Critical quench dynamics in confined quantum systems

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Contents

Qualitative picture

Time-dependent hamiltonian

$$H(t) = H_{critical} + g(t)V$$

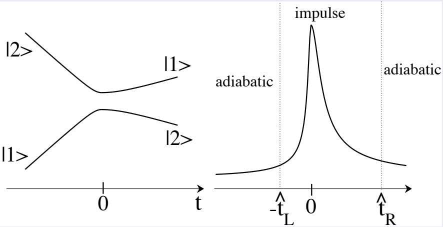
Power-law tuning parameter $g(t) \sim sgn(t)|t/\tau|^{\alpha} = sgn(t)v|t|^{\alpha}$ driving the system through the critical point.

- The system remains in the instantaneous ground state $|GS(t)\rangle$ as long as it is protected by a finite gap $\Delta(t)$ from the excited states.
- Breaking of the adiabaticity close to the critical point since the gap vanishes right at the QCP.

Kibble-Zurek mechanism

- Adiabatic: Sufficiently away from the critical point no transitions between instantaneous eigenstates
- Impulse: Sufficiently close to the critical point critical slowing down ⇒ no change in the wave function except for an overall phase factor

Adiabatic-Impulse approximation



$$
\begin{aligned}
t \in [-\infty, -\hat{t}_L] \quad &: \quad |\varphi(t)\rangle \approx \mathrm{e}^{-i\alpha(t)}|0(t)\rangle \\
t \in [-\hat{t}_L, \hat{t}_R] \quad &: \quad |\varphi(t)\rangle \approx \mathrm{e}^{-i\beta(t)}|0(-\hat{t}_L)\rangle \\
t \in [\hat{t}_R, +\infty] \quad &: \quad |\langle\varphi(t)|0(t)\rangle|^2 = \mathrm{const.}
\end{aligned}
$$

Kibble-Zurek time-scale τ_{KZ}

Kibble-Zurek timescale τ_{KZ}

$$\tau_0/\Delta(\tau_{KZ}) = \Delta(\tau_{KZ})/|\dot{\Delta}(\tau_{KZ})|$$

with

$$\Delta(t) \sim |g(t)|^{\nu z} \sim v^{\nu z}|t|^{\nu z\alpha}$$

one has

$$\tau_{KZ} \sim v^{-\nu z/(1+\alpha\nu z)}; \quad \ell \sim \tau_{KZ}^{1/z}$$

Scaling for defect density

$$n \sim \ell^{-d} \sim v^{d\nu/(1+\nu z\alpha)}$$

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W. H. Zurek, U. Dorner and P. Zoller, Phys. Rev. Lett. **95**, 105701 (2005).
B. Damski, Phys. Rev. Lett. **95**, 035701 (2005);
B. Damski and W. H. Zurek, Phys. Rev. A **73**, 063405 (2006);
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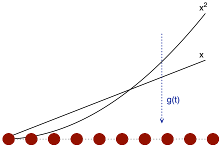
Power-law spatial inhomogeneity

A power-law deviation in one direction of the quantum control parameter h form its critical value h_c:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta(x,t) &\equiv h(x,t) - h_c \simeq g(t)x^{\omega}, \quad x > 0 \\ g(t) &= v|t|^{\alpha}\mathrm{sgn}(t) \end{aligned}$$



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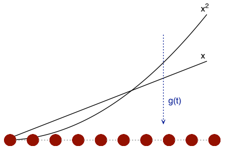

The perturbation introduces a crossover region in space-time (x,t) around the critical locus (0,0).

Lenght-scale

$$\ell(t) \sim \delta(\ell,t)^{-\nu} \rightarrow \ell(t) \sim |g(t)|^{-1/y_g}$$
$$y_g = (1+\nu\omega)/\nu$$

Time-scale

$$\tau \sim \ell(\tau)^z \rightarrow \tau \sim v^{-z/y_v}$$
$$y_v = y_g + z\alpha$$

The exponent y_v is the RG dimension of the perturbation field, such that under rescaling by a factor b the amplitude transforms as $v' = b^{y_v} v$.

Scaling arguments

Under rescaling, the profile $\varphi(x,t,v)$ associated to an operator φ with scaling dimension x_φ transform as

$$\varphi(x,t,v) = b^{-x_\varphi}\varphi(xb^{-1}, tb^{-z}, vb^{y_v})$$

Taking $b = v^{-1/y_v} \propto \ell \propto \tau^{1/z}$ one obtains

$$\varphi(x,t,v) = v^{x_\varphi/y_v}\Phi(xv^{1/y_v}, tv^{z/y_v})$$

- Trap-size scaling $\varphi \sim \ell^{-x_\varphi}$ associated to a finite size system with $\ell \sim v^{-1/y_v}$.

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Adiabatic approximation

Time evolution of a quantum system described by a time-dependent Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}(t)$

- The system is initially in the instantaneous ground state of the Hamiltonian $\mathcal{H}(t_0)$:

$$|\varphi(t_0)\rangle = |0(t_0)\rangle$$

- At time t

$$|\varphi(t)\rangle = \mathcal{U}(t,t_0)|0(t_0)\rangle$$

where the time evolution operator is

$$\mathcal{U}(t,t_0) = \hat{\mathrm{T}} \exp -i \int_{t_0}^{t} ds \mathcal{H}(s)$$

Adiabatic expansion in the instantaneous eigenbasis

Instantaneous eigenstates

$$\mathcal{H}(t)|k(t)\rangle = E_k(t)|k(t)\rangle$$

Adiabatic expansion up to first order

Rate of change of the Hamiltonian: $\partial_t \mathcal{H}(t) \sim \partial_t g(t) \sim v \to 0$

$$|\varphi(t)\rangle = e^{-i\int_{t_0}^{t} dsE_0(s)}|0(t)\rangle + \sum_{k\neq 0} e^{-i\int_{t_0}^{t} dsE_0(s)} a_k(t_0,t)|k(t)\rangle$$

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$$|\varphi(t)\rangle = e^{-i\int_{t_0}^{t} dsE_0(s)}|0(t)\rangle + \sum_{k\neq 0} e^{-i\int_{t_0}^{t} dsE_0(s)} a_k(t_0,t)|k(t)\rangle$$

$$a_k(t_0,t) = \int_{g(t_0)}^{g(t)} dg \frac{\langle k(g)|\partial_g \mathcal{H}(g)|0(g)\rangle}{\delta\omega_{k0}(g)} \mathrm{e}^{-i\vartheta_k(g,g(t))}$$

where

$$\vartheta_k(x,y) = \frac{v^{-1/\alpha}}{\alpha}\int_x^y dg|g|^{1/\alpha-1}\delta\omega_{k0}(g)$$

$$\delta\omega_{k0}(g) = E_k(g) - E_0(g)$$

Adiabatic expansion up to first order

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$$\delta\omega_{k0}(g) = E_k(g) - E_0(g)$$

- For $v \ll 1$, $a_k \simeq 0$: instantaneous ground state
- For $v \gg 1$, $\exp(-i\vartheta_k) \sim 1$: sudden quench

Density of defects

Density of defects

$$n = \sum_{k \neq 0} |a_k|^2$$

General scaling arguments ($\ell \sim g^{-1/y_g}$):

$$\delta\omega_{k0} \sim \ell^{-z}\Omega(\ell^{-z}/k^z); \quad \langle k(g)|\partial_g \mathcal{H}(g)|0(g)\rangle \sim \ell^{-z+y_g} G(\ell^{-z}/k^z)$$

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- For a quench crossing the QCP, in order that the integral converges at $g = 0$ the scaling function $G(u)/\Omega(u) = uf(u)$ at small u.

$$n \sim \ell^{-d} \sim v^{d\nu/(1+\nu z\alpha)}$$

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- For a quench crossing the QCP, in order that the integral converges at $g = 0$ the scaling function $G(u)/\Omega(u) = uf(u)$ at small u.
- In the inhomogeneous case the convergence close to the critical point is not garanted.

$$n \sim \ell^{-d} \sim v^{d\nu/(1+\nu z\alpha)}$$

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Inhomogeneous QCP

$$\tau_{KZ} \sim \left(\frac{\tau_0}{\Omega_0}\frac{z\alpha}{y_g}\right)^{y_g/y_v} v^{-z/y_v}$$

$$n \sim [\Delta(\tau_{KZ})]^{d/z} \sim \left(\frac{\tau_0}{\Omega_0}\frac{z\alpha}{y_g}\right)^{d\alpha/y_v} v^{d/y_v}$$

Ising quantum chain in time-dependent inhomogeneous transverse field

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{H}(t) &= -\frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{L-1}\sigma_n^x\sigma_{n+1}^x - \frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{L} h_n(g)\sigma_n^z \\
h_n(g) &= 1 + g(t)n^{\omega}, \quad g(t) = v|t|^{\alpha}\mathrm{sgn}(t)
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- In linear case $\omega = 1$ Exact solution using fermionic mapping
- For general ω Numerical diagonalization + Finite-size analyses

Up to the first order correction we can write the evolution of the Ising chain ground state $|0(g_0)\rangle$ as

$$|\varphi(t)\rangle \approx |0(g)\rangle + \sum_{pq} a_{pq}(t_0, t)\eta_q^\dagger(g)\eta_p^\dagger(g)|0(g)\rangle$$

Defects density $\sim$ Fidelity

$$n \approx \sum_{pq} |a_{pq}(t_0, t)|^2$$

Excess energy

$$e \approx \sum_{pq} \delta\omega_{pq}|a_{pq}(t_0, t)|^2$$

Linear case $\omega = 1$

Transition amplitude $a_{pq}(t_0, t)$ for a quench starting at a value $g_0 = g(t_0)$ and ending at a new value $g_t = g(t)$.

Quenches that do not cross the critical point

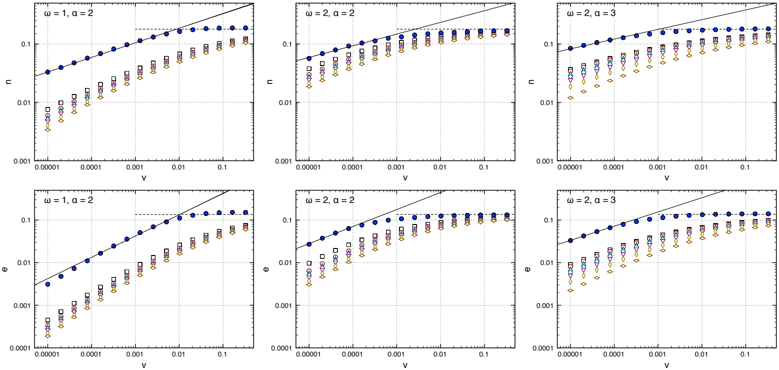
$$a_{pq}(t_0, t) = F_{pq} A_{\phi_{pq}} \left(|g_0|, |g(t)|\right) \mathrm{e}^{i\Theta_{pq}(t)}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
\Theta_{pq}(t) &= \pi H(-g_0) + \phi_{pq} |g(t)|^{\frac{2+\alpha}{2\alpha}} \\
\phi_{pq} &= -2\Omega_{pq} \frac{v^{-1/\alpha}}{\alpha + 2} \mathrm{sgn}(g_0) \\
A_{\phi}(x, y) &= \frac{2\alpha}{2+\alpha} \left[\mathrm{E}_1 \left(i\phi x^{\frac{2+\alpha}{2\alpha}} \right) - \mathrm{E}_1 \left(i\phi y^{\frac{2+\alpha}{2\alpha}} \right) \right]
\end{aligned}$$

The spatial inhomogeneity modifies the dependence on g of the scaling function $F_{pq}(g) = G_{pq}(g)/(2\Omega_{pq}(g))$ close to $g = 0$ such that it leads to a complete breakdown of the approximation

Quench to the critical point: $g_i = 1$, $g_f = 0$



For $v \ll 1$, $n \sim v^{1/4,1/5,1/6}$ and $e \sim n^2$.
The dashed lines correspond to the asymptotic sudden-quench values $n_{sq} \approx 0.179$ and $e_{sq} \approx 0.136$

Conclusion

- Scaling theory for the non-linear quench of a power-law perturbation, such as a confining potential, close to a critical point
- Power law behavior of the density of defects with the ramping rate with an exponent depending on the space-time properties of the potential.
- First order adiabatic calculation and exact results on an inhomogeneous transverse field Ising chain