

# 3. The SYK model

Today we will study the QM side. We will focus on the SYK model:

- Understand the model
- Compute the two-point functions
- See the emergence of the Schwarzian in the IR and the linear-in-T specific heat.

3.1 SYK model is a simple, finite quantum mechanical model.

The protagonists will be  $N$  Majorana fermions:

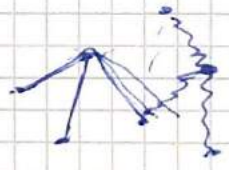
$$\Psi_i \quad i=1, \dots, N \quad \Psi_i = \Psi_i^\dagger \quad \{\Psi_i, \Psi_j\} = \delta_{ij} \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N$$

One can explicitly build this recursively  $\rightarrow \Psi_i$  are  $2^{N/2} \times 2^{N/2}$  matrices.

The SYK Hamiltonian is given by:

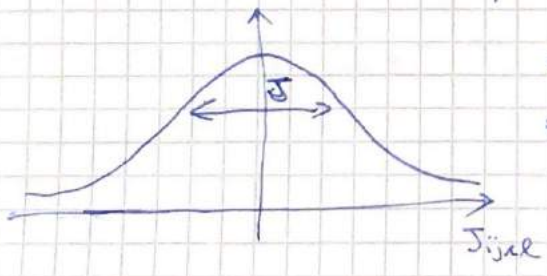
$$\frac{N!}{4!(N-4)!} J^4$$

$$H = \sum_{ijkl=1}^N J_{ijkl} \Psi_i \Psi_j \Psi_k \Psi_l$$



So it is also a  $2^{N/2} \times 2^{N/2}$  matrix. The "couplings"  $J_{ijkl}$  are all-to-all couplings that are chosen randomly from a Gaussian ensemble with mean  $\mu=0$  and variance  $\sigma = \frac{J}{N^{3/2}}$ .

(DISORDERED QUIVERS)  
 =  
 COE HORIZONS  
 Amns. Anns. Surf.



- \*  $J$  is fixed
- \* The scaling w/  $N$  is important for the large- $N$  limit.

\* We will study averages over couplings



• Fermions in QM

We want to find representations of the Clifford algebra

$$\{\psi_i, \psi_j\} = \delta_{ij} \quad i, j = 1, \dots, N$$

Majorana fermions so  $\psi_i = \psi_i^\dagger$ .

Now let's define  $c_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\psi_{2i} - i \psi_{2i+1})$    
 (Assuming  $N=2k$ , even)  $c_i^\dagger = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\psi_{2i} + i \psi_{2i+1})$    
 $i = 1, \dots, k$    
~~Assume  $N=2k$~~    
~~assuming~~

$\Rightarrow$  It is easy to prove that  $\{c_i, c_j\} = \{c_i^\dagger, c_j^\dagger\} = 0$

$$\{c_i, c_j^\dagger\} = \delta_{ij}$$

$\Rightarrow$  This are the canonical anti-commutation relations for fermions.

$\Rightarrow$  Now we know how to build the representation

Take  $|0\rangle$  such that  $c_i |0\rangle = 0$  and then the states of the basis are

$$(c_1^\dagger)^{n_1} \dots (c_k^\dagger)^{n_k} |0\rangle \quad w | n_i = 0, 1$$

$\Rightarrow$  It is clear now that the Hilbert state has dimension  $2^k = 2^{N/2}$ .

• How do we build the representation? We can do it recursively =

\* For  $N=2 \Rightarrow \psi_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \psi_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

\* For any  $k \Rightarrow \psi_1^{(k)} = \psi_1^{(k-1)} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad i=1, \dots, N-2$

$$\psi_{N-1}^{(k)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} I_{2^{k-1}} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\Rightarrow \psi_i = 2^{N/2} \times 2^{N/2}$  matrices  $\psi_N^{(k)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} I_{2^{k-1}} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

- At operational level:
  - Choose the random couplings
  - Compute everything
  - Choose another set of couplings.
  - Repeat
  - Average over all results.

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- Sometimes, we will also talk about the q-SYK,

$$H_q = i^{q/2} \sum J_{i_1 \dots i_q} \psi_{i_1} \dots \psi_{i_q}$$

$$J \approx \frac{J}{N^{q/2}}$$

### 3.2 Solving the model in the large-N limit

- Two ways:
  - a. Path integral.
  - b. Diagrams.

- a. We are more familiar w/ actions than  $H$ , so:
 

(Euclidean)

$$S_{\text{SYK}} = \int d\tau \left[ \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \dot{\psi}_i \partial_\tau \psi_i + \sum_{1 \leq i_1 < i_2 < i_3 < i_4 \leq N} J_{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4} \psi_{i_1} \psi_{i_2} \psi_{i_3} \psi_{i_4} \right]$$

If I want the partition function then

$$Z(J_{ijkl}) = \int D\psi_i e^{-S_{\text{SYK}}}$$

Now we need to introduce the average over  $J$ 's.

CAUTION: How to do it

$$\langle Z \rangle_J \sim \int dJ_{ijkl} e^{-\sum \frac{J_{ijkl}^2}{2 \left( \frac{3! J^2}{N^3} \right)}} Z(J_{ijkl})$$

The point is to compute the two point fn.

$$G_{ij}(\tau, \tau') = \langle T \psi_i(\tau) \psi_j(\tau') \rangle$$

See section 4.3  
G. Sarosi

$$\Rightarrow G(\tau, \tau') = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N G_{ii}(\tau, \tau')$$

$$1 = \int D\psi \delta(NG - \sum_i \psi_i \psi_i)$$

Lagrange multiplier  $\Sigma$



b. large-N diagrams

Ok, now it's time to treat SYK as a 0+1 QFT. We have free fermions when  $J=0$  and we will do perturbation theory in  $J$ .

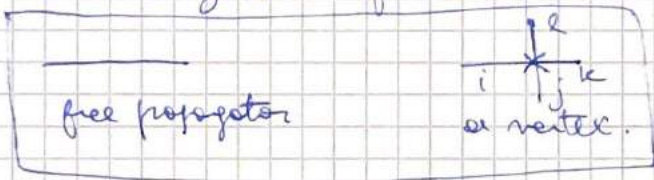
Let's remember some things:  $\psi_i(\tau) = e^{\tau H} \psi_i e^{-\tau H}$

\*  $J=0 \Rightarrow H=0 \Rightarrow \psi_i(\tau) \equiv \psi_i$  and  $\{\psi_i, \psi_j\} = \delta_{ij}$

$$G_{ij}^{free}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \text{sgn}(\tau)$$

$$G^{free}(\tau) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i,j} G_{ij}^{free} = \frac{1}{2} \text{sgn} \tau.$$

\* For each realization of the model we have



\* We need to do a diagram and then average over disorder  $\Rightarrow$  this is gaussian  $\Rightarrow$  we will treat  $J_{ijkl}$  as a "field" with

$$\langle J_{i_1 j_1 k_1 l_1} J_{i_2 j_2 k_2 l_2} \rangle_J = \frac{3! J^2}{N^3} \delta_{i_1 i_2} \delta_{j_1 j_2} \delta_{k_1 k_2} \delta_{l_1 l_2}$$

\* So let's draw some diagrams.

- Note that we always need even vertices because

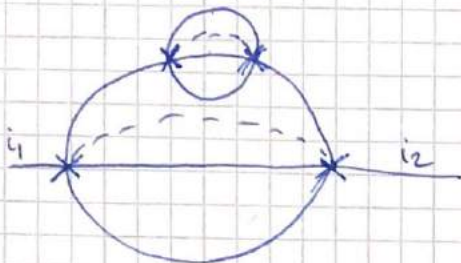
$$\langle J_{ijkl} \rangle = 0$$

$$* G(\tau) = \overbrace{\text{---}}^{G^{free}} + \left( \text{---} \times \text{---} \right)_J + \dots$$

$$\left( \text{---} \times \text{---} \right)_J = \frac{3! J^2}{N^3} \delta_{i_1 i_2} \delta_{j_1 j_2} \delta_{k_1 k_2} \delta_{l_1 l_2}$$

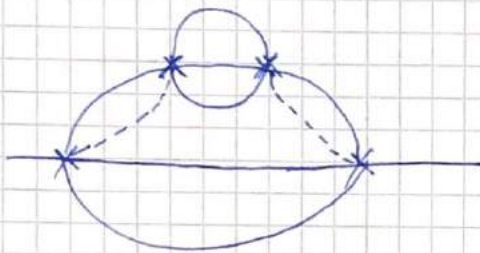
$$= J^2 \cdot N^0 (G^{free})^3 = \frac{3! J^2}{N^3} G_{i_1 l_1} G_{k_1 j_1} G_{j_1 i_2} G_{i_2 k_2}$$

\* Now  $J^4$



$$= \frac{J^4}{N^6} (G_{kk}^{free})^5 \underbrace{G_{l_1 l_3} G_{l_1 l_3}}_{\delta_{l_1 l_3} \rightarrow G_{ll}} \delta_{i_1 i_2}$$

$$= \frac{J^4}{N^6} (G_{kk}^{free})^6 = \boxed{J^4 \cdot N^0}$$



$$= \frac{J^4}{N^6} (G_{kk}^{free})^2$$

$$\begin{cases} G_{i_1 i_2} \{ G_{i_1 j_2} G_{k_1 k_2} \\ G_{i_1 i_2} \{ G_{i_1 j_2} \end{cases}$$

$$= \frac{J^4}{N^6} (G_{kk}^{free})^2 G_{ii}^{free} G_{jj}^{free} G_{k_1 k_2}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{J^4}{N^2}}$$

$\Rightarrow$  in the large- $N$  limit this diagram is suppressed

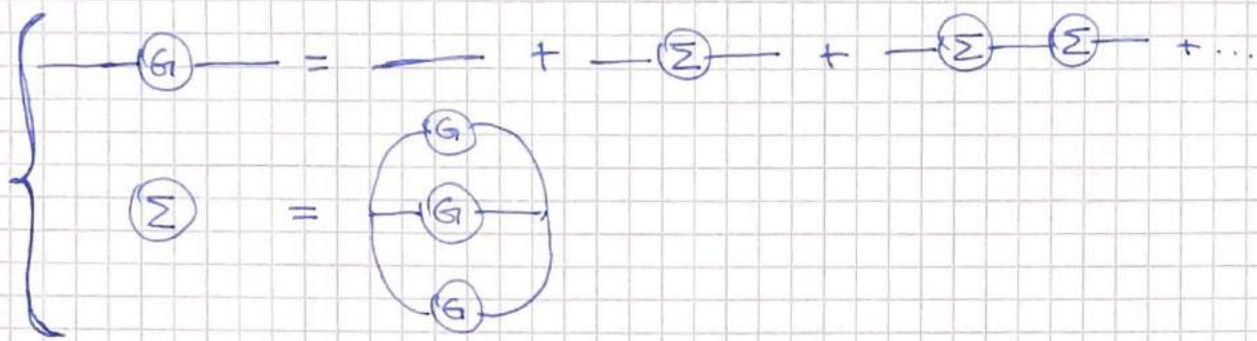
(like planar diagrams for matrices)

Show diagrams in Truncation

$$\Rightarrow G(\tau) = \text{---} + \text{---} \circ \text{---} + \text{---} \circ \text{---} \circ \text{---} + \text{---} \circ \text{---} + \dots$$



We can write this as:



1<sup>o</sup> line:  $G^{free} + G^{free} \Sigma G^{free} + G^{free} \Sigma G^{free} \Sigma G^{free} + \dots$

$$G^{free} [1 + \Sigma G^{free} + \Sigma G^{free} \Sigma G^{free} + \dots]$$

geometric sum  $\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (\Sigma G)^k = \frac{1}{1 - \Sigma G}$

$$= \frac{G^{free}}{(1 - \Sigma G^{free})^{-1}}$$

$$G = ((G^{free})^{-1} - \Sigma)^{-1}$$

But we know  $(G^{free})^{-1} = \frac{\delta(\tau - \tau')}{2c}$

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} G = (\partial_c - \Sigma)^{-1} \\ \Sigma = J^2 G^3 \end{cases}$$

$$\stackrel{or}{=} \begin{cases} G = (\partial_c - \Sigma)^{-1} \\ \Sigma = J^2 G^3 \end{cases}$$

Dyson-Schwinger equations

We managed to "solve" the theory at large-N at all orders in  $J \nabla \nabla$

well we haven't solved it yet.

### 3.3 Solutions to SD eqs

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} G = (\partial_c - \Sigma)^{-1} \\ \Sigma = J^2 G^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \end{array} \right.$$

Free  
fermions

UV  
( $J=0$ )  
 $J(\tau-\tau') \ll 1$

??  
IR  
 $J(\tau-\tau') \gg 1$

$\partial_c$  is a very UV term. In fact  $\partial_c = \delta(\tau-\tau') \partial_{\tau'}$ . So let's neglect it for now and see what happens.

Crucial observation: These eqs. have an extra symmetry

$$\tau \rightarrow \phi(\tau) \quad \& \quad G(\tau, \tau') \rightarrow [\phi'(\tau) \phi'(\tau')]^{\Delta} G(\phi(\tau), \phi(\tau'))$$

$$\Sigma(\tau, \tau') \rightarrow [\phi'(\tau) \phi'(\tau')]^{\Delta(p-1)} \Sigma(\phi(\tau), \phi(\tau'))$$

$\Rightarrow$  so both are conformal two point functions. It turns out that  $\Delta = 1/q$ .

EMERGENT CONFORMAL SYMMETRY  
in the IR, that is EXPLICITLY  
BROKEN by the  $\partial_c$  term.

$\Rightarrow$  If it has conformal symmetry  $\Rightarrow$  what's the 2-pt fun?

$$G_c(\tau) = \frac{\# \operatorname{sgn}(\tau)}{|\tau|^{2\Delta}}$$

$$\Sigma_c = J^2 \#^{\frac{p-1}{p}} \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\tau)}{|\tau|^{\Delta(p-1)}}$$

Solves the SD eqs in the IR.

• Reparametrizations are also solutions. But some reparametrizations also leave the solution unchanged

$$\tau \rightarrow \alpha\phi(\tau) \quad \phi(\tau) = \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d} \quad ad - bc = 1$$

The solution spontaneously breaks the reparametrization sym to  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ .



# Emergence of the Schwarzian

Rosenhaus 1807.03334

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We found an entire space of solutions

$$G(\tau, \tau') = b \frac{\text{sgn}(\tau_2)}{J^{2\Delta}} \frac{\phi'(\tau)^\Delta \phi'(\tau')^\Delta}{|\phi(\tau) - \phi(\tau')|^{2\Delta}}$$

Now we want to move a bit away from the conformal point. then we need to include the effect of the  $\delta(\tau - \tau')$ . The idea would be to use the conformal solution but expand it for short times  $J|\tau - \tau'| \ll 1$ .

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \tau - \tau' = \tau_- \\ \tau + \tau' = \tau_+ \end{array} \right\} G \rightarrow b \frac{\text{sgn}(\tau_-)}{J^{2\Delta}} \left( 1 + \frac{\Delta}{6} \tau_-^2 \text{Sch}(f(\tau_+, \tau_+)) + \dots \right)$$

Plugging this into the action we get

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \frac{N}{J} \int d\tau_+ \text{Sch}(f(\tau), \tau) + \dots$$

## Thermodynamics at large $q$

So far we know  $\frac{\text{free fermions}}{UV} \quad ?? \quad \frac{\text{Near conformal}}{IR}$

At large  $q$ , we can solve all the way. Remember  $q$  is the number of fermions interacting.

$$G = \frac{\text{sgn} \tau}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{g(\tau)}{q} + \dots \right) \Rightarrow \begin{cases} G = (\partial \tau - \Sigma)^{-1} \\ \Sigma = J^2 G^{q-1} \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\partial_\tau^2 g(\tau) = J^2 e^{2g(\tau)}} \quad g(0) = g(\beta) = 0$$

$$e^{g(\tau)} = \frac{2v^2}{\sqrt{(BJ)^2 v^2} \cos(v(\frac{2\pi\tau}{B} - 1))} ; \quad \cos v = \frac{2v^2}{BS}$$



But for  $\beta J \gg 1$ ,  $V = \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{\pi}{\beta J} + \frac{2\pi}{(\beta J)^2} + \dots$

$$\beta F = -\frac{N\beta}{g^2} \int_0^\beta d\tau \left[ (\partial_\tau \theta)^2 + \frac{J^2}{2} e^{2\theta} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \beta F = -\frac{N}{g^2} \left[ \beta J - \frac{\pi^2}{4} + \frac{\pi^2}{2\beta J} \right] + \frac{N}{2} \log 2$$

$$S = S_0 + \frac{N}{g^2} \left( -\frac{\pi^2}{4} + \frac{\pi^2}{\beta J} + \dots \right)$$

$$C = \frac{N}{g^2} \frac{\pi^2}{\beta J}$$

→ As promised, SYK gives linear-in-T specific heat.

SUMMARY

: We studied the SYK model

- QM fermions in the large N w/ disorder
- We found that in the IR, there is an emergent <sup>reparameterization</sup> ~~U(1)~~ symmetry that is broken explicitly and spontaneously.
- The "soft mode" action is Schwarzian and in the low temperature limit, the entropy is linear in T.

• Resumen:

clase 2:  $S_{JT} = -\frac{\phi_0}{16\pi G_N} \left[ \int_{\mathcal{H}} d^2x \sqrt{h} R + 2 \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} K \right]$

2d gravity

$$-\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \left[ \int_{\mathcal{H}} d^2x \sqrt{h} \phi(R+2) \right] + \int_{\partial\mathcal{M}} \phi_b K$$

clase 3:  $H_{\text{SYK}} = \frac{1}{4J} \sum_{i,j,k,l=1}^N J_{ijkl} \Psi_i \Psi_j \Psi_k \Psi_l$

QM  
cl disorder

$$\langle J_{ijkl} J_{ijkl} \rangle = \frac{J^2}{N^3}$$

Parámetros en la teoría de gravedad:  $G_N, \phi_0, \tilde{\phi}$

Parámetros en la teoría de SYK:  $N, S_0, J$

$$\Rightarrow S_{JT} = \frac{\phi_0}{4G} + \frac{\tilde{\phi} \pi}{4G} \cdot \frac{1}{\beta} + \dots$$

$$S_{\text{SYK}} = N \underbrace{\left( \frac{1}{2} \log 2 - \frac{\pi^2}{924} \right)}_{S_0} + \frac{N}{J^2} \frac{\pi^2}{\beta^2} + \dots$$

Entonces podemos fácilmente identificar:

$G_N \sim \frac{1}{N}$
$\phi_0 \sim S_0$
$\tilde{\phi} \sim \frac{1}{J}$

\* Obviamente no sabemos cual es (ni si existe) una teoría dual en el bulk a SYK (una teoría de cuerdas?)

• String theory black hole solution as SYK??

Sin embargo, sigue siendo un buen "toy model" para estudiar gravedad cuántica y la emergencia del espacio-tiempo.



