

# TOWARDS OPTIMAL QUANTUM METROLOGY FOR HEAVY-QUARKONIUM

**Alexander Rothkopf**

Department of Physics  
Korea University  
South Korea

**Based on collaboration with**

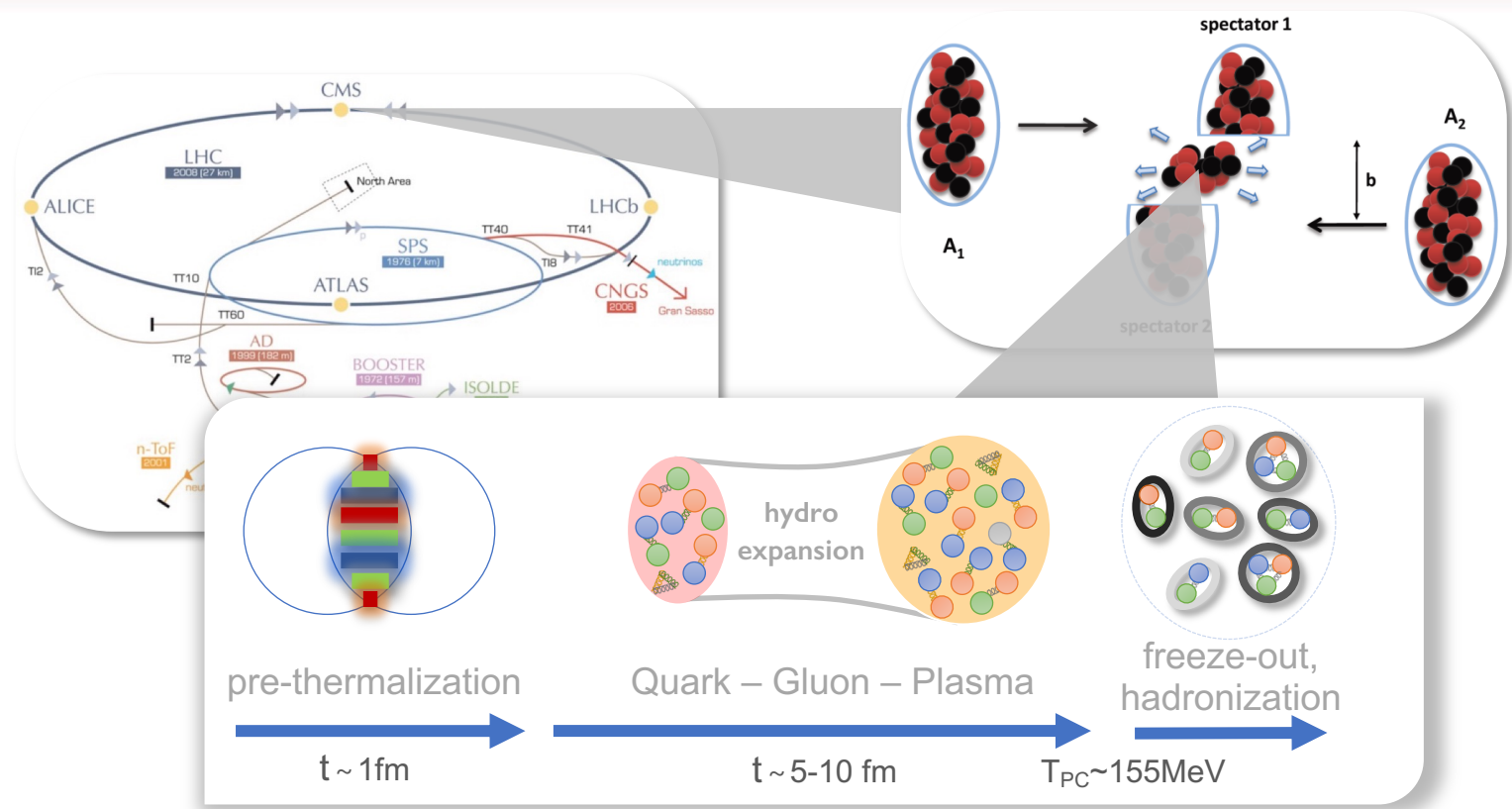
**V. López-Pardo, A.R. arXiv:2506.23600 & (in preparation)**

# Outline



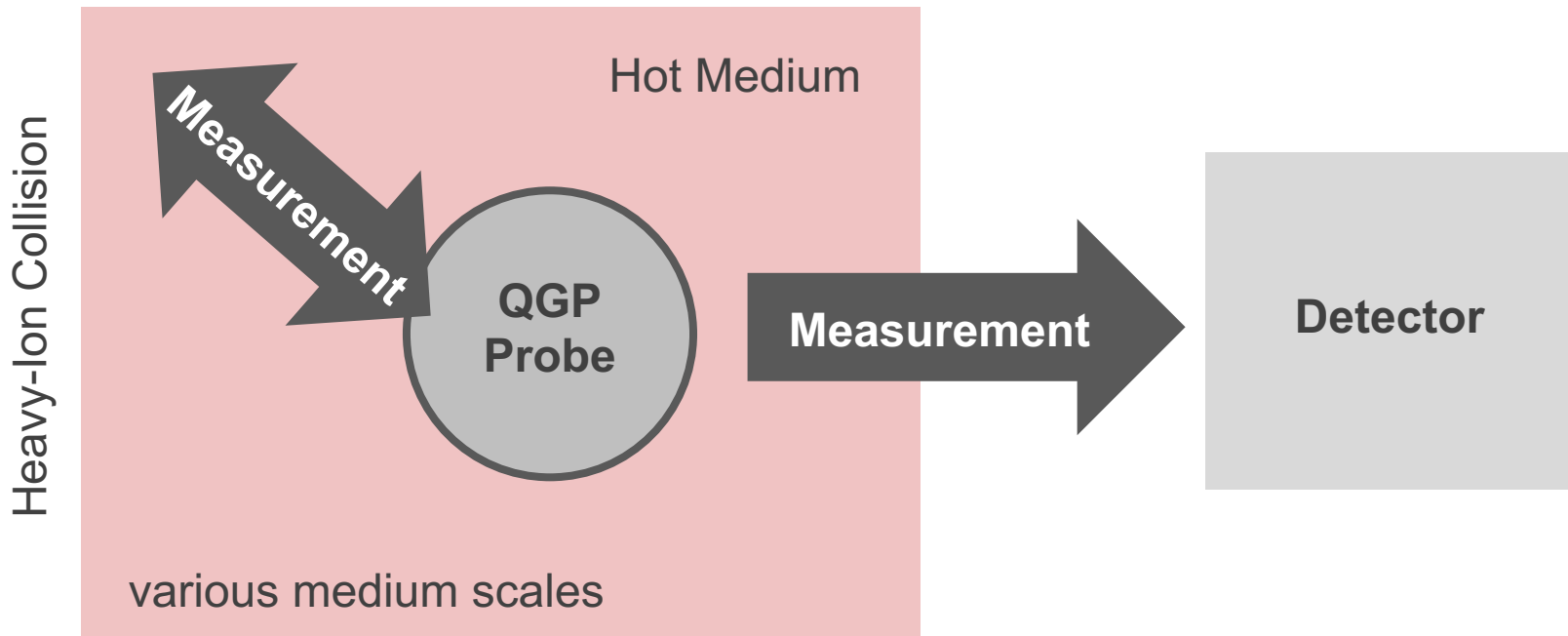
- Motivation: exploring the properties of hot nuclear matter
- The quarkonium QQS ecosystem in heavy-ion collisions
- Towards optimal quantum metrology for in-medium heavy quarkonium
- Conclusion and Outlook

# Heavy-ion collisions



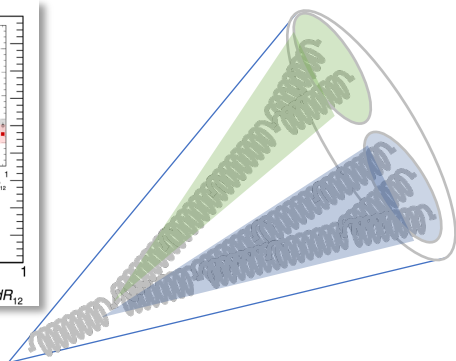
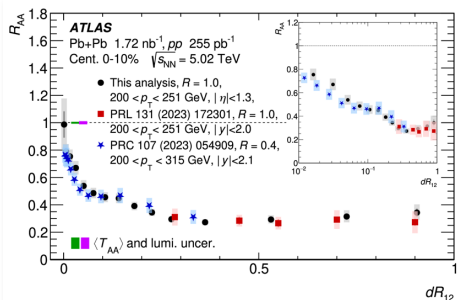
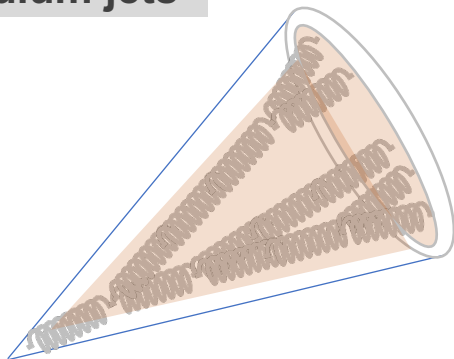
$1 \text{ fm} \equiv 3 \times 10^{-24} \text{ s}$  in units where  $c=k_B=h=1$

# A tale of two measurements

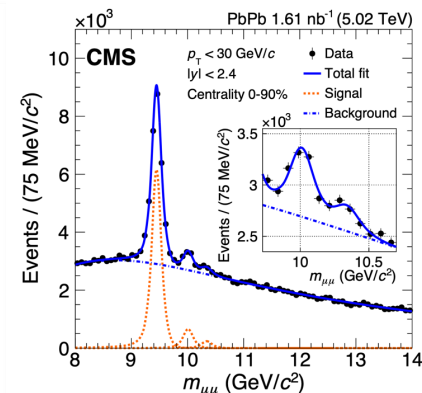
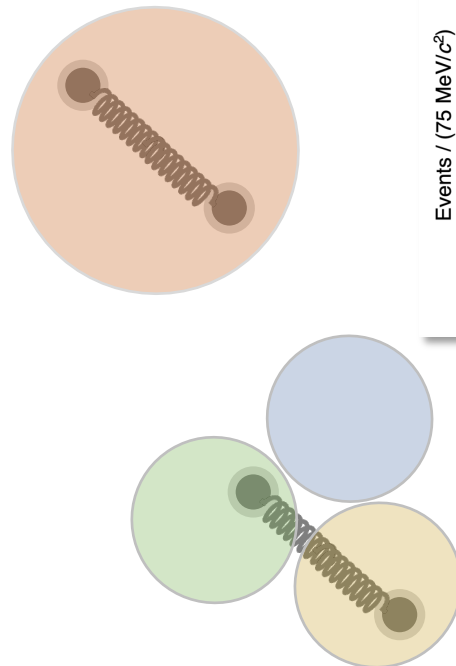


# Probing & being probed by the medium

## in-medium jets



## in-medium QQ



[CMS collaboration]  
 PRL 133 (2024) 022302

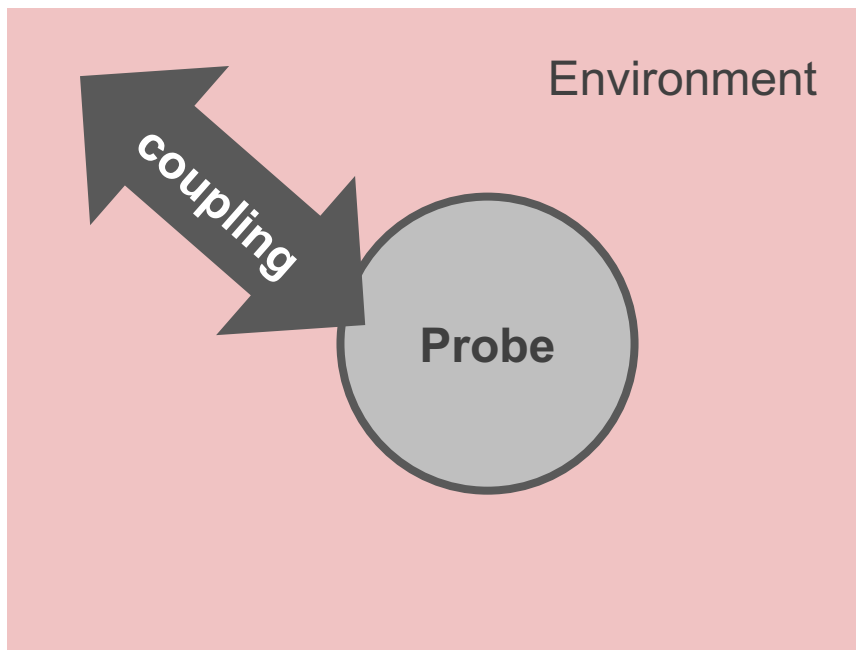
for recent theory results see e.g. Mehtar-Tani et.al. PLB 869 (2025) 139827, JHEP 02 (2026) 048 and Vaidya arXiv:2603.00238

For reviews see: A.R. Phys. Rept. 858, 1 (2020), R. Sharma EPJ. ST 230, 3, 697 (2021), X. Yao IJMP A 36, 20, 2130010 (2021), Y. Akamatsu PPNP 123, 103932 (2022), for recent lattice results see [HotQCD] PRD 109 (2024) 7, 074504

# Open Quantum Systems

## Demystifying the measurement process: coupling to environment

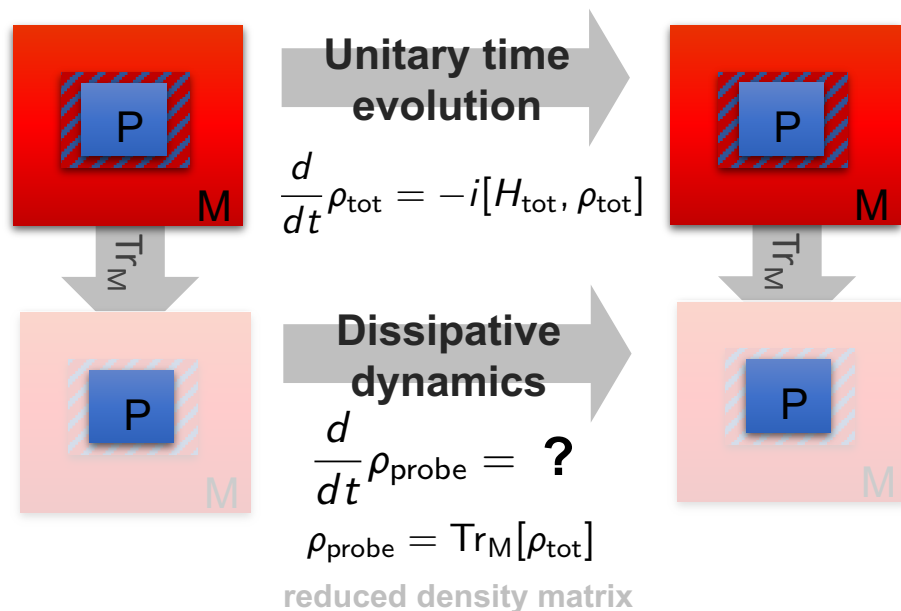
for a textbook see Breuer, Petruccione *The Theory of Open Quantum Systems*



- Measurement is a **dynamical process**: focus on real-time evolution
- In presence of **separation of scales**: simplification (close relation to EFTs)

# The Open Quantum System framework

$$H_{\text{tot}} = H_{\text{probe}} \otimes I_M + I_{\text{probe}} \otimes H_M + H_{\text{int}} = H_{\text{tot}}^\dagger$$



**Separation of time-scales**  
determines nature of e.o.m. :

Environment relaxation scale  $\tau_E$ :

$$\langle \Xi_m(t) \Xi_m(0) \rangle \sim e^{-t/\tau_E}$$

probe system scale  $\tau_S$ :

$$\tau_S \sim 1/|\omega - \omega'|$$

probe relaxation scale  $\tau_{\text{rel}}$ :

$$\langle p(t) \rangle \propto e^{-t/\tau_{\text{rel}}}$$

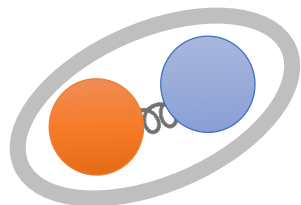
■ In case of Markovian time evolution (  $\tau_E \ll \tau_{\text{rel}}$  ) leads to a **Lindblad equation**:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} = -i[\tilde{H}_{Q\bar{Q}}, \rho_{Q\bar{Q}}] + \sum_k \gamma_k \left( L_k \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} L_k^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} L_k^\dagger L_k \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} - \frac{1}{2} \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} L_k^\dagger L_k \right)$$

$$\langle n | \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} | n \rangle > 0, \forall n$$

$$\rho_{Q\bar{Q}}^\dagger = \rho_{Q\bar{Q}}, \quad \text{Tr}[\rho_{Q\bar{Q}}] = 1$$

# In-medium heavy quarkonium



**Quarkonium separation of scales:**  $M_Q > \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, M_Q > T_{\text{med}}$

In vacuum:  $m^Y = 9.460 \text{ GeV}, \Gamma^Y = 54(1) \text{ keV}; m^{J/\psi} = 3.096 \text{ GeV}, \Gamma^{J/\psi} = 93(3) \text{ keV}$

- Different Quarkonium species form an ideal set of standard candles

	$Y(1S)$	$\chi_b(1P)$	$J/\psi(1S)$	$\chi_c(1P)$	$\psi(2S)$
$E_{\text{bind}}$	1.1 GeV	630 MeV	640 MeV	220 MeV	60 MeV

estimated temperature range realized in LHC collisions

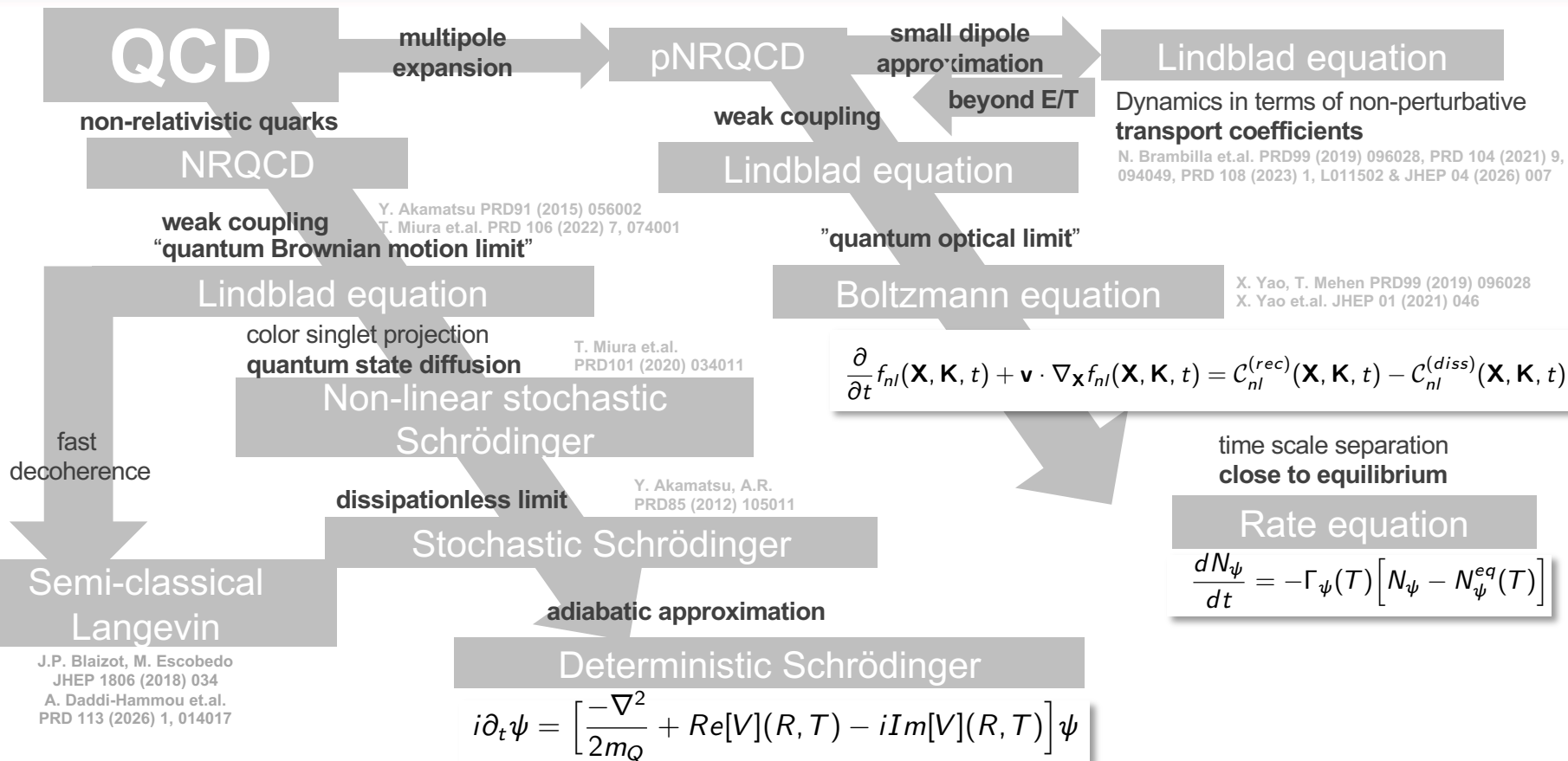
degree of thermalization

non-equilibrium theory,  
resolves history of collision

equilibrium theory,  
informs of late stages



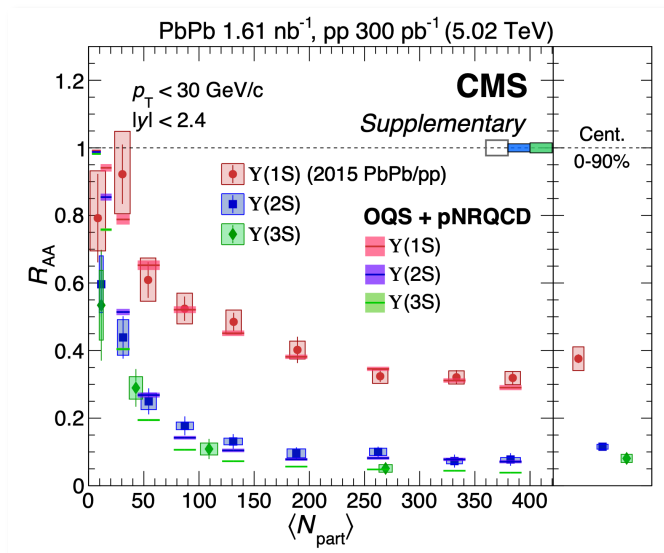
# The Quarkonium QQS ecosystem



# OQS for discovery in heavy-ion collisions



- Need to translate **methods development** into **physics opportunities**



- Key challenge I: **scarcity** of existing observables

- How to exploit optimally existing data

- Key challenge II: QGP properties are **not direct observables**

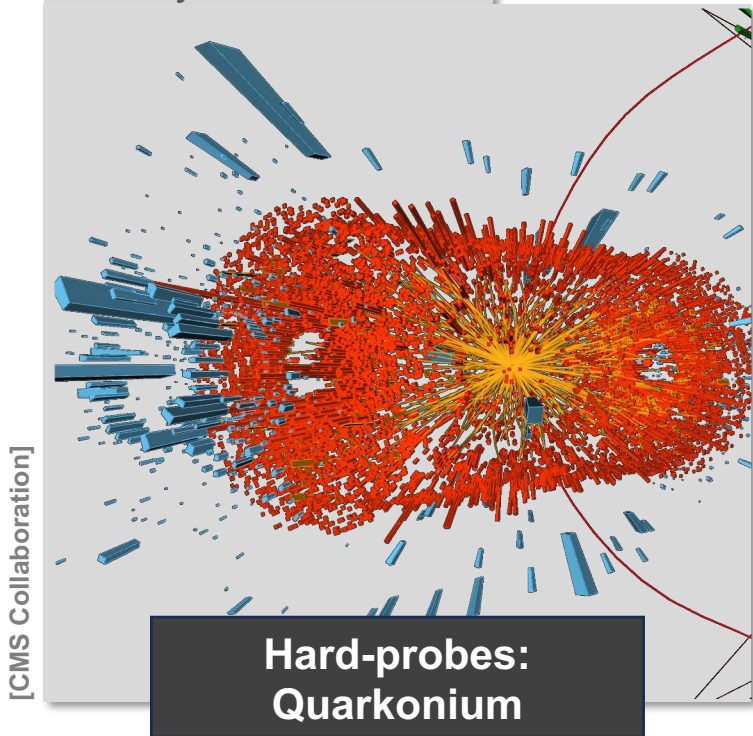
- How to exploit OQS approach to achieve a (thermo-), (viscosi-), (diffusi-) meter?

- Key challenge III: **limited** resources

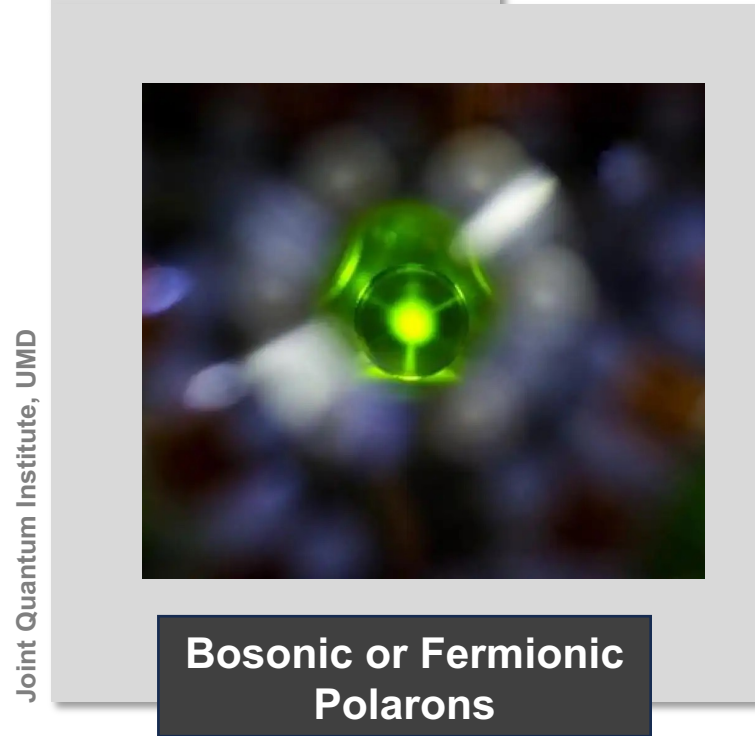
- How to decide which observable provides best ROI?

# A fruitful analog: impurity physics

Heavy-ion Collisions



Ultracold atoms



# Quantum Metrology

- The study of optimizing the measurement process exploiting quantum features

see e.g. M. Mehboudi et.al. J. Phys. A52 (2019) 303001

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{error in T} \\ \text{measurement} \end{array} \delta T[\hat{O}] = \frac{\begin{array}{c} \text{spread in impurity property} \\ \langle \hat{O}^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{O} \rangle^2 \end{array}}{\sqrt{N \chi_T^2[\hat{O}]}} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{classically} \\ \text{random var.} \end{array} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{quantum} \\ \text{Cramer-Rao} \\ \text{bound} \end{array} \geq \frac{1}{\sqrt{N \mathcal{F}[T]}}$$

# of measurements      how sensitive is O to T      Fisher information

Optimum sensitivity  $\chi_T[\hat{O}] = \partial_\xi \text{Tr}[\rho_{\text{probe}}(\xi) \hat{O}]_{\xi=T}$  reached via unique quantity  $\hat{\Lambda}_T$ :

$$\hat{\Lambda}_T \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}} + \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}} \hat{\Lambda}_T = 2 \partial_T \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}}$$

“symmetric logarithmic derivative” (SLD)

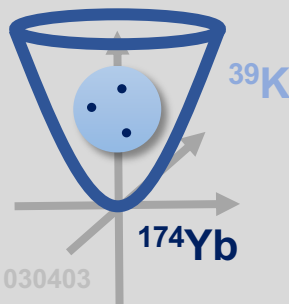
- Fisher information  $\mathcal{F}_\xi = \text{Tr}[\hat{\rho}(\xi) \hat{\Lambda}_\xi^2]$  (“how much can we learn about  $\xi$ ”)

# State-of-the-art – SLD in thermometry

$$\hat{\Lambda}_T \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}} + \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}} \hat{\Lambda}_T = 2\partial_T \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}}$$

Equilibrium Thermometry

Laser cool  
majority gas  $^{39}\text{K}$   
together with  
minority gas  $^{174}\text{Yb}$



M. Mehboudi et.al. PRL122 (2019) 030403

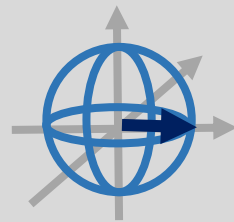
$$\hat{\Lambda}_T = C_x (\hat{x}^2 - \langle x^2 \rangle) + C_p (\hat{p}^2 - \langle p^2 \rangle) \quad \checkmark$$

$$C_x = \frac{4\langle p^2 \rangle^2 \chi_T(\hat{x}^2) + \hbar^2 \chi_T(\hat{p}^2)}{8\langle x^2 \rangle^2 \langle p^2 \rangle^2 - \hbar^4 / 2} \quad \checkmark$$

$$\chi_\theta(\hat{O}) = \partial_\theta \text{Tr}[\hat{\rho}(\theta)\hat{O}] \quad \times$$

Non-equilibrium Thermometry

Kicks from  
environment  
decohere two-level  
system impurity.



M. T. Mitchison et.al. PRL 125, 080402 (2020)

$$\hat{\Lambda}_T \propto \cos(\varphi) \hat{\sigma}_\parallel + \sin(\varphi) \hat{\sigma}_\perp \quad \checkmark$$

$$\tan(\varphi) = \frac{|v|(1 - |v|)^2 \partial_T \phi}{\partial_T |v|} \quad \checkmark$$

$$\partial_T |v| \quad \partial_T \phi \quad \times$$

- Challenge: construction of SLD requires **explicit solution** of Lindblad equation

# SLD from the master equation

master equation

$$\partial_t \hat{\rho}(t, \theta) = \hat{\mathcal{L}}[\theta] \hat{\rho}(t, \theta)$$

definition of SLD

$$\partial_\theta \hat{\rho}(\theta) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{\Lambda}_\theta \hat{\rho}(\theta) + \hat{\rho}(\theta) \hat{\Lambda}_\theta \right) - \hat{\rho}(\theta) \langle \hat{\Lambda}_\theta \rangle$$

$$\partial_\theta (\partial_t \hat{\rho}(t, \theta)) = \partial_t (\partial_\theta \hat{\rho}(t, \theta))$$

Schwarz' theorem: symmetry of second partial derivatives

V. López-Pardo, A.R. arXiv:2506.23600

choice of experimentally accessible operators

$$\hat{\Lambda}_\theta = \sum_i c_\theta^{(i)} \hat{A}_i$$

$$\text{Tr} \left[ \partial_\theta \partial_t \hat{\rho}(t, \theta) \hat{A}_j \right] = \text{Tr} \left[ \partial_t \partial_\theta \hat{\rho}(t, \theta) \hat{A}_j \right]$$

$$\sum_i M_{ji} c_\theta^{(i)} = D_j$$

Explicit construction of SLD via solution of linear system of equations

# Quantum Brownian motion (equilibrium)

- SLD for **temperature T** from the Caldeira-Leggett master equation

$$\frac{d}{dt} \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}} = \underbrace{-\frac{i}{\hbar} [\hat{H}_{\text{probe}}, \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}}]}_{\text{coherent dynamics}} - \underbrace{\frac{2m\gamma k_B T}{\hbar^2} [\hat{x}, [\hat{x}, \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}}]]}_{\text{fluctuations}} - \underbrace{\frac{i\gamma}{\hbar} [\hat{x}, \{\hat{p}, \hat{\rho}_{\text{probe}}\}]}_{\text{dissipation}}$$

A.O. Caldeira and A.J. Leggett: *Physica* 121A (1983) 587

$$\hat{A}_j \in \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}, \hat{x}^2, \hat{p}^2, \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\}\}$$

$$D_T = \left[ 0, 0, 0, -2\frac{\gamma}{b}, 0 \right]$$

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -2b\langle p^2 \rangle & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2c\langle x^2 \rangle & \frac{2\gamma\langle p^2 \rangle}{b} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 2\gamma & -8b\langle p^2 \rangle \langle x^2 \rangle - 2b \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{8\gamma\langle p^2 \rangle^2}{8\gamma T \langle p^2 \rangle} & 8c\langle p^2 \rangle \langle x^2 \rangle + 2c \\ 0 & 0 & 2b & -8b\langle p^2 \rangle^2 & -\frac{8\gamma T \langle x^2 \rangle}{b} - 2\gamma \\ & & +8c\langle x^2 \rangle^2 & -2c & +8\gamma\langle p^2 \rangle \langle x^2 \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c_T^{(x)} &= 0, \\ c_T^{(p)} &= 0, \\ c_T^{(x^2)} &= \frac{4c(a^4 b^2 + 4(bc + \gamma^2))}{a^8 b^4 - 16b^2 c^2}, \\ c_T^{(p^2)} &= \frac{4}{a^4 b - 4c}, \\ c_T^{\{x,p\}} &= \frac{16c\gamma}{a^8 b^3 - 16bc^2}. \end{aligned}$$

reproduces the known result from explicit density matrix (T in equilibrium)

V. López-Pardo, A.R. arXiv:2506.23600

need to include the  $\{x,p\}$  operator to obtain a well-posed linear system even though  $\langle \{x,p\} \rangle_{\text{eq}} = 0$

# Quantum Brownian motion (squeezed Gaussian)

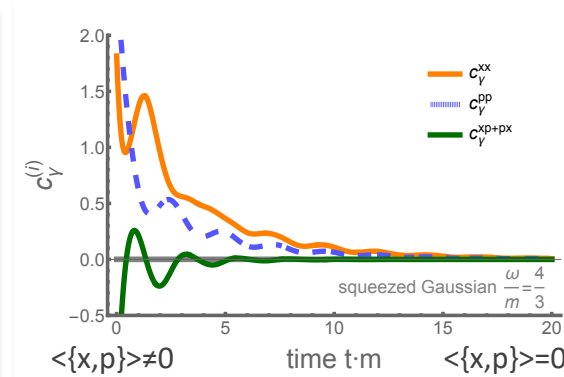
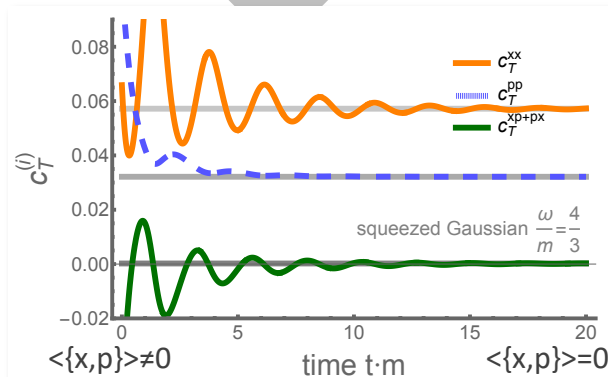


- SLD for temperature  $T$  & relaxation rate  $\gamma$  from Caldeira-Leggett master equation

$$\hat{A}_j \in \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}, \hat{x}^2, \hat{p}^2, \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\}\} \xrightarrow[\gamma]{T} D_T = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -2\frac{\gamma}{b} & 0 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow D_\gamma = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -2\frac{T}{b} + 4\langle p^2 \rangle & 2\langle \{\hat{x}, \hat{p}\} \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

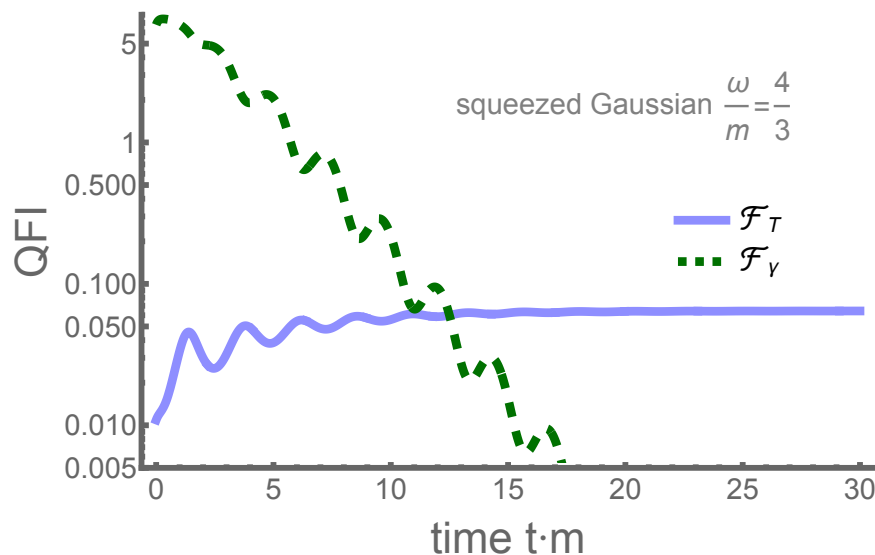
$$M_T = M_\gamma$$

$-b\langle x,p \rangle$	$-2b\langle p^2 \rangle$	0	0	0
$2c\langle x^2 \rangle + \gamma\langle \{x,p\} \rangle$	$2\gamma\langle p^2 \rangle - \frac{2\gamma T}{b} + c\langle \{x,p\} \rangle$	0	0	0
0	0	$-4b\langle x^2 \rangle \langle \{x,p\} \rangle$	$-4b\langle p^2 \rangle \langle \{x,p\} \rangle + 2\gamma$	$-8b\langle x^2 \rangle \langle p^2 \rangle - 2b - 2b\langle \{x,p\} \rangle^2$
0	0	$4c\langle x^2 \rangle \langle \{x,p\} \rangle + 2\gamma\langle \{x,p\} \rangle^2$	$8\gamma\langle p^2 \rangle^2 - \frac{8\gamma T}{b} \langle p^2 \rangle + 4c\langle p^2 \rangle \langle \{x,p\} \rangle$	$8c\langle x^2 \rangle \langle p^2 \rangle + 2c + 2c\langle \{x,p\} \rangle^2 + 8\gamma\langle p^2 \rangle \langle \{x,p\} \rangle - \frac{8\gamma T}{b} \langle \{x,p\} \rangle$
0	0	$8c\langle x^2 \rangle^2 + 2b$	$-8b\langle p^2 \rangle^2 - 2c + 4\gamma\langle p^2 \rangle \langle \{x,p\} \rangle + 2c\langle \{x,p\} \rangle^2 - \frac{8\gamma T}{b} \langle \{x,p\} \rangle$	$8\gamma\langle x^2 \rangle \langle p^2 \rangle - \frac{8\gamma T}{b} \langle x^2 \rangle - 2\gamma + 8c\langle x^2 \rangle \langle \{x,p\} \rangle - 8b\langle p^2 \rangle \langle \{x,p\} \rangle + 2\gamma\langle \{x,p\} \rangle^2$



# Crosscheck QFI:

- As expected: temperature sensitivity highest after full thermalization, relaxation rate becomes inaccessible since equilibrium time translation invariant

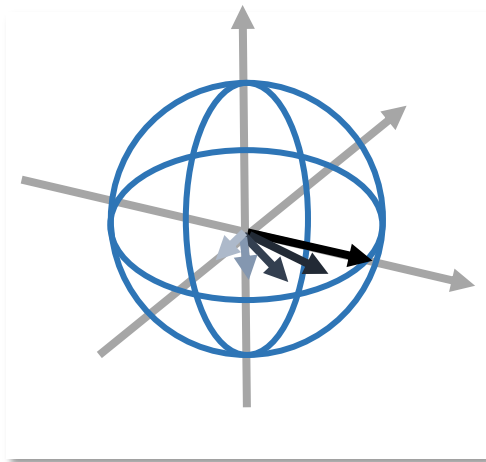


squeezed state  $\langle \{x, p\} \rangle \neq 0$

equilibrium  $\langle \{x, p\} \rangle = 0$

# A direct link to heavy quarkonium

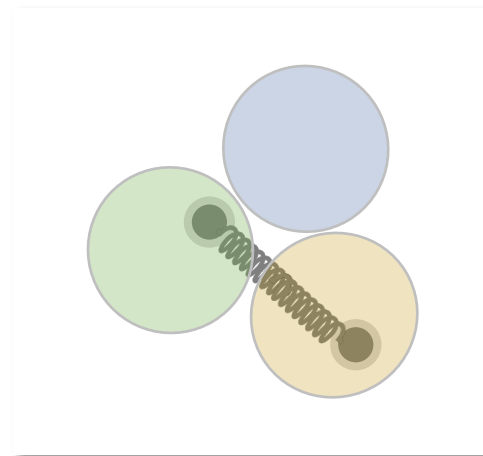
$T=10^{-9}\text{K}$



decoherence of a qubit  
in a quantum gas

M. T. Mitchison et.al.  
PRL 125, 080402 (2020)

$T=10^{12}\text{K}$

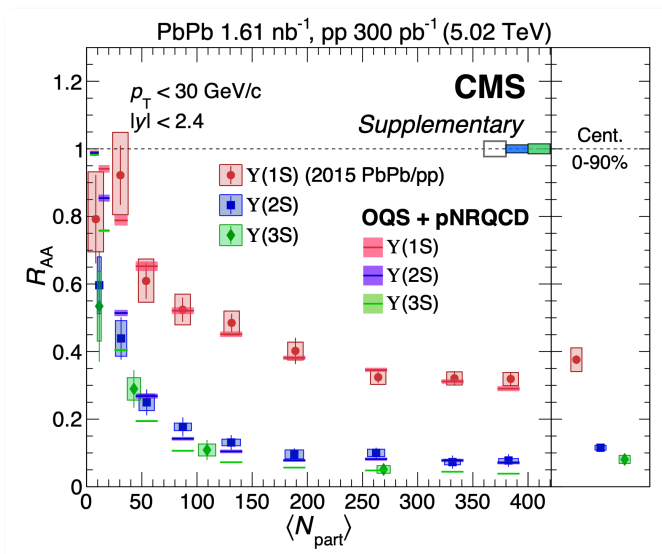


color decoherence of  
heavy quarkonium in HIC

see e.g. S. Kajimoto, Y. Akamatsu,  
M. Asakawa, A.R., PRD97 (2018), 014003

# Addressing observable scarcity

- Goal: can we find an SLD based on the available data?



- Only make reference to lowest lying states Y(1S), Y(2S), Y(3S),  $\chi_{b012}(1P)$
- Operator basis for SLD is set of projection operators  $\{ |n\rangle\langle n| \}$ .
- End result: determine linear combination of  $R_{AA}$ s that exhibits most sensitivity to certain medium property (e.g. T)

## Application to Quarkonium – pNRQCD OQS



- As a first step: optimal estimation of local properties – transport coefficients

## pNRQCD &amp; strongly coupled medium

Non-perturbative medium but Coulombic bound states

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} h_s & 0 \\ 0 & h_o \end{pmatrix} + \frac{r^2}{2} \gamma \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{N_c^2 - 2}{2(N_c^2 - 1)} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$L_i^{S \leftrightarrow O} = \sqrt{\frac{\kappa}{N_c^2 - 1}} r^i \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ \sqrt{N_c^2 - 1} & 0 \end{pmatrix} L_i^{O \leftrightarrow S} = \sqrt{\frac{(N_c^2 - 4)\kappa}{2(N_c^2 - 1)}} r^i \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

N. Brambilla et. al. PRD100 (2019), 054025

governed by two (static) transport coefficients:

$$\kappa \propto \frac{1}{6N_c} \int_0^\infty dt \langle \{E^{a,i}(t, \mathbf{0}), E^{a,i}(t, \mathbf{0})\} \rangle \quad \text{heavy quarkonium diffusion constant}$$

$$\gamma \propto -\frac{i}{6N_c} \int_0^\infty dt \langle [E^{a,i}(t, \mathbf{0}), E^{a,i}(t, \mathbf{0})] \rangle \quad \text{potential correction}$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} = -i[\tilde{H}_{Q\bar{Q}}, \rho_{Q\bar{Q}}] + \sum_k \gamma_k \left( L_k \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} L_k^\dagger - \frac{1}{2} L_k^\dagger L_k \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} - \frac{1}{2} \rho_{Q\bar{Q}} L_k^\dagger L_k \right)$$

$$\text{Tr} \left[ \partial_\theta \partial_t \hat{\rho}(t, \theta) \hat{A}_j \right] = \text{Tr} \left[ \partial_t \partial_\theta \hat{\rho}(t, \theta) \hat{A}_j \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} M_{ij} &= +\frac{i}{2} \langle \{ \hat{A}_j, [\hat{H}, \hat{A}_i] \} \rangle \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \sum_n \left( \langle \hat{C}_n^+ \hat{A}_j, [\hat{A}_i, \hat{C}_n] \rangle + \langle [\hat{C}_n^+, \hat{A}_i] \hat{A}_j \hat{C}_n \rangle - \frac{1}{2} \langle [\hat{A}_j, [\hat{A}_i, \hat{\Gamma}_n]] \rangle \right) \\ &- \langle \hat{A}_j \rangle \left( -i \langle \{ \hat{A}_i, \hat{H} \} \rangle + \sum_n \left( \langle \hat{C}_n^+ \hat{A}_i \hat{C}_n \rangle - \frac{1}{2} \langle \{ \hat{A}_i, \hat{\Gamma}_n \} \rangle \right) \right) \\ D_j &= -\frac{i}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \langle [\hat{A}_j^s, \hat{r}^2] \rangle & 0 \\ 0 & \langle [\hat{A}_j^o, \hat{r}^2] \rangle \Omega_o \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{A}_i = \{ |Y(1S)\rangle \langle Y(1S)|, |Y(2S)\rangle \langle Y(2S)|, |Y(3S)\rangle \langle Y(3S)|, |\chi_i(1P)\rangle \langle \chi_i(1P)| \}$$

# First PRELIMINARY insights



- Using the assumptions of singlet dominance and no off-diagonal contributions
- Highly restricted basis:  $Y(1S) Y(2S) Y(3S) \chi_{b012}(1P)$ : system matrix  $M_{ij}$  degenerate

SLD for transport coefficient  $\gamma$

$$\{c_{Y1S} \rightarrow 0, -0.00348522 c_{C10} - 0.00348522 c_{C11} - 0.00348522 c_{C12} - 0.261354 c_{Y2S} - 0.216845 c_{Y3S}\}$$

SLD for transport coefficient  $\kappa$

$$\{c_{Y1S} \rightarrow 20.4013, -0.00348522 c_{C10} - 0.00348522 c_{C11} - 0.00348522 c_{C12} - 0.261354 c_{Y2S} - 0.216845 c_{Y3S}\}$$

- $Y(1S)$  survival sensitive to  $\kappa$  but determination of  $\gamma$  requires excited states survival

# Conclusion & Outlook



- Quarkonium is a powerful QCD laboratory with potential as precision QGP probe
- Open quantum systems ecosystem for quarkonium mature & extensive
- Quantum Metrology: Optimal observables via SLD – but requires analytic solution
- Recent progress: Exploit symmetry of mixed partial derivatives to construct SLD from master equation directly. V. López-Pardo, A.R. arXiv:2506.23600
- Proof of principle: explicit form of SLD from Caldeira-Leggett master equation for environment temperature & relaxation rate (non-equilibrium).
- Work in progress: application to pNRQCD quarkonium master equation

## Thank you for your attention