

Autonomous Quantum Machines & Finite sized Clocks

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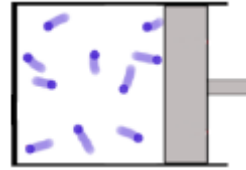
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[ArXiv 1607.04591](#)



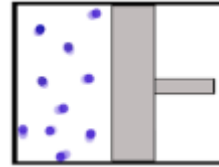
How to perform unitaries with Quantum Clocks?

- Control in Macro. thermodynamics:



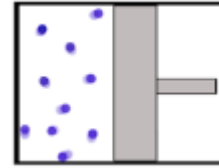
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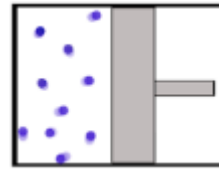


- Control in Q. thermodynamics:

$$\rho_s$$

How to perform unitaries with Quantum Clocks?

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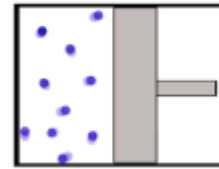


- Control in Q. thermodynamics:

$$\rho_s \rightarrow U \rho_s U^\dagger \quad \text{where} \quad U = e^{-i\hat{H}(t)}$$

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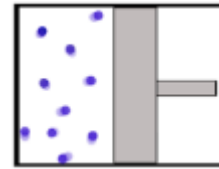
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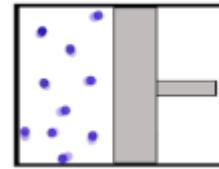
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- RT based on U :

- $\Delta S = 0$
- $\Delta E = 0$

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- Are there hidden costs?

- RT based on U :

- $\Delta S = 0$

- $\Delta E = 0$

- Model explicitly control unit:

$$\rho_{sc}(t) = e^{-it\hat{H}_{sc}} \rho_s \otimes \rho_c e^{it\hat{H}_{sc}}$$

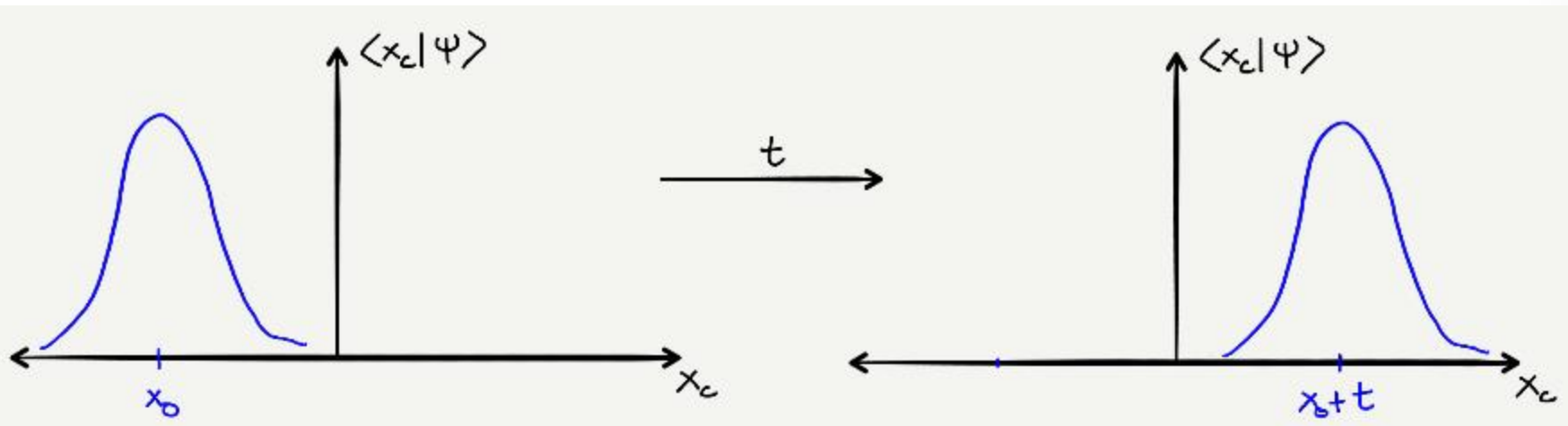
- Therefore let ρ_c be a quantum clock

What is an Idealised Quantum Clock?

- Idealised Clocks: how they work

$$\hat{H}_c = \hat{P}$$

$$\langle x | \Psi(t) \rangle = \langle x - t | \Psi(0) \rangle$$



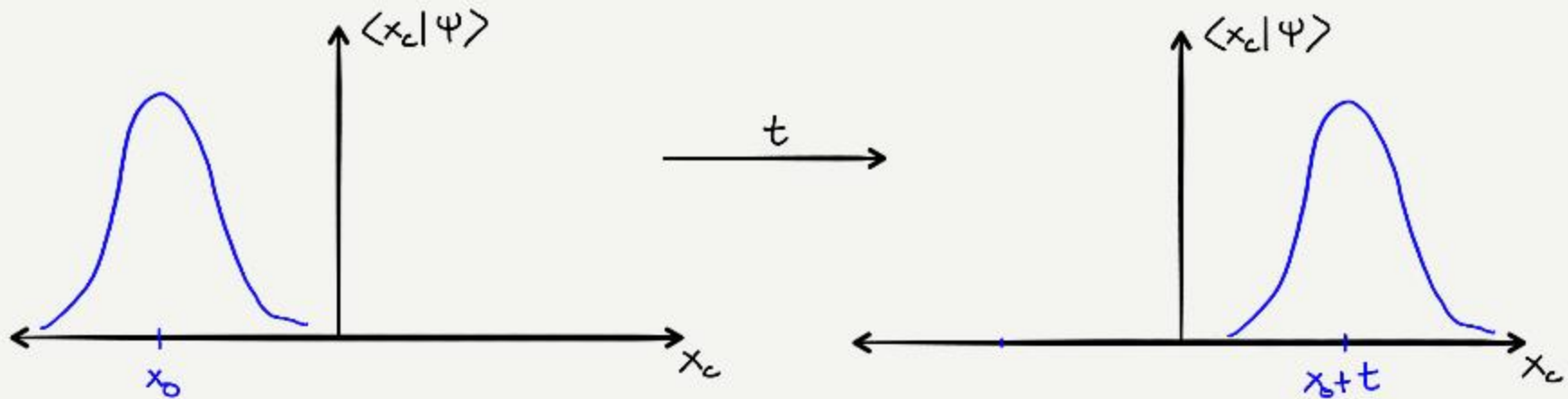
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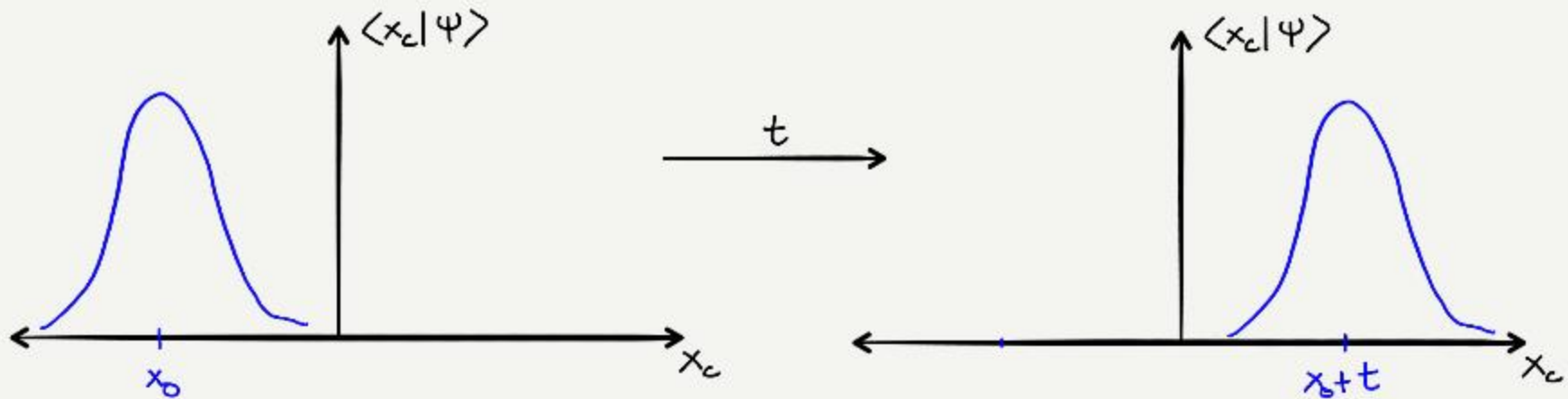
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Not a useful clock yet!

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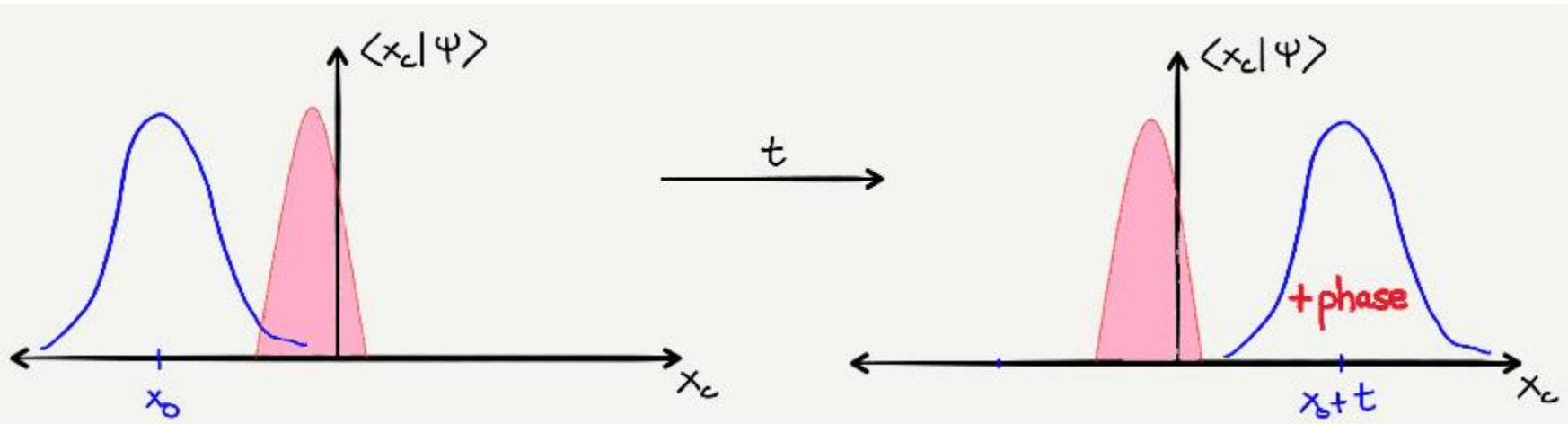
$$\hat{H}_c = \hat{P} + V(\hat{x}_c) \quad V : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

What is an Idealised Quantum Clock?

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$$\hat{H}_c = \hat{P} + V(\hat{x}_c) \quad V : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\langle x_c | \Psi(t) \rangle = \langle x_c - t | \Psi(0) \rangle \exp \left(-i \int_{x_c - t}^{x_c} dx V(x) \right)$$



- Zero clock back-reaction, zero error. This is an artefact of infinite energy

What is an Idealised Quantum Clock?

- How to make a process autonomous

- Given $|\phi\rangle_s$, want $U(t) = e^{-i \int_0^t \hat{H}_s^{int}(x') dx'}$

- Construct t -independent:

$$\hat{H}_{sc} = \mathbb{1}_s \otimes \hat{p}_c + \hat{H}_s^{int}(\hat{x}_c).$$

- Initial System-Clock state:

$$|\Phi(t=0)\rangle_{sc} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx \psi(x) |x\rangle_c \otimes |\phi\rangle_s$$

- Solution:

$$|\Phi(t)\rangle_{sc} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx \psi(x-t) |x\rangle_c \otimes \left[e^{-i \int_{x-t}^x \hat{H}_s^{int}(x') dx'} \right] |\phi\rangle_s$$

- E.g. if $\psi(x,0) = \delta(x,0)$

$$|\Phi(t)\rangle_s = e^{-i \int_0^t \hat{H}_s^{int}(x') dx'} |\phi\rangle_s = U(t) |\phi\rangle_s$$

History of Idealised Quantum Clocks

- Time in Quantum Mechanics

- W. Pauli: *does there exist a perfect clock in Q.M.? A self-adjoint operator \hat{t}_c and a Hamiltonian \hat{H}_c s.t. in the Heisenberg pic, $d\hat{t}/dt = 1$?*



No, since only solution
 $\hat{t}_c = \hat{x}, \hat{H}_c = \hat{P}$

- Thermodynamics with Idealized Clocks

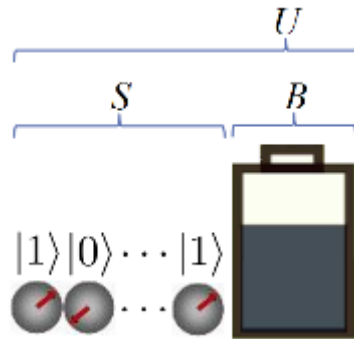
- Clock-driven Thermal engines:

[A. Malabarba, A. J. Short, P. Kammerlander, NJP (2015)]

Proves that the 2nd law holds in an autonomous setting with $\hat{H}_c = \hat{P}$

- Catalytic Coherences: [J. Abert, PRL (2014)]

Proves that Q. coherences in energy are catalytic when one has access to a battery.



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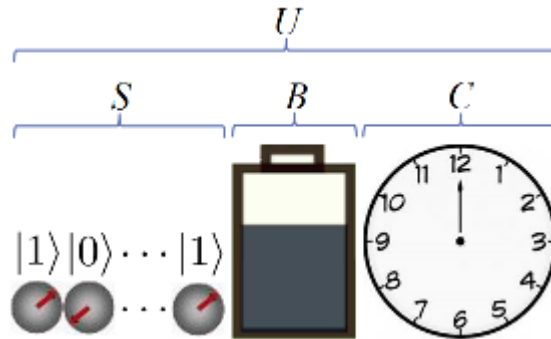
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Problems with Idealised Quantum clocks

-Infinite energy approximation disguises true costs

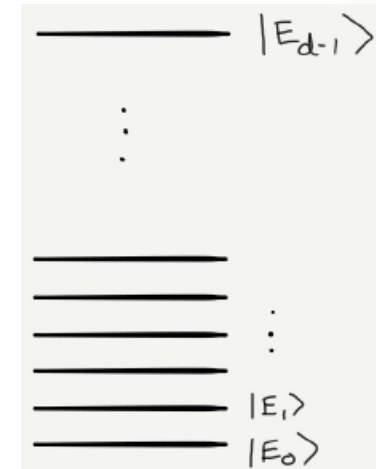
- They never degrade: i.e. zero back reaction on the clocks
- Can Perform any unitry instantaneously with zero error
- Have infinite capacity to embezzle work
- Can tell the time perfectly for ever

Finite clocks

- Salecker-Wigner & Peres Clocks [1]

$$H = \sum_{n=0}^{d-1} n\omega |n\rangle\langle n|,$$

Angle basis: $|\theta_k\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_{n=0}^{d-1} e^{-i2\pi nk/d} |n\rangle,$



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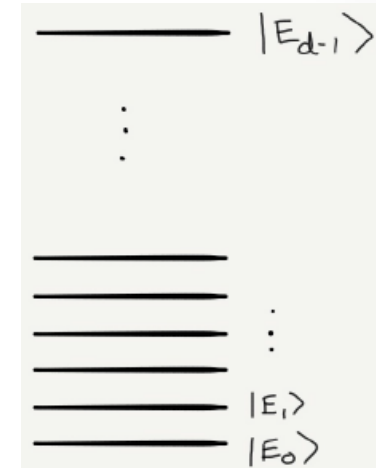
Clocks and time in quantum Mechanics

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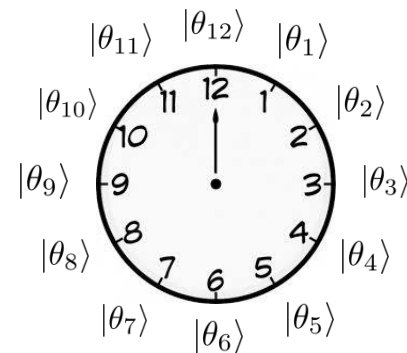
$$\text{Angle basis: } |\theta_k\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{d}} \sum_{n=0}^{d-1} e^{-i2\pi nk/d} |n\rangle,$$

$$\text{Clock period: } T_0 = \frac{2\pi}{\omega}$$



$d = 12$

Initial Clock state: $|\theta_{12}\rangle$



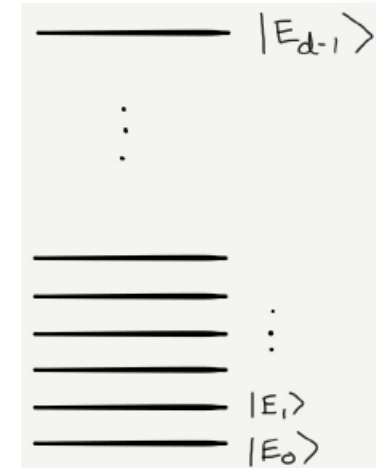
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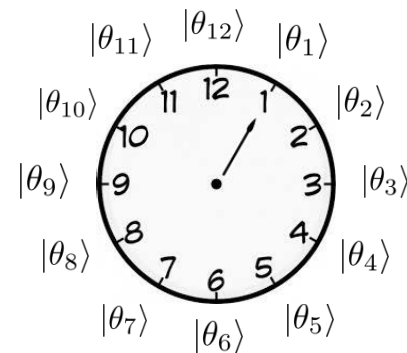
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$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{1}{d} : \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_1\rangle$$



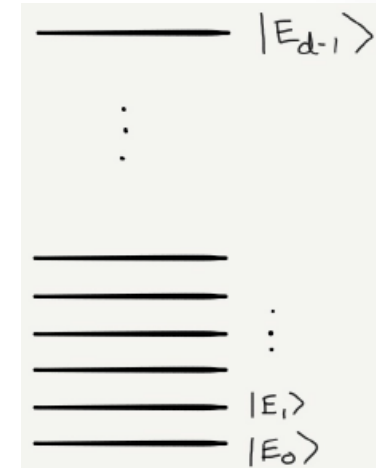
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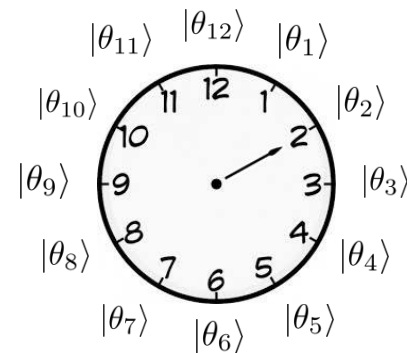
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$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{2}{d} : \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_2\rangle$$



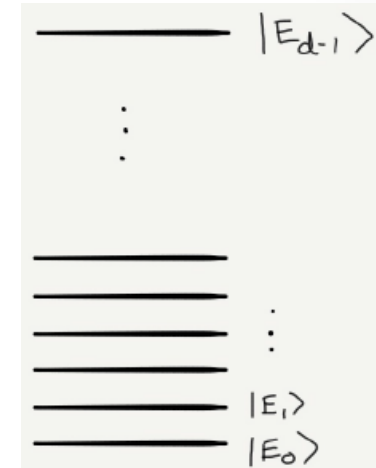
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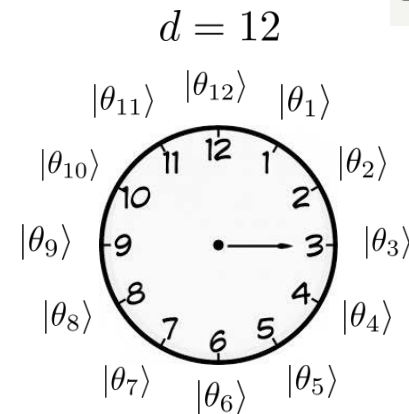
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$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{3}{d} : \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_3\rangle$$



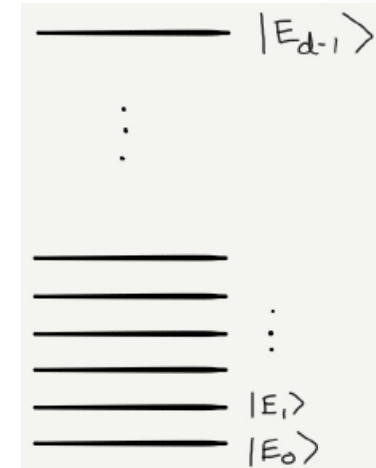
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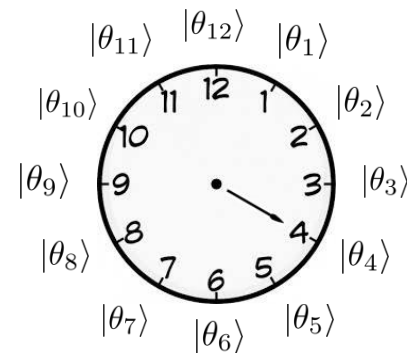
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$d = 12$

$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{4}{d} : \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_4\rangle$$



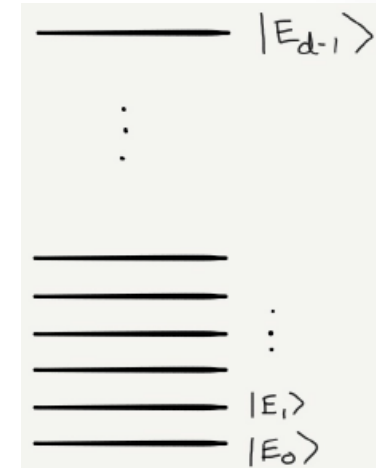
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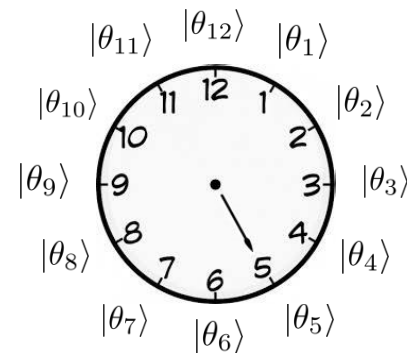
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$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{5}{d} : \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_5\rangle$$



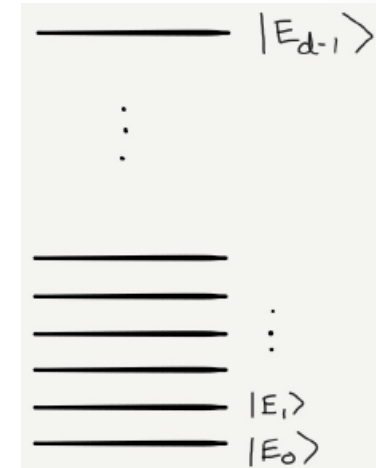
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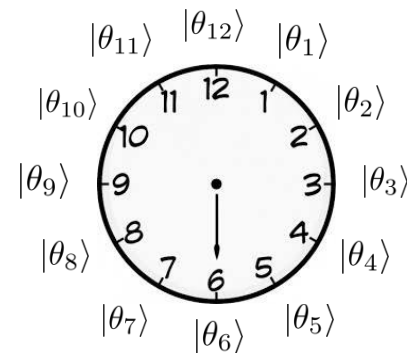
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$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{6}{d} : \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_6\rangle$$



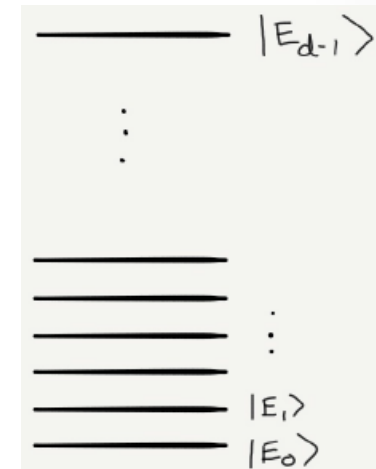
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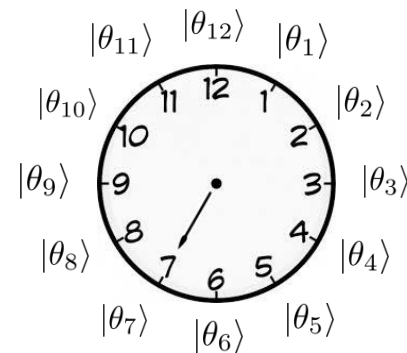
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$d = 12$

$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{7}{d} : \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_7\rangle$$



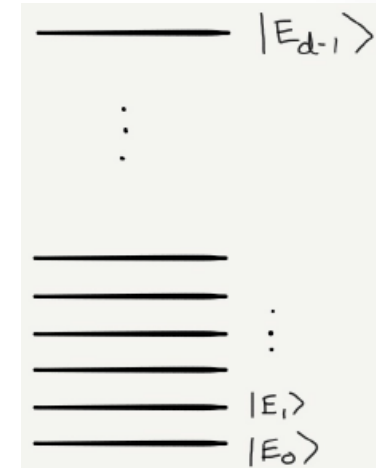
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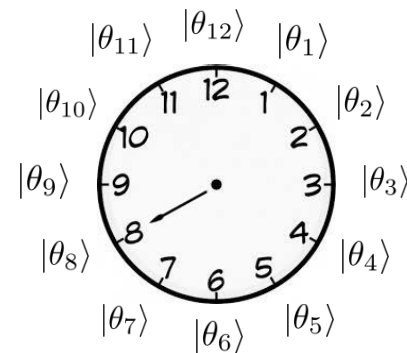
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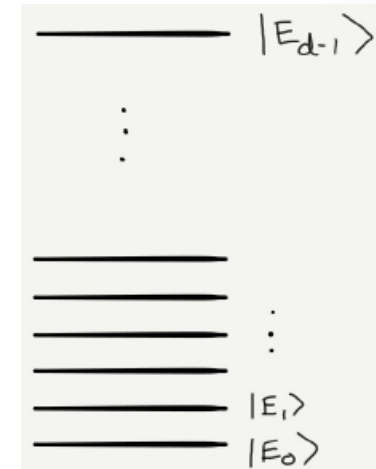
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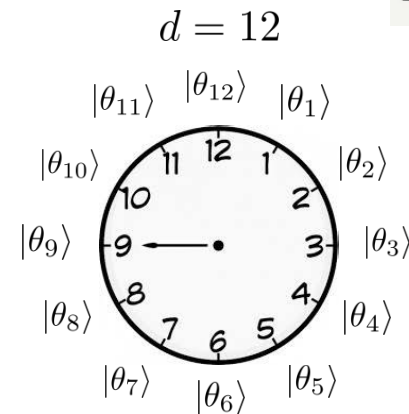
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$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{9}{d} : \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_9\rangle$$



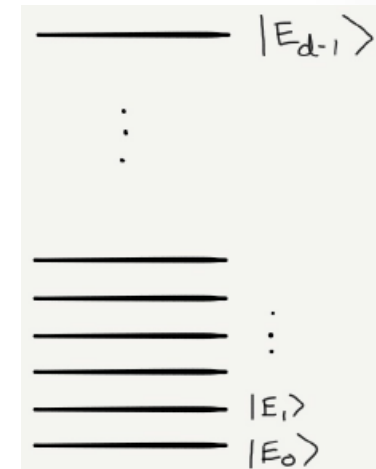
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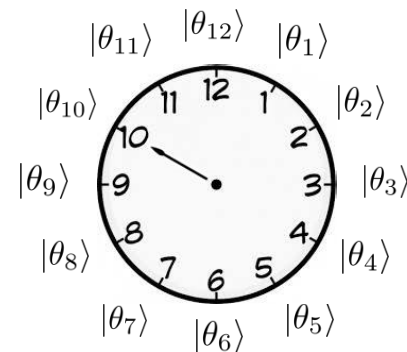
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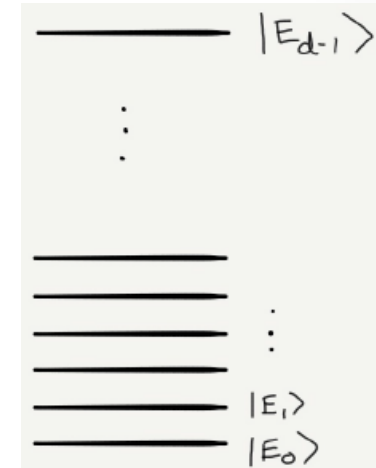
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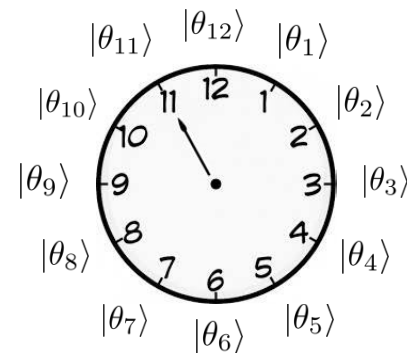
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$$\text{At } t = T_0 \frac{11}{d}: \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_{11}\rangle$$



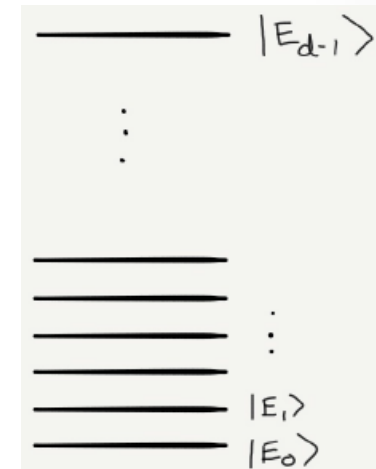
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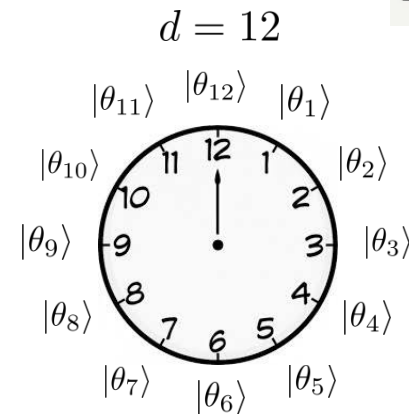
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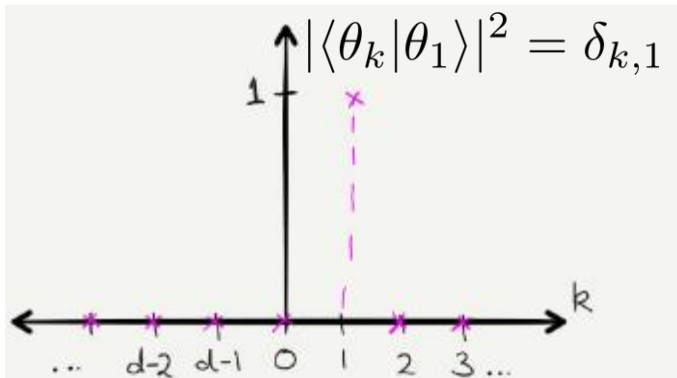
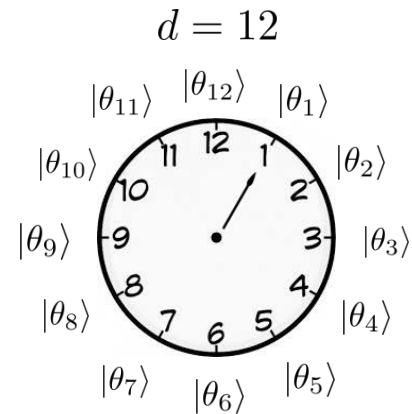


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Angle States are not good Quantum Clocks

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At $t = \frac{T_0}{d}$ $e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\theta_1\rangle$

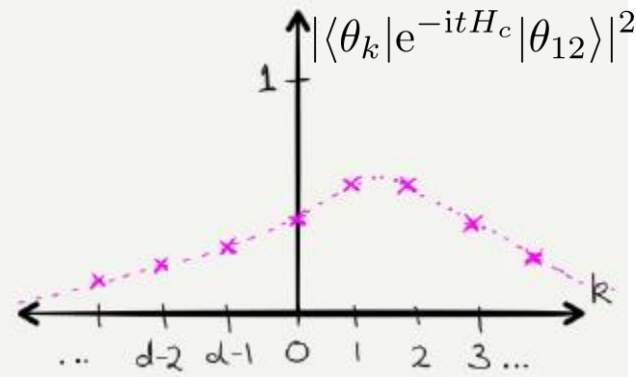
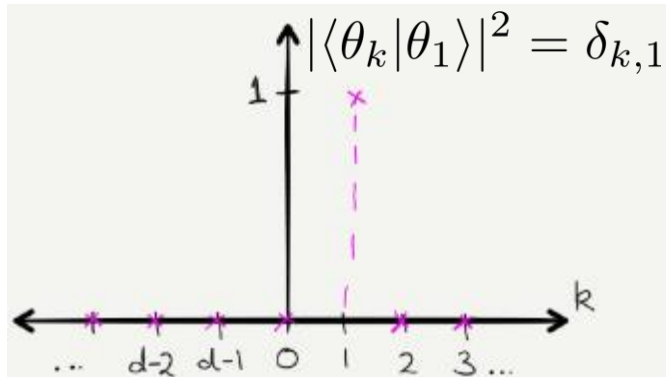
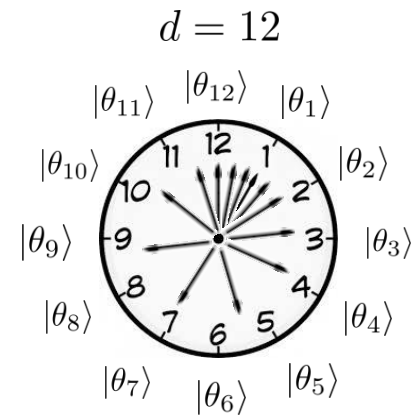


[1]: *Quantum Limitations of the Measurement of Space-Time Distances*, (1958)
Measure of time by quantum clocks, (1979)

Angle States are not good Quantum Clocks

- Salecker-Wigner & Peres Clocks [1]

$$\text{At } t = \left(1 + \frac{1}{2}\right) \frac{T_0}{d} \quad e^{-itH_c} |\theta_{12}\rangle = |\psi\rangle$$

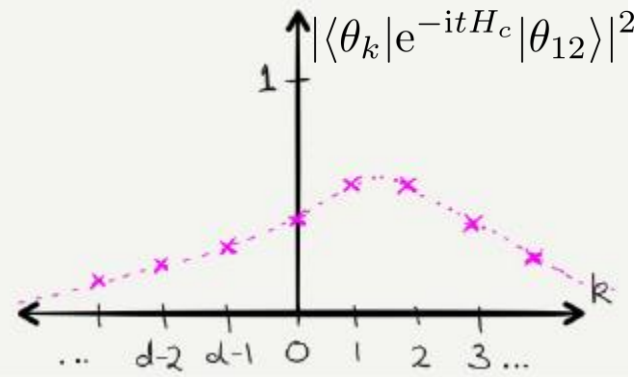
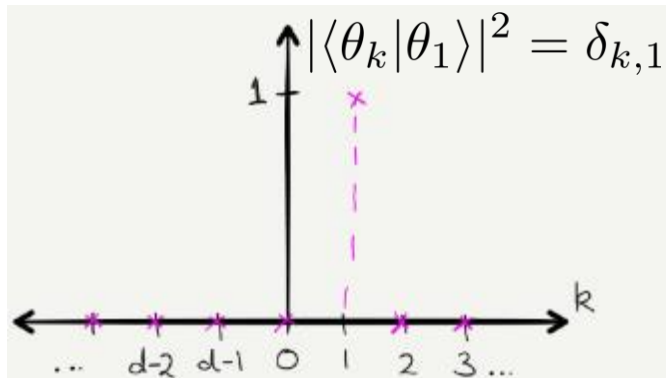
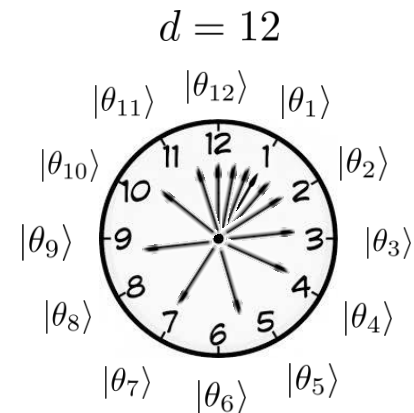


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- Standard deviation of $|\langle\theta_k|e^{-itH_c}|\theta_{12}\rangle|^2$ scales as $\sigma^2 \sim d$

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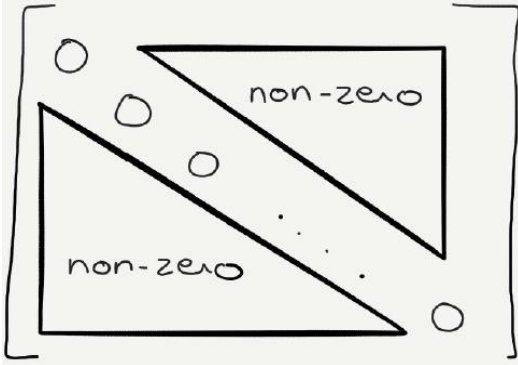
Angle States are not good Quantum Clocks

- Commutator:

-Recall Idealised Clock: $\hat{H}_c = \hat{x}$, $\hat{t}_c = \hat{p}$. Therefore $[\hat{H}_c, \hat{t}_c] = i$

-Angle States: $\hat{t}_c = \sum_k k |\theta_k\rangle\langle\theta_k|$

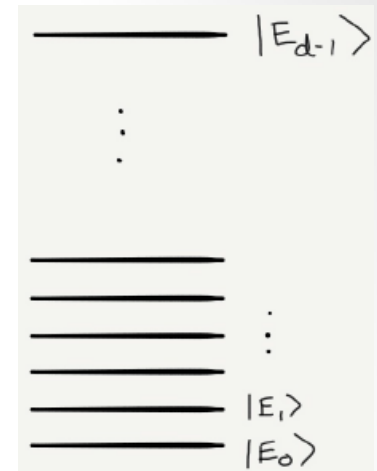
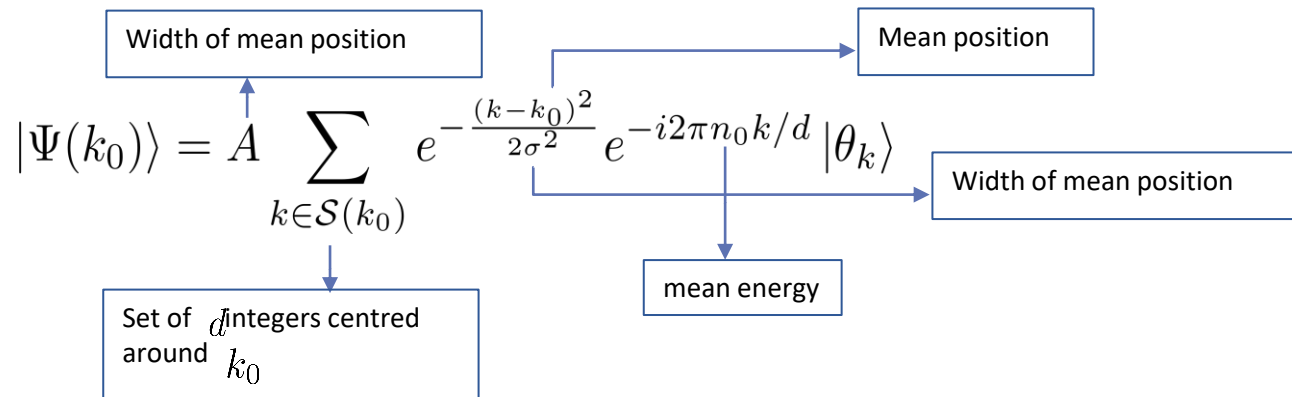
$$\langle\theta_k| [\hat{H}_c, \hat{t}_c] |\theta_k\rangle = \langle\theta_k|$$



$$= 0$$

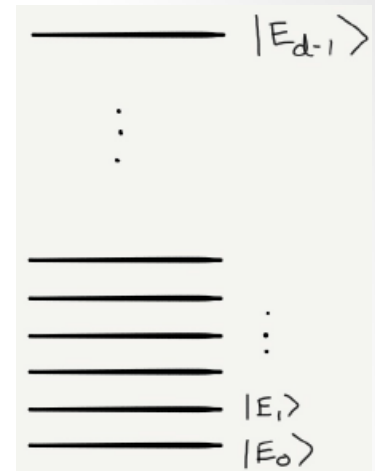
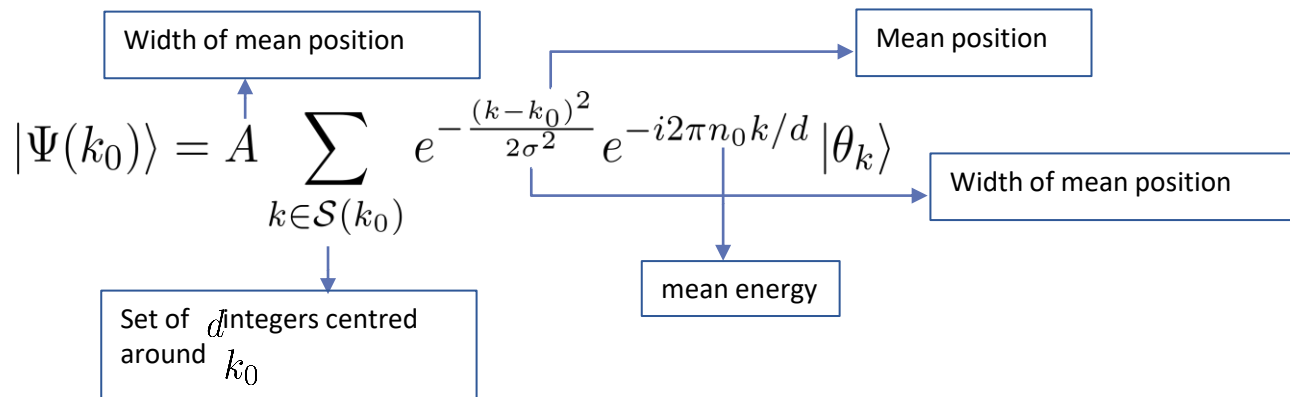
Gaussian amplitude Quantum Clocks

- Keep finite Hamiltonian: $H = \sum_{n=0}^{d-1} n\omega |n\rangle\langle n|,$
- Replace initial angle state:



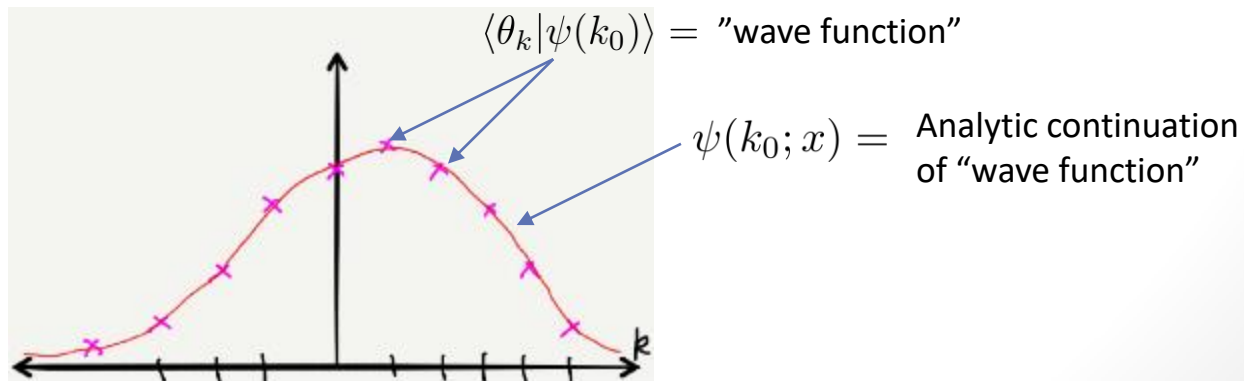
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-Analytic continuation:

$$|\Psi(k_0)\rangle = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}_d(k_0)} \psi(k_0; k) |\theta_k\rangle; \quad \psi(k_0; x) = A e^{-\frac{\pi}{\sigma^2}(x-k_0)^2} e^{i2\pi n_0(x-k_0)/d}$$



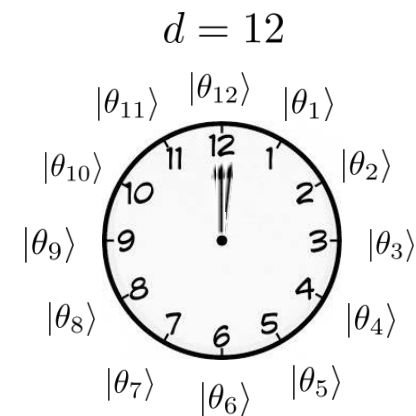
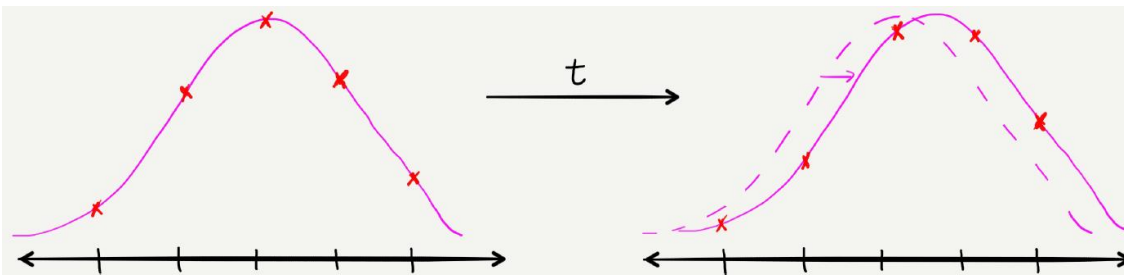
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-Recall idealised clock:

$$\Psi(x_c, t) = \Psi(x_c - t, 0)$$

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$$\langle \theta_k | e^{-it\hat{H}_c} | \Psi(k_0) \rangle = \psi(k_0 - d\frac{t}{T_0}; k) + \varepsilon_c(t)$$



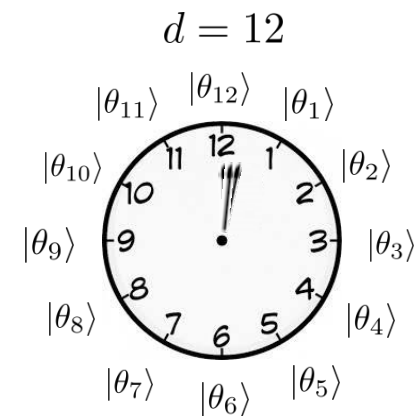
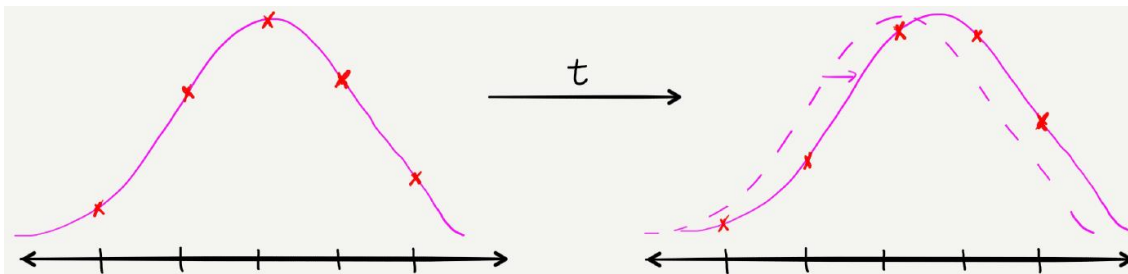
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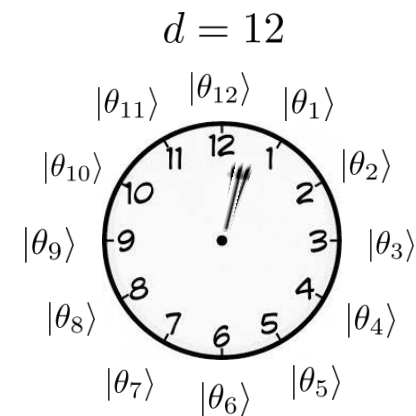
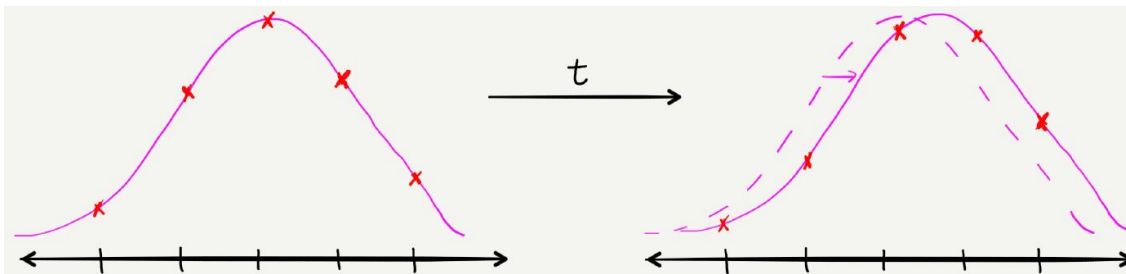
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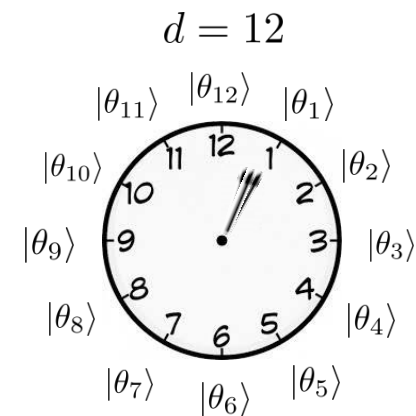
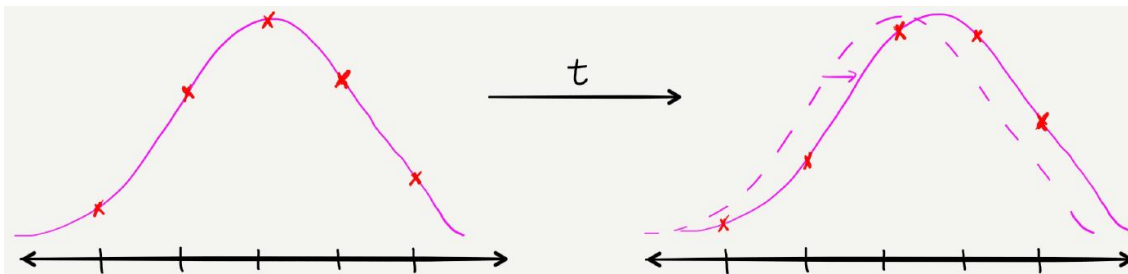
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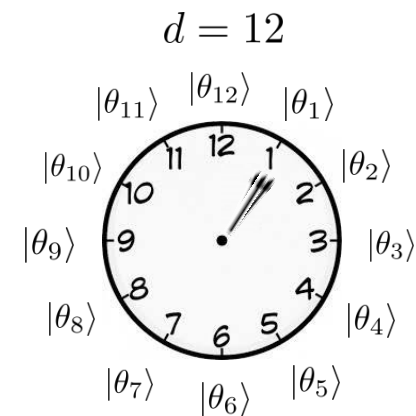
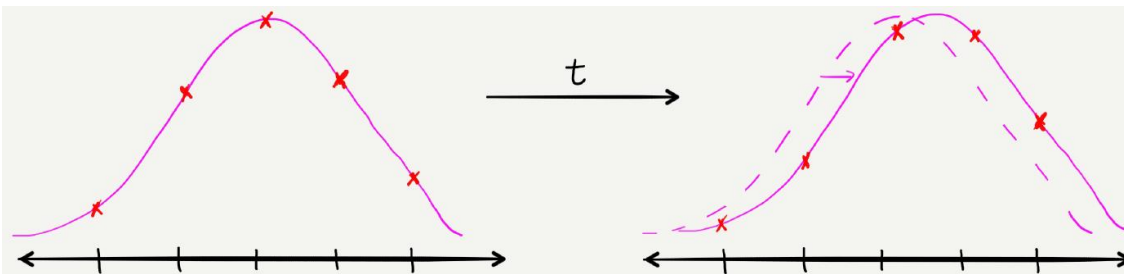
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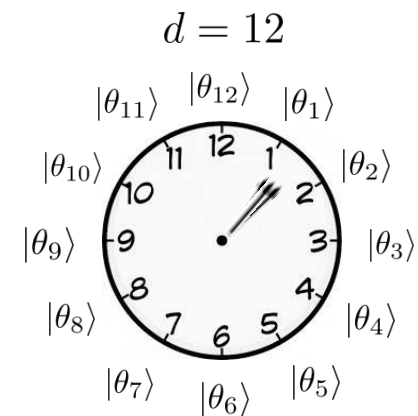
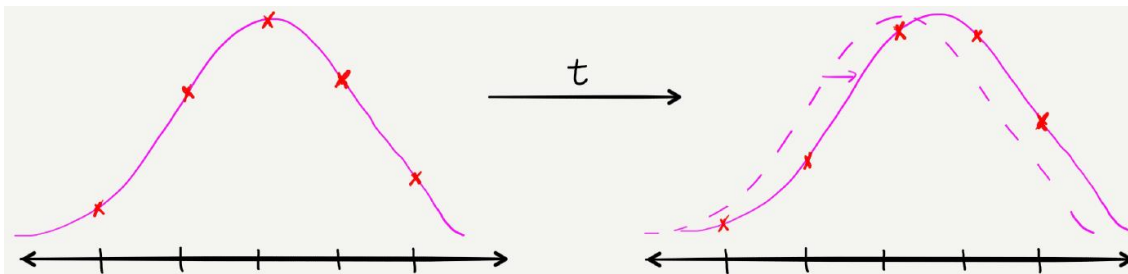
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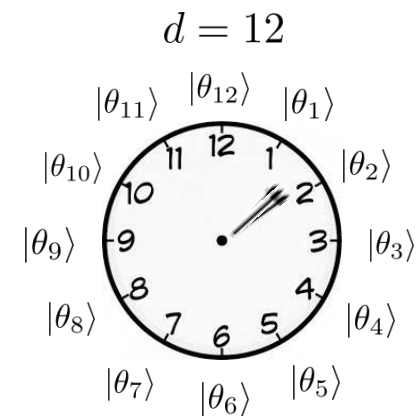
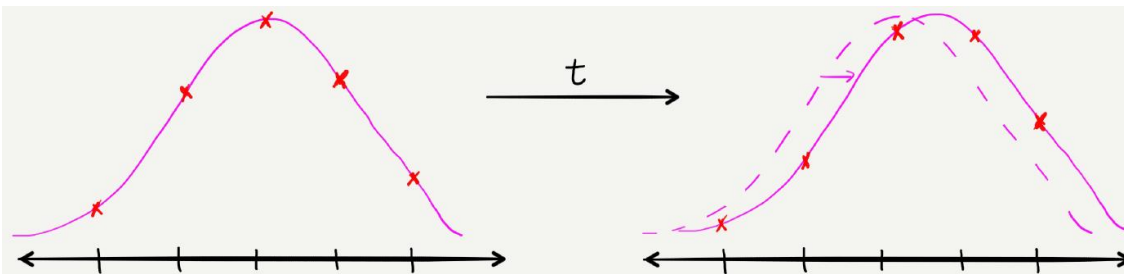
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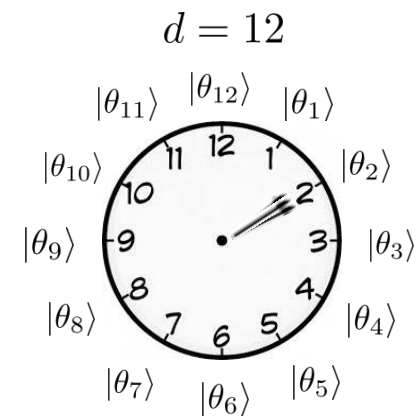
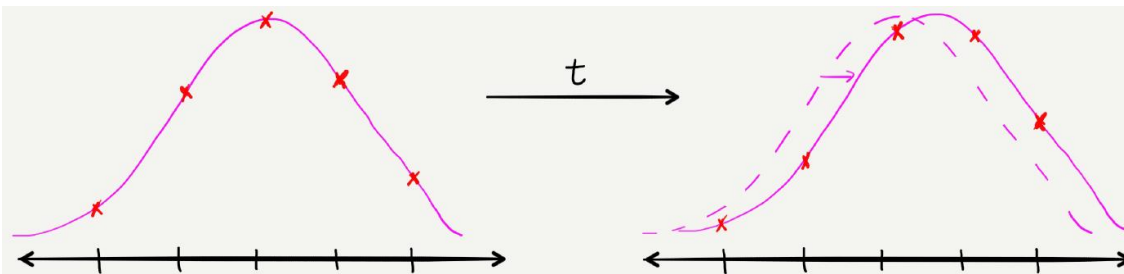
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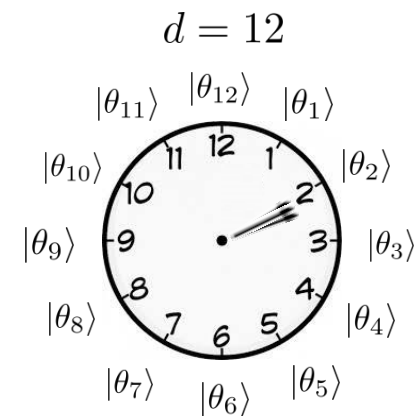
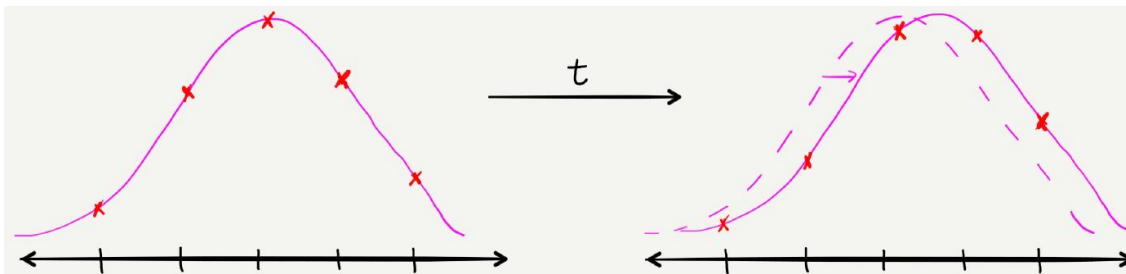
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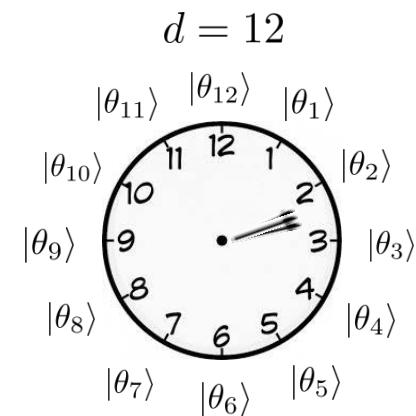
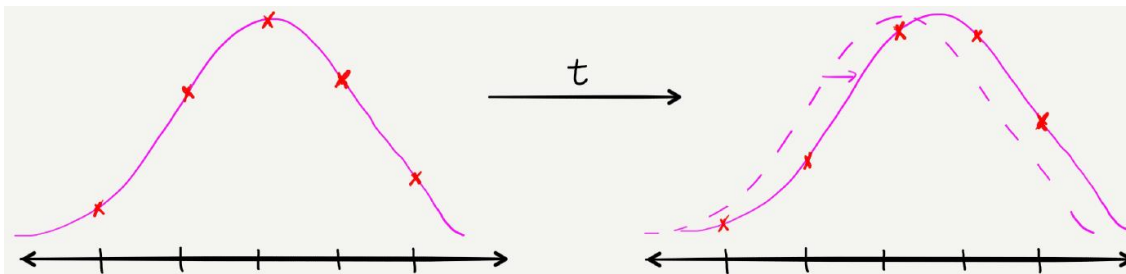
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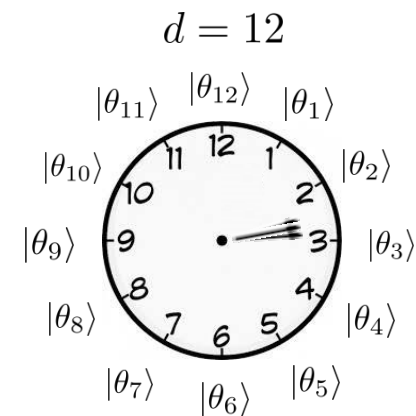
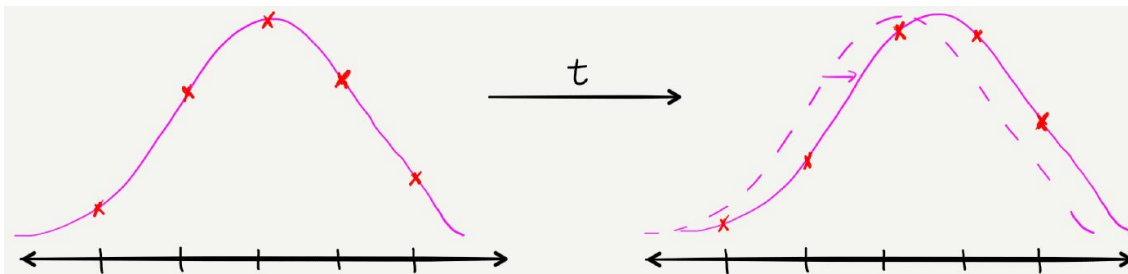
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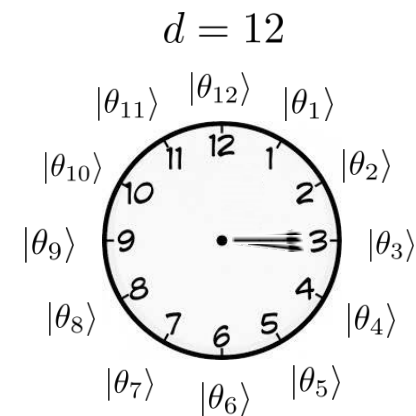
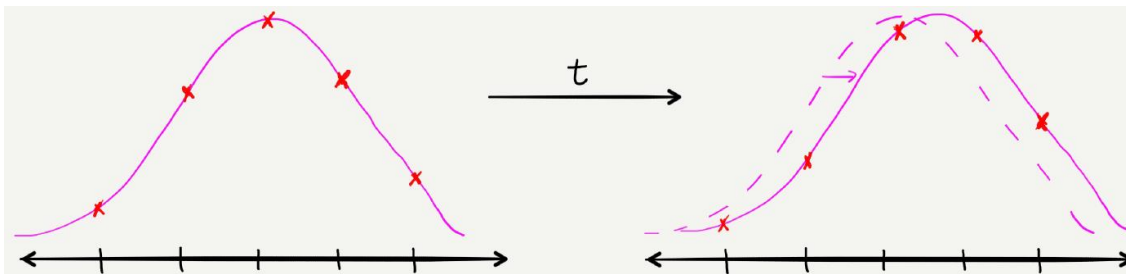
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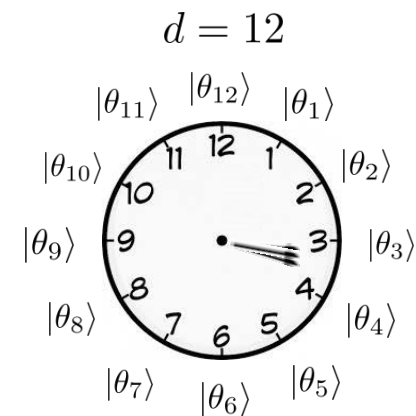
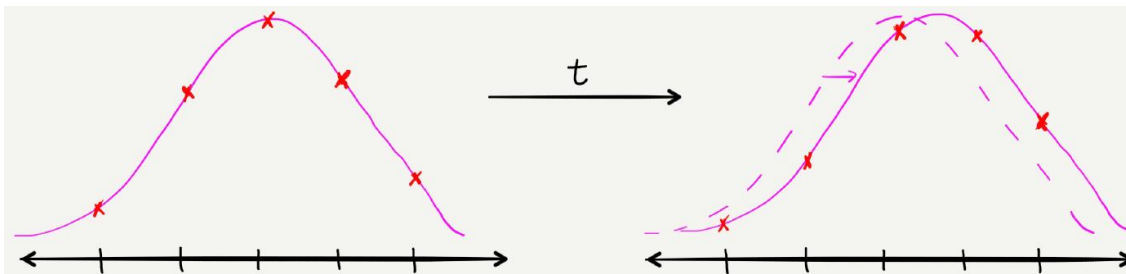
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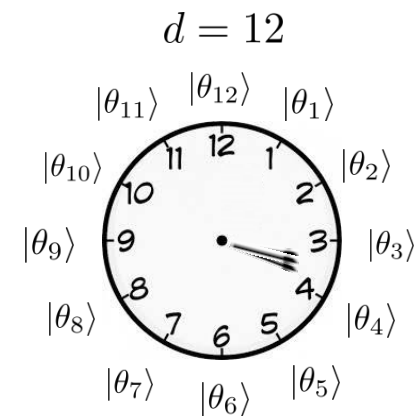
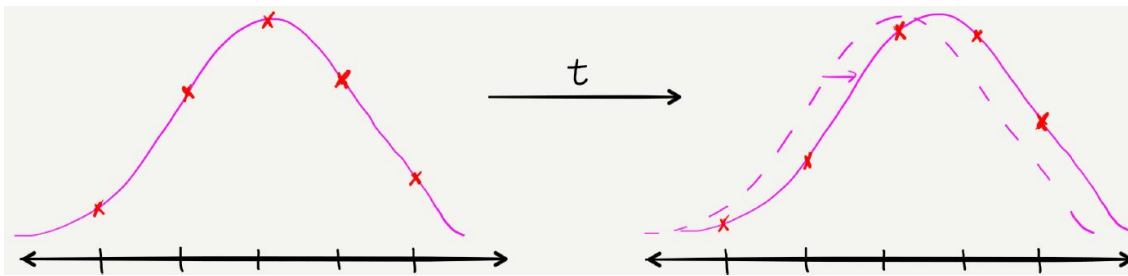
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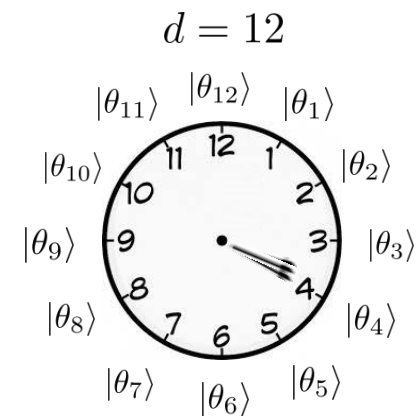
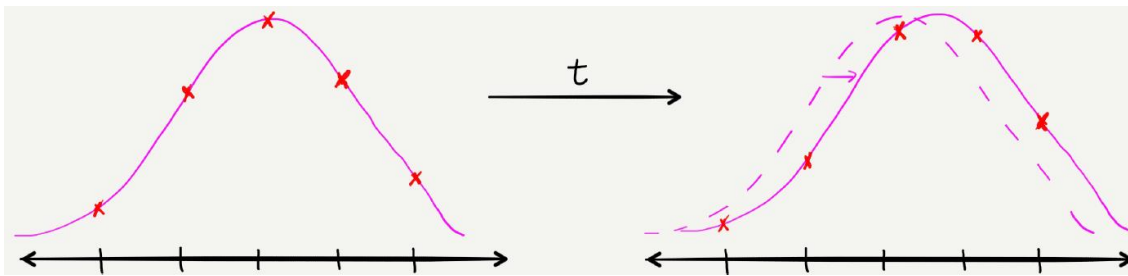
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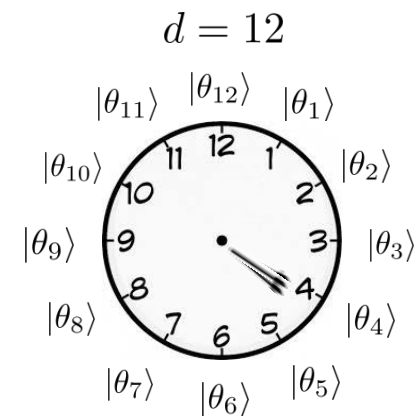
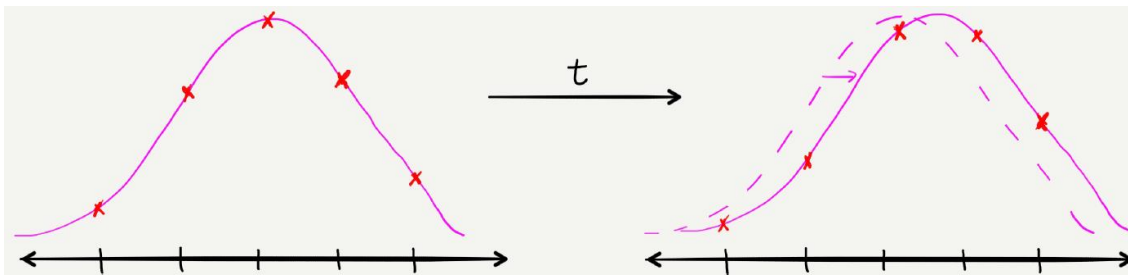
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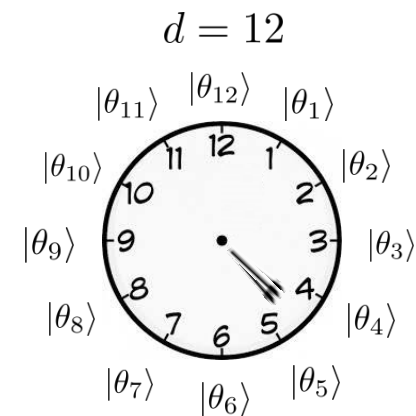
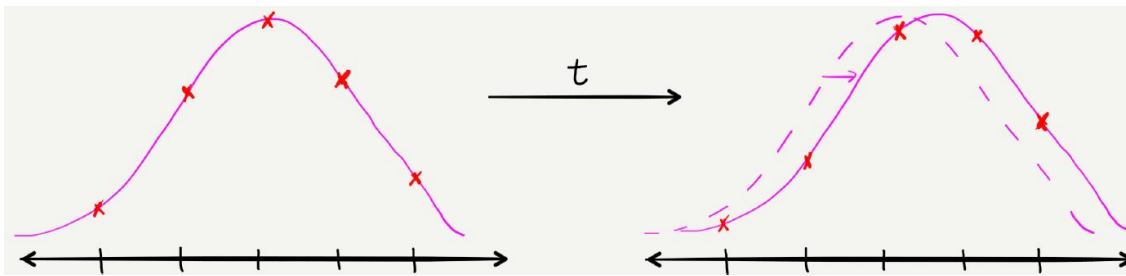
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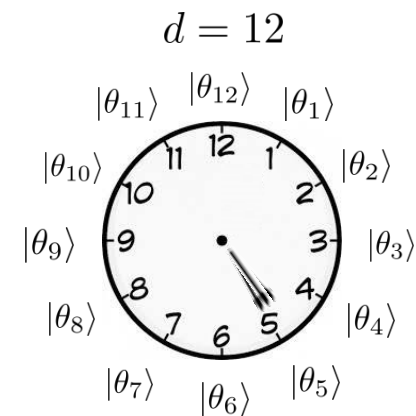
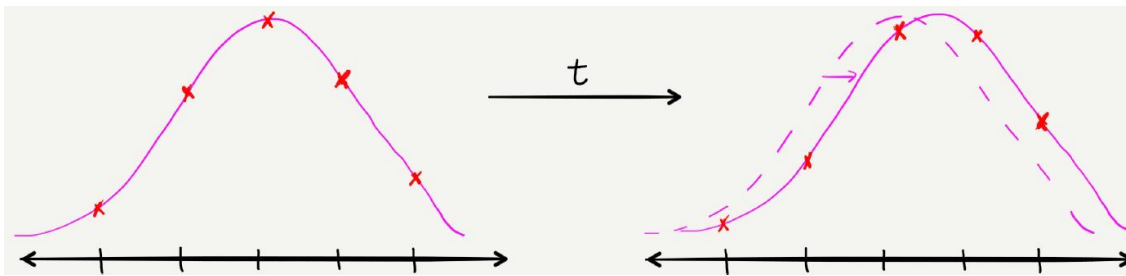
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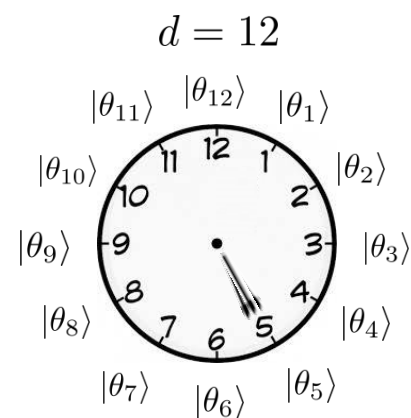
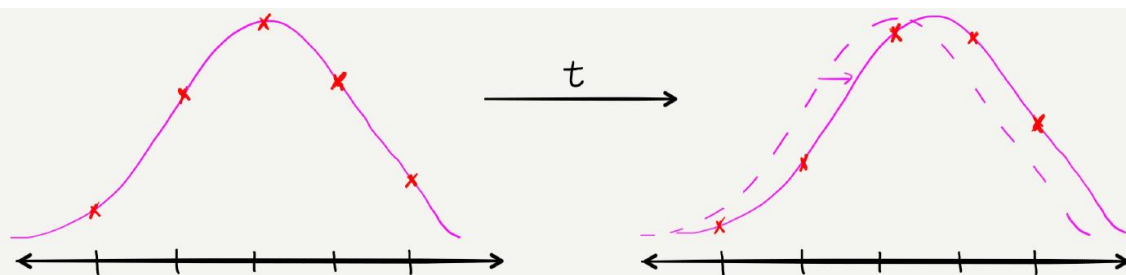
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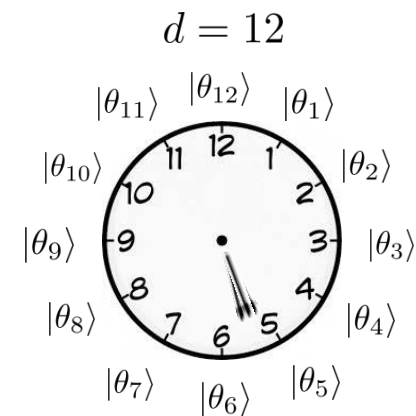
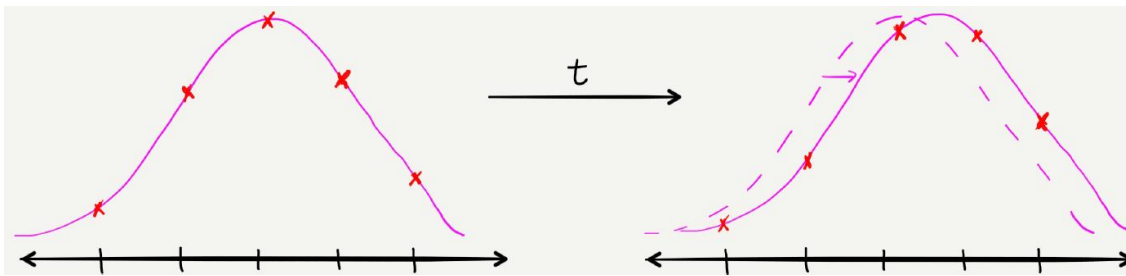
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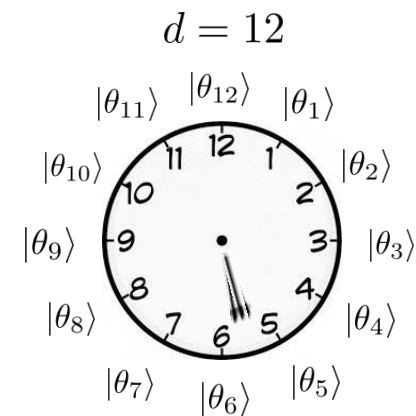
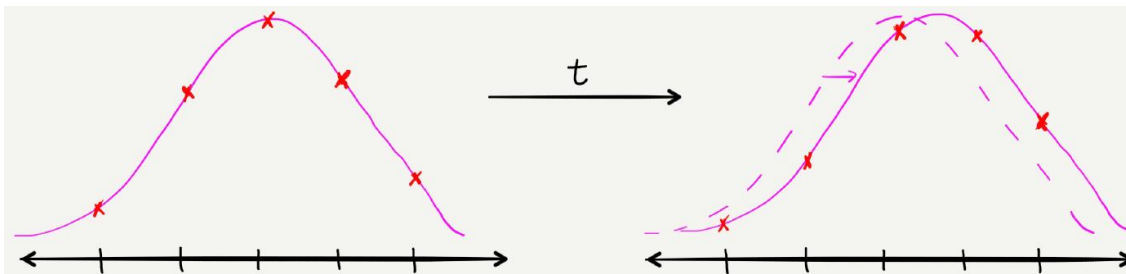
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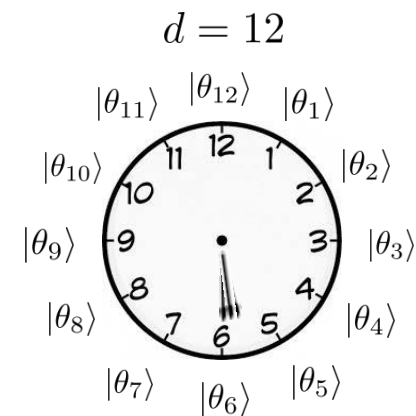
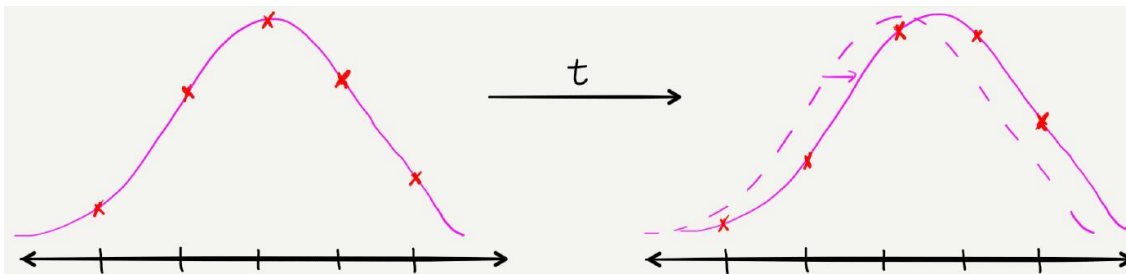
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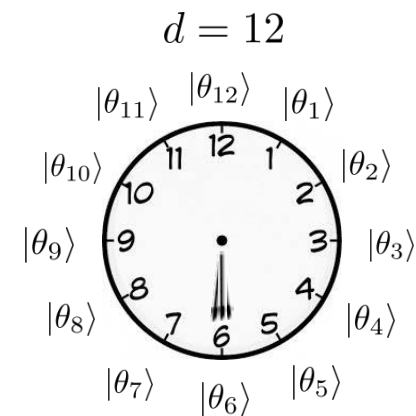
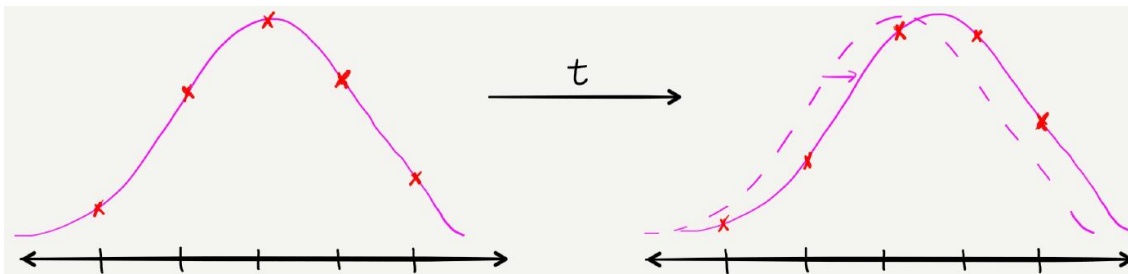
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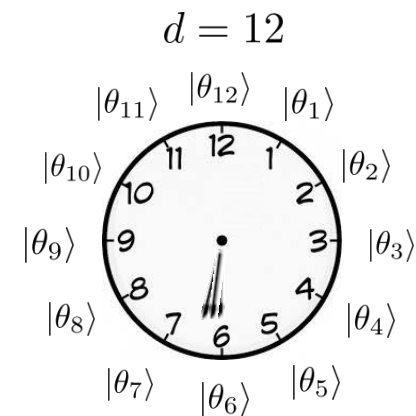
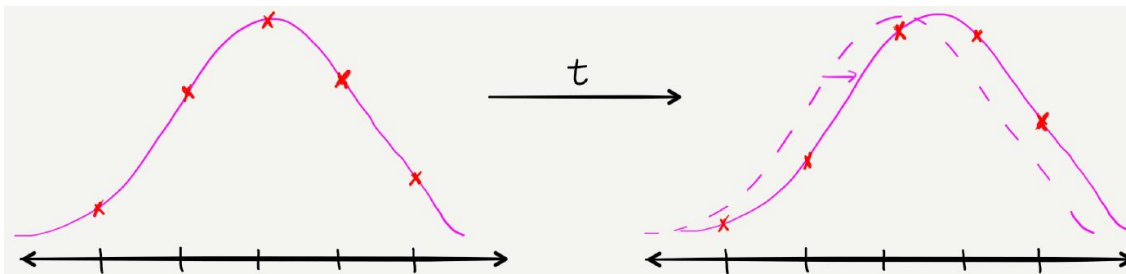
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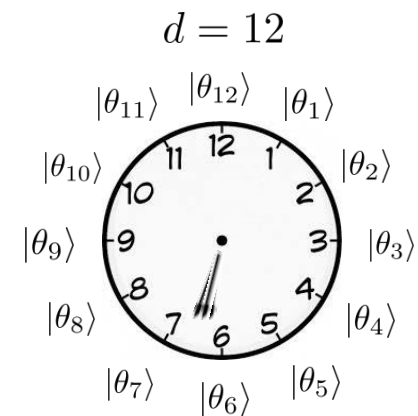
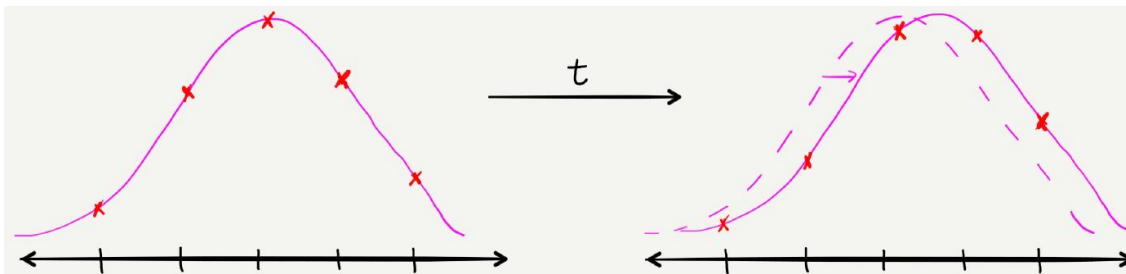
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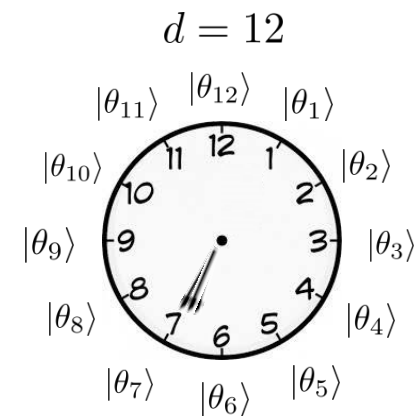
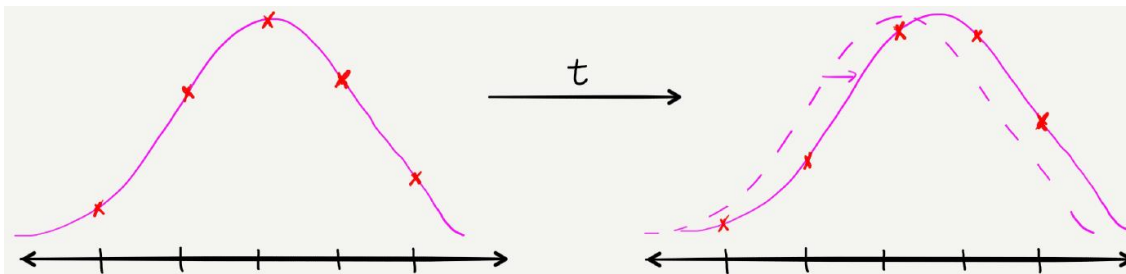
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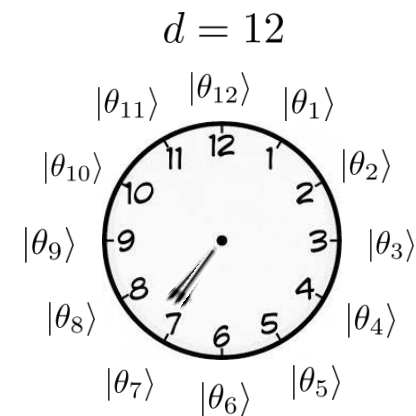
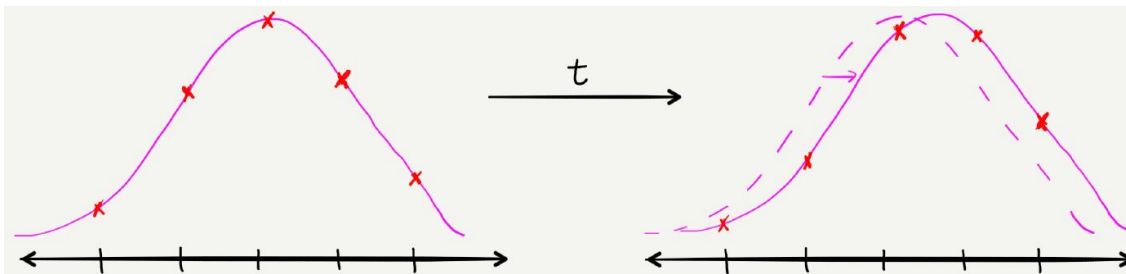
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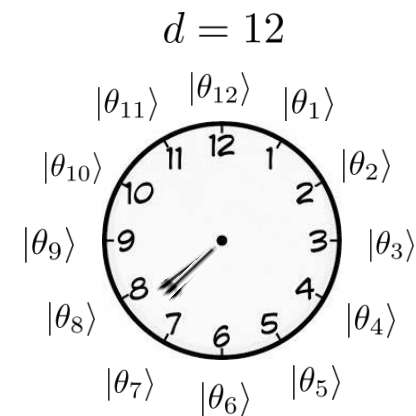
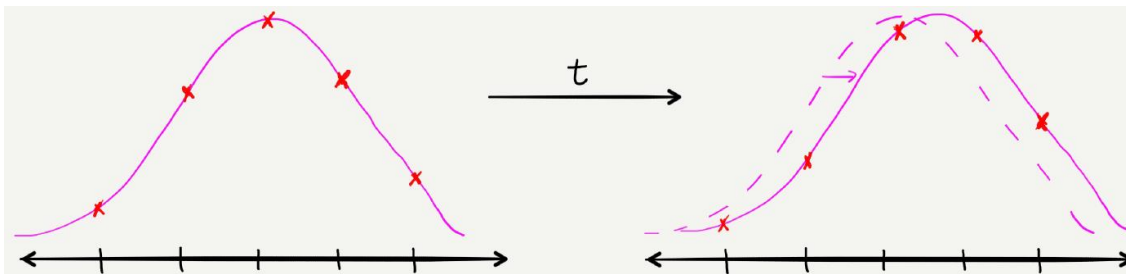
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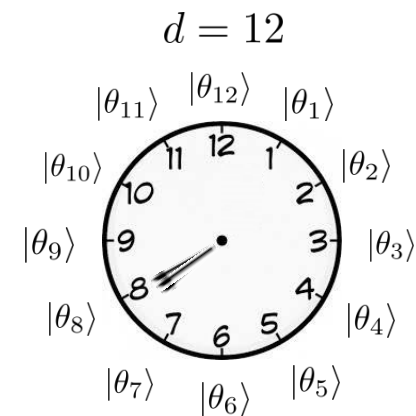
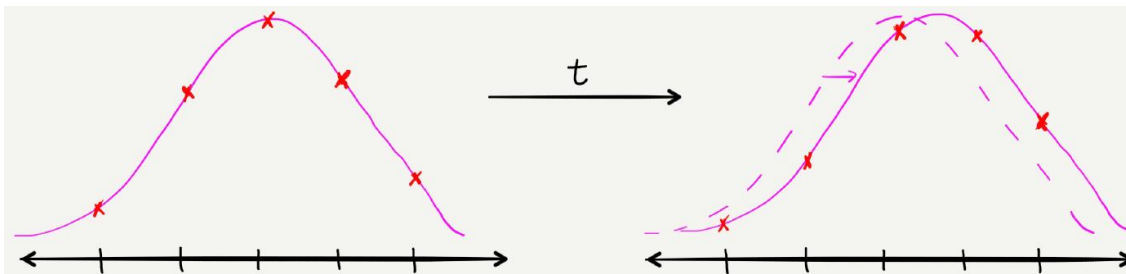
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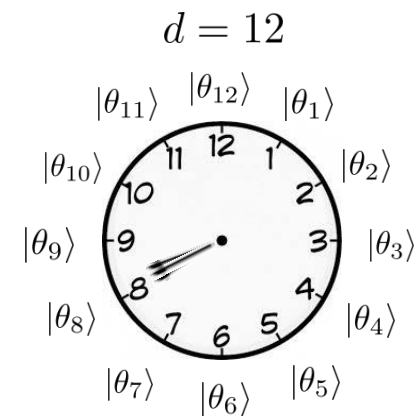
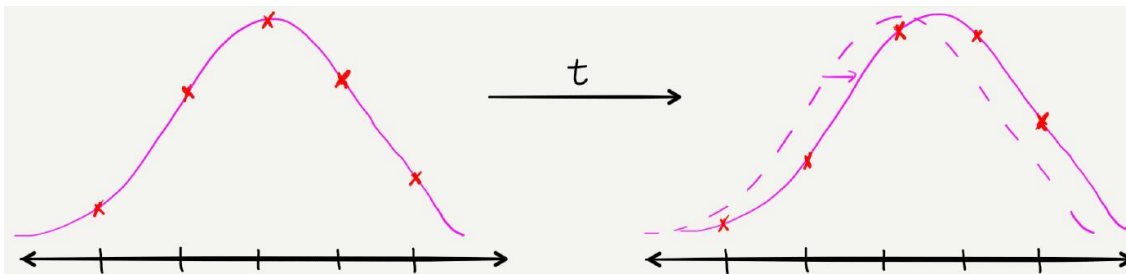
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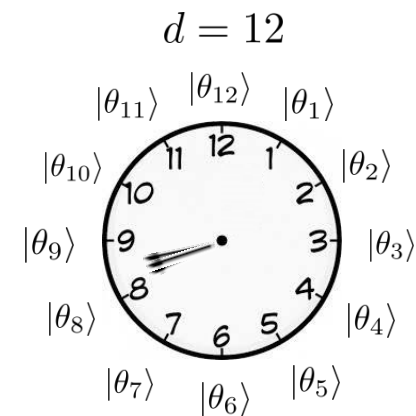
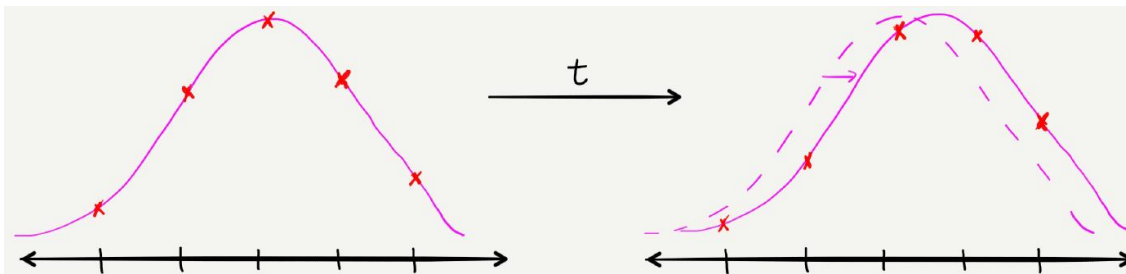
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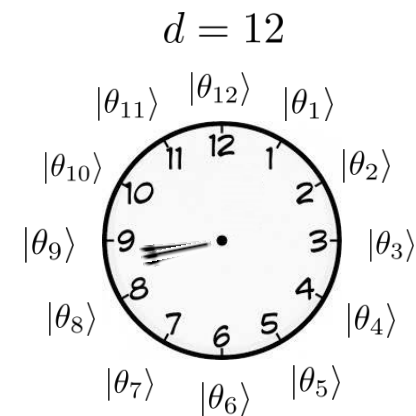
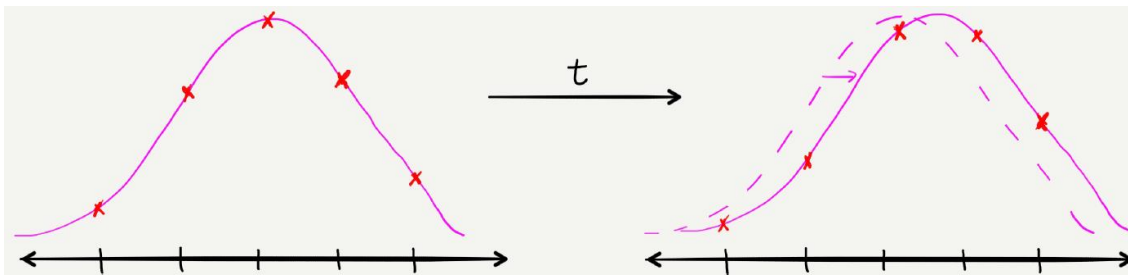
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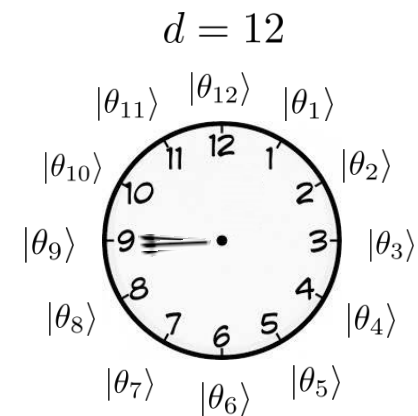
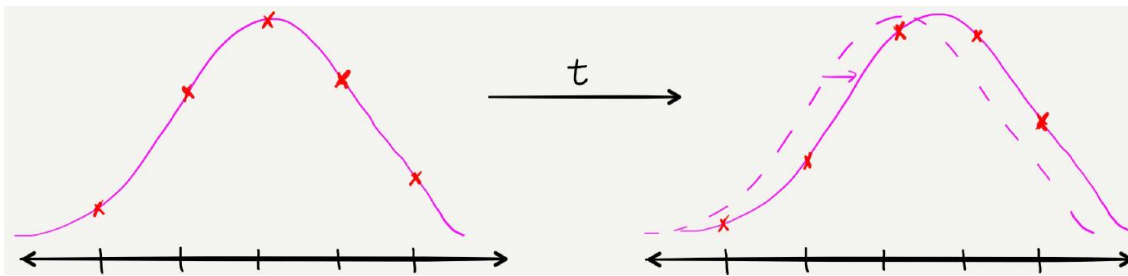
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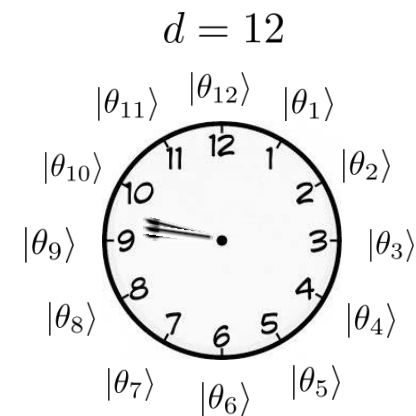
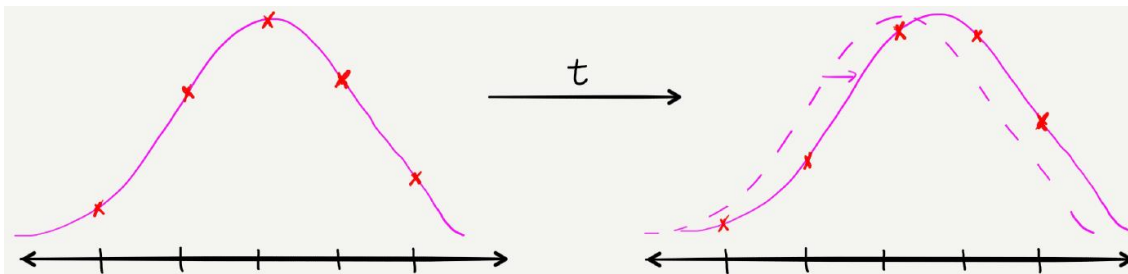
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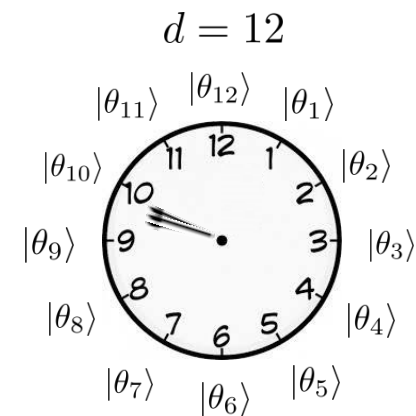
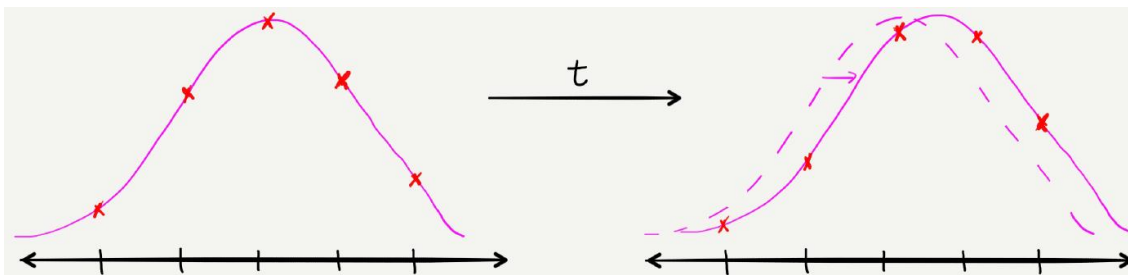
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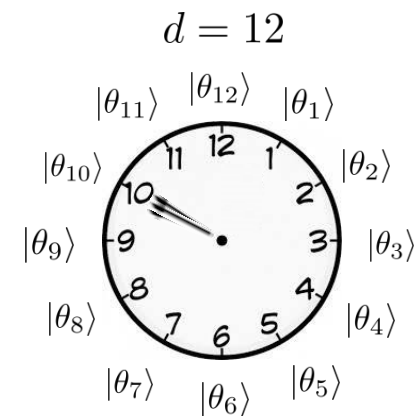
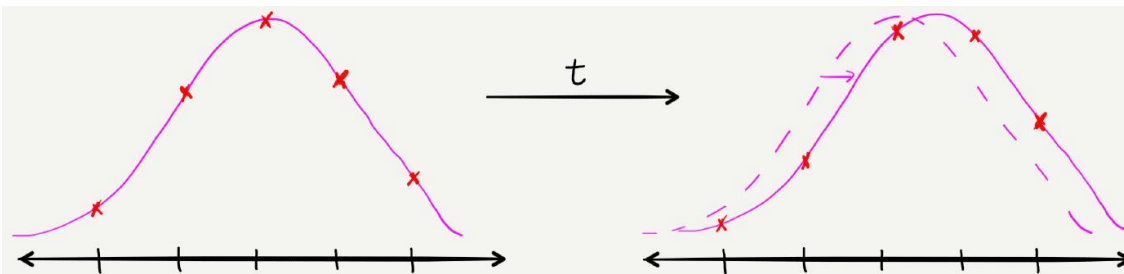
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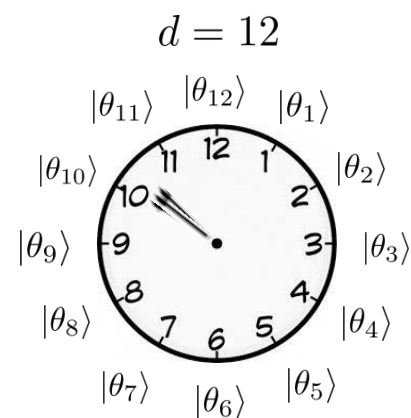
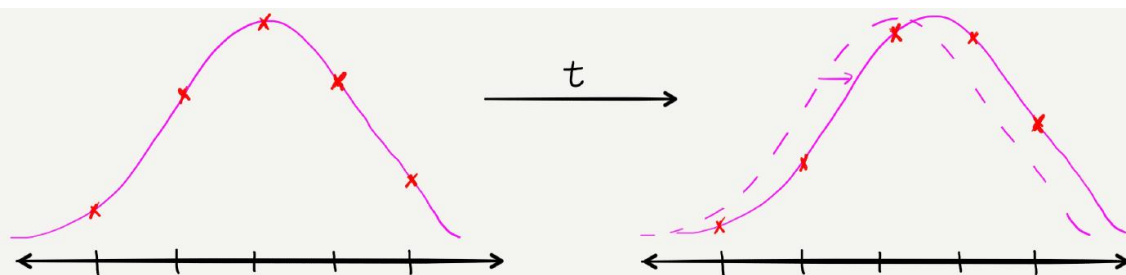
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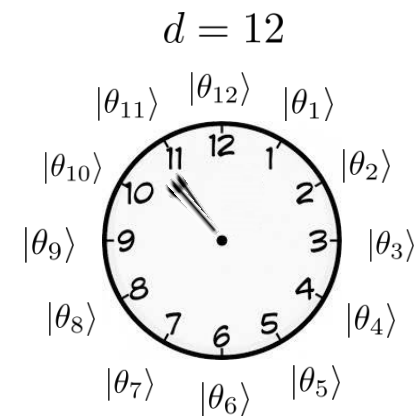
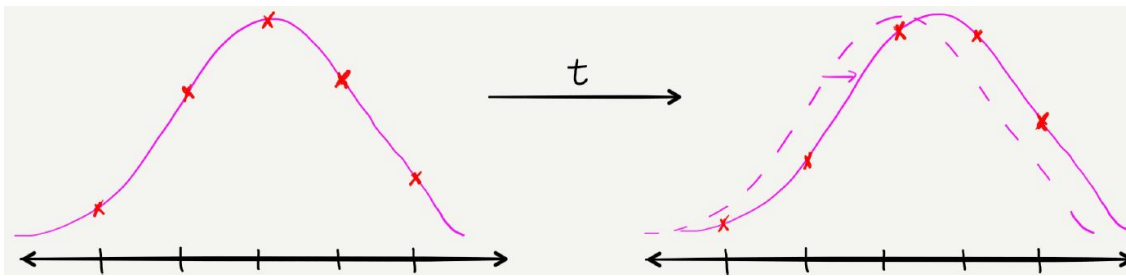
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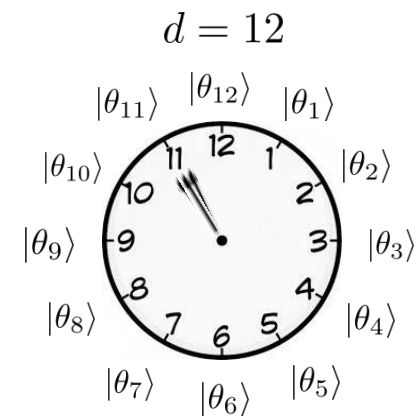
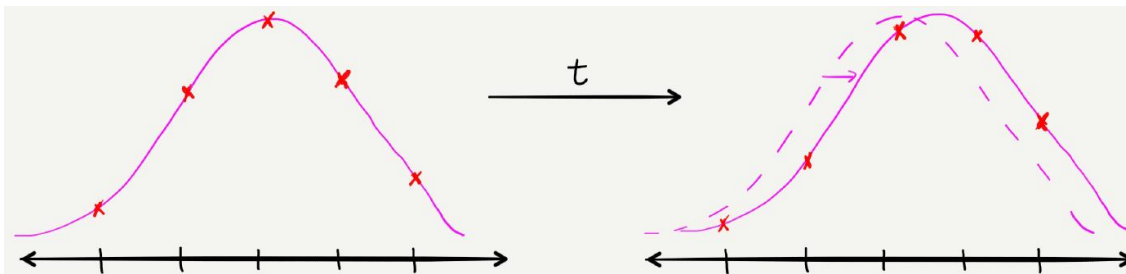
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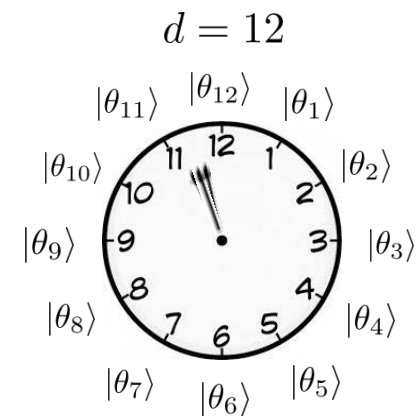
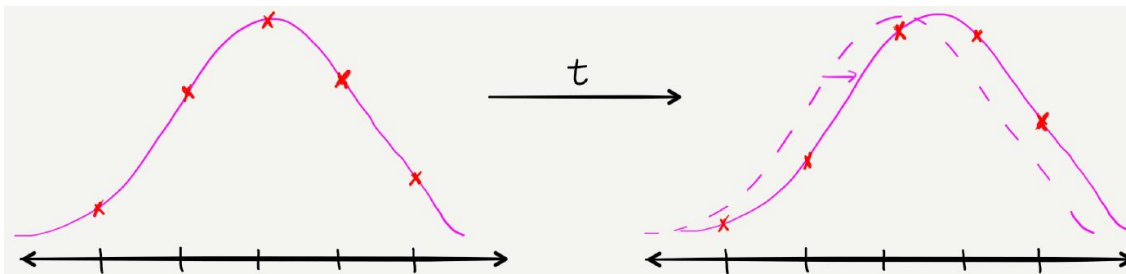
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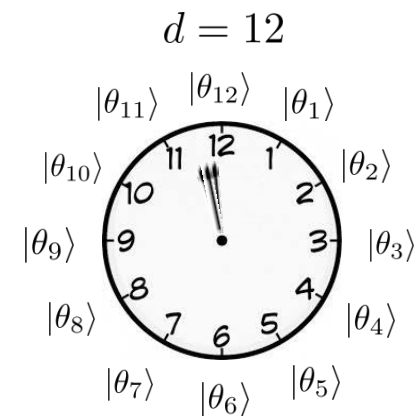
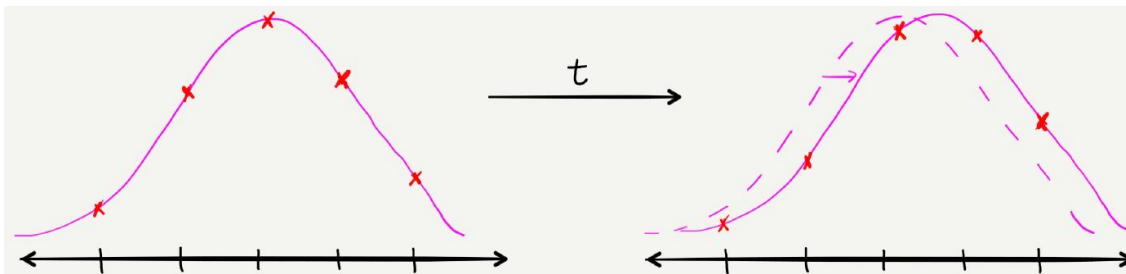
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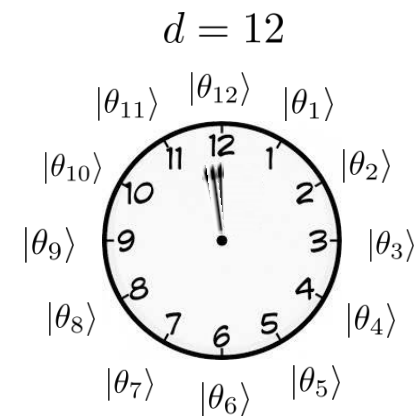
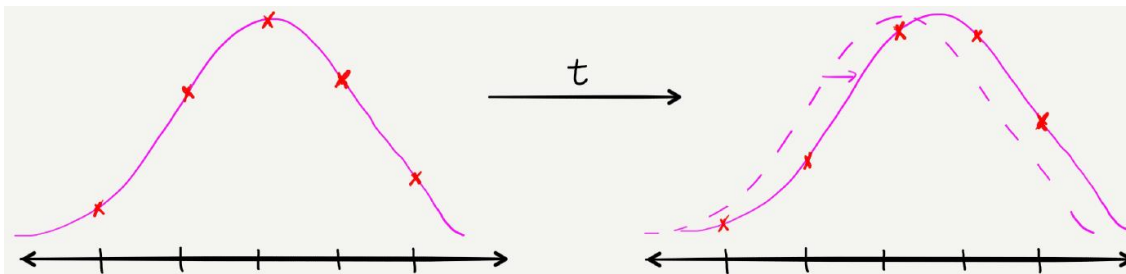
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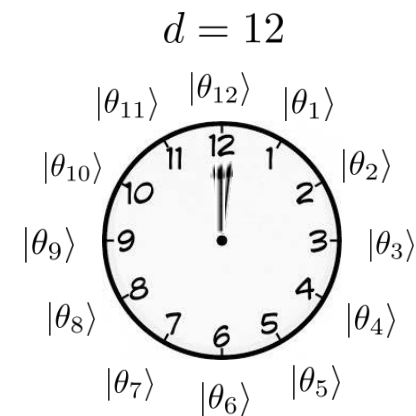
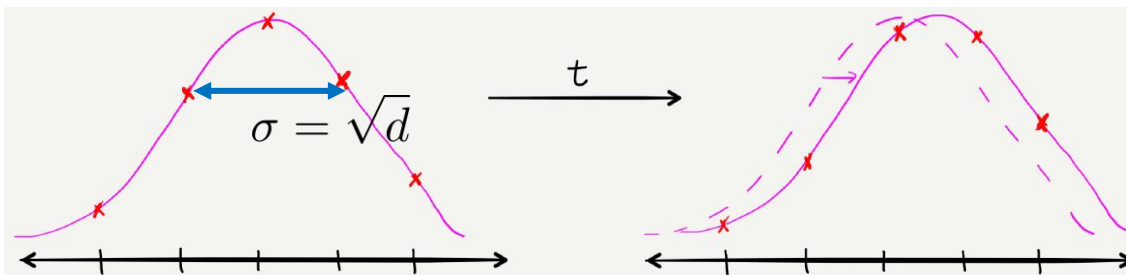
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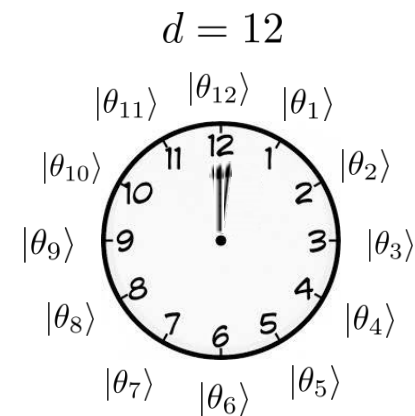
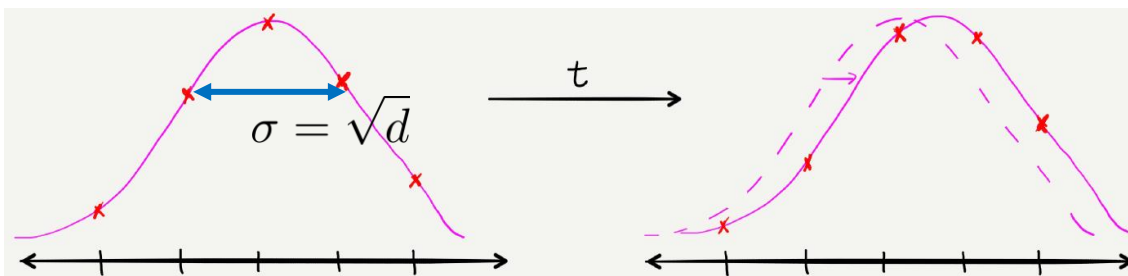
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$$|\varepsilon_c(t)| = t \text{ poly}(d) e^{-\frac{\pi}{4}d}$$

2nd Result Commutation:

-Recall discrete time operator: $\hat{t}_c = \sum_k k |\theta_k\rangle\langle\theta_k|$

$$[\hat{H}_c, \hat{t}_c] |\Psi(k_0)\rangle = i |\Psi(k_0)\rangle + |\epsilon\rangle, \quad \|\epsilon\rangle\|_2 \leq \text{poly}(d) e^{-\frac{\pi}{4}d}$$

-c.f. angle states

$$\langle\theta_k| [\hat{H}_c, \hat{t}_c] |\theta_k\rangle = 0$$

-c.f. idealised clock

$$[\hat{P}, \hat{x}_c] |\Psi(k_0)\rangle = i |\Psi(k_0)\rangle$$

Main Result

-Define Potential:

$$\hat{V} = \sum_{k=0}^{d-1} V_d(k) |\theta_k\rangle\langle\theta_k|, \quad V_d(x) = \frac{2\pi}{d} V_0 \left(\frac{k}{2\pi d} \right),$$

= Idealised clock

-Dynamics is given by:

$$\langle\theta_k| e^{-it(\hat{V}_d + \hat{H}_c)} |\Psi(k_0)\rangle = e^{-i \int_{k_0 - d\frac{t}{T_0}}^k V_d(x) dx} \psi(k_0 - d\frac{t}{T_0}; k) + \varepsilon_c(t)$$

Correction term

Main Result

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$$\hat{V} = \sum_{k=0}^{d-1} V_d(k) |\theta_k\rangle\langle\theta_k|,$$

$$V_d(x) = \frac{2\pi}{d} V_0 \left(\frac{k}{2\pi d} \right),$$

$V_0 = \text{period } 2\pi$

$$\int_0^{2\pi} dx V_0(x) = 1$$

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$$\varepsilon_c(t) \leq \text{poly}(d) t e^{-\frac{\pi}{4} \frac{d}{\zeta}}, \quad \zeta = \left(1 + \frac{0.792 \pi}{\ln(\pi d)} b \right)^2,$$

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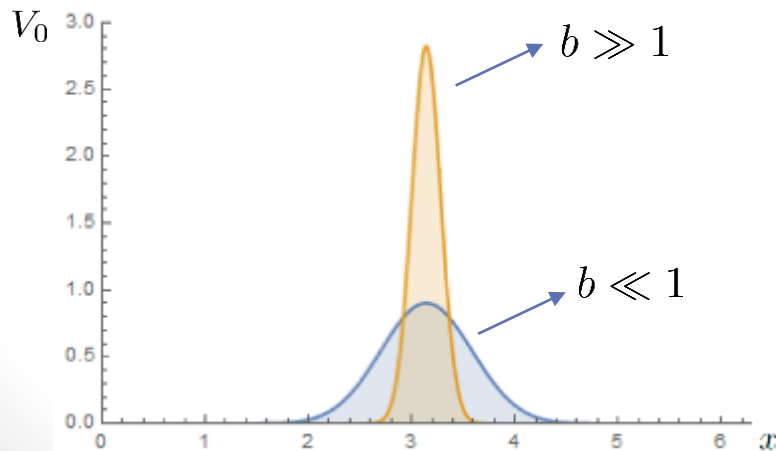
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$$b \geq \sup_{k \in \mathbb{N}^+} \left(2 \max_{x \in [0, 2\pi]} |V_0^{(k-1)}(x)| \right)^{1/k}$$

Main Result

-Proof: Similar to before just MUCH more complicated

$$|\bar{\Psi}(k_0, \Delta)\rangle := \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}_d(k_0)} e^{-i \frac{2\pi}{d} \int_{k-\Delta}^k dy V_0(2\pi y/d)} \psi(k_0; k) |\theta_k\rangle$$

$$e^{-i \frac{T_0}{d} \hat{H}_c \delta} |\bar{\Psi}(k_0, \Delta)\rangle = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}_d(k_0)} e^{-i \frac{2\pi}{d} \int_{k-\delta-\Delta}^{k-\delta} dy V_0(2\pi y/d)} \psi(k_0; k - \delta) |\theta_k\rangle + |\epsilon\rangle, \quad \|\epsilon\rangle\|_2 < a\delta + b\delta^2$$

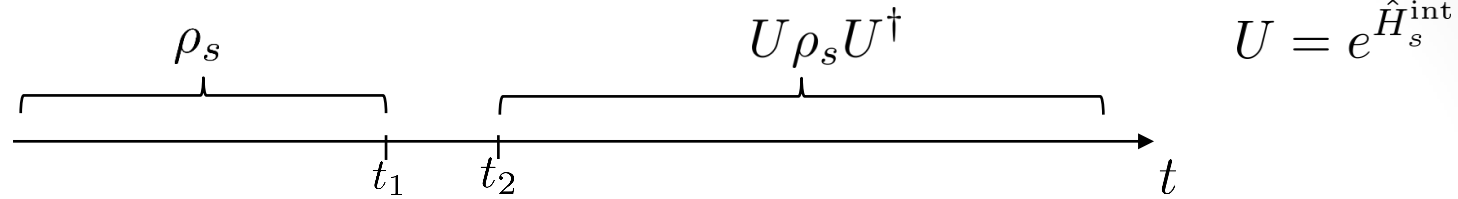
$$e^{-i \frac{T_0}{d} \hat{V}_c \delta} |\Phi\rangle = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}_d(k_0)} \langle \theta_k | \Phi \rangle e^{-i \frac{2\pi}{d} \int_{k-\delta}^k dy V_0(2\pi y/d)} |\theta_k\rangle + |\epsilon'\rangle, \quad \|\epsilon'\rangle\|_2 < b'\delta^2$$

$$\left(e^{-i \frac{T_0}{d} \delta \hat{V}_d} e^{-i \frac{T_0}{d} \delta \hat{H}_c} \right)^m |\bar{\Psi}(k_0, \Delta)\rangle = |\bar{\Psi}(k_0 + m\delta, \Delta + m\delta)\rangle + |\epsilon^{(m)}\rangle$$

$$\|\epsilon^{(m)}\rangle\|_2 < m \left(a\delta + (b + b')\delta^2 \right)$$

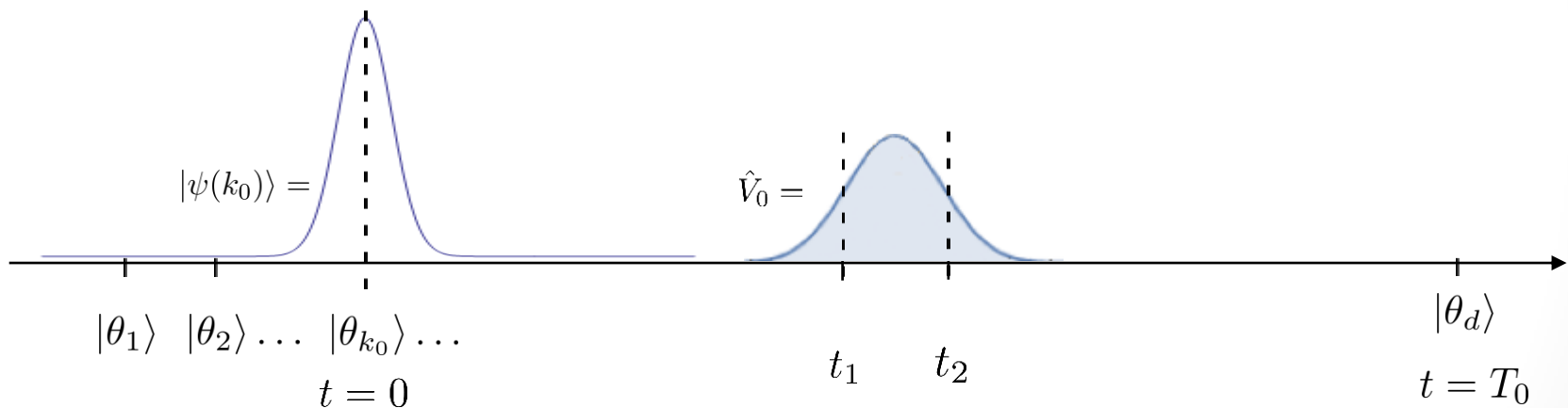
$$e^{-it(\hat{V}_d + \hat{H}_c)} = \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \left(e^{-i \hat{H}_c t/m} e^{-i \hat{V}_d t/m} \right)^m \quad \delta = \frac{t}{m} \frac{d}{T_0}$$

Thermodynamic Consequences



$$\rho'_{sc}(t) = (\rho_s \otimes |\Psi(k_0)\rangle\langle\Psi(k_0)|)(t), \quad \hat{H}_c \otimes \mathbb{1}_s + \hat{V}_0 \otimes \hat{H}_s^{\text{int}}$$

System: ρ_s

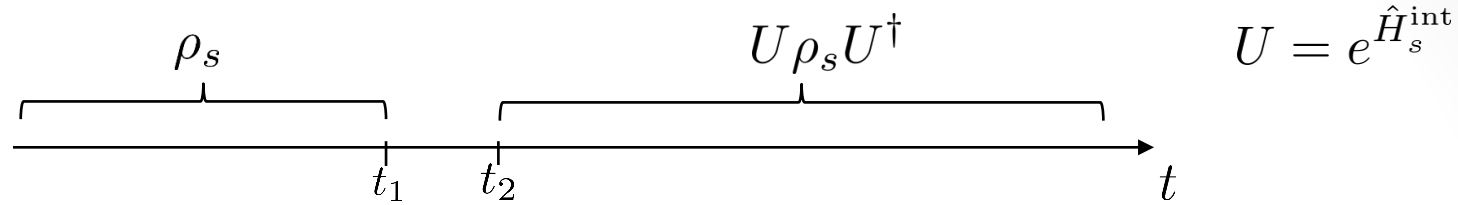


Correction term $F(\rho'_s(t), \rho_s(t)) \leq \sqrt{d_s} \text{poly}(d) e^{-c\sqrt{d}}$

$$t \in [0, t_1] \cup [t_2, T_0]$$

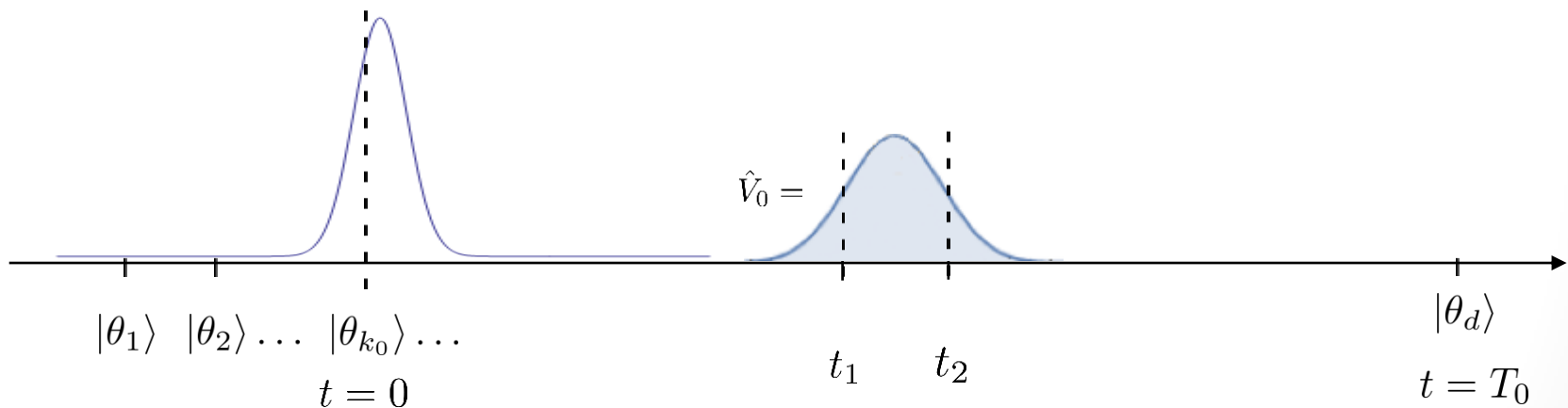
$$F(\rho'_c(T_0), \rho_c(0)) \leq \text{poly}(d) e^{-c\sqrt{d}}$$

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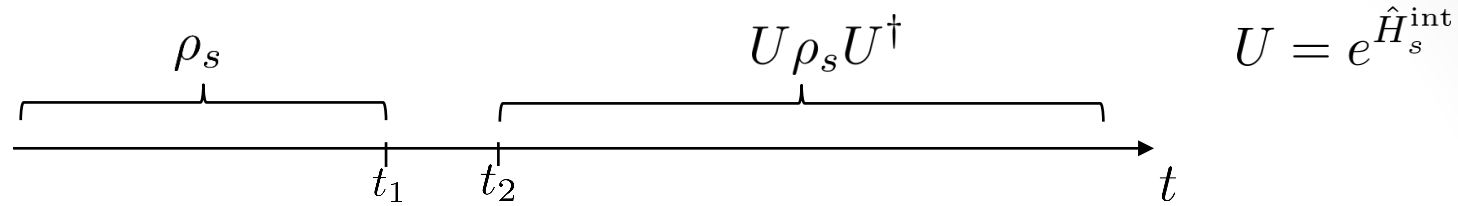


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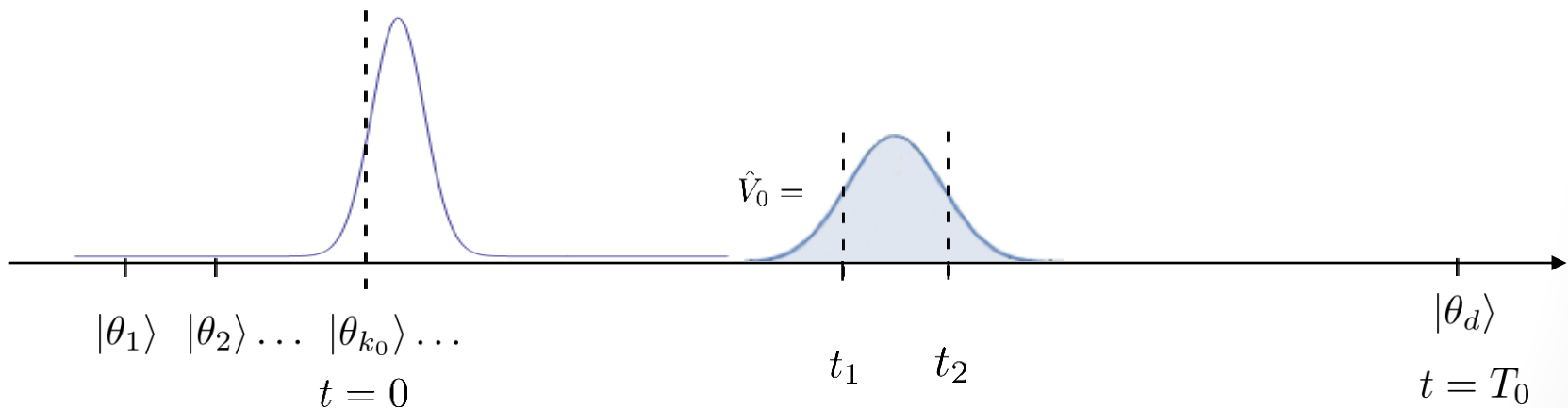
$t \in [0, t_1] \cup [t_2, T_0]$

Thermodynamic Consequences



$$\rho'_{sc}(t) = (\rho_s \otimes |\Psi(k_0)\rangle\langle\Psi(k_0)|)(t), \quad \hat{H}_c \otimes \mathbb{1}_s + \hat{V}_0 \otimes \hat{H}_s^{\text{int}}$$

System: ρ_s

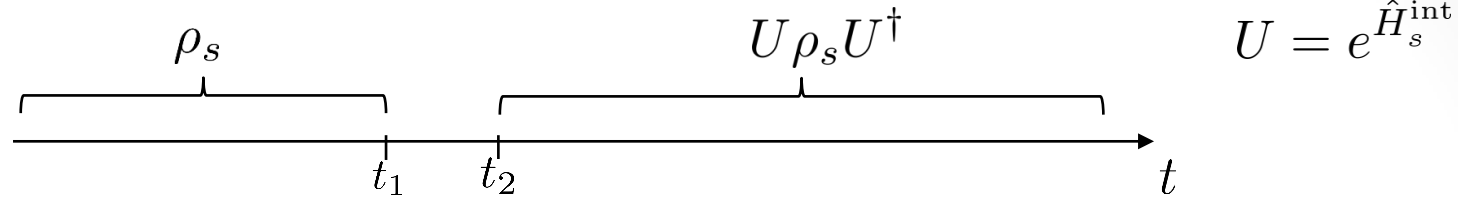


Correction term $F(\rho'_s(t), \rho_s(t)) \leq \sqrt{d_s} \text{poly}(d) e^{-c\sqrt{d}}$

$$t \in [0, t_1] \cup [t_2, T_0]$$

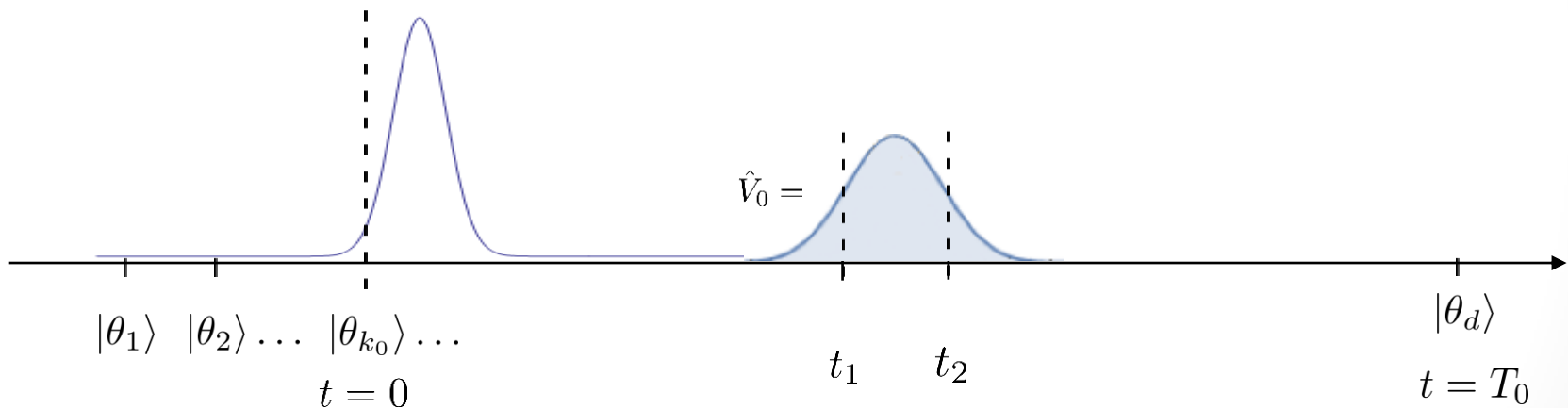
$$F(\rho'_c(T_0), \rho_c(0)) \leq \text{poly}(d) e^{-c\sqrt{d}}$$

Thermodynamic Consequences



$$\rho'_{sc}(t) = (\rho_s \otimes |\Psi(k_0)\rangle\langle\Psi(k_0)|)(t), \quad \hat{H}_c \otimes \mathbb{1}_s + \hat{V}_0 \otimes \hat{H}_s^{\text{int}}$$

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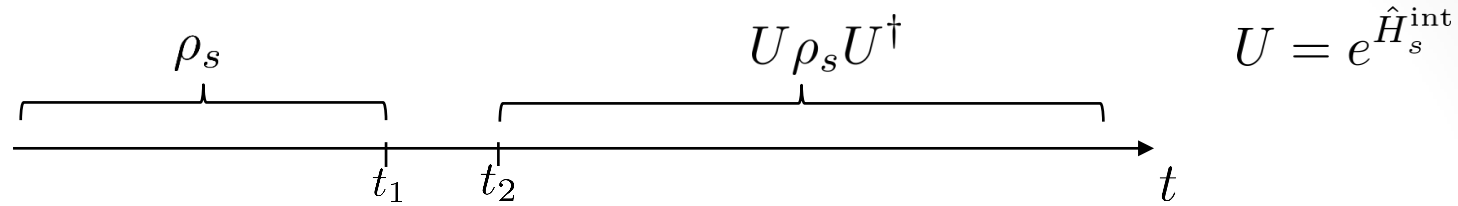


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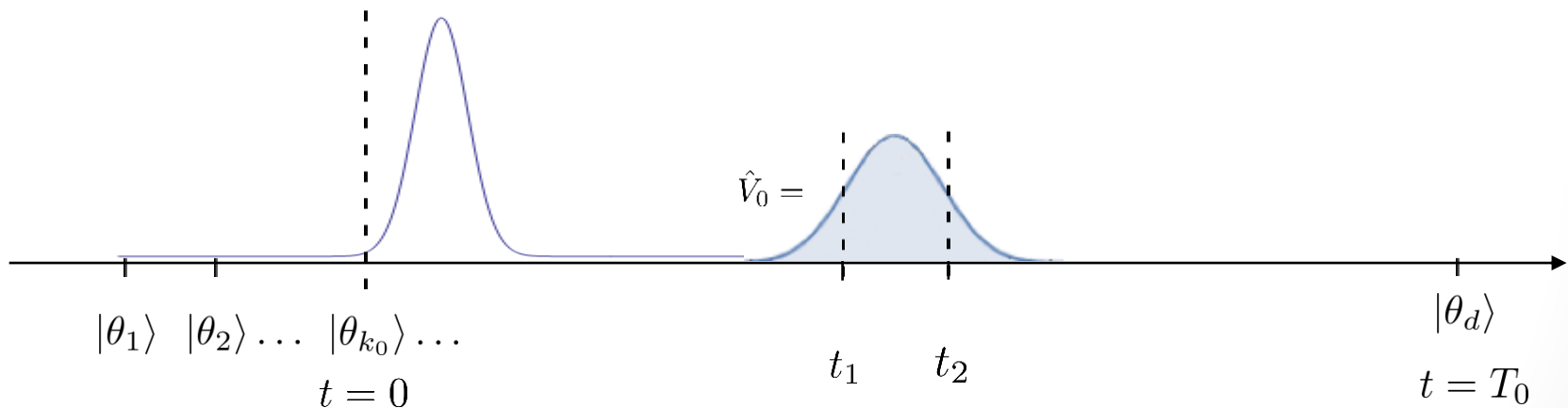
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Thermodynamic Consequences



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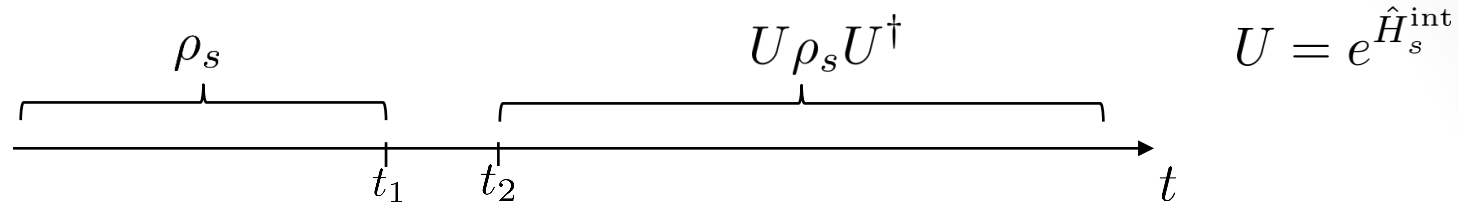


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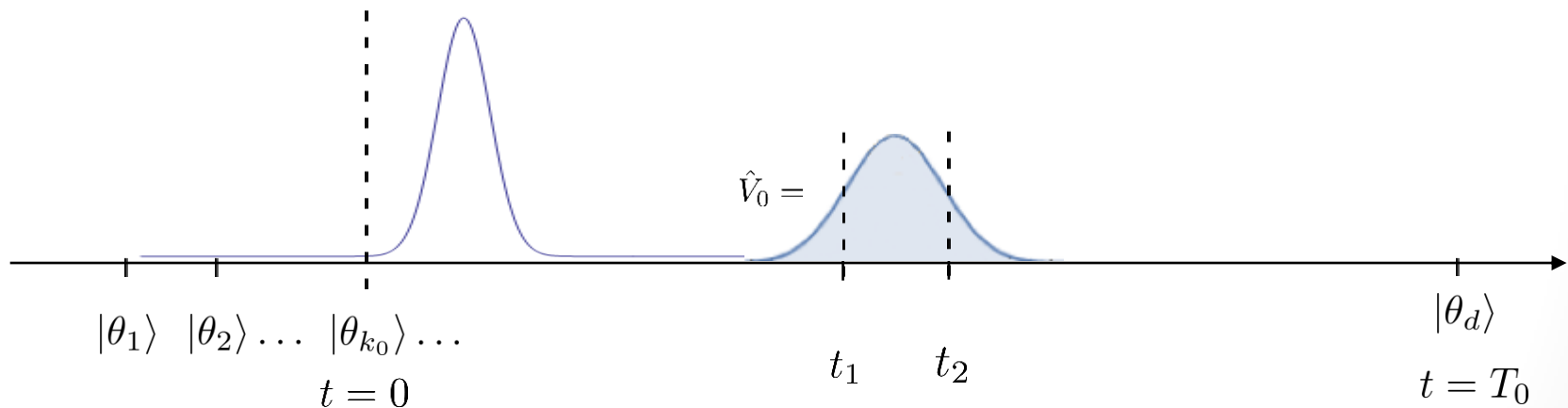
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Thermodynamic Consequences



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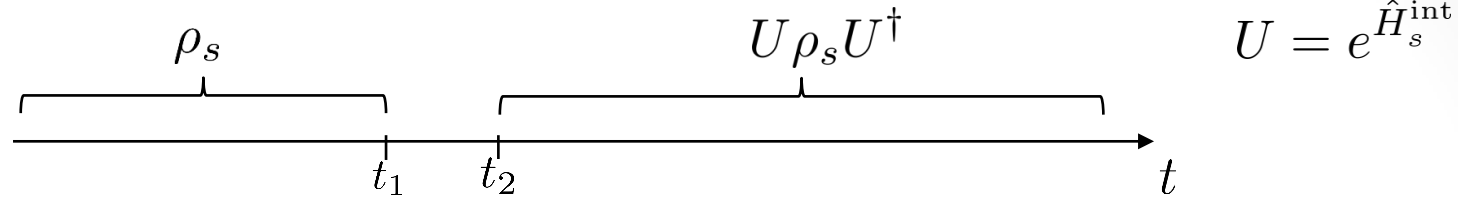


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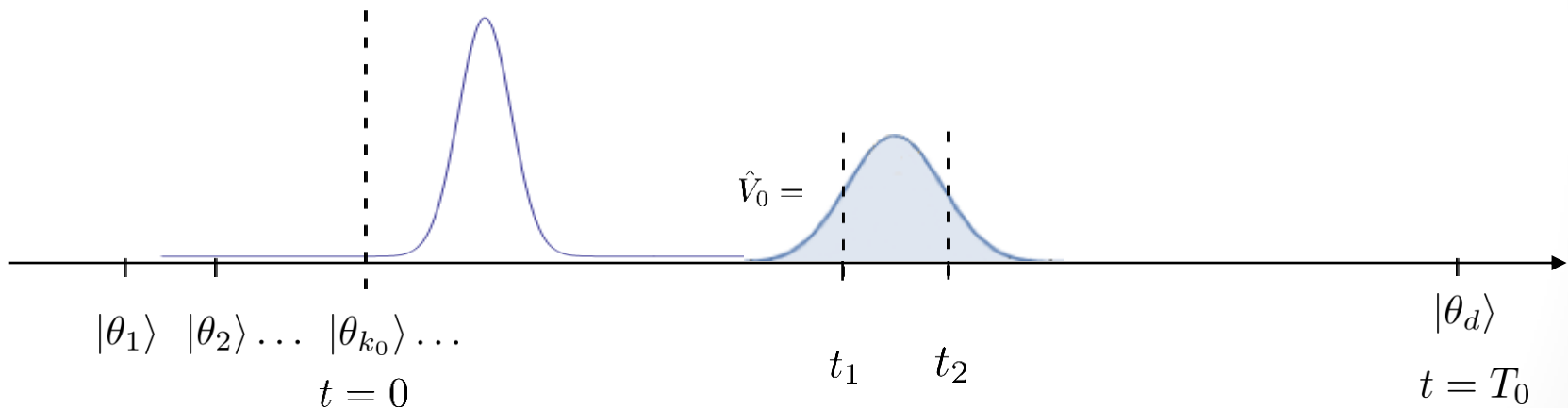
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Thermodynamic Consequences



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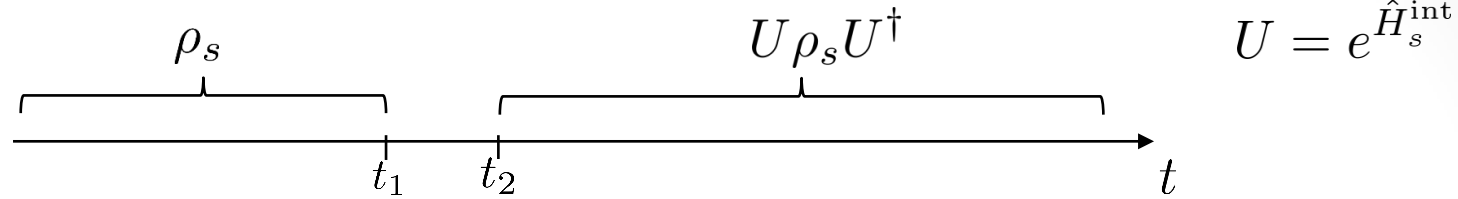


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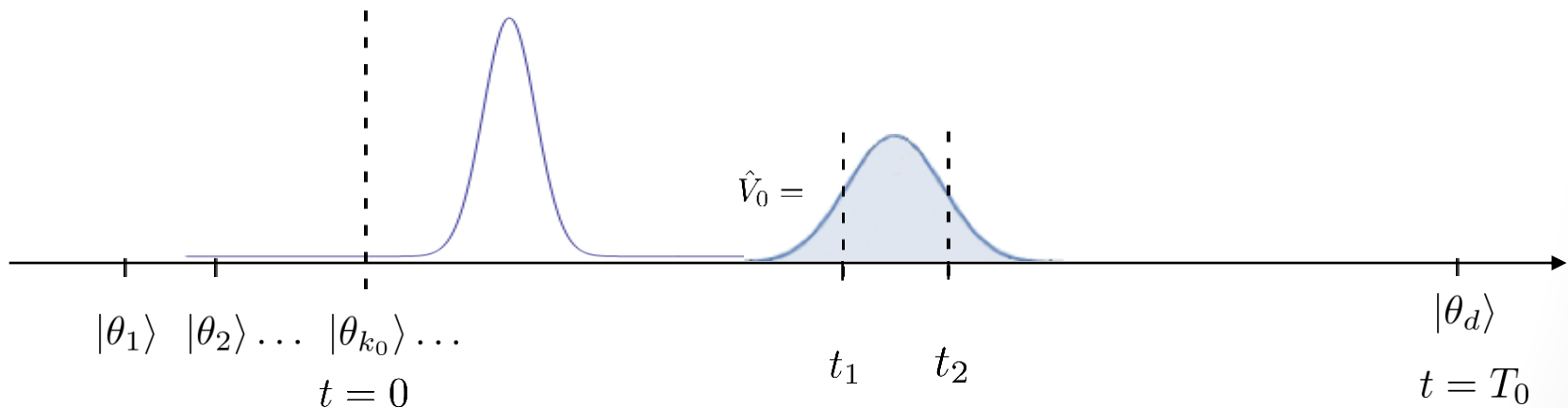
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Thermodynamic Consequences



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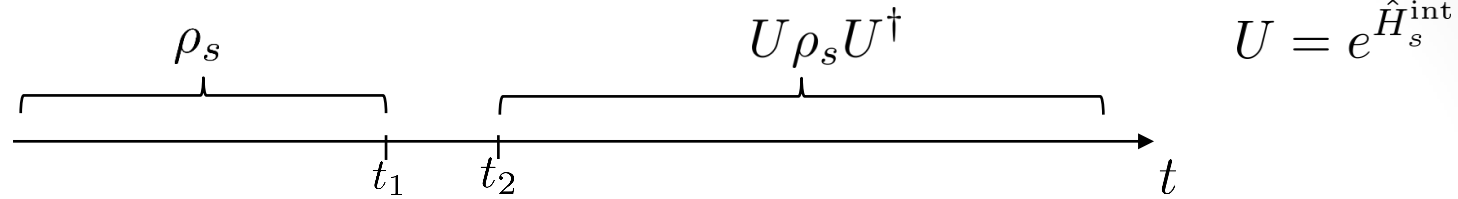


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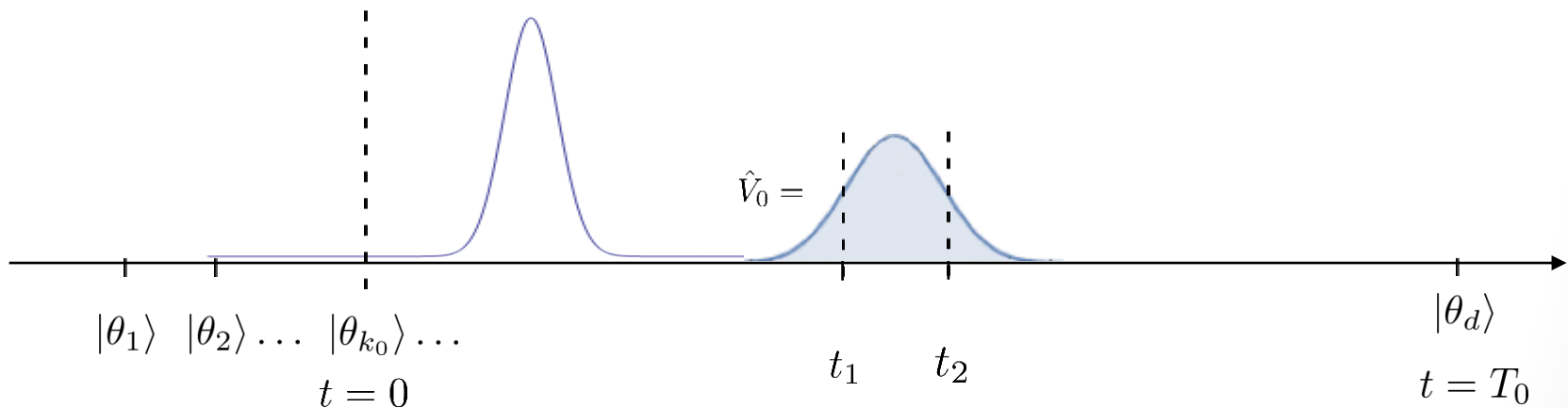
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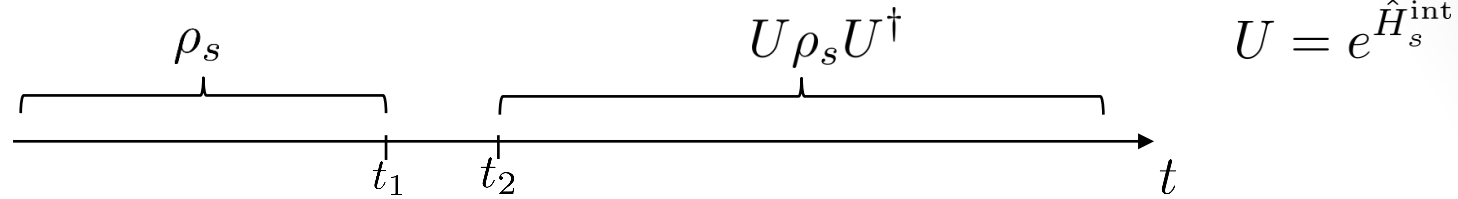


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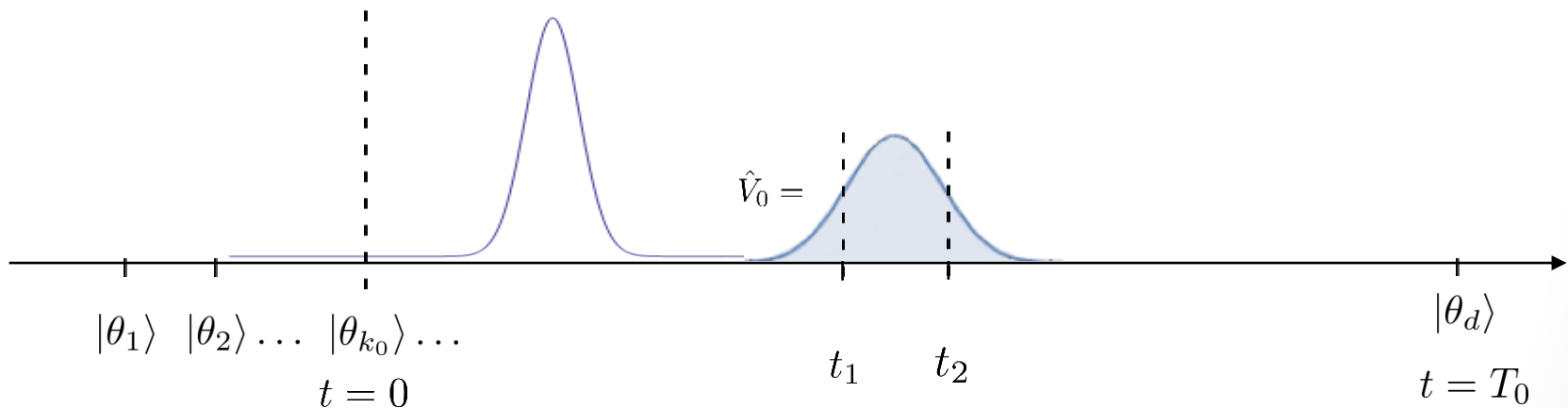
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System: ρ_s

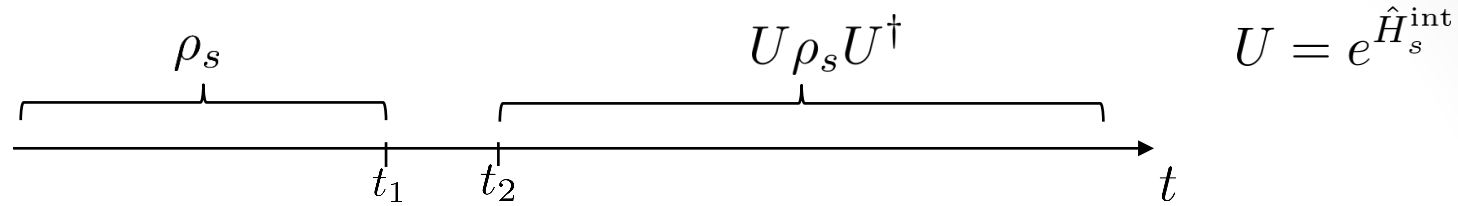


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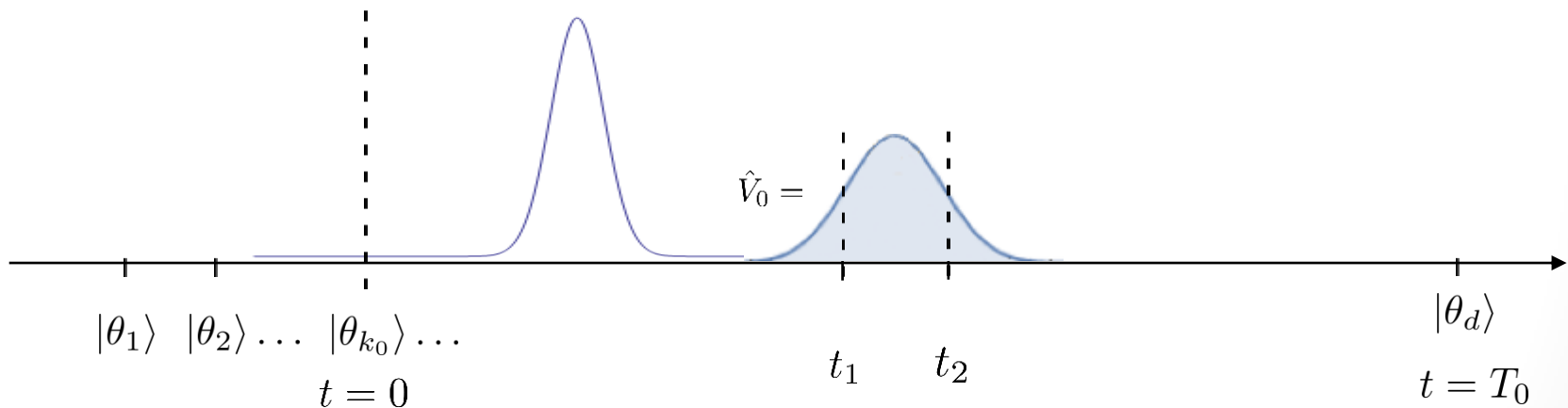
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System: ρ_s

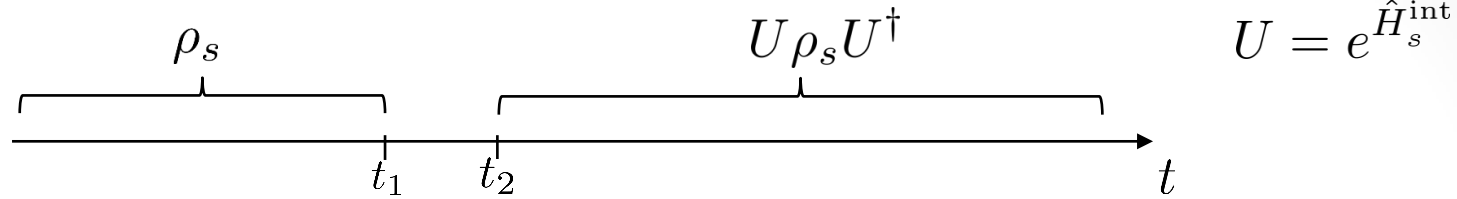


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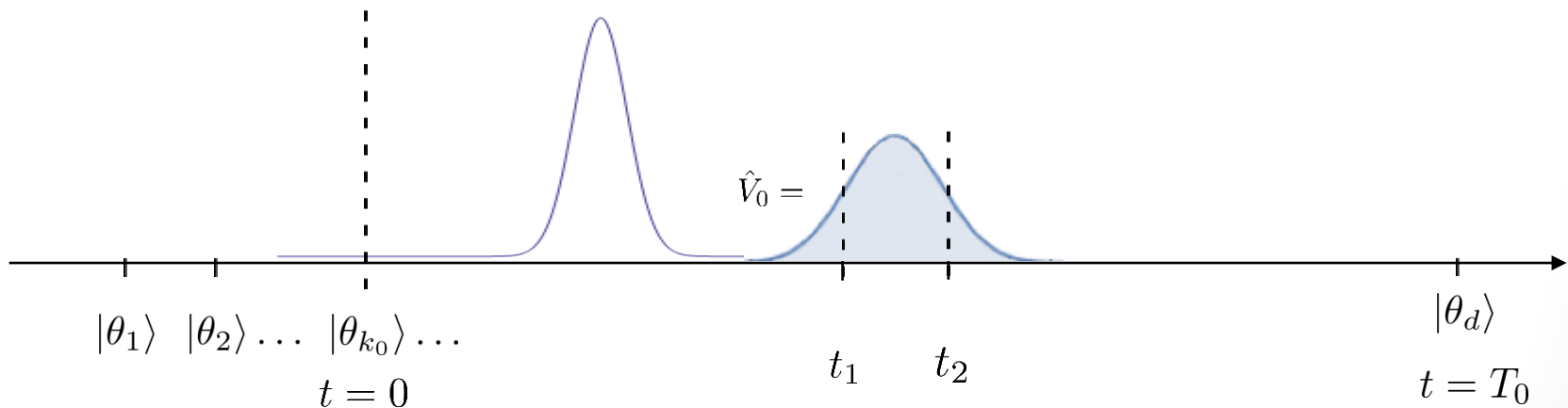
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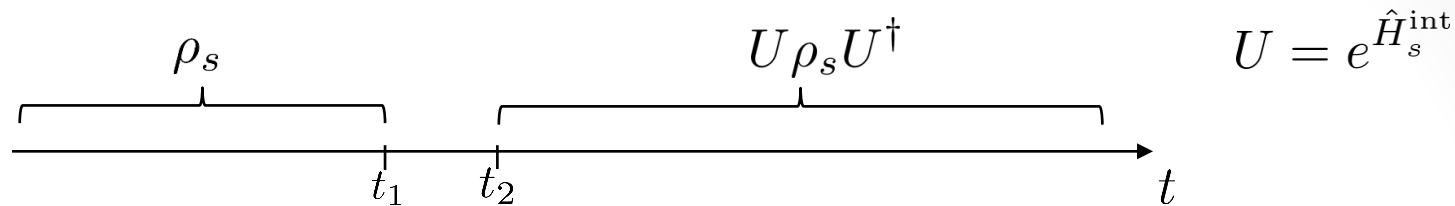


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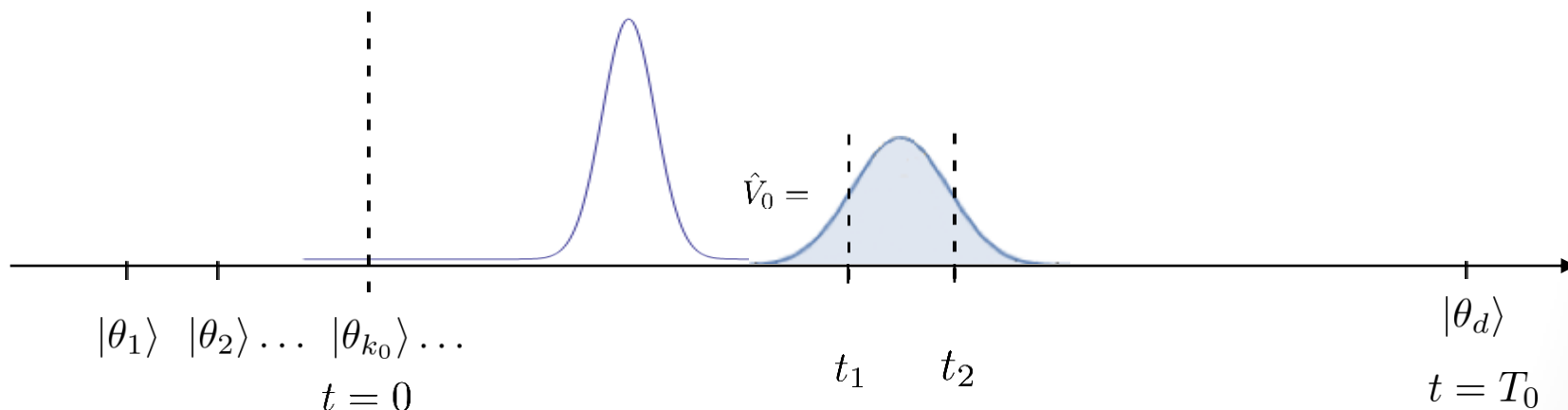
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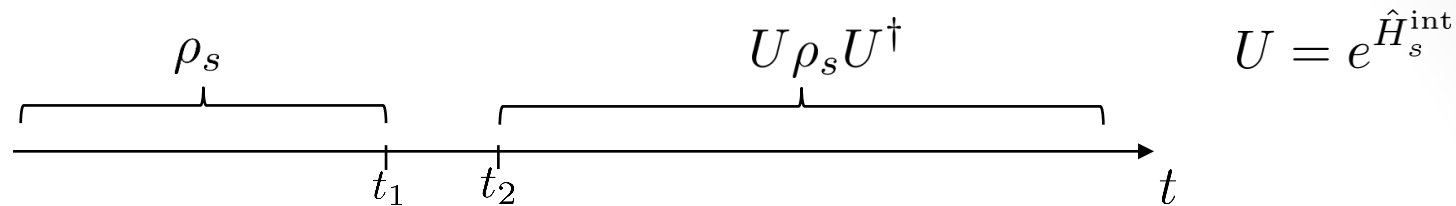


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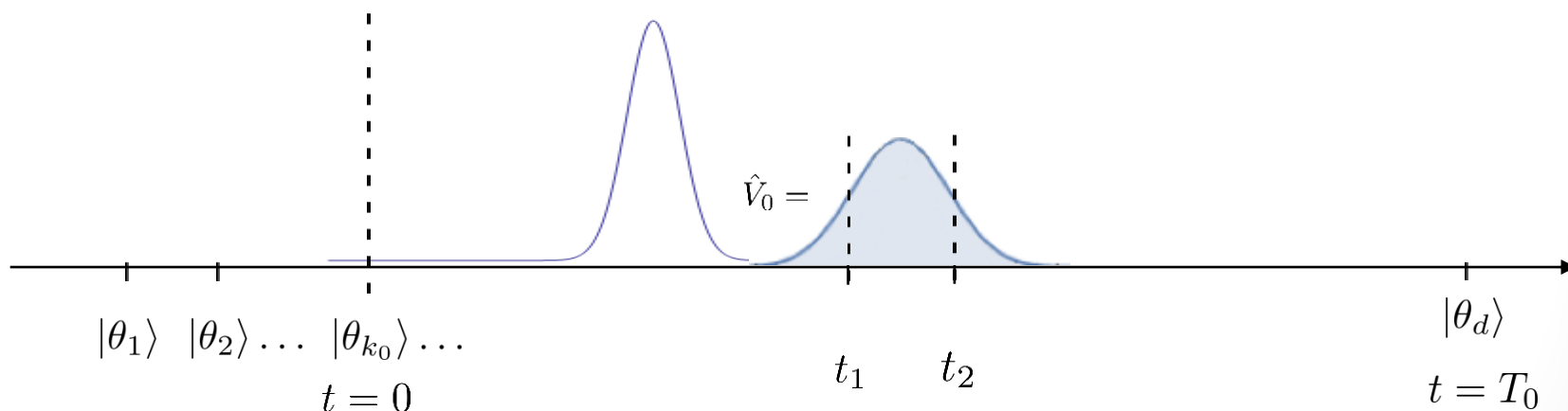
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System: ρ_s

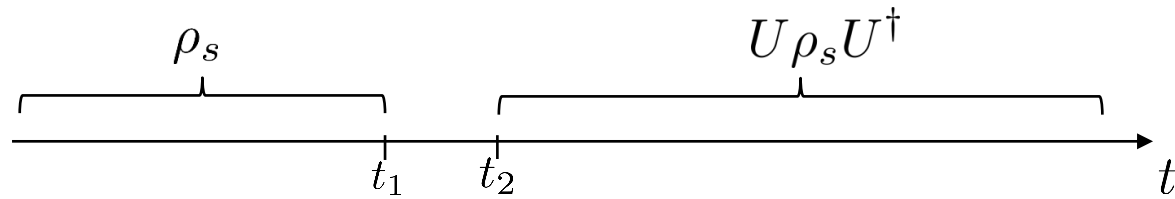


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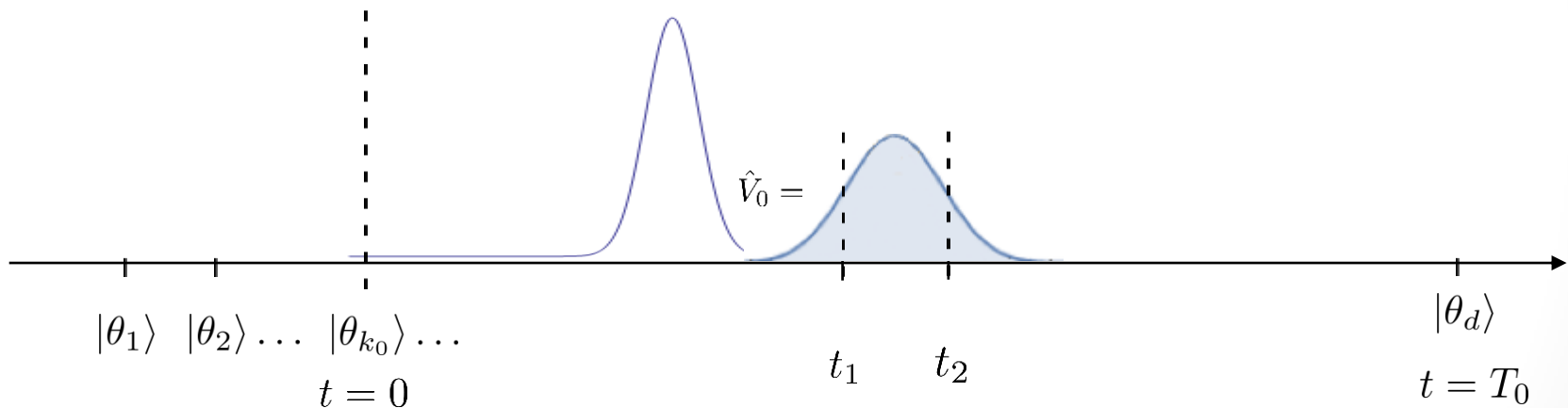
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System: ρ_s

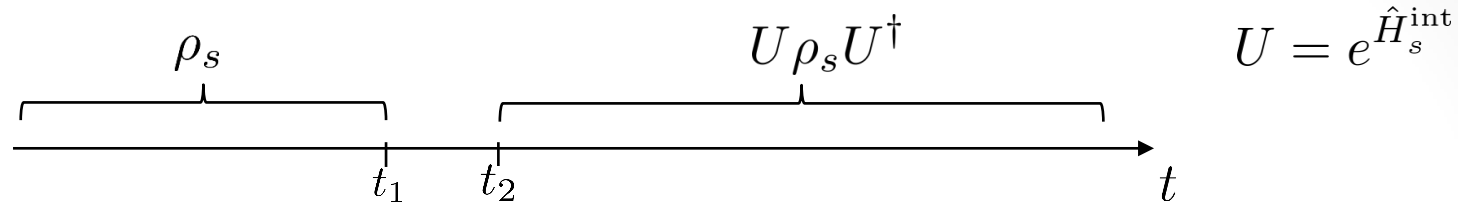


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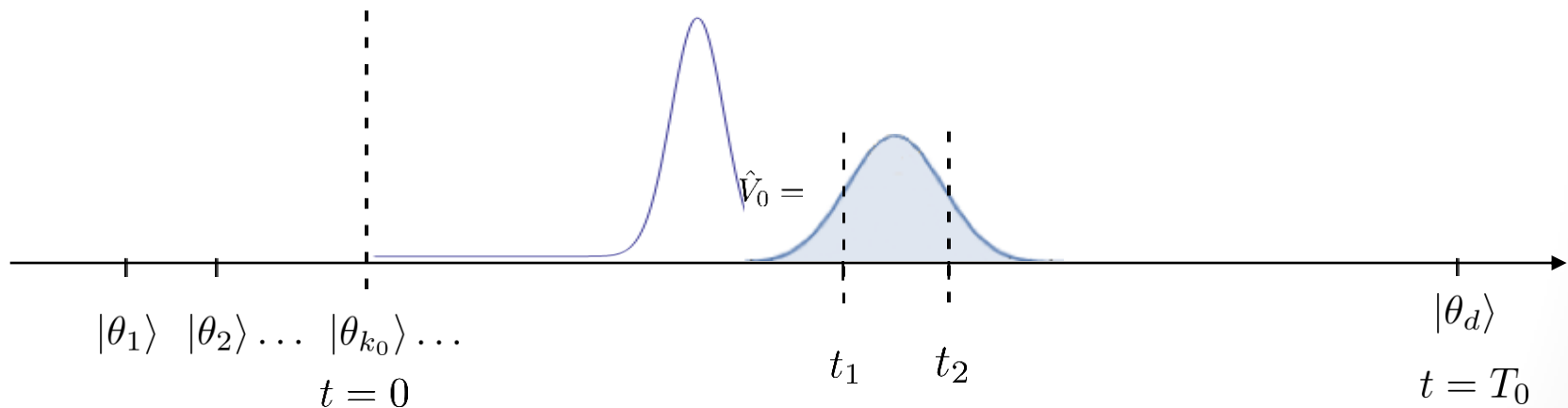
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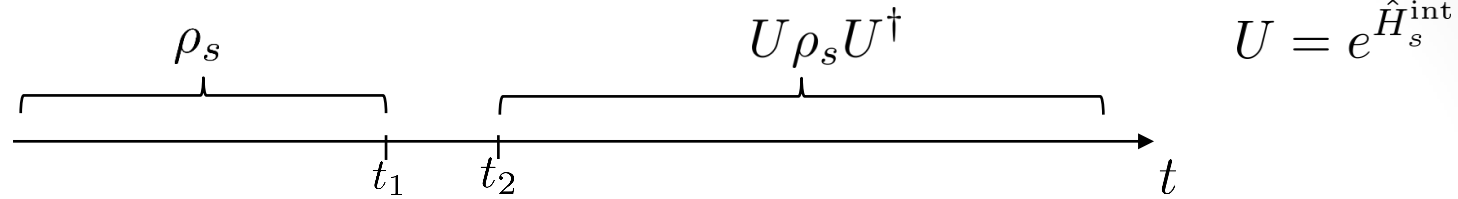


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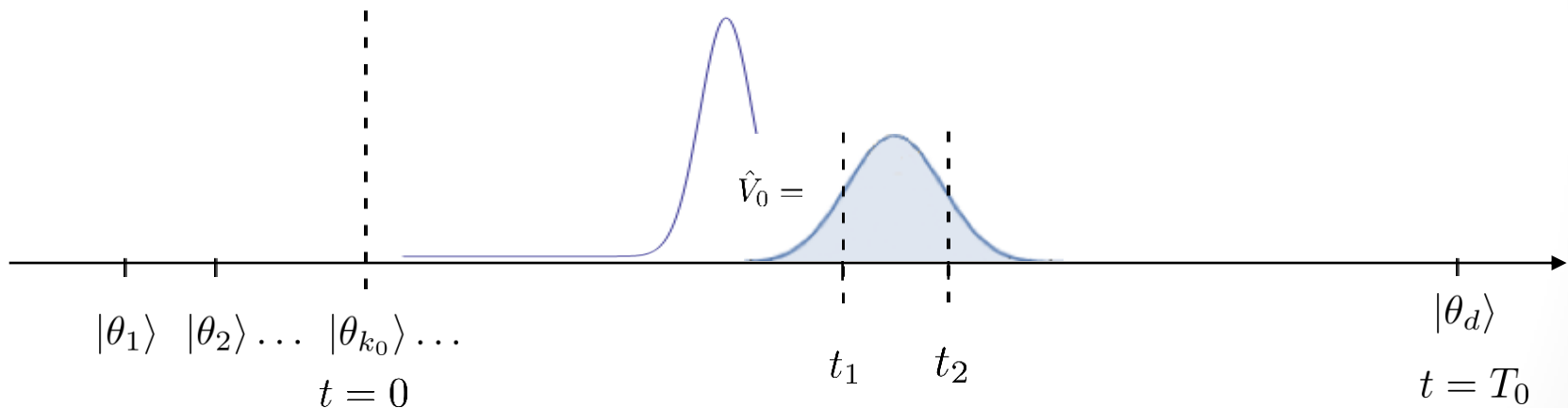
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Thermodynamic Consequences



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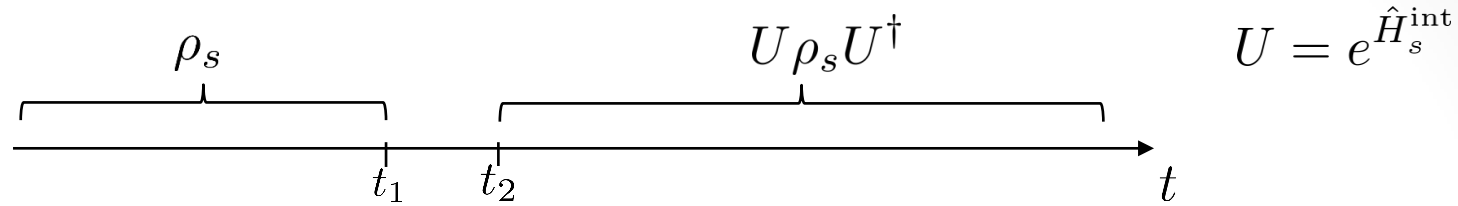


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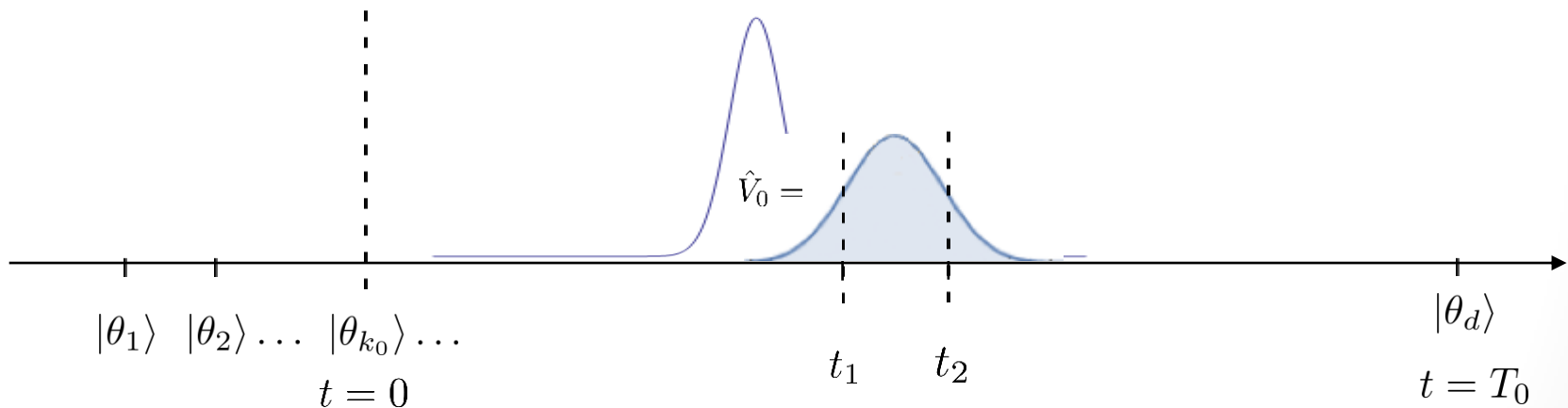
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System: ρ_s

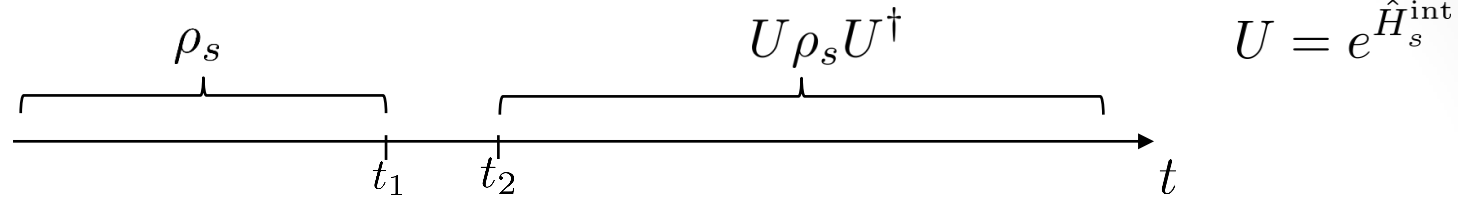


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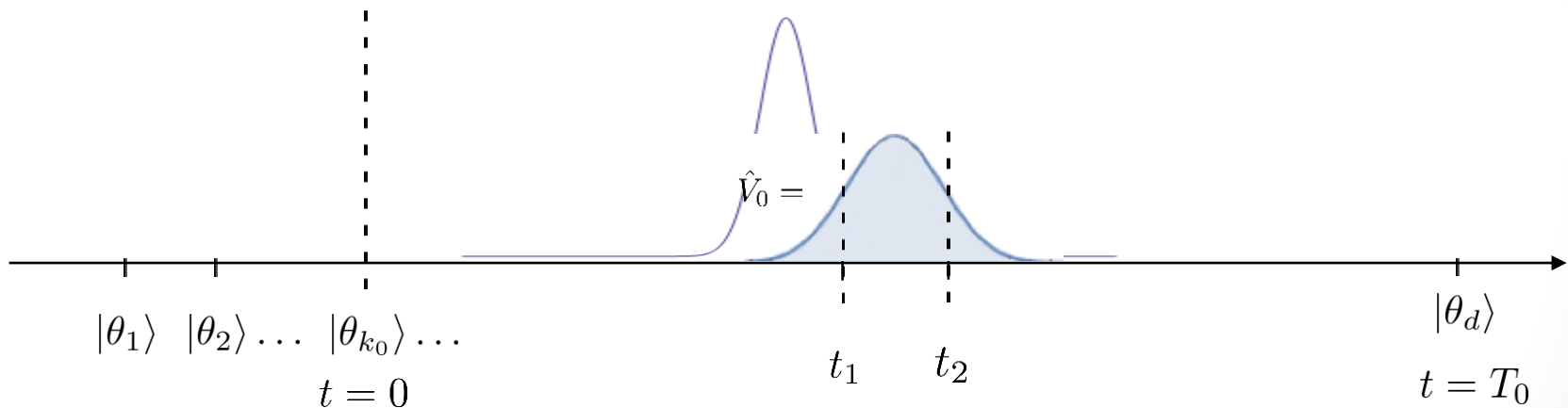
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System: ρ_s

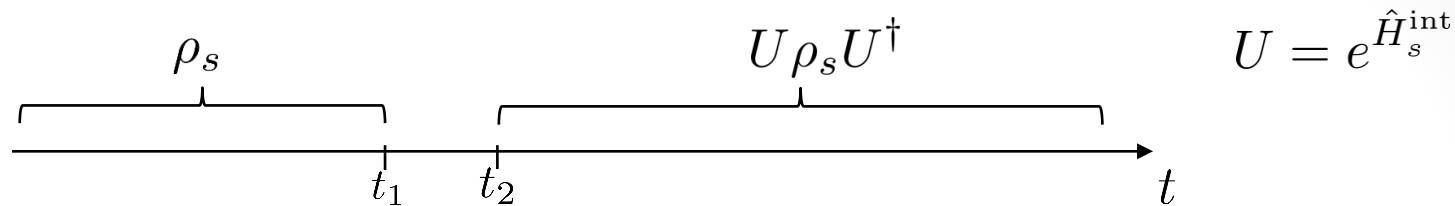


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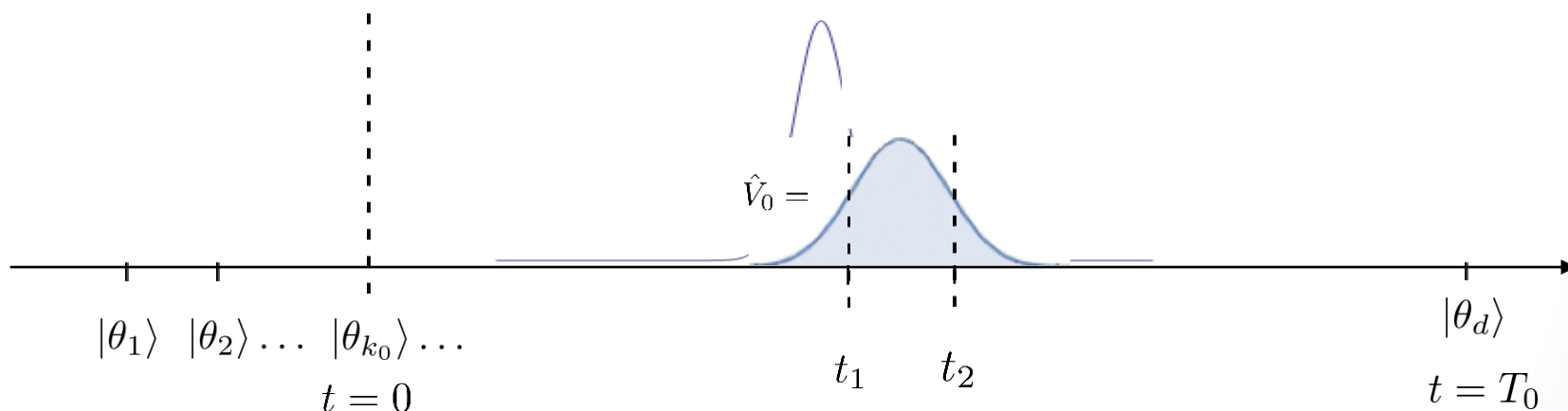
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System: ρ_s ???

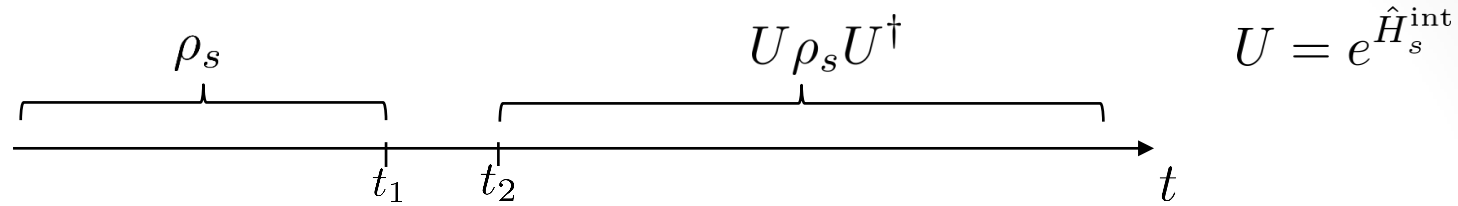


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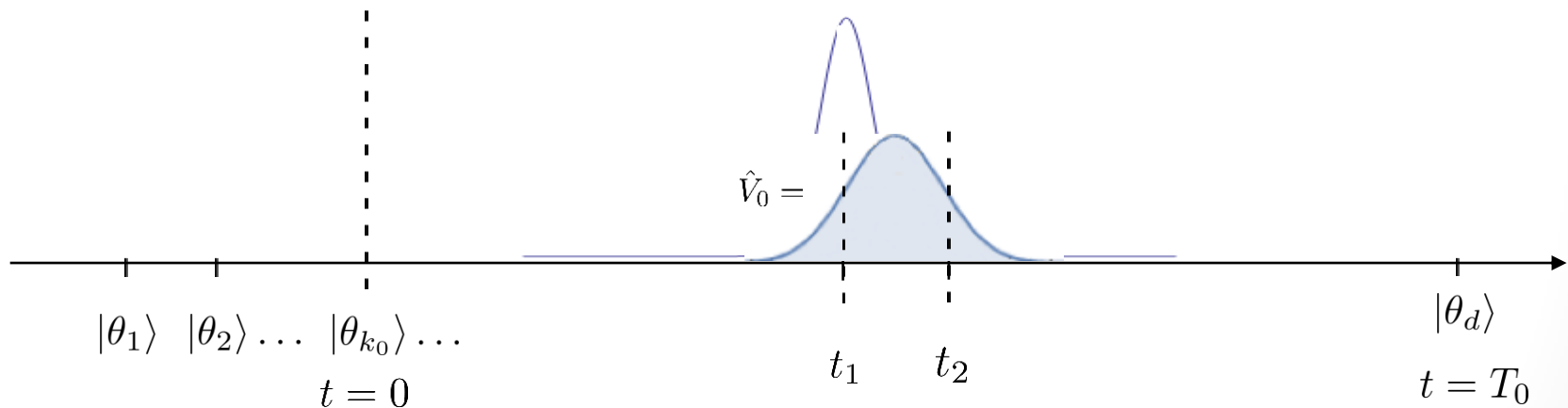
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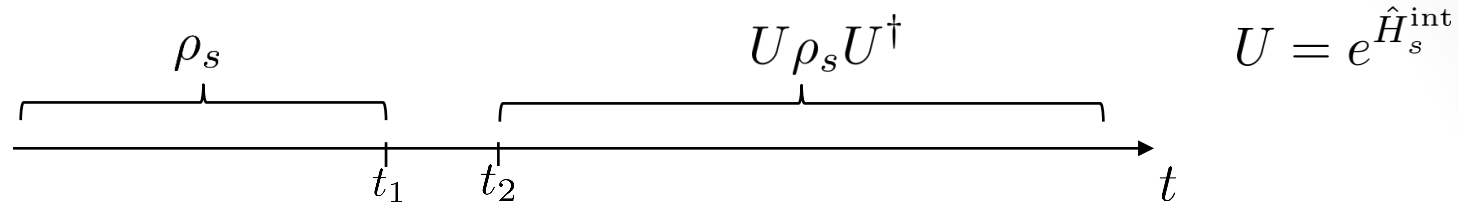


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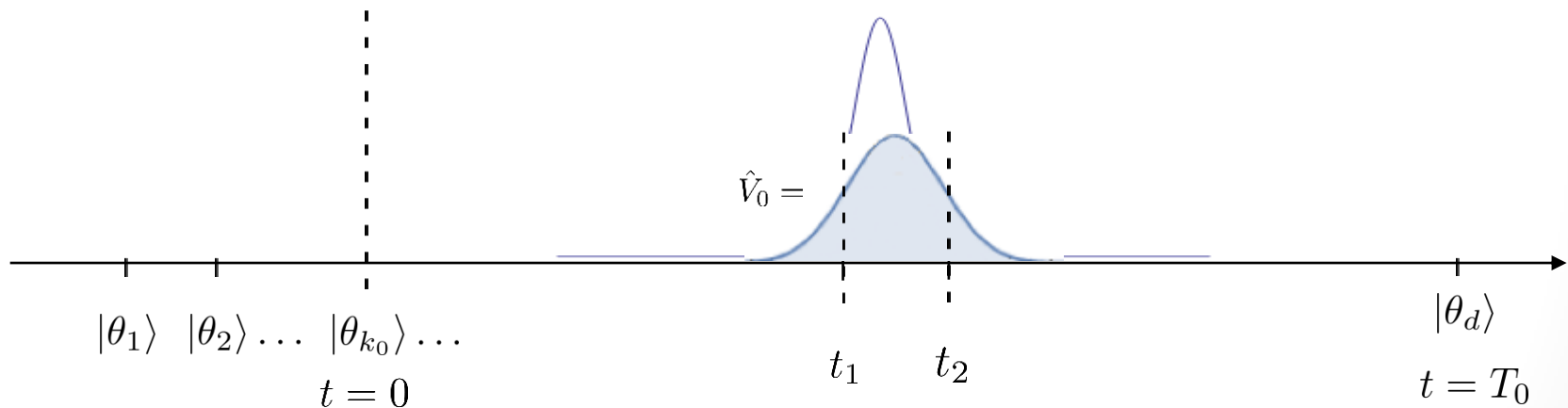
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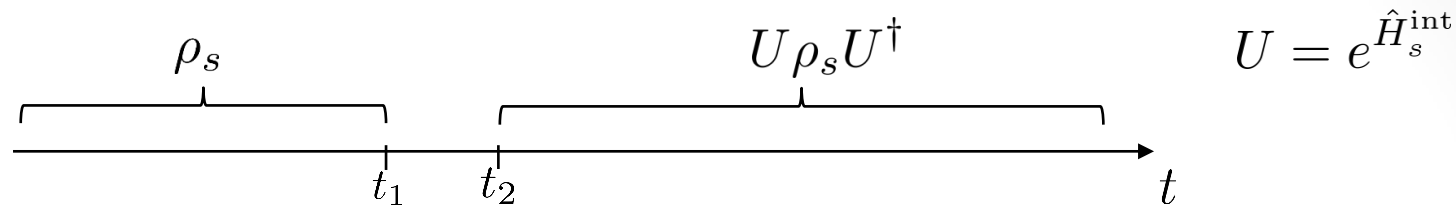


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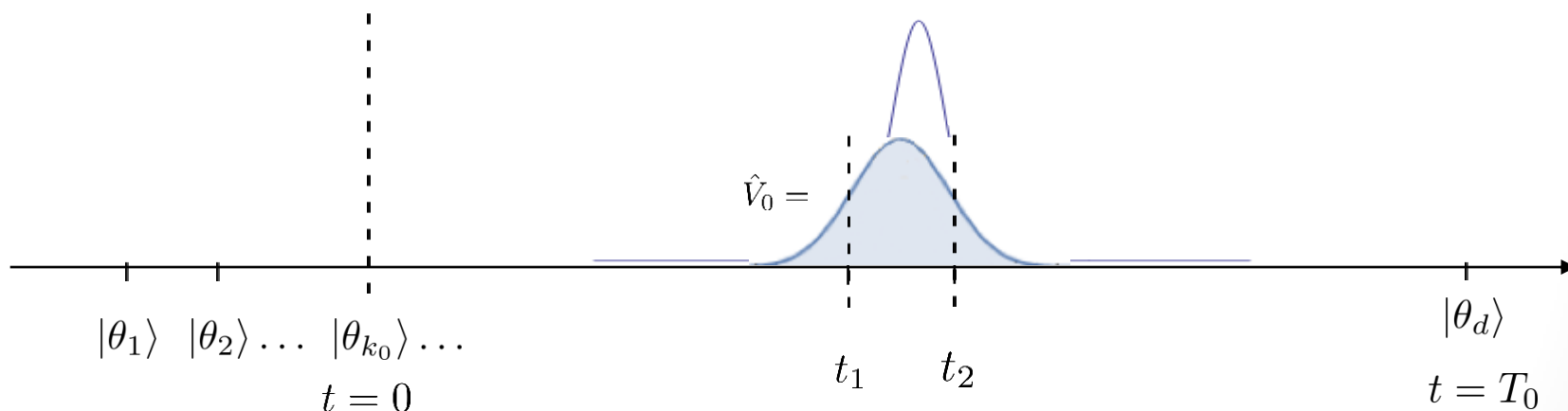
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Thermodynamic Consequences



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System: ρ_s ???

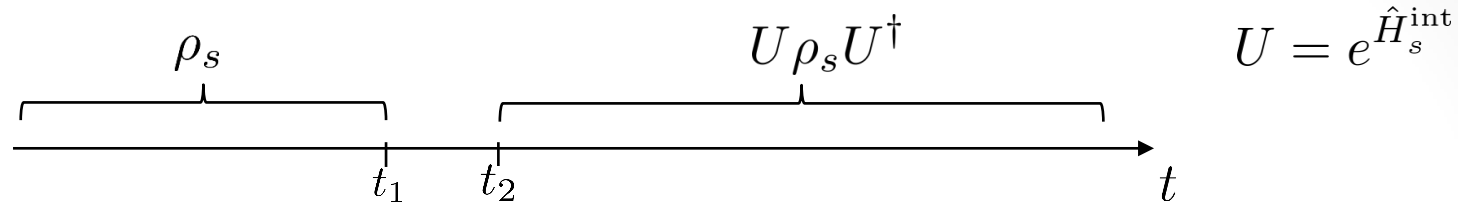


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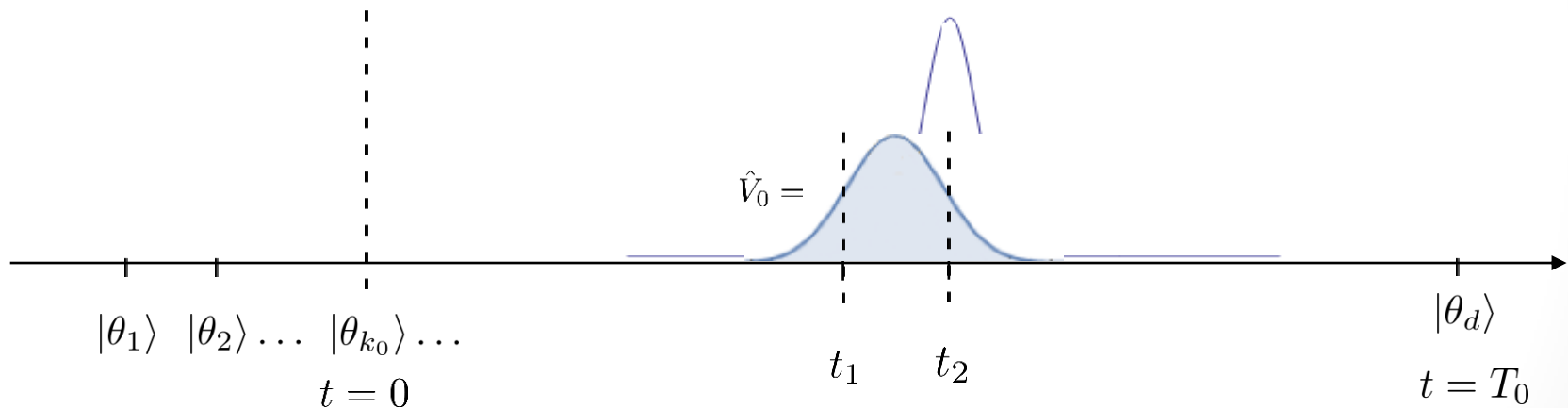
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System: ρ_s ???

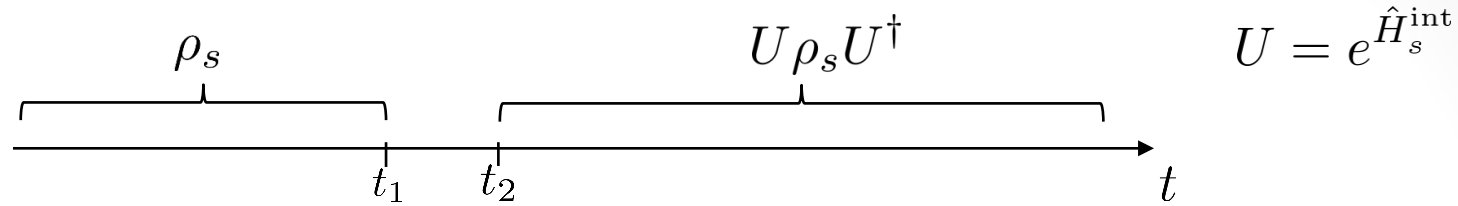


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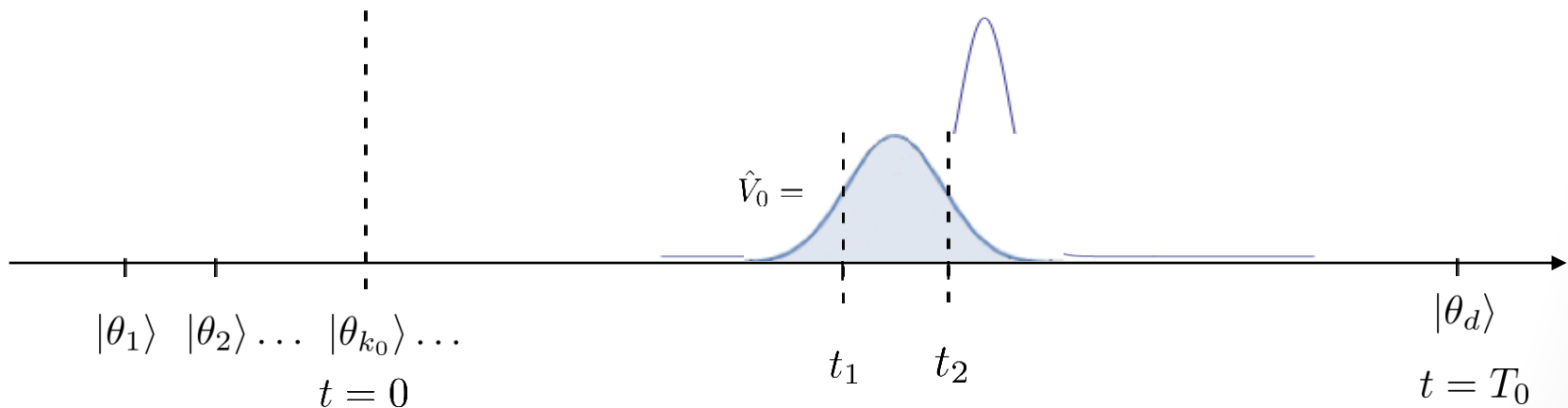
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System: $U\rho_sU^\dagger$

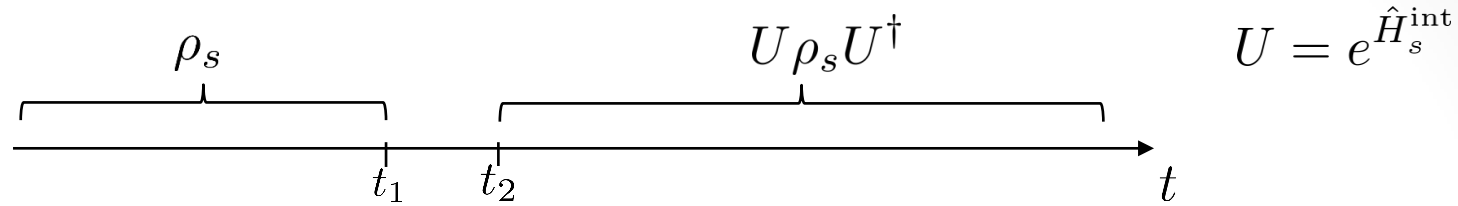


Correction term $F(\rho'_s(t), \rho_s(t)) \leq \sqrt{d_s} \text{poly}(d) e^{-c\sqrt{d}}$

$$t \in [0, t_1] \cup [t_2, T_0]$$

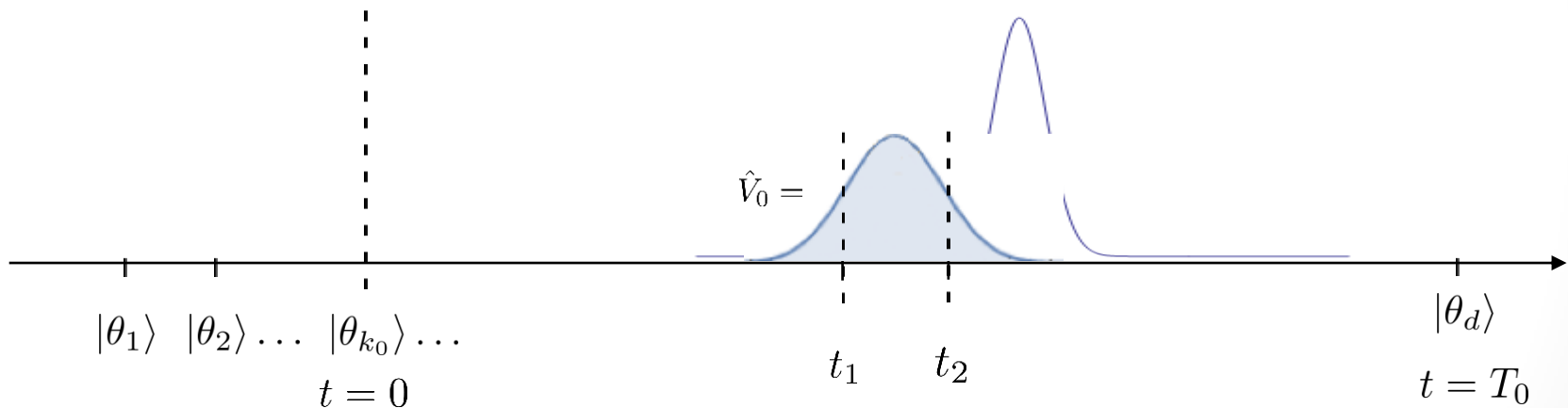
$$F(\rho'_c(T_0), \rho_c(0)) \leq \text{poly}(d) e^{-c\sqrt{d}}$$

Thermodynamic Consequences



$$\rho'_{sc}(t) = (\rho_s \otimes |\Psi(k_0)\rangle\langle\Psi(k_0)|)(t), \quad \hat{H}_c \otimes \mathbb{1}_s + \hat{V}_0 \otimes \hat{H}_s^{\text{int}}$$

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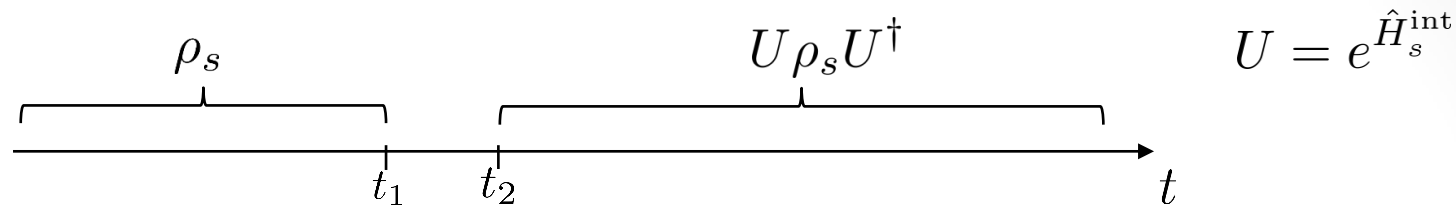


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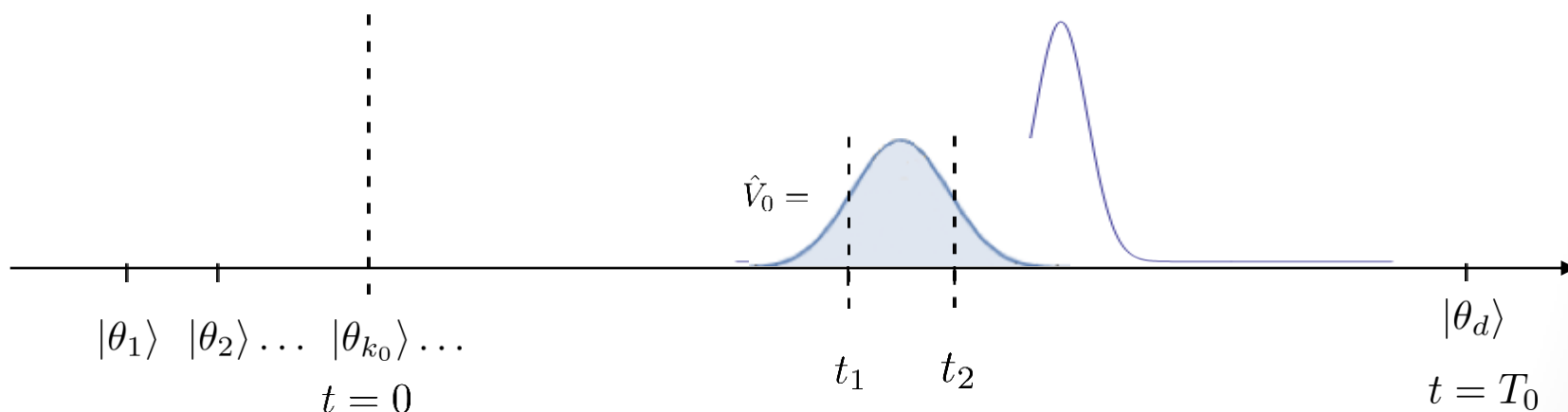
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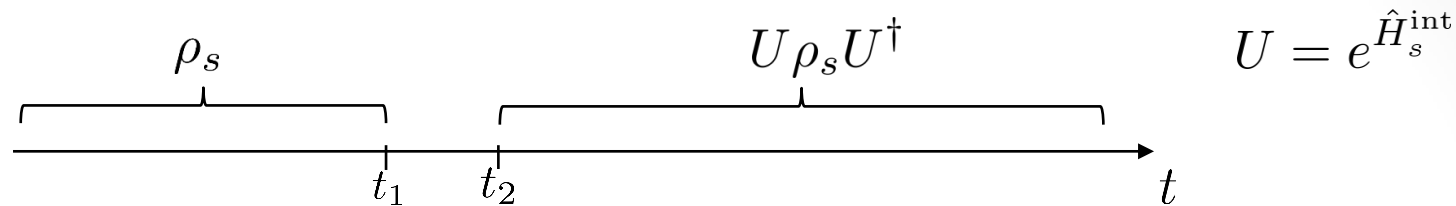


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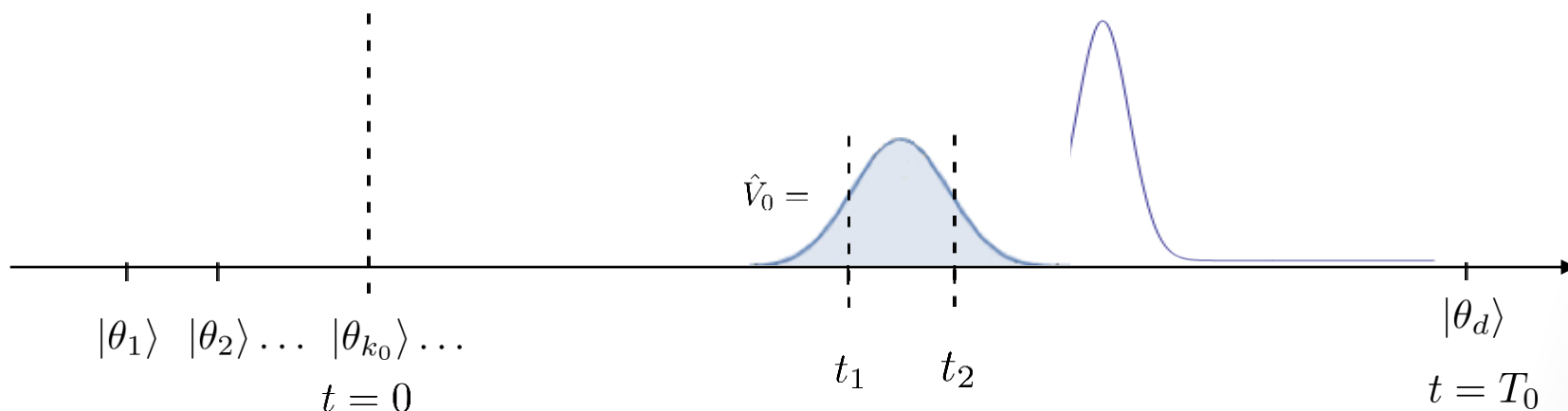
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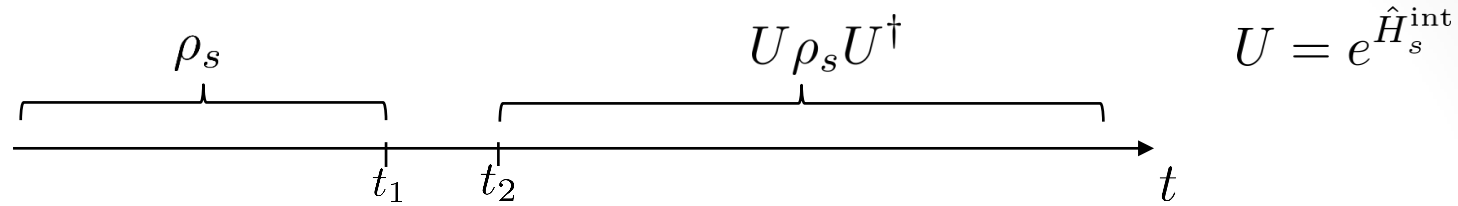


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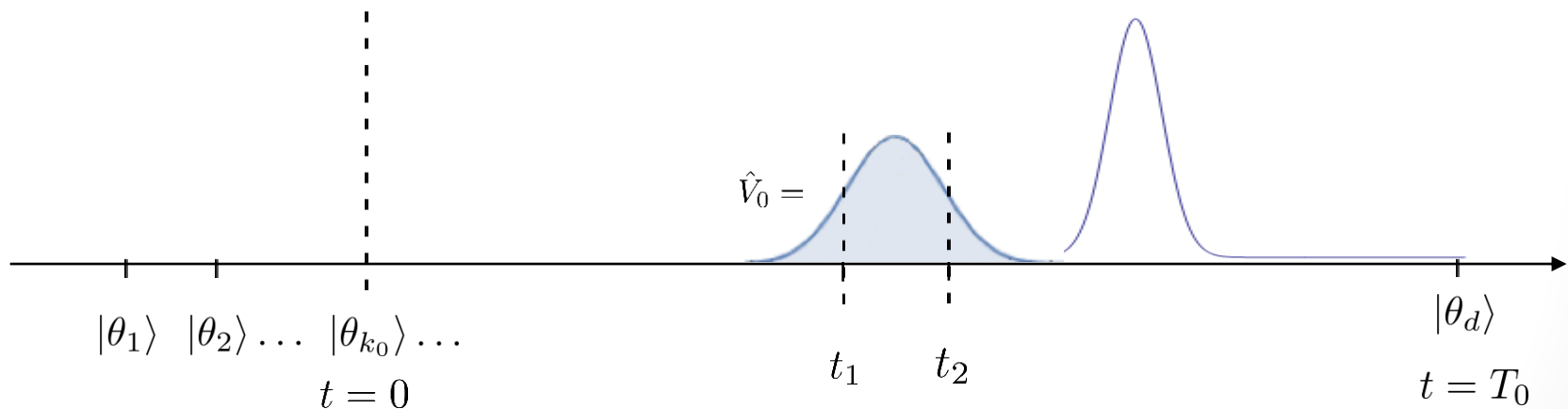
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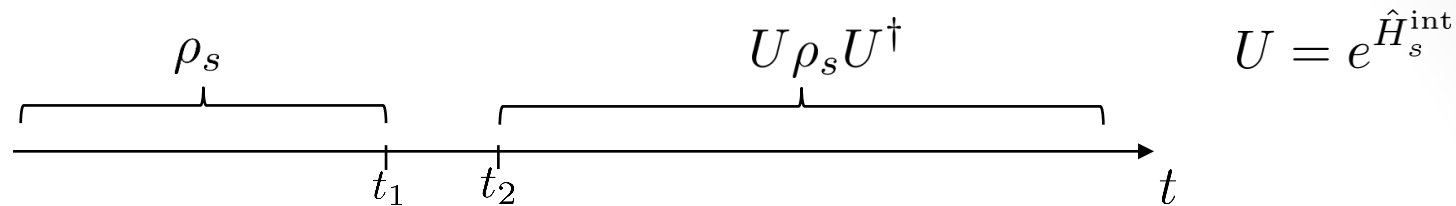


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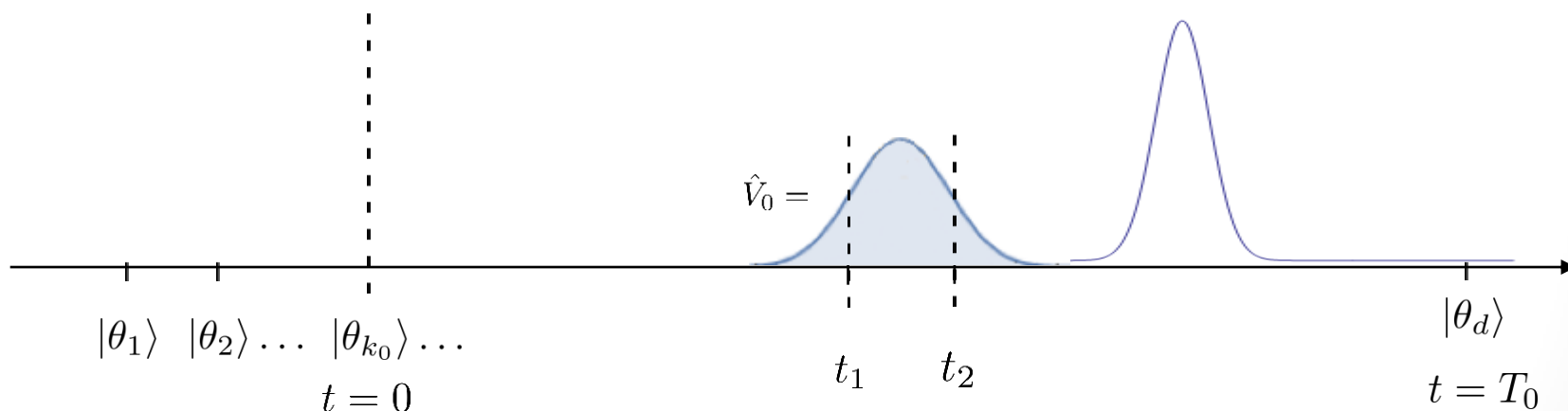
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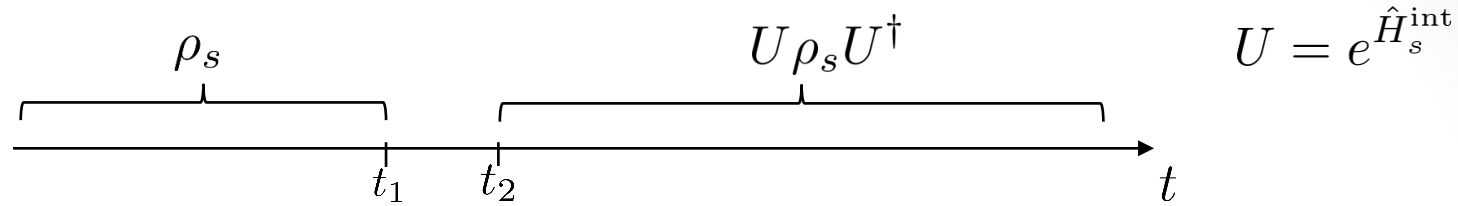


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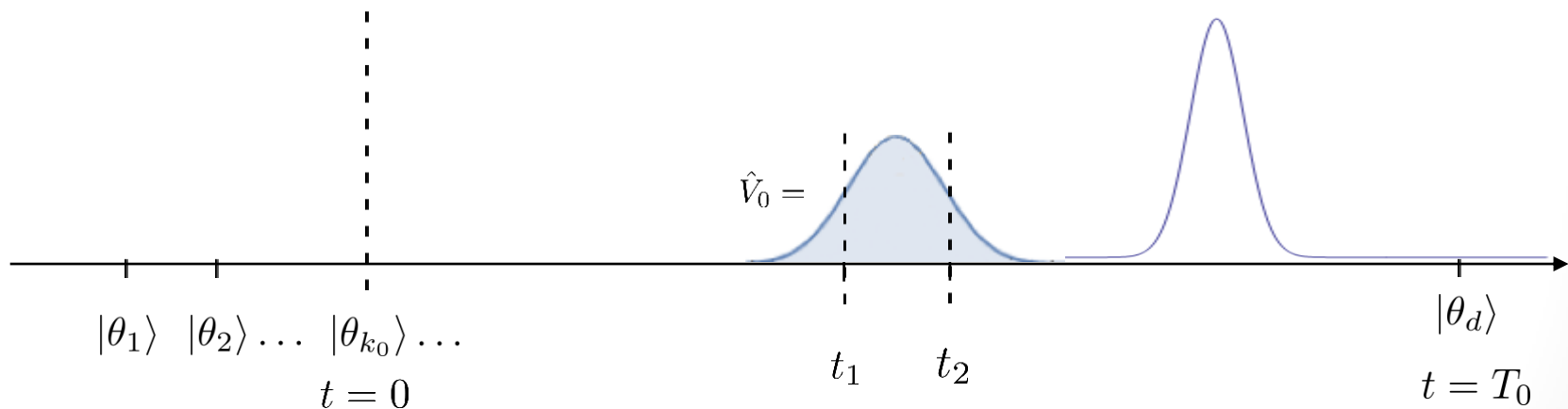
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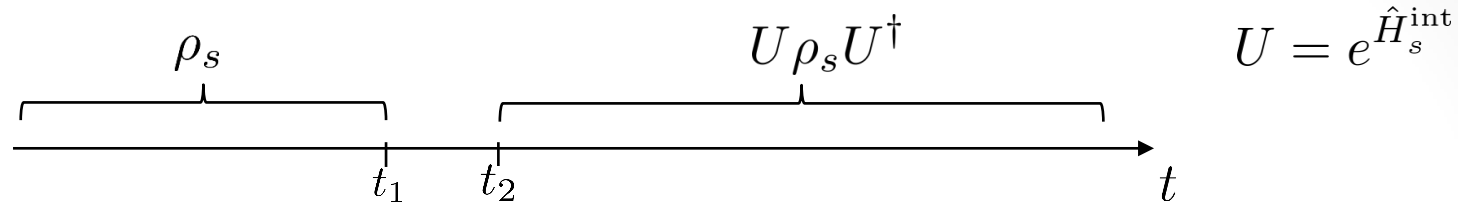


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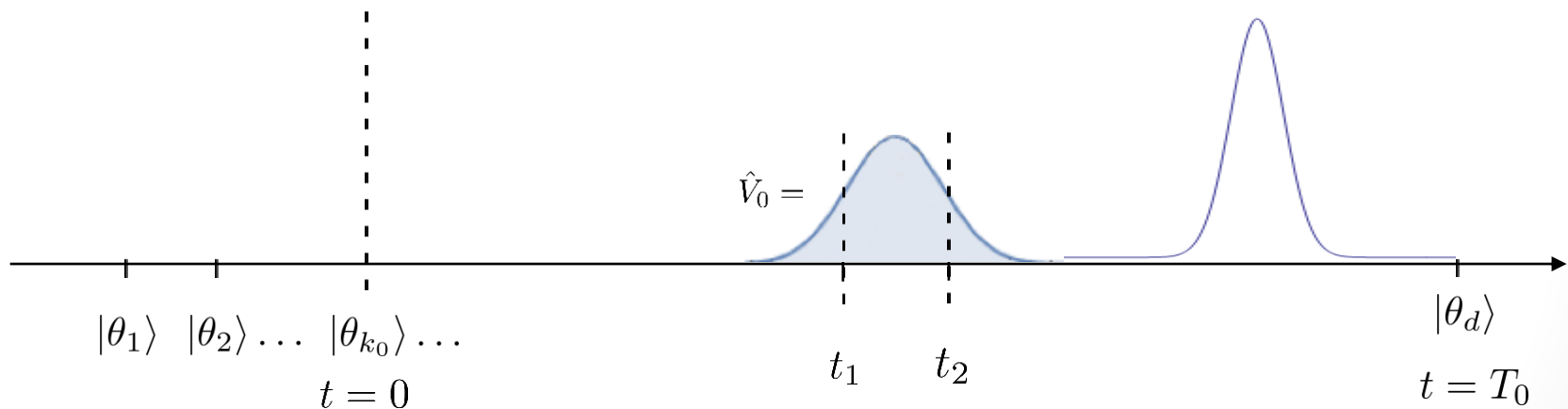
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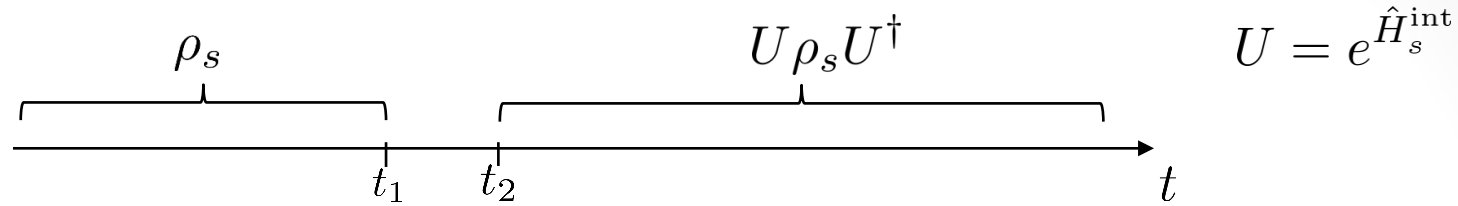


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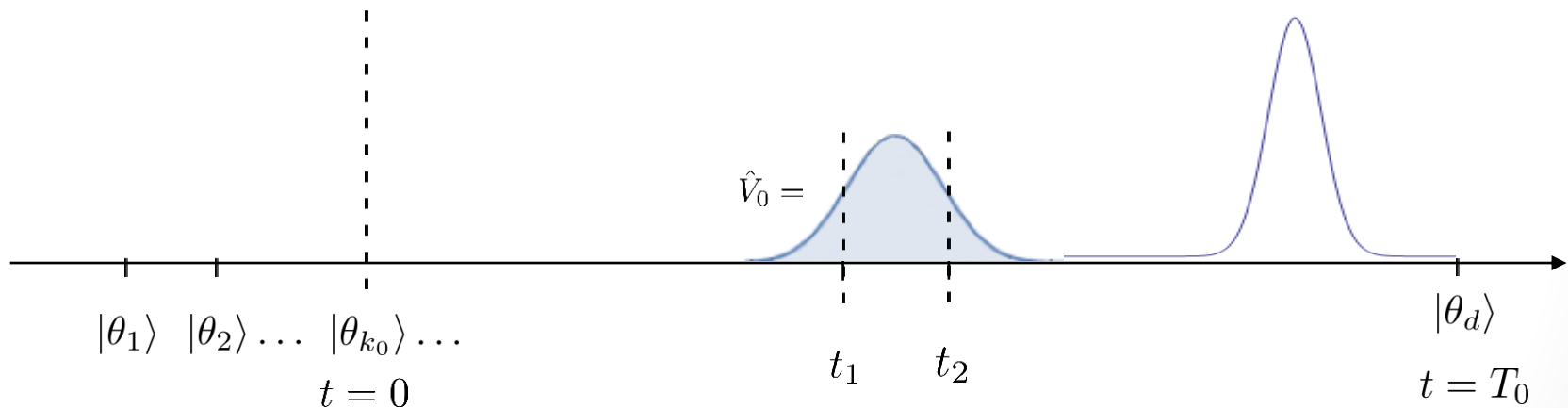
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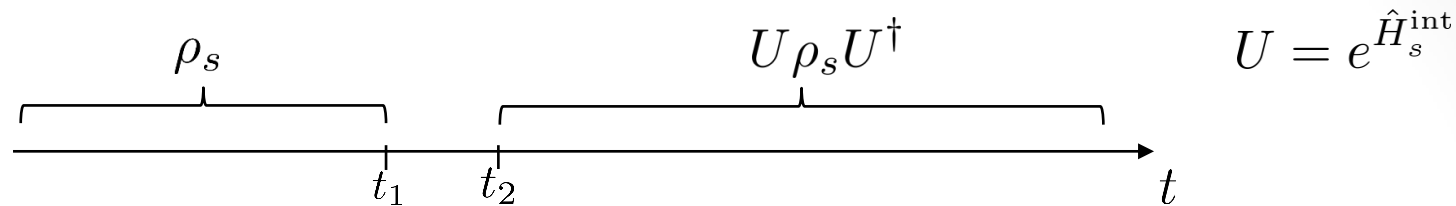


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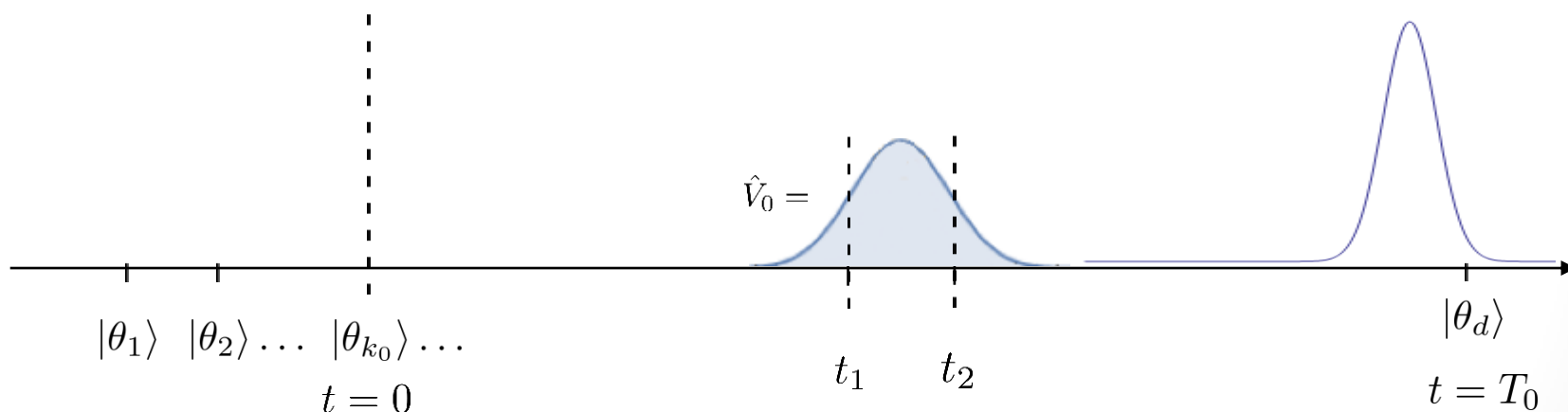
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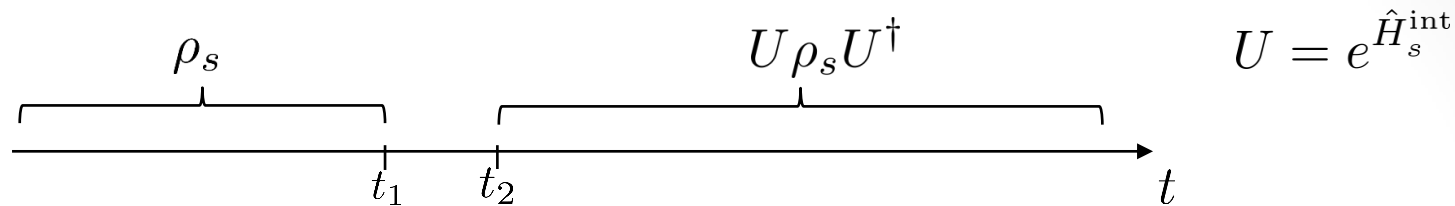


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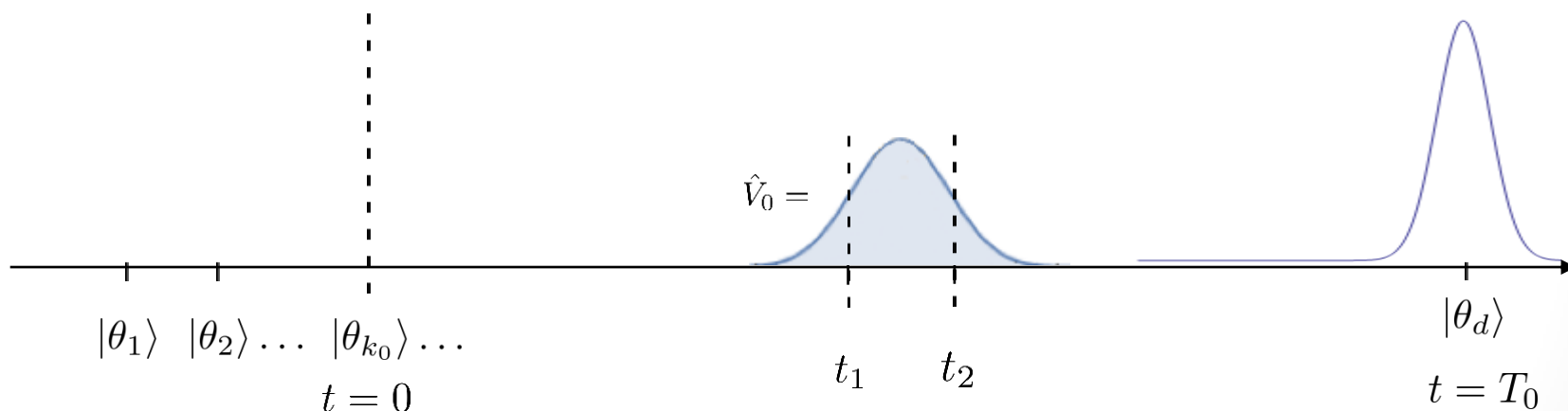
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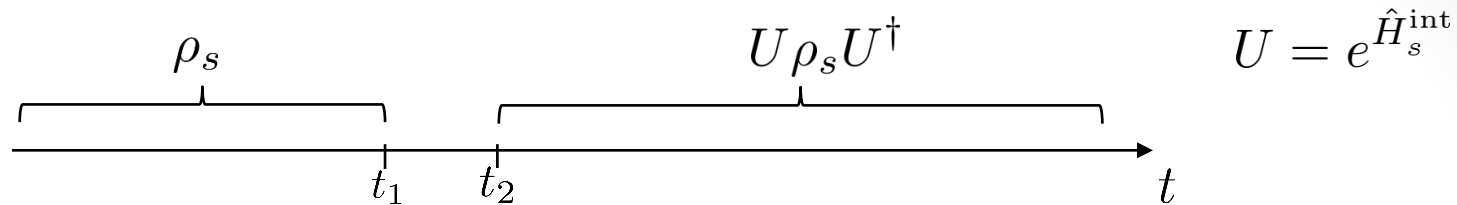


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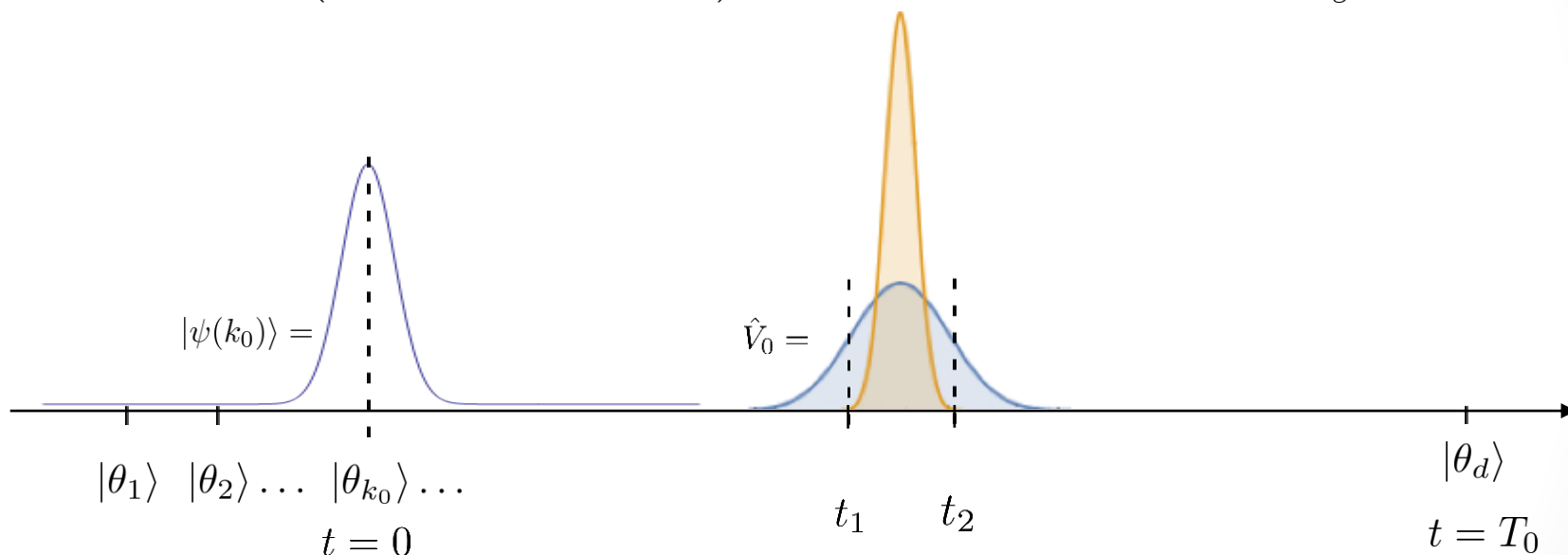
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Conclusion and Outlook

[ArXiv 1607.04591](https://arxiv.org/abs/1607.04591)

- **Unitary operations** are a **basic building block** in Q. thermodynamics.
 - Thermal engines (e.g. many talks)
 - Fluctuations relations
 - 2nd laws of Quantum thermodynamics [Brandao et. al. PNAS (2015)]
- **Cost** (of unitary implementation & clock backreaction) is **exponentially small** in clock **energy** and **dimension**.

