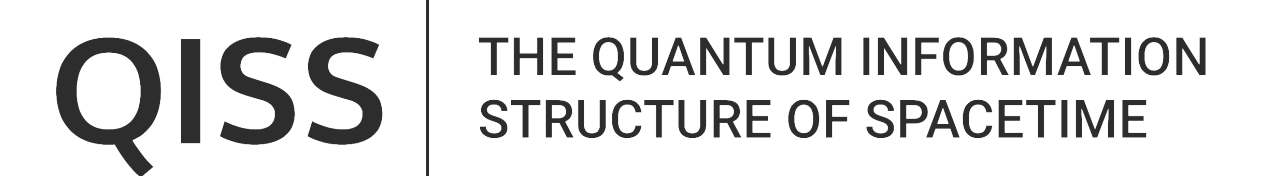


Dynamical frames and relativity of subsystems

Fabio M. Mele



Based on: [quant-ph/2308.09131](#) with I. Kotecha, P. A. Höhn

& ongoing work with S. Carrozza, P. A. Höhn, J. Kirklin

Mathematical Physics Seminar,
University of Regensburg

June 21, 2024

INTRODUCTION AND MOTIVATIONS

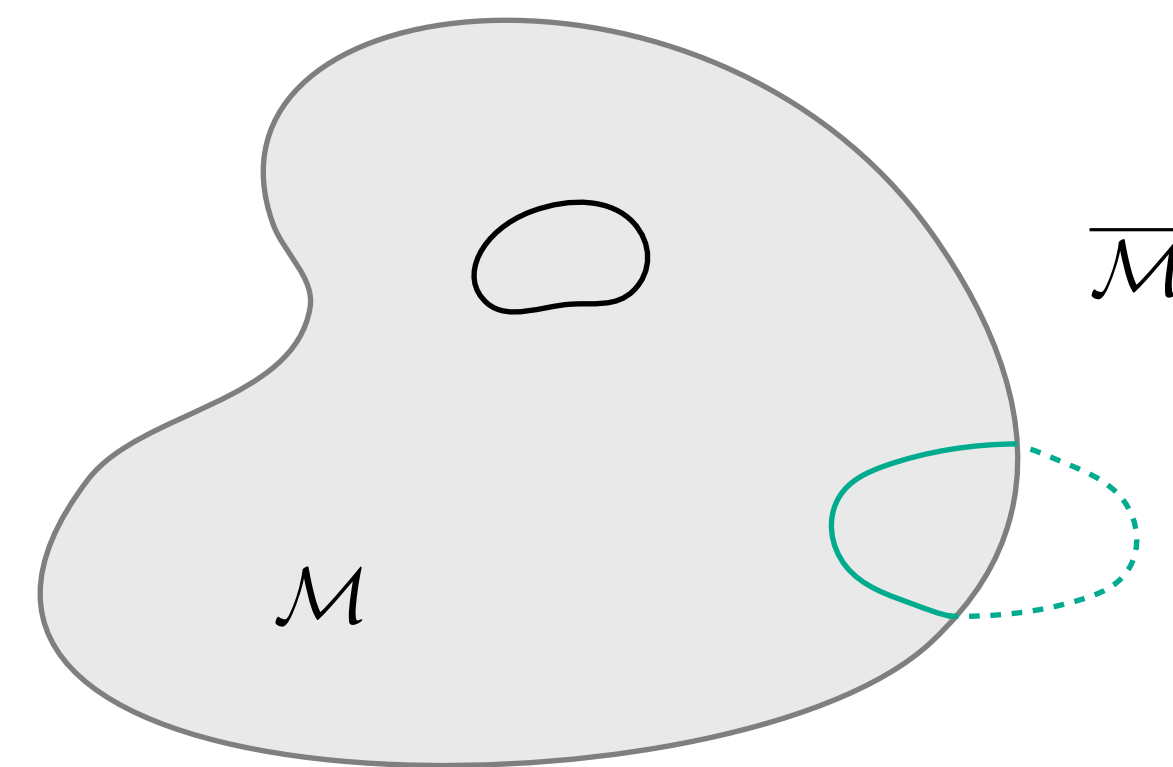
Operationally, subsystems are distinguished by subalgebras of physically accessible observables [Zanardi '01; Zanardi, Lidar, Lloyd '03]

often relative to external frame, e.g. the Lab, or to notion of locality of a background spacetime (external to the fields of interest).

What if no external relatum is available and/or there is tension between locality and gauge-invariance?

In constrained/gauge systems and gravity:

- Kinematical notion of subsystems generically **not** inherited at gauge-inv. level;
- Non-local gauge-invariant observables;
- Partitioning vs. cross-boundary observables. [Donnelly, Freidel, Francois, Geiller, Gomes, Pranzetti, Riello, Speranza, Speziale, Wieland, Carrozza, Eccles, Höhn,...]
(edge modes)



INTRODUCTION AND MOTIVATIONS

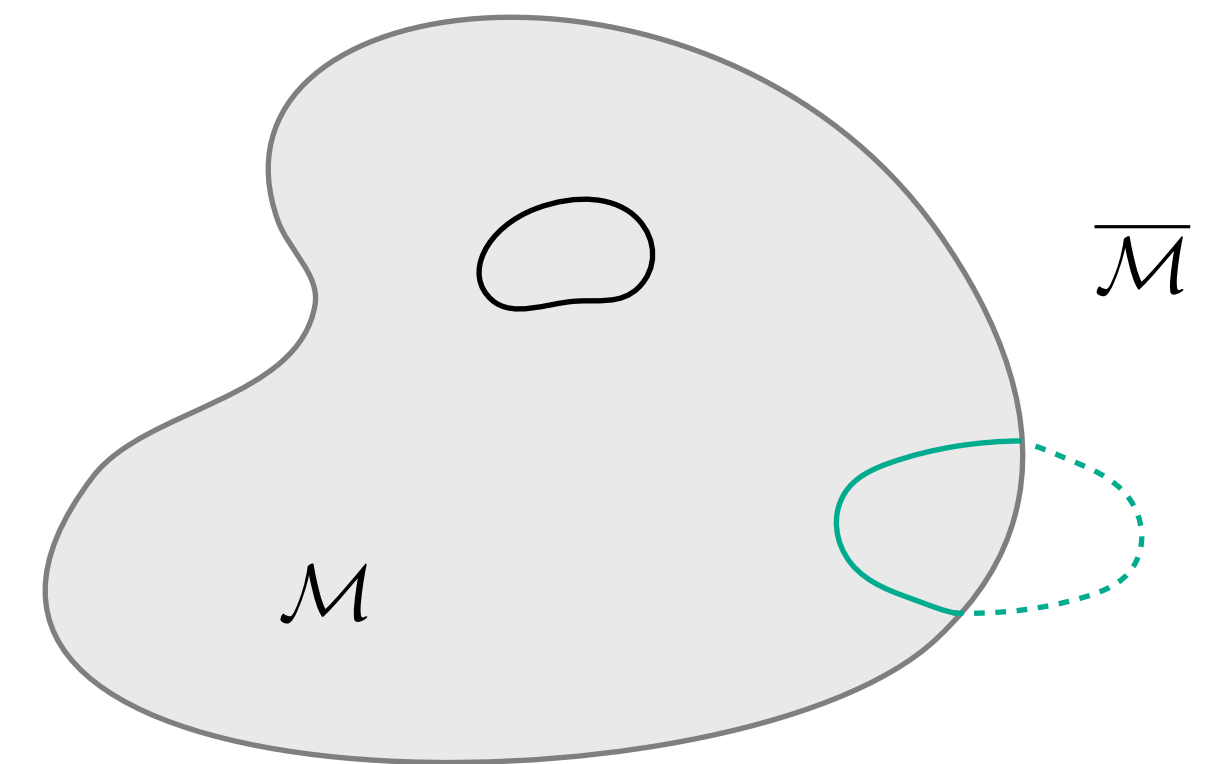
Operationally, subsystems are distinguished by subalgebras of physically accessible observables [Zanardi '01; Zanardi, Lidar, Lloyd '03]

often relative to external frame, e.g. the Lab, or to notion of locality of a background spacetime (external to the fields of interest).

What if no external relatum is available and/or there is tension between locality and gauge-invariance?

In constrained/gauge systems and gravity:

- Kinematical notion of subsystems generically **not** inherited at gauge-inv. level;
- Non-local gauge-invariant observables;
- Partitioning vs. cross-boundary observables. [Donnelly, Freidel, Francois, Geiller, Gomes, Pranzetti, Riello, Speranza, Speziale, Wieland, Carrozza, Eccles, Höhn,...] (edge modes)



Idea: Use internal reference frames & relational observables

MULTIPLE CHOICES

SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY

Gauge-inv. subsystems depend on the relational observables accessible in the chosen internal frame

[Ahmad Ali, Galley, Höhn, Lock, Smith '21; de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '22; Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23; Carrozza, Höhn, Kirklin, **FMM** to appear]

Consequences: frame-dependent gauge-inv. properties of subsystems + alternative proposal for entanglement entropy

EXAMPLES OF SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY

- Special relativity with tetrads frames [de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '21; Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23] \Rightarrow Relativity of simultaneity from relativity of subsystems [Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]
- Finite-dim. quantum systems: external-frame independent description of DoF of interest relative to the remaining DoFs (used as internal frame) \Rightarrow Relativity of correlations, subsystem dynamics, equilibrium and non-equilibrium thermodynamics [Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]
- Subregions in gauge theories and gravity: edge modes frames [Carrozza, Höhn '21; Carrozza, Eccles, Höhn '22] \Rightarrow Frame-dependent subregional gauge-inv. algebras [Carrozza, Höhn, Kirklin, **FMM** to appear]
- Regulatisation of gravitational entropy via introduction of observer (from Type III to Type II algebras) [Chandrasekaran, Longo, Pennington, Witten '22; Kudler-Flam, Leutheusser, Satishchandran '23; Jensen, Sorce, Speranza '23; Freidel, Gesteau to appear] \Rightarrow Observer dependence of gravitational entropy [De Vuyst, Eccles, Höhn, Kirklin '24]

EXAMPLES OF SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY

IN THIS TALK

- Special relativity with tetrads frames [de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '21; Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23] \Rightarrow Relativity of simultaneity from relativity of subsystems [Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]
- Finite-dim. quantum systems: external-frame independent description of DoF of interest relative to the remaining DoFs (used as internal frame) \Rightarrow Relativity of correlations, subsystem dynamics, equilibrium and non-equilibrium thermodynamics [Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]
- Subregions in gauge theories and gravity: edge modes frames [Carrozza, Höhn '21; Carrozza, Eccles, Höhn '22] \Rightarrow Frame-dependent subregional gauge-inv. algebras [Carrozza, Höhn, Kirklin, **FMM** to appear]
- Regulatisation of gravitational entropy via introduction of observer (from Type III to Type II algebras) [Chandrasekaran, Longo, Pennington, Witten '22; Kudler-Flam, Leutheusser, Satishchandran '23; Jensen, Sorce, Speranza '23; Freidel, Gesteau to appear] \Rightarrow Observer dependence of gravitational entropy [De Vuyst, Eccles, Höhn, Kirklin '24]

PLAN OF THE TALK

Part I Warm up: Special relativity with internal tetrad frames

Part II Finite-dimensional quantum constrained/gauge systems

Illustration via mechanical toy model example;

Basics of quantum reference frames (perspective-neutral formulation);

Quantum relativity of subsystems & its physical consequences;

Part III Comparison with center construction for subsystem entropy in presence of constraints

Different assignment of gauge invariant subalgebras \longrightarrow Different notion of entropy (proper entanglement entropy?)

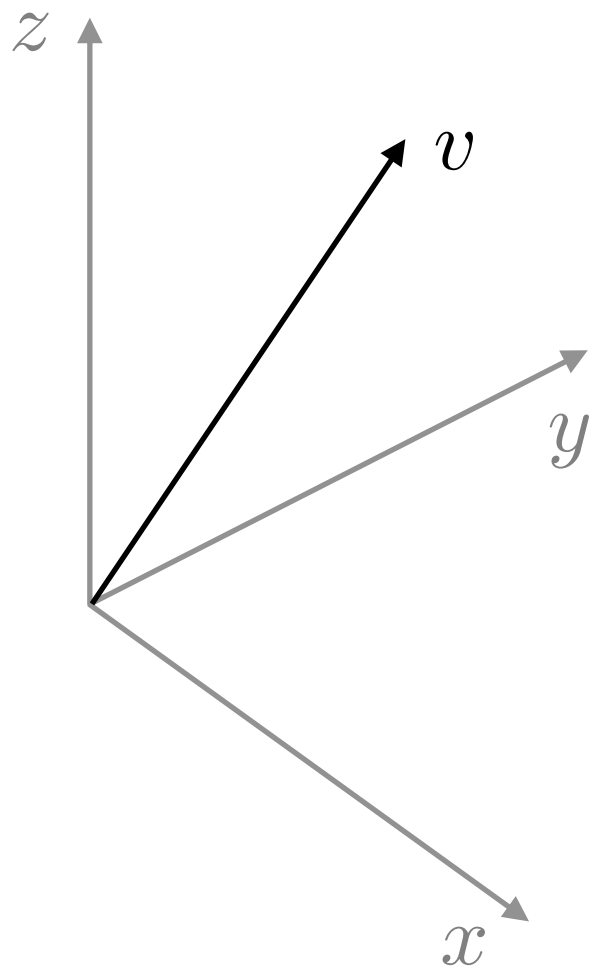
Part IV Subregions in gauge field theory (edge modes as boundary dynamical frames)

Part I

Special relativity with tetrad frames

SPECIAL RELATIVITY WITH INTERNAL FRAMES

[de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn,
Loveridge, Müller '22;
Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]



External/background coordinate frame

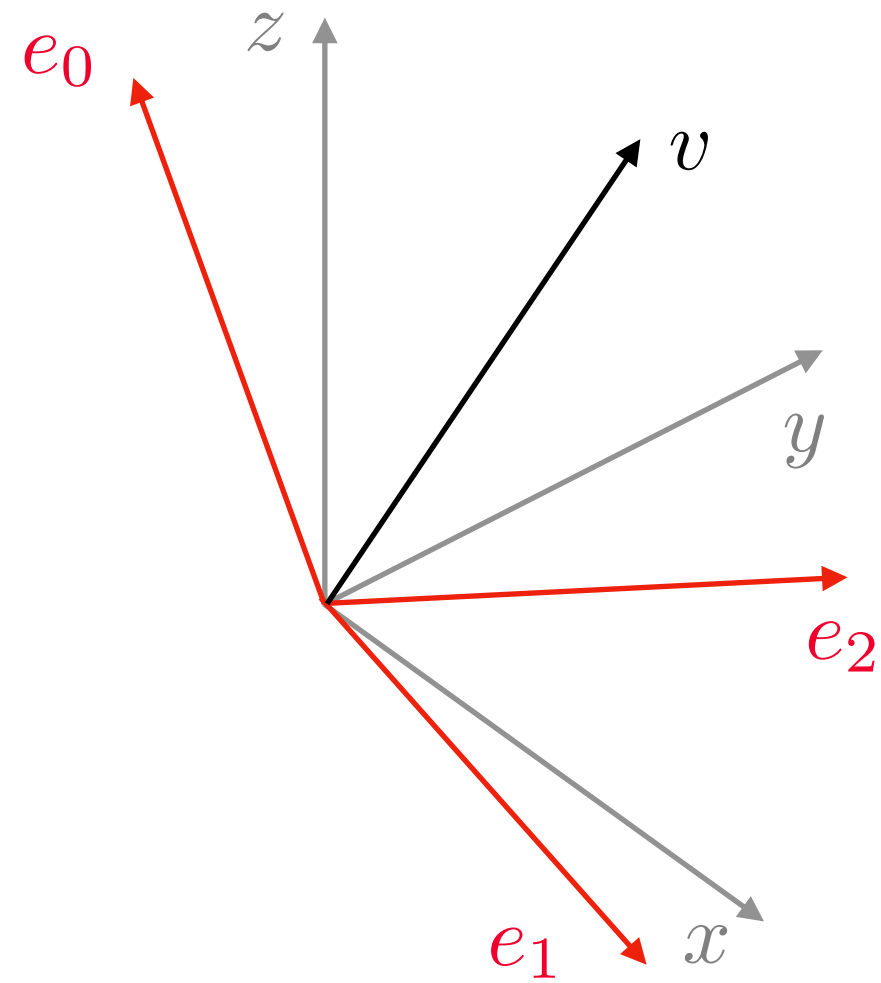
$$v^\mu \mapsto \Lambda^\mu_\nu v^\nu$$

$$\Lambda \in SO_+(3, 1)$$

internally indistinguishable

SPECIAL RELATIVITY WITH INTERNAL FRAMES

[de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn,
Loveridge, Müller '22;
Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]



External/background coordinate frame

$$v^\mu \mapsto \Lambda_\nu^\mu v^\nu$$

$$\Lambda \in SO_+(3, 1)$$

internally indistinguishable

Internal frame (tetrad):

e_a^μ

spacetime index $\mu = t, x, y, z$

frame index $a = 0, 1, 2, 3$ (frame orientation)

\Rightarrow 2 commuting group actions:

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{"gauge" transformations} \\ \text{"symmetries" (frame reorientations)} \end{array} \right.$

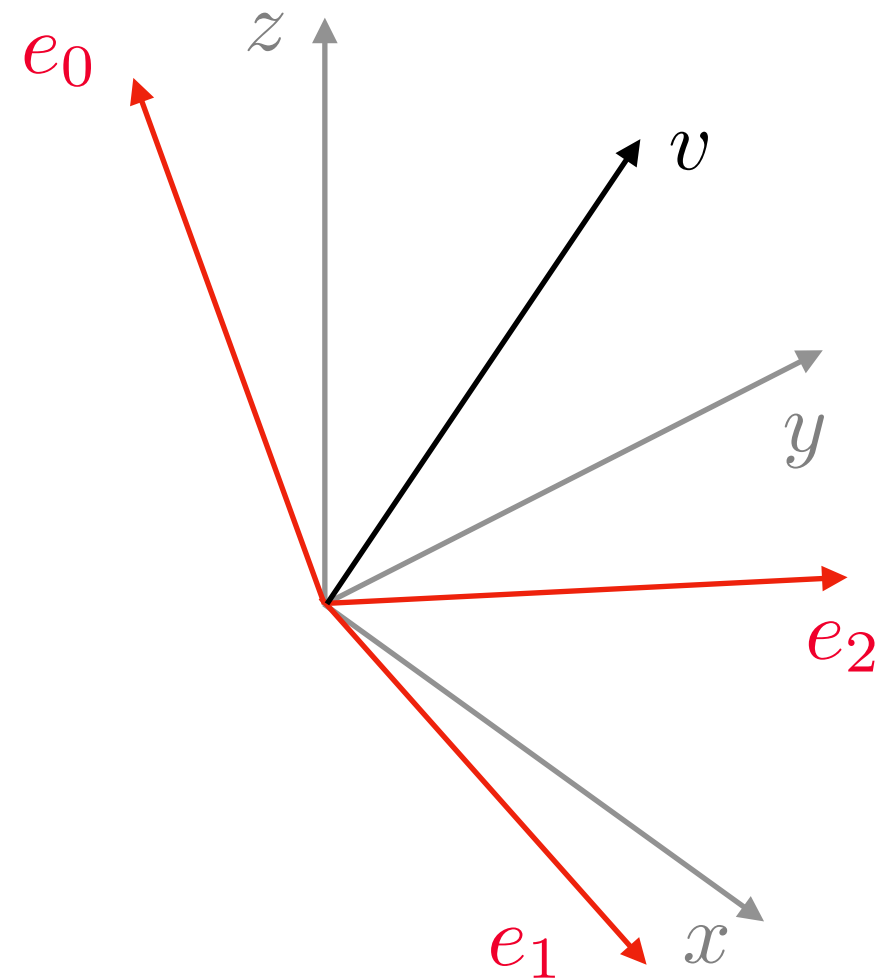
$$\Lambda_\nu^\mu e_a^\nu, \quad \Lambda_\nu^\mu \in SO_+(3, 1)$$

$$\Lambda_a^b e_b^\mu, \quad \Lambda_a^b \in SO_+(3, 1)$$

acts on frame only

SPECIAL RELATIVITY WITH INTERNAL FRAMES

[de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn,
Loveridge, Müller '22;
Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]



External/background coordinate frame

$$v^\mu \mapsto \Lambda^\mu_\nu v^\nu$$

$$\Lambda \in SO_+(3, 1)$$

internally indistinguishable

Internal frame (tetrad):

e^μ_a

spacetime index $\mu = t, x, y, z$

frame index $a = 0, 1, 2, 3$ (frame orientation)

\Rightarrow 2 commuting group actions:

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{"gauge" transformations} \\ \text{"symmetries" (frame reorientations)} \end{array} \right.$

$$\Lambda^\mu_\nu e^\nu_a, \quad \Lambda^\mu_\nu \in SO_+(3, 1)$$

$$\Lambda^b_a e^\mu_b, \quad \Lambda^b_a \in SO_+(3, 1)$$

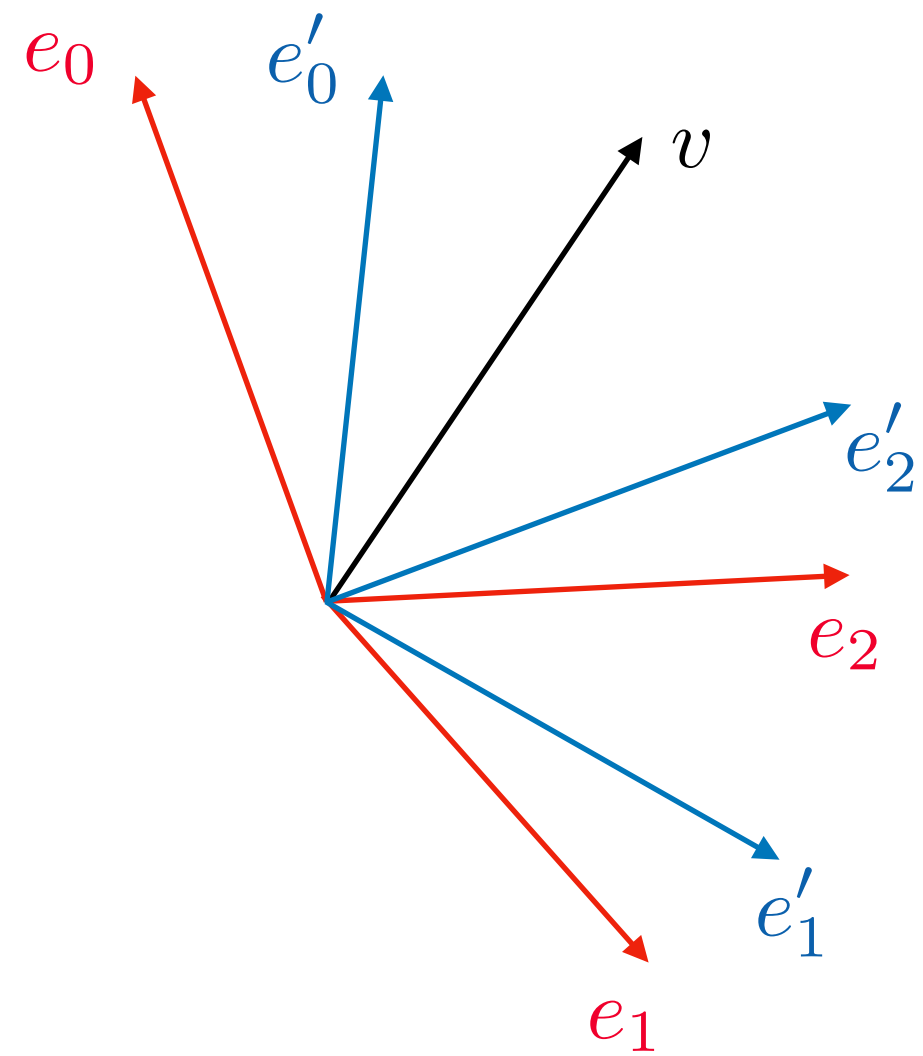
acts on frame only

- $\eta_{ab} = e^\mu_a e^\nu_b \eta_{\mu\nu} \Rightarrow e^\mu_a \in SO_+(3, 1)$ group-valued reference frame (G-frames, more later)

- "Gauge-invariant" description of v : $v_a = e^\mu_a v_\mu$ "relational / frame dressed observables"
(indep. of external coordinates) (description of v relative to frame)

SPECIAL RELATIVITY WITH INTERNAL FRAMES

[de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn,
Loveridge, Müller '22;
Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]



Introduce a second tetrad frame: $e'_{a'}$

$$v_a = \eta_{\mu\nu} e_a^\mu v^\nu = e_{\mu}^{'a'} e_{a'\nu} e_a^\mu v^\nu = \Lambda_a^{'a'} v_{a'}$$

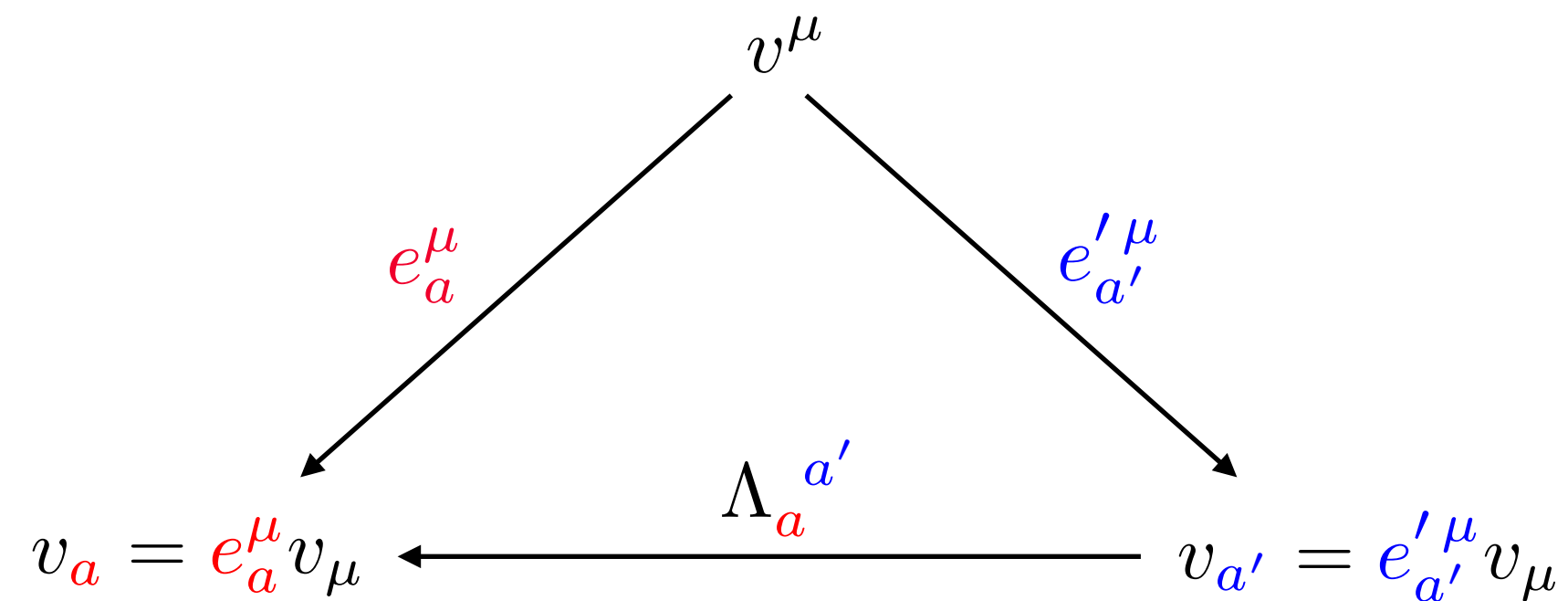
relational observable rel. to e

relational observable rel. to e'

“symmetry-induced” RF transformations

$$\Lambda_a^{'a'} = e_{\mu}^{'a'} e_a^\mu$$

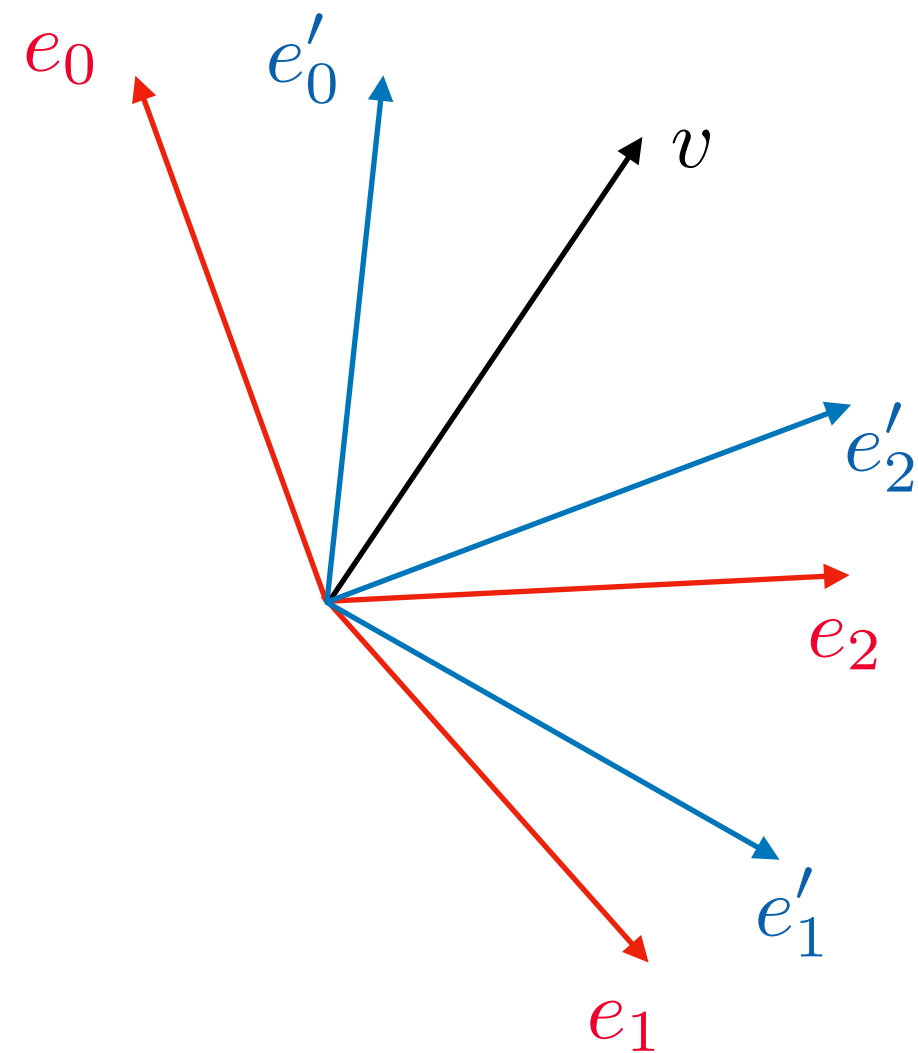
(relational obs. describing 1st rel. to 2nd frame)



change of rel. obs. associated with same kinematical subsystem quantity

SPECIAL RELATIVITY WITH INTERNAL FRAMES

[de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn,
Loveridge, Müller '22;
Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]



Introduce a second tetrad frame: $e'_{a'}$

$$v_a = \eta_{\mu\nu} e_a^\mu v^\nu = e'^{\mu}_{a'} e'_{a'\nu} e_a^\mu v^\nu = \Lambda_a^{a'} v_{a'}$$

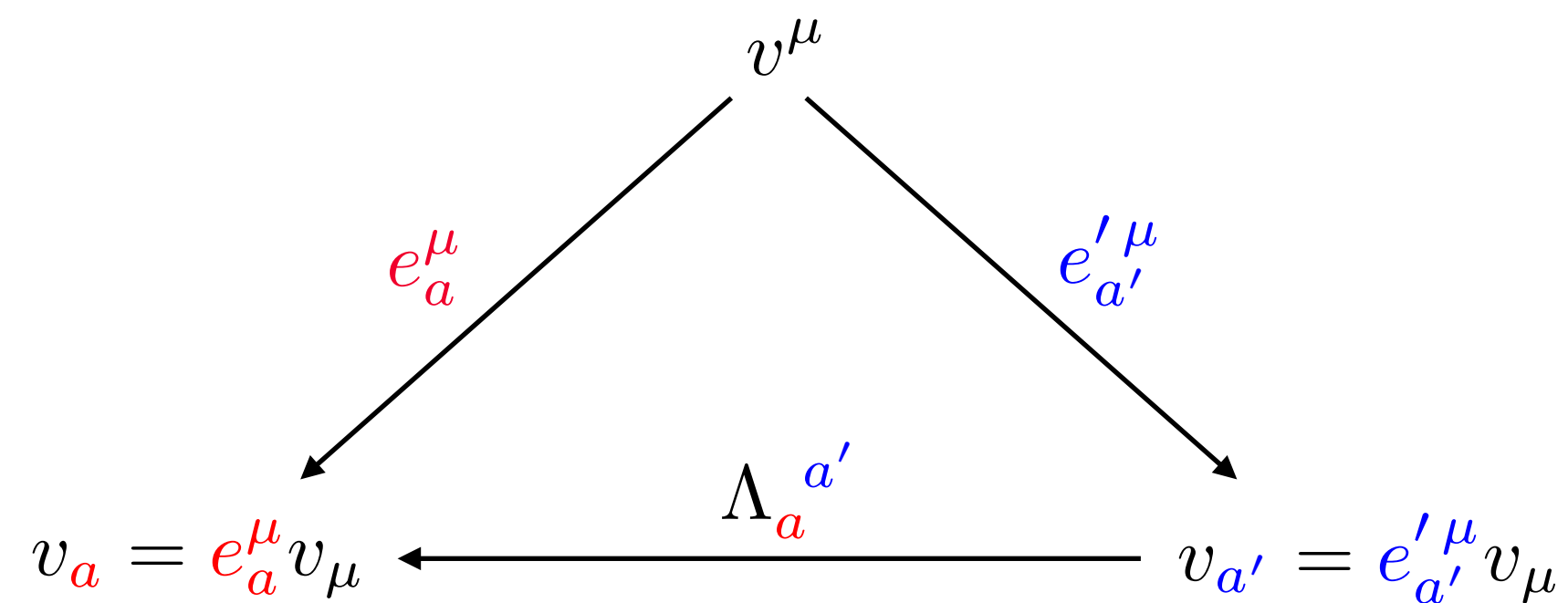
relational observable rel. to e

relational observable rel. to e'

“symmetry-induced” RF transformations

$$\Lambda_a^{a'} = e'^{\mu}_{a'} e_a^\mu$$

(relational obs. describing 1st rel. to 2nd frame)

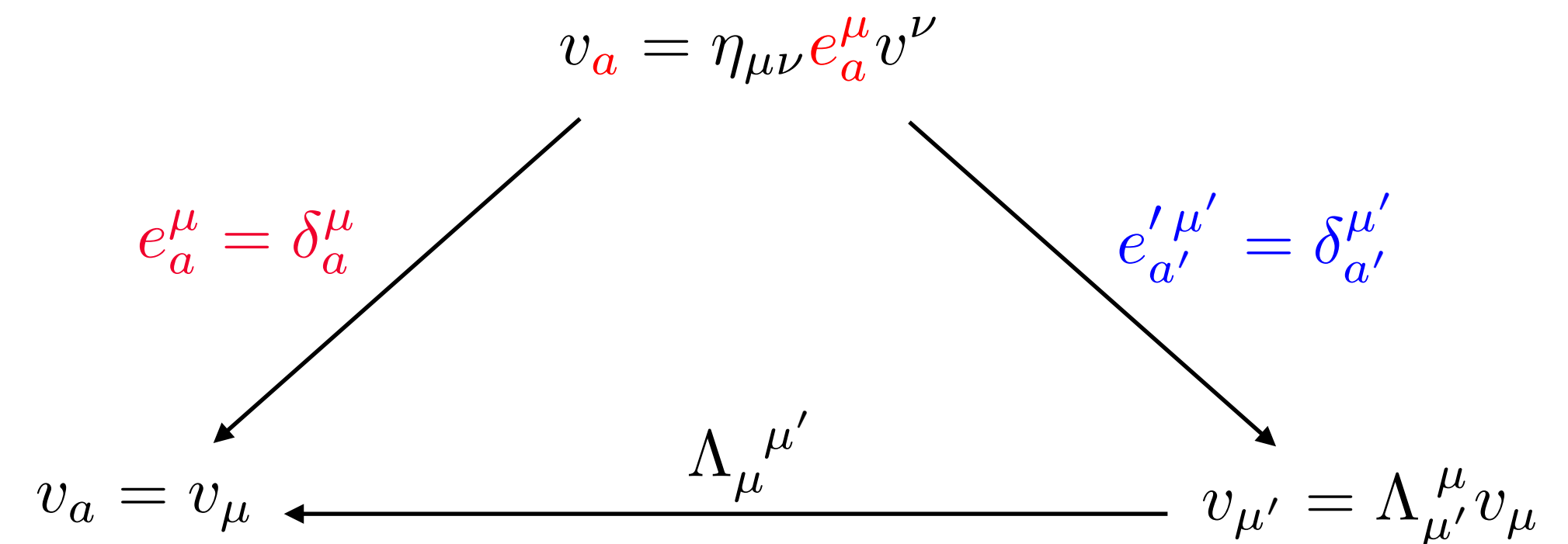


change of rel. obs. associated with same kinematical subsystem quantity

“gauge-induced” RF transformations

$$\Lambda_\mu^{\mu'}$$

(coordinate change via gauge fixings)



change of coordinate description of same relational observable

SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY \Rightarrow RELATIVITY OF SIMULTANEITY

[Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY \Rightarrow RELATIVITY OF SIMULTANEITY

[Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

Relational observables describing v rel. to 1st frame:

$$v_a \quad , \quad v_a v^a = v_\mu v^\mu$$

Relational observables describing v rel. to 2nd frame:

$$v_{a'} \quad , \quad v_{a'} v^{a'} = v_\mu v^\mu$$

Distinct gauge-invariant sets of observables,
i.e., gauge-inv. notions of subsystems,
with non-trivial overlap (functions of $v_\mu v^\mu$)

internal relational
observables

SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY \Rightarrow RELATIVITY OF SIMULTANEITY

[Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

Relational observables describing v rel. to 1st frame:

$$v_a \quad , \quad v_a v^a = v_\mu v^\mu$$

Relational observables describing v rel. to 2nd frame:

$$v_{a'} \quad , \quad v_{a'} v^{a'} = v_\mu v^\mu$$

Relational observables describing 2nd rel. to 1st frame:

$$\Lambda_a^{a'} \quad , \quad e_{a'}^{\prime \mu} e_\mu^{\prime b'}$$

Relational observables describing 1st rel. to 2nd frame:

$$\Lambda_a^{a'} \quad , \quad e_a^\mu e_\mu^b$$

Distinct gauge-invariant sets of observables,
i.e., gauge-inv. notions of subsystems,
with non-trivial overlap (functions of $v_\mu v^\mu$)

internal relational
observables

Different frames decompose the total
gauge-inv. "algebra" in different ways into
subsystem of interest and "other frame"

SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY \Rightarrow RELATIVITY OF SIMULTANEITY

[Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

Relational observables describing v rel. to 1st frame:

$$v_a \quad , \quad v_a v^a = v_\mu v^\mu$$

Relational observables describing v rel. to 2nd frame:

$$v_{a'} \quad , \quad v_{a'} v^{a'} = v_\mu v^\mu$$

Relational observables describing 2nd rel. to 1st frame:

$$\Lambda_a^{a'} \quad , \quad e_{a'}^\mu e_\mu^{b'}$$

Relational observables describing 1st rel. to 2nd frame:

$$\Lambda_a^{a'} \quad , \quad e_a^\mu e_\mu^b$$

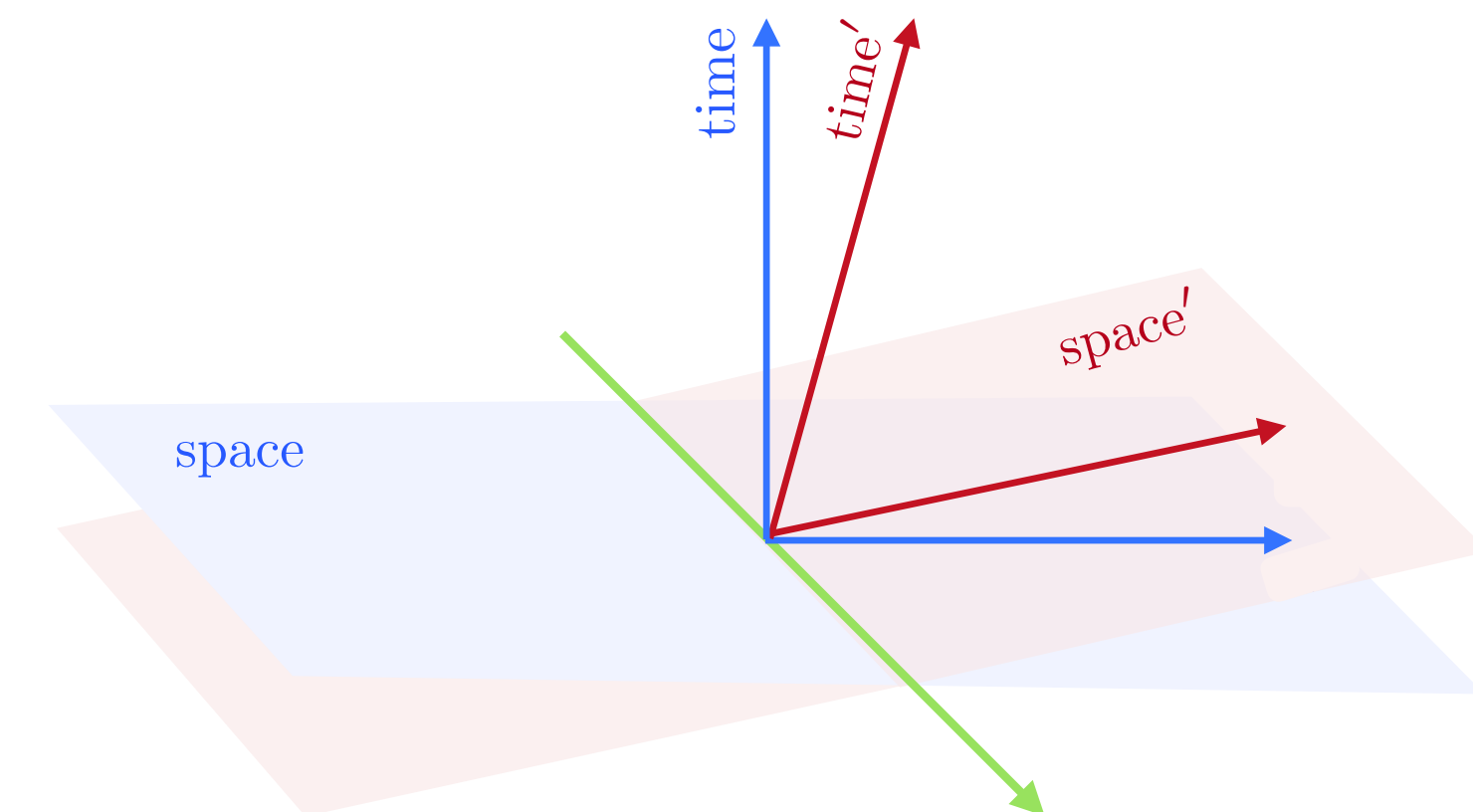
Distinct gauge-invariant sets of observables,
i.e., gauge-inv. notions of subsystems,
with non-trivial overlap (functions of $v_\mu v^\mu$)

internal relational
observables

Different frames decompose the total
gauge-inv. "algebra" in different ways into
subsystem of interest and "other frame"

Note: $\Lambda_a^{a'}$ would not give a non-trivial transformation if the observables describing the subsystem of interest rel. to the two frames were coincident

Unless $\Lambda_a^{a'}$ is only a spatial rotation, v_a and $v_{a'}$ decompose into space and time components in distinct ways

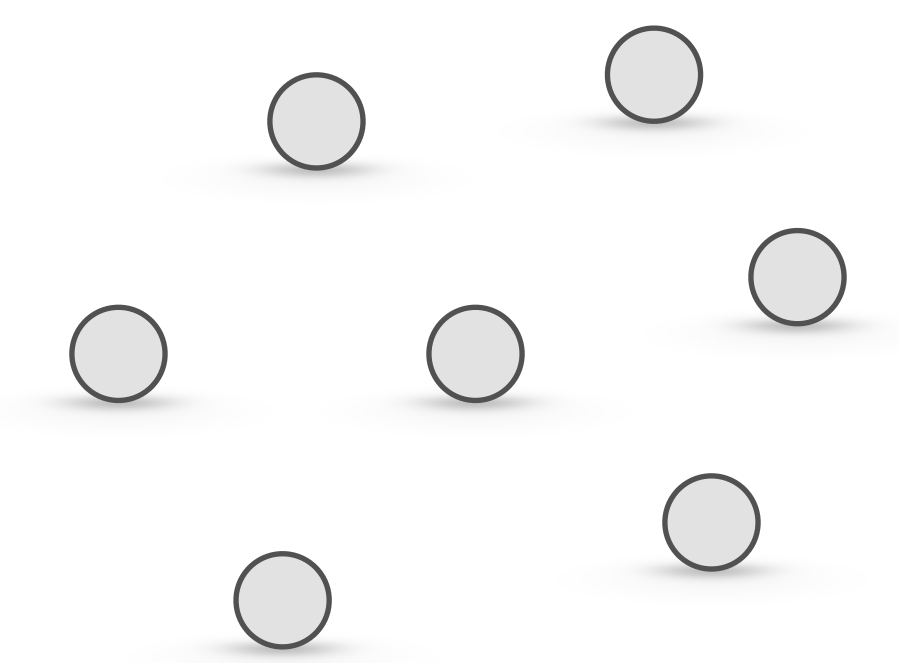


Part II

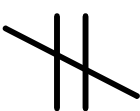
Quantum reference frames & relational subsystems

EXTERNAL/KINEMATICAL VS. INTERNAL/PHYSICAL SUBSYSTEMS

(Total) system of particles with translation invariance:



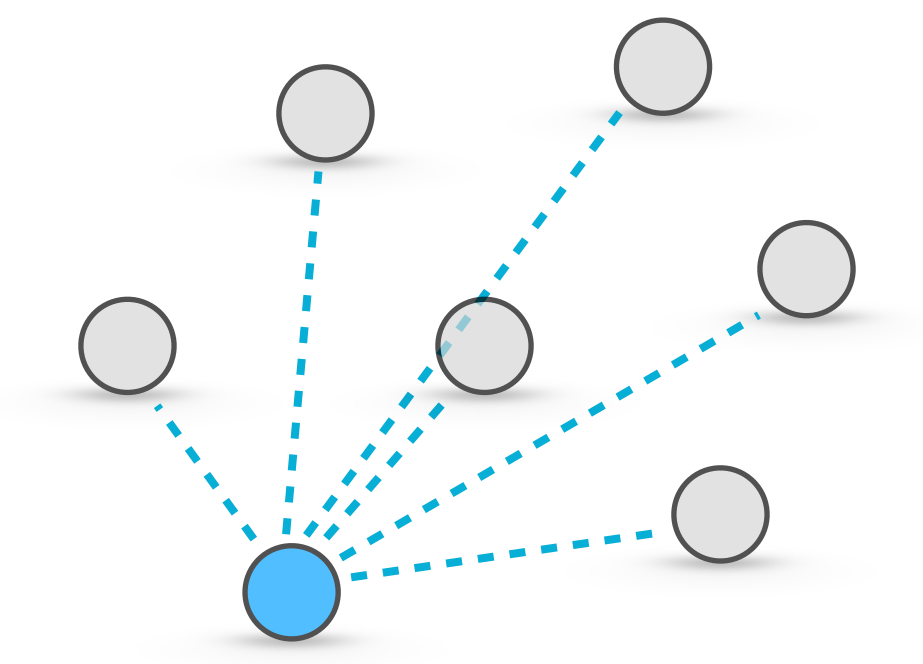
Kinematical factorisation into subsystems (e.g. absolute positions/relative to external frame)



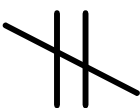
Physical/external-frame-indep. factorisation into subsystems (e.g. translation invariant relative distances)

EXTERNAL/KINEMATICAL VS. INTERNAL/PHYSICAL SUBSYSTEMS

(Total) system of particles with translation invariance:

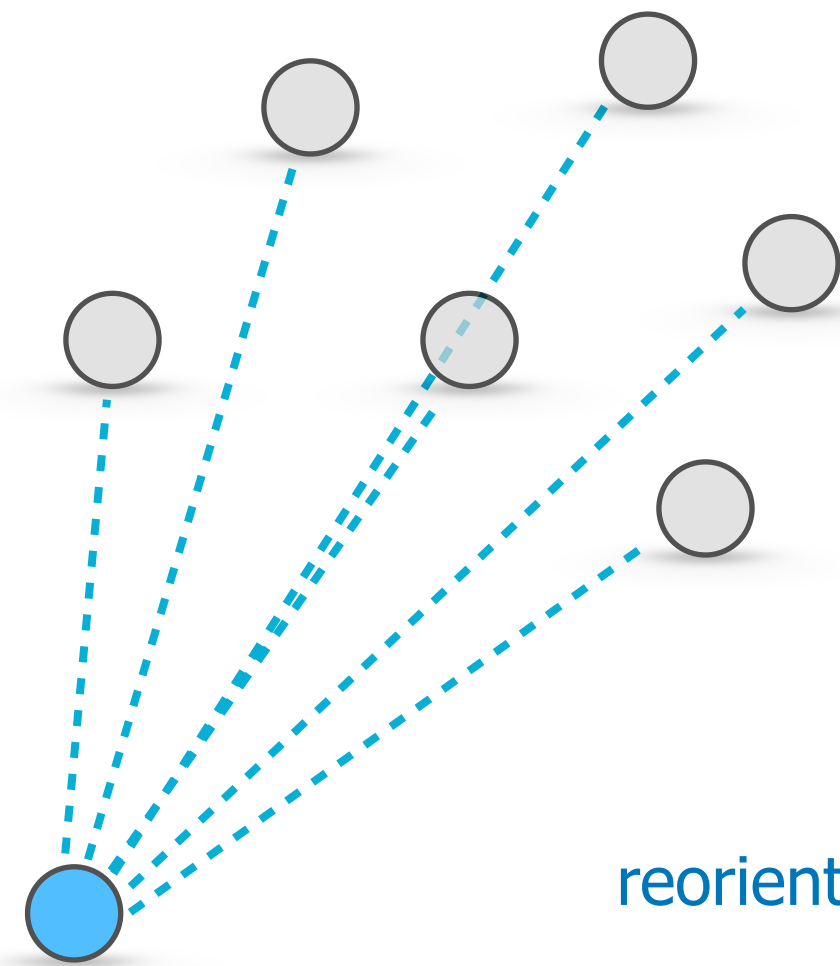


Kinematical factorisation into subsystems (e.g. absolute positions/relative to external frame)



Physical/external-frame-indep. factorisation into subsystems (e.g. translation invariant relative distances)

EXTERNAL/KINEMATICAL VS. INTERNAL/PHYSICAL SUBSYSTEMS

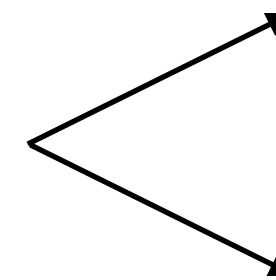


Kinematical factorisation into subsystems (e.g. absolute positions/relative to external frame)



Physical/external-frame-indep. factorisation into subsystems (e.g. translation invariant relative distances)

reorientation (change of state) of internal frame



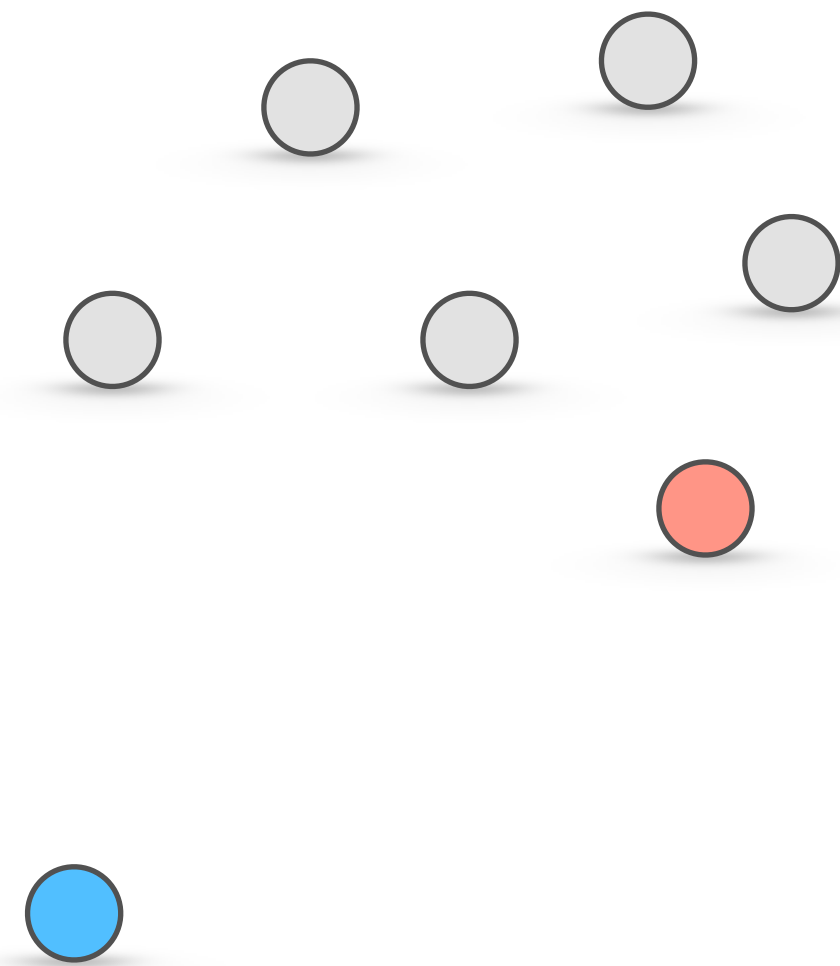
description of remaining particles relative to external frame unchanged

(absolute positions of the other particles unchanged)

description relative to internal frames changed

(relations between the frame and the other particles are changed)

EXTERNAL/KINEMATICAL VS. INTERNAL/PHYSICAL SUBSYSTEMS

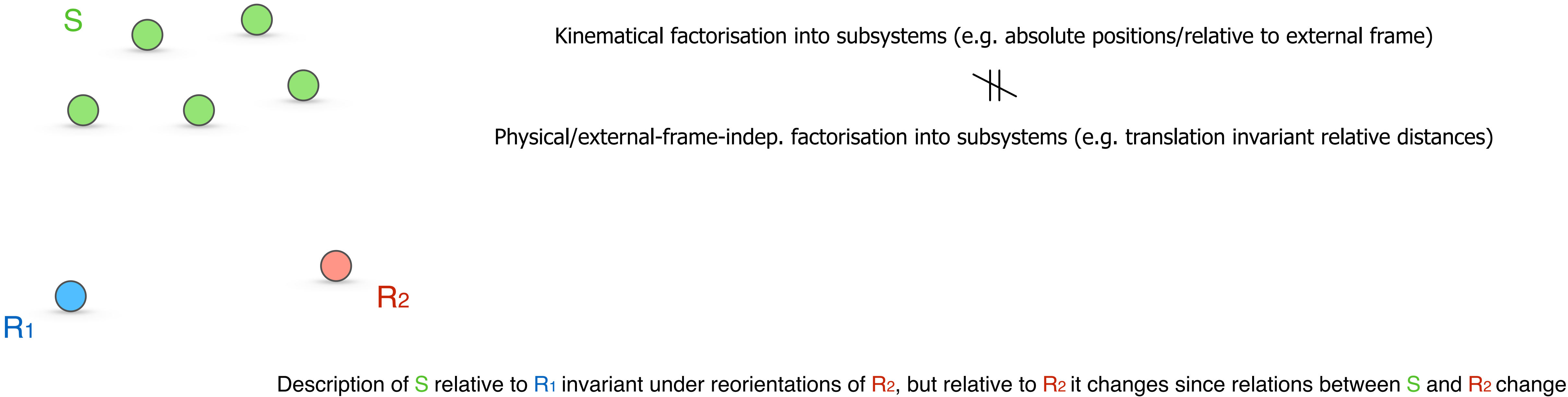


Kinematical factorisation into subsystems (e.g. absolute positions/relative to external frame)



Physical/external-frame-indep. factorisation into subsystems (e.g. translation invariant relative distances)

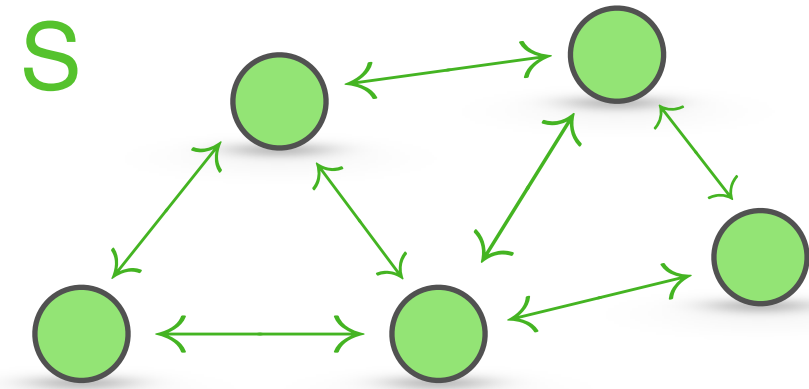
EXTERNAL/KINEMATICAL VS. INTERNAL/PHYSICAL SUBSYSTEMS



$$\mathcal{A}_{S|R_1}^{\text{phys}} \neq \mathcal{A}_{S|R_2}^{\text{phys}}$$

**Different internal frames identify
distinct relational notions of subsystems**

EXTERNAL/KINEMATICAL VS. INTERNAL/PHYSICAL SUBSYSTEMS



Kinematical factorisation into subsystems (e.g. absolute positions/relative to external frame)



Physical/external-frame-indep. factorisation into subsystems (e.g. translation invariant relative distances)



Description of **S** relative to **R1** invariant under reorientations of **R2**, but relative to **R2** it changes since relations between **S** and **R2** change

$$\mathcal{A}_{S|R_1}^{\text{phys}} \neq \mathcal{A}_{S|R_2}^{\text{phys}}$$

Different internal frames identify distinct relational notions of subsystems

Internal relations to **S are invariant under reorientations of both frames (frame-independent relational observables)**

$$\mathcal{A}_{S|R_1}^{\text{phys}} \cap \mathcal{A}_{S|R_2}^{\text{phys}} \neq \emptyset$$

[Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

Gauge-inv. properties of subsystems such as correlations, entropies, dynamics (open vs. closed), equilibrium and non-eq. thermodynamics contingent on the internal frame

INTERNAL (QUANTUM) DYNAMICAL REFERENCE FRAMES

[Krumm, Höhn, Müller '20, '21;
de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '21]

Setup relative to external (possibly fictitious) frame:

Split total DoFs **into** a **(SUB)SYSTEM OF INTEREST** (subgroup of particle, subregion,...)
and FRAME DoFs (constructed from the complement)

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{kin}} = \mathcal{H}_R \otimes \mathcal{H}_S$$

frame

system

space of externally distinguishable states

Unimodular Lie group as **gauge transformations** (e.g. Galilei, Poincaré, SU(2), reparametrisations,...)

$$U_{RS}(g) = U_R(g) \otimes U_S(g) \quad , \quad g \in G$$

external frame transformations (internal RS relations not affected)
analogue of $\Lambda^\mu_\nu \in SO_+(3,1)$ in SR

INTERNAL (QUANTUM) DYNAMICAL REFERENCE FRAMES

[Krumm, Höhn, Müller '20, '21;
de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '21]

Setup relative to external (possibly fictitious) frame:

Split total DoFs **into** a **(SUB)SYSTEM OF INTEREST** (subgroup of particle, subregion,...)
and FRAME DoFs (constructed from the complement)

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{kin}} = \mathcal{H}_R \otimes \mathcal{H}_S$$

frame

system

space of externally distinguishable states

Unimodular Lie group as **gauge transformations** (e.g. Galilei, Poincaré, SU(2), reparametrisations,...)

$$U_{RS}(g) = U_R(g) \otimes U_S(g) \quad , \quad g \in G$$

external frame transformations (internal RS relations not affected)
analogue of $\Lambda^\mu_\nu \in SO_+(3,1)$ in SR

Dynamical frame R associated with (gauge) group G → frame configurations associated to group elements

G-frame: subsystem “as non-invariant as possible” under *G*-action to be used to parametrise the orbits of *G*

INTERNAL (QUANTUM) DYNAMICAL REFERENCE FRAMES

[Krumm, Höhn, Müller '20, '21;
de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '21]

Setup relative to external (possibly fictitious) frame:

Split total DoFs **into** a **(SUB)SYSTEM OF INTEREST** (subgroup of particle, subregion,...)
and FRAME DoFs (constructed from the complement)

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{kin}} = \mathcal{H}_R \otimes \mathcal{H}_S \quad \text{space of externally distinguishable states}$$

\swarrow
frame

\searrow
system

Unimodular Lie group as **gauge transformations** (e.g. Galilei, Poincaré, $SU(2)$, reparametrisations,...)

$$U_{RS}(g) = U_R(g) \otimes U_S(g) \quad , \quad g \in G$$

external frame transformations (internal RS relations not affected)

analogue of $\Lambda_\nu^\mu \in SO_+(3,1)$ in SR

Dynamical frame R associated with (gauge) group $G \longrightarrow$ frame configurations associated to group elements

G -frame: subsystem "as non-invariant as possible" under G -action to be used to parametrise the orbits of G

frame orientations: system of generalised coherent states (gauge transf. acts transitively from left/gauge cov.)

$$|\varphi(g)\rangle_R \rightarrow U_R(g')|\varphi(g)\rangle_R = |\varphi(g'g)\rangle_R \quad , \quad \int_G dg |\varphi(g)\rangle\langle\varphi(g)|_R = \mathbf{1}_R$$

analogue of $\Lambda^\mu_\nu e^\nu_a$

not necessarily orthogonal/perfectly distinguishable orientations

symmetries/frame reorientations (act from right):

$$V_R(g')|\varphi(g)\rangle_R = |\varphi(gg'^{-1})\rangle_R$$

change RS relations (analogue of $\Lambda_b^a e_a^\mu$)

commuting group actions

PHYSICAL STATES & RELATIONAL OBSERVABLES

[Krumm, Höhn, Müller '20, '21;
de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '21]

Physical states invariant under gauge transformations (external frame transf.):


$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{phys}} = \left\{ |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle \quad \text{s.t.} \quad |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle = U_R(g) \otimes U_S(g) |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle \quad , \quad g \in G \right\}$$

$$|\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle = \Pi_{\text{phys}} |\psi_{\text{kin}}\rangle$$

space of relational equivalence classes of states

→ external-frame indep., internally distinguishable states

[Rovelli '98]



$$\Pi_{\text{phys}} = \int_G dg U_R(g) \otimes U_S(g)$$

group-averaging “projector”

$$\langle \psi_{\text{phys}} | \psi_{\text{phys}} \rangle_{\text{phys}} = \langle \psi_{\text{kin}} | \Pi_{\text{phys}} | \psi_{\text{kin}} \rangle$$

PHYSICAL STATES & RELATIONAL OBSERVABLES

[Krumm, Höhn, Müller '20, '21;
de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '21]

Physical states invariant under gauge transformations (external frame transf.):

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{phys}} = \left\{ |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle \quad \text{s.t.} \quad |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle = U_R(g) \otimes U_S(g) |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle \quad , \quad g \in G \right\} \qquad |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle = \Pi_{\text{phys}} |\psi_{\text{kin}}\rangle$$

space of relational equivalence classes of states \longrightarrow external-frame indep., internally distinguishable states
[Rovelli '98]

\searrow

$$\Pi_{\text{phys}} = \int_G dg \, U_R(g) \otimes U_S(g)$$

group-averaging “projector”

$$\langle \psi_{\text{phys}} | \psi_{\text{phys}} \rangle_{\text{phys}} = \langle \psi_{\text{kin}} | \Pi_{\text{phys}} | \psi_{\text{kin}} \rangle$$

Gauge-invariant information encoded in relational observables (e.g. relative distances) obtained via G-twirl:

$$O_{f_S,R}(g) = \int_G dg' \, U_{RS}(g') \left(|\varphi(g)\rangle \langle \varphi(g)|_R \otimes f_S \right) U_{RS}^\dagger(g')$$

$\nwarrow \nearrow$
frame-orientation conditional gauge transf.
(controlled unitary)

(analogue of $v_a = e^\mu_a v_\mu$)

value of f_S when R is in orientation g
relational obs. in the sense of Rovelli, Dittrich, Thiemann,...

gauge invariance: $[O_{f_S,R}, U_{RS}(g')] = 0$

$$O_{\bullet,R}(g) : \mathcal{A}_S \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}} \qquad \text{*}-\text{homomorphism on } \mathcal{H}_{\text{phys}}$$

(QUANTUM) FRAME RELATIVITY OF SUBSYSTEMS

[Ahmad Ali, Galley, Höhn, Lock, Smith '21;
de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '22;
Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

Consider two frames: $\mathcal{H}_{\text{kin}} = \mathcal{H}_{R_1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{R_2} \otimes \mathcal{H}_S$

Change from relational observables of S relative to R1 to those relative to R2 (for the same f_S):

In SR, recall: $v_{\textcolor{red}{a}} = \Lambda_{\textcolor{red}{a}}^{\textcolor{blue}{a'}} v_{\textcolor{blue}{a'}}$

where $\Lambda_{\textcolor{red}{a}}^{\textcolor{blue}{a'}} = \textcolor{blue}{e}_{\mu}^{\textcolor{blue}{a'}} \textcolor{red}{e}_a^{\mu}$

(rel. obs. describing 1st rel. to 2nd frame)

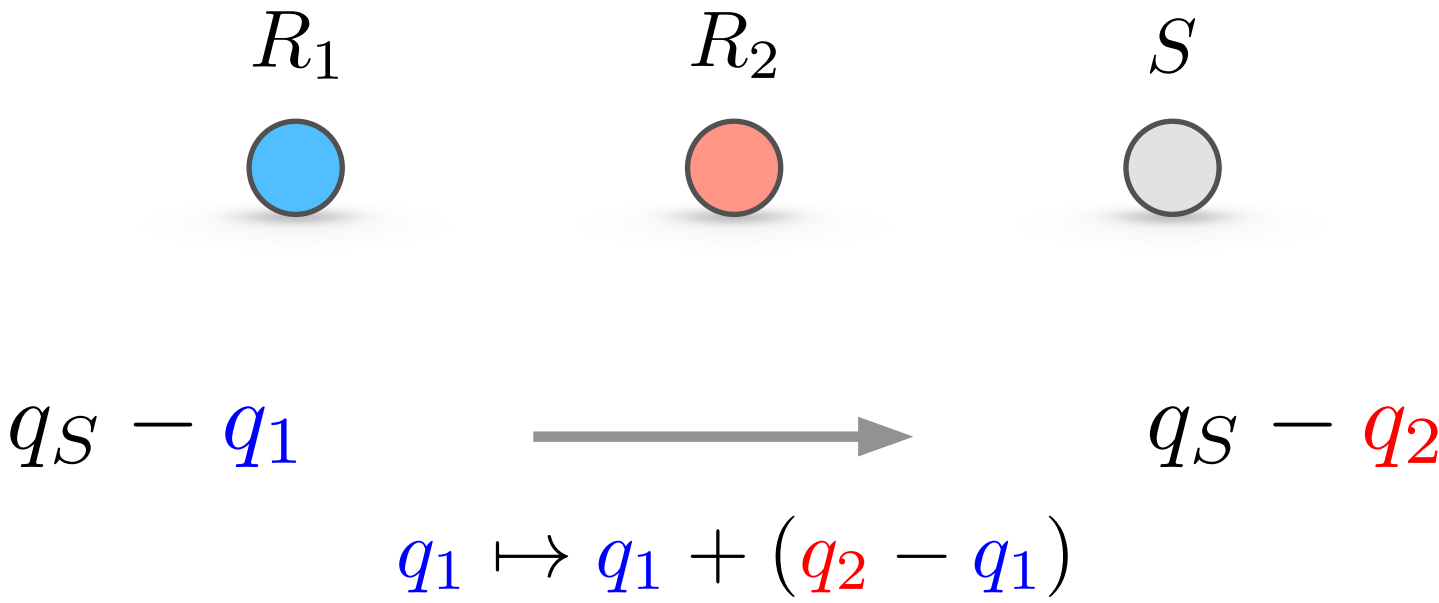
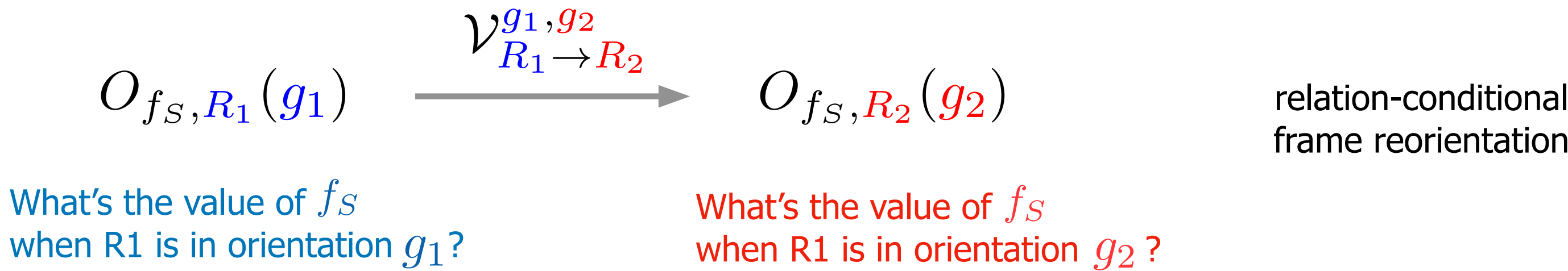
(QUANTUM) FRAME RELATIVITY OF SUBSYSTEMS

[Ahmad Ali, Galley, Höhn, Lock, Smith '21;
de la Hamette, Galley, Höhn, Loveridge, Müller '22;
Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

Consider two frames: $\mathcal{H}_{\text{kin}} = \mathcal{H}_{R_1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{R_2} \otimes \mathcal{H}_S$

Change from relational observables of S relative to R1 to those relative to R2 (for the same f_S):

In SR, recall: $v_a = \Lambda_a^{a'} v_{a'}$
where $\Lambda_a^{a'} = e_{\mu}^{a'} e_a^{\mu}$
(rel. obs. describing 1st rel. to 2nd frame)



translation of R1 by relative distance between R2 and R1

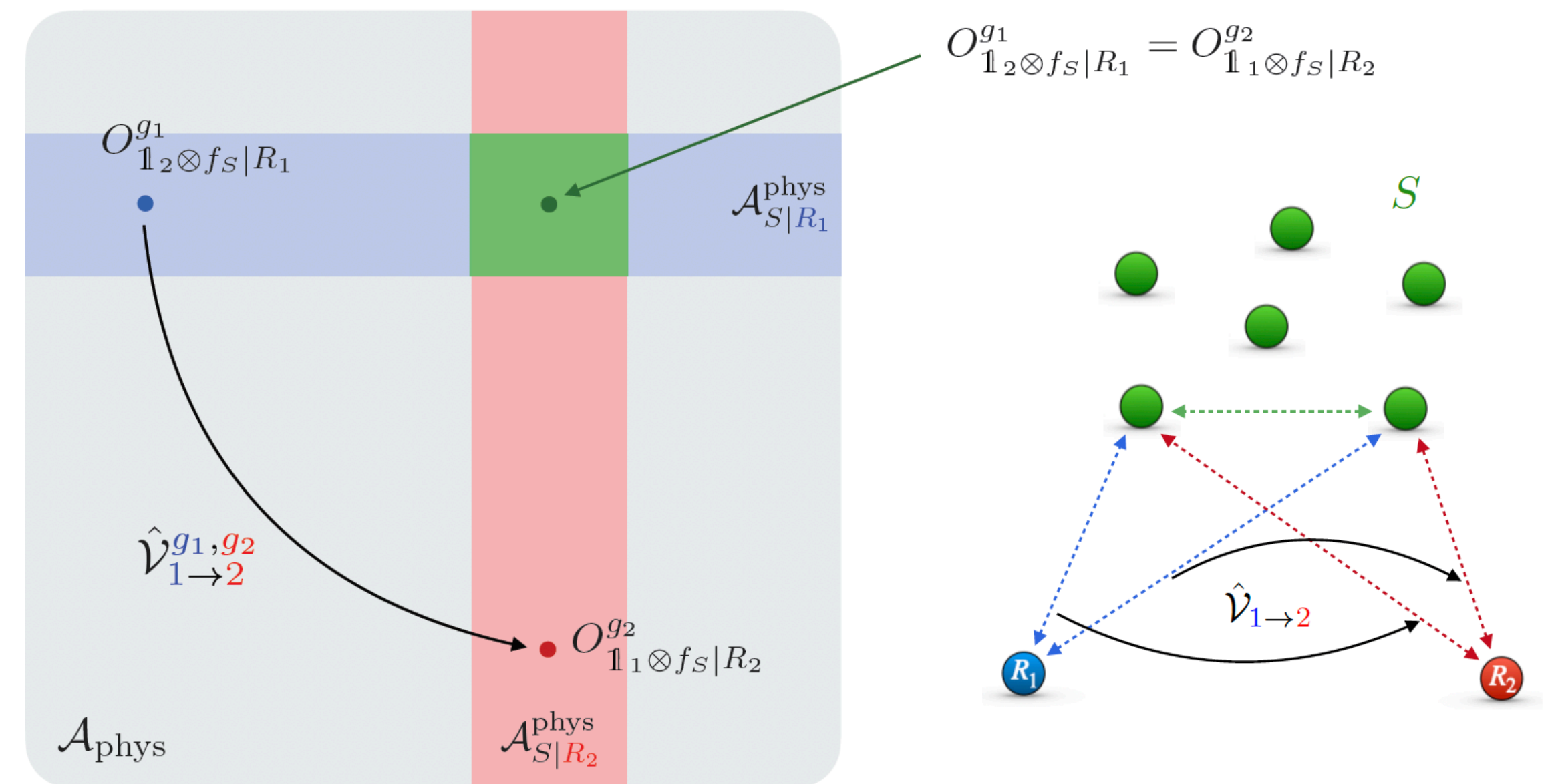
(QUANTUM) FRAME RELATIVITY OF SUBSYSTEMS

Consider two frames: $\mathcal{H}_{\text{kin}} = \mathcal{H}_{R_1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{R_2} \otimes \mathcal{H}_S$

Change from relational observables of S relative to R1 to those relative to R2 (for the same f_S): $O_{f_S, R_1}(g_1) \xrightarrow{\hat{\mathcal{V}}_{R_1 \rightarrow R_2}^{g_1, g_2}} O_{f_S, R_2}(g_2)$

- **S-observables relative to R1 invariant under R2-reorientations, and viceversa**
- **Different gauge-invariant subalgebras describing S relative to R1 and R2**
- $\mathcal{A}_{S|R_1}^{\text{phys}} \cap \mathcal{A}_{S|R_2}^{\text{phys}}$ **invariant under reorientations of both frames**
(in particular, relation-conditional ones)

internal S relations
(already gauge-inv./indep. of R1 and R2)



(QUANTUM) FRAME RELATIVITY OF SUBSYSTEMS

[Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

Different frames identify different gauge inv. subsystems

Different relational ways to refer to a kinematical subsystem

For finite-systems & ideal frames:

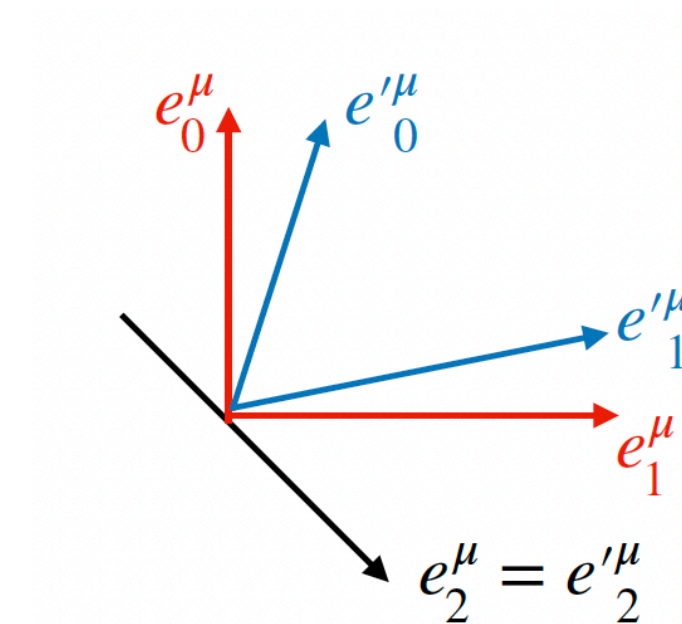
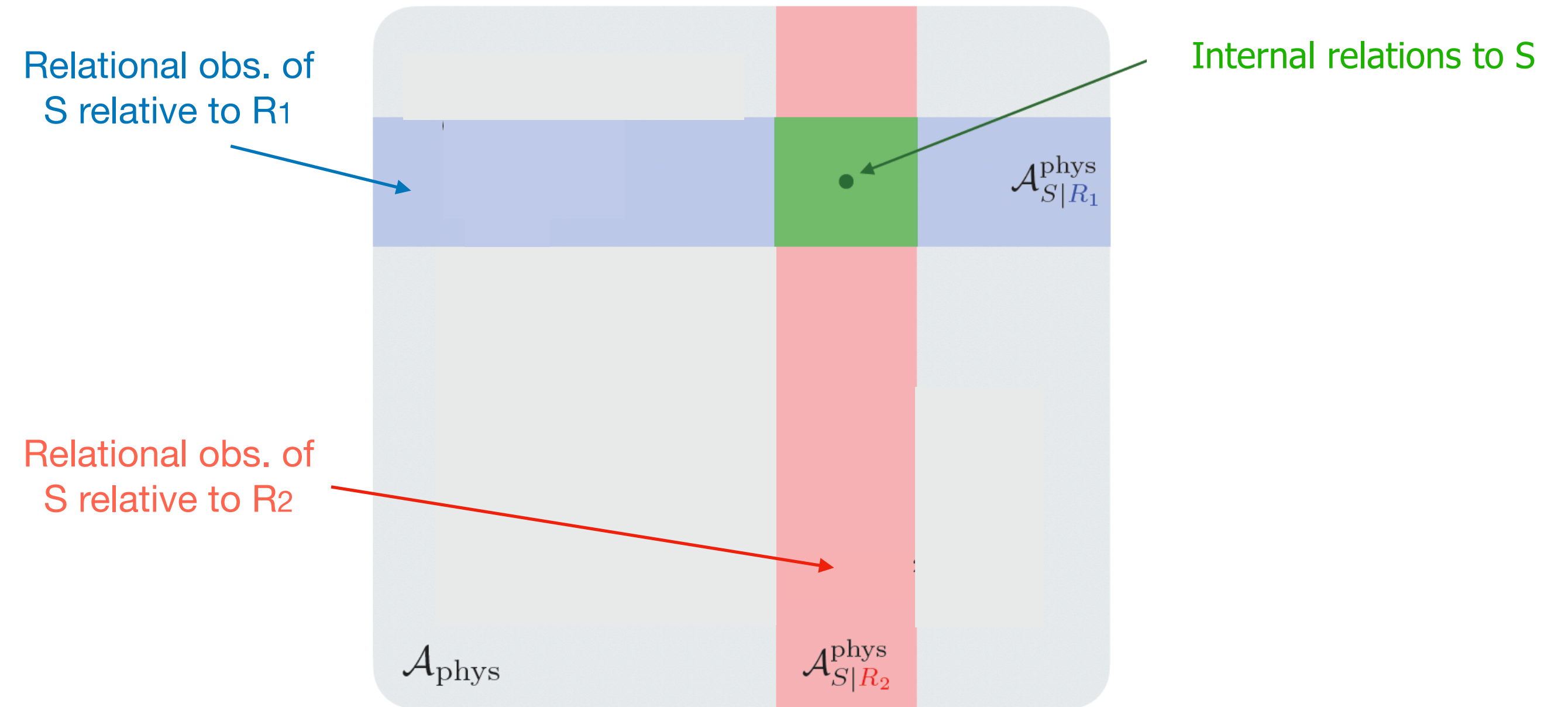
$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}} \simeq \mathcal{A}_{R_2|R_1}^{\text{phys}} \otimes \mathcal{A}_{S|R_1}^{\text{phys}} \simeq \mathcal{A}_{R_1|R_2}^{\text{phys}} \otimes \mathcal{A}_{S|R_2}^{\text{phys}}$$

but

$$\mathcal{A}_{S|R_1}^{\text{phys}} \neq \mathcal{A}_{S|R_2}^{\text{phys}}$$

Inequivalent factorisations of total algebra relative to the two frames

(not in general the same as factorisations across kinematical DoFs)



relativity of simultaneity:

different observers decompose space of (relational)
length observables in different ways into space and time

JUMPING INTO INTERNAL FRAME PERSPECTIVE

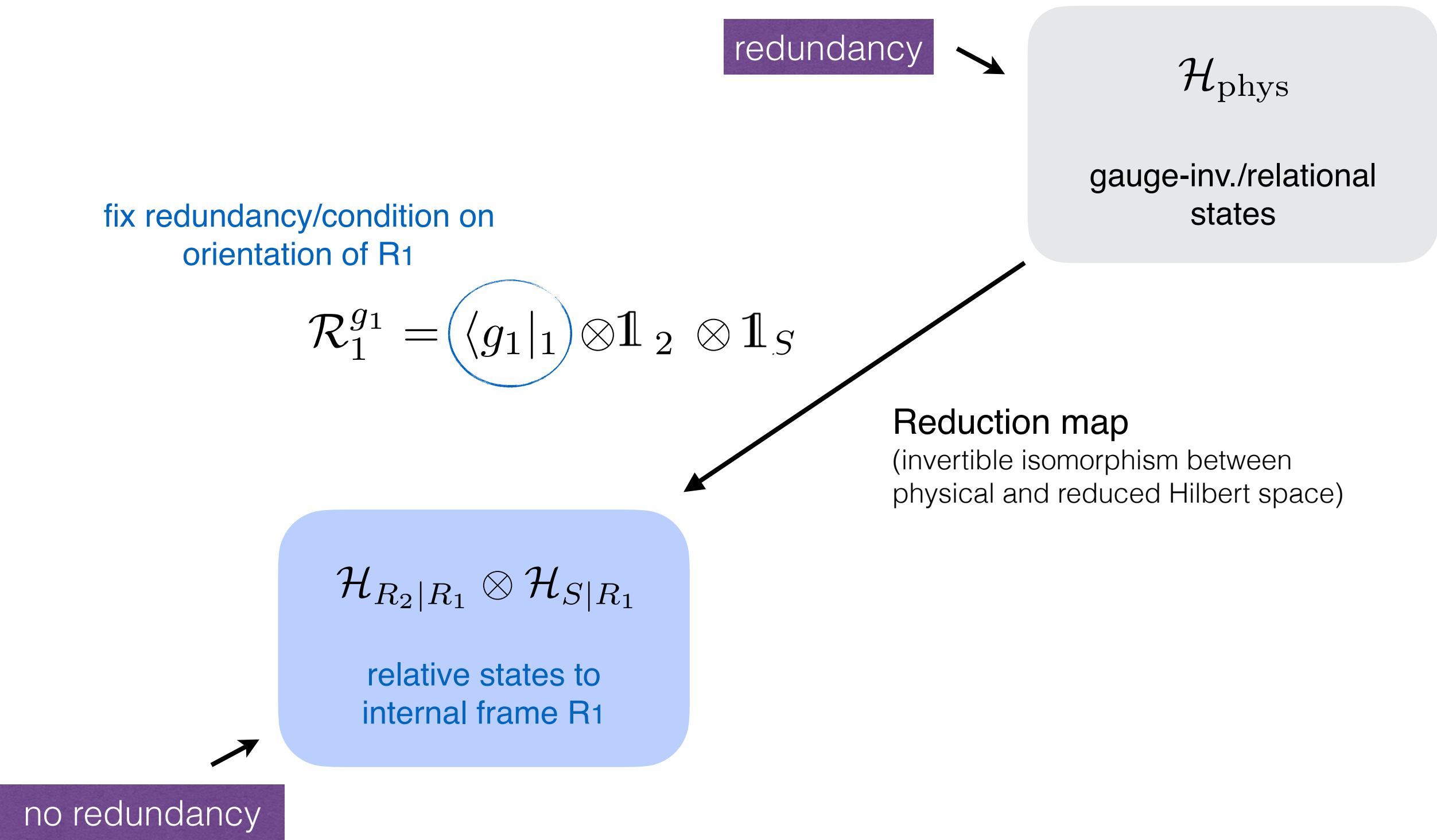
Idea: **identify redundant DoFs with those of the frame**

different gauge choices \rightarrow different frame perspectives

Finite Abelian case (frame orientations $\rightarrow |g_1\rangle_1$ regular representation, $\mathcal{H}_R = \ell^2(G)$)

Recall: “Jumping into frame perspective via gauge fixing”

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & v_a = \eta_{\mu\nu} e_a^\mu v^\nu & \\ \swarrow e_a^\mu = \delta_a^\mu & & \searrow e_{a'}^{\mu'} = \delta_{a'}^{\mu'} \\ v_a = v_\mu & \xleftarrow{\Lambda_\mu^{\mu'}} & v_{\mu'} = \Lambda_{\mu'}^\mu v_\mu \end{array}$$

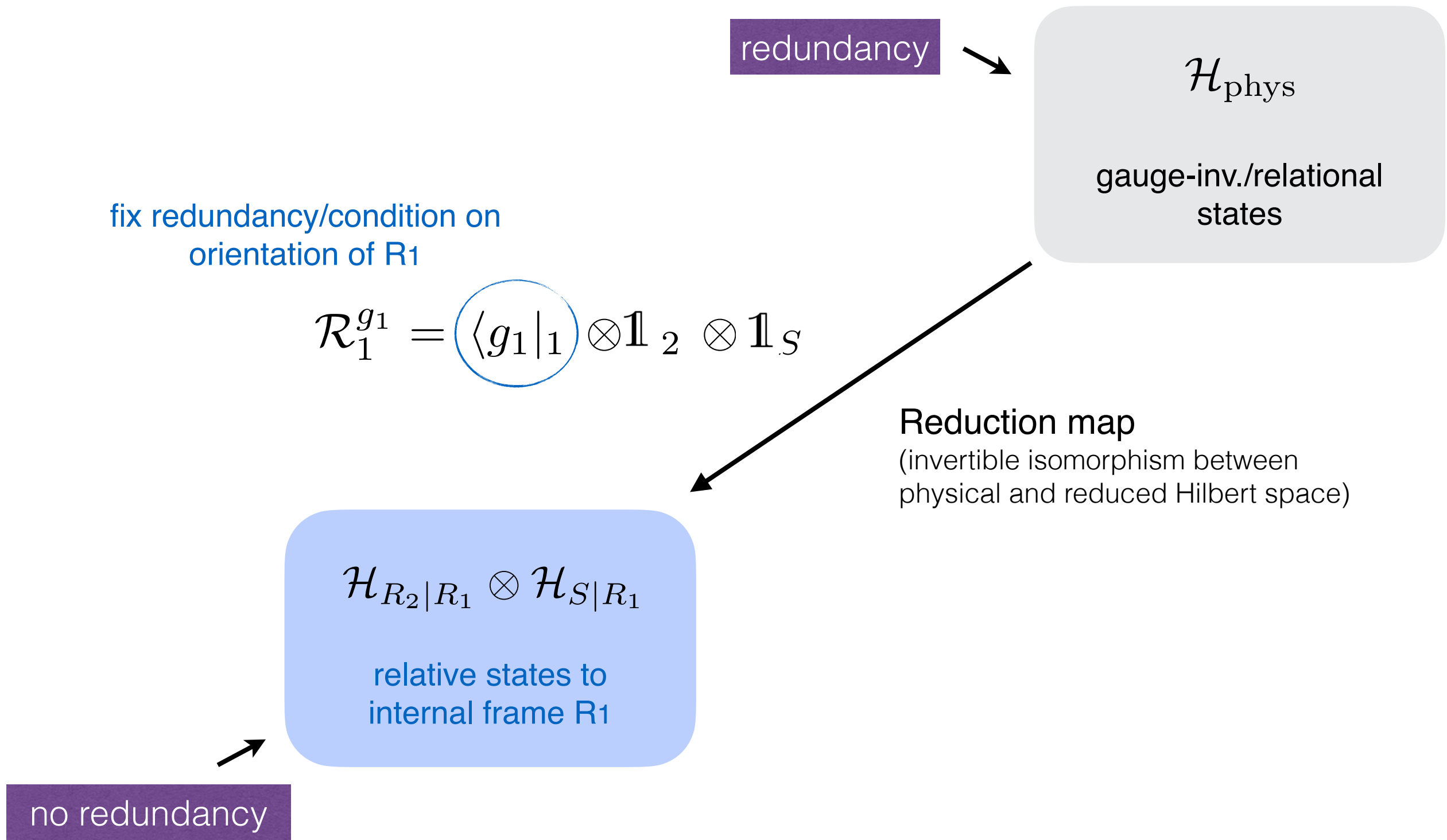


JUMPING INTO INTERNAL FRAME PERSPECTIVE

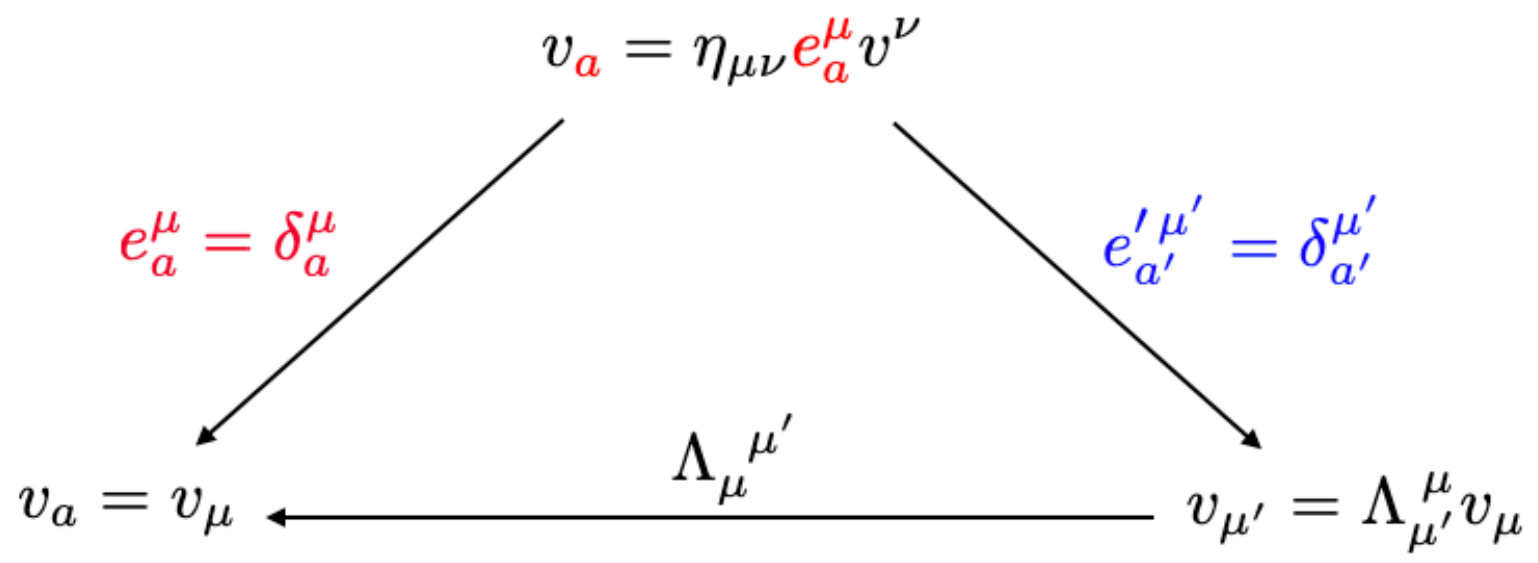
Idea: **identify redundant DoFs with those of the frame**

different gauge choices \rightarrow different frame perspectives

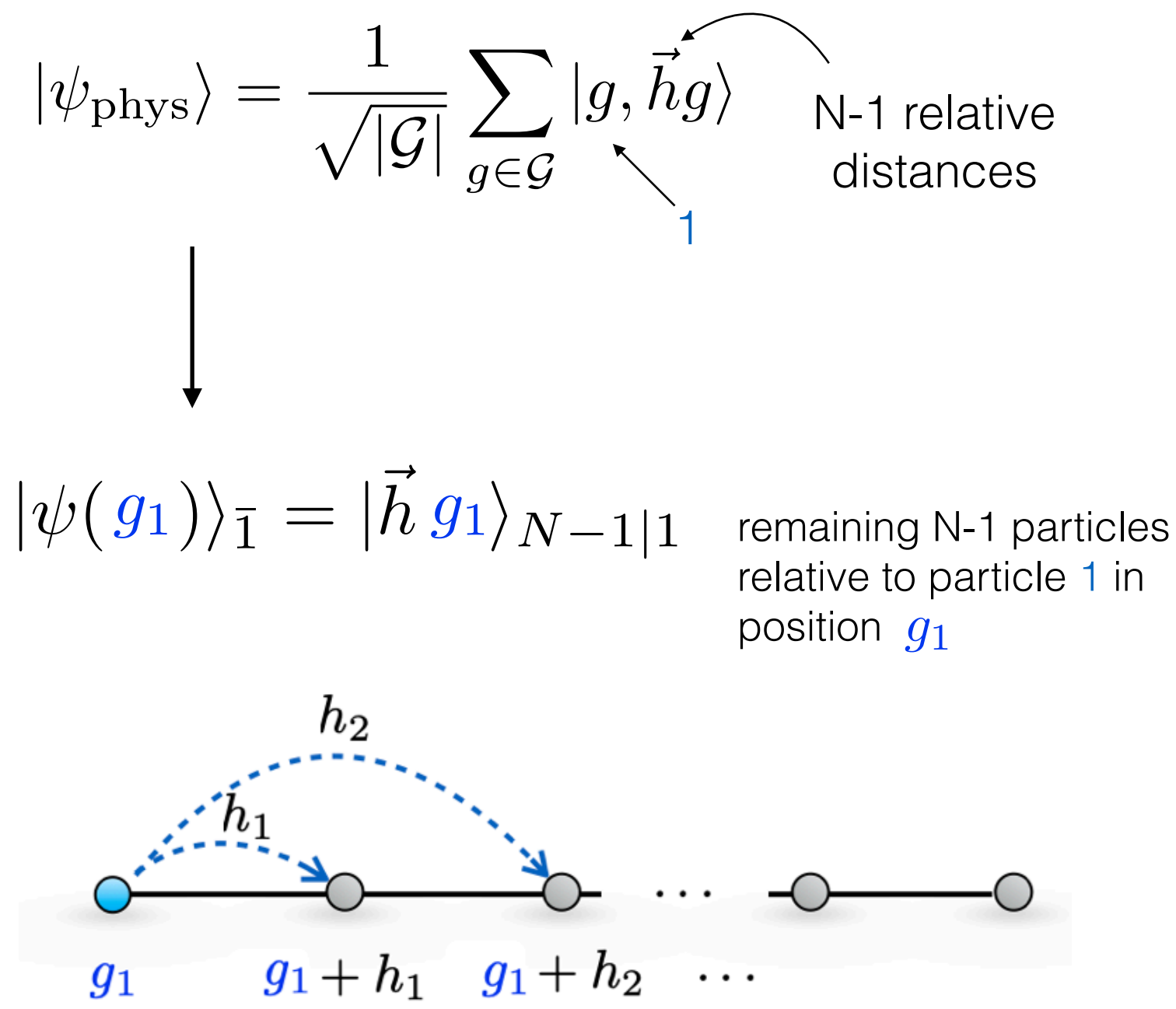
Finite Abelian case (frame orientations $\rightarrow |g_1\rangle_1$ regular representation, $\mathcal{H}_R = \ell^2(G)$)



Recall: "Jumping into frame perspective via gauge fixing"



Example: $\mathcal{G} = \mathbb{Z}_n$ -transl. inv. (+ mod n) N particles



JUMPING INTO INTERNAL FRAME PERSPECTIVE

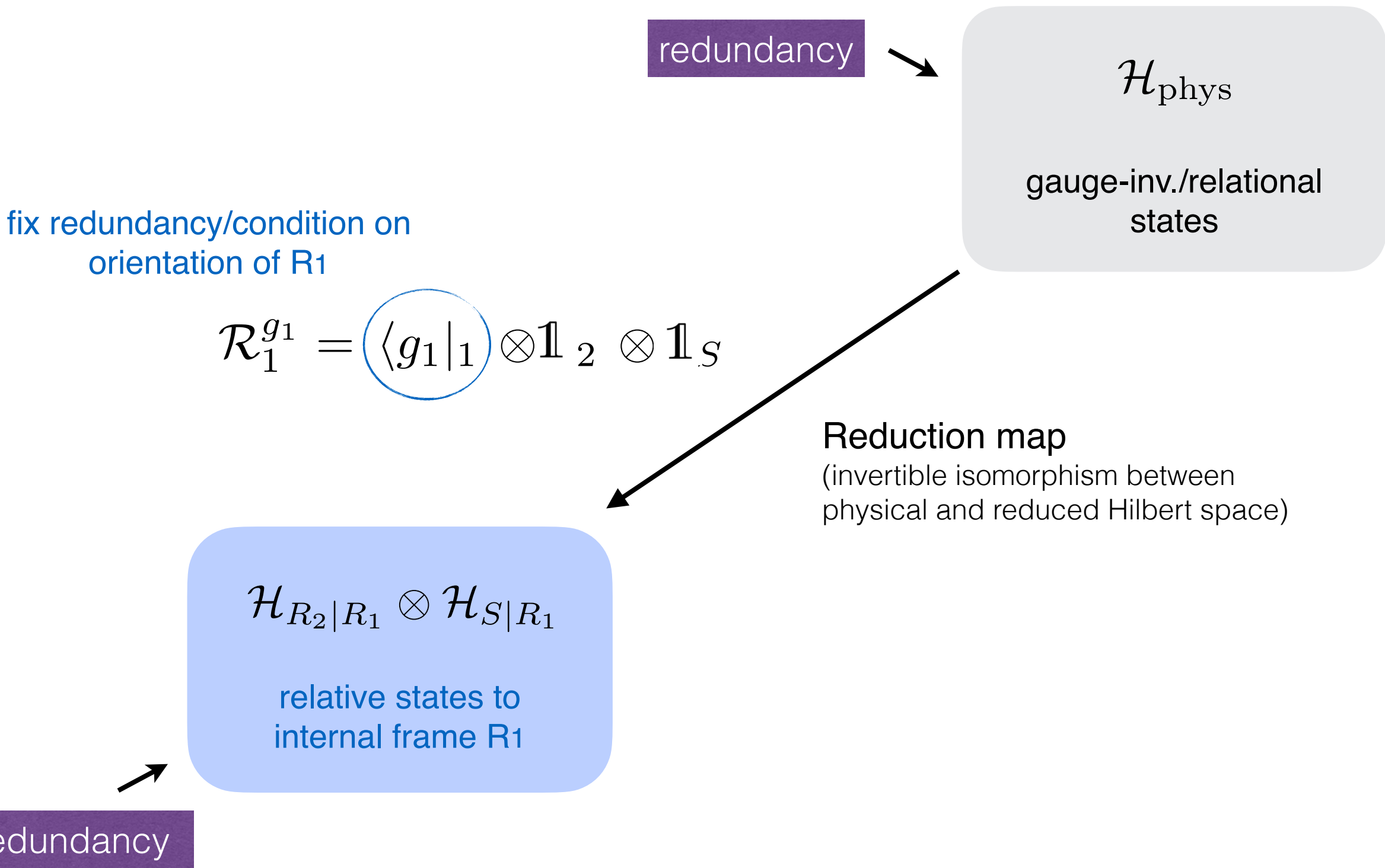
Idea: **identify redundant DoFs with those of the frame**

different gauge choices \rightarrow different frame perspectives

Finite Abelian case (frame orientations $\rightarrow |g_1\rangle_1$ regular representation, $\mathcal{H}_R = \ell^2(G)$)

Recall: “Jumping into frame perspective via gauge fixing”

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & v_a = \eta_{\mu\nu} e_a^\mu v^\nu & \\ \swarrow e_a^\mu = \delta_a^\mu & & \searrow e_{a'}^{\mu'} = \delta_{a'}^{\mu'} \\ v_a = v_\mu & \xleftarrow{\Lambda_\mu^{\mu'}} & v_{\mu'} = \Lambda_{\mu'}^\mu v_\mu \end{array}$$



Tensor Product Structure (TPS)

[Zanardi '01; Zanardi, Lidar, Lloyd '03; Cotler, Penington, Ranard '19]

A TPS \mathcal{T} on \mathcal{H} is an equivalence class of isomorphisms (unitaries)

$$\mathbf{T} : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \bigotimes_{\alpha=1}^n \mathcal{H}_\alpha$$

such that

$$\mathbf{T} \sim \mathbf{T}' \quad \text{if} \quad \mathbf{T}' \circ \mathbf{T}^{-1} = \text{product of local unitaries } \bigotimes_\alpha U_\alpha \text{ and permutations of subsystem factors with equal dim.}$$

same notion of locality

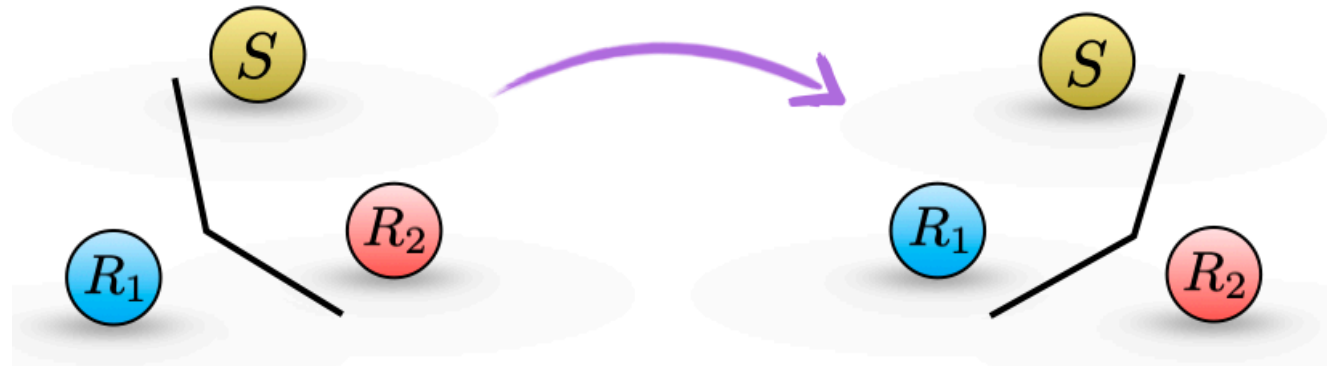
Jumping into perspective = TPS on $\mathcal{H}_{\text{phys}}$

[Höhn, Kotecha, **FMM** '23]

$$\mathbf{T}_1^{g1} = \mathcal{R}_1^{g1} \quad , \quad \mathcal{R}_1^g \sim \mathcal{R}_1^{g'}$$

CHANGING THE INTERNAL FRAME PERSPECTIVE

Recall: “Jumping into frame perspective via gauge fixing”



$$\begin{array}{ccc} & v_a = \eta_{\mu\nu} e_a^\mu v^\nu & \\ e_a^\mu = \delta_a^\mu \swarrow & & \searrow e_{a'}^{\mu'} = \delta_{a'}^{\mu'} \\ v_a = v_\mu & \xleftarrow{\Lambda_\mu^{\mu'}} & v_{\mu'} = \Lambda_{\mu'}^\mu v_\mu \end{array}$$

reduction to R1 perspective

$$\mathcal{R}_1^{g_1} = \langle g_1|_1 \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}_S$$

reduction to R2 perspective

$$\mathcal{R}_2^{g_2} = \mathbb{1}_1 \otimes \langle g_2|_2 \otimes \mathbb{1}_S$$

different frame perspectives linked through perspective-neutral stage

$$\mathcal{H}_{R_2|R_1} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{S|R_1}$$

relative states to internal frame R1

$$\mathcal{H}_{R_1|R_2} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{S|R_2}$$

relative states to internal frame R2

QRF transformation

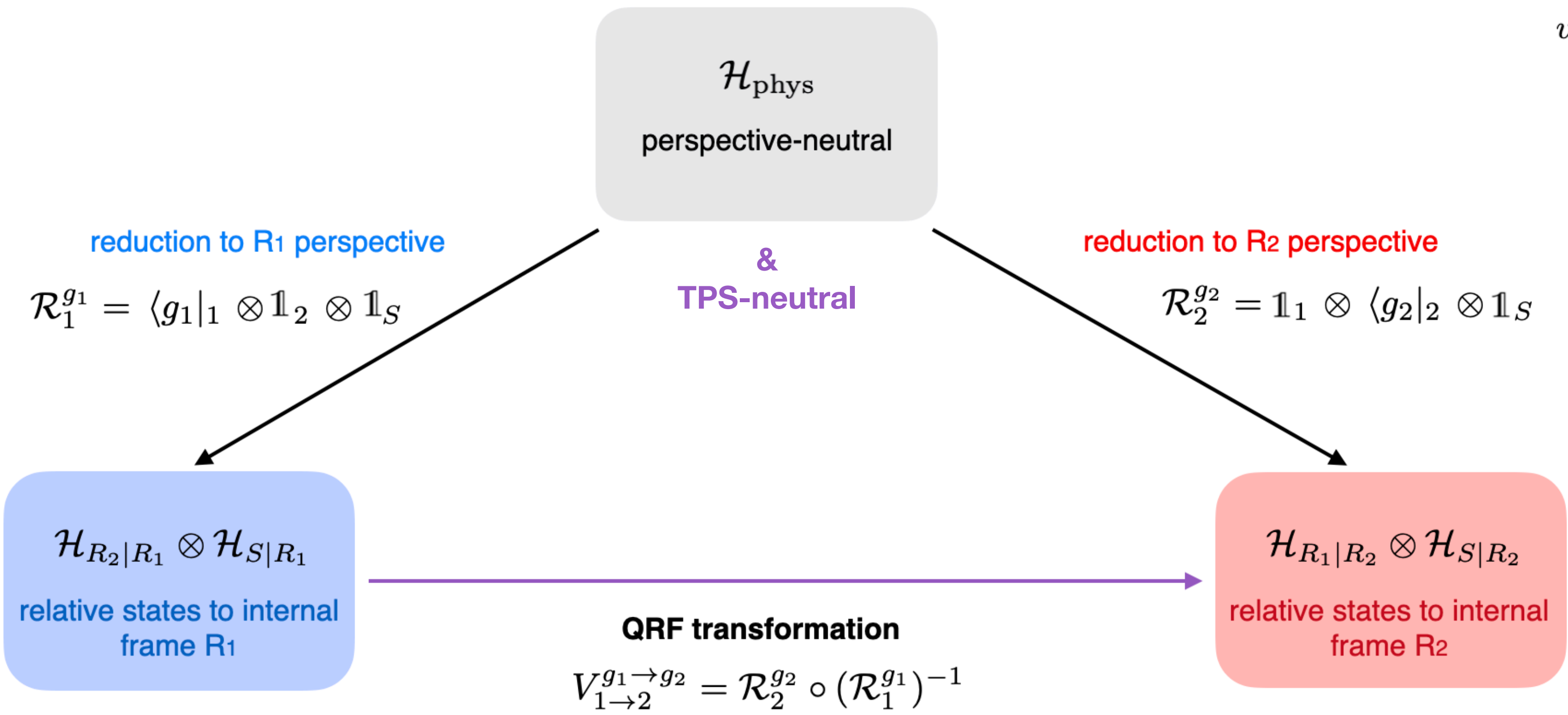
$$V_{1 \rightarrow 2}^{g_1 \rightarrow g_2} = \mathcal{R}_2^{g_2} \circ (\mathcal{R}_1^{g_1})^{-1}$$



CHANGING THE INTERNAL FRAME PERSPECTIVE

Recall: “Jumping into frame perspective via gauge fixing”

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & v_a = \eta_{\mu\nu} e_a^\mu v^\nu & \\ e_a^\mu = \delta_a^\mu \swarrow & & \searrow e_{a'}^{\mu'} = \delta_{a'}^{\mu'} \\ v_a = v_\mu & \xleftarrow{\Lambda_\mu^{\mu'}} & v_{\mu'} = \Lambda_{\mu'}^\mu v_\mu \end{array}$$



non-local unitary



Inequivalent TPSs

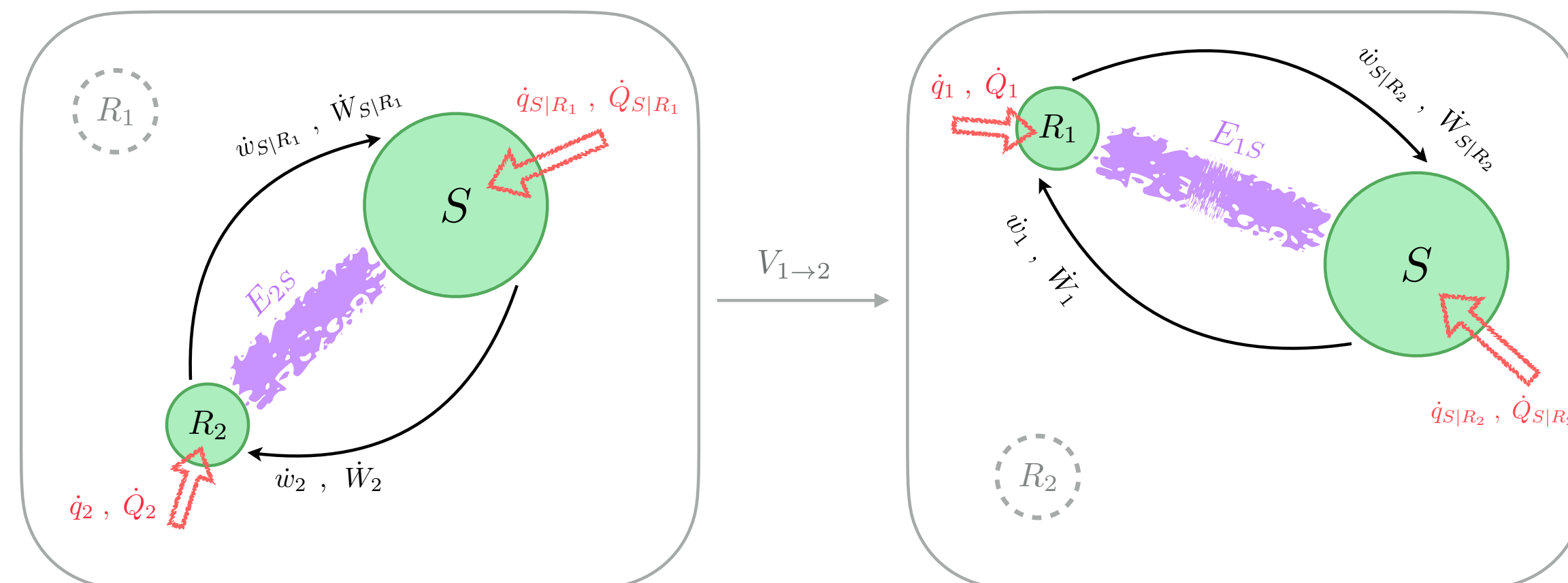
Hilbert space counterpart of the algebra story we've seen before

Gauge-invariant physical properties generically depend on the chosen frame:

- Correlations/entanglement of S with its complement \longrightarrow **gauge-inv. entanglement entropy** in general $\mathcal{S}(\rho_{S|R_1}) \neq \mathcal{S}(\rho_{S|R_2})$ for same global physical state
[see also [Giacomini, Castro-Ruiz, Brukner '17](#); [Castro-Ruiz, Oreshkov '21](#))]
- QRF-relativity of interactions (degree of locality of total Hamiltonian) \longrightarrow **dynamics of S can be isolated/closed relative to R_1 , but open relative to R_2**
- QRF-relativity of (quantum) thermodynamics: **thermal equilibrium & non-equilibrium processes** (heat/work exchanges, entropy production, and entropy flow)

Total system R_1R_2S in isolation
(unitary dynamics)

Subsystems can interact,
exchange heat, work, & energy




Part III

Entanglement entropy: relational vs. center construction

RELATIONAL vs CENTER CONSTRUCTION

N+M particles in 1D with translation invariance

$G = (\mathbb{R}, +)$



$\mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}} = \{q_2 - q_1, \dots, q_{N+M} - q_1, p_2, \dots, p_{N+M}\}$

$P_{\text{tot}}|\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle = 0$

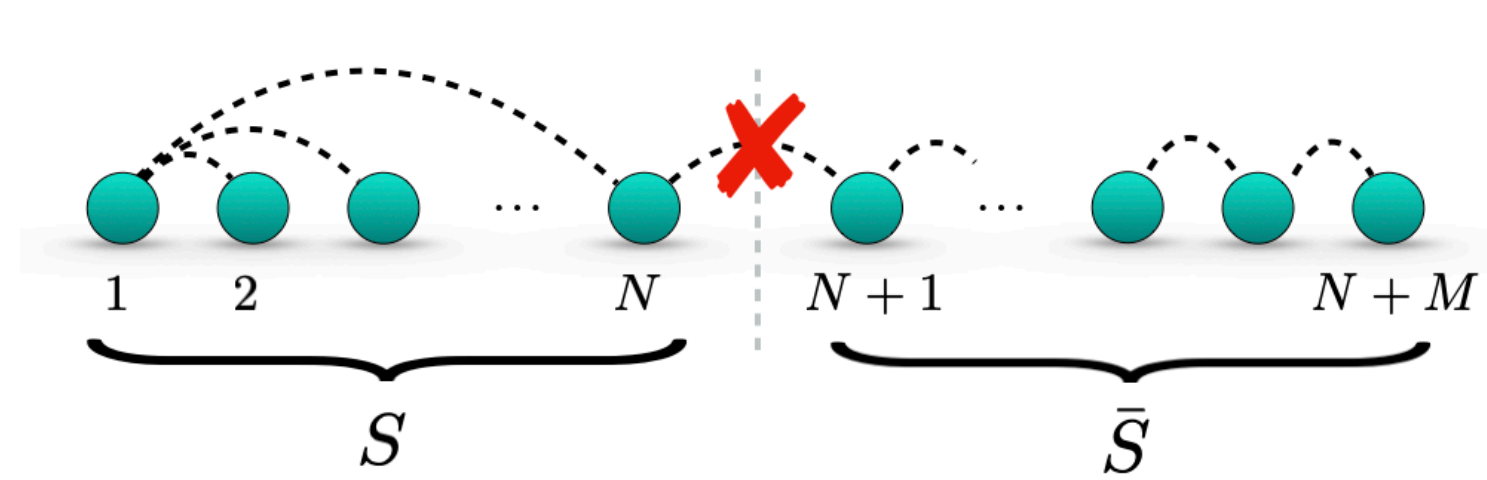
RELATIONAL vs CENTER CONSTRUCTION

N+M particles in 1D with translation invariance $G = (\mathbb{R}, +)$

$$\longrightarrow P_{\text{tot}} |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle = 0$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}} = \{q_2 - q_1, \dots, q_{N+M} - q_1, p_2, \dots, p_{N+M}\}$$

Center construction



[Casini, Huerta, Rosabal '13;
Donnelly '11, '14;
Van Acoleyen, Bultinck,
Haegeman, Marien, Scholz,
Verstraete '15,...]

Assign "regional"/internal gauge-inv. algebras to kinematical complements

$$\mathcal{A}_S = \{q_2 - q_1, \dots, q_N - q_1, p_1, \dots, p_N\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}} = (\mathcal{A}_S)' = \{q_{N+2} - q_{N+1}, \dots, q_{N+M} - q_{N+M-1}, p_{N+1}, \dots, p_{N+M}\}$$

Non-trivial center

$$\mathcal{Z}_S = \mathcal{A}_S \cap (\mathcal{A}_S)' \neq \mathbb{C}1$$

Algebra generated by \mathcal{A}_S and its commutant is a strict subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}}$

$$\mathcal{A}_S \vee \mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}} = \bigoplus_z \mathcal{A}_S^z \otimes \mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}}^z \subset \mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}}$$

Entropy associated to local subalgebra (not entanglement entropy)

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{vN}}(S) = \sum_z p_z \mathcal{S}_{\text{vN}}(\rho_S^z) + H(\{p_z\}) \longleftarrow \text{classical Shannon}$$

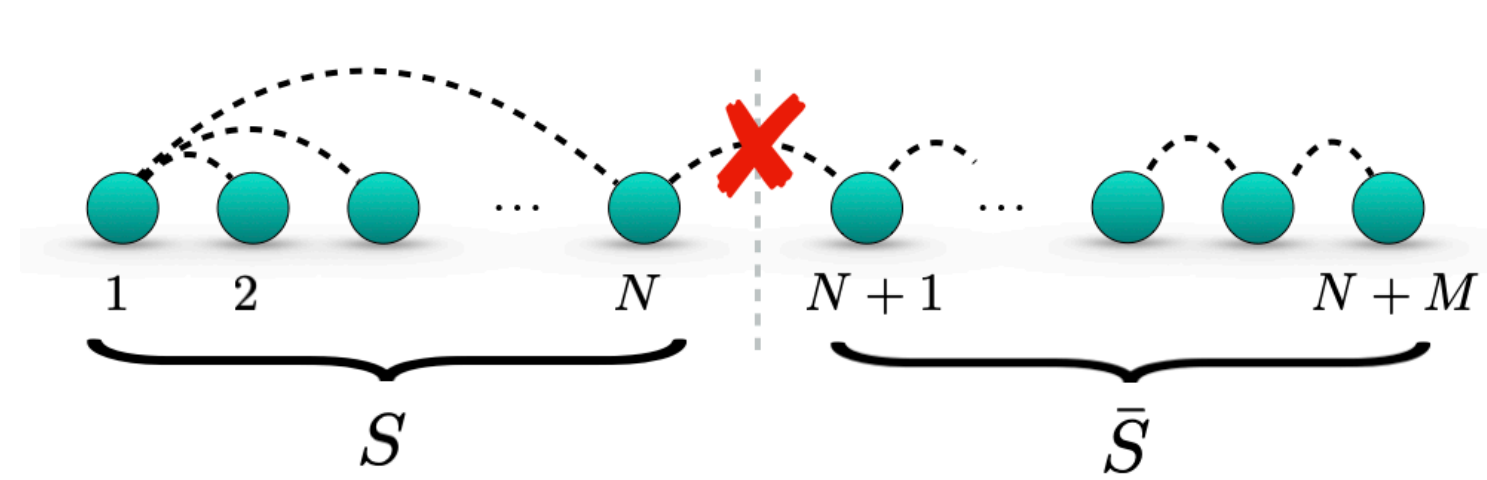
RELATIONAL vs CENTER CONSTRUCTION

N+M particles in 1D with translation invariance $G = (\mathbb{R}, +)$

$$\longrightarrow P_{\text{tot}} |\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle = 0$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}} = \{q_2 - q_1, \dots, q_{N+M} - q_1, p_2, \dots, p_{N+M}\}$$

Center construction



[Casini, Huerta, Rosabal '13;
Donnelly '11, '14;
Van Acoleyen, Bultinck,
Haegeman, Marien, Scholz,
Verstraete '15,...]

Assign "regional"/internal gauge-inv. algebras to kinematical complements

$$\mathcal{A}_S = \{q_2 - q_1, \dots, q_N - q_1, p_1, \dots, p_N\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}} = (\mathcal{A}_S)' = \{q_{N+2} - q_{N+1}, \dots, q_{N+M} - q_{N+M-1}, p_{N+1}, \dots, p_{N+M}\}$$

Non-trivial center

$$\mathcal{Z}_S = \mathcal{A}_S \cap (\mathcal{A}_S)' \neq \mathbb{C}1$$

$$\mathcal{A}_S \ni p_1 + \dots + p_N = -p_{N+1} - \dots - p_{N+M} \in \mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}}$$

Algebra generated by \mathcal{A}_S and its commutant is a strict subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}}$

$$\mathcal{A}_S \vee \mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}} = \bigoplus_z \mathcal{A}_S^z \otimes \mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}}^z \subset \mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}}$$

Entropy associated to local subalgebra (not entanglement entropy)

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{vN}}(S) = \sum_z p_z \mathcal{S}_{\text{vN}}(\rho_S^z) + H(\{p_z\})$$

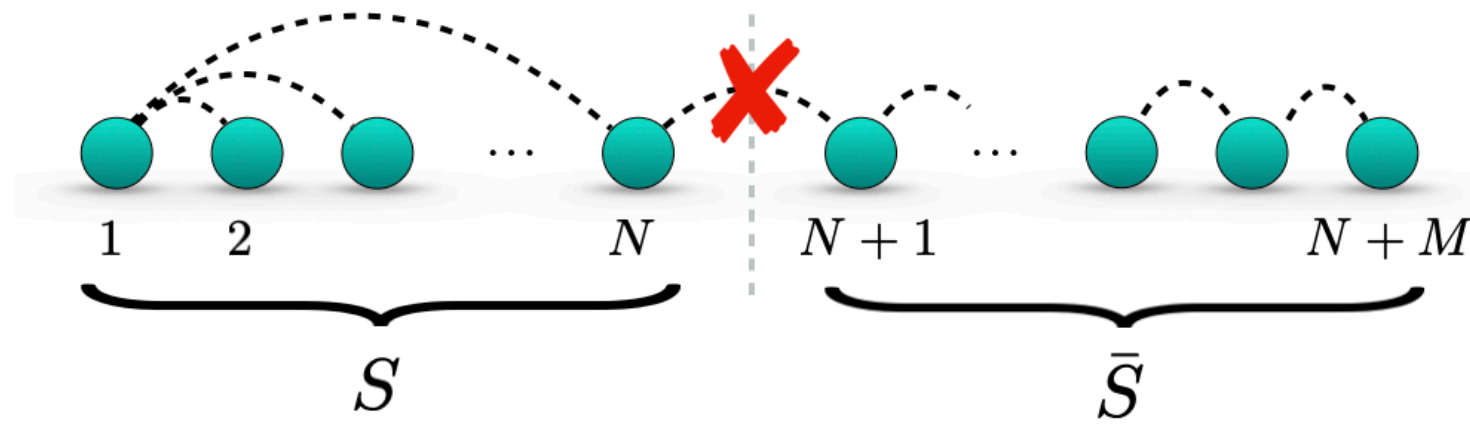
classical Shannon

RELATIONAL vs CENTER CONSTRUCTION

N+M particles in 1D with translation invariance $G = (\mathbb{R}, +)$

$$\xrightarrow{P_{\text{tot}}|\psi_{\text{phys}}\rangle = 0} \mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}} = \{q_2 - q_1, \dots, q_{N+M} - q_1, p_2, \dots, p_{N+M}\}$$

Center construction



[Casini, Huerta, Rosabal '13;
Donnelly '11, '14;
Van Acoleyen, Bultinck,
Haegeman, Marien, Scholz,
Verstraete '15,...]

Assign "regional"/internal gauge-inv. algebras to kinematical complements

$$\mathcal{A}_S = \{q_2 - q_1, \dots, q_N - q_1, p_1, \dots, p_N\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}} = (\mathcal{A}_S)' = \{q_{N+2} - q_{N+1}, \dots, q_{N+M} - q_{N+M-1}, p_{N+1}, \dots, p_{N+M}\}$$

Non-trivial center

$$\mathcal{Z}_S = \mathcal{A}_S \cap (\mathcal{A}_S)' \neq \mathbb{C}1$$

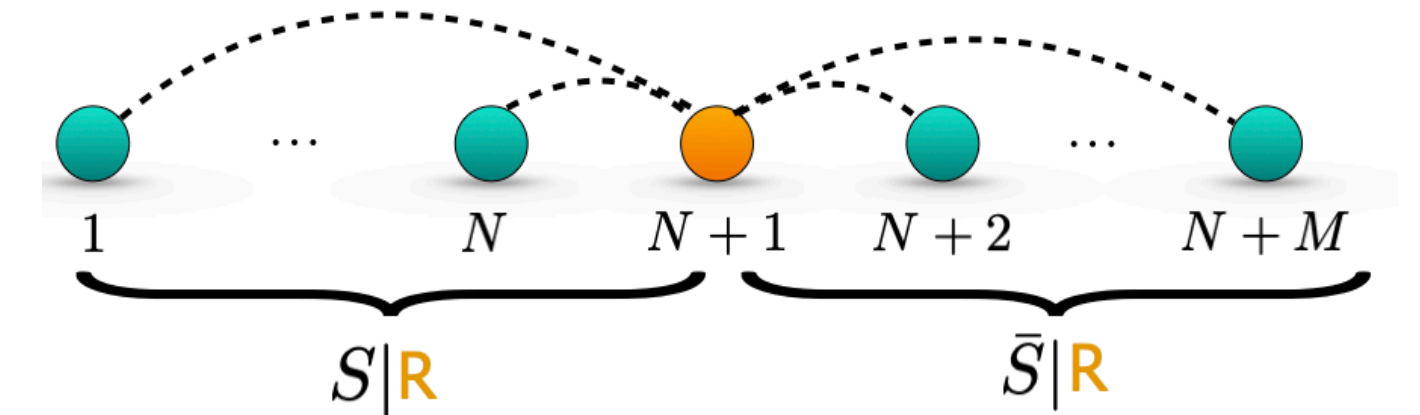
Algebra generated by \mathcal{A}_S and its commutant is a strict subalgebra of $\mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}}$

$$\mathcal{A}_S \vee \mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}} = \bigoplus_z \mathcal{A}_S^z \otimes \mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}}^z \subset \mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}}$$

Entropy associated to local subalgebra (not entanglement entropy)

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{vN}}(S) = \sum_z p_z \mathcal{S}_{\text{vN}}(\rho_S^z) + H(\{p_z\}) \leftarrow \text{classical Shannon}$$

Relational construction



Assign gauge-inv. algebras via complements relative to R

$$\mathcal{A}_{S|R}^{\text{phys}} = \{q_1 - q_R, \dots, q_N - q_R, p_1, \dots, p_N\}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}|R}^{\text{phys}} = \{q_{N+2} - q_R, \dots, q_{N+M} - q_R, p_{N+2}, \dots, p_{N+M}\}$$

No gauge-invariant data missing

$$\mathcal{A}_{S|R}^{\text{phys}} \vee \mathcal{A}_{\bar{S}|R}^{\text{phys}} = \mathcal{A}_{\text{phys}}$$

Proper entanglement entropy

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{vN}}(\rho_{S|1}) = -\text{Tr}(\rho_{S|1} \log \rho_{S|1})$$

generically frame dependent

Locality defined relationally (non-local combinations of $S\bar{S}$ kinematical DoFs)

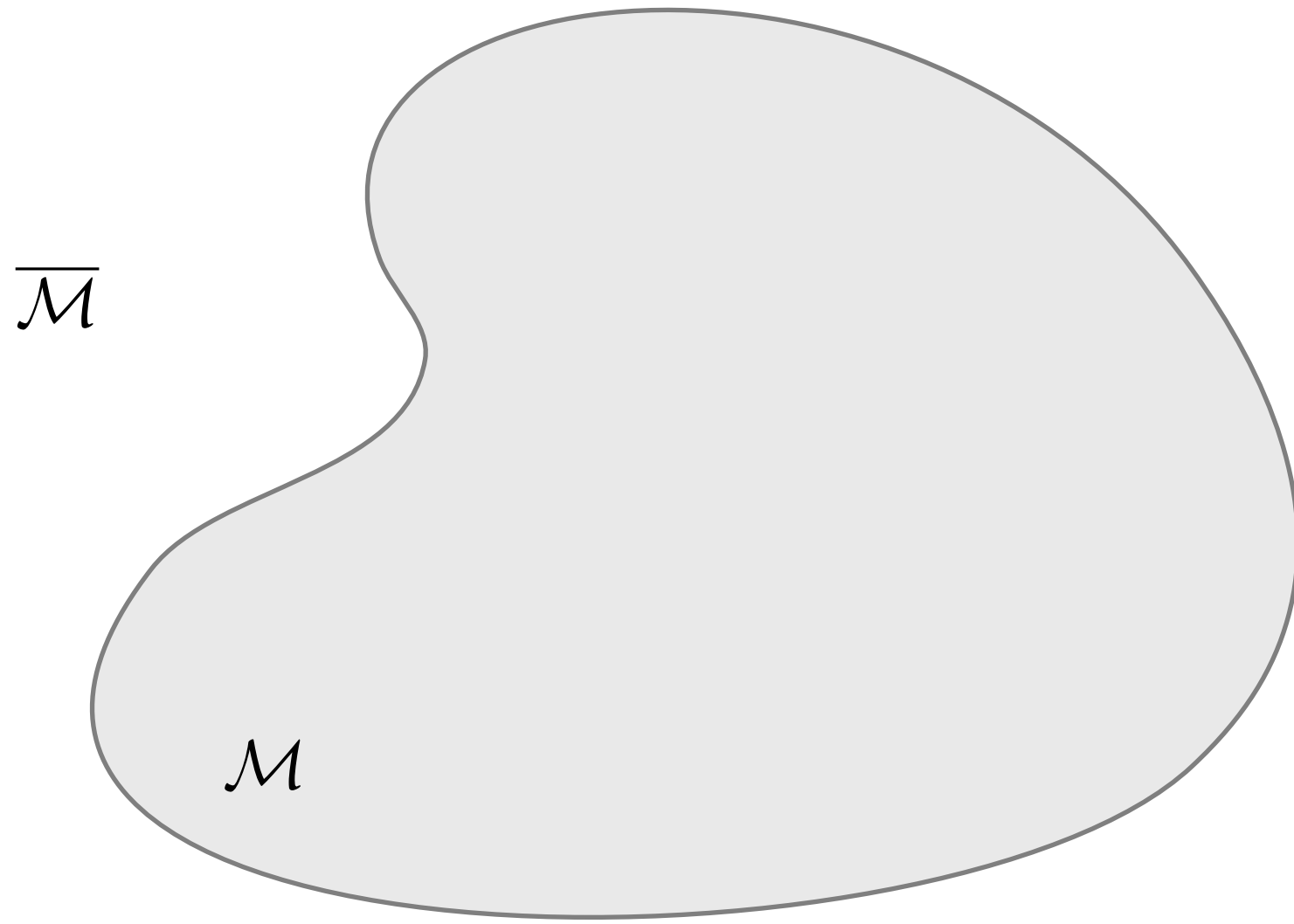
Bigger subalgebras associated with subsystems

"regional"/internal algebras appear as the frame-indep. data $\mathcal{A}_{S|R_1}^{\text{phys}} \cap \mathcal{A}_{S|R_2}^{\text{phys}} = \mathcal{A}_S$

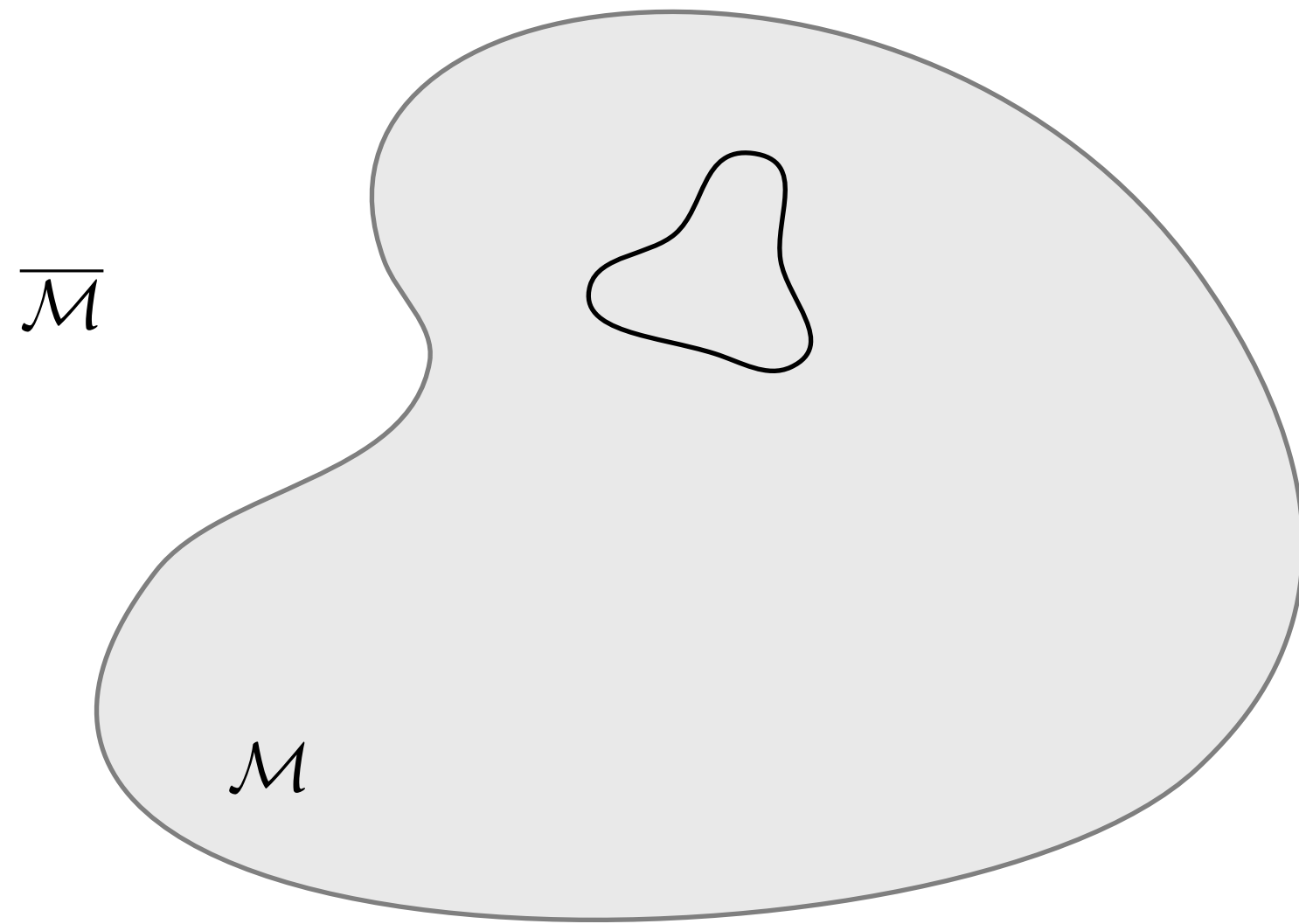
Part IV

Subregion relativity in gauge theories

LOCAL SUBSYSTEMS IN GAUGE THEORIES



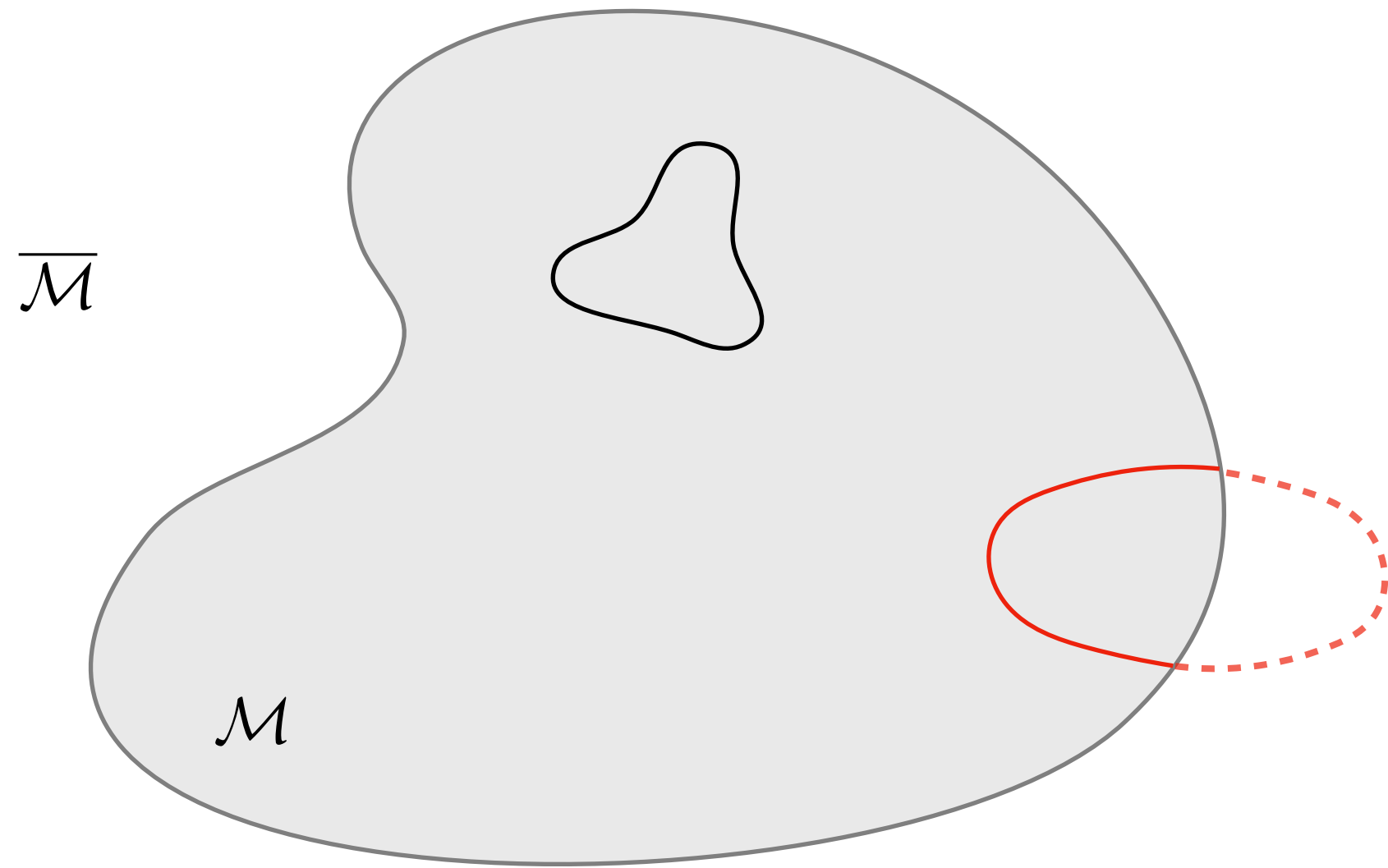
LOCAL SUBSYSTEMS IN GAUGE THEORIES



Kinematical (non gauge-inv.) DoFs different from gauge-invariant DoFs

↓
non-local
(e.g. Wilson loops)

LOCAL SUBSYSTEMS IN GAUGE THEORIES



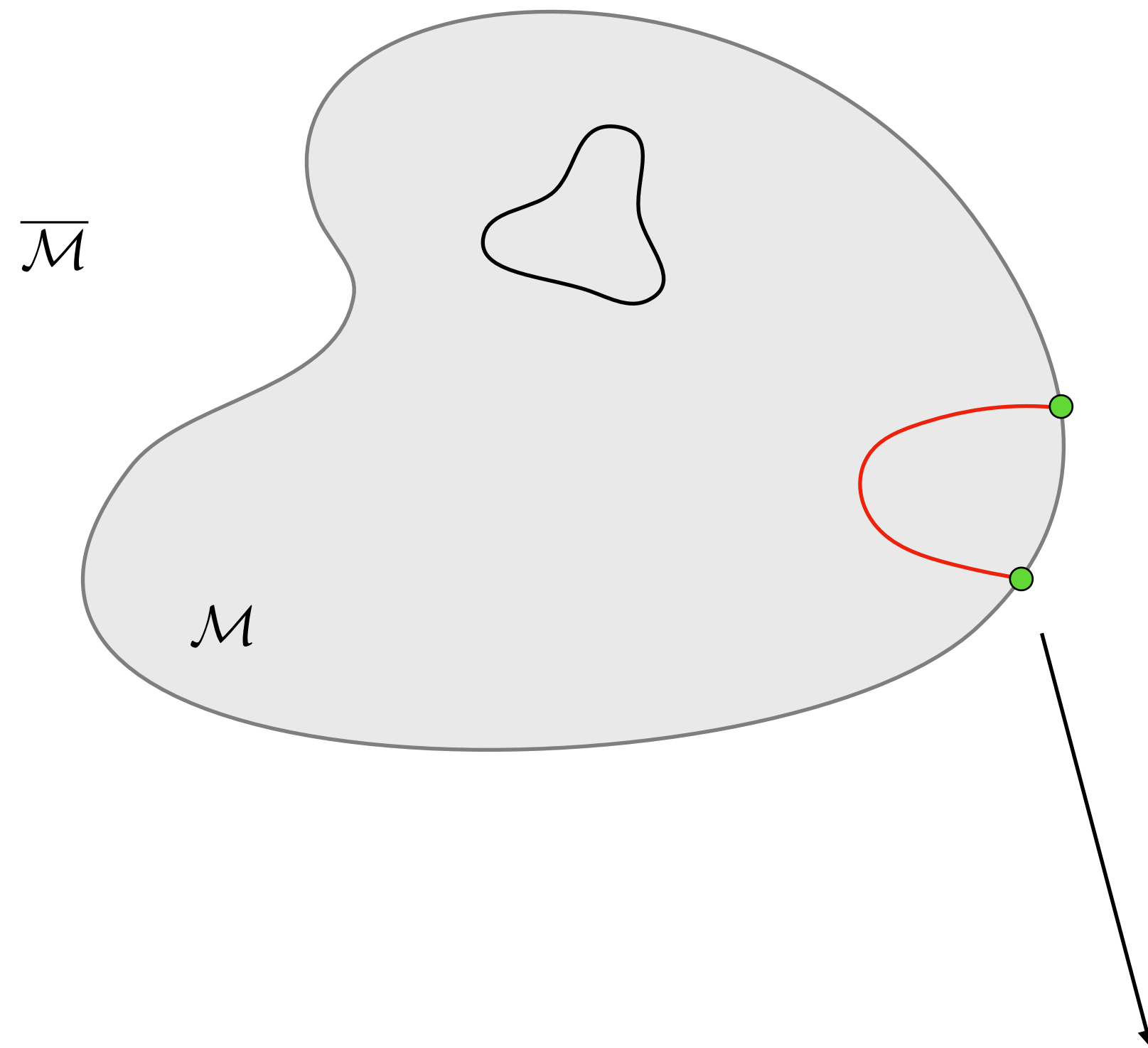
Kinematical (non gauge-inv.) DoFs different from gauge-invariant DoFs

↓
non-local
(e.g. Wilson loops)

In presence of (finite) boundaries, subtleties arise for the assignment of gauge-invariant DoFs to a subregion

gauge-invariance of cross-boundary DoFs would be spoiled

LOCAL SUBSYSTEMS IN GAUGE THEORIES



Kinematical (non gauge-inv.) DoFs different from gauge-invariant DoFs

↓
non-local
(e.g. Wilson loops)

In presence of (finite) boundaries, subtleties arise for the assignment of gauge-invariant DoFs to a subregion

gauge-invariance of cross-boundary DoFs would be spoiled

edge modes appear at finite boundaries to restore gauge-invariance

on-shell invariance of subregional presymplectic structure under bulk and boundary gauge transf.

unravel boundary symmetries generated by non-vanishing charges

[Donnelly, Freidel, Francois, Geiller, Gomes, Pranzetti, Riello, Speranza, Speziale, Wieland, Carrozza, Eccles, Höhn,...]

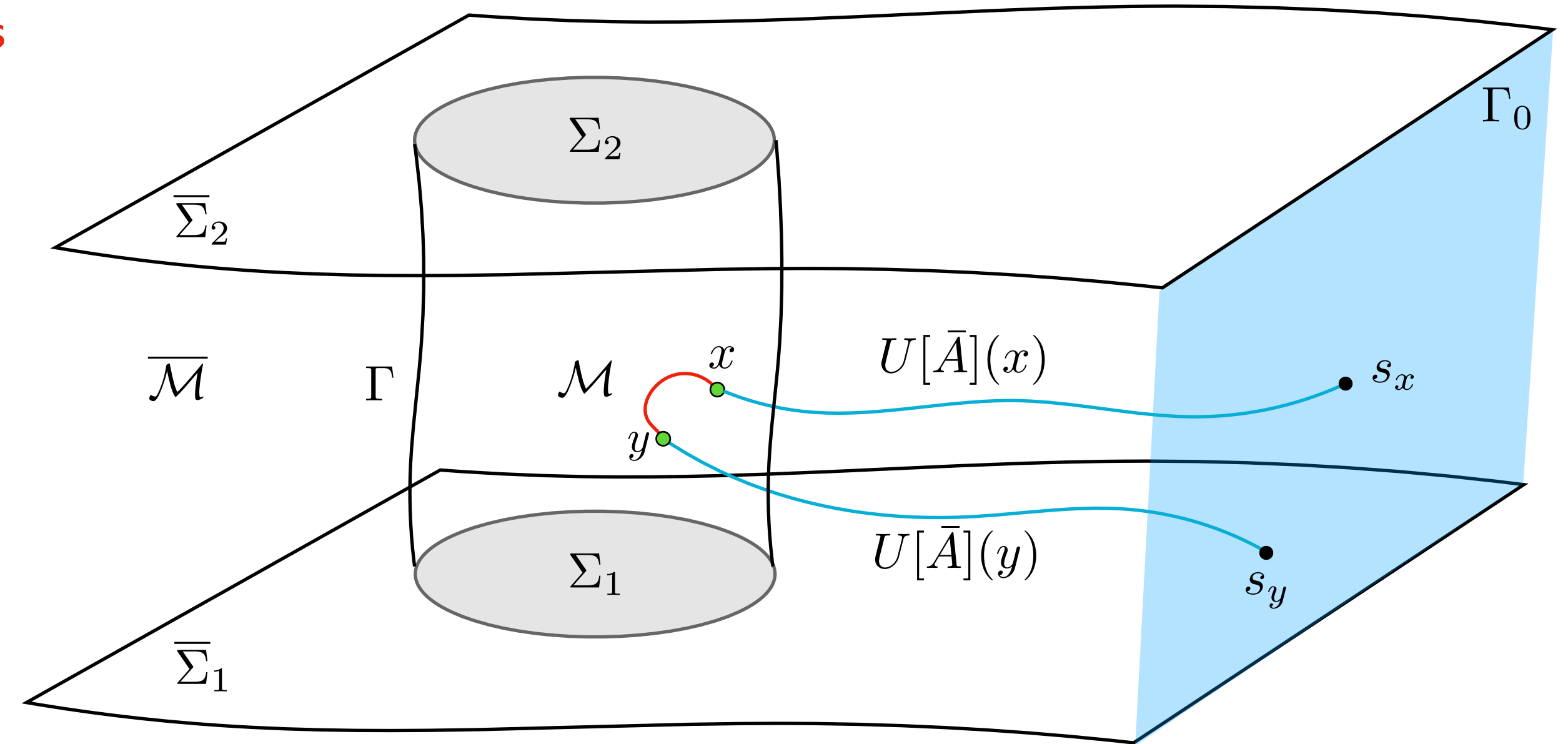
EDGE MODES AS DYNAMICAL FRAMES & DRESSED OBSERVABLES

[Carrozza, Höhn '21; Carrozza, Eccles, Höhn '22]

Edge modes can be understood as group-valued “internalised” external frames via e.g. Wilson lines originating in the complement

→ not new DoFs to be postulated, but understood from the global theory

→ describe how subregion relates to its complement



EDGE MODES AS DYNAMICAL FRAMES & DRESSED OBSERVABLES

[Carrozza, Höhn '21; Carrozza, Eccles, Höhn '22]

Edge modes can be understood as group-valued “internalised” external frames via e.g. Wilson lines originating in the complement

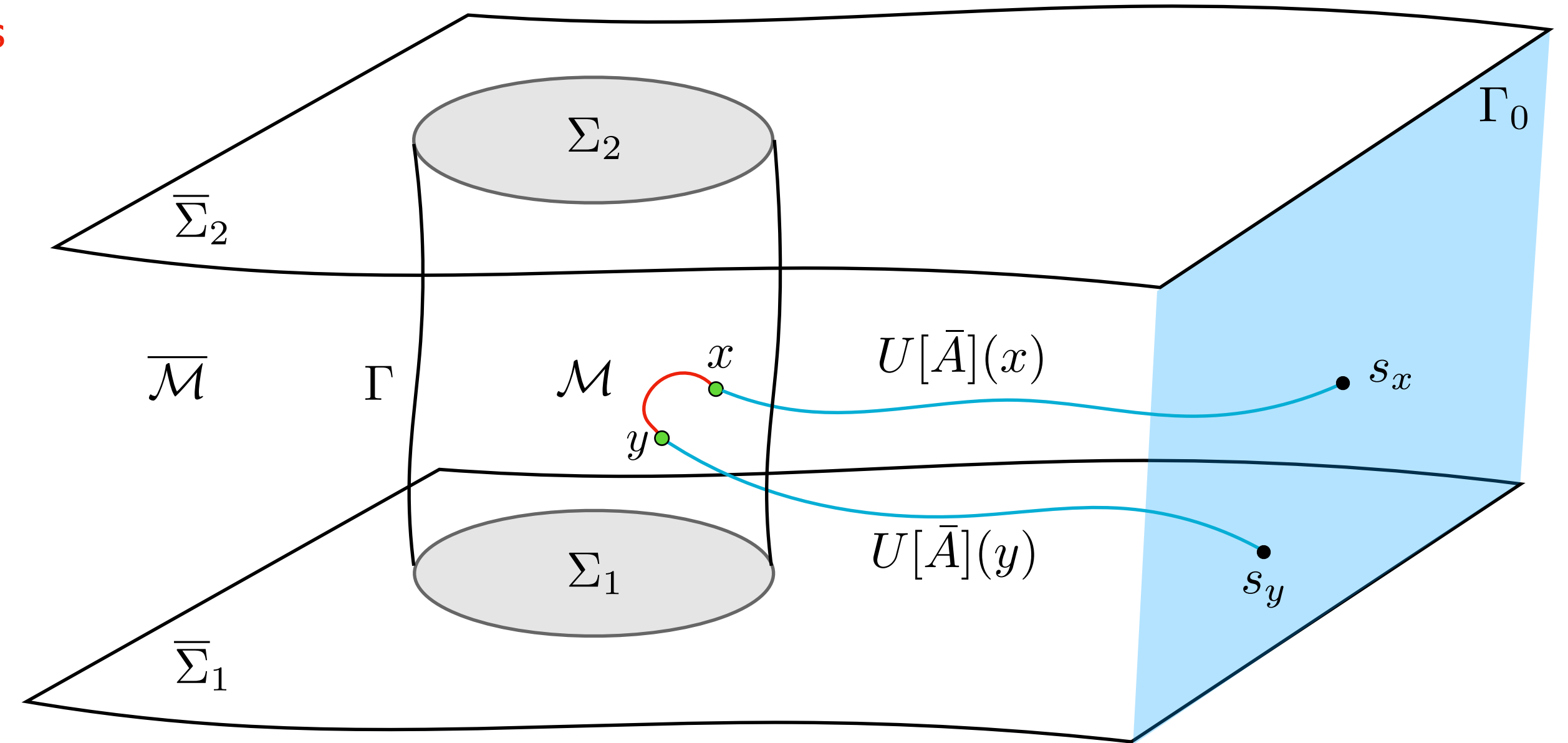
→ not new DoFs to be postulated, but understood from the global theory

→ describe how subregion relates to its complement

Gauge transformation (from left): $g \triangleright U = g U$

Symmetries = (asymptotic) frame reorientations

right action on frame $g \odot U = U g^{-1}$



EDGE MODES AS DYNAMICAL FRAMES & DRESSED OBSERVABLES

[Carrozza, Höhn '21; Carrozza, Eccles, Höhn '22]

Edge modes can be understood as group-valued “internalised” external frames via e.g. Wilson lines originating in the complement

→ not new DoFs to be postulated, but understood from the global theory

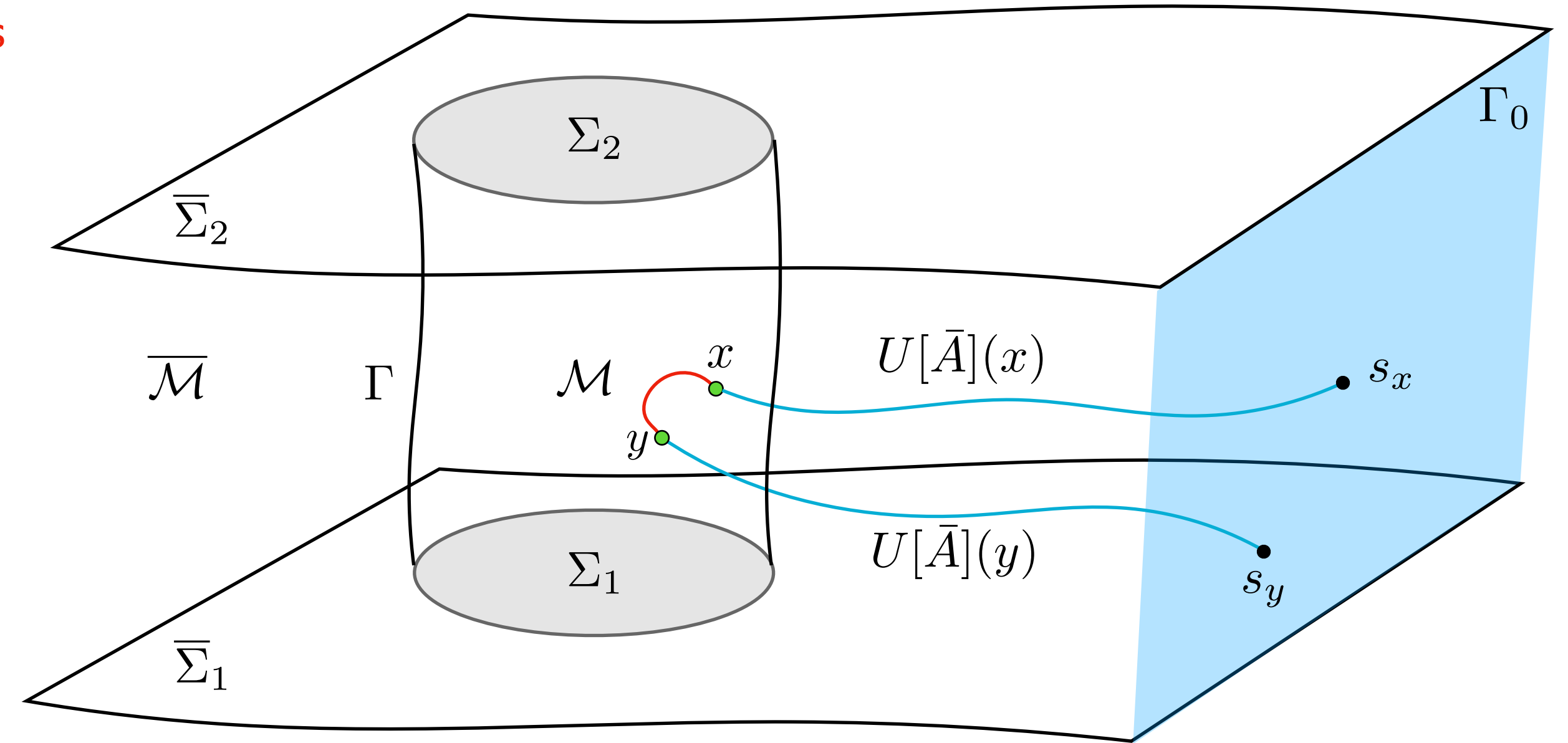
→ describe how subregion relates to its complement

Gauge transformation (from left): $g \triangleright U = g U$

Symmetries = (asymptotic) frame reorientations

right action on frame $g \odot U = U g^{-1}$

Frame dressed observables = relational observables (non-locally supported on both \mathcal{M} and $\overline{\mathcal{M}}$)



$$O_{f|U}(g) = (U g^{-1})^{-1} \triangleright f$$

frame-orientation
conditional gauge transf. (Non-inv.) functional
of fields in \mathcal{M}

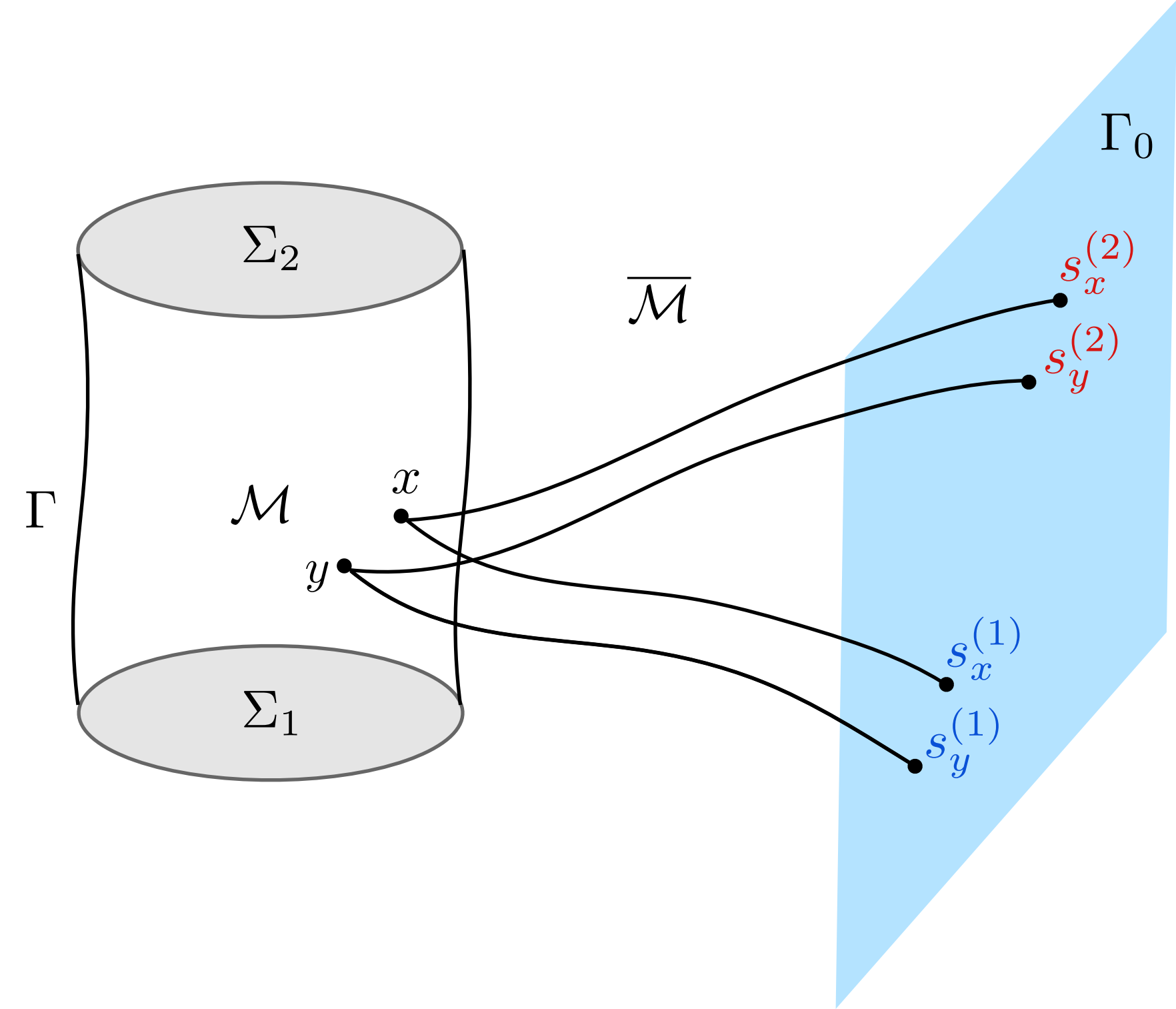
gauge transf. of f compensated
by gauge action on U

frame reorientations

$$O_{f|U}(g) \xrightarrow{(\tilde{g}^{-1}g) \odot} O_{f|U}(\tilde{g})$$

SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY IN GAUGE THEORY

[Carrozza, Höhn, Kirklin, **FMM**, to appear]



Non unique edge mode frame fields (e.g. different systems of Wilson lines)

Change of relational observables relative to frames **U1** and **U2**:

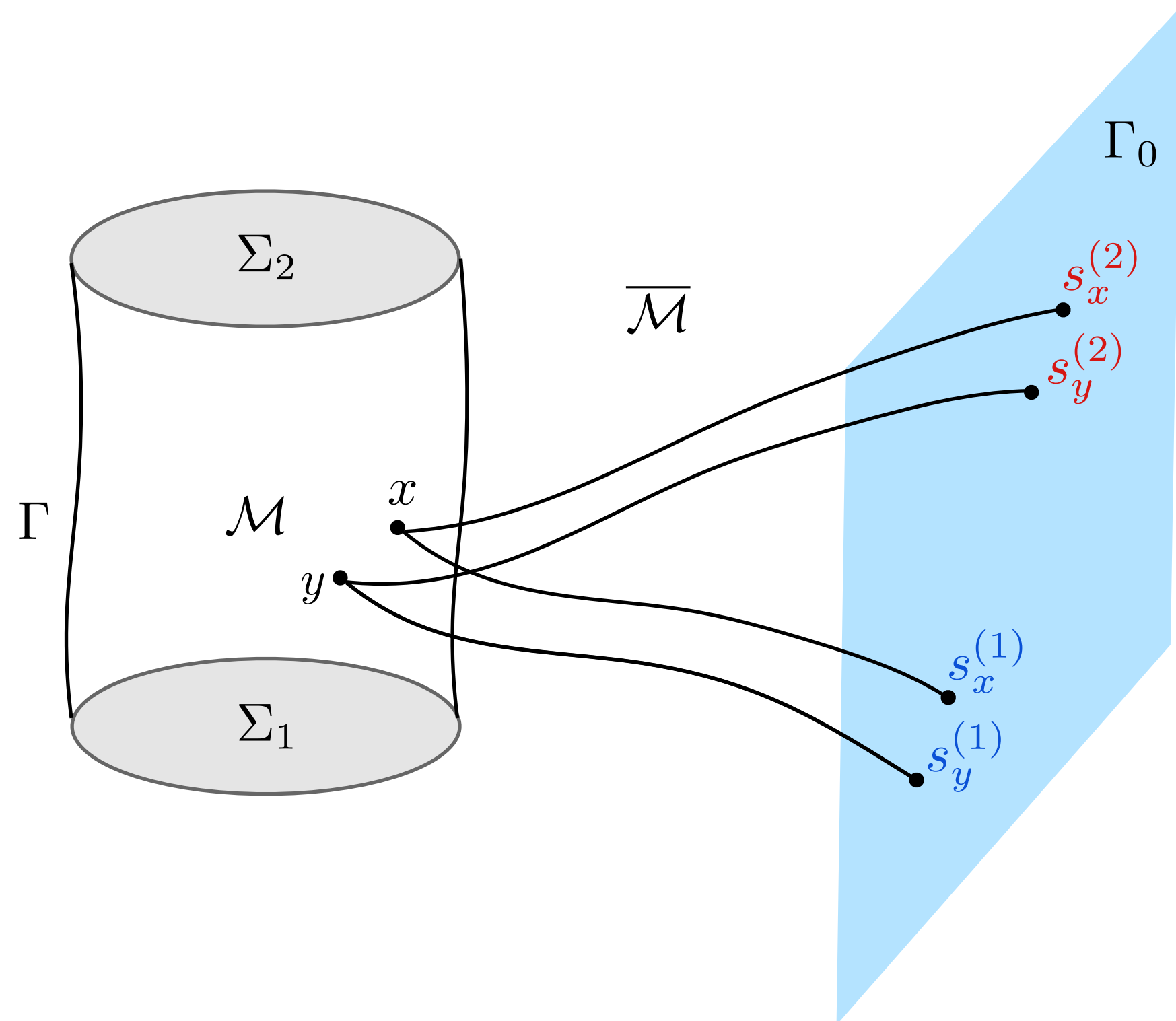
$$O_{f|U_1}(g_1) \xrightarrow{(g_1^{-1} g_2 g_{21})^{-1} \odot} O_{f|U_2}(g_2)$$

relation-conditional frame reorientation

$$g_{21} = U_2^{-1} U_1$$

SUBSYSTEM RELATIVITY IN GAUGE THEORY

[Carrozza, Höhn, Kirklin, **FMM**, to appear]



Non unique edge mode frame fields (e.g. different systems of Wilson lines)

Change of relational observables relative to frames **U1** and **U2**:

$$O_{f|U_1}(g_1) \xrightarrow{(g_1^{-1} g_2 g_{21})^{-1} \odot} O_{f|U_2}(g_2)$$

relation-conditional frame reorientation

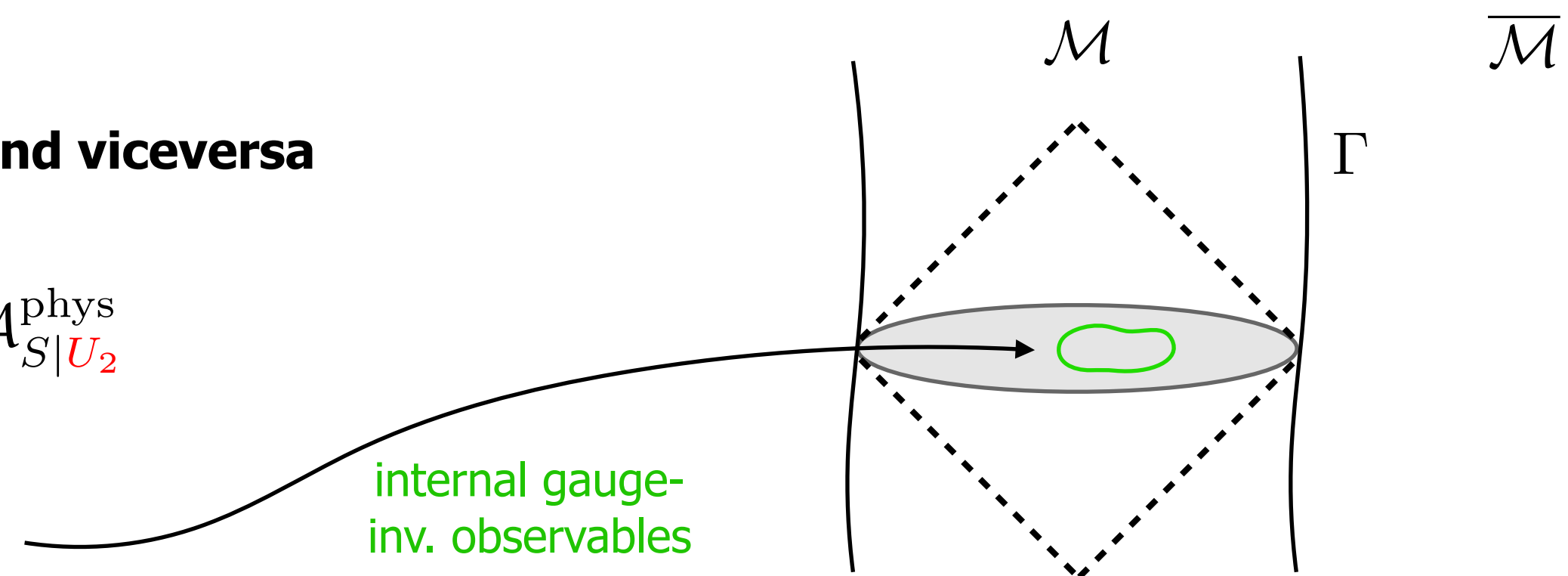
$$g_{21} = U_2^{-1} U_1$$

For independent frames:

● **observables relative to U1 invariant under U2-reorientations, and viceversa**


● **different gauge-invariant description of subregion** $\mathcal{A}_{S|U_1}^{\text{phys}} \neq \mathcal{A}_{S|U_2}^{\text{phys}}$

● $\mathcal{A}_{S|U_1}^{\text{phys}} \cap \mathcal{A}_{S|U_2}^{\text{phys}}$ **invariant under reorientations of both frames**
(also, relation-conditional ones)




internal gauge-
inv. observables




CONCLUSION

- We discussed internal dynamical frames in finite-dim. (quantum) systems and (classical) gauge field theories (edge modes)
- Gauge-invariant/relational notion of subsystems depend on the frame  frame-relativity of (gauge-invariant) properties of subsystems
- Alternative proposal for entanglement entropy in constrained systems and gauge theories


CONCLUSION

- We discussed internal dynamical frames in finite-dim. (quantum) systems and (classical) gauge field theories (edge modes)
- Gauge-invariant/relational notion of subsystems depend on the frame  frame-relativity of (gauge-invariant) properties of subsystems
- Alternative proposal for entanglement entropy in constrained systems and gauge theories

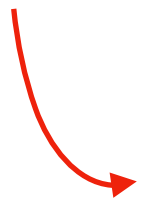


OUTLOOK

- Subsystem relativity in gauge theory (quantum)
 - Gravitational subregions
-  minisuperspaces,... [with F. Sartini and P. A. Höhn]
-  Relational subsystems in spin networks, entanglement & quant. therm. in LQG
-  Diffeo-inv. & relationalism in full QG and gravitational entropy [ongoing work with M. Bruno, E. Colafranceschi, and C. Rovelli]
- [work in progress with S. Carrozza, P. A. Höhn, and J. Kirklin
+ work in progress with P. A. Höhn, L. Marchetti, J. De Vuyst]

CONCLUSION

- We discussed internal dynamical frames in finite-dim. (quantum) systems and (classical) gauge field theories (edge modes)
- Gauge-invariant/relational notion of subsystems depend on the frame  frame-relativity of (gauge-invariant) properties of subsystems
- Alternative proposal for entanglement entropy in constrained systems and gauge theories

OUTLOOK

- Subsystem relativity in gauge theory (quantum)
 - Gravitational subregions
-  minisuperspaces,... [with F. Sartini and P. A. Höhn]
-  Relational subsystems in spin networks, entanglement & quant. therm. in LQG
-  Diffeo-inv. & relationalism in full QG and gravitational entropy [ongoing work with M. Bruno, E. Colafranceschi, and C. Rovelli]
- [work in progress with S. Carrozza, P. A. Höhn, and J. Kirklin
+ work in progress with P. A. Höhn, L. Marchetti, J. De Vuyst]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !