

Minicourse on fractal uncertainty principle  
Lecture 2: from control of eigenfunctions to FUP

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June 2, 2021

## Review: general setup

- $(M, g)$  compact hyperbolic surface (curvature  $\equiv -1$ )
- We are given  $a \in C_c^\infty(T^*M)$  such that  $a|_{S^*M} \not\equiv 0$
- Goal (Theorem 1'): prove that for all  $h \ll 1$  and  $u \in C^\infty(M)$

$$(-h^2 \Delta_g - 1)u = 0 \implies \|u\| \leq C \|\text{Op}_h(a)u\|$$

(all norms are  $L^2$  or operator norm  $L^2 \rightarrow L^2$ )

- Take two functions  $a_1, a_2 \in C_c^\infty(T^*M \setminus 0; [0, 1])$  such that

$$a_1 + a_2 = 1 \text{ near } S^*M, \quad \text{supp } a_1 \subset \{a \neq 0\}, \quad S^*M \setminus \text{supp } a_j \neq \emptyset$$

The operators  $A_j := \text{Op}_h(a_j)$  satisfy  $\|A_j\| \leq 1 + \mathcal{O}(h)$  and

$$\|A_1(j)u\| \leq C \|\text{Op}_h(a)u\| + \mathcal{O}(h^\infty)\|u\|$$

where  $A(j) := U(-t)AU(t)$  and  $U(t) = \exp(-it\sqrt{-\Delta_g})$

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## Review: proof under GCC

- For a word  $\mathbf{w} = w_0 \dots w_{N-1} \in \mathcal{W}(N)$ , define

$$A_{\mathbf{w}} := A_{w_{N-1}}(N-1) \cdots A_{w_1}(1) A_{w_0}(0), \quad a_{\mathbf{w}} := \prod_{j=0}^{N-1} (a_{w_j} \circ \varphi_j)$$

- $A_{\mathbf{w}} = \text{Op}_h(a_{\mathbf{w}}) + \mathcal{O}_N(h)$  and  $u = \sum_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}(N)} A_{\mathbf{w}} u + \mathcal{O}(h^\infty) \|u\|$
- Previously we gave the proof under the geometric control condition: there exists  $N$  such that  $a_{2\dots 2} = 0$  where  $2\dots 2 \in \mathcal{W}(N)$
- To do that we split  $u = A_{\mathcal{X}} u + A_{\mathcal{Y}} u$  where  $A_{\mathcal{X}} = A_{2\dots 2} = \mathcal{O}(h)$  and  $\|A_{\mathcal{Y}} u\| \leq CN \|\text{Op}_h(a) u\| + \mathcal{O}(h^\infty) \|u\|$
- Without GCC, we have  $\sup_{S^*M} |a_{2\dots 2}| = 1$  and thus  $\|A_{\mathcal{X}}\| = 1 + \mathcal{O}(h)$
- Key fact for Theorem 1' without GCC: for  $N \approx 2 \log(1/h)$ , we do **not** have  $A_{2\dots 2} = \text{Op}_h(a_{2\dots 2}) + \dots$  and in fact  $\|A_{2\dots 2}\| \ll 1$

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## Scheme of the proof of Theorem 1'

## Key estimate

Let  $N := 2\lfloor \log(1/h) \rfloor$ . Then there exist  $\beta > 0, C$  such that for all  $h$

$$\|A_{\mathbf{w}}\| \leq Ch^\beta \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}(N)$$

- Why 2? Related to expansion rate of the geodesic flow, more below
- Can write  $u = \sum_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}(N)} A_{\mathbf{w}} u = A_{\mathcal{X}} u + A_{\mathcal{Y}} u$ ,  $A_{\mathcal{X}} := A_{2\dots 2}$
- By the key estimate,  $\|A_{\mathcal{X}} u\| \leq Ch^\beta \|u\| \ll \|u\|$
- Can estimate  $A_{\mathcal{Y}} u$  as before:

$$\|A_{\mathcal{Y}} u\| \leq 2 \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \|A_1(j) u\| \leq C \log(1/h) \| \text{Op}_h(a) u \| + \mathcal{O}(h^\infty) \|u\|$$

- Putting together, get  $\|u\| \leq C \log(1/h) \| \text{Op}_h(a) u \|$  for  $h \ll 1$
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## Long time propagation

By Egorov's Theorem + composition property, for  $N$  independent of  $h$

$$A_w = \text{Op}_h(a_w) + \mathcal{O}(h) \quad \text{for all } w \in \mathcal{W}(N)$$

Can this work when  $N \rightarrow \infty$  as  $h \rightarrow 0$ ?

- The proof of Egorov's Theorem uses basic semiclassical calculus. So the real question is: **Can we still quantize  $a_w$ ?**
- The problem with  $a_w = \prod_{j=0}^{N-1} (a_{w_j} \circ \varphi_j)$  is that the derivatives of  $a_{w_j} \circ \varphi_j$  are large when  $j \gg 1$ . How large?
- The geodesic flow  $\varphi_t : S^*M \rightarrow S^*M$  of a hyperbolic surface has the flow/**unstable**/**stable** decomposition  $T(S^*M) = E_0 \oplus E_u \oplus E_s$ :

$$|d\varphi_t(x, \xi)v| = \begin{cases} |v|, & v \in E_0(x, \xi) \\ e^t|v|, & v \in E_u(x, \xi) \\ e^{-t}|v|, & v \in E_s(x, \xi) \end{cases}$$

So  $\sup |\partial^\alpha (a_{w_j} \circ \varphi_j)| \leq C_\alpha e^{N|\alpha|}$

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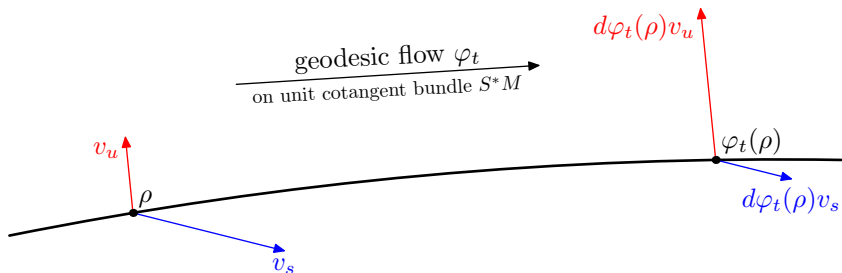
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# Picture of the unstable/stable decomposition



## Remarks

- We often ignore the flow direction  $E_0$  because there is no expansion or contraction in it
- We also often restrict to  $S^*M$ , where  $u$  lives microlocally, and ignore the dilation direction  $\xi \cdot \partial_\xi$
- So the effective dynamics (on a Poincaré section in  $S^*M$ , transversal to the flow) is similar to 2-dimensional hyperbolic maps (e.g. cat map)



# Pushing the limits of quantization: isotropic symbols

Let us look at the standard quantization on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$\text{Op}_h(a)f(x) = (2\pi h)^{-n} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{2n}} e^{\frac{i}{h}\langle x-y, \xi \rangle} a(x, \xi) f(y) dy d\xi$$

Composition formula:  $\text{Op}_h(a) \text{Op}_h(b) = \text{Op}_h(a \# b)$  where

$$a \# b \sim \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-ih)^k \sum_{|\alpha|=k} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial_{\xi}^{\alpha} a \cdot \partial_x^{\alpha} b \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow 0$$

- Use 2 derivatives for each power of  $h$ . This works if  $a, b$  satisfy

$$\sup |\partial^{\alpha} a|, \sup |\partial^{\alpha} b| \leq C_{\alpha} h^{-\rho|\alpha|} \quad \text{for some } \rho < \frac{1}{2}$$

with  $k$ -th term of the above expansion being  $\mathcal{O}(h^{(1-2\rho)k})$

- The derivatives of  $a_{w_j} \circ \varphi_j$  grow like  $e^{N|\alpha|}$ . So it appears that  $A_w = \text{Op}_h(a_w) + \dots$  until the Ehrenfest time:  $N = \frac{1}{2} \log(1/h)$

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## Pushing the limits of quantization: anisotropic symbols

Can we quantize symbols which are rougher in  $x$  but smoother in  $\xi$ ?

$$a \# b \sim \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-i\hbar)^k \sum_{|\alpha|=k} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial_{\xi}^{\alpha} a \cdot \partial_x^{\alpha} b \quad \text{as } \hbar \rightarrow 0$$

Can afford to lose  $\hbar^{-\rho}$ ,  $\rho < 1$ , differentiating in  $x$ ,  
if we lose nothing when differentiating in  $\xi$

That is, we can take  $a, b$  in the class  $S_{L_0, \rho}$  defined by the inequalities

$$\sup |\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\xi}^{\beta} a| \leq C_{\alpha\beta} \hbar^{-\rho|\alpha|}$$

Or we could take  $a, b$  in the class  $S_{L_1, \rho}$  defined by losing in  $\xi$  but not in  $x$ :

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But if  $a \in S_{L_1, \rho}$  and  $b \in S_{L_0, \rho}$ , then the expansion diverges when  $\rho > \frac{1}{2}$ !

## Pushing the limits of quantization: anisotropic symbols

Can we quantize symbols which are rougher in  $x$  but smoother in  $\xi$ ?

$$a \# b \sim \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-i\hbar)^k \sum_{|\alpha|=k} \frac{1}{\alpha!} \partial_{\xi}^{\alpha} a \cdot \partial_x^{\alpha} b \quad \text{as } \hbar \rightarrow 0$$

Can afford to lose  $\hbar^{-\rho}$ ,  $\rho < 1$ , differentiating in  $x$ ,  
if we lose nothing when differentiating in  $\xi$

That is, we can take  $a, b$  in the class  $S_{L_0, \rho}$  defined by the inequalities

$$\sup |\partial_x^{\alpha} \partial_{\xi}^{\beta} a| \leq C_{\alpha\beta} \hbar^{-\rho|\alpha|}$$

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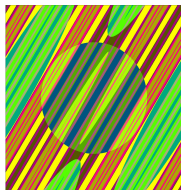
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The derivatives of  $a_{w_j} \circ \varphi_j$  are only large in the unstable direction.

Using this, we get  $A_w = \text{Op}_h(a_w) + \mathcal{O}(h^{1-\rho})$   
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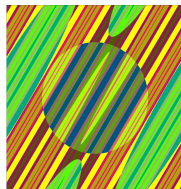


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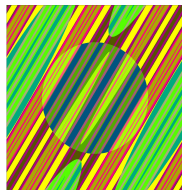
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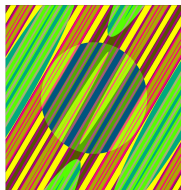
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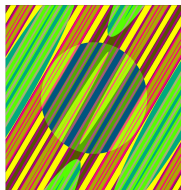
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Key estimate:  $\|A_{\mathbf{w}}\| \leq Ch^\beta$  for  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}(2N_1)$ ,  $N_1 = \lfloor \rho \log(1/h) \rfloor$ ,  $\rho < 1$

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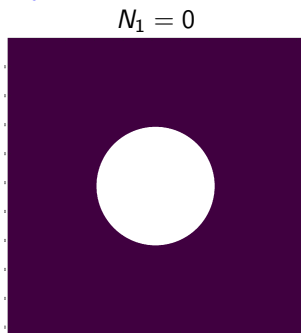
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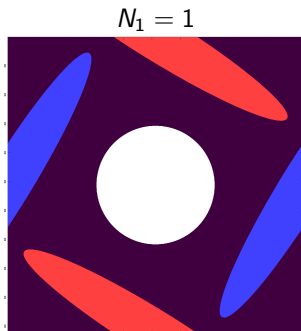
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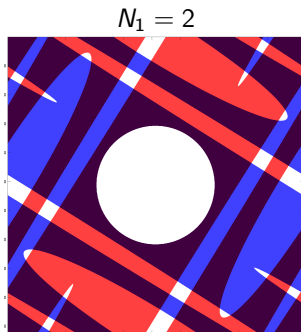
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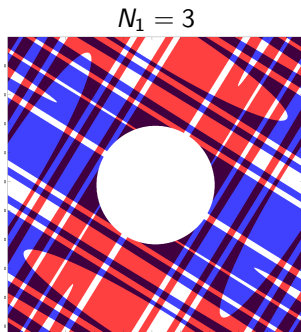
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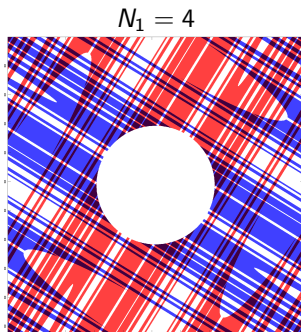
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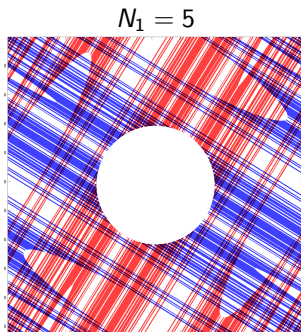
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$V_-(N_1)$  is nice in the stable direction, porous up to scale  $e^{-N_1} \sim h^{\rho}$  in the unstable direction

$V_+(N_1)$  is nice in the unstable direction, porous up to scale  $h^{\rho}$  in the stable direction

**Want:** localizations to  $V_-$ ,  $V_+$  incompatible



# Main tool: fractal uncertainty principle (FUP)

No function can be localized in both **position** and **frequency** near a fractal set

## Definition

Fix  $\nu > 0$ . A set  $X \subset \mathbb{R}$  is  $\nu$ -porous up to scale  $h$  if for each interval  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  of length  $h \leq |I| \leq 1$ , there is an interval  $J \subset I$ ,  $|J| = \nu|I|$ ,  $J \cap X = \emptyset$

**Example:** mid-third Cantor set  $\mathcal{C} \subset [0, 1]$  is  $\frac{1}{6}$ -porous on scales 0 to 1

## Theorem 2 [Bourgain–D '18]

Assume that  $X, Y \subset \mathbb{R}$  are  $\nu$ -porous up to scale  $h$ . Then  $\exists \beta = \beta(\nu) > 0$ :

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Note: enough to require porosity up to scales  $h^\rho$  where  $\rho > \frac{1}{2}$



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Fix  $\nu > 0$ . A set  $X \subset \mathbb{R}$  is  $\nu$ -porous up to scale  $h$  if for each interval  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  of length  $h \leq |I| \leq 1$ , there is an interval  $J \subset I$ ,  $|J| = \nu|I|$ ,  $J \cap X = \emptyset$

**Example:** mid-third Cantor set  $\mathcal{C} \subset [0, 1]$  is  $\frac{1}{6}$ -porous on scales 0 to 1



## Theorem 2 [Bourgain–D '18]

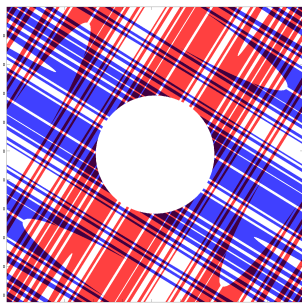
Assume that  $X, Y \subset \mathbb{R}$  are  $\nu$ -porous up to scale  $h$ . Then  $\exists \beta = \beta(\nu) > 0$ :

$$\|\mathbf{1}_X(\frac{h}{i}\partial_x)\mathbf{1}_Y(x)\|_{L^2(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R})} = \mathcal{O}(h^\beta) \quad \text{as } h \rightarrow 0$$

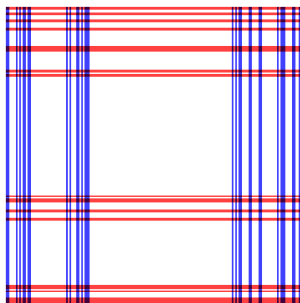
Note: enough to require porosity up to scales  $h^\rho$  where  $\rho > \frac{1}{2}$

## From FUP to the key estimate

**Need:**  $\|Op_h(a_-)Op_h(a_+)\| \leq Ch^\beta$ ,  
 $\text{supp } a_-$  porous in unstable direction,  
 $\text{supp } a_+$  porous in stable direction



**FUP:**  $\|Op_h(b_-)Op_h(b_+)\| \leq Ch^\beta$ ,  
 $b_\pm \in C_c^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$ ,  $\text{supp } b_- \subset \{\xi \in W_-\}$ ,  
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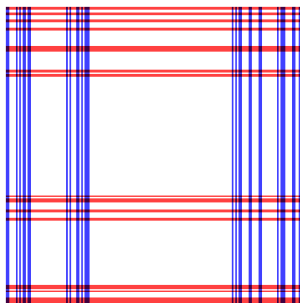
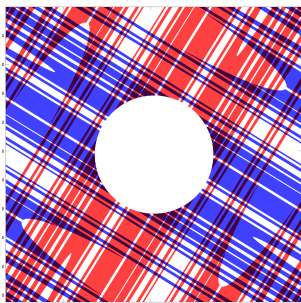


To pass from FUP to the key estimate, we can try to conjugate by a Fourier Integral operator to map  $E_u \mapsto \mathbb{R}\partial_\xi$ ,  $E_s \mapsto \mathbb{R}\partial_x$ . Not quite possible but after some cutting and pasting can make it work. . .

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# Removing the log

So far we proved that  $\|u\| \leq C \log(1/h) \| \text{Op}_h(a)u \|$  by writing

$$u = A_x u + A_y u, \quad A_x := A_{2\dots 2}$$

and estimating

$$\|A_x u\| \leq Ch^\beta \|u\|, \quad \|A_y u\| \leq C \log(1/h) \| \text{Op}_h(a)u \| + \mathcal{O}(h^\infty) \|u\|$$

To get rid of the log prefactor, we will revise the decomposition  $u = A_x u + A_y u$  so that

$$\|A_x u\| \leq Ch^{\frac{\beta}{2}} \|u\|, \quad \|A_y u\| \leq C \| \text{Op}_h(a)u \| + \mathcal{O}(h^{\frac{1}{10}}) \|u\|$$

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## Removing the log: uncontrolled words

- Recall that we are dealing with words of length  $2\lfloor \log(1/h) \rfloor$ .  
Let's use instead the similar time  $20N_0$  where  $N_0 = \lfloor \frac{1}{10} \log(1/h) \rfloor$
- Define the set of **controlled short logarithmic words**

$$\mathcal{Z} := \{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}(N_0) \mid F(\mathbf{w}) \geq \alpha\}, \quad F(\mathbf{w}) := \frac{\#\{j \mid w_j = 1\}}{N_0}$$

where  $0 < \alpha \ll 1$  is chosen depending on  $\beta$  from the key estimate

- Now write  $\sum_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}(20N_0)} A_{\mathbf{w}} = A_{\mathcal{X}} + A_{\mathcal{Y}}$  where, writing words in  $\mathcal{W}(20N_0)$  as concatenations of 20 words in  $\mathcal{W}(N_0)$

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- We have  $\#(\mathcal{X}) \leq Ch^{100\alpha \log \alpha}$ , so for  $\alpha \ll_{\beta} 1$  the triangle inequality + the key estimate  $\|A_{\mathbf{w}}\| \leq Ch^{\beta}$  give  $\|A_{\mathcal{X}}\| \leq Ch^{\frac{\beta}{2}}$



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It remains to bound  $A_{\mathcal{Y}}u$  where

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Similarly to the end of Lecture 1, since  $u = A_{\mathcal{Z}}u + A_{\mathcal{Z}^c}u$ , write

$$A_{\mathcal{Y}}u = \sum_{\ell=0}^{19} A_{\mathcal{Z}^c}(19N_0) \cdots A_{\mathcal{Z}^c}((\ell+1)N_0) A_{\mathcal{Z}}(\ell N_0)u$$

We can show that  $\|A_{\mathcal{Z}^c}\| \leq 1 + \mathcal{O}(h^{\frac{1}{10}})$ , so

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Now it suffices to estimate  $A_{\mathcal{Z}}u$  where  $A_{\mathcal{Z}} := \sum_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{Z}} A_{\mathbf{w}}$  and

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Now define  $A_F := \sum_{\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{W}(N_0)} F(\mathbf{w})A_{\mathbf{w}} = \text{Op}_h(a_F) + \mathcal{O}(h^{\frac{1}{10}})$  where

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By the definition of  $\mathcal{Z}$ , we have  $a_{\mathcal{Z}} \leq \alpha^{-1}a_F$ . By sharp Gårding inequality

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Then (pretending that  $A_1 + A_2 = I$ ) we have  $A_{F_j} = A_1(j)$ , so

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Thank you for your attention!