

Title: Colloquium - TBA

Speakers: Svitlana Mayboroda

Series: Colloquium

Date: May 15, 2024 - 2:00 PM

URL: <https://pirsa.org/24050059>

Abstract: Abstract TBA

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Zoom link

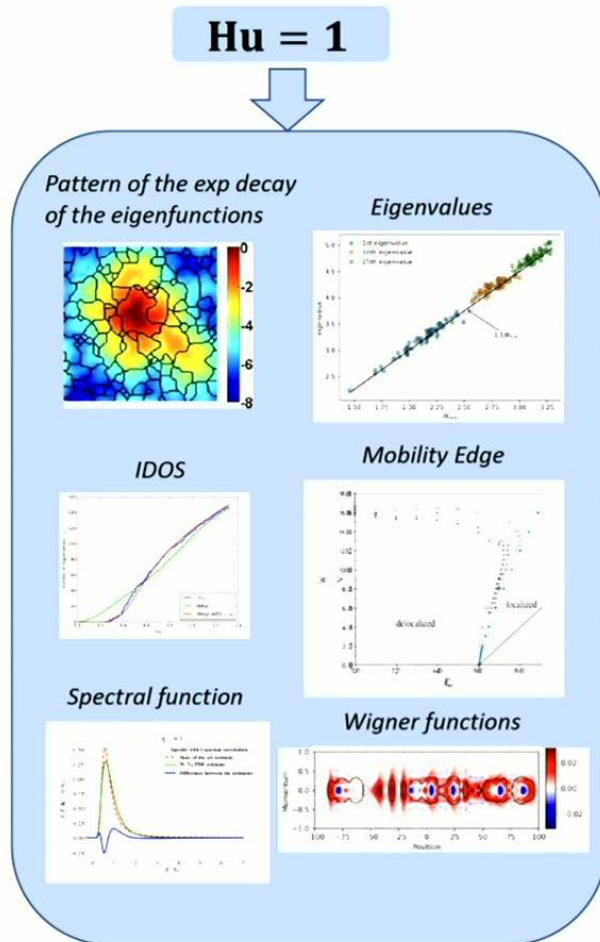
# Wave localization

Svitlana Mayboroda  
ETH & University of Minnesota

May 2024



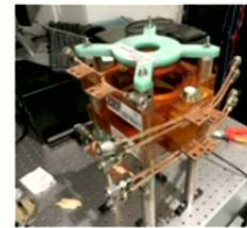
$$Hu = 1$$



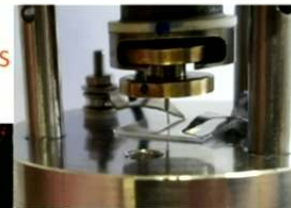
Very few believed [localization] at the time, and even fewer saw its importance; among those who failed to fully understand it at first was certainly its author. *It has yet to receive adequate mathematical treatment, and one has to resort to the indignity of numerical simulations to settle even the simplest questions about it.*

- Philip W. Anderson, Nobel Lecture, 8 December 1977

GaN semiconductors



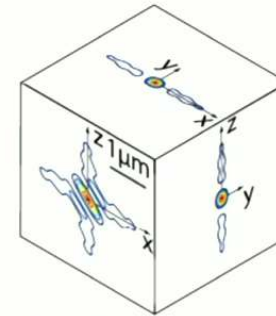
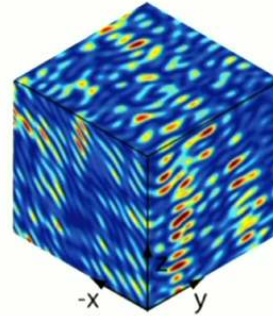
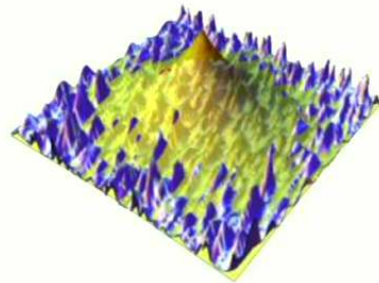
Organic semiconductors



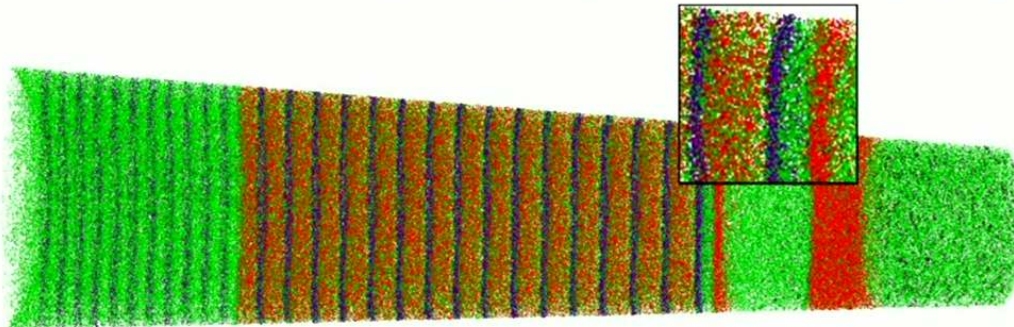
Ultra cold atoms



## ... technology reveals disorder

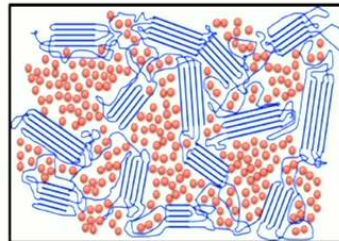


Anderson localization in Bose-Einstein condensate [Aspect lab]

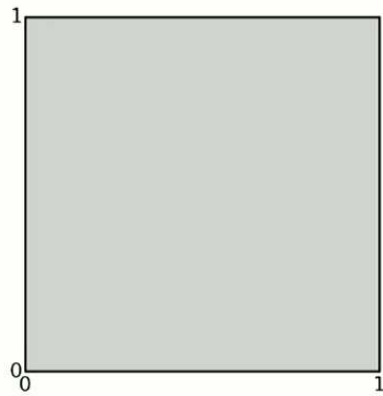


Atomic map of  
InGaN  
semiconductor  
[Speck lab]

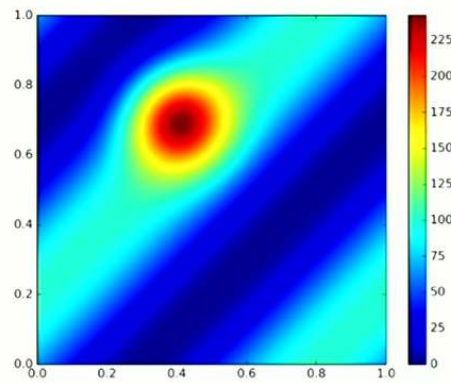
Mixed donor-acceptor  
morphology in an organic  
solar cell [Friend lab]



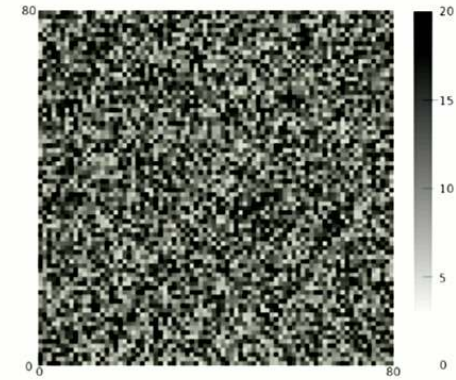
# Smooth versus disordered potential in Schrödinger equation



no potential



smooth potential



random potential

Disorder changes everything!



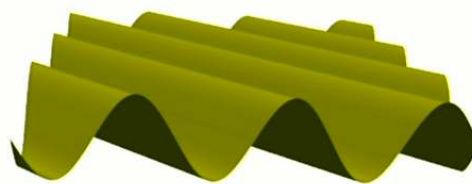
fundamental mode



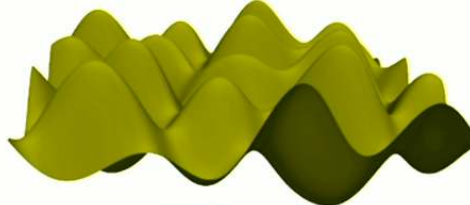
fundamental mode



fundamental mode



57th mode



57th mode



57th mode

## Anderson localization

The localization of Schrödinger eigenfunctions with random potential was discovered by Philip Anderson in his **Nobel-prize-winning work** of 1958.



*Unfortunately, electron localization was devilishly hard to confirm... experimental observations are sparse and covered with disputes and controversies.*

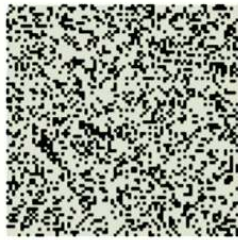
– Lagendijk, van Tiggelen, Wiersma, *50 Years of Anderson Localization*, 2009

*Most theoretical work [7-9] predicts [the critical exponent]  $\mu = 1$ , but there is also a prediction of  $\mu = 1/2$  [10]. Numerical simulation [11] gives  $\mu = 2/3$ ...*

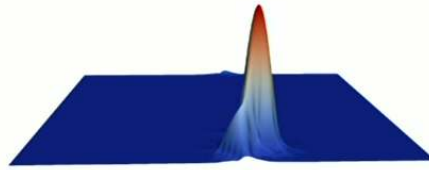
– I. Shlimak, *Is Hopping a Science?*, 2015

*Mathematical proofs (Frohlich-Spencer, Aizenman-Molchanov) are in extreme regimes (1D, edge of the spectrum, or strong potential).*

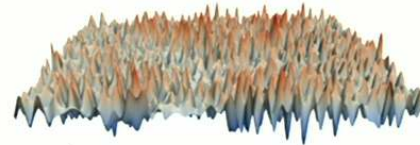
# Waves in disordered media



Potential



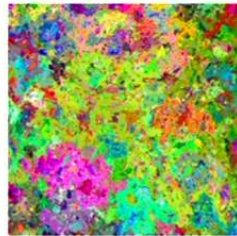
Eigenmodes



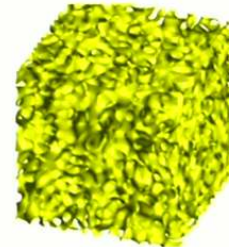
In a disordered environment,  
waves localize  
... or not ...



Spherical harmonics (SH)



Nodal domains of random SH



Sarnak and  
Bogomolny-Schmit  
percolate in 3D  
... not in 2D ...

## DOE Energy Savings Forecast of Solid State Lighting in the US, 2017–2035:

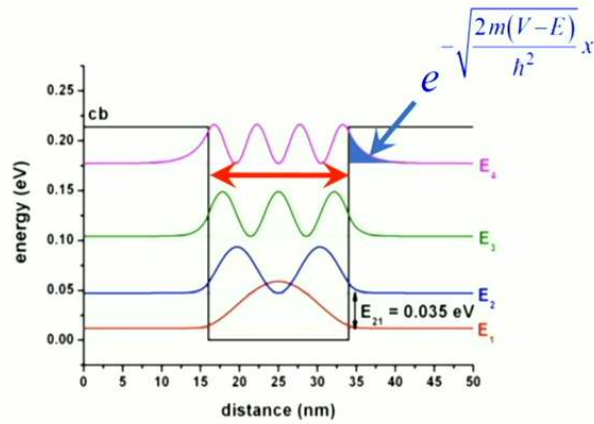


- Goal: **50% improvement** in LED efficiency
- Energy savings: **more than 92 1GW power plants**
- Cumulative US cost savings: **\$890 billion**
- Obstacles: **Green Gap, efficiency droop at high currents, lack of accurate computations/modeling**

# Particle vs. wave localization

Waves go where particles don't go

The quantum well

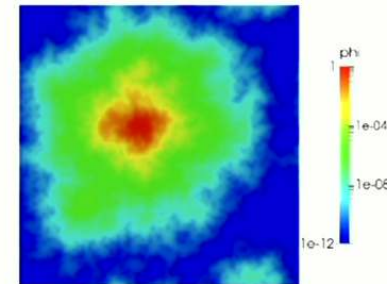


We see the classical potential

Waves see “something different”

Waves don't go where particles go

Boolean potential (60% of 0, 40% of 1)



Fundamental quantum state ( $E > 0$ )

## Take on the perspective of a wave

A hidden landscape that waves recognize and obey

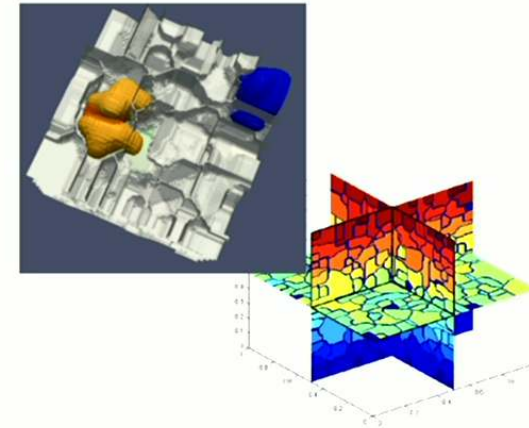
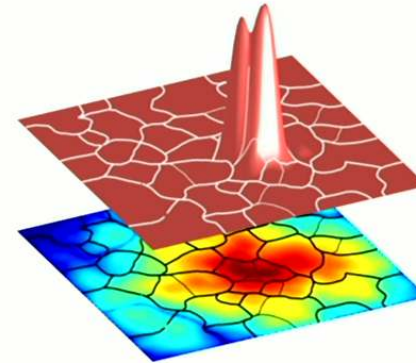
- born of the equation but invisible to the naked eye
- contains both spatial and spectral information

The goal is to

Discover and master this landscape in order to

- understand
- predict
- manipulate
- govern
- and, ultimately, design matter waves

The main hero:  
**THE LANDSCAPE**



Curves/surfaces of the  
landscape vs. eigenfunctions

# Landscape theory

## Geometry (spacial info):

- exp decay:  $1/u$  as an effective potential
- level sets/free boundary
- random monochromatic waves
- sharp characterizations of the boundary impact (rectifiability)

## Spectrum (energy info):

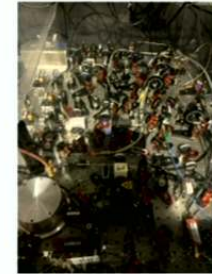
- spectrum via  $\min \frac{1}{u}$
- the new Weyl law
- the new Uncertainty principle
- the Landscape Law: the first non-asymptotic prediction of IDOS

## Wigner-Weyl (quantum observables):

- general scheme
- spectral function
- absorption

## Cold atoms:

- experimental set-up for Mobility Edge
- landscape percolation vs ME
- Spectral function



## Semiconductors:

- 33% improvement of green LEDs (Green Gap)
- 1000x faster computations: from 1D to 3D



## Organics:

- transporting energy 10 times further than in photosynthesis
- high efficiency perovskite-based green LEDs



## A different perspective: the effective potential

Arnold, David, Filoche, Jerison, Mayboroda, PRL 2016: a new idea

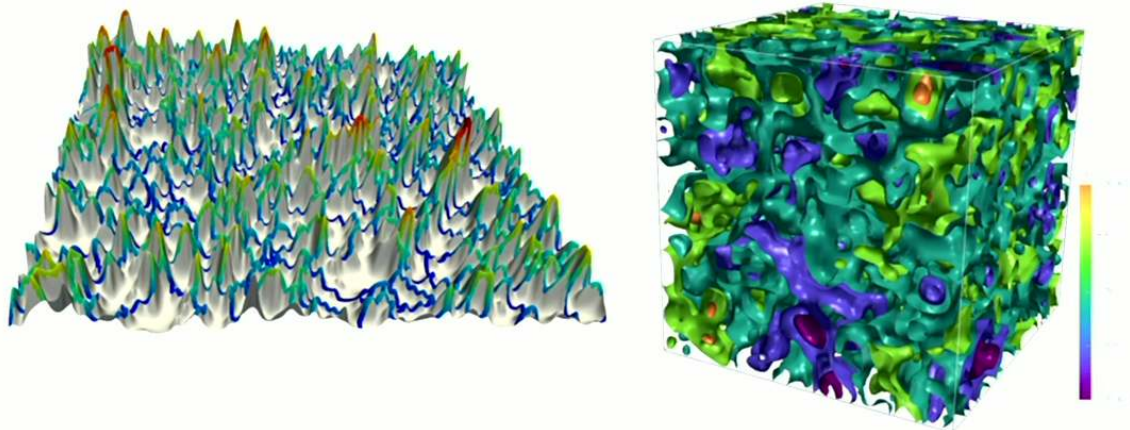
linear equation  $\implies$  nonlinear control

$\frac{1}{u}$  is an *effective potential* which is often confining.

$$-\Delta\psi + V\psi = E\psi \iff -\frac{1}{u^2}\nabla \cdot (u^2\nabla\phi) + \frac{1}{u}\phi = E\phi$$

– exactly the same eigenvalues! ( $\psi = u\phi$ )

$Hu = 1 \implies$  enhanced *Agmon-type distance*  $\rho_{1/u} \implies$  exp decay



2D and 3D effective potential  $\frac{1}{u}$  for Bernoulli  $V$

## Exponential decay: $\frac{1}{u}$ is an effective potential

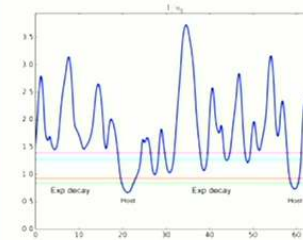
Theorem (Arnold, David, Filoche, Jerison, Mayboroda, 2018)

Let  $L = -\operatorname{div}A\nabla + V$ ,  $0 \leq V(x) \leq \bar{V}$ , on  $M$ , a Lipschitz domain on a compact  $C^1$  manifold,  $L\psi = \lambda\psi$ , and  $Lu = 1$  on  $M$ , Neumann BC. Let

$$E(\lambda + \delta) = \{x \in M : 1/u(x) \leq \lambda + \delta\}, \quad \delta > 0,$$

(collection of  $1/u$ -wells). Define

$$\rho_{1/u}(x, y) = \inf_{\gamma(x, y)} \int \left( (1/u - \lambda)_+ + b_{ij} \dot{\gamma}_i(t) \dot{\gamma}_j(t) \right)^{1/2} dt$$



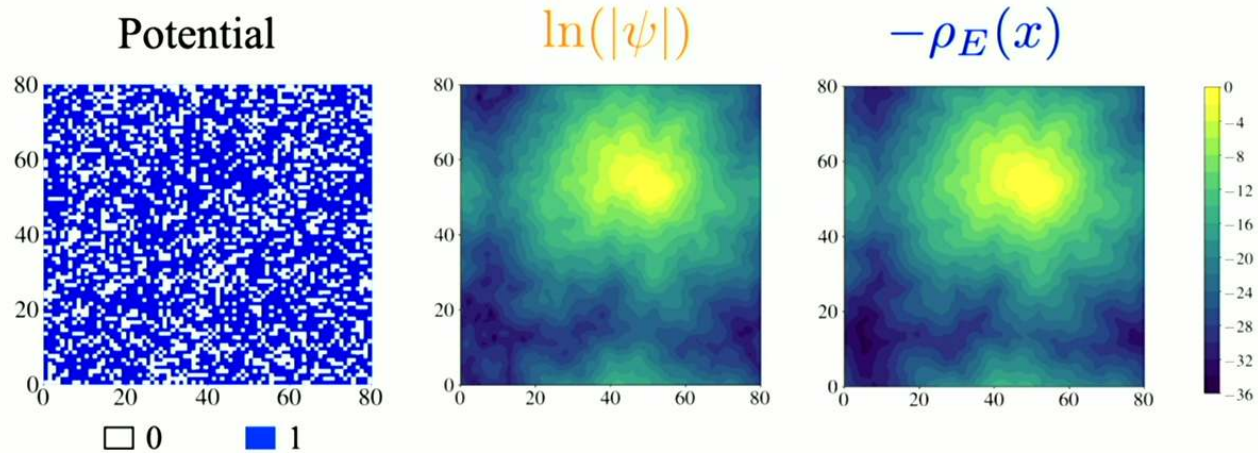
where the infimum is taken over all absolutely continuous paths  $\gamma$  from  $x$  to  $y$ , and  $B = \{b_{ij}\} = A^{-1}$ . Then

$$\int_{\{\rho_{1/u}(x, E(\lambda + \delta)) \geq 1\}} e^{\rho_{1/u}(x, E(\lambda + \delta))} (|\nabla\psi|^2 + \bar{V}\psi^2) dx \leq C \int \bar{V}\psi^2 dx$$

Roughly speaking,  $\psi(x) \sim e^{-\rho_{1/u}(x, E(\lambda + \delta))}$  away from the  $1/u$ -wells.

# Exponential decay: $\frac{1}{u}$ is an effective potential

$$|\psi(x)| \approx e^{-\rho(x_0, x)} \quad \rho(x_0, x) := \inf_{\gamma} \int_{\gamma} \left( \frac{1}{u} - \lambda \right)_+ ds$$



Numerical computations: D. Arnold, 2019

# Uncertainty principle

The landscape concisely encodes **precise spectral and spatial information** in one structure, and is easily computable, but it **does not lose information**.

$$E = \underbrace{\langle \nabla \psi, \nabla \psi \rangle}_{\text{kinetic energy}} + \underbrace{\langle \psi | V | \psi \rangle}_{\text{potential energy}} = \underbrace{\langle u \nabla \left( \frac{\psi}{u} \right), u \nabla \left( \frac{\psi}{u} \right) \rangle}_{\text{reduced kinetic energy}} + \underbrace{\langle \psi | \frac{1}{u} | \psi \rangle}_{\text{effective pot. energy}}$$

*small and positive*

infinite quantum well (Dirichlet problem) lhs 100%+0%; rhs 4%+96%

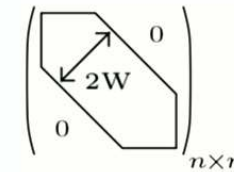
- at the first approximation, we get a new **Uncertainty Principle**.
- in some sense,  $1/u$  seems to translate interferencial effects into a confinement picture viewed by the eigenmode

# Localization for $M$ -matrices

Theorem (M. Filoche, S.M., T. Tao, 2021)

Let  $A$  be a symmetric  $n \times n$   $M$ -matrix with at most  $W_c$  non-zero entries in every row. Let

$$u = A^{-1}\mathbf{1}, v_i = \left(\frac{1}{u_i} - E\right)_+, \text{ and}$$

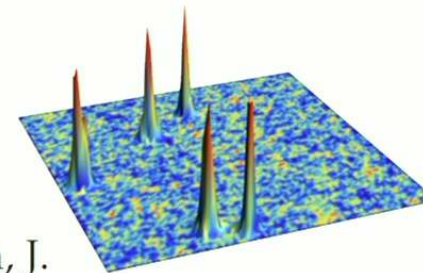


$$\rho(i, j) = \inf_{L \geq 0} \inf_{\substack{i_0, \dots, i_L: \\ i_0 = i, i_L = j}} \sum_{\ell=0}^L \ln \left( 1 + \sqrt{\frac{v_{i_\ell} v_{i_{\ell+1}}}{|a_{i_\ell i_{\ell+1}}|}} \right).$$

Then

$$\sum_k \varphi_k^2 e^{\frac{2\rho(k, K)}{\sqrt{W_c}}} \left(\frac{1}{u_k} - E\right)_+ \leq W_c \max_{1 \leq i, j \leq n} |a_{ij}|.$$

- **Many-body systems** and statistical physics:  
S. Balasubramanian, Y. Liao, V. Galitski, 2020  
Collaboration with Simons Collaboration on  
**Ultra-Quantum Matter**
- localization for **Dirac fermions**:  
G. Lemut, M. J. Pacholski, O. Ovdad, A. Grabsch, J.  
Tworzydło, C. W. J. Beenakker, 2019



# Assessing Anderson localization in BEC of cold atoms

**Nobel Prize 2001:** Bose-Einstein condensation



Eric A. Cornell



Wolfgang Ketterle

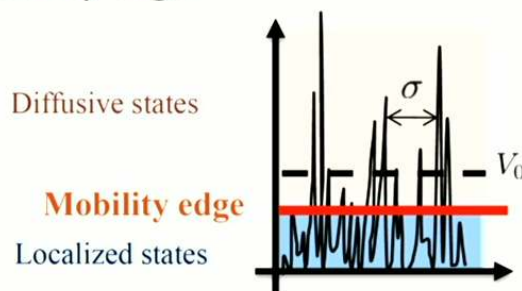


Carl E. Wieman

- Outstandingly clean system
- Pure potentials (no absorption)
- Controllable dimensionality: 1D, 2D, 3D
- Controllable wavelength, 1 nm to 10  $\mu\text{m}$
- Controllable disorder (laser speckle)
- High temporal resolution

A. Aspect's group achieved the *first direct observation* of a localized wave function in Bose-Einstein condensate of cold atoms in 1D in 2008, 3D in 2012.

## Mobility edge:



**Nobel Prize 2022:** testing Bell inequalities



Alain Aspect



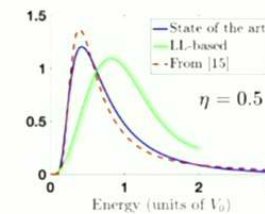
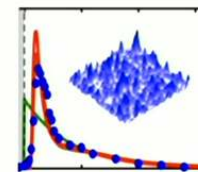
John F. Clauser



Anton Zeilinger

## Spectral functions:

Spectral functions exhibit a very peculiar behavior in laser speckle potentials. Recent work have shown that the Landscape theory provides an accurate prediction.



# Anderson transition: the mobility edge

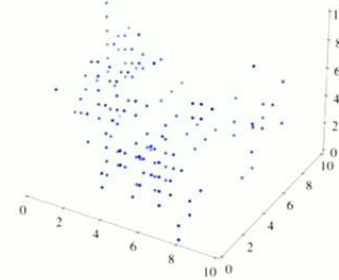
The mobility edge in tight binding models is directly related to the percolation threshold of the landscape-based effective potential.

$$Hu = 1$$

Effective potential  
 $\frac{1}{u}$

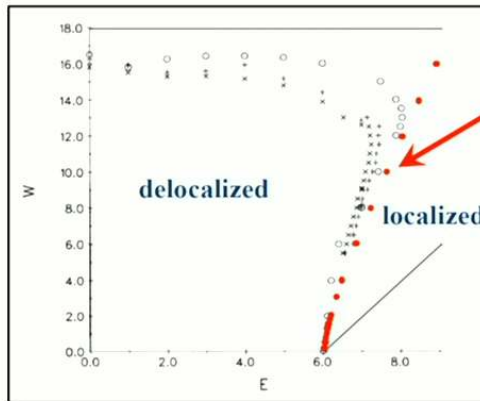


$$(H\psi)_n = -t \sum_{|m-n|=1} (\psi_m - \psi_n) + V_n \psi_n$$

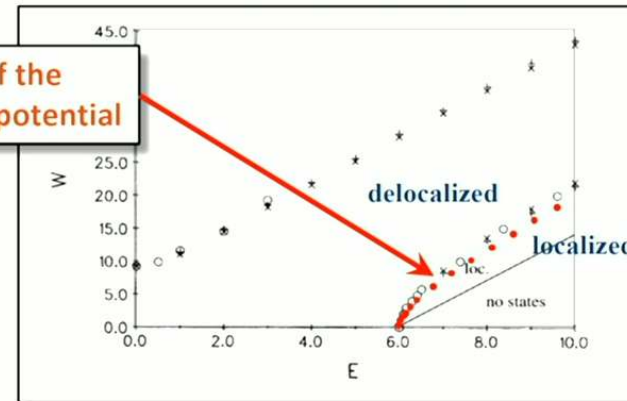


sites s.t.  $\frac{1}{u} < 0.45$

Anderson uniform



Anderson binary

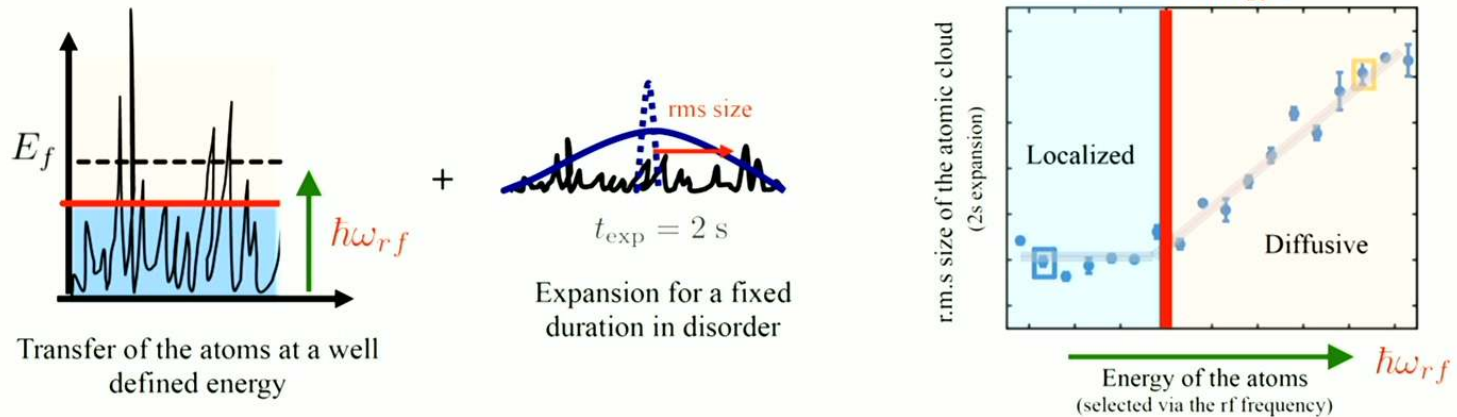


Percolation of the landscape-based potential

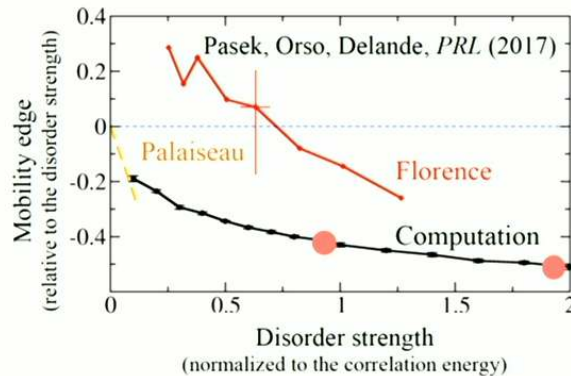
Comparison with the computed mobility edge from Grussbach & Schreiber, *Phys. Rev. B* (1995)

# 2023: experimental observation of the mobility edge

## Direct signature of a critical energy



## Comparison with numerical prediction of the mobility edge



Excellent agreement without any adjustable parameter !

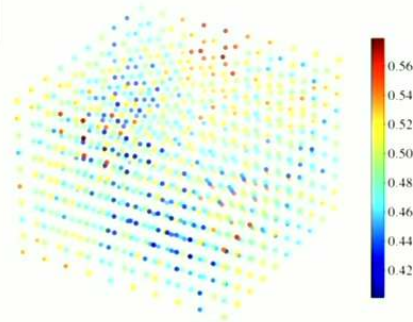
Working progress to span various disorder strength (from quantum to classical regime)

# Anderson transition: the mobility edge

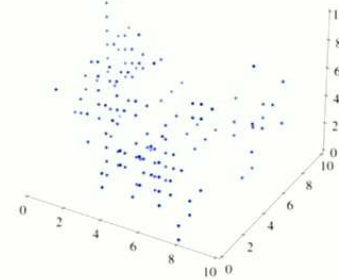
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$$Hu = 1$$

Effective potential  
 $\frac{1}{u}$

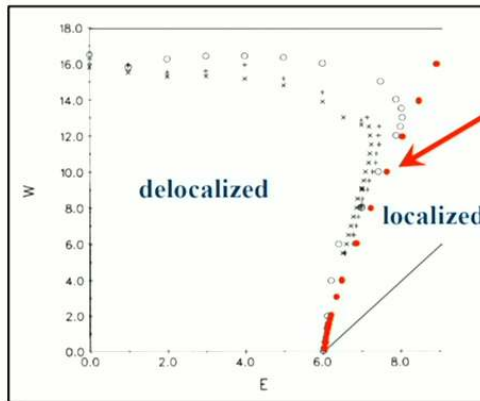


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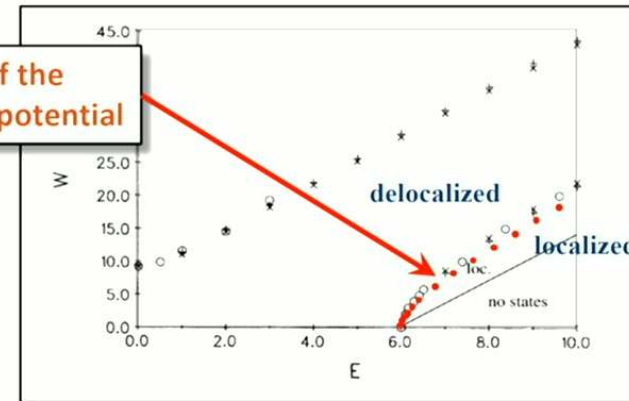


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Anderson uniform



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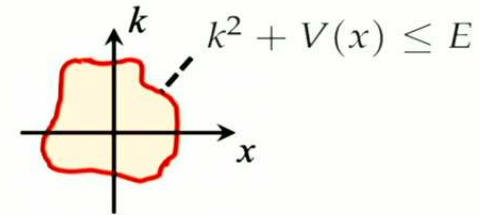
Percolation of the landscape-based potential

Comparison with the computed mobility edge from Grussbach & Schreiber, *Phys. Rev. B* (1995)

# Landscape-based Weyl law

## Weyl's asymptotic law

$$\text{IDOS}(E) = \#\{E_i \leq E\} \approx \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \iint_{k^2 + V(x) \leq E} dx dk$$



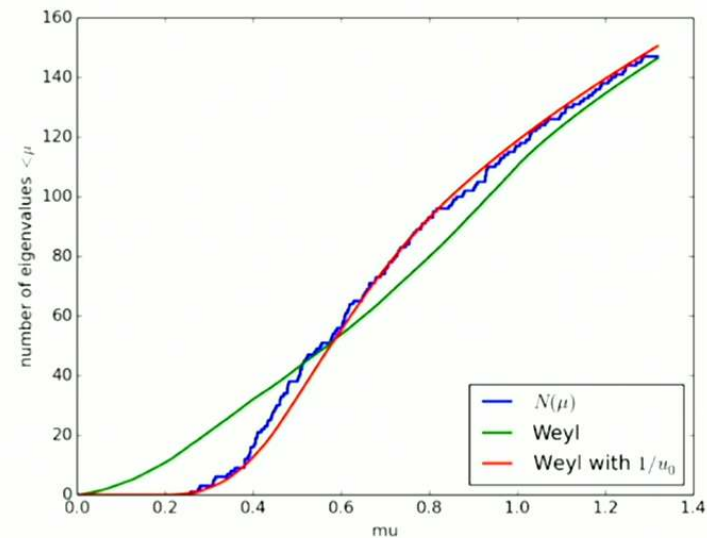
Counting eigenvalues below  $E$



Counting volume in phase space

## Landscape-based Weyl law

$$\text{IDOS}(E) \approx \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \iint_{k^2 + \frac{1}{u(x)} \leq E} dx dk$$

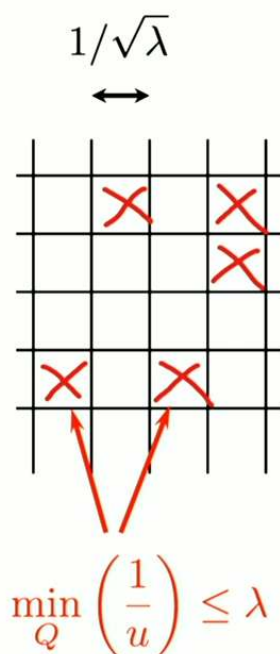


Blue: reality; green: old Weyl; red: new Weyl

## Eigenvalue count: the Landscape Law

New counting function:  $H = -\Delta + V, Hu = 1$

$$N_u(\lambda) := \left\{ \# \text{ of cubes of sidelength } \lambda^{-1/2} : \min_Q \frac{1}{u} \leq \lambda \right\}$$



Theorem (G. David, M. Filoche, S. M., 2019 for continuous;  
D. Arnold, M. Filoche, S.M., W. Wang, S. Zhang 2020 for  
tight-binding)

There exist constants  $C_i$  depending on the dimension only, such that

$$C_1 \alpha^d N_u(C_2 \alpha^{d+2} \mu) - C_3 N_u(C_2 \alpha^{d+4} \mu) \leq N(\mu) \leq N_u(C_4 \mu)$$

for every  $\alpha < 2^{-4}$  and every  $\mu > 0$ .

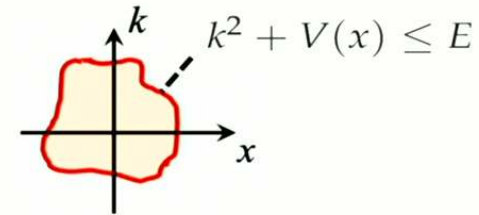
If, in addition,  $u^2$  is a doubling weight or  $V$  is a disordered potential, then

$$N_u(C_5 \mu) \leq N(\mu) \leq N_u(C_4 \mu) \text{ for every } \mu > 0.$$

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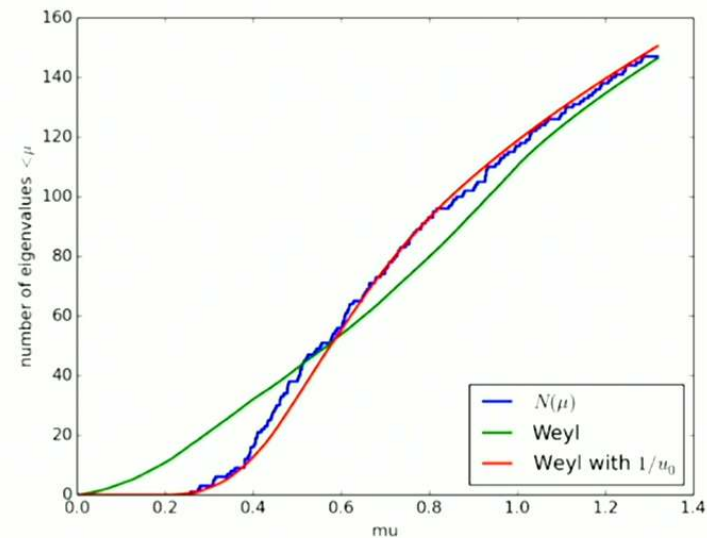
Counting eigenvalues below  $E$



Counting volume in phase space

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Blue: reality; green: old Weyl; red: new Weyl