

## RANDOM MATRIX THEORY - Spenta Wadia

Dyson: J. Math. Phys. 3 (1962)

Remarks - "... a new kind of statistical mechanics, in which we renounce exact knowledge of the system itself. We picture a complex nucleus as a "black box" in which a large number of particles are interacting according to unknown laws. The problem is then to define in a mathematically precise way an ensemble of systems in which all possible laws of interaction are equally probable."

$\langle i | H | j \rangle = M_{ij}$  is random,  $M^\dagger = M$

$$P(M) d\mu(M) = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} M^2} d\mu(M) \quad \text{EXAMPLE}$$

## Many applications:

1. Spectra of chaotic systems
2. Statistical properties of S-matrix in quantum transport
3. Number theory: distribution of zeros of Riemann  $\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s}$ ,  $s \in \mathbb{C}$
4. Random surfaces and 2-dim quantum gravity 'Triangulations'  $\equiv$  Feynman graphs
5. Model  $SU(N)$  gauge theories
6. Statistics - free probability theory
7. Engineering - control theory
8. Statistics of critical points in a 'landscape' Hessian is the random matrix

# Wigner's semi-circle law

$$Z = \int [dM] e^{-S(M)}$$

$$M = M^\dagger \quad N \times N \quad S(U^\dagger M U) = S(M)$$

$$[dM] = ?$$

space of hermitian matrices is euclidean (flat)

$$ds^2 = \text{tr} dM dM^\dagger, \quad (dM)_{ij} = dM_{ij}$$

'polar decomposition':  $M = U D U^\dagger, U^\dagger U = 1$

$$D = [\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N]$$

$$dM = dD + [U^\dagger dU, D], \quad U^\dagger dU \equiv d\Omega \quad (\text{polar coordinates})$$

$$dM_{ij} = d\lambda_i \delta_{ij} + (\lambda_i - \lambda_j) d\Omega_{ij}$$

$$ds^2 = dM_{ij} dM_{ji} = d\lambda_i d\lambda_i + \sum_{i,j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 d\Omega_{ij} d\Omega_{ij}^*$$

Jacobian of the map:  $M_{ij} \rightarrow (\lambda_i, U_{ij})$

$$J \equiv \sqrt{G} = \prod_{i \neq j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j) = \Delta(\lambda)^2$$

$$\Delta(\lambda) = \prod_{i < j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j) = \det(\lambda_i^{j-1}) \quad \text{Vandermonde determinant.}$$

Since  $S(U^T M U) = S(M)$

$$[dM] \equiv \frac{\prod_{i=1}^N d\lambda_i \Delta(\lambda)^2 \prod_{i,j} d\Omega_{ij} d\Omega_{ij}^*}{\text{Vol } U(N)}$$

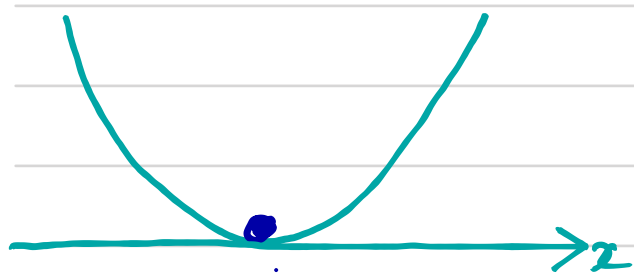
$$Z = \int \prod_{i=1}^N d\lambda_i \prod_{i < j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 e^{-S(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N)}$$

$$S = S(\text{tr} M^p, (\text{tr} M^r)^s, \dots)$$

Wigner  $S = \frac{1}{g} \text{tr} M^2 = \frac{1}{g} \sum_i \lambda_i^2$

$$Z = \int \prod_{i=1}^N d\lambda_i e^{-\frac{1}{2g} \sum_i \lambda_i^2 + \sum_{i < j} \ln(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2}$$

One particle potential:  $W(x) = \frac{1}{2} x^2$



harmonic well

log 'repulsion'  
↓



particles spread to  
a finite interval

General problem:

$$S(\lambda) = \frac{1}{g} \sum_j W(\lambda_j) - 2 \sum_{i < j} \log(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)$$

↑  
excludes 'multi trace' terms

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial \lambda_i} = 0 = \frac{1}{g} W'(\lambda_i) - 2 \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{1}{(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)}$$

(force balance)

$$\frac{1}{g} \sum_i \frac{W'(\lambda_i)}{(\lambda_i - z)} - 2 \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{1}{(\lambda_i - z)(\lambda_i - \lambda_j)} = 0$$

$$\left[ W(z) = \frac{1}{N} \text{tr} \frac{1}{(M - z)} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{(\lambda_i - z)} \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{N} \int_0^\infty ds e^{-zs} \text{tr} e^{-Ms} \quad (\text{loop operator})$$

$$\omega^2(z) - \frac{1}{N} \partial_z \omega(z) + \frac{1}{\mu} \omega(z) W'(z) + \frac{1}{4\mu^2} f(z) = 0$$

$$f(z) = \frac{4\mu}{N} \sum_i \left[ \frac{W'(z) - W'(\lambda_i)}{z - \lambda_i} \right], \quad gN \equiv \mu$$

$$y(z) = 2\mu \omega(z) + W'(z) \Rightarrow y^2 - W'(z)^2 + f(z) = 0$$

a curve in  $(y, z)$  plane

Wigner's Semi-Circle law:

$N \rightarrow \infty$  limit  $\mu = gN$  fixed

$$\omega^2(z) + \frac{1}{\mu} \omega(z) z + \frac{1}{\mu} = 0$$

← algebraic eqn.

$$\omega = -\frac{z}{2\mu} \pm \frac{1}{2\mu} \sqrt{z^2 - 4\mu} \quad z \in \mathbb{C} - [ , ]$$

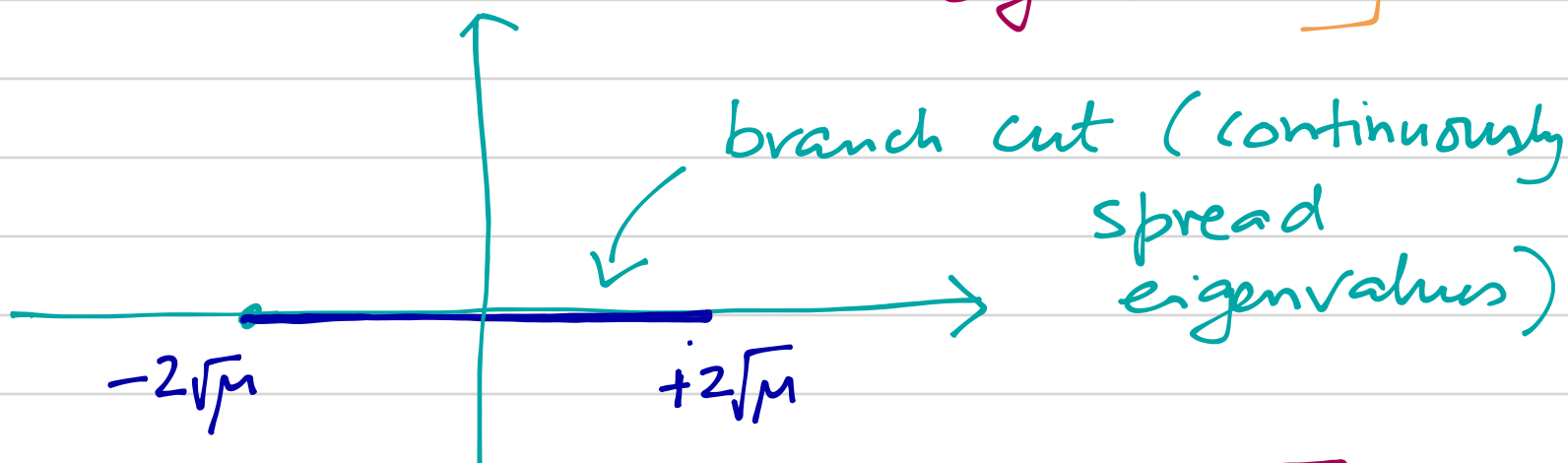
$$\omega(z \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow -\frac{1}{z}$$

$$\Rightarrow \omega(z) = -\frac{z}{2\mu} + \frac{1}{2\mu} \sqrt{z^2 - 4\mu}$$

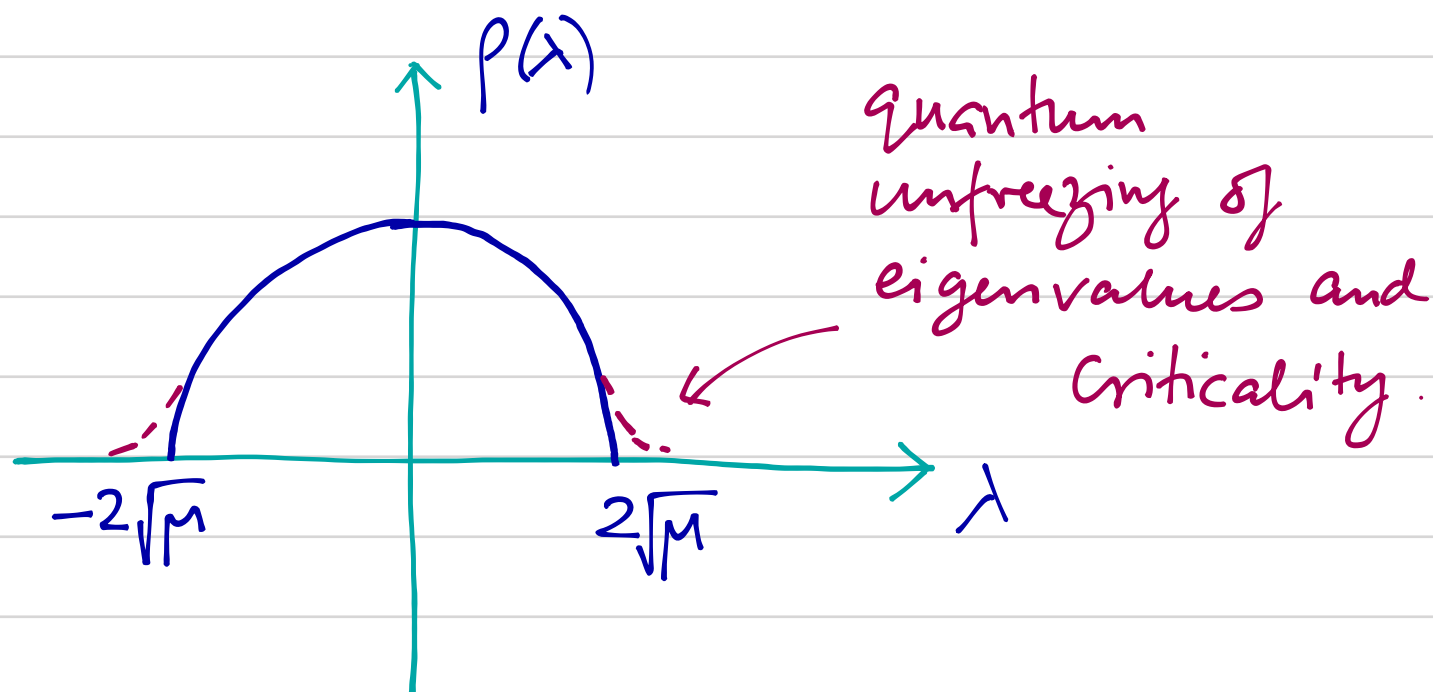
$$\left[ \omega(z) = \frac{1}{N} \text{tr} \left( \frac{1}{M - z} \right) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\lambda_i - z} \right.$$

$$= \int \frac{\rho(\lambda)}{\lambda - z}$$

$$\rho(\lambda) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta(\lambda - \lambda_i), \text{ density of eigenvalues} \left. \right]$$

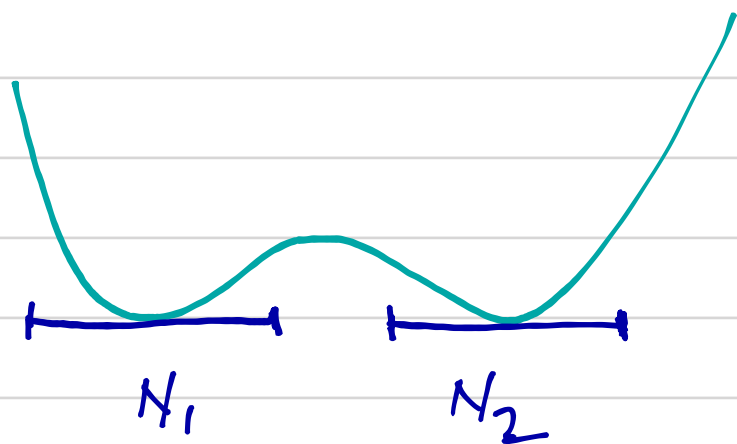


$$\rho(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} (\omega(\lambda + i\epsilon) - \omega(\lambda - i\epsilon)) = \frac{1}{4\pi\mu} \sqrt{4\mu - \lambda^2}$$



### Comments:

1. For an arbitrary  $W(\lambda)$  one can solve the algebraic eqn  $W(z)$  in the cut plane with many branch cuts depending on the potential



multi-cut plane

$$N_1 + N_2 = N$$

Loop eqn for  $W(z)$  can be solved beyond leading order in  $\frac{1}{N}$ .



## 2. Multi-trace operators

$$S(M) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} M^2 + \frac{c_1}{4} \text{tr} M^4 + \frac{c_2}{N} (\text{tr} M^2)^2$$

$$N \rightarrow \infty \quad \langle (\text{tr} M^2)^2 \rangle = \langle \text{tr} M^2 \rangle^2 \quad (\text{discuss later})$$

no fluctuation

$$\rightarrow S_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} M^2 + \frac{c_1}{4} \text{tr} M^4 + \frac{c_2}{N} \langle \text{tr} M^2 \rangle \text{tr} M^2$$

Same method as before but

$\langle \text{tr} M^2 \rangle$  is determined self consistently

## 3. Traditional way to solve for $\rho(\lambda)$ :

$$W'(\lambda) = 2 \int \frac{\rho(\lambda')}{\lambda' - \lambda} \quad , \quad \int \rho(\lambda) d\lambda = 1$$

Singular integral eqn.  $\Rightarrow$

Riemann - Hilbert problem for

$$W(z) = \int \frac{\rho(\lambda')}{\lambda' - z} \quad , \quad W(z \rightarrow \infty) = -\frac{1}{z}$$

$$W_+ - W_- = \rho(\lambda) \quad , \quad W_+ + W_- = W'(\lambda)$$

$$\begin{array}{c} W_+ \searrow \\ \hline W_- \nearrow \end{array}$$

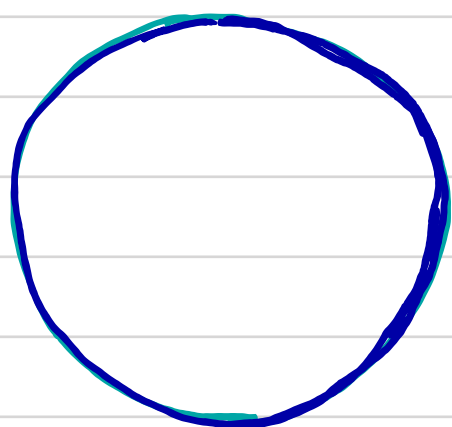


#### 4. Unitary matrix model

$$S(U) = \frac{NE}{2} (\text{tr} U + \text{tr} U^\dagger) + \dots, \quad U^\dagger U = 1$$

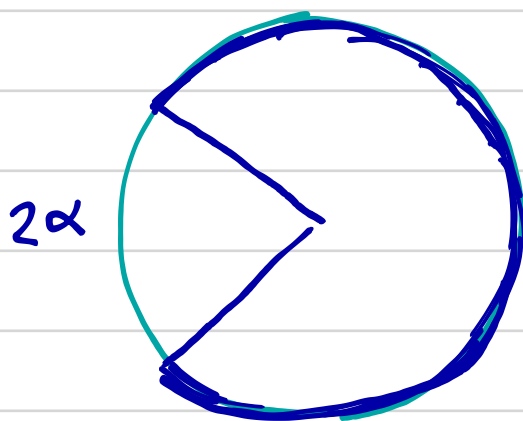
eigenvalues of  $U$ :  $e^{i\theta_i}, i=1, \dots, N$

$$\rho(\theta) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \delta(\theta - \theta_i)$$



$$\rho(\theta) = 1 + E \cos \theta$$

$$0 \leq E \leq 1$$



$$\rho(\theta) = 2E \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \sqrt{\frac{1}{E} - \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}}$$

$$1 \leq E < \infty, \quad \frac{1}{E} = \sin^2 \frac{\alpha}{2}$$

Charges in  
an  
electric  
field  $E$

As the electric field  $E$  increases there appears a gap in the distribution of eigenvalues at  $E_{\text{critical}} = 1$ .

- 3rd derivative of  $\ln Z$  is discontinuous at  $E = 1$  (Gross-Witten-Wadia 3rd order phase transition)

## 5. Level spacing statistics

$$\lambda_1 < \lambda_2 \dots < \lambda_n$$

$$S = (\lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n) / \langle S \rangle, \quad \langle S \rangle = \langle \lambda_{n+1} - \lambda_n \rangle$$

$$P_1(s) = \frac{\pi}{2} s e^{-\frac{\pi}{4} s^2}$$

orthogonal symmetric matrix  $\prod_{i < j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)$

$$P_2(s) = \frac{32}{\pi^2} s^2 e^{-\frac{4}{\pi} s^2}$$

hermitian matrix  $\prod_{i < j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2$

$$P_4(s) = \frac{2^{18}}{3^6 \pi^3} s^4 e^{-\frac{64}{9\pi} s^2}$$

hermitian quaternionic matrices  $\prod_{i < j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^4$

$$P_i(s=0) = 0 \quad i = 1, 2, 4$$

(level repulsion)



a property that is relevant for modelling quantum chaotic systems.

# Large N factorization

1-matrix model

$$\begin{aligned} \left\langle \frac{\text{tr} M^{2p}}{N} \frac{\text{tr} M^{2q}}{N} \right\rangle &= \int d\lambda \lambda^{2p} \bar{\rho}(\lambda) \cdot \int d\lambda' \lambda'^{2q} \bar{\rho}(\lambda') \\ &= \left\langle \frac{\text{tr} M^{2p}}{N} \right\rangle \left\langle \frac{\text{tr} M^{2q}}{N} \right\rangle + o\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

All correlations are evaluated by a single function  $\bar{\rho}(\lambda)$  the eigenvalue density at the saddle point.

This 'method' does not work for more than one matrix

e.g.  $M_1$  and  $M_2$ ,  $[M_1, M_2] \neq 0$

Question:

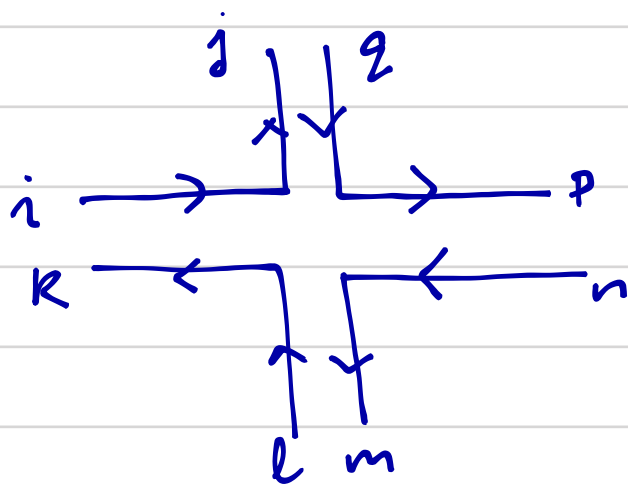
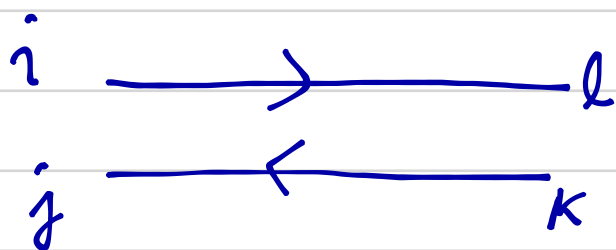
Is it possible to formulate the large N limit of an arbitrarily complicated matrix / field theory?

e.g. multi-matrix models; non-abelian gauge theories . . . . .

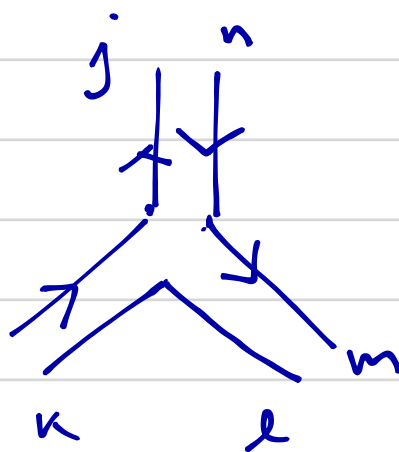
Factorization in a simple model:

$$\int [dM] e^{-\frac{N}{\lambda} (\text{tr } M^2 + \text{tr } M^3 + \text{tr } M^4) \dots}$$

$$\langle M_{ij} M_{kl} \rangle = \frac{\lambda}{N} \delta_{il} \delta_{jk}, \quad \delta_{ii} = N$$



$$\propto \frac{N}{\lambda}$$



$$\propto \frac{N}{\lambda}$$

Typical planar feynman-ttloft diagram



$$\propto N^2 \lambda^2$$

4 3-pt vertices = V

6 propagators = E

4 index loops = F

$$F - E + V = 2$$

Topological expansion :

In general a diagram will have

E propagators,  $V$  interaction vertices and

F index loops

Diagram in pert theory  $\propto$

$$\left(\frac{\lambda}{N}\right)^E \left(\frac{N}{\lambda}\right)^V N^F = N^{\chi} \lambda^{E-V}$$

$\chi = F - E + V$  is the Euler character.

Dominant contribution at large  $N$  comes

from  $\chi=2$  (diagrams that can be put on a sphere)



$\simeq 2$  discs fitted on  $S^2$

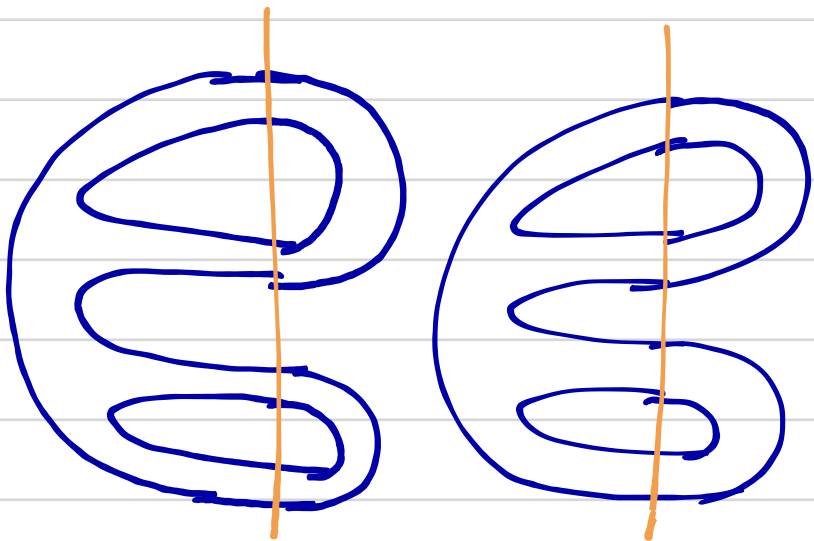
$$\left[ \ln Z = \sum_{h=0}^{\infty} N^{2-2h} F_h(\lambda), \quad \chi = 2-2h \right]$$

(topological expansion) ↑  
handle on a sphere.

Factorization :

$$\langle \text{tr} M^4 \text{tr} M^4 \rangle \quad , \quad S = \frac{N}{\lambda} \text{tr} M^2$$

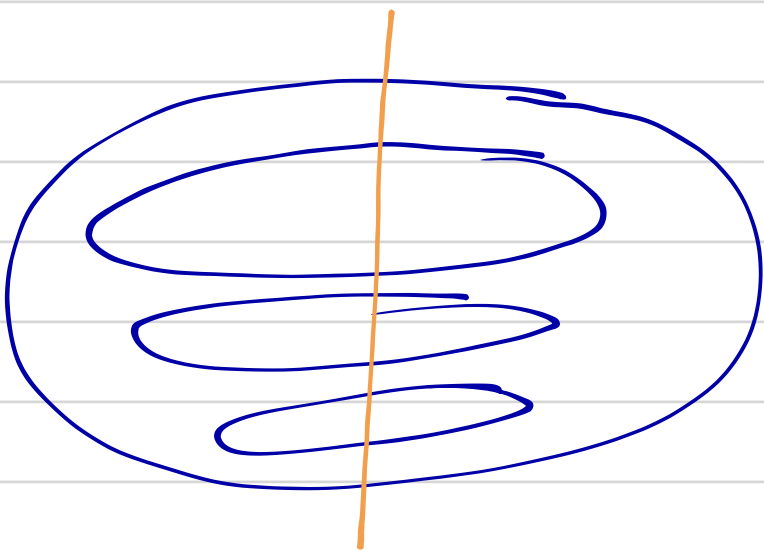
Dominant contribution from disconnected diagrams



4-propagators = E  
6-index loops = F  
 $\propto N^2$

Disconnected

+



4 propagators = E

4 index loops = F

$\propto N^0$

connected

$$\langle \frac{\text{tr} M^4}{N} \frac{\text{tr} M^4}{N} \rangle = \langle \frac{\text{tr} M^4}{N} \rangle \langle \frac{\text{tr} M^4}{N} \rangle + O(1) + O\left(\frac{1}{N^2}\right)$$

One can convince one self that disconnected diagrams dominate at large  $N$ , in general.

## Factorization at large $N$

$\Rightarrow$  closed set of Schwinger-Dyson equations

### 2 - examples:

#### 1 - matrix model

$$\text{SD : } \int [dM] \frac{\partial}{\partial M_{ij}} \left( M^n_{ij} e^{-S} \right) = 0$$

$$\text{using } \frac{\partial}{\partial M_{ij}} (M^n)_{ij} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} (M^k)_{jj} (M^{n-1-k})_{ii} \quad n \geq 1$$

$$\text{and } \langle \text{tr} M^r \text{tr} M^s \rangle = \langle \text{tr} M^r \rangle \langle \text{tr} M^s \rangle$$

one can reproduce :

$$\tilde{W}(z) + \frac{1}{\mu} W(z) S'(z) + \frac{1}{4\mu^2} f(z) = 0$$

$$W(z) = \text{tr} \frac{1}{M-z}$$



## 2-matrix model

(Deo, Jain, Shastri)

$$Z = \int [dA][dB] e^{-S(A,B)}$$

$$S = N \operatorname{tr} \left( \frac{A^2}{2} + \frac{B^2}{2} - cAB \right)$$

Closed SD eqns at large  $N$  for:

$$\left\langle \operatorname{tr} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \\ z-A & w-B \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle_c$$

$$\left\langle \operatorname{tr} \frac{1}{z-A} \right\rangle, \left\langle \operatorname{tr} \frac{1}{z-B} \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \operatorname{tr} \frac{1}{z-A} B \right\rangle, \left\langle \operatorname{tr} \frac{1}{z-B} A \right\rangle$$

$$\left\langle \operatorname{tr} \frac{1}{z-A} \operatorname{tr} \frac{1}{w-B} \right\rangle$$

Answer:

$$\left\langle \operatorname{tr} \frac{1}{z-A} \operatorname{tr} \frac{1}{w-B} \right\rangle = \frac{C_1}{[1 - C_2 W(z) W(w)]^2}$$

$$\times \left[ \frac{W(z)^2}{1 - C_3 W^2(z)} \right] [z \rightarrow w]$$



$c_1, c_2, c_3$  are known constants.

## Comments :

1. SD + factorization  $\Rightarrow$  exact equations for Wilson loops in a non-abelian lattice gauge theory

2. In models with vector degrees of freedom (e.g.  $S^a(\vec{x})$  spin,  $\Psi^a(\vec{x})$  fermion)

Bilocal variables act like random matrices

e.g.  $G(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) = \vec{S}(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{S}(\vec{y}) \equiv M_{\vec{x}, \vec{y}} \dots$

Applications to Chern-Simons theory, SYK model

↓  
(Sachdev-Ye-Kitaev)

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