

# High-dimensional Landscapes and Random Matrices

University of Vienna



Peter Mühlbacher

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## **Abstract**

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# Introduction

## 0.1 Motivation

Given some Hamiltonian  $H_{N,p} : S^{N-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  given by

$$H_{N,p}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) = \frac{1}{N^{(p-1)/2}} \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_p=1}^N J_{i_1, \dots, i_p} \sigma_{i_1} \dots \sigma_{i_p},$$

where the  $J_{i_1, \dots, i_p}$  are independent centered standard Gaussian random variables and  $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_N)$  referred to as states, one is interested in finding the expected number of critical points  $Crt_N(u)$  and the restriction to some index  $k$ , denoted by  $Crt_{N,k}(u)$ , in some region in  $(-\infty, Nu]$ .

## 0.2 Main Results

**Theorem 0.2.1** (Large deviations for  $\mathbb{E}[Crt_{N,k}(u)]$ ).

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mathbb{E}[Crt_{N,k}(u)] = \Theta_{k,p}(u) \quad (1)$$

and

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mathbb{E}[Crt_N(u)] = \Theta_p(u), \quad (2)$$

for

$$\Theta_p(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \log(p-1) - \frac{p-2}{4(p-1)} u^2 - I_1(u), & \text{if } u \leq -E_\infty \\ \frac{1}{2} \log(p-1) - \frac{p-2}{4(p-1)} u^2, & \text{if } -E_\infty \leq u \leq 0 \\ \frac{1}{2} \log(p-1), & \text{if } 0 \leq u \end{cases}$$

and

$$\Theta_{k,p}(u) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} \log(p-1) - \frac{p-2}{4(p-1)} u^2 - (k+1)I_1(u), & \text{if } u \leq -E_\infty \\ \frac{1}{2} \log(p-1) - \frac{p-2}{p}, & \text{if } u \geq E_\infty \end{cases},$$

where  $E_\infty = E_\infty(p) = 2\sqrt{\frac{p-1}{p}}$  and  $I_1 : (-\infty, E_\infty] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is given by

$$I_1(u) = \frac{2}{E_\infty^2} \int_u^{-E_\infty} \sqrt{z^2 - E_\infty^2} dz$$

and is the rate function of the LDP for the smallest eigenvalue of the GOE.

**Theorem 0.2.2** (Layered structure). *For all  $k \geq 0$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  we have*

$$\limsup_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \log \mathbb{P} \left( \left\{ \sum_{i=k}^{\infty} \text{Crt}_{N,i}(-E_k - \varepsilon) > 0 \right\} \right) < 0, \quad (3)$$

where  $E_k = E_k(p)$  is chosen (uniquely because of strict monotonicity) such that  $\Theta_{k,p}(-E_k) = 0$ .

mention  
2.12 and  
that I  
don't  
prove it

# Chapter 1

## Prerequisites

To be able to prove the above results we first need to prove some other theorems which require some

### 1.1 Gaussian Random Fields

Adler and Taylor (2007) p.121 for

$$\mathbb{E} \left\{ \frac{\partial^k f(s)}{\partial s_{i_1} \dots \partial s_{i_k}} \frac{\partial^k f(t)}{\partial t_{i_1} \dots \partial t_{i_k}} \right\} = \frac{\partial^{2k} C(s, t)}{\partial s_{i_1} t_{i_1} \dots \partial s_{i_k} t_{i_k}} \quad (1.1)$$

### 1.2 GOE

**Definition 1.1.** *Symmetric  $N \times N$  matrices  $H = H_N$  with  $\mathbb{E}H_{ij} = 0$  and  $\mathbb{E}H_{ij} = 1 + \delta_{ij}$ .*

**Remark.** *Their density is given by the Gaussian measure*

$$d\mathbb{P}(H) = Z_N^{-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{4} \text{tr} H^2\right\} \quad (1.2)$$

*with normalization constant  $Z_N = \int d\mathbb{P}(H) \prod_{1 \leq i \leq j \leq N} dH_{ij}$  which is a shorter way of writing  $Z_N^{-1} \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{4} \left(2 \sum_{i < j}^N H_{ij}^2 + \sum_{i=j}^N H_{ij}^2\right)\right\}$ .*

### 1.3 LDP

### 1.4 Morse Theory

### 1.5 Spin Glass Models

### 1.6 Intermediary Results

To prove our main results we first need some refinements for the expected values of critical values.

**Theorem 1.6.1** (Refinement of  $\mathbb{E}[Crt_{N,k}(B)]$ ). *For all  $N, p \geq 2$  and  $k \in \{0, \dots, N-1\}$  we have*

$$\mathbb{E}[Crt_{N,k}(B)] = 2\sqrt{\frac{2}{p}}(p-1)^{\frac{N}{2}} \mathbb{E}_{GOE}^N \left[ e^{-N\frac{p-2}{2p}(\lambda_k^N)^2} \mathbf{1} \left\{ \lambda_k^N \in \sqrt{\frac{p}{2(p-1)}} B \right\} \right] \quad (1.3)$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}[Crt_N(B)] = 2N\sqrt{\frac{2}{p}}(p-1)^{\frac{N}{2}} \int_{\sqrt{\frac{p}{2(p-1)}} B} \exp \left\{ -\frac{N(p-2)x^2}{2p} \right\} \rho_N(x) dx \quad (1.4)$$

**Theorem 1.6.2** (LDP for  $k$ -th largest eigenvalue). *The  $k$ -th largest eigenvalue  $\lambda_{N-k+1}$  of the GOE of dimension  $N$  with variance  $\sigma^2 N^{-1}(1 + \delta_{ij})$  satisfies an LDP with speed  $N$  and a good rate function*

$$I_k(x; \sigma) = kI_1(x; \sigma) = \begin{cases} k \int_{2\sigma}^x \sigma^{-1} \sqrt{\left(\frac{z}{2\sigma}\right)^2 - 1} dz, & \text{if } x \geq 2\sigma \\ \infty, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}. \quad (1.5)$$

define  
E\_GOE,  
rho and B  
Borel sets

Kac-Rice  
formulae,  
AT07

sum up  
previous  
eq.

define  
GOE

define  
good rate  
function

## Chapter 2

# Central Identities

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prove the  
main re-  
sults pre-  
sented in  
the intro-  
duction



# Appendix A

## Additional Theorems

### A.1 Wigner's Semicircle Law

**Definition A.1** (Wigner matrix). *A Wigner matrix  $M$  is a complex, Hermitian matrix with independent and identically distributed entries  $M_{ij}$  for  $i \geq j$  and with mean 0 and variance 1 for  $i > j$ . The diagonal entries  $M_{ii}$  have bounded mean and variance.*

If  $M_n$  is an  $n$ -dimensional Wigner matrix we know that the operator norm  $\|M_n\|_{OP}$  is typically of size  $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{n})$ , so it is natural to define the empirical spectral distribution (ESD) as follows:

prove it

**Definition A.2** (ESD).

$$\mu_{\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}M_n} := \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_{\lambda_j(M_n)/\sqrt{n}},$$

where  $\lambda_1(M_n) \leq \dots \leq \lambda_n(M_n)$  are the ordered, real eigenvalues of  $M_n$ .

Since we are considering random matrices the ESDs will be random as well and thus it is interesting to ask if there is a measure on the real line  $\mu$  such that it is the weak limit  $\mu_{M_n/\sqrt{n}} \rightharpoonup \mu$  of  $\mu_{M_n/\sqrt{n}}$ , that is  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi d\mu_{M_n/\sqrt{n}}$  converges in probability (or almost surely) against  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \varphi d\mu$  for all  $\varphi \in C_c(\mathbb{R})$ . This can also be derived from the more general definition of convergence in probability or almost surely, but we will not do that here.

which do we want to show here?

Surprisingly such a limit  $\mu$  exists and is even deterministic.

**Theorem A.1.1** (Wigner's semicircle law). *Let  $M_n$  be the top left  $n \times n$  minors of an infinite Wigner matrix, then the ESDs  $\mu_{M_n/\sqrt{n}}$  converge almost*

surely (and thus in probability) to the Wigner semicircle distribution given by

$$\mu_{sc} := \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{4 - |x|^2} dx, & \text{if } |x| \leq 2 \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

A rough outline of the proof is given by this list of intermediary results that will be shown:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. To show that  $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$  almost surely, it suffices to show that the respective Stieltjes transforms converge almost surely, pointwise in the upper half plane, i.e.  $\mu_n \rightarrow \mu \Leftrightarrow \forall z \in \mathbb{C} : \text{Im}(z) > 0 : s_{\mu_n}(z) \rightarrow s_\mu(z)$  almost surely.
3. The Stieltjes transform  $s_n := s_{\mu_{M_n/\sqrt{n}}}$  is “stable in  $n$ ”, i.e.  $s_n(z) = s_{n-1}(z) + \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{n})$ , where  $\mathcal{O}$  can depend on  $z$  and even  $s_n(z) - \mathbb{E}s_n(z) \rightarrow 0$  almost surely.
4. Derive the semicircle law by deriving the recursion  $\mathbb{E}s_n(z) = -\frac{1}{z + \mathbb{E}s_n(z)} + o(1)$ , where, again,  $o(1)$  will depend on  $z$  and “inverting” the Stieltjes transform.

preliminary  
reductions  
- look up  
which one  
we need

**Remark.** Note that instead of step 4 one could have plugged in the semicircle distribution and simplified the proof by just checking that this is indeed the limit. This is not done here because we want to see how the Stieltjes transform method can be used to derive such a conclusion without knowing about it beforehand.

Also, there are other proofs (e.g. Boutet de Monvel and Khorunzhiy (2015)) specifically for the GOE/GUE (instead of the more general Wigner matrices) which exploit their symmetries to shorten the proof considerably.

### A.1.1 Preliminary Reductions

#### A.1.2 Stieltjes Transform

**Definition A.3** (Stieltjes transform). For a probability measure  $\mu$  we write  $s_\mu$  for its Stieltjes transform

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{x - z} d\mu(x).$$

show that  
diagonal  
elements  
don't  
matter

As mentioned above,  $s_n$  will be a shorthand for  $s_{\mu_{M_n/\sqrt{n}}}$ .

**Lemma A.1.2** (Properties of the Stieltjes transform). *In the following let  $\mu$  be some probability measure.*

1. For  $z = a + ib$  we have  $\text{Im} \frac{1}{x-z} = \frac{b}{(x-a)^2 + b^2} > 0$ .
2.  $s_\mu$  is analytic in  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \text{supp}(\mu) \supset \mathbb{C}_+$ .
3. We can bound the absolute value as well as the derivatives by  $|\frac{d^j}{dz^j} s_\mu(z)| \leq \mathcal{O}(|\text{Im}(z)|^{-(j+1)})$  for all  $j \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$ .
4. \_\_\_\_\_

insert  
them here  
as one  
uses them

*Proof.* The first property is trivial, the second one can be seen by integrating  $s_\mu$  over any contour not containing the support of  $\mu$ , interchanging the order of integration and noting that integrating  $\frac{1}{x-z}$  gives 0 by Cauchy's integral formula ( $\frac{1}{x-z}$  being holomorphic outside the support of  $\mu$ ). The Stieltjes transform being holomorphic (and thus analytic) follows by Morera's theorem.

The third property can be obtained by using  $\frac{1}{x-z} \leq \frac{1}{\text{Im}(z)}$  and using Cauchy's integral formula integrating this inequality.  $\square$

**Corollary A.1.2.1.** *From A.1.2.1 it follows that  $s_\mu$  is a Herglotz function and thus (e.g. Teschl (2009))  $\text{Im}(s_\mu(\cdot + ib)) \rightarrow \pi\mu$  as  $b \rightarrow 0^+$  in the vague topology or equivalently (by  $s_\mu(z) = s_\mu(\bar{z})$ )*

$$\frac{s_\mu(\cdot + ib) - s_\mu(\cdot - ib)}{2\pi i} \rightarrow \mu. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

*Note that this can also be seen by writing  $\text{Im}(s_\mu)$  as the convolution  $\pi\mu * P_b(a)$  with the Poisson kernels  $P_b(x) := \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{b}{x^2 + b^2} = \frac{1}{b} P_1(\frac{x}{b})$  which form a family of approximations to the identity.*

**Theorem A.1.3** (Stieltjes continuity theorem). *For  $\mu_n$  random measures and  $\mu$  a deterministic measure the following statement holds:*

*$\mu_n \rightarrow \mu$  almost surely in the vague topology if and only if  $s_{\mu_n}(z) \rightarrow s_\mu(z)$  almost surely for every  $z \in \mathbb{C}_+$ .*

*Proof.*

$$\mathbb{P}(\{\limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} d_v(\mu_n, \mu) = 0\}) = 1$$

$$\mathbb{P}(\{\forall \phi \in C_c(\mathbb{R}) : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi d\mu_n = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi d\mu\}) = 1$$

$$\forall z \in \mathbb{C}_+ : \mathbb{P}(\{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} s_{\mu_n}(z) = s_\mu(z)\}) = 1$$

“ $\Rightarrow$ ”: If  $\mu_n \rightharpoonup \mu$  in the vague topology almost surely against a deterministic limit  $\mu$ , then  $\forall \phi \in C_c(\mathbb{R}) : \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi d\mu_n = \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi d\mu$  by definition and, by taking the completion, for all bounded, continuous functions vanishing at infinity. The function  $x \mapsto \frac{1}{x-z}$  for some  $z \in \mathbb{C}$  with  $\text{Im}(z) > 0$  is bounded and continuous on  $\mathbb{R}$  and hence  $s_{\mu_n}(z) \rightarrow s_\mu(z)$  almost surely.

not sure

“ $\Leftarrow$ ”: One can, up to an arbitrary small error  $\varepsilon > 0$ , approximate  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi d\mu$  by  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi * P_b d\mu = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(a) s_\mu(a + ib) da$  (and analogously for  $\mu_n$ ). Thus we have  $\frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi(a) (s_\mu(a + ib) - s_{\mu_n}(a + ib)) da$  being equal to the difference (we are interested in)  $\int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi d\mu - \int_{\mathbb{R}} \phi d\mu_n$  up to an error  $\varepsilon$ .

In order not to “lose” the almost sure convergence by integration (a summation over uncountable many summands) we approximate it by a Riemann sum (which is possible since we can choose the support  $I$  of the test function  $\phi$  as the boundaries of integration). The error for the middle sum is proportional to  $\max_{x \in I} (|f''(x)|) |I|^3 n^{-2}$ , which (for  $f$  being the integrand), can be made arbitrarily small. (To be able to control the  $\max_{x \in I} (|f''(x)|)$  one may have to approximate the continuous test functions  $\phi$  by smooth (or at least twice differentiable) ones like in every partial differential course.)

not sure if that's the reason

This discretized sum now goes to zero almost surely.  $\square$

### A.1.3 Stableness and Concentration of Measure

In the following we keep using the notation as defined in A.1.1. To show that  $s_n(z) = s_{n-1}(z) + \mathcal{O}_z(1/n)$  we first need to prove the following theorem:

**Theorem A.1.4** (Cauchy’s interlacing theorem). *For any  $n \times n$  Hermitian matrix  $A_n$  with top left minor  $A_{n-1}$  and eigenvalues of descending order ( $\lambda_i \geq \lambda_{i+1}$ ) we have:*

$$\lambda_{i+1}(A_n) \leq \lambda_i(A_{n-1}) \leq \lambda_i(A_n),$$

for all  $1 \leq i < n$ .

*Proof.* Using the min-max/max-min theorems ( $\lambda_i(A) = \inf_{\dim(V)=n-i+1} \sup_{v \in V: \|v\|=1} \langle Av, v \rangle$  and  $\lambda_i(A) = \sup_{\dim(V)=i} \inf_{v \in V: \|v\|=1} \langle Av, v \rangle$  respectively, c.f. Teschl (2009) p.141) and writing  $S_{n-i+1}$  for  $\{v \in \text{span}\{a_i, \dots, a_n\} : \|v\| = 1\}$ , where  $A_{n-1}a_j = \lambda_j a_j$  and  $P$  an orthogonal projection such that  $P^* A_n P = A_{n-1}$  we have

$$\lambda_i(A_{n-1}) = \sup_{v \in S_i, \|v\|=1} v^* A_{n-1} v = \sup_{v \in S_i, \|v\|=1} v^* P^* A_n P v \geq \inf_{\dim(V)=n-i} \sup_{v \in V, \|v\|=1} v^* A_n v = \lambda_{i+1}(A_n),$$

and

$$\lambda_i(A_n) = \inf_{\dim(V)=n-i+1} \sup_{v \in V, \|v\|=1} v^* A_n v \geq \sup_{v \in S_i, \|v\|=1} v^* P^* A_n P v = \sup_{v \in S_i, \|v\|=1} v^* A_{n-1} v = \lambda_i(A_{n-1}).$$

□

Remembering the identity  $Im(s_{\mu_n(a+ib)}) = \pi\mu * P_b(a)$  and that  $supp\mu_n$  consists of finitely many points, we have  $Im(s_{\mu_n}) = \pi \frac{1}{n} \sum_{\lambda_i} \frac{b}{(\lambda_i - a)^2 + b^2}$  which suggests that it is important to take a closer look at the function  $x \mapsto \frac{b}{(x-a)^2 + b^2}$  to compare  $s_{\mu_n}$  with  $s_{\mu_{n-1}}$ .

**Lemma A.1.5.** *For fixed  $z \in \mathbb{C}_+$  the Stieltjes transform is “stable” in  $n$ , i.e.*

$$s_n(z) = s_{n-1}(z) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)$$

*Proof.* The idea is to use the Cauchy interlacing law and apply it to the previously mentioned identity by seeing that

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{b}{\lambda_j(M_{n-1})/\sqrt{n} - a} - \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{b}{\lambda_j(M_n)/\sqrt{n} - a}$$

Up to the dimensional factors these two sums correspond to  $s_n$  and  $s_{n-1}$  and because of Cauchy’s interlacing law this is an alternating sum, giving

$$\sqrt{n(n-1)} s_{n-1}(\sqrt{n/(n-1)}(a+ib)) - n s_n(a+ib) = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{n}\right).$$

Now using the fact that the Stieltjes transform  $s_n$  is analytic away from the support of  $\mu_n$  (A.1.2.2) and using the bound for its derivatives (A.1.2.3) we can approximate  $s_{n-1}(\cdot)$  by  $s_{n-1}(\sqrt{n/(n-1)}\cdot)$  and hence the statement holds. □

To show a concentration of measure result (i.e.  $s_n(z) - \mathbb{E}[s_n(z)] \rightarrow 0$  almost surely) we will need the following two propositions:

**Theorem A.1.6** (McDiarmid’s inequality). *Let  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be independent random variables taking values in ranges  $R_1, \dots, R_n$  and let  $F : R_1 \times \dots \times R_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ , such that for every  $1 \leq i \leq n$  we have  $|F(x_1, \dots, x_i, \dots, x_n) - F(x_1, \dots, x'_i, \dots, x_n)| \leq c_i$ . Then for any  $\lambda > 0$  one has*

$$\mathbb{P}(|F(X) - \mathbb{E}F(X)| > \lambda\sigma) \leq C \exp^{-c\lambda^2},$$

for some absolute<sup>1</sup> constants  $c, C > 0$  and  $\sigma = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i^2$ .

prove it

**Lemma A.1.7** (Borel-Cantelli). *Given some random variables  $(X_n)_{n=1}^\infty$ ,  $X$  such that  $\sum_n \mathbb{P}(d(X_n, X) \geq \varepsilon) < \infty$  for every  $\varepsilon > 0$ , then  $X_n$  converges almost surely to  $X$  (in the topology induced by  $d$ ).*

prove it

Using McDiarmid's inequality one gets

$$\mathbb{P}(|s_n(z) - \mathbb{E}s_n(z)| \geq \lambda/\sqrt{n}) \leq C \exp^{-c\lambda^2},$$

for all  $\lambda > 0$  and some constants  $c, C > 0$ .

From the Borel-Cantelli lemma we see that for every  $z$  away from the real line  $s_n(z) - \mathbb{E}s_n(z)$  converges almost surely to zero since, for some fixed  $\varepsilon > 0$ , the sum  $\sum_n \mathbb{P}(d(s_n - \mathbb{E}s_n, 0) \geq \varepsilon) \leq C \sum_n \exp^{-cn\varepsilon^2}$  which is obtained by setting  $\lambda = \varepsilon\sqrt{n}$ .

#### A.1.4 Finding the Semicircle Law

We start off by using the following identity

$$s_n(z) := \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{1}{x - z} d\mu_n(x) = \frac{1}{n} \text{tr} \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} M_n - z I_n \right)^{-1},$$

which holds for every  $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \text{supp}(\mu_n)$ . Because of the linearity of the trace we also have

$$\mathbb{E}s_n(z) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} M_n - z I_n \right)^{-1} \right]_{jj} = \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} M_n - z I_n \right)^{-1} \right]_{nn},$$

where the last equality holds because all of the random variables  $\left[ \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} M_n - z I_n \right)^{-1} \right]_{jj}$  have the same distribution.

To calculate one entry of an inverse of a matrix we use Schur's complement, which tells us that (under the assumptions that all the occurring inverse matrices exist)

$$[(M_n/\sqrt{n} - z I_n)^{-1}]_{nn} = - \left( z + \frac{1}{n} X^* \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} M_{n-1} - z I_{n-1} \right)^{-1} X \right)^{-1},$$

<sup>1</sup>Constants that maintain the same value wherever they occur. In particular applying McDiarmid's inequality in different settings we do not need to consider  $C_n, c_n$ , but can still write  $C, c$ .

where  $X \in \mathbb{C}^{n-1}$  is the top right column of  $M_n$  with the bottom entry removed and the diagonal elements have been set to zero as justified in A.1.1.

yet to do

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