

Title: Classical and Quantum Chaos 2021/2022 - Lecture 13

Speakers: Meenu Kumari

Collection: Classical and Quantum Chaos 2021/2022

Date: March 29, 2022 - 9:00 AM

URL: <https://pirsa.org/22030057>

"Out-of-time-ordered Correlator (OTOC)

OTOC is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} F(t) &= \text{Tr} \left( \langle \hat{W}^+(t) \hat{V}^\dagger \hat{W}(t) \hat{V} \rangle \right) \\ &= \langle \hat{W}^+(t) \hat{V}^\dagger \hat{W}(t) \hat{V} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

where  $\hat{W}(t) = e^{iHt} \hat{W} e^{-iHt}$

$$[\hat{W}(0), \hat{V}] = 0$$

\* If  $\hat{V}$  and  $\hat{W}$  are unitary

$$\text{Re}(F(t)) = 1 - \frac{\langle [\hat{W}(t), \hat{V}]^*, [\hat{W}(t), \hat{V}] \rangle_s}{2}$$

$$([\hat{W}(t), \hat{V}]^* [\hat{W}(t), \hat{V}]) = 2\mathbb{1} - ((\hat{W}^*(t) \hat{V}^* \hat{W}(t) \hat{V})^* + \hat{W}^*(t) \hat{V} \hat{W}(t) \hat{V})$$



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Usually,  $\beta = \frac{1}{d}$  (infinite Temperature thermal state)

Scrambling  $\equiv$  exponential growth of  $\text{Re}(F(t))$

\* The rate of exponential growth is often referred as "quantum Lyapunov exponent"

Heuristic connection with classical LE

$$\hat{C}(t) = -[\hat{x}(t), \hat{p}(0)]^2$$

$$[\hat{x}(t), \hat{p}(0)] = i\hbar \frac{\partial \hat{x}(t)}{\partial \hat{x}(0)}$$

Exp. value wrt  $| \Psi \rangle$

$$C(t) = \hbar^2 \left\langle \left( \frac{\partial \hat{x}(t)}{\partial \hat{x}(0)} \right)^2 \right\rangle_{|\Psi\rangle}$$

Classically,  $\left( \frac{\partial \hat{x}(t)}{\partial \hat{x}(0)} \right) \approx \left( \frac{\Delta x(t)}{\Delta x(0)} \right)$

$$\left( \frac{\Delta x(t)}{\Delta x(0)} \right)^2 \propto \exp(2\lambda t)$$

$$C(t) \propto \exp(2\tilde{\lambda}_v t)$$

"Does Scrambling equal chaos" arXiv:1912.1106

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"Does scrambling equal chaos" arXiv:1912.1106

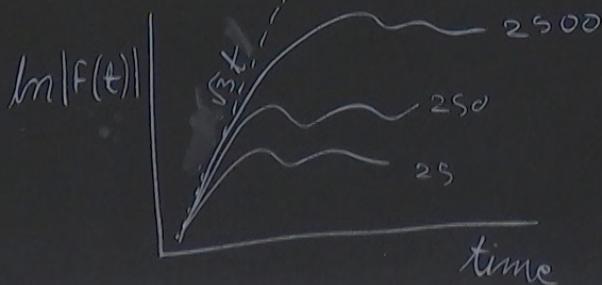
LMG model

$$\frac{d\mathbf{x}(t)}{dt} = \mathcal{H}_{\text{LMG}} = -\frac{1}{2\delta} (\gamma_x J_x^2 + \gamma_y J_y^2) - \hbar J_z$$

$$\lambda_{\text{saddle}} = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\delta = 2500, 250, 25$$

$$\lambda_{\text{OTOC}} = \sqrt{3}$$



"Does scrambling equal chaos" arXiv:1912.1106

LMG model

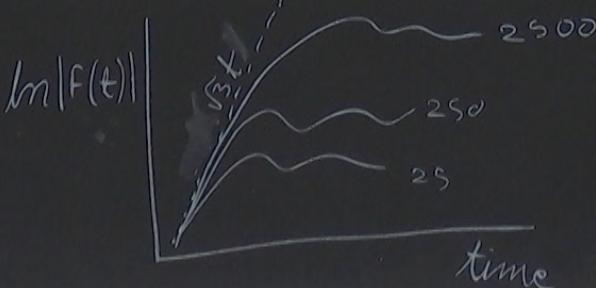
$$\frac{dx(t)}{dx(0)} = -\frac{1}{2\delta} \left( \gamma_x J_x^2 + \gamma_y J_y^2 \right) - h J_z$$

$$\lambda_{\text{saddle}} = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\delta = 2500, 250, 25$$

$$\lambda_{\text{OTOC}} = \sqrt{3}$$

$$\lambda_{\text{OTOC}} > \lambda_{\text{saddle}}$$



# Out-of-time-ordered correlators in quantum many-body systems

Cheng-Ju (Jacob) Lin  
PSI lecture, Mar. 29

Reference: [arXiv:2202.07060](https://arxiv.org/abs/2202.07060), Scrambling Dynamics and Out-of-Time Ordered Correlators in  
Quantum Many-Body Systems: a Tutorial, Shenglong Xu and Brian Swingle

# Setup: qubit (spin-1/2) system

• • • • • • • • • • • • N qubits

$$\mathbf{Pauli} = \left\{ I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma^x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma^y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \sigma^z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

Starting with some local operator  $\hat{W}_{r=0}(t=0) = \sigma_0^x$

Consider the Heisenberg evolution  $\sigma_0^x(t) = U^\dagger(t)\sigma_0^xU(t)$

Schematically,  $\hat{W}_0(t) = \sum_{\mathcal{S}} a_{\mathcal{S}}(t) \hat{\mathcal{S}}$

$\mathcal{S} = \dots \otimes s_{j-1} \otimes s_j \otimes \dots$   $s_j \in \mathbf{Pauli}$

$$\hat{W}_0(t) = \sum_{\mathcal{S}} a_{\mathcal{S}}(t) \hat{\mathcal{S}}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{S}} = \dots \otimes s_{j-1} \otimes s_j \otimes \dots \quad s_j \in \mathbf{Pauli}$$

Pauli-strings are “orthonormal basis”

$$\frac{\mathbf{Tr}[\mathcal{S}^\dagger \mathcal{S}']}{\mathbf{Tr}[I_{2^N}]} = \delta_{\mathcal{S}\mathcal{S}'}$$

Assume  $\frac{\mathbf{Tr}[W_0^\dagger W_0]}{\mathbf{Tr}[I_{2^N}]} = 1$  then  $\sum_{\mathcal{S}} |a_{\mathcal{S}}(t)|^2 = 1$

$a_{\mathcal{S}}(t)$  : amplitudes of this "operator wavefunction"

## Out-of-time-ordered commutators/correlators

$$C_{WV}(r, t) = \text{tr}(\rho | [\hat{W}_{r=0}(t), \hat{V}_r] |^2)$$

Let's consider the special case  $\rho = \frac{I}{2^N}$  and  $\hat{V}_r$  being one of the Pauli matrices

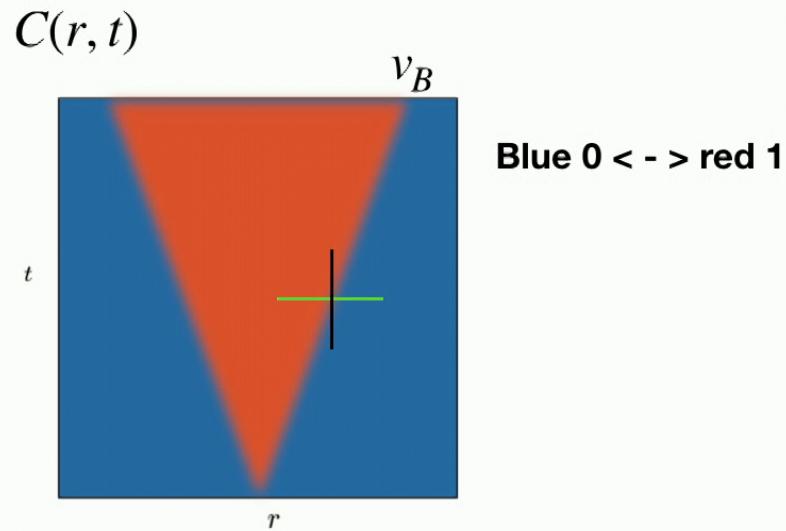
$$\hat{W}_0(t) = \sum_{\mathcal{S}} a_{\mathcal{S}}(t) \hat{\mathcal{S}}$$

$$C_{WV}(r, t) = \sum_{\mathcal{S}: [\mathcal{S}, V_r] \neq 0} |a_{\mathcal{S}}(t)|^2$$

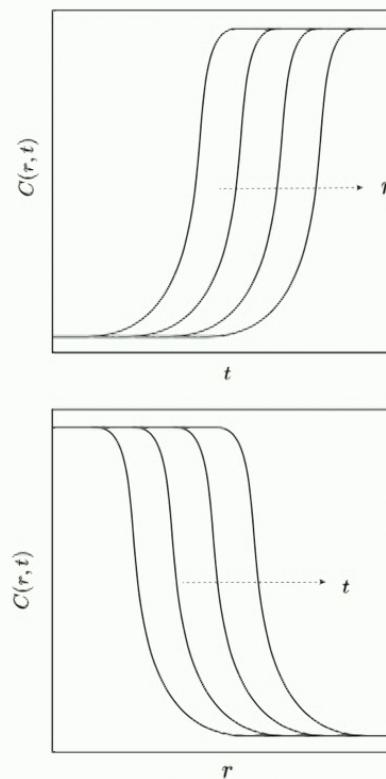
A proxy of the "size" of the operator  $\hat{W}_0(t)$

Average over  $V_r$  in Pauli,  $C(r, t) = 2 \sum_{\mathcal{S}: s_r \neq I} |a_{\mathcal{S}}(t)|^2$

What to expect for a quantum many-body chaotic system, where the dynamics is generated with local Hamiltonian or local circuit?



1. The operator grows ballistically, with the butterfly velocity  $v_B$ .
2. Inside the “butterfly cone”,  $C(r,t) \sim 1$ .



A lot of the detailed (asymptotic) behavior will be model dependent.

## Random unitary circuit model

A. Nahum, S. Vijay, and J. Haah, Operator spreading in random unitary circuits, [Physical Review X 8, 021014 \(2018\)](#).

C. Von Keyserlingk, T. Rakovszky, F. Pollmann, and S. L. Sondhi, Operator hydrodynamics, otocs, and entanglement growth in systems without conservation laws, [Physical Review X 8, 021013 \(2018\)](#).

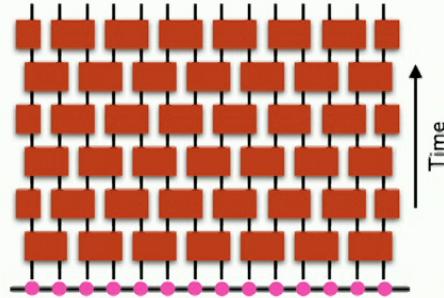
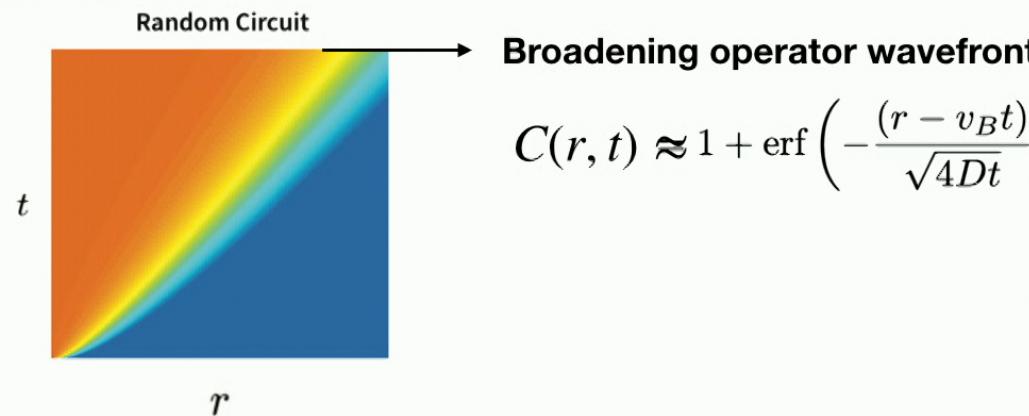


FIG. 1. Left: Random unitary circuit in 1 + 1D. Each brick represents an independently Haar-random unitary, acting on the Hilbert space of two adjacent “spins” of local Hilbert space dimension  $q$ .



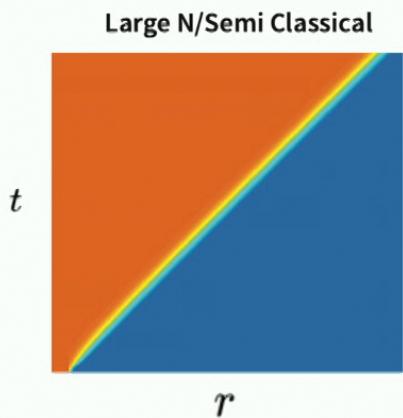
The dynamics of the "end-point density" of the operator can be described by a biased random walk equation.

$$\partial_t \overline{\rho(x, t)} = v_B(q) \partial_x \overline{\rho(x, t)} + D(q) \partial_x^2 \overline{\rho(x, t)}$$

$$P_{\text{end}}(r, t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{4\pi Dt}} \exp\left(-\frac{(r - v_B t)^2}{4Dt}\right)$$

$$C(r, t) \approx 1 + \text{erf}\left(-\frac{(r - v_B t)}{\sqrt{4Dt}}\right)$$

## Large-N/ semi-classical



### SYK model/Coupled-SYK model

S. Sachdev and J. Ye, Gapless spin-fluid ground state in a random quantum Heisenberg magnet, [Phys. Rev. Lett. 70, 3339 \(1993\)](#)

A. Kitaev, A simple model of quantum holography, in KITP Program: Entanglement in Strongly-Correlated Quantum Matter (2015)

D. Chowdhury, A. Georges, O. Parcollet, and S. Sachdev, Sachdev-ye-kitaev models and beyond: A window into non-fermi liquids, [arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.05037 \(2021\)](#)

### Interacting Fermionic model (implicitly large-N)

I. L. Aleiner, L. Faoro, and L. B. Ioffe, Microscopic model of quantum butterfly effect: out-of-time-order correlators and traveling combustion waves, [Annals of Physics 375, 378 \(2016\)](#).

### O(N) model

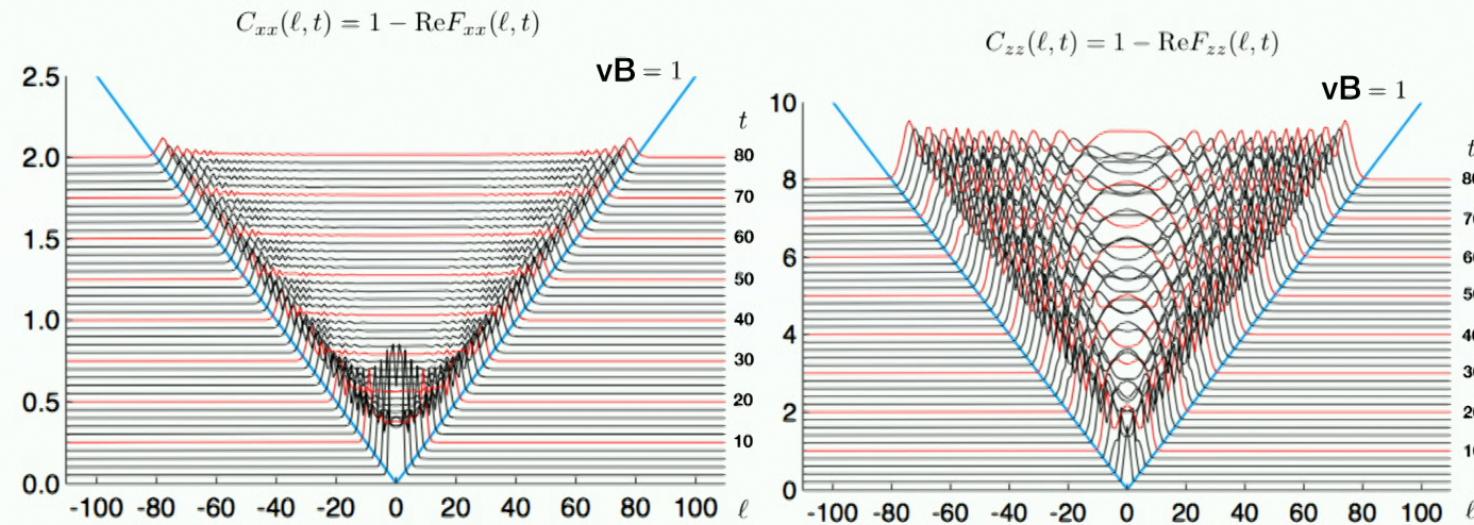
Onset of many-body chaos in the O(N) model, Debanjan Chowdhury and Brian Swingle, [Phys. Rev. D 96, 065005 \(2017\)](#)

And more.....

- **Ballistic operator growth and non-broadening waveform**

## Quantum Ising model

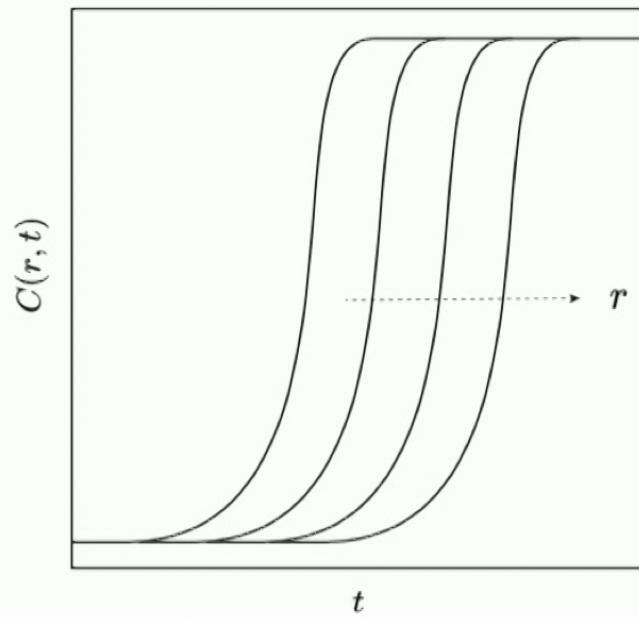
$$H = -\frac{J}{2} \left( \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \sigma_j^z \sigma_{j+1}^z + g \sum_{j=0}^{L-1} \sigma_j^x \right)$$



Not all operator shows saturation inside the butterfly cone.

Broadening operator wavefront  $\sim t^{1/3}$

# Bounded/Unbounded local Hilbert space



Cannot find an asymptotically large time window to define exponential growth on lattice models with bounded local Hilbert space.

## SYK model

$$C(t) \sim \frac{1}{N} e^{\lambda_L t} \quad 1 \ll Tt \ll \ln N$$

$$\lambda_L = 2\pi T$$

1. Need a small parameter
2. Need an asymptotically large time-window

**Scrambling time**  $C(t_s) \approx 1$

$$t_s \approx \frac{\ln N}{\lambda_L}$$

# A not-very-rigorous relation to quantum information scrambling

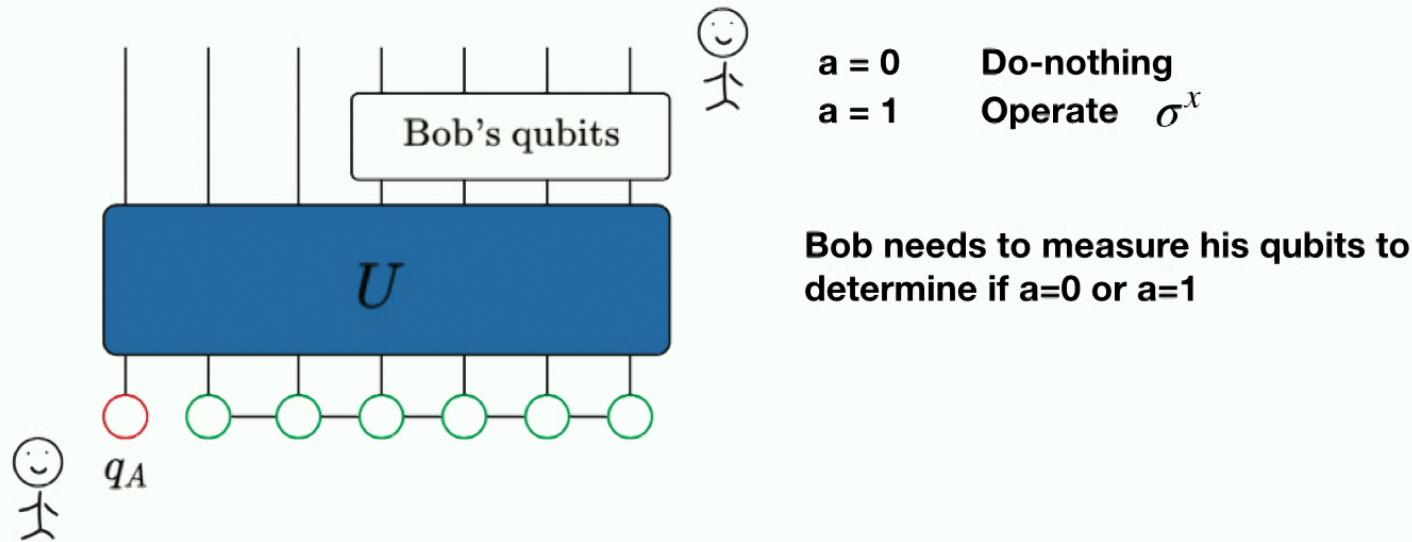


FIG. 1. Alice and Bob try to communicate through a strongly interacting system of  $N$  qubits. The time evolution of the system is described by an unitary operator  $U$ . Alice has full control of the first qubit  $q_A$  and Bob has access to a set of qubits in the system, but not all of them.

**a = 0      Do-nothing**

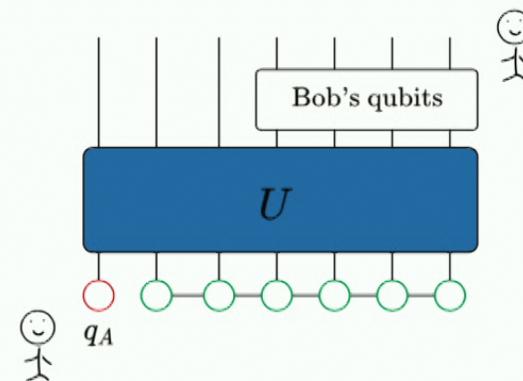
$$\langle O_B \rangle_0 = \langle \psi | U^\dagger O_B U | \psi \rangle = \langle \psi(t) | O_B | \psi(t) \rangle$$

**a = 1      Operate     $\sigma^x$**

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O_B \rangle_1 &= \langle \psi | \sigma_{q_A}^x U^\dagger O_B U \sigma_{q_A}^x | \psi \rangle \\ &= \langle \psi(t) | \sigma_{q_A}^x (-t) O_B \sigma_{q_A}^x (-t) | \psi(t) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle O_B \rangle_0 - \langle O_B \rangle_1 = \langle \psi(t) | \sigma^x(-t) [\sigma^x(-t), O_B] | \psi(t) \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} |\langle O_B \rangle_1 - \langle O_B \rangle_0|^2 &\leq \langle \psi(t) | [\sigma_{q_A}^x (-t), O_B]^\dagger [\sigma_{q_A}^x (-t), O_B] | \psi(t) \rangle \\ &\leq \|[\sigma_{q_A}^x (-t), O_B]\|_\infty^2 \end{aligned}$$



**OTOC measures when does the information reach.**

**Here the example is a bit “boring” since the information is classical.**

- **The quantum problem: Bob needs to recover the quantum information by measuring his part of the qubits.**
- **OTOC is also a proxy of how “delocalized” the quantum information is (~how many qubits Bob has to have to recover the quantum info.) — quantum information scrambling.**

Chaos in quantum channels, JHEP, volume 2016, Article number: 4 (2016), Pavan Hosur, Xiao-Liang Qi, Daniel A. Roberts & Beni Yoshida

## Holographic models

See for example,

- Localized shocks, Daniel A. Roberts, Douglas Stanford & Leonard Susskind, Journal of High Energy Physics **2015**, 51 (2015) (arXiv: 1409.8180)
- A bound on chaos, J Maldacena, SH Shenker, D Stanford - Journal of High Energy Physics, **2016**, 106 (2016) (arXiv: 1503.01409)
- A. Kitaev, A simple model of quantum holography, in KITP Program: Entanglement in Strongly-Correlated Quantum Matter (2015)

and references therein.

## (Regularized) OTOC

$$F_{WV}(r, t) \equiv \mathbf{tr}(\rho^{1/2} W^\dagger(t) V^\dagger \rho^{1/2} W(t) V) \quad \rho \sim e^{-\beta H}$$

## Randomized measurement

- Probing Scrambling Using Statistical Correlations between Randomized Measurements, B. Vermersch, A. Elben, L.M. Sieberer, N.Y. Yao, and P. Zoller, Phys. Rev. X **9**, 021061
- X. Nie, Z. Zhang, X. Zhao, T. Xin, D. Lu, and J. Li, Detecting scrambling via statistical correlations between randomized measurements on an nmr quantum simulator, [arXiv preprint arXiv:1903.12237](https://arxiv.org/abs/1903.12237) (2019).
- M. K. Joshi, A. Elben, B. Vermersch, T. Brydges, C. Maier, P. Zoller, R. Blatt, and C. F. Roos, Quantum information scrambling in a trapped-ion quantum simulator with tunable range interactions, [Physical Review Letters](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.124.240505) **124**, 240505 (2020).

$$F(\psi) = \langle \psi | W(t) | \psi \rangle \langle \psi | V^\dagger W(t) V | \psi \rangle$$

Average the initial state over Haar ensemble

$$\mathbb{E}_\psi F(\psi) = \frac{1}{2^N(2^N+1)} \text{tr}(W(t)) \text{tr}(V^\dagger W(t) V) + \frac{1}{2^N(2^N+1)} \text{tr}(W(t) V^\dagger W(t) V)$$

If choose traceless W, we get OTOC.