

Polynomial Chaos and Scaling Limits of Disordered Systems

3. Continuum disordered models

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Overview

In the previous lecture we developed techniques that allow to construct continuum partition functions $Z_\delta^\omega \xrightarrow[\delta \rightarrow 0]{d} Z^W$
(Lindeberg Principle \rightsquigarrow Multi-linear CLT)

In this lecture we use continuum partition functions Z^W to build a continuum disordered model \mathcal{P}^W

We will focus on the DPRE [Alberts, Khanin, Quastel 2014b] building “Continuum directed polymer (BM) in random environment”

The approach can also be applied to Pinning [C., Sun, Zygouras 2015+b]
from which we draw inspiration

(Remark: the DPRE laws of different size are **not** consistent!)

Outline

1. Continuum partition functions

2. The continuum DPRE

3. Proof

4. Universality

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Continuum partition function for DPRE

Recall the partition function of 1d DPRE ($N = 1/\delta$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_\delta^\omega &= \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[\exp \left(\mathcal{H}^\omega \right) \right] = \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[\exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^N (\beta \omega_{(n,S_n)} - \lambda(\beta)) \right) \right] \\
 &= \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[\exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}} (\beta \omega_{(n,z)} - \lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{S_n=z\}} \right) \right] \\
 &= \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[\exp \left(\sum_{(t,x) \in \mathbb{T}_\delta} (\beta \omega_{(t,x)} - \lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{S_t^\delta=x\}} \right) \right] \\
 &= \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[\prod_{(t,x) \in \mathbb{T}_\delta} e^{(\beta \omega_{(t,x)} - \lambda(\beta)) \mathbb{1}_{\{S_t^\delta=x\}}} \right] = \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[\prod_{(t,x) \in \mathbb{T}_\delta} \left(1 + X_{t,x} \mathbb{1}_{\{S_t^\delta=x\}} \right) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

- $S_t^\delta := \sqrt{\delta} S_{t/\delta}$ lives on $\mathbb{T}_\delta = ([0, 1] \cap \delta \mathbb{N}_0) \times \sqrt{\delta} \mathbb{Z}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \blacktriangleright X_{t,x} &= e^{(\beta \omega_{(t,x)} - \lambda(\beta))} - 1 & \mathbb{E}[X_{t,x}] &= 0 & \mathbb{V}\text{ar}[X_{t,x}] &\sim \beta^2
 \end{aligned}$$

Continuum partition function for DPRE

Developing the product yields a polynomial chaos expansion

$$\begin{aligned} Z_N^\omega = 1 + & \sum_{(t,x) \in \mathbb{T}_\delta} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_t^\delta = x) X_{t,x} \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{(t,x) \neq (t',x') \in \mathbb{T}_\delta} \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_t^\delta = x, S_{t'}^\delta = x') X_{t,x} X_{t',x'} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Recall the LLT: $\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_n = x) \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} g\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{n}}\right)$ with $g(z) = \frac{e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}}}{\sqrt{2\pi}}$

$$\mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_t^\delta = x) = \mathbf{P}^{\text{ref}}(S_{\frac{t}{\delta}} = \frac{x}{\sqrt{\delta}}) \sim \sqrt{\delta} g_t(x) \quad g_t(x) = \frac{e^{-\frac{x^2}{2t}}}{\sqrt{2\pi t}}$$

Replacing $X_{t,x} \approx \beta Y_{t,x}$ with $Y_{t,x}$ i.i.d. $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ yields

Continuum partition function for DPRE

$$\begin{aligned} Z_N^{\omega} &= 1 + \beta\sqrt{\delta} \sum_{(t,x) \in \mathbb{T}_{\delta}} g_t(x) Y_{t,x} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2} (\beta\sqrt{\delta})^2 \sum_{(t,x) \neq (t',x') \in \mathbb{T}_{\delta}} g_t(x) g_{t'-t}(x' - x) Y_{t,x} Y_{t',x'} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Cells in \mathbb{T}_{δ} have volume $v_{\delta} = \delta\sqrt{\delta} = \delta^{\frac{3}{2}}$ \leadsto “Stochastic Riemann sums” converge to stochastic integrals if $\beta\sqrt{\delta} \approx \sqrt{v_{\delta}}$ (check the variance!)

For $\boxed{\beta \sim \hat{\beta} \delta^{\frac{1}{4}}} = \frac{\hat{\beta}}{N^{\frac{1}{4}}}$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} Z_N^{\omega} \xrightarrow[\delta \rightarrow 0]{d} \mathcal{Z}^W &= 1 + \hat{\beta} \int_{[0,1] \times \mathbb{R}} g_t(x) W(dt dx) \\ &\quad + \frac{\hat{\beta}^2}{2} \int_{([0,1] \times \mathbb{R})^2} g_t(x) g_{t'-t}(x' - x) W(dt dx) W(dt' dx') \\ &\quad + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Free and constrained partition functions

We have constructed \mathcal{Z}^W = “free” partition function on $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$ RW paths starting at $(0, 0)$ with no constraint on right endpoint

$$\mathcal{Z}^W = \mathcal{Z}^W((0, 0), (1, *)) \quad \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{Z}^W] = 1$$

Consider also **constrained** partition functions: for $(s, y), (t, x) \in [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathcal{Z}_\delta^\omega((s, y), (t, x)) = \mathbf{E}^{\text{ref}} \left[\exp \left(\mathcal{H}^\omega \right) \mathbf{1}_{\{S_t^\delta = x\}} \middle| S_s^\delta = y \right]$$

which (divided by $\sqrt{\delta}$) converges to a limit that we call

$$\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x)) \quad \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x))] = g_{t-s}(x - y)$$

This is a function of white noise in the stripe $W([s, t] \times \mathbb{R})$

Key properties

Key properties

For a.e. realization of \mathcal{W} the following properties hold:

- **Continuity**: $\mathcal{Z}^{\mathcal{W}}((s, y), (t, x))$ is jointly continuous in (s, y, t, x) (on the domain $s < t$)
- **Positivity**: $\mathcal{Z}^{\mathcal{W}}((s, y), (t, x)) > 0$ for all (s, y, t, x) satisfying $s < t$
- **Semigroup** (Chapman-Kolmogorov): for all $s < r < t$ and $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$

$$\mathcal{Z}^{\mathcal{W}}((s, y), (t, x)) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \mathcal{Z}^{\mathcal{W}}((s, y), (r, z)) \mathcal{Z}^{\mathcal{W}}((r, z), (t, x)) dz$$

(Inherited from discrete partition functions: [drawing!](#))

How to prove these properties?

The four-parameter field $\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x))$ solves the 1d SHE

$$\begin{cases} \partial_t \mathcal{Z}^W = \frac{1}{2} \Delta_x \mathcal{Z}^W + \hat{\beta} W \mathcal{Z}^W \\ \lim_{t \downarrow s} \mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x)) = \delta(y - x) \end{cases}$$

Checked directly from Wiener chaos expansion ([mild solution](#))

It is known that solutions to the SHE satisfy the properties above

Alternative approach (to check, OK for pinning [C., Sun, Zygouras 2015+b])

- ▶ Prove continuity by Kolmogorov criterion, showing that

$$\frac{\mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x))}{g_{t-s}(x - y)} \quad \text{is continuous also for } t = s$$

- ▶ Use continuity to prove semigroup for all times
- ▶ Use continuity to deduce positivity for close times, then bootstrap to arbitrary times using semigroup

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Partition functions and f.d.d.

Start from **discrete**: distribution of DPRE at two times $0 < t < t' < 1$

$$\mathbf{P}_\delta^\omega(S_t^\delta = x, S_{t'}^\delta = x') = \frac{\mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((0, 0), (t, x)) \mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((t, x), (t', x')) \mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((t', x'), (1, *))}{\mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((0, 0), (1, *))}$$

(drawing!) Analogous formula for any finite number of times

Idea: Replace $\mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{Z}^W$ to *define* the law of continuum DPRE

Recall: to define a process $(X_t)_{t \in [0, 1]}$ it is enough (Kolmogorov) to assign **finite-dimensional distributions** (f.d.d.)

$$\mu_{t_1, \dots, t_k}(A_1, \dots, A_k) = P(X_{t_1} \in A_1, \dots, X_{t_k} \in A_k)$$

that are **consistent**

$$\mu_{t_1, \dots, t_j, \dots, t_k}(A_1, \dots, \mathbb{R}, \dots, A_k) = \mu_{t_1, \dots, t_{j-1}, t_{j+1}, \dots, t_k}(A_1, \dots, A_{j-1}, A_{j+1}, \dots, A_k)$$

The continuum 1d DPRE

- ▶ Fix $\hat{\beta} \in (0, \infty)$ (on which \mathcal{Z}^W depend) [recall that $\beta \sim \hat{\beta}\delta^{\frac{1}{4}}$]
- ▶ Fix space-time white noise W on $[0, 1] \times \mathbb{R}$ and a realization of continuum partition functions \mathcal{Z}^W satisfying the key properties (continuity, strict positivity, semigroup)

The Continuum DPRE is the process $(X_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$ with f.d.d.

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\mathcal{P}^W(X_t \in dx, X_{t'} \in dx')}{dx dx'} \\ &:= \frac{\mathcal{Z}^W((0,0), (t,x)) \mathcal{Z}^W((t,x), (t',x')) \mathcal{Z}^W((t',x'), (1,\star))}{\mathcal{Z}^W((0,0), (1,\star))} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Well-defined by strict positivity of \mathcal{Z}^W
- ▶ Consistent by semigroup property

Relation with Wiener measure

The law of the continuum DPRE is a **random** probability

$$\mathcal{P}^W(X \in \cdot) \quad (\text{quenched law})$$

for the process $X = (X_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$ [Probab. kernel $\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{[0,1]}$]

Define a new law $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$ (mutually absolutely continuous) for disorder W by

$$\frac{d\tilde{\mathbb{P}}}{d\mathbb{P}}(W) = \mathcal{Z}^W((0,0), (1,\star))$$

Key Lemma

$$\mathcal{P}^{\text{ann}}(X \in \cdot) := \int_{\mathcal{S}'(\mathbb{R})} \mathcal{P}^W(X \in \cdot) \tilde{\mathbb{P}}(dW) = \mathbb{P}(BM \in \cdot)$$

Proof. The factor \mathcal{Z}^W in $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}$ cancels the denominator in the f.d.d. for \mathcal{P}^W

Since $\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{Z}^W((s,y), (t,x))] = g_{t-s}(x-y)$ one gets f.d.d. of BM □

Absolute continuity properties

Any given a.s. property of BM is an a.s. property of continuum DPRE, for a.e. realization of the disorder W

Theorem

$$\forall A : \quad P(BM \in A) = 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{P}^W(X \in A) = 1 \quad \text{for } \mathbb{P}\text{-a.e. } W$$

Corollary

$$\mathcal{P}^W(X \text{ has Hölder paths with exp. } \frac{1}{2}-) = 1 \quad \text{for } \mathbb{P}\text{-a.e. } W$$

We can thus realize \mathcal{P}^W as a law on $C([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$, for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W

(More precisely: \mathcal{P}^W admits a modification with Hölder paths)

Perhaps \mathcal{P}^W absolutely continuous w.r.t. Wiener measure, for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W ?

NO! “ $\forall A$ ” and “for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W ” cannot be exchanged!

Singularity properties

Any given a.s. property of BM is an a.s. property of continuum DPRE, for a.e. realization of the disorder W . However:

Theorem

The law \mathcal{P}^W is **singular** w.r.t. Wiener measure, for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W .

for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W $\exists A = A_W \subseteq C([0, 1], \mathbb{R}) :$

$$\mathcal{P}^W(X \in A) = 1 \quad \text{vs.} \quad \mathbb{P}(BM \in A) = 0$$

Unlike discrete DPRE, there is **no continuum Hamiltonian**

$$\mathcal{P}^W(X \in \cdot) \not\propto e^{\mathcal{H}^W(\cdot)} \mathbb{P}(BM \in \cdot)$$

Absolute continuity is lost in the scaling limit

In a sense, the laws \mathcal{P}^W are just *barely* not absolutely continuous w.r.t. Wiener measure ("stochastically absolutely continuous")

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Proof of singularity

Let $(X_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$ be the canonical process on $C([0,1], \mathbb{R})$ [$X_t(f) = f(t)$]

Let $\mathcal{F}_n := \sigma(X_{t_i^n} : t_i^n = \frac{i}{2^n}, 0 \leq i \leq 2^n)$ be the dyadic filtration

Fix (a typical realization of) $\textcolor{red}{W}$. Setting $\mathcal{P}^{\text{ref}} = \text{Wiener measure}$

$$R_n^{\textcolor{red}{W}}(X) := \frac{d\mathcal{P}^{\textcolor{red}{W}}|_{\mathcal{F}_n}}{d\mathcal{P}^{\text{ref}}|_{\mathcal{F}_n}}(X)$$

The process $(R_n^{\textcolor{red}{W}})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a **martingale** w.r.t. \mathcal{P}^{ref} (**exercise!**)

Since $R_n^{\textcolor{red}{W}} \geq 0$, the martingale converges: $R_n^{\textcolor{red}{W}} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{\text{a.s.}} R_\infty^{\textcolor{red}{W}}$

- ▶ $\mathcal{P}^{\textcolor{red}{W}} \ll \mathcal{P}^{\text{ref}}$ if and only if $\mathcal{E}^{\text{ref}}[R_\infty^{\textcolor{red}{W}}] = 1$ (the martingale is UI)
- ▶ $\mathcal{P}^{\textcolor{red}{W}}$ is **singular** w.r.t. \mathcal{P}^{ref} if and only if $R_\infty^{\textcolor{red}{W}} = 0$

Proof of singularity

Known: for \mathbb{P} -a.e. W we have $R_n^W(X) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} R_\infty^W(X)$ for \mathcal{P}^{ref} -a.e. X

It suffices to show that $R_n^W(X) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0$ in $\mathbb{P} \otimes \mathcal{P}^{\text{ref}}$ -probability

Fractional moment

For \mathcal{P}^{ref} -a.e. X $\mathbb{E}\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[(R_n^W(X))^\gamma] \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} 0$ for some $\gamma \in (0, 1)$

$$R_n^W(X) = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}^W((0, 0), (1, \star))} \prod_{i=0}^{2^n-1} \frac{\mathcal{Z}^W((t_i^n, X_{t_i^n}), (t_{i+1}^n, X_{t_{i+1}^n}))}{g_{\frac{1}{2^n}}(X_{t_{i+1}^n} - X_{t_i^n})}$$

- ▶ Switch from \mathbb{E} to equivalent law $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}$ to cancel the denominator
- ▶ For fixed X , the $\mathcal{Z}^W((t_i^n, X_{t_i^n}), (t_{i+1}^n, X_{t_{i+1}^n}))$'s are independent

We need to exploit translation and scale invariance of their laws

Proof of singularity

Lemma 1 (Translation and scale invariance)

If we set $\Delta_i^n := \frac{X_{t_{i+1}^n} - X_{t_i^n}}{\sqrt{t_{i+1}^n - t_i^n}}$ we have

$$\frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}}^W((t_i^n, X_{t_i^n}), (t_{i+1}^n, X_{t_{i+1}^n}))}{g_{\frac{1}{2^n}}(X_{t_{i+1}^n} - X_{t_i^n})} \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{\mathcal{Z}_{\frac{\hat{\beta}}{2^{n/4}}}^W((0, 0), (1, \Delta_i^n))}{g_1(\Delta_i^n)}$$

Lemma 2 (Expansion)

For $z \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\varepsilon \in [0, 1]$ (say)

$$\frac{\mathcal{Z}_\varepsilon^W((0, 0), (1, z))}{g_1(z)} = 1 + \varepsilon X_z + \varepsilon^2 Y_{\varepsilon, z}$$

$$\mathbb{E}[X_z] = 0 \quad \mathbb{E}[X_{\varepsilon, z}] = 0 \quad \mathbb{E}[X_z^2] \leq C \quad \mathbb{E}[Y_{\varepsilon, z}^2] \leq C \quad \text{unif. in } \varepsilon, z$$

Proof of singularity

By Taylor expansion, for fixed $\gamma \in (0, 1)$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{\mathcal{Z}_\varepsilon^W((0,0),(1,z))}{g_1(z)} \right)^\gamma \right] &= \mathbb{E} \left[(1 + \varepsilon X_z + \varepsilon^2 Y_{\varepsilon,z})^\gamma \right] \\ &= 1 + \gamma \{ \varepsilon \mathbb{E}[X_z] + \varepsilon^2 \mathbb{E}[Y_{\varepsilon,z}] \} + \frac{\gamma(\gamma-1)}{2} \{ \varepsilon^2 \mathbb{E}[(X_z)^2] + \dots \} + \dots \\ &= 1 - c \varepsilon^2 \leq e^{-c \varepsilon^2} \end{aligned}$$

(*) First order terms vanish (*) $\gamma(\gamma-1) < 0$ (*) For some $c > 0$

Estimate is uniform over $z \in \mathbb{R}$ \rightsquigarrow We can set $z = \Delta_i^n$ and $\varepsilon = \frac{1}{2^{n/4}}$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{E}}[(R_n^W(X))^\gamma] = \prod_{i=0}^{2^n-1} \mathbb{E} \left[\left(\frac{\mathcal{Z}_\varepsilon^W((0,0),(1,\Delta_i^n))}{g_1(\Delta_i^n)} \right)^\gamma \right] \leq e^{-c \varepsilon^2 2^n} = e^{-c 2^{n/2}}$$

which vanishes as $n \rightarrow \infty$

□

Proof of Lemma 1

Introducing the dependence on $\hat{\beta}$

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}}^W((s, y), (t, x)) \stackrel{d}{=} \mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}}^W((0, 0), (t - s, x - y))$$

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta}}^W((0, 0), (t, x)) \stackrel{d}{=} \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \mathcal{Z}_{\hat{\beta} t^{\frac{1}{4}}}^W \left((0, 0), \left(1, \frac{x}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \right)$$

transl. invariance + diffusive rescaling (prefactor, new $\hat{\beta}$) (drawing!)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z}^W((0, 0), (t, x)) &= g_t(x) + \hat{\beta} \int_{[0, t] \times \mathbb{R}} g_s(z) g_{t-s}(x - z) W(ds dz) + \dots \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} g_1\left(\frac{x}{\sqrt{t}}\right) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{t}} \left(\frac{\hat{\beta} t^{\frac{3}{4}}}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \int_{[0, t] \times \mathbb{R}} g_{\frac{s}{t}}\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{t}}\right) g_{1 - \frac{s}{t}}\left(\frac{x-z}{\sqrt{t}}\right) \frac{W(ds dz)}{t^{\frac{3}{4}}} + \dots \\ &= \text{OK! } \square \end{aligned}$$

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Convergence of discrete DPRE

Both P_δ^ω and P^W are random probability laws on $E := C([0, 1], \mathbb{R})$
 i.e. RVs (defined on different probab. spaces) taking values in $\mathcal{M}_1(E)$

Does \mathbf{P}_δ^ω converge in distribution toward \mathcal{P}^W as $\delta \rightarrow 0$?

$$\forall \psi \in C_b(\mathcal{M}_1(E) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}) : \quad \mathbb{E}[\psi(\mathbf{P}_\delta^\omega)] \xrightarrow[\delta \rightarrow 0]{} \mathbb{E}[\psi(\mathbf{P}^W)]$$

The answer is positive... almost surely ;-)

Statement for Pinning model proved in [C., Sun, Zygouras 2015+b]

Details need to be checked for DPRE (stronger assumptions on RW ?)

Universality

The convergence of P_δ^ω toward \mathcal{P}^W is an instance of universality

There are many discrete DPRE:

- ▶ any RW S (zero mean, finite variance + technical assumptions)
- ▶ any (i.i.d.) disorder ω (finite exponential moments)

In the continuum ($\delta \rightarrow 0$) and weak disorder ($\beta \rightarrow 0$) regime, all these microscopic models P_δ^ω give rise to a unique macroscopic model \mathcal{P}^W

Tomorrow we will see how the continuum model \mathcal{P}^W can tell quantitative information on discrete models P_δ^ω (free energy estimates)

Convergence

How to prove convergence in distribution $\mathbf{P}_\delta^\omega \xrightarrow[\delta \rightarrow 0]{d} \mathcal{P}^W$?

Prove a.s. convergence through a suitable coupling of (ω, W)

Assume we have convergence in distribution of discrete partition functions to continuum ones, in the space of continuum functions of $(s, y), (t, x)$

$$\mathbf{Z}_\delta^\omega((s, y), (t, x)) \xrightarrow[\delta \rightarrow 0]{d} \mathcal{Z}^W((s, y), (t, x))$$

By Skorokhod representation theorem, there is a coupling of (ω, W) under which this convergence holds a.s.

Fix such a coupling: for a.e. (ω, W) the f.d.d. of \mathbf{P}_δ^ω converge weakly to those of \mathcal{P}^W . It only remains to prove tightness of $\mathbf{P}_\delta^\omega(\cdot)$.

Convergence

To prove tightness (also for the convergence of discrete partition functions) a key tool is the inequality of Garsia, Rodemich and Rumsey

$$\left(\sup_{s,t \in [0,1]^d, s \neq t} \frac{|f(t) - f(s)|}{|t-s|^{\mu - \frac{2d}{p}}} \right)^p \leq C_{\mu,p,d} \int_{[0,1]^d \times [0,1]^d} \frac{|f(t) - f(s)|^p}{|t-s|^{p\mu}} ds dt$$

References

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