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# THERMODYNAMIC UNCERTAINTY RELATIONS FROM FLUCTUATION THEOREMS

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Quantum Thermodynamics for Young Scientists

Bad Honnef, Feb 06, 2020



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# Summary

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André M. Timpanaro, Giacomo Guarnieri, John Goold, GTL,  
“**Thermodynamic uncertainty relations from exchange fluctuation theorems**”.  
*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **123**, 090604 (2019) (arXiv 1904.07574)

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# Why entropy production matters

- 1st and 2nd laws for a system coupled to two baths:

$$\frac{dU}{dt} = \dot{Q}_h + \dot{Q}_c + \dot{W} = 0$$

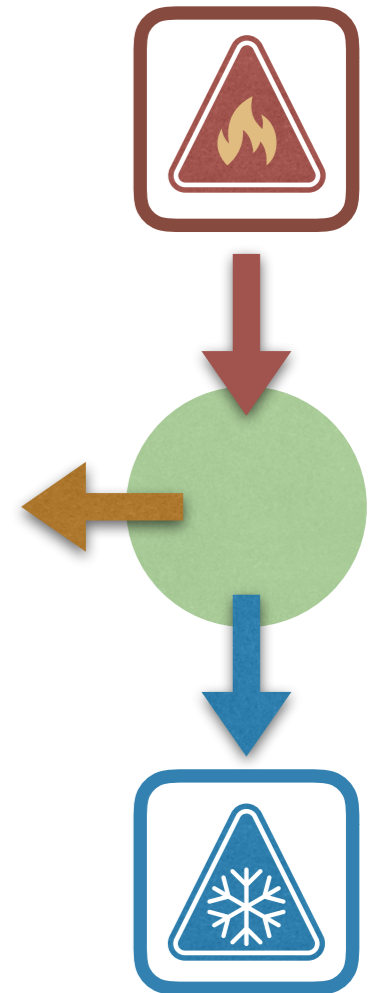
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \dot{\Sigma} + \frac{\dot{Q}_h}{T_h} + \frac{\dot{Q}_c}{T_c} = 0$$

- The efficiency of the engine may then be written as

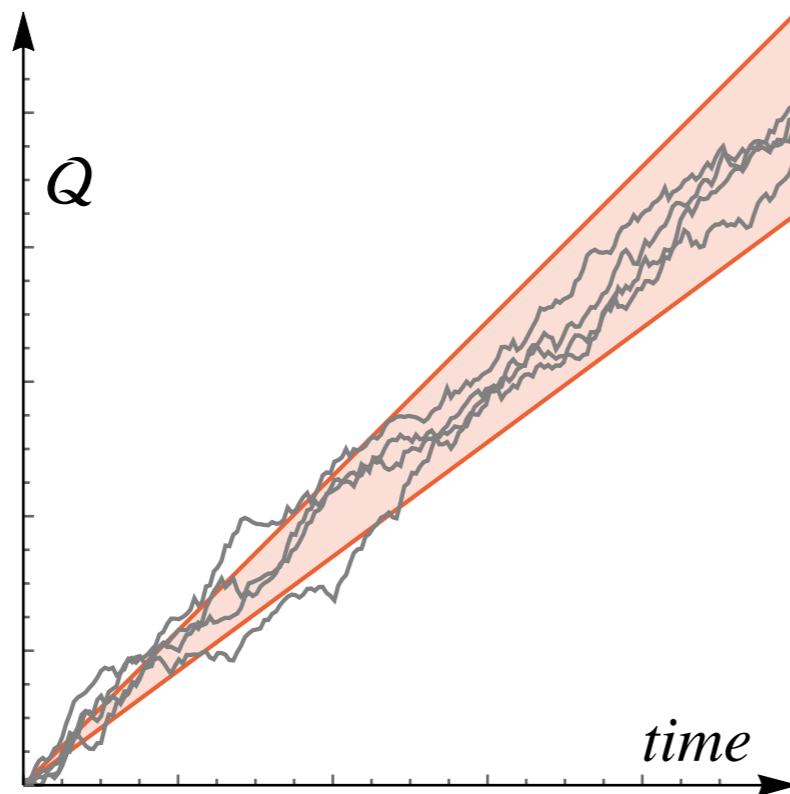
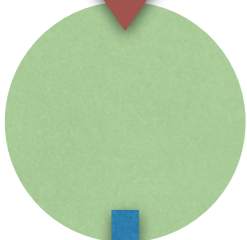
$$\eta = -\frac{\dot{W}}{\dot{Q}_h} = 1 + \frac{\dot{Q}_c}{\dot{Q}_h} = 1 - \frac{T_c}{T_h} - \frac{T_c}{\dot{Q}_h} \dot{\Sigma}$$

- Entropy production is therefore the reason the efficiency is smaller than Carnot:*

$$\eta = \eta_C - \frac{T_c}{\dot{Q}_h} \dot{\Sigma}$$



# Thermodynamic Uncertainty Relations (TURs)



$$\frac{\text{var}(\dot{Q})}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{Q})^2} \geq \frac{2}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{\Sigma})}$$

$$\Sigma = \delta\beta Q \text{ (in the simplest case)}$$

- Simple, elegant and powerful.
- Counterintuitive: To reduce the fluctuations, the process should be *more irreversible*.



- Derived only for the steady-state of classical Markov chains.
- Can be violated in many relevant scenarios (e.g. thermoelectrics).

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# Implications for mesoscopic engines

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- In an autonomous engine the output power is  $\dot{W}$
- The TUR in this case then reads

$$\frac{\text{var}(\dot{W})}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{W})^2} \geq \frac{2}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{\Sigma})}$$

- From our previously derived result:

$$\eta = \eta_C - \frac{T_c}{\dot{Q}_h} \dot{\Sigma} \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathbb{E}(\dot{\Sigma}) = \frac{\mathbb{E}(\dot{Q}_h)}{T_c} (\eta_C - \eta)$$

- Thus:

$$\frac{\text{var}(\dot{W})}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{W})^2} \geq \frac{2T_c}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{Q}_c)} \frac{1}{\eta_C - \eta}$$

- Thus:



$$\frac{\text{var}(\dot{W})}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{W})^2} \geq \frac{2T_c}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{Q}_c)} \frac{1}{\eta_C - \eta}$$

- Finally, we note that  $\eta = \frac{\mathbb{E}(\dot{W})}{\mathbb{E}(\dot{Q})}$ , so that

$$\text{var}(\dot{W}) \geq 2T_c |\mathbb{E}(\dot{W})| \frac{\eta}{\eta_C - \eta}$$

- If you wish to operate the engine close to Carnot efficiency, you pay the price that the fluctuations may become very large.
  - To curb fluctuations, the engine should be operated irreversibly!
  - Goes against everything we learn in undergraduate thermodynamics.

# Thermodynamic uncertainty relations constrain non-equilibrium fluctuations

Jordan M. Horowitz <sup>1,2,3</sup> and Todd R. Gingrich <sup>4</sup>

Experimental study of the thermodynamic uncertainty relation

Soham Pal,<sup>1</sup> Sushant Saryal,<sup>1</sup> D. Segal,<sup>2,3</sup> T. S. Mahesh,<sup>1</sup> and Bijay Kumar Agarwalla<sup>1,\*</sup>

**1912.08391**

Thermodynamic uncertainty relation in atomic-scale quantum conductors

Hava Meira Friedman,<sup>1</sup> Bijay K. Agarwalla,<sup>2</sup> Ofir Shein-Lumbroso,<sup>3</sup> Oren Tal,<sup>3</sup> and Dvira Segal<sup>1,4,\*</sup>

**2002.00284**

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# TUR from fluctuation theorems

André M. Timpanaro, Giacomo Guarnieri, John Goold, GTL,

**“Thermodynamic uncertainty relations from exchange fluctuation theorems”.**

*Phys. Rev. Lett.* **123**, 090604 (2019) (arXiv 1904.07574)



# EXCHANGE FLUCTUATION THEOREM

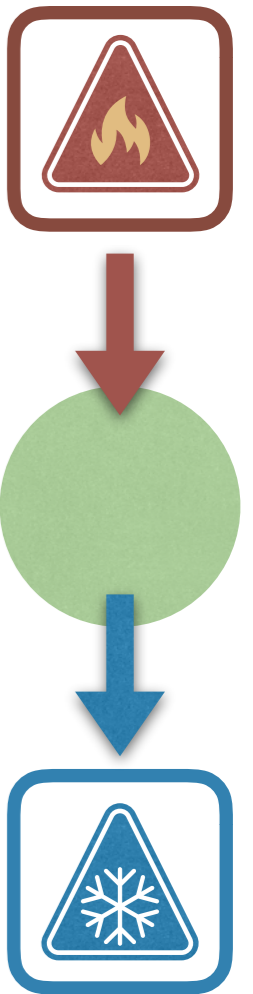
- Fluctuation theorems for thermodynamic processes usually have the form

$$\frac{P_F(\Sigma)}{P_B(-\Sigma)} = e^\Sigma$$

- e.g. Crooks theorem for work:  $\Sigma = \beta(W - \Delta F)$
- FTs, however, compare a *forward* with a *backward* process.
- In some systems, both coincide. These are called *Exchange FTs*:

$$\frac{P(\Sigma)}{P(-\Sigma)} = e^\Sigma$$

- This is *much stronger*: it is a symmetry on a single probability distribution.
- Example: direct heat exchange:  $\Sigma = \delta\beta Q$



- Motivated by this, we proved the following theorem:

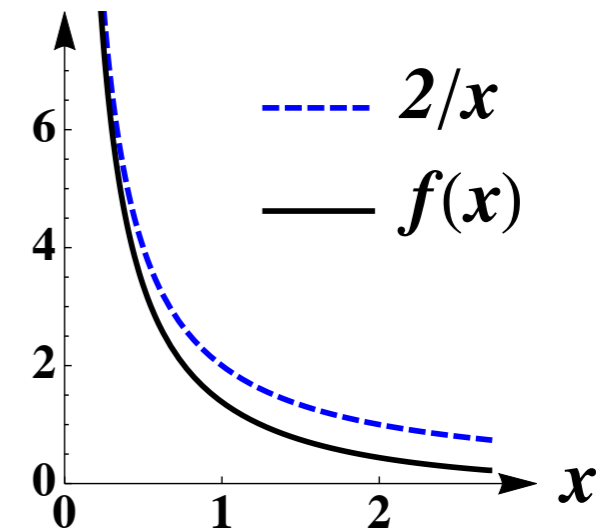
**Theorem** (“TUR de force”). For fixed finite  $\mathbb{E}(\Sigma)$ , the probability distribution  $P(\Sigma)$  satisfying  $P(\Sigma)/P(-\Sigma) = e^\Sigma$ , with the smallest possible variance (the minimal distribution) is

$$P_{min}(\Sigma) = \frac{1}{2 \cosh(a/2)} \left\{ e^{a/2} \delta(\Sigma - a) + e^{-a/2} \delta(\Sigma + a) \right\},$$

where the value of  $a$  is fixed by  $\mathbb{E}(\Sigma) = a \tanh(a/2)$ .  
For this distribution

$$\text{Var}(\Sigma)_{min} = \mathbb{E}(\Sigma)^2 f(\mathbb{E}(\Sigma)),$$

where  $f(x) = \text{csch}^2(g(x/2))$ ,  $\text{csch}(x)$  is the hyperbolic cosecant and  $g(x)$  is the function inverse of  $x \tanh(x)$ .



For any other distribution we must then have:

$$\frac{\text{var}(\Sigma)}{\mathbb{E}(\Sigma)^2} \geq f(\mathbb{E}(\Sigma))$$

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# TUR de force IS TIGHT

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- Our TUR is the tightest (saturable) bound for this scenario.
- And we know which thermodynamic process saturates it.
- This is relevant because, around the same time, similar papers appeared.
  - But all derived a looser bound with

$$f(x) = \frac{2}{e^x - 1}$$

- This bound, however, is never tight.

Hasegawa & Vu 1902.06376.

Proesman & Horowitz 1902.07008.

Potts & Samuelsoon 1904.04913.

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# EXTENSION TO MULTIPLE CHARGES

- We can also generalize our framework to Exchange FTs involving multiple charges:

$$\frac{P(Q_1, \dots, Q_n)}{P(-Q_1, \dots, -Q_n)} = e^{\sum_i A_i Q_i}$$

- The entropy production in this case is  $\Sigma = \sum_i A_i Q_i$

- ex: heat engine FT:

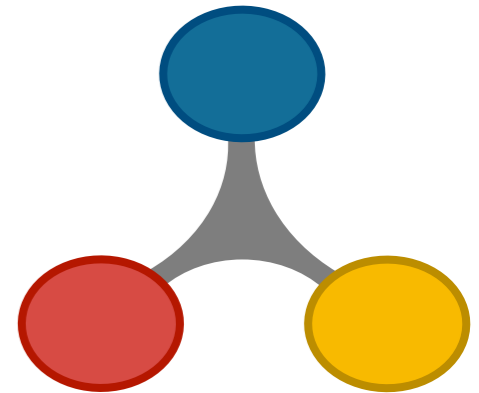
$$\frac{P(Q_h, W)}{P(-Q_h, -W)} = e^{(\beta_h - \beta_c)Q_h + \beta_c W}$$

- In this case we obtain the matrix bound

$$\mathcal{C} - f(\mathbb{E}(\Sigma))\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T \geq 0$$

$$q_i = \mathbb{E}(Q_i)$$

$$C_{ij} = \text{cov}(Q_i, Q_j)$$



$$\mathcal{C} - f(\mathbb{E}(\Sigma))\mathbf{q}\mathbf{q}^T \geq 0$$

$$q_i = \mathbb{E}(Q_i)$$

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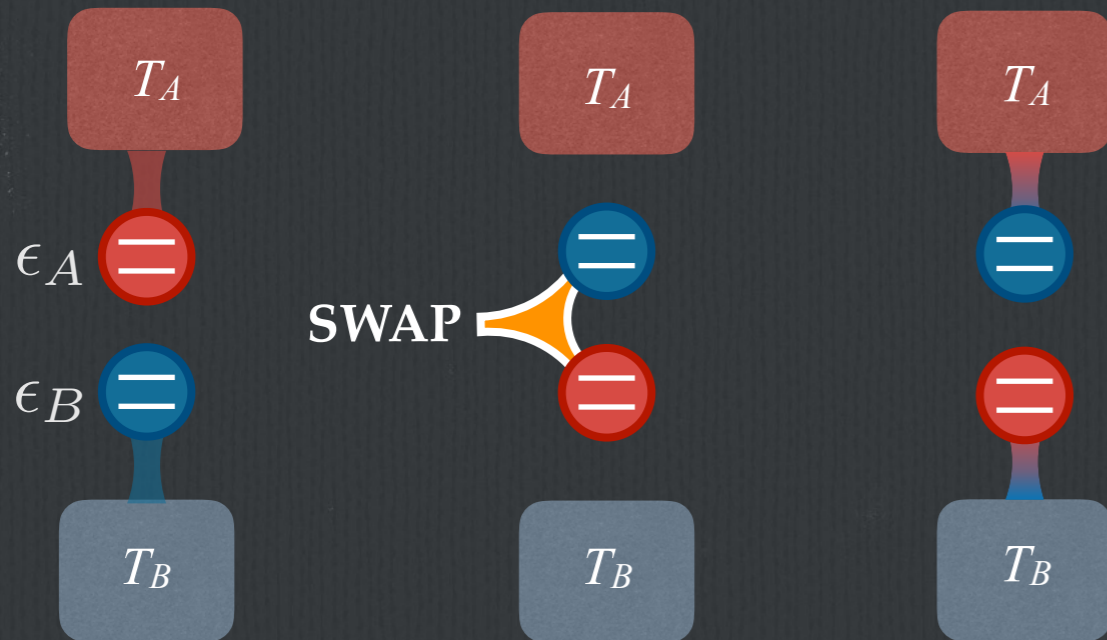
- This says that the matrix above is positive semi-definite.
- As a consequence, all diagonal entries must be positive, which implies an individual TUR for each charge:

$$\frac{\text{var}(Q_i)}{\mathbb{E}(Q_i)^2} \geq f(\mathbb{E}(\Sigma))$$

- In addition, it also places restrictions on the covariances:
  - If  $G$  is psd then  $G_{ij}^2 \leq G_{ii}G_{jj}$
- This also imposes a constraint on the *sign* of the covariances

$$\frac{\mathbb{E}(Q_i)^2}{\text{var}(Q_i)} + \frac{\mathbb{E}(Q_j)^2}{\text{var}(Q_j)} \geq \frac{1}{f(\mathbb{E}(\Sigma))} \rightarrow \text{sign}(C_{ij}) = \text{sign}(\mathbb{E}(Q_i)\mathbb{E}(Q_j))$$

# SWAP engine

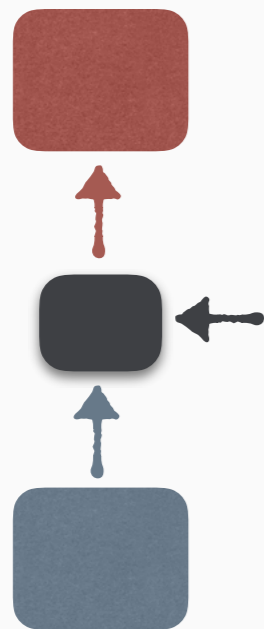


$$\langle Q_h \rangle = \epsilon_A (f_A - f_B)$$

$$\langle Q_c \rangle = -\epsilon_B (f_A - f_B)$$

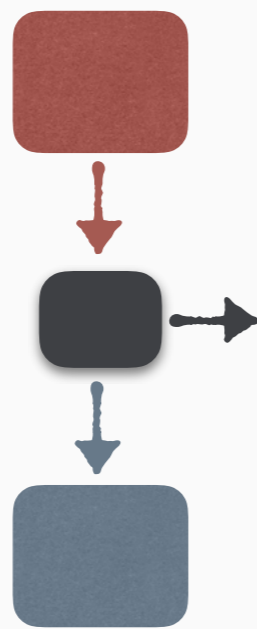
$$\langle W \rangle = -(\epsilon_A - \epsilon_B)(f_A - f_B)$$

$$f_i = \frac{1}{e^{\beta_i \epsilon_i} + 1}$$



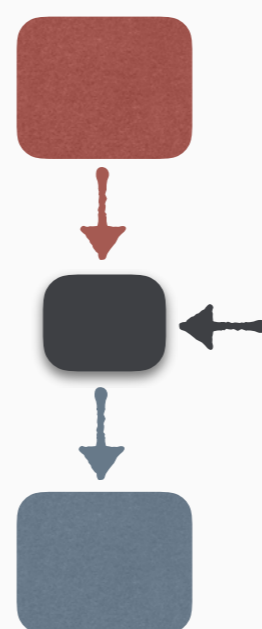
**Refrigerator**

$$\frac{\epsilon_B}{\epsilon_A} < \frac{\beta_A}{\beta_B}$$



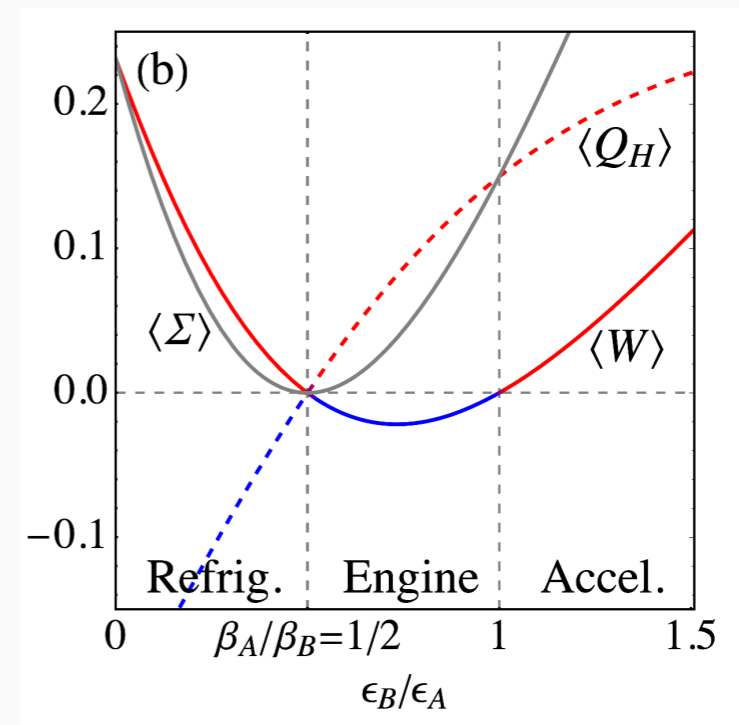
**Engine**

$$\frac{\beta_A}{\beta_B} < \frac{\epsilon_B}{\epsilon_A} < 1$$



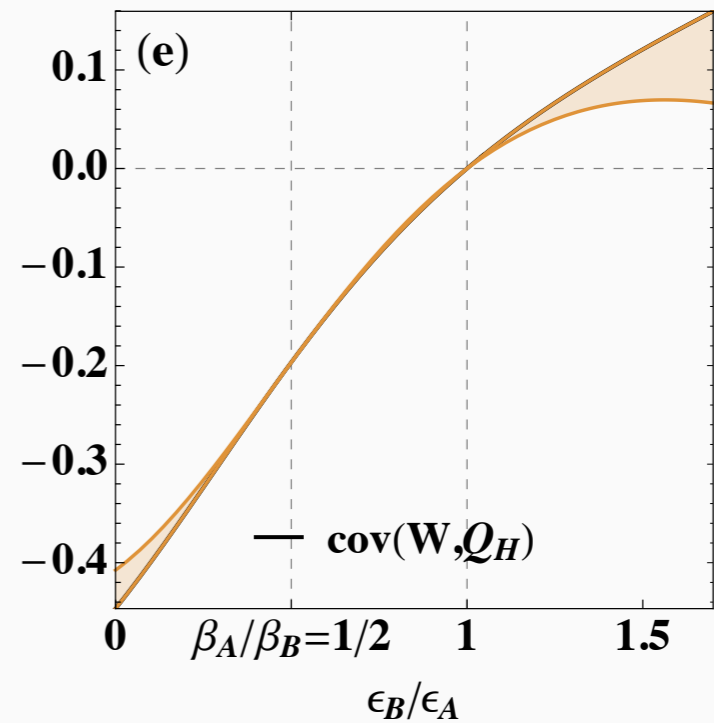
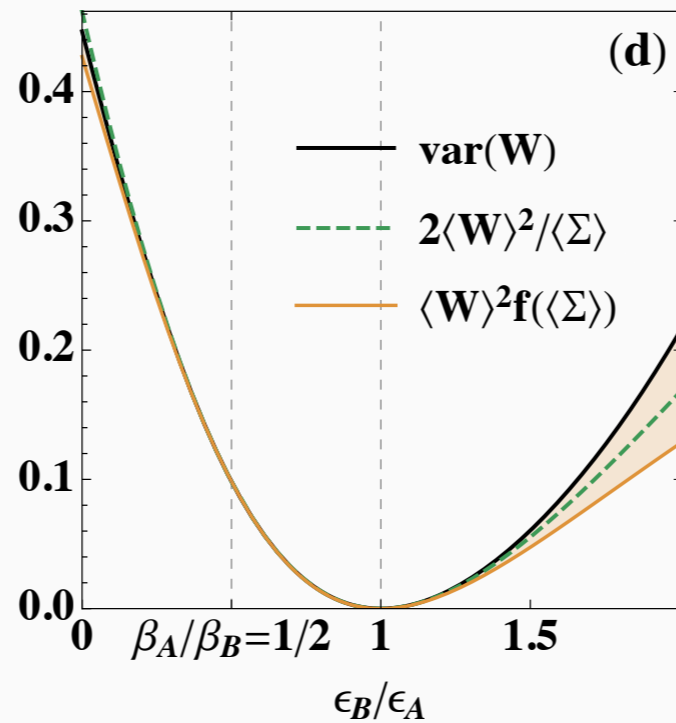
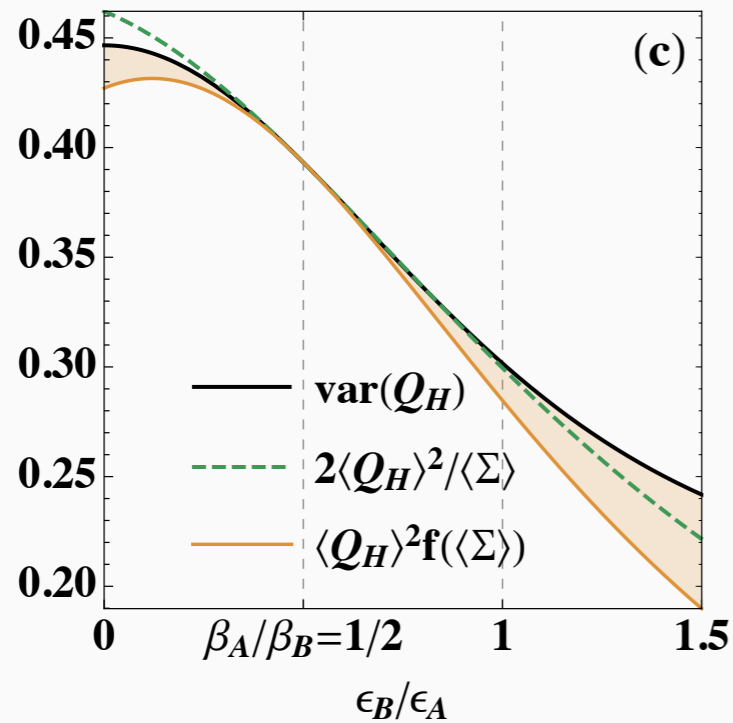
**Accelerator**

$$1 < \frac{\epsilon_B}{\epsilon_A}$$



# SWAP engine

$$\frac{P(Q_H, W)}{P(-Q_H, -W)} = e^{(\beta_B - \beta_A)Q_H + \beta_B W}$$



# EXPERIMENT

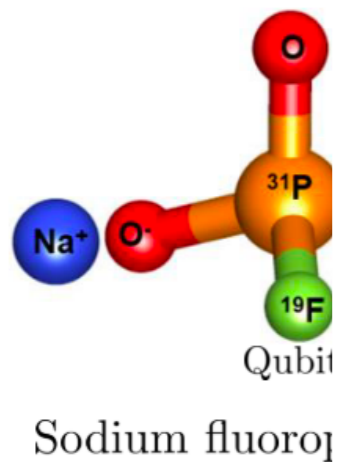
- The above results

## Experiment

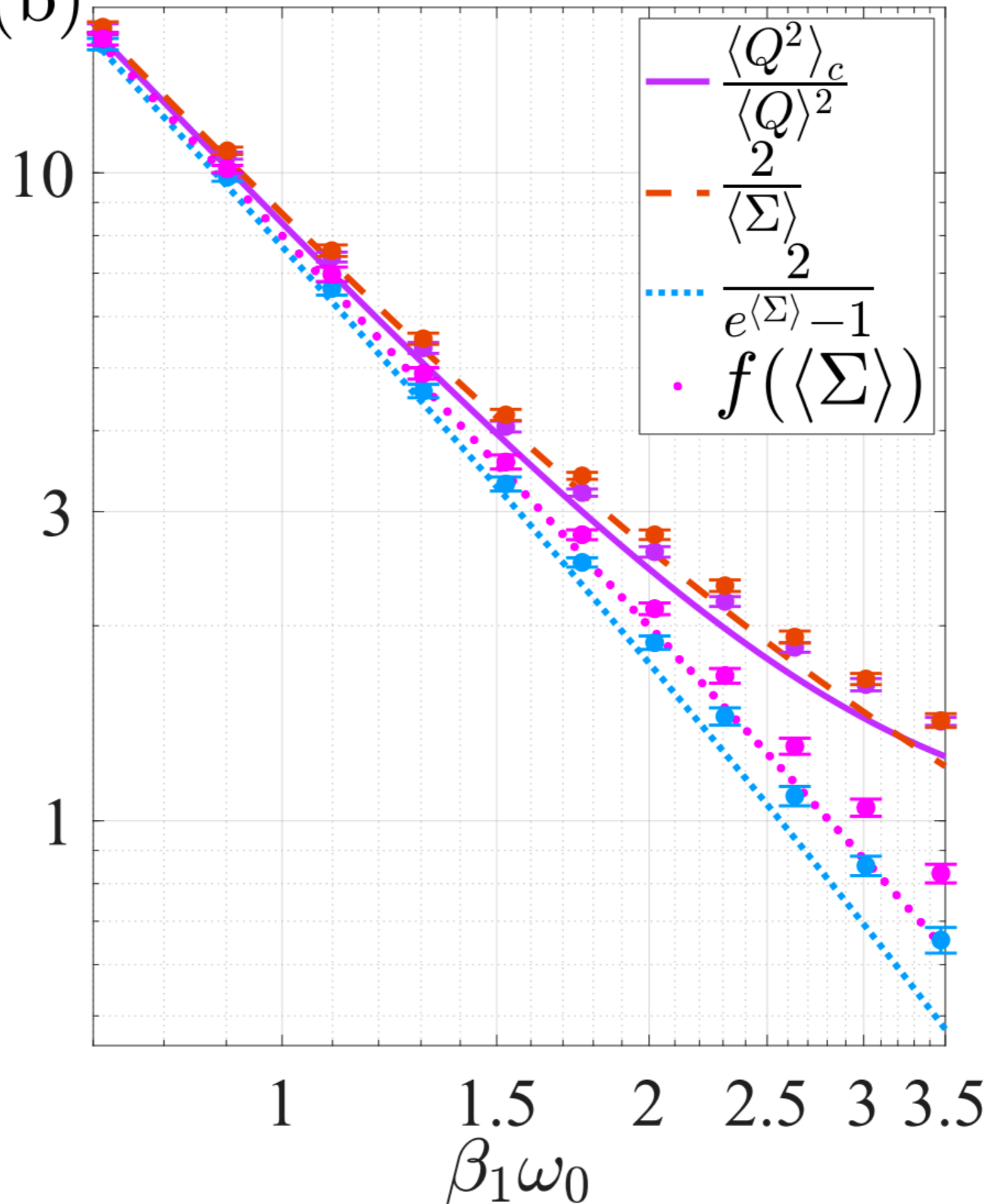
Soham Pal,<sup>1</sup>

1912.08391

(a)



(b)



Agarwala<sup>1, \*</sup>

relation

Agarwala<sup>1, \*</sup>



# ACHIEVABILITY OF THE OPTIMAL PROCESS

**Theorem** (“TUR de force”). For fixed finite  $\mathbb{E}(\Sigma)$ , the probability distribution  $P(\Sigma)$  satisfying  $P(\Sigma)/P(-\Sigma) = e^\Sigma$ , with the smallest possible variance (the minimal distribution) is

$$P_{min}(\Sigma) = \frac{1}{2 \cosh(a/2)} \left\{ e^{a/2} \delta(\Sigma - a) + e^{-a/2} \delta(\Sigma + a) \right\},$$

where the value of  $a$  is fixed by  $\mathbb{E}(\Sigma) = a \tanh(a/2)$ .  
For this distribution

$$\text{Var}(\Sigma)_{min} = \mathbb{E}(\Sigma)^2 f(\mathbb{E}(\Sigma)),$$

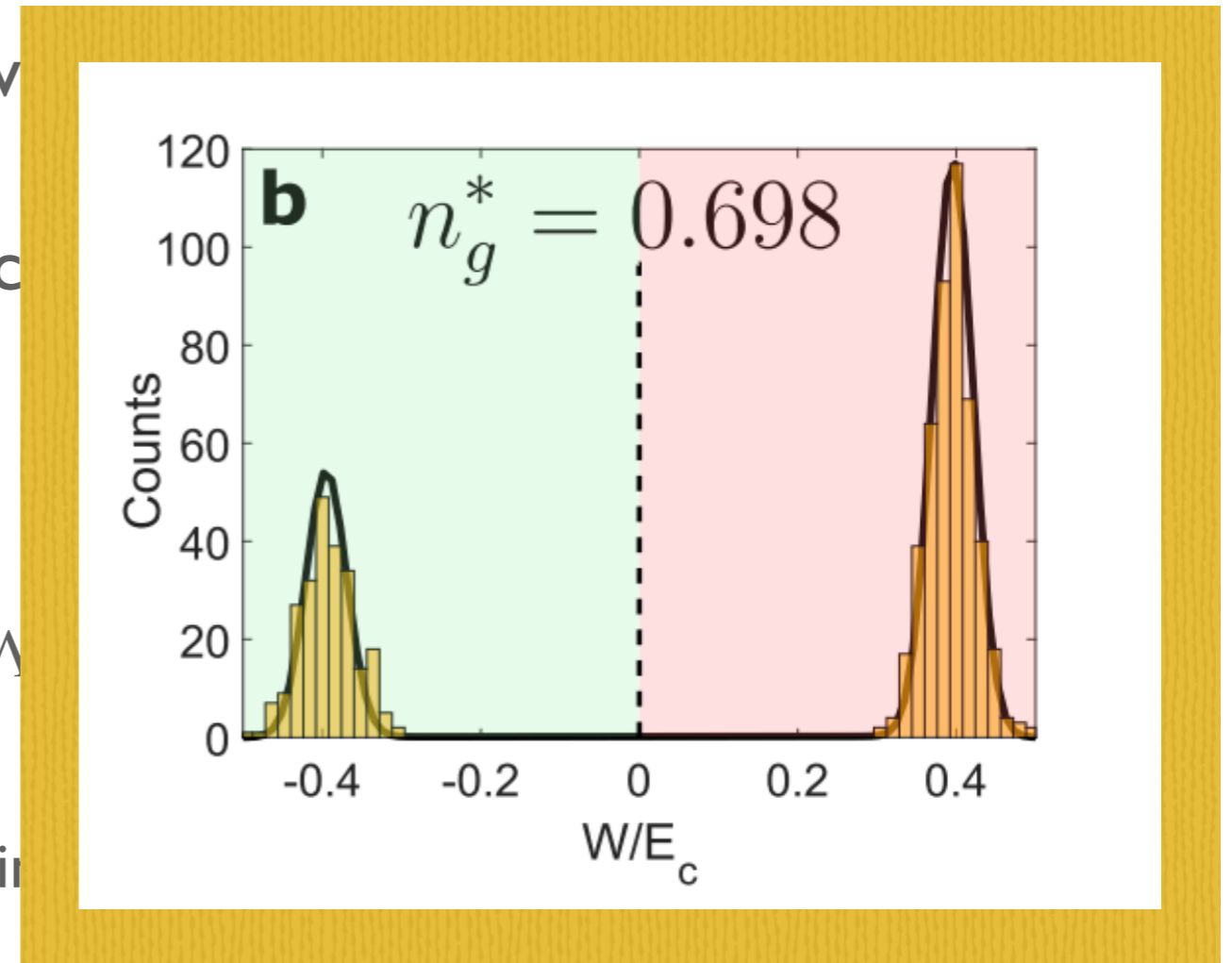
where  $f(x) = \text{csch}^2(g(x/2))$ ,  $\text{csch}(x)$  is the hyperbolic cosecant and  $g(x)$  is the function inverse of  $x \tanh(x)$ .

The minimal process is one which has only 2 points in the support.

But is this achievable in practice?

i.e., is the bound saturable?

- A beautiful illustration of this was given by...
- They were interested in work extraction...
- The question they posed was:
  - which process maximizes  $P(W \geq \Lambda)$
  - $\mathbb{E}(e^{-\beta W}) = e^{-\beta \Delta F}$  and  $P(W < W_{\min})$



- Answer:  $P(W) = p\delta(W - \Lambda) + (1 - p)\delta(W - W_{\min})$

where.

$$p = P(W \geq \Lambda) = \frac{e^{-\beta \Delta F} - e^{\beta W_{\min}}}{e^{\beta \Lambda} - e^{\beta W_{\min}}}$$

# Conclusions

Acknowledgements:  
FAPESP, Heraeus foundation

- In this talk I discussed how TURs can be viewed as a consequence of Fluctuation Theorems.
- I believe that this is important because:

- a. It sheds light on the physics of
- b. Shows that FTs not only impose additional constraints on
- c. Introduces the idea of a process that optimizes a given thermodynamic

