

# On the maximum of two log-correlated fields: the logarithms of the characteristic polynomial of the Circular Beta Ensemble and the Riemann zeta function

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Joint work with Reda Chhaibi and Thomas Madaule (for the Circular Beta Ensemble)

Extreme values in Number Theory and Probability

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# The Circular Beta Ensemble

- ▶ We first consider the Circular Beta Ensemble (C $\beta$ E), corresponding to  $n$  points on the unit circle  $\mathbb{U}$ , whose probability density with respect to the uniform measure on  $\mathbb{U}^n$  is given by

$$C_{n,\beta} \prod_{1 \leq j, k \leq n} |\lambda_j - \lambda_k|^\beta,$$

for some  $\beta > 0$ .

- ▶ For  $\beta = 2$ , one gets the distribution of the eigenvalues of a Haar-distributed matrix on the unitary group  $U(n)$ . Other matrix models has been found by Killip and Nenciu in 2004 for general  $\beta$ .

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- ▶ If  $(\lambda_j^{-1})_{1 \leq j \leq n}$  are the eigenvalues of a random matrix, one can consider the characteristic polynomial:

$$X_n(z) = \prod_{j=1}^n (1 - \lambda_j z),$$

and its logarithm

$$\log X_n(z) = \sum_{j=1}^n \log(1 - \lambda_j z),$$

which can be well-defined in a continuous way, except on the half-lines  $\lambda_j^{-1}[1, \infty)$ .

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- ▶ It can be proven that  $\left( \sqrt{\beta/2} \log X_n(z) \right)_{z \in \mathbb{D}}$  ( $\mathbb{D}$  being the open unit disc) tends in distribution to a complex Gaussian holomorphic function: for  $\beta = 2$ , it is a direct consequence of a result by Diaconis and Shahshahani (1994) on the moments of the traces of the CUE.
- ▶ This Gaussian function  $\mathbb{G}$  has the following covariance structure:

$$\mathbb{E}[\overline{\mathbb{G}(z)}\mathbb{G}(z')] = \log \left( \frac{1}{1 - \bar{z}z'} \right).$$

- ▶ The variance of  $\mathbb{G}$  goes to infinity when  $|z| \rightarrow 1$ , and for  $z \in \mathbb{U}$ ,  $\log X_n(z)$  does not converge in distribution.

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- ▶ When  $n$  goes to infinity,

$$\sqrt{\frac{\beta}{2 \log n}} \log X_n(z) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{N}^{\mathbb{C}},$$

where  $\mathcal{N}^{\mathbb{C}}$  denotes a complex Gaussian variable  $Z$  such that

$$\mathbb{E}[Z] = \mathbb{E}[Z^2] = 0, \mathbb{E}[|Z|^2] = 1.$$

For  $\beta = 2$ , this result has been proven by Keating and Snaith (2000).

- ▶ Without normalization,  $(\sqrt{\beta/2} \log X_n(z))_{z \in \mathbb{U}}$  tends in distribution to a complex Gaussian field on the unit circle, whose correlation between points  $z, z' \in \mathbb{U}$  is given by  $\log |z - z'|$ . Note that this field is not defined on single points, since the correlation has a logarithmic singularity when  $z'$  goes to  $z$ .

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- ▶ The logarithm of the characteristic polynomial, multiplied by  $\sqrt{\beta/2}$ , is a rather complex (yet integrable) regularization of the log-correlated Gaussian field given above.
- ▶ In this regularization, the correlation of the field saturates when  $|z - z'|$  is of order  $1/n$ , which is consistent with the result by Keating and Snaith.
- ▶ For this kind of regularization, it is conjectured that the maximum of the field is of order  $\log n - (3/4) \log \log n$ . This behavior (in particular the constant  $-3/4$ ) is believed to be universal, i.e. not depending on the detail of the model.
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## Statement of the main result

- ▶ For  $\beta = 2$ , Fyodorov, Hiary and Keating (2012), have given a conjecture on the maximum of the characteristic polynomial, which is the following:

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \log |X_n(z)| - \left( \log n - \frac{3}{4} \log \log n \right) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} \frac{1}{2}(K_1 + K_2),$$

in distribution, where  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are two independent Gumbel random variables.

- ▶ In November 2015, Arguin, Belius and Bourgade have proven that

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$$\frac{\sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \log |X_n(z)| - \log n}{\log \log n} \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} -\frac{3}{4}.$$

- ▶ We expect that the conjecture of Fyodorov, Hiary and Keating can be generalized to  $\beta$  ensembles:

$$\sqrt{\beta/2} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \log |X_n(z)| - \left( \log n - \frac{3}{4} \log \log n \right) \xrightarrow[n \rightarrow \infty]{} K,$$

where  $K$  is a limiting random variable. It may be possible that  $2K$  is the sum two independent Gumbel variables, but we have no argument supporting such a statement.

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Such a result seems very challenging. However, we have proven the following result

## Theorem

*The families of random variables:*

$$\left( \sqrt{\beta/2} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \Re \log X_n(z) - \left( \log n - \frac{3}{4} \log \log n \right) \right)_{n \geq 2},$$

$$\left( \sqrt{\beta/2} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \Im \log X_n(z) - \left( \log n - \frac{3}{4} \log \log n \right) \right)_{n \geq 2}$$

*are tight.*

The statement on the imaginary part gives information on the number of eigenvalues lying on arcs of the unit circle.

We deduce the following:

## Corollary

For  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{U}$ , let  $N(z_1, z_2)$  be the number of points  $\lambda_j$  lying on the arc coming counterclockwise from  $z_1$  to  $z_2$ , and  $N_0(z_1, z_2)$  its expectation (i.e. the length of the arc multiplied by  $n/2\pi$ ). Then,

$$\left( \pi\sqrt{\beta/8} \sup_{z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{U}} |N(z_1, z_2) - N_0(z_1, z_2)| - \left( \log n - \frac{3}{4} \log \log n \right) \right)_{n \geq 2}$$

is tight.

# Orthogonal polynomials on the unit circle

If  $\nu$  is a probability measure on the unit circle, the Gram-Schmidt procedure applied on  $L^2(\nu)$  to the sequence  $(z^k)_{k \geq 0}$  gives a sequence  $(\Phi_k)_{0 \leq k < m}$  of monic orthogonal polynomials,  $m$  being the (finite or infinite) cardinality of the support of  $\nu$ . If  $m < \infty$ , the procedure stops after  $\Phi_{m-1}$  since all  $L^2(\mu)$  is spanned: we then define

$$\Phi_m(z) := \prod_{\lambda \in \text{Supp}(\nu)} (z - \lambda),$$

which vanishes in  $L^2(\mu)$ . Moreover, we define  $\Phi_k^*(z) := z^k \overline{\Phi_k^*(1/\bar{z})}$ .

- ▶ There exists a sequence  $(\alpha_j)_{0 \leq j < m}$  of complex numbers,  $|\alpha_j| = 1$  if  $j = m - 1 < \infty$ ,  $|\alpha_j| < 1$  otherwise, called *Verblunsky coefficients*, such that the polynomials above satisfy the so-called *Szegő recursion*: for  $j < m$ ,

$$\Phi_{j+1}(z) = z\Phi_j(z) - \overline{\alpha_j}\Phi_j^*(z),$$

$$\Phi_{j+1}^*(z) = -\alpha_j z\Phi_j(z) + \Phi_j^*(z).$$

- ▶ Moreover, Killip and Nenciu have found an explicit probability distribution for the Verblunsky coefficients, for which one can recover the characteristic polynomial of the Circular Beta Ensemble.

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- ▶ Let  $(\alpha_j)_{j \geq 0}$ ,  $\eta$  be independent complex random variables, rotationally invariant, such that  $|\alpha_j|^2$  is Beta( $1, (\beta/2)(j+1)$ )-distributed and  $|\eta| = 1$  a.s.
- ▶ Let  $(\Phi_j, \Phi_j^*)_{j \geq 0}$  be the sequence of polynomials obtained from the Verblunsky coefficients  $(\alpha_j)_{j \geq 0}$  and the Szegő recursion.
- ▶ Then, we have the equality in distribution:

$$X_n(z) = \Phi_{n-1}^*(z) - z\eta\Phi_{n-1}(z).$$

- ▶ If we couple the polynomials in such a way that we have actually an equality, then

$$\left( \sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} |\log X_n(z) - \log \Phi_{n-1}^*(z)| \right)_{n \geq 1}$$

is tight: it is then sufficient to study the extreme values of  $\log \Phi_n^*$  instead of  $\log X_n$ .

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- ▶ The recursion can be rewritten by using the *deformed Verblunsky coefficients*  $(\gamma_j)_{j \geq 0}$ , which have the same modulii as  $(\alpha_j)_{j \geq 0}$  and the same joint distribution.
- ▶ We have, for  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$ ,

$$\log \Phi_k^*(e^{i\theta}) = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \log \left( 1 - \gamma_j e^{i\psi_j(\theta)} \right).$$

- ▶ The so-called *relative Prüfer phases*  $(\psi_k)_{k \geq 0}$  satisfy:

$$\psi_k(\theta) = (k+1)\theta - 2 \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \log \left( \frac{1 - \gamma_j e^{i\psi_j(\theta)}}{1 - \gamma_j} \right).$$

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## Sketch of proof of a non-sharp upper bound

- ▶ In order to bound  $\Re \log \Phi_n^*$  and  $\Im \log \Phi_n^*$  on the unit circle, it is sufficient to bound these quantities on  $2n$  points.
- ▶ Indeed, if  $\mathbb{U}_m$  denotes the set of  $m$ -th roots of unity, we have for all polynomials  $Q$  of degree at most  $n$ :

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} |Q(z)| \leq 14 \sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}_{2n}} |Q(z)|.$$

- ▶ If  $Q(0) = 1$  and  $Q$  has all roots outside the unit disc, then

$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \operatorname{Arg}(Q(z)) \leq \sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}_n} \operatorname{Arg}(Q(z)) + 2\pi.$$

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- ▶ For any  $z \in \mathbb{U}$ , we have the equality in distribution:

$$\log \Phi_k^*(z) = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \log(1 - \gamma_j),$$

- ▶ By computing and then estimating the exponential moments of this sum of independent random variables, we get for  $s > 0, t \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}[e^{s\Re \log \Phi_k^*(z) + t\Im \log \Phi_k^*(z)}] \leq (ke)^{(s^2 + t^2)/(2\beta)}.$$

- ▶ Using a Chernoff bound with  $s = \sqrt{2\beta}$ ,  $t = 0$ , we deduce that for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sqrt{\frac{\beta}{2}}\Re \log \Phi_n^*(z) \geq \log n + h(n)\right) = o(1/n)$$

and the same for the imaginary part.

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- ▶ Using a union bound on the  $2n$ -th roots of unity,

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \sqrt{\frac{\beta}{2}} \sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \Re \log \Phi_n^*(z) \leq \log n + h(n) \right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1,$$

which gives a weak version of the upper bound stated above.

- ▶ Moreover, if we define

$$\mathcal{B}_n := \{ \lfloor e^j \rfloor, 0 \leq j \leq \lfloor \log n \rfloor \} \cup \{n\},$$

then

$$\mathbb{P} \left( \forall k \in \mathcal{B}_n, \sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \Re \log \Phi_k^*(z) \leq \log k + \log \log n + h(n) \right) \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 1.$$

- ▶ This estimate is useful in order to prove a sharper upper bound.

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## Sketch of proof of a sharper upper bound

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$$\sup_{z \in \mathbb{U}} \Re \log \Phi_n^*(z) \geq \log n - \frac{3}{4} \log \log n + \frac{3}{2} \log \log \log n + h(n) \quad \xrightarrow{n \rightarrow \infty} 0.$$

- By doing a union bound on  $\mathbb{U}_{2n}$ , it is sufficient to prove that the probability of the same event for a single  $z \in \mathbb{U}$  is  $o(1/n)$  when  $n$  goes to infinity.

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- ▶ For fixed  $z \in \mathbb{U}$ ,  $(\log \Phi_k^*(z))_{k \geq 0}$  is a random walk with independent increments, given by  $\log(1 - \gamma_k)$ .
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$$\log(1 - \gamma_k) = \log \left( 1 - e^{i\Theta_k} \sqrt{\frac{E_k}{E_k + \Gamma_k}} \right)$$

where  $(E_k)_{k \geq 0}$ ,  $(\Gamma_k)_{k \geq 0}$ ,  $(\Theta_k)_{k \geq 0}$  are independent variables, respectively exponentially distributed, Gamma of parameter  $(\beta/2)(k+1)$  and uniform on  $[0, 2\pi]$ .

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$$Z_k(e^{i\theta}) := \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} \frac{\mathcal{N}_j^{\mathbb{C}} e^{i\psi_j(\theta)}}{\sqrt{j+1}}.$$

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## Strategy for a lower bound

- ▶ In order to get a sharp lower bound, we would have to show that with high probability, there exists  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi)$  such that

$$\Re Z_n(e^{i\theta}) \geq \log n - \frac{3}{4} \log \log n - h(n).$$

- ▶ Let  $E_n(\theta)$  be any event implying the previous inequality. It is sufficient to show:

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# The Riemann zeta function

- ▶ The Riemann zeta function is a complex function which naturally appears in the distribution of prime numbers.
- ▶ For  $\Re(s) > 1$ , it is defined by

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n \geq 1} n^{-s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} (1 - p^{-s})^{-1}.$$

- ▶ It can be uniquely extended to a holomorphic (i.e. everywhere differentiable) function from  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{1\}$  to  $\mathbb{C}$ .
- ▶ This function is  $1/(s-1) + O(1)$  in the neighborhood of  $s = 1$ , and it has infinitely many zeros.
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- ▶ The behavior of  $\zeta$  on the critical line  $\Re(s) = 1/2$  has been intensively studied, and in particular the order of magnitude of its growth when  $t \rightarrow \infty$ . The Riemann hypothesis implies the so-called *Lindelöf hypothesis*, stating that for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $|\zeta(1/2 + it)| = O((1 + |t|)^\varepsilon)$ .
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- ▶ The conjecture can be stated as follows: for  $h > 0$  fixed,  $T > 0$ ,  $U$  uniformly distributed on  $[0, 1]$ ,

$$\max_{t \in [UT-h, UT+h]} \log |\zeta(1/2 + it)| - (\log \log T - \frac{3}{4} \log \log \log T) \xrightarrow[T \rightarrow \infty]{} K,$$

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- ▶ In November 2016, in the setting of the Riemann function, we have proven the following: for all  $\varepsilon > 0$ , unconditionally,

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and under the Riemann hypothesis,

$$\max_{t \in [UT-h, UT+h]} \Re \log \zeta(1/2 + it) \geq (1 - \varepsilon) \log \log T.$$

with probability tending to 1 when  $T$  goes to infinity.

- ▶ We have proven, under the Riemann hypothesis, the same upper bound and the same lower bound for the imaginary part of  $\log \zeta$ . This gives information on the fluctuations of the distribution of the zeros of  $\zeta$  on random intervals of the critical line.
- ▶ In December 2016, Arguin, Belius, Bourgade, Raziwill, Soundararajan, managed to get rid of the Riemann hypothesis for the lower bound on  $\Re \log \zeta$ . In June 2019, the upper bound had been improved by Harper:  $\log \log T - (3/4) \log \log \log T + (3/2 + o(1)) \log \log \log \log T$ .
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## Averaging of $\log |\zeta|$ on the critical line

- ▶ For  $\Re(s) > 1$ , we have

$$\log \zeta(s) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \ell(n) n^{-s}$$

where  $\ell(n) = 1/k$  if  $n$  is the  $k$ -th power of a prime and  $\ell(n) = 0$  otherwise.

- ▶ If  $\varphi$  is a nonnegative function with integral 1, and if  $H > 1$ , we get

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi(t) \log \zeta(s + itH^{-1}) dt = \sum_{n \geq 1} \ell(n) n^{-s} \widehat{\varphi}(H^{-1} \log n).$$

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where  $\ell(n) = 1/k$  if  $n$  is the  $k$ -th power of a prime and  $\ell(n) = 0$  otherwise.

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$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \varphi(t) \log \zeta(s + itH^{-1}) dt = \sum_{n \geq 1} \ell(n) n^{-s} \widehat{\varphi}(H^{-1} \log n).$$

- ▶ If we take  $\hat{\phi}$  compactly supported, the last sum is supported in  $n \leq e^{O(H)}$ . By analytic continuation arguments, one shows that *under the Riemann hypothesis*, for  $H$  sufficiently small with respect to the argument of  $s$ , the equality remains true up to a bounded error term, when  $\Re(s) \in [1/2, 1]$ .
- ▶ With high probability, it is possible to take, for some fixed  $\delta \in (0, 1/2)$ ,  $H = \lfloor (\log T)^{1-\delta} \rfloor$ , if  $s = 1/2 + it$ ,  $t \in [UT - h, UT + h]$ .
- ▶ Averaging  $\Im \log \zeta$  tends to smooth its behavior, and then to decrease its maximum.
- ▶ It is possible to show that one can replace the smooth cutoff of the sum with  $\hat{\phi}$  by a sharp cutoff, and remove the powers of primes with exponents at least 2, by doing an error  $o(\log \log T)$  on the maximum with high probability.

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- ▶ Because of these considerations, it is enough to prove the following result, in order to get the lower bound in our main theorem: with high probability, the supremum of

$$\Im \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}, p \leq e^H} p^{-1/2-i(UT+t)},$$

for  $t \in [-h, h]$  is larger than  $(1 - \varepsilon) \log \log T$ , if  $\delta$  is taken sufficiently small depending on  $\varepsilon$ .

## Correlation structure

- ▶ For distinct primes  $p$ , the phases  $p^{-iUT}$  tend in law to i.i.d., uniform variables on the unit circle  $X_p$ .
- ▶ It is then natural to compare the previous random variables by

$$\Im \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}, p \leq e^H} X_p p^{-1/2-it}.$$

- ▶ For  $t, t' \in [-h, h]$ , the covariance of these random variables is given for  $\Theta_p$  i.i.d. uniform on  $[0, 2\pi]$

$$\sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}, p \leq e^H} p^{-1} \mathbb{E}[\sin(\Theta_p - t \log p) \sin(\Theta_p - t' \log p)]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}, p \leq e^H} p^{-1} \cos((t - t') \log p).$$

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- ▶ If  $(t - t') \log p$  is small the cosine is always close to 1, whereas, when it is large, it oscillates so it is natural to expect that it is close to 0 in average.
- ▶ Hence, the covariance is expected to be close to

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}, p \leq e^{\min(H, |t-t'|^{-1})}} p^{-1} \sim \frac{1}{2} \log(\min(|t-t'|^{-1}, (\log T)^{1-\delta})).$$

- ▶ The covariance is then logarithmic in the distance between the points, with a saturation when  $|t - t'|$  is of order  $(\log T)^{-(1-\delta)}$  with  $\delta$  arbitrarily small. We then have roughly the same structure as for the  $C\beta E$ , with  $n$  replaced by  $\log T$ . It is then natural to expect a similar result for the maximum of an interval of fixed size.

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Statement of the main result  
Orthogonal polynomial on the unit circle  
Sketch of proof of a non-sharp upper bound  
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Strategy for a lower bound  
The Riemann zeta function  
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Averaging of  $\log \zeta$  on the critical line  
**Correlation structure**

# Thank you for your attention!