



Classical Overlap and Area-Type Scaling from Symplectic Reduction

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(with Kristina Giesel & Oliver Friedrich)

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The QI question

- If we are given N qubits, do we know they live in 2^N - dimensional Hilbert space?
- More precisely,
 - a pair of anti-commuting Hermitian unitary operators X and Z defines a qubit.
 - If $\|[X_i, Z_j]\| = 0$, $\forall i \neq j \in \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ then we know we are in 2^N dimensional Hilbert space.

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 - In reality, we hardly have perfect qubits + we have limited computational resources and finite experimental precision, so the actual Hilbert space dimension of such qubits can be difficult to verify.
 - From the theory building POV - you might be tempted to dismiss this as a nuisance.

“ Physical qubits are very close to exact ones, so I can just write them down in exact tensor factors and I expect the deviations from the exact results would be small. ”
 - this line-of-thought is fine when *small* changes actually lead to *small* effects.

Overlapping Qubits

- **HOWEVER**, if you allow the Pauli algebra to overlap, i.e., $\|[P_i, P_j]\| < \epsilon$ then with n exact qubits, then it is possible to spoof $N = \mathcal{O}(\exp(\epsilon^2 n))$ qubits!

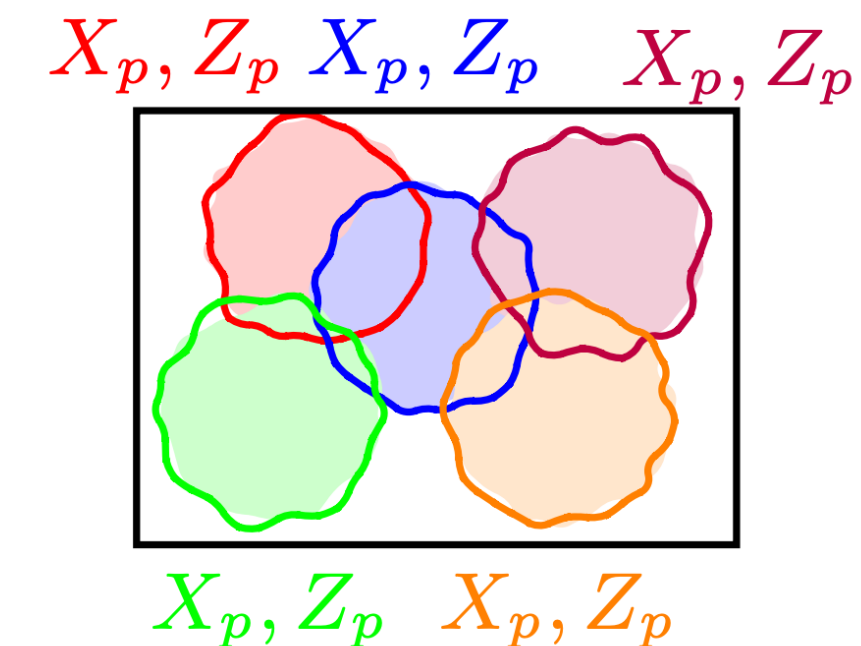
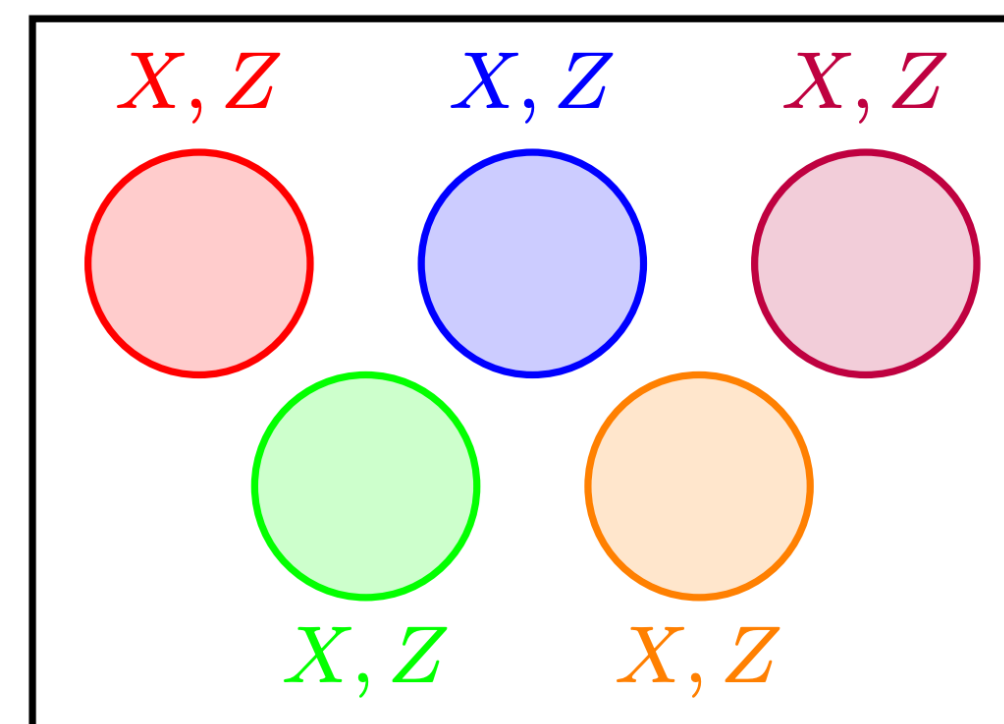
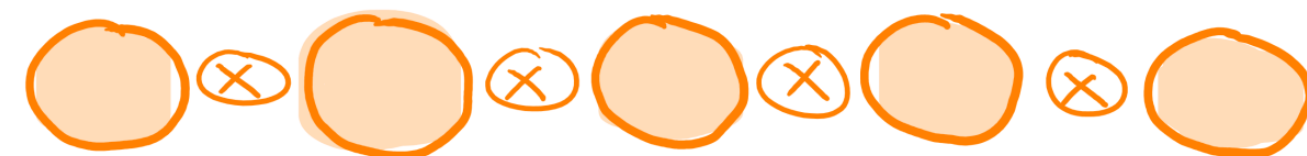
($e^{n\epsilon^2/4}$ many unit vectors can be chosen in $\mathbb{R}^{2n}$ so that any pair $|u\rangle, |v\rangle, |\langle u | v \rangle| \leq \epsilon$.) (Johnson-Lindenstrauss lemma)

Construction (Chao, Reichardt, Sutherland, Vidick 2017):

$$\{(O_1, O_1^\dagger), \dots, (O_n, O_n^\dagger)\} \longrightarrow \widetilde{O}_k := \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{v}_{ki} O_i, \quad k \in [N] \longrightarrow \|\{\widetilde{O}_k, \widetilde{O}_l^\dagger\}\| = \begin{cases} 1, & k = l \\ \mathbf{v}_k^\top \cdot \mathbf{v}_l \leq \epsilon, & k \neq l \end{cases}$$

(Fermion algebra)

Draw N random unit vectors, $\mathbf{v}_k \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and define



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- Verification protocol $\sim \text{poly}(N)$; but with N being exponentially larger than n , it's operationally expensive.
- Furthermore, gravity itself bounds the entropy/information one can have within a region.

We can be fooled into thinking that the Hilbert space is larger than it actually is!

Reminds us of a problem in QG

- Volume vs area scaling

Suppose we naively put a QFT inside a region. Then the Hilbert space seems enormous:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{QFT}} = \bigotimes_{x \in \text{lattice}} \mathcal{H}_x \longrightarrow \text{gives volume-scaling entropy, but BH entropy} \propto \text{Area}.$$

Proposal by (Cao, Chemissany, Jahn, Zimborás 2024): could think of EFT dofs as overlapping qubits spoofing a system with a larger apparent Hilbert space.

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Overlapping qubits from non-isometric maps and de Sitter tensor networks

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Holographic phenomenology via overlapping degrees of freedom

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Gong Cheng^{5,8}  and Ashmeet Singh⁹ 

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$$\hat{\psi}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3 E_{\mathbf{p}}} \left\{ \hat{c}_{\mathbf{p}}(t) u(\mathbf{p}) e^{i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{x}} + \text{anti-particle part...} \right\}$$

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$$\hat{\psi}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3 E_{\mathbf{p}}} \left\{ \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_{\mathbf{p}}(t) u(\mathbf{p}) e^{i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{x}} + \text{anti-particle part...} \right\}$$

$$\|\{\tilde{C}_{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{C}_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger\}\| = v_{\mathbf{p}}^\top \cdot v_{\mathbf{q}} \leq \epsilon$$

$$\text{But, } \{\tilde{C}_{\mathbf{p}}, \tilde{C}_{\mathbf{p}}^\dagger\} = 1$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{C}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{C}_N \\ \tilde{C}_1^\dagger \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{C}_N^\dagger \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{V} \\ \text{matrix of random vectors} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{c}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{c}_n \\ \hat{c}_1^\dagger \\ \vdots \\ \hat{c}_n^\dagger \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} N \propto \text{Volume} \\ n \propto \text{Area} \\ (\text{assumed}) \end{array}$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{C}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{C}_N \\ \tilde{C}_1^\dagger \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{C}_N^\dagger \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \text{blue square} & & \\ & \text{orange square} & \\ & & \text{purple square} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \hat{c}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \hat{c}_n \\ \hat{c}_1^\dagger \\ \vdots \\ \hat{c}_n^\dagger \end{pmatrix}$$

$N \propto \text{Volume}$
 $n \propto \text{Area}$
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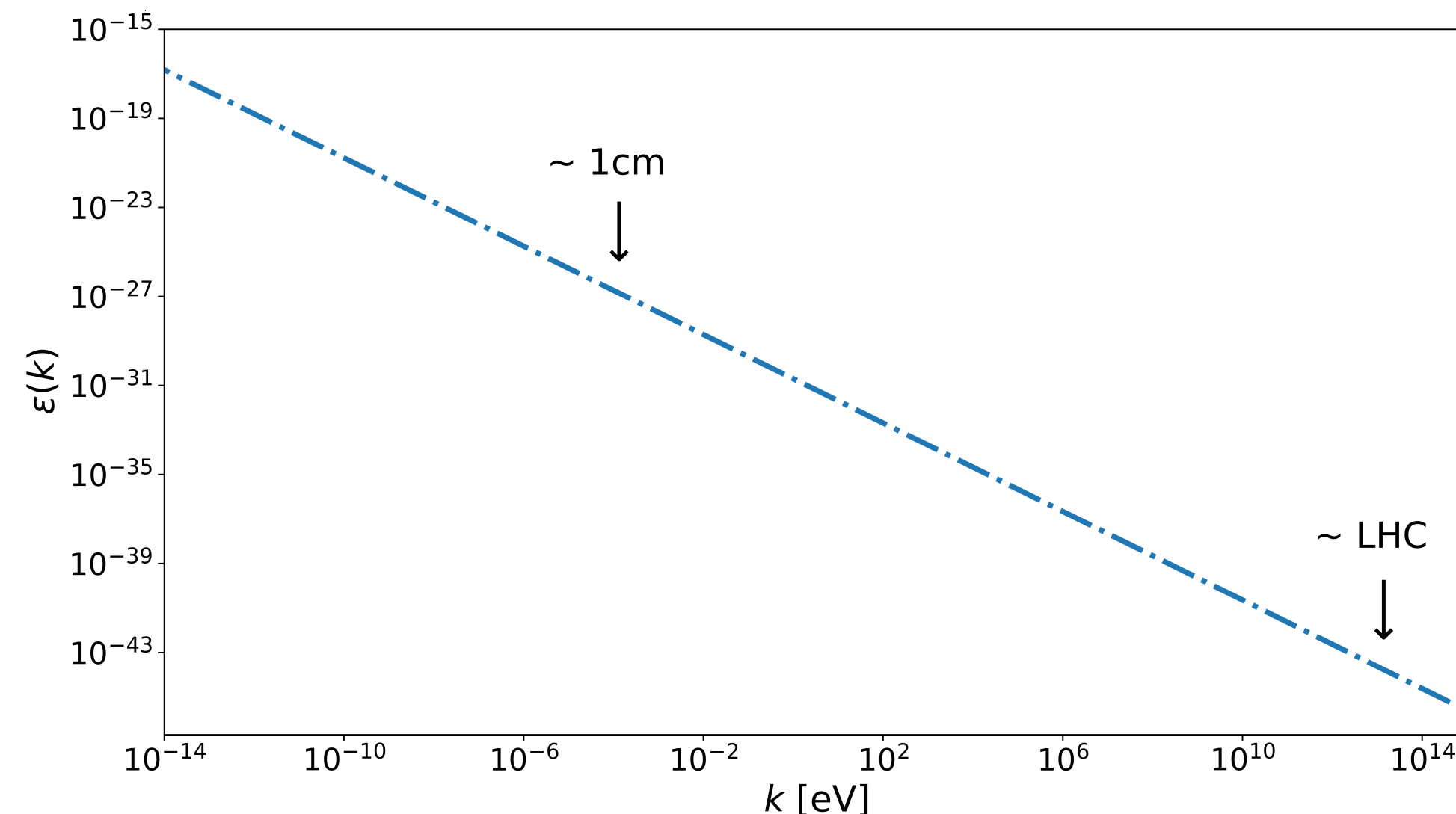
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Bridge to present work

- At least at the kinematics level, the construction seems to be doing pretty well.
- Beyond kinematics → dynamics? ([Friedrich, Cao, Carroll, Cheng, Singh 2024](#)) did primitive analysis and even made connections with observations.

Bridge to present work

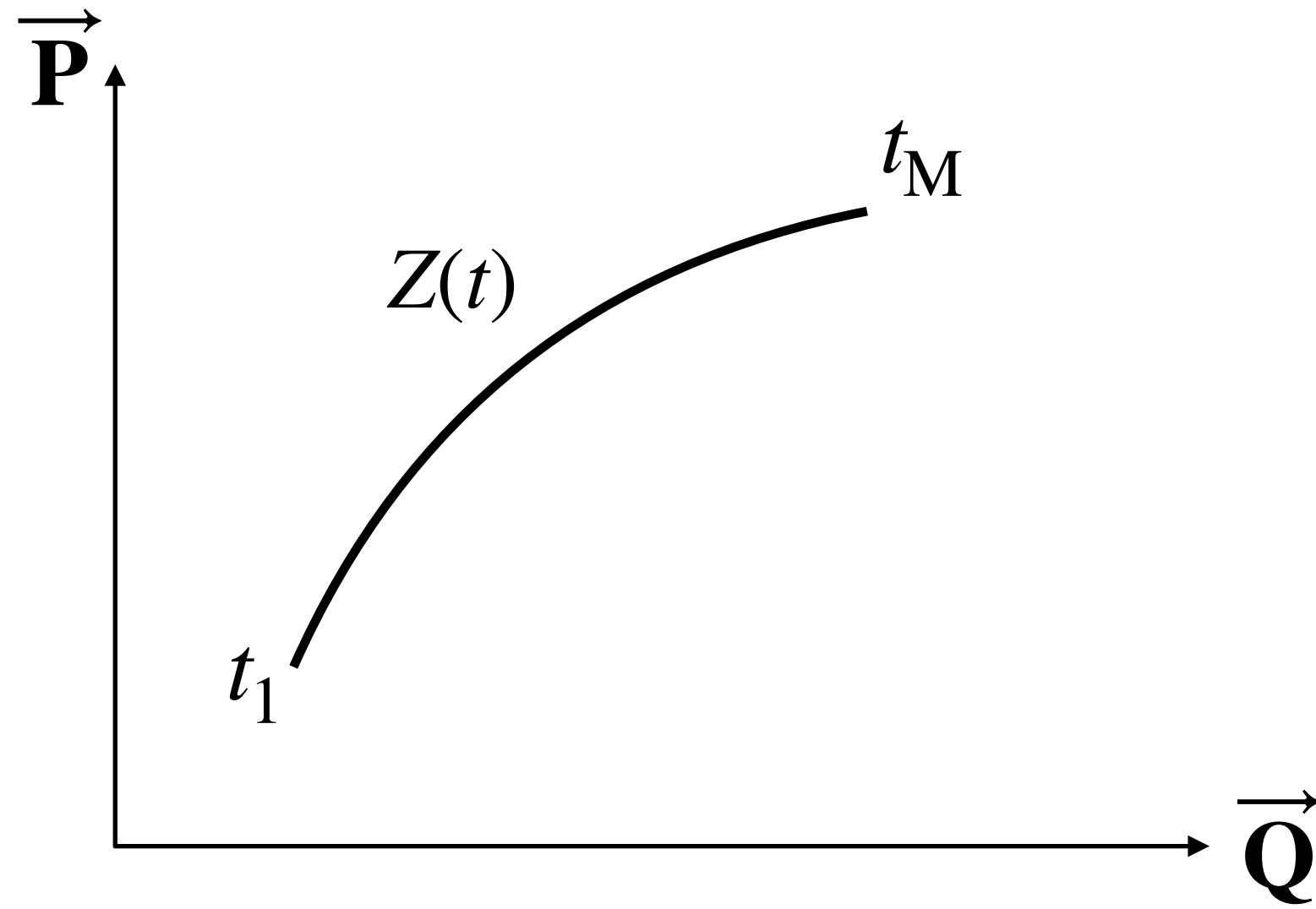
- At least at the kinematics level, the construction seems to be doing pretty well.
- Beyond kinematics $\rightarrow$ dynamics? ([Friedrich, Cao, Carroll, Cheng, Singh 2024](#)) did primitive analysis and even made connections with observations.

This work:

- We asked how $\mathbf{V}$ should be structured so that dynamics sector could also be captured?
- To start simple we consider a scalar field $\rightarrow$ classical scalar field.
- Is there a classical analog for these overlaps?

Classical picture

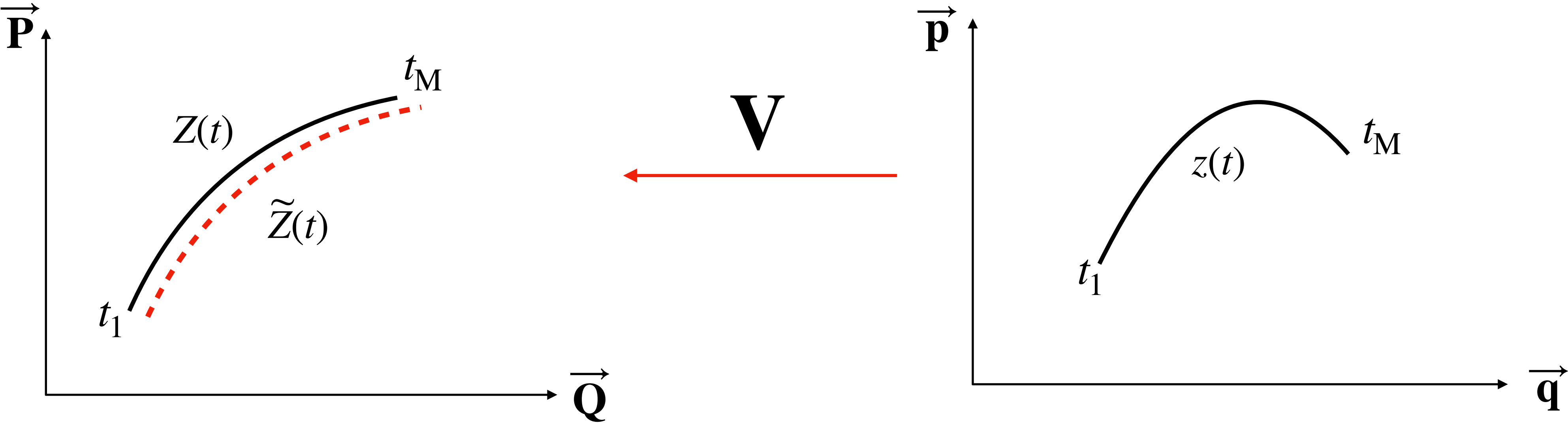
Consider a Hamiltonian, $H(\vec{\mathbf{Q}}, \vec{\mathbf{P}})$ on a $2N$ dimensional phase space.



$$Z(t) = \begin{pmatrix} Q_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ Q_N(t) \\ P_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ P_N(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

Classical picture

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$$Z(t) = \begin{pmatrix} Q_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ Q_N(t) \\ P_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ P_N(t) \end{pmatrix} \approx \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \tilde{Q}_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{Q}_N(t) \\ \tilde{P}_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{P}_N(t) \end{pmatrix}}_{\tilde{Z}(t)} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{V}_{2N \times 2n} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} q_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ q_n(t) \\ p_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ p_n(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$n < N$

not fixed yet; would like to
determine it such that the
reconstruction is as perfect as
it can be.

Loss function

We can turn this into an optimization problem.

Construct the snapshot matrix

$$\mathbb{X}_s = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{Q}}(t_1) & \cdots & \vec{\mathbf{Q}}(t_M) \\ \vec{\mathbf{P}}(t_1) & \cdots & \vec{\mathbf{P}}(t_M) \end{pmatrix}_{2N \times M} \quad t_1 \ll t_M$$

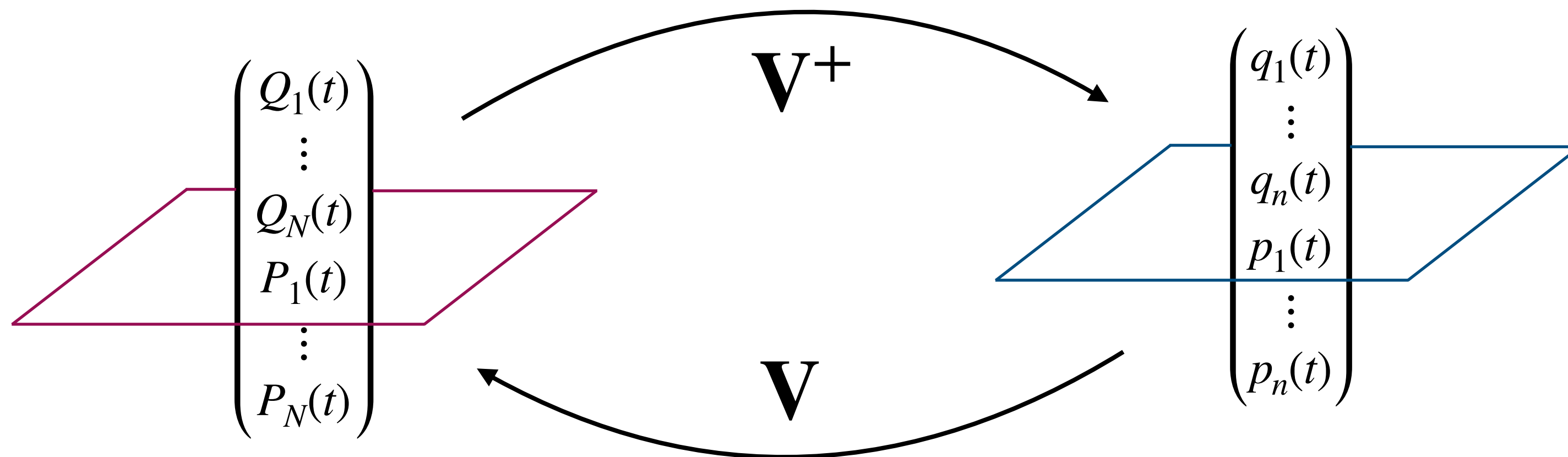
If it's possible to reconstruct the columns of this matrix from $n (< N)$ many dofs, then

Minimize

For a given $n < N$,

$$\|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+\mathbb{X}_s\|_F$$

over matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{2N \times 2n}$



1. Compress $\rightarrow$ Retrieve $\approx$ Minimal loss, i.e., $\mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+ \approx \mathbb{I}_{2N}$, where $\mathbf{V}^+\mathbf{V} = \mathbb{I}_{2n}$.

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2. Columns are obtained by solving Hamiltonian EOMs

$$\dot{\mathbf{Z}}(t) = \mathbb{J}_{2N} \nabla H(\vec{\mathbf{Q}}, \vec{\mathbf{P}}) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \dot{\mathbf{z}}(t) = \mathbb{J}_{2n} \nabla \widetilde{H}(\vec{\mathbf{q}}, \vec{\mathbf{p}}),$$

$\implies \mathbf{V} \in \mathbb{R}^{2N \times 2n}$ must preserve this symplectic structure

$$\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbb{J}_{2N} \mathbf{V} = \mathbb{J}_{2n} \quad \text{and take} \quad \mathbf{V}^+ := \mathbb{J}_{2n}^\top \mathbf{V}^\top \mathbb{J}_{2N}$$

$\implies$ The lower dim. Hamiltonian, $\widetilde{H}(\mathbf{z}) = H(\mathbf{Z} \rightarrow \mathbf{V}\mathbf{z})$.

Minimize

For a given $n < N$,

$$\|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+ \mathbb{X}_s\|_F$$

over matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{2N \times 2n}$



$$\|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+ \mathbb{X}_s\|_F$$

over symplectic matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{2N \times 2n}$

**Symplectic Model Order reduction
(SMOR)**

(Peng, Mohseni 2014, Hesthaven, Pagliantini, Ripamonti 2021)

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3. Specific to Scalar field theory, we impose orthogonality $\mathbf{V}^\top \mathbf{V} = \mathbb{I}_{2n} \implies \mathbf{V}^+ = \mathbf{V}^\top$.

$\rightarrow \widetilde{H}(z) = H(\mathbf{V}z)$ becomes independent of $\mathbf{V}$.

That is, the lower dim. model becomes independent of the reconstruction map, only the reconstruction of states depends on $\mathbf{V}$.

Minimize

For a given $n < N$,

$$\|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+\mathbb{X}_s\|_F$$

over matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{2N \times 2n}$



$$\|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+\mathbb{X}_s\|_F$$

over symplectic matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{2N \times 2n}$



$$\|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+\mathbb{X}_s\|_F$$

over ortho-symplectic matrices in $\mathbb{R}^{2N \times 2n}$

Optimal embedding

The minimizer of the loss function can be analytically obtained (Buchfink, Bhatt, Haasdonk 2019).

Do the SVD of the complex snapshot matrix

$$\mathbb{X}_s = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{\mathbf{Q}}(t_1) & \cdots & \vec{\mathbf{Q}}(t_M) \\ \vec{\mathbf{P}}(t_1) & \cdots & \vec{\mathbf{P}}(t_M) \end{pmatrix}_{2N \times M} \longrightarrow \mathbb{X}_c = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Q}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{Q}(t_M) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{Q}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{Q}(t_M) \end{pmatrix}_{N \times M} + i \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{P}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{P}(t_M) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{P}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{P}(t_M) \end{pmatrix}_{N \times M} = \mathbf{U} \mathbf{\Sigma} \mathbf{W}^*$$

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For a given $n < N$, take the first n left singular vectors $\mathbb{U}_n$ and let $\mathbf{\Phi} = \text{Re}(\mathbb{U}_n)$, $\mathbf{\Psi} = \text{Im}(\mathbb{U}_n)$, then

$$\mathbf{V}_{\text{opt}} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{\Phi} & -\mathbf{\Psi} \\ \mathbf{\Psi} & \mathbf{\Phi} \end{pmatrix}_{2N \times 2n} \xrightarrow{\text{with reconstruction error}} \|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}_{\text{opt}} \mathbf{V}_{\text{opt}}^+ \mathbb{X}_s\|_F = \sqrt{\sum_{j=n+1}^{\text{rank}(\mathbb{X}_c)} \sigma_j^2}$$

$\implies$ If we set $n = \text{rank}(\mathbb{X}_c)$ then the reconstruction is exact ($\forall t$ if the Hamiltonian is quadratic).

*It'd be best if $\text{rank}(\mathbb{X}_c) \ll N$, but generally $\text{rank}(\mathbb{X}_c) \sim N$.

Free classical scalar field theory

Consider a scalar field in a box.

$$L = \int_{\mathcal{B}} d^3x \frac{1}{2} \left[(\partial_t \phi)^2 - (\nabla \phi)^2 - m_0^2 \phi^2 \right] \longrightarrow H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{|\mathbf{k}| \leq \Lambda_{\text{UV}}} \left(P_{\mathbf{k}}^2 + \Omega_{\mathbf{k}}^2 Q_{\mathbf{k}}^2 \right) \quad \Omega_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{|\mathbf{k}|^2 + m_0^2}$$

Box: $[-L_{\text{IR}}/2, L_{\text{IR}}/2]^3$

$$N(L_{\text{IR}}, \Lambda_{\text{UV}}) \approx \frac{(L_{\text{IR}} \Lambda_{\text{UV}})^3}{6\pi^2}$$

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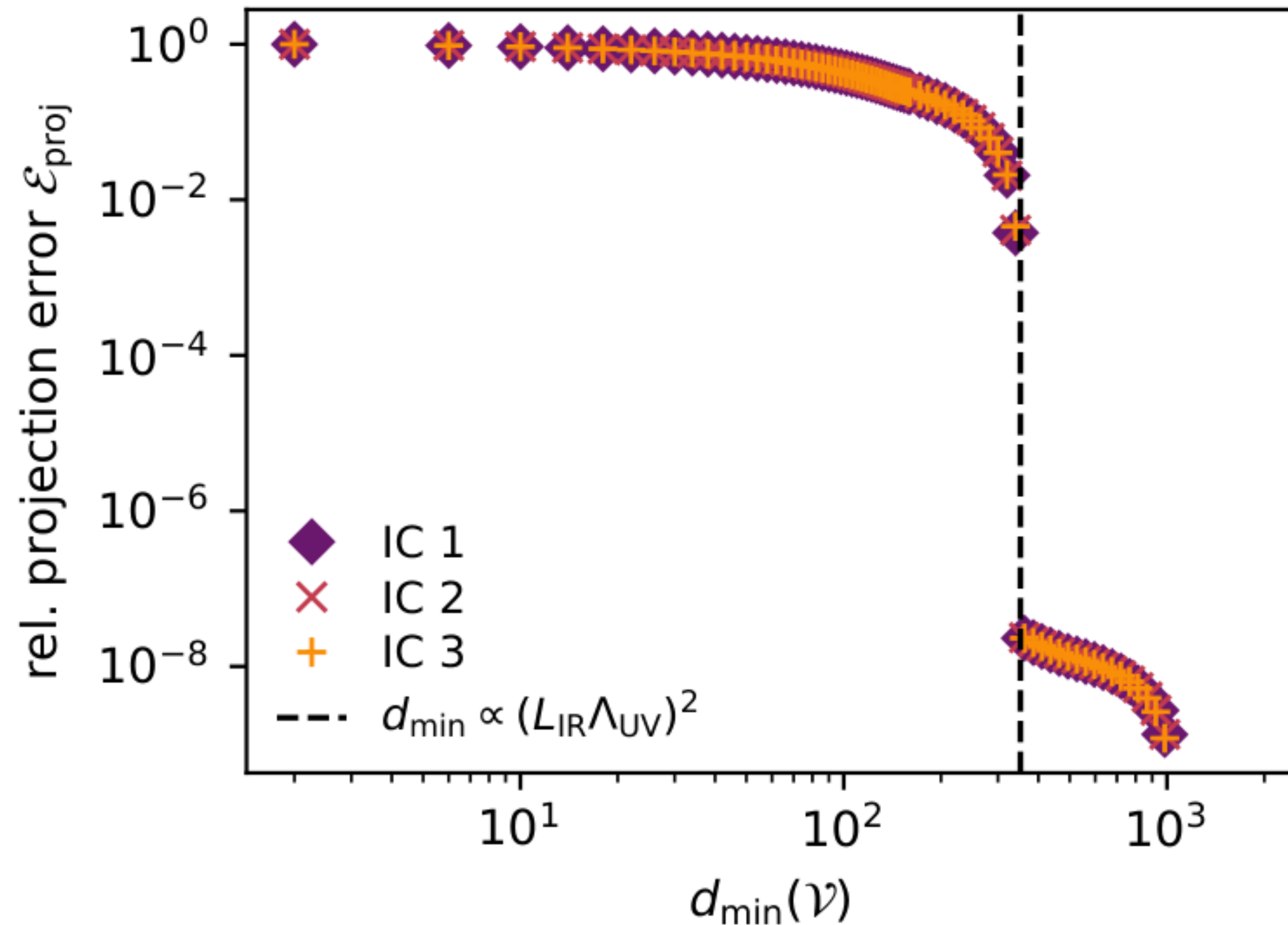
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This is a simple theory in terms of dynamics. **Solutions:** $Q_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = A_{\mathbf{k}} \cos(\Omega_{\mathbf{k}} t) + B_{\mathbf{k}} \sin(\Omega_{\mathbf{k}} t)$

$$P_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = C_{\mathbf{k}} \cos(\Omega_{\mathbf{k}} t) + D_{\mathbf{k}} \sin(\Omega_{\mathbf{k}} t)$$

Construct $\mathbb{X}_c = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Q}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{Q}(t_M) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{Q}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{Q}(t_M) \end{pmatrix}_{N \times M} + i \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{P}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{P}(t_M) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{P}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{P}(t_M) \end{pmatrix}_{N \times M}$ and numerically compute the error $\frac{\|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+ \mathbb{X}_s\|_F}{\|\mathbb{X}_s\|_F}$.

Free classical scalar field theory



On y-axis: $\frac{\|\mathbb{X}_s - \mathbf{V}\mathbf{V}^+\mathbb{X}_s\|_F}{\|\mathbb{X}_s\|_F}$, for projection onto lower dimensional symplectic subspace.

The cliff scales with the **area** of the box.
No matter what the initial state.

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$\Rightarrow$ Columns of $\mathbb{X}_c = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{Q}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{Q}(t_M) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{Q}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{Q}(t_M) \end{pmatrix}_{N \times M} + i \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{P}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{P}(t_M) \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{P}(t_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{P}(t_M) \end{pmatrix}_{N \times M}$ are spanned by sine and cosine functions.

$\Rightarrow \text{Rank}(\mathbb{X}_c) \leq 2n_{\Omega}$, i.e., $2 \times (\# \text{ of unique frequencies realized on the lattice})$.

Counting the # of unique frequencies

Consider a scalar field in a box.

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For the flat box case:

$$n_{\Omega} = \# \text{ of unique } \Omega_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{|\mathbf{k}|^2 + m_0^2} \longrightarrow \# \text{ of unique solutions of } k_1^2 + k_2^2 + k_3^2 \leq \Lambda_{UV}^2, \text{ where } k_i = \frac{2\pi n_i}{L_{IR}}.$$

Using Legendre's three square problem one can obtain:

$$\# \text{ of dofs required} = \text{Rank}(\mathbb{X}_c) = 2n_{\Omega} \approx \mathcal{O}(1) \frac{|\partial \mathcal{B}|}{l_{UV}^2} + \mathcal{O}(\log(L_{IR} \Lambda_{UV})).$$

Counting the # of unique frequencies

For maximally symmetric spacetimes with spherical boundary:

$$\gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j = d\rho^2 + S_K^2(\rho) (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2) \quad S_K(\rho) = \begin{cases} R_c \sin(\rho/R_c), & K > 0, \\ \rho, & K = 0, \\ R_c \sinh(\rho/R_c), & K < 0. \end{cases}$$

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathcal{B}} d^3x \sqrt{\gamma} \left[(\partial_t \phi)^2 - \gamma^{ij} \partial_i \phi \partial_j \phi - m_0^2 \phi^2 \right] \longrightarrow H = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{|k_{nl}| \leq \Lambda_{UV}} \left(P_{nlm}^2 + \Omega_{nl}^2 Q_{nlm}^2 \right)$$

$$n_{\Omega} = \# \text{ of unique } \Omega_{nlm} = \sqrt{k_{nl}^2 + m_0^2} \longrightarrow \# \text{ of unique eigenvalues of } -\Delta_{\gamma} \leq \Lambda_{UV} \quad (-\Delta_{\gamma})f = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\gamma}} \partial_i (\sqrt{\gamma} \gamma^{ij} \partial_j f)$$

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Using WKB approximation methods one can obtain:

$$\# \text{ of dofs required} = \text{Rank}(\mathbb{X}_c) = 2n_{\Omega} \approx \mathcal{O}(1) \frac{\rho_{\text{IR}}^2}{l_{\text{UV}}^2}$$

Flat ($K = 0$)

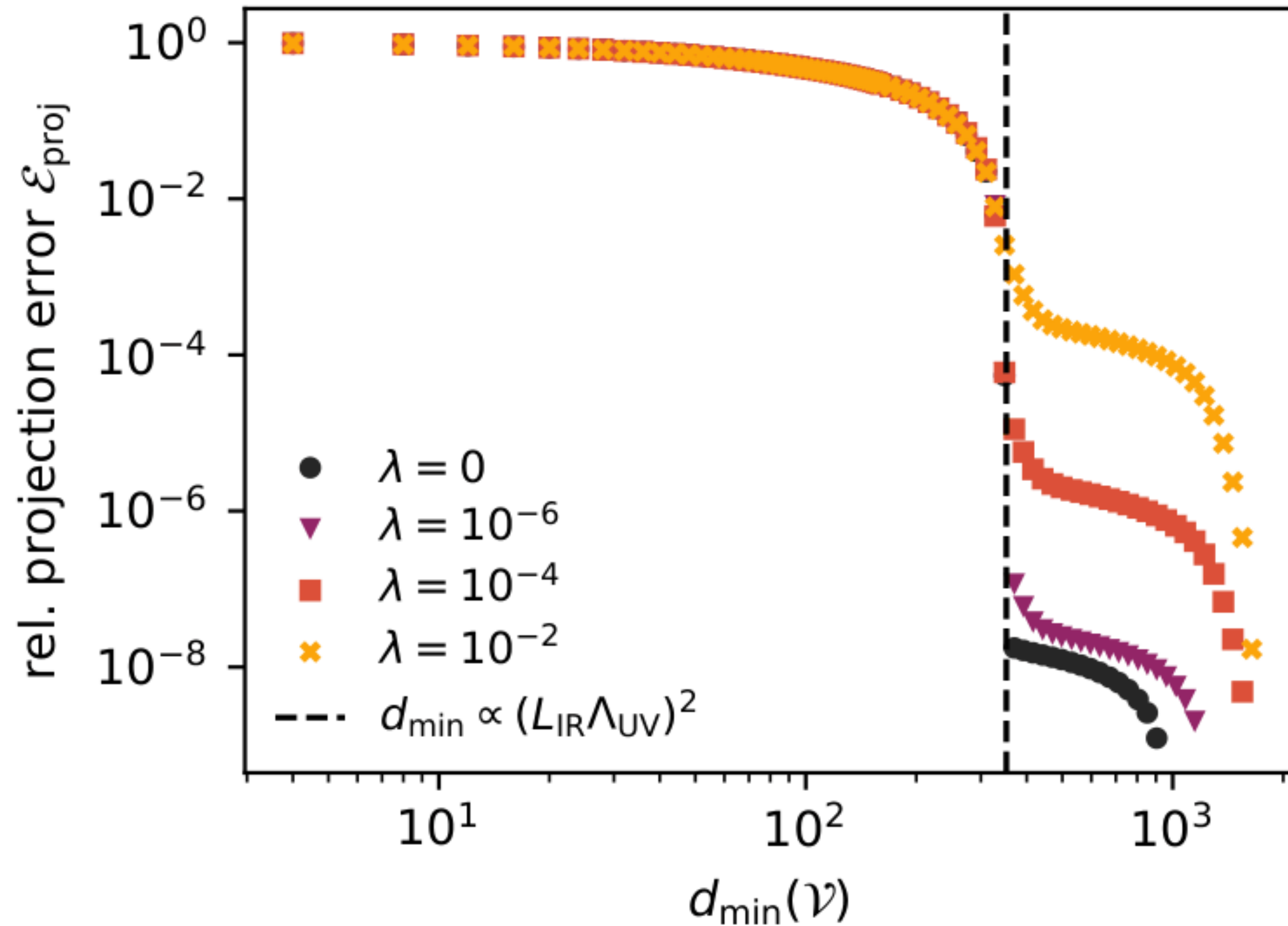
$$\mathcal{O}(1) \frac{4\pi R_c^2}{l_{\text{UV}}^2} \sinh^2 \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{IR}}}{2R_c} \right)$$

Open ($K < 0$)

$$\mathcal{O}(1) \frac{4\pi R_c^2}{l_{\text{UV}}^2} \sin^2 \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{IR}}}{2R_c} \right)$$

Closed ($K > 0$)

Interacting case



Projection error with $\lambda\phi^4$ interactions.

The cliff remains anchored to the free field case. The initial state was chosen such that the interactions don't become dominant over the evolution duration.

$$\varepsilon(t) := \frac{\lambda \int_{\mathcal{B}} \phi^4 d^3x}{\sum_{\alpha} \left(|P_{\alpha}(t)|^2 + \Omega_{\alpha}^2 |Q_{\alpha}(t)|^2 \right)}$$

Evolution duration: $\max_{0 \leq t \leq T_{\text{obs}}} \varepsilon(t) \ll 1$.

Classical overlaps

Dynamics also fixes the elements of the embedding map (depends on the initial state) and naturally gives a shell overlap structure.

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ Q_N(t) \\ P_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ P_N(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{\Phi}_{N \times 2n_\Omega} & -\mathbf{\Psi}_{N \times 2n_\Omega} \\ \mathbf{\Psi}_{N \times 2n_\Omega} & \mathbf{\Phi}_{N \times 2n_\Omega} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} q_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ q_{2n_\Omega}(t) \\ p_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ p_{2n_\Omega}(t) \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} A_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ A_N(t) \\ A_1^\dagger(t) \\ \vdots \\ A_N^\dagger(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{\Phi} + i\mathbf{\Psi} & \mathbf{0} \\ \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{\Phi} - i\mathbf{\Psi} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ a_{2n_\Omega}(t) \\ a_1^\dagger(t) \\ \vdots \\ a_{2n_\Omega}^\dagger(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\longrightarrow \{A_{\mathbf{k}}, A_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger\} = \Upsilon \Upsilon_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger \delta_{|\mathbf{k}|, |\mathbf{k}'|}, \quad \{A_{\mathbf{k}}, A_{\mathbf{k}'}\} = \{A_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger, A_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger\} = 0 \quad \text{where, } \Upsilon = \mathbf{\Phi} + i\mathbf{\Psi}$$

Summary

- Broadly we are asking a modest question:
How accurately can the std. QFT (esp. for the relevant purposes) be already spoofed with less dofs than we conventionally take?
- Asked a resource-accuracy question for Hamiltonian field theory:
how many canonical degrees of freedom are needed to reproduce the field evolution?
- Used **SMOR** so that the reduction is not just data fitting:
the low dim. model remains an autonomous Hamiltonian system.
- For a free scalar field, the answer is controlled by the **spectrum of the Hamiltonian**.
- In flat space this gives an **area-type threshold**; curved maximally symmetric backgrounds give systematic deviations.
- Reconstructing the full field variables from the low dim. phase space induces **classical overlap** among apparent modes.

Outlook

- Clarify state dependence: different trajectories may require different reconstruction maps. Can we do better?
- Develop the quantum version: quantize the reduced symplectic sector and study the induced operator overlap.
- Compare SMOR with Krylov-type complexity as two ways of extracting dynamically relevant subspaces.

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Thank you!