Pole skipping and related probes away from maximal chaos



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In collaboration with: Choi, Sárosi, Stanford, van der Schee, Virrueta



Quantum chaotic dynamics

Phenomena and signatures associated with chaotic dynamics:



Pole skipping

Complexity growth

Eigenvalue statistics

Ultimate goal: describe these phenomena in a unified theory

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Ultimate goal: describe these phenomena in a unified theory

Goal of talk:

- Develop EFTs at long distances and at late times for some of these processes
- Study their interplay and relation to gravity through AdS/CFT
- Go away from infinite coupling/maximal chaos

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- In systems without momentum conservation:

$$G^R_{\varepsilon\varepsilon}(\omega,p) = \frac{s}{\beta} \frac{Dp^2}{-i\omega + Dp^2} + \dots$$

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- Alternative history: string theorists discover hydrodynamics by studying the fluid/gravity correspondence for bumpy AdS black holes [Bhattacharyya et al.]
- Want to discover universal EFTs for other chaotic phenomena following the "alternative history" path

Butterfly effect

Thermalization

Outline









Butterfly effect

- Butterfly effect, operator growth and OTOC
- Refinement of the chaos bound

Pole skipping

- Away from maximal chaos
- Explicit thermal Green's function

Thermalization

- Entanglement entropy as a probe
- Membrane theory is the EFT

Summary and open questions

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Butterfly effect, operator growth and OTOC

Butterfly effect in many-body systems: [Larkin, Ovchinnikov; Shenker, Stanford; Kitaev]

• In classical physics butterfly effect is sensitivity to initial data:

 $\delta q(t) = \delta q_0 \, e^{\lambda_L \, t}$

• Quantum many-body context: simple operators (few-body) evolve into complex ones (many-body), one particle can have effect later in entire system.

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- Quantum many-body context: simple operators (few-body) evolve into complex ones (many-body), one particle can have effect later in entire system.
- Diagnostic is OTOC:

 $C(t,x) = -\frac{\langle [W(t,x), V(0)]^2 \rangle}{\langle V^2 \rangle \langle W^2 \rangle}$

In its expansion both TO and OTO terms.

Chaotic operator growth

Effective size of an operator in a thermal state:

 Chaotic time evolution makes simple local operators complex. Size can be probed by the OTOC: [Roberts, Susskind, Stanford]

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• Can compute in AdS/CFT in hydro-like regime [Shenker, Stanford]

$$C(t,x) = \frac{\#}{N^2} \exp\left[\frac{2\pi}{\beta} \left(t - |x|/v_B\right)\right] + \dots \quad \beta \ll t, |x| \ll t_{\rm scr}$$

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Refinement: [Kemani, Huse, Nahum; Xu, Swingle; MM, Sárosi]

$$C(t, x = vt) = \frac{\#}{N^2} \exp\left(\lambda(v)t\right) + \dots \quad \lambda(v) \le \frac{2\pi}{\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|v|}{v_B}\right)$$

Generic velocity dependence: even when $\lambda_L < 2\pi/\beta$ for $v \ge v_*$ get maximal chaos.





The SYK model is a solvable chaotic system. It can be made spatially local [Gu, Qi, Stanford]

$$H = i^{q/2} \sum_{x} \left[\sum_{\{i_k\}} J_{i_1 \dots i_q, x} \chi_{i_1, x} \dots \chi_{i_q, x} + \sum_{\{i_k\}, \{j_k\}} J'_{(i_1 \dots i_{q/2})(j_1 \dots j_{q/2}), x} \left(\chi_{i_1, x} \dots \chi_{i_{q/2}, x}\right) \left(\chi_{i_1, x+1} \dots \chi_{i_{q/2}, x+1}\right) \right]$$

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• The model can be solved analytically at low-T for any q or at any T for large q [Maldacena, Stanford; Cotler et al.; Streicher; Choi, MM, Sárosi]

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \frac{N}{4q^2} \sum_x \int d\tau_1 d\tau_2 \left[\frac{1}{4} \partial_1 g_x \partial_2 g_x - \mathcal{J}_0^2 e^{g_x} - \mathcal{J}_1^2 e^{\frac{1}{2}(g_x + g_{x+1})} \right]$$
$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_i \chi_{i,x}(\tau_1) \chi_{i,x}(\tau_2) = \frac{\text{sgn}(\tau_{12})}{2} \left(1 + \frac{g_x(\tau_1, \tau_2)}{q} + \dots \right)$$

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• Saddle point gives $g_x(\tau_1, \tau_2) = g^{(s)}(\tau_{12})$ fermion propagator, $\langle \delta g_x(\tau_1, \tau_2) \, \delta g_y(\tau_3, \tau_4) \rangle$ determines the four point function [Streicher; Choi, MM, Sárosi]

Dimensionless coupling constant: $\beta \mathcal{J} \equiv \frac{\pi g}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi g}{2}\right)}, \quad 0 \le g < 1$

Effective size of an operator in a thermal state: $(\beta = 2\pi)$ [Kitaev; Maldacena, Stanford; Gu, Qi, Stanford; Choi, MM, Sárosi]

$$C(t,x) \approx \frac{\#}{N} \int dp \; \frac{\exp\left[\lambda(p)t + ipx\right]}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi\lambda(p)}{2}\right)}, \qquad \lambda(p) = \frac{g}{2} \left(3\sqrt{1 - 4\sin^2(p/2)} - 1\right)$$

As we change g, interpolates between free theory and maximally chaotic theory.

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• For $eta \ll t \ll t_{
m scr}$, evaluate using saddle point: [Gu, Kitaev; Xu, Swingle]



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• Similar results in CFT on $\mathbb{H}^{d-1} \times S^1$ (including 2d CFT at finite T) Role of $\lambda(p)$ played by leading Regge trajectory (pomeron) $j(\nu)$, known in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM [Costa et al.; Gromov et al.] Implies that $v_B = v_B^{(T)}$ for $\lambda \geq 37.7$, and $v_B < v_B^{(T)}$ for smaller coupling. (Only for $\lambda \to \infty$ we get $\lambda_L = 2\pi/\beta$.)

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- At low-T SYK is dominated by a time reparametrization pseudo-Goldstone boson, the boundary graviton of the dual JT gravity [Kitaev; Maldacena, Stanford; Jensen; ...] Challenge is to go away from maximal chaos [Choi, Haehl, MM, Sárosi, Streicher wip]

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OTOC motivated from operator growth. Chaos data from simpler observables?

- Recall that $G^R_{\varepsilon\varepsilon}(\omega,p)$ encodes hydro response. Family of poles

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• In AdS/CFT at pole skipping point one Einstein eq. trivializes Green function ambiguous as computed from ratio of two falloffs:

$$G^R_{\varepsilon\varepsilon}(\omega, p) = \frac{b(\omega, p)}{a(\omega, p)}$$

Pole is zero of $a(\omega, p)$, zeros come from $b(\omega, p)$. At p.s. point two indep infalling modes. [Grozdanov, Schalm, Scopelliti; Blake, Davison, Grozdanov, Liu]

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- Tested for maximally chaotic theories: AdS/CFT, low-T SYK chain, stress tensor dominated CFT in $\mathbb{H}^{d-1} \times S^1$ [Haehl, Reeves, Rozali]
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Non-maximal chaos generalization? [Choi, MM, Sárosi]

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Test in large q SYK chain [Choi, MM, Sárosi]

1. $G_{\varepsilon\varepsilon}^{R}(\omega, p)$ extracted from OPE limit of four point function, i.e. $\langle \delta g_{x}(\tau_{1}, \tau_{2}) \, \delta g_{y}(\tau_{3}, \tau_{4}) \rangle$ of the bilocal action

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \frac{N}{4q^2} \sum_{x} \int d\tau_1 d\tau_2 \left[\frac{1}{4} \partial_1 g_x \partial_2 g_x - \mathcal{J}_0^2 e^{g_x} - \mathcal{J}_1^2 e^{\frac{1}{2}(g_x + g_{x+1})} \right]$$
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2. Linearize around saddle: $\begin{bmatrix} -\partial_{\theta}^{2} + \frac{h(h-1)}{\sin^{2}(\theta)} \end{bmatrix} \psi_{n} = \left(\frac{n}{g}\right)^{2} \psi_{n}$ $\psi_{n}^{e} = \sin^{h}\theta \,_{2}F_{1}\left(\frac{h-n/g}{2}, \frac{h+n/g}{2}, \frac{1}{2}; \cos^{2}\theta\right)$ $\psi_{n}^{o} = \cos\theta \sin^{h}\theta \,_{2}F_{1}\left(\frac{1+h-n/g}{2}, \frac{1+h+n/g}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \cos^{2}\theta\right)$

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$$G^{M}_{\varepsilon\varepsilon}(n,p) \propto \begin{cases} -\partial_{\theta} \log \psi^{e}_{n}(\theta_{g}) & n \in 2\mathbb{Z} \\ -\partial_{\theta} \log \psi^{o}_{n}(\theta_{g}) & n \in 2\mathbb{Z}+1 \end{cases}$$

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4. Find unique analytic continuation

$$G^R_{\varepsilon\varepsilon}(\omega,p) \propto -\partial_\theta \log \psi_n(\theta_g) \Big|_{n \to -i\omega + \epsilon}, \quad \psi_n(\theta) \equiv c_e \psi^e_n + c_o \psi^o_n$$

• Test in large q SYK chain





- Test in large q SYK chain
 - 5. Trace pole and zero lines



6. Can also analyze dispersion relations to all orders in the derivative expansion [Withers; Grozdanov, Kovtun, Starinets, Tadic]



Closed form thermal Green function

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Nabil Iqbal @nblqbl

This paper today is brilliant: arxiv.org/pdf/2010.08558.... One of the most remarkable things is their derivation (in a convenient model) of an expression for a energy-energy finite-temperature correlator at *all values of the coupling*. 1/3



Closed form thermal Green function



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Spatial structure of OTOC is probed by $\lambda(v)$

$$C(t, x = vt) = \frac{\#}{N^2} \exp(\lambda(v) t) + \dots$$
$$\lambda(v) \le \frac{2\pi}{\beta} \left(1 - \frac{|v|}{v_B}\right)$$



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- Captures stress tensor contribution to chaos, for $v_* \le v \le v_B$ chaos is controlled by it. (This contribution can be decreased or cancelled completely.)
- Demystifies pole skipping: $G^R_{\varepsilon\varepsilon}(\omega,p)$ and $v^{(T)}_B$ both are properties of the stress tensor, stress tensor does not know about λ_L
- Closed form thermal Green function

Outline









Butterfly effect

- Butterfly effect, operator growth and OTOC
- Refinement of the chaos bound

Pole skipping

- Away from maximal chaos
- Explicit thermal Green's function

Thermalization

- Entanglement entropy as a probe
- Membrane theory is the EFT

Summary and open questions

Quantum thermalization

• To define thermalization we need coarse graining

In a gas, we coarse grain multi-particle correlations. In many body systems or QFTs consider subsystems $\rho_A = \text{Tr}_{\bar{A}} \, |\psi\rangle \, \langle \psi |$



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- Instead of following an operator (matrix), we follow a number

 $S_A(t) \rightarrow S_A^{(eq)}(\beta) = s_{th}(\beta) \operatorname{vol}(A)$

Universal probe, captures the essence of thermalization



Entropy in the hydrodynamic limit

Thermalization in quantum quenches

• Evolution of conserved densities universal in hydro limit $rac{t}{R}={
m fixed}\,,\quad R,t\gg\,t_{
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EE dynamics expected to simplify in the same limit Goal: develop effective theory for extensive piece

$$S(t) = s_{\rm th} R^{d-1} \mathcal{S}_{\rm ext} \left(\frac{t}{R}\right) + \dots$$



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- Qualitative picture of EE from 2d CFT [Cardy, Calabrese], AdS/CFT [Hartman, Maldacena; Liu, Suh], free theory in higher d [Casini, Liu, MM; Cotler, Hertzberg, MM, Mueller]
- Increase of EE in itself does not detect chaos, but its detailed dynamics is universal and differs from integrable theories





The membrane theory can be derived in two disparate physical systems

- In AdS/CFT EE is computed by extremal surface area probing the out of equilibrium state [Hubeny, Rangamani, Ryu, Takayanagi]
- Important variables in the hydro limit is the HRT surface projection to the **boundary spacetime** [MM₂]



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- In random quantum circuit models of time evolution, EE upper bound by minimal cut is saturated in hydro limit [Nahum, Ruhman, Vijay, Haah; Jonay, Huse, Nahum]
- Remarkable unification of CMT and HEP approaches





• Dynamics of projection governed by local action $S[A(t)] = s_{\rm th} \int_0^t dt' \ \mathcal{E}\left(v\right)$

with membrane ending on A on upper boundary, perpendicularly on lower boundary.

• Minimal membrane action computes entropy. $\mathcal{E}(v)$ is repackaging of geometry, independent of quench details.



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• Membrane theory:

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• Using the NEC, can prove the following properties of $\mathcal{E}(v)$, can be thought of as a transport coeff.







Applications

EE for strip, sphere, cylinder regions in the hydro limit is analytically solvable. [MM₁; MM₂]



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 $t_S = R/v_B$



Applications

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• Simple bound on saturation time from operator growth: [MM, Stanford] $t_S \ge R/v_B$ For elongated shapes in 4D we find: [MM, van der Schee] $t_S = R/v_B$

Black holes (often) saturate entanglement entropy the fastest.

Extensions

The membrane theory is robust, can be generalized away from global quenches [MM, Virrueta]

• Fluid/gravity black brane dual to an inhomogenous state in local thermal equilibrium. To subleading order, we get the membrane coupled to hydrodynamics:

$$S = \int d^{d-1}\xi \,\sqrt{|\gamma|} \,s_{\rm th}(x) \frac{\mathcal{E}(v)}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} + \dots, \quad v(x) \equiv \frac{(n \cdot u(x))}{\sqrt{1+(n \cdot u(x))^2}}$$

• Membrane theory is versatile, has connections to operator growth and hydrodynamics, and has all the features to be a universal theory

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Phenomena associated with chaotic dynamics:

 Hydrodynamics is the EFT for transport Interplays: pole skipping point is continuation of hydro mode membrane couples to hydro dofs geometrically







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EFT from reparametrizations

- Demystified pole skipping, explicit thermal Green fn $(\omega,p)_{\rm p.s.}=i\frac{2\pi}{\beta}\left(1,\frac{1}{v_B^{(T)}}\right)$
- Membrane theory of EE dynamics from holography and random circuits, rich applications



Role of $v_{\rm B}$

 $v_{\rm B}$ hints at nontrivial interplay between these phenomena:







Since for $v_* \leq v \leq v_B = v_B^{(T)}$ stress tensor dominates chaos, reasonable that $G_{\varepsilon\varepsilon}^R$ knows about $v_B^{(T)}$ through pole skipping.



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Manifestations of v_B in EE dynamics





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Open questions and some hints

 EFT for operator growth? Relation to Schwarzian, Reggeon field theory? *Hint: Explicit large q SYK results should help in generalizations* [Choi, Haehl, MM, Sárosi, Streicher wip]

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- "Gravity is the hydrodynamics of entanglement." Can we get GR from the membrane? *Hint: Can reconstruct static BH geometry*



• Implications for holographic RG? *Hint: The metric inside the horizon does not seems to be organized by scale.*



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Implications for tensor network approaches?
Hint: Found a quantitative tensor network-like description, after partially solving the EOMs.

