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Dynamical chaos in the integrable Toda chain induced by time discretization

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ABSTRACT

We use the Toda chain model to demonstrate that numerical simulation of integrable Hamiltonian dynamics using time discretization destroys integrability and induces dynamical chaos. Specifically, we integrate this model with various symplectic integrators parametrized by the time step τ and measure the Lyapunov time T_Λ (inverse of the largest Lyapunov exponent Λ). A key observation is that T_Λ is finite whenever τ is finite but diverges when $\tau \rightarrow 0$. We compare the Toda chain results with the nonintegrable Fermi–Pasta–Ulam–Tsingou chain dynamics. In addition, we observe a breakdown of the simulations at times $T_B \gg T_\Lambda$ due to certain positions and momenta becoming extremely large (“Not a Number”). This phenomenon originates from the periodic driving introduced by symplectic integrators and we also identify the concrete mechanism of the breakdown in the case of the Toda chain.

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Classical integrable systems have vanishing Lyapunov exponents. State-of-the-art computational tests of the equations of motion employ symplectic integrators (SIs). Such split-step integrators replace the original Hamiltonian by some time-dependent one which is parametrized by the finite integrator time step τ . It follows that SIs in general replace integrable dynamics by a nonintegrable chaotic one. We analyze the manifestation of chaos using two different split-step symplectic integrators (ABA864 and SABA₂) for the integrable Toda chain with fixed ends. We demonstrate that the system is indeed chaotic on large times and has a positive maximum Lyapunov exponent Λ . The extracted Lyapunov time $T_\Lambda = 1/\Lambda$ signals the onset of dynamical chaos, is τ -dependent, and diverges for $\tau \rightarrow 0$. For small time steps τ , up to a much larger time T_E , the energy fluctuations stay bounded (while other Toda integrals do not), which means that the SIs emulate a new nonintegrable Hamiltonian. For even larger times, we observe a Floquet regime, when the system exhibits unrestrained heating. This, in turn, unleashes rogue fluctuations

leading to very large values of coordinates and momenta and the eventual breakdown of the numerical integration procedure at some time T_B .

I. INTRODUCTION

The computational study of many-body dynamics has been at a cornerstone of exploring the physics of interacting many-particle systems including gases, liquids, and solids and attempting to understand properties of the liquid–glass transition and of laminar and turbulent flows, dynamics of defects, etc.^{1,2} For classical problems, this often means introducing a Hamiltonian $H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$ with N degrees of freedom, where $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_N)$ are the canonical coordinates and $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_N)$ are the corresponding momenta, and solving a set of coupled Hamilton's equations of motion,

$$\dot{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{q}}, \quad (1)$$

where the dot stands for the derivative with respect to the continuous time variable t .

Since the dawn of computers with von-Neumann architecture, numerical integration of nonlinear differential equations is typically performed by discretizing the time t into short intervals τ and attempting to integrate the equations sequentially over one time interval after another until a sufficiently large final integration time is reached.^{2,3} Thus, continuous temporal phase-space flows are replaced by a repeated action of discrete maps acting on the phase-space variables of the system. Examples are the Euler, Runge–Kutta, and Verlet (also known as Leap-Frog²) algorithms. In general, the energy conservation law $dH/dt = 0$, which follows straightforwardly from (1), is violated by such maps. Symplectic maps (with the Verlet algorithm being an early example) preserve the phase-space volume and the Hamiltonian nature of the dynamics, albeit with a time-dependent effective Hamiltonian.

Usually, a Hamiltonian $H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$ can be split into two parts, $H = A + B$, such that the exact dynamics of A and B alone is known analytically and explicitly. For example, this is the case when A depends only on the momenta (kinetic energy), while B is a function of the coordinates only (potential energy). Even though the dynamics of A and B are separately exactly solvable, solving for the dynamics of the full Hamiltonian $A + B$ is still a nontrivial problem as long as the Poisson bracket

$$\{A, B\} = \frac{\partial A}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \frac{\partial B}{\partial \mathbf{p}} - \frac{\partial B}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \frac{\partial A}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \quad (2)$$

does not vanish. Indeed, it is well known that a typical Hamiltonian with $N > 1$ degrees of freedom is nonintegrable. At the same time, there are notable examples of nontrivial integrable systems, whose dynamics is characterized by N conserved quantities (integrals of motion).

Numerical integration of the Hamiltonian dynamics is usually performed using split-step methods, which break the time t into short time intervals of lengths proportional to τ , e.g., intervals of lengths $\frac{\tau}{2}, \tau, \frac{\tau}{2}, \tau, \frac{\tau}{2}, \dots$ or simply τ, τ, τ, \dots and time evolve the system with A and B intermittently, i.e., evolve with A over some of the time intervals and with B over the rest. Note that as $\tau \rightarrow 0$, the so discretized dynamics converges to the continuous time dynamics with the original Hamiltonian H . Below we focus on such symplectic split-step integration schemes. Details about implementing such symplectic integrators can be found, e.g., in Refs. 4 and 5.

The errors and deviations due to discretizing Hamiltonian dynamics appear to be well analyzed and estimated.⁴ However, note that since time discretization replaces the time-independent Hamiltonian H with a time-dependent (periodic) one, it changes the degree of chaoticity of the system as measured, e.g., by the largest Lyapunov exponent Λ . The impact of this is likely to be most dramatic when the original Hamiltonian is integrable. In this case, we expect to observe *emergent chaoticity*, because time discretization breaks the integrability by violating not only the energy conservation, but also the remaining $N - 1$ conservation laws. Moreover, since the original Hamiltonian is integrable and its dynamics is therefore nonchaotic (regular), the chaoticity must emerge in an integrable system as a result of the discretization. We therefore anticipate a nonzero τ -dependent Lyapunov exponent $\Lambda(\tau)$, such

that $\Lambda(\tau) \rightarrow 0$ when $\tau \rightarrow 0$. In addition, the energy is no longer conserved since the actual Hamiltonian is time dependent. As a result, there is no Gibbs distribution to protect the dynamics from rogue fluctuations.

A number of publications focused on the impact of numerical integration schemes on the dynamics of integrable sine-Gordon models, nonlinear Schrödinger equations, and also the spatially discrete Ablowitz–Ladick chain (an integrable discrete version of the space-continuous nonlinear Schrödinger equation^{6–13}). Most efforts were directed toward verifying that time discretization does destroy integrability and induce the so-called numerical chaos without, however, a systematic quantification of this process through the computation of Lyapunov exponents. Further attempts were directed at finding better integrators which diminished the impact of numerical chaos (we thank R. McLachlan for pointing out that the ideal situation would be to discretize time working in the action-angle coordinate frame of the integrable system, which is however quite often a formidable task).

In this work, we analyze the dynamics of the integrable Toda chain. It is one of the very few examples of one-dimensional, integrable nonlinear lattices. This model is used, for instance, to understand heat conduction of solids,^{14,15} thermally generated soliton dynamics in DNA,¹⁶ and the soliton dynamics on a hydrogen-bond network in helical proteins.¹⁷ We perform a quantitative analysis of the impact of time discretization on the largest Lyapunov exponent. We find that its inverse—the Lyapunov time—is diverging power-law-like upon decreasing the step size. We also identify a second, much larger time scale T_B —the breakdown time—at which a large fluctuation leads to the breakdown of the numerical simulation. We employ different symplectic integrators and show that the results are qualitatively independent of the integrator choice.

We first introduce symplectic integrators in Sec. II. We define the integrable Toda chain as well as one of its famous nonintegrable approximations—the α -Fermi–Pasta–Ulam–Tsingou (FPUT) chain in Sec. III. In this section, we apply the ABA864 integrators to both models with a suitably small step size and a finite observational time window. This confirms the usual result that the FPUT chain generates a measurable nonzero Lyapunov exponent. The Toda chain, on the other hand, appears to get along with a vanishing Lyapunov exponent as its finite time average decreases as $1/T$ with the integration time T . However, in Sec. IV, we show that one obtains a finite Lyapunov exponent for the Toda chain as well if one considers large enough integration time T . In this section, we measure its dependence on the step size and then repeat the computation with a simpler SABA₂ integrator and observe a similar outcome. We also measure the breakdown time at which fluctuations make further computation impossible as a function of the time step size. Finally, we conclude with a discussion of our results.

II. TIME DISCRETIZATION AND SYMPLECTIC INTEGRATION OF LATTICE HAMILTONIANS

We consider a set of $2N$ coupled first order differential equations generated by the Hamiltonian $H(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$ with N degrees of freedom written for the canonical coordinates $\mathbf{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_N)$ and momenta $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_N)$. The dynamics is given by the $2N$

Hamilton's equations of motion

$$\dot{\mathbf{z}} = L_H \mathbf{z} = \{H, \mathbf{z}\} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \dot{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{p}}, \quad \dot{\mathbf{p}} = -\frac{\partial H}{\partial \mathbf{q}}, \quad (3)$$

for $\mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{p})$, and the Liouvillian operator L_H defined via the Poisson brackets (2). It follows that

$$\mathbf{z}(t) = e^{tL_H} \mathbf{z}(0) = \sum_{s=0}^{+\infty} \frac{t^s}{s!} (L_H)^s \mathbf{z}(0). \quad (4)$$

We use symplectic integration schemes for Eq. (3) to approximate e^{tL_H} in Eq. (4) such that the phase-space volume is preserved. We follow Ref. 18 and consider a Hamiltonian H which can be written as the sum of two parts $H = A + B$ such that e^{tL_A} and e^{tL_B} are explicitly known in a closed form. The Baker–Campbell–Hausdorff formula approximates the operator $e^{\tau L_H}$,

$$e^{\tau L_H} = \prod_{j=1}^k e^{a_j \tau L_A} e^{b_j \tau L_B} + \mathcal{O}(\tau^p), \quad (5)$$

where the coefficients $a_1, b_1, a_2, b_2, \dots, a_k, b_k$ must satisfy $\sum_{j=1}^k a_j = \sum_{j=1}^k b_j = 1$. The accuracy of the approximation is controlled by the exponent p which depends on k and the values of the coefficients. The simplest possible choices in Eq. (5) are $k = 1$ and $a_1 = b_1 = 1$, which gives $p = 2$.⁴ This integrator violates time reversal symmetry. The celebrated Verlet (a.k.a Leap-Frog) scheme preserves the time reversal symmetry and is given by $k = 2$ with $a_1 = a_2 = \frac{1}{2}$, $b_1 = 1, b_2 = 0$, and $p = 3$ in Eq. (5): $e^{\tau L_H} = e^{\frac{1}{2}\tau L_A} e^{\tau L_B} e^{\frac{1}{2}\tau L_A} + \mathcal{O}(\tau^3)$.⁴ Note that the dynamics described by Eq. (5) corresponds to a periodic in time Hamiltonian. For example, in the simplest case $k = 1$ and $a_1 = b_1 = 1$, we have

$$H_{\text{eff}}(t) = A + (B - A)f(t), \quad (6)$$

where $f(t)$ is a periodic function of time equal to 0 for odd numbered time intervals and 1 otherwise, i.e.,

$$f(t) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 2k\tau < t < (2k+1)\tau, \\ 1 & \text{for } (2k+1)\tau < t < (2k+2)\tau, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Suppose the original Hamiltonian H is integrable and therefore possesses N nontrivial integrals of motion. The Hamiltonian $H_{\text{eff}}(t)$ in Eq. (6) with which we actually evolve the system is most likely nonintegrable and violates all of the above N conservation laws for any $\tau \neq 0$, including the energy conservation as it is time dependent. We thus expect the dynamics to become chaotic and characterized by nonzero Lyapunov exponents. The time step τ acts as an effective strength of the integrability breaking perturbation. In what follows, we will test these ideas on the classical integrable Toda chain and evaluate the largest Lyapunov exponent as a function of the time step τ for two different symplectic schemes.

III. THE TODA CHAIN

The Toda chain is an integrable one-dimensional lattice model defined by the Hamiltonian¹⁹

$$H_T = \sum_{n=1}^N \left[\frac{p_n^2}{2} + V_T(q_{n+1} - q_n) \right], \quad (8)$$

$$V_T(r) = \frac{1}{4\alpha^2} (e^{2\alpha r} - 2\alpha r - 1).$$

Its integrability for fixed and for periodic boundary conditions was proved in Refs. 20–22. The parameter α can be absorbed by a rescaling of coordinates and momenta. We prefer to keep it in order to make it easier for the reader to connect to data of previous studies.

In this section, we will follow the standard approach of comparing the dynamics of the integrable Toda chain with fixed ends (fixed boundary conditions) and the Fermi–Pasta–Ulam–Tsingou (FPUT) model. We do so by computing the corresponding largest Lyapunov exponents. The Hamiltonian H_{FPUT} of the FPUT model is a low energy approximation of the Toda chain obtained by replacing $V_T(r)$ in Eq. (8) with its truncated Taylor expansion

$$V_{\text{FPUT}}(r) = \frac{1}{2}r^2 + \frac{\alpha}{3}r^3, \quad (9)$$

see, e.g., Refs. 23 and 24. This innocent approximation destroys integrability. The FPUT chain was used for the first computational studies of thermalization,²⁵ leads to the discovery and naming of solitons,^{26,27} was continuously used in subsequent studies of thermalization and equipartition,^{28–31} and served as a platform for a plethora of other studies, for reviews see Refs. 32 and 33.

We apply symplectic integration schemes since both the kinetic part A and the potential part B of H_T and H_{FPUT} are integrable.³⁴ We report the explicit form of the resolvent operators $e^{\tau L_A}$ and $e^{\tau L_B}$ in Eq. (5) for both Toda and FPUT chains in Appendix A. For a symplectic integrator, we choose a fourth-order, $p = 4$, scheme called ABA864 and introduced in Ref. 35 (its explicit form and the coefficients a_j, b_j are reported in Appendix B 1). This integrator has been highlighted in Ref. 5 as one of the best performing in terms of accuracy, stability, and efficiency among several other symplectic and non-symplectic methods. As commonly done when computing the propagation of Hamiltonian systems, we check the stability and accuracy of the symplectic integrator by evaluating the relative error in the Hamiltonian energy H ,

$$\Delta E(t) = \left| \frac{H(t) - H(0)}{H(0)} \right|. \quad (10)$$

A simulation is considered accurate and stable if this quantity ΔE , while fluctuating, remains below a set precision threshold E_r of the order of the first nonzero value of Eq. (10) over the whole integration time-window $[t_0, t_0 + T]$. In the field of classical lattice dynamics, $E_r = 10^{-5}$ is typically considered an upper bound for a good accuracy threshold. In contrast, the consistent growth of ΔE and subsequent breach of the threshold E_r indicate the loss of accuracy of a method.³⁶

We compute the largest Lyapunov exponent Λ and its inverse, a.k.a. Lyapunov time $T_\Lambda = \frac{1}{\Lambda}$ by numerically integrating the variational equations associated with the Hamilton's equations (3).

As explained in detail in Ref. 37, this means computing the time evolution of a small deviation vector $\mathbf{w}(t) = (\delta\mathbf{q}(t), \delta\mathbf{p}(t)) = (\delta q_1(t), \dots, \delta q_N(t), \delta p_1(t), \dots, \delta p_N(t)) = (x_i)_{i=1}^{2N}$ for a trajectory $\mathbf{z}(t)$. The variational equations describing the evolution of $\mathbf{w}(t)$ read

$$\dot{\mathbf{w}}(t) = [\mathbf{J}_{2N} \cdot \mathbf{D}_H^2(\mathbf{z}(t))] \cdot \mathbf{w}(t). \quad (11)$$

Here $\mathbf{D}_H^2(\mathbf{z}(t))$ is the Hessian matrix of the Hamiltonian H computed on the phase-space trajectory $\mathbf{z}(t)$,

$$[\mathbf{D}_H^2(\mathbf{z}(t))]_{ij} = \frac{\partial^2 H}{\partial x_i \partial x_j} \bigg|_{\mathbf{z}(t)} \quad i, j = 1, \dots, 2N. \quad (12)$$

\mathbf{J}_{2N} is the symplectic identity

$$\mathbf{J}_{2N} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbb{O}_N & \mathbb{I}_N \\ -\mathbb{I}_N & \mathbb{O}_N \end{bmatrix}, \quad (13)$$

and \mathbb{I}_N and \mathbb{O}_N are the identity and null matrices of rank N , respectively. Equation (11) can be explicitly solved for a split-step time evolution like ours, and we report the variational problems and the corresponding resolvents for Toda and FPUT models in Appendix A.

The largest Lyapunov exponent Λ is obtained by first computing the so-called *finite-time largest Lyapunov exponent* defined as

$$X_1(t) = \frac{1}{t} \ln \frac{\|\mathbf{w}(t)\|}{\|\mathbf{w}(0)\|}, \quad (14)$$

and then taking the limit $t \rightarrow +\infty$,

$$\Lambda = \lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} X_1(t). \quad (15)$$

The *largest Lyapunov exponent* Λ and the corresponding *Lyapunov time* $T_\Lambda = \frac{1}{\Lambda}$ set the timescale on which a dynamical system becomes chaotic.

In Fig. 1, we plot the time evolution of the finite-time largest Lyapunov exponent $X_1(t)$ for both Toda and FPUT models for the same initial state with energy density $\varepsilon = \frac{H}{N} = 0.1$,³⁸ fixed integration step $\tau = 0.1$, $N = 100$, and $\alpha = 0.25$. The $X_1(t)$ curves show a clear distinction between the Toda (integrable, black color) and FPUT (nonintegrable, red color) cases. Indeed, for Toda, we observe $X_1(t) \sim \frac{1}{t}$ within the observation time window. This seems to suggest that the largest Lyapunov exponent vanishes, $\Lambda = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} X_1(t) = 0$, as expected for an integrable system. In contrast, for the FPUT chain $X_1(t)$ saturates at a finite value resulting in a finite largest Lyapunov exponent $\Lambda \approx 4.75 \times 10^{-4}$, which corresponds to a Lyapunov time $T_\Lambda \approx 2 \times 10^3$. In the inset in Fig. 1, we show that the relative energy error $\Delta E(t)$ obtained with the integrator ABA864 for a time step $\tau = 0.1$ oscillates well below the precision threshold $E_r = 5 \times 10^{-9}$ for both systems.

In what follows, we demonstrate that the Lyapunov time for the time-discretized Toda dynamics is in fact finite, and the largest Lyapunov exponent is nonzero for a finite step size τ and enlarged computational time windows.

IV. TIME DISCRETIZATION INDUCED CHAOS

The results shown in Fig. 1 align with the theory expectations as the two models produce clearly distinguishable dynamics. The non-integrable FPUT case displays a nonzero largest Lyapunov exponent

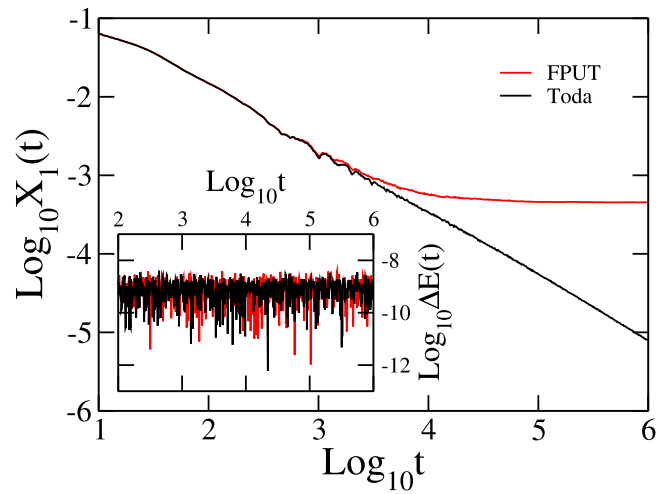


FIG. 1. Time evolution of the finite-time largest Lyapunov exponent $X_1(t)$ for the Toda (black) and FPUT (red) chains obtained with the symplectic integrator ABA864(τ) with time step $\tau = 0.1$, $N = 100$ particles, and the anharmonicity strength $\alpha = 0.25$. Inset: relative energy error $\Delta E(t)$.

$\Lambda \approx 4.75 \times 10^{-4}$, while for the integrable Toda model $X_1(t) \sim \frac{1}{t}$ apparently suggesting that $\Lambda = 0$. Furthermore, in both computations the integration is accurate, since the relative energy error ΔE stays well below $E_r = 5 \times 10^{-9}$. However, as conjectured in the Introduction, nonzero Lyapunov exponents are expected for large enough integration time T when computing the dynamics of integrable systems, and the magnitudes of these exponents may vary with the time step τ . To demystify this conjecture, we extend the simulations for the Toda chain reported in Fig. 1 to a larger time window and different time steps τ .

We computed the time evolution of the finite-time largest Lyapunov exponent X_1 within a time window $[0, 10^9]$ for ten different time steps τ ranging between $\tau = 1$ and $\tau = 0.1$ for $N = 100$ and $\alpha = 0.25$ as in Fig. 1. We display the results in Fig. 2(a). Observe that within this time window $X_1(t)$ clearly deviates from the naively expected $X_1(t) \sim \frac{1}{t}$ behavior for all τ considered. This deviation occurs earlier [and consequently $X_1(t)$ converges to a larger nonzero value] for larger time steps τ .

For $0.42 \leq \tau \leq 1$, the relative energy error $\Delta E(t)$ starts to grow visibly from some time T_E [Fig. 2(b)]. This time T_E is different for each curve, which is characterized by having different values of τ . For $0.1 \leq \tau \leq 0.32$ on the other hand, $\Delta E(t)$ in the entire time window fluctuates below the threshold E_r that ranges from $E_r = 10^{-6}$ for $\tau = 0.32$ to $E_r = 5 \times 10^{-9}$ for $\tau = 0.1$, i.e., $T_E > 10^9$ [see Fig. 2(c)]. The latter case ($0.1 \leq \tau \leq 0.32$) shows that the transition to chaotic dynamics (as detected by the maximum Lyapunov exponent Λ) occurs on a time scale much shorter than the time scale at which any noticeable increase of the relative energy error $\Delta E(t)$ is detected. The former case ($0.56 \leq \tau \leq 1$) demonstrates not only the loss of accuracy of the symplectic scheme, but also a complete failure of the numerical integration for $\tau = 1$ (black) and $\tau = 0.9$ (red). This failure takes place at a distinct breakdown time $T_B \gg T_\Lambda$.

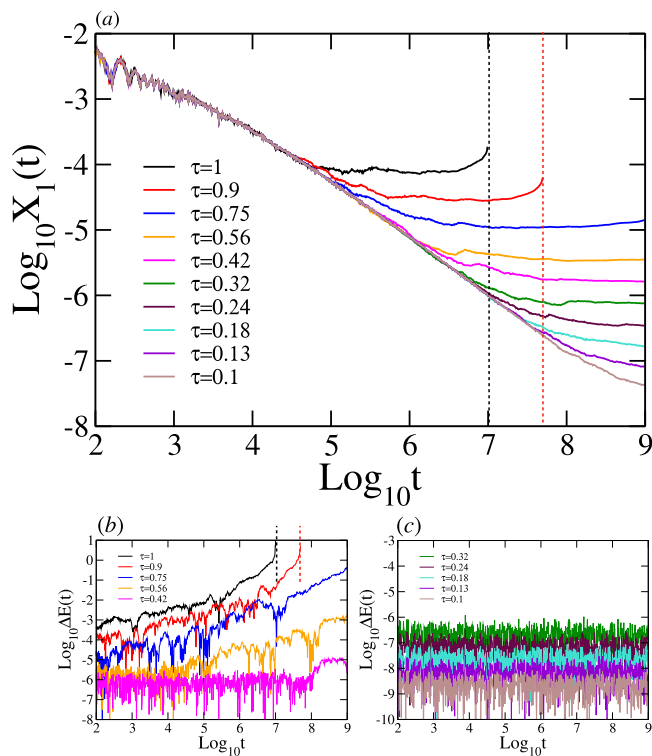


FIG. 2. Chaoticity of the time-discretized dynamics of the Toda chain with fixed ends generated by the symplectic integrator ABA864. We show the time evolution of the finite-time largest Lyapunov exponent $X_1(t)$ (a) and relative energy error $\Delta E(t)$ (b) and (c) for $N = 100$ sites and anharmonicity strength $\alpha = 0.25$. We employed the ABA864 integrator with time step $\tau = 1.0$ (black), $\tau = 0.9$ (red), $\tau = 0.75$ (blue), $\tau = 0.56$ (orange), $\tau = 0.42$ (magenta), $\tau = 0.32$ (green), $\tau = 0.24$ (maroon), $\tau = 0.18$ (turquoise), $\tau = 0.13$ (violet), and $\tau = 0.1$ (brown). The vertical dashed lines in (a) and (b) indicate the breakdown time T_B .

Failures of this type occur as certain coordinates or momenta within the chain increase beyond $\sim 10^{308}$ and become NaN (Not-a-Number) at T_B . To understand the nature of this effect, recall that the discretized time evolution with split-step symplectic integrators is governed by a time-periodic Hamiltonian, see Eq. (6). The breakdown phenomenon originates from the fact that periodically driven many-body Floquet systems heat up indefinitely in the absence of disorder eventually reaching a featureless maximum entropy (infinite temperature) state.^{39–42} If that ergodic system lacks any other conservation laws (note that energy conservation is already violated), it will explore the entire phase space, which is dominated by extremely large values of the coordinates and momenta.⁴³ Consequently, we expect that eventually at least one of these quantities will diverge to infinity, leading to a failure of the integration on the computer (which can hold only floating point numbers up to some largest software dependent value, e.g., $\sim 10^{308}$ in double precision with standard Fortran compilers). Later in this section, we will identify the precise mechanism of the breakdown specifically for the time-discretized Toda dynamics.

To better understand all the time scales involved, we start from the shortest, which is T_Λ . For $t < T_\Lambda$ the dynamics remains integrable. The largest time scale is T_B , beyond which the computation ceases to be meaningful (see more below). Floquet dynamics results in an intermediate time scale T_E at which Floquet heating and energy growth start. Necessarily $T_\Lambda < T_E < T_B$. By definition, symplectic integrators are not constructed to approximately preserve any other integrals of motion other than the energy. Therefore, another Toda integral J (see Appendix C) will be bounded in their fluctuations only up to a time $T_J \approx T_\Lambda$. We discuss this issue in detail below Eq. (21).

To estimate the Lyapunov time T_Λ from the time-evolution of $X_1(t)$ shown in Fig. 2(a), we adopt the following protocol:

- find the time \hat{t} when $X_1(t)$ reaches its minimum value [if $X_1(t)$ does not saturate, we take the last point, i.e., $\hat{t} = T$, where T is the total simulation time],
- fix the time window $I_i = [0.1\hat{t}, \hat{t}]$, such that the end points differ by one order of magnitude,
- define the largest Lyapunov exponent Λ as the average of X_1 over the interval I_i , i.e., $\Lambda = \langle X_1(t) \rangle_{t \in I_i}$.

Figure 3 displays the Lyapunov time T_Λ as a function of the time step τ for three different system sizes: $N = 100, 250$, and 500 shown with solid black circles, red squares, and green diamonds, respectively. We find that T_Λ grows monotonously with decreasing τ covering more than three decades, while τ varies only over one decade. The three curves show excellent overlap revealing that T_Λ is essentially independent of the system size N . Our data indicate that $T_\Lambda(\tau \rightarrow 0) \rightarrow \infty$ is in agreement with the fact that the Hamiltonian becomes integrable in the limit $\tau \rightarrow 0$. We also plot the breakdown time T_B in Fig. 3 using empty symbols (as opposed to solid symbols for T_Λ). We report T_B only for $\tau = 1$ and $\tau = 0.9$. These two values of T_B correspond to the vertical dashed lines in Fig. 2. Similar to T_Λ , the breakdown time T_B does not show a strong dependence on

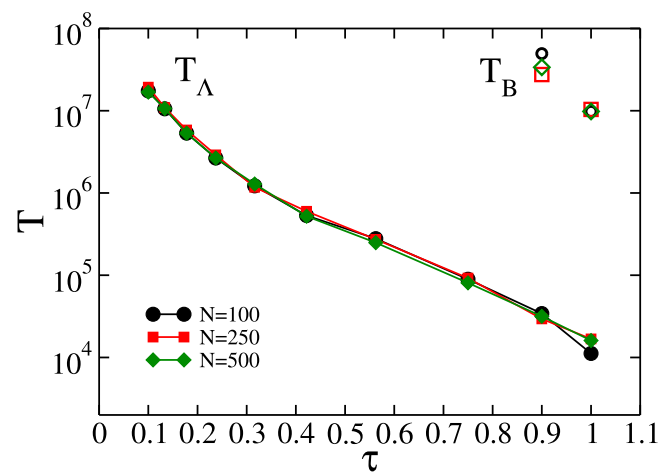


FIG. 3. Lyapunov time T_Λ (solid symbols) and breakdown time T_B (open symbols) vs the time step τ for the Toda chain dynamics as generated by the symplectic integrator ABA864(τ) for $N = 100$ (black dots), $N = 250$ (red squares), and $N = 500$ (green diamonds) sites and anharmonicity parameter $\alpha = 0.25$.

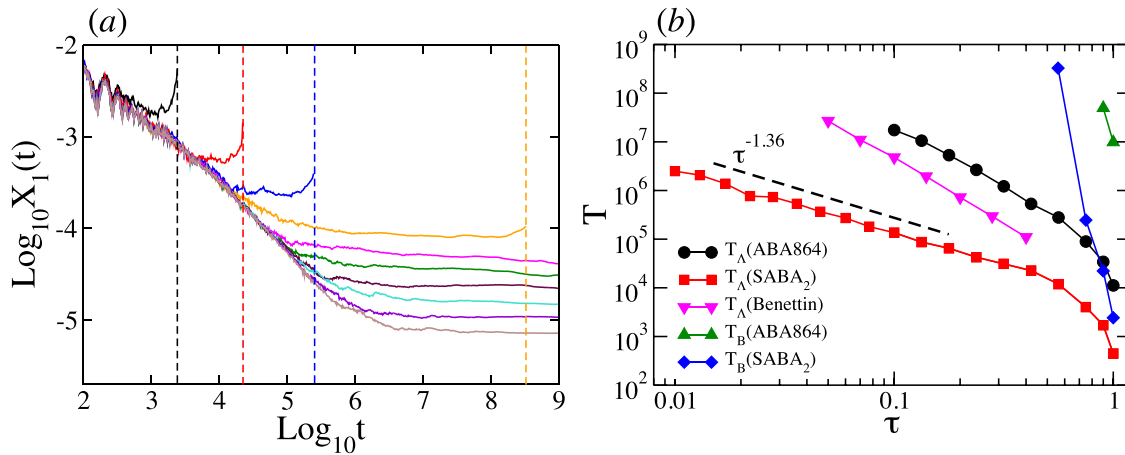


FIG. 4. Discretized time evolution of the Toda chain with $N = 100$ sites and anharmonicity parameter $\alpha = 0.25$. Panel (a): the finite-time largest Lyapunov exponent $X_1(t)$ obtained with the help of the symplectic integrator SABA₂ with time step $\tau = 1.0$ (black), $\tau = 0.9$ (red), $\tau = 0.75$ (blue), $\tau = 0.56$ (orange), $\tau = 0.42$ (magenta), $\tau = 0.32$ (green), $\tau = 0.24$ (maroon), $\tau = 0.18$ (turquoise), $\tau = 0.13$ (violet), and $\tau = 0.1$ (brown). Panel (b): Lyapunov times T_Λ for integrators ABA864 (black circles) and SABA₂ (red squares) and breakdown times T_B for ABA864 (green up triangles) and SABA₂ (blue diamonds) vs the time step τ . Magenta down triangles indicate the Lyapunov times T_Λ extracted from the simulations of Ref. 24. The dashed black line is a fit of T_Λ for SABA₂ using linear regression between $\tau = 0.013$ and $\tau = 0.42$.

the system size. Note that T_B is at least three orders of magnitudes larger than the corresponding Lyapunov time indicating a clear scale separation.

The integrator ABA864 we used above is of fourth-order, $p = 4$. To compare different symplectic integrators and to collect more data for T_B , we repeat the computations with a second-order, $p = 2$, integrator SABA₂⁴⁴ for $N = 100$ (see Appendix B 2 for the description of this integrator). We observe from Fig. 4(b) that the values of T_Λ provided by the SABA₂ scheme (red squares) are smaller than those provided by ABA864 (black dots) by one to two orders of magnitude. This is to be expected, since the SABA₂ scheme is less accurate and therefore the dynamics it generates is further from its integrable Toda limit enabling a stronger chaos as compared to the ABA864 dynamics with the same τ . In addition to T_Λ for SABA₂ and ABA864, we also show in Fig. 4(b) the values of T_Λ which we extracted from the simulation of Toda dynamics by Benettin *et al.* who used a different integrator.²⁴ In all three cases T_Λ apparently diverges as $\tau \rightarrow 0$. The divergence appears to be a power-law-like, $T_\Lambda \propto \tau^{-\eta}$ for small τ with an integrator-dependent exponent $\eta > 0$. It is slowest for SABA₂ in which case we have data in a sufficiently large range of τ for a reliable fit. In this case, we find $\eta \approx 1.36$.

Figure 4(a) shows the time evolution of the finite-time largest Lyapunov exponent $X_1(t)$ for SABA₂. Notice that in this case the integration visibly breaks down at four different values of τ within the same time interval as that shown in Fig. 2. The measured breakdown times T_B are highlighted by the vertical dashed lines. The ratio T_B/T_Λ increases from a value of order 1 at $\tau = 1$ to a value of order 10^4 for $\tau = 0.6$ clearly indicating that the two time scales T_Λ and $T_B \gg T_\Lambda$ scale differently with τ and quickly separate as τ grows. They must be therefore due to two distinct features of the discretized Toda chain dynamics. Notice also that unlike T_Λ , the breakdown times T_B for SABA₂ are substantially lower than those those for ABA864 [see the vertical dashed lines in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b)].

As mentioned above, in the case of the Toda chain, we were able to identify the precise sequence of events (mechanism) that leads to the breakdown. The two key ingredients of this mechanism are the split-step nature of symplectic integrators, where the system evolves ballistically (linearly in time) during each time step and the exponential dependence of the Toda potential on the coordinates. Recall that these integrators split the Toda Hamiltonian H into its kinetic (A) and potential (B) parts and evolve the system with A over some of the time steps and with B over the rest. For simplicity, let us consider the simplest integrator where all time intervals are of the same length τ and suppose we evolve with A over odd intervals and with B over the even. For the Toda chain, this evolution with A and B is given by Eq. (A5) in Appendix A 1. The evolution with A does not change the momenta p_n and changes the coordinates as

$$q'_n = q_n + \tau p_n. \quad (16)$$

Similarly, the evolution with B conserves the coordinates but changes the momenta as

$$p'_n = p_n + \frac{\tau}{2\alpha} \left[e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} - e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})} \right]. \quad (17)$$

Since this discretization of the time evolution breaks the integrability and since the Hamiltonian is now time dependent, there are presumably no conserved quantities and we expect the system to explore the entire phase space as discussed earlier in this section. Then, eventually, there will be a fluctuation such that the magnitude of at least one of the coordinates or momenta is large. For definiteness, take q_k to be large in magnitude, $|q_k| \gg 1$, and negative and assume that the magnitudes of the rest of coordinates and momenta, the anharmonicity parameter α , and the time step τ are all of order 1. We also take k to be away from the end points (specifically, $2 < k < N$). Starting in this state and evolving with B over one time step according to Eq. (17), we obtain, up to a prefactor of

order 1,

$$p'_k \approx -p'_{k+1} \approx \frac{\tau}{2\alpha} e^{2\alpha|q_k|}, \quad (18)$$

where we only kept the exponentially large terms. The rest of coordinates and momenta remain of order 1. Next, we have to evolve with A according to Eq. (16). This results in

$$q'_k \approx -q'_{k+1} \approx \frac{\tau^2}{2\alpha} e^{2\alpha|q_k|}. \quad (19)$$

Subsequent evolution with B produces four extremely large momenta, p''_{k-1} , p''_k , p''_{k+1} , and p''_{k+2} , approximately equal in magnitude to an exponent of an exponent of a large number

$$p''_{k\pm 1} \approx p''_{(k+1)\pm 1} \approx \frac{\tau}{2\alpha} \exp[\tau^2 e^{2\alpha|q_k|}] \quad (20)$$

leading to the breakdown of the simulation at this or at most the next B -step depending on the value of $|q_k|$.

We check this picture against numerics in Fig. 5. The SABA2 symplectic integrator with which this figure is generated is different from the simplest integrator in the above argument. Nevertheless, the main idea is the same. We see from Fig. 5 that just before the breakdown the displacements (coordinates) and momenta at two neighboring sites $k = 18$ and $k + 1 = 19$ are much larger than the rest, roughly equal in magnitude, and opposite in sign. This agrees with Eqs. (18) and (19). Further, these equations give four values of $|q_k|$ that range from about 5 to 9 with an average of about 7.0. Using this average value in Eq. (20) together with $\tau = 1$ and $\alpha = 0.25$, we obtain a number larger than 10^{14} . The next B -step must produce an exponent of this number, which is much larger than 10^{308} —the largest number available in double precision in standard Fortran compilers. At this point, numerical simulation breaks down. We also

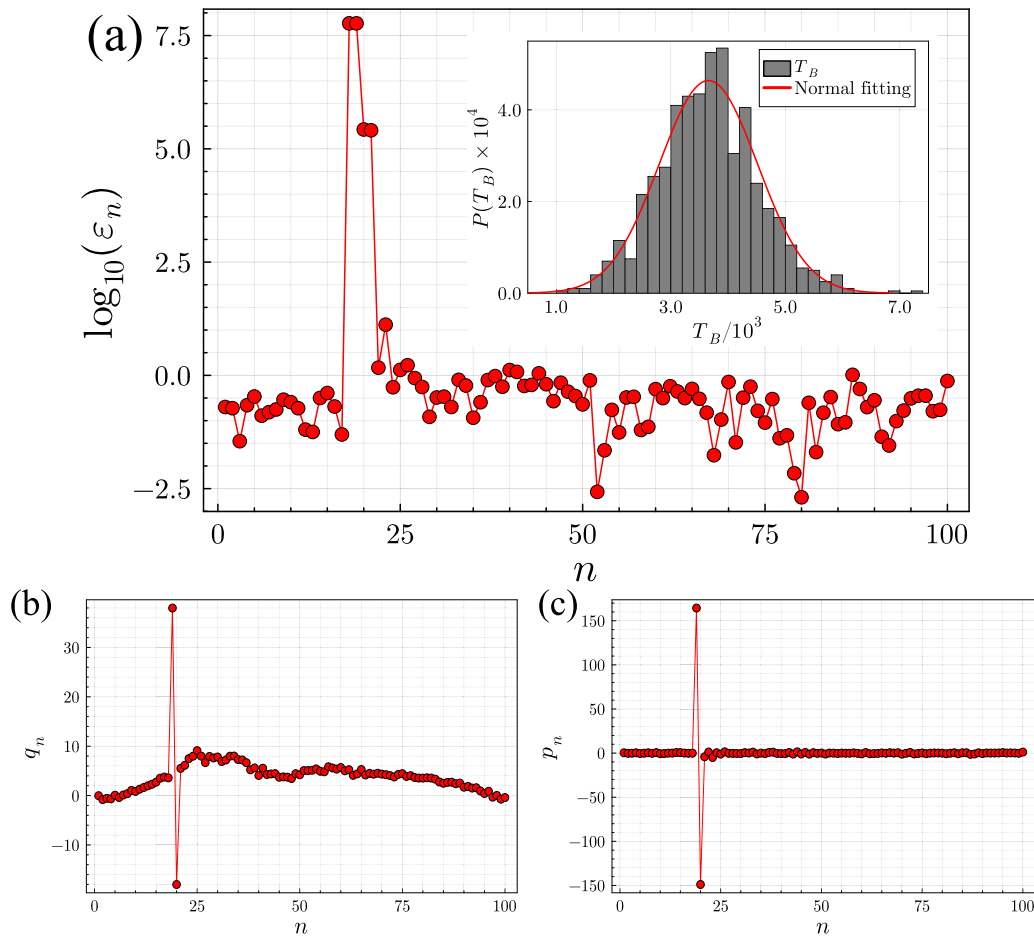


FIG. 5. A snapshot of the time-discretized dynamics of the Toda chain generated with SABA2 symplectic integrator just before the breakdown. Panels (a)–(c) show the energy densities (per lattice site), lattice displacements, and lattice momenta, respectively, at $t = 2427$ for time step $\tau = 1.0$ and anharmonicity parameter $\alpha = 0.25$. Notice that displacements and momenta at two neighboring sites ($n = 19$ and 20) are large in magnitude and opposite in sign. The inset of panel (a) shows the distribution of the breakdown times T_B for 1000 random initial conditions. A Gaussian fit of this distribution yields a mean $\mu = 3655$, standard deviation $\sigma = 859$, skewness 0.17 , and kurtosis 0.35 . We generate the initial conditions for this figure as before (see Ref. 36) only using the SABA2 integrator instead of ABA864.

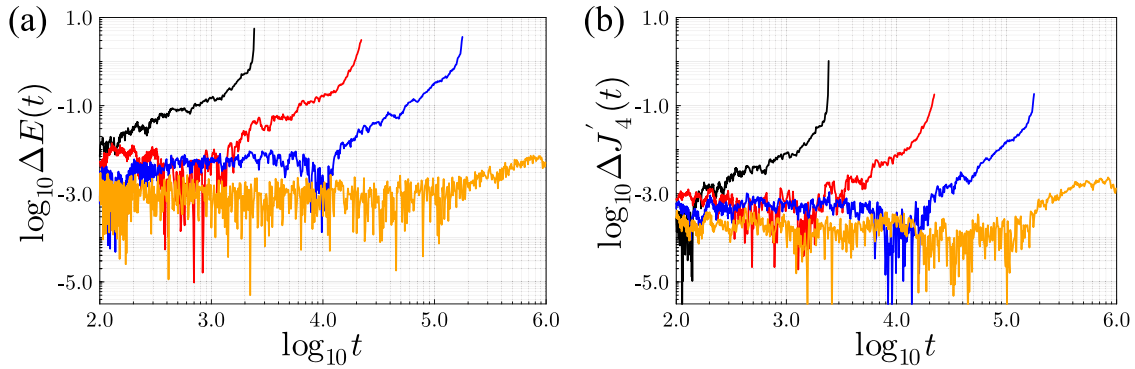


FIG. 6. Relative errors in (a) energy, $\Delta E(t)$, and (b) the nontrivial integral of motion [see Eq. (C7)], $\Delta J'_4(t)$, for the Toda chain dynamics generated with $SABA_2$ split-step symplectic integrator. Different colors correspond to different values of the time step τ : $\tau = 1.0$ (black), $\tau = 0.9$ (red), $\tau = 0.75$ (blue), and $\tau = 0.56$ (orange). The initial condition is the same as in Fig. 5.

show in Fig. 5 the distribution of the breakdown times T_B for randomly generated initial conditions, which appears to be roughly Gaussian, and the energy density per site just before the breakdown. The latter is defined as

$$\begin{cases} \varepsilon_1 = \frac{p_1^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} V_T(q_2 - q_1) + V_T(q_1), \\ \varepsilon_n = \frac{p_n^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} V_T(q_{n+1} - q_n) + \frac{1}{2} V_T(q_n - q_{n-1}), \\ \quad \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \varepsilon_N = \frac{p_N^2}{2} + V_T(-q_N) + \frac{1}{2} V_T(q_N - q_{N-1}). \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

Since the underlying Toda chain is integrable, it is of interest to compare the fluctuations (relative error) in energy and in nontrivial integrals of motion. We do so in Fig. 6. The next integral of motion after the energy in the hierarchy of the integrals of motion for the

Toda chain is J_4 given by Eq. (C7) in Appendix C. We define the relative error in J_4 as in Eq. (10) but with the replacement $H \rightarrow J_4$. We see from Fig. 6 that the relative errors in the energy and the integral of motion behave similarly and run away roughly at the same breakdown times for $1 \geq \tau \geq 0.56$. As a matter of fact, up to a factor of 10, all time scales $T_A \approx T_J \approx T_E \ll T_B$ coincide. In order to observe the differences between these time scales, we choose smaller values of τ in Fig. 7. We clearly observe that T_E grows much faster with diminishing τ than $T_A \approx T_J$. If enough time span is given between T_J and T_E , J may start to behave ergodically as in any other nonintegrable Hamiltonian system like the FPUT one.

V. CONCLUSION

Here, we studied the long-time dynamics of a classical integrable lattice model—Toda chain with fixed ends—with the help of split-step symplectic integrators. We made two key observations. First, time discretization (more generally, the approximate nature

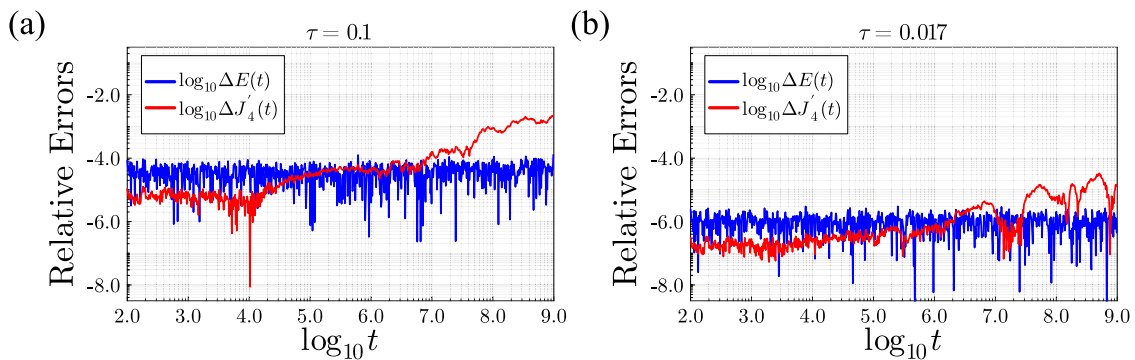


FIG. 7. Comparison of relative errors in energy $\Delta E(t)$ (blue) and the nontrivial integral of motion $\Delta J'_4(t)$ (red) with small step sizes for the Toda chain dynamics generated with the $SABA_2$ split-step symplectic integrator. In panels (a) and (b), we show the relative errors for $\tau = 0.1$ and $\tau = 0.017$ with corresponding Lyapunov times (T_A) being 1.4×10^5 and 1.4×10^6 , respectively. We estimate T_J by the time corresponding to the crossings of the two relative error plots. In these plots, we indeed have $T_J \approx T_A$.

of the integration method) breaks the integrability and induces chaos. We then analyze the properties of such dynamical chaos. We find that the original regular (non-chaotic) dynamics of the Toda chain becomes chaotic with the maximum Lyapunov exponent $\Lambda(\tau)$ controlled by the time-discretization parameter τ . In the limit $\tau \rightarrow 0$, $\Lambda(\tau)$ vanishes as a power law. The fact that $\Lambda(\tau) \rightarrow 0$ as $\tau \rightarrow 0$ is not surprising as in this limit we should fully recover the integrable Toda dynamics. In contrast, we saw that for the nonintegrable Fermi–Pasta–Ulam–Tsingou chain $\Lambda(\tau)$, while also initially decreasing with decreasing τ , tends to a finite value when $\tau \rightarrow 0$. Importantly, chaos manifests itself well before the relative energy error $\Delta E(t)$ (typically used to track the stability and accuracy of an integrator) becomes significant. Therefore, symplectic schemes applied to integrable systems may result in chaotic dynamics unknown to the reader of the numerical study, hence, rendering the simulations wrong.

Second, we saw that the energy starts growing and the system starts heating up in a Floquet manner at a time $T_E(\tau)$. A subsequent breakdown (dramatic loss of accuracy) of the simulation occurs at a timescale $T_B(\tau) \gg T_E(\tau)$ much larger than the Lyapunov time $T_\Lambda(\tau) = \Lambda^{-1}(\tau)$ at which chaos becomes apparent. The separation of time scales is especially obvious for small τ as $T_B \gg T_E \gg T_\Lambda$ as $\tau \rightarrow 0$. For times $t < T_\Lambda$ the system evolves as the integrable Toda chain. For $T_\Lambda < t < T_E$, the system evolves as a nonintegrable Hamiltonian perturbation of the Toda chain (e.g., the FPUT one) conserving the energy, being chaotic, and resulting in the loss of conservation of other Toda integrals of motion at times $T_I \approx T_\Lambda$. For $T_E < t < T_B$, the system enters a Floquet regime, and heats up toward a featureless infinite temperature state.^{39–42} As a result, the system explores the entire phase space. Since the latter is noncompact for the Toda lattice, it eventually reaches extremely large values of the coordinates and momenta beyond the ability of the computer to handle.

Moreover, we were able to pinpoint the specific mechanism of the breakdown for the Toda chain. In this case, it is due to the split-step nature of the integrator, which implies ballistic (linear in time) evolution during each time step, coupled with the exponential dependence of the Toda potential on the coordinates. We demonstrated using the discretized equations of motion that as soon as at least one coordinate or momentum becomes large, an irreversible divergence to infinity takes place.

Our results are very general and applicable to a broad range of integrable classical and quantum interacting many-body models. Suppose, for example, we quantize the Toda chain by promoting coordinates q_n and momenta p_n to quantum operators, such that $[q_n, p_n] = i$. The quantum Toda chain is also integrable,^{45–48} and we anticipate that chaos will again ensue as a result of time discretization (trotterization). Similarly, at a much larger timescale T_B , we expect a breakdown of the numerical simulation. The expectation values of q_n and p_n will grow extremely large, and the location where most of the weight of the many-body wavefunction $\Psi(q_1, q_2, \dots)$ is concentrated will move to infinity.

Interestingly, no breakdown can occur when the phase space of the classical model is compact, or, for a quantum model, the dimensionality of the Hilbert space is finite. For example, consider classical spin and quantum spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ models. The infinite temperature state is the state where each spin points in a random direction independent

of the other spins. The numerical simulation should have no fundamental difficulty approaching this state as there are no divergencies along the way.

Our study has implications for evaluating errors in quantum simulations in quantum information science. Here, the goal is to determine the time evolution of a prescribed Hamiltonian, and one of the main approaches is precisely the splitting method^{49–60} (a.k.a. Trotterization in this context) we used in this paper for the classical Toda chain. Our results indicate that Trotterization errors can be complex, i.e., vary significantly between observables and qualitatively affect the character of the dynamics (chaotic vs regular) when the quantum Hamiltonian which we are attempting to simulate is integrable. In a recent study,⁶¹ an isolated quantum system, whose time evolution is described by a sequence of unitary maps, was shown to display artificial dissipation induced by time discretization.

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AUTHOR DECLARATIONS

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflicts to disclose.

Author Contributions

Carlo Danieli: Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Software (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal); Writing – original draft (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Emil A. Yuzbashyan:** Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Project administration (equal); Supervision (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal); Writing – original draft (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Boris L. Altshuler:** Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Project administration (equal); Supervision (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal); Writing – original draft (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Aniket Patra:** Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Project administration (equal); Software (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal); Writing – original draft (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal). **Sergej Flach:** Conceptualization (equal); Data curation (equal); Formal analysis (equal); Investigation (equal); Methodology (equal); Project administration (equal); Supervision (equal); Validation (equal); Visualization (equal); Writing – original draft (equal); Writing – review & editing (equal).

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

APPENDIX A: RESOLVENT OPERATORS AND VARIATIONAL PROBLEMS FOR TODA AND FPUT

In this appendix, we detail the equations of motion (3), variational equations (11), and their respective resolvents for both Toda and FPUT models.

1. Toda chain

The Hamiltonian (8) of the Toda chain with fixed boundary conditions in terms of coordinates q_n and canonically conjugate momenta p_n reads

$$H_T = \left[\sum_{n=1}^N \frac{p_n^2}{2} \right] + \left[\frac{e^{2\alpha q_1} - 2\alpha q_1 - 1}{4\alpha^2} + \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \frac{e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} - 2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n) - 1}{4\alpha^2} + \frac{e^{-2\alpha q_N} + 2\alpha q_N - 1}{4\alpha^2} \right] = A + B. \quad (\text{A1})$$

For the fixed boundary condition ($q_0 = p_0 = q_{N+1} = p_{N+1} = 0$), Hamilton's equations of motion (3) become

$$\begin{cases} \dot{q}_n = p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{p}_1 = \frac{1}{2\alpha} [e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)} - e^{2\alpha q_1}], \\ \dot{p}_n = \frac{1}{2\alpha} [e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} - e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}], & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \dot{p}_N = \frac{1}{2\alpha} [e^{-2\alpha q_N} - e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}]. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A2})$$

The variational equations (11) for the deviations $\{\delta q_n, \delta p_n\}$ take the form

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\delta q}_n = \delta p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{\delta p}_1 = -[e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)} + e^{2\alpha q_1}] \delta q_1 + [e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)}] \delta q_2, \\ \dot{\delta p}_n = -[e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} + e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}] \delta q_n + [e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)}] \delta q_{n+1} + [e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}] \delta q_{n-1}, & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \dot{\delta p}_N = -[e^{-2\alpha q_N} + e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}] \delta q_N + [e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}] \delta q_{N-1}. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A3})$$

Splitting the Toda Hamiltonian (A1) into the kinetic and potential parts, $H = A + B$, yields the following two systems of differential equations that describe the evolution with A alone (L_A) and with B alone (L_B):

$$L_A: \begin{cases} \dot{q}_n = p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{p}_n = 0, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{\delta q}_n = \delta p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{\delta p}_n = 0, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \end{cases} \quad (\text{A4a})$$

$$L_B: \begin{cases} \dot{q}_n = 0, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{p}_1 = \frac{1}{2\alpha} [e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)} - e^{2\alpha q_1}], \\ \dot{p}_n = \frac{1}{2\alpha} [e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} - e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}], & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \dot{p}_N = \frac{1}{2\alpha} [e^{-2\alpha q_N} - e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}], \\ \dot{\delta q}_n = 0, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{\delta p}_1 = -[e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)} + e^{2\alpha q_1}] \delta q_1 + [e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)}] \delta q_2, \\ \dot{\delta p}_n = -[e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} + e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}] \delta q_n + [e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)}] \delta q_{n+1} + [e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}] \delta q_{n-1}, & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \dot{\delta p}_N = -[e^{-2\alpha q_N} + e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}] \delta q_N + [e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}] \delta q_{N-1}. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A4b})$$

For an advancement by one time step τ , we integrate the coordinates $\{q_n, p_n, \delta q_n, \delta p_n\}$ at time t to $\{q'_n, p'_n, \delta q'_n, \delta p'_n\}$ at time $t + \tau$,

$$e^{\tau L_A}: \begin{cases} q'_n = q_n + \tau p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ p'_n = p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \delta q'_n = \delta q_n + \tau \delta p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \delta p'_n = \delta p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \end{cases} \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$e^{\tau L_B}: \begin{cases} q'_n = q_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ p'_1 = p_1 + \frac{\tau}{2\alpha} [e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)} - e^{2\alpha q_1}], \\ p'_n = p_n + \frac{\tau}{2\alpha} [e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} - e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}], & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ p'_N = p_N + \frac{\tau}{2\alpha} [e^{-2\alpha q_N} - e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}], \\ \delta q'_n = \delta q_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \delta p'_1 = \delta p_1 + \tau \{-[e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)} + e^{2\alpha q_1}] \delta q_1 + [e^{2\alpha(q_2-q_1)}] \delta q_2\}, \\ \delta p'_n = \delta p_n + \tau \{-[e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} + e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}] \delta q_n + [e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)}] \delta q_{n+1} + [e^{2\alpha(q_n-q_{n-1})}] \delta q_{n-1}\}, & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \delta p'_N = \delta p_N + \tau \{-[e^{-2\alpha q_N} + e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}] \delta q_N + [e^{2\alpha(q_N-q_{N-1})}] \delta q_{N-1}\}. \end{cases}$$

2. Fermi-Pasta-Ulam-Tsingou chain

The Hamiltonian of the Fermi-Pasta-Ulam-Tsingou (FPUT) chain reads

$$H_F = \left[\sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \frac{p_n^2}{2} \right] + \left[\frac{1}{2} q_1^2 + \frac{\alpha}{3} q_1^3 + \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (q_{n+1} - q_n)^2 + \frac{\alpha}{3} (q_{n+1} - q_n)^3 \right\} + \frac{1}{2} q_N^2 - \frac{\alpha}{3} q_N^3 \right] = A + B. \quad (\text{A6})$$

The corresponding Hamilton equations of motion (3) are

$$\begin{cases} \dot{q}_n = p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{p}_1 = (q_2 - 2q_1) + \alpha [(q_2 - q_1)^2 - q_1^2], \\ \dot{p}_n = (q_{n+1} + q_{n-1} - 2q_n) + \alpha [(q_{n+1} - q_n)^2 - (q_n - q_{n-1})^2], \\ & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \dot{p}_N = (q_{N-1} - 2q_N) + \alpha [q_N^2 - (q_N - q_{N-1})^2]. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A7})$$

The variational equations (11) for the deviations $\{\delta q_n, \delta p_n\}$ become

$$\begin{cases} \dot{\delta q}_n = \delta p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \dot{\delta p}_1 = -[2\alpha q_2 + 2]\delta q_1 + [1 + 2\alpha(q_2 - q_1)]\delta q_2, \\ \dot{\delta p}_n = [2\alpha(q_{n-1} - q_{n+1}) - 2]\delta q_n + [1 + 2\alpha(q_{n+1} - q_n)]\delta q_{n+1} \\ & + [1 + 2\alpha(q_n - q_{n-1})]\delta q_{n-1}, & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \dot{\delta p}_N = [2\alpha q_{N-1} - 2]\delta q_N + [1 + 2\alpha(q_N - q_{N-1})]\delta q_{N-1}. \end{cases} \quad (\text{A8})$$

For the same splitting as in Eq. (A4b), the advancement by a time step τ reads

$$e^{\tau L_A} : \begin{cases} q'_n = q_n + \tau p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ p'_n = p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \delta q'_n = \delta q_n + \tau \delta p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \delta p'_n = \delta p_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \end{cases} \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$e^{\tau L_B} : \begin{cases} q'_n = q_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ p'_1 = p_1 + \tau \{ (q_2 - 2q_1) + \alpha [(q_2 - q_1)^2 - q_1^2] \}, \\ p'_n = p_n + \tau \{ (q_{n+1} + q_{n-1} - 2q_n) \\ & + \alpha [(q_{n+1} - q_n)^2 - (q_n - q_{n-1})^2] \}, \\ & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ p'_N = p_N + \tau \{ (q_{N-1} - 2q_N) + \alpha [q_N^2 - (q_N - q_{N-1})^2] \}, \\ \delta q'_n = \delta q_n, & \text{for } n = 1, \dots, N, \\ \delta p'_1 = \delta p_1 + \tau \{ -[2\alpha q_2 + 2]\delta q_1 + [1 + 2\alpha(q_2 - q_1)]\delta q_2 \}, \\ \delta p'_n = \delta p_n + \tau \{ [2\alpha(q_{n-1} - q_{n+1}) - 2]\delta q_n \\ & + [1 + 2\alpha(q_{n+1} - q_n)]\delta q_{n+1} \\ & + [1 + 2\alpha(q_n - q_{n-1})]\delta q_{n-1} \}, \\ & \text{for } n = 2, \dots, (N-1), \\ \delta p'_N = \delta p_N + \tau \{ [2\alpha q_{N-1} - 2]\delta q_N \\ & + [1 + 2\alpha(q_N - q_{N-1})]\delta q_{N-1} \}. \end{cases}$$

APPENDIX B: SYMPLECTIC INTEGRATION SCHEMES

In this appendix, we present the symplectic integration schemes ABA_{864} and $SABA_2$ used in this work.

1. ABA_{864}

The symplectic integration scheme ABA_{864} consists of the following product of resolvent operators $e^{\tau L_A}$ and $e^{\tau L_B}$ of addends A and B , respectively:

$$ABA_{864}(\tau) = e^{a_1 \tau L_A} e^{b_1 \tau L_B} e^{a_2 \tau L_A} e^{b_2 \tau L_B} e^{a_3 \tau L_A} e^{b_3 \tau L_B} e^{a_4 \tau L_A} \\ \times e^{b_4 \tau L_B} e^{a_4 \tau L_A} e^{b_3 \tau L_B} e^{a_3 \tau L_A} e^{b_2 \tau L_B} e^{a_2 \tau L_A} e^{b_1 \tau L_B} e^{a_1 \tau L_A}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

for a given time step τ . The coefficients $\{a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4\}$ are

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= 0.071\,133\,43, & b_1 &= 0.183\,083\,68, \\ a_2 &= 0.241\,153\,43, & b_2 &= 0.310\,782\,86, \\ a_3 &= 0.521\,411\,76, & b_3 &= -0.026\,564\,62, \\ a_4 &= -0.333\,698\,62, & b_4 &= 0.065\,396\,14. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B2})$$

Note that the coefficients in Eq. (B2) are truncated to the eighth decimal place with respect to those reported in Table 3 of Ref. 35.

2. $SABA_2$

The symplectic integration scheme ABA_{864} is described by the following product of resolvent operators $e^{\tau L_A}$ and $e^{\tau L_B}$ of addends A and B , respectively:

$$SABA_2(\tau) = e^{a_1 \tau L_A} e^{b_1 \tau L_B} e^{a_2 \tau L_A} e^{b_1 \tau L_B} e^{a_1 \tau L_A}, \quad (\text{B3})$$

for a given time step τ . The coefficients $\{a_1, a_2, b_1\}$ are

$$a_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \right), \quad a_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}, \quad b_1 = \frac{1}{2}. \quad (\text{B4})$$

APPENDIX C: THE NONTRIVIAL INTEGRAL FOR THE TODA CHAIN WITH FIXED BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

In this appendix, we provide an explicit expression for the first after the total energy nontrivial integral for the Toda chain with fixed boundary conditions (fixed ends) following the approach of Refs. 19–22.

We start by introducing the rescaled positions and momenta as

$$P_n = -2\alpha p_n, \quad Q_n = -2\alpha q_n, \quad (\text{C1})$$

for $n = 1, \dots, N$. In terms of these new variables, the equations of motion take the following dimensionless form:

$$\dot{Q}_n = P_n, \quad \dot{P}_n = X_n - X_{n+1}, \quad (\text{C2})$$

where $X_n = e^{-(Q_n - Q_{n-1})}$ obeys

$$\dot{X}_n = (P_{n-1} - P_n) X_n. \quad (\text{C3})$$

To obtain the integrals of motion for the fixed boundary Toda chain with N lattice sites, one starts with a periodic lattice with $(2N + 2)$ sites, where the lattice indices are given by $n = -N, \dots, N + 1$. We then impose the antisymmetric initial conditions

$$Q_{-n} = -Q_n, \quad P_{-n} = -P_n, \quad (\text{C4})$$

$$Q_0 = Q_{N+1} = 0, \quad P_0 = P_{N+1} = 0,$$

on the periodic lattice, where $n = 1, \dots, N$. Here, Q_n and P_n can take arbitrary values for $n = 1, \dots, N$. Using the above, one derives

$$X_{-n} = X_{n+1}, \quad (\text{C5})$$

for $n = 0, 1, \dots, N$.

The antisymmetric condition is respected by the equations of motion at latter times. Therefore, the stretch of the periodic lattice between $n = 1$ and $n = N$ corresponds to the fixed boundary Toda chain with N lattice sites. The periodic lattice has $2N + 2$ integrals of motion that are denoted as J'_m for $m = 1, \dots, (2N + 2)$, where the prime denotes that the integrals of motion for the periodic lattice are calculated after imposing the antisymmetric initial condition (C4). Because of the special initial conditions, all J'_m with m odd are identically equal to zero. Moreover, there is one integral of motion, which reduces to a constant that is independent of positions and momenta. As a result, we denote the N integrals of motion for the fixed boundary Toda chain as J'_m with $m = 2, 4, \dots, 2N$.

Since $J'_2 \propto H_T$, the first nontrivial integral for the fixed boundary Toda chain is given by J'_4 . Consider the expression for J_4

$$J_4 = \sum_{n=-N}^{N+1} \left[\frac{1}{4} P_n^4 + P_n^2 (X_n + X_{n+1}) + P_n P_{n+1} X_{n+1} + \frac{1}{2} X_n^2 + X_n X_{n+1} \right], \quad (\text{C6})$$

which is valid for the periodic lattice for any initial condition, see, e.g., Eq. (12) of Sec. 4.5 of Ref. 19. Using Eqs. (C2) and (C3), one can check that indeed $\dot{J}_4 = 0$.

After imposing the antisymmetric condition (C4) and using Eq. (C5), one obtains the following integral of motion for the fixed boundary Toda chain from Eq. (C6):

$$J'_4 = \sum_{n=1}^N \left[\frac{1}{2} P_n^4 + 2P_n^2 (X_n + X_{n+1}) + 2X_n X_{n+1} \right] + 2(X_1^2 + X_{N+1}^2) + \sum_{n=2}^N X_n^2 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{N-1} P_n P_{n+1} X_{n+1}, \quad (\text{C7})$$

where

$$X_1 = e^{-Q_1}, \quad X_{N+1} = e^{Q_N}. \quad (\text{C8})$$

Using Eqs. (C2) and (C3), we have checked that $\dot{J}'_4 = 0$. The relative error of this first nontrivial integral of motion is defined as

$$\Delta J'_4(t) = \left| \frac{J'_4(t) - J'_4(0)}{J'_4(0)} \right|, \quad (\text{C9})$$

which is then plotted in Fig. 6.

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