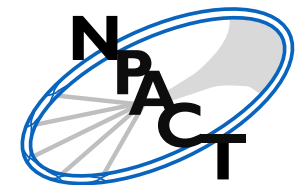


# Machine Learning assisted real-time Complex Langevin

**Alexander Rothkopf**

Faculty of Science and Technology  
Department of Mathematics and Physics  
University of Stavanger



Norwegian Particle, Astroparticle  
& Cosmology Theory network

in collaboration with **Daniel Alvestad**  
& **Rasmus Larsen at UiS**

D. Alvestad, R. Larsen, A.R., JHEP 08 (2021) 138 and  
JHEP 04 (2023) 057

# Overview

- **Reinforcement learning**
- **Real-time simulations & Complex Langevin**
- **Inherently stable CL dynamics with implicit solvers**
- **Learning optimal kernels for correct convergence of CL**
- **Summary**

# Reinforcement learning – a ML success

- Agent with a set of **predefined actions**  
[ e.g. move left, jump ] in an **environment**

Karakovskiy and Togelius , *IEEE Trans. on Com. Intel. and AI in Games* 4.1 (2012): 55-67

- Policy/Cost function** that defines **success**  
[ e.g. score on computer screen ]

- Need to **encode** choice of actions and  
evaluate **gradients** to minimize cost

Wang, Ziyu, et al. *Int. conf. on machine learning*. PMLR, 2016.



Need to handle **failure state**  
[ e.g. falling into pits ]

**Improving the score:** allow for  
more actions [ e.g. move right ]

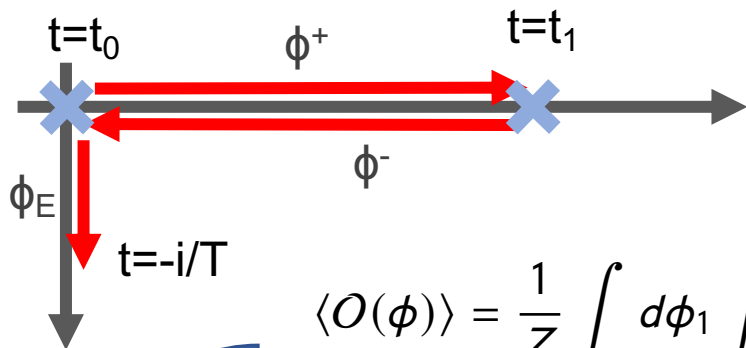
# Executive summary – ML strategy

$$\frac{d\phi}{d\tau_L} = iK[\phi] \frac{\partial S}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial K[\phi]}{\partial \phi} + \sqrt{K[\phi]} \eta$$

- Environment: **space of distributions** explored by a stochastic process
- Agent**: controller of the **non-neutral modification** represented by the **kernel K**. Limited actions – keep the kernel field &  $\tau_L$  independent
- Cost function**: deviation of late  $\tau_L$  stationary distribution from **prior knowledge** (symmetries, known cumulants, etc.)
- Use auto differentiation or shadowing analysis to compute **robust gradients** of the inherently **chaotic dynamics**.
- We achieve **convergence to correct stationary distribution** for model systems in parameter regimes **previously inaccessible**.

# Real-time quantum dynamics

- The path integral at finite temperature on the Schwinger-Keldysh contour



Goal: evaluation of real-time observables

$$\langle O(t_0)O(t_1) \rangle = \text{Tr}[ \rho O(t_0)O(t_1) ]$$

$$\langle O(\phi) \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int d\phi_1 \int d\phi_2 \rho(\phi_1, \phi_2) \int_{\phi_2}^{\phi_1} D\phi^+ D\phi^- O(\phi) e^{iS[\phi_+] - iS[\phi_-]}$$

sampling over statistically distributed initial conditions

quantum “sum over paths”

$$\langle O(\phi) \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int D\phi_E e^{-S_E[\phi_E]} \int_{\phi_E(\beta)}^{\phi_E(0)} D\phi^+ D\phi^- O(\phi) e^{iS[\phi_+] - iS[\phi_-]}$$

Real-valued Feynman weight:  
Monte-Carlo methods applicable

Pure phase Feynman weight implies  
MC sign problem. One strategy:  
**Complex Langevin** see C. Berger et.al. Phys.Rept. 892 (2021)

- Sign problem is NP-hard: **no generic solution** strategy is likely to exist

Troyer, Wiese PRL 94 170201 (2004)

# Stochastic Quantization

- Langevin evolution in fictitious additional time to reproduce quantum fluctuations  
for an in-depth review: M. Namiki et.al. Stochastic Quantization (Springer) 1992

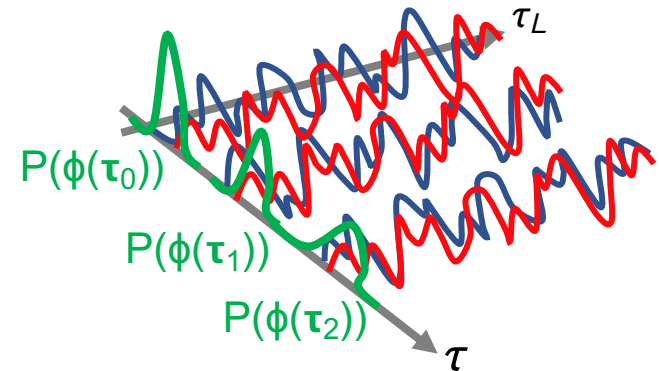
$$\frac{d\phi}{d\tau_L} = -\frac{\delta S_E[\phi]}{\delta\phi(x)} + \eta(x, \tau_L) \quad \text{with} \quad \langle \eta(x, \tau_L) \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \eta(x, \tau_L) \eta(x', \tau'_L) \rangle = 2\delta(x - x')\delta(\tau_L - \tau'_L)$$

**Stochastic partial differential equation (SDE) with Gaussian noise**

- Associated Fokker-Planck equation for  $P[\phi]$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau_L} \mathcal{P}(\phi) = \nabla_\phi \left[ (S_E[\phi] + \nabla_\phi) \mathcal{P}(\phi) \right]$$

- Proof of convergence:  $\lim_{\tau_L \rightarrow \infty} P[\phi, \tau_L] = e^{-S_E[\phi]}$



complexification:  $-\frac{\delta S_E[\phi]}{\delta\phi(x)} \rightarrow i\frac{\delta S[\phi]}{\delta\phi(x)} \quad \phi(x, \tau_L) = \phi_R(x, \tau_L) + i\phi_I(x, \tau_L)$

$$\frac{d\phi_R}{d\tau_L} = \text{Re} \left[ i\frac{\delta S[\phi]}{\delta\phi(x)} \Big|_{\phi=\phi_R+i\phi_I} \right] + \eta(x, \tau_L), \quad \frac{d\phi_I}{d\tau_L} = \text{Im} \left[ i\frac{\delta S[\phi]}{\delta\phi(x)} \Big|_{\phi=\phi_R+i\phi_I} \right]$$

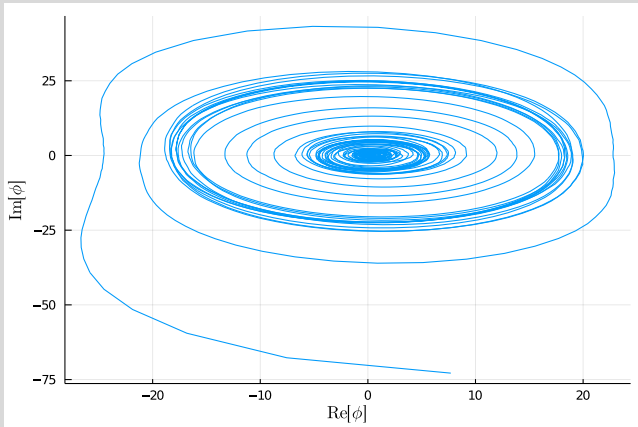
$$\langle O[\phi] \rangle \leftrightarrow \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T d\tau_L O[\phi_R(x, \tau_L) + i\phi_I(x, \tau_L)]$$

# Two challenges for Complex Langevin

$$\frac{d\phi_R}{d\tau_L} = \text{Re} \left[ i \frac{\delta S[\phi]}{\delta \phi(x)} \Big|_{\phi=\phi_R+i\phi_I} \right] + \eta(x, \tau_L), \quad \frac{d\phi_I}{d\tau_L} = \text{Im} \left[ i \frac{\delta S[\phi]}{\delta \phi(x)} \Big|_{\phi=\phi_R+i\phi_I} \right]$$

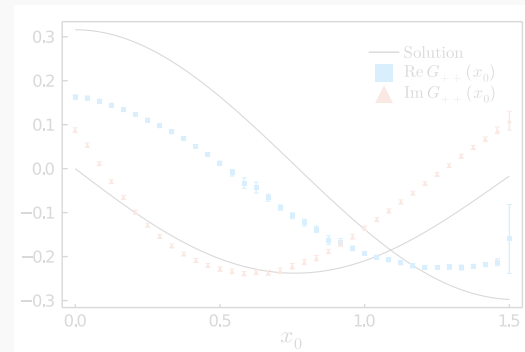
for a community overview see e.g. E. Seiler LATTICE17 EPJ Web Conf. 175, 2018

## Divergent solutions (runaways)



In practice often adaptive step size to try keeping solution finite  
see e.g.: G. Aarts et.al. PLB 687(2-3), 154–159 (2010)

## Convergence to incorrect solutions as real-time extent increases



$$\int d\phi_R \int d\phi_I O(\phi_R + i\phi_I) P_{CL}(\phi_R, \phi_I) \neq \int d\phi O(\phi) e^{iS[\phi]}$$

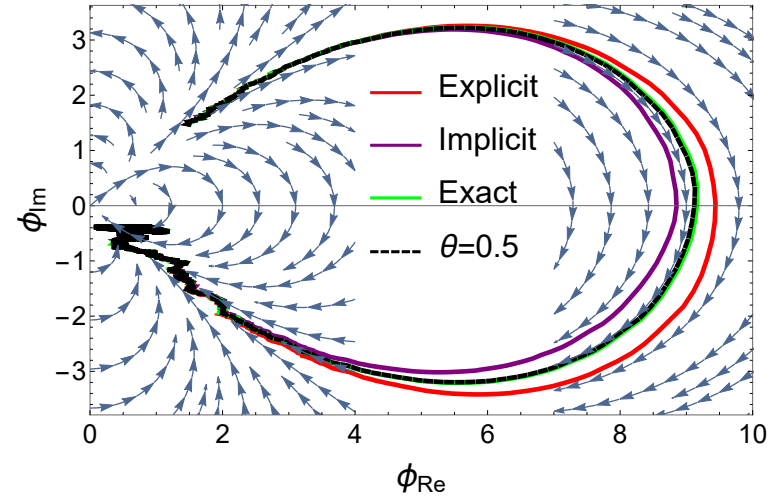
Only a posteriori criterion available: tails in histogram of field d.o.f.  
see e.g.: G. Aarts et.al. Eur. Phys. J. C71 (2011) 1756

# Solvers for Complex Langevin

- Numerical solution of stochastic dynamics in the literature: explicit forward Euler

$$\frac{d\phi}{d\tau_L} = i \frac{\delta S[\phi]}{\delta \phi(x)} + \eta(x, \tau_L)$$

$$\phi_j^{\lambda+1} = \phi_j^\lambda + i\epsilon \frac{\partial S^\lambda}{\partial \phi_j} + \sqrt{\epsilon} \eta_j^\lambda \quad \epsilon \text{ Langevin time step}$$



- Appearance of runaways indicates **stiff problem**: from PDEs we know implicit methods can help

$$\phi_j^{\lambda+1} = \phi_j^\lambda + i\epsilon \left[ \theta \frac{\partial S^{\lambda+1}}{\partial \phi_j} + (1 - \theta) \frac{\partial S^\lambda}{\partial \phi_j} \right] + \sqrt{\epsilon} \eta_j^\lambda$$

general Euler-Maruyama scheme  
 Kloeden, P.E., Platen, E.: Numerical Solution of Stochastic Differential Equations, 1–50 (1992)

- Implicit methods are **unconditionally stable**: example free theory with  $S = \phi^\dagger M \phi$

$$|\langle \phi^{\lambda+1} \rangle| = \left| \frac{1 + i\epsilon(1 - \theta)M}{1 - i\epsilon\theta M} \right| |\langle \phi^\lambda \rangle|$$



# Regularization via implicit solvers

- Implicit solvers offer **inherent regularization**, independent from contour tilt

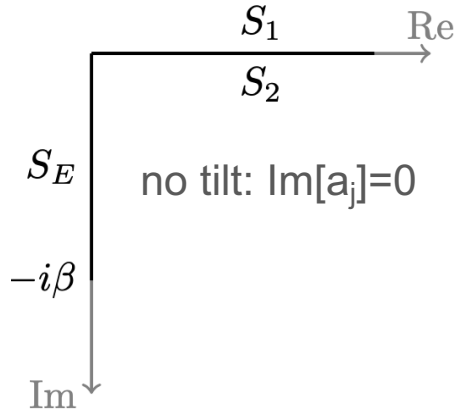
D. Alvestad, R. Larsen, A.R. JHEP 08 (2021) 138

$$\phi_j^{\lambda+1} = \phi_j^\lambda + i\epsilon \left[ \theta \frac{\partial S^{\lambda+1}}{\partial \phi_j} + (1 - \theta) \frac{\partial S^\lambda}{\partial \phi_j} \right] + \sqrt{\epsilon} \eta_j^\lambda$$

- Free theory example showcases the underlying mechanism

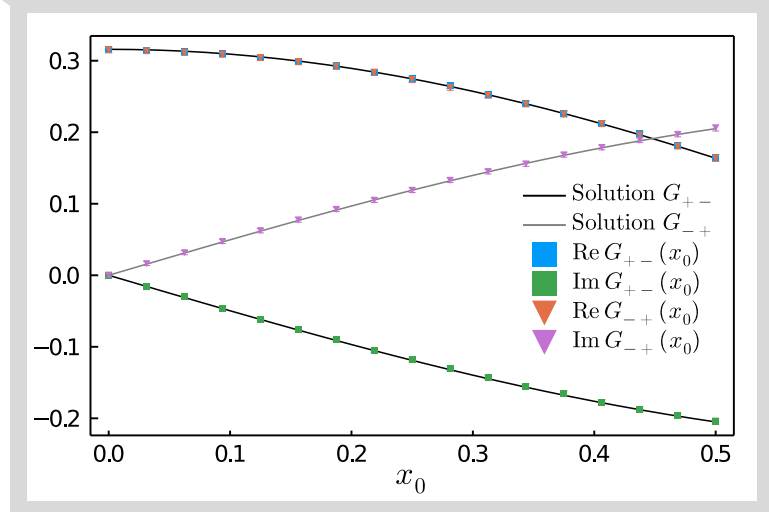
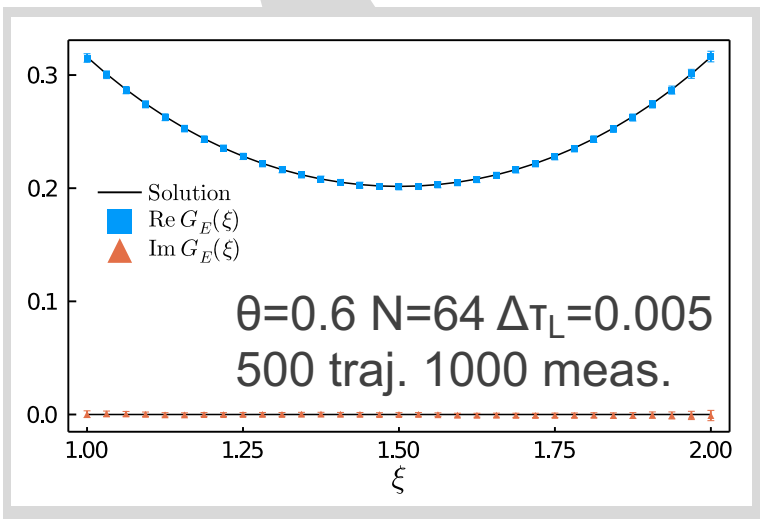
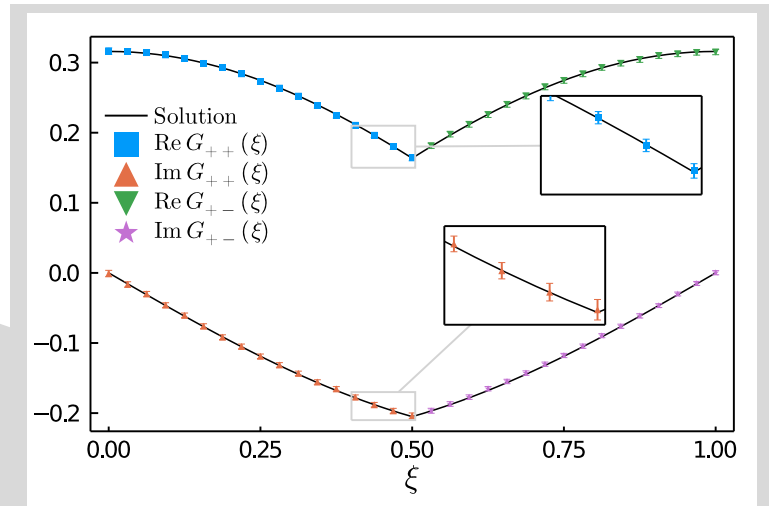
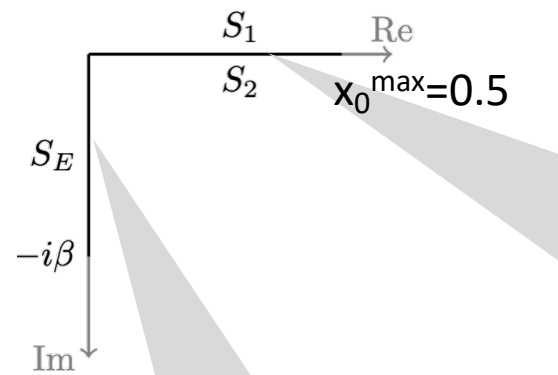
$$\begin{aligned} \phi^{\lambda+1} &= (I - i\epsilon\theta M)^{-1} \{ (I + i\epsilon(1 - \theta)M)\phi^\lambda + \sqrt{\epsilon}\eta^\lambda \} \\ &= \left\{ (1 + i\epsilon M - \epsilon^2\theta M^2)\phi^\lambda + \sqrt{\epsilon}\eta^\lambda \right\} + O(\epsilon^{3/2}) \end{aligned}$$

$$S_\theta = \frac{1}{2} \phi \left( M + i\epsilon\theta M^2 \right) \phi = S_{\text{explicit}} + \frac{i\epsilon}{2} \theta \sum_j S_j^2$$

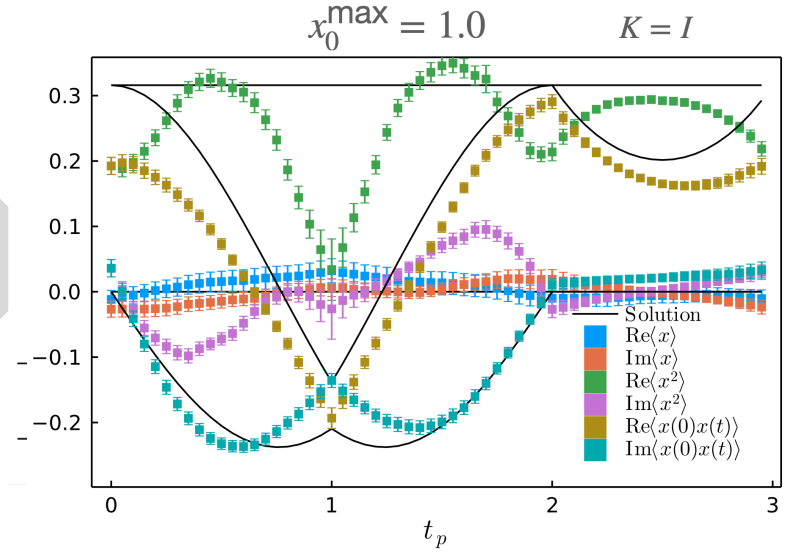
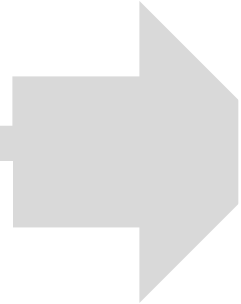
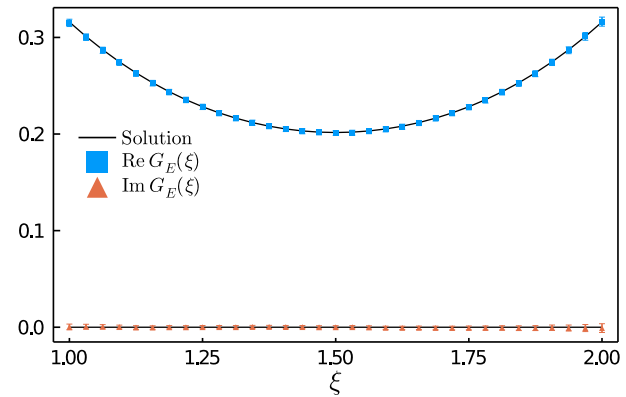
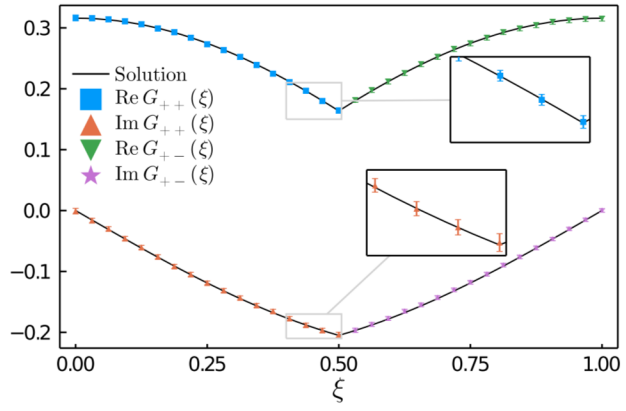


# Numerical results at short real-times I

Direct simulations on the canonical SK contour in **thermal equilibrium** possible  
 D. Alvestad, R. Larsen, A.R. JHEP 08 (2021) 138  
 parameters:  $m=1 \lambda=24 \beta m=m/T=1$



# What happens at later real-time?



Convergence to incorrect solution without apparent pathologies

# Convergence in CL

$$\lim_{\tau_L \rightarrow \infty} \int d\phi_R d\phi_I \mathcal{O}(\phi_R + i\phi_I) P_{\text{CL}}[\phi_R, \phi_I, \tau_L] \stackrel{?}{=} \int d\phi \mathcal{O}(\phi) e^{iS}$$

- Necessary, while not sufficient criterion for correct convergence: absence of **boundary terms**
see e.g.: G. Aarts et.al.  
Eur. Phys. J. C71 (2011) 1756
- Strategies to minimize boundary: pull complexified d.o.f. back to a real manifold
- **Gauge cooling**: exploit freedom to bring  $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  links as close as possible to  $SU(N)$ 
Seiler, Sexty, Stamatescu, PLB 04 62 (2013)
- **Dynamical stabilization**: modified drift term pulls towards the origin (non-holomorphic)
 Aarts, Attanasio, Jaeger, Sexty Acta Phys. Polon. Supp. 9, 621 (2016)
- Our idea for NP-hard sign problem: incorporate **system specific prior information**
D. Alvestad, R. Larsen, A.R. 2211.15625

# Kernelled complex Langevin

- Simultaneous modification of drift and noise allows to alter FP spectrum

$$\frac{d\phi}{d\tau_L} = iK[\phi] \frac{\partial S}{\partial \phi} + \frac{\partial K[\phi]}{\partial \phi} + \sqrt{K[\phi]} \eta$$

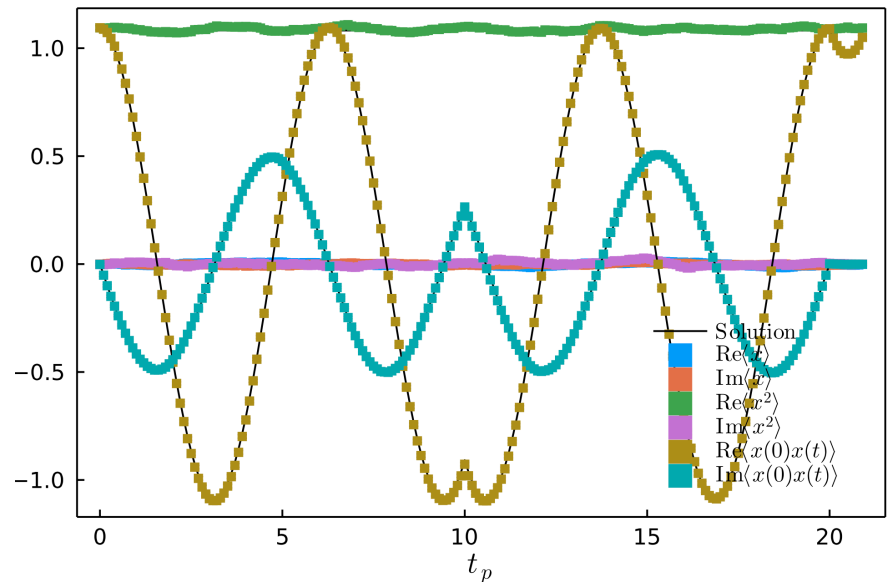
- Observation in simple models: kernel that renders drift real restores convergence

Okamoto, Okano, Schülke, Tanaka, PLB 324 684 (1989)

**Free theory in real-time**

$$S = \phi^t M \phi \quad K = iM^{-1}$$

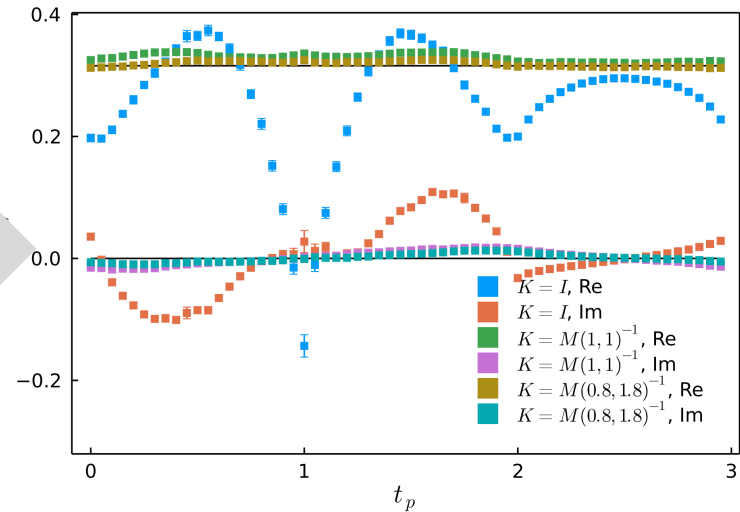
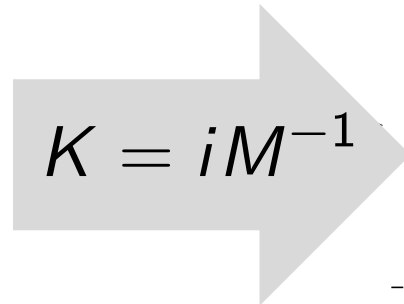
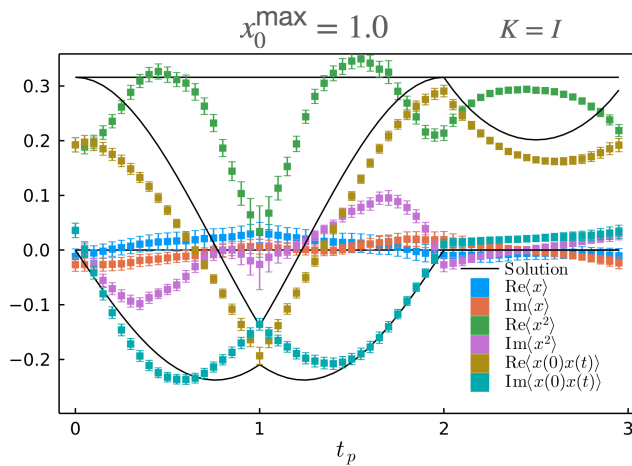
$$iK \frac{dS}{d\phi} = -\phi$$

$$\frac{d\phi}{d\tau_L} = -\phi + \sqrt{iM^{-1}} \eta$$


- Allows us to extend correct convergence to any real-time extent in free theory

# Utility of the free theory kernel

- Naïve attempt to use free kernel in interacting theory partially successful



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- Achieve correct convergence up to **2x time extent** previously reported in literature
- So far trial and error, instead need **systematic construction** of kernels
- Solution in clear violation of prior knowledge:  $\frac{d}{dt} \langle x \rangle \neq 0 \quad \langle x(\tau)x(0) \rangle_{CL} \neq \langle x(\tau)x(0) \rangle_{MC}$

# Learning optimal kernels

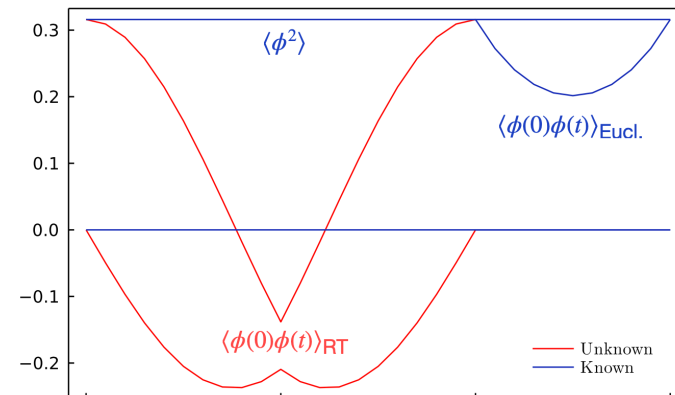
■ **Optimality via prior information: Symmetries, Euclidean correlator, Boundary**

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$$L^{\text{sym}} = \sum_t \{ \langle \phi_t \rangle^2 + \langle \phi_t^3 \rangle^2 + (\langle \phi_t^2 \rangle - \phi^2) \}$$

$$L^{\text{bnd}} = \sum_i \sum_k \{ \langle L_c[\phi_i] \mathcal{O}_k \rangle_Y \}^2$$

$$L^{\text{eucl}} = \sum_i \{ (\langle \phi_0 \phi_i \rangle - D_i^E)^2 \}$$



■ Autodifferentiation techniques to compute  $\frac{\partial L^{\text{tot}}}{\partial K_{ij}}$  (derivative of stochastic process)  
 [ note: deterministic dynamics chaotic ]

■ In principle possible in practice slow: cheaper optimization functional instead

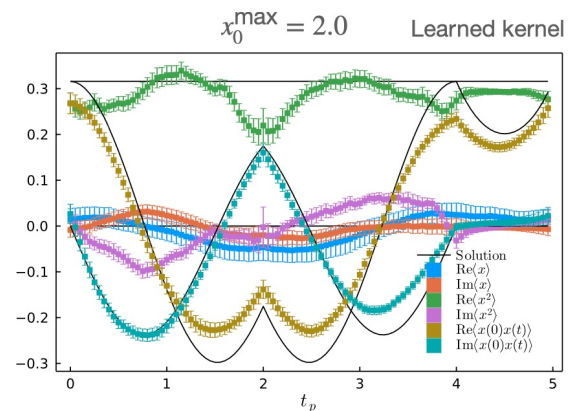
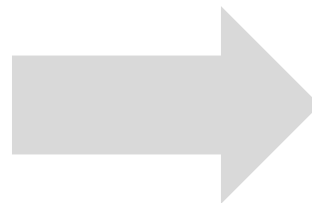
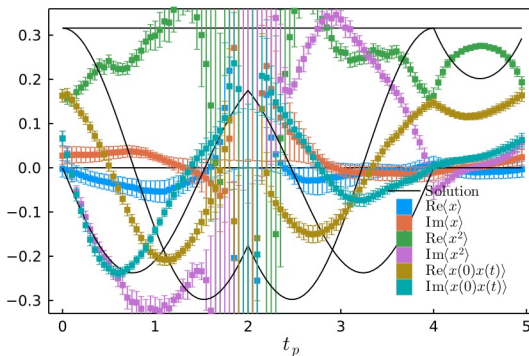
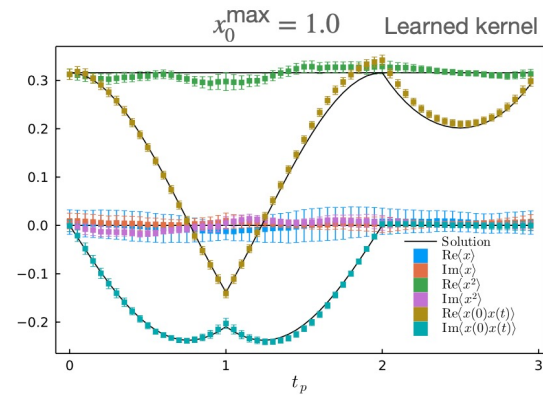
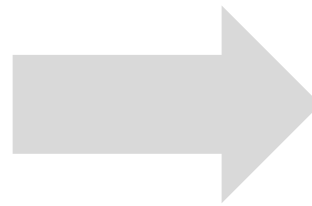
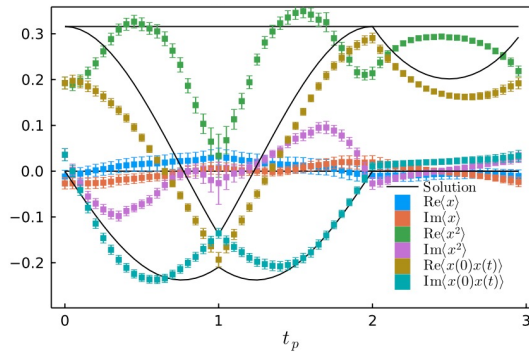
$$L^{\text{low cost}} = \frac{1}{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} \left| K \frac{\partial S}{\partial \phi_t} (-\phi_t) - \left| K \frac{\partial S}{\partial \phi_t} \right| |\phi_t| \right|^2$$

minimizes drift away from the origin  
 (similar to dynamic stabilization but remains holomorphic)

# Performance in practice

- Using a constant kernel  $K = \exp[A + iB]$  with A,B real matrices
- Optimize via low cost functional and check success via symmetries & Euclidean

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- Achieve correct convergence up to **3x time extent** previously reported in literature



# Limits to our current strategy

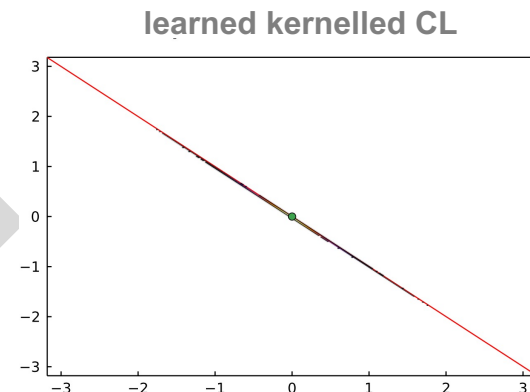
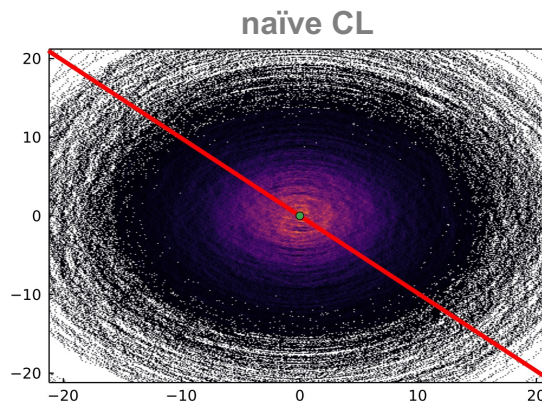
- Constant kernel works in theories with single critical point at the origin

simple Gaussian model

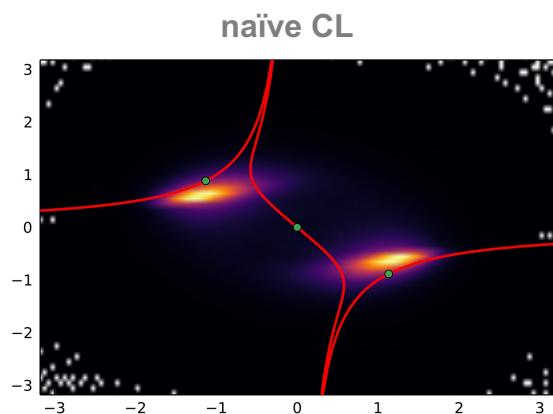
$$S = \frac{1}{2}ix^2$$

Lefschetz thimbles

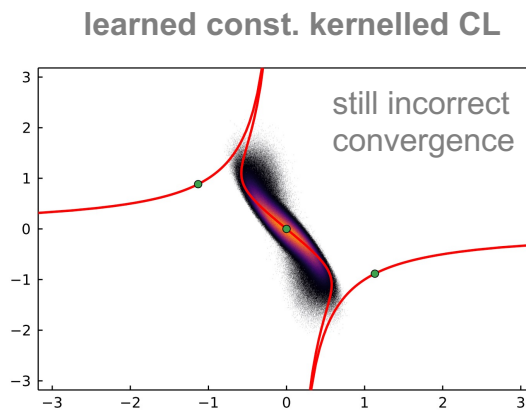
$$\frac{d\phi}{d\tau} = \overline{\frac{dS}{d\phi}}$$



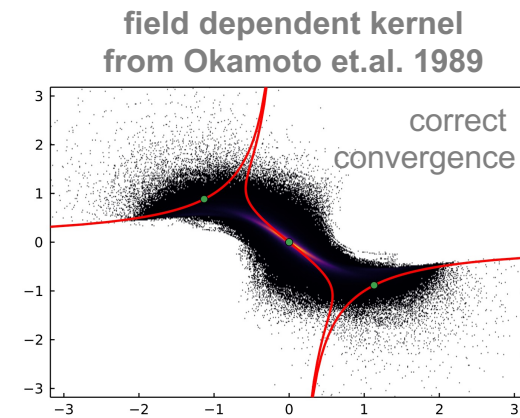
- Multiple critical points may require a field dependent kernel:  $S = 2ix^2 + (1/2)x^4$



$L^{\text{tot}}=0.888$



$L^{\text{tot}}=0.486$



$L^{\text{tot}}=0.023$

# Conclusion & Outlook

- Overcoming **NP-hard sign problem** central to progress in theoretical physics
- **Complex Langevin** one possible path forward, but hampered by two major challenges: **instabilities** and **convergence to incorrect** solutions
- **Implicit solvers** render the runaway problem moot: stable simulations on the canonical Schwinger-Keldysh contour are possible.
- **ML strategy**: systematically incorporate **system specific prior information** (symmetries, Euclidean correlators, etc.) in simulation via **kernel** modification
- Optimized **constant kernels**: 3x extended range of validity of real-time CL
- Next step: cost effective optimization strategies for **field dependent kernels** (adjoint sensitivity analysis, shadowing method (NILSS), etc.)

# Backup slides



# The real-time challenge

■ Anharmonic oscillator at  $T>0$ :  $S = \int dx_0 \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x_0} \right)^2 - V(\phi) \right\}, \quad V(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} m \phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4!} \phi^4$

$$\langle \phi(0)\phi(\tau) \rangle = \sum_j a_j \cosh[m_j(\tau - \beta/2)]$$

fitting for ground state:  $m_0=2.035$   
 one state fit reproduces data within  $< 1\%$

