

Spectral Analysis of q -Al-Salam–Carlitz Unitary Ensembles

Joint work with Sung-Soo Byun and Jaeseong Oh

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Log-gases in Caeli Australi

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1. Spectral Analysis of Gaussian Unitary Ensemble

2. q -Deformed Gaussian Unitary Ensemble

3. q -Al-Salam–Carlitz Unitary Ensemble

4. Limiting Zero Distribution and Limiting Density

Spectral Analysis of Gaussian Unitary Ensemble

Gaussian unitary ensemble

$$\mathbf{H} = (h_{jk})_{j,k=1}^N$$

where

$$h_{jk} = \overline{h_{kj}} = \begin{cases} \frac{\xi_{jk} + i\eta_{jk}}{\sqrt{2}} & j \neq k \\ \xi_{jj} & j = k \end{cases}$$

with

$$\xi_{jk}, \eta_{jk} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1/N), \quad \text{i.i.d.}$$

Gaussian unitary ensemble

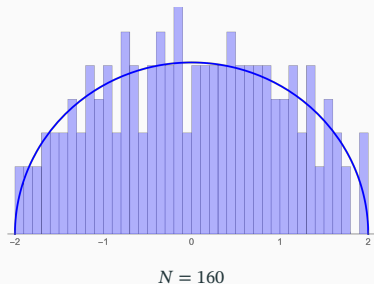
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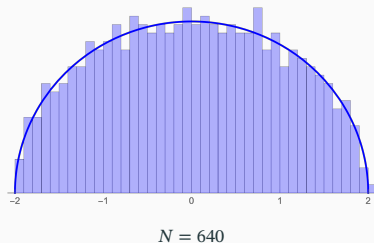
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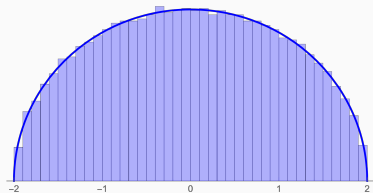
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$N = 2560$

Wigner Semi-Circle Law

■ Wigner's Semi-Circle Law (Wigner '55)

$$\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \delta_{x_j/\sqrt{N}} \rightarrow d\mu_{\text{sc}}(x) := \frac{\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2\pi} 1_{[-2,2]}(x) dx$$

Wigner's Semi-Circle Law and Spectral Moments

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$$\int_{-2}^2 x^{2p} d\mu_{\text{sc}}(x) = C_p := \frac{1}{p+1} \binom{2p}{p}$$

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$$M_{N,p}^{\text{GUE}} := \mathbb{E}[\text{Tr} \mathbf{H}^p] = \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{j=1}^N x_j^p\right]$$

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■ Large- N Asymptotic of Spectral Moments

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N^{p+1}} M_{N,2p}^{\text{GUE}} = C_p$$

■ Wick's Formula & Non-crossing Pairing

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N^{p+1}} M_{N, 2p}^{\text{GUE}} = C_p$$

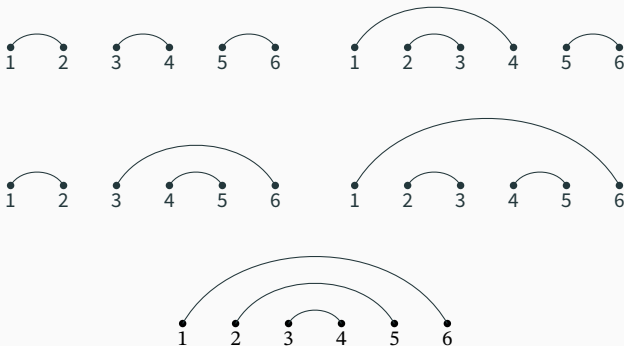


Figure 1: Non-crossing pairings on $2p = 6$

■ Harer-Zagier Formula for the GUE

$$(p+1)M_{N,2p}^{\text{GUE}} = (4p-2)N M_{N,2p-2}^{\text{GUE}} + (p-1)(2p-1)(2p-3)M_{N,2p-4}^{\text{GUE}}$$

Harer-Zagier, *The Euler characteristic of the moduli space of curves*, Invent. Math. **85** (1986), 457–485.

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■ Genus Expansion

$$M_{N,2p}^{\text{GUE}} = \sum_{g=0}^{\lfloor p/2 \rfloor} c(g; p) N^{p+1-2g}$$

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■ Example: For $p = 2$,

$$\begin{aligned} M_{N,2p} &= \# \left\{ \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right\} N^3 + \# \left\{ \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array} \right\} N^{3-2} \\ &= 2N^3 + N \end{aligned}$$

■ Joint PDF of Eigenvalues

$$\mathbb{P}_N^{\text{GUE}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z_N^{\text{GUE}}} \prod_{1 \leq j < k \leq N} |x_j - x_k|^2 \prod_{l=1}^N e^{-\frac{1}{2}x_l^2}$$

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■ 1-Point Function

$$\rho_N^{\text{GUE}}(\mathbf{x}) = N \int_{\mathbb{R}^{N-1}} \mathbb{P}_N^{\text{GUE}}(\mathbf{x}, x_2, \dots, x_N) dx_2 \cdots dx_N$$

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■ Spectral Moment

$$M_{N,p}^{\text{GUE}} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^p \rho_N^{\text{GUE}}(x) dx$$

■ Hermite Polynomial

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \text{He}_n(x) \text{He}_m(x) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} dx = n! \delta_{n,m}$$

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$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} x^p \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{1}{2}x^2} \frac{1}{j!} \text{He}_j(x)^2 dx = (2p-1)!! \sum_{l=0}^p \binom{j}{l} \binom{p}{l} 2^l$$

Spectral Moment and Hermite Polynomials

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■ Positive Sum Formula for Spectral Moments

$$M_{N,2p}^{\text{GUE}} = \int_{\mathbb{R}} x^{2p} \rho_N^{\text{GUE}}(x) dx = (2p-1)!! \sum_{l=0}^p \binom{N}{l+1} \binom{p}{l} 2^l$$

■ Spectral Moments of Various Ensembles

- *Orthogonal Polynomial Ensemble*
Cunden-Mezzadri-O'Connell-Simm '19, Gissonni-Grava-Ruzza' 21
- *Non-Hermitian Random Matrices*
Forrester-Rains '09, Sommers-Khoruzhenko '09, Byun-Forrester '24, Byun '24, Akemann-Byun-Oh '25
- *High-dimensional Fermi Gas*
Forrester '21
- *Discrete Ensembles*
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■ Applications

- *Deviation Inequality for Extreme Eigenvalues*
Ledoux '04, '05, '09, Feldheim-Sodin '10, Erdős-Xu '23
- *Finite-size Correction*
Witte-Forrester '14, Bornemann '16, Forrester-Trinh '19, Rahman-Forrester '21
- *Non-commutative Geometry*
Ginot-Gwilliam-Hamilton-Zeinalian '22
- *Time-delay Matrix of Quantum Dots & τ -function Theory*
Livan-Vivo '11, Mezzadri-Simm '11-'13, Cunden '15, Cunden-Mezzadri-Simm-Vivo '16

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q -Deformed Gaussian Unitary Ensemble

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- **q -Pochhammer Symbol**

$$(a; q)_n := \prod_{j=0}^{n-1} (1 - aq^j) = (1 - a)(1 - aq) \cdots (1 - aq^{n-1})$$

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■ **Jackson q -Integral**

$$\int_0^\alpha f(x) d_q x = (1 - q) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \alpha q^k f(\alpha q^k), \quad \int_\alpha^\beta f(x) d_q x = \int_0^\beta f(x) d_q x - \int_0^\alpha f(x) d_q x$$

■ Hermite Polynomial Revisited

$$\text{He}_{n+1}(x) = x\text{He}_n(x) - n\text{He}_{n-1}(x)$$

with orthogonality

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■ Discrete q -Hermite Polynomial

$$H_{n+1}(x; q) = xH_n(x; q) - q^{n-1}(1 - q^n)H_{n-1}(x; q)$$

with orthogonality

$$\int_{-1}^1 H_n(x; q)H_m(x; q) \frac{(qx, -qx; q)_{\infty}}{(q, -1, -q; q)_{\infty}} d_q x = (1 - q)(q; q)_n q^{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}} \delta_{nm}$$

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cf. Continuum Limit

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} (1 - q)^{-\frac{n}{2}} H_n(\sqrt{1 - q} x; q) = \text{He}_n(x)$$

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$$\mathbb{P}_N^{\text{GUE}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z_N^{\text{GUE}}} \prod_{1 \leq j < k \leq N} |x_j - x_k|^2 \prod_{l=1}^N e^{-\frac{1}{2}x_l^2}$$

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■ Joint PDF of the q -Deformed GUE

$$\mathbb{P}_N^{q\text{GUE}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{Z_N^{q\text{GUE}}} \prod_{1 \leq j < k \leq N} |x_j - x_k|^2 \prod_{l=1}^N \frac{(qx_l, -qx_l; q)_\infty}{(q, -1, -q; q)_\infty}$$

supported on the q -lattice $\pm q^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$

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■ 1-Point Function of the q -deformed GUE

$$\rho_N^{q\text{GUE}}(x; q) = \frac{1}{1-q} \frac{(qx, -qx; q)_\infty}{(q, -1, -q; q)_\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{(q; q)_j q^{\frac{j(j-1)}{2}}} H_j(x; q)^2$$

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■ Spectral Moments of the q -Deformed GUE (Byun-Forrester-Oh '24)

$$\begin{aligned} M_{N,2p}^{q\text{GUE}} &= \int_{-1}^1 x^{2p} \rho_N^{q\text{GUE}}(x; q) d_q x \\ &= (1-q)^p \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \sum_{l=0}^p q^{(j-l)(2p-l) + \frac{l(l-1)}{2}} \begin{bmatrix} j \\ l \end{bmatrix}_q \frac{[2p]_q!}{[2p-2l]_q! [l]_q!} \end{aligned}$$

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cf. Alternating Sum Formula (based on the Schur polynomial average)

Forrester-Li-Shen-Yu, q -Pearson pair and moments in q -deformed ensembles, Ramanujan J. **60** (2023), 195–235.

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$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} (1-q)^{-p} M_{N,2p}^{q\text{GUE}} = M_{N,2p}^{\text{GUE}}$$

■ Genus Expansion Revisited

$$\frac{1}{N^p} M_{N,2p}^{\text{GUE}} = c(0; p)N + c(1; p)\frac{1}{N} + O\left(\frac{1}{N^3}\right)$$

with $c(0; p) = C_p$

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[Forrester](#), *Global and local scaling limits for the $\beta = 2$ Stieltjes-Wigert random matrix ensemble*, Random Matrices Theory Appl. **11** (2022), 2250020.

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Cf. Continuum Limit

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\lambda^p} \mathcal{M}_{2p,0}^{\text{qGUE}} = C_p$$

■ Wigner's Semi-Circle Law Revisited

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \rho_N(\sqrt{N}x) dx \implies d\mu_{\text{sc}} = \frac{\sqrt{4-x^2}}{2\pi} 1_{[-2,2]}(x) dx$$

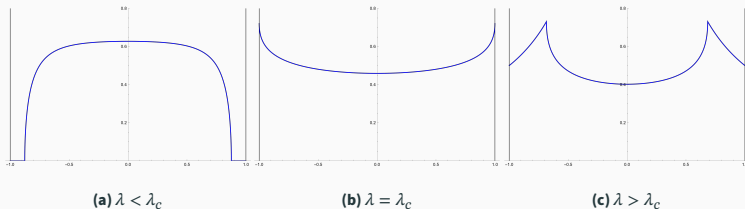
Limiting Density of the q -Deformed GUE

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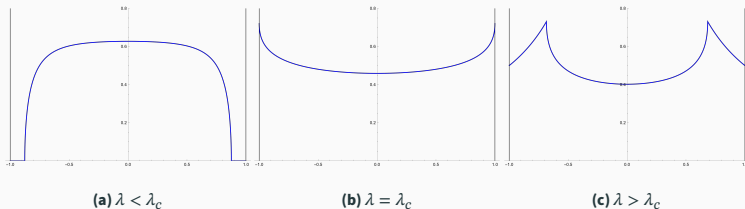
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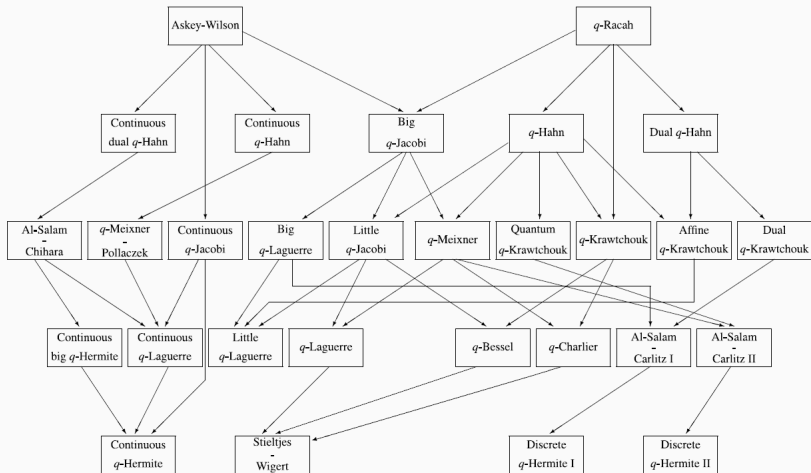
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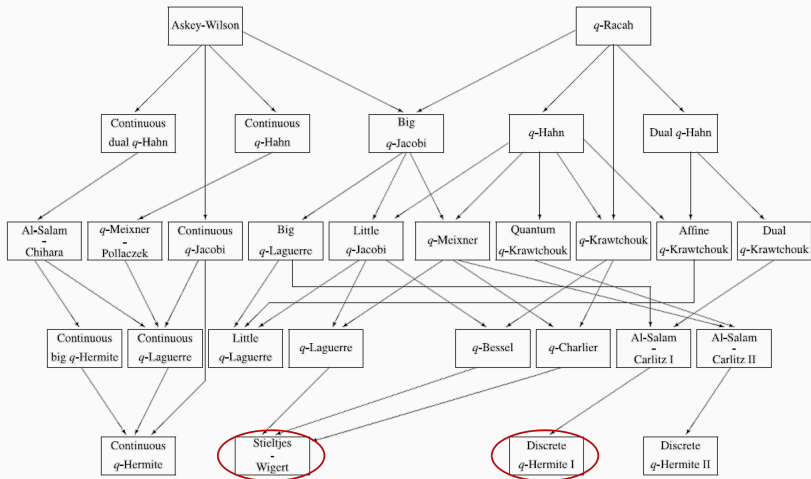


cf. q -deformed Wigner's Semi-circle Law ($\lambda \rightarrow 0$)

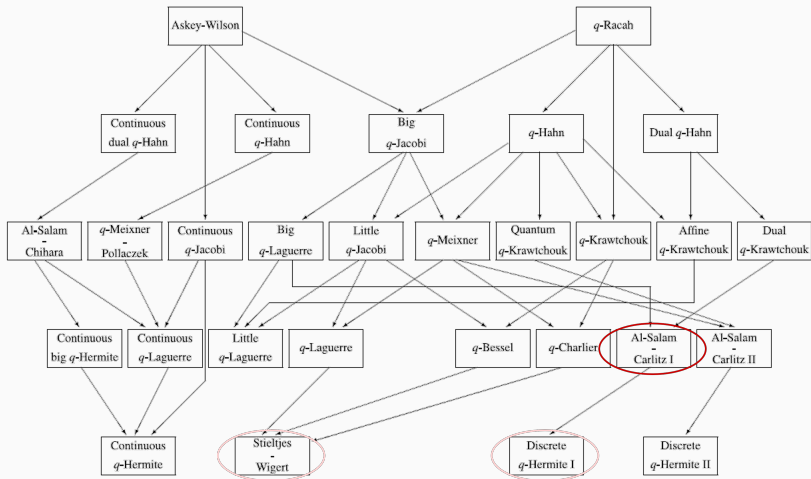
Askey Scheme



Askey Scheme



Askey Scheme



q -Al-Salam–Carlitz Unitary Ensemble

■ Discrete q -Hermite Polynomial Revisited

$$H_{n+1}(x; q) = xH_n(x; q) - q^{n-1}(1 - q^n)H_{n-1}(x; q)$$

with orthogonality

$$\int_{-1}^1 H_n(x; q) H_m(x; q) \frac{(qx, -qx; q)_\infty}{(q, -1, -q; q)_\infty} d_q x = (1 - q)(q; q)_n q^{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}} \delta_{nm}$$

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■ Al-Salam–Carlitz Polynomial For $a < 0$,

$$U_{n+1}^{(a)}(x; q) = (x - (a + 1)q^n)U_n^{(a)}(x; q) + aq^{n-1}(1 - q^n)U_{n-1}^{(a)}(x; q)$$

with orthogonality

$$\int_a^1 U_n^{(a)}(x; q) U_m^{(a)}(x; q) \frac{(qx, qx/a; q)_\infty}{(q, a, q/a; q)_\infty} d_q x = (-a)^n (1 - q) q^{\frac{n(n-1)}{2}} \delta_{nm}$$

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cf. $H_n(x; q) = U_n^{(-1)}(x; q)$

■ **Al-Salam–Carlitz Polynomial** For $a < 0$,

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■ Continuum Limits

- Hermite polynomial

$$\frac{1}{2^n} H_n(x - r) = \lim_{q \uparrow 1} \frac{U_n^{(a)}(x; q)}{(1 - q^2)^{n/2}} \Big|_{x \mapsto x\sqrt{1-q^2}, a \mapsto r\sqrt{1-q^2}-1}$$

- Charlier polynomial

$$a^n C_n(x; a) = \lim_{q \uparrow 1} \frac{U_n^{(a)}(x; q)}{(1 - q)^n} \Big|_{x \mapsto qx, a \mapsto a(q-1)}$$

■ 1-Point Function of the q -deformed GUE Revisited

$$\rho_N^{\text{qGUE}}(x; q) = \frac{1}{1-q} \frac{(qx, -qx; q)_\infty}{(q, -1, -q; q)_\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{(q; q)_j q^{\frac{j(j-1)}{2}}} H_j(x; q)^2$$

supported on the q -lattice $\pm q^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$

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■ 1-Point Function of the Al-Salam–Carlitz UE

$$\rho_N^{(a)}(x; q) := \frac{1}{1-q} \frac{(qx, qx/a; q)_\infty}{(q, a, q/a; q)_\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{(-a)^j (q; q)_j q^{\frac{j(j-1)}{2}}} U_j^{(a)}(x; q)^2$$

supported on the q -lattice $q^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}} \cup aq^{\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}}$

■ 1-Point Function of the q -deformed GUE Revisited

$$\rho_N^{q\text{GUE}}(x; q) = \frac{1}{1-q} \frac{(qx, -qx; q)_\infty}{(q, -1, -q; q)_\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \frac{1}{(q; q)_j q^{\frac{j(j-1)}{2}}} H_j(x; q)^2$$

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■ Spectral Moment of the Al-Salam–Carlitz UE

$$M_{N,p}^{(a,q)} = \int_a^1 x^p \rho_N^{(a)}(x; q) d_q x$$

Theorem 1 (Byun-J.-Oh '25)

For any $p, N \in \mathbb{N}$ and $a < 0$,

$$M_{N,p}^{(a,q)} = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor p/2 \rfloor} \frac{(-a)^k (1-q)^k}{(a+1)^{2k-p}} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{q^{-l(p-l) + \frac{l(l-1)}{2}} [p]_q!}{[p-2l]_q!! [l]_q!} H(k-l, p-2k) q^{j(p-l)} \begin{bmatrix} j \\ l \end{bmatrix}_q$$

where

$$H(b, c) := \sum_{0 \leq j_1 \leq j_2 \leq \dots \leq j_c \leq b} \prod_{l=1}^c \frac{[2j_l + l - 2]_q!!}{[2j_l + l - 1]_q!!}$$

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- **Alternating Sum Formula** (based on the MacDonald polynomial and superintegrability identity)

Byun-Forrester, *On the superintegrability of the Gaussian β ensemble and its (q, t) generalisation*, arXiv:2505.12927.

- **Symmetry of Spectral Moment**

$$M_{N,p}^{(1/a,q)} = \frac{1}{a^p} M_{N,p}^{(a,q)}$$

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■ Examples

$$M_{N,0}^{(a,q)} = N$$

$$M_{N,1}^{(a,q)} = (a+1) \frac{1-q^N}{1-q}$$

$$M_{N,2}^{(a,q)} = \frac{1-q^N}{q(1-q)^2} \left((a^2+1)q + q^N(q + a(1+2q+q^2+aq)) \right)$$

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$$\int_a^1 x^p \frac{(qx, qx/a; q)_\infty}{(q, a, q/a; q)_\infty} \frac{1}{(-a)^j (q; q)_j q^{j(j-1)/2}} U_j^{(a)}(x; q)^2 d_q x$$

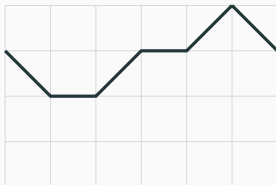
■ Three-Term Recurrence of Orthogonal Polynomials

$$P_{n+1}(x) = (x - b_n)P_n(x) - \lambda_n P_{n-1}(x)$$

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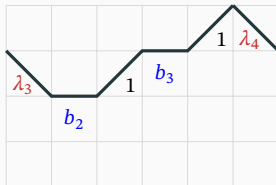
■ Motzkin Path



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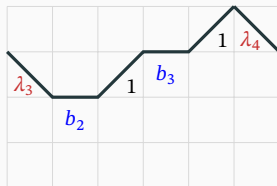
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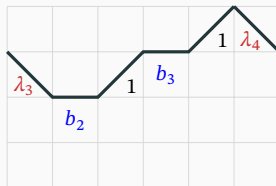
■ Flajolet-Viennot Theory

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} x^p \frac{P_j(x)^2}{h_j} w(x) dx = \sum_{\Gamma: (0,j) \rightarrow (p,j)} \text{wt}(\Gamma)$$

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cf. Spectral Moment as a Partition Function

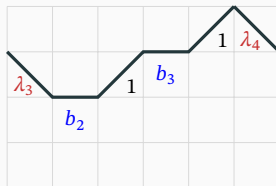
[Bryc-Kuznetsov-Wesolowski](#), *Limits of random Motzkin paths with KPZ related asymptotics*, Int. Math. Res. Not. **2025** (2025), 1-33.

Combinatorics of Orthogonal Polynomials

■ Three-Term Recurrence of Orthogonal Polynomials

$$P_{n+1}(x) = (x - b_n)P_n(x) - \lambda_n P_{n-1}(x)$$

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cf. Evaluation from Combinatorics for $j = 0$

[Corteel-Jonnadula-Keating-Kim](#), *Lecture hall graphs and the Askey scheme*, arXiv:2311.12761.

■ Matching



Matching Problem

■ Matching



■ Statistics of Matching

Matching Problem

■ Matching



■ Statistics of Matching



Crossings

Matching Problem

■ Matching



■ Statistics of Matching



Crossings



Nestings

Matching Problem

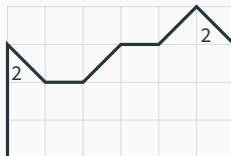
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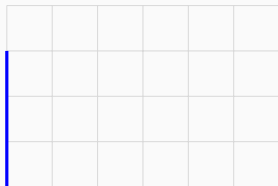


■ Al-Salam-Carlitz History



■ **Example:** $\Gamma : (0, 3) \rightarrow (6, 3)$

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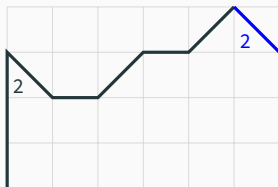
Double Counting

■ **Example:** $\Gamma : (0, 3) \rightarrow (6, 3)$



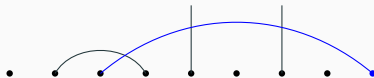
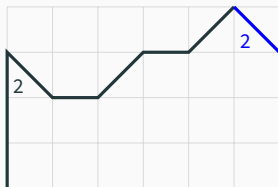
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Lemma (Byun-J.-Oh '25)

$$\text{wt}(\Gamma) = \sum_M q^{\# \text{Crossing}(M) + 2 \# \text{Nesting}(M)}$$

where the sum runs over matchings corresponded to all Al-Salam–Carlitz histories on Γ .

■ Al-Salam–Carlitz Integral (Byun-J.-Oh '25)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_a^1 x^p \frac{(qx, qx/a; q)_\infty}{(q, a, q/a; q)_\infty} \frac{1}{(-a)^j (q; q)_j q^{j(j-1)/2}} U_j^{(a)}(x; q)^2 d_q x \\
 &= \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor p/2 \rfloor} \frac{(-a)^k (1-q)^k}{(a+1)^{2k-p}} \sum_{l=0}^k \frac{q^{-l(p-l) + \frac{l(l-1)}{2}} [p]_q!}{[p-2l]_q!! [l]_q!} H(k-l, p-2k) q^{j(p-l)} \begin{bmatrix} j \\ l \end{bmatrix}_q
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Large N -expansion of Spectral Moments

Theorem 2 (Byun-J.-Oh '25)

With $q = e^{-\lambda/N}$ ($\lambda > 0$), as $N \rightarrow \infty$,

$$q^{\frac{p}{2}} M_{N,p}^{(a,q)} = \mathcal{M}_{p,0} N + \frac{\mathcal{M}_{p,1}}{N} + O(N^{-3})$$

where

$$\mathcal{M}_{p,0} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor p/2 \rfloor} (a+1)^{p-2l} (-a)^l \frac{(p-l-1)!}{l!(p-2l)!} I_{1-e^{-\lambda}}(l+1, p-l).$$

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$$q^{\frac{p}{2}} M_{N,p}^{(a,q)} = \mathcal{M}_{p,0} N + \frac{\mathcal{M}_{p,1}}{N} + O(N^{-3})$$

where

$$\mathcal{M}_{p,0} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor p/2 \rfloor} (a+1)^{p-2l} (-a)^l \frac{(p-l-1)!}{l!(p-2l)!} I_{1-e^{-\lambda}}(l+1, p-l).$$

■ Continuum Limit

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\lambda^{p/2}} \mathcal{M}_{p,0} \Big|_{a=-1+r\sqrt{\lambda}} = \sum_{l=0}^{\lfloor p/2 \rfloor} \binom{p}{2l} r^{p-2l} C_l$$

cf. $U_n^{(a)}(x) \rightarrow H_n(x-r)$ with proper scaling

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■ **(Support of $\rho^{(a)}$)** For $-1 \leq a < 0$,

$$\text{supp}(\rho^{(a)}(x)) = \begin{cases} (u-v, u+v) & \text{if } \lambda \in (0, \lambda_c^{(1,a)}), \\ (u-v, 1) & \text{if } \lambda \in (\lambda_c^{(1,a)}, \lambda_c^{(2,a)}), \\ (a, 1) & \text{if } \lambda \in (\lambda_c^{(2,a)}, \infty). \end{cases}$$

where

$$u \equiv u(\lambda) := (1+a)e^{-\lambda}, \quad v \equiv v(\lambda) := 2\sqrt{-a(1-e^{-\lambda})e^{-\lambda}}$$

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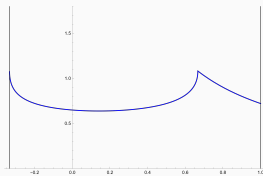
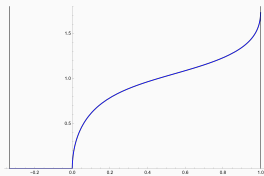
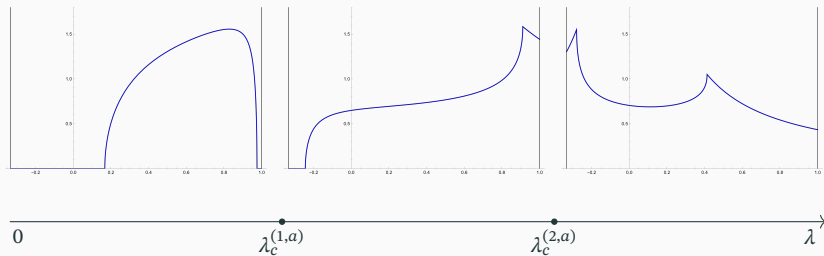
■ (Density)

$$\rho^{(a)}(x) = \frac{2}{\pi \lambda |x|} \arctan \sqrt{\frac{1-x_0-x_1}{1-x_0+x_1} \frac{1-e^{-\lambda}-x_0+x_1}{x_0+x_1-1+e^{-\lambda}}} 1_{(u-v, u+v)}(x) \\ + \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \lambda \in (0, \lambda_c^{(1,a)}), \\ \frac{1}{\lambda |x|} 1_{(u+v, 1)}(x) & \text{if } \lambda \in (\lambda_c^{(1,a)}, \lambda_c^{(2,a)}), \\ \frac{1}{\lambda |x|} 1_{(a, u-v) \cup (u+v, 1)}(x) & \text{if } \lambda \in (\lambda_c^{(2,a)}, \infty). \end{cases}$$

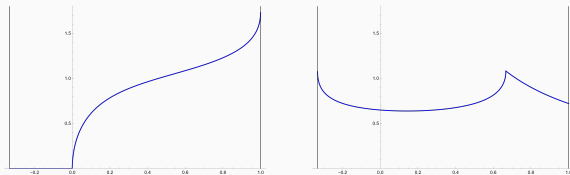
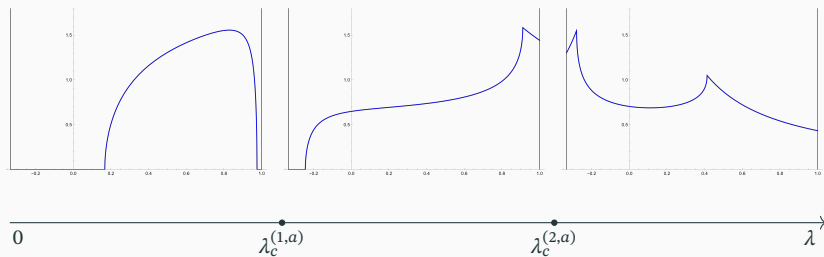
where

$$x_0 = \frac{a^2 + 1 - x(a+1)}{(a-1)^2}, \quad x_1 = \frac{\sqrt{4a(x-a)(x-1)}}{(a-1)^2}.$$

Limiting Spectral Density



Limiting Spectral Density



Continuum Limit

$$\lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \sqrt{\lambda} \rho^{(a)}(\sqrt{\lambda} x) \Big|_{a=-1+r\sqrt{\lambda}} = \mu_{sc}(x-r)$$

Limiting Zero Distribution and Limiting Density

■ Limiting Zero Distribution

$$\nu(P_n) := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{x_{N,j}} \implies \mu$$

where $x_{N,1}, \dots, x_{N,N}$ are zeros of P_N .

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■ Limiting Zero Distribution of Al-Salam–Carlitz Polynomial (Byun-J.-Oh '25)

$$\nu(U_n^{(a)}(x; q) \Big|_{q=e^{-\frac{\lambda}{n}}}) \implies \rho^{(a)}$$

■ Arcsine Measure

$$\frac{d\omega_{[\alpha,\beta]}(t)}{dt} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi\sqrt{(\beta-t)(t-\alpha)}} & \text{if } t \in (\alpha, \beta) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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■ Three-Term Recurrence of Orthonormal Polynomials

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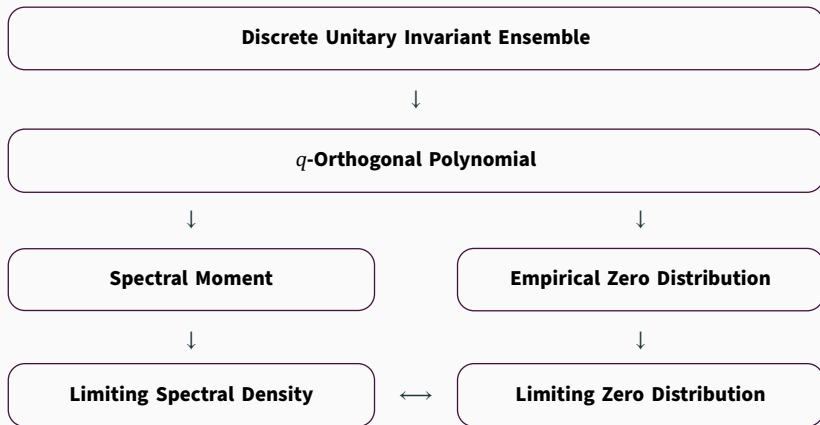
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Limiting Spectral Density and Zero Distribution



■ Spectral Analysis of q -deformed LUE

Forrester-Li-Shen-Yu, q -Pearson pair and moments in q -deformed ensembles, Ramanujan J. **60** (2023), 195–235.

■ Spectral Moment Formula for q -deformed GO/SE

Li-Shen-Yu-Forrester, Discrete orthogonal ensemble on the exponential lattices, Adv. Appl. Math. **164** (2025), 102836.

Forrester-Li, Classical discrete symplectic ensembles on the linear and exponential lattice: skew orthogonal polynomials and correlation functions, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc. **373** (2020), 665–698.

■ Asymptotic Behaviour of q -Hermite Polynomial and Local Statistics

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Thank you!