

# Counting equilibria in high-D random systems: from Gaussian landscapes to random ecosystems



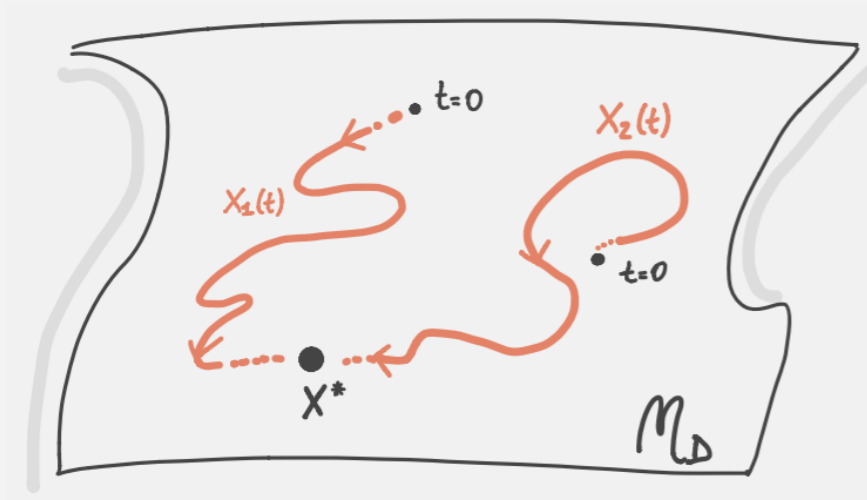
# An introduction

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# Dynamics in high-D: many competing equilibria.

Glasses, proteins, ecosystems (microbiome), neural networks, financial markets: **many components interacting in heterogeneous ( $\rightarrow$  random) way**

- Configuration:  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_D) \in \mathcal{M}_D$ ,  $D \gg 1$
- Dynamics:  $\partial_t x_i(t) = f_i(\mathbf{x}(t), \hat{a}) + \eta_i(t)$        $\hat{a}$  randomness  
 $\langle \eta^2(t) \rangle \propto \beta^{-1}$

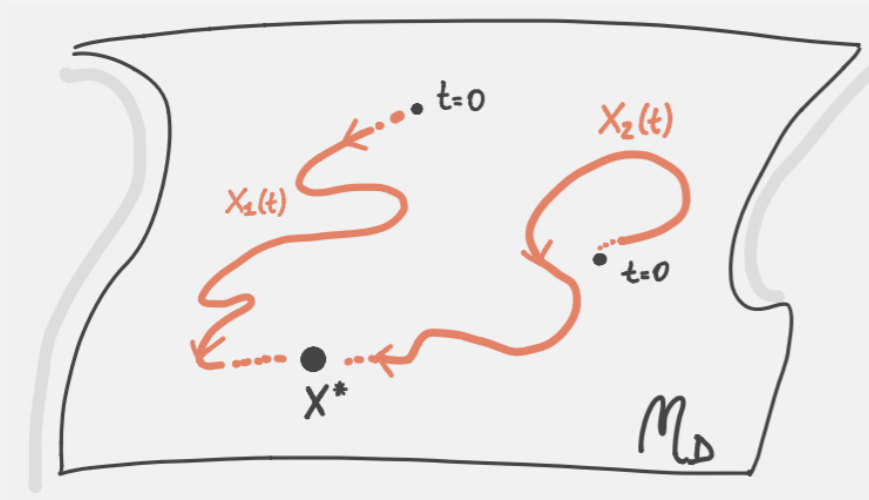


**Equilibria  $\mathbf{x}^*$ :**  $\partial_t x_i^* = f_i(\mathbf{x}^*, \hat{a}) = 0$  for all  $i$

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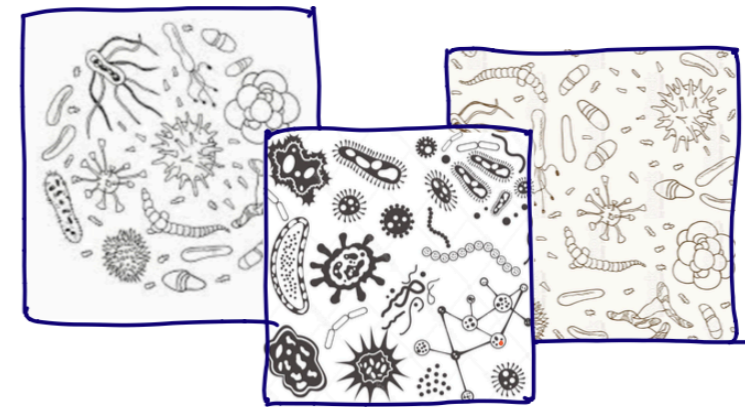
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- (1) High-D & eterogeneous interactions produce “glassiness”: **huge number  $\mathcal{N} \sim e^{D\Sigma}$  of competing, very different equilibria** [ $\Sigma =$  “complexity”]



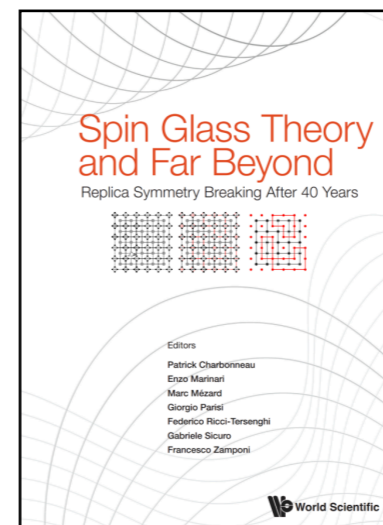
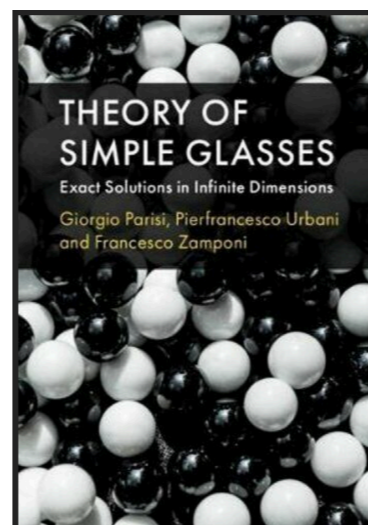
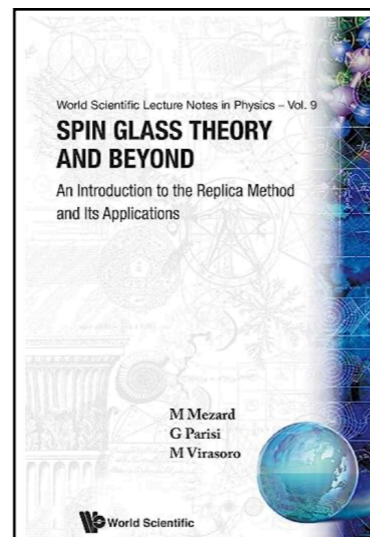
different equilibria with same diversity

- (2) Dynamics with many attractors can be complex: **slow (aging), chaotic, intermittent, with avalanches, activated...**

**Purpose: understand this dynamics quantitatively.**

**Approach: count & classify all equilibria as a function of “typical” properties (e.g. stability). Statistics.**

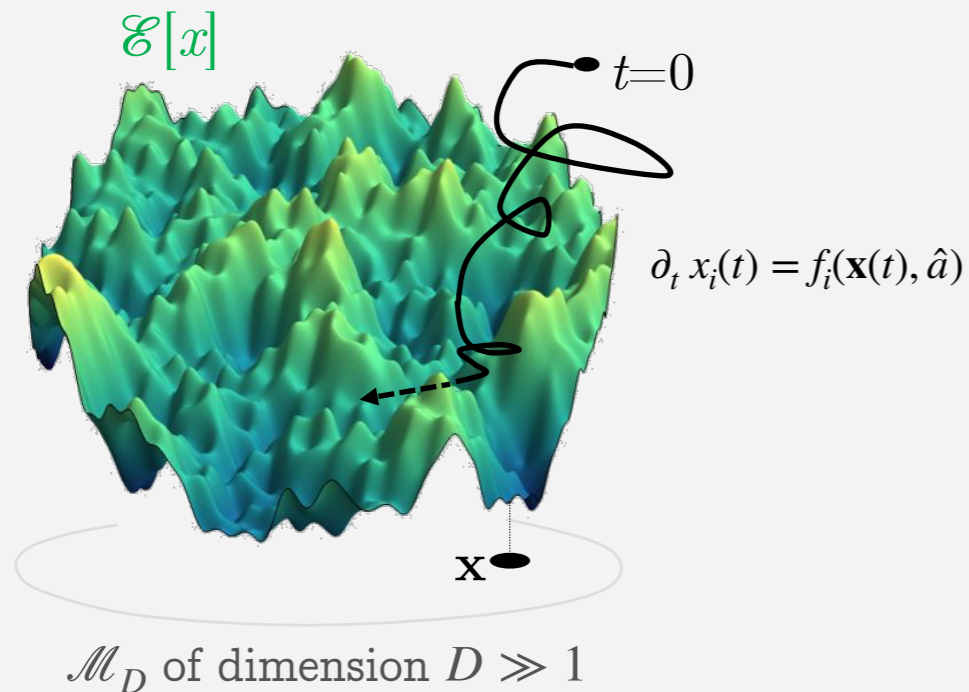
A long history in the field of glasses & spin glasses:



<https://dissyskel.github.io/news/rsb40/>

# The optimization paradigm...

Conservative problems:  $\partial_t x_i = f_i(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\alpha}) = -\partial_{x_i} \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\alpha})$   
 Equilibria are stationary points of **high- $D$  landscape**  $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\alpha})$ .



- ▶ **Fitness landscapes** in evolutionary biology  
 Park, Hwang, Krug JPhysA 53 (2020) [...]
- ▶ **Loss landscapes** in machine (supervised) learning  
 Baskerville et al JPhysA 55 (2022) [...]
- ▶ **Cost landscapes** in inference & constraint satisfaction  
 Fedeli, Fyodorov JSP 175 (2019) [...]

- ▶ **Energy landscapes** in condensed/soft matter, e.g.

$\mathbf{x}$  conf of particles/spins,  $\mathcal{M}_D$  sphere,  $\sum_{i=1}^D x_i^2 = D$

$$\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\alpha}) = \sum_{p=2}^{\infty} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_p} a_{i_1 \dots i_p}^{(p)} x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_p}, \quad \text{with } a_{i_1 \dots i_p}^{(p)} \text{ random}$$

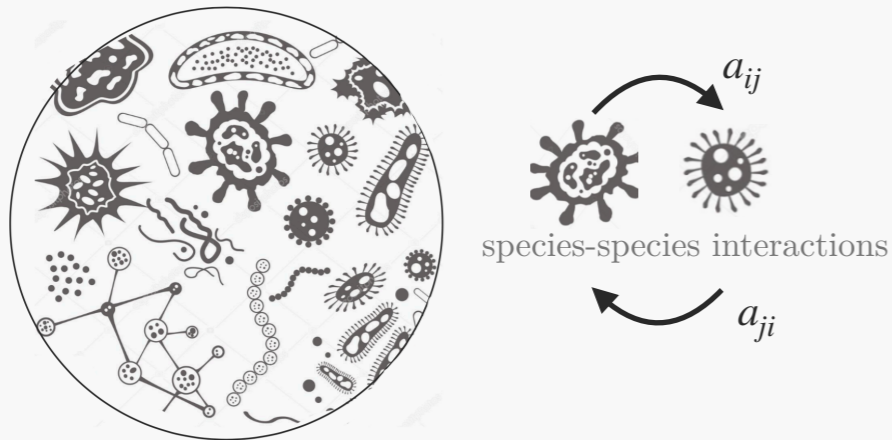
“spherical  $p$ -spin models” ← effective model structural glasses

Kirkpatrick, Thirumalai, Wolynes 1989

Crisanti, Sommers 1992

# ...and beyond: non-reciprocity.

Non-conservative problems:  $\partial_t x_i = f_i(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\alpha}) \neq \partial_i \mathcal{E}$ ,  
because of **non-reciprocal (asymmetric) interactions**.



- ▶ **Interacting neurons** in neuroscience  
Sompolinski, Crisanti, Sommers 1988 [...]
- ▶ **Interacting firms** (or traders, or banks)  
Moran, Bouchaud 2019 [...]
- ▶ **Gene-regulatory networks**  
→ **A. Annibale talk**

- ▶ **Interacting species** in ecology, e.g.

$\mathbf{x}$  species abundance,  $\mathcal{M}_D = \mathbb{R}_+^D$

$$f_i(\mathbf{x}, \hat{\alpha}) = x_i \left( \kappa_i - x_i - \sum_j a_{ij} x_j \right), \text{ with } a_{ij} \neq a_{ji}$$

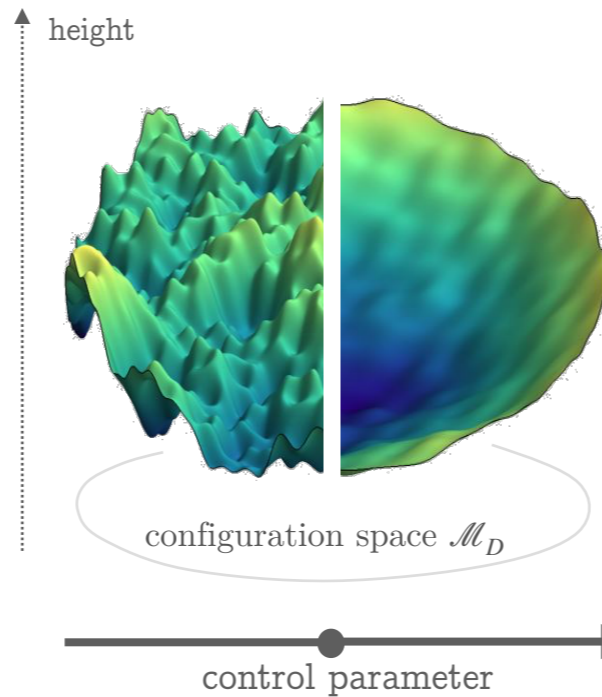
“Generalized random Lotka-Volterra equations”

May 1972

# The program.

## 1. Count

Glassiness or not?  
“Topology trivialization” transitions?



## 2. Classify

How many at a given height,  
or with fixed fraction of  $x_i > c$ ?  
Which are stable or unstable?  
Distribution and connectivity in  
configuration space?

## 3. Link to dynamics

Which attractors trap system at shorter times? At  
longer times? Most probable dynamical paths?  
Aging, activated jumps, chaos?



**An example & two questions.**

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# Simple Gaussian landscapes.

Configuration space  $\mathcal{M}_D$ : sphere  $\sum_{i=1}^D x_i^2 = D$

Gaussian landscape  $\mathcal{E}_p(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_p} a_{i_1 \dots i_p} x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_p} \quad p \geq 3$

Isotropic correlations:  $\langle \mathcal{E}_p(\mathbf{x}) \mathcal{E}_p(\mathbf{x}') \rangle = \frac{D}{2} \left( \frac{\mathbf{x} \cdot \mathbf{x}'}{D} \right)^p$

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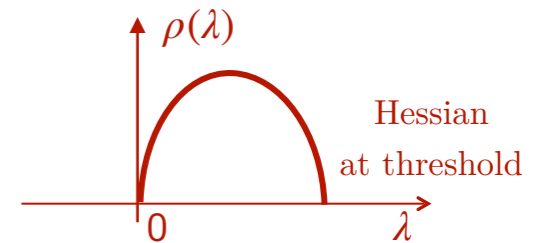
## Count & classify

$\mathcal{N}_k(\epsilon) =$  number of equilibria  $\mathbf{x}^*$  at  $\mathcal{E} = D \epsilon$ .

Quenched complexity  $\Sigma_k(\epsilon) = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle \log \mathcal{N}_k(\epsilon) \rangle}{D}$

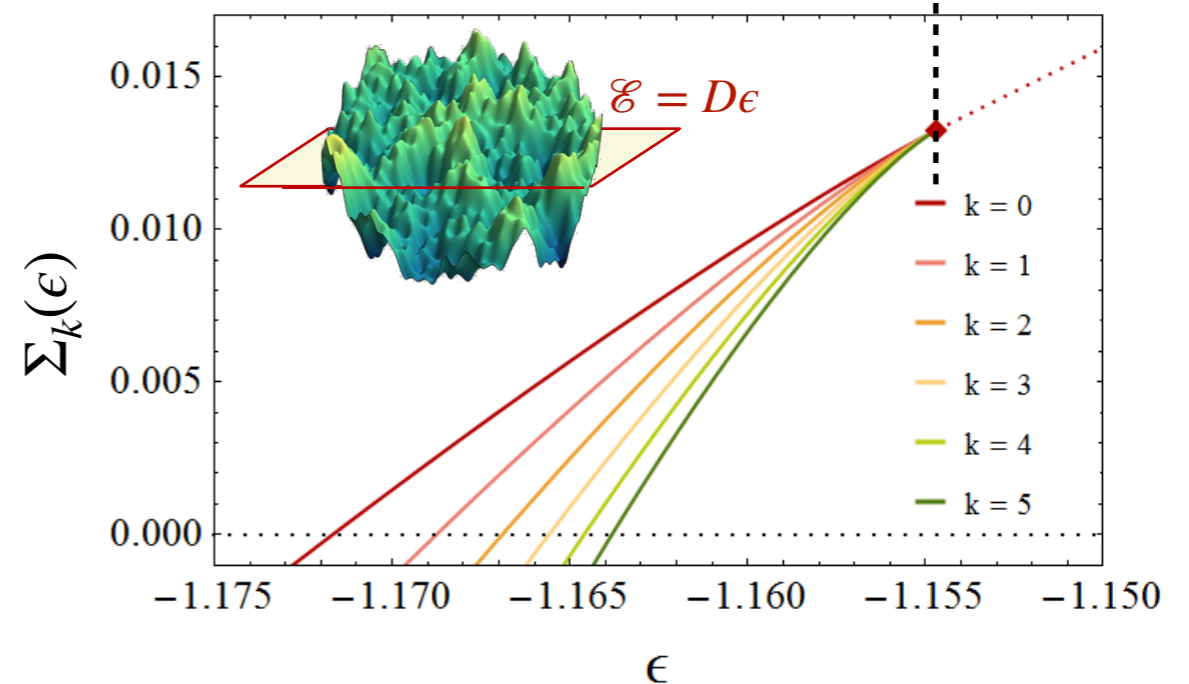
Cavagna, Giardinà, Parisi 1998

Auffinger, Ben Arous, Cerny 2013



Threshold - marginal stability

← exponentially-many minima & low-index saddles      high-index saddles  $k \propto D$  →



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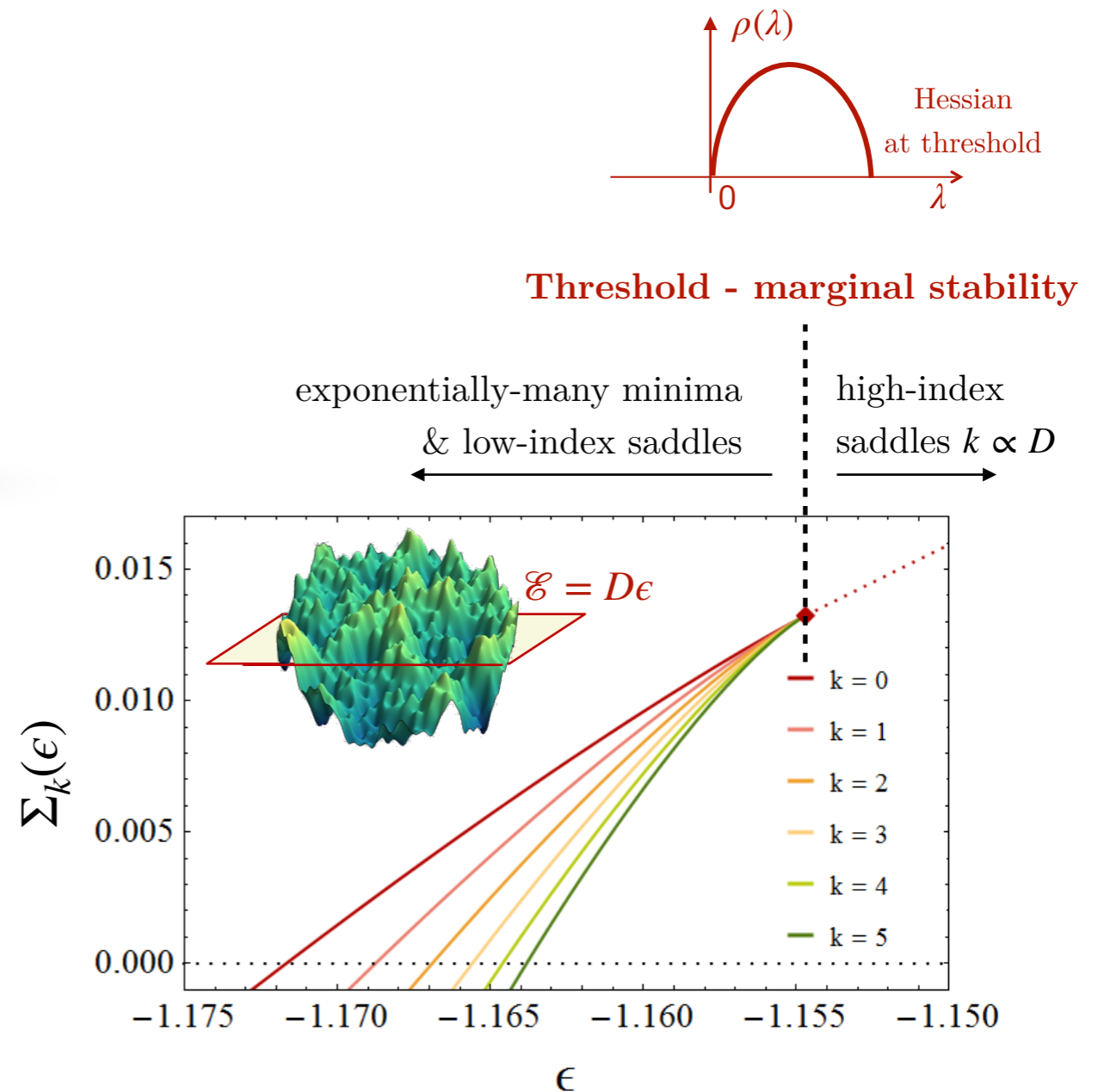
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## Link to dynamics

“Short-time” dynamics  $t \sim O(D^0)$  approaches asymptotically the threshold energy [marginally stable minima] and ages

To explore bottom of the landscape (and eventually equilibrate) need  $t(D) \sim O(e^D)$ : jumps between stable minima.



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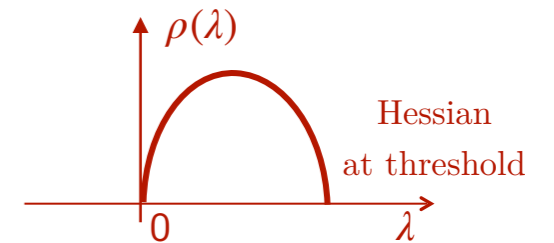
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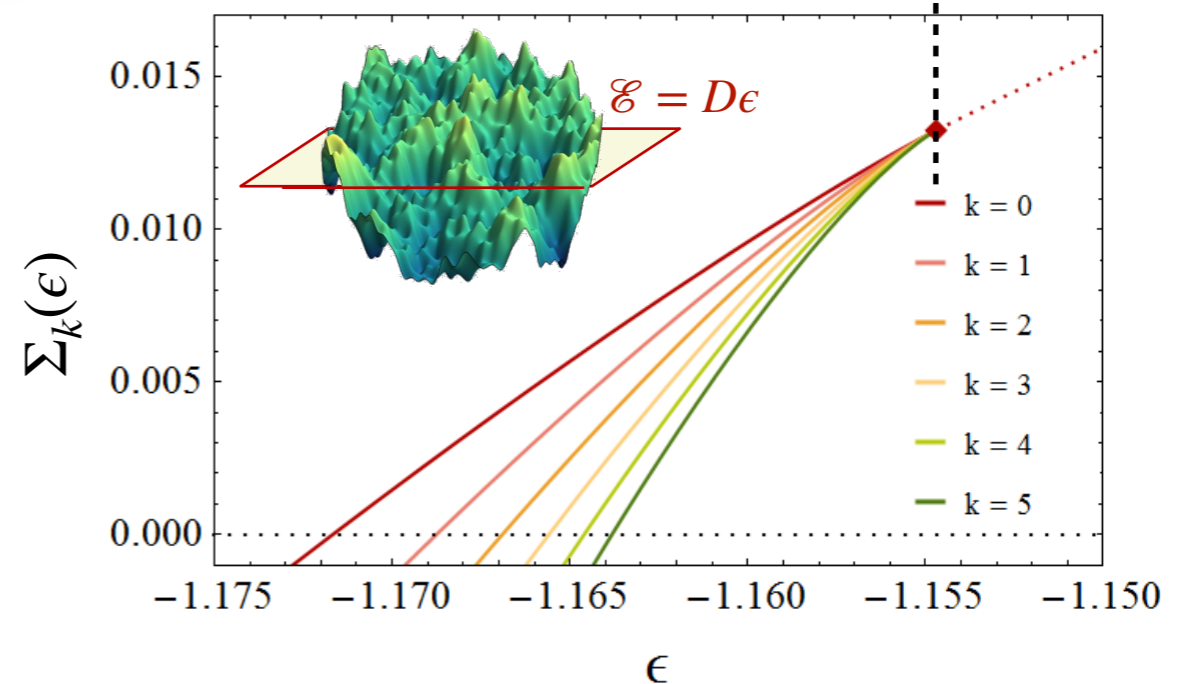
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Threshold - marginal stability

exponentially-many minima  
& low-index saddles

high-index  
saddles  $k \propto D$



The program

# This talk: two questions.

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- Where are unstable attractors, i.e. the saddles?
- What happens when the landscape picture breaks down?

# This talk: outline.

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- Beyond “standard” landscape-based tools
- Direct counting, & how random matrix theory helps
- The two questions: why relevant, what we can say about them

**“Standard” tools & more recent inputs**

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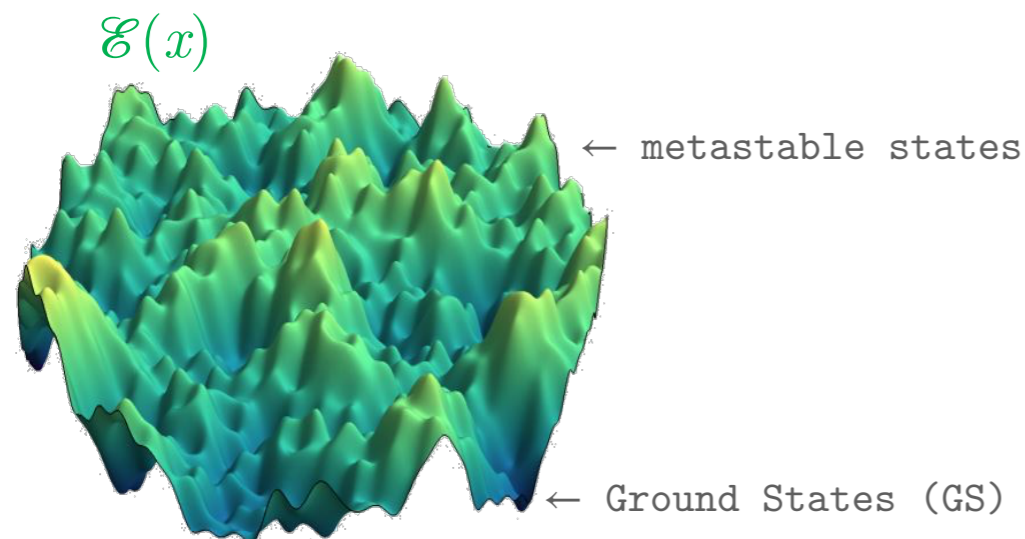


# “Standard” glassy counting techniques.

Standard recipes involve “tweaked” equilibrium calculations [ $\sim$  large deviations]

Franz and Parisi 1995

Monasson 1995



$$\text{Thermodynamics: } \mathcal{Z}_\beta = \int dx e^{-\beta \mathcal{E}(x)}$$

When  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$ , selects deepest minima (GS).

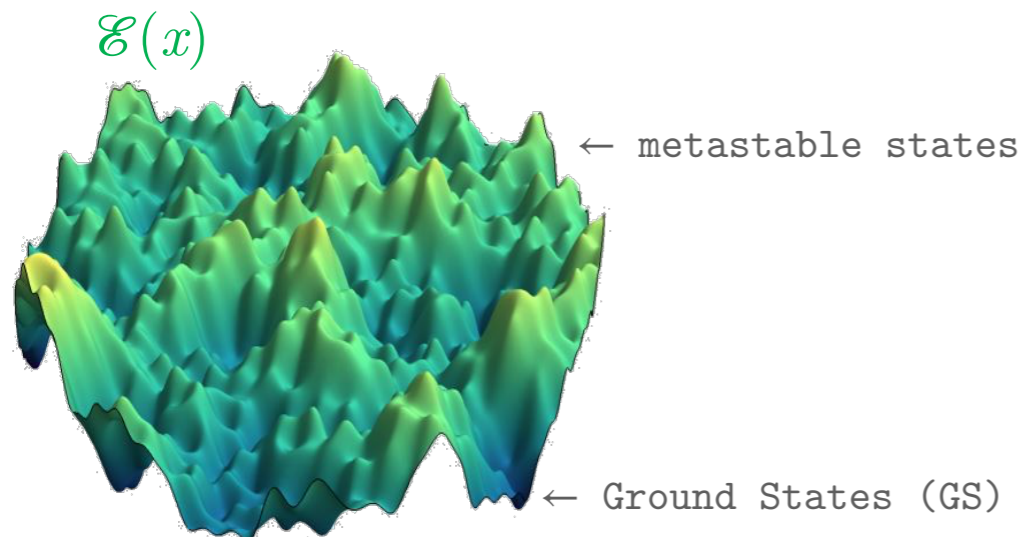
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## The Monasson method

Free energy of  $m$  weakly coupled “real replicas”

$$F(m, \beta) = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty, \epsilon \rightarrow 0} D^{-1} \left\langle \log \left[ \int \prod_{k=1}^m dx^{(i)} e^{-\beta \sum_k \mathcal{E}(x^{(k)}) + \epsilon \sum_{kl} x^{(k)} x^{(l)}} \right] \right\rangle$$

Related to number of metastable states by Legendre transform:  $F(m, \beta) \sim fm - \beta^{-1} D^{-1} \log \mathcal{N}(f, \beta)$

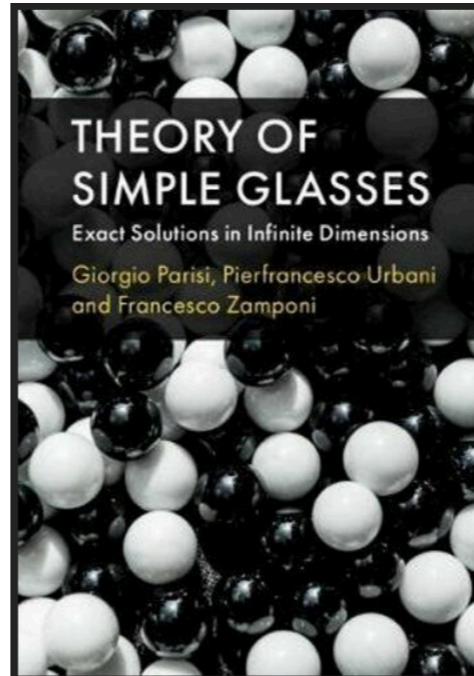
Reconstruct parametrically the complexity  $\Sigma$ :

$$f = \partial_m F(m, \beta) \quad \Sigma = D^{-1} \log \mathcal{N} = m^2 \partial_m \left( \frac{\beta F(m, \beta)}{m} \right)$$

(Take  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$  at the end: free energy  $f \rightarrow$  energy  $\epsilon$ )

Developments: Mueller, Leuzzi, Crisanti 2006

“Standard” glassy counting techniques very insightful.



however:

1. Need a potential function/ energy landscape.
2. Pick up stable (marginally) stationary points, i.e. local minima.

# Another approach: Kac-Rice formula(s).

Number  $\mathcal{N}(\phi)$  of equilibria  $\mathbf{x}^*$  such that  $f(\mathbf{x}^*) = (-\nabla \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x}^*)) = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\Phi(\mathbf{x}^*) = \phi$  (arbitrary constraints)

Random variable with scaling:  $\mathcal{N}(\phi) \sim e^{D\Sigma(\phi)+o(D)}$ .

“Kac-Rice formula”: recipe to compute moments of  $\mathcal{N}(\phi)$

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{N}(\phi)] = \int_{\mathcal{M}_D} d\mathbf{x} \mathcal{P}_{\mathbf{x}}(\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0}) \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{x}} \left[ \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_j} \right) \right| \chi_{\Phi(\mathbf{x})=\phi} \parallel \mathbf{f} = \mathbf{0} \right]$$

Higher moments:

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{N}^n(\phi)] = \int_{\mathcal{M}_D^{\otimes n}} \prod_{m=1}^n d\mathbf{x}^{(m)} \mathcal{P}_{\{\mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}}(\{\mathbf{f}^{(m)} = \mathbf{0}\}) \mathbb{E}_{\{\mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}} \left[ \prod_{m=1}^n \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{x}^{(m)})}{\partial x_j^{(m)}} \right) \right| \chi_{\Phi(\mathbf{x}^{(m)})=\phi} \parallel \{\mathbf{f}^{(m)} = \mathbf{0}\} \right]$$

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Complexity via replica trick:  $\Sigma(\phi) = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}[\log \mathcal{N}(\phi)]}{D} = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{N}^n] - 1}{Dn}$

# The recent input: Random Matrix Theory toolbox.

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{N}^n(\phi)] = \int_{\mathcal{M}_D^{\otimes n}} \prod_{m=1}^n d\mathbf{x}^{(m)} \mathcal{P}_{\{\mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}} \left( \{\mathbf{f}^{(m)} = \mathbf{0}\} \right) \mathbb{E}_{\{\mathbf{x}^{(m)}\}} \left[ \prod_{m=1}^n \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{x}^{(m)})}{\partial x_j^{(m)}} \right) \right| \chi_{\Phi(\mathbf{x}^{(m)})=\phi} \parallel \{\mathbf{f}^{(m)} = \mathbf{0}\} \right] \sim e^{D\Sigma^{(n)} + o(D)}$$

- Since forces  $f_i(\mathbf{x})$  are random, need to control **random matrix field**  $\hat{M}_{ij}[\mathbf{x}] = \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{x})}{\partial x_j}$  Fyodorov (2004)
- Problem of coupled, conditioned random matrices
- Gaussian fields: can characterize the **whole conditional distribution** of matrix field: GOE, weakly deformed by conditioning ( $\rightarrow$  finite rank perturbations)

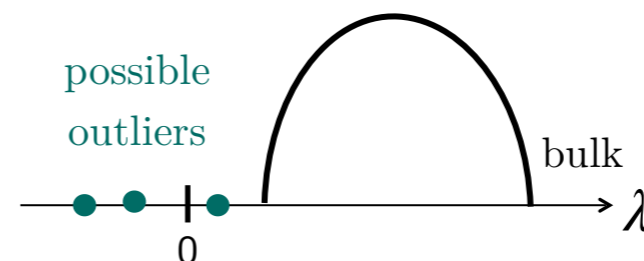
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Stability of equilibria is encoded in the spectrum of matrices.  
 For conservative problems, this is Hessian field  $\hat{M}_{ij}[\mathbf{x}] = \partial_{x_i x_j}^2 \mathcal{E}(\mathbf{x})$

Typical spectrum of the Hessians:



# With replicas, though.

Exponentially-large random quantities  $\mathcal{N} \sim e^{D\Sigma_D+o(D)}$  are typically **not self-averaging**.

$$\Sigma^{(A)} = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{N}]}{D} \qquad \Sigma^{(Q)} = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}[\log \mathcal{N}]}{D} = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{N}^n] - 1}{Dn}$$

By convexity:  $\Sigma^{(A)} \geq \Sigma^{(Q)}$

Results (even rigorous) on annealed complexity via Kac-Rice:

Fyodorov 2005-2021

Ben Arous & Auffinger, 2011-2021

Auffinger, Ben Arous, Černý 2013 – Wainrib & Touboul 2013 – Fyodorov & Khoruzhenko 2016 – Ge & Ma 2017

Ipsen & Forrester 2018 – Ben Arous, Mei, Montanari & Nica 2019 – Maillard, Ben Arous, Biroli 2020

Ben Arous, Fyodorov, Khoruzhenko 2020

**Lacroix-A-Chez-Toine & Fyodorov 2022**

**Lacroix-A-Chez-Toine, Fyodorov, Fedeli 2023**

[...]

**“Replicated Kac-Rice”** for quenched complexity.

Three ingredients: **isotropy** (rotational symmetry), **Gaussianity**, **concentration** (of Hessian, e.g.  $\rho_D(\lambda)$ )

VR, Ben Arous, Biroli, Cammarota – Physical Review X 9 (2019)



# Gaussianity, Isotropy, Concentration.

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{N}^n(\phi)] = \int_{\mathcal{M}_D^{\otimes n}} \prod_{a=1}^n d\mathbf{x}^{(a)} \mathcal{P}_{\{\mathbf{x}^{(a)}\}} \left( \{\mathbf{f}^{(a)} = \mathbf{0}\} \right) \mathbb{E}_{\{\mathbf{x}^{(a)}\}} \left[ \prod_{a=1}^n \left| \det \left( \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{x}^{(a)})}{\partial x_j^{(a)}} \right) \right| \chi_{\Phi(\mathbf{x}^{(a)})=\phi} \parallel \{\mathbf{f}^{(a)} = \mathbf{0}\} \right] \sim e^{D\Sigma^{(n)}+o(D)}$$

## Gaussianity

- ▶ All determined by covariances, can be computed explicitly

$$C_{ij,kl}^{ab} = \left\langle \frac{\partial f_i(\mathbf{x}^{(a)})}{\partial x_j^{(a)}} \frac{\partial f_k(\mathbf{x}^{(b)})}{\partial x_l^{(b)}} \right\rangle_c$$

- ▶ Can treat explicitly conditioning to  $\mathbf{f}^{(a)} = \mathbf{0}, \Phi(\mathbf{x}^{(a)}) = \phi$

→ finite rank perturbations

## Isotropy

- ▶ Joint distributions depend only on order parameters

$$Q^{ab} = D^{-1} \mathbf{x}^{(a)} \cdot \mathbf{x}^{(b)}, \quad m^a = D^{-1} \mathbf{x}^{(a)} \cdot \mathbf{1}$$

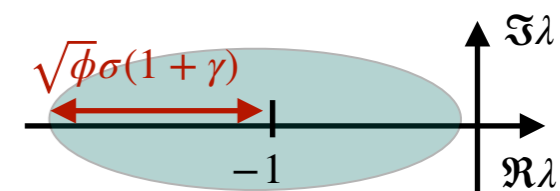
$$\int_{\mathcal{M}_D^{\otimes n}} \prod_{a=1}^n d\mathbf{x}^{(a)} \rightarrow \int \prod_{a,b=1}^n dQ^{ab}$$

- ▶ Invariant statistics of random matrices: GOE, elliptic,...

## Concentration

- ▶ Low-rank perturbations do not affect  $\rho(\lambda)$  at leading order

supp[ $\rho(\lambda)$ ] — evalue density of  $M$

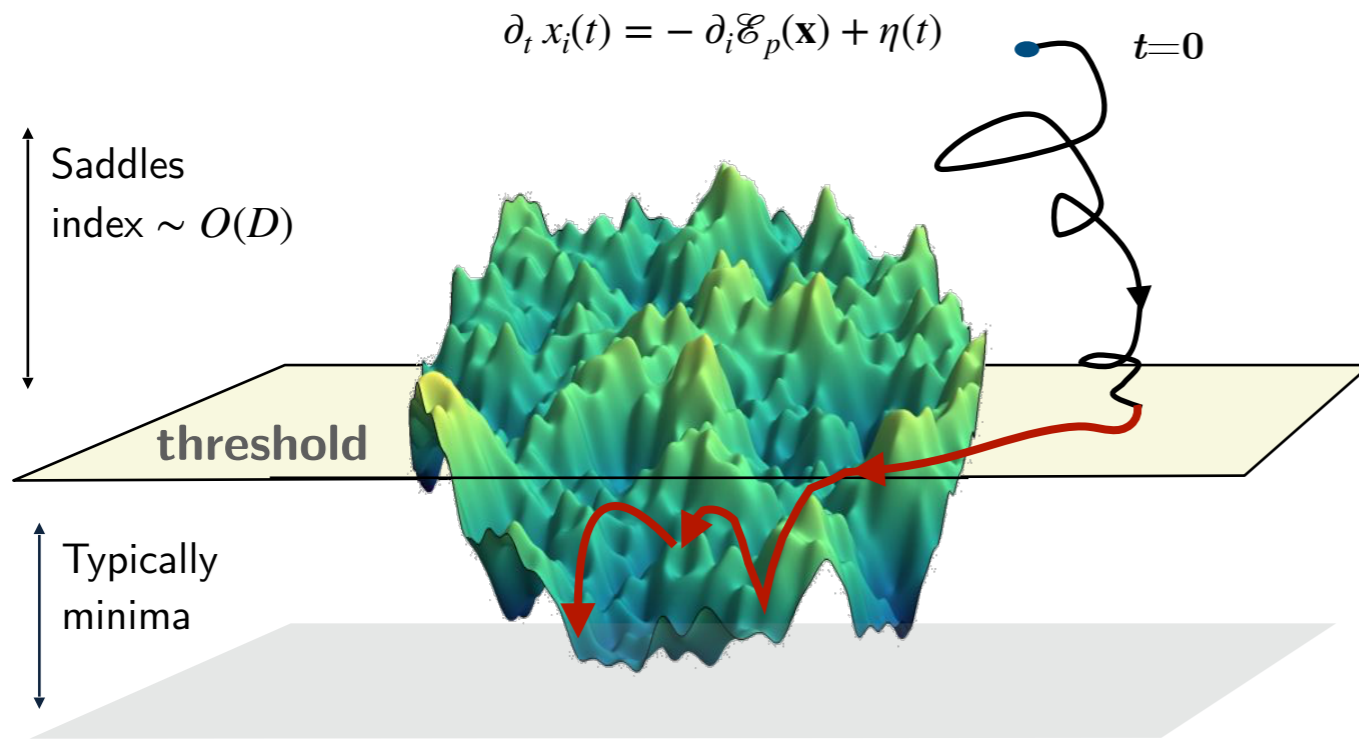


- ▶ Variational problem: self-consistent equations for  $Q^{ab}, m^a$ .

**Question 1: where are the unstable attractors?**

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# Motivation: activated dynamics.



Descent + aging at threshold

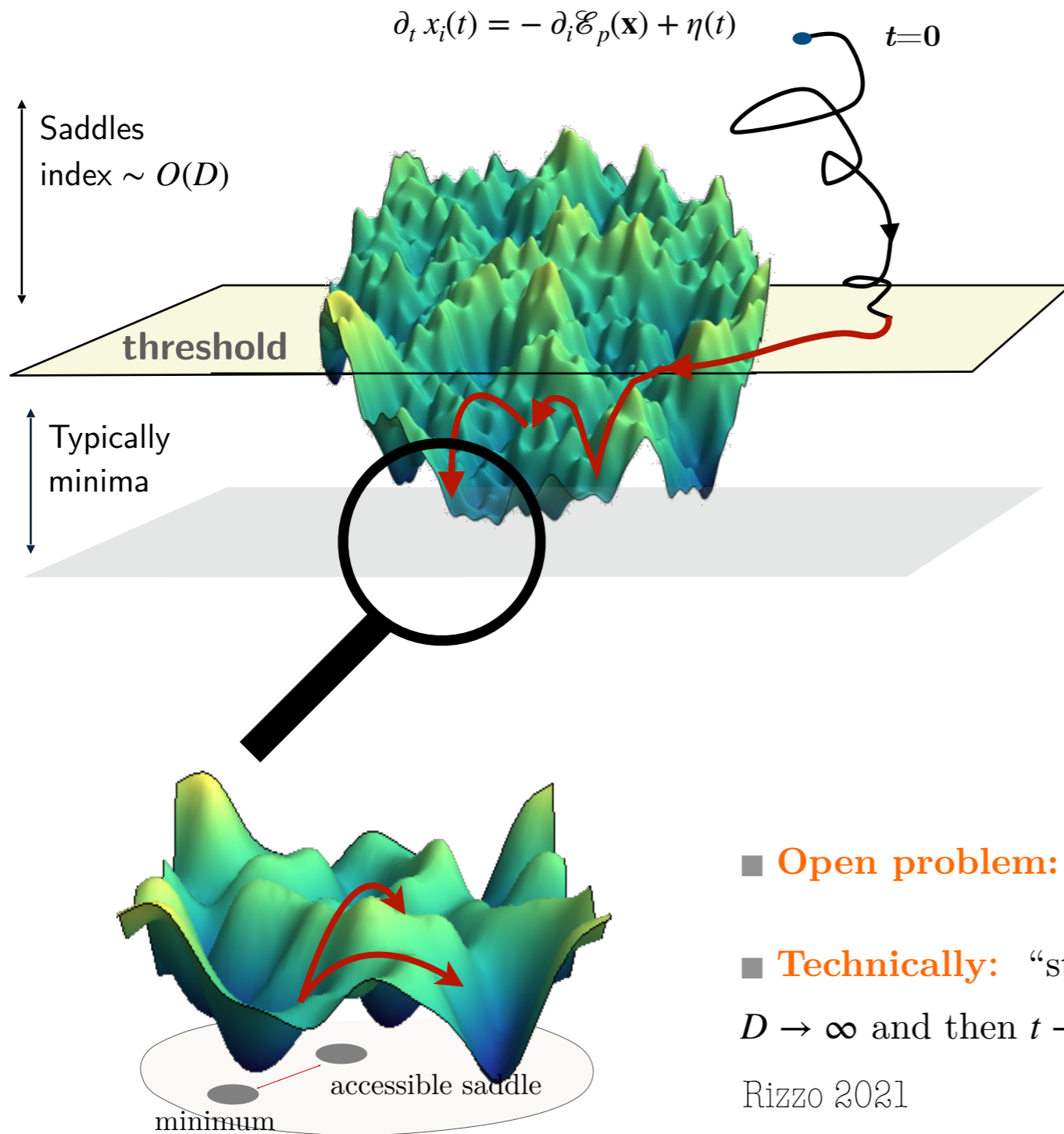
$t \gg 1$  but  $t \neq O(D)$

Described by mean-field dynamical  
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**Activated dynamics: jumps  
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$\tau_{\text{jump}} \sim O(e^{D\Delta\epsilon})$ ,  $\Delta\epsilon = \text{energy barrier}$

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**Activated dynamics: jumps between minima, crossing barriers**  
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- **Open problem:** dynamical theory for activated regime
- **Technically:** “standard” mean-field description obtained taking  $D \rightarrow \infty$  and then  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . Here we need  $t \sim e^{D\tau} \rightarrow \infty$ : HARD!

Rizzo 2021

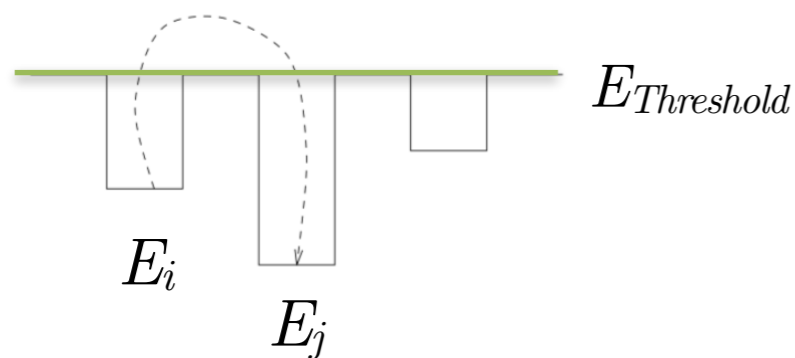
# Trap models & beyond.

## The Trap model paradigm

Random walk between  $e^{\alpha N}$  traps of random depth via climbing up to fixed level  $E_{Threshold}$

Bouchaud 1992

Dyre 1987



○ Transition prob.  $P(E_i \rightarrow E_j) \propto e^{-\beta(E_{Th}-E_i)}$

○ Fully connected & renewal

Captures long-time dynamics (Metropolis) of **Random Energy Model** — no correlations in the landscape

Gayraud 2017

■ **Dynamical approach.** Beyond fully-connected: trap model on random networks.

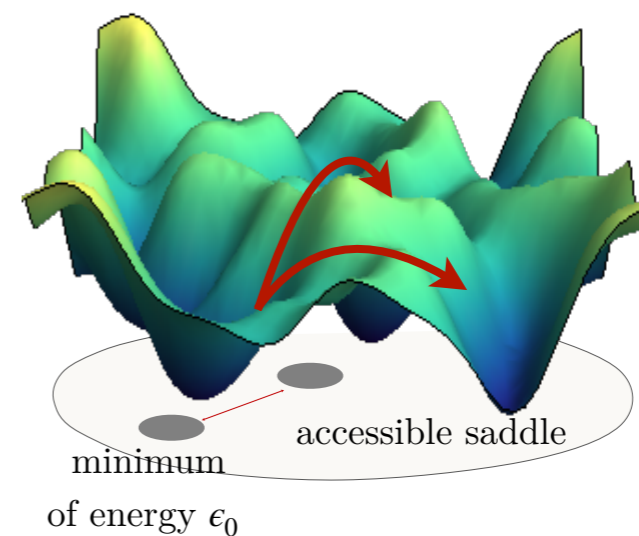
Margiotta, Kuhn, Sollich 2019

Tapias, Paprotzki, Sollich 2023

→ **P. Sollich talk**

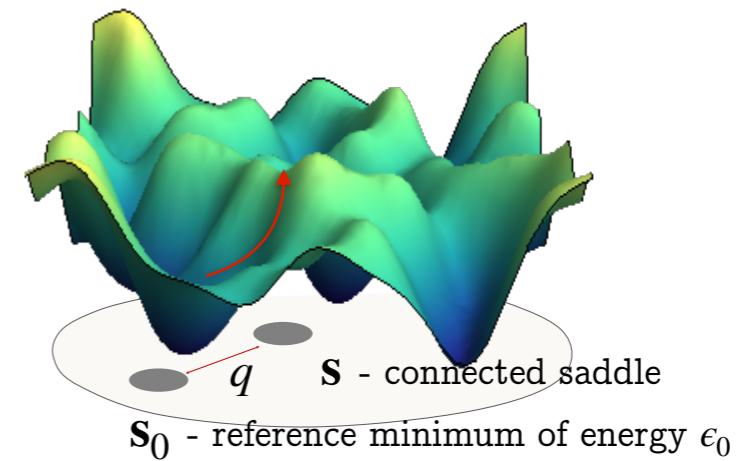
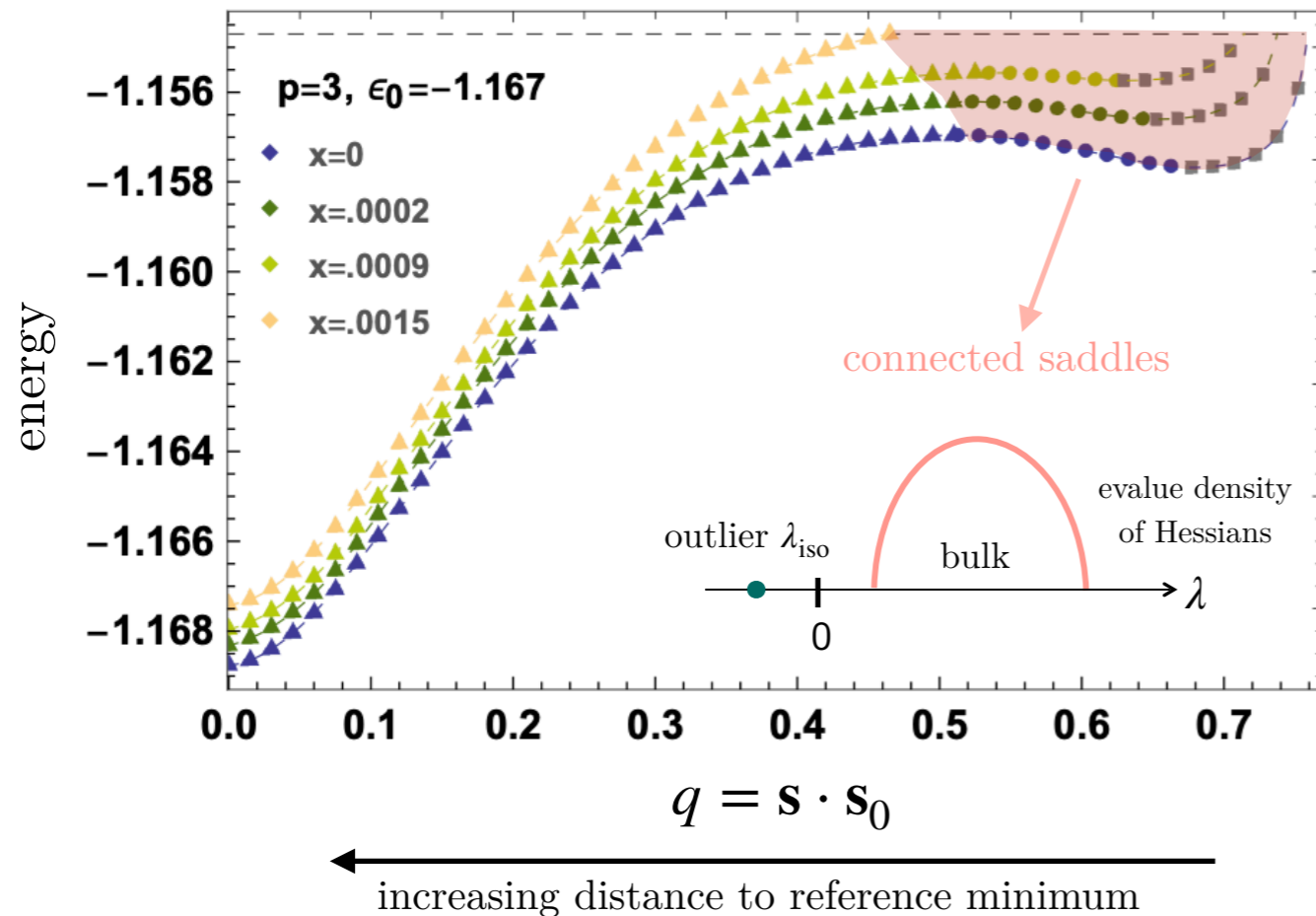
■ **Landscape approach.**  $p$ -spin: a landscape with statistical correlations. Which saddles can be used to escape from one particular minimum?

- Barriers: how high system needs to climb up  $\tau \sim e^{N\Delta\epsilon}$
- Connectivity: which part of conf. space accessible afterwards
- Dependence on energy of departing trap  $\epsilon_0$ ?



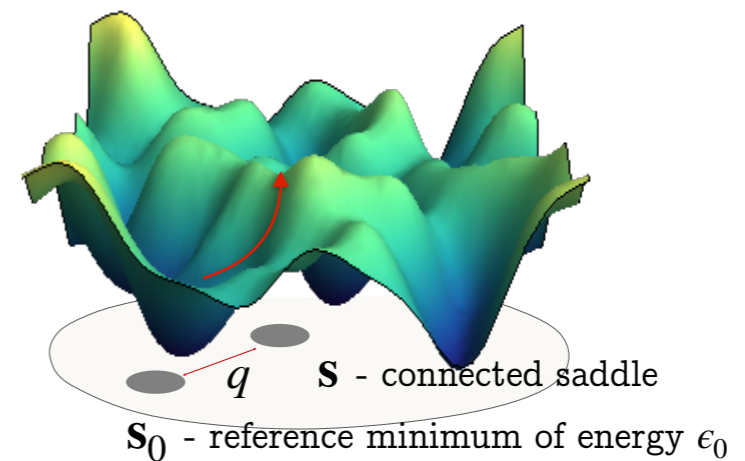
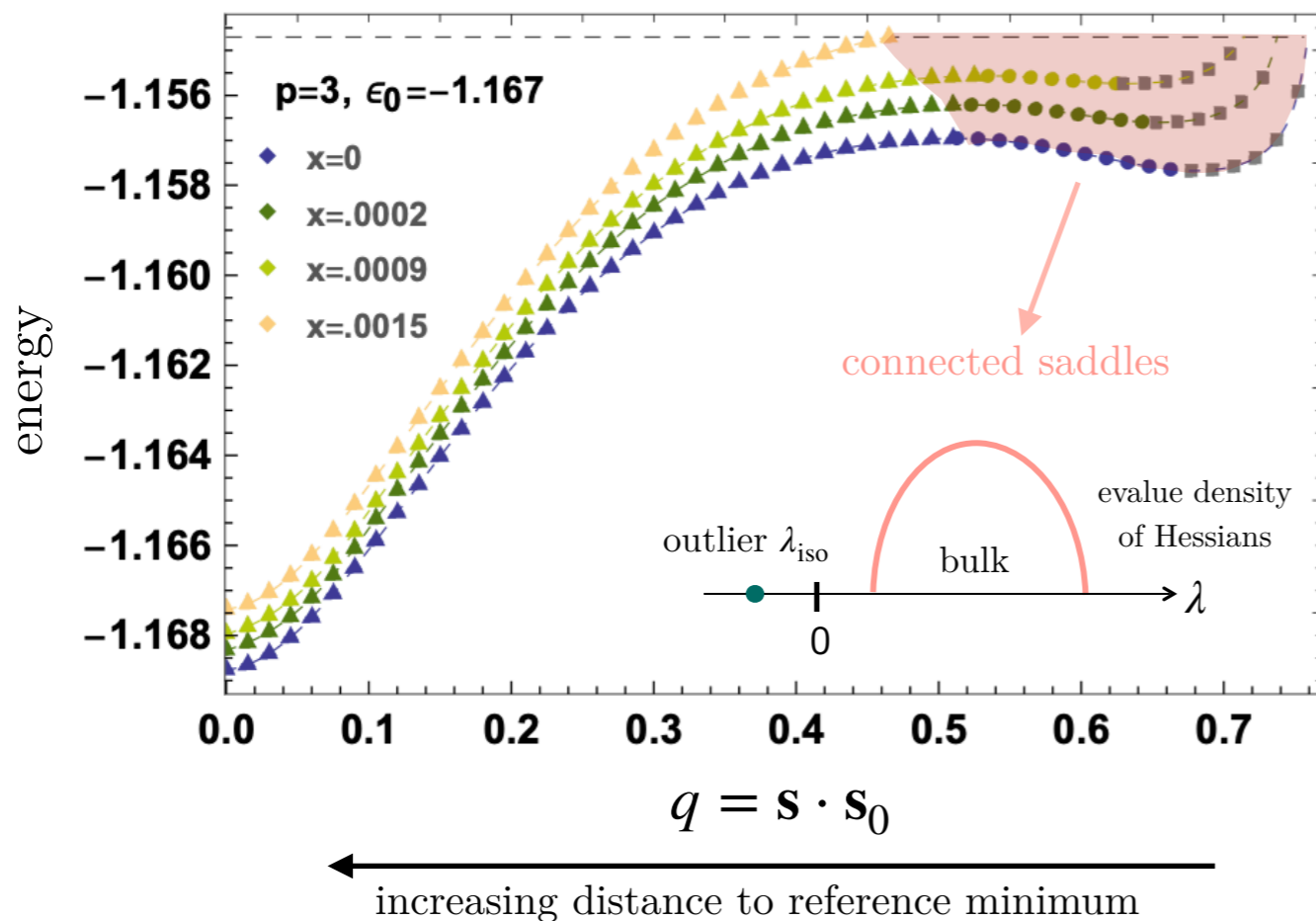
# The distribution of energy barriers.

■ Doubly-constrained complexity  $\Sigma_1(\epsilon; q, \epsilon_0) = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle \log \mathcal{N}_{k=1}(\epsilon; q, \epsilon_0) \rangle}{D}$ : index-1 saddles, in given region



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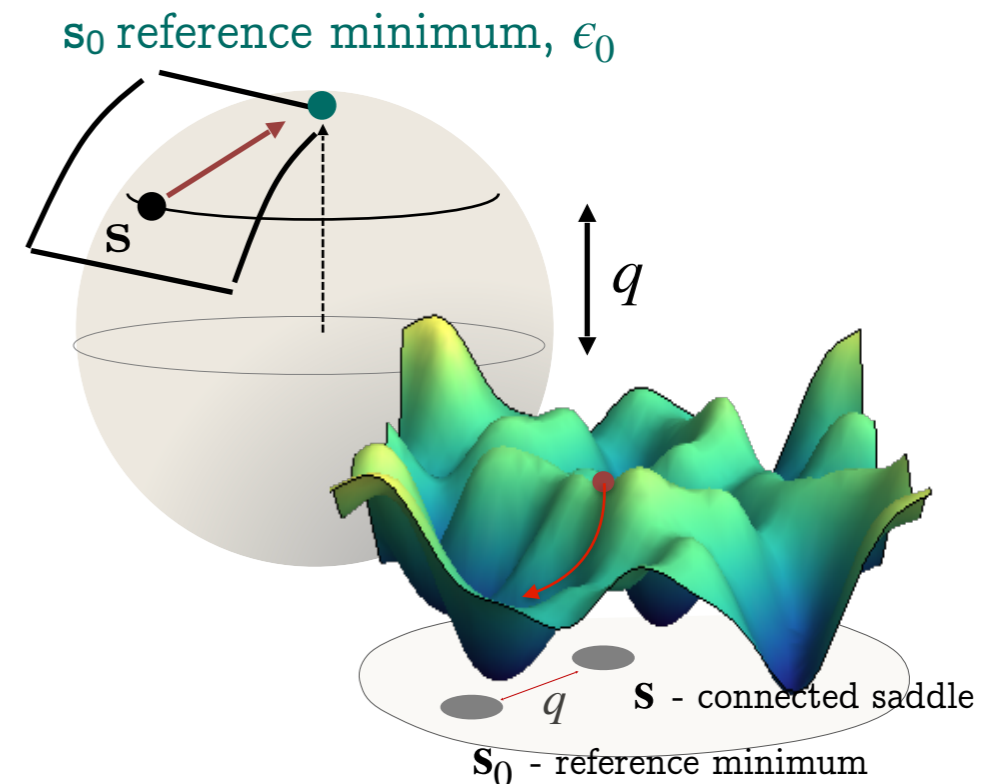
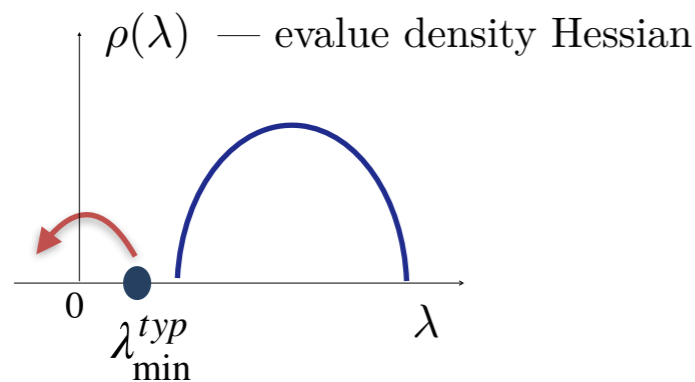


- Give access to **statistics of energy barriers** → **distribution of escape times** in activated dynamics
  - Optimal barrier  $\Delta E = D(\epsilon^* - \epsilon_0)$  is non-linear in  $\epsilon_0$  — unlike Bouchaud trap-model
  - Deepest minima have larger convex surrounding  $1 - q^*(\epsilon_0)$

# Underlying RM problem: large deviations of top eigenpair.

■ Issue: saddles are subleading:  $\Sigma_{\text{saddles}} < \Sigma_{\text{minima}}$ .

When targeting & counting saddles, need to condition explicitly on **unstable modes of Hessian**.



■ **Joint large deviations** of smallest Hessian eigenvalue & projection of eigenvector  $\mathbf{u}$  in direction  $\hat{\mathbf{e}}$  of reference minimum  $u = |\mathbf{u} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{e}}|$

$$\mathbb{P}(\lambda_{\min} = \lambda, u_{\min} = u) = e^{-DG(\lambda, u) + o(D)}$$

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \mathbf{B}^a \\ m_{1N-1}^a \cdots m_{N-2N-1}^a \quad m_{N-1N-1}^a + \mu_a \end{array} \right)$$



## Question 2: when there is no landscape?

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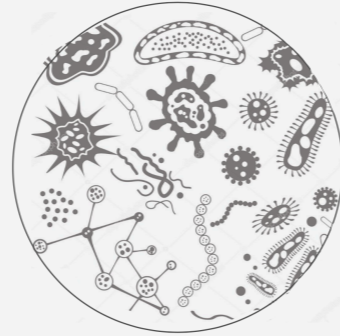
*p*-spin with non conservative forces: Cugliandolo, Kurchan, Le Doussal, Peliti 1997

# Motivation: dynamics of complex ecosystems.

**rGLVE** - random Generalized Lotka-Volterra equations

$x_i(t)$  = abundance of species  $i = 1, \dots, D$

$$\frac{dx_i(t)}{dt} = x_i(t) \left( \kappa_i - x_i(t) - \sum_{j=1}^D \alpha_{ij} x_j(t) \right)$$



Fyodorov, Khoruzhenko 2016

Bunin 2017

Galla 2018

- ▶ Carrying capacity  $\kappa_i$  ( $\equiv \kappa = 1$ )
- ▶ Self-regulation (quadratic term)
- ▶ Random pairwise interactions

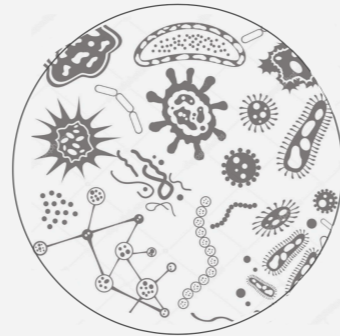
$$\langle \alpha_{ij} \rangle = \frac{\mu}{D} \quad \text{Var}(\alpha_{ij} \alpha_{kl}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{D} (\delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} + \gamma \delta_{il} \delta_{jk})$$

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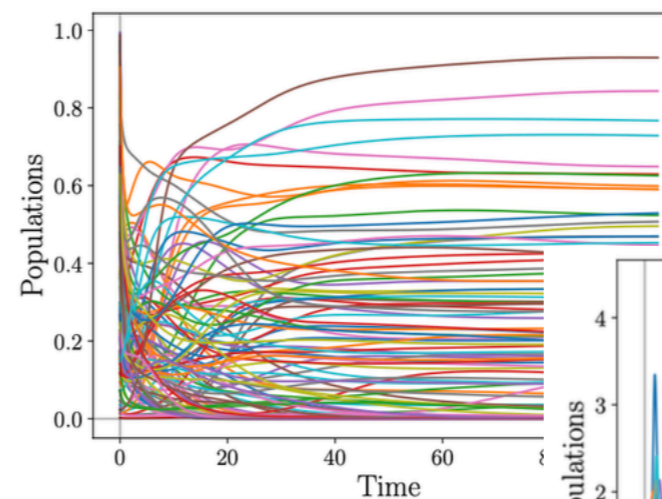
Multiple equilibria for  $\sigma > \sigma_c = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{1 + \gamma}$ . Rieger 1989

■ Symmetric interactions ( $\gamma = 1$ ) is a spin glass model: dynamics approaches *marginally stable minima*

Biroli, Bunin, Cammarota 2018

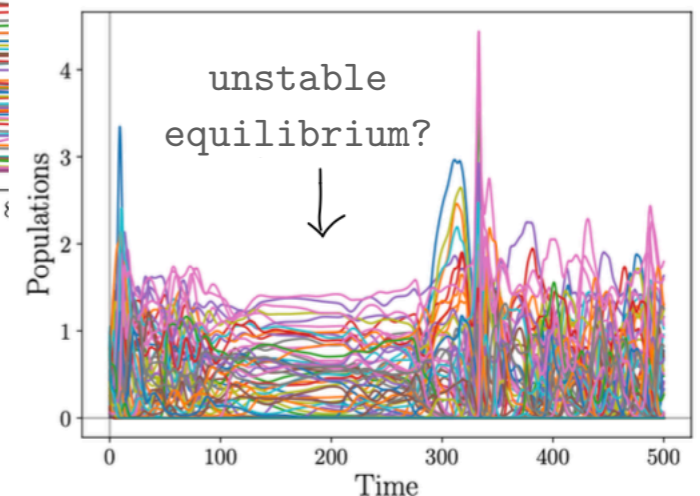
■ Asymmetric interactions ( $\gamma < 1$ ): properties of equilibria? Which attract dynamics, if any? Arnoulx de Pirey, Bunin 2023

Dynamics  $\sigma$  small



Simulations by F. Roy, 2019

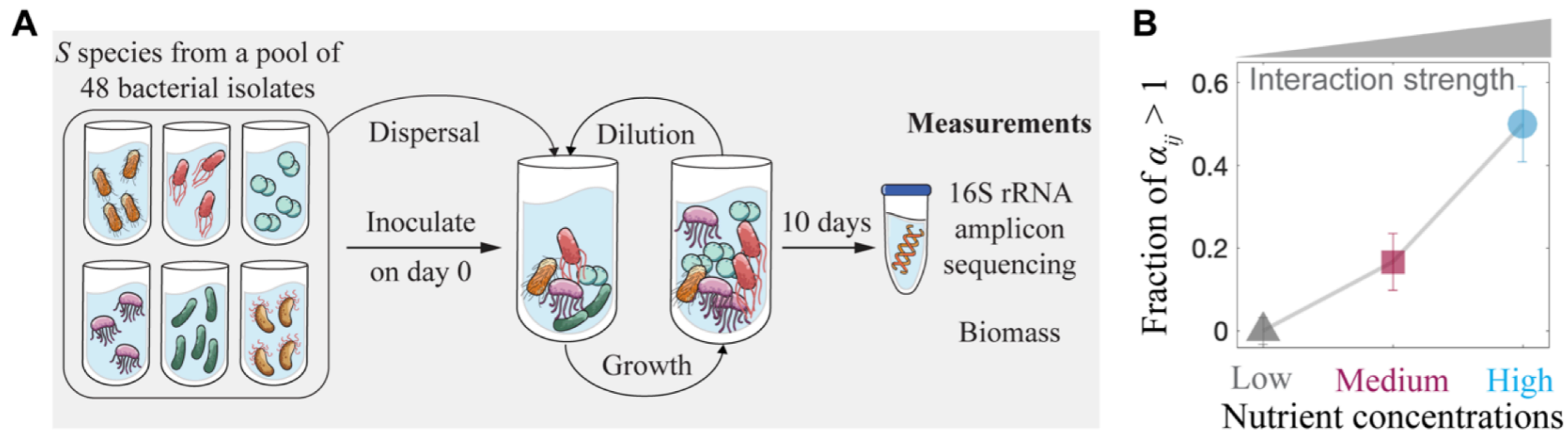
Dynamics  $\sigma$  large



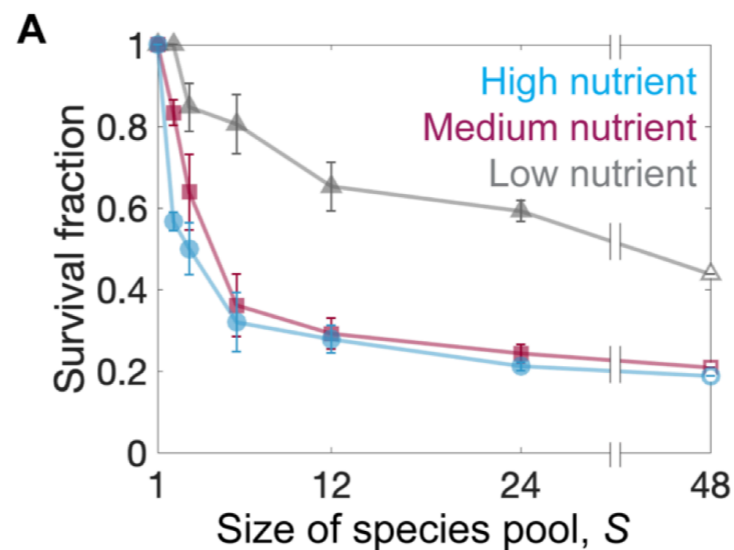
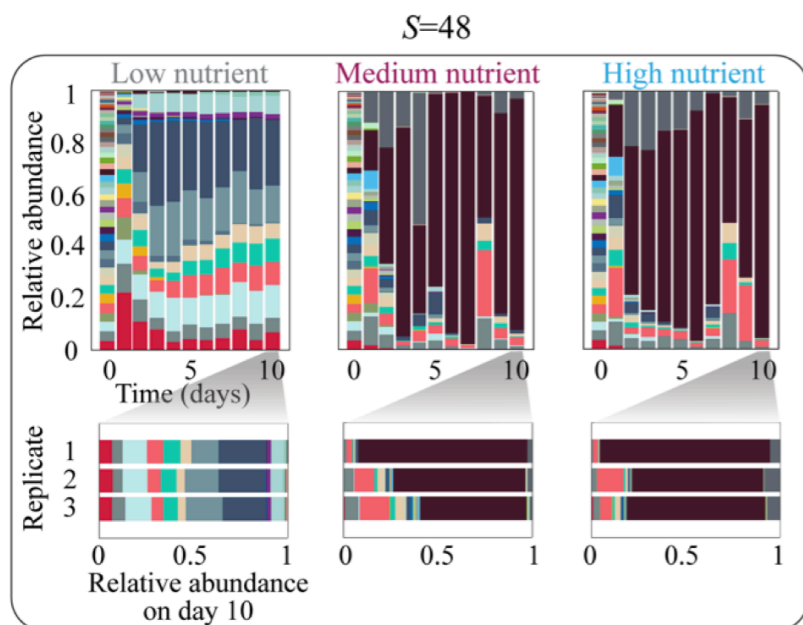
# Well-mixed ecosystems in the lab.

## Emergent phases of ecological diversity and dynamics mapped in microcosms

JILIANG HU <sup>iD</sup>, DANIEL R. AMOR <sup>iD</sup>, MATTHIEU BARBIER <sup>iD</sup>, GUY BUNIN <sup>iD</sup>, AND JEFF GORE <sup>iD</sup> [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)



Knobs: community size  $S$  and average strength  $\mu$



→ Diversity  $\phi$

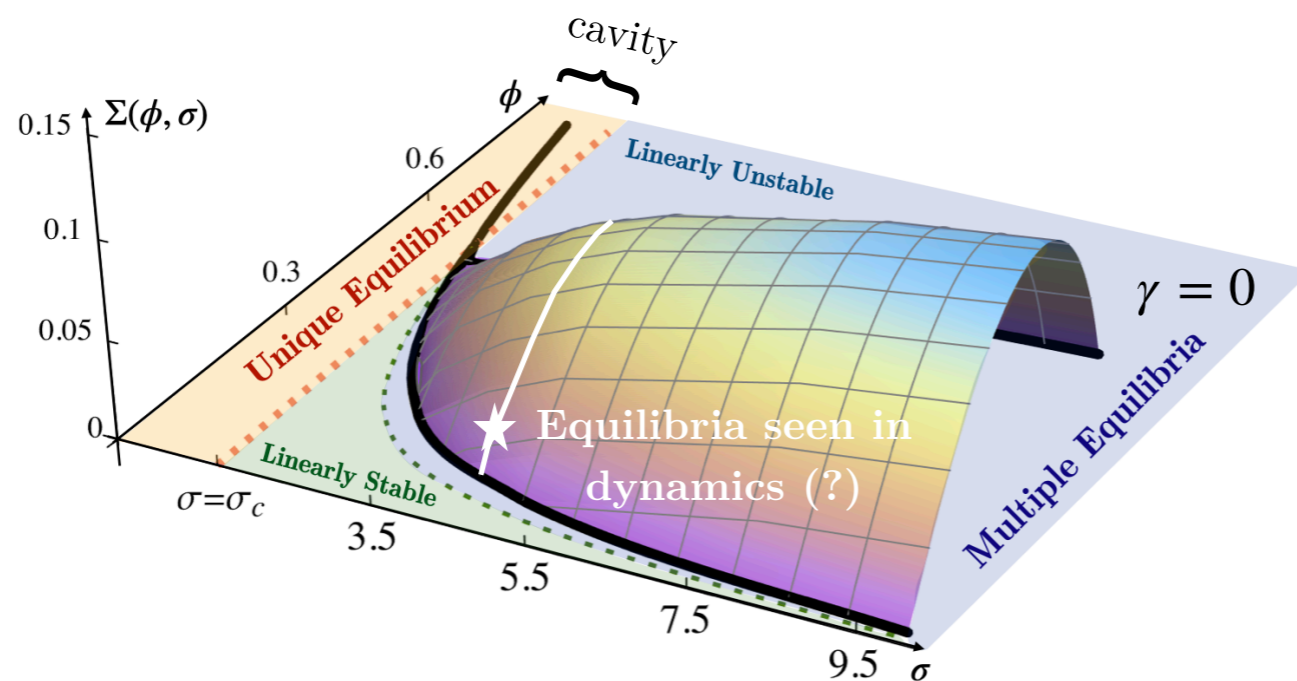
# Multiple equilibria phase: diversities, (in)stability. Chaos?

- $\Sigma(\phi, \sigma) = \lim_{D \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\langle \log \mathcal{N}(\phi, \sigma) \rangle}{D}$  complexity of equilibria at fixed diversity  $\phi = \frac{1}{D} \sum_{i=1}^D 1_{x_i^* > 0}$
- Give **range of diversity accessible for dynamics** ← not fixed by marginality as for  $\gamma = 1$
- All equilibria are **unstable: no marginality → chaotic dynamics, positive Lyapunov?**

Sompolinsky, Crisanti, Sommers 1988

Wainrib, Toboul 2013

Blumenthal, Rocks, Mehta 2023

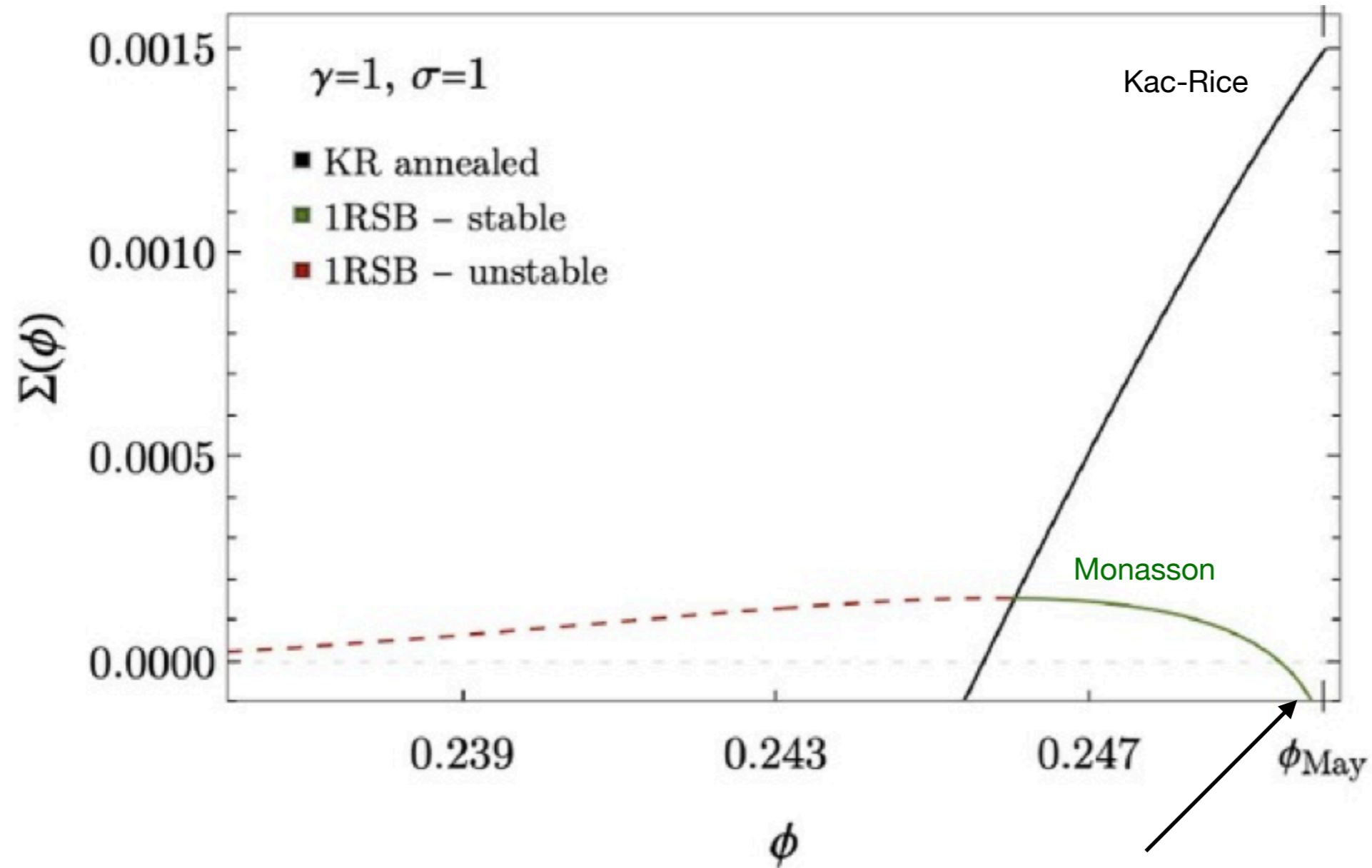


**For details:** VR, Roy, Biroli, Bunin & Turner, PRL 130, 257401 (2023)

VR, Roy, Biroli, Bunin, J. Phys. A 56, 305003 (2023)

**General  $\gamma$ :** ongoing (with A. Pocco)

# Back to “standard” counting: a comparison



$$\phi_{1\text{RSB}} = 0.2494$$

estimate of diversity at the GS  
(fullRSB needed)

**For details:** VR, Roy, Biroli, Bunin & Turner, PRL 130, 257401 (2023)

VR, Roy, Biroli, Bunin, J. Phys. A 56, 305003 (2023)

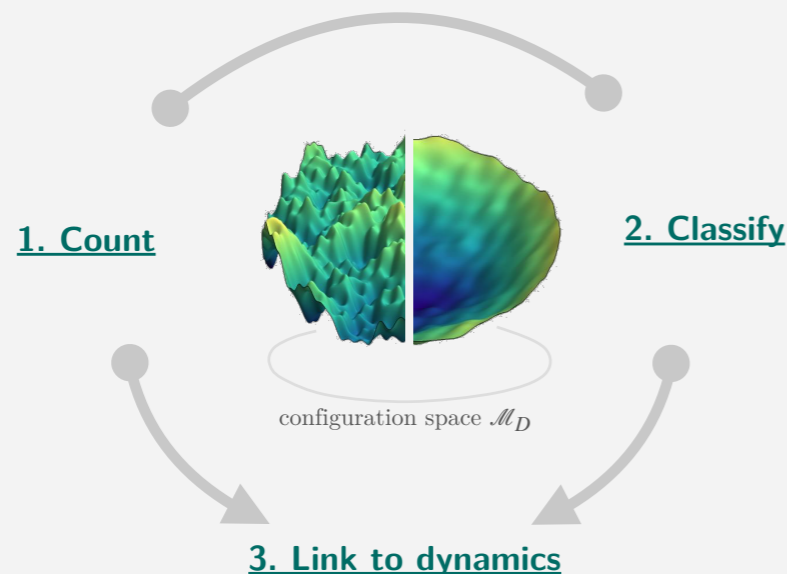
# Summary.

■ Multiple competing dynamical attractors/stationary points is key feature of complex (glassy) systems.

■ Characterizing their distribution is relevant for:

→ **dynamics beyond mean-field (activated)**

→ **chaos (instability) vs aging (marginality)....**



■ Recent formalism (Kac-Rice) lead to interesting problems in **Random Matrix Theory.**

A review:

VR, Fyodorov – The high-d landscapes paradigm: spin-glasses, and beyond (2023)

Saddles & activation:

VR – Distribution of rare saddles in the p-spin energy landscape (2020)

VR, Biroli, Cammarota – Complexity of energy barriers in mean-field glassy systems (2019)

Ecosystems equilibria:

VR, Roy, Biroli, Bunin, Turner – Generalized Lotka-Volterra equations with random, non-reciprocal interactions: the typical number of equilibria (2023)

VR, Roy, Biroli, Bunin – Quenched complexity of equilibria for asymmetric Generalized Lotka-Volterra equations (2023)

