

Top eigenvalue of a Gaussian random matrix: Large Deviations

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A Trivial Problem

$N \times N$ diagonal matrix with independent Gaussian entries

$$J = \begin{pmatrix} J_{11} & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & J_{22} & \dots & 0 \\ \dots & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & \dots & J_{NN} \end{pmatrix}$$

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[R.M. May, Nature, 238, 413 (1972)—Ecosystems]

[Cavagna, Garrahan & Giardinà 2000, Fyodorov 2004, Fyodorov & Williams 2007, Bray & Dean 2007, Auffinger, Ben Arous & Cerny 2010, Fyodorov & Nadal 2012,—Glassy systems]

[Susskind 2003, Douglas et. al. 2004, Aazami & Easter 2006, Marsh, McAllister & Wrase 2011,—String theory & Cosmology]

[Beltrani 2007, Dedieu & Malajovich 2007, Houdre 2011, Chiani 2012—Random Polynomials]

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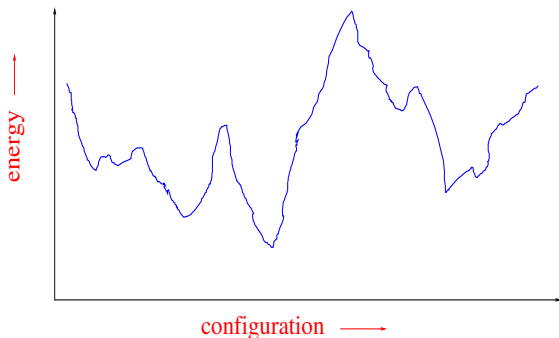
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Complex Landscapes



Ex: Structural glasses, Supercooled liquids, Spin glasses, String landscapes

L. Susskind, "The anthropic landscape of string theory", [hep-th/0302219](#)

A. Sen, "Riding gravity away from doomsday", [arXiv: 1503.08130](#)

Stationary points of a complex landscape

A particle moving in a N -dimensional landscape: $V(y_1, y_2, \dots, y_N)$

$$\frac{dy_i}{dt} = -\nabla_{y_i} V$$

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- **Stationary** point (fixed pt.) y^* : $\nabla V = 0$ at $y = y^*$
- Near a stationary point: $V(\{y_i\}) \approx \sum_{i,j} H_{i,j} (y_i - y_i^*)(y_j - y_j^*)$

$$\text{Hessian matrix: } H_{i,j} \equiv \left[\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y_i \partial y_j} \right]$$

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- Eigenvalues of the Hessian (stability) matrix determines the nature of the stationary point:

$\Rightarrow$ Local Minimum, Local Maximum & Saddles

Eigenvalues of the Hessian Matrix

Examples:

- $N = 1$ -dimensional surface: Hessian matrix $H = \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2}$

If $\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} < 0 \rightarrow \text{Local Maximum}$; if $\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y^2} > 0 \rightarrow \text{Local Minimum}$

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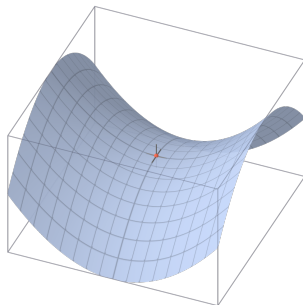
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Two real eigenvalues: (λ_1, λ_2)

If $\lambda_1 < 0$ and $\lambda_2 < 0 \rightarrow$ Local Maximum

If $\lambda_1 > 0$ and $\lambda_2 > 0 \rightarrow$ Local Minimum

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \lambda_1 < 0, \quad \lambda_2 > 0 \\ \lambda_1 > 0, \quad \lambda_2 < 0 \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{Saddle}$$



Fraction of Local Maximum/Minimum in Random Hessian Model

- Random $(N \times N)$ Hessian Model: $H \equiv \left[\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial y_i \partial y_j} \right]$

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- $\rightarrow$ Most of the stationary points $\rightarrow$ Saddles

I. Gaussian Random Matrices

Spectral Statistics in Random Matrix Theory (RMT)

Consider $N \times N$ Gaussian random matrix $J \equiv [J_{ij}]$

(i) real symmetric (ii) complex Hermitian (iii) complex quaternionic

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$$\text{Prob.}[J] \propto \exp \left[-\beta \frac{N}{2} \sum_{i,j} |J_{ij}|^2 \right]$$

$$\propto \exp \left[-\beta \frac{N}{2} \text{Tr} (J^\dagger J) \right]$$

→ invariant under rotation

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N **real** eigenvalues: $\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N\} \rightarrow$ **strongly correlated**

Spectral statistics in **RMT** $\Rightarrow$ statistics of $\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N\}$

Joint distribution of eigenvalues

- Joint distribution of eigenvalues (Wigner, 1951)

$$P(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N) = \frac{1}{Z_N} \exp \left[-\frac{\beta}{2} N \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i^2 \right] \prod_{j < k} |\lambda_j - \lambda_k|^\beta$$

where the Dyson index $\beta = 1$ (GOE), $\beta = 2$ (GUE) or $\beta = 4$ (GSE)

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- $Z_N =$ Partition Function

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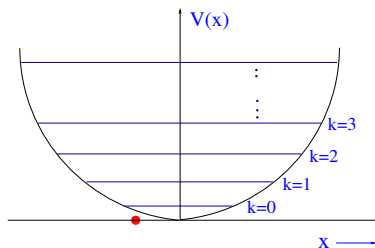
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The Vandermonde term $\prod_{j < k} |\lambda_j - \lambda_k|^\beta$ makes $\{\lambda_i\}'s$

$\Rightarrow$ **strongly correlated**

A physical realization of GUE eigenvalues



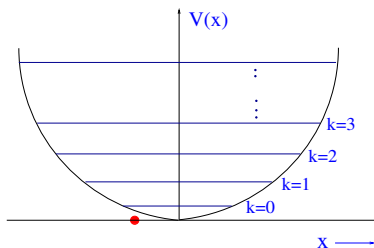
A single quantum particle in a harmonic potential: $V(x) = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2x^2$

Schrodinger equation:

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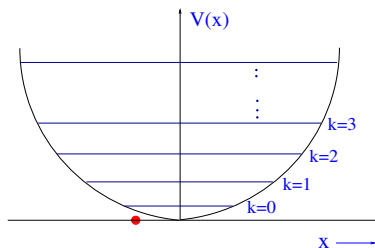
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with energy levels: $\epsilon_k = (k + 1/2) \hbar \omega$ $k = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$

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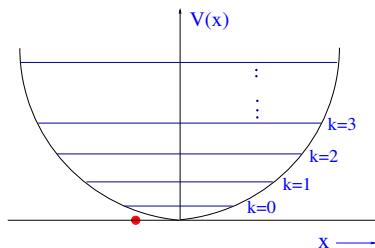
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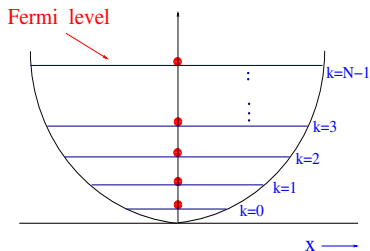
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$H_k(x) \rightarrow$ Hermite polynomials

For example, $H_0(x) = 1$, $H_1(x) = 2x$, $H_2(x) = 4x^2 - 2$, etc.

N spinless Fermions in a harmonic trap: $T=0$



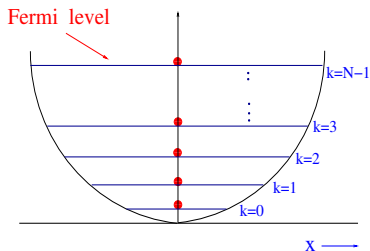
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wavefunction $\rightarrow$ Slater determinant

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with $0 \leq i \leq (N-1)$, $1 \leq j \leq N$

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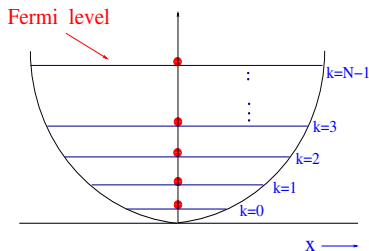
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$$\propto e^{-\frac{\alpha^2}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2} \prod_{j < k} (x_j - x_k)$$

$\Rightarrow$

$$|\Psi_0(\{x_i\})|^2 = \frac{1}{Z_N} e^{-\alpha^2 \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2} \prod_{j < k} (x_j - x_k)^2$$

Vandermonde determinant

Example: $N = 3$: $H_0(x) = 1$, $H_1(x) = 2x$, $H_2(x) = 4x^2 - 2$

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} H_0(x_1) & H_0(x_2) & H_0(x_3) \\ H_1(x_1) & H_1(x_2) & H_1(x_3) \\ H_2(x_1) & H_2(x_2) & H_2(x_3) \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$= 8 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ x_1^2 & x_2^2 & x_3^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Vandermonde determinant

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$$\begin{aligned} \det \begin{pmatrix} H_0(x_1) & H_0(x_2) & H_0(x_3) \\ H_1(x_1) & H_1(x_2) & H_1(x_3) \\ H_2(x_1) & H_2(x_2) & H_2(x_3) \end{pmatrix} &= \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2x_1 & 2x_2 & 2x_3 \\ 4x_1^2 - 2 & 4x_2^2 - 2 & 4x_3^2 - 2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= 8 \det \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ x_1^2 & x_2^2 & x_3^2 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= 8(x_1 - x_2)(x_2 - x_3)(x_3 - x_1) \end{aligned}$$

Free fermions at $T=0 \equiv$ GUE eigenvalues

- **Fermions**: squared many-body wave function at $T = 0$
(quantum probability density)

$$|\Psi_0(\{x_i\})|^2 = \frac{1}{Z_N} \exp \left[-\sum_{i=1}^N \alpha^2 x_i^2 \right] \prod_{j < k} (x_j - x_k)^2 \text{ where } \alpha = \sqrt{m\omega/\hbar}$$

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- **GUE** eigenvalues: joint probability distribution

$$P(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N) = \frac{1}{Z_N} \exp \left[-\sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i^2 \right] \prod_{j < k} |\lambda_j - \lambda_k|^2$$

$\Rightarrow$ The positions of free fermions in a harmonic trap at $T = 0$ behave statistically as the eigenvalues of a GUE random matrix

$$(\alpha x_1, \alpha x_2, \dots, \alpha x_N) \equiv (\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N)$$

Dean, Le Doussal, S.M. & Schehr, PRL, 114, 110402 (2015); PRA, 94, 063622 (2016); J. Stat. Mech. P063301 (2017)

Joint distribution of eigenvalues

Joint distribution of eigenvalues (Wigner, 1951)

$$P(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N) = \frac{1}{Z_N} \exp \left[-\frac{\beta}{2} N \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i^2 \right] \prod_{j < k} |\lambda_j - \lambda_k|^\beta$$

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Coulomb gas interpretation: (Dyson, 1962)

$$P(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_N) = \frac{1}{Z_N} \exp \left[-\frac{\beta}{2} \left(N \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i^2 - \sum_{j \neq k} \log |\lambda_j - \lambda_k| \right) \right]$$

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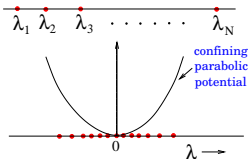
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Boltzmann weight of a gas of N pairwise repelling charges (log-repulsion) in an external harmonic potential $V(\lambda) = \lambda^2$



Coulomb gas

- $$Z_N = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \dots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left\{ \prod_i d\lambda_i \right\} \exp \left[-\frac{\beta}{2} \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i^2 - \sum_{j \neq k} \log |\lambda_j - \lambda_k| \right\} \right]$$

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$$E[\rho(\lambda)] = \frac{1}{2} \left[\int \lambda^2 \rho(\lambda) d\lambda - \int \int \ln |\lambda - \lambda'| \rho(\lambda) \rho(\lambda') d\lambda d\lambda' \right]$$

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- Minimizing the energy subject to the constraint $\int \rho(\lambda) d\lambda = 1$ gives

$$Z_N \approx \exp \left[-\beta N^2 E[\rho(\lambda)] \right]$$

Spectral Density: Wigner's Semicircle Law

- Av. density of eigenvalues (normalized to unity):

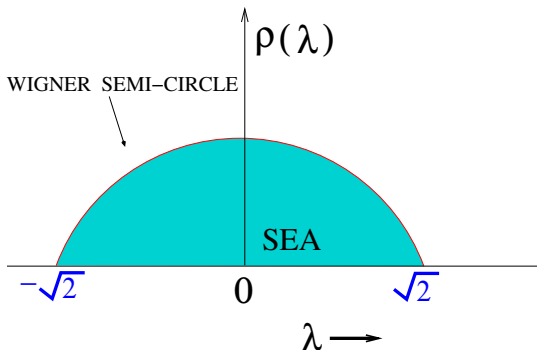
$$\rho(\lambda, N) = \left\langle \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta(\lambda - \lambda_i) \right\rangle$$

Spectral Density: Wigner's Semicircle Law

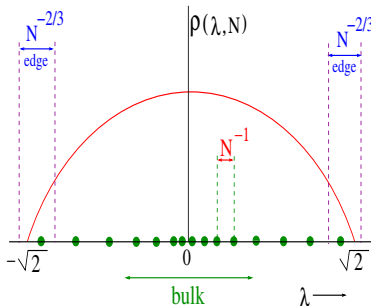
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- Wigner's Semi-circle: $\rho(\lambda, N) \xrightarrow[N \rightarrow \infty]{} \rho(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2 - \lambda^2}$

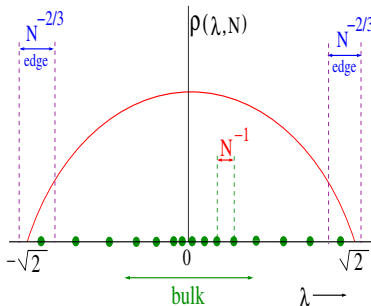


Average density of eigenvalues: Bulk and Edge



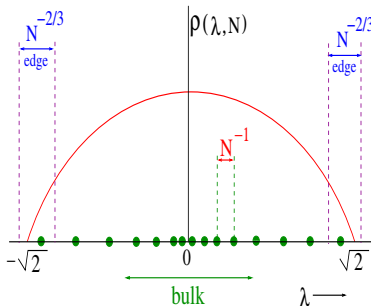
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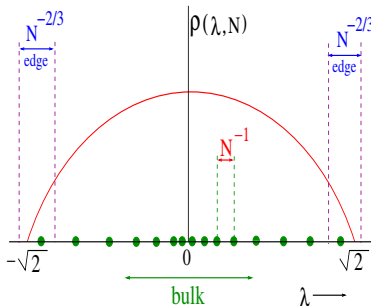
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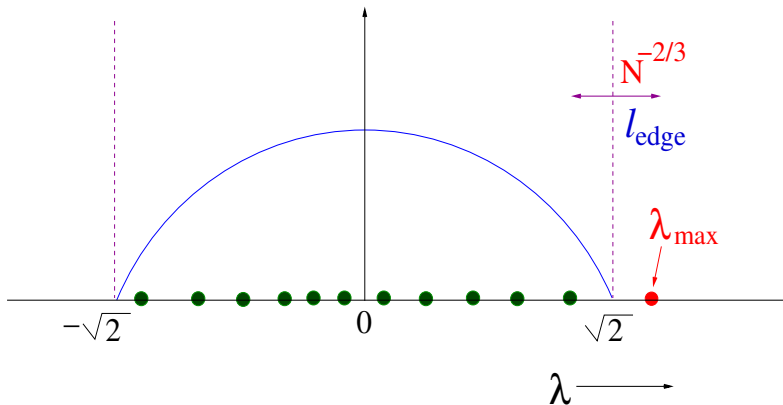
$$l_{\text{edge}} \gg l_{\text{bulk}}$$

Average density at the edge:

Bowick & Brezin '91, Forrester '93

II. Top eigenvalue: $\lambda_{\max}$

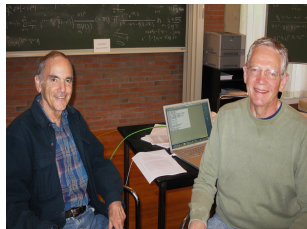
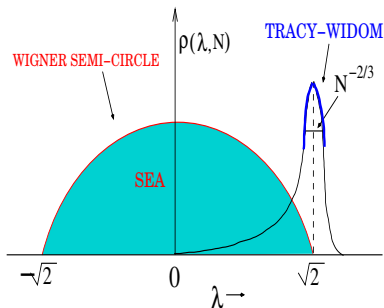
Top Eigenvalue of a random matrix $\lambda_{\max}$



Recent excitements in **statistical physics** & **mathematics** on

$\lambda_{\max} \Rightarrow$ the **top** eigenvalue of a random matrix

Top Eigenvalue of a random matrix $\lambda_{\max}$

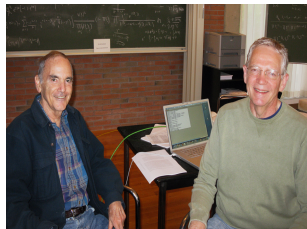
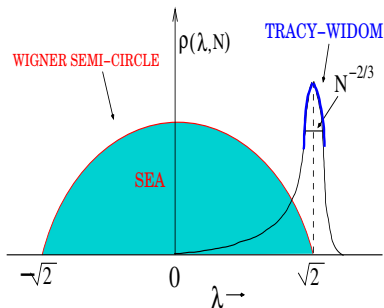


Average: $\langle \lambda_{\max} \rangle = \sqrt{2}$; Typical fluctuations: $|\lambda_{\max} - \sqrt{2}| \sim l_{\text{edge}} \sim N^{-2/3}$

typical fluctuations, for large N , are distributed via Tracy-Widom ('94)

$$P(\lambda_{\max}, N) \sim \sqrt{2} N^{2/3} f_{\beta}(\sqrt{2} N^{2/3} (\lambda_{\max} - \sqrt{2}))$$

Top Eigenvalue of a random matrix $\lambda_{\max}$



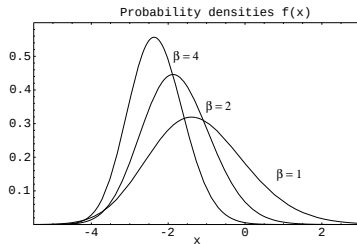
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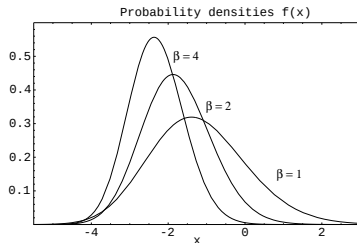
$$f_{\beta}(x) \rightarrow \text{Painlevé-II}$$

Tracy-Widom Distribution for $\lambda_{\max}$



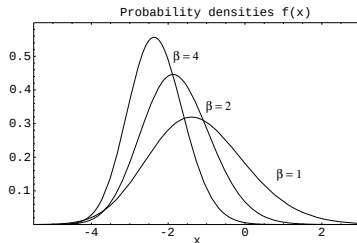
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Typical fluctuations (small) $\Rightarrow$ Tracy-Widom distribution $\rightarrow$ ubiquitous
directed polymer, random permutation, growth models–KPZ equation,
sequence alignment, large N gauge theory, liquid crystals, spin glasses,...

Tracy-Widom distribution: Experiments

PRL 104, 230601 (2010)

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

week ending
11 JUNE 2010

Universal Fluctuations of Growing Interfaces: Evidence in Turbulent Liquid Crystals

Kazumasa A. Takeuchi* and Masaki Sano

Department of Physics, The University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan

RAPID COMMUNICATIONS

PHYSICAL REVIEW E 85, 020101(R) (2012)

Measuring maximal eigenvalue distribution of Wishart random matrices with coupled lasers

Moti Fridman, Rami Pugatch, Micha Nixon, Asher A. Friesem, and Nir Davidson*

Weizmann Institute of Science, Department of Physics of Complex Systems, Rehovot 76100, Israel

PHYSICAL REVIEW B 87, 184509 (2013)

Universal scaling of the order-parameter distribution in strongly disordered superconductors

G. Lemarié,^{1,2} A. Kamlapure,³ D. Bucheli,² L. Benfatto,² J. Lorenzana,² G. Seibold,⁴ S. C. Ganguli,³
P. Raychaudhuri,³ and C. Castellani²

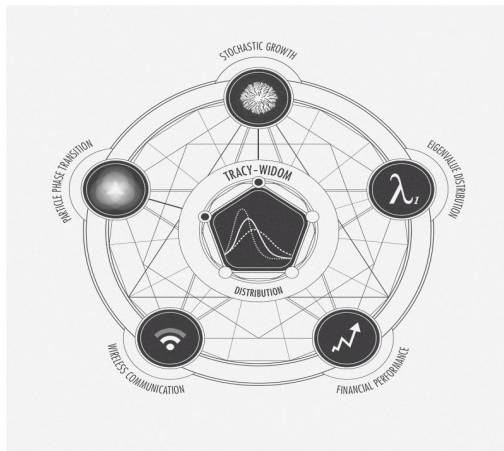
¹*Laboratoire de Physique Théorique UMR-5152, CNRS and Université de Toulouse, F-31062 France*

²*ISC-CNR and Department of Physics, Sapienza University of Rome, P.le A. Moro 2, 00185 Rome, Italy*

³*Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Homi Bhabha Rd., Colaba, Mumbai 400005, India*

⁴*Institut Für Physik, BTU Cottbus, P.O. Box 101344, 03013 Cottbus, Germany*

Ubiquity of Tracy-Widom distribution

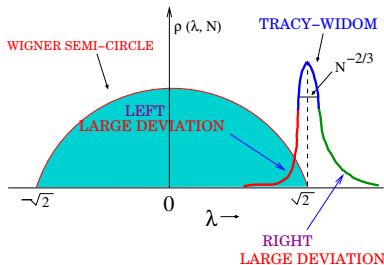


Olena Shmahalo/Quanta Magazine

“Equivalence Principle”, M. Buchanan, *Nature Phys.* 10, 543 (2014)

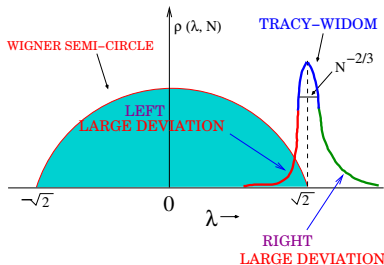
“At the far ends of a new universal law”, N. Wolchover, *Quanta Magazine* (October, 2014)

Probability of Large Deviations of $\lambda_{\max}$:



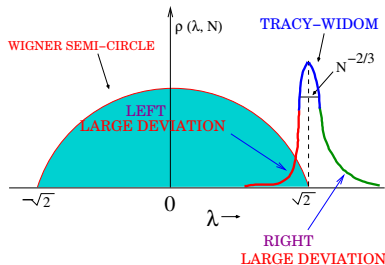
- Tracy-Widom law $\text{Prob}[\lambda_{\max} \leq w, N] \rightarrow F_{\beta}(\sqrt{2} N^{2/3} (w - \sqrt{2}))$ describes the prob. of **typical (small)** fluctuations of $\sim O(N^{-2/3})$ around the mean $\sqrt{2}$, i.e., when $|\lambda_{\max} - \sqrt{2}| \sim N^{-2/3}$

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- Q: How to describe the prob. of **large (atypical)** fluctuations when $|\lambda_{\max} - \sqrt{2}| \sim O(1) \rightarrow$ **Large** deviations from mean

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- Q: How to describe the prob. of **large (atypical)** fluctuations when

$$|\lambda_{\max} - \sqrt{2}| \sim O(1) \rightarrow \text{Large deviations from mean}$$

In particular, $P_N = \text{Prob}[\lambda_{\max} \leq 0, N] \Rightarrow$ **left** large deviation tail

Why is Tracy-Widom ubiquitous?

A natural question: Why is Tracy-Widom distribution so ubiquitous?

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Critical Phenomena : universality $\iff$ phase transition

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Critical Phenomena : universality $\Longleftrightarrow$ phase transition

microscopic details become irrelevant near a critical point

Questions:

Where to look for a phase transition?

Where is the critical point ?

What are the two phases ?

Large deviations and 3-rd order phase transition

typical fluctuations of size $\sim N^{-2/3} \rightarrow$ Tracy-Widom distributed

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$\Rightarrow$ not described by Tracy-Widom

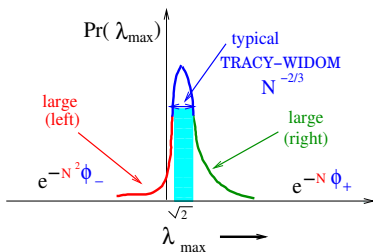
Large deviations and 3-rd order phase transition

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$\Rightarrow$ rather by large deviation functions



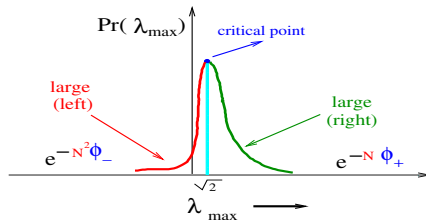
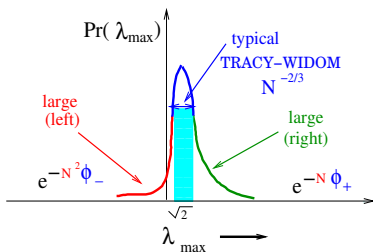
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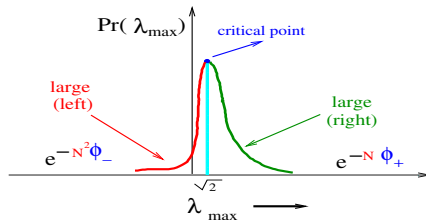
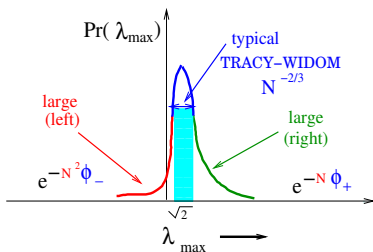
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- Large deviation principle: Ben-Arous & Guionnet 1997

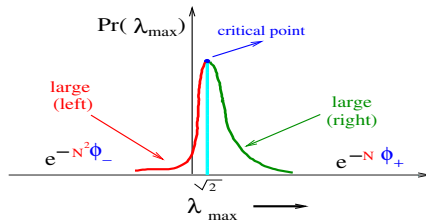
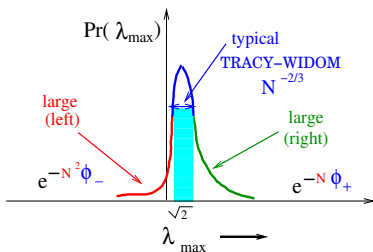
Large deviations and 3-rd order phase transition

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- Large deviation principle: Ben-Arous & Guionnet 1997
- nonanalytic behavior of the large deviation functions at the critical point $\sqrt{2} \Rightarrow$ 3-rd order phase transition
 $\Rightarrow$ Review: S.M. & G. Schehr, J. Stat. Mech. P01012 (2014)

IV. Large deviations of $\lambda_{\max}$ via Coulomb Gas

Distribution of $\lambda_{\max}$ via Coulomb gas

$$\text{Prob}[\lambda_{\max} \leq w, N] = \text{Prob}[\lambda_1 \leq w, \lambda_2 \leq w, \dots, \lambda_N \leq w] = \frac{Z_N(w)}{Z_N(\infty)}$$

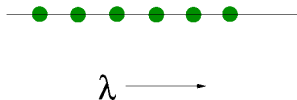
$$Z_N(w) = \int_{-\infty}^w \dots \int_{-\infty}^w \left\{ \prod_i d\lambda_i \right\} \exp \left[-\frac{\beta}{2} \left\{ N \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i^2 - \sum_{j \neq k} \log |\lambda_j - \lambda_k| \right\} \right]$$

Distribution of $\lambda_{\max}$ via Coulomb gas

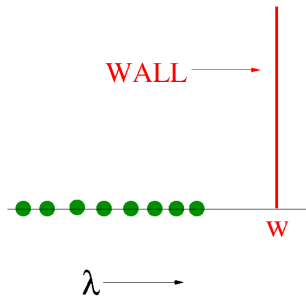
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Denominator



Numerator

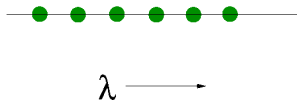


Distribution of $\lambda_{\max}$ via Coulomb gas

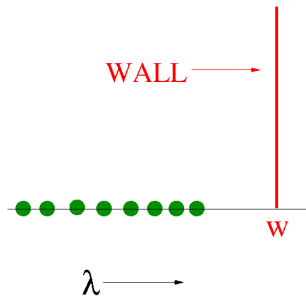
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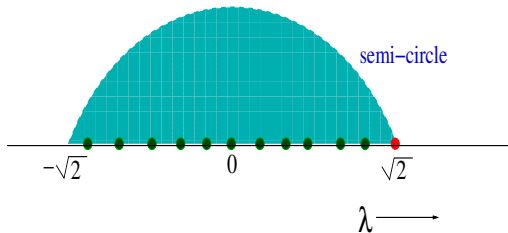
Denominator



Numerator



Denominator: Saddle point $\rightarrow$ Wigner semi-circle

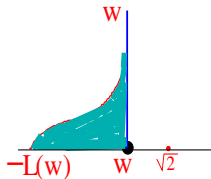


$$\rho_{\infty}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2 - \lambda^2}$$

Phase transition

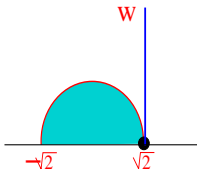
$$\lambda_{\max} = W$$

$$W < \sqrt{2}$$



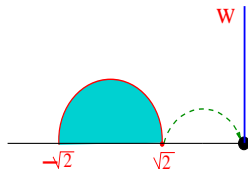
pushed

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critical

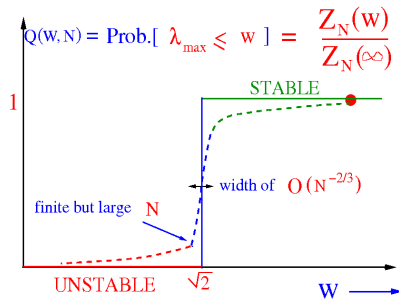
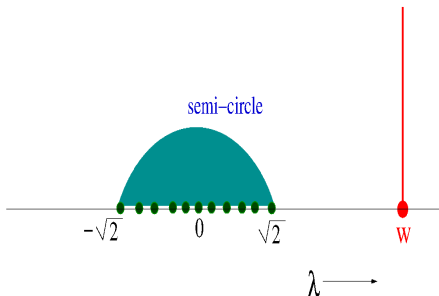
$$W > \sqrt{2}$$



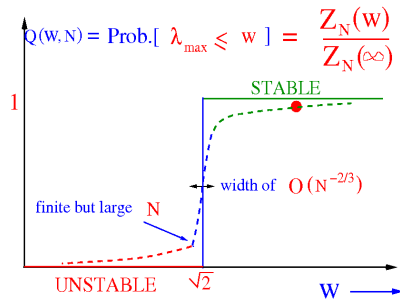
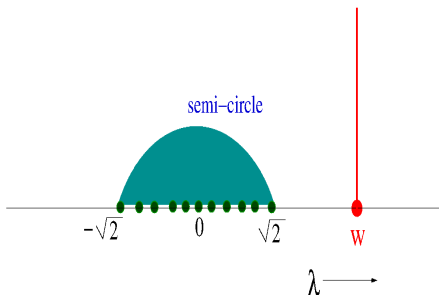
pulled

$W = \sqrt{2} \longrightarrow$ CRITICAL POINT

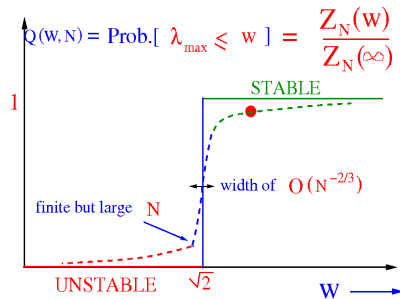
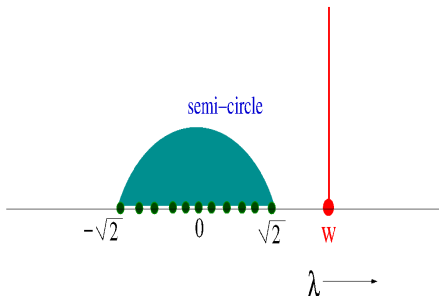
Numerator: wigner semi-circle for $w > \sqrt{2}$



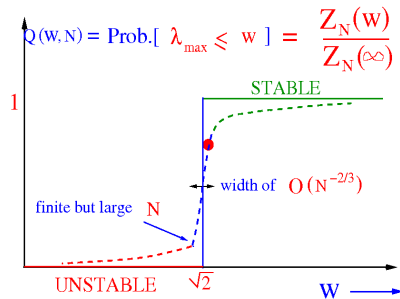
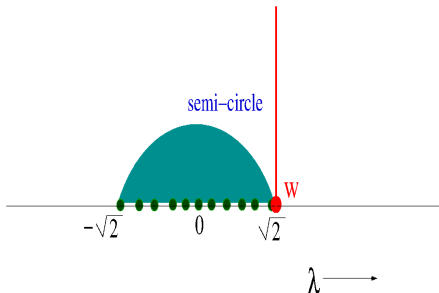
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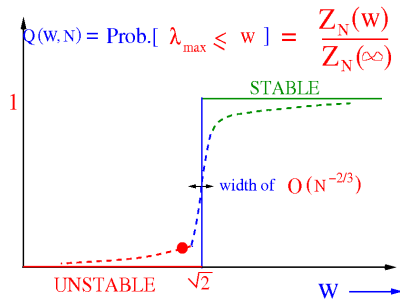
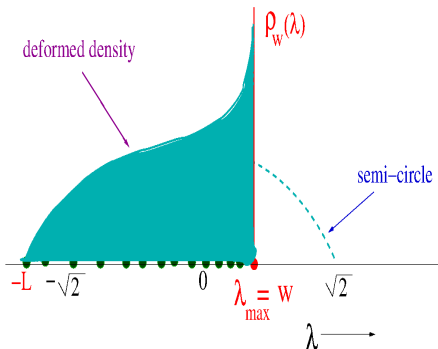
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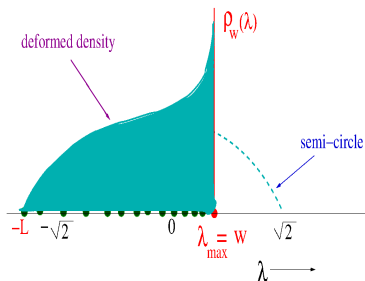
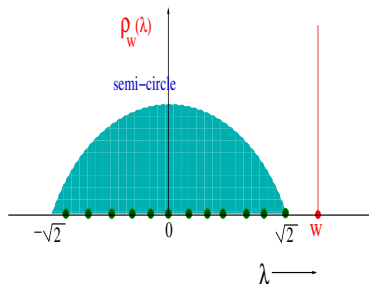
Numerator: wigner semi-circle for $w > \sqrt{2}$



Numerator: Left large deviation ($w < \sqrt{2}$)



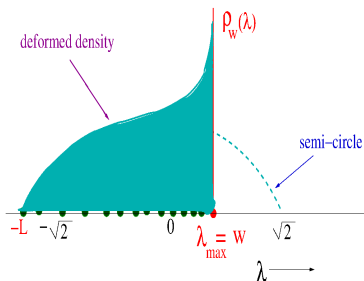
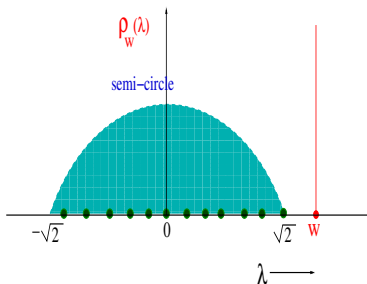
Saddle point density



- For $w \geq \sqrt{2}$, the density is given by Wigner semicircle law:

$$\rho_w(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2 - \lambda^2}$$

Saddle point density



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$$\rho_w(\lambda) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2 - \lambda^2}$$

- For $w < \sqrt{2}$, the deformed density: $\rho_w(\lambda) = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda + L(w)}}{2\pi\sqrt{w - \lambda}} [w + L(w) - 2\lambda]$

where $L(w) = [2\sqrt{w^2 + 6} - w]/3$

D.S. Dean and S.M., PRL, 97, 160201 (2006); PRE, 77, 041108 (2008)

Left Large Deviation Function

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Prob}[\lambda_{\max} \leq w, N] &= \frac{Z_N(w)}{Z_N(\infty)} \sim \exp[-\beta N^2 \{E[\rho_w(\lambda)] - E[\rho_\infty(\lambda)]\}] \\ &\sim \exp[-\beta N^2 \Phi_-(w)]\end{aligned}$$

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- $\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{N^2} \ln [P(w, N)] = \Phi_-(w) \rightarrow$ left large deviation function
physically $\Phi_-(w) \rightarrow$ energy cost in pushing the Coulomb gas

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$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_-(w) &= \frac{1}{108} \left[36w^2 - w^4 - (15w + w^3)\sqrt{w^2 + 6} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 27 \left(\ln(18) - 2 \ln(w + \sqrt{6 + w^2}) \right) \right] \quad \text{for } w < \sqrt{2}\end{aligned}$$

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- In particular, $P_N = \text{Prob}[\lambda_{\max} \leq 0] \sim \exp[-\beta N^2 \theta]$

$$\theta = \phi_-(0) = \frac{1}{4} \ln(3)$$

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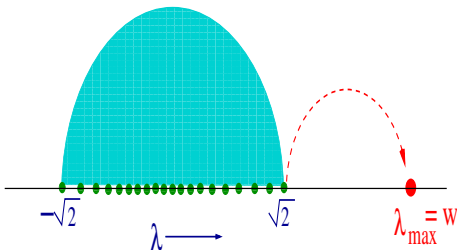
- In particular, $P_N = \text{Prob}[\lambda_{\max} \leq 0] \sim \exp[-\beta N^2 \theta]$

$$\theta = \phi_-(0) = \frac{1}{4} \ln(3)$$

- Note also that $\Phi_-(w) \approx \frac{1}{6\sqrt{2}}(\sqrt{2} - w)^3$ as $w \rightarrow \sqrt{2}$ from below

Right Large Deviation Function: $w > \sqrt{2}$

WIGNER SEMI-CIRCLE

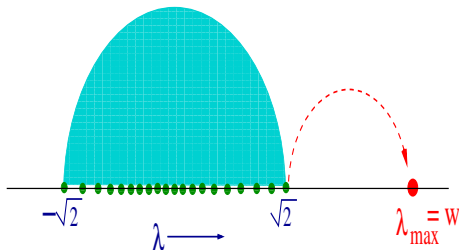


$$\text{Prob.}[\lambda_{\max} = w, N] \sim \exp[-N \Delta E(w)]$$

$\Delta E(w) \Rightarrow$ energy cost in pulling a charge out of the Wigner sea

Right Large Deviation Function: $w > \sqrt{2}$

WIGNER SEMI-CIRCLE



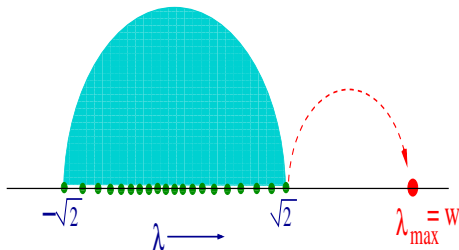
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Right large deviation: $\text{Prob.}[\lambda_{\max} = w, N] \sim \exp[-N \Phi_+(w)]$

Right Large Deviation Function: $w > \sqrt{2}$

WIGNER SEMI-CIRCLE



$$\text{Prob.}[\lambda_{\max} = w, N] \sim \exp[-N \Delta E(w)]$$

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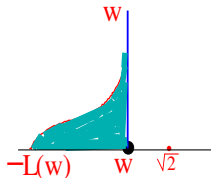
$$\Phi_+(w) = \Delta E(w) = \frac{1}{2} w \sqrt{w^2 - 2} + \ln \left[\frac{w - \sqrt{w^2 - 2}}{\sqrt{2}} \right] \quad (w > \sqrt{2})$$

[S.M. & Vergassola, PRL, 102, 160201 (2009)]

Phase transition

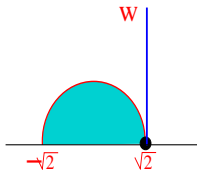
charge density that dominates $P(\lambda_{\max}=W, N)$

$$W < \sqrt{2}$$



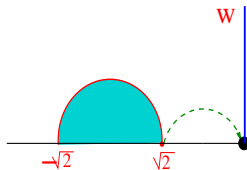
pushed
(UNSTABLE)

$$W = \sqrt{2}$$



critical

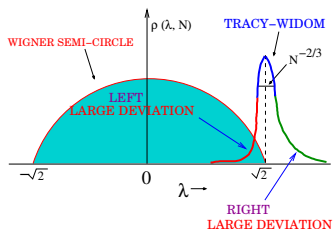
$$W > \sqrt{2}$$



pulled
(STABLE)

$W = \sqrt{2} \longrightarrow$ CRITICAL POINT

Large Deviation Tails of $\lambda_{\max}$



Prob. density of the top eigenvalue: $\text{Prob.}[\lambda_{\max} = w, N]$ behaves as:

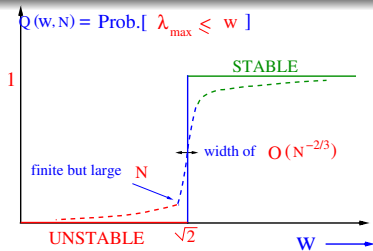
$$\sim \exp[-\beta N^2 \Phi_-(w)] \quad \text{for} \quad \sqrt{2} - w \sim O(1)$$

$$\sim N^{2/3} f_\beta \left[\sqrt{2} N^{2/3} (w - \sqrt{2}) \right] \quad \text{for} \quad |w - \sqrt{2}| \sim O(N^{-2/3})$$

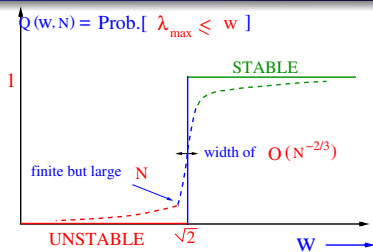
$$\sim \exp[-\beta N \Phi_+(w)] \quad \text{for} \quad w - \sqrt{2} \sim O(1)$$

V. Summary and Implications

For Large but Finite N : Summary of Results

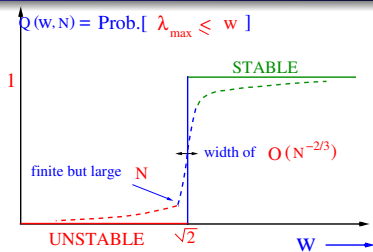


For Large but Finite N : Summary of Results



$$\begin{aligned}
 Q(w, N) &\sim \exp[-N^2 \Phi_-(w) + \dots] && \text{for } \sqrt{2} - w \sim O(1) \\
 &\sim F_1\left[\sqrt{2} N^{2/3} (w - \sqrt{2})\right] && \text{for } |w - \sqrt{2}| \sim O(N^{-2/3}) \\
 &\sim 1 - \exp[-N \Phi_+(w) + \dots] && \text{for } w - \sqrt{2} \sim O(1)
 \end{aligned}$$

For Large but Finite N : Summary of Results



$$\begin{aligned}
 Q(w, N) &\sim \exp \left[-N^2 \Phi_{-}(w) + \dots \right] && \text{for } \sqrt{2} - w \sim O(1) \\
 &\sim F_1 \left[\sqrt{2} N^{2/3} \left(w - \sqrt{2} \right) \right] && \text{for } |w - \sqrt{2}| \sim O(N^{-2/3}) \\
 &\sim 1 - \exp \left[-N \Phi_{+}(w) + \dots \right] && \text{for } w - \sqrt{2} \sim O(1)
 \end{aligned}$$

Crossover function: $F_1(z) \rightarrow$ Tracy-Widom (1994)

Exact rate functions:

$\Phi_{-}(w) \rightarrow$ Dean & S.M. 2006

$\Phi_{+}(w) \rightarrow$ S.M. & Vergassola 2009; see also Ben Arous, Dembo, Guionnet 2001

Higher order corrections: (Borot, Eynard, S.M., & Nadal 2011, Nadal & S.M., 2011)

Large Deviation Functions

These large deviation functions $\Phi_{\pm}(w)$ have been found useful in a large variety of problems:

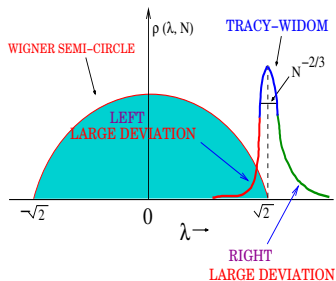
[Fyodorov 2004, Fyodorov & Williams 2007, Bray & Dean 2007, Auffinger, Ben Arous & Cerny 2010, Fyodorov & Nadal 2012.... — stationary points on random Gaussian surfaces and spin glass landscapes]

[Cavagna, Garrahan, Giardinà 2000, Parisi & Rizzo 2008,... — Glassy systems]

[Susskind 2003, Douglas et. al. 2004, Aazami & Easther 2006, Marsh et. al. 2011, ... — String theory & Cosmology]

[Beltrani 2007, Dedieu & Malajovich, 2007, Houdre 2011, Chiani 2012... — Random Polynomials, Random Words (Young diagrams)]

3-rd order phase transition

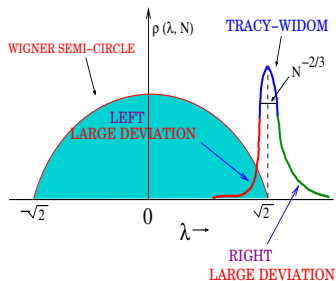


Cumulative distribution:

$$\text{Prob.}[\lambda_{\max} \leq w, N] \sim e^{-\beta N^2 \Phi_-(w)}$$

$\Phi_-(w) \rightarrow$ energy cost in pushing the gas of Coulomb charges to the left of $\sqrt{2}$

3-rd order phase transition



Cumulative distribution:

$$\text{Prob.}[\lambda_{\max} \leq w, N] \sim e^{-\beta N^2 \Phi_-(w)}$$

$\Phi_-(w) \rightarrow$ energy cost in pushing the gas of Coulomb charges to the left of $\sqrt{2}$

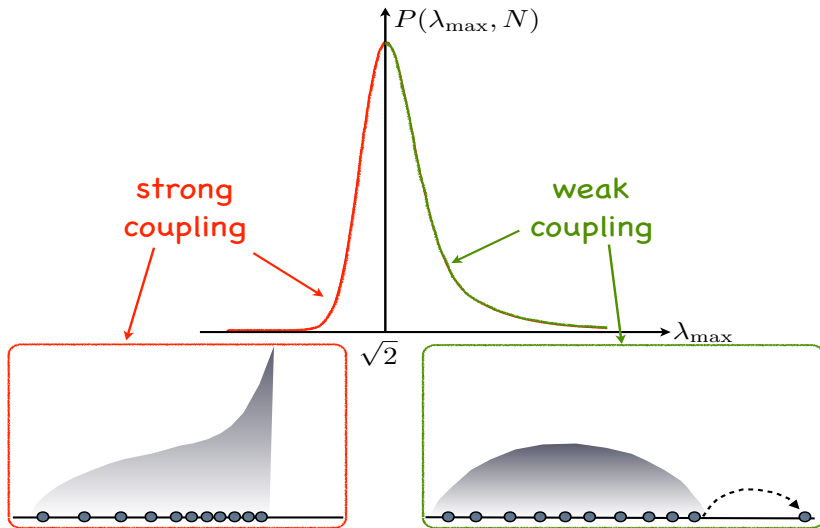
3-rd order phase transition:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{\beta N^2} \ln [P(\lambda_{\max} \leq w, N)] = \begin{cases} \Phi_-(w) \sim (\sqrt{2} - w)^3 & \text{as } w \rightarrow \sqrt{2}^- \\ 0 & \text{as } w \rightarrow \sqrt{2}^+ \end{cases}$$

$\rightarrow$ analogue of the free energy difference

3-rd derivative $\rightarrow$ discontinuous

Transition between Strong and Weak phases



Possible third-order phase transition in the large- N lattice gauge theory

David J. Gross

Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Edward Witten

Lyman Laboratory of Physics, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

(Received 10 July 1979)

The large- N limit of the two-dimensional $U(N)$ (Wilson) lattice gauge theory is explicitly evaluated for all fixed $\lambda = g^2 N$ by steepest-descent methods. The λ dependence is discussed and a third-order phase transition, at $\lambda = 2$, is discovered. The possible existence of such a weak- to strong-coupling third-order phase transition in the large- N four-dimensional lattice gauge theory is suggested, and its meaning and implications are discussed.

Volume 93B, number 4

PHYSICS LETTERS

30 June 1980

 **$N = \infty$ PHASE TRANSITION IN A CLASS OF EXACTLY SOLUBLE
MODEL LATTICE GAUGE THEORIES ★**

Spenta R. WADIA

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Received 27 March 1980

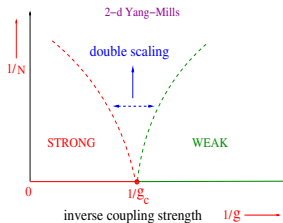
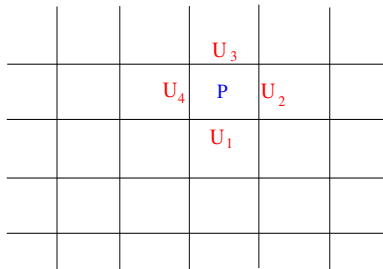
A nice review of large- N gauge theory: M. Marino, arXiv:1206.6272

Gross-Witten-Wadia model (1980)

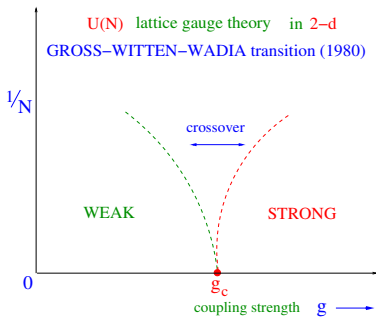
$$Z = \int [DU] \exp[S(U)]$$

$$S(U) = \frac{N}{g^2} \sum_P \text{Tr} \left(\prod_P U + h.c \right)$$

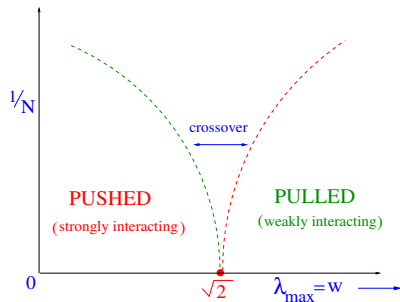
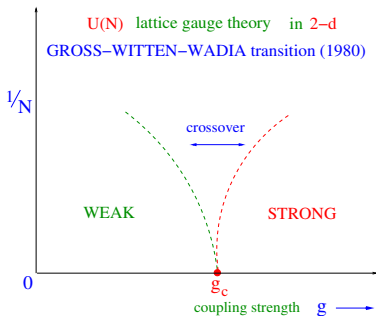
$g \rightarrow$ coupling strength



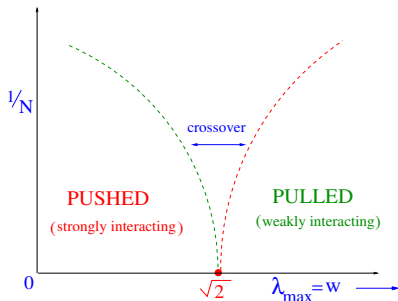
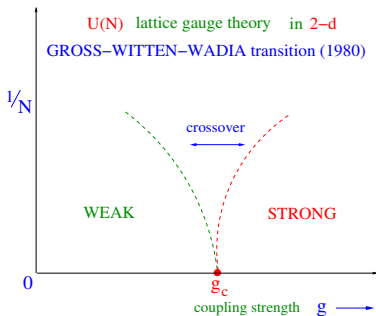
Large N Phase Transition: Phase Diagram



Large N Phase Transition: Phase Diagram



Large N Phase Transition: Phase Diagram



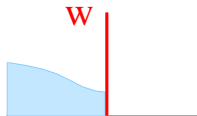
PUSHED phase $\equiv$ Strong coupling phase of Yang-Mills gauge theory

PULLED phase $\equiv$ Weak coupling phase of Yang-Mills gauge theory

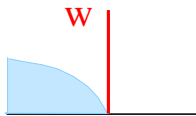
Tracy-Widom $\Rightarrow$ crossover function in the double scaling regime
(for finite but large N)

Basic mechanism for 3-rd order transition

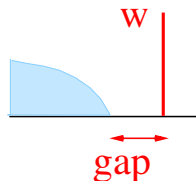
strong



critical



weak



Gap between the soft edge (square-root singularity) of the Coulomb droplet and the hard wall vanishes as a control parameter g goes through a critical value g_c :

$$\text{gap} \longrightarrow 0 \text{ as } g \rightarrow g_c$$

3-rd order phase transition $\iff$ universal Tracy-Widom crossover

3-rd order transition $\rightarrow$ ubiquitous

- $\lambda_{\max}$ for other matrix ensembles: **Wishart**: $W = X^\dagger X \rightarrow (N \times N)$
 $\rightarrow$ **covariance** matrix

Typical: Tracy-Widom

[Johansson 2000, Johnstone 2001]

Large deviations: Exact rate functions

[Vivo, S.M., Bohigas 2007, S.M. & Vergassola 2009]

3-rd order transition $\rightarrow$ ubiquitous

- $\lambda_{\max}$ for other matrix ensembles: **Wishart**: $W = X^\dagger X \rightarrow (N \times N)$
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Typical: Tracy-Widom

[Johansson 2000, Johnstone 2001]

Large deviations: Exact rate functions

[Vivo, S.M., Bohigas 2007, S.M. & Vergassola 2009]

- large N gauge theory in 2-d [Gross, Witten, Wadia '80, Douglas & Kazakov '93]
- Distribution of MIMO capacity [Kazakopoulos et. al. 2010]
- Complexity in spin glass models [Auffinger, Ben Arous & Cerny 2010, Fyodorov & Nadal 2013]
- Random tilings models [Colomo & Pronko 2013]

3-rd order transition → ubiquitous

We have found 3-rd order phase transitions in a wide variety of systems:

- Conductance and Shot Noise in Mesoscopic Cavities
- Entanglement entropy of a random pure state in a bipartite system
- Maximum displacement in Vicious walker problem
- Distribution of Wigner time-delay ...

More recently:

- Cold atoms: free fermions in a 1-d harmonic trap at $T = 0$
- Height distribution in $(1+1)$ -d KPZ growth models
- 1d Plasma: position of the rightmost charge
- Ginibre ensemble of RMT

Bohigas, Comtet, Dean, Forrester, Le Doussal, Nadal, Schehr, Texier, Vergassola, Vivo+...S.M. ('08-'17)

Main Conjecture:

Wherever Tracy-Widom distribution occurs, there is an underlying 3-rd order phase transition

TW $\longrightarrow$ finite-size crossover function at a 3-rd order critical point

Review: S.M. & G. Schehr, J. Stat. Mech. P01012 (2014)

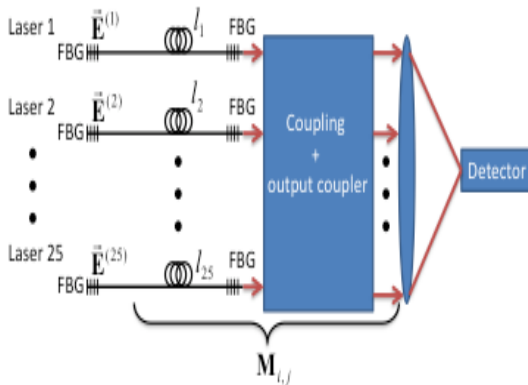
Experimental Verification with Coupled Lasers

Measuring maximal eigenvalue distribution of Wishart random matrices with coupled lasers

Moti Fridman, Rami Pugatch, Micha Nixon, Asher A. Friesem, and Nir Davidson^{*}
Weizmann Institute of Science, Dept. of Physics of Complex Systems, Rehovot 76100, Israel
(Dated: May 30, 2011)

We determined the probability distribution of the combined output power from twenty five coupled fiber lasers and show that it agrees well with the Tracy-Widom, Majumdar-Vergassola and Vivo-Majumdar-Bohigas distributions of the largest eigenvalue of Wishart random matrices with no fitting parameters. This was achieved with 500,000 measurements of the combined output power from the fiber lasers, that continuously changes with variations of the fiber lasers lengths. We show experimentally that for small deviations of the combined output power over its mean value the Tracy-Widom distribution is correct, while for large deviations the Majumdar-Vergassola and Vivo-Majumdar-Bohigas distributions are correct.

Experimental Verification with Coupled Lasers

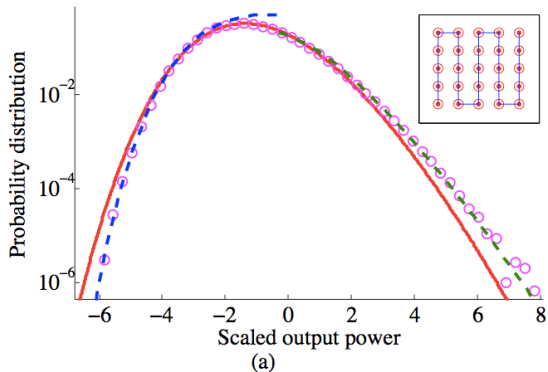


combined output power from fiber lasers $\propto \lambda_{\max}$

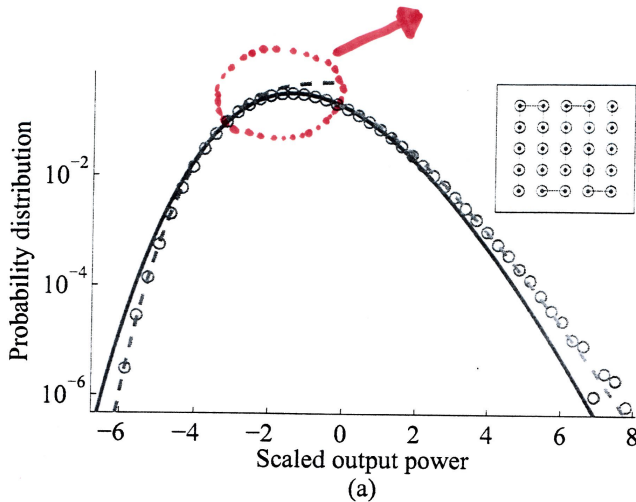
$\lambda_{\max} \rightarrow$ top eigenvalue of the Wishart matrix $W = X^t X$

where $X \rightarrow$ real symmetric Gaussian matrix ($\beta = 1$)

Experimental Verification with Coupled Lasers



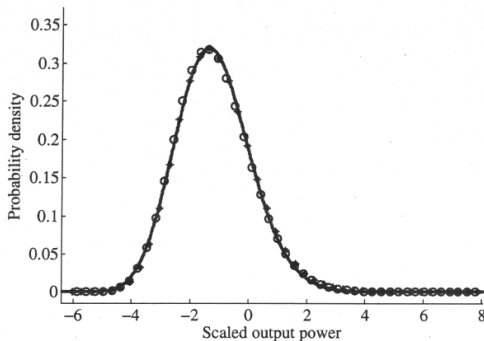
Experimental Verification with coupled lasers



Tracy-Widom density with $\beta = 1$

Fridman et. al. arXiv:1012.1282

2



Collaborators

Students: A. Grabsch, B. Lacroix-A-Chez-Toine, J. Bun, R. Marino, C. Nadal, J. Randon-Furling

Postdocs: A. Kundu (ICTS, Bangalore), D. Villamaina (CFM, Paris), J. Grela (LPTMS)

Collaborators:

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Review: S.M. & G. Schehr, arXiv: 1311.0580

J. Stat. Mech. P01012 (2014)