

# Scrambling vs chaos

East Asia String Webinars, 7/24/2020  
Xiangyu Cao (UC Berkeley)

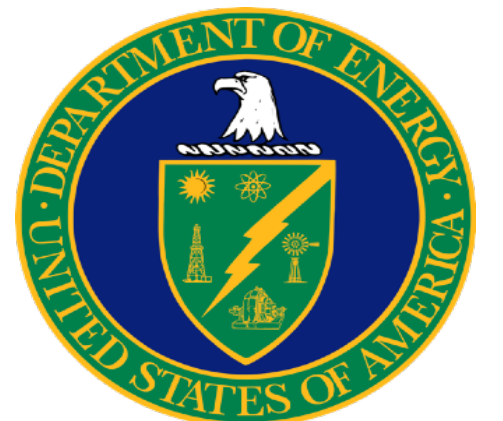
## Collaborators

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Ehud Altman



Chaos/butterfly effect: exponential sensitivity to initial perturbation

$$\left| \frac{\partial q_i(t)}{\partial q_j(0)} \right| \sim e^{\lambda_1 t} \quad \lambda_1 \text{ (largest) Lyapunov exponent}$$

More generally, in a  $2N$ -dimensional phase space,

$$\left( \frac{\partial q_i(t)}{\partial q_j(0)} \right)_{ij} \xrightarrow{\text{SVD}} \lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{2N} \quad \text{Lyapunov Spectrum}$$

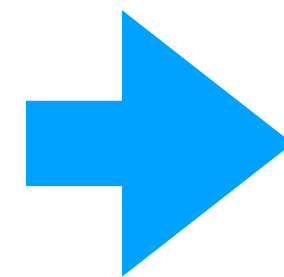
## Chaos/butterfly effect

$$\left( \frac{\partial q_i(t)}{\partial q_j(0)} \right)_{ij}$$

SVD

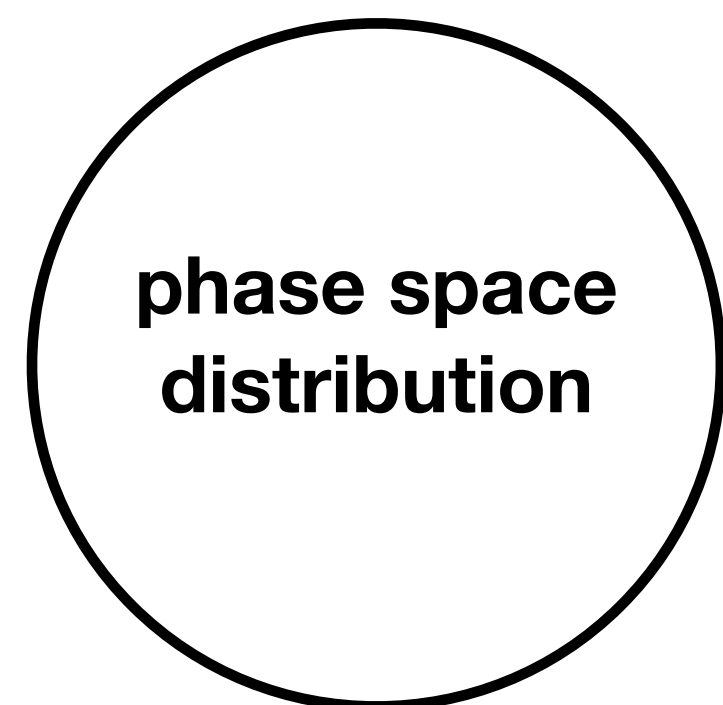
$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_{2N}$$

Liouville theorem  $\Rightarrow \sum_i \lambda_i = 0$

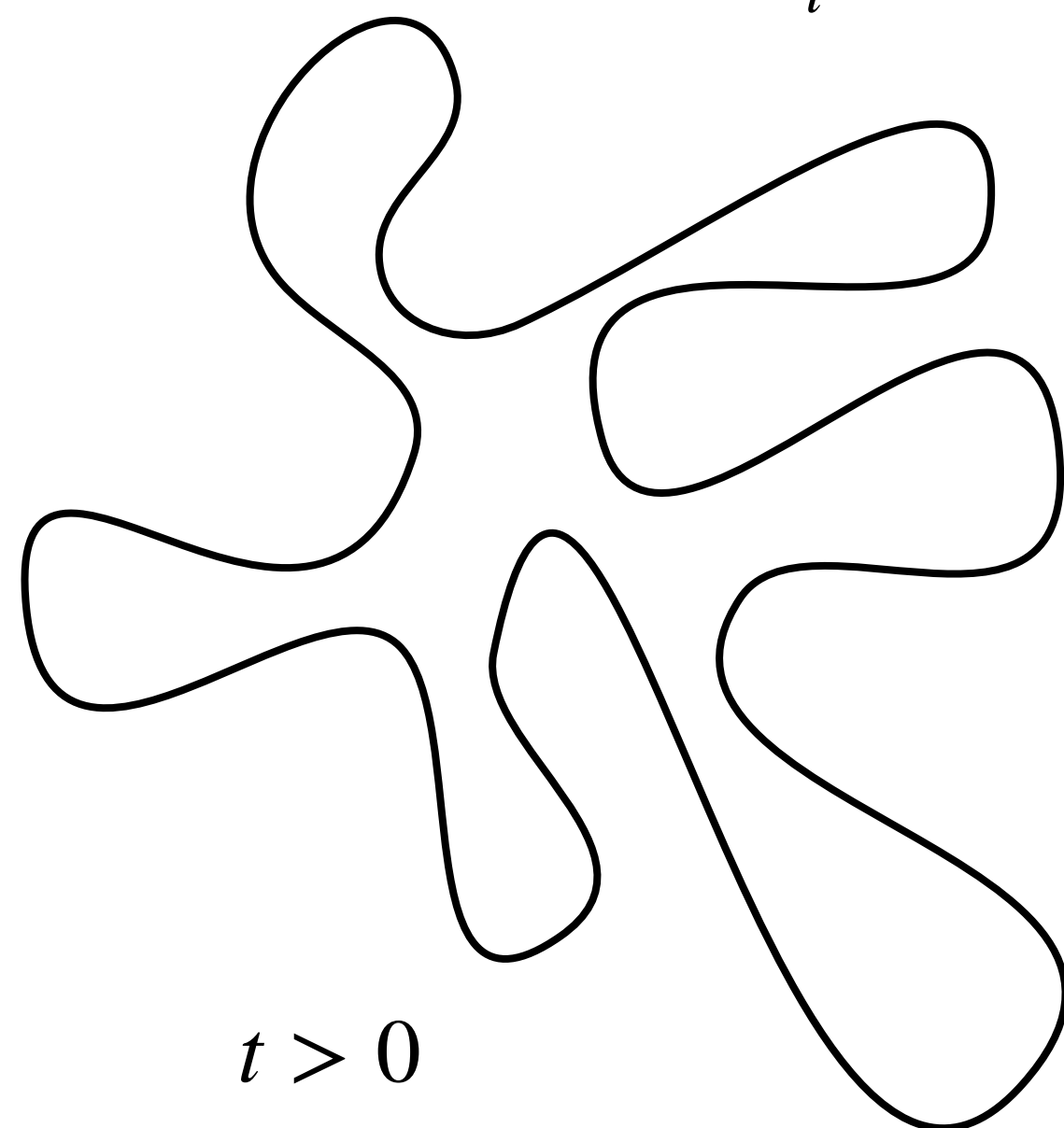
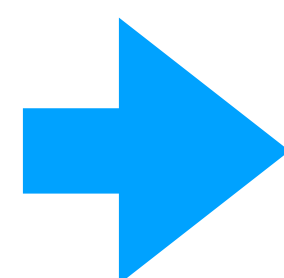


## Thermalization (Entropy growth)

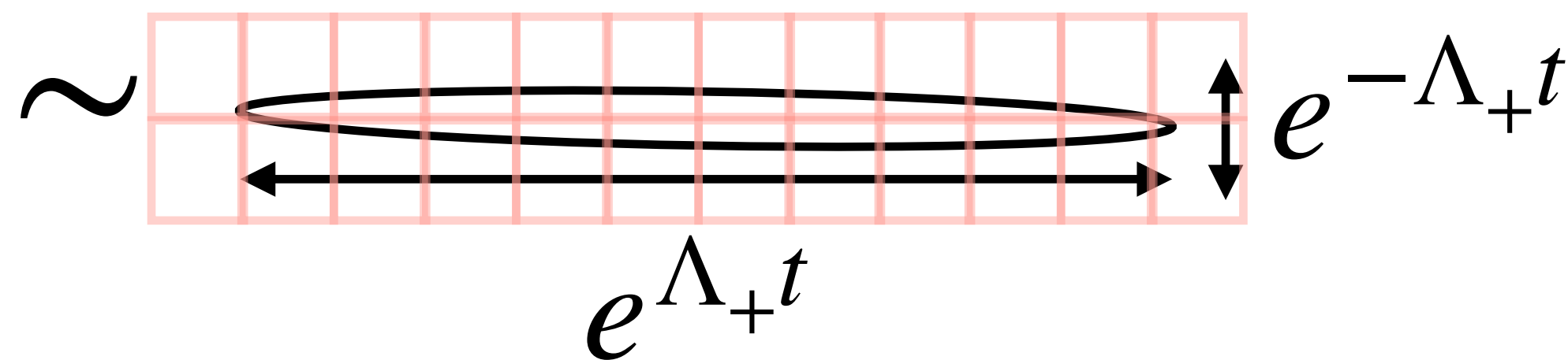
$$\frac{dS}{dt} = \sum_{\lambda_i > 0} \lambda_i =: \Lambda_+$$



$t = 0$



$t > 0$



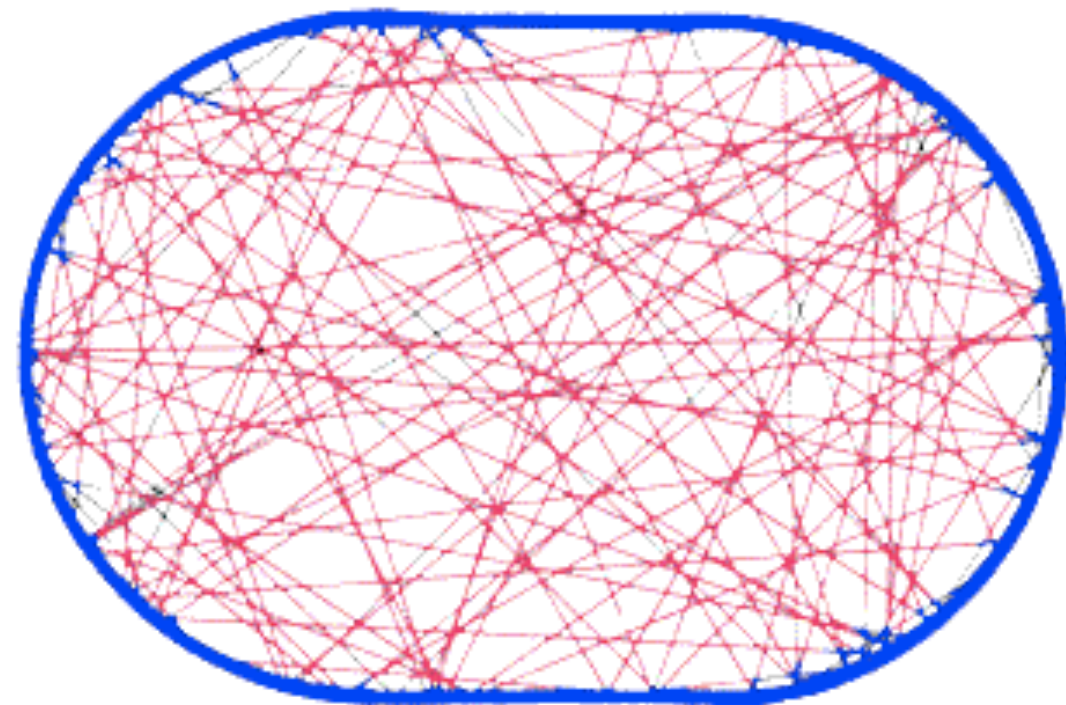
**With fixed resolution,**

$$V \sim e^{\Lambda_+ t} \Rightarrow S \sim \Lambda_+ t$$

# Butterfly effect as (numerical) diagnostics of integrability

Non-integrable

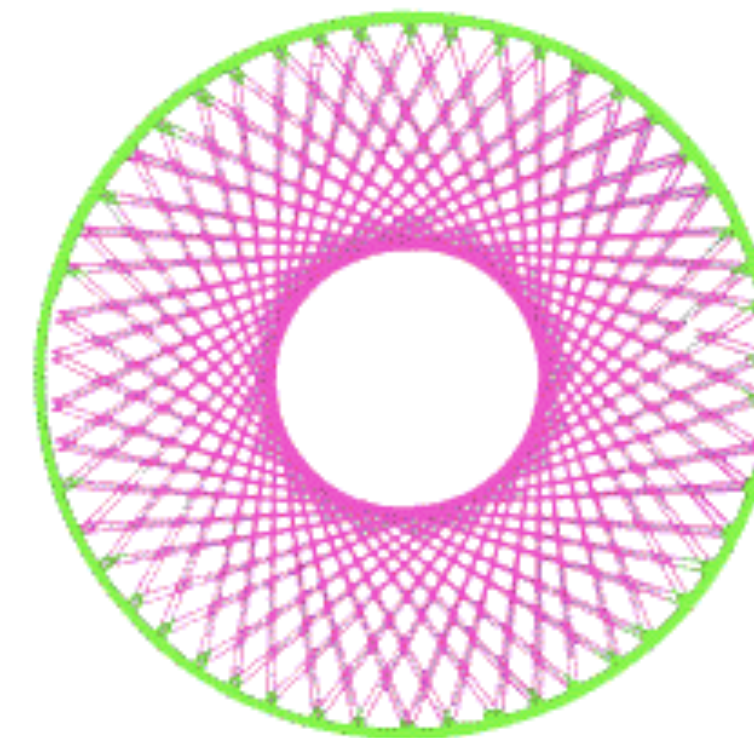
$$\left| \frac{\partial q_i(t)}{\partial q_j(0)} \right| \sim e^{\lambda_L t}, \lambda_L > 0$$



Integrable

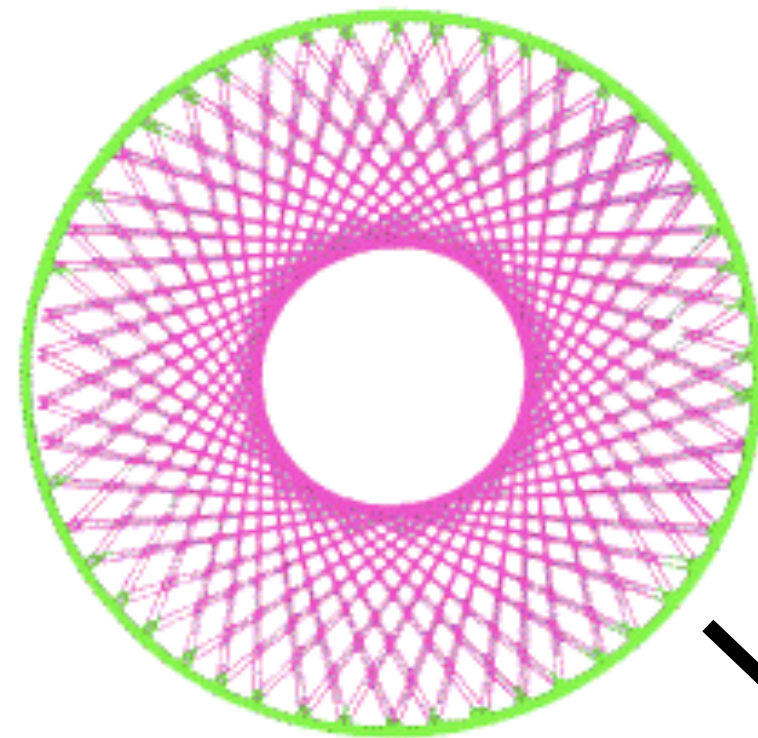
$$\left| \frac{\partial q_i(t)}{\partial q_j(0)} \right| \sim t^\alpha, \lambda_L = 0$$

(Regular motion on invariant tori)

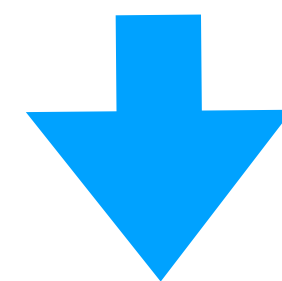


Note: a saddle point is not chaotic!  
[exponential sensitivity only for  $t \leq \mathcal{O}(1)$ ]

“Old-school” quantum chaos  
Casati, Berry-Tabor, Bohigas-Giannoni-Schmit



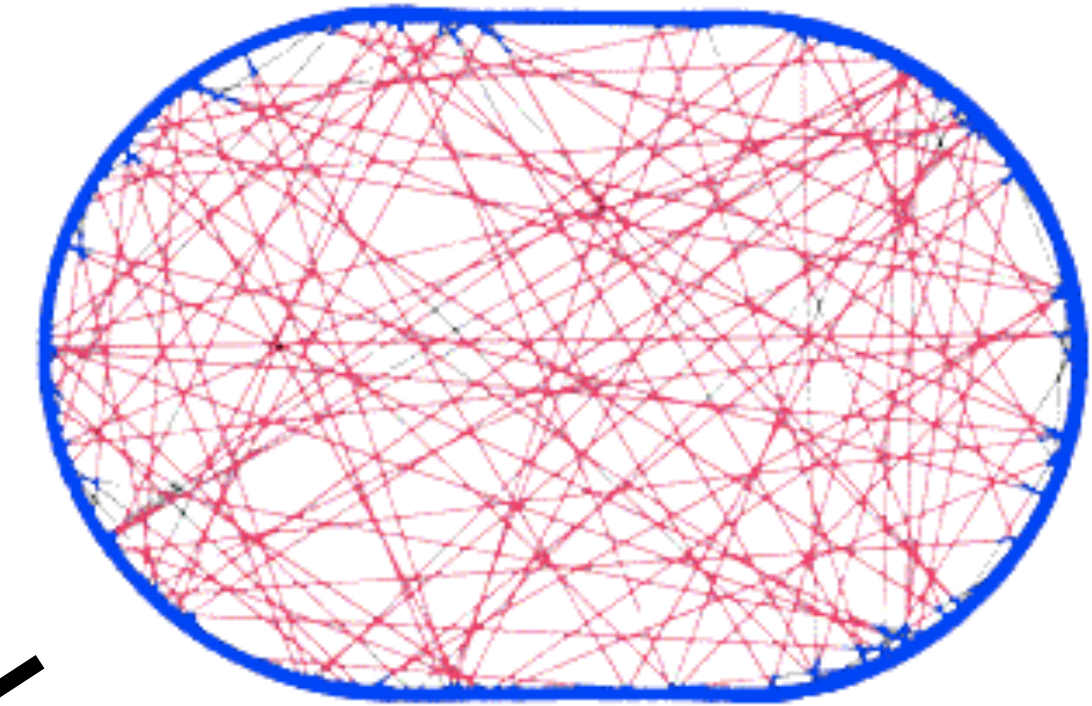
Integrable



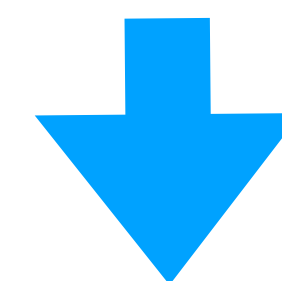
Poisson statistics

Level statistics  
 $H|n\rangle = E_n|n\rangle$

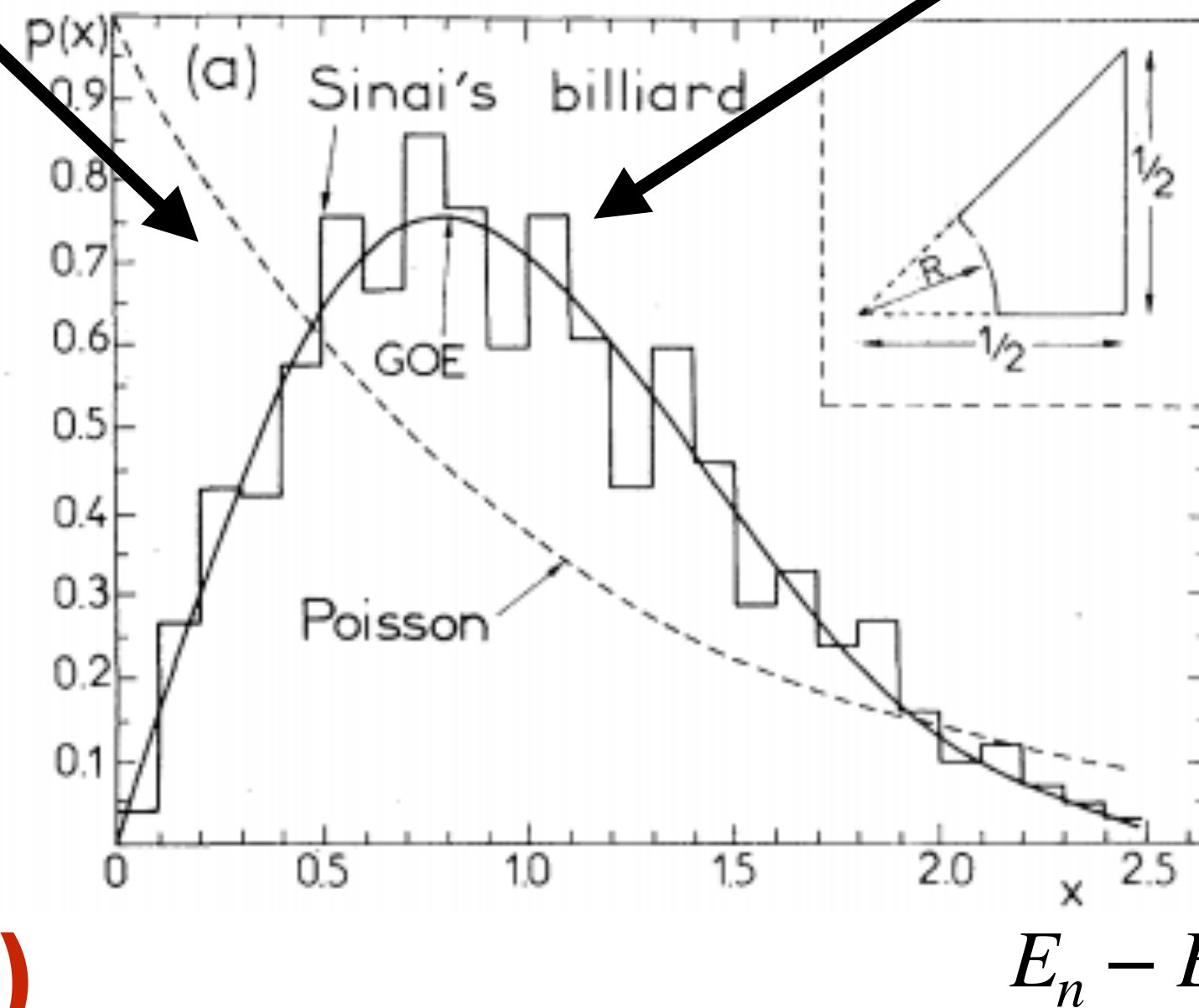
related: spectral form factor



Non-integrable



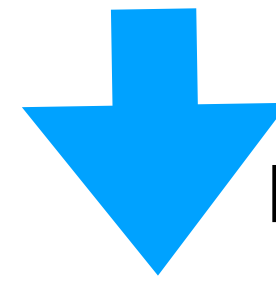
Random matrix theory



**Powerful diagnostics**

**But: no  $\lambda_L$  (different time-scale)**

Defining quantum  $\lambda_L$  (butterfly effect)



Larkin, Ovchinnikov  
Maldacena, Shenker, Stanford

Out-of-time-order correlators

$$C(t) := \langle [V(t), W]^\dagger [V(t), W] \rangle \quad \langle \dots \rangle \text{ Some expectation value}$$

Semiclassical intuition:

$$\partial q(t) / \partial q(0) = \{q(t), p\}_{\text{P.B.}} \approx \frac{1}{i\hbar} [q(t), p]$$

In this talk, “scrambling” means  
exponential growth of OTOCs

$$C(t) := \langle [V(t), W]^\dagger [V(t), W] \rangle \sim e^{\lambda_L t}$$

## Does scrambling equal chaos?

(and does it have similar diagnostics power?)

- I. In the classical limit (w/ Xu, Scaffidi)**
- II. In the large-N limit (w/ Kim, Altman)**
- III. Away from any limits?**

Classical limit: Scrambling  $\not\approx$  chaos

$$C(t) = \langle [q(t), p][q(t), p]^\dagger \rangle = \int \left( \frac{\partial q(t)}{\partial q} \right)^2 \rho(q) \quad \hbar = 1$$
$$= \int \rho(q) e^{\lambda_L(q)t} \geq e^{\langle \lambda_L \rangle t} = e^{2\lambda_1 t} \quad \text{[Galitski et. al.]}$$

$$\lambda_L \geq 2\lambda_1$$

Chaos phase-space-averages over the log.

Scrambling averages before taking the log.

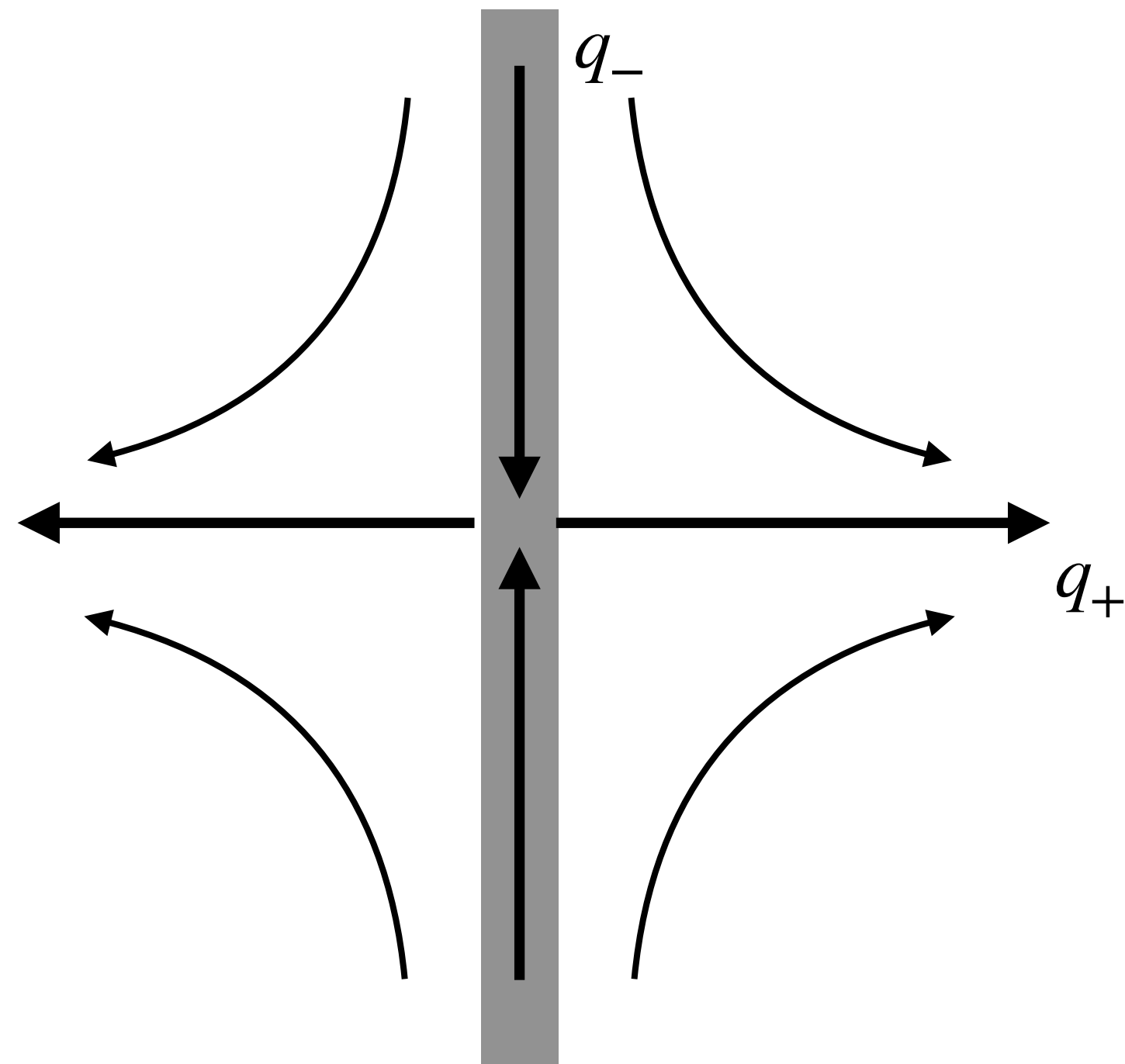
*Quantitative detail?*



# Qualitative difference!

Scrambling can result from mechanisms other than chaos, e.g., saddle points.

Demo (2d phase space)



$$q_{\pm}(t) = e^{\pm\mu t} q_{\pm} \quad (\text{locally near a saddle})$$

$$C(t) \geq \int_{q_+ \leq \epsilon} e^{2\mu t} dq_+ dq_- \sim \epsilon e^{2\mu t} = e^{\mu t}$$
$$\epsilon \sim e^{-\mu t}$$

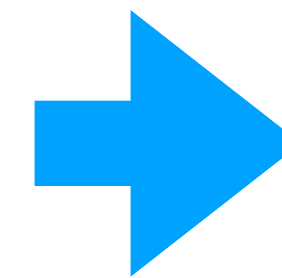
So that the trajectory stay close at time  $t$ .

Hence,  $\lambda_L \geq \mu$  without chaos!

# Example: Lipkin-Meshkov-Glick model

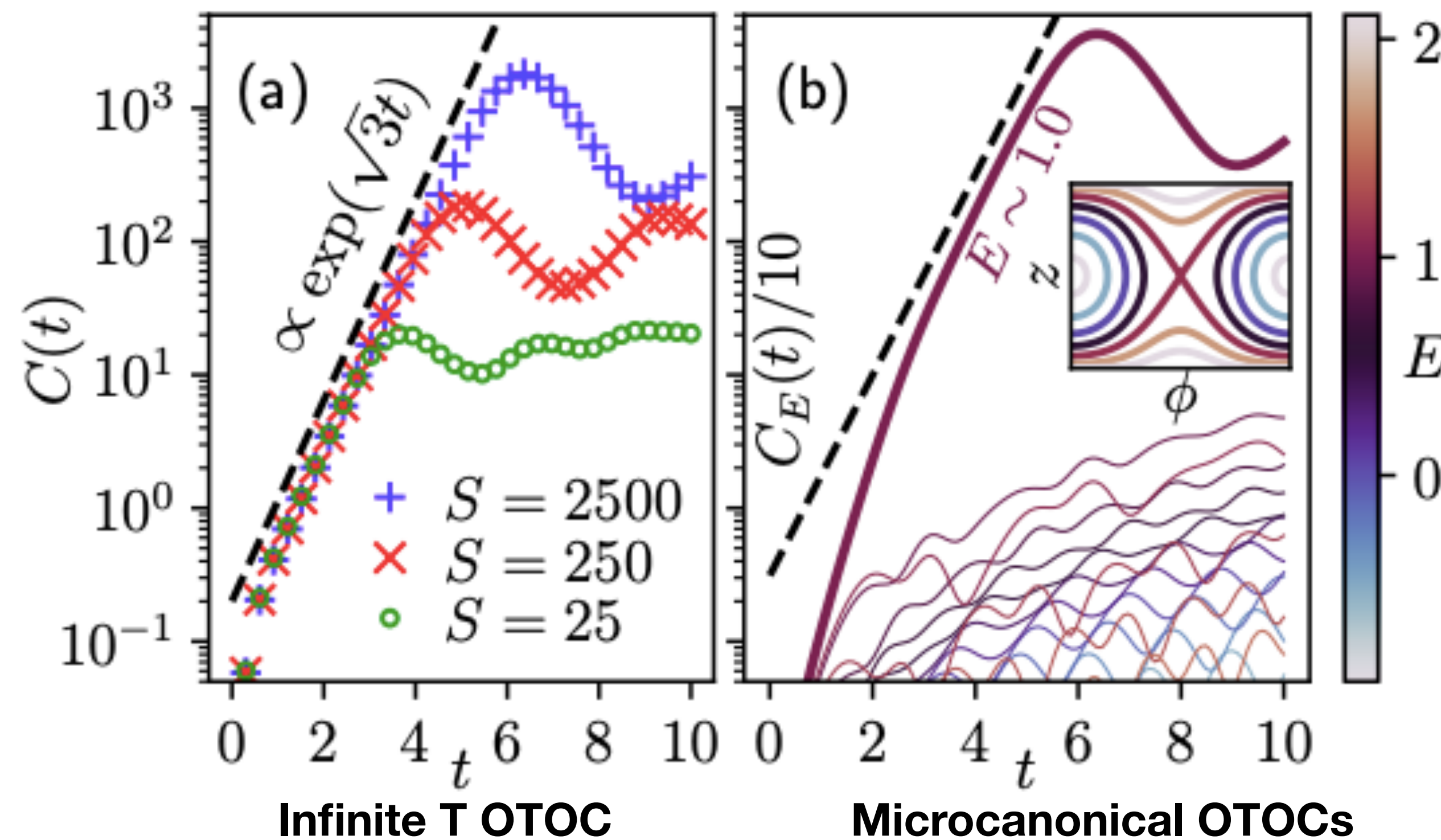
$$H = x + 2z^2, \{x, y\} = z, \dots$$

2d phase space, trivially integrable,  
but has a saddle with  $\mu = \sqrt{3}$ .



**Saddle-dominated scrambling**

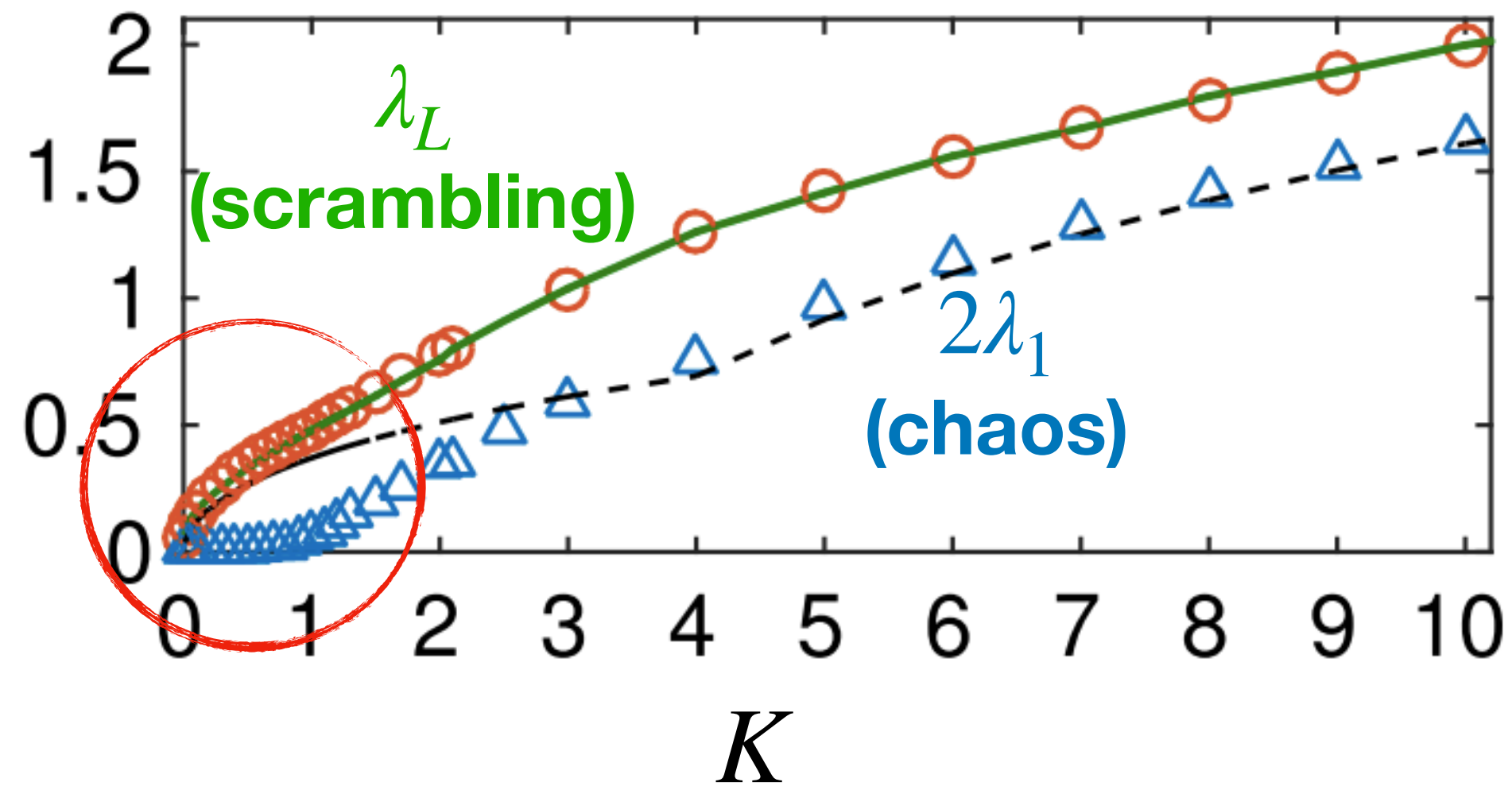
$$\lambda_L = \mu$$



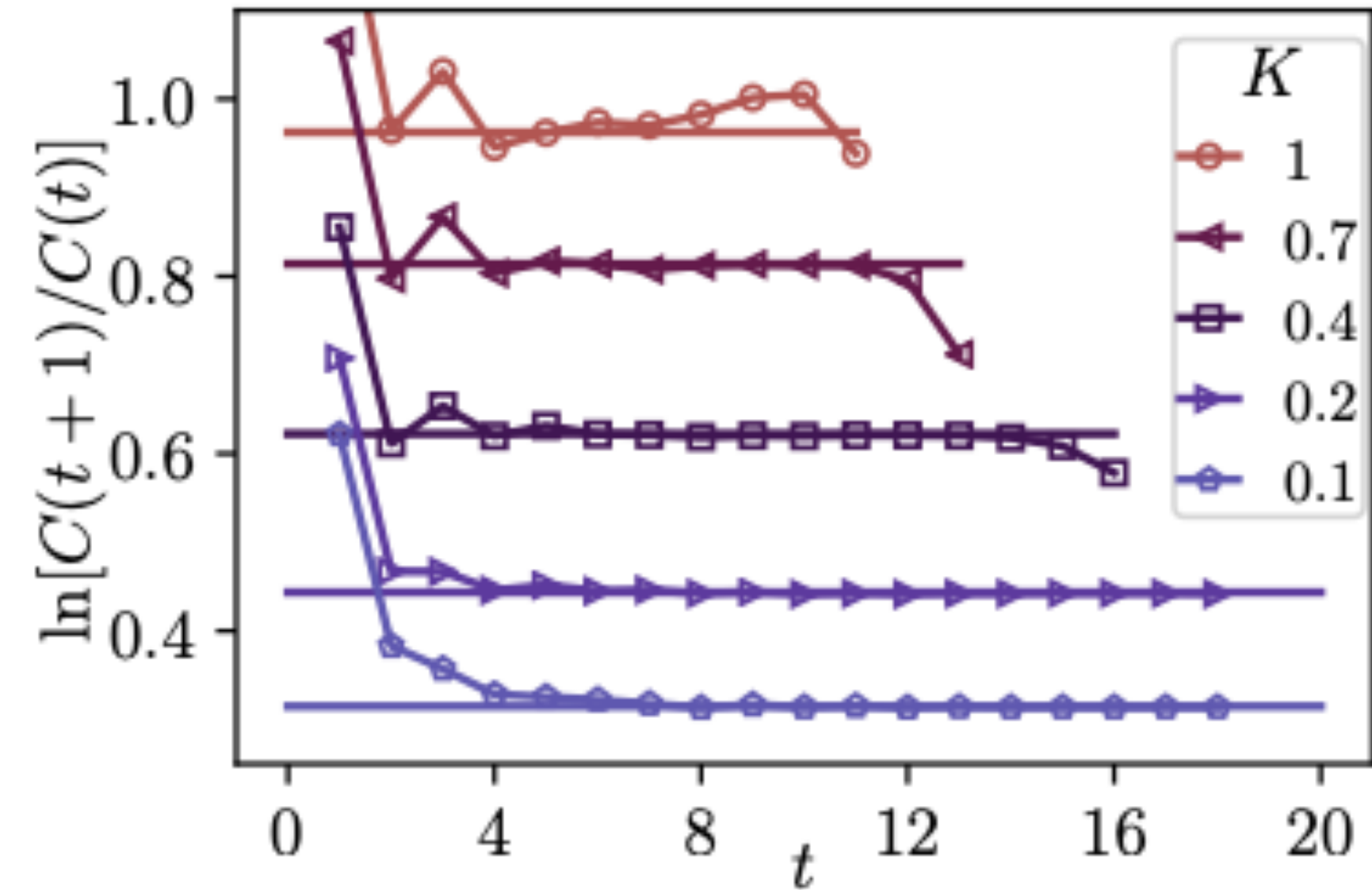
**OTOCs are computed in quantized model, with  $\hbar = 1/S$ . The exponential growth saturates at Ehrenfest time  $t_E \sim \ln S$ .**

# Example: Kicked rotor

$$x, p \mapsto x + p, p + K \sin(x) \quad (x = x + 2\pi)$$



$K \lesssim 1$ : scrambling without classical chaos



$$\lambda_L = \mu$$

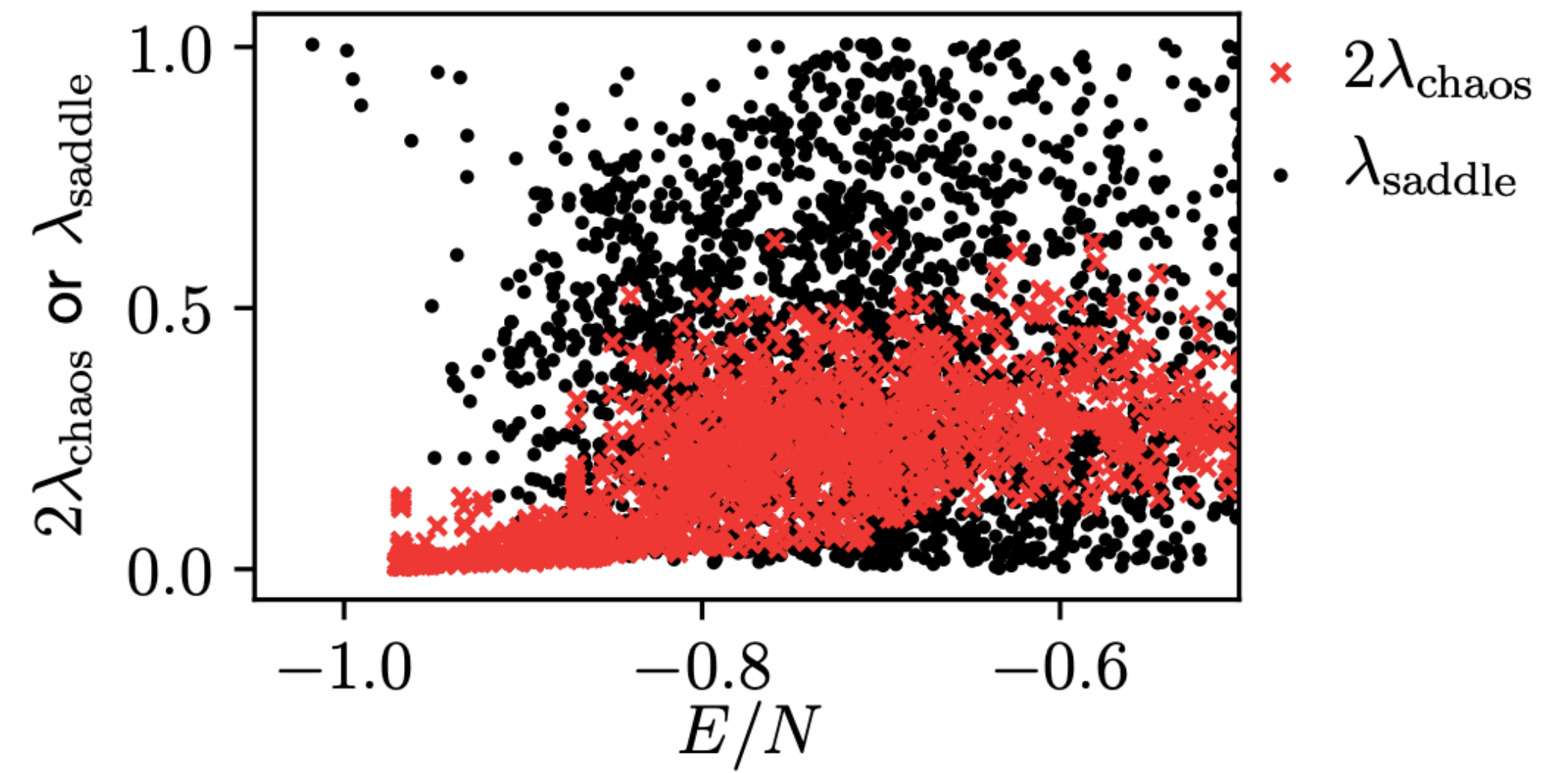
**Saddle  $(x, p = 0, 0)$ -dominated scrambling**

# Remark

Saddle-dominated scrambling can occur

- In higher dimension/many-body phase space;
- In presence of chaos.

It remains unclear how generally that happens.



# Scrambling in large- $N$ , low- $T$

Example: Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev

$$H = \sum_{ijkl=1}^N J_{ijkl} \gamma_i \gamma_j \gamma_k \gamma_l \quad C(t) = \left\langle \{ \gamma_i(t), \gamma_j \} \{ \gamma_i(t), \gamma_j \} \right\rangle_T \sim e^{\lambda_L t}, t \lesssim \ln N$$

$$T \ll J: \lambda_L = 2\pi T, \text{ "fast scrambling"}$$

What are some other behaviors? How do  $\lambda_L(T)$  depend on the IR fixed point?

$$\gamma_i \gamma_j + \gamma_j \gamma_i = \delta_{ij}, \overline{J_{ijkl} J_{i'j'k'l'}} = \frac{J^2}{N^3} \delta_{ijkl, i'j'k'l'}$$

## Another example: mass-deformed SYK

$$H = \sum_{ij=1}^N \kappa_{ij} i\gamma_i \gamma_j + \sum_{ijkl=1}^N J_{ijkl} \gamma_i \gamma_j \gamma_k \gamma_l$$

Relevant perturbation,  
resulting in weakly-coupled IR  
fixed point  
( $\Delta_\gamma = 1/2 \neq \Delta_{\gamma,SYK} = 1/4$ )

$$\lambda_L(T) = ?$$

García-García, Loureiro, Romero-Bermúdez, Tezuka (PRL 18)

$\lambda_L = 0$ ,  $T < T_c$  [transition to no scrambling]

Banerjee, Altman (PRB 17, similar model)

$\lambda_L \propto T^2$  [ $\ll T$ , but non-vanishing]

**Can we have a more general understanding by  
interpolating between IR fixed points?**

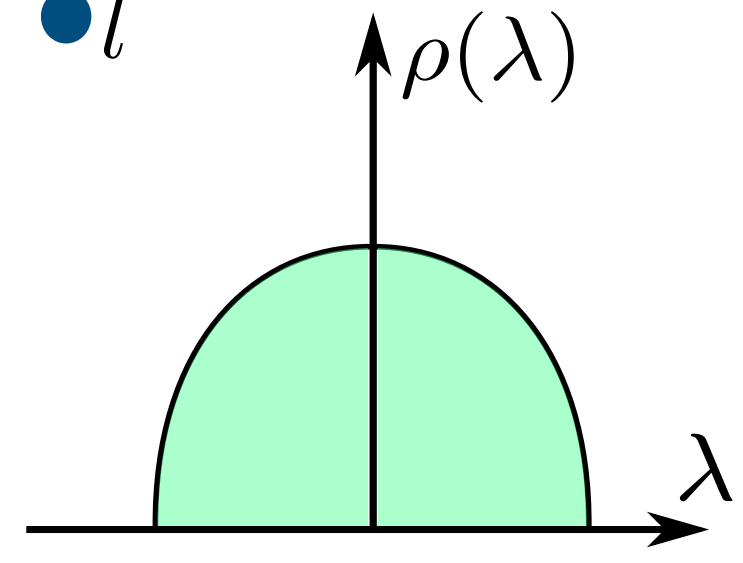
# Low-rank/Yukawa SYK

$$H = \sum_{ijkl=1}^N J_{ij,kl} \gamma_i \gamma_j \gamma_k \gamma_l$$

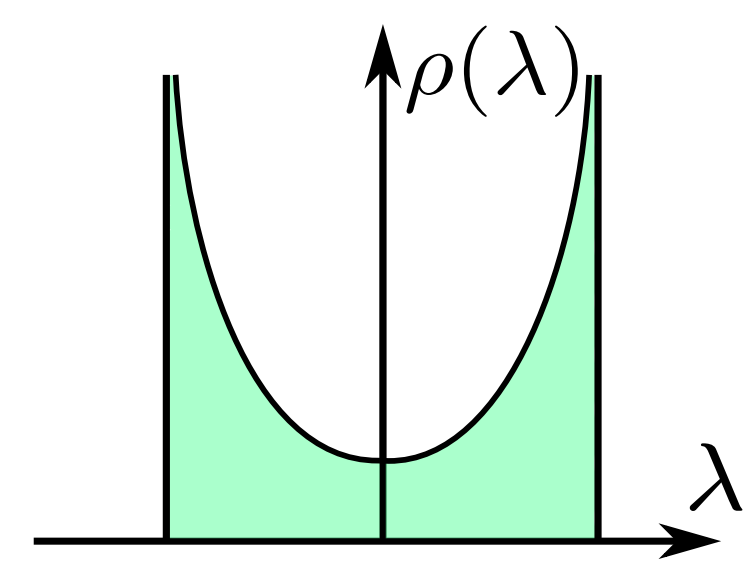
$$J_{ij,kl} = \sum_{n=1}^{\gamma N} \lambda_n u_{ij,n} u_{kl,n}$$

$\gamma$   
# of mediating bosons per fermion

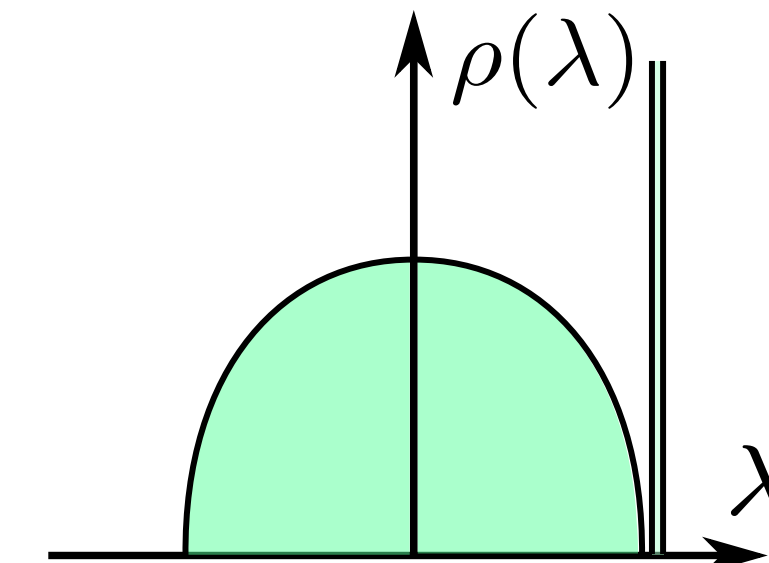
$$\rho(\lambda) = \sum_n \delta(\lambda - \lambda_n)$$



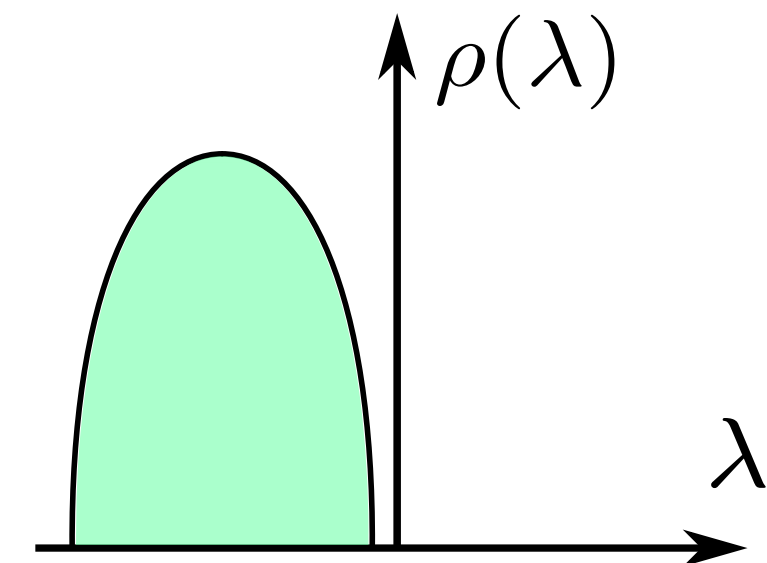
Fermi Liquid



Non Fermi liquid



Fast scrambler



Fast scrambler

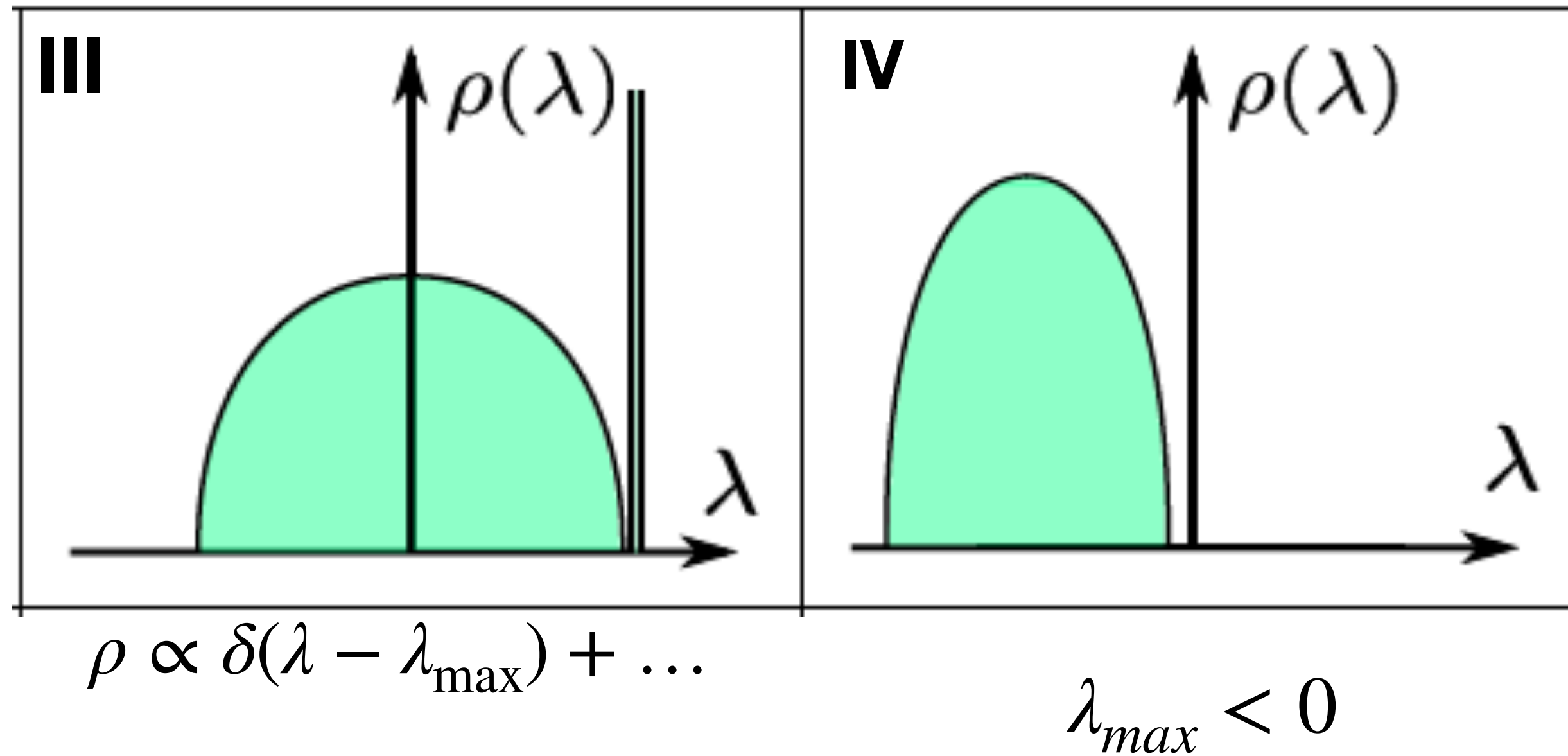
ex: graphene flake  
[Franz, etc., PRL 18]

$$\lambda_L \ll T, \propto g$$

$$\propto T$$

$$2\pi T$$

# Fast scramblers (class III and IV)



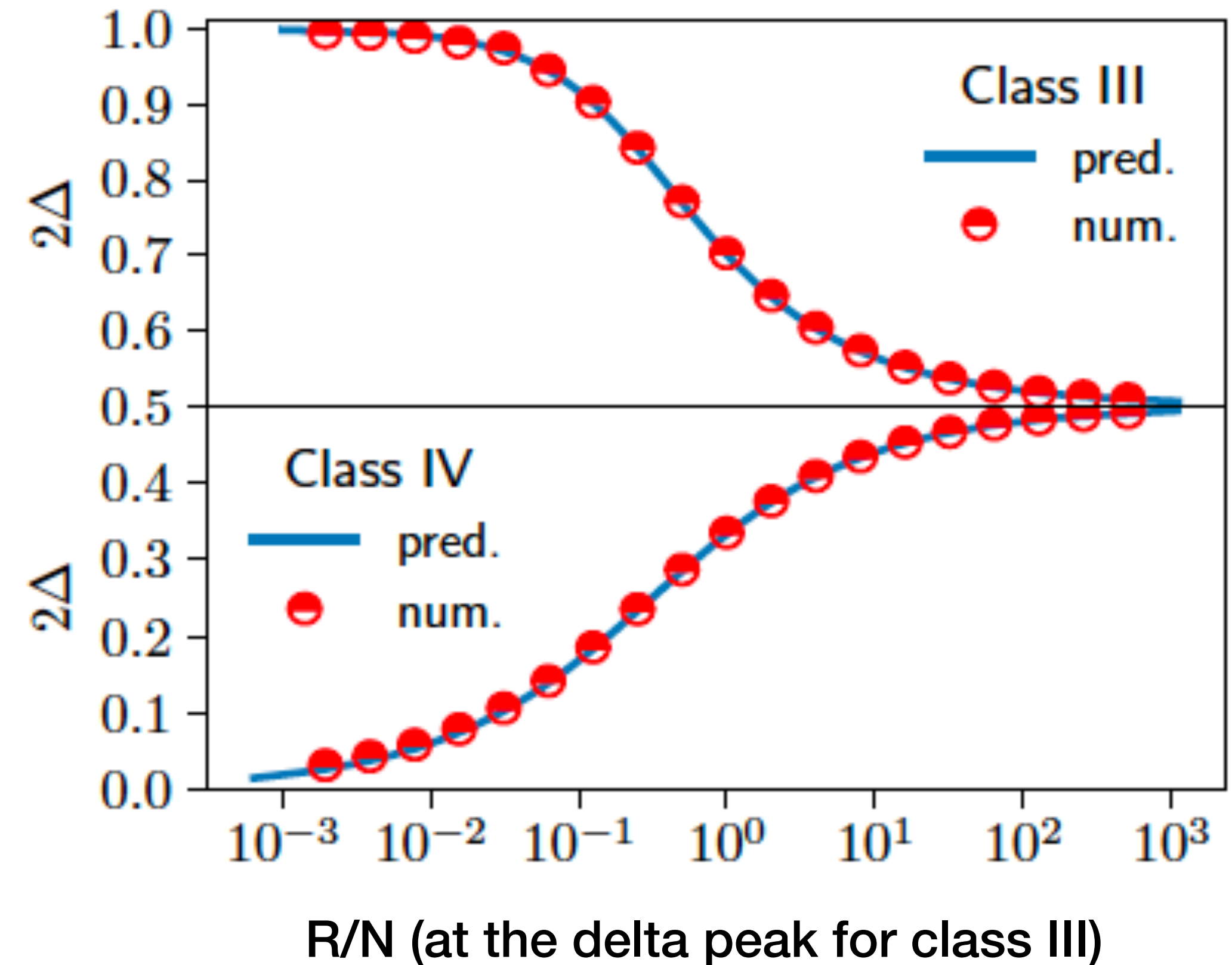
qSYK-like with tunable scaling dimension

$G(\tau) \sim |\tau|^{-2\Delta}$ , conformal invariance

Maximal Lyapunov exponent  $\lambda_L = 2\pi T$  (like SYK)

Class IV: contains SUSY SYK

Class III: applications to superconductivity



Class III: Esterlis and Schmalian PRB 2019,  
Yuxuan Wang PRL 2019

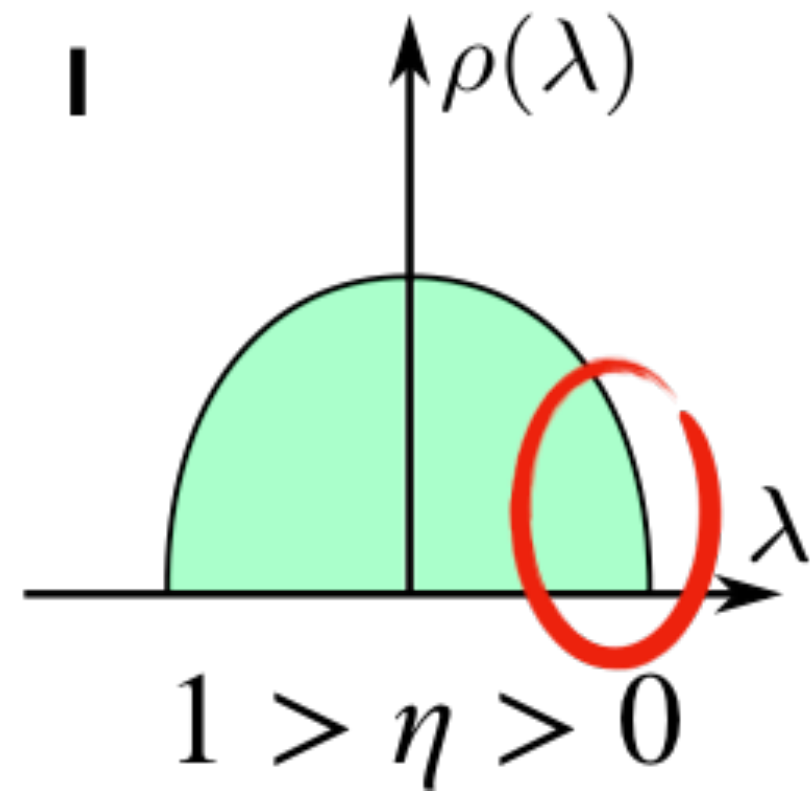
Class IV: Zhen Bi et. al. PRB 2017



# Fermi and non-Fermi liquids (class I & II)

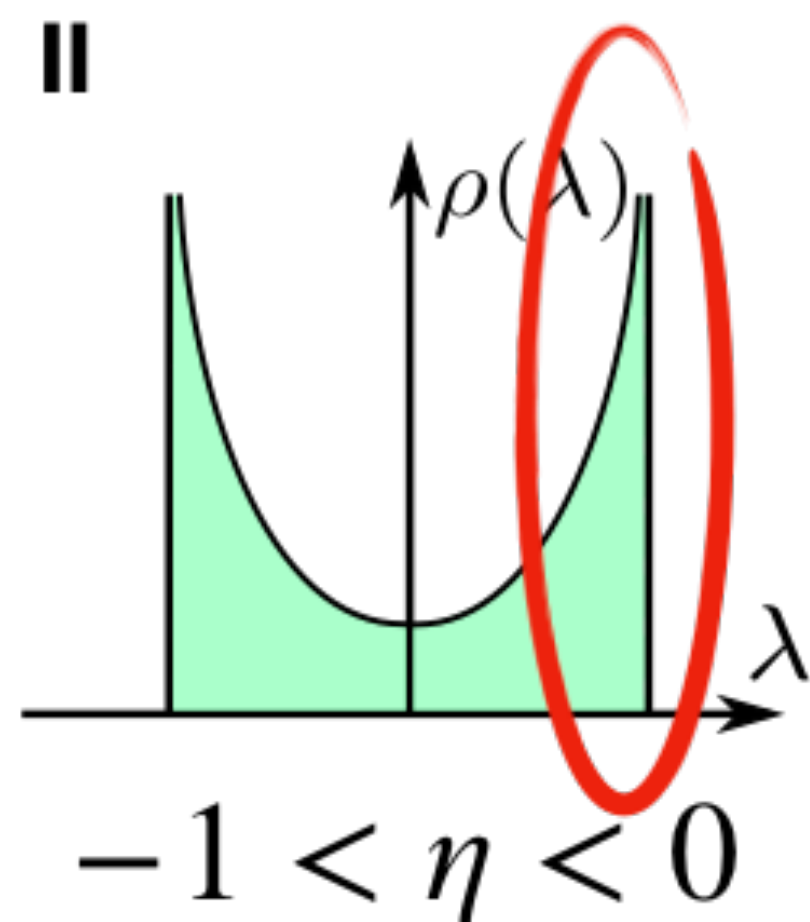
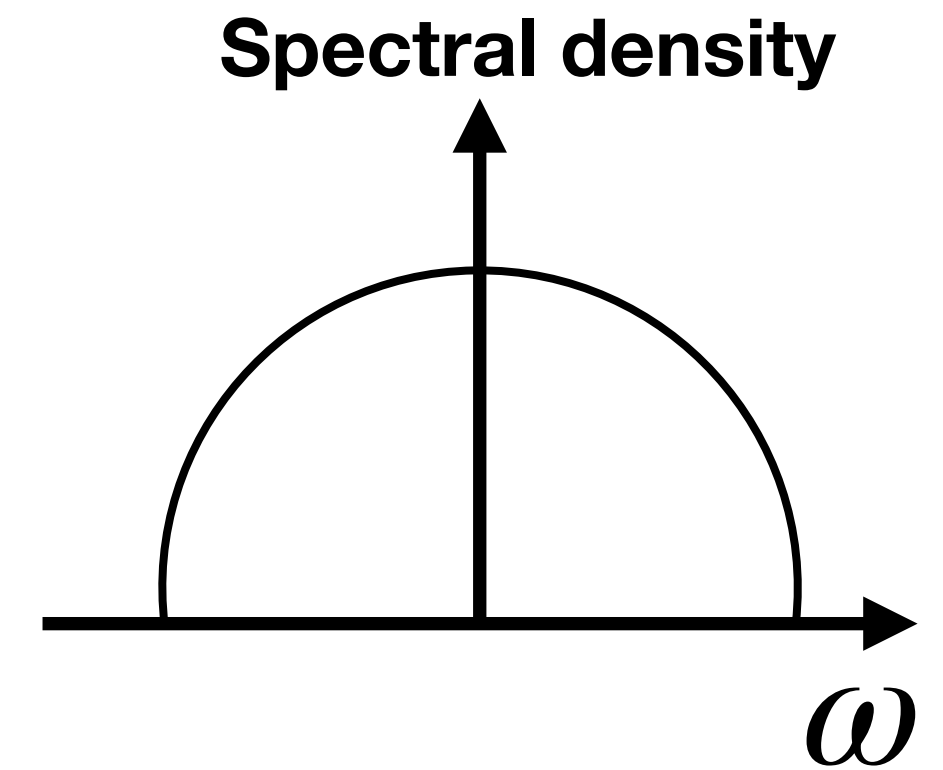
$$\rho(\lambda) \sim (\lambda_{\max} - \lambda)^\eta$$

“free-fermion” leading scaling of Green function  
+ sub-leading self-energy  $\Sigma$  (“quasiparticle decay”)



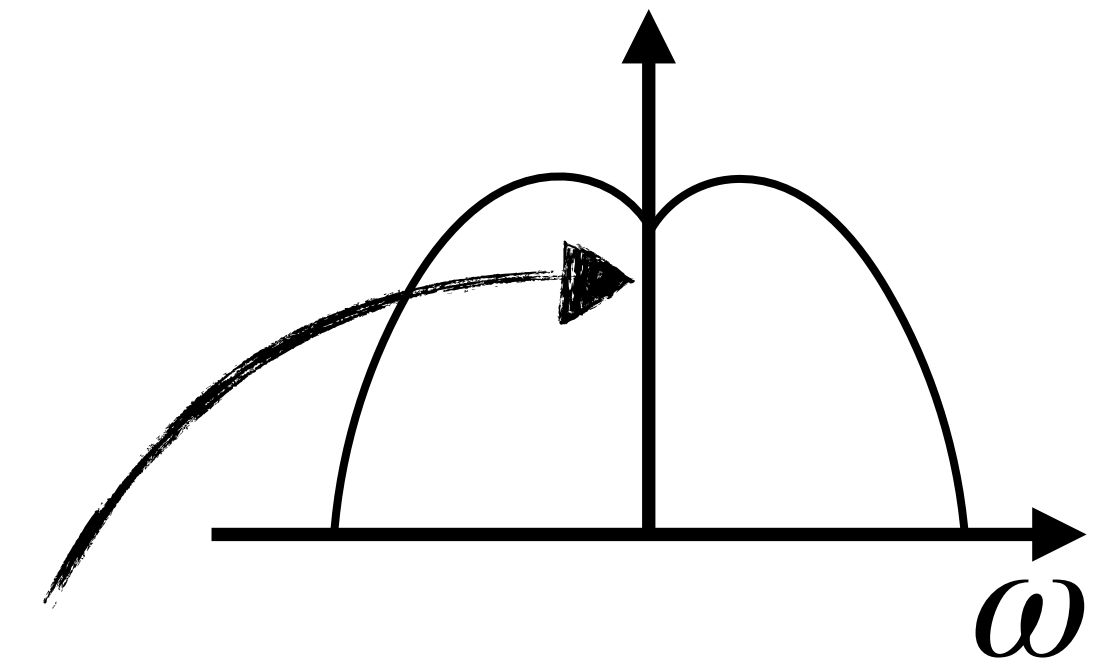
**Fermi liquid  $\eta > 0$**

$$G(\omega) \sim \text{sign}(\omega), |\Sigma(\omega)| \sim |\omega|^{1+\eta} \ll |\omega|$$

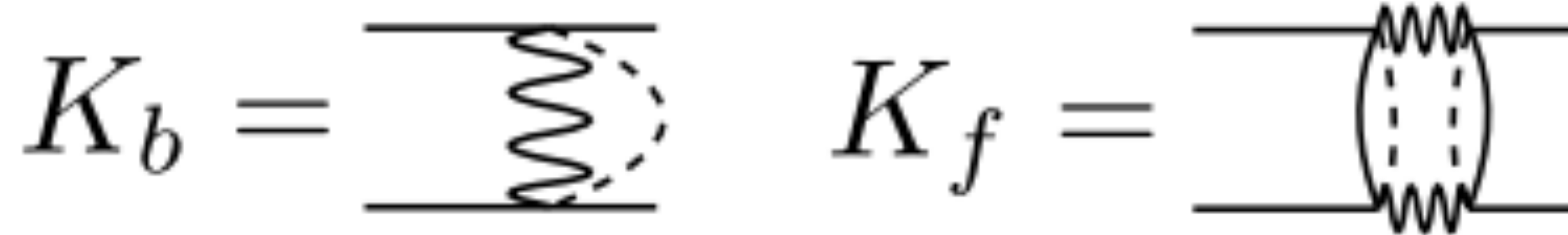
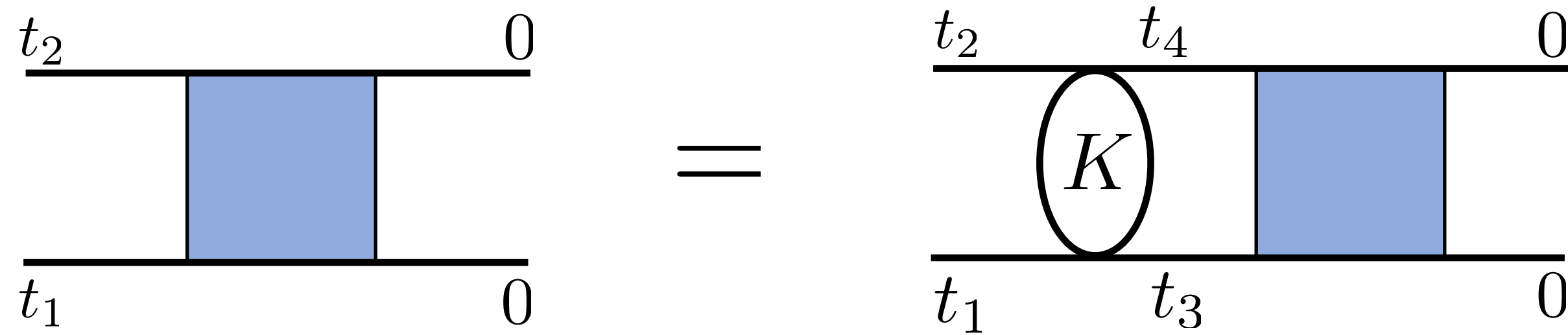


**Non-Fermi liquid  $\eta < 0$**

$$G(\omega) \sim \text{sign}(\omega), |\Sigma(\omega)| \sim |\omega|^{1+\eta} \gg |\omega|$$



$\lambda_L(\text{OTOC})$  is determined by ladder diagrams generated by stacking kernels



$$\int K(t_{1,\dots,4})F(t_1, t_2) = F(t_3, t_4), F(t_1, t_2) = f(t_2 - t_1)e^{\lambda_L(t_1+t_2)/2}$$

i.e.,  $\lambda_L$  solved by requiring the largest eigenvalue be 1.

# The ladder kernel in class I & II

$$K_b = \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \quad K_f = \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \text{---} \quad [K_b(\lambda_L) + K_f(\lambda_L)] f = f$$

Class III, IV: Conformal solution gives  $\lambda_L = 2\pi T$  after direct calculation (like SYK4)

Class I, II: Perturbation theory in the coupling  $\gamma \sim R/N$  appearing in  $\rho(\lambda) \approx \gamma(\lambda_{\max} - \lambda)^\eta$

$$\left[ 1 - \frac{\lambda_L}{F_0} + \gamma \frac{T^{\eta+1}}{F_0^{2\eta+2}} \tilde{K} \right] f = f \quad \longrightarrow \quad \lambda_L = \gamma \frac{T^{\eta+1}}{F_0^{2\eta+1}} k(\lambda_L/2\pi T)$$

Conformal (SYK<sub>2</sub>)      Kinetic (\*)      Interaction+decay  
 ( $\tilde{K}$ : dimensionless kernel)

Most positive eigenvalue of  $\tilde{K}$

$F_0$ : condensate generated SYK2 coupling

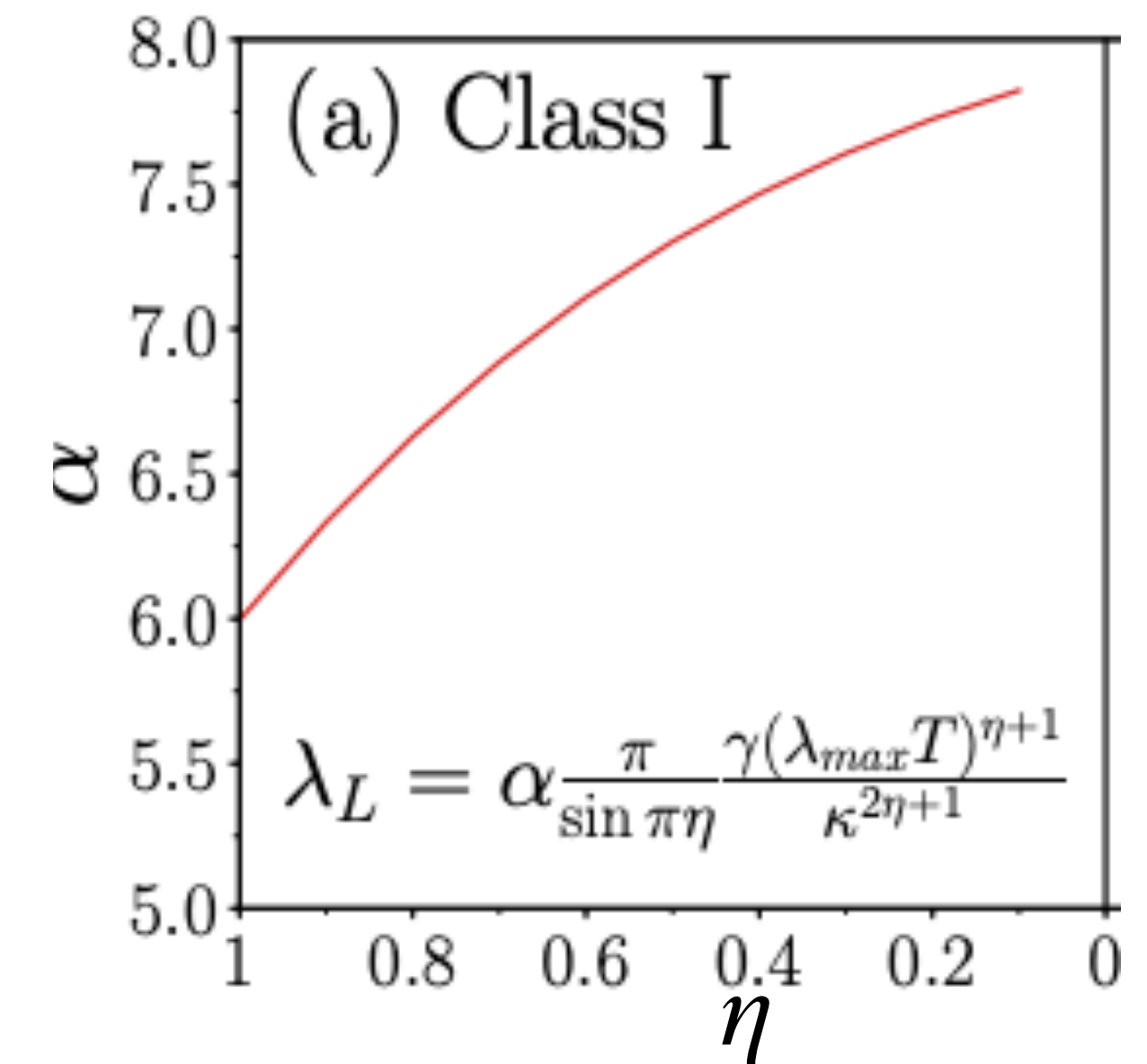
(\*): coming from the kinetic term in  $G^{-1} = \partial_t - \Sigma$

$$\lambda_L = \gamma \frac{T^{\eta+1}}{F_0^{2\eta+1}} k(\lambda_L/2\pi T)$$

**Fermi liquid ( $\eta > 0$ ):**  $\lambda_L \propto \gamma T^{\eta+1} k(\lambda_L/2\pi T) \sim \gamma T^{\eta+1} k(0)$

Because RHS  $\sim T^{\eta+1} \ll T$  we can take  $k(0)$  to leading order in  $T$

$\lambda_L \ll T, \lambda \propto \gamma$  (scrambling is significantly non-maximal, and perturbative in coupling constant)

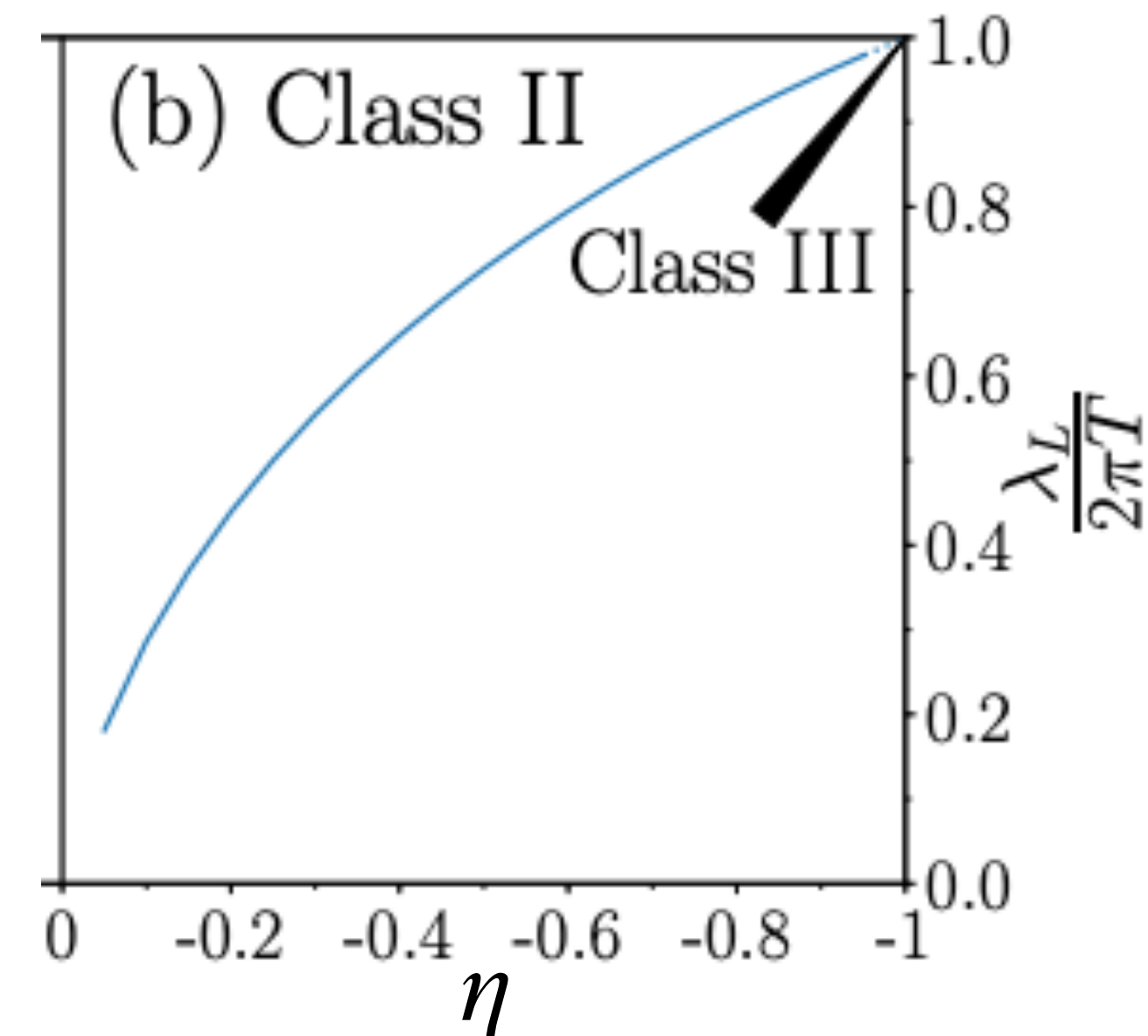


**Non-Fermi liquid ( $\eta < 0$ ):**

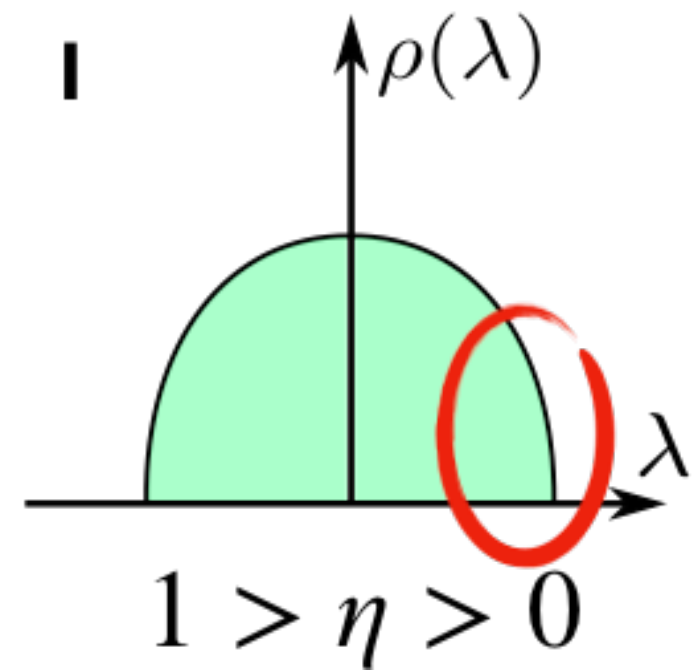
The LHS (kinetic term) is negligible compared to the interaction term

→  $k(\lambda_L/2\pi T) = 0$  Determines  $\lambda_L$

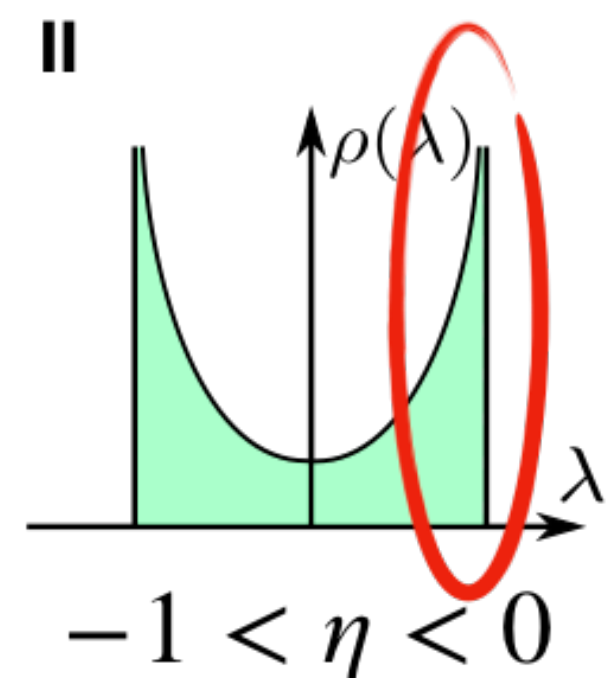
$\lambda_L = C_\eta T$  More universal. Independent of the coupling constant



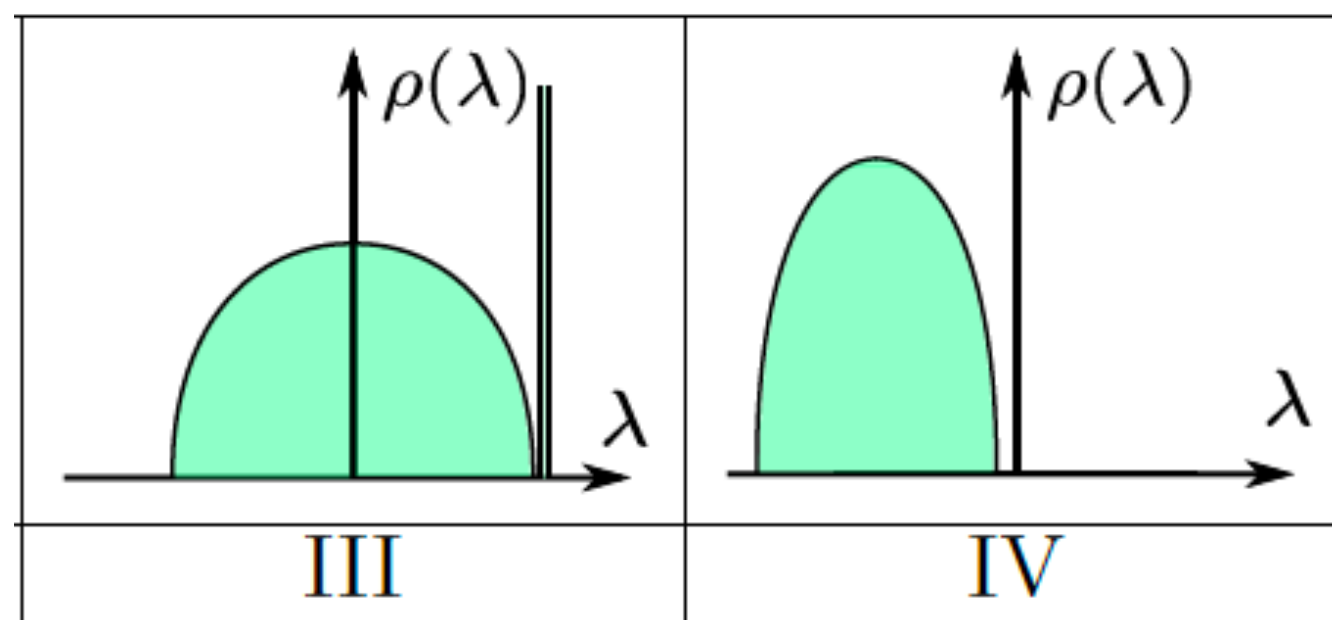
# Scrambling and quasiparticle decay in low rank SYK models



$$H = \sum_{n=1}^R \lambda_n u_{ij}^{(n)} u_{ij}^{(n)} \gamma_i \gamma_j \gamma_k \gamma_l$$



	quasiparticle decay $1/\tau$	$\lambda_L$
Fermi liquid	$\sim gT^{1+\eta}, \eta > 0$	$\sim gT^{1+\eta}$
marginal FL	$\sim gT \ln(1/T)$	$\sim g \ln(1/g)T$
non-Fermi liquid	$\sim gT^{1+\eta}, \eta < 0$	$= C_\eta T$
Fast scrambler	No quasiparticles	$2\pi T$



Biased opinion: OTOCs are good diagnostics of the IR fixed point's nature.

## Back to mass-deformed SYK

$$K = \overline{\alpha \kappa^2 \text{---} \text{---} \text{---}} + \overline{\alpha J^2 \text{---} \text{---} \text{---}}$$

Similar to class I, with  $1/\tau \sim T^2$  decay rate.

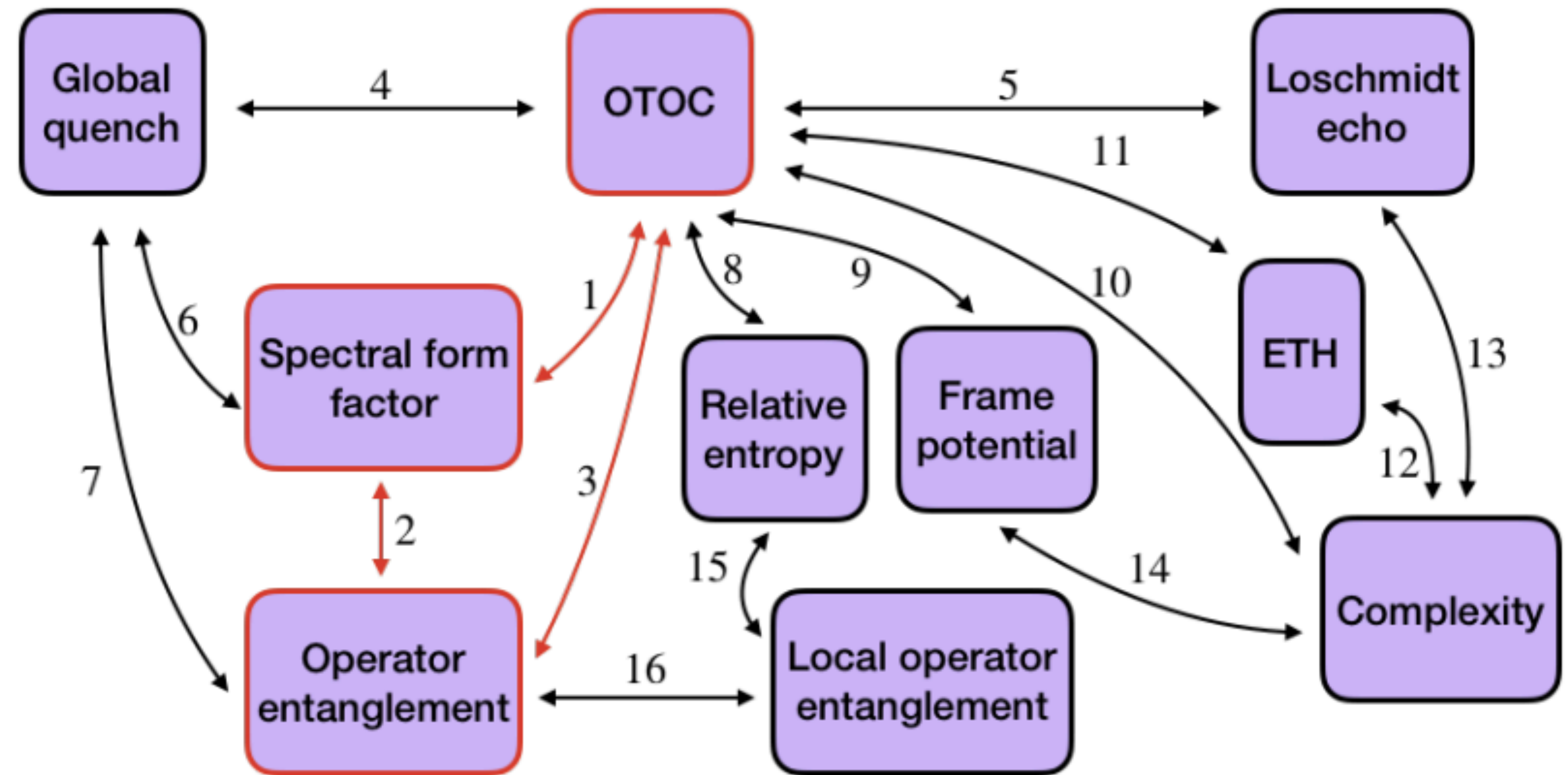
$$\Rightarrow \lambda_L \propto T^2$$

To ensure a positive prefactor requires further calculation, which will show

$$\lambda_L = \frac{3T^2 J^2}{\kappa^3}, T, J \ll \kappa$$

What about away from large  $N$  or classical limit?

~~OTOC  $\sim e^{\lambda_L t}$~~

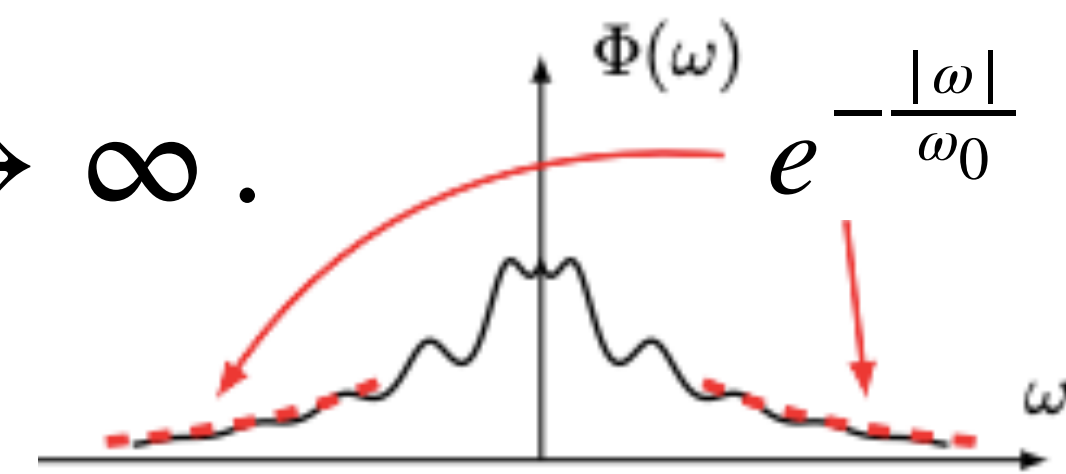


Web of chaos diagnostic [Kudler-Flama, Nie, Ryu]

$$C(t) = \langle O(t)O(0) \rangle_{T=\infty} \quad \Phi(\omega) = \int C(t)e^{i\omega t} dt$$

**Hypothesis à la Bohigas-Giannoni-Schmit** For non integrable systems and non-conserved operators  $O$ ,

$$\Phi(\omega) \sim \exp(-|\omega|/\omega_0), \omega \rightarrow \infty.$$



For integrable systems,  $\Phi(\omega)$  decay faster.

**Theorem** The above holds for chaotic Ising chain (ZZ+X+Z).

**“Theorem”** When  $\lambda_L$  is well-defined, it is bounded by (at  $T = \infty$ )

$$\lambda_L \leq \omega_0 \pi$$

But, at low temperature,  $\omega_0$  is too sensitive to UV details...

Technical note: there are sub-leading log corrections in 1d.

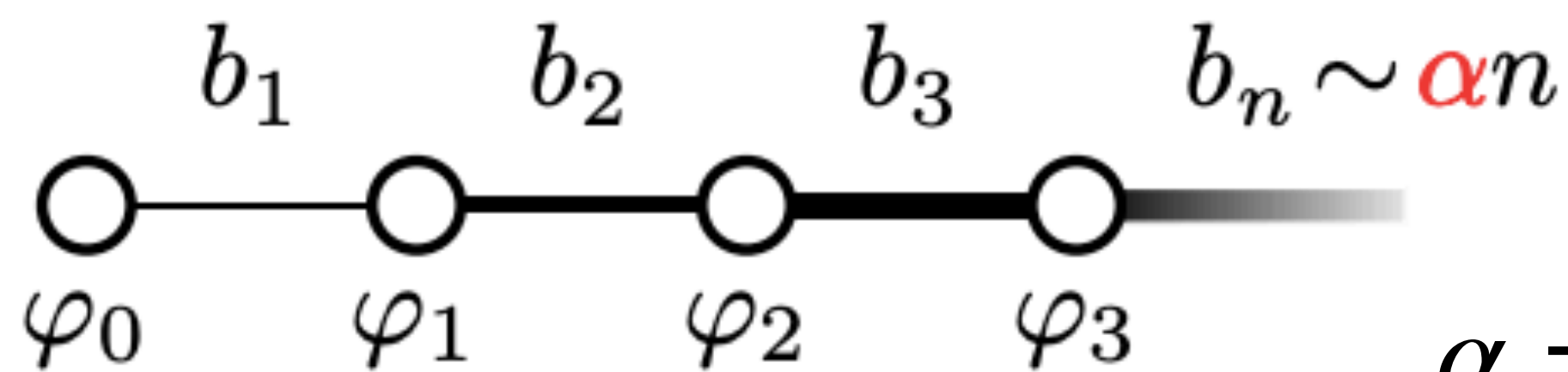
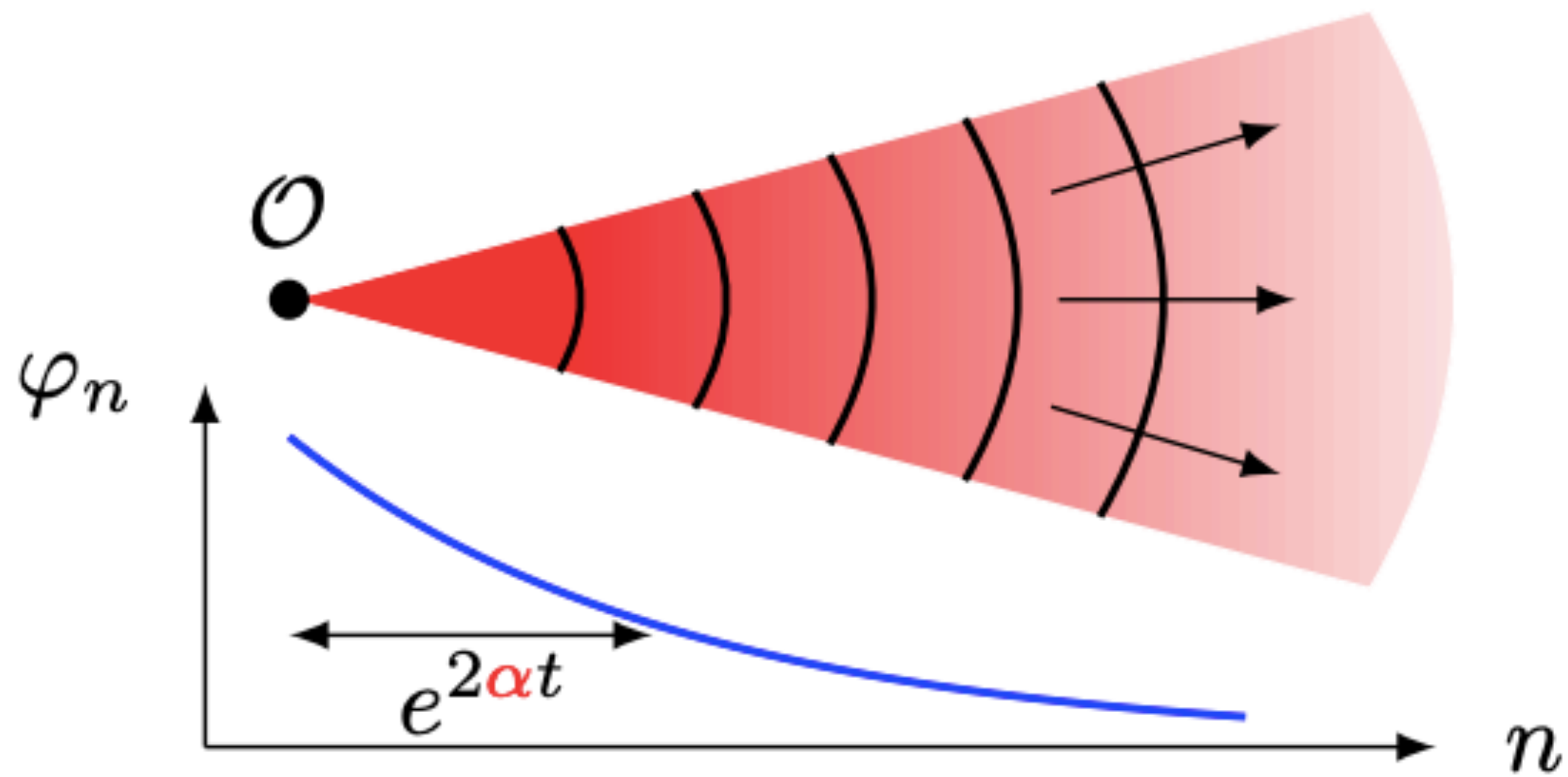


# Does scrambling equal chaos?

- I. In the classical limit: **No**
- II. In the large-N, low-T limit: **works as intended**
- III. Generic quantum: **I don't know**

*Thank you!*

simple  $\longrightarrow$  complex



$$\alpha = \frac{\omega_0 \pi}{2}$$

$$G(z) = \frac{1}{z - \frac{b_1^2}{z - \frac{b_2^2}{z - \frac{b_3^2}{z - \frac{b_4^2}{\dots}}}}}$$

$$[H, O_n] = b_n O_{n-1} + b_{n+1} O_{n+1}$$

$\{O_n\}$ : Krylov basis

$$O(t) = \sum_n i^n \varphi_n(t) O_n$$

$$(n)_t := \sum_n n |\varphi_n(t)|^2$$

“Krylov-complexity”

$$\text{OTOC} \leq C(n)_t$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_L \leq \omega_0 \pi$$