

RG flows of SYK

(and a bit of holography & cosmology)

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Motivation

RG flows of SYK

1. Tractable relevant deformations of chaotic quantum systems at strong coupling (both at zero and finite temperature).
2. Holographic spacetimes.
3. Holographic (expanding) spacetimes?

[Garcia Garcia, Loureiro, Romero-Bermudez, Tezuka, '17; Parker, Cao, Avdoshkin, Scaffidi, Altman, '18; Jiang, Yang, '19; Lunin, Kitaev, Feigelman, '20; Anninos, DAG, '20; Anninos, DAG, Sherorey, '22; Khveshchenko, '23; ...]

Holographic spacetimes

- Emergent holographic direction associated with the change in the energy scale of the boundary theory. [de Boer, Verlinde Verlinde, '99]
- Precise in the context of 2d dilaton-gravity.
- Consider the following (Euclidean) action,

$$I = I_0 - \frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^2x \sqrt{g} (\phi R + U(\phi)) - \frac{1}{8\pi G_N} \int du \sqrt{h} \phi_b K$$

- Saddle point solutions are given by

$$ds^2 = f(r) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)}, \quad \phi = r,$$

$$f(r) = \int_{r_h}^r U(\rho) d\rho$$

[Cavaglia, '99; Grumiller, McNees, '07; Anninos-DAG-Hofman, '18; Witten '20, ...]

$U(\phi)$



ϕ

Question: How to microscopically construct the dilaton potential?

$U(\phi)$



ϕ

Constructing the dilaton potential

1. One possibility is to deform the dual matrix model.

[Saad, Shenker, Stanford, '19; Maxfield, Turiaci, '20; Witten, '20; Turiaci, Usatyuk, Weng, '21; Eberhardt, Turiaci, '23]

2. In this talk, we will stay in the saddle-point approximation.

• Consider the thermodynamics of the dilaton-gravity theory:

$$T = \frac{U(r_h)}{4\pi}, \quad S = S_0 + \frac{r_h}{4G_N}$$

$$U(\phi) \approx T(S - S_0)$$

Thermodynamics of
quantum mechanical
large N model



Dilaton potential of
2d dilaton gravity
theory

• Reminiscent of spacetime from thermodynamic arguments

[Jacobson, '95]

Constructing the dilaton potential II

Some examples:

- JT gravity:

$$U(\phi)_{JT} = 2\phi \rightarrow S = S_0 + cT$$

- Flow geometries:

$$U(\phi)_{flow} \sim \begin{cases} 2\phi , \\ 2\alpha\phi + \alpha_0 . \end{cases}$$

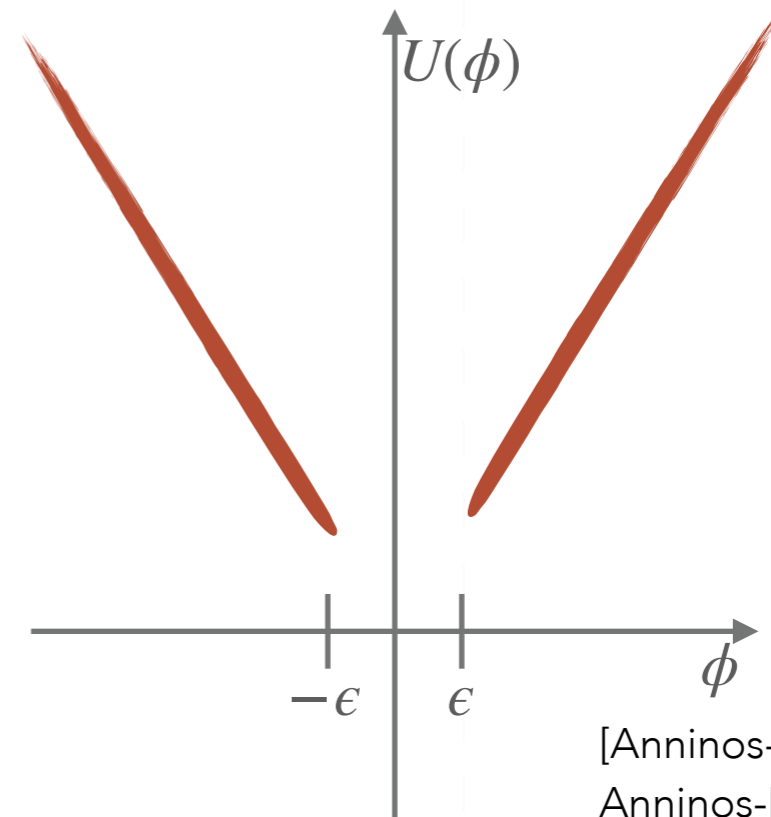
- dS JT gravity:

$$U(\phi)_{dS JT} = -2\phi \rightarrow S = S_0 - cT$$

[Svesko, Verheijden, Verlinde, Visser, '22]

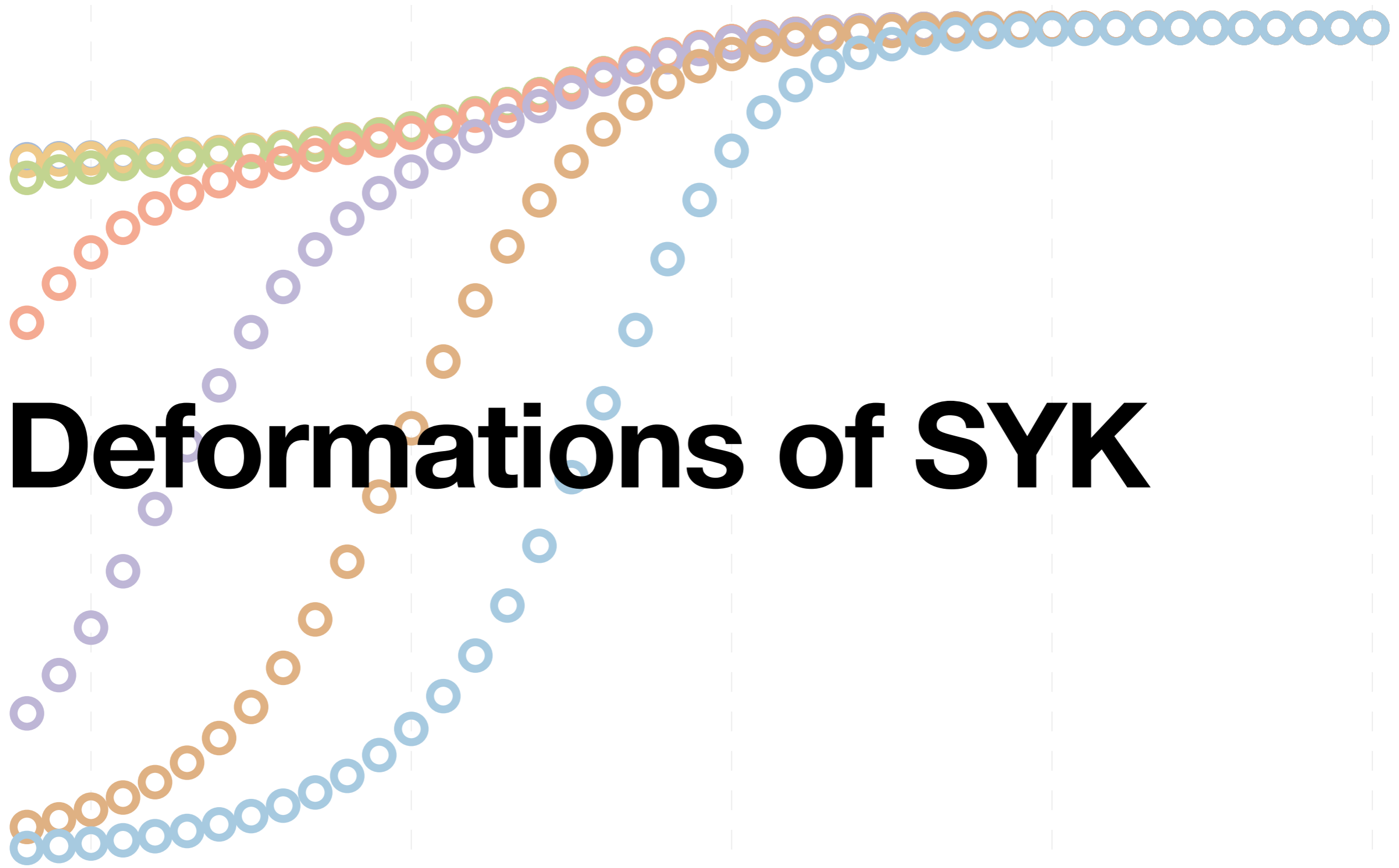
- Centaur geometries:

$$U(\phi)_{centaur} \sim \begin{cases} 2\phi , \\ -2\phi , \end{cases}$$



[Anninos-Hofman '17;
Anninos-DAG-Hofman, '18]

Infrared microscopic deformations
related to holographic expansion
(or at least, the limitations of building it)



Deformations of SYK

The SYK model

- N Majorana fermions

$$\{\psi_i, \psi_j\} = \delta_{ij}.$$

- Random all-to-all interactions

$$H_{\text{SYK}}^{(q)} = (i)^{q/2} \sum J_{i_1 \dots i_q} \psi_{i_1} \psi_{i_2} \dots \psi_{i_q}.$$

- The large N saddle is given by Schwinger-Dyson equations

$$G = (\partial_\tau - \Sigma)^{-1}, \quad \Sigma = \mathcal{J}^2 G^{q-1}.$$

- At large q , they reduce to an ordinary differential equation

$$G(\tau) = \frac{\text{sgn}(\tau)}{2} \left(1 + \frac{g(\tau)}{q} + \dots \right), \quad \partial_\tau^2 g(\tau) = \mathcal{J}^2 e^{g(\tau)}.$$

- At low temperatures, the theory is dominated by a Schwarzian mode with linear-in-temperature entropy (as JT gravity).

Deformed SYK models

- We want to deform the SYK model with **relevant** deformations.

$$H_{total} = H_{SYK}^{(q)} + s \mathcal{O}_{rel}.$$

- Problem: simple operators with fermions are irrelevant.

See e.g. [Gross, Rosenhaus, '17]

- Idea: consider disordered operators, like the Hamiltonian itself!

$$\Delta_{\psi} = 1/q \quad , \quad \sum J_{i_1, \dots, i_{\tilde{q}}} \psi_{i_1} \psi_{i_2} \cdots \psi_{i_{\tilde{q}}} \rightarrow \Delta = \tilde{q}/q?$$

Deformed SYK models

- Deformed Hamiltonian:

$$H_{total} = H_{\text{SYK}}^{(q)} + s H_{\text{SYK}}^{(\tilde{q})} \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{q} < q, s \in \mathbb{R}.$$

- Deformed Schwinger-Dyson equations:

$$G = (\partial_\tau - \Sigma)^{-1}, \quad \Sigma = \mathcal{J}^2 G^{q-1} + \mathcal{J}^2 s^2 G^{\tilde{q}-1}.$$

- Large q equation:

$$\begin{cases} q \rightarrow \infty, \tilde{q} \rightarrow \infty, \\ q/\tilde{q} = n > 1 \text{ (fixed)}. \end{cases} \quad \partial_\tau^2 g(\tau) = \mathcal{J}^2 e^{g(\tau)} + \mathcal{J}^2 s^2 n e^{g(\tau)/n}.$$

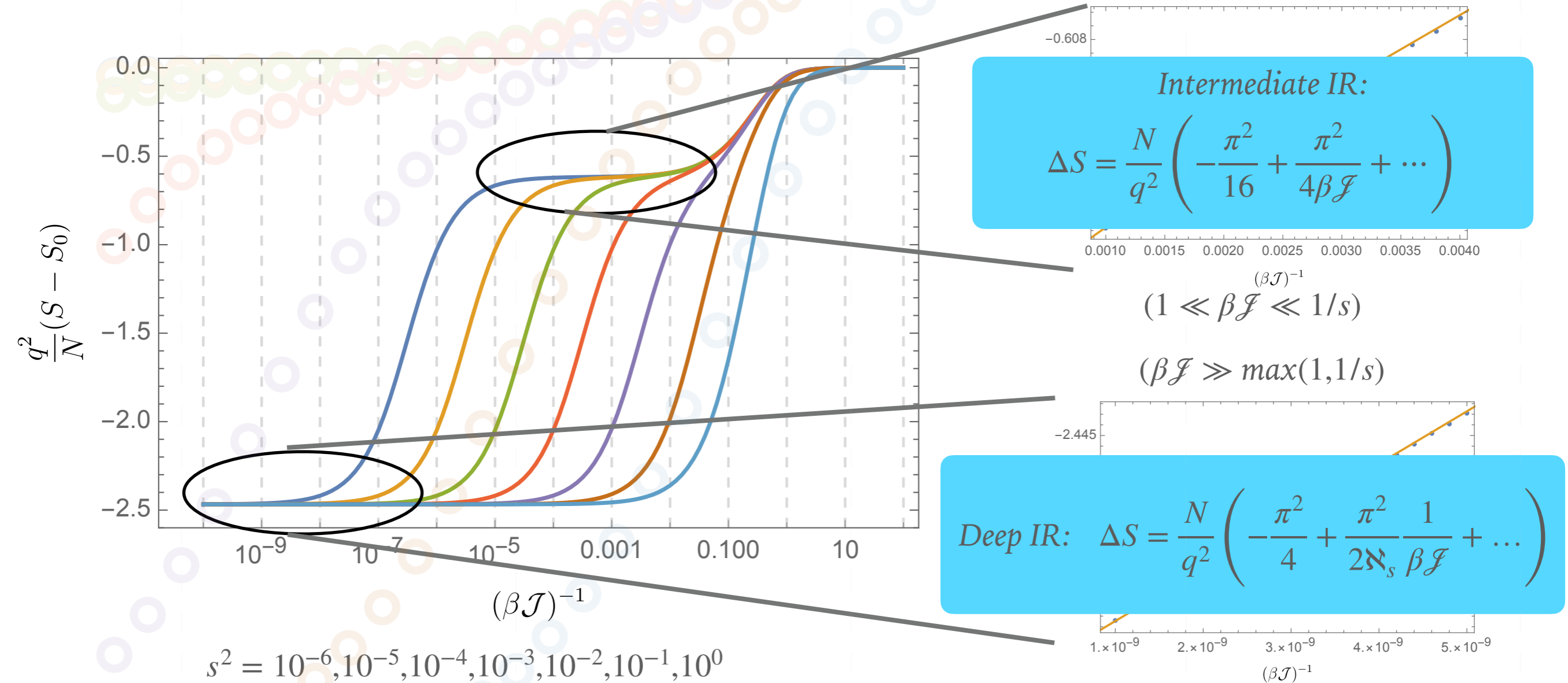
- Remarkably, $n=2$ has an analytic solution in terms of dimensionless variables $\beta \mathcal{J}$ and s !

$$e^{g(\tau)} = \frac{2\nu^2}{\sqrt{(\beta \mathcal{J})^2 \nu^2 + s^4 (\beta \mathcal{J})^4} \cos(\nu(\frac{2\tau}{\beta} - 1)) + s^2 (\beta \mathcal{J})^2}$$

$$\cos \nu = \frac{2\nu^2 - s^2 (\beta \mathcal{J})^2}{\sqrt{(\beta \mathcal{J})^2 \nu^2 + s^4 (\beta \mathcal{J})^4}}$$

Thermodynamics of deformed SYK models

[Anninos, DAG '20]

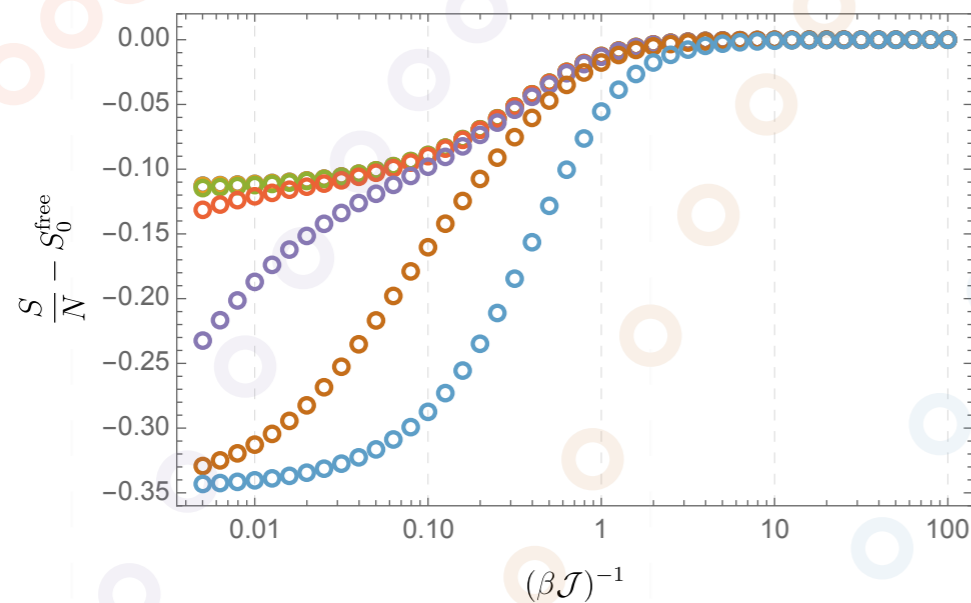


$$\mathcal{N}_s = \frac{s^2}{\sqrt{1 + 4s^2}}$$

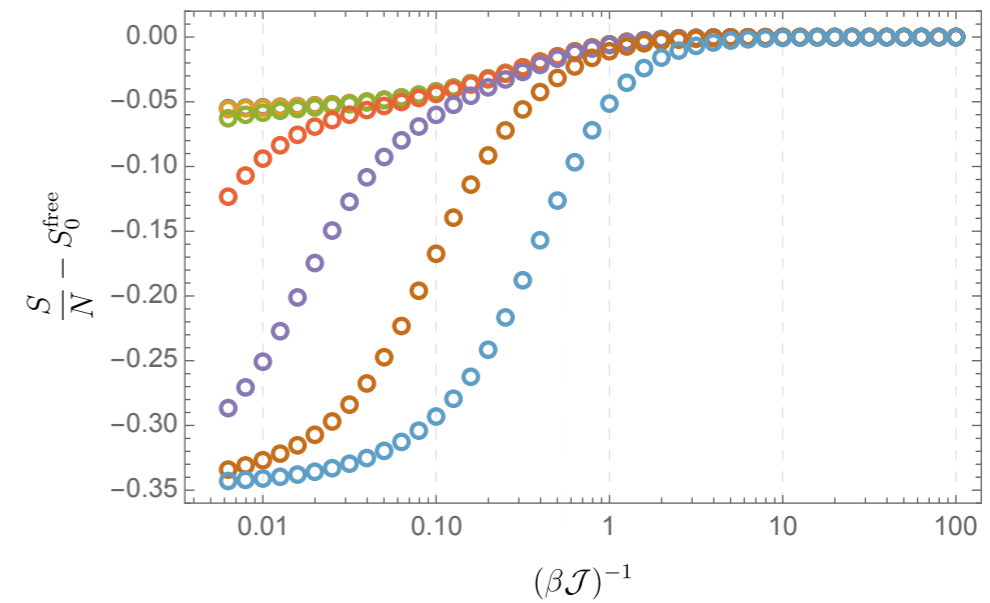
Thermodynamics of deformed SYK models at finite q and at finite N

[Anninos, DAG, Sheorey '22 + wip]

Finite q entropies:



$$q = 4, \tilde{q} = 2$$



$$q = 6, \tilde{q} = 2$$

Conformal perturbation theory: $\beta F = \beta F_{\text{CFT}} - \frac{g_h^2}{2} \int_0^\beta \int_0^\beta d\tau_1 d\tau_2 \langle O_h(\tau_1) O_h(\tau_2) \rangle_\beta + \dots$

$$\frac{\delta^2 S_{h=1/n}}{N} \propto \left(1 - \left(2 - \frac{2}{n} \right) \right) \frac{\pi^{\frac{2}{n} - \frac{1}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{n}\right)}{2\Gamma\left(1 - \frac{1}{n}\right)} (\beta\mathcal{J})^{2 - \frac{2}{n}}$$

[Tikhanovskaya, Guo, Sachdev, Tarnopolsky '20; Cruz, Tarnopolsky '22; Anninos, DAG, Sheorey '22]

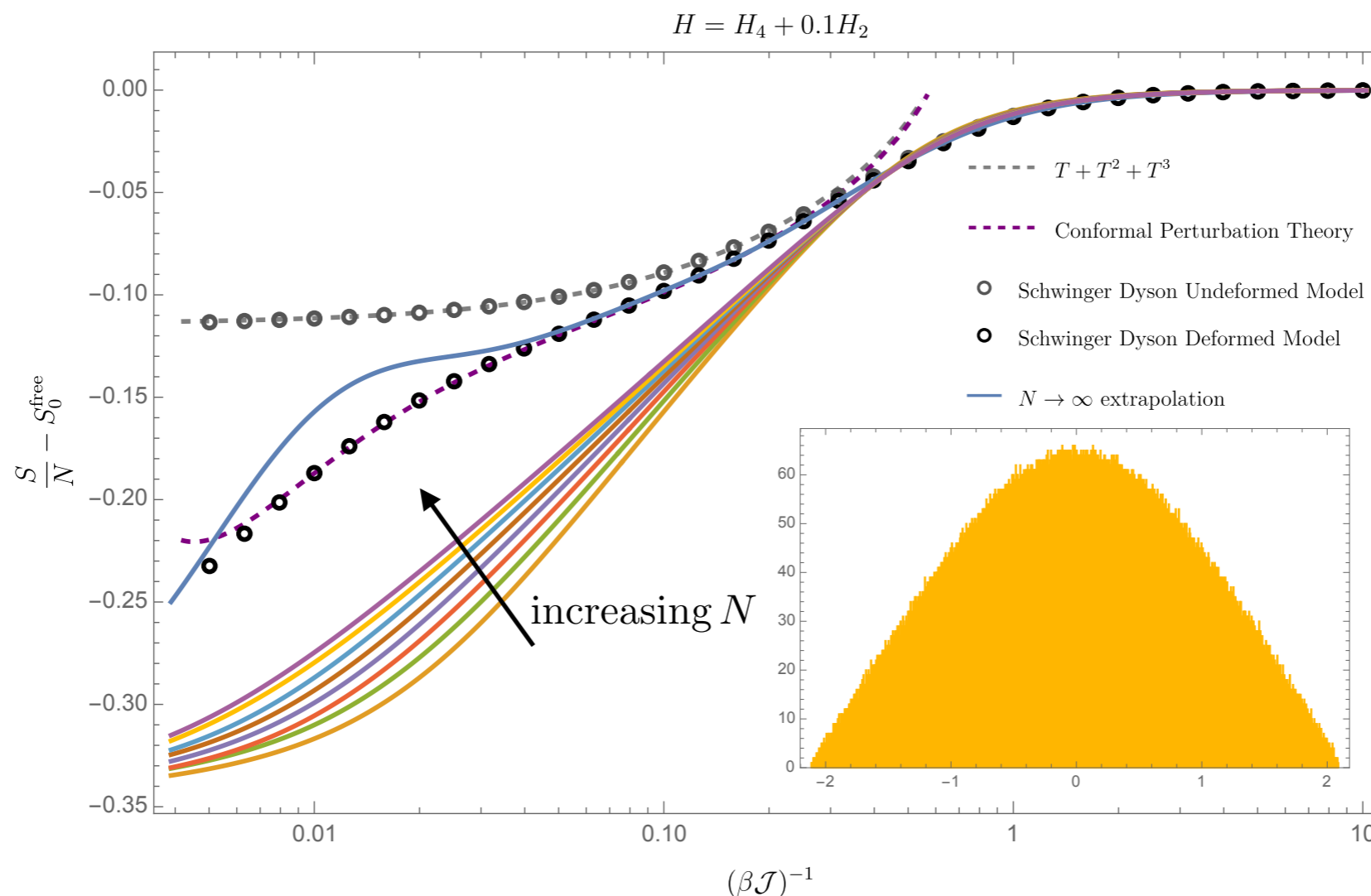
Finite N flows

[Anninos, DAG, Sheorey, wip]

A naïve counting will tell that this is impossible to achieve:

$$N \gg \beta \mathcal{J} \gg 1/s \gg 1$$

Nevertheless, it is possible to see the effect of the deformation by extrapolation of exact diagonalisation results!



Remarks on deformed SYK models

- These relevant deformations of the SYK model are robust even at finite q and finite N , both at zero and finite temperature.
- Consistent with **Conformal Perturbation Theory** predictions.
- New IR (near) fixed points.

- **Landscape** of relevant deformations.

$$H_{total} = H^{(q)} + \sum_i s_i H^{(q_i)}$$

$$\mathcal{H}_s = \frac{s^2}{\sqrt{1 + 4s^2}}$$

- De Sitter thermodynamics reproduced if $s \rightarrow is$, which generates a **non-Hermitian** deformation of SYK.

[García-García, Sá, Verbaarschot '21; García-García, Jia, Rosa, Verbaarschot, '22]

- These models have interesting properties: PT symmetry, real spectrum at large N , consistency with conformal perturbation theory, etc.

[Anninos, DAG, Sheorey, wip]

- Double scaling? Other probes? Krylov complexity?

Thank you!