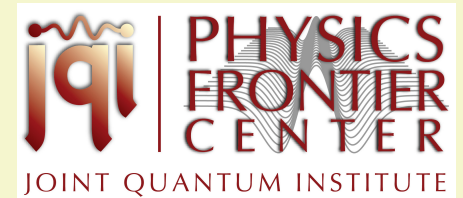


Many-Body Level Statistics

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and Physics Department*

at the University of Maryland



Supported by Simons Foundation, NSF, and DOE

SIMONS FOUNDATION



Outline

□ Introduction

- Classical ergodic hierarchies
- Quantum chaos: 3 “definitions”

□ RMT & Wigner-Dyson statistics

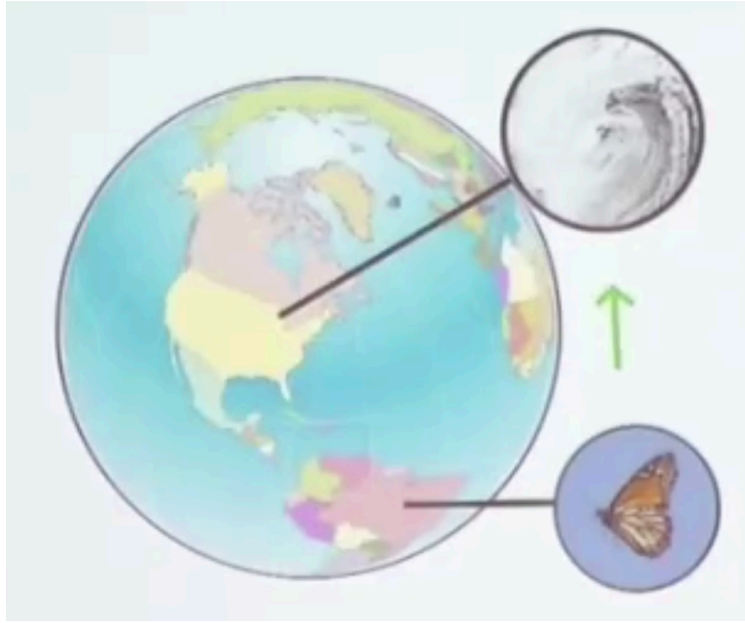
- Linear ramp in the spectral form factor
- $RMT = SYK2 \sim \lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \text{Disordered metal}$

□ Many-body level statistics of single-particle chaos

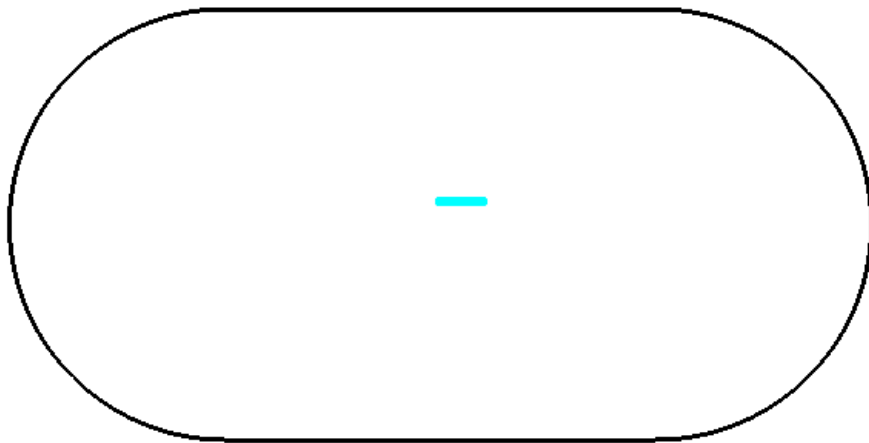
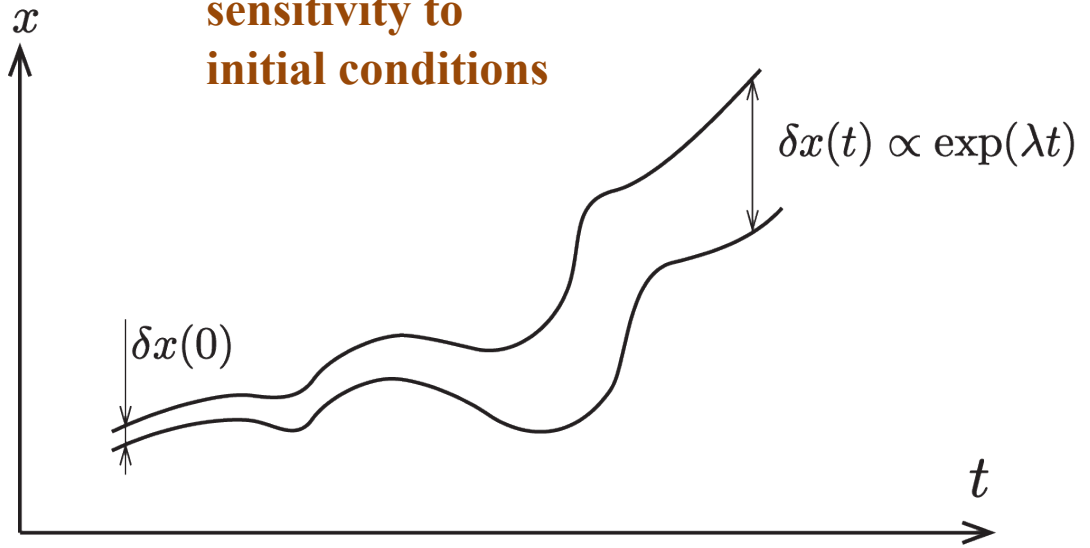
- The slope, the exp ramp, and the plateau
- Residual level repulsion & islands of level attraction

□ Sigma-model approach to many-body quantum chaos

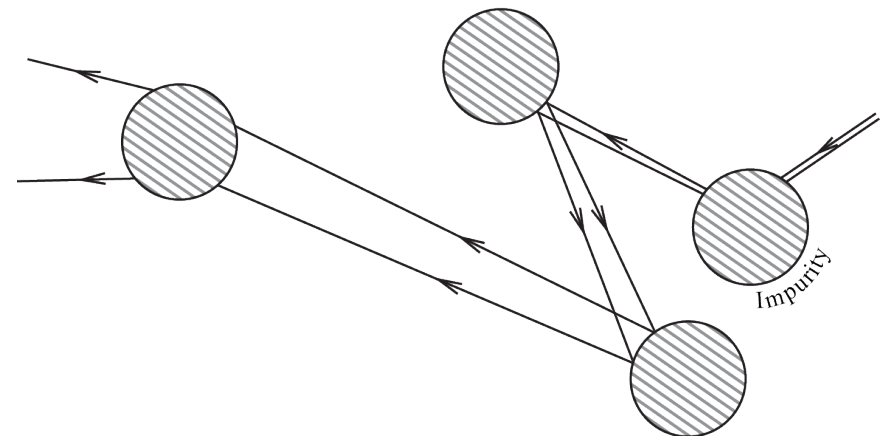
Classical “butterfly effect”



Exponential sensitivity to initial conditions

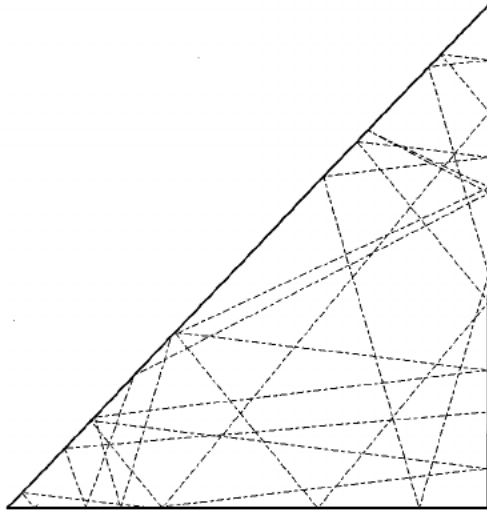


Bunimovich stadium billiard

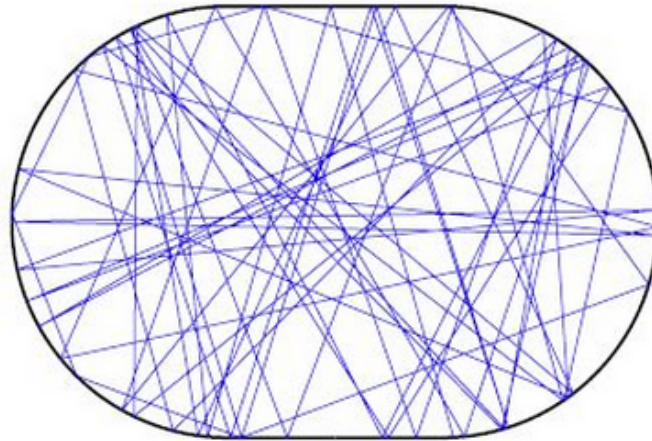


Disordered medium (e.g., a metal)

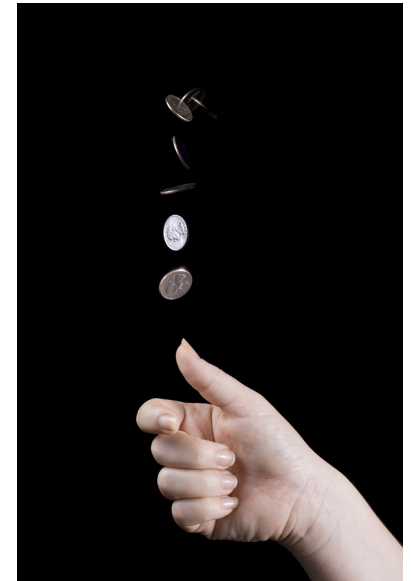
Classical ergodic hierarchy



Irrational triangular billiard
(ergodic, mixing, but not chaotic)



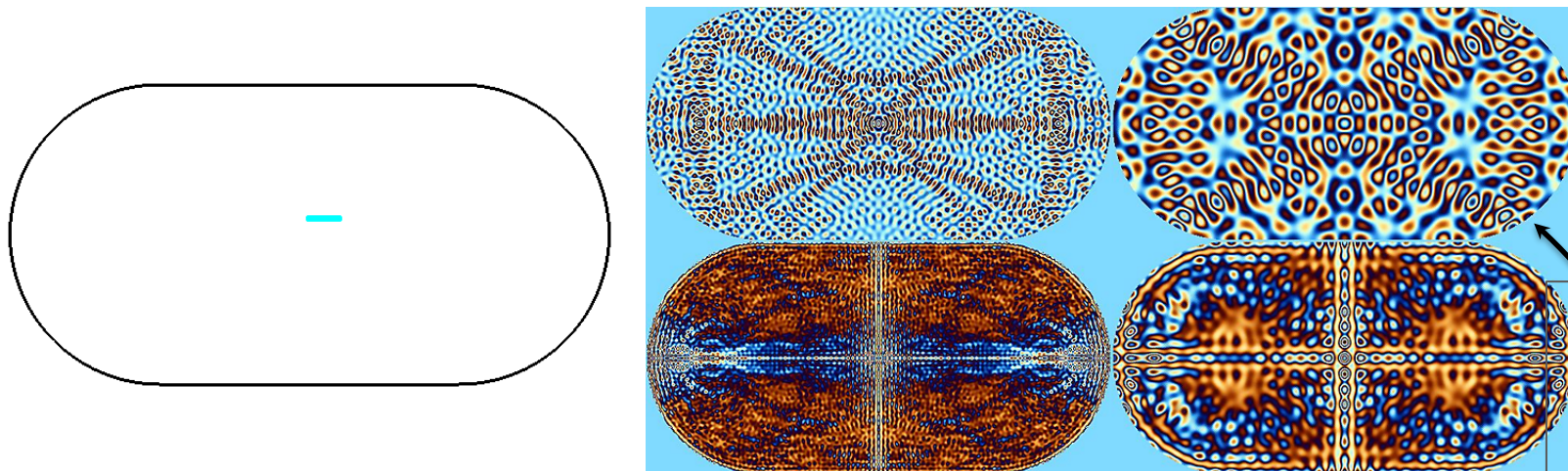
Bunimovich stadium
(ergodic & chaotic)



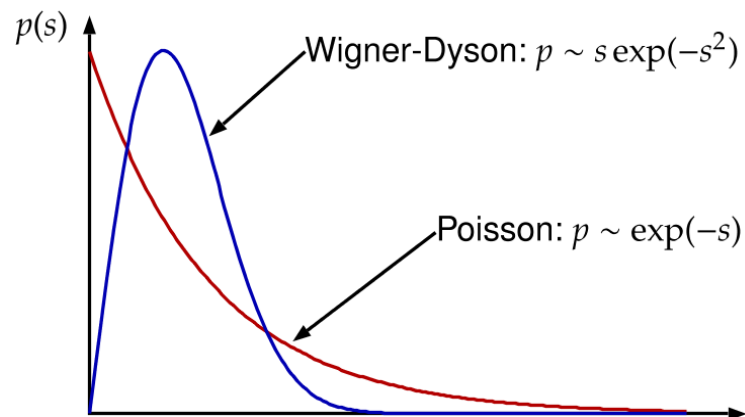
Bernoulli dynamical process
(~coin toss)

Three definitions of “quantum chaos”

- Quantize a classically-chaotic model. Call whatever you get a “quantum chaotic system.”



- Look at the energy spectrum of a quantum model (which may or may not have a well-defined classical limit) and compare its energy level statistics with the universal Wigner-Dyson distribution, predicted by random matrix theory.



Bohigas-Giannoni-Schmit
(BGS) conjecture

- “New” diagnostic: exponential growth of the out-of-time-ordered correlator (Larkin & Ovchinnikov, Stanford, Shenker, Kitaev, Maldacena)

Out-of-time-ordered correlator (OTOC)

- Consider quantum mechanical operators, $\hat{x}(t)$ and $\hat{p}(0) = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial x(0)}$ and define the correlator (OTOC)

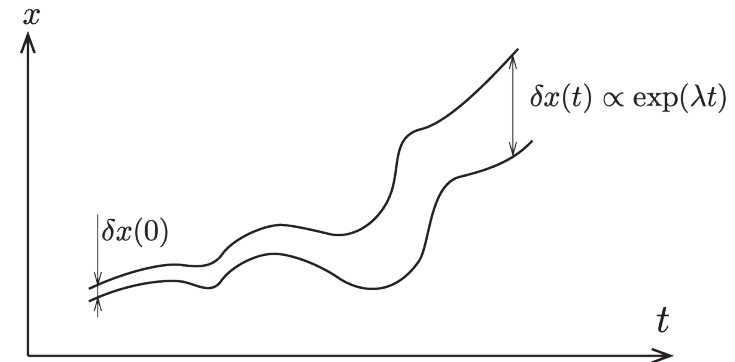


Anatoly Larkin



Yurii Ovchinnikov

$$C_{xp}(t) = -\langle [\hat{x}(t), \hat{p}(0)]^2 \rangle = \hbar^2 \left\langle \left(\frac{\partial \hat{x}(t)}{\partial x(0)} \right)^2 \right\rangle.$$



- If the correlator grows exponentially, we'll call the system quantum chaotic and the corresponding exponent – the Lyapunov exponent.

$$C(t) \propto e^{2\lambda_{max}t}$$

- Such correlators can be defined for many-body systems.
- Kitaev, Maldacena, Stanford et al. conjectured a bound on many-body chaos.

Recent interest in OTOCs is partly due to connections to gravity

- Kitaev, Maldacena, Stanford et al. considered (symmetrized) OTOC functions

$$F(t) = \frac{1}{Z} \text{tr} \left\{ e^{-\frac{\beta H}{4}} B(0) e^{-\frac{\beta H}{4}} A(t) e^{-\frac{\beta H}{4}} B(0) e^{-\frac{\beta H}{4}} A(t) \right\} \sim e^{\tilde{\lambda} t}$$

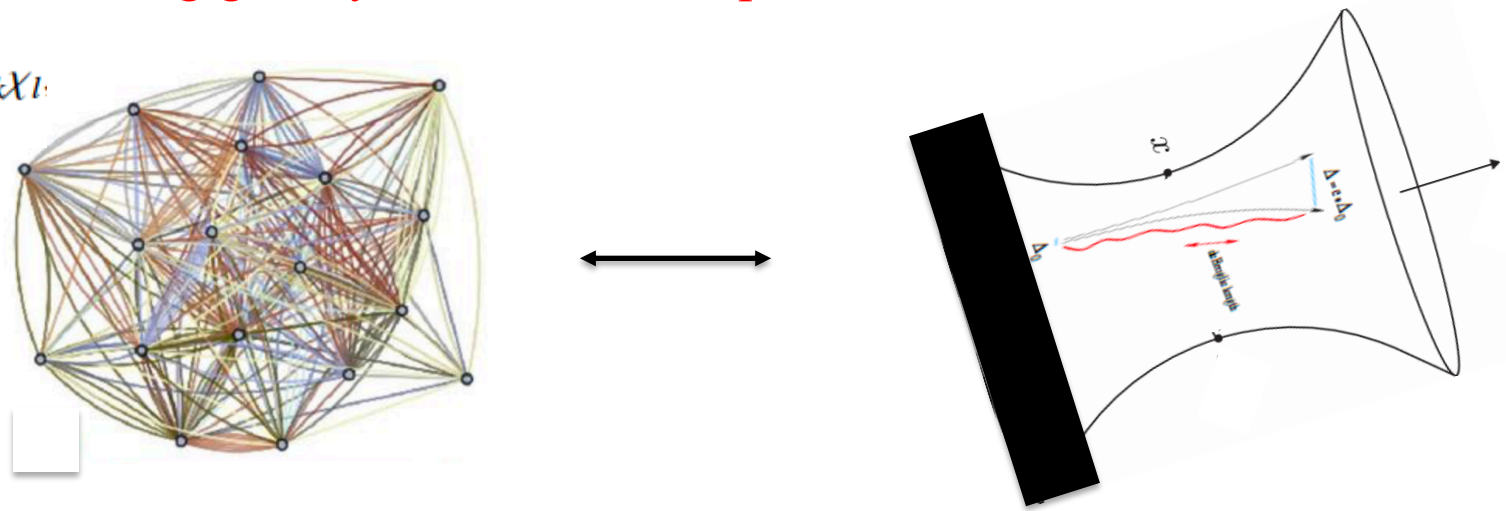
- Using assumptions about exp growth, *certain inequality involving the TOC and OTOC*, & analytical properties in $z=t+i\beta$, a theorem has been proven:

$$\tilde{\lambda} \leq \frac{2\pi k_B T}{\hbar}$$

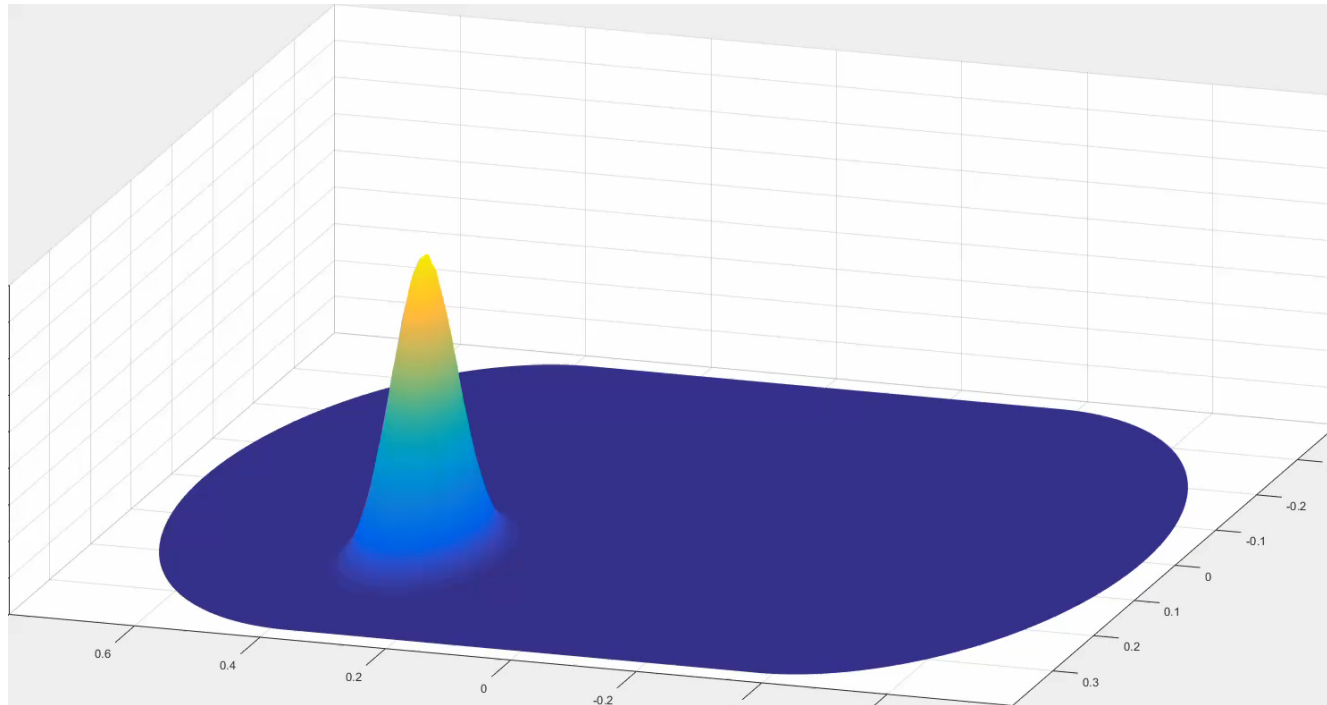
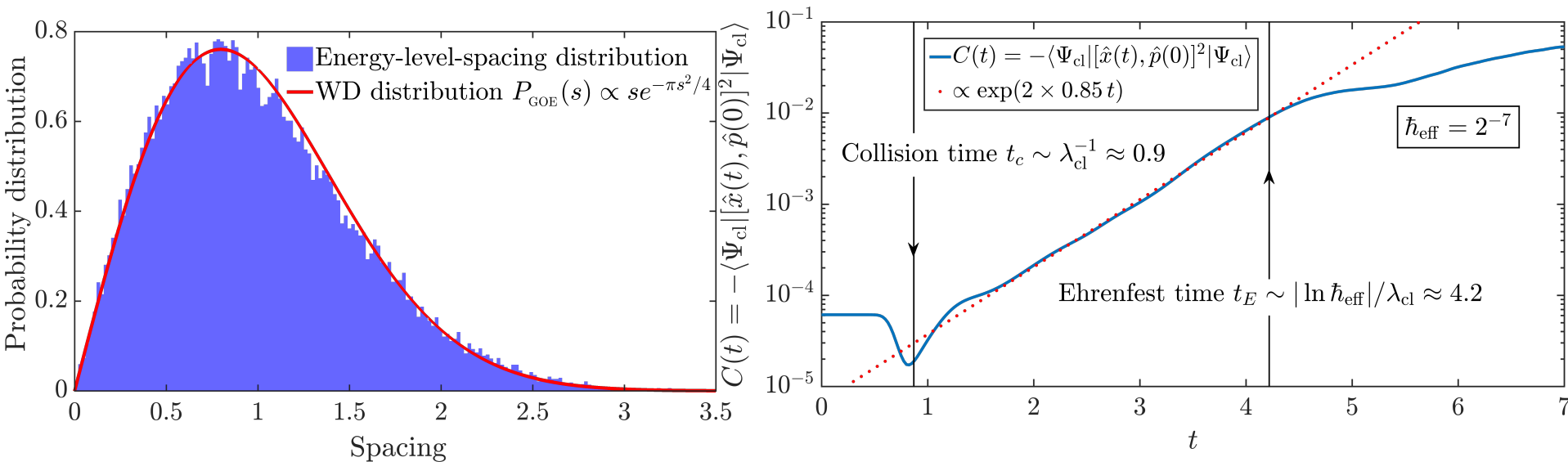
- Remarkably, the bound saturates for certain strongly-correlated models (e.g. SYK) with interesting gravity-like dual descriptions.

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{ijkl} J_{ijkl} \chi_i \chi_j \chi_k \chi_l$$

SYK



Consistency of definitions: Bunimovich billiard

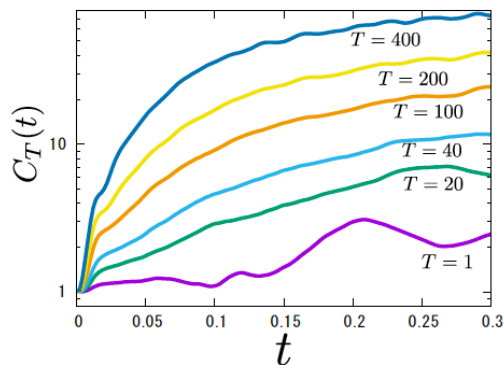
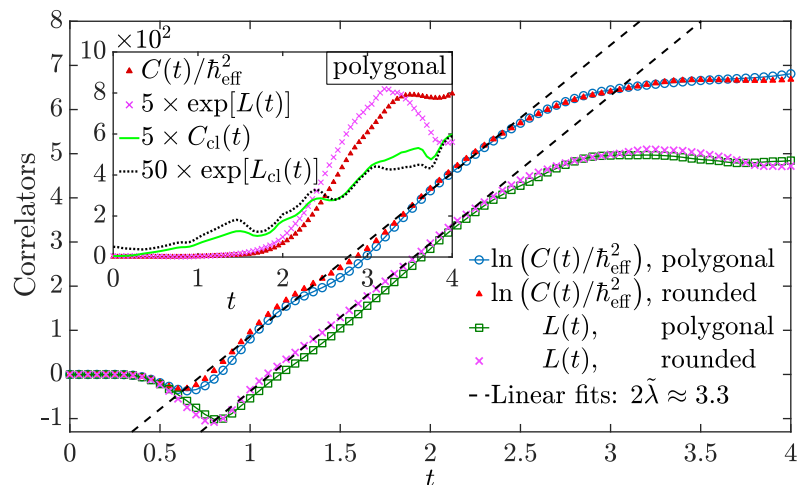
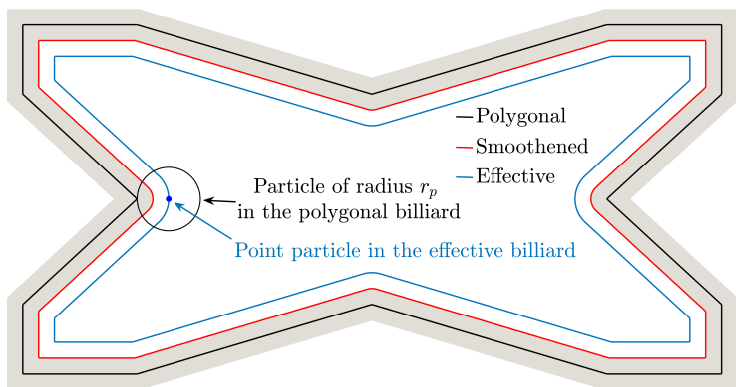


OTOC is not generally a good diagnostic of chaos

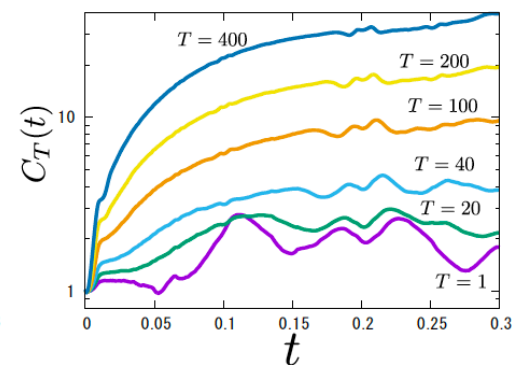
Early-Time Exponential Instabilities in Non-Chaotic Quantum Systems

Efim B. Rozenbaum, Leonid A. Bunimovich, Victor Galitski

To appear in *Phys. Rev. Lett.*



(a) Stadium billiard ($a/R = 1$)



(b) Circle billiard ($a/R = 0$)

- Some models show “fake” exponential instabilities in OTOC without underlying chaos.
- Also, a “wrong” choice of initial conditions in a chaotic model may yield no exponential OTOC. Furthermore, many chaotic/non-integrable many-body models (e.g., spin-1/2 chains) do not have classical states at all, and their OTOC would never show exp growth.

*A less “biased” approach to defining & describing
“quantum chaos” is through level statistics.*

Random matrix ensemble (GUE for simplicity)

- Gaussian ensemble of $N \times N$ Hermitian random matrices, H

$$P(H) = e^{-\frac{N}{2} \text{Tr} H^2} dH$$

- Haar measure: $dH = \prod_k dh_{kk} \prod_{i < j} d^2 h_{ij}$
- Diagonalization by unitary rotation $U(\mathbf{v})$ (\mathbf{v} is $N^2 - N$ -dimensional)

$$H = U(\mathbf{v}) \text{diag}(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_N) U^\dagger(\mathbf{v})$$

- $\text{Tr} H^2 = \sum_j \varepsilon_j^2$ and Haar measure

$$dH = J(\varepsilon, \mathbf{v}) d^{(N^2 - N)} \mathbf{v} \prod_k^N d\varepsilon_k$$

- **Level repulsion** is easy to see. If $\forall \varepsilon_i = \varepsilon_j$, then $\forall \mathbf{v}$

$$U(\mathbf{v}) \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix} U^\dagger(\mathbf{v}) = \begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and therefore } J(\varepsilon_i = \varepsilon_j, \mathbf{v}) \equiv 0$$

Wigner-Dyson level statistics

- Scaling $J(\alpha\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \mathbf{v}) = \alpha^{N^2-N} J(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \mathbf{v})$ & symmetry $\varepsilon_i \leftrightarrow \varepsilon_j$ leave one outcome

$$P(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) \propto e^{-\frac{N}{2} \sum_k \varepsilon_k^2} \underbrace{\prod_{i < j} (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j)^2}_{\text{level repulsion}}$$

- Vandermonde determinant representation

$$\prod_{i < j} (\varepsilon_i - \varepsilon_j) = \det \|\varepsilon_j^{i-1}\|_{i,j=1,\dots,N}$$

- We can replace ε_j^{i-1} with any polynomial $C_{i-1}(\varepsilon_j)$ (of degree $i-1$).

- Hermite polynomials are a smart choice (c.f., harmonic oscillator w.f.)

$$P(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) \propto e^{-\frac{N}{2} \sum_{k=1}^N \varepsilon_k^2} \det^2 \|H_i(\varepsilon_j)\|_{i,j=1,\dots,N}$$

Correlation functions

- Full WD distribution has “too much” information. We can integrate some of it out

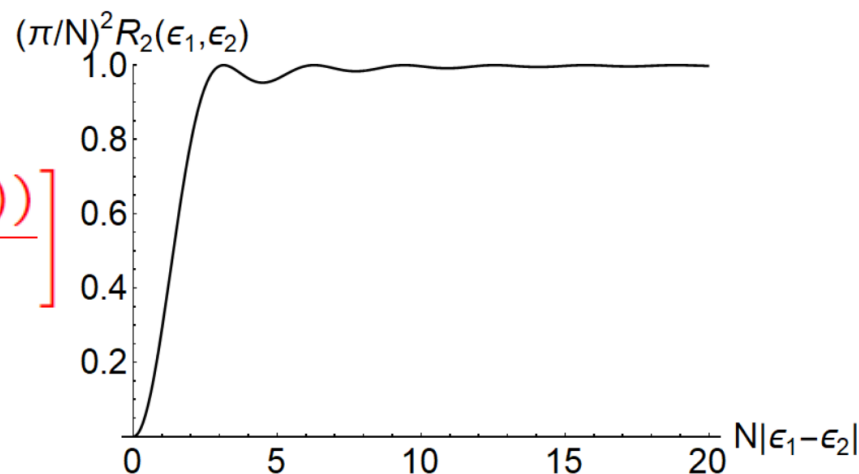
$$R_m(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_m) = \frac{N!}{(N-m)!} \int d\varepsilon_{m+1} \dots d\varepsilon_N P(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_N)$$

- Wigner semicircle law ($m=1$, i.e., density of states)

$$R_1(\varepsilon) = \frac{N}{2\pi} \sqrt{4 - \varepsilon^2}$$

- Two-level correlator ($m=2$) for $N \rightarrow \infty$

$$R_2(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2) \approx \frac{N^2}{\pi^2} \left[1 - \frac{\sin^2(N(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2))}{N^2(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2)^2} \right]$$



- R_2 also appears to be the correlation function of the imaginary part of the non-trivial zeroes of the Riemann zeta function – “Montgomery pair correlation conjecture.”

Spectral form factor (SFF) – a probe of level statistics

- To find if a system is “chaotic” in practice means to calculate R_2 or its Fourier T. - SFF

$$K(t) = \langle |Z(it)|^2 \rangle = \sum_{n,m} \left\langle e^{i(E_n - E_m)t} \right\rangle_{\text{ensemble averaging}}$$

- Two obvious regimes: $K(t = 0) = N^2$ and $K(t \rightarrow \infty) = N$ (plateau)
- Roughly, $t \sim 1/\Delta E$, and the plateau reflects the absence of levels with $\Delta E \ll 1/N$
- At small finite t , $t \rightarrow 0$ perturbation theory is straightforward. Fall off the initial N^2 cliff:

$$K_{\text{slope}}(t) = N^2 \frac{J_1^2(2t)}{t^2}$$

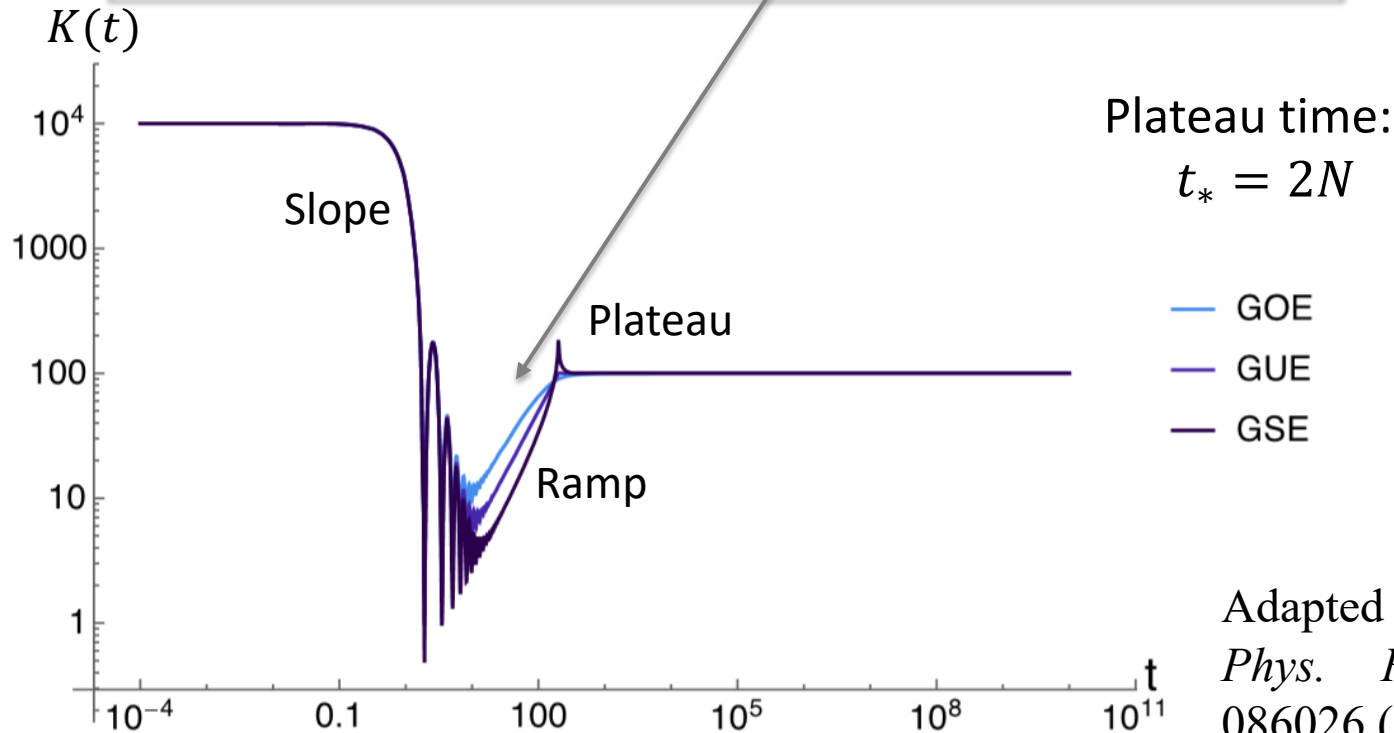
- But there is much structure, including level repulsion, hidden at intermediate “times.”

A linear “ramp” in the SFF – the hallmark of chaos

$$R_2(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2) - R_1(\varepsilon_1)R_1(\varepsilon_2) \propto -\frac{\sin^2 [N(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2)]}{N^2(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2)^2}$$

- The second term (level repulsion) gives a linear “ramp” at $t \sim O(N)$

$$-\frac{\sin^2(N(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2))}{N^2(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2)} \xrightarrow{\text{FT}} -\frac{\pi}{N} \left(1 - \frac{t}{2N}\right) \theta(2N - t)$$



$RMT = SYK2 \sim \lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \text{Disordered metal}$

Repulsion of energy levels and conductivity of small metal samples

B. L. Al'tshuler and B. I. Shklovskii

Zh. Eksp. Teor. Fiz. **91**, 220–234 (July 1986)



VOLUME 85, NUMBER 26

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

25 DECEMBER 2000

Wigner-Dyson Statistics from the Keldysh σ -Model

Alexander Altland¹ and Alex Kamenev²

... obtain the well-known result

$$R(\omega) = -\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re} \frac{1 - \exp(2is)}{s^2} = -\left(\frac{\sin s}{s}\right)^2$$

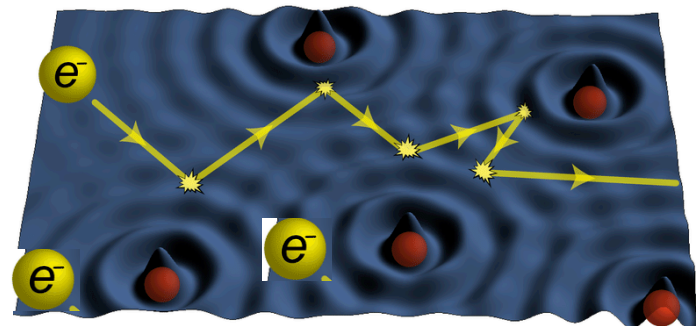
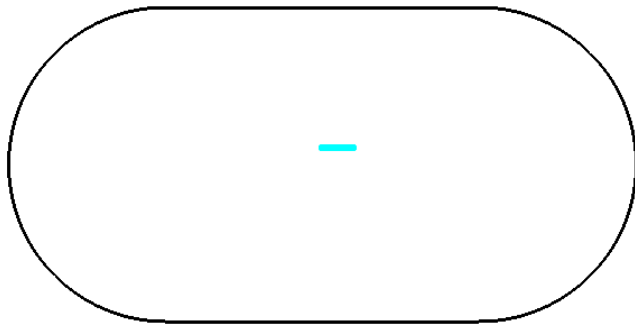


Key insight: The WD result for $R_2(\omega = \varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2)$ in the case of a disordered metal hinges on singularities associated with integrating the diffuson modes, $D(\omega, \mathbf{q}) = \frac{1}{-i\omega + Dq^2}$

RMT results (we can now call complex SYK2) $H = \sum_{i,j} \overline{\psi_i} h_{ij} \psi_j$, can be obtained by taking a 0-dim limit, $q \rightarrow 0$, of quantum diffusion and originate from soft modes $\sim 1/\omega$.

But this is NOT many-body quantum chaos

- Both diffusive Altshuler-Shklovski & Altland-Kamenev model and SYK2 are described by quadratic fermionic Hamiltonians. The derived Wigner-Dyson correlators refer to *single-particle* spectrum.
- The both models are integrable and do not thermalize (not ergodic/chaotic)
- These are non-interacting many-body systems "embedded" in a chaotic medium.



- Many-body energies are obtained by populating the Wigner-Dyson s.p. levels.

$$E_{\alpha} = \sum_{k=1}^N n_k^{(\alpha)} \varepsilon_k$$

- The occupation numbers, $n_k^{(\alpha)} = 0,1$ correspond to many-body Fock states, $|\alpha\rangle$. The Hilbert space size (# of levels E_{α}) is $L = 2^N$, with $N \gg 1$. The structure of the many-body energy landscape is much finer & it should NOT be Wigner-Dyson.

What is many-body statistics of single-particle chaos?

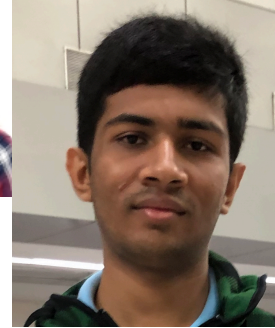
arXiv.org > cond-mat > arXiv:2005.08991

Condensed Matter > Statistical Mechanics

[Submitted on 18 May 2020]

Many-body level statistics of single-particle quantum chaos

Yunxiang Liao, Amit Vikram, Victor Galitski



Model – an ensemble of non-interacting fermion systems with N GUE-distributed single particle levels (complex SYK-2) and $L = 2^N$ many-body levels

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{i,j} \hat{f}_i^\dagger (h_{ij} - \mu \delta_{ij}) \hat{f}_j$$

$$P(h) = 2^{N(N-1)/2} \left(\frac{N}{2\pi} \right)^{N^2/2} \exp \left[-\frac{N}{2} \text{Tr} (h^2) \right]$$

Many-body SFF – series expansion

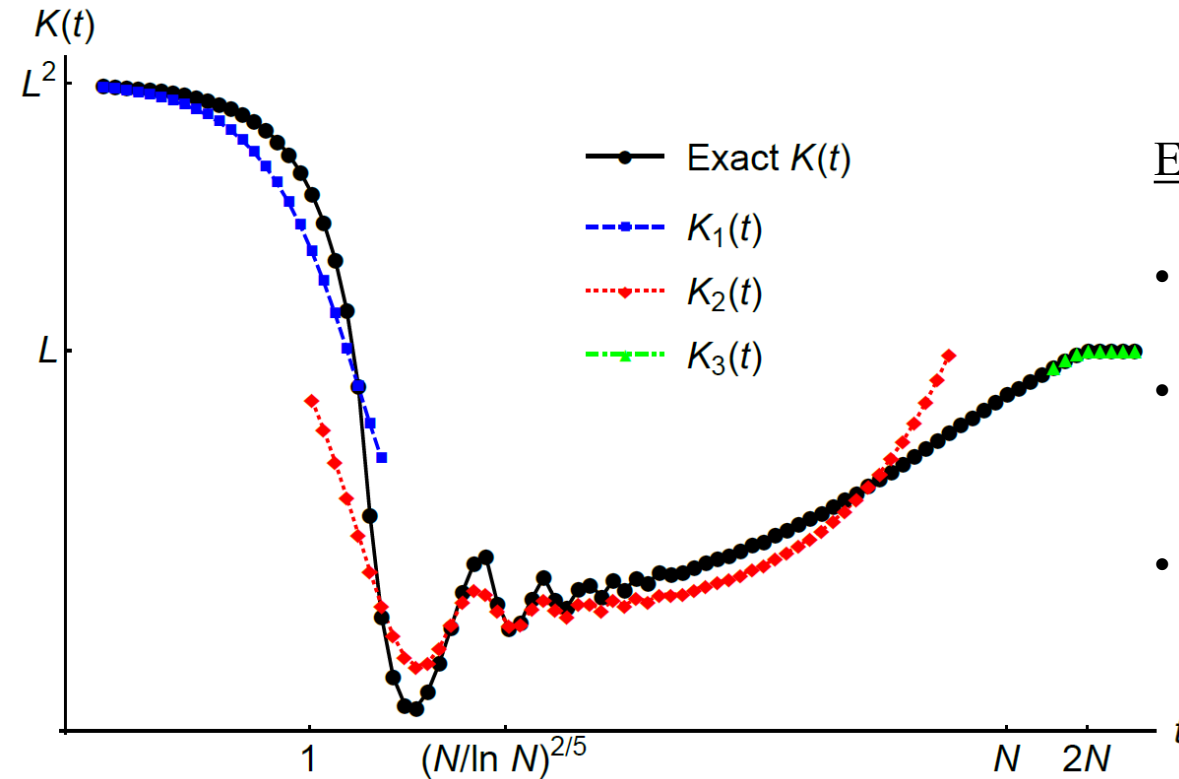
- $Z(it)$ is easy to evaluate for a non-interacting system, leaving us with a GUE ensemble average

$$\begin{aligned} K(t) &= \left\langle \sum_{\alpha, \beta=1}^L \prod_{k=1}^N e^{i(n_k^\alpha - n_k^\beta)(\varepsilon_k - \mu)t} \right\rangle \\ &= 2^N \int d\varepsilon_1 \dots d\varepsilon_N P(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_N) \prod_{i=1}^N \{1 + \cos [(\varepsilon_i - \mu)t]\} \\ &= 2^N \left(1 + \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{1}{n!} \bar{\mathbf{r}}_n(t) \right) \\ \bar{\mathbf{r}}_n(t) &= \int d\varepsilon_1 \dots d\varepsilon_n \mathbf{R}_n(\varepsilon_1, \dots, \varepsilon_n) \prod_{i=1}^n \cos[(\varepsilon_i - \mu)t] \end{aligned}$$

... after a lot of algebra and combinatorics, which I am going to skip, we arrive at...

SFF for non-interacting “quantum chaotic” fermions

$$K(t) \approx \begin{cases} K_1(t) = L^2 \cos^{2N} \left(\frac{\mu t}{2} \right) \exp \left[N \left(\frac{J_1(2t)}{t} - 1 \right) \cos(\mu t) \right], & 0 < t \ll O(1), \\ K_2(t) = \left(\frac{N}{8} e^{\gamma E} \right)^{t/4} \exp \left[N \frac{J_1(2t)}{t} \cos(\mu t) \right], & O(1) \ll t < \eta_1 < O(N / \log_2 N), \\ K_3(t) = L \exp \left[-\frac{(4N^2 - t^2)^{3/2}}{12\pi N t} \Theta(2N - t) \right], & \sqrt{2}N < t < \infty \end{cases}$$

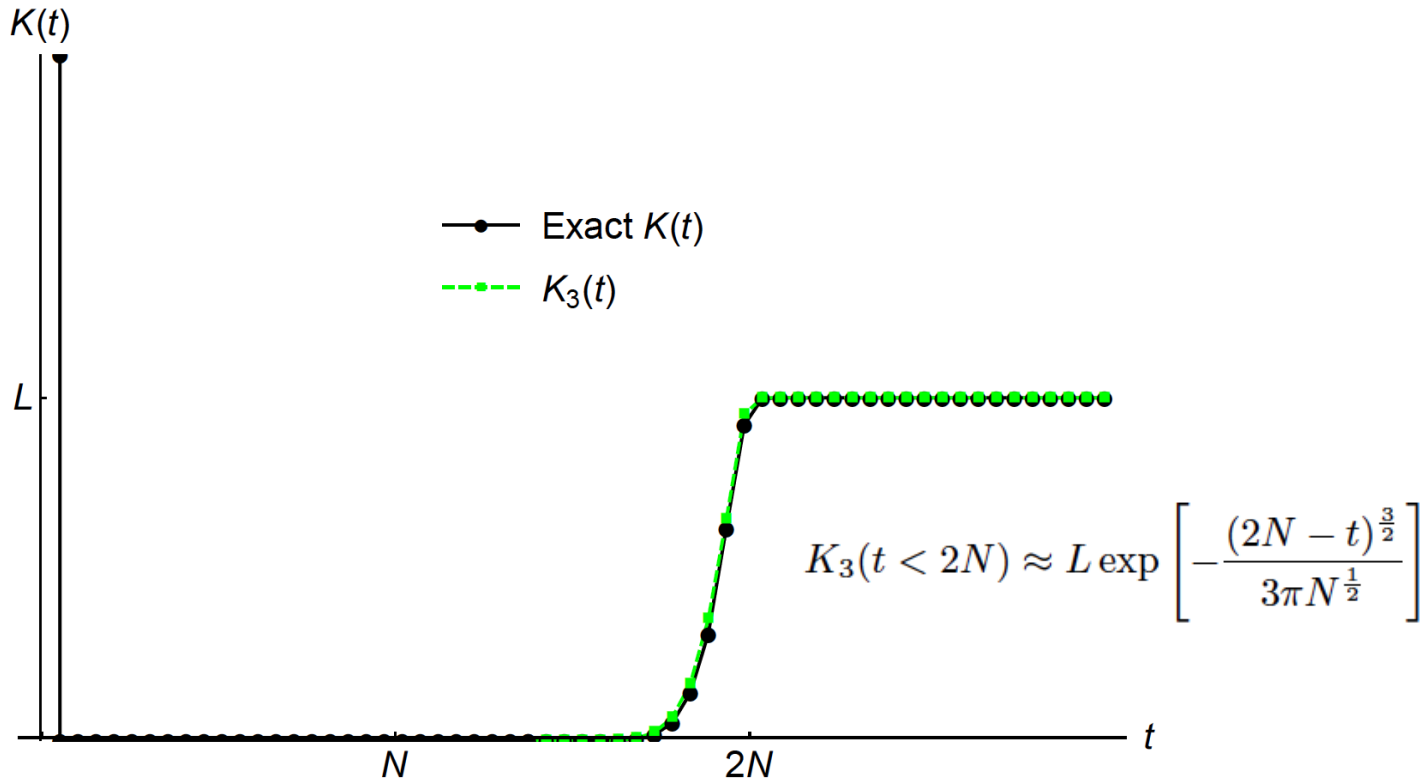


Energy scales:

- Single particle level spacing: N^{-1}
- Many-body level spacing:
 $\sim 1/L = 2^{-N}$
- Plateau time: $t_* = 2N$ – residual effect from single particle level repulsion

Looking at the big (many-body) picture

The spectral form factor in the linear scale ($N = 240, L = 2^{240}$)

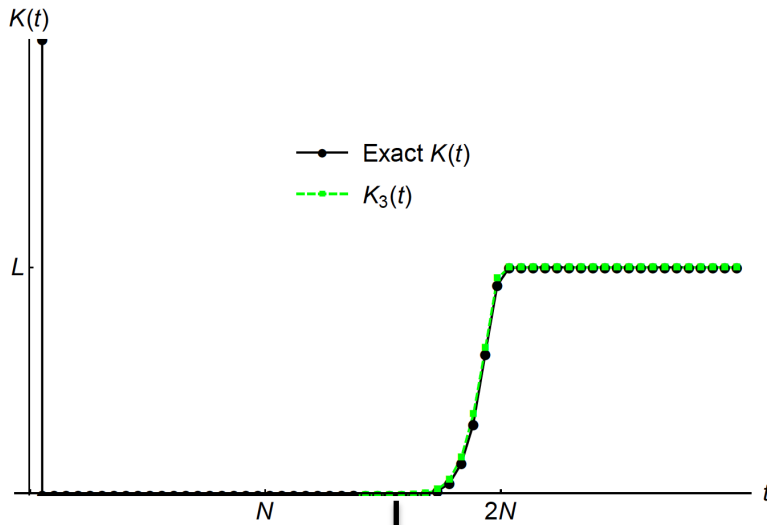


Eventually (that is, as N grows further), all single-particle features are not even noticeable by a naked eye and a step function is an excellent fit:

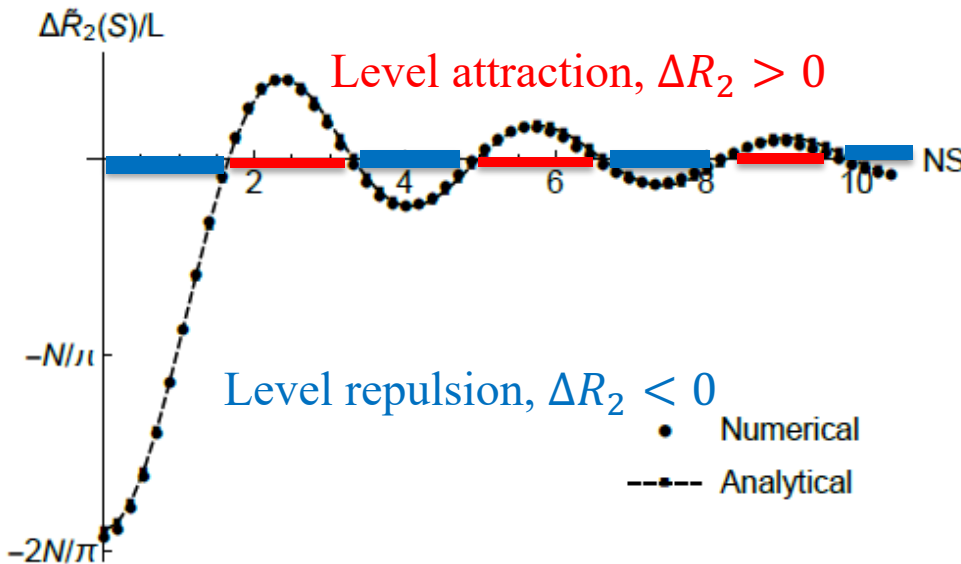
$$K_{\text{ramp}}(t) \approx L(1 - \Theta(2N\alpha - t))$$

$$\alpha = 1 - \frac{2}{3}\Gamma\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)(3\pi/N)^{\frac{2}{3}} + O(N^{-3/5})$$

“New” level statistics. Islands of level attraction



Fourier transform



$$K_{\text{ramp}}(t) \approx L(1 - \Theta(2N\alpha - t))$$

Fourier transform

$$\tilde{R}_2(S \sim N^{-1}) \approx \frac{L^2}{\sqrt{2\pi N}} - \frac{2N\alpha L \sin(2N\alpha S)}{\pi 2N\alpha S}$$

We observe level “repulsion” term $\sim \frac{\sin(2NS)}{2NS}$, with smaller islands of level “attraction.”

Compare with standard GUE statistics,

$$R_2(\varepsilon_1, \varepsilon_2) \approx \frac{N^2}{\pi^2} \left(1 - \frac{\sin^2(N(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2))}{N^2(\varepsilon_1 - \varepsilon_2)^2} \right)$$

A side comment: on level attraction...

J Stat Phys (2016) 163:998–1048
DOI 10.1007/s10955-016-1508-x

On Many-Body Localization for Quantum Spin Chains

John Z. Imbrie¹



Abstract For a one-dimensional spin chain with random local interactions, we prove that many-body localization follows from a **physically reasonable assumption that limits the amount of level attraction** in the system. The construction uses a sequence of local unitary transformations to diagonalize the Hamiltonian and connect the exact many-body eigenfunctions to the original basis vectors.

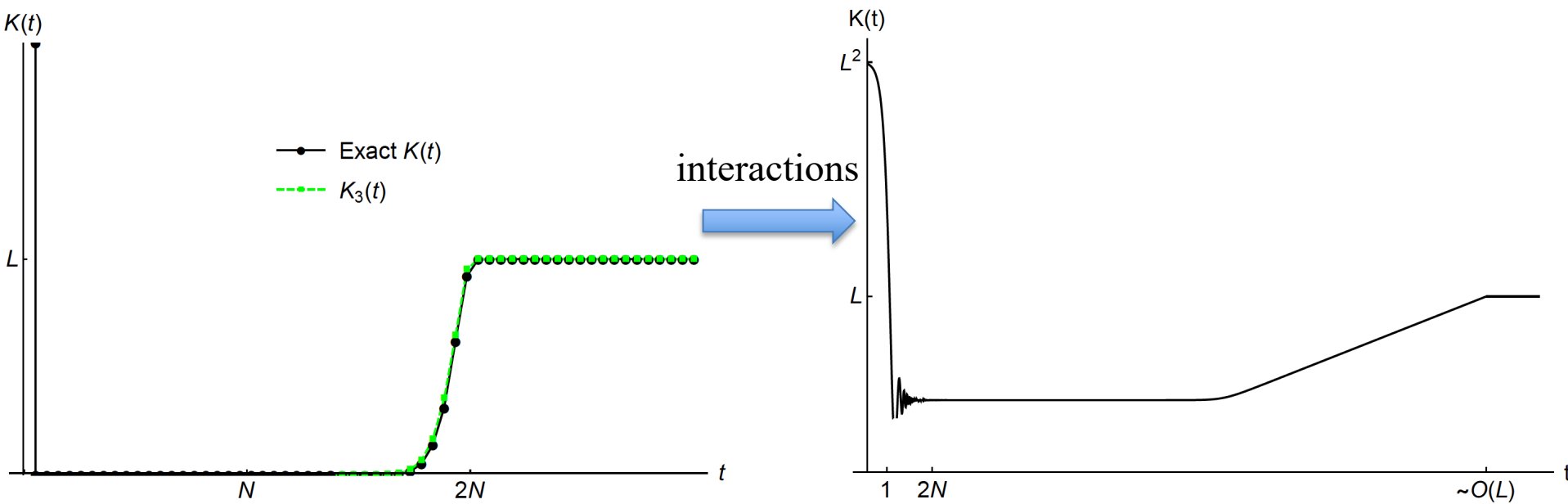
Assumption LLA(ν, C) (*Limited level attraction*) Consider the Hamiltonian H in a box Λ with $|\Lambda| = K + K' + 1 = n$. With the given probability distribution for $\{h_i, \Gamma_i, J_i\}$, its eigenvalues satisfy

$$P \left(\min_{\alpha \neq \beta} |E_\alpha - E_\beta| < \delta \right) \leq \delta^\nu C^n, \quad (1.3)$$

for all $\delta > 0$ and all n .

Results presented so far have no direct relation to MBL (since we have no interactions), but if there is a crossover between the non-interacting chaotic fermion model and many-body quantum chaos, echoes of level attraction may survive (and the single-particle energy scales are enormous compared to many-particle level spacings). To be explored further...

Towards true many-body quantum chaos



Field theoretic (σ -model) approach

□ A path integral formula for the SFF $K(t) = \langle |Z(it)|^2 \rangle = \sum_{n,m} \langle e^{i(E_n - E_m)t} \rangle$

$$K(t) = \left\langle \int \mathcal{D}(\bar{\psi}, \psi) \exp \left\{ i \sum_{\epsilon} \bar{\psi}_i^a(\epsilon) \left[\epsilon \delta_{ij} \delta_{ab} - h_{ij} \sigma_{ab}^3 \right] \psi_j^b(\epsilon) \right\} \right\rangle_h$$

Saad, Shenker, and Stanford (2019)

- h_{ij} is the random matrix to be averaged over.
- a & $b = \pm 1$ correspond to forward, $Z(it)$ /backward, $Z(-it)$, evolution.
- $\epsilon = 2\pi(n + 1/2)/t$ is the “Matsubara” energy.

□ Averaging over Gaussian h -distribution generates “interaction” terms.

□ In the σ –model, we decouple them again with a **collective field, $Q_{ab}(\epsilon, \epsilon')$** .

σ -model action

- The σ -model action in term of the Hermitian matrix, $Q_{ab}(\epsilon, \epsilon')$.

$$K(t) = \frac{\int \mathcal{D}Q \exp \left\{ -\frac{N}{2} \text{Tr} \hat{Q}^2 + N \text{Tr} \left[-t \left(i\epsilon \delta_{\epsilon\epsilon'} + \hat{Q} \sigma^3 \right) \right] \right\}}{\int \mathcal{D}Q e^{-\frac{N}{2} \text{Tr} Q^2}}$$

- $\frac{\delta S}{\delta Q} = 0$ yields a series of saddle points, labeled by signs, \mathbf{s} (c.f., Kamenev & Mezard)

$$\hat{Q}_{\text{saddle}} = \hat{U} \hat{\Lambda}(\mathbf{s}) \hat{U}^{-1} \quad \Lambda_{ab}(\epsilon, \epsilon') = \delta_{ab} \delta_{\epsilon\epsilon'} \left[-ia\epsilon + \underbrace{s_a(\epsilon)}_{\pm 1} \sqrt{4 - \epsilon^2} \right]$$

- The SFF is given by the sum over the saddles and fluctuations around them

$$K(t) = \sum_{\mathbf{s}} e^{-S[\Lambda^{(\mathbf{s})}]} \frac{\int \mathcal{D}\delta Q \exp \left\{ -\frac{N}{2} \sum \delta Q_{ab}(\epsilon, \epsilon') D_{ab}^{-1}(\epsilon, \epsilon') \delta Q_{ba}(\epsilon', \epsilon) \right\}}{\int \mathcal{D}Q e^{-\frac{N}{2} \text{Tr} Q^2}}$$

Massive, soft, and zero modes

- The SFF is given by the sum over the saddles and fluctuations around them

$$K(t) = \sum_s e^{-S[\Lambda^{(s)}]} \frac{\int \mathcal{D}\delta Q \exp \left\{ -\frac{N}{2} \sum \delta Q_{ab}(\epsilon, \epsilon') D_{ab}^{-1}(\epsilon, \epsilon') \delta Q_{ba}(\epsilon', \epsilon) \right\}}{\int \mathcal{D}Q e^{-\frac{N}{2} \text{Tr} Q^2}}$$

The saddle point action contributes to the slope.

- The fluctuation propagator (depending on a saddle) come in 3 varieties:
 - Massive modes, $D_{ab}^{-1}(0,0) = \text{const} \sim O(1)$
 - Soft modes ($q \rightarrow 0$ limit of “diffusons” in the Altshuler et al theory of metals)

$$D_{ab}^{-1}(\epsilon, \epsilon') \propto (a\epsilon - b\epsilon')$$

- and zero modes, where simply $D_{ab}^{-1}(0,0) = 0$

- Zero-mode contribution

Also by B. Swingle et al (tbp, 2020)

$$\frac{\int_{\mathcal{V}} \mathcal{D}Q}{\int_{\mathcal{V}} \mathcal{D}Q \exp \left[-\frac{N}{2} Q_{ab}(\epsilon, \epsilon') Q_{ba}(\epsilon', \epsilon) \right]} \propto \frac{\mathcal{V}}{(1/\sqrt{N})^{\mathcal{N}_z}} \propto N^{4t/\pi}$$

Other modes modify the exp coefficient (*Liao, Vikram, VG 2020*)

c.f. Kamenev and Mezard (1999)

*To make the disordered non-interacting fermions and SYK2 many-body chaotic, we can add weak non-random interactions to the models: **SYK2+***

Interacting theory (work in progress)

- Interacting sigma model

$$K(t) = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}\phi \exp \left\{ \frac{i}{2} \int U^{-1} \phi \sigma^3 \phi \right\}$$

HS field (decouples the interactions)

$$\times \int \mathcal{D}Q \exp \left\{ -\frac{\pi\nu}{4\tau_{\text{el}}} \text{Tr} Q^2 + \text{Tr} \ln \left[-it \left(\omega_n \sigma^3 + \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \begin{bmatrix} \phi^L & 0 \\ 0 & \phi^R \end{bmatrix} + \frac{i}{2\tau_{\text{el}}} Q \right) \sigma^3 \right] \right\}$$

- The soft modes (diffusons or $1/\omega$'s) now follow from a stochastic Diff. Eq.

similar to the standard Altshuler, Aronov, Khmelnitskii (1982) dephasing Eq. like

$$\left\{ \partial_t - D\nabla^2 - i [\phi_+(\mathbf{r}, t) - \phi_-(\mathbf{r}, 0)] \right\} D_{t,t'}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = \delta(t - t') \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$

classical (thermal) component of the H.S. field, ϕ , gives stochasticity & dephasing.

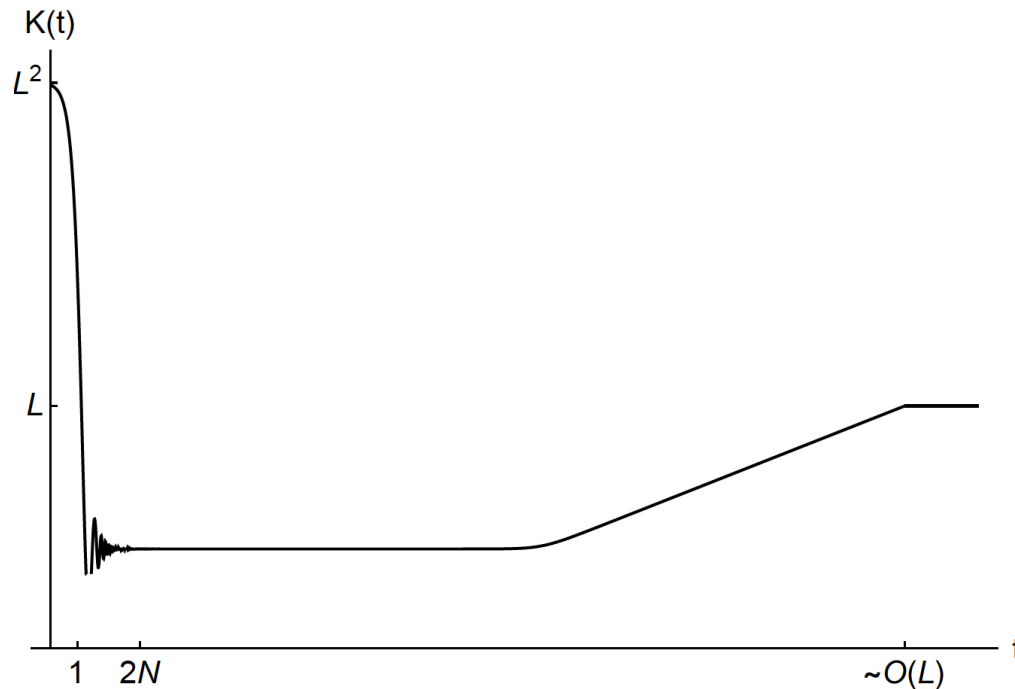
- Interacting sigma model for the interacting many-body SFF (ongoing work)

$$\frac{1}{Dk^2 + i\omega} \quad \xrightarrow{?} \quad \frac{1}{Dk^2 + i\omega + \tau^{-1}}$$

Exponential ramp $\xrightarrow{?}$ Linear WD ramp

Interacting theories with single-particle chaos?

- Chaos emerging from interactions – Wigner-Dyson statistics over finely-spaced many-body levels.
- Transition from single-particle to “true” many-body chaos should manifest itself as emergence of an approximately linear ramp at $t \sim L = 2^N$, overwhelming the single-particle features at $t \sim N$.



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