

Random Matrix Theory and applications in cosmology

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School Analytics, Inference, and Computation in
Cosmology: Advanced methods



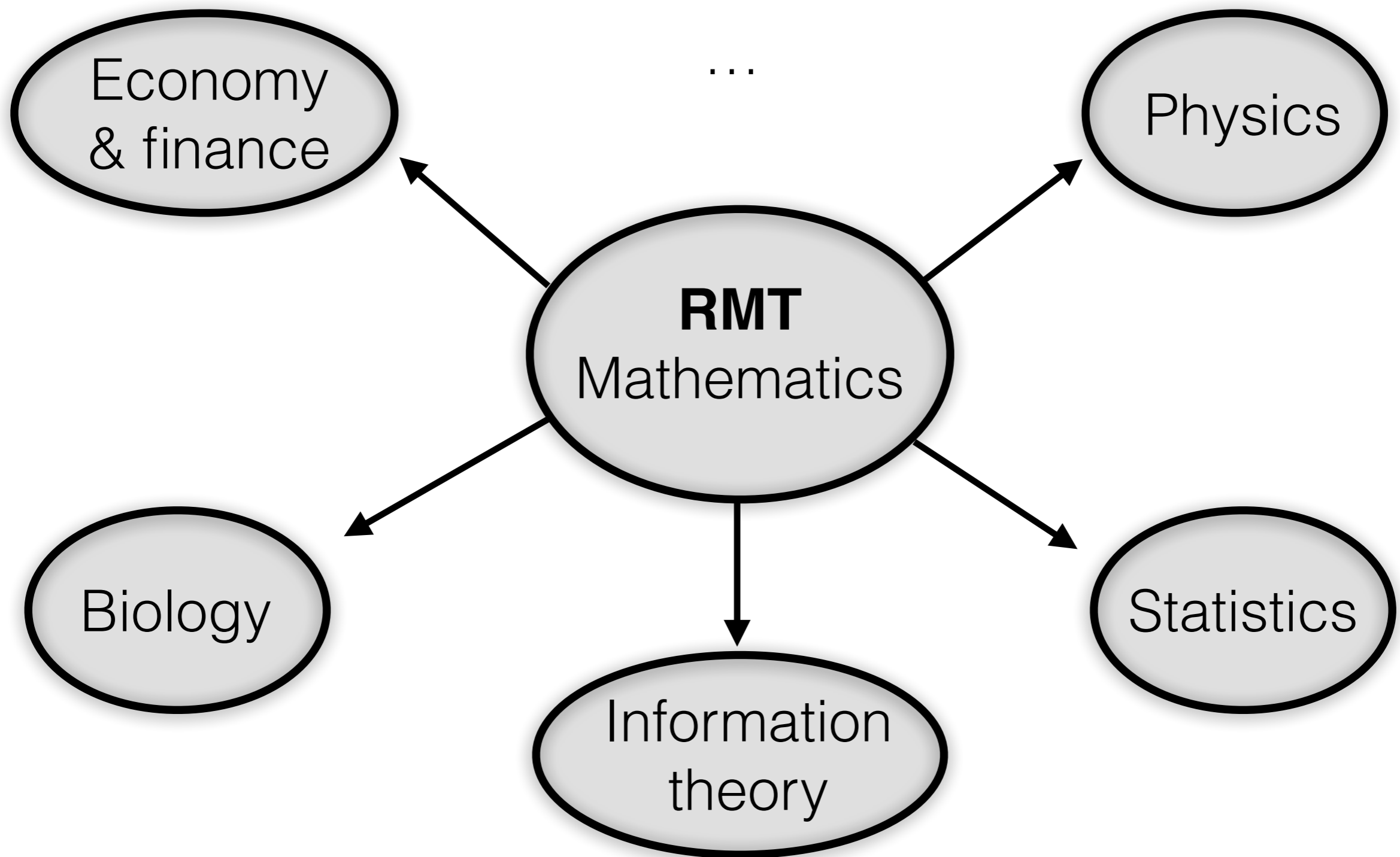
Outline

- 1. Introduction***
- 2. The Gaussian Ensemble(s)***
- 3. The Coulomb gas approach***
- 4. The resolvent approach***
- 5. High-energy landscape***

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Random Matrix Theory and applications

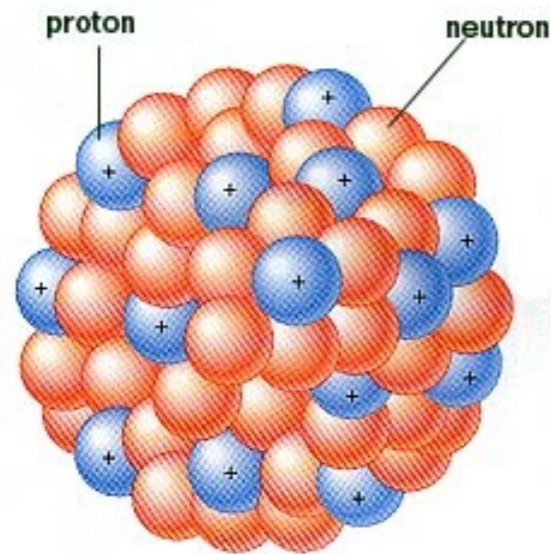


« The Oxford handbook of random matrix theory »

Wigner's surmise

Heavy nucleus

Hard to compute from first principles!



Q: 1956: possible shape of distribution of the spacing of energy levels?

A: Wigner: $p(s) = \frac{s}{2} e^{-\frac{1}{4}s^2}$

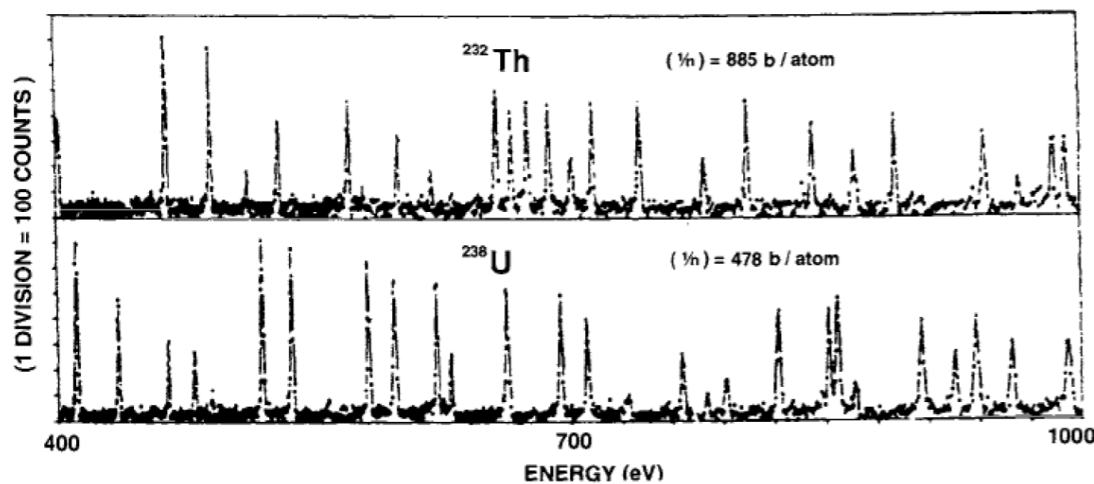
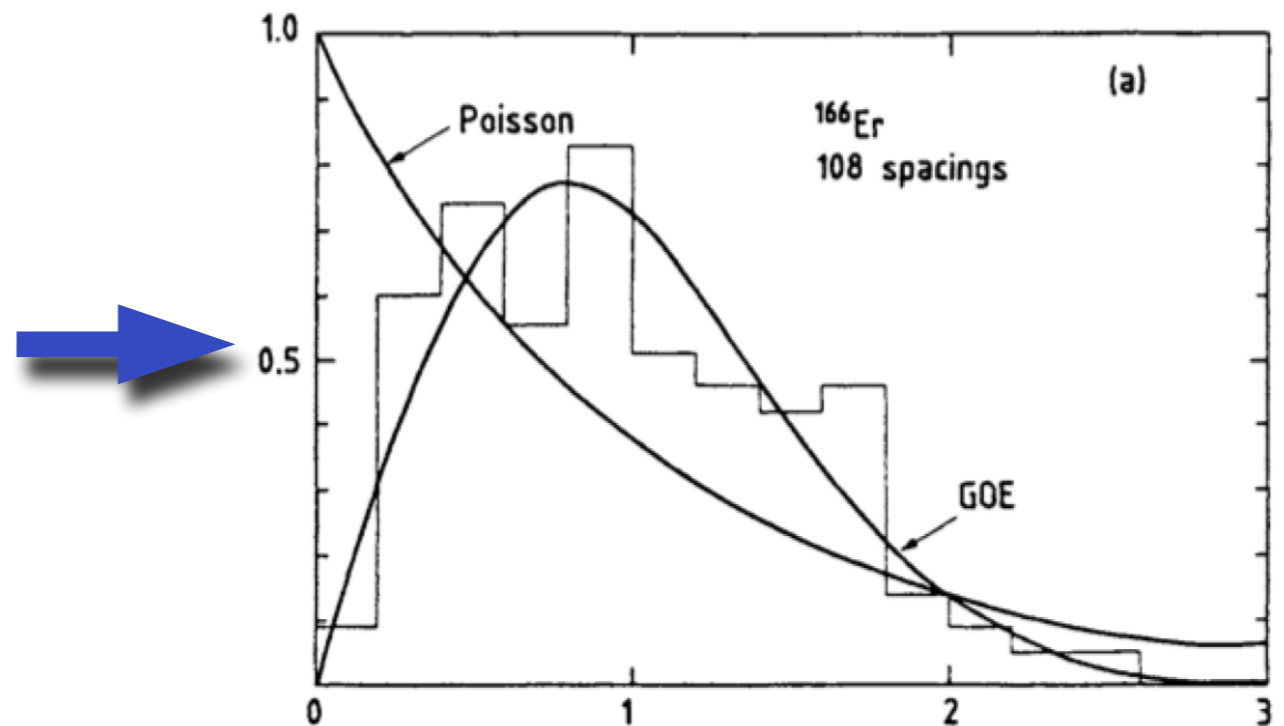


Figure 1.1. Slow neutron resonance cross-sections on thorium 232 and uranium 238 nuclei. Reprinted with permission from The American Physical Society, Rahn et al., Neutron resonance spectroscopy, X, *Phys. Rev. C* 6, 1854–1869 (1972).



Wigner and Dyson's idea

Energy levels = eigenvalues of Hamiltonian

Hamiltonian: **large complicated Hermitian matrix**

Let us model it as a **random matrix!**

to develop a “new kind of statistical mechanics in which we renounce exact knowledge not of the state of a system but of the nature 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”.

Wigner's semicircle law

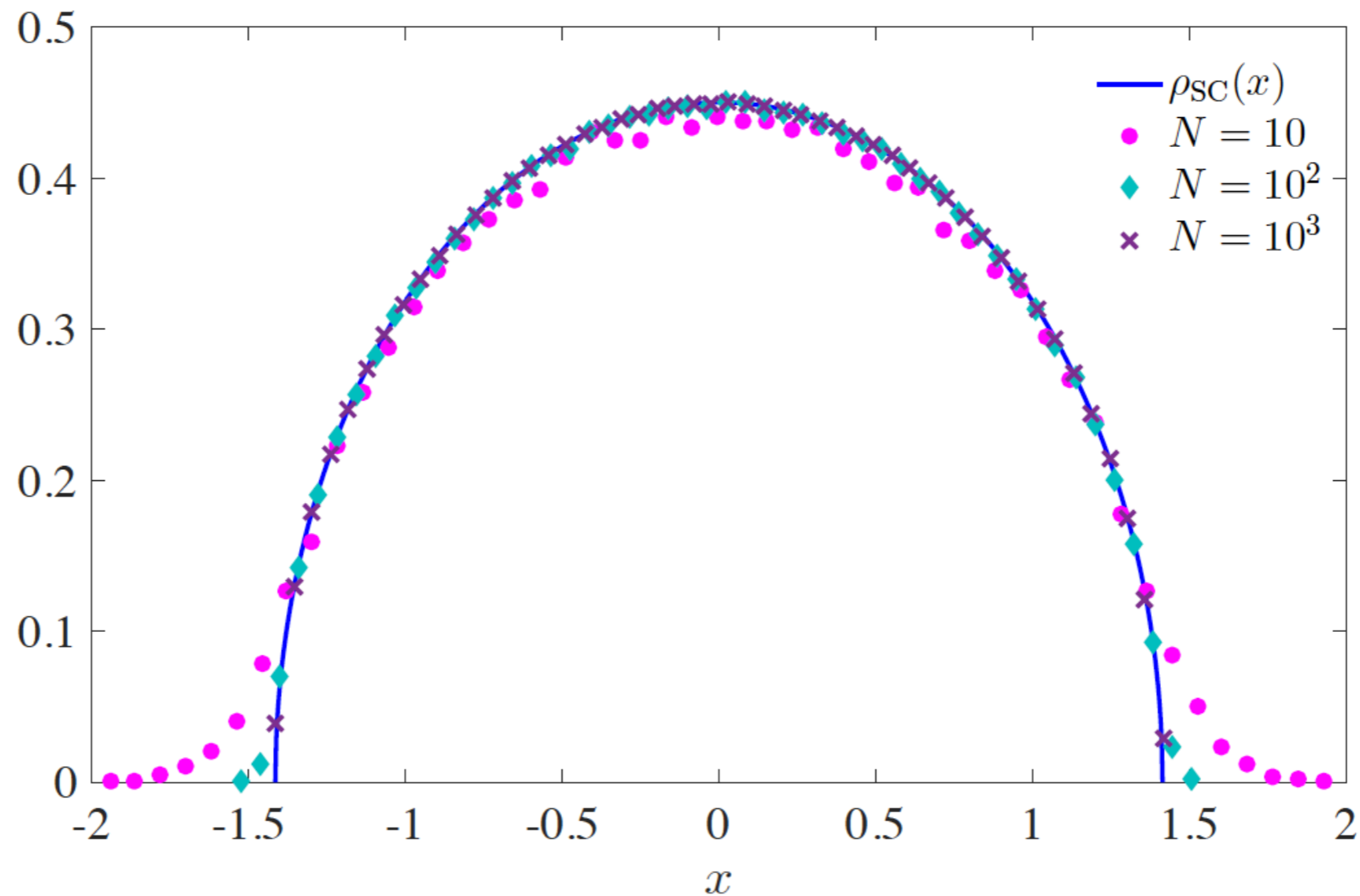


Figure 5.1: Numerical check of the semicircle law for GOE. Increasing the value of N , after a suitable rescaling, the eigenvalue histograms collapse on top of the semicircle curve.

From [math-ph:1712.07903](https://arxiv.org/abs/math-ph/1712.07903)

« Introduction to Random Matrices - Theory and Practice »

Universality

Universal behaviors emerge independently of details of distributions of entries

Take real symmetric matrix $H_{ij} : N \times N$

- independent entries $H_{ij}, i \leq j$

- $\langle H_{ij} \rangle = 0$

- entries decay sufficiently fast at infinity

- $\forall i, \sum_{j=1}^N \langle H_{ij}^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2}$ (normalization)



$$\rho_N(x) \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{\text{SC}}(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2 - x^2}$$

Classification

Independent
Entries

Gaussian
Ensembles

Rotational
invariance

$$\rho[H] \propto \prod_{i=1}^N f_i(H_{ii}) \prod_{i < j} f_{ij}(H_{ij})$$

$$\rho[H] = \rho[UHU^{-1}]$$

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Gaussian ensemble: construction

Simplest starting point:

$$\rho[M] \equiv \rho(M_{11}, \dots, M_{NN}) = \prod_{i,j=1}^N \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-M_{ij}^2/2) \right]$$

Symmetrization: $H = \frac{1}{2}(M + M^T)$


$$\rho(H) = \prod_{i=1}^N \left[\frac{\exp(-(H)_{ii}^2/2)}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \right] \prod_{i<j} \left[\frac{\exp(-(H)_{ij}^2)}{\sqrt{\pi}} \right] \text{Independent entries}$$

$$\rho(H) \propto \exp^{-\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(H^2)}$$

Rotational invariance

Gaussian ensemble: pdf of eigenvalues

Result:

$$\rho(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2} \prod_{j < k} |x_j - x_k|^\beta$$

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

Sketch of proof:

$$H = OXO^T \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{cases} X = \text{diag}(x_1, \dots, x_N) \\ OO^T = 1 \end{cases}$$

Change of variables $H \rightarrow \{\mathbf{x}, O\}$

$$\hat{\rho}(\mathbf{x}, O) = \rho(H(\mathbf{x}, O)) |J(H \rightarrow \{\mathbf{x}, O\})|$$

Gaussian ensemble: pdf of eigenvalues

Sketch of proof (ctd):

$$J(H \rightarrow \{\mathbf{x}, O\}) = \prod_{i < j} (x_j - x_i)$$

Vandermonde
determinant

For rotationally invariant ensembles

$$\rho(H) = \varphi(\text{Tr}H, \dots, \text{Tr}(H^N))$$

Integrating over O is trivial



$$\rho(x_1, \dots, x_N) \propto \varphi\left(\sum x_i, \dots, \sum x_i^N\right) \prod_{j < k} |x_j - x_k|$$

Gaussian ensemble: pdf of eigenvalues

$$\rho(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i^2} \prod_{j < k} |x_j - x_k|^\beta$$

Kills configurations
with 'large' x_i

Kills configurations
where any two
eigenvalues are 'close'

Interplay between **confinement**
and **eigenvalue repulsion**

Spectral density

Counting function
of eigenvalues

$$n(x) \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta(x - x_i)$$

For random matrix, n becomes a **random measure**

$$\langle n(x) \rangle = \int dx_2 \dots dx_N \rho(x, x_2, \dots, x_N) \equiv \rho(x)$$

Spectral density = marginal density of jpdf of eigenvalues

Result:

$$\sqrt{\beta N} \rho_N(\sqrt{\beta N} x) \xrightarrow{N \rightarrow \infty} \rho_{\text{SC}}(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2 - x^2}$$

How to prove this? Coulomb gas and resolvent

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The Coulomb gas

Rescaling $x_i \rightarrow x_i \sqrt{\beta N}$



$$Z_{N,\beta} \propto \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \prod_{j=1}^N dx_j e^{-\beta N^2 \mathcal{V}[\mathbf{x}]}$$

with

$$\mathcal{V}[\mathbf{x}] = \frac{1}{2N} \sum_i x_i^2 - \frac{1}{2N^2} \sum_{i \neq j} \ln |x_i - x_j|$$

Z = Canonical **partition function** of

- **fluid of particles** of positions x_i on a line
- in **equilibrium** at inverse temperature βN^2
- with **quadratic** potential
- and **repulsive logarithmic** potential

The Coulomb gas

2D static fluid of charged particles confined on a line, with quadratic potential

Large N \longleftrightarrow 0 temperature limit

To find equilibrium position at 0 temperature

Minimize intensive free energy $F = -\frac{1}{\beta N^2} \ln Z_{N,\beta}$

Aim:

1) continuum description

$$Z_{N,\beta} = \int \mathcal{D}n(x) e^{-\beta N^2 F[n(x)]}$$

Functional integral over counting functions

2) saddle-point $\rightarrow n^*(x) = \rho(x)$

Continuum description

1). Coarse-graining

Idea:

- sum over micro states compatible with given macrostate (counting function)
- then sum over all possible counting functions

$$1 = \int \mathcal{D}[n(x)] \delta \left[n(x) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta(x - x_i) \right]$$



$$Z \sim \int \mathcal{D}[n(x)] \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \prod_{j=1}^N dx_j e^{-\beta N^2 \mathcal{V}[\mathbf{x}]} \delta \left[n(x) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta(x - x_i) \right]$$

Continuum description

2). From sums to integrals

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} n(x) f(x) dx = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N f(x_i)$$

$$\iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} dx dx' n(x) n(x') g(x, x') = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_{i,j=1}^N g(x_i, x_j)$$



$$Z \sim \int \mathcal{D}[n(x)] e^{-\beta N^2 \mathcal{V}[n(x)]} \underbrace{\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \prod_{j=1}^N dx_j \delta \left[n(x) - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta(x - x_i) \right]}_{I_N[n(x)]}$$

with

$$\mathcal{V}[n(x)] = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx x^2 n(x) - \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} dx dx' n(x) n(x') \ln |x - x'|$$

+ regularization

Continuum description

3). Compute $I_N[n(x)]$

$$I_N[n(x)] \sim \exp[\text{entropy}] \sim \exp\left[-N \int dx n(x) \ln n(x)\right]$$

Summary:

$$Z \sim \int \mathcal{D}[n(x)] \int_{\mathbb{R}} dk e^{-\beta N^2 \mathcal{S}[n(x), k] + o(N^2)}$$

$$\mathcal{S}[n(x), \kappa] = \mathcal{V}[n(x)] - \kappa \left(\int dx n(x) - 1 \right)$$

Saddle-point

$$Z \sim \exp(-\beta N^2 \mathcal{S}[n^*(x), k^*])$$

$$\begin{cases} 0 &= \frac{\delta}{\delta n(x)} \mathcal{S}[n(x), k] \Big|_{\substack{n=n^* \\ k=k^*}} = \frac{x^2}{2} - \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx' n^*(x') \ln |x - x'| - k^* \\ 0 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial k} \mathcal{S}[n(x), k] \Big|_{\substack{n=n^* \\ k=k^*}} \Rightarrow \int_{\mathbb{R}} dx n^*(x) = 1, \end{cases}$$

Look for $n^*(x)$ and support (a, b) !

1) find $n^*(x; a, b)$

2) find optimal (a, b) by minimizing

free energy $F = \mathcal{S}[n^*(x; a, b)]$

Saddle-point

$$\text{PV} \int dx' \frac{n^*(x')}{x - x'} = x$$

Tricomi's theorem:

$$\text{PV} \int_a^b dx' \frac{f(x')}{x - x'} = g(x) \Rightarrow f(x) = \frac{C - \text{PV} \int_a^b \frac{dt}{\pi} \frac{\sqrt{(t-a)(b-t)}}{x-t} g(t)}{\pi \sqrt{(x-a)(b-x)}}$$



$$1) \quad n^*(x) = \frac{1}{\pi \sqrt{(x-a)(b-x)}} \left[1 - x^2 + \frac{1}{2}(a+b)x + \frac{1}{8}(b-a)^2 \right]$$

$$2) \quad -a = b = \sqrt{2}$$

$$n^*(x) \equiv \rho_{\text{SC}}(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2 - x^2}$$

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Resolvent: generalities

$$G_N(z) \equiv \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{z - x_i} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{random complex function} \\ \text{with poles at eigenvalues's location} \end{array}$$

$$\langle G_N(z) \rangle \rightarrow \int dx' \frac{\rho(x')}{z - x'} \equiv G_\infty^{(av)}(z)$$

Resolvent

Stieltjes transform

Green's function

$$\rho(x) = \frac{1}{\pi} \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \text{Im} G_\infty^{(av)}(x - i\epsilon)$$

Easy to deduce the spectral density from the resolvent

Resolvent for Gaussian Ensemble

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{V}[\mathbf{x}]}{\partial x_i} = 0 \Rightarrow x_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{1}{x_i - x_j} \xrightarrow{\text{blue arrow}} \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \frac{x_i}{z - x_i} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{1}{x_i - x_j} \frac{1}{N(z - x_i)}$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{blue arrow}} -1 + zG_N(z) = \frac{1}{2} G_N^2(z) + \frac{1}{2N} G'_N(z)$$

negligible in large N limit

$$G_\infty^{(av)2}(z) - 2zG_\infty^{(av)}(z) + 2 = 0$$

$$G_\infty^{(av)}(z) = z \pm \sqrt{z^2 - 2}$$

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} G_\infty^{(av)}(x - i\epsilon) \xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi} \sqrt{2 - x^2} & \text{for } x^2 < 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Another classical ensemble: Wishart-Laguerre

$W = HH^\dagger$ with $H : N \times M$ matrix ($M \geq N$)

positive eigenvalues

Entries:

$$\rho(W) \propto e^{-\frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}W} (\det W)^{\frac{\beta}{2}(M-N+1)-1}$$

Eigenvalues:

$$\rho(x_1, \dots, x_N) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \sum x_i} \prod_{i=1}^N x_i^{\beta/2(M-N+1)} \prod_{j < k} |x_j - x_k|^\beta$$

Wishart-Laguerre through the resolvent

Large N, M with $c = N/M \leq 1$ kept fixed

With rescaling $x_i \rightarrow \beta N x_i \rightarrow Z \propto \int_0^\infty \prod_{i=1}^N dx_i e^{-\beta N \mathcal{V}[\mathbf{x}]}$

$$\mathcal{V}[\mathbf{x}] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i x_i + \left[\frac{2/\beta - 1}{2N} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2c} \right] \sum_i \ln x_i - \frac{1}{2N} \sum_{i \neq j} \ln |x_i - x_j|$$



$$\frac{1}{2} G_\infty^{(av)}(z) + \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{c} \right) \frac{K + G_\infty^{(av)}(z)}{z} = \frac{1}{2} G_\infty^{(av)2}(z)$$

where

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum \frac{1}{x_i} \rightarrow K = \int dx \frac{\rho(x)}{x}$$

Wishart-Laguerre through the resolvent

$$G_{\infty}^{(av)}(z) = \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \frac{\gamma}{z} \pm \frac{\sqrt{z^2 - 2\gamma z + \gamma^2 - 4\gamma K z}}{z} \right)$$

where $\gamma = (1 - c)/c > 0$

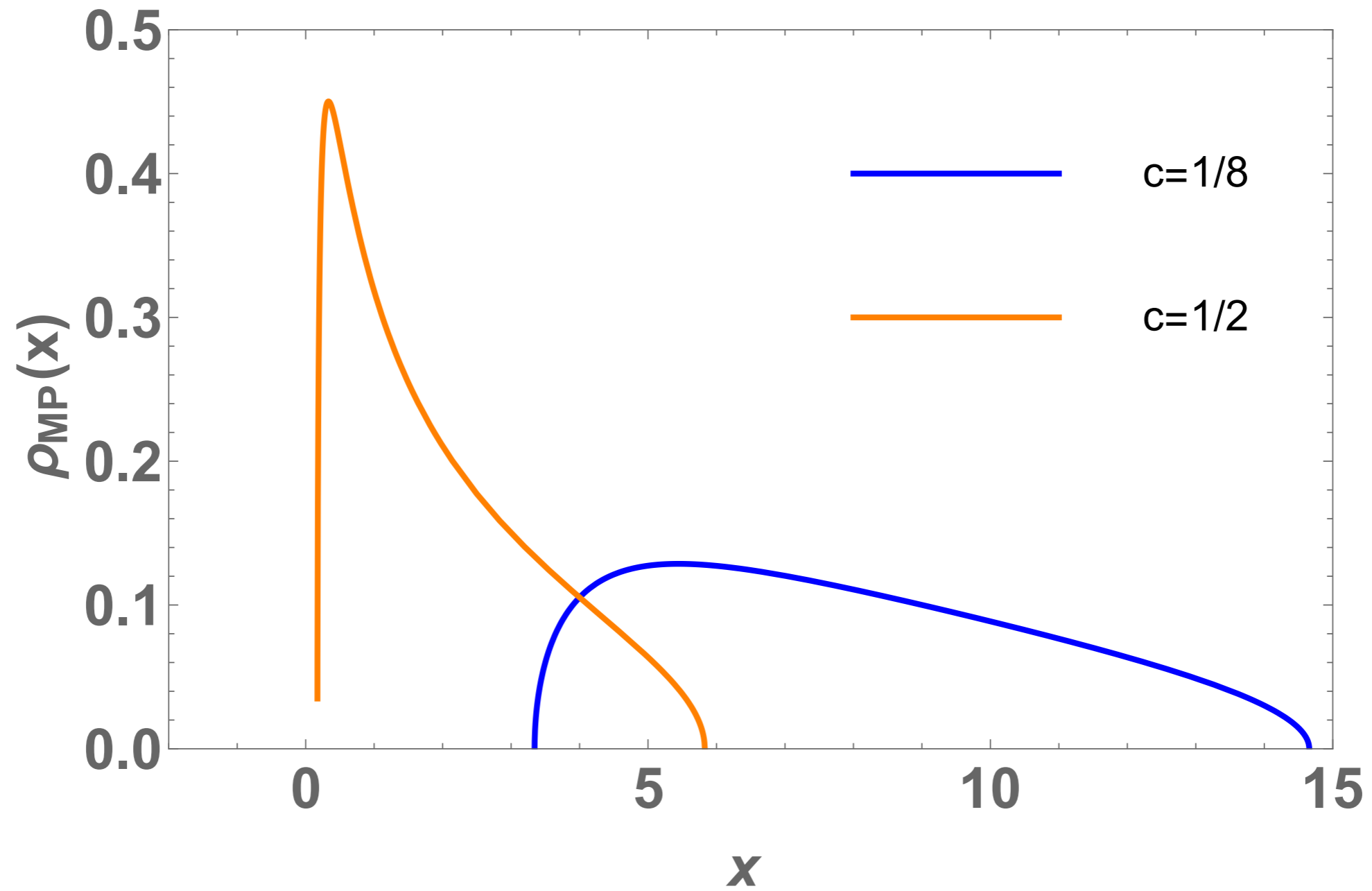


$$\rho_{\text{MP}}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi x} \sqrt{(x - x_-)(x_+ - x)}$$

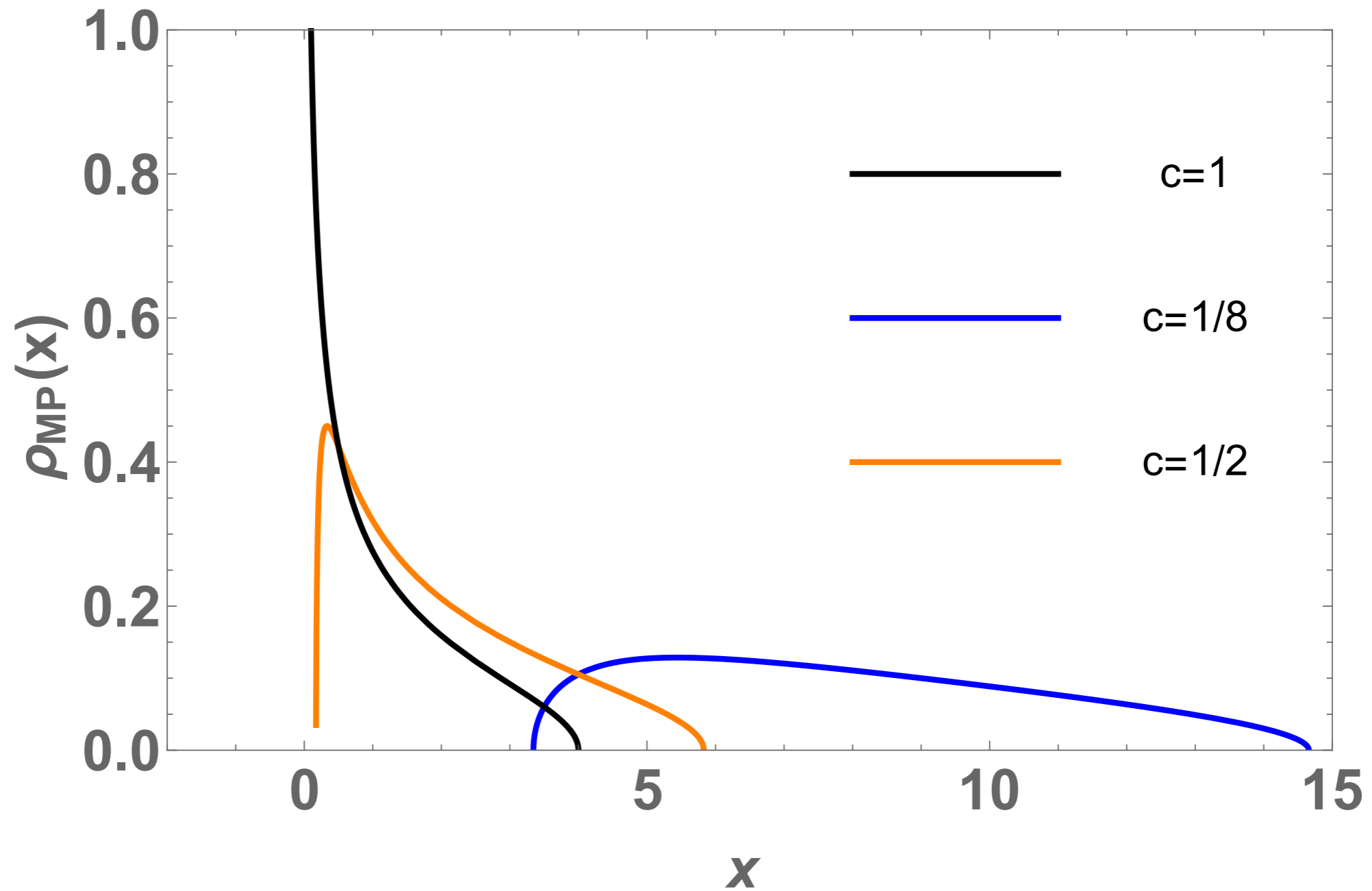
$$x \in (x_-, x_+) \quad x_{\pm} = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{c}} \pm 1 \right)^2$$

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \beta N \rho(\beta N x) = \rho_{\text{MP}}(x)$$

Marcenko-Pastur density



Marcenko-Pastur density



Particular case $c=1$. Accumulation of eigenvalues near 0

Outline

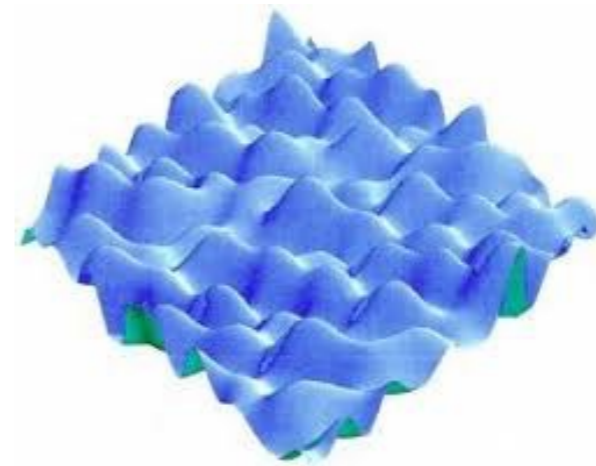
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High-energy landscape

High-energy physics: **large number of fields, complex interactions**

Statistical predictions? Universal behavior in large N limit?

With landscape modeled as
multi-dimensional scalar potential
(say Gaussian random field)



Vacua = local minima of potential =
critical points+ all Hessian eigenvalues positive

Dependence of **dynamics of inflation** on
smallest eigenvalues of the Hessian



Key Q: **Hessian eigenvalue distribution of Gaussian random fields**

Gaussian Random Fields (GRF)

Gaussian random field, static, statistically homogeneous and isotropic $V(\phi)$ with $\langle V(\varphi) \rangle = \bar{V}$

All information in 2 pt correlation function:

$$\langle V(\varphi_1)V(\varphi_2) \rangle - \bar{V}^2 = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^N} \int d^N \mathbf{k} P(k) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot (\varphi_1 - \varphi_2)}$$

Define $\sigma_n^2 \equiv \frac{1}{(2\pi)^N} \int d^N \mathbf{k} k^{2n} P(k)$

For amplitude V_0 and correlation length Λ

$$\sigma_n^2 \sim V_0^2 \left(\frac{N}{\Lambda^2} \right)^n$$

Correlators of Taylor coefficients

Straightforward
computations:

$$\langle (V - \bar{V})^2 \rangle = \sigma_0^2$$

$$\langle V_i \rangle = \langle V_{ij} \rangle = \langle V V_i \rangle = \langle V_i V_{jk} \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle V V_{ij} \rangle = -\langle V_i V_j \rangle = -\frac{\sigma_1^2}{N} \delta_{ij}$$

$$\langle V_{ij} V_{kl} \rangle = \frac{\sigma_2^2}{N(N+2)} (\delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} + \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} + \delta_{il} \delta_{jk})$$

With the **large N limit** in mind, we take

$$E \equiv \sigma_0^2 \quad A \equiv \frac{\sigma_2^2}{N(N+2)} \quad B \equiv \frac{\sigma_1^2}{N}$$

$$(A, B, E) = \mathcal{O}(1)$$

Pdf of Taylor coefficients

Multivariate Gaussian distribution

$$P(V, V_{ij}) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{(V - \bar{V})^2}{2E} - \frac{1}{4A} \left[\text{Tr}(V_s^2) - \frac{AE - B^2}{(N + 2)AE - NB^2} (\text{Tr}V_s)^2 \right] \right]$$

where $(V_s)_{ij} = V_{ij} + \frac{B}{E} (V - \bar{V}) \delta_{ij}$



$$\langle V_{ij} \rangle | V = -\frac{B}{E} (V - \bar{V}) \delta_{ij}$$

Global shift of the spectrum depending on the value of the potential (expected!)

Discussion about potential minima depend on assumptions about

$$\bar{V} = \begin{cases} 0 \\ \text{fixed} \\ \text{grows with } N \end{cases}$$

Pdf of Taylor coefficients

Irrespective of the value of the potential

$$P(V_{ij}) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{4A} \left[\text{Tr}(V^2) - \frac{1}{N+2} (\text{Tr}V)^2 \right] \right]$$

Up to rescaling and possibly shift, we can consider the general model

$$P(H) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left[\text{Tr}(H^2) - \frac{a}{N} (\text{Tr}H)^2 \right] \right]$$

$$\text{with } a = 1 + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)$$

Constrained Coulomb gas

$$P(x_i \geq \lambda_{cr}) = \frac{Z(\lambda_{cr})}{Z_{-\infty}}$$

$$Z(\lambda_{cr}) = \int_{\lambda_{cr}}^{\infty} d\mathbf{x} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_i x_i^2 - \frac{a}{N} \left[\sum_i x_i \right]^2 - \sum_{i \neq j} \ln(|x_i - x_j|) \right) \right\}$$

With rescaled variables $x_i = \mu_i \sqrt{N}$

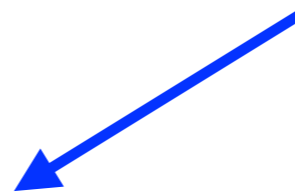
Coulomb gas machinery:

$$Z(\lambda_{cr}) \sim \int \mathcal{D}[n(\mu)] \int_{\mathbb{R}} dk e^{-N^2 \mathcal{S}[n(\mu), k]}$$

counting function with $n(\mu) = 0$ for $\mu \leq \mu_{cr} = \lambda_{cr} / \sqrt{N}$

Constrained Coulomb gas

$$\mathcal{S} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}} d\mu \mu^2 n(\mu) - \frac{1}{2} \iint_{\mathbb{R}^2} d\mu d\mu' n(\mu) n(\mu') \ln |\mu - \mu'|$$
$$-k \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}} d\mu n(\mu) - 1 \right) - \frac{a}{2} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}} d\mu \mu n(\mu) \right)^2$$



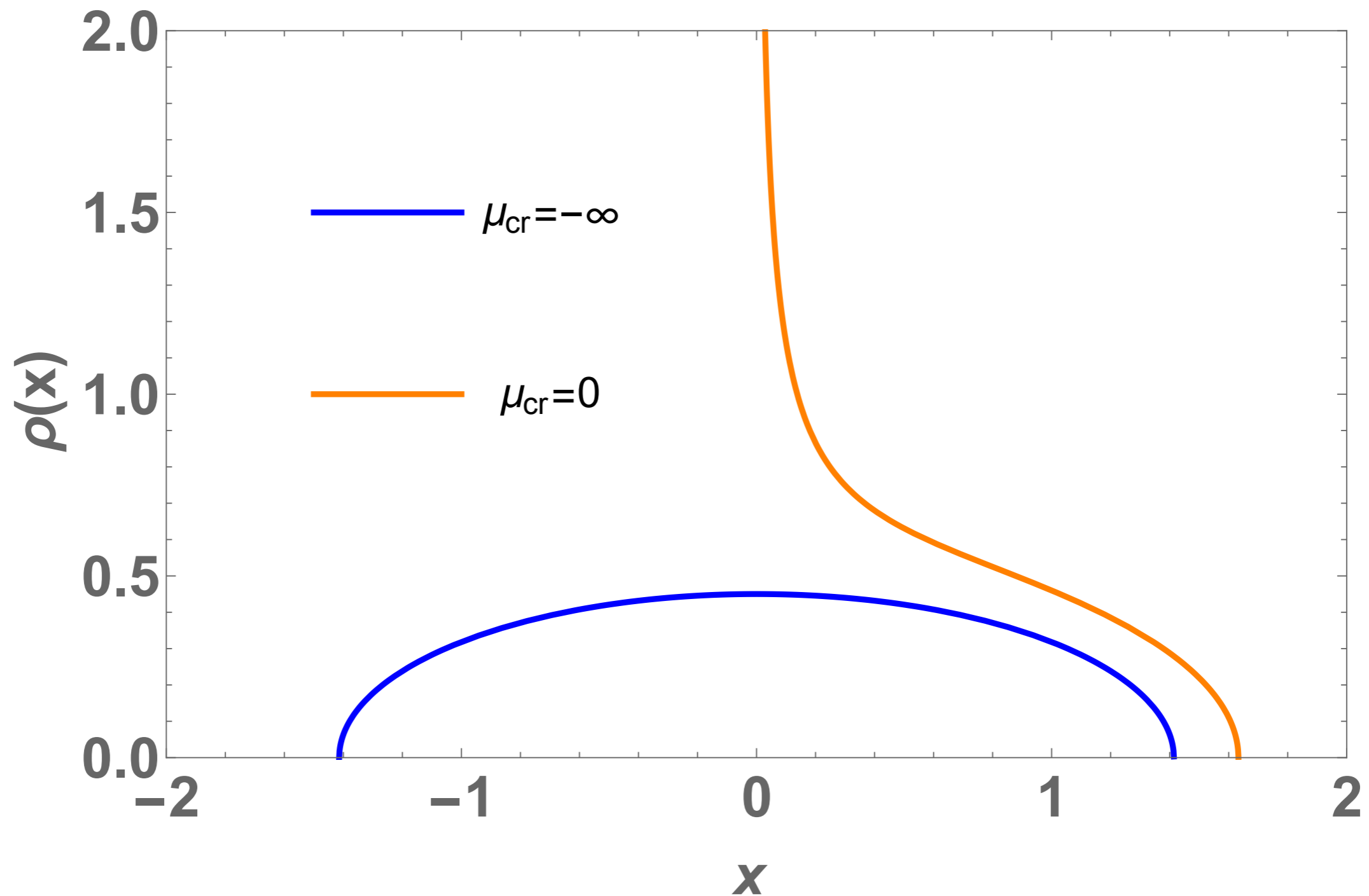
$$a = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad GOE$$

$$a = 1 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \text{degeneracy} \quad \mu \rightarrow \mu + \text{cst}$$

degeneracy broken by inclusion of $1/N$ effects

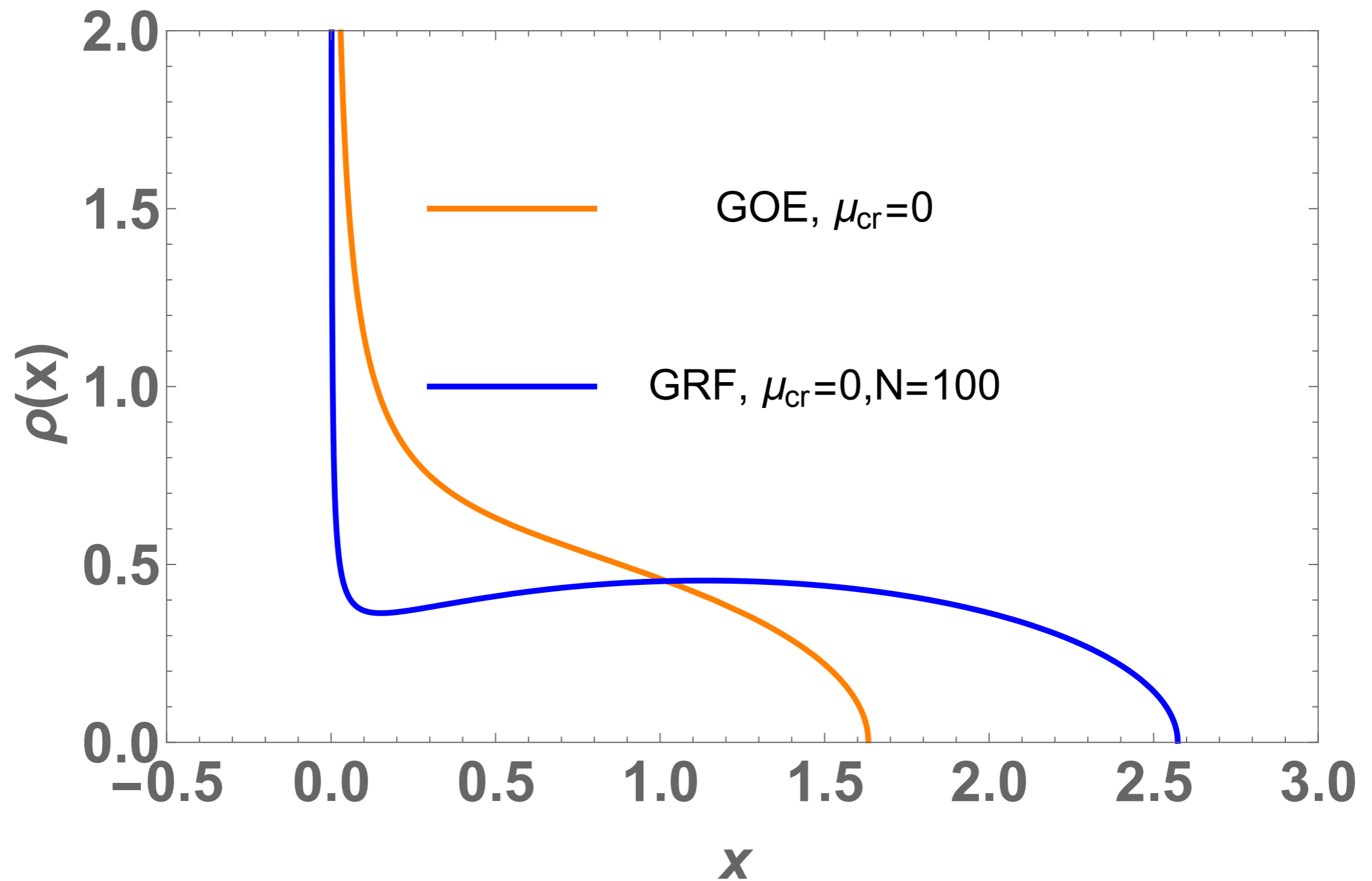
Spectral density, GOE

Saddle-point + Tricomi's theorem + Minimization of free energy

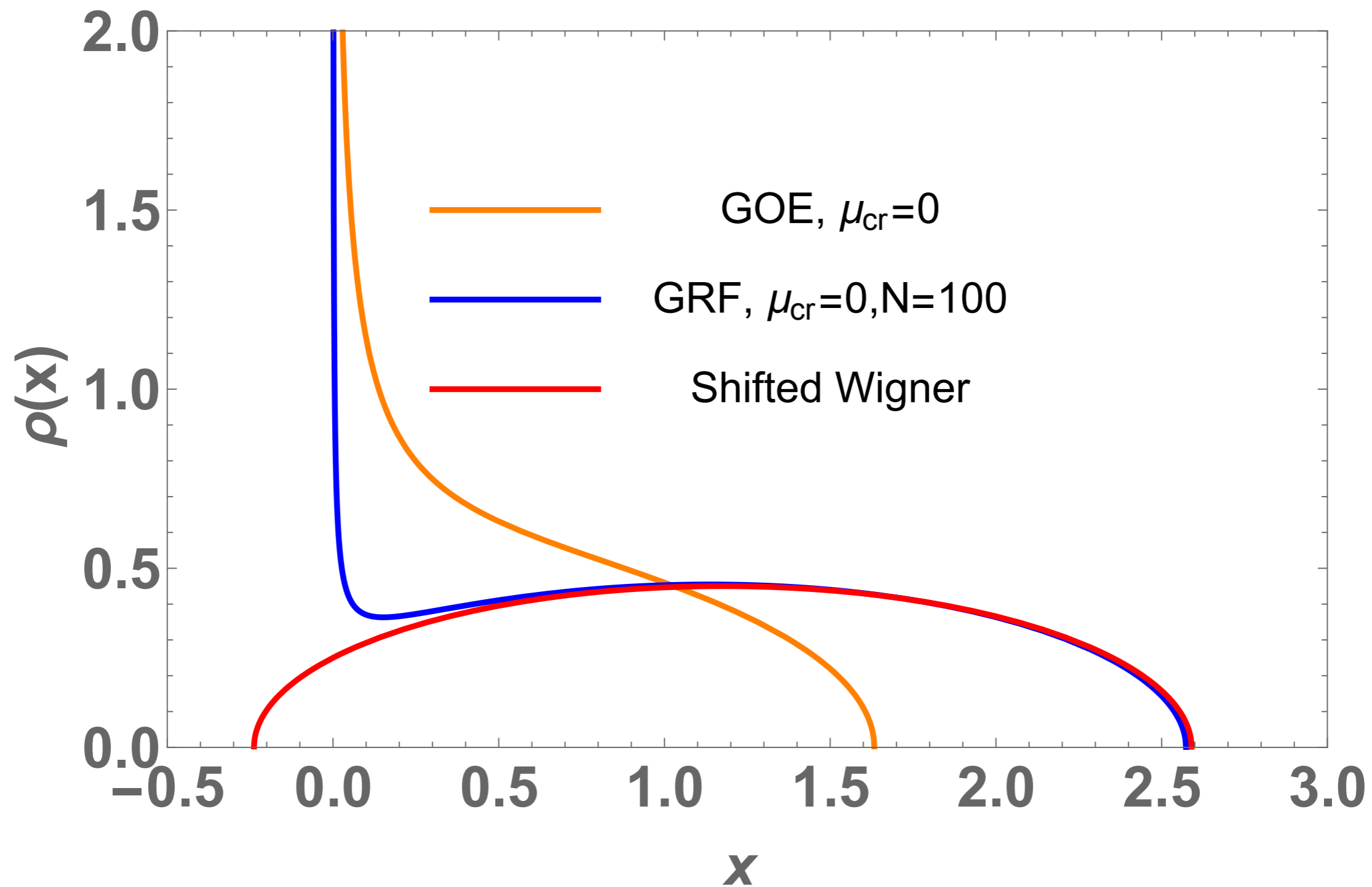


Spectral density, GRF and GOE

Saddle-point + Tricomi's theorem + Minimization of free energy



Spectral density, GRF and GOE



Probability of rare fluctuations to positivity

$$P(\mu_{min} \geq \mu_{cr}) = e^{-N^2(S(\mu_{cr}) - S(-\sqrt{2}))}$$

For $1 - a \ll 1$ $P(\mu_{min} \geq \mu_{cr}) \simeq e^{-\frac{N^2}{2}(\mu_{cr} + \sqrt{2})^2(1-a)}$

Contrast

$$P_{\text{GRF}}(\mu_{min} \geq 0) \simeq e^{-2N}$$

$$P_{\text{GOE}}(\mu_{min} \geq 0) \simeq e^{-\frac{\ln 3}{4} N^2}$$

Intuitive reason

$$P_{\text{GRF}}(H) \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_i \delta \lambda_i^2 + \frac{2N}{N+2} \lambda_{\text{av}}^2 \right) \right\}$$

$$P_{\text{GOE}}(H) \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_i \delta \lambda_i^2 + N \lambda_{\text{av}}^2 \right) \right\}$$

From generic to stationary points

Conditioning on stationary points, and up to rescaling and possibly shift

$$P(H) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left[\text{Tr}(H^2) - \frac{a}{N} (\text{Tr}H)^2 \right] \right] |\det H|$$



$$\mathcal{S}[n(\mu)] \rightarrow \mathcal{S}[n(\mu)] - \frac{1}{N} \int d\mu n(\mu) \ln|\mu|$$



Evaluating this NLO effect on the LO solution (shifted Wigner)

Simply $a \rightarrow a + 1/N$

$$P_{\text{GRF}}(\text{stationary points are minima}) \simeq e^{-N}$$

Typical smallest eigenvalue at potential minimum

$$P_{\geq}(\mu_{\min}) \equiv P(\text{smallest eigenvalue at local minimum} \geq \mu_{\min})$$

$$P_{\geq}(\mu_{\min}) = e^{-N^2(S(\mu_{\min}) - S(0))}$$



and

$$\rho(\mu_{\min}) = -\frac{dP_{\geq}(\mu_{\min})}{d\mu_{\min}}$$



$$\mu_{\min} \sim \frac{1}{N}$$

Single or multi field inflation?

Small-field landscape + Inflection-point inflation

Mass spectrum in directions orthogonal to inflationary one?

$$P(x_2, \dots, x_N) \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{i \geq 2} x_i^2 - \frac{a}{N} \left[\sum_{i \geq 2} x_i \right]^2 - \sum_{i \neq j \geq 2} \ln(|x_i - x_j|) \right) - 2 \sum_{i \geq 2} \ln |x_i| \right\}$$

conditioning on first derivatives vanishing for
orthogonal directions

+

eigenvalue repulsion with $x_1 = 0$



$$\mu_2 \sim \frac{1}{N}$$

Single or multi field inflation?

Rescaling $m_2^2 = \sqrt{2AN}\mu_2$ + amplitude $A \sim V_0^2/\Lambda^4$



$$m_2^2 \sim \frac{V_0}{\Lambda^2 \sqrt{N}} \quad \text{versus} \quad H^2 \sim \frac{V_0}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}$$

Single-field
inflation

\Leftrightarrow

$$m_2^2 \gtrsim H^2$$

\Leftrightarrow

$$\frac{\Lambda}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \lesssim \frac{1}{N^{1/4}}$$

References

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