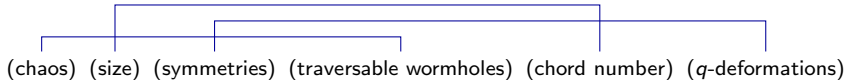


A fake explanation of sub-maximal chaos

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see also: 2208.07032 [HL], 1811.0258 [Berkooz, Isachenkov, Narovlansky, Torrents],
2108.04841 [Harlow & Wu], 1904.12820 [HL, Maldacena & Zhao]

According to Einstein gravity [Shenker & Stanford], black holes [Maldacena, Shenker, Stanford, . . .] are maximally chaotic systems:

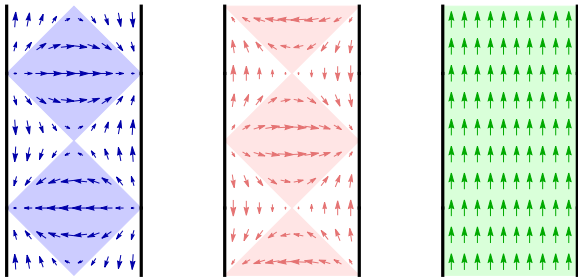
$$\text{chaos exponent} = \frac{2\pi}{\beta}$$

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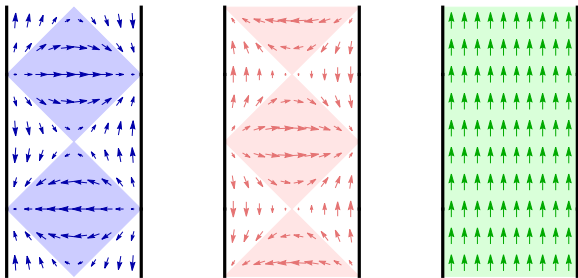
$$\text{chaos exponent} = \frac{2\pi}{\beta}$$

⇒ consequence of the near horizon symmetries.

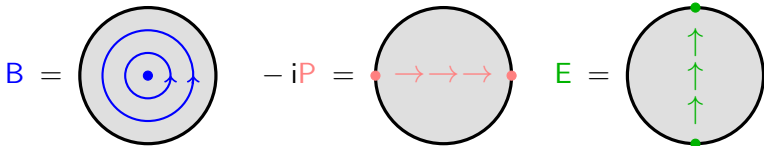
For near-extremal black holes, \mathfrak{sl}_2 of the NAdS_2 throat:



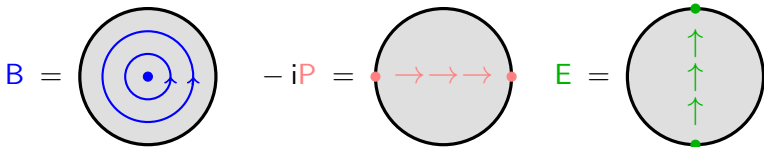
For near-extremal black holes, \mathfrak{sl}_2 of the NAdS_2 throat:



These generators move matter with respect to the Schwarzschild boundary, preserving the length of the wormhole [HL, Maldacena, Zhao; Harlow & Wu].



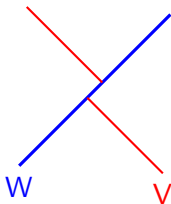
$$i[B, P^\pm] = \mp P^\pm, \quad P^\pm = E \pm P, \quad B \approx \frac{\beta}{2\pi} (H_R - H_L)$$



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$$e^{i(H_R - H_L)t} P^- e^{-i(H_R - H_L)t} = e^{\frac{2\pi}{\beta}t} P^-$$

To understand why P^- is relevant, consider $2 \rightarrow 2$ gravitational scattering [Dray & 't Hooft; Shenker & Stanford; Gao-Jafferis-Wall; Lam *et al.*,...]:



Shapiro time delay $\Rightarrow P^\pm$ symmetry

In string theory, chaos is reduced [\[Shenker & Stanford\]](#):

$$\text{chaos exponent} = \frac{2\pi\nu}{\beta}, \quad \nu = 1 - \# \left(\frac{l_s}{l_{\text{AdS}}} \right)^2 + \dots$$

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Closely related to inelasticity.

Wish list: ν in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM at finite $(\lambda, t_{\text{Hoof}}, \beta)$.

A simpler model with a known chaos exponent is “large p SYK”

[Maldacena & Stanford]:

$$\text{chaos exponent} = \frac{2\pi\nu}{\beta}, \quad \frac{\pi\nu}{\beta\mathcal{J}} = \cos\left(\frac{\pi\nu}{2}\right).$$

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Goal: give a *bulk* interpretation of $\nu < 1$.

Strategy

1. scenic detour through double scaled SYK [Berkoov et al., ...], where the “bulk Hilbert space” is known [HL].
2. Find the symmetries (q-deformed algebra).
3. Go back to large p SYK \Rightarrow fake geometry.

Strategy

1. scenic detour through double scaled SYK [Berkooz et al., ...], where the “bulk Hilbert space” is known [HL].
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Fake geometry \sim subtlety with the continuum limit.

N Majorana fermions, p participating in the interaction

$$H = i^{p/2} \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < \dots < i_p \leq N} J_{i_1 \dots i_p} \psi_{i_1} \cdots \psi_{i_p}, \quad \langle J_{i_1 \dots i_p}^2 \rangle \propto \mathcal{J}^2$$

3 dimensionless parameters: $(N, p, \beta \mathcal{J})$.

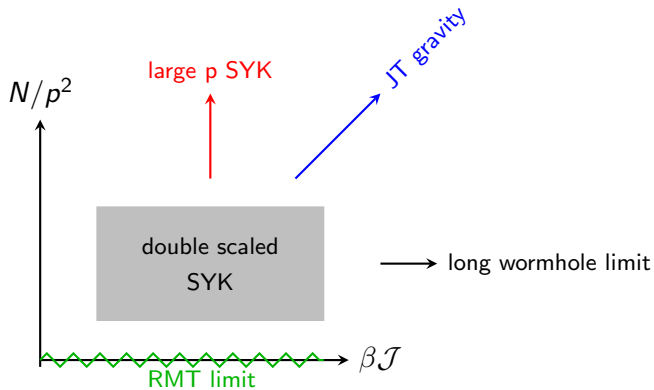
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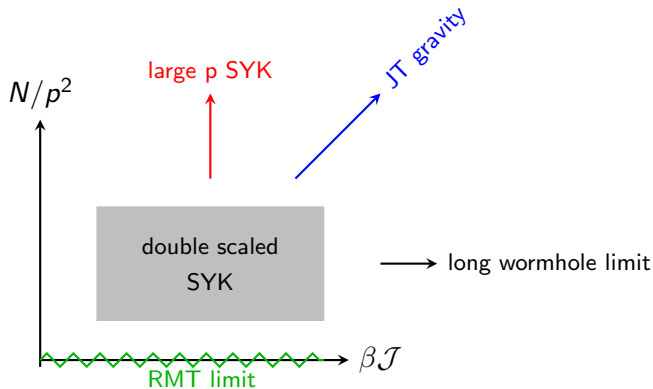
3 dimensionless parameters: $(N, p, \beta \mathcal{J})$.

Take $N \rightarrow \infty, p \rightarrow \infty$. 2 remaining parameters: $(N/p^2, \beta \mathcal{J})$.

scaling limits of SYK

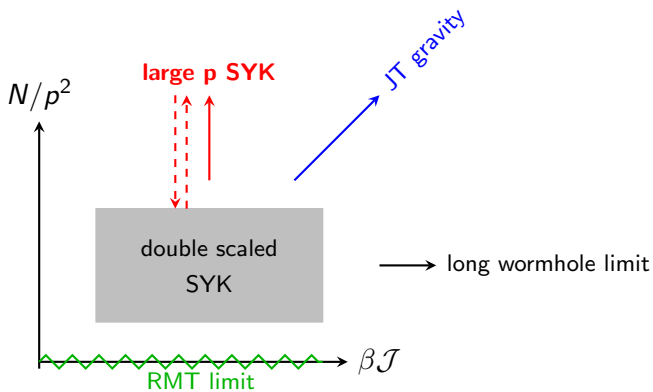


scaling limits of SYK



Convenient to introduce $\lambda = 2p^2/N$.

scaling limits of SYK



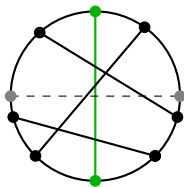
The advantage of the double scaled limit is that there is a new technique “chord diagrams” [\[Berkooz et al., ...\]](#) that can be used to solve the theory.

Chord rules

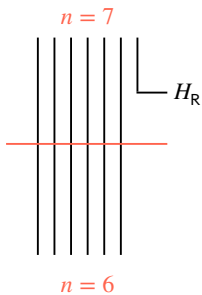
1. Draw Wick contractions¹ “chords” between like operators
2. Intersections between chords get a factor of $q = e^{-\lambda}$ (Hamiltonian) or $r = e^{-\lambda\Delta}$ (matter, $\Delta = p'/p$).
3. Sum over chord diagrams

$$\text{tr}(H^3 M H^3 M) \supset \text{Diagram} = q^2 r^3$$

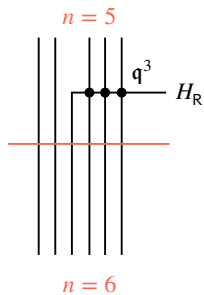
¹Double intersections are forbidden



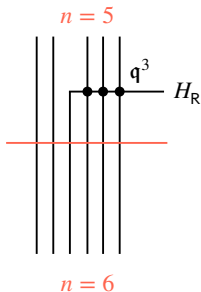
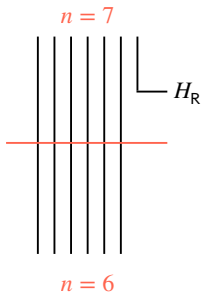
$$\Rightarrow |11\rangle = |1, 1\rangle$$



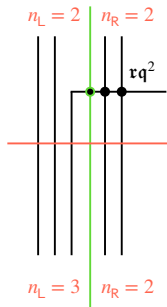
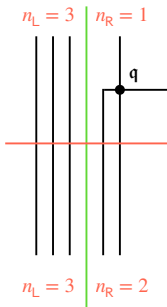
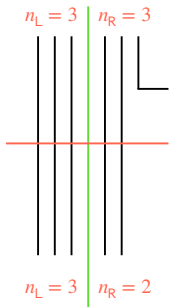
(a)



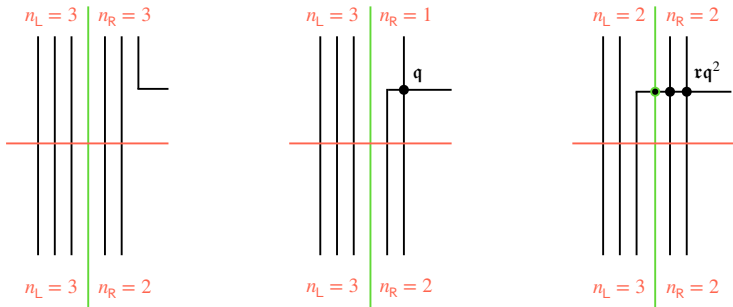
(b)



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(a)} \quad H &= \mathbf{a}^\dagger + \mathbf{a}, \quad \mathbf{a} = \alpha[n], \quad \alpha|n\rangle = |n-1\rangle \\
 [n] &= q^0 + q^1 + \dots + q^{n-1} = \frac{1 - q^n}{1 - q}
 \end{aligned}$$



$$(a) \cancel{a}_R = a_R^\dagger + a_R, \quad a_R = (b) a_R[n_R] + a_L q^\Delta q^{n_R} [n_L] (c)$$



$$(a) \quad a_R = a_R^\dagger + a_R, \quad a_R = (b) \quad a_R[n_R] + \alpha_L q^\Delta q^{n_R}[n_L] (c)$$

$$H_L = a_L^\dagger + a_L, \quad a_L = \alpha_L[n_L] + \alpha_R q^\Delta q^{n_L}[n_R]$$

The chord algebra

Chord algebra is generated by:

$$\{H_L, H_R, \bar{n}\}$$

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\bar{n} counts the number of chords (weighted by Δ). Discrete analog of the length of the Einstein-Rosen bridge.

Microscopic interpretation of chord number

Operator size [Roberts-Stanford-Streicher, Qi-Streicher] is measured by the 2-sided operator:

$$\text{size} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \left(1 + i\psi_{\alpha}^L \psi_{\alpha}^R \right).$$

Let \bar{n} be the total chord number, weighted by dimension:

$$\boxed{\bar{n} = \text{size}/p}$$

Each H chord is associated with an operator of size p .

q -deformed commutator:

$$[A, B]_q \equiv AB - qBA$$

Writing $H_L = \mathbf{a}_L^\dagger + \mathbf{a}_L$ and $H_R = \mathbf{a}_R^\dagger + \mathbf{a}_R$,

$$[\mathbf{a}_L, \mathbf{a}_R] = [\mathbf{a}_L^\dagger, \mathbf{a}_R^\dagger] = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$[\bar{n}, \mathbf{a}_{L/R}^\dagger] = \mathbf{a}_{L/R}^\dagger, \quad [\bar{n}, \mathbf{a}_{L/R}] = -\mathbf{a}_{L/R} \quad (2)$$

$$[\mathbf{a}_L, \mathbf{a}_R^\dagger] = [\mathbf{a}_R, \mathbf{a}_L^\dagger] = q^{\bar{n}} \quad (3)$$

$$[\mathbf{a}_{L/R}, \mathbf{a}_{L/R}^\dagger]_q = 1. \quad (4)$$

Chord algebra $\mathcal{A}_{\text{chord}}$ is also a *bi-algebra*. 😱

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Bi-algebra: an algebra with a *coproduct*: $D : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$ that is compatible with multiplication $D(a \cdot b) = D(a) \cdot D(b)$.

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Bi-algebra: an algebra with a *coproduct*: $D : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$ that is compatible with multiplication $D(a \cdot b) = D(a) \cdot D(b)$.

$$D(\mathfrak{a}_L^\dagger) = \mathfrak{a}_L^\dagger \otimes 1, \quad (5)$$

$$D(\mathfrak{a}_L) = \mathfrak{a}_L \otimes 1 + q^\Delta q^{\bar{n}} \otimes \mathfrak{a}_L, \quad (6)$$

$$D(\bar{n}) = \bar{n} \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes \bar{n} + \Delta(1 \otimes 1) \quad (7)$$

This coproduct has a simple physical interpretation:

$$\delta : |\text{I}\rangle\text{II}\rangle \otimes |\text{I}\rangle\text{I}\rangle \rightarrow |\text{I}\rangle\text{III}\rangle\text{II}\rangle$$

δ joins two wormholes; δ^{-1} splits:

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Coproduct:

$$D(a) = \delta^{-1} \cdot a \cdot \delta$$

Related to the factorisation problem [..., Harlow and Jafferis, ...].

Representations of $\mathcal{A}_{\text{chord}}$

What are the chord algebra irreps?

1. Short irrep, consisting of the “empty wormhole” states:

$$|n\rangle, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

2. 1-particle irrep (highest weight irrep $\mathfrak{a}_L |\lambda\rangle = \mathfrak{a}_R |\lambda\rangle = 0$):

$$|n_L, n_R\rangle = | \dots | \lambda \rangle | \dots \rangle$$

The Hilbert space decomposes into a sum over these irreps. What about multi-particle states?

Coproduct builds multi-particle reps of the chord algebra.

We solved the Clebsch-Gordan problem of decomposing multi-particle reps into irreps:

$$|\text{multi-chord state}\rangle = \sum \gamma_r |\text{irreps}\rangle \quad (8)$$

We define 4-pt “chord blocks” = projector onto a particular irrep.
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These blocks enjoy crossing symmetry, thanks to co-associativity of the co-product:

$$(D \otimes \mathbf{1}) \cdot D = (\mathbf{1} \otimes D) \cdot D$$

[Gives the Hilbert space interpretation of expressions in Jafferis, Kolchmeyer, Mukhametzhanov & Sonner]

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c}
 s'_M \\
 \text{V}_1 \quad \text{W}_2 \\
 \text{S}_L \quad \text{S}_R \\
 \text{W}_1 \quad \text{V}_2 \\
 \text{S}_M
 \end{array} \\
 = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{\gamma}_n \begin{array}{c}
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 \text{W}_1 \quad \text{V}_2 \\
 \text{S}_M
 \end{array}
 \end{array}
 \end{aligned}$$

The diagram shows a sequence of three circular diagrams representing a decomposition of a four-point function.
 The first diagram is a circle with four external legs labeled V_1 (red), W_2 (blue), V_2 (red), and W_1 (blue). The internal lines are two crossing lines: a red line from V_1 to V_2 and a blue line from W_2 to W_1 . The vertices are labeled s'_M (top), s_M (bottom), s_L (left), and s_R (right).

This is equal to a sum over n from 0 to infinity of $\tilde{\gamma}_n$ times a diagram where the two crossing lines meet at a central vertex labeled n . The red line connects V_1 to V_2 and the blue line connects W_2 to W_1 .

This is further equal to a sum over n from 0 to infinity of $\tilde{\gamma}_n$ times a diagram where the two crossing lines meet at a central vertex labeled n , but the lines are swapped: the red line connects V_1 to W_1 and the blue line connects W_2 to V_2 .

The intermediate operators $[VW]_n$ are analogous to double trace primaries, schematically $\sim VH^nW$. $\Delta_n = \Delta_V + \Delta_W + n$.

Two kinds of double traces $[VW]_n$ and $[WV]_n$. Twice the number we would expect from bulk free field theory in $AdS_2 \Rightarrow$ inelastic states

Fake geometry from algebra

Let's come back to the symmetries of large p SYK at finite temp.

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Look for a subalgebra $\subset \mathcal{A}_{\text{chord}}$ that commutes with \bar{n} :

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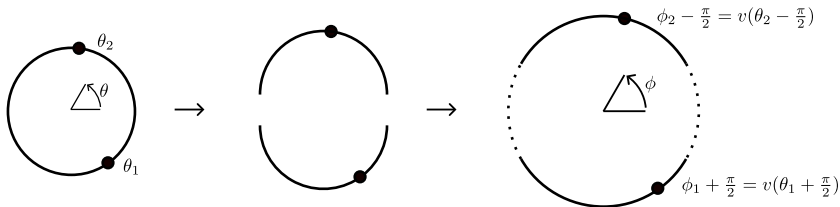
$$J_{ij} = \mathfrak{a}_i^\dagger \mathfrak{a}_j - [\bar{n}], \quad i, j \in \{L, R\}$$

Define $c = q^{\bar{n}/2}$. Take $\lambda \rightarrow 0$, find an \mathfrak{sl}_2 :

$$\begin{aligned} E &\doteq -\frac{1}{2c} (J_{LL} + J_{RR}), & B &\doteq \frac{1}{2c\sqrt{1-c^2}} (J_{LL} - J_{RR}) \\ P &\doteq \frac{i}{2\sqrt{1-c^2}} (J_{LR} - J_{RL}) \end{aligned}$$

Valid at **all** temperatures

We studied how these generators act on boundary operators. What we found surprised us.

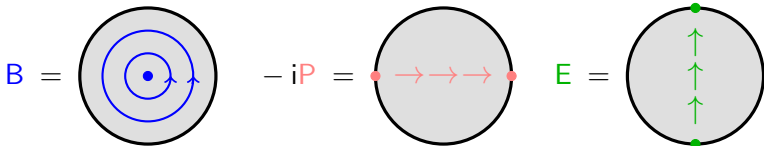


$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_2) \mathbf{B} \mathcal{O}(\theta_1) \rangle = \partial_{\phi_1} \langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_2) \mathcal{O}(\theta_1) \rangle$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_2) \mathbf{E} \mathcal{O}(\theta_1) \rangle = (\cos(\phi_1) \partial_{\phi_1} - \Delta \sin \phi_1) \langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_2) \mathcal{O}(\theta_1) \rangle$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_2) \mathbf{P} \mathcal{O}(\theta_1) \rangle = i(\sin(\phi_1) \partial_{\phi_1} + \Delta \cos \phi_1) \langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_2) \mathcal{O}(\theta_1) \rangle$$

The circumference of the fake disk is precisely $\beta_{\text{fake}} = \beta/v$.



$$i[B, P^\pm] = \mp P^\pm, \quad P^\pm = E \pm P, \quad B \approx \frac{\beta}{2\pi v} (H_R - H_L)$$

$$e^{i(H_R - H_L)t} P^- e^{-i(H_R - H_L)t} = e^{\frac{2\pi v}{\beta} t} P^-$$

There is a “geometric” explanation of the sub-maximal exponent but it is unfamiliar.

Ward identities: *finite temp* 2-pt function is conformally covariant on the fake circle:

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_2) \mathcal{O}(\theta_1) \rangle \propto \frac{1}{\sin^{2\Delta} \left(\frac{\phi_2 - \phi_1}{2} \right)} \quad \checkmark$$

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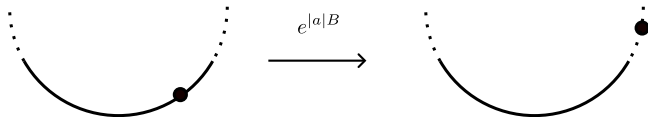
4-pt function \Rightarrow commutator OTOC is only a function of the *fake* cross ratio.

$$\frac{\langle [W_2, V_4][V_3, W_1] \rangle}{\langle W_2 W_1 \rangle \langle V_4 V_3 \rangle} = 2\lambda \Delta_W \Delta_V \frac{1 + \chi}{1 - \chi} = \sum_k c_k^2 \mathcal{F}_{\Delta_V, \Delta_W, k}(\chi),$$

$$\chi = \frac{\sin \frac{\phi_{13}}{2} \sin \frac{\phi_{42}}{2}}{\sin \frac{\phi_{14}}{2} \sin \frac{\phi_{32}}{2}}$$

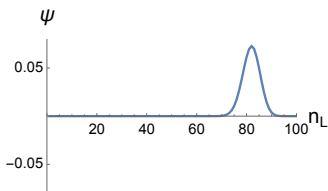
$c_k^2 \Rightarrow$ Clebsch-Gordan problem described earlier.

If ϕ starts out in the physical region, can act with a symmetry generator to leave the physical region:

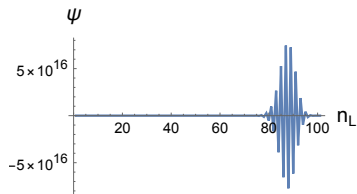


What do the states look like in the chord Hilbert space?

$a > 0$

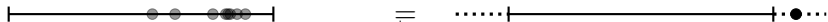


$a < 0$



Note that the y -axis rescaled by 10^{18} between the two figures.

Two pictures:



We checked (numerically and analytically) that such states reproduce the fake disk predictions as $\lambda \rightarrow 0$.

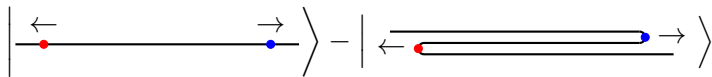
Fake disk: makes sub-max chaos manifest

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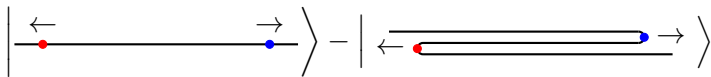
$$|\text{out}\rangle - S |\text{in}\rangle =$$



Fake disk: makes sub-max chaos manifest

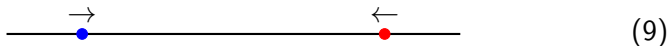
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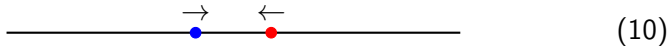


Question: general lessons for sub-max chaos?

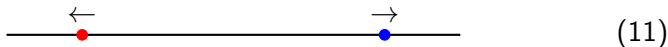
backup slides



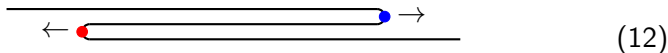
As time progresses forwards, the two particles approach each other, the middle distance ℓ_M shrinks:



and the two (naively) pass through each other:



More accurate picture:



fakeness in $p = 4$ SYK

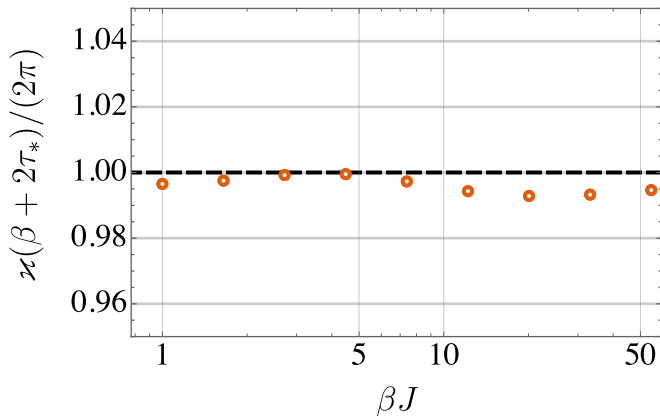


figure 9b of Gu, Kitaev, & Zhang