

# Asymptotics of symmetric functions with applications to statistical mechanics and representation theory

Greta Panova (UCLA)

based on same-name paper [ARXIV:1301.0634](https://arxiv.org/abs/1301.0634) joined with Vadim Gorin

FPSAC 2013, Paris

# Overview

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Normalized Schur functions  $S_\lambda$

Setup  
Asymptotics of  $S_\lambda(N)(x_1, \dots, x_k)$

GUE in random lozenge tilings

Lozenge tilings  
 $N \rightarrow \infty$ , behavior near boundary

GUE

ASM

GUE in ASMs

Characters of  $U(\infty)$ , boundary of the Gelfand-Tsetlin graph

1	1	1	2	2	...
2	2	3	...		
...					

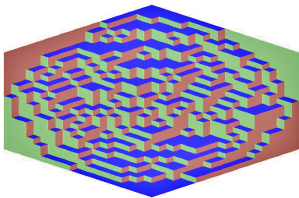
Alternating Sign Matrices (ASM) / 6Vertex model:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

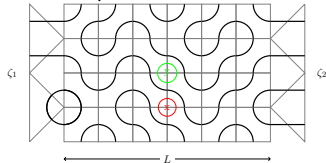
Normalized Schur functions:

$$S_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_k; N) = \frac{s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_k, 1^{N-k})}{s_\lambda(1^N)}$$

Lozenge tilings:



Dense loop model:



## Definitions and setup

In our context: Symmetric functions, Lie groups characters.

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(mainly) **Schur functions:**  $s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N)$  – characters of  $V_\lambda$ .

## Definitions and setup

In our context: Symmetric functions, Lie groups characters.

**Irreducible (rational) representations**  $V_\lambda$  of  $GL(N)$  (or  $U(N)$ ) are indexed by **dominant weights** (signatures/Young diagrams/integer partitions)  $\lambda$ :

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_N,$$

where  $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ , e.g.  $\lambda = (4, 3, 1)$ ,



(mainly) **Schur functions:**  $s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_N)$  – characters of  $V_\lambda$ .

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## Definitions and setup

Object of study and main tool in the applications:

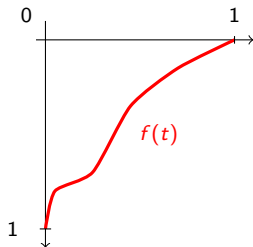
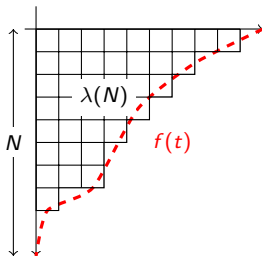
**Normalized Schur functions:**

$$S_{\lambda(N)}(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \frac{s_{\lambda(N)}(x_1, \dots, x_k, \overbrace{1, \dots, 1}^{N-k})}{s_{\lambda(N)}(\underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_N)}$$

Fix  $k$ , let  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and let

$$\frac{\lambda(N)_i}{N} \rightarrow f\left(\frac{i}{N}\right)$$

Limit shape of  $\lambda(N)$  is  $f(t)$ :



# Integral formula, $k = 1$ asymptotics

## Theorem (G-P)

For any signature  $\lambda \in \mathbb{GT}_N$  and any  $x \in \mathbb{C}$  other than 0 or 1 we have

$$S_\lambda(x; N, 1) = \frac{(N-1)!}{(x-1)^{N-1}} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \frac{x^z}{\prod_{i=1}^N (z - (\lambda_i + N - i))} dz,$$

where the contour  $C$  includes all the poles of the integrand.

(Similar statements hold for a larger class of functions, e.g symplectic characters, Jacobi...also  $q$ -analogues; formula appears also in [Colomo, Pronko, Zinn-Justin])

Let  $\frac{\lambda(N)_i}{N} \rightarrow f\left(\frac{i}{N}\right)$  under certain convergence conditions...

using the method of steepest descent we obtain various asymptotic formula:

## Theorem (G-P)

Under [certain strong convergence conditions of]  $\frac{\lambda(N)}{N}$  towards the limit shape  $f$ , as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ :

$$S_{\lambda(N)}(e^y; N, 1) = G(w_0, f) \frac{\exp(N(yw_0 - \mathcal{F}(w_0; f)))}{e^{N(e^y - 1)^{N-1}}} \left(1 + o(1)\right),$$

where  $\mathcal{F}(w; f) = \int_0^1 \ln(w - f(t) - 1 + t) dt$ ,  $w_0$  is the root of  $\frac{\partial}{\partial w} \mathcal{F}(w; f) = y$  (inverse Hilbert transform) and  $G$  is a certain explicit function.

## Integral formula, $k = 1$ asymptotics

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Let  $\frac{\lambda(N)_i}{N} \rightarrow f\left(\frac{i}{N}\right)$  under certain convergence conditions...

using the method of steepest descent we obtain various asymptotic formula:

### Theorem (G-P)

Under [some other convergence conditions of]  $\frac{\lambda(N)}{N}$  towards the limit shape  $f$ , as  $N \rightarrow \infty$

$$S_{\lambda(N)}(e^{h/\sqrt{N}}; N, 1) = \exp\left(\sqrt{N}E(f)h + \frac{1}{2}S(f)h^2 + o(1)\right),$$

where  $E(f) = \int_0^1 f(t)dt$ ,  $S(f) = \int_0^1 f(t)^2 dt - E(f)^2 + \int_0^1 f(t)(1-2t)dt$ .



## From $k = 1$ asymptotics to general $k$ , multiplicativity

### Theorem (G-P)

For any signature  $\lambda \in \mathbb{GT}_N$  and any  $k \leq N$  we have

$$S_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_k; N) = \frac{s_\lambda(x_1, \dots, x_k, \overbrace{1, \dots, 1}^{N-k})}{s_\lambda(\underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_N)} = \prod_{i=1}^k \frac{(N-i)!}{(N-1)!(x_i-1)^{N-k}} \times \frac{\det [D_{i,1}^{j-1}]_{i,j=1}^k}{\Delta(x_1, \dots, x_k)} \prod_{j=1}^k S_\lambda(x_j; N, 1)(x_j-1)^{N-1}.$$

where  $D_{i,1} = x_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$  and  $\Delta$ - Vandermonde determinant.

Similar theorems for symplectic characters, Jacobi; also  $q$ -analogues (replacing derivatives by  $q$ -shifts).

Note: appears in [de Gier, Nienhuis, Ponsaing] for symplectic characters.

# From $k = 1$ asymptotics to general $k$ , multiplicativity

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where  $D_{i,1} = x_i \frac{\partial}{\partial x_i}$  and  $\Delta$ - Vandermonde determinant.

## Corollary (G-P)

Suppose that the sequence  $\lambda(N)$  is such that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(S_{\lambda(N)}(x; N, 1))}{N} = \Psi(x)$$

uniformly on compact subsets of a region  $M \subset \mathbb{C}$  (e.g. Theorem 2). Then

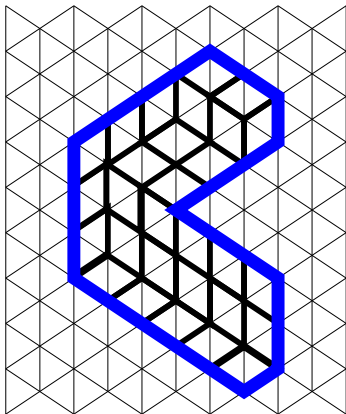
$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\ln(S_{\lambda(N)}(x_1, \dots, x_k; N, 1))}{N} = \Psi(x_1) + \dots + \Psi(x_k)$$

for any  $k$  uniformly on compact subsets of  $M^k$ .

I.e., informally, under various regimes of convergence for  $\lambda(N)$  we have

$$S_{\lambda(N)}(x_1, \dots, x_k) \simeq S_{\lambda(N)}(x_1) \cdots S_{\lambda(N)}(x_k)$$

## Lozenge tilings



Tilings of a domain  $\Omega$  (on a triangular lattice) with elementary rhombi of 3 types ("lozenges").



**Question:** Fix  $\Omega$  in the plane and let *grid size*  $\rightarrow 0$ , what are the properties of *uniformly random* tilings of  $\Omega$ ?

## A well-known example: boxed plane partitions

(Cohn–Larsen–Propp, 1998) Tiling is asymptotically *frozen* outside inscribed ellipse

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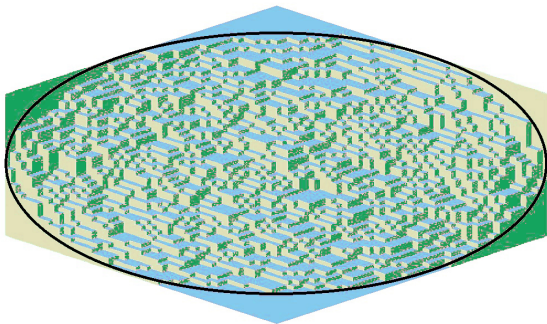
$N \rightarrow \infty$ , behavior near boundary

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(Kenyon–Okounkov, 2005) For general polygonal domain tiling is asymptotically frozen outside inscribed algebraic curve.

# Behavior near the boundary, interlacing particles

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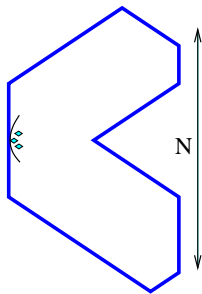
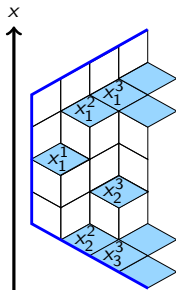
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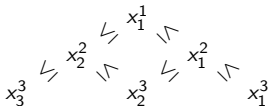
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Horizontal lozenges near a straight vertical segment of the boundary form an interlacing particle configuration  $\leftrightarrow$  Gelfand-Tsetlin schemes.



**Question:** What is the joint probability distribution of the positions of the horizontal lozenges near the boundary as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  (scale =  $\frac{1}{N}$ )?

**Conjecture** ([Okounkov–Reshetikhin, 2006] with an explanation what the answer should be):

The joint distribution converges to a *GUE*-corners (aka *GUE*-minors [Johansson–Nordenstam]) process.

# Gaussian Unitary Ensemble (GUE)

Gaussian Unitary Ensemble of rank  $N$  is the distribution on the set of  $N \times N$  Hermitian matrices with density

$$\rho(X) \sim \exp(-\text{Trace}(X^2)/2).$$

Alternatively,

$\text{Re}X_{ij}, \text{Im}X_{ij}$  are i.i.d. with  $\rho \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1/2)$  for  $i \neq j$  and  $X_{ii}$  are i.i.d. with  $\rho \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$

The density of the eigenvalues of  $X$ , denoted  $x_1^N, \dots, x_N^N$ , is (Weyl, 20-30s)

$$\rho(x_1^N, \dots, x_N^N) \sim \prod_{i < j} (x_i^N - x_j^N)^2 \prod_{i=1}^N e^{-(x_i^N)^2/2}.$$

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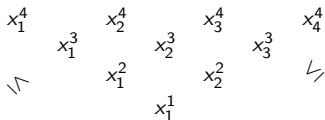
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$$\begin{pmatrix} \boxed{a_{11}} & a_{12} & a_{13} & a_{14} \\ a_{21} & \boxed{a_{22}} & a_{23} & a_{24} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & \boxed{a_{33}} & a_{34} \\ a_{41} & a_{42} & a_{43} & \boxed{a_{44}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Let  $x_i^k$  be  $i$ th eigenvalue of top-left  $k \times k$  corner of GUE. Interlacing condition:  $x_{i-1}^j \leq x_{i-1}^{j-1} \leq x_i^j$



The joint distribution of  $x_i^j$  is known as *GUE-corners* (also, *GUE-minors*) process, denoted  $\text{GUE}_k$  for the top  $k$  corners.

Given  $x_1^N, \dots, x_N^N$ , the distribution of  $x_i^j, j < N$  is *uniform* on the polytope defined by interlacing conditions (Baryshnikov, 2001)

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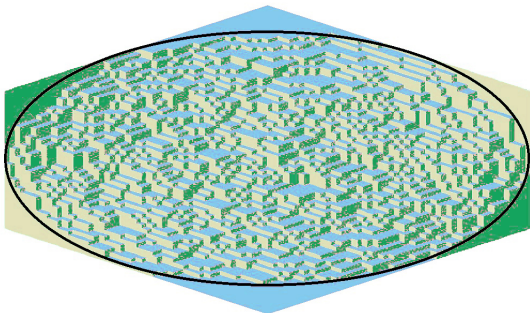
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**Theorem.**[Johansson–Nordenstam, 2006; Nordenstam, 2009] For a hexagonal domain the fluctuations near the point where the inscribed ellipse touches the boundary are of order  $\sqrt{N}$  and after rescaling the point process formed by the positions of one type of lozenges (“horizontal” for the vertical boundary) converges to *GUE*-minors process.

**Method:** Computation based on Lindström–Gessel–Viennot formula for the number of non-intersecting paths + certain determinant evaluations.

**Other results:** Okounkov–Reshetikhin, 2006, using determinantal point processes (in particular, the Schur process). Petrov, 2012, finite polygonal domains.



## GUE in tilings: our results

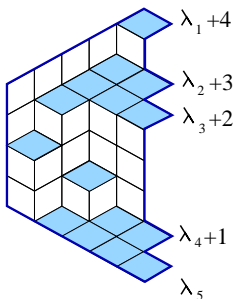
GUE-minors convergence conjecture for a wide class of domains.

Domain  $\Omega_{N, \lambda(N)}$ , parameterized by width  $N$  and the positions

$$\lambda(N)_1 + N - 1 > \lambda(N)_2 + N - 2 > \dots > \lambda(N)_N$$

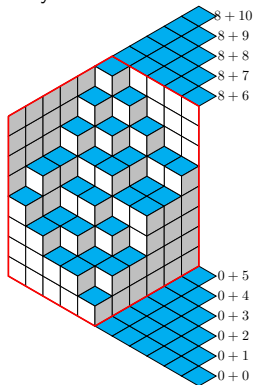
of its  $N$  horizontal lozenges at the right boundary.

Tiling  $\Omega_\lambda =$  tiling certain polygon.



$$(N = 5, \lambda(5) = (4, 3, 3, 0, 0))$$

Note:  $\frac{1}{N}\Omega_{N, \lambda(N)}$  is not necessarily a finite polygon as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , e.g.  
 $\lambda(N) = (N, N - 1, \dots, 2, 1)$



$$\text{E.g. } \lambda = (\underbrace{a, \dots, a}_c, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_b)$$

$\leftrightarrow$  the hexagon with side lengths  $(a, b, c, a, b, c)$ .

## GUE in tilings: our results

Domain  $\Omega_{N,\lambda(N)}$ , parameterized by width  $N$  and the positions

$$\lambda(N)_1 + N - 1 > \lambda(N)_2 + N - 2 > \dots > \lambda(N)_N$$

of its  $N$  horizontal lozenges at the right boundary.

### Theorem (G-P)

Let  $\lambda(N) = (\lambda_1(N) \geq \dots \geq \lambda_N(N))$ ,  $N = 1, 2, \dots$  be a sequence of signatures. Suppose that there exist a non-constant piecewise-differentiable weakly decreasing function  $f(t)$  such that

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \left| \frac{\lambda_i(N)}{N} - f(i/N) \right| = o(\sqrt{N})$$

as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and also  $\sup_{i,N} |\lambda_i(N)/N| < \infty$ . Let  $\Upsilon(N)^k = \{x_i^j\}$  be the collection of the positions of the horizontal lozenges on lines  $j = 1, \dots, k$ . Then for every  $k$  as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$\frac{\Upsilon_{\lambda(N)}^k - NE(f)}{\sqrt{NS(f)}} \rightarrow \text{GUE}_k \text{ (GUE-corners process of rank } k)$$

in the sense of weak convergence, where

$$E(f) = \int_0^1 f(t) dt, \quad S(f) = \int_0^1 f(t)^2 dt - E(f)^2 + \int_0^1 f(t)(1-2t) dt.$$





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## Proposition

In a uniformly random tiling of  $\Omega_\lambda$  the distribution of the positions of the horizontal lozenges on the  $k$ th line  $x^k(\lambda)$  is given by:

$$\text{Prob}\{x^k(\lambda) = \eta\} = \frac{s_\eta(\mathbf{1}^k) s_{\lambda/\eta}(\mathbf{1}^{N-k})}{s_\lambda(\mathbf{1}^N)},$$

where  $s_{\lambda/\eta}$  is the skew Schur polynomial.

Proof: combinatorial definition of Schur functions as sums over SSYT.

## Proposition

Let  $\nu^k$  be the positions of the horizontal lozenges on the  $k$ th vertical line in a uniformly random tiling of  $\Omega_\lambda$  (where  $\lambda$  has length  $N$ ).

$$\mathbb{E} \left( \frac{s_{\nu^k}(y_1, \dots, y_k)}{s_{\nu^k}(\underbrace{\mathbf{1}, \dots, \mathbf{1}}_k)} \right) = \frac{s_\lambda(y_1, \dots, y_k, \overbrace{\mathbf{1}, \dots, \mathbf{1}}^{N-k})}{s_\lambda(\underbrace{\mathbf{1}, \dots, \mathbf{1}}_N)} = S_\lambda(y_1, \dots, y_k).$$

# GUE in tilings: MGF and asymptotics

## Proposition

$$\mathbb{E}B_k(x; \text{GUE}_k) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(x_1^2 + \dots + x_k^2)\right),$$

$$\text{where } B_k(x; y) = \frac{\det[\exp(x_i y_j)]_{i,j=1}^k}{\prod_{i<j}(x_i - x_j) \prod_{i<j}(y_i - y_j)} \prod_{i<j}(j - i), \text{ also}$$
$$= \frac{s_{y-\delta_k}(x_1, \dots, x_k)}{s_{y-\delta_k}(\underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_k)} \text{ when } y \text{ — strict partition.}$$

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### Proposition (G-P)

For any  $k$  reals  $h_1, \dots, h_k$  we have:

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{s_{\lambda(N)}\left(e^{\frac{h_1}{\sqrt{NS(f)}}}, \dots, e^{\frac{h_k}{\sqrt{NS(f)}}}, 1^{N-k}\right)}{s_{\lambda(N)}(1^N)} \exp\left(-\frac{E(f)}{\sqrt{NS(f)}}(h_1 + \dots + h_k)\right)$$

$$= \exp\left(\frac{1}{2}(h_1^2 + \dots + h_k^2)\right).$$

# GUE in tilings: MGF and asymptotics

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$$= \frac{s_{y-\delta_k}(x_1, \dots, x_k)}{s_{y-\delta_k}(\underbrace{1, \dots, 1}_k)}$$

when  $y$  — strict partition.

## Proposition (G-P)

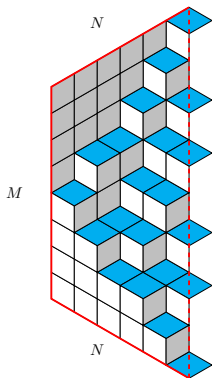
For any  $k$  reals  $h_1, \dots, h_k$  we have:

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**Theorem.**  $\frac{\Upsilon_{\lambda(N)}^k - NE(f)}{\sqrt{NS(f)}} \rightarrow \text{GUE}_k$  (GUE-corners process of rank  $k$ ).  $\square$



## Free boundary



Limit shapes: [Di Francesco, Reshetikhin, 2009]

Let

$$T_f(N, M) := \cup_{\lambda \mid \ell(\lambda)=N, \lambda_1 \leq M} \text{tilings of } \Omega_\lambda,$$

i.e. the set of all tilings in an  $N \times M \times N$  trapezoid with unrestricted positions of right horizontal lozenges.

$\Leftrightarrow$  Vertically symmetric tilings of the  $N \times M \times N \times N \times M \times N$  hexagon.

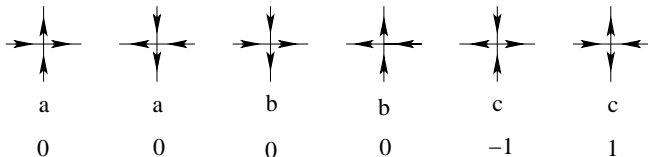
### Theorem (P, -)

Let  $\Upsilon_{N,M}^k$  denote the positions of the horizontal lozenges  $\{x_j^i\}$  on the  $i$ th vertical line of a uniformly random tiling from  $T_f(N, M)$ . Then, as  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\frac{M}{N} \rightarrow a$ , where  $0 < a < \infty$ ,

$$\frac{\Upsilon_{N,M}^k - M/2}{\sqrt{N(a^2 + 2a)}/8} \rightarrow \text{GUE}_k.$$

## 6 Vertex model / ASM

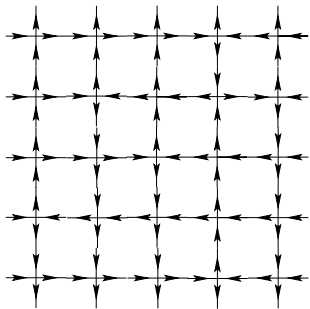
Six vertex types:



Alternating Sign Matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

A 6 vertex model configuration:





# ASMs/6Vertex: new results

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$$\text{ASM } A: \quad \Psi_k(A) := \sum_{j=1:n, A_{kj}=1} j - \sum_{j=1:n, A_{kj}=-1} j$$

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$$\text{Monotone triangle } M = [m_j^i]_{j \leq i}: \quad \Psi_k(M) = \sum_{j=1}^k m_j^k - \sum_{j=1}^{k-1} m_j^{k-1}$$

$$k : \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} & & & & 4 \\ & & & & 2 & 5 \\ & & & 2 & 3 & 5 \\ & & 1 & 2 & 3 & 5 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} 2 & \quad \Psi_2 = 2 + 5 - 4 = 3 \\ 3 & \quad \Psi_3 = 3 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_2 & = (2 + 5) - (4) = 3 \\ \Psi_3 & = (2 + 3 + 5) - (2 + 5) \end{aligned}$$

## ASMs/6Vertex: new results

ASM  $A$ : 
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$\Psi_k(n)$  – the random variable  $\Psi_k(A)$  as  $A$  is chosen uniformly random from ASMs of size  $n$ .

### Theorem (G-P)

$\frac{\Psi_k(n) - n/2}{\sqrt{n}}$ ,  $k = 1, 2, \dots$  converge as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  to the collection of i.i.d. Gaussian random variables,  $N(0, \sqrt{3/8})$ .

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Using this Theorem on  $\Psi_k(n)$  and the Gibbs property:

### Theorem (G, 2013; Conjecture in [G–P])

Fix any  $k$ . As  $n \rightarrow \infty$  the probability that the number of  $(-1)$ s in the first  $k$  rows of uniformly random ASM of size  $n$  is maximal tends to 1, and, thus, 1s in first  $k$  rows are interlacing. After centering and rescaling the distribution of the positions of 1s tends to GUE-corners process, i.e. top  $k$  rows of the monotone triangle  $M$  converge to the GUE-corners process:

$$\sqrt{\frac{8}{3n}} \left( [M]_{i=1:k} - \frac{n}{2} \right) \rightarrow \text{GUE}_k.$$

## 6Vertex/ASMs: proofs

Vertex at position  $(i, j)$  and its weight (corresponding to the type):

$$a : q^{-1}u_i^2 - qv_j^2, \quad b : q^{-1}v_j^2 - qu_i^2, \quad c : (q^{-1} - q)u_i v_j$$

where  $v_1, \dots, v_N, u_1, \dots, u_N$  are parameters,  $q = \exp(\pi i/3)$

Weight  $W(\vartheta)$  of a configuration  $\theta =$  product of weights of its vertices.

Set  $\lambda(N) := (N - 1, N - 1, N - 2, N - 2, \dots, 1, 1, 0, 0) \in \mathbb{GT}_{2N}$ .

### Proposition (Okada;Stroganov)

Let  $\mathfrak{I}_N$  be the set of all 6Vertex configurations on an  $N \times N$  grid.

$$\sum_{\vartheta \in \mathfrak{I}_N} W(\vartheta) = (-1)^{N(N-1)/2} (q^{-1} - q)^N \prod_{i=1}^N (v_i u_i)^{-1} s_{\lambda(N)}(u_1^2, \dots, u_N^2, v_1^2, \dots, v_N^2).$$

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### Proposition

Let  $\hat{x}_i$  be the number of vertices of type  $x$  on row  $i$ , then for any collection of rows  $i_1, \dots, i_m$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbb{E}_N \prod_{\ell=1}^m \left[ \left( \frac{q^{-1} - qv_\ell^2}{q^{-1} - q} \right)^{\hat{a}_{i_\ell}} \left( \frac{q^{-1}v_\ell^2 - q}{q^{-1} - q} \right)^{\hat{b}_{i_\ell}} (v_\ell)^{\hat{c}_{j_\ell}} \right] \\ &= \left( \prod_{\ell=1}^n v_\ell^{-1} \right) \frac{s_{\lambda(N)}(v_1, \dots, v_m, 1^{2N-m})}{s_{\lambda(N)}(1^{2N})} = \left( \prod_{\ell=1}^n v_\ell^{-1} \right) s_{\lambda(N)}(v_1, \dots, v_m) \end{aligned}$$



## 6Vertex/ASMs: proofs

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**Proof of Theorem:** Use Proposition to derive the *moment generating function* as a Schur function. Choose parameters wisely to extract the main statistic and apply the asymptotics:

$$s_{\lambda(N)}(e^{y_1/\sqrt{n}}, \dots, e^{y_k/\sqrt{n}}) = \prod_{i=1}^k \exp \left[ \sqrt{ny_i} + \frac{5}{12} y_i^2 + o(1) \right]$$

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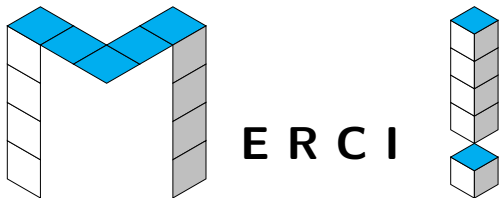
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## Extreme Characters of $U(\infty)$

$U(N)$  – the group of  $N \times N$  unitary matrices.  $U(\infty) = \bigcup_{N=1}^{\infty} U(N)$ . A

(normalized) *character* of a group  $G$  is a continuous function  $\chi(g)$ ,  $g \in G$  s.t.:

1.  $\chi(aba^{-1}) = \chi(b)$  for any  $a, b \in G$ ,
2.  $\chi$  is positive definite, i.e. the matrix  $\left[ \chi(g_i g_j^{-1}) \right]_{i,j=1}^k$  is Hermitian non-negative definite, for any  $\{g_1, \dots, g_k\}$ ,
3.  $\chi(e) = 1$ .

An *extreme character* is an extreme point of the convex set of all characters. The normalized characters of  $U(N)$  are the functions

$$\frac{s_{\lambda}(u_1, \dots, u_N)}{s_{\lambda}(1, \dots, 1)}.$$

## Extreme Characters of $U(\infty)$

$U(N)$  – the group of  $N \times N$  unitary matrices.  $U(\infty) = \bigcup_{N=1}^{\infty} U(N)$ .

### Theorem (Voiculescu-Edrei classification)

*The extreme characters of  $U(\infty)$  are parameterized by the points  $\omega$  of the infinite-dimensional domain*

$$\Omega \subset \mathbb{R}^{4\infty+2} = \mathbb{R}^{\infty} \times \mathbb{R}^{\infty} \times \mathbb{R}^{\infty} \times \mathbb{R}^{\infty} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R},$$

where  $\Omega$  is the set of sextuples

$$\omega = (\alpha^+, \alpha^-, \beta^+, \beta^-; \delta^+, \delta^-)$$

such that

$$\alpha^{\pm} = (\alpha_1^{\pm} \geq \alpha_2^{\pm} \geq \dots \geq 0) \in \mathbb{R}^{\infty}, \quad \beta^{\pm} = (\beta_1^{\pm} \geq \beta_2^{\pm} \geq \dots \geq 0) \in \mathbb{R}^{\infty},$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} (\alpha_i^{\pm} + \beta_i^{\pm}) \leq \delta^{\pm}, \quad \beta_1^+ + \beta_1^- \leq 1.$$

The corresponding extreme character is given by the formula

$$\chi^{(\omega)}(U) = \prod_{u \in \text{Spec}(U)} e^{\gamma^+(u-1) + \gamma^-(u^{-1}-1)} \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 + \beta_i^+(u-1)}{1 - \alpha_i^+(u-1)} \frac{1 + \beta_i^-(u^{-1}-1)}{1 - \alpha_i^-(u^{-1}-1)}.$$

# Extreme characters of $U(\infty)$

## Proposition (Kerov-Vershik)

Every extreme normalized character  $\chi$  of  $U(\infty)$  is a uniform limit of extreme characters of  $U(N)$ . In other words, for every  $\chi$  there exists a sequence  $\lambda(N) \in \mathbb{GT}_N$  such that for every  $k$

$$\chi(u_1, \dots, u_k, 1, \dots) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_\lambda(u_1, \dots, u_k; N, 1)$$

uniformly on the torus  $(S_1)^k$ .

Based on this fact we show which sequences approximate characters of  $U(\infty)$ :

For any  $\lambda$  set  $p_i = \lambda_i - i + 1/2$ ,  $q_i = \lambda'_i - i + 1/2$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, d$ .

$$\chi^{(\omega)}(u_1, u_2, \dots) = \prod_j e^{\gamma^+(u_j-1) + \gamma^-(u_j^{-1}-1)} \prod_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{1 + \beta_i^+(u_j - 1)}{1 - \alpha_i^+(u_j - 1)} \frac{1 + \beta_i^-(u_j^{-1} - 1)}{1 - \alpha_i^-(u_j^{-1} - 1)}.$$

## Theorem (VK, OO, BO, P, Gorin-Panova)

Let  $\omega = (\alpha^\pm, \beta^\pm; \delta^\pm)$  and suppose that the sequence  $\lambda(N) \in \mathbb{GT}_N$  is s.t.

$$p_i^+(N)/N \rightarrow \alpha_i^+, \quad p_i^-(N)/N \rightarrow \alpha_i^-, \quad q_i^+(N)/N \rightarrow \beta_i^+, \quad q_i^-(N)/N \rightarrow \beta_i^-,$$

$$|\lambda^+|/N \rightarrow \delta^+, \quad |\lambda^-|/N \rightarrow \delta^-.$$

Then for every  $k$

$$\chi(u_1, \dots, u_k, 1, \dots) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} S_{\lambda(N)}(u_1, \dots, u_k; N, 1) = \chi^\omega(u_1, \dots, u_k, 1, \dots) \text{ (as defined above)}$$

uniformly on torus  $(S_1)^k$ .

## The dense loop model

Given a finite grid (in this case, vertical strip of width  $L$ ), each square is one of two kinds below, on the boundary – one of the triangles

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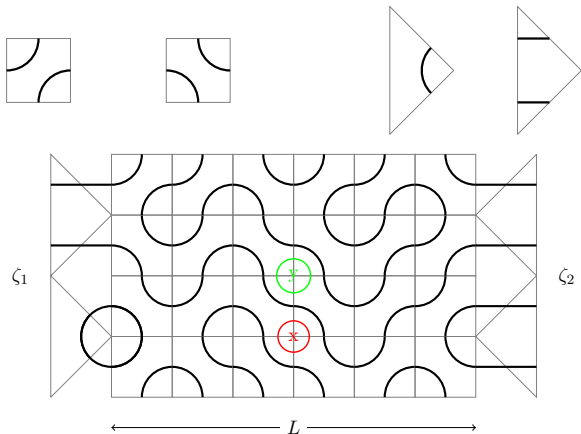
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The mean total current between two points  $x$  and  $y$   $F^{x,y}$  – the average number of paths connecting both boundaries and passing between  $x$  and  $y$ . Similar observables in the critical percolation model [Smirnov, 2009].

## De loop model: the mean current

Let  $\lambda^L = (\lfloor \frac{L-1}{2} \rfloor, \lfloor \frac{L-2}{2} \rfloor, \dots, 1, 0, 0)$

Define:

$$u_L(\zeta_1, \zeta_2; z_1, \dots, z_L) = (-1)^{L_1} \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \ln \left[ \frac{\chi_{\lambda^{L+1}}(\zeta_1^2, z_1^2, \dots, z_L^2) \chi_{\lambda^{L+1}}(\zeta_2^2, z_1^2, \dots, z_L^2)}{\chi_{\lambda^L}(z_1^2, \dots, z_L^2) \chi_{\lambda^{L+2}}(\zeta_1^2, \zeta_2^2, z_1^2, \dots, z_L^2)} \right]$$

where  $\chi_\nu$  is the character for the irreducible representation of highest weight  $\nu$  of the symplectic group  $Sp(\mathbb{C})$ .

$$X_L^{(j)} = z_j \frac{\partial}{\partial z_j} u_L(\zeta_1, \zeta_2; z_1, \dots, z_L)$$

$$Y_L = w \frac{\partial}{\partial w} u_{L+2}(\zeta_1, \zeta_2; z_1, \dots, z_L, wq^{-1}, w)|_{v=w},$$

### Proposition (De Gier, Nienhuis, Ponsaing)

*Under certain assumptions the mean total current between two horizontally adjacent points is*

$$X_L^{(j)} = F^{(j,i),(j+1,i)},$$

*and  $Y$  is the mean total current between two vertically adjacent points in the strip of width  $L$ :*

$$Y_L^{(j)} = F^{(j,i),(j,i+1)}.$$

## Dense loop model: asymptotics of the mean current

### Theorem

As  $L \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$X_L^{(j)} \Big|_{z_j=z, z_i=1, i \neq j} = \frac{i\sqrt{3}}{4L} (z^3 - z^{-3}) + o\left(\frac{1}{L}\right)$$

and

$$Y_L \Big|_{z_i=1, i=1, \dots, L} = \frac{i\sqrt{3}}{4L} (w^3 - w^{-3}) + o\left(\frac{1}{L}\right)$$

**Remark 1.** When  $z = 1$ ,  $X_L^{(j)}$  is identical zero and so is our asymptotics.

**Remark 2.** The fully homogeneous case corresponds to  $w = \exp^{-i\pi/6}$ ,  $q = e^{2\pi i/3}$ . In this case

$$Y_L = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2L} + o\left(\frac{1}{L}\right).$$

**Proof:** same type of asymptotic methods and results hold for symplectic characters + some tricks with the multivariate formula.