

From the Manhattan Project to Number Theory: How Nuclear Physics Helps Us Understand Primes

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https://web.williams.edu/Mathematics/sjmiller/public_html/

Math Club at U(M), January 21, 2021

Introduction

Research Experiences for Undergraduates

Williams College SMALL REU:

Deadline Wednesday February 3rd:

5pm US Eastern: [https:](https://math.williams.edu/small/)

[//math.williams.edu/small/](https://math.williams.edu/small/)

Polymath Jr: Deadline April 1st: 5pm

US Eastern: [https://geometrynyc.](https://geometrynyc.wixsite.com/polymathreu)

[wixsite.com/polymathreu](https://geometrynyc.wixsite.com/polymathreu)

Fundamental Problem: Spacing Between Events

General Formulation: Studying system, observe values at $t_1, t_2, t_3, \dots$

Question: What rules govern the spacings between the t_i ?

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- Energy Levels of Nuclei.
- Eigenvalues of Matrices.
- Zeros of L -functions.
- Summands in Zeckendorf Decompositions.
- Primes.
- $n^k \alpha \bmod 1$.

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Sketch of proofs

In studying many statistics, often three key steps:

- 1 Determine correct scale for events.
- 2 Develop an explicit formula relating what we want to study to something we understand.
- 3 Use an averaging formula to analyze the quantities above.

It is not always trivial to figure out what is the correct statistic to study!

Background Material: Linear Algebra

Eigenvalue, Eigenvector

Say $\vec{v} \neq \vec{0}$ is an eigenvector of A with eigenvalue λ if $A\vec{v} = \lambda\vec{v}$.

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Example:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 3 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} = -1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Background Material: Probability

Probability Density

A random variable X has a probability density $p(x)$ if

- $p(x) \geq 0$;
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p(x) dx = 1$;
- $\text{Prob}(X \in [a, b]) = \int_a^b p(x) dx$.

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Examples:

- ① Exponential: $p(x) = e^{-x/\lambda}/\lambda$ for $x \geq 0$;
- ② Normal: $p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} e^{-(x-\mu)^2/2\sigma^2}$;
- ③ Uniform: $p(x) = \frac{1}{b-a}$ for $a \leq x \leq b$ and 0 otherwise.

Background Material: Probability (cont)

Key Concepts

- Mean (average value): $\mu = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xp(x)dx$.

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Background Material: Probability (cont)

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- Mean (average value): $\mu = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} xp(x)dx.$
- Variance (how spread out): $\sigma^2 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 p(x)dx.$
- k^{th} moment: $\mu_k = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^k p(x)dx.$

Background Material: Probability (cont)

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- k^{th} moment: $\mu_k = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^k p(x)dx.$

Key observation

As a nice function is given by its Taylor series, a nice probability density is determined by its moments.

Classical Random Matrix Theory

Origins of Random Matrix Theory

Classical Mechanics: 3 Body Problem Intractable.

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Get some info by shooting high-energy neutrons into nucleus, see what comes out.

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Fundamental Equation:

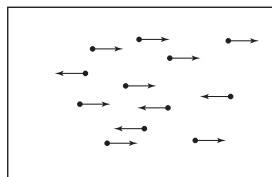
$$H\psi_n = E_n\psi_n$$

H : matrix, entries depend on system

E_n : energy levels

ψ_n : energy eigenfunctions

Origins (continued)



- Statistical Mechanics: for each configuration, calculate quantity (say pressure).
- Average over all configurations – most configurations close to system average.
- Nuclear physics: choose matrix at random, calculate eigenvalues, average over matrices (real Symmetric $A = A^T$, complex Hermitian $\bar{A}^T = A$).

Random Matrix Ensembles

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} & \cdots & a_{1N} \\ a_{12} & a_{22} & a_{23} & \cdots & a_{2N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{1N} & a_{2N} & a_{3N} & \cdots & a_{NN} \end{pmatrix} = A^T, \quad a_{ij} = a_{ji}$$

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Fix p , define

$$\text{Prob}(A) = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq N} p(a_{ij}).$$

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Fix p , define

$$\text{Prob}(A) = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq N} p(a_{ij}).$$

This means

$$\text{Prob}(A : a_{ij} \in [\alpha_{ij}, \beta_{ij}]) = \prod_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq N} \int_{\alpha_{ij}}^{\beta_{ij}} p(x_{ij}) dx_{ij}.$$

Eigenvalue Trace Lemma

Want to understand the eigenvalues of A , but it is the matrix elements that are chosen randomly and independently.

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Eigenvalue Trace Lemma

Let A be an $N \times N$ matrix with eigenvalues $\lambda_i(A)$. Then

$$\text{Trace}(A^k) = \sum_{n=1}^N \lambda_i(A)^k,$$

where

$$\text{Trace}(A^k) = \sum_{i_1=1}^N \cdots \sum_{i_k=1}^N a_{i_1 i_2} a_{i_2 i_3} \cdots a_{i_N i_1}.$$

Eigenvalue Distribution

$\delta(x - x_0)$ is a unit point mass at x_0 :

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) \delta(x - x_0) dx = f(x_0).$$

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To each A , attach a probability measure:

$$\mu_{A,N}(x) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta\left(x - \frac{\lambda_i(A)}{2\sqrt{N}}\right)$$

$$\int_a^b \mu_{A,N}(x) dx = \frac{\#\left\{\lambda_i : \frac{\lambda_i(A)}{2\sqrt{N}} \in [a, b]\right\}}{N}$$

$$k^{\text{th}} \text{ moment} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i(A)^k}{2^k N^{\frac{k}{2}+1}} = \frac{\text{Trace}(A^k)}{2^k N^{\frac{k}{2}+1}}.$$

Density of States

Wigner's Semi-Circle Law

Wigner's Semi-Circle Law

$N \times N$ real symmetric matrices, entries i.i.d.r.v. from a fixed $p(x)$ with mean 0, variance 1, and other moments finite. Then for almost all A , as $N \rightarrow \infty$

$$\mu_{A,N}(x) \longrightarrow \begin{cases} \frac{2}{\pi} \sqrt{1-x^2} & \text{if } |x| \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

SKETCH OF PROOF: Correct Scale

$$\text{Trace}(A^2) = \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i(A)^2.$$

By the Central Limit Theorem:

$$\text{Trace}(A^2) = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij} a_{ji} = \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij}^2 \sim N^2$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i(A)^2 \sim N^2$$

Gives $N \text{Ave}(\lambda_i(A)^2) \sim N^2$ or $\text{Ave}(\lambda_i(A)) \sim \sqrt{N}$.

SKETCH OF PROOF: Averaging Formula

Recall k -th moment of $\mu_{A,N}(x)$ is $\text{Trace}(A^k)/2^k N^{k/2+1}$.

Average k -th moment is

$$\int \cdots \int \frac{\text{Trace}(A^k)}{2^k N^{k/2+1}} \prod_{i \leq j} p(a_{ij}) da_{ij}.$$

Proof by method of moments: Two steps

- Show average of k -th moments converge to moments of semi-circle as $N \rightarrow \infty$;
- Control variance (show it tends to zero as $N \rightarrow \infty$).

SKETCH OF PROOF: Averaging Formula for Second Moment

Substituting into expansion gives

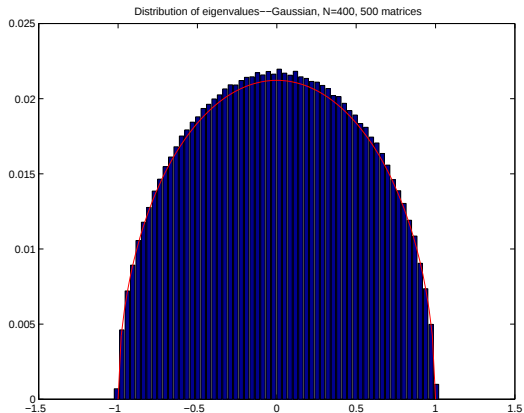
$$\frac{1}{2^2 N^2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N a_{ij}^2 \cdot p(a_{11}) da_{11} \cdots p(a_{NN}) da_{NN}$$

Integration factors as

$$\int_{a_{ij}=-\infty}^{\infty} a_{ij}^2 p(a_{ij}) da_{ij} \cdot \prod_{\substack{(k,l) \neq (i,j) \\ k < l}} \int_{a_{kl}=-\infty}^{\infty} p(a_{kl}) da_{kl} = 1.$$

Higher moments involve more advanced combinatorics (Catalan numbers).

Numerical example: Gaussian density

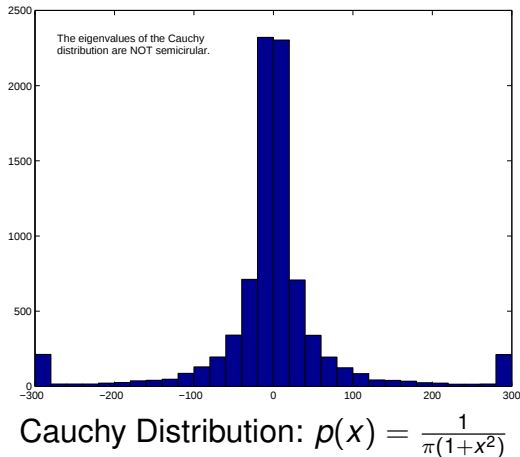


500 Matrices: Gaussian 400×400

$$p(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2}$$

Numerical example: Cauchy density $p(x) = 1/(\pi(1+x^2))$

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Real Symmetric Toeplitz Matrices

Chris Hammond and Steven J. Miller

CH: Undergraduate at **The Ohio State University**,
Graduate Student at **Michigan**

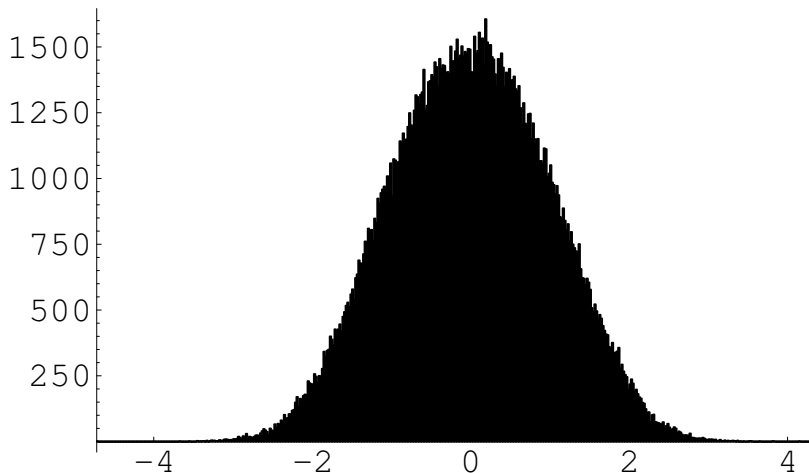
Toeplitz Ensembles

Toeplitz matrix is of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & \cdots & b_{N-1} \\ b_{-1} & b_0 & b_1 & \cdots & b_{N-2} \\ b_{-2} & b_{-1} & b_0 & \cdots & b_{N-3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_{1-N} & b_{2-N} & b_{3-N} & \cdots & b_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Will consider Real Symmetric Toeplitz matrices.
- Main diagonal zero, $N - 1$ independent parameters.
- Normalize Eigenvalues by $\sqrt{N}$.

Numerical Observations: Thoughts?



Eigenvalue Density Measure

$$\mu_{A,N}(x)dx = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta \left(x - \frac{\lambda_i(A)}{\sqrt{N}} \right) dx.$$

The k^{th} moment of $\mu_{A,N}(x)$ is

$$M_k(A, N) = \frac{1}{N^{\frac{k}{2}+1}} \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i^k(A) = \frac{\text{Trace}(A^k)}{N^{\frac{k}{2}+1}}.$$

Let

$$M_k = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbb{E}_A [M_k(A, N)];$$

have $M_2 = 1$ and $M_{2k+1} = 0$.

Even Moments

$$M_{2k}(N) = \frac{1}{N^{k+1}} \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_{2k} \leq N} \mathbb{E}(b_{|i_1 - i_2|} b_{|i_2 - i_3|} \cdots b_{|i_{2k} - i_1|}).$$

Main Term: b_j 's matched in pairs, say

$$b_{|i_m - i_{m+1}|} = b_{|i_n - i_{n+1}|}, \quad x_m = |i_m - i_{m+1}| = |i_n - i_{n+1}|.$$

Two possibilities:

$$i_m - i_{m+1} = i_n - i_{n+1} \quad \text{or} \quad i_m - i_{m+1} = -(i_n - i_{n+1}).$$

$(2k - 1)!!$ ways to pair, 2^k choices of sign.

Main Term: All Signs Negative (else lower order contribution)

$$M_{2k}(N) = \frac{1}{N^{k+1}} \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_{2k} \leq N} \mathbb{E}(b_{|i_1 - i_2|} b_{|i_2 - i_3|} \cdots b_{|i_{2k} - i_1|}).$$

Let $x_1, \dots, x_k$ be the values of the $|i_j - i_{j+1}|$'s, $\epsilon_1, \dots, \epsilon_k$ the choices of sign. Define $\tilde{x}_1 = i_1 - i_2$, $\tilde{x}_2 = i_2 - i_3, \dots$

$$i_2 = i_1 - \tilde{x}_1$$

$$i_3 = i_1 - \tilde{x}_1 - \tilde{x}_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$i_1 = i_1 - \tilde{x}_1 - \cdots - \tilde{x}_{2k}$$

$$\tilde{x}_1 + \cdots + \tilde{x}_{2k} = \sum_{j=1}^k (1 + \epsilon_j) \eta_j x_j = 0, \quad \eta_j = \pm 1.$$

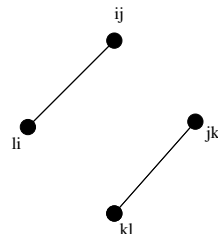
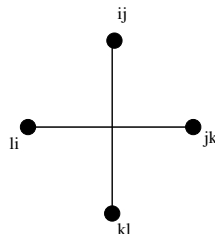
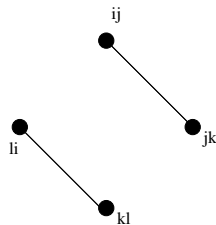
Even Moments: Summary

Main Term: paired, all signs negative.

$$M_{2k}(N) \leq (2k-1)!! + O_k\left(\frac{1}{N}x\right).$$

Bounded by Gaussian.

The Fourth Moment



$$M_4(N) = \frac{1}{N^3} \sum_{1 \leq i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \leq N} \mathbb{E}(b_{|i_1 - i_2|} b_{|i_2 - i_3|} b_{|i_3 - i_4|} b_{|i_4 - i_1|})$$

Let $x_j = |i_j - i_{j+1}|$.

The Fourth Moment

Case One: $x_1 = x_2, x_3 = x_4$:

$$i_1 - i_2 = -(i_2 - i_3) \quad \text{and} \quad i_3 - i_4 = -(i_4 - i_1).$$

Implies

$$i_1 = i_3, \quad i_2 \text{ and } i_4 \text{ arbitrary.}$$

Left with $\mathbb{E}[b_{x_1}^2 b_{x_3}^2]$:

$$N^3 - N \text{ times get } 1, \quad N \text{ times get } p_4 = \mathbb{E}[b_{x_1}^4].$$

Contributes 1 in the limit.

The Fourth Moment

$$M_4(N) = \frac{1}{N^3} \sum_{1 \leq i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \leq N} \mathbb{E}(b_{|i_1 - i_2|} b_{|i_2 - i_3|} b_{|i_3 - i_4|} b_{|i_4 - i_1|})$$

Case Two: Diophantine Obstruction: $x_1 = x_3$ and $x_2 = x_4$.

$$i_1 - i_2 = -(i_3 - i_4) \quad \text{and} \quad i_2 - i_3 = -(i_4 - i_1).$$

This yields

$$i_1 = i_2 + i_4 - i_3, \quad i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4 \in \{1, \dots, N\}.$$

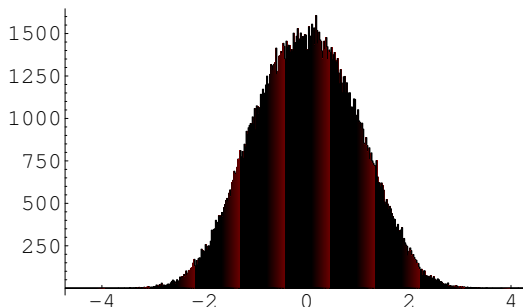
If $i_2, i_4 \geq \frac{2N}{3}$ and $i_3 < \frac{N}{3}$, $i_1 > N$: at most $(1 - \frac{1}{27})N^3$ valid choices.

The Fourth Moment

Theorem: Fourth Moment: Let p_4 be the fourth moment of p . Then

$$M_4(N) = 2\frac{2}{3} + O_{p_4}\left(\frac{1}{N}\right).$$

500 Toeplitz Matrices, 400×400 .



Main Result

Theorem: HM '05

For real symmetric Toeplitz matrices, the limiting spectral measure converges in probability to a unique measure of unbounded support which is not the Gaussian. If p is even have strong convergence).

Massey, Miller and Sinsheimer '07 proved that if first row is a palindrome converges to a Gaussian.

Block Circulant Ensemble

With Murat Koloğlu, Gene Kopp (graduate student
[Michigan](#)), Fred Strauch and Wentao Xiong.

The Ensemble of m -Block Circulant Matrices

Symmetric matrices periodic with period m on wrapped diagonals, i.e., symmetric block circulant matrices.

8-by-8 real symmetric 2-block circulant matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_0 & c_1 & \color{red}{c_2} & c_3 & c_4 & d_3 & c_2 & d_1 \\ c_1 & d_0 & d_1 & \color{blue}{d_2} & d_3 & d_4 & c_3 & d_2 \\ \hline c_2 & d_1 & c_0 & c_1 & \color{red}{c_2} & c_3 & c_4 & d_3 \\ c_3 & d_2 & c_1 & d_0 & d_1 & \color{blue}{d_2} & d_3 & d_4 \\ \hline c_4 & d_3 & c_2 & d_1 & c_0 & c_1 & \color{red}{c_2} & c_3 \\ d_3 & d_4 & c_3 & d_2 & c_1 & d_0 & d_1 & \color{blue}{d_2} \\ \hline \color{red}{c_2} & c_3 & c_4 & d_3 & c_2 & d_1 & c_0 & c_1 \\ d_1 & \color{blue}{d_2} & d_3 & d_4 & c_3 & d_2 & c_1 & d_0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Choose distinct entries i.i.d.r.v.

Oriented Matchings and Dualization

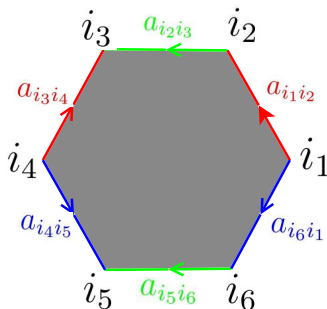
Compute moments of eigenvalue distribution (as m stays fixed and $N \rightarrow \infty$) using the combinatorics of pairings.

Rewrite:

$$\begin{aligned} M_n(N) &= \frac{1}{N^{\frac{n}{2}+1}} \sum_{1 \leq i_1, \dots, i_n \leq N} \mathbb{E}(a_{i_1 i_2} a_{i_2 i_3} \cdots a_{i_n i_1}) \\ &= \frac{1}{N^{\frac{n}{2}+1}} \sum_{\sim} \eta(\sim) m_{d_1(\sim)} \cdots m_{d_l(\sim)}. \end{aligned}$$

where the sum is over oriented matchings on the edges $\{(1, 2), (2, 3), \dots, (n, 1)\}$ of a regular n -gon.

Oriented Matchings and Dualization

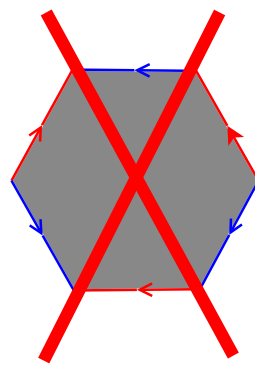
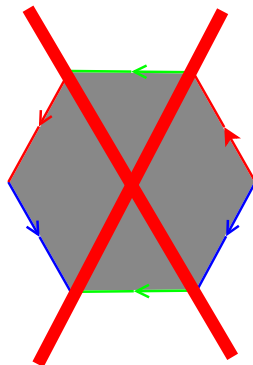
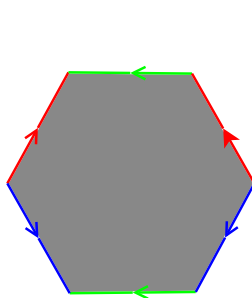


$$\left(\begin{array}{cc|cc|cc|cc} c_0 & \textcolor{red}{c_1} & c_2 & c_3 & c_4 & d_3 & c_2 & d_1 \\ c_1 & d_0 & d_1 & \textcolor{green}{d_2} & d_3 & d_4 & c_3 & d_2 \\ \hline c_2 & d_1 & c_0 & c_1 & c_2 & c_3 & c_4 & \textcolor{blue}{d_3} \\ c_3 & d_2 & \textcolor{red}{c_1} & d_0 & d_1 & d_2 & d_3 & d_4 \\ \hline c_4 & d_3 & c_2 & d_1 & c_0 & c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \\ \textcolor{blue}{d_3} & d_4 & c_3 & d_2 & c_1 & d_0 & d_1 & d_2 \\ \hline c_2 & c_3 & c_4 & d_3 & c_2 & d_1 & c_0 & c_1 \\ d_1 & d_2 & d_3 & d_4 & c_3 & \textcolor{green}{d_2} & c_1 & d_0 \end{array} \right)$$

Figure: An oriented matching in the expansion for $M_n(N) = M_6(8)$.

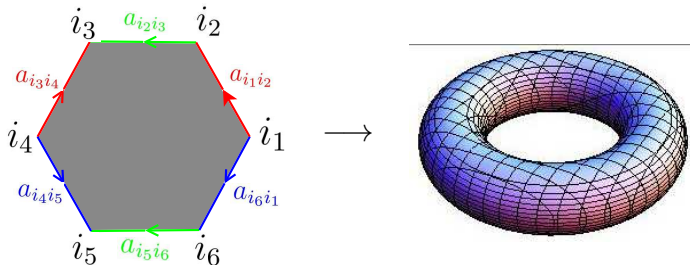
Contributing Terms

As $N \rightarrow \infty$, the only terms that contribute to this sum are those in which the entries are matched in pairs and with opposite orientation.



Only Topology Matters

Think of pairings as topological identifications; the contributing ones give rise to orientable surfaces.



Contribution from such a pairing is m^{-2g} , where g is the genus (number of holes) of the surface. Proof: combinatorial argument involving Euler characteristic.

Computing the Even Moments

Theorem: Even Moment Formula

$$M_{2k} = \sum_{g=0}^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} \varepsilon_g(k) m^{-2g} + O_k \left(\frac{1}{N} \right),$$

with $\varepsilon_g(k)$ the number of pairings of the edges of a $(2k)$ -gon giving rise to a genus g surface.

J. Harer and D. Zagier (1986) gave generating functions for the $\varepsilon_g(k)$.

Harer and Zagier

$$\sum_{g=0}^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} \varepsilon_g(k) r^{k+1-2g} = (2k-1)!! c(k, r)$$

where

$$1 + 2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c(k, r) x^{k+1} = \left(\frac{1+x}{1-x} \right)^r.$$

Thus, we write

$$M_{2k} = m^{-(k+1)} (2k-1)!! c(k, m).$$

A multiplicative convolution and Cauchy's residue formula yield the characteristic function of the distribution.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \phi(t) &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(it)^{2k} M_{2k}}{(2k)!} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-t^2/2m)^k}{k!} c(k, m) \\
 &= \frac{1}{2\pi im} \oint_{|z|=2} \frac{1}{2z^{-1}} \left(\left(\frac{1+z^{-1}}{1-z^{-1}} \right)^m - 1 \right) e^{-t^2 z/2m} \frac{dz}{z} \\
 &= \frac{1}{m} e^{-\frac{t^2}{2m}} \sum_{\ell=1}^m \binom{m}{\ell} \frac{1}{(\ell-1)!} \left(\frac{-t^2}{m} \right)^{\ell-1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Results

Fourier transform and algebra yields

Theorem: Koloğlu, Kopp and Miller

The limiting spectral density function $f_m(x)$ of the real symmetric m -block circulant ensemble is given by the formula

$$f_m(x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{mx^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi m}} \sum_{r=0}^m \frac{1}{(2r)!} \sum_{s=0}^{m-r} \binom{m}{r+s+1} \frac{(2r+2s)!}{(r+s)!s!} \left(-\frac{1}{2}\right)^s (mx^2)^r.$$

As $m \rightarrow \infty$, the limiting spectral densities approach the semicircle distribution.

Results (continued)

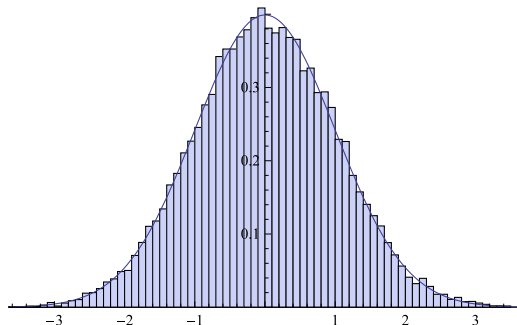


Figure: Plot for f_1 and histogram of eigenvalues of 100 circulant matrices of size 400×400 .

Results (continued)

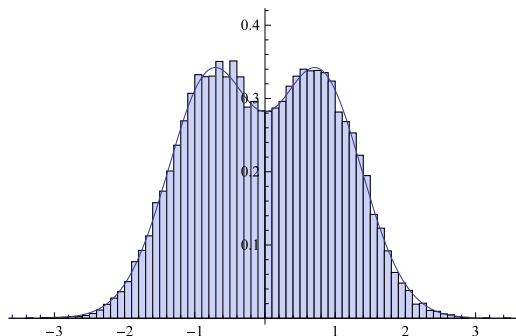


Figure: Plot for f_2 and histogram of eigenvalues of 100 2-block circulant matrices of size 400×400 .

Results (continued)

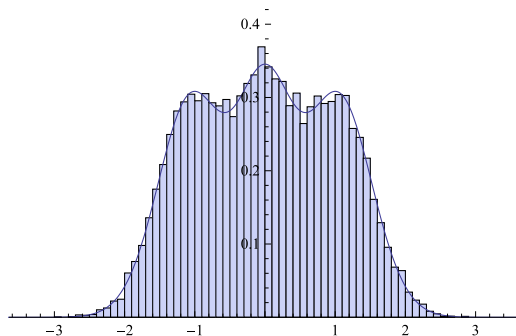


Figure: Plot for f_3 and histogram of eigenvalues of 100 3-block circulant matrices of size 402×402 .

Results (continued)

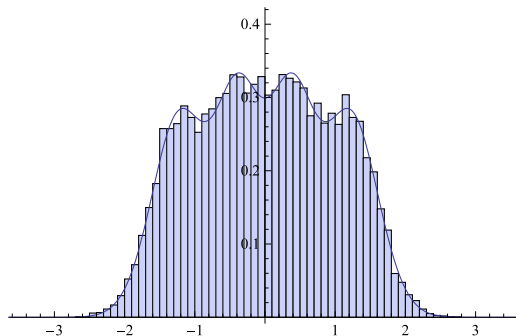


Figure: Plot for f_4 and histogram of eigenvalues of 100 4-block circulant matrices of size 400×400 .

Results (continued)

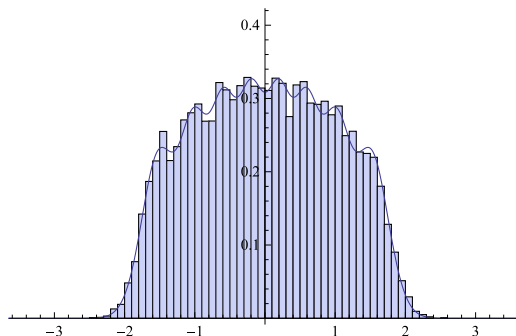


Figure: Plot for f_8 and histogram of eigenvalues of 100 8-block circulant matrices of size 400×400 .

Results (continued)

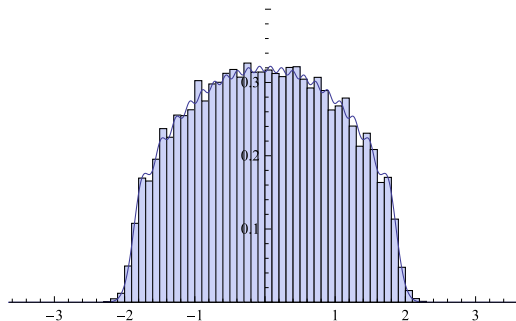


Figure: Plot for f_{20} and histogram of eigenvalues of 100 20-block circulant matrices of size 400×400 .

Results (continued)

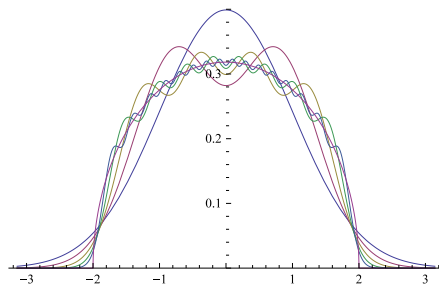


Figure: Plot of convergence to the semi-circle.

The Limiting Spectral Measure for Ensembles of Symmetric Block Circulant Matrices (with Murat Koloğlu, Gene S. Kopp ([Michigan](#)), Frederick W. Strauch and Wentao Xiong), Journal of Theoretical Probability **26** (2013), no. 4, 1020–1060.

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1008.4812>

Checkerboard Matrices

- First paper with Paula Burkhardt, Peter Cohen, Jonathan Dewitt, Max Hlavacek, Carsten Sprunger ([Michigan](#)), Yen Nhi Truong Vu, Roger Van Peski, and Kevin Yang, and an appendix joint with Manuel Fernandez and Nicholas Sieger.
- Second paper with Ryan Chen, Yujin Kim, Jared Lichtman, Shannon Sweitzer, and Eric Winsor ([Michigan](#)).
- Third paper with Fangu Chen ([Michigan](#)), Yuxin Lin and Jiahui Yu.

Checkerboard Matrices: $N \times N$ (k, w)-checkerboard ensemble

Matrices $M = (m_{ij}) = M^T$ with a_{ij} iidrv, mean 0, variance 1, finite higher moments, w fixed and

$$m_{ij} = \begin{cases} a_{ij} & \text{if } i \not\equiv j \pmod{k} \\ w & \text{if } i \equiv j \pmod{k}. \end{cases}$$

Example: $(3, w)$ -checkerboard matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} w & a_{0,1} & a_{0,2} & w & a_{0,4} & \cdots & a_{0,N-1} \\ a_{1,0} & w & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} & w & \cdots & a_{1,N-1} \\ a_{2,0} & a_{2,1} & w & a_{2,3} & a_{2,4} & \cdots & w \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{0,N-1} & a_{1,N-1} & w & a_{3,N-1} & a_{4,N-1} & \cdots & w \end{pmatrix}$$

Split Eigenvalue Distribution

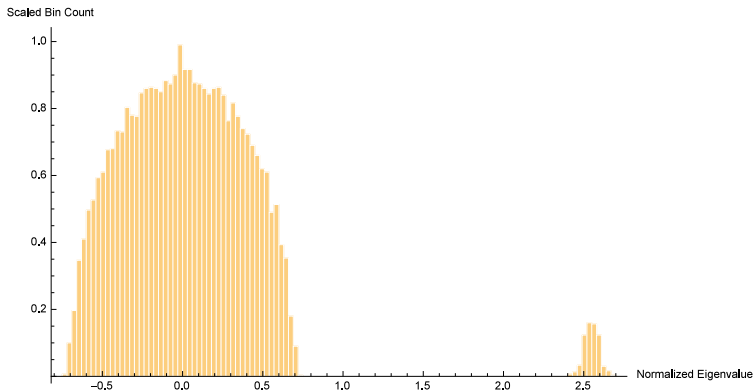


Figure: Histogram of normalized eigenvalues: 2-checkerboard 100×100 matrices, 100 trials.

Split Eigenvalue Distribution

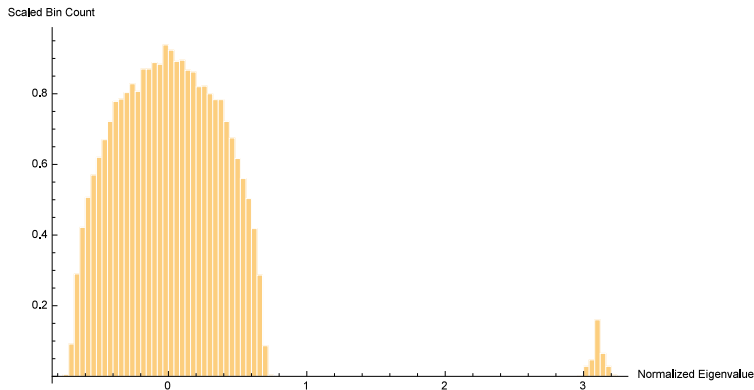


Figure: Histogram of normalized eigenvalues: 2-checkerboard 150×150 matrices, 100 trials.

Split Eigenvalue Distribution

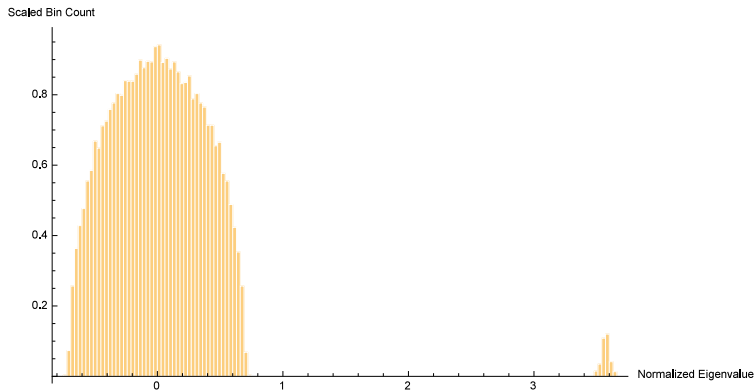


Figure: Histogram of normalized eigenvalues: 2-checkerboard 200×200 matrices, 100 trials.

Split Eigenvalue Distribution

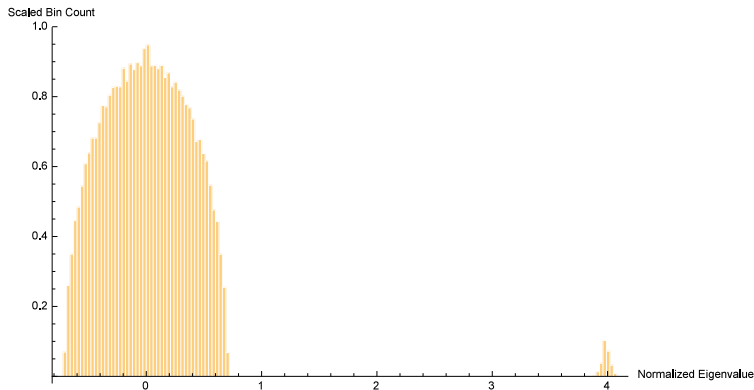


Figure: Histogram of normalized eigenvalues: 2-checkerboard 250×250 matrices, 100 trials.

Split Eigenvalue Distribution

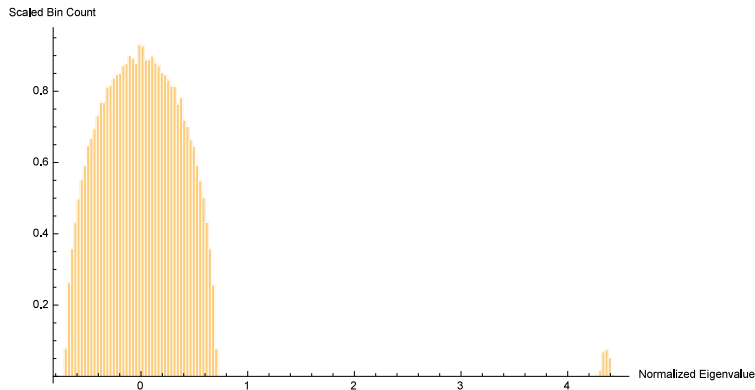


Figure: Histogram of normalized eigenvalues: 2-checkerboard 300×300 matrices, 100 trials.

Split Eigenvalue Distribution

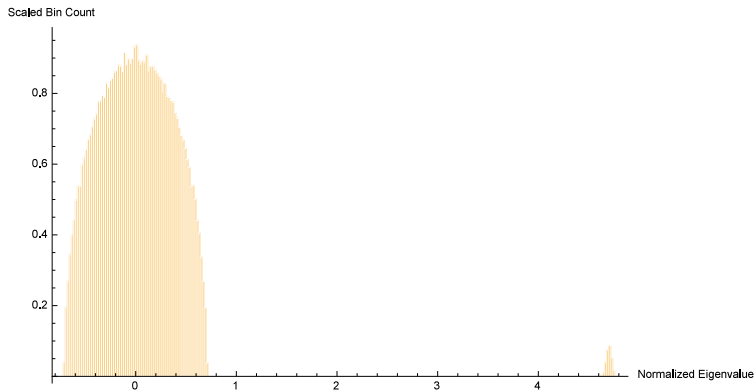


Figure: Histogram of normalized eigenvalues: 2-checkerboard 350×350 matrices, 100 trials.

The Weighting Function

Use weighting function $f_n(x) = x^{2n}(x-2)^{2n}$.

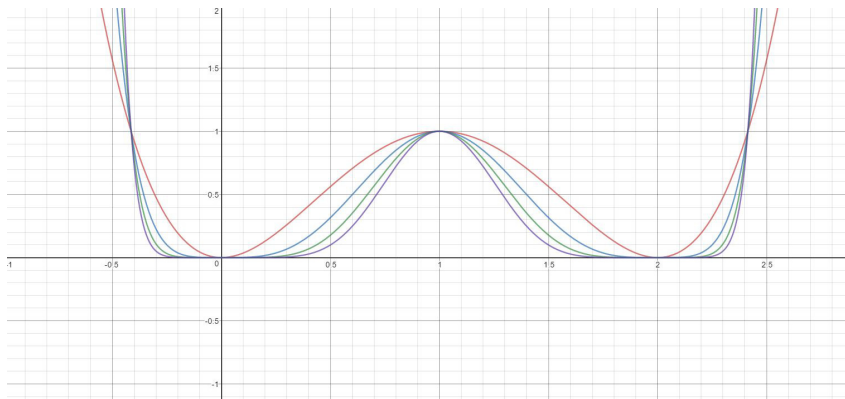


Figure: $f_n(x)$ plotted for $n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$.

The Weighting Function

Use weighting function $f_n(x) = x^{2n}(x-2)^{2n}$.

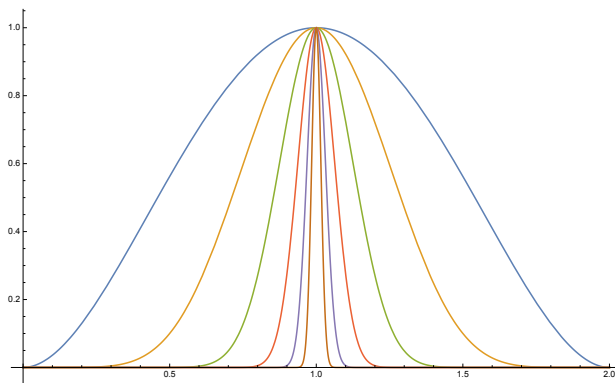


Figure: $f_n(x)$ plotted for $n = 4^m, m \in \{0, 1, \dots, 5\}$.

Spectral distribution of hollow GOE

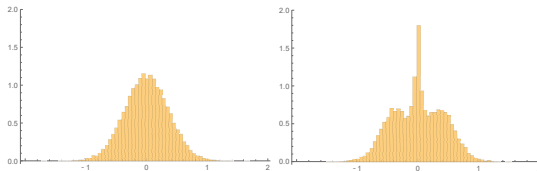


Figure: Hist. of eigenvals of 32000 (Left) 2×2 hollow GOE matrices, (Right) 3×3 hollow GOE matrices.

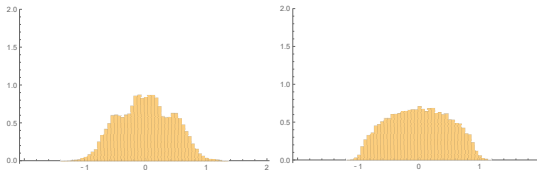


Figure: Hist. of eigenvals of 32000 (Left) 4×4 hollow GOE matrices, (Right) 16×16 hollow GOE matrices.

Introduction to L -Functions

Riemann Zeta Function

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1}, \quad \operatorname{Re}(s) > 1.$$

Riemann Zeta Function

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1}, \quad \operatorname{Re}(s) > 1.$$

Unique Factorization: $n = p_1^{r_1} \cdots p_m^{r_m}$.

Riemann Zeta Function

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Unique Factorization: $n = p_1^{r_1} \cdots p_m^{r_m}$.

$$\begin{aligned} \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1} &= \left[1 + \frac{1}{2^s} + \left(\frac{1}{2^s}\right)^2 + \cdots\right] \left[1 + \frac{1}{3^s} + \left(\frac{1}{3^s}\right)^2 + \cdots\right] \cdots \\ &= \sum_n \frac{1}{n^s}. \end{aligned}$$

Riemann Zeta Function (cont)

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_n \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1$$

$$\pi(x) = \#\{p : p \text{ is prime}, p \leq x\}$$

Properties of $\zeta(s)$ and Primes:

Riemann Zeta Function (cont)

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_n \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1}, \quad \operatorname{Re}(s) > 1$$

$$\pi(x) = \#\{p : p \text{ is prime}, p \leq x\}$$

Properties of $\zeta(s)$ and Primes:

- $\lim_{s \rightarrow 1+} \zeta(s) = \infty, \pi(x) \rightarrow \infty.$

Riemann Zeta Function (cont)

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_n \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1$$

$$\pi(x) = \#\{p : p \text{ is prime}, p \leq x\}$$

Properties of $\zeta(s)$ and Primes:

- $\lim_{s \rightarrow 1+} \zeta(s) = \infty, \pi(x) \rightarrow \infty.$
- $\zeta(2) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}, \pi(x) \rightarrow \infty.$

Riemann Zeta Function

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p^s}\right)^{-1}, \quad \text{Re}(s) > 1.$$

Functional Equation:

$$\xi(s) = \Gamma\left(\frac{s}{2}\right) \pi^{-\frac{s}{2}} \zeta(s) = \xi(1-s).$$

Riemann Hypothesis (RH):

All non-trivial zeros have $\text{Re}(s) = \frac{1}{2}$; can write zeros as $\frac{1}{2} + i\gamma$.

Observation: Spacings b/w zeros appear same as b/w eigenvalues of Complex Hermitian matrices $\overline{A}^T = A$.

General L-functions

$$L(s, f) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_f(n)}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} L_p(s, f)^{-1}, \quad \operatorname{Re}(s) > 1.$$

Functional Equation:

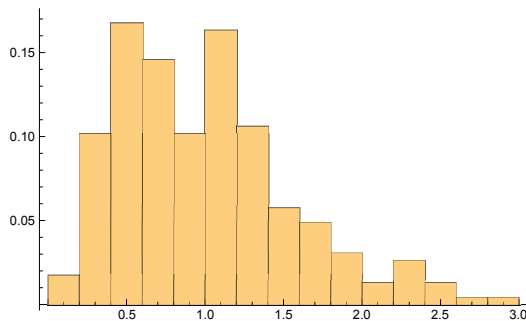
$$\Lambda(s, f) = \Lambda_{\infty}(s, f) L(s, f) = \Lambda(1 - s, f).$$

Generalized Riemann Hypothesis (RH):

All non-trivial zeros have $\operatorname{Re}(s) = \frac{1}{2}$; can write zeros as $\frac{1}{2} + i\gamma$.

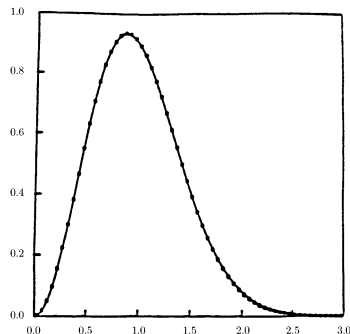
Observation: Spacings b/w zeros appear same as b/w eigenvalues of Complex Hermitian matrices $\overline{A}^T = A$.

Nuclear spacings: Thorium



227 spacings b/w adjacent energy levels of Thorium.

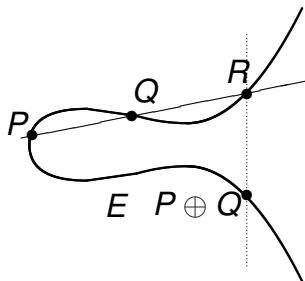
Zeros of $\zeta(s)$ vs GUE



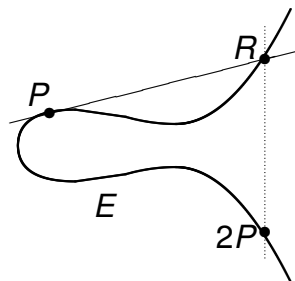
70 million spacings b/w adjacent zeros of $\zeta(s)$, starting at the $10^{20\text{th}}$ zero (from Odlyzko).

Elliptic Curves: Mordell-Weil Group

Elliptic curve $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$ with rational solutions $P = (x_1, y_1)$ and $Q = (x_2, y_2)$ and connecting line $y = mx + b$.



Addition of distinct points P and Q



Adding a point P to itself

$$E(\mathbb{Q}) \approx E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}} \oplus \mathbb{Z}^r$$

Elliptic curve L -function

$E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$, associate L -function

$$L(s, E) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_E(n)}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} L_E(p^{-s}),$$

where

$$a_E(p) = p - \#\{(x, y) \in (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^2 : y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}\}.$$

Elliptic curve L -function

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$$a_E(p) = p - \#\{(x, y) \in (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^2 : y^2 \equiv x^3 + ax + b \pmod{p}\}.$$

Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer Conjecture

Rank of group of rational solutions equals order of vanishing of $L(s, E)$ at $s = 1/2$.

Properties of zeros of L -functions

- infinitude of primes, primes in arithmetic progression.
- Chebyshev's bias: $\pi_{3,4}(x) \geq \pi_{1,4}(x)$ 'most' of the time.
- Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture.
- Goldfeld, Gross-Zagier: bound for $h(D)$ from L -functions with many central point zeros.
- Even better estimates for $h(D)$ if a positive percentage of zeros of $\zeta(s)$ are at most $1/2 - \epsilon$ of the average spacing to the next zero.

Distribution of zeros

- $\zeta(s) \neq 0$ for $\Re(s) = 1$: $\pi(x)$, $\pi_{a,q}(x)$.
- GRH: error terms.
- GSH: Chebyshev's bias.
- Analytic rank, adjacent spacings: $h(D)$.

Explicit Formula (Contour Integration)

$$-\frac{\zeta'(s)}{\zeta(s)} = -\frac{d}{ds} \log \zeta(s) = -\frac{d}{ds} \log \prod_p (1 - p^{-s})^{-1}$$

Explicit Formula (Contour Integration)

$$\begin{aligned}
 -\frac{\zeta'(s)}{\zeta(s)} &= -\frac{d}{ds} \log \zeta(s) = -\frac{d}{ds} \log \prod_p (1 - p^{-s})^{-1} \\
 &= \frac{d}{ds} \sum_p \log (1 - p^{-s}) \\
 &= \sum_p \frac{\log p \cdot p^{-s}}{1 - p^{-s}} = \sum_p \frac{\log p}{p^s} + \text{Good}(s).
 \end{aligned}$$

Explicit Formula (Contour Integration)

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 \end{aligned}$$

Contour Integration:

$$\int -\frac{\zeta'(s)}{\zeta(s)} \frac{x^s}{s} ds \quad \text{vs} \quad \sum_p \log p \int \left(\frac{x}{p}\right)^s \frac{ds}{s}.$$

Explicit Formula (Contour Integration)

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Contour Integration:

$$\int -\frac{\zeta'(s)}{\zeta(s)} \phi(s) ds \quad \text{vs} \quad \sum_p \log p \int \phi(s) p^{-s} ds.$$

Explicit Formula (Contour Integration)

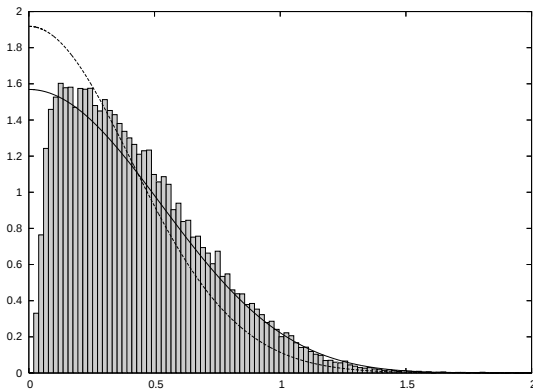
$$\begin{aligned}
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 &= \frac{d}{ds} \sum_p \log (1 - p^{-s}) \\
 &= \sum_p \frac{\log p \cdot p^{-s}}{1 - p^{-s}} = \sum_p \frac{\log p}{p^s} + \text{Good}(s).
 \end{aligned}$$

Contour Integration (see Fourier Transform arising):

$$\int -\frac{\zeta'(s)}{\zeta(s)} \phi(s) ds \quad \text{vs} \quad \sum_p \log p \int \phi(s) e^{-\sigma \log p} e^{-it \log p} ds.$$

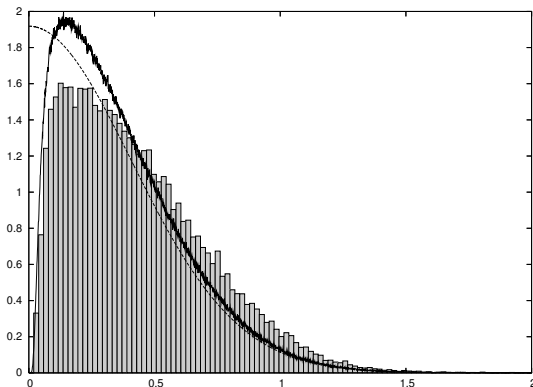
Knowledge of zeros gives info on coefficients.

Modeling lowest zero of $L_{E_{11}}(s, \chi_d)$ with $0 < d < 400,000$



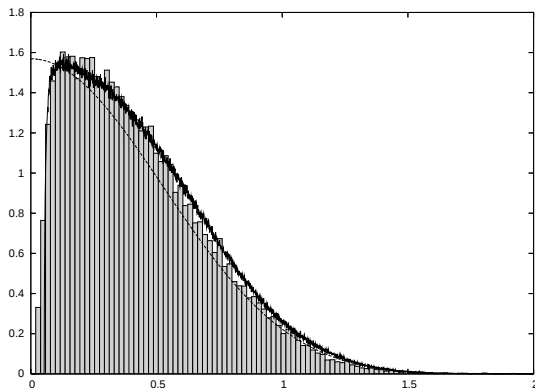
Lowest zero for $L_{E_{11}}(s, \chi_d)$ (bar chart), lowest eigenvalue of $SO(2N)$ with N_{eff} (solid), standard N_0 (dashed).

Modeling lowest zero of $L_{E_{11}}(s, \chi_d)$ with $0 < d < 400,000$



Lowest zero for $L_{E_{11}}(s, \chi_d)$ (bar chart), lowest eigenvalue of $SO(2N)$ with $N_0 = 12$ (solid) with discretisation and with standard $N_0 = 12.26$ (dashed) without discretisation.

Modeling lowest zero of $L_{E_{11}}(s, \chi_d)$ with $0 < d < 400,000$



Lowest zero of $L_{E_{11}}(s, \chi_d)$ (bar chart), lowest eigenvalue of $SO(2N)$ effective N of $N_{\text{eff}} = 2$ (solid) w' discretisation and effective N of $N_{\text{eff}} = 2.32$ (dashed) w/o discretisation.

Correspondences

Similarities between L -Functions and Nuclei:

Zeros $\longleftrightarrow$ Energy Levels

Schwartz test function $\longrightarrow$ Neutron

Support of test function $\longleftrightarrow$ Neutron Energy.

Research Experiences for Undergraduates

Williams College SMALL REU:

Deadline Wednesday February 3rd:

5pm US Eastern: [https:](https://math.williams.edu/small/)

[//math.williams.edu/small/](https://math.williams.edu/small/)

Polymath Jr: Deadline April 1st: 5pm

US Eastern: [https://geometrynyc.](https://geometrynyc.wixsite.com/polymathreu)

[wixsite.com/polymathreu](https://geometrynyc.wixsite.com/polymathreu)

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Nuclei, Primes and the Random Matrix Connection (with Frank W. K. Firk), invited submission to *Symmetry* **1** (2009), 64–105; doi:10.3390/sym1010064.

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/0909.4914>

From Quantum Systems to L-Functions: Pair Correlation Statistics and Beyond (with Owen Barrett, Frank W. K. Firk and Caroline Turnage-Butterbaugh), in *Open Problems in Mathematics* (editors John Nash Jr. and Michael Th. Rassias), Springer-Verlag, 2016, pages 123–171. <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1505.07481>

Publications: Random Matrix Theory

- 1 *Distribution of eigenvalues for the ensemble of real symmetric Toeplitz matrices* (with Christopher Hammond), Journal of Theoretical Probability **18** (2005), no. 3, 537–566.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/math/0312215>
- 2 *Distribution of eigenvalues of real symmetric palindromic Toeplitz matrices and circulant matrices* (with Adam Massey and John Sinsheimer), Journal of Theoretical Probability **20** (2007), no. 3, 637–662.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/math/0512146>
- 3 *The distribution of the second largest eigenvalue in families of random regular graphs* (with Tim Novikoff and Anthony Sabelli), Experimental Mathematics **17** (2008), no. 2, 231–244.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/math/0611649>
- 4 *Nuclei, Primes and the Random Matrix Connection* (with Frank W. K. Firk), Symmetry **1** (2009), 64–105; doi:10.3390/sym1010064. <http://arxiv.org/abs/0909.4914>
- 5 *Distribution of eigenvalues for highly palindromic real symmetric Toeplitz matrices* (with Steven Jackson and Thuy Pham), Journal of Theoretical Probability **25** (2012), 464–495.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1003.2010>
- 6 *The Limiting Spectral Measure for Ensembles of Symmetric Block Circulant Matrices* (with Murat Koloğlu, Gene S. Kopp, Frederick W. Strauch and Wentao Xiong), Journal of Theoretical Probability **26** (2013), no. 4, 1020–1060. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1008.4812>
- 7 *Distribution of eigenvalues of weighted, structured matrix ensembles* (with Olivia Beckwith, Karen Shen), submitted December 2011 to the Journal of Theoretical Probability, revised September 2012.
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1112.3719>
- 8 *The expected eigenvalue distribution of large, weighted d -regular graphs* (with Leo Goldmahker, Cap Khoury and Kesinee Ninsuwan), preprint.

Publications: L-Functions

- 1 *The low lying zeros of a $GL(4)$ and a $GL(6)$ family of L-functions* (with Eduardo Dueñez), *Compositio Mathematica* **142** (2006), no. 6, 1403–1425. <http://arxiv.org/abs/math/0506462>
- 2 *Low lying zeros of L-functions with orthogonal symmetry* (with Christopher Hughes), *Duke Mathematical Journal* **136** (2007), no. 1, 115–172. <http://arxiv.org/abs/math/0507450>
- 3 *Lower order terms in the 1-level density for families of holomorphic cuspidal newforms*, *Acta Arithmetica* **137** (2009), 51–98. <http://arxiv.org/abs/0704.0924>
- 4 *The effect of convolving families of L-functions on the underlying group symmetries* (with Eduardo Dueñez), *Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society*, 2009; doi: 10.1112/plms/pdp018. <http://arxiv.org/pdf/math/0607688.pdf>
- 5 *Low-lying zeros of number field L-functions* (with Ryan Peckner), *Journal of Number Theory* **132** (2012), 2866–2891. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1003.5336>
- 6 *The low-lying zeros of level 1 Maass forms* (with Levent Alpoge), preprint 2013. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1301.5702>
- 7 *The n-level density of zeros of quadratic Dirichlet L-functions* (with Jake Levinson), submitted September 2012 to *Acta Arithmetica*. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1208.0930>
- 8 *Moment Formulas for Ensembles of Classical Compact Groups* (with Geoffrey Iyer and Nicholas Triantafyllou), preprint 2013.

Publications: Elliptic Curves

- 1 *1- and 2-level densities for families of elliptic curves: evidence for the underlying group symmetries*, Compositio Mathematica **140** (2004), 952–992. <http://arxiv.org/pdf/math/0310159>
- 2 *Variation in the number of points on elliptic curves and applications to excess rank*, C. R. Math. Rep. Acad. Sci. Canada **27** (2005), no. 4, 111–120. <http://arxiv.org/abs/math/0506461>
- 3 *Investigations of zeros near the central point of elliptic curve L-functions*, Experimental Mathematics **15** (2006), no. 3, 257–279. <http://arxiv.org/pdf/math/0508150>
- 4 *Constructing one-parameter families of elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}(T)$ with moderate rank* (with Scott Arms and Álvaro Lozano-Robledo), Journal of Number Theory **123** (2007), no. 2, 388–402. <http://arxiv.org/abs/math/0406579>
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