





Thermalization and Non-Thermalization in a Programmable Spin Chain of Trapped Ions

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Designer Quantum Systems Out of Equilibrium KITP – Santa Barbara, CA

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Classical and Quantum Thermodynamics



Closed Quantum Systems

Can a system thermalize anyway?

Yes! ... If there is lots of entanglement



Excited States and Floquet Systems



Unique Physics in Excited States:

- More generic part of the spectrum
- Necessary for describing thermal or out-of-equilibrium states
- Is there universal behavior in these states as well?

Interesting Cases:

Many-body localization



• Floquet Systems



Preparation Schemes:

- Quantum Quenches
- Many-body excitations
- Periodic Hamiltonian Modulation

Non-Equilibrium Studies with Trapped Ions

Systems of trapped ions can exhibit tunable long range interactions

- Breaks Integrability
- Theoretically Challenging
- Model for quantum systems in nature

Excited States and Out-Of-Equilibrium

Phenpennetations after a global quench [1]

- Dynamics of excited state quasiparticles [2,3]
- Excited state many-body spectroscopy [4]
- Many Body Localization [5] and Prethermalization [6]
- Floquet Systems and Discrete Time Crystals [7]

[1] Richerme et al., (Nature 2014)

[2] Jurcevic et al., (Nature 2014); [3] Jurcevic et al., (PRL 2015)

[4] Senko et al., (Science 2015); [5] Smith et al., (Nphys 2016)

[6] Neyenhuis et al., (arXiv: 1608.00681); [7] Zhang, Hess, et al. (arXiv: 1609.08684)

Long-Range Transverse Field Ising Model

$$H_{eff} = \sum_{i < j} J^{i,j} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \frac{B}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z$$

$$J^{i,j} \approx \frac{J_0}{\left|i - j\right|^{\alpha}}$$



Overview

- 1. Generating Long Range Interacting Hamiltonians
- 2. Many Body Localization in Disordered Potentials
- 3. Observing Discrete Time Crystals in Driven Systems



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Trapped Ions for Quantum Simulation

Necessary Ingredients:

- ✓ Spin-1/2 degree of freedom for each ion
- Preparation of arbitrary product states
- Readout of magnetization of each spin in a 'single shot'
- ✓ Use optical dipole force to generate long range interaction between spins $H_{eff} = \sum_{i < i} J^{i,j} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \frac{B}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z$
- ✓ Generating disordered potential for MBL work

$$+ \sum_{i} \frac{D_{i}}{2} \sigma_{i}^{z}$$

Néel State

Ion Image

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Quantum Operations from "Global Laser Beams"

1) State Preparation Via Optical Pumping

2) Coherent Rotations with Optical Raman Transitions

3) Single Shot State Readout Via Fluorescence

4) Single Site Imaging Resolution



Programmable Local Fields

$$H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i} B_i^z \sigma_i^z$$



A. Lee et al., PRA 94, 042308 (2016)

Ion Motional Modes



Generating Spin-Spin Couplings



Generating Spin-Spin Couplings



The Interaction Graph



 α controllable via sideband detunings and trap parameters

Global Effective Magnetic Fields



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Localization and Disorder

How can closed quantum systems thermalize?

 \rightarrow Eigenstate Thermalization Hypothesis

Rigol et al., (Nature 2008); Srednicki (PRE 1994); Deutsch (PRA 1991)

How can closed quantum systems fail to thermalize?

- → Conserved Quantities (Integrability)
- \rightarrow Disorder

Anderson Localization

No Interactions



Anderson (Phys Rev 1957)

Many Body Localization

"Prethermalization"

Strong Interactions + High Temperatures



Basko *et al.,* Ann. Of Phys. **321**, 1126 (2006) A. Pal and D. A. Huse, Phys. Rev. B **82**, 174411 (2010) P. Hauke and M. Heyl, PRB **92**, 134204 (2015)

Signatures of MBL in our system



2

4

6

J_{max}t

8

10

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Long-time growth of Quantum **Fisher Information**

Searching for Thermalization



4. Repeat for different magnetic field strengths

If $(\sigma \downarrow i \uparrow x, z) = 0$ Thermal State









Adding a Disordered Field

 $H_{eff} = \sum_{i < j} J^{i,j} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x + \frac{B}{2} \sum_i \sigma_i^z + \sum_i \frac{D_i}{2} \sigma_i^z$

 $D_i \in [-W, W]$

Adding a Disordered Field



Searching for Many-Body Localization



4. Repeat for different disorder strengths and instances

Increasing Localization with Disorder



Localization in State Space

Observable: Normalized Hamming Distance between initial and final states

$$D(t) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} \langle \psi_0 | \sigma_i^z(t) \sigma_i^z(0) | \psi_0 \rangle \right)$$

→ Counts number of spin flips → $\mathcal{D}(t)$ = 0.5 for thermal systems

 $\rightarrow \mathcal{D}(t) = 0$ for fully localized states



Long Range Interactions



Quantum Fisher Information as a Witness

 Long-time entanglement growth in MBL state

$$O = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (-1)^{i} \frac{\sigma_{i}^{z}}{2}$$

• Full tomography scales exponentially

$$QFI = \left\langle O^2 \right\rangle - \left\langle O \right\rangle^2$$

• Witness: Quantum Fisher Information easily accessible

> J. H. Bardarson, PRL **109**, 017202 (2012) M. Pino, PRB **90**, 174204 (2014) G. Tóth, PRA **85**, 022322 (2012)

QFI vs. Entanglement Entropy



Simulations by M. Heyl and P. Hauke

Long Time Entanglement Growth



J. Smith et al., Nature Physics, DOI: 10.1038 (2016)

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What are Time Crystals?



What are Time Crystals?

Consider a creating a spatial crystal of H_2O



Time Independent

Time Dependent

A Broader Definition of Time Crystals

"No-Go Theorem" for Continuous Time Translational Symmetry Breaking (TTSB)



Discrete Time Crystals

Periodically Driven (Floquet) Hamilton

H(t) = H(t+T)

 $(\mathcal{O}(t)) \neq \langle \mathcal{O}(t+T) \rangle$

Discrete TTSB

Khemani *et al.* (PRL 2016) ; Else, Bauer, Nayak (PRL 2016); N. Yao *et al.* (*arXiv: 1608.02589*) von Keyserlingk, Khemani, Sondhi (PRB 2016)

Requirements for new Time Crystal definition:

- Periodic state dependence at sub-harmonic frequencies
- Robust to perturbations (no fine tuned parameters)
- ✓ Oscillations stabilized by many-body effects

Eliminates most "trivial" Discrete Time Crystals

Realize all three in our chain of trapped ions





Zhang, Hess, et al. arXiv: 1609.08684

$$H = \begin{cases} H_1 = g(1 - \varepsilon) \sum_i \sigma_i^y, & \text{time } t_1 \\ H_2 = \sum_i J_{ij} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x, & \text{time } t_2 \\ H_3 = \sum_i D_i \sigma_i^x & \text{time } t_3 \end{cases}$$





Weak Interactions:

 $0.006 < J \downarrow 0 \ t \downarrow 2 \ < 0.04$



Zhang, Hess, et al. arXiv: 1609.08684

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$$\boxed{\text{Disorder}}_{\begin{array}{c} H_3 = D_j \sigma_i^x \end{array}}$$

$$\underbrace{\text{Strong Disorder:}}_{DJi \ tJ3 \in [0, \pi]}$$

Zhang, Hess, et al. arXiv: 1609.08684



Zhang, Hess, et al. arXiv: 1609.08684

Stabilized Sub-Harmonic Response



Robustness of Stabilized Response



Sub-Harmonic Peak Heights: An Order Parameter



Variance: Signature of Cross-Over



Phase Diagram



Observed Key Signatures of a Discrete Time Crystal:

- ✓ Periodic state dependence at sub-harmonic frequencies
- ✓ Robust to perturbations up to symmetry breaking phase boundary

✓ Oscillations stabilized by many-body interactions

See M. Lukin Talk on Thursday \rightarrow Time Crystals and Localization (Choi et al., arXiv:1610.08057) (Kucsco et al., arXiv: 1609.08216)

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Summary and References

