

## Research Article

# Complexity in Linear Systems: A Chaotic Linear Operator on the Space of Odd $2\pi$ -Periodic Functions

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Not just nonlinear systems but infinite-dimensional linear systems can exhibit complex behavior. It has long been known that twice the backward shift on the space of square-summable sequences  $l_2$  displays chaotic dynamics. Here we construct the corresponding operator  $\mathcal{C}$  on the space of  $2\pi$ -periodic odd functions and provide its representation involving a Principal Value Integral. We explicitly calculate the eigenfunction of this operator, as well as its periodic points. We also provide examples of chaotic and unbounded trajectories of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

## 1. Introduction

Linear systems have commonly been thought to exhibit relatively simple behavior. Surprisingly, infinite-dimensional linear systems can have complex dynamics. In particular, Rolewicz in 1969 [1] showed that the backward shift  $B$  multiplied by 2 (i.e.,  $2B$ ) on the space of square-summable sequences  $l_2$  exhibits transitivity (and thus gives rise to chaotic dynamics). A nice exposition of dynamics of infinite-dimensional operators is given in [2, 3] and the recent books [4, 5]. While chaoticity of linear operators is at first puzzling and the backward shift example seems contrived, these operators are not rare. In fact, Herrero [6] and Chan [7] showed that chaotic linear operators are dense (with respect to pointwise convergence) in the set of bounded linear operators. In addition to  $2B$  there are many examples of chaotic linear operators including weighted shifts [8], composition operators [9], and differentiation and translations [10–12]. It has also been argued in [13, 14] that nonlinearity is not necessarily required for complex behavior; an infinite-dimensional state space can also provide the ingredients of chaotic dynamics.

Several recent papers explore chaotic behavior of linear systems (see, e.g., [15, 16]). Bernardes et al. [17], for example,

obtain new characterizations of Li-Yorke chaos for linear operators on Banach and Fréchet spaces.

Here we construct a chaotic linear operator by “lifting”  $2B$  to the space  $L_2$  of square-integrable functions (more precisely to the Hilbert space  $L_2(0, \pi)$  of  $2\pi$ -periodic odd functions). Our main tool in finding the expression for the backward shift is utilizing a smidgen of distribution theory and Cauchy’s principal value, a method for obtaining a finite result for a singular integral. The principal value (PV) integral (see, e.g., [18], p. 457) of a function  $f$  about a point  $c \in [a, b]$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PV} \int_a^b f(x) dx \\ = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left( \int_a^{c-\varepsilon} f(x) dx + \int_{c+\varepsilon}^b f(x) dx \right). \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

The PV integral is commonly used in many fields of physics. A review of developments in the mathematics and methods for Principal Value Integrals is presented in [19]. Cohen et al. [20] examine first-order PV integrals and analyze several of their important properties. The structure of the paper is the following. In Section 2 we relate the backward shift on  $l_2$  to a shift on  $L_2(0, \pi)$ . We state and prove a theorem

about expressing this shift on  $L_2(0, \pi)$  in terms of a PV integral. In Section 3 we define and analyze the corresponding chaotic operator  $\mathcal{C}$  on  $L_2(0, \pi)$ , including finding its eigenvectors and periodic points. We provide examples of unbounded and chaotic trajectories of  $\mathcal{C}$ . In Section 4 we draw conclusions. We also show that utilizing the representation of operator  $\mathcal{C}$  one can obtain principal values of certain integrals.

## 2. A Chaotic Linear Operator on the Space of $2\pi$ -Periodic Odd Functions

The backward shift  $B$  on the infinite-dimensional Hilbert space  $l_2$  of square-summable sequence is defined as

$$B_a = (a_2, a_3, \dots), \quad (2)$$

where  $a = (a_1, a_2, \dots)$ , such that  $\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} |a_n|^2 < \infty$ . The Hilbert space  $L_2(0, \pi)$  of square-integrable functions is isomorphic with  $l_2$  (by the Riesz-Fischer theorem) and is a natural functional representation of the sequence space  $l_2$ . By odd extension, elements of  $L_2(0, \pi)$  can be viewed as odd  $2\pi$ -periodic square-integrable functions so that  $L_2(0, \pi)$  is also isomorphic with the space of odd  $2\pi$ -periodic square-integrable functions. Now we “lift”  $a \in l_2$  to  $L_2(0, \pi)$  by the summation

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin nt. \quad (3)$$

Clearly, the  $n$ th Fourier coefficient of  $f(t)$  is expressed as

$$a_n = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(\xi) \sin n\xi d\xi. \quad (4)$$

We define the backward shift  $\mathcal{B}$  acting on  $L_2(0, \pi)$  as

$$\mathcal{B}f(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n+1} \sin nt = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \sin(n-1)t. \quad (5)$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}f(t) &= \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \int_0^{\pi} f(\xi) \sin(n+1)\xi d\xi \right) \sin nt \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \int_0^{\pi} f(\xi) \sin n\xi d\xi \right) \sin(n-1)t. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Our main result is the following.

**Theorem 1.**  $\mathcal{B}f(t)$  can be expressed as

$$\mathcal{B}f(t) = f(t) \cos t - \frac{1}{\pi} \text{PV} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{\sin t \sin \xi}{\cos t - \cos \xi} f(\xi) d\xi. \quad (7)$$

The strategy of the proof is the following: let us denote by  $\mathcal{A}f(t)$  the right-hand side of (7) and by  $P_n$  the projection from  $L_2(0, \pi)$  onto the linear span of  $\{\sin t, \sin 2t, \dots, \sin nt\}$ . The sequence  $\mathcal{B}P_n$  converges strongly to  $B$ . In particular, for every  $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(0, \pi)$  (this is the space of test functions, see

Definition 2 in the Appendix),  $\mathcal{B}P_n \varphi \rightarrow \mathcal{B}\varphi$  in  $L_2(0, \pi)$ . Then a subsequence tends to  $\mathcal{B}\varphi$  almost everywhere. Hence if we prove that  $\mathcal{B}P_n \varphi(t)$  tends to  $\mathcal{A}\varphi(t)$  for all fixed  $t$ , then  $\mathcal{A}\varphi = \mathcal{B}\varphi$  almost everywhere as functions in  $L_2(0, \pi)$ ; that is,  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B}$  on  $\mathcal{D}(0, \pi)$ . Finally,  $\mathcal{D}(0, \pi)$  is a dense set in  $L_2(0, \pi)$ ; thus  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{B}$  on the whole space  $L_2(0, \pi)$ .

*Proof.* We start from

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}P_n f(t) &= \frac{2}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \int_0^{\pi} f(\xi) \sin k\xi d\xi \right) \sin(k-1)t \\ &= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} f(\xi) \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \sin k\xi \sin(k-1)t \right) d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

We first rewrite the “kernel” of (8) as

$$\begin{aligned} &\sin k\xi \sin(k-1)t \\ &= \sin k\xi \sin kt \cos t - \sin k\xi \cos kt \sin t \\ &= \frac{\cos k(\xi-t) - \cos k(\xi+t)}{2} \cos t \\ &\quad - \frac{\sin k(\xi-t) + \sin k(\xi+t)}{2} \sin t. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

For test functions  $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(0, \pi)$  and  $t \in (0, \pi)$  we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}P_n \varphi(t) &= \frac{1}{\pi} \cos t \\ &\cdot \int_0^{\pi} \varphi(\xi) \sum_{k=1}^n (\cos k(\xi-t) - \cos k(\xi+t)) d\xi - \frac{1}{\pi} \\ &\cdot \sin t \int_0^{\pi} \varphi(\xi) \sum_{k=1}^n (\sin k(\xi-t) + \sin k(\xi+t)) d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Taking  $n \rightarrow \infty$  limit and utilizing (A.1) and (A.2) yield

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{B}P_n \varphi(t) &= \cos t \langle (\delta(\xi-t) - \delta(\xi+t)), \varphi(\xi) \rangle \\ &- \frac{1}{2\pi} \sin t \left\langle \left( \mathcal{P} \cot \frac{\xi-t}{2} + \mathcal{P} \cot \frac{\xi+t}{2} \right), \varphi(\xi) \right\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

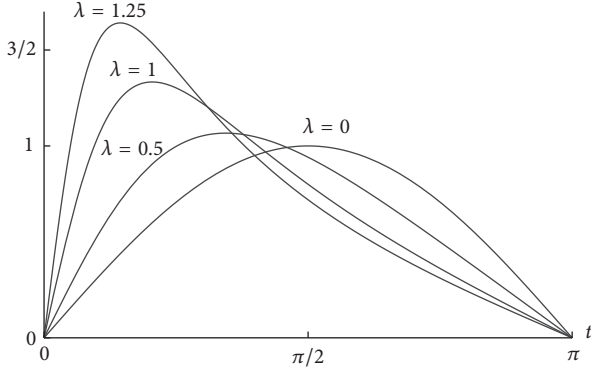
Since

$$\begin{aligned} &\cot \frac{\xi-t}{2} + \cot \frac{\xi+t}{2} \\ &= 2 \frac{\sin((\xi-t)/2 + (\xi+t)/2)}{2 \sin((\xi-t)/2) \sin((\xi+t)/2)} \\ &= \frac{2 \sin \xi}{\cos t - \cos \xi}, \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

the limit calculated in (11) is the same as  $\mathcal{A}f(t)$ .  $\square$

Our “chaotic” operator (twice the backward shift) is now defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}f(t) &= 2\mathcal{B}f(t) \\ &= 2f(t) \cos t - \frac{2}{\pi} \text{PV} \int_0^{\pi} \frac{\sin t \sin \xi}{\cos t - \cos \xi} f(\xi) d\xi. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

FIGURE 1: Eigenfunctions of  $\mathcal{E}$  for  $\lambda = 0, 0.5, 1,$  and  $1.25$ .

### 3. Analysis of $\mathcal{E}$

The eigenfunctions of  $\mathcal{E}$  can be found from the eigenvalue relation

$$\mathcal{E} f^*(t) = \lambda f^*(t). \quad (14)$$

Instead of using (13), we revert to (5) to write

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 2a_{n+1} \sin nt = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \lambda a_n \sin nt. \quad (15)$$

From this we have

$$a_{n+1} = \left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\right) a_n, \quad (16)$$

and thus

$$f^*(t) = a_1 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\lambda}{2}\right)^{n-1} \sin nt = a_1 \frac{4 \sin t}{4 + \lambda^2 - 4\lambda \cos t}. \quad (17)$$

The functions corresponding to eigenvalue  $\lambda = 1$  are

$$f^*(t) = a_1 \frac{4 \sin(t)}{5 - 4 \cos(t)}; \quad (18)$$

that is, the functions  $a_1(4 \sin(t)/(5 - 4 \cos(t)))$  are left invariant under the action of  $\mathcal{E}$ . In other words  $f^*(t)$ 's are fixed points of operator  $\mathcal{E}$ . A family of eigenfunctions is displayed in Figure 1 (we set  $a_1 = 1$ ).

To better characterize the action of  $\mathcal{E}$  we want to understand how a given function is “shaped” under the repeated application of  $\mathcal{E}$ . For  $f \in L_2(0, \pi)$  the orbit of  $f$  is defined as  $\text{Orb}(\mathcal{E}, f) = \{f, \mathcal{E}f, \mathcal{E}^2 f, \dots\}$ , where  $\mathcal{E}^k = \underbrace{\mathcal{E} \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{E}}_k$  is the  $k$ th composition of  $\mathcal{E}$  with itself. The  $k$ -fold composition acts on  $f(t)$  as

$$\mathcal{E}^k f(t) = 2^k \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_{n+k} \sin nt. \quad (19)$$

A given  $f \in L_2(0, \pi)$  is a  $T$ -periodic point of  $\mathcal{E}$  if  $\mathcal{E}^T f = f$  for some  $T \geq 1$  (a fixed point is a 1-periodic point; i.e.,  $T = 1$ ).

We are now in the position to construct  $T$ -periodic points of  $\mathcal{E}$ .

Introducing  $y = \{y_1, \dots, y_T\}$ , a  $T$ -periodic point of  $2B$  (acting on  $l_2$ ) can be written as [3]

$$a = \left( y_1, \dots, y_T, \frac{y_1}{2^T}, \dots, \frac{y_T}{2^T}, \frac{y_1}{2^{2T}}, \dots, \frac{y_T}{2^{2T}}, \dots \right), \quad (20)$$

whose  $n$ th component is given by

$$a_n = \frac{y_{(n-1 \bmod T)+1}}{2^{\lfloor (n-1)/T \rfloor}}. \quad (21)$$

Using the linearity of  $\mathcal{E}$  we can easily find a period-2 point of  $\mathcal{E}$ , that is, a function  $g(t)$  such that  $\mathcal{E}^2 g(t) = g(t)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} g(t) &= y_1 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2n-1)t}{2^{2n-2}} + y_2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(2n)t}{2^{2n-2}} \\ &= y_1 \frac{20 \sin t}{17 - 8 \cos 2t} + y_2 \frac{16 \sin 2t}{17 - 8 \cos 2t}. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

In general, we find a period- $T$  point of  $\mathcal{E}$  as

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= y_1 \left( \sin t + \frac{\sin(T+1)t}{2^T} + \dots + \frac{\sin(nT+1)t}{2^{nT}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \dots \right) \\ &+ y_2 \left( \sin 2t + \frac{\sin(T+2)t}{2^T} + \dots + \frac{\sin(nT+2)t}{2^{nT}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \dots \right) + \dots + \\ &+ y_T \left( \sin Tt + \frac{\sin(2T)t}{2^T} + \dots + \frac{\sin((n+1)T)t}{2^{nT}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \dots \right). \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

By defining the “basis functions”

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(l, T) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin((n-1)T + 1 + l)t}{2^{(n-1)T}} \\ &= \frac{2^T (2^T \sin(l+1)t + \sin((T-1-l)t))}{1 + 4^T - 2^{T+1} \cos Tt}, \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

a period- $T$  point of  $\mathcal{E}$  can be expressed as the linear combination

$$f(t) = \sum_{l=1}^T y_l \phi(l-1, T). \quad (25)$$

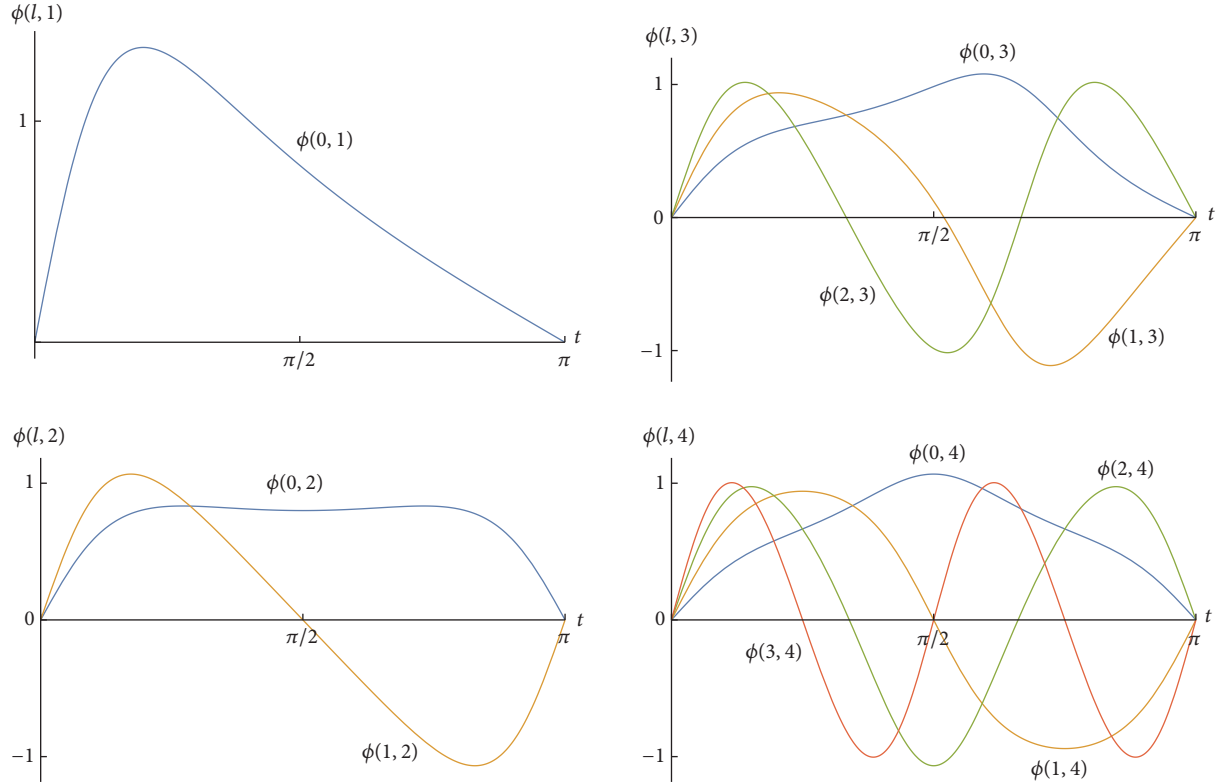


FIGURE 2: Basis functions  $\phi(l, T)$  for  $T = 1, \dots, 4$  and  $l = 0, \dots, T - 1$ .

The first few basis functions are (shown in Figure 2)

$$\phi(0, 1) = \frac{4 \sin(t)}{5 - 4 \cos(t)}$$

$T = 1,$

$$\phi(0, 2) = \frac{20 \sin(t)}{17 - 8 \cos(2t)},$$

$$\phi(1, 2) = \frac{16 \sin(2t)}{17 - 8 \cos(2t)}$$

$T = 2,$

$$\phi(0, 3) = \frac{64 \sin(t) + 8 \sin(2t)}{65 - 16 \cos(3t)},$$

$$\phi(1, 3) = \frac{8 \sin(t) + 64 \sin(2t)}{65 - 16 \cos(3t)},$$

$$\phi(2, 3) = \frac{64 \sin(3t)}{65 - 16 \cos(3t)}$$

$T = 3,$

$$\phi(0, 4) = \frac{256 \sin(t) + 16 \sin(3t)}{257 - 32 \cos(4t)},$$

$$\phi(1, 4) = \frac{272 \sin(2t)}{257 - 32 \cos(4t)},$$

$$\phi(2, 4) = \frac{16 \sin(t) + 256 \sin(3t)}{257 - 32 \cos(4t)},$$

$$\phi(3, 4) = \frac{256 \sin(4t)}{257 - 32 \cos(4t)}$$

$T = 4.$

(26)

Now we turn to creating a function that gives rise to a chaotic orbit under the action of  $\mathcal{C}$ . First, we note that for  $2B$  (on  $l_2$ ) the point

$$y = \left( \frac{y_1}{1}, \frac{y_2}{2}, \frac{y_3}{4}, \dots \right), \quad (27)$$

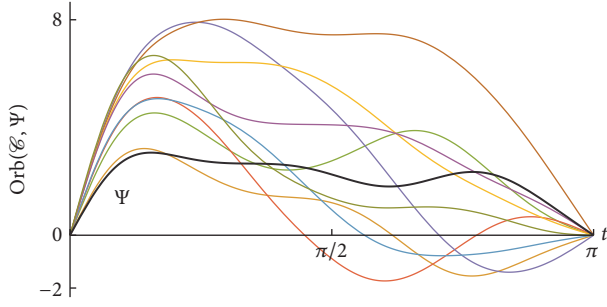
where  $y_i$  is the  $i$ th digit of a normal irrational number (whose digits are uniformly distributed) and generates a chaotic orbit.  $\pi$  is believed to be normal, so we take  $y_i$  to be the  $i$ th digit of  $\pi$ . We now lift this point to  $L_2(0, \pi)$  using (3):

$$\Psi(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{y_i}{2^{i-1}} \sin nt. \quad (28)$$

Figure 3 shows the first 10 elements of the orbit of  $\Psi$  under the action of  $\mathcal{C}$ , that is,  $\text{Orb}(\mathcal{C}, \Psi)$ . The first element of the orbit is  $\Psi$  itself.

Figure 4 shows the orbit  $\text{Orb}(\mathcal{C}, \Psi)$  evaluated at three different  $t$ 's ( $\pi/20, \pi/2, 19\pi/20$ ) for 200 iterations.

Engineering applications of chaotic orbits include design of fuel efficient space missions [21] and efficient mixing protocols for microfluids [22].

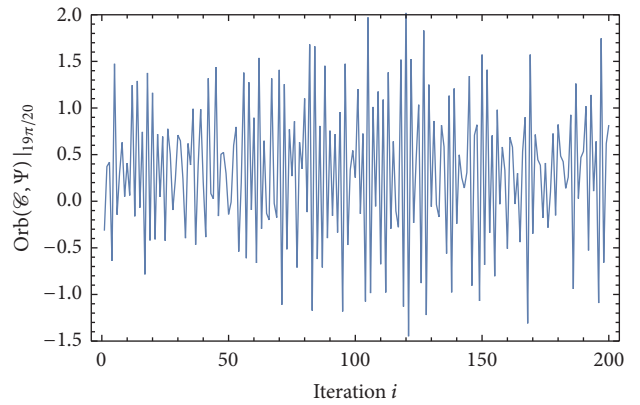
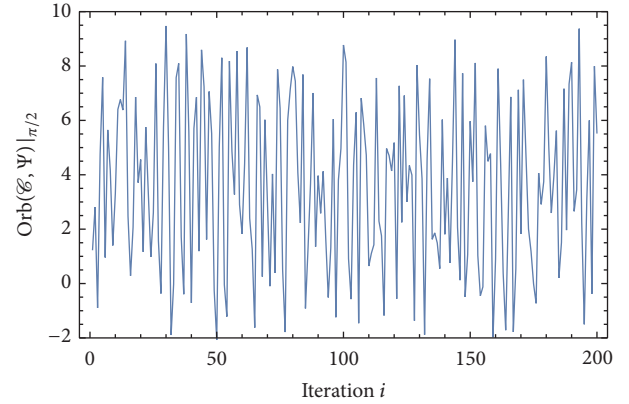
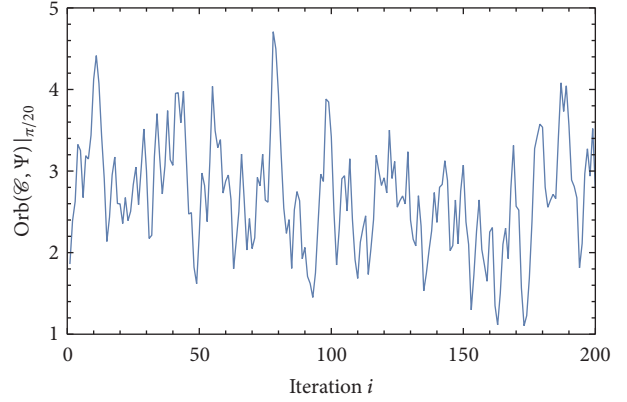
FIGURE 3: The first 10 elements of  $\text{Orb}(\mathcal{C}, \Psi)$ .

Now we examine the effect of  $\mathcal{C}$  on some commonly used periodic functions, namely, the ramp, the square-wave, and the triangle. The Fourier series of these functions are the following:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ramp}(t) &= t = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2(-1)^{k+1}}{k} \sin kt \quad (-\pi < t < \pi), \\ \text{Sqw}(t) &= \begin{cases} -\pi & -\pi < t < 0 \\ \pi & 0 < t < \pi \end{cases} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{k} \sin^2\left(\frac{k\pi}{2}\right) \sin kt \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{2}{2k+1} \sin(2k+1)t, \\ \text{Triangle}(t) &= \begin{cases} t & 0 < t < \frac{\pi}{2} \\ \frac{\pi}{2} - t & \frac{\pi}{2} < t < \pi \end{cases} \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{4}{k^2\pi} \sin\left(\frac{k\pi}{2}\right) \sin kt \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{4(-1)^{k+1}}{(2k+1)^2\pi} \sin(2k+1)t. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Figure 5 shows the first 4 elements of the orbits of these functions. First, we note that the norm of the iterates grows (moreover, each Fourier coefficient tends to infinity); that is, these functions have unbounded orbits under the action of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Second, the graphs of the even iterates ( $\mathcal{C}^{2n}$ ) of  $\text{Ramp}(t)$ ,  $\text{Sqw}(t)$ , and  $\text{Triangle}(t)$  are similar to the graph of  $\tan(t/2)$ ,  $-\tan(t + \pi/2)$ , and  $\pm(-1)^{\lfloor t/\pi - 1/2 \rfloor} \tan t$ , respectively. This is not too surprising, since the Fourier expansion of  $\tan(t/2)$  is  $2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \sin kt$  which is close in some sense to

$$\frac{2n}{2^{2n}} \mathcal{C}^{2n} \text{Ramp}(t) = 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (-1)^{k+1} \left(1 - \frac{k}{2n+k}\right) \sin kt \quad (30)$$

FIGURE 4: The orbit  $\text{Orb}(\mathcal{C}, \Psi)$  for 200 iterations evaluated at  $t = \pi/20, \pi/2, 19\pi/20$ .

for large enough  $n$ . Unbounded orbits of differential equations (the so-called escape orbits) play an important role in Newtonian gravitation [23].

## 4. Conclusions

Contrary to common belief, linear systems can display complicated dynamics. Starting from twice the backward shift on  $L_2$  we constructed the corresponding shift operator  $C$  on  $L_2(0, \pi)$  (the space of odd,  $2\pi$ -periodic functions) and provided its representation using a modicum of distribution theory and Cauchy's Principal Value Integral. We explicitly calculated the periodic points of the operator (including its

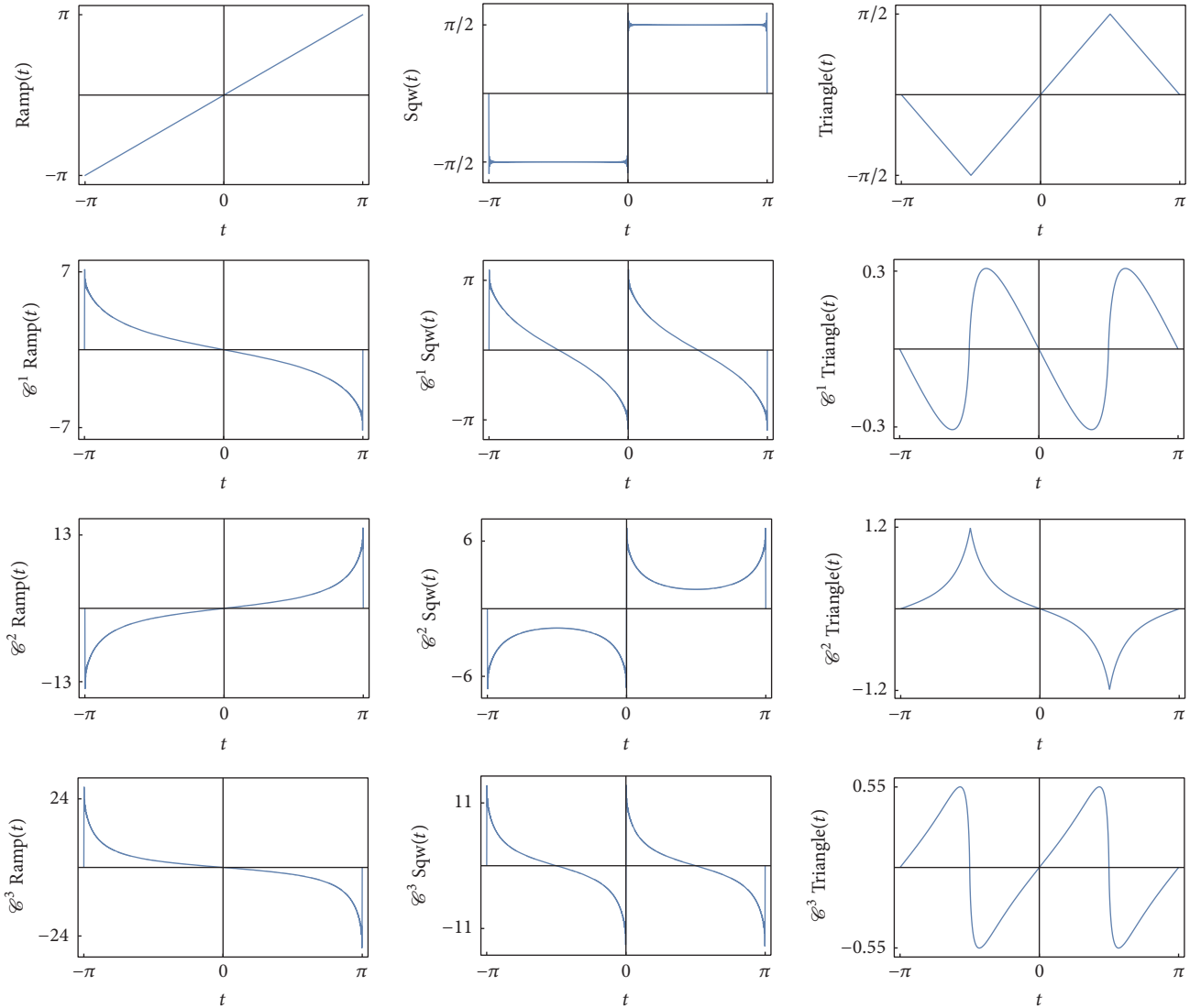


FIGURE 5: Iterates of the ramp, square-wave, and triangle functions.

nontrivial fixed point) and provided examples of chaotic and unbounded trajectories of  $\mathcal{E}$ .

We note here that utilizing representation (7) of operator  $\mathcal{E}$  one can actually calculate principal values. To wit, rearranging (7) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PV} \int_0^\pi \frac{\sin t \sin \xi}{\cos t - \cos \xi} f(\xi) d\xi \\ = \pi f(t) \cos t - \frac{\pi}{2} \mathcal{E} f(t). \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

For the simplest case, when  $f(t)$  is the eigenfunction of operator  $\mathcal{E}$ , that is,  $\mathcal{E} f(t) = \lambda f(t)$ , we have (cf. (17))

$$\begin{aligned} \text{PV} \int_0^\pi \frac{\sin t \sin \xi}{\cos t - \cos \xi} \frac{4 \sin \xi}{4 + \lambda^2 - 4\lambda \cos \xi} d\xi \\ = \frac{2\pi \sin t (2 \cos t - \lambda)}{4 + \lambda^2 - 4\lambda \cos t}. \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

The basis functions  $\phi(l, T)$  can similarly be used to obtain PV integrals. The Principal Value Integral is a tool commonly used in physics, but not in engineering-related fields. We hope that this connection between chaotic operators and Principal Value Integrals will stimulate further research.

## Appendix

In this section we give a short introduction on distributional derivatives. The following definitions together with Proposition 5 can be found in standard textbooks on partial differential equations; see, for example, [24, 25].

*Notation 1* (multi-index). Let  $\Omega$  be an open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and let  $\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be a smooth function. Then, for a vector  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n)$ ,  $\partial^\alpha \varphi$  denotes the partial derivative  $\partial_1^{\alpha_1} \partial_2^{\alpha_2} \dots \partial_n^{\alpha_n} \varphi$  of order  $|\alpha| = \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 + \dots + \alpha_n$ .

**Definition 2** (test functions). Let  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  denote the space of test functions on the open set  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ , that is,  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega) = C_c^\infty(\Omega)$ , endowed with the following convergence:  $\varphi_n \rightarrow \varphi$  if there is a compact subset  $K$  of  $\Omega$  containing the support of  $\varphi_n$  for all  $n$  and for every multi-index  $\alpha$   $\partial^\alpha \varphi_n \rightarrow \partial^\alpha \varphi$  uniformly.

**Definition 3** (distributions). Let  $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$  denote the space of continuous linear functionals on  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ . The convergence on  $\mathcal{D}(\Omega)$  induces a weak or pointwise convergence on  $\mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ ; namely,  $u_n \rightarrow u$  if  $\langle u_n, \varphi \rangle \rightarrow \langle u, \varphi \rangle$  for all  $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\Omega)$ .

Note that every function  $h$  locally integrable on  $\Omega$  acts as a distribution via  $\langle h, \varphi \rangle = \int_\Omega h\varphi$ . Then  $h$  is called a *regular distribution*.

**Definition 4** (derivatives of distributions). Let  $u \in \mathcal{D}'(\Omega)$ . Then  $\langle \partial^\alpha u, \varphi \rangle = (-1)^{|\alpha|} \langle u, \partial^\alpha \varphi \rangle$ .

Note the similarity with the integration by parts formula for regular distributions.

**Proposition 5.** *Differentiation is a continuous operation with respect to the pointwise convergence of distributions. As a consequence, derivatives of infinite series of distributions can be calculated by term-by-term differentiation.*

To aid the proof of Theorem 1 we state and prove the following.

**Proposition 6.** *Consider the following:*

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \cos kx = \pi \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \delta(x - 2k\pi) - \frac{1}{2}, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

$$-\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sin kx = -\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{P} \cot \frac{x}{2}, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where the distribution  $\mathcal{P} \cot(x/2)$  acts on a function  $\varphi$  as

$$\left\langle \mathcal{P} \cot \frac{x}{2}, \varphi(x) \right\rangle = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \text{PV} \int_{(2k-1)\pi}^{(2k+1)\pi} \cot \frac{x}{2} \varphi(x) dx, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

where the principal values are given in the sense of (1) with  $a = (2k-1)\pi$ ,  $b = (2k+1)\pi$ , and  $c = 2k\pi$ .

*Proof.* We start with the identities [26]

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin kx}{k} = \frac{\pi - x}{2} \quad (0 < x < 2\pi), \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos kx}{k} = -\frac{1}{2} \ln 2(1 - \cos x) \quad (0 < x < 2\pi). \quad (\text{A.5})$$

By periodicity, both equalities extend to  $\mathbb{R}$ . Term-by-term differentiation of the left hand sides of (A.4) and (A.5) (using Proposition 5) results immediately in the left hand sides of

(A.1) and (A.2). Concerning the right-hand side of (A.4), let us denote the  $2\pi$ -periodic extension of  $(\pi-x)/2$  by  $h(x)$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle h'(x), \varphi(x) \rangle &= -\langle h(x), \varphi'(x) \rangle \\ &= -\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x) \varphi'(x) dx \\ &= -\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{2k\pi}^{2(k+1)\pi} h(x) \varphi'(x) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

Note that this is actually a finite sum as the test function  $\varphi$  is compactly supported. One partial integration in all terms leads to

$$\begin{aligned} &-\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{2k\pi}^{2(k+1)\pi} h(x) \varphi'(x) dx \\ &= -\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \left\{ [h(x) \varphi(x)]_{2k\pi}^{2(k+1)\pi} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_{2k\pi}^{2(k+1)\pi} \left( -\frac{1}{2} \varphi(x) \right) dx \right\} = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \pi \varphi(2k\pi) \\ &\quad - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2} \varphi(x) dx, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

which is the right-hand side of (A.1) applied to  $\varphi(x)$ . Similarly, let us define  $h(x)$  as the  $2\pi$ -periodic extension of  $-(1/2) \ln 2(1 - \cos x)$  (the right-hand side of (A.5)). The ordinary derivative of  $h(x)$  is  $\cot(x/2)$ , but, in contrast with the previous case, this is not locally integrable near the integer multiples of  $2\pi$ . Cutting the singularities first and then integrating by parts,

$$\begin{aligned} &-\sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{2k\pi}^{2(k+1)\pi} h(x) \varphi'(x) dx \\ &= -\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{2k\pi+\varepsilon}^{2(k+1)\pi-\varepsilon} h(x) \varphi'(x) dx \\ &= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{2k\pi+\varepsilon}^{2(k+1)\pi-\varepsilon} \cot \frac{x}{2} \varphi(x) dx. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.8})$$

This is the same as (A.3), that is, the distribution in (A.2) applied to  $\varphi(x)$ .  $\square$

## Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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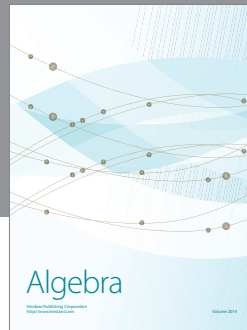
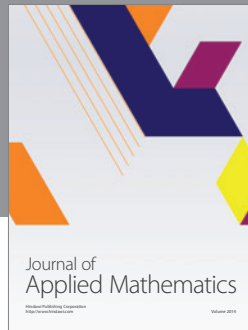

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