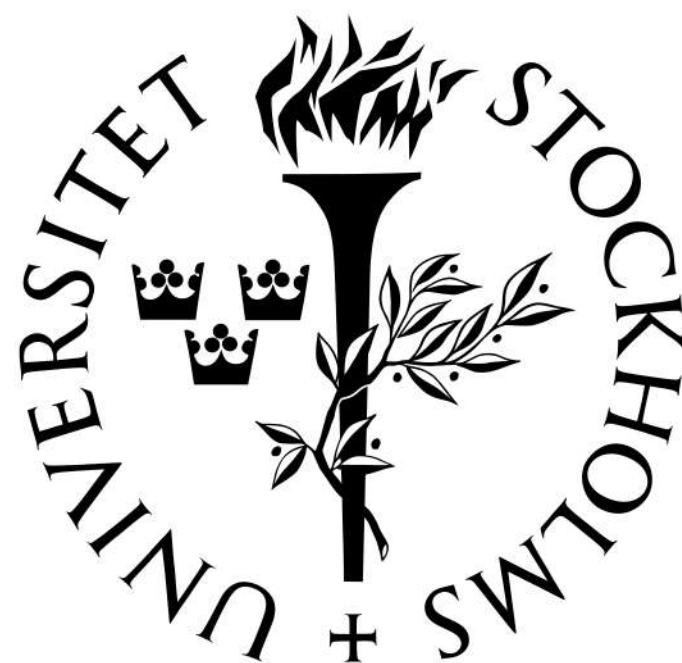


Aperiodic quantum chains for discrete holography on hyperbolic tilings

Giuseppe Di Giulio

Oskar Klein Center, Stockholm University

Workshop *Quasicrystals in Fundamental Physics*, International Centre
for Mathematical Sciences, Edinburgh, 20 July 2026



Main motivation: holographic dualities

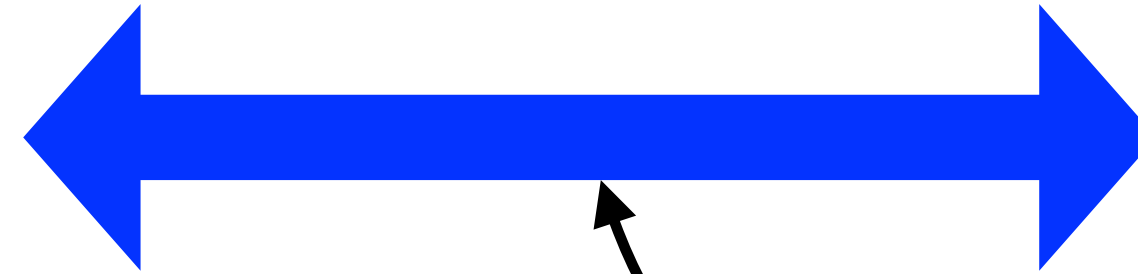
Quantum gravity theory in a (d+1)-dimensional spacetime $\mathcal{M}_{d+1}$



Quantum theory without gravity on $\partial\mathcal{M}_{d+1}$

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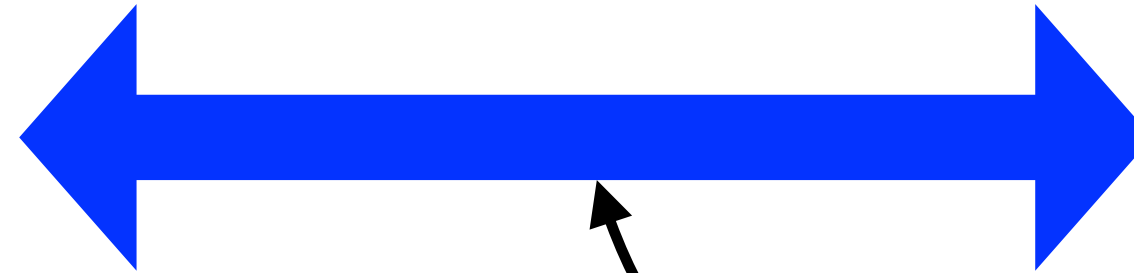


Quantum theory without gravity on $\partial\mathcal{M}_{d+1}$

Holographic principle [['t Hooft '93](#); [Susskind '95](#)]

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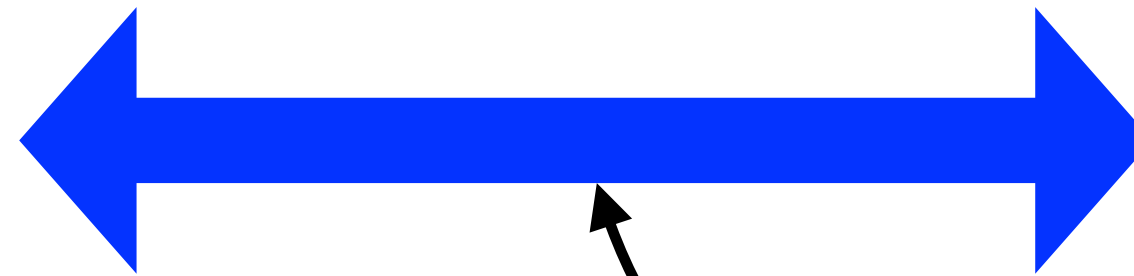
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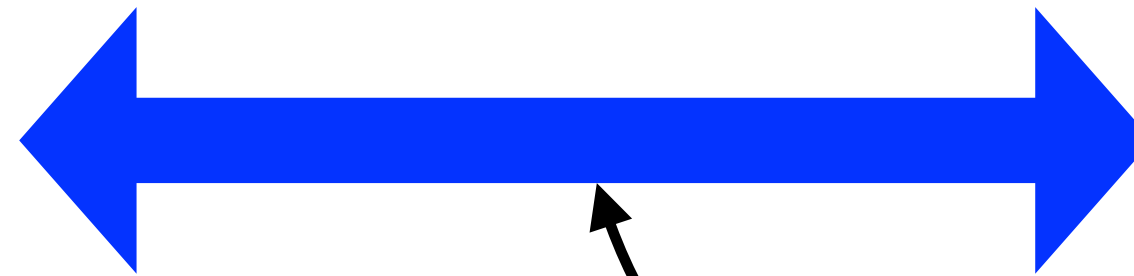
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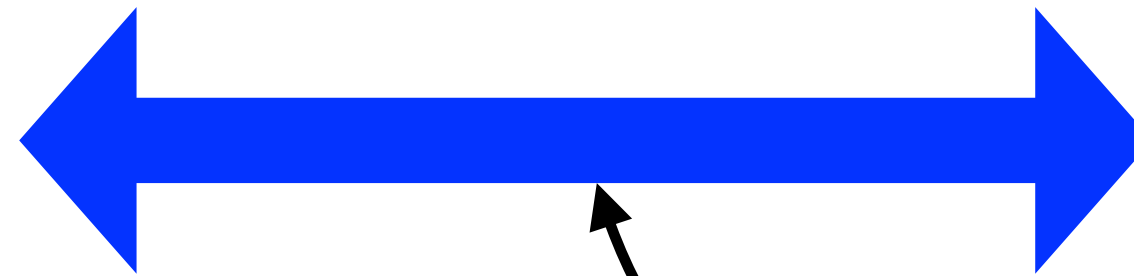
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Discrete Holography:

Is it possible to establish a duality between a theory on a discretised AdS and a theory defined on its boundary?

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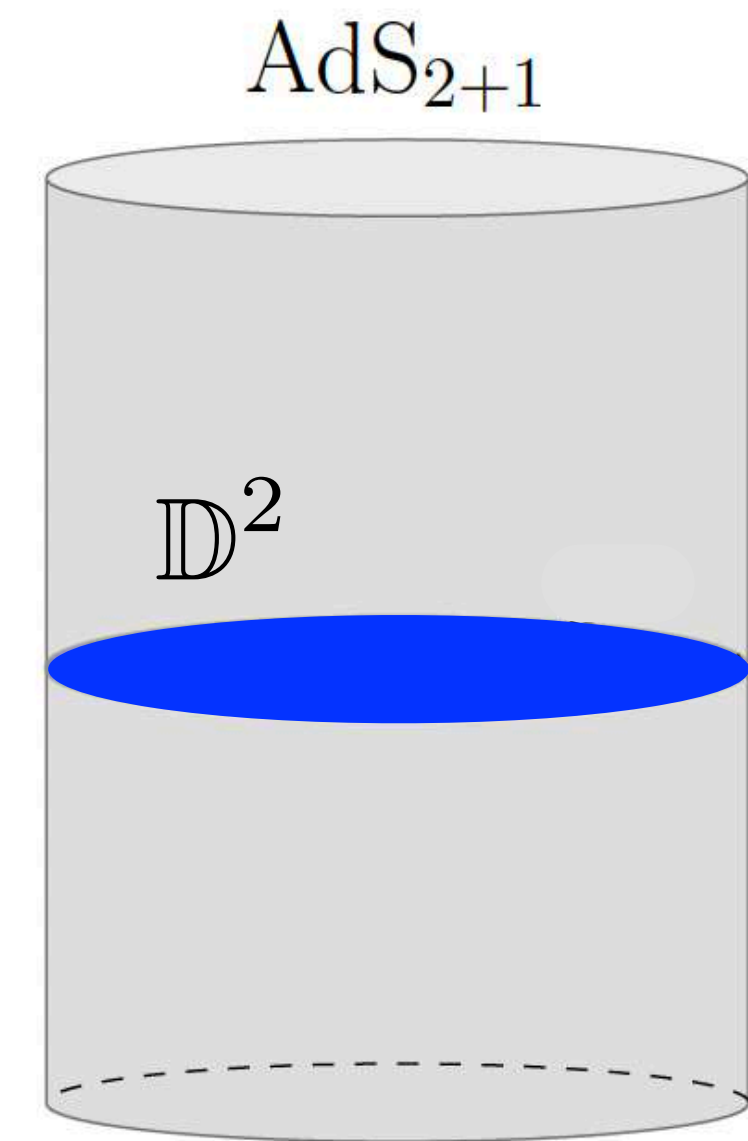
Is it possible to establish a duality between a theory on a discretised AdS and a theory defined on its boundary?

Proposals in the literature: p-adic AdS/CFT [[Gubser, Knaute, Parikh, Samberg, Witaszczyk '16](#); [Heydeman, Marcolli, Saberi, Stoica '16](#)], modular discretization of two-dimensional AdS [[Axenides, Floratos, Nicolis '14](#) and ['19](#)]

Regular hyperbolic tilings of the Poincaré disk

Consider AdS_{2+1} and fix a constant time slice: Poincaré disk

The discrete bulk is obtained by discretizing the Poincaré disk as follows:

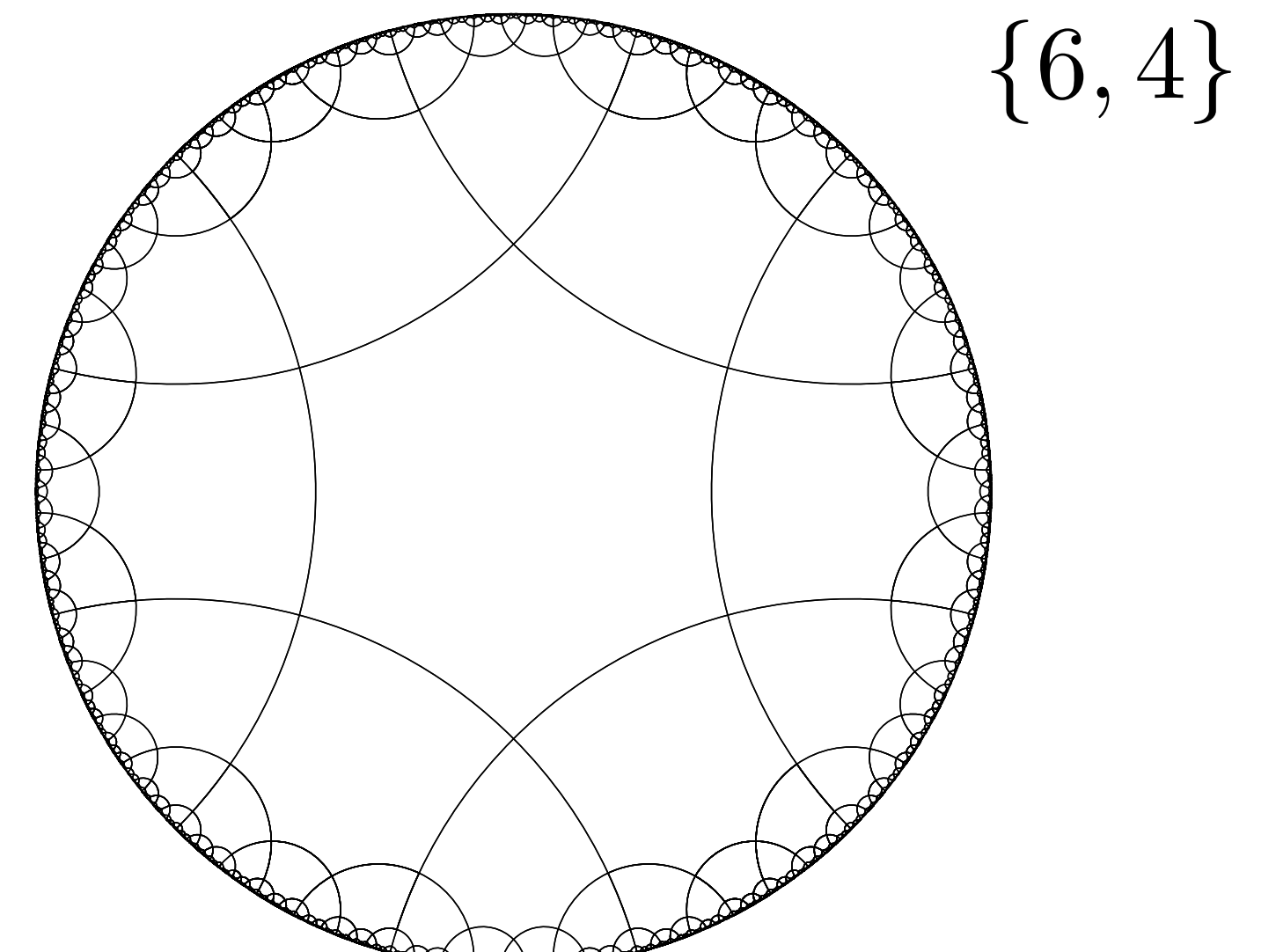
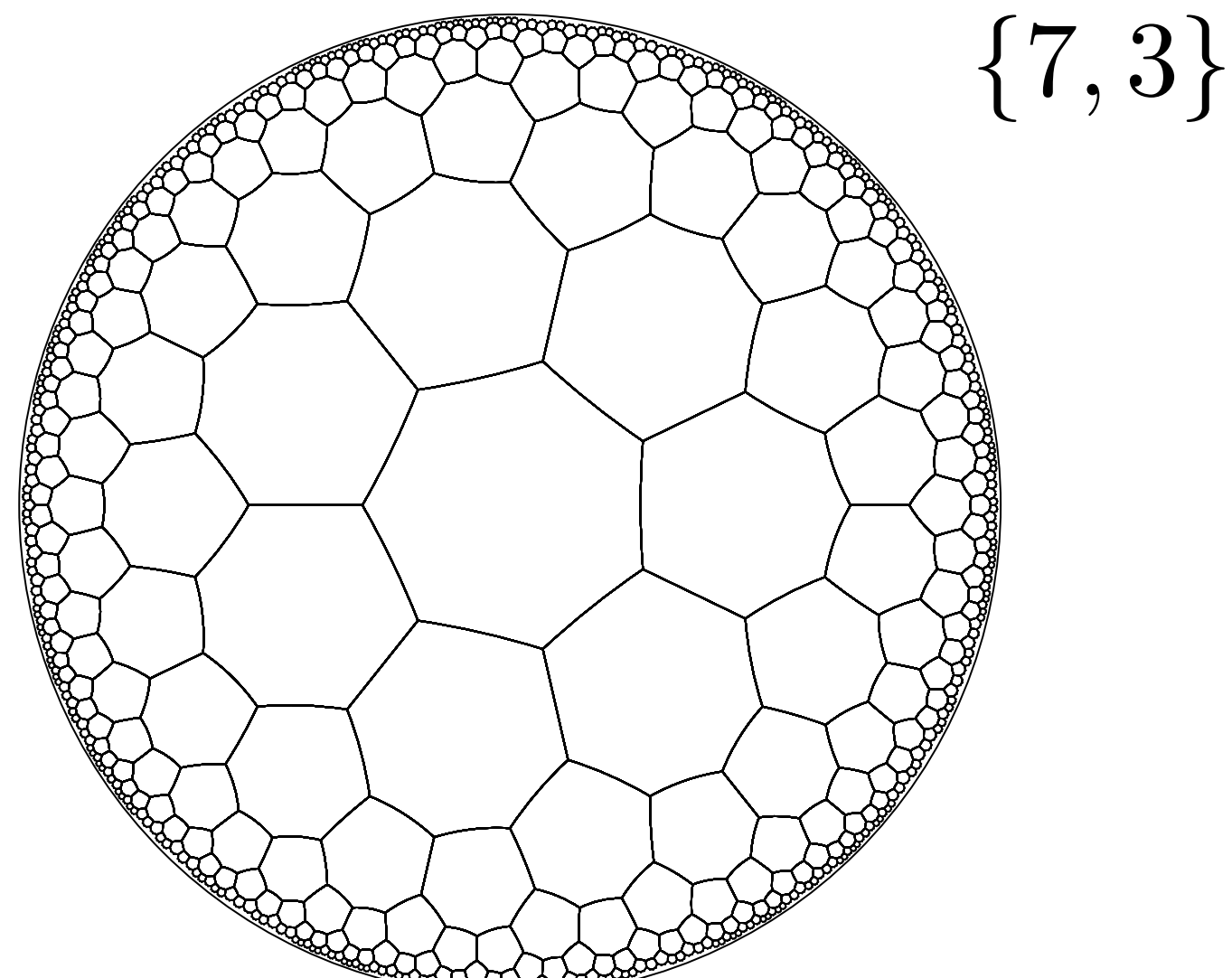
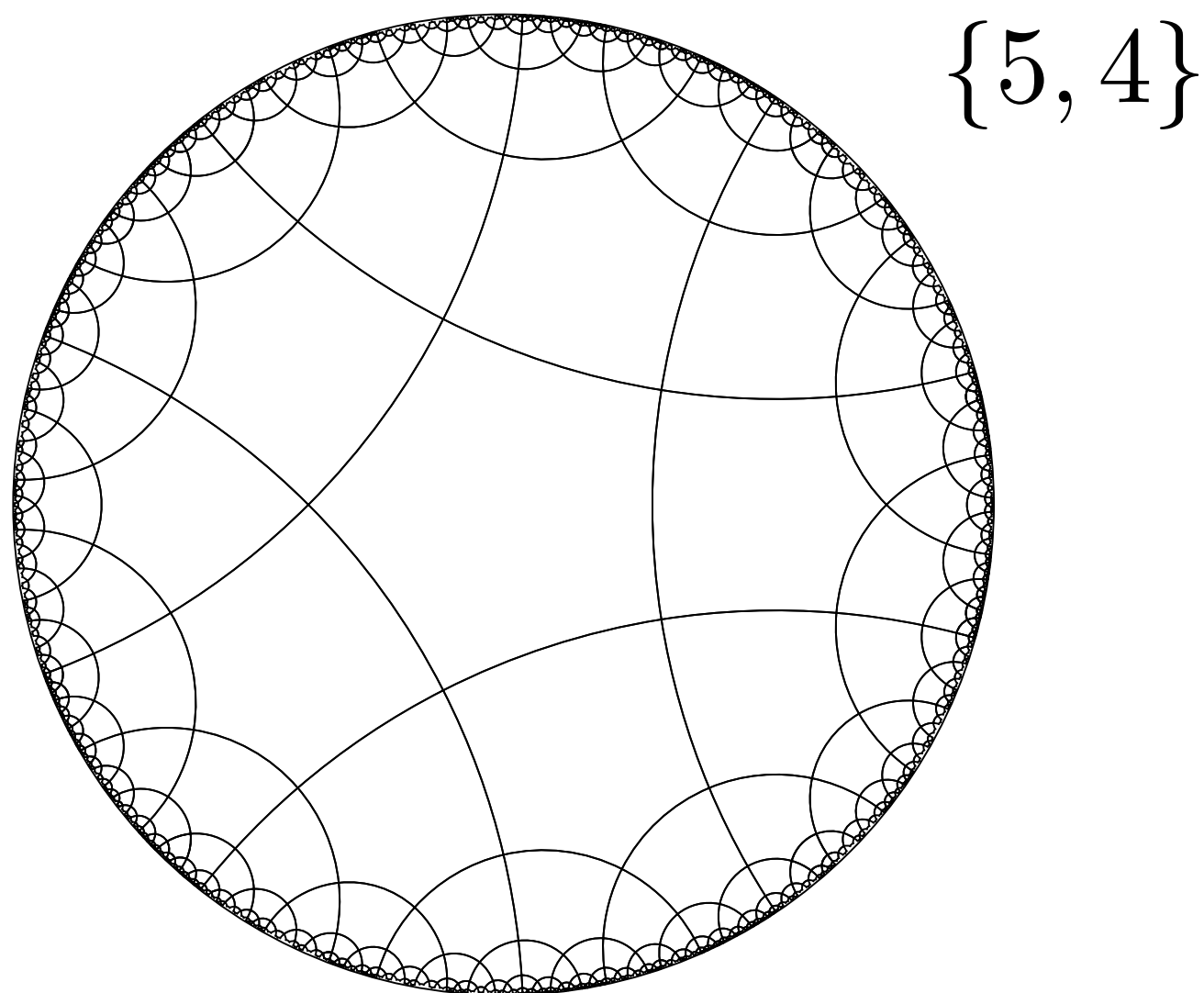
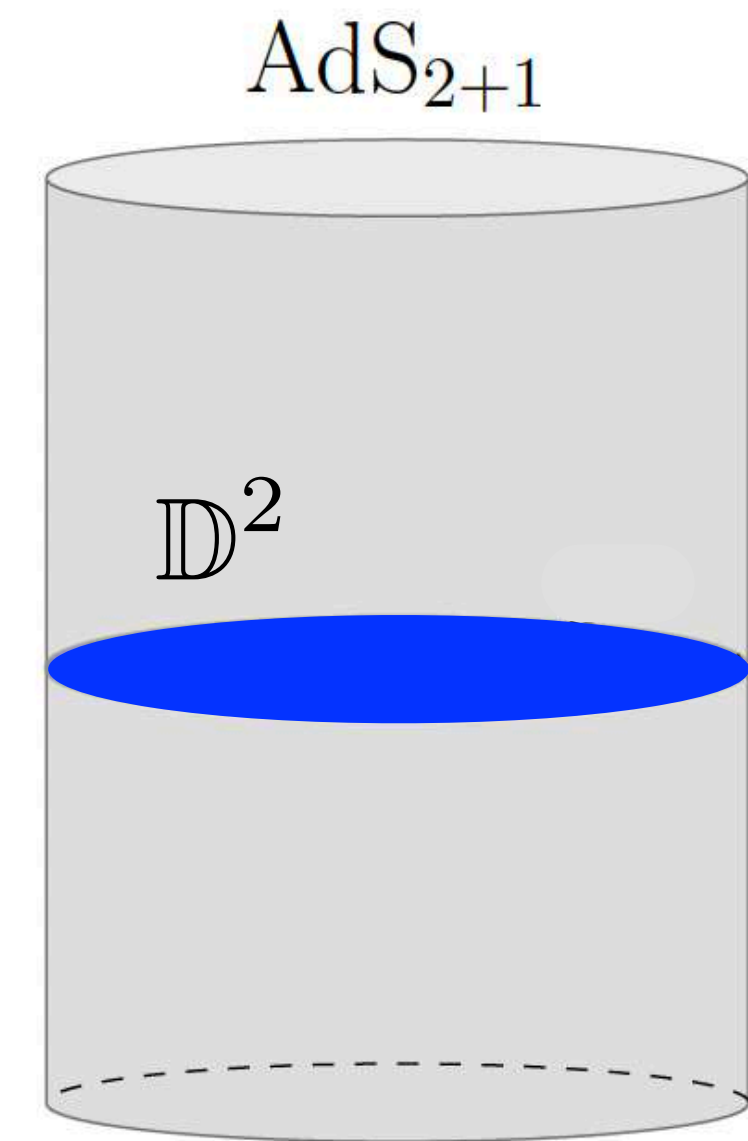


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Regular hyperbolic tilings $\{p, q\}$: q regular p -gons meet at each vertex



Regular hyperbolic tilings of the Poincaré disk

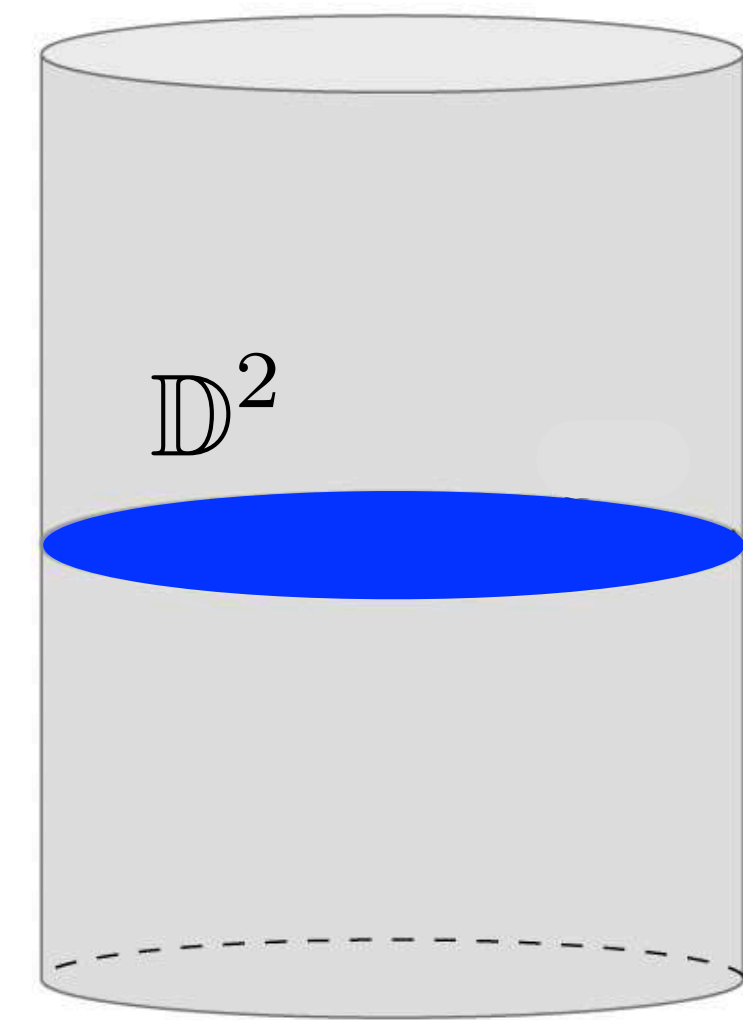
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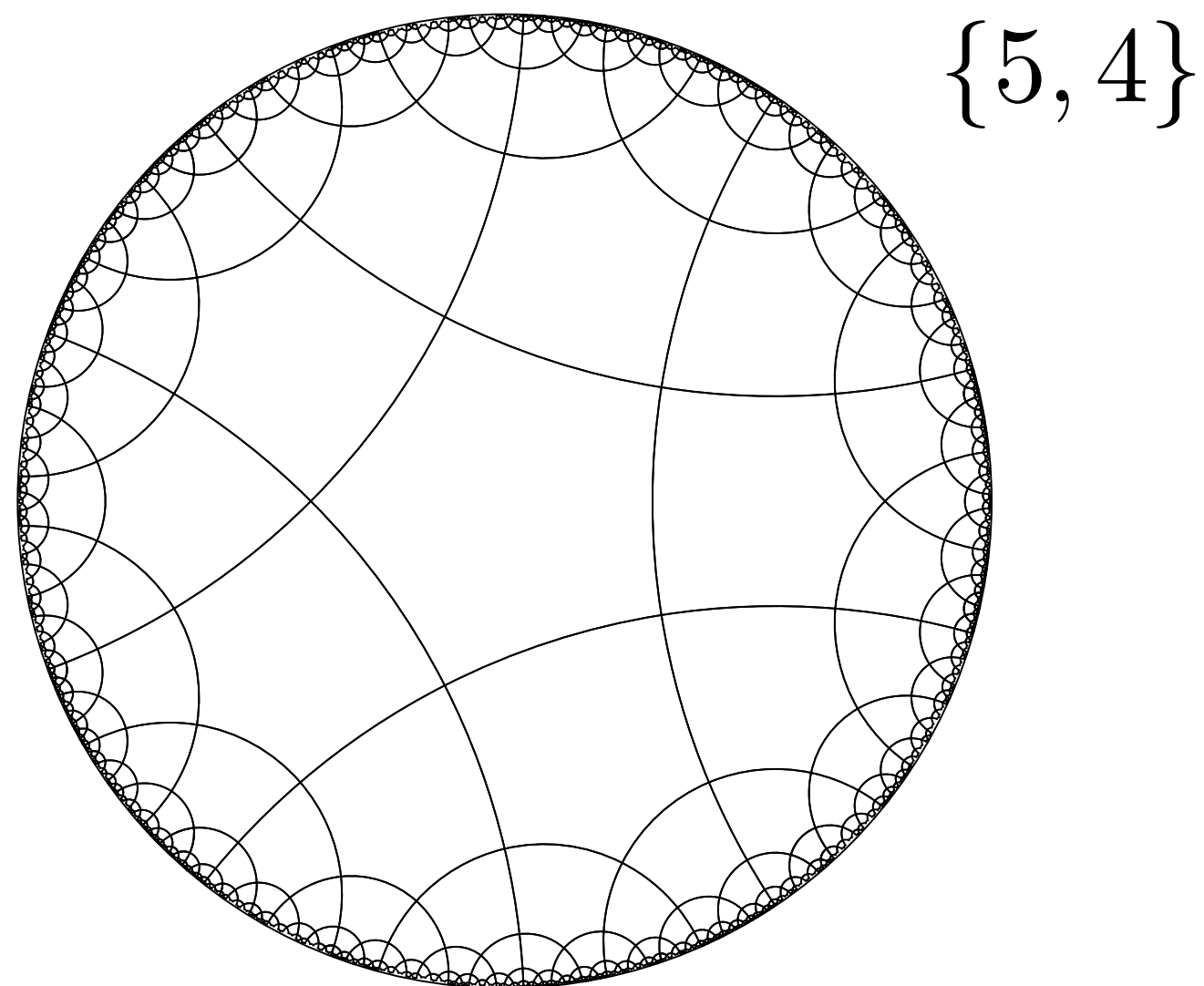
Regular hyperbolic tilings $\{p, q\}$: q regular p -gons meet at each vertex

Tiling of hyperbolic space if $(p - 2)(q - 2) > 4$

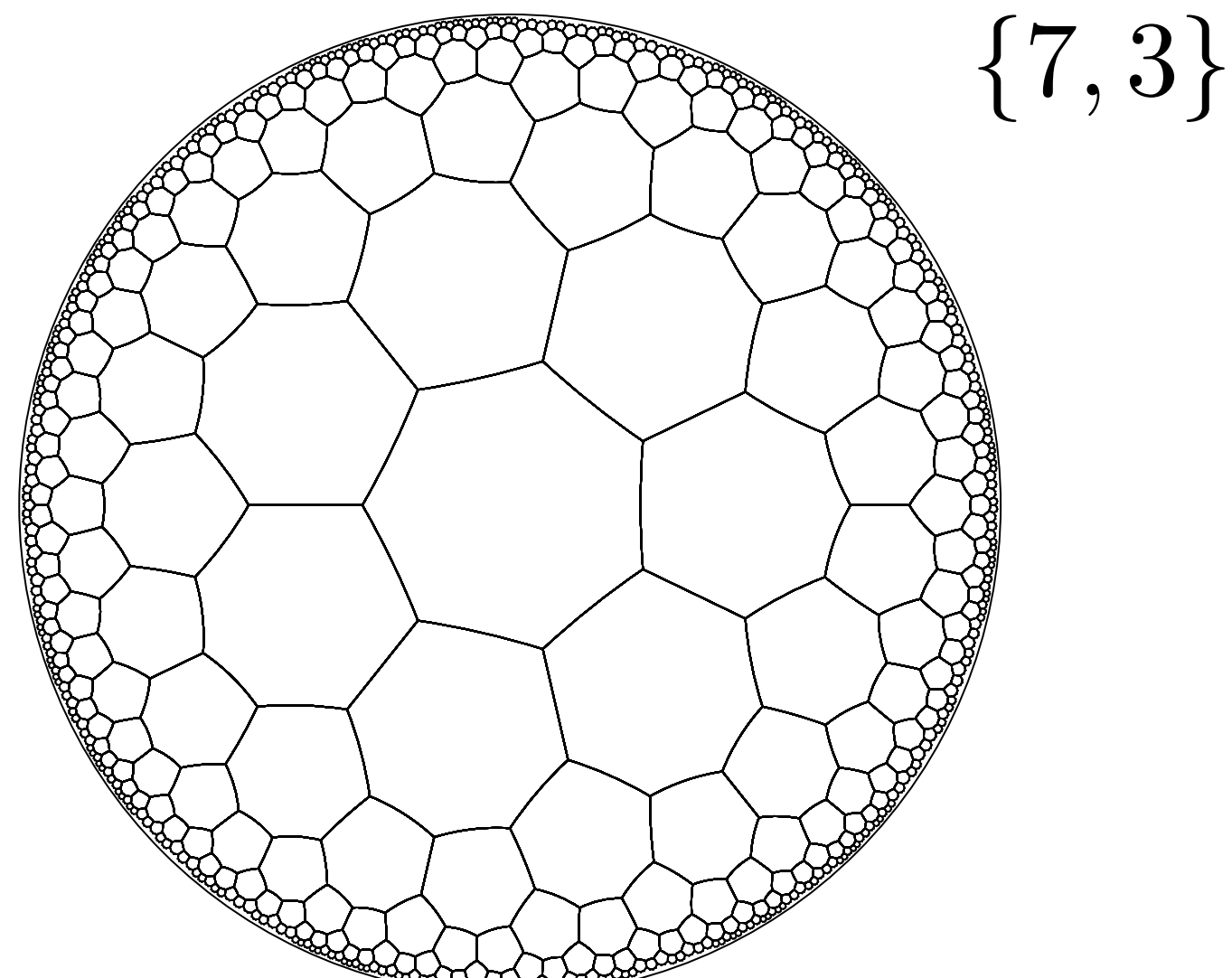
AdS_{2+1}



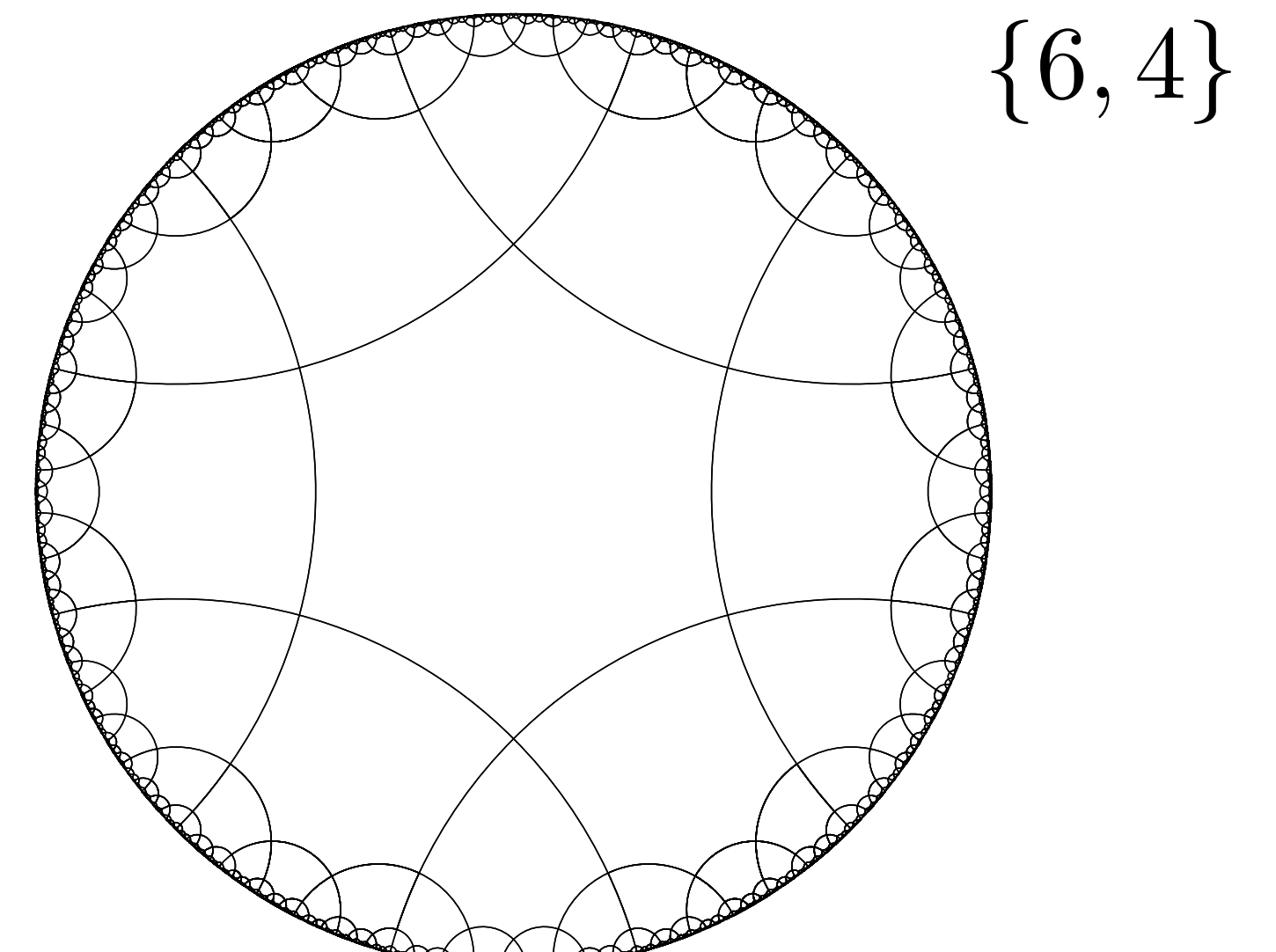
$\mathbb{D}^2$



$\{5, 4\}$



$\{7, 3\}$



$\{6, 4\}$

Hyperbolic spaces in a lab

Experimental access to physics
on hyperbolic spaces

- Circuit electrodynamics

[Kollár, Fitzpatrick, Houck, '19]

[Bienias, Boettcher, Belyansky,
Kollár, Gorshkov, '22]

- Classical electric circuits

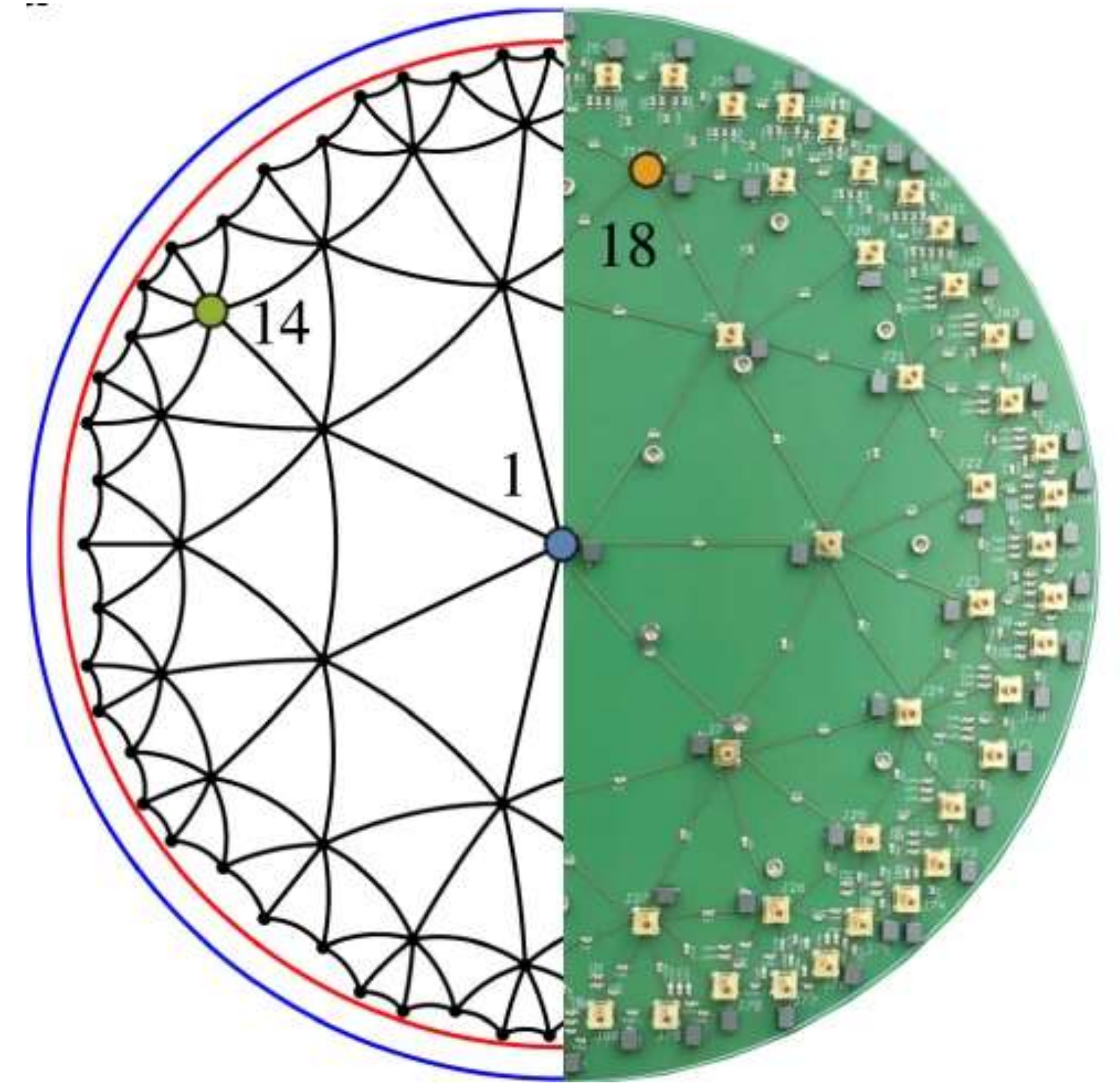
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Figures from
[Lenggenhager *et al*, '22]

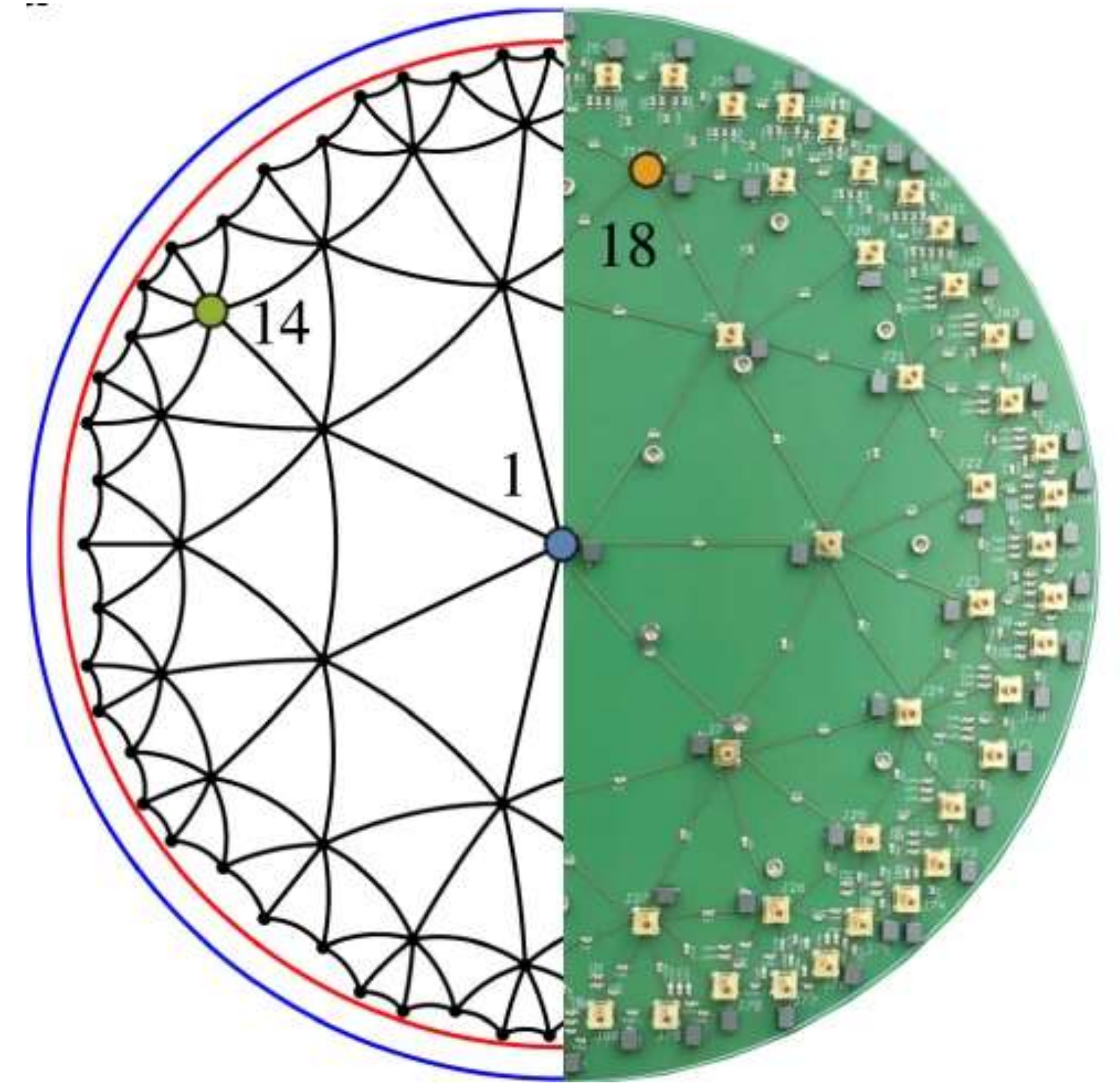


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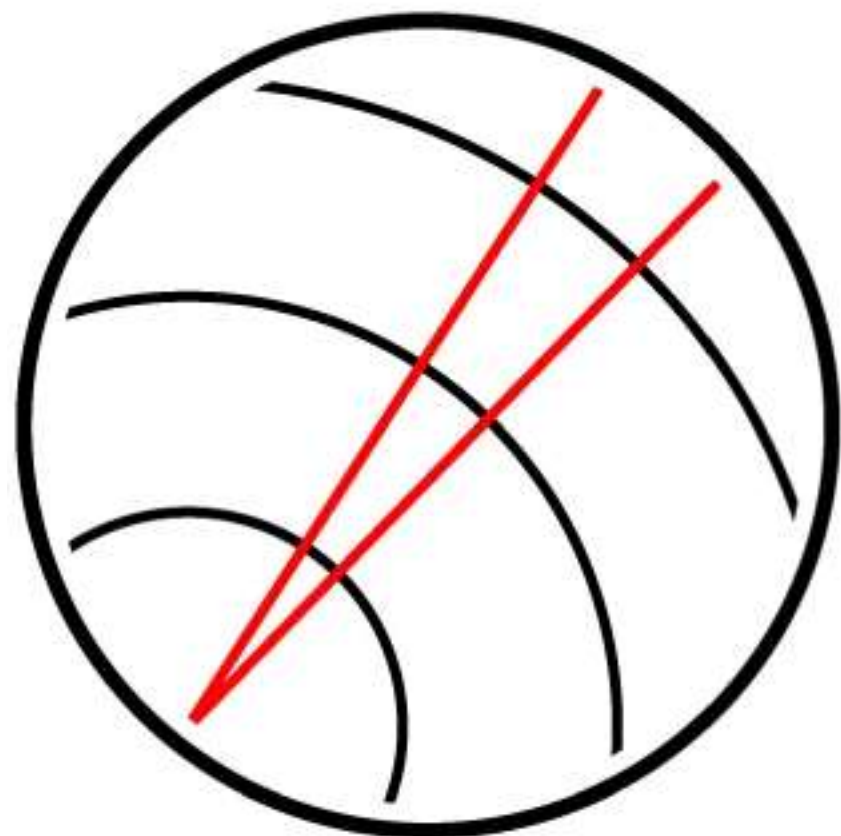
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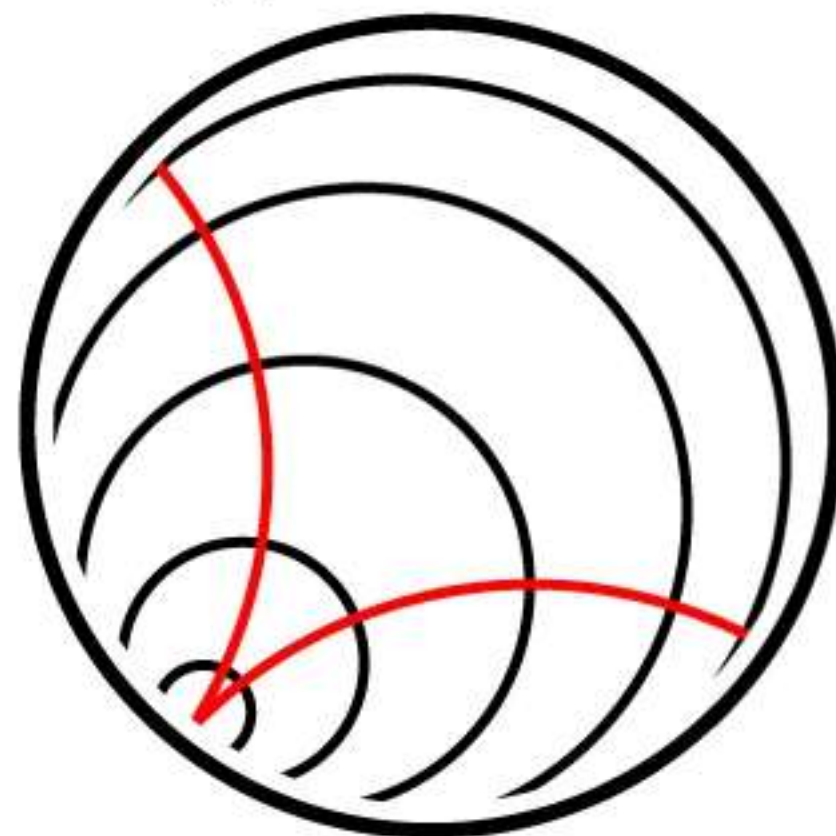
Figures from
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Euclidean drum



Hyperbolic drum

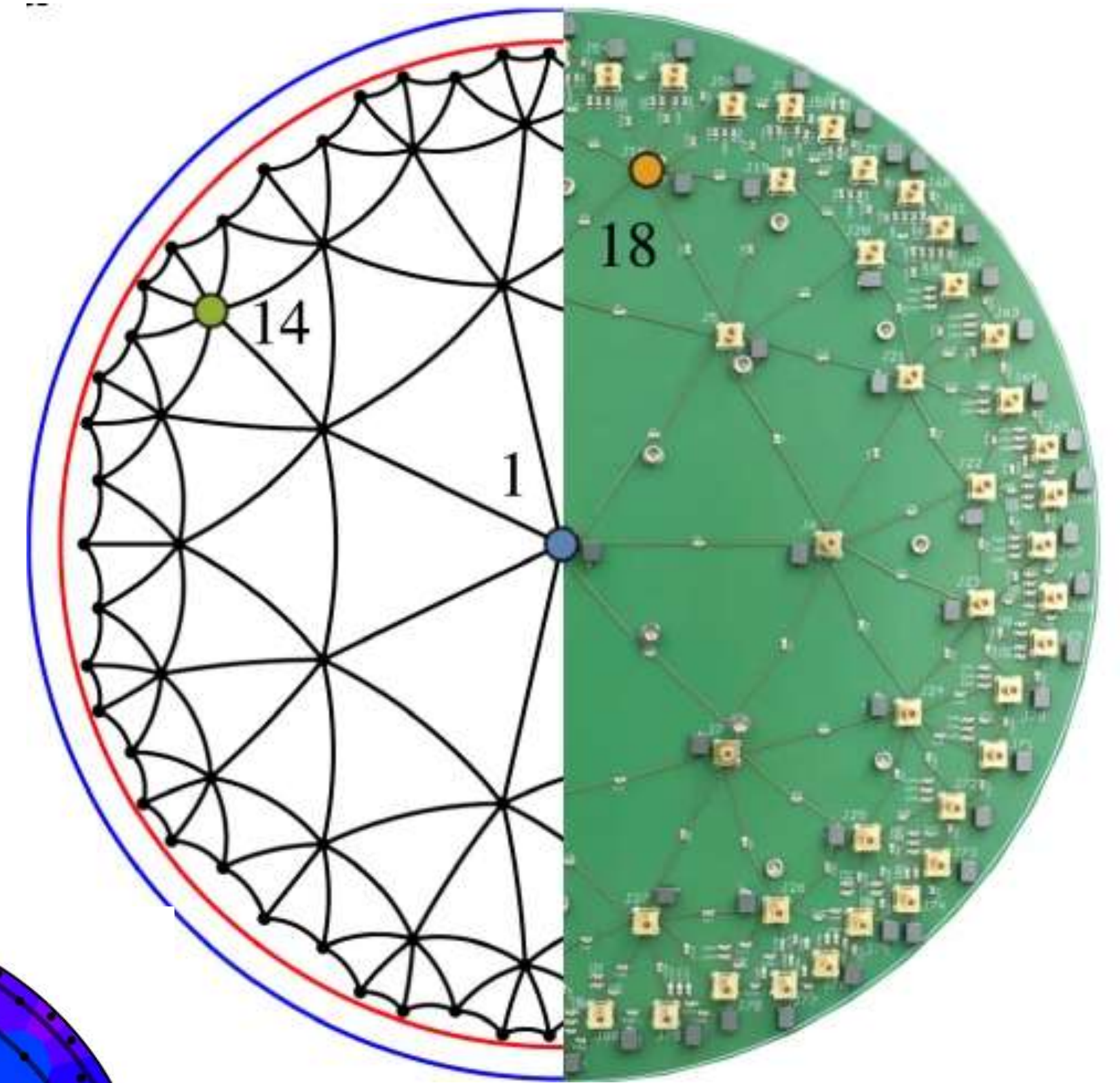


Hyperbolic spaces in a lab

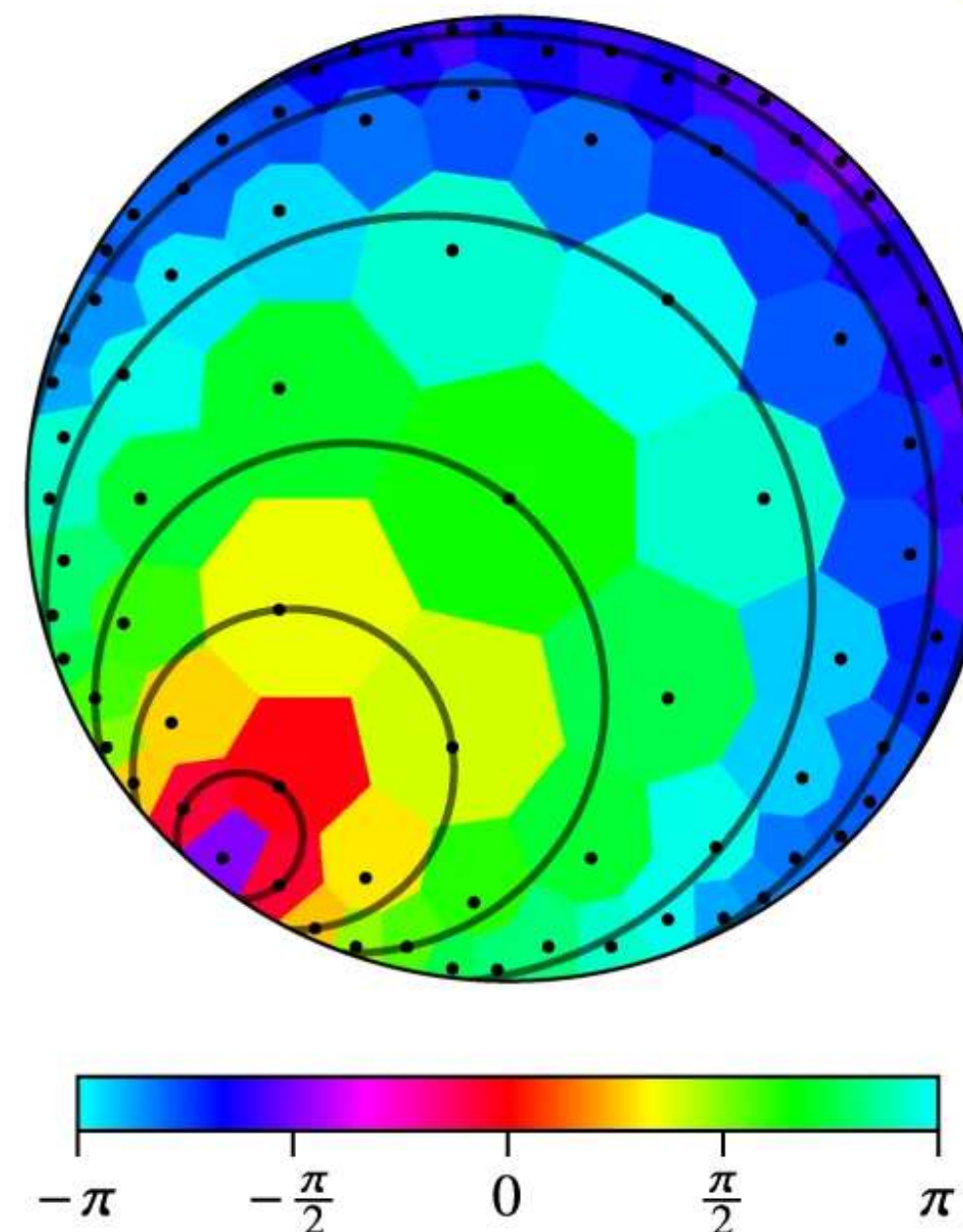
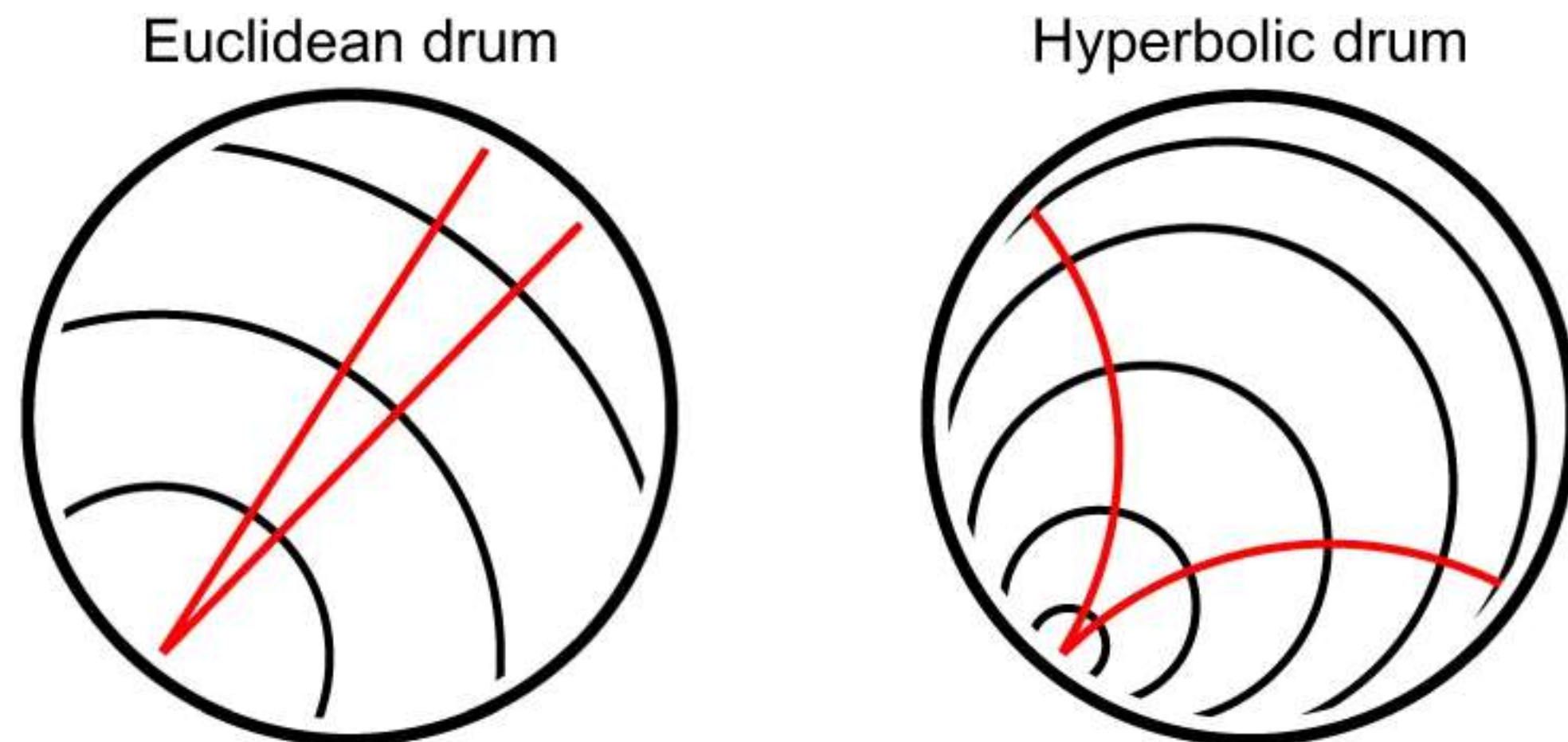
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Figures from
[Lenggenhager *et al*, '22]



**Realization of effects
peculiar to hyperbolic
geometries in a lab**



Hyperbolic tilings: a multidisciplinary playground

Experimental realizations

Experimental access to physics on hyperbolic spaces

- Circuit electrodynamics
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[Bienias, Boettcher, Belyansky, Kollár, Gorshkov, '22]
- Classical electric circuits
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Tensor network models

[Jahn, Gluza, Pastawski, Eisert, 2019]
[Jahn, Zimborás, Eisert, '20]

Tests of AdS/CFT on hyperbolic tilings

- Correlation functions [Asaduzzaman, Catterall, Hubisz, Nelson, Unmuth-Yockey, '20] [Brower, Cogburn, Owen, '22]
[Dey, Basteiro, *et al.* '24]
- Breitenlohner-Freedmann bound
[Asaduzzaman, Catterall, Hubisz, Nelson, Unmuth-Yockey, '20] [Basteiro, Dusel, Erdmenger, Herdt, Hinrichsen, Meyer, Schaut, '22]

Condensed matter theory

- Lattice models on hyperbolic tilings
[Chen *et al.*, '22] [Breuckmann, Placke, Roy, '22]
- Bloch theory in hyperbolic lattices
[Boettcher, Gorshkov, Kollár, Maciejko, Rayan, Thomale, '22] [Maciejko, Rayan, '21, '22]

Mathematics

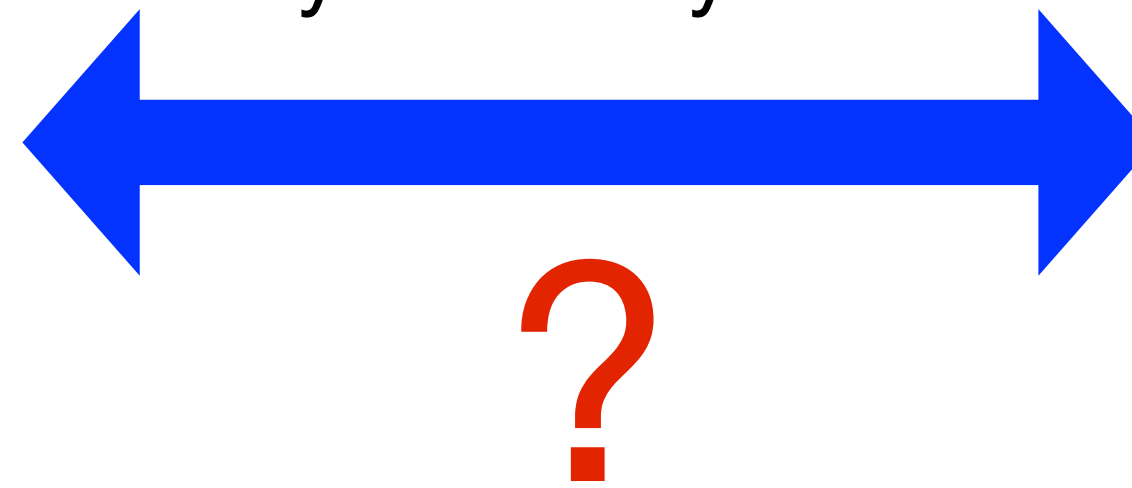
- Fuchsian groups and representation theory
[Katok, '92]
- Gromov-hyperbolic spaces and hyperbolic buildings
[Gesteau, Marcolli, Parikh, '22]

In this talk...

If an explicit discrete holographic duality on hyperbolic tilings holds, we expect

Theory on the discrete
geometry of the tiling

dynamically dual



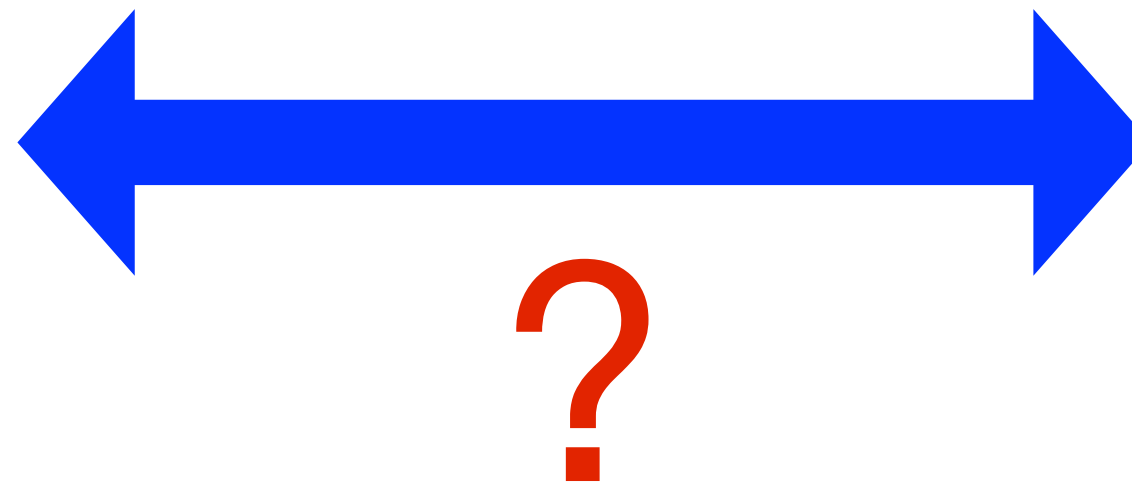
Quantum chain at the
boundary of the tiling

In this talk...

If an explicit discrete holographic duality on hyperbolic tilings holds, we expect

Fixed discrete
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Ground state of the
boundary chain

First step in this program

In this talk...

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Fixed discrete
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Ground state of the
boundary chain

?

First step in this program

SciPost Phys. **13** (2022) 103

SciPost Phys. **15** (2023) 218

JHEP **02** (2025) 142

with P. Basteiro, R. N. Das, J. Erdmenger,
J. Karl, R. Meyer, Z.-Y.Xian

In this talk, we define a class of boundary theories
that reflect the properties of the bulk $\{p, q\}$ tiling

Goal: how do different bulk discretizations
affect the corresponding boundary theories?

Outline

- Aperiodic quantum chains at the boundary of hyperbolic tilings
- Ground state and entanglement properties
- Tensor networks as a bulk description from aperiodic chains
- Towards adding a metric in the bulk
- Conclusions and future perspectives

Outline

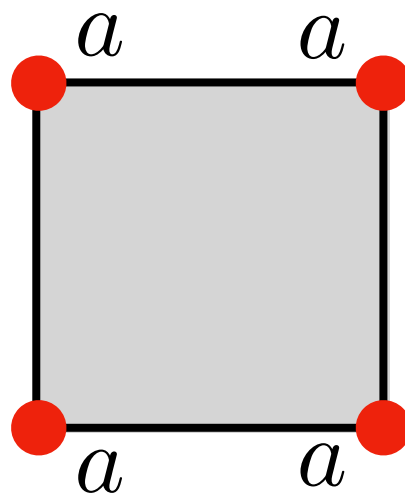
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Hyperbolic tilings through inflation rules

[Boyle, Dickens,
Flicker, 2020]

Let us construct
a $\{4, 5\}$ tiling

● = a
● = b

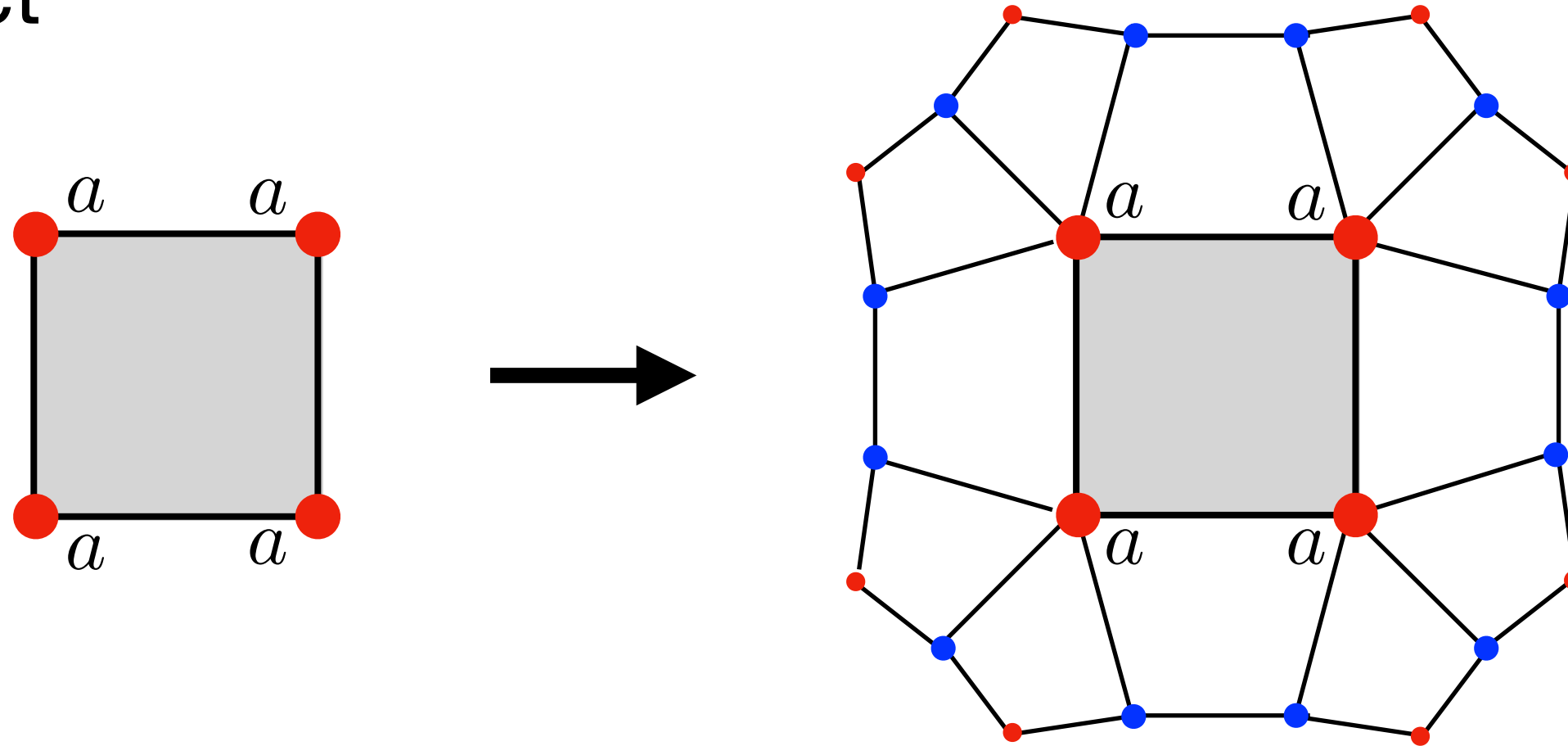


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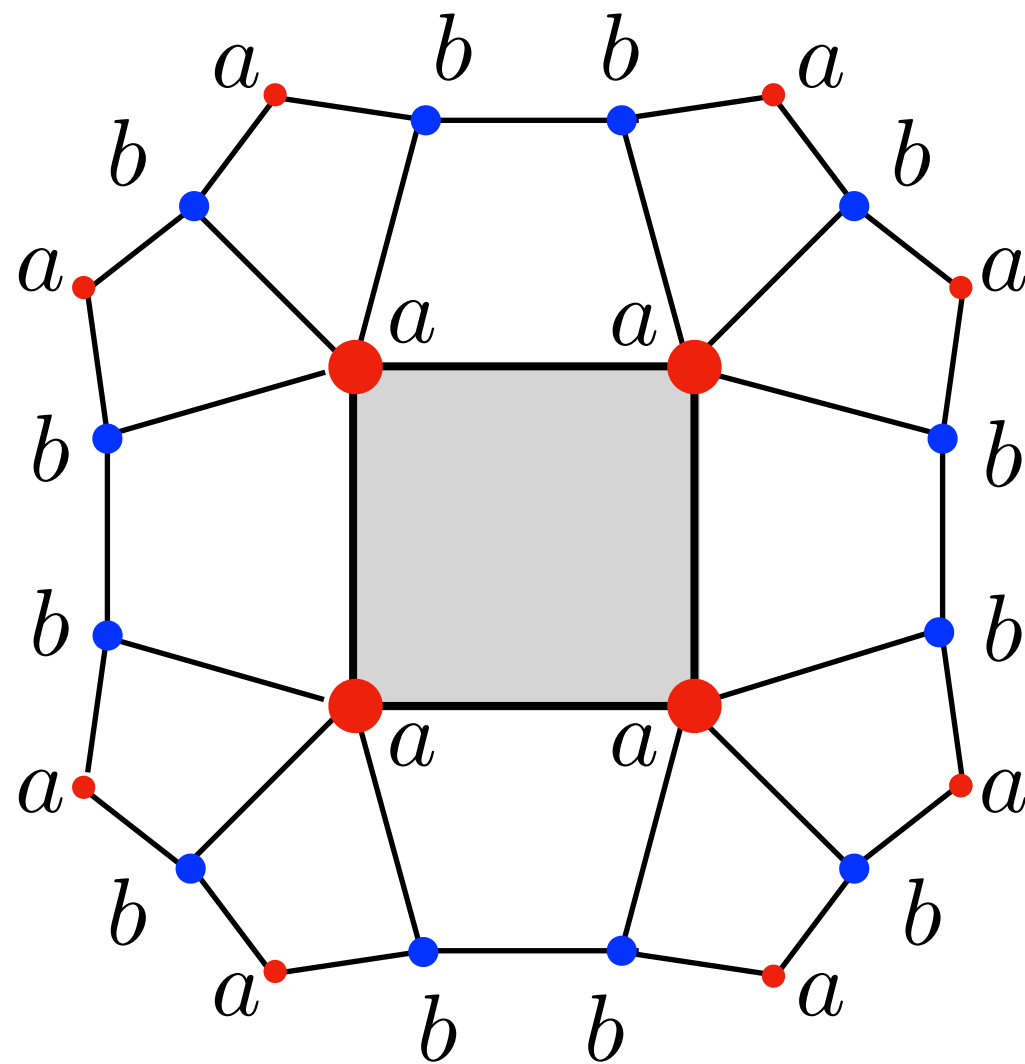
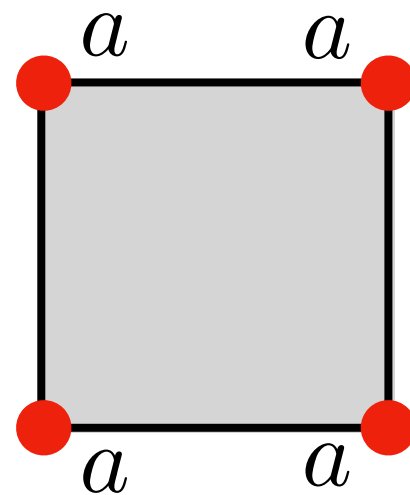


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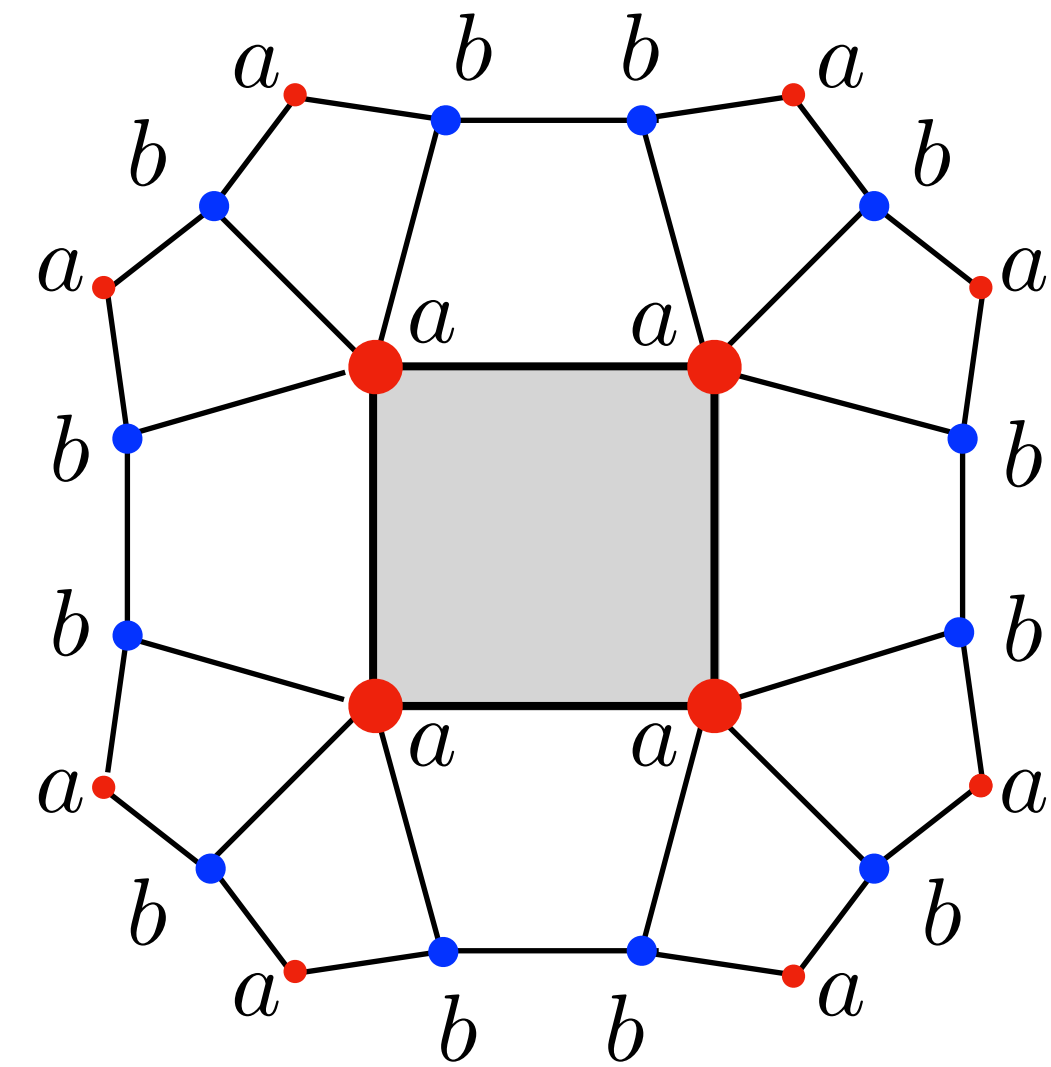
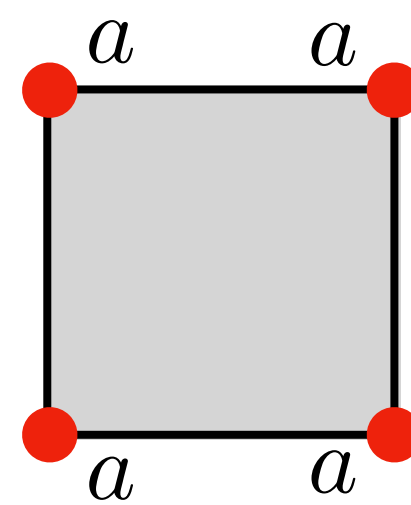
$$a \rightarrow babab$$

Hyperbolic tilings through inflation rules

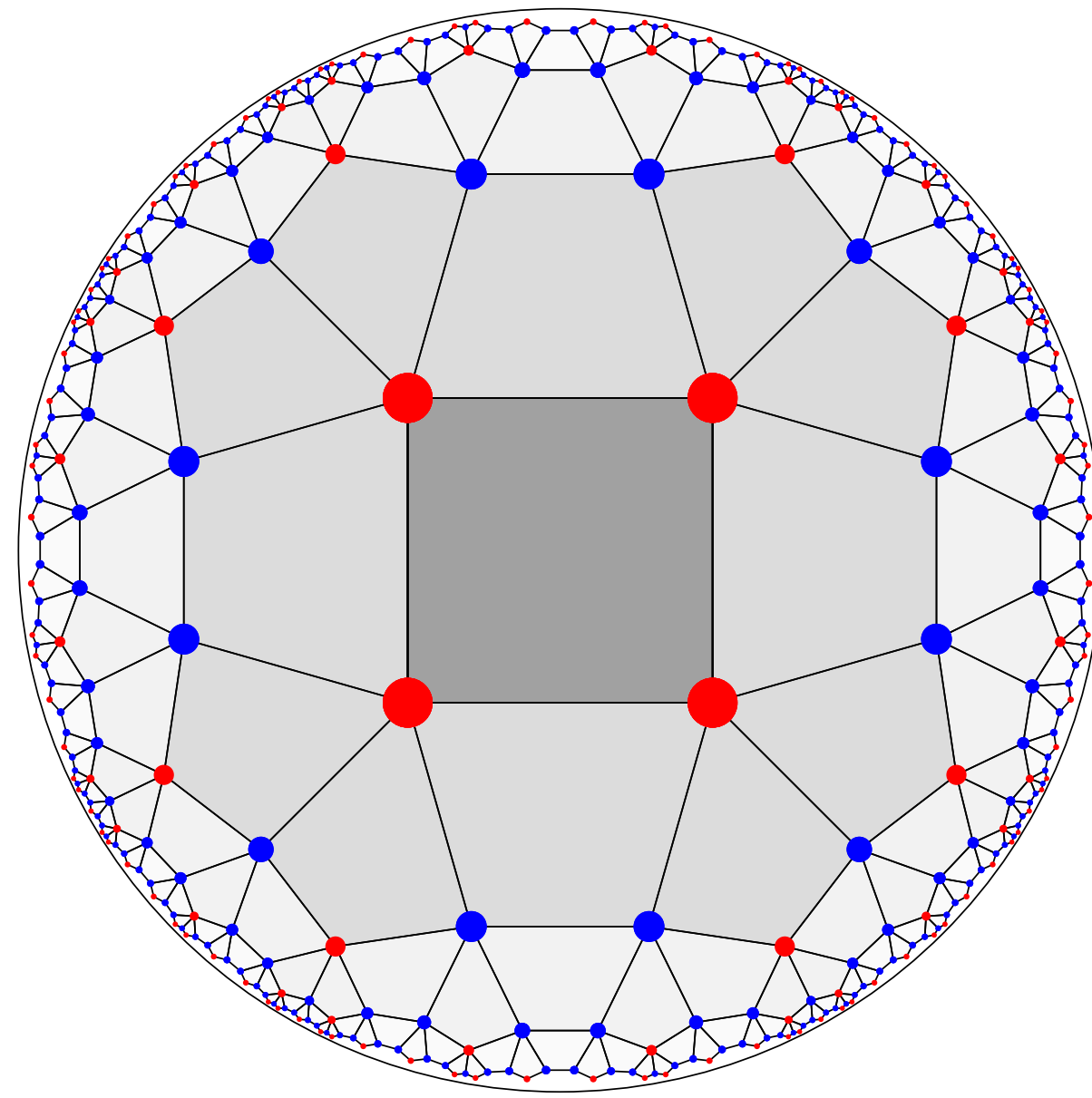
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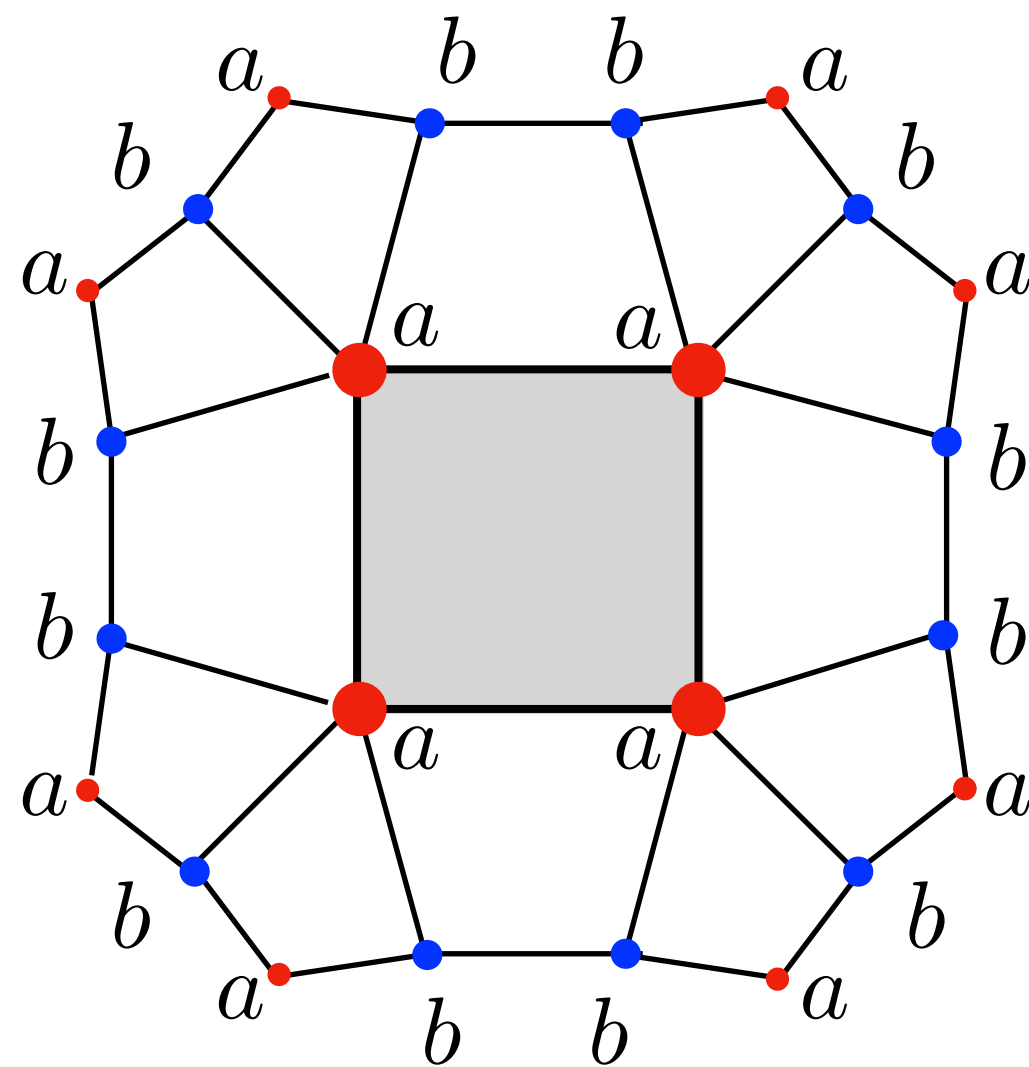
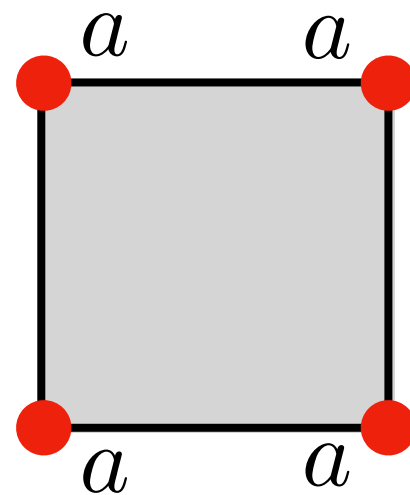
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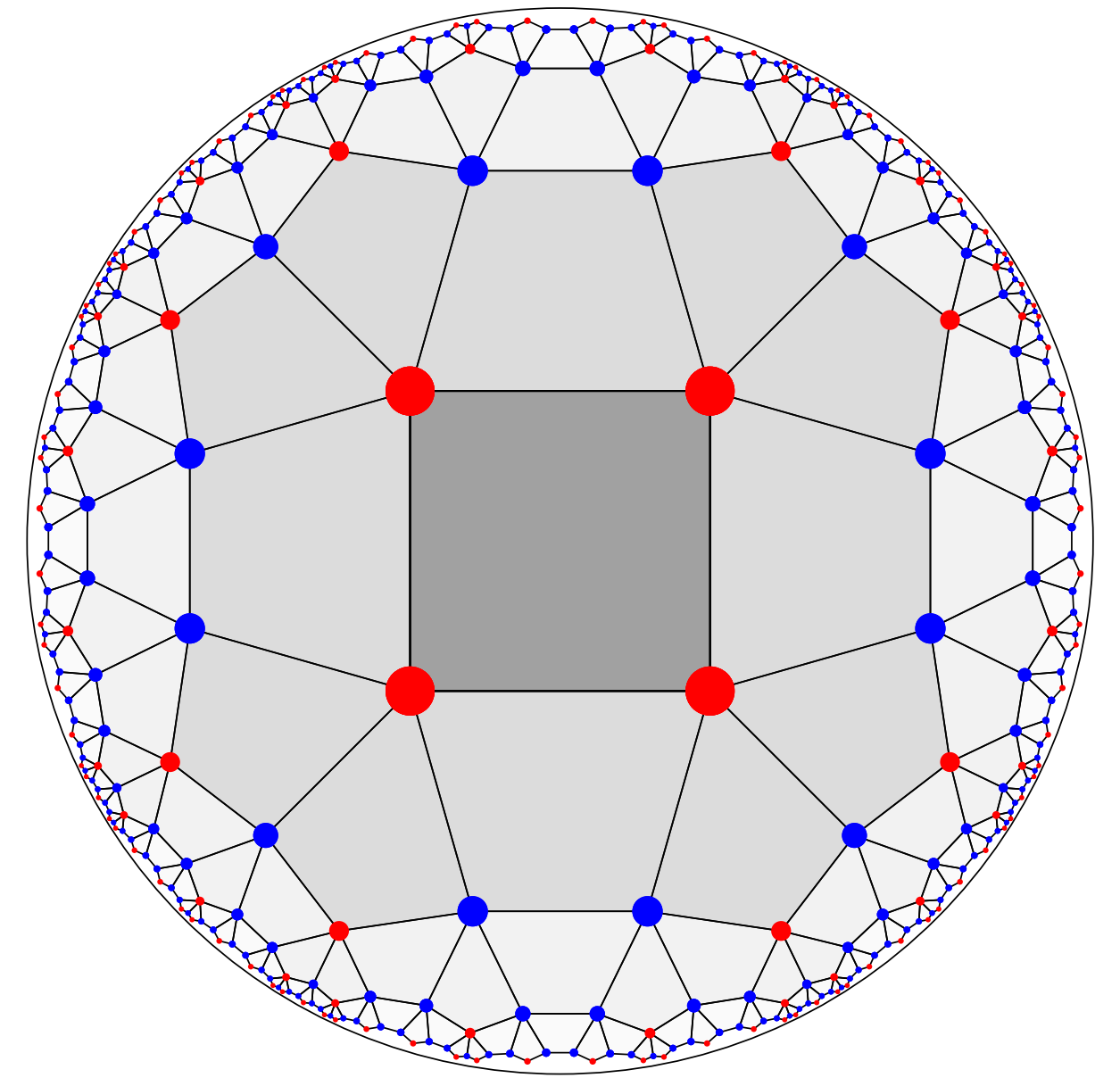
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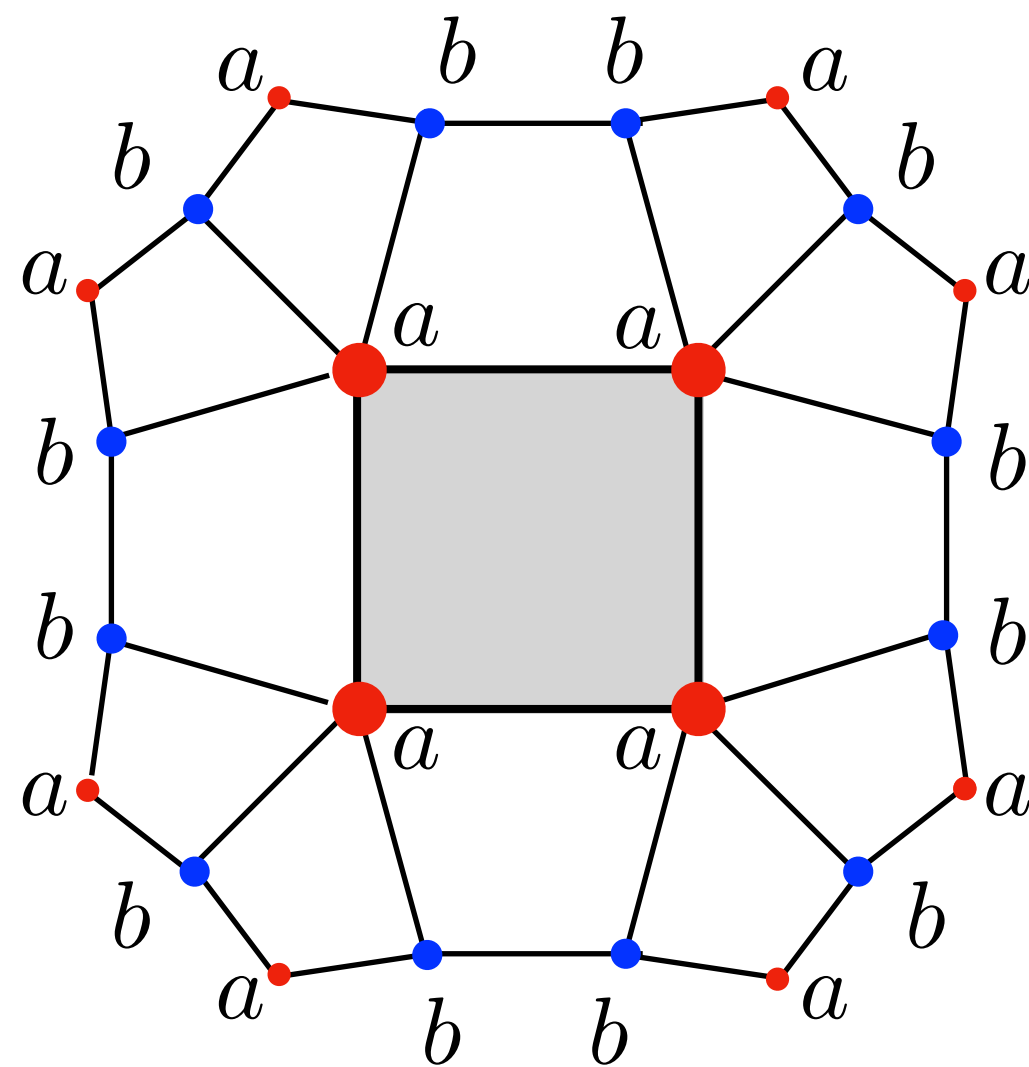
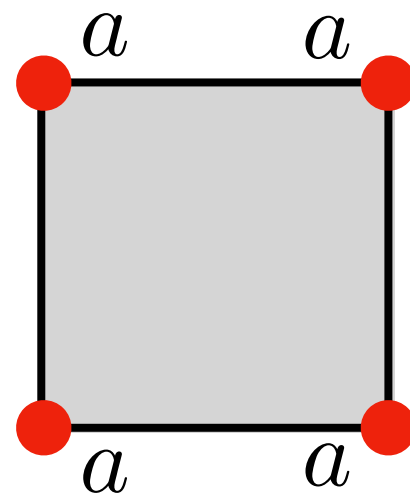


$$\Sigma_{\{4,5\}} : \begin{cases} a \rightarrow babab \\ b \rightarrow bab \end{cases}$$

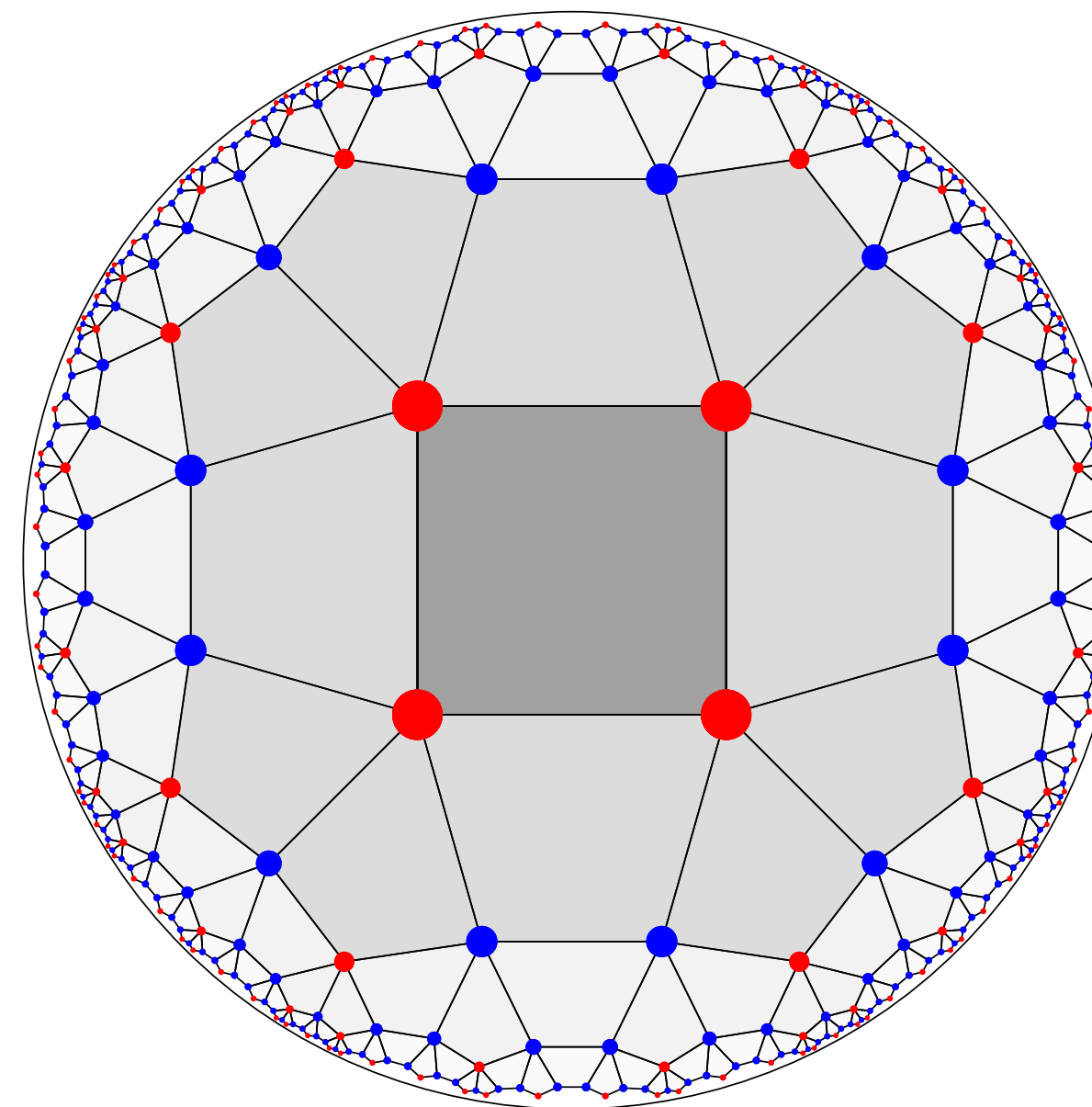
Hyperbolic tilings through inflation rules [Boyle, Dickens, Flicker, 2020]

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Inflation rule

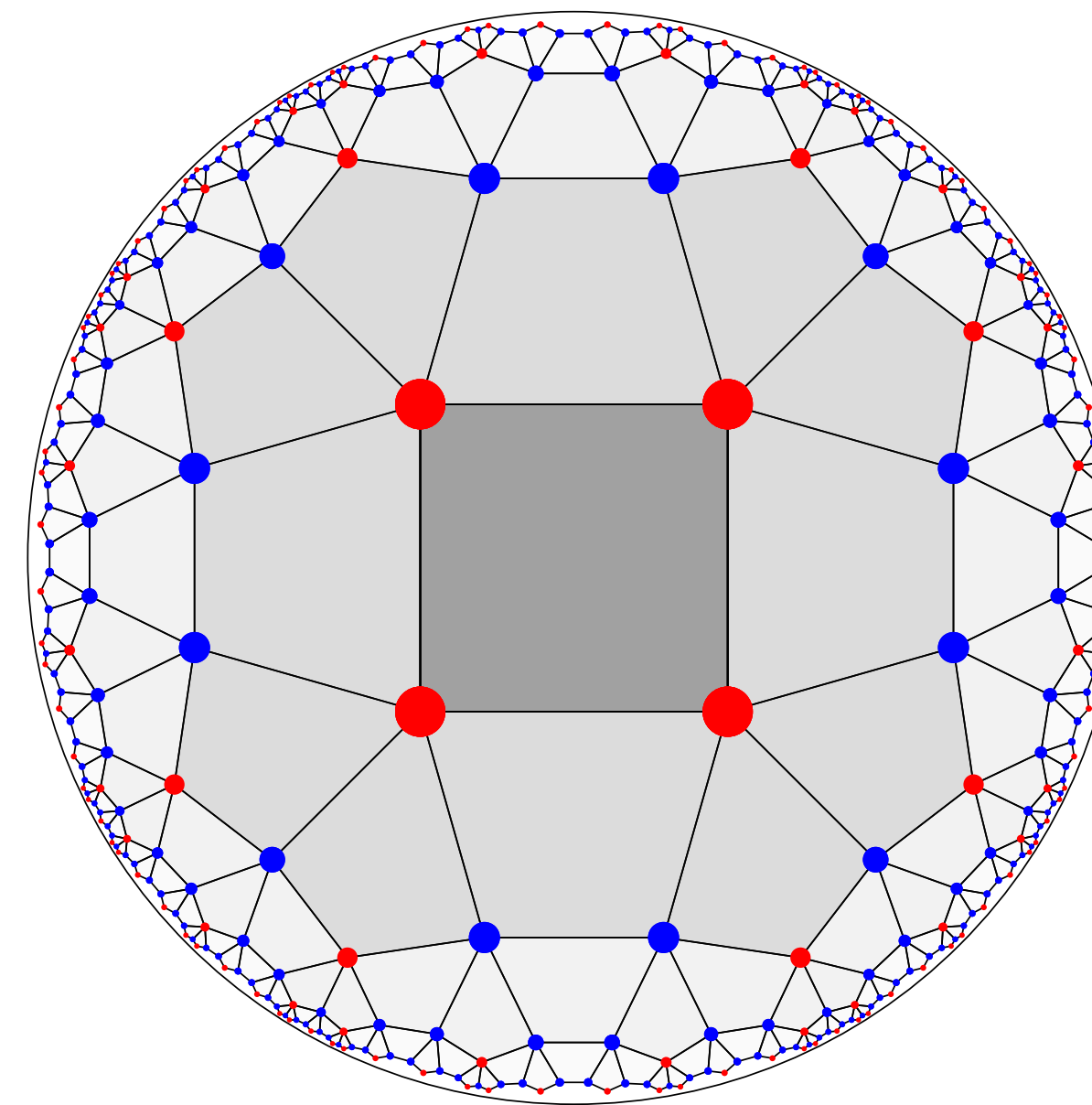
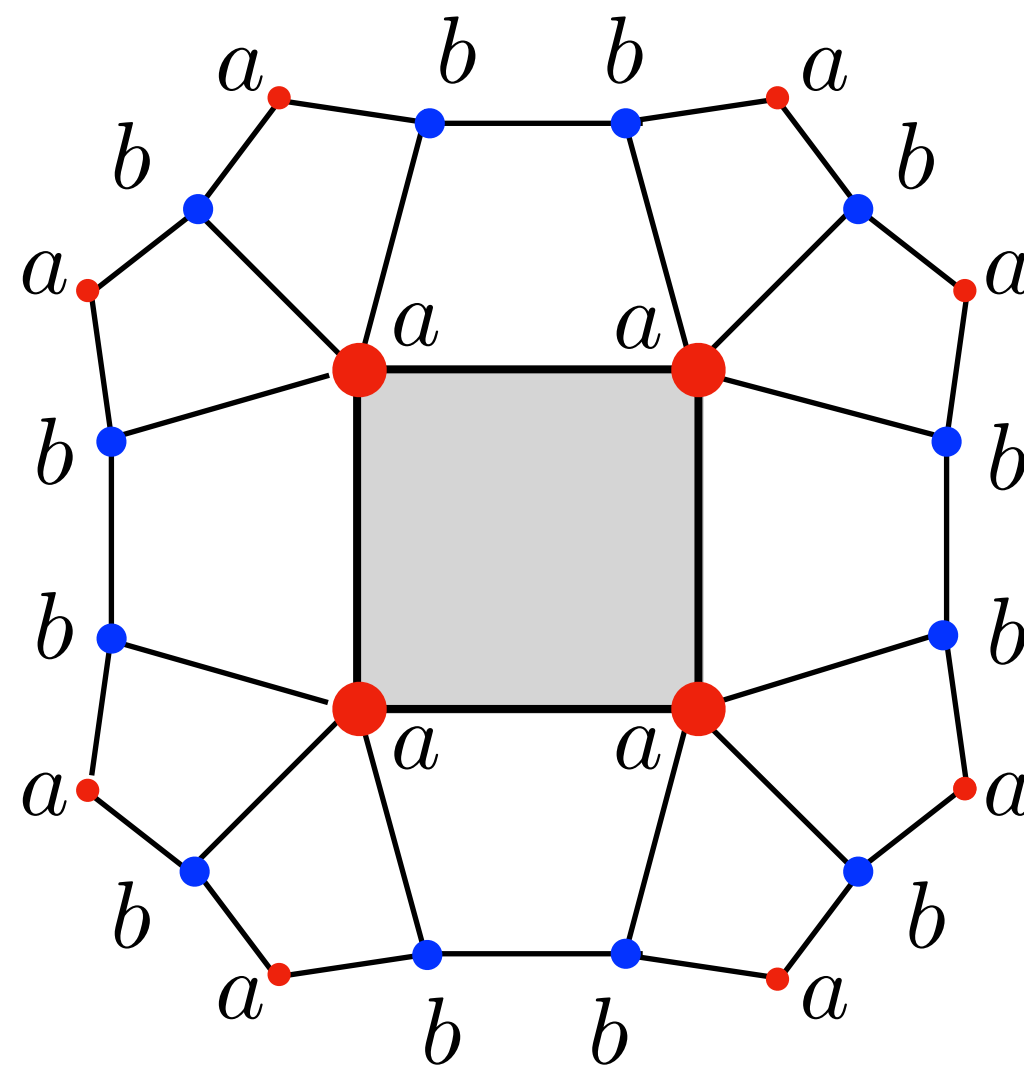
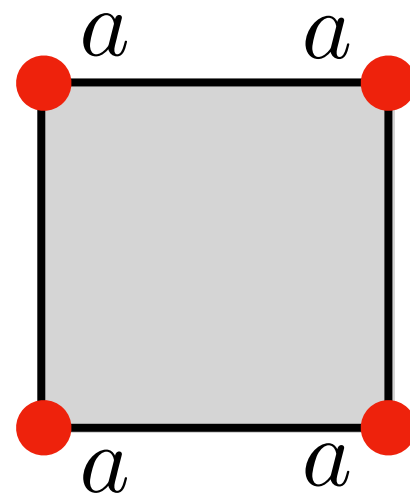
$$\Sigma_{\{p,q\}} : \begin{cases} a \rightarrow w_a(a, b) \\ b \rightarrow w_b(a, b) \end{cases}$$

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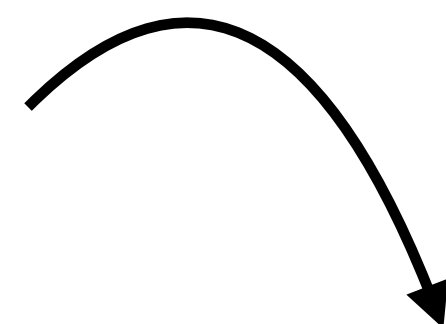
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Inflation rule

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The boundary of the tiling after a large number of inflation steps is characterised by a long **aperiodic sequence**

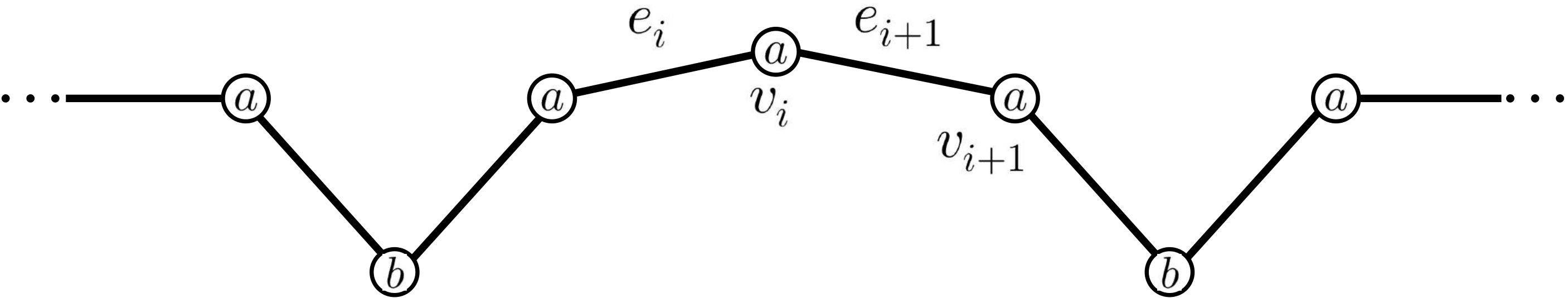
Construction of the boundary theory: aperiodic spin chains

Theory at the boundary of the tiling

Edge

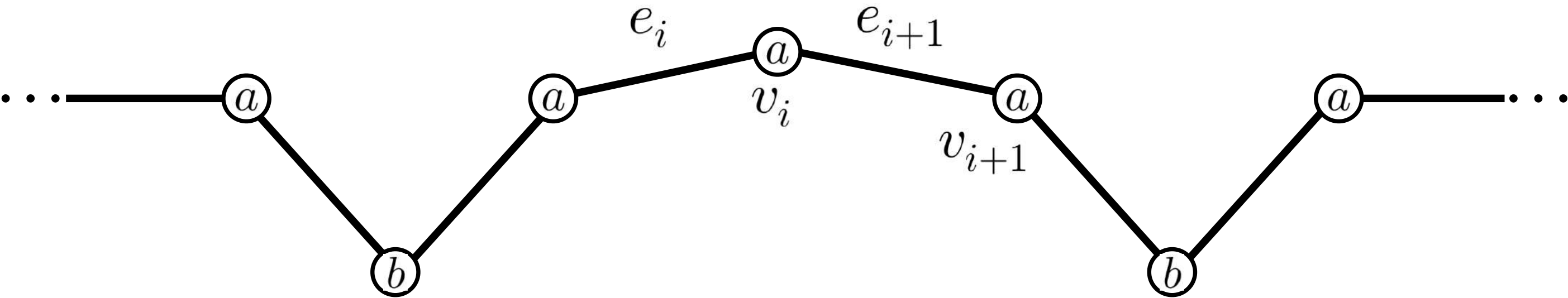
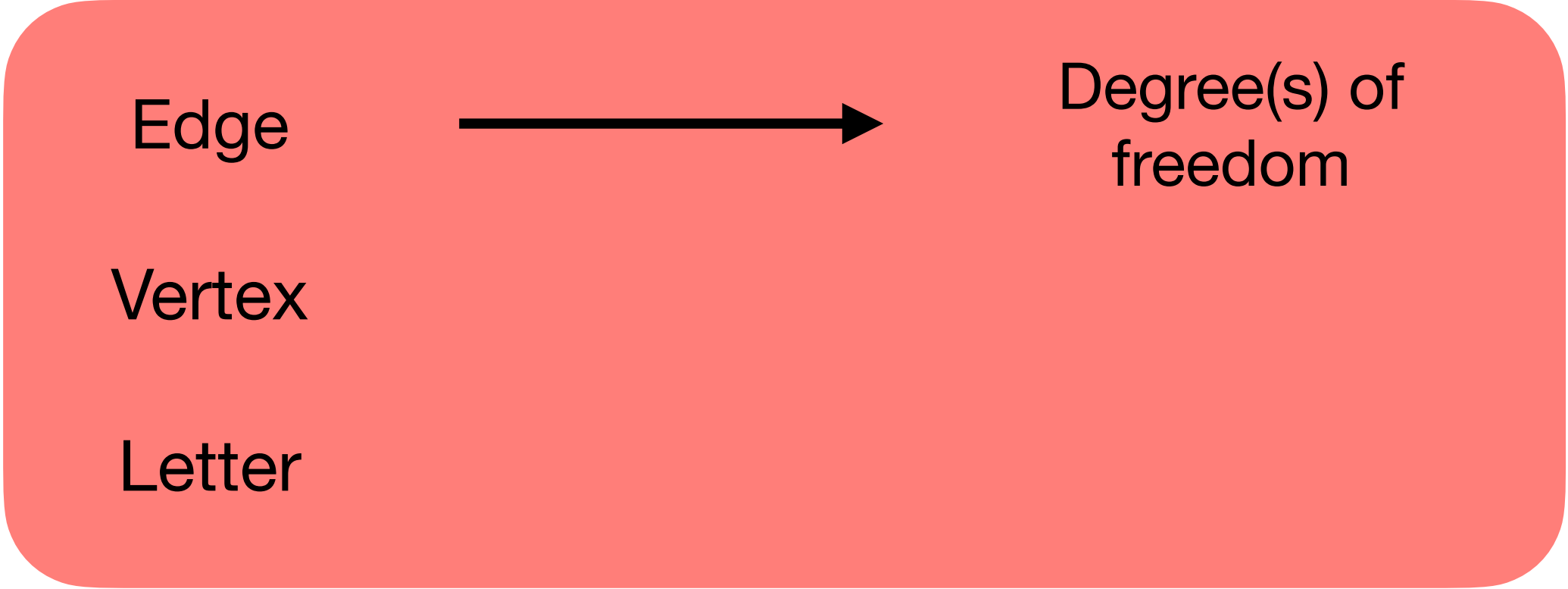
Vertex

Letter



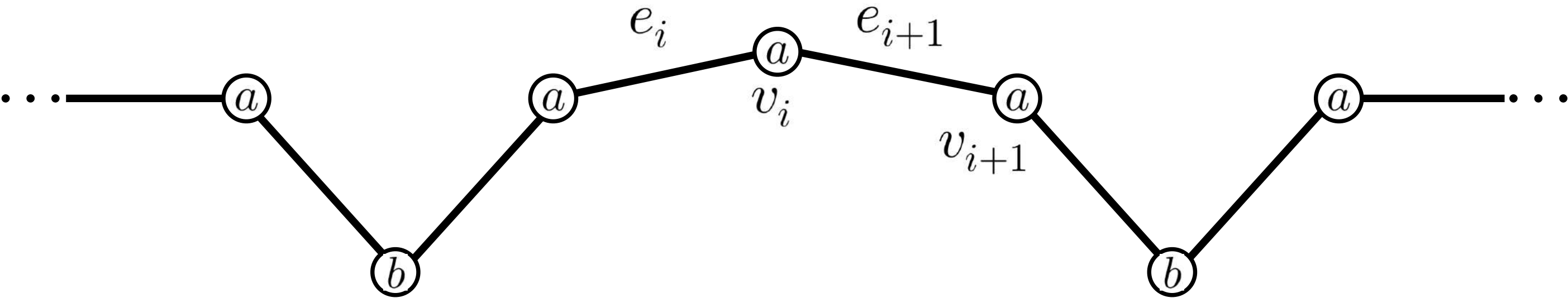
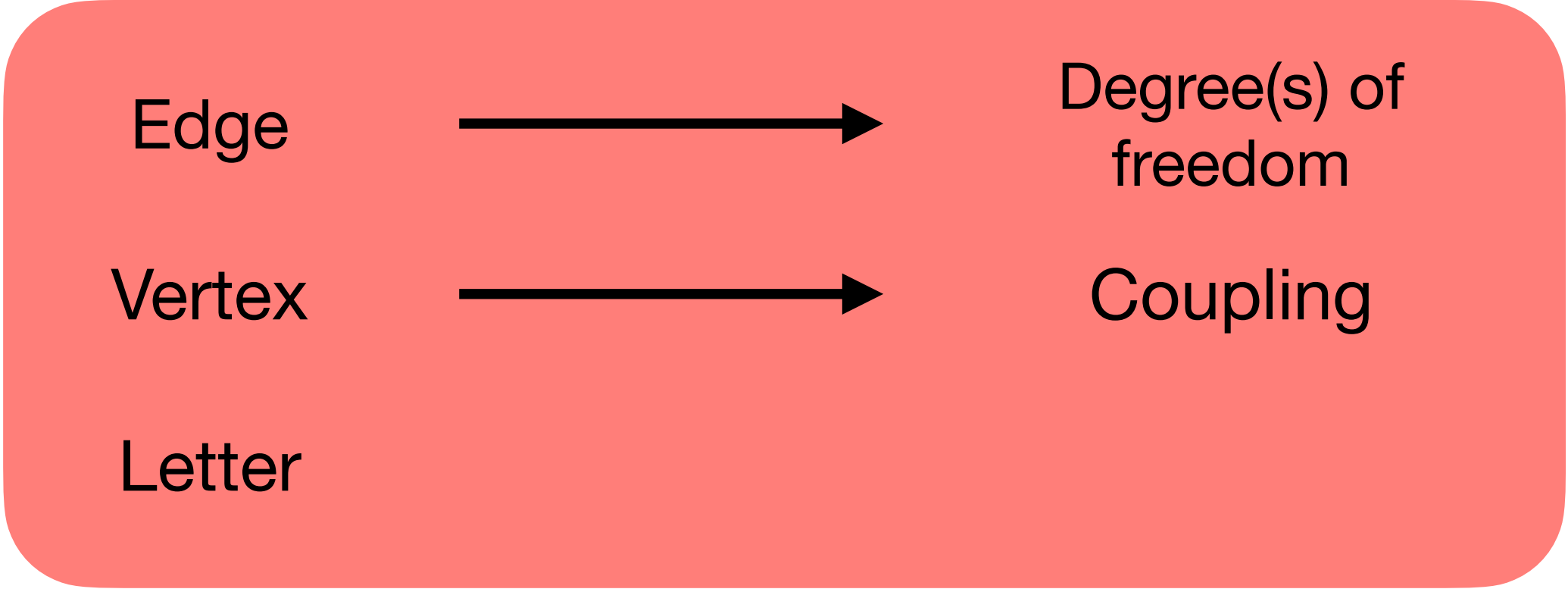
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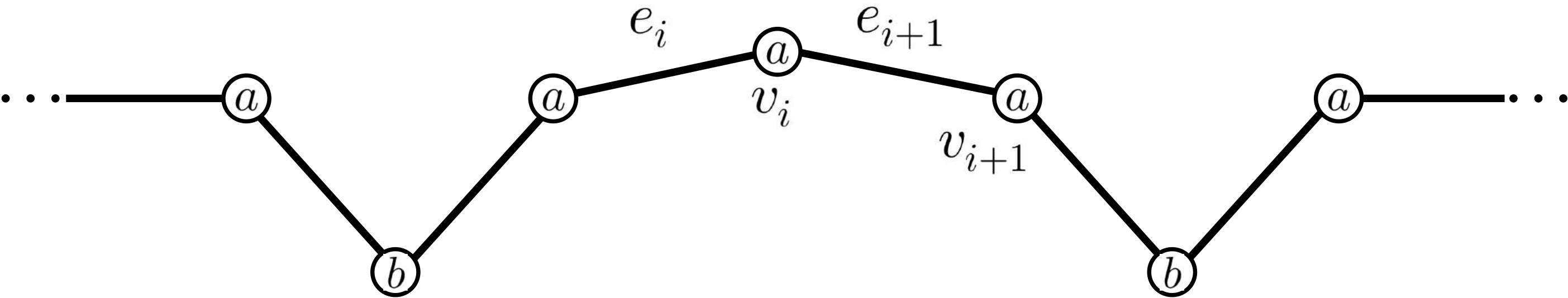
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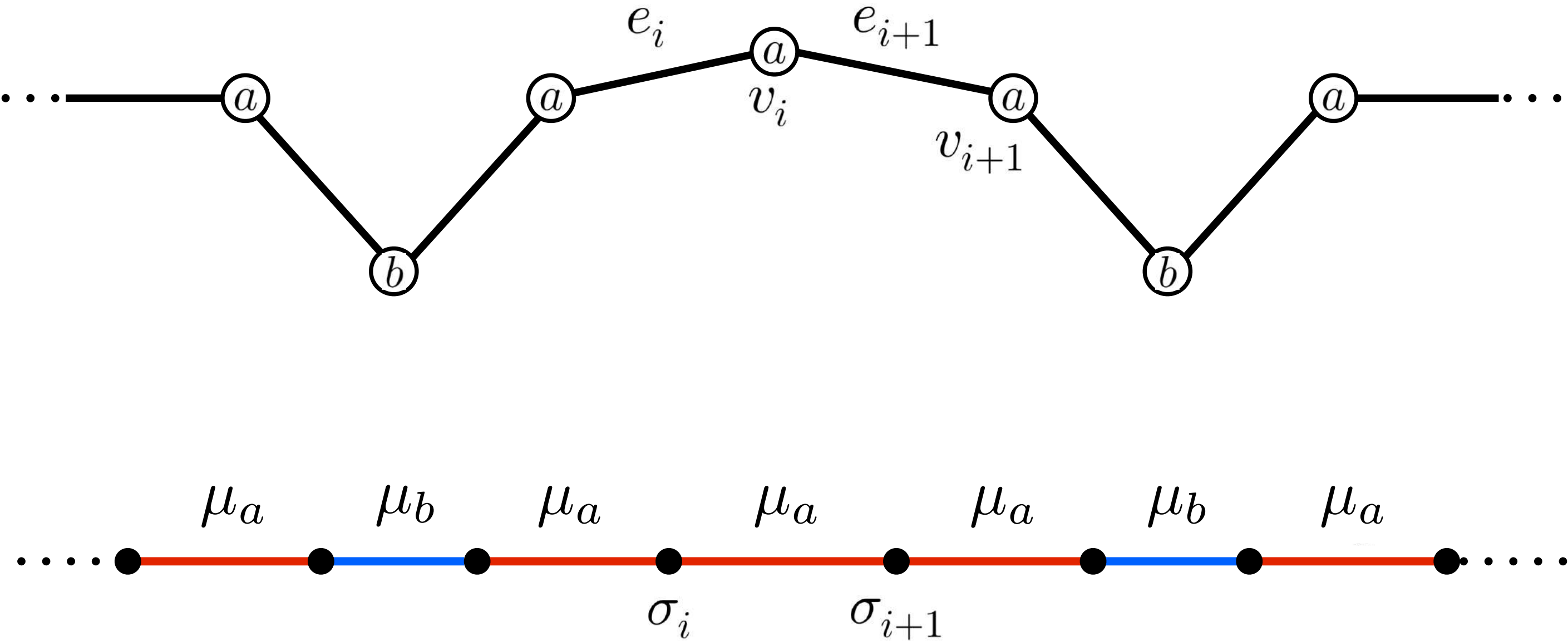
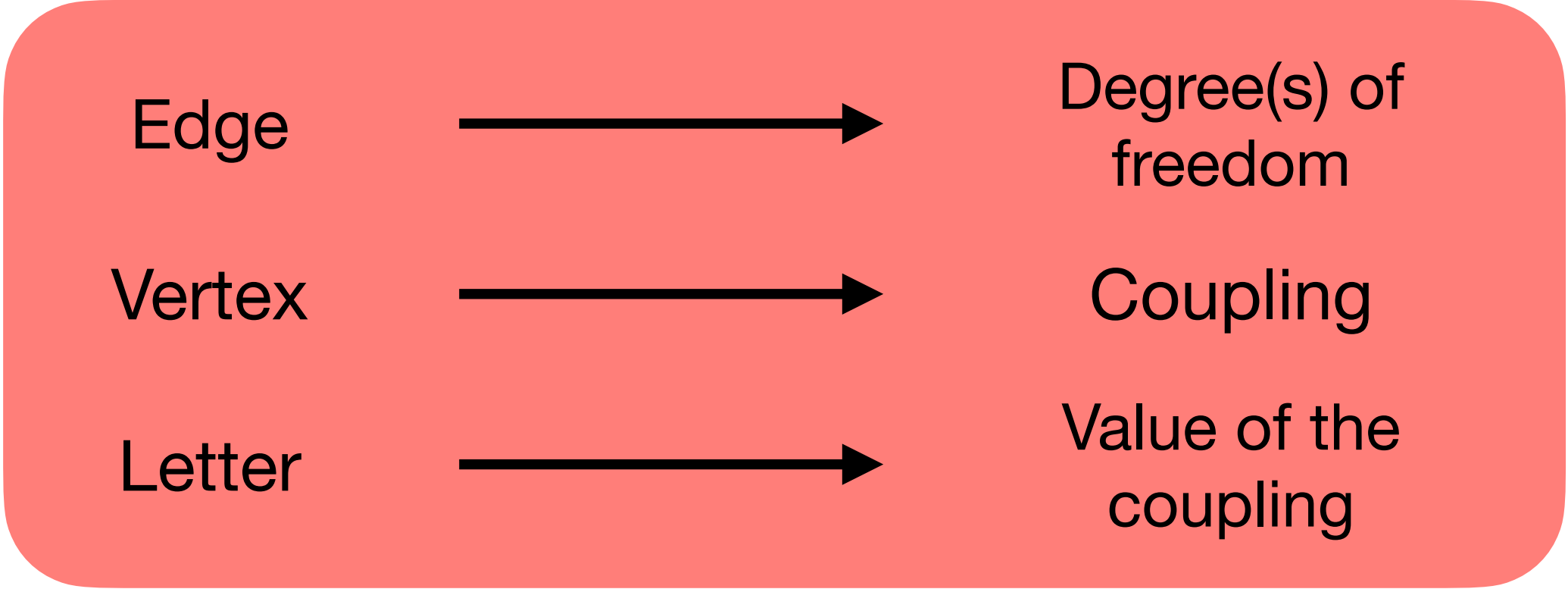
Theory at the boundary of the tiling

Edge	→	Degree(s) of freedom
Vertex	→	Coupling
Letter	→	Value of the coupling



Construction of the boundary theory: aperiodic spin chains

Theory at the boundary of the tiling



Construction of the boundary theory: aperiodic spin chains

Theory at the boundary of the tiling

Edge



Degree(s) of
freedom

Vertex

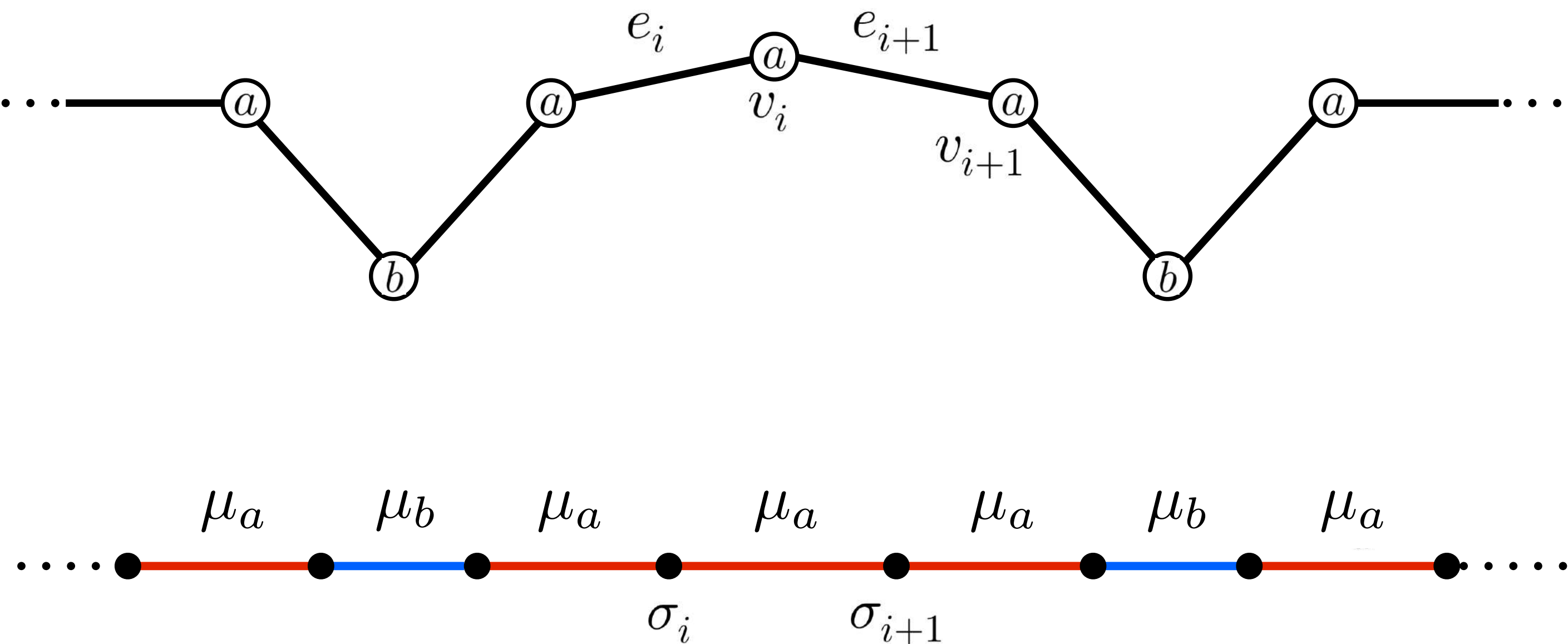


Coupling

Letter



Value of the
coupling



Aperiodic spin chains [Luck '93; Hermisson '97; Vidal, Mouhanna, Giamarchi '99]

Spin chains with inhomogeneous couplings: two different couplings are allowed between consecutive spins and their sequence is fixed by a given aperiodic sequence

Boundary of a $\{p, q\}$ tiling of the Poincaré disk

=

aperiodic spin chain with couplings
following the aperiodic sequence induced at
the boundary by the bulk discretization

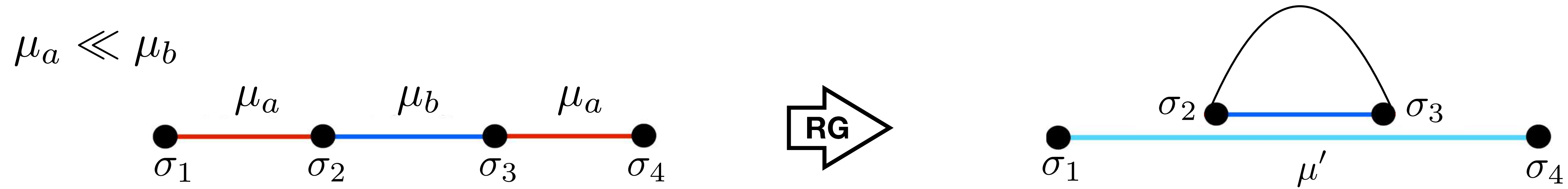
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Strong disorder renormalization group (SDRG)



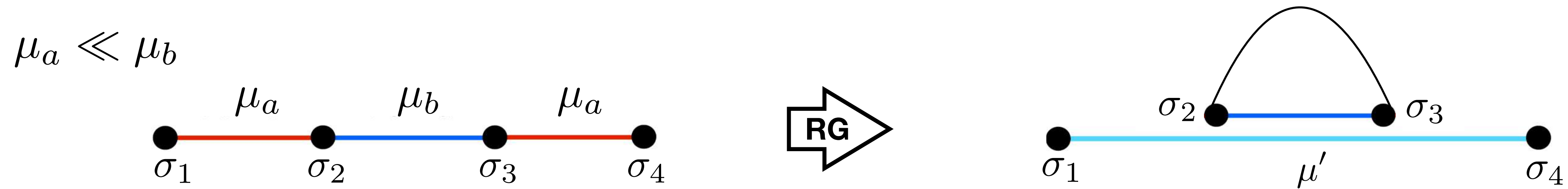
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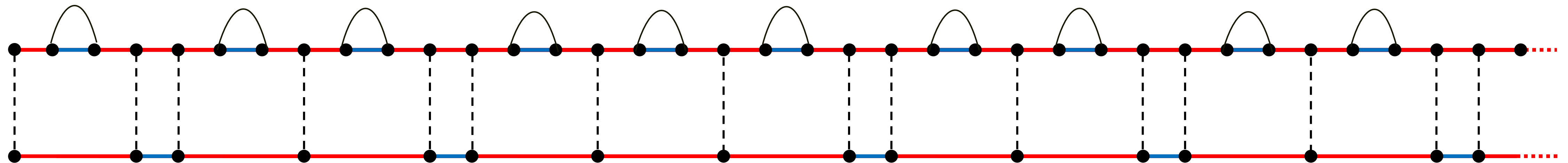
[Dasgupta, Ma '79] [Vieira '04; Hida '04]



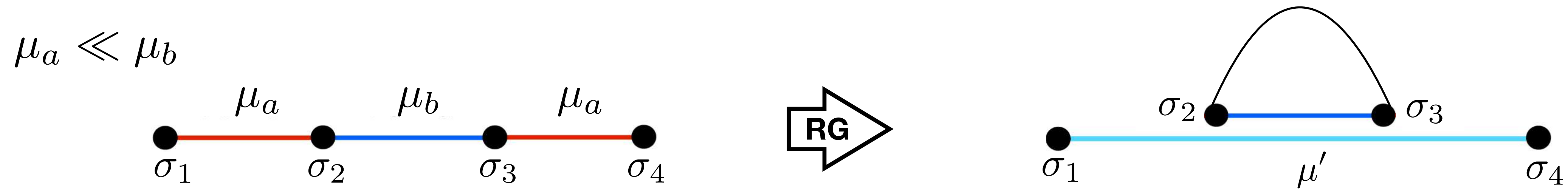
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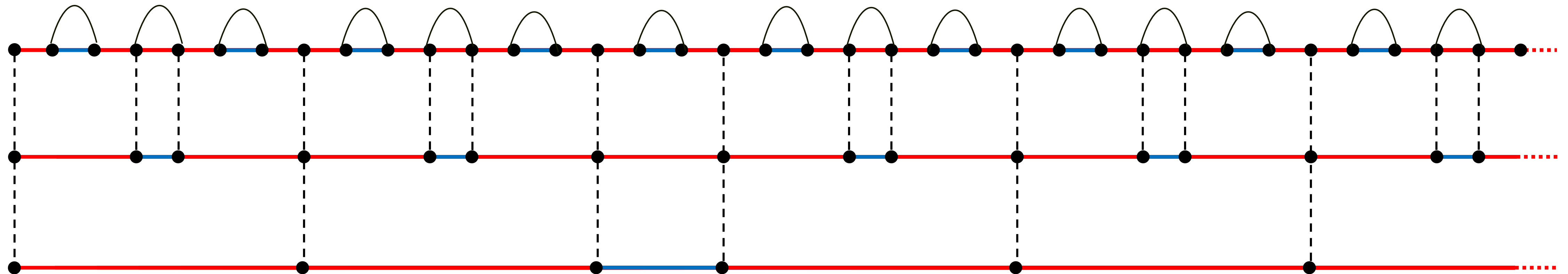
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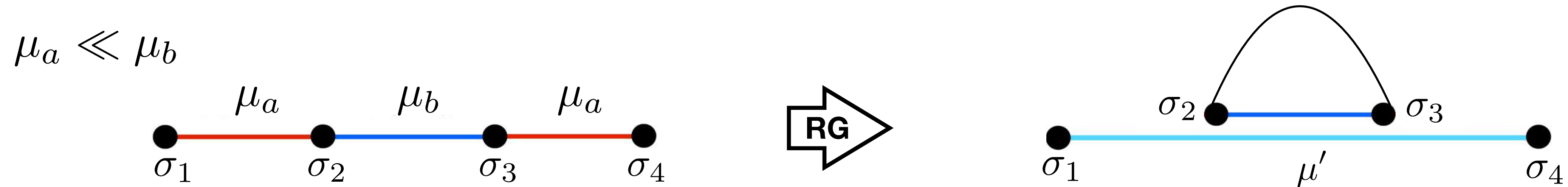
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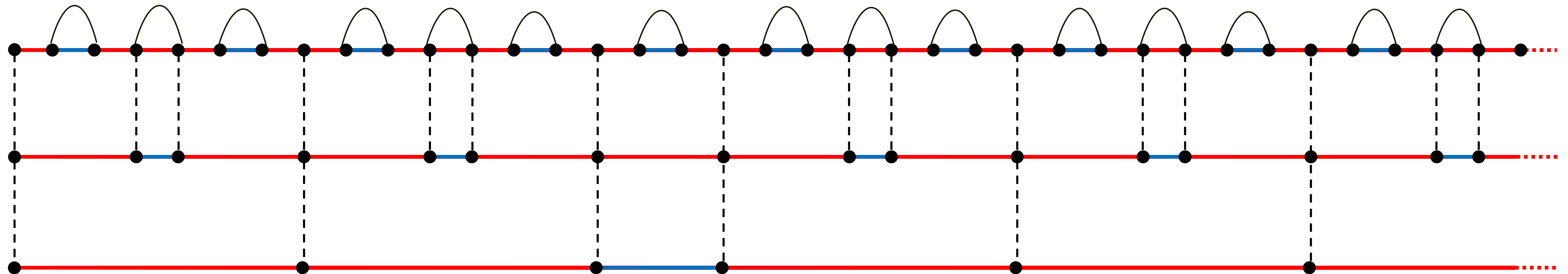
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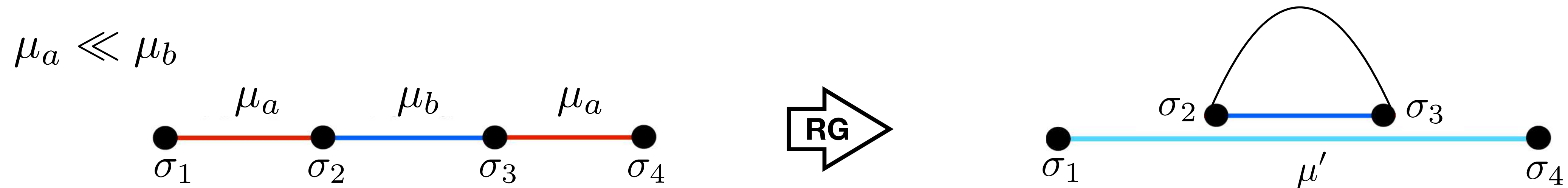
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Check

$\mu_a \ll \mu_b$ for any renormalized pair of couplings



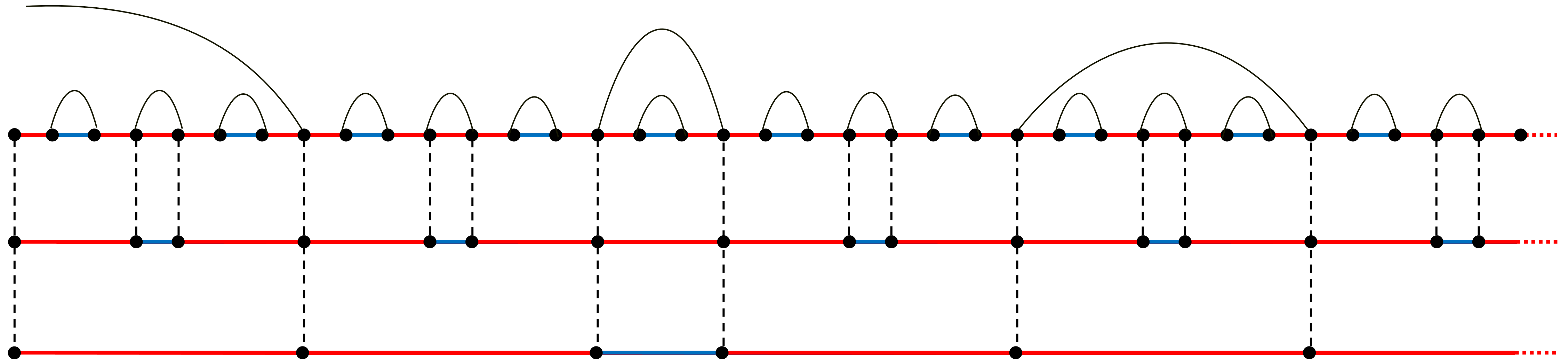
Strong disorder renormalization group (SDRG)



[Dasgupta, Ma '79] [Vieira '04; Hida '04]

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$\mu_a \ll \mu_b$ for any renormalized pair of couplings



Aperiodic singlet phase

Aperiodic XXX chains at the boundary of the following tilings

$$H_{\Sigma_{\{p,q\}}} = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}} \mu_i \left[\sigma_i^{(x)} \sigma_{i+1}^{(x)} + \sigma_i^{(y)} \sigma_{i+1}^{(y)} + \sigma_i^{(z)} \sigma_{i+1}^{(z)} \right] \quad \mu_i \in \{\mu_a, \mu_b\}$$

$$\{6, q\} \quad q \geq 4$$

$$\{3, 7\}, \{3, 8\}, \{5, 4\}, \{5, 5\}$$



Aperiodic singlet phase

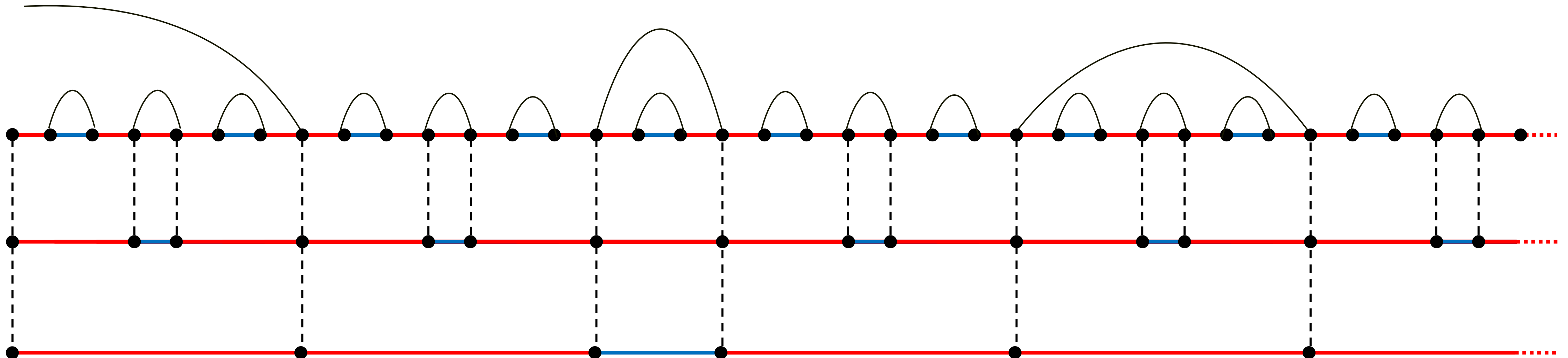
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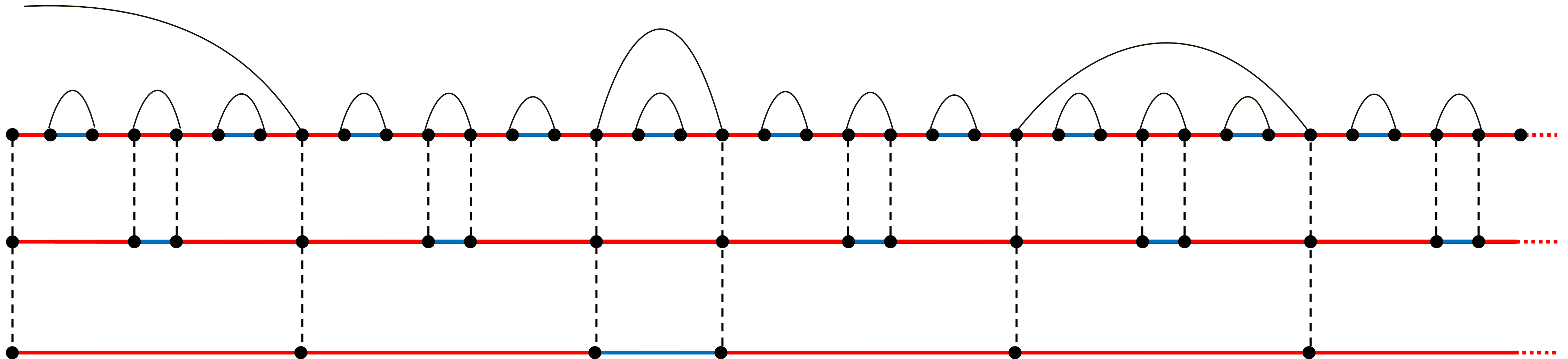
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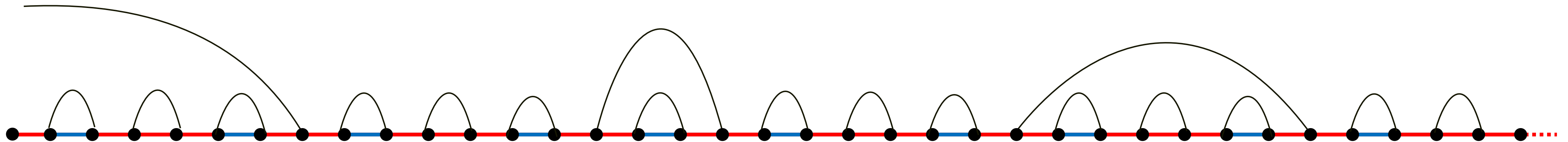
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The ground state is described by an **aperiodic singlet phase**



$$\rho_{12}^{(\text{EPR})} = |\text{EPR}\rangle_{12} {}_{12}\langle \text{EPR}| \quad |\text{EPR}\rangle_{12} = \frac{|0\rangle_1 \otimes |1\rangle_2 - |1\rangle_1 \otimes |0\rangle_2}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \rho = \left(\bigotimes_{\text{singlets}} \rho_{s_1 s_2}^{(\text{EPR})} \right)$$

Singlet distribution from the inflation rule

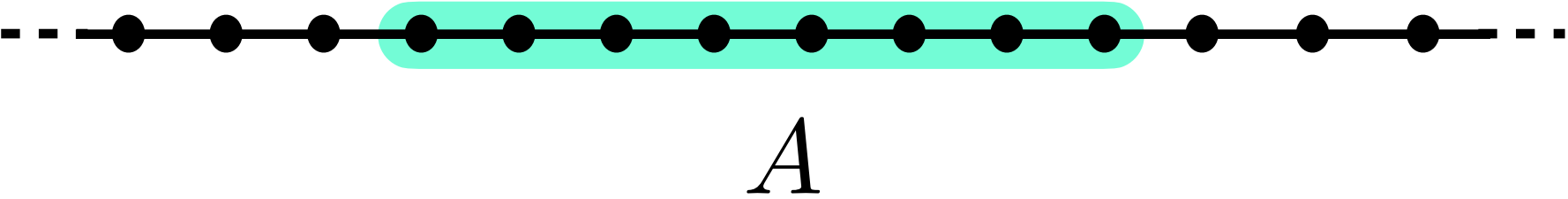
Entanglement entropy in the aperiodic singlet phase

$$\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$$

$$\rho_A = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_B} \rho$$

$$S_A = -\text{Tr}(\rho_A \ln \rho_A)$$

entanglement
entropy

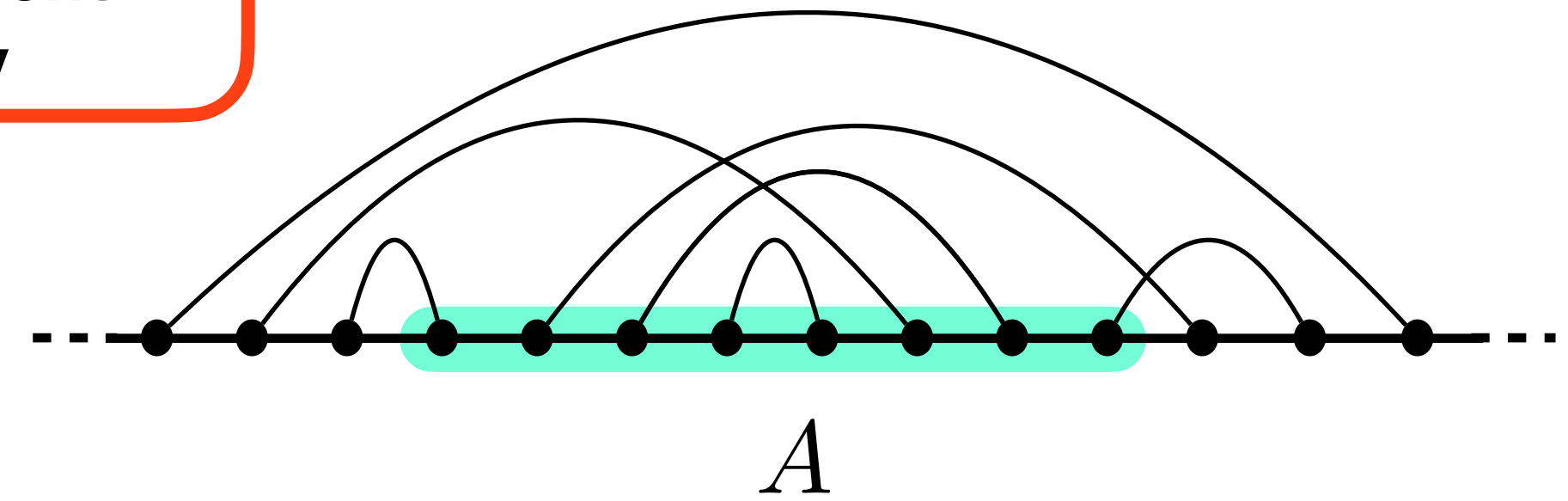


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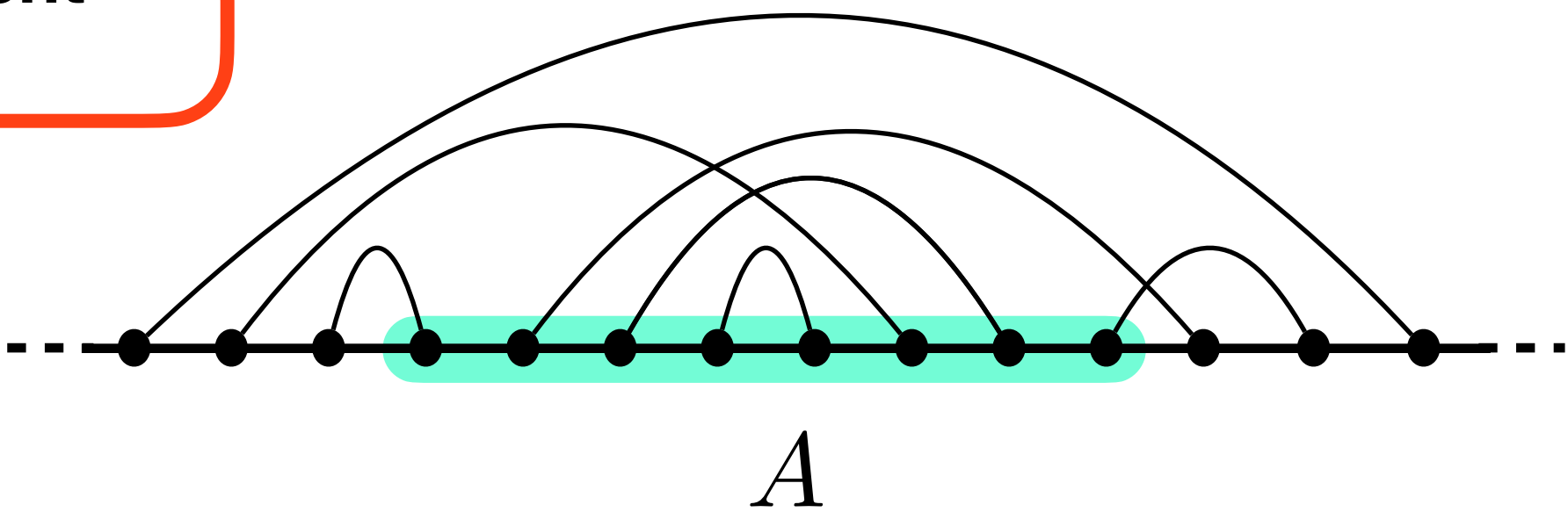
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$$S_A = \bar{n}_A \ln 2$$

average number of singlets shared
between A and its complement

[Iglói, Juhász,
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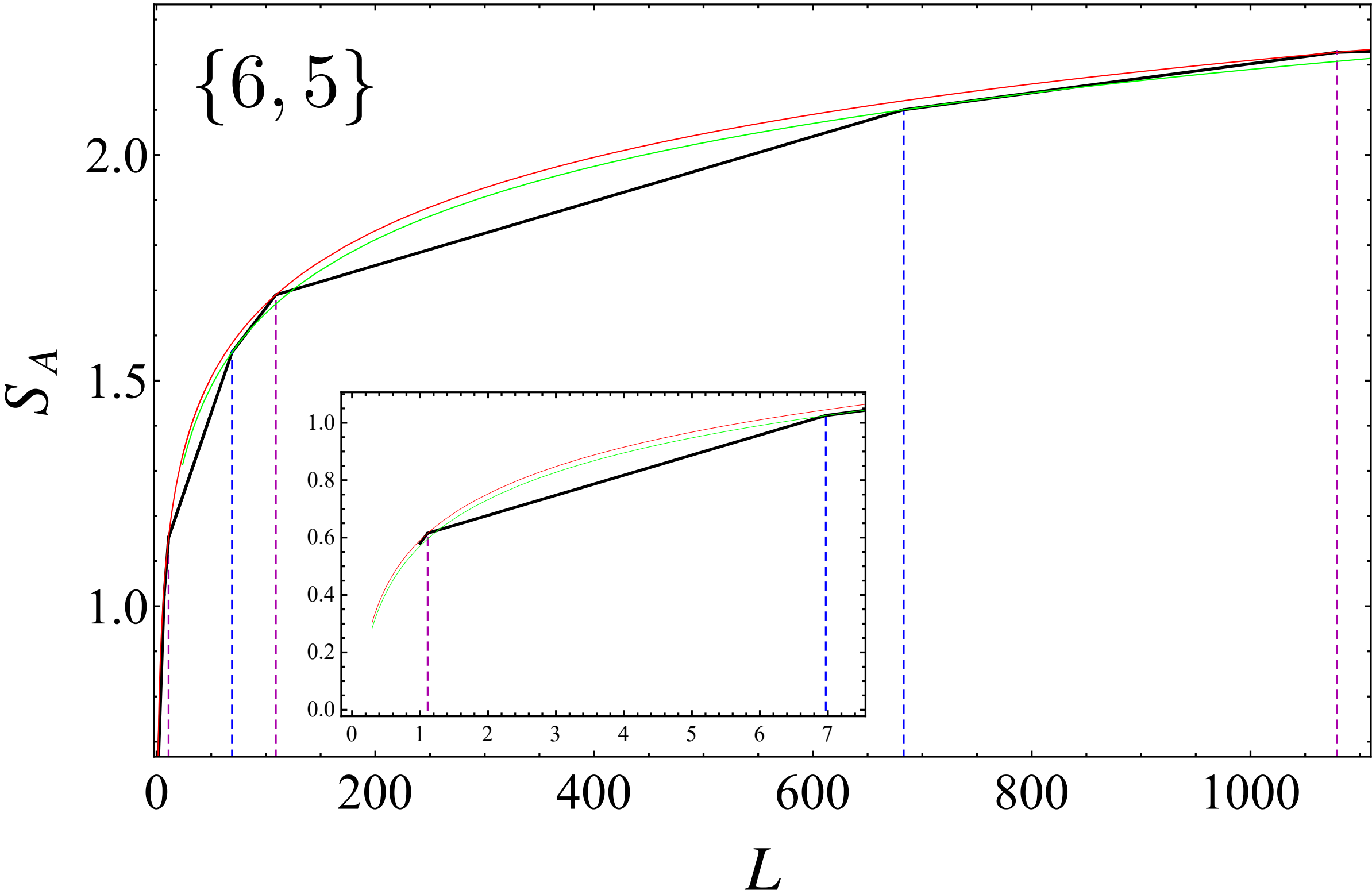
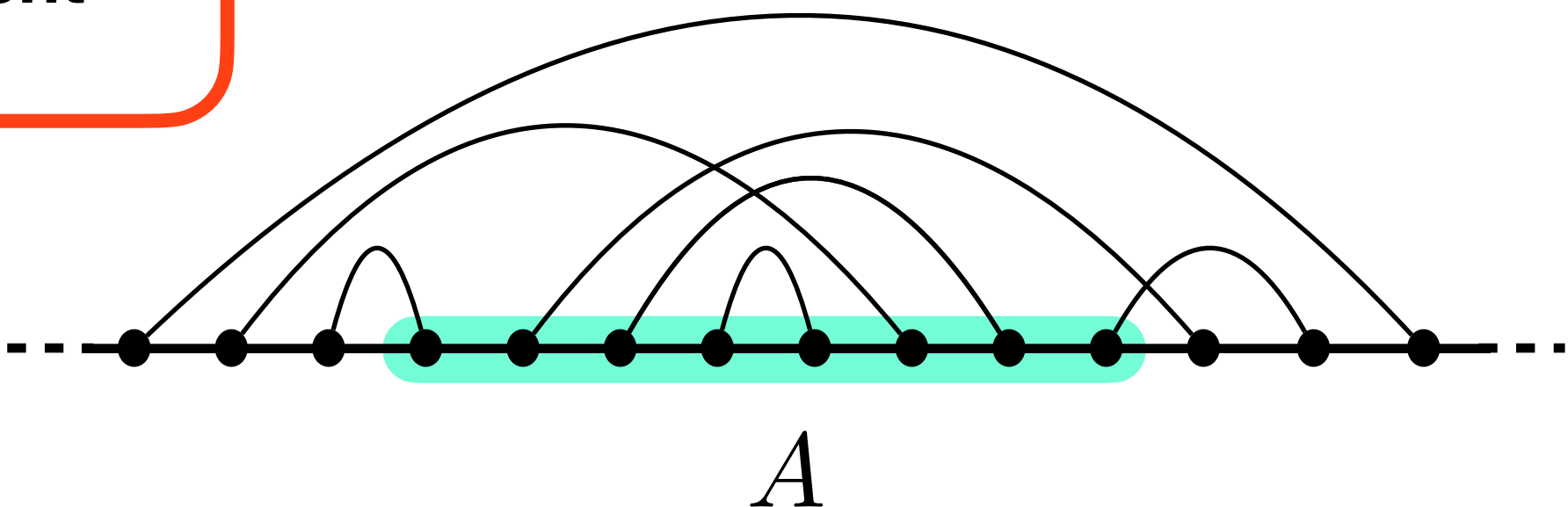
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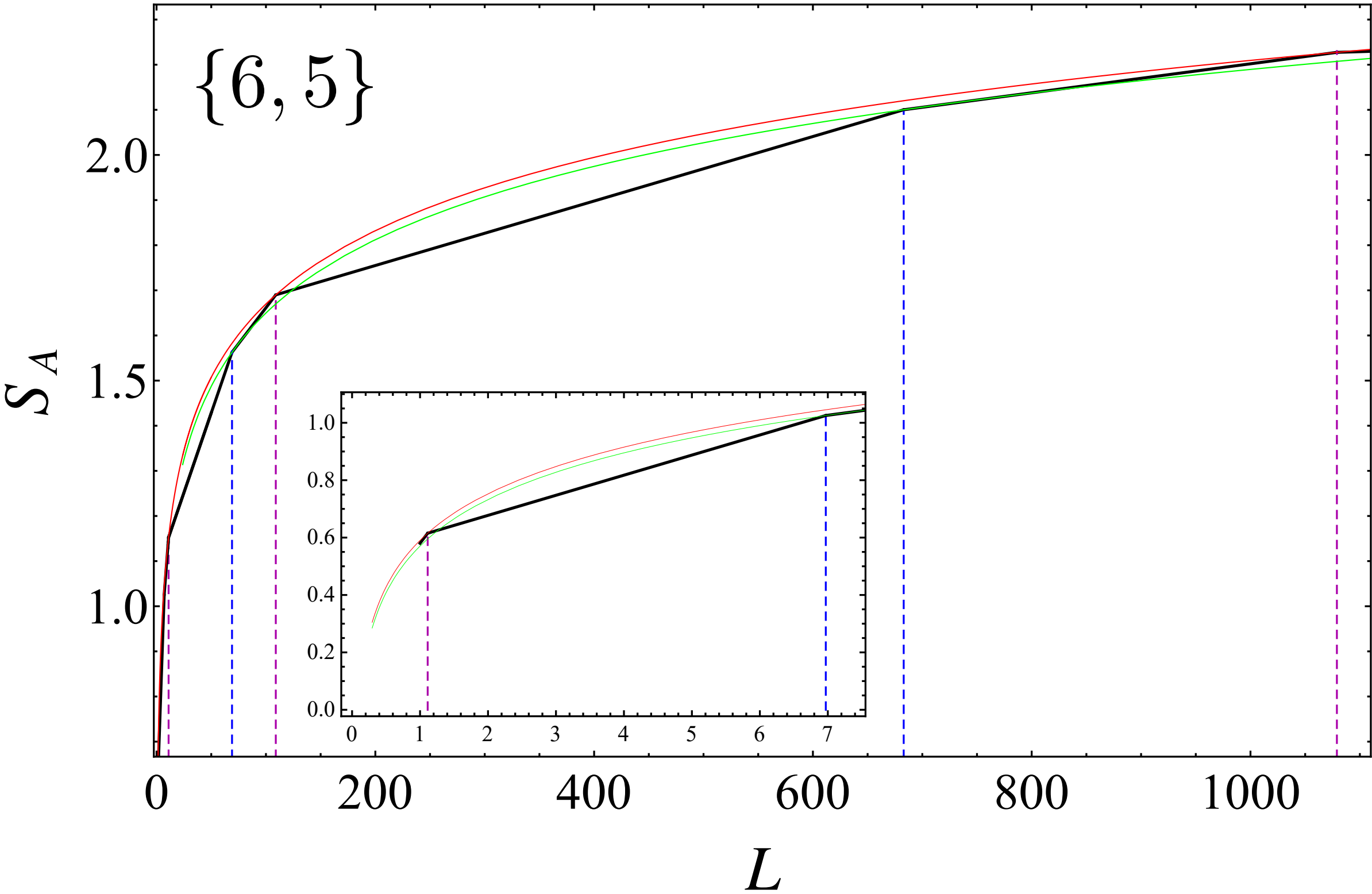
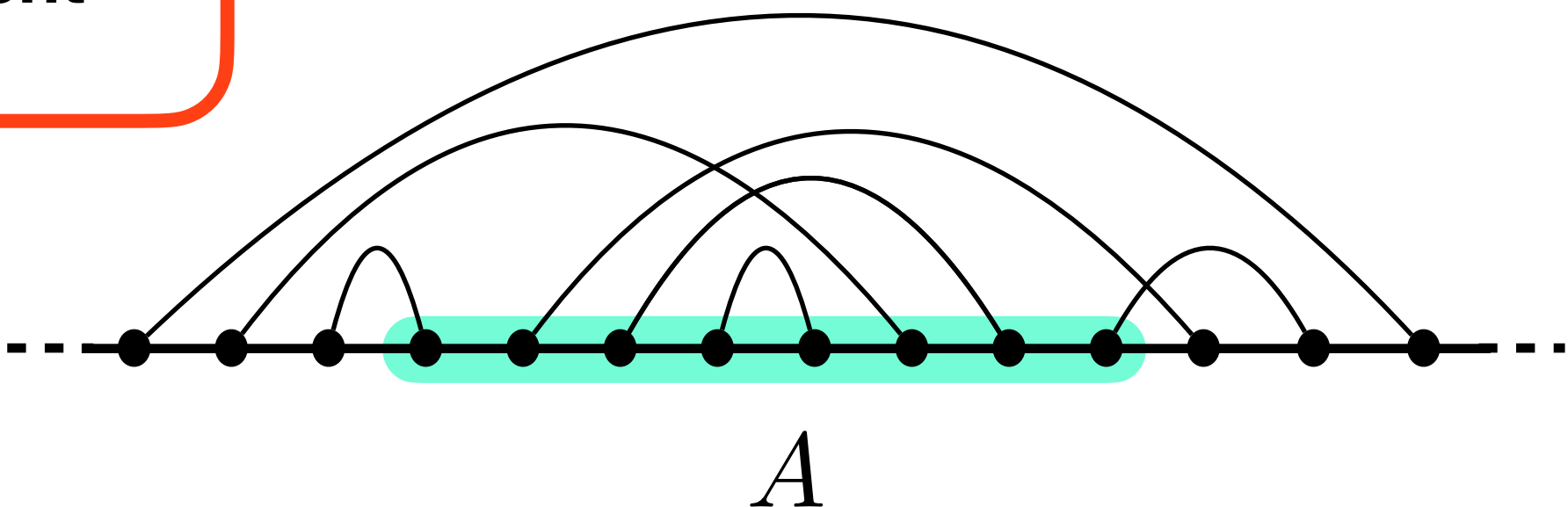
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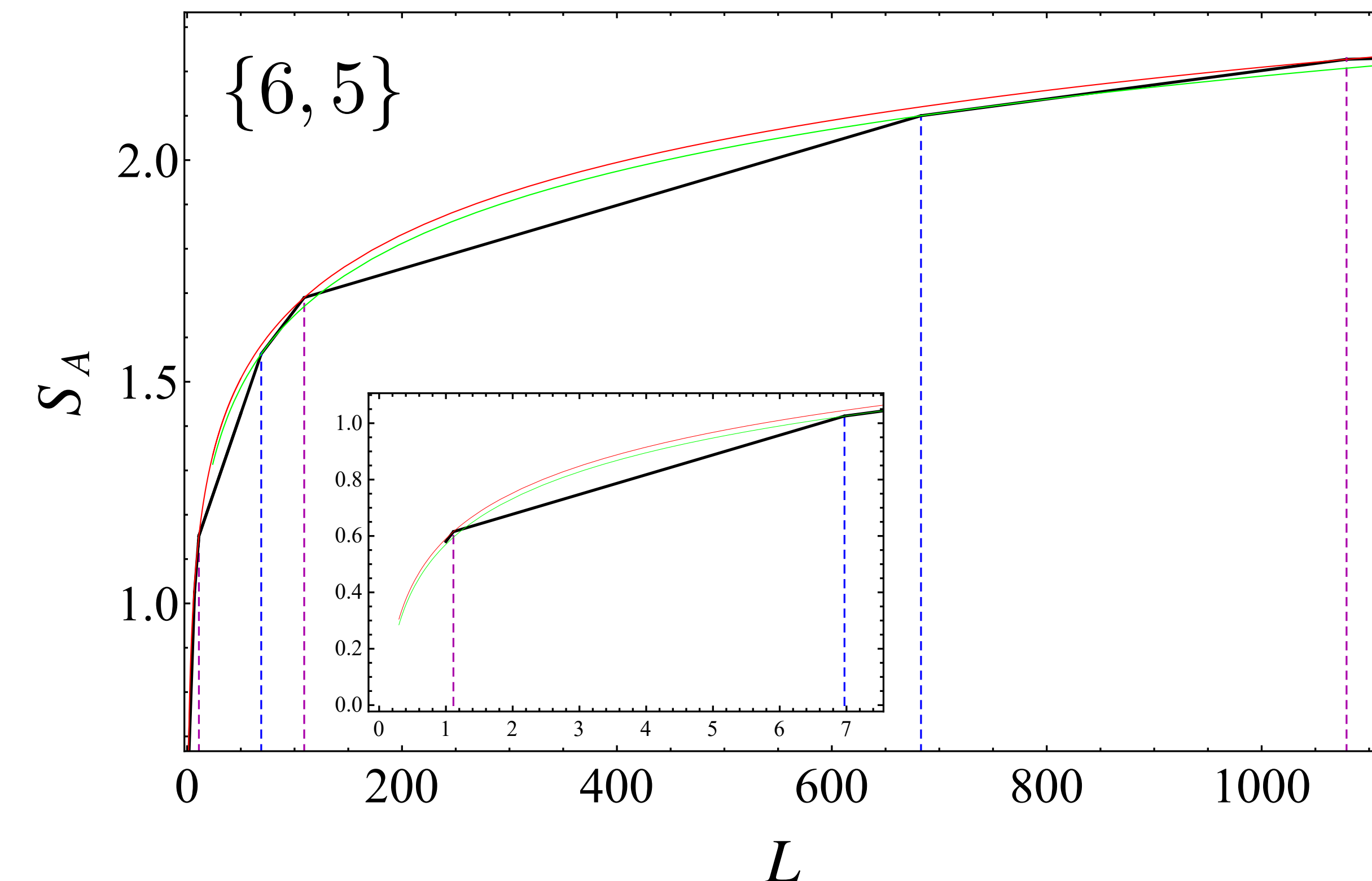
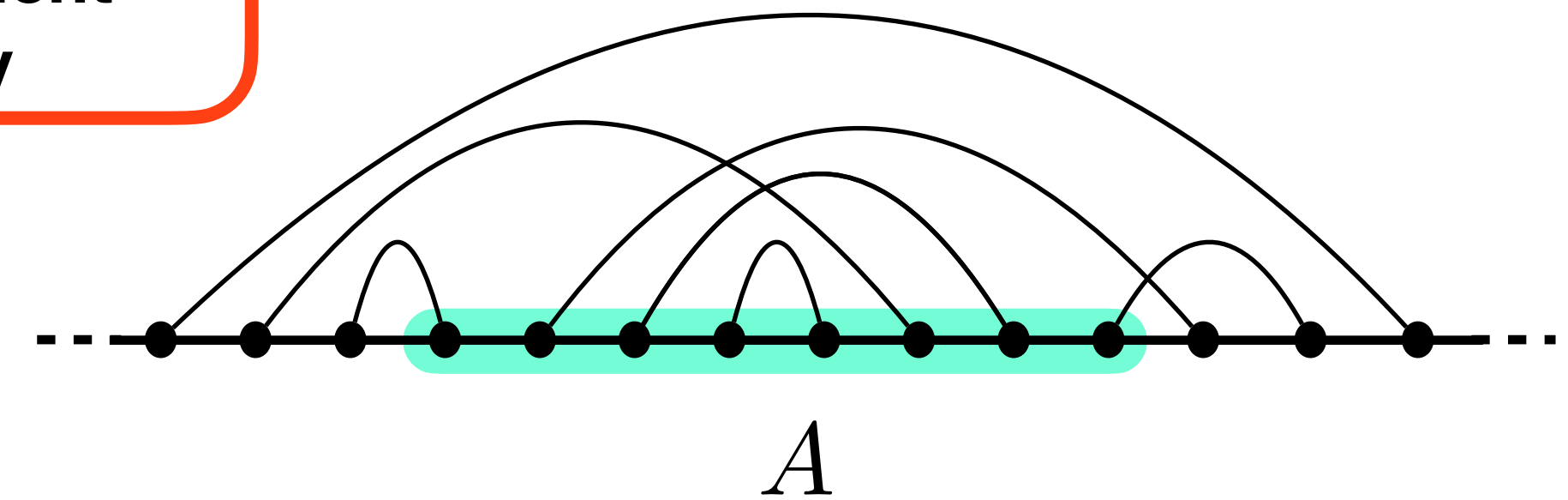
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$$S_{A,\text{env}} = \frac{c_{\text{eff}}(p, q)}{3} \ln L + \kappa$$

The coefficient c_{eff} is dependent on p and q

For $\{6, q\}$, $q \geq 4$:

$$c_{\text{eff}}(6, q) = \frac{6 - 2q + \sqrt{q^2 - 5q + 6}}{\ln \left(2q - 5 + 2\sqrt{q^2 - 5q + 6} \right)} \frac{6 \ln 2}{6 - 2q}$$

[Basteiro, GDG, Erdmenger, Karl, Meyer, Xian, '22]

Outline

- Aperiodic spin chains at the boundary of hyperbolic tilings
- Ground state and entanglement properties
- **Tensor networks as a bulk description from aperiodic chains**
- Towards adding a metric in the bulk
- Conclusions and future perspectives

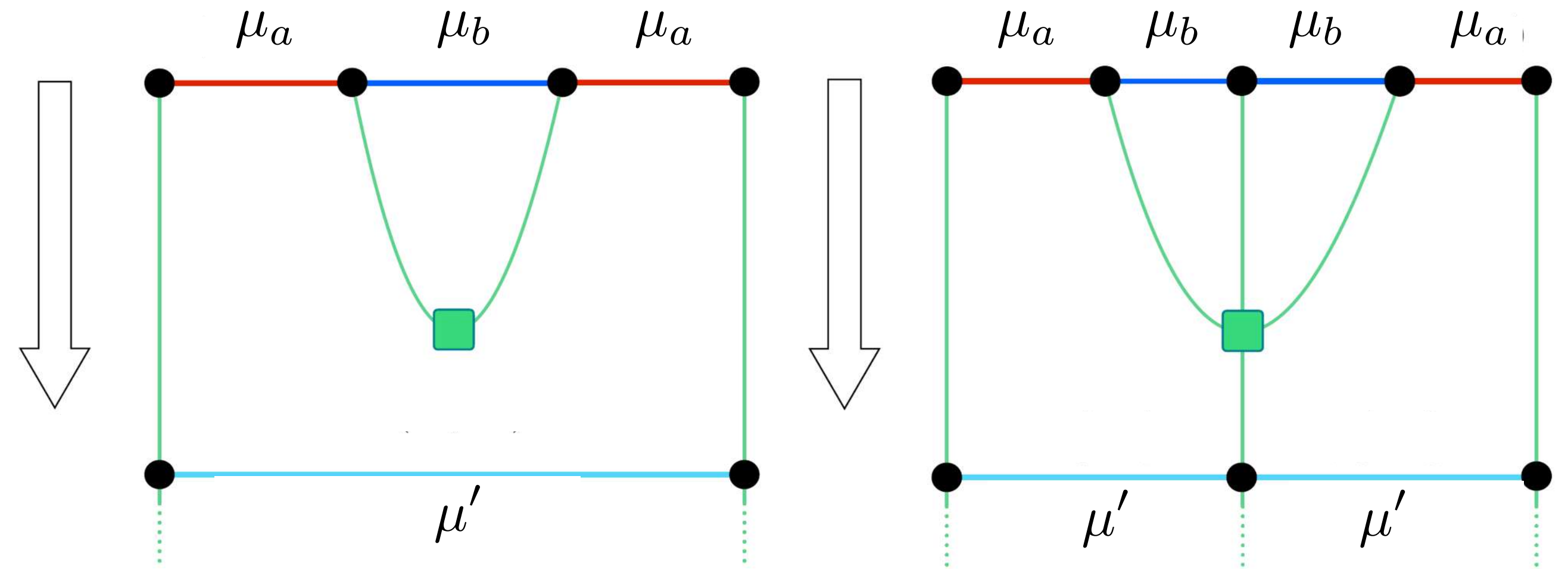
Tensor networks (TNs) from aperiodic chains

We chose the aperiodic chain as boundary theory: how does the bulk encode information about its ground state?

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Tensor network constructed from SDRG

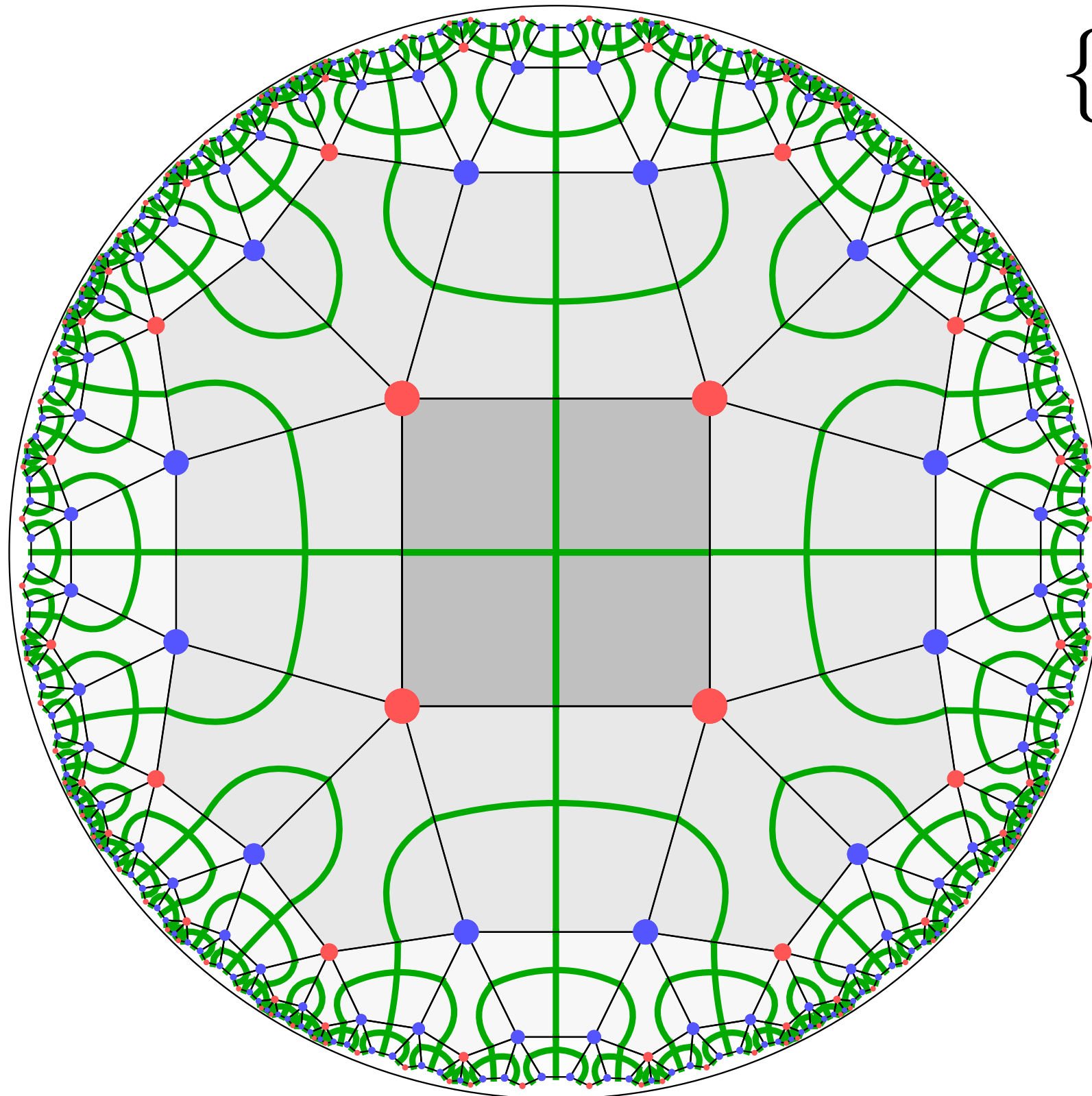


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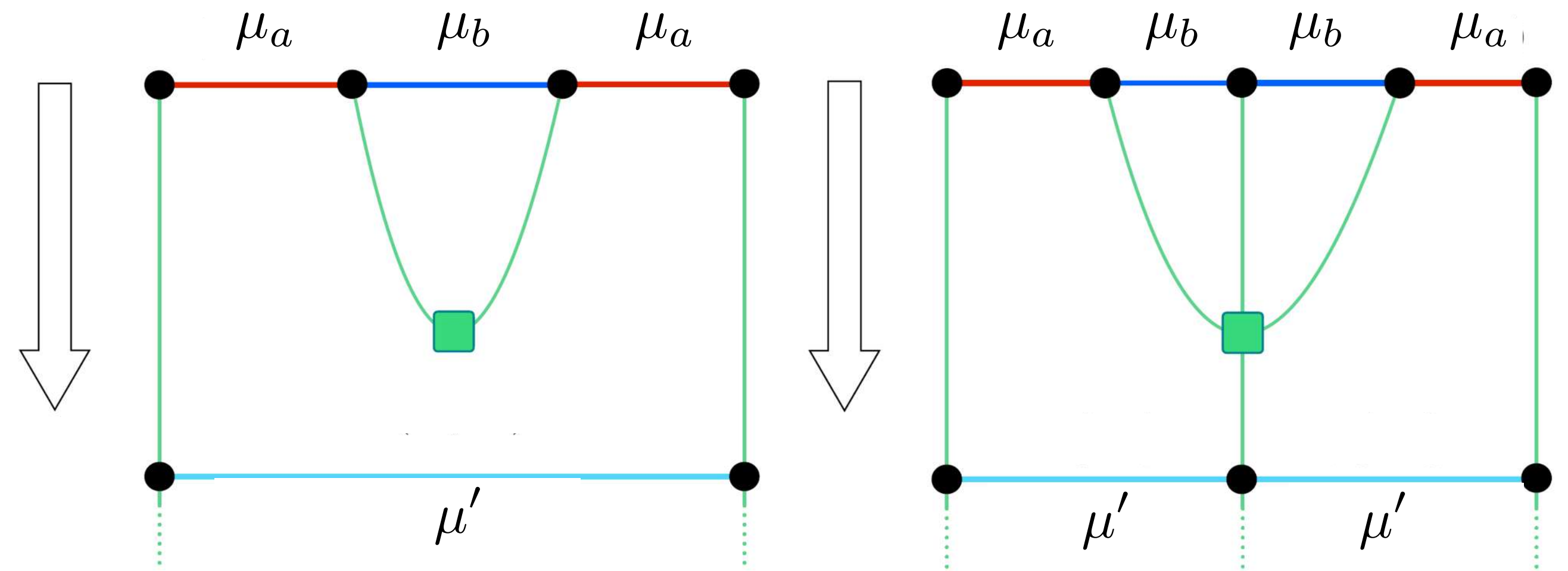
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$\{4, 5\}$

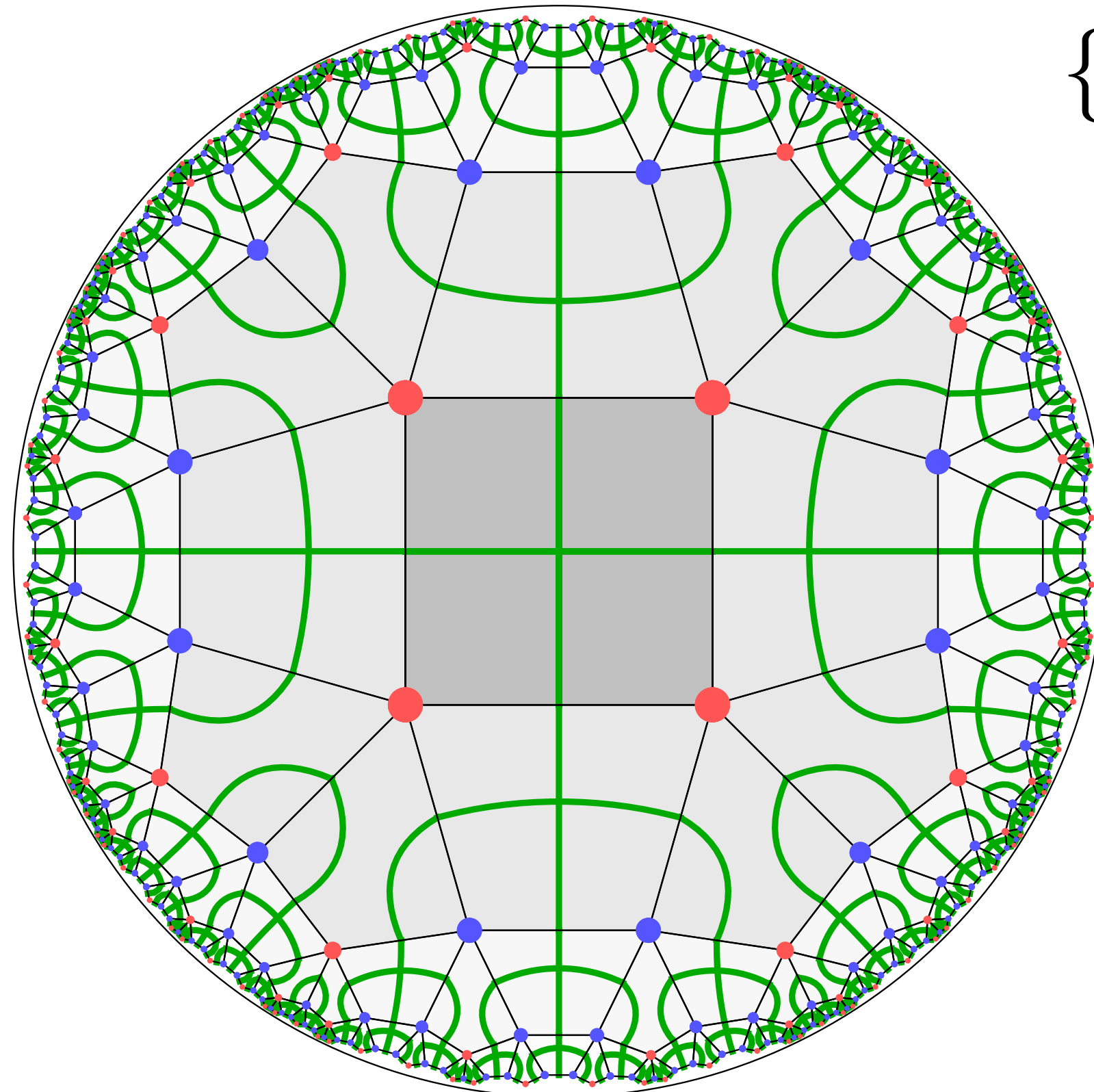


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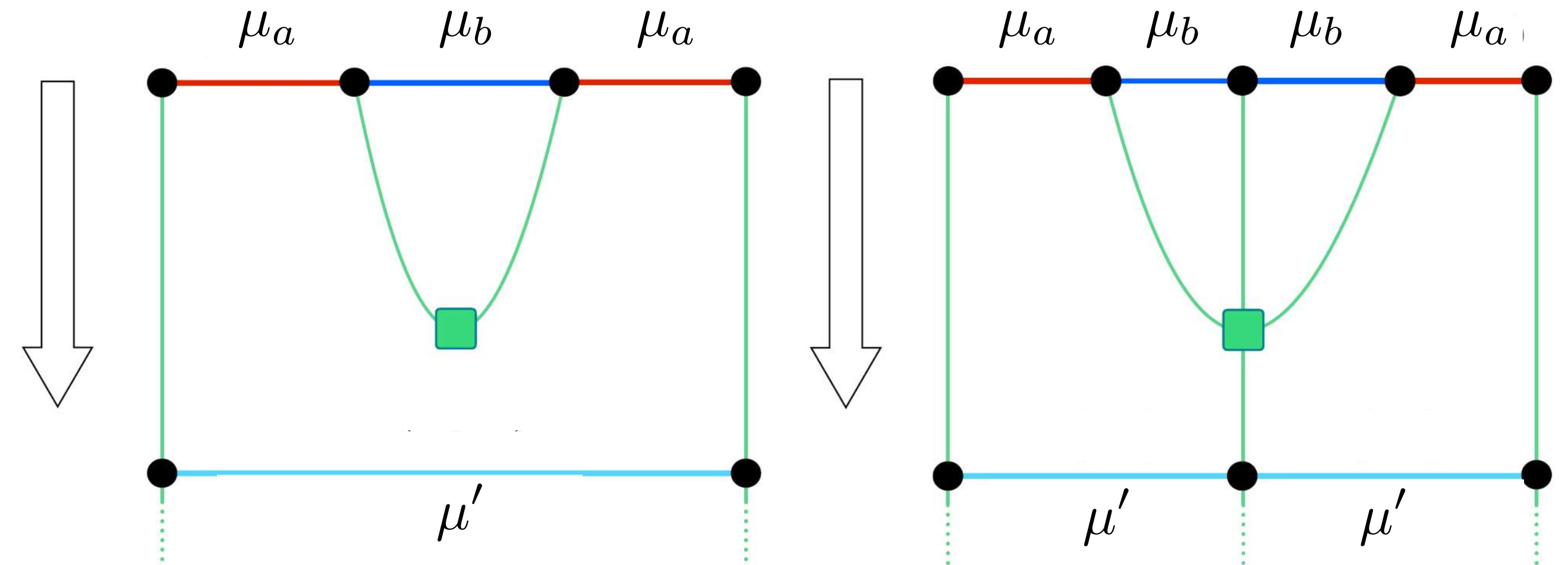
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- This TN reproduces exactly the ground state of the boundary aperiodic spin chain
- It encodes the entanglement structure of the ground state of the boundary theory

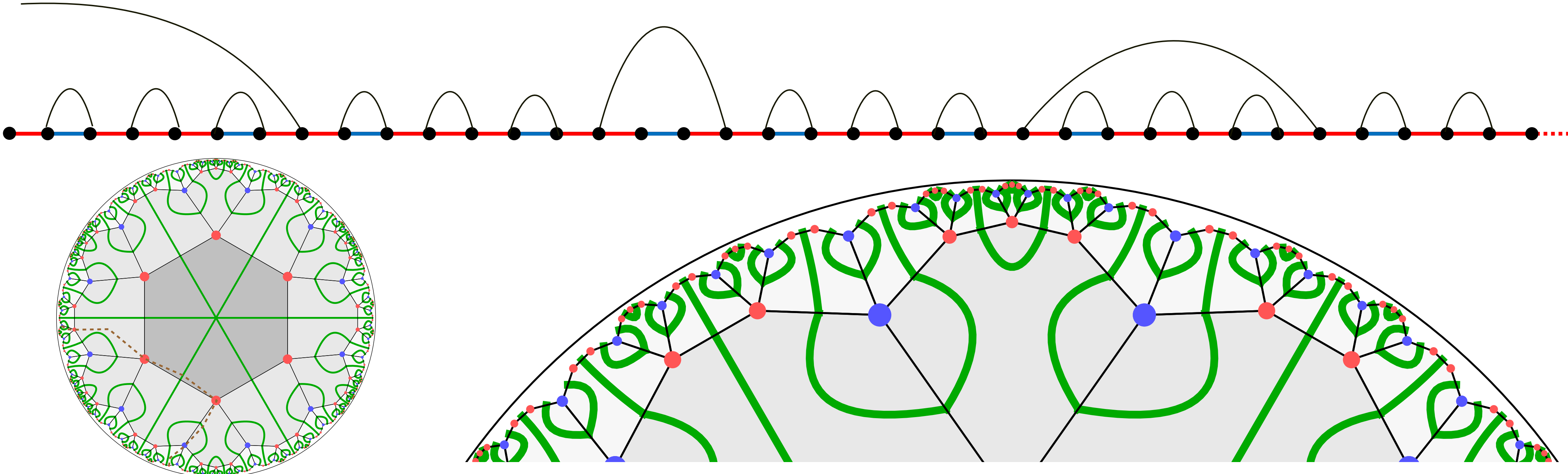
For aperiodic singlet phases
results known through direct
computation are retrieved

No aperiodic singlet phase
Quantitative results, such as bounds on the
entanglement entropy, can be obtained

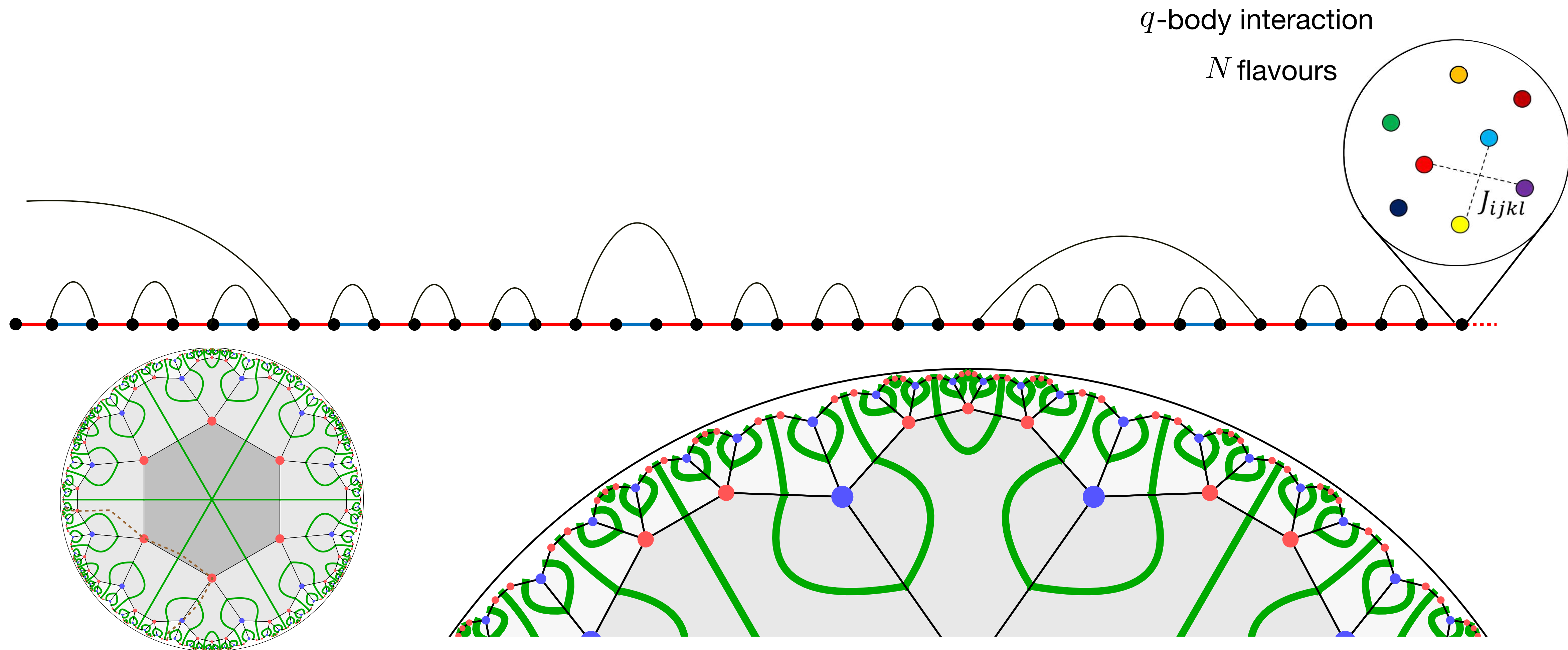
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Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) model



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[Sachdev, Ye, '13]

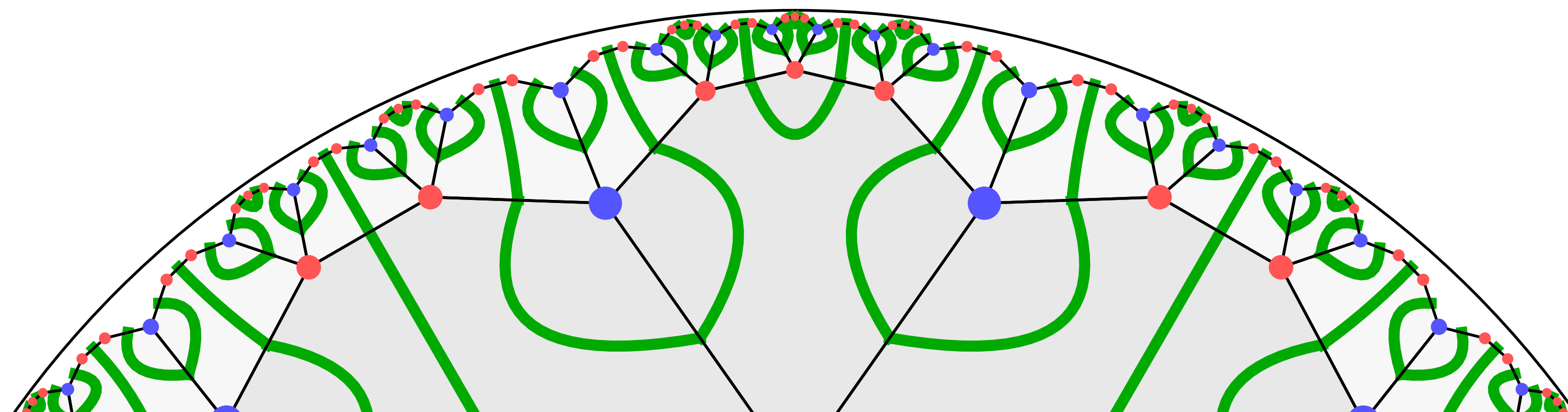
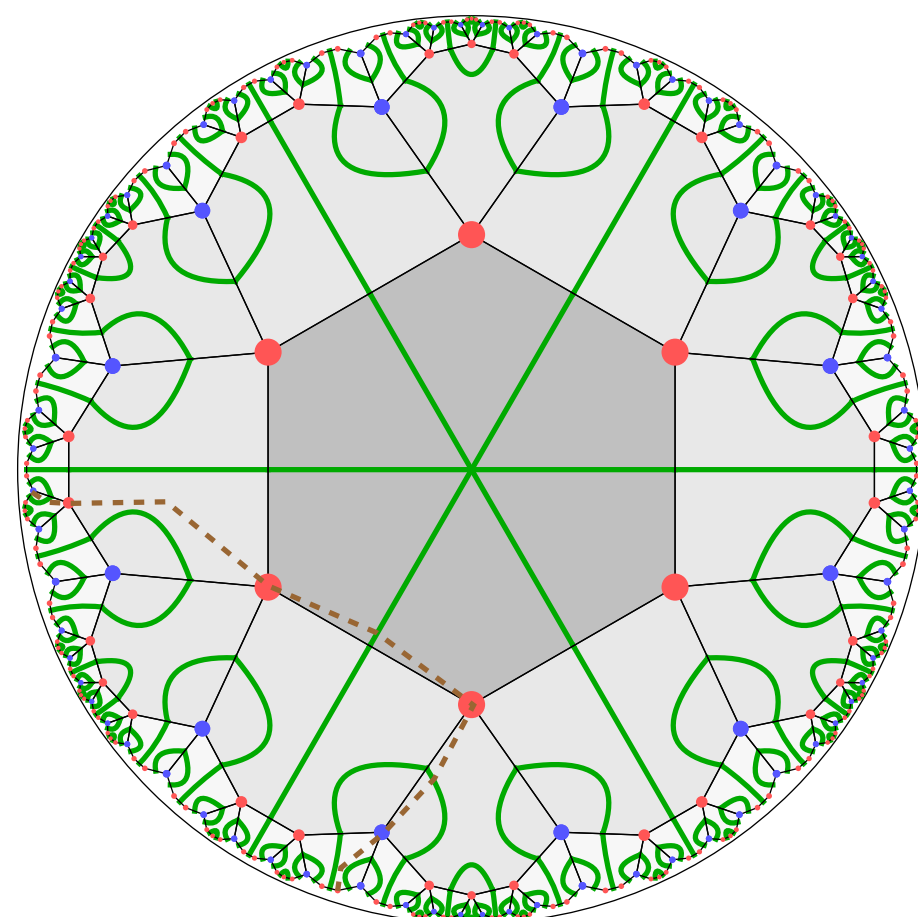
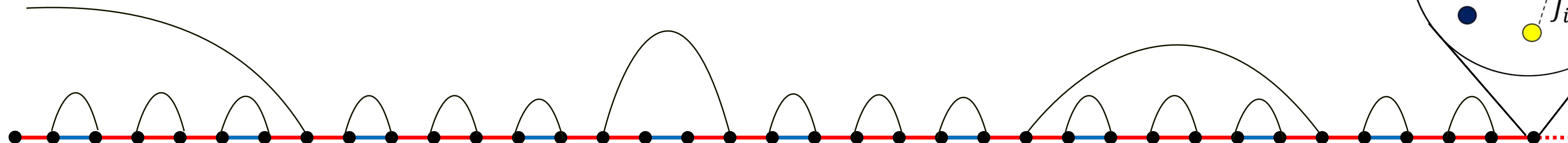
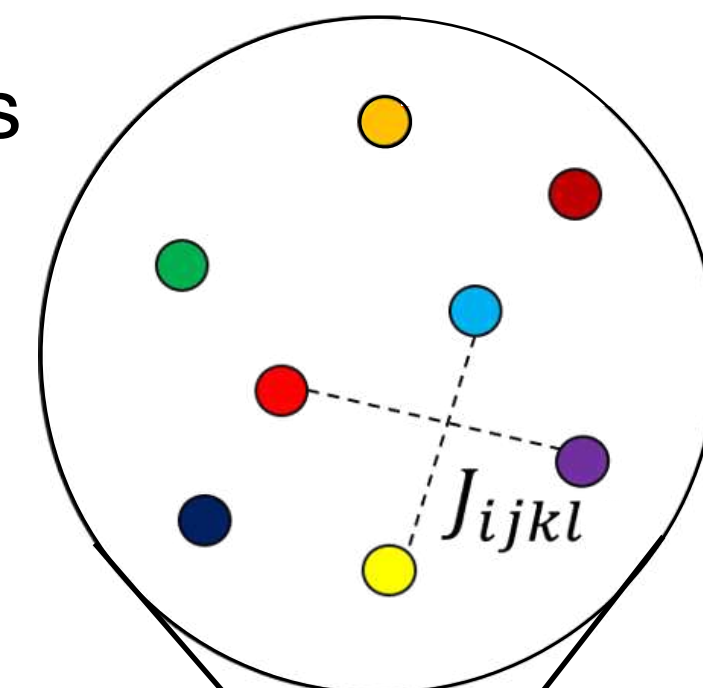
[Kitaev, '15]

$$H = i^{q/2} \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_q \leq N} J_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q, x} \psi_x^{j_1} \psi_x^{j_2} \dots \psi_x^{j_q}$$

$$\langle J_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q}^2 \rangle \propto \frac{\mathcal{J}^2}{N^{q-1}}$$

q -body interaction

N flavours



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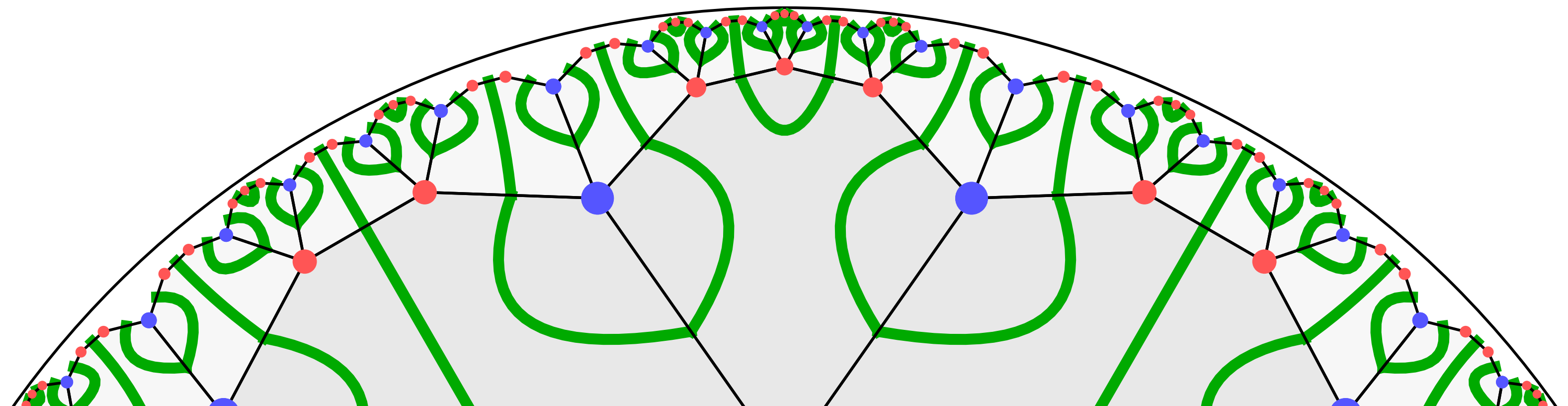
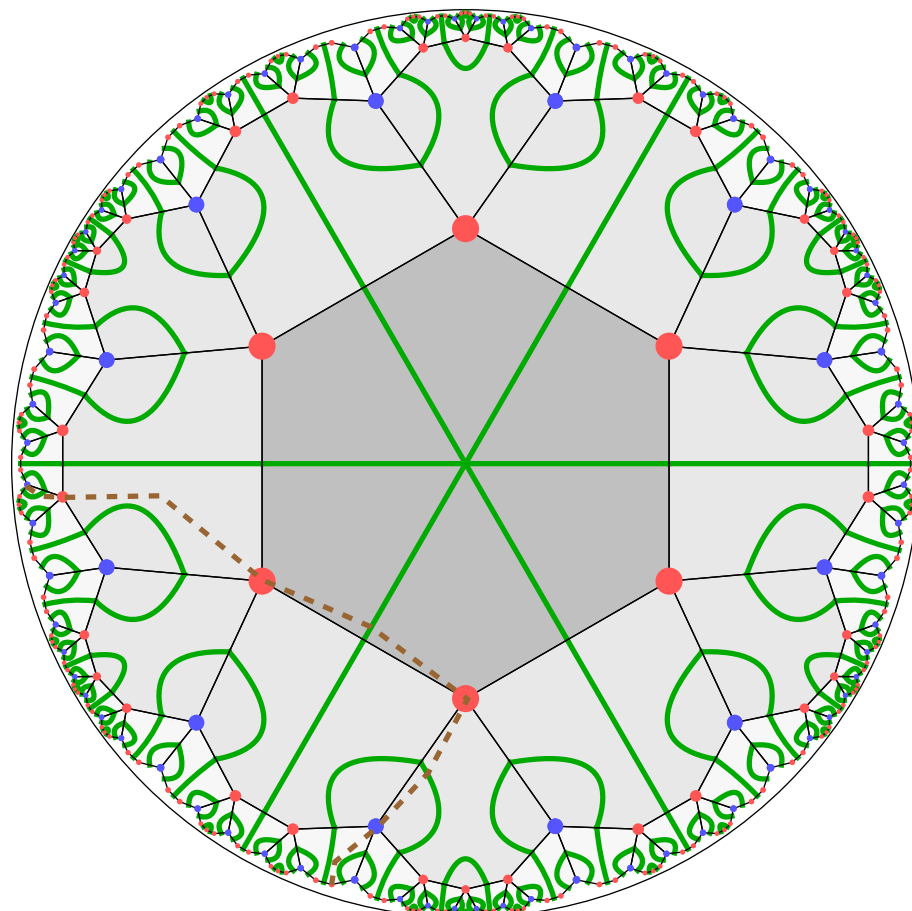
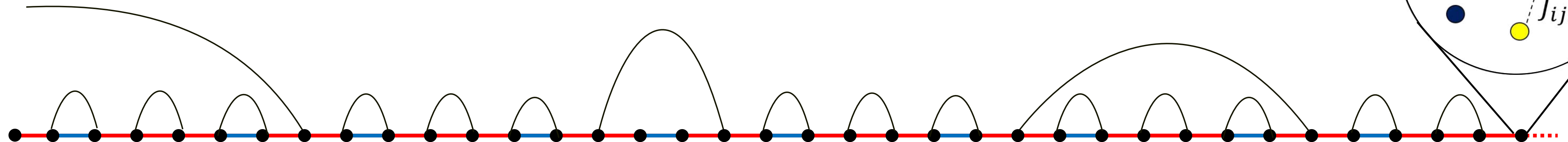
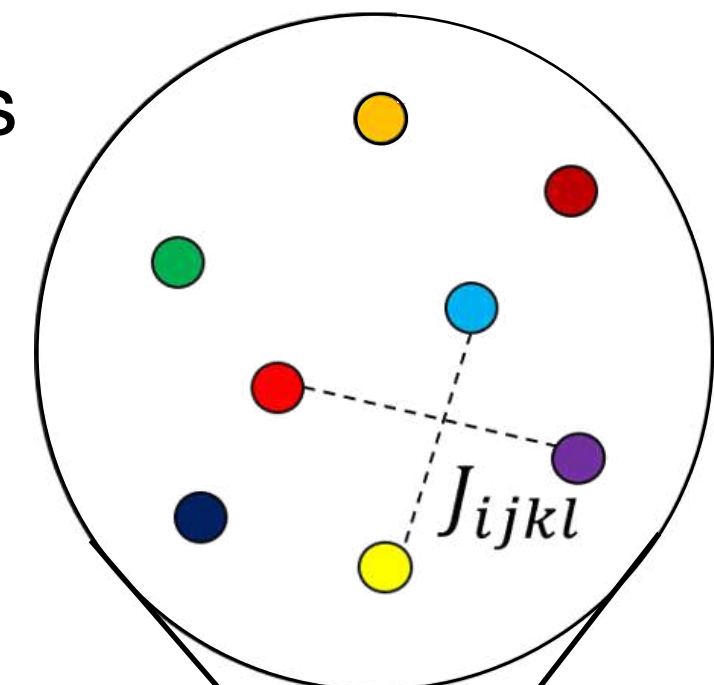
SYK model
0+1-dim

Solvable in the limit $N \gg 1$

Holographically dual to Jackiw-
Teitelboim (JT) gravity in nearly
AdS₂ [Maldacena, Stanford, '16]

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Aperiodic Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK) chain

[Basteiro, GDG,
Erdmenger, Meyer,
Xian, '25]

$$H = \sum_{x=1}^L \left(i^{q/2} \sum_{1 \leq j_1 < j_2 < \dots < j_q \leq N} s_x J_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q, x} \psi_x^{j_1} \psi_x^{j_2} \dots \psi_x^{j_q} + i \sum_{1 \leq j \leq N} \mu_x \psi_x^j \psi_{x+1}^j \right) \quad \langle J_{j_1 j_2 \dots j_q}^2 \rangle \propto \frac{\mathcal{J}^2}{N^{q-1}}$$

$\mu_x = \mu_a, \mu_b$ aperiodic modulation of the $\{6, 4\}$ tiling

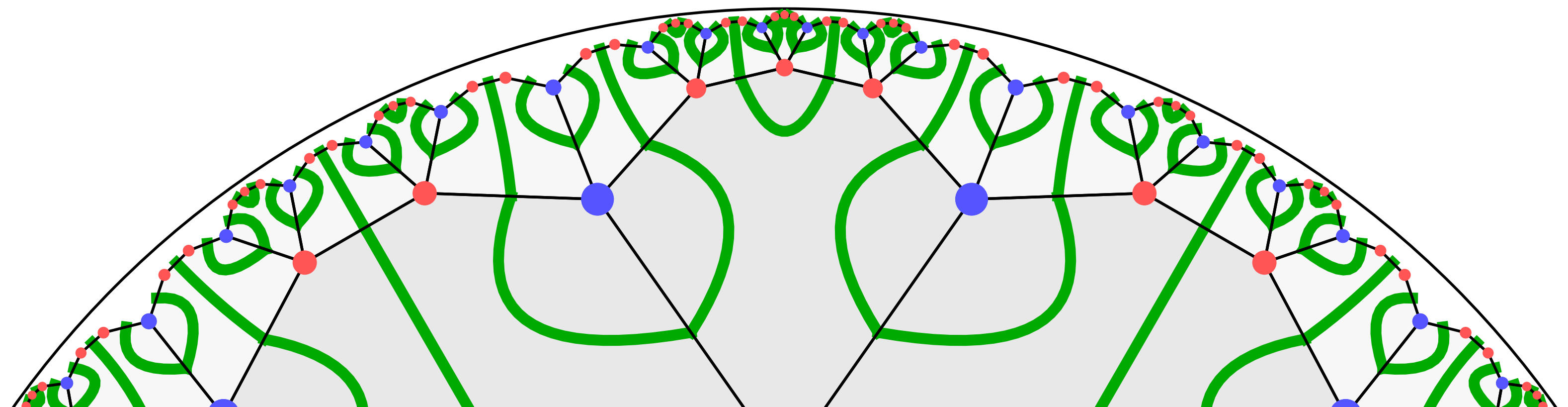
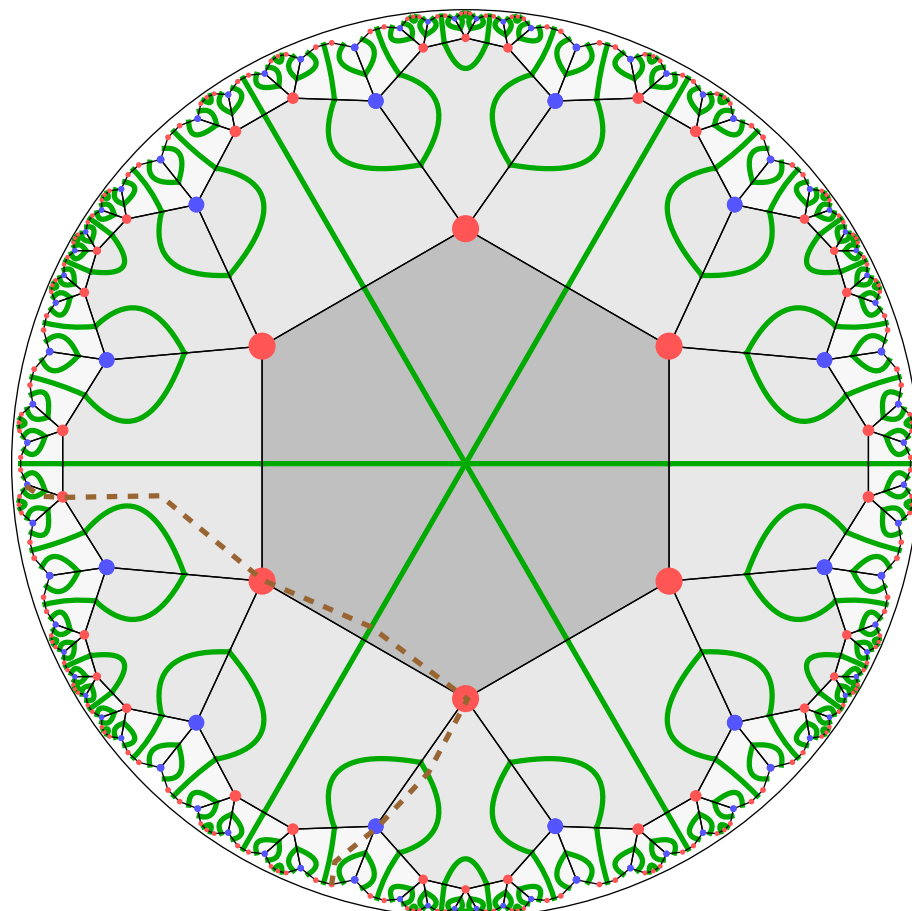
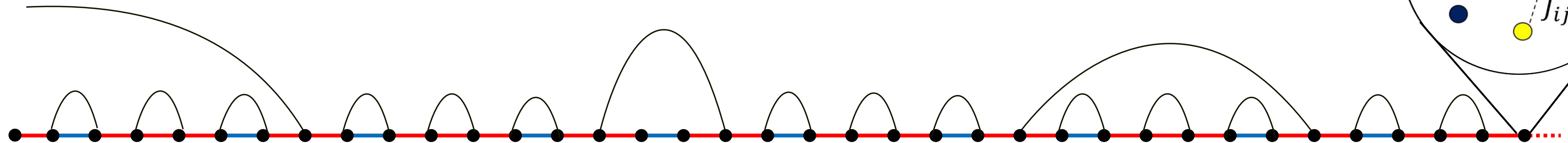
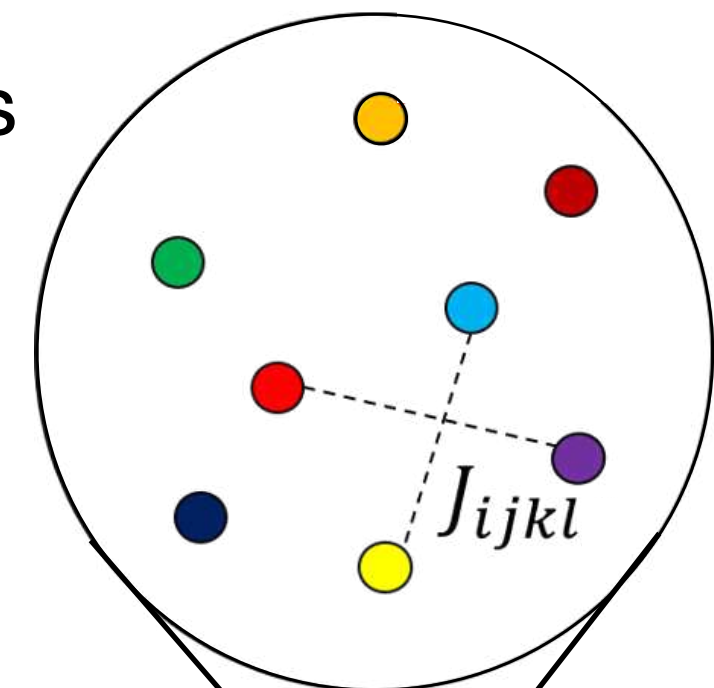
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SDRG on aperiodic SYK chain

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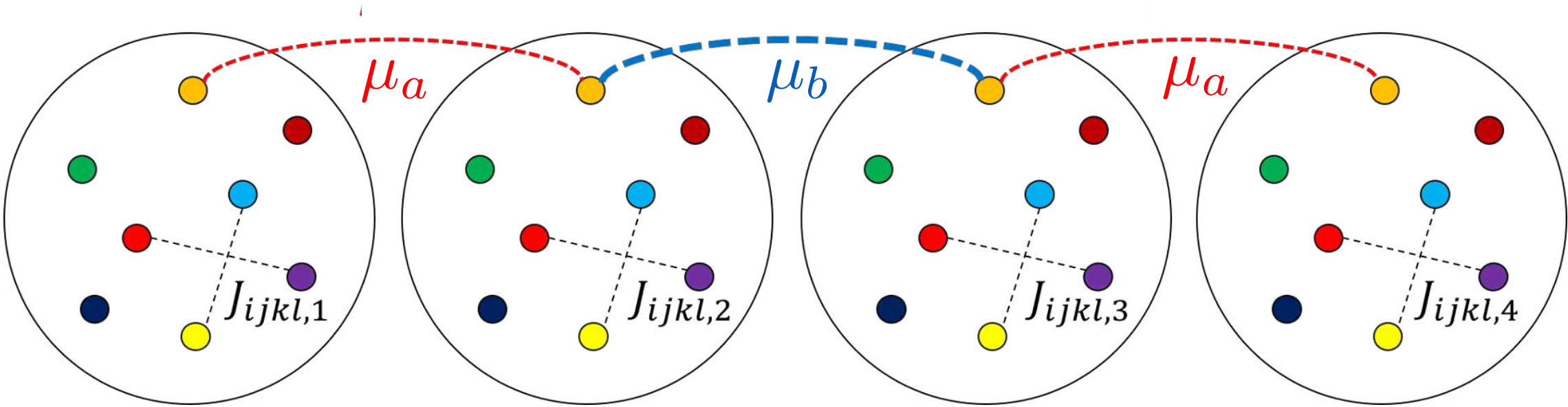
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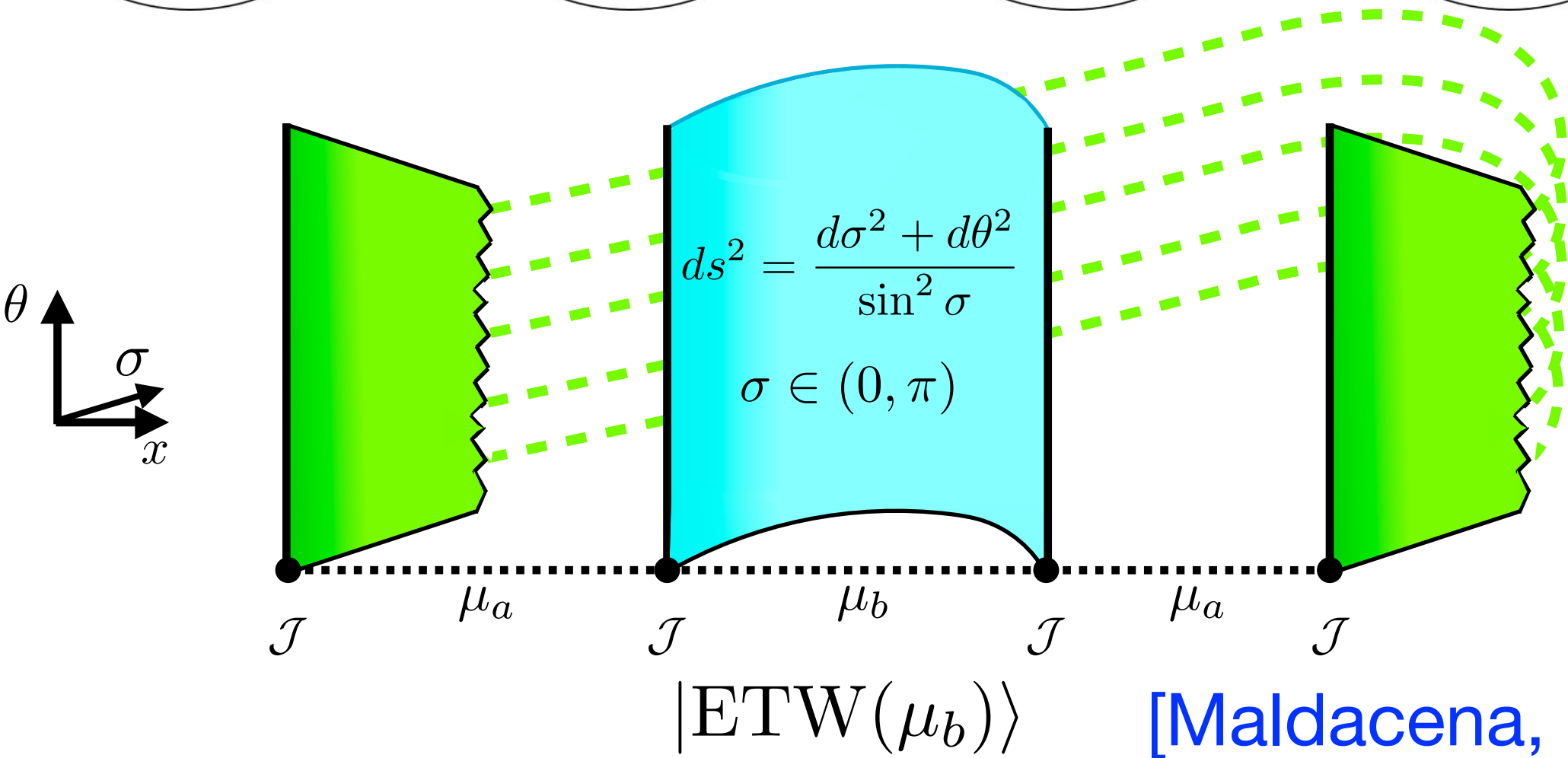
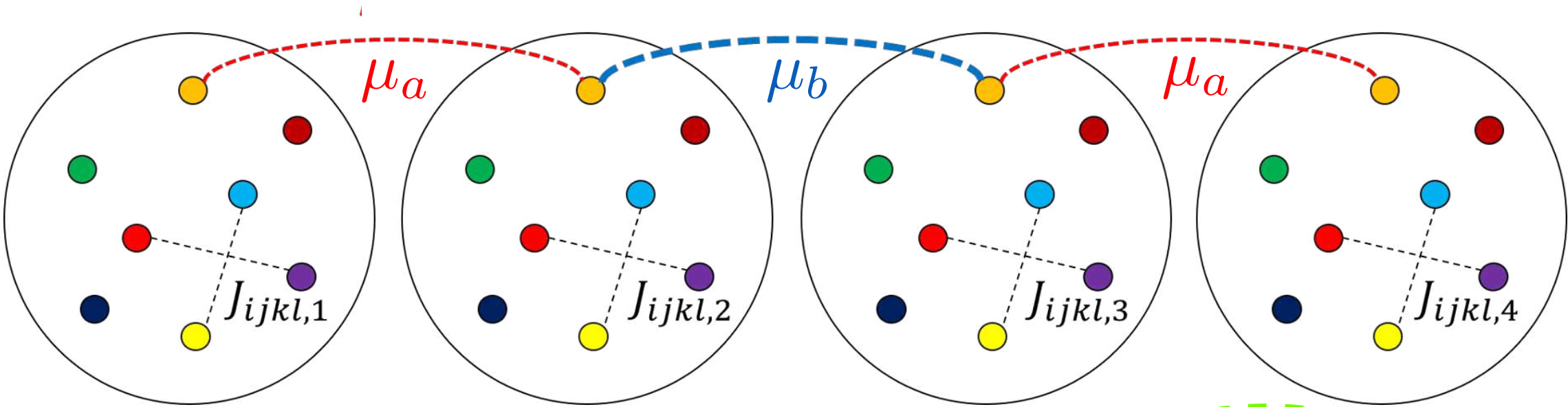
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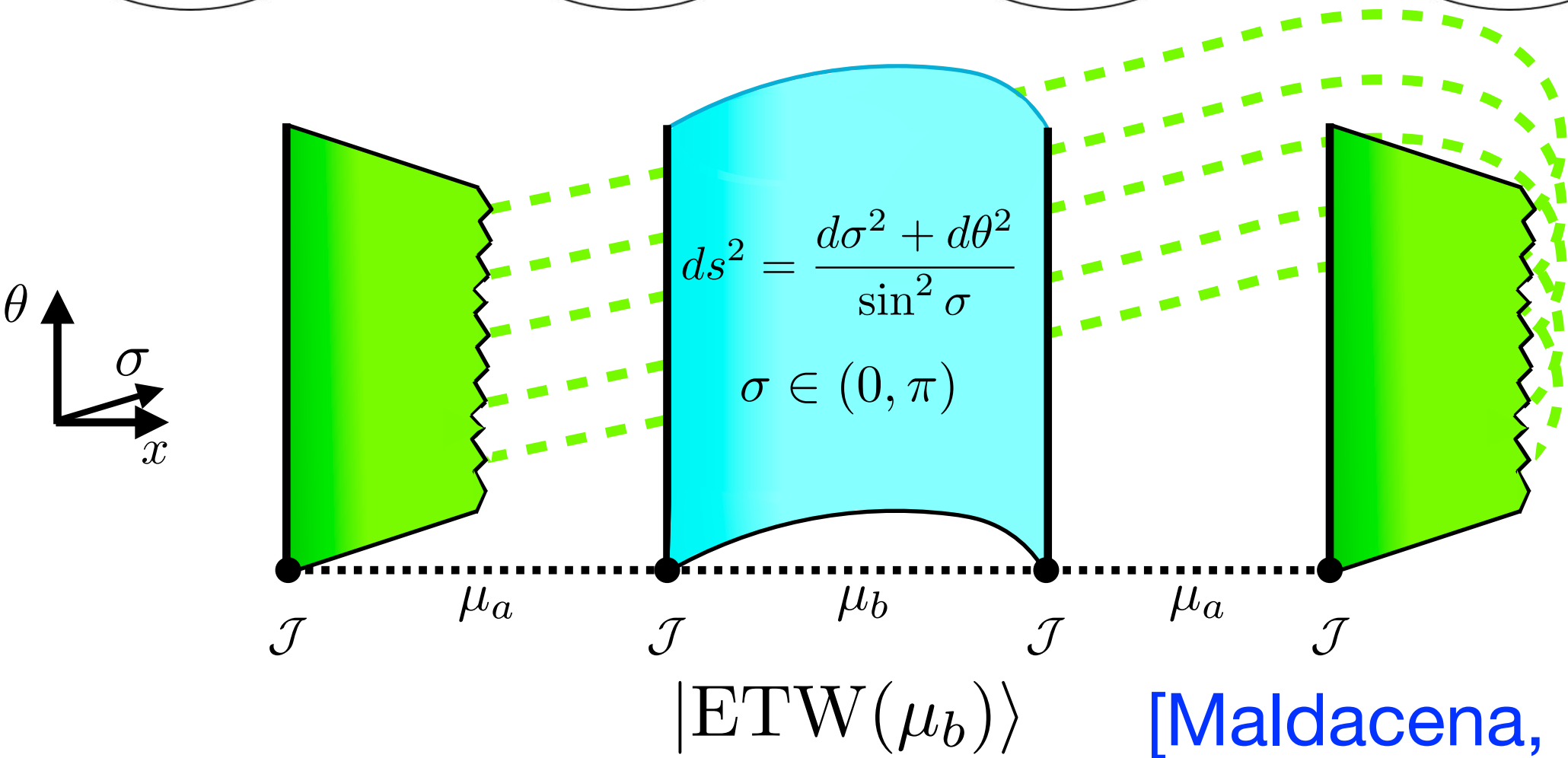
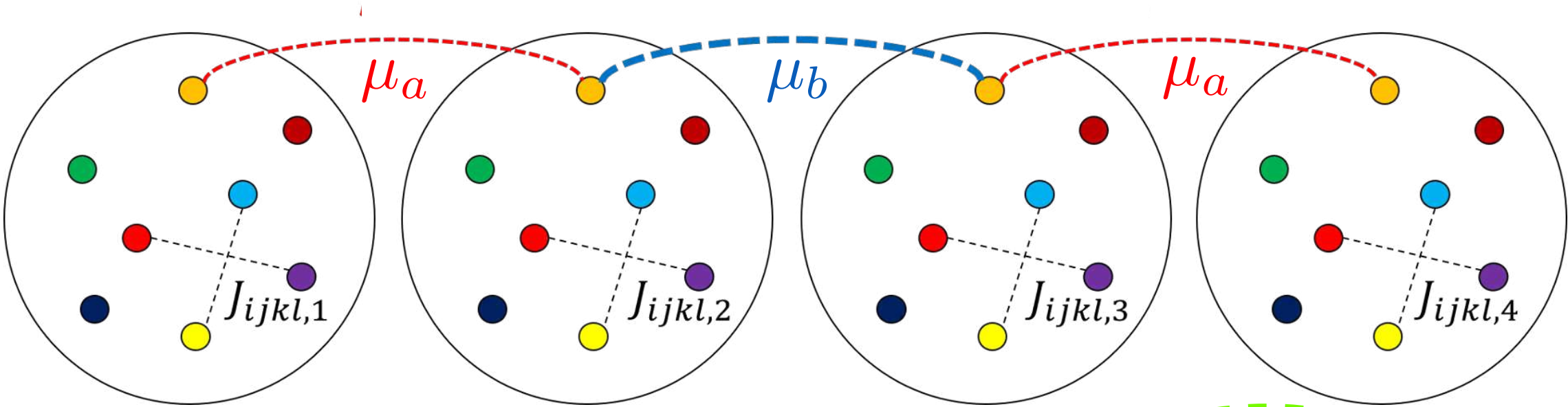
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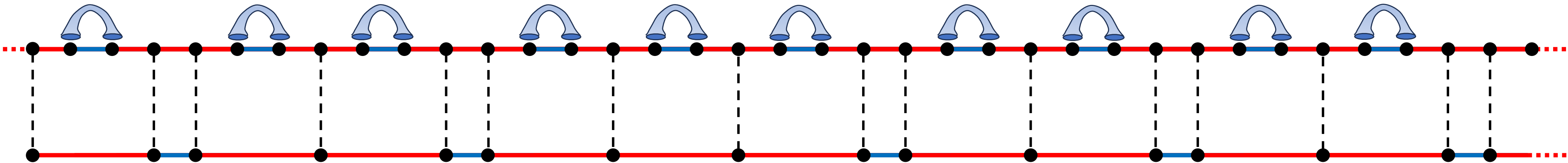
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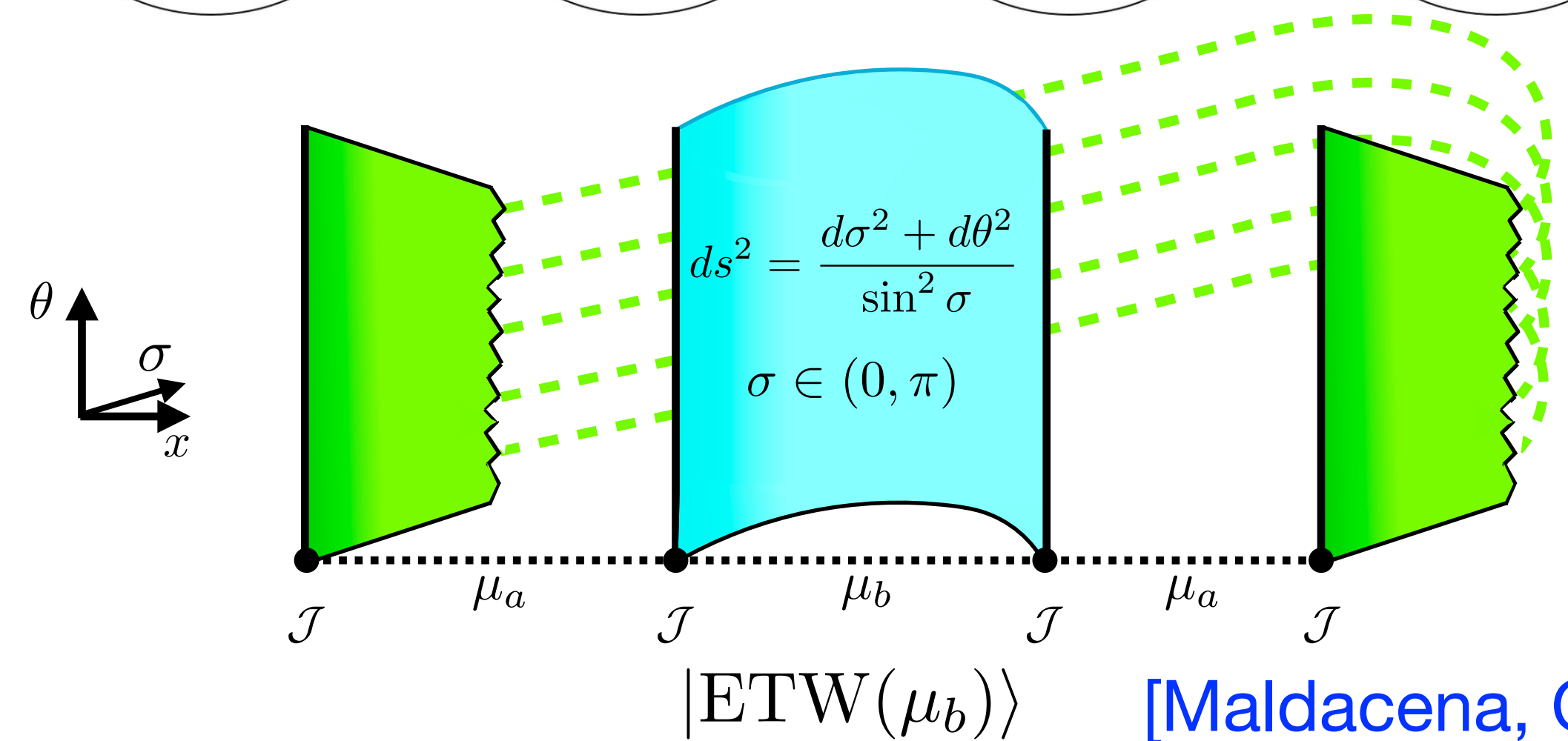
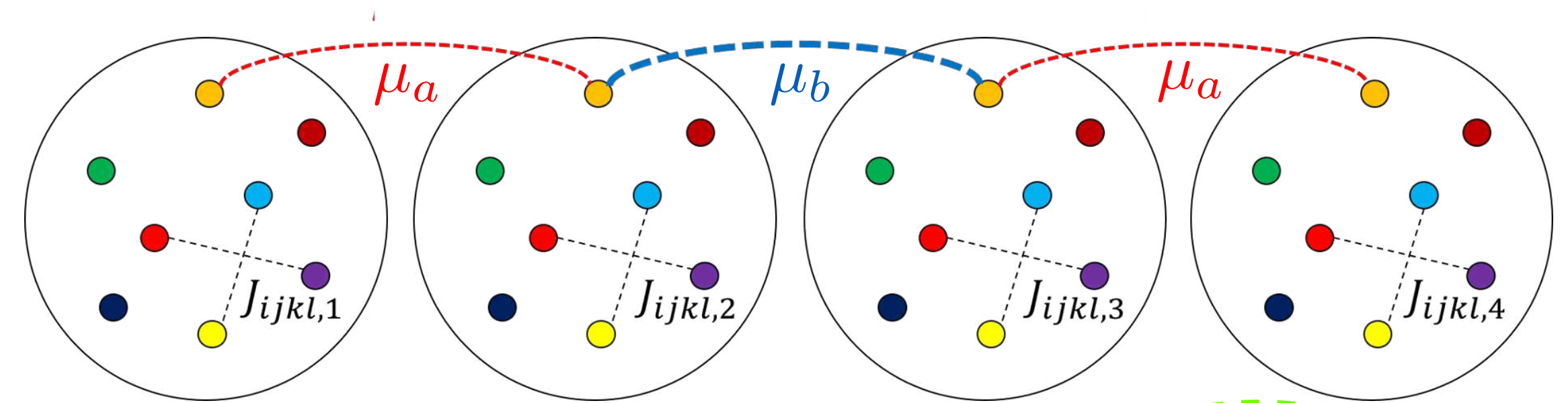
[Maldacena, Qi, '18]



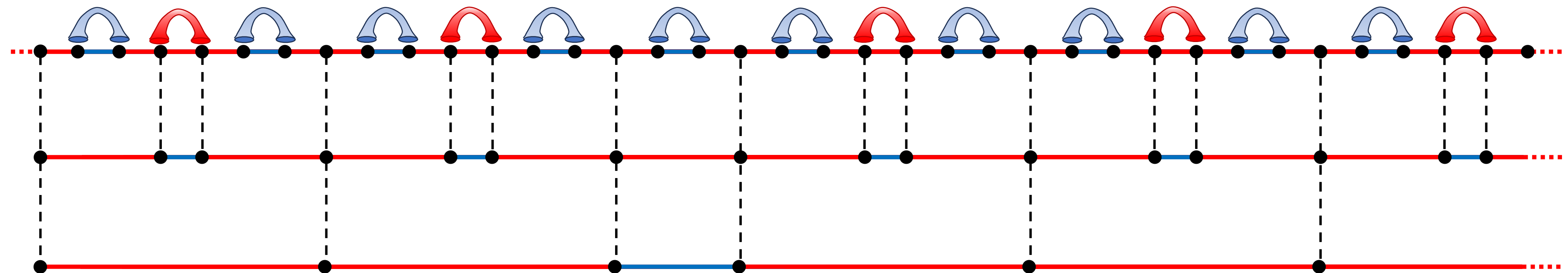
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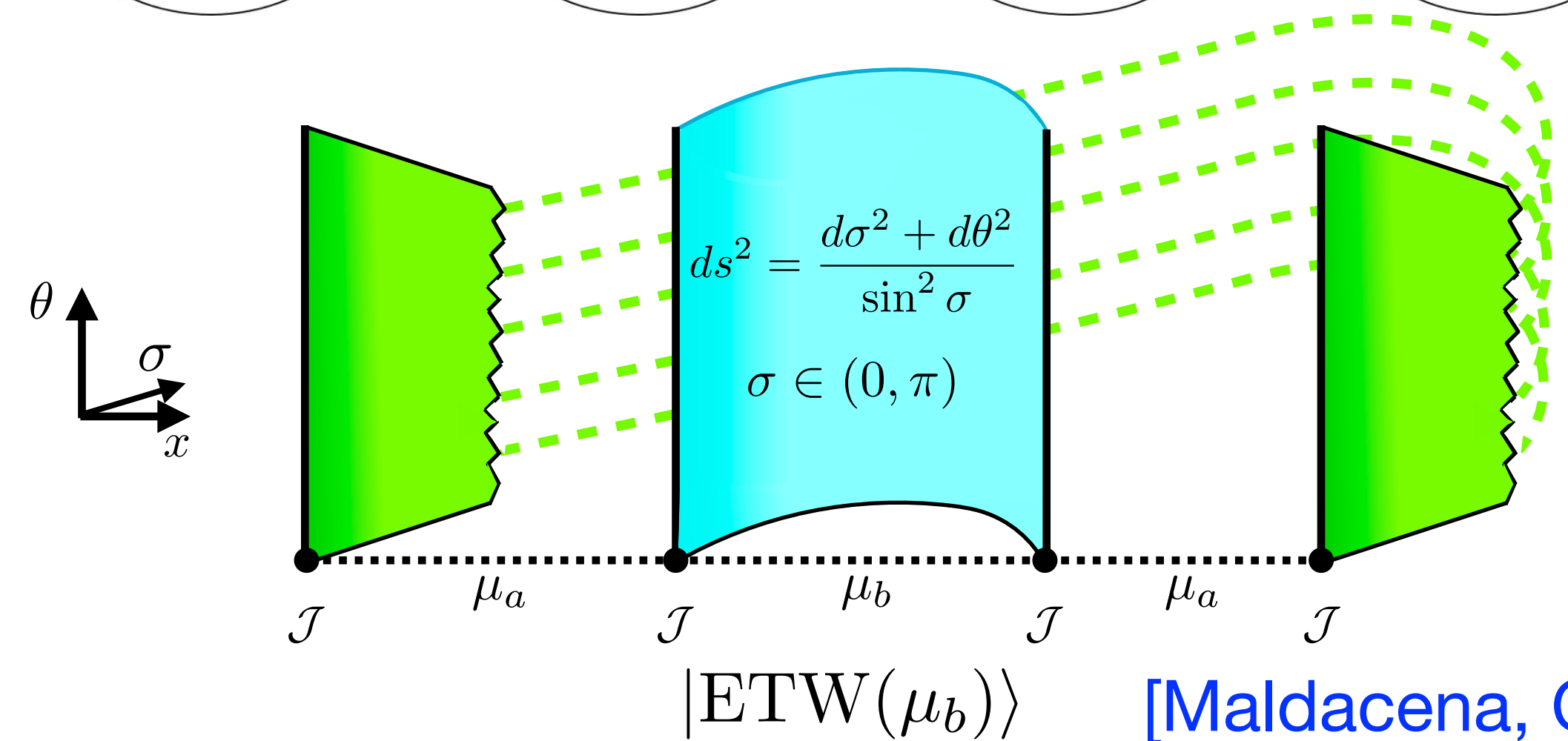
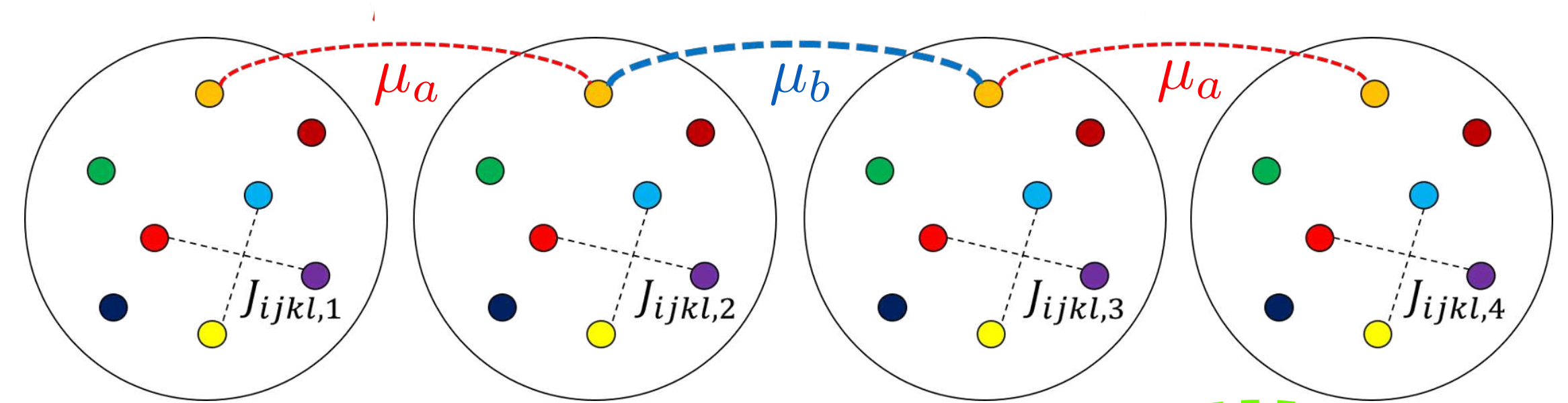
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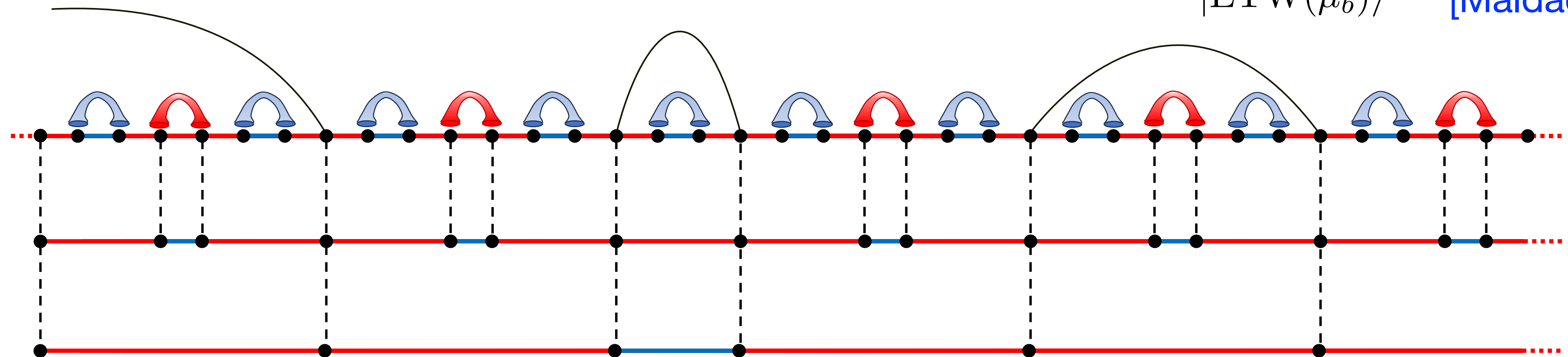
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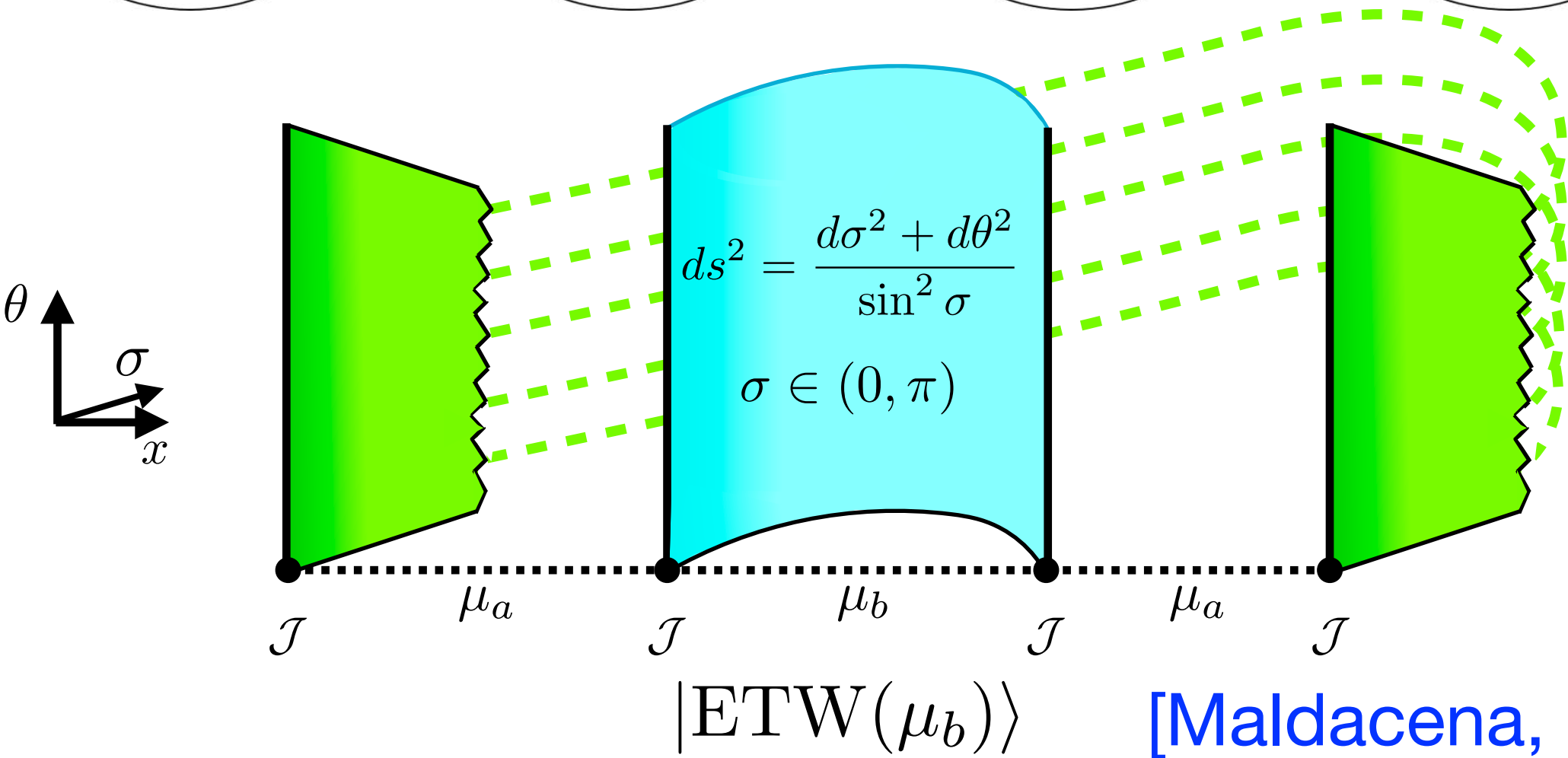
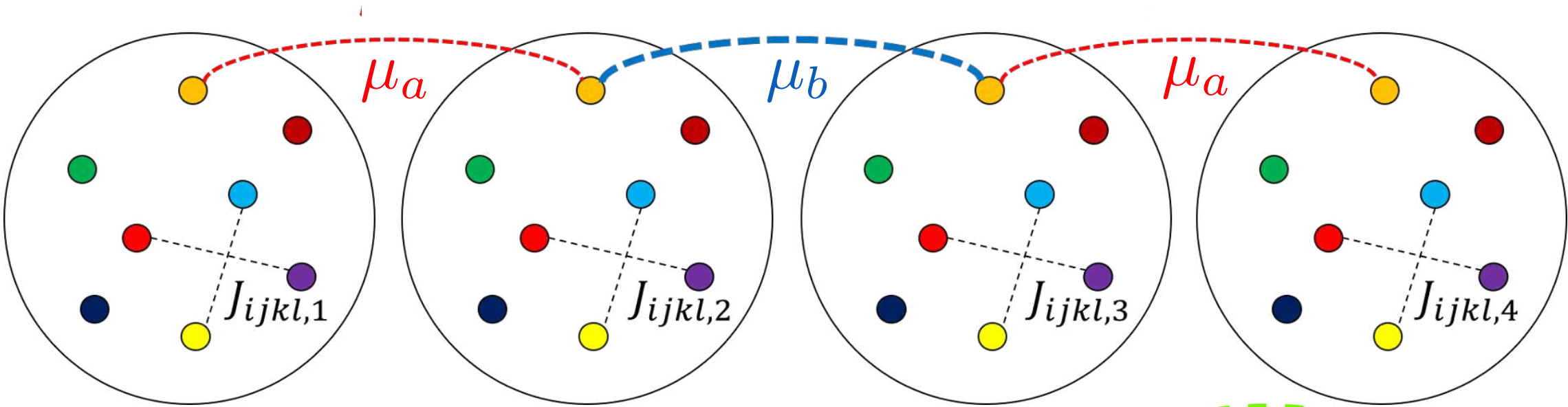
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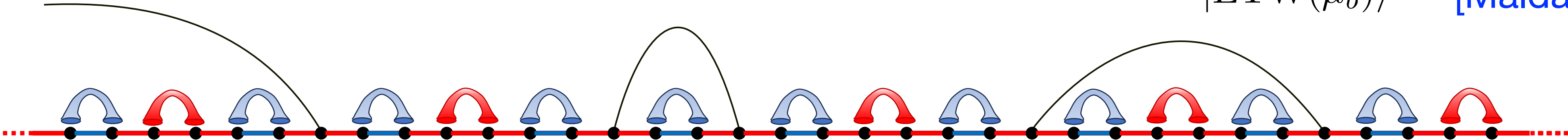
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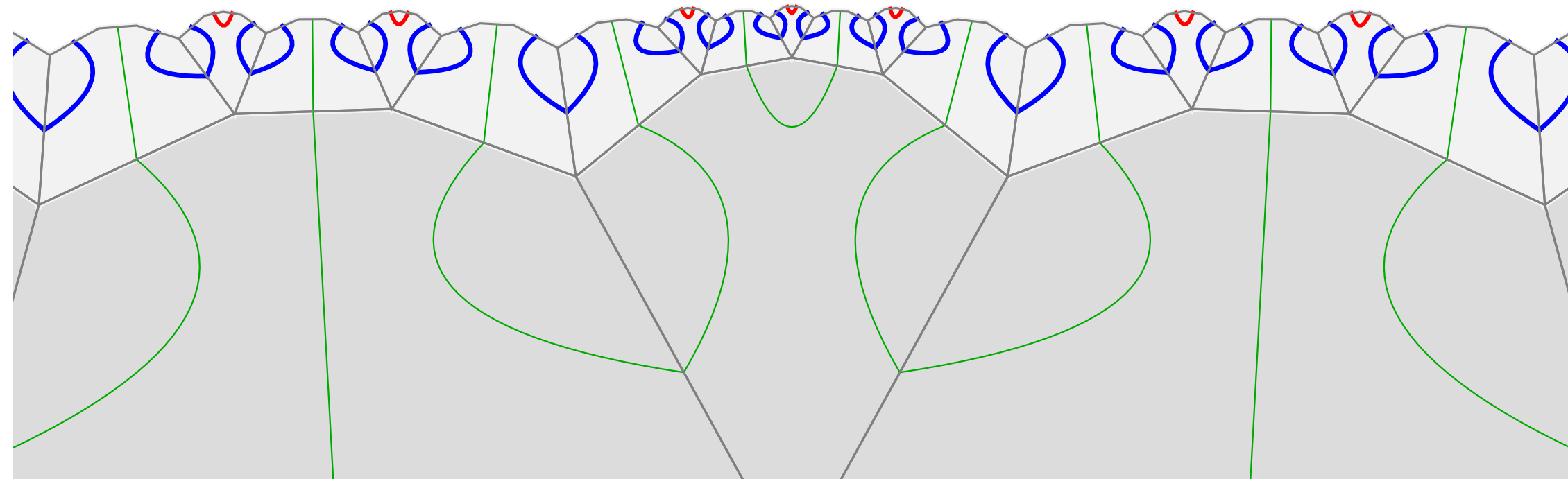


$$|\text{GS}\rangle = \bigotimes_{s_1 \in G_1} |\text{ETW}_{s_1}(\mu_b)\rangle \bigotimes_{s_2 \in G_2} |\text{ETW}_{s_2}(\mu_a)\rangle \bigotimes_{s \in G_{i>2}} |\text{EPR}_s\rangle$$

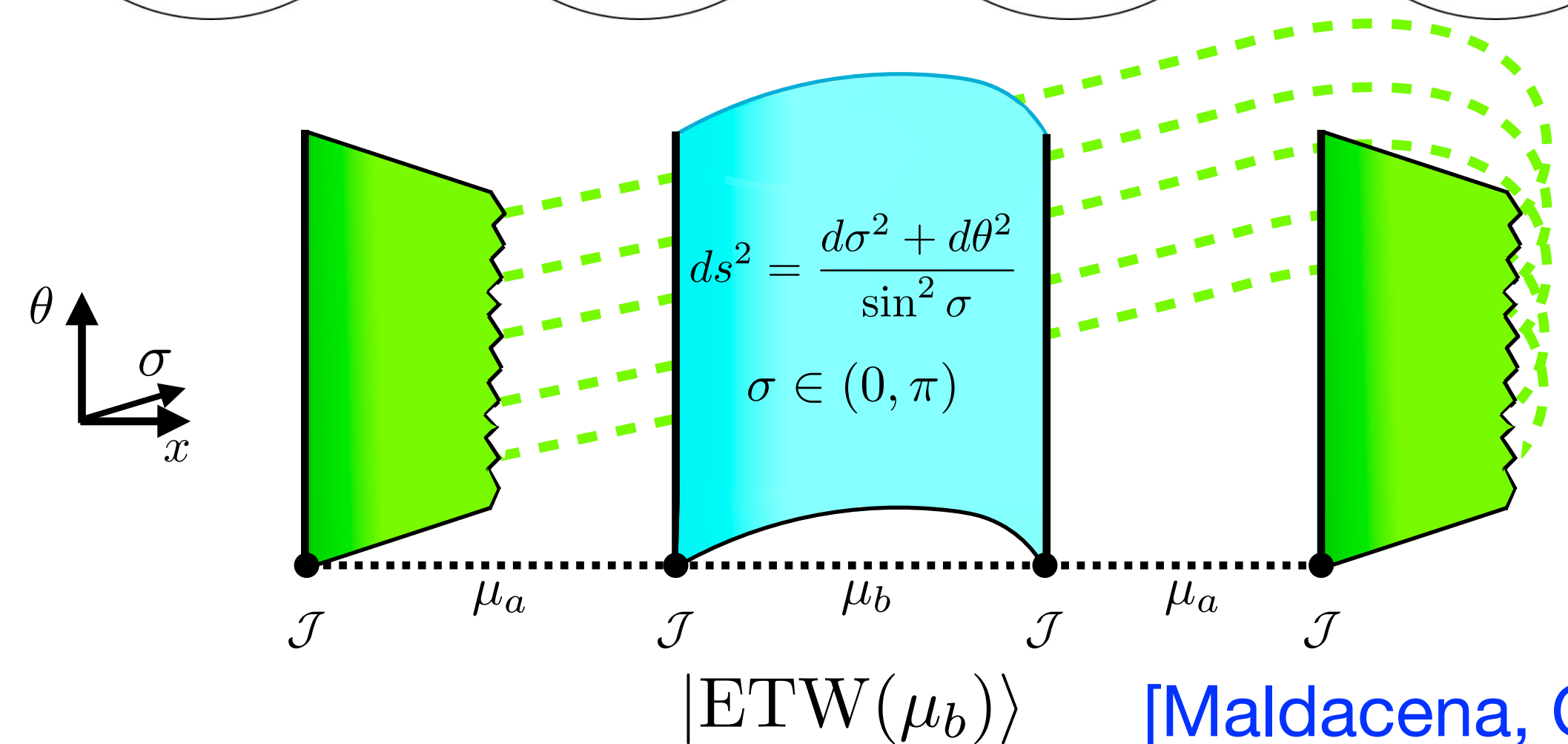
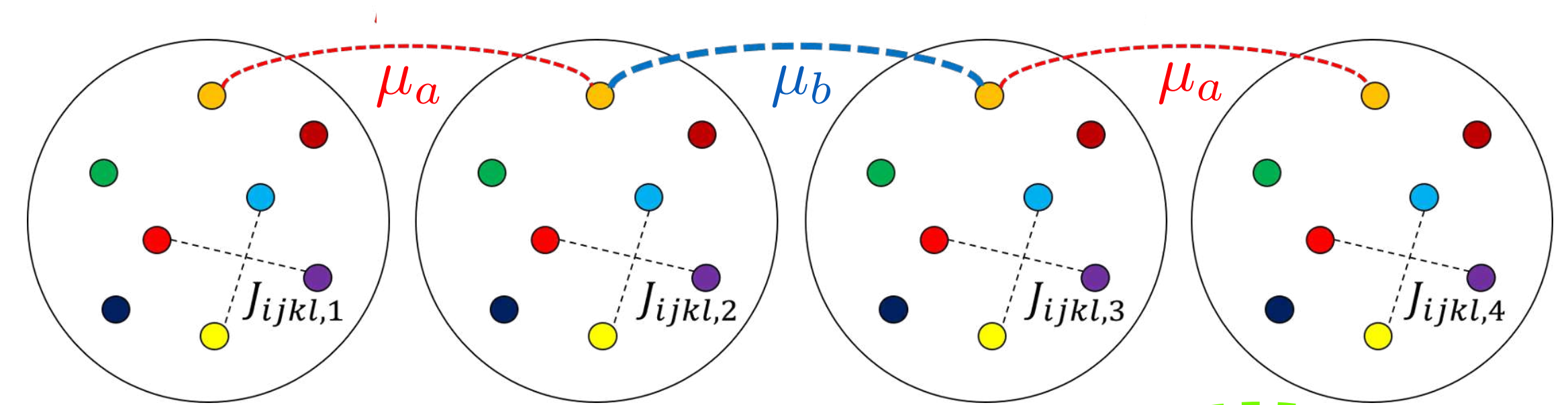
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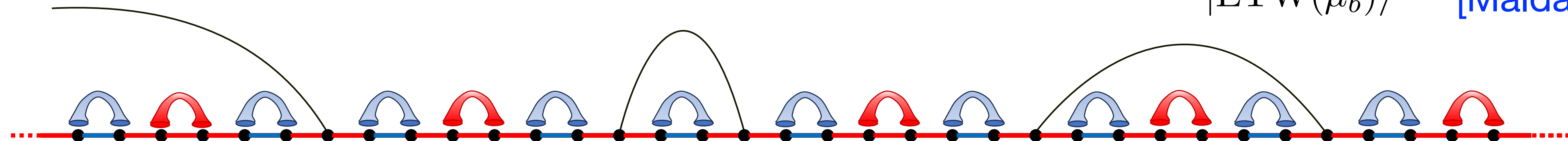
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Metric description only close to the boundary



[Maldacena, Qi, '18]



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- Aperiodic spin chains at the boundary of hyperbolic tilings
- Ground state and entanglement properties
- Tensor networks as a bulk description from aperiodic chains
- Towards adding a metric in the bulk
- **Conclusions and future perspectives**

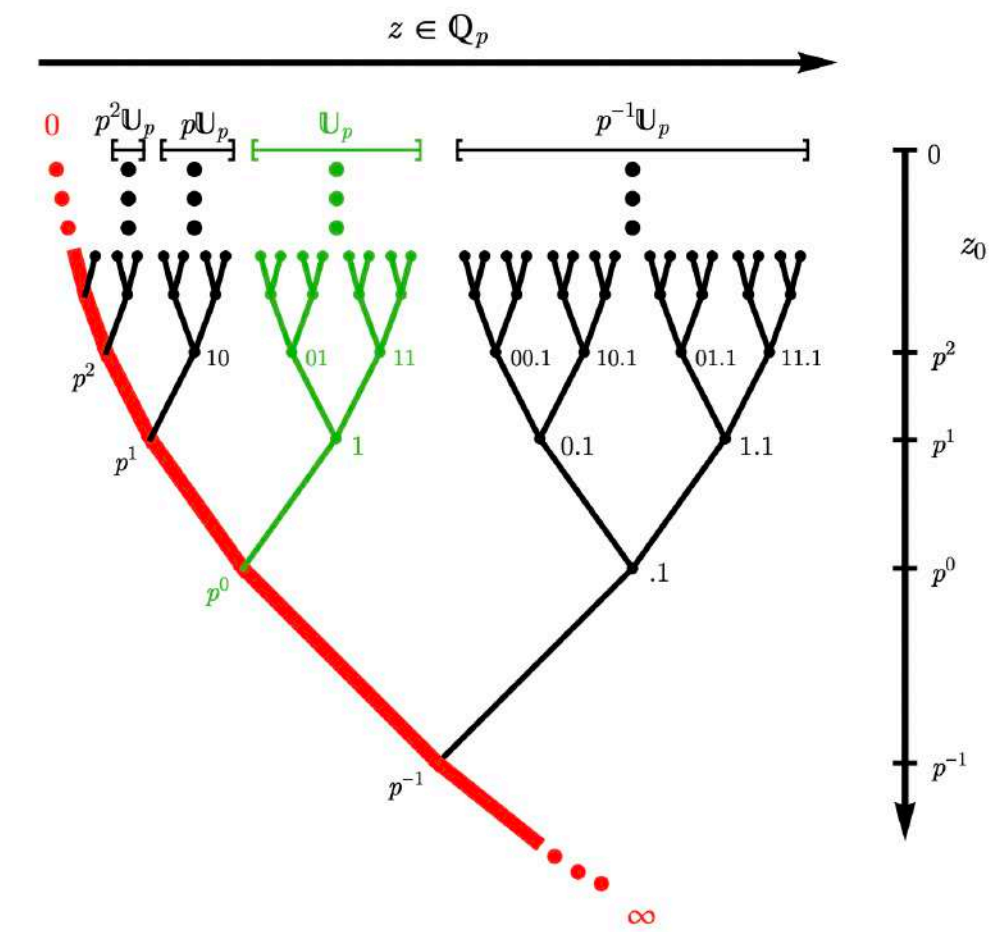
Summary

- The inflation procedure identifies an aperiodic sequence at the boundary of $\{p, q\}$ tilings
- The ground state of a certain class of aperiodic chains is an aperiodic singlet phase
- Entanglement entropy of the chain through SDRG
- Exploiting SDRG we construct a tensor network in the bulk
- Adding SYK interactions, near-boundary regions with a sequence of factorized wormholes

Future perspectives

- Towards a bulk theory, edge-length-dynamics models in regular hyperbolic tilings
[Gubser, Heydeman, Jepsen, Marcolli, Parikh, Saberi, Stoica, Trundy, '17]

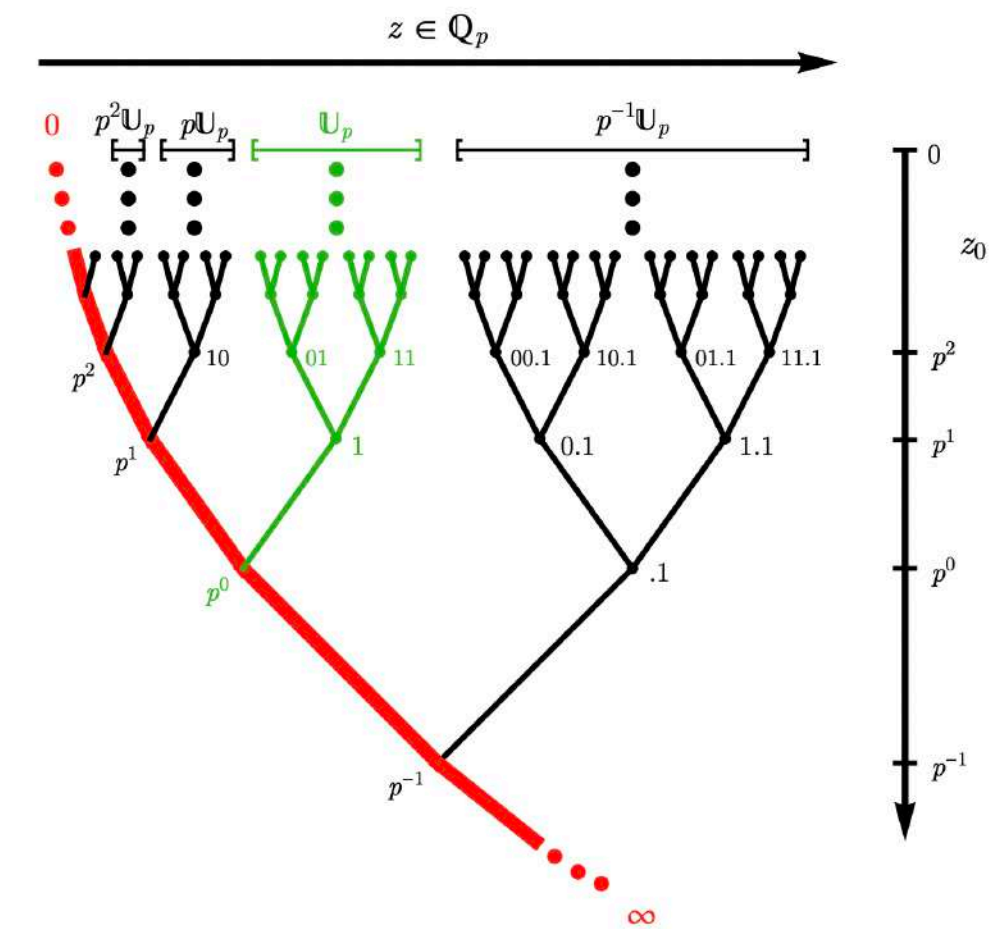
Figure from [Gubser, Knaute, Parikh, Samberg, Witaszczyk '16]



Future perspectives

- Towards a bulk theory, edge-length-dynamics models in regular hyperbolic tilings
[Gubser, Heydeman, Jepsen, Marcolli, Parikh, Saberi, Stoica, Trundy, '17]
- Boundary theory encoding the full isometry group of the hyperbolic tilings
[Maciejko, Rayan, '22]

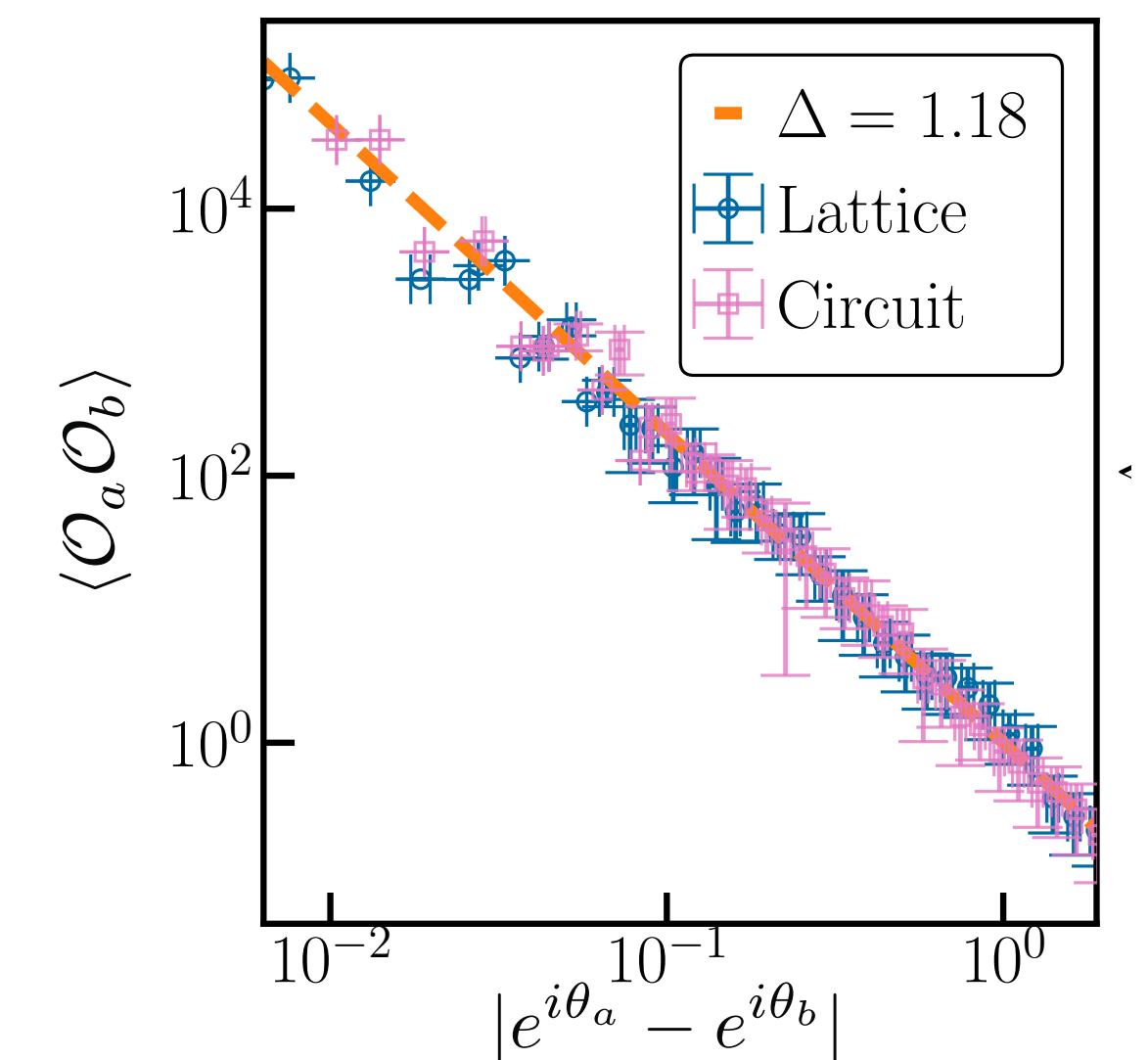
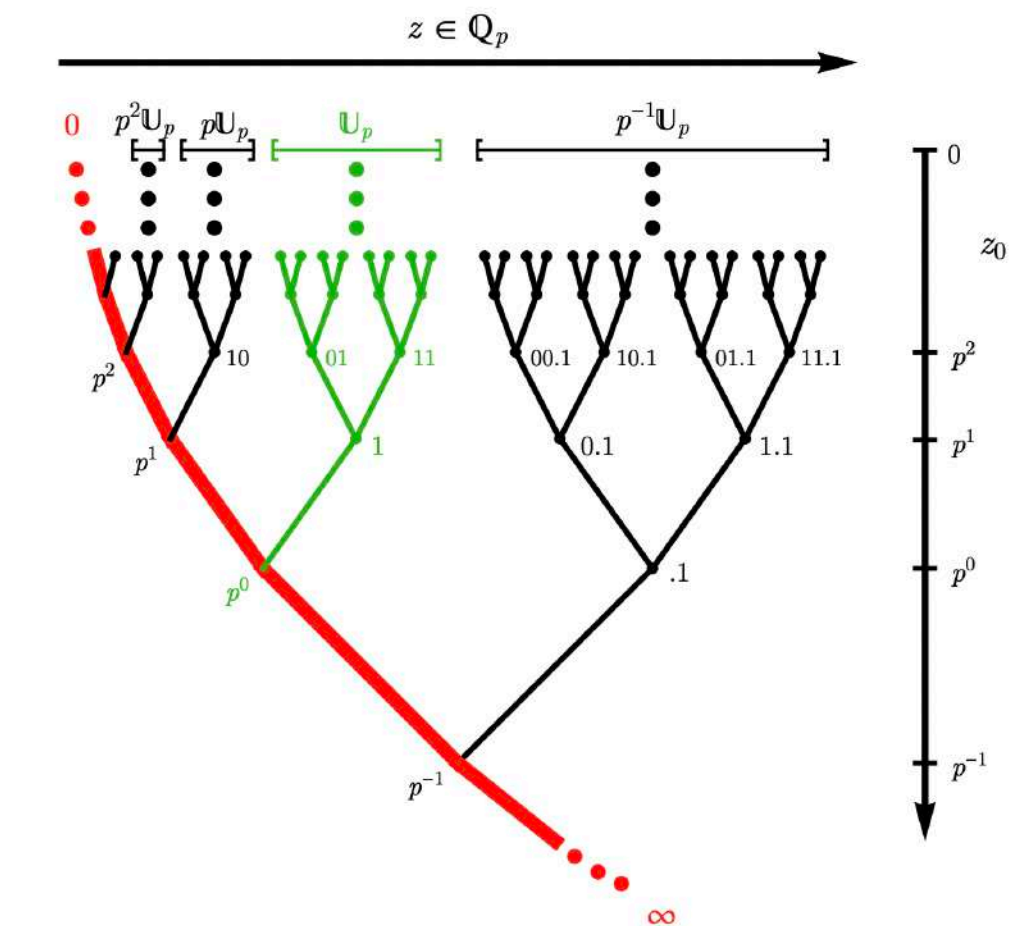
Figure from [Gubser, Knaute, Parikh, Samberg, Witaszczyk '16]



Future perspectives

- Towards a bulk theory, edge-length-dynamics models in regular hyperbolic tilings [Gubser, Heydeman, Jepsen, Marcolli, Parikh, Saberi, Stoica, Trundy, '17]
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- Experimental realizations on circuit boards [Dey, Basteiro, *et al.* '24]

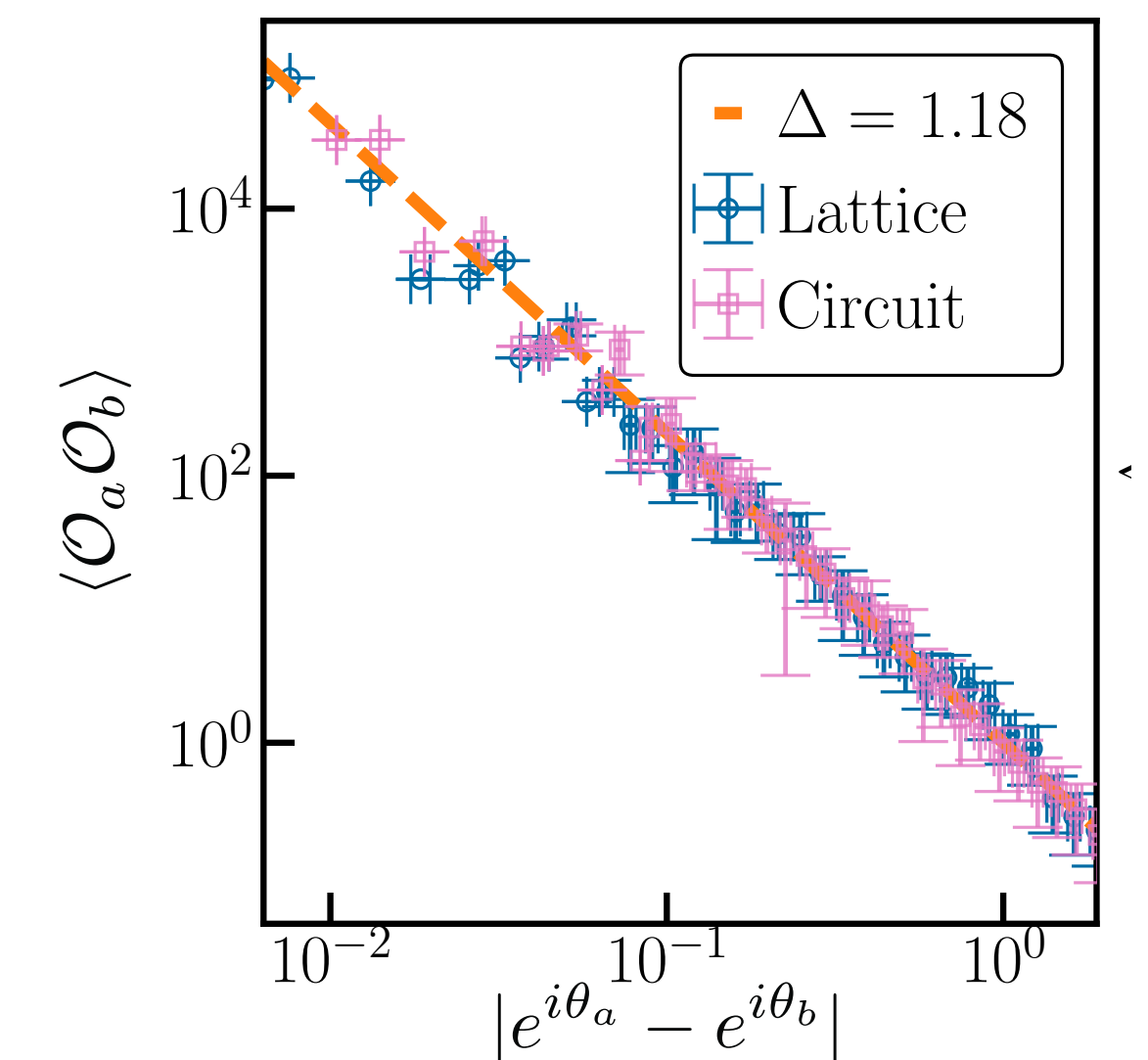
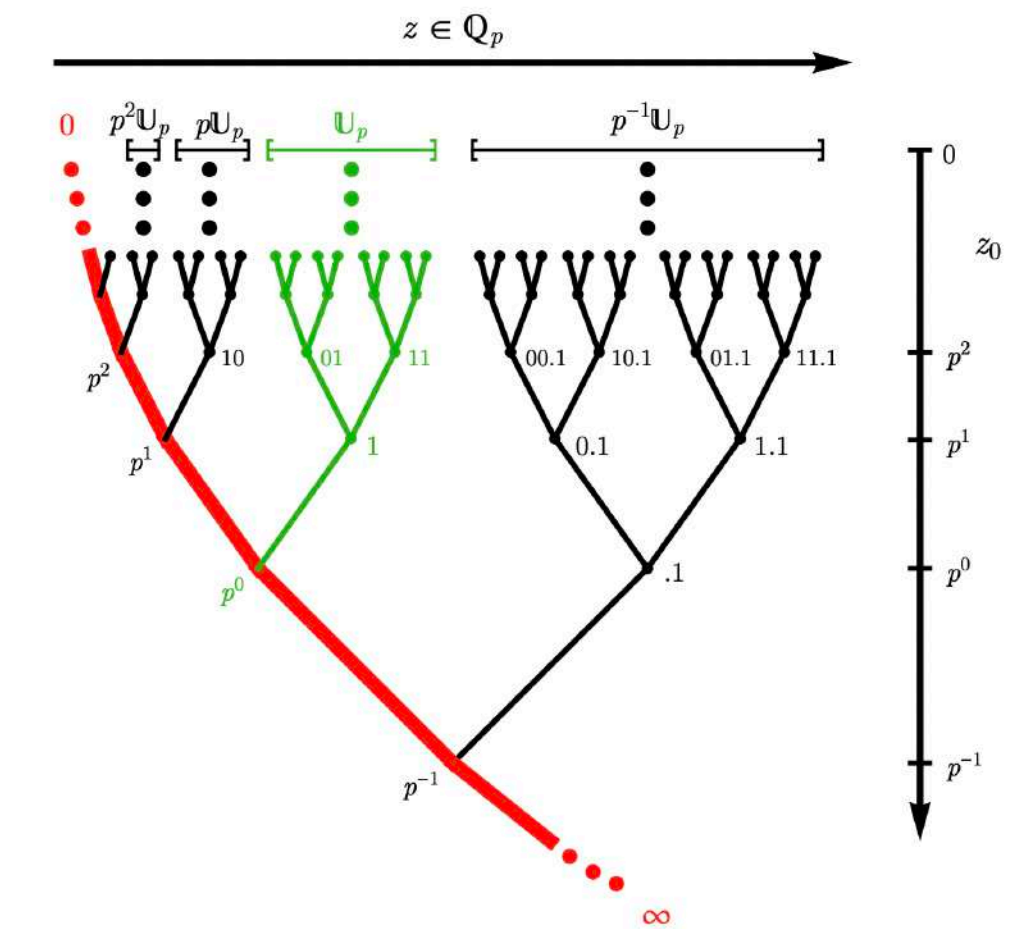
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Future perspectives

- Towards a bulk theory, edge-length-dynamics models in regular hyperbolic tilings [Gubser, Heydeman, Jepsen, Marcolli, Parikh, Saberi, Stoica, Trundy, '17]
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Thank you for the attention!