Random Matrix Theory

April 1, 2025

Preliminaries

Let ξ_{ij} , η_{ij} be normal random variables (i.e. Gaussian, mean 0, variance 1). e.g. $\mathbb{P}(\xi_{11} < s) = \int_{-\infty}^{s} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} \, dx$. $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} \, dx$ is the variance. $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2}$ is the Probability Density Function (PDF). $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-x^2/2} \, dx$ is the probability measure on our probability space (i.e. totally finite measure space). We build matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} \xi_{11} & \frac{\xi_{12} + i\eta_{12}}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\xi_{13} + i\eta_{13}}{\sqrt{2}} & \cdots \\ \frac{\xi_{21} + i\eta_{21}}{\sqrt{2}} & \xi_{22} & \frac{\xi_{22} + i\eta_{22}}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{\xi_{31} + i\eta_{31}}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\xi_{32} + i\eta_{32}}{\sqrt{2}} & \xi_{33} \\ \vdots & & \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

Computing Random Matrices in Matlab

Gassuain, real valued 1x1 matrix.

randn

Gaussian, real valued 2x2 matrix.

randn(2)

Gaussian, complex valued 2x2 matrix.

```
randn(2)+sqrt(-1)*randn(2)
```

Gaussian, complex valued, self-adjoint 2x2 matrix.

Note that appending 'to a matrix takes the conjugate transpose, and matlab reserves i for the imaginary unit.

```
m = randn(2)+i*randn(2)
(m+m')/2
```

Producing eigenvalues.

```
m = randn(2)+i*randn(2);
l=(m+m')/2;
eig(1)
```

Running tests to see how many hits we get within the interval [0,2].

```
edges=[0,2];
H=zeros(1,length(edges)-1);
trials=10;
for j=1:trials
```

```
m = randn(2)+i*randn(2);
l=(m+m')/2;
ev=eig(1);
H=H+histcount(ev,edges)
end
```

Homework

Is the PDF of $\frac{a+b}{2}$ the same as $\frac{\xi_{12}}{\sqrt{2}}$ for normal RVs a,b,ξ_{12} ? i.e. $\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{a+b}{2} < s\right) \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbb{P}\left(\frac{\xi_{12}}{\sqrt{2}} < s\right)$

2x2 Random Matrix

Our matrix L corresponds to eigenvalues λ_1, λ_2 which are random variables determined by $\{\xi_{ij}, \eta_{ij}\}$. Then the number of evaulations in the interval B is given by $\sum_{j=1}^{2} \chi_B(\lambda_j)$. We may take the average by

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \cdots \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{2} \chi_{B}(\lambda_{j}) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\xi_{11}^{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\xi_{22}^{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\xi_{12}^{2}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\eta_{12}^{2}} d\xi_{11} d\xi_{22} d\xi_{12} d\eta_{12}.$$

Expected Evaluations

We have that the expectation of the number of evaluations in the interval (a,b) is given by $\int_a^b G(s) ds$ where

$$G(s) = e^{-\frac{s^2}{2}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{2} P_{\ell}(s)^2$$

and $P_{\ell}(s)$ is the Hermite polynomial of degree d.

April 3, 2025

Differntiability

```
delta = 0.05;
edges=-6:delta:6;
dimensions = 3;
trials = 1000000;

H=zeros(dimensions,trials);

for j=1:trials
m=randn(dimensions)+1i*randn(dimensions);
L=(m+m')/2;
ev=eig(L);
H(:,j) = ev;
end

G = histcounts(H,edges);
plot(edges(1:end-1),G/(trials*delta),'*')
```

IMAGE 1

Observe that each * in the graph corresponds to the average number of eigenvalues in the interaval (a,b). Therefore, they correspond to $\int_a^b C(\lambda) \ d\lambda$. We may consider the limit of the expectation of hits in each interval

$$\lim_{\Delta \to 0} \frac{\mathbb{E}(\#(a, a + \Delta))}{\Delta}.$$

```
delta = 0.01;
edges=-6:delta:6;
dimensions = 3;
trials = 1000000;

H=zeros(dimensions,trials);

for j=1:trials
m=randn(dimensions)+1i*randn(dimensions);
L=(m+m')/2;
ev=eig(L);
H(:,j) = ev;
end

G = histcounts(H,edges);
plot(edges(1:end-1),G/(trials*delta),'*')
```

As dimension grows large, we observe that the plot tends to a semi-circle with endpoints about $\pm 2\sqrt{\text{dimension}}$. We therefore want a rescaling by \sqrt{N} where $\dim = N$. Then if $G(\alpha) = \frac{d}{d\alpha}\mathbb{E}(\# \text{ of evals in } (a,\alpha))$, we want

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(\alpha) d\alpha = N.$$

Guess: $G(\alpha) \approx cN^{1/2} \cdot \sqrt{A^2 - \alpha^2/N} \cdot \chi_{(-A\sqrt{N},A\sqrt{N})}(\alpha)$. We compute

$$\int_{-A\sqrt{N}}^{A\sqrt{N}} c N^{1/2} \sqrt{A^2 - \alpha^2/N} \ d\alpha \stackrel{\alpha = \sqrt{N}t}{=} c N \int_{-A}^{A} \sqrt{A^2 - t^2} \ dt = \frac{c\pi N A^2}{2}.$$

Choosing A=2 and c such that $\frac{\pi A^2 c}{2}=1$, we get

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(\alpha) d\alpha \approx \frac{N^{1/2}}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \sqrt{4 - \alpha^2/N} d\alpha = N.$$

Number of Eigenvalues in an Interval

Let B be a subset of \mathbb{R} (typically an interval). Write $n(B) = \#\{\text{evaluations in } B\}$, a random variable. Recall that variance is given by the expectation of the square minus the square of the expectation. That is

$$\operatorname{var}(n(B)) = \mathbb{E}(n(B)^{2}) - (\mathbb{E}(n(B))^{2}.$$

Our ultimate goal is to understand PDF and $\mathbb{P}(n(B)) = \ell$) as (the dimension) $N \to \infty$.

Smallest Scale of Interest

Suppose B = (0, s) and N is large (i.e. $N \to \infty$). How large should we choose s such that $\mathbb{E}(n(B)) = 1$? We compute

$$\int_0^S cN^{1/2} \sqrt{4 - \alpha^2/N} \, d\alpha \stackrel{\alpha = \sqrt{N}t}{=} \int_0^{\frac{S}{\sqrt{N}}} cN \sqrt{4 - t^2} \, dt \approx cN \cdot 2 \frac{S}{\sqrt{N}} = 2cS\sqrt{N}.$$

Sets of size $N^{-1/2}$, the smallest interesting scale, are called the "microscopic scaling regime".

Homework: Largest Scale of Interest

How large should B be to see a fraction of the eigenvalues (on average)? That is, how should we scale a and b such that $\mathbb{E}(n((a,b))) = r \cdot N$ for 0 < r < 1?

Level Repulsion

```
m=randn(2)+sqrt(-1)*randn(2);
L=(m+m')/2;
ev=eig(L);
subplot(2,1,2),plot(real(ev),imag(ev))
xlim([edges(1),edges(end)])
```