

Nonlocal operators are chaotic

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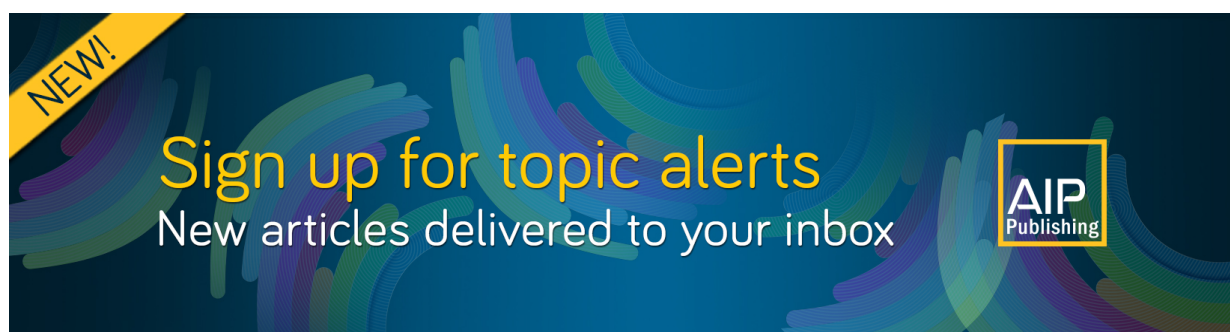
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ABSTRACT

We characterize for the first time the chaotic behavior of nonlocal operators that come from a broad class of time-stepping schemes of approximation for fractional differential operators. For that purpose, we use criteria for chaos of Toeplitz operators in Lebesgue spaces of sequences. Surprisingly, this characterization is proved to be—in some cases—dependent of the fractional order of the operator and the step size of the scheme.

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The study of discrete nonlocal operators, having fractional order operators as a prototype, is a fashionable area of study nowadays. As it has been recently demonstrated, systems with this property can be used to develop data encryption algorithms. The basis for such a property is the chaotic behavior of the systems under consideration. With this motivation, we investigate necessary and sufficient conditions for chaos, uniquely based on the available data of nonlocal operators arising in numerical analysis, namely, the fractional order and the step size. We have success in our investigation and our new findings are somewhat surprising: We find that for the dual operator that defines the second order backward fractional difference scheme, chaos is dependent on the step size but not on the fractional order, and, by contrast, in the case of the fractional Crank–Nicolson scheme, chaos is dependent on the step size and the fractional order. Consequently, our new findings have ultimate importance in the development of algorithms based on the mentioned schemes of approximation, among others, which are also analyzed in the present research.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the last two decades, due to the introduction of fractional (or non-local) operators in the field of mathematical modeling of problems that arise in various areas of knowledge, many researchers have experienced a great interest in deeply understanding the behavior of

these operators from different perspectives.^{15–17,19,22} One of the main efforts has been made to connect these operators with the modeling of partial differential equations as a new method to understand the processes that are closely related to having “memory” in their nature. On the other hand, it is well known that complex partial differential equation modeling needs an in-depth analysis of linear evolution systems.

Linear evolution equations described by non-local operators have been studied intensively in the last decade.^{6,20,21,26} One of the most challenging problems in this context is trying to find the most appropriate discretization of the fractional operator in each case. This choice is determined by the nature of the evolution equation and the geometry of the model. These studies have led researchers to adapt various classical numerical methods to the context of non-local operators in order to discretize them in time and/or space.

Recently, a very interesting approach has been proposed by Jin *et al.* in Ref. 25 to deal in a unified way with a large number of time discrete non-local operators that arise in the numerical analysis of fractional order differential operators. This method can synthesize by means of finite convolution several numerical methods, such as Euler’s backward and implicit schemes and the Crank–Nicolson scheme.

Although the numerical treatment has been carried out in Ref. 25, a qualitative analysis of these non-local discrete operators has not been performed yet. This is a difficult challenge because, due to the nature of the subject, it needs the interaction between different

areas of mathematics such as functional, complex, and numerical analysis and operator theory among others.

From an analytical perspective, the study of the chaotic behavior is an important first step that began recently to be studied by Edelman¹²⁻¹⁴ and Wu and Baleanu³⁴ and Wu *et al.*³⁵ The reason is that, by their very nature, non-local operators seem naturally linked to a complex evolution. On the other hand, due to the high sensitivity of chaotic systems to parameters and initial conditions, chaos based algorithms are developed and studied as the core of encryption algorithms.^{32,33} For instance, many substitution encryption algorithms have been introduced based on discrete chaotic maps such as the conventional logistic and tent maps. This motivates the following questions: Is there any kind of chaotic behavior associated with the time approximation schemes for non-local (fractional) differential operators? If the answer is positive, is there any dependence on the chaos with respect to the fractional order and/or the size of the scheme step?

In this article, we answer positively the aforementioned questions by studying a broad class of nonlocal operators that include those given in the form of a finite convolution operator, as motivated by Ref. 25. To achieve this goal, we extend a result due to Baranov and Lishanskii,⁸ which provides a first criterion of chaos for Toeplitz operators to deal with symbols associated with numerical methods that have a singular behavior at zero but no more than a simple pole. The dynamics of such operators have been also considered in Refs. 10, 30, and 31. We also obtain a new spectral characterization of the chaotic behavior for the dual convolution operator defined in Lebesgue sequence spaces.

As a consequence, we are able to show the chaotic behavior of the classical fractional difference operator ∇_a^α defined by Atici and Eloe²⁻⁵ and Gray and Zhang,²³ but our more surprising finding is the chaotic dependence of some non-local operators either in the fractional order or in the size of the scheme's time step. For example, in the case of the fractional explicit Euler scheme (for fractional order $0 < \alpha \leq 1$), the subjacent non-local operator defines a chaotic Toeplitz operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$. In the situation of the fractional implicit Euler scheme, we find that the fractional order Weil difference operator is chaotic on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ if and only if the step size τ of the scheme belongs to the interval $0 < \tau < 2$. In contrast, given $0 < \alpha < 1$, the non-local (and dual) operator associated with the fractional Crank–Nicolson scheme with step size τ is chaotic on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ if and only if $0 < \tau < \frac{2}{(1-\alpha)^{1/\alpha}}$.

The paper is organized as follows: Sec. II is devoted to recall some preliminaries related to chaotic operators (in the sense of Devaney) and a useful criterion for hypercyclicity of Toeplitz operators. Section III deals with the proof of a new and important transference principle that allows transferring results from the particular case of the operator $\Delta^\alpha \equiv \nabla_0^\alpha$ to the general case by means of conjugation by translation. This new technique has been recently proved to be very useful in the treatment of qualitative properties for fractional difference operators.²² Section IV contains an extension of existing criteria for chaos of Toeplitz operators, which we will later need to prove the chaotic behavior of nonlocal operators. Section V characterizes, in Lebesgue spaces of sequences, the chaotic behavior of nonlocal fractional discrete operators coming from approximation schemes in terms of the scheme step size and fractional order.

II. PRELIMINARIES

We recall that an operator T on a topological vector space X is called *hypercyclic* if there is a vector x in X such that its orbit $\text{Orb}(x, T) = \{x, Tx, T^2x, \dots\}$ is dense in X .

According to Ref. 11, an operator T on a topological vector space X is *Devaney chaotic* if it is hypercyclic, the set of periodic points $\text{Per}(T)$ is dense in X , and it is sensitive [i.e., there exists $\epsilon > 0$ such that for each $x \in X$ and each $\delta > 0$, there are $y \in X$ and $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $d(x, y) < \delta$ and $d(T^n(x), T^n(y)) > \epsilon$]. It is well known that if we have the first two conditions for any continuous map T on a metric space X without isolated points, then sensitivity is granted.⁷ Given two operators T and S defined on topological vector spaces X and Y , respectively, we say T is *quasi-conjugate* to S if there exists a continuous map $\Phi : Y \rightarrow X$ with dense range such that $T \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ S$. The recent books⁹ and²⁴ contain the theory and most of the recent advances on hypercyclicity and linear dynamics.

In what follows, we denote by $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$ the closed unit disk and put $\widehat{\mathbb{D}} = \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}}$. We recall that a Toeplitz operator $T_\Phi : \mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{D})$ with symbol $\Phi \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T})$ is defined by $T_\Phi(f) = P(M_\Phi(f))$, $f \in \mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{D})$, where M_Φ is the multiplication operator by Φ and $P : L^2(\mathbb{T}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{D})$ is the Riesz projection. If we write

$$\Phi(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n z^n \in L^\infty(\mathbb{T}),$$

given $f(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty b_n z^n \in \mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{D})$, we can write $(T_\Phi f)(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty c_n z^n \in \mathcal{H}^2(\mathbb{D})$, where the sequence $c = (c_n)_n$ is obtained as the convolution of $a = (a_n)_n$ with $b = (b_n)_n$; i.e., $c = a * b$, defined as

$$c_n = (a * b)_n = \sum_{j=-\infty}^n a_j b_{n-j}, \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

That is, the Toeplitz operator is then considered as an (infinite matrix) operator $T_\Phi : \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ as the above convolution. In case that $\Phi(z) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} a_n z^n$ is so that $a = (a_n)_n \in \ell^1(\mathbb{Z})$, then T_Φ is a well-defined bounded operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$.

Let $\Phi(\mathbb{D}, N) := \{\omega \in \mathbb{C} : \text{the equation } \Phi(z) = \omega \text{ has } N \text{ solutions in } \mathbb{D}\}$. In Ref. 8, the authors provide sufficient and necessary conditions that ensure hypercyclicity of the Toeplitz operator T_Φ in the case $\Phi(z) = p(\frac{1}{z}) + \varphi(z)$, where p is a polynomial and $\varphi \in H^\infty$. They pay special attention to the case $p(z) = \gamma z$ and prove the following interesting result.

Theorem II.1 (Ref. 8). *Let $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$, let $\varphi \in H^\infty$, and let $\Phi(z) = \frac{\gamma}{z} + \varphi(z)$.*

- (a) *If T_Φ is hypercyclic, then*
 - (i) *the function Φ is univalent in $\mathbb{D} \setminus \{0\}$,*
 - (ii) *$\mathbb{D} \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D})) \neq \emptyset$ and $\widehat{\mathbb{D}} \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D})) \neq \emptyset$.*
- (b) *If $\varphi \in A(\mathbb{D})$ and*
 - (i) *the function Φ is univalent in $\overline{\mathbb{D}} \setminus \{0\}$,*
 - (ii) *$\mathbb{D} \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D})) \neq \emptyset$ and $\widehat{\mathbb{D}} \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D})) \neq \emptyset$, then T_Φ is hypercyclic.*

Concerning the spectrum of the hypercyclic operator, they show the next proposition.

Proposition II.2 (Ref. 8). *Assume that Φ is N -valent in \mathbb{D} . Then,*

$$\sigma(T_\Phi) = \mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D}, N), \quad \overline{\mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D})} \subset \sigma(T_\Phi).$$

If $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\Phi(\mathbb{D})}$, then the corresponding eigenspace has dimension N and the eigenvectors are given by

$$f_\lambda(z) = \frac{q(z)}{z^N \Phi(z) - \lambda z^N},$$

where q is an arbitrary polynomial of degree at most $N - 1$.

In particular, for univalent Φ , we get that

$$f_\lambda(z) = \frac{1}{z \Phi(z) - \lambda z}$$

is a λ -eigenvector of T_Φ for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\Phi(\mathbb{D})}$.

Let B denote the backward shift operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ and observe that $\|B\| = 1$. Let $a \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$ be a complex-valued sequence. Hence, if $\varphi(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n z^n$ is holomorphic on some neighborhood of $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$, then

$$\varphi(B) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n B^n \tag{1}$$

defines a bounded operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$. Denote by \mathbb{T} the unit circle. The following characterization will be very useful in our analysis.

Theorem II.3 (Ref. 24, Theorem 4.43). *Let X be one of the complex sequence spaces $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$. Furthermore, let φ be a nonconstant holomorphic function on a neighborhood of $\overline{\mathbb{D}}$. Then, the following assertions are equivalent.*

- (i) $\varphi(B)$ is chaotic,
- (ii) $\varphi(\mathbb{D}) \cap \mathbb{T} \neq \emptyset$.

For further use, we also recall a useful criterion that ensures univalence for meromorphic functions.¹⁸

Theorem II.4. *Let M_n denote the class of functions of the form $f(z) = \frac{1}{z} + \sum_{n=0}^\infty a_n z^n$, which are regular in $0 < |z| < 1$ and satisfy*

$$\Re \left(\frac{D^{n+1}f(z)}{D^n f(z)} - 2 \right) < -\frac{n}{n+1} \text{ for } |z| < 1,$$

where $D^n f(z) = \frac{1}{z} (z^{n+1} \frac{f(z)}{z})^{(n)}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Then, $M_{n+1} \subset M_n$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ and all functions in M_n are univalent.

III. A TRANSFERENCE PRINCIPLE BETWEEN NONLOCAL OPERATORS

For a real number a , we denote $\mathbb{N}_a := \{a, a + 1, a + 2, \dots\}$, and we write $\mathbb{N}_1 \equiv \mathbb{N}$. We denote by $s(\mathbb{N}_a)$ the vectorial space consisting of all complex-valued sequences $f: \mathbb{N}_a \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. We recall that the forward Euler operator $\Delta_a: s(\mathbb{N}_a) \rightarrow s(\mathbb{N}_a)$ is defined by

$$\Delta_a f(t) := f(t + 1) - f(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{N}_a.$$

For $m \in \mathbb{N}_2$, we define recursively $\Delta_a^m: s(\mathbb{N}_a) \rightarrow s(\mathbb{N}_a)$ by $\Delta_a^m := \Delta_a^{m-1} \circ \Delta_a$ and is called the m th order forward difference operator. For instance, for any $f \in s(\mathbb{N}_0)$, we have

$$\Delta^m f(n) = \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} (-1)^{m-j} f(n + j), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0, \tag{2}$$

where $\Delta \equiv \Delta_0$ and $\Delta_a^0 \equiv I_a$, with $I_a: s(\mathbb{N}_a) \rightarrow s(\mathbb{N}_a)$ being the identity operator. We define the translation (by $a \in \mathbb{R}$) operator

$\tau_a: s(\mathbb{N}_a) \rightarrow s(\mathbb{N}_0)$ by $\tau_a g(n) := g(a + n)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Note that $\tau_a^{-1} = \tau_{-a}$ and $\tau_{a+b} = \tau_a \circ \tau_b = \tau_b \circ \tau_a$. Moreover, $\Delta_a^m \circ \tau_a^{-1} = \tau_a^{-1} \circ \Delta^m$. In particular, we have

$$\Delta_a^m f(a + n) = \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} (-1)^{m-j} f(a + n + j), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0. \tag{3}$$

For any $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\}$, we set

$$k^\alpha(n) = \begin{cases} \frac{\alpha(\alpha+1)\dots(\alpha+n-1)}{n!}, & n \in \mathbb{N}_0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

In case $\alpha = 0$, we define $k^0(n) = e_0(n)$, where $e_i(j)$ is the Kronecker delta. Note that if $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{-1, -2, \dots\}$, we have $k^\alpha(n) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+n)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(n+1)}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$ where Γ is the Euler gamma function. From Ref. 28, or directly from the definition, we have the generation formula

$$\sum_{j=0}^\infty k^\beta(j) z^j = \frac{1}{(1-z)^\beta}, \quad \beta \in \mathbb{R}, \quad |z| < 1; \tag{4}$$

see formulas (1) and (8) in Ref. 36, p. 42. The sequence $k^\alpha(n)$ will be very important in our analysis. Several properties are collected in the recent paper.²² We recall the definition of the α th fractional sum on the set \mathbb{N}_0 .

Definition III.1. For each $\alpha > 0$ and $f \in s(\mathbb{N}_0)$, we define

$$\Delta^{-\alpha} f(n) := \sum_{j=0}^n k^\alpha(n-j) f(j), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Recall that the finite convolution $*$ of two sequences f and g is defined by

$$(f * g)(n) := \sum_{j=0}^n f(n-j) g(j), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Therefore, by definition, we have $\Delta^{-\alpha} f(n) = (k^\alpha * f)(n)$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$, where the convolution operator $*$ enjoys algebraic properties such as commutativity and associativity, which will be very useful to simplify and better understand the proof of some results. The above concept comes from a more general definition, which is the most commonly used in the literature of fractional difference equations.

Definition III.2 (Ref. 5). Let $\alpha > 0$. For any given positive real number a , the α th fractional sum of a function f is

$$\nabla_a^{-\alpha} f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \sum_{s=a}^t (t-s+1)^{\overline{\alpha-1}} f(s),$$

where $t \in \mathbb{N}_a$ and $t^{\overline{\alpha}} := \frac{\Gamma(t+\alpha)}{\Gamma(t)}$.

We next recall the definition of a fractional difference operator, which was introduced in Ref. 27.

Definition III.3. The fractional difference operator $\Delta^\alpha: s(\mathbb{N}_0) \rightarrow s(\mathbb{N}_0)$ of order $\alpha > 0$ (in the sense of Riemann–Liouville) is defined by

$$\Delta^\alpha f(n) := \Delta^m \circ \Delta^{-(m-\alpha)} f(n), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0, \tag{5}$$

where $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m := \lceil \alpha \rceil$, the least integer that is greater than or equal to α .

For instance, for $0 < \alpha < 1$, we obtain

$$\Delta^\alpha f(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} k^{-\alpha}(j)f(n-j) = \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} (-1)^j \binom{-\alpha}{j} f(n-j),$$

which corresponds to the Grünwald–Letnikov scheme of approximation (with step size $h = 1$) for the one dimensional Caputo fractional derivative. Complementarily, we recall the following definition.

Definition III.4. The nabla fractional difference operator $\nabla^\alpha : s(\mathbb{N}_a) \rightarrow s(\mathbb{N}_a)$ of order $\alpha > 0$ is defined by

$$\nabla_a^\alpha f(t) = \Delta_a^m \circ \nabla_a^{-(m-\alpha)} f(t), \quad t \in \mathbb{N}_a,$$

where $m - 1 < \alpha < m$, $m = \lceil \alpha \rceil$.

In the next result, we show an important relationship between the two above defined fractional difference operators, known as a transference principle, because it allows transferring qualitative properties from one operator to another via translation. This kind of theorem was first proved in the article²² where its usefulness in order to transfer geometric properties has been established.

Theorem III.5. Let $\alpha > 0$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}$ be given. Then, we have

$$\tau_a \circ \nabla_a^\alpha = \Delta^\alpha \circ \tau_a.$$

Proof. By Definition III.2, for $f \in s(\mathbb{N}_a)$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_a \circ \nabla_a^{-\alpha} f(n) &= \nabla_a^{-\alpha} f(n+a) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \sum_{j=0}^n (n-j+1)^{\overline{\alpha-1}} f(a+j) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^n \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+n-j)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(n-j+1)} f(a+j) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^n k^\alpha(n-j)f(a+j) = \Delta^{-\alpha} \circ \tau_a f(n) \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$. Let $f \in s(\mathbb{N}_a)$ be given. Then, by Definition III.4, identities (2), (3), (5), and (6), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_a \circ \nabla_a^\alpha f(n) &= \tau_a \circ (\Delta_a^m \circ \nabla_a^{-(m-\alpha)}) f(n) = (\Delta_a^m \circ \nabla_a^{-(m-\alpha)}) f(n+a) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} (-1)^{m-j} \nabla_a^{-(m-\alpha)} f(n+a+j) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} (-1)^{m-j} \tau_a \circ \nabla_a^{-(m-\alpha)} f(n+j) \\ &= \sum_{j=0}^m \binom{m}{j} (-1)^{m-j} \Delta^{-(m-\alpha)} \circ \tau_a f(n+j) \\ &= \Delta^m (\Delta^{-(m-\alpha)} \circ \tau_a f)(n) = \Delta^\alpha \circ \tau_a f(n) \end{aligned}$$

for all $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$. This proves the theorem. \square

IV. CHAOTIC TOEPLITZ OPERATORS

In this section, we will show a new criterion in order to obtain (Devaney) chaos for the operators considered here. We recall that, given an operator $T : X \rightarrow X$ on a complex Banach space X , then

a function $E : A \rightarrow X$ for certain $A \subset \mathbb{C}$ is an *eigenvector field* if $E(\lambda) \in \ker(\lambda I - T)$ for any $\lambda \in A$, and

$$\text{span}\{E(\lambda); \lambda \in A\} \text{ is dense in } X.$$

Given a non-empty open set $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ and a map $G : U \rightarrow X$, we say that G is *weakly holomorphic* on U if $y \circ G : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic for any $y \in X^*$.

The following result is essentially well known. We will include its proof for the sake of completeness.

Theorem IV.1. Given an operator $T : X \rightarrow X$ on a complex Banach space X , if $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ is a connected nonempty open set that intersects \mathbb{T} , $G : U \rightarrow X$ is a weakly holomorphic map such that $G(\lambda) \in \ker(\lambda I - T)$ for any $\lambda \in U$, and

$$\text{span}\{G(\lambda); \lambda \in U\} \text{ is dense in } X,$$

then T is Devaney chaotic.

Proof. By the classic Godefroy–Shapiro criterion for chaos (see, e.g., [Ref. 24, Theorem 3.1]), we need to show that

$$Y_1 := \text{span}\{x \in X; Tx = \lambda x \text{ for some } \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \text{ with } |\lambda| > 1\},$$

$$Y_2 := \text{span}\{x \in X; Tx = \lambda x \text{ for some } \lambda \in \mathbb{C} \text{ with } |\lambda| < 1\},$$

$$Y_3 := \text{span}\{x \in X; Tx = e^{\alpha\pi i} x \text{ for some } \alpha \in \mathbb{Q}\}$$

are dense in X . To do this, we consider $U_1 := U \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\mathbb{D}})$, $U_2 := U \cap \mathbb{D}$, and

$$A := U \cap \{e^{\alpha\pi i}; \alpha \in \mathbb{Q}\}.$$

It will suffice to show that, given $j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$, and for any $y \in X^*$, the equality $\langle x, y \rangle = 0$ for every $x \in Y_j$ implies $y = 0$. Actually, since the holomorphic map $y \circ G$ annihilates on U_1, U_2 , or A , which are sets with accumulating points in U , and U is connected, then $y \circ G \equiv 0$. The assumptions imply that $y = 0$, and we conclude the result. \square

Now, we are in conditions to recall the following theorem obtained in Ref. 8 that provides chaos for the kind of Toeplitz operators that we are interested. In the original paper, the authors only showed hypercyclicity for such operators, but chaos can be easily reached.

Theorem IV.2. Let $\Phi(z) = \frac{\gamma}{z} + \varphi(z)$ with $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\varphi \in A(\overline{\mathbb{D}})$ satisfying

- (i) the function Φ is univalent in $\overline{\mathbb{D}} \setminus \{0\}$,
- (ii) $\mathbb{D} \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D})) \neq \emptyset$ and $\overline{\mathbb{D}} \cap (\mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D})) \neq \emptyset$.

Then, the Toeplitz operator $T_\Phi : \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ is Devaney chaotic.

Proof. The fact that T_Φ is a well-defined hypercyclic operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ was proved by Baranov and Lishaskii [Ref. 8, Theorem 1.1] and taking into account that they showed (see [Ref. 8, Proposition 2.2]) that

$$f_\lambda(z) = \frac{1}{z\Phi(z) - \lambda z} \in A(\mathbb{D})$$

is a λ -eigenvector of T_Φ for any $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \overline{\Phi(\mathbb{D})}$, we get that $G(\lambda) := f_\lambda$ is a weakly holomorphic map on an open disc U that intersects \mathbb{T} .

Moreover, it satisfies the condition

$$\text{span}\{G(\lambda) ; \lambda \in U\} \text{ is dense in } X,$$

as was shown in the proof of Statement 2 of Theorem 1.1 in Ref. 8. Thus, T_Φ is Devaney chaotic by Theorem IV.1. \square

V. NONLOCAL OPERATORS ARE CHAOTIC

Let $0 < \alpha < 1$. From Sec. III, we recall the definition of the nonlocal operator Δ^α , which reads as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^\alpha u(n) &= \Delta(k^{1-\alpha} * u)(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{n+1} k^{1-\alpha}(n+1-j)u(j) \\ &\quad - \sum_{j=0}^n k^{1-\alpha}(n-j)u(j), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0. \end{aligned}$$

Our first important observation is that the representation of Δ^α in the canonical basis $\{e_l(j)\}_{j,l \in \mathbb{N}_0}$ of $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ is a Toeplitz matrix for $0 < \alpha < 1$. In fact, we have

$$\Delta^\alpha e_l(n) = \begin{cases} -\alpha \frac{k^{1-\alpha}(n-l)}{n-l+1} & \text{if } n \geq l, \\ 1 & \text{if } n = l-1, \\ 0 & \text{if } n < -1. \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

Our next theorem shows that Δ^α is a well-defined Toeplitz operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ and exhibits chaos for any $0 < \alpha < 1$.

Theorem V.1. *For any $0 < \alpha < 1$, the operator Δ^α defines a chaotic Toeplitz operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ with symbol $\Phi(z) = \frac{(1-z)^\alpha}{z}$.*

Proof. Given $u \in \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$, we have by [Ref. 22, Proposition 2.9 (v)] that $\Delta^\alpha u = \Delta(k^{1-\alpha} * u) = \Delta k^{1-\alpha} * u + \tau_1 u$, where τ_1 denotes the translation operator. Using Young’s convolution inequality, we get

$$\|\Delta^\alpha u\|_2 \leq \|\Delta k^{1-\alpha} * u\|_2 + \|u\|_2 \leq \|\Delta k^{1-\alpha}\|_1 \|u\|_2 + \|u\|_2,$$

where we have used [Ref. 22, Proposition 3.1 (viii)] and the estimate

$$\Delta k^{1-\alpha}(n) \sim \frac{C}{n^{\alpha+1}},$$

which follows from [Ref. 22, Lemma 3.2 (i)]. This proves that the operator Δ^α is bounded on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$.

In view of (7), we have $\Phi(z) = \frac{1}{z} + \sum_{j=0}^\infty \frac{(-\alpha)k^{1-\alpha}(j)z^j}{(j+1)}$. Let us denote

$$\varphi(z) = \sum_{j=0}^\infty \frac{(-\alpha)k^{1-\alpha}(j)z^j}{(j+1)},$$

then we get

$$z\varphi(z) = \sum_{j=0}^\infty \frac{(-\alpha)k^{1-\alpha}(j)z^{j+1}}{(j+1)},$$

and then using (4), we have

$$[z\varphi(z)]' = -\alpha \sum_{j=0}^\infty k^{1-\alpha}(j)z^j = -\alpha(1-z)^{\alpha-1}.$$

After integrating once, we obtain

$$z\varphi(z) = (1-z)^\alpha + c. \quad (8)$$

Replacing $z = 0$ in (8), we get $c = -1$. As a consequence, $\varphi(z) = \frac{(1-z)^\alpha}{z} - \frac{1}{z}$. Finally, it follows that $\Phi(z) = \frac{1}{z} + \varphi(z) = \frac{(1-z)^\alpha}{z}$ is the symbol of the Toeplitz operator.

In order to prove chaos of the operator Δ^α for $0 < \alpha \leq 1$, we use Theorem IV.2. Let us first check condition (i); that is, $\Phi(z) = \frac{(1-z)^\alpha}{z}$ is univalent in $\mathbb{D} \setminus \{0\}$. Indeed, using Theorem II.4, it suffices to show that

$$\Re \left(\frac{D^1 \Phi(z)}{\Phi(z)} - 2 \right) < 0 \quad \text{for } |z| < 1, \quad (9)$$

where $D^n \Phi(z) = \frac{1}{z} (z^{n+1} \frac{\Phi(z)}{z})^{(n)}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}_0$. An easy computation shows that $D^1 \Phi(z) = \frac{(1-z)^\alpha}{z} - \alpha(1-z)^{\alpha-1}$ and taking $z = a + ib$ with $-1 < a < 1$, it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \Re \left(\frac{D^1 \Phi(z)}{\Phi(z)} - 2 \right) &= \Re \left(-1 - \frac{\alpha z}{1-z} \right) \\ &= \frac{-(1-a)^2 + (\alpha-1)b^2 - \alpha a(1-a)}{(1-a)^2 + b^2}. \end{aligned}$$

It is clear that $\Re \left(\frac{D^1 \Phi(z)}{\Phi(z)} - 2 \right) < 0$ if and only if $-(1-a)^2 + (\alpha-1)b^2 - \alpha a(1-a) < 0$ and this last assertion holds since $0 < \alpha < 1$ and $-1 < a < 1$. It only remains to show condition (ii) in Theorem IV.2. Actually, we will show that $I := [-2^\alpha, 0] \subset \mathbb{C} \setminus \Phi(\mathbb{D})$. Indeed, if $z \in \mathbb{D}$ is so that $\Phi(z) = z' \in I$, then $\arg(z') = \pi$. This implies $\arg((1-z)^\alpha) = \theta + \pi$, where $\theta = \arg(z)$, a contradiction. \square

Remark V.2. We observe that the symbol of the Toeplitz operator Δ^α coincides with the symbol of the explicit Euler approximation scheme for the Riemann–Liouville fractional differential operator.²⁵

A very interesting consequence of this theorem when combined with the transference principle stated in Sec. III is the following corollary.

Corollary V.3. *For any $0 < \alpha \leq 1$ and $a > 0$, the nabla difference operator ∇_a^α is chaotic in $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_a)$.*

Proof. It is a direct consequence of Theorem III.5 and [Ref. 24, Proposition 2.24]. \square

Let $b \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$ be a summable sequence and define its Gelfand transform by

$$\delta(z) := \sum_{n=0}^\infty b(n)z^n, \quad z \in \mathbb{D}. \quad (10)$$

In what follows, we will always assume that the radial limit $\delta(\xi) := \lim_{z \rightarrow \xi} \delta(z)$ exists for all $\xi \in \mathbb{T} \setminus \{\pm 1\}$.

The next result is an important criterion for chaos of a specific operator that covers many nonlocal difference operators as we will see later.

Theorem V.4. *Let $b \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$ be given and $T_b : \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ given by*

$$T_b u(n) = \sum_{j=0}^\infty b(j)B^j u(n), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0,$$

where B denotes the backward shift operator. Then, T_b defines a bounded operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ and the following assertions are equivalent.

- (i) T_b is chaotic,
- (ii) $\delta(\mathbb{D}) \cap \mathbb{T} \neq \emptyset$.

Proof. We observe that $\varphi_b(B) = T_b$, where

$$\varphi_b(z) := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} b(j)z^j = \delta(z)$$

defines a holomorphic function on the disk \mathbb{D} because $b \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$. Moreover, we have that $\varphi(B)$ defines a bounded operator on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$, and, by Theorem II.3, we deduce that T_b is chaotic if and only if $\delta(\mathbb{D}) \cap \mathbb{T} \neq \emptyset$. This proves the theorem. \square

In what follows, we study chaos for relevant nonlocal difference operators arising in the study of time-stepping schemes for fractional operators.²⁵ They are defined by a convolution operator $\partial_b^\alpha : \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0) \rightarrow \ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ given by

$$\partial_b^\alpha u(n) := (b * u)(n), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0,$$

where $b \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$ is a real valued sequence, implicitly defined by the generating series,

$$\delta(\xi) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b(n)\xi^n, \quad \xi \in \mathbb{T}, \tag{11}$$

where $\delta(\xi)$ represents the symbol of the scheme. An easy calculation shows that the dual operator of ∂_b^α in $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ is given by

$$(\partial_b^\alpha)^* u(n) = T_b u(n) = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} b(j)B^j u(n), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Surprisingly, in some cases, the above operator is known. For instance, consider $b(n) = k^{-\alpha}(n)$. Then, it perfectly coincides with the Weil fractional difference operator of order $\alpha > 0$, denoted by W^α . See Definition 3.1 and Theorem 3.2 in Ref. 1.

As a first example, we consider $\delta(\xi) = 1 - \xi$ that represents the backward Euler scheme.²⁵ A simple inspection comparing with the series (11) shows that $b(n) = e_0(n) - e_1(n)$. Therefore,

$$\partial_b^\alpha u(n) = u(n) - u(n - 1), \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

and $\partial_b^\alpha u(0) = u(0)$. The associated matrix in the canonical basis takes the form

$$\partial_b^\alpha e_l(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = l, \\ -1 & \text{if } n = l + 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases} \tag{12}$$

where $n, l \in \mathbb{N}_0$. We can easily verify that for $b(n)$ given as before, we obtain

$$(\partial_b^\alpha)^* u(n) = u(n) - u(n + 1) = -\Delta u(n), \quad n \in \mathbb{N}_0.$$

Consequently, the associated matrix with the dual operator is represented, as predicted, by

$$(\partial_b^\alpha)^* e_l(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } n = l, \\ -1 & \text{if } n = l - 1, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

We observe that such an operator is chaotic [Ref. 24, Theorem 4.43]. For a given $\alpha > 0$, we consider now the fractional backward Euler scheme with symbol $\delta(\xi) = \tau^{-\alpha}(1 - \xi)^\alpha$, where $\tau > 0$ denotes the step size of the scheme.²⁵ In such a case, we obtain the sequence kernel $b_\tau(n) = \tau^{-\alpha}k^{-\alpha}(n)$, and then, we can consider the following nonlocal operator:

$$\partial_k^\alpha u(n) = \sum_{j=0}^n \tau^{-\alpha}k^{-\alpha}(n - j)u(j).$$

It is remarkable that $(\partial_k^\alpha)^* = W_\tau^\alpha$ corresponds to the Weil fractional difference operator or order $\alpha > 0$ recently studied in Ref. 1 (with step size $\tau = 1$) and whose matrix is represented by

$$W_\tau^\alpha e_l(n) = \begin{cases} \tau^{-\alpha}k^{-\alpha}(n - l) & \text{if } n \geq l \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

We prove the following interesting result that shows that chaos for W_τ^α depends on the step size τ but not on the fractional order derivative in contrast with the nonlocal operator Δ^α .

Theorem V.5. *For any $\alpha > 0$, the Weil difference operator W_τ^α is chaotic on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ if and only if $0 < \tau < 2$.*

Proof. According to Theorem V.4, it is enough to prove that $\delta_\tau(\mathbb{D}) \cap \mathbb{T} \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $0 < \tau < 2$, where $\delta_\tau(z) = \tau^{-\alpha}(1 - z)^\alpha$. Indeed, we note that $w \in \delta_\tau(\mathbb{D}) \cap \mathbb{T}$ if and only if $w = \tau^{-\alpha}(1 - z)^\alpha$, where $|w| = 1$ and $|z| < 1$. Then, the identity $|1 - \tau w^{1/\alpha}| = |z|$ shows that the complex number $\tau w^{1/\alpha}$ must belong to the disk of center 1 and radius 1. Consequently, $0 < \tau < 2$ iff $\delta_\tau(\mathbb{D}) \cap \mathbb{T} \neq \emptyset$. \square

In what follows, we consider the fractional second order backward difference scheme given by the symbol

$$\delta(\xi) = \tau^{-\alpha} \left(\frac{3}{2} - 2\xi + \frac{1}{2}\xi^2 \right)^\alpha = \tau^{-\alpha} \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)^\alpha (1 - z)^\alpha \left(1 - \frac{z}{3} \right)^\alpha. \tag{15}$$

It was recently proved in Ref. 29 that for such a time-stepping scheme, the sequence $b(n)$ is given by

$$b(n) = \frac{3}{2}e_0(n) - 2e_1(n) + \frac{1}{2}e_2(n)$$

in case $\alpha = 1$ and

$$b(n) = \left(\frac{3}{2} \right)^\alpha \sum_{j=0}^n k^{-\alpha}(n - j) \frac{1}{3^j} k^{-\alpha}(j)$$

in case $\alpha \neq 1$. We check that $b \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$. Indeed, define $c(n) := \frac{k^{-\alpha}(n)}{3^n}$. Then, we have $c(n) \sim \frac{C}{n^{1+\alpha}3^n}$ because $k^{-\alpha}(n) \sim \frac{C}{n^{1+\alpha}}$. Therefore, both sequences c and $k^{-\alpha}$ belong to the Lebesgue space $\ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$. This fact, together with Young's inequality for the convolution, implies the assertion.

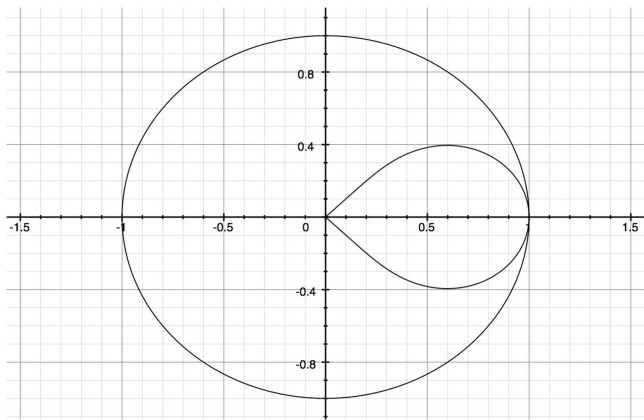


FIG. 1. $\delta(\mathbb{D})$ for the symbol of the fractional second order backward difference scheme with $\alpha = \frac{1}{2}$, $\tau = 4$, and \mathbb{T} .

For such sequence $b(n)$, we consider the following scheme:

$$\partial_b^\alpha u(n) = \tau^{-\alpha} (b * u)(n),$$

where $\tau > 0$ is the step size.

The next result shows, once again, the independence of chaos from the fractional order; see Fig. 1.

Theorem V.6. *The operator T_b , which is the dual of the operator that defines the fractional second order backward difference scheme with step size τ , is chaotic on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ if and only if $0 < \tau < 4$.*

Proof. According to Theorem V.4, it is enough to prove that $\delta(\mathbb{D}) \cap \mathbb{T} \neq \emptyset$ if and only if $0 < \tau < 4$, where $\delta(z)$ is given by the symbol (15), with $z \in \mathbb{D}$. By the maximum principle, we have $\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |\delta(z)| = \max_{z \in \mathbb{T}} |\delta(z)|$, which, by the identity (15), is attained at $z = -1$. Therefore, $\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |\delta(z)| = 4^\alpha \tau^{-\alpha}$. It shows that the set $\delta(\mathbb{D})$ intersects the unit circle if and only if $4^\alpha \tau^{-\alpha} > 1$, which proves the assertion of the theorem. \square

Finally, we consider the fractional Crank–Nicolson stepping scheme, whose symbol is given by

$$\delta(\xi) = \tau^{-\alpha} \frac{(1 - \xi)^\alpha}{1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} + \frac{\alpha}{2} \xi},$$

where $0 < \alpha < 2$. By Ref. 29, Example 4.4, we have that the sequence $b(n)$ is given by

$$b(n) = \tau^{-\alpha} \frac{2}{2 - \alpha} \sum_{j=0}^n k^{-\alpha}(n - j) \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha - 2} \right)^j.$$

For the range $0 < \alpha < 1$, we define the sequence $c(n) := \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha - 2}\right)^n$. Since $\alpha < 1$, we have $c \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$, and since

$$k^{-\alpha}(n) \sim \frac{C}{n^{\alpha+1}},$$

which follows from [Ref. 22, Lemma 3.2 (viii)], we deduce $k^{-\alpha} \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$. Therefore, Young’s inequality for the convolution implies that $b \in \ell^1(\mathbb{N}_0)$.

In the case $0 < \alpha < 1$, we arrive at the following result, which reveals a surprising connection of chaos not only with the step size but also with the fractional order α .

Theorem V.7. *Let $0 < \alpha < 1$. The operator T_b , which is the dual of the operator that defines the fractional Crank–Nicolson scheme with step size τ , is chaotic on $\ell^2(\mathbb{N}_0)$ if and only if $0 < \tau < \frac{2}{(1 - \alpha)^{1/\alpha}}$.*

Proof. By Theorem V.4, we have to prove that the property $\delta(\mathbb{D}) \cap \mathbb{T} \neq \emptyset$ is valid for the holomorphic function $\delta(z) = \tau^{-\alpha} \frac{(1 - z)^\alpha}{1 - \frac{\alpha}{2} + \frac{\alpha}{2} z}$ defined by the Crank–Nicolson scheme. Observe that $\delta(z)$ is a conformal map satisfying $\delta(1) = 0$ and $\delta(-1) = \tau^{-\alpha} \frac{2^\alpha}{1 - \alpha}$. Moreover, by the maximum principle, we have that $\sup_{z \in \mathbb{D}} |\delta(z)| = \max_{z \in \mathbb{T}} |\delta(z)|$. Therefore, the maximum value of the set $\delta(\mathbb{D})$ is attained at $\delta(-1)$. Hence, we have a nonempty intersection with the unit circle if and only if $\delta(-1) > 1$, which means $0 < \tau < \frac{2}{(1 - \alpha)^{1/\alpha}}$. \square

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DATA AVAILABILITY

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analyzed in this study.

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