Geodesic random line processes and the roots of quadratic congruences

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Happy 75th birthday, Professor Dani!

Uniform distribution of roots

• Consider the roots μ of the quadratic congruence

 $\mu^2 \equiv D \pmod{m}$

with $m = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$ and D > 0 square-free (all will work also for D < 0; it's easier)

- Define sequence $\xi_1, \xi_2, \ldots \in \mathbb{T} = \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$ by normalised roots $\frac{\mu}{m}$, ordered by increasing denominator m (choose arbitrary order for terms with same m)
- Hooley (1963): We have uniform distribution mod 1

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \frac{1}{N} \# \left\{ j \le N : \xi_j \in [a, b] + \mathbb{Z} \right\} = b - a$$

• Extension to higher-order polynomial congruences (Hooley 1964); use of modular forms, Poincaré series (Bykovskii 1984; see also Good 1983); u.d. still holds for *m* restricted to primes (Duke, Friedlander, Iwaniec 1995); joint distribution (Zahavi 2020); fits in more general CRT framework (Kowalski and Soundararajan 2020).

Randomness mod 1

Given distinct points $\xi_1, \ldots, \xi_N \in \mathbb{T}$, denote by s_1, \ldots, s_N the corresponding "gaps" between those points. Gap distribution:

 $P_N f := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} f(Ns_n), \qquad f \in C_b(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}) \quad \text{(bounded continuous)}$

Two point correlation:

$$R_N f := \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\substack{m,n=1\\m \neq n}}^N \sum_{\ell \in \mathbb{Z}} f(N(\xi_m - \xi_n + \ell)), \qquad f \in C_c(\mathbb{R}) \quad \text{(cmpct supp)}$$

Theorem A. Let ξ_1, ξ_2, \ldots be iid in \mathbb{T} (uniformly distributed). Then almost surely

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} P_N f = \int_0^\infty f(s) e^{-s} ds, \qquad \forall f \in C_b(\mathbb{R}_{\ge 0})$$
$$\lim_{N \to \infty} R_N f = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(s) ds, \qquad \forall f \in C_c(\mathbb{R})$$

"Gap and two-point statistics are Poisson"

Random matrices

Theorem B. (Wigner 1950s, Gaudin 1961) Let $(\xi_{Nn})_{n \leq N}$ the ev's of $A \in U(N)$. Then Haar-a.s. $\lim_{N \to \infty} P_N f = \int_0^\infty f(s) \ p_{\text{Gaudin}}(s) ds, \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{C}_b(\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0})$ $\lim_{N \to \infty} R_N f = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(s) \left(1 - \left(\frac{\sin(\pi s)}{\pi s}\right)^2\right) ds, \quad \forall f \in \mathcal{C}_c(\mathbb{R})$

- The probability density $p_{Gaudin}(s)$ is given by a Painlevé transcendent
- Wigner surmise: $p_{\text{Gaudin}}(s) \approx \frac{32}{\pi^2} s^2 e^{-4s^2/\pi} ds$

Riemann zeros

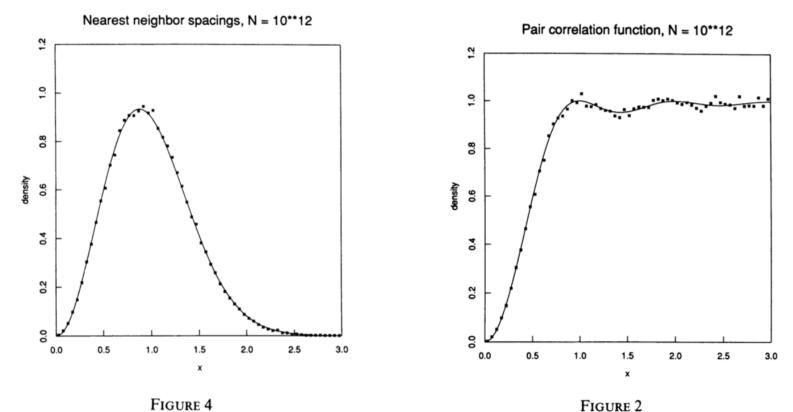


FIGURE 4

Probability density of the normalized spacings δ_n . Solid line: GUE prediction. Scatter plot: empirical data based on zeros $\gamma_n, \ 10^{12} + 1 \le n \le 10^{12} + 10^5.$

Pair correlation of zeros of the zeta function. Solid line: GUE prediction. Scatter plot: empirical data based on zeros γ_n , $10^{12} + 1 \le n \le 10^{12} + 10^5$.

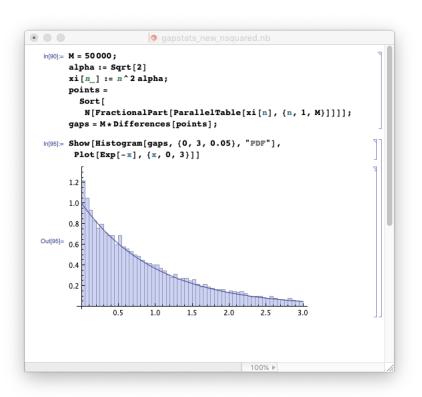
A. M. Odlyzko, Math. Comp., 48 (1987), pp. 273-308

- Montgomery (1973) "The pair correlation of zeros of the zeta function"
- Hejhal (1994, 3-point)
- Rudnick and Sarnak (1996, n-point)

Polynomials mod 1

Theorem C. (Rudnick & Sarnak, 1998) Let $(\xi_n) = (n^d \alpha \mod 1), d \ge 2$. Then for Lebesgue a.e. α , $\lim_{N \to \infty} R_N f = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(s) ds, \quad \forall f \in C_c(\mathbb{R})$

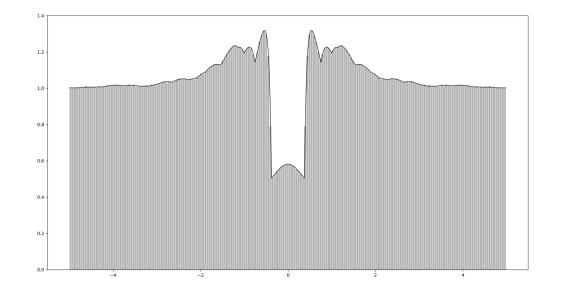
- Proof uses averages over Weyl sums and estimating solutions to polynomial Diophantine equations
- Rudnick, Sarnak & Zaharescu (2001): for α that are well-approximable by rationals, proof of convergence of gap distribution P_N for $n^2\alpha$ to exponential distribution **along subsequence of** N; for these however convergence not expected along full sequence
- No proofs for P_N , nor for R_N for explicit examples of α e.g. for $\alpha = \sqrt{2}$; cf. algorithmic characterization by Heath-Brown (2010).



Pair correlation for roots

Theorem D. (JM & Welsh, 2021) Assume D > 0 is square-free and $D \not\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Then there is an even and continuous function $w_D : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, such that

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} R_N f = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(s) w_D(s) \, ds, \qquad \forall f \in \mathsf{C}_c(\mathbb{R})$$

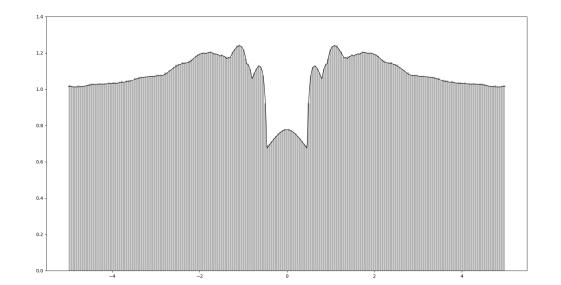


D = 2 $N = 10^{6}$

Pair correlation for roots

Theorem D. (JM & Welsh, 2021) Assume D > 0 is square-free and $D \not\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Then there is an even and continuous function $w_D : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, such that

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} R_N f = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(s) w_D(s) \, ds, \qquad \forall f \in \mathsf{C}_c(\mathbb{R})$$

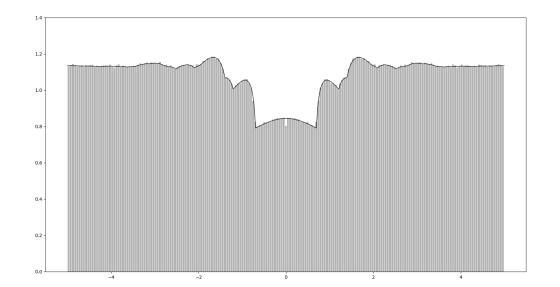


D = 3 $N = 10^{6}$

Pair correlation for roots

Theorem D. (JM & Welsh, 2021) Assume D > 0 is square-free and $D \not\equiv 1 \pmod{4}$. Then there is an even and continuous function $w_D : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, such that

$$\lim_{N \to \infty} R_N f = \int_{\mathbb{R}} f(s) w_D(s) \, ds, \qquad \forall f \in \mathsf{C}_c(\mathbb{R})$$



$$D = 10 \qquad N = 10^6$$

Higher-order statistics

• Define the random counting measure (random point process) on \mathbb{R}

$$\equiv_{N,\lambda} = \sum_{j=1}^{N} \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}} \delta_{N(\xi_j - \xi + k)}$$

- Here ξ random variable in \mathbb{T} distributed according to Borel prob. measure λ
- **Example:** For any interval $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ and integer k

$$\mathbb{P}(\Xi_{N,\lambda}(I)=k)=\lambda(\{x\in\mathbb{T}:\mathcal{N}_I(x,N)=k\})$$

with

$$\mathcal{N}_{I}(x,N) = \#\{j \leq N : \xi_{j} \in x + N^{-1}I + \mathbb{Z}\}.$$

Theorem E. (JM & Welsh, 2021)

For D as above, there exists a random point process \equiv depending only on D so that, for every Borel probability measure λ on \mathbb{T} that is absolutely continuous with respect to the Lebesgue measure, we have convergence $\equiv_{N,\lambda} \rightarrow \equiv$ in distribution as $N \rightarrow \infty$.

Specifically, for all $k_1, \ldots, k_r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ and finite intervals $I_1, \ldots, I_r \subset \mathbb{R}$, we have that

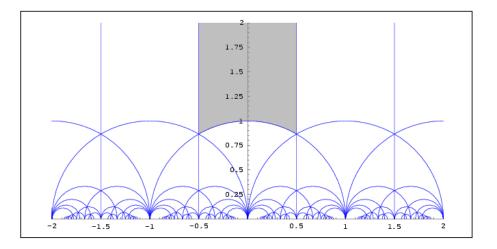
$$\lim_{N \to \infty} \lambda \left(\left\{ x \in \mathbb{T} : \mathcal{N}_{I_i}(x, N) = k_i \; \forall i \right\} \right) = \mathbb{P} \left(\Xi(I_i) = k_i \; \forall i \right)$$

and the limit is a continuous function of the endpoints of I_i .

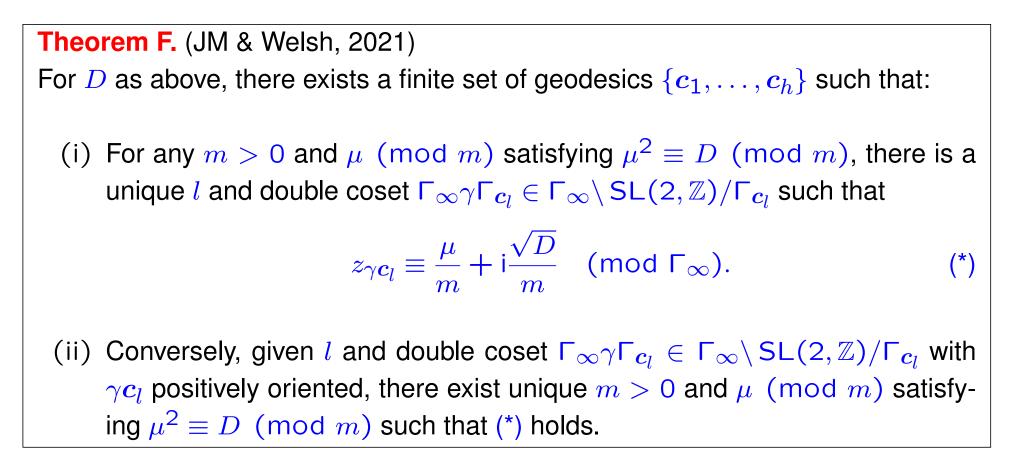
- Implies convergence of (joint) gap distributions
- We also prove convergence of all moments
- Can impose further congruence restrictions on m and μ (leads to different limit process)

Basic hyperbolic geometry

- \mathbb{H} complex upper half plane, $ds^2 = \frac{dx^2 + dy^2}{y^2}$
- boundary $\partial \mathbb{H} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$
- $SL(2,\mathbb{R})$ acts by Möbius transformations
- geodesics, horocycles
- stabiliser $\Gamma_c = \{g \in SL(2, \mathbb{R}) : gc = c\}$
- $\Gamma_{\infty} = \left\{ \pm \begin{pmatrix} 1 & k \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} : k \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$
- $SL(2,\mathbb{Z}) \setminus \mathbb{H}$ modular surface
- $SL(2,\mathbb{Z}) \setminus SL(2,\mathbb{R}) \simeq$ unit tangent bundle
- c closed geodesic (resp. horocycle) if $\Gamma_c \cap SL(2,\mathbb{Z}) < SL(2,\mathbb{Z})$ non-trivial
- Denote by z_c the "top" of the geodesic $c \in \mathbb{H}$ (i.e. the point on c closest to ∞ ; in general $z_{\gamma c_l} \neq \gamma z_{c_l}$)



Key insight: the geometry of roots



- The geodesics $\{c_1, \ldots, c_h\}$ project to closed geodesics of equal length in $SL(2, \mathbb{Z}) \setminus \mathbb{H}$
- Extends to setting with additional congruence conditions $m \equiv 0 \pmod{n}$, and $\mu \equiv \nu \pmod{n}$, need to replace $SL(2,\mathbb{Z})$ by $\Gamma_0(n)$
- See Welsh (Algebra & Number Theory, 2022) for parametrization of roots of higher-degree polynomial congruences
- Theorems D-F recently extended to $D \equiv 1 \mod 4$ by Li and Welsh (preprint 2022)

Indefinite quadratic forms and closed geodesics

• $F(X,Y) = aX^2 + bXY + cY^2$, (a, b, c) = 1, discriminant $d = b^2 - 4ac > 0$

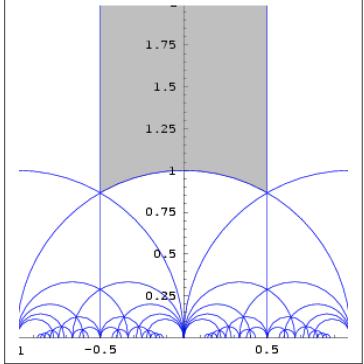
•
$$F \leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & b/2 \\ b/2 & c \end{pmatrix}$$

- F, F' equivalent if $\exists \gamma \in SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ s.t. $\begin{pmatrix} a' & b'/2 \\ b'/2 & c' \end{pmatrix} = {}^{t}\gamma \begin{pmatrix} a & b/2 \\ b/2 & c \end{pmatrix} \gamma$
- finite number h_d of equivalence classes $\{F\}_d$ of F with discriminant d
- Solutions of F(X, 1) = 0 define end points of geodesic: $x_{\pm} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 4ac}}{2a}$
- $F \leftrightarrow$ geodesics in \mathbb{H} that are closed in $SL(2,\mathbb{Z}) \setminus \mathbb{H}$ $\{F\}_d \leftrightarrow$ closed geodesics of same length ℓ_d in $SL(2,\mathbb{Z}) \setminus \mathbb{H}$
- If $F(X,Y) = mX^2 2\mu XY + cY^2$ has discriminant d = 4D, then $\mu^2 \equiv D \pmod{m}$ and $x_{\pm} = \frac{\mu}{m} \pm \frac{\sqrt{D}}{m}$, so top of geodesic is $\frac{\mu}{m} + i\frac{\sqrt{D}}{m}$

More general geometric setting

- $\Gamma < SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ discrete subgroup so that $\Gamma \setminus \mathbb{H}$ has finite area with standard cusp at ∞
- c₁,..., c_h collection of geodesics in H so that each c_l projects to a closed geodesic in Γ\H (⇔ Γ_{cl} ∩ Γ < Γ non-trivial) assume w.l.o.g. no two c_l are Γ-equivalent
- study distribution of the geodesics

 $\bigcup_{l=1}^{h} \bigcup_{\gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_l}} \gamma c_l$



• and specifically the real parts of geodesic tops with imaginary part larger than y:

$$X(y) = \biguplus_{l=1}^{h} X^{l}(y)$$

with

$$X^l(y) = \Big\{ \mathsf{Re}(z_{\gamma c_l}) \bmod 1 : \gamma \in \mathsf{F}_\infty ackslash \mathsf{F}/\mathsf{F}_{c_l}, \ \mathsf{Im}(z_{\gamma c_l}) \ge y \Big\} \subset \mathbb{T}$$

Distribution in small intervals

- counting in small intervals: $\mathcal{N}_B(x, y) = \# \Big(X(y) \cap (x + yI + \mathbb{Z}) \Big)$
- set $B_I = \{u + iv \in \mathbb{H} : u \in I, v \ge 1\}$
- then for y sufficiently small (so that y|I| < 1)

$$\mathcal{N}_{I}(x,y) = \sum_{l=1}^{h} \# \left\{ \gamma \in \Gamma_{\infty} \setminus \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_{l}} : z_{\gamma c_{l}} \in x + yB_{I} + \mathbb{Z} \right\}$$
$$= \sum_{l=1}^{h} \# \left\{ \gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_{l}} : z_{\gamma c_{l}} \in x + yB_{I} \right\}$$
$$= \sum_{l=1}^{h} \# \left\{ \gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_{l}} : z_{\gamma c_{l}} \in n(x)a(y)B_{I} \right\}$$
with $n(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad a(y) = \begin{pmatrix} y^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & y^{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{pmatrix}$

Geodesic line processes

• for
$$B \in \mathbb{H}$$
 define $\mathcal{N}_B(g) = \sum_{l=1}^h \#\{\gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_l} : z_{g^{-1}\gamma c_l} \in B\}$

- then $\mathcal{N}_I(x,y) = \mathcal{N}_B(n(x)a(y))$ for $B = B_I$
- note: $\mathcal{N}_B(\gamma g) = \mathcal{N}_B(g)$ for all $\gamma \in \Gamma$
- this motivates definition of the geodesic random "line" processes

$$\Theta_{y,\lambda} = \sum_{l=1}^{h} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_l}} \delta_{z_{(n(\xi)a(y))^{-1}\gamma c_l}}, \qquad \Theta = \sum_{l=1}^{h} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_l}} \delta_{z_{g^{-1}\gamma c_l}}$$

- random variable ξ distributed according to a Borel probability measure λ on \mathbb{T}
- random element g distributed with respect to Haar probability measure μ_{Γ} on $\Gamma \setminus SL(2,\mathbb{R})$
- intensity measure: $\mathbb{E}\Theta(B) = \int_{\Gamma \setminus SL(2,\mathbb{R})} \mathcal{N}_B(g) d\mu_{\Gamma}(g) = \kappa_{\Gamma} \operatorname{vol}_{\mathbb{H}}(B)$

Convergence in distribution

Theorem G. (JM & Welsh, 2021)

For every a.c. Borel probability measure λ on \mathbb{T} we have convergence $\Theta_{y,\lambda} \to \Theta$ in distribution as $y \to 0$.

In particular, for all $k_1, \ldots, k_r \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$, finite intervals I_i , we have that

$$\lim_{y \to 0} \lambda \left(\left\{ x \in \mathbb{T} : \mathcal{N}_{I_i}(x, y) = k_i \; \forall i \right\} \right) = \mathbb{P} \left(\Theta(B_{I_i}) = k_i \; \forall i \right)$$

and the limit is a continuous function of the endpoints of I_i .

Follows from equidistribution of long closed horocycles on Γ\SL(2, ℝ), i.e. for any bounded continuous f : Γ\SL(2, ℝ) → C

$$\lim_{y\to 0} \int f(n(x)a(y))d\lambda(x) = \int f(g)d\mu(g)$$

 Similar results for angles of hyperbolic lattice points: Boca, Paşol, Popa, Zaharescu (2014), Kelmer & Kontorovich (2015), Risager & Södergren (2017), Marklof & Vinogradov (2018), Lutsko (2020)

Moments

- We alse prove convergence of *all* moments
- In particular, for the first moment

$$\lim_{y\to 0} \int_{\mathbb{T}} \mathcal{N}_I(x,y) d\lambda(x) = \mathbb{E}\Theta(B_I) = \kappa_{\Gamma} |I|$$

• This implies uniform distribution of

$$X^l(y) = \Big\{ \operatorname{\mathsf{Re}}(z_{\gamma oldsymbol{c}_l}) ext{ mod } 1 : \gamma \in \mathsf{\Gamma}_\infty ackslash \mathsf{\Gamma} / \mathsf{\Gamma}_{oldsymbol{c}_l}, ext{ Im}(z_{\gamma oldsymbol{c}_l}) \geq y \Big\} \subset \mathbb{T}$$

as $y \rightarrow 0$ and hence (via our geometric interpretation) Hooley's uniform distribution of the roots

Towards spacing statistics: A Poincaré section for the horocycle flow

- Let \hat{c}_l be the lift of the (oriented) geodesic c_l to $\mathsf{PSL}(2,\mathbb{R}) \simeq \mathsf{T}^1(\mathbb{H})$
- Define two-dimensional Poincaré section for the horocycle flow

$$S^{l} = \Gamma \setminus \Gamma \hat{c}_{l} \{ k(-\frac{\pi}{2}) a(v^{-1}) : v \ge 1 \}$$

$$k(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\frac{\theta}{2} & -\sin\frac{\theta}{2} \\ \sin\frac{\theta}{2} & \cos\frac{\theta}{2} \end{pmatrix}, \ a(y) = \begin{pmatrix} y^{\frac{1}{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & y^{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

• Natural invariant measure ν for return map on S_l is arc-length measure on \hat{c}_l times $v^{-2}dv$.

• Compare with Athreya-Cheung section (IMRN 2014) for horocycle flow where the (closed) geodesic $\Gamma \setminus \Gamma \hat{c}_l$ is replaced by a closed horocycle \Rightarrow return map is Boca-Cobeli-Zaharescu map (statistics of Farey fractions)

An equidistribution theorem

Theorem H. (JM & Welsh, 2021) For $f : \mathbb{T} \times \Gamma \setminus SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \to \mathbb{C}$ bounded continuous, we have $\lim_{y \to 0} y \sum_{\xi \in X(y)} f(\xi, \Gamma n(\xi) a(y)) = \int_{\mathbb{T}} \int_{\Gamma \setminus SL(2, \mathbb{R})} f(x, g) d\nu(g) dx.$

- Key observation is that return times for the periodic orbit $\{\Gamma a(y)n(t) : t \in \mathbb{T}\}$ have the form $y^{-1} \operatorname{Re}(z_{\gamma c_l})$
- Use this equidistribution theorem (in place of the previous horocycle equidistribution) to obtain spacing statistics

Conditioned geodesic line processes

• Earlier we discussed geodesic random line processes

$$\Theta_{y,\lambda} = \sum_{l=1}^{h} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_l}} \delta_{z_{(n(\xi)a(y))^{-1}\gamma c_l}}, \qquad \Theta = \sum_{l=1}^{h} \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_l}} \delta_{z_{g^{-1}\gamma c_l}}$$

- random variable ξ distributed according to a Borel probability measure λ on \mathbb{T}

- random element g distributed with respect to Haar probability measure μ_{Γ} on $\Gamma \setminus SL(2,\mathbb{R})$
- Consider now the "conditioned" processes

$$\Theta_y^0 = \sum_{l=1}^h \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_l}} \delta_{z_{(n(\xi)a(y))^{-1}\gamma c_l}}, \qquad \Theta^0 = \sum_{l=1}^h \sum_{\gamma \in \Gamma/\Gamma_{c_l}} \delta_{z_{g^{-1}\gamma c_l}}$$

- random variable ξ distributed uniformly in X(y)
- random element g distributed with respect to ν on $\Gamma \setminus SL(2, \mathbb{R})$
- Θ^0 is related to the Palm distribution of Θ
- Using the previous equidistribution theorem, we can prove $\Theta_y^0 \to \Theta^0$ in distribution and for all moments

Moments

- In particular the intensity measure $\mathbb{E}\Theta_y^0 \to \mathbb{E}\Theta^0$ is nothing but the pair correlation measure!
- The limit is $\mathbb{E}\Theta^0(B_I) = \delta_0(I) + \int_I W(v) dv$

where $W: \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is the even and continuous function given by

$$W(v) = \frac{1}{\ell v^2} \sum_{l_1, l_2 = 1}^{h} \sum_{\substack{\gamma \in \Gamma_{c_{l_1}} \setminus \Gamma / \Gamma_{c_{l_2}} \\ \gamma c_{l_2} \neq c_{l_1}, \overline{c_{l_1}}}} H_{\text{sign}(g_{l_1}^{-1} \gamma g_{l_2}(0))}(q(\gamma, l_1, l_2), v, v),$$
(1)

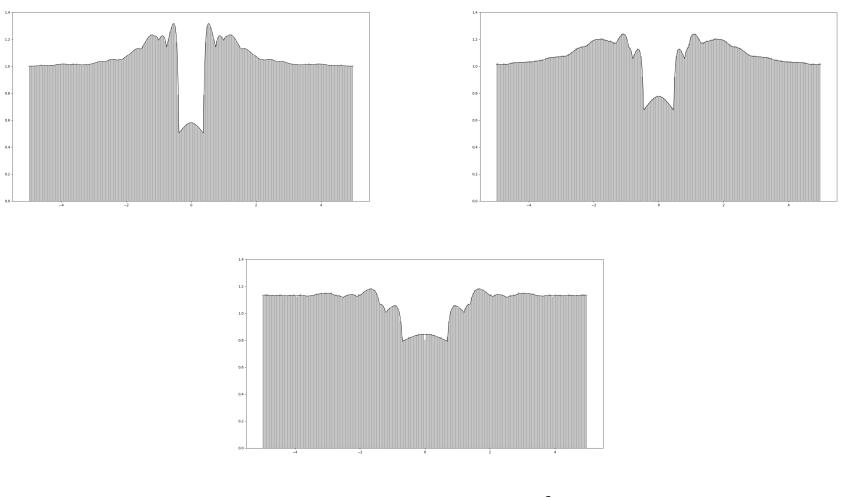
where
$$q(\gamma, l_1, l_2) = \frac{r+1}{r-1}$$
 with r the cross-ratio $r = \frac{((\gamma c_{l_2})^+ - c_{l_1}^-)((\gamma c_{l_2})^- - c_{l_1}^+)}{((\gamma c_{l_2})^+ - c_{l_1}^+)((\gamma c_{l_2})^- - c_{l_1}^-)}$, and

$$H_+(q, v, v) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } q < -1 \\ 0 & \text{if } -1 < q < 1 \text{ and } v < \sqrt{2 - 2q} \\ h_q(s_1(q, v)) - h_q(s_2(q, v)) & \text{if } -1 < q < 1 \text{ and } v > \sqrt{2 - 2q} \\ h_q(s_1(q, v)) - h_q(-q + \sqrt{q^2 - 1}) & \text{if } q > 1, \end{cases}$$

$$H_-(q, v, v) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } q < -1 \\ h_q(s_1(q, v)) - h_q(s_2(q, v)) & \text{if } q > 1, \\ h_q(s_1(q, v)) - h_q(s_2(q, v)) & \text{if } -1 < q < 1 \text{ and } v < \sqrt{2 - 2q} \\ h_q(s_1(q, v)) - h_q(s_2(q, v)) & \text{if } -1 < q < 1 \text{ and } v < \sqrt{2 - 2q} \\ h_q(s_1(q, v)) - h_q(s_2(q, v)) & \text{if } -1 < q < 1 \text{ and } v < -\sqrt{2 - 2q} \\ h_q(s_1(q, v)) - h_q(s_2(q, v)) & \text{if } -1 < q < 1 \text{ and } v > -\sqrt{2 - 2q} \\ h_q(-q - \sqrt{q^2 - 1}) - h_q(s_2(q, v)) & \text{if } q > 1, \end{cases}$$

$$h_q(s) = \log \frac{s+q}{1-s^2}, \quad s_1(q, v) = \frac{-q + \sqrt{v^2 + q^2 - 1}}{v+1}, \quad s_2(q, v) = v - q - \sqrt{v^2 + q^2 - 1}. \end{cases}$$

Pair correlation densities (\rightarrow Theorem D)



D = 2, 3, 10 $N = 10^{6}$