Machine-learning inference of fluid variables from data using reservoir computing

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(Received 11 April 2018; revised manuscript received 8 August 2018; published 31 August 2018)

We infer both microscopic and macroscopic behaviors of a three-dimensional chaotic fluid flow using reservoir computing. In our procedure of the inference, we assume no prior knowledge of a physical process of a fluid flow except that its behavior is complex but deterministic. We present two ways of inference of the complex behavior: the first, called partial inference, requires continued knowledge of partial time-series data during the inference as well as past time-series data, while the second, called full inference, requires only past time-series data as training data. For the first case, we are able to infer long-time motion of microscopic fluid variables. For the second case, we show that the reservoir dynamics constructed from only past data of energy functions can infer the future behavior of energy functions and reproduce the energy spectrum. It is also shown that we can infer time-series data from only one measurement by using the delay coordinates. This implies that the obtained reservoir systems constructed without the knowledge of microscopic data are equivalent to the dynamical systems describing the macroscopic behavior of energy functions.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevE.98.023111

I. INTRODUCTION

Machine-learning has progressed significantly over the past decade in various areas of physical sciences [1-3] after some theoretical work in the area of neural networks (see [4,5] for examples).

In the area of fluid dynamics, Ling *et al.* [6] presented a method of using deep neural networks to create a model for the Reynolds stress anisotropy tensor from high-fidelity simulation data (see also [7]). Gamahara and Hattori [8] used an artificial neural network to find a new subgrid model of the subgrid-scale stress in large-eddy simulation. By using long short-term memory (LSTM) [9], Wan *et al.* [10] studied a data-assisted reduced-order modeling of extreme events in various dynamics, including the Kolmogorov flow of the two-dimensional incompressible Navier-Stokes equation. See also [11] for results on the barotropic climate model.

It was recently reported that reservoir computing, a braininspired machine-learning framework that employs a datadriven dynamical system, is effective in the inference of a future such as time series, frequency spectra, and Lyapunov spectra [12–18]. Pathak *et al.* [15] exemplified using the Lorenz system and the Kuramoto-Sivashinsky system that the model obtained by reservoir computing can generate an arbitrarily long time series whose Lyapunov exponents approximate those of the input signal.

A reservoir is a recurrent neural network whose internal parameters are not adjusted to fit the data in the training process. What is done is to train the reservoir by feeding it an input time series and fitting a linear function of the reservoir state variables to a desired output time series. Due to this approach of reservoir computing, we can save a great amount of computational costs, which enables us to deal with a complex deterministic behavior. The framework was proposed as echo-state networks [19,20] and liquid-state machines [21].

It is known that an inference of a fluid flow is difficult but important in both physical and industrial aspects. In this paper, we infer variables of a chaotic fluid flow by applying the method of reservoir computing without prior knowledge of the physical process.

After introducing the method of reservoir computing in Sec. II and a fluid flow in Sec. III, we explain how to apply the method to the inference of fluid variables, and we show that inferences of both microscopic and macroscopic behaviors are successful in Secs. IV and V, respectively. In Sec. VI, we exemplify that a time-series inference of high-dimensional dynamics is possible by using delay coordinates, even when the number of measurements is smaller than the Lyapunov dimension of the attractor. Discussions and remarks are given in Sec. VII.

II. RESERVOIR COMPUTING

Reservoir computing was recently used in the inference of complex dynamics [14–17,22]. Its focus is the determination of a translation matrix from reservoir state variables to variables to be inferred [see Eq. (4)]. Here we review the outline of the method [14,20]. We consider a dynamical system

$$\frac{d\phi}{dt} = \mathbf{f}(\phi)$$

together with a pair of ϕ -dependent, vector valued variables

$$\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{h}_1(\phi) \in \mathbb{R}^M$$
 and $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{h}_2(\phi) \in \mathbb{R}^P$.

We seek a method for using the continued knowledge of \mathbf{u} to determine an estimate of \mathbf{s} as a function of time when direct

The dynamics of the reservoir state vector

$$\mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^N \ (N \gg M)$$

is defined by

$$\mathbf{r}(t + \Delta t) = (1 - \alpha)\mathbf{r}(t) + \alpha \tanh[\mathbf{A}\mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{W}_{\mathrm{in}}\mathbf{u}(t)], \quad (1)$$

where Δt is a relatively short time step. The matrix **A** is a weighted adjacency matrix of the reservoir layer, and the *M*-dimensional input **u**(*t*) is fed into the *N* reservoir nodes via a linear input weight matrix denoted by **W**_{in}. The parameter α ($0 < \alpha \leq 1$) in Eq. (1) adjusts the nonlinearity of the dynamics of **r**, and it is chosen depending upon the complexity of the dynamics of measurements and the time step Δt .

Each row of \mathbf{W}_{in} has one nonzero element, chosen from a uniform distribution on $[-\sigma, \sigma]$. The matrix \mathbf{A} is chosen from a sparse random matrix in which the fraction of nonzero matrix elements is $(D_1 + D_2)/N$, so that the average degree of a reservoir node is $D_1 + D_2$. The D_1 nonzero components are chosen from a uniform distribution on [-1, 1], and D_2 from that on $[-\gamma, \gamma]$ for $\gamma (\ll 1)$, where D_2 nonzero components are introduced to reflect weak couplings among components of \mathbf{r} . Then we uniformly rescale all the elements of \mathbf{A} so that the largest value of the magnitudes of its eigenvalues becomes ρ .

The output, which is a P-dimensional vector, is taken to be a linear function of the reservoir state \mathbf{r} :

$$\hat{\mathbf{s}}(t) = \mathbf{W}_{\text{out}}\mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{c}.$$
(2)

The reservoir state **r** evolves following Eq. (1) with input **u**(*t*), starting from a random initial state $\mathbf{r}(-\tau)$ whose elements are chosen from (0, 1] in order not to diverge, where $\tau/\Delta t \ (\gg 1)$ is the transient time. We obtain $L = T/\Delta t$ steps of reservoir states $\{\mathbf{r}(l\Delta t)\}_{l=1}^{L}$ by Eq. (1). Moreover, we record the actual measurements of the state variables $\{\mathbf{s}(l\Delta t)\}_{l=1}^{L}$.

We train the network by determining \mathbf{W}_{out} and \mathbf{c} so that the reservoir output approximates the measurement for $0 < t \leq T$ (training phase), which is the main part of this computation. We do this by minimizing the following quadratic form with respect to \mathbf{W}_{out} and \mathbf{c} :

$$\sum_{l=1}^{L} \| [\mathbf{W}_{\text{out}} \mathbf{r}(l\Delta t) + \mathbf{c}] - \mathbf{s}(l\Delta t) \|^2 + \beta [\text{Tr}(\mathbf{W}_{\text{out}} \mathbf{W}_{\text{out}}^T)], \quad (3)$$

where $\|\mathbf{q}\|^2 = \mathbf{q}^T \mathbf{q}$ for a vector \mathbf{q} , and the second term is a regularization term introduced to avoid overfitting \mathbf{W}_{out} for $\beta \ge 0$. When the training is successful, $\hat{\mathbf{s}}(t)$ should approximate the desired unmeasured quantity $\mathbf{s}(t)$ for t > T (inference phase). Following Eq. (2), we obtain

$$\hat{\mathbf{s}}(t) = \mathbf{W}_{\text{out}}^* \mathbf{r}(t) + c^*, \tag{4}$$

where $\mathbf{W}_{\text{out}}^*$ and c^* denote the solutions for the minimizers of the quadratic form (3) (see [23], p. 140 for details):

$$\mathbf{W}_{\text{out}}^* = \delta \mathbf{S} \delta \mathbf{R}^T (\delta \mathbf{R} \delta \mathbf{R}^T + \beta \mathbf{I})^{-1},$$

$$c^* = -[\mathbf{W}_{\text{out}}^* \overline{\mathbf{r}} - \overline{\mathbf{s}}],$$

where $\bar{r} = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \mathbf{r}(l\Delta t)/L$, $\bar{s} = \sum_{l=1}^{L} \mathbf{s}(l\Delta t)/L$, \mathbf{I} is the $N \times N$ identity matrix, and $\delta \mathbf{R}$ ($\delta \mathbf{S}$) is the matrix whose *l*th column is $\mathbf{r}(l\Delta t) - \bar{r} [\mathbf{s}(l\Delta t) - \bar{s}]$.

To consider the effect of all the variables equally, we take the normalized value $\tilde{X}(t)$ for each variable X(t), which will be used throughout the whole procedure of our reservoir computing:

$$\tilde{X}(t) = [X(t) - X_1]/X_2$$

where X_1 is the mean value and X_2 is the variance. When we reconstruct X(t) in the inference phase from $\tilde{X}(t)$, we employ X_1 and X_2 obtained in the training phase. Due to the normalization, we can avoid adjustments of σ .

III. FLUID FLOW

To generate measurements of the reservoir computing, we employ the direct numerical simulation of the incompressible three-dimensional Navier-Stokes equation under periodic boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t v - v \Delta v + (\boldsymbol{v} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla}) v + \boldsymbol{\nabla} \pi &= f, \ \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \boldsymbol{v} = \boldsymbol{0}, \ \mathbb{T}^3 \times (0, \infty), \\ v|_{t=0} &= v_0 \quad \text{with } \boldsymbol{\nabla} \cdot \boldsymbol{v}_0 = \boldsymbol{0}, \quad \mathbb{T}^3, \end{aligned}$$

where $\mathbb{T} = [0, 2\pi)$, $\nu > 0$ is the viscosity parameter, $\pi(x, t)$ is the pressure, and $\nu(x, t) = (\nu_1(x, t), \nu_2(x, t), \nu_3(x, t))$ is the velocity. We use the Fourier spectral method [24] with $N_0(=9)$ modes in each direction, meaning that the system is approximated by $2(2N_0 + 1)^3$ (= 13718)-dimensional ordinary differential equations (ODEs). The ODEs are integrated by the fourth-order Runge-Kutta method, and the forcing is input into the low-frequency variables at each time step so as to preserve the energy of the low-frequency part. That is, both the real and the imaginary parts of the Fourier coefficient of the vorticity ω (= rot ν),

$$\mathcal{F}_{[\omega_{\zeta}]}(\kappa,t) := \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} \omega_{\zeta}(x,t) e^{-i(\kappa \cdot x)} dx,$$

are kept constant for $\zeta = 1, 2, \kappa = (1, 0, 0), (0, 1, 0)$. We use an initial condition, which has energy only in the low-frequency variables. See [24] for the details.

IV. PARTIAL INFERENCE OF MICROSCOPIC VARIABLES: FOURIER VARIABLES OF VELOCITY

We consider the absolute value of Fourier variables of velocity $\mathcal{F}_{[v_{\zeta}]}(\kappa, t)$ as the representative microscopic variables:

$$a_{\eta}(t) = \left| \mathcal{F}_{[v_{\zeta}]}(\kappa, t) \right| := \left| \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathbb{T}^3} v_{\zeta}(x, t) e^{-i(\kappa \cdot x)} dx \right|, \quad (5)$$

where $\eta = (\zeta, \kappa) \in S_0 := \{(\zeta, \kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 | \zeta \in \{1, 2, 3\}, \kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3 \in [-N_0, N_0]\}$. Since v is real, $a_{(\cdot,\kappa_1,\kappa_2,\kappa_3)} = a_{(\cdot,-\kappa_1,-\kappa_2,-\kappa_3)}$. The reason why we take the absolute value in Eq. (5) is to kill the rotational invariance of a complex variable and to make an inference possible. We choose a chaotic parameter v = 0.05862, and we set $\mathbf{u}(t)$ as the time series of M = 270 Fourier variables \tilde{a}_η , where $\eta \in S := \{(2, \pm \kappa_1, \kappa_2, \kappa_3) \in \mathbb{Z}^4 | 1 \leq \kappa_1 \leq N_0, \kappa_1 \leq \kappa_2 \leq \kappa_3 \leq \kappa_1 + 4\}$ and each component is taken mod N_0 , that is,

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = (\{\tilde{a}_{\eta}\}_{\eta \in S})^{t}.$$

TABLE I. Sets of parameters for our reservoir computing. Set (a) is used for the partial inference of microscopic Fourier variables, whereas set (b) is for the full inference of macroscopic variables of energy functions and the energy spectrum, and set (c) is for the full inference from only one measurement.

	Parameter	(a)	(b)	(c)
τ	transient time	1000	2500	2350
Т	training time	10 000	20 000	20 000
М	dimension of measurements	270	9	36
Р	dimension of inferred variables	2	9	36
Ν	number of reservoir nodes	6400	3200	3200
D_1	parameter of determining elements of A	60	320	120
D_2	parameter of determining elements of A	60	0	0
γ	scale of input weights in A	0.1	0	0
ρ	maximal eigenvalue of A	1.0	0.5	0.5
σ	scale of input weights in W _{in}	0.4	0.3	0.5
α	nonlinearity degree of reservoir dynamics	0.7	0.3	0.4
Δt	time step for reservoir dynamics	0.1	0.25	0.5
β	regularization parameter	0	0.01	0.1

We also set

$$\mathbf{s}(t) = (\tilde{a}_{(1,3,3,3)}, \tilde{a}_{(1,2,3,4)})^t,$$

where (1, 3, 3, 3), $(1, 2, 3, 4) \notin S$. Under the set of parameters in Table I, column (a), we infer the time series s(t), which is successful for quite a long time (see Fig. 1).

The choice of variables to be trained is not very significant in this study, because the attractor does not show a homogeneous isotropic turbulence, and it has fewer symmetries. We can see from the Poincaré section of the microscopic variables that the flow is not isotropic, and indeterminacy in inference due to the continuous symmetry does not appear. However, by training variables with different types of behaviors, we can construct a reservoir model with less computational cost with a lower dimension N of the reservoir system. In fact, we confirmed that we can infer some other fluid variables including both low-frequency and high-frequency variables from some other training variables. We found that an inference of a high-frequency variable tends to be more difficult, maybe because of the stronger intermittency. Note that D_2 is useful to represent nonlocal relatively weak interactions among microscopic variables in the partial inference.

V. FULL INFERENCE OF MACROSCOPIC VARIABLES: ENERGY FUNCTION AND ENERGY SPECTRUM

We study an energy function as the representative of a macroscopic variable. We set v = 0.058 for which the flow is more turbulent than the previous case. However, the complexity of the dynamics is much less than that for a microscopic variable for the same viscosity. This is because the energy function can be thought of as an averaged quantity of many microscopic variables. The energy function $E_0(k, t)$ for wave number $k \in \mathbb{N}$ is defined by

$$E_0(k,t) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{D_k} \sum_{\zeta=1}^3 |\mathcal{F}_{[\nu_{\zeta}]}(\kappa,t)|^2 d\kappa,$$





FIG. 1. Partial inference of time series of microscopic variables in Fourier space of a fluid flow. Fourier variables $\tilde{a}_{\eta_1=(1,3,3,3)}$ (top) and $\tilde{a}_{\eta_2=(1,2,3,4)}$ (bottom) are inferred by using measured variables \tilde{a}_{η} for $\eta \in S$ as well as the past time-series data for all the measured variables \tilde{a}_{η} for $\eta \in S \cup \{\eta_1, \eta_2\}$. We can observe that the inferred time series almost coincide with the actual ones obtained by the direct numerical simulation of the Navier-Stokes equation even after a sufficiently long time has passed since the training phase finished. The inference errors in l^1 -norm averaged over $t - T \in [0, 2000]$ are 1.8% and 3.5% for \tilde{a}_{η_1} and \tilde{a}_{η_2} , respectively.

where $D_k := \{\kappa \in \mathbb{Z}^3 | k - 0.5 \leq |\kappa| < k + 0.5\}$. See Eq. (5) for the expression of $\mathcal{F}_{[v_{\zeta}]}(\kappa, t)$. To get rid of the high-frequency fluctuation, we take the short-time average

$$E(k, t) = \sum_{s=t-99\Delta s}^{t} E_0(k, s) / 100,$$

where $\Delta s = 0.05$ is the time step of the integration of the Navier-Stokes equation. This helps us to obtain essential low-frequency dynamics of an energy function and infer its time series with less computational cost with a lower dimension N of the reservoir vectors. The averaged energy function E(k, t) will be called an energy function hereafter.

In the training phase for $t \in (0, T]$, \mathbf{W}_{out}^* and c^* are determined by setting

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = (\tilde{E}(1, t), \tilde{E}(2, t), \dots, \tilde{E}(9, t))^{t},$$

$$\mathbf{s}(t) = (\tilde{E}(1, t), \tilde{E}(2, t), \dots, \tilde{E}(9, t))^{t},$$

and by following the same procedure as the partial inference. In the inference phase for t > T, Eq. (1) is written as

$$\mathbf{r}(t + \Delta t) = (1 - \alpha)\mathbf{r}(t) + \alpha \tanh[\mathbf{A}\mathbf{r}(t) + \mathbf{W}_{in}\mathbf{\hat{s}}(t)]$$

by setting $\mathbf{u}(t)$ as

$$\hat{\mathbf{s}}(t) = (\hat{\tilde{E}}(1,t), \hat{\tilde{E}}(2,t), \dots, \hat{\tilde{E}}(9,t))^{t}$$

obtained from Eq. (4). A set of parameters employed here is shown in Table I, column (b).

We found that an inference of energy functions is successful for some time after finishing training nine-dimensional timeseries data of energy functions. The two cases for $\tilde{E}(4, t)$ and $\tilde{E}(9, t)$ are shown in Fig. 2 (top and middle). The failure in the long-term time-series inference is inevitable just due to the sensitive dependence on the initial condition of a chaotic property of the fluid flow. In fact, the growth rate of error in the energy functions is shown to be exponential for $t - T \lesssim 100$ in Fig. 2 (bottom). However, the energy spectrum $\overline{E}(k) = \langle E(k, t) \rangle$, the time average of an energy function E(k, t), can be reproduced from the inferred timeseries data for 1000 < t - T < 2000 (Fig. 3). This implies that the reservoir system constructed without the knowledge of microscopic variables captures the statistical property correctly, and that the obtained system can be understood as a chaotic dynamical system describing a behavior of energy functions.

VI. FULL INFERENCE OF A MACROSCOPIC VARIABLE FROM ONLY ONE MEASUREMENT USING DELAY COORDINATES

In various experiments and observations of highdimensional complex phenomena, there is usually a much smaller number of measurements than the Lyapunov dimensions of the attractor. Even in such cases we can infer time-series data by generating high-dimensional input data \mathbf{u} for the reservoir computation through the delay-coordinate embedding method [25,26].

Here we exemplify a full inference of an energy function E(4, t) for the same flow as in Sec. V by assuming that the accessible measurement is limited to only one variable E(4, t) among nine measurements E(k, t) (k = 1, ..., 9) used in Sec. V. To overcome the lack of a sufficiently large number of measurements, we introduce a 36-dimensional delay-coordinate function with a time delay $\Delta \tau = 2.5$, that is,

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = (\tilde{E}(4, t), \tilde{E}(4, t - \Delta\tau), \dots, \tilde{E}(4, t - 35\Delta\tau))^t, \mathbf{s}(t) = (\tilde{E}(4, t), \tilde{E}(4, t - \Delta\tau), \dots, \tilde{E}(4, t - 35\Delta\tau))^t.$$

An inferred time series of $\tilde{E}(4, t)$ is shown in Fig. 4, which is as successful as the case when there are nine measurements in Fig. 2 (top). A set of parameters employed here is shown in Table I, column (c).

VII. DISCUSSION AND REMARKS

We have succeeded in inferring time series of both microscopic and macroscopic variables of a three-dimensional fluid flow by the machine-learning technique using reservoir



FIG. 2. Full inference of time series of macroscopic variables of a fluid flow. Time series of energy function $\tilde{E}(k, t)$ for k = 4 (top) and 9 (middle) are inferred from the reservoir system in comparison with that of reference data obtained by direct numerical simulation of the Navier-Stokes equation. The inference error defined by $\varepsilon(t) =$ $\sum_{k=1}^{N_0} |\tilde{E}(k, t) - \hat{E}(k, t)| / N_0$ ($N_0 = 9$) is shown to grow exponentially with time up to t - T = 100 (bottom), which is inevitable for a chaotic behavior of a fluid flow. The growth of error within a short time depends a great deal on the direction of the perturbation vector $\{\tilde{E}(\cdot, T + \Delta t) - \hat{E}(\cdot, T + \Delta t)\}$, and its slope can vary in different settings.



FIG. 3. Energy spectrum $\overline{E}(k)$ reproduced from the reservoir computing. The spectrum is obtained from the full inference of an energy function E(k, t), which is compared with that for reference data obtained by the direct numerical simulation of the Navier-Stokes equation. The coincidence of the two energy spectra implies that the reservoir system captures the dynamics of a fluid flow in a statistical sense, even after the time-series inference has failed due to the chaotic property (see Fig. 2). The Kolmogorov -5/3 law of the energy spectrum is shown as a reference. The relative error of the inferred variable $\overline{\hat{E}}(k)$ from $\overline{E}(k)$ (k = 1, ..., 9) is up to 1.3%.

computing. The method is especially useful in generating arbitrarily long time-series data of macroscopic variables as well as a statistical property with small computational costs. That is, in order to generate time-series data of a macroscopic variable of a fluid flow, we do not need to refer to microscopic behaviors. It takes roughly 1/80 of the time to obtain a time series of the energy functions E(k) with the same time lengths when we use the model constructed by the reservoir computation. The Navier-Stokes equation is calculated by 13718-dimensional ODEs with the four-stage Runge-Kutta method (time step 0.05), whereas the model is calculated by a 3200-dimensional map whose iterate corresponds to the time step 0.25.

The difficulty in the construction of a reservoir model can vary, mainly depending on the viscosity ν . As the degree of turbulence increases by decreasing ν , a longer training time T and a higher dimension N of the reservoir state vector $\mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{R}^N$ are required. However, for macroscopic variables the construction is relatively easy, even when the flow is turbulent, because the degree of instability of a macroscopic behavior is relatively low in comparison with that of a microscopic behavior.

It is expected that our procedure will work, even if a high-frequency noise is added to the training data, because even in our current computation we have applied a low-pass filter for the inference of macroscopic variables. Although our approach focuses on constructing a model for a fluid flow with a fixed parameter ν , it will be very interesting to consider a framework of the construction of a model with a parameter.

When we perform a numerical computation of the Navier-Stokes equation, we employ some discretized expressions using the Fourier spectrum method, the finite-difference



FIG. 4. Full inference of a macroscopic variable using the delay coordinates of only one measurement. We infer an energy function $\tilde{E}(4, t)$ for the same time range as in Fig. 2 (top) from only one measurement $\tilde{E}(4, t)$. The inferred time series of $\tilde{E}(4, t)$ is shown together with reference data obtained by the direct numerical simulation of the Navier-Stokes equation (top). Errors for the inference $\varepsilon_1(t) = \sum_{n=0}^{35} |\tilde{E}(4, t - n\Delta\tau) - \hat{E}(4, t - n\Delta\tau)|^2/36$ and $\varepsilon_2(t) = |\tilde{E}(4, t) - \hat{E}(4, t)|$ are shown (bottom).

method, and the finite-element method. The obtained reservoir system constructed from data can be understood as one such expression, describing the macroscopic (or microscopic) dynamics of a fluid flow.

It is known that there is a difficulty in obtaining a closedform equation of macroscopic behavior of a fluid flow from the Navier-Stokes equation analytically, a so-called "closure problem." That is, in order to express the dynamics of the *n*th moment variables, the (n + 1)th moment variables are required for any positive integer *n*. Our study on the data-driven modeling may give us insights into this kind of problem. For a relatively large value of ν considered in our paper, $\{E(k)\}_{k=1}^{K}$ seems to be enough to represent the dynamics of E(k), whereas $\{E(k)\}_{k=1}^{K}$ will not be enough for the more turbulent case with a smaller value of ν , even if *K* is chosen large enough. In such a case, time-delay variables can be used to generate high-dimensional input data such as those used in Sec. VI.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank the anonymous referees for a critical reading of the manuscript, and for giving us some insightful comments to improve our paper. K.N. was supported by the Leading Graduate Course for Frontiers of Mathematical

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Sciences and Physics (FMSP) at the University of Tokyo by JSPS. Y.S. was supported by the JSPS KAKENHI Grant No. 17K05360 and JST PRESTO JPMJPR16E5. Part of the computation was supported by the Collaborative Research Program for Young Women Scientists of ACCMS and IIMC, Kyoto University.

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