

# Landauer's Principle

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- ▶ The energy cost of erasure of one bit of information by the action of a thermal reservoir in equilibrium at temperature  $T$  is never less than  $k_B T \log 2$ .
  - ▶ What is erasure? An operation that takes any initial state  $\rho_i$  to a given final state  $\rho_f$ .

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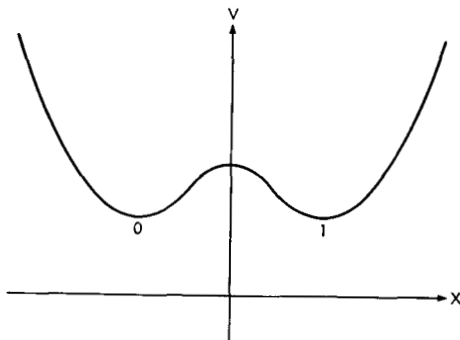
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# The setup



*Figure 1* **Bistable potential well.**  
*x is a generalized coordinate representing  
quantity which is switched.*

Two states in an analog system. Fix  $\rho_f = 0$  as the “erased” state.

$$0 \rightarrow 0$$

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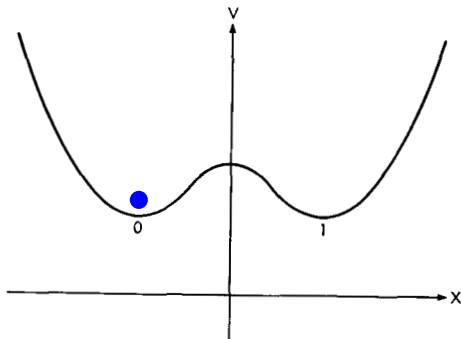
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If the system is in 0, we don't have to do anything to erase.

$1 \rightarrow 0$

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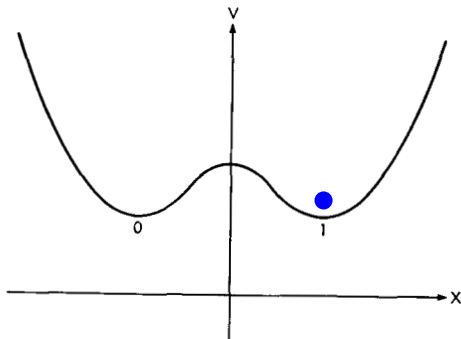
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Now consider if the system starts in state 1

1  $\rightarrow$  0

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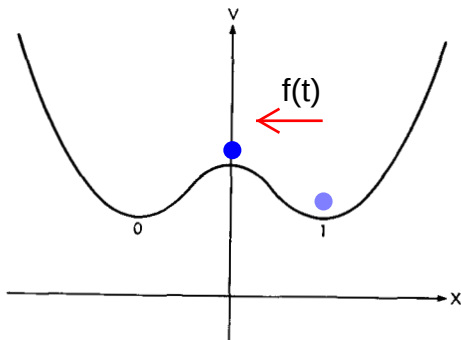
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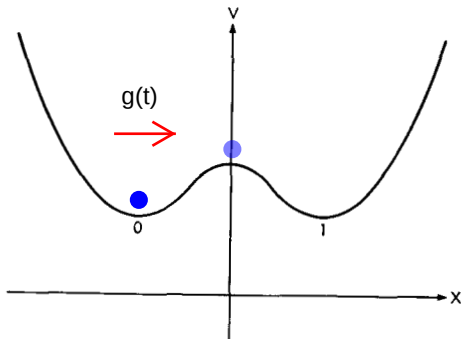
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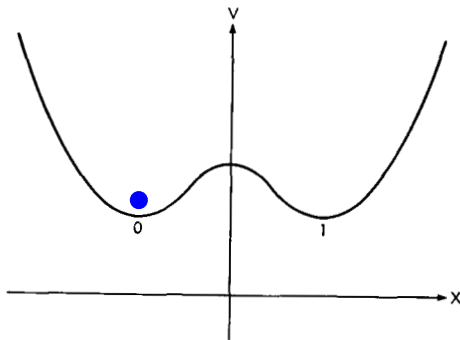
To get to zero, we could apply a force  $f(t)$  to the left

$1 \rightarrow 0$



Then remove the energy we added with a force  $g(t)$  to the right

$1 \rightarrow 0$



Resulting in the system “erased” in state zero without any net energy cost.

# The catch

- ▶ We used two different processes depending on the initial state
- ▶ Our erasure operation should take any initial state  $\rho_i$  to the given final state  $\rho_f$
- ▶ Landauer's motivation (1961): computers operate as a function of circuit connections, not the specific data being handled
- ▶ Quantum motivation: we have uncertainty about what state the system is in

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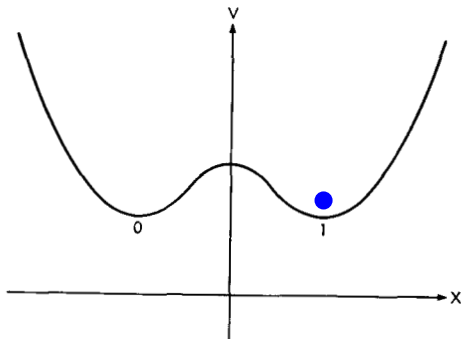
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- ▶ If we could do a single noiseless operation  $E$  that maps  $0 \mapsto 0, 1 \mapsto 0$ , we should be able to do the time-reversed process, but inverse is multivalued (0 or 1).
- ▶ However, if we allow some noise / heat loss, we cannot perform the time-reversed process. Landauer constructed a method to erase using a damped system.

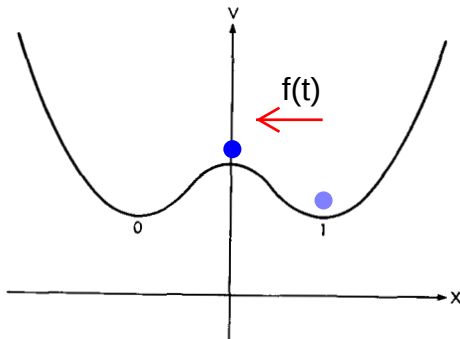
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# Landauer's method: Step 1 of 8



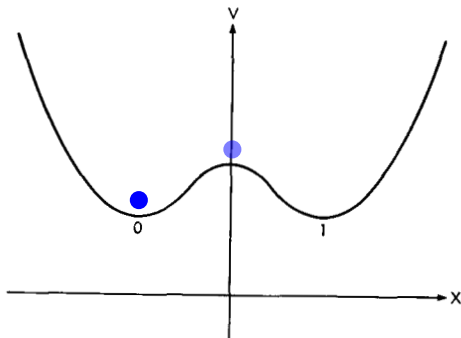
Consider the system starting in the state 1.

# Landauer's method: Step 2 of 8



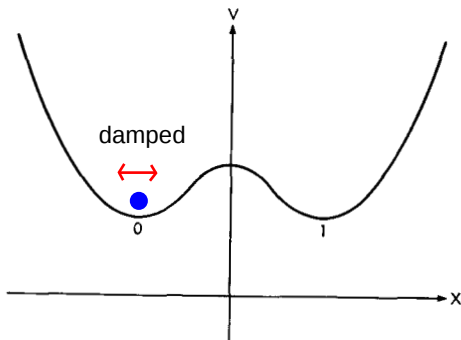
We slowly apply a force  $f(t)$  to overcome the potential barrier

# Landauer's method: Step 3 of 8



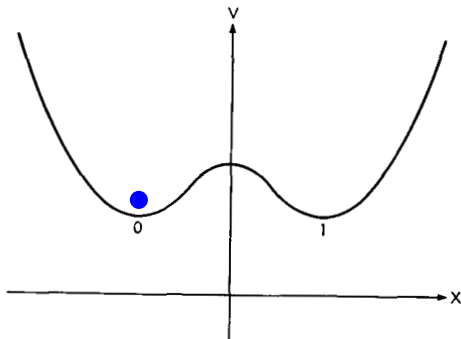
The damped system reduces the kinetic energy enough so the system cannot move back to state 1

# Landauer's method: Step 4 of 8



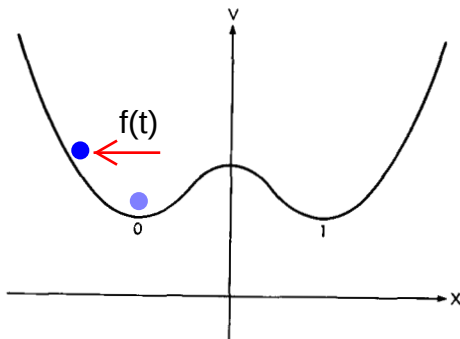
And we have successfully transferred  $1 \rightarrow 0$

# Landauer's method: Step 5 of 8



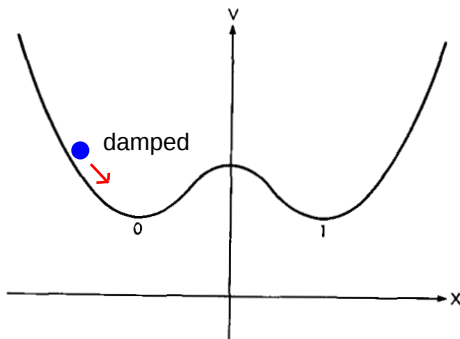
Consider performing the process starting in the state 0.

# Landauer's method: Step 6 of 8



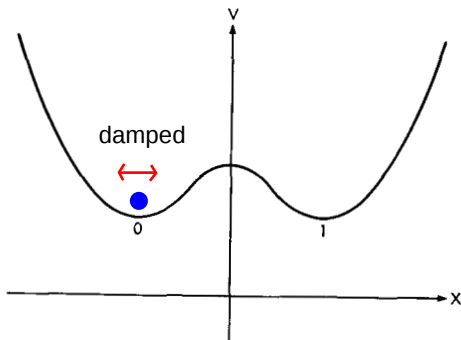
First we add kinetic energy to the system by applying a force to the left.

# Landauer's method: Step 7 of 8



But then the damping reduces the kinetic energy enough so that the system cannot cross the potential barrier.

# Landauer's method: Step 8 of 8



And the system again settles into the state 0.

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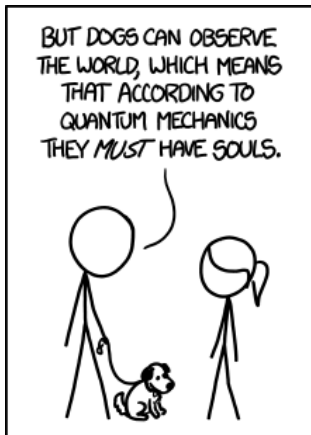
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PROTIP: YOU CAN SAFELY  
IGNORE ANY SENTENCE THAT  
INCLUDES THE PHRASE  
"ACCORDING TO  
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# Postulate 1 of 4

Associated to any isolated physical system is a Hilbert space known as the *state space* of the system.

- ▶ What is a Hilbert space?
  - ▶ Complete inner product space
  - ▶ Finite dimensional:  $\mathbb{C}^d$ , where  $d$  is the dimension.  
Assuming finite dimensional until mentioned otherwise.

The state of the system is completely described by its *density operator*, a positive trace one operator  $\rho$  acting on the state space.

- ▶ Positive: self-adjoint, all eigenvalues real and non-negative; written  $\rho \geq 0$
- ▶ Trace one: eigenvalues sum to 1.

If a quantum system is in the state  $\rho_j$  with probability  $p_j$  then the density operator for the system is  $\sum_j p_j \rho_j$ .

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# Postulate 2 of 4

The evolution of a closed quantum system is given by a unitary transformation. If  $\rho$  is the state of the system at time  $t$  and  $\rho'$  the state of the system at  $t'$ , then

$$\rho' = U\rho U^*$$

for some unitary  $U$ .

- ▶ Unitary:  $UU^* = U^*U = \mathbb{1}$ . Preserves inner product (probability).
- ▶ Could be different unitaries between different times; i.e.,  $U = U(t)$  in general.

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## Postulate 3 of 4

Quantum measurements are described a collection  $\{M_m\}$  of *measurement operators* which act on the state space of the system being measured. The index  $m$  refers to the measurement outcomes that may occur. If the state is  $\rho$  before the measurement, then the probability that the result  $m$  occurs is

$$p(m) = \text{Tr}(M_m^* M_m \rho).$$

After the measurement, the system is in the state

$$\frac{M_m \rho M_m^*}{\text{Tr}(M_m \rho M_m^*)}.$$

The measurement operators satisfy the completeness relation

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A  $*$ -algebra is a complex vector space  $\mathcal{A}$  equipped an associative and distributive multiplication operation, and a map  $*$  :  $\mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  that acts like complex conjugation: For any  $A, B \in \mathcal{A}$

1.  $A^{**} = A$
2.  $(AB)^* = B^* A^*$
3.  $(\alpha A + B)^* = \bar{\alpha} A^* + B^*$ .

Given a Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , the set  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}}$  of linear maps  $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$  is a  $*$ -algebra. The self-adjoint subset of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}}$  is the set of “observables”. Notice also that density operators also live in  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}}$ .

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## Remark on postulate 3

If we consider a physical observable  $O$  then  $O$  is a self-adjoint operator. We can write

$$O = \sum_i \lambda_i O_i = \sum_i \lambda_i O_i^2 = \sum_i \lambda_i O_i^* O_i$$

where  $\lambda_i$  are the eigenvalues of  $O$  and  $O_i$  the orthogonal projections into the eigenspaces. Then if the system is in the state  $\rho$ ,

$$\text{Tr}(O\rho) = \sum_i \lambda_i \text{Tr}(O_i^* O_i \rho) = \sum_i \lambda_i p(i) = \mathbb{E}(O)$$

the expectation value of  $O$ .

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- ▶ For a physical finite-dimensional system with Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}$ , the energy of the system is often described by an observable (self-adjoint operator acting on  $\mathcal{H}$ ) called the Hamiltonian, denoted by  $H$ .
  - ▶ The eigenvalues of  $H$  are then the possible measured values of the energy of the system.
- ▶ The Hamiltonian also generates the time evolution unitary  $U$  from postulate 2.  $U$  satisfies differential equation

$$i\frac{dU}{dt} = HU$$

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# Postulate 4 of 4

The state space of the complete physical system is the tensor product of the state spaces of the component physical systems. Moreover, if we have systems numbered 1 through  $n$ , and system number  $i$  is prepared in the state  $\rho_i$ , then the joint state of the total system is  $\rho_1 \otimes \rho_2 \otimes \dots \otimes \rho_n$ .

# Tensor products

- ▶ What is the tensor product? Consider two Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}_A$  and  $\mathcal{H}_B$  with orthonormal bases  $\{a_i\}$  and  $\{b_j\}$
- ▶ Tensor product of vectors: We can think of  $a_i \otimes b_j$  as formal symbols, and define the tensor product of other vectors  $\psi = \sum_i \alpha_i a_i \in \mathcal{H}_A$ ,  $\varphi = \sum_j \beta_j b_j \in \mathcal{H}_B$  ( $\alpha_i, \beta_j \in \mathbb{C}$ ) by imposing linearity:  
$$\psi \otimes \varphi = \sum_{ij} \alpha_i \beta_j a_i \otimes b_j.$$
- ▶ Of spaces: we define  $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B := \text{span}(\{a_i \otimes b_j\})$ , with the inner product  $\langle a_i \otimes b_j, a_{i'} \otimes b_{j'} \rangle = \delta_{ii'} \delta_{jj'}$ .
- ▶ Of operators: If  $X$  acts on  $\mathcal{H}_A$  ( $X \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A}$ ) and  $Y$  on  $\mathcal{H}_B$ , then  $X \otimes Y$  acts on  $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$  by  
$$(X \otimes Y)\psi \otimes \varphi = X\psi \otimes Y\varphi.$$
 Then,  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_B}$  is the  $*$ -algebra generated by such operators.

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# Remark on Postulate 4

- ▶ Given a composite system with Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$  and state  $\rho^{AB}$  a density operator on the joint Hilbert space, we would like a way to recover the state on system  $A$ , which we'll denote  $\rho^A$ .
- ▶ We would like to have that if we have an observable  $O \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A}$  and any density operator  $\rho^{AB}$  on  $\mathcal{H}_A \otimes \mathcal{H}_B$ , the value we measure for  $O$  only depends on  $\rho^A$ .

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# The partial trace: First definition

## Theorem

Consider two Hilbert spaces  $\mathcal{H}_A$  and  $\mathcal{H}_B$ .

Then there is a unique map  $\Phi : \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_B} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A}$  such that for all  $C \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_B}$  and  $B \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A}$ ,

$$\text{Tr}(\underbrace{(B \otimes \mathbb{1})C}_{\in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_B}}) = \text{Tr}(\underbrace{B\Phi(C)}_{\in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A}})$$

We call  $\Phi$  the *partial trace over B*, and denote it by  $\text{Tr}_B$ .

- Interpretation:  $C = \rho^{AB}$ ,  $\Phi(C) = \text{Tr}_B C =: \rho^A$ . If we only measure  $B$  on the joint system (so measurement on both systems is  $B \otimes \mathbb{1}$ ), we get the same as just measuring  $\rho^A$  on the  $A$  system.

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# Operational definition of partial trace

- ▶ We can always write our state as  $\rho^{AB} = \sum_i \lambda_i \rho_i^A \otimes \rho_i^B$  for some numbers  $\lambda_i$  and  $\rho_i^A \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_A}$ ,  $\rho_i^B \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{H}_B}$ .
- ▶ We define the *reduced density operator* on system  $A$  by

$$\rho^A := \text{Tr}_B \rho^{AB} = \sum_i \lambda_i \text{Tr}_B(\rho_i^A \otimes \rho_i^B) = \sum_i \lambda_i \underbrace{\text{Tr}(\rho_i^B)}_{\in \mathbb{C}} \rho_i^A$$

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# Von Neumann Entropy

- ▶ We consider a density operator  $\rho$  with eigenvalues  $\{\lambda_i\}$ . Then we define the entropy of  $\rho$  as

$$S(\rho) := -\text{Tr } \rho \log \rho = -\sum_i \lambda_i \log \lambda_i$$

- ▶  $S(\rho) \geq 0$  with equality iff  $\rho$  is a projector. Why zero for projector? No uncertainty; exactly one non-zero eigenvalue.
- ▶  $S(\rho) \leq \log d$  with equality iff  $\rho = \mathbb{1}/d$ , the “chaotic state”. Maximal uncertainty; every outcome equally likely.
- ▶ Since  $S(\rho)$  only depends on the eigenvalues of  $\rho$ , for any unitary  $U$ ,  $S(\rho) = S(U\rho U^*)$ .
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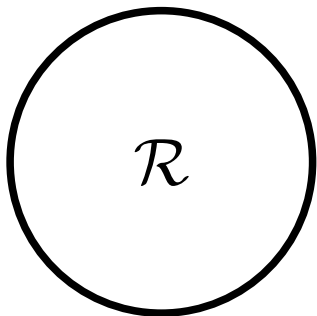
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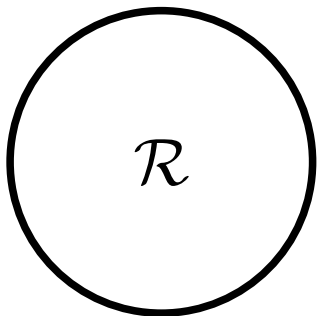
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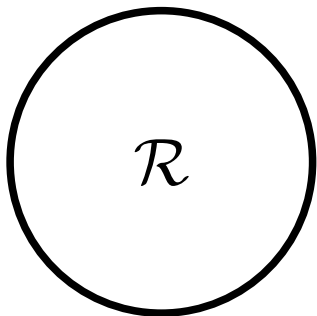
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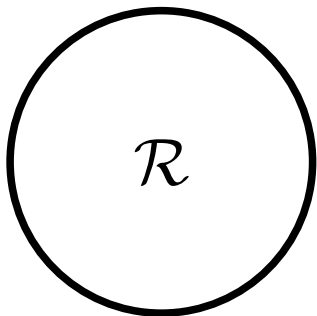
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$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{R}}, \dim \mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{R}} < \infty$   
Hamiltonian  $H_{\mathcal{R}}$

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$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{R}}, \dim \mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{R}} < \infty$

Hamiltonian  $H_{\mathcal{R}}$

State  $\nu_i$  on  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{R}}$

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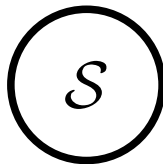
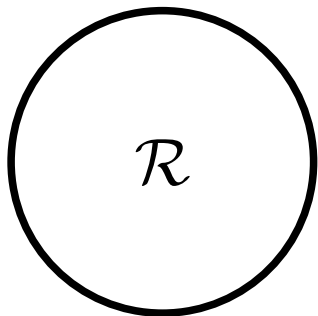
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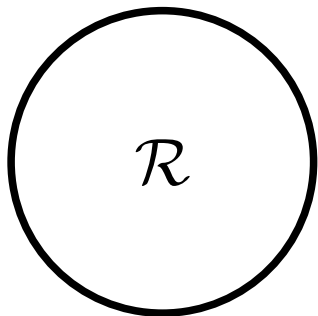
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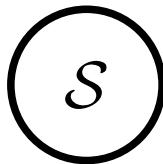
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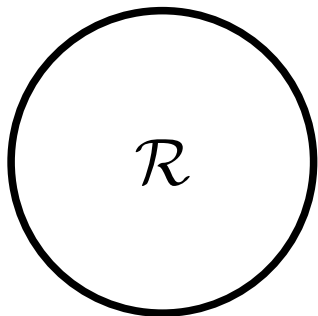
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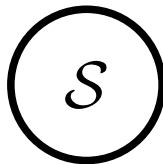
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State  $\nu_i$  on  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{R}}$

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$\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{S}}, \dim \mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{S}} = d < \infty$   
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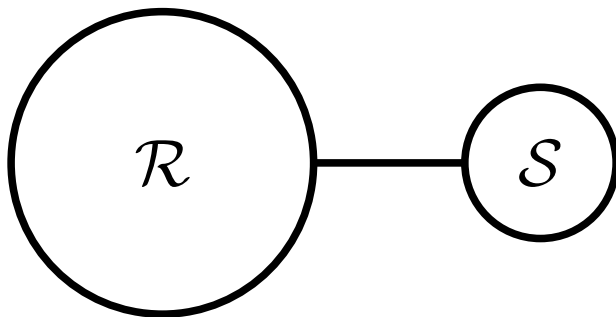
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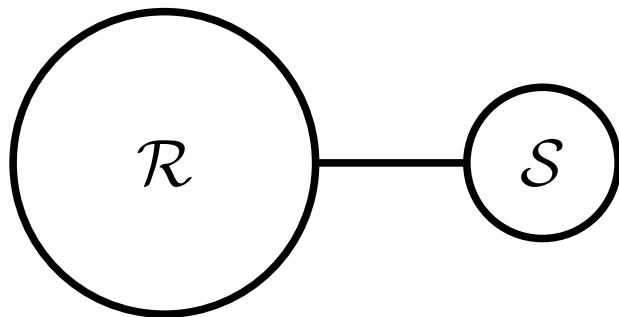
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Joint state:  $\omega_i = \rho_i \otimes \nu_i$

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# The state on the reservoir, $\nu_i$

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- ▶ This is known as a Gibbs state or thermal equilibrium state.

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*For a Hamiltonian  $H$  and energy  $E \in \mathbb{R}$ , there exists a  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$  such that  $\text{Tr}(\rho_{\beta} H) = E$ . Moreover, if  $\mathfrak{S}_E = \{\rho \text{ is a state such that } \text{Tr}(\rho H) = E\}$ , then*

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- ▶ We are considering processes  $\rho_i \rightarrow \rho_f$ . Since we are working in quantum mechanics, we consider operations unitary on the *joint* system  $U : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$

- ▶ This induces a transformation on the joint state:

$$\omega_U = U\omega_i U^*$$

- ▶ The transformed state on the system  $\mathcal{S}$  is given by  $\rho_U = \text{Tr}_{\mathcal{R}}(\omega_U)$ . We'd like  $\rho_f = \rho_U$ , i.e.  $U$  is the operation that induces  $\rho_i \rightarrow \rho_f$ .
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# Quantities to consider

- ▶ Energy (heat) loss from the system is the energy gained from the reservoir (called  $\Delta Q$ )
  - ▶ Initial energy of the reservoir is the expectation of the Hamiltonian:  $\text{Tr}(\nu_i H_{\mathcal{R}})$ .
  - ▶ Final energy is  $\text{Tr}(\nu_U H_{\mathcal{R}})$ .
- ▶ Entropy change of the system is  $\Delta S = S(\rho_U) - S(\rho_i)$ .
- ▶ Landauer's bound:  $\beta \Delta Q \geq \Delta S$ .
  - ▶ If  $\rho_U$  is a pure state and  $\rho_i = \mathbb{1}/d$ ,  $\Delta S = \log d$ , and Landauer's bound reads  $\Delta Q \geq T \log d$ .

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First,

$$\begin{aligned} S(\nu_i) &:= -\text{Tr}(\nu_i \log \nu_i) = -\text{Tr} \left( \nu_i \log \left( \frac{e^{-\beta H_{\mathcal{R}}}}{Z} \right) \right) \\ &= -\text{Tr} \left( \nu_i \log \left( e^{-\beta H_{\mathcal{R}}} \right) \right) + \log Z \cdot \text{Tr}(\nu_i) \\ &= \beta \text{Tr}(\nu_i H_{\mathcal{R}}) + \log Z \end{aligned}$$

Next,

$$S(\omega_U) = S(\omega_i) = S(\rho_i) + S(\nu_i)$$

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# Calculations (2/2)

Define  $\sigma = S(\omega_U | \rho_U \otimes \nu_i)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= \text{Tr}(\omega_U (\log \omega_U - \log(\rho_U \otimes \nu_i))) \\&= -S(\omega_U) - \text{Tr}(\omega_U \log(\rho_U \otimes \nu_i)) \\&= -S(\omega_U) - \text{Tr}(\omega_U (\log \rho_U + \log \nu_i)) \\&= -S(\rho_i) - S(\nu_i) - \text{Tr}(\rho_U \log \rho_U) - \text{Tr}(\nu_U \log \nu_i) \\&= -S(\rho_i) - S(\nu_i) + S(\rho_U) + \beta \text{Tr}(\nu_U H_{\mathcal{R}}) + \log Z \\&= -S(\rho_i) - \beta \text{Tr}(\nu_i H_{\mathcal{R}}) - \log Z \\&\quad + S(\rho_U) + \beta \text{Tr}(\nu_U H_{\mathcal{R}}) + \log Z \\&= -S(\rho_i) + S(\rho_U) + \beta (\text{Tr}(\nu_U H_{\mathcal{R}}) - \text{Tr}(\nu_i H_{\mathcal{R}})) \\&= -\Delta S + \beta \Delta Q\end{aligned}$$

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# Landauer's Bound

We are left with

$$\sigma + \Delta S = \beta \Delta Q$$

Using that relative entropies are non-negative,

$$\Delta S \leq \beta \Delta Q$$

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- ▶ Now, the quantum system is described by a  $C^*$  dynamical system  $(\mathcal{O}, \tau)$ , where  $\mathcal{O}$  is a  $C^*$  algebra with unit  $\mathbb{1}$  and  $\tau$  a strongly continuous one-parameter group of  $*$ -automorphisms of  $\mathcal{O}$ .
  - ▶ A  $C^*$ -algebra is a  $*$ -algebra  $\mathcal{A}$  with the property that for all  $A \in \mathcal{A}$ ,  $\|A^*A\| = \|A\|^2$ , and  $\mathcal{A}$  is complete with respect to the norm topology.
  - ▶ The observables of the system are elements of  $\mathcal{O}$  and  $\tau$  describes their time evolution in the Heisenberg picture.
    - ▶ Heisenberg picture: evolve the observables instead of the states
- ▶ A state is a positive linear functional  $\omega$  on  $\mathcal{O}$  with  $\omega(\mathbb{1}) = 1$ ; it is  $\tau$ -invariant if  $\omega \circ \tau^t = \omega$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  (e.g. a thermal equilibrium state is  $\tau$ -invariant).

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- ▶ In 1961, Landauer posited his principle on physical grounds
- ▶ Recently it has been proven very generally using quantum statistical mechanics [JP14]
  - ▶ The much easier proof of the finite-dimensional case was presented today

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  - ▶ The much easier proof of the finite-dimensional case was presented today

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# XY spin chain (1 of 2)

- The reservoir  $\mathcal{R}$  is described by a finite dimensional Hilbert space  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{R}} = (\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes M}$ , equipped with the Hamiltonian

$$H_{\mathcal{R}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in [1, M[} J_x (\sigma_x^{(1)} \sigma_{x+1}^{(1)} + \sigma_x^{(2)} \sigma_{x+1}^{(2)}) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in [1, M]} \lambda_x \sigma_x^{(3)}$$

where the  $\sigma_x^{(j)}$  are the three Pauli matrices: traceless, self-adjoint  $2 \times 2$  matrices corresponding to the observables for spin-1/2 particles.

- The system  $\mathcal{S}$  has  $\mathcal{H}_{\mathcal{S}} = \mathbb{C}^2$  is just another spin-1/2 particle; the system's Hamiltonian is given by  $H_{\mathcal{S}} = \lambda_0 \sigma_0^{(3)}$ .

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- ▶ We consider the time evolution unitary  $U$  generated by the Hamiltonian  $H = H_{\mathcal{R}} + K(t) + H_{\mathcal{S}}$  via Schrödinger's equation, where  $K(t) = J_0(t) \left[ \sigma_0^{(1)} \sigma_1^{(1)} + \sigma_0^{(2)} \sigma_1^{(2)} \right]$  is an interaction term.
- ▶ My goal is to look in more detail about how Landauer's bound comes about for this system, especially when the limit  $M \rightarrow \infty$  is considered (recall:  $M$  is number of spin-1/2 particles in the chain).

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