

# Chaos and complexity through the lens of dynamics in Krylov space.

Anatoly Dymarsky

University of Kentucky

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# What is this talk about?

- Dynamics in Krylov space emerged as a novel probe of chaos and complexity
  - universal operator growth hypothesis
  - operator growth (OTOC)
  - complexity
- What is behind all of this?
  - demystifying Krylov: it only knows about

$$C(t) = \langle A(t)A \rangle \text{ or } F(t) = \langle \psi(t)|\psi \rangle$$

- relation between  $C(t)$  and  $b_n, K(t)$  is very intricate

# Recursion method

- ingredients: Hamiltonian  $H$ , an operator  $A$ , two-point function  $C(t) = \langle A(0)A(t) \rangle$
- iterative relation defines basis  $A_n$  in Krylov space

$$A_{n+1} = [H, A_n] - a_n A_n - b_{n-1}^2 A_{n-1}$$

Lanczos coefficients  $a_n, b_n$  are fixed by requiring  $A_n$  are mutually orthogonal,  $b_n^2 = \langle A_{n+1}A_{n+1} \rangle / \langle A_n A_n \rangle$

- Liouvillian matrix  $\mathcal{L}_{nm}$  is three-diagonal

$$[H, A_k] = \sum \mathcal{L}_{kl} A_l$$

time evolution  $e^{i\mathcal{L}t}$  is easy to evaluate numerically

# Math of Krylov method

- Krylov space can be defined for any linear operator

$$v_0 = v, \quad v_k = H^k v_0$$

Krylov space includes all eigenvectors/eigenvalues of  $H$ , which have an overlap with  $v_0$

- Lanczos method – choice of basis in Krylov space
- $\mathcal{L}$  is defined by  $[H, A]$ ; choice of cor. function – choice of scalar product, affecting *representation* of  $\mathcal{L}$   
isospectral deformation, integrable dynamics of  $a_n, b_n$   
with Gorsky, PRB 102, 085137 (2020)  
temperature dependence – talk by Nick Angelinos
- Lanczos coefficients  $b_n$  – a way to rewrite  $C(t)$

# Chaos from two-point function

- power spectrum

$$f^2(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int dt e^{-i\omega t} C(t)$$

- relation between  $f$ ,  $C$ , and  $b_n$

$$f^2(\omega) \sim e^{-\omega/\omega_0} \leftrightarrow C(i\tau) \sim (\tau - \omega_0^{-1})^\Delta$$

consistent with  $b_n \sim \pi\omega_0 n/2$

- signature of chaos?

$f^2(\omega) \sim e^{-\omega/\omega_0}$  is a signature of (classical) chaos

Elsayed, Hess, Fine, PRE 90, 022910 (2014)

singularity of  $|A(it)$  and  $C(it)$  is expected in a generic quantum lattice model in  $D \geq 2$

with A. Avdoshkin, PRR 2, 043234 (2020)

# Universal operator growth hypothesis

- in a generic quantum system Lanczos coefficients grow at maximal possible rate (consistent with locality)

$$b_n \sim \alpha n$$

smart reformulation of Elsayed et al.?

- Krylov complexity grows exponentially  $K \sim e^{2\alpha t}$  and bounds OTOC (conjecture)

$$K(t) = \sum_k |c_k|^2 k, \quad A(t) = \sum_k c_k \tilde{A}_k.$$

Parker, Cao, Avdoshkin, Scaffidi, Altman PRX 9, 041017

partial proof Gu, Kitaev, Zhang JHEP 03 (2022) 133

# Lanczos growth and chaos

- SYK model  
Parker et al.'2019
- universal bounds on  $C(t)$  in lattice models  
with Avdoshkin'2020
- non-integrable 1D Ising model in magnetic field  
maximal growth of  $b_n \sim n/\ln(n)$  (provided the behavior is smooth)  
Cao'2021
- faster than exponential decays of  $f^2$  for XXZ model  
numerical evidence, Rigol et al.'2020

problems

- $b_n$  grow linearly in free theories; also not smooth
- $b_n$  probe scrambling, not chaos?  
Bhattacharjee et al.'2022

# Thermal 2pt function in CFT

- “Wightman”-ordered thermal two point function

$$C(t) = \text{Tr}(e^{-\beta H/2} A(t) e^{-\beta H/2} A) / Z(\beta).$$

- $C(t)$  always has a singularity at  $t = i\beta/2$

*assuming  $b_n$  is smooth they must behave as*

*$b_n \approx \pi(n + \Delta + 1/2)/\beta$ , in which case  $K \sim e^{\frac{2\pi}{\beta}t}$*

- conjectural bound on OTOC in terms of Krylov complexity becomes MSS bound

$$\lambda_{\text{OTOC}} \leq \frac{2\pi}{\beta}$$



# Universality of $b_n$ in QFT

- singularity at  $C(i\beta/2)$  or  $f(\omega) \propto e^{-\beta\omega/2}$  is dictated by locality
- relation between  $b_n$  and  $C^{(n)}$  – sum over Dyck paths

$$M_{2k} = C^{(2k)}/C = \sum_{h_1 \dots h_{2k}} \prod b_{(h_i + h_{i+1})/2}$$

- integral over Dyck paths

$$C^{(2k)}/C = \int \mathcal{D}f e^S, \quad S = 2k \int_0^1 dt S_2((f'(t)+1)/2) + \ln b(2kf(t))$$

with A. Avdoshkin'2019

$$b_n \approx \pi(n + \Delta + 1/2)/\beta$$

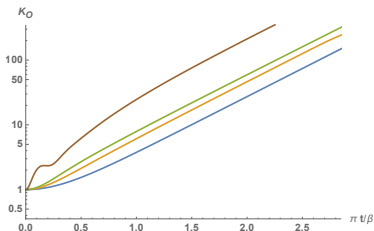
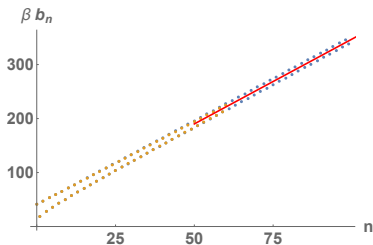
with Smolkin, PRD 104, L081702 (2021)

# Free fields in various dimensions

- thermal 2pt function

$$C(-i\tau) \sim \zeta(2\Delta, 1/2 + \tau/\beta) + \zeta(2\Delta, 1/2 - \tau/\beta)$$

- for scalar  $d = 4$  and  $d = 6$   $b_n$  are known; for other  $d$  and fermions theories – numerical results
- $b_n$  exhibit “staggering” but are sufficiently smooth;  $K(t)$  grows exponentially at the “MSS” rate

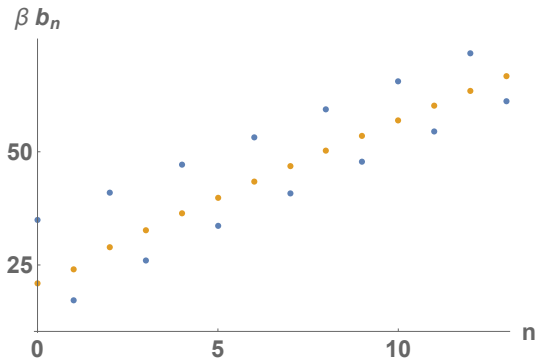


with M. Smolkin, 2021

# Holographic thermal 2pt function

- thermal 2pt function evaluated numerically

the behavior of  $b_n$  asymptote to  $\pi(n + \Delta + 1/2)/\beta$



exponential growth of Krylov complexity with  $\lambda_k = 2\pi/\beta$

## Effects of $\beta$ and UV cutoff

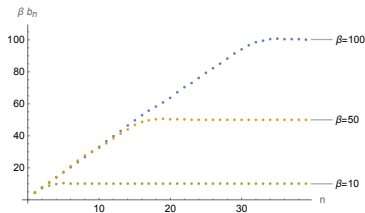
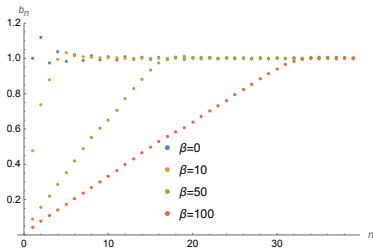
- $f^2(\omega) \propto e^{-\beta\omega/2}$  is fixed kinematically, because 2pt function is singular when two operators collide
- another look:  $f^2(\omega) \propto e^{-\beta\omega/2}$  is because  $\langle E + \omega/2 | \phi | E - \omega/2 \rangle$  is unsuppressed for large  $\omega$  – due to Heisenberg uncertainty principle!
- conclusion: for any *local*  $\phi$  behavior  $f^2(\omega) \propto e^{-\beta\omega/2}$  and hence linear growth of  $b_n$  follow automatically; asymptotic behavior of  $b_n$  is not fixed when UV cutoff is introduced
- **prediction:** at low  $T$  coefficients  $b_n$  should exhibit linear growth, even if the model is integrable!  
more on temperature dependence: talk by Nick Angelinos

# Spin-chain at different temperatures

- XY-model

$$H = \sum_i X_i X_{i+1} + Y_i Y_{i+1}$$

- linear growth of  $b_n$  at small  $T$ , saturation at UV-cutoff



small  $T$  behavior is universal (field theory), real asymptote of  $b_n$  is controlled by UV physics

# Universal growth hypothesis: upshot

- maximal *asymptotic* growth of  $b_n$  for generic non-integrable systems

finite  $\Lambda_{UV}$ ,  $b_n \sim \Lambda_{UV}$ , and thermodynamic limit, which reduces to divergence of  $|A(it)|$

- coarse grained universality of  $b_n$  from  $\rho(E)$  as well OTOC, which also probes scrambling

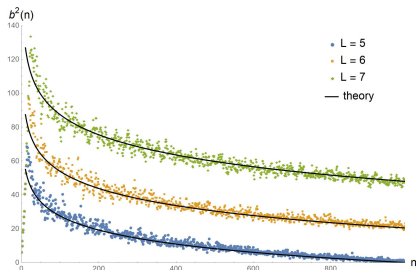
Bhattacharjee, Cao, Nandy, Pathak '2022

- possibility of exotic behavior (several branches of  $b_n$ )?

Reformulation in terms of Krylov space opened new connections with level statistics, OTOC, complexity, etc.

# Dynamics in Krylov space and OTOC

- does  $C(t)$  and  $b_n$  know about chaos (level statistics)?  
Yes! spectrum of  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $E_n - E_m$
- coarse grained universality of  $b_n$  from  $\rho(E)$



imprint of  $\langle \rho(E)\rho(E') \rangle$  is work in progress

talk by Javier Magan, Balasubramanian, Magan, Wu'22

Erdmenger, Jian, Xian'23

Hashimoto, Murata, Tanahashi, Watanabe'23

# Dynamics in Krylov space and OTOC

- $b_n$  grow at maximal rate compatible with locality,  
 $b_n \sim \alpha n$
- Krylov complexity grows exponentially  $K \sim e^{\lambda_K t}$ ,  
bounds OTOC

$$\lambda_{\text{OTOC}} \leq \lambda_K (= 2\alpha) \leq \frac{2\pi}{\beta}$$

left inequality, conjectured by [Parker et al.](#), proved for  $f^2(\omega) \sim e^{-\pi\omega(2\alpha)}$  by [Gu, Kitaev, Zhang'2021](#)

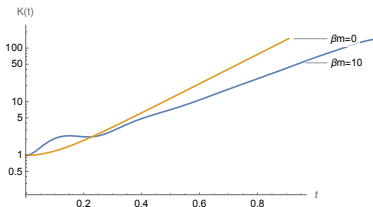
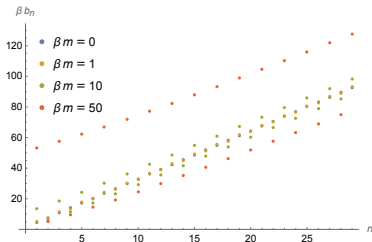
right inequality, generalization when  $\lambda_K \neq 2\alpha$ , with [Avdoshkin'2020](#)



# Free massive scalar

- mass introduces “persistent staggering”

$$\beta b_n = \alpha_0 n + \alpha_1 + (-1)^n \alpha_2$$



Krylov complexity grows exponentially with  $\lambda_K < 2\pi/\beta$

- for massive fermion qualitatively the same with Avdoshkin and Smolkin, 2212.14429 also talk by Keun-Young Kim, Camargo, Jahnke, Kima, Nishidac'22

# Krylov complexity

# Dynamics in Krylov space and complexity

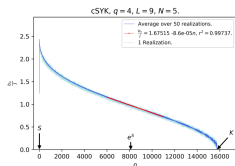
- growth of  $K(t)$  should be compared with holographic/computational complexity

Barbon, Rabinovici, Shir, Sinha'2019

- initial (exponential) growth, after that  $K(t)$  grows approximately linearly for an exponential time until saturates at  $K(t) \sim e^{O(S)}$

numerical evidence from SYK model, spin chains, etc.,  
bulk interpretation for SYK

Rabinovici, Sanchez-Garrido, Shir, Sonner'2021, 2022,2023



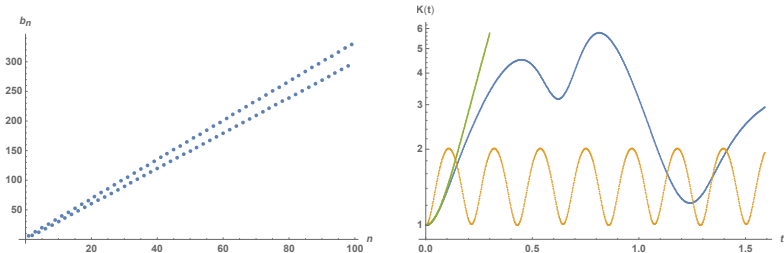
- connection between  $K(t)$  and complexity, Caputa, ...

# Free scalar on $S^3 \times S^1$

- what if the space is compact

$$C(-i\tau) \sim \sum_{\ell} \frac{\pi^2}{\cosh^2(\pi(\ell R + i\tau)/\beta)} - \frac{2\pi\beta}{R}$$

- for finite  $R$  asymptotic behavior changes!



Krylov complexity is bounded from above,  $K(t) \leq K_{\max}(R/\beta)$

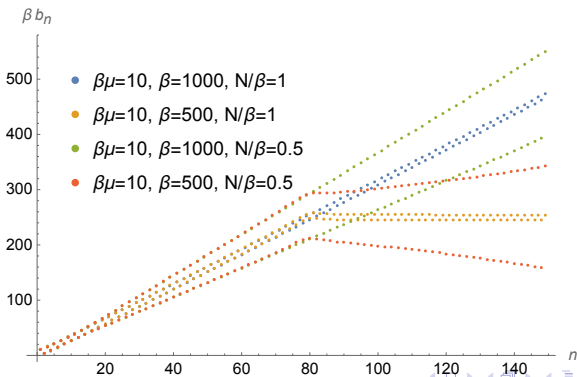
- same qualitative picture for holographic model in TAdS

# 1D bosons on the lattice

- a model with mass, compact space, UV-cutoff

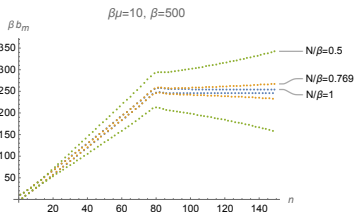
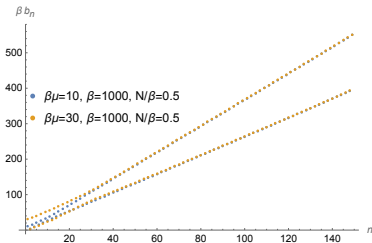
$$H = \sum_{i=1}^N \dot{\phi}_i^2 + (\phi_{i+1} - \phi_i)^2 + \mu^2 \phi_i^2$$

- slopes, controlled by  $N/\beta$  and UV cutoff



# 1D bosons on the lattice

- ‘staggering’ controlled by  $\beta\mu$ , slopes controlled by  $N/\beta$



by tuning  $N/\beta$  two slopes will emerge well before the UV-cutoff

- if  $R/\beta$  is sufficiently small,  $K(t)$  is bounded from above by some UV-independent value!

# Conclusions

- Krylov space is a new avenue to *unify* approaches to chaos
- extension of MSS bound

$$\lambda_{OTOC} \leq \lambda_K \leq \frac{2\pi}{\beta}$$

non-trivial checks

- behavior of  $b_n$  as a probe of chaos, need for UV cutoff  
imprint of level statistics?
- Krylov complexity vs holographic/computational  
complexity  
suggestive but non-universal results

# Auxiliary slides



# Upper bound on infinity-norm

- Euclidean time evolution

$$A(t) \equiv e^{tH} A e^{-tH} = \sum_k \underbrace{[H, \dots [H, A]]}_{k \text{ times}} \frac{t^k}{k!}$$

- locality of interaction

$$H = \sum_I h_I, \quad [H, \dots [H, A]] = \sum_{I_1, \dots, I_k} [h_{I_k}, \dots [h_{I_1}, A]]$$

- the bound

$$|A(t)| \leq |A| f(t), \quad f(t) = \sum_{\text{clusters}} \sum_k n(k) \frac{(2J|t|)^k}{k!}$$

$n(k)$  – number of sets  $I_1, \dots, I_k$ , which satisfy adjacency condition, associated with a given cluster (lattice animal)

## Counting the sets $I_1, \dots, I_k$

- Each set  $I_1, \dots, I_k$  defines lattice animal *history*

$$\{I\} \equiv I_1, \dots, I_k \rightarrow \{J\} \equiv J_1, \dots, J_j, \quad j \leq k$$

- the map  $\{I\} \rightarrow \{J\}$  defines a partition of  $k$  objects into  $j$  groups, and vice versa

$$n(k) = S(k, j)\phi(j)$$

$n(k)$  – number of sets  $\{I\}$  associated with a given cluster

$\phi(j)$  – number this cluster's histories  $\{J\}$

$$N(k) = \sum_{\text{clusters}} n(k) = \sum_j S(k, j)\phi(j)$$

# Summing over histories

- Stirling transform

$$N(k) = \sum_j S(k, j)\phi(j), \quad \phi(j) = \sum_k s(k, j)N(k)$$

- Stirling transform

$$f(t) \equiv \sum_k N(k) \frac{t^k}{k!} = \sum_j \phi(j) \frac{q^j}{j!}, \quad q \equiv e^t - 1.$$

- summing over histories – new expansion parameter

$$|A(t)| \leq |A|f(t), \quad f = \sum_j \phi(j) \frac{q^j}{j!}, \quad q \equiv e^{2J|t|} - 1.$$

# Bound for Bethe lattices

- Bethe lattice of coordination number  $z \geq 2$
- exact number of lattice animal histories

$$\phi(j) = (z - 2)^j \frac{\Gamma(j + z/(z - 2))}{\Gamma(z/(z - 2))}$$

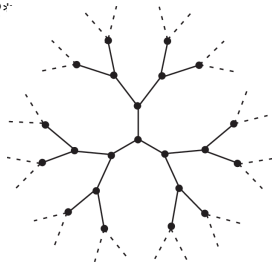
- the bound

$$f = (1 - (z - 2)q)^{-z/(z-2)}$$

for  $z > 2$  there is a pole at some  $t = \beta^*$

for  $z = 2$ , i.e. 1D lattices,  $f = e^{2q}$

- for arbitrary lattices Bethe lattices provide an upper bound



# Euclidean operator growth and chaos

- generic non-integrable quantum lattice models

$D \geq 2$ , singularity at finite  $t = \beta^*$

$$|A(t)| \lesssim \frac{|A|}{(1 - q/q_0)}$$

$D = 1$ , double-exponential growth

$$|A(t)| \lesssim |A|e^{2q}$$

- Euclidean Lieb-Robinson

$D \geq 2$ , operators spread to spatial infinity at finite  $t = \beta^*$

$D = 1$ , operators spread exponentially,  $t \sim \ln(\ell)$

$$|[A(t), B]| \leq 2|A||B|e^q \frac{q^\ell}{\ell!}$$

# Euclidean operator growth and OTOC

- location of the singularity of  $C(\beta^* = \pi/(2\alpha))$  – slope of Lanczos coefficients growth  $b_n \propto \alpha n$  bounds  $\lambda_{\text{OTOC}}$

$$\lambda_{\text{OTOC}} \leq 2\alpha$$

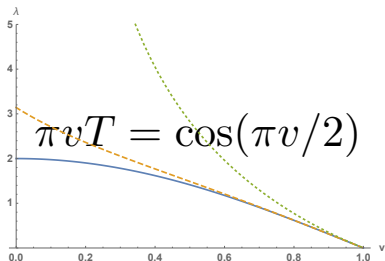
Parker, Cao, Avdoshkin, Scaffidi, Altman'18

Murthy, Srednicki'19

- improved bound on chaos for large  $T$

$$\lambda_{\text{OTOC}} \leq \frac{2\pi T}{1+2\beta^* T}$$

- exact SYK
- improved bound
- MSS bound



# Singularity of $C(t)$

- scalar product in the space of operators

$$\langle B|A \rangle := \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr}(AB^\dagger), \quad C(t) = \langle A|A(t) \rangle$$

- adjoint action  $[H, \ ]$  is self-adjoint with  $\langle \ | \ \rangle$

$$C(t_1 + t_2) = \langle A(t_1)|A(t_2) \rangle = \langle A(t_1/2)|e^{t_2[H, \ ]}|A(t_1/2) \rangle$$

- assuming  $A(t/2)$  is typical

$$C(t + \beta) = \|A(t)\|^2 \frac{Z(\beta)Z(-\beta)}{Z(0)^2} = \|A(t)\|^2 e^{2F(0) - F(\beta) - F(-\beta)}$$

qualitatively, singularity of  $C(t)$  is associated with  $A(t)$  spreading within Krylov space and becoming more typical

# Chaos vs localization in Krylov space

- when the system is chaotic and  $C(t)$  has a singularity at  $t = t^*$ ,  $A(t)$  delocalizes in Krylov space at  $t = t^*/2$
- when the system is integrable and  $C(t)$  is analytic, IPR is finite and the operator is Localized

$$\begin{aligned} C(t) &\propto e^{at^2/2}, & I &\propto t, \\ C(t) &\propto e^{ae^{mt}}, & I &\propto e^{mt} \end{aligned}$$

qualitatively similar to: localization/ergodicity in physical space  
= localization / delocalization in Fock space

Altshuler, Gefen, Kamenev, Levitov'97

Basko, Aleiner, Altshuler'06



# Main results

- universal bounds on the operator norm growth in lattice models, Euclidean Lieb-Robinson bound
- Toda chain interpretation of the recursion method, time-correlation function
- chaos in the underlying quantum many-body system as delocalization in Krylov space

# Outlook

- Connection between Euclidean and Minkowski dynamics
- Can Toda help connect different manifestations of chaos?
  - connection with OTOC
  - connection with spectral properties
- Chaos as delocalization? Connection to BH physics?