

Noncommutative functions and regularity properties of spectral distributions

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Noncommutative probability spaces

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Definition

A **noncommutative probability space** (\mathcal{A}, ϕ) consists of

- a complex algebra \mathcal{A} with unit $1_{\mathcal{A}}$ and
- a linear functional $\phi : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with $\phi(1_{\mathcal{A}}) = 1$ (**expectation**).

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Definition

A noncommutative probability space (\mathcal{A}, ϕ) is called

- **C^* -probability space** if
 - ▶ \mathcal{A} is a unital C^* -algebra and
 - ▶ ϕ is a state on \mathcal{A} .
- **tracial W^* -probability space**, if
 - ▶ \mathcal{A} is a von Neumann algebra and
 - ▶ ϕ is a faithful normal tracial state on \mathcal{A} .

Noncommutative distributions

Noncommutative distributions

Definition (“combinatorial distribution”)

Let (\mathcal{A}, ϕ) be a noncommutative probability space. For any given family $X = (X_i)_{i \in I}$ of noncommutative random variables, we call

$$\mu_X : \mathbb{C}\langle x_i \mid i \in I \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k} \mapsto \phi(X_{i_1} \cdots X_{i_k})$$

the (joint) noncommutative distribution of X .

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Definition (“analytic distribution”)

Let (\mathcal{A}, ϕ) be a C^* -probability space. For any given $X = X^* \in \mathcal{A}$, the noncommutative distribution of X can be identified with the unique Borel probability measure μ_X on the real line \mathbb{R} that satisfies

$$\phi(X^k) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} t^k d\mu_X(t) \quad \text{for all integers } k \geq 0.$$

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Compute the analytic distribution and the Brown measure, respectively, of Y .

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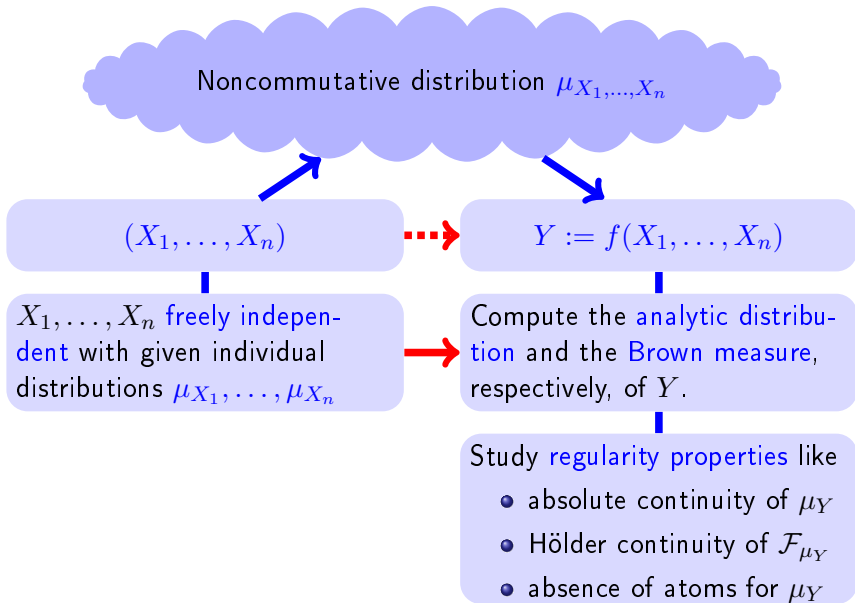


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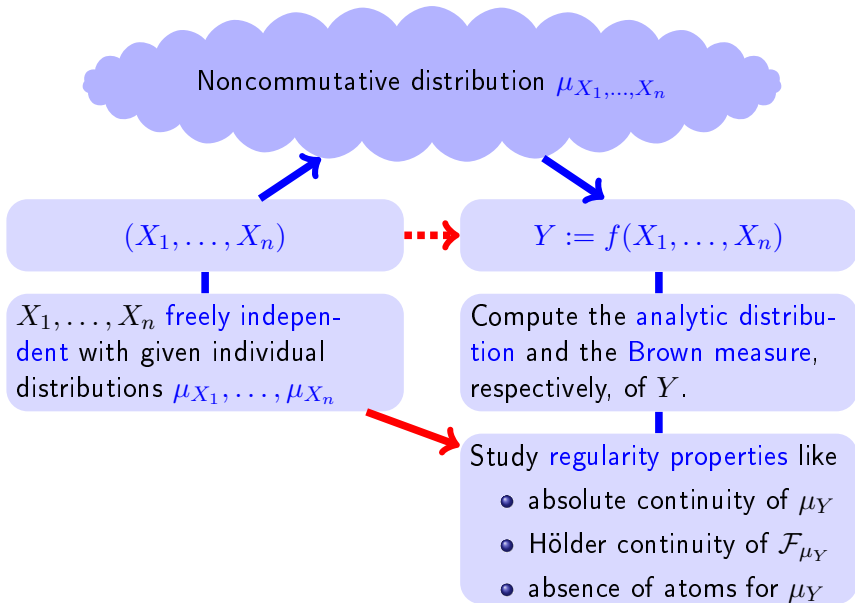
Compute the analytic distribution and the Brown measure, respectively, of Y .

Study regularity properties like

- absolute continuity of μ_Y
- Hölder continuity of \mathcal{F}_{μ_Y}
- absence of atoms for μ_Y



[Belinschi-M.-Speicher, '17], [Belinschi-Sniady-Speicher, '18], [Helton-M.-Speicher, '18]



[Shlyakhtenko-Skoufranis, '15], [Ajanki-Erdős-Krüger, '16], [Alt-Erdős-Krüger, '18]

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[Charlesworth-Shlyakhtenko, '16], [M.-Speicher-Weber, '17],
[M.-Speicher-Yin, '18], [Banna-M., '18]

Basic classes of “noncommutative test functions”

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- 1 Noncommutative polynomials, i.e., expressions of the form

$$P = a_0 + \sum_{k=1}^d \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_k=1}^n a_{i_1, \dots, i_k} x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_k}$$

in formal non-commuting indeterminates x_1, \dots, x_n ; we denote the unital complex algebra consisting of all noncommutative polynomials by $\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$.

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- ② **Matrices of noncommutative polynomials**, i.e., elements \mathbf{P} in $M_N(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle)$ for an arbitrary $N \in \mathbb{N}$.
- ③ **Affine linear pencils**, i.e., matrices of noncommutative polynomials that are of the particular form

$$\mathbf{P} = b_0 + b_1 x_1 + \cdots + b_n x_n$$

with scalar matrices b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n of appropriate size.

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But what does this actually mean?

- ☞ Loosely speaking, noncommutative rational functions are built out of noncommutative polynomials by successive applications of the arithmetic operations **addition, multiplication, and inversion**.
- ☞ They can be realized as *equivalence classes* of **noncommutative rational expressions** which are **non-degenerate**.

From rational functions to affine linear pencils

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Definition

Let $\mathbf{Q} \in M_N(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle)$ be given.

- The (inner) rank of \mathbf{Q} , denoted by $\rho(\mathbf{Q})$, is the least integer $k \geq 1$ for which \mathbf{Q} can be written as $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{R}_1 \mathbf{R}_2$ with some rectangular matrices

$$\mathbf{R}_1 \in M_{N \times k}(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{R}_2 \in M_{k \times N}(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle).$$

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Facts

- \mathbf{Q} full $\iff \mathbf{Q}$ invertible in $M_N(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle)$
- Every noncommutative rational function $r \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ admits a linear representation, i.e., it can be written as $r = u \mathbf{Q}^{-1} v$ with a full affine linear pencil $\mathbf{Q} \in M_N(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle)$ and scalar vectors u and v of appropriate size.

How can we “evaluate” such functions?

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Trivial facts

Let \mathcal{A} be a unital algebra and consider $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \mathcal{A}$. There is a unital homomorphism

$$\mathrm{ev}_X : \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$$

that is uniquely determined by the condition that $\mathrm{ev}_X(x_i) = X_i$ for each $i = 1, \dots, n$. The latter extends naturally to a unital homomorphism

$$\mathrm{ev}_X^{(N)} : M_N(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle) \rightarrow M_N(\mathcal{A}), \quad (P_{kl})_{k,l=1}^N \mapsto (\mathrm{ev}_X(P_{kl}))_{k,l=1}^N.$$

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Challenging facts

- Not every rational expression can be evaluated everywhere.
- Two rational expressions representing the same rational function do not necessarily give the same value under evaluation.

Noncommutative derivatives

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Consider again the $(*)$ -algebra $\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ of noncommutative polynomials in formal (selfadjoint) variables x_1, \dots, x_n .

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The **noncommutative derivatives** are the linear mappings

$$\partial_1, \dots, \partial_n : \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \otimes \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$$

which are uniquely determined by the two conditions

- $\partial_j(P_1 P_2) = (\partial_j P_1) \cdot P_2 + P_1 \cdot (\partial_j P_2)$ for all $P_1, P_2 \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$,
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$\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle \otimes \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ becomes a $\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ -bimodule via

$$P_1 \cdot (Q_1 \otimes Q_2) \cdot P_2 := (P_1 Q_1) \otimes (Q_2 P_2).$$

Conjugate variables and free Fisher information

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Let (\mathcal{M}, τ) be a tracial W^* -probability space and consider any selfadjoint operators $X_1, \dots, X_n \in \mathcal{M}$; we put $\mathcal{M}_0 := \text{vN}(X_1, \dots, X_n)$.

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Definition (Voiculescu (1998))

If $\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n \in L^2(\mathcal{M}_0, \tau)$ are such that for all $P \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$

$$(\tau \otimes \tau)((\partial_j P)(X_1, \dots, X_n)) = \tau(\xi_j P(X_1, \dots, X_n)), \quad j = 1, \dots, n,$$

then (ξ_1, \dots, ξ_n) is called the **conjugate system** for (X_1, \dots, X_n) .

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Definition (Voiculescu (1998))

The **(non-microstates) free Fisher information** is defined by

$$\Phi^*(X_1, \dots, X_n) := \begin{cases} \sum_{j=1}^n \|\xi_j\|_2^2, & \text{if a conjugate system } (\xi_1, \dots, \xi_n) \\ & \text{for } (X_1, \dots, X_n) \text{ exists} \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Interlude: Gibbs laws and the Schwinger-Dyson equation

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Theorem (Guionnet, Shlyakhtenko (2009))

Let $V \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ be “nice” and let $(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)})$ be random matrices of size $N \times N$ following the **Gibbs law**

$$d\Lambda_N^V(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)}) = \frac{1}{Z_N^V} e^{-N \operatorname{Tr}(V(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)}))} dX_1^{(N)} \dots dX_n^{(N)}.$$

Then, for all $P \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \operatorname{tr}_N(P(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)})) = \tau(P(X_1, \dots, X_n)) \quad \text{almost surely}$$

for selfadjoint operators X_1, \dots, X_n in some W^* -probability space (\mathcal{M}, τ) that satisfy the **Schwinger-Dyson equation with potential V** .

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Observation

For such (X_1, \dots, X_n) , we always have that $\Phi^*(X_1, \dots, X_n) < \infty$.

Useful variants of the free entropy dimension

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Suppose that S_1, \dots, S_n are freely independent semicircular elements that are also free from $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$, then $(X_1 + \sqrt{t}S_1, \dots, X_n + \sqrt{t}S_n)$ admits a conjugate system for each $t > 0$. More precisely, we have

$$\frac{n^2}{C^2 + nt} \leq \Phi^*(X_1 + \sqrt{t}S_1, \dots, X_n + \sqrt{t}S_n) \leq \frac{n}{t} \quad \text{for all } t > 0,$$

with $C^2 := \tau(X_1^2 + \dots + X_n^2)$.

Useful variants of the free entropy dimension

Suppose that S_1, \dots, S_n are freely independent semicircular elements that are also free from $\{X_1, \dots, X_n\}$, then $(X_1 + \sqrt{t}S_1, \dots, X_n + \sqrt{t}S_n)$ admits a conjugate system for each $t > 0$. More precisely, we have

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Atoms of (matrices of) polynomials and rational functions

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- 2 For every selfadjoint $\mathbf{P} \in M_N(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle)$, the operator $\mathbf{Y} := \mathbf{P}(X_1, \dots, X_n)$ has atoms precisely at the points in the set

$$\{\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \mid \mathbf{P} - \lambda 1_N \in M_N(\mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle) \text{ is not full}\}$$

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- 3 Every $r \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ admits a well-defined evaluation $r(X) \in \mathcal{A}$. If r is non-constant and selfadjoint, then the analytic distribution of $r(X)$ has no atoms.

Hölder continuity: a criterion

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Consider $Y = Y^*$ in (\mathcal{M}, τ) . Let μ_Y be the analytic distribution of Y and let \mathcal{F}_Y be its **cumulative distribution function**, i.e., $\mathcal{F}_Y(t) := \mu_Y((-\infty, t])$.

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Lemma (M., Speicher, Yin (2018))

If there exist $c > 0$ and $\alpha > 1$ such that

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for all $s \in \mathbb{R}$ and each spectral projection p of Y , then \mathcal{F}_Y is Hölder continuous with exponent $\beta := \frac{2}{\alpha-1}$; more precisely, we have that

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Proof – following ideas of [Charlesworth, Shlyakhtenko (2016)].

Take $p = E_Y((s, t])$ for the spectral measure E_Y of Y and observe that

$$\|p\|_2 = \mu_Y((s, t])^{1/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \|(Y - s)p\|_2 \leq |t - s| \mu_Y((s, t])^{1/2}.$$



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Let $P \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ be selfadjoint with degree $d \geq 1$ and consider

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Then there exists some constant $C > 0$ such that

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In fact, for every $R > \max_{i=1, \dots, n} \|X_i\|$, we can take

$$C = (8\Phi^*(X)^{1/2}R)^{\frac{2}{3}} \rho_R(P)^{-\frac{2^d}{3(2^d-1)}} \|P\|_R^{-\frac{2}{3(2^d-1)}} \prod_{k=1}^{d-1} \left(\frac{d!}{(d-k)!} \right)^{\frac{2^k}{3(2^d-1)}},$$

where $\|P\|_R$ and $\rho_R(P)$ are quantities that depend only on P and R .

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Then, the **logarithmic energy** (and thus also the **free entropy** $\chi^*(Y)$)

$$I(\mu_Y) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \log \frac{1}{|s - t|} d\mu_Y(s) d\mu_Y(t)$$

is finite; in fact, there is an explicit bound in terms of the input data.

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Remark

This is a first step towards a conjecture of Charlesworth and Shlyakhtenko (2016) saying that this should remain valid under the weaker condition

$$\chi^*(X_1, \dots, X_n) > -\infty.$$

Eigenvalue distributions

Consider a random matrix X of size $N \times N$.

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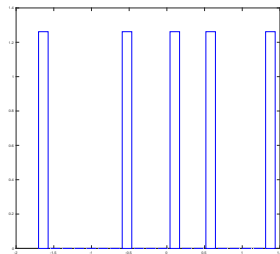
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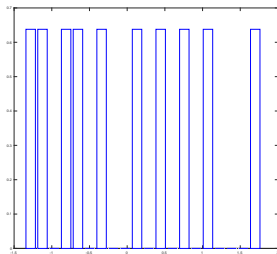
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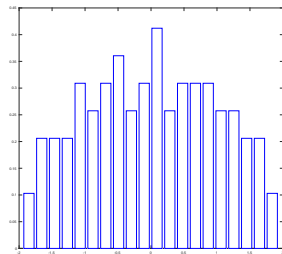
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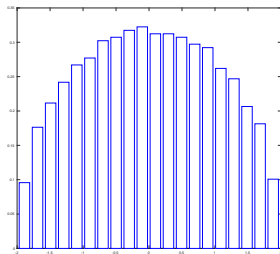
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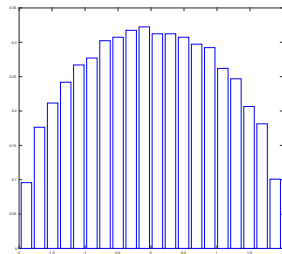
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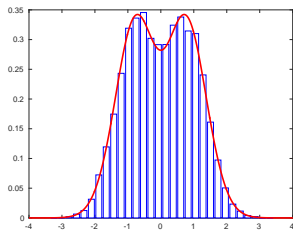
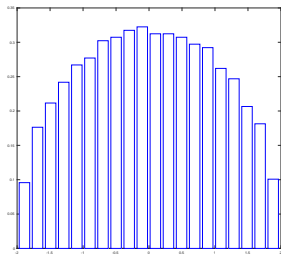
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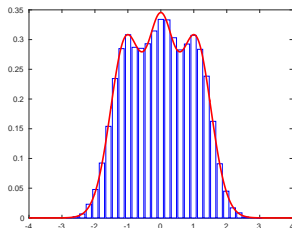
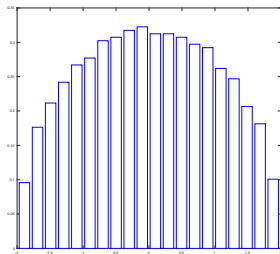
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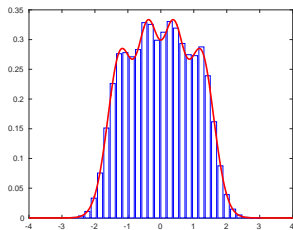
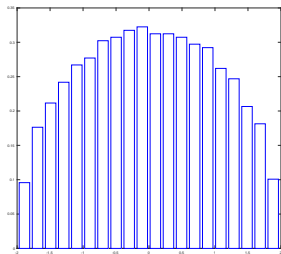
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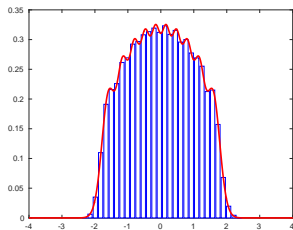
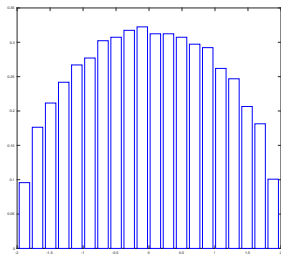
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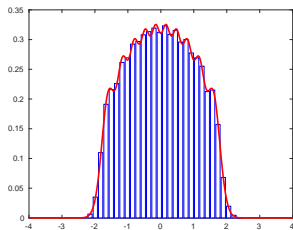
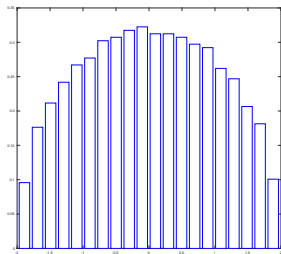
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\leadsto Wigner's semicircle theorem



Gaussian block random matrices

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Corollary (M., Speicher, Yin (2018); Banna, M. (2018))

Let $b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n \in M_d(\mathbb{C})$ be selfadjoint such that the quantum operator

$$\mathcal{L} : M_d(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow M_d(\mathbb{C}), \quad b \mapsto b_1 b b_1 + \dots + b_n b b_n$$

satisfies $\mathcal{L}(b) \geq c \operatorname{tr}_d(b) 1_d$ for all positive $b \in M_d(\mathbb{C})$ for some $c > 0$. Put

$$\mathbf{X}^{(N)} := b_0 \otimes 1_N + b_1 \otimes X_1^{(N)} + \dots + b_n \otimes X_n^{(N)}$$

for independent standard Gaussian random matrices $(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)})$ and

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- (i) $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{S}}$ is Hölder continuous with exponent $\frac{2}{3}$.
- (ii) There is some $C > 0$ such that, with respect to the **Kolmogorov distance** d_{Kol} , we have that $d_{\text{Kol}}(\bar{\mu}_{\mathbf{X}^{(N)}}, \mu_{\mathbf{S}}) \leq C N^{-2/11}$.



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Polynomial evaluations for Gibbs laws

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Let $V \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ be “nice” and let $(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)})$ be random matrices of size $N \times N$ distributed according to the Gibbs law

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Then, for each non-constant selfadjoint $P \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$, we have that:

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Polynomial evaluations for Gibbs laws

Corollary (Banna, M. (2018))

Let $V \in \mathbb{C}\langle x_1, \dots, x_n \rangle$ be “nice” and let $(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)})$ be random matrices of size $N \times N$ distributed according to the Gibbs law

$$d\Lambda_N^V(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)}) = \frac{1}{Z_N^V} e^{-N \operatorname{Tr}(V(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)}))} dX_1^{(N)} \dots dX_n^{(N)}.$$

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(ii) We have that

$$d_{\text{Kol}}(\bar{\mu}_{Y^{(N)}}, \mu) \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } N \rightarrow \infty.$$

Polynomial evaluations for GUEs

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Let $(X_1^{(N)}, \dots, X_n^{(N)})$ be independent Gaussian random matrices of size $N \times N$.

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$$d_{\text{Kol}}(\bar{\mu}_{Y^{(N)}}, \mu) \leq CN^{-\frac{1}{13 \cdot 2^{d+2} - 60}} \quad \text{for all } N \in \mathbb{N}.$$

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Thank you!