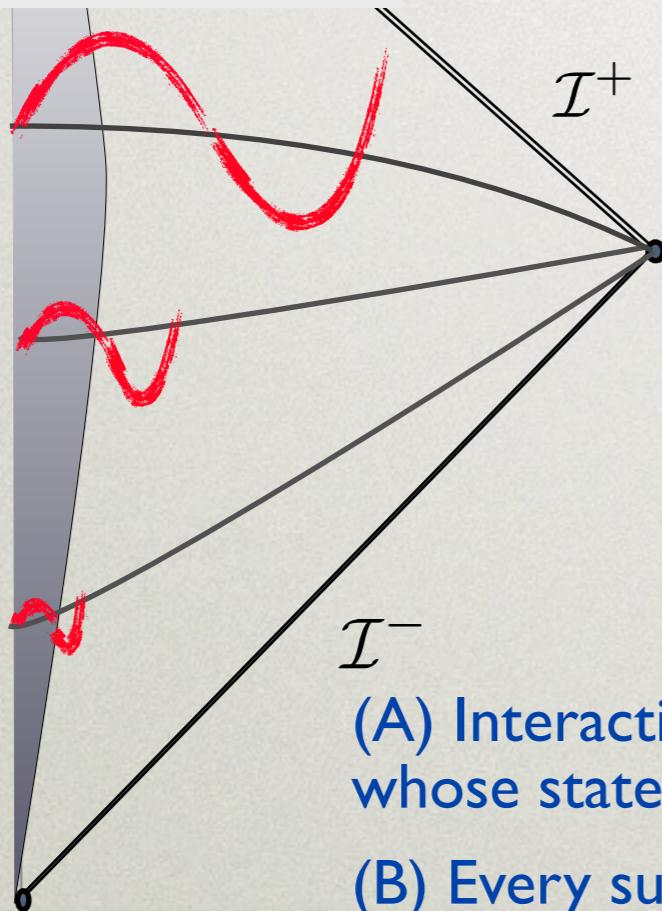
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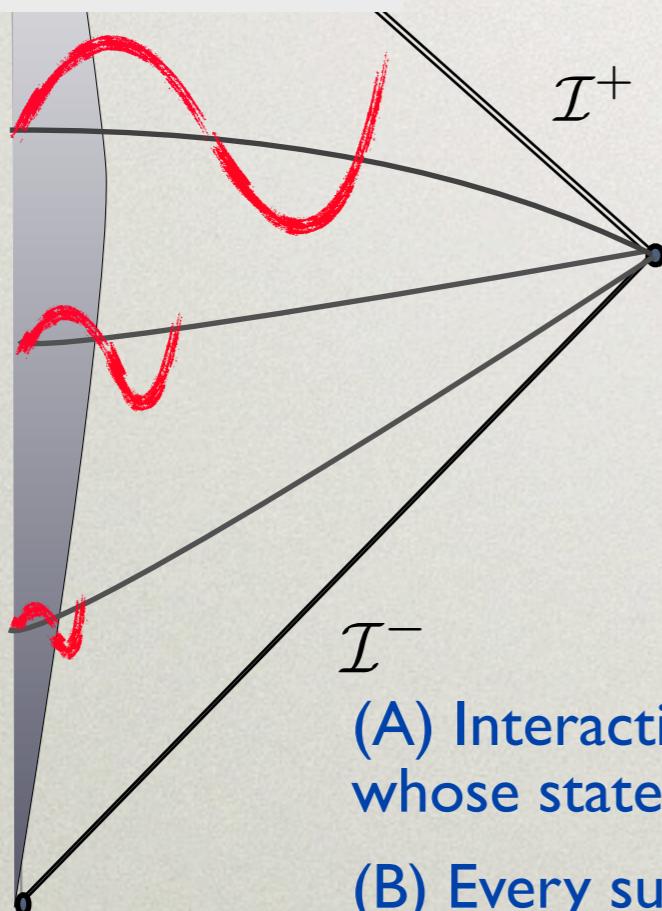
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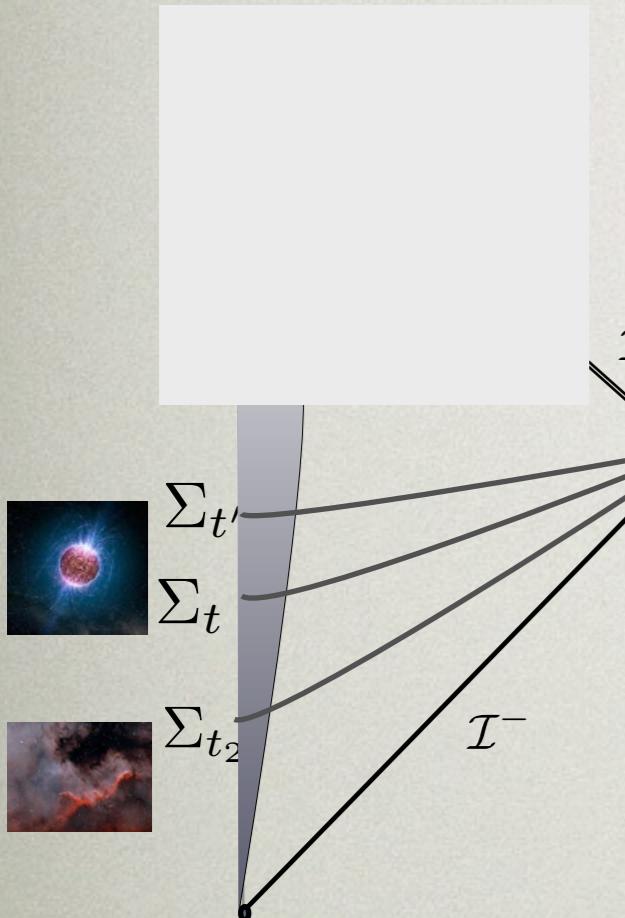
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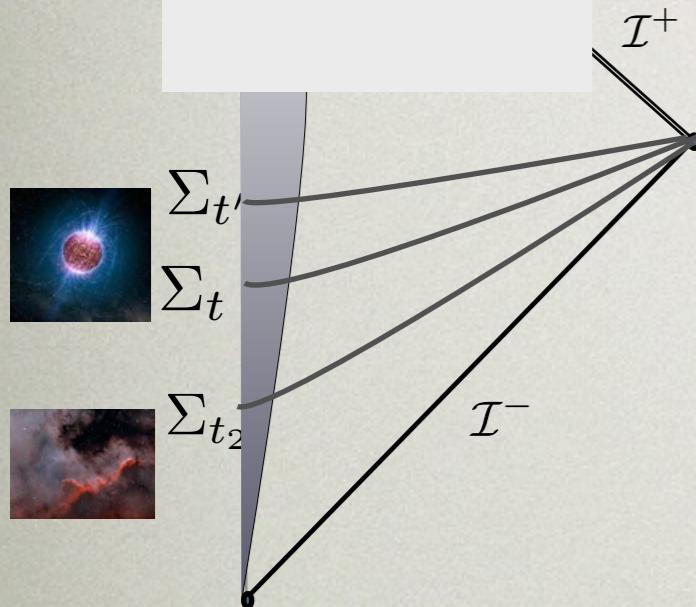


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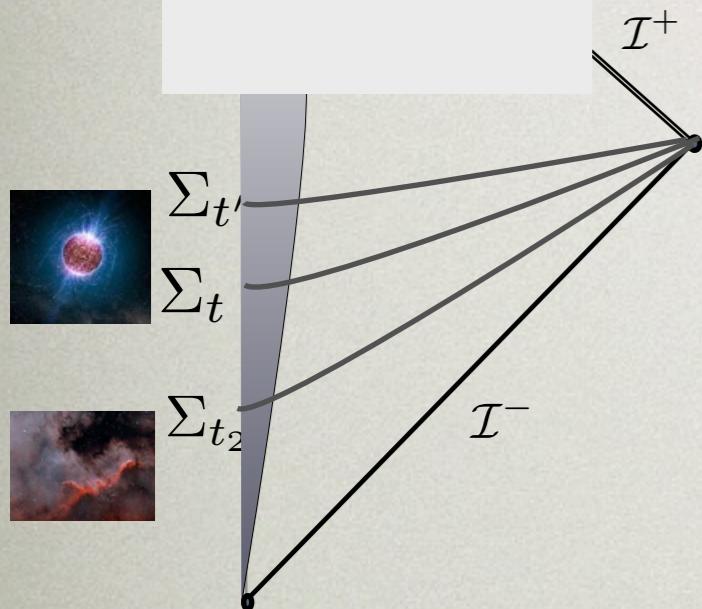


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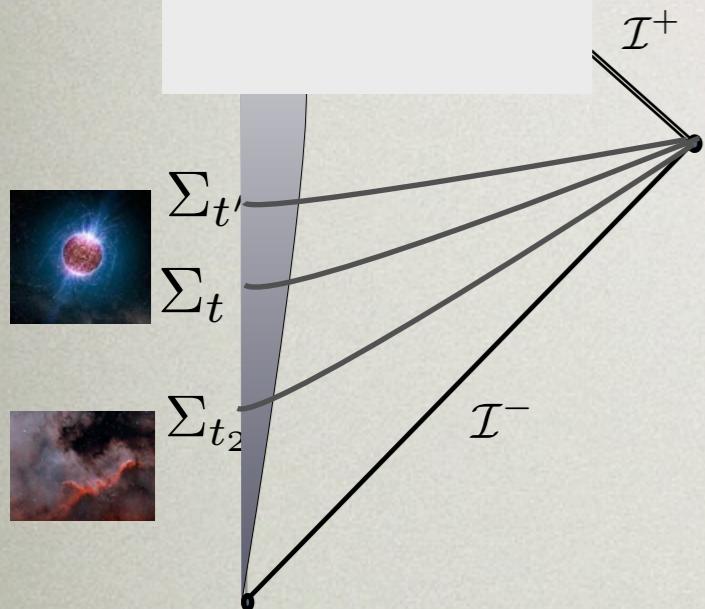
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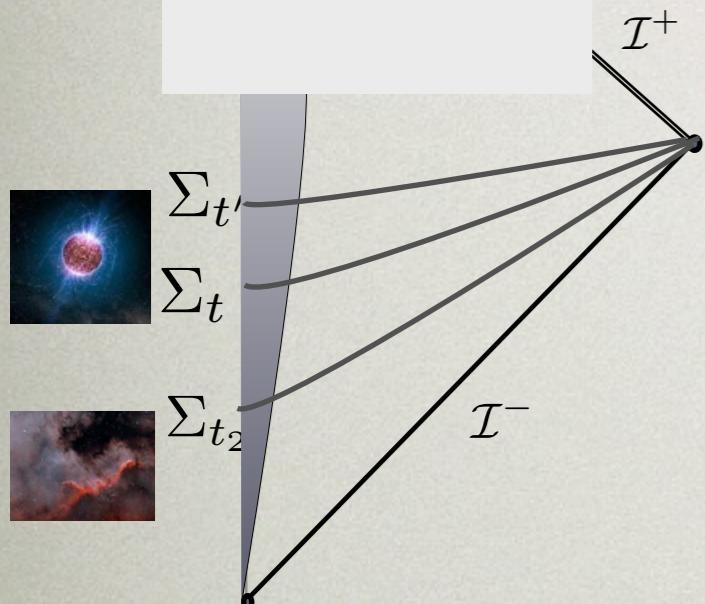
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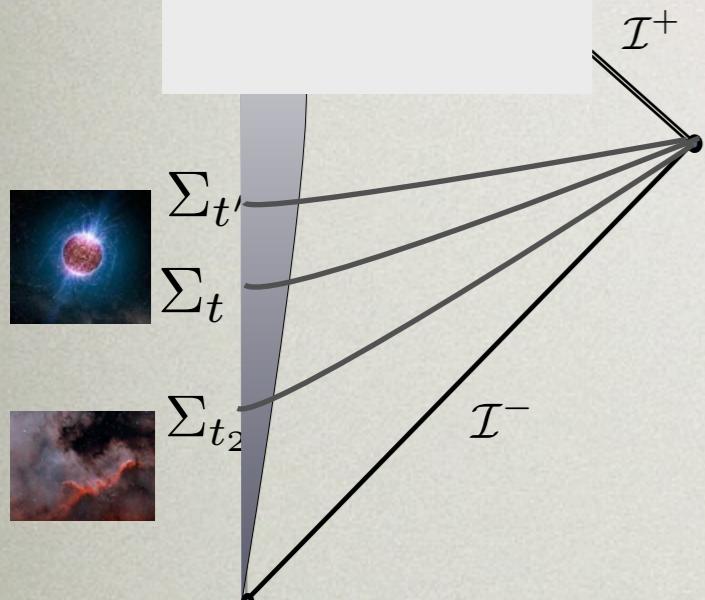
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$$\hat{H}_u = -\frac{\Omega}{2} (\hat{a}_{\Omega} \hat{a}_{\Omega} + \hat{a}_{\Omega}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\Omega}^\dagger) \rightarrow \hat{H}_u = \frac{1}{2} \hat{p}_{\Omega}^2 - \frac{\Omega^2}{2} \hat{q}_{\Omega}^2$$

Upside down harmonic oscillator

$$\hat{q}_{\Omega} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\Omega}} (\hat{a}_{\Omega} + \hat{a}_{\Omega}^\dagger) \quad \hat{p}_{\Omega} \equiv -i\sqrt{\frac{\Omega}{2}} (\hat{a}_{\Omega} - \hat{a}_{\Omega}^\dagger)$$

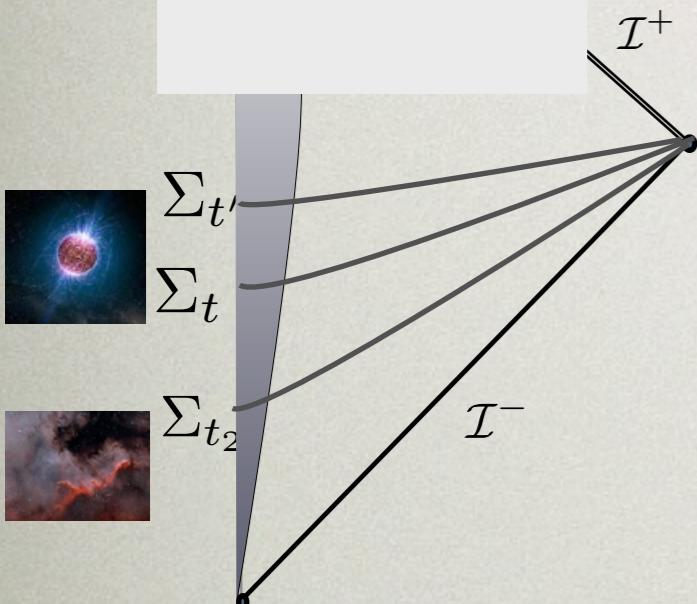
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$$\hat{H}_u = -\frac{\Omega}{2} (\hat{a}_{\Omega} \hat{a}_{\Omega} + \hat{a}_{\Omega}^\dagger \hat{a}_{\Omega}^\dagger) \rightarrow \hat{H}_u = \frac{1}{2} \hat{p}_{\Omega}^2 - \frac{\Omega^2}{2} \hat{q}_{\Omega}^2$$

Upside down harmonic oscillator

$$\hat{q}_{\Omega} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\Omega}} (\hat{a}_{\Omega} + \hat{a}_{\Omega}^\dagger) \quad \hat{p}_{\Omega} \equiv -i \sqrt{\frac{\Omega}{2}} (\hat{a}_{\Omega} - \hat{a}_{\Omega}^\dagger)$$

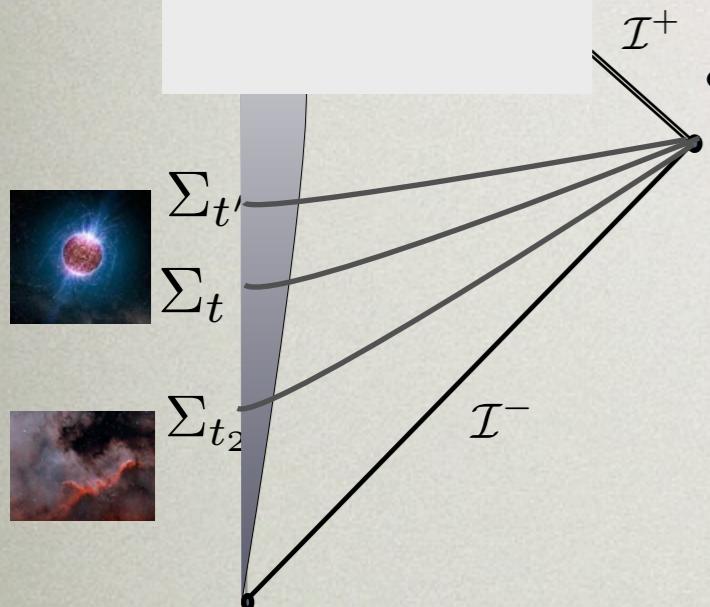
# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

*A. Landulfo, W. Lima, G. Mastsas, and D. Vanzella, PRD (2015)*

Complete orthonormal set of  
solutions of KG equation

$$v_{\varpi l \mu}^{(+)} = e^{-i\varpi t} \frac{F_{\varpi l}(\chi)}{\sqrt{2\varpi r(\chi)}} Y_{l\mu}(\theta, \phi),$$

$$w_{\Omega}^{(+)} = \frac{e^{\Omega t - i\pi/4} + e^{-\Omega t + i\pi/4}}{\sqrt{4\Omega}} \frac{F_{\Omega}(\chi)}{r(\chi)} Y_{00}(\theta, \varphi)$$



Hamiltonian:

$$\hat{H} = \hat{H}_s + \hat{H}_u$$

$$\hat{H}_s = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{l\mu} \int d\omega [\hat{b}_{\varpi l \mu} \hat{b}_{\varpi l \mu}^\dagger + \hat{b}_{\varpi l \mu}^\dagger \hat{b}_{\varpi l \mu}] \varpi$$

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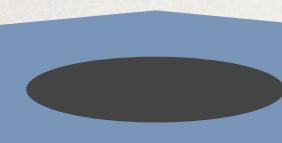
# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

---

- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

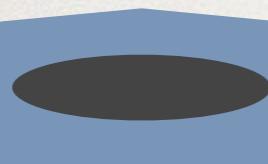
# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

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- \* Unstable Phase



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$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

- \* Wigner Function

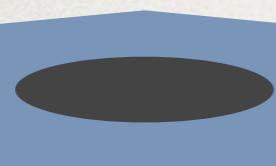
$$W(t, q, p) \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dy \varrho(t, q - y/2, q + y/2) e^{ipy},$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



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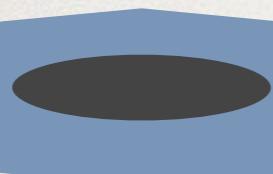
**It is a very useful tool to analyze the  
classicalization of a quantum system**

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- \* For pure states  $|\psi\rangle$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dq W(q, p) = |\tilde{\psi}(p)|^2, \quad \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dp W(q, p) = |\psi(q)|^2$$

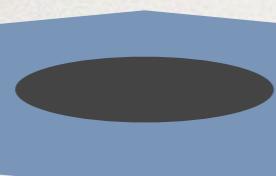
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- \* For quadratic potentials (like our upside down harmonic oscillator)

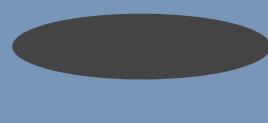
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$$\partial_t W(t, q, p) = \{H(q, p), W(t, q, p)\}$$

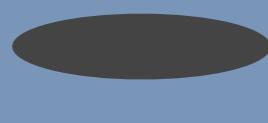
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**Liouville equation**

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It is a very important question how classicality is achieved.

Positive peak

Interference term

$p$

$x$

Negative contribution

W. Zurek, Decoherence and the Transition from Quantum to Classical—Revisited

**Liouville equation**

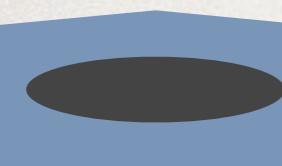
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- ❖ Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

- ❖ For the upside down harmonic oscillator

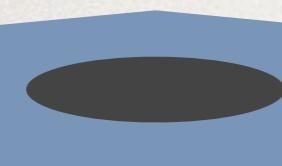
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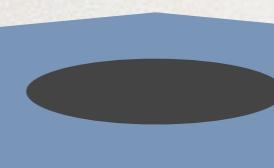
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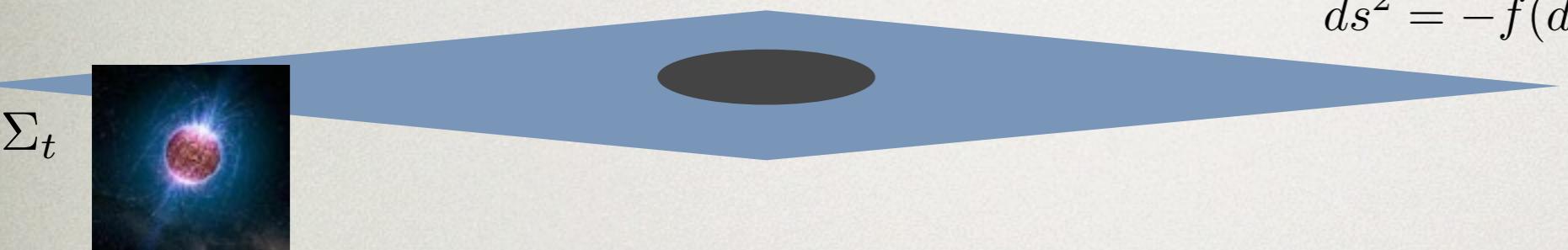
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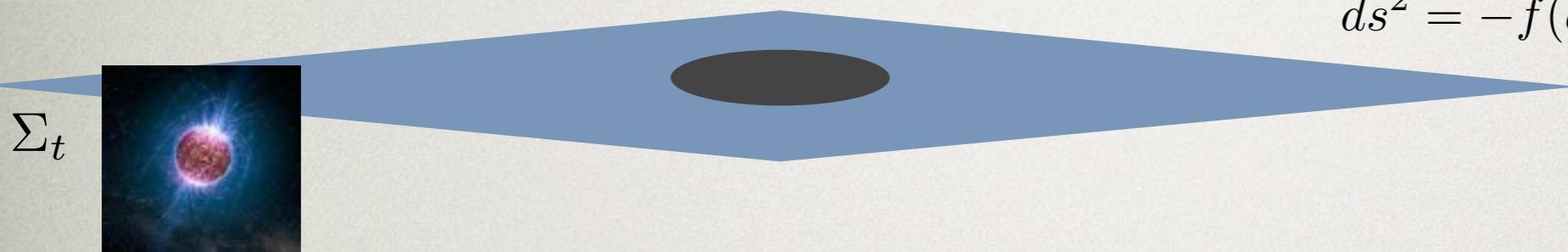
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$$W(t, q, p) = \frac{1}{\pi} \exp \left( -a(t)q^2 - \frac{[p + b(t)q]^2}{a(t)} \right).$$

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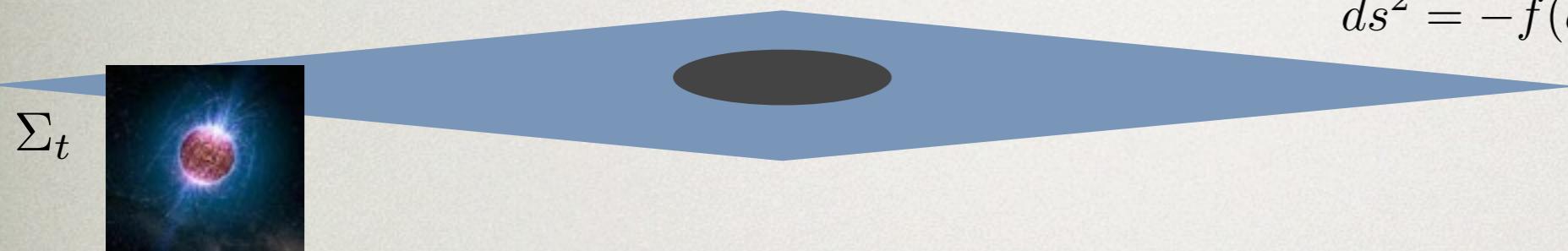
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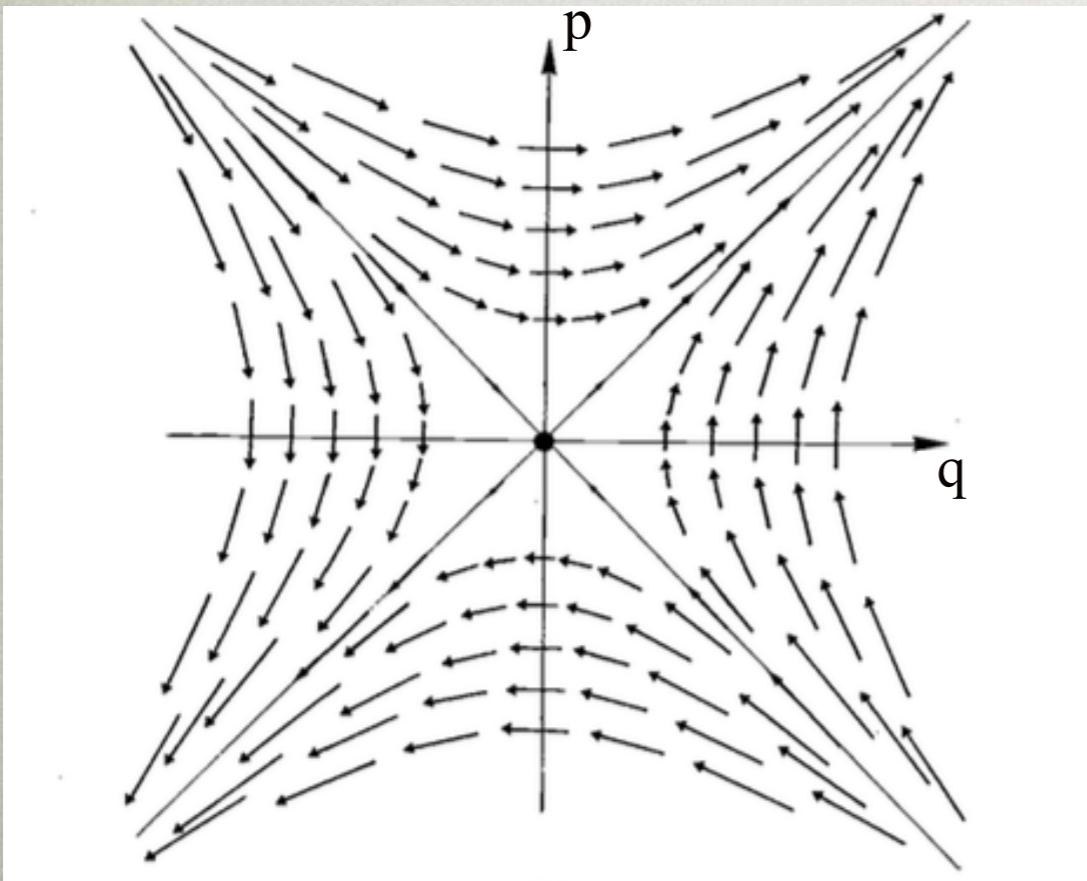
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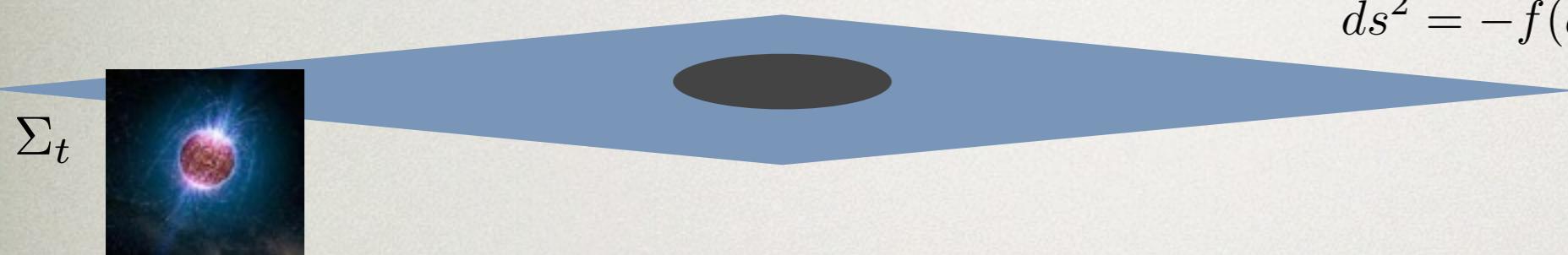
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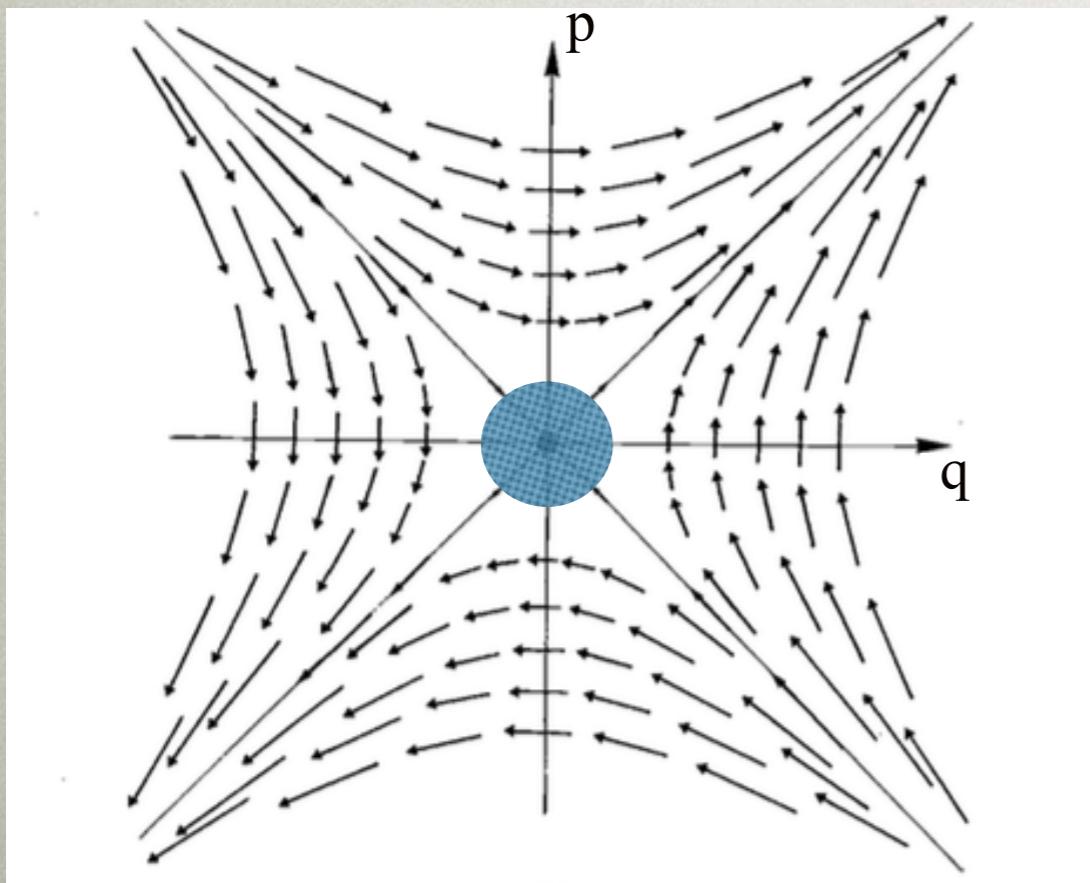
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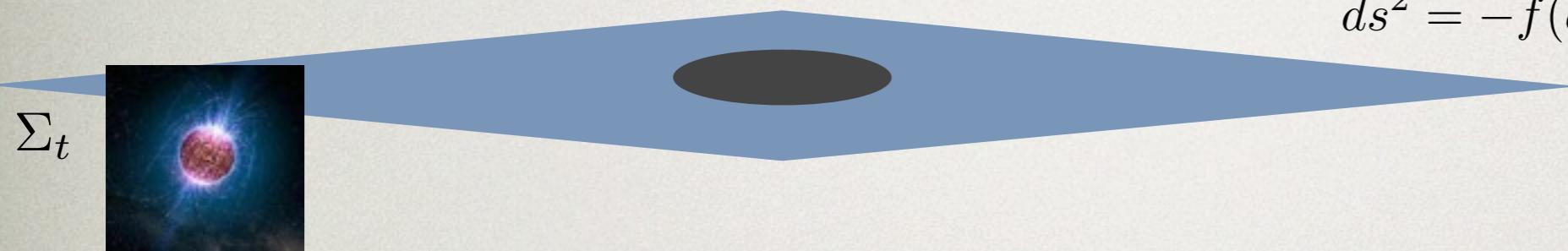
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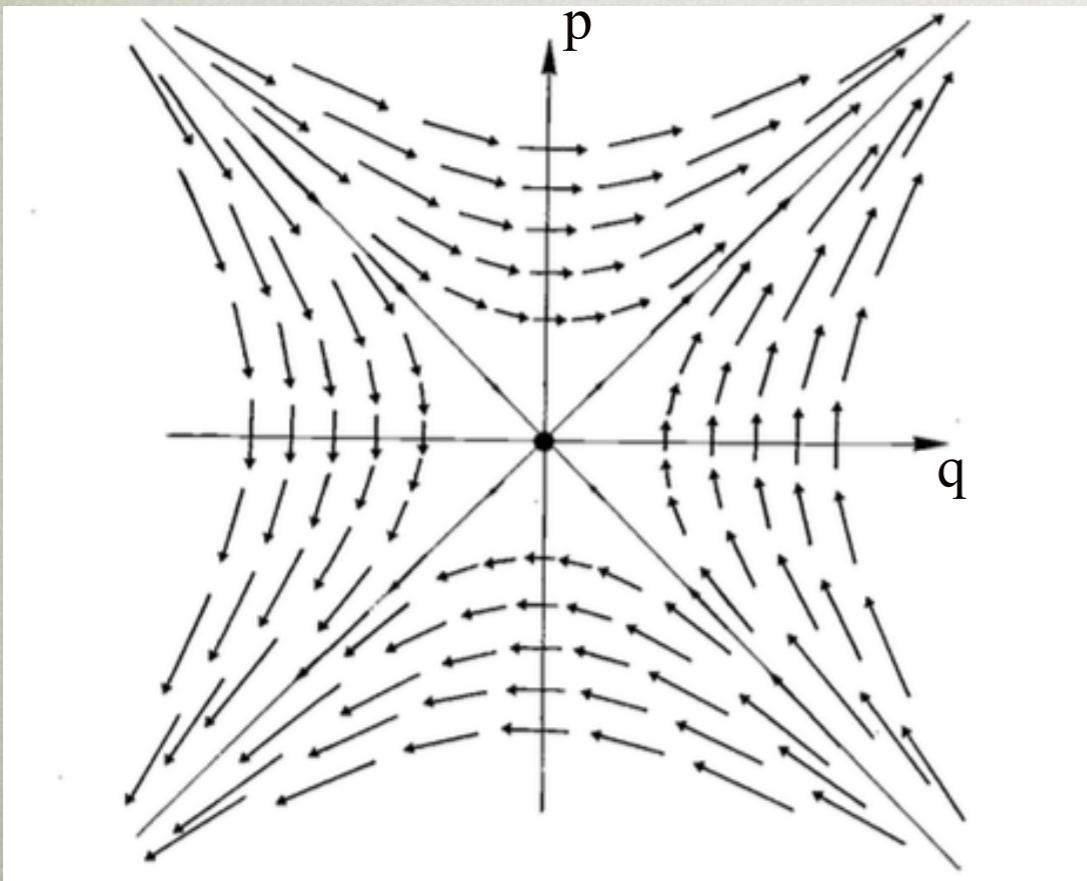
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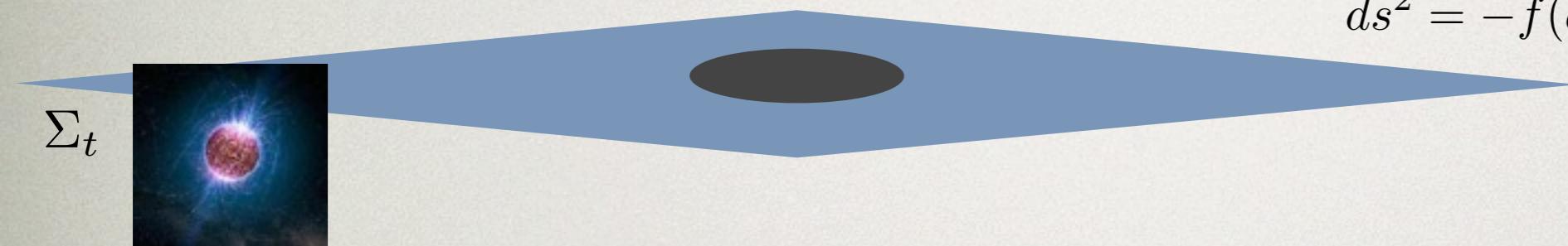
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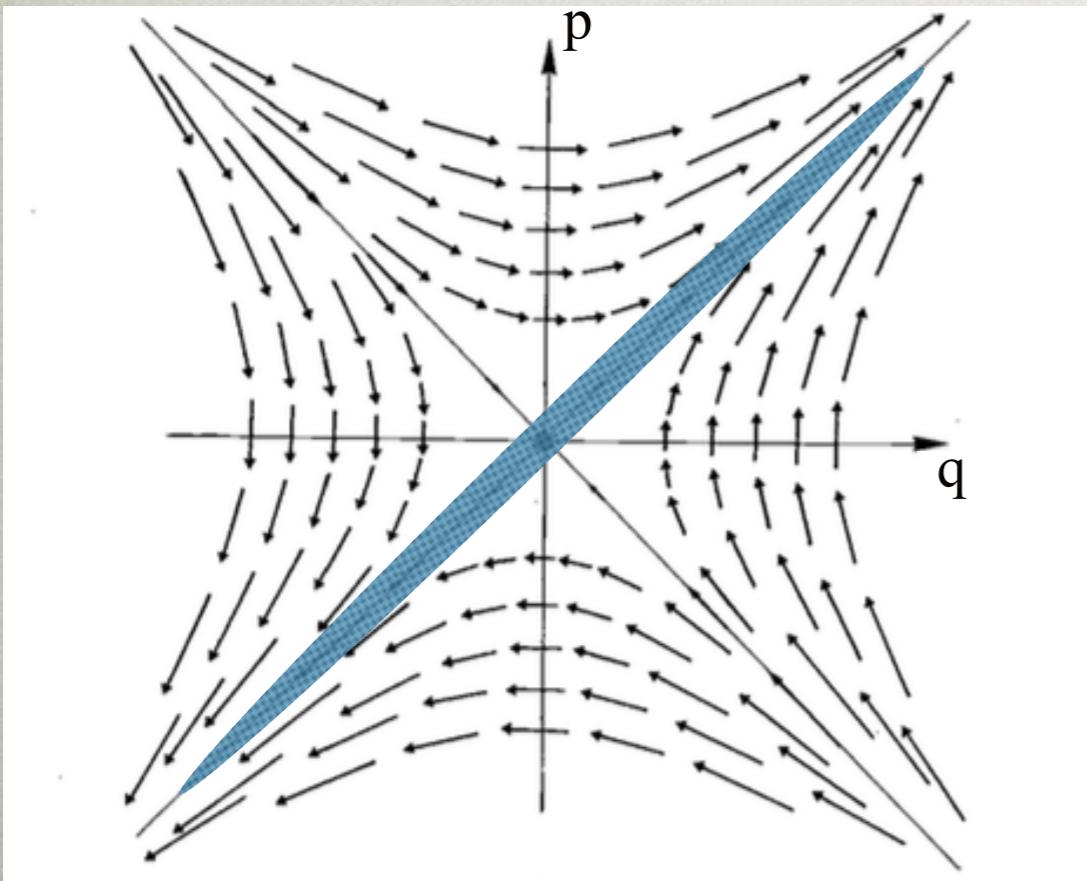
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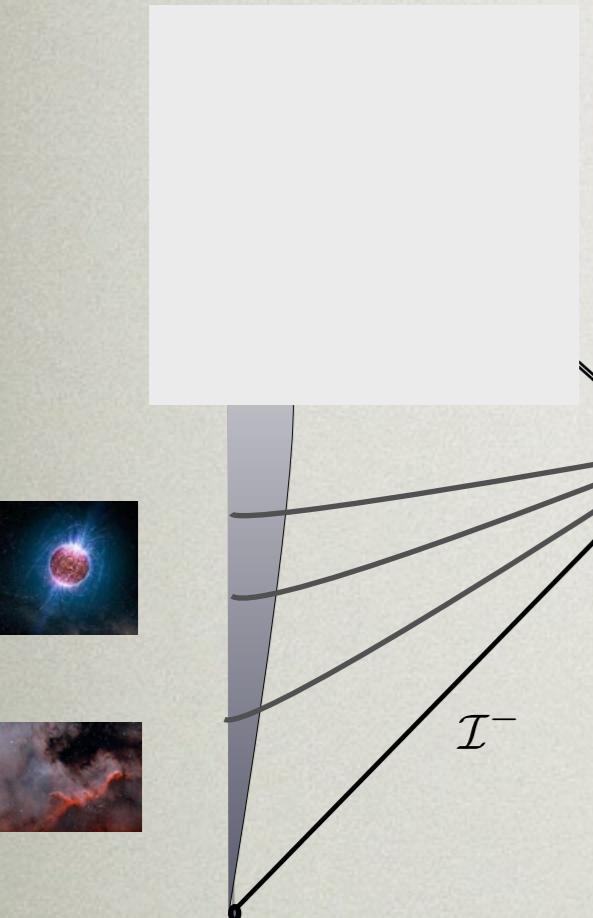
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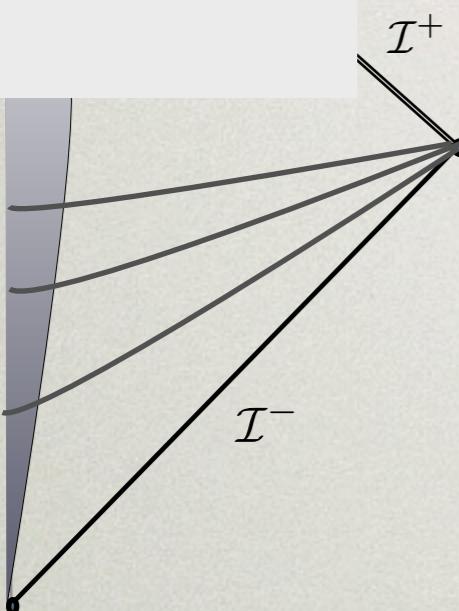
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# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

free scalar field

$$S_\phi[\phi] \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} \phi P \phi, \quad P \equiv -(\nabla^a \nabla_a + m^2 + \xi R)$$

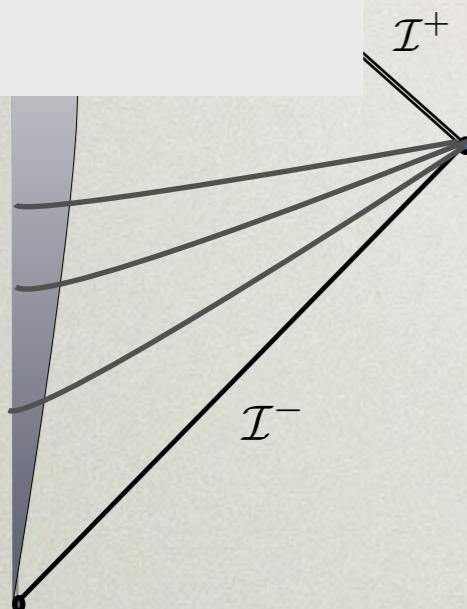


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$$g_{ab} \rightarrow g_{ab} + \kappa \gamma_{ab}, \Phi \rightarrow \Phi + \phi \ (\Phi = 0)$$



# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

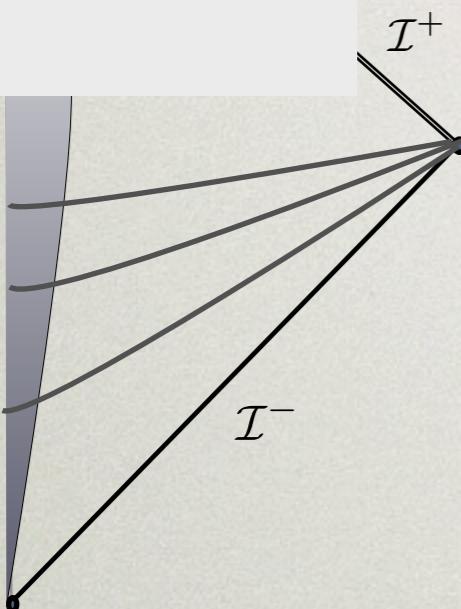
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**free graviton (with gauge fixing term)**

$$S_\gamma[\gamma_{ab}] \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} \gamma^{ab} \mathcal{D}_{abcd} \gamma^{cd}$$



# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

**free scalar field**

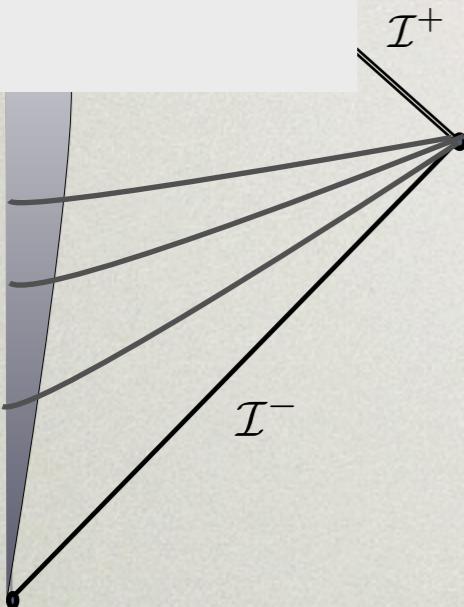
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Interaction

$$S_{int}[\phi, \gamma_{ab}] \equiv \frac{\kappa}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}} \sqrt{-g} d^4x T_{ab} \gamma^{ab}$$

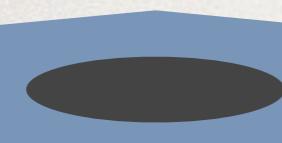
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$\Sigma_t$



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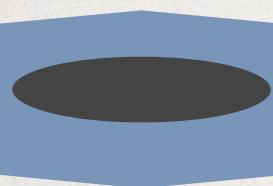
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$\Sigma_t$

$$\phi = \phi_s + \phi_u$$



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**System of interest - Unstable mode (which is the one we expect that "classicalize")**

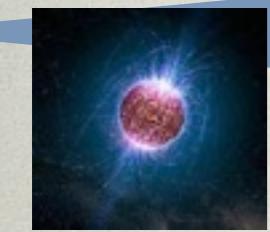
$\phi_u$

**Environment - Stable modes and graviton**

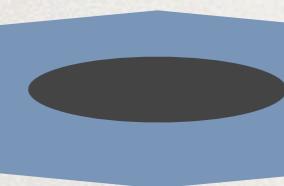
$\phi_s, \gamma_{ab}$

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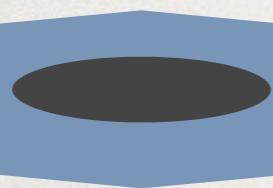
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**Environment - Stable modes and graviton**

$\phi_s, \gamma_{ab}$

$$T_{ab} = T_{ab}^{(s)} + T_{ab}^{(u)} + t_{ab}$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

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**Environment - Stable modes and graviton**

$\phi_s, \gamma_{ab}$

$$T_{ab} = T_{ab}^{(s)} + T_{ab}^{(u)} + t_{ab}$$

$$S_{\text{int}}[\phi, \gamma_{ab}] \equiv \frac{\kappa}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} T_{ab}^{(s)} \gamma^{ab} + \frac{\kappa}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} T_{ab}^{(u)} \gamma^{ab} + \frac{\kappa}{2} \int_{\mathcal{M}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} t_{ab} \gamma^{ab}$$

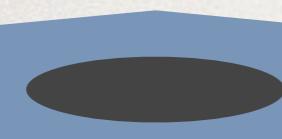
# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

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- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



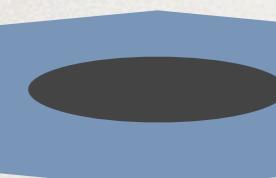
$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

$$\hat{\varrho}(0) = \hat{\varrho}_s(0) \otimes \hat{\varrho}_u(0) \otimes \hat{\varrho}_\gamma(0),$$

**Initial state of the full system**

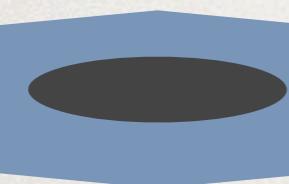
$$\hat{\varrho}_s(0) = |0_s\rangle\langle 0_s|$$

$$\hat{\varrho}_u(0) = |0_u\rangle\langle 0_u|$$

$$\hat{\varrho}_\gamma(0) = \text{thermal state with temperature } T$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

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$$\hat{\varrho}(0) = \hat{\varrho}_s(0) \otimes \hat{\varrho}_u(0) \otimes \hat{\varrho}_\gamma(0),$$

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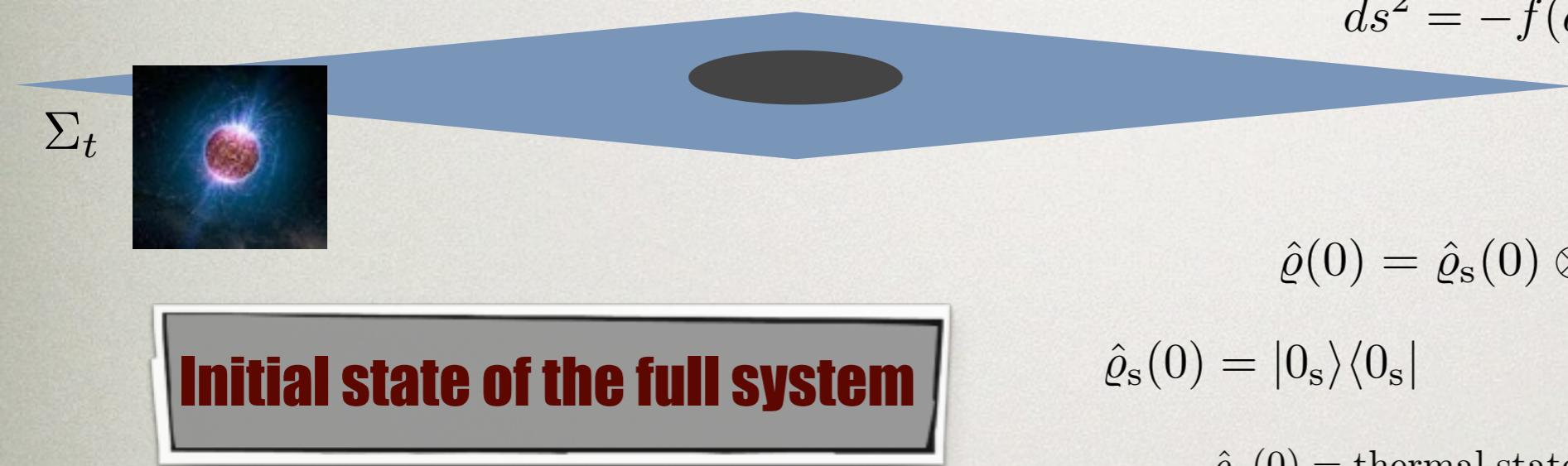
$$\hat{\varrho}_u(0) = |0_u\rangle\langle 0_u|$$

$$\hat{\varrho}_\gamma(0) = \text{thermal state with temperature } T$$

$$\hat{\rho}(0) \xrightarrow{\hat{U}_{u\gamma s}(t)} \hat{\rho}(t)$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

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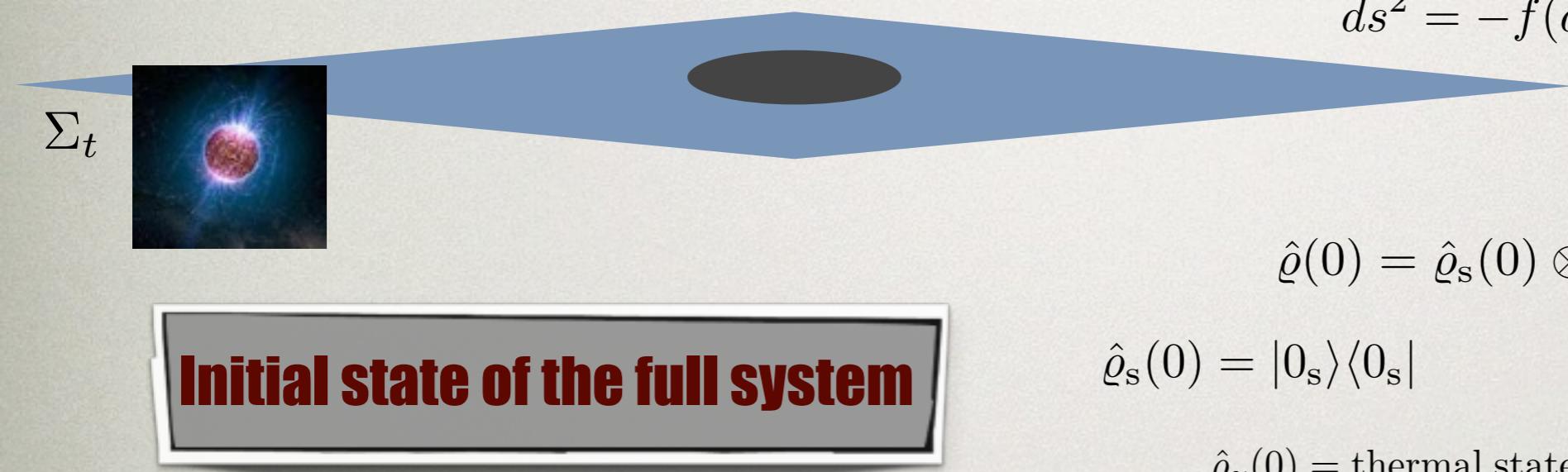
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$$\hat{\rho}(0) \xrightarrow{\hat{U}_{u\gamma s}(t)} \hat{\rho}(t) \xrightarrow{\text{trace out the environment}}$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

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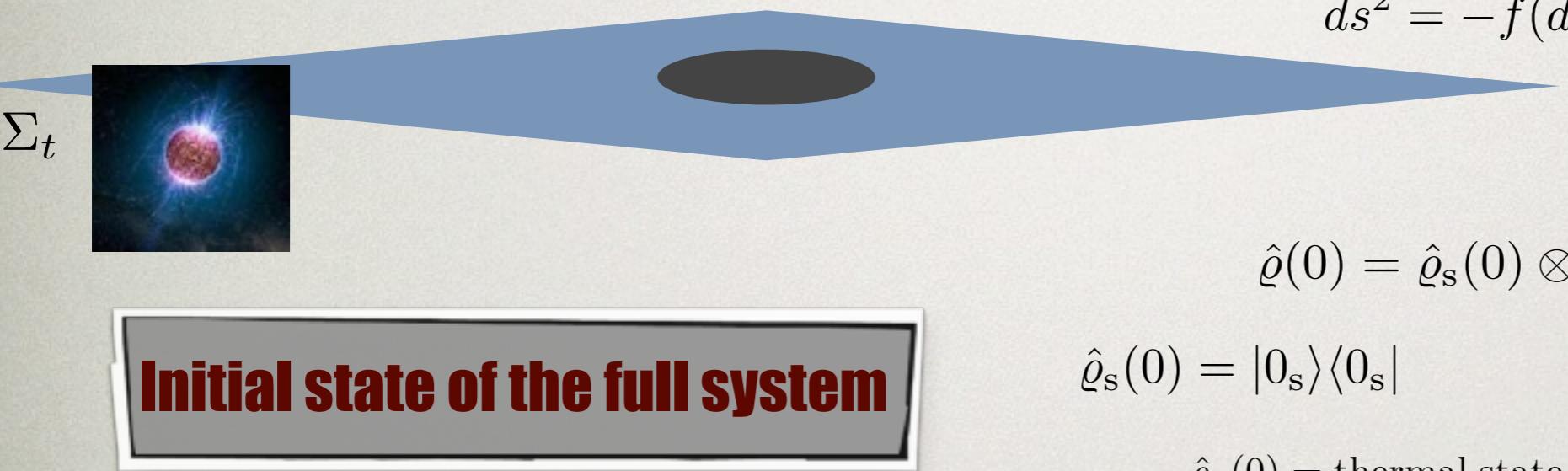
$$\hat{\rho}_s(0) = |0_s\rangle\langle 0_s| \quad \hat{\rho}_u(0) = |0_u\rangle\langle 0_u|$$

$\hat{\rho}_\gamma(0)$  = thermal state with temperature  $T$

$$\hat{\rho}(0) \xrightarrow{\hat{U}_{u\gamma s}(t)} \hat{\rho}(t) \xrightarrow{\text{trace out the environment}} \hat{\rho}_u(t) = \text{tr}_{\gamma s} \hat{\rho}(t)$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

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$$\hat{\rho}(0) \xrightarrow{\hat{U}_{u\gamma s}(t)} \hat{\rho}(t)$$

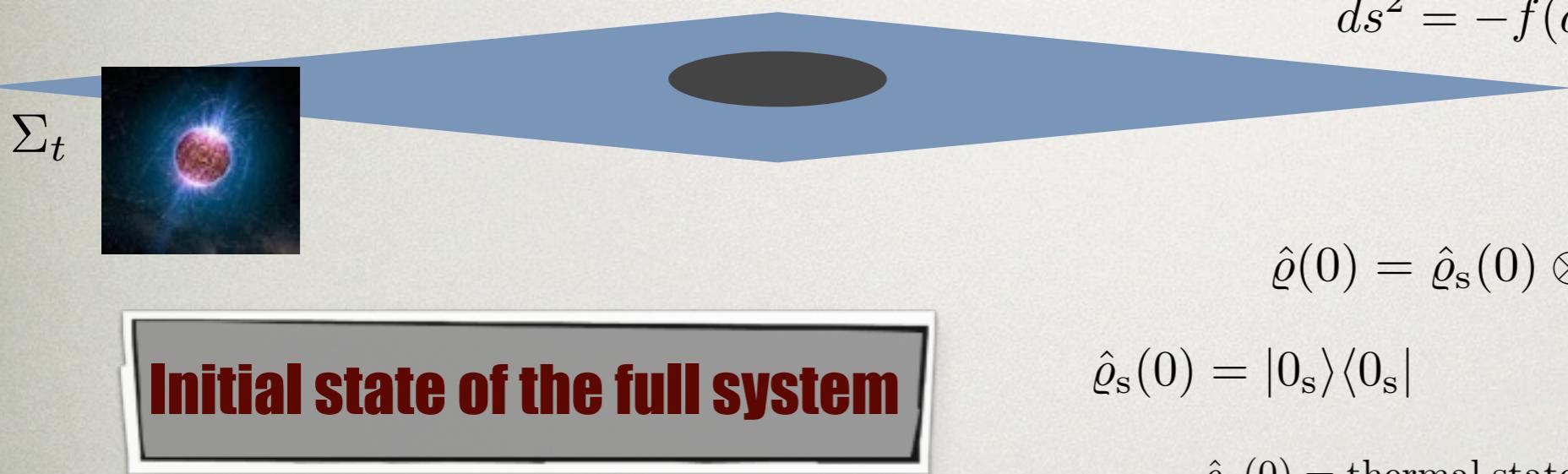
trace out the  
environment

$$\hat{\rho}_u(t) = \text{tr}_{\gamma s} \hat{\rho}(t)$$

$$\varrho_u(0, \psi_u, \psi'_u) \equiv \langle \psi_u | \hat{\rho}_u(0) | \psi'_u \rangle$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

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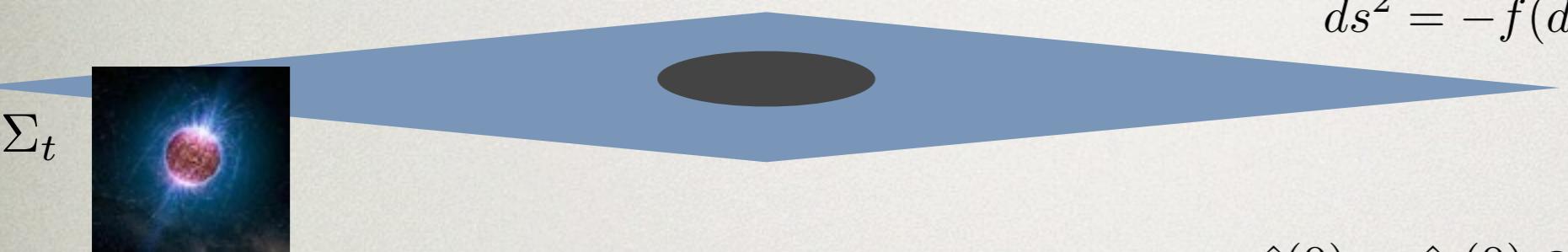
$$\varrho_u(0, \psi_u, \psi'_u) \equiv \langle \psi_u | \hat{\rho}_u(0) | \psi'_u \rangle$$

$$\varrho_{\text{red}}(t, \varphi_u, \varphi'_u) = \int d\psi_u d\psi'_u \varrho_u(0, \psi_u, \psi'_u) \times J_{\text{red}}(t, \varphi_u, \varphi'_u; 0, \psi_u, \psi'_u), \quad \hat{\phi}_u(0, \mathbf{x}) |\psi_u\rangle = \psi_u(\mathbf{x}) |\psi_u\rangle$$

$$J_{\text{red}}(t, \varphi_u, \varphi'_u; 0, \psi_u, \psi'_u) \equiv \int_{\psi_u}^{\varphi_u} \mathcal{D}\phi_u \int_{\psi'_u}^{\varphi'_u} \mathcal{D}\phi'_u e^{i\{S_\phi[\phi_u] - S_\phi[\phi'_u]\}} F[\phi_u, \phi'_u]$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

**Initial state of the full system**

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$\hat{\rho}_\gamma(0)$  = thermal state with temperature  $T$

$$\hat{\rho}(0) \xrightarrow{U_{u\gamma s}(t)} \hat{\rho}(t) \xrightarrow{\text{trace out the environment}}$$

$$\hat{\rho}_u(t) = \text{tr}_{\gamma s} \hat{\rho}(t)$$

**Feynman-Vernon Influence Functional**

$$\varrho_u(0, \psi_u, \psi_{u'}) = \langle \psi_{u'} | \hat{\phi}_u(0) | \psi_u \rangle$$

$$\hat{\phi}_u(0, \mathbf{x}) |\psi_u\rangle = \psi_u(\mathbf{x}) |\psi_u\rangle$$

$$\varrho_{\text{red}}(t, \varphi_u, \varphi_{u'}) = \int d\psi_u d\psi_{u'} \varrho_u(0, \psi_u, \psi_{u'}) \times J_{\text{red}}(t, \varphi_u, \varphi_{u'}; 0, \psi_u, \psi_{u'}),$$

$$J_{\text{red}}(t, \varphi_u, \varphi_{u'}; 0, \psi_u, \psi_{u'}) \equiv \int_{\psi_u}^{\varphi_u} \mathcal{D}\phi_u \int_{\psi_{u'}}^{\varphi_{u'}} \mathcal{D}\phi_{u'} e^{i\{S_\phi[\phi_u] - S_\phi[\phi_{u'}]\}} F[\phi_u, \phi_{u'}]$$

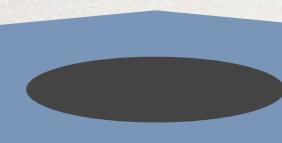
# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

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- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



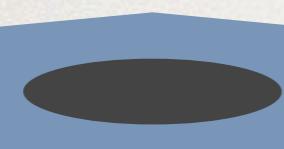
$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

**Long-time regime and high  
temperature limit**

$$\Omega t \gg 1$$

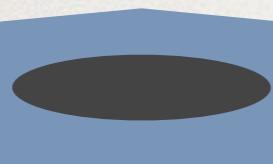
$$k_B T \gg \Omega$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



$$ds^2 = -f(dt^2 - d\chi^2) + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2)$$

**Long-time regime and high temperature limit**

**Master equation for the state of the unstable mode**

$$\Omega t \gg 1 \quad k_B T \gg \Omega$$

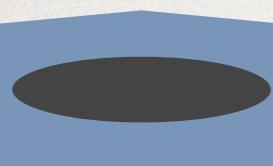
$$\partial_t \varrho_{\text{red}} \approx -i \left[ \frac{1}{2}(-\partial_q^2 + \partial_{q'}^2) - \frac{\Omega^2}{2}(q^2 - q'^2) \right] \varrho_{\text{red}} - D(q - q')^2 \varrho_{\text{red}} + \dots$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



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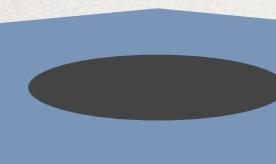
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**Wigner function for the unstable mode**

$$\partial_t W_{\text{red}} \approx \{H(q, p), W_{\text{red}}\} + D\partial_p^2 W_{\text{red}} + \dots$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



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$$\partial_t W_{\text{red}} \approx \{H(q, p), W_{\text{red}}\} + D\partial_p^2 W_{\text{red}} + \dots$$

$$D = 8\pi\Delta \left( \frac{\ell_{\text{P}}}{R} \right)^2 \left( \frac{k_{\text{B}}T}{\Omega} \right) \Omega^2$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



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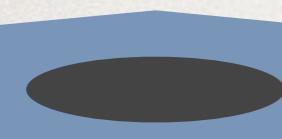
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# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$



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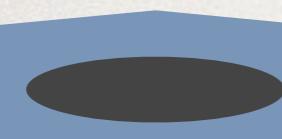
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# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

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$\Sigma_t$



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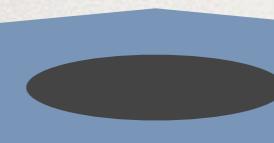
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$$W_{\text{red}}(t > t_d) > 0 \text{ (regardless of the initial state)}$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase

$\Sigma_t$



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- \* Unstable Phase



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- \* For a  $R \sim 10\text{km}$  neutron star and  $T \sim 1\text{K}$

$$t_d \sim 160 \times \Omega^{-1} \sim 160 \times R \quad \text{which is of the order of} \quad t_{\text{br}} \sim 10^{-3} \text{s}$$

# FROM QUANTUM TO CLASSICAL

- \* Unstable Phase



$\Sigma_t$

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Thus, by the time backreaction becomes ineluctable the (unstable sector of the) initially pure vacuum state has evolved into a statistical mixture of (very) localized states in the field amplitude and momentum representation.

$$W_{\text{red}}(t > t_d)$$

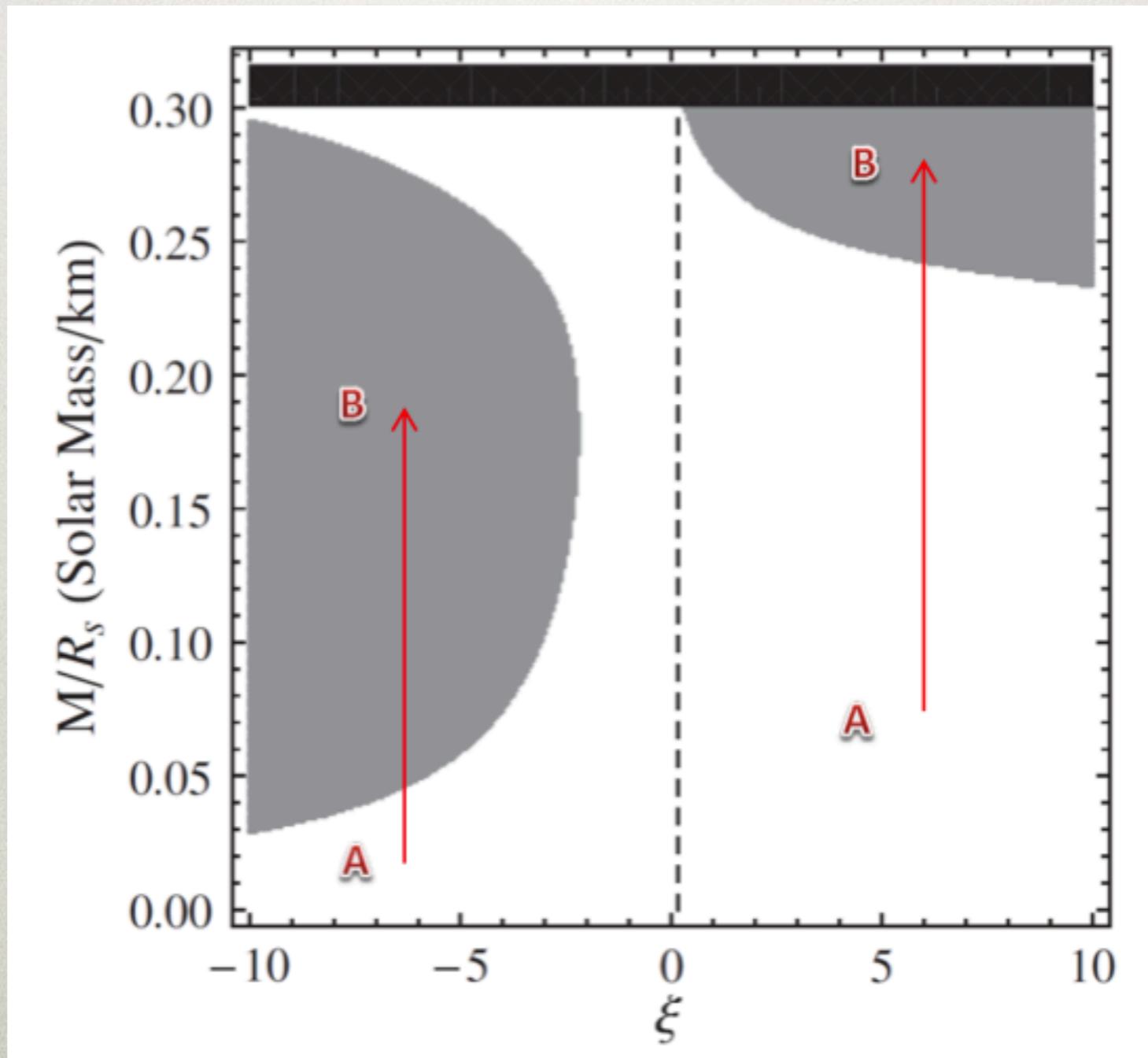
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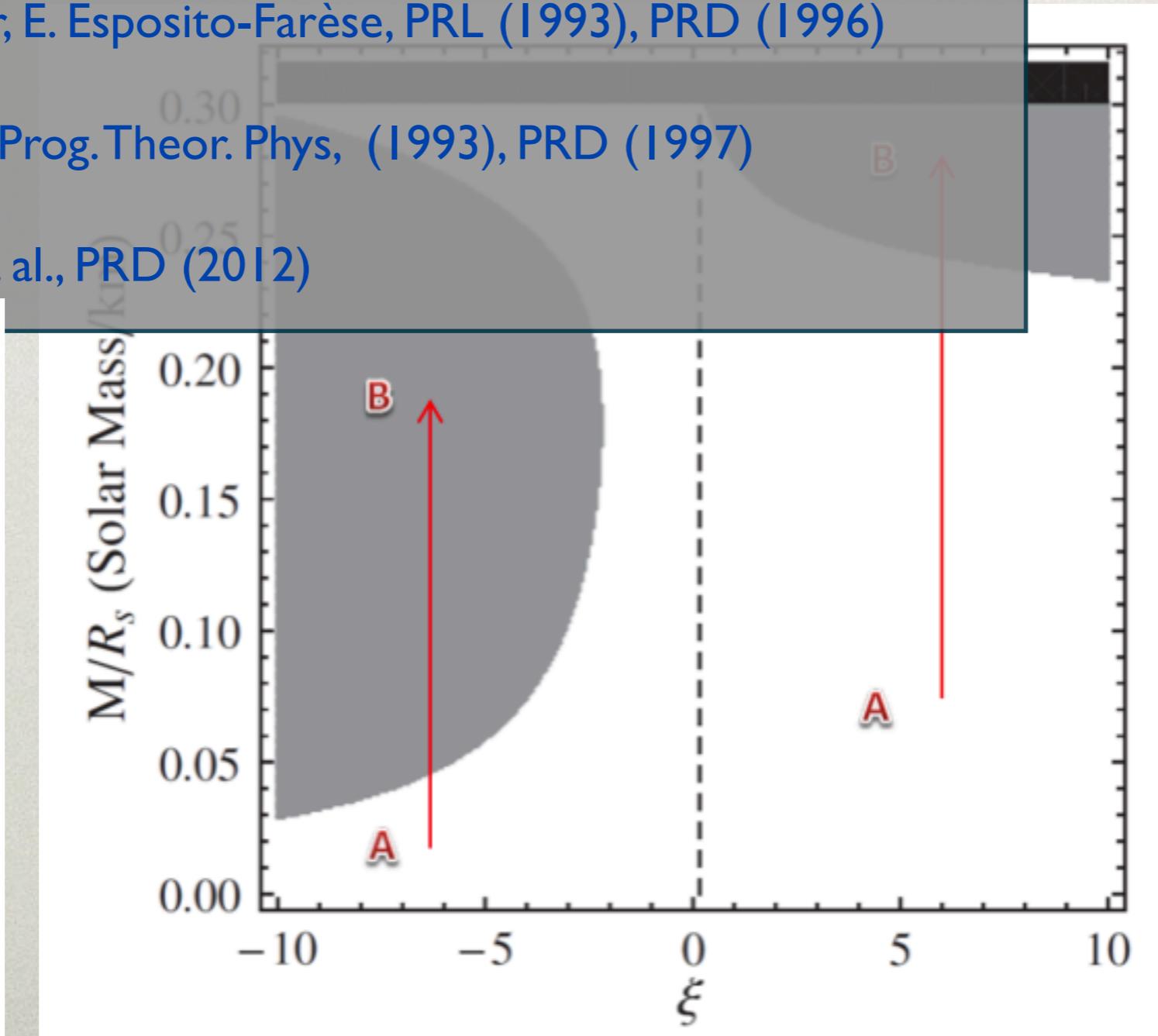
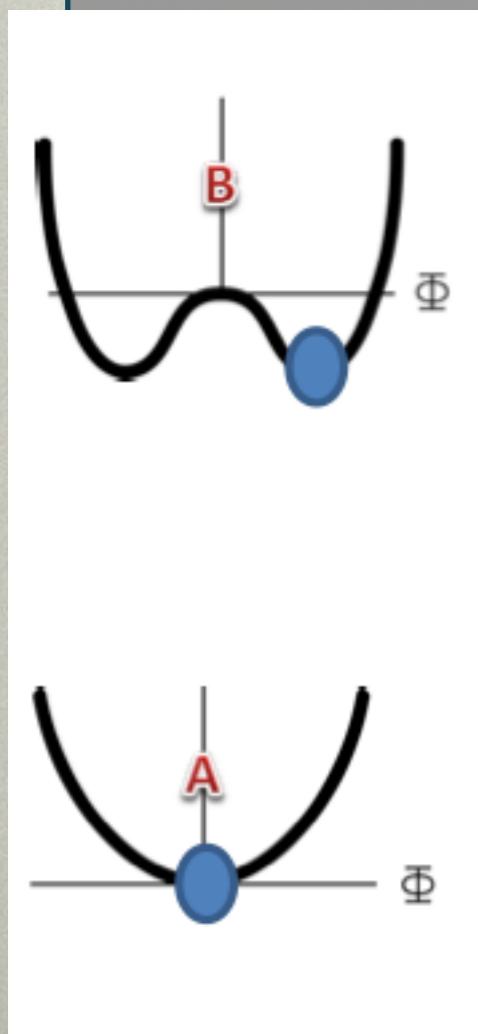
# BACKREACTION

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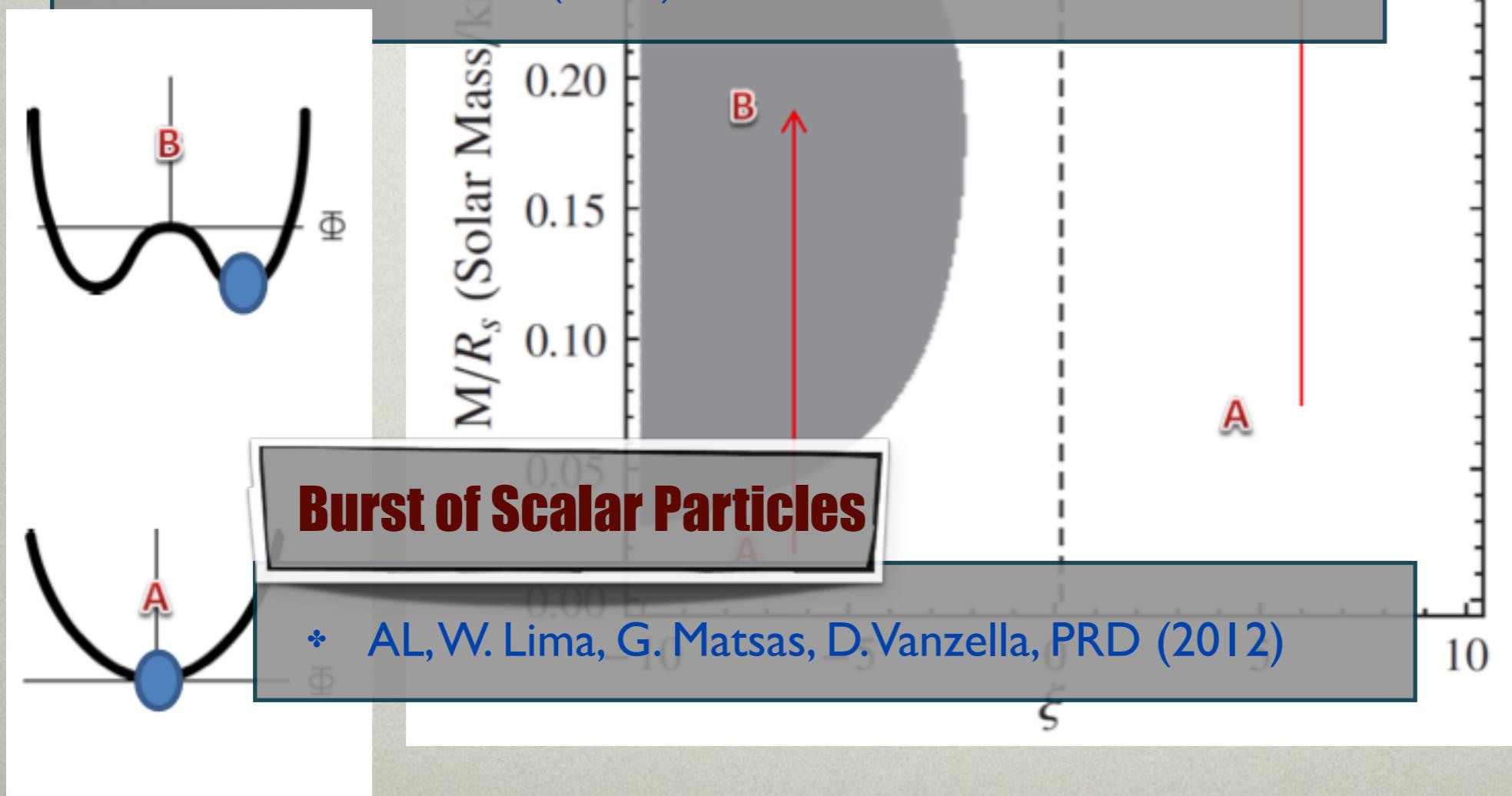
# BACKREACTION

- \* P. Pani, V Cardoso, E. Berti, J. Read, and M. Salgado, PRD (2011)
- \* T. Damour, E. Esposito-Farèse, PRL (1993), PRD (1996)
- \* T. Harada, Prog. Theor. Phys, (1993), PRD (1997)
- \* M. Ruiz et. al., PRD (2012)



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- \* M. Ruiz et. al., PRD (2012)

- \* R. Mendes and N. Ortiz, PRD (2016)

