

# q-breathers: Localization in Normal Mode Space, and the Fermi-Pasta-Ulam Problem



S. Flach, MPIPKS Dresden

## Road map:

- paradox and problems
- KAM, FPU and Toda
- periodic orbits (q-breathers)
- scaling

Together with: H. Christodoulidi, M. Ivanchenko, O. Kanakov, K. Mishagin, T. Penati, A. Ponomov, H. Skokos

**PART ONE:**

**THE PARADOX AND  
THE PROBLEMS**

25th Annual CNLS International Conference


Featured Speakers (a partial listing):

R. Austin, Princeton  
 A. Bishop, LANL\*  
 R. Camassa, N. Carolina  
 D. Campbell, BU  
 T. Dauxois, Lyon  
 C. Ellbeck, Edinburgh  
 M. Feigenbaum, Rockefeller  
 S. Flach, Dresden  
 I. Galtsov, Arizona  
 A. Garcia, RPI  
 R. Hulet, Rice  
 Y. Kivshin, Canberra  
 S. Mazumdar, Arizona  
 L. Mollenauer, Lyccent  
 K. Rasmussen, LANL  
 M. Schick, Washington  
 A. Scott, Arizona  
 H. Segur, Colorado  
 A. Shreve, LANL  
 A. Stevers, Cornell  
 A. Ustinov, Erlangen  
 M. Wadati, Tokyo  
 G. Zaslavsky, NYU  
 G. Zocchi, UCLA

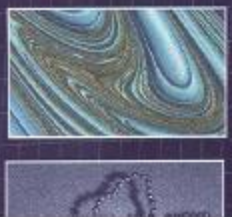
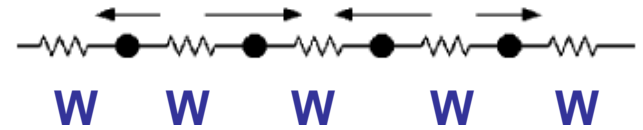
MAY 16-20, 2005 • RADISSON SANTA FE  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico

50 Years of the Fermi-Pasta-Ulam Problem:  
*Legacy, Impact, and Beyond*

$$V(x) = \frac{1}{2}Kx^2 + \frac{\alpha}{3}x^3 + \frac{\beta}{4}x^4$$



Enrico Fermi,  
 Stanislas Ulam, and  
 John Pasta (from left)

$$H = \sum_l \left[ \frac{1}{2} p_l^2 + W(x_l - x_{l-1}) \right]$$

$$\ddot{x}_l = -W'(x_l - x_{l-1}) + W'(x_{l+1} - x_l)$$

## The equations of motion are for a nonlinear finite atomic chain with fixed boundaries and nearest neighbour interaction

$N$  particles,  $x_0 = x_{N+1} = 0$ :

$$x_n(t) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{N+1}} \sum_{q=1}^N Q_q(t) \sin\left(\frac{\pi q n}{N+1}\right), \quad \omega_q = 2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi q}{2(N+1)}\right)$$

$\alpha$  model ( $\beta = 0, \alpha \neq 0$ ):

$\beta$  model ( $\beta \neq 0, \alpha = 0$ ):

$$\ddot{Q}_q + \omega_q^2 Q_q = -\frac{\alpha \sum_{i,j=1}^N A_{q,i,j} Q_i Q_j}{\sqrt{2(N+1)}}$$

$$\ddot{Q}_q + \omega_q^2 Q_q = -\frac{\beta \sum_{i,j,m=1}^N C_{q,i,j,m} Q_i Q_j Q_m}{2(N+1)}$$

The interaction between the modes is purely nonlinear, selective but long-ranged!

## The structure of the nonlinear coupling for the $\alpha$ -FPU model

$$\ddot{Q}_q + \omega_q^2 Q_q = - \frac{\alpha}{\sqrt{2(N+1)}} \sum_{l,m=1}^N \omega_q \omega_l \omega_m B_{q,l,m} Q_l Q_m$$

$$B_{q,l,m} = \sum_{\pm} (\delta_{q\pm l\pm m,0} - \delta_{q\pm l\pm m,2(N+1)})$$

## The harmonic energy of a normal mode with mode number $q$ :

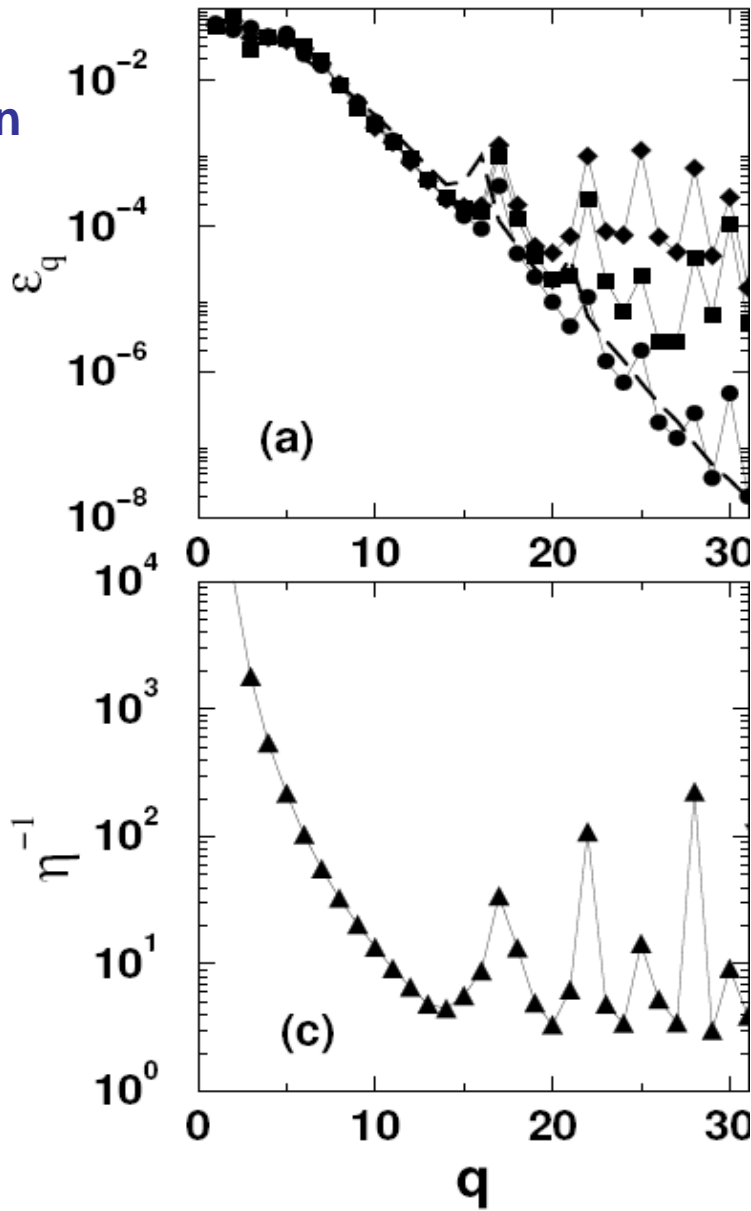
$$E_q = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{Q}_q^2 + \omega_q^2 Q_q^2)$$

## FPU-paradox Fermi, Pasta, Ulam, Tsingou(1955) :

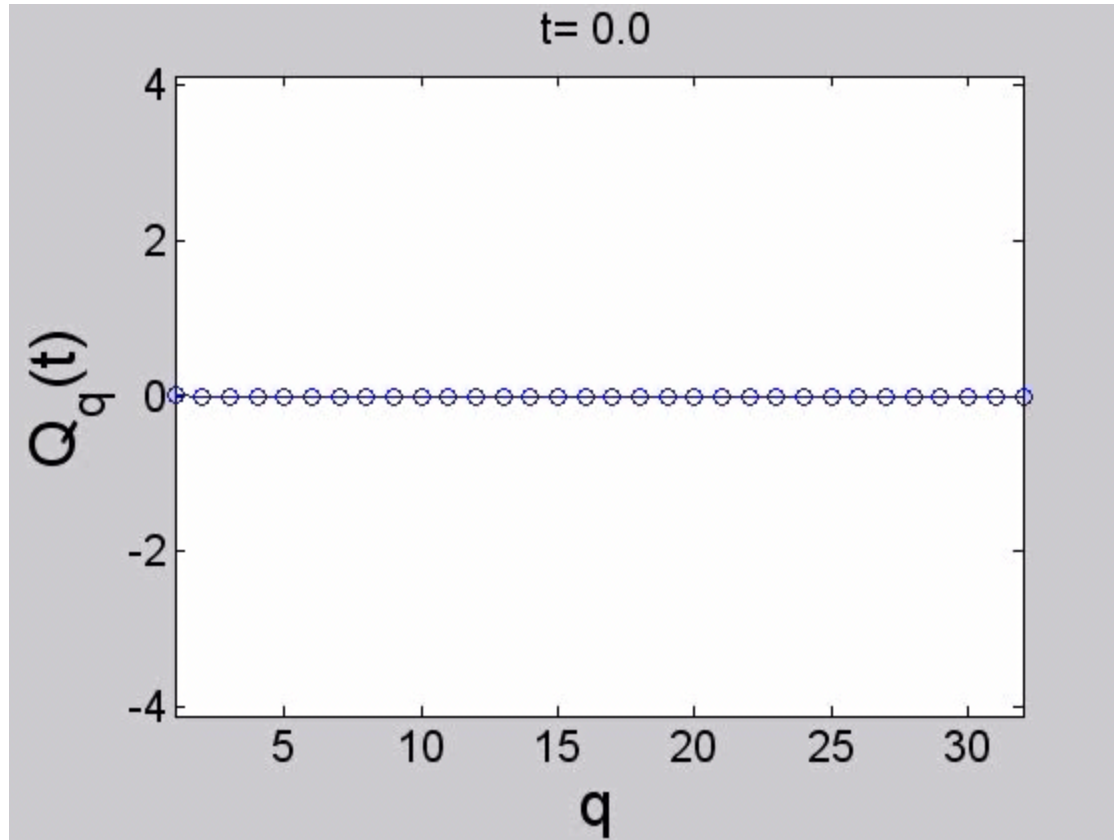
- excite  $q = 1$  mode
- observe nonequipartition of mode energies
- no transition to thermal equilibrium
- energy is localized in a few modes for long time **FPU 1**
- recurrence of energy into initially excited mode **FPU 2**
- two thresholds in energy and  $N$  **FPU 3**
- two pathways of understanding:
  - stochasticity thresholds, nonlinear resonances, similarity to Landau's quasiparticle approach Israilev, Chirikov (1965)
  - continuum limit, KdV, solitons Zabusky, Kruskal (1965)

**Galgani and Scotti (1972): exponential localization**

**Movies: let us see what FPU observed**

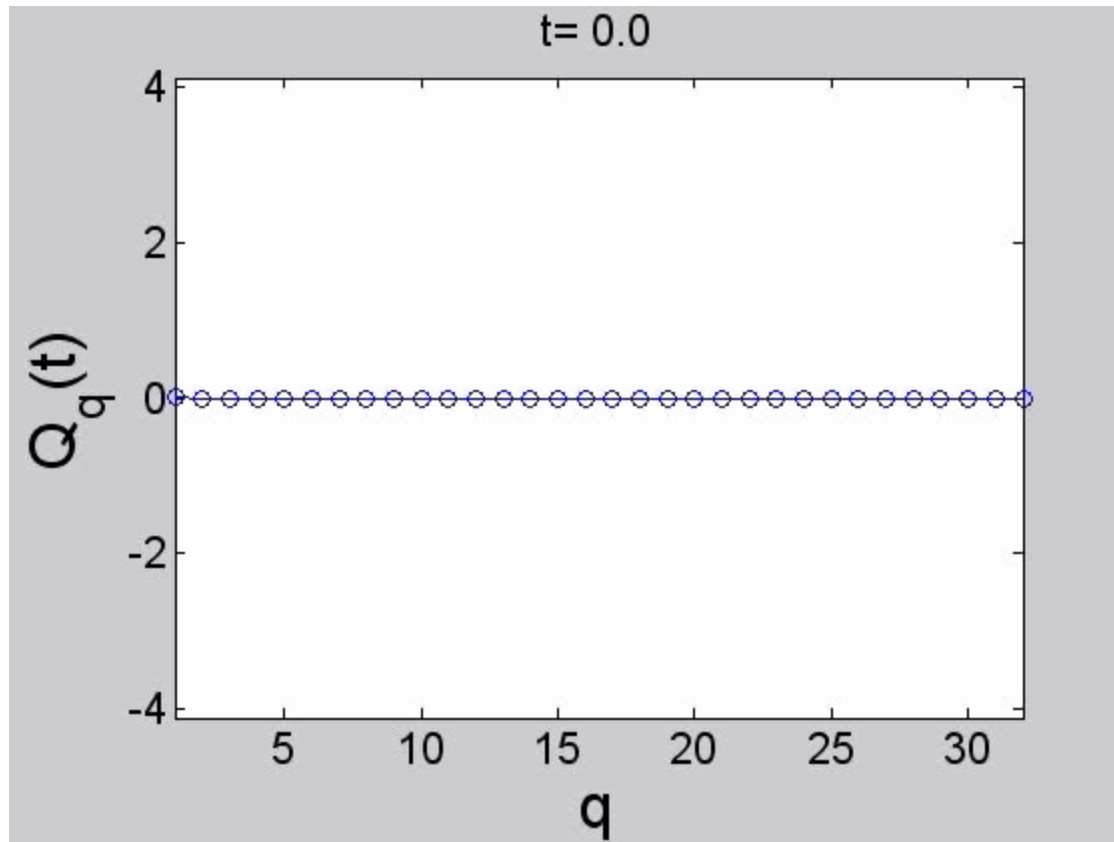


## Evolution of normal mode coordinates

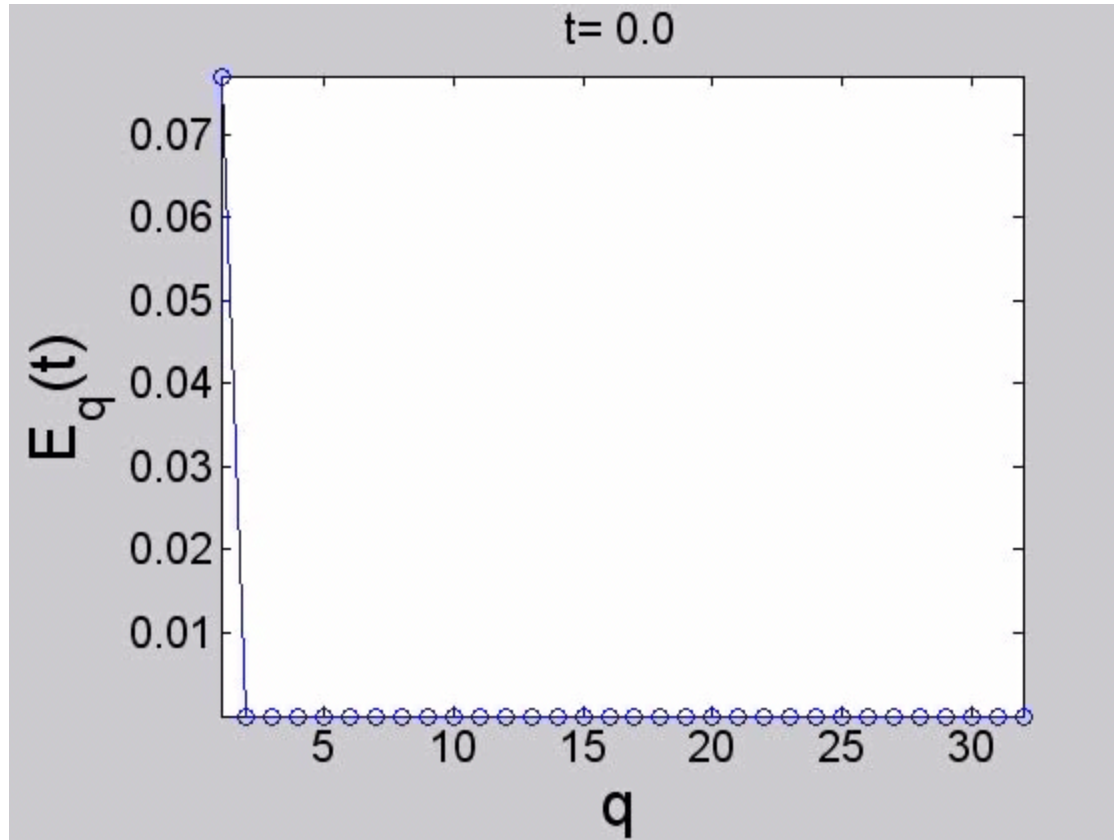




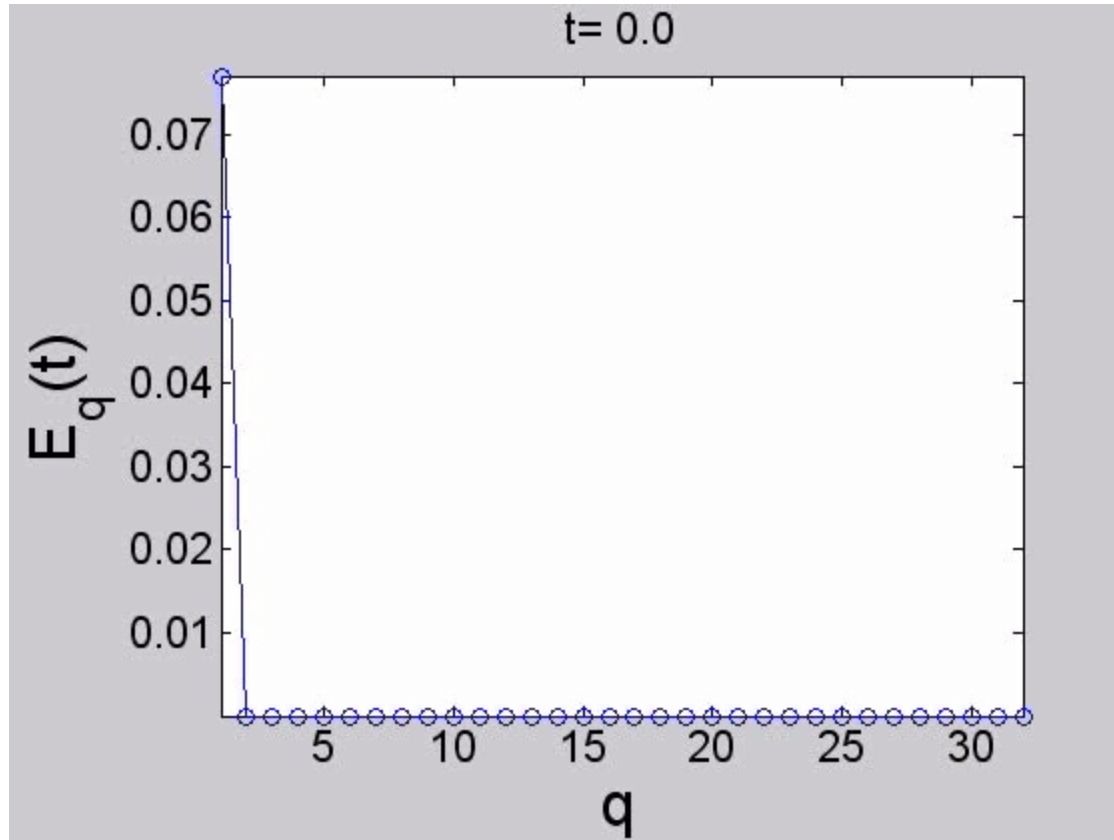
## Evolution of normal mode coordinates



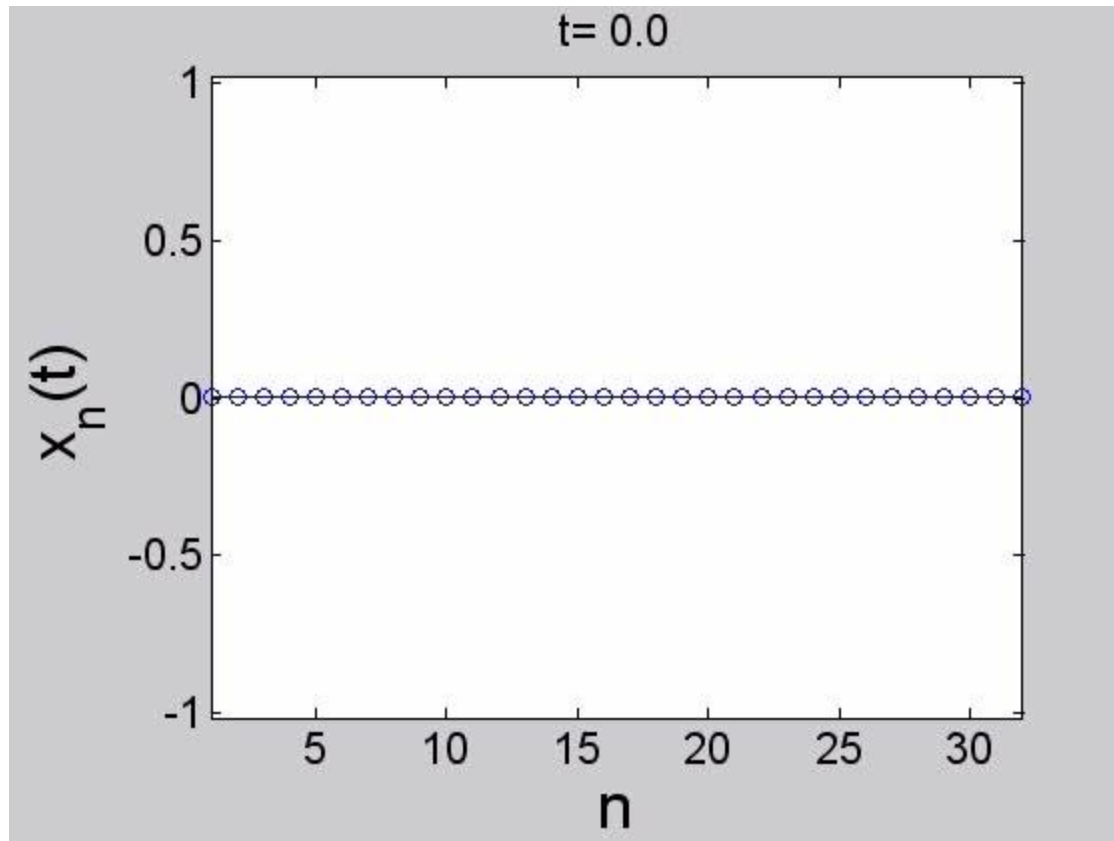
## Evolution of normal mode energies



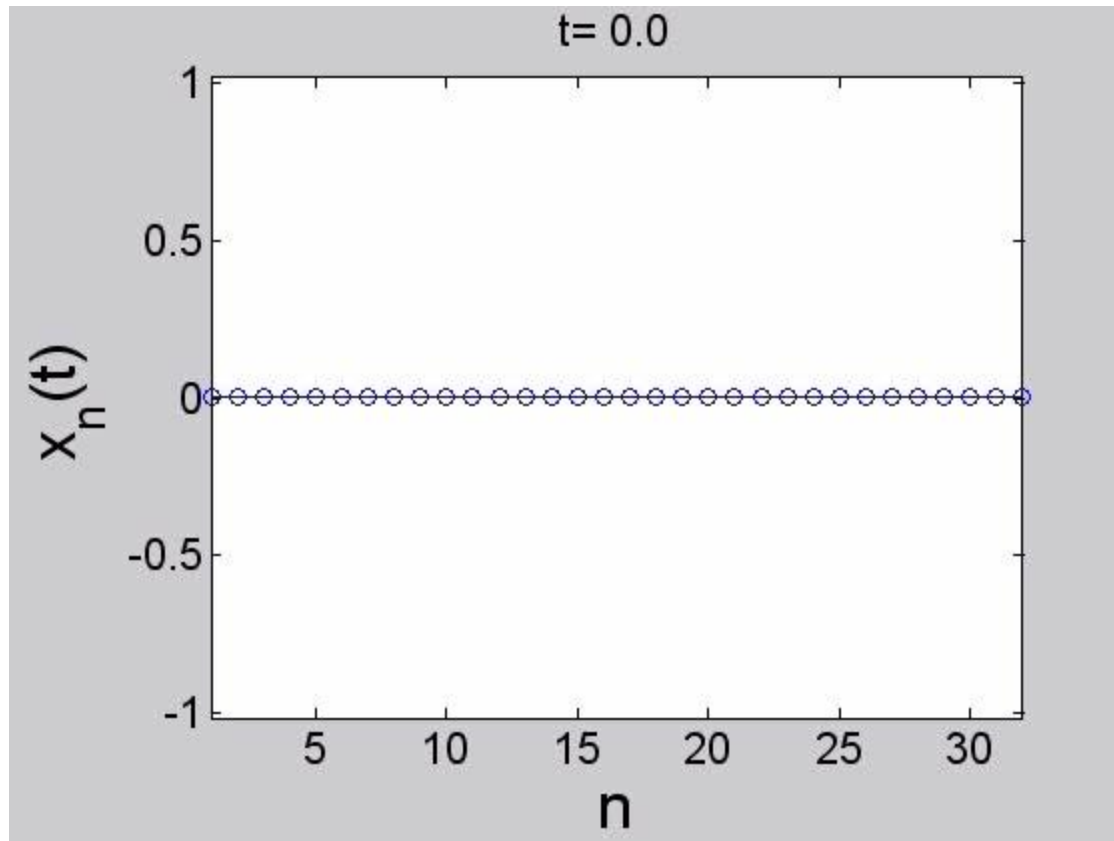
## Evolution of normal mode energies



## Evolution of real space displacements



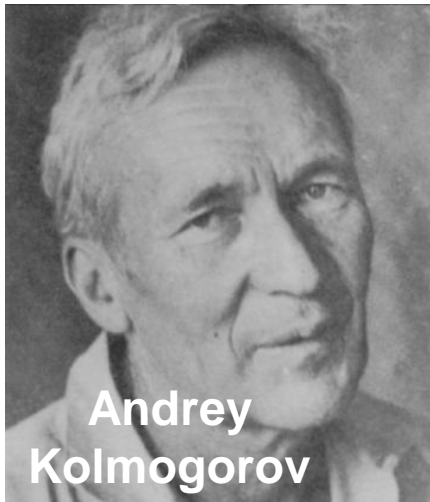
## Evolution of real space displacements



# Kolmogorov – Arnold – Moser (KAM) theory

**A.N. Kolmogorov,**

Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR, 1954.  
Proc. 1954 Int. Congress of  
Mathematics, North-Holland, 1957



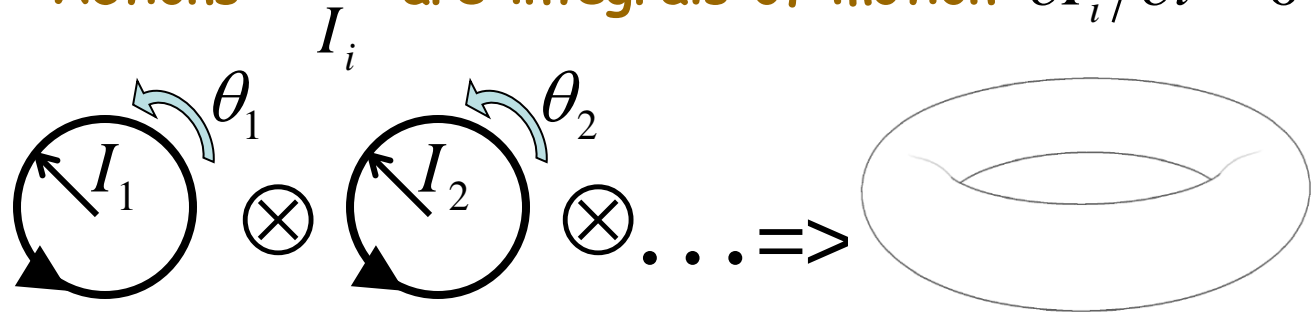
Andrey  
Kolmogorov

Integrable classical Hamiltonian  $\hat{H}_0$ ,  $d > 1$ :

Separation of variables:  $d$  sets of action-angle variables

$$I_1, \theta_1 = 2\pi\omega_1 t; \dots, I_2, \theta_2 = 2\pi\omega_2 t; \dots$$

**Quasiperiodic motion:** set of the frequencies,  $\omega_1, \omega_2, \dots, \omega_d$  which are in general incommensurate  
**Actions** are integrals of motion  $\partial I_i / \partial t = 0$



**Q:**

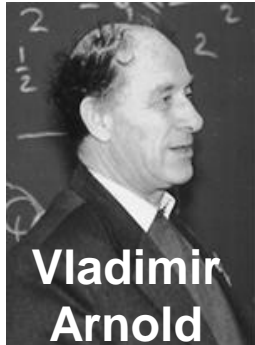
Will an arbitrary weak perturbation  $V$  of the integrable Hamiltonian  $H_0$  destroy the tori and make the motion ergodic (when each point at the energy shell will be reached sooner or later)

?

**A:**

Most of the tori survive weak and smooth enough perturbations

**KAM theorem**



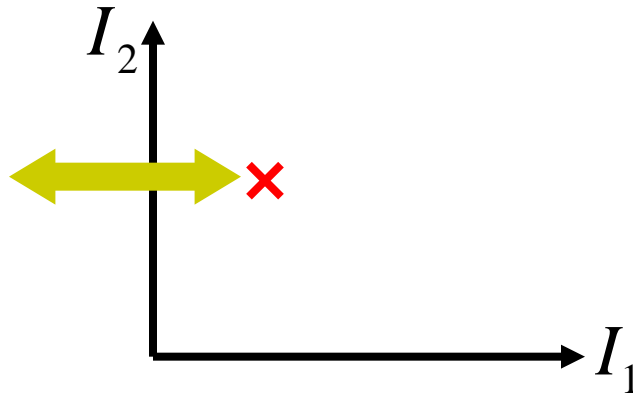
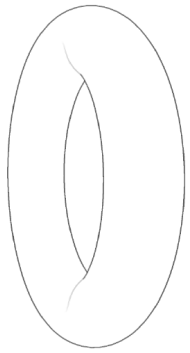
Vladimir  
Arnold



Jurgen  
Moser

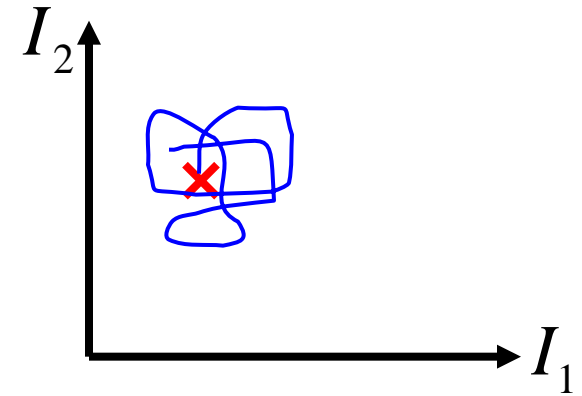
# KAM theorem:

Most of the tori survive weak and smooth enough perturbations



Each point in the space of the **integrals of motion** corresponds to a torus and vice versa

$$\hat{V} \neq 0$$



Finite motion.  
Localization in the **space of the integrals of motion** ?

- KAM applies to finite systems
- Does it apply to waves in infinite systems?
- How are KAM thresholds scaling with number of degrees of freedom?
- Will nonlinear waves observe KAM regime?
- If they do – then localization remains
- If they do not – waves can delocalize

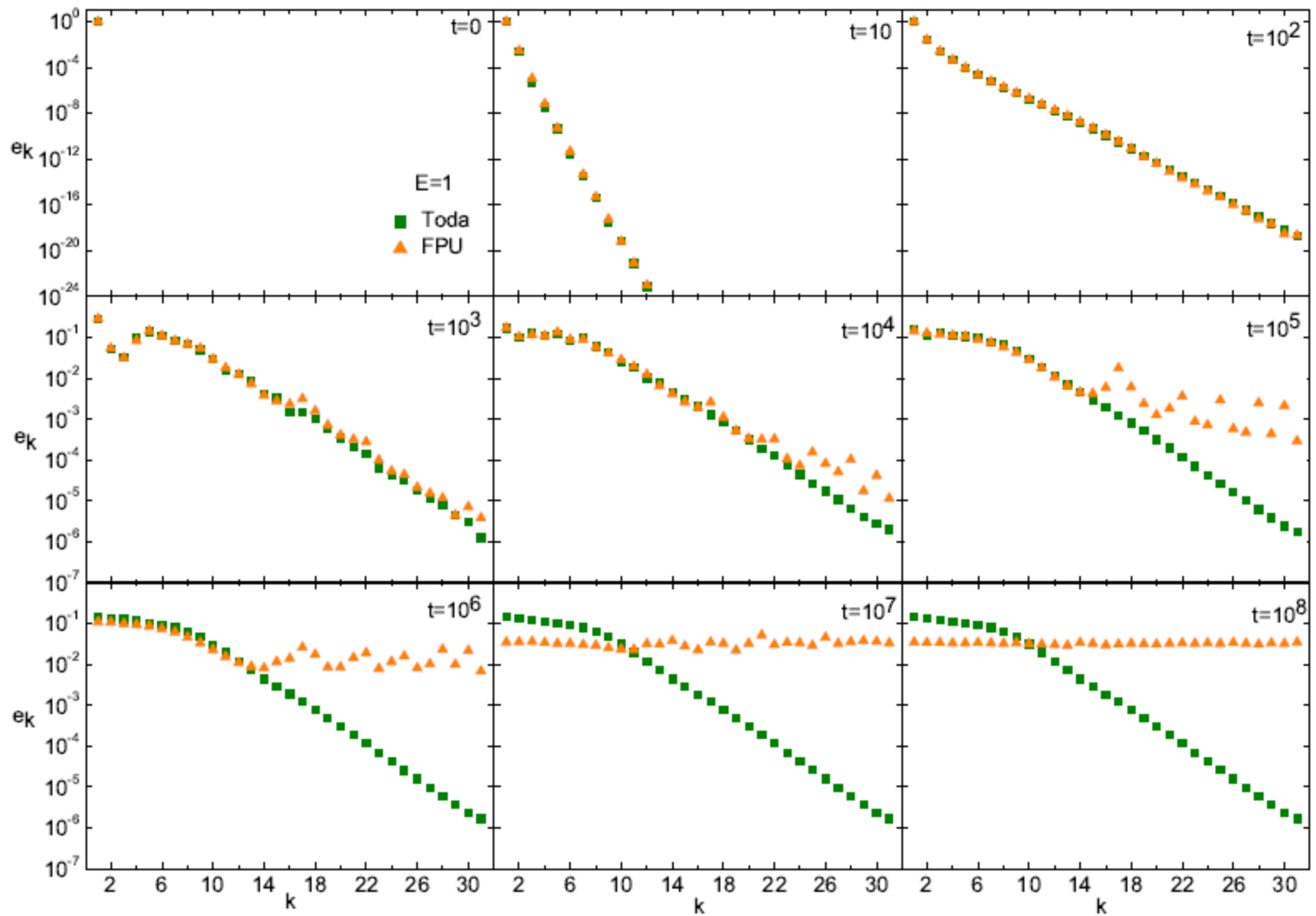
## Comparing the integrable Toda to the nonintegrable FPU

$$H_T(q, p) = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[ \frac{p_n^2}{2} + \frac{e^{2\alpha(q_{n+1}-q_n)} - 1}{4\alpha^2} \right]$$

$$H_\alpha(q, p) = H_T(q, p) - \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \sum_{r \geq 4} (2\alpha)^{r-2} \frac{(q_{n+1} - q_n)^r}{r!}$$

**E. Christodoulidi, A. Ponso, Ch. Skokos, SF, in preparation**



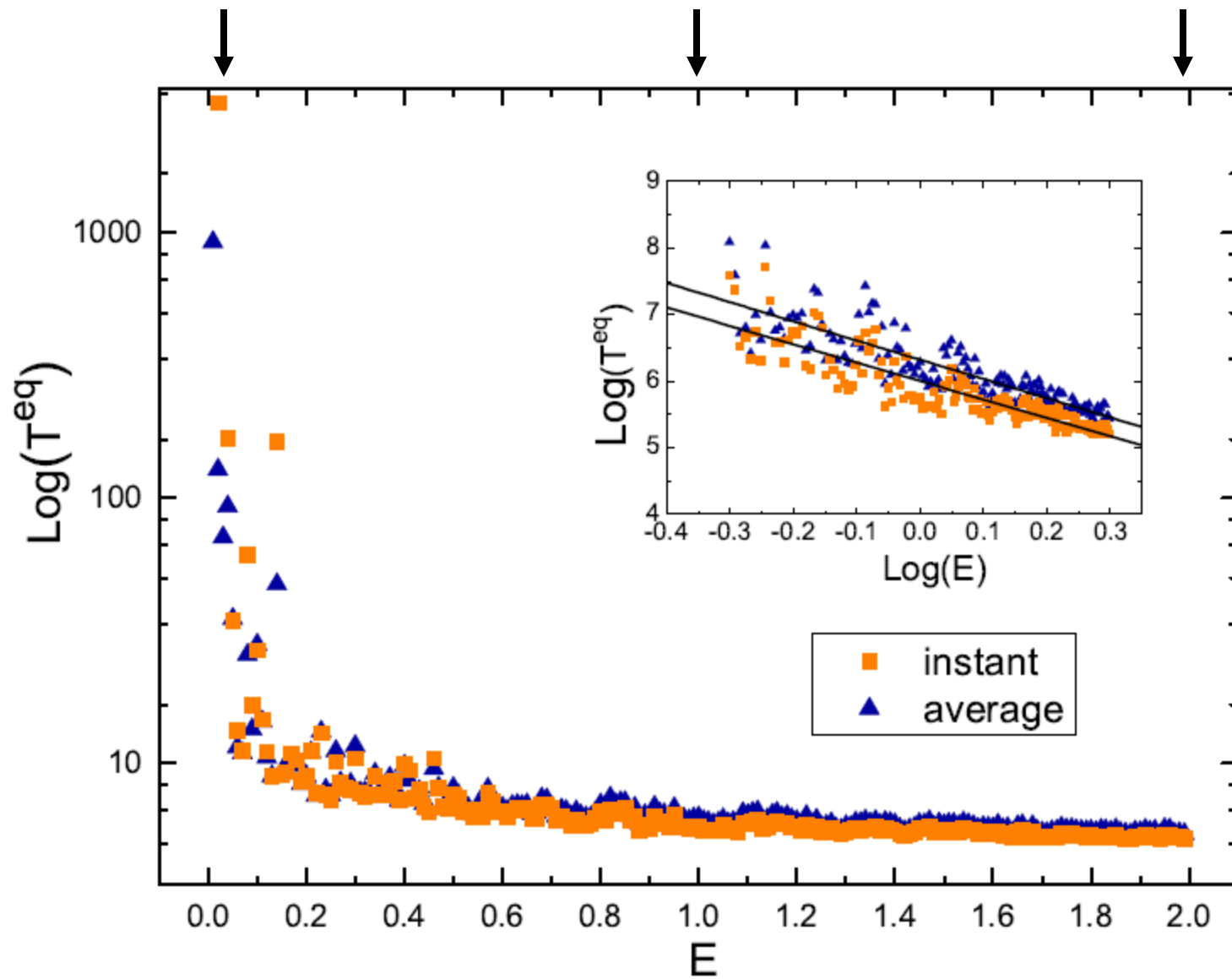


**$T1=10^2 ; T2=10^8$**

T2 infinite? KAM?

T2 >> T1 : weak chaos

T2=T1 : strong chaos



**PART TWO:**

**q-BREATHERS**

## q-breathers - the recipe

PRL 95 (2005) 064102, PRE 73 (2006) 036618

- start with  $\alpha = \beta = 0$  and some finite size  $N$
- consider periodic orbits  $Q_{q \neq q_0} = \dot{Q}_{q \neq q_0} = 0$
- choose one with energy  $E_{q_0}$
- gradually switch on nonlinearity (interaction)  $\alpha, \beta$  and continue periodic orbit at the same chosen energy

You will obtain a q-breather:  
a time-periodic solution localized in  $q$ -space

The observed FPU-paradox including the famous recurrence is a perturbed q-breather trajectory, recurrence is just beating

Existence proof by Flach et al (2006): use nonresonance for finite  $N$  and Lyapunov orbit continuation!

**Nonresonance condition (follows from Conway/Jones 1976):**

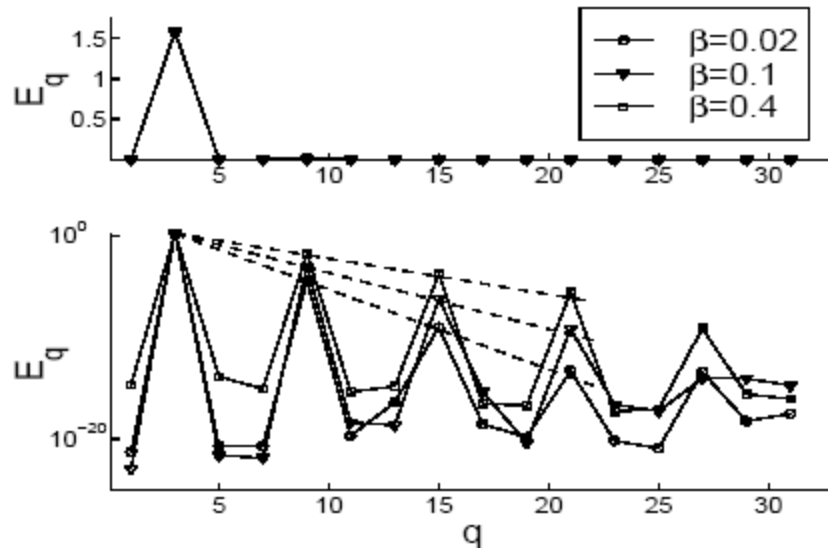
$$n\omega_{q_0} \neq \omega_{q \neq q_0}$$

**And Lyapunov's Theorem for Non-Degenerate Weakly  
Coupled Anharmonic Oscillators**

**SO WE NEED A FINITE SYSTEM IN REAL SPACE!**

## The $\beta$ model case

Numerical solutions for  $N = 32$ ,  $q_0 = 3$ , only odd modes are excited:



Asymptotic expansion of solution:

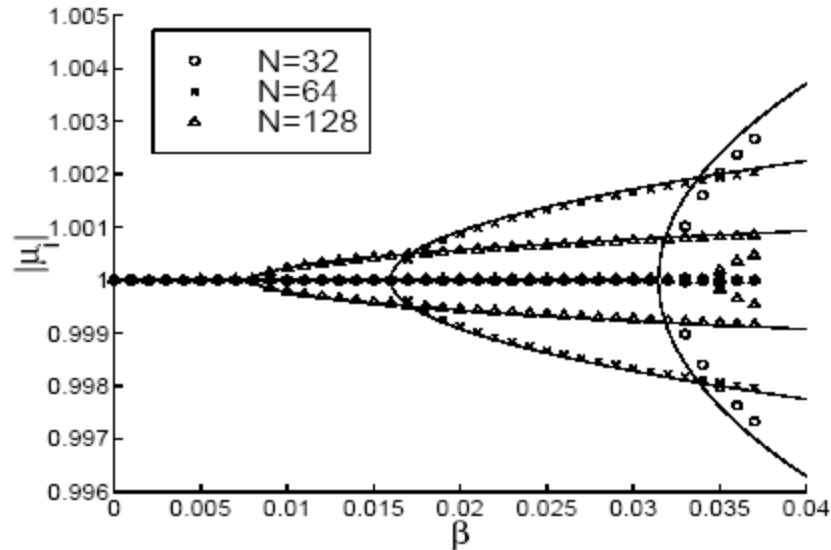
$$E_{(2n+1)q_0} = \lambda^{2n} E_{q_0}, \quad \lambda = \frac{3\beta E_{q_0}(N+1)}{8\pi^2 q_0^2}$$

coincides with boundary estimate of natural packet by Shepelyansky!

QB solution localizes exponentially with exponent  $\ln \lambda / q_0$

Cascade-like perturbation theory  $3, 3+3+3=9, 9+3+3=15, 15+3+3=21, \text{etc}$

## Numerical computation of Floquet eigenvalues



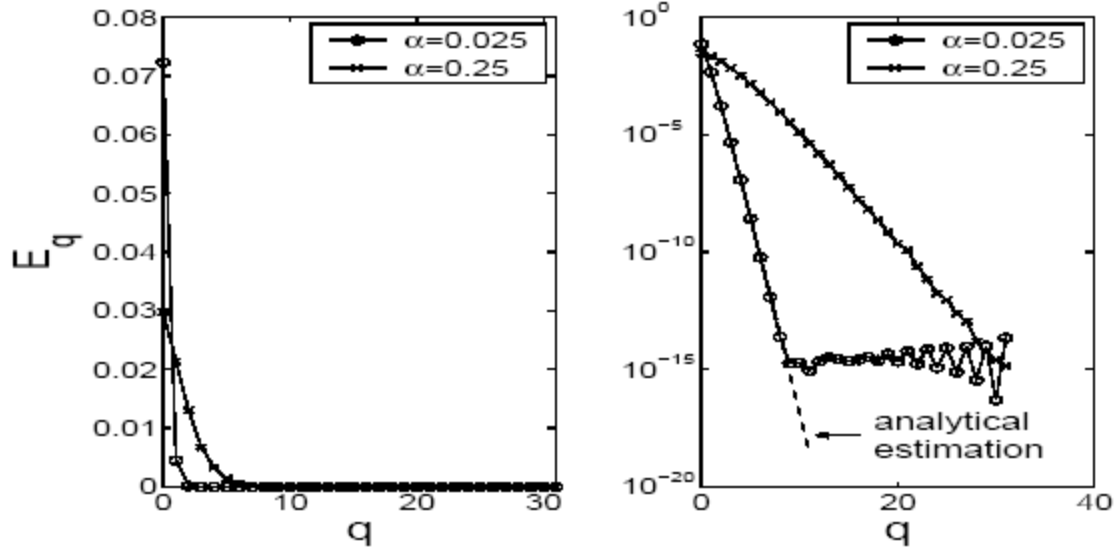
## Secular perturbation theory:

$$|\mu_{j_1 j_2}| = 1 \pm \frac{\pi^3}{4(N+1)^2} \sqrt{R - 1 + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)}, \quad R = 6\beta E(N+1)/\pi^2$$

The QB solution turns unstable for  $R = 1$ .  
 This condition coincides with the transition to weak chaos according to DeLuca, Lichtenberg, Liebermann!

## The $\alpha$ model case

Numerical solutions for  $N = 32$ ,  $q_0 = 1$ ,  
energy 0.077 of original FPU trajectory:



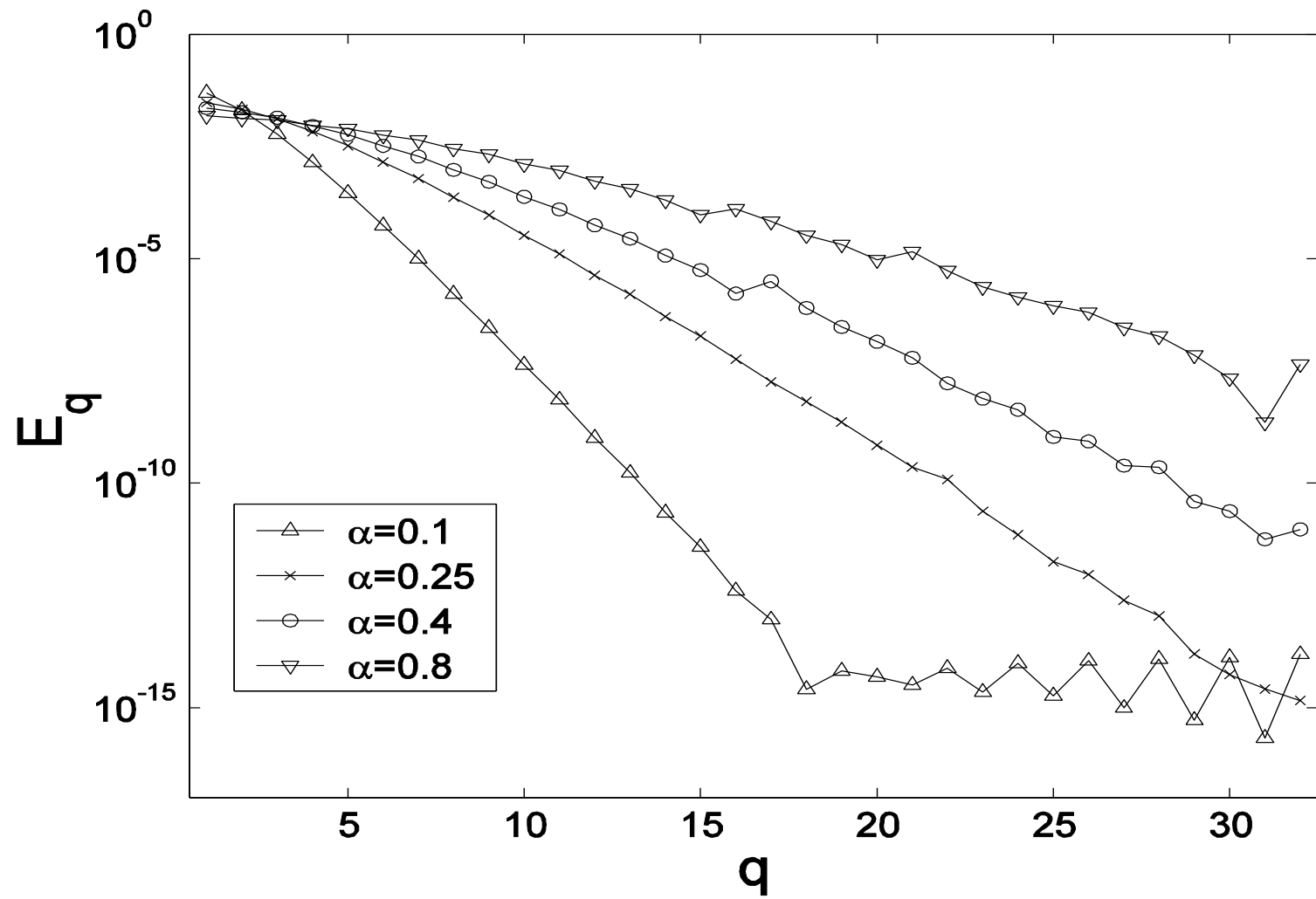
Asymptotic expansion of solution:

$$E_{nq_0} = \epsilon^{2n-2} n^2 E_{q_0}, \quad \epsilon = \frac{\alpha \sqrt{E_{q_0}^{(0)}} (N+1)^{3/2}}{\pi^2 q_0^2}$$

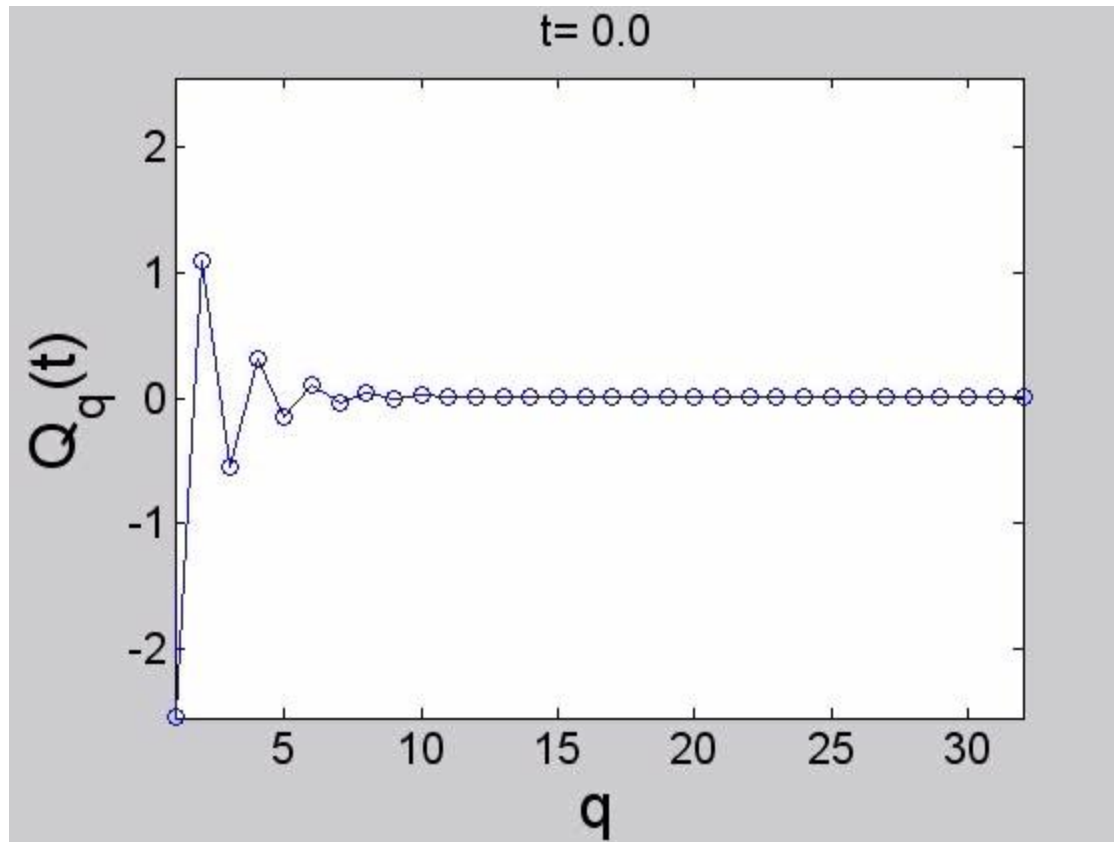
coincides with boundary  
estimate of natural packet  
by Shepelyansky!

QB solution localizes exponentially with exponent  $2 \ln \epsilon / q_0$

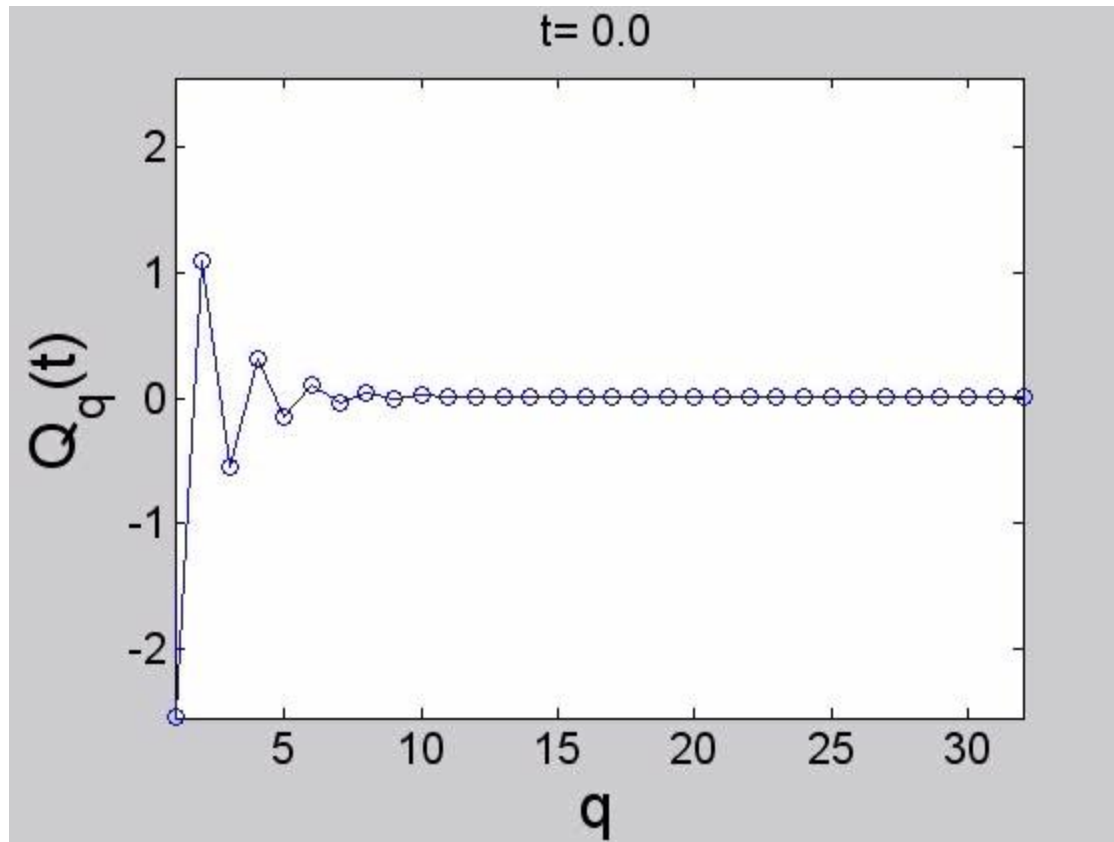




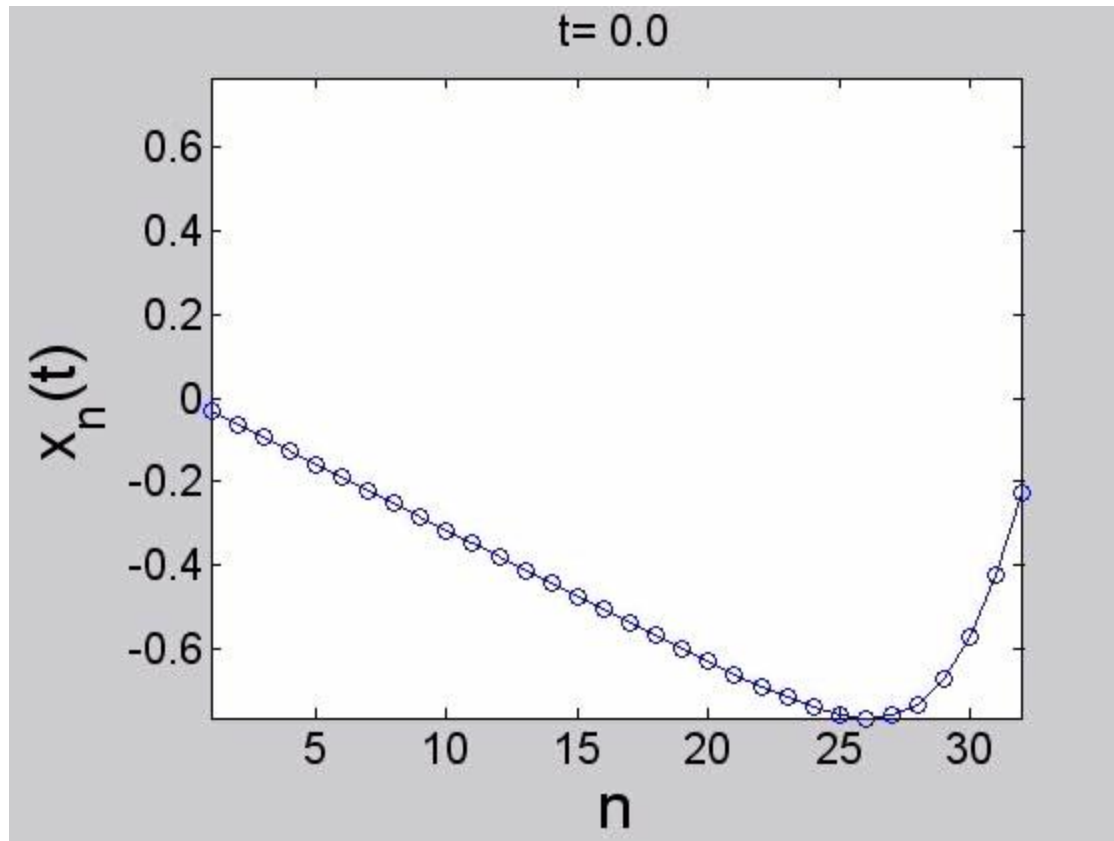
## QB: Evolution of normal mode coordinates



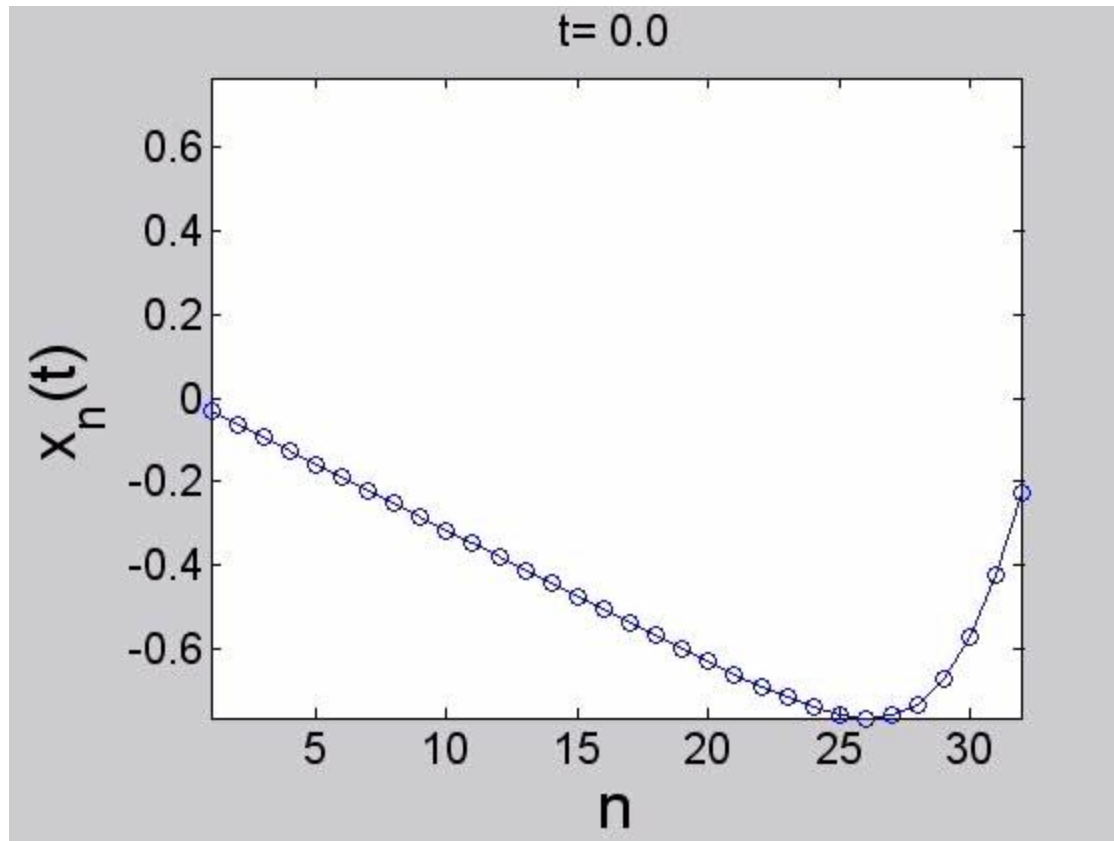
## QB: Evolution of normal mode coordinates



## QB: Evolution of real space displacements



## QB: Evolution of real space displacements



**PART THREE:**

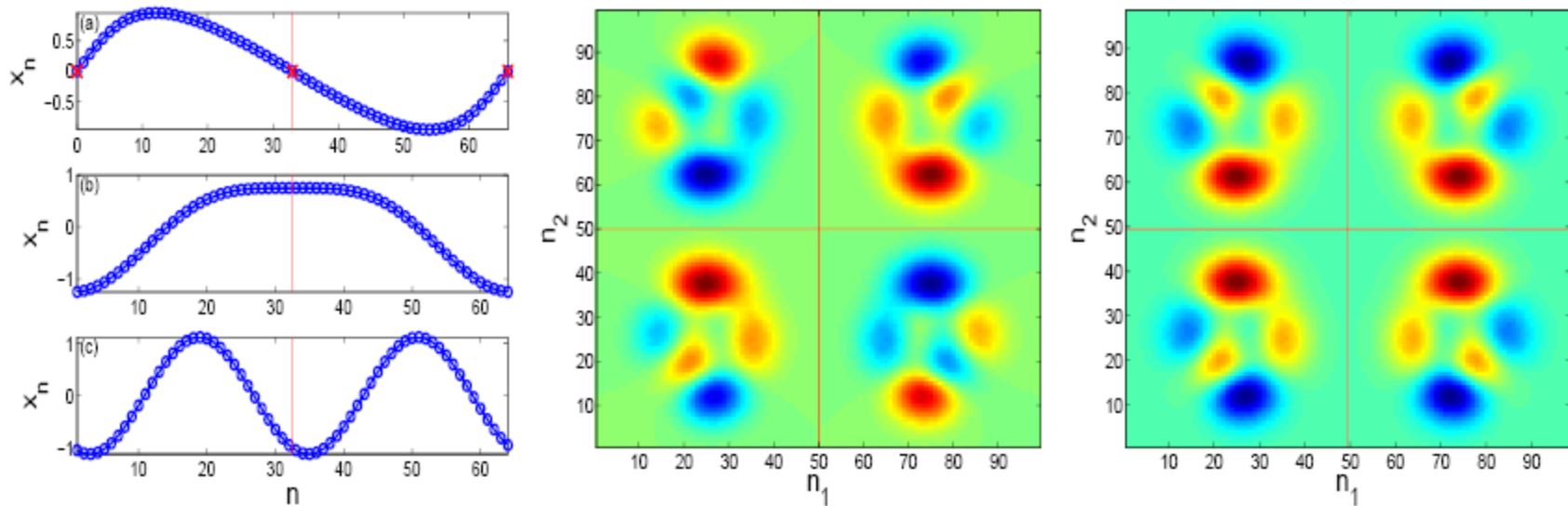
**GOING BEYOND**

## Scaling of q-breathers to large system size

Establish existence of q-breather for given size  $N$  and any boundary condition, consider new size  $rN$  and scale!

PLA 365 (2007) 416

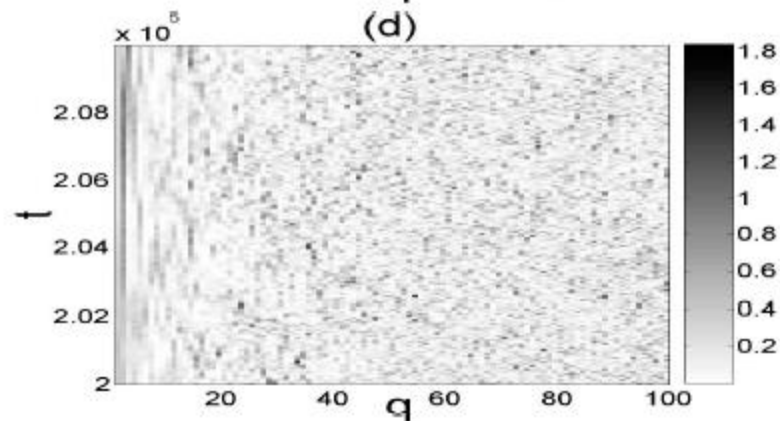
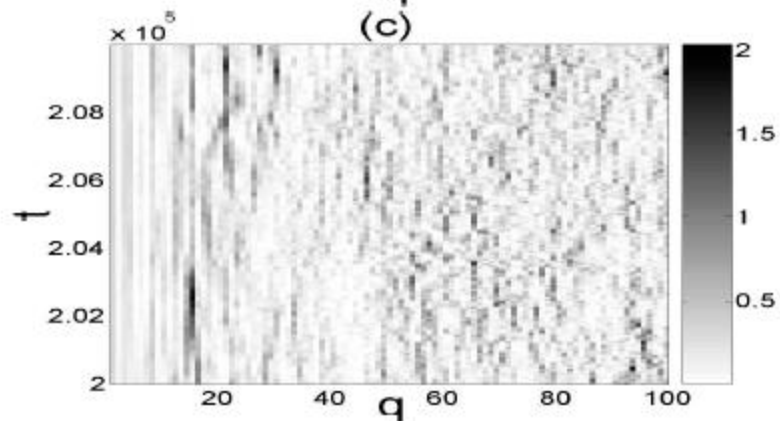
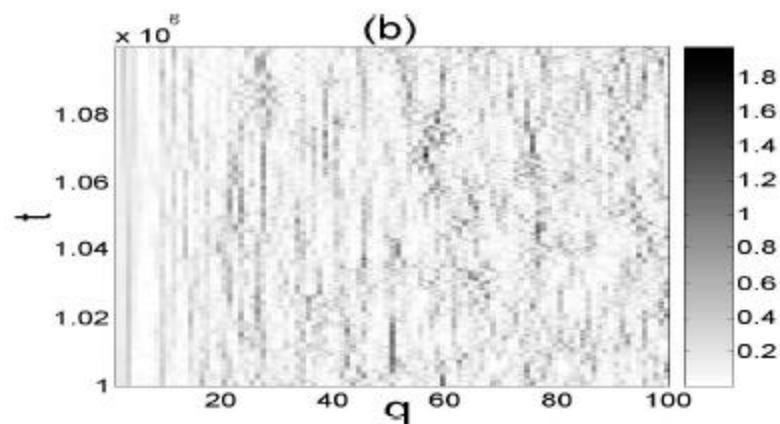
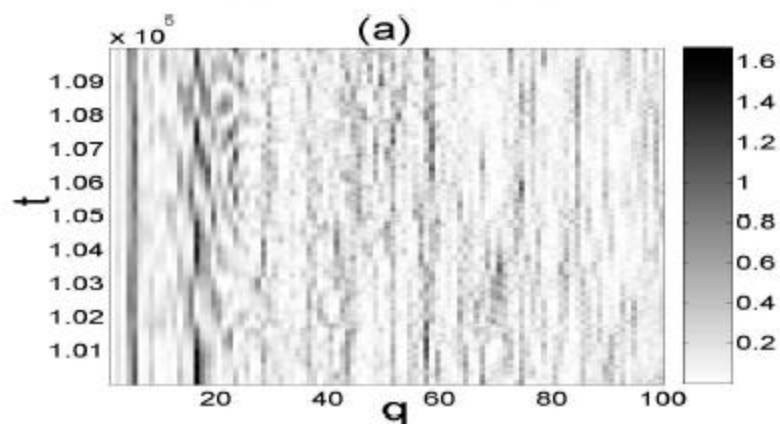
$$\tilde{Q}_{\tilde{q}}(t) = \begin{cases} \sqrt{r}Q_q(t) & \tilde{q} = rq, \\ 0 & \tilde{q} \neq rq, \end{cases} \quad q = \overline{1, N}$$



Thus scaled q-breathers exist for infinite size systems!

## Dynamics in 'thermal' equilibrium

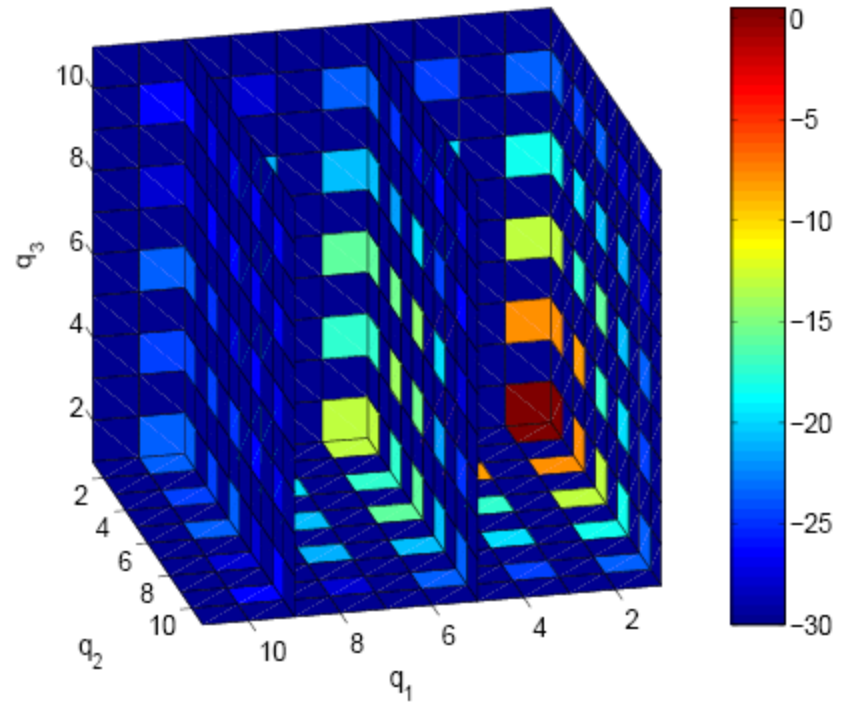
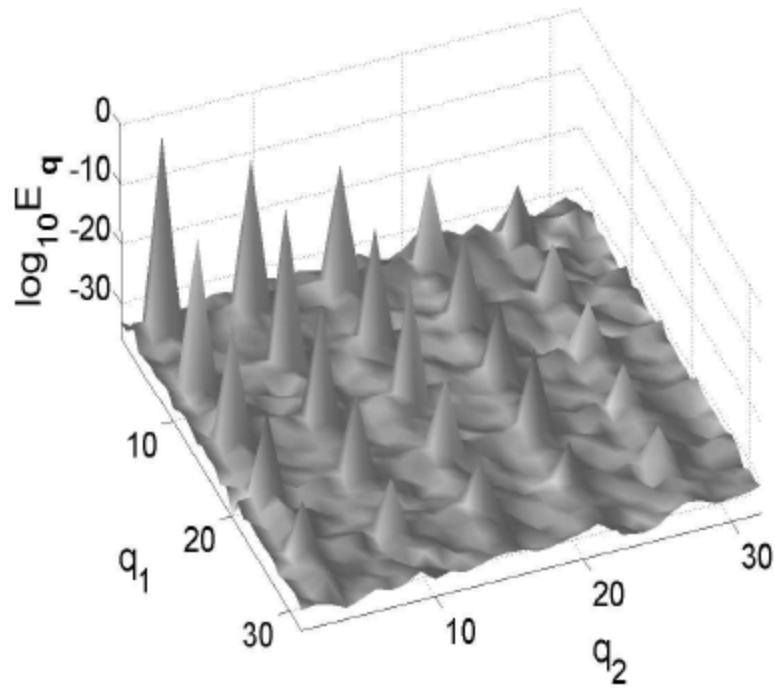
Space-time plots of modes energies  $E_q$  evolving from the random initial conditions for  $N = 100, E/N = 0.2$  and (a)  $\beta = 0.05$ , (b)  $\beta = 0.05$ , (c)  $\beta = 0.1$ , (d)  $\beta = 0.4$ .





## Generalization to two- and three-dimensional lattices

PRL 97 (2006) 025505



Further reading:

- PRL 95 (2005) 064102
- PRE 73 (2006) 036618
- PRL 97 (2006) 025505
- PLA 365 (2007) 416
- Chaos 17 (2007) 023102

## Summarizing the $q$ -breather results

- Existence of  $q$ -breathers, their stability and localization in  $q$ -space explains nonequipartition (FPU-1)
- Localized perturbation of localized  $q$ -breathers - evolution on low-dimensional tori, rather short recurrence times (FPU-2)
- Stability thresholds of  $q$ -breathers - weak stochasticity thresholds; Localization thresholds of  $q$ -breathers - equipartition thresholds (FPU-3)
- $q$ -breather concept can be applied to other nonlinear chains, higher dimensional nonlinear lattices, any **nonlinear** spatially extended dynamical system on a finite spatial domain (including continua)
- Quantization of  $q$ -breathers straightforward - quantum dressed phonons in finite systems

## Take Home Messages

- **nonlinear dynamical systems – nonintegrability, chaos**
- **quasiperiodic motion destroyed, BUT:**
- **periodic orbits are generic low-d invariant manifolds**
- **spatial lattices: POs localize in real space – discrete breathers**
- **normal modes: POs localize in mode space – q-breathers**
- **breathers are essential periodic orbits which describe the evolution of relevant mode-mode interactions, correlations in and relaxations of complex systems**