

# Exact matrix product solution for the boundary-driven Lindblad XXZ chain

Gunter M. Schütz

*Institute of Complex Systems II, Forschungszentrum Jülich, 52425 Jülich, Germany  
and  
Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Komplexe Systeme, Universität Bonn*

*joint work with D. Karevski (Nancy) and V. Popkov, (MPI Dresden)*

- Boundary driven Lindblad XXZ chain
- Matrix product ansatz for the stationary density matrix
- Isotropic Lindblad-Heisenberg chain
- Conclusions

# 1. Boundary-driven XXZ Lindblad chain

## Non-equilibrium behaviour of open quantum system:

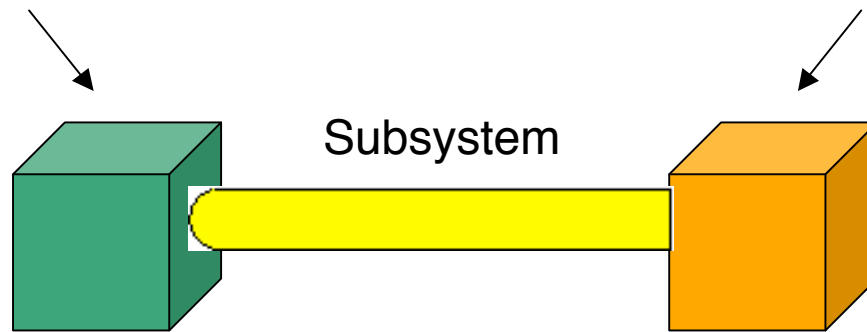
- Experimentally accessible (quasi one-dimensional spin chain materials, artificially assembled nanomagnets)
- **Theoretically challenging:**
  - Interplay of magnon excitations, magnetization currents with twisted boundary fields (→ non-equilibrium stationary state)
  - Fundamental problems
    - No density matrix  $\exp(-\beta H)$
    - Non-linear response far from equilibrium
    - Interplay of bulk transport with boundary pumping

## Lindblad equation for open quantum systems

Lindblad (1976): General time evolution equation of a quantum subsystem

E.g. Environment 1 (L)

Environment 2 (R)



Total System: Hamiltonian  $H_{\text{tot}} = H_L + H + H_R$

Subsystem: Quantum Hamiltonian  $H$ , reduced density matrix  $\rho(t)$

Quantity of interest: Stationary density matrix  $\rho^* = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \rho(t) \neq \exp(-\beta H)$

Lindblad equation

$$\frac{d}{dt}\rho = -i[H, \rho] + \mathcal{D}^L(\rho) + \mathcal{D}^R(\rho)$$

↑
↑
↑  
 unitary part (subsystem), left dissipator, right dissipator

To preserve unitarity and normalization ( $\text{Tr } \rho(t) = 1$ ):

$$\mathcal{D}^{L,R}(\rho) = D^{L,R}\rho D^{L,R\dagger} - 1/2\{\rho, D^{L,R\dagger}D^{L,R}\}$$

Boundary pumping:  $\rho^* \neq \exp(-\beta H)$



- Task: a) Choose  $H$  and  $D^L(\rho) \neq D^R(\rho)$  appropriately for physical scenario  
 b) Find  $\rho^*$   
 c) Compute observables

## Lindblad equation for XXZ Heisenberg quantum chain

Anisotropic (XXZ) Heisenberg spin-1/2 quantum chain:

$$H = J \sum_k [\sigma_k^x \sigma_{k+1}^x + \sigma_k^y \sigma_{k+1}^y + \Delta (\sigma_k^z \sigma_{k+1}^z - \varepsilon_0)] + g_1^L + g_N^R$$

Exchange constant:  $J=1/2$

Bulk interaction:  $\Delta = (q + q^{-1})/2, \quad \varepsilon_0 = 1$

Boundary fields:  $\vec{f}^L \cdot \vec{\sigma} = f^L \sigma_u^z$  (left)  $\vec{f}^R \cdot \vec{\sigma} = f^R \sigma_v^z$  (right)

Choose  $\sigma_u^z = \sin \theta_L \sigma^y + \cos \theta_L \sigma^z$  and  $\sigma_v^z = -\sin \theta_R \sigma^x + \cos \theta_R \sigma^z$

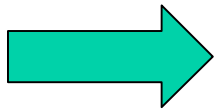
y-z plane

x-z plane

## Boundary pumping:

Consider Lindblad terms corresponding to complete polarization in the plane of the quantum boundary fields

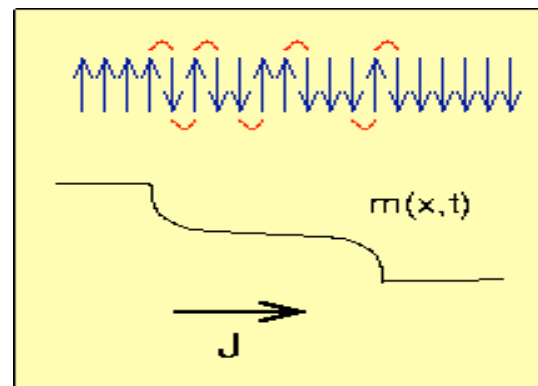
$$D^L = \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma}{2}}(\sigma_1^x + i \cos\theta_L \sigma_1^y - i \sin\theta_L \sigma_1^z) \quad (\text{y-z plane})$$



$$D^R = \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma}{2}}(\cos\theta_R \sigma_N^x - i \sigma_N^y + \sin\theta_R \sigma_N^z) \quad (\text{x-z plane})$$

Stationary solution (without bulk dynamics):  $\rho_{L,R} = (1 \pm \sigma_{u,v}^z)/2$

Bulk dynamics ==> **Current,**  
**magnetization profile**



## 2. Matrix product ansatz for the stationary density matrix

- Determine  $\rho$  from stationary Lindblad equation  $i[H, \rho] = \mathcal{D}^L(\rho) + \mathcal{D}^R(\rho)$
- Write  $\rho = SS^\dagger / \text{Tr}(SS^\dagger)$ ,  $S \in \mathbb{C}^{2^N}$
- Matrix product ansatz  $S = \langle \phi | \Omega^{\otimes N} | \psi \rangle$

with 2x2 matrix

$$\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} A_1 & A_+ \\ A_- & A_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\langle \phi |$  and  $| \psi \rangle$  are vectors in some space and  $A_i$  are matrices

$A_i$ ,  $\langle \phi |$  and  $| \psi \rangle$  have to be determined such that stationary LE is satisfied!

Two steps: (1) bulk part for  $A_i$ , (2) boundary part for  $\langle \phi |$  and  $| \psi \rangle$

## Solution of LE (bulk part)

Step 1: Introduce local divergence condition (different from Prosen 2011)

- remember  $H = \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} h_{k,k+1} + g_1^L + g_N^R$

with 4x4 matrix  $h = [\sigma^x \otimes \sigma^x + \sigma^y \otimes \sigma^y + \Delta (\sigma^z \otimes \sigma^z - 1)]/2$

and 2x2 boundary matrices  $g^L = f^L \sigma_u^z$ ,  $g^R = f^R \sigma_v^z$

- introduce 2x2 matrix  $\Xi = \begin{pmatrix} E_1 & E_+ \\ E_- & E_2 \end{pmatrix}$

with non-commutative **auxiliary matrices**  $E_i$

- require  $[h, \Omega \otimes \Omega] = \Xi \otimes \Omega - \Omega \otimes \Xi$  (local divergence condition)



==> 16 quadratic equations for the 8 matrices  $A_i, E_i$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left( \begin{array}{cccc}
 0 & \Delta A_1 A_+ - A_+ A_1 & \Delta A_+ A_1 - A_1 A_+ & 0 \\
 -\Delta A_1 A_- + A_- A_1 & -[A_+, A_-] & -[A_1, A_2] & -\Delta A_+ A_2 + A_2 A_+ \\
 -\Delta A_- A_1 + A_1 A_- & [A_1, A_2] & [A_+, A_-] & -\Delta A_2 A_+ + A_+ A_2 \\
 0 & \Delta A_- A_2 - A_2 A_- & \Delta A_2 A_- - A_- A_2 & 0
 \end{array} \right) \\
 & = \left( \begin{array}{cccc}
 E_1 A_1 - A_1 E_1 & E_1 A_+ - A_1 E_+ & E_+ A_1 - A_+ E_1 & E_+ A_+ - A_+ E_+ \\
 E_1 A_- - A_1 E_- & E_1 A_2 - A_1 E_2 & E_+ A_- - A_+ E_- & E_+ A_2 - A_+ E_2 \\
 E_- A_1 - A_- E_1 & E_- A_+ - A_- E_+ & E_2 A_1 - A_2 E_1 & E_2 A_+ - A_2 E_+ \\
 E_- A_- - A_- E_- & E_- A_2 - A_- E_2 & E_2 A_- - A_2 E_- & E_2 A_2 - A_2 E_2
 \end{array} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

4 Commutation relations:  $0 = [E_i, A_i]$

8 relations with q-commutators, e.g.,  $\Delta A_1 A_+ - A_+ A_1 = E_1 A_+ - A_1 E_+$

4 relations with commutators, e.g.  $[A_+, A_-] = E_2 A_1 - A_2 E_1$

- Solution of all 16 equations in terms of only **three matrices**  $A_{\pm}$ ,  $Q$  with relations

$$[A_+, A_-] = - (q - q^{-1}) (b \bar{b} Q - c \bar{c} Q^{-1})$$

$$Q A_{\pm} = q^{\pm 1} A_{\pm} Q$$

$$Q Q^{-1} = Q^{-1} Q = 1$$

by setting  $(b, \bar{b}, c, \bar{c})$  arbitrary)

$$A_1 = b Q + c Q^{-1}, \quad A_2 = \bar{b} Q + \bar{c} Q^{-1} \quad (\text{diagonal part of } \Omega)$$

$$E_{\pm} = 0$$

$$E_1 = (q - q^{-1})/2 (b Q - c Q^{-1}), \quad E_2 = -(q - q^{-1})/2 (\bar{b} Q - \bar{c} Q^{-1}) \quad (\text{diagonal part of } \Xi)$$

- Relations define  $\Omega$  and  $\Xi$  in terms of  $A_{\pm}$ ,  $Q$

- Proof by straightforward computation
- $\Xi + \kappa \Omega$  is also a solution

## Relation to quantum algebra $U_q[\text{SU}(2)]$

Use parametrization

$$b = \frac{\alpha}{q - q^{-1}} \frac{\nu}{\lambda}, \quad \bar{b} = \frac{\alpha}{q - q^{-1}} \frac{1}{\lambda\nu},$$
$$c = -\frac{\alpha}{q - q^{-1}} \mu\lambda, \quad \bar{c} = -\frac{\alpha}{q - q^{-1}} \frac{\lambda}{\mu}$$

and define  $A_{\pm} = i\alpha S_{\pm}$ ,  $Q = \lambda q^{S_z}$

==> Defining relations for  $U_q[\text{SU}(2)]$

$$[S_+, S_-] = \frac{q^{2S_z} - q^{-2S_z}}{q - q^{-1}}$$

$$q^{S_z} S_{\pm} = q^{\pm 1} S_{\pm} q^{S_z}.$$

- Matrix product ansatz with  $U_q[\text{SU}(2)]$  generators!
- Symmetry of bulk Hamiltonian (without boundary fields)

## Representation theory

Define  $[x]_q = (q^x - q^{-x}) / (q - q^{-1})$

- Finite-dimensional irreps not of interest

- Infinite-dimensional representation (with complex parameter  $p$ )

$$S_z = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (p - k) |k\rangle \langle k|,$$

$$S_+ = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} [k + 1]_q |k\rangle \langle k + 1|,$$

$$S_- = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} [2p - k]_q |k + 1\rangle \langle k|$$

==> Explicit form of  $\Omega$ !

## Solution of LE (boundary part)

### Step 2: Condition on boundary vectors

- remember  $H = \sum_{k=1}^{N-1} h_{k,k+1} + g_1^L + g_N^R$

with 4x4 matrix  $h = [\sigma^x \otimes \sigma^x + \sigma^y \otimes \sigma^y + \Delta (\sigma^z \otimes \sigma^z - 1)]/2$

and 2x2 boundary matrices  $g^L = f^L \sigma_u^z$ ,  $g^R = f^R \sigma_v^z$

- define 2x2 matrix  $\Phi = [g, \Omega]$  and introduce  $\Upsilon_k := \Omega^{\otimes(k-1)} \otimes \Upsilon \otimes \Omega^{\otimes(N-k)}$

==> local divergence condition implies

$$[H, \Omega^{\otimes N}] = \Phi_1^L + \Xi_1 + \Phi_N^R - \Xi_N$$

(reduction of infinitesimal unitary part of evolution to boundary terms)

Also Lindblad operator has only boundary parts:

==> split stationary LE into two boundary equations

$$\mathcal{D}^L(SS^\dagger) = i(\Phi_1^L + \Xi_1)S^\dagger - iS(\Phi_1^{L\dagger} + \Xi_1^\dagger),$$

$$\mathcal{D}^R(SS^\dagger) = i(\Phi_N^R - \Xi_N)S^\dagger - iS(\Phi_N^{R\dagger} - \Xi_N^\dagger),$$

Define  $A_0 = (A_1 + A_2)/2$ ,  $A_z = (A_1 - A_2)/2$ , Make decomposition

- left boundary:  $S = \langle \phi | [A_0 + A_z \sigma^z + A_+ \sigma^+ + A_- \sigma^-] \otimes \Omega^{\otimes(N-1)} | \psi \rangle$

- right boundary:  $S = \langle \phi | \Omega^{\otimes(N-1)} \otimes [A_0 + A_z \sigma^z + A_+ \sigma^+ + A_- \sigma^-] | \psi \rangle$


(likewise  $S^\dagger$ )

==> Two separate sets of equations for action of  $A_i$  on boundary vectors

==> Complete construction of  $\rho$  with some constraints on parameters

### 3. Isotropic Lindblad-Heisenberg chain

- Isotropic Heisenberg chain:  $\Delta=1$  ( $q=1$ )
- SU(2) symmetric (only bulk Hamiltonian, not boundary fields, not Lindblad terms)
- For convenience:  $\alpha = \lambda = 1, \mu = \nu = i$
- $[x]_1 = x$ , limits  $q \rightarrow 1$  in representation well-defined


$$\Omega = i \begin{pmatrix} S^z & S_+ \\ S_- & -S^z \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Xi = i \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

or in vector notation  $\vec{S} = (S_x, S_y, S_z), \quad \vec{\sigma} = (\sigma^x, \sigma^y, \sigma^z)$

$$\Omega = i\vec{S} \cdot \vec{\sigma}, \quad \Xi = i\mathbb{1}$$

## Solution of boundary equations:

- Key idea: Introduce **coherent states**

$$\langle \phi | := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\phi^n}{n!} \langle 0 | (S_+)^n = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \phi^n | \langle n |,$$

$$| \psi \rangle := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi^n}{n!} (S_-)^n | 0 \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \psi^n \binom{2p}{n} | n \rangle.$$

- SU(2) commutation relations:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi | S_z &= \langle \phi | (p - \phi S_+), & S_z | \psi \rangle &= (p - \psi S_-) | \psi \rangle, \\ \langle \phi | S_- &= \phi \langle \phi | (2p - \phi S_+), & S_+ | \psi \rangle &= \psi (2p - \psi S_-) | \psi \rangle \end{aligned}$$

==> Action of  $S_z$ ,  $S_-$  reduced to action of  $S_+$ ! (right boundary:  $S_z$ ,  $S_+$  to  $S_+$ )



- Left Lindblad operator can be obtained from complete polarization along z-axis by unitary transformation  $U = \exp(i\theta_L \sigma^x/2)$

==> new basis  $\Omega(\theta_L) = i[S_z(\theta_L)\sigma_u^z + S_+(\theta_L)\sigma_u^+ + S_-(\theta_L)\sigma_u^-]$

$$S_z(\theta_L) = S_z \cos\theta_L + i \sin\theta_L \frac{S_+ - S_-}{2},$$

with  $S_+(\theta_L) = \frac{S_+ + S_-}{2} + \cos\theta_L \frac{S_+ - S_-}{2} + iS_z \sin\theta_L$

$$S_-(\theta_L) = \frac{S_+ + S_-}{2} - \cos\theta_L \frac{S_+ - S_-}{2} - iS_z \sin\theta_L$$

- new left boundary equations require:  $\langle \phi | S_-(\theta_L) = 0, \quad \langle \phi | S_z(\theta_L) = p \langle \phi |$

- Solution:

$$\phi = \tan(\theta_L/2), \quad p = \frac{i}{\Gamma - 2if^L}$$

Proof: Coherent state relations and solution for  $\phi$  lead to

$$S = \langle \phi | \Omega^{\otimes N} | \psi \rangle = ip\sigma_u^z \otimes \tilde{S} + \sigma_u^+ \otimes W.$$

where  $\tilde{S} = \langle \phi | \Omega^{\otimes(N-1)} | \psi \rangle$ ,  $W = i \langle \phi | [S_+ + S_-] \Omega^{\otimes(N-1)} | \psi \rangle$

live on space for N-1 sites

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow SS^\dagger &= |p|^2 \mathbb{1} \otimes \tilde{S}S^\dagger - ip\sigma_u^- \otimes \tilde{S}W^\dagger - (ip)^* \sigma_u^+ \otimes W\tilde{S}^\dagger \\ &\quad + \sigma_u^+ \sigma_u^- \otimes WW^\dagger. \end{aligned}$$

Left Lindblad:  $\mathcal{D}^L(SS^\dagger) = 2\Gamma|p|^2\sigma_u^z \otimes \tilde{S}\tilde{S}^\dagger + \Gamma ip\sigma_u^- \otimes \tilde{S}W^\dagger + \Gamma(ip)^* \sigma_u^+ \otimes W\tilde{S}^\dagger.$

Left Hamiltonian:  $i[H, SS^\dagger] \parallel_{\text{Left}} = -[ip + (ip)^*]\sigma_u^z \otimes \tilde{S}\tilde{S}^\dagger - \sigma_u^- \otimes [1 - 2if^L(ip)]\tilde{S}W^\dagger - \sigma_u^+ \otimes [1 + 2if^L(ip)^*]W\tilde{S}^\dagger$

} equal with condition on p

Treatment of right boundary similar:

- Lindblad operator can be obtained from complete polarization along (-z)-axis by unitary transformation  $U = \exp(i\theta_R \sigma^y/2)$
- new right boundary equations require:  $S_+(\theta_R)|\psi\rangle = 0$

➤ Solution:

$$\psi = -\tan(\theta_R/2), \quad f^L = -f^R$$

==> Complete explicit construction of  $\rho$  for isotropic case

Remark: For anisotropic case and no quantum boundary fields relation between representation parameter  $p$  and Lindblad coupling strength  $\Gamma$  reads

$$2\Gamma = i (q^p + q^{-p}) / [p]_q$$

## Currents and magnetization profiles:

Local conservation law for local magnetization:

$$d/dt \sigma_n^\alpha = j_{n-1}^\alpha - j_n^\alpha \quad \text{for } \alpha = x, y, z$$

$$\text{with currents } j_n^\alpha = 2 \sum_{\beta, \gamma} \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \sigma_n^\beta \sigma_{n+1}^\gamma =$$

$$\implies \text{Stationary case: } \langle j_n^\alpha \rangle = j^\alpha \quad \forall n$$

➤ Untwisted model  $\theta_L = \theta_R = 0$  [Prosen 2011]:

- $\langle \sigma_n^x \rangle = \langle \sigma_n^y \rangle = 0 \quad \forall n$  (flat magnetization profiles for x and y component)
- $j^x = j^y = 0$

Proof: z-Parity symmetry  $U_z = (\sigma^z)^{\otimes N}$  of density matrix:  $U_z \rho U_z = \rho$

$$\implies \langle \sigma_n^b \rangle = \text{Tr} (\sigma_n^b \rho) = \text{Tr} (\sigma_n^b U_z \rho U_z) = \text{Tr} (U_z \sigma_n^b U_z \rho) = - \langle \sigma_n^b \rangle \text{ for } b=x, y$$

and similar for  $j^x, j^y$

➤ Twisted case:  $\langle \sigma_n^\alpha \rangle \neq 0, \quad j^\alpha \neq 0 \quad \forall \alpha$

All components have non-zero expectation!

- $\langle \sigma_n^z \rangle = - \langle \sigma_{N+1-n}^z \rangle \quad \forall n$

- $j^x = -j^y$

Proof: Key idea: Consider instead of parity another symmetry U of  $\rho$

Specifically, for  $\theta_R = -\theta_L = \pi/2$

$$U = U_x V R$$

with Space reflection R:  $n \rightarrow N + 1 - n$ ,

x-y Rotation of spins  $V = \text{diag}(1, i)^{\otimes N}$

## 4. Conclusions

- **Matrix product construction** of stationary density matrix for boundary driven XXZ-Lindblad-chain using local-divergence condition
- **Quadratic** matrix algebra
- Relation with bulk symmetry, but not boundary terms
- Non-trivial magnetization profiles and non-vanishing magnetization current for **all spin components** even in isotropic case with general boundary twist

### Open problems:

- Extension to other quantum systems with nearest-neighbour interaction
- Relationship with bulk symmetry and (possibly) full integrability
- Dynamical matrix product ansatz