

# Random Matrix Theory beyond the Mean-Field Class

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## Gaussian Orthogonal Ensemble (GOE):

$H = (h_{ij})_{i,j=1}^N$ ,  $h_{jk} = h_{kj}$  are  $N(0, 1/N)$ , i.e.,  $\mathbb{E}h_{jk} = 0$ ,  $\mathbb{E}|h_{jk}|^2 = \frac{1}{N}$ .

Wigner ensembles:  $h_{ij}$  are independent (not necessarily normal).

The e-values  $\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_N$  are **order one**.

Wigner semicircle law: Density of eigenvalues  $\rho(x) \sim \sqrt{4 - x^2}$

### Wigner-Dyson-Mehta conjecture

For Wigner ensembles,  $\mathbb{P}\left(\lambda_i \sim E + \frac{x_1}{N}, \lambda_j \sim E + \frac{x_2}{N}\right)$  are independent of the matrix law.

Life after the Wigner-Dyson-Mehta conjecture.

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### Wigner's vision concerning the universality of random matrix statistics

The **local spectral statistics** of **highly correlated quantum systems** are given by the **random matrix statistics** of the same symmetry type.

Random matrix statistics are **"universal"** **probability laws for highly correlated systems**.

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Random matrix statistics are **"universal" probability laws for highly correlated systems**.

- The Wigner ensemble is a very special class of mean-field models. Other mean-field models:
  - **sparsity** : the adjacency matrices of Erdős-Rényi graphs.
  - **correlations** :  $d$ -regular graphs or other models with summable decay of correlation functions.
- **Beyond mean-field**: random Schrödinger operators (Anderson models) and random band matrices.

The global laws (e.g., the semicircle) are model-dependent and have no physical meaning.

*If you admit that the Wigner ensemble gives a completely wrong answer for the level density, why do you believe any of the other predictions of random-matrix theory?*

George Uhlenbeck



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If you admit that the Wigner ensemble is a mean-field model, why do you believe that it models non-mean field systems?

## Universality for non mean field models.

Eigenvalues of  $\Delta$  on a domain (or random Schrödinger operators)

- **GOE statistics** in large energy limit if the corresponding classical dynamics are chaotic (**Quantum Chaos conjecture Bohigas-Giannoni-Schmit, 1984**)
- **Poisson statistics** if the corresponding classical dynamics are integrable—**Berry-Tabor (1977)**
- **Anderson (1958)**:  $H = -\Delta + \lambda V_\omega$ ,  $V_\omega$  random potential on  $\mathbb{Z}^d$ .  
localization regime: **Frohlich-Spencer, Minami, Aizenman-Molchanov.**

**No results for the GOE statistics.**



## Band matrix, a variation of the Anderson model

Band matrix:  $H = (h_{ij})_{i,j=1}^N$ . With periodic distance:

$$h_{ij} = 0, |i - j| > W/2; \quad \mathbb{E}h_{ij} = 0, \quad \mathbb{E}h_{ij}^2 = \frac{1}{W}$$

E.g.,  $4 \times 4$  band matrix: **symmetric** matrix of the form

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} & 0 & h_{14} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} & h_{23} & 0 \\ 0 & h_{32} & h_{33} & h_{34} \\ h_{41} & 0 & h_{43} & h_{44} \end{pmatrix}$$

**Band matrices are not mean-field models.** Mean-field:  $h_{ij}$  are of the same order for essentially all  $i, j$ .

Conjecture (Fyodorov-Mirlin): **GOE statistics** if  $W \gg \sqrt{N}$  and **Poisson statistics** if  $W \ll \sqrt{N}$ . In dimension  $d \geq 3$ , **GOE statistics** hold if  $W$  is large enough independent of  $N$ .

**Theorem** [Bourgade-Erdos-Y-Yin, 2015] Local statistics in the bulk are given by the **GOE statistics** if  $N/W$  is bounded as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  ( $d = 1$ ).

**Theorem** [Bourgade-Y-Yin, 2018]

Suppose the distribution of  $h_{ij}$  satisfies some mild technical conditions. Then the local statistics in the bulk are given by the **GOE statistics** if  $W > N^{3/4}$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  ( $d = 1$ ). The eigenvectors are **delocalized and satisfy a version of probabilistic quantum unique ergodicity**.

Shcherbina (2014, 2017), Bao-Erdos (2015), Disertori-Pinson-Spencer : supersymmetric method; for complex Gaussian (but not real) band matrices.

## Three step strategy for the universality of mean field models.

1. **A priori estimate, a local laws** (“local” means  $\eta \sim N^{-1+\varepsilon}$ ):

$$G_{aa}(z) := \left( \frac{1}{H - z} \right)_{aa} = \sum_j \frac{|u_j(a)|^2}{\lambda_j - E - i\eta},$$

$$m_N(z) := \frac{1}{N} \operatorname{Tr} G(z), \quad z = E + i\eta.$$

2. **Universality for Gaussian divisible ensembles:**  $H(t) = A + \sqrt{t}$  GOE  
Statistics of  $H(t)$  and  $H(\infty)$  coincide for  $t \gg N^{-1}$ .
3. **Stability or Comparison:** statistics of  $H(0)$  and  $H(t)$  coincide for  $t \ll N^{-1/2}$  (use the matrix structure).



Step 1: a local law for band matrix (EKYY 2012):

Stieltjes transform of the semicircle law:  $m_{sc}(z) = \int \frac{\rho_{sc}(x)dx}{x-z}$

$$\max_{i,j} |G_{ij}(z) - \delta_{ij}m_{sc}(z)| \ll \frac{1}{\sqrt{W}\eta}, \text{ with high prob if } \eta \gg W^{-1}.$$

delocalization up to the scale  $W$ : w.h.p.  $\max_k |v_i(k)| \leq \frac{C}{W}$

no good estimate for  $\eta \leq 1/W$  for band matrices. Conjecture:

$$|G_{1x}|^2 \sim \frac{1}{N} \sum_{p \in \frac{2\pi}{N}\mathbf{Z}} \frac{e^{ipx}}{\eta + (Wp)^2}, \text{ random walks at the scale } W$$

$$\begin{aligned} |G_{1x}|^2 &\sim \frac{1}{W\sqrt{\eta}} \mathbf{1}(|x| \leq W/\sqrt{\eta}) \text{ if } \eta \geq (W/N)^2, \\ &\sim 1/N\eta \text{ if } \eta < (W/N)^2 \end{aligned}$$

## Step 2: Matrix Brownian Motion

$$dH_t = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} dB_t, \quad B_{ij}(t) : \text{symm. indep. BM}, \quad H_t \sim H_0 + \sqrt{t} \text{GOE}$$

$$d\lambda_k = \frac{dB_k}{\sqrt{N}} + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\ell \neq k} \frac{1}{\lambda_k - \lambda_\ell} dt$$

Dyson Brownian Motion (1962): Time to local equilibrium is  $N^{-1}$ .  
[Erdos-Schlein-Y-Yin, Landon-Y].

Step 3 (Continuity of DBM or Comparison): Consider Wigner matrices with **different** second moments. For reasonable test function  $f$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}f(m(z, t)) - \mathbb{E}f(m(z, 0)) \sim tO(N^{2-2 \times 1/2}) = tO(N).$$

Since  $t \gtrsim 1/N$ ,  $\mathbb{E}f(m(z, t)) - \mathbb{E}f(m(z, 0)) \not\leq o(1)$ .

Direct comparison method will not work for the universality of band matrices.

Question: What is the main mechanism for the **universality of non-mean field models** (e.g., band matrices, Anderson models)?

Quantum unique ergodicity conjecture (QUE) [Rudnick-Sarnak]:

$(\psi_k)_{k \geq 1}$  eigenfunctions for any negatively curved compact Riemannian manifolds are equidistributed for any large energy limit.

$$\int a(x) |\psi_j(x)|^2 d\text{Vol}(x) \rightarrow \int a(x) d\text{Vol}(x)$$

**Quantum Ergodicity Theorem:** Averaged version of QUE [Snirelman, Colin de Verdiere, Zelditch], Anantharaman. Arithmetic QUE (Rudnick, Sarnak, Bourgain, Lindenstrauss, Soundararajan)

QUE hold for GUE/GOE with high probability because eigenvectors are uniformly distributed on  $O(N)$ .

## From QUE to Universality—Mean field reduction (BEYY)

Write  $H_e = \begin{pmatrix} A & B^* \\ B & D - e \end{pmatrix}$  and  $H = H_{e=0}$ , where  $A$  a  $W \times W$  Wigner matrix.

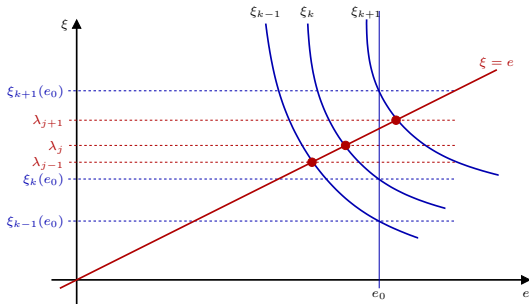
$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B^* \\ B & D \end{pmatrix} \psi_j = \lambda_j \psi_j := \lambda_j \begin{pmatrix} w_j \\ p_j \end{pmatrix} \implies \left( A - B^* \frac{1}{D - \lambda_j} B \right) w_j = \lambda_j w_j$$

Consider the eigenvector eq.:  $Q_e v = \left( A - B^* \frac{1}{D - e} B \right) v = \xi_k(e) v$

$$H \begin{pmatrix} w_j \\ p_j \end{pmatrix} = \lambda_j \begin{pmatrix} w_j \\ p_j \end{pmatrix}, Q_e v = \left( A - B^* \frac{1}{D-e} B \right) v = \xi_k(e) v$$

$$\xi_k(e) = e \iff \xi_k(e) = \lambda_j, \frac{d\xi_k(e)}{de} = \frac{-\|p_j\|_2^2}{\|w_j\|_2^2} = \frac{W - N}{W} \text{ if QUE for } H_e \text{ holds.}$$

QUE for  $H_e \implies$  law of  $\{\xi_k(e_0)\} =$  law of  $\{\lambda_j\}$  up to a scaling.



mean field univ. + QUE  $\implies$  non-mean field (band matrix) univ.



How to prove QUE for  $H$ ? Take  $A$  a  $W \times W$  **Wigner** matrix.

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B^* \\ B & D \end{pmatrix} \psi_j = \lambda_j \psi_j := \lambda_j \begin{pmatrix} w_j \\ p_j \end{pmatrix} \implies \left( A - B^* \frac{1}{D - \lambda_j} B \right) w_j = \lambda_j w_j$$

$$Q_e v_j = \left( A - B^* \frac{1}{D - e} B \right) v_j = \xi_j v_j.$$

$\pi_{[1, W/2]}$  : projection to the first  $W/2$  coordinates.

### Proof of QUE

- Suppose that **QUE holds for  $Q_e$  with high probability.**
- QUE for  $Q_e \implies \|\pi_{[1, W/2]} v_j\|_2 \sim \|\pi_{[W/2+1, W]} v_j\|_2$ .
- Suppose that we can set  $e = \lambda_j$  which is **random.**
- Patching the results  $[\frac{nW}{2} + 1, (\frac{n}{2} + 1)W]$  implies  $\psi_j$  is flat.
- The total error is the sum of the individual QUE errors, i.e.,  $\frac{N}{W} \frac{1}{\sqrt{W}}$ .

Using  $\sqrt{\frac{N}{W} \frac{1}{\sqrt{W}}}$ , we determine the transition  $W = \sqrt{N}$ .

- We will need QUE for  $Q_e = A - B^* \frac{1}{D-e} B$ . But  $\frac{1}{D-e}$  is singular.

Consider a Wigner matrices of size  $n \times n$ . Let  $S$  be a fixed subset of  $\llbracket 1, n \rrbracket$ . Denote the eigenvector overlaps by

$$p_{ij} = \sum_{\alpha \in S} u_i(\alpha) u_j(\alpha), \quad i \neq j \in \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket$$

$$p_{ii} = \sum_{\alpha \in S} \left[ u_i(\alpha)^2 - 1/n \right], \quad \mathbb{E} u_i(\alpha)^2 = 1/n \text{ if } u_i \text{ is flat.}$$

### Probabilistic QUE [Bourgade-Y-Yin]

Suppose that there are constants  $\mathfrak{c} > 0$  and  $a > 0$  such that

$$\left| \frac{1}{|S|} \sum_{i \in S} (Q_e - z)_{ii}^{-1} - \frac{1}{n} \text{Tr}(Q_e - z)^{-1} \right| \leq n^{-\mathfrak{c}}, \quad \text{Im } z \geq N^{-a},$$

with probability at least  $1 - n^{-C}$  for any  $C > 0$ . Then with the same high probability we have

$$|p_{ii}| + |p_{ij}| \leq n^{-\mathfrak{c}}, \quad (\text{We can choose } \mathfrak{c} = 1/2 - \varepsilon).$$

The E-vector equation from the **matrix Brownian motion** ( $n = W$  in our application).

$$dK_t = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} d\mathcal{B}(t) \quad \mathcal{B}_{ij}(t) : \text{symm. indep. BM}$$

E-vector equations depend on the e-values:

$$du_k = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{\ell \neq k} \frac{u_\ell dB_{k\ell}}{\lambda_k - \lambda_\ell} - \frac{1}{2n} \sum_{\ell \neq k} \frac{u_k dt}{(\lambda_k - \lambda_\ell)^2}$$

$B_{k\ell}$  are independent BMs (up to symmetry).

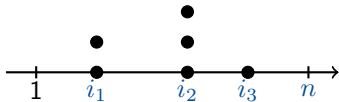
Question: How to analyze this equation?

Answer: Create an interacting particle system from moments of eigenvectors.

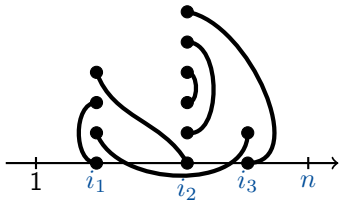
Interpret “moments” as “particles”.

$\eta : \llbracket 1, n \rrbracket \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ . Denote by  $\eta_j$  the number of particles at  $j$ . Let  $\mathcal{V}_\eta = \{(i, a) : 1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq a \leq 2\eta_i\}$  be the vertex set and  $\mathcal{G}_\eta$  be the set of perfect matchings of the complete graph on  $\mathcal{V}_\eta$ . Define

$$f_{\lambda, t}(\eta) = \mathcal{M}(\eta)^{-1} \mathbb{E} \left( \sum_{G \in \mathcal{G}_\eta} \prod_{e \in \mathcal{E}(G)} p(e) \middle| \lambda \right), \quad \mathcal{M}(\eta) = \prod_{i=1}^n (2\eta_i)!!$$



(a) A configuration  $\mathcal{N}(\eta) = 6$ ,  
 $\eta_{i_1} = 2$ ,  $\eta_{i_2} = 3$ ,  $\eta_{i_3} = 1$ .



(b) A perfect matching  $G \in \mathcal{G}_\eta$ :  
 $P(G) = p_{i_1 i_1} p_{i_1 i_2} p_{i_2 i_2}^2 p_{i_2 i_3} p_{i_3 i_1}$ .

For any given edge  $e = \{(i_1, a_1), (i_2, a_2)\}$ , we define  $p(e) = p_{i_1, i_2}(u_t)$ .

## [Eigenvector moment flow]

$$\partial_t f_{\lambda,t} = \mathcal{L}(t)f_{\lambda,t}, \quad c_{k\ell}(t) = \frac{1}{n(\lambda_k(t) - \lambda_\ell(t))^2},$$

$$\mathcal{L}(t)f(\boldsymbol{\eta}) = \sum_{k \neq \ell} c_{k\ell}(t) 2\eta_k(1 + 2\eta_\ell)(f(\boldsymbol{\eta}^{k\ell}) - f(\boldsymbol{\eta})).$$

$$\boldsymbol{\eta} = \{\eta_j\}_{j=1}^n, \quad \eta_j \in \mathbb{N}$$

One particle case is a **random walk (in the index  $j$ ) in random environments**.

$$\partial_t f(t, j) = \sum_{k \neq j} c_{jk}(t)(f(t, k) - f(t, j)), \quad c_{jk}(t) \text{ is non-local and singular.}$$

1. The eigenvalues are driven to local equilibrium by the DBM.
2. The maximum principle and other parabolic PDE methods (e.g., a finite speed of propagation estimate).
3. **A priori estimate on the Green function of the associated matrix model is the key input.** So our method is not a pure PDE argument.

How to get estimate on  $G(z) = [Q_e - z]^{-1}$ ,  $Q_e = A - B^* \frac{1}{D-e} B$ .

**Problem:**  $\frac{1}{D-e}$  is singular and  $D$  is a band matrix.

Consider the **generalized Green function**.  $I_1 = I_{W \times W}$ ,  $I_2 = I_{(N-W) \times (N-W)}$ .

$$G(z, e) := \left( H - \begin{bmatrix} zI_1 & 0 \\ 0 & eI_2 \end{bmatrix} \right)^{-1}, \quad H = \begin{bmatrix} A & B^* \\ B & D \end{bmatrix},$$

$G(z, e)|_{W \times W} = (Q_e - z)^{-1}$ .  $\text{Im } z = \eta \sim N^{-a}$  and  $e$  is real.

Idea: Derive a **self-consistent equation** for  $|G_{ij}(z, e)|^2$  and use an expansion method (very complicated). We expect

$$|G_{ij}|^2 \sim \left( \frac{|m|^2 S}{1 - |m|^2 S} \right)_{ij} + \text{errors}, \quad S_{ij} = E h_{ij}^2.$$

The constraint  $\text{Im } e = 0$  makes it difficult to estimate the generalized Green fn.

From the work of Erdos-Knowles-Y-Yin:

$$T_{iy} = |G_{iy}|^2 = |G_{ii}|^2 \sum_{k,l}^{(i)} h_{ik} G_{ky}^{(i)} G_{yl}^{(i)*} h_{li} \sim |m|^2 \sum_{k,l}^{(i)} h_{ik} G_{ky}^{(i)} G_{yl}^{(i)*} h_{li}$$

$$= |m|^2 \sum_k^{(i)} s_{ik} |G_{ky}|^2 + \text{fluctuations and errors, } y \neq i$$

$$|G_{yy}|^2 = |m|^2 + \text{fluctuations and errors.}$$

$$T = |m|^2 + |m|^2 ST + \text{fluctuations and errors}$$

$$T = \frac{|m|^2}{1 - |m|^2 S} + \text{fluctuations and errors}$$

Require  $W \geq N^{1-c}$  for some  $c$ .

- A local theory for the bulk universality of mean-field models is generally understood. DBM converges to local equilibrium in a robust way.
- The basic mechanism that universality holds for non-mean field models is the mean-field reduction idea; QUE is the key input. The flatness of eigenvectors turns the non-mean field model into a mean-field one.
- Estimates on generalized Green's function is the basic input to QUE and universality of band matrices.
- QUE holds for mean field (and non-mean field) models in high probability by considering the associated moment flows, which is a reversible particle systems.
- Parallel results for band matrices in  $d \geq 2$  should hold under some conditions on  $N$  and  $W$ . All results are not optimal in conditions on  $N$  and  $W$ .