

# Coherence & Vibrations in Biology

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## Simulating System-Environment Interaction

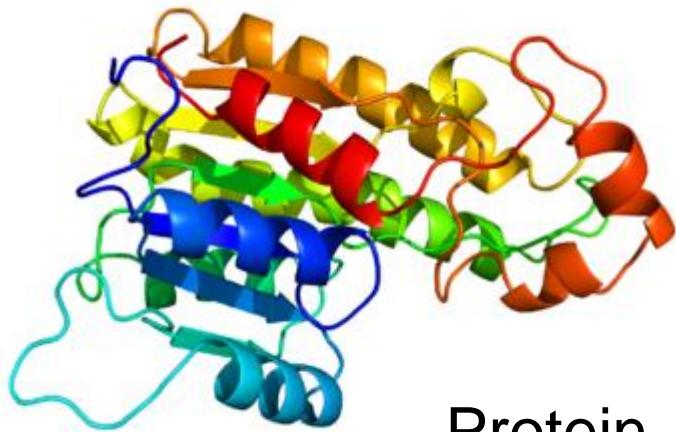
Martin B Plenio



Institute of Theoretical Physics  
&  
Center for Quantum-BioSciences  
Ulm University

# Coherence in Biology

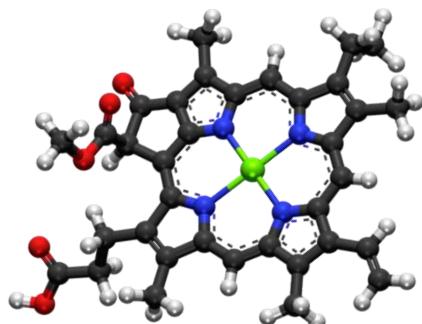
Tuning Electronic and Vibrational Structures



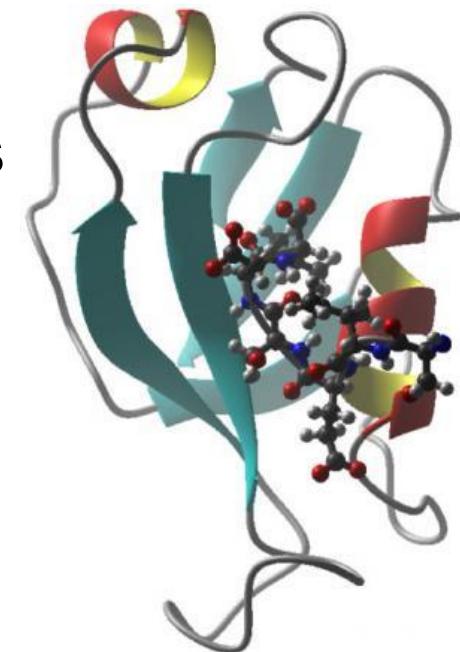
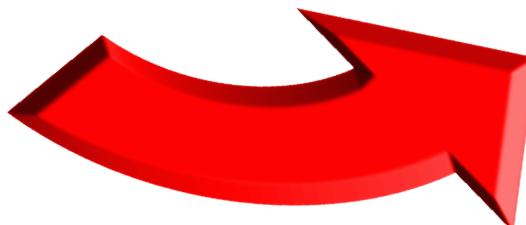
Protein



Controlled  
Arrangements

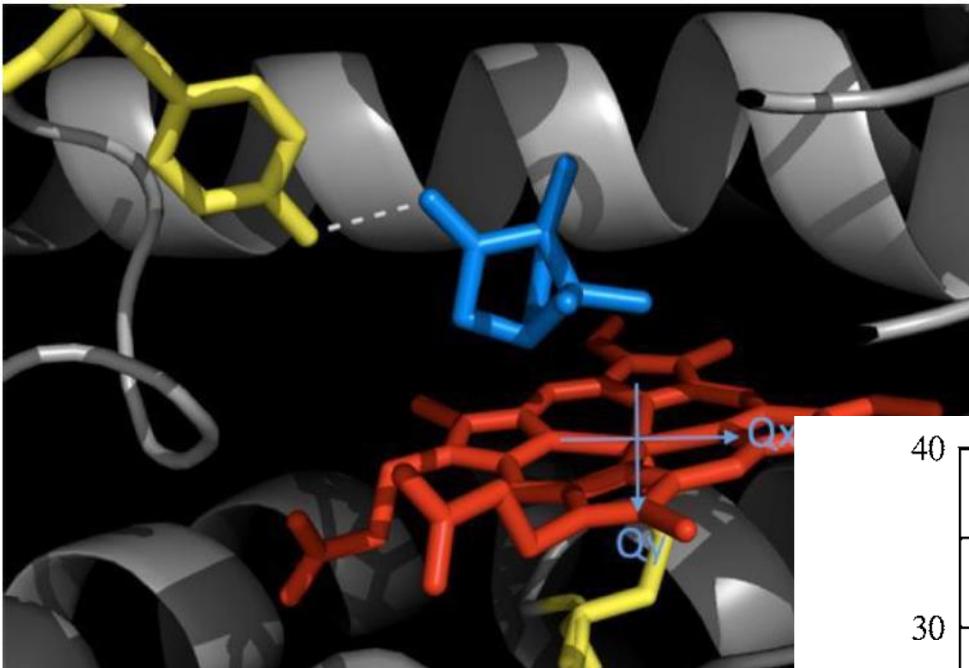


Molecules



# Coherence in Biology

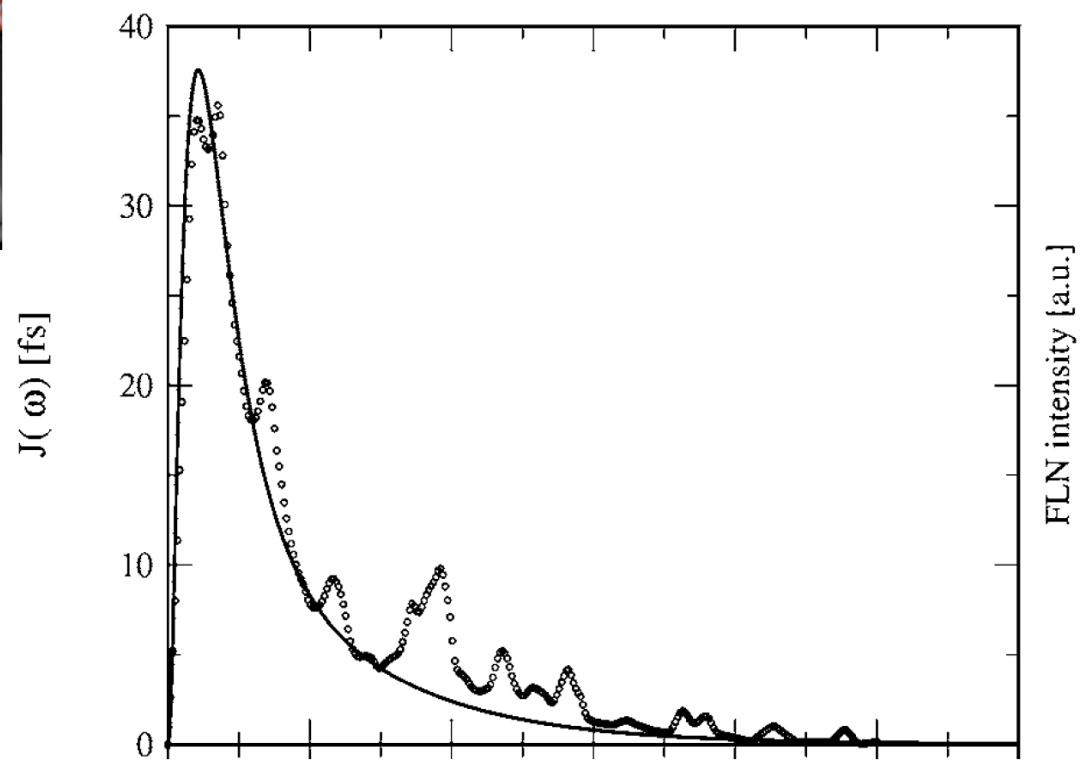
## Tuning Electronic and Vibrational Structures



Vibrations affects  
local environment

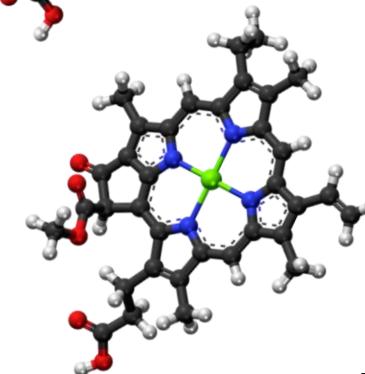
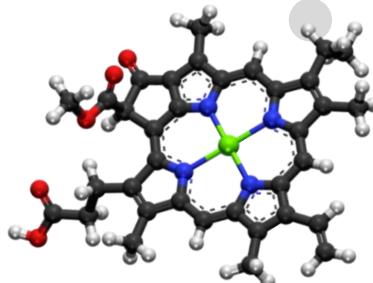
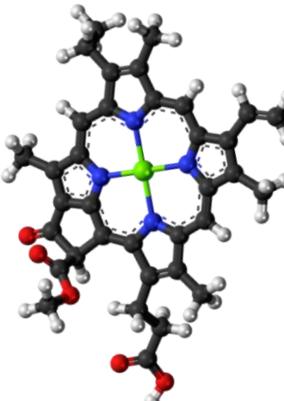
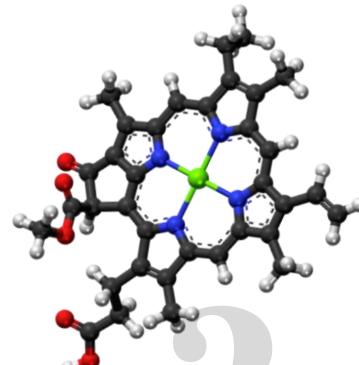
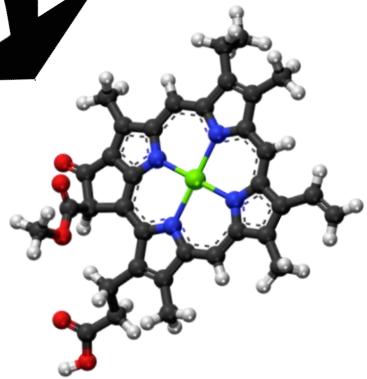
➡ excitation energy  
fluctuates

➡ dephasing



# Environment Assisted Quantum Dynamics

Tuning Electronic and Vibrational Structures



$|1\rangle$

$|2\rangle$

$|2\rangle$

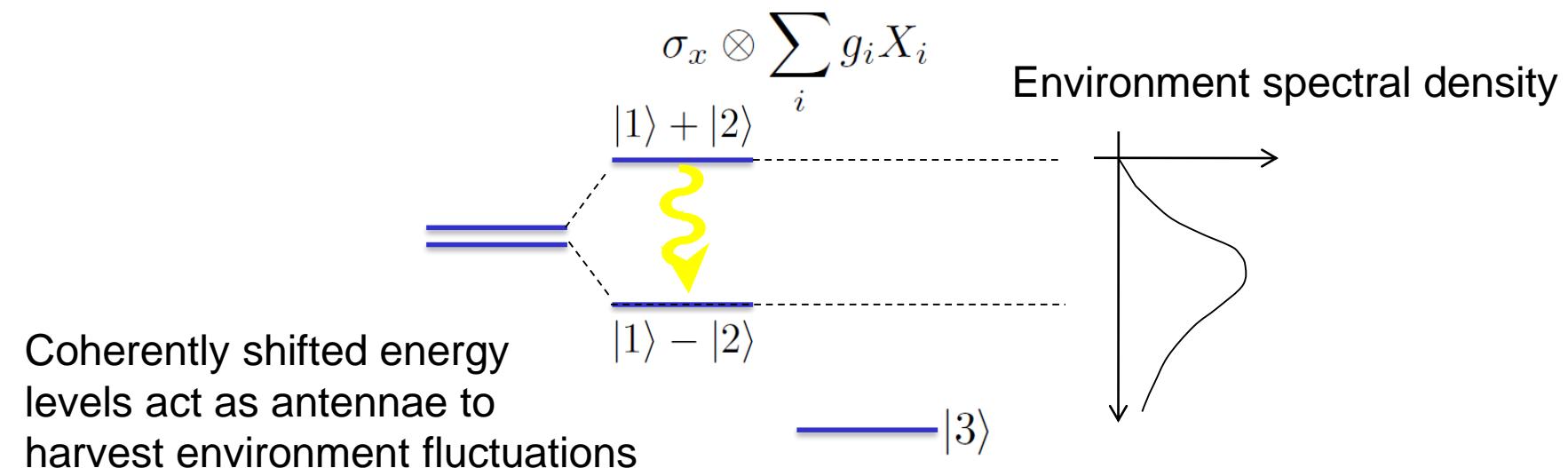
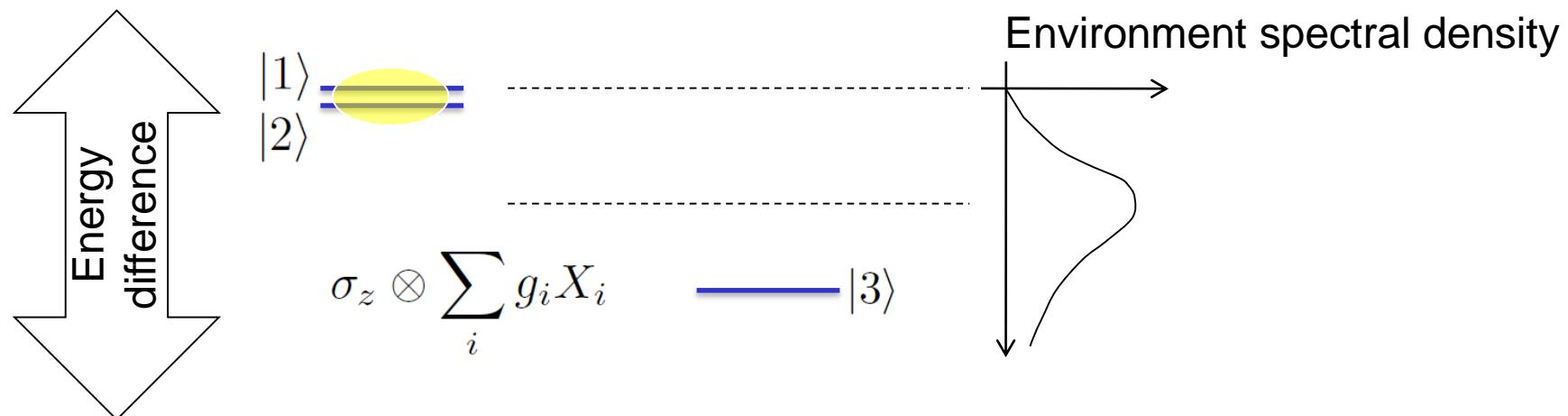
$|2\rangle$

$|3\rangle$



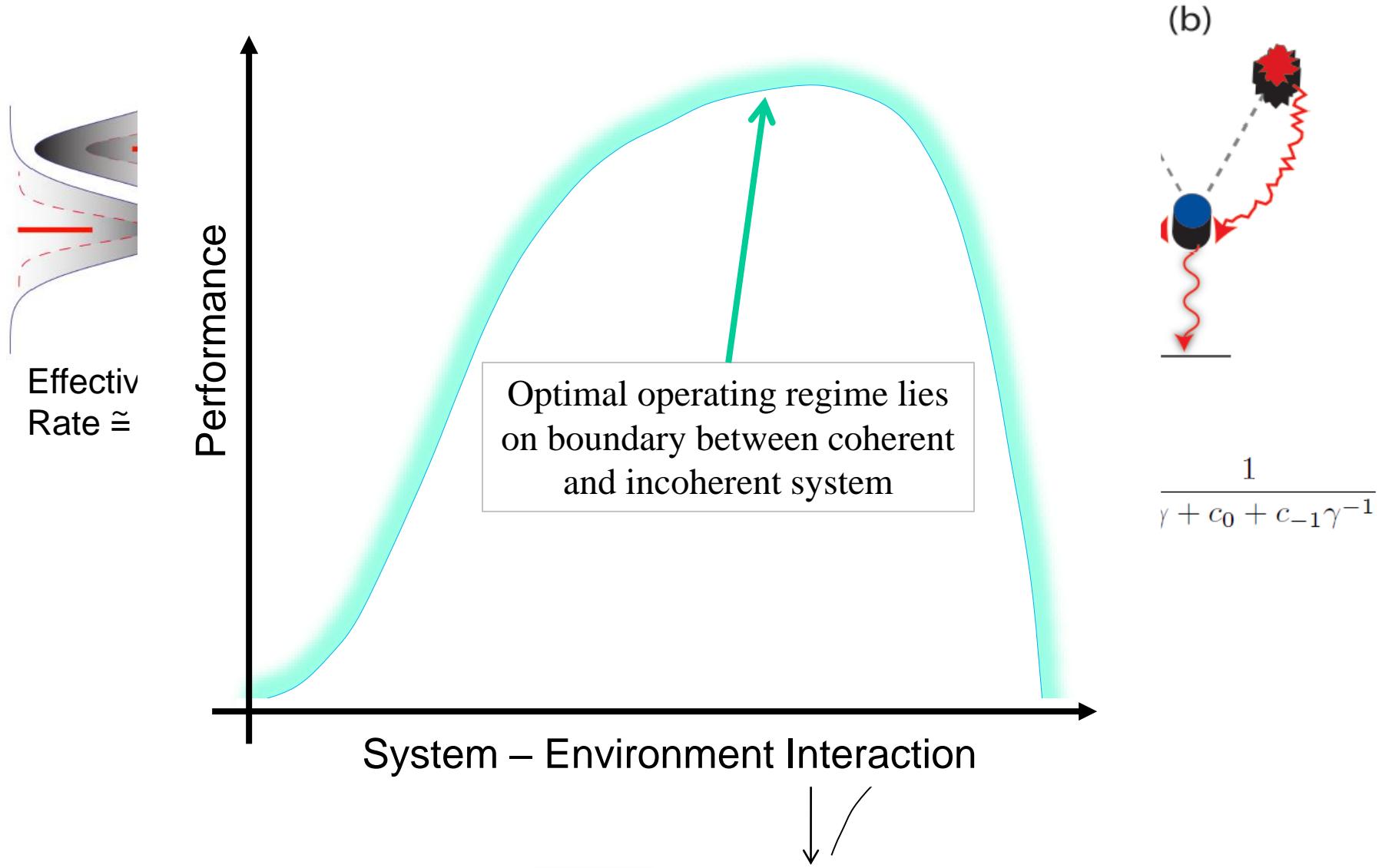
# Environment Assisted Quantum Dynamics

## Tuning Electronic and Vibrational Structures



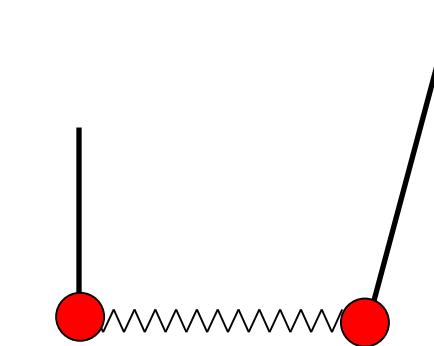
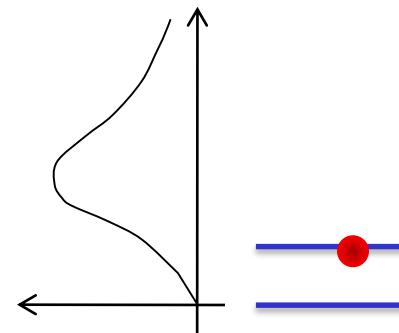
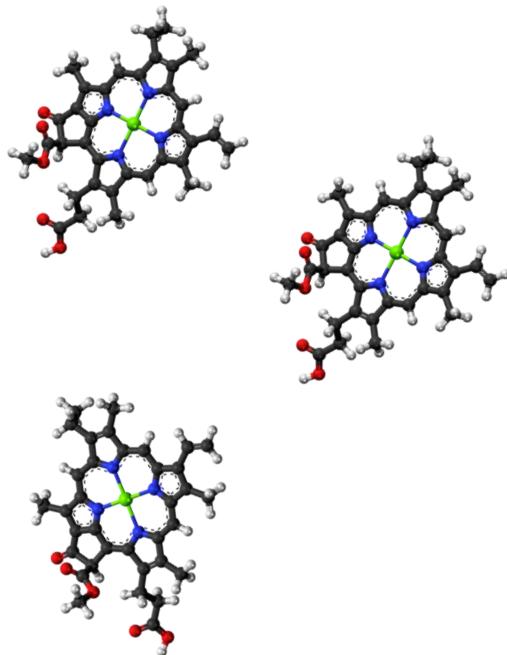
# Environment Assisted Quantum Dynamics

## Design Principles



# Environment Assisted Quantum Dynamics

## Electronic & Vibrational Motion

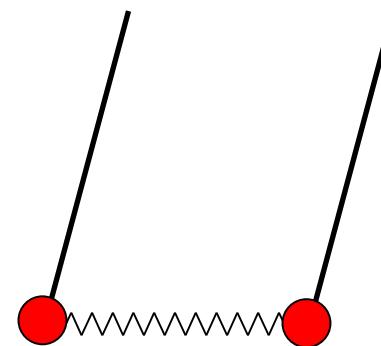
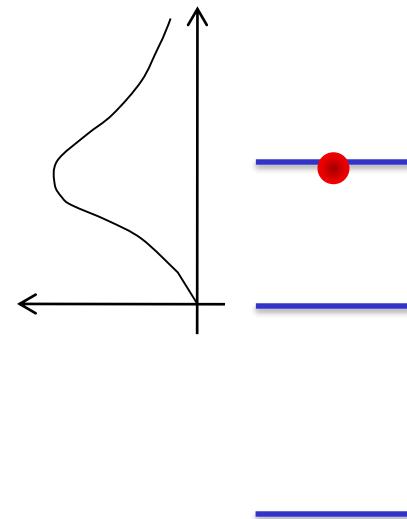
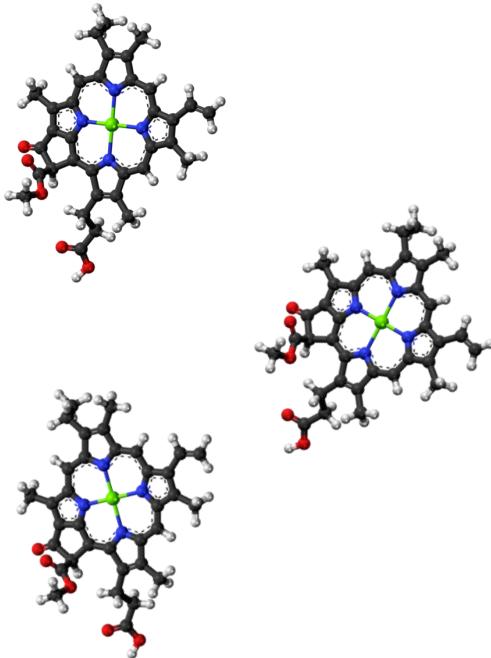


$$\omega_e \gg \omega_{vib}$$

Plenio & Huelga, NJP 2008  
Mohseni, Rebentrost, Lloyd, Aspuru-Guzik, JCP 2008  
Caruso, Chin, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, JCP 2009  
Chin, Datta, Caruso, Huelga & Plenio, NJP 2010  
Del Rey, Chin, Huelga & Plenio, JPCL 2013  
Moix, Khasin & Cao, NJP 2013

# Environment Assisted Quantum Dynamics

## Electronic & Vibrational Motion



$$\omega_e = \omega_{vib}$$

Plenio & Huelga, NJP 2008

Mohseni, Rebentrost, Lloyd, Aspuru-Guzik, JCP 2008

Caruso, Chin, Datta, Huelga, Plenio, JCP 2009

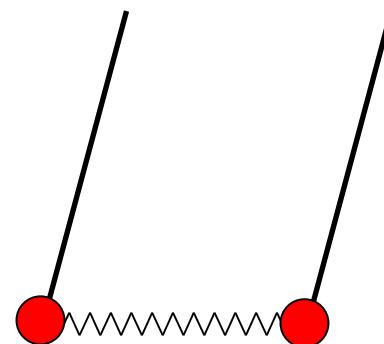
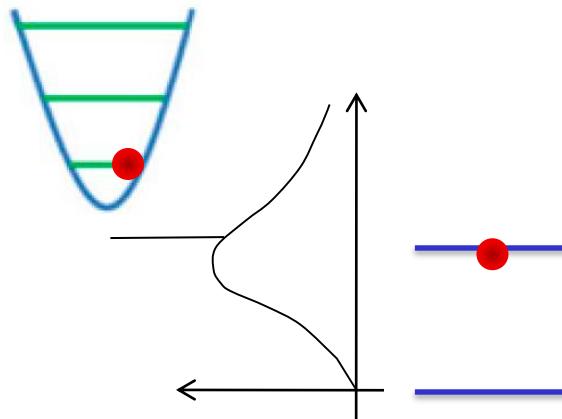
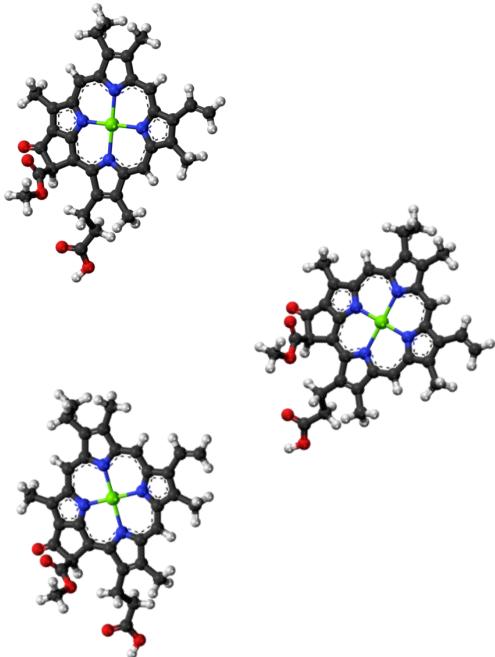
Chin, Datta, Caruso, Huelga & Plenio, NJP 2010

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# Environment Assisted Quantum Dynamics

## Electronic & Vibrational Motion

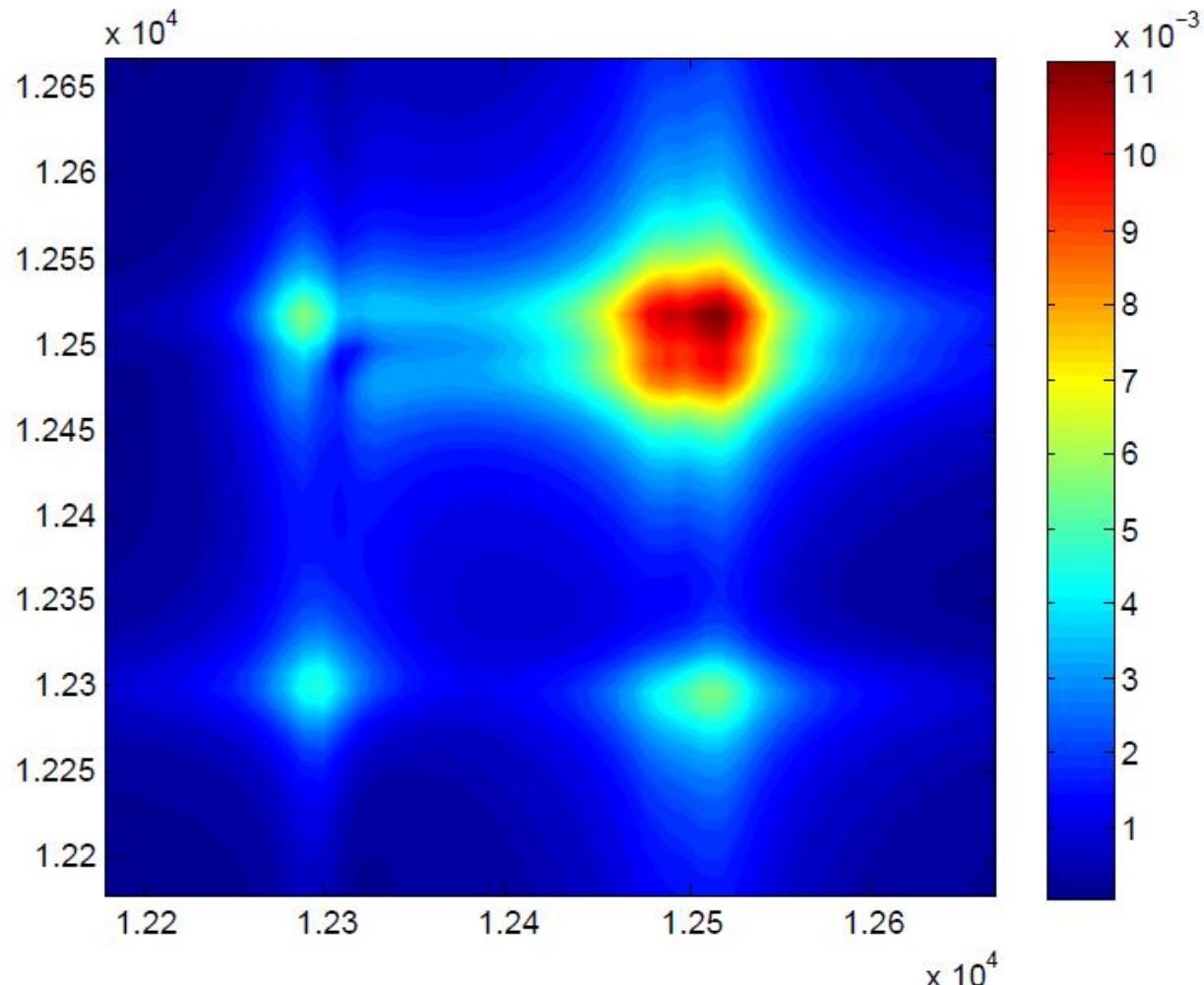


Excitonic and vibrational resonance  
allows for periodic exchange of  
excitation and maintains electronic  
oscillatory dynamics

$$\omega_e = \omega_{vib}$$

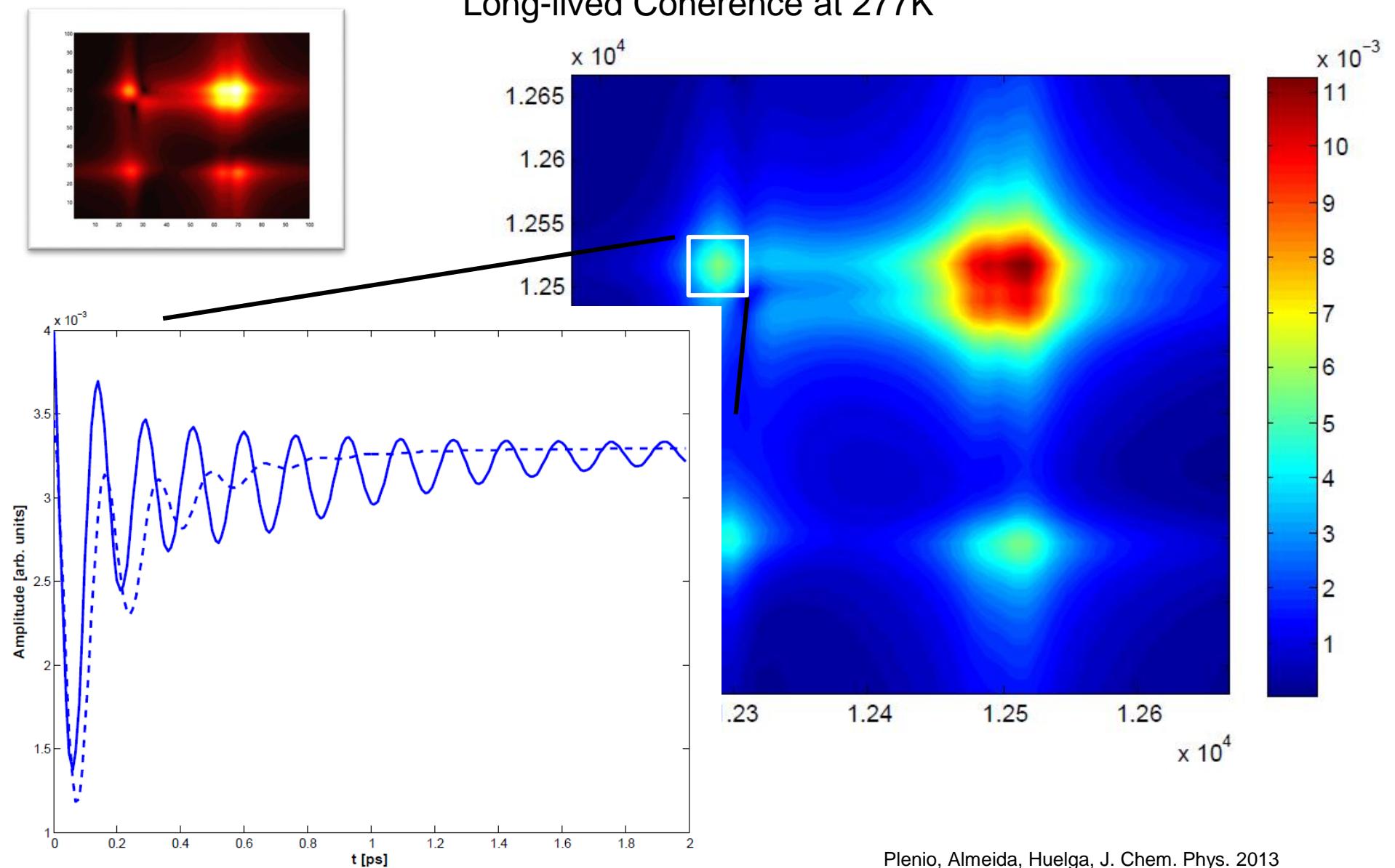
# Non-equilibrium System-Environment Dynamics

## Long-lived Coherence at 277K



# Non-equilibrium System-Environment Dynamics

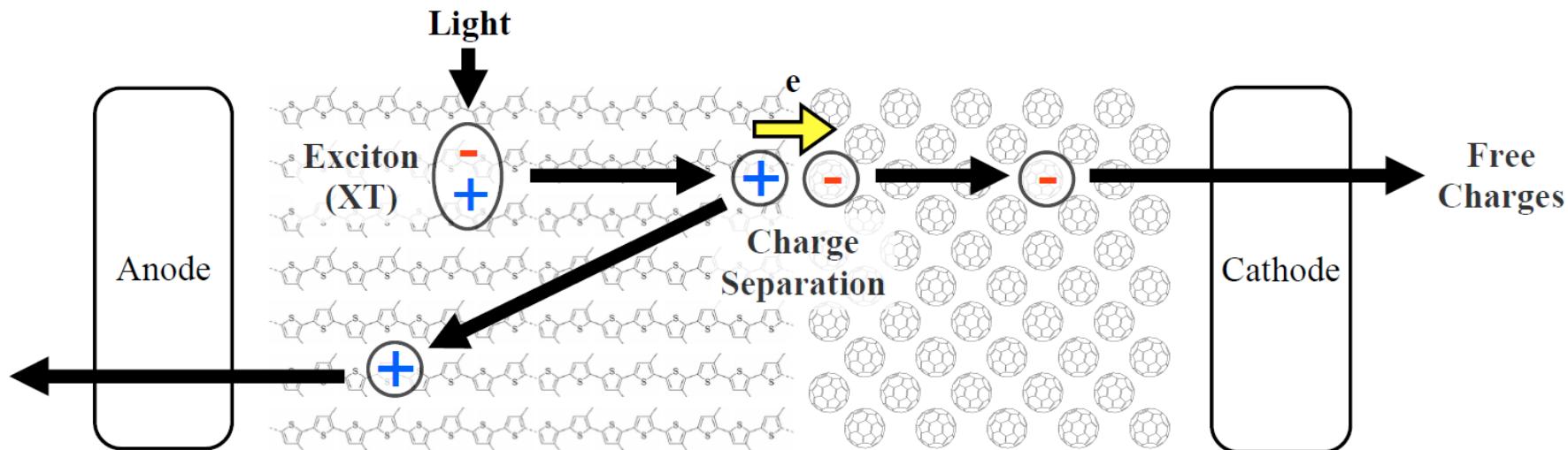
## Long-lived Coherence at 277K



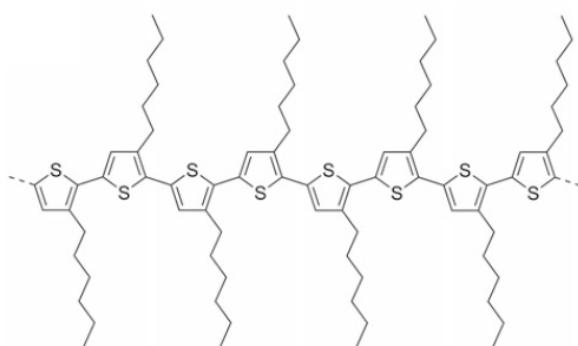
Plenio, Almeida, Huelga, J. Chem. Phys. 2013  
Kreisbeck, Kramer, Aspuru-Guzik, NJP 2013  
Chenu, Christensson, Kauffmann, Mancal, Sci. Rep. 2013  
Tiwari, Peters, Jonas, PNAS 2013

# Vibronics in Organic Photovoltaics

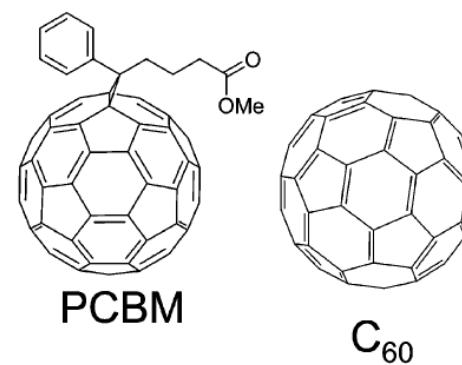
Vibronic Coupling Accelerates Polaron Pair Formation



**Donor**  
(Polymers, regioregular P3HT)

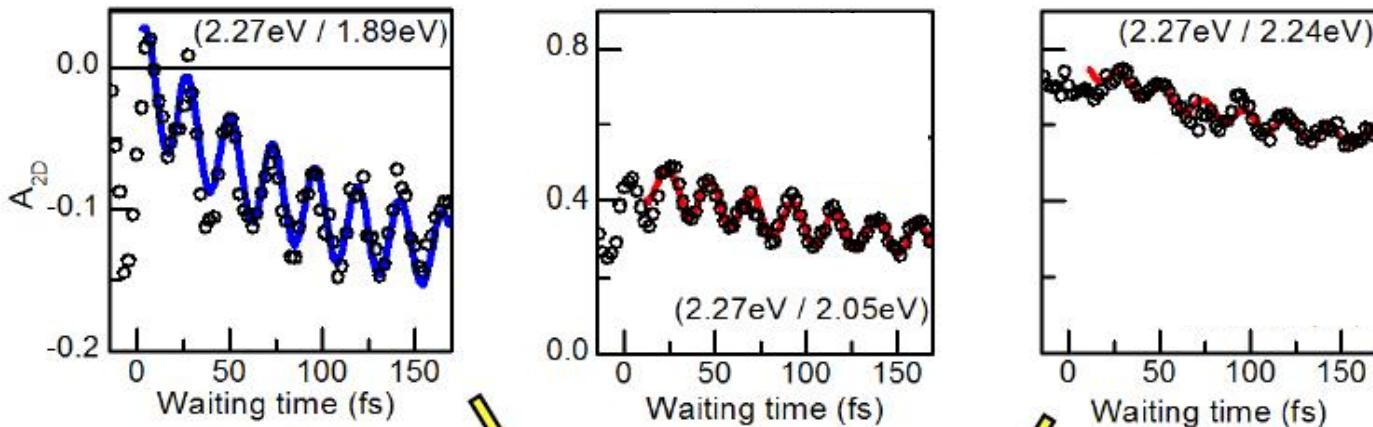


**Acceptor**  
(Fullerenes)

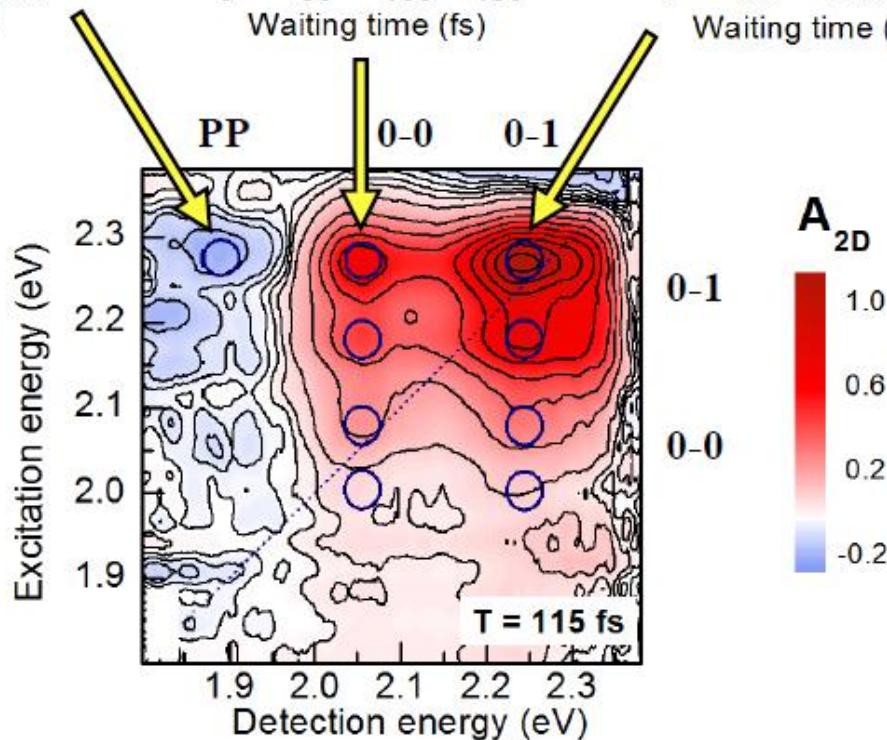


# Vibronics in Organic Photovoltaics

## Vibronic Coupling Accelerates Polaron Pair Formation

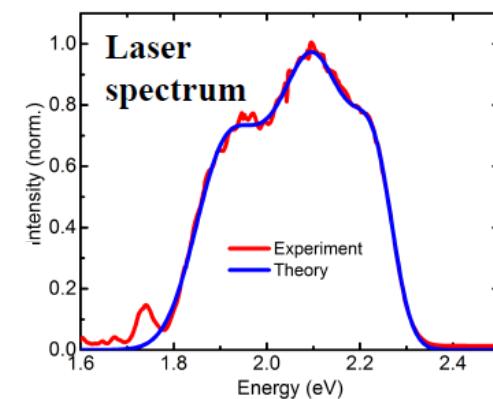
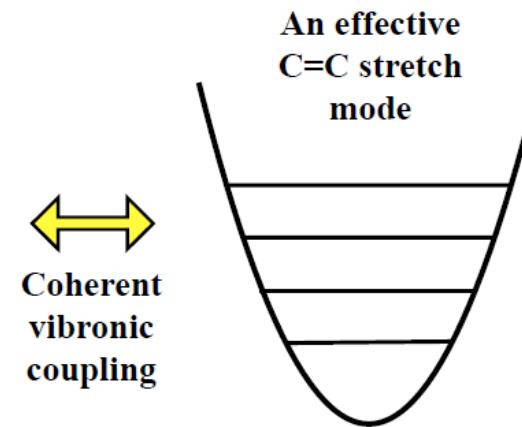
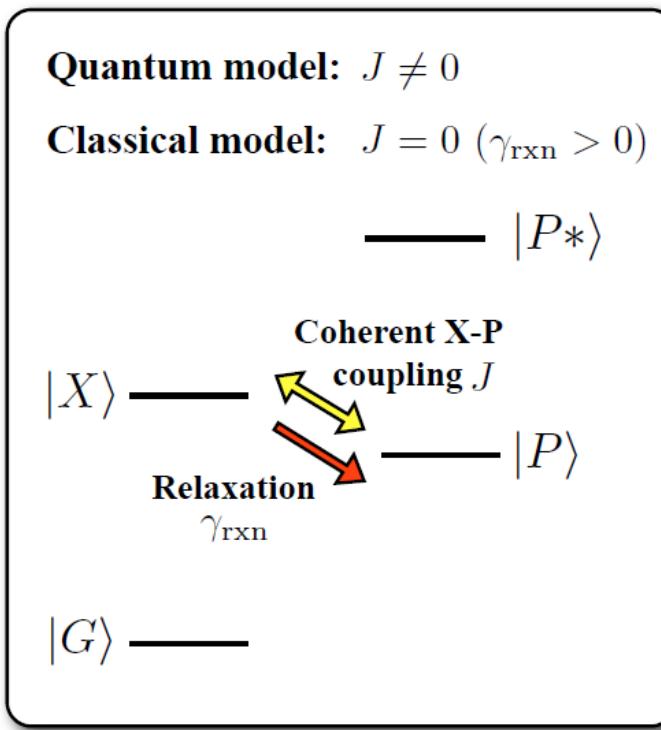


1. Ultrafast polaron pair generation on sub-100 fs
2. Oscillatory 2D signals with a period of  $\sim 23$  fs
3. Additional frequency components in oscillations
4. Splitting of 2D peaks



# Vibronics in Organic Photovoltaics

## Vibronic Coupling Accelerates Polaron Pair Formation



$$\begin{aligned} H = & |G\rangle\langle G|(\hbar\omega a^\dagger a) + |X\rangle\langle X|(\hbar\Omega_X + \hbar\omega a^\dagger a + \hbar\omega\sqrt{S_X}(a^\dagger + a) + \hbar\omega S_X) \\ & + |P\rangle\langle P|(\hbar\Omega_P + \hbar\omega a^\dagger a + \hbar\omega\sqrt{S_P}(a^\dagger + a) + \hbar\omega S_P) \\ & + (|X\rangle\langle P| + |P\rangle\langle X|)(\hbar J + \hbar\omega\sqrt{S_{XP}}(a^\dagger + a)) \\ & + |P^*\rangle\langle P^*|(\hbar\Omega_{P^*} + \hbar\omega a^\dagger a + \hbar\omega\sqrt{S_{P^*}}(a^\dagger + a) + \hbar\omega S_{P^*}). \end{aligned}$$

$$L_{\text{dep}}[r(t)] = \sum_{k=G,X,P,P^*} g_{\text{dep}} \sum_k \langle k | \tilde{a} | k \rangle \langle k | r(t) | k \rangle \langle k | - \frac{1}{2} \{ |k\rangle\langle k|, r(t) \} \}_{\theta}^0,$$

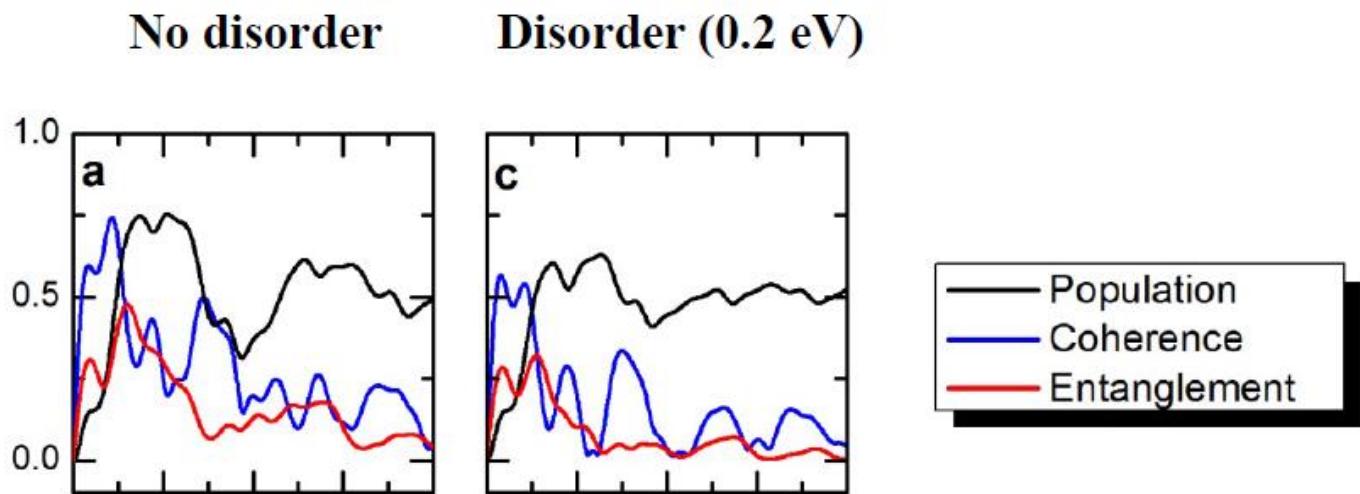
$$L_{\text{rxn}}[r(t)] = g_{\text{rxn}} \sum_k \langle P | \tilde{a} | X \rangle \langle X | r(t) | X \rangle \langle P | - \frac{1}{2} \{ |X\rangle\langle X|, r(t) \} \}_{\theta}^0.$$

$$L_{\text{vib}}[r(t)] = g_{\text{vib}} \left( 2 \tilde{a} r(t) \tilde{a}^\dagger - \{ \tilde{a}^\dagger \tilde{a}, r(t) \} \right),$$

# Vibronics in Organic Photovoltaics

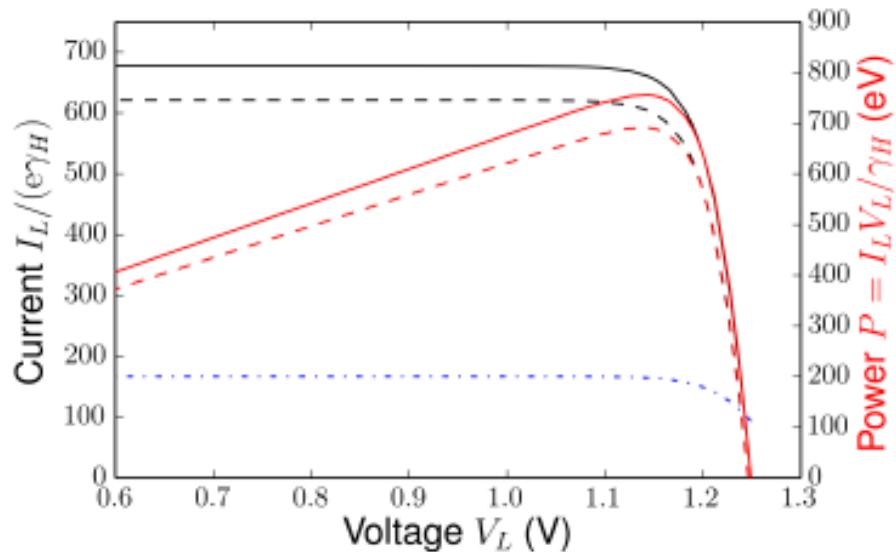
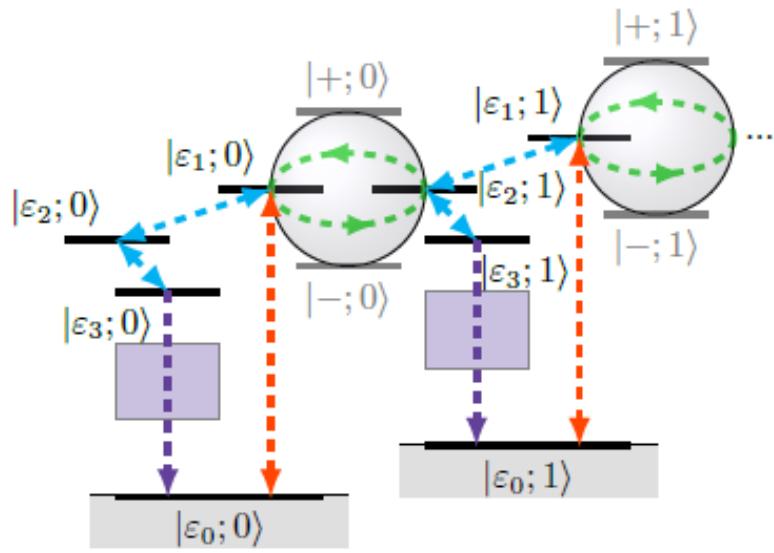
Vibronic Coupling Accelerates Polaron Pair Formation

Non-equilibrium  
vibrational  
motions



# Non-equilibrium System-Environment Dynamics

## Transport, Phonon Antennae & Long-lived Oscillations



Resonant vibrational modes can enhance power of nano-thermodynamical engine

Killoran, Huelga, Plenio, J Phys Chem. 2015

# Coherence in Biology

## The Thermodynamics of Small Engines

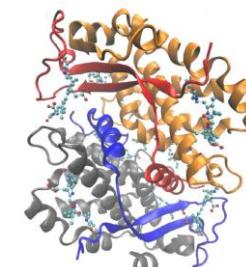
Quantum machines at the nanoscale



*Faster, smaller, more quantum*

Interplay of Coherent  
Dynamics and Environment

*Fluctuations grow*



How to verify  
principles in  
experiment ?

Design Principles for  
optimal performance

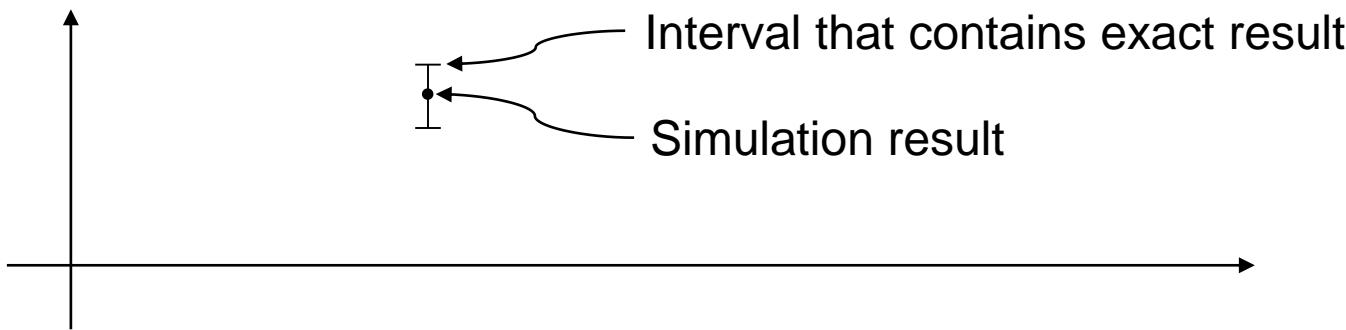
How to model  
these systems  
numerically

# Certified Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

## Orthogonal Polynomials & t-DMRG

Ideal simulation method should satisfy:

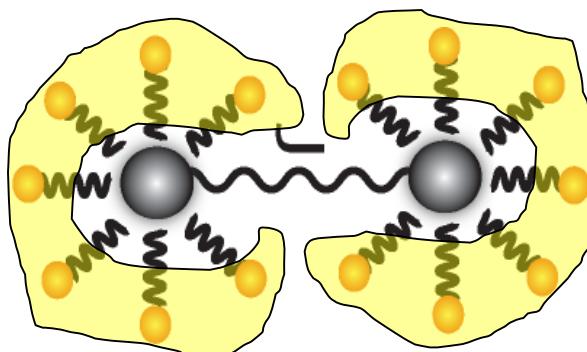
- Method numerically tractable
- Possible to increase precision systematically
- Provide rigorous, assumption-free, error bounds on result



# Certified Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

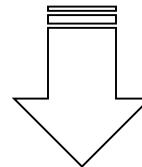
## Orthogonal Polynomials & t-DMRG

$$H_{res} = \int dx g(x) a_x^\dagger a_x$$

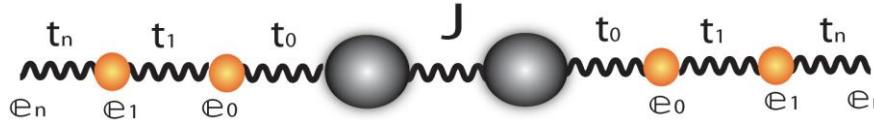


$$V = \int dx h(x) \hat{A}(a_x^\dagger + a_x)$$

$$b_n^\dagger = \int dx U_n(x) a_x^\dagger$$



Exact, thanks to theory of  
orthonormal polynomials



$$c_0 \hat{A}(b_0 + b_0^\dagger) + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \omega_n b_n^\dagger b_n + t_n b_{n+1}^\dagger b_n + t_n b_n^\dagger b_{n+1}$$

t-DMRG yields dynamics for general spectral densities

# Certified Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

## Orthogonal Polynomials & t-DMRG

$$b_n^\dagger = \int dx U_n(x) a_x^\dagger$$



- Different rows of  $U$  (different  $n$ ) are mutually orthogonal
- Each row of  $U$  can be considered proportional to a polynomial

$$U_n(x) = h(x)\tilde{p}_n(x) \quad \tilde{p}_n(x) \text{ are some set of orthonormal polynomials with respect to the measure } d\mu(x) = h^2(x)dx$$

Orthonormality:

$$\int dx U_n(x) U_m^*(x) = \int dx h^2(x) \tilde{p}_n(x) \tilde{p}_m(x) = \delta_{nm}$$

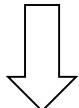
Three term recursion relation:

$$x \tilde{p}_n(x) = \frac{1}{C_n} \tilde{p}_{n+1}(x) + \frac{A_n}{C_n} \tilde{p}_n(x) + \frac{B_n}{C_n} \tilde{p}_{n-1}(x) \quad p_0(x) = 1$$

# Certified Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

## Orthogonal Polynomials & t-DMRG

$$V = \int dx h(x) \hat{A}(a_x^\dagger + a_x)$$



$$V = \hat{A} \sum_n \int dx h(x) U_n(x) (b_n + b_n^\dagger)$$

$$= \hat{A} \sum_n \int dx h^2(x) \tilde{p}_n(x) (b_n + b_n^\dagger)$$

$$= \hat{A} \sum_n \int dx h^2(x) \tilde{p}_n(x) p_0(x) (b_n + b_n^\dagger)$$

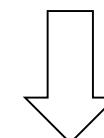
$$= c_0 \hat{A}(b_0 + b_0^\dagger)$$

$$= g \sum_{n,m} \int_0^{x_{\max}} dx h^2(x)$$

$$\left[ \frac{1}{C_n} \tilde{p}_{n+1}(x) + \frac{A_n}{C_n} \tilde{p}_n(x) + \frac{B_n}{C_n} \tilde{p}_{n-1}(x) \right] \tilde{p}_m(x) b_n^\dagger b_m$$

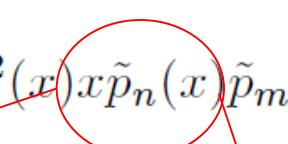
$$= g \sum_n \frac{1}{C_n} b_n^\dagger b_{n+1} + \frac{A_n}{C_n} b_n^\dagger b_n + \frac{B_{n+1}}{C_{n+1}} b_{n+1}^\dagger b_n$$

$$H_{res} = \int dx g x a_x^\dagger a_x$$



$$H_{res} = \sum_{n,m} \int dx g x U_n(x) U_m(x) b_n^\dagger b_m$$

$$= \sum_{n,m} \int dx g h^2(x) x \tilde{p}_n(x) \tilde{p}_m(x) b_n^\dagger b_m$$

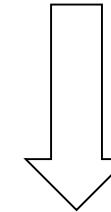
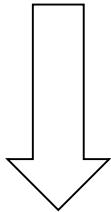


# Certified Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

## Orthogonal Polynomials & t-DMRG

- Constructions of orthogonal polynomials

For each choice of scalar product (hence spectral density) these are uniquely determined and there are recursion relations.



Numerics: **OrthPol** determines these and is numerically stable

W. Gautschi, ACM Trans Math Soft. 1994

Analytics: For many spectral densities we know recursions exactly

# Certified Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

Orthogonal Polynomials & t-DMRG


$$J(\omega) = 2\pi\alpha\omega_c^{1-s}\omega^s \Theta(\omega_c - \omega) = \pi h^2(g^{-1}(\omega)) \frac{dg^{-1}(\omega)}{d\omega}$$

$$g(x) = \omega_c x,$$

$$h(x) = \sqrt{2\alpha}\omega_c x^{s/2}$$

**OPs are Jacobi  
Polynomials**

**Recurrence coefficients  
known analytically**

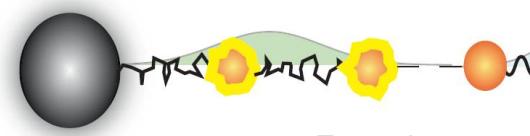
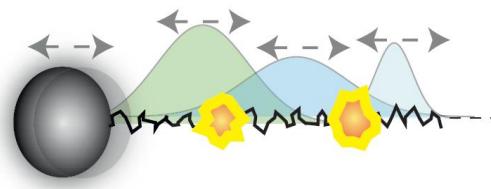
$$\omega_n = \frac{\omega_c}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{s^2}{(s+2n)(2+s+2n)} \right),$$

$$t_n = \frac{\omega_c(1+n)(1+s+n)}{(s+2+2n)(3+s+2n)} \sqrt{\frac{3+s+2n}{1+s+2n}}$$

# Certified Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

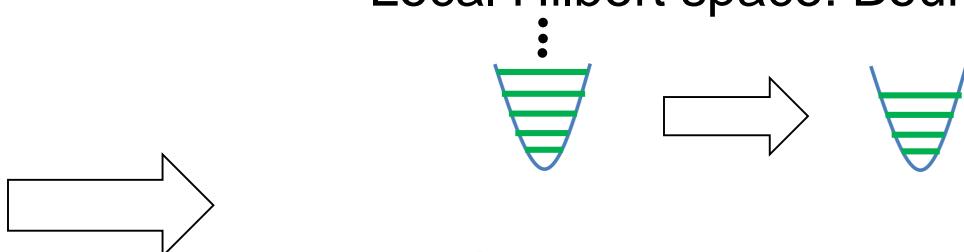
## Orthogonal Polynomials & t-DMRG

Error Budget DMRG : DMRG truncation in each step: can be upper bounded  
DMRG : DMRG Trotterization in each step: can be upper bounded



Truncation generates optimal discretization of environment Woods & Plenio. J. Math. Phys. 2016

Error Budget Chain : Chain termination: Bounded by Lieb-Robinson techniques  
Chain : Local Hilbert space: Bounded by fidelity bound



Woods, Cramer & Plenio, PRL 2016

$$\frac{\Delta^2(t, L)}{4\|\hat{O}\|^2\|\hat{h}\|/c} \leq C\left(\|\gamma_0\|^{1/2} + t\|\hat{h}\|\right) \frac{(ct)^{L+1}(e^{ct} + 1)}{(L + 1)!} \text{result}$$

$$\underline{\Delta(t, L) = |\text{tr}[\hat{O} e^{-i\hat{H}t} \hat{Q}_0 e^{i\hat{H}t}] - \text{tr}[\hat{O} e^{-i\hat{H}_L t} \hat{Q}_0 e^{i\hat{H}_L t}]|}$$

# Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

## Dependence on Spectral Densities

General question: If two spectral densities differ by  $\Delta J$ , by how much will the expectation of spin observables differ?

Spin-Boson Model:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{H} &= \hat{H}_S \otimes \mathbb{I}_B + \mathbb{I}_S \otimes \hat{H}_B + \hat{H}_I \\ &= \left( \frac{\epsilon}{2} \sigma_z + \frac{\Delta}{2} \sigma_x \right) \otimes \mathbb{I}_B + \mathbb{I}_S \otimes \int_0^\infty dk \omega_k \hat{a}_k^\dagger \hat{a}_k \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda}{2} \sigma_z \otimes \int_0^\infty dk h(k) (\hat{a}_k^\dagger + \hat{a}_k),\end{aligned}$$

Observable:

$$\langle \hat{O}(t) \rangle = \text{Tr}(\hat{O} e^{-i\hat{H}t} \hat{\rho}_0 e^{i\hat{H}t})$$

Result:  $|\Delta \langle \hat{O}(t) \rangle| \leq \|\hat{O}\| (e^{\lambda^2 C t^2 / 2} - 1)^{|tt'|\Delta\xi(t'-t'')} - 1 \Big)$

$$\xi_J(t) := \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{\pi} J(\omega) \left[ \coth\left(\frac{\beta\omega}{2}\right) \cos(\omega t) + i \sin(\omega t) \right]$$

$$|\Delta \langle \hat{O}(t) \rangle| \leq \|\hat{O}\| (e^{\lambda^2 [\gamma(\beta) + \eta] t} - 1) \quad \int_0^\infty dt |\Delta \xi(t)| = c < \infty$$

# Simulation of System-Environment Dynamics

## Hierarchies Equations of Motion

Decompose spectral density in antisymmetrized Lorentzians

$$\xi_L(t; \Omega, \Gamma) = \frac{e^{-\Gamma t}}{8\Omega\Gamma} \left[ \coth\left(\frac{\beta}{2}(\Omega + i\Gamma)\right) e^{i\Omega t} + \coth\left(\frac{\beta}{2}(\Omega - i\Gamma)\right) e^{-i\Omega t} + 2i \sin(\Omega t) \right]$$

Truncate at finite N

$$- \frac{2}{\beta} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\nu_k e^{-\nu_k t}}{(\Omega^2 + \Gamma^2 - \nu_k^2)^2 + 4\Omega^2\nu_k^2},$$

$\epsilon\beta$	$N$	$[\ \Delta\langle\sigma_z\rangle(t_{\max})\ ^\text{an}/\ \sigma_z\ ](N)$	$[\ \Delta\langle\sigma_z\rangle(t_{\max})\ ^\text{num}/\ \sigma_z\ ](N)$	$N_{20\%}^\text{an}$	$N_{20\%}^\text{num}$
0.4	2	27.94%	9.43%	3	2
1.4	7	62.39%	23.77%	10	8
10.0	48	111.69%	45.34%	70	56

# **Summary**

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# The Team @ Ulm

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14 Nations

12 Languages

6 Religions

# Institute of Theoretical Physics & Center for Quantum Biosciences

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PAPETS



EQuaM

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Forschungsgemeinschaft

SFB TRR-21 & SPP 1601

ARL

**Center for QuantumBioSciences  
with dedicated Research Building  
to be completed by end of 2018**

