

BLACK HOLE STATES IN QUANTUM SPIN CHAINS

by

CHARLOTTE KRISTJANSEN and KONSTANTIN ZAREMBO

arXiv : 2512.23432 v2

Journal Club by ANA RETORE (February 2026)

GOALS:

- * DEFINE BLACK HOLE STATES
IN $A(N)$ (INTEGRABLE) SPIN CHAIN ;
- * STUDY THEIR PROPERTIES ;
- * CONNECT WITH AdS/CFT ;

THE PROTOTYPE MODEL

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^L \vec{\sigma}_i \cdot \vec{\sigma}_{i+1}$$

– SU(2) invariant

– INTEGRABLE

Heisenberg Spin Chain

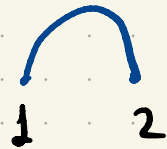
PLAUSIBILITY ARGUMENTS:

1) BLACK-HOLE STATE SHOULD BE A SPIN SINGLET
(BLACK-HOLES HAVE NO HAIR)

2) IT SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY GENERIC TO
REFLECT BLACK-HOLES CHAOTIC NATURE

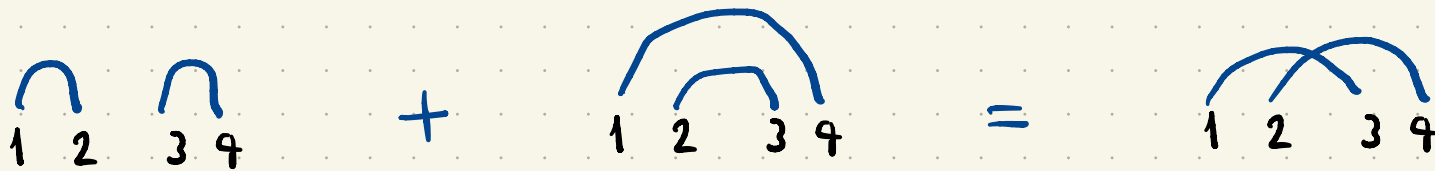
FIRST TASK : ENUMERATE SINGLET

$L=2$ anti-symmetric combination $\epsilon_{\alpha_1 \alpha_2}$, where $\alpha_i \in \{\uparrow, \downarrow\}$



$$|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle$$

$L=4$ three ways to distribute 4 spins in pairs



$$\epsilon_{\alpha_1 \alpha_2} \epsilon_{\alpha_3 \alpha_4} + \epsilon_{\alpha_1 \alpha_4} \epsilon_{\alpha_2 \alpha_3} = \epsilon_{\alpha_1 \alpha_3} \epsilon_{\alpha_2 \alpha_4}$$

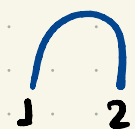
RUMER 1932

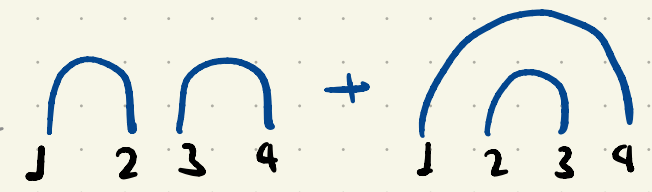


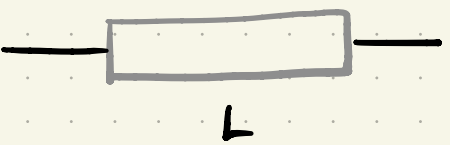
RUMER'S IDENTITY can be used to eliminate crossings for any number of spins

The non-crossing pairings are linearly independent and form a complete basis of singlets

$|BH\rangle$: SUM OF ALL NON-CROSSING PAIRINGS WITH EQUAL WEIGHTS

$$|BH_2\rangle = \sum_{\alpha, \beta = \{\uparrow, \downarrow\}} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} |\alpha\rangle \otimes |\beta\rangle$$


$$|BH_4\rangle = \sum_{\alpha, \beta} \left(\epsilon_{\alpha\beta} |\alpha\rangle \otimes |\beta\rangle \otimes |BH_2\rangle + \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} |\alpha\rangle \otimes |BH_2\rangle \otimes |\beta\rangle \right)$$


$$\vdots$$


$$= \sum_{n=1}^{L/2} \text{Diagram of two segments: one of length } 2n-2 \text{ with a self-loop, and another of length } L-2n$$

$$|BH_L\rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{L/2} \sum_{\alpha\beta} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} |\alpha\rangle \otimes |BH_{2n-2}\rangle \otimes |\beta\rangle \otimes |BH_{L-2n}\rangle$$

WHERE IS INTEGRABILITY BROKEN?

$$Q_3 = i \sum_l \vec{\sigma}_l \cdot (\vec{\sigma}_{l+1} \times \vec{\sigma}_{l+2})$$

$$[Q_3, H] = 0$$

TO PRESERVE INTEGRABILITY A BOUNDARY STATE SATISFIES

$$Q_3 | \text{state} \rangle = 0$$

BUT

$$Q_3 | \text{BH} \rangle \neq 0$$

$\Rightarrow$ EXPECT CHAOTIC
FEATURES

WHAT NOW ?

$$1) \quad Q_3 |BH\rangle \neq 0$$

VS

$$2) \quad VBS^{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_L} = \xi^{\alpha_1 \alpha_2} \dots \xi^{\alpha_{L-1} \alpha_L}$$
$$Q_3 VBS^{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_L} = 0$$

STUDY :

* ENTANGLEMENT ENTROPY

* THERMALIZATION

* KRYLOV COMPLEXITY

* ENTANGLEMENT ENTROPY

$$\mathcal{H} = \underbrace{\mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \mathbb{C}^2 \otimes \dots \otimes \mathbb{C}^2}_{L \text{ sites}} = (\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes \ell} \otimes (\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes L-\ell}$$

$S(\ell)$ entanglement entropy of the subspace of length ℓ of the spin chain with respect to the full $(\mathbb{C}^2)^{\otimes L}$ chain

FOR CRITICAL (GAPLESS) SYSTEMS $S(\ell)$ for the ground state:

$$S(\ell) = \frac{c}{3} \log \left(\frac{\ell}{\pi} \sin \frac{\pi \ell}{L} \right) + c_1'$$

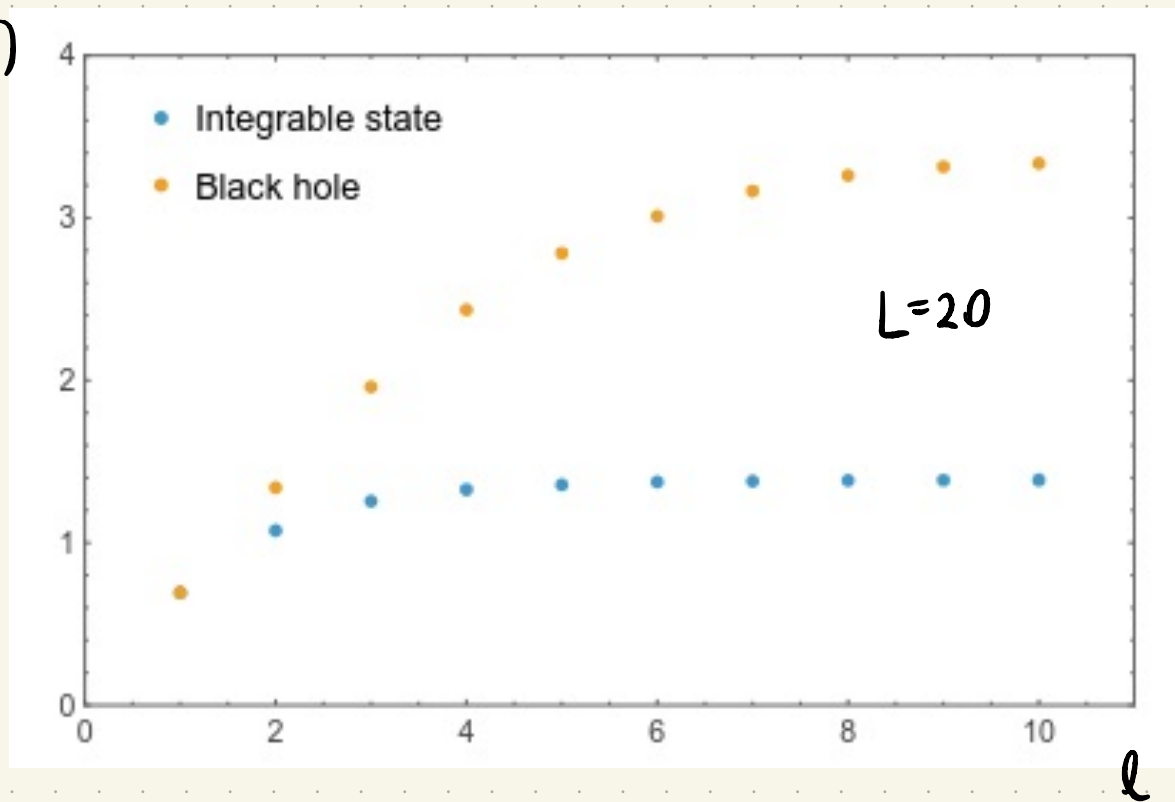
FOR GAPPED STATES:

S constant

FOR THERMAL STATES:

S linear in ℓ .

$S(l)$



* $S(l)$ increases logarithmically

but with $c = 5.2 \gg$ than integrable models

for Heisenberg $c=1$

* KRYLOV COMPLEXITY

Measures to what extent an operator or a state explores a system's Hilbert space under time evolution

Krylov space of order K :

space spanned by $\{|\Psi_0\rangle, H|\Psi_0\rangle, H^2|\Psi_0\rangle, \dots, H^{K-1}|\Psi_0\rangle\}$

Lanczos
algorithm

orthonormal basis

$\{\psi_0, \psi_1, \dots, \psi_{K-1}\}$

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & b_1 & & & \\ b_1 & a_1 & b_2 & & \\ & b_2 & a_2 & b_3 & \\ & & b_3 & a_3 & \ddots \\ & & & \ddots & \ddots & b_{K-1} \\ & & & & b_{K-1} & a_{K-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Study the time evolution of $|\psi_0\rangle$ in this new basis

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{K-1} \psi_n(t) |\psi_n\rangle, \quad |\psi(0)\rangle = |\psi_0\rangle$$

↓ Schrödinger equation

$$i \frac{\partial \psi_n(t)}{\partial t} = b_n \psi_{n-1}(t) + a_n \psi_n(t) + b_{n+1} \psi_{n+1}(t) \quad \psi_n(t) \Big|_{t=0} = \delta_{n,0}$$

Define Krylov space position operator

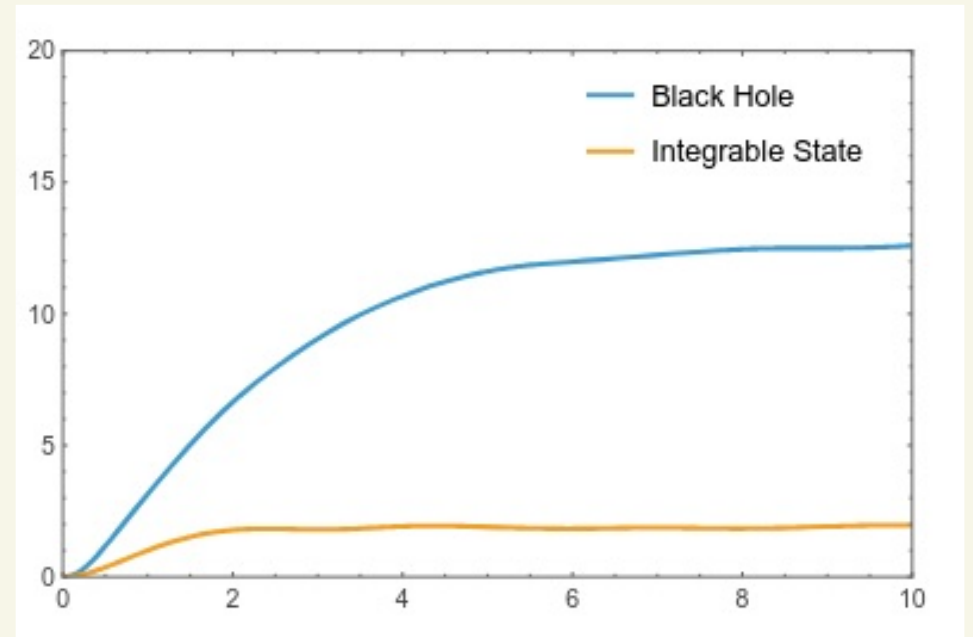
$$\hat{n} = \sum_{n=1}^{K-1} |\psi_n\rangle \langle \psi_n|$$

KRYLOV COMPLEXITY

$$C_K(t) = \langle \psi(t) | \hat{n} | \psi(t) \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{K-1} n |\psi_n(t)|^2$$

To remove short scale oscillations

$$\overline{C}_K(t) = \int_0^t \frac{C_K(s) ds}{t}$$



CONCLUSION : THE INTEGRABLE MODEL EXPLORES A SMALLER REGION OF THE HILBERT SPACE IN COMPARISON WITH $|BH\rangle$

THERMAL ONE-POINT FUNCTIONS

FULL SET OF SCALAR OPERATORS IN $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM

$$\mathcal{O} = \bar{\Psi}^{i_1 \dots i_L} \text{tr } \Phi_{i_1} \dots \Phi_{i_L} \quad i_1, \dots, i_L \in \{1, \dots, 6\}$$

ONE-LOOP DILATATION OPERATOR $\sim$ $SO(6)$ INTEGRABLE SPIN CHAIN

IN THE THERMAL ENSEMBLE, ONE-POINT FUNCTION IN LINEAR ORDER IN PERTURBATION THEORY CAN BE COMPUTED BY

— CONTRACT IDENTICAL FIELDS PAIRWISE WITH THE THERMAL PROPAGATOR

$$D_{\beta}(x) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{1}{(t+n\beta)^2 + x}$$

THERMAL EFFECTS ENCODED IN $D_{\beta}(x) - D_{\infty}(x)$

THE FULL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ONE-POINT FUNCTION IS

$$\langle \Theta \rangle = \frac{1}{L} \left(\frac{\pi T}{\sqrt{3}} \right)^L \frac{\langle BH | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle^{1/2}}$$

WHERE

$$|BH_L\rangle = \sum_{n=1}^{L/2} \sum_{i=1}^6 |i\rangle \otimes |BH_{2n-2}\rangle \otimes |i\rangle \otimes |BH_{L-2n}\rangle$$

* BREAKS INTEGRABILITY

* PLANAR DO NOT CONSTITUTE A FULL BASIS OF SINGLETs FOR THE $SO(6)$ SPIN CHAIN

SUMMARY

- ✗ DEFINED A BLACK-HOLE STATE IN A SPIN CHAIN
- ✗ DEMONSTRATED CHAOTIC BEHAVIOUR SIGNS VIA THREE DIFFERENT METHODS
- ✗ OPEN QUESTION: UNDERSTAND THE LOGARITHM GROWTH IN THE ENTANGLEMENT ENTROPY

SUMMARY

- ✗ DEFINED A BLACK-HOLE STATE IN A SPIN CHAIN
- ✗ DEMONSTRATED CHAOTIC BEHAVIOUR SIGNS VIA THREE DIFFERENT METHODS
- ✗ OPEN QUESTION: UNDERSTAND THE LOGARITHM GROWTH IN THE ENTANGLEMENT ENTROPY

THANK YOU!