

# Exponentiated Symmetric Matrix Distributions with Application to Linear Inverse Problems

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# Symmetric Positive Definite Matrices

$A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$  is *symmetric positive definite* (SPD) if

- $A = A^T$
- $\mathbf{y}^\top A \mathbf{y} > 0 \quad \forall \mathbf{y} \neq 0 \Leftrightarrow \lambda_i(A) > 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, d\}$

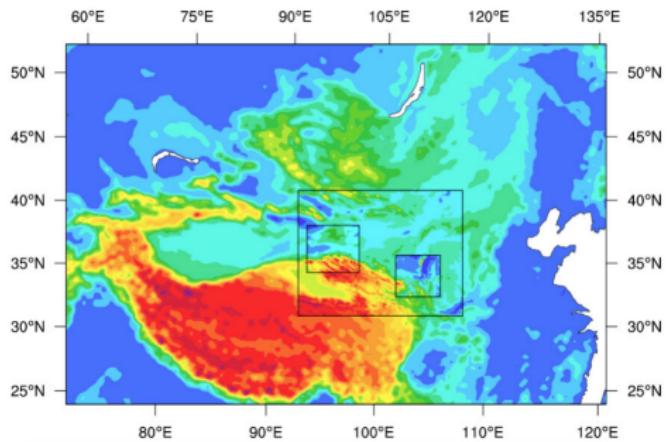
For a random vector  $X \in \mathbb{R}^d$ , the *covariance matrix* of  $X$  is defined as

- $\text{cov}(X, X) = \mathbb{E} [(X - \mathbb{E}[X])(X - \mathbb{E}[X])^\top]$
- Always **positive semidefinite**.

# Why are Symmetric Positive Definite Matrices Useful?

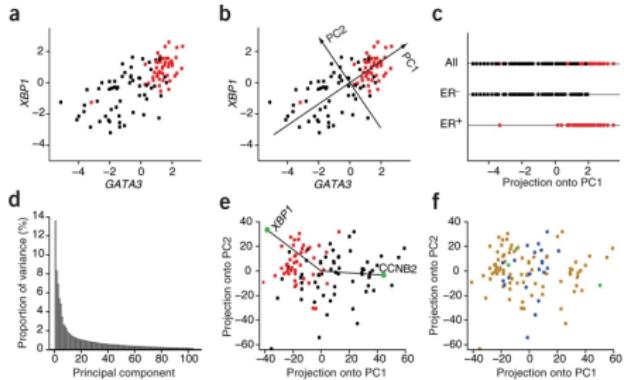


Inverse problems. Source: TSA

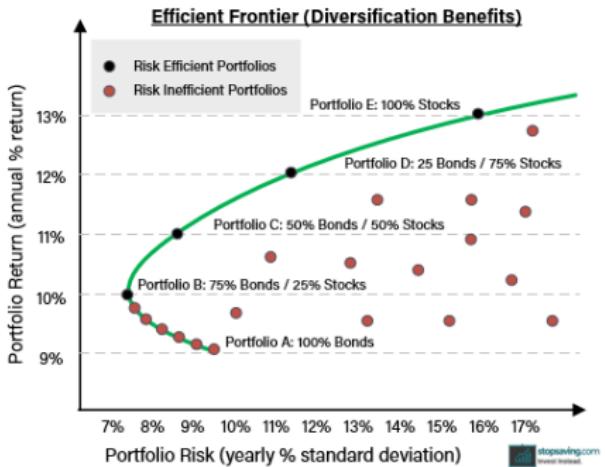


Sequential inference. Source: NCAR ensemble wind forecast

# Why are Symmetric Positive Definite Matrices Useful?



Dimension reduction/PCA. Source:  
Ringnér 2008



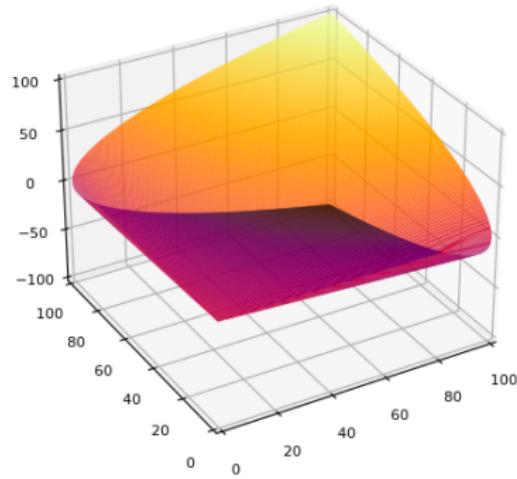
Finance, e.g., portfolio theory. Source:  
StopSaving.com

# The Manifold of SPD Matrices

The set

$$\mathbb{P}_d = \{S \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} : S = S^\top, \lambda_i(S) > 0, i = 1, \dots, d\}$$

is a **Riemannian manifold** with non-Euclidean geometry.



**Exponentiation** can be used to map symmetric matrices onto the manifold: given  $\Sigma \in \mathbb{P}_d$ , define

$$\exp_{\Sigma}(B) = \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp(\Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}} B \Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}},$$

for  $B \in \mathbb{H}_d = \{A \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d} : A = A^\top\}$ .

# Random Matrix Theory

*Random* SPD matrix ensembles can be generated by exponentiating random symmetric matrices,

$$S = \exp_{\Sigma} \mathcal{E}, \quad \mathcal{E} \in \mathbb{H}_d, \quad \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{E}] = 0$$

**Our goal is to characterize these SPD matrix ensembles**

- Joint element densities
- Spectral properties

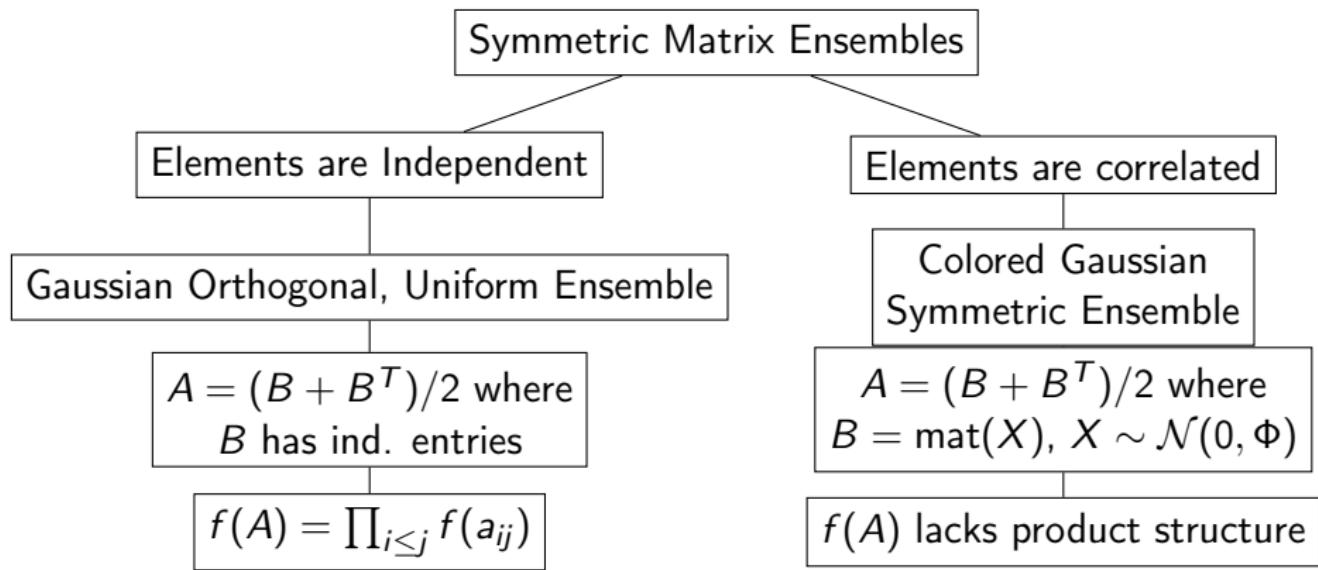
# Three Subprojects

## Motivating Question

Given a parametric model for  $\mathcal{E} \in \mathbb{H}_d$  with  $\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{E}] = 0$ , what can we say about the transformed random matrix  $S = \exp_{\Sigma} \mathcal{E} \in \mathbb{P}_d$ ?

- I Characterizing symmetric matrix ensembles
- II Exponentiating symmetric matrix ensembles,  $S = \exp_{\Sigma} \mathcal{E}$
- III Application: SPD Matrix Ensembles in Linear Inverse Problems

# Characterizing Symmetric Matrix Ensembles

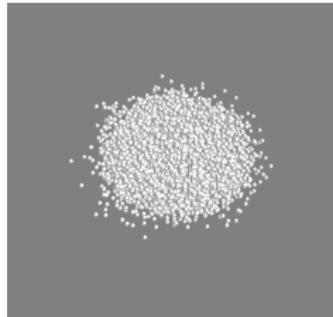


# Gaussian Orthogonal Ensemble

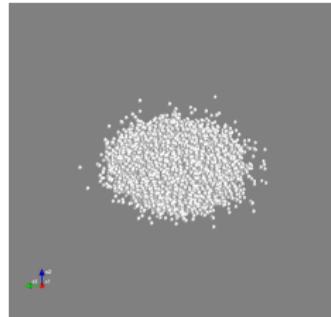
Let  $B = [b_{ij}]$  where  $b_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  and  $A = \frac{B + B^T}{2}$

Then we have  $A = [a_{ij}]$  with  $a_{ij} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \frac{1}{2})$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $\mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  for  $i = j$

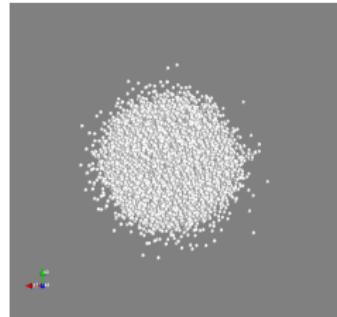
For  $d = 2$ , Let  $A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ a_2 & a_3 \end{bmatrix}$ . We generate  $10^4$  realizations of  $A$  and plot in  $a_1$ - $a_2$ - $a_3$  space



(a) Isometric view



(b)  $a_3$ - $a_2$  plane



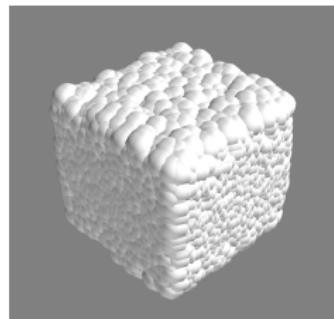
(c)  $a_1$ - $a_3$  plane

# Uniform Ensemble

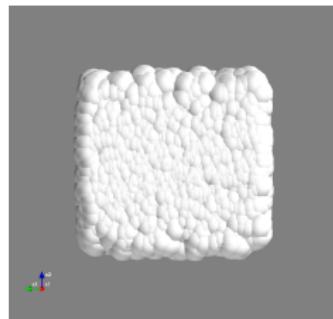
Let  $B = [b_{ij}]$  where  $b_{ij} \sim U(0, 1)$  and  $A = \frac{B + B^T}{2}$

Then we have  $A = [a_{ij}]$  with  $a_{ij} \sim Tri(0, 1, \frac{1}{2})$  for  $i \neq j$  &  $U(0, 1)$  for  $i = j$

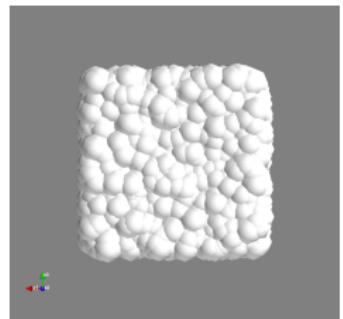
Visualizing  $A$  as previously,



(a) Isometric View



(b)  $a_3-a_2$  plane



(c)  $a_1-a_3$  plane

# Colored Gaussian Symmetric Ensemble

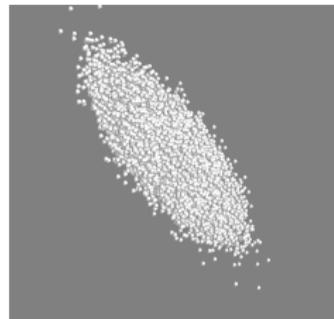
Illustration for  $d = 2$

Let  $\Phi$  be a  $4 \times 4$  covariance matrix and  $X = [x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ x_4]^\top \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Phi)$ .

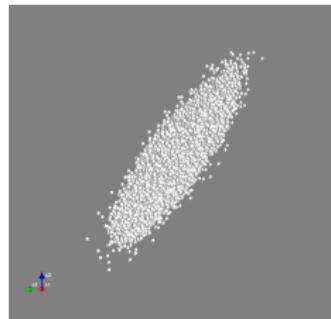
Set  $B = \text{mat}(X) = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_3 \\ x_2 & x_4 \end{bmatrix}$  and  $A = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & (x_2 + x_3)/2 \\ (x_2 + x_3)/2 & x_4 \end{bmatrix}$ .

We say  $A \sim \text{CGSE}(2, \Phi)$ .

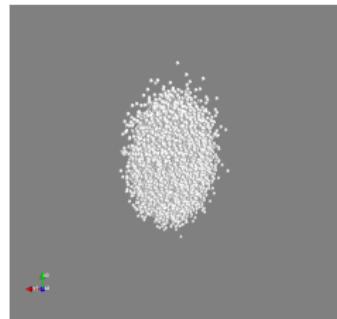
Visualizing  $A$  as previously,



(a) Isometric view



(b)  $a_3-a_2$  plane



(c)  $a_1-a_3$  plane

# Eigenvalue Densities

Joint eigenvalue density for the Gaussian orthogonal ensemble:

$$f(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_d) \propto \prod_{i < j} |\lambda_i - \lambda_j| \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^d \frac{\lambda_i^2}{2}\right)$$

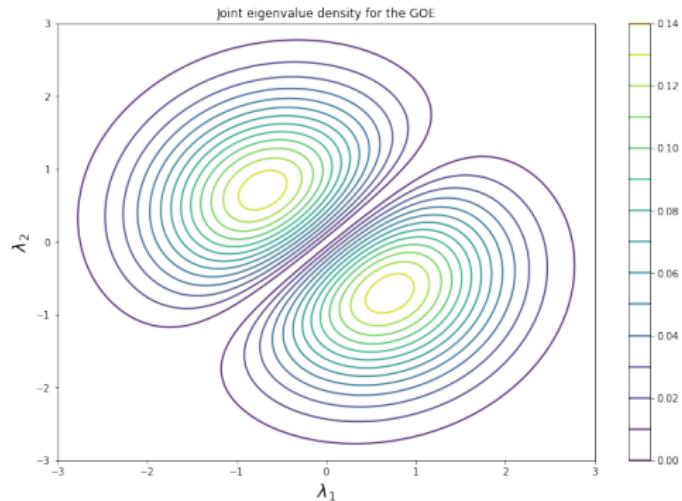
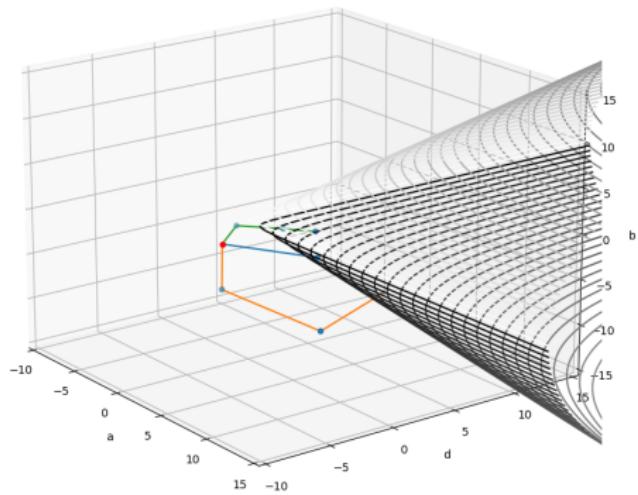


Figure 6: Contour plot of  $f(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$  in  $d = 2$

# Exponentiating Symmetric Matrix Ensembles



$$\mathcal{E} \in \mathbb{H}_d, \Sigma \in \mathbb{P}_d$$

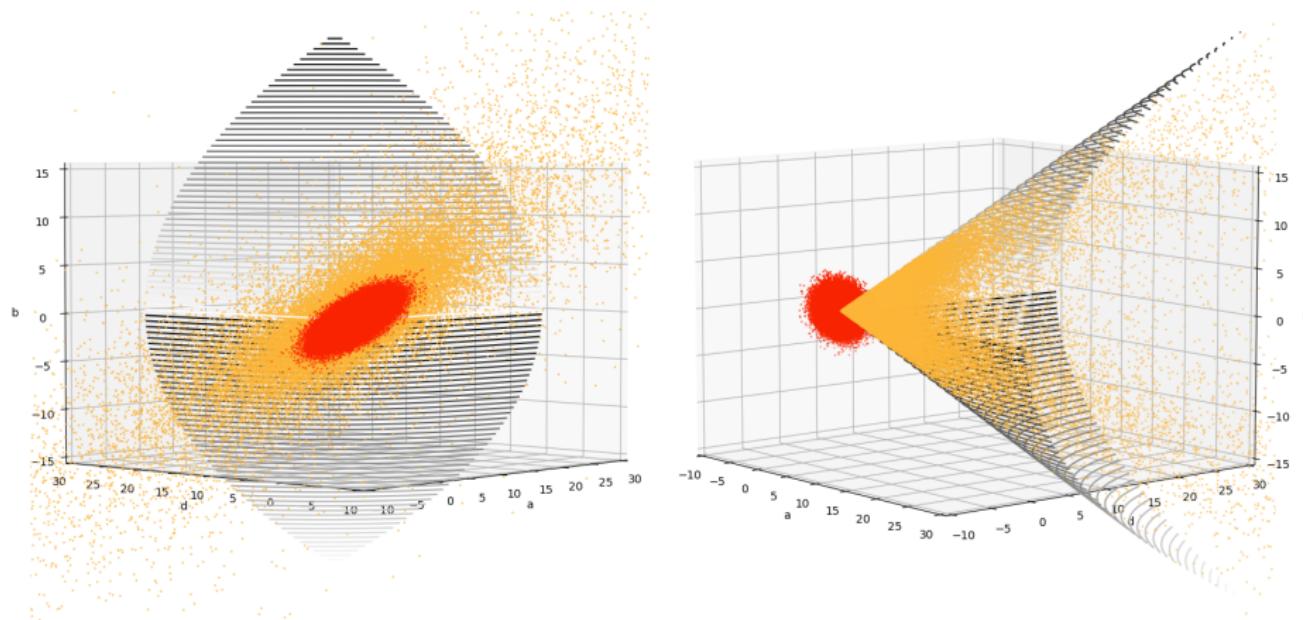
Matrix Exponential:

$$\begin{aligned}\exp(\mathcal{E}) &= \exp(Q^\top \Lambda Q) \\ &= Q^\top \exp(\Lambda) Q \\ &= Q^\top \text{diag}\{e^{\lambda_1}, \dots, e^{\lambda_n}\} Q\end{aligned}$$

Matrix Exponential With Base  $\Sigma$ :

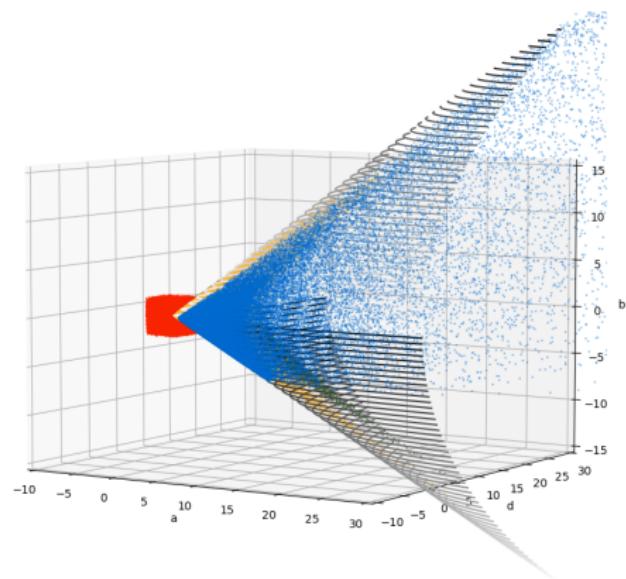
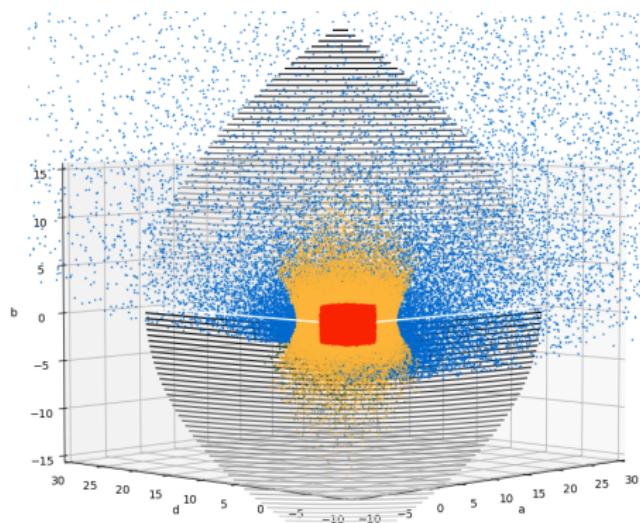
$$\begin{aligned}S &= \exp_{\Sigma} \mathcal{E} \\ &\equiv \Sigma^{1/2} \exp \left( \Sigma^{-1/2} \mathcal{E} \Sigma^{-1/2} \right) \Sigma^{1/2}\end{aligned}$$

# Exponentiating Symmetric Matrix Ensembles



CGSE with  $\Phi = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  exponentiated with base  $\Sigma = I$ .

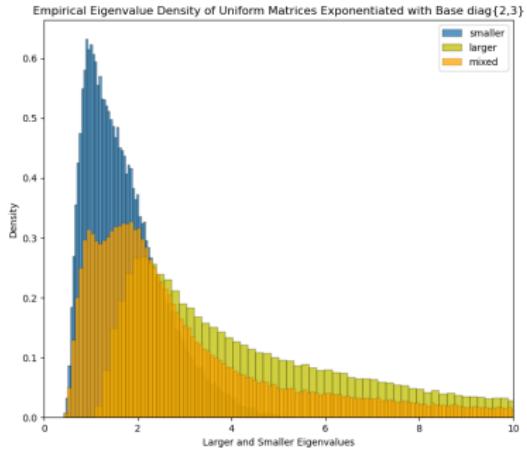
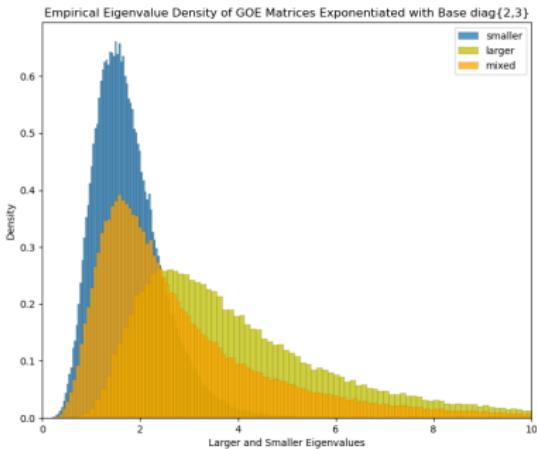
# Exponentiating Symmetric Matrix Ensembles



Uniform symmetric ensemble exponentiated with bases  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = I$  (yellow)

and  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$  (blue).

# Empirical Eigenvalue Density



- (a) Exponentiated GOE eigenvalue density    (b) Exponentiated uniform symmetric ensemble ( $d = 2, r = 2$ ) eigenvalue density

Can we obtain the analytic expression for the eigenvalue density of exponentiated matrices?

## Special Case: Diagonal Base in $d = 2$

What about the eigenvalue density of  $\exp_{\Sigma} \mathcal{E}$  where  $\mathcal{E} \sim \text{GOE}(2)$  and  $\Sigma \in \mathbb{P}_2$  diagonal?

We let

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & b \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{P}_2, \quad \mathcal{E} = \begin{bmatrix} x & y \\ y & z \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{H}_2$$

and consider the eigenvalues of

$$S = \exp_{\Sigma} \mathcal{E} = \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left( \Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{E} \Sigma^{-\frac{1}{2}} \right) \Sigma^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

## Special Case: Diagonal Base in $d = 2$

Set

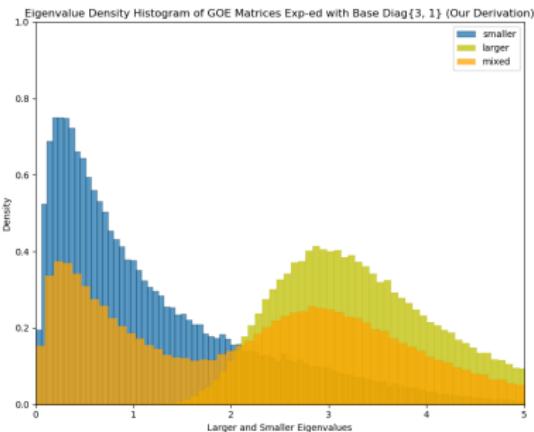
$$\Delta = a^2z^2 - 2abxz + b^2x^2 + 4aby^2, \quad u_1 = \frac{\sqrt{\Delta} + az - bx}{2\sqrt{\Delta}}, \quad u_2 = \frac{\sqrt{\Delta} - az + bx}{2\sqrt{\Delta}}$$

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{-\sqrt{\Delta} + az + bx}{2ab}, \quad \lambda_2 = \frac{\sqrt{\Delta} + az + bx}{2ab}$$

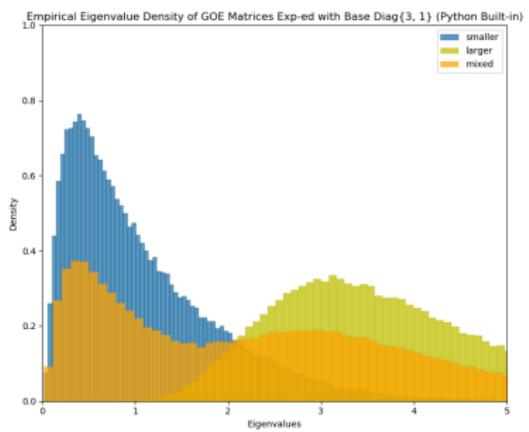
After much weeping and gnashing of teeth algebra, we have

$$\mu_{1,2} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \pm \sqrt{\frac{\left( a(u_1 e^{\lambda_1} + u_2 e^{\lambda_2}) + b(u_2 e^{\lambda_1} + u_1 e^{\lambda_2}) \right)^2}{+ 4abe^{\lambda_1} e^{\lambda_2} (u_1 - u_2)^2} + a \left( u_1 e^{\lambda_1} + u_2 e^{\lambda_2} \right) + b \left( u_2 e^{\lambda_1} + u_1 e^{\lambda_2} \right)} \right]$$

# Special Case: Diagonal Base in $d = 2$



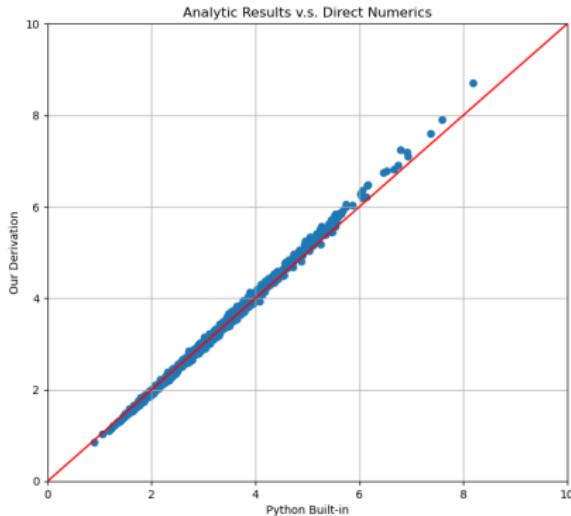
(a) Density rendered by our formula for eigenvalues



(b) Empirical density rendered by Python built-in functions (iterative method)

# Special Case: Diagonal Base in $d = 2$

## Reliability of The Derivation



Eigenvalue results computed from analytic formula compared with Python built-in functions for eigenvalue computation:

$$\mathcal{E} \sim \text{GOE}(2)$$

$$\Sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 30 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Linear Inverse Problems

$$\mathbf{d} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s} + \boldsymbol{\epsilon}$$

where

- $\mathbf{d} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is observed data
- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  is the known forward operator
- $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^n$  is unknown information we want to recover
- $\boldsymbol{\epsilon} \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is measurement error

One may try to use least squares to solve for  $\mathbf{s}$ .

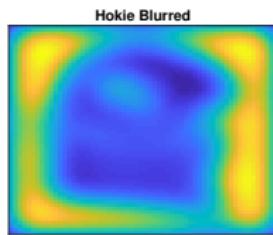
# When Least Squares Fails

Least squares solution:

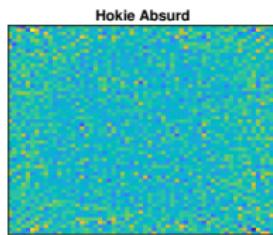
$$\mathbf{s}_{ls} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{R}^n} (\|\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}\|^2) \iff \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_{ls} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{d}$$



(a) Original Image



(b) Given Image( $\mathbf{d}$ )



(c) due Lst. squares ( $\mathbf{s}_{ls}$ )

We need **regularization** in order to obtain reasonable solutions<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Example courtesy of Mark Embree (Virginia Tech)

## Bayesian Formulation

One way to regularize the solution is to adopt a *Bayesian* framework.  
Assume

$$\mathbf{s} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \alpha^2 \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{prior}}) \quad \boldsymbol{\epsilon} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2 \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{noise}})$$

We use these assumptions and Bayes' Theorem to obtain a posterior probability distribution for  $\mathbf{s}$  given  $\mathbf{d}$ ,  $\pi_{\text{post}}(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{d})$

# Bayesian Formulation

**Bayes' Theorem:**  $\pi_{\text{post}}(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{d}) \propto \pi_{\text{prior}}(\mathbf{s})\pi(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{s}).$

Gaussian assumptions:

$$\pi_{\text{prior}}(\mathbf{s}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\alpha^2}\left((\mathbf{s} - \boldsymbol{\mu})^T \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{prior}}^{-1} (\mathbf{s} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\right)\right)$$

$$\pi(\mathbf{d}|\mathbf{s}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left((\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s})^T \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{noise}}^{-1} (\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s})\right)\right)$$

With  $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{prior}}^{-1} = \mathbf{L}^T \mathbf{L}$  and  $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{noise}}^{-1} = \mathbf{W}^T \mathbf{W}$  and setting  $\lambda = \frac{\sigma}{\alpha}$  we have:

$$\pi_{\text{post}}(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{d}) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2\sigma^2}\left(||\mathbf{W}(\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s})||^2 + \lambda^2 ||\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{s} - \boldsymbol{\mu})||^2\right)\right)$$

# Bayesian Formulation

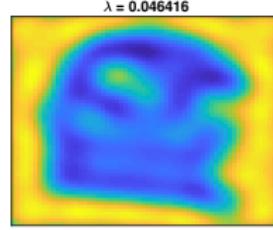
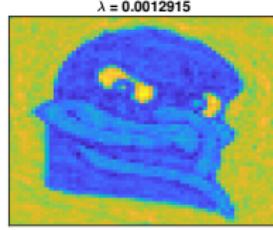
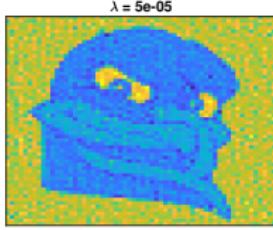
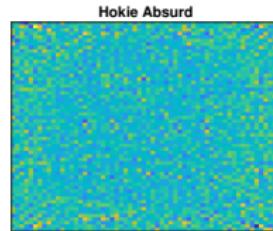
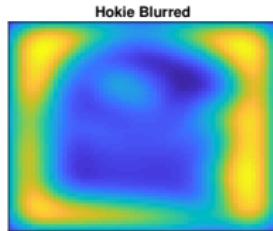
By maximizing  $\pi_{\text{post}}(\mathbf{s}|\mathbf{d})$ , we get the *maximum a posteriori* estimate  $\mathbf{s}_{\text{map}}$  for  $\mathbf{s}$ ,

$$\mathbf{s}_{\text{map}} = \arg \min_{\mathbf{s}} (\|\mathbf{W}(\mathbf{d} - \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s})\|^2 + \lambda^2 \|\mathbf{L}(\mathbf{s} - \boldsymbol{\mu})\|^2)$$



$$\mathbf{s}_{\text{map}} = (\mathbf{A}^T \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{noise}}^{-1} \mathbf{A} + \lambda^2 \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{prior}}^{-1})^{-1} (\mathbf{A}^T \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{noise}}^{-1} \mathbf{d} + \lambda^2 \boldsymbol{\Gamma}_{\text{prior}}^{-1} \boldsymbol{\mu})$$

# Bayesian Linear Inverse Problems



Reconstruction quality is dependent on choice of **regularization parameter  $\lambda$**

# From Linear Inverse Problems to Random Matrices

For fixed data and forward operator, the solution to a linear inverse problem is *parametrized* by  $\Gamma_{\text{prior}}$  and  $\Gamma_{\text{noise}}$

- Usually  $\Gamma_{\text{noise}} = I$  for white noise
- $\Gamma_{\text{prior}}$  is a modeling choice, and we want the final image to have high reconstruction accuracy

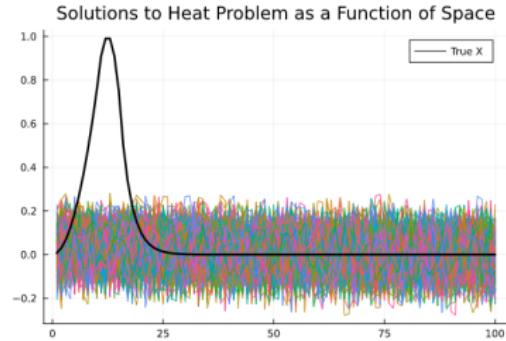
We model  $\Gamma_{\text{prior}} = \exp_{\Sigma}(\mathcal{E})$  where  $\mathcal{E}$  is a symmetric random matrix with  $\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{E}] = 0$  and  $\Sigma$  is a chosen SPD matrix.

Given this distribution for  $\Gamma_{\text{prior}}$ , we are interested in the distribution of  $s_{\text{map}}$

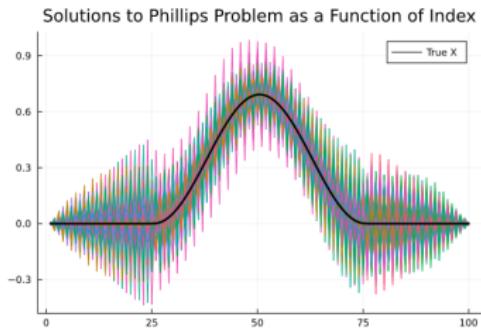
# SPD Matrix Ensembles in Linear Inverse Problems

Matrix exponentiation tends to inflate condition number

- Well-studied phenomenon in differential equations (e.g., Loan 1977)
- When the prior covariance matrix is ill-conditioned, the optimal regularization parameter is  $\approx 0 \Rightarrow$  **reversion to least squares**



(a) Heat Problem with  $\lambda = 1$



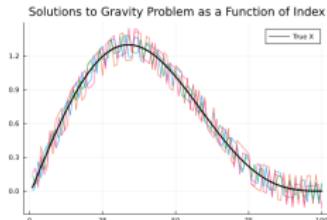
(b) Phillips Problem with  $\lambda = 10^{-10}$

# Controlling Conditioning

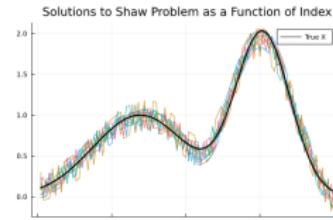
- Random Perturbation
  - For poorly conditioned  $A$ , the sum  $M = A + N_n$  for random  $N_n$  is well-conditioned with high probability (Tao and Vu 2007)
  - If  $A \in \mathbb{P}_d$ , sample  $N_n$  from the Wishart Ensemble to ensure  $M \in \mathbb{P}_d$
- Damping the Inversion
  - $M = A + cI$
  - Inflating the diagonal stabilizes eigenvalues
  - $c$  is known as the Marquardt-Levenberg coefficient
  - Tradeoff between stabilizing matrix and retaining original information

# Linear Inverse Problem Solutions

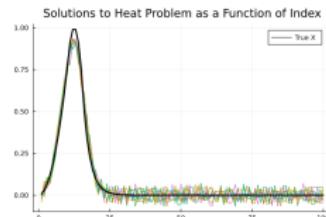
- Damping the inversion provides considerable improvement to input data reconstruction across a range of regularization parameters
  - $\mathcal{E} \sim \text{GOE}(100)$
  - $\Sigma \sim \text{Wishart Ensemble}$
- Inverse problems obtained via Matrix Depot package in Julia



(a) Gravity Surveying



(b) Image Restoration



(c) Heat Equation

# In Summary

## Contributions

- Intuitive visualization of random symmetric and SPD matrices in  $d = 2$
- Generalization of exponentiated matrix eigenvalue distributions
- Application of exponentiated symmetric matrix ensembles to covariance modeling in linear inverse problems

## Future Work

- More general eigenvalue densities
- Additional joint element densities
- Refined linear inverse problem results