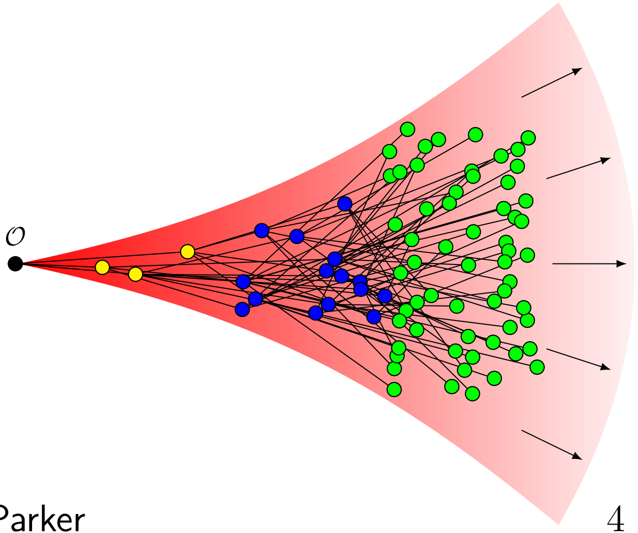
A Universal Operator Growth Hypothesis



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Collaborators

Ehud Altman
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Xiangyu Cao
Thomas Scaffidi
Aavishkar Patel
Jaewon Kim and others!

Operator Growth

or

How I learned to stop worrying and love tridiagonalization.

Quantum Mechanics

Microscopic description of the system.
Example: Chaotic Ising Model

$$H = \sum_i X_i + 1.05 Z_i Z_{i+1} + 0.59 Z_i$$

Correlation functions:

$$C(t) = \langle \mathcal{O}(t,x)\mathcal{O}(0)\rangle$$

Hard Solution: Hamiltonian dynamics

$$\mathcal{O}(t) = e^{-iHt}\mathcal{O}e^{iHt}.$$

Exact and reversible dynamics.

Hydrodynamics

Macroscopic description of quantum systems as classical PDEs.

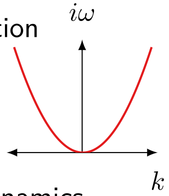
Example: Diffusion of energy

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}\varepsilon(t,x) = D\nabla^2\varepsilon(t,x) + \nabla f,$$

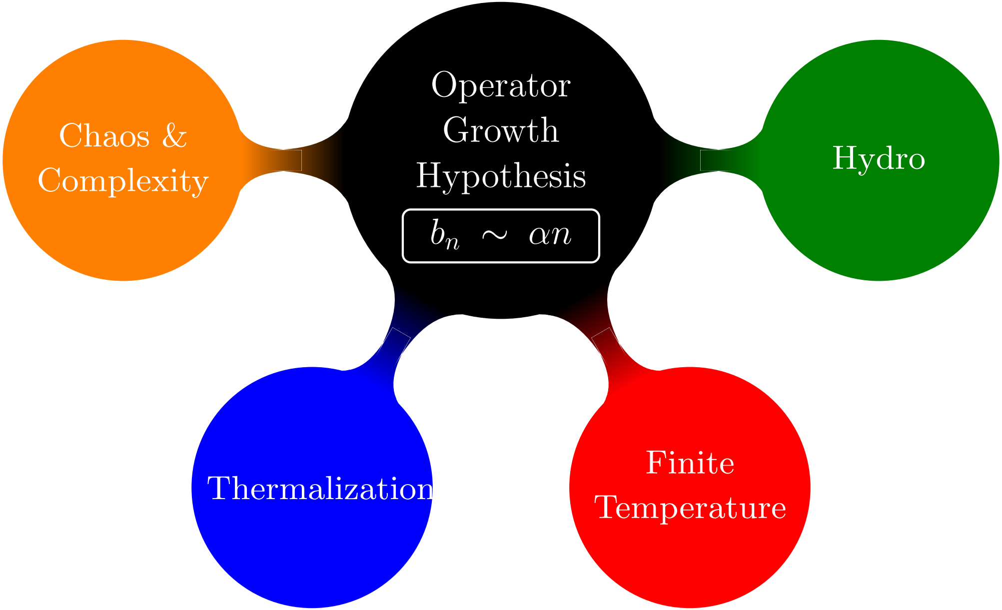
with D diffusion, f thermal noise.

Easy Solution: Green's function

$$G(i\omega, k) = \frac{1}{i\omega + Dq^2}$$



Approximate & irreversible dynamics.


Chaos &
Complexity
Operator
Growth
Hypothesis
$b_n \sim \alpha n$
Hydro
Thermalization
Finite
Temperature

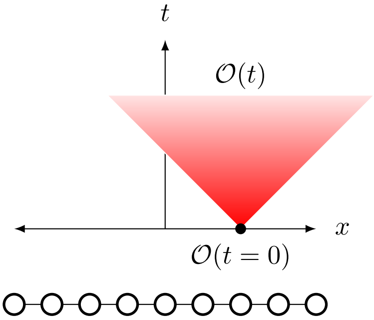
Operator Space

Consider a spin-1/2 system in d-dimensions with translation invariance.

$$H = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{Z}^d} h_x .$$

We abstract to the **space of operators**.

operators	are "rounded" kets $\vert\mathcal{O})$
an example	is $\vert O) = X_1 \otimes Y_2 \otimes Z_3 + 0.3 Y_1 \otimes X_2$
the inner product	is $(A\vert B) := \mathrm{Tr}[A^\dagger B]/\,\mathrm{Tr}[1]$
the Liouvillian	generalizes the Hamiltonian $\mathcal{L} = [H, \cdot]$.
time-evolution	from Heisenberg EOM $-i\frac{d\vert\mathcal{O})}{dt} = \mathcal{L}\,\vert\mathcal{O})$.
solution	$\vert\mathcal{O}(t)) = e^{i\mathcal{L}t}\,\vert\mathcal{O})$



Three Observables

A. Correlation Function

$$C(t) := (\mathcal{O}(t)|\mathcal{O}(0)) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\mu_{2n}}{(2n)!}(it)^{2n} \quad \text{with } \textbf{moments} \;\; \mu_{2n} = (\mathcal{O}|\mathcal{L}^{2n}|\mathcal{O})\,.$$

B. Green's Function

$$G(z) := (\mathcal{O}|\frac{1}{z-\mathcal{L}}|\mathcal{O}) = i\int_0^{\infty} e^{-izt}\,C(t)\,dt = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\mu_{2n}}{z^{2n+1}}$$

C. Spectral Function

$$\Phi(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-i\omega t}\,C(t)\,dt = \sum_{E,E'} \left|\langle E|\mathcal{O}|E'\rangle\right|^2 \delta(\omega - (E - E')).$$

The Graph of Operators

Example: Chaotic Ising Model

$$H = \sum_i X_i + 1.05 Z_i Z_{i+1} + 0.5 Z_i.$$

Problem: Compute $C(t) = (\mathcal{O}|e^{i\mathcal{L}t}|\mathcal{O})$.

$$\mathcal{O}(t) = e^{i\mathcal{L}t}\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O} + (it)\mathcal{L}\mathcal{O} + (it)^2\mathcal{L}^2\mathcal{O} + \cdots$$

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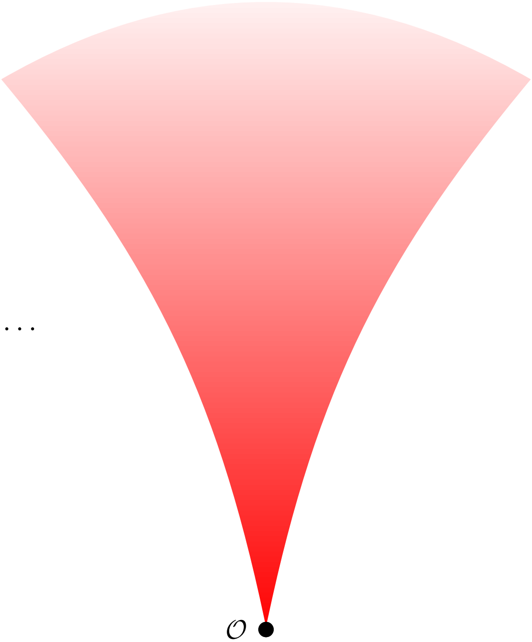
Let's compute!

$$\mathcal{O} = X_1$$



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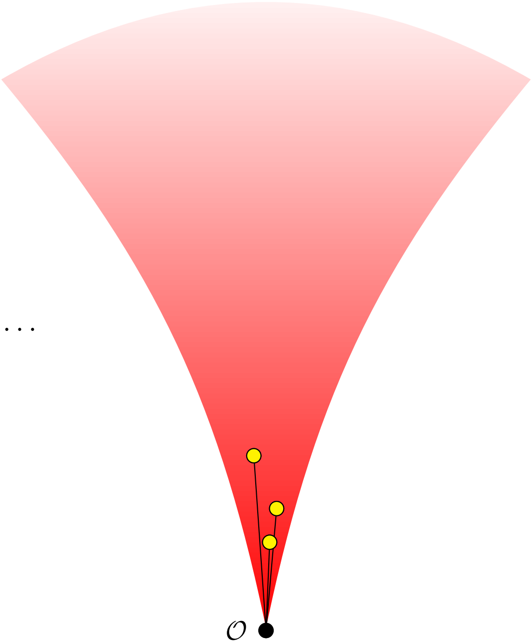

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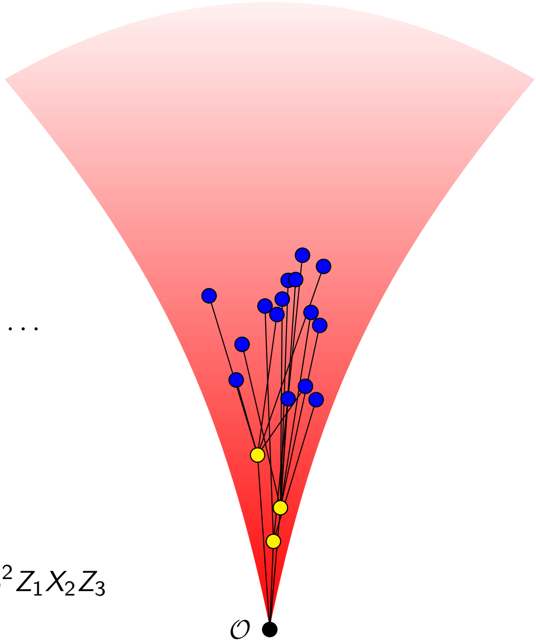
$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{O} &= X_1 \\
\mathcal{L}\mathcal{O} &= 1.05iY_1Z_2 + 1.05iZ_1Y_2 + 0.5iY_1 \\
\mathcal{L}^2\mathcal{O} &= 2.1Z_1Z_2 - 2.1Y_1Y_2 \\
&\quad + 1.05^2Z_0X_1Z_2 + 1.05^2X_1 + 1.05^2X_2 + 1.05^2Z_1X_2Z_3 \\
&\quad + 0.525X_1Z_2 + 0.525Z_1X_2 + 0.25X_1.
\end{aligned}$$



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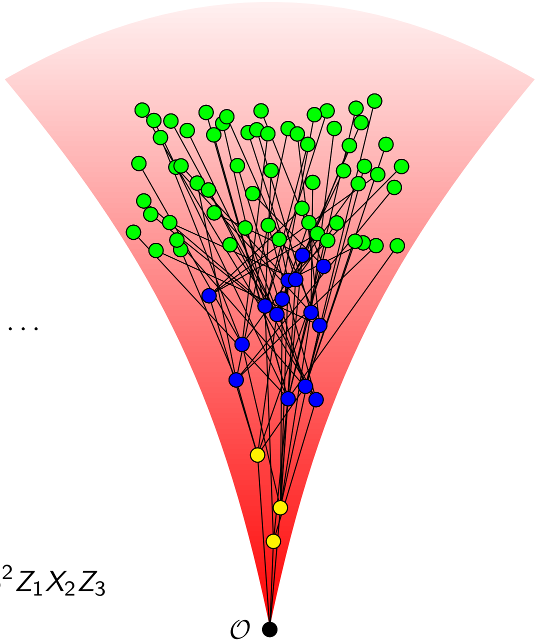

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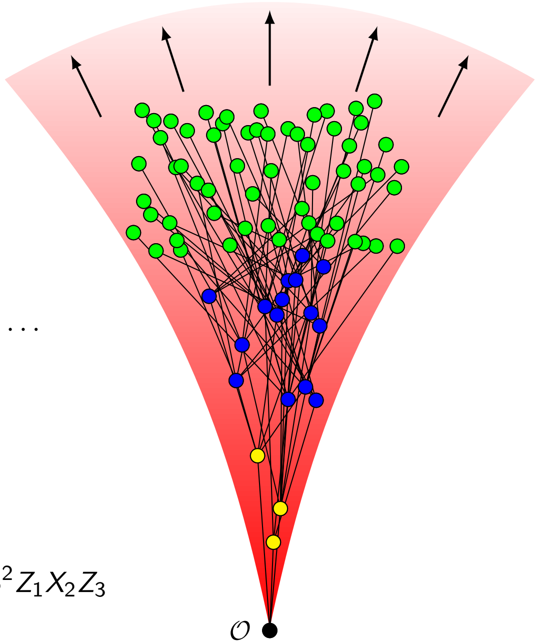
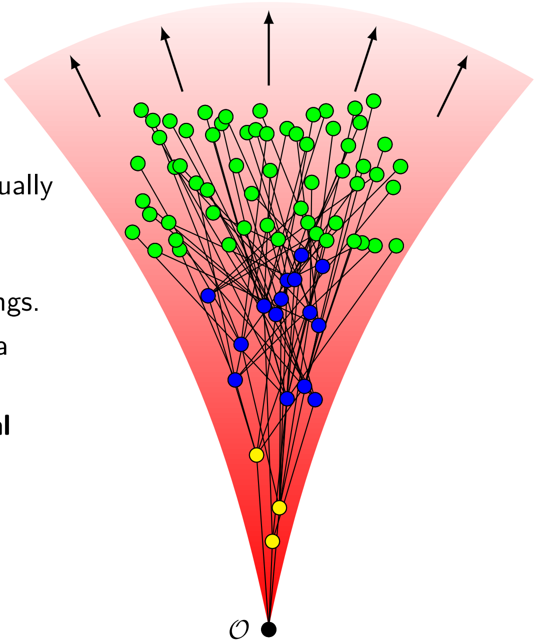


The Basic Idea

- Operators flow from simple to complex, eventually becoming too complex to compute.
- Complex operators are superpositions of a *thermodynamically large* number of Pauli strings.
- A sufficiently complex operator should admit a *universal* description.
- **Our goal now is to formulate this universal description.**



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The Lanczos Algorithm

- Take the sequence $\{\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{L}\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{L}^2\mathcal{O}, \dots\}$ and apply Gram-Schmidt to orthogonalize $\{\mathcal{O}_0, \mathcal{O}_1, \mathcal{O}_2, \dots\}$.
- Explicitly, $|\mathcal{O}_1) := b_1^{-1}\mathcal{L}\,|O_0)$, $b_1 := (\mathcal{O}_0\mathcal{L}|\mathcal{L}\mathcal{O}_0)^{1/2}$,

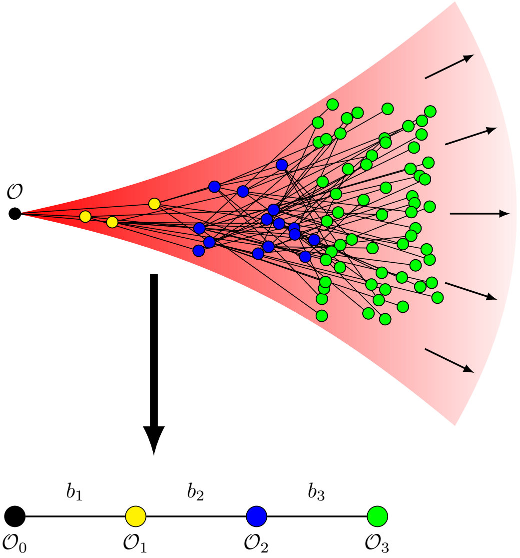
$$|A_n) := \mathcal{L}\,|\mathcal{O}_{n-1}) - b_{n-1}\,|\mathcal{O}_{n-2})\ ,$$

$$b_n := (A_n|A_n)^{1/2} \qquad \text{“Lanczos Coefficients”}$$

$$|\mathcal{O}_n) \ := \ b_n^{-1}\,|A_n) \qquad \text{“Krylov vectors”}$$

- The Liouvillian is tridiagonal in this basis

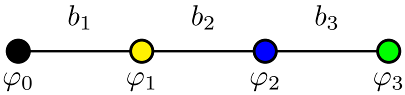
$$L_{nm} := (O_n^\dagger|\mathcal{L}|O_m) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ b_1 & 0 & b_2 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & b_2 & 0 & b_3 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & b_3 & 0 & \ddots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$



D.C. Mattis, 1981; Viswanath & Müller, *The Recursion Method*, 2008.

The Recursion Method

Define the **1D wavefunction** by $\varphi_n(t) := (\mathcal{O}_n|\mathcal{O}(t))$.



The operator evolves as $-i\frac{d}{dt}\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{L}\mathcal{O}$, and $\mathcal{L}$ is tridiagonal:

$$-i\partial_t \varphi_n = b_{n+1}\varphi_{n+1} + b_n \varphi_{n-1}, \quad \varphi_n(0) = \delta_{n0}.$$

The autocorrelation function is probability of returning to the zeroth site at time t

$$C(t) = (\mathcal{O}_0|\mathcal{O}(t)) = \varphi_0(t).$$

This is called the **recursion method** and dates back to the 1980s.

D.C. Mattis, 1981; Viswanath & Müller, *The Recursion Method*, 2008.

Encodings of Dynamics

A. Correlation Function

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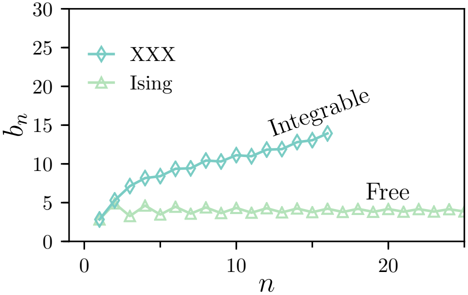
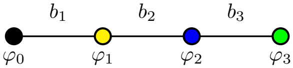
D. Lanczos Coefficients $$\{b_n\}_{n=1}^{\infty} \ \& \ -i\partial_t \varphi_n = b_{n+1}\varphi_{n+1} + b_n \varphi_{n-1}$$

Empirical Patterns of Dynamics

Asymptotic	Growth Rate	System Type
$b_n \sim O(1)$	constant	Free models
$b_n \sim O(\sqrt{n})$	square-root	Integrable models
$b_n \sim$???	???	Chaotic models
$b_n \gtrsim O(n)$	superlinear	Disallowed





D.C. Mattis, 1981; Viswanath & Müller, *The Recursion Method*, 2008.

Chaotic Examples

$$H_1 = \sum_i X_i X_{i+1} + 0.709 Z_i + 0.9045 X_i$$

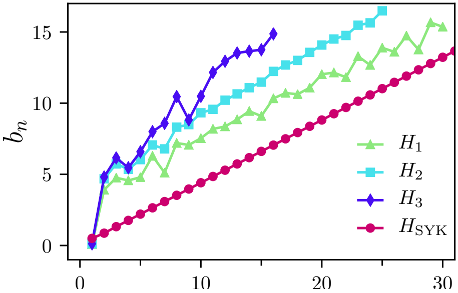
$$H_2 = H_1 + \sum_i 0.2 Y_i$$

$$H_3 = H_1 + \sum_i 0.2 Z_i Z_{i+1}$$

$$H_{\mathrm{SYK}}^{(q)} = i^{q/2} \sum_{1 \le i_1 < i_2 < \cdots < i_q \le N} J_{i_1 \ldots i_q} \gamma_{i_1} \cdots \gamma_{i_q},$$

$$\overline{J^2_{i_1 \ldots i_q}} = 0,$$

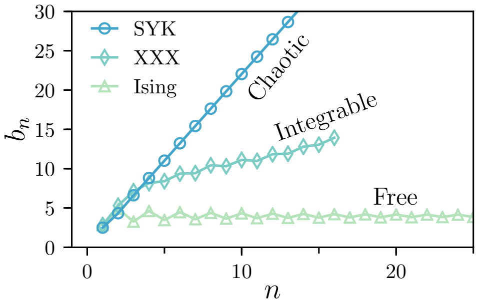
$$\overline{J^2_{i_1 \ldots i_q}}^2 = \frac{(q-1)!}{N^{q-1}} J^2$$



Hypothesis: In a chaotic quantum system, the Lanczos coefficients b_n are asymptotically linear, i.e. for $\alpha, \gamma \geq 0$,

$$b_n \xrightarrow{n \gg 1} \alpha n + \gamma.$$

Asymptotic	Growth Rate	System Type
$b_n \sim O(1)$	Constant	Free models
$b_n \sim O\left(\sqrt{n}\right)$	Square-root	Integrable models
$b_n \sim O(n)$	Linear	Chaotic models
$b_n \gtrsim O(n)$	Superlinear	Disallowed



Log Corrections in 1D

Theorem (Araki 1969) For any Hamiltonian with local interactions

$$C(t+i\tau) = \langle \mathcal{O} | e^{i\mathcal{L}(t+i\tau)} | \mathcal{O} \rangle$$

is an entire function of $t + i\tau \in \mathbb{C}$.

Corollary The asymptotic growth of the Lanczos coefficients is strictly sublinear in one dimension. In fact,

$$b_n \leq A \frac{n}{W(n)}$$

where W is the product-log function defined by $z = W(ze^z)$ whose asymptotic is $W(n) \sim \ln n - \ln \ln n + O(1)$.

Therefore the hypothesis is modified in 1D. We still permit $b_n \geq n^\alpha$ for any $\alpha < 1$.

1D correction via Alex Avdoshkin; Araki 1969; Abanin, De Roeck, Huveneers 2015.

Hypothesis: In a chaotic quantum system, the Lanczos coefficients have asymptotics

$$b_n = \begin{cases} A\frac{n}{W(n)} + O(1) \sim \frac{An}{\log n} & \text{if } d = 1 \\ \alpha n + \gamma + o(1) \sim \alpha n & \text{if } d \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

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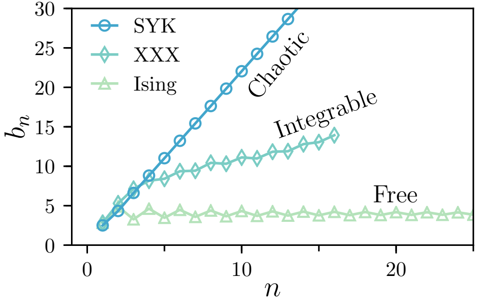
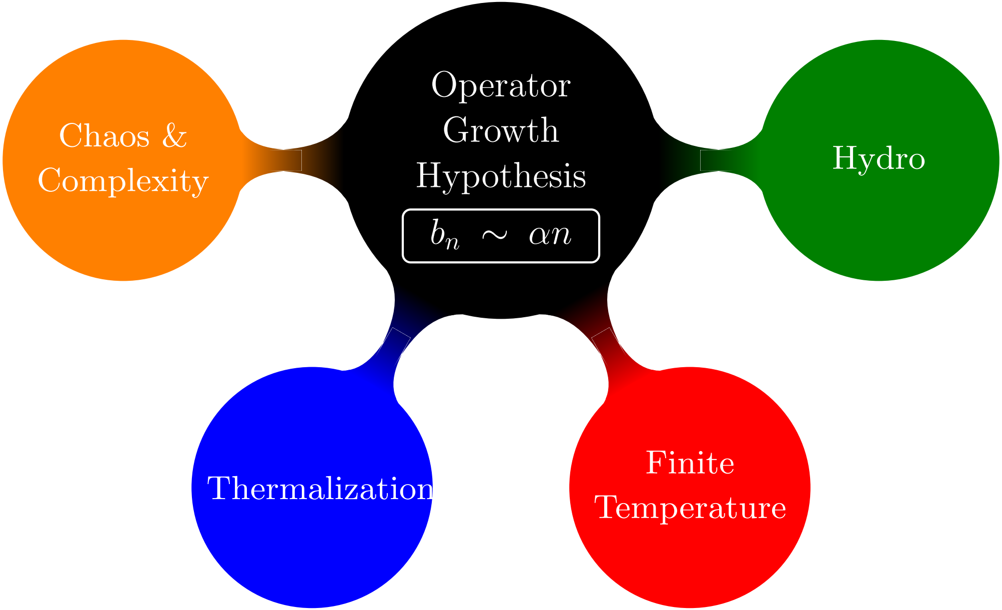


1D correction via Alex Avdoshkin & thesis of G.D. Bouch


Operator Growth Hypothesis
$b_n \sim \alpha n$
Chaos & Complexity
Hydro
Thermalization
Finite Temperature

Thermalization

The Hypothesis enforces “irreversible” dynamics.

Exact Asymptotic Behavior

Model

$$\widetilde{b}_n := \alpha\sqrt{n(n-1+\eta)} \xrightarrow{n\gg 1} \alpha n + \gamma.$$

Exact solution

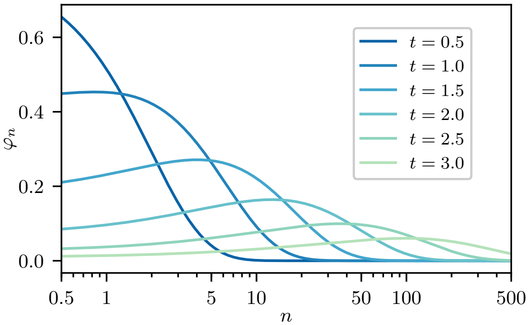
$$\widetilde{\varphi}_n(t) = \sqrt{\frac{(\eta)_n}{n!}}\tanh(\alpha t)^n \operatorname{sech}(\alpha t)^\eta$$

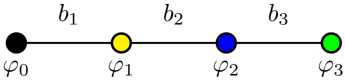
where $(\eta)_n = \eta(\eta+1)\cdots(\eta+n+1)$.

Define the **Krylov space position** operator

$$(n(t)) := \sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} n\,|\varphi_n(t)|^2 = \eta\sinh(\alpha t)^2 \sim e^{2\alpha t}$$

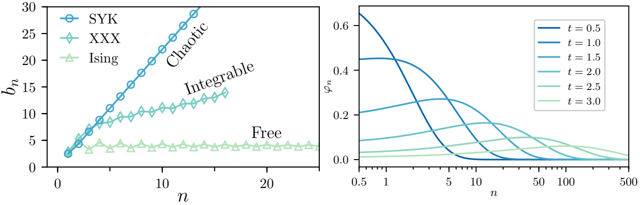
The wavefunction runs away "irreversibly" into the 1D chain.





Three Observables Redux

D. Lanczos Coefficients $b_n \sim \alpha n$



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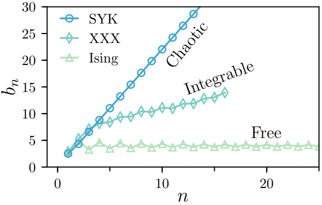
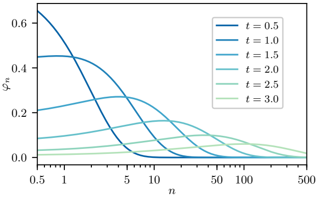
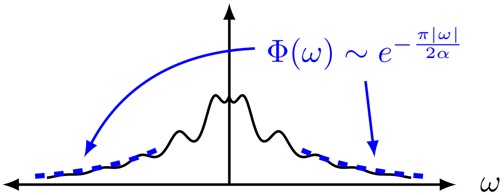




C. Spectral Function



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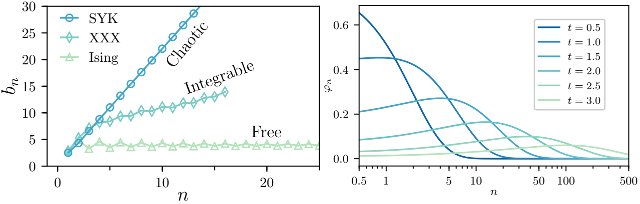
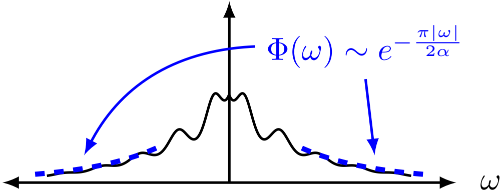


B. Green's Function

$$G(z) = \cfrac{1}{z - \cfrac{b_1^2}{z - \cfrac{b_2^2}{z - \cfrac{b_3^2}{\ddots}}}}$$

C. Spectral Function



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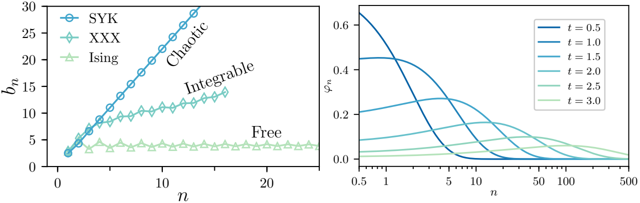

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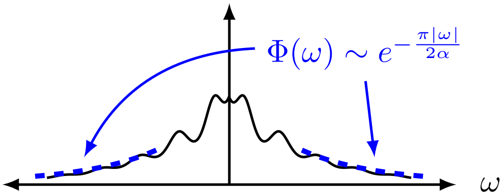
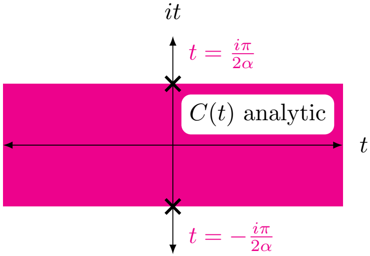


A. Correlation Function



Quantum Chaos

The Lanczos coefficients “diagnose” quantum chaos.

Chaotic Spectral Function Examples

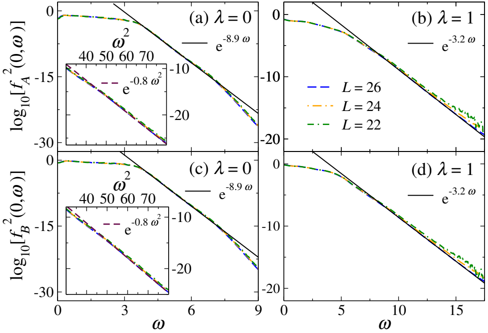
$$
\begin{aligned}
H_1 &= \sum_i X_i X_{i+1} + Y_i Y_{i+1} + \Delta Z_i Z_{i+1} \\
&\quad + \lambda \left(\sum_i X_i X_{i+1} + Y_i Y_{i+1} + \Delta Z_i Z_{i+1} \right)
\end{aligned}
$$

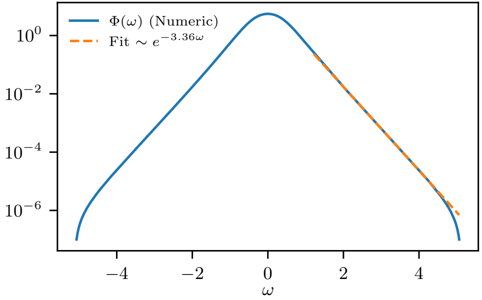
$$
A := \sum_i Z_i Z_{i+1}, B := \sum_i S_i^+ S_{i+2}^- + \text{h.c.}
$$

$$
H_2 = H_{\text{SYK}}^{(4)}; \mathcal{O} = \gamma_i
$$

ETH Interpretation:

$$
b_n \sim \alpha n \Longleftrightarrow f_{\mathcal{O}}(\overline{E}, \omega) \sim e^{-\omega}
$$





LeBlond, Mallayya, Vidmar, Rigol, 2019. arXiv:1909.09654.

Lanczos Coefficients Diagnose Chaos

Even *slightly* chaotic models have linear growth. Consider

$$H = JH_{\text{free}} + \varepsilon V.$$

We expect H to look like a free model until resonances appear at order $O(\varepsilon/J)$ in perturbation theory. Let's test this!

[1] Sachdev, Ye, 1993; Parcollet, Georges, 1999; Kitaev, 2015; etc

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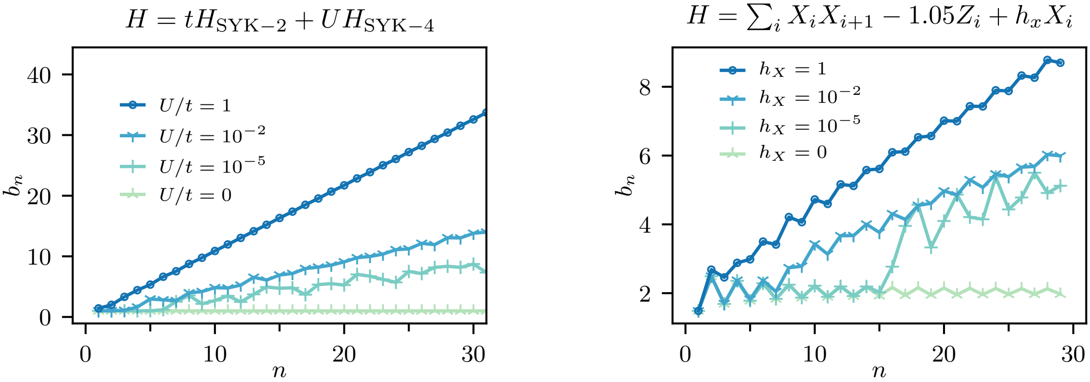
The **Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev (SYK)** model[1] is a cannonical model for quantum chaos

$$H^{(q)}_{\text{SYK}} = i^{q/2} \sum_{1\le i_1<i_2<\cdots<i_q\le N} J_{i_1\ldots i_q}\gamma_{i_1}\cdots\gamma_{i_q}, \quad \overline{J^2_{i_1\ldots i_q}} = 0, \quad \overline{J^2_{i_1\ldots i_q}}^2 = \frac{(q-1)!}{N^{q-1}}J^2$$

Chaotic *and* exactly solvable!

$$q = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{free model} \\ 4, 6, 8, \ldots & \text{chaotic model} \end{cases}$$

[1] Sachdev, Ye, 1993; Parcollet, Georges, 1999; Kitaev, 2015; etc



$H = tH_{\mathrm{SYK-2}} + UH_{\mathrm{SYK-4}}$
$U/t = 1$
$U/t = 10^{-2}$
$U/t = 10^{-5}$
$U/t = 0$
b_n
n
0
10
20
30
40
$H = \sum_i X_i X_{i+1} - 1.05 Z_i + h_x X_i$
$h_X = 1$
$h_X = 10^{-2}$
$h_X = 10^{-5}$
$h_X = 0$
2
4
6
8

Model	**Op.**	**Dynamics**	**Lanczos**	**Evidence**	**Ref.**
Ising	$\widehat{Z}$	Free	$O(1)$	Analytic	Viswanath & Müller
XX	$\widehat{Z}$	Free	$O(1)$	Analytic	Viswanath & Müller
SYK$^{(2)}$	γ	Free	$O(1)$	Analytic	Maldacena, Shenkar, Stanford, 2016
XX	$\widehat{X}$	Free*	$O(\sqrt{n})$	Analytic	Viswanath & Müller
Free Fermions in Disguise	$\widehat{Z}$	Free*	$O(\sqrt{n})$	Numerical	see Fendley, 2019.
MBL	$\widehat{Z}$	Int.	$O(\sqrt{n})$	Numerical	
XXZ	$\widehat{Z}$	Int.	$O(\sqrt{n})$	Numerical	
Chaotic Ising	$\widehat{Z}$	Chaotic	$O(n)$	Numerical	
XXZ + NNN	$\widehat{ZZ}$	Chaotic	$O(n)$	Numerical	LeBlond, Mallayya, Vidmar, Rigol, 2019.
SYK$^{(4)}$	γ	Chaotic	$O(n)$	Numerical	
SYK$^{(\infty)}$	γ	Chaotic	$O(n)$	Analytic	Roberts, Stanford, Streicher, 2018.
SYK Hopping	γ	Chaotic	$O(n)$	Analytic	
JT Gravity	ϕ_0	Chaotic	$O(n)$	Analytic	
2D Fermi Hubbard	$\widehat{J}$	Chaotic	$O(n)$	Numerical	Huang, private comm.
Bouch Model	$\widehat{X}$	Chaotic	$O(n)$	Analytic	Bouch, 2015

Complexity

The Lanczos coefficients quantify quantum chaos.

K-Complexity

I will introduce a measure of quantum chaos (“**K-Complexity**”) that is

1. easy to interpret
2. easy to compute
3. works in all quantum systems (not semiclassical).

Exponential Sensitivity

- A hallmark of chaos is *exponential sensitivity* to small perturbations.
- Classically, this is measured by the Lyapunov exponent.

[1] Kitaev, 2015. [2] Maldacena, Shenker, Stanford, 2016.

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- The **Out-of-time-order commutator** generalizes the Lyapunov exponent λ_L to semi-classical systems[1]

$$\mathrm{OTOC}(t) := \langle [\mathcal{O}(t), V] | [\mathcal{O}(t), V] \rangle \sim e^{\lambda_L t}.$$

and λ_L is called the **quantum Lyapunov exponent**.

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  and λ_L is called the **quantum Lyapunov exponent**.
- High-energy theorists have shown a "universal bound on chaos": for $T \to 0$,[2]

$$\lambda_L \leq 2\pi T. \tag{1}$$

[1] Kitaev, 2015. [2] Maldacena, Shenker, Stanford, 2016.

Out-of-time-order Confusion

Semiclassical

OTOCs usually saturate at a value of

$$O(1/\hbar) \approx O(S) \approx O(N)$$

in large-S or large-N approximation.

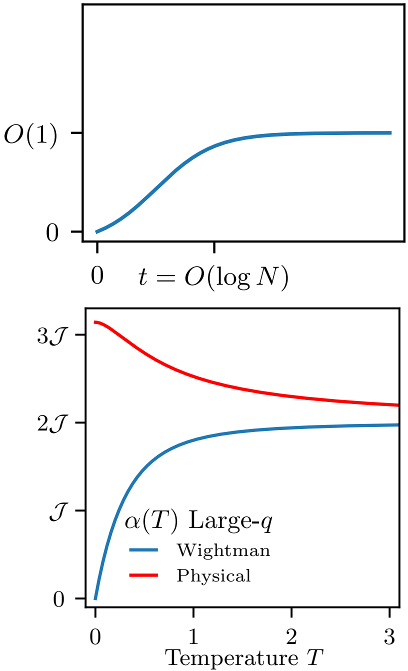
Regularization Dependent

At $T < \infty$, the density matrix $\rho = e^{-\beta H}/Z$ must enter the inner product. A natural choice is

$$(A|B)_\beta := \mathrm{Tr}[\rho A^\dagger B].$$

But OTOCs tend to be computed with Wightman regularization

$$(A|B)_\beta^W := \mathrm{Tr}[\rho^{1/2} A^\dagger \rho^{1/2} B].$$



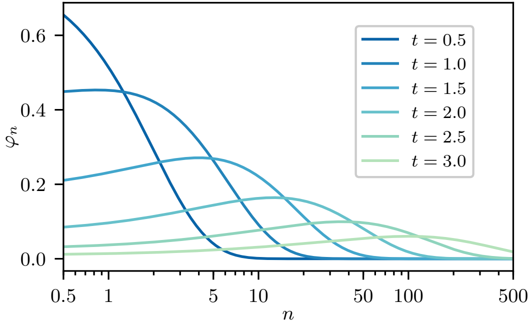
K-Complexity

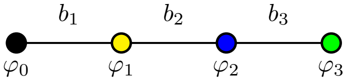
The Krylov vectors $\mathcal{O}_n$ grow successively larger, have more components, need more resources. . . they are more complex.

Therefore define the **K-Complexity** as

$$(n(t)) := \sum_{n\in\mathbb{N}} n\,|\varphi_n(t)|^2 \sim e^{2\alpha t}$$

where $\varphi_n(t) := (\mathcal{O}_n|\mathcal{O}(t))$.





[1]Roberts, Stanford, Streicher, 2018.

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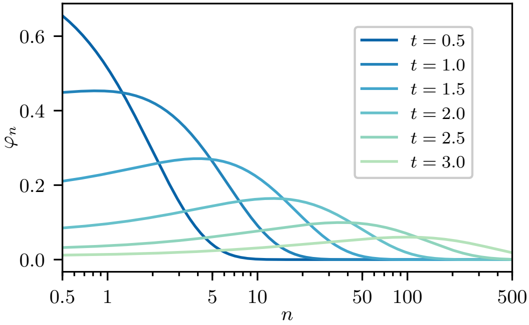
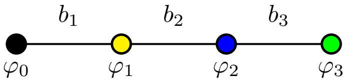


SYK-q	2	3	4	7	10	∞
$\alpha/\mathcal{J}$	0	0.461	0.623	0.800	0.863	1
$\lambda_L/(2\mathcal{J})$[1]	0	0.454	0.620	0.799	0.863	1



[1] Roberts, Stanford, Streicher, 2018.

Rigorous Bounds

Proposition: Suppose $T = \infty$. For any local operator, $\exists C > 0$ such that

$$\mathrm{OTOC}(t) \leq C \cdot (n(t)) \, .$$

[1]Murthy, Srednicki, 2019.

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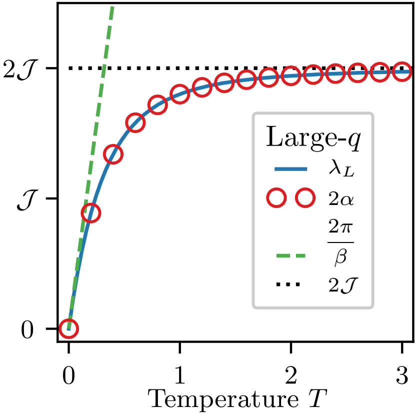
Proposition (Murthy and Srednicki): Suppose ETH. Ther

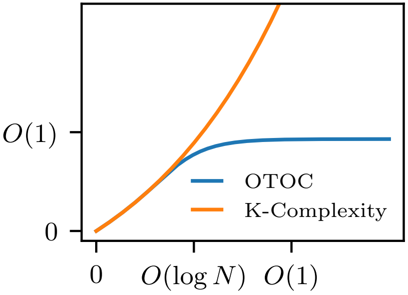
$$\lambda_L \leq 2\alpha \leq 2\pi T.$$



[1] Murthy, Srednicki, 2019.

Chaos and Complexity

	OTOCs	**K-Complexity**
Correlator	4-point	2-point
Exponential Sensitivity	✓	✓
Low-T bound	✓	✓
Classical	✓	✓
Semi-classical	✓	✓
Non-semiclassical	✗	✓

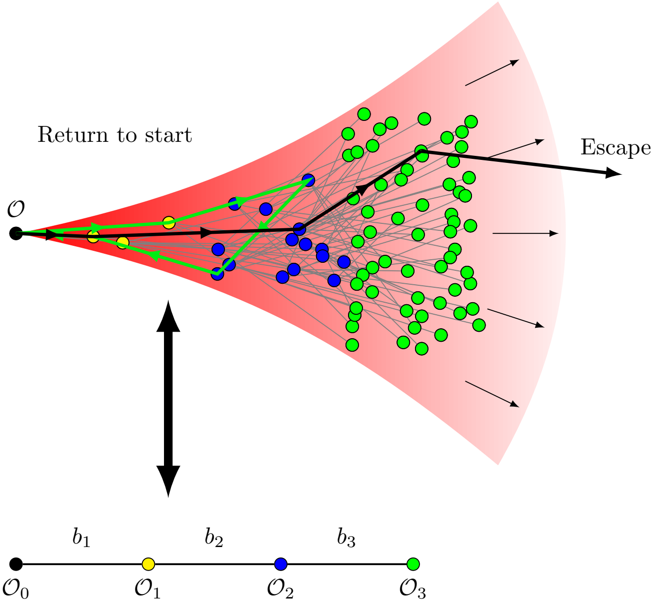


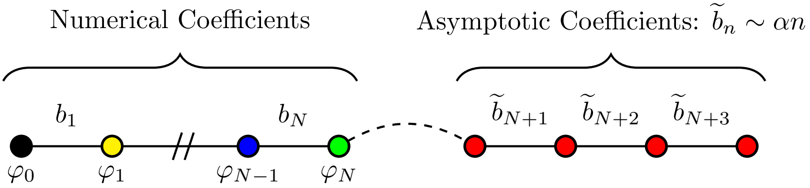
The growth rate α can be interpreted as the **complexity growth rate** of a quantum system — far from the semiclassical limit — encoding the *emergence of dissipation*.

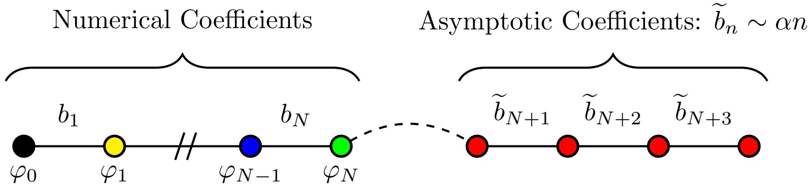
This allows us to *compute hydrodynamical coefficients*.

Hydrodynamics

K-complexity gives rise to emergent hydrodynamics.


Return to start
$\mathcal{O}$
Escape
b_1
b_2
b_3
$\mathcal{O}_0$
$\mathcal{O}_1$
$\mathcal{O}_2$
$\mathcal{O}_3$


Numerical Coefficients
Asymptotic Coefficients: $\widetilde{b}_n \sim \alpha n$
b_1
b_N
$\widetilde{b}_{N+1}$
$\widetilde{b}_{N+2}$
$\widetilde{b}_{N+3}$
φ_0
φ_1
φ_{N-1}
φ_N



$$L = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b_1 & 0 & 0 \\ b_1 & 0 & b_2 & 0 \\ 0 & b_2 & 0 & \ddots \\ 0 & 0 & \ddots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\approx \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b_1 & 0 & 0 \\ b_1 & 0 & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & b_N \\ 0 & 0 & b_n & \widetilde{G^{(N)}}(z) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G(z) = \int dt\, e^{izt} \langle \mathcal{O}(t)\mathcal{O}(0) \rangle$$

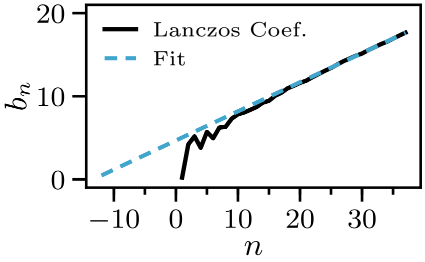
$$\approx \cfrac{1}{z - \cfrac{b_1^2}{z - \cfrac{b_2^2}{\cfrac{\ddots}{z - b_N^2 \widetilde{G^{(N)}}(z)}}}}$$

$$\widetilde{G^{(N)}}(z) = \Gamma(N+1)\Gamma\left(\frac{z+1}{2}\right) \times {}_2F_1\left(N+1, \frac{z+1}{2}, \frac{z+2N+3}{2}; -1\right)$$

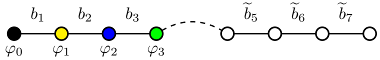
Algorithm

0. Choose a local operator $\mathcal{O}$ whose correlation $C(t) = \mathrm{Tr}[\mathcal{O}(t)\mathcal{O}(0)]$ should be hydrodynamical.

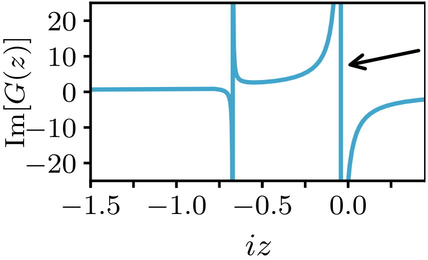
1. Compute $b_1, \ldots, b_N$ via infinite exact diagonalization and fit the slope α.



2. Stitch together the b_n's and the asymptotic solution $\widetilde{G^{(N)}}$.



3. Identify the pole closest to the origin to extract the hydrodynamical dispersion relation.



Diffusion in the Chaotic Ising Model

Chaotic Ising Model

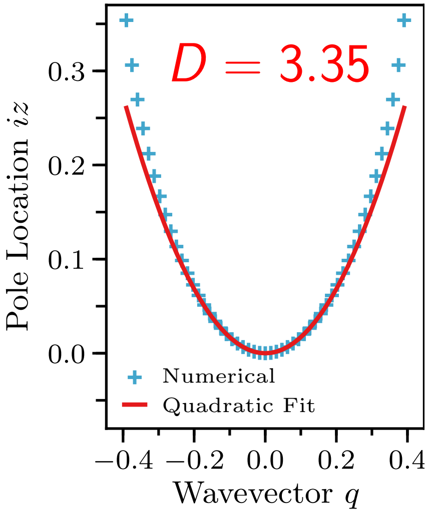
$$H = \sum_j X_j + 1.05 Z_j Z_{j+1} + 0.5 Z_j$$

Initial operator at wavevector k:

$$\mathcal{O}_k = \sum_j e^{ikj} \left(X_j + 1.05 Z_j Z_{j+1} + 0.5 Z_j \right)$$

We see the dispersion relation for diffusion

$$\frac{d}{dt}\epsilon(t,x) = D\nabla^2\epsilon(t,x).$$



Summary

- The hypothesis governs operator growth in chaotic, closed quantum systems

$$b_n = \begin{cases} A\frac{n}{W(n)} + O(1) \sim \frac{An}{\log n} & \text{if } d = 1 \\ \alpha n + \gamma + o(1) \sim \alpha n & \text{if } d \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

- Emergence of hydrodynamics in a computationally tractable scheme.
- The **operator growth rate** α also controls the growth of complexity and chaos in quantum systems: $\lambda_L \leq 2\alpha$

SYK-q	2	3	4	7	10	∞
$2\alpha/\mathcal{J}$	0	0.461	0.623	0.800	0.863	1
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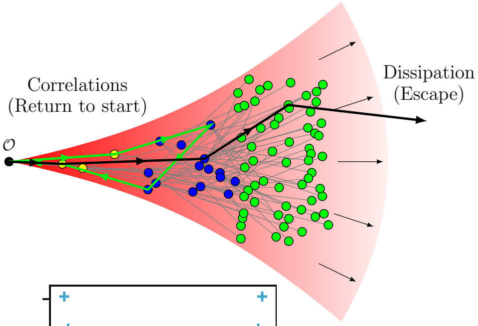
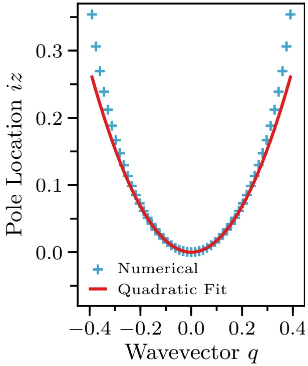




Future Work

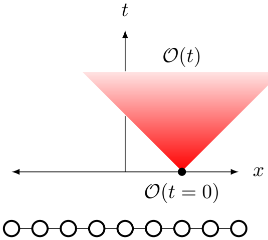
- Log corrections disrupt asymptotics in 1D. How does our numerical technique still work in 1D?
- Can we prove the hypothesis within random matrix theory?
- How can we extend the hypothesis to finite temperature?
- Can we compute b_n in QMC or other numerical techniques in 2D?
- Can we say anything about the MBL transition with this notion of chaos/ergodicity?
- Can we measure α experimentally? Perhaps from $\Phi(\omega)$ at large ω?

Extra Slides

History

Mathematical Results

- Araki (1969)
- Lieb-Robinson Bound (1972)
- ETH (1994)
- ADHH Theorem (2015)



OTOCs

- Quantum version of Lyapunov exponent (Kitaev)
- Maldacena-Shenkar-Stanford bound at low-T (2015)
- Computable in SYK, large-N, holography...
- Only well-defined semiclassically

Random Unitaries

- Solvable models of quantum chaos
- Local, finite-N, operator front propagation
- Emergent dissipation
- Non-Hamiltonian dynamics, no Lyapunov exponents
- (Nahum, Khemani, Huse, Pollmann, etc)

The Lanczos Algorithm

The Lanczos algorithm iteratively *tridiagonalizes* a matrix

Algorithm:

1. Define

$$|\mathcal{O}_0) := \mathcal{O}, b_0 := 0$$

2. For each n, apply $\mathcal{L}$ to make a new operator:

$$|A_n) := \mathcal{L}\,|\mathcal{O}_{n-1}) - b_{n-1}\,|\mathcal{O}_{n-2})$$

3. Orthogonalize again previous operator:

$$|\mathcal{O}_n) := b_n^{-1}\,|A_n)\,, b_n := (A_n|A_n)^{1/2}$$

4. Repeat until $|\mathcal{O}_n)$ vanishes.

The Liouvillian becomes **tridiagonal**

$$L_{nm} := (\mathcal{O}_n|\mathcal{L}|\mathcal{O}_m) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b_1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots \\ b_1 & 0 & b_2 & 0 & \cdots \\ 0 & b_2 & 0 & b_3 & \cdots \\ 0 & 0 & b_3 & 0 & \ddots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

The b_n's are called **Lanczos coefficients** and the $|\mathcal{O}_n)$'s are called **Krylov vectors**.

Higher Dimensions

Theorem (Bouch 2011) For $d = 2$ (and higher), there exists a local Hamiltonian whose correlation function fail to be entire. Namely

$$H = \sum_{(x,y)\in\mathbb{Z}^2} Z_{x,y}X_{x+1,y} + X_{x,y}Z_{x,y-1}$$

with $\mathcal{O} = X_{0,0}$. (This achieves linear growth of b_n.)

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with $\mathcal{O} = X_{0,0}$. (This achieves linear growth of b_n.)

Corollary For $d \geq 2$, linear growth $b_n = \alpha n + O(1)$ is a tight upper bound for the growth of the Lanczos coefficients.

So the hypothesis survives unscathed in higher dimensions.

1D correction via Alex Avdoshkin & PhD thesis of G.D. Bouch, 2011

ETH Interpretation

Eigenstate thermalization hypothesis:

$$\mathcal{O}_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{O}(\overline{E})\delta_{\alpha\beta} + e^{-S(\overline{E})} f_{\mathcal{O}}(\overline{E}, \omega) R_{\alpha\beta} \tag{2}$$

where O is a local observable, $\overline{E} = (E_\alpha + E_\beta)/2$, $\omega = E_\alpha - E_\beta$, $S(\overline{E})$ is the thermodynamic entropy, $R_{\alpha\beta}$ a random variable and $\mathcal{O}(\overline{O})$ and $f_{\mathcal{O}}$ are smooth.

The operator growth hypothesis implies (at $T = \infty$)

$$\text{quantum chaos} \Longleftrightarrow \int d\overline{E}\ f_{\mathcal{O}}(\overline{E}, \omega) = e^{-\frac{\pi|\omega|}{2\alpha} + O(1)}.$$