Two-dimensional nonlinear map characterized by tunable Lévy flights

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After recognizing that point particles moving inside the extended version of the rippled billiard perform Lévy flights characterized by a Lévy-type distribution $P(l) \sim l^{-(1+\alpha)}$ with $\alpha = 1$, we derive a generalized two-dimensional nonlinear map M_{α} able to produce Lévy flights described by P(l) with $0 < \alpha < 2$. Due to this property, we call M_{α} the Lévy map. Then, by applying Chirikov's overlapping resonance criteria, we are able to identify the onset of global chaos as a function of the parameters of the map. With this, we state the conditions under which the Lévy map could be used as a Lévy pseudorandom number generator and furthermore confirm its applicability by computing scattering properties of disordered wires.

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I. INTRODUCTION AND MOTIVATION

The main feature of a Lévy-type density distribution P(l) is the slow power-law decay of its tail. More precisely, for large l,

$$P(\ell) \sim \frac{1}{l^{1+\alpha}},\tag{1}$$

with $0 < \alpha < 2$. Note that the second moment of P(l) diverges for all α and if $0 < \alpha < 1$ also the first moment diverges. This kind of distribution is also known as an α -stable distribution [1]. Random processes characterized by probability densities with a long tail (Lévy-type processes) have been found and studied in very different phenomena and fields such as biology, economy, and physics. Among the many recently studied systems showing Lévy-type processes are animal foraging [2], human mobility [3], earthquake statistics [4], mosquitoes flight under epidemiological modeling [5], and light transmission through a disordered glass [6]. See also [7] for a compilation of systems displaying Lévy flights.

In particular, to help us introduce later the main model system of this study, i.e., the Lévy map, we describe in some detail a simple dynamical model characterized by Lévy processes: the ripple billiard. The ripple billiard (see, for example, Chap. 6 of [8]) consists of two walls: one flat at y = 0and a rippled one given by the function $y = d + \omega \cos(x)$; here d is the average width of the billiard and ω the ripple amplitude (see Fig. 1). An attractive feature of the ripple billiard is that its classical phase space undergoes the generic transition to global chaos as the amplitude of the cosine function increases. Then results from the analysis of this system are applicable to a large class of systems, namely, nondegenerate, nonintegrable Hamiltonians [8,9]. Moreover, the dynamics of classical particles inside the ripple billiard can be well approximated by a two-dimensional (2D) Poincaré map M between successive collisions with the rippled boundary [10,11] $(\theta_{n+1}, x_{n+1}) =$ $M(\theta_n, x_n)$, where θ_n is the angle the particle's trajectory makes with the x axis just before the *n*th bounce with the rippled boundary at x_n . Map M can be easily derived and, after the

assumptions $\omega \sin(x_n) \ll 1$ and $\omega/d \ll 1$, it takes the simple form

$$M:\begin{cases} \theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - 2\omega \sin(x_n) \\ x_{n+1} = x_n + 2d \cot(\theta_{n+1}). \end{cases}$$
(2)

As an example, in Fig. 2(a) we plot the Poincaré map M for $\omega = 2\pi/10$ and $d = 2\pi$. It is clear from this plot that this combination of geometrical parameters produces ergodic dynamics (also known as global chaos). Notice that in this figure we have plotted the variable x modulus 2π , as is usual for this kind of 2D map; with this, we can globally visualize the map dynamics in a single plot, but we may lose important information.

Among the dynamical information that is lost when applying $mod(2\pi)$ to a map such as M is the length of paths between successive map iterations $l \equiv x_{n+1} - x_n$, i.e., the length between two successive collisions with the rippled boundary of the billiard. In fact, in Fig. 2(c) we present P(l)for the same parameters used to construct Fig. 2(a). From this figure we can clearly see that (i) even though most of the paths l produced by map M are short [i.e., P(l) is highly peaked at P(l) = 0], there is a non-negligible probability for very large values of l to occur [notice that the values of $l = \pm 1000$ at the edges of Fig. 2(c) mean that a particle has traveled about 160 periods of the rippled billiard between two successive collisions with the rippled boundary] and (ii) P(l) decays as a power law similar to Eq. (1). These two facts are explicit evidence of Lévy flights in the dynamics of map M. Thus, the following question becomes pertinent: Can we provide an analytic expression for the shape of P(l) given the simple form of map M? Fortunately, the answer is positive, as we will show below.

If we consider the dynamics of map M to be in the regime of full chaos then a single trajectory can explore the full available phase space homogeneously, as shown in Fig. 2(a), so $P(\theta)$ is constant and equal to $1/\pi$, as verified in Fig. 2(b). Also, from the second equation in map M we obtain $\theta = \tan^{-1}(2d/l)$. Thus, using $P(l) = P(\theta)|d\theta/dl|$, we can write

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$$P(l) = \frac{2d}{\pi(1+l^2)},$$
(3)

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FIG. 1. Geometry of the rippled billiard and definition of the variables of map M [see Eq. (2)].

which is in fact a Lévy-type probability distribution function with $\alpha = 1$ [compare with Eq. (1)]. Then, in Fig. 2(c) we plot Eq. (3) (as the red solid line) together with the numerically obtained P(l) and observe a very good correspondence, making clear the existence of Lévy processes, characterized by the power-law decay $\alpha = 1$, in the dynamics of the rippled billiard.

In fact, the origin of the Lévy-type probability distribution of Eq. (3) for the lengths l in the ripple billiard is the existence of Lévy flights. Since a typical chaotic trajectory fills the available phase space uniformly [see Fig. 2(a)], then all angles $\theta \in (0, 2\pi)$ are equally probable; however, different angles produce quite different lengths l. For example, an angle θ very close to $\pi/2$ corresponds to a very short length $l \sim 0$ (see Fig. 1). In contrast, θ tending to zero or π produce trajectories that are nearly parallel to the x axis that may travel very long distances between successive collisions with the ripple boundary: In such a case $l \to \infty$. These grazing trajectories are indeed Lévy flights, known to produce heavytailed distribution functions [12]; for the ripple billiard the Lévy flights produce Eq. (3) as derived above. Moreover, grazing trajectories in the ripple billiard have been found to play a prominent role when defining the classical analogs of the quantum structure of eigenstates and local density of states [13].



FIG. 2. (Color online) (a) Poincaré map M, (b) phase distribution $P(\theta)$, and (c) length distribution P(l) for the ripple billiard with $\omega = 2\pi/10$ and $d = 2\pi$. A single initial condition $x_0 = \theta_0 = 0.1$ was iterated (a) 10^4 and (b) and (c) 10^7 times. The red solid curve in (c) is Eq. (3).

Equation (3) is already an interesting result of the dynamics of the rippled billiard (and of general chaotic extended billiards with infinite horizon) that deserves additional attention; however, our goal here is different. Since now we know that map *M* produces Lévy flights characterized by $\alpha = 1$ we ask ourselves whether we can propose a general 2D nonlinear map where α can be included as a parameter. More generally, can we construct the map M_{α} able to produce Lévy flights characterized by $0 < \alpha < 2$? Indeed, in the following section we elaborate on these questions.

II. DERIVATION OF THE LÉVY MAP

We introduce the Lévy map M_{α} by following the opposite procedure we used above to obtain the distribution function of Eq. (3) from the map M. Let us (i) consider the 2D map $(\theta_{n+1}, x_{n+1}) = M_{\alpha}(\theta_n, x_n)$ to have the same iteration relation for the angle θ as map M [see Eq. (2)], (ii) assume the map M_{α} to be in a regime of global chaos such that

$$P(\theta) = \text{const} = \frac{1}{\pi},\tag{4}$$

and (iii) demand the variable

$$l \equiv x_{n+1} - x_n \tag{5}$$

from map M_{α} to be characterized by the Lévy-type density distribution function

$$P(l) = \frac{\mathcal{C}}{l^{1+\alpha}},\tag{6}$$

where $0 < \alpha < 2$ and C is a normalization constant. Then

$$\theta \equiv \int \frac{P(l)}{P(\theta)} dl = \pi \mathcal{C} \int \frac{dl}{l^{1+\alpha}} = -\frac{\pi \mathcal{C}}{\alpha l^{\alpha}}$$

provides $l = (-\alpha \theta / \pi C)^{-1/\alpha}$. Therefore, we define the Lévy map as

$$M_{\alpha}:\begin{cases} \theta_{n+1} = \theta_n - 2\omega \sin(x_n) \\ x_{n+1} = x_n + \gamma |\alpha \theta_{n+1}|^{-1/\alpha}, \quad 0 < \alpha < 2, \end{cases}$$
(7)

where $\omega, \gamma = (\pi C)^{1/\alpha}$, and α are the map parameters. We have introduced the absolute value in the second equation of M_{α} to avoid fractional powers of negative angles. This in turn makes all lengths *l* positive.

Notice that for $\alpha = 1$ and $\theta_{n+1} \ll 1$, where $\cot(\theta_{n+1}) \approx 1/\theta_{n+1}$, we recover map M from M_{α} (with $\gamma = 2d$). We also note that M_{α} has a similar form to the maps studied in Refs. [14–17] in the sense that the function $f(\theta_{n+1})$, in the second line of the map M_{α} , is inversely proportional to θ_{n+1} to a noninteger power.

Below we will focus our attention on map M_{α} with the parameter α in the interval $0 < \alpha < 2$ because our motivation is to construct a map able to produce pseudorandom variables distributed according to α -stable distributions. However, the parameter α may also take values outside this interval.

III. ONSET OF GLOBAL CHAOS

In general, depending on the values of the parameters (ω, γ, α) , the dynamics of the Lévy map may be integrable, mixed (where the phase space contains periodic islands surrounded by chaotic seas, which may be limited by invariant

spanning curves), or ergodic. That is, the classical phase space of map M_{α} develops the generic transition to global chaos (not shown here). However, for Eq. (4) to be valid the map dynamics must be ergodic. Therefore, below, by applying Chirikov's overlapping resonance criteria, we shall identify the onset of global chaos as a function of the parameters of the Lévy map.

Following [9], we linearize M_{α} around the period-1 fixed points (x^*, θ^*) , which are defined through

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta_n = \theta^*,$$

 $x_{n+1} = x_n = x^* + 2\pi m, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, \dots.$

This condition provides

$$x^* = 0, \pi, \quad \theta^* = \frac{1}{\alpha} \left(\frac{\gamma}{2\pi m}\right)^{\alpha}.$$
 (8)

Then, for an angle close to θ^* we can write $\theta_n = \theta^* + \Delta \theta_n$, getting

$$\theta_{n+1} = \theta^* + \Delta \theta_{n+1} = \theta^* + \Delta \theta_n - 2\omega \sin(x_n).$$

Thus,

$$\Delta \theta_{n+1} = \Delta \theta_n - 2\omega \sin(x_n). \tag{9}$$

In addition, for *x* we have

$$x_{n+1} = x_n + \gamma \alpha^{-1/\alpha} (\theta^* + \Delta \theta_{n+1})^{-1/\alpha}$$

$$\approx x_n + \gamma (\alpha \theta^*)^{-1/\alpha} [1 - (\alpha \theta^*)^{-1} \Delta \theta_{n+1}]$$

$$= x_n + 2\pi m [1 - (\gamma/2\pi m)^{-\alpha} \Delta \theta_{n+1}]$$

$$= x_n - \gamma^{-\alpha} (2\pi m)^{\alpha+1} \Delta \theta_{n+1}.$$
 (10)

Finally, by substituting the new angle

$$\Theta_n \equiv -\gamma^{-\alpha} (2\pi m)^{\alpha+1} \Delta \theta_n$$

in (9) and (10) we can write the linearized map

$$M_{SM}: \begin{cases} \Theta_{n+1} = \Theta_n + K \sin(x_n) \\ x_{n+1} = x_n + \Theta_{n+1}, \end{cases}$$
(11)

where Θ and x, respectively, play the role of action-angle variables in the standard map [9,18] with

$$K = 2(2\pi m)^{\alpha+1}\omega\gamma^{-\alpha}, \quad m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$
 (12)

being the stochasticity parameter.

Chirikov's overlapping resonance criteria predicts the transition to global chaos for $K > K_C$, where $K_C \approx 0.971\,635\ldots$ [9,18,19]. Global chaos means that chaotic regions are interconnected over the whole phase space (stability islands may still exist but are sufficiently small that the chaotic sea extends throughout the vast majority of phase space). This criterion for the Lévy map reads

$$\omega \stackrel{>}{\sim} \frac{\gamma^{\alpha}}{2(2\pi)^{\alpha+1}} = \frac{\mathcal{C}}{4(2\pi)^{\alpha}}.$$
 (13)

In fact, to get Eq. (13) from Eq. (12) we have applied the resonance criterion to the period-1 fixed point corresponding to m = 1 [see Eq. (8)], which is the fixed point having the largest θ (i.e., it is located highest in phase space) and the one closer to the last invariant spanning curve bounding the diffusion of the variable θ .



FIG. 3. (Color online) (a)–(d) Phase distributions $P(\theta)$ and (e)– (h) length distributions $\rho(\ln l)$ for the Lévy map M_{α} with $\omega = C = 1$ and (a) and (e) $\alpha = 1/4$, (b) and (f) $\alpha = 1/2$, (c) and (g) $\alpha = 1$, and (d) and (h) $\alpha = 3/2$. To construct each histogram a single initial condition $x_0 = \theta_0 = 0.1$ was iterated 10^7 times. The red solid curve in (e)–(h) is $\rho(\ln l) = l^{-\alpha}$.

Indeed, we have verified that the phase space of M_{α} is ergodic if condition (13) is satisfied (not shown here). Moreover, in Figs. 3(a)-3(d) we plot the phase distribution functions $P(\theta)$ for the Lévy map with $\omega = C = 1$ corresponding to $\alpha = 1/4$, 1/2, 1, and 3/2. From these figures it is clear that $P(\theta)$ is certainly a constant distribution. In particular, note that with $\omega = C = 1$ condition (13) is satisfied for any α , so we shall use this set of parameter values in all figures below.

Now we would like to verify that once $P(\theta) = 1/\pi$, M_{α} must produce lengths {*l*} distributed according to Eq. (6). However, we notice that for $\alpha < 1$ the Lévy map produces huge values of *l*. To show this, in Fig. 4 we plot the typical value of *l*,

$$l_{\rm typ} = \exp\langle \ln l \rangle, \tag{14}$$

as a function of α ; here we can observe that for $\alpha = 1/4$ the typical *l* is larger than 10⁵ [in fact, from the data we used to construct the $P(\theta)$ of Fig. 3(a) we obtained several lengths *l* of the order of 10³⁰]. Thus, it is not practical to construct P(l) to test the validity of Eq. (6) itself. Instead, we make the change



FIG. 4. Typical value of l, $l_{typ} = \exp(\ln l)$, for the Lévy map M_{α} as a function of α ; $\omega = C = 1$ were used. The average was performed over 10^7 values of l obtained by iterating M_{α} from the single initial condition $x_0 = \theta_0 = 0.1$.

of variable $l \rightarrow \ln l$, which leads to

$$\rho(\ln l) = lP(l) = \frac{\mathcal{C}}{l^{\alpha}}.$$

Then in Figs. 3(e)–3(h) we show length distribution functions $\rho(\ln l)$ for the Lévy map with $\alpha = 1/4$, 1/2, 1, and 3/2 (histograms). As can be clearly seen, the agreement between the histograms and $\rho(\ln l) = l^{-\alpha}$ (shown as red thick lines) is indeed excellent.

It is relevant to stress that since the phase space of the Lévy map is ergodic when condition (13) is satisfied, the sequences $\{l\}$ can then be considered as Lévy-distributed pseudorandom numbers. In fact, in the next section we will show through a specific application that the lengths l can be used in practice as random numbers.

IV. THE LÉVY MAP AS A LÉVY-DISTRIBUTED PSEUDORANDOM NUMBER GENERATOR

There is a good deal of work devoted to the use of nonlinear maps as pseudorandom number generators (see some examples in Refs. [20–25]). Therefore, in a similar way, we would like to use the Lévy map to generate pseudorandom numbers particularly distributed according to the Lévy-type probability distribution function of Eq. (6). However, instead of analyzing the randomness of the sequences $\{l\}$ produced by M_{α} , here we will show that these numbers can be successfully used already in a specific application: We shall compute transmission through 1D disordered wires.

Recently, the electron transport through 1D quantum wires with Lévy-type disorder was studied in Refs. [26,27]. There it was found that the average (over different disorder realizations) of the logarithm of the dimensionless conductance G behaves as

$$\langle -\ln G \rangle \propto \begin{cases} L^{\alpha} & \text{for } 0 < \alpha < 1\\ L & \text{for } 1 \leqslant \alpha < 2, \end{cases}$$
(15)

where *L* is a length that depends on the wire model. For example, for a wire represented as a sequence of potential barriers with random lengths, $L = \sum_n v_n$ [26], where v_n is the length of the *n*th barrier in the wave propagation direction. In contrast, for a wire represented by the 1D Anderson model with off-diagonal disorder, $L = \sum_n v_{n,n+1}$ [27], where $v_{n,n+1}$ is the hopping integral between the sites *n* and *n* + 1.



FIG. 5. (Color online) Average $\langle -\ln G \rangle$ as a function of L/l_{typ} for the 1D Anderson model with off-diagonal Lévy-type disorder characterized by α . We used an incoming wave with energy E = 0.1. The dashed lines are fittings of the data with Eq. (15). Each symbol was calculated using 10^5 wire realizations. Each wire realization was constructed from a single sequence of lengths $\{l\}$ generated by map M_{α} having random initial conditions uniformly distributed in the intervals $-\pi < x_0 < \pi$ and $0 < \theta_0 < 2\pi$.

Here we use the 1D Anderson model with off-diagonal disorder to represent 1D quantum wires (see details in the Appendix) where the hopping integrals $v_{n,n+1}$ are in fact the pseudorandom lengths *l* generated by our Lévy map. Then in Fig. 5 we plot $\langle -\ln G \rangle$ as a function of *L* for the 1D Anderson model with Lévy-type disorder characterized by $\alpha = 1/4, 1/2, 1, \text{ and } 3/2$. We have computed the dimensionless conductance by the use of the effective Hamiltonian approach (see details in the Appendix). In Fig. 5 we are using l_{typ} to normalize *L* to be able to show curves corresponding to different values of α in the same figure panel. Also in Fig. 5 we are including fittings of the curves $\langle -\ln G \rangle$ vs *L* with Eq. (15) (see red dashed lines), which certainly show the anomalous conductance behavior predicted in Refs. [26,27]. Therefore, in this way the use of the Lévy map as a pseudorandom number generator is validated.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper we have introduced the so-called Lévy map: a two-dimensional nonlinear map characterized by tunable Lévy flights. Indeed, it is described by a 2D nonlinear and area preserving map with a control parameter driving two important transitions: (i) integrability ($\omega = 0$) to nonintegrability ($\omega \neq$ 0) and (ii) local chaos with $\omega < C/4(2\pi)^{\alpha}$ to globally chaotic dynamics with $\omega > C/4(2\pi)^{\alpha}$. We have applied Chirikov's overlapping resonance criterion to identify the onset of global chaos as a function of the parameters of the map, therefore reaching condition (ii) as described in the preceding sentence. In this way we stated the requirements under which the Lévy map could be used as a Lévy pseudorandom number generator and confirmed its effectiveness by computing scattering properties of disordered wires.

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APPENDIX

In Sec. IV we considered 1D tight-binding chains of size N described by the Hamiltonian

$$H_{mn} = h_n \delta_{mn} + \nu_{n,n+1} \delta_{n,n+1} + \nu_{n,n-1} \delta_{n,n-1}, \qquad (A1)$$

where h_n are on-site potentials that we set to zero and $v_{n,n+1} = v_{n+1,n}$ are hopping amplitudes connecting nearest sites. Here m, n = 1, ..., N. We open the 1D chains by attaching two

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single-mode semi-infinite leads to the opposite sites on the 1D samples. Each lead is described by the 1D semi-infinite tight-binding Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{lead}} = \sum_{n=1}^{-\infty} (|n\rangle \langle n+1| + |n+1\rangle \langle n|).$$

Then, following the effective Hamiltonian approach, the scattering matrix (S matrix) has the form [28]

$$S = \begin{pmatrix} r & t' \\ t & r' \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{1} - 2\pi i \mathcal{W}^T \frac{1}{E - \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}}} \mathcal{W}, \qquad (A2)$$

where t, t', r, and r' are transmission and reflection amplitudes, **1** is the 2 × 2 unit matrix, $k = \arccos(E/2)$ is the wave vector supported in the leads, and \mathcal{H}_{eff} is an effective energydependent non-Hermitian Hamiltonian given by

$$\mathcal{H}_{\rm eff} = H + \pi \cot(k) \mathcal{W} \mathcal{W}^T - i\pi \mathcal{W} \mathcal{W}^T.$$
(A3)

Above, W is an $L \times 2$ matrix with elements $W_{i,j} = [\sin(k)/\pi]^{1/2} (\delta_{1,1} + \delta_{L,2})$. Finally, within a scattering approach to electronic transport, once the scattering matrix is known, we compute the dimensionless conductance as [29]

$$G = |S_{12}|^2. (A4)$$

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